Factsheet: Saint Kitts and Nevis

Last update: 5 June 2014

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

The national youth policy of Saint Kitts and Nevis defines youth as anyone under the age of 35.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Partially appointed or by other means</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upper House</th>
<th>--</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Uncameral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opposite Sex</td>
<td>With parental consent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Same Sex</td>
<td>With parental consent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| No data for marriageable age with parental consent. Male homosexual acts illegal. Female homosexual acts legal, however no specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: UNSID, ILGA |

**VOTING AGE**

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**MAJORITY AGE**

18


**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

8


**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

0.3

158 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

Secondary School

85.91%

Both sexes %

83.73% Male %

88.13% Female %

Year: 2011

Source: UNESCO

**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 smokable or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

9.20%

Both sexes (13-15) %

10.40% Male (13-15) %

7.80% Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

A draft national youth policy (2010) was presented in 2010, however an updated, full policy is available on the Department of Youth Empowerment website, though is still described as a draft. The online version details the vision as “one of integrated, holistic and sustainable youth development, cognizant of the significance of youth and their capacity to advance [the] nation.” The policy focuses on ten strategic areas: Patriotism and Social Cohesion; Education; Economic Participation; Environment; Youth Work/Youth Services; Civic/Political Participation; Voluntarism; Health and Well-being; Crime and Violence/ Social Dissension; Youth Excellence. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Saint Kitts and Nevis is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

A draft national youth policy has been developed in 2010. The final version is available online.

Source: World Bank

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

Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

A draft national youth policy has been developed in 2010. The final version is available online.

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).
The Department of Youth Empowerment within the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports, Information Technology, Telecommunications & Posts, is responsible for youth affairs. The Department of Youth Empowerment aims:

- to develop and deliver quality programmes, services and activities that foster active participation which leads to the empowerment of young people in areas of employment, entrepreneurship, sports, education, health, community service, volunteerism and decision-making.

It is responsible for youth policy, youth groups and youth participation structures.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The draft national youth policy (2010) notes that no national youth council currently exists, and commits to establishing one. The lack of a youth council was also noted in a speech on 15 May 2013 by the Commonwealth Secretary General. The St Kitts National Youth Parliament Association, in partnership with the Department of Youth Empowerment, holds an annual mock-parliamentary debate and is listed as the member organisation at the Commonwealth Youth Council. The Department of Youth Empowerment supports Young Ambassadors as part of the CARICOM Young Ambassadors programme.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the 2014 Government Expenditure and Revenue plans (2013), the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports, Information Technology, Telecommunications & Posts was allocated XCD 13.9 million (USD 5.1 million). From this, “Support for Youth Development” was allocated XCD 719,000 (USD 266,296).

According to the World Bank, Saint Kitts and Nevis spent 10.73% of its government expenditure and 4.22% of its GDP on education provision in 2007.

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).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about Saint Kitts and Nevis