

# Gender Country Profile

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## *Barbados*

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## General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 26,709

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 26,716

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 113,431

Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 122,824

## Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 51

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10.93

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 19.9

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 16.7

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2011) (WHO, 2014b): 100%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013) 1.3%

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.5%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 75

Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 81

## Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24: NA

Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24: NA

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+: NA

Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+: NA

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 97.41%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 96.84%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.95%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 111.02%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 35.94%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 88.08%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 68.4%

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 14.1%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 77.8%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 58.8%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 48.7%

## Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 79%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 67%

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): 10%

## Human Rights

Girls married before 15: NA

Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 30%

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

## Gender Gaps

### Health

Abortion is only performed to preserve the life or health of the mother, or if it is believed that the child will suffer a severe physical or mental handicap (Women on Waves, n.d.).

As of 2008 (the most recent available data), adult (20+ years) obesity rates in Barbados were 44.2% for women, compared with 21.6% for men (WHO, 2015).

### Education

Girls' achievements in secondary education are not materialising into corresponding levels of political participation or activity in the labour force (see below).

According to the NGO Humanium (2013), "Despite efforts on the part of the authorities, pregnancy and abortion rates among adolescents remain high: 5% of young girls aged 16 years and 25% of women aged 18 years have already given birth to a child"; pregnancy and child-bearing typically disrupt girls' education.

### Economic

Women in Barbados are more likely to live below the nation's poverty line, which is 7,861 BDS (Bureau of Gender Affairs, 2004, p. 4). Among female-headed households, the rate of poverty is 19.4% compared to 11.5% of male-headed households.

Women are generally employed in traditionally female, lower-paid occupations. When performing work similar to men, their wage is, on average, only 75% of what men receive (World Economic Forum, p. 132).

According to the World Economic Forum (2013, p. 132), 25% of firms have female top managers, and 44% have female participation in ownership.

### Decision-Making

Political parties have not committed to encouraging women's political participation, and women remain under-represented in all areas of government. For example, as of 2001 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were no female parliamentary judges or female judges of appeal. In the same year, there were 14 female heads of government agencies, compared to 36 male heads.

### Human Rights

There is a lack of reliable data on the prevalence of violence against women in Barbados. However, there is some evidence to suggest that violence against women is pervasive. In 2012, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, Navi Pillay, made this statement during her visit to Barbados: "Domestic violence against women and children, and sexual harassment, occur all over the world. However, reports suggest that they are particularly serious problems here in Barbados and in other Caribbean countries, and rape is shockingly commonplace" (UN News Centre, 2012).

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