

# Factsheet: Singapore

Last update: 24 October 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

There are competing definitions of youth in Singapore. The [Children and Young Persons Act](#) (1993) defines a young person as 14-16 years while the [National Youth Council](#) defines youth as 15-35 years.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **21**

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

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

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

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

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

Muslims may marry at 18 with parental consent. In special circumstances, a Kadi may allow Muslim women to marry at puberty. Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [ILGA](#), [Administration of Muslim Law Act](#) (2009), [Singapore Registry of Marriages](#)

### VOTING AGE

**21**

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

### MAJORITY AGE

**21**

Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report](#) (2010)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**7**

**Minimum Age**  
From 7-12 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 7 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions.  
Source: [Penal Code of Singapore](#) (2008)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.75**

22 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**99.85%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**99.85%** **99.85%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

--

Both sexes %

Year: No data.

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.

**9.10%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**10.50%**

Male (13-15) %

**7.50%**

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

While there is a [Children and Young Persons Act](#) (1993), there is no youth policy or law dedicated to the wider youth demographic or youth issues. The [Children and Young Persons Act](#),

provide[s] for the welfare, care, protection and rehabilitation of children and young persons who are in need of such care, protection or rehabilitation, to regulate homes for children and young persons and to consolidate the law relating to children and young persons.

Issues addressed by the Act include protection of children and young persons; juvenile court; homes for children; and

### Is there a national youth policy?

**NO**

Singapore has no dedicated youth policy, but a government-run council for coordination.

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 55182.48**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.895**

Year: 2013

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

### GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**84**

7 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

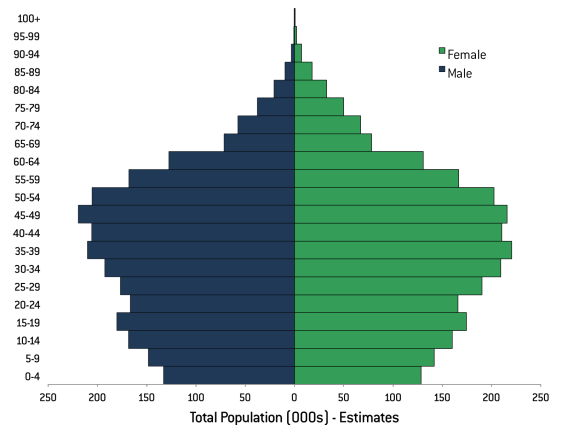
**44.29**

150 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

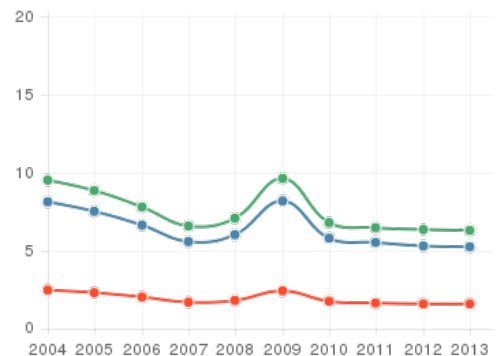
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## 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](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

## BUDGET & SPENDING

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

juvenile rehabilitation. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Singapore is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015.

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Ministry for Culture, Community and Youth \(MCCY\)](#) has responsibility for youth affairs. The MCCY aims to support youth to "fulfill their aspirations and interests," to encourage youth engagement in the community, and to foster youth leadership. The MCCY has several key programmes, including grants and funding to support youth initiatives and the youth sector, and Community and Youth Leadership Schools run in partnership with the [Ministry of Education](#). The MCCY is also launching the first intake of a new National Youth Corps programme in June 2014.

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

**YES**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [National Youth Council Singapore \(NYC\)](#) was created by the Singaporean government in 1989 as the "co-ordinating body for youth affairs in Singapore". Chaired by the Minister for [Culture, Community and Youth](#), the NYC has a vision of "inspired and committed youth". The NYC runs several programmes, including an annual youth award and a resource hub. The level of direct involvement of youth and youth-orientated organisations in the NYC is unclear.

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

**YES**

## BUDGET & SPENDING

The [Singapore Budget 2014 for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth](#) allocates SGD 10.8 million (USD 8.6 million) to the National Youth Programme. There is no further breakdown of expenditure on youth policy, affairs or programmes. According to the [World Bank](#), Singapore spent 18.11% of its government expenditure and 3.05% of its GDP on education provision in 2013.

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

**UNCLEAR**

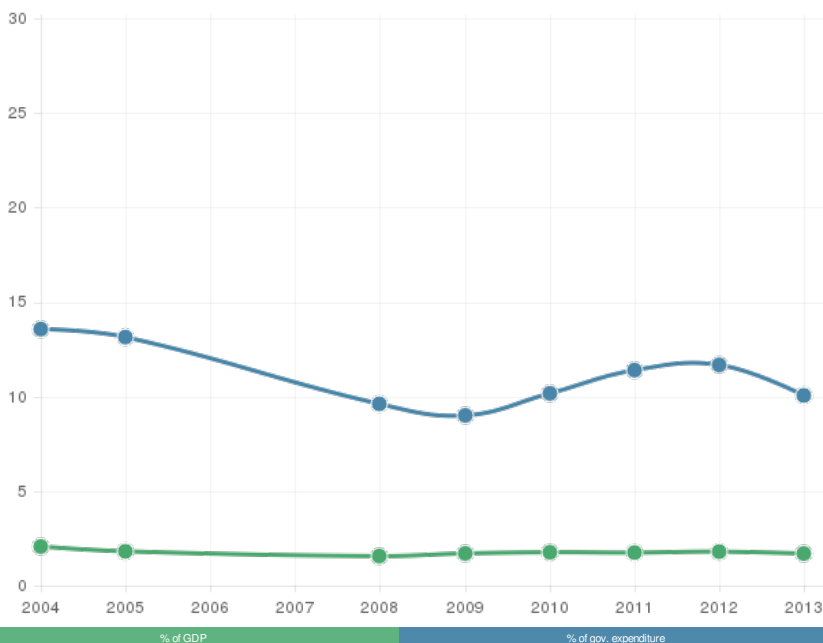
youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

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

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 May 2014).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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