

**USVI KIDS COUNT** is an annual project of the **Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI)**. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, **KIDS COUNT** tracks the status of children state by state in the US and in participating US territories.

**CFVI** has compiled and published the **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** report annually since 2000. Through **KIDS COUNT**, **CFVI** works with our community partners towards strategies driven by facts, evidence, analysis, results, and heightened standards of political and public accountability for children and families.

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

Today, **CFVI** manages more than ninety named funds, administers scholarships and awards programs, and coordinates the establishment of memorial funds. **CFVI** was established in 1990 with a \$500,000 endowment, grown now to \$7+ million. This year more than \$2 million was distributed in grants, awards and scholarships to the people and nonprofit organizations of St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island.

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

*CFVI is a public charity.  
Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*



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**USVI Kids Count 2010 Data Book** is available online at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net)



**OUR CHILDREN NOW!**

**Measuring**

**what matters.**

US Virgin Islands Kids Count Data Book 2010  
Executive Summary

# The STATUS of CHILDREN in the US VIRGIN ISLANDS

The **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book 2010** provides an updated look at how children and families in the US Virgin Islands are doing.

Tracking trends over the past eleven years, this annual report provides data on areas of gain — or increased risk — in the well-being of all the territory's children.

Note: **USVI Kids Count Data Book 2010** uses latest figures available, ie. 2008 data

## Population

- Number and portion of VI children (birth to age 18) is decreasing ...(in 2008: 27,335, or 24% of VI population ...in 1997: 36,179 children or 32% of total VI population).

## Children in Families

### **Challenges '08:**

- 46% of VI families with children are single-mother families ...(US rate: 19%).
- 40% of children (10,957 children) live in single-mother families ...(in 1997: 31%)
- 55.6% of VI children live in single-parent families (ie. single mother or single father)

## Economic Security

### **Positives '08:**

- VI family median income rose to \$43,949 in 2008 ...(in 1997: \$30,530).

### **Challenges '08:**

- 25% of all VI families with children live in poverty.
- VI family median income is \$19,000 less than the nation's ...(in US: \$63,211).

## Children/Families in Poverty

### **Positives '08:**

- The VI child poverty rate fell to 28% ... (far below the VI average yearly rate of 35%).
- VI family median income in 2008 was the highest amount measured.

### **Challenges '08:**

- More than one of every four VI children is living in poverty – 7,669 children.
- 31% of St. Croix children live in poverty; 24% of St. Thomas-St. John children.
- 72% of VI poverty-level families with children are headed by single mothers.

## Teen Births

### **Positives '08:**

- The VI teen birthrate lowered to 51/1000 girls age 15-19, after a 2-year rise.

### **Challenges '08:**

- 221 babies born to VI teens represented 12% of all live births in 2008.
- The VI teen birth rate exceeds the rate for US girls this age (US rate: 42.5 per 1000).

## Teen Deaths

### **Challenges '08:**

- 8 deaths of VI teens age 15-19 (ie. a rate of 94.7 deaths/100,000) contrasts with the national rate of 62 deaths per 100,000 ...(VI rate in 1997: 82 deaths per 100,000).

## Juvenile Violent Crime

### **Challenges '08:**

- 743 arrests per 100,000 youth age 10-17 was a dramatic spike: ...(rate last year: 539 arrests per 100,000 ...in '97: 310 arrests per 100,000).
- The VI rate contrasts with the nation's rate of 306 arrests/100,000 youth.

## Early Care in the VI

### **Challenges '08:**

- More high-quality childcare centers are needed to meet VI children's needs.
- Almost 60% of public school kindergarteners have skills below expected age levels in areas crucial to learning and reading: *a call for action by the VI community.*

## 2008-2009 Territorial Report Card

### **Challenges '08:**

- at reading proficiency: 21% of public school 7th graders ...30% of 11th graders
- at math proficiency: 44% of public school 7th graders ...44% of 11th graders

## Dropouts age 16-19

### **Positives '08:**

- VI estimated dropout rate continues to lower (in 2008: 10% ...in 1997: 22%)

### **Challenges '08:**

- One teen in ten (age 16-19) is a dropout; 47% of teens (age 18-19) lack a diploma.

## 'Detached' Teens age 16-19 not in School and not Working

### **Challenges '08:**

- 15% of teens 16-19 are not in school and not employed ...(in 1997: 5%).
- The VI detached youth rate contrasts with the national rate of 9%.