

**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.

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 one hundred 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 2012 Data Book** is available online at [www.cfvi.net](http://www.cfvi.net)



OUR CHILDREN NOW!  
STRENGTHENING  
SUPPORTS  
FOR CHILDREN.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# The STATUS of CHILDREN in the US VIRGIN ISLANDS

The **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book 2012** provides an updated look at how children and families in the US Virgin Islands are doing.

Tracking trends over the past thirteen 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 2012** uses latest figures available, i.e., 2010 data.

## Child Population

- The number and percentage of VI children (birth to age 18) are decreasing...
  - 2010: **27,026** children (**25.4%** of the total VI population). 1997: 36,179 children (32%).

## Children's Families and Economic Security

### Challenges in 2010

- **31%** of all VI families with children lived in poverty.
  - VI family median income was \$45,058 (\$16,486 less than in the nation).
- **30%** of all VI children lived in poverty – **8,176** children age birth up to 18.
  - 35% of all St. Croix children lived below the poverty threshold
  - 26% of all St. Thomas children lived below the poverty level
  - 17% of all St. John children lived below the poverty level
- Almost half (**48.4%**) of all VI families with children were single mother families.
  - US rate: 23% of all families with children were single mother families.
- **75%** of VI families with children in poverty were headed by single mothers.
- **35%** of all VI children were enrolled as paternity child support cases.

## Children's School Readiness; Educational Attainment

### Challenges in 2010

- **Almost 40%** of VI young children entering public kindergarten measured below age-level expectations in **cognitive readiness**
- **Half (51%)** of VI young children entering public kindergarten measured below age-level expectations in **language skills**
- **More than half** of the measured public middle and high school students demonstrated academic proficiency below grade-level expectations in **reading and/or math**...
  - **50%** of 5th graders were below 'proficiency' levels in **reading**
  - **41%** of 5th graders were below 'proficiency' levels in **math**
  - **72%** of 7th graders were below 'proficiency' levels in **reading**
  - **45%** of 7th graders were below 'proficiency' levels in **math**
  - **61%** of 11th graders were below 'proficiency' levels in **reading**
  - **52%** of 11th graders were below 'proficiency' levels in **math**

## Children's Health and Safety

### Positives in 2010

- The VI 10-year average rate of infant deaths is **below the US 10-year-average rate**...
  - VI 10-year-average rate: 5 per 1,000... US 10-year-average rate: 6.8 per 1,000.
- The VI teen birth rate was **lowest in 15 years**: 43 births per/1,000 girls age 15-19...
  - 164 babies born to VI teens age 15-19 represented 10% of all live VI births in 2010.
- The exceptionally high VI rate of juvenile violent crime arrests **fell** in 2010...
  - VI rate in 2010: 364 arrests per 100,000 youth age 10-17 (from 673 per 100,000 in '09)
  - US rate in 2010: 261 arrests per 100,000 youth this age.

### Challenges in 2010

- **More than half (58%)** of VI children under age 5 qualified for (i.e., needed and received) the nutritional support provided by WIC federal health intervention benefits.
- **Half (51%)** of VI children under age 18 needed and received "SNAP" federal food assistance benefits.
- Only **45%** of young VI children between one and a half and three years old were up-to-date with the vaccine series of early-childhood immunizations federally recommended for child health, and required for VI school entry...
  - The VI is 28 percentage points behind the 73% national rate of immunization-compliance.
- **27%** of the VI child population age birth through age 17 lacked any health insurance, representing 7,047 VI children without health coverage...
  - US rate: 10.3% of children in the nation lacked health insurance.
- Child maltreatment rose in the territory. In 2010, 409 children were reported for abuse and/or neglect... a VI rate of 15 per 1,000 children.
  - US rate: 9 per 1,000 children were reported for abuse and/or neglect in 2010
- **Almost 20%** of polled public school students in grades 8-12 reported having sex before age 13...
  - The US percentage: 6%
- **46%** of students grades 8-12 who were polled cited gang activity near home, and **31%** reported feeling unsafe in their neighborhood.
- The VI teen death rate (for teens age 15-19) rose to 145 per 100,000 teens in 2010...
  - US teen death rate: 53 per 100,000 teens this age.