

# Gender Country Profile

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## *Botswana*

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## General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 361,717

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 348,150

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 730,424

Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 715,493

## Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 160

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 9.28

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 57.5

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 48.7

Births attended by a skilled health professional (World Economic Forum, 2013): 99%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 19.3%

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 27.7%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014): 61

Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014): 63

## Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 94.20%

Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 97.90%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 86.34%

Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 87.12%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 83.42%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 84.65%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2008) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 79.18%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2008) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 84.28%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 6.92%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 7.95%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female: NA

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

Teachers in primary education who are female (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 75.9%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 50.2%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2005) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 36.7%

## Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 49%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 32%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 28%

## 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 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 5%

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

## Gender Gaps

### Health

Any person found guilty of performing an illegal abortion can be sentenced to up to seven years in prison. Abortion is only legally permitted in cases of rape or incest, to preserve the mother's health, or if it is believed the unborn child "would suffer or later develop physical or mental abnormality" (United Nations, 2000). Unsafe abortions occur. As of 1992 (the most recent available data), the government estimated that approximately 200 women died annually as a result of unsafe abortions.

Women's higher risk of HIV infection may be related to their limited decision-making agency about their sexual activity. For example, in one study of women in Swaziland as well as Botswana, 40% of respondents said that their partner solely decided when to have sex (Physicians for Human Rights, 2007, p. 100).

### Education

Botswana's schools have no formal sex education programs.

Teenage pregnancy deters girls in Botswana from completing their education. According to one study, only 10% of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy return to finish their studies.

### Economic

The World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report 2013* indicates that Botswana's women receive 78% of the wages that men receive for similar work (p. 144).

The same report shows that although their participation in the labour force is 90% that of men, their estimated earned income is only 47% that of men.

### Decision-Making

Botswana has no constitutional provision for parties to implement gender quotas to increase women's involvement. Some of the parties have tried to do so, but the practice has not been enforced.

The *Global Gender Gap Report 2013* indicates that only 16% of firms in Botswana have female top managers (World Economic Forum, 2013, p. 144).

### Human Rights

According to a 2012 joint report by the NGO Gender Links and the Government of Botswana's Women's Affairs Department, 67% of women in Botswana report having experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. Only one in nine women report rape to police, and just one in seven seek medical attention after the fact. Violence is usually perpetrated by an intimate partner.

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