

Gender Country Profile



Belize

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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): 61,480

Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 59,000

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 111,111

Total female population over 15 years of age (2014) (CIA, 2015): 109,253

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 51

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10.93

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 20.2

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 16.3

Births attended by a skilled health professional (World Economic Forum, 2013): 94%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 2.7

Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 1.9

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014): 72

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

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24: NA

Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24: NA

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+: NA

Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+: NA

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.44%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.81%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 81.99%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 86.07%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 19.20%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 32.52%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 62.5%

Students 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): 72.1%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 61.4%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 50.2%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 81%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 47%

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): 3%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2014) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 3%

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

Many people in Belize are misinformed about methods of preventing HIV transmission. A study conducted by UNICEF in 2006 (the most recent available data) revealed that among women aged 15–24, only 40% knew how to prevent HIV infection.

Education

Girls in the Mayan and Mestizo ethnic groups have the lowest achievement in education. Only 55% of Mayan and 65% of Mestizo girls are enrolled in school, compared with Belize's averages of nearly 100% for girls in primary education and over 86% for girls in secondary education (Population Council, 2012). This suggests inequalities in the experiences of girls from ethnic minorities.

Economic

Women in Belize are more vulnerable to poverty than men, particularly those in female-headed households. Mechanisms to protect these women from poverty are not optimal. A 2013 report issued by the National Women's Commission states: "The related issues of absentee fathers and weak enforcement of child maintenance legislation place single mothers at a distinct economic disadvantage" (p. 28).

Decision-Making

According to the National Women's Commission, by 2013, only 14 women had offered themselves as candidates in national general elections since 1984 (2013, p. 39).

Human Rights

Violence against women remains an on-going concern in Belize. A study conducted in 2010 by the Women's Circle of Belize reported that up to 23% of women have been subjected to violence. Over half of the respondents who stated that they had experienced violence also said they knew the perpetrator.

According to the Population Council (2012), one-third of Mayan and Mestizo girls are in child marriages, and one-fifth of these girls will enter motherhood before age 18.

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