



O u r c h i l d r e n n o w !  
**INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE**  
U S V i r g i n I s l a n d s K i d s C o u n t D a t a B o o k 2 0 1 1



# WHAT IS KIDS COUNT?



A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, **KIDS COUNT** is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States.

**KIDS COUNT** strives to build awareness of children's risks and well-being, and prompt data-based community response to improve the health, the safety and the economic status of children, from birth to age eighteen.

The **KIDS COUNT** goal is to enrich local, state and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children, by providing policy-makers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being.

For 22 years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has sponsored annual, state-level **KIDS COUNT Data Reports** and has published an annual **National KIDS COUNT Data Book** reporting state-level data, rankings, and national trends for children.

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

The **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** compiles the best data available on the well-being of VI children and families, and provides updates on key indicators of VI child well-being, using latest data available (2009 is the data year reported in 2011).

# WELCOME TO KIDS COUNT

## Dear Colleagues:

The Community Foundation thanks the many community partners with whom we work to compile our annual **KIDS COUNT Data Report** for the US Virgin Islands. For the twelfth year, we are pleased to provide the best data available on the well-being of children and families in the territory.

This year's report begins a multi-year effort to measure the effects on VI children of the national economic recession that began in 2008. While full effects in the USVI typically lag several years behind the nation's economic upswings or downturns, we find that rising unemployment of VI children's parents has led to a greater documented reliance on the territory's system of public supports (see our new report on VI children and public supports, pages 18-20). So far, it appears that these income and nutritional support programs may have helped to keep the impact of child poverty steady in the territory between 2008 and 2009. Yet more than one out of every four VI children (7,625 children) lives in a family with income below the poverty threshold.

Data-driven programs and policies can help struggling children and their families. We believe that it has never been more important to have meaningful and reliable data to guide strategic investments for children and families.

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

- Children in Families Receiving Public Supports
- Childhood Immunizations
- Children's Health Insurance
- Children with Special Needs

As our leaders look to cut expenses and trim budgets, one lesson is clear: supporting our children is not just the right thing to do -- it's one of the best investments we can make. Investing in our children is investing in the future of the Virgin Islands. When we help children succeed, we are paving the way for our next generation of workers and leaders.

Working together with other committed stakeholders, we offer this **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Report** to help inform and prompt responses to the challenges facing our community -- and to help strengthen our children's foundation for future success.



Dee Baecher-Brown  
**President, CFVI**



Ricardo J. Charaf  
**Board Chair, CFVI**



We encourage readers to take and return the enclosed survey, so we might continue to improve our reporting on **USVI KIDS COUNT** children's issues. Find the survey online also, at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net), under the **KIDS COUNT** link. A simple click submits it back to us!

## Two ways to find USVI KIDS COUNT data online, at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net).

1) for a pdf version of the printed **2011 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book**, *Investing in Our Children's Future*, go to [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net) and click on “**KIDS COUNT.**” You can also access an executive summary of the 2011 report, and information from previous **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books** at this site.

2) for a greatly-expanded version of the **2011 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book**, go to [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on the button marked “how are kids doing?” which takes users directly to the **Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT** page at [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org), with seventy-plus data indicators and trends for VI children, in the areas of health, safety, community and education.

## What is the KIDS COUNT Data Center, at [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)?

The **KIDS COUNT Data Center** ([datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)) provides easy online access to the latest data on child well-being nationwide. Find hundreds of indicators for children and families on topics such as education, employment and income, health, poverty, and youth risk factors for all US states, many cities and counties, as well as the District of Columbia and the US territories.

The **KIDS COUNT Data Center** contains national, regional and USVI maps and graphs of the latest data on poverty, health insurance coverage, and more than 100 other indicators of child well-being. Users can customize and share data, tables, maps, charts and more – as direct downloads to websites or for use in presentations and publications.

## To reach the Virgin Islands page at this site:

1) At [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org), click tab marked “Data by State.” On the page that follows, scroll down to and click on “Virgin Islands.” You’ll go directly to the Virgin Islands page providing access to all **USVI KIDS COUNT** current and past data charts.

2) To access these, click on “full set” within the “Profiles” title bar. On the following page, click “All Indicators,” or select a specific indicator area from the drop-down menu.

This site allows users to measure and compare VI children’s well-being

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



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Summary of VI KIDS COUNT Findings and Alerts 2011\*

### Population

#### Changes '09:

- **Number** of VI children (birth to 18) lowered to 25,523 or 23.8% of total VI population ...in 1997: 36,179 children or 32% of total VI population.

### Children's Family Structure and Security

#### Positives '09

- VI **family median income** was \$43,691 in 2009 ...in 1997: \$30,530.

#### Challenges '09

- In an increasing trend, 49% of all VI families with children are now **single-mother families** ...US rate: 23%.
- 10,625 children (41% of VI children) now live in **single-mother families** ...in 1997: 31% of VI children ...US rate: 25% of children live in single-mother families.
- 55.6% of VI children now live in **single-parent families** (ie. with single mother or single father).
- VI **family median income** is \$16,400 lower than the nation's ...US family median income: \$60,088.
- 25% of all VI families with children live in **poverty**.
- More than one out of every four VI children is living in **poverty** – 7,625 children, or 29.9%.
- 35% of all St. Croix children live below the poverty level; 24% of all St. Thomas children; 20% of all St. John children.
- 75% of VI families with children living in poverty are **headed by single mothers**.

\*USVI KIDS COUNT 2011 Data Book reports data for the most recent year available (2009).

### Children's Health and Safety

#### Positives '09

- The VI **low birthweight** rate lowered to 8.1% of all live births, the lowest rate measured by **KIDS COUNT** since 1997, and better than the *national low birthweight rate* of 8.2%.
- Despite a rise in the infant mortality rate, the 4.3/1000 VI rate of **infant death** continues to be lower (ie. better) than the *national rate* of 6.7/1000.

#### Challenges '09

- Almost 2/3 (63%) of VI children under age 5 receive nutritional support provided by WIC, a federal health intervention program. Almost half (47%) of VI children under age 18 receive federal food assistance ("SNAP") benefits.
- The VI rate of 51% for **early-childhood immunizations** (4:3:1:3:3 vaccine series) lags almost 20 percentage points behind the *national rate* of 70% immunization-compliance.
- Approximately 26% of the VI child population from birth through age 17 are **without health insurance**.
- The **VI teen birth** rate of 51/1000 girls age 15-19 exceeds the *US rate* of 41/1000; 216 babies born to VI teens age 15-19 represent 12% of all live VI births in 2009.
- The VI has an exceptionally high rate of **juvenile violent crime arrests**: 673 arrests per 100,000 youth age 10-17 in 2009, vs. *the VI rate* of 310/100,000 in 1997, or *the US rate* of 306/100,000 in 2009.

### Children's Education

#### Challenges '09

- More than 40% of representative VI students entering public kindergarten have skills below expected age-levels in areas crucial to learning.
- More than half of the public school students measured demonstrated academic proficiency below grade level expectations in reading and math.

- 73% of 7th graders, and 61% of 11th graders are below 'proficiency' levels in **reading**.
- 45% of 7th graders, and 52% of 11th graders are below 'proficiency' levels in **math**.
- Almost one of every ten teens age 16-19 is a school dropout.
- 19% of VI teens age 16-19 are not in school and not employed, more than twice the US rate of 9%.



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Find more VI  
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**Table 1. Trends in Virgin Islands Children Indicators: 2003 to 2009**

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

\*See Definitions and Data Sources.

\*\*Trend: base year for comparison is 2003

<sup>1</sup> Comparison to 2003 unavailable – comparison year is 2004<sup>2</sup> Data from years 2005-2007 has been updated from past reporting; see page titled 'Detached Youth.'<sup>3</sup> Data previous to 2007 reports VI children living with single mother only; since then data now reports VI children living with a single parent (ie. mother or father)

NA: Not available



**Table 2. US and VI Comparisons of Children Indicators: 2009 Data**

US Virgin Islands Children Indicators*	St. Croix		St. John		St. Thomas		US Virgin Islands		National
	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Rate/%
Percent low birthweight babies	45	5.4	<sup>2</sup>		97	10.5	142	8.1	8.2 <sup>1</sup>
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	6.7	9.6	<sup>2</sup>		2	2.2	10	5.7	6.8
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	2	21	<sup>2</sup>		1	10.4	3	15.7	19 <sup>1</sup>
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	2	46	<sup>2</sup>		5	139.4	7	88.2	62
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females 15-19)	127	51.9	<sup>2</sup>		89	50.5	216	51.3	41
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17)	44	704	<sup>2</sup>		36	638	80	673	261.6
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	575	9.1	6
Percent of teens not in school and not working (ages 16-19)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,197	18.9	9
Percent of children in poverty	4,541	35.3	137	20	2,947	24.6	7,625	29.9	20
Percent of children in single parent households <sup>3</sup>	7,774	60	<sup>2</sup>		7,247	57	15,021	58.8	32
Child abuse and neglect referral rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-18) <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	352	13.8	9
Median income of families	\$42,876		\$38,126		\$44,501		\$43,691		\$60,088

\*See Definitions and Data Sources

<sup>1</sup> National rate is for 2008

<sup>2</sup> Included in St. Thomas data

<sup>3</sup> Data previous to 2007 reports VI children living with single mother only. 2008 data now reports VI children living with a single parent (ie. mother or father)

<sup>4</sup> VI data reflects youth ages 0-17

NA: Not available

## VI Child Demographics

### US Virgin Islands child population, 2009.

- Total population (adults and children): estimated at 107,343 (about 8,500 fewer than in 2008).
- Child population (birth through age eighteen): 25,523 children (about 1,800 fewer children than in 2008).
- Children are 23.8% of the VI population (24% in 2008)... **The national rate:** 24%.

### By location.

- **St. Croix:** 50.4% of all VI children (12,862 children, or 24.4% of St. Croix's total population of 52,612).
- **St. Thomas:** 46.9% of all VI children (11,975 children, or 23.6% of St. Thomas' population of 50,583).
- **St. John:** 2.7% of all VI children (686 children, or 16.5% of St. John's population of 4,148).
- The portion of St. Thomas children rose slightly in 2009 (up from 42% in 2008), with a resulting small fall in the portions of children in St. Croix (54% in 2008) and St. John (4% in 2008).

### By race.

- Black children: 20,430 or 80% of all VI children (from 80.5% in 2008).
- White children: 896 or 3.5% of all VI children (down from 5% in 2008).
- Other-race children: 4,197 or 16.4% of VI children (up from 14.6% in 2008).
- Children of Hispanic origin (includes black, white and 'other' race children): 6,283 or 24.6% of all VI children (up from 21.4% in 2008).

### By gender.\*

- Females: 51.4% of all VI children.
- Males: 48.6%.

\* This "gender" demographic measures a slightly larger population – VI children and youth age birth through 19 years (representing 14,561 females and 13,791 males, i.e. a total "child" population of 28,352).

### Total VI child population (Percent)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
31.6%	31.5%	29.6%	28.4%	28.4%	27.7%	25%	24%	24%	23.8%

### VI child population by race (Percent)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>White</b>	6%	4.9%	5.6%	5.1%	4.8%	3.6%	3.6%	5%	3.5%
<b>Black</b>	84.2%	85%	80.5%	80.8%	84.7%	82%	80.7%	80.5%	80%
<b>Other</b>	9.9%	9.6%	13.9%	14.1%	10.6%	14.3%	15.7%	14.6%	16.4%

Data Source: Virgin Islands Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands. Table 1-2

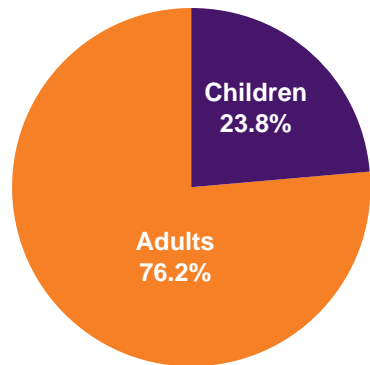
Find these charts, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Demographics topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- VI child population by gender (number; percent)
- Children born in the VI (number; percent)
- VI children in immigrant families (number; percent)
- VI child population by race (number; percent)
- VI children of Hispanic origin (number; percent)
- VI child population by age group (number; percent)
- Language spoken in VI children's homes (number; percent)

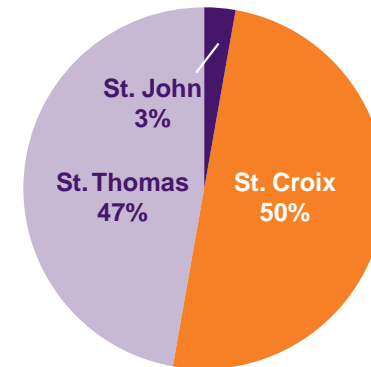
# FAMILY & COMMUNITY

## VI Child Demographics, cont.

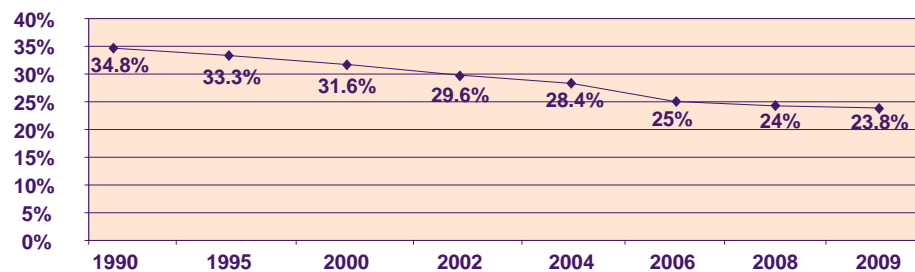
VI Children  
By Overall VI Population, 2009



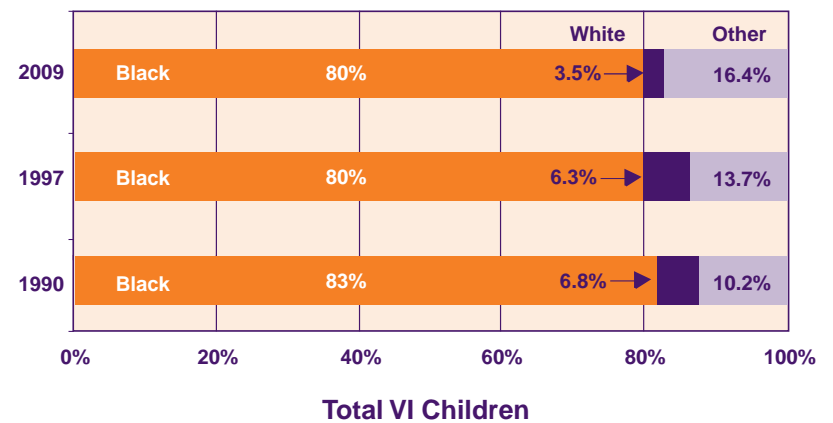
VI Children  
By Location, 2009



How has the Percentage of Children in  
VI Population Changed, 1990-2009?



How has VI Children's Racial Mix Changed,  
1990-2009?





## Children in Families

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

In 2009, the territory's 25,523 children lived in a total of 13,794 families, structured in many forms.

#### Children living with married parents.

*Note: 'married parents' refers to married birth parents, parent and stepparent, and adoptive parents.*

- One-third of the child population (33.3% of all VI children, or 8,499 children) lived with married parents (the same rate as in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 33% of children (4,208 children) lived with married parents (30% in '08).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 34% of children (4,291 children) lived with married parents (from 37% in 2008).
- **The national rate:** 67% of US children lived with married parents -- twice the VI rate.

#### Children with a single parent.

- 58.8% of all VI children (15,021 children) lived in single parent families (up from 55.6% in '08).<sup>1</sup>
- **The national rate:** 32% of all US children lived with a single parent. Nationally, 25% of children lived with a single mother, 7% with a single father.<sup>2</sup>
- **VI children in single mother families:** 41.6% of all VI children (10,625 children) lived in families headed by single mothers (40.1% in 2008).
- **VI children in single father families:** 17.2% of all VI children (4,396 children) lived in families headed by single fathers (15.5% in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 43% of St. Croix children (5,563 children) lived with a single mother; 17% (2,211 children) with a single father. Total: 60% of St. Croix children (7,774 children) lived in single parent families.

- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 40% of children (5,062 children) lived with a single mother; 17% (2,185 children) with a single father. Total: 57% of STT/STJ children lived in single parent families.
- **Percent of single mother VI families:** Essentially half (49.7%) of all VI families with children are single mother families (up from 46% in 2008).
- **The national rate:** 23% of all US families with children are single mother families (from 19% in 2008).<sup>3</sup>

#### Children with a non parent.

- **The VI rate:** 8% of VI children (1,952 children) lived with neither parent (from 10.6% in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 6.7% of children (856 children) lived with neither parent.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 8.7% of children (1,096 children) lived with neither parent.
- **The national rate:** 5% of US children lived with neither parent.

#### ...with a grandparent

- 4.8% of VI children age 0-18 (1,237 children) lived with a grandparent, with no parent present. 10% of VI children (2,586 children) lived in a household headed by a grandparent, with a parent present.
- **St. Croix:** 4.8% (or 618 children) lived solely with a grandparent.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 4.9% (618 children) lived solely with a grandparent.
- **The national rate:** 5% of US children lived with a grandparent.

#### ...with other relatives

- 2.6% of VI children (665 children) lived with relatives other than a grandparent or parent (from 5.6% in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 1.7 % (214 children) lived with other relatives.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 3.6% (451 children) lived with other relatives.

#### ...with a non-relative.

- 51 VI children (.2%) lived with non-relatives in 2009 (same as in 2008). These may also include householders or spouses in their own households.
- **St. Croix:** 24 children.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 27 children.

<sup>1</sup>Newly-detailed data in the *VI Community Survey* allows KIDS COUNT to identify "single-parent families" as families headed either by a single mother or a single father. Before 2007, data on VI single-parent families only reported single-mother families.

<sup>2</sup>2009 American Community Survey, Table S0901 and <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>

<sup>3</sup>2009 American Community Survey, Table S1101: Households and Families

*Continued on next page*

# FAMILY & COMMUNITY

## Children in Families, cont.

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Children in Families topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

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

*Definition: **Children in families** is the percentage of children age 0-18 in living arrangements that include the following household structures:*

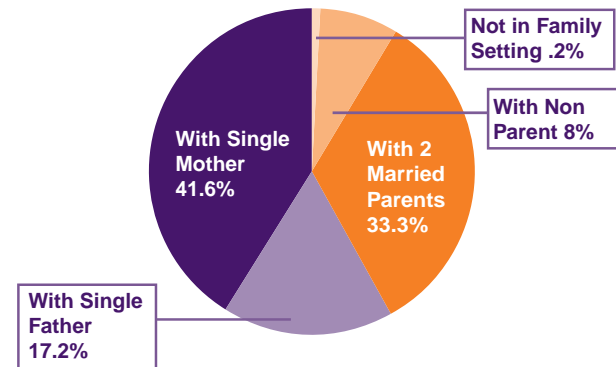
*A **two-parent or married-parent family** refers to parents who are married to each other and living in the same household. They may be biological, adoptive, or include stepparents.*

***Single-parent families** refer primarily to families in which only one parent is present, but may include some families where both parents are present but unmarried.*

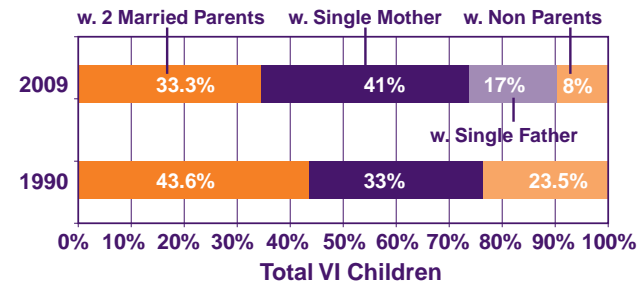
***Grandparent families** refer to children living in the home of grandparents where parents may or may not be present.*

***Non-parent families** refer to families where neither parent of the child lives in the household.*

What are VI Children's Family Structures, 2009?



How Have VI Children's Family Structures Changed, 1990-2009?



How Do VI Children's Family Structures Compare to the US, 2009?

	in VI	in US
% of single mother families	49%	23%
% of children living with 2 married parents	33%	67%
% of children living with single parents	58.8%	32%

## Economic Well-Being of Families

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

In 2009, recessionary conditions in the US and larger world began to weaken the US Virgin Islands' general economy. Throughout the territory, job layoffs and unemployment rose as trade, investment, tourism and government revenues declined.

### Per capita income, for individuals.

- Individual per capita income increased to \$17,860 in 2009 (from \$17,545 in 2008).
- **The national rate:** \$39,138 (more than twice the VI per capita income rate).

### Poverty rate for individuals.

- The individual poverty rate improved (fell) by one percentage point to 25.8% of the VI population (from 26.8% in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 28.4% of individuals reported incomes below the poverty line (27.9% in '08).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 23.2% (25.7% in '08).

### Income level for families.

- 93% of VI families (or 26,118 out of 28,085 families with and without children) reported earned income (91.6% in 2008).
- 7% of families (1,967 families) earned no income.

### In 2009:

- 41.8% of VI families earned \$50k or more (from 42% of families in 2008).
- 58.2% of families earned less than \$50,000 (from 58% in 2008).
- 15.6% of families earned \$35k to less than \$50k (15% in 2008).
- 12.5% of families earned \$25k to less than \$35k (11% in 2008).
- 12.7% of families earned \$15k to less than \$25k

(12% in 2008).

- 17.5% of families earned less than \$15k (20% of families in 2008).

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

- Included in the 17.5% of families earning less than \$15k are 7% of families who earned no income (from 8% in '08).

### Poverty rate for families.

- In 2009, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two related children under age 18 was \$21,756 in annual income.<sup>1</sup>

*Note: the poverty threshold is adjusted for varying family sizes.<sup>1</sup>*

- 21.3% of all VI families lived below the poverty threshold (22.5% in 2008).
- 24.9% of all VI families with children lived in poverty (24.8% last year).
- **St. Croix:** 22.5% poverty rate for black families (22.3% in 2008); 37.9% for white families (35.3% in 2008).
- **St. Thomas:** 19% poverty rate for black families (from 19.6% in 2008); 16.7% for white families (15.1% in 2008).
- **St. John:** 31.3% poverty rate for black families (from 25% in 2008); 6.7% for white families.

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

### Median income, for families.

- VI family median income dipped in 2009 to \$43,691 (from \$43,949 in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** estimated at \$42,876 (from \$40,683 last year).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** estimated at \$44,178 (from \$47,767 last year).

### What is the national family median income?

- \$60,088 — still far ahead of the Virgin Islands.

### Earnings by race.

- Black family median income: \$42,923. White family median income: \$59,849.
- **St. Croix:** black family median income was \$42,779; white family income was \$88,751.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** black family median income was \$43,001; white family income was \$54,227.

### Earnings by gender.

- VI women's median income fell compared to men's in 2009. VI men's median income was \$28,102 (from \$27,914 in '08). VI women's median income was \$20,244 (from \$24,410 in '08).
- The gender income-gap widened: VI women in '09 earned 72 cents on the dollar earned by men (a 15-cent decrease from 87 cents earned last year).
- Income differences persist at all levels of education attainment, but are the greatest between men and women with an associate degree (a difference of \$10,732).

### Employment rates.

- 68.7% of all household heads were employed in 2009 (66.9% in 2008).
- 67% of single-female household heads were employed (69% in 2008).
- More than one in three families in poverty (36.4%) had employment, compared to 34% the previous year. Of these, single-female household heads decreased their employment, to 43% in 2009 (from 46% in '08).
- The poverty rate for single-women household heads inched lower to 32% (from 34.6% in '08), while remaining significantly more than the 21.3% poverty rate for families of all types.

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# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

## Economic Well-Being of Families, cont.

### Employment of VI family household heads (Percent)

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
68.4%	66%	73%	72.6%	66.6%	69.9%	68.7%

Data Source: Virgin Islands Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands. Tables 1-15, 1-16

Find these charts, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Economic Well-Being topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

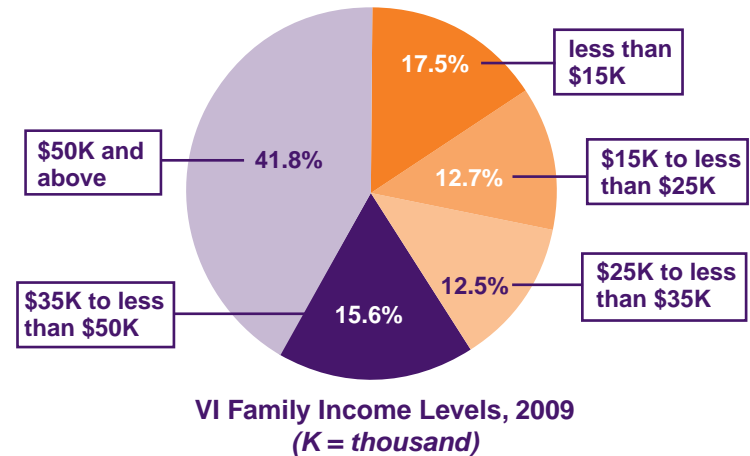
- Median family income (currency)
- Median family income by race (currency)
- Per capita income (currency)
- Unemployment rate (percent)
- Unemployment rate by race (percent)
- Employment of family household heads (percent)
- Families in poverty by race (percent)

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

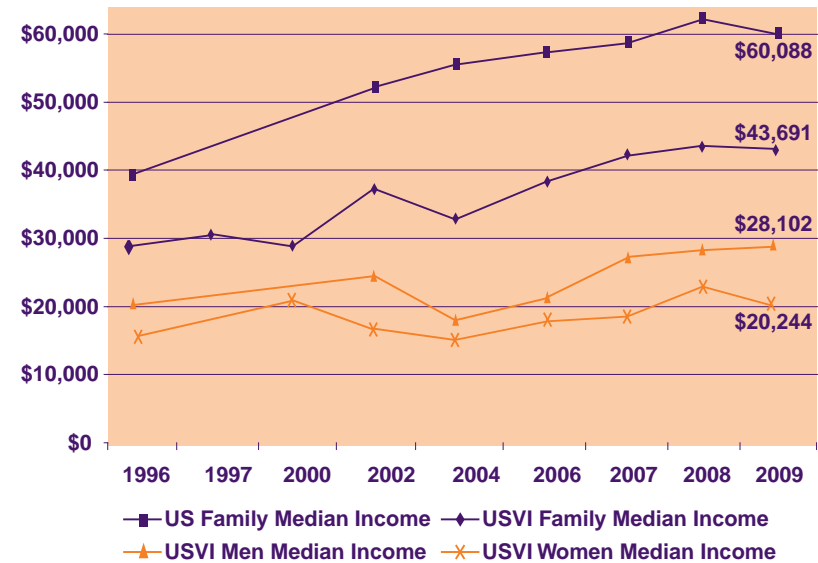
Definition: **Per capita income** is the mean income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.

<sup>1</sup>See US Poverty Thresholds for 2009 by size of family and number of related children under 18 years at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshold/thresh09.html>.

### What are VI Family Incomes, 2009?



### How Have VI Incomes Changed, 1996-2009?



## Child Poverty

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

- In 2009, 29.9% of all VI children (7,625 children) lived in households with incomes below the poverty threshold<sup>1</sup> (up from 28.1% in 2008). While the actual number of children in poverty was almost unchanged (7,669 children in poverty in 2008), the percentage of children in poverty rose from the previous year due to fewer VI children in 2009.
- **St. Croix:** 35.3% child poverty rate (4,541 children...up from 31.4% or 4,636 children in 2008). The child poverty rate in St. Croix is an alarming 10 percentage points higher than in St. Thomas, and 15 percentage points higher than in St. John.
- **St. Thomas:** 24.6% child poverty rate (2,947 children... down from 25.5% in 2008).
- **St. John:** 20% child poverty rate (137 children... from 7% in 2008).  
*Note: small absolute numbers lead to large variations in rates that are population based.*
- 35% is the average rate of VI child poverty for the 12 years measured by KIDS COUNT.

### What is the child poverty rate in the nation?

- 20% (up from 18% in 2008).

### Poverty among children age birth to five.

Children under age six are most vulnerable to poverty's long-term impacts – yet this age group has the highest rate of child poverty. They are more likely to enter kindergarten intellectually and emotionally behind other children, and struggle to keep up during later school years.

Poverty's risks for children between birth and age five include inadequate nutrition, lower quality childcare, maternal depression, trauma and abuse, parental substance abuse, unstable housing, environmental toxins exposure, and inadequate healthcare.

- 41% (two out of every five children) of all VI children age birth to five lived in poverty – 2,917 children, out of 7,071 children this age.
- 38% of all VI children in poverty are birth to five.
- Children age birth to five living in poverty represent 11.7% of all VI children.

### Single mother families.

Child poverty in the VI is significantly tied to single-motherhood. Non-marriage and father absence significantly weaken income-stability and financial health for families with children. Research confirms that children living without their biological fathers are five times more likely to be poor compared to children living with both parents.<sup>2</sup>

### In 2009:

- 41.6% of VI children lived in families headed by single mothers (40% in '08).
- **The national rate:** 25%
- 49.7% of all VI families with children were headed by single mothers (46.5% in 2008).
- **The national rate:** 23%.<sup>3</sup>
- Of all VI single mother families with children, 37.4% lived in poverty (38% in 2008).
- Of all VI families with children in poverty, 74.7% were headed by single mothers (72.3% in 2008).

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### In 2009:

Total VI child population – 25,523

*(or 24% of the total VI population, which numbered 107,343)*

Number of VI families with children (age 0-18) – 13,794

*(or 49% of all VI families, which numbered 28,085)*

Number of VI single-mother families with children – 6,856

*(or 49.7% of all 13,794 VI families with children)*

Number of VI families with children, living in poverty – 3,431

*(or 24.8% of all VI families with children)*

Number of VI single-mother families with children, living in poverty – 2,563

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

*(or 37.4% of all VI single-mother families with children)*

Total number of VI children living in poverty – 7,625

*(or 29.9% of all VI children)*

# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

## Child Poverty, cont.

### Poverty rate of VI female-headed families with children (Percent)

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
48.9%	37%	43.5%	39.6%	44%	39.6%	43.6%	38.6%	37.4%

Data Source: 2009 Virgin Islands Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands. Table 1-16

Find this chart, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Child Poverty topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

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

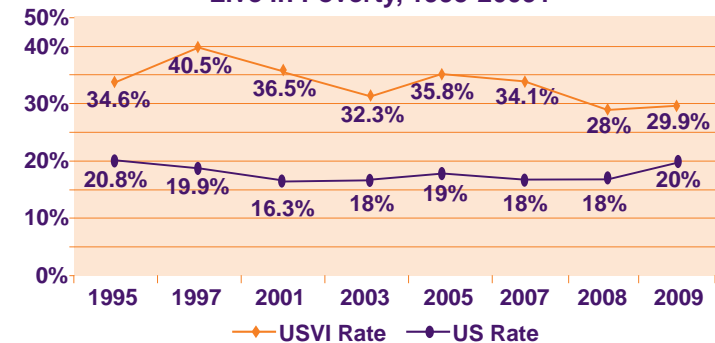
**Definition:** *Child poverty* is defined as the number and percentage of children birth to age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Income and poverty data are based on the preceding year, thus 2009 poverty levels are based on income earned in 2008.

<sup>1</sup>The poverty threshold in 2009 was an income of \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children. See US Poverty Thresholds for 2009 by size of family and number of related children under 18 years at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/thresh09.html>.

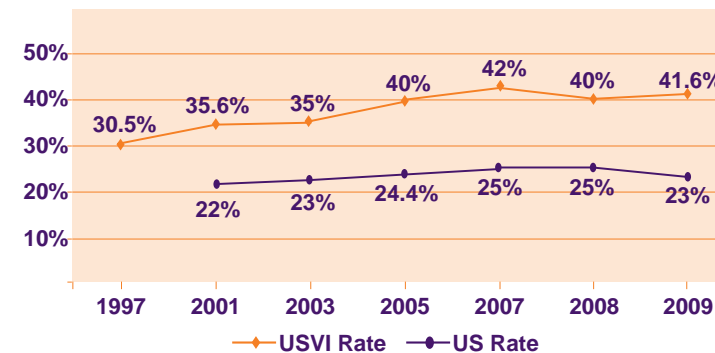
<sup>2</sup>Children's Defense Fund, "Child Poverty in America," August 2008

<sup>3</sup>2009 American Community Survey, Table S1101: Households and Families.

### What Percentage of VI Children Live in Poverty, 1995-2009?



### What Percentage of VI Children Live in Single Mother Families, 1997-2009?





## Children in Families Receiving Public Supports

**Summary.** During the recent recession, the expansion of VI family-support programs played a part in offsetting a drop in general employment and earnings. Between 2008 and 2009, these expanded programs helped safeguard many low-income VI families, likely keeping hundreds of children out of poverty, and the level of child poverty relatively steady in the territory.

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

### Background.

- Family incomes can be fragile in the US Virgin Islands. The territory's financial health depends on seasonal tourism (strong from November to May), and on the project-based work of the territory's main land-based industry, St. Croix's large Hovensa petroleum refinery. When household heads cannot find living-wage work or when incomes decline, as when employers reduce working hours, VI costs remain high.
- VI cost of living is generally regarded as being 20% higher than in the nation. While housing, food and fuel cost more here, the local minimum wage is \$7.25, the same amount as in the United States.
- A portion of residents rely on federal programs, such as unemployment insurance or others named below, to supplement their family's low or lowered incomes. Even so, federal cash assistance buys less here in basic household living supports -- food or housing for example -- than it does in the United States.
- In late 2008 the national recession began. The US Virgin Islands began to feel its impact in 2009, when costs rose even higher for fuel, transportation, food, and all imported goods.

Meanwhile, tourist numbers fell, and local businesses began cutting their cash flow, inventories, working hours and staff. According to the VI Department of Labor, the territory lost 1,200 jobs in the 12 months between December 2008 and December 2009 (ie. when 48,350 people were employed, down from 49,540 a year before).

## Children in Families Receiving Income Assistance

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF, formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children).** TANF, a federal income-support program, provides temporary cash assistance to qualifying individuals or families with dependent children. Adults receiving TANF benefits are required to participate in work that can lead to self-sufficiency through employment. Individuals can qualify for TANF benefits for 60 months maximum (ie. 5 years) within their lifetime. TANF is funded through the US Health and Human Services Department.

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

In fiscal year 2009, the need for TANF assistance expanded by 12% overall in the USVI, with \$1,689,219 in total benefits issued to VI families in need (up from \$1,395,373 the previous year).

In fiscal year 2009, TANF cash assistance benefited 6% of VI children (1,536 VI children) age birth up to age 18 (up from 5.1% or 1390 children in 2008).

- Of the 1,536 VI children who benefited by TANF assistance, 73% (1,115 children) lived in **St. Croix**, 27% (421 children) lived in **St. Thomas/St. John**.

- Of the 1,536 VI children who benefited by TANF assistance, 94% (1,439 children) lived with a single parent, 2% (30 children) lived with two parents, and 4% (67 children) lived without either parent.
- Of all 722 VI child-based households receiving TANF benefits, 91% (657 households) were headed by a single parent.

### Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI).

Unemployment Insurance income-assistance programs provide temporary benefit payments to eligible workers. Recipients must meet state requirements for wages earned or length of time worked, and must be unemployed through no fault of their own (as determined under state law). UI benefits reflect a percentage of a worker's earnings over a recent period, up to a state-determined maximum amount.

UI programs are jointly financed through federal and state employer payroll taxes, and administered by the Department of Labor in each separate state.

*Note: the number and rate of unemployed workers in a community are likely to be higher than official measurements. Unemployment data and rates reflect workers age 16 and older who are actively seeking work, and thus do not count 'discouraged' unemployed workers who have given up searching for a job.*

During the recent economic recession, unemployed workers have been out of work for longer stretches than in previous downturns. While in 2009 the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* extended federal jobless and unemployment benefits, many US workers' periods of unemployment have outlasted the duration of their benefits.

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

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# ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

## Children Receiving Public Supports, cont.

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

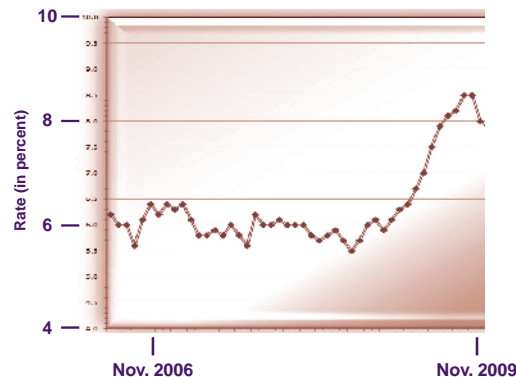
In 2009, the average VI rate of unemployment rose to 7.6% of the labor force, up from 5.8% in 2008.

- **St. Croix:** 8.8% average rate of unemployment.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 6.6% average rate of unemployment.
- Unemployment was highest in September and October.
- At the end of the year (December 2009), the VI labor force numbered 52,500 people. Of these, 48,350 were employed and 4,152 unemployed, a year-end unemployment rate of 7.9%.

**The national unemployment rate:** 9.3%

With more adults out of work, the VI Unemployment Insurance program increased overall by 58% in 2009, with a maximum weekly benefit of \$462. Total benefit issuances for needy workers and their families increased to \$20,736,058, from a total of \$13,123,744 the previous year.

What is the VI Unemployment Rate?



Continued on next page

### How Many VI Children Received TANF Benefits, 2006-2009?

	2006	2007	2008	2009
St. Croix	991	1032	1037	1115
St. Thomas/St. John	425	366	353	421
<b>Total VI Children</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,536</b>

### How Many VI Children Received SNAP Benefits, 2006-2009?

	2006	2007	2008	2009
St. Croix	6,499	6,360	6,389	7,216
St. Thomas/St. John	3,690	3,649	3,704	4,860
<b>Total VI Children</b>	<b>10,189</b>	<b>10,009</b>	<b>10,093</b>	<b>12,076</b>

### How Many Young VI Children Received WIC Benefits, 2005-2009?

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Infants (up to age 1)	1,063	1,061	1,216	1,244	1,330
Children (age 1 up to 5)	2,936	2,760	2,653	2,800	3,108
<b>Total VI young children</b>	<b>3,999</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>3,869</b>	<b>4,044</b>	<b>4,438</b>

### How Many 'School' Meals were Served in the VI, 2007-2009?

	2007	2008	2009
Number of free Childcare Center meals served	477,874	481,379	558,896
Number of free School Breakfast meals served	649,098	741,576	711,047
Number of free School Lunch + Snack served	2,253,664	2,410,439	2,337,005
<b>Total free meals served to children</b>	<b>3,380,636</b>	<b>3,633,394</b>	<b>3,606,948</b>

## Children Receiving Public Supports, cont.

### Children In Families Receiving Nutrition Assistance

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

*WIC* is a federal health-intervention program, serving at-risk mothers and their young children. Clients must meet low-to mid-income criteria and be at nutritional risk (as determined by a health professional).

*WIC* serves pregnant, post-partum and breastfeeding mothers, infants, and children under age 5, referring them to available health care and social services, and providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and monthly vouchers for specific healthy foods.

The *WIC* program seeks to reduce incidences of premature birth, low birthweight births and infant mortality. *WIC* also aims to improve participating infants' and young children's cognitive and physical development through better nutrition, complete, early immunizations, and regularly-scheduled medical visits.

The *WIC* program is funded by the US Department of Agriculture.

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

- In fiscal year 2009, 4,438 young children from birth through age four (or 63% of an estimated 7,071 VI children this age) received *WIC* benefits: 1,330 infants in their first year of life, and 3,108 children age 1 through 4 years old.
- In 2008, *WIC* had served 4,044 children (or 70% of an estimated 5,774 VI children under five years old in that year). Both years represented an increased portion of young children compared to fiscal year 2005, when *WIC* had served 3,999 children (or 50% of the estimated 7,937 VI children under five years old in that year).

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

*SNAP* provides federal food subsidies to reduce hunger among eligible individuals and families with children experiencing unemployment, disability, reduced work hours, or other causes of income insecurity.

Recipients can use *SNAP* monthly benefits to buy low-cost, healthy foods at participating retail stores. *SNAP* aims to promote better nutrition among low-income household members, and strengthen the ability of this population to bridge the gap between earned household income and basic, yearly living expenses.

*SNAP* is administered through the US Department of Agriculture.

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

The *SNAP* program in the USVI increased overall in fiscal year 2009, with total issuances for families in need spiking 67% to \$33,962,740 (from \$22,902,242 the previous year).

In fiscal year 2009, *SNAP* benefits served 12,076 VI children age birth up to age eighteen. This figure represents 47% of VI children this age in 2009 (up from 37% -- or 10,093 children -- in 2008).

- Of the 12,076 children served by *SNAP* benefits, 60% (7,216 children) lived in **St. Croix**; 40% (4,860 children) lived in **St. Thomas/St. John**.
- Of the 12,076 VI children served by *SNAP* benefits, 84% (10,118 children) lived with a single parent, 10% (1,269) lived with two parents and 6% (689 children) lived without either parent.
- Of the 8,748 VI child-based households receiving *SNAP* benefits in fiscal year 2009, 80% were headed by a single parent.

### ***School Nutrition Programs.***

The *School Breakfast Program (SBP)* and the *National School Lunch Program (NSLP)* are federal initiatives to enhance needy children's educational performance by improving their overall nutrition. Children from families with incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) are eligible for free nutritious meals during each school day -- prepared and served at participating public and non-profit private schools or childcare centers. Similarly, children from families with incomes between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive these meals at reduced prices.

The *School Nutrition Programs* are funded and conducted by the US Department of Agriculture.

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

- Based on overall family income levels in the territory, the USDA has designated that all VI children age two to age 18 are eligible to receive federally-supported *School Breakfast* and *School Lunch Program* meals for free, no matter what their family's income might be.
- Generally, not all VI children prefer to eat the free meals provided each day. When family incomes drop, however, more VI children participate in this program.
- Between 2008 and 2009, the numbers of federally funded meals served in childcare centers rose, although the numbers of meals served in schools inched lower during the same period (see chart, previous page).



## Low Birthweight Babies

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

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

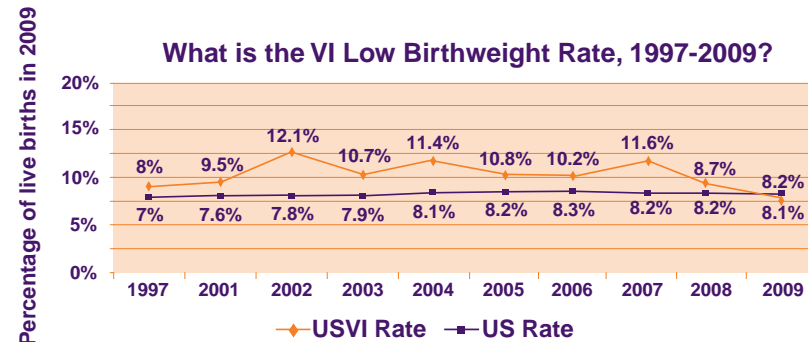
- In 2009, the percentage of babies born at low birthweight was 8.1% of all live births (a slight dip from 8.7% in 2008). The percentage of very low birthweight babies was .8% of all live births.
- Of 1,753 live births in 2009, 142 babies were low birthweight, weighing five and a half pounds or less (down from 160 babies in 2008).
- Of these, 15 babies were very-low birthweight, weighing less than 3 pounds, 4 ounces (down from 26 babies in '08).
- **St. Croix:** 5.4% or 45 babies out of 830 live births were low birthweight (down from 7.2% or 59 babies in '08).

- Of these, 5 babies were of very-low birthweight.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 10.5% or 97 babies out of 923 live births were low birthweight (up from 9.9% or 101 babies in '08). Of these, 10 babies were of very low birthweight.

**The national low birthweight rate:** 8.2%

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

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



Find more year-by-year data charts for VI Low Birthweight topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Low birthweight babies (number, percent)
- Very low birthweight babies (number, percent)
- Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care (number, percent)

## Infant Mortality

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

While the number of infant deaths rose slightly, and fewer VI infants were born in 2009, the infant mortality rate in the USVI remained lower (ie. better) than the nation's, as it has for nine of the past ten years.

- 10 infant deaths occurred (up from 8 deaths in '08), out of 1,753 live births in 2009.
- The VI infant mortality rate was 5.7 deaths per thousand live births (up from 4.3/1000 in 2008).

### What's the infant mortality rate in the nation?

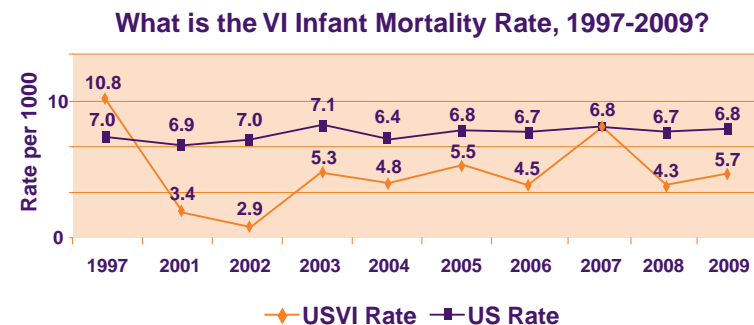
- 6.8 infant deaths per 1000 live births.<sup>1</sup>

### By island.

- **St Croix:** The infant mortality rate was 9.6 deaths per 1000 live births (8 deaths occurred).
- **St Thomas/St. John:** The infant mortality rate was 2.2 deaths per 1000 live births (2 deaths occurred).  
*Note: VI rates must be interpreted with caution because small fluctuations in absolute numbers can have large effects on the calculated rates. However, since 1997 the VI infant mortality rate has remained low, compared to the national rate.*

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

<sup>1</sup>National rate cited is for 2008



## Childhood Immunizations

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

Children are most vulnerable in their earliest months of life and in their pre-school years. Common barriers to children receiving full protection through timely, age-specific vaccines are the vaccines' cost, difficulty in scheduling or completing the immunization series, and parents' inadequate knowledge (or doubt) about vaccines' importance.

Because immunizations are such an important safeguard of child health, the federal *Vaccines for Children* program provides vaccines at no cost for children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, or in some cases under-insured.

A combined series of immunizations, known as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, is the protective-health measure recommended for young babies and children by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This key series includes: 4 doses of a vaccine containing diphtheria + tetanus toxoids (either diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine [DTP], or diphtheria and tetanus toxoids [DT]); 3 doses of a polio vaccine; 1 dose of measles/mumps/rubella vaccine [MMR]; 3 doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine [Hib]; 3 doses of Hepatitis B [HepB] vaccine; and one dose of a varicella vaccine, which protects children against chicken pox.

While most states require that children are immunized with the full 4:3:1:3:3:1 series before entering kindergarten, the USVI requires all in this series except the Hib vaccine for children before their school entry. However, three doses of Hib vaccine are routinely administered by VI healthcare providers according to the ACIP recommended schedule for up-to-date status of all children.

Since 2009, the USVI has been included in the *National Immunization Survey (NIS)*, conducted annually by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The *NIS* reports data on US households with children between the ages of 19 - 35 months, to track immunization coverage levels among all the nation's young children.

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

- In 2009, only half (51%) of the territory's young children 19 to 35 months (between one and a half and three years old) had received the recommended up-to-date 4:3:1:3:3 immunization-series coverage.<sup>1</sup>
- **The national rate:** 70%.

*Definition: **Childhood immunizations** is the percentage of children ages 19 months to 35 months who have received the entire 4:3:1:3:3:1 series of vaccinations as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The Series includes 4 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP); 3 doses of Polio, 1 dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); 3 doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib); 3 doses of Hepatitis B, 1 dose of varicella vaccine.*

<sup>1</sup>US National Immunization Survey, Q1/2009-Q4/2009, "Estimated Vaccination Coverage with Individual Vaccines and Selected Vaccination Series Among Children 19-35 Months of Age By State and Local Area"



## Children without Health Insurance

Health insurance provides children with greater access to diagnostic treatments and care, regular preventive medical attention and dental care. Children with health insurance are more likely to receive regular check-ups treating health risks before these lead to medical emergencies or chronic ill health. Insured children miss fewer days of school, and have greater health in their later years.

By contrast, uninsured children have more-severe and more-frequent unmet health needs, and lower health outcomes as adults.

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

In 2009, an estimated 28.7% of the territory's total population, or 30,800 people, were without health insurance (up from 24% in 2003).

- In 2009, 27% of VI children age birth up to eighteen, or 7,047 children, were without health insurance.

#### **Uninsured children -- birth up to age five.**

From birth to age five young children are most vulnerable to illnesses, infections and colds, as they struggle to build well-developed immunities.

- 1,697 children -- essentially a quarter (24%) of VI children this age -- were uninsured in 2009, up from 22.5% in 2003.

#### **Uninsured children -- age five up to eighteen.**

- 5,350 children -- or 29% of VI children age 5-17 -- were uninsured in 2009, a sharp rise from 19% in 2003.

### What is the rate of uninsured children in the nation?

- 10.3% of children under age 18 in the US were uninsured between 2007 and 2009.

Children's health insurance coverage depends largely on the demographic characteristics of their parents. Parents' US citizenship, marital status, level of education, and income all affect the likelihood of having health insurance. Most likely to be uninsured were those who were either non-US citizens, unmarried, and without a high-school diploma or further college or technical education.

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

## Child Maltreatment

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

- In 2009, 352 children were reported by the VI Department of Human Services, referred for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect (up from 308 children in 2008).\*
- The 2009 VI rate of child maltreatment was 13.8 per thousand children age birth through seventeen (up from 11.4 in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 228 child cases reported (up from 204 in 2008), for a rate of 17.7 per 1,000 children.
- \* **St. Thomas/St. John:** 124 child cases reported (up from 104), for a rate of 9.8/1,000 children.

### What is the child maltreatment rate in the nation?

- The US rate is 9 per 1,000 children.

\* Child abuse and neglect cases are routinely under-reported in the USVI, as across the nation, as acknowledged by members of territorial not-for-profit and government agencies working in that field. The number of maltreated children, therefore, is likely higher than documented, and the negative impact on the community is likely greater than the figures show.

### Residential Care.

- 119 children (96 in 2008) are currently placed by the VI Department of Human Services: 67 in on-island facilities and 52 in off-island facilities.

### Foster Care.

- 108 children were placed temporarily into foster care (103 in 2008), due to physical abuse (22% of children), sexual abuse (32% of children), and/or neglect (45% of children). These children were characterized as coming from homes reported for domestic violence and substance abuse. Most school-age children also evidenced need for remedial schooling.
- 19% of children in foster care were under age 5; 50% were age 5-12, and 31% were age 13 or older.
- 80% of children in foster care came from single-parent families.
- \* 65% of children were from low-income families.
- **St. Croix:** 47 children
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 61 children

*Definition: **Child abuse and neglect** numbers reflect children age birth up to eighteen years old reported to the VI Department of Human Services as victims of physical or sexual child abuse or neglect, per 1,000 children. These numbers do not include children who are in foster care, who may have been placed due to abuse or neglect.*

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

### VI child abuse and neglect (Rate per 1,000 children)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	8	7	7	10	9	12	14	11	13

Data Source: V.I. Department of Human Services, Protective Service Statistics

Find this chart, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Child Maltreatment topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

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



## Child Deaths

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

The VI child death rate improved, dropping to 15.7 per 100,000 children (from 19.2/100,000 last year).

- In 2009, 3 children died (1 fewer than in 2008) out of 9,086 children age 1-14 living in the territory (1,734 fewer VI children than in '08).
- **St. Croix:** a death rate of 21/100,000 represents 2 child deaths (out of 9,509 children age 1-14).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** a death rate of 10.4/100,000 represents 1 child death (out of 9,577 children age 1-14).

*Note: small absolute numbers of VI child deaths (3 in 2009, as opposed to 4 in 2008) lead to large variations in rates that are population based.*

### What's the child death rate in the nation?

- 19 per 100,000 children.<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>National rate cited is for 2008.

### VI child deaths (Rate per 1,000 children ages 1-14)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
15.0	37.5	8.1	11.5	24.7	24.8	30.8	50.7	19.2	15.7

*Data Source: V.I. Department of Health*

**Find this chart, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Child Death topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.**

## Juvenile Crime Arrests

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

#### Juvenile violent crime.

- The territory's youth population age 10 through 17 numbered 11,895 in 2009 (down from 14,264 in 2008).
- The VI juvenile crime arrest rate lowered to 673 per 100,000 youth this age (from 743/100,000 in 2008), representing 80 arrests\* (down from 106 in 2008).
- **St. Croix:** 44 arrests (down from 59 in 2008) represented a 704/100,000 juvenile violent crime arrest rate in a population of 6,253 youth age 10 through 17. Two arrests were for murder, 3 for rape, 8 for robbery and 31 for aggravated assault.

- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 36 arrests (down from 47 in 2008) represented a 638/100,000 rate in a population of 5,642 youth age 10-17. One arrest was for murder, two were for rape, 5 for robbery, and 28 for aggravated assault.

#### What's the juvenile violent crime arrest rate in the nation?

- 261.6 per 100,000 youth.

#### Juvenile property crime.

The VI juvenile property crime arrest rate rose to 546/100,000 youth, representing 65 youth arrests (up from 491/100,000 or 70 youth arrests in 2008).

- While the number of arrests decreased by 5 from the previous year, the juvenile property crime arrest rate rose due to fewer youth age 10 to 18, in 2009.
- **St. Croix:** 45 youth arrests (down from 50 arrests in 2008) represented a 720/100,000 juvenile property crime arrest rate.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 20 youth arrests (same as in 2008) represented a 354/100,000 juvenile property crime arrest rate.

*Definition: **Juvenile violent crime arrests** are the number of arrests of youth age 10 to 18 for Part 1 indexed violent offenses per 100,000 youths. Part 1 offenses include homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. **Juvenile property crime arrests** are for offenses including burglary, larceny/theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property.*

\*Arrest records are reported for the fiscal year 2009, from October 2008 - September 2009.

#### VI juvenile violent crime arrests (Number)

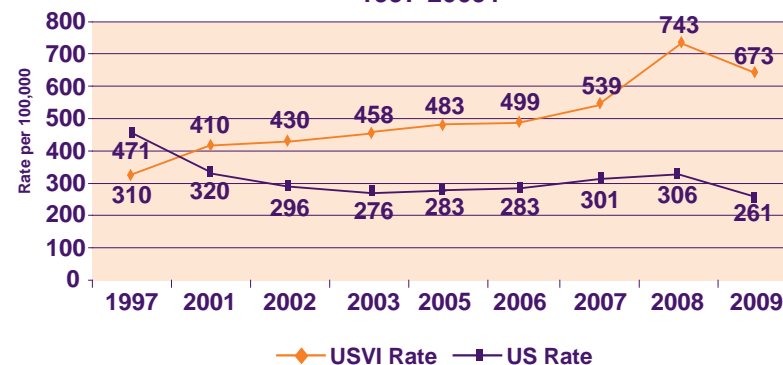
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
65	66	73	51	59	74	79	106	80

Data Source: Virgin Islands Police Department

Find this chart, and additional year-by-year data charts for Juvenile Offense topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

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

#### What is the VI Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate 1997-2009?



## Teen Deaths

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

The teen death rate improved (went down) in 2009.

- 7,936 teens age 15-19 lived in the territory (down from 8,451 in 2008).
- 7 teens died in 2009 (down from 8 in 2008). Cause of death was unavailable.
- The VI teen death rate was 88.2 per 100,000 teens age 15 -19 (down from 94.7/100,000 in 2008).  
*Note: VI rates must be interpreted with caution because small fluctuations in absolute numbers can have large effects on the calculated rates.*
- **St. Croix:** 2 teen deaths or 46 per 100,000.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 5 deaths or 139 per 100,000.

The VI teen death rate, however, is still significantly higher than the national rate.

### What's the teen death rate in the nation?

- 62 per 100,000 teens.<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>National rate cited is for 2008.

### VI teen deaths (Rate per 100,000)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
80.6	82.5	132	11.8	102	114.3	117.2	122.9	94.7	88.2

*Data Source: V.I. Department of Health*

**Find this chart, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Teen Death topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.**

## Births to Teens

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

- In 2009, the VI teen birth rate rose to 51.3 births per thousand girls age 15-19 (from 50.7/1000 in 2008).
- 216 babies were born to teen mothers, representing 12% of the 1,753 total live births in 2009.
- While 5 fewer teen births occurred than in the previous year, teen birth rates rose mainly because of fewer teenage girls in this age group.
- There were 4,213 girls age 15-19 in 2009, a drop of 148 from 4,361 girls the previous year (169 fewer girls in St. Croix and 22 more girls in St. Thomas/St. John).<sup>1</sup>

### What's the teen birth rate in the nation?

- 41 per thousand.<sup>2</sup>

### By island.

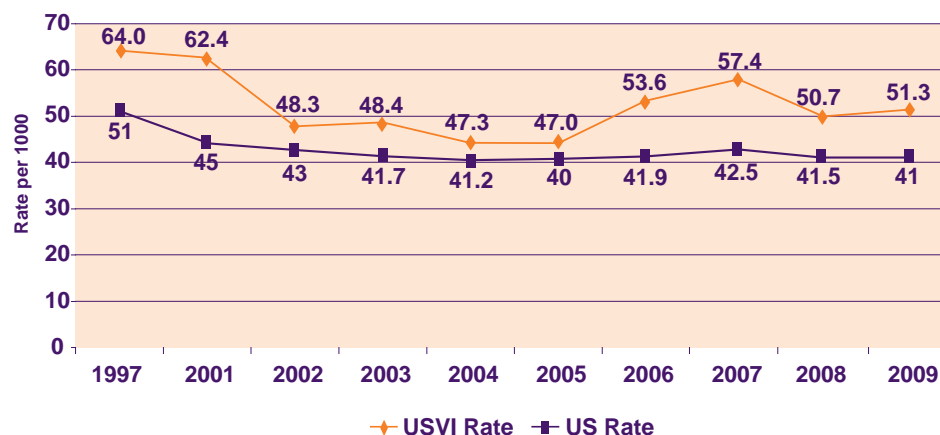
- **St. Croix:** a teen birth rate of 51.9 per 1000 girls (up from 42.4/1000 in 2008) represented 127 births within a population of 2,449 girls age 15-19 (up from 111 teen births in 2008).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** a teen birth rate of 50.4 per 1000, (down from 63.1/1000 in 2008) represented 89 births in a population of 1,765 girls age 15-19 (down from 110 teen births in 2008).

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

<sup>1</sup>2009 VI Community Survey, Table 1-1

<sup>2</sup>National rate cited is for 2008

What is the VI Teen Birth Rate, 1997-2009?



Births to VI teens, ages 15-19 (Number)

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
216	226	245	247	226	221	216

Data Source: V.I. Department of Health

Find these charts, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Birth topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Births to unmarried women (number; percent)
- Births to women less than 20 years of age (number; percent)
- Births to women with less than 12 years of education (number; percent)
- Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care (number; percent)
- Births to teen women who were already mothers



## Infant and Preschool Child Care

A baby draws a first breath on its day of birth, and enters the doors to kindergarten five years later.

The quality of childcare a young child receives during these five most-important years for human development underlies his or her capacity for skills and learning in years to come. High quality early care and education programs during these years greatly strengthen children's abilities and development, going forward.

There is an acute need for better early childcare programs in the territory -- and many more of them.

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

- In 2009, there were 8,780 children age birth to 51, of which an estimated 76%<sup>2</sup> (or 6,673 children) had all custodial parents in the workforce, (ie. were in need of out-of-home childcare).
- It is generally acknowledged that more children need childcare than our current, licensed early care and education programs can accommodate. In 2009, licensed childcare options included Early Head Start with 36 funded slots, Head Start with 894 funded slots, and private licensed childcare. Non-licensed childcare settings including family, friend and neighbor care make up the balance of available childcare.

*Note: To address the need for more -- and higher-quality -- childcare in the territory, a team of early childhood professionals is in the process of developing several initiatives to raise the standards, availability, and accountability of early care and education for young children in the USVI.*

See results of VI children's learning skills as they entered public kindergarten in 2009, next page.



<sup>1</sup>Calculated on the number of children born in the USVI from 1/1/05 to 12/31/09.

<sup>2</sup>2009 VI Community Survey, Table P1-11

## Quality Early Care and Education

Decades of research shows that high-quality child care/early learning programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers have long-lasting positive effects on how children learn, develop, and handle emotions.

Lack of adequate finances at many of our current VI childcare settings and programs impacts levels of salaries offered, access to supplies and, ultimately, impacts our childcare programs' abilities to offer high-quality early care and educational readiness for children.

A look at the skill levels of young VI children starting public school indicates that too many are unprepared, at age five, for success in kindergarten and beyond.

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

VI children's skills are tested early in their first year of public school.

- *The Learning Accomplishment Profile Third Edition (LAP-3)* skills-assessment tool shows that more than 20% of incoming kindergartners tested had skills below age-level expectation in all key areas -- except gross motor skills.
- In 2009, 44% of incoming kindergarten students had language skills below expected age-level. One third (33%) of children entering kindergarten had below expected age-level skills in cognition.
- Of those children with skills below age level, boys outnumbered girls (by 10 percentage points, on average) in all areas except gross motor skills.

The high percentage of young children assessed with low skills for kindergarten readiness should be a call to action in the VI community.

The *LAP-3* Assessment measures a hierarchy of developmental skills ranged in a sequence of domains:

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

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

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

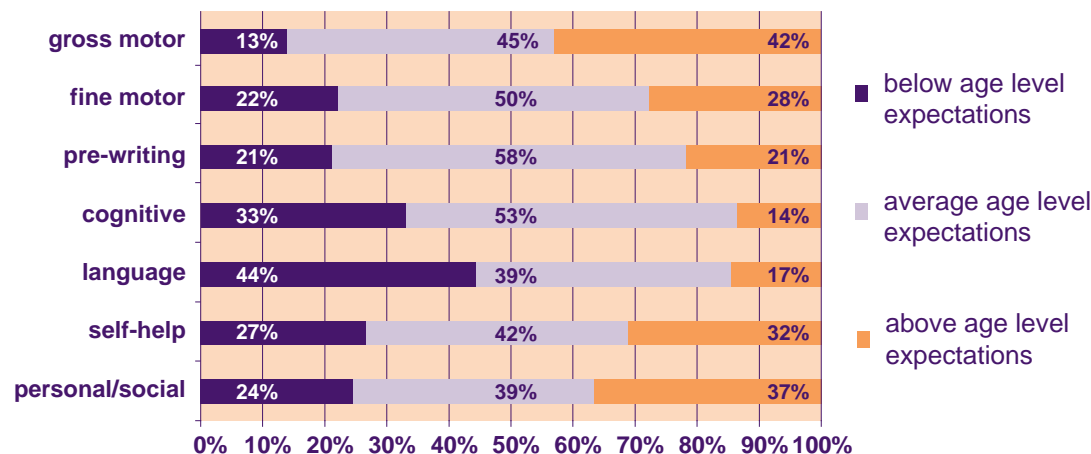
**Cognitive.** Child develops awareness of numbers, problem solving skills (*such as* counting coins, finding hidden objects)

**Language.** Child develops ability to speak, appreciate books (*such as* telling a story using a picture book, speaking with peers)

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

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

### What Are VI Children's Learning Skills at Entry to Public Kindergarten, 2009-2010?



Continued on next page

## Quality Early Care and Education, cont.

### The Challenge - to improve children's early care.

Childcare programs vary widely, from passive custodial care -- to responsive and engaging *high-quality care* providing children with rich, growth-promoting experiences.

This *high-quality early care* actively strengthens young children's social and emotional development, and encourages their early language and cognitive skills.

Characteristics of *high-quality early care* and education programs include safe and stimulating environments, educated, experienced caregivers in nurturing, dependable relationships with children, and fewer children per adult care provider.

*High quality early learning* influences children's long-term success, also. Studies show that young children receiving highly supportive and engaging early childhood care and education come to school more ready to learn than others. Over time, these children have a higher rate of success in school, workforce readiness, job productivity, family stability, economic security and community engagement.

**The Family Connection (TFC)** is CFVI's initiative to support programs and foster exemplary practices that provide *high quality early care and education*, and promote family and childcare provider support and skills enhancement.

By working with parents, childcare professionals and the larger community to ensure excellence in the early childhood years, we aim to help children reach kindergarten with the skills and dispositions needed to succeed.

By providing a strong early childhood foundation, our ultimate goal is to reduce and eventually eliminate the number of dropouts and detached youth (pages 30-33), and make meaningful improvements to reduce other risks to our children and families.

“At The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI), we are committed to helping provide the best foundation for our children's success, by enhancing the early learning environment.”

## Children with Special Needs

### Young Children Enrolled in Early Intervention: Children age birth to 3.

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

Disabilities or delays experienced during these early years can impact a child's foundation for subsequent development.

A federal act, titled *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C*, requires states to identify and provide appropriate Early Intervention (EI) services to all children under age three who are

developmentally delayed, or who have a physical or mental condition likely to result in a developmental delay.

Among children at highest risk of having disabilities and developmental delays are children living in poverty. Maltreated young children are also subject (and six times more likely than their peers) to become disabled or delayed.<sup>1</sup>

Early Intervention services received during the early years before age three can allow young children with delay-risks to become better prepared for school and later life.

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

- 151 VI children age birth to three were receiving Early Intervention services, as of December 1, 2009. The smallest portion of special needs children (26%) was the birth up to one year age group. The largest portion of children (42%) were the one to two year old age group, and about one third (32%) were in the two to three year old age group (see related chart).
- Boys represented 3 out of every 5 children, continuing a trend from past years.
- **St. Croix:** 106 children (70% of the 151 children).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 45 children (30%).

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

### How many VI Young Children (Birth up to Age 3) Received Early Interventions (EI), 2004-2009?

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Birth up to age 1	42	61	20	28	30	39
Age 1 up to 2	76	43	41	54	54	63
Age 2 up to 3	60	27	56	63	59	49
<b>Total children</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>151</b>

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

Continued on next page



## Children with Special Needs, cont.

### Children Enrolled in Special Education: Children Age 3 to 21.

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

*Part B* of the same federal *IDEA* Act requires all states' school systems to evaluate students age 3-21 who are at-risk for special needs. *Part B* also requires states to provide all students who qualify for Special Education with an 'Individualized Education Program' (IEP), which identifies individualized academic

goals, along with related support and accountability services. When IEP's appropriately identify and support individual needs and capacities, these programs can help improve educational outcomes for special needs students.

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

- 1,335 VI children age 3-17 were enrolled in Special Education IEP programs as of December 1, 2009. As in previous years, the smallest portion of special needs children (11%) was in the preschool age group (3-5 years old). One third of the children (33%) were in the elementary/pre-adolescent age

group (6-11 years old), and over half (56%) were in the young adolescent and teen age group (12-17 years old). See chart below.

- The decline by 16% between 2004 and 2009 in the number of VI children designated as special needs may reflect a similar decline of 15% in the number of children in the VI population during this period.

*Definition: **Children with Special Needs** is the portion of children under age 18 with a chronic disease, disability or delay that requires educational special services beyond that generally required by children of that age.*

How many VI Young Children (Age 3-17) Received Individualized Education Programs (IEP), 2004-2009?

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Age 3-5</b>	167	151	129	152	136	145
<b>Age 6-11</b>	513	486	443	402	424	443
<b>Age 12-17</b>	904	913	864	863	836	747
<b>Total children</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,335</b>

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB #1820-0043: "Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,". IDEA Part B/Child Count; Table 1.1. Number of children and students served under IDEA, Part B, by age group and state [for years 2004-2009]. Retrieved from [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org) July 13, 2011.

## 2009-2010 Territorial Report Card for Public Schools

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

### VITAL "Adequate Yearly Progress" benchmarks.

- **student attendance rate** at 95% for elementary and middle/junior high schools.
- specific percentages of **students to be scoring at or above proficiency** in reading and math, ie:
  - **5th grade reading:** 37.7% of students
  - **7th grade reading:** 37.7% of students
  - **11th grade reading:** 40.8% of students
  - **5th grade math:** 38.4% of students
  - **7th grade math:** 38.4% of students
  - **11th grade math:** 36% of students
- (See next page, "VI Student Academic Performance, 2009-10," for VI students' results).
- **graduation rate of 70% for high schools**, based on the percentage of students -- measured from the beginning of high school -- meeting high school graduation requirements and receiving a regular diploma in four years from a VI public high school.

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

The following are the VI Department of Education's own assessments of "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) for 2009-10.

### Student performance.

#### Grades 3-8.

Overall, AYP targets (ie. for proficiency, participation, and attendance) were met for students.

#### In reading:

- The reading **proficiency** target in '09-'10 of 37.7% was exceeded: 42.7% of students performed at/ above proficient reading level in '09-10.
- The reading **proficiency** target was met by black students but not by Hispanic students, limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
- **participation** targets were met by all students.
- **attendance** targets were met by black and Hispanic students, but not by limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.

#### In math:

- The math **proficiency** target in '09-'10 of 38.4% was exceeded: 52.8% of students performed at/ above proficient math level.
- The **proficiency** target was met by Black and Hispanic students, but not by limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
- **participation** targets were met by all students.
- **attendance** targets were met by all except students with disabilities.

#### Grade 11.

Overall, AYP targets (ie. for proficiency, participation and graduation) were not met for students.

#### In reading:

- The reading **proficiency** target in '09-'10 of 40.8% was not met: only 38.7% of students performed at proficient reading level in '09-10.
- The reading **proficiency** target was met by Black students but not by Hispanic students, limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
- **participation** targets were met by Black students but not by Hispanic students, limited English speakers, or students with disabilities.
- **graduation** targets were also met only by Black students.

#### In math:

- The math **proficiency** target in '09-'10 of 36% was exceeded: 48% of students performed math at/ above proficient level.
- The math **proficiency** target was met by Black and Hispanic students, but not by students with disabilities.
- **participation** targets were met by Black students but not by Hispanic students or students with disabilities.\*
- **graduation** targets were met by Black students but not by Hispanic students, or students with disabilities.\*

### School performance.

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

14 out of 22 elementary schools (same number as in 2008) met AYP targets (ie. for student proficiency in reading, math, student participation and attendance).

- **St. Croix:** 6 of 10 (ie. 60%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas measured.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 8 of 12 (ie. 66%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas.

#### Middle/junior high schools (grades 6/7-8).

One of the 6 middle/junior high schools met all AYP targets (none met all targets last year).

- **St. Croix:** Of 3 schools, none met AYP targets.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** Only Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School of 3 schools met AYP targets.

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

One of the 4 high schools met all AYP targets (none met all targets last year). No other high school met targets in reading.

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

*Continued on next page*

## Territorial Report Card for Public Schools, cont.

### Teacher qualifications.

- 45% of core classes (from 44.8% the previous year) were taught by a teacher held as 'highly qualified.\*\*
- 59% of public school teachers were certified, while 41% were not.
- 2% of public school teachers had no degree. 56% had a bachelor's degree, 41% had a master's degree, 1% held a doctoral degree.

\* There were too few 11th grade students with limited-English to make accurate data determinations for that group.

\*\*A "highly qualified teacher" as defined by NCLB and US Virgin Islands Board of Education is one who:

- has a full state certification
- holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree
- has demonstrated subject matter competency in each core academic subject(s) he or she teaches (ie. English, Math, Science, Foreign Languages, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, and Geography).

### VI student academic performance, 2009-2010

#### For Grade 5 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 11.1% of students  
 Proficient level: 33.5%... (target: 37.7%)  
 Basic level: 48.7%  
 Below basic: 6.6%

#### For Grade 7 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 5.8%  
 Proficient level: 21.2%... (target: 37.7%)  
 Basic level: 62.3%  
 Below basic: 10.7%

#### For Grade 11 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 4.2%  
 Proficient level: 34.5%... (target: 40.8%)  
 Basic level: 46.9%  
 Below basic: 14.3%

#### For Grade 5 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 22.7%  
 Proficient level: 36.0%... (target: 38.4%)  
 Basic level: 37.1%  
 Below basic: 4.2%

#### For Grade 7 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 8.1%  
 Proficient level: 46.7%... (target: 38.4%)  
 Basic level: 43.7%  
 Below basic: 1.5%

#### For Grade 11 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 8.3%  
 Proficient level: 39.6%... (target: 36%)  
 Basic level: 50.6%  
 Below basic: 1.5%

### VITAL ratings of student academic proficiency.

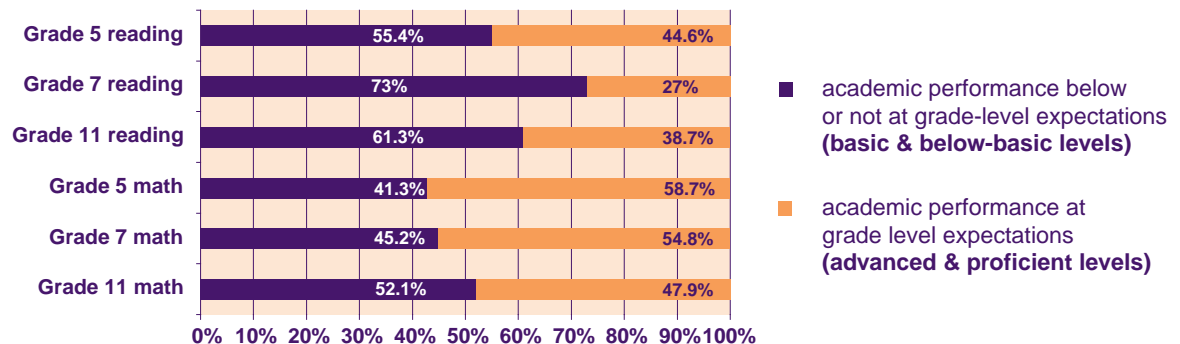
**Advanced** indicates "exceeding grade level expectations."

**Proficient** indicates "academic performance meeting grade level expectations."

**Basic** indicates "approaching grade level expectations."

**Below basic** indicates "falling below grade level expectations."

### What is the VI Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) Student Academic Performance Report for 2009-2010?



## Public School Dropouts

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

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

- 9.1% or 575 VI teens age 16-19 out of 6,343 were high school dropouts in 2009-10 as estimated by USVI KIDS COUNT.\*
- 75 fewer teens were estimated to be high school dropouts in 2009-10 than in the previous year.

#### What is the national dropout rate? 6%.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

- 316 students were reported to be dropouts -- 4.2% of the 7,546 total public secondary school students enrolled in September 2009 (down from 5.3%, or 423 students, in 2008-09).
- Males were almost two out of every three dropouts.
- **St. Croix:** 49% of all VI dropouts. 154 students were dropouts -- or 4% of 3,888 enrolled.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 51% of all dropouts. 162 students were dropouts -- or 4.4% of 3,658 enrolled.

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

- 31 students were reported to be dropouts -- 1.2% of 2,462 public junior high school students enrolled in September 2009 (same percent as last year).
- 1.4 % of 7th grade students (or 19 students).
- 1.1% of 8th grade students (or 12 students).

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

- 285 students were reported to be dropouts -- 5.6% of 5,065 public high school students enrolled in September 2009.
- 7.3 % of 9th grade students (or 123 students).  
*Note: Ninth grade -- when high school's more-rigorous academic demands begin -- is the year students are most likely to drop out.*
- 5.6 % of 10th grade students (or 69 students)
- 4.9 % of 11th grade students (or 55 students)
- 3.7 % of 12th grade students (or 38 students).

\* The VI Department of Education reports the number of dropouts age 16-19 in 2009-10 as 278 students. **USVI KIDS COUNT** reporting also includes *VI Community Survey* data on teens age 16-19 who report no longer being enrolled in school, having attained less than the 6th or the 9th grade.

<sup>1</sup>[www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org)

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

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

### VI teen dropouts ages 16-19 (Percent)

2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
17%	16%	11%	11%	15.7%	13.8%	13.1%	10.2%	9.1%

*Data Source: Virgin Islands Department of Education*

Find these charts, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Dropout topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Secondary public school dropouts (percent)
- Years/grades of highest dropout risk (number, percent)



## Detached Youth: Not in School or Working

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

- In a rising trend, 18.9% of all 16-19 year olds in 2009 — 1,197 youth — were not attending school and not working. The portion in 2008 was 15.2% of VI youth this age.
- The VI youth population age 16-19 stayed stable between 2008 and 2009, with 6,343 youth in 2009, only 55 fewer than 6,398 youth the previous year.
- Teens age 16-19 made up 22% of the 28,352 total VI child/teen population through age nineteen. 'Detached' teens represented 4.2% of this total child/teen population.

### What's the 'detached' youth rate in the nation?

- 9%, or half the VI rate.

### Employment attainment, age 16-19.

- 2.7 % (or 172 youth) reported working full-time in

2009 (from 5% or 296 youth in '08).

- The unemployment rate for youth looking for work was 34.1% in 2009 (from 36% in 2008). This youth unemployment rate is more than four times the 7.6% average rate for adult unemployment in 2009.

### Educational attainment, age 18-19.

- 59% of the 2,829 VI youth age 18-19 in 2009, (or 1,664 youth) reportedly lacked a high-school diploma (from 47% in 2008).

### Educational attainment, age 18-24.

- 35% of the 8,021 VI older youth age 18-24 had not completed high school by 2009; 65% had completed school (down from 72% in 2008).
- Female rates of high school completion dipped to 71.6% (from 79.4% in 2008).
- Of all high school graduates age 18-24, 7.6% earned a bachelor's degree or above by 2009 (up from 5.2% in '08).
- Female rates of college completion increased to 7.9% (from 6.8% in 2008).

### Employment attainment, age 18-24.

- 62.5% of VI older youth age 18-24 (or 4,153 youth) were in the labor force (63% in '08).
- The percent of females age 18-24 in the labor force rose slightly to 63.7% (from 62.4% in '08).
- The unemployment rate fell to 16.3% for all youth age 18-24 (from 25.7% in 2008).
- The female unemployment rate was 16% for all youth age 18-24 (from 30.1% in 2008).
- Of employed youth, 31.8% worked full-time, at least 40 hours a week (from 48% in 2008).
- Of full-time employed youth, 83.7% had a high school diploma or above (84.9% in 2008).
- Of unemployed youth age 18-24, 63.3% reported completing high school or above (64.3% in '08).

*Definition: **Teens not in school and not working** is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and not employed. Employment may include part-time or full-time work.*

### VI youth educational attainment, ages 18-24 (Percent)

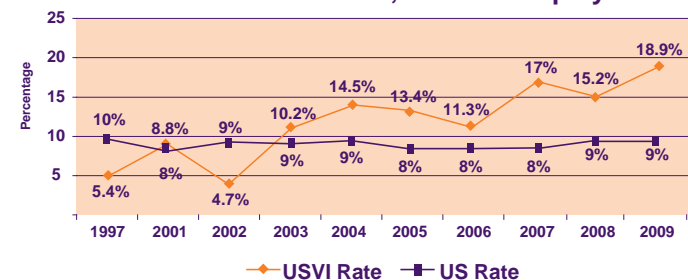
Education	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bachelor's degree or higher	3.8%	6.9%	5.6%	6.1%	4.3%	3.8%	4.6%	5.2%	7.6%
High school diploma or higher	64%	69%	64%	64%	51.5%	66%	63%	72%	65%

Data Source: Virgin Islands Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.  
Table 1-9

Find these charts, and additional year-by-year data charts for VI Detached Youth topics at [cfvi.net](http://cfvi.net). Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children's data.

- Teens age 16-19 not in school and not working (percent)
- Teens age 16-19 employed full-time (percent)
- Unemployed teens age 16-19 (percent)

### What Percent of VI Teens Age 16-19 are Not Enrolled in School, and Not Employed?



## Overview of Data Collection for the 2011 Data Book

This book compiles information available on US Virgin Islands children for the year 2009. Comparison is made with data for previous years to reveal trends in the status of Virgin Islands children.

Population statistics are drawn from the *2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey*, conducted by the Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) of the University of the Virgin Islands. Other local data is from Virgin Islands government sources, particularly the VI Departments of Health, Human Services, Education and Police.

Data on national rates and other research is obtained from various sources, including online publications of the US Census Bureau, including the *2009 American Community Survey*, the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the non-profit organization Child Trends.

Statistics in this book are reported as rates and percentages. Like percentages, rates convert the actual numbers of an indicator into a number that can be compared with the same indicator in other jurisdictions and across collection time periods, regardless of differences in the size of the population. Rates may be reported per 1,000 or 100,000 of a defined subset of the population.

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

Caution must be used in interpreting rates, as small changes in the actual numbers of an indicator can result in large changes in rates, given the small population base of the US Virgin Islands.

All surveys are subject to error from several sources. Sampling error is the result of studying a subset of the whole population in order to make quantitative inferences about the population surveyed. In the *2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey*, 5% of VI households were selected using standard scientific sampling techniques and a random selection method, for a total sample size of 2,500 households. Efforts are made to minimize human and machine-related errors, such as non-participation by selected respondents, item omissions and inconsistencies in the data, through careful editing and follow-up telephone or personal interviewing.

Caution should be used when comparing data across various censuses and surveys, because specific questions, measures and definitions may change over time. When comparing income figures in particular, the time period for reporting, number of questions asked, and age of selected respondents may have changed over time. Please see the *2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey* for further details.

## Definitions and Data Sources

**Median Income Of Families With Children.** The median annual income for families with related children under age 18 living in the household. Virgin Islands data is available only for all families, irrespective of related children.  
*SOURCE: "2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

**Per Capita Income.** The mean income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.  
*SOURCE: "2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

**Children In Poverty.** The percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the US poverty guidelines, as defined by the US Office of Management and Budget. 'Related children' of households with reported income are included in this analysis.  
*SOURCE: "2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

**Children in Single Female Parent Families.** Percentage of 'own children' under age 18 living in a household headed by a single, female householder.  
*SOURCE: "2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

*Continued on next page*

## Data Sources, cont.

### Children in Families Receiving Income

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

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

### Children in Families Receiving Nutrition

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

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

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

**Children without Health Insurance.** The rate or number of children under age 18 not covered by private or public health insurance.

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research.*

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

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

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.*

**Foster Care.** The rate or number of children moved under authority from the custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily with a family providing care.

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.*

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

**Teen Birth.** The rate or number of births to teens age 15 to 19 per 1,000 females in this age group.

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.*

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

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Police Department.*

**High School Dropouts.** The percent of teens age 16 to 19 not enrolled in school and not high school graduates. Teens with a GED or equivalent are included as high school dropouts.

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education; "2009 Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

**Public Secondary School Dropouts.** The number of children enrolled in public schools in the 7th to 12th grades inclusively, who did not report for class at the beginning of the school year, graduate, or meet the exclusionary conditions of suspension, illness, death, or transfer to another school in the new school year.

*SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education; "2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

**Detached Youth Not In School or Working.** The percentage of teenagers age 16 to 19 not enrolled in school and not employed, either full- or part-time. This number is calculated from data on school enrollment, educational attainment and labor force status of persons in the 16 to 19 year old population.

*SOURCE: "2009 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands; Virgin Islands Department of Education.*

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

### USVI KIDS COUNT Data Sources Team and Project Partners

- Judith Richardson, co-director, USVI KIDS COUNT; Kim Holdsworth, co-director, USVI KIDS COUNT; Alda Monsanto, CFVI director and chairperson, Our Children Now!; Anna Wheatley, research associate, CFVI; Laurie Blake, data analyst; Ellie Hirsh, director, The Family Connection (TFC)
- Dr. Frank Mills, director, Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) at University of the Virgin Islands; Dr. David Hall, president, University of the Virgin Islands
- Lisa Donastorg, Carla Benjamin, Marcella Grizzelle, Diane Jeffers, Janet Turnbull-Krigger, Olga Santos, Lennox Zamore, and Chris Finch, commissioner, Department of Human Services
- Radmur Carty, Gail Jackson, Renee Joseph-Rhymer, Lorna Concepcion, Ermine Hendrickson, and Julia Sheen, commissioner, Department of Health
- Kaliah Edwards-Roberts, April Monroe-Phillips, Yolanda Paul, Angela Frett, and Dr. LaVerne Terry, commissioner, Department of Education
- Dr. Naomi Bellot, Cpl. Ivan Rampersad, and Raymond Hyndman, acting commissioner, Department of Police
- Lauritz Mills, Arah Lockhart, Gary Halyard, and Albert Bryan, Jr., commissioner, Department of Labor

### Data Analysis and Writing

Kim Holdsworth, co-director, USVI KIDS COUNT  
Laurie Blake, data analyst  
Dee Baecher-Brown, president, CFVI

### Graphs and Publication Design

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





## The United States Virgin Islands

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

The US Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of Saint Croix, Saint John, and Saint Thomas, along with the much smaller Water Island, and many other surrounding minor islands. St. Croix comprises one district; St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island comprise a second district. The total land area of the USVI is 134 square miles.

Tourism is the territory's primary economic activity, with 2 million visitors each year, many arriving on cruise ships. St. Thomas has one of the best natural, deepwater harbors in the Caribbean. More than half of the land and surrounding waters of St. John have been preserved as part of the US National Park Service. St. Croix is the site of one of the world's largest petroleum refineries.

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

## University of the Virgin Islands

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

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



## Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

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

In 2009, CFVI gave out over \$2,020,380 in direct support to community organizations and individuals in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John through grants, scholarships, and a wide range of other types of assistance to the not-for-profit community.

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

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

### CFVI is a member of:

#### National:

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

#### Regional/Local:

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

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Ellie Hirsh, **director, TFC\***  
Patricia Varlack, **early childhood specialist, TFC\***

\*The Family Connection, see page 31



## How to use this book

**Utilizing the Data:** Perhaps you need to find information hinted at but not provided directly in the text, such as rates per thousand when only a percentage rate was provided? For additional information about VI children, you can employ simple, workable formulas to perform the necessary calculations, using **2011 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** baseline data.

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

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

**Example:** Percent of VI children in poverty

**Formula:** (Number of VI children in poverty / All VI children age 0-18) x 100

**Calculation:**  $(7,625 / 25,523) = .299 \times 100 = 29.9\%$

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

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

**Example:** Rate of children in poverty per 1000 VI children

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

**Calculation:**  $(7,625 / 25,523) \times 1,000 = 299 = 299$  per 1,000

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

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

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

**Formula:** number of VI children in poverty / number of all VI children age 0-18

**Calculation:**  $(7,625 / 25,523) = .299$  to 1 or 29.9:100. This shows that the number of VI children in poverty is about thirty per hundred VI children.

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

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

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

**Formula:** (2009 % of impoverished VI children minus 1995 % of VI impoverished children) / 1995 %) x 100

**Calculation:**  $(29.9 - 34.6) / 34.6 \times 100 = -13.6$ , or a 13.6% decrease

# INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

## US Virgin Islands Kids Count Data Book 2011

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

(2010) **Measuring What Matters**  
(2009) **How Do We Compare?**  
(2008) **Moving Forward by 10%**  
(2007) **Our Children Matter!**  
(2006) **Prosperity in the Future**  
(2005) **Stepping Up to the Challenge**  
(2004) **Mapping a Road to Success**  
(2003) **Getting off to a Good Start**  
(2002) **Where Is Our Commitment?**  
(2001) **Views from the Community**  
(2000) **A Call to Action!**

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

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

Tel 340-774-6031, Fax 340-774-3852  
dbrown@cfvi.net  
[www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net)