

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

United States Virgin Islands (USVI)

September 2008

The AARP Foundation, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data, programs, and public policies. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from the website at www.grandfactsheets.org. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In the Virgin Islands...

- In 2004, there were 4,471 children in the U.S.V.I. between the ages of 0 and 18 living in a family headed by a grandparent. There were 1,706 children in the U.S.V.I. between the ages of 0 and 18 living in a family headed by a relative other than a grandparent. In total, 19.5% or approximately 1/5 of the children in the U.S.V.I are living in households headed by grandparents and other relatives.
(Data taken from the V.I. Kids Count 2006 funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation; study conducted by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. p. 14)
- In 2004, of the 19.5% of children living with grandparents and other relatives, St. Croix had a total of 3,269; St. Thomas had a total of 2,733, and St. John had a total of 176 children living with grandparents and other relatives.
(Data taken from the V.I. Kids Count 2006 funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation; study conducted by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. p. 14)
- Additional data on grandparents raising children are available from the United States Census at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t17.html>
- In the U.S.V.I, there are 4,735 grandparents living in households with their grandchildren. 2,873 (59%) of these grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them.

These data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Table DP-2. Profile Selected Social Characteristics: 2000.



Children in Foster Care

Department of Human Services, Division of Children, Youth & Families

- The Department of Human Services, Division of Children, Youth & Families, the Virgin Islands' child welfare agency, sometimes places abused and neglected children in foster care with their grandparents or other relatives. The agency provides a variety of services and, sometimes, financial support to grandparents and other relatives caring for children under the agency's supervision.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 340-773-5303 x 29 in St. Croix
 - Phone: 340-774-4393 x 4227 in St. Thomas/St. John

Public Benefits

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through the Family Improvement Program, the Virgin Islands' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or "TANF" program.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 340-774-0930 x 4383 –Family Caregiver Services in St. Croix/St. Thomas/St. John

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children's food and nutrition needs.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 340-774-7125 in St. Croix/St. Thomas/St. John

Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost medical assistance on behalf of the children they are raising.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 340-773-1311 x 3095 in St. Croix
 - Phone: 340-774-3325 or 340-774-9000 in St. Thomas/St. John

Benefits QuickLINK

- Screens you and/or the children you are raising for 15 major public benefits for older adults and families with children
 - Web: www.aarp.org/quicklink

Other Benefits – child care, disabilities, special education, older adult benefits, etc.

- Children’s Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits
 - Phone: 202-662-3568
 - Web: www.childrensdefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

Relevant Laws

As of the date of this fact sheet, there have been no laws passed specifically to assist grandparents and other relatives raising grandchildren in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Disclaimer:

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