Factsheet: Panama
Last update: 4 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The Public Policy for Youth of Panama (2004) defines youth in Panama as 15-29 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper House</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Parental Consent</th>
<th>With Parental Consent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.69

65 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

98.13%

Both sexes (15-24) %

98.26% Male (15-24) %
98.00% Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015
Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

76.39%

Both sexes %

73.57% Male %
79.32% Female %

Year: 2012
Source: UNESCO

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.4%

Male (15-24) %

0.3%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013
Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

8.40%

Both sexes (13-15) %

10.50% Male (13-15) %
6.50% Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010
Source: WHO

PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATION

Public Policy for Youth of Panama (2004) is designed as a tool for Panamanian youth to realize their potential and become responsible citizens. It aims to affirm the rights of young people who are vulnerable, marginalized or subject to discrimination.

The policy is based around six principles, including: A holistic perspective of youth development; Participation of youth in social, decision-making & policy implementation; Inclusion of vulnerable & marginalized groups; Taking a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy.

The policy focuses on 12 areas: Life & liberty; Safety & justice; Participation; Health; Education & scientific & technological development; Family; Equality & non-discrimination; Work; Housing & access to assets; Environment; Art & culture; Sports & recreation.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

Panama has a national youth policy from 2004, outlining six principles and 12 key areas.

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...
**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has responsibility for youth policy in Panama. The MSD works with the National Youth Council, and coordinates the National Youth Service.

The National Youth Service focuses on two services: literacy classes and working with the social actions of government agencies and non-governmental organisations. An estimated 841,000 young people have become young volunteers nationwide.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The National Youth Council of Panama (CONAJUPA) is active on Facebook, but little information is available about its current work. As recommended in a 2014 UNDP report, the National Youth Council (CONAJUPA) must also be reactivated as an organ of youth representation.

The UNDP report also recommends that the Public Policy Youth Council (CPPJ) be rebuilt as a body for information and advice, and as a liaison between government institutions and organisations working with young people. To date, no additional information could be found online regarding CPPJ.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

No documentation on the budget for youth in Panama could be found online. According to the World Bank, Panama spent 12.93% of its government expenditure and 3.50% of its GDP on education provision in 2011.

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

![Graph showing total expenditure on education as a percentage of government spending and GDP from 2004 to 2013.](source)

**Source:** World Bank

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

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**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading:

Documents about Panama