



O U R C H I L D R E N I N F O C U S

Welcome to KIDS COUNT!

December 2018

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in the well-being of Virgin Islands children!

Now in its 17th year, the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book continues to be the only comprehensive annual portrait of how our children, youth and families are doing in the US Virgin Islands. Since 2000, this report has reflected the progress as well as shortfalls and challenges impacting the lives of our children. In this 2016 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book, as in past reports, you'll find information on demographics, economic well-being, education, and health and safety.


This edition of the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book was prepared in the wake of the September 2017 hurricanes, which delayed its release. In the coming months, we will begin preparing the 2017 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book, getting back on track with our annual release schedule. We appreciate the ongoing interest and support of our data providers, data consumers, and all stakeholders.

It is said that what gets measured gets done. We call on our entire community to apply this principle to the data found in this book. We've seen examples - here and elsewhere - of how policies and programs can improve statistics ... and the lives of those reflected therein. The time is now to zero in, put a stake in the ground, and dedicate our collective efforts towards improving child well-being.

As always, it is our hope that this document – and the additional statistics provided in the online Data Center – will serve as a resource to inform, generate dialogue, and spur support for policy solutions and innovative programs to enhance the lives of our children and to strengthen our entire community.

Dee Baecher-Brown
President, CFVI

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



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.



Tables, Charts, & Graphics

Table 1. Trends in VI Children's Well-beingpage 7

Child & Family Demographics

VI Child Population, 2000-2014page 8

VI Child Population by Age Group, 2014.....page 8

VI Child Population by Age Group, 1990-2014.....page 8

VI Children by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2014page 9

VI Child Population by Race, 1990-2014.....page 9

Family & Community

Children Living with Female Parent Onlypage 10

Children Living with Male Parent Onlypage 10

Children in Non-parent Householdspage 11

Children in Married-parent Householdspage 11

Economic Well-Being

Median Family Income, 2000-2014page 12

Children in Poverty, 1990-2014.....page 12

Children Living in Families in Povertypage 12

Families in Poverty, by Family Typepage 13

VI Unemployment Rate Trendspage 16

VI Unemployment Rate by District, 2014page 16

Education

LAP-3 Assessment Skills Measures.....page 18

Children's Readiness for Schoolpage 18

VITAL Student Academic Performance Report, 2014-2015page 20

Assessment Proficiency Rate, English Language Arts/Literacy.....page 21

Assessment Proficiency Rate, Mathematicspage 21

Public School Dropout Risk.....page 23

Health & Safety

Uninsured Children.....page 25

Child and Teen Death Rate.....page 27

Juvenile Crime Ratepage 28

Index

Introduction

Using This Book.....	page 5
Trends in Indicators of VI Children's Well-being, 2012-2014	page 7

Child & Family Demographics

VI Child Population.....	page 8-9
Children in Single-parent Families	page 10
Families Headed by Single Women	page 10
Children in Married-couple Families.....	page 11
Children in Non-parent Families	page 11
Children in Other Settings	page 11

Economic Well-being

Median Family Incomes	page 12
Children in Poverty.....	page 13
Families (with Children) in Poverty.....	page 13
Female-headed Families (with Children) in Poverty.....	page 13
Children in Families Receiving Income Assistance	page 15
Children in Families Receiving Nutrition Assistance	page 15
Children Receiving Child Support.....	page 15
Unemployment.....	page 16
Unemployment Insurance.....	page 16
Youth Employment	page 17
Older Youth Employment.....	page 17
Detached Youth	page 17

Education

Head Start / Early Head Start Enrollment.....	page 19
Children's Readiness for School.....	page 19
Children with Special Needs.....	page 19
Children Enrolled in Early Intervention: Birth - Age 3	page 19
Children Enrolled in Special Education: Ages 3 - 17.....	page 19
2014-2015 Territorial Report Card	page 20
Third Grade Reading.....	page 20-21
Truancy & Chronic Absence	page 23
Educational Attainment.....	page 23
Public School Dropouts.....	page 23

Health and Safety

Babies Born at Low Weight	page 24
Infant Mortality	page 24
Births to Teens.....	page 24
Child Health Insurance.....	page 25
Child Maltreatment.....	page 26

Children Placed in Out of Home Care.....	page 26
Child Deaths.....	page 27
Teen Deaths	page 27
Juvenile Crime.....	page 28
Juvenile Justice / Rehabilitation.....	page 28

Basics





Overview of Data Collection	page 30
Definitions and Data Sources	page 30-31
Acknowledgements	page 32
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands	page 32
University of the Virgin Islands.....	page 32-33
Annie E. Casey Foundation.....	page 33
United States Virgin Islands	page 33

Using This Book

- This Data Book reports information for the year 2014 (or 2014-2015 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 most rates and percents.
- Due to small absolute numbers on many indicators, year-to-year fluctuations should be interpreted with caution.
- 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:

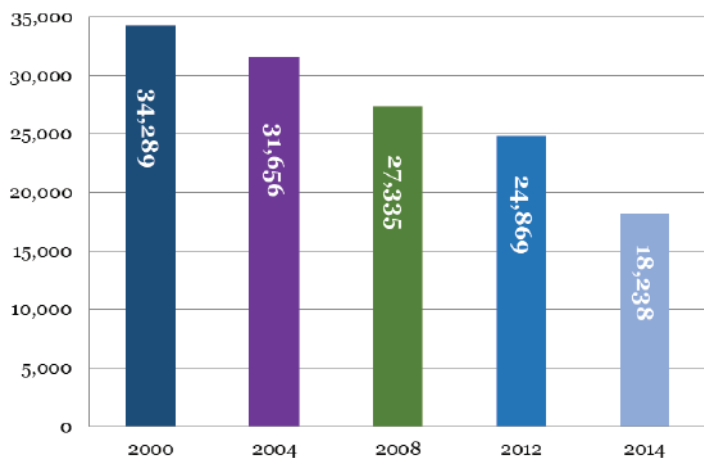
<https://cfvi.co/KIDSCOUNTdatacenterUSVI>

TABLE 1.
Trends in Indicators of VI Children's Well-being, 2012-2014

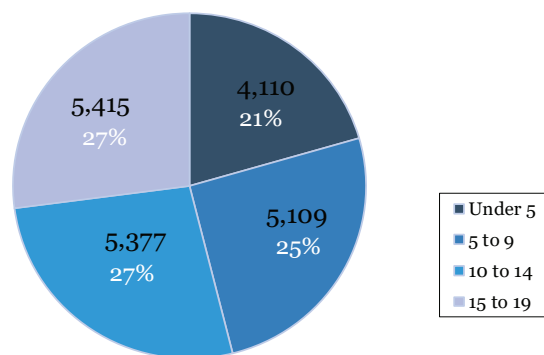
		2012	2013	2014	
Child & Family Demographics 	VI Child Population	27,026	21,741	18,238	Decreased
	Children in Single-Parent Families	50%	59%	59%	Increased
	Children in Married-Parent Families	24%	36%	36%	Increased
Economic Well-Being 	Median Family Income	\$43,606	\$41,839	\$44,521	Varied
	Children in Poverty	31%	35%	37%	Worsened
	Detached Youth	14%	27%	19%	Varied
Education 	5 Year Olds Behind Developmental Age Expectations Language and Comprehension	53%	55%	51%	Varied
	5 Year Olds Behind Developmental Age Expectations Cognition Skills	34%	40%	39%	Worsened
	Public High School Dropouts	5.2%	7%	5.8%	Varied
Health & Safety 	Low-Birthweight Babies	9.6%	8.7%	5.30%	Improved
	Teen Birth Rate	48/1,000	36.3/1,000	33.6/1,000	Improved
	Children Without Health Insurance	28%	27%	26%	Static
	Teen Death Rate	207/100,000	58/100,000	149/100,000	Varied

Child & Family Demographics

VI Child Population, 2000-2014



Child Population by Age Group, 2014



VI Child Population by Age Group, 1990-2014

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
2014	18,238	14,128	17%	4,110	5,109	5,377	5,415

VI Child Population.

The number of children (under 18) living in the USVI in 2014 continued its decline, decreasing by over 16,000 children (or 47%) since 2000. Similarly, the portion of children in the population also demonstrated a continued decrease -- with children representing 18% of the total population in 2014, compared to 20.5% in 2013 (which was more similar to the national rate of 23%).

Population decline in the VI has been a trend not only within the child population but within the overall population as well, as over the last 14 years the total population has decreased by an estimated 6%.

“Declining fertility and immigration rates, combined with longer life expectancy, have contributed to population aging in the Virgin Islands. The median age of the population in the Virgin Islands has increased sharply from 28.2 in 1990 to 33.4 in 2000 to 39.2 in 2010. In the USVI, as in many rural counties and certain cities in the United States, there are not enough new births or young people moving to the territory to balance the aging of the population.”¹

- In 2014, there were 18,238 children (birth to age 18) in the VI, representing 3,233 fewer children than in 2013, and 16,051 fewer children than in 2000.

...by island*:

Reflecting a continued trend over the past 10 years, children continue to represent a smaller portion of each island's population, with another decrease in 2014.

The proportion of children in the total population was higher in St. Croix (children made up 20.2% of all residents), than St. John (children made up 10.7% of all residents) and St. Thomas (children made up 16.2% of all residents).

- **St. Croix:** 9,675 children represented 53% of all VI children, 1,502 (13%) fewer children than in 2013.
- **St. John:** 476 children represented 2.6% of VI children, 29 (6%) fewer children than in 2013.
- **St. Thomas:** 8,087 children represented 44.3% of all VI children, a decrease of 1,700 (17%) from 2013.

¹ [Population Reference Bureau, 2014 Report](#)

...by age group: *

In 2014, the child population under age 19 was relatively evenly split among age groups: under 5; 5 - 9; 10 - 14; and 15 - 19. Children ages 15 to 19 represented the largest portion of children (27%), while children under age 5 represented the smallest (21%). Since 1990, the number of children has decreased by almost half across all age groups.

...by race. *

Since 1990, the distribution of children (under age 19) categorized as Black, White, and “Other races”² as well as the proportion of children of Hispanic origin (any race), have been relatively stable.

- Black children: 16,661 or 83% of all VI children (85% in 2013)
- White children: 942 or 5% of all VI children (5% in 2013)
- Other race children: 2,410 or 12% of all VI children (10% in 2013)
- Hispanic children (of any race): 3,289 or 16% of all VI children (19% in 2013)

VI Children by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2014

Year	Black	Hispanic (any race)	Other	White
1990	83%	15%	10.2%	6.8%
2000	82%	15%	11%	7%
2014	83%	16%	12%	5%

...by citizenship*:

Over 9 out of every 10 VI children were American citizens in 2014.

- 95% of VI children were U.S citizens.
- Of all children who were U.S citizens, 83% (16,686) were born in the Virgin Islands; the rest (3,325 children) were born in the mainland or other island areas (including Puerto Rico) - whether to Virgin Islands-born, US-born, or foreign-born parents.

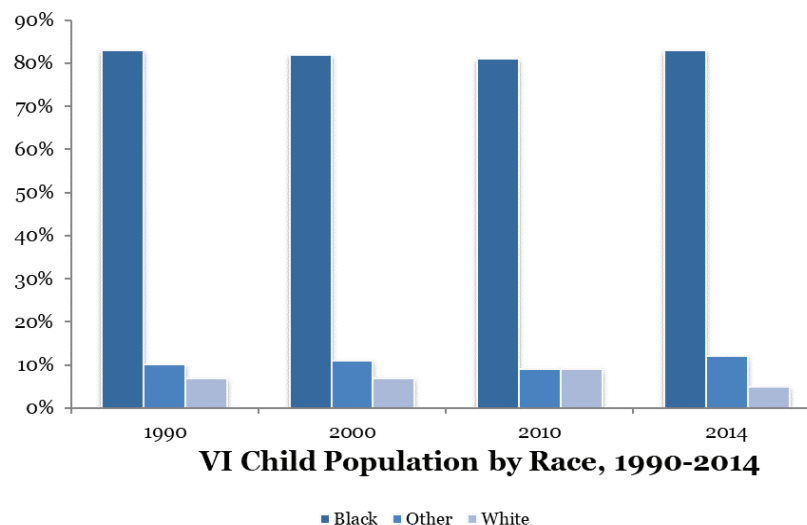
² Other races” may include the following: Hispanic, Asian, Middle-Eastern, East Indian, or a mix of any races.

...by language*:

Virtually all children ages 15 to 19 (99.7%) spoke English (albeit at varying proficiency levels), regardless of whether English was the primary or only language spoken in the home.

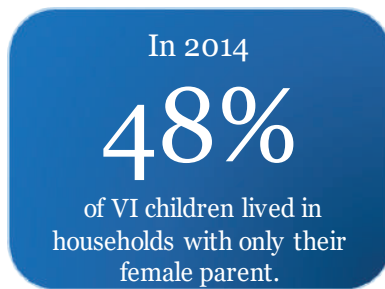
- 80% of children spoke only English in their home.
- Of those children who spoke another language in their home, Spanish made up the majority (82% of children for whom another language was spoken), while French/Patois/Creole followed (12%), and “other languages” combined to make up a small percentage (6%).

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

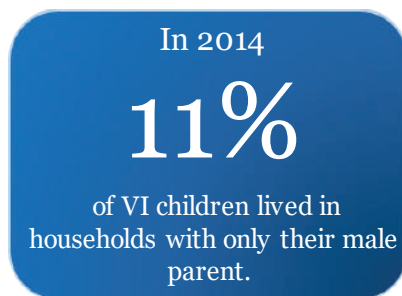


Family and Community

Children Living with Female Parent Only



Children Living with Male Parent Only



In 2014, VI children under the age of 18 lived in a total of 10,630 family households.

Children in single-parent families.³

- 10,726 VI children (59%) lived in households with an unmarried single mother or father (possibly also with parent's cohabitating partner, or other adult relatives).

... with their mother:

- 8,774 children (48%) lived with their female parent only (no father present) similar to the rates of previous years: 46% in 2013; up from 45% in 2012, and 40% in 2008.

U.S. rate: about 26% of US children lived in single-mother families.⁴

... with their father:

- 1,952 children (11%) lived with their male parent only (no mother present), a decreased rate from 13% in 2013; and lower from the 22% in 2012.

U.S. rate: about 8% of children lived in a household with a single father.⁵

Families headed by single women.

Although the total number of children living in single-female households within the VI has been on a declining trend since 2000, the share of children in these families has risen. This is in part a reflection of the underlying decline in the total child population.

- Single females continued to head the majority (52%) of all families with children, similar to the 2013 (53%) and 2012 (52%) proportions, and a continuing increase from the 46% in 2008.

U.S. rate: 7.0% of all families were headed by single female householders.⁶

³ National KIDS COUNT now identifies "single-parent families" as families headed either by a single mother or a single father. In USVI reporting (data from the VICS), children are categorized as living "with male parent only" or with "female parent only." Single-parent families may include a single mother or father with own children living in a household where that parent is not, in fact, the household head (e.g., a 3-generation household headed by the child/children's grandparent).

⁴ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Child Population by Household Type](#)

⁵ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Child Population by Household Type](#)

⁶ [American Fact Finder, Households and Families](#)

... by location:

- St. Thomas and St. Croix had fairly similar rates of families with children headed by a single mother: 55% (STX) and 46% (STT).
- The percent of families with children headed by a single mother in St. John was 60%. *Given the large jump from 2013 rate - 16% - this figure should be interpreted with caution, due to small sample sizes on St. John.*

... by race:

- Among Black families with children under 18, 51.5% (4,435 of 8,617) were headed by an unmarried female householder.
- Among White families with children under 18, 50.7% (268 of 529) were headed by an unmarried female householder.
- Among "Other Races" families with children under 18, 55.3% (821 of 1,484) were headed by an unmarried female householder.

Children in married-couple families.

- 36% of VI children (6,594) lived in married-couple families, similar to the 36% in 2013 (up from 24% in 2012).

U.S rate: 65% of children lived in married-couple families⁷

Children in non-parent families.

- In 2014, 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 (623 children) lived in households headed by their grandparent(s).

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

- 240 children (1%) lived in households headed by a relative other than a grandparent or parent.

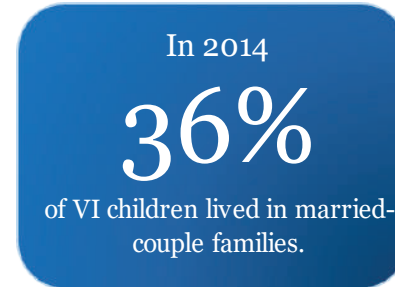
...with non-relatives (with or without a parent present):

- 36 children (1%) lived in households headed by non-relatives.

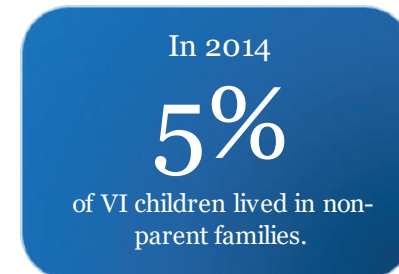
Children in other settings.

- 20 children under age 18 were the householder/spouse in their own householdhouseholds.

Children in Households Headed by Married Parents



Children in Households Headed by a Non-Parent

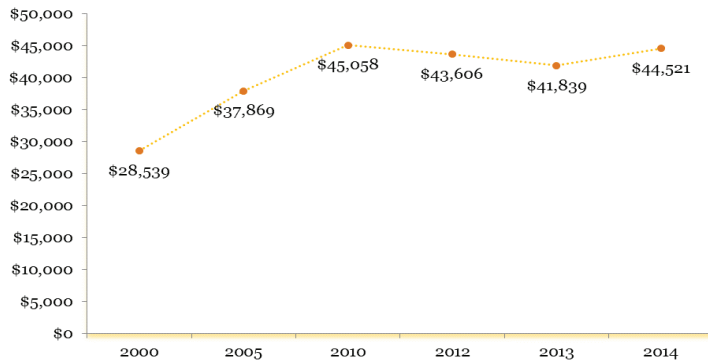


Find year-by-year data for VI Children in Families topics at the KIDS COUNT Data Center: <https://cfvi.co/KIDSCOUNTdatacenterUSVI>

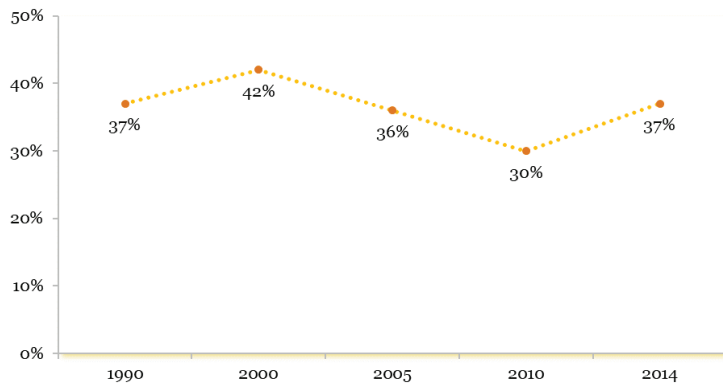
⁷ KIDS COUNT Data Center, *Child Population by Household Type*

Economic Well-Being

VI Median Family Income, 2000-2014



Children in Poverty, 1990-2014



Children Living in Families in Poverty



In 2014
37%
of VI children under 18 lived
in families with incomes
below federal poverty level.

Median Family Income.*

In general, VI median family income has been steadily rising since the 2000s, with trending stagnation in recent years (e.g., after dips in 2012 and 2013, median family income in 2014 has returned to levels reported in 2010).

- In 2014, the median income for VI families was \$44,521, higher than that of 2013 (\$41,839) and 2012 (\$43,606), but comparable to that of 2010 (\$45,058).

U.S. Median Family Income: \$53,657⁸

**Note: Economic data are reported based on income received in the previous year; thus, 2014 reporting cites income earned in 2013, and so on.*

... by island:

Median incomes for families in St. Croix had risen in the previous few years, while those in St. Thomas have been decreasing, this bringing median family income for the two islands closer together. Median family income in St. John has consistently been higher than that of St. Croix or St. Thomas.

- **St. Croix:** \$42,534
Up from \$39,207 in 2013 and \$39,149 in 2012
- **St. John:** \$62,287
Up from \$54,068 in 2013, which had been a decrease from \$56,342 in 2012
- **St. Thomas:** \$45,300
Down from \$45,861 in 2013 and \$47,863 in 2012

...by race:

Median family incomes reported in 2014:

- **Black:** \$43,712
- **White:** \$74,955 (increase by almost 20% within the last reported year)
- **Other Races:** \$37,310

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 the greatest risk for poverty's long-lasting, negative effects.

After several years of decreasing rates of child poverty leading up to 2010, rates over the past decade have shown an upward trend.

- In 2014, more than one-third of VI children (37%) lived in families with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level (up from 35% in 2013, 31% in 2012,).
- 6,784 children under age 18 were living in poverty.

U.S. child poverty rate: 20.7%.⁹

⁸ [US Census Bureau, *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014*](#)

⁹ [US Census Bureau, *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014*](#)

...by age:

- In 2014, roughly half (49.6%) of all children under age 6 (2,700 children) lived in families in poverty, compared to 32% of children age 6 to 17 (4,084 children).

...by race*:

- More than one of every three Black children (36.8%) and nearly half of children of Other Races (48.7%) lived in families in poverty, while only 11% 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: 40.6% (nearly the same as the rate in 2013: 40.5%).
- In St. Thomas, 34% of children lived in families in poverty (up from 29% in 2013).
- In St. John, 14% of children lived in families in poverty (a decrease of 10% percentage points from 2013).

Families (with Children) in Poverty.

Once again, despite the general rise in median family incomes, more than a quarter of families with children reported incomes below the federal poverty level¹⁰ in 2014.

- 3,400 families with children under 18 lived in poverty, representing a 32% poverty rate for families with children.
- Though the overall number of families with children under 18 has continued to decrease (10,630 in 2014, compared to 12,183 in 2013, and 13,792 in 2012), the percentage of these families living in poverty has been relatively stagnant (32% in 2014, 27% in 2012, and 31% in 2010).

Female-Headed Families (with Children) in Poverty.

Families headed by single mothers are especially vulnerable to poverty.

- Children’s families headed by unmarried females made up the majority of all poor families, representing just over ¾ (76%) of all families (with children) in poverty, similar to that in 2013 (74.5%) and 2010 (74.7%).
- Almost five out of every 10 single-female families with children lived below the federal poverty level (47.1%, up from 43.7% in 2013, and 39% in 2012, but similar to the rate of 47.8% in 2010).
- Poverty rates are particularly high for female-headed families with children under age 6 (58% of these families were categorized as poor, compared to 44% of those with children ages 6-17). Reasons may include childcare responsibilities or costs, and/or younger age of the mother, limited access to the job market and educational matriculation, as well as limited work experience.

...by race:

- Among Black families with children 31.2% were living below the poverty level (similar to the 32% poverty rate reported in 2013).
- Among White families with children 8.5% were living below the poverty level (a substantial decrease from the 2013 rate of 16%).
- Among Other Race families with children, 45% were living below the poverty level (a large increase from the 2013 percentage of 31%).

¹⁰ The 2014 poverty threshold, adjusted for family size, was \$24,008 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 indicated by the rates as calculated herein. [U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty Thresholds](#)

Families in Poverty, by Family Type





1,307 children (7.2% of all children) received TANF in 2014,
61 children less than in the previous year.

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.

- 602 households with children received TANF in 2014, totaling \$1,604,253 in benefits.
- 1,307 children (7.2% of all children) received TANF in 2014, 61 children less than in the previous year.
- Children in St. Croix represented well over half (70%) of the Territory's children receiving TANF: 927 children; children in the St. Thomas/St. John district represented 29% of all children: 380 children receiving TANF.

...by family structure:

- Of children receiving TANF, 93.6% (1,223 children) lived with a single parent, 4% (34 children) lived with two parents, and 3.4% (50 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 2014:

- 3,566 young children from birth through age 4 (or 87% of an estimated 4,110 VI children this age) received WIC benefits.
- 1,003 recipients were infants in their first year of life.
- 2,563 recipients were children age 1 through 4 years old.

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.

- 16,497 VI children ages 0-18 received SNAP benefits in 2014, similar to the numbers in 2013 (16,530) and 2012 (16,616).
- 7,956 child-based households received SNAP benefits in 2014 (up from 7,818 child-based households in 2013 and 7,339 child-based households in 2012).
- In total, \$55,338,091 in SNAP benefits were provided for needy households (comprising households with and without children) across the Territory, down slightly from \$57,210,062 in 2013.

...by family structure:

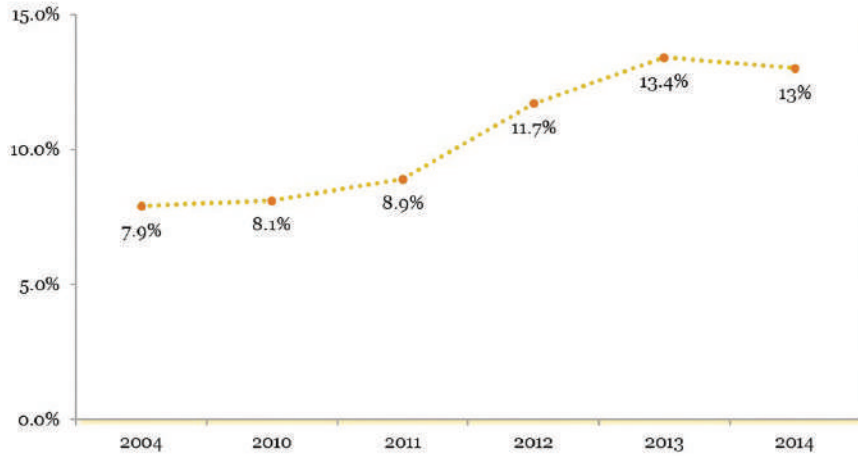
- 80% of children receiving SNAP assistance lived with a single parent (13,201 children), 8% (1,342 children) lived with two parents, and 4% (686 children) lived without either parent.

Children Receiving Child Support.

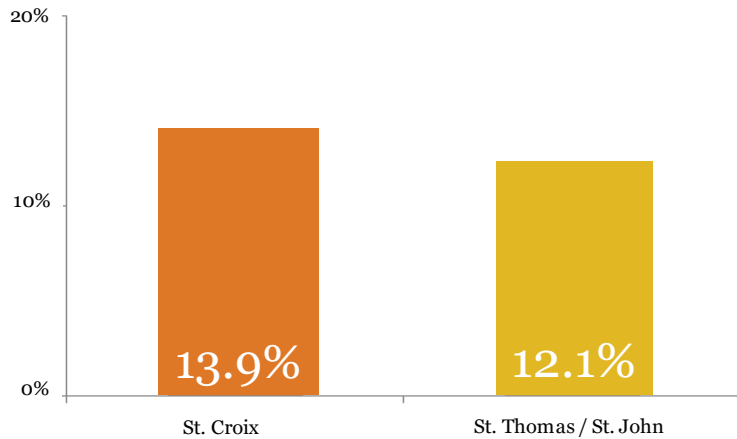
Child support payments can greatly improve the economic well-being of children who grow up in a family with a non-resident parent. Single custodial parents who receive regular, full child support payments are less likely to depend on public cash- assistance, are able to find work more quickly, and stay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

At the time of publication, data for this indicator had not been received. The KIDS COUNT Data Center and PDF version of the Data Book posted online will be updated if/when data become available.

VI Unemployment Rate Trends, 2004-2014



VI Unemployment Rate by District, 2014



Unemployment.*

- In 2014, the VI unemployment rate* saw its first decrease in nearly a decade, albeit a drop of just 0.4 percentage points from 2013 (from 13.4% to 13% in 2014). Nonetheless, the unemployment rate remains almost double that of 7.1% in 2005.
 - The VI civilian labor force numbered 46,777 (781 fewer than in 2013), of which 40,718 were employed.¹¹
 - Over the course of the year, the unemployment rate ranged from a low of 11.6% (St. Thomas) in July to a high of 14.8% (St. Croix) in August.
- U.S. unemployment rate in 2014: was 6.2% (down from 7.4% in 2013).¹²*

**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.*

...by location:

- St. Croix recorded an unemployment rate of 13.9% in 2014 (down from 15.1% in 2013 and matching the rate in 2012). Over the course of the year, the monthly unemployment rate ranged from a low of 12.4% in October to a high of 14.8% in August.
- St. Thomas/St. John recorded an unemployment rate of 12.1% in 2014 (up from 11.8% in 2013 and 9.8% in 2012). Over the course of the year, the monthly unemployment rate ranged from a low of 11.6% in July to a high of 13.7% in October.

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 2014, UI payouts on claims totaled \$11,504,916.96 (down from \$16,794,588.47 in 2013, \$22,186,593 in 2012, and \$29,096,855 in 2011).

¹¹USVI Bureau of Economic Research, *US Virgin Islands Annual Economic Indicators, 1990-2017*

¹²US Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*

Youth Employment, Ages 16-19.

- 18.2% of all youths ages 16-19 reported being members of the labor force (i.e., working or looking for work), with 19% of this subgroup (or 151 youth) working full-time (40+ hours per week) in 2014.
- Among youths ages 16-19 who were in the labor force in 2014 (776 youth), 30% were unemployed.
- 32% of male youths in the labor force (113/355 males) were unemployed, compared with the 29% of female youths in the labor force (122/421 females).

Older Youth Employment, Ages 20-24.

- 73% of youths ages 20-24 in the labor force were employed (1,758 of the 2,408)
- Among older youths who were looking for work, 24% were unemployed.
- 23% of older male youths in the labor force (256/1,124 males) were unemployed, compared with 24% of older female youths in the labor force (312/1284 females).
- 44.5 % of employed older youths worked full-time, at least 40 hours a week.

Detached Youth.

‘Detached’ or ‘disconnected’ youth are youths 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.

- In 2014, an estimated 19% of youths ages 16-19 were not attending school and not working, 816 out of 4,270 VI youths this age. *
- This figure represents a decrease from 27% in 2013, approaching the rate in 2012: 14%.

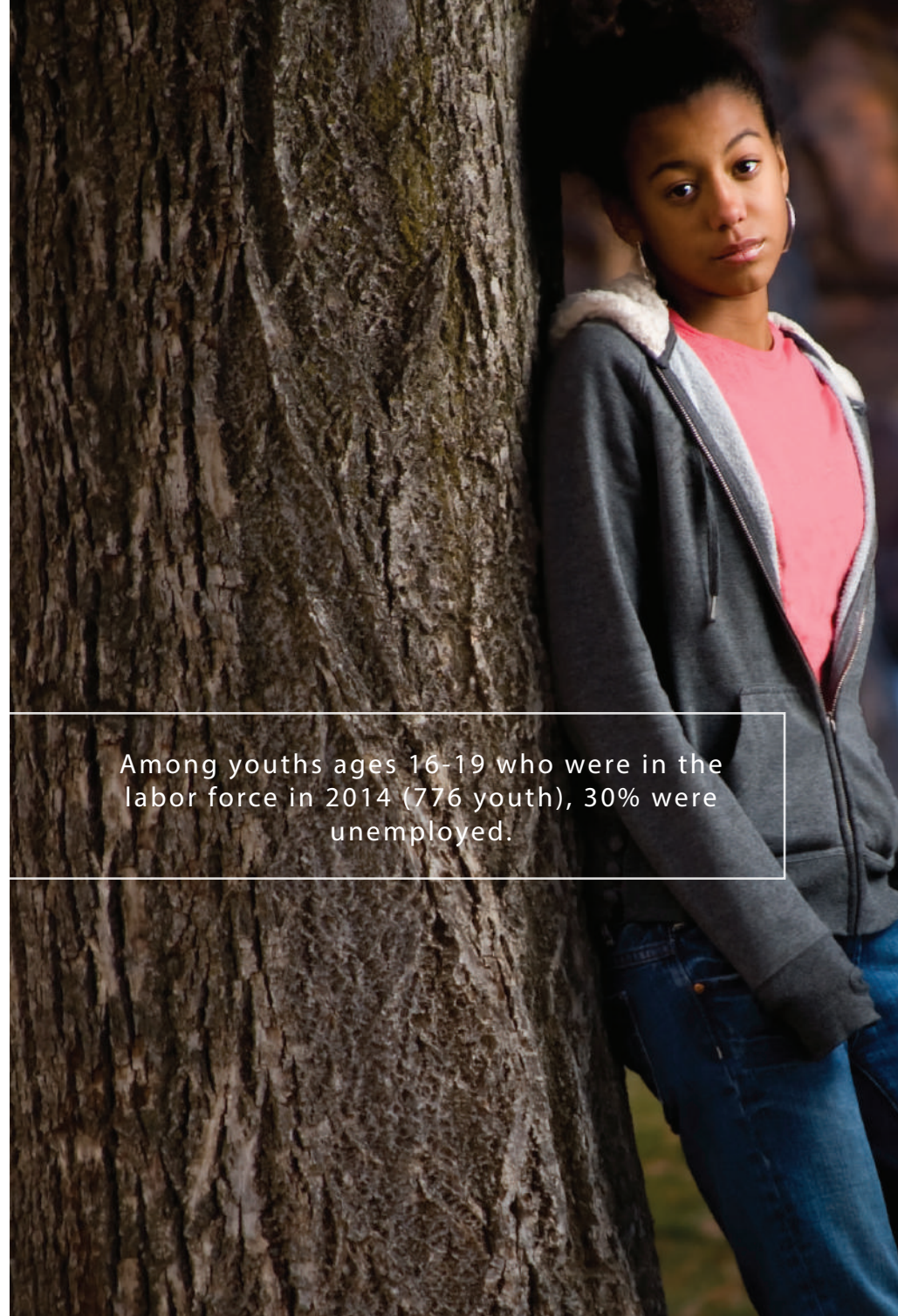
*U.S. rate: 7% of youth were ‘detached’.*¹³

** Note: USVI data sources capture those youths 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 solely in the home by caring for their children and rely on financial and social support from their spouses.*

¹³ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Youth Not Attending School and Not Working by Age Group](#)

Find year-by-year data for Economic Well-being topics at at the KIDS
COUNT Data Center:

<https://cfvi.co/KIDSCOUNTdatacenterUSVI>

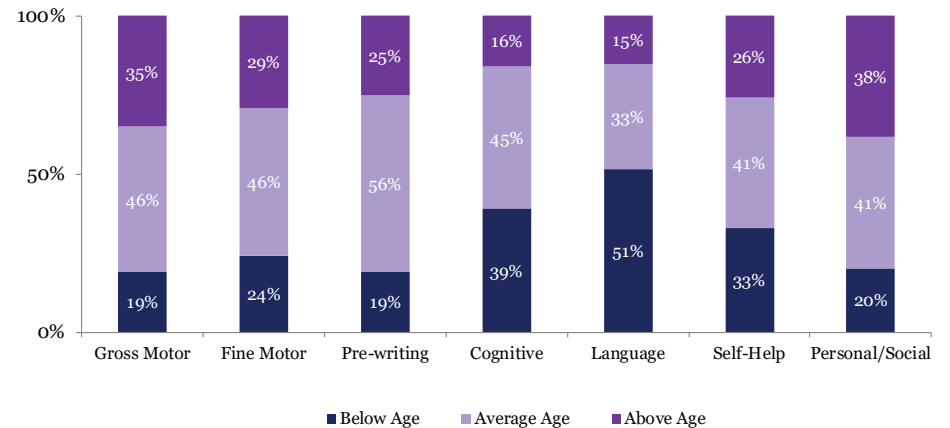


Among youths ages 16-19 who were in the labor force in 2014 (776 youth), 30% were unemployed.



Education

VI Children's Learning Skills at Entry to Public Kindergarten, 2014-2015



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

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

"All parents hope their child will start school ready for success. And many parents turn that hope into action, seeking out supportive and high-quality early learning opportunities. Unfortunately, not every parent finds those opportunities, and access differs based on geography, race and income. As a result, too many children enter kindergarten a year or more behind their classmates in academic and social-emotional skills. For some children, starting out school from behind can trap them in a cycle of continuous catch-up in their learning."¹⁴

Head Start / Early Head Start

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.

In 2014, there were 45 Head Start Centers in the Territory: 26 in St. Croix, 1 in St. John, and 18 in St. Thomas.

- In 2014, 894 children ages 3 to 5 were enrolled in Head Start programs throughout the Territory.
- 12.6% of enrolled children were characterized as having a disability.¹⁴
- 68% of enrolled children were covered by the Medical Assistance Program (MAP), which is funded by Medicaid.
- The waiting list for enrollment increased dramatically from 73 in 2013 to 447 in 2014 (198 students unserved in St. Thomas/St. John and 249 in St. Croix).

Early Head Start Enrollment.

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

During the 2014-2015 school year:

- 138 children ages birth to 3 were enrolled in Early Head Start programs throughout the Territory.
- 26.8% children were characterized as having a disability.
- 98 unserved children were on the waiting list for Early Head Start programs.

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 the school year 2014-2015...

- More than half (51%) of children entering public kindergarten were 6 months to over a year behind developmental age-expectations in language and comprehension skills (a continued pattern as reflected in the 55% of children behind in 2013 and 53% in 2012).
- One-third or more of VI children entering public kindergarten also lacked adequate cognitive skills (39%) and self-help skills (33%).
lacked adequate, age-expected cognition skills.

¹⁴ [U.S. Department of Education, *A Matter of Equity: Preschool in America*](#)

¹⁵ According to Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) Standard 1302.14 (b), "a program must ensure at least 10 percent of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA, unless the responsible HHS official grants a waiver."

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 2014, 7% of VI children ages birth through 17 (1,282 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.

- 142 children birth through age 3 were receiving Early Intervention (EI) services in 2014 (up from 139 in 2013 and 106 in 2012)

... Birth to age 1: 8 children

... Ages 1 to 2: 37 children

... Ages 2 to 3: 97 children

- Males represented 65% of children identified receiving EI services.

- 73% 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.

1,140 children ages 3-17 were enrolled in Special Education IEP programs in the fiscal year 2014 (a decrease of 12 students from the previous year).

- In St. Croix, 617 children received special education services.
- In St. Thomas/St. John, 523 children 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.

2014-2015 Territorial Report Card

In the 2014-2015 school year, the Virgin Islands Department of Education transitioned to a new assessment system for academic performance. According to the VIDE, “The territory-wide results for the 2014-15 Smarter Balanced Assessments and National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternate Assessments are the first results aligned with the Virgin Islands’ new, higher standards and provide teachers and parents with more accurate information of how students are performing on the path to success after high school.”

It is important to note that these scores should not be compared to test scores previously reported, namely VITAL-S and VITAL-A test scores. The VIDE notes that “As with any change, there will be a period of adjustment, as teachers and students become familiar with the new standards and tests.” Aside from the potential impact of a new assessment process generally, the Department also noted that “technological setbacks experienced at the school level during testing may have played some role in student performance”.¹⁶

¹⁶ [Virgin Islands Department of Education, *First Year of New Assessment Results a Starting Point for Measuring Students Progress toward College and Career Readiness*](#)

Assessment Proficiency by Grade.

Grade 3 Reading Proficiency:

Exceeded Standard:	3.5%
Met Standard:	8.8%
Near Standard:	22.3%
Below Standard:	65.0%

Grade 3 Math Proficiency

Exceeded Standard:	0.9%
Met Standard:	8.1%
Near Standard:	21.3%
Below Standard:	69.7%

Grade 5 Reading Proficiency:

Exceeded Standard:	3.5%
Met Standard:	12.3%
Near Standard:	18.6%
Below Standard:	65.6%

Grade 5 Math Proficiency

Exceeded Standard:	1.5%
Met Standard:	2.5%
Near Standard:	15.9%
Below Standard:	80.1%

Grade 7 Reading Proficiency:

Exceeded Standard:	1.8%
Met Standard:	12.8%
Near Standard:	20.5%
Below Standard:	64.9%

Grade 7 Math Proficiency

Exceeded Standard:	0.7%
Met Standard:	4.6%
Near Standard:	18.9%
Below Standard:	75.8%

Grade 11 Reading Proficiency

Exceeded Standard:	6.6%
Met Standard:	23.5%
Near Standard:	29.0%
Below Standard:	41.0%

Grade 11 Math Proficiency

Exceeded Standard:	2.3%
Met Standard:	8.0%
Near Standard:	15.7%
Below Standard:	74.0%

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 better 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. In fact, one of the most important predictors of high school graduation is reading proficiently by the end of third grade. 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.

In the 2014-2015 school year...

- 87.3% (or 929) of the 1,064 public school third-grade students tested scored near or below standard performance levels for reading on the Smarter Balance and the National Center and State Collaborative Assessment (2014-2015 Assessment Proficiency Rate Report Card).

“Reading together 20 minutes every day teaches most school readiness skills (e.g., vocabulary, counting, colors, social skills, etc.). The simple act of reading with a child every day has significant additional benefits including:

- *Increases the number of children acquiring the essential early literacy skills required for entering kindergarten prepared and eager for school.*
- *Develops socially and emotionally confident children who have strong bonds and are at pace with their peers.*
- *Reduces the school achievement gap and lowers remediation expenses for K-12 students by helping children start and stay at grade level.*
- *Empowers parents and caregivers to become their child’s first and most influential teachers.”¹⁷*

¹⁷ [The Children’s Reading Foundation, *Thurd Grade Reading Success Matters*](#)

2014-2015 Assessment Proficiency, Public Schools
Smarter Balanced and the National Center and State Collaborative Assessment
All Districts: All Schools

		English Language Arts / Literacy				Mathematics			
		Percent of Students tested who scored in each performance level				Percent of Students tested who scored in each performance level			
Student Groups		Students Tested	Below Standard (%)	Near Standard (%)	Met or Exceed Standard (%)	Students Tested	Below Standard (%)	Near Standard (%)	Met or Exceed Standard (%)
ALL Students		7,152	59.4	23.7	16.9	7,209	74.1	19.3	6.6
Ethnicity	Black or African American	5,629	58.5	24.4	17.1	5,665	74.1	19.6	6.2
	Hispanic	1,354	65.1	20.6	14.3	1,376	76.5	17.5	6.0
	Other	169	44.4	23.7	32.0	168	53.0	23.2	23.8
Gender	Female	3,467	50.9	26.9	22.2	3,500	70.7	21.8	7.4
	Male	3,686	67.4	20.6	12.0	3,709	77.2	17.0	5.9
LEP	Limited English Proficiency	447	8.5	11.4	3.6	479	90.2	8.4	1.5
SWD	Students with Disabilities	576	80.6	10.8	8.7	567	82.4	9.9	7.8
	Alternate Assessment	75	28.0	30.7	41.3	76	27.6	23.7	48.7
SWND	Students with No Disabilities	6,577	57.5	24.8	17.6	6,642	73.4	20.1	6.5

- For SY 2014-2015 English Language Arts/Literacy assessment, 65.1% of Hispanic students (1,354) performed 'Below Standard' and 80.6% of Students with Disabilities (576) also performed 'Below Standard'.
- Additionally, 58.5% of Black students (5,629) and 44.4% of "Other" students (169) performed 'Below Standard [the smallest 'Below Standard' percentage among student groups not taking an alternate assessment].

- For SY 2014-2015 Mathematics assessment, 74.1% of Black students (5,665) and 76.5% of Hispanic students (1,376) performed 'Below Standard'. Additionally, 90.2% of students with Limited English Proficiency (479) performed 'Below Standard'.
- Students identified as "Other" (168) had a smaller percentage with regards to performance 'Below Standard' at 53% among students who did not take an alternate assessment.



11.3% of high school graduates ages 18-24 had earned a bachelor's degree or above in 2014 (up from 5% in 2013 and 7% in 2012).

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 (e.g., chronically absent students are less likely to graduate from high school) 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 2014-2015 school year:

- 0.5% (70 students) of the 14,350 enrolled students across the VI had missed zero days of school.
- 15.2% (2,178 students) missed between one and nine days of school.
- 84.3% (12,102 students) missed 10 or more days of school.
- The St. Thomas/St. John district had a higher rate of chronic absence (89.1% of 7,485 enrolled students), compared to the St. Croix district (79.1% of 6,865 enrolled students).

Educational Attainment

High School Completion, Ages 18-19.

- 78% of the 1,774 youth ages 18-19 had earned a high school diploma in 2014 (a substantial increase from 59% in 2013 and 53% in 2012).

High School/College Completion, Ages 18-24.

- 86% of 6,357 youth ages 18-24 had completed high school in 2014 (up from the 72% in 2013, and 73% in 2012).
- 11.3% of high school graduates ages 18-24 had earned a bachelor's degree or above in 2014 (up from 5% in 2013 and 7% in 2012).

Find more data charts for VI Education topics at
at the KIDS COUNT Data Center:
<https://cfvi.co/KIDSCOUNTdatacenterUSVI>

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.

- 4.3% of public school students in grades 7 through 12 (291) were reported as dropouts in school year 2014-2015 (a similar percent as in 2013, when 5% or 349 students were reported as dropouts).
- In St. Croix, 145 students represented a 4.5% district dropout rate (and 49.8% of the 291 public secondary school dropouts reported Territory-wide).
- In St. Thomas, 146 students represented a 4.1% district dropout rate (and 50.2% of the 291 public secondary school dropouts reported Territory-wide).

Public Junior High School Dropouts, Grades 7-8.

- 1.1% of 2,255 enrolled junior high school students were reported as dropouts.

... 0.8% of enrolled 7th graders (or 10 students)

... 1.5% of enrolled 8th graders (or 15 students)

Public High School Dropouts, Grades 9-12.

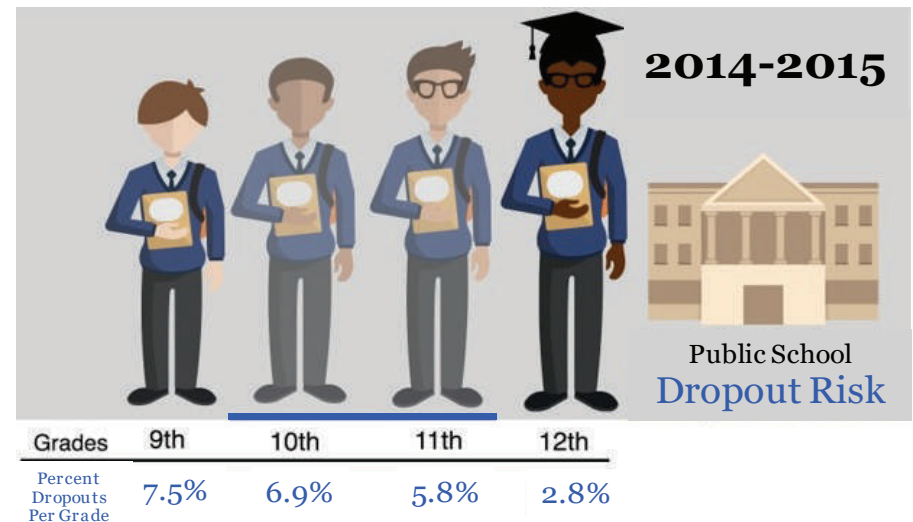
- 5.8% of 4,517 enrolled high school students were reported as dropouts (down from the 7% in the 2013-2014 school year)

... 7.5% of enrolled 9th graders (or 115 students)

... 6.9% of enrolled 10th graders (or 76 students)

... 5.8% of enrolled 11th graders (or 48 students)

... 2.8% of enrolled 12th graders (or 27 students)





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 VI 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 2014, 5.3% of 1,295 live births (69 babies) were born at low weight (down from 8.7% of babies in 2013 and 9.6% of babies in 2012).

U.S. rate: 8% of babies born at low weight, unchanged from 2013.¹⁸

Babies Born at Very Low Weight.

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

- 1.1% of babies (15 births not included in the 69 above) were born at very low weight in 2014.

U.S. rate: 1.4%, unchanged from 2013.¹⁹

Infant Mortality.

- In 2014, 11 infant deaths occurred out of 1,295 live births, for an infant mortality rate of 8.5 deaths per 1,000 live births (up from 7.5/1,000 in 2013 and 6.4/1,000 in 2012)

... St. Croix: 17.4/1,000 (or 10 deaths out of 575 live births).

... St. Thomas/St. John: 1.4/1,000 (or 1 death out of 720 live births)

U.S. rate: 5.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.²⁰

Births to Teens.

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

- In 2014, 106 babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 (out of an estimated 3,124 girls this age), for a teen birth rate of 33.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19
- Babies born to teens represented 8.2% of 1,295 live births in 2014
- St. Croix teen birth rate: 21.9/1,000 (42 births)
- St. Thomas/St. John teen birth rate: 38/1,000 (64 births)

U.S. rate: 24.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19.²¹

¹⁸ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Low Birth Weight](#)

¹⁹ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Very Low Birth Weight](#)

²⁰ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Infant Mortality Rate](#)

²¹ [Child Trends, Birth Rates \(per 1,000 population\) for Females Ages 10-19: 1960-2016](#)

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 2014, 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.²²

Children without Health Insurance.

- 26% of all VI children and youth, ages birth through 19 (5,163 children) lacked health insurance in 2014
- 24% of VI children under age 5 were uninsured.

U.S. rate of uninsured children ages birth through 19: 8.6%.²³

Children with Medicaid Health Coverage.

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

- In 2014, 3,780 children age birth through 19 were covered by Medicaid, representing 19% of children
- This rate of coverage is consistent with the rate in 2013, and up from the 10% (2,758 children) in 2009.

“Medicaid care for children is a relative bargain: per-child costs are about three quarters of what they are for non-disabled adults. In fact, children comprise about 40 percent of the Medicaid population, but account for less than one fifth of all Medicaid expenditures. Children with health insurance are more likely than those who are not covered to receive early care for health problems, and they are at lower risk for hospitalization.”²⁴

²² [KIDS COUNT Data Center. Children 18 and Below without Health Insurance](#)

²³ [US Census Bureau, Health Insurance in the United States: 2014](#)

²⁴ [Child Trends, Health Insurance Coverage Improves Child Well-Being](#)

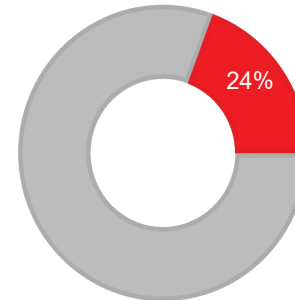
Find more data charts for VI Child Health topics at

at the KIDS COUNT Data Center:

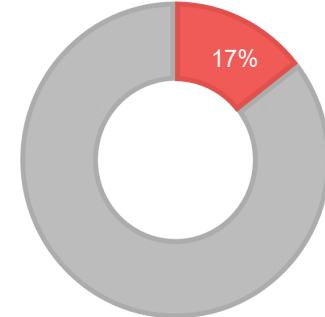
<https://cfvi.co/KIDSCOUNTdatacenterUSVI>

Uninsured Children, 2014

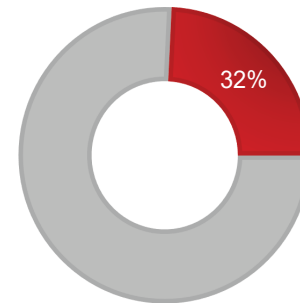
Ages: Under 5
Number: 989



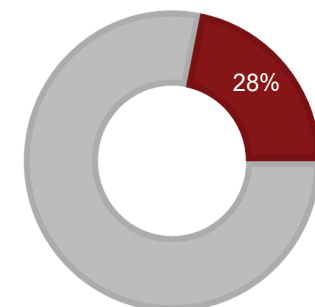
Ages: 5-9
Number: 897




Ages 10-14
Number: 1,757



Ages: 15-19
Number: 1,520





The overall rate of reported maltreatment (including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect) in 2014 was 7 per 1,000 children under age 18.

Child Maltreatment

The overall rate of reported maltreatment (including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect) in 2014 was 7 per 1,000 children under age 18 (down from 13.5/1,000 children in 2013).

- St. Croix reported 59 maltreatment cases.
 - St. Thomas/St. John reported 76 maltreatment cases.
- U.S. rate: 9 per 1,000 children reported for child maltreatment.²⁵*

Children referred for abuse (physical or sexual).

85 children were referred for abuse in 2014.

- Physical abuse rate: 2.9 per 1,000 children
... 19 cases in St. Croix; 33 cases in St. Thomas/St. John
- Sexual abuse rate: 1.8 per 1,000 children
... 7 cases in St. Croix; 26 cases in St. Thomas/St. John

Children referred for neglect.

50 children were referred for neglect in 2014.

- Neglect rate: 2.7 per 1,000 children
... 33 cases in St. Croix; 17 cases in St. Thomas/St. John

Children placed in out of home care.

84 children were removed under authority of DHS from custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily in temporary foster care.

... in regular foster care:

- 51 children under age 18 were placed temporarily into regular foster care (45 in St. Croix; 39 in St. Thomas/St. John).
- Regular foster care placements represented 61% of the children removed from their homes.
- The vast majority of placements (87%) were due to neglect by caregiver(s).

... in kinship care:

- 19 children were placed in 17 kinship homes, rather than with an unrelated foster family (12 in St. Croix; 7 in St. Thomas/St. John).
- Kinship care placements represented 20% of the 84 children removed from their homes.

... in other care:

- 14 children were placed in shelter care or voluntary placements.

112 children were removed under authority of DHS from custody of a parent or caregiver and placed temporarily in residential care.

... in residential care:

- 112 children were placed in residential facilities (compared to 226 in 2010; 155 in 2009; 129 in 2013).
- Of these, 91 (81%) were in on-island facilities (including the Youth Rehabilitation Center) and 21 (19%) were in off-island facilities.

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.

- 1 child died of all children ages 1-14 in 2014 (down from 3 deaths in 2013).
- The one death was reported in St. Thomas/ St. John; there were no deaths reported in St. Croix.

U.S. rate: 16 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14.²⁶

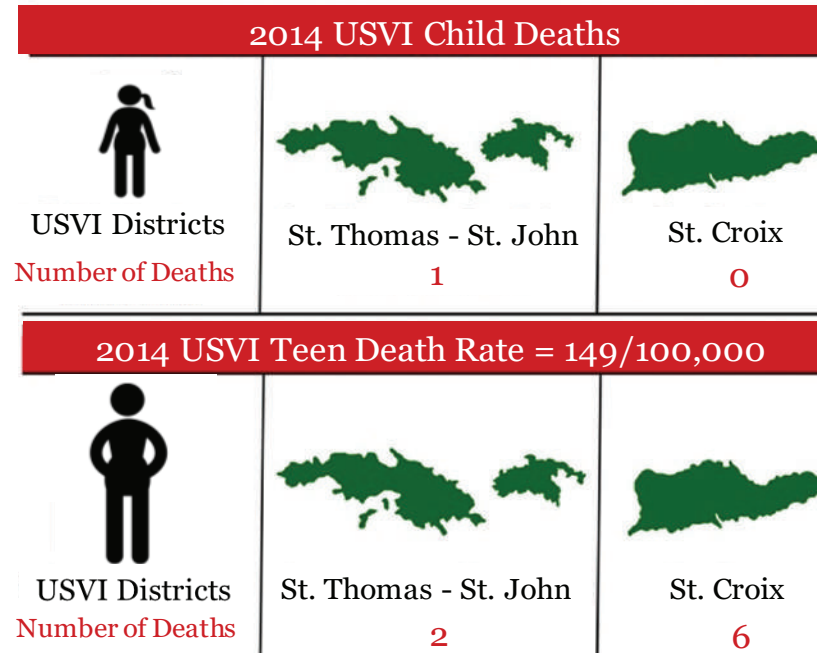
Teen Deaths.*

In 2014, with 8 deaths to youth ages 15-19, the rate of teen death increased to 148 per 100,000 teens, up from the previous year (3 deaths reported in 2013 for a rate of 58 deaths per 100,000 teens).

- 6 deaths were reported in St. Croix (out of 3,005 teens) and 2 in St. Thomas/ St. John (out of 2,410 teens), for a total of 8 deaths out of 5,415 teens in the Territory.

U.S. rate: 46 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19.²⁷

**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.*



²⁵ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children who are Confirmed by Child Protective Services as a Victim of Maltreatment](#)

²⁶ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Child Deaths](#)

²⁷ [KIDS COUNT Data Center, Teen Deaths from All Causes](#)

USVI Juvenile Violent Crime Rate = 388/100,000



USVI Districts
District
Crime Rate



St. Thomas - St. John
423/100,000



St. Croix
361/100,000

USVI Juvenile Property Crime Rate = 233/100,000



USVI Districts
District
Crime Rate



St. Thomas - St. John
423/100,000



St. Croix
80/100,000

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate.

- There were 35 juvenile violent crime arrests in 2014, out of an estimated 9,019 VI youth ages 10-17. The rate of juvenile crime arrests was 388 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17 (decreasing from 559/100,000 in 2013, approaching the 2010 rate of 364/100,000).
- Nature of arrests: 3/rape, 8/robbery, 24/felony assault
- St. Croix: 18 arrests (similar to 19 arrests in 2013; down significantly from 47 in 2011)
...361/100,000 violent crime arrest rate, out of an estimated 4,981 youth ages 10-17
- St. Thomas/St. John: 17 arrests (down from 37 in 2013)
...423/100,000 arrest rate, out of an estimated 4,018 youth ages 10-17
U.S. rate: 166 violent crime arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17.²⁸

Juvenile Property Crime Arrest Rate.

- There were 21 juvenile property crime arrests in 2014 out of an estimated 9,019 VI youth ages 10-17. The rate of juvenile property crime arrests was 233 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17, down from both 2013 (569/100,000) and 2012 (581/100,000).
- Nature of arrests: 1/burglary, 17/grand larceny, 2/vehicle theft, and 1/arson
- St. Croix: 4 youth arrests (a sharp decline from 26 in 2013, and 43 in 2012)
...80/100,000 property crime arrest rate out of an estimated 4,981 youth ages 10-17
- St. Thomas/St. John: 17 youth arrests (down from 31 in 2013)
...423/100,000 arrest rate out of an estimated 4,018 youth ages 10-17
U.S. rate: 699.4 property crime arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17.²⁹

Juvenile Justice / Rehabilitation.


There is one secured youth 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 84 youth were retained in the YRC in 2014. Of these youth...

- over 85% were male
- 74% came from single-parent households
- 83% were living at home at the time of admission
- 6% were high school dropouts
- 74% had a positive drug screen upon admission
- 31% had been arrested for violent crime
- 67% had been arrested for property crime
- 49% were repeat offenders
- 11% reported having experienced some form of abuse during their lifetime
- 23% had been diagnosed at some point as having special education needs

²⁸ [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Violent Crime Index Offenses](#)

²⁹ [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Property Crime Index Offenses](#)



There were 35 juvenile violent crime arrests in 2014, out of an estimated 9,019 VI youth ages 10-17. The rate of juvenile crime arrests was 388 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17 (decreasing from 559/100,000 in 2013, approaching the 2010 rate of 364/100,000).

Overview of Data Collection for the 2016 Data Book

This book compiles information available on US Virgin Islands children and families for the year 2014 and, where available, with data for previous years to reveal trends of up to 20 years in the status of children. Due to challenges collecting data from some local data partners, certain indicators reported in previous years were not available at the time of printing; however, data will be added to the online Data Center and to the electronic version of this Data Book posted online, as they become available.

National comparison 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 the 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 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: 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: 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 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; VICS

Chronic Absence. An indicator reflecting all absences: excused, unexcused, and suspensions. SOURCE: VI Dept. of Education

Civilian Labor Force. The sum of all civilian persons classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the definitions of each.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research

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: 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

Gross Territorial Product. The value of the goods and services produced by the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) economy less the value of the goods and services used up in production. GDP is also equal to the sum of personal consumption expenditures, private fixed investment, change in private inventories, net exports of goods and services, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment.
SOURCE: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

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: VICS; 1990 - 2010 US Census.

Per Capita Income. The average income of every man, woman and child in the USVI.
SOURCE: 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 Smarter Balanced Assessments and National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Alternate Assessments
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

Unemployment Rate. The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force. Unemployed persons are defined as those persons aged 16 years and older who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.
SOURCE: VI Bureau of Economic Research

Very Low Birthweight Babies. The portion of live infants born weighing less than 3.3 pounds.
SOURCE: VI Dept. of Health

Youth Employment. The percent of teens 16-19, 20-24 in the labor force who are employed.
SOURCE: VICS

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This 17th Data Book is also the result of sustained local partnerships involving the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI), the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), the Virgin Islands government, community organizations, and service-providing agencies.

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- Ivan Rampersad, Ferdinand Reyes and Delroy Richards, Commissioner, Police Department

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

For more than 25 years the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has been a catalyst for positive change in the Territory through initiatives committed to youth, learning, family support and the environment. With a professional staff and a volunteer Board of Directors composed of community leaders, CFVI is a trusted advocate and supporter of programs that ensure opportunity and sustainability for current and future generations. CFVI is a registered non-profit organization entirely supported by individual donors, grants, trusts, corporate donations and estate planning.

Since September 2017, CFVI has been serving as a vehicle for receiving and distributing funds to support hurricane relief efforts throughout the Territory. In addition to providing administrative oversight to over 100 named funds, and programs, CFVI is focused on meeting the emergency, immediate and long-term needs of children, youth and families in the aftermath of two Category 5 hurricanes.

CFVI Board of Directors

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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 unincorporated insular territory of the United States, with a total land area of 134 square miles. The Virgin Islands includes 68 separate islands and cays, but all residents are categorized as living on one of three main islands—St. Thomas, St. Croix, or St. John. The U.S. Census Bureau treats the three main islands as the statistical equivalents of counties, and considers the fourth island, Water Island, to be a subdivision of St. Thomas. The USVI has a smaller population than any U.S. state. The territory has about one-fifth the population—and twice the land area—of Washington, D.C.

For this first time in our Data Book history, we used photos of local children! Thank you to photographer Don Hebert for capturing the beautiful images, and to the administration and parents of children from All Saints Cathedral School and Giff Hill School; the Next Generation Scholars Program; and visitors to the St. Croix Agricultural fair for their participation!



OUR CHILDREN IN FOCUS

US VIRGIN ISLANDS KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2016

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

- (2015) By the Numbers: Where Do We Stand?
- (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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