

Gender Country Profile



Guyana

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General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 108,703

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 104,793

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 262,697

Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 259,361

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 280

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 33.56

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 39.8

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 30.5

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2009) (WHO, 2014b): 87.4%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 1.2%

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 1%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 60

Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 67

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 92.42%

Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 93.67%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 82.44%

Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 87.25%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 70.37%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 79.89%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 94.24%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 108.74%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 8.32%
Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 17.78%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 74.9%

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 10.9%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 88.6%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 70.9%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 52.7%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 81%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 48%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 31%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2013) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 6%

Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: NA

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Gender Gaps

Health

Guyana is experiencing an acute shortage of obstetricians and gynaecologists (Pope, 2015).

As of June 2014, the country had only one not-for-profit medical clinic at which abortions were available (Government of the Republic of Guyana, 2014, p. 38).

The Ministry of Health Surveillance Unit reported that in 2012, of the 5,920 cases of sexually transmitted infections other than HIV reported to them, females accounted for more than 80%; this had been a trend for the previous eight years (Government of the Republic of Guyana, 2014, p. 40).

Education

Although enrolment for girls is higher and dropout rates are lower than boys' in tertiary education, this has not reduced women's economic marginalisation (see below). Girls also still tend to choose traditionally female (for example, secretarial studies).

Female enrolment in technical and vocational education and training is 41% (Findlay-Williams, 2014).

Economic

Women in Guyana are more likely to be disadvantaged by poverty than men. Societal constraints, expectations of women in the family unit, and child-rearing all hinder their ability to enter and excel in the workforce. A 2014 report by the Guyanese Government stated that unemployment levels are 15% for women and 10% for men (the lower age limit defining "women" and "men" was not provided).

Women generally work in lower-paying, unskilled and traditionally female industries, such as care-giving or domestic work. When performing work similar to men, women make on average only 64% of men's wages (World Economic Forum, 2013, p. 214).

Decision-Making

Women's traditional roles and added responsibilities of child-rearing hinder their participation in politics. Despite the efforts of NGOs to empower women to participate in politics, they remain under-represented. According to a report by the Guyanese Government in 2014, between 2011 and 2013 women held approximately 31% of seats in parliament, 31% of regional democratic councils, and 33% of the cabinet (p. 53).

Human Rights

Violence against women is a widespread issue in Guyana. In 2014, the government noted: "women across all strata in society have experienced gender-based violence at some point in their lives, thus supporting the view that gender-based violence is rooted in women's lack of power in relationships and in society relative to men. In Guyana, like many other societies, women [are] expected to be submissive and sexually available to their husbands and partners at all times, and it [is] considered both a right and an obligation for men to use violence in order to 'correct' or chastise women for perceived transgressions" (Government of the Republic of Guyana, 2014, p. 24).

As of 2014, the country had only two shelters for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, with a third slated to open (Government of the Republic of Guyana, 2014). The total female population of Guyana is over 364,000.

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