

USVI KIDS COUNT is an annual project of the  
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI).

Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT tracks the status of children  
state by state in the US and in participating US territories.

Gathering data from local agencies and organizations, and drawing from the  
Virgin Islands Community Survey, CFVI has compiled and published  
the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book report annually since 2000\*.

Through KIDS COUNT, CFVI works with our community partners towards  
strategies driven by facts, evidence, analysis, results, and heightened standards  
of political and public accountability for children and families.

\*A detailed listing of data sources and acknowledgments is provided in the full Data Book.

Created to serve donors and non-profit organizations of the US Virgin Islands,  
CFVI is committed to building a growing collection of permanent funds,  
and using the income to enhance the educational, physical, social, cultural  
and environmental well-being of the islands' people.

CFVI was established in 1990 with a \$500,000 endowment, grown now to \$10 million.  
In 2015 more than \$2.8 million was distributed in grants, awards and scholarships to the  
people and nonprofit organizations of St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island.

Today, CFVI manages more than 100 named funds,  
administers scholarships and awards programs,  
and coordinates the establishment of memorial funds.

CFVI is managed by a professional staff  
and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors  
made up of Virgin Islands community leaders.

CFVI is a public charity.

Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



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# Executive Summary



## 2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book *By the Numbers: Where do We Stand?*



## In 2013 ...

### Demographic shifts were changing the landscape of the Territory.

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

### Economic health declined for the Territory and its families.

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

### Public support programs helped to stabilize children in poverty.

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

### Race-based differences were apparent across several outcomes.





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

### Teens faced tough challenges with lasting consequences

- After spiking in prior years, teen births were down to 36.3 per 1,000 females ages 15-19 (the lowest since rates were first requested in 2000).
- Teen violent crime arrests (559 per 100,000 teens) jumped back up to 2011 levels, after a significant drop in 2012. The rate continues to be alarmingly high, particularly compared to the national rate of 168.4 per 100,000 youth ages 10-18.
- The rate of deaths to teens ages 15 to 19 (58/100,000 teens) reached its lowest point since 2003, and dropped closer to the national rate of 45 per 100,000 teens.

### Many VI children were not reaching their full academic potential.

- 40% of all VI children entering public kindergarten lacked age-expected cognition skills. Over half (55%) lacked age-expected word recognition and comprehension skills for kindergarten readiness.
- Too many students had math and reading skills below grade level expectations, including over 40% of 3rd graders reading below grade expected levels, and nearly half of 11th graders lacking proficiency in math.

| Year  | Categories                            | 2013              |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Child &amp; Family Demographics</b><br> | VI child population                   | <b>21,741</b>     |
|   | Children in single-mother families*   | <b>46%</b>        |
|   | Children in married-parent families   | <b>36%</b>        |
| <b>Economic Well-being</b><br>           | Children in poverty                   | <b>35%</b>        |
|   | Detached youth                        | <b>27%</b>        |
|   | Median family income                  | <b>\$41,839</b>   |
| <b>Education</b><br>                     | 3rd graders not proficient in reading | <b>43%</b>        |
|   | 7th graders not proficient in math    | <b>40%</b>        |
|   | Public High school dropouts           | <b>7%</b>         |
| <b>Health &amp; Safety</b><br>           | Low-birthweight babies                | <b>8.7%</b>       |
|   | Children without health insurance     | <b>27%</b>        |
|   | Child deaths                          | <b>18/100,000</b> |
|   | Teen deaths                           | <b>58/100,000</b> |
|   | Teen births                           | <b>36.3/1,000</b> |