

# 1990 2000 2010

P A U S I N G F O R R E V I E W



A 20-YEAR LOOK AT VI CHILDREN'S LIVES

U S V I R G I N I S L A N D S K I D S C O U N T D A T A B O O K 2 0 1 3



# Welcome to Kids Count

## Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to report that life improved in many respects for Virgin Islands children and families in the twenty years from 1990 (our earliest KIDS COUNT data-collection year) up to 2010 (the most-recent year of comprehensive VI data available). But there still are risks to our children and families that our community should not ignore.

This **2013 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** examines long-term trends -- positive and negative -- affecting the Territory's children. What's working? What's not?

Data provides a reliable, unbiased window to the strengths and challenges of Virgin Islands children and their families. It's the kind of information necessary to highlight successes, pinpoint areas of current need, and can serve as a basis on which we, as a community, can formulate good policies and activate forward progress.

Please read on to learn about our children's evolving health, safety, and education – in short, our Territory's future. And let's remember that children cannot organize, decide or advocate for their own success. As parents, as community members, as decision-makers, we must be their voice and their advocate. The preparedness of our children for the challenges ahead affects our community and the future of each one of us who call the US Virgin Islands our home.

Many lives in the US Virgin Islands have felt the effects of the painfully slow recovery from the national economic downturn that began in 2007 and continued through 2010 (generally the last year of our reporting in this book). Events of the past few years – especially those that occurred in the Territory -- are not reflected in this **Data Book**, but negative and positive patterns from prior years remain.

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

Dee Baecher-Brown  
**President**  
CFVI

George H.T. Dudley  
**Chairman of the Board**  
CFVI

## Key Findings, 1990-2010

### **Fewer and smaller families...but with increased income.**

Virgin Islanders' incomes fell in the 1990's, but the following decade (2001 to 2010) brought a rise in prosperity to residents and families in the Territory.

- In 2010, families' **median income increased** to \$37,254 (up \$9K since 1995). This rise was related to general improvements in the economy, more women participating in the workforce, and perhaps also due to a drop in the number of VI families.
- In 2010, there were 10% **fewer families with children** compared to 1990. **Family size had become smaller** too, including fewer children and, increasingly, a single parent.
- In 2011, the average number of lifetime **births per VI woman had lowered to 2.3**, from 3.7 births a decade before in 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2010 the VI **child population lowered by 24%**. Out-migration of families, women's rising educational levels, greater use of birth control, and the increase of single parenthood may all have contributed.
- In 2010, almost half of children's **families were headed by single mothers (48%)**, a significant rise from 37% in 1990.

### **Less poverty for families with children, especially 2-parent families.**

Incomes improved for families with children, and poverty lessened somewhat in the 20 years from 1990.\*

- From 1990-2000, poverty spiked from 29% to 35% for children's families but **by 2010 only a quarter (25%) of all VI families with children were poor**.
- Similarly, between 1990 and 2010, the portion of **children living in poverty lowered to 31% in 2010 from 37% in 1990** (after spiking to 42% in 2000).
- In 2010, **38% of families headed by single mothers were poor** – an improvement by 8 percentage points from 1990 when 46% of single mothers were poor.
- Despite this improvement, **households left in poverty in 2010 were increasingly those headed by single mothers**, as two-parent families were exiting poverty more successfully.
- **In 2010, three quarters (75%) of all impoverished families with children were headed by single females**, a far larger portion than in 1990 when single-female families with children represented less than 2/3 (63%) overall.

\* The federal threshold for poverty is adjusted yearly, and for varying family sizes. For the poverty threshold in 2010, see more on page 13.

## Key Findings, 1990-2010, cont.

### **For infants and children: relatively low death risks.**

In 2010 there were slightly more women in the VI population than in 1990, but live birth numbers fell by 27% during that time. Fewer lifetime births per woman (and a lowering rate of births to teens) are generally related to an increase in maternal lifetime health, and increased investments in the health and safety of each child.

- In 2010, **the infant mortality rate – considered a significant indicator of community health – was lower by 54% than in 1990.** Measuring 5 deaths per 1,000 infants, the VI rate was better than the national rate of 6/1,000 in 2010.
- From 2000-2010, the varying instances of **child deaths averaged 5.7 deaths a year** or an average rate of 24/100,000 children age birth to 14. The national rate was somewhat lower at 17/100,000 in 2010.

### **For juveniles and teens: higher violent crime and death risks.**

Since 1990, the VI's distressingly high rates of arrests for juvenile violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and of teen deaths have generally been between 2-3 times higher than in the rest of the nation.

- Arrests of juveniles (age 10 up to 18) for violent crimes have risen by 98% from 1997 to 2011, from 310 per 100,000 youth in 1997 to 614 in 2011. **The recent VI juvenile violent crime arrest rate was 270% higher than the national rate** of 225/100,000 juveniles in 2010 [the 2011 US rate was unavailable].
- From 2000-2010, the varying instances of **teen deaths averaged 9 deaths a year**, or an average rate of 99/100,000 children age birth to 14 – twice the national rate of 49/100,000 in 2010.

*Note: As the Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS) was not undertaken in 2011, USVI 2011 population data referenced in this 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Report is the most-recent available, ie. from the 2010 United States Census.*

### **Too many VI children aren't accessing education during periods of their life when it can make the most difference.**

Two of the most-critical times for children's engagement with school success are at the very beginning ... and towards the end.

For children age 3 and 4, preschool learning prepares young learners with developmental skills for the academic requirements of kindergarten.

For children in grades 9-12, the curriculum leading up to graduation prepares students for a diploma -- the credential necessary for higher education, military service or other job-readiness path.

- While  $\frac{3}{4}$  of young children age birth to five lived in families where all resident parents were working (73% in 2010, up from 69% in 2000), **more than a quarter (27%) of 3 and 4 year olds were not in pre-school.**
- **One third (34%) of all VI children entering public kindergarten lacked age-expected cognition skills** (ie. counting, pattern recognition, and logic ability). **Half (50%) lacked adequate kindergarten readiness for language** (ie. word skills) **and comprehension** (ie. understanding skills).
- Although educational attainment is crucial for lifetime economic success, **320 teens age 15-17 were not enrolled in school** – nearly 7% of all VI teens this age. The nation's rate was 4%.

### **For children who remain in school, more perform at grade-level expectations, as measured by USVI KIDS COUNT since 2004-5.**

- for 5<sup>th</sup> grade math: 62% (up from 32% in 2004-5)
- for 7<sup>th</sup> grade math: 64% (up from 30%)
- for 11<sup>th</sup> grade math: 53% (up from 37%)
- for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading: 49% (2004-5 not available)
- for 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 55% (up from 30% in 2004-5)
- for 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 30% (up from 18%)
- for 11<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 37% (up from 23%).

*Note: only half of 11th graders are proficient in math, and less than 40% are proficient in reading, indicating that significant improvements are still needed.*

# Tables and Charts

**Table 1.** Trends in VI Children Indicators: 1990 to 2010..... page 6

**Table 2.** VI and US Comparisons: 2010 ..... page 7

## VI Child Demographics

VI Adults and Children by Overall Population, 1950-2010 ..... page 8

VI Children by Island, 1990-2010 ..... page 8

VI Children by Race, 1990-2010..... page 8

VI Children's Citizenship and Place of Birth, 2010 ..... page 9

VI Children Speaking Another Language, 1990-2010 ..... page 9

VI Children by Age Group, 1990-2010..... page 9

## Economic Well-Being

### Children in Families

Children in Married Couple Families, 1990-2010..... page 10

Single Female-headed Families with Children, 1990-2010 ..... page 10

Children in Single Female-headed Families, 1990-2010 ..... page 11

Children in Non-Parent Households 2000-2010 ..... page 11

### Economic Well-Being of Families

Unemployment Rate, 1980-2011 ..... page 12

Per Capita Income, 1980-2010 ..... page 12

Median Family Income, 1995-2010 ..... page 12

Median Family Income by Race, 2000-2010..... page 12

VI Adults and Children in Poverty, 1990-2010 ..... page 13

Families with Children in Poverty, 1990-2010 ..... page 13

Female-Headed Children's Families Poverty, 1990-2010 ..... page 13

### Child Poverty

Families with Children in Poverty, 1990-2010 ..... page 14

Female-headed Families with Children in Poverty, 1990-2010.. page 14

Children in Poverty, 1990-2010..... page 15

Young/older Children in Poverty, 1990-2010 ..... page 15

Children in Poverty by Race, 2010 ..... page 15

Children in Poverty by Island, 1990-2010..... page 15

## Children Receiving Public Supports

Children Receiving TANF, SNAP, WIC; Free School Meals..... page 18

## Children Receiving Child Support

Children in Single Mother-Headed Families ..... page 19

## Health and Safety

### Infant Health and Mortality

Total VI Births, 1940-2011 ..... page 20

VI vs. US Low Birthweight, 1990-2010 ..... page 20

VI vs. US Infant Mortality, 1990-2010 ..... page 21

### Immunizations

Immunization Rates for Teens 13-17, 2011 ..... page 22

### Child and Teen Death

VI vs. US Child Death Rate, 1990-2011 ..... page 23

VI vs. US Teen Death Rate, 1990-2011 ..... page 23

### Juvenile Crime Arrests

VI vs. US Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests, 1990-2011 ..... page 24

### Births to Teens

VI vs. US Teen Birth Rate, 1990-2010 ..... page 25

## Education

### Children's Readiness for School

VI Public Kindergartners' Learning Skills, 2011-2012 ..... page 26

### Third Grade Reading

VI Public School Third Graders' Reading Skills, 2011-2012 ..... page 28

### 2011-2012 VITAL Report Card for Public Schools

VI Student Academic Performance, 2011-2012..... page 30

VITAL Student Academic Performance Report, 2011-2012 ..... page 30

## **Introduction**

Welcome to KIDS COUNT .....	page 2
Key Findings, 1990-2010 .....	page 2-3

## **Data**

Tables (VI Trends and US Comparisons).....	page 6-7
VI Child Demographics.....	page 8-9

## ***Socio-Economic Well-Being***

Children in Families .....	page 10-11
Economic Well-Being of Families.....	page 12-13
Child Poverty.....	page 14-15
Children in Families Receiving Public Supports .....	page 16-18
Children Receiving Child Support.....	page 19

## ***Health and Safety***

Infant Health and Mortality .....	page 20-21
Children and Health Insurance.....	page 21
Immunizations.....	page 22
Child and Teen Deaths .....	page 23
Juvenile Crime Arrests.....	page 24
Births to Teens .....	page 25

## ***Education***

Children's Readiness for School .....	page 26
Children with Special Needs .....	page 27
Third Grade Reading .....	page 28
2011-2012 Territorial Report Card .....	page 29-30
Public School Dropouts .....	page 31

## **Basics**

Overview of Data Collection .....	page 32
Definitions and Data Sources.....	page 32-33
Acknowledgements .....	page 33-34
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands .....	page 34
University of the Virgin Islands .....	page 35
US Virgin Islands .....	page 35
How to Use This Book .....	page 35



# TABLE 1

## Virgin Islands Trends of Children's Well-Being, 1990 - 2010

	VI - 1990	VI - 2000	VI - 2010	trend	comments
Number of Children in the VI population	35,427	34,289	27,026		a 24% drop in number of children, over 20 years
Proportion of Children in the VI population	35%	32%	25%	to be determined	fewer children suggests potentially better outcomes for each child, but also suggests fewer future taxpayers
Number of VI families with Children	13,052	14,107	11,710	to be determined	fewer families potentially allows the economy to apportion more resources for each family
% of families with Children, headed by single females	37%	46%	48%	worse	represents almost half of all VI families raising children
% of Children in single female-headed families	30%	39%	40%	worse	represents 2 out of every 5 children
% of Children in grandparent-headed families	16%	14%	16%	static	represents 1 out of every 8 children
Median Income for families	\$27,908 [1995]	\$36,756	\$37,254	static	no progress in 10 years (though up \$9K since 1995)
Rate of VI labor force unemployment	2.8%	6.8%	8.9% [2011]	worse	an alarming rise, but VI 2011 rate same as US rate
Portion of Children's families in poverty	29%	35%	25%	better	dramatic improvement since 2000
% of female-headed families with Children, in poverty	46%	49%	38%	better	dramatic improvement since 2000; more women earning a living wage
Female-headed families as % of all families in poverty	63%	66%	75%	worse	more 2-adult families with children are leaving poverty
Portion of Children, in poverty	37%	42%	31%	better	dramatic improvement since 2000
Portion of Children age birth up to 5, in poverty	38%	45%	35%	better	dramatic improvement since 2000
% of Children age birth up to 5 receiving WIC benefits		50% [2005]	58%	worse	indicates increased need among youngest children
Portion of Children in need of child support		37% [2002]	35%	static	corresponds closely to single-female-headed family %
Rate of teen Births per 1,000 Girls age 15 up to 19	78	47 [2005]	45 [2011]	better	progress has slowed since 2000
Number of live Births	2,267	1,685	1,557 [2011]	better	Fewer births per woman improves life outcomes for both mothers and children
% of VI Births that are low-birthweight	8%	9%	8.5%	static	VI rates not significantly different than US rates
Death rate per 1,000 Infants age birth up to one year	14	8.3	5.1	better	VI rate better than US rate
Death rate per 100,000 Children age one up to 15	33	15	10 [2011]	better	
Death rate per 100,000 Teens age 15 up to 19	62	81	79 [2011]	worse	VI rate rising, while US rate falling
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate, Teens age 10 up to 18	809 [1995]	611	614 [2011]	static	VI rate down from 1995, but still alarmingly high
Portion of Children reading proficiently by 4th grade			49% [2011]		as measured by LAP-3* regional reading test
Portion of Children reading proficiently in 5th grade		35%	55% [2011]	better	improvement from 35% – but still too low
Portion of Children reading proficiently in 7th grade		17%	30% [2011]	better	improvement from 17% – but dangerously low
Portion of Children reading proficiently in 11th grade		26%	37% [2011]	better	improvement from 26% – but dangerously low

# TABLE 2

## VI and US Comparisons of Children's Well-Being, 1990 - 2010

	US - 1990	US - 2000	US - 2010	VI - 2010	comments
Number of Children in the population	64M	72M	74M	27,026	VI child population falling but US numbers rising
Portion of Children in the population	26%	26%	24%	25%	VI % now equals US %
Number of families with Children				11,710	
% of Children's families headed by single females	19%	22%	24%	48%	VI's rate is 2x the US rate
% of Children in single female-headed families		18%	20%	40%	VI's rate is 2x the US rate
% of Children in grandparent-headed families				16%	
Median Income for families	\$37,000 [1995]	\$64,424	\$61,082	\$37,254	VI median income is less than 2/3 (61%) of US
Rate of labor force unemployment	5.6%	4.0%	8.9% [2011]	8.9% [2011]	VI rate equals US rate
Portion of Children's families in poverty		14%	18%	25%	VI rate higher than US rate
% of female-headed families with Children, in poverty		31%	36%	38%	VI rate close to US rate
Female-headed families as % of all families in poverty				75%	
Portion of Children, in poverty	18%	16%	20%	31%	VI rate now 1/3 higher than US rate
Portion of Children age birth up to 5, in poverty		19%	25%	35%	VI rate 40% higher than US rate
% of Children age birth up to 5, receiving WIC benefits				58%	
Portion of Children in need of child support				35%	
Rate of teen Births per 1,000 Girls age 15 up to 19	60	40 [2005]	31 [2011]	45 [2011]	US rate lowering faster, farther
Number of live Births				1,557 [2011]	
% of Births that are low-birthweight	7%	7.6%	8.1%	8.5%	VI rate close to US rate
Death rate per 1,000 Infants age birth up to one year	9.2	7.1	6	5.1	VI rate better than US rate
Death rate per 100,000 Children age one up to 15	31	22	17	10 [2011]	VI rate better since 2000 than US rate
Death rate per 100,000 Teens age 15 up to 19	88	67	49	79 [2011]	US rate falling; VI rate high
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate, Teens age 10 up to 18	411	299	225	614 [2011]	US rate falling; VI rate spiked in 2011
Portion of Children reading proficiently by 4th grade	not available	30% [2002]	32% [2011]**	49% [2011]*	VI and US use non-comparable reading tests
Portion of Children reading proficiently in 5th grade	n/a	n/a	n/a	55% [2011]	US NAEP** reading test measures grades 4, 8, 12
Portion of Children reading proficiently in 7th grade	n/a	n/a	n/a	30% [2011]	see above
Portion of Children reading proficiently in 11th grade	n/a	n/a	n/a	37% [2011]	see above

\*Learning Accomplishment Profile, 3rd Edition local reading test

\*\*National Assessment of Educational Progress federal reading test

# VI Child Demographics

## What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Between 1950 and 2010, the overall VI population increased by 400%, from 26,000 to 106,000 people. Children's numbers rose more slowly, from about 12,000 to about 27,000. And children's portion in the population lowered dramatically in that time. In 1950, children were almost half (48%) of all VI residents. In 2010 they represented just one quarter (25%).

Gradual changes in the family, society, and the economy have shifted the lives of VI children over recent decades. In 2010 there were fewer families, fewer children per family, and a larger portion of families headed by single-mothers than in previous decades.

## VI child population...

Since 1980, children's numbers have decreased. Children have also become a smaller share of the general VI population.

- After rising swiftly between 1960 and 1980, the VI child population dropped 21% from 1980-90, 3% from 1990-2000, and a further 21% between 2000 and 2010.

Primary causes for this drop include:

- Women having fewer children. In 2000 the average number of lifetime births per VI woman was 3.7; by 2011 it fell to 2.3 (a rate still higher than the US rate of 1.9 births/woman in 2011).
- Out-migration of VI young people and of young families, to pursue educational or job opportunities elsewhere.

## Total VI Population

	VI-# total	VI-# children	VI-% children	STX, STT, STJ - total population #		
<b>1950:</b>	26,665	12,653	47.5%			
<b>1960:</b>	32,099	15,732	49.0%	STX: 14,973	STT: 16,201	STJ: 925
<b>1970:</b>	62,468	27,583	44.2%	STX: 31,779	STT: 28,960	STJ: 1,729
<b>1980:</b>	96,569	45,021	46.6%	STX: 49,725	STT: 44,372	STJ: 2,472
<b>1990:</b>	101,809	35,427	34.8%	STX: 50,139	STT: 48,166	STJ: 3,504
<b>2000:</b>	108,612	34,289	31.6%	STX: 53,234	STT: 51,181	STJ: 4,197
<b>2010:</b>	106,405	27,026	25.4%	STX: 50,601	STT: 51,634	STJ: 4,170

## ...by island.

The distribution of children among the three islands remained constant for the last twenty years, although each island lost varying portions of its children in that time.

- **St. Croix** had 25% fewer children in 2010 than in 1990...but continued to hold 52% of all VI children
- **St. Thomas** had 23% fewer children in 2010 than in 1990...and continued to hold 45% of all VI children
- **St. John** had 15% fewer children in 2010 than in 1990...and continued to hold 3% of all VI children.
- As in past years, **St. Croix** held the highest portion of children in 2010: 28% of residents were under age eighteen (down from a high of 37% in 1990). Children were almost a quarter (24%) of the **St. Thomas** population, and were one fifth (20%) of **St. John** residents.

## VI Children by Island

	STX-#	%-STX	%-VI kids	STT-#	%-STT	%-VI kids	STJ-#	%-STJ	%-VI kids
<b>1990</b>	18,706	37%	52%	15,754	33%	45%	967	28%	3%
<b>2000</b>	18,169	34%	53%	15,077	29%	44%	1,043	25%	3%
<b>2010</b>	14,031	28%	52%	12,171	24%	45%	824	20%	3%
% change	-25%			-23%			-15%		

## ...by race.

The ethnic mix of VI children has altered only slightly in two past decades.

- VI children identified as Black have averaged 81% since 1990.
- White children, usually under 7%, have edged up to 9% in 2010.
- 20% of children identified as Hispanic (whether White, Black, or both) in 2010, up from 15% in 1990.
- Asian, Middle-Eastern or East Indian children may be among the 9% of children who identified their race as 'Other' than Black, White or Hispanic (10% in 1990).

## VI Children by Race

	Black	White	Other	Hispanic (any race)
<b>1990</b>	83%	6.8%	10.2%	15%
<b>1995</b>	80%	5.4%	14.5%	15%
<b>2000</b>	82%	7%	11%	15%
<b>2005</b>	81%	4%	15%	19%
<b>2010</b>	81%	9%	9%	20%



## VI Child Demographics, cont.

### ...by citizenship.

American citizenship among VI children is high. Only 7% of VI children ages birth to eighteen reported as foreign-born.

- 95% of VI children were US citizens in 2010. For those from birth up to age five, the figure was even higher: 99% are citizens.
- 78% of VI children were born in the Virgin Islands: almost 4 out of 5.
- About 15% of children who are US citizens were born outside the Virgin Islands (in the US or its other island areas including Puerto Rico -- whether to Virgin Islands-born, US-born or foreign-born parents).
- Of the 7% of VI children born outside the US and its possessions, 2% were naturalized US citizens; the 5% remaining children were non-US citizens.

### VI Children's Citizenship and Place of Birth, 2010

child population: age birth through 19 years

	VI - # kids	% - VI kids
US Citizen	28,203	95%
Born in the VI	23,120	78%
Born outside the VI	4,451	15%
(Naturalized citizen)	632	2%
Non US Citizen	1,494*	5%

\*Population measured is VI children age birth through 19 years old

### ...by language.

Virtually all VI children speak English, even those who also speak another language because they are foreign-born, or US-born to immigrant parents.

- In a slightly-rising trend, 21% of VI children age 5 to 17 (4,007 children) spoke a language other than English at home (from 18% in 1990)

- Of these, three quarters spoke Spanish (74%), 16% spoke French or French Creole, 5% spoke Arabic, while the remaining 5% spoke other languages.
- Of all VI children, only 320 (or 1%) did not speak English "well" or "not at all."

### VI Children Who Speak a Language other than English at Home

child population: age 5-17 years

	VI - # kids	% - VI kids
1990	4,788	18.3%
2000	4,808	18.7%
2010	4,007	20.5%

### ...by age group.

- In 1990, more children were concentrated in the middle years of 5 through 14 years old. In 2010, the age group with fewest children was "age 5-9," while the proportions between groups were more even (typically 7,500 each). This may indicate a recent trend of families choosing to migrate from the Virgin Islands during their children's elementary school years.
- Between 1990 and 2010, each of the four age groups below (age 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19) had lost approximately 20-30% in actual numbers.

### VI Child Population by Age Group

	0-4	% - VI kids	5-9	10-14	15>19	0<18	5<18
1990	9,230	9.1%	10,072	10,142	9,623	35,427	26,197
2000	8,553	7.9%	10,176	9,676	8,688	34,289	25,736
2010	7,500	7.0%	7,150	7,484	7,563	27,026	19,526
% change	-19%		-29%	-26%	-21%	-24%	-26%

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Demographics topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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)



# Economic Well-Being

## Children in Families

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Between 1990 and 2010, the composition of children's families altered.

In 1990, 4 out of every ten children lived in a married couple family; 3 in ten lived in a single VI female-headed family.

By 2010 these portions were reversed: 4 of every ten children lived in a single female-headed family, while 3 lived in a married parent family.

*Note: as in 1990, two out of every ten children lived in a family headed by a non-parent in 2010.*

In 2010, almost half of all VI children's families (48%) were headed by a single female (a jump from 37% in 1990).

Of the territory's 27,026 children in 2010, 26,928 lived in a total of 14,429 family households (average size: 3.12 people per household).

### Children in married-couple families.

The portion of VI children living in married-parent families fell significantly since 1990 – in a steeper decline than in the US.

- In 2010, only 32% of VI children (one of every three) lived with married parents, down from 44% in 1990.
- In comparison, 61% of US children lived with married parents (73% in 1990) -- nearly twice the rate as in the USVI.

### Children in Married Couple Families

	VI	VI - % kids	US - % kids
1990	15,422	43.6%	73%
2000	11,641	34%	66%
2010	8,759	32.4%	61%

### Families headed by single women.

With rates that are consistently twice as high as in the rest of the nation, the share of VI families headed by single women – and the portion of VI children living in these single-female households – have both jumped since 1990.

- Single women headed 48% -- almost half -- of all VI families in 2010, a significant increase from 37% in 1990.
- **The national rate:** 24% of US children's families were headed by single women.
- **St. Croix** had the highest share of single female-headed families with children (50% of all families). Areas of highest concentration were Frederiksted (66%), Christiansted (60%) and the Northwest subdistrict (61%). In **St. Thomas**, areas of highest concentration of single female-headed families were Charlotte Amalie and Tutu (each: 56%). **St. John's** highest-concentrated area was Coral Bay (52%).

### Single-Female Headed Families with own Children...

	VI	US	by island...	STX	STT	STJ
1990	37%	19%		37%	38%	34%
2000	46%	22%		(not available)		
2010	48%	24%		50%	47%	45%



## Children in Families, cont.

### Children in single-female headed families.

- A rising share of VI children lived in single-female headed households: 40% of VI children in 2010 (up from 30% in 1990).
- **The national rate:** 20% of US children lived in single-female headed households in 2010.

Children in Single-Female Headed Families...			
	VI	VI - % kids	US - % kids
1990	10,643	30%	(not available)
2000	13,494	39%	18%
2010	10,772	40%	20%

...by Island			
	STX	STT	STJ
2000	47%	44%	39%
2010	42%	37%	38%

### Children in non-parent headed families...

In 2010 one out of every five children (20%) lived in a household headed by an adult other than their parent – most likely by a grandparent -- a slight increase from ten years ago.

Children Living in Households Headed by Non-Parents			
	VI - #	VI - % kids	US - % kids
2000	5,967	18%	10%
2010	5,458	20%	12%

### ...in grandparent-headed households (with or without a parent present)

- 6.6% of VI grandparents lived with their grandchildren in the same household (down from 8% in 2000). Of these, half were responsible for the grandchild/children living there (same as in 2000).
- Meanwhile, 16% of VI children lived in a grandparent-headed household (up slightly from 14% in 2000).

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Children in Families topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net).

Click on **HOW ARE KIDS DOING?** button to see VI children's data.

- VI children in married couple families (number; percent)
- VI children in single-mother families (number; percent)
- VI children in single father families (number; percent)

*Definition: **Children in families** is the percentage of children age 0-18 in living arrangements that include the following household structures. A **two-parent or married-parent family** refers to parents who are married to each other and living in the same household. They may be biological, adoptive, or include stepparents. **Single-parent families** refer primarily to families in which only one parent is present, but may include some families where both parents are present but unmarried. **Grandparent families** refer to children living in the home of grandparents where parents may or may not be present. **Non-relative families** primarily refer to families where neither parent or close relative of the child heads or lives in the household.*

<sup>1</sup>KIDS COUNT now identifies "single-parent families" as families headed either by a single mother or a single father. Data previous to 2007 on VI single-parent families in the VI Community Survey only reported single-mother families.



# Economic Well-Being

## What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Virgin Islanders' incomes rose 17% from 2000-2009, after falling in the 1990's. In 2010, effects of the US recession (which began in 2008) reached the USVI.

In response, the overall VI economy began to shrink.

Declining tourism, investment, and tax revenues caused VI businesses and the government to lay off workers. Unemployment rose.

By 2011, almost 10,000 VI residents had left the Territory, many in search of work elsewhere, and the general population had dropped to 105,780, from an all-time high of 115,850 in 2008.

- VI civilian employment fell to 46,120 in 2011, from a high point of 49,590 in 2008.
- The VI unemployment rate rose to 8.9% in 2011, from a low point of 5.8% in 2008.

### Unemployment Rate

	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2011
<b>VI</b>	6.0%	2.8%	5.7%	6.8%	7.1%	8.7%	8.9%
<b>US</b>	7.1%	5.6%	5.6%	4.0%	5.1%	9.3%	8.9%

VI source: "USVI Annual Economic Indicators," VI Bureau of Economic Research;  
US source: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat01.pdf>

### VI Personal and Median Incomes.

(Note: Economic data is reported as income received in the previous year; thus 2010 reporting cites income earned in 2009; 2000 reporting cites income earned in 1999, and 1990 cites income earned in 1989).

VI incomes improved strongly from 2000 through 2009, but lost ground by 2010 compared to income gains in the US, even after the recession hit US incomes starting in 2008.

- VI median family income was reported as \$37,254 in 2010, compared to \$61,082 for families nationwide.
- 15% of VI families reported income of less than \$15,000 in 2010.

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

### Per Capita Income, for Individuals

	VI	% of US personal income average
<b>1980</b>	\$6,230	63%
<b>1990</b>	\$12,799	65%
<b>2000</b>	\$16,567	55%
<b>2010</b>	\$21,622*	53%

### Median Income, for Families

	VI	% - US	US
<b>1995</b>	\$27,908	75%	\$37,000
<b>2000</b>	\$36,756	60%	\$64,424
<b>2005</b>	\$37,869	70%	\$54,081
<b>2010</b>	\$37,254	73%	\$61,082

Family median income increased slightly for VI Black and Hispanic families in the last decade. Meanwhile in the States, all family racial groups experienced income losses, 2000-2010.

### Median Family Income by Race, VI vs US

	2000	2010	% change
<b>VI Black</b>	\$34,239	\$34,612	1%
<b>US Black</b>	\$42,809	\$39,587	-8%
<b>VI White</b>	\$62,466	\$51,424	-18%
<b>US White</b>	\$68,685	\$65,319	-5%
<b>VI Hispanic (any Race)</b>	\$26,352	\$27,883	6%
<b>US Hispanic (any Race)</b>	\$44,279	\$41,423	-6%

**Following a decade of falling incomes during the 1990's, Virgin Islanders' incomes rose 17% from 2000-2009.**



## Economic Well-Being cont.

### Poverty in the VI.

*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.<sup>1</sup>*

The number and percent of people living below the federal poverty threshold rose during the 1990's. But as the Territory's economic conditions improved between 2000 and 2009, VI poverty rates fell by 10 percentage points – bringing significant improvements for children and families.

#### VI Residents, in Poverty

	number	% of population
1990	27,334	27%
2000	34,931	33%
2010	23,623	23%

#### VI Families with Children, in Poverty

	number	% below poverty	% - US
1990	4,438	29%	(not available)
2000	5,862	35%	14%
2010	3,627	25%	18%

Single-mother families had the highest poverty rate (38%) of all families in 2010. Single-mother families made up the majority (75%) of poor families in the VI. While their numbers fell after 2000, partly due to fewer overall VI families with children between 2000-2010, their representation in poverty increased.

#### Female Headed Families with Children, in Poverty

	number	% below poverty	% - VI families with children, in poverty
1990	2,817	46%	63%
2000	3,863	49%	66%
2010	2,708	38%	75%

Poverty rates are highest of all for female-headed families with children under age 5. Likely factors include parents who may be younger, with limited experience in the job market, and childcare responsibilities or costs.

*Note: Because the cost of living (for food, housing, energy etc.) in the US Virgin Islands has been documented to be among the highest in the nation,<sup>2</sup> actual USVI poverty levels are likely to be significantly higher than reported by US Census or VI Community Survey (VICS) data.*

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> "A Survey of Food/Housing Expenditures and Income in the US Virgin Islands," Eastern Caribbean Center, USVI; Commissioned by Dept of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, 1989, 1994

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Economic Well-Being topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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

## Child Poverty

*Note: Economic data is reported as income received in the previous year, thus 2010 reporting cites income collected or earned in 2009; 2000 reporting cites income collected or earned in 1999, and 1990 cites income in 1989.*

Poverty, the single greatest threat to children’s well-being, contributes to developmental, social and behavioral risks, and has measurable effects on children’s ability to learn. Poverty also contributes to poor health and mental health outcomes. Risks are greatest for children who experience poverty when they are young or who experience deep and persistent poverty.

### What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Reductions in poverty for VI families with children (and thus for children) is good news indeed. Poverty dropped over the past two decades by 4 percentage points for all VI children’s families (to 25% in 2010, from 29% in 1990), and 8 percentage points for single female-headed families with children (to 38% in 2010, from 46% in 1990).

The bad news: poverty remains high for VI children and their families.

In 2010, more than 8,000 children in the Territory – 31% of all children – lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.

While many of these children had parents who worked, limited employment opportunities and wages meant their families struggled to meet basic needs for food, safety, health, housing, and education.

**Poverty is the single greatest threat to children’s well-being.**

### Poverty for children’s families.

*Note: since 2010, the Territory has suffered economic downturn, likely causing negative effects on children in low-income and poverty-level families that are not reflected here. See further notes and bulleted points on pages 15 and 16.*

The portion of families with children living in poverty edged down – from 29% twenty years ago to a quarter of all families in 2010 (after spiking to 35% in the interim).

- An alarming gap remains between the poverty rate of all families with children (25%) and the poverty rate of single female-headed families with children (38%).
- Of all families with children in poverty in 2010, three out of every four (75%) were headed by single females (representing 2,708 families).

Especially vulnerable to poverty are families with young children, though the gap is narrowing between these and all families in poverty. The past two decades brought a six percentage-point improvement in the poverty rate of families with children age 0-4 (28% in 2010, from 34% in 1990).

- Single-mother families with children under five years old are the most vulnerable. In 2010, while their portion had dropped sharply to 42% from 54% in 1990, these single mothers – often young, lacking job skills, without a married partner to add income, and without high-quality daycare – were consistently at highest risk for poverty compared to any other type of family.

### Poverty Among Families with Children

number and percent of families in poverty with children age 0-18

	VI - #	VI - %	VI - % with children age 0-4	US - %
1990	4,438	29%	34%	(not available)
2000	5,862	35%	41%	14%
2010	3,627	25%	28%	18%

### Poverty Rate among Female-Headed Families with Children

number and percent of female-headed families in poverty with children age 0-18

	VI - #	VI - %	VI - % with children age 0-4	US - %
1990	2,817	46%	54%	not available
2000	3,863	49%	57%	33%
2010	2,708	38%	42%	41%

## Child Poverty, cont.

### Poverty for Children.

While child poverty has lowered in the Territory since 1990 (and almost halved its 20-point gap with the nation's rate), the VI child poverty rate remained above 30% in 2010.

*Note: since 2010, economic 'hits' to the Territory's economy have included reduced tourism during the US recession years 2009-2013, and the closing of St. Croix's Hovensa Oil refinery. The resulting job losses and unemployment are considered to have led to a recent rise (not reflected here) in the rates of family and child poverty in the Virgin Islands.*

#### Children below Poverty

number of children in poverty, and percent of all children

	VI - #	VI - %	US - %
1990	12,722	37%	18%
2000	14,210	42%	16%
2010	8,233	31%	20%

### ...by age.

Poverty rates since 1990 have improved more rapidly for school-age children (age 5 through seventeen) than for infants and pre-school age children (birth to age five).

#### Young/Older Children below Poverty

number and percent of children in poverty

	# age 0-4	% age 0-4	# age 5-17	% age 5-17
1990	3,45	38%	9,264	36%
2000	3,809	45%	10,294	41%
2010	2,597	35%	5,579	29%

### ...by race.

More than two out of every five VI Hispanic children lived below poverty in 2010, compared to almost one of three Black children.

#### Children below Poverty by Race

percent of children in poverty, by race

	Black	White	Hispanic (any race)
2010	32%	14%	43%

### ...by location.

Children in St. Croix have had the highest poverty rate among the three islands, though child poverty on that island has seen greater relative improvement since 1990 than in St. Thomas or St. John.

#### Children below Poverty by Island

percent of children in poverty, for each island

	STX	STT	STJ
1990	43%	30%	21%
2000	49%	34%	22%
2010	35%	26%	17%

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Poverty topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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.*

The poverty threshold for 2010 was an income of \$22,113 for a family of two adults and two children.

# Economic Well-Being

## Children in Families Receiving Public Supports

In 2011, the expansion of several public-support programs helped safeguard many low-income and poverty-level VI families experiencing lower employment and earnings due to the national recession. Income assistance and food assistance are the two main forms of public support available to needy VI families.

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 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 until 2012, partly on St. Croix's large Hovensa petroleum refinery (which cut jobs in 2010-11 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/hour.
- The national recession which began in late 2008 caused tourist visits to fall, local businesses to cut their inventories and staff, and local prices to rise even higher for fuel, transportation, food, and imported goods.

### Children in Families Needing Income Assistance

#### 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?

- Since 2000, the TANF program has served fewer children, but with a recent spike in need from 2009-2010. In fiscal year 2011, TANF assistance in the USVI lowered from 2010, the year of highest service.
- 96 fewer households received TANF in 2011 (722 households, down from 818 in 2010).
  - 200 fewer children received TANF in 2011 than in the previous year.

- **USVI:** \$1,850,643 in TANF benefits were issued to VI needy families in 2011 (down from \$2,036,778 in 2010; but still more than \$1,689,219 in '09, or \$1,395,373 in '08).
- 1,539 VI children (6% of all VI children) received TANF assistance (down from 1,718 children in 2010).
- 93% of children (1,425 children) lived with a single parent, 3% (42 children) lived with two parents, and 4% (62 children) lived without either parent (portions unchanged from 2009).
- 91% of the VI households receiving TANF assistance were headed by a single parent.
- **St. Croix:** 2/3 (69%) of all children received TANF: 1,067 children
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 472 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?

- Due to a rising VI unemployment rate, the VI Unemployment Insurance program doubled its payments in 2011, compared to the previous year.
- Unemployment insurance payouts on claims rose to \$29,096,855 in 2011 – a sharp increase from \$14,219,543 in 2010 (or \$20,736,058 in 2009, and \$13,123,744 in 2008).
  - **USVI:** the average VI unemployment rate edged higher to 8.9% – the same rate as in the nation overall -- in 2011. But while the US rate was following a downward trend, the VI rate was in an upward trend: rising from 8.1% in 2010, 7.6% in 2009, and 5.9% in 2008.
  - **St. Croix:** a 10% unemployment rate in 2011 (up from 8.8% in 2010)
  - **St. Thomas/St. John:** an 8% unemployment rate (up from 7.5% in 2010).
  - By the end of December 2011, the VI civilian labor force numbered 50,900 people – 662 fewer than at the end of 2010. Of these, 46,626 people were employed and 4,274 were unemployed, for a December 2011 unemployment rate of 8.4%.

*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:** 8.9% (down from 9.6% in 2010).

# Children in Families Receiving Public Supports, cont.

## 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.

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

Recent trends show that more than half of VI young children qualify for and receive WIC benefits.

- In fiscal year 2011: 4,075 young children from birth through age four (or 54% of an estimated 7,500 VI children this age) received WIC benefits.
- 1,148 were infants in their first year of life.
- 2,927 were children age 1 through 4 years old.
- In 2010: 4,368 young children under age 5 (or 58% of 7,501 VI children this age) had received WIC benefits. In 2009: 4,438 children (or 63% of children under age five) received WIC.
- Most-recent years show an increased number and portion of young children receiving benefits, 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 their ability to bridge the gap between earned household income and basic, yearly living expenses.

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

Since 2002, the SNAP program has served a rising number of children, with a recent spike in need from 2009-2011.

More than half of VI children (56%) received SNAP assistance in 2011 (up from 51% in 2010, and 37% in 2008).

- In fiscal year 2011, 925 more children received SNAP assistance than in 2010, as did 560 more child-based households.
- **USVI:** \$48,029,343 in SNAP benefits were provided for needy families (up from \$43,119,158 in 2010, and \$22,902,242 in 2008).
- 15,226 VI children age 0-18 received SNAP assistance (up from 14,301 children in 2010).
- 82% (12,132 children) of children receiving SNAP assistance lived with a single parent, 11% (1,638) lived with two parents and 6% (956 children) lived without either parent (portions same as 2009).
- 6,625 child-based households received SNAP benefits in 2011.
- 79% (5,210 households) were headed by a single parent (portion unchanged from 2009).
- **St. Croix:** represented 56% of VI children receiving SNAP (or 8,507 children).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** represented 44% of VI children receiving SNAP (or 6,719 children).

### **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.
- More VI children participate in this program when family incomes decrease.
- Numbers of federally funded meals served in childcare centers and schools spiked higher after recession took hold in 2009 (see chart on page 18).

(continued on next page)

# Economic Well-Being

## Children in Families Receiving Public Supports, cont.

### How Many VI Children Received TANF Benefits, 2000-2011?

	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
St. Croix	2,497	1,194	1,037	1,115	1,205	1,067
St. Thomas/St. John	784	530	353	421	513	472
<b>Total VI Children</b>	<b>3,281</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>1,539</b>

### How Many VI Children Received SNAP Benefits, 2002-2011?

	2002	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011
St. Croix	8,255	6,835	6,389	7,216	7,899	8,507
St. Thomas/St. John	5,058	3,739	3,704	4,860	5,929	6,719
<b>Total VI Children</b>	<b>13,313</b>	<b>10,574</b>	<b>10,093</b>	<b>12,076</b>	<b>13,828</b>	<b>15,226</b>

### How Many Young VI Children Received WIC Benefits, 2006-2011?

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Infants (up to age 1)	1,061	1,216	1,244	1,330	1,237	1,148
Children (age 1 up to 5)	2,760	2,653	2,800	3,108	3,131	2,927
<b>Total VI young children</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>3,869</b>	<b>4,044</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>4,368</b>	<b>4,075</b>

### How Many 'School' Meals were Served in the VI, 2006-2011?

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Number of free Childcare Center meals served</b>	477,874	481,379	558,896	495,224	610,022	640,596
<b>Number of free School Breakfast meals served</b>	649,098	741,576	711,047	714,477	794,137	856,726
<b>Number of free School Lunch + Snack served</b>	2,253,664	2,410,439	2,337,005	2,344,802	2,361,268	2,402,194
<b>Total free meals served to children</b>	<b>3,380,636</b>	<b>3,633,394</b>	<b>3,606,948</b>	<b>3,554,503</b>	<b>3,765,427</b>	<b>3,899,516</b>

<sup>1</sup>USVI Bureau of Economic Research, "US Virgin Islands Annual Economic Indicators, 1980-2011. [www.usviber.org/pdf/ECON11.pdf](http://www.usviber.org/pdf/ECON11.pdf)



# Children Receiving Child Support

Child support payments can greatly improve the economic well-being of children who grow up in a family with a non-resident parent. Single custodial parents who receive regular, full child support payments are less likely to depend on public cash-assistance, and are able to find work more quickly and stay employed longer than single parents receiving child support only partially, irregularly, or not at all. Child support programs can increase the reliability of child support paid, by helping custodial parents to locate the non-resident parent, to establish paternity, to establish support orders and to help remove barriers to payment.



## What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The portion of VI children living in a household headed by only one parent, usually a single mother, increased to 42% in 2010, up from 30% in 1990.

### Children Living in Families Headed by a Single Female Parent

	VI - % of kids
1990	30%
1995	32%
2000	39%
2005	40%
2010	42%

The percent of VI children engaged in the paternity and child support system remains high, despite children's shrinking population numbers in the Territory since 1990.

More than one third of VI children were enrolled or engaged in the paternity and child support system in 2011.

- 35% of VI children (8,325 children) were in need of paternity and child support services and collections in 2011 (down only slightly from 37% of children in 2002, when children's cases numbered 12,236)
- 75% of children enrolled in 2011 had paternity orders established.
- **The national rate:** 81%.
- \$9,639,981 was collected in child support for enrolled children in 2011 (out of \$59,482,440 in current and arrears support due).
- The average monthly child support distribution per family in 2011 (including current and arrears payments) was \$193.26.

*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.*

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Office of Child Support Enforcement FY 2011, Preliminary Report, at [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov).*

# Health & Safety

## Infant Health and Mortality

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The number of babies born in the Territory tripled between 1950 and 1970.

The number of births has lowered in each decade since then – while the overall VI population continued to rise.

In 2011, there were fewer children per 1,000 VI population members than in any previous decade measured by KIDS COUNT.

Total Births (VI)		
	VI - #	VI rate/1,000 total VI population
1940	756	30/1,000
1950	894	34/1,000
1960	1,180	37/1,000
1970	2,898	46/1,000
1980	2,504	26/1,000
1990	2,267	22/1,000
2000	1,685	16/1,000
2010	1,657	16/1,000
2011	1,557	15/1,000

- Despite fewer babies born, the portion of VI babies born with low birthweight has edged up 2.5 percentage points since 1990. VI rates of low birthweight and very-low birthweight – both indicating elevated risk to babies – remain consistently higher than in the nation.
- The Virgin Islands has turned its infant mortality rates around, however. Since 2000, the death rate of VI infants less than a year old has improved to become consistently lower – ie. better – than in the nation.

### Babies Born at Low Birthweight.

#### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Birthweight is a key indicator of newborn health. Infants born at low birthweight (ie. born weighing less than 5-1/2 pounds) face greater risks of physical and developmental health problems and infant death than those born at normal weight.

One hundred fewer babies were born in 2011 than in the previous year, but a higher portion were low birthweight.

Low birthweight rates are often higher for babies born pre-term (at less than 37 weeks gestation), and for babies born to mothers who smoked, had inadequate dental health, low educational attainment, and/or poor nutrition. Low birthweight rates are also known to be higher for babies born to mothers under the age of twenty than to older mothers.

Babies born at very low birthweight are at highest risk. These infants are nearly 100 times more likely to die within their first year than their normal-weight peers, and have a significant risk of severe physical, visual, developmental and cognitive setbacks or impairments.

Although VI rates show improvement since peaking in 2002, low birthweight for babies remains a continuing concern in the VI.

- Of 1,557 live births in 2011, 10.6% or 165 babies were low birthweight, weighing less than 5.5 pounds (up from 141 babies in 2010, and 142 in 2009).
- Of these, 31 babies were very low birthweight, weighing less than 3 pounds, 4 ounces (up from 24 babies in 2010, and 15 in 2009). Very low birthweight babies represented 2% of all births in 2011.

**The national low-birthweight rate:** 8.1%.

**The national very-low birthweight rate:** 1.4%

#### Low Birthweight Births (as % of all live births)

	VI	US
1990	8.1%	7%
1995	8%	7%
2000	9.1%	7.6%
2005	10.8%	8.2%
2010	8.5%	8.1%
2011	10.6%	8.1%

## Infant Mortality.

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The infant mortality rate continued to improve in 2011, even though 100 fewer VI infants were born than in the previous year. The VI infant mortality rate has successfully remained lower than the US rate for the past ten years.<sup>1</sup>

The VI infant mortality rate: 5.1 deaths per thousand live births (down from 6.6/1000 in 2010 and 14/1000 in 1990).

- 8 infant deaths occurred out of 1,557 live births in 2011 (11 deaths in 2010, out of 1,657 live births).
- **St. Croix rate:** 6.8/1000 (or 5 deaths out of 735 live births).
- **St. Thomas/St. John rate:** 3.6/1000 (or 3 deaths out of 822 live births).

#### Infant Mortality (death rate per 1,000 infants age birth up to one)

	VI - #	VI - rate	US - rate
1990	32	14	9.2
1995	(not available)	11	7
2000	14	8.3	7.1
2005	9	5.5	6.8
2010	11	6.6	6.1
2011	8	5.1	6.0

**The national infant mortality rate:** 6.0 infant deaths per 1000 live births.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI infant deaths (8 in 2011 compared to 11 in 2010) 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.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db120.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db120.htm); Downloaded on 1/8/14

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Infant Health and Mortality topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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.

## Child Health Insurance

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

Children without health insurance have more-severe and more-frequent unmet health needs, miss more days of school, and experience more-acute health issues in their later years.

Children most likely to be uninsured are those whose parents are either non-US citizens, unmarried, and/or lacking a diploma or college/ technical education.

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

In 2010, more than a quarter of all VI children lacked health insurance.

#### Children without health insurance.

- 27% of all VI children (or 7,404 children) lacked health insurance in 2010, or one of every four children age birth to 18.

Infants and preschoolers are most likely to fall ill, but children this age were most likely to lack health insurance of any age group.

- 31% of VI children under age 5 (2,307 children), or one of every three age birth to 5 were uninsured
- 26% of VI children age 5-10 years were uninsured
- 26% of VI children age 11-17 years were uninsured.

**The national rate of uninsured children:** 8% of US children in 2010.

#### Children with Medicaid health insurance.

The number of VI children covered by Medicaid rose 66% from 2009 to 2010: 1,386 children (up from 915 children in 2009)..

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

*Note: 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 were those in families at extreme poverty earning less than \$8,500 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.

# Health & Safety

## Immunizations

Immunizations guard children against major illnesses, and are 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. The federal *Vaccines for Children* program provides free vaccines for children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, or under-insured, to help ensure national compliance for children’s health.

### 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).<sup>1</sup>

The USVI requires this series for all children before entering school, plus a second dose of varicella vaccine for students entering kindergarten.

### What’s the situation for children age 1-1/2 through 2 years old?<sup>2</sup>

- In 2011, not quite half (46%) of the territory’s young children 19 to 35 months (ie. between one and a half and three years old) had received the recommended up-to-date 4:3:1:3:1:4 immunization-series coverage. The VI rate for compliance in 2010: 45%.

**The national compliance rate for children this age: 74%.**

### In Adolescence.

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?<sup>3</sup>

VI rates for some of the recommended vaccines required in childhood were similar to national rates. But VI rates for two of the three vaccines recommended in adolescence were far lower than national norms – for Meningococcal vaccine [MenACWY], and the 3-dose series of Human Papilloma virus vaccine [HPV] required for complete coverage.

<sup>1</sup>This 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 in part to changes in measurement of the Hib vaccine.

<sup>2</sup>US National Immunization Survey, Q1/2011-Q4/2011, “Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months By State”

<sup>3</sup>US National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2011, “Estimated Vaccination Coverage, with Selected Vaccines Among Adolescents Aged 13-17, by State and Selected Area”

### What are VI immunization compliance rates vs. US rates for adolescents age 13 through 17, in 2011?\*

	Tdap	MenACWY	HPV (3 dose series)
VI	63%	31%	34%
US	78%	70%	71%
	MMR(2 doses)	HepB (3 doses)	Var
VI	94%	93%	95%
US	91%	92%	92%

\*Note: this official NIS chart above does not include the full, nationally-recommended dosage amount for the childhood MMR vaccine (4 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 or more doses of Hepatitis B, 1 or more doses of varicella vaccine and 4 or more 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 “4:3:1” series named above, the ACIP recommended immunizations that include 1 dose of a vaccine containing Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis [Tdap], one dose of Meningococcal Conjugate (or other meningococcal ) vaccine [MenACWY], 3 doses of Human Papilloma virus vaccine [HPV], a second dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); and 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.*

# Child Deaths

The child death rate reflects children's physical health, access to health care, level of adult supervision, maternal health and exposure to auto, housing or neighborhood-based dangers. Injuries and deaths are more likely for children who are poor, males, and those under age five.

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 2 children died out of an estimated 20,577 children age 1-14 in 2011 (down from 7 child deaths in 2010).
- Both deaths were in St. Thomas/St. John; none in St. Croix.

**The VI child death rate:** 10 per 100,000 children in 2011 (down from 34/100,000 the previous year).

**The national child death rate:** 17 per 100,000 children.

Child Deaths (death rate per 100,000 children age 1-14)			
	VI - #	VI - rate	US - rate
1990	9	33/100,000	31/100,000
1995	8	29/100,000	28/100,000
2000	4	15/100,000	22/100,000
2005	6	25/100,000	20/100,000
2010	7	34/100,000	17/100,000
2011	2	10/100,000	(not available)

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Health and Safety topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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)

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

# Teen Deaths

Risk behaviors are the main threat to teens' health and safety. These include alcohol and drug use, car accidents, homicide and suicide. Teens' emotional and mental health can also be related causes of death.

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The rate of teen deaths is twice to three times the rate in the nation – a cause for alarm and action.

- 6 teens died out of an estimated 7,563 teens age 15-19 in 2011 (down from 11 teens in 2010).
- All deaths reported were in St. Croix; none in St. Thomas/St. John in 2011.

**The VI teen death rate:** 79 per 100,000 teens (down from 145/100,000 in 2010).

**The national teen death rate:** 49 per 100,000 teens.

Teen Deaths (death rate per 100,000 teens age 15-19)			
	VI - #	VI - rate	US - rate
1990	6	62/100,000	88/100,000
1995	7	67/100,000	82/100,000
2000	9	81/100,000	67/100,000
2005	10	114/100,000	65/100,000
2010	11	145/100,000	49/100,000
2011	6	79/100,000	(not available)

Find additional year-by-year data charts for VI Teen Health Risk topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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)

*Definition: **Teen deaths** is the number or rate of deaths from all causes to teens age 15 to 19, per 100,000 teens this age.*



# Health & Safety

## Juvenile Crime Arrests

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The VI juvenile violent crime arrest rate has been declining from an average of 534/100,000 in the last five years of the 1990's.

But in 2011, the Territory returned to a very high rate of juveniles arrested for violent crimes, especially compared with the national rate.

Meanwhile, the trend rate for VI juvenile property crime arrest fell slightly in 2011, from 2010.

As in previous years, 2011 juvenile crime arrest rates in St. Croix (for both violent and property crime) exceeded those in St. Thomas/St. John.

### Juvenile violent crime arrest rate.

- **USVI:** 614 per 100,000 youth age 10-17 (spiking from 364/100,000 in 2010) - 76 juvenile violent crime arrests in 2011 (up from 45 in 2010).
- **St. Croix:** 715/100,000 arrest rate, out of 6,573 total youth age 10-17 - 47 arrests (up from 29 in 2010), including 4/murder, 4/rape, 11/robbery, and 28/aggravated assault.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 500/100,000 arrest rate, out of 5,803 total youth age 10-17 - 29 arrests (up from 16 in 2010), including 2/rape, 11/robbery, and 16/aggravated assault, (no murder).

**The national rate:** 225 per 100,000 youth (rate is for 2010).

### Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (age 10 through 17)

	VI - violent	US - violent*
1990	(not available)	411/100,000
1995	809/100,000	487/100,000
2000	611/100,000	299/100,000
2005	483/100,000	277/100,000
2010	364/100,000	225/100,000
2011	614/100,000	(not available)

\*US source: [http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR\\_Display.asp?ID=qa05201](http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR_Display.asp?ID=qa05201)

### Juvenile property crime arrest rate.

- **USVI:** 396 per 100,000 youth age 10-17 (down from 477/100,000 in 2010) - 49 arrests in 2011 (down from 59 in 2010).
- **St. Croix:** 532/100,000 arrest rate. - 35 youth arrests including 7/burglary, 8/grand larceny, 3/auto theft, and 17/arson (33 arrests in 2010).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 241/100,000 arrest rate - 14 youth arrests (down from 26 in 2010) including 5/burglary, 7/grand larceny, and 2/auto theft, (no arson).

Find year-by-year data charts for Juvenile Offense topics at [www.cfvi.net](http://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)

*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.*

# Births to Teens

## What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The national teen birthrate dropped 50% between 1990-2011, and the VI teen birth rate has greatly improved also, dropping by 42% since 1990. Nationally, the decline in teen birth rates is linked to increased sex education, increased use of contraception by teens, and lower rates of family poverty.

- **USVI teen birth rate:** 45 births per thousand girls age 15-19 in 2011 (a dramatic improvement from 78/1000 in 1990).
  - 170 babies were born to teen mothers age 15-19 (out of an estimated population of 3,782 girls this age).
  - The 170 babies born to teen mothers represented 11% of the 1,557 total live births in 2011.
  - **St. Croix teen birth rate:** 47/1000 represented 93 births (in an estimated population of 1,994 St. Croix girls age 15-19).
  - **St. Thomas/St. John teen birth rate:** 43 /1000 represented 77 births (in an estimated population of 1,788 girls age 15-19).
- The national teen birth rate:** 31 births per thousand girls age 15-19 in 2011.

## Births to Teens (rate per 1,000 females age 15-19)

	VI - #	VI - rate	US - rate
1990		78/1,000	60/1,000
1995	331	61/1,000	57/1,000
2000	271	*	48/1,000
2005	245	47/1,000	40/1,000
2010	164	43/1,000	34/1,000
2011	170	45/1000	31/1,000

\*no figure for girls age 15-19 available in 1990, 2000

## 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.
- Children of teen parents are more likely to suffer child maltreatment, repeat a grade in school, and to enter foster care. 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.<sup>1</sup>

Find more Teen Birth charts at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net). Click **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)

<sup>1</sup>Teen 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.*

# Education

## Children's Readiness for School

### What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

It's safe to say that half of our 5-year-old VI children lack the language and understanding skills expected for their age.

The preschool experiences our children are receiving in their childcare arrangements or family settings, before entering kindergarten, have not adequately prepared them to develop the necessary skills and dispositions to become successful learners.

### The evidence?

VI children's skills, tested early using the *Learning Accomplishment Profile Third Edition (LAP-3)* in their first year of public school, showed that, in 2011:

- Half (50%) of VI 5-year-old children entering public school were already falling short in **language and comprehension skills** ("words" and "understanding" skills) expected for kindergarten learning.

**Literacy and language skills** begin long before children start kindergarten. Infants and children who are spoken to, told stories or read to each day develop age-expected vocabulary, comprehension and cognitive development.<sup>1</sup>

- Furthermore, a third (34%) of our VI children entering public kindergarten also lacked adequate **cognition ("math" and "logic") skills**: that is, familiarity with numbers, counting, problem-solving, recognition of patterns and logical comprehension.

This overall lack of kindergarten readiness for such a large portion of our young children is a

compelling reason to improve the quality, delivery and expectations of education and care in early childhood settings.

As part of the Territory's effort to improve early childhood, the VI Department of Human Services has revised *Child Care Rules and Regulations*, and will require teachers to have professional development training in early childhood education. "*Virgin Islands Early Learning Guidelines*" outlines 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.

<sup>1</sup>Raikes, 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, hand-eye co-ordination (such as picking up objects, cutting)

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

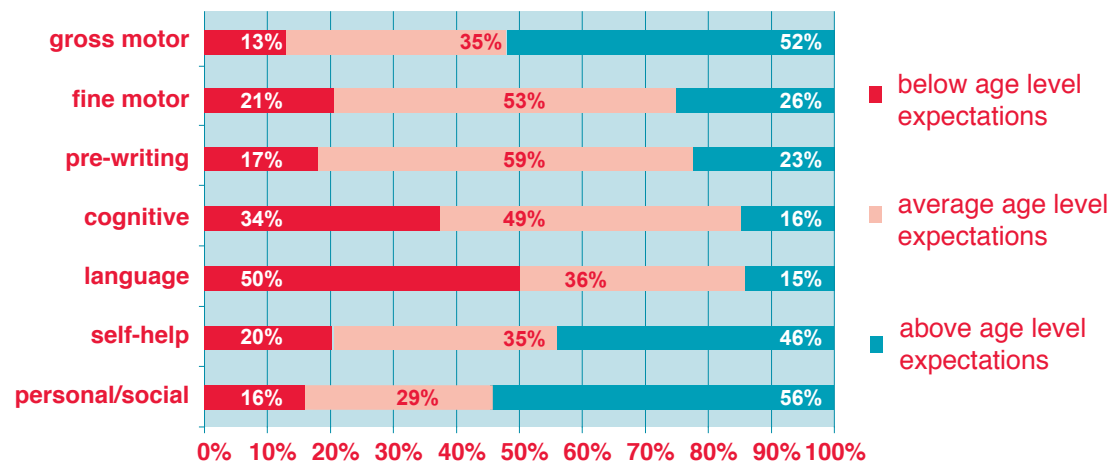
**Cognitive.** Child develops awareness of numbers, problem solving skills (such as counting coins, finding hidden objects)

**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, 2011-2012?



# 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 3 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 2011, 1,403 VI children age birth through 17 were identified as developmentally delayed or at risk of delay (5% of VI children).

## 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 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.

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?

- 140 VI children this age were receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, in 2011.
- **St. Croix:** 96 children (68% of the 140 children)
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 44 children (32%).

## 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?

- 1,263 VI children age 3-17 were enrolled in Special Education IEP programs in fiscal year 2011(1,269 the previous year).
  - Boys were 71%; girls 29%.
- **St. Croix:** represented 55% of all VI children age 3-17 receiving special education services.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** represented 45% of all VI children age 3-17 receiving special education services.
- The number of VI children age 3-17 receiving special education services declined between 2004 and 2011, possibly due to a corresponding drop in the number of children in the VI population in this period.

*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.*





# Education

## Third Grade Reading

Third grade is a critical year: it is when young readers shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Children who struggle with reading begin to fall behind in other subjects because they cannot comprehend the content of what they are reading. Research shows that 75% of children who are not proficient readers by fourth grade remain poor readers in high school. Even worse, students who are not proficient readers in third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than students who are proficient.

Identifying children with reading difficulties before they enter fourth grade is important. Focused interventions can help prevent these students from losing motivation for school, and from entering today’s information-driven job market without the necessary skills for prospering.

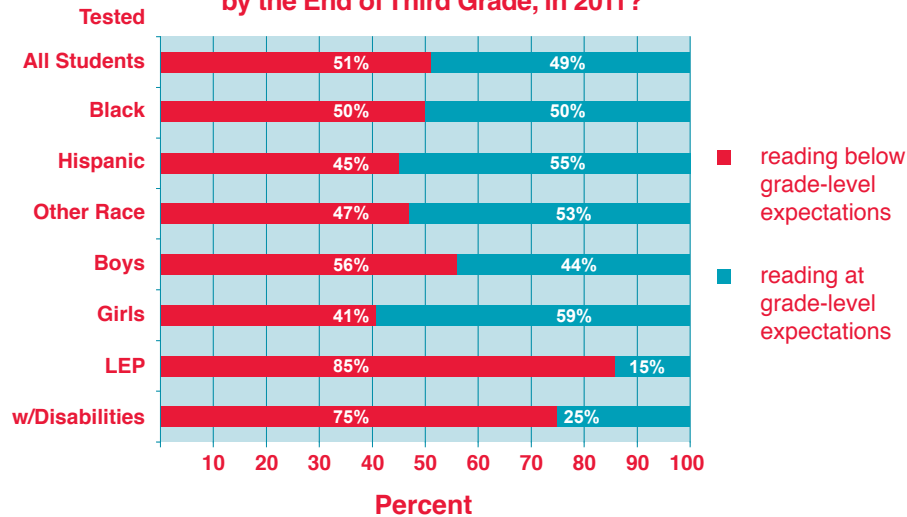
### What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 51% (578 students) of the estimated 1,132 public school third graders scored below proficiency levels for reading on the *VI Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL)* 2011-2012 Report Card (48% scored below in 2010-11).

Lacking reading proficiency by end of 3rd grade were:

- 50% of Black students
- 45% of Hispanic students
- 47% of students identifying as other races (ie. non Black, non Hispanic)
- 56% of boys; 41% of girls
- 85% of students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- 75% of students with disabilities.

**How Well Could VI Public School Students Read by the End of Third Grade, in 2011?**





# 2011-2012 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 2011-12, 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
  - **7th grade reading:** 53.3% of students
  - **11th grade reading:** 55.6% of students
  - **5th grade math:** 53.8% of students
  - **7th grade math:** 53.8% of students
  - **11th grade math:** 52% of students(See next page, "VI Student Academic Performance, 2011-12," 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 '11-'12 of 53.3% was not met:
  - 47% of students performed at/above proficient reading level in '11-'12.
- reading **participation** and **attendance** targets were met by all students.

#### In math:

- The math **proficiency** target in '11-'12 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** and **attendance** targets were met by all students.

#### Grade 11.

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

#### In reading:

- The reading **proficiency** target in '11-'12 of 55.6% was not met:
  - only 37.5% of students performed at proficient reading level in '11-'12. Reading **proficiency** targets were not met by Black students, Hispanic students, limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
  - reading **participation** targets were met by all students.
  - reading **graduation** targets were met by Black and Hispanic students but not by limited English speakers and those with disabilities.\*

#### In math:

- The math **proficiency** target in '11-'12 of 52% was not met:
  - only 50% of students performed math at/above proficient level. Math proficiency targets were not met by Black students, Hispanic students, limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
- math participation targets were met by all students.
- math graduation targets were met by Black and Hispanic students but not by limited English speakers and those with disabilities.\*

### School performance.

Of the Territory's 31 public schools, 17 were cited in 2011-12 as in need of improvement (55%).

#### Elementary schools (K-6, or K-8)

11 out of 21 elementary schools (down from 13 in 2010) 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: same)
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 7 of 11 (ie. 64%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas (last year: 75%)

#### Middle/junior 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 (same as last year).

- **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.

\* There were too few students with limited-English to make accurate data determinations for that group.

(continued on next page)

# Education

## 2011-2012 Territorial Report Card for Public Schools, cont.

### High schools (grades 9-12).

Of the 4 high schools, only Charlotte Amalie High School met all targets. Last year, none met targets.

- **St. Croix:** Of 2 high schools, none met all AYP targets. Central High School met no targets but participation in reading and math. Educational Complex did not meet reading proficiency or graduation/attendance targets.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** Of 2 high schools, Charlotte Amalie High School met all targets. Ivanna Eudora Kean High School met all targets except reading proficiency.

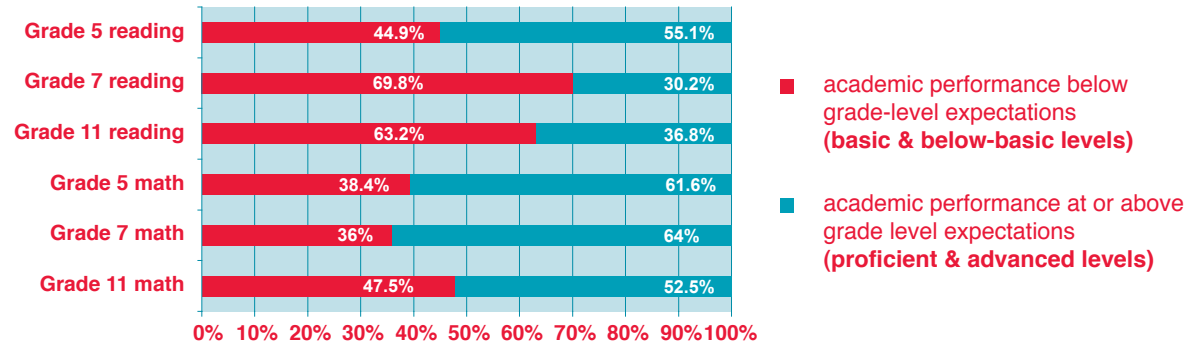
### Teacher qualifications.

- 60% of public school teachers were certified (up from 55% in 2010), while 40% were not certified.
- 2% of public school teachers had no degree. 1% had a 'specialist' degree. 57% of teachers had a bachelor's degree, 39% had a master's degree, 1% held a doctoral degree.
- The percent of core classes taught by highly qualified teachers was not available for 2011 at press time.\*\*

\*\*A "highly qualified teacher" as defined by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and US Virgin Islands Board of Education is one who:

- holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree
- has a full state certification for teaching
- 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 2011-12?



### VI student academic performance, 2011-12

#### For Grade 5 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 16% of students  
 Proficient level: 39.1%  
 Basic level: 39.4%  
 Below basic: 5.4%

#### For Grade 5 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 24.5%  
 Proficient level: 37.1%  
 Basic level: 35.1%  
 Below basic: 3.3%

■ **Advanced:** above grade-level expectations

■ **Proficient:** meeting grade-level expectations

■ **Basic:** approaching grade-level expectations

■ **Below basic:** falling below grade-level expectations

#### For Grade 7 reading proficiency

Advanced level: 8.1%  
 Proficient level: 22.1%  
 Basic level: 62.2%  
 Below basic: 7.6%

#### For Grade 7 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 12.1%  
 Proficient level: 51.9%  
 Basic level: 34.7%  
 Below basic: 1.4%

#### For Grade 11 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 3.5%  
 Proficient level: 33.3%  
 Basic level: 47.1%  
 Below basic: 16%

#### For Grade 11 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 8.1%  
 Proficient level: 41.4%  
 Basic level: 48.5%  
 Below basic: 1.9%

# Public School Dropouts

**What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?**  
In 2010, the *US Census* measured 320 VI teens 15-17 years old (approximately 9th to 11th grades) who were not in school, representing 7% of VI teens this age.

- **St. Croix:** 7% age 15-17 (182 teens).
- **St. Thomas:** 6% (132 teens)
- **St. John:** 5% (6 teens).

**The national rate of teens age 15-17 not in school:** 4%.

USVI KIDS COUNT aims to report yearly dropout data on all teens age 16-19 who are no longer enrolled in school, as documented by the VI Department of Education and also by the annual *VI Community Survey (VICS)*. No *VICS* data was available for 2011, however, and thus KIDS COUNT is unable to report an inclusive dropout/out of school rate for VI teens this age.

*Note: Data following is solely from VI Dept. of Education. Rates and numbers reported are for VI public school students, not youth in private or parochial schools, or youth not in school.*

## VI public school dropouts, age 16-19.

- In 2011-12 The VI Department of Education reported the number of public school dropouts age 16-19 as 187 teen students.

According to reporting from the VI Department of Education, student dropout numbers have shown encouraging improvement in the past few years. The lowered dropout percentages in the 9th grade year, to 4.6% in 2011-12 from 7.3% in 2009-10 (80 dropouts from 123), was especially significant.

Ninth grade is when high school's more-rigorous academic demands begin, and the year when students are likeliest to give up and leave school.

## VI public secondary schools (grades 7-12).

- In 2011-12, 218 students were reported to be dropouts -- 2.9% of the 7,535 total public secondary school students enrolled in September 2011 (an improvement from 4.2%, or 316 students, in 2009-10).
- Males were two out of every three dropouts -- as in past years also.
  - **St. Croix:** Of the 218 VI total, 55% were in St. Croix where 120 students were dropouts -- 3.2% of 3,807 7-12th graders enrolled in St. Croix. (In 2009-10, 4% of St. Croix 7-12th grade students were dropouts).
  - **St. Thomas/St. John:** Of the 218 total VI number, 45% were in St. Thomas/St. John where 98 students were dropouts -- or 2.6% of 3,728 enrolled in St. Thomas/St. John. (In 2009-10, 4.4% of St. Thomas/St. John 7-12th grade students were dropouts).

## VI public junior high schools (grades 7-8).

- 23 students were reported to be dropouts -- 1% of 2,400 public junior high school students enrolled in September 2011 (improved slightly from 1.2% in 2009-10).
- 0.5 % of enrolled 7th grade students, or 7 students (improved from 1.4% in 2009-10)
- 1.4% of enrolled 8th grade students, or 16 students (from 1.1% in 2009-10).

## VI public high schools (grades 9-12).

- 195 students were reported to be dropouts -- 3.8% of 5,136 public high school students enrolled in September 2011 (improved from 5.6% in 2009-10).
- 4.6% of enrolled 9th grade students, or 80 students (improved from 7.3% in 2009-10)
- 4.3% of enrolled 10th grade students, or 52 students (improved from 5.6% in 2009-10)
- 3.2% of enrolled 11th grade students, or 34 students (improved from 4.9% in 2009-10)
- 2.6% of enrolled 12th grade students, or 29 students (improved from 3.7% in 2009-10).

*Definition: Teen high school dropouts is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates.*

*Definition: Public secondary school dropouts is the percentage of children enrolled in public schools in 7th to 12th grades inclusively who did not report for class at the beginning of the school year, graduate or meet the exclusionary conditions of transfer to another school, suspension, illness or death in the new school year.*

# Basics

## Overview of Data Collection for the 2013 Data Book

This book compares information for the years 2010 and, where available, for 2011 with data for previous years to reveal trends of up to twenty years in the status of Virgin Islands children. Data is drawn from *US Census* findings, the Population Reference Bureau, the US Department of Health, US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the non-profit organization Child Trends. Local data is from *United States Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS)*, and from government sources, particularly the VI Departments of Health, Human Services, Education, Police, Justice, and Labor.

This data book uses specific indicators and rates to conform with the national **KIDS COUNT Data Book** published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Rates are also used when a percentage is very small, due to a 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.

In the nine years between *US Census* collections, local information is obtained from *United States Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS)*. All non-*Census* surveys are subject to sampling error (studying a subset of the whole population in order to make quantitative inferences about the population surveyed). In the *VICS*, which uses 5% of VI households for a total sample size of 2,500 households, efforts are made to minimize human and machine-related errors through careful editing and follow-up telephone or personal interviewing. Caution should also be used when

comparing data across various *Censuses* and surveys, as specific questions, measures and definitions may change over time.

*Note: In the absence of a VICS report for 2011, VI population data for 2011 is from the US Census for the year 2010.*

## Definitions and Data Sources

**Children in families.** The percentage of children age 0-18 in living arrangements that include the following household structures. A **two-parent or married-parent family** refers to parents who are married to each other and living in the same household. They may be biological, adoptive, or include stepparents. **Single-parent families** refer primarily to families in which only one parent is present, but may include some families where both parents are present but unmarried. **Single female-headed families** refer to families headed by a female parent with own children. **Grandparent families** refer to children living in the home of grandparents where parents may or may not be present. **Non-relative families** primarily refer to families where neither parent of the child lives in the household.

*SOURCE: 1990, 2000, 2010 US Census.*

**Per Capita Income.** The average income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.

*SOURCE: 1990, 2000, 2010 US Census.*

**Median Income for Families.** The dollar amount which divides VI family households into two equal groups: half of households have incomes above the median and half have incomes below the median. VI data is available only for all families, irrespective of related children.

*SOURCE: 1990, 2000, 2010 US Census.*

**Children In Poverty.** 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.

*SOURCE: 1990, 2000, 2010 US 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) program. *SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services; Virgin Islands Department of Labor.*

**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.*



## Definitions and Data Sources, cont.

**Children receiving child support.** The number of children age birth to 17 having open cases with orders for child support from a non-custodial parent. Court orders for child support require establishment of paternity, and subsequent court-order made to the non-custodial parent.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Dept. of Justice, Paternity and Child Support Division (PCSD).*

**Children without health insurance.** The percentage of children under age 18 who were not covered by any kind of private or public health insurance including Medicaid.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research; 2010 US Census.*

**Low Birthweight Babies.** The portion of live infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to the total number of live births.  
**Very low birthweight** is the portion of live infants born weighing less than 3.3 pounds.

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

**Immunizations.** The percentage of children age 19 to 35 months, and age 13 through 17 who have received the entire series of vaccinations recommended for their age-segments by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

**Child Deaths.** The rate or number of deaths to children age 1 to 14, per 100,000 children this age.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

**Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests.** The rate or number of arrests of youth age 10 to 17 for homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault per 100,000 youth this age. Juvenile property crime arrests are for burglary, larceny/

theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property. Data for both may include repeated arrests of the same individual at different times and for different offenses.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Police Department.*

**Teen Deaths.** The rate or number of deaths to teens age 15 to 19, per 100,000 teens this age.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

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

**Children with Special Needs.** The portion of children with a chronic disease, disability or delay that requires educational services beyond that required generally by children that age.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health, Infants and Toddlers Program; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System.*

**Children's Readiness for School.** The percentage of 5-year old children entering public kindergarten scoring below/at/above age level expectations for seven key developmental learning-readiness skills, as measured by the *Learning Accomplishment Profile, 3rd Edition* test.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.*

**Third Grade Reading.** The percentage of third-grade public school students scoring below/at/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.  
*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.*

**Public Secondary School Dropouts.** The percentage of students enrolled in public schools in 7th to 12th grades who did not report for class at the beginning of the school year, graduate, or meet the exclusionary conditions of transfer to another school, suspension, illness or death.  
*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.*

## Acknowledgements

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### USVI KIDS COUNT Data Team and Partners

- Judith Richardson and Kim Holdsworth, co-directors, USVI KIDS COUNT; Anna Wheatley, research associate, CFVI; Laurie Blake, data analyst; Ellie Hirsh, consultant, The Family Connection (TFC)
- Laura Speer, Dennis Campa, associate directors for policy reform, Annie E. Casey Foundation; Jessica Donaldson, senior associate, policy reform, Annie E. Casey Foundation

*(continued on next page)*



# Basics

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- Arah Lockhart, Gary Halyard, and Albert Bryan, Jr., commissioner, Department of Labor
- Terryln Smock, Donnalie Cabey, Wilmour Daniel, and Vincent F. Frazer, attorney general, Department of Justice

### Data Analysis and Writing

Kim Holdsworth, co-director, USVI KIDS COUNT  
Laurie Blake, data analyst

### Graphs and Publication Design

Lisa Meersman, creative director, Austin Advertising  
Kim Holdsworth, co-director, USVI KIDS COUNT

## Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Established in 1990, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) administers \$8 million in assets. The income from its 104 named funds and scholarships is disbursed to enhance the well-being of the people of the US Virgin Islands. In 2011, CFVI gave out \$1,853,192 in direct support to community organizations and individuals in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John through grants, scholarships, and many other types of assistance to the not-for-profit community.

### CFVI's annual grants and programs include:

- *The Family Connection*, a comprehensive early-learning 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
- **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book**, funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation

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Nicole Wheatley, **special projects manager**  
Mandkhai Campbell, **accountant**  
Esther Caraballo, **administrative assistant/  
network coordinator**  
Ellie Hirsh, **consultant, TFC\***

\*The Family Connection, an Early Learning initiative of CFVI

## University of the Virgin Islands

Founded in 1963, the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is a four-year, liberal arts, multi-cultural, 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 a division engaged in domestic and international research, and in supporting 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 territory 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.

## How to use this book

**Utilizing the Data:** Perhaps you need to find information 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 **2013 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** baseline data.

**Calculating a percentage:** A percent means “per 100: ie. 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:**  $(8,233 / 27,026) = .305 \times 100 = 30.5\%$

**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, 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:**  $(8,233 / 27,026) \times 1,000 = 305 = 305 \text{ per } 1,000$

**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:**  $(8,233 / 27,026) = .305 \text{ to } 1 \text{ or } 30.5:100$ .

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 percent) / older year percent) x 100

**Example:** Changing percent of VI children living in poverty, from 1990 to 2010

**Formula:** (2010 % of impoverished VI children minus 1990 % of VI impoverished children) / 1990 %) x 100

**Calculation:**  $(31-37) / 37 \times 100 = -16.2$ , or a 16.2% decrease

# P A U S I N G F O R R E V I E W

## US VIRGIN ISLANDS KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2013

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

- (2012) Strengthening Supports for Children**
- (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, two special KIDS COUNT/Population Reference Bureau reports, titled "A First Look at Children in the US Virgin Islands" and "Children in the US Virgin Islands: Results from the 2010 Census," provide social and economic data trends for children in the USVI derived from the 1990, 2000, and 2010 US Censuses, and elaborate on the findings reported in the annual **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books**.

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands  
5600 Royal Dane Mall, Suite 19  
PO Box 11790, Charlotte Amalie  
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00801

tel. 340-774-6031  
fax. 340-774-3852

