

Factsheet: South Africa

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

South Africa's [National Youth Policy](#), as well as its [National Youth Commission Act](#) and its [Integrated Youth Development Strategy](#) (draft 1, 2), defines youth as 14 to 35 years of age.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **18**
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **18**
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)
Partially appointed and by other means.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	18	18
Female	18	15	18

Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

10

Minimum Age
From 10-14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 10 cannot be held responsible for their actions.
Source: [Child Justice Act](#) (2008)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.58

100 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

99.02%

Both sexes (15-24) %

98.65% **99.39%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

68.77%

Both sexes %

57.96% **64.57%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2005

Source: [UNESCO](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

4.0%

Male (15-24) %

13.1%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

24.00%

Both sexes (13-15) %

29.30%

Male (13-15) %

20.10%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The [National Youth Commission \(NYC\) Act \(1996\)](#) established the NYC as the statutory body responsible for youth policy. It was replaced by the [National Youth Development Agency \(NYDA\)](#), established by [Act No. 54 of 2008](#). The [Integrated Youth Development Strategy \(IYDS\)](#) (draft 1, 2) seeks to streamline youth economic development, integrating policies such as the [National Industrial Policy Framework \(NIPF\)](#) with the [National Youth Policy](#). It is also linked to the [National Youth Service Policy Framework](#), which promotes youth volunteering as a way for youth to contribute to development, build skills and develop abilities. Both the [NYP](#) and [IYDS](#) (draft 1, 2) are influenced by the [National Youth Development Policy Framework 2002-2007](#). In 2009, South Africa also ratified the [African Youth Charter](#).

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

The national youth policy covers 2015-2020 and replaces the 2009-2014 version.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 6617.91

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.629

Year: 2013

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

GINI

65.02

Year: 2011

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

44

67 out of 177 countries.
Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

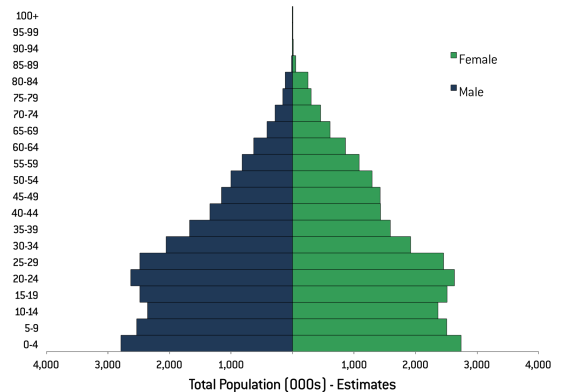
PRESS FREEDOM

23.19

42 out of 180 countries.
Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010

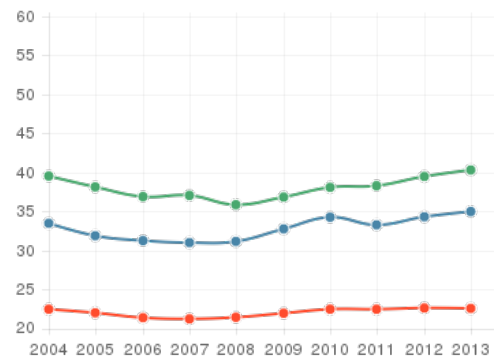


Source: [United Nations Population Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects The 2012 Revision \(Estimates\)](#); <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm> [accessed July 2013]

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?

The [National Youth Development Agency \(NYDA\)](#) is the main government agency responsible for youth. It advocates for the mainstreaming of youth development in all governmental spheres at the policy level, and delivers services; implementing and facilitating youth development programmes. The [National Youth Policy](#) states that the Youth Desk in The Presidency is responsible for coordinating youth development, however as of the date of this Fact Sheet, the Youth Desk is not listed on the [website](#) of The Presidency.

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [South African Youth Council \(SAYC\)](#) was founded in 1997 and is an autonomous, non-partisan umbrella association for youth organisations. According to its 2010 report [South African Youth Council: Towards a Coordinated and Integrated Youth Development](#), it is governed by a National Executive Committee comprised of Provincial Chairpersons and Secretaries. SAYC represents youth in forums including the [National Economic Development and Labour Council \(NEDLAC\)](#), the [South African National AIDS Council \(SANAC\)](#), and the [National Skills Authority \(NSA\)](#).

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

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

The 2013 [National Budget for the Presidency](#) states that the [National Youth Development Agency \(NYDA\)](#) will receive ZAR 393 million (USD 40 million) for 2013/14. According to the [World Bank](#), South Africa spent 19.20% of its government expenditure and 5.98% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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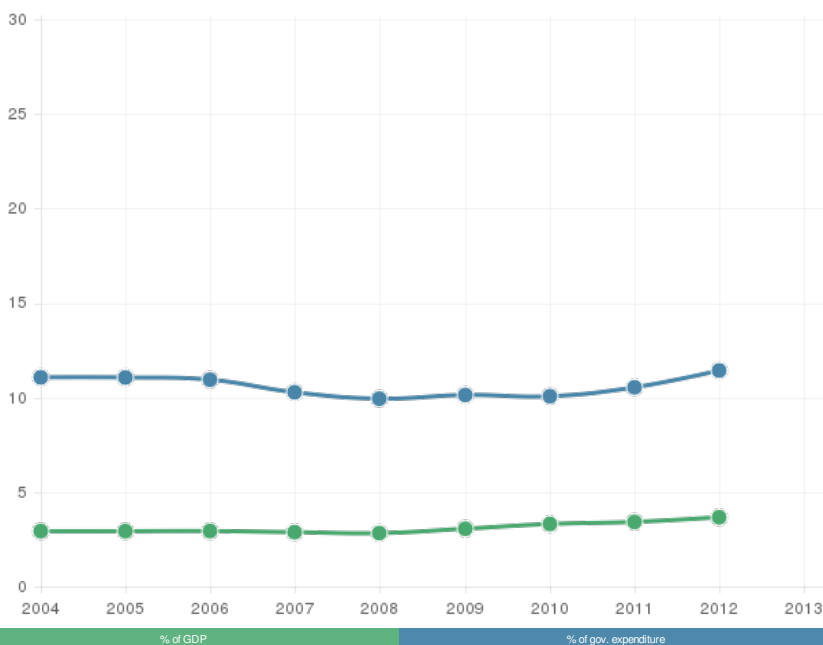
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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



Source: [World Bank](#)

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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