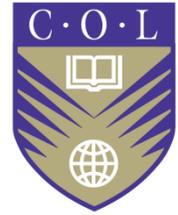


# Gender Profile: Vanuatu

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## General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 50,810  
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 48,753

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 82,844  
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 84,530

## Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 110  
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 16.41

Under-five mortality rate for males: NA  
Under-five mortality rate for females: NA

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2007) (WHO, 2014b): 74%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49: NA  
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49: NA

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014b): 70  
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014b): 74

## Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 94.70%  
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 95.06%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 84.87%  
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 81.86%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2004) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):  
97.89%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2004) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):  
97.35%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):  
59.59%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):  
59.47%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2004) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 5.94%  
Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2004) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 3.50%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2003) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 36.2%

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 53.9%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2002) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 35.6%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female: NA

## Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 88%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 80%

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): 0%

## Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2013) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 9%

Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 60%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a nonpartner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 48%

## Gender Gaps

### Health

- There are abnormally high levels of cervical cancer in Vanuatu, making it the second most common cancer in women aged 15 to 44. The age-standardised incidence rate is 19.2 per 100,000 women per year (HPV Information Centre, 2014, p. 6).

- The 2013 Vanuatu Demographic and Health Survey noted that “nearly 12% of teenage women aged 15–19 have had a live birth, while another 4% are pregnant with their first child,” with rates climbing sharply from age 17 on; a higher percentage of rural girls have begun child bearing in adolescence (17.3%) compared with urban girls (12.8%) (Vanuatu Ministry of Health et al., 2014, p. 59).

## Education

- According to the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, “primary school dropout rates are relatively high in grade 6 at about 19%, and females are more likely to drop out than males” (Vanuatu Ministry of Health et al., 2014, p. 19).
- Fewer females have completed tertiary or vocational education than males (4.3% versus 6.3%) (p. 14).

## Economic

- Family law in Vanuatu does not necessitate the equal division of matrimonial property in the event of divorce.
- 55% of women aged 15–49 are classified as currently employed, compared with 82% of men in the same age bracket (Vanuatu Ministry of Health et al., 2014, p. 37).
- The 2011 Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships found that 16% of ever-partnered women had refused or left a job because their husband or partner did not want them to work; in addition, 22% had had their savings or earnings taken by their husband or partner, and 41% had had their husband or partner refuse to give them money for household expenses (Vanuatu Women’s Centre, 2011, p. 18).

## Decision-Making

- Vanuatu currently has no women sitting in parliament, and only 1.4% of those ever elected to parliament have been women. Women lack the resources and mentorship to participate in politics. UN Women has advocated reserving seats for women.
- In a 2011 study of women in decision-making in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, the author found that “[w]omen's groups and organizations within Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands face significant challenges. It is an ongoing challenge, for example, to create ‘spaces’ where women's voices can be heard more clearly, to provide the types of support they need, and to empower them as more active participants in the determination of their own agendas and in the decisions that affect them.” She also notes that “[a] considerable body of knowledge is contained in local women's organizations. There is, however, only token acknowledgement of the potential role these organizations can play. There is very little documentation available on the work that women do at this level” (Wallace, 2011).

## Human Rights

- In a 2011 study, the Vanuatu Women’s Centre found that “[a]mong women who have ever been married, lived with a man, or had an intimate sexual relationship with a partner, 3 in 5 (60%) experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime; more than 2 in 3 (68%) experienced emotional violence; more than 1 in 4 (28%) was subjected to several forms of control by their husband or partner, more than 2

in 3 (69%) experienced at least one form of coercive control, and most of these were living with physical and sexual violence. Most women who are subjected to violence by husbands/partners experience multiple forms of violence.” Forty-eight per cent of the women interviewed for the study had experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of non-partner males, mostly male family members and boyfriends (p. 16–17).

- The same study found that “[t]he prevalence of sexual abuse against girls under the age of 15 is also one of the very highest in the world. Almost 1 in 3 women (30%) were sexually abused before the age of 15 years,” and the majority of perpetrators were male family members and boyfriends (p. 17).
- Female victims of violence very frequently have no realistic means to take themselves and their children out of abusive home environments. “More than half of married women (56%) could not raise enough money to feed or house themselves and their children for 4 weeks if they need to leave temporarily due to violence; and about 4 in 5 (78%) could not raise enough money by herself to pay back the bride price. These findings need to be considered in the context of the fact that about 1 in 3 currently married women (32%) did not choose their husband, and more than 1 in 10 (11%) were forced to marry their husband” (p. 18).
- In cases where a woman reports rape to the authorities, she must provide physical evidence of resistance in order to prove the absence of consent. The survivor’s sexual history may also be brought before the court.

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