

# Factsheet: North Korea

Last update: 8 June 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to a 2012 human rights report, the membership of the Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League (KSYL) – North Korea's main youth organisation – defines youth as aged 15-26, however members can join as young as 14 and can remain until they are 30.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **17**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Only one candidate is presented on the ballot.

**Upper House** **--**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Unicameral.

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent		With Parental Consent	
	Opposite Sex	Same Sex	Opposite Sex	Same Sex
Male	18	--	--	--
Female	17	--	--	--

No data for marriage with parental consent. No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Homosexual acts are legal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**17**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**17**

Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2004\)](#)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**14**

Minimum Age  
Source: [Criminal Law of North Korea \(2009\)](#)

### GDP PER CAPITA

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Year: No data.  
Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

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Year: No data.  
Source: [UNDP](#)

### GINI

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Year: No data.  
Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**8**

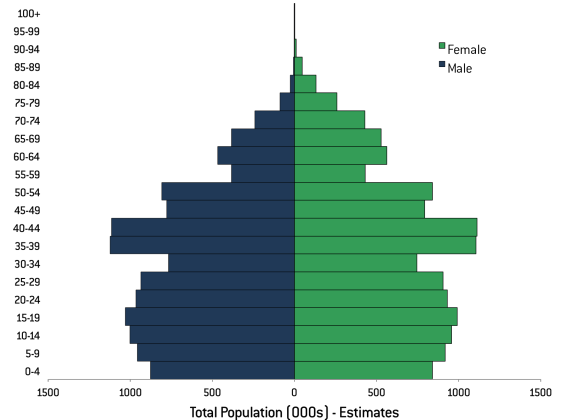
174 out of 177 countries.  
Year: 2014  
Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

**81.96**

179 out of 180 countries.  
Year: 2013  
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

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Year: No data.

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**100.00%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**100.00%** **100.00%**

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

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Both sexes %

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Male %

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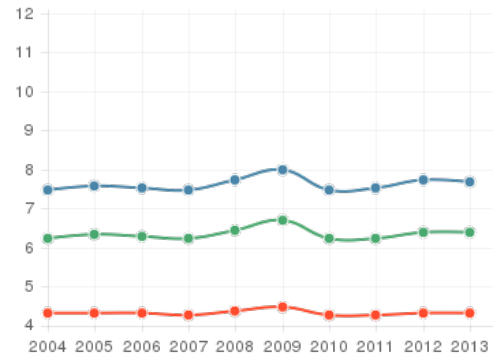
Female %

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

### Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

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Male (13-15) %

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Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

According to a 2012 study by the [Committee for Human Rights in North Korea](#),

The [Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League] coordinates the national youth policy of [North Korea] together with youth-serving ministries, such as the Ministry of Education. The KSYL plays an important role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of this national youth policy and serves as a national youth platform to link both the governmental and youth-related organisations and activities in this over-all national youth policy.

This "national youth policy" is not fully elaborated in the report, nor is it mentioned anywhere else online. KSYL organises

Is there a national youth policy?

**UNCLEAR**

A human rights report gives a brief description of youth policies, however information is still limited.

male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

## BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

youth in production, construction, military service, and ideological training, however it is unclear if these activities operate under an overarching youth policy.

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

It is unclear if there is a governmental agency responsible for youth. In a [2012 human rights study](#), the Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League (KSYL) is described as coordinating all youth-related policies along with other ministries, such as the Ministry of Education. However, it is also a membership-based mass organisation, belonging directly under the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK).

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**UNCLEAR**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League (KSYL) is North Korea's largest and most politically active mass organisation. According to a [2012 human rights study](#), young people between ages 15 and 26 are eligible to join, and as of 2012, KSYL consisted of approximately five million young people. It is unclear the extent to which it is a membership organisation or a governmental entity, as it coordinates youth involvement in production, construction, military and ideological training. It is also unclear what role it plays (if any) as a youth representation structure.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

**UNCLEAR**

## BUDGET & SPENDING

No documentation on the budget for youth in North Korea could be found online. The [World Bank](#) does not calculate spending on education as a percentage of government expenditure or GDP for North Korea from 2000.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

youth programming?

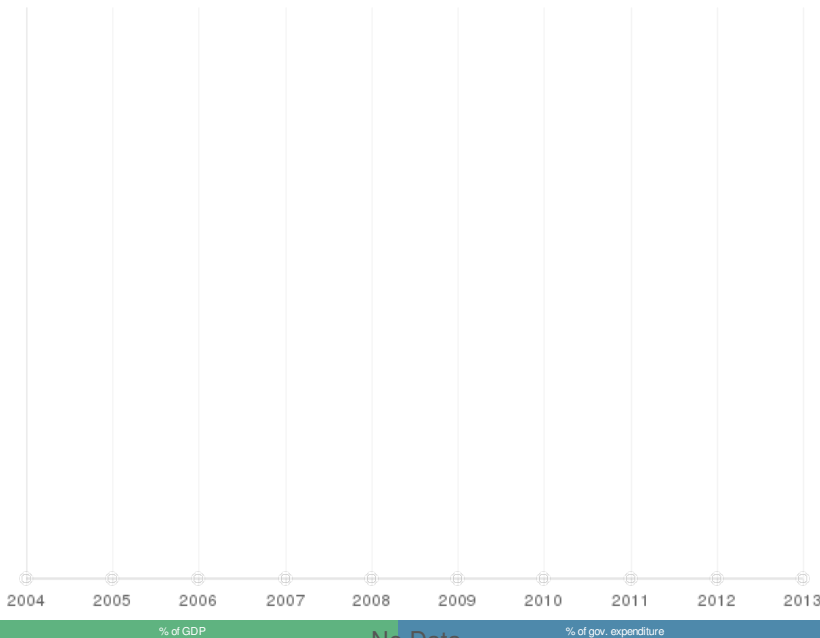
**UNCLEAR**

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## TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

No Data

## TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP



Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

## PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading:  
[Documents about North Korea](#)