

Factsheet: Trinidad & Tobago

Last update: 5 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The national youth policy (2012) of Trinidad & Tobago defines youth as between 12-29. Youth is divided into three categories: early years, transition years and mature years.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Partially elected by other means.

Upper House **25**

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

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	14	XX
Female	18	12	XX

For marriage with parental consent, ages differ depending on religion, with minimums as low as 14 years for males and 12 years for females. Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2003\)](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

7

Minimum Age
From 7-13 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 7 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2003\)](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.74

28 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

99.61%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.60% **99.62%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

72.66%

Both sexes %

70.20% **75.17%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2004

Source: [UNESCO](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.6%

Male (15-24) %

0.9%

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.

19.90%

Both sexes (13-15) %

20.80%

Male (13-15) %

17.80%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The national youth policy 2012-2017 replaces the national youth policy (2004) with the vision that each young person has "a place, a purpose, a plan" with "a unique purpose to his or her life, based upon naturally endowed skills and competencies and those they may choose to develop over time." The policy focuses on five goals: Youth participation in development; Youth services & resources; Integrated youth programming; Youth empowerment; Citizenship & identity. Trinidad & Tobago is a signatory to the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan 2012-2017 (CYDAP), designed to support policy making on youth development. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Trinidad & Tobago is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

Trinidad & Tobago has a youth policy covering 2012-2017, which has replaced the previous 2004 version.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 18372.9

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.76

Year: 2013

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

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

38

85 out of 177 countries.
Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

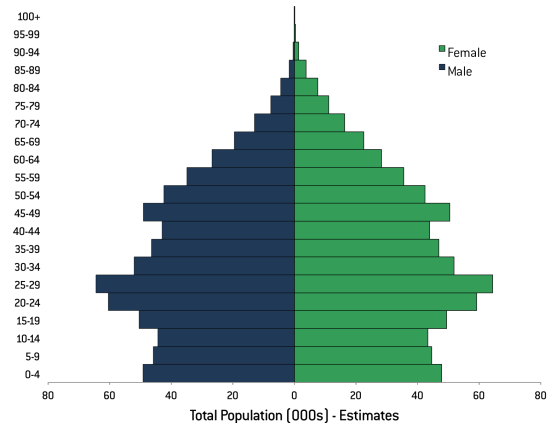
PRESS FREEDOM

23.28

43 out of 180 countries.
Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

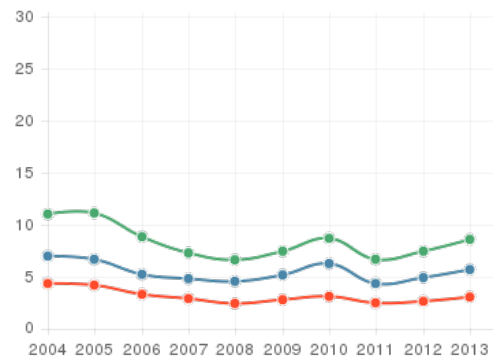
POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



TT0

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 August 2013).

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

The [Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development](#) has responsibility for youth affairs and describes itself as taking an evidence-based approach "in order to advance gender equality, the rights of the child, and youth development." The priority for youth development is "promoting youth mainstreaming of all programmes and policies affecting young men and women." The Ministry delivers the Youth Awards, youth offices, youth facilities, apprenticeship centres, vacation camps, and is responsible for the [national youth policy 2012-2017](#).

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The National Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago (NYCTT) is "a federation of youth and youth organisations" and is "the focal point for youth." However, the [official Facebook Page](#) has not been updated since 2011 and the website is currently unavailable. However, the "Trinidad Youth Council" is listed as a founding member of the [Caribbean Regional Youth Council](#), established in December 2013. The Trinidad National Youth Council is a member of the [Commonwealth Youth Council](#). Trinidad has an active [Youth Ambassador](#) to the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors programme.

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

UNCLEAR

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the [Draft Estimates of Expenditure for 2014](#), the [Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development](#) was allocated TTD 211.4 million (USD 32.7 million). However, the proportion spent on youth affairs is not specified. According to the [World Bank](#), Trinidad & Tobago spent 11.05% of its government expenditure and 3.16% of its GDP on education provision in 2003.

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

**TTD 211.4 MILLION
USD 32.7 MILLION**

youth programming?

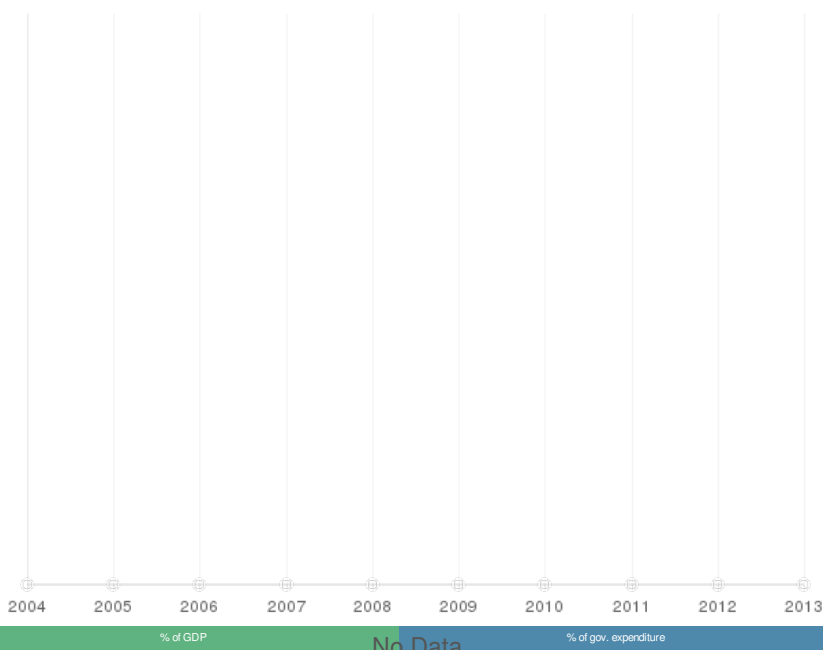
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

No Data

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



Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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