

Factsheet: Vanuatu

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to the [2009 Youth Monograph](#), the now expired Vanuatu National Youth Policy 2007-2011 defined youth as 12-30 years old. The monograph itself, using data from the national population and housing census, focuses on youth aged 10-30 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **25**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **--**

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

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	21	18	--
Female	21	18	--

Minimum legal ages vary across states/provinces, ethnic/religious groups or forms of marriage. No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Homosexual acts legal. Source: [UNFPA-ICPD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

While Vanuatu's constitution only refers to the age of voting, in legislative practice 18 is used as the age of majority. Source: [Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

10

Minimum Age
From 10-14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 10 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. Source: [Penal Code of Vanuatu \(2006\)](#)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 3276.73

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.626

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

131 out of 187 countries.

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

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Year: No data.

Source: [Transparency International](#)

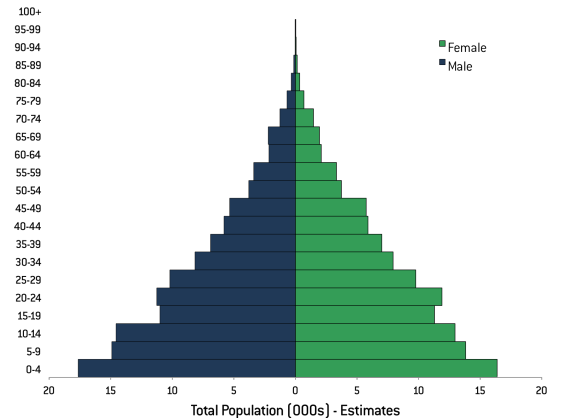
PRESS FREEDOM

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Year: No data.

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



VUT

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

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.54

106 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

95.74%

Both sexes (15-24) %

95.51% **95.98%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

51.60%

Both sexes %

50.72% **52.52%**

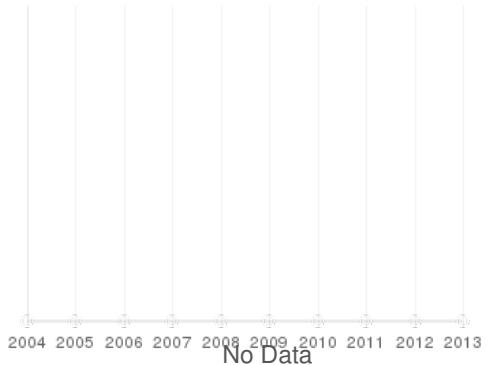
Male % Female %

Year: 2010

Source: [UNESCO](#)

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



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.

25.60%

Both sexes (13-15) %

34.10% **19.60%**

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

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

According to an article in [November 2013](#) by [Anita Roberts](#) in the [Vanuatu Daily Post](#), a two-day youth stakeholders' forum was held following the launch of the new Youth Development Policy (2012-2022) and Strategic Plan of Action (2012-2015). The forum was organised by the Ministry of Youth Development, Sports and Training, UNFPA, Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Vanuatu National Youth Council. While no version currently exists online, a [presentation in August 2013](#) gives an overview of the policy. Its vision is that young "[avail] themselves of traditional and religious values, along with modern technologies" in support of both person and socio-economic development. The three key areas are: (1) educational and entrepreneurial pathways; (2) personal development, and; (3) public participation.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

Vanuatu launched a youth development policy and an action plan. A youth monograph exists.

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

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Ministry for Youth Development, Sports and Training](#) is responsible for youth issues in Vanuatu. According to its [2004-2006 corporate plan](#), the ministry was established in 2003 (previously called the Ministry of Youth Development and Training) with the mission to provide opportunities for lifelong learning, improve standard of living and support personal, community and national development goals. As reported in the [Vanuatu Daily Post in November 2012](#), the ministry was dissolved then re-instated in 2013 as part of a [list of commitments](#) pledged by the new government.

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

[Vanuatu National Youth Council](#)'s mission is to "[s]trengthen and build networks [and] initiate capacity-building to involve and empower youth in decision-making." The council represents six provincial youth councils and two municipality youth councils, as reported by the [Vanuatu Daily Post in November 2012](#). It also oversees the registration, training and capacity-building programmes for youth groups in Vanuatu. The Vanuatu National Youth Council is a full member of the [Pacific Youth Council](#).

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

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

As listed in the [2013 Budget](#), the budget allocated to Youth Development, Sport and Recreation was VUV 75.9 billion (USD 787,774). This amount is for the office as part of the Ministry of Education, before it was re-instated as the [Ministry for Youth Development, Sports and Training](#) in April 2013 as part of a [list of commitments](#) pledged by the new government. However, the amount allocated specifically to youth is unclear. According to the [World Bank](#), Vanuatu spent 23.71% of its government expenditure and 5.01% of its GDP on education provision in 2009.

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

UNCLEAR

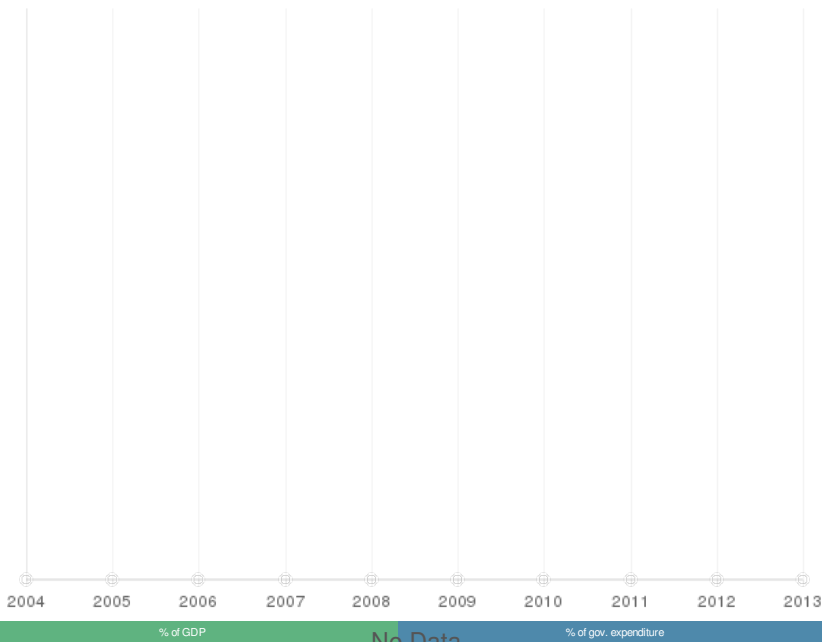
youth programming?

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 August 2013).

No Data

% 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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