

BY THE NUMBERS: WHERE DO WE STAND?



US Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2015



Welcome to KIDS COUNT!

Dear Colleagues:

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands is pleased to share our 16th KIDS COUNT Data Book, *By the Numbers: Where Do We Stand?* Since 2000, the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book has been presenting an annual portrait of the well-being of children and families in the Territory through consistent and reliable data.

Reviewing data from 2013, this Data Book reflects both progress and struggle within the Territory's families with children. Economic indicators, in particular, continue to highlight significant challenges faced by family householders as they seek to provide for their children. Rising unemployment, single (unmarried) householder families, and lack of health insurance are just some of the factors making it difficult for families to raise thriving children. As a result, roughly one-third of the Territory's children are living in poverty.

As in years past, VI teens are facing tough choices. While some are making better decisions – such as avoiding teen pregnancy – others are falling through the cracks. Data provided by local partners allows for tracking over time the number of teens who are not completing high school, not working, and who are involved in criminal activity. The future is at stake for these young people, and the time is now to ensure it is bright.

The data provided in the 2015 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book give us a reliable, unbiased window into the strengths and challenges our children and families face daily. It is our hope that this document – and the additional data provided in the online Data Center – will serve as a resource to generate dialogue and support formulation of quality policy solutions to enhance the lives of our children and promote prosperity for our community.

Dee Baecher-Brown
President, CFVI

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

Note: This research was made possible by the generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their sustained support and acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Our goal is to inform and support child advocates, decision makers and others working to ensure that our children's needs are reflected in sound policy and programmatic improvements to address gaps in outcomes and improve lives.



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Using This Book

- This Data Book reports information for the year 2013 (or 2013-2014 in some cases). In addition to the standard time-lag for data providers to collect, analyze, and report data to us, there is an additional time-lag associated with the Virgin Islands Community Survey, from which population data are required to calculate rates and percents.
- At times, data are reported by island (for St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas); other times, data are only available by district (St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John).
- Definitions and sources are available – in alphabetical order – at the end of the Data Book.
- Much more data (including additional indicators, levels of detail, and previous years) can be found through the online KIDS COUNT Data Center, which houses data provided by KIDS COUNT member organizations and by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which hosts the site. The Data Center can be accessed at www.cfvi.net. Click on the "KIDS COUNT" box to see VI children's data.

Key Findings, 2013

Demographic shifts were changing the landscape of the Territory.

- The population continued to decrease, due to out-migration and a decreasing birth rate. Children's numbers fell by 3,399 - or 14% - from 2012 to 2013 alone.
- Increasingly, children's families were headed by unmarried female householders: 53% in 2013, up from 48% in 2010 ... and from 37% in 1990.
- Almost one out of every three VI children was enrolled in the paternity and child support system, a portion that remains very high.

Economic health declined for the Territory and its families.

- The Territory's Gross Territorial Product shrank between 2010 and 2013 (decreasing by 8.5% from 2012-2013 alone).
- Unemployment continued to rise, up 1.7 percentage points from 11.7% in 2012 to 13.4% in 2013.
- More than a quarter of all VI children lacked health insurance, a higher percentage than in any state, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico.
- The child poverty* rate rose to 35%, up from 31% in 2012.

Public support programs helped to stabilize children in poverty.

- Three-fourths (77%) of VI children received food assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2013, up from 67% in 2012 and 51% in 2010.
- 70% of infants and children from birth through age 4 received federal nutrition benefits from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC).
- Three-quarters of children (78%) living with their single mother relied on the VI child support system to receive paternal child support income payments.

* See the 2013 poverty thresholds (adjusted annually for varying family sizes) at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshold/thresh13.html>.

Race-based differences were apparent across several outcomes.

- Family incomes differed substantially by race, with Black families having the lowest reported median income: Among Black families: \$39,347; White families: \$60,820; "Other" race families: \$48,845.
- One of every three Black children (35%) and nearly half of children of other races (45%) lived in families in poverty, while only 14% of White children lived in poverty.
- Among Black families with children, 80% were headed by an unmarried female householder. Rates of single-female-householders with children were lower among White families with children (36%) and those of other races (59%).





Teens faced tough challenges with lasting consequences

- After spiking in prior years, teen births were down to 36.3 per 1,000 females ages 15-19 (the lowest since rates were first requested in 2000).
 - Teen violent crime arrests (559 per 100,000 teens) jumped back up to 2011 levels, after a significant drop in 2012. The rate continues to be alarmingly high, particularly compared to the national rate of 168.4 per 100,000 youth ages 10-18.
 - Teen property crime arrests (569 per 100,000 teens) have remained somewhat consistent, and generally below the national rate.
 - The rate of deaths to teens ages 15 to 19 (58/100,000 teens) reached its lowest point since 2003, and dropped closer to the national rate of 45 per 100,000 teens.
- ### **Many VI children were not reaching their full academic potential.**
- 40% of all VI children entering public kindergarten lacked age-expected cognition skills. Over half (55%) lacked age-expected word recognition and comprehension skills for kindergarten readiness.
 - Among youth ages 18 and 19, 59% had earned a high school diploma. Among 18-24 year olds, this number was 72%.

- Too many students had math and reading skills below grade level expectations, including over 40% of 3rd graders reading below grade expected levels, and nearly half of 11th graders lacking proficiency in math.

TABLE 1

Trends in Indicators of VI Children's Well-being, 2012-2013

Year	Categories	2012	2013	Trends
Child & Family Demographics 	VI child population	27,026	21,741	DECREASED
	Children in single-mother families*	45%	46%	STATIC*
	Children in married-parent families	24%	36%	INCREASED
Economic Well-being 	Children in poverty	31%	35%	WORSENERD
	Detached youth	14%	27%	WORSENERD
	Median family income	\$43,606	\$41,839	WORSENERD
Education 	3rd graders not proficient in reading	46%	43%	IMPROVED
	7th graders not proficient in math	36%	40%	WORSENERD
	Public High school dropouts	5.2%	7%	WORSENERD
Health & Safety 	Low-birthweight babies	9.6%	8.7%	IMPROVED
	Children without health insurance	28%	27%	STATIC
	Child deaths	16/100,000	18/100,000	WORSENERD
	Teen deaths	207/100,000	58/100,000	IMPROVED
	Teen births	48/1,000	36.3/1,000	IMPROVED

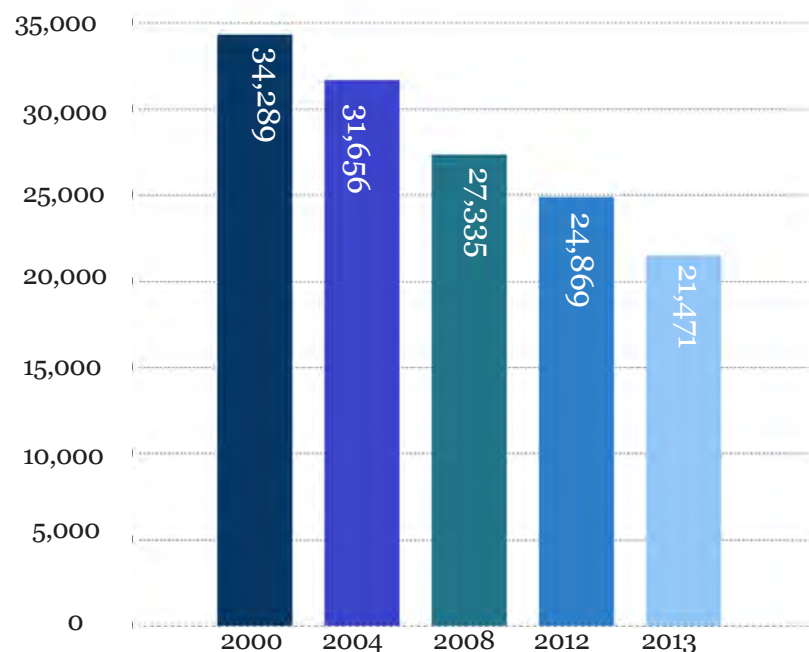
Note: VI rates must be interpreted with caution; small absolute numbers can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

*This category has been revised since printing to report on children living with single-mother heads of household. Single-parent family percentages, which include single-father families in the USVI, are considerably higher. N.B. Single-father heads of household percentages, ranging from 13% to 22%, reflect annual fluctuations due in large part to the small absolute numbers.

Child & Family Demographics



VI Child Population, 2000-2013



VI Child Population.

The number of VI children (under 18) in 2013 continued its sharp decline, decreasing by nearly 13,000 children (or 37%) since 2000. At the same time, the portion of children in the population dropped to 20.5% – similar to the national rate of 23%.

- There were 21,471 children (birth to age 18) in the VI, representing 3,398 fewer children than in 2012 and 12,818 fewer children than in 2000.

...by island*:

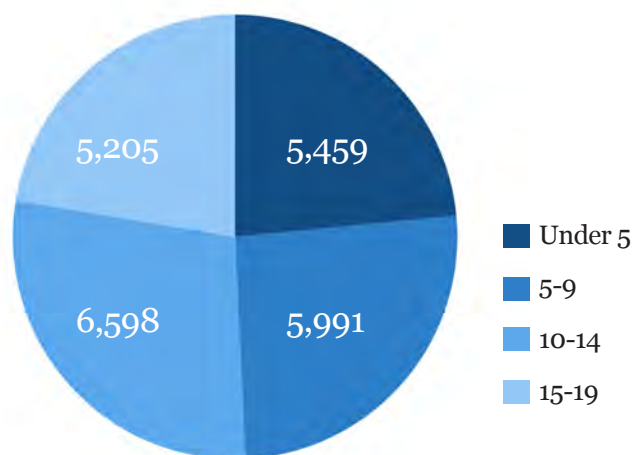
Children became a smaller portion of each island's population after 2010, plummeting in 2013. In St. Croix, children were just over 22% of all residents, while their portion was much smaller in both St. John (12.5%) and St. Thomas (19.3%).

- **St. Croix:** 11,179 children represented 52% of all VI children, 1,636 fewer children than in 2012.
- **St. John:** 505 children represented 2% of VI children, dropping by 211 since 2012.
- **St. Thomas:** 9,787 children represented 46% of all VI children, a decrease of 1,551 from 2012.

...by age group*:

Since 1990, the number of children has decreased across all age groups.

Child Population by Age Group, 2013



VI Child Population by Age Group, 1990-2013

Year	0-18	5-18	0-18 (as % of total)	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
1990	35,427	26,197	26%	9,230	10,072	10,142	9,623
2000	34,289	25,736	25%	8,553	10,176	9,676	8,688
2010	27,026	19,526	28%	7,500	7,150	7,484	7,563
2013	21,471	16,012	21%	5,459	5,991	6,598	5,205

...by race.*

Since 1990, the share of White, Black, and “Other” race¹ children, as well as the proportion of children of Hispanic origin (any race), have been relatively stable.

- Black children: 19,742 or 85% of all VI children (82% in 2006)
- White children: 1,244 or 5% of all VI children (4% in 2006)
- Other-race children: 2,266 or 10% of all VI children (14% in 2006)
- Hispanic children (of any race): 4,312 or 19% of VI children (21% in 2006)

VI Children by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2013

Year	Black	Hispanic (any race)	Other	White
1990	83%	15%	10.2%	6.8%
2000	82%	15%	11%	7%
2013	85%	19%	10%	5%

...by citizenship*:

Approximately 9 out of every 10 VI children were American citizens in 2013.

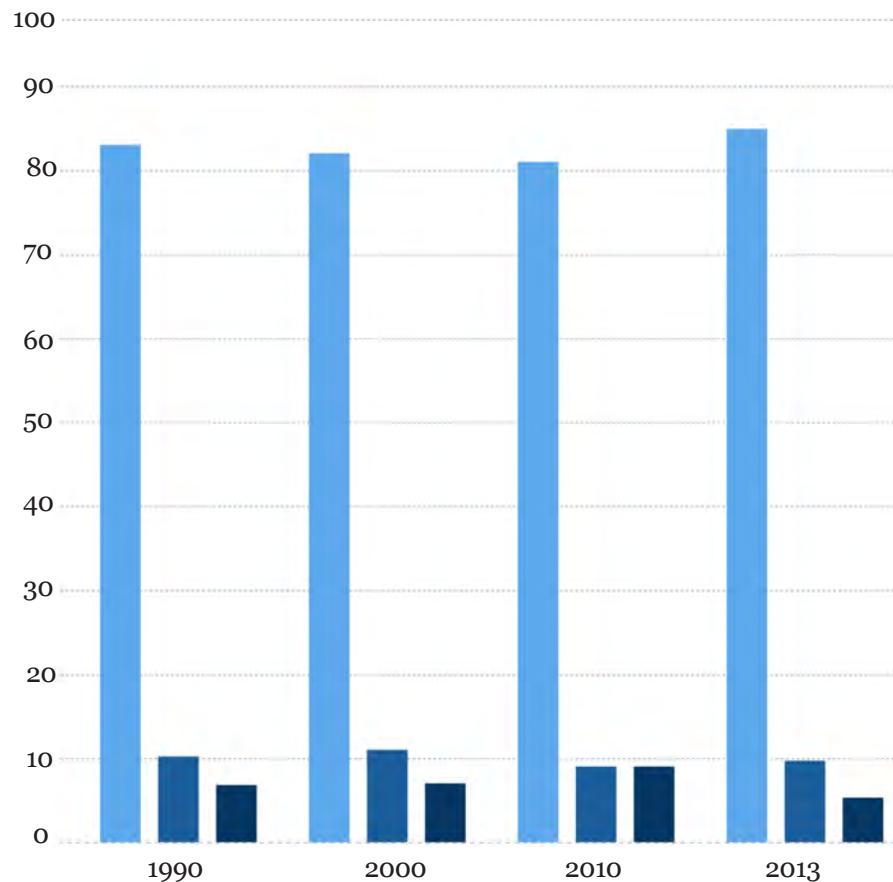
- 91.8% of VI children were U.S. citizens.
- Of all children who were U.S. citizens, 77% were born in the Virgin Islands; the rest were born in the mainland or its other island areas (including Puerto Rico) – whether to Virgin Islands-born, US-born or foreign-born parents.

...by language*:

Virtually all VI children spoke English, even those who also spoke another language in their home.

- A quarter (25%) of VI children ages 5 through 19 spoke a second language at home, though 97% of these children also spoke English well or very well.
- Of those speaking another language in the home, Spanish made up the majority (73% of children for whom another language was spoken at home), while French/Patois/Creole followed (21%).

**Note: Population measured is VI children age birth through 19 years old.*



VI Child Population by Race, 1990-2013

Black Other races White

¹ “Other” races may include the following: Hispanic, Asian, Middle-Eastern, East Indian, or a mix of any races.

Family and Community

Children in Households Headed by a Single Father



In 2013
13%
of VI children lived in
single-father headed
households.

Children in Households Headed by a Single Mother

In 2013
46%
of VI children lived in
single-mother headed
households.



In 2013, VI children under age 18 lived in a total of 12,183 family households.

Children in single-parent families.¹

- 12,707 VI children (59%) lived in households with their single mother or father (possibly also with cohabiting partner, or other adult relatives).

... with their single mother:

- 9,827 children (46%) lived with their single mother (similar to the rate of 45% in 2012; up from 40% in 2008, and 30% in 1990).
- *U.S. rate: 24% of US children lived in single-mother families.*

... with their single father:

- 2,880 children (13% of VI children) lived with their male parent (no mother present), compared to 5,556 (22%) in 2012.²
- *U.S. rate: 4% of children lived in single-father headed households.*

Families headed by single women.

Although the number of children living in single-female households in the VI has generally been declining since 2000, the share of children in these families has risen, due to the underlying decline in the total child population.

- Single females headed the majority (53%) of all VI families with children in 2013, similar to the 2012 portion (52%), but a significant increase from 37% in 1990, and from 46% in 2008.
- *U.S. rate: 7.3% of all families were headed by single female heads.*

... by location:

- St. Thomas and St. Croix had equal rates of families headed by a single mother with children: 54% on each island.
- St. John had a much lower rate: 16%.

... by race:

- Among Black families with children, 80% were headed by an unmarried female householder.
- Rates of single-female householders with children were lower among White families with children (36%) and those of Other races (59%).

¹ National KIDS COUNT now identifies “single-parent families” as families headed either by a single mother or a single father. In USVI reporting, single parent families may include a single mother or father with own children living in a household where that parent is *not* the household head (e.g., a 3-generation household headed by the child/children’s single grandmother).

² Children who were living with their single father who was not head of household might also be included in other measured family settings (i.e., “with grandparents,” “with other relatives,” etc.).

Children in married-couple families.

- USVI: 36% of VI children lived with married parents, up from 24% in 2012 (down from 44% in 1990)
- *U.S. rate: 64% of children*

Children in non-parent families.

In 2013, 5% of children lived in a household headed by an adult other than their parent – most likely a grandparent.

...with grandparents:

- Approximately 3% of all children (577 children) lived in households headed by their grandparent(s).

...with other relatives (with or without a parent present):

- 285 children (1.3%) lived in households headed by a relative other than a grandparent or parent.

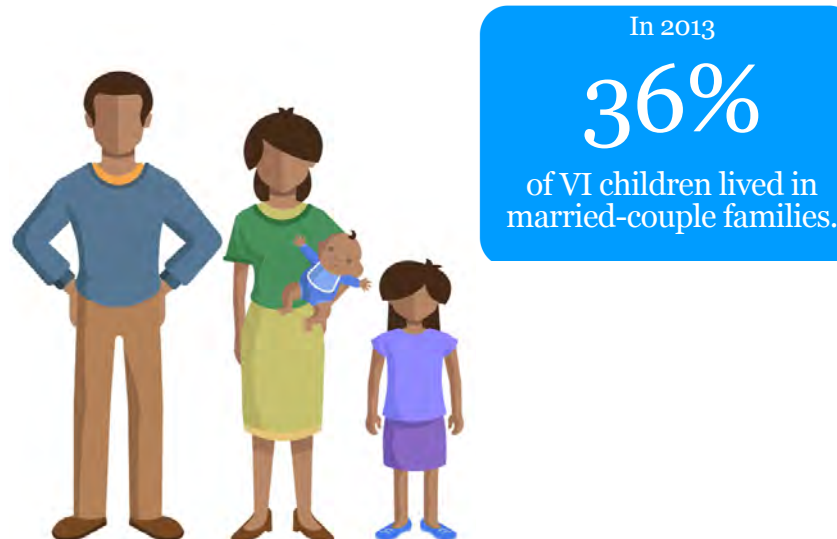
...with non-relatives (with or without a parent present):

- 134 children (0.6%) lived in households headed by non-relatives.

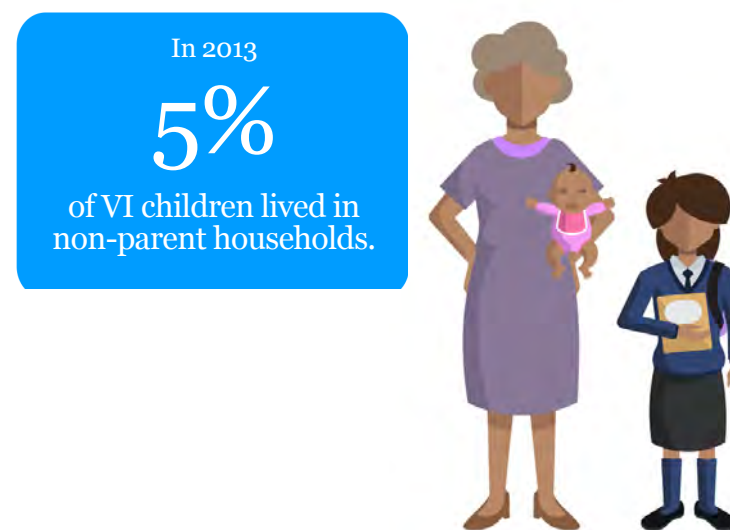
Children in other settings.

- 39 children under age 18 were the householder or spouse in their own households.

Children in Households Headed by Married Parents



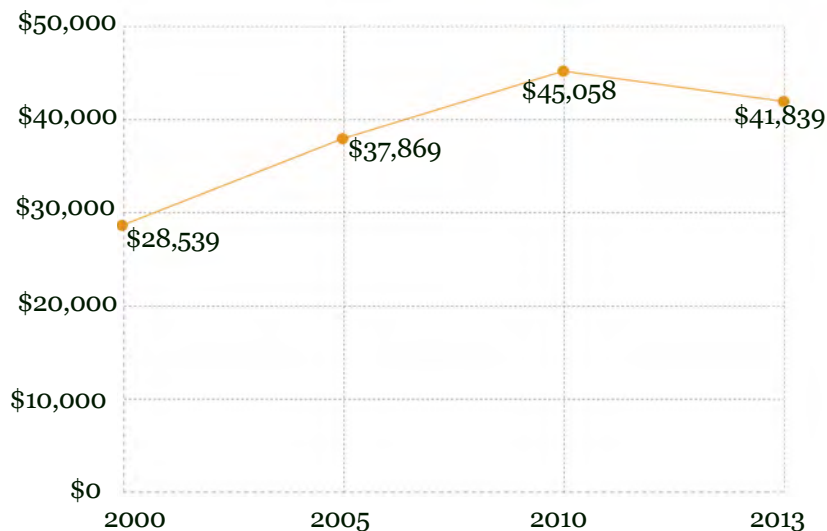
Children in Households Headed by a Non-parent



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

Economic Well-Being

VI Median Family Income, 2000-2013



Median Family Incomes.*

In general, VI family median income had been rising steadily over the years; however, median family income decreased during both 2012 and 2013.

- In 2013, median income for VI families was \$41,839, lower than that of 2012 (\$43,606).

**Note:* Economic data are reported based on income received in the previous year; thus, 2013 reporting cites income earned in 2012, and so on).

... by island:

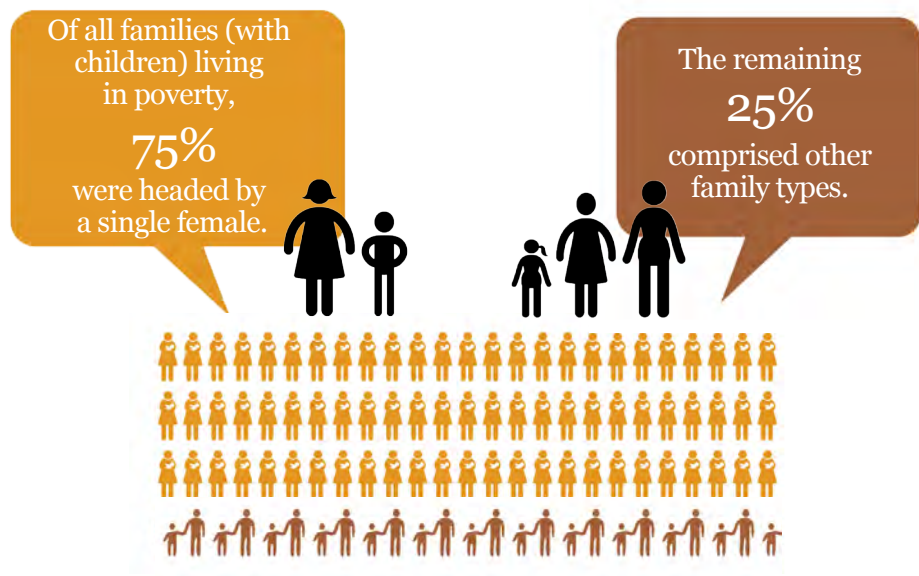
- As in 2012, families in St. Croix had the lowest median income of the three islands (\$39,207).
- St. John had the highest family median income (\$54,068).
- Median family income in St. Thomas was \$45,861.

...by race:

Black family median income in 2012 had improved since 2000, while White and Hispanic families' 2012 median incomes were lower than in 2000. Median income for both Black and White families remained similar from 2012 to 2013, while incomes increased for families of other races. Median family incomes in 2013:

- Black: \$39,347
- White: \$60,820
- Other races: \$48,845

Children in Poverty, by Family Type



Families (with Children) in Poverty.

Despite the general rise in median family incomes, over a quarter of VI children's families had incomes below the federal poverty level¹ in 2013.

- 3,764 VI families with children lived in poverty: 30.9% of families with children under age 18.
- This rate is just under 4 percentage points higher than in 2012; however, the overall number of families with children under 18 also decreased: 12,183 in 2013, compared to 13,792 in 2012.

Female-Headed Families (with Children) in Poverty.

- Children's families headed by single females were the majority (74.5%) of all poor VI families, making up 3/4 of all families (with children) in poverty, similar to that in 2012: 76%.
- Over four out of every 10 single-female families with children lived below the federal poverty level (43.7%, up from 39% in 2012).

¹ The 2013 poverty threshold, adjusted for family size, was \$23,624 in annual income for a family of four with two related children under age 18. Because the cost of living (for food, housing, energy etc.) in the USVI is documented as among the nation's highest, actual VI poverty levels are likely higher than reported by VI Community Survey (VICS) data.

- Poverty rates are particularly high for female-headed families with children under age 5 (45% of these families were poor). Reasons may include childcare responsibilities or costs, and/or younger age of the mother, limited access to the job market, or limited work experience.

...by race:

- Among Black families with children, 32% were living below poverty level.
- Among White families with children, 16% were living below poverty level.
- Among Other race families with children, 31% were living below poverty level.

Children in Poverty.

Poverty is the single greatest threat to children's well-being. Children who experience poverty when young, or who experience deep and persistent poverty, are at greatest risk for poverty's long-lasting, negative effects.

In 2013, just more than one-third of VI children (35%) lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (up from 31% in 2012).

- 7,487 children under age 18 were living in poverty.
- The 2013 rate is 10 percentage points higher than in 2008.
- *U.S. child poverty rate: 22%*

Families headed by single mothers are especially vulnerable to poverty.

- The rate of poverty among children in all family types is 35%, while the rate among children in single-female-headed families is 43.7%.
- Of all families with children in poverty in 2013, three out of every four (75%) were headed by single females (representing 2,805 families).

...by age:

- In 2013, 43% of children under age 6 (2,814 children) lived in families in poverty, compared to 31% of children age 6 to 17 (4,673 children).

...by race:

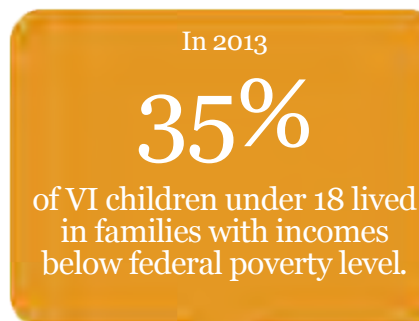
- One of every three Black children (35%) and nearly half of 'Other race' children (45%) lived in families in poverty, while only 14% of White children lived in poverty.

Note: Fluctuations in this indicator must be interpreted with caution; changes in small absolute numbers can have large effects on calculated rates.

...by location:

- Children in St. Croix had the highest poverty rate of the islands: 41%
- In St. Thomas, 29% of children lived in families in poverty.
- In St. John, 24% of children lived in families in poverty.

Families (with Children) in Poverty

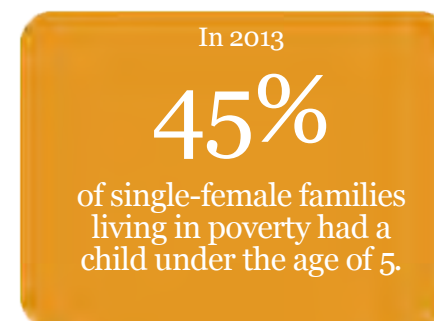


Single-female-headed Families (w/ Children) in Poverty



In 2013, 4 out of every 10 single-female headed families with children lived below the poverty level.

Single-female-headed Families (with Children under Age 5) in Poverty





Children in Families Receiving Income Assistance

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

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

- 627 households received TANF in 2013, totalling \$1,606,190 in benefits.
- 1,368 children (6.4% of children) received TANF in 2013, 54 more than in the previous year.
- St. Croix represented 2/3 (69%) of all children receiving TANF: 948 children
- St. Thomas/St. John represented 31% of all children: 420 children.

...by family structure:

- Of children receiving TANF, 93% (1,271 children) lived with a single parent, 4% (52 children) lived with two parents, and 3% (45 children) lived without either parent.

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.

- In fiscal year 2013: 3,833 young children from birth through age 4 (or 70% of an estimated 5,459 VI children this age) received WIC benefits.
- 1,069 were infants in their first year of life.
- 2,764 were children age 1 through 4 years old.

School Nutrition Programs.

The federal School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program aim to enhance needy children's educational performance by improving their overall nutrition.

- Based on the level of overall family low-income 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.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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.

- 16,530 VI children age 0-18 received SNAP benefits (77%) in 2013 (up from 67% in 2012).
- In St. Croix, 81% of children received SNAP (or 9,095 children).
- In St. Thomas/St. John, 72% of children received SNAP (or 7,435 children).
- 7,818 child-based households received SNAP benefits in 2013 (compared to 7,339 child-based households in 2012).
- In total, \$57,210,062 in SNAP benefits were provided for needy families across the Territory (up from \$43,119,158 in 2010, and \$22,902,242 in 2008).

...by family structure:

- 80% of children receiving SNAP assistance (13,201 children) lived with a single parent, 13% (2,156 children) lived with two parents, and 7% (1,173 children) lived without either parent.

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, are able to find work more quickly, and stay employed longer than single parents receiving child support only partially, irregularly, or not at all.

- Over one-third of all VI children (35.8%, or 7,693 children) were engaged in the paternity and child support system in fiscal year 2013.
- In 2012: 34%, or 7,979 children; in 2002: 37%, or 12,236 children.

Of the 9,827 children living with their single mother, over 3 of every 4 children (78%, or 7,693 children) were not receiving regular, voluntary support from non-resident fathers, and were engaged in the Territory's child support system to gain help in receiving paternal income payments.

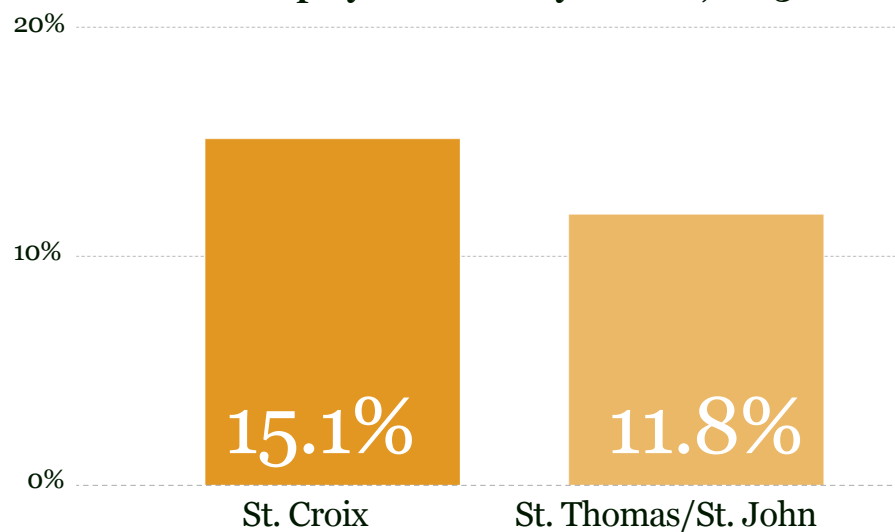
- In fiscal year 2013:
 - the total number of caseloads was 7,693
 - of these, orders were established on 4,149 (i.e., 54%)
- \$4,267,506 was collected in child support for enrolled children in 2013 (out of \$24,142,535 in current and arrears support due).
- The average amount of regular monthly payments was \$177.19.



VI Unemployment Rate Trends, 2005-2013



VI Unemployment Rate by District, 2013



Unemployment.*

- The average VI unemployment rate rose to 13.5% in 2013, up from 11.7% in 2012, and almost double the rate of 7.1% in 2005.

The trend of rising unemployment in the VI contrasted with a decreasing US unemployment rate in 2013: 7.4% (down from a 9.6% high in 2010).

- At the end of December 2013, the VI civilian labor force numbered 47,305 (3,273 fewer than at the end of 2012). Of these, 41,157 people were employed.¹
 - Over the course of the year, the unemployment rate ranged from a low of 13% in October to a high of 17.8% in January.

...by location:

- St. Croix had an unemployment rate of 15.1% in 2013 (up from 13.9% in 2012 and 9.8% in 2011).
 - Over the course of the year, the monthly unemployment rate ranged from a low of 13% in October to a high of 17.8% in January.
- St. Thomas/St. John had an unemployment rate of 11.8% in 2013 (up from 9.8% in 2012 and 8.5% in 2011).
 - Over the course of the year, the monthly unemployment rate ranged from a low of 10% (in both January and February) to a high of 14.2% (in both September and October).

**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.

Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI).

Federal/State Unemployment Insurance programs give temporary payments to eligible unemployed workers. Since 2010, however, many workers' unemployment periods have outlasted the 60-week duration of their UI payments.

- In 2013, UI payouts on claims totaled \$16,794,588.47 (down from \$22,186,593 in 2012, and \$29,096,855 in 2011).

¹ USVI Bureau of Economic Research, "US Virgin Islands Annual Economic Indicators," 1980-2013. www.usviber.org/pdf/ECON13.pdf

Youth Employment, Ages 16-19.

- 18% of all youth ages 16-19 reported being members of the labor force (i.e., working or looking for work), with 21% of this subgroup (or 152 youth) working full-time (40+ hours per week) in 2013.
- For youth ages 16-19 who were in the labor force in 2013 (730 youth), 33% were unemployed.
- 55% of male youth in the labor force (126/229 males) were unemployed, compared with 23% of female youth in the labor force (116/501 females).

Older Youth Employment, Ages 20-24.

- 80% of youth ages 20-24 in the labor force were employed (2,171 of the 2,706 older youth in the labor force).
- Among older youth who were looking for work, 17% were unemployed.
- 14% of older male youth in the labor force (192/1,329 males) were unemployed, compared with 20% of older female youth in the labor force (267/1,377 females).
- 60% of employed older youth worked full-time, at least 40 hours a week.

Detached Youth

‘Detached’ or ‘disconnected’ youth are youth ages 16-19 who are not enrolled in school and not working. Included are teens who have dropped out of high school and are jobless, as well as the smaller portion of teens who are recent high school graduates and who are unemployed.

School/work Detachment for Youth age 16-19.

- In 2013, an estimated 1,096 youth ages 16-19 were not attending school and not working, out of 4,093 VI youth this age.*
- This number represents 27% of all 16-19 year olds (a large jump from 14% in 2012).
- *U.S. rate: 9% of youth were ‘detached’.*¹

* Note: USVI data sources capture those youth who are not working and not in school at a point in time (i.e., the time of data collection), versus a longer period of time (e.g., over a six-month period). This definition may thus include youth who may, in fact, be connected for part or most of a year, and may be between jobs or taking an extended break after school. In addition, youth who are married to a connected spouse and are parenting may also be included, based on the assumption that these young people work in the home by caring for their children and rely on financial and social support from their spouses.

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

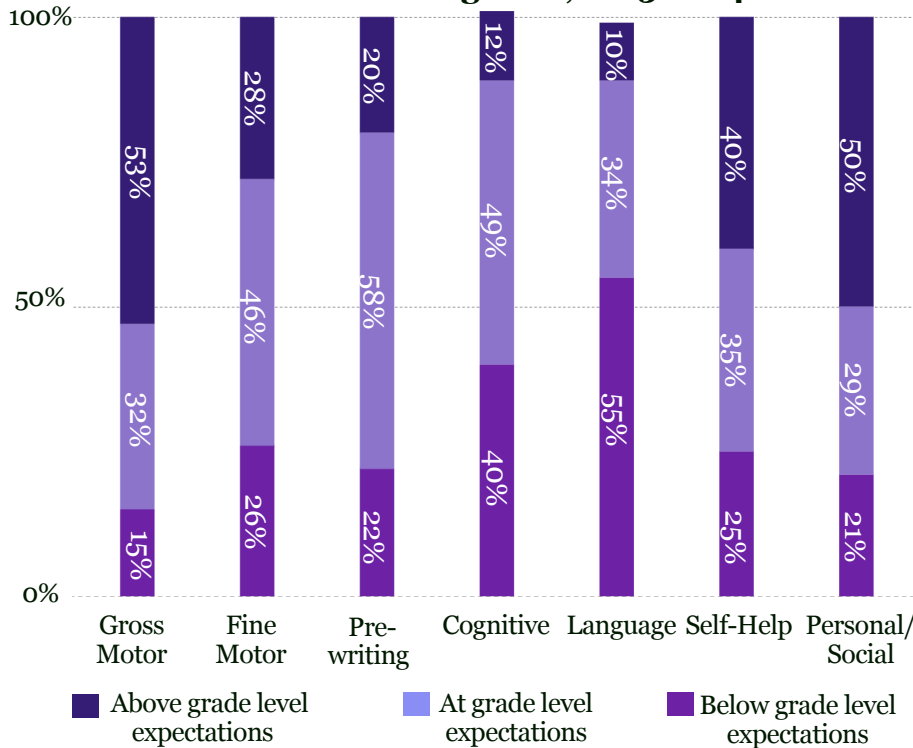


¹ <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/ed5a.asp?popup=true>

Education



Children's Learning Skills at Entry to Public Kindergarten, 2013-2014



Note: Due to rounding error, percentages may not always sum to 100%.

Head Start and Early Head Start provide free learning and development services to low-income children (ages birth to five) and pregnant women. Nationally, federal grants are awarded to public agencies, private nonprofit and for-profit organizations, tribal governments, and school systems to operate these programs.

Head Start Enrollment.

There are 46 Head Start Centers in the Territory: 26 in St. Croix, 1 in St. John, and 19 in St. Thomas.

- In 2013, 964 children ages 3 to 5 were enrolled in Head Start programs throughout the territory.
- 100 children were characterized as having a disability.
- 73 unserved children were on the waiting list.

Early Head Start Enrollment.

There are only two Early Head Start Centers in the Territory, both operated in St. Croix.

- 109 children ages birth to 3 were enrolled in Early Head Start programs throughout the Territory. 80 children were served in Center-based programs and another 29 in home-based programs.
- 24 children were characterized as having a disability.
- 26 pregnant women were served by the program.
- 97 unserved children were on the waiting list for the Centers and 8 unserved children on the waiting list for home-based service.

Children's Readiness for School.

Upon entrance to kindergarten, VI public school children are assessed using the Learning Accomplishment Profile Third Edition (LAP-3).

In school year 2013-2014...

- More than half (55%) of 5-year-old children entering public school were 6 months to over a year behind developmental age-expectations in language and comprehension skills.
- More than one-third (40%) of VI children entering public kindergarten also lacked adequate, age-expected cognition skills.

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

- Gross motor (physical) - abilities and co-ordination in movement
- Fine motor (physical) - abilities through dexterity, using tools, hand-eye coordination
- Pre-writing - pre-writing skills
- Cognitive - awareness of numbers, problem solving skills
- Language - ability to express thoughts, appreciate books
- Self-help - independence in hygiene, personal care
- Personal/Social - ability to communicate/follow rules

Children with Special Needs.

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

- In 2013, 6% of VI children age birth through 17 (1,291 VI children) were identified as developmentally delayed or at risk of delay.

Children Enrolled in Early Intervention: Birth - Age 3.

Unless addressed effectively, delays or disabilities experienced by a child during these early years can impact his or her foundation for positive learning and social development.

- 139 children birth through age 3 were receiving Early Intervention (EI) services in 2013 (up from 106 in 2012; down from 140 in 2011).
 - birth to age 1: 12 children
 - ages 1 to 2: 60 children
 - ages 2 to 3: 67 children
- Males represented 60% of children identified with need for EI services.
- 67% of all children served were located in St. Croix.

Children Enrolled in Special Education: Ages 3 - 17.

Part B of the federal IDEA Act requires all states' school systems to evaluate students ages 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.

- 1,152 children ages 3-17 were enrolled in Special Education IEP programs in fiscal year 2013 (1,184 the previous year).
- In St. Croix, 609 children (or 53% of all VI children ages 3-17) received special education services.
- In St. Thomas/St. John, 543 children (representing 47% of VI children ages 3-17) received these services.

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.





2013-2014 Territorial Report Card

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. Scores are reported for reading and math proficiency among students in grades 3, 5, 7, and 11.

Grade 3 Reading proficiency:
Advanced: 23.6% of students
Proficient: 33.1%
Basic level: 30.6%
Below basic: 12.7%

Grade 3 Math proficiency:
Advanced: 17.0%
Proficient: 36.2%
Basic: 39.9%
Below basic: 6.9%

Grade 5 Reading proficiency:
Advanced: 15.0%
Proficient: 36.3%
Basic: 41.9%
Below basic: 6.8%

Grade 5 Math proficiency:
Advanced: 20.1%
Proficient: 35.0%
Basic: 40.7%
Below basic: 4.2%

Grade 7 Reading proficiency:
Advanced: 7.5%
Proficient: 24.9%
Basic: 60.5%
Below basic: 7.1%

Grade 7 Math proficiency:
Advanced: 11.5%
Proficient: 49.1%
Basic: 38.6%
Below basic: 0.9%

Grade 11 Reading proficiency:
Advanced: 4.3%
Proficient: 33.5%
Basic: 45.0%
Below basic: 17.2%

Grade 11 Math proficiency:
Advanced: 9.0%
Proficient: 42.4%
Basic: 45.7%
Below basic: 3.0%

*Advanced: above
grade-level expectations

*Basic: approaching
grade-level expectations

*Proficient: meeting
grade-level expectations

*Below basic: falling below
grade-level expectations

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 are proficient readers by fourth grade are more able to fully grasp the contents of reading materials in other subjects.

Research shows that 75% of children struggling with reading in third grade remain poor readers through high school. Significantly, 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 key. Focused interventions can help prevent these students from losing motivation for school, and from failing to acquire the necessary skills to prosper in today’s information-driven job market.

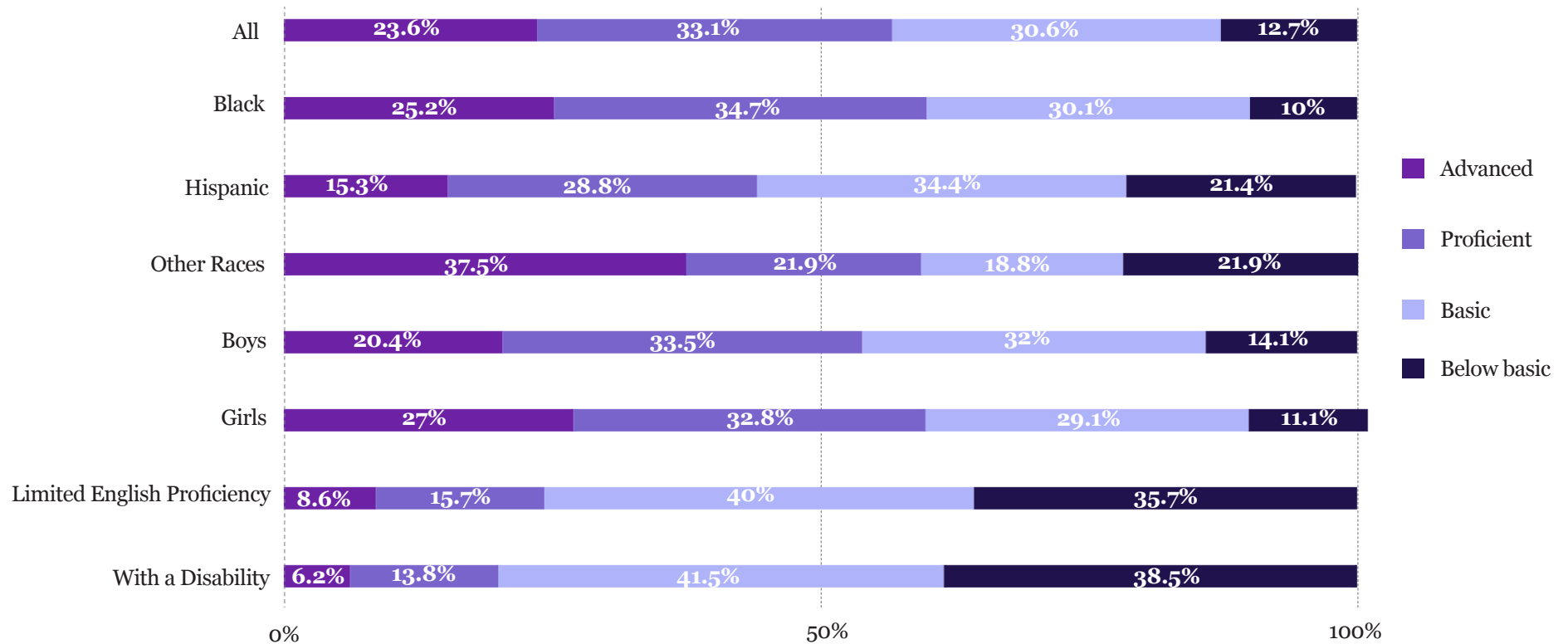
In the 2013-2014 school year...

- 43.3% (465 students) of the 1,075 public school third graders tested scored below proficiency levels (i.e., “Basic” or “Below Basic”) for reading on the Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) 2013-2014 Report Card.

Lacking reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade were:

- 40% of Black 3rd graders (down from 46% in the 2012-2013 school year)
- 56% of Hispanic 3rd graders (down from 47%)
- 41% of 3rd graders identified as other races (i.e., non-Black, non-Hispanic)
- 46% of 3rd grade boys; 40% of girls
- 76% of 3rd graders with Limited English Proficiency (up from 66%)
- 80% of 3rd graders with disabilities (up from 67%)

Third Grade Reading Proficiency, 2013-2014



Note: Due to rounding error, percentages may not always sum to 100%.



Truancy and Chronic Absence.

The term truancy generally refers to unexcused absences from school. Chronic absenteeism, on the other hand, reflects all absences: excused, unexcused, and suspensions. This indicator emphasizes the academic consequences of missed instructional time and concentrates on preventing absences before students miss so much school that they fall behind.

Neither truancy nor chronic absence has a common definition, although many researchers and schools monitor the number of students who miss 10 percent or more of the school year (about two days a month, or 18 days per school year in most school districts). The U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights recently released data focused on the number of students missing 15 or more days.

The Virgin Islands Department of Education reports the number of students missing zero, 1 to 9, and 10 or more days of school per year (for any reason).

For the 2013-2014 school year:

- 0.9% (138) of the 15,565 enrolled students across the VI had missed zero days of school.
- 23.2% (3,616 students) missed between one and nine days of school.
- 75.9% (11,811 students) missed 10 or more days of school.
- The St. Thomas/St. John district had a higher rate of chronic absence (80.1% of 8,225 enrolled students), compared to the St. Croix district (71.2% of 7,340 enrolled students).

Educational Attainment

High School Completion, Ages 18-19.

- 59% of the 1,784 youth this age had earned a high school diploma in 2013 (up from 53% in 2012).

High School/College Completion, Ages 18-24.

- 72% of 6,913 youth age 18-24 had completed high school in 2013 (similar to the rate in 2012: 73%).
- 5% of high school graduates ages 18-24 had earned a bachelor's degree or above in 2013 (down from 7% in 2012).

Public School Dropouts

Over their lifetimes, high school dropouts face higher likelihood of unemployment or completely dropping out of the workforce, poorer health, lower rates of marriage, increased incidence of divorce and births outside marriage, and increased involvement with the welfare and justice systems.

Public Secondary School Dropouts, Grades 7-12.

- 5% of public school students in grades 7 through 12 (349) were reported as dropouts in school year 2013-2014 (slightly more than in 2012, when 4%, or 290 students, were reported as dropouts).
- In St. Croix, 150 students represented a 4.5% district dropout rate (or 43% of the 349 public secondary school dropouts reported).
- In St. Thomas/St. John, 199 students represented a 5.5% district dropout rate (or 57% of the 349 public secondary school dropouts reported).

Public Junior High School Dropouts, Grades 7-8.

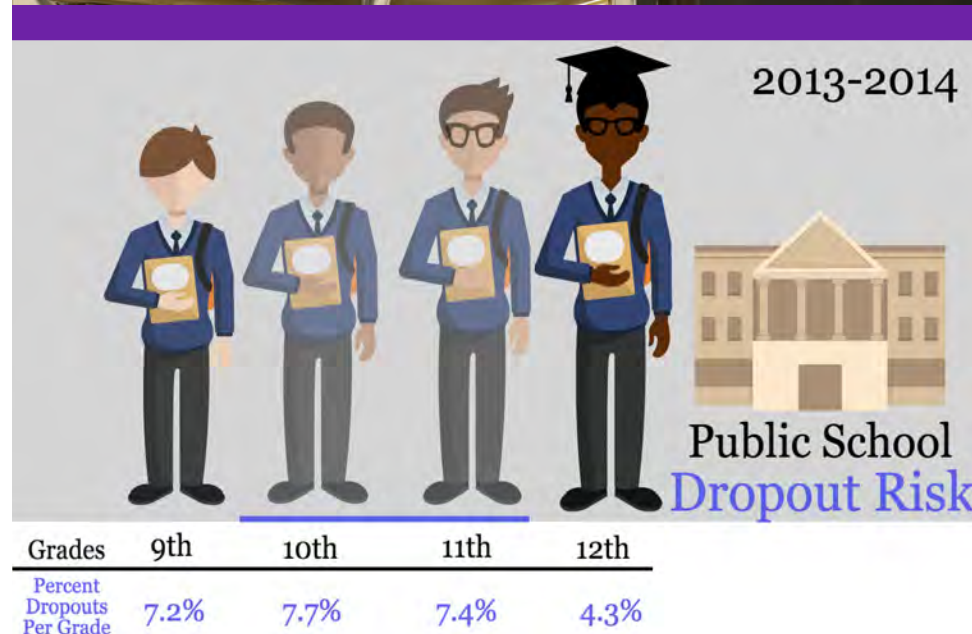
- 1.5% of enrolled junior high school students were reported as dropouts.
 - 1.5% of enrolled 7th graders (or 18 students)
 - 1.5% of enrolled 8th graders (or 16 students)

Public High School Dropouts, Grades 9-12.

- 7% (315 students) of enrolled high school students were reported as dropouts (up from 5.2% in 2012-2013).
 - 7.2% of enrolled 9th graders (or 114 students)
 - 7.7% of enrolled 10th graders (or 84 students)
 - 7.4% of enrolled 11th graders (or 73 students)
 - 4.3% of enrolled 12th graders (or 44 students)

Public School Teen Dropouts, Ages 16-19.

- 277 public school dropouts were reported among teen students ages 16-19 (9% of 3,090 enrolled students in this age range).



Health & Safety



Babies Born at Low Weight*.

Birthweight is a key indicator of newborn health. Infants born with low weight at birth (weighing less than 5-1/2 pounds) face greater risks of physical and developmental setbacks and infant death than those born at normal weight. Low weight at birth is a risk factor for surviving the first year of life and for healthy development thereafter. Since 2000, the rate of babies born at low weight has fluctuated between 8.5% and 10.8%, and the rate of babies born at very low weight between 1.3% and 2.6%.

- In 2013, 8.7% of 1,330 live births (116 babies) were born at low birthweight, (down from 9.6% of babies in 2012 and 10.6% in 2011).
- *U.S. rate: 8% of babies born at low weight*

Babies Born at Very Low Weight*.

Babies born at very low weight (under 3 pounds, 4 ounces) are at greatest risk.

- 1.7% of births (23 babies not included in the 116 above) were very low birthweight in 2013.
- *U.S. very low-birthweight rate: 1.4%.*

Infant Mortality*.

• In 2013, 10 infant deaths occurred out of 1,330 live births, for an infant mortality rate of 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births (up from 6.4/1,000 in 2012 and 6.6/1,000 in 2010; down from 14/1000 in 1990).

- St. Croix: 9.3/1,000 (or 6 deaths out of 646 live births).
- St. Thomas/St. John: 5.8/1,000 (or 4 deaths out of 684 live births).
- *U.S. rate: 6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births*

Births to Teens*.

The VI teen birth rate has steadily been declining since 1990. Still, the rate of births to VI teen girls remains considerably higher than the national teen birth rate, which has lowered by half from 1990-2012.

- In 2013, 105 babies were born to mothers ages 15-19 (out of an estimated population of 2,896 girls this age).
- Babies born to teens represented 8% of 1,330 total live births in 2013, for a teen birth rate of 36.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19.
 - St. Croix: 42.4/1,000 represented 59 births (in an estimated population of 1,393 St. Croix girls ages 15-19).
 - St. Thomas/St. John: 30.6/1000 represented 46 births (in an estimated population of 1,503 girls ages 15-19).
- *U.S. rate: 26.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19*

Note: VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI infant deaths (10 in 2012 compared to 11 in 2010) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

Child Health Insurance

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

In 2013, more than a quarter of all VI children lacked health insurance, a higher percentage than in any state, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico.¹

Children without Health Insurance.

- 27% of all VI children and youth age birth through 19 (6,286 children) lacked health insurance in 2013.
- 31.5% of VI children under age 5 (1,717 infants and preschoolers) were uninsured. Young children age birth up to 5 years are most likely to fall ill, but are generally the age group most likely to lack health insurance.
- *U.S. rate of uninsured children age birth through 18: 7%.*

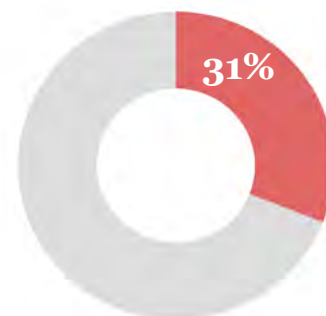
Children with Medicaid Health Coverage.

The number and portion of VI children covered by Medicaid have risen over time.

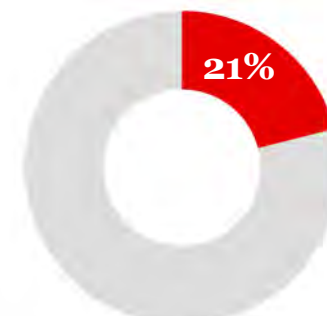
- In 2013, 4,441 children age birth through 19 were covered by Medicaid, representing 19% of children.
- This coverage rate is up from 10% (2,758 children) in 2009 and similar to the figure of 17% (4,498 children) in 2012.

Uninsured Children, 2013

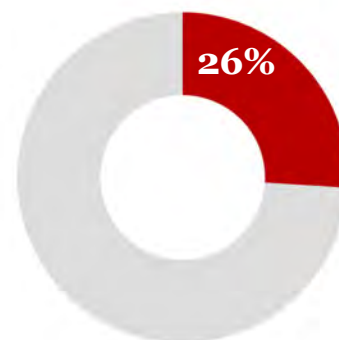
Ages: Under 5
Number: 1,717



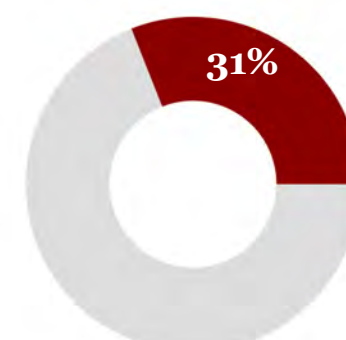
Ages: 5-9
Number: 1,256



Ages: 10-14
Number: 1,689



Ages: 15-19
Number: 1,624



Find more data charts for VI Child Health topics at www.cfvi.net.
Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING?



Child Maltreatment

The overall rate of reported maltreatment (including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect) in 2013 was 13.5 per 1,000 children (under age 18).

- St. Croix reported 172 maltreatment cases.
- St. Thomas/St. John reported 118 maltreatment cases.
- *U.S. rate: 9.1 per 1,000 children reported for child maltreatment*

Children referred for abuse (physical or sexual).

130 children were referred for abuse in 2013.

- Physical abuse rate: 3.0 per 1,000 children
 - 40 cases in St. Croix; 25 cases in St. Thomas/St. John
- Sexual abuse rate: 3.0 per 1,000 children
 - 32 cases in St. Croix; 33 cases in St. Thomas/St. John

Children referred for neglect.

160 children were referred for neglect in 2013.

- Neglect rate: 7.5 per 1,000 children
 - 100 cases in St. Croix; 60 cases in St. Thomas/St. John

Children placed in out of home care.

... in residential care:

- 129 children were placed in residential facilities (226 in 2010; 155 in 2009).
- Of these, 122 were in on-island facilities (including the Youth Rehabilitation Center) and 7 in off-island facilities.

... in foster care:

- 81 children were placed temporarily into foster care (64 in St. Croix; 17 in St. Thomas/St. John).
- Foster care placements represented 69% of the 118 children placed into out-of-home foster/and kinship care.

... in kinship care:

- 37 children were placed in 21 kinship homes, rather than with an unrelated foster family (23 in St. Croix; 14 in St. Thomas/St. John).
- Kinship care placements represented 31% of the 118 children placed into out-of-home foster/and kinship care.
- 22% of the kinship care homes qualified for and received public assistance (i.e., TANF, SNAP, WIC, or unemployment benefits).

Child Deaths.*

The child death rate reflects the physical health of children ages 1-14. The child death rate also reflects their mother's health, their access to health care, exposure to auto, housing or neighborhood-based dangers, and level of adult supervision. Injuries and deaths are more likely for children who are under age five, or male, or who are poor.

- 3 children died out of an estimated 17,164 children ages 1-14 in 2013 (the same number as in 2012).
 - All deaths were in St. Croix; none were in St. Thomas/St. John.
- USVI child death rate: 18 per 100,000 children.
- *U.S. rate: 17 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14*

Teen Deaths.*




Risk behaviors (rather than illness) are the main threat to teens' health and safety. Alcohol or drug use, car accidents, homicide, and suicide are leading causes of teen death; emotional health issues can be secondary causes.

In 2013, the rate of teen death reached its lowest point since 2003 (1 teen death reported in 2013 among youth ages 15-19). Otherwise, over the past two decades, the teen death rate has generally been far higher - by 200% to 300% - than the nation's rate.




- 2 deaths were reported in St. Croix (out of 2,499 teens) and 1 in St. Thomas/St. John (out of 2,707 teens), for a total of 3 deaths out of 5,206 teens in the Territory.
- USVI teen death rate: 58 per 100,000 teens
 - In 2012, the rate was 207 per 100,000 teens, with 12 teen deaths reported.
- *U.S. rate: 45 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19*

**Note: VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers (e.g., 3 deaths in 2013 compared to 11 in 2010) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.*

2013 USVI Child Death Rate = 18/100,000

		
USVI Districts	St. Thomas-St. John	St. Croix
Number of Deaths	0	3

2013 USVI Teen Death Rate = 58/100,000

		
USVI Districts	St. Thomas-St. John	St. Croix
Number of Deaths	3	2



USVI Juvenile Violent Crime Rate= 559/100,000

 <p>USVI Districts District Crime Rate</p>	 <p>St. Thomas-St. John 689/100,000</p>	 <p>St. Croix 409/100,000</p>
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USVI Juvenile Property Crime Rate= 569/100,000

 <p>USVI Districts District Crime Rate</p>	 <p>St. Thomas-St. John 578/100,000</p>	 <p>St. Croix 559/100,000</p>
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Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate.

- There were 56 juvenile violent crime arrests in 2013, out of an estimated 10,020 VI youth ages 10-17. The rate of juvenile violent crime arrests was 559 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17 (rising from 295/100,000 in 2012 toward the 2011 rate of 614/100,000 in 2011)
- St. Croix: 409/100,000 arrest rate, out of estimated 6,151 youth ages 10-17 - 19 arrests (similar to the 16 in 2012; down sharply from 47 in 2011), including 1/murder, 12/robbery, and 6/aggravated assault (0 rape arrests)
- St. Thomas/St. John: 689/100,000 arrest rate, out of 5,030 youth ages 10-17 - 37 arrests (up from 17 in 2012 and 29 in 2011), including 11/murder, 1/robbery, and 25/aggravated assault (0 rape arrests)
- *U.S. rate: 168.4 violent crime arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17*

Juvenile Property Crime Arrest Rate.

- There were 57 juvenile property crime arrests in 2013.
 - Juvenile property crime rate: 569 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17 (down from 581/100,000 in 2012 and up from 396/100,000 in 2011)
- St. Croix: 559/100,000 arrest rate for youth this age
 - 26 youth arrests, including 13/burglary, 2/grand larceny, 2/auto theft, and 9/arson (43 arrests in 2012; 35 in 2011).
- St. Thomas/St. John: 578/100,000 arrest rate
 - 31 youth arrests (up from 22 in 2012 and 14 in 2011), including 14/burglary, 14/grand larceny, and 3/auto theft, (no arson).
- *U.S. rate: 766.8 property crime arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17*

Juvenile Justice / Rehabilitation.

There is one secured residential detention facility in the territory, located on St. Croix. The Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC) provides incarceration for pre-trial and adjudicated delinquents as well as adolescents legally transferred to adult status for committing serious felonies. The facility also provides intake, social services, education, and court-related mandated services.

A total of 115 youth were retained in the YRC in 2013. Of these youth ...

- over 80% were male
- 75% came from single-parent households
- 90% were living at home at the time of admission
- 12% were high school dropouts
- 62% had a positive drug screen upon admission
- 36% had been arrested for violent crime
- 62% had been arrested for property crime
- 52% were repeat offenders
- 11% reported having experienced some form of abuse during their lifetime
- 20% had been diagnosed at some point as having special education needs

Find additional data for Juvenile Offense topics at www.cfvi.net.
Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING?

Overview of Data Collection for the 2015 Data Book

This book compiles information available on US Virgin Islands children and families for the year 2013 and, where available, with data for previous years to reveal trends of up to 20 years in the status of children. Data are sourced from US Census, the Population Reference Bureau, the US Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and others. Local data are sourced from United States Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS), and from 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 incidences, as in the USVI, can result in large changes in rates.

All non-Census surveys are subject to sampling error (studying a subset of the whole population to make quantitative inferences about the population surveyed). The VICS, which uses 5% of VI households for a total sample size of 2,500 households, seeks to minimize human and machine-related errors through careful editing and follow-up telephone or personal interviewing. Use caution when comparing data across various surveys and censuses, as questions, measures or definitions may change over time.

Definitions and Data Sources

Births to Teens. The number of births to girls ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 females in this age group.
SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

Child Death Rate. The number of deaths to children ages 1 to 14, per 100,000 children this age.
SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

Child Maltreatment. This includes child abuse and neglect. These numbers reflect children age birth to 18 reported to the VI Department of Human Services as victims of physical or sexual child abuse or neglect. These numbers do not include children who are in foster care, who may have been placed due to abuse or neglect.
SOURCE: VI Dept. of Human Services

Children in Families. Reports on children age 0-18 in various living arrangements.

- 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 headed by a non-relative, where neither parent of the child lives in the household.

SOURCE: 2013 VICS; 1990 - 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: VI Dept. of Human Services; VI Dept. 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: VI Dept. of Human Services; VI Dept. of Health

Children in Poverty. 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 during the preceding year.
SOURCE: 2013 VICS; 1990 - 2010 US Census

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 per the Learning Accomplishment Profile, 3rd Edition test.
SOURCE: VI Dept. of Education

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

Children without Health Insurance. The percent of children under age 18 not covered by any kind of private or public health insurance including Medicaid.

SOURCE: VI Bureau of Economic Research; 2013 VICS

Chronic Absence. An indicator reflecting all absences: excused, unexcused, and suspensions.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Education

‘Detached’ or ‘Disconnected’ Youth. Youth ages 16-19 who are not enrolled in school, and not working. Included are teens who have dropped out of high school and are jobless, as well as a smaller portion of teens who are recent high school graduates and who are unemployed. Employment may be full-time or part-time work.

SOURCE: 2013 VICS

Foster Care. These data reflect children removed under the authority of the VI Department of Human Services from the custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily with a family who will provide care.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Human Services

Infant Mortality. The rate of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year old per 1,000 live births.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

Juvenile Property Crime Rate. The rate or number of arrests of youth age 10 to 17 for burglary, larceny/theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property. Data may include repeated arrests of the same individual at different times and for different offenses.

SOURCE: VI Police Dept.

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.

SOURCE: VI Police Dept

Kinship care. These data reflect children who have been formally placed with kin as part of the Territory’s foster care system.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Human Services

Low Birthweight Babies. The portion of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, per all live births.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

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: 2013 VICS; 1990 - 2010 US Census.

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

SOURCE: 2013 VICS; US Census

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

SOURCE: VI Dept. 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: VI Dept. of Education

Teen Births. The rate or number of births to teen girls age 15 to 19 per 1,000 females this age.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

Teen Deaths. The rate or number of deaths to teens age 15 to 19, per 100,000 teens this age.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

Teen High School Dropouts. The percentage of teenagers ages 16-19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates.

SOURCE: VI Dept. 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: VI Dept. of Education

Truancy. Truancy refers to unexcused absences from school.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Education

Very Low Birthweight Babies. The portion of live infants born weighing less than 3.3 pounds.

SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

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- Arah Lockhart, Gary Halyard and Atty. Catherine Hendry, commissioner, Department of Labor
- Atty. Charlotte Poole-Davis, Wilmour Daniel and Claude E. Walker, attorney general, Department of Justice.

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Established in 1990, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) administers \$8 million in assets. Grants from its 104 Funds and Scholarships are disbursed to enhance the well-being of the people of the US Virgin Islands.

In 2014, CFVI gave out more than \$2 million in direct support to community organizations and individuals in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John through grants, scholarships, and other forms of assistance to the not-for-profit community.

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University of the Virgin Islands

Founded in 1963, the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is a liberal arts, multi-cultural, land-grant institution, with dual campuses: one on St. Croix and one 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 staff of the ECC 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.

Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is devoted to developing a brighter future for millions of children at risk of poor educational, economic, social and health outcomes. The work of AECF focuses on strengthening families, building stronger communities and ensuring access to opportunity, because children need all three to succeed. AECF advances research and solutions to overcome the barriers to success, help communities demonstrate what works and influence decision makers to invest in strategies based on solid evidence.

The United States Virgin Islands

The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) are an insular territory of the United States, with a total land area of 134 square miles.

St. Croix, St. John and St Thomas are the three main islands of the US Virgin Islands. St. Croix represents one district, while St. Thomas (plus Water and Hassel Islands) and St. John together constitute a second district.

BY THE NUMBERS: WHERE DO WE STAND?

US VIRGIN ISLANDS KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2015

15 previous USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books document the status of children and families in the US Virgin Islands.

(2014) Our Commitment Matters
(2013) Pausing for Review
(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.

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