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

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

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

**CANDIDACY AGE**

| Lower House | 21 |
| Upper House | -- |

**VOTING AGE**

| 21 |

**MAJORITY AGE**

| 21 |

**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

| 8 |

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

| 0.72 |

**LITERACY RATES**

| 99.57% |

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

| Secondary School | 79.66% |

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

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

**TOBACCO USE**

| Male (15-24) % | 25.80% |
| Female (15-24) % | 20.40% |

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

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

"[for all young people to positively connect with their key spiritual, social, cultural, physical and economic environments through having equal access to opportunities and realizing 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


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?

USD 4212.36

Source: World Bank

HDI

0.702

Year: 2013

Source: UNDP

GINI

106 out of 187 countries.

Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

52

Year: No data.

Source: Transparency International

PRESS FREEDOM

22.02

Year: 2013

Source: Reporters Without Borders

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010

Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Source: World Bank

LITERACY RATES

99.57%

Both sexes (15-24)

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

79.66%

Both sexes

Source: UNESCO

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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)

Source: WHO
As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Samoa is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015.

**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).

**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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
<th>% of govt. expenditure</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank

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**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading: Documents about Samoa