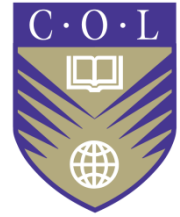


Gender Profile: Tonga



General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 19,272
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 18,661

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 34,127
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 34,380

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 110
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 12.36

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

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2010) (WHO, 2014b): 99%

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

Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 74
Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 69

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.37%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.51%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.34%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.43%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
88.59%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
91.29%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 106%
Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
102.53%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2003) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 4.82%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2003) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 8%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female : NA

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

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 95.5%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 54.5%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2000): 23.3%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 70%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 54%

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): 4%

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: NA

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

* * *

Gender Gaps

Health

- As of 2011, only 27% of women in Tonga were using a form of contraception, which UN Women (2014) notes as being lower than in 1990.

- Diabetes and cardiovascular disease have a high prevalence in Tonga, and women are more vulnerable to these ailments than men; 19.1% of women compared to 16.5% of men are diabetic (UN Women, 2014).

- A 2014 study published in The Lancet journal found that 88.3% of Tongan women and 83.5% of Tongan men over the age of 20 are overweight. More dramatic is the disparity in the rates for those under 20: 52.6% of Tongan girls compared with 34.5% of Tongan boys are overweight (Tonga Daily News, 2014). These figures may be the reason for the cited higher rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in women, although the connection has not been conclusively established.

Education

- Although a 2009 study found women's gross enrolment rate in tertiary education to be higher than men's (7% for women, 4% for men), the majority of female graduates marry, remain at home and do not use their acquired skills, reflecting the existence of traditional views (Japan International Cooperation Agency, 2010).

Economic

- On average, women earn only 47% of what their male counterparts receive. Women are also over-represented in the informal economy. For example, up to 80% of women in the outer islands are craftspeople. (UN Women, 2014).

- The Japan International Cooperation Agency noted in 2010 that “[i]n the past 30 years, the number of females in formal employment has increased almost fourfold. However, there has been little progress in the type of occupations that women are engaged in. Most women were and still are employed in unskilled menial work or subordinate positions (and thus being low-paid). It is considered that women's job opportunities are limited because of the cultural values that Tongans, males and females, have concerning gender roles. Although women occupy almost 30% of the employment in the public sector, few are at the decision-making level” (p. iv–v).

Decision-Making

- Women have faced extreme barriers to being elected, but the king has begun to appoint women to parliamentary positions. In 2010, Tonga held its first elections after making significant changes to the parliamentary system. No women were elected that year, but the king did appoint one woman to the legislative assembly.

Human Rights

- As of 16 March 2015, the UN had not accepted Tonga's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), due to conditions the Tongan government had imposed: “ratification comes with conditions, including local law superseding the convention in terms of succession to the throne and nobility, abortion and same sex marriage” (Radio New Zealand, 2015, para. 3).

- Tonga has no legislation in place concerning domestic violence, sexual harassment, human trafficking or sex tourism.

- There is no legal minimum age of sexual consent in Tonga; thus, statutory rape is not criminalised.
- Those who report rape to the authorities still have to provide physical evidence of resistance in order to prove the absence of consent (UN Women, 2014).
- Constitutional status has been granted to customary law in Tonga. Customary laws are very old and accord men preferential status (UN Women, 2014). They thus have the potential to significantly disadvantage women.

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