

Factsheet: Papua New Guinea

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to the report *Urban Youth in the Pacific* (2011), the National Youth Policy of Papua New Guinea 2007-2017 (print only) defines youth as between 12 and 25 years old, however also welcomes individuals over 25 to participate in youth programming. Culturally, age of youth is defined by roles, health and involvement in the community.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **25**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **--**

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

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	16	XX
Female	16	14	--

Under statutory marriage, individuals must be over 21, however in customary law, emphasis is rather on physical maturity. Homosexual acts between males are illegal. While homosexual acts between females are legal, there is no specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: [UNSD](#), [ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

While the Constitution and the Organic Law (1995) recognise majority at 18, this is often not in harmony with domestic law. Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report](#) (2002)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

7

Minimum Age
Source: [Juvenile Courts Act of Papua New Guinea](#) (1991)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.49

122 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

72.35%

Both sexes (15-24) %

66.30% **78.79%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

Both sexes %

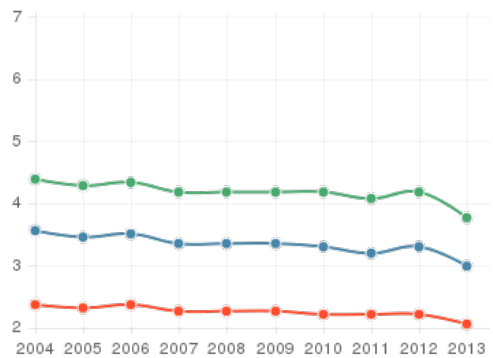
Male % Female %

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



PNG

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

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.1%

Male (15-24) %

0.2%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

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

47.70%

Both sexes (13-15) %

55.40%

Male (13-15) %

40.30%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

As described in *Urban Youth in the Pacific* (2011), the national youth policy (in print only) identifies nine key policy areas, including:

- Improving the quality of young peoples' lives
- Accessing integrated education
- Nurturing sustainable livelihoods
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Building stronger communities

Initiatives include youth-led enterprises, and counselling through

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

The national youth policy of Papua New Guinea covers 2007-2017. A 2011 book chapter provides details.

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 2088.35

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.466

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

157 out of 187 countries.

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

25

145 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

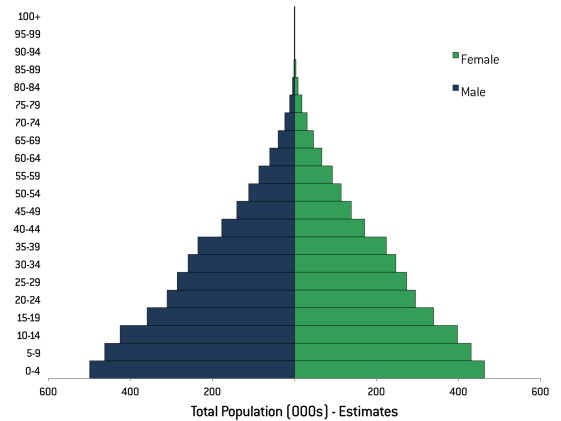
23.46

44 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



PNG

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

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

"youth-friendly" service centres. In his endorsement of the policy in [February 2008](#), former Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare announced that the policy would require PGK 21 million (USD 7.6 million in February 2008) over ten years for its implementation. As reported by [FijiOne in February 2014](#), parliament also approved a new National Youth Development Authority Act, replacing the National Youth Commission Act (1999). The act is intended to reform youth work delivery mechanisms and to complement the 2007-2017 youth policy.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [National Youth Commission \(NYC\)](#) is the central government agency responsible for youth development in Papua New Guinea and is part of the Ministry for Religion, Youth and Community Development. It was established in 1980 and its focus is on three core ideas: "mobilization", "participation" and "productiveness" of young people. Its [Policy Development, Coordination & Research Division](#) is responsible for the coordination and development of the national youth policy (in print only). The Division also assists provinces in the development of five-year youth plans.

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

According to the [Pacific Youth Council](#), a regional organisation of youth councils in the Pacific, [Papua New Guinea had a national youth council in 1985](#), which participated in a series of meetings leading to the formation of the regional council in 1996. The website also lists Papua New Guinea as having a position on the [Secretariat Committee from 2000-2006](#). However, the [current list](#) of national youth council members does not include Papua New Guinea, nor is there any current online presence for a Papua New Guinea youth council.

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

UNCLEAR

BUDGET & SPENDING

The [2013 National Budget](#) listed the expenditures of the National Youth Commission as PGK 4.4 million (USD 1.7 million). The programme description includes marketing of the national youth policy, establishing financial autonomy implementation strategies, and providing technical advisory services. The [World Bank](#) lists no data on public spending on education in Papua New Guinea since 2000.

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

**PGK 4.4 MILLION
USD 1.7 MILLION**

youth programming?

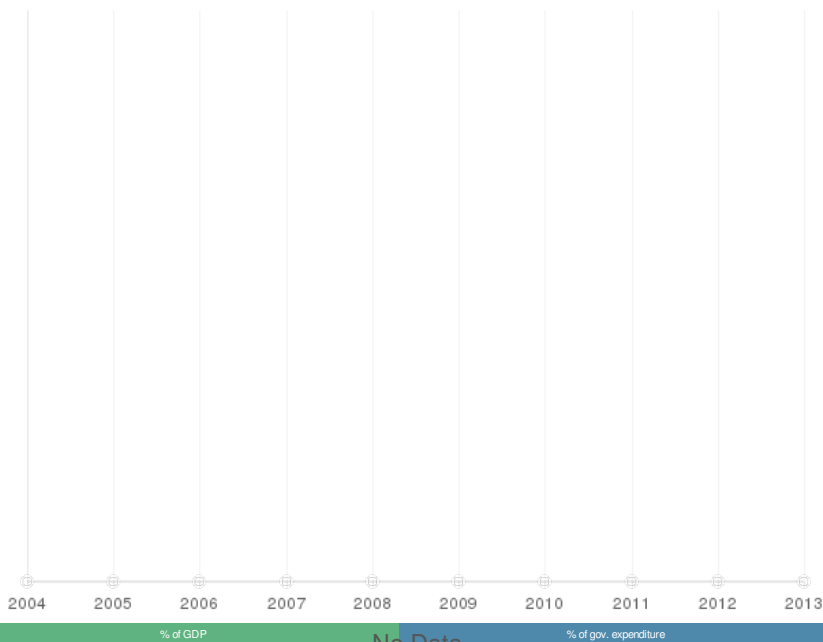
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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 August 2013).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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