

FIJI

MEET A CHILD

The 2003 Family Law established that illegitimate children have the same rights as legitimate children. Children's testimony was largely inadmissible in courts unless corroborated by an adult.

TOTAL POPULATION **845,000**
CHILD POPULATION **270,400**

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Fiji are unavailable. Children work on family farms or businesses, in homes as domestic workers, as shoe shiners, or in car repair shops. Homeless children also work in the informal sector, and the number of street children in Suva is reported to be growing.

The US Dept. of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

The country has an economically active population of 324000, with no child being economically active

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

990 females for 1000 males

CIA, factbook-2005 (Fig is an estimate for 2005)

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

200 children of primary school going age were out of school in 2001

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.954, the progress on 'Education for All' MDG is high

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data

CHILD TRAFFICKING

There is no data of reliable information on the trafficking of Fijian children abroad. However, there are concerns about the number

ECPAT CSEC Database,
http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp

of cases where Fijian children have been taken from their parents to live in Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, there have been prosecutions of men for the sexual abuse of Fijian boys they have adopted.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

There is a growing number of children living on the streets and falling victim to prostitution. the UNICEF Regional Overview on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in East Asia and the Pacific reported that Fiji is becoming a major destination for child sex tourism another report which states that the estimated number of sex workers had increased from 1,500 in 1990 to 2,000 in 1996 and that a recent sample study showed that 60 percent of sex workers entered the trade before the age of 18 years.

There are also unconfirmed reports that there are fishing boat crews in the islands that lure young boys, screening pornographic films

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There were no reports of under 18s in the armed forces.

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

No confirmed data

ECPAT CSEC Database,
http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004