

# Factsheet: United Arab Emirates

Last update: 19 October 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

No clear definition of youth exists in the United Arab Emirates. A [National Youth Conference](#) in 2010 targeted young people aged between 11-25 years.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **25**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Conditions vary in each of the seven Emirates. Half of the National Council is appointed, and the other half is indirectly elected.

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

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

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

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

While UAE is based on Sharia law, a minimum age for marriage exists. Homosexual acts illegal, with punishment including the death penalty. Source: [UNSD, ILGA, UNICEF Report](#) (2011)

### VOTING AGE

**25**

Parliament is half indirectly elected, and half appointed. Minimum age is 25 to be eligible for the Electoral College.

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**21**

Source: [Civil Code](#) (1986)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**7**

Minimum Age  
Source: [Criminal Law of United Arab Emirates](#) (1987)

## GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 43048.85**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

## HDI

**0.818**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

40 out of 187 countries.

## GINI

**--**

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

## CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**70**

25 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

## PRESS FREEDOM

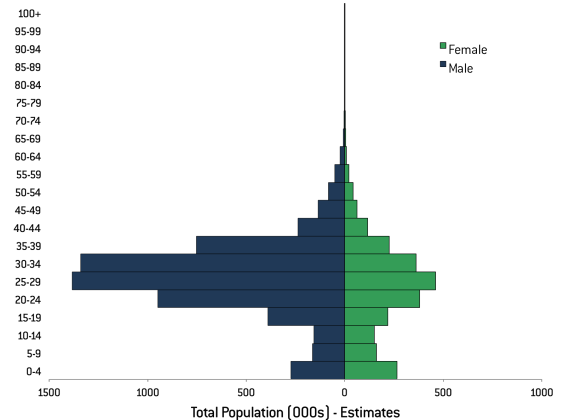
**36.03**

118 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



ARE

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

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.65**

80 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**99.43%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**99.61%** **99.10%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

**--**

Both sexes %

**--** **--**

Male % Female %

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

**--**

Male (15-24) %

**--**

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.

**19.50%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**25.20%** **13.20%**

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

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

No overarching youth policy or plan exists across the seven federal Emirates of the UAE. One of the strategic objectives of the [General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare](#) (GAYSW) is to develop "the youth sector according to community needs." The Authority focuses on youth centres, youth associations, clubs, youth camp, youth awards, and the National Youth Conference. While the Authority has responsibility to "implement Government's policy on Youth Sector and create action plans and projects to realize it", no such plans can be found online. Youth are included in the national development plans of Emirates, such as the [Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030](#) (2008), which includes a strategic aim to equip youth with the skills needed to enter the workforce.

Is there a national youth policy?

**NO**

Youth policy in the United Arab Emirates is coordinated regionally by the seven different Emirates.

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

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Culture, Youth & Community Development has national responsibility for youth, however the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare (GAYSW) is noted as "the supreme body responsible for the welfare of youth and youth activities". This includes responsibility for the youth sector, and in supporting youth to "utilize free time, improve creative skills, deepen national identity principles, instill loyalty, belonging and voluntary work sense." The GAYSW has offices in three of the Emirates, however, its mandate across the other four is unclear.

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

**YES**

#### YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

No national youth organisation or association exist within the United Arab Emirates. A National Youth Forum, organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth & Community Development, took place in 2010 and according to the ICICP UAE summary, included "over 2,000 students and sought to promote cultural awareness and creativity among young Emirati citizens." It is unclear whether such Forums have taken place since. According to the official Facebook Page of the GAYSW, the UAE hosted the Arab Youth Development Forum 2014, which focused on the Post-2015 development agenda.

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

**NO**

#### BUDGET & SPENDING

No documentation on the budget for youth in United Arab Emirates could be found online. The World Bank does not calculate spending on education as a percentage of government expenditure or GDP for United Arab Emirates from 2000.

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

**UNCLEAR**

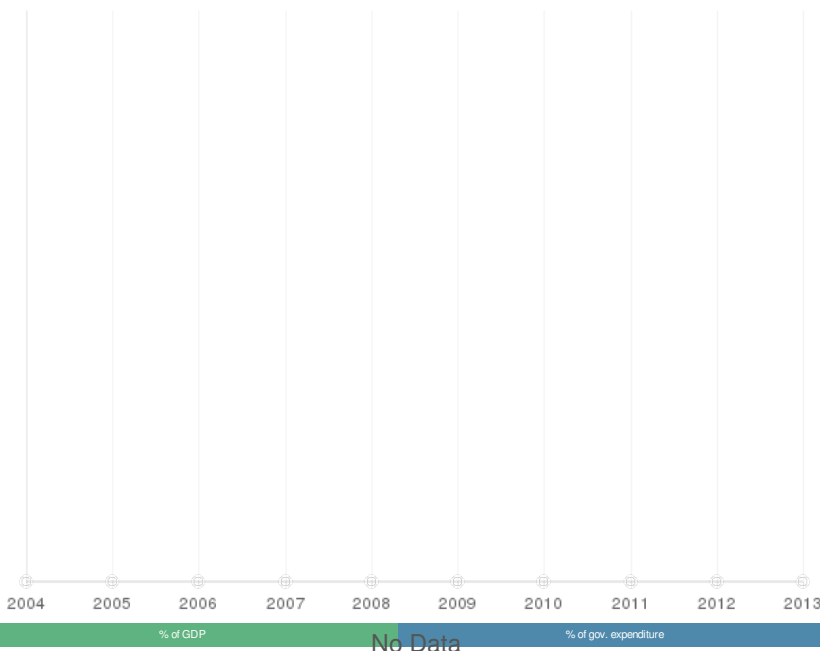
youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

No documentation on the budget for youth in United Arab Emirates could be found online. The World Bank does not calculate spending on education as a percentage of government expenditure or GDP for United Arab Emirates from 2000.

#### 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).

No Data

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

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

#### PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading:  
[Documents about United Arab Emirates](#)