

Factsheet: United Kingdom

Last update: 31 July 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The transversal youth policy framework [Positive for Youth](#) (2011) targets young people 13 to 19 years old.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **21**

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

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	16	16
Female	18	16	16

Same-sex marriage legal. In Northern Ireland, civil partnerships, rather than same-sex marriage exists. Source: [UNSD](#), [ILGA](#), [indirect](#) (n.d)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [Family Law Reform Act](#) (1969)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

10

Minimum Age
Age applies to the UK, except Scotland, where it is 12 years. Source: [Children & Young Persons Act](#) (1969)
[Scotland Criminal Justice and Licensing Act](#) (2010)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 41787.47

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.875

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

14 out of 187 countries.

GINI

38.04

Year: 2010

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

78

14 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

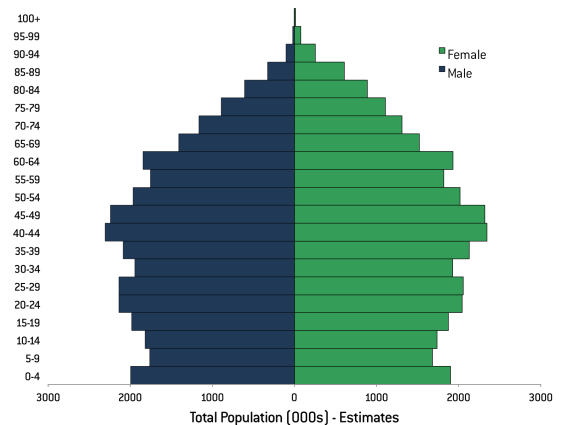
19.93

33 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.77

15 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

94.63%

Both sexes %

94.50% **94.77%**

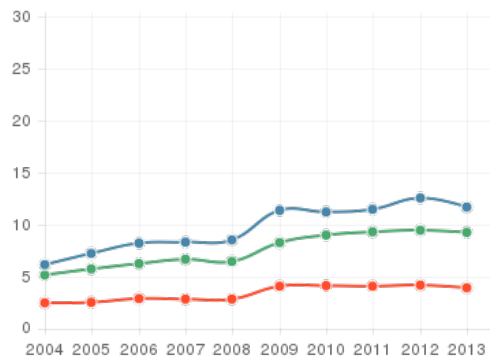
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.2%

Male (15-24) %

0.1%

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.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

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

Year: No data.

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales all have recent youth policy and/or youth work strategies. Wales has developed a 2014 – 2018 [National Youth Work Strategy](#), and Scotland a 2014 – 2019 [National Youth Work Strategy](#). Both build on civil society consultations and have a transversal approach. Northern Ireland has a youth work policy [Priorities for Youth](#).

[Positive for Youth](#) (2011) contains a number of policies that apply across the UK. It is a cross-sector strategy, which encourages actors to work together to support positive youth development. The policy strategy features a decentralised approach, with youth centres, statutory provisions and services delivered by Local Authorities. A [2013 update](#) suggests positive progress, however a [number of concerns](#) have been raised.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

The UK has a transversal youth policy framework, [Positive for Youth](#). Briefings from 2010 and 2012 exist.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

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

BUDGET & SPENDING

male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

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

In a [press release on 3 July 2013](#), it was announced that responsibility for youth policy would be transferred from the [Ministry of Education](#) to the [Cabinet Office](#) - a cross-thematic Ministry which directly supports the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. However, no youth department exists. The Cabinet Office focuses on national programmes, such as the [National Citizenship Service](#), while most youth provisions and services are provided at a local and city level of government. Scotland has a [Minister for Children and Young People](#) and [Minister for Youth Employment](#).

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

YES

youth programming?

UNCLEAR

Since youth policies are cross-sectoral a specific amount allocated to youth cannot be identified. According to the [World Bank](#), the United Kingdom spent 13.32% of its government expenditure and 6.23% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [British Youth Council \(BYC\)](#) is an umbrella organisation made up of over 230 national and local youth organisations, which supports young people "to influence and inform decisions that affect their lives." Member organisations elect an annual board of young trustees (aged 16 to 25) and guide all policy and strategic decisions. BYC delivers campaigns such as [Votes at 16](#), and participation programmes such as the [UK Youth Parliament](#) and the international [UK Young Ambassadors](#). BYC is a full member of the [European Youth Forum](#) and [Commonwealth Youth Council](#).

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

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

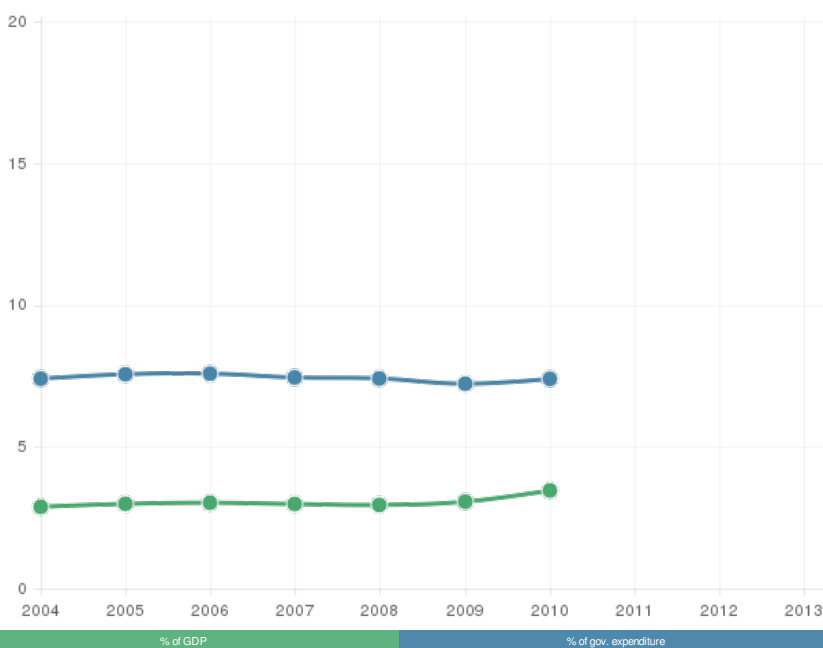
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UNCLEAR

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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