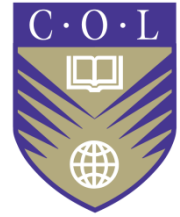


Gender Profile: Swaziland



General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 261,715
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 255,949

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 447,301
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 454,658

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 320
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 54.82

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

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 82%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (Central Statistical Office [Swaziland] & Macro International, 2008): 20%

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (Central Statistical Office [Swaziland] & Macro International, 2008): 31%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014b): 52
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014b): 55

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 92.19%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 94.75%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 83.90%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 82.45%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 83.85%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 85.90%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 60.77%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 59.07%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 5.84%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 6.09%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 18.4%

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2006) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 8.6%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 70.8%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 47.5%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 55.2%

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): 62%

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): 6%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2013) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 1%

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

- The government's 2006–2007 Demographic and Health Survey (SDHS)—which was the first of its kind and remains the only one for Swaziland to date—found a high incidence of teenage pregnancy. Twenty-three per cent of teenagers had started childbearing; 19% had had a live birth and 4% were pregnant with their first child. Although only 4% of women had started bearing children by age 15, 45% were either mothers or pregnant with their first child by age 19. Rural teenagers were more likely than their urban counterparts to have started childbearing (Central Statistical Office & Macro International, 2008, p. 57).
- According to the SDHS, 78% of women aged 15 to 49 indicated that they had at least one problem accessing health care. The most common problems included unavailability of drugs (up to 70.4%); unavailability of a health provider (up to 40.3%); getting money for treatment (up to 30.1%); distance to a health facility (up to 27.5%); and having to take transport (up to 18.5%) (p. 125–126).

Education

- Girls' dropout rate in higher grades is greater than that of boys—for example, 6.2% versus 3.4% in Grade 4, and 9.4% versus 8.0% in Grade 7 (Central Statistical Office & Macro International, 2008, p. 16).
- Slightly fewer women aged 15 to 49 have attended tertiary education than men in the same age category—7.4% versus 8.3% (p. 28). Women in urban areas are four times more likely than their rural counterparts to have reached tertiary education (16% versus 4%) (p. 30).

Economic

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2014) notes “a need to increase enrolment of girls in technical and science subjects through more interventions early in the education system and more career guidance at all schools. For the period 2007 and 2011 figures from Swaziland College of Technology and UNISWA show that on average below 40% of girls were enrolled for these subjects.”
- The UNDP also observes that from 2008 to 2010, women's share in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector rose from 29.6% to 33%.

Decision-Making

- Although in 2012 women constituted 22% of the House of Assembly and Senate, this number has since dropped significantly, and Swaziland has not met its 30% target for 2015.

Human Rights

- The government of Swaziland acknowledged in 2013 that gender-based violence is a significant problem, with 20% of women aged 15 to 49 having been beaten by her husband or partner, compared with 0.5% of men in the same age category (Permanent Mission, 2013, p. 1).
- UNICEF reported in 2007 that 48.2% of girls and young women are subjected to some form of sexual violence before they reach age 24 (p. 34).

- Cultural and official attitudes towards the rape of women do not place the responsibility solely with the rapist. Illustrative of this is the enactment, in 2012, of a law banning “miniskirts” and “low-rise jeans,” with a maximum penalty of six months in jail. A police spokeswoman stated that women wearing such clothing were responsible if they were then assaulted or raped (Al Jazeera, 2012).

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