

# Gender Country Profile

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*Brunei Darussalam*

*By Erin MacDonald and Rosanne Wong*

*Edited by Dania Sheldon*

## Contents

General .....	2
Health .....	2
Education.....	2
Economic Activity.....	3
Decision-Making .....	3
Human Rights.....	3
Gender Gaps .....	4
Health .....	4
Education.....	4
Economic.....	4
Decision-Making .....	4
Human Rights.....	4
References .....	5

## General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 52,753

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 49,548

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 157,036

Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 163,338

## Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 24

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10.48

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 8.7

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 7.2

Births attended by a skilled health professional (World Economic Forum, 2013): 10%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49: NA

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49: NA

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 76

Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 78

## Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.81%

Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.75%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 97.10%

Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 93.66%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 96.19%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 95.10%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 107.24%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 108.50%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 17.93%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 31.20%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 65.3%

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 12.1%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 75.7%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 65.8%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 46.1%

## 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): 59%

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 (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2014): <1%

## 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

Breast screening (i.e., mammograms to detect breast cancer) and gynaecological screening (i.e., tests to detect cancers and other diseases of the reproductive organs and tract) are not free in Brunei. In March of 2015, one medical centre was offering “promotion” prices for these tests at 99 BND (Brunei dollars) and 368 BND, respectively. The BND exchanges for approximately 0.75 USD. This makes such examinations potentially beyond the financial reach of women who have low incomes (Wang & Begawan, 2015).

According to a report by UN Women (2013), more than a third of new HIV infections are among women and girls.

Females have a 30% prevalence of obesity, compared with approximately 8.5% among males (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2011; World Data Atlas, 2008). The reason for this discrepancy has not yet been determined.

### Education

Although Brunei has more female graduates than male, this has not resulted in equal opportunity or equal pay in the labour force (see below).

A 2015 article in the *Brunei Times* cited Brunei’s Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Hjh Adina Othman, as expressing concern over the increasing gender gap between male and female graduates from tertiary education; according to the report, “she called for positive discrimination in favour of men to ensure they are fully represented in tertiary education” (Kamit & Begawan, 2015).

### Economic

According to a report by the World Economic Forum (2013), the average annual earnings of women and men in Brunei are significantly unequal: 51,805 USD for women versus 92,299 USD for men.

### Decision-Making

The first female cabinet minister was appointed in 2010. This was significant, as the current regime has discouraged women’s direct political participation. For example, in 2012, the government stated that women could not serve as village heads (Roslan, 2012).

### Human Rights

A gradual implementation of sharia law in the Bruneian penal code began in early 2014 (Khullar, 2014).

The Bruneian government’s interpretation of Koranic principles has influenced the creation of laws that disadvantage women in marriage, divorce, citizenship, and custody of children. For example, citizenship can only be passed through the father, so women married to foreign men cannot pass their citizenship on to their children, even if the children are born in Brunei (US Department of State, 2012, p. 10).

Marital rape is not illegal in Brunei (US Department of State, 2012, p. 13).

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