

Our Children Now!

HOW DO WE COMPARE?



**US Virgin Islands
Kids Count Data Book 2009**

The USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book

provides information on child well-being in the US Virgin Islands. Its purpose is to open dialogue on children's issues, and promote community response and action to improve the health, safety and economic status of VI children, from birth up to age eighteen.

This **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book**, compiled annually by the **Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI)**, is part of a nationwide initiative sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to create a detailed annual community-by-community picture of the condition of children nationwide. There are now **KIDS COUNT** projects in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Each year the Annie E. Casey Foundation produces a national **KIDS COUNT** report, documenting state-level data and national trends.

Find USVI KIDS COUNT Data Book information online, two ways:

- 1) Go to www.cfvi.net (see **KIDS COUNT**, in menu-listings on CFVI home page).
- 2) Go to datacenter.kidscount.org for an interactive database available from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This website provides data collected by **KIDS COUNT** grantees nationwide. Viewers can access national, state or territory-specific inventories of current and past years' data, make comparisons between regions or years, and generate graphs and maps, all usable for research or reports.

Dear Colleagues:

It is our honor to present the 10th annual **KIDS COUNT** Report for the US Virgin Islands, with a profile on the well-being of children and families in the USVI. Through **KIDS COUNT**, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) works with community partners to improve the quality of data available, and to encourage the use of data as a tool for planning and positive action on behalf of children and families.

This year for the first time, **KIDS COUNT USVI** reports on the total number of children living in single parent households, including those headed

by a single mother (41.8%) and by a single father (14%). Thanks to expanded data collection in **VICS***, we now know that 55.8% of Virgin Islands children are growing up without their second parent in the household.

This is an alarming percentage by itself, and in comparison to a national rate of 32%.

As in past years, we ask that you give special attention to the very important measurement of *Early School Risk Assessments* of children entering kindergarten (pages 25-26). At CFVI, we are committed to helping provide the best foundation for our children's success, by enhancing the early learning environment.

By working with parents, child care professionals and the larger community to ensure excellence in the early childhood years, we can reduce and eventually eliminate the number of dropouts and detached youth (pages 29-32), and make meaningful improvements to reduce other risks to our children and families.

For a quick overview of this year's data findings, see the data *Summary*, at right. Also new this year are banner charts on many pages showing how our VI data and rates compare to Puerto Rico, to the nation, and to our own rates last year.

Welcome to Kids Count 2009.



Dee Baecher Brown
President, CFVI



Ricardo J. Charaf
Board Chair, CFVI

* *Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS)* is an annual scientific survey of a sample of USVI households, conducted in the years between national census surveys (see more, page 33).



Summary of KIDS COUNT Findings and Alerts (2007)

Population

Changes '97-'07:

- Number of VI children (birth to age 18) decreased to 27,903, or 24% of total VI population ...(in 1997: 36,179 children, or 32% of total VI population).

Children in Families

Challenges '97-'07:

- 46% of all VI families with children are now single-mother families ...(US rate:19%).
- 11,673 children (42% of VI children) now live in single-mother families ...(in 1997: 31% of VI children)

Economic Security

Positives '97-'07:

- VI family median income rose to \$42,673 in 2007 ...(in 1997: \$30,530).
- VI family median income level in '07 was the highest measured during the last ten years.

Challenges '07:

- 29% of all VI families with children live in poverty.
- VI family median income is almost \$16,000 lower than the nation's ...(US family median income: \$58,480).

Children/Families in Poverty

Positives '97-'07:

- The VI child poverty rate of 34% is slightly under the territory's 12-year average rate of 35%.

Challenges '07:

- Our child poverty rate means that one of every three VI children is living in poverty -- 9,515 children.
- The VI child poverty rate (34%) is almost twice the national rate of 18%.
- 39% of all St. Croix children live below the poverty level; 29% of all St. Thomas-St. John children.
- 70% of VI families with children living below the poverty level are headed by single mothers.

Teen Births

Challenges '97-'07:

- The climbing VI teen birth rate (with 247 births in 2007) reduces by 50% all progress made since '97.
- The VI teen birth rate is 57 births to 1000 girls age 15-19 ...(US rate: 42 per 1000 girls this age).

Teen Deaths

Challenges '97-'07

- 10 deaths of VI teens age 15-19 (for a rate of 123 deaths/100,000) represents a 50% rate increase within the last decade ...(in 1997: 82 deaths/100,000) ...(current US rate: 64 deaths/100,000*).

Juvenile Violent Crime

Challenges '97-'07

- 539 arrests per 100,000 youth age 10-17 is a 74% rate increase within the last decade (in '97: 310/100,000) - The VI rate is significantly higher than the nation's (US rate: 301/100,000).

Early School Risk Assessments

Challenges '07

- At least 1 out of every 5 VI students entering into public kindergarten has skills below expected age-proficiency levels in ALL areas except possibly gross motor skills.
- Neither district has results that can be considered acceptable.
- The high portion of children entering kindergarten with less than school-readiness skills is a call for responsive and concerned action by the VI community.

2006-2007 Territorial Report Card

Challenges '07

- In reading, only 22% of 7th grade public school students achieved 'proficiency' levels (ie. academic performance at or above grade level expectations)
- In reading, only 30% of 11th grade public school students achieved 'proficiency' levels
- In math, only 41% of VI 7th grade public school students achieved 'proficiency' levels
- In math, only 45% of 11th grade public school students achieved 'proficiency' levels.

*National rate is for 2006

Dropouts age 16-19

Positives '97-'07

- VI estimated dropout rate lowered in the past decade: (in 1997: 22% of VI youth age 16-19 ...in 2007: 13%)

Challenges '07

- VI estimated dropout rate of 13% is almost twice as high as the nation's ...(US rate: 7%).
- 36% (more than a third) of VI youth age 18-24 did not have a high school diploma

'Detached' Youth: Teens age 16-19 not Attending School and not Working

Challenges '97-'07

- 17% of teens 16-19 are not in school and not employed ...(in 1997: 5%).
- The VI 'detached youth' rate is twice as high as the nation's ...(US rate: 8%).

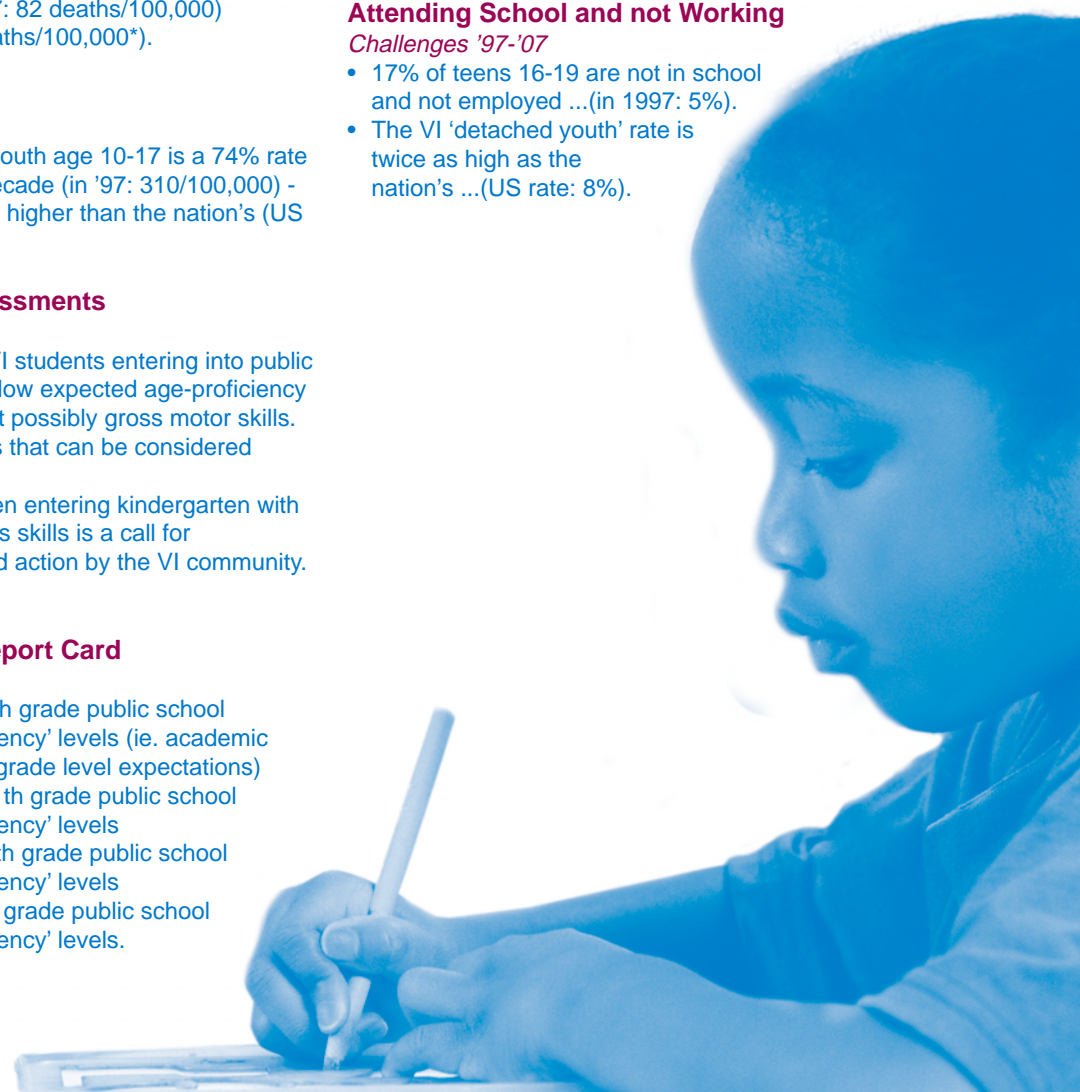


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Table 1

Trends in Virgin Islands Children Indicators: 2001 to 2007

US Virgin Islands Children Indicators*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Trend
Percent low birthweight babies	9.5	12.1	10.7	11.4	10.8	10.2	11.6	Worse
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	3.4	2.9	5.3	4.8	5.5	4.5	6.8	Worse
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	37.5	8.1	11.5	24.7	24.8	30.8	50.7	Worse
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	72.2	132.1	11.8	102	114.3	117.2	122.9	Variable
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females 15-19)	62.4	48.3	48.4	47.3	47	53.6	57.4	Worse
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17)	410.4	429.8	458.1	334	483	499	539	Worse
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	15.7	11.1	NA	10.5	15.7	13.8	13.1	Better
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)	8.8	4.7	10.2	14.5	13.4	11.3	17	Worse
Percent of children in poverty	36.5	30.6	32.3	35.1	35.8	29.5	34.1	Variable
Percent of children in single parent households ¹	35.6 ¹	33.3 ¹	35 ¹	40.7 ¹	40 ¹	40.5 ¹	55.8	Worse
Child abuse and neglect referral rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-18)	7.8	6.9	7.5	9.6	8.6	12.1	13.6	Worse
Median income of families	\$37,539	\$37,032	\$36,448	\$32,613	\$37,869	\$38,914	\$42,673	Better

*See Definitions and Data Sources.

¹ Data previous to 2007 reports VI children living with single mother only. 2007 data now reports VI children living with a single parent (ie. mother or father)
NA: Not available

Table 2

US and Island Comparisons of Children Indicators: 2007 Data

US Virgin Islands Children Indicators*	National Rate/ Percent	US Virgin Islands		St. Croix		St. John		St. Thomas	
		Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%	Number	Rate/%
Percent low birthweight babies	8.2	205	11.6	77	9.6	1		128	13.2
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	6.8	12	6.8	5	6.3	1		7	7.2
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	19 ²	11	50.7	5	42.6	1		6	60.1
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	64 ²	10	122.9	4	101	1		6	143.7
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females 15-19)	42.5	226	57.4	130	64.3	1		96	50.1
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17)	301	79	539	34	438	1		45	652
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	7	856	13.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percent of teens not in school and not working (ages 16-19)	8	1,107	17	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percent of children in poverty	18	9,515	34.1	5,744	38.9	1		3,772	28.8
Percent of children in single parent households ³	32%	55.8%	15,578	8,111	54.9%	1		7,467	56.9
Child abuse and neglect referral rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-18) ⁴	10.6	380	13.6	229	15.5	1		151	11.5
Median income of families	\$58,480	\$42,673		\$39,845		\$49,168		\$44,277	

*See Definitions and Data Sources

¹ Included in St. Thomas data

² National rate is for 2006

³ Data previous to 2007 reports VI children living with single mother only. 2007 data now reports VI children living with a single parent (ie. mother or father)

⁴ VI data reflects youth ages 0-17



The Virgin Islands Community: Demographics

US Virgin Islands child population, 2007

- Total population (adults and children): estimated at 114,744 (up from 113,689 in 2006)
- Child population (birth up to age eighteen): 24% of the total population, or 27,903 children (883 fewer than in 2006)
- **What's the 2007 national child/adult percentage rate?** 25% (unchanged from 2006)

By location

- **St. Croix:** 53% of VI children (14,785 children, or 26% of St. Croix's total population)
- **St. Thomas:** 45% of VI children (12,489 children, or 23% of St. Thomas' population)
- **St. John:** 2% of VI children (629 children, or 14% of St. John's population)
- Portions were almost the same among the three major islands in 2007 as in 2006.

By race

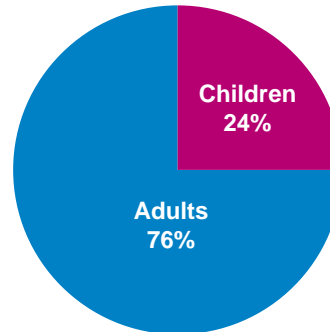
- Black children: 81% of VI children (down slightly from 82% in 2006)
- White children: 4% of VI children (up slightly from 3.6% in 2006)
- Other-race children: 16% of VI children (up from 14.3% in 2006)

By gender.*

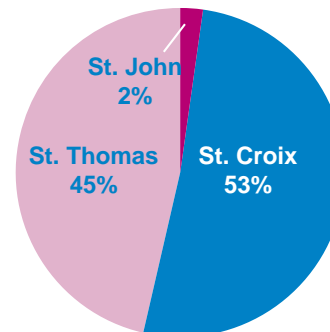
- Females: 47%
- Males: 53%

* This "gender" demographic measures a slightly larger population – VI children and youth age birth to 20 (representing 14,281 females and 16,317 males, i.e. a total "child" population of 30,598).

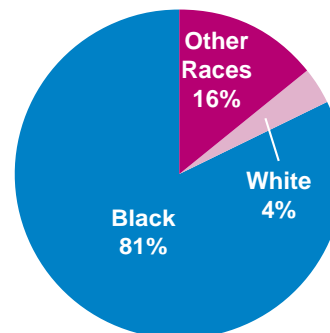
By Overall USVI Population, 2007



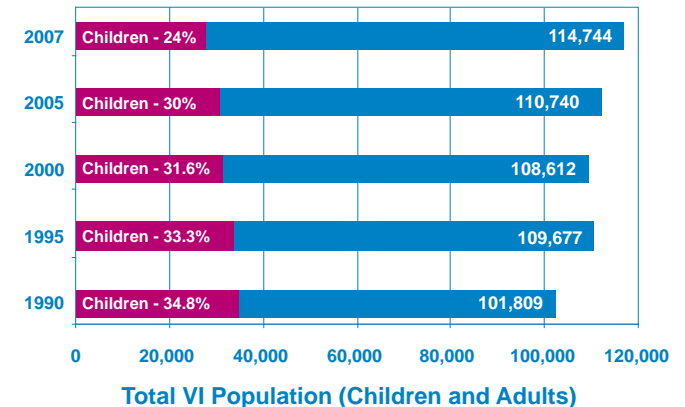
VI Children By Location, 2007



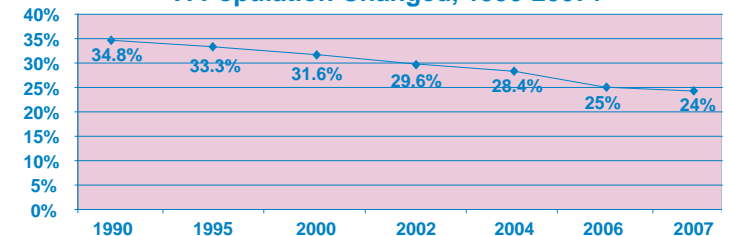
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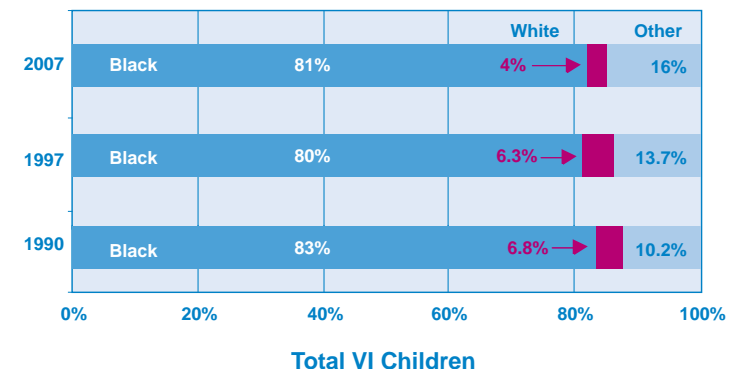
How has the Portion of Children in VI Population Changed, 1990-2007?



How has the Percentage of Children in VI Population Changed, 1990-2007?



How has VI Children's Racial Mix Changed, 1990-2007?



Children in Families

Why does family-composition matter?

- Children's well-being is significantly tied to family structure, and their parents' marital state. Decades of research have found that children do best when raised by their biological mother and father in a low-conflict marriage. Even after controlling for family socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and other background characteristics, studies show that children in never-married, single-parent, or divorced families (even co-habiting relationships or stepfamilies) face higher risks of poor outcomes than children in stable married families headed by two biological parents.¹
- While many children in single-parent families grow up without extraordinary problems, children of single mothers are generally more likely to:
 - be poor (5x more likely)²
 - have multiple living arrangements in childhood
 - have negative relationships with their biological parent
 - receive lower levels of parental supervision
 - have lower educational attainment, and lower employment prospects
 - become a teen or unmarried-parent³

¹ Moore, K., Jekielek, S. and Emig, C., (2002). Marriage From a Child's Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can We Do About It? Washington DC: Child Trends.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1999). Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth. Washington, DC: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

³ Amato, P. R., & Booth, A. (1997). A Generation at Risk: Growing Up in an Era of Family Upheaval. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

*Definition: **Children in single-parent families** is the percentage of children age 0-18 who live with their own family headed by a parent without a spouse present at the home.*

*Definition: **Own children** are children related to the householder by birth, adoption or marriage.*



Children in Families, cont.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Children living with two married parents.

- One-third of the child population (33.2% of all VI children, or 9,264 children) lived with two married parents (down 2 percentage points from 35.5% in 2006). The number of married-couple families fell in 2007 (880 fewer than in 2006).
- **The national rate:** 68% of US children lived with both parents -- more than twice the VI rate.
- **St. Croix:** 34% (5,052 children) lived in married couple families (down from 40% in '06).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 32% of children lived in married couple families (up slightly from 30% in 2006).

Children with one parent.

- Overall, 55.8% of all VI children (15,578 children) lived in single parent families.⁴
- **The national rate:** 32%. (Nationally, 25% of children live with a single mother, 7% with a single father).
- 14% of all VI children lived in families headed by single fathers.⁴
- 41.8% of all VI children (11,673 children) lived in families headed by single mothers (up slightly from 40.5% in 2006).
- **St. Croix:** 42% of children (6,196 children) lived with a single mother; 13% (1,915 children) with a single father.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 42% of children (5,477 children) lived with a single mother; 15% (1,990 children) with a single father.
- Single-mother families made up 46% of all VI families with children (unchanged from 2006).
- **The national rate:** only 18.7% of all US families with children are single-mother families.⁵

Children with a non parent.

- 10.3% of VI children (2,900 children) lived with neither parent (down from 18% in 2006).
- **St. Croix:** 10.3% of children (1,516 children) lived with neither parent.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 10.6% of children (1,385 children) lived with neither parent.

...with a grandparent or relative.

- 7.2% of VI children age 0-17 lived with a grandparent, with no parent present. In all, 14% lived in a household headed by a grandparent, with a parent present.
- **The national rate:** 5%.
- 2.3% of VI children lived with relatives other than a grandparent or parent (4.4% in 2006).
- **St. Croix:** 7.4% (or 1,090 children) lived with a grandparent, and 2.7% (399 children) lived with other relatives
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 7.1% (928 children) lived with grandparents and 1.9% (251 children) lived with other relatives.

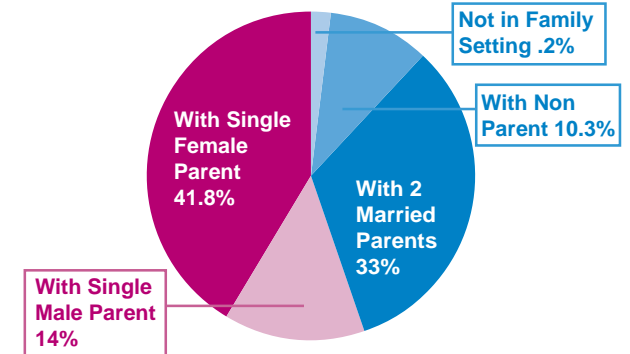
...with a non-relative.

- 232 VI children (0.8%) lived with non-relatives in 2007 (up from 0.4% in 2006).
- **St. Croix:** 27 children (0.2%)
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 206 children (1.6%)

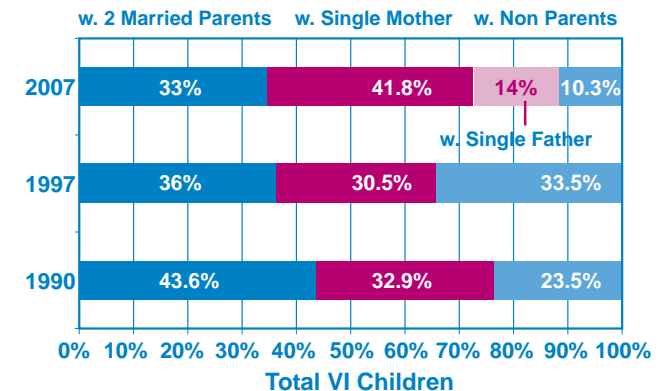
Children in other settings.

- 161 children under age 18 (0.2%) were the householder or spouse in their own households, 106 living in St. Croix and 55 in St. Thomas/St. John.

What are VI Children's Family Structures, 2007?



How Have VI Children's Family Structures Changed, 1990-2007?



How Do VI Children's Family Structures Compare to the US, 2007?

	in VI	in US
% of single mother families	46%	18.7%
% of children living with 2 married parents	33%	68%
% of children living with single parents	55.8%	32%

⁴ Newly-detailed data in the 2007 VI Community Survey allows KIDS COUNT to identify "single-parent families" as families headed either by a single mother or a single father. Previous data on VI single-parent families only reported single-mother families.

⁵ 2007 American Community Survey, Table S1101: Households and Families

Children in Families, cont.

During 2007:	USVI		St Croix		St Thomas - St John	
	number of VI children	% of VI children	number of STX children	% of STX children	number of STT-STJ children	% of STT-STJ children
VI Children (birth up to age 18)	27,903	24.3%	14,785	26.3%	13,118	22.4%
VI Children living with Householder	27,742	99.4%	14,678	99.3%	13,063	99.6%
Children w/parents	22,767	81.6%	12,125	82.0%	10,641	81.1%
Children w/grandparents	3,907	14.0%	2,021	13.7%	1,886	14.4%
Children w/relatives	836	3.0%	505	3.4%	331	2.5%
Children w/non-relatives	232	0.8%	27	0.2%	206	1.6%
Total Children in Families	27,742	99.4%	14,678	99.3%	13,064	99.6%
Children as householder or spouse	161	0.6%	106	0.7%	55	0.4%
Total Children	27,903	100.0%	14,784	100.0%	13,119	100.0%
VI Children living with and without Parents						
Children in married couple family	9,264	33.2%	5,052	34.2%	4,212	32.1%
Children w/female parent only	11,673	41.8%	6,196	41.9%	5,477	41.8%
Children w/male parent only	3,905	14.0%	1,915	13.0%	1,990	15.2%
Children w/grandparents (no parents)	2,018	7.2%	1,090	7.4%	928	7.1%
Children w/relative (no parents)	650	2.3%	399	2.7%	251	1.9%
Children w/non-relative (no parents)	232	0.8%	27	0.2%	206	1.6%
Total Children in Families	27,742	99.4%	14,678	99.3%	13,064	99.6%
Children as householder or spouse	161	0.6%	106	0.7%	55	0.4%
Total Children	27,903	100.0%	14,785	100.0%	13,119	100.0%

Children in single-parent families – how do we compare?

US rate of children in single-parent families	Rate of best-ranked state, #1: UT	Rate of worst-ranked state, #50: MS	Rate of Puerto Rico (rank #51)	Rate of USVI (rank #52)	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
32%	18%	44%	49%	55.8%	15,578 children, out of a population of 27,903 children age 0-18, live in a single-parent family	NA ⁴	NA ⁴	1557 fewer children in single-parent families

NA: Not available. See footnote #4, previous page.

Economic Well-Being of Families

Why does economic security matter?

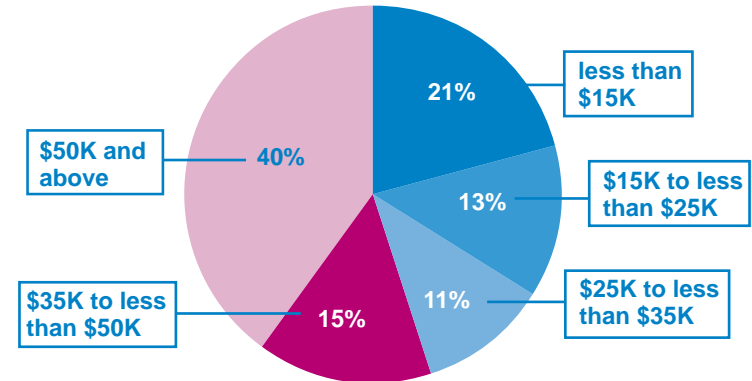
- Worldwide, children with highest likelihood of growing up with access to health, safety and opportunity live in families earning a stable income – high enough to meet basic needs.
- Economic security directly affects all areas of children's well-being. Children's health, development, safety, learning, and educational achievement are directly dependent on a family's own financial health.
- The ability for household heads to create economic security is significantly linked to family structure. When two parents (or two consistently-involved adults) are present in a family, even when only one is working, family income improves dramatically.
- Many factors constrain upward mobility, including the decline of the two-parent family and increased rates of teen parenthood. Lack of educational achievement is a central factor, especially for individuals at middle and low-income levels. Increasingly, solid economic security is dependent on skills gained beyond the high school level. The wage gap between high school and college graduates has almost doubled since the 1960's, with four-year college graduates earning about 80 percent more than workers with high school degrees.¹

¹ Haskins, Ron and Sawhill, Isabel, "Creating an Opportunity Society," Brookings Institution Press (2009)



Economic Well-Being of Families, cont.

What are VI Family Incomes, 2007?



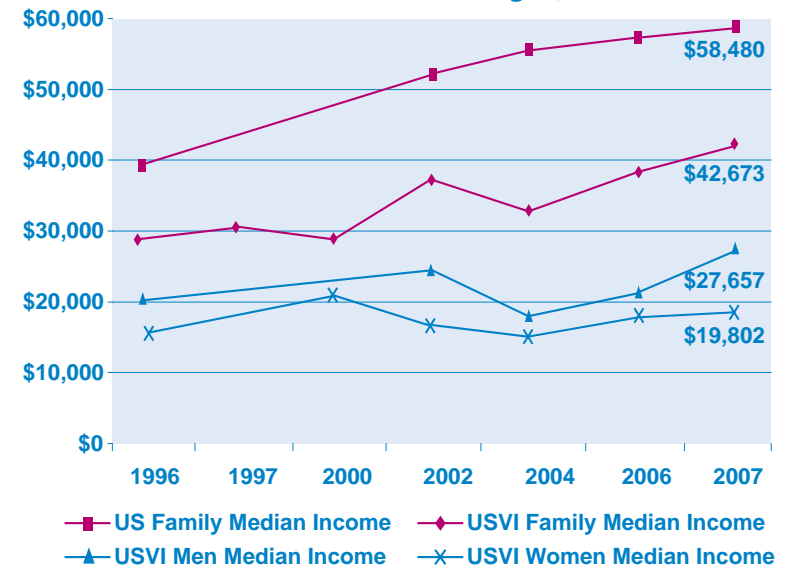
VI Family Income Levels, 2007
(K = thousand)

US Poverty Thresholds for 2007 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of family unit	Weighted average thresholds	Related children under 18 years				
		One	Two	Three	Four	Five
One person	\$10,590					
Two people	13,540					
Three people	16,530	16,689	16,705			
Four people	21,203	21,736	21,027	21,100		
Five people	25,080	26,166	25,364	24,744	24,366	
Six people	28,323	29,782	29,168	28,579	27,705	27,187

Source: US Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economics Statistics Division
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshold/thresh07.html>

How Have VI Incomes Changed, 1996-2007?



Economic Well-Being of Families, cont.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Per capita income, for individuals.

- Individual per capita income increased to \$16,562 in 2007 (from \$16,286 in 2006).
- **The national rate:** \$38,611 (more than twice the VI per capita income).

Poverty rate for individuals.

- The individual poverty rate increased to 28.5% of the VI population (up from 24.6% in 2006).
- **St. Croix:** 31.4% of individuals reported incomes below poverty line (up 4.3 percentage points from '06).
- **St. Thomas-St. John:** 24.5% (up from 22%).

Income level for families.

- 92% (or 26,502 families out of the 28,783 VI families with and without children) reported earned income (down from 95% in 2006).
- 8% of families (2281 families, or 786 more than last year) reported earning no income.

In 2007:

- 40% of VI families earned \$50k or more (up from 36% of families in 2006)
- 60% of families earned less than \$50,000:
 - 15% of VI families earned \$35k to less than \$50k (down from 23% of families in 2006)
 - 11% of VI families earned \$25k to less than \$35k (down from 13% of families in 2006)
 - 13% of VI families earned \$15k to less than \$25k (14% of families in 2006)
 - 21% of VI families earned less than \$15k (significantly more than the 14% of families in 2006).

Note: An income of \$15,000 is equal to approximately \$10 a day per person for a family of four.

- Included in the 21% above are 8% of VI families who earned no income (up from 5% in '06).

Poverty rate for families.

- The poverty threshold for 2007 is \$21,027 annual income for a family of four (example: 2 adults and 2 children). *Note: the poverty threshold is adjusted for varying family sizes (see "Poverty Thresholds 2007" US Bureau of the Census chart, page 13).*
- 29% of all VI families with children live in poverty (up by 3 percentage points from last year).
- 24% of all VI families live in poverty (up by 2 percentage points from last year)
- **St. Croix** poverty rate for black families: 23.4% (down from 26.4% in 2006)
- **St. Croix** poverty rate for white families: 13.8% (up by 7 percentage points from 2006)
- **St. Thomas** poverty rate for black families: 22.7% (up from 20.6% in 2006)
- **St. Thomas** poverty rate for white families: 12.7% (up from 9.6% in 2006)

Median income, for families.

- Territorially, median family income increased to \$42,673 in 2007 (from \$38,914 in 2006)
- **St. Croix:** estimated at \$39,845 (a \$3,872 increase from last year)
- **St. Thomas:** estimated at \$44,277 (a \$3,963 increase from last year)
- **St. John:** estimated at \$49,168 (a decrease of \$3,750 from last year).

Note: the yearly fluctuation of median income reported for St. John may be a result of a small population sample taken during non-census years.

What is the national family median income?

- \$58,480² — still far ahead of the Virgin Islands.

Earnings by race.

- Black median family income: \$41,703 (up by \$2,789) ...and about 63% that of white families
- **St. Croix** black family median income: \$40,936
- **St. Thomas** black family median income: \$42,376
- White median family income: \$66,350 (higher by \$3631 than in 2006)
- **St. Croix** white family income: \$75,001
- **St. Thomas** white family income: \$62,918

Earnings by gender.

- Both VI men's and women's median income grew in 2007. VI men's median income was \$27,657 (up \$3,422 from 2006). VI women's median income was \$19,802 (up \$912 from 2006).
- The income gender gap increased: VI women in 2007 earned 72 cents on the dollar earned by men (a 5 cent loss from last year).
- Income disparity persists at all levels of educational attainment, but is the greatest between men and women with less than a 9th grade education (a difference of \$10,112, or \$4,019 more than '06).

Employment rates.

- 66.6% of all household heads were employed in 2007 (down from 72.6% in 2006)
- 61% of single-female household heads were employed (down from 70% in 2006)
- One third (32.5%) of families in poverty had employment, compared to 50% the previous year. Of these, single-female household heads also reported a decrease in employment, to 40% in 2007 (from 59%).
- The poverty rate for single-women household heads increased (by 4 percentage points) to 36.5%, while remaining significantly above the 24% poverty rate for families of all types.

² US Census Bureau, Table F-6 — Regions, Families (All Races), by Median and Mean Income: 1953 to 2007. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/acs-09.pdf>

*Definition: **Median income** is the dollar amount which divides the income distribution in VI households into two equal groups — half of households have incomes above the median and half have incomes below the median. Virgin Islands data is for all families rather than for families with children.*

*Definition: **Per capita income** is the mean income computed for every man, woman and child in the USVI.*

Child Poverty

Why does child poverty matter?

Poverty dramatically affects a child's health, safety and education. Children age birth to five are most vulnerable developmentally to poverty's impacts — and this age group has the highest rate of child poverty. Children raised in poverty:

- experience more-limited early care
- enter school developmentally behind other children
- are twice as likely to repeat a grade
- are more likely to suffer health problems
- are twice as likely to be abused or neglected¹

The impacts of child poverty extend into adulthood, affecting an individual's ability to succeed and to contribute in a community. Children raised in poverty:

- are more likely to become substance abusers
- are more subject to depression
- are more likely to become teen parents
- are twice as likely to drop out of high school
- are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as adults
- have a higher rate of arrest and incarceration
- have a higher likelihood of welfare dependency in their adult lives¹

Children in single-parent families are at high risk of poverty. A child living with a single mother is five times as likely to be poor than a child living with both parents.²

1, 2 Children's Defense Fund, "Child Poverty in America"
http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/Child_Poverty_in_America__August_2008_.pdf?docID=8341

Child poverty – how do we compare?

US national Child poverty rate	Rate of best-ranked state, #1: NH	Rate of worst-ranked state, #50: MS	Rate of Puerto Rico (rank #52)	Rate of USVI (rank #51)	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
18%	9%	29%	55%	34%	9,515 VI children under age 18 within a population of 27,903 are living in poverty; 1 out of every 3	29.5%	No - the rate rose. 1,024 more children	952 fewer children in poverty



Child Poverty, cont.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 34.1% of all VI children (9,515 children in 2007) are growing up in households with incomes below the poverty threshold. (29.5% or 8,491 children in '06).
- **St. Croix:** 38.9% of children (5,744 children) lived below the poverty line (an increase of 6 percentage points, or 807 children, from the previous year).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 28.8% of children (3,772 children) lived below the poverty threshold (an increase by almost 3 percentage points, or 218 children, from the previous year).
- 35.4% is the average rate of VI child poverty for the 12 years measured by KIDS COUNT.

What is the child poverty rate in the nation?

- 18%... (unchanged from 2006).

Single mother families.

Child poverty in the territory (as everywhere) is significantly tied to single-motherhood. Non-marriage and father absence significantly erode income-stability and financial health for families with children. Research confirms that children living without their biological fathers are two to three times more likely than their peers to be poor.²

In 2007:

- 43.6% of all VI families with children were headed by single mothers
- 70.1% of all VI families with children living in poverty were headed by single mothers
- **What is the US rate of single-mother families with children?** 18.7% (unchanged from '06).
- **What is the US rate for children living with single mothers?** 25%³
- 42% of all VI children live in families headed by single mothers.

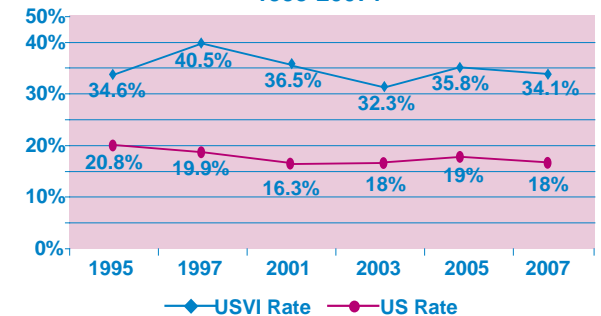
In 2007:

Total VI child population – 27,903
(24.3% of the total VI population, which numbered 114,744)
 Number of VI families with children (age 0-18) – 14,321
(49.8% of all VI families, which numbered 28,783)
 Number of VI single-mother families with children – 6,641
(46.4% of all VI families with children)
 Number of VI families with children, living in poverty – 4,133
(28.9% of all VI families with children)
 Number of VI single-mother families with children, living in poverty – 2,898
(70% of all families with children, living in poverty)
(43.6% of all VI single-mother families with children)
 Total number of VI children living in poverty – 9,515
(34.1% of all VI children)

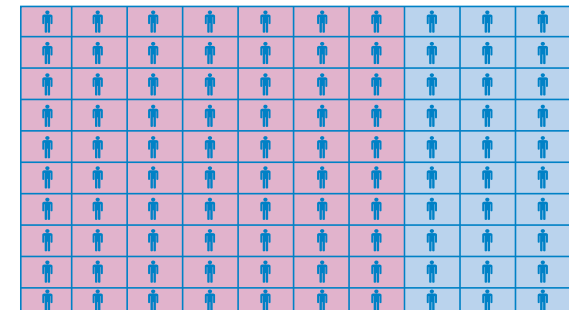
³ 2007 American Community Survey, Table S0901: Children Characteristics http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=01000US&-qr_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_S0901&-ds_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_ and http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html

*Definition: **Child poverty** is defined as the number and percentage of children birth to age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty guidelines. Income and poverty data are based on the preceding year, therefore 2007 poverty levels are based on income earned in 2006.*

What is the Percentage of VI Children in Poverty, 1995-2007?

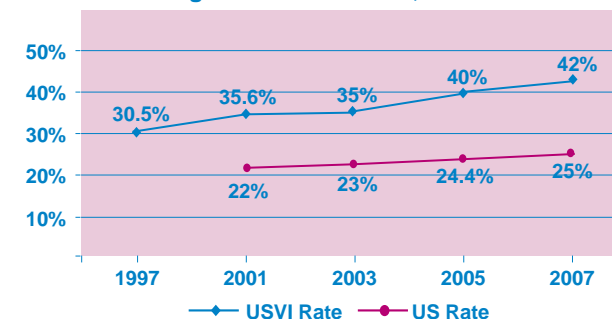


Of all VI Families with Children in Poverty in 2007, What are Family Structures?



■ Single-mother families with children, who live in poverty - 70%
 ■ All other families with children, who live in poverty - 30%

What is the Percentage of VI Children in Single Mother Families, 1997-2007?



Low Birthweight Babies

Why does low birthweight matter?

- Birthweight is an important indicator of an infant's health and likely survival. Nationally, 3 out of 5 infant deaths are due to low weight at birth (ie. weighing less than 5.5 lbs or 2,500 grams at birth).
- Low birthweight babies account for more than half of all costs incurred for newborns.
- Low-birthweight babies surviving infancy have a greater likelihood of cognitive and developmental delays. They experience greater health risks and disabilities during their childhood and adolescence. They also face higher adult-onset health risks, such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and osteoporosis.
- Most likely to be born at low-birthweight are babies of women who generally lack health insurance or regular prenatal health care: mothers who are young (under age 25), or who are high school dropouts, or who are low-income or in poverty. These mothers are also most likely to lack consistent access to health care that's adequate to address their infants' continuing health concerns.

*Definition: **Low birthweight** is the portion of infants born alive weighing under 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) compared to the total number of live births.*

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

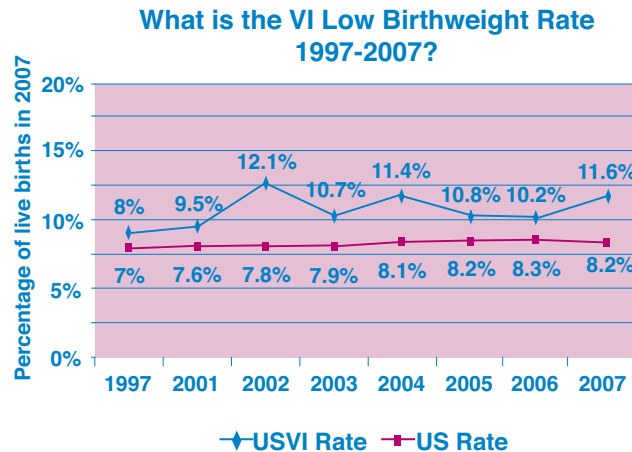
- Low birthweight continues to be a major concern in the VI.
- 11.6% (205 babies) were low birthweight out of 1,771 live births in 2007 (up from 10.3% or 180 babies in '06).

- **St. Croix:** 9.6%, or 77 babies (3 more than in '06) out of 799 live births
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 13.2%, or 128 babies (22 more than in '06) out of 972 live births

What's the low birthweight rate in the nation?

- 8.2%¹

¹ Center for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07.pdf



Low birthweight babies – how do we compare?

US national low birth-weight rate	Rate of best-ranked state, #1: AK	Rate of worst-ranked state, #50: MS	Rate of Puerto Rico (rank #51)	Rate of USVI (rank #49)	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
8.2%	6%	12.4%	13%	11.6%	205 low birthweight babies were born in 2007, out of 1,771 live births.	10.2%	No - the rate rose. 25 more babies	21 fewer low birthweight babies

Infant Mortality

Why does infant mortality matter?

Infant mortality rate is considered to measure a community's "quality of life." It reflects:

- the community's safety
- the economic well-being of families
- the emotional/physical health of mothers
- the family involvement and support by fathers
- effectiveness of community health systems
- the accessibility and effectiveness of maternal and infant services
- At highest risk of death are babies born at low birthweight, and those lacking adequate nutrition, safe living conditions, or adequate health care (for mother or infant).
- Community poverty is a significant risk-factor for infants. Infant mortality rates are 50% higher for infants born into poor families than for babies born into families living above the poverty level.

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

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 12 infant deaths in 2007 (4 more than in '06) represent a rate of 6.8 deaths per thousand live births.
- The VI infant mortality rate equals the national rate for 2007.

Note: While the VI small sample size reduces the likelihood of seeing a trend, it is worth noting that since 1997 the VI infant mortality rate has remained low, compared to the national rate.

What's the infant mortality rate in the nation?

- 6.8 infant deaths per 1000 live births, in 2007.¹

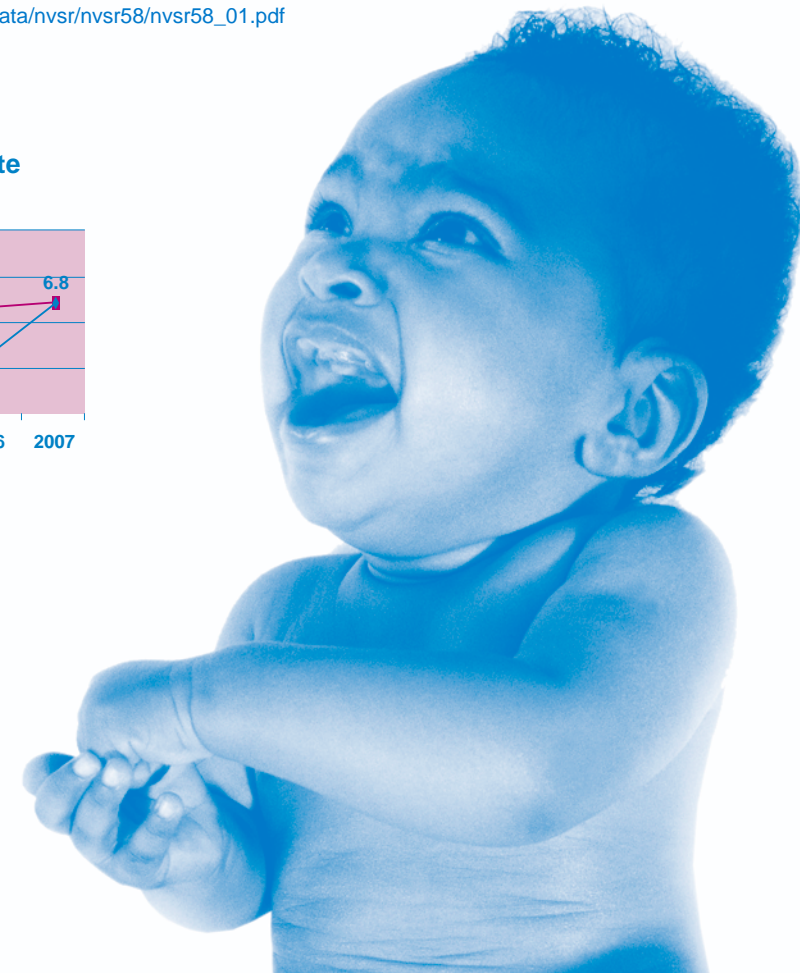
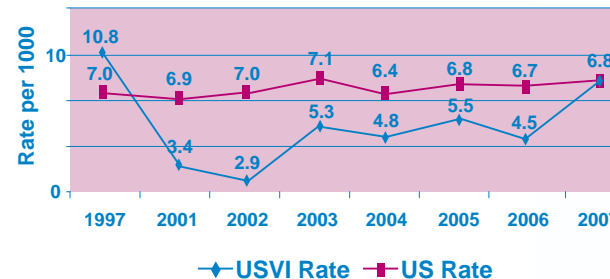
By island.

- **St Croix:** 6.3 infant deaths per 1000 live births (5 deaths occurred in 2007).
- **St Thomas/St. John:** 7.2 infant deaths per 1000 live births (7 deaths occurred).

Note: VI rates must be interpreted with caution because small fluctuations in absolute numbers can have very large effects on the calculated rates.

¹ Center for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_01.pdf

What is the VI Infant Mortality Rate 1997-2007?



Child Maltreatment

Why does child abuse and neglect matter?

- Child abuse and neglect have devastating consequences – physical, emotional and behavioral — extending from childhood into adulthood.
- Youth compromised by early abuse or maltreatment are more likely than their peers to suffer depression, and to engage in high risk behaviors: inappropriate aggression, unsafe sex, drug use, alcoholism, and attempted suicide. A formerly-battered child is also more likely to become an abusive parent to his or her own children, continuing a cycle of damage.
- The community also bears costs. These range from increased demands on the public health, safety and welfare systems during the lifetime of the abused child, to the loss of adult citizen potential.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 380 maltreated children were reported by the VI Department of Human Services in 2007, referred for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect (up from 348 children in 2006).¹
- The VI child maltreatment rate is 13.6 per thousand children, age birth through seventeen (up from 12.1 in 2006).²
- **St. Croix:** 229 child cases reported (up from 194 in 2006), a rate of 15.5/1,000
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 151 cases (up slightly from 154), a rate of 11.5/1,000.

What is the child maltreatment rate in the nation?

- 10.6 per 1,000 children.³

Residential Care.

- 95 children (down from 123 in 2006) are currently placed by the VI Department of Human Services in on- and off-island Residential Care facilities: 68 are in on-island facilities, 27 in off-island facilities.

Foster Care.

- 101 children were placed temporarily into foster care (unchanged from 2006). Of these, most (98 placements) were due to abuse or neglect:
 - **St Croix:** 56 children
 - **St Thomas/St. John:** 42 children.
 - 57% of all placements were boys; 43% were girls.
 - One fifth (21%) of children placed in foster care were under age 5; half (51%) were age 5-12, and 28% were age 13 or older.
 - 93% of children placed in foster care were from single-parent families.
 - Children placed in foster care were characterized as coming from homes reported for domestic violence and substance abuse, and also as having a need for remedial schooling.
 - 35% of children placed in foster care came from families that were not low-income; 65% came from low-income families.

1 Child abuse and neglect cases are routinely under-reported in the USVI, as acknowledged by members of territorial not-for-profit and government agencies working in the field of child abuse and neglect. The number of maltreated children, therefore, is likely higher than documented, and the negative impact on the community is likely greater than the figures can show.

2 The VI Department of Human Services takes referrals for child abuse and neglect through age seventeen. The child population up to age eighteen in 2007 was 27,903 children.

3 <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm07/chapter3.htm#subjects>

*Definition: **Child abuse and neglect** numbers reflect children age birth up to eighteen years old reported to the VI Department of Human Services as victims of physical or sexual child abuse or neglect, per 1,000 children. These numbers do not include children who are in foster care, who may have been placed due to abuse or neglect.*

*Definition: **Foster care** numbers reflect children removed under the authority of the VI Department of Human Services from the custody of a parent or caregiver due to abuse or neglect, and placed temporarily with a family who will provide care.*

Child maltreatment – how do we compare to last year?

US national child maltreatment rate	Rate of USVI	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
10.6/1,000	13.6/1,000	2380 children reported in '07 for physical/sexual abuse or neglect, out of 27,903 children	12/1,000	No - the rate rose. 32 more children	38 fewer maltreated children

Child Deaths

Why do child deaths matter?

- The death rate of children (from age one to fourteen) reflects the overall emotional and physical health of children within a community. At highest risk are children who are poor, disabled, minority, male (or these traits in combination).¹
- The child death rate is also a measure of the community's commitment to the safety of its children. Community-based actions to prevent fatal childhood accidents include strengthening access to good child health care, as well as ensuring safe environments in schools, childcare centers, playgrounds, and public housing.

¹ Report to the Nation: Trends in unintentional childhood injury mortality, 1987-2000. (2003). Washington, DC: National SAFE KIDS Campaign

² www.kidscount.org. Child death rate cited is for 2006. 2007 rates were still deemed preliminary at press-time.

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

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 21,707 children age 1-14 lived in the territory in 2007 (90 fewer children than in 2006).
- 11 children died in 2007 (4 more than in 2006, or a 57% increase)
- **St Croix:** 5 child deaths (in a child population of 11,727)
- **St Thomas/St. John:** 6 child deaths (in a child population of 9,980)
- Eleven is the highest number of child deaths recorded since 2001 (when 10 deaths occurred in a much larger population of 26,667 children age 1-14. Since 2001, the number of children in this age group has dropped 19%).
- The VI child death rate was 50.7 per 100,000 children (a dramatic rise from last year's rate of 30.8/100,000). This large spike represents the significant increase in the number of child deaths reported for 2007, and fewer children in this age group than last year.

What's the child death rate in the nation?

- 19 per 100,000 children²



Child deaths – how do we compare to last year?

US national child death rate	Rate of USVI:	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
19/100,000	51/100,000	11 children died in 2007, out of 21,707 children age 1-14	31/100,000	No - the rate rose. 4 more deaths	1 less child death

Juvenile Crime Arrests

Why do juvenile crime arrests matter?

- The teen years are a time to learn positive behaviors, and build positive peer associations. If youth get arrest records for violent or illegal acts instead, their life options -- especially educational and employment prospects -- can become irrevocably limited.
- Juvenile offenders' illegal activities endanger their own and their peers' lives, their families' well-being, and the stability of their neighborhoods.
- Juvenile offenders' communities are diminished by loss of youth citizen productivity and success, and loss of general safety.
- Juveniles' antisocial crime activity brings further losses to their community, through public costs for youth remediation, adjudication, and possible later incarceration.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Juvenile violent crime.

- The territory's youth population age 10-17 numbered 14,653 in 2007.
- The VI juvenile crime arrest rate climbed to 539 per 100,000 youth (from 499/100,000 in 2006).
- Arrests for juvenile violent crime (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault)* rose 7% in 2007** to 79 arrests (up from 74 in 2006) for youth age 10-17.
- **St. Croix:** 34 arrests (down from 38 in 2006) represented a 438/100,000 juvenile violent crime arrest rate. One arrest was for murder, 4 for rape, 10 for robbery and 19 for aggravated assault.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 45 arrests (up from 36 in 2006) represented a 652/100,000 rate. Four arrests were for rape, 11 for robbery, and 30 for aggravated assault (none for murder).

What's the juvenile violent crime arrest rate in the nation? 301 per 100,000 youth.¹

Juvenile property crime.

- The VI juvenile property crime arrest rate was 594/100,000 youth, representing 87 youth arrests.
- St. Croix: 72 youth arrests... St. Thomas/St. John: 15 youth arrests

* For purposes of accurate comparison, KIDS COUNT reports data figures reflecting only violent crime Part 1 Felony offenses: homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

**Arrest records are reported for the fiscal year 2007, from October 2006 - September 2007.

¹ U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Juvenile Justice Bulletin (April 2009). Juvenile Arrests 2007, page 11. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/225344.pdf>

*Definition: **Juvenile violent crime arrests** are the number of arrests of youth age 10 to 17 for Part 1 indexed violent offenses per 100,000 youths. Part 1 offenses include homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. **Juvenile property crime arrests** are for offenses including burglary, larceny/theft, auto theft, arson, and destruction of property.*

Juvenile violent crime arrests – how do we compare to last year?

US juvenile violent crime arrest rate	Rate of USVI	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
301/100,000	539/100,000	79 youth arrests for homicide, rape, robbery and assault, out of 14,653 youth age 10-17	499/100,000	No - the rate rose. 5 more arrests	8 fewer youth violent crime arrests

Teen Deaths

Why do teen deaths matter?

- Research shows that a teen’s brain (especially its frontal cortex, the area governing judgment and impulse control) isn’t fully formed until age twenty-five.¹ In adolescence, teens’ inclinations to take risks are not yet balanced by their brain’s ability to assess the consequences of those risks – leading many youth to embrace behavior that can end their life.
- Most teens age 15-19 die from preventable causes. Car accidents are the highest cause of death; most often the driver is a teen. Gun violence (homicide, suicide, or firearms accident) represents the second-highest cause of teen death.
- Strong “engagements” help protect youth against fatal-risk behaviors. These can include involvement with family members and other caring adults, or with school, religious groups, extracurricular activities or organized sports.
Family mental health services geared to adolescents can provide youth with further resources, and can help address issues such as anger, aggression and depression.

Definition: Teen deaths by accident, homicide or suicide is the number of deaths to teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 due to these causes, per 100,000 population.

What’s the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- 8,138 teens age 15-19 lived in the territory (396 fewer teens of this age than in 2006).
- 10 teens died in 2007 (the same number as in 2006): 4 in *St. Croix* and 6 in *St. Thomas/St. John*. The cause of deaths is unavailable.
- The VI teen death rate was 122.9 per 100,000 teens age 15 – 19 (up from 117.2/100,000 in 2006). The increased rate is due to fewer adolescents in this age group.

What’s the teen death rate in the nation?

- 64 per 100,000 teens² ...virtually half of the Virgin Islands’ rate.

Note: Although small absolute numbers for child or teen death in the Virgin Islands lead to large variation in rates that are population based, an absolute number of ten USVI teen deaths is alarming.

1 National Institute of Mental Health, Giedd JN, Lalonde FM, Celano MJ, White SL, Wallace GL, Lee NR, Lenroot RK, “Anatomical brain magnetic resonance imaging of typically developing children and adolescents.” J Am Acad Child Adolescent Psychiatry. 48(5):465-70, 2009; http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2005/September2005/docs/01features_02.htm.

2 Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2009 Kids Count Data Book (2009). Most-recent national teen death rate available is for 2006.

Teen deaths – how do we compare to last year?

US national teen death rate	Rate of USVI	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
64/100,000	123/100,000	10 teen deaths in 2007, out of 8,138 teens age 15-19	117/100,000	No - the rate rose.	1 less teen death

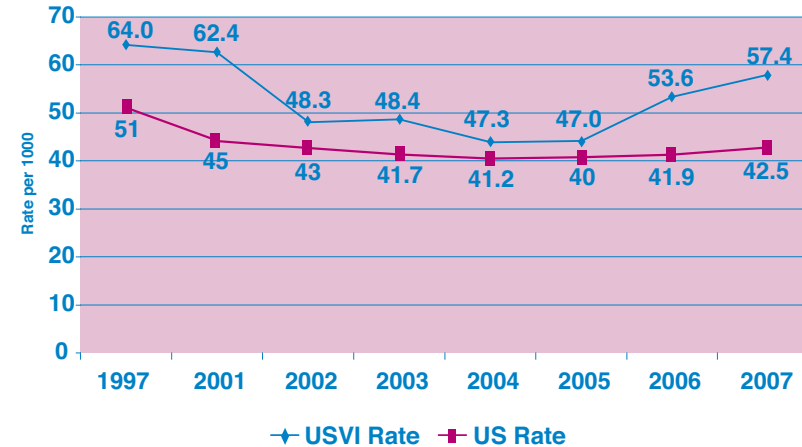
Births to Teens

Why do teen births matter?

- Teenage pregnancy and parenthood continue to be major concerns threatening the development of teens and their children.
- Teen parents are more likely to lack sufficient developmental maturity and skills to consistently and adequately care for their children. They are also more likely to lack the educational skills necessary for well-paying jobs over their lifetimes (nationally, 2/3 of teen mothers do not finish high school).¹ Generally, teen mothers are more likely than their peers to be or become unemployed (an estimated 80 percent go on welfare during their lives).²
- Children of teen parents are more likely to have health concerns, to have behavior and learning problems in school, to drop out before graduating, and to become teen parents themselves -- in a cycle that repeats and extends the early childbirth risk.

Definition: Births to teens is the number of births to teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group.

What is the VI Teen Birth Rate, 1997-2007?



Source for US rate: Kids Count Data Center, Teen births by age group: rate per 1,000...
http://kidscount.org/datacenter/compare_results.jsp?i=10&dt=4&rt=2&yr=6&va=a&s=a&dtype=&x=142&y=7

What 3 Birth Characteristics increase a Child's Risk of Child Poverty?

1. Being born to a teenage mother
2. Being born to a mother who has not completed high school
3. Being born to a mother who never married

What is the Cumulative Effect of these Risk Factors on Child Poverty?

Number of Risk Factors	Child Poverty Rate
No risk factors*	9%
One risk factor	32%
Two risk factors	54%
All three risk factors	78%

*"No risk factors" is defined as a child born to a currently married woman over age 20 who graduated from high school.

Source: analysis of the 2000 Census 1 percent Public Use Microdata Sample. Kids Count Data Book, State Profiles of Child Well-Being. 2004 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.

Births to Teens, cont.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- The rate of babies born to VI teen girls age 15-19 is on the rise after falling for almost a decade since 1997.
- The VI teen birth rate is 57.4 births per thousand girls age 15-19 (an increase of 7%, from 53.6 per thousand in 2006).
- 226 babies were born to teen mothers, representing almost 13% of the 1771 total live births in 2007.
- While 21 fewer teen births occurred than in the previous year, teen birth rates rose, because of a smaller population of VI girls age 15-19 than in 2006.
- There were 3,936 girls age 15-19 in 2007, a drop of 671 girls from the previous year (242 fewer girls in St. Croix and 429 fewer girls in St. Thomas/St. John).³

What's the teen birth rate in the nation? 42.5 per thousand.⁴

By island.

- **St. Croix:** a teen birth rate of 64.3 per 1000 (up from 62.3/1000 in 2006) represented 130 teen births within a population of 2,021 girls age 15-19 (11 fewer births than in 2006).
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** a teen birth rate of 50.1 per 1000, (up from 45.2/1000 in 2006) represented 96 teen births in a population of 1,915 girls age 15-19 (10 fewer births than in 2006).

1 National Commission on Children, 1991. Beyond Rhetoric: A New American Agenda for Children and Families, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC

2 US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1998. Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997, Washington, DC.

3 2007 VI Community Survey

4 Center for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_12.pdf

Teen births – how do we compare?

US national teen birth rate	Rate of best-ranked state, #1: NH	Rate of worst-ranked state, #50: MS	Rate of Puerto Rico (rank #45)	Rate of USVI (rank #44)	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
42.5/1000	19/1000	68/1000	60/1000	57.4/1000	226 babies born to VI teen girls in a population of 3,936 girls age 15-19, in 2007.	54.6/1000	No – the rate rose.	23 fewer babies/teen births

Early School Risk Assessments

Why do early risk assessments matter?

- Starting at birth, the preschool years are the most important developmental stage in life. Research shows that 80% of a child's adult brain is fully formed by age three.¹ During these years, not all children have access to high-quality learning that fosters and builds skills for age-appropriate and more demanding learning at age five -- when children enter kindergarten.
- "Delayed" children at kindergarten age, without interventions, are likely to remain academically delayed in later years, and are more likely to leave school before graduating.
- School districts measure entering-kindergarten students' proficiency in cognitive, language, social-emotional and physical areas to assess their skills. The level of these skills indicates whether the child is developing according to expectations for his/her age and predicts their likely future success in school.

¹ ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families. (2009). Brain Development: Frequently Asked Questions, retrieved 9/15/09 from www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_brain - 21k

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- St. Thomas/St. John:** In the school year 2007-2008, the Early Prevention of School Failure (EPSF) assessment was administered to approximately 462 young children entering public kindergarten.
- Early Prevention of School Failure is a nationally valid assessment that measures kindergarten students' proficiency in vital cognitive and physical areas. Results for the STT-STJ district are below.

auditory skills

(the child's ability to take in and process sound)

- auditory discrimination:** 70% of children tested performed at or above age level (up from 61% last year)

expressive and receptive language

(the child's ability to express words and ideas, and to understand what others are communicating)

- expressive language:** 74% performed at or above age level (up from 67% last year)
- receptive language:** 39% performed at or above age level (unchanged); 61% performed below expected age level, including 19% considerably below age level (slightly improved from 22%)

visual discrimination and visual memory

(the child's ability to recognize learned shapes and objects, and to recall information about them)

- visual discrimination:** 38% performed at or above age level (unchanged); 62% performed below age level, including 19% considerably below age level (improved from 32%)
- visual memory:** 79% performed at or above age level (unchanged)

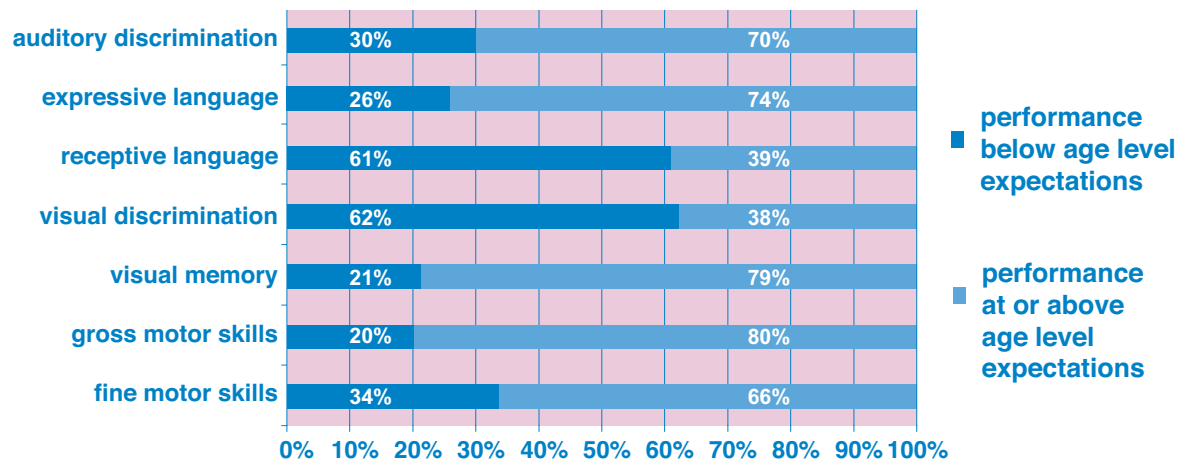
fine and gross motor skills

(the child's ability to perform and coordinate small muscle movements, and large body movements)

- gross motor skills:** 80% of children performed at or above age level (down from 89% last year)
- fine motor skills:** 66% performed at or above age level (up from 58%)

- Greatest-ability areas: gross motor skills and visual memory skills.
- Greatest-concern areas: receptive language skills and visual discrimination skills.

What is the EPSF Assessment of STT-STJ Public Kindergarten Students' Proficiency, 2007-2008?



Early School Risk Assessments, cont.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands, cont.

St. Croix: In 2007-2008, a new assessment called Battelle Developmental Inventory Test, Second Edition (BDI-2) was administered to approximately 516 young children entering public kindergarten.

Like the EPSF, the BDI-2 is a nationally valid individualized assessment tool, able to measure or screen for students' school readiness. Skills measured are in five domains. Results for the St. Croix district are reported at right and in the graph below.

Note: Comparisons with previous years' data or with the St. Thomas/St. John district results are not appropriate, due to the dissimilar measuring instruments used.

adaptive domain

(the child's ability for self-care and personal responsibility)

- 79% of children tested performed at or above age level

personal-social domain

(the child's self-concept and social role; ability for interactions with adults and peers)

- 83% performed at or above age level

communication domain

(the child's expressive and receptive skills for communication and understanding language)

- 77% performed at or above age level

cognitive domain

(the child's ability for attention and memory, perception and concepts, reasoning and academic skills)

- 74% performed at or above age level

motor domain

(the child's fine motor skills, gross motor skills and perceptual motor skills)

- 89% performed at or above age level

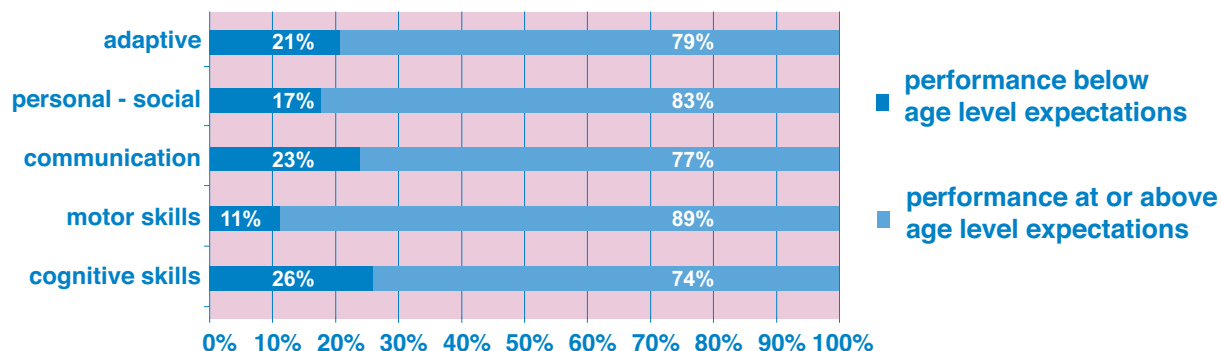
Neither district has results that can be considered acceptable.

The high portion of children entering kindergarten with less than school-readiness skills are a call for responsive and concerned action by the VI community.

The measurements indicate that:

- at least 1 of every 5 VI students entering public kindergarten has skills below expected age levels in ALL areas
- 2 of every 3 children assessed for receptive language (understanding what others are communicating) and visual discrimination (recognizing learned shapes and objects) perform below expected age level
- 1 of every 3 children assessed for auditory discrimination (ability to take in and process sound) performs below expected age level
- 1 of every 4 children assessed for cognitive ability (ability for attention and memory, perception and concepts, reasoning and academic skills) perform below expected age level.

What is the Battelle (BD1-2) Assessment of STX Public Kindergarten Students' Proficiency, 2007-2008?



2007-2008 Territorial Report Card for Public Schools

The VI Department of Education implemented the Virgin Islands Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), requiring assessment and accountability for school performance. This annual report measures public school student progress toward reading and mathematics proficiency in grades 5, 7, and 11, as well as individual public school progress in proficiency, attendance rates and teacher qualifications.

VITAL benchmarks and school performance.

Benchmarks for 'Adequate Yearly Progress' (AYP) for the VITAL assessment system are set at the following main criteria:

- 95% school **participation**
- **attendance** rate at or above 95%.
- specified percentages of students scoring at or above **proficiency** in reading and math (compare to table, p. 28).
 - 39.2% for 5th grade reading
 - 34.4% for 7th grade reading
 - 40.8% for 11th grade reading
 - 34.4% for 5th grade math
 - 44% for 7th grade math
 - 36% for 11th grade math

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

The following are VI Department of Education's own assessments of their 2007-08 AYP school performance and targets.

Note: In order to improve school and student standards and performance over time through Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the VITAL benchmarks are set to raise every three years. In the 2007-08 school year the benchmark targets were raised, and VI public schools and students subsequently reflected an expected drop in their ability to meet the new targets, set higher than in previous years. It is expected that school and student performance rates will now improve toward this target, and others set at yet higher levels every 3 years.

Grade 5.

- Most targets were met for grade 5 students, though not consistently for all subgroups.
- Participation, proficiency and attendance targets were met for black students, but not for Hispanic students, students with disabilities, or those with limited English proficiency.

Grade 7, grade 11.

- Participation targets were met for most grade 7 students, but not for those with disabilities. Proficiency and attendance targets were not met for grade 7 students, overall.
- Participation targets were met for most grade 11 students, but not for those with disabilities. Attendance targets were met for most, but not for Hispanic students. Proficiency targets (reading and mathematics) were met for most, except those with disabilities or with limited English proficiency. (See also "VI Student Academic Performance," page 28).

School performance.

Elementary schools (K-6).

Only 4 of 23 elementary schools met AYP targets for elementary school teaching and learning.

- **St. Croix:** only 1 of 10 (ie. 10%) elementary schools met AYP targets.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 3 of 13 (ie. 23%) elementary schools met AYP targets.

Middle/junior high schools (grades 6/7-8).

- Only 1 of 6 middle/junior high schools met targets.
- **St. Croix:** only 1 of 3 middle/junior high schools met AYP targets.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** none of 3 met targets.

High schools (grades 9-12).

- Only 1 of 4 high schools met AYP targets.
- **St. Croix:** none of 2
- **St. Thomas:** one (Ivanna Eudora Kean) of 2.

Teacher qualifications.

- Only 11.5% of the classes (up from 6.7% last year) were taught by a teacher held as 'highly qualified,' based on requirements including bachelor's-degree education, state certification and subject matter competency standards adopted by the NCLB and the Board of Education.*
- 47.8% of VI public school teachers were certified; 58.2% of public school teachers had a bachelor's degree, while 34% had a master's degree.

*A "highly qualified teacher" as defined by NCLB and U.S. Virgin Islands Board of Education is one who:

- has a full state certification
- holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree
- has demonstrated subject matter competency in each core academic subject(s) he or she teaches (ie. English, Math, Science, Foreign Languages, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, and Geography).

2007-2008 Report Card, cont.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

A VITAL rating of **advanced** indicates:

"exceeding grade level expectations."

A VITAL rating of **proficient** indicates:

"academic performance meeting grade level expectations."

A VITAL rating of **basic** indicates:

"approaching grade level expectations."

A VITAL rating of **below basic** indicates:

"falling below grade level expectations."

VI student academic performance, 2007-2008

For Grade 5 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 8.8%... up from 5.7% (in '06-'07)

Proficient level: 29.3%... up from 27.7%

Basic level: 53.4%

Below basic: 8.5%

For Grade 7 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 4.3%... up from 3.3%

Proficient level: 17.9%... up from 15.3%

Basic level: 65.4%

Below basic: 12.5%

For Grade 11 reading proficiency:

Advanced level: 3.7%... (similar to previous year)

Proficient level: 25.9%... down from 27.4%

Basic level: 47.7%

Below basic: 22.8%

For Grade 5 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 15.7%... up from 13.3%

Proficient level: 36.9%... up from 32.9%

Basic level: 42.6%

Below basic: 4.7%

For Grade 7 math proficiency:

Advanced level: 4.1%... up from 2.9%

Proficient level: 36.5%... up from 33.2%

Basic level: 56.0%

Below basic: 3.4%

For Grade 11 math proficiency:

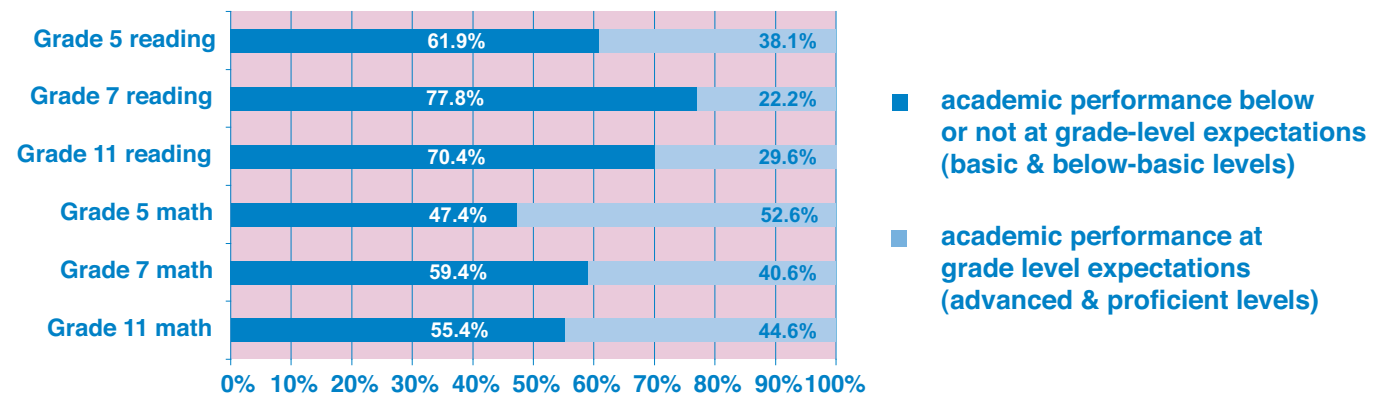
Advanced level: 8.4%... up from 7.9%

Proficient level: 36.2%... down from 38.6%

Basic level: 54.2%

Below basic: 1.2%

What is the VI Territorial Assessment of Learning (VITAL) Student Academic Performance Report for 2007-2008?



Public School Dropouts

Why does school dropout matter?

- Because a high school diploma is a minimum requirement for most work in today's competitive marketplace, dropouts lack the essential credentials and skills for most steady, living-wage jobs.
- Only about half of high school dropouts hold steady employment. Dropouts are much more likely than high school graduates to be without savings, uninsured, living in poverty, relying on public assistance, in poor health, in prison (eight times more likely¹), and a parent of children who also drop out of school.²
- Communities are profoundly impacted. Dropouts represent a loss of productive workers, and loss of the earnings and revenues these workers represent. Instead, dropouts represent increased public costs to the community and nation, for welfare assistance, health, social and public-safety services.

¹ Harlow, C.W. Educational and Correctional Populations. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. Washington, D.C.: Department of Justice. www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ecp.pdf

² Orfield, Gary (2004) Dropouts in America: Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard Education Press, 1-2.

³ www.kidscount.org

* The VI Department of Education reports the number of dropouts age 16-19 in 2007-08 as 411 students. KIDS COUNT also includes all teens age 16-19 who report no longer being enrolled in school, having attained less than the 6th or the 9th grade.

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

Rate of youth who are dropouts.

- 13.1% of VI teens age 16-19 are estimated by USVI KIDS COUNT to be high school dropouts in 2007-08, based on data from VI Dept. of Education and the VI Community Survey.
- This represents 10 more student dropouts (856) in 2007-08 than the estimated 846 dropouts last year.
- Note that the rate fell in 2007-08 due to more teens age 16-19 than during the previous year (6,517, up from 6,128 in 2006-07).

What is the national dropout rate?

- 7% of US teens age 16-19 were estimated to be high school dropouts in 2007-08.³

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 junior high schools (grades 7-8).

- 2.1% of enrolled junior high school students were reported as dropouts.
- 7th grade: 1.2% of enrolled students (or 19 students).
- 8th grade: 3.3% of enrolled students (or 40 students).

VI public secondary schools (grades 7-12)*.

- 5.85% (462 students) are reported to be dropouts in 2007-08 (up from 4.3% in 2006-07).
- **St. Croix:** 137 students, or 30% of the 462 public secondary school dropouts reported, represent a 3.4% overall dropout rate. 66% were male, 34% female.
- **St. Thomas/St. John:** 325 students, or 70% of the 462 public secondary school dropouts reported, represent an 8.4% overall dropout rate. 68% were male, 32% female.

VI public high schools (grades 9-12).

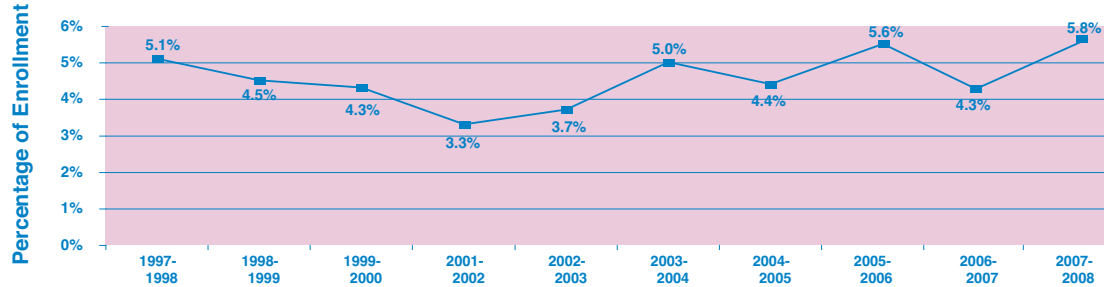
- 9th grade: 10.5% of enrolled students (or 199 students)
- 10th grade: 7.9% of enrolled students (or 93 students)
- 11th grade: 6% of enrolled students (66 students)
- 12th grade: 4.7% of enrolled students (45 students)

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.

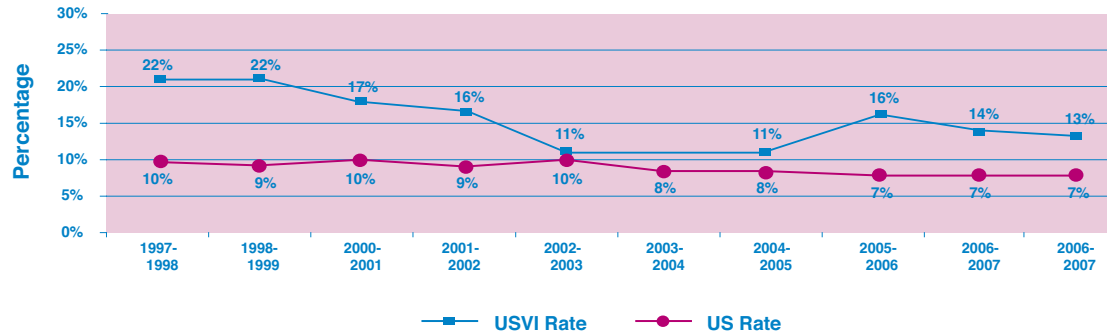
Definition: Public secondary school dropouts is the number of children enrolled in public schools in 7th to 12th grades inclusively who did not enroll, graduate, report for class at the beginning of the school year, or meet the exclusionary conditions of transfer to another school, suspension, illness or death in the new school year.

Public School Dropouts, cont.

What are VI Secondary Public School Dropouts (Grades 7-12) as a Percentage of Enrollment, 1997-98 to 2007-08?



What Percent of VI Teens (age 16-19) are High School Dropouts, 1997-1998 to 2007-2008?



Rate of youth who are dropouts (age 16-19) – how do we compare?

US national dropout (age 16-19) rate	Rate of best-ranked state, #1: ND	Rate of worst-ranked state, #50: NV	Rate of Puerto Rico (rank #36)	Rate of USVI (rank #52)	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
7%	2%	11%	8%	13.1%	856 youth were dropouts in 2007-08 out of a population of 6,517 youth age 16-19.	13.8% (846 youth)	10 more dropouts (but a lower rate)	86 fewer youth dropouts

Detached Youth, Employed Youth

Why do 'detached' youth matter?

- 'Detached' youth are teens age 16-19, not in school and not working.
- Young people lacking a high-school diploma face far greater obstacles to steady employment, job advancement, and skill-based wages high enough to consistently support a family.
- More often unemployed than their peers with diplomas, these youth generally represent public welfare costs, and are at greater risk of antisocial or crime-related activity.
- Each high school dropout, during his or her adult life, costs the nation an estimated \$292,000 in public services. These costs include food stamps and other public aid, incarceration costs for those who commit crimes, and lost tax revenues based on their lower earnings than high-school graduates.¹

What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands?

- The 6,517 youth who were age 16-19 in 2007 (389 more than in the previous year) represented one-fifth of the VI youth population.
- 17% of all 16-19 year olds in the Virgin Islands — 1107 youth — are not attending school and not working. This is a large increase from the 5.4% portion of VI 'detached' youth ten years ago, in 1997.

What's the national 'detached' youth rate?

- 8% (unchanged from 2006).

Educational attainment, age 18-19.

- Of the 2,693 VI youth age 18-19 in 2007, 58.3% (or 1,569 youth) reportedly did not have a high-school diploma (up from 57% in 2006, and 41% in 2004).
- 52 youth age 18-19 (2% of this age group) reported not finishing the 9th grade. This is a low portion given the trend of previous years (76 youth in '06, 240 in '05, 234 in '04, 189 in '03, 113 in '02).

Employment attainment, age 16-19.

- 6% of this age group (or 410 youth) reported working full-time in 2007 (down from 8% or 487 youth in 2006).
- The unemployment rate for youth who were looking for work increased to 30.6% in 2007 (from 23% in 2006). This 2007 rate is seven times the 4.4% rate of adult unemployment.

Educational attainment for older youth, age 18-24.

- Of the 8,370 youth age 18-24 (376 more than in 2006), 63% had completed high school by 2007; more than a third (36%) had not.
- Female rates of high school completion declined to 62.7% (from 71.5% in 2006).
- Of high school graduates age 18-24, 4.6% earned a college degree by 2007 (up from 3.8% in '06).
- Female rates of college completion slipped to 3.5% (from 4% in 2006).

Employment attainment for older youth, age 18-24.

- 55.7% of youth age 18-24 (or 4,665 youth) were employed (down from 68% the previous year).
- Female employment rates also fell, to 50.4% (down from 66.6% in 2006).
- Of employed youth, 58.5% worked full-time or 40+ hours a week (up from 46% in 2006).
- Of full-time employed youth, 72.2% had a high school diploma (up from 56% in 2005).
- Of unemployed youth age 18-24, 62% reported having completed high school (63% in '06).
- The unemployment rate was 13.4% for all youth age 18-24 (down from 16.3% in 2006).

¹ Sum, Khatiwada, McLaughlin et al, "The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School" (2008). Boston, MA: Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University http://www.clms.neu.edu/publication/documents/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_High_School.pdf

*Definition: **Teens not in school and not working** is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and not employed. Employment may include part-time or full-time work.*

Detached Youth, Employed Youth, cont.

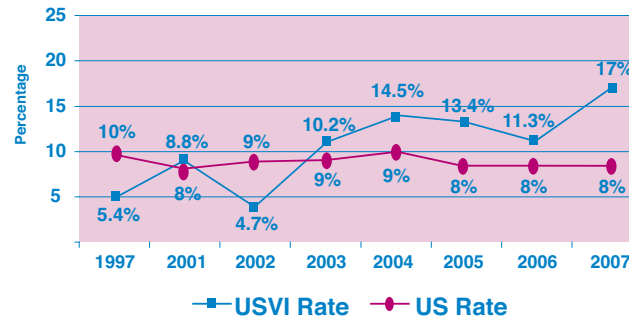
What's the situation in the US Virgin Islands, cont.

Note: KIDS COUNT this year has been able to access new data from the VI Community Survey (VICS) tables for greater in-depth reporting on detached youth. By accessing figures for youth age 16-19 who reported having attained some college, and youth 16-19 who reported some employment (but are not in the work force), KIDS COUNT is now able to document a smaller number of detached youth in the VI youth population than previously expected. Our improved formula is also able to revise and update rates for detached youth published in KIDS COUNT for years '06 and '05. Data from '04 and before is unchanged.

Updated Data: Detached Youth Numbers and Portion in the VI Youth Population

	2007	2006	2005	2004
number of all VI youth age 16-19	6,517	6,128	6,985	6,713
number of 'detached youth' age 16-19 (not enrolled or employed)	1107	692	935	974
% of detached youth within all VI youth age 16-19	17.0%	11.3%	13.4%	14.5%
(number of detached youth previously reported)		1396	1657	974
(% of detached youth previously reported)		22.8%	23.7%	14.5%

What Percent of VI Teens Age 16-19 are Not Enrolled in School, and Not Employed?



Note: Rates for 2005 and 2006 have been re-calculated this year, based on newly available information and data.

Detached youth – how do we compare?

US national detached youth rate	Rate of best-ranked state, #1: MN	Rate of worst-ranked state, #50: NV	Rate of Puerto Rico (rank #51)	Rate of USVI (rank #52)	What does the VI rate mean?	VI rate last year (2006)	Did the VI improve from last year?	To improve by 10%
8%	4%	13%	15%	17%	1,107 youth are not in school and not employed, out of 6,517 youth age 16-19.	11.3%	No – the rate rose. 415 more youth	110 fewer detached youth

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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USVI KIDS COUNT Data Sources Team and Project Partners

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Data Analysis and Writing

Dr. Laurie Blake, University of the Virgin Islands
Kim Holdsworth, editor, USVI KIDS COUNT, CFVI
Dee Baecher-Brown, president, CFVI

Graphs and Publication Design

Kim Holdsworth, editor, USVI KIDS COUNT, CFVI
Lisa Meersman, creative director, Austin Advertising

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: $(1,107 / 6,517) \times 100 = 17\%$

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: $(1,107 / 6,517) \times 1000 = 170 \text{ per } 1000$

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 = $\{(\text{Newer year percentage} - \text{older year percentage}) / \text{older year percentage}\} \times 100$

Example: Changing percent of detached youth from 1997 to 2007

Formula: $\{(2007 \% \text{ of detached youth} - 1997 \% \text{ of detached youth}) / 1997 \% \text{ number}\} \times 100$

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



How Do We Compare?

US Virgin Islands Kids Count Data Book 2009

Nine previous USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books document challenges to the well-being of children and families in the US Virgin Islands.

(2008) Moving Forward by 10%

(2007) Our Children Matter!

(2006) Prosperity in the Future

(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, a special **KIDS COUNT/Population Reference Bureau** report on Census 2000, titled “**A First Look at Children in the US Virgin Islands,**” elaborated on the findings reported in the **USVI KIDS COUNT Data Books**, focusing on the negative impact of social and economic trends for children in the USVI.

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands
5600 Royal Dane Mall, Suite 19
PO Box 11790, Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00801

Tel 340-774-6031, Fax 340-774-3852
dbrown@cfvi.net
www.cfvi.net

