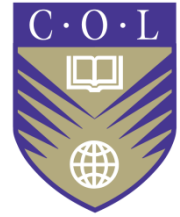


Gender Profile: Samoa



General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 33,842
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 31,749

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 66,701
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 64,336

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 100
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 20.5

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 19.4%

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 16.1%

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2009) (WHO, 2014b): 80.8%

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

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014b): 70
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014b): 77

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.44%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.62%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.05%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.67%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 94.87%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 97.44%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 81.45%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 90.38%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 7.84%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 7.24%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 43.1%

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 3.5%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 77.3%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 58.3%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 44.4%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 75%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 41%

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 (UN Women, 2012): 46.1%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a nonpartner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 75.8%

* * *

Gender Gaps

Health

- 46% of women experience an unmet need for contraception (UN Women, 2014).
- Abortion is a criminal offence in Samoa, except when it is to preserve the mother's life. Procuring an abortion, inducing one's own miscarriage, or supplying the means for a miscarriage carries a maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment. Supplying an abortion carries a maximum sentence of 14 years' imprisonment.

Education

- In Samoa's urban areas, "for those in the bottom three deciles the proportion achieving only primary level was over seventy percent for females and two-thirds for males" (Government of Samoa, 2012, p. 19).
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community noted in February 2015 that Samoa "reported that it has launched a support programme for teenage mothers, but it is unclear whether it includes continued education" (p. 32).

Economic

- In 2009, women made up only 29.4% of general manager and chief executive officer positions; although this was an increase from 17% in 2001, the figure suggests top management positions are still dominated by men, and women may not be advancing at a comparable rate to men (UN Women, 2014).

Decision-Making

- In May 2013, amendments were made to the political system, granting women 10% of parliamentary seats.
- However, the Commonwealth Foundation (2013) notes that "to run for a seat in parliament, one has to be a holder of a chiefly title, a complex issue for women in Samoa" (p. 8).
- A 2012 study seeking to explain Samoan women's extremely low representation in politics found that "it is very difficult for Samoan women to formally participate in village-based political decision making. Women represent only 5 percent of matai [family and/or village chiefs] in traditional Samoan villages and very few of these women have a voice in local government . . . Although only a minority of villages specifically excludes women from village councils, in most villages, if there are women matai there, they are discouraged from participation by informal conventions. . . . The Government of Samoa has no power to determine or even influence the gender composition of village councils" (Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa, 2012, p. 7).

Human Rights

- The latest figures from a 2005 WHO report on gender-based violence showed that "Samoa had one of the highest levels of physical and sexual violence by nonpartners on women above the age of 15, with a prevalence rate of 65 percent" (Commonwealth Foundation, 2013, p. 8).

- In its in-depth Samoa Family Health and Safety Study, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (2007) found that approximately 30% of women who had been abused reported having been injured as a result (p. 86).
- The same study indicated that among women who had experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner, 23.8% reported having been punched, kicked or beaten while pregnant (p. 15). Approximately 97% of the women who had experienced violence did not report it; 36% said they refrained because it was a private matter, 8% considered it to be a minor offence, and 7% felt that reporting the incidents was not compatible with their devotion to their partner (p. 7).

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