

Overview of Data Collection for the 2009 Data Book

This book compiles information available on US Virgin Islands children for the year 2007. Comparison is made with data for previous years to reveal trends in the status of Virgin Islands children.

Population statistics are drawn from the 2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey, conducted by the Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC) of the University of the Virgin Islands. Other local data is from Virgin Islands government sources, particularly the VI Departments of Health, Human Services, Education and Police.

Data on national rates and other research is obtained from various sources, including online publications of the US Census Bureau, including the 2007 American

Community Survey, the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the non-profit organization Child Trends.

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

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

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

All surveys are subject to error from several sources. Sampling error is the result of studying a subset of the whole population in order to make quantitative inferences about the population surveyed. In the 2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey, 5% of VI households were selected using standard scientific sampling techniques and a random selection method, for a total sample size of 2,500 households. Efforts are made to minimize human and machine-related errors, such as non-participation by selected respondents, item omissions and inconsistencies in the data, through careful editing and follow-up telephone or personal interviewing.

Caution should be used when comparing data across various censuses and surveys, because specific questions, measures and definitions may change over time. When comparing income figures in particular, the time period for reporting, number of questions asked, and age of selected respondents may have changed over time. Please see the 2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey for further details.



Definitions and Data Sources

Median Income Of Families With Children. The median annual income for families with related children under age 18 living in the household. Virgin Islands data is available only for all families, irrespective of related children.
SOURCE: "2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Per Capita Income. The mean income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.
SOURCE: "2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Percent of Children In Poverty. The percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the US poverty guidelines, as defined by the US Office of Management and Budget. 'Related children' of households with reported income are included in this analysis.
SOURCE: "2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Percent of Children Under Age 18 in Single Female Parent Families. Percentage of 'own children' under age 18 living in a household headed by a single, female householder. *SOURCE: "2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.*

Percent of Low Birth-weight Babies. The portion of infants born alive weighing 2500 grams or less, compared to total number of live births.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

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

Child Abuse and Neglect Rate. The rate or number of children ages birth through 17 who have been reported as abused or neglected.
SOURCE: Protective Services Statistics, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.

Foster Care Rate. The rate or number of children moved under the authority of the Department of Human Services from the custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily with a family providing care.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.

Early Prevention of School Failure (EPSF), and Battelle Developmental Inventory, 2nd Edition (BDI-2) are two national validated instruments measuring cognitive and physical development and performance of kindergarten children.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Child Death Rate. The rate or number of deaths to children between ages 1 and 14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age group.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Teen Death Rate. The rate or number of deaths from all causes to teenagers between ages 15 and 19, per 100,000 teenagers in this age group.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Teen Birth Rate. The rate or number of births to teens between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Health.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate. The rate or number of arrests of youth under the age of 18 for indexed violent offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault) per 100,000 youth between ages 10 and 17. Data may include repeated arrests of the same individual at different times and for different offenses.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Police Department.

Percent of Teens Who Are High School Dropouts. The percentage of teens between age 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and not high school graduates. Teens with a GED or equivalent are included as high school dropouts.
SOURCE: Virgin Islands Department of Education; "2007 Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands. (Data not available by island).

Public Secondary School Dropouts. The number of children enrolled in public schools in the 7th to 12th grades inclusively, who did not enroll, graduate, report for class at the beginning of the school year, or meet the exclusionary conditions of transfer to another school, suspension, illness, or death in the new school year.
SOURCES: Virgin Islands Department of Education; "2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Percent of 16-19 Year-Olds Not In School And Not Working. The percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and not employed, either full- or part-time. This number is calculated from data on school enrollment, educational attainment and labor force status of persons in the 16 to 19 year old population.
SOURCE: "2007 United States Virgin Islands Community Survey," Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands. (Data not available by island).

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University of the Virgin Islands

The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) is a four-year, liberal arts, coeducational, multi-cultural, land-grant institution. Founded in 1963, it has two campuses (St. Thomas, St. Croix).

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

The United States Virgin Islands

The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) include 68 islands and cays located in the Caribbean Sea, 50 miles east of Puerto Rico.

St. Croix, St. Thomas (including Water Island), and St. John are the three principal islands, with a total area of 144 square miles.

US citizenship was granted to the islands' inhabitants in 1927. Today, the US Virgin Islands are an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States. The territory's population in 2007 was reported as 114,744. With 2 million visitors each year, many arriving on cruise ships, tourism is the territory's primary economic activity. St. Croix is the site of one of the world's largest petroleum refineries.



Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

Established in 1990, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) administers an endowment of \$6 million, with more than 90 named funds. The income from these funds is disbursed to institutions and programs with purposes to enhance the educational, physical, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the people of the US Virgin Islands.

The CFVI mission is to "ensure the highest quality of life for both present and future generations."

CFVI's audited financials for the year 2008 report that CFVI gave out over \$1,500,000 in direct support to community organizations and individuals in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John through grants, scholarships, and a wide range of other types of assistance to the not-for-profit community.

Annual grants and programs administered by the Community Foundation include:

- *The Family Connection*, a comprehensive early-learning enrichment initiative
- A mini-grants program which provides financial support to innovative programs benefiting the children and families of the Virgin Islands
- 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
- Grants to families in crisis, through the *Rapid Response Funds*
- CFVI *Junior Angels* community service program for high school student volunteers
- *The Fatherhood Collaborative* for encouraging responsible fatherhood in the VI community
- *Voices for VI Children* to promote child advocacy in the US Virgin Islands
- **KIDS COUNT Data Book**, funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation

CFVI is a member of:

National:

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

Regional/Local:

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

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How to use this book

Utilizing the Data: Perhaps you need to find information hinted at but not provided directly in the text, such as rates per thousand when only a percentage rate was provided? For additional information about VI children, you can employ simple, workable formulas to perform the necessary calculations, using **2009 USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book** baseline data.

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

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

Example: Percent of USVI out-of-school, unemployed youth age 16-19 (ie. "detached" youth)

Formula: (Number of VI detached youth / All VI youth age 16-19) x 100

Calculation: (1,107 / 6,517) x 100 = 17%

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

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

Example: Detached youth rate per 1000 youth age 16-19

Formula: (Number of VI detached youth / All VI youth age 16-19) x 1000

Calculation: (1,107 / 6,517) x 1000 = 170 per 1000

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

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

Example: Difference between the number of youth 18-19 who hadn't graduated from high school, and the number of all VI youth age 18-19.

Formula: number of youth age 18-19 without a high school diploma / number of all VI youth age 18-19

Calculation: (1,569 / 2,693) = 1/1.7 or 1:1.7. This tells us that the number of youth age 18-19 who hadn't graduated from high school is more than half of all youth age 18-19.

Calculating change over time: See how a data element changes over the years.

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

Example: Changing percent of detached youth from 1997 to 2007

Formula: {(2007 % of detached youth minus 1997 % of detached youth) / 1997 % number} x 100

Calculation: {(17 - 5.4) / 5.4} x 100 = 215 -- or a 215% increase

