

WELCOME TO KIDS COUNT

Dear Colleagues:

Children make up a quarter of all US Virgin Islanders. Their lives – for better or worse – are a barometer of the health and stability of our larger community. KIDS COUNT is a way of bringing the community together, to show where we are making progress, where we are standing still and where we are falling behind.

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has provided an annual **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Report** for the past twelve years. At CFVI, we are committed to the KIDS COUNT project and the essential work of gathering reliable data on children to provide to those who will use the data to support innovations, programs and policies that help children and families. We track data that is important to improve outcomes of children's lives.

The data in the KIDS COUNT 2012 Data Report. Strengthening Supports for Children, is from government departments within the Territory, as well as from the Census Bureau. While the Census 2010 is designed to provide a uniquely rich and accurate resource for information on every one of our children and families, we are able to report only the Census 2010 data that is available by press time. Thus, 2010 data is not included here for several of our usual indicators: Children by race, Children's family structures, Dropouts, Youth not in school or working, among others. As further Census 2010 tabulations for the US Virgin Islands and other insular areas are released, these data-points will be included online at the KIDS COUNT Data Center and in future KIDS **COUNT** Reports.

This year we are pleased to expand our reporting to include data on the following:

- · Children in Kinship Care
- Children Receiving Child Support
- Infant and Preschool Child Care
- · Children's Readiness for School
- Third Grade Reading
- Youth Risk Behavior

In a period of economic downturn, many of our families have difficulties meeting the high costs of housing, utilities, food, child care and health care. Child care subsidies, tax policies and public supports (TANF, SNAP, etc) that support working families are important measures to counter economic instability and improve child outcomes. Access to health insurance, quality health care, and high-quality child care are critical public policy investments that have proven positive impacts on the long-term educational achievement and healthy development of children and youth.

By examining the best available data territory-wide, Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT offers a resource that can prompt and inform responses to the challenges facing our community – and strengthen our children's foundations for future success.

Dee Baecher-Brown President CFVI Ricardo J. Charaf

Chairman of the Board

CFVI

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6ummary 2012

Key Findings, 2010

Demographics, p. 8

- The VI child population has dropped 21% since 2000 (34,289 children), to 27,026 children.
- **Children are now** ¼ of the overall VI population (25%).

Economics, p. 10-11

Incomes rose in 2010...but there are more single-mother families now in poverty – 48%.

Child Poverty, p. 12

- ACTION ALERT: **30% of VI children live in poverty:** 8,176 children.
- The poverty rate is highest (35%) among young children age birth to 5.
- In St. Croix, 35% of all children live in poverty.

Father absence, p.13

 35% of all VI children were enrolled as paternity child support cases.

Public supports, p. 14-15

- TANF: increased in 2010 to serve 6% of all VI children (1,718 children).
- SNAP: expanded in 2010 to serve 51% of VI children (13,828 children).
- WIC in 2010 served **58% of young VI children age birth up to 5** (4,368 children).

Birthweight, p. 16 *

 VI trend of babies born at low birthweight has reduced since 2002; now close to the US rate.

Infant Death, p. 16

 Though it rose in 2010, the VI rate of infant death has been lower than the nation's for the past decade.

Immunizations, p. 17

 55% of children under age 2 lack federally recommended immunizations.

Health Insurance, p. 19

 27% of VI children lack any health coverage (in US: only 10% lack health coverage).

Early Sex, p. 20

 One out of every five public school students polled reported having sex before age 13.

Arrests for Violence, p. 21 *

- The juvenile violent crime arrest rate fell by almost half, to 364/1,000 teens age 10-14.

Teen Deaths. p. 22

 ACTION ALERT: the VI rate of teen deaths is almost 3 times higher than the US rate.

Births to Teens, p. 23 *

VI teen birth rate fell to its lowest level in 15 years, in 2010.

School Readiness, p. 25

- ACTION ALERT: Too many young children enter kindergarten unprepared:
- 21% are delayed (by up to a year below age-level expectations) in 6 key areas
- 51% lack expected vocabulary, language and concept skills specific to Kindergarten learning

Reading by 4th Grade, p. 27

- Children who begin school behind may never catch up. In the VI public schools:
- Almost half (48%) of children could not read proficiently by the end of 3rd Grade.

★ areas in which the VI trend is positive.

School Benchmarks, p. 28

- ACTION ALERT: Few public schools were able to meet adequate yearly benchmarks in 2010:
- Only 7 out of 22 elementary schools (ie. only 1/3) met targets
- Only 1 out of 6 middle schools met targets
- None of 4 high schools met targets.

Academic Benchmarks, p. 29

- By 11th grade, 62% of students scored below expected-level proficiency in reading
- By 11th grade, 48% of students scored below expected-level proficiency in math.

US Census vs. Interim Survey reporting

This **2012 KIDS COUNT Data Book** presents data from the *2010 US Census*, the most up-to-date information on every child and family in the US Virgin Islands. *US Census* data, collected in decennial years (once every decade), yields specific and accurate reporting of many social, residential, economic and other characteristics for the US Virgin Islands population.

Readers should keep in mind that the findings from the *US Census'* 100% coverage of the VI population in 2010 will differ in numbers and accuracy from the smaller samples of population data collected annually by the US Virgin Islands in non-decennial years.

In non-census years – the US Virgin Islands relies on an annual population survey, the Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS). VICS samples a broadlybased 5% portion of VI households, and using scientific sampling techniques, makes careful data analysis and extrapolations from these findings. The VICS data provides the basis of KIDS COUNT reporting on children, youth and families in the nine years between each decennial US Census count (see more information regarding VICS on pages 30 and 32). In non-census years, each US state and Puerto Rico also use an annual "sample portion" survey, called American Community Survey (ACS), to measure their changing population characteristics. The US Virgin Islands aims to be included in this national, annual American Community Survey in the future.





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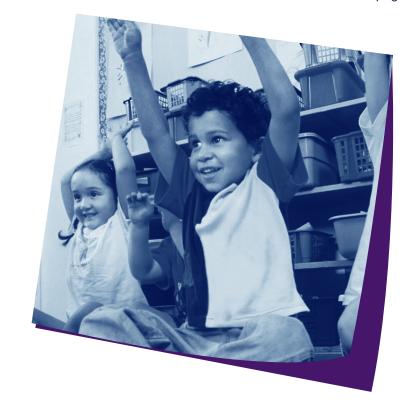


TABLE 1



Trends in Virgin Islands Children Indicators: 2003 to 2010

US Virgin Islands Children Indicators*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Trend**
Percent low birthweight babies	10.7	11.4	10.8	10.2	11.6	8.7	8.1	8.5	Better
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.3	4.8	5.5	4.5	6.8	4.3	5.7	6.6	Worse
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	11.5	24.7	24.8	30.8	50.7	19.2	15.7	34	Worse
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	11.8	102	114.3	117.2	122.9	94.7	88.2	145	Worse
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	48.4	47.3	47	53.6	57.4	50.7	51.3	43.4	Better
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17)	458	334	483	499	539	743	673	364	Better
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	NA	10.5	15.7	13.8	13.1	10.2	9.1 ¹	NA	NA
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19) ²	10.2	14.5	13.4	11.3	17	15.2	18.9	NA	NA
Percent of children in poverty	32.3	35.1	35.8	29.5	34.1	28.1	29.9	30.3	Variable
Percent of children in single parent households ³	35	40.7	40	40.5	41.8	56.6	58.8	NA	NA
Child abuse and neglect referral rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-18)	7.5	9.6	8.6	12.1	13.6	11.4	13.8	15	Worse
Median income of families	\$36,448	\$32,613	\$37,869	\$38,914	\$42,673	\$43,949	\$43,691	\$45,058	Better

^{*}See Definitions and Data Sources.

^{**}Trend: base year for comparison is 2003

¹ Comparison to 2003 unavailable – comparison year is 2004

² Data from years 2005-2007 has been updated from past reporting.

³ Data previous to 2007 reports VI children living with single mother only; since then data now reports VI children living with a single parent (ie. mother or father) NA: 2010 US Census data for the USVI on this topic was not yet available at press time.

VI and US Comparisons of Children Indicators: 2010 Data

US Virgin Islands Children Indicators*	St. C	roix	St. J	ohn	ohn St. Thomas		US Virgin Islands		National
	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Rate/%
Percent low birthweight babies	72	8.6	2		69	8.3	141	8.5	8.1 ¹
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	3	3.6	2		8	9.6	11	6.6	6.4
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	2	19	2		5	50	7	34	18 ¹
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	6	150	2		5	140	11	145	53 ¹
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females 15-19)	91	46	2		73	41	164	43.4	34
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17)	29	441	2		16	276	45	364	261
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percent of teens not in school and not working (ages 16-19)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percent of children in poverty	4,898	35	140	17	3,138	25.8	8,176	30.3	22
Percent of children in single parent households ³	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Child abuse and neglect referral rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-18)	199	14	2		210	16	409	15	9
Median income of families	\$41	,959	\$50 ,	592	\$47,122 \$45,058		,058	\$61,544	

^{*}See Definitions and Data Sources

¹ National rate is for 2009

² Included in St. Thomas data

³ Data previous to 2007 reports VI children living with single mother only. Data now reports VI children living with a single parent (ie. mother or father) NA: 2010 *US Census* data for the USVI on this topic was not yet available at press time.

DEMOGRAPHICS

VI Child Demographics

In 2010, the VI population had a similar amount of adults as in 2000 and 1990... but about **8,000** fewer children than lived here 10 or 20 years ago.



What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The number of children in the Territory, and their percentage in the overall population, have lowered due to fewer families with children, and fewer children per family.

- The number of VI children has dropped significantly from a peak count of 36,480 in 1997.
- The percentage of children in the overall VI population peaked at 35% two decades ago in 1990, when one in three residents was a child. In 2010, the percentage of children is comparable to the national rate: VI children are 25% of the population, or one of every four residents.

In 2010:

- USVI: 27,026 children, birth to 18 lived in the Territory.
- in 2000: 34,289 children... in 1990: 35,427 children.
- the overall VI population: 106,405.
- Children represented 25.4% of the overall VI population
- down from 35% in 1990, and from 32% in 2000.
- Children in the national population: 24%.

By location.

Between islands, the percentage of children has remained consistent for two decades.

- · St. Croix: 52% of all VI children
- 52% in 1990; 53% in 2000
- 14,031 St. Croix children represent 27.7% of St. Croix's total population of 50,601.
- · St. Thomas: 45% of all VI children
- 45% in 1990: 44% in 2000
- 12,171 St. Thomas children represent 23.6% of St. Thomas' population of 51,634.
- · St. John: 3% of all VI children
- 3% in 1990; 3% in 2000
- 824 St. John children represent 19.8% of St. John's population of 4,170.

By gender.

- Females: 49.3% of all VI children
- Males: 50.7%

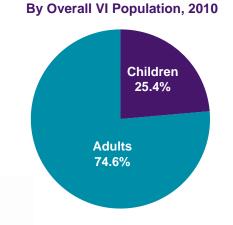
Note: 2010 VI race data was not available at press time.

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Demographics topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

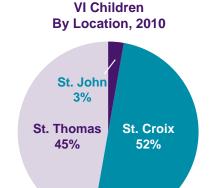
- VI child population (number, percent)
- VI child population by gender (number; percent)
- Children born in the VI (number; percent)
- VI children in immigrant families (number; percent)
- VI child population by race (number; percent)
- Children who are not US citizens (number, percent)
- VI children of Hispanic origin (number; percent)
- VI child population by age group (number; percent)
- Language spoken in VI children's homes (number; percent)

DEMOGRAPHICS

VI Child Demographics, cont.

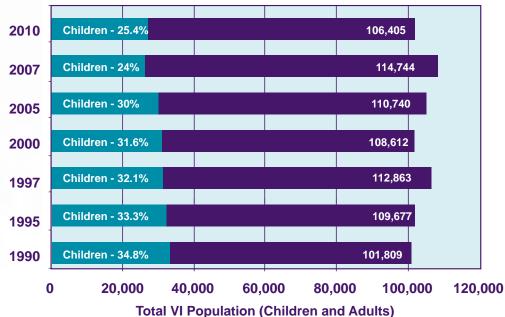


VI Children









Economic Well-Being of Families

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

In 2010, the overall economy remained affected by the general recession in the US and larger world. Job layoffs and unemployment rose as investment, tourism and government revenues declined.

Per capita income, for individuals.

- \$21,362 (up from \$17,860 in 2009).
- The national rate: \$39,937 (almost twice the VI per capita income rate).

Poverty rate for the total VI population.

- 22.2% -- an improvement in 2010 (down from 25.8% in 2009).
- St. Croix: 25.8% of individuals reported incomes below the poverty threshold (28.4% in '09).
- St. Thomas/St. John: 18.5% (23.2% in '09).

Income level for families.

- 100% of 26,237 VI families (with and without children) reported income (93% in 2009).
- 45.6% of VI families earned \$50k or more (up from 42% of families in 2009).
- 54.4% of families earned less than \$50,000 (down from 58% in 2009).
- 14.9% of families earned \$35k to less than \$50k (16% in 2009).
- 11.9% of families earned \$25k to less than \$35k (13% in 2009).
- 12.9% of families earned \$15k to less than \$25k (13% in 2009).
- 14.6% of families earned less than \$15k (18% of families in 2009).

Note: An income of \$15,000 is equal to approximately \$10 a day per person for a family of four.

Poverty rate for families with children.

- 31% of all VI families with children lived in poverty (up from 24.9% last year).
- St. Croix: 36% of all families with children lived in poverty (up sharply from 28% in '09).
- St. Thomas: 27% (up from 22% in '09)
- St. John: 19% (18.3% in '09).

Note: The poverty threshold is adjusted yearly for varying family sizes. In 2010, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two related children under age 18 was \$22,113 in annual income.¹

Poverty rate for female-headed families with children.

- 75% of all VI families with children in poverty were headed by single females (same as in '09).
- 47.8% of all female-headed families with children lived below the poverty threshold (up sharply from 37.4% in '09).
- St. Croix: 55% of all female-headed families with children lived in poverty
- St. Thomas: 41%
- St. John: 31%.

Poverty rate for all families (with and without children).

- 18.3% of all VI families lived below the poverty threshold (down from 21.3% in 2009).
- · St. Croix: 22% of all families
- St. Thomas: 15%
- St. John: 11.4%.

Note: the yearly fluctuation of economic rates reported for St. John may be a result of a small population sample taken during non-census years.



Median income, for families.

- VI family median income increased in 2010 to \$45,058 (up from \$43,691 in 2009).
- St. Croix: estimated at \$41,959 (down from \$42,876 last year).
- St. Thomas: estimated at \$47,122 (up from \$44,178 last year).
- St. John: estimated at \$50,592 (up from \$38.126 last year). (see previous note)

What's the national family median income?

• \$61,544 — still far ahead of the Virgin Islands.

Earnings by gender.

The gender income-gap narrowed: VI women in '10 earned 85 cents on the dollar earned by men (a 13-cent increase from 72 cents earned last year).

- VI men's median income: \$35,455 (up significantly from \$28,102 in '09).
- VI women's median income: \$30,219 (up significantly from \$20,244 in '09).

Note: 2010 VI **employment by household** and **earnings by race** data were not available at press time.

48% of all VI femaleheaded families with children live in poverty... In St. Croix the percentage is 55%.

¹See US Poverty Thresholds for 2010 by size of family and number of related children under 18 years at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshold/thresh09.html.

Economic Well-Being of Families, cont.

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Economic Well-Being topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

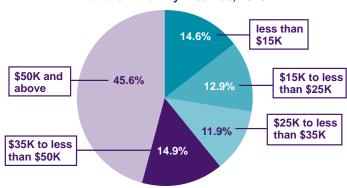
- Median family income (currency)
- Median family income by race (currency)
- Per capita income (currency)
- Unemployment rate (percent)
- Unemployment rate by race (percent)
- Employment of family household heads (percent)
- Families in poverty by race (percent, currency)

Definition: **Per capita income** is the average income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.

Definition: **Median family income** is the dollar amount which divides the income distribution in VI family households into two equal groups — half of households have incomes above the median and half have incomes below the median. Data is for all families rather than just for families with children.

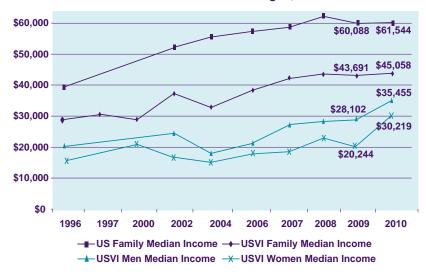
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

What are VI Family Incomes, 2010?



VI Family Income Levels, 2010 (K = thousand)

How Have VI Incomes Changed, 1996-2010?





What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands? Poverty for children's families.

- 31% of all VI families with children were living in poverty in 2010.
- up sharply from 24.8% in 2009
- 3,627 families with children lived in poverty in 2010 (up from 3,431 families in 2009).

Child poverty.

Almost one in three VI children lived in a household with income below the poverty threshold in 2010.1

- USVI child poverty rate: 30.3%
- 29.9% of VI children (7,625 children) in 2009
- 8,176 children lived in poverty (out of 27,026 VI children) in 2010.
- St. Croix child poverty rate: 35%
- down slightly from 35.3% (4,541 children) in 2009
- 4,898 children lived in poverty (out of 14,031 St. Croix children) in 2010.

Note: St. Croix's child poverty rate is an alarming 9 percentage points higher than in St. Thomas, and 18 percentage points higher than in St. John.

- St. Thomas child poverty rate: 25.8%
- up from 24.6% (2,947 children) in 2009
- 3,138 children lived in poverty (out of 12,171 St. Thomas children) in 2010.
- St. John child poverty rate: 17%
- down from 20% (137 children) in 2009
- 140 children lived in poverty (out of 824 St. John children) in 2010.

Note: small absolute numbers, as in St. John, may lead to wide variations in population-based rates.

The national child poverty rate: 22%.

Children age birth to five, in poverty.

Very young children are most likely to live in poverty. They are also most vulnerable to its impacts.

Poverty affects children's early development through poor nutrition, inadequate healthcare, unsafe and unstable housing, and lower quality out-of-home care. Poverty also impacts the likelihood of maternal stress or depression, parental substance abuse, and child neglect.

- of all VI young children age birth up to 5, more than a third (35%) lived in poverty (2,597 children ...out of 7,500 children this age)
- of the 8,176 VI children in poverty, almost one third (32%) are young children age birth to 5.

FIND MORE VI INFORMATION AT: www.cfvi.net

Children in single mother families, in poverty.

Child poverty in the VI is related to the Territory's high level of single-motherhood.

- Of all VI families with children in poverty, three quarters (74.7%) were headed by single mothers (as in 2009).
- Of all VI single mother families with children in 2010, almost half (47.8%) lived in poverty
- up from 37.4% in 2009.

¹The poverty threshold in 2010 was an income of \$22,113 for a family of two adults and two children. See US Poverty Thresholds for 2010 by size of family and number of related children under 18 years at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshold/thresh10.html.

In 2010, regarding VI children's families and poverty:

Total VI child population – 27,026

(or 25% of the total VI population, which numbered 106,405)

Number of VI families with children (age 0 up to 18) – 11,710

(or 45% of all VI families, which numbered 26,237)

Number of VI single-mother families with children – 5,667

(or 48% of all 11,710 VI families with children)

Number of VI families with children, living in poverty -- 3,627

(or 31% of all VI families with children)

Number of VI single-mother families with children, living in poverty – 2,708

(or 74.7% of all families with children, living in poverty)

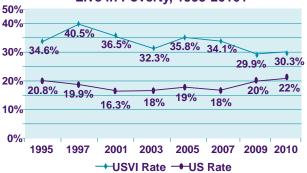
(or 47.8% of all VI single-mother families with children)

Total number of VI children living in poverty – 8,176

(or 30.3% of all VI children)

Child Poverty, cont.

What Percentage of VI Children Live in Poverty, 1995-2010?



Find year-by-year data charts for VI
Child Poverty topics at www.cfvi.net.
Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button
to see VI children's data.

- VI children in poverty (number, percent)
- Employment of family household heads (percent)
- Poverty rate among families with related children (percent)
- Poverty rate among female-headed families with children (percent)

Definition: **Child poverty** is the number and percent of children age birth to 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Poverty data is based on income earned in the preceding year.

Children Receiving Child Support

Child support payments are an important economic safety net in single-parent families.

Single custodial parents receiving regular payments are less dependent on public cash-assistance, find work more quickly and stay employed longer than single parents not receiving child support.

Consistent child support payments can positively affect children's academic achievement, in part because fathers who pay regular child support are more involved with their children.

More than 1/3 of VI children were in the paternity and child support system.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

More than a third of VI children are enrolled or engaged in the paternity and child support system. Of these, approximately 55% are able to receive court-ordered collections of child support.

- 9,426 children were cases in the VI Paternity & Child Support Division in 2010 (down from 12,236 children in 2002).
- 35% of all VI children were enrolled as child support cases in 2010 (37% in 2002).
- 70% of cases had paternity established in 2010 (77% in 2002).
- annual child support court orders were established on 343 (9%) of the 3,626 cases needing orders, in 2010.
- of the 6,159 cases with child support court orders established, 84% (or 5,170) were cases with collections in 2010.
- The national rate of collections on child support orders: 80%.
- \$8,956,993 was collected in child support for enrolled children in 2010, of which \$8,916,974 was passed on to families.

Definition: Children receiving child support is the number of children age birth up to 17 having open cases with orders for child support from a non-custodial parent, in the Paternity and Child Support Division (PCSD) of the VI Department of Justice. Court orders for child support and medical support require establishment of paternity, and subsequent court-order made to the non-custodial parent.

Children in Families Receiving Public Supports

In 2010, expanded public-support programs helped safeguard many low-income VI families experiencing reduced employment and earnings due to the national recession. Expanded public supports likely kept hundreds of VI children out of poverty, and the level of child poverty relatively steady in the Territory.

Income and food assistance are the two main forms of public support available to needy VI families.

Children in Families Receiving Income Assistance

- Family incomes can be fragile in the US Virgin Islands. The territory's financial health depends on seasonal tourism (strong from November to May) and, in 2010, partly on St. Croix's large Hovensa petroleum refinery (which cut jobs in 2010 and closed in 2012).
- A dollar buys less in the USVI, as the Territory's cost of living (for housing, food, fuel, etc) is estimated to be 20% higher than in the US, while the minimum wage is the same: \$7.25/hr.
- The USVI felt the impact of the national recession in 2009, when costs rose even higher for fuel, transportation, food, and all imported goods.
- As tourist visits fell in 2009-10, local businesses cut their inventories, working hours and staff.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

The federal TANF program provides temporary cash assistance to qualifying individuals or families with dependent children. Adults receiving TANF benefits are required to participate in work that can lead to self-sufficiency through employment. Individuals can qualify for TANF benefits for 5 years maximum within their lifetime.

What's the situation for VI children regarding TANF assistance?

- In fiscal year 2010, the need for TANF assistance in the USVI expanded by 20%.
- Almost 100 more family households received TANF in 2010 (818 households, up from 722 in 2009).
- Almost 200 more children received TANF in 2010.
- USVI: \$2,036,778 TANF benefits were issued to VI needy families (up from \$1,689,219 in '09; \$1,395,373 in '08).
- 1,718 VI children (6% of all VI children) received TANF assistance (up from 1,536 children in 2009).
- 94% (1,611 children) lived with a single parent, 2% (38 children) lived with two parents, and 4% (69 children) lived without either parent (portions unchanged from 2009).
- 92% of the VI households receiving TANF assistance were headed by a single parent.
- St. Croix: represented 70% of all children receiving TANF, or 1,205 children
- · St. Thomas/St. John: 513 children received TANF.

Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI).

The federal/state Unemployment Insurance programs provide temporary benefit payments to eligible unemployed workers. During the recent recession, however, many workers' periods of unemployment have outlasted the duration of their benefits.

Note: in the USVI, the duration of UI benefits has been extended from 26 to 60 weeks, as in many other states.

What's the situation for VI children regarding *Unemployment assistance?*

- The VI Unemployment Insurance program struggled for funds and its programming decreased overall in 2010.
- Despite a rising VI unemployment rate, benefits for needy workers and their families fell to \$14,219,543 in 2010, down from \$20,736,058 in 2009 (though still more than \$13,123,744 in 2008).



- In 2009 and 2010 combined, the territory lost 2,300 jobs, and the VI workforce shrank from 49,540 to 47,196 people employed.¹
- *USVI:* the average VI unemployment rate rose to 8.1% in 2010 (7.6% in 2009; 5.8% in 2008).
- · St. Croix: 8.8% unemployment rate in 2010.
- St. Thomas/St. John: 7.5% unemployment rate
- At the end of the year (December 2010), the VI labor force numbered 51,562 people -- about half the total number of VI residents of all ages.
- Of these, 47,196 were employed and 4,366 were unemployed, for a December 2010 unemployment rate of 8,5%.

Note: A community's unemployment rate is likely to be higher than officially measured, as the rate reflects workers age 16+ actively seeking work, and excludes 'discouraged' unemployed workers who have given up searching for a job.

The national unemployment rate: 9.6%

Children In Families Receiving Nutrition Assistance

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

WIC is a federal health-intervention program, serving pregnant women, mothers, infants, and children under age 5 who are low-to mid-income and at nutritional risk. The WIC program aims to reduce incidences of premature birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality, and to improve participating infants' and young children's healthy development through better nutrition, complete early immunizations, and consistent medical visits.

Almost 2/3 of VI children under age 5 received WIC benefits.

Children Receiving Public Supports, cont.

What's the situation for VI children regarding WIC assistance?

- In fiscal year 2010: 4,368 young children from birth through age four (or 58% of 7,501 VI children this age) received WIC benefits.
- 1,237 infants in their first year of life.
- 3,131 children age 1 through 4 years old.
- In 2009: 4,438 children (or 63% of 7,071 VI children under age five that year) received WIC.
- Both years served an increased portion of young children compared to fiscal year 2005, when WIC served 3,999 children (or 50% of the estimated 7,937 VI children under age five that year).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program).

The federal SNAP program provides food subsidies to reduce hunger for individuals and families experiencing unemployment, disability, reduced work hours, or other causes of income insecurity. SNAP monthly benefits promote better nutrition among low-income household members, and strengthen the ability of this population to bridge the gap between earned household income and basic, yearly living expenses.

What's the situation for VI children regarding SNAP assistance?

- In fiscal year 2010, the need for SNAP assistance in the USVI expanded by 27%.
- 1,752 more children were served by SNAP in fiscal year 2010, though the number of child-based households receiving SNAP assistance fell.
 USVI: \$43,119,158 in SNAP benefits was provided for needy families (up from \$33,962,740 in 2009, and \$22,902,242 in 2008).
- 13,828 VI children age 0-18 received SNAP assistance (up from 12,076 children in 2009).

- 51% of VI children received SNAP assistance in 2010 (up from 47% in 2009, and 37% in 2008).
- 83% (11,477 children) of children receiving SNAP assistance lived with a single parent, 11% (1,474) lived with two parents and 6% (877 children) lived without either parent (portions same as 2009).
- 6,067 child-based households received SNAP benefits in 2010.
- 79% (4,776 households) were headed by a single parent (portion unchanged from 2009).
- St. Croix: represented 57% of VI children receiving SNAP (or 7,899 children).
- St. Thomas/St. John: 5,929 children received SNAP assistance.

School Nutrition Programs.

The federal School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) aim to enhance needy children's educational performance by improving their overall nutrition. Children from families with incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) are eligible for free nutritious meals during each school day at participating public and non-profit private schools or childcare centers.

What's the situation for VI children regarding Free School Meals?

- Based on overall family income levels in the territory, the USDA has designated all VI children age 2-18 as eligible to receive federally-supported School Breakfast and School Lunch Program meals for free in public schools, no matter what their family's income might be.
- While many VI children prefer not to eat the free daily meals, more VI children participate in this program when family incomes decrease.
- The numbers of federally funded meals served in childcare centers and in schools peaked in 2008, and returned to former levels in 2010 (see chart).

¹USVI Bureau of Economic Research, "US Virgin Islands Annual Economic Indicators, 1980-2010. www.usviber.org/pdf/ECON10.pdf

How Many VI Children Received TANF Benefits, 2006-2010? 2006 2007 2009 2010 2008 St. Croix 991 1,032 1.037 1,115 1,205 St. Thomas/St. John 425 366 353 421 513 1,390 1,536 1,718 Total VI Children 1.416 1.398 **How Many VI Children Received SNAP** Benefits, 2006-2010? 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 St. Croix 6.499 6.360 6.389 7.216 7.899 St. Thomas/St. John 3.690 3.649 3.704 5.929 4.860 Total VI Children 10,189 10,009 10,093 12,076 13,828 How Many Young VI Children Received WIC Benefits, 2005-2010? 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 Infants (up to age 1) 1.061 1,216 1,244 1,330 1,237 Children (age 1 up to 5) 2,760 2,653 2,800 3,108 3,131 Total VI young children 3.869 4.044 4,438 4.368 How Many 'School' Meals were Served in the VI. 2007-2010? 2010 2007 2008 2009 Number of free **Childcare Center** 477.874 558.896 495.224 meals served 481.379 Number of free School Breakfast meals served 649,098 741,576 711,047 714,477 Number of free School Lunch + Snack served 2,253,664 2,410,439 2,337,005 2,344,802 Total free meals served to children

3,380,636 3,633,394 3,606,948 3,554,503



What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Babies born at low birthweight remain a continuing concern in the VI, though the rate shows improvement since a peak in 2002.

The VI low birthweight rate: 8.5% of all live births were low-birthweight babies in 2010 (8.1% in 2009). **The VI very low birthweight rate:** 1.4% of all live births were very low-birthweight babies in 2010.

- Of 1,657 live births in 2010, 141 babies were low birthweight (142 babies in '09).
- Of these, 24 babies were very-low birthweight, weighing less than 3 pounds, 4 ounces (15 babies in '09).
- St. Croix: 8.6% or 72 babies out of 832 live births were low birthweight (5.4% or 45 babies in '09).
- · Of these, 8 babies were of very-low birthweight.
- St. Thomas/St. John: 8.4% or 69 babies out of 825 live births were low birthweight (10.5% or 97 babies in '09).
- Of these,16 babies were of very low birthweight.

The national low birthweight rate: 8.1% The national very-low birthweight rate: 1.4%.

Infant Mortality

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

With fewer infants born in 2010, the infant mortality rate rose in the USVI.

The VI rate still remains low, and for the past ten years has been lower than the US rate.¹

The VI infant mortality rate: 6.6 deaths per thousand live births (up from 5.7/1000 in 2009).

- 11 infant deaths occurred out of 1,657 live births in 2010 (10 deaths in '09).
- St. Croix rate: 3.6/1000 (or 3 deaths out of 832 live births).
- St. Thomas/St. John rate: 9.6/1000 (or 8 deaths out of 835 live births).

The national infant mortality rate: 6.4 infant deaths per 1000 live births.²

¹VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI infant deaths (11 in 2010 compared to 10 in 2009) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

However, since 1997 the VI infant mortality rate has remained low, compared to the national rate.

²National rate cited is for 2009.

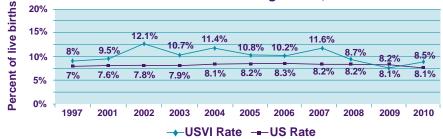
Find year-by-year data charts for VI Birth Outcomes topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Preterm births (number, percent)
- Low birthweight babies (number, percent)
- Very low birthweight babies (number, percent)
- Infant mortality (rate, number)

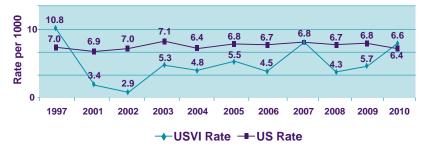
Definition: **Low birthweight** is the portion of live infants born weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds), compared to the total number of live births. **Very low birthweight** is the portion of live infants born weighing less than 1,500 grams (3.3 pounds).

Definition: **Infant mortality** is the number of deaths to infants under one year old, per 1,000 live births.

What is the VI Low Birthweight Rate, 1997-2010?



What is the VI Infant Mortality Rate, 1997-2010?



Immunizations

Immunizations help guard children against major illnesses, and provide a cost-effective way to provide continuing immunity for all others living in the community.

The earliest months of life and the pre-school years are when children are most vulnerable to sickness. Because immunizations are such an important safeguard of child health, the federal *Vaccines for Children* program provides vaccines at no cost for children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, or under-insured.

Since 2009, the USVI has been included in the *National Immunization Survey (NIS)*, conducted annually by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), to track immunization coverage levels among all the nation's children.

In Early Childhood.

A combined series of immunizations, known as the 4:3:1:3:1:4 series, is the protective-health measure recommended for babies and young children by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).¹

While most states require that young children are immunized with the full 4:3:1:3:1:4 series before entering kindergarten, the USVI requires the series named above for all children before entering school, and a second dose of varicella vaccine for students entering or repeating kindergarten.

What's the situation for VI children age 1-1/2 through 2 years old?

 In 2010, not quite half (45%) of the territory's young children 19 to 35 months (between one and a half and three years old) had received the recommended up-to-date 4:3:1:3:1:4 immunizationseries coverage.

- The VI rate for compliance last year: 51%.2
- The US compliance rate for children this age: 73%.

In Adolescence.

In addition to the series of childhood immunizations noted above, additional protective-health vaccines are recommended by the ACIP for adolescents age 13 through 17 years.

What's the situation for VI children age 13-17?

As shown in the chart at right, VI rates for some of the recommended vaccines required in childhood were similar to national rates. However, VI rates for two of the three vaccines recommended in adolescence were significantly lower than national norms – for Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine [MCV4], and Human Papilloma virus vaccine [HPV] (rated here as a single dose, although a series of three HPV doses are required to complete coverage).

¹This series was modified from the previously recommended 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, which also included three doses of Haemophilus influenza type b vaccine (Hib) due to changes in measurement of the Hib vaccine and the vaccine shortage December 2007-September 2009.

²US National Immunization Survey, Q1/2009-Q4/2009, "Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age By State and Local Area"

What are VI immunization compliance rates vs. US rates for adolescents 13 through 17?*

US VI	Tdap 69% 63%	MCV4 63% 32%	HPV(one dose) 49% 22%	
US VI	MMR(2 90% 91%	doses)	HepB(3 doses) 91% 93%	Var 90% 93%

*Note: this official NIS chart above does not include the full, nationally-recommended dosage amount for the childhood MMR vaccine (4 doses are recommended) or the adolescent HPV vaccine (3 doses are recommended).

Definition: Early childhood immunizations is the percentage of children ages 19 months to 35 months who have received the entire 4:3:1:3:1:4 series of vaccinations as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The series includes 4 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP); 3 doses of Polio, 1 dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); 3 doses of Hepatitis B, 1 dose of varicella vaccine and four doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine [PCV]. Adolescent immunizations is the percentage of children age 13 through 17 who have received, as well as the series named above, the ACIP recommended immunizations that include 1 dose of a vaccine containing Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis [TdaP], 3 doses of Human Papilloma virus vaccine IHPVI. one dose of Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine [MCV4] plus a booster of this vaccine between the ages of 16-18.

Child Maltreatment

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Children referred for child abuse or neglect. Increasing numbers of children referred for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect were reported by the VI Department of Human Services, 1995-2010. Reasons may include an increase in cases, but may also reflect a more positive local attitude towards reporting and dealing constructively with instances of child maltreatment.¹

- USVI child maltreatment rate: 15 per thousand children age birth up to age eighteen
- up from 13.8/1000 (or 352 children) in 2009.
- 409 child maltreatment cases reported in 2010
- · St. Croix rate: 14/1.000 children.
- 199 children's cases reported (228 in 2009).
- St. Thomas/St. John rate: 16/1,000 children
- 210 children's cases reported (124 in 2009).

What is the national child maltreatment rate?

• 9 per 1,000 children.

Children placed in out of home care. In residential care.

- 226 children were placed in residential facilities (155 in 2009).
- Of these, 147 were in on-island facilities and 79 in off-island facilities.

In foster care.

Foster homes provide care for children removed from home due to physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or neglect, or from homes reported for domestic violence and substance abuse.

- 112 children were placed temporarily into foster care (108 in 2009).
- 19% of children in foster care were under age 5;
 50% were age 5-12, and 31% were age 13 or older.

In kinship care.

Kinship homes are those headed by a child's aunt or uncle, cousin, grandparent, godparent, or adult sibling, in which a child is placed for fostering. Like foster homes, kinship homes must meet licensing requirements ensuring health and safety.

- Kinship care placements represented 30% of the 160 children placed into out-of-home foster/and kinship care in 2010.
- USVI: 48 children were placed in 28 kinship homes, rather than with an unrelated foster family.
- · St. Croix: 32 children
- · St. Thomas/St. John: 16 children
- 30% of these kinship homes were headed by grandparents (in 9 out of 28 homes).
- The household head was employed in 75% of the kinship care homes (in 21 out of 28 homes).
- 40% of the kinship care homes were in public housing (11 out of 28 homes).
- 43% of the kinship care homes qualified for and received public assistance (ie. TANF, SNAP, WIC, or unemployment benefits).

Children placed in kinship homes often fare better than their peers in foster care. They are less likely to experience behavioral problems, school disruptions, and are better able to adjust to their new home.² Siblings are more likely to be kept together in a kinship care setting than in a foster care setting.

Many relatives struggle to make ends meet when taking on the added care of one or more children. Kinship caregivers receive a stipend (\$325/month per child), though less than that provided foster families (\$390/month per child), and less than the actual monthly cost of providing for a child.

- In the nation: there was an18% increase in kinship care placements for children, 2000-2010.³
- In the VI: there was a 41% increase in kinship care placements for children, 2005-2010.



Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Maltreatment at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Child abuse and neglect (number)
- Child maltreatment by type (number; rate)
- Foster care placement (number; rate)

¹Child abuse and neglect cases continue to be under-reported, as acknowledged by members of territorial not-for-profit and government agencies working in this field. The number of maltreated children is likely higher -- and the impact of maltreatment greater -- than documented figures show.

²Stepping Up for Kids: What Governments and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Care Families. 2012: Baltimore, MD. Annie E. Casey Foundation ³Ibid.

Definition: Child abuse and neglect numbers reflect children age birth up to eighteen reported to the VI Department of Human Services as victims of physical or sexual child abuse or neglect. These numbers do not include children who are in foster care, who may have been placed due to abuse or neglect. Definition: Foster care numbers reflect children removed under the authority of the VI Department of Human Services from the custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily with a family who will provide care. Kinship care numbers reflect children who have been formally placed with kin as part of the territory's foster care system.

Child Deaths

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The VI child death rate spiked in 2010, due to a rise in deaths among children age 1-14.

The VI child death rate: 34 per 100,000 children (up from 15.7/100,000 last year).1

- 7 children died out of 20,624 children age 1-14 in 2010 (up from 3 child deaths in 2009).
- St. Croix death rate: 19/100,000 represents 2 child deaths (out of 10,612 St. Croix children age 1-14).
- St. Thomas/St. John death rate: 50/100,000 represents 5 child deaths (out of 10,012 children age 1-14).

The national child death rate: 18 per 100,000 children.²

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Health and Safety topics at www. cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Child deaths (rate, number)
- Child abuse and neglect (rate, number)
- Child maltreatment by type (rate, number)
- Youth suicide attempt (by gender)
- Uninsurance rates by age group (percent)

¹VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI child deaths (7 in 2010 compared to 3 in 2009) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

²National rate cited is for 2009.

Definition: **Child deaths** are the number of deaths to children age 1 to 14, per 100,000 children. Deaths from all causes, including illness and injury are included in this figure.

Children and Health Insurance

Children with health insurance are more likely to receive regular check-ups treating health risks before these lead to medical emergencies or chronic ill health.

Children most likely to be uninsured are those whose parents were either non-US citizens, unmarried, and/ or lacking a diploma or college/ technical education. Children without health insurance have more-severe and more-frequent unmet health needs, miss more days of school and experience more-acute health setbacks in their later years.

Almost One in three VI children was Without health insurance.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands? Children without health insurance.

As 2010 data is unavailable, KIDS COUNT reports on children age 0-18 lacking health insurance the previous year.

- USVI uninsured children: 27% of VI children (or 7,047 children) in 2009.
- Similarly, an estimated 28.7% of the territory's total population or (30,800 people) lacked health insurance in 2009.

The national rate of uninsured children: 9.7% of children. 2008-2010.

Children with Medicaid health insurance.

Numbers of VI children covered by Medicaid rose 66% between 2009 and 2010.

- USVI: 5% of children were enrolled in Medicaid health coverage in 2010
- 1,386 children (up from 915 children in 2009)
- St. Croix: 672 children (up from 432 in 2009)
- St. Thomas/St. John: 714 children (up from 483 in 2009).

In 2010, 5% of VI children were covered by Medicaid health insurance, although the child poverty level was 30% of the VI child population. Medicaid-eligible VI children in 2010 were those in families at extreme poverty earning less than \$8,500 in income a year (ie. severely below the 2010 poverty threshold of \$22,113 for a family of four)

The federal matching rate for Medicaid expenditures, the annual limit of federal Medicaid spending, and Medicaid eligibility are more-limited in the US insular areas as compared to the 50 states.

Definition: Children without health insurance is the percentage of children under age 18 who were not covered by any kind of private or public health insurance including Medicaid.

Youth Risk Behavior

The VI Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), conducted every few years by the Department of Education, in 2010 polled public school students in the 6th-12th grades about current risk behaviors most likely to lead to damaged health, addiction, early pregnancy, and violence.

Note: the VI 2010 YRBS survey records responses from a representative sample of students in the St. Thomas-St. John district only; St. Croix students did not fully participate. Comparisons of 2010 YRBS data (ie. results from only one district) with YRBS data from previous years (ie. results from both districts) might thus be interpreted as a more provisional representation than in past years.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Note: For consistency with past years, KIDS COUNT reports 2010 YRBS findings for students in the 8-12 grades.¹

Controlled-Substance Use

Alcohol is the risk substance used most often by VI public school students in 8-12 grades.

- 36% of students reported alcohol use in the previous month (46% in '07; US rate 42%).
- 20% reported riding in a car in the last month driven by someone who'd been drinking (10% in 2007; 5% in 1997). The US rate – 28%.
- 17% of students reported binge drinking in the previous month (16% in 2007; 11% in 1997).

Marijuana is the risk substance VI youth use most frequently after alcohol.

- 32% of students reported having ever smoked marijuana (US rate in 2010 37%).
- 13% reported marijuana use within the previous month (20% in 2007; 15% in 2003. US rate 42%).

Huffing (inhaling gases or sprays)

- 14% of students reported using inhalants to get high at least once (US rate – 12%).
- 6% reported in the previous month.

Hallucinogens or illegal drugs (ie. cocaine, heroin, crystal meth, ecstasy).

- 2% of students reported ever having used other illegal drugs (1.4% in 2007; US rate 4%).
- 1% of students had ever needle-injected illegal drugs (US rate 2%).

Cigarettes

- 15% of students reported ever having smoked a cigarette (3% in 2007. US rate in 2010 – 46%)

Violence-related behaviors

School safety remains a main concern among Virgin Islands public high school students.

- 32% reported being in a *physical fight* in the past year (same as US rate – 32%)
- 16% reported being in a *physical fight on school property* in the past year (17% in 2007).
- 11% reported *carrying a weapon* (gun, knife, or club) in the past month; 4% on school property in the past month (13% in 2007. US rate 6%).
- 9% of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the past year (11% in 2007. US rate – 8%).
- 17% reported having been bullied at school within the past year (US rate 20%).
- 8% of students reported missing school because of feeling unsafe either at school or when going to/ from school (9% in 2007; US rate in 2010 was 5%).
- 31% of students reported feeling unsafe in their neighborhood or the area where they lived.
- 46% of students cited gang activity near home.
- 8% of students reported having been a member of a gang for some time in their life.
- 15% of students reported having attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

Half of these (7.4%) cited multiple suicide attempts.

Sexual behavior.

- 43% of students reported having ever had sex (58% in 2007; 57% in 1997. US rate 46%).
- 26% of students reported having had sex in the past three months (39% in 2007)



 19% of students reported having sex before age 13 (18% in 2007; 23% in 1997).

Note: This rate is consistently much higher than for all US students (6% in 2010).

- 8% of students reported being physically forced to have sex when they didn't want to (US rate 7%).
- Of those having sex, 28% used a condom during sex last time; 3.5% used withdrawal; and 3% used birth control pills; 9% used nothing.

Dietary Behavior.

- 40% of students cited trying to lose weight.
- 36% of students reported that they had not eaten breakfast on the day of the survey.
- 21% of students reported eating no vegetables in the previous week. An additional 45% reported eating a vegetable only 1-3 times that week.
- 17% of students reported eating no fruit in the previous week. An additional 45% reported eating fruit only 1-3 times that week.

Physical Activity.

- 17% of students rated their state of physical health as "poor" or only "fair."
- 15% of students rated their state of emotional and mental health as "poor" or only "fair."
- 10% of students reported never having had a medical check-up or physical exam
- 20% of students reported being diagnosed with asthma (US rate – 22%).
- 55% of students reported watching TV, playing video games, or using a computer/the internet for fun on an average school day.

Definition: The **Youth Risk Behavior** Survey (YRBS) is an initiative of the Center for Disease Control to measure the prevalence of priority health risk behavior categories among a representative sample of students in grades 6 through 12.

¹The survey data applies only to youth who attend public school, and thus is not representative of all in this age group. Research shows that out-of-school youth are more likely than youth attending school to engage in the majority of health-risk behaviors.

Juvenile Crime Arrests

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

In 2010, fewer arrests plus an increase in VI youth age 10 through 17 (12,376 youth, up from 11,895 in 2009) contributed to a much lower rate of juvenile crime arrests in the Territory.

Juvenile violent crime arrest rate.

- USVI: 364 per 100,000 youth this age (down significantly from 673/100,000 in 2009)
- 45 juvenile violent crime arrests in 2010 (down from 80 in 2009).¹
- St. Croix: 441/100,000 arrest rate, among 6,573 total youth age 10-17
- 29 arrests (down from 44 in 2009), including 2/rape, 1/robbery, 26/aggravated assault.
- St. Thomas/St. John: 276/100,000 arrest rate, among total 5,803 youth age 10-17
- 16 arrests (down from 36 in 2009), including 1/murder, 4/robbery, 11/aggravated assault.

The national rate: 261 per 100,000 youth.²

Juvenile property crime arrest rate.

- USVI: 477 per 100,000 youth age 10-17 (down from 546/100,000 in 2009)
- 59 arrests in 20101 (down from 65 in 2009).
- St. Croix: 502/100,000 arrest rate.
- 33 youth arrests (down from 45 arrests in 2009).
- St. Thomas/St. John: 448/100,000 arrest rate
- 26 youth arrests (up from 20 in 2009).

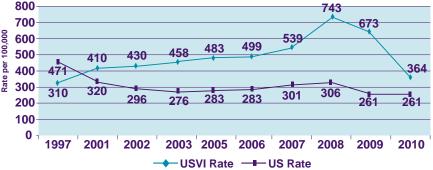
¹Arrest records are reported for the fiscal year 2010, from October 2009 - September 2010.

²National rate cited is for 2009.

Definition: **Juvenile violent crime arrests** are the number of arrests of youth age 10 through 17 for Part 1 indexed violent offenses, including homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Juvenile property crime arrests are for offenses including burglary, larceny/theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property.





Find year-by-year data charts for Juvenile Offense topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Juvenile violent crime arrests (rate)
- Youth remanded to juvenile detention for violent crime (percent)
- Youth remanded to juvenile detention for property crime (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention and correctional facilities (number)
- Youth in juvenile detention and correctional facilities by gender (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention by offender status (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention who were school dropouts (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention diagnosed with special ed. needs (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention who were living at home at time of arrest (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention who were from single parent homes (percent)

Teen Deaths

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

In 2010, the VI rate reached its highest level in a decade: it is now almost three times the US rate.

The VI teen death rate: 145 per 100,000 teens (up sharply from 88/100,000 in 2009).

- 11 teens died out of 7,563 teens age 15-19 in 2010 (up from 7 teens in 2009).
- St. Croix teen death rate: 150/100,000, or 6 teen deaths (out of 3,988 St. Croix teens age 15-19).
- St. Thomas/St. John death rate: 140/100,000, or 5 deaths (out of 3,575 teens age 15-19).

What's the teen death rate in the nation?

• 53 per 100,000 teens.1

Find additional year-by-year data charts for VI Teen Health Risk topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Teen deaths (rate, number)
- Uninsurance rates by age group (percent)
- Youth suicide attempt (by gender)
- Safety and violence in public high schools (percent by type)
- Juvenile violent crime arrests (number, percent, rate)

¹National rate cited is for 2009

Definition: **Teen deaths** is the number or rate of deaths from all causes to teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19, per 100,000 population.





Births to Teens

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

In 2010, the VI teen birth rate dropped to its lowest point in 15 years.

Causes included fewer teen girls in the 15-19 age range, and 50 fewer teen births than in the previous year. The VI improvement coincided with similar improvement trends in the nation.

The VI teen birth rate: 43.4 births per thousand girls age 15-19 (down from 51.3/1000 in 2009).

- 164 babies were born to teen mothers age 15-19 (within a population of 3,782 girls this age).
- The 164 babies born to teen mothers represented 10% of the 1.657 total live births in 2010.
- In 2009: 216 teen births within a population of 4,213 girls 15-19 represented 12% of all live births.
- St. Croix teen birth rate: 46/1000 represented 91 births (within a population of 1,994 St. Croix girls age 15-19).
- St. Thomas/St. John teen birth rate: 41/1000 represented 73 births (in a population of 1,788 girls age 15-19).

What's the teen birth rate in the nation?

· 34 births per thousand girls age15-19.

Infants Born at Highest Risk

Teen mothers are the most likely of all mothers to lack the job skills, financial stability, social supports, and parenting abilities needed for healthy child development.

- About 25% of teen mothers have a second child within two years of the first, further limiting their ability to complete high school and/or maintain a living wage job.
- Two thirds of families headed by teen mothers live in poverty. Teen mothers have a high likelihood of remaining unmarried, and most will be persistently low-income.
- Sons of teen mothers are twice as likely as their peers to spend time in prison, and daughters of teen mothers are three times as likely to become teen mothers themselves.¹

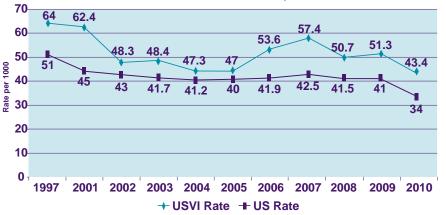
Find year-by-year data charts for VI
Teen Birth topics at www.cfvi.net.
Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button
to see VI children's data.

- Births to unmarried women (number, percent)
- Teen births (number, rate)
- Births to women under 20 years old (number, percent)
- Births to women with less than 12 years of education (number, percent)
- Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care (number, percent)
- Births to teen women who were already mothers (number, percent)

¹Teen pregnancy, poverty and income disparity. (2010). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Definition: **Births to teens** is the number of births to teen girls between the ages of 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group.

What is the VI Teen Birth Rate, 1997-2010?



Infant and Preschool Child Care

A child's brain grows to roughly 90% of its adult size in the first five years of life. These are also the years when a child's sense of what is possible is being formed.

For working parents of young children, there's an acute need in the Virgin Islands for high-quality early childcare and preschool programs.

Working families with young children face a triple childcare bind.

In the Territory:

- There are too few affordable childcare programs for the number of children needing out-of-home care from birth up to age 3, and for preschoolers age 3 up to 5. There are long waiting lists for Head Start, and for child care subsidies which would help to make programs accessible and affordable.
- Many childcare programs can only meet minimal quality standards because high quality care and education is more expensive. Therefore, few settings provide children with engaging and responsive high quality early education and childcare – meeting young children's developmental needs, and fully stimulating their early-learning abilities.
- Most programs lack the trained staff to provide young children with the stimulating environment they need for developing the expected age-level skills to succeed in kindergarten as pre-readers and young learners.

In the pre-school years, high-quality early care and learning programs have low adult-to-child ratios, small class sizes, and teachers who have formal and specific early childhood education and training.

Quality is also dependent on and influenced by the quality of teacher-child relationships. Responsive interpersonal relationships with teachers nurture children's dispositions to learn.

Children who attend high-quality early childhood programs are better prepared to succeed when they arrive in kindergarten. Their success in kindergarten has long-term consequences.

Over time, these children have a higher rate of engagement with learning and success in school. They are more likely to graduate high school, which leads to more-positive workforce readiness, job productivity, family stability, economic security and community engagement.

What's the situation In the US Virgin Islands?

An estimated seven out of ten young VI children, or 5,175 children, needed non-parental childcare in 2010.

- Of these, an unknown amount of children were in family, friend or neighbor care, a mix of free care (by some family members) and paid care.
- 2,893 children were in private licensed childcare programs.
- Annual fees for private licensed daycare range from \$2,800/year up to \$14,000/year.
- 1,014 children were in free public Early Head Start and Head Start programs. These are offered without charge (as space allows) to children in low-income families or children with disabilities.
- The program-delivery cost per child for Early Head Start was \$13,700 a year. The programdelivery cost per child for Head Start was \$15,124 a year.

An indication of the need for affordable childcare, especially by low-income parents, is that over 700 VI young children are on the waiting list for a space in Head Start.



See 2010 results of VI children's learning-readiness by age 5 on entering public kindergarten, next page.

Note: **The Family Connection (TFC)** is an initiative of The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) to --

- support programs and foster best practices that provide high quality early care and education
- provide access to learning activities and materials for parents and families of young children
- promote caregivers' professional-skills enhancement
- raise the standards, availability and accountability of early care and education in the USVI.

By strengthening early childhood care and education in the VI, our ultimate goal is to make meaningful improvements to ensure positive development and success for VI children and families.





Children's Readiness for School

Many young children in the Virgin Islands are entering kindergarten at age five without the skills they need to succeed. Two out of every five children lack the cognitive skills expected for kindergarten learning, and more than half of all children lack the language and communication skills expected for their age.

Literacy and language begin long before children start kindergarten. Enhanced vocabulary, comprehension and cognitive development can be seen in children under three years old who are spoken to, and told stories or read to, each day.¹

While half of our young 5-year-old children are already falling short in language and comprehension skills as they enter kindergarten, it is just as alarming how many (almost 40%) also lack adequate cognition skills: that is, familiarity with numbers, counting, problem-solving, recognition of patterns and logical comprehension.

The preschool experiences our children are receiving in their childcare arrangements or family settings, before entering kindergarten, have not provided them with the opportunity to develop the necessary skills and dispositions to equip them as successful learners. This overall lack of kindergarten readiness for such a large portion of our young children is a compelling reason to re-examine the quality, delivery and expectations of our children's preschool experiences.

In response, "Virgin Islands Early Learning Guidelines" have been outlining what children need to be able to do and know when they enter kindergarten. The Guidelines provide suggestions about how teachers, caregivers, parents and the community can support children in achieving these goals.

To improve the quality of education and care in early childhood settings, the Department of Human Services has announced revised Child Care Rules and Regulations, and will be requiring teachers to have professional development in early childhood education.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

VI children's skills are tested early using the *Learning Accomplishment Profile Third Edition (LAP-3)* in their first year of public school. Results showed that, in 2010:

- 21% of incoming kindergartners tested showed delays of at least 6 months to a year below agelevel expectations in all key areas (except in gross motor skills, with 17% of children delayed).
- the portion of children who were delayed in language and cognition proficiency increased; more than half (51%) of incoming kindergarten students had language skills below expected age-level -- the highest level measured to date.
- 38% of children entering kindergarten (almost 2 out of 5) had skills below expected age-level in cognition.

¹Raikes, H.et al. (2006). Mother-child bookreading in low-income families: Correlates and outcomes during the first three years of life. Child Development, 77(4), 924-953. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16942498

The *LAP-3 Assessment* measures key, sequenced developmental skills:

Gross motor (physical). Child develops abilities and co-ordination in movement (such as walking, jumping)

Fine motor (physical). Child develops abilities through dexterity, using tools, handeye co-ordination (such as picking up objects, cutting)

Pre-writing. Child develops pre-writing skills (such as holding a pencil)

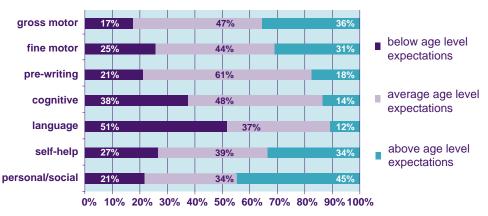
Cognitive. Child develops awareness of numbers, problem solving skills (such as counting coins, finding hidden objects)

Language. Child develops ability to express thoughts, appreciate books (such as telling a story using a picture book)

Self-help. Child develops independence in hygiene, personal care (such as wiping nose, going to toilet with adult)

Personal/Social. Child develops ability to communicate/follow rules (such as helping adults, saying name, playing with peers)

What Are VI Children's Learning Skills at Entry to Public Kindergarten, 2010-2011?



Children with Special Needs

- The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to identify and provide appropriate services to all children who are developmentally delayed (or who have a physical or mental condition likely to result in a developmental delay).
- Enrolled children from birth up to age 2 must receive appropriate Early Intervention (EI) services, under IDEA, Part C
- Enrolled children age 3 through 17 must receive appropriate Special Education services, under IDEA, PART B.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

 In 2010, 1,416 VI children age birth through 17 were identified as developmentally delayed or at risk of delay (5% of VI children).

Young Children Enrolled in Early Intervention: Age birth through 2.

The first few years of life are when children develop their primary capacities for learning, language and social/emotional growth.

Delays or disabilities experienced by a child during these early years can impact his or her foundation for positive learning and social development.

Children in poverty and young, maltreated children are at highest risk of having disabilities and developmental delays. Research shows that abused or neglected children are six times more likely than their peers to become disabled or delayed.¹

Early Intervention (EI) services received early, before age three, can allow young children with these risks to become better prepared -- for learning, for school and for later life.

What's the situation for VI children

age birth through 2 with special needs?

- 147 VI children this age were receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, as of December 1, 2010.
- · St. Croix: 103 children (70% of the 147 children)
- · St. Thomas/St. John: 44 children (30%).

Children Enrolled in Special Education: Age 3 through 17.

Students with special needs (including disabilities or developmental delays) are more likely than their peers to have lower rates of school achievement, graduation, college attendance, and to have fewer job prospects.

Part B of the federal *IDEA Act* requires all states' school systems to evaluate students age 3-21 who are at-risk for special needs, and to provide all students who qualify for Special Education with an 'Individualized Education Program' (IEP): individualized academic goals, with related support and accountability services.

What's the situation for VI children

age 3 through 17 with special needs?

- 1,269 VI children age 3-17 were enrolled in Special Education IEP programs in fiscal year 2010 (down from 1,335 the previous year).
- Boys were 71%; girls 29%.
- St. Croix: represented 56% of all VI children 3-17 receiving special education services.
- St. Thomas/St. John: represented 44% of all VI children 3-17 receiving special education services.
- The number of VI children age 3-17 receiving special education services declined between 2004 and 2010. This may reflect a corresponding drop in the number of children in the VI population in this period.



¹Why young children enter Early Intervention services. (2007). Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute.

Definition: **Children with Special Needs** is the portion of children with a chronic disease, disability or delay that requires educational special services beyond what is generally required by children of that age.

How many VI Children Received Early Interventions (EI), or Special Education (IEP), 2004-2010?

	2004	2005	2009	2010
Birth up to age 1	42	61	39	18
Age 1 up to 2	76	43	63	58
Age 2 up to 3	60	27	49	71
Age 3-5	167	151	145	142
Age 6-11	513	486	443	431
Age 12-17	904	913	747	696
Total children	1,584	1,550	1,436	1,416
		I .	I	I

Note: all dates represent participation numbers on December 1 of that year

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB #1820_0043:

Third Grade Reading

Children who exit third grade with proficient reading skills are able to shift from learning to read, to using reading to learn. Starting in fourth grade, most classroom learning is based on reading skills. Identification of children who enter fourth grade with reading difficulties is important. Focused interventions can help prevent these students from falling cumulatively behind their peers, losing motivation for academics and quitting school.

The effects of reading inadequately by fourth grade can be long-lasting. In today's skills-driven job market, adults with reading challenges are underequipped with the credentials necessary for fully engaging and prospering.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

 48% (480 students) of the estimated 1,000 public school third graders scored below proficiency levels for reading on the VI Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) 2010-2011 Report Card, conducted in spring 2010. (50% scored below in 2009-10).

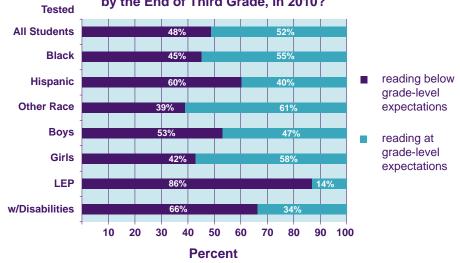
Lacking reading proficiency by end of 3rd grade were:

- 45% of Black students
- 60% of Hispanic students
- 39% of students identifying as other races (ie. non black, non Hispanic)
- 53% of boys; 42% of girls
- 86% of students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- 66% of students with disabilities.

Almost half of the Territory's 3rd graders scored below expected age level in reading, just before entering fourth grade.







2010-2011 Territorial Report Card for Public Schools

The VI Department of Education uses the *Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL)* report as an annual performance assessment for the Territory's public education. To comply with the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*, the *VITAL* report charts VI public schools' performance in meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP) benchmarks or targets. Included are VI public school students' progress toward proficiency in reading and math ...students' school participation, attendance and graduation rates ...and the qualifications of public school teachers.

For 2010-11, these are the "targets" that the **VITAL "Adequate Yearly Progress"** (AYP) set for students and schools.

- specific percentages of students to be scoring at or above proficiency in reading and math, ie:
- 5th grade reading: 53.3% of students (... revised up from 37.7% last year)
- 7th grade reading: 53.3% of students (... revised up from 37.7% last year)
- 11th grade reading: 55.6% of students (...revised up from 40.8% last year)
- 5th grade math: 53.8% of students (...revised up from 38.4% last year)
- 7th grade math: 53.8% of students (..revised .up from 38.4% last year)
- 11th grade math: 52% of students
 (...revised up from 36% last year)
 (See next page, "VI Student Academic Performance, 2010-11," for VI students' proficiency results).
- a student attendance rate at 95% for elementary and middle/junior high schools.

 a graduation rate of 70% for high schools, based on the percentage of students – measured from the beginning of high school – meeting high school graduation requirements and receiving a regular diploma in four years from a VI public high school.

How are students and schools doing in the US Virgin Islands?

Below are the VI Department of Education's own assessments of "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) for 2010-11.

Note: AYP reading and math proficiency targets were revised up in '10-'11 by about 15 percentage points. Usually, student scores lag after hikes in targets. See new targets in the text below.

Student performance. *Grades 3-8.*

Overall AYP math targets were met by students, but AYP reading targets were not met.

In reading:

- The reading proficiency target in'10-'11 of 53.3% was not met: 46% of students performed at/above proficient reading level in '10-'11.
- reading participation targets were met by all students.
- reading attendance targets were met by all students except students with disabilities.

In math:

- The math proficiency target in '10-'11 of 53.8% was exceeded: 56% of students performed at/ above proficient math level. Black and Hispanic students met the proficiency target; limited English speakers and students with disabilities did not.
- math participation targets were met by all students.
- math attendance targets were met by all except students with disabilities.



Grade 11.

Overall AYP math targets were met by students, but AYP reading targets were not met.

In reading:

- The reading proficiency target in '10-'11 of 55.6% was not met: only 38.4% of students performed at proficient reading level in '10-'11.
 Reading proficiency targets were not met by Black students, Hispanic students, limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
- reading participation targets were met by Black and Hispanic students, but not by students with disabilities.*
- reading graduation targets were met by all students.*

In math:

- The math proficiency target in '10-'11 of 52% was exceeded: 53% of students performed math at/above proficient level. Black students met the math proficiency target, but Hispanic students and students with disabilities did not.*
- math participation targets were met by Black and Hispanic students but not by students with disabilities.*
- math graduation targets were met by Black and Hispanic students but not by students with disabilities.*

School performance. Elementary schools (K-6, or K-8)

13 out of 22 elementary schools (one fewer than in 2009) met AYP targets (ie. for student proficiency in reading, math, student participation and attendance).

- St. Croix: 4 of 10 (ie. 40%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas measured (last year: 60%)
- St. Thomas/St. John: 9 of 12 (ie. 75%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas (last year: 66%)



Territorial Report Card for Public Schools, cont.

Middle/iunior high schools (grades 6/7-8). Of the 6 middle/junior high schools, only Julius E. Sprauve Junior High School on St. John met all AYP targets (last year, only Bertha C. Boschulte Middle

School met all targets). · St. Croix: Of 3 schools, none met AYP targets.

· St. Thomas/St. John: Of 3 schools, only Julius E. Sprauve Junior High School met AYP targets.

High schools (grades 9-12).

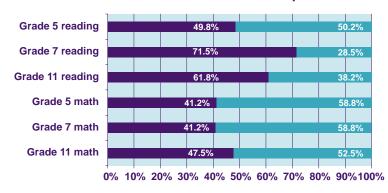
None of the 4 high schools met all AYP targets, a decline from last year when Charlotte Amalie High School alone met all targets.

- · St. Croix: Of 2 high schools, none met all AYP targets. Central High School met no targets but math. Educational Complex met all targets except reading.
- · St. Thomas/St. John: Of 2 high schools, none met all AYP targets. Charlotte Amalie High School met all targets except reading. Ivanna Eudora Kean High School met all targets except graduation rate.

Teacher qualifications.

- 31% of core classes (from 45% the previous year) were taught by a teacher held as 'highly qualified.**
- 55% of public school teachers were certified, while 45% were not.
- 2% of public school teachers had no degree. 60% had a bachelor's degree, 37% had a master's degree, 1% held a doctoral degree.
- * There were too few 11th grade students with limited-English to make accurate data determinations for that group.
- **A "highly qualified teacher" as defined by NCLB and US Virgin Islands Board of Education is one who: - has a full state certification - holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree - has demonstrated subject matter competency in each core academic subject(s) he or she teaches (ie. English, Math, Science, Foreign Languages, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, and Geography).

What is the VI Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) **Student Academic Performance Report for 2010-11?**



- academic performance below grade-level expectations (basic & below-basic levels)
- academic performance at or above grade level expectations (proficient & advanced levels)

VI student academic performance, 2010-2011

For Grade 5 reading proficiency: Advanced level: 12.9% of students

Proficient level: 37.3% Basic level: 41.9%

Below basic: 7.9%

For Grade 7 reading proficiency

Advanced level: 6.8% Proficient level: 21.7% Basic level: 62.6% Below basic: 8.8%

For Grade 11 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 4.1% Proficient level: 34.1% Basic level: 48.6% Below basic: 13.1%

For Grade 5 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 24.8% Proficient level: 34.0% Basic level: 37.9% Below basic: 3.3%

For Grade 7 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 13.4% Proficient level: 45.4% Basic level: 39.9% Below basic: 1.4%

For Grade 11 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 10.1% Proficient level: 42.4% Basic level: 46.8% Below basic: .7%

Advanced: above grade-level expectations

Proficient: meeting grade-level expectations

■ Basic: approaching grade-level expectations

Below basic: falling below grade-level expectations

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This book compiles information available on US Virgin Islands children for the year 2010. Comparison is made with data for previous years to reveal trends in the status of Virgin Islands children.

Population statistics are drawn from the *US Census* for the year 2010. Other local data is from Virgin Islands government sources, particularly the VI Departments of Health, Human Services, Education, Police, Justice, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Data on national rates and other research is obtained from various sources, including online publications of the US Census Bureau, the US Department of Health, US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the non-profit organization Child Trends.

Statistics in this book are reported as rates and percentages. Like percentages, rates convert the actual numbers of an indicator into a number that can be compared with the same indicator in other jurisdictions and across collection time periods, regardless of differences in the size of the population.

The rates for specific indicators in this data book are selected because of their use in the national **KIDS COUNT Data Book** published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Rates are also used when a percentage is very small, often well below 1%, due to the small number of incidences.

Caution must be used in interpreting rates, as small changes in actual numbers, as in the USVI, can result in large changes in rates.

All non-Census surveys are subject to error from several sources. In the nine years between US Census collections, sampling error is the result of studying a subset of the whole population in order to make quantitative inferences about the population surveyed. In the United States Virgin Islands Community Survey, 5% of VI households are selected using standard scientific sampling techniques and a random selection method, for a total sample size of 2,500 households. Efforts are made to minimize human and machine-related errors, such as non-participation by selected respondents, item omissions and inconsistencies in the data, through careful editing and follow-up telephone or personal interviewing.

Caution should be used when comparing data across various censuses and surveys, because specific questions, measures and definitions may change over time. When comparing income figures in particular, the time period for reporting, number of questions asked, and age of selected respondents may have changed over time. For any year in question, please see the *US Census* and the *United States Virgin Islands Community Survey* for further details.



Definitions and Data Sources

Median Income Of Families With Children. The median annual income for families with related children under age 18 living in the family. Virgin Islands data is available only for all families, irrespective of related children.

SOURCE: 2010 United States Virgin Islands Census.

Per Capita Income. The mean income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI. SOURCE: 2010 United States Virgin Islands Census.

Children In Poverty. The percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the US poverty guidelines, as defined by the US Office of Management and Budget. 'Related children' of households with reported income are included in this analysis.

SOURCE: 2010 United States Virgin Islands Census.

Children in Single Female Parent Families.

Percentage of 'own children' under age 18 living in a household headed by a single, female householder. SOURCE: 2010 United States Virgin Islands Census.

Children in Families Receiving Income

Assistance. The rate or number of children under age 18 living in families receiving cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) federal program, or unemployment assistance through the Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI) federal program.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Division of Family Assistance; Virgin Islands Department of Labor

Data Sources, cont.

Children in Families Receiving Nutrition
Assistance. The rate or number of children under age 18 living in families receiving health and food assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) federal program, or food subsidy assistance through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Division of Family Assistance; Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Low Birthweight Babies. The portion of infants born alive weighing 2500 grams or less, compared to total number of live births.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Infant Mortality. The rate of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year old per 1,000 live births. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Childhood Immunizations. The rate or number of children ages 19 months to 35 months who have received the entire 4:3:1:3:1:4 series of vaccinations as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Child Abuse and Neglect. The rate or number of children under age 18 who have been reported as abused or neglected.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.

Foster Care. The rate or number of children moved under authority from the custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily with a family providing care. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.

Child Death. The rate or number of deaths to children age 1 to 14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age group.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Children without Health Insurance. The rate or number of children under age 18 not covered by private or public health insurance. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic

Research.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests. The rate or number of arrests of youth age 10 to 17 for indexed violent offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault) per 100,000 youth this age. Data may include repeated arrests of the same individual at different times and for different offenses. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Police Department.

Teen Death. The rate or number of deaths from all causes to teenagers age 15 to 19, per 100,000 teenagers in this age group.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Youth Risk Behavior. The percentage of public middle school and high school students who report having used or experienced alcohol, controlled substances, violent behavior, sexual behavior, dietary risks or physical inactivity within measured periods previous to taking the VI Youth Risk Behavior Survey. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Teen Births. The rate or number of births to teens age 15 to 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Children with Special Needs. The portion of children under 18 identified as having a disability or delay that requires educational services beyond that required generally by children.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Heath, Infants and Toddlers Program; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System.

Third Grade Reading. The percentage of third-grade students scoring at or above the proficiency level for reading on the *Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL)* test, administered in the spring semester in advance of students' entry into fourth grade the following fall semester.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Public School Report Card. The percentage of public school students scoring at or above the proficiency level for reading and math on the *Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL)* test, administered each year.

SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.

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This thirteenth **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** is the result of a sustained partnership involving the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI), the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), the Virgin Islands government, community organizations, and service-providing agencies.

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University of the Virgin Islands

Founded in 1963, the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is a four-year, liberal arts, coeducational, multicultural, land-grant institution, with a campus on St. Croix and also on St. Thomas.

Within UVI, the Research Institute at the Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) is an outreach division engaged in domestic and international research, and in regional collaboration. The Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) supports the work of the US Bureau of the Census, compiling and carrying out scientific sample surveys. The *US Census*, coordinated by members of the ECC staff at the end of each decade, and the annual *US Virgin Islands Community Survey*, produced by the ECC in intervening years, provide social and economic data which are vital sources for the **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books**.

The United States Virgin Islands

The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) are an insular area of the United States. The islands are geographically part of the Virgin Islands archipelago and are located in the Leeward Islands of the Lesser Antilles, in the Caribbean Sea.

Saint Croix, Saint John, and Saint Thomas are the three main islands of the US Virgin Islands, with St. Croix representing one district and St. Thomas, St. John (and Water Island) a second district. The total land area of the USVI is 134 square miles.

Tourism is the territory's primary economic activity, with 2 million visitors each year, many arriving on cruise ships. St. Thomas has one of the best natural, deepwater harbors in the Caribbean. More than half of the land and surrounding waters of St. John have been preserved as part of the US National Park Service. St. Croix is the site of two historic towns graced by 18th and 19th century architecture.

Formerly the Danish West Indies, the US Virgin Islands were sold to the United States by Denmark in the Treaty of the Danish West Indies of 1916. US citizenship was granted to the islands' inhabitants in 1927. Today, the US Virgin Islands are an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States.

What is Kids Count?

For 22 years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has sponsored annual, state-level KIDS COUNT Data Reports and has published an annual National KIDS COUNT Data Book, reporting state rankings and national trends for children's well-being in the United States.

The **KIDS COUNT** goal is to enrich local, state and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children, by providing policy-makers and citizens with data-based benchmarks of children's physical, social, educational and economic health.

As the Annie E. Casey Foundation's **KIDS COUNT** grantee for the Virgin Islands, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) has published an annual **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** for the past thirteen years.

The **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** compiles the best data available on the well-being of VI children and families, and provides updates on key indicators of VI child well-being, using latest data available. (Note: 2010 is the data year reported in this 2012 report).

Visit www.cfvi.net to access a greatly-expanded online version of the 2012 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book. Click the "How are kids doing?" button for direct access to seventy-plus data charts and year-by-year trends for VI children, in the areas of health, safety, community, economics and education. This site allows users to measure and compare VI children's well-being:

- by island district (ie. St. Thomas/St. John, or St. Croix)
- by year (to chart progress or trends by year or over time)
- by children's status in other states
- by children's status nationally.

Users can customize and share data, tables, maps, charts and more – as direct downloads to websites or for use in presentations and publications.

The Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT online page is housed at the national KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.kidscount.org, where viewers can find most-recent data on hundreds of indicators for children and families in all US states, many cities and counties, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the USVI.

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Established in 1990, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) administers more than \$7 million in assets. The income from its 107 named funds and scholarships is disbursed to enhance well-being of the people of the US Virgin Islands.

In 2010, CFVI gave out over \$2,093,585 in direct support to community organizations and individuals in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John through grants, scholarships, and a wide range of other types of assistance to the not-for-profit community.

CFVI's annual grants and programs include:

- The Family Connection, a comprehensive earlylearning enrichment initiative
- A mini-grants program to support innovative programs benefiting VI children and families
- Scholarships to Virgin Islands students for undergraduate and graduate study
- Grants to high school students to attend summer enrichment programs
- Grants to teachers to enhance their work in the classroom in the public schools
- · Rapid Response Fund grants to families in crisis
- CFVI Junior Angels community service program for high school student volunteers
- The Fatherhood Collaborative to encourage responsible fatherhood in the VI community
- · Voices for VI Children to promote child advocacy
- USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book, funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation

CFVI is a member of: National:

- Council on Foundations
- Voices for America's Children
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Annie E. Casey Foundation/Kids Count Network
- CF Leads, Community Foundations Leading Change
- National Fatherhood Institute

Regional/Local:

- · Caribbean Philanthropy Network
- · Chamber of Commerce, St. Thomas/St. John
- · Chamber of Commerce, St. Croix
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Committee
- · Governor's Children and Families Council
- · League of Women Voters
- Regional Education Laboratory, Northeast and Islands

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^{*}The Family Connection, see page 24.

How to use this book

Utilizing the Data: Perhaps you need to find information hinted at but not provided directly in the text, such as rates per thousand when only a percentage rate was provided.

For additional information about VI children, you can employ simple, workable formulas to perform the necessary calculations, using **2012 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** baseline data.



Calculating a percentage: A percent means "per 100." For example, 5% means 5 out of 100, and 75% means 75 out of 100. To calculate a percent you must divide the number in a sub-group by the number in the total group and multiply by 100.

Percent = (Number in a sub-group / Number in the whole group) x 100

Example: Percent of VI children in poverty
Formula: (Number of VI children in poverty / All VI

children age 0-18) x 100

Calculation: (8,176 / 27,026) = .303 x 100 = 30.3%

Calculating a rate: To calculate a rate you need three pieces of information: the total group number, the number in your sub-group, and the number of the multiplier (usually 100, 1,000, 10,000, etc).

Rate = (Number in sub-group / Number in whole group) x multiplier

Example: Rate of children in poverty per 1000 VI children

Formula: (Number of VI children in poverty / All VI children age 0-18) x 1,000

Calculation: (8,176 / 27,026) x 1,000 = 303 = 303 per 1,000

Calculating a ratio: A ratio is simply one number divided by another. It indicates the magnitude of difference between the two numbers. You can use this kind of comparison if you have the same measure for two groups for the same year, or one group with data for two different years.

Ratio = (Number or rate in group A / Number or rate in group B)

Example: Difference between amount of VI children in poverty, and all VI children age 0-18 **Formula:** number of VI children in poverty /

number of all VI children age 0-18

Calculation: (8,176 / 27,026) = .303 to 1 or 30.3:100. This shows that the number of VI children in poverty is about thirty per hundred VI children.

Calculating change over time: To see how a data element changes over the years, employ the following formula using subtraction, division and multiplication.

Rate of Change = (Newer year percentage minus older year percentage)/older year percentage) x 100

Example: Changing percent of VI children living in poverty, from 1995 to 2009

Formula: (2010 % of impoverished VI children minus 1995 % of VI impoverished children) / 1995 %) x 100

Calculation: $(30.3 - 34.6) / 34.6) \times 100 = -12.4$, or

a 12.4% decrease

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2012

Twelve previous USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books document challenges to the well-being of children and families in the US Virgin Islands.

(2011) Investing in Our Children's Future

(2010) Measuring What Matters

(2009) How Do We Compare?

(2008) Moving Forward by 10%

(2007) Our Children Matter!

(2006) Prosperity in the Future

(2005) Stepping Up to the Challenge

(2004) Mapping a Road to Success

(2003) Getting off to a Good Start

(2002) Where Is Our Commitment?

(2001) Views from the Community

(2000) A Call to Action!

Additionally, a special KIDS COUNT/Population Reference Bureau report on Census 2000, titled "A First Look at Children in the US Virgin Islands," elaborated on the findings reported in the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books, focusing on the negative impact of social and economic trends for children in the USVI.

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