

# Factsheet: Samoa

Last update: 21 April 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The [national youth policy](#) (2011) defines youth as between 18-35 years.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **21**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

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

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

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT	OPPOSITE SEX WITH PARENTAL CONSENT	SAME SEX WITH PARENTAL CONSENT
Male	21	18	XX
Female	19	16	XX

Male homosexual acts illegal. Female homosexual acts legal. No specific legislation for same-sex marriage for females. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**21**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**21**

Source: [Electoral Act 1963 - Samoa](#)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**8**

**Minimum Age**  
From 8-14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 8 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2013\)](#)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.72**

44 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**99.57%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**99.48%** **99.67%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

**79.66%**

Both sexes %

**75.36%** **84.38%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## 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.

**23.50%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**25.80%** **20.40%**

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

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The vision of the [national youth policy](#) (2011) is,

[f]or all young people to positively connect with their key spiritual, social, cultural, physical and economic environments through having equal access to opportunities and realize their full potential to pro-actively participate and contribute fully into sustainable community development.

Five policy objectives are defined with detailed outputs, performance indicators, responsible agencies and timeframe. These are:

1. Building knowledge of youth development
2. Vocational training
3. Economic development opportunities for vulnerable youth
4. Health & wellbeing
5. Family relationships, community & social protection.

### Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

Samoa replaced its 2001 national youth policy in 2011. A 2011 book chapter and 2006 analysis exist.

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 4212.36**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.702**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)  
106 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**52**

50 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

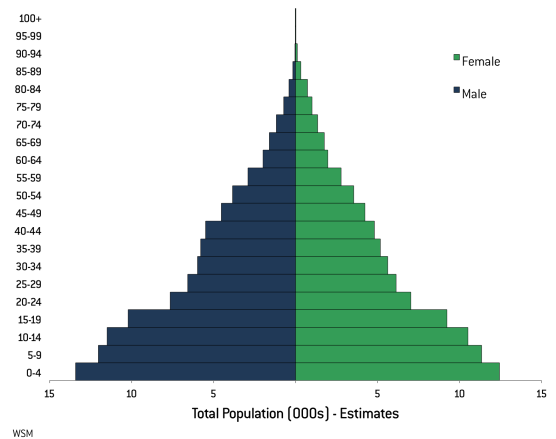
**22.02**

40 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

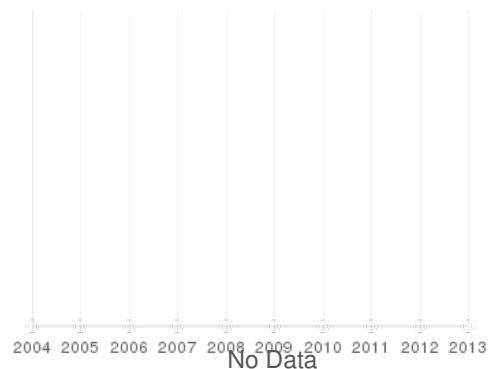
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

## BUDGET & SPENDING

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

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Division for Youth](#) is a department within the [Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development](#) and has coordination responsibility for the [national youth policy](#) (2011). Its vision is

For every Samoan youth to have the freedom to enjoy all human rights, with equal access and opportunities to participate & contribute fully to all aspects of development.

Previously, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs existed and authored the [national youth policy](#) (2001).

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

**YES**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Samoa does not have a functioning national youth council (NYC), although the [national youth policy](#) (2011) outlines the establishment of one. According to the [Samoa Observer](#) it is [controversial](#). The defunct Western Samoa National Youth Council is listed as a founding member of the [Pacific Youth Council](#). Once an NYC is established, it would automatically qualify for membership within the [Commonwealth Youth Council](#). The "[Parliamentary Youth Programme](#)" provides an annual mock session of parliament for young people under 29 years of age.

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

**NO**

## BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the [State Estimates 2013/2014](#), WST 551,343 (USD 237,077) is allocated to "Youth Development Services" listed under the [Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development](#). According to the [World Bank](#), Samoa spent 13.38% of its government expenditure and 5.77% of its GDP on education provision in 2008.

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**USD 237,077**

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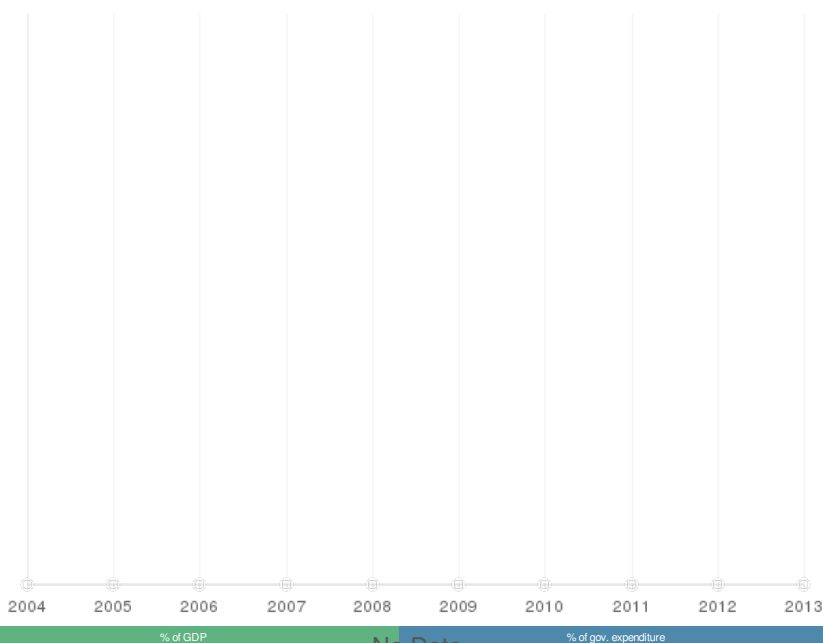
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## TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

No Data

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



Source: World Bank

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: World Bank

## PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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