

Factsheet: Saudi Arabia

Last update: 21 April 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The [youth chapter](#) of the Ninth Development Plan (2010–2014) of Saudi Arabia defines youth as 15-24 years old.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **30**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) The Consultative Council is appointed by the King, with a minimum age of 30.

Upper House **--**

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

VOTING AGE

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Saudi Arabia has no provision for direct national elections. Women will be allowed to vote by 2015.

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

15

While [Wikipedia](#) lists 15 as the majority age, [HRW](#) contests the applied legal age in this [report](#).

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Opposite Sex **Same Sex**

WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT

WITH PARENTAL CONSENT

Male **0** **0** **XX**

Female **0** **0** **XX**

Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [UNSD](#), [ILGA](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

7

Minimum Age

The Committee on Rights of Child were informed that the minimum age had risen to 12 years. [Human Rights Watch](#) can find no evidence to support this. Source: [Human Rights Watch](#) (2008)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.56

103 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

99.34%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.38% **99.29%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

91.55%

Both sexes %

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Male % Female %

Year: 2013

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.

14.90%

Both sexes (13-15) %

21.20% **9.10%**

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

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Between 2009-2013, the [Ministry of Economy and Planning](#) partnered with the [UN Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) to develop a 'national youth strategy' for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The [National Youth Strategy Project](#) received \$1,182,720 and aimed to "enhancing participation of youth in national development processes..."

The [ninth development plan 2010-2014](#) includes a youth chapter on youth development, focusing on issues such as sport, health, education, culture, women and involvement in society. It includes specific objectives, targets and policies for youth development with financial commitments listed.

Is there a national youth policy?

NO

Saudi Arabia is developing a youth policy. The ninth development plan (2010-2014) has a youth chapter.

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 25961.81

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.782

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

34 out of 187 countries.

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

49

55 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

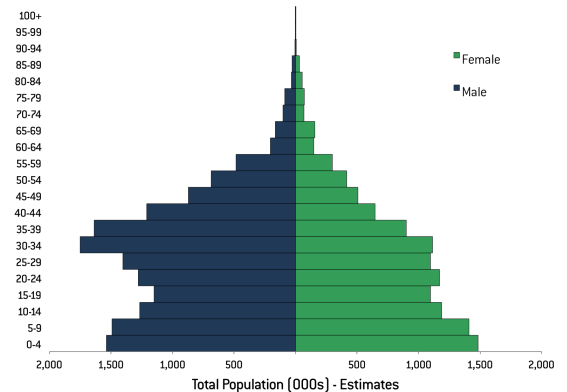
58.3

164 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010

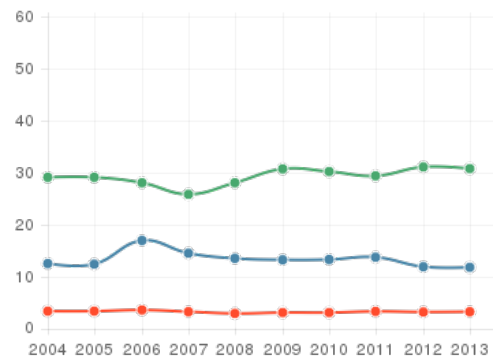


Source: [United Nations Population Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects The 2012 Revision \(Estimates\)](#); <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm> [accessed July 2013]

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

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

According to the development plan 2010-2014 [youth chapter](#), the General Presidency for Youth Welfare is the government agency responsible for coordinating youth sports and social activities in over 107 towns and villages through 123 government facilities. This includes sports cities, youth hostels, sport centres, stadiums, gymnasiums and public squares. It liaises with government bodies and departments, particularly the [Ministry of Social Affairs](#) and the [Ministry of Culture and Information](#). It focuses on sports and social activities.

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

While youth participation in societal, community, economic and employment spheres is referenced throughout the [Ninth Development Plan \(2010-2014\)](#), no formal structures exist to realise this.

In a survey referenced in [Saudi Arabia's Youth and the Kingdom's Future](#) (2011), 63% of youth respondents said the Saudi government should "give young people increased access to decision-making process and policy implementation at local level", 58% believed the government should create "local youth councils for effective participation in society."

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

NO

BUDGET & SPENDING

The [Chapter on Youth Development](#) in the [Ninth Development Plan \(2010-2014\)](#) details the expenditure relating to youth:

Under the Ninth Development Plan, the financial requirements for implementing the programmes and various activities of the youth sector (the General Presidency for Youth Welfare) amount to SR7.2 billion.

According to the [World Bank](#), Saudi Arabia spent 19.3% of its government expenditure and 5.6% of its GDP on education provision in 2008.

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USD 1.9 BILLION**

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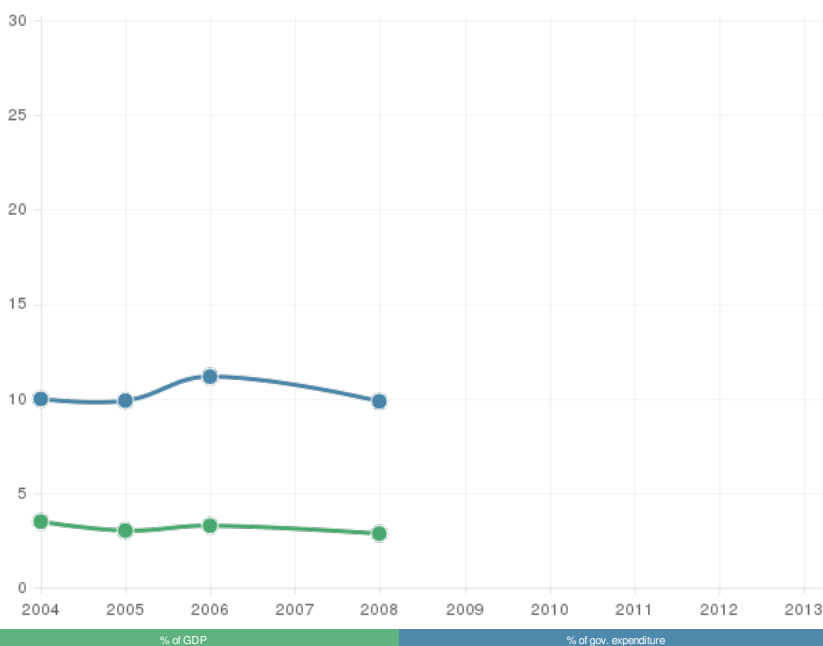
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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Source: [World Bank](#)

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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