



United States Virgin Islands (USVI)

A Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

May 2007

The Brookdale Foundation

In the U.S. Virgin Islands and across the United States, there are more than 6 million children living in households headed by grandparents and other relatives; 2.5 million children live in these households without any parents present.

As families struggle with substance abuse, mental illness, incarceration, economic hardship, divorce, domestic violence, and other challenges, these family caregivers provide a vital safety net to children inside and outside of the foster care system.

This fact sheet provides important information and resources for grandparents and other relatives raising children in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Data on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

The Children

- Nationally, 4.5 million children are living in grandparent-headed households (6.3% of all children under age 18). This represents a 30% increase from 1990 to 2000.

(Data taken from Census 2000 Demographic Profile 2 (DP-2): Grandparents Who Report They Are Responsible for Most of the Basic Needs of Grandchildren Living in their Households)

- There are another 1.5 million children in the United States who are living in households headed by other relatives (2.1% of all children under 18).

(Data taken from Census 2000 Demographic Profile 2 (DP-2): Grandparents Who Report They are Responsible for Most of the Basic Needs of Grandchildren Living in their Households)

- 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)



The Grandparents

- 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.

(Data taken from Census 2000 Demographic Profile 2 (DP-2): Grandparents Who Report They are Responsible for Most of the Basic Needs of Grandchildren Living in their Households)

Additional Information

- Census data on grandparents who are responsible for meeting the basic needs of their grandchildren in the United States and Puerto Rico can also be broken down by county, region and other categories. Log on to <http://factfinder.census.gov>. Additional data on grandparents and grandchildren are available at www.census.gov/population/ [www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.cen2000/briefs.html).
- Additional national and state data on grandparents raising children is available on AARP's website at www.aarp.org/grandparents.

Children in Foster Care

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. For more information, contact: (340) 773-5303 (ext. 29) in St. Croix or (340) 774-4393 (ext. 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. For more information, contact: (340) 773-2323 (ext. 2079 or 2100) in St. Croix and (340) 774-2399 in St. Thomas/St. John (ext. 4226).

Food Stamps: Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children's food and nutrition needs. For more information, contact: (340) 773-2323 (ext. 2079 or 2100) in St. Croix and (340) 774-2399 (ext. 4133) in 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. For more information, call (340) 773-1311 (ext. 3095) in St. Croix and (340) 774-3325 or (340) 774-9000 in St. Thomas/St. John.

Other Benefits: Other state and federal benefits may also be available to eligible caregivers and children. For more information, contact the Department of Human Services at (340) 773-2323 in St. Croix and (340) 774-2399 in St. Thomas/St. John.

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.

Other Resources

The following national resources provide information for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

AARP Grandparent Information Center	(888) 687-2277	www.aarp.org/grandparents
The Brookdale Foundation	(212) 308 -7355	www.brookdalefoundation.org
Child Welfare Information Gateway	(800) 394-3366	www.childwelfare.gov
Child Welfare League of America	(202) 638-2952	www.cwla.org
Children’s Defense Fund	(202) 628-8787	www.childrensdefense.org
Generations United	(202) 289-3979	www.gu.org
Grandfamilies of America	(866) 272-3761	www.grandfamiliesofamerica.com
GrandsPlace	(860) 763-5789	www.grandsplace.org
National Committee of Grandparents For Children’s Rights	(866) 624-9900	www.grandparentsforchildren.org
National Eldercare Locator	(800) 677-1116	www.eldercare.gov

Fact sheets are updated annually. Changes or additions should be e-mailed to the AARP Grandparent Information Center at gic@arp.org. Please write “U.S. Virgin Islands Fact Sheet” on your e-mail subject line.