Our Commitment Matters
Welcome to Kids Count

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in the well-being of Virgin Islands’ children! Now in its fifteenth year, the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book is perhaps the most trusted and utilized source of comprehensive, territory-wide data on how our children, youth and families are doing in the US Virgin Islands.

Since 2000, this report has reflected annually the improvements as well as shortfalls and needs in the lives of our children. In this 2014 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book, as in past reports, you’ll find updated information on our children’s health and safety, proficiency in school, and preparedness for twenty-first century educational and workplace demands.

Our focus this year is on the effect of the national recession and the closing of the HOVENSA refinery on the Virgin Islands, from 2010 when the impact of the economic downturn was fully experienced in the Territory (after its late 2008 start in the rest of the nation) to 2012, the year the HOVENSA ceased refining and the most-recent year for which comprehensive VI children and family data is available.

Our findings show that jobs were lost and that family incomes suffered, but that child poverty actually held steady at 31%, due in part to strong public supplemental support programs such as SNAP (the federal food assistance program). Good data, which highlights success and pinpoints areas of concern, is the reliable basis on which we, as a community, can formulate good policy decisions and move forward.

The conditions adversely affecting our children and families that are measured also can be changed. This 2014 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book documents our children’s evolving health, safety, and education. It is by strengthening our children’s preparedness for the challenges ahead that we improve their collective ability to uphold the quality and resiliency of our Territory’s future.

Dee Baecher-Brown
President, CFVI

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

Note: This research was made possible by the generous support the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their sustained support and acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
Key Findings, 2010-2012

Economic health declined for the Territory, and for families.
- The Territory’s revenues shrank between 2010 and 2012, due to the national recession's impact on tourism, and the closing in February 2012 of the territory’s main manufacturing industry, HOVENSA LLC.
- Unemployment rose 3+ percentage points to 11.7% in 2012, from 8.9% in 2010, reflecting many job losses in public and private sectors.
- The VI population lowered, due to out-migration of workers and families, and a decreasing birth rate.

Economic instability tended to accelerate social trends for children and families.
- Children’s numbers fell by 2,150 — or 8% — from 2010 to 2012. There were 24,869 VI children in 2012, compared to 27,026 children in 2010.
- Children’s families headed by married-parents (including two potential earners) continued to fare better economically, even during the recession, than children’s families headed by single females.
- While 19% of children’s married couple families were poor in 2012, the poverty rate was 39% for children’s families headed by single women.
- Increasingly, children’s families were headed by single women: 52% in 2012, up from 48% in 2010... and from 37% in 1990.

Public support programs helped to stabilize the portion of VI children experiencing poverty.
- Two-thirds (67%) of VI children received food assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2012 (51% in 2010).
- 68% of infants and children from birth through age 4 received federal nutrition benefits from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC), up from 58% of young children in 2010.
- Unemployment Insurance payments on unemployed workers’ claims rose to $22 million in 2012, up from $14 million in 2010.
- Three quarters of children living with their single mother relied on the VI child support system to receive paternal child support income payments, in 2012.
- The child poverty rate held steady at 31% from 2010 to 2012, and at 35% for children birth up to age 5.*

Immunization compliance rates rose for VI teens age 13-17...
- but in 2012 over half (59%) of VI children age 1-15 through age two lacked nationally recommended health vaccinations (55% in 2010).

Teen violent crime arrests lowered after a spike the previous year, but the VI teen death rate continued to be alarmingly high.
- Arrests of juveniles (age 10 up to 18) for violent crimes lowered in 2012 to 295 per 100,000 teens this age, approaching the national rate for the first time in almost two decades. The VI rate in 2011 had been 614/100,000.
- The rate of deaths to teens (age 15-19) was four times the national rate: 207/100,000 (VI rate in 2012) versus 49/100,000 (US rate in 2012).

Too many VI children and youth are not accessing education at crucial times of their life when it can make the most difference.
- VI early care settings are not preparing many of our 3 and 4-year olds with the necessary skills to be succesful learners in kindergarten and beyond.
- One third (34%) of all VI children entering public kindergarten lacked age-expected cognition skills (ie. counting, pattern recognition, and logic ability). Half (53%) lacked age-expected word skills and comprehension skills for kindergarten readiness.
- Though educational attainment is crucial for lifetime economic success, 27% of VI 18-24 year olds had not completed high school in 2012.

For children who remain in school, too many have math and reading skills below grade level expectations.
The data below shows portions of students with skills at less than grade-level proficiency:
- for 3rd grade math: 43% (2 out of 5 of all public school students in grade 3)
- for 5th grade math: 44% (2 out of 5 of all public school students in grade 5)
- for 7th grade math: 36% (one third of public school students in grade 7)
- for 11th grade math: 54% (over half of public school students in grade 11)
- for 3rd grade reading: 46% (almost half of public school students in grade 3)
- for 5th grade reading: 47% (almost half of public school students in grade 5)
- for 7th grade reading: 68% (two-thirds of public school students in grade 7)
- for 11th grade reading: 64% (almost 2/3 of public school students in grade 11)
- Less than half of 11th graders are proficient in math, and only one third are proficient in reading, indicating that significant structural education improvements are still needed.

* See the 2012 poverty thresholds (adjusted annually for varying family sizes) at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshold/thresh12.html.
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**Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands**
## TABLE 1
Virgin Islands Trends of Children’s Well-Being, 1990 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VI - 1990</th>
<th>VI - 2000</th>
<th>VI - 2010</th>
<th>VI - 2012</th>
<th>trend</th>
<th>comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children in the VI population</td>
<td>35,427</td>
<td>34,289</td>
<td>27,026</td>
<td>24,869</td>
<td>lower</td>
<td>a 30% drop in number of children, over 22 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Children in the VI population</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>lower</td>
<td>fewer children suggests potentially better support for each child, but also suggests fewer future taxpayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VI families with Children</td>
<td>13,052</td>
<td>14,107</td>
<td>11,710</td>
<td>13,792</td>
<td>unclear</td>
<td>while number of families remains fairly constant, there are fewer children per family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of families with Children, headed by single females</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>higher</td>
<td>represents over half of all VI families raising children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children in single female-headed families</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>higher</td>
<td>trend rose 50% since 1990. Now almost 1/2 all children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children in grandparent-headed families</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>static</td>
<td>represents 1 out of every 8 children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Income for families</td>
<td>$27,908</td>
<td>$36,756</td>
<td>$37,254</td>
<td>$43,606</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>represents population shift, especially since 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of VI labor force unemployment</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>an alarming rise, especially as 2012 US rate lowered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children’s families in poverty</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>rose since 2010, but dramatic improvement since 2000;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of female-headed families with Children, in poverty</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>dramatic improvement since 2000; more women earning a living wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female-headed families as % of all families in poverty</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>more 2-adult families with children are leaving poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children, in poverty</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>dramatic improvement since 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children age birth up to 5, in poverty</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>dramatic improvement since 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children age birth up to 5 receiving WIC benefits</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>50% [2005]</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>sharply increased need among youngest children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children in need of child support</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>37% [2002]</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>static</td>
<td>corresponds closely to single-female-headed family %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of teen Births per 1,000 Girls age 15 up to 19</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>47 [2005]</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>progress has slowed since 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of live Births</td>
<td>2,267</td>
<td>1,685</td>
<td>1,657</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>Fewer births per woman improves life outcomes for the mother and also for her children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of VI Births that are low-birthweight</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>static</td>
<td>VI rates are rising slightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rate per 1,000 Infants age birth up to one year</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>VI rate approximates the US rate of 6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rate per 100,000 Children age one up to 15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>variable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rate per 100,000 Teens age 15 up to 19</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>VI rate alarmingly high: 4x the US rate of 49/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile violent crime arrest rate, Teens age 10 up to18</td>
<td>809 [1995]</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>VI rate way down from 1995 (809) and from 614 in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently by 4th grade</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>as measured by LAP-3* regional reading test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently in 5th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>improvement from 35% – but still too low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently in 7th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>improvement from 17% – but dangerously low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently in 11th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>improvement from 26% – but dangerously low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 2
**VI and US Comparisons of Children’s Well-Being, 1990 - 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children in the population</td>
<td>64M (million)</td>
<td>72M</td>
<td>74M</td>
<td>24,869</td>
<td>VI child population falling but US numbers rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children in the population</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>VI % now approximates US %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of families with Children</td>
<td>13,792</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children’s families headed by single females</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>VI’s rate is exactly 2x the US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children in single female-headed families</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
<td>VI’s rate is far higher than the US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children in grandparent-headed families</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Income for families</td>
<td>$37,000 [1995]</td>
<td>$64,424</td>
<td>$62,241</td>
<td>$43,606</td>
<td>VI median income is 70% of US income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of labor force unemployment</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>VI rate spiked 3 percentage points from 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children’s families in poverty</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td></td>
<td>VI rate significantly higher than US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of female-headed families with Children, in poverty</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
<td>VI rate close to US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female-headed families as % of all families in poverty</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children’s families in poverty</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>VI rate significantly higher than US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children age birth up to 5, in poverty</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td>VI rate is 10 percentage points higher than in US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Children age birth up to 5, receiving WIC benefits</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children in need of child support</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of teen Births per 1,000 Girls age 15 up to 19</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40 [2005]</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>VI rate lowering, but still higher than US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of live Births</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Births that are low-birthweight</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>both VI and US rates are rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rate per 1,000 Infants age birth up to one year</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.1 [2011]</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>VI rate now slightly higher than the US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rate per 100,000 Children age one up to 15</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17 [2011]</td>
<td>16 [2011]</td>
<td>VI rate approximates the US rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rate per 100,000 Teens age 15 up to 19</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>49 [2011]</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>US rate falling; VI rate is extremely high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile violent crime arrest rate, Teens age 10 up to18</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>202 [2011]</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>after spiking in 2011 (614); VI rate fell in 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently by 4th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>30% [2002]</td>
<td>32% [2011]**</td>
<td>54% [2011]*</td>
<td>VI and US use non-comparable reading tests***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently in 5th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>53% [2011]</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently in 7th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>32% [2011]</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Children reading proficiently in 11th grade</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>36% [2011]</td>
<td>see above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*VI Learning Accomplishment Profile, 3rd Edition local reading test
**National Assessment of Educational Progress federal reading test
***NAEP measures grades 4,8,12 using other indices than VI Territorial Assessment of Learning Profile (VITAL)
What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
Much has happened for children and families since the national economic recession began in 2008-9. Because the US economy’s effects are typically felt in the Virgin Islands after a lag of about three years, changes in VI children’s lives due to the US recession was more evident in 2012 than in 2010 US Census findings.

Data findings for 2012 also reflect the first effects of an additional blow to the Territory’s economic livelihood: the closure of the VI’s largest private employer, Hovensa Industries, on St. Croix in Spring of 2012. From 2008-2012, 10,000 people had left the USVI for opportunity elsewhere. With fewer births occurring to women who stayed, the portion of children in the population inched down to 24% -- close to the national rate of 23%.

VI child population... in 2012:
The number of VI children in 2012 lowered by about 9,500 children (or 27%) since 2000, dropping 8% in the recession-impact years from 2010 to 2012.

- **USVI:** there were 24,869 children, birth to age 18 in the VI (representing 2,466 fewer children than in 2008; and 10,558 fewer children than in 1990).
- Children represented 24% of the overall VI population which was estimated as 105,080 in 2012 ... (from 24.6% in 2008; 32% in 2000 ...and significantly down from 35% in 1990, and 49% in 1960).
- The percentage of children in the national population: 23%.

### VI Children by Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STX-#</th>
<th>STT-#</th>
<th>STJ-#</th>
<th>% STX</th>
<th>% VI kids</th>
<th>% STT</th>
<th>% VI kids</th>
<th>% STJ</th>
<th>% VI kids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>18,706</td>
<td>15,754</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>18,169</td>
<td>15,077</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>14,778</td>
<td>11,596</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>14,031</td>
<td>12,171</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12,815</td>
<td>11,338</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...by island.
Children became a smaller portion of each island's population after 2010. In St. Croix, children were just over a quarter of residents, while their portion was much smaller in St. John (18%), possibly reflecting the difference in median family income between these two islands (see page 12).

- **St. Croix:** 12,815 children (1,963 fewer than in 2008) represented 51% of all VI children ...(a consistent majority for the past 22 years since 1990).
  - Children were 26% of St. Croix's total population (same as in 2008).
- **St. Thomas:** 11,338 children (258 fewer than in 2008) represented 46% of all VI children ...(a consistent portion for the past 22 years since 1990).
  - Children were 22% of St. Thomas' population in 2012 (21% in 2008).
- **St. John:** 716 children (108 fewer than in 2010) represented 3% of VI children ...and 18% of St. John's population ...(21% in 2008).

### VI Children by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Hispanic (any race)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...by race.
In 2008 to 2012, the share of White and Black children were similar, respectively, while the share of Hispanic children lowered.

- Black children: 20,450 or 82% of all VI children (81% in 2008)
- White children: 1,189 or 5% of all VI children (same in 2008)
- Other-race children: 3,230 or 13% of all VI children (15% in 2008)

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

- Hispanic children (of any race): 4,739 or 18% of VI children (birth through 19),

### Total VI Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VI-# total</th>
<th>VI-# children</th>
<th>VI-% children</th>
<th>STX, STT, STJ - total population #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>32,099</td>
<td>15,732</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>STX: 14,973 STT: 16,201 STJ: 925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>62,468</td>
<td>27,583</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>STX: 31,779 STT: 28,960 STJ: 1,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>96,569</td>
<td>45,021</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>STX: 49,725 STT: 44,372 STJ: 2,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>101,809</td>
<td>45,427</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>STX: 50,139 STT: 48,166 STJ: 3,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>115,852</td>
<td>47,335</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>STX: 56,783 STT: 54,592 STJ: 4,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>106,405</td>
<td>27,026</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>STX: 50,601 STT: 51,634 STJ: 4,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>105,080</td>
<td>24,869</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>STX: 50,225 STT: 50,816 STJ: 4,039</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VI Child Demographics, cont.

...by citizenship.*
Almost 9 out of 10 Virgin Islands children were American citizens in 2012.
- 88% of VI children were US citizens, according to the 2012 VI Community Survey. For youngest children, age birth up to five, 86% were citizens.
- Of all children who were US citizens, 68% were born in the Virgin Islands; the rest were born in the US or its other island areas (including Puerto Rico) -- whether to Virgin Islands-born, US-born or foreign-born parents.

...by language.*
Virtually all VI children spoke English, even those who also spoke another language because they were foreign-born, or US-born to immigrant parents.
- A quarter (25%) of VI children age 5 through 19 (5,084 children) spoke a second language at home, though 99.6% of these also spoke English well.

...by age group.*
In 2012, the number of children age birth to 9 increased, while numbers fell for children age 10-14 and for youth age 15 through 19, compared to 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VI Child Population by Age Group</th>
<th>0-4 (%)</th>
<th>5-9</th>
<th>10-14</th>
<th>15-19</th>
<th>0-18</th>
<th>5-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>9,230</td>
<td>10,072</td>
<td>10,142</td>
<td>9,623</td>
<td>35,427</td>
<td>26,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8,553</td>
<td>10,176</td>
<td>9,676</td>
<td>8,688</td>
<td>34,289</td>
<td>25,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5,774</td>
<td>7,297</td>
<td>8,557</td>
<td>8,451</td>
<td>27,335</td>
<td>21,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>7,484</td>
<td>7,563</td>
<td>27,026</td>
<td>19,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6,061</td>
<td>7,627</td>
<td>7,059</td>
<td>5,798</td>
<td>24,869</td>
<td>18,808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Population measured is VI children age birth through 19 years old, not birth up to 18 years old, as is referenced elsewhere.

Find more data charts for VI Child Demographics topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? to see VI children’s data.
- VI child population (number; percent)
- VI child population by gender (number; percent)
- Children born in the VI (number; percent)
- VI children in immigrant families (number; percent)
- VI child population by race (number; percent)
- Children who are not US citizens (number; percent)
- VI children of Hispanic origin (number; percent)
- VI child population by age group (number; percent)
- Language spoken in VI children’s homes (number; percent)
Economic Well-Being

Children in Families

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

In 2012, the territory’s children lived in a total of 13,792 family households of which more than half (52%) were headed by single women.

Single parenthood has long been a fact of many families’ lives in the USVI and in the Caribbean. This trend has accelerated recently, impacting children’s present stability, and future outcomes.

Families headed by single women.
The percentage of single-female headed VI families with children – and the portion of VI children living in these families – have both spiked since 1990.

- **USVI rate:** Single females headed the majority (52%) of all VI families in 2012, a significant increase from 37% in 1990, and from 46% in 2008.
  - Note: The VI rates for this indicator are consistently twice as high as in the rest of the nation.
  - **The US rate:** 26% of children’s families had single female heads in 2012.

- **St. Thomas** had the highest rate of single female-headed families with children: 57%.
- **St. Croix:** 49% of children’s families were headed by single females.
- **St. John:** 39%.

Children living in single-parent families...

- **USVI:** 12,397 VI children (50%) lived in households with their single mother or father (possibly with cohabiting partner, or other adult relatives).

... with their single mother

- **USVI:** 11,113 children (45%) lived with their single mother ... (up from 40% in 2008, and 30% in 1990).
- **The national rate:** 26% of US children lived in single-mother families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in Single-Female Families...</th>
<th>VI - # kids</th>
<th>VI - % kids</th>
<th>US - % kids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>10,643</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(not available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>13,494</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>10,957</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>10,772</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11,113</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

... by Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STX</th>
<th>STT</th>
<th>STJ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>(district: STT/STJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

... with their father

- **USVI:** 5,556 children (22% of VI children) lived with their male parent (no mother present).
  - Of these, 1,284 VI children (5%) lived with a father who was head of household.
  - **The national rate:** 8% of children lived in single-father headed households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single-Female Headed Families with own Children by Island...</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>STX</th>
<th>STT</th>
<th>STJ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>(not available)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>(n/a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Note: USVI KIDS COUNT data previous to 2007 on VI single-parent families in the VI Community Survey only reported single-mother families.

* Children who were living with their single father who was not head of household might also be included in other measured family settings (i.e. "with grandparents;" "with other relatives;" etc.).
Children living in married-couple families.
Since 2008, this portion has fallen to 1/4 of all VI children -- from 1/3.
• USVI: only 24% of VI children lived with married parents ...(44% in 1990)
• The national rate: 65% of US children (73% in 1990) -- a sharp contrast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - # kids</th>
<th>VI - % kids</th>
<th>US - % kids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>15,422</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>11,641</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>9,115</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,759</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,972</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children in Non-Parent Headed Families
In 2012, almost one out of every five children (18%) lived in a household headed by an adult other than their parent – most likely by a grandparent.

...with grandparents (with or without a parent present)
• 3,353 children (13%) of VI children lived in a grandparent-headed household (16% in 2010). Of these, about half (1,201 children) lived in households headed by their grandparent and without a parent present.

...with other relatives (with or without a parent present)
• 792 children (3%) lived in households headed by a relative other than a grandparent or parent.

...with non-relatives (with or without a parent present)
• 286 children (.1%) lived in households headed by non-relatives in 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - #</th>
<th>VI - % kids</th>
<th>US - % kids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5,967</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5,615</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5,458</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,431</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children in other settings...
• 47 children under age 18 were the householder or spouse in their own households.

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Children in Families topics at www.cfvi.net.
Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children’s data.
• VI children in married couple families (number; percent)
• VI children in single-mother families (number; percent)
• VI children in single father families (number; percent)

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

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
The economic welfare of all family groups with children has been in flux since 2008. Findings appear contradictory on family finances in 2012. **USVI Kids Count** measured reduced income for VI families starting in 2009, with a steep decrease measured by **US Census** findings in 2010.

Since then, family median income appears to have rebounded almost reaching 2008 levels, despite high unemployment, increased demand on public support services, and a higher portion of children’s families living below poverty: 27% in 2012, up from 25% in 2010 and 2008.

- **USVI unemployment rate**: 11.7% in 2012 (up sharply from 5.8% in 2008).
- **St. Croix** experienced the highest rate of unemployment in 2012: 14.1%.
- **St. Thomas**: 6.8%...
- **St. John**: 3%.
- **VI civilian employment was 44,659 in 2012** (down from 49,590 in 2008).

### Unemployment Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VI** source:**“USVI Annual Economic Indicators;”**VI Bureau of Economic Research;** US source: http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat01.pdf

### VI Personal and Family Incomes.

VI personal incomes strengthened from 2000 through 2010, but lost ground by 2012.

### Per Capita Income (for Individuals), VI vs US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VI % of US amount</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>$6,230</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>$23,006*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$12,799</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>$29,345*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$16,567</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>$36,582*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$17,545</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>$40,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$21,622</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>$39,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$19,982</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>$42,693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: Economic data is reported as income received in the previous year, thus 2012 reporting cites income earned in 2011; 2000 reporting cites income earned in 1999, and 1990 cites income earned in 1989).

From a high point in 2008, VI family median income fell sharply, then seemed to regain almost all lost value in all three islands between 2010 and 2012.

- VI family median income was reported by the **VI Community Survey (VICS)** as $43,606 in 2012, up $6,352 from $37,254 in 2010 (as per the **US Census**).
- St. Croix in 2010 had the lowest family median income of the three islands;
- St. John had the highest family median income, as seen in previous years.

**Family Median Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VI % of US amount</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$27,908</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$36,756</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>$64,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$43,949</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>$60,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$37,254</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>$61,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$43,606</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>$62,241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**...by island**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STX</th>
<th>STT</th>
<th>STJ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$40,683</td>
<td>$47,223</td>
<td>$58,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$39,149</td>
<td>$47,863</td>
<td>$56,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median income for both Black and White families lost value 2008-2010, generally regaining it in the following two years. Black family median income in 2012 had improved since 2000, while White and Hispanic families’ 2012 median incomes were lower than in 2000.

**Family Median Income by Race**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI Black</td>
<td>$34,239</td>
<td>$41,888</td>
<td>$34,612</td>
<td>$40,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI White</td>
<td>$62,466</td>
<td>$59,907</td>
<td>$51,424</td>
<td>$60,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI Hispanic (any race)</td>
<td>$26,352</td>
<td>(n/a)</td>
<td>$27,883</td>
<td>$24,549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the general rise in median family incomes by 2012, over a quarter of VI children’s families had incomes below the federal poverty level.

- 3,720 VI families with children lived in poverty: 27% of the 13,792 families with children under age 18 (2 percentage points higher than in ‘10 or ‘08).
- 11% of VI families reported income of less than $15,000 in 2012, a smaller portion than in 2010 (15%), or in 2008 (20%). An income of $15,000 is equal to living on approximately $10 a day per person for a family of four.
Economic Well-Being cont.

Poverty in the VI.
Poverty increased for a larger portion of families with children in 2008-2012 -- from 25% to 27% -- while it decreased for individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VI Residents, in Poverty</th>
<th>number</th>
<th>% of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>34,931</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>31,003</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>23,623</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>24,501</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VI Families with Children, in Poverty</th>
<th>number</th>
<th>% below poverty</th>
<th>US %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5,862</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3,544</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3,627</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3,720</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The 2012 poverty threshold, adjusted for family size, was $23,283 in annual income for a family of four with two related children under age 18.¹

Because the cost of living (for food, housing, energy etc.) in the US Virgin Islands is documented as among the nation's highest,² actual USVI poverty levels are likely significantly higher than reported by US Census or VI Community Survey (VICS) data.

Families at high risk of poverty.
Children’s families headed by single females were the majority (76%) of all poor VI families, making up 3/4 of all poor families with children, in 2012. Almost four out of every ten single-female headed families with children lived below the poverty level (39%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female Headed Families with Children, in Poverty</th>
<th>number</th>
<th>% below poverty</th>
<th>% of all VI children’s families in poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,863</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,564</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,708</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty rates are particularly high for female-headed families with children under age 5 (46% of these families were poor). Reasons may include childcare responsibilities or costs, and/or younger age of the mother, limited access to the job market or limited work experience.

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

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

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

Definition: Per capita income is the average income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.
Definition: Median family income is the dollar amount which divides the income distribution in VI family households into two equal groups — half of households have incomes above the median and half have incomes below the median. Data is for all families rather than just for families with children.
Economic Well-Being

Child Poverty

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

**Developmental, social and behavioral risks.** Children raised in poverty experience more-limited early care and education, and are more likely to enter school already behind other children. They register lower academic performance in later years, and complete high school less often.

**Health and safety risks.** Children raised in poverty are more subject than their peers to health concerns (poor diet, obesity, malnutrition; stress, injury, asthma, lead poisoning, are examples). They are also more subject to abuse and neglect, depression, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and arrest and incarceration in later years. As adults in the marketplace they are almost twice as likely as their peers to be unemployed.

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Since 2008, economic ‘hits’ to the Territory’s economy have included reduced tourism during the US recession years 2009-2013, and the closing of Hovensa Oil refinery on St. Croix in Spring of 2012.

The resulting job losses and unemployment have led to a rise in the rates of VI family and child poverty.

In 2012, almost one third of VI children (31%) lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.

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

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

### Poverty for children’s families.

**USVI:** The portion of families with children living in poverty edged up between 2008 and 2012, from 25% to 27%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - #</th>
<th>VI - %</th>
<th>VI - % with children age 0-4</th>
<th>US - %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4,438</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5,862</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3,544</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3,627</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3,720</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Especially vulnerable to poverty are families with young children.

### Poverty Among Families with Children

number and percent of families with children age 0-18, with incomes below poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - #</th>
<th>VI - %</th>
<th>VI - % with children age 0-4</th>
<th>US - %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2,817</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,863</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,564</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,708</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>[not available in 2012 VICS]</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The difference is significant in the rate of all child-based families in poverty (27%) and single female-headed families with children in poverty (39%).
- Of all families with children in poverty in 2012, three out of every four (76%) were headed by single females (representing 2,843 families).

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - #</th>
<th>VI - %</th>
<th>VI - % with children age 0-4</th>
<th>US - %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2,817</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,863</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,564</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,708</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>[not available in 2012 VICS]</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Child Poverty, cont.**

**Poverty for Children**.

**USVI:** 31% of VI children lived below the poverty level in 2012. Child poverty has risen since 2008. The year 2008 was the most positive year on record for the economic well-being of VI children. The national child poverty rate: 23%.

**Children in Poverty**

number of children in poverty, and percent of all children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VI - #</th>
<th>VI - %</th>
<th>US - %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>12,722</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>14,210</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7,669</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,233</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7,775</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...by age.

Younger children are more likely than older children to live in families with incomes below poverty. Unfortunately, poverty affects children most severely in their early developmental years (birth to age 5), causing lasting deficits.

**Younger vs. Older Children in Poverty**

number and percent of children in poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># age 0-4</th>
<th>% age 0-4</th>
<th># age 5-17</th>
<th>% age 5-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>3,458</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>9,264</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3,809</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>10,294</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008*</td>
<td>2,290 [age 0-5]</td>
<td>41% [of 0-5]</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,597</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>5,579</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*VICS cohorts measured in recent non-US Census years are age 0-5, and age 6-17.

...by race.

Almost one of every three Black children and ‘other race’ children were poor in 2012, as were 21% (one of every five) White children.

**Children in Poverty by Race**

percent of children in poverty, as portion of children in each race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White*</th>
<th>Other Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>43% [Hispanic, specifically]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

...by location.

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

**Children in Poverty by Island**

percent of children in poverty, as portion of children living on each island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STX</th>
<th>STT</th>
<th>STJ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition:** Child poverty is the number and percent of children age birth to 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Poverty data is based on income earned in the preceding year.

Find more data charts for VI Child Poverty topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? to see VI children’s data.

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

*The poverty threshold for 2010 was an income of $23,283 for a family of two adults and two children.
Children in Families Receiving Public Supports

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

**What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?**
VI family incomes in the VI have generally been fragile, due in part to:
- The Territory’s seasonal tourist economy (strong from November to May)
- A cost of living (for housing, food, fuel, etc.) estimated to be 20% higher than in the US, while the Territory’s minimum wage is $7.25/hour.

In 2012, public-support programs helped sustain a rising number of low-income and poverty-level VI families experiencing reduced employment and earnings due to two further factors:
- The national recession which began in late 2008. By 2010/12 tourist visits had fallen, local businesses had cut inventories and staff, and local prices had risen even higher for fuel, transportation, food, and imported goods.
- The closure of the Territory’s largest private employer, St. Croix’s Hovensa petroleum refinery, which cut jobs in 2010-11 and closed in 2012.

Children in Families Needing Income Assistance

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

**What’s the situation for VI children regarding TANF assistance?**
TANF assistance became less available after 2010, a high-benefit year.
- 617 households received TANF in 2012 (down from 722 households in 2011 and 819 in 2010).
- 227 fewer children received TANF in 2012 than in the previous year.
- **USVI:** VI needy families received $1,569,338 in TANF benefits (down from $1,850,643 in 2011 or $2,036,778 in 2010; yet more than $1,395,373 in '08).
- 1,314 VI children (5.3% of all VI children) received TANF assistance (down from 1,541 in 2011 and 1,746 children in 2010).

| How Many VI Children Received TANF Benefits, 2000-2012? |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| St. Croix             | 2,497    | 1,194    | 1,037    | 1,224    | 1,067    | 906      |
| St. Thomas/St. John   | 784      | 530      | 353      | 522      | 474      | 408      |
| **Total**             | **3,281**| **1,724**| **1,390**| **1,746**| **1,541**| **1,314**|

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

**What’s the situation for VI children regarding Unemployment assistance?**
The VI unemployment rate rose steeply in 2012, although payouts on claims by VI Unemployment Insurance program lowered from the previous year.
- UI payouts on claims was $22,186,593 in 2012, down from $29,096,855 in 2011 – but still far more than $14,219,543 in 2010 (or $13,123,744 in 2008).
- **USVI:** the average VI unemployment rate rose to 11.7% in 2012, up sharply from 8.9% in 2011, 8.1% in 2010, 7.6% in 2009, and 5.9% in 2008.
- The VI rising trend contrasted with a lowering US 2012 unemployment rate.
- **St. Croix:** a 13.9% unemployment rate in 2012 (up from 9.8% in 2011)
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** a 9.8% unemployment rate (up from 8.5% in 2011).
- By the end of December 2012, the VI civilian labor force numbered 50,578 people – 662 fewer than at the end of 2010. Of these, 44,659 people were employed and 5,919 were unemployed, for a December 2012 unemployment rate of 13.3%.1

Note: A community’s unemployment rate is likely to be higher than officially measured, as the rate reflects workers age 16+ actively seeking work, and excludes ‘discouraged’ unemployed workers who have given up searching for a job.

**The national unemployment rate:** 8.1% (down from a 9.6% high in 2010).

Children in Families Receiving Public Supports, cont.

Children In Families Receiving Nutrition Assistance

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
WIC is a federal health-intervention program, serving pregnant women, mothers, infants, and children under age 5 who are low- to mid-income and at nutritional risk. The WIC program aims to reduce incidences of premature birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality, and to improve participating infants’ and young children’s healthy development through better nutrition, complete early immunizations, and consistent medical visits.

What’s the situation for VI children regarding WIC assistance?
Recent trends show increasing portions of young children qualifying for and receiving benefits: almost 70% of VI young children in 2012.
• **USVI:** In fiscal year 2012: 4,110 young children from birth through age four (or 68% of an estimated 6,061 VI children this age) received WIC benefits.
  • 1,161 were infants in their first year of life.
  • 2,949 were children age 1 through 4 years old.

### How Many Young VI Children Received WIC Benefits, 2006-2012?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants (up to age 1)</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>1,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (age 1 up to 5)</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>3,131</td>
<td>2,927</td>
<td>2,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,821</td>
<td>3,869</td>
<td>4,044</td>
<td>4,368</td>
<td>4,075</td>
<td>4,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all VI children, birth-5</td>
<td>50% [2005]</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By family structure.
• 81% of children receiving SNAP assistance (12,910 children) lived with a single parent, 13% (2,010 children) lived with two parents and 6% (1,067 children) lived without either parent. These portions in 2012 include slightly more children in 2-parent families than seen in previous years.

### How Many VI Children Received SNAP Benefits, 2002-2012?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Croix</td>
<td>8,255</td>
<td>6,835</td>
<td>6,389</td>
<td>7,899</td>
<td>8,507</td>
<td>9,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas/St. John</td>
<td>5,058</td>
<td>3,739</td>
<td>3,704</td>
<td>5,929</td>
<td>6,719</td>
<td>7,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,313</td>
<td>10,574</td>
<td>10,093</td>
<td>13,828</td>
<td>15,226</td>
<td>16,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all VI children</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly called the Food Stamp Program).**
The federal SNAP program provides food subsidies to reduce hunger for individuals and families experiencing unemployment, disability, reduced work hours, or other causes of income insecurity.
SNAP monthly benefits promote better nutrition among low-income household members, and strengthens householders’ ability to bridge the gap between earned household income and basic, yearly living expenses.

What’s the situation for VI children regarding SNAP assistance?
Since 2002, the SNAP program has served a rising percentage of children, with a dramatic increase in need from 2009-2012.
Over 2/3 of VI children qualified for and received SNAP assistance in 2012.
• **USVI:** 16,616 VI children age 0-18 received SNAP benefits (67%) in 2012.
  • **St. Croix:** represented 56% of VI children receiving SNAP (or 9,376 children).
  • **St. Thomas/St. John:** represented 44% of VI children receiving SNAP (or 7,240 children).
• In fiscal year 2012, 1,390 more children received SNAP assistance than in 2011.
• $52,973,201 in SNAP benefits were provided for needy families (up from $48,029,343 in 2011, $43,119,158 in 2010, and $22,902,242 in 2008).

By children’s households.
• **USVI:** 7,393 child-based households received SNAP benefits in 2012, 714 more child-based households than in 2011.
Economic Well-Being

Children in Families Receiving Public Supports, cont.

School Nutrition Programs
The federal School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program aim to enhance needy children's educational performance by improving their overall nutrition. Children in families with low income (130% of the federal poverty level) qualify for free nutritious meals each school day at participating public and non-profit private schools or childcare centers.

What’s the situation for VI children regarding Free School Meals?
Based on the level of overall family low-income in the territory, the USDA has designated all VI children age 2-18 as eligible to receive federally-supported School Breakfast and School Lunch Program meals for free in public schools, no matter what their family’s income.

In 2012, young children in childcare centers had increased need for free meals, while the amount of free meals needed by children in public schools lowered from 2011-2012.

### How Many ‘School’ Meals were served in the VI, 2006-2012?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Childcare Center Meals</th>
<th>School Breakfast Meals</th>
<th>School Lunch + Snack Meals</th>
<th>Total Meals Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>477,874</td>
<td>649,098</td>
<td>2,253,664</td>
<td>3,380,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>558,896</td>
<td>711,047</td>
<td>2,337,005</td>
<td>3,606,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>610,022</td>
<td>794,137</td>
<td>2,361,268</td>
<td>3,765,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>640,596</td>
<td>856,726</td>
<td>2,402,194</td>
<td>3,899,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>770,441</td>
<td>786,806</td>
<td>2,287,984</td>
<td>3,845,231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children Receiving Child Support

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

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

One out of every three VI children is enrolled in the paternity and child support system, a portion that remains very high.

- **USVI:** One third of all VI children (34%, or 7,979 children) were engaged in the paternity and child support system in fiscal year 2012.
- In 2011: 35%, or 8,325 children; in 2002: 37%, or 12,236 children.

Of the 11,113 children living with their single mother, almost 3 of every 4 children (72%, or 7,979 children) were not receiving regular, voluntary support from non-resident fathers, and were engaged in the Territory’s child support system to gain help in receiving paternal income payments.

- In fiscal year 2012:
  - the total number of caseloads was 8,916
  - of these, orders were established on 5,950 (ie. 67%)
  - the number of cases with at least one collection: 4,868
  - the number of cases with Arrears Due: 6,116
- $10,282,542 was collected in child support for enrolled children in 2012 (out of $66,695,301 in current and arrears support due).

**Definition:** Children receiving child support are children age birth up to 17 having open cases with orders for child support from a non-custodial parent, in the Paternity and Child Support Division of the VI Department of Justice. Court orders for child support and medical support require establishment of paternity, and subsequent court-order made to the non-custodial parent.
Infant Health and Mortality

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
While the overall VI population continued to rise with each decade, the number of babies born in the Territory has fallen since the 1970’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Births (VI)</th>
<th>VI rate/1,000 total VI population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>30/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>34/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>37/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>2,898</td>
<td>46/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>2,504</td>
<td>26/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2,267</td>
<td>22/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,685</td>
<td>16/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,657</td>
<td>16/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,557</td>
<td>15/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>15/1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meanwhile, the rate of VI babies born at low or very low birthweight has been inching upward in past decades rather than improving (see Low Birthweight data at right). Underweight at birth can imply risks for babies’ surviving their first year of life and for their healthy development thereafter.

Deaths to babies less than one year old have improved. The Virgin Islands has reduced its rate of infant death by half, since 1990 (see Infant Mortality data, facing page).

Babies Born at Low Birthweight.
Birthweight is a key indicator of newborn health. Infants born with low weight at birth (weighing less than 5-1/2 pounds) face greater risks of physical and developmental setbacks and infant death than those born at normal weight.

Low birthweight rates are often more likely for babies born pre-term (at less than 37 weeks gestation), and for babies born to mothers who had poor nutrition, inadequate dental health, who smoked, or had low educational attainment.

Low birthweight rates are also known to be more likely for babies born to mothers under the age of twenty than to older mothers.

Babies born at very low birthweight (under 3 pounds, 4 ounces) are at greatest risk. These infants are nearly 100 times more likely to die within their first year than their normal-weight peers, and have a significant risk of severe physical, visual, developmental and cognitive setbacks or impairments.

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
Fewer VI babies of all weights were born in 2012 than in the previous year, with 21 fewer born at low birthweight. Though the VI low birthweight rate improved in 2012 from the previous year, low birthweight for babies remains a continuing concern in the VI.

• **USVI**: in 2012, 9.6% of 1,500 live births (144 babies) were low birthweight, weighing less than 5.5 pounds (down from 165 babies in 2011).
  **The national low-birthweight rate**: 8%.

• 1.5% of births (22 babies of the 44 above) were very low birthweight in 2012 (down from 2% or 31 babies in 2011).
  **The national very-low birthweight rate**: 1.4%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Birthweight Births (as % of all live births)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infant Mortality.

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

Though slightly higher than the US rate in recent years, the VI infant mortality rate has been relatively low since 1997.

- 10 infant deaths occurred out of 1,500 live births in 2012.
- **USVI infant mortality rate:** 6.4 deaths per thousand live births (down from 6.6/1000 in 2010 and 14/1000 in 1990).
- **St. Croix rate:** 6.0/1000 (or 4 deaths out of 667 live births).
- **St. Thomas/St. John rate:** 7.2/1000 (or 6 deaths out of 833 live births).

The national infant mortality rate: 6.1 infant deaths per 1000 live births.

| Infant Mortality (death rate per 1,000 infants age birth up to one) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| VI - # | VI - rate | US - rate |
| 1990 | 32 | 14 | 9.2 |
| 1995 | [not available] | 11 | 7 |
| 2000 | 14 | 8.3 | 7.1 |
| 2005 | 9 | 5.5 | 6.8 |
| 2010 | 11 | 6.6 | 6.1 |
| 2012 | 10 | 6.4 | 6.1 (2011) |

1VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI infant deaths (10 in 2012 compared to 11 in 2010) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

---

Child Health Insurance

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

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

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

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

In 2012, 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.

**Children without health insurance.**

- **USVI:** 28% of all VI children and youth age birth through 19 (7,616 children) lacked health insurance in 2012, or almost one out of every three.
- 29% of VI children under age 5 (1,739 infants and preschoolers) were uninsured. Young children age birth up to 5 years are most likely to fall ill, but are generally the age group most likely to lack health insurance.

**The US rate of uninsured children age birth through 18:** 10%.

**Children with Medicaid health insurance.**

The number of VI children age birth through 19 who were covered by Medicaid rose sharply from 2009 (915 children) to 4,498 children in 2012.

- **USVI:** 17% of children were enrolled in Medicaid health coverage in 2012.

Note: In 2012, 17% of VI children were covered by Medicaid health insurance, though the child poverty level was 31% of the VI child population.

Medicaid-eligible VI children were those in families at extreme poverty earning less than $8,500 a year (ie. severely below the 2012 poverty threshold for a family of four with two children of $23,283).

The federal matching rate for Medicaid expenditures, the annual limit of federal Medicaid spending, and Medicaid eligibility are more-limited in the US insular areas compared to the 50 states.

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

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

Immunizations guarding children against major illnesses are a cost-effective way to provide continuing immunity for all who live in the community.

The federal Vaccines for Children program provides free vaccines for children who are uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, or under-insured, to help raise national compliance for children's health.

In Early Childhood.
Children are most vulnerable to sickness during infancy and pre-school years. A combined series of immunizations, known as the 4:3:1:3:1:4 series, is the protective-health measure recommended for babies and young children by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).\(^1\)

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

What's the situation for children age 1-1/2 through 2 years old?
- In 2012, only 2 out of every five (41%) of VI young children age 19 to 35 months (ie. between one and a half and three years old) had received the recommended up-to-date coverage of 4:3:1:3:1:4 immunization series.
- The VI rate for compliance in 2011: 46%.\(^2\)

The national compliance rate for children this age: 68%.

In Adolescence.
Additional vaccines are recommended by ACIP for teens age 13 through 17.

What's the situation for VI children age 13-17?
- For two of the three vaccines recommended in adolescence, VI rates were far lower than national norms, ie. for Meningococcal vaccine [MenACWY], and the 3-dose complete series of Human Papilloma virus vaccine [HPV].\(^3\)
- Meanwhile, VI rates for three of the 4 recommended vaccines required in childhood (MMR/2, HepB/3 and Varicella) were similar to national rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VI immunization rates vs. US rates for teens age 13 through 17, 2012(^*)</th>
<th>Tdap</th>
<th>MenACWY</th>
<th>HPV (3 dose series)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MMR(2 doses)</th>
<th>HepB (3 doses)</th>
<th>Var</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(*Note: this official NIS chart above does not include the full, nationally-recommended dosage amount for the childhood MMR vaccine (4 doses are recommended).\)

1\footnote{This series was modified from the previously recommended 4:3:1:3:1 series, which also included three doses of Haemophilus influenza type b vaccine (Hib) due to changes in measurement of the Hib vaccine.}
3\footnote{US National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2012, “Estimated Vaccination Coverage, with Selected Vaccines Among Adolescents Aged 13-17, by State and Selected Area”}

Definition: Early childhood immunizations is the portion of children age 19-35 months who have received the entire 4:3:1:3:1:4 series of vaccinations as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The series includes 4 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTap); 3 doses of Polio, 1 dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); 3 or more doses of Hepatitis B; 1 or more doses of varicella vaccine and 4 or more doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine [PCV].

Adolescent immunizations is the portion of children age 13 through 17 who have received, in addition to the “4:3:1” series named above, the ACIP recommended immunizations that include 1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis [Tdap], one dose of Meningococcal Conjugate (or other meningococcal) vaccine [MenACWY], 3 doses of Human Papilloma virus vaccine [HPV], a second dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR); and 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.
Child Deaths

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

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
The VI child death rate fell, becoming slightly better than the US rate in 2012.
- **USVI child death rate**: 16 per 100,000 children. Three children died out of an estimated 19,247 children age 1-14 in 2012 (from 2 child deaths in 2011).
- All deaths were in St. Croix; none were in St. Thomas/St. John.
The national child death rate: 17 per 100,000 children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI #</th>
<th>VI - rate</th>
<th>US - rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33/100,000</td>
<td>31/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>29/100,000</td>
<td>28/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15/100,000</td>
<td>22/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25/100,000</td>
<td>20/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34/100,000</td>
<td>17/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16/100,000</td>
<td>17/100,000 (2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI child deaths (3 in 2012 compared to 7 in 2010) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Child Health and Safety topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children’s data.
- Child deaths (rate, number)
- Child abuse and neglect (rate, number)
- Child maltreatment by type (rate, number)
- Youth suicide attempt (by gender)
- Uninsurance rates by age group (percent)

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

Teen Deaths

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

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
Rising steadily, the VI rate of teen death is a reason for concern and action. The VI teen death rate is far higher -- by 200-300% -- than the nation's rate.
- **The VI teen death rate**: 207 per 100,000 teens. 12 teens died out of an estimated 5,798 teens age 15-19 in 2012.
- 3 deaths were reported in St. Croix; 9 in St. Thomas/St. John.
The national teen death rate: 49 per 100,000 teens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI #</th>
<th>VI - rate</th>
<th>US - rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>62/100,000</td>
<td>88/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>67/100,000</td>
<td>82/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>81/100,000</td>
<td>67/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>114/100,000</td>
<td>65/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>145/100,000</td>
<td>49/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>207/100,000</td>
<td>49/100,000 (2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI rates must be interpreted with caution: small absolute numbers of VI teen deaths (12 in 2012 compared to 11 in 2010) can lead to large variations in rates that are population-based.

Find year-by-year data charts for VI Teen Health Risk topics at www.cfvi.net. Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children’s data.
- Teen deaths (rate, number)
- Uninsurance rates by age group (percent)
- Youth suicide attempt (by gender)
- Safety and violence in public high schools (percent by type)
- Juvenile violent crime arrests (number, percent, rate)

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

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
Since 2000, the juvenile arrest rate for violent crime has generally declined, in 2012 finally approaching the the national rate.

Juvenile violent crime arrest rate.
- **USVI:** 295 per 100,000 youth age 10-17 (dropping sharply from 614/100,000 in 2011).
- 33 juvenile violent crime arrests in 2012 (down by half from 76 in 2011), out of an estimated 11,181 VI youth this age.
- **St. Croix:** 260/100,000 arrest rate, out of estimated 6,151 youth age 10-17 - 16 arrests (down sharply from 47 in 2011), including 3/murder, 4/rape, 3/robbery, and 6/aggravated assault.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 338/100,000 arrest rate, out of 5,030 youth 10-17 - 17 arrests (down from 29 in 2011), including 1/murder, 1/rape, 0/robbery, and 15/aggravated assault.

The national rate: 202 per 100,000 youth (latest available rate is for 2011).1

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (age 10 through 17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - violent</th>
<th>US - violent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>809/100,000</td>
<td>487/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>611/100,000</td>
<td>299/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>743/100,000</td>
<td>306/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>364/100,000</td>
<td>225/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>614/100,000</td>
<td>202/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>295/100,000</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Find more charts for Juvenile Offense topics at www.cfvi.net.

Definition: **Juvenile violent crime arrests** are the number of arrests of youth age 10 through 17 for Part 1 indexed violent offenses, including homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

In 2012, the VI juvenile arrest rate for property crime rose, though this rate remains very significantly below the US rate.

Juvenile property crime arrest rate.
- **USVI:** 581 per 100,000 youth age 10-17 (up from 396/100,000 in 2011) - 65 arrests in 2012 (up from 49 in 2011).
- **St. Croix:** 699/100,000 arrest rate for youth this age. - 43 youth arrests including 8/burglary, 10/ grand larceny, 4/auto theft, and 21/ arson (35 arrests in 2011).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 437/100,000 arrest rate - 22 youth arrests (up from 14 in 2011) including 6/burglary, 10/grand larceny, and 6/auto theft, (no arson).

The national rate: 995 per 100,000 youth (latest available rate is for 2011).2

Juvenile Property Crime Arrest Rate (age 10 through 17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - property</th>
<th>US - property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>491/100,000</td>
<td>1,278/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>477/100,000</td>
<td>1,084/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>396/100,000</td>
<td>995/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>581/100,000</td>
<td>[not available]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Find more charts for Juvenile Offense topics at www.cfvi.net.

Click on HOW ARE KIDS DOING?
- 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 (number)
- Youth in juvenile detention by gender (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention by offender status (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention who were school dropouts (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention with special ed. needs (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention living at home at time of arrest (percent)
- Youth in juvenile detention from single parent homes (percent)

**Juvenile property crime arrests** are for offenses including burglary, larceny/theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property.
Births to Teens

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
The VI teen birth rate has greatly improved, dropping by 40% since 1990. However, the rate of births to VI teen girls remains considerably higher than the US teen birth rate, which has lowered (by half) from 1990-2012.

Nationally, the decline in teen birth rates is linked to increased sex education, increased use of contraception by teens, and lower rates of family poverty.

• 129 babies were born to VI teen mothers age 15-19 (out of an estimated population of 2,669 girls this age) in 2012.
• These babies represented 9% of 1,500 total live births in 2012.
• **USVI teen birth rate:** 48 births per thousand girls age 15-19 in 2012 (a strong improvement from 78/1000 in 1990).
• **St. Croix teen birth rate:** 60/1000 represented 80 births (in an estimated population of 1,333 St. Croix girls age 15-19).
• **St. Thomas/St. John teen birth rate:** 37/1000 represented 49 births (in an estimated population of 1,335 girls age 15-19).

The national teen birth rate: 29 births per thousand girls age 15-19 in 2012

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VI - #</th>
<th>VI - rate</th>
<th>US - rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>n/a*</td>
<td>78/1,000</td>
<td>60/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>61/1,000</td>
<td>57/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>n/a*</td>
<td>48/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>47/1,000</td>
<td>40/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>51/1,000</td>
<td>42/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>43/1,000</td>
<td>34/1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>56,1,000</td>
<td>31,1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>48/1,000</td>
<td>29/1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*no data available for number of VI births in 1990, or number of VI girls age 15-19 in 2000.

Infants Born at Highest Risk
Research shows that infants born to teen mothers are at highest risk of inadequate early care and other necessary supports. Teen mothers are most likely of all mothers to lack the financial stability, social or partnership supports, job skills, and parenting abilities needed for infant nurturing and healthy child development.

• About 25% of teen mothers have a second child within two years of the first, further limiting their ability to complete high school and/or maintain a living wage job.
• Two thirds of families headed by teen mothers live in poverty. Teen mothers have a high likelihood of remaining unmarried, and most will be persistently low-income.
• Children of teen parents are more likely to suffer child maltreatment, repeat a grade in school, and to enter foster care. Sons of teen mothers are twice as likely as their peers to spend time in prison, and daughters of teen mothers are three times as likely to become teen mothers themselves.¹


Find more Teen Birth charts at www.cfvi.net. Click HOW ARE KIDS DOING? button to see VI children’s data.

• Births to unmarried women (number, percent)
• Teen births (number, rate)
• Births to women under 20 years old (number, percent)
• Births to women with less than 12 years of education (number, percent)
• Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care (number, percent)
• Births to teen women who were already mothers (number, percent)

**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.
Children’s Readiness for School

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Half of VI children at age 5 lack the language skills -- and by extension the comprehension/understanding skills -- expected for their age.

Our current childcare arrangements or family settings in which our children are receiving early care and education are not fostering or equipping our children with the necessary skills, dispositions and experiences to become prepared, successful learners as they enter kindergarten.

The evidence.

VI children’s skills, tested early using the Learning Accomplishment Profile Third Edition (LAP-3) in the year they entered public school kindergarten showed that, in 2012:

- More than half (53%) of VI 5-year-old children entering public school were 6 months to over a year behind developmental age-expectations in language and comprehension skills, that is, “understanding” and “words” skills.
- Literacy and language skills begin long before children start kindergarten. Infants and children who are spoken with, read to or told stories each day develop age-expected vocabulary, comprehension and cognitive development.¹
- One third (34%) of VI children entering public kindergarten also lacked adequate, age-expected cognition (“math” and “logic”) skills, that is, familiarity with numbers, counting, problem-solving, recognition of patterns and logical comprehension.

This lack of kindergarten readiness for such a large portion of our young children is a compelling reason to improve the quality, delivery and expectations of education and care in early childhood settings.

As part of the Territory’s effort to improve early childhood, the VI Department of Human Services has revised Child Care Rules and Regulations that require teachers to have professional development training in early childhood education. “Virgin Islands Early Learning Guidelines” outline what children need to be able to do and know when they enter kindergarten. The Guidelines provide suggestions about how teachers, caregivers, parents and the community can support children in achieving these goals.²


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

- **Gross motor (physical).** Child develops abilities and co-ordination in movement (such as walking, jumping)
- **Fine motor (physical).** Child develops abilities through dexterity, using tools, hand-eye co-ordination (such as picking up objects, cutting)
- **Pre-writing.** Child develops pre-writing skills (such as holding a pencil)
- **Cognitive.** Child develops awareness of numbers, problem solving skills (such as counting coins, finding hidden objects)
- **Language.** Child develops ability to express thoughts, appreciate books (such as telling a story using a picture book)
- **Self-help.** Child develops independence in hygiene, personal care (such as wiping nose, going to toilet with adult)
- **Personal/Social.** Child develops ability to communicate/follow rules (such as helping adults, saying name, playing with peers)

What Are VI Children’s Learning Skills at Entry to Public Kindergarten, 2012-2013?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Below Age Level</th>
<th>Average Age Level</th>
<th>Above Age Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross motor</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine motor</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-writing</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-help</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal/Social</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Symbols:
- ■ below age level expectations
- ■ average age level expectations
- ■ above age level expectations
Children with Special Needs

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

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?
- **USVI:** in 2012, 5% of VI children age birth through 17 (1,290 VI children) were identified as developmentally delayed or at risk of delay.

Children Enrolled in Early Intervention:
Age birth through age 2.
The first few years of life are when children develop their primary capacities for learning, language and social/emotional growth. Unless addressed effectively, delays or disabilities experienced by a child during these early years can impact his or her foundation for positive learning and social development.

Children in poverty and maltreated children are at highest risk of experiencing disabilities and developmental delays. Research shows that abused or neglected children are six times more likely than their peers to be disabled or delayed.

Early Intervention (EI) services received before age three can allow young children with these risks to become better prepared -- for learning, for school and for later life.

What’s the situation for VI children age birth through age 2 with special needs?
- **USVI:** 106 VI children this age were receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, in 2012 (140 in 2011)
  - birth up to age 1: 35 children
  - ages 1 up to 2: 32 children
  - ages 2 up to 3: 39 children
  - girls represented 55% of children identified with need for EI services.

Children Enrolled in Special Education:
Age 3 through 17.
Students with special needs (including disabilities or developmental delays) are more likely than their peers to have lower rates of school achievement, graduation, college attendance, and to have fewer job prospects.

Part B of the federal IDEA Act requires all states' school systems to evaluate students age 3-21 who are at-risk for special needs, and to provide all students who qualify for Special Education with an 'Individualized Education Program' (IEP): individualized academic goals, with related support and accountability services.

What’s the situation for VI children age 3 through 17 with special needs?
- **USVI:** 1,184 VI children age 3-17 were enrolled in Special Education IEP programs in fiscal year 2012 (1,263 the previous year).
  - St. Croix: 626 children, or 53% of all VI children age 3-17 receiving special education services.
  - St. Thomas/St. John: 558 children, representing 47% of VI children receiving these services.

Note: The declining numbers of VI children receiving intervention and special education services over the decade leading to 2012 is due in part to a corresponding drop in the number of children in the VI population within this period.

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

Third grade is a critical year: it is when young readers shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Children who are proficient readers by fourth grade are able to fully grasp the contents of reading materials in other subjects.

Research shows that 75% of children struggling with reading in third grade remain poor readers in high school. Significantly, students who are not proficient readers in third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than students who are proficient.

Identifying children with reading difficulties before they enter fourth grade is important. Focused interventions can help prevent these students from losing motivation for school, and from failing to acquire the necessary skills to prosper in today’s information-driven job market.

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- **USVI:** 46% (592 students) of the estimated 1,132 public school third graders scored below proficiency levels for reading on the VI Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) 2011-2012 Report Card (49% scored below in 2011-12).

Lacking reading proficiency by end of 3rd grade were:
- 46% of Black 3rd graders
- 47% of Hispanic 3rd graders
- 26% of 3rd graders identified as other races (i.e. non Black, non Hispanic)
- 49% of 3rd grade boys; 42% of girls
- 66% of 3rd graders with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- 67% of 3rd graders with disabilities.

### How Well Could VI Public School Students Read by the End of Third Grade, in 2012?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tested</th>
<th>Percent Reading below grade-level expectations</th>
<th>Percent Reading at grade-level expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Race</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEP</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w/Disabilities</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent
2012-2013 Territorial Report Card for Public Schools

The VI Department of Education uses the Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) report as an annual performance assessment for the Territory’s public education.

To comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the VITAL report charts VI public schools’ performance in meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets which measured all VI public school students’ progress toward proficiency in reading and math, students’ school participation, attendance and graduation rates, and the qualifications of public school teachers.

To make Adequate Yearly Progress, (AYP), all indicators must be met.

The 2012-13 VITAL “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) targets set for students and schools:

- specific percentages of students to be scoring at or above proficiency in reading and math, ie:
  - 5th grade reading: 53.3% of students
  - 7th grade reading: 53.3% of students
  - 11th grade reading: 55.6% of students
  - 5th grade math: 53.8% of students
  - 7th grade math: 53.8% of students
  - 11th grade math: 52% of students

Note: see chart on p. 30 for VI students’ reading and math proficiency results in grades 5, 7, and 11, in 2012-13.

- a student attendance rate at 95% for elementary and middle/junior and high schools.
- a student participation rate at 95% in math and reading for grades 3-11.
- a graduation rate of 70% for public high schools, based on the percentage of students (measured from the beginning of high school) receiving a regular diploma in four years.

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

Below are the VI Department of Education’s own assessments of “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) for 2012-13.

Note: In ’10-’11 AYP reading and math proficiency targets were revised up by about 15 percentage points.

Student performance.

Grades 3-8.

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

In reading:
- The reading proficiency target in 2012-13 of 53.3% was not met:
  - Only 48.5% of students performed at/above proficient reading level in 2012-13.
- All students met the reading participation target.

In math:
- The math proficiency target in 2012-13 of 53.8% was exceeded:
  - 56.4% of students performed at/above proficient math level.
  - Black and Hispanic students met the proficiency target; limited English speakers and students with disabilities did not.
- All students met the math participation target.

Grade 11.

Neither math nor reading AYP targets were met.

In reading:
- The reading proficiency target in 2012-13 of 55.6% was not met:
  - only 36% of students performed at proficient reading level in 2012-13.
- No group of identified students (including Black students, Hispanic students, limited English speakers, and students with disabilities) met reading proficiency targets.*
- reading participation target was met by all students.

In math:
- The math proficiency target in 2012-13 of 52% was not met:
  - only 46.2% of students performed at/above proficient math level. No group of identified students (including Black students, Hispanic students, limited English speakers, and students with disabilities) met math proficiency targets.
- The math participation target was met by all students.

School performance.

Of the Territory’s 31 public schools, 17 were cited in 2012-13 as in need of improvement (55%).

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

16 out of 21 elementary schools (up from 13 in 2010) met AYP targets (ie. for student proficiency in reading, math, student participation and attendance).

- St. Croix: 7 of 10 (ie. 70%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas measured (last year: 4 met targets)
- St. Thomas/St. John: 9 of 11 (ie. 82%) elementary schools met AYP targets for all areas (last year: 64% met targets)

Middle/junior high schools (grades 67-8).

None of the 5 middle/junior high schools met targets (only Julius E. Sprauve Junior High School on St. John met all AYP targets in the past 2 years; it has since closed).

- St. Croix: Of 3 schools, none met AYP targets.
- St. Thomas: Of 2 schools, none met AYP targets.

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

(continued on next page)
High schools (grades 9-12). Of the 4 high schools, only Charlotte Amalie High School met all targets (as in 2011-12).

- **St. Croix:** Of 2 high schools, none met all AYP targets. Central High School only met targets in participation in reading and math. Educational Complex met all targets except reading proficiency targets.

- **St. Thomas/St. John:** Of 2 high schools, Charlotte Amalie High School met all targets. Ivanna Eudora Kean High School met no targets except attendance.

Teacher qualifications.

- 64% of public school teachers were certified (up from 55% in 2010), while 36% were not certified.
- 1% of public school teachers had no degree. 1% had a ‘specialist’ degree. 1% had an associate degree. 58% had a bachelor’s degree, 38% had a master’s degree, 1% held a doctoral degree.
- The percent of core classes in 2012-13 that were taught by highly qualified teachers was not available at print time.**

**A “highly qualified teacher” as defined by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and US Virgin Islands Board of Education is one who:
- holds a minimum of a bachelor’s degree
- has a full state certification for teaching
- has demonstrated subject matter competency in each core academic subject(s) he or she teaches (i.e. English, Math, Science, Foreign Languages, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, and Geography).

### VI student academic performance, 2012-13

**For Grade 5 reading proficiency:**
- Advanced level: 14.6% of students
- Proficient level: 38.3%
- Basic level: 41.1%
- Below basic: 6.1%

**For Grade 5 math proficiency:**
- Advanced level: 21.6%
- Proficient level: 34.6%
- Basic level: 40.2%
- Below basic: 3.6%

**For Grade 7 reading proficiency**
- Advanced level: 7.9%
- Proficient level: 23.9%
- Basic level: 59.9%
- Below basic: 8.3%

**For Grade 7 math proficiency**
- Advanced level: 13.5%
- Proficient level: 50.4%
- Basic level: 34.9%
- Below basic: 1.2%

**For Grade 11 reading proficiency**
- Advanced level: 3.8%
- Proficient level: 32%
- Basic level: 50.7%
- Below basic: 13.5%

**For Grade 11 math proficiency**
- Advanced level: 8.1%
- Proficient level: 38.1%
- Basic level: 52.4%
- Below basic: 1.4%
Public School Dropouts

School dropout is widely acknowledged to be a persistent and serious social problem. Over their lifetimes, high school dropouts face higher likelihood of unemployment or completely dropping out of the workforce, poorer health, lower rates of marriage, increased incidence of divorce and births outside marriage, and increased involvement with the welfare and judicial justice systems. All these outcomes are costly not only to the individual, but also to society. 1

Students who drop out are more likely to have had lower academic grades and attendance rates, more suspensions and more repeating of a grade than students who remain in school. Early warning systems identifying high-risk student trends and patterns can be used effectively to identify individual students most in need of dropout prevention support. 2

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Public high school dropouts.
- **USVI**: 6.8% of VI teens age 16-19 (432 teens) were high school dropouts in 2012-13, as estimated by USVI KIDS COUNT, based on documentation from the VI Department of Education and also by the annual VI Community Survey (VICS).
  - In 2008-09: 650 estimated dropouts, or 10%.

The national dropout rate: 4% of US teens age 16-19 were estimated to be dropouts in 2012-13. 1

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

VI public school teen dropouts, age 16-19.
- In 2012-13, the VI Department of Education reported the number of public school dropouts as 215 teen students age 16-19.

VI public secondary schools (grades 7-12.)
- **4% (290 students)** were reported as dropouts
  - In 2008-09: 5.4%, or 432 students
- Two thirds of dropouts were male (170 males vs. 120 females) in 2012-13.
- **St. Croix**: 114 students represented a 3% district dropout rate (or 39% of the 290 public secondary school dropouts reported).
- **St. Thomas/St. John**: 170 students represented a 5% district dropout rate (or 61% of the 290 public secondary school dropouts reported).

VI public junior high schools (grades 7-8).
- **1.5% of enrolled junior high school students were reported as dropouts.**
- **1.4% of enrolled 7th graders (or 18 students).**
- **1.7% of enrolled 8th graders (or 18 students).**

VI public high schools (grades 9-12).
- **5.2% of enrolled high school students were reported by the VI Department of Education as dropouts in school year 2012-13 (254 students).**
- **5.8% of enrolled 9th graders (or 95 students)**
  Note: In ninth grade high school’s more-rigorous academic demands begin. Students are likeliest to leave school in this grade.
- **5.5% of enrolled 10th graders (or 66 students)**
- **5.3% of enrolled 11th graders (or 56 students)**
- **3.7% of enrolled 12th graders (or 37 students)**


**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.
Educational Attainment

High school graduation is the minimum requirement for college and for most jobs. A high school diploma, and increasingly a college degree, positively impacts the likelihood of success in finding and maintaining meaningful adult employment.

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

High school completion for youth age 18-19.
- **USVI:** 53% of the 1,676 youth this age had earned a high school diploma in 2012 (portion unchanged from 2008, the last year for which educational and employment data is available for this age group).
- Meanwhile, almost half (47% -- or 895 youth) lacked a high-school diploma.

High school/college completion for older youth age 18-24.
- **USVI:** 73% of 6,460 youth age 18-24 had completed high school in 2012; 27% had not. - In 2008: 72%.
- Females’ rate of high school completion: 73%. - In 2008: 79%.
- **USVI:** 7% of high school graduates age 18-24 earned a bachelor’s degree or above by 2012. - In 2008: 5%.
- Females’ rate of college completion: 9%. - In 2008: 7%.

Detached Youth

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

School and work help to equip teens with the skills, credentials and supports necessary to become productive adults. Teens who do not complete high school and do not join the workforce face a more difficult time creating sufficiency and advancement for themselves and their dependants, in future years.

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

School/work detachment for youth age 16-19.
- In 2012, an estimated 630 youth who were age 16-19 were not attending school and not working, out of 4,437 VI youth this age.
- **USVI:** 14% of all 16-19 year olds in the Virgin Islands were not attending school and not working (15% the previous year).
- The ‘detached’ youth rate in the nation: 8%.

Employed Youth

Work experiences during the teen years increase employability and wages into early adulthood, and improve the chances that workers will receive apprenticeship and/or formal training from their employers early in their careers.¹

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Employment for VI youth age 18-19.
- **USVI:** 6% of youth age 16-19 (or 273 youth) reported working full-time in 2012. In 2008: 5%.

Employment for older youth age 18-24.
- **USVI:** 72% of youth age 18-24 were employed of all this age who were in the labor force (ie. working or looking for work): 2,178 youth.
- In 2008: 63% youth this age were employed.
- Female employment rate: 80%. In 2008: 57%.
- 65% of employed youth worked full-time, at least 40 hours a week. In 2008: 48%.
- Of full-time employed youth, 88% had a high school diploma or above. In 2008: 85%.

Unemployment for VI youth age 18-19.
- For youth age 18-19 who were looking for work, 31% was the 2012 unemployment rate -- 3 times the 10.1% rate of adult unemployment.

Unemployment for older youth age 18-24.
- For youth age 18-24 who were looking for work, 23% was the 2012 unemployment rate -- twice the adult unemployment rate. In 2008: 26%.
- Of unemployed youth this age, 62% reported having completed high school or above. - In 2008: 64%.

Definition: Detached youth is the percentage of teens between ages 16 and 19 who were not enrolled in school and not employed. Employment may include part-time or full-time work.

Overview of Data Collection for the 2014 Data Book

This book compiles information available on US Virgin Islands children for the year 2012 and, where available, with data for previous years to reveal trends of up to twenty years in the status of children. Data is from US Census, the Population Reference Bureau, the US Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and others. Local data is from United States Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS), and from the VI Departments of Health, Human Services, Education, Police, Justice, and Labor.

This data book uses specific indicators and rates to conform with the national KIDS COUNT Data Book published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Rates are also used when a percentage is very small, due to a small number of incidences. Caution must be used in interpreting rates, as small changes in incidences, as in the USVI, can result in large changes in rates.

In the nine years between US Census collections, local data is from the United States Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS), conducted annually by the Eastern Caribbean Center, at the University of the Virgin Islands. All non-Census surveys are subject to sampling error (studying a subset of the whole population to make quantitative inferences about the population surveyed). The VICS, which uses 5% of VI households for a total sample size of 2,500 households, seeks to minimize human and machine-related errors through careful editing and follow-up telephone or personal interviewing. Use caution when comparing data across various surveys and Censuses, as questions, measures or definitions may change over time.

Note: Because the University of the Virgin Islands lacked sufficient funding to produce the VICS Survey for 2011, VI population data for 2011 reflects US Census findings for the year 2010.

University of the Virgin Islands

Founded in 1963, the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is a liberal arts, multi-cultural, land-grant institution, with dual campuses: one on St. Croix and one on St. Thomas. Within UVI, the Research Institute at the Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) is a division engaged in domestic and international research, and in supporting the work of the US Bureau of the Census, compiling and carrying out scientific sample surveys. The US Census, coordinated by staff of the ECC at the end of each decade, and the annual US Virgin Islands Community Survey, produced by the ECC in intervening years, provide social and economic data which are vital sources for the USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books.

Definitions and Data Sources

Children in Families. The percentage of children age 0-18 in living arrangements that include the following household structures. A two-parent or married-parent family refers to parents who are married to each other and living in the same household. They may be biological, adoptive, or include stepparents. Single-parent families refer primarily to families in which only one parent is present, but may include some families where both parents are present but unmarried. Single female-headed families refer to families headed by a female parent with own children. Grandparent families refer to children living in the home of grandparents where parents may or may not be present. Non-relative families primarily refer to families headed by a non-relative, where neither parent of the child lives in the household. SOURCE: 2012 VICS Survey; 1990 - 2010 US Census.


Median Income for Families. The dollar amount which divides VI family households into two equal groups: half of households have incomes above the median and half have incomes below the median. VI data is available only for all families, irrespective of related children. SOURCE: 2012 VICS Survey; 1990 - 2010 US Census.

Children in Poverty. The number and percent of children age birth to 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. Poverty data is based on income earned during the preceding year. SOURCE: 2012 VICS Survey; 1990 - 2010 US Census.

Children in Families Receiving Income Assistance. The rate or number of children under age 18 living in families receiving cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) federal program, or unemployment assistance through the Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services; Virgin Islands Department of Labor.

Children in Families Receiving Nutrition Assistance. The rate or number of children under age 18 living in families receiving health and food assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children(WIC) federal program, or food subsidy assistance through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Division of Family Assistance; Virgin Islands Department of Health.

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

(continued on next page)
Definitions and Data Sources, cont.

Children without Health Insurance. The percent of children under age 18 not covered by any kind of private or public health insurance including Medicaid.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research; SOURCE: 2012 VICS Survey

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

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

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

Immunizations. The percentage of children age 19 to 35 months, and age 13 to 18 years who have received the entire series of vaccinations recommended for their age-cohort by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

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

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests. The rate or number of arrests of youth age 10 to 17 for homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault per 100,000 youth this age. Juvenile property crime arrests are for burglary, larceny/theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property. Data may include repeated arrests of the same individual at different times and for different offenses.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Police Department.

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

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

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

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

Third Grade Reading. The percentage of third-grade public school students scoring below/at/above the proficiency level for reading on the Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) test, administered in the spring semester in advance of students’ entry into fourth grade.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.

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

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

Acknowledgements

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• Dr. Frank Mills and Dr. Asha Degannes, directors, UVI’s Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC)
• Lisa Donastorg, Diane Jeffers, Lennox Zamore; Chris Finch, commissioner, Department of Human Services
• Kaliah Edwards, James Richardson, Randall Thomas, Jill Singer, Angela Frett, and Donna Frett-Gregory, commissioner, Department of Education
• Dr. Naomi Bellot and Rodney Querrard, commissioner, Department of Police
• Arah Lockhart, Gary Halyard, and Albert Bryan, Jr., commissioner, Department of Labor
• Terrylin Smock, Wilmour Daniel, and Vincent F. Frazer, attorney general, Department of Justice

Data Analysis, Writing and Graphic Design
• Kim Holdsworth, co-director, USVI KIDS COUNT, and Lisa Meersman, creative director, Austin
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

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

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

CFVI’s annual grants and programs include:
- The Family Connection, a comprehensive early-learning enrichment initiative
- Enrichment grants 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
- Next Generation Scholars, to prepare and support first-generation, college-bound students in the college application process
- USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book, funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Directors
George H.T. Dudley, chairman
Trudie J. Prior, first vice-chair
Victoria B. Saunders, second vice-chair
Marie ThomasGriffith, secretary
Mark Robertson, treasurer
Scott Barber
Angelina Daswani
Letty Hulsman
Lawrence Kupfer
G. Hunter Logan, Jr.
Catherine L. Mills
Margaret Sprauve-Martin, MD
Claire Starkey

Ricardo J. Charaf, chairman emeritus
Henry and Penny Feuerzeig, Alda Monsanto, directors emeritus
Henry L. and Charlotte Kimelman, founders

Staff
Dee Baecher-Brown, president
Brittany Brin, administrative coordinator
Mandkhai Campbell, accountant
Lara Halliday, foundation administrator
Nicole Wheatley, special projects manager

How to use this book

Calculating a percent: Simply 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

Result: (7,775 / 24,869) x .312 x 100 = 31.2%

Calculating a rate: Employ three data-points: total group number, number in the sub-group, and number of the multiplier (usually 100, 1,000, etc).

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

Example: Rate of poor children per 1000 VI children

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

Result: (7,775 / 24,869) x 1,000 = .312 = 312 per 1,000

Calculating a ratio: 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 = (Measure in group A / Measure 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

Result: (7,775 / 24,869) = .312 to 1 or 31.2:100. This shows that the number of VI children in poverty is about thirty per hundred VI children.

Calculating change over time: Employ the following formula using subtraction, division and multiplication.

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

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

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

Result: (31 –37) / 37 x 100 = -16.2, or a 16.2% drop.

The United States Virgin Islands

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

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

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

(2013) Pausing for Review  
(2012) Strengthening Supports for Children  
(2011) Investing in Our Children’s Future  
(2009) How Do We Compare?  
(2008) Moving Forward by 10%  
(2007) Our Children Matter!  
(2005) Stepping Up to the Challenge  
(2004) Mapping a Road to Success  
(2003) Getting off to a Good Start  
(2002) Where is Our Commitment?  
(2001) Views from the Community  
(2000) A Call to Action!

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