

A KIDS COUNT/PRB Report on

CENSUS 2000

A First Look at Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands

By the Population Reference Bureau



The Annie E. Casey Foundation and
The Population Reference Bureau
September 2002



KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. The Foundation also funds a nationwide network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed community-by-community picture of the condition of children.

The Population Reference Bureau (PRB)

Founded in 1929, the Population Reference Bureau is the leader in providing timely and objective information on U.S. and international population trends and their implications. PRB informs policymakers, educators, the media, and concerned citizens working in the public interest around the world through a broad range of activities, including publications, information services, seminars and workshops, and technical support. Our efforts are supported by government contracts, foundation grants, individual and corporate contributions, and the sale of publications. PRB is governed by a Board of Trustees representing diverse community and professional interests.

KIDS COUNT/PRB Reports on Census 2000

This paper is part of a series of reports on the 2000 Census prepared for the nationwide network of KIDS COUNT projects. These reports have been guided by the recommendations of an expert advisory group of data users and child advocates, brought together in a series of meetings by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau. Members of the advisory group have provided valuable assistance about how to interpret and use data from the 2000 Census.

A list of the advisory group members can be found at the back of this report.

For more information or for a pdf version of this report, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT website at www.kidscount.org or PRB's AmeriStat website at www.ameristat.org.

© 2002 Annie E. Casey Foundation

Material may be reproduced free of charge for classroom or noncommercial use, provided that full credit is given to the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**A First Look at Children in the
U.S. Virgin Islands**

The Population Reference Bureau

The Annie E. Casey Foundation and
The Population Reference Bureau
September 2002

Executive Summary

This report provides a first look at children in the United States Virgin Islands, based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census. The trends shown in this paper will help readers better understand how the situation of children in the Virgin Islands has changed over time, and how it compares with conditions of children in the nation as a whole. The following key points summarize a few of the findings in this report:

Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children in the U.S. Virgin Islands decreased 3 percent—from 35,427 to 34,289. The decrease in the child population in the U.S. Virgin Islands is linked to declining birth rates in the territory over the past decade.
- While the U.S. economy grew at a record pace in the 1990s, contributing to the lowest child poverty rate in over 20 years, the economic conditions for children and families in the U.S. Virgin Islands deteriorated. Between 1989 and 1999, the percentage of children in families with incomes below the poverty line increased from 37 percent to 42 percent.
- In 2000, almost half of all families with children in the U.S. Virgin Islands (46 percent) were headed by a female householder. This represents a substantial increase over the share of female-headed families with children in 1990 (37 percent). Nationally, the share of families with children headed by a female householder increased from 20 percent to 22 percent.

Children in St Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children living on the most populated island, St. Croix, decreased from 18,706 to 18,169. In St. Thomas, the number of children decreased from 15,754 to 15,077. In St. John, the least populated of the three major islands, the number of children *increased* slightly, from 967 to 1,043.
- The highest child poverty levels were in the towns of Frederiksted (68 percent) and Christiansted (61 percent) in St. Croix. The child poverty rate was lowest in West End, St. Thomas (14 percent).
- In 2000, female-headed families with children, as a share of all families with children, were most common in St Croix (47 percent), followed by St. Thomas (44 percent) and St. John (40 percent).
- In Christiansted, St. Croix, one-fourth of teens were high school dropouts in 2000.

Background on the U.S. Virgin Islands

The United States Virgin Islands is an unincorporated territory of the United States, located east of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean. With 108,612 residents, the U.S. Virgin Islands has a smaller population than any U.S. state. The territory has about one-fifth the population—and twice the land area—of Washington, D.C. The Virgin Islands includes 68 separate islands and cays, but everyone is categorized as living on one of three islands—St. Thomas, St. Croix, or St. John. The U.S. Census Bureau treats the three main islands as the statistical equivalents of counties.

The people of the Virgin Islands elect a governor and lieutenant governor every four years and elect 15 senators to the Virgin Islands legislature and one non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives every two years.

About 76 percent of Virgin Islanders identified themselves as black in the 2000 Census. Thirteen percent said they were white, 7 percent reported some other single racial group, and 4 percent identified with two or more races.¹ In a separate question on Hispanic origin, about 14 percent of the population in the Virgin Islands identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. There is also a relatively large foreign-born population in the Virgin Islands (36,087 people), accounting for roughly one-third of the total population. Virgin Islanders claim a number of ethnic backgrounds and nationalities, including African, Puerto Rican, American mainland, French, Danish, and Portuguese.²

Despite a strong tourism industry, which attracts more than 2 million visitors to the Virgin Islands each year,³ about 9 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed in 2000.⁴ Nationally, about 6 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed in 2000.⁵ In 1999, the median household income in the Virgin Islands was \$24,704, compared with a median household

income of \$41,994 nationwide. And while the national median household income increased by 7 percent between 1989 and 1999 (adjusting for inflation), median household income in the Virgin Islands decreased by 14 percent over the decade.⁶ Over one-fourth of households in the Virgin Islands (26 percent) had incomes less than \$10,000 in 1999. About 6 percent of households in the Virgin Islands received cash public assistance in 1999, twice the national rate (3 percent).

Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands Compared with the Nation's Children

This section provides an overview of demographic, social, and economic trends for children in the U.S. Virgin Islands, based primarily on data released by the U.S. Census Bureau in February 2002. Estimates for the Virgin Islands are compared with national averages that combine data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Virgin Islands data for 1990 are based on published census reports, available on the U.S. Census Bureau's website (www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pr_ia_pr.html). The U.S. Census Bureau plans to release more detailed tables for the Virgin Islands in October 2002. For information about how the census was conducted in the Virgin Islands, see Appendix A.

General trends

The number of children under age 18 in the U.S. Virgin Islands decreased 3 percent between 1990 and 2000—from 35,427 to 34,289 (See Table 1). This decrease contrasts sharply with the 7 percent increase in the total population of the Virgin Islands between 1990 and 2000, from 101,809 to 108,612. The decrease in the number of children under age 5—from 9,230 in 1990 to 8,553 in 2000—accounts for over half of the overall decline in the population under age 18 during the decade.

Table 1: Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		Percent change in population
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total population	101,809	100%	108,612	100%	7%
Population under age 18	35,427	35%	34,289	32%	-3%
Population under age 5	9,230	9%	8,553	8%	-7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census General Population Characteristics for the U.S. Virgin Islands; and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While the number of children in the U.S. Virgin Islands fell between 1990 and 2000, children still make up a very high proportion of the Virgin Islands population. In 2000, 32 percent of the population in the Virgin Islands was under age 18. This represents a decrease since 1990 (from 35 percent), but the proportion of the population under age 18 is still considerably higher than the national average (26 percent).

The fact that the U.S. Virgin Islands has a relatively large number of children has important social implications for Virgin Islands society. The “child dependency ratio” (the number of people under age 18 for every 100 people ages 18 to 64) is relatively high in the Virgin Islands (53), compared with the national average (42). The relatively large number of children in the Virgin Islands population means that providing education and social services for this vulnerable age group is likely to consume a larger share of resources. The large number of children, especially younger children, also increases the demand for child care (see the section on child care later in this report).

The decrease in the child population in the U.S. Virgin Islands between 1990 and 2000 is closely linked to declining birth rates in the territory over the past decade. In 1990, about 17 percent of women ages 35 to 44 reported giving birth to five or more children during their lifetimes. By 2000, this share had declined to 12 percent.⁷ Although there is a trend toward

smaller families in the Virgin Islands, large families are still more common in the Virgin Islands than they are stateside. In 2000, only about 3 percent of U.S. women ages 35 to 44 had given birth to 5 or more children during their lifetimes.⁸

Falling birth rates are often associated with increases in female educational attainment and rising ages at marriage. However, the limited data currently available from the 2000 Census do not provide enough information to determine the specific causes of the declining birth rates in the Virgin Islands.

Poverty

While the national economy grew at a record pace in the 1990s, contributing to the lowest child poverty rate in over 20 years, the economic conditions for children and families in the U.S. Virgin Islands deteriorated. While the total number of children declined between 1990 and 2000, the number of children living in families with incomes below the poverty line grew from 12,722 to 14,103, an 11 percent increase (see Table 2). The *percentage* of children in poor families increased from 37 percent in 1989 to 42 percent in 1999. The 1999 child poverty rate in the Virgin Islands was lower than the child poverty rate in neighboring Puerto Rico (58 percent), but far exceeded the child poverty rate in any U.S. state or the District of Columbia.⁹

The percentage of families living in poverty also increased, from 23 percent in 1989 to 29 percent in 1999. For families with young children (under age 5), poverty rates were even higher. The overall poverty rate for families increased, in part, because of the increase in the number of female-headed families from 1990 to 2000.

Table 2: Children and Families Below Poverty in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 1989 and 1999

	1989		1999		Percent change in number below poverty
	Number below poverty	Percent below poverty	Number below poverty	Percent below poverty	
Related children under age 18	12,722	37%	14,103	42%	11%
Under age 5	3,458	38%	3,809	45%	10%
Ages 5 to 17	9,264	36%	10,294	41%	11%
Families	5,349	23%	7,635	29%	43%
With related children under age 18	4,438	29%	5,862	35%	32%
With related children under age 5	2,258	34%	2,637	41%	17%
Female-headed families	3,129	41%	4,521	45%	44%
With related children under age 18	2,817	46%	3,863	49%	37%
With related children under age 5	1,458	54%	1,795	57%	23%

Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for the U.S. Virgin Islands; and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Female-headed families in poverty became a more important issue in the Virgin Islands between 1990 and 2000 for two reasons: 1) the number of poor, female-headed families with children rose significantly (37 percent), and 2) the rate of poverty among female-headed families increased (from 41 percent to 45 percent). Slightly less than half (49 percent) of female-headed families with children were living in poverty in 1999, compared with 46 percent in 1989. Female-headed families with children under age 5 were the most likely to be poor in 1999, at 57 percent.

Female-headed families

Family structure has important implications for children. Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have access to the economic or human resources available to children growing up in two-parent families. Nationwide, the number of single-parent families

has risen dramatically over the past three decades, causing considerable concern among policymakers and the public. Female-headed families have historically been common in the U.S. Virgin Islands.¹⁰ While local social and cultural norms may influence the situation for children living in single parent families, children in the Virgin Islands growing up in single-parent families are still at an economic disadvantage relative to children growing up in married-couple families (as shown in Table 2).

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, the number of female-headed families with children increased from 4,870 in 1990 to 6,450 in 2000 (a 32 percent increase),¹¹ while the number of married-couple families with children decreased by 17 percent. In 2000, nearly half of all families with children in the U.S. Virgin Islands (46 percent) were headed by a female householder (see Table 3). This represents a substantial increase over the share of female-headed families with children in 1990 (37 percent). Nationally, the share of families headed by a female householder increased from 20 percent to 22 percent. Of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only DC had a higher percentage of female-headed families with children in 2000 (50 percent). In Puerto Rico, about 27 percent of families with children were headed by a female householder in 2000, up from 22 percent in 1990.

Table 3: Female-Headed Families with Own Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		Percent change in number of families
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total families with own children	13,052	100%	14,107	100%	8%
Married-couple households	7,101	54%	5,905	42%	-17%
Female-headed households	4,870	37%	6,450	46%	32%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for the U.S. Virgin Islands; and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

High school dropouts

In the United States, graduating from high school is critical for both going to college and finding a good job, and increasing educational achievement has been one of the key goals of the administration of President George W. Bush. The governor of the Virgin Islands, Charles W. Turnbull, has also made education reform a “top priority” of his administration, and he has outlined a five-year plan to improve student achievement.¹² In the Virgin Islands, one of the challenges for the administration is the persistently high number of teenagers who drop out of high school. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of 16-to-19-year-olds who were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates) remained constant at about 17 percent. In 1997-1998, the majority of high school dropouts (63 percent) were male, and most students dropped out during their first year of high school.¹³

Nationwide, about 11 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000, but the dropout rate varied considerably by state. Only Arizona at 19 percent had a higher high school dropout rate in 2000, while two states (New Mexico and North Carolina) had the same rate as the Virgin Islands.¹⁴

Demand for child care

The need for child care can be estimated based on the percentage of young children living in families where all of the parents in the household are in the labor force. For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent was in the labor force during the week prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means that both parents were in the labor force during the week prior to the survey.

Census 2000 data indicate a high demand for child care in the Virgin Islands. Among children under 6 years of age, 69 percent lived in families where all of the parents were in the

labor force in 2000. This represents a 5-percentage-point increase over the share in 1990 (64 percent). Nationally, the share of children living in families with all parents in the labor force increased from 57 percent in 1990 to 59 percent in 2000.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, it is common for grandparents to provide child care while parents are working, and in many households, grandparents are the primary caregivers for young children. The *U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001* reports that over one-fourth of children in the Virgin Islands lived in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in 1998.¹⁵ For the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau added a new question to measure the extent to which grandparents provided care to their grandchildren. In the Virgin Islands, there were 4,802 grandparents who lived with their grandchildren in 2000, and over half (51 percent) reported that they were responsible for child care. Nationally, 42 percent of grandparents who lived with their grandchildren reported being responsible for child care.

Children in St Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John

Data from the decennial census provide detailed information for local communities in the U.S. Virgin Islands that are not available from any other source. This report takes an in-depth look at the characteristics of children and families living on the three major islands and in the 20 subdistricts that make up the territory.¹⁶ The data show wide variations in child outcomes across these jurisdictions (see Appendix B and Appendix C for tables that summarize the data for the different subdistricts).

General trends

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children living on the most populated island, St. Croix, decreased from 18,706 to 18,169. In St. Thomas, the number of children decreased from

15,754 to 15,077. In St. John, the least populated of the three major islands, the number of children *increased* slightly, from 967 to 1,043.

In 2000, about 34 percent of the St. Croix population was under age 18, compared with 29 percent in St. Thomas and 25 percent in St John (see Table 4). The share of the population under age 18 was particularly high in Frederiksted, St. Croix (43 percent).

Table 4: Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 2000

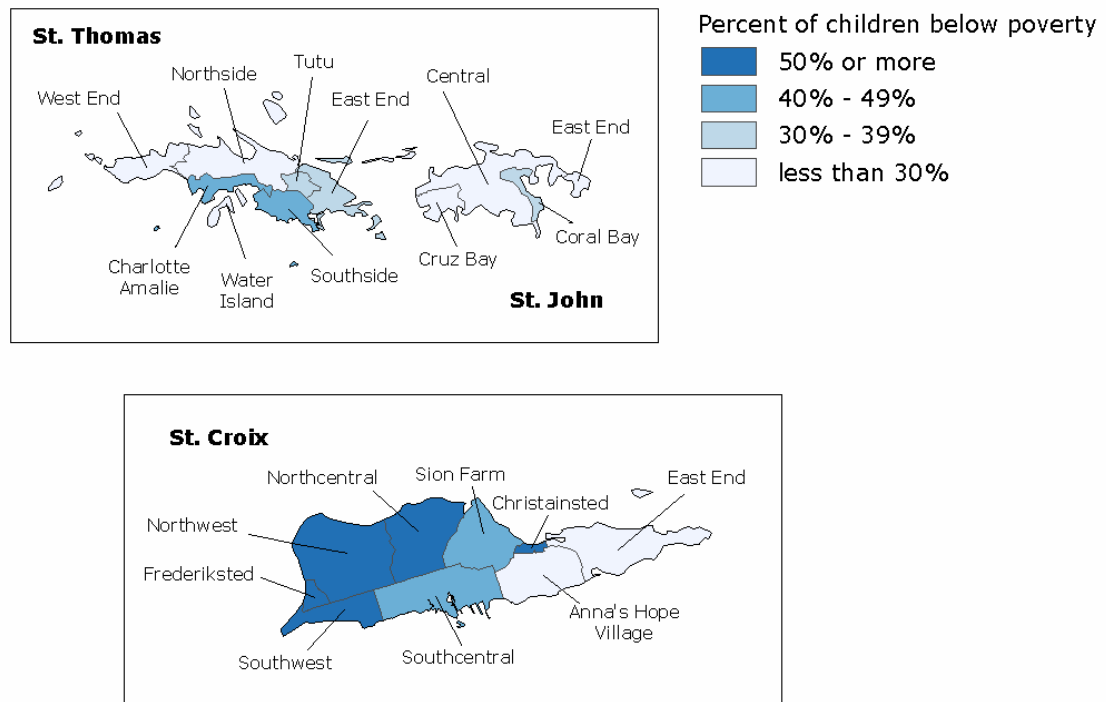
Island or subdistrict	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent under age 18
U.S. Virgin Islands	108,612	34,289	32%
St. Croix Island	53,234	18,169	34%
Anna's Hope Village	4,192	1,276	30%
Christiansted	2,865	877	31%
East End	2,341	508	22%
Frederiksted	3,767	1,634	43%
Northcentral	5,760	1,905	33%
Northwest	4,919	1,852	38%
Sion Farm	13,565	4,496	33%
Southcentral	8,125	2,892	36%
Southwest	7,700	2,729	35%
St. John Island	4,197	1,043	25%
Central	746	172	23%
Coral Bay	649	147	23%
Cruz Bay	2,743	718	26%
East End	59	6	10%
St. Thomas Island	51,181	15,077	29%
Charlotte Amalie	18,914	5,689	30%
East End	7,672	2,254	29%
Northside	8,712	2,049	24%
Southside	5,467	1,766	32%
Tutu	8,197	2,696	33%
Water Island	161	25	16%
West End	2,058	598	29%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Poverty

Poverty levels vary considerably on the three major islands (see map). In 1999, the poverty rate for children in St. Croix (49 percent) was more than twice the rate for children living in St. John (22 percent). About one-third (34 percent) of children in St. Thomas were living in poverty. Child poverty rates increased on all three islands since 1989, when 43 percent of children in St. Croix were below poverty, compared with 30 percent in St. Thomas, and 21 percent in St. John.

Child poverty rates in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

While child poverty rates vary among the three main islands, there is even more variation within the islands. In St. Croix, the highest child poverty levels in 1999 were in the towns of Frederiksted (68 percent) and Christiansted (61 percent), and child poverty rates were lowest in East End (21 percent) and the neighboring Anna's Hope Village (27 percent) (see Table 5). In

Frederiksted, 17 percent of households received public assistance income in 1999, almost three times the rate in the Virgin Islands as a whole. In St. Thomas, child poverty levels were highest in Southside (42 percent) and the capital, Charlotte Amalie (40 percent), and lowest in West End (14 percent). In St. John, child poverty was highest in Coral Bay (35 percent) and lowest in Central (18 percent).

Table 5: Related Children Below Poverty in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 1999

Island or subdistrict	Number of related children below poverty	Percent of related children below poverty
U.S. Virgin Islands	14,103	42%
St. Croix Island	8,838	49%
Anna's Hope Village	331	27%
Christiansted	531	61%
East End	105	21%
Frederiksted	1,082	68%
Northcentral	937	50%
Northwest	1,082	59%
Sion Farm	2,036	46%
Southcentral	1,384	48%
Southwest	1,350	50%
St. John Island	222	22%
Central	30	18%
Coral Bay	51	35%
Cruz Bay	140	20%
East End	1	---
St. Thomas Island	5,043	34%
Charlotte Amalie	2,263	40%
East End	715	32%
Northside	365	18%
Southside	723	42%
Tutu	890	34%
Water Island	4	---
West End	83	14%

Note: Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses). --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 50 cases in the denominator.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Female-headed families

In 2000, female-headed families with children, as a share of all families with children, were most common in St Croix (47 percent), followed by St. Thomas (44 percent) and St. John (40 percent) (see Table 6).

Table 6: Female-Headed Families with Own Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 2000

Island or subdistrict	Families with own children	Female-headed families with own children	Percent
U.S. Virgin Islands	14,107	6,450	46%
St. Croix Island	7,355	3,476	47%
Anna's Hope Village	549	204	37%
Christiansted	381	218	57%
East End	268	73	27%
Frederiksted	596	424	71%
Northcentral	726	314	43%
Northwest	769	433	56%
Sion Farm	1,853	900	49%
Southcentral	1,145	446	39%
Southwest	1,068	464	43%
St. John Island	478	189	40%
Central	89	35	39%
Coral Bay	71	28	39%
Cruz Bay	316	125	40%
East End	2	1	---
St. Thomas Island	6,274	2,785	44%
Charlotte Amalie	2,335	1,255	54%
East End	957	379	40%
Northside	1,086	306	28%
Southside	705	314	45%
Tutu	901	445	49%
Water Island	17	3	---
West End	273	83	30%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 50 cases in the denominator.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In St. Croix, the share of female-headed families was particularly high in Frederiksted (71 percent), Christiansted (57 percent), and Northwest (56 percent). The share of female-headed families also exceeded 50 percent in the capital city, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. Female-headed families were least common in the East End subdistrict in St. Croix (27 percent), and the Northside subdistrict in St. Thomas (28 percent).

High school dropouts

Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of high school dropouts in the U.S. Virgin Islands remained constant at about 17 percent. However, trends varied on the three major islands. In St. Croix, the dropout rate decreased from 19 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 2000. There was also a decrease in St. John, from 23 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 2000. But in St. Thomas, the percentage of teens who dropped out of school *increased* during the decade, from 14 percent to 16 percent.

Dropout rates in 2000 also varied in the different subdistricts (see Table 7). In Christiansted, St. Croix, one-fourth of teens were high school dropouts in 2000. Dropout rates were also particularly high in Frederiksted (23 percent), Northcentral (22 percent), and Southcentral (20 percent) in St. Croix, and in Southside, St. Thomas (20 percent). Teens were least likely to drop out of high school in East End, St. Croix (10 percent), Cruz Bay, St. John (12 percent), and West End, St. Thomas (6 percent).

Demand for child care

The demand for child care was highest in more affluent communities in the Virgin Islands, especially in St. John, where 82 percent of children lived in families with all parents in the labor force (see Table 8). The demand for child care was also high in the West End and East End areas of St. Thomas. Frederiksted, St. Croix had the smallest share of children living in

families with all parents in the labor force (55 percent). Frederiksted also had a relatively high percentage of households receiving public assistance in 1999 (17 percent).

Table 7: Teens Ages 16 to 19 who are High School Dropouts in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 2000

Island or subdistrict	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent
U.S. Virgin Islands	6,746	1,143	17%
St. Croix Island	3,503	633	18%
Anna's Hope Village	270	46	17%
Christiansted	190	48	25%
East End	98	10	10%
Frederiksted	246	57	23%
Northcentral	378	85	22%
Northwest	347	53	15%
Sion Farm	852	140	16%
Southcentral	587	118	20%
Southwest	535	76	14%
St. John Island	183	27	15%
Central	43	8	---
Coral Bay	17	4	---
Cruz Bay	123	15	12%
East End	0	0	---
St. Thomas Island	3,060	483	16%
Charlotte Amalie	1,289	209	16%
East End	420	64	15%
Northside	375	51	14%
Southside	315	63	20%
Tutu	563	90	16%
Water Island	5	0	---
West End	93	6	6%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 50 cases in the denominator.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Table 8: Children Under Age 6 with All Parents in the Labor Force in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 2000

Island or subdistrict	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	Percent
U.S. Virgin Islands	9,311	6,413	69%
St. Croix Island	4,946	3,124	63%
Anna's Hope Village	289	211	73%
Christiansted	273	162	59%
East End	117	75	64%
Frederiksted	458	250	55%
Northcentral	479	294	61%
Northwest	564	365	65%
Sion Farm	1,270	855	67%
Southcentral	793	475	60%
Southwest	703	437	62%
St. John Island	318	261	82%
Central	41	28	---
Coral Bay	44	31	---
Cruz Bay	230	200	87%
East End	3	2	---
St. Thomas Island	4,047	3,028	75%
Charlotte Amalie	1,468	1,082	74%
East End	641	514	80%
Northside	639	496	78%
Southside	490	332	68%
Tutu	647	466	72%
Water Island	4	2	---
West End	158	136	86%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 50 cases in the denominator.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Appendix A

In the United States, the census long form is sent to a sample of approximately 1 in 6 residents, but in the Virgin Islands, every household with a mailbox receives a long form questionnaire. Since the long form data for the Virgin Islands are based on a complete enumeration of the population, there is no sampling error associated with these data. However, it is important to remember that there may be other sources of error associated with these numbers.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, as in U.S. states, people are enumerated based on usual residence. Therefore, foreign travelers and others who do not have their usual residence in the Virgin Islands are excluded from this analysis. People in the U.S. Armed Forces are counted as residents of the area in which their military base is located. In 2000, there were only 109 people ages 16 and older in the Virgin Islands who reported being in the Armed Forces.

The questionnaire on population characteristics in the U.S. Virgin Islands closely matches the census form used in the United States, with a few minor modifications. First, state residents were only required to report level of education, while residents of the Virgin Islands were also asked whether they had completed any vocational training programs. Second, the modified questionnaire in the Virgin Islands excluded the question on ancestry that was asked of state residents. Third, Virgin Islanders were asked about children ever born, a question that was dropped from the 2000 Census conducted in the United States. Finally, the census form in the Virgin Islands included questions to determine parental place of birth. This information was not collected from residents of U.S. states or the District of Columbia.

There were also several questions on housing in the Virgin Islands that were not included on questionnaires in U.S. states, including questions about cooking fuel, source of water, sewage disposal, and condominium status.

The data shown in this report are based on 2000 Census long form data released in February 2002. More detailed long form tables are scheduled to be released in October 2002, and a 10-percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file is scheduled to be released in May 2003. For more information about how the census was conducted in the Virgin Islands, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/dmd01cdvi.pdf.

Appendix B: Selected Data for the Total Population and for Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 2000

Island or subdistrict	Total population	Population under age 18	Number of related children below poverty (1999)	Family households with own children	Female-headed households with own children	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force
U.S. Virgin Islands	108,612	34,289	14,103	14,107	6,450	6,746	1,143	9,311	6,413
St. Croix Island	53,234	18,169	8,838	7,355	3,476	3,503	633	4,946	3,124
Anna's Hope Village	4,192	1,276	331	549	204	270	46	289	211
Christiansted	2,865	877	531	381	218	190	48	273	162
East End	2,341	508	105	268	73	98	10	117	75
Frederiksted	3,767	1,634	1,082	596	424	246	57	458	250
Northcentral	5,760	1,905	937	726	314	378	85	479	294
Northwest	4,919	1,852	1,082	769	433	347	53	564	365
Sion Farm	13,565	4,496	2,036	1,853	900	852	140	1,270	855
Southcentral	8,125	2,892	1,384	1,145	446	587	118	793	475
Southwest	7,700	2,729	1,350	1,068	464	535	76	703	437
St. John Island	4,197	1,043	222	478	189	183	27	318	261
Central	746	172	30	89	35	43	8	41	28
Coral Bay	649	147	51	71	28	17	4	44	31
Cruz Bay	2,743	718	140	316	125	123	15	230	200
East End	59	6	1	2	1	0	0	3	2
St. Thomas Island	51,181	15,077	5,043	6,274	2,785	3,060	483	4,047	3,028
Charlotte Amalie	18,914	5,689	2,263	2,335	1,255	1,289	209	1,468	1,082
East End	7,672	2,254	715	957	379	420	64	641	514
Northside	8,712	2,049	365	1,086	306	375	51	639	496
Southside	5,467	1,766	723	705	314	315	63	490	332
Tutu	8,197	2,696	890	901	445	563	90	647	466
Water Island	161	25	4	17	3	5	0	4	2
West End	2,058	598	83	273	83	93	6	158	136

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Appendix C: Selected Percentages for Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands, by Subdistrict, 2000

Island or subdistrict	Percent of population under age 18	Percent of related children below poverty (1999)	Percent of families with children headed by a female householder	Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in labor force
U.S. Virgin Islands	32%	42%	46%	17%	69%
St. Croix Island	34%	49%	47%	18%	63%
Anna's Hope Village	30%	27%	37%	17%	73%
Christiansted	31%	61%	57%	25%	59%
East End	22%	21%	27%	10%	64%
Frederiksted	43%	68%	71%	23%	55%
Northcentral	33%	50%	43%	22%	61%
Northwest	38%	59%	56%	15%	65%
Sion Farm	33%	46%	49%	16%	67%
Southcentral	36%	48%	39%	20%	60%
Southwest	35%	50%	43%	14%	62%
St. John Island	25%	22%	40%	15%	82%
Central	23%	18%	39%	---	---
Coral Bay	23%	35%	39%	---	---
Cruz Bay	26%	20%	40%	12%	87%
East End	10%	---	---	---	---
St. Thomas Island	29%	34%	44%	16%	75%
Charlotte Amalie	30%	40%	54%	16%	74%
East End	29%	32%	40%	15%	80%
Northside	24%	18%	28%	14%	78%
Southside	32%	42%	45%	20%	68%
Tutu	33%	34%	49%	16%	72%
Water Island	16%	---	---	---	---
West End	29%	14%	30%	6%	86%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 50 cases in the denominator.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank Dee Baecher-Brown at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands and Frank Mills and Ram Srivastava of the Eastern Caribbean Center of the University of the Virgin Islands for comments on an earlier draft of this report.

For More Information:

Additional 2000 Census data on the U.S. Virgin Islands (in Excel and PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/islandareas.html>.

Data for the Virgin Islands from the 1990 Census (in PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at http://www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pr_ia_pr.html.

For more information about efforts to improve the welfare of children in the U.S. Virgin Islands, visit The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands website at <http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/cfvi/index.html>.

For definitions of some of the census terms used in this report, see “A Glossary of Census Terms,” available on the KIDS COUNT website at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/glossary.pdf>.

For more information about this report, contact Mark Mather at the Population Reference Bureau: Phone (202) 939-5433 or E-mail (mmather@prb.org).

Endnotes

¹ Race data for 1990 are not shown because they are not strictly comparable with data for 2000. The 2000 Census was the first census that allowed respondents to mark more than one race.

² Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, The U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs, accessed at www.gov.vi/fastfact.html (July 24, 2002).

³ The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *World Factbook 2001*, accessed at www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/vq.html (July 22, 2002).

⁴ Some researchers at the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Labor believe that the unemployment rate is over 10 percent, according to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, 2002, *U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001* (page 17).

⁵ The U.S. unemployment rate for 2000 is based on data from the 2000 Decennial Census, and may differ from official estimates based on the Current Population Survey.

⁶ The 2000 Census, like the 1990 Census, asked questions about income in the previous calendar year. Therefore income and poverty are reported for 1989 and 1999.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for the U.S. Virgin Islands, accessed at www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pr_ia_pr.html (July 31, 2002); and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2001. *Fertility of American Women, 2000*, “Table 1: Distribution of Women by Average Number of Children Ever Born, by Race, Age, and Marital Status: June 2000,” accessed at www.census.gov/population/socdemo/fertility/p20-543/tab01.xls (July 18, 2002).

⁹ In 1999, the U.S. poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$16,895. Poverty guidelines include higher income thresholds for Hawaii and Alaska, but are not adjusted for U.S. territories. “It is probable that poverty in the U.S. Virgin Islands is underestimated based on a higher cost of living for non-contiguous territories,” according to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, 2002, *U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001* (page 6).

¹⁰ Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, 2002, *U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001* (page 37).

¹¹ This 10-year trend does not necessarily reflect trends in the late 1990s. In the United States, for example, the share of single-parent families increased during the early 1990s but declined slightly late in the decade.

¹² State of the territory address by Charles W. Turnbull, governor of the United States Virgin Islands, January 10, 2000, accessed at www.usvi.org/governor/sot2000.html (July 17, 2002).

¹³ Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, *U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001* (pages 50-51).

¹⁴ Estimates of high school dropout rates are based on the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, a national survey of about 700,000 households, and may differ from Census 2000 estimates.

¹⁵ Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, *U.S. Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book 2001* (page 36).

¹⁶ Subdistricts were defined by the U.S. Virgin Islands legislature for the 1980 Census, and are roughly equivalent to minor civil divisions in the United States.

**Members of the KIDS COUNT
Advisory Group on Census
2000:**

Suzanne Bianchi
University of Maryland at College
Park

Brett Brown
Child Trends, Inc.

Roderick Harrison
Joint Center for Political and
Economic Studies

Donald J. Hernandez
State University of New York at
Albany

Ken Hodges
Claritas, Inc.

Laura Lippman
National Center for Education
Statistics

Louisa Miller
U.S. Census Bureau

Martin O'Connell
U.S. Census Bureau

Matt Snipp
Stanford University

KIDS COUNT Members:

Laura Beavers
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Joan Benso
Pennsylvania Partnerships for
Children

Mike Crawford
Child and Family Policy Center

Rich Huddleston
Arkansas Advocates for Children &
Families

Thomas McDonald
University of Kansas

Debbie Morgan
KIDS COUNT Network

Kelly O'Donnell
New Mexico Advocates for
Children & Families

Terry Schooley
University of Delaware

**Annie E. Casey Foundation
Staff:**

William O'Hare
Megan Reynolds

PRB Staff:

John Haaga
Mark Mather
Kelvin Pollard
Kerri Rivers
Cheryl Stauffer
Nicole Bramstedt

**Opinions expressed in this paper do not
necessarily represent the views of the
advisory group members.**



The Annie E. Casey Foundation

701 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
www.aecf.org

Population Reference Bureau

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 520
Washington, DC 20009
www.prb.org