

National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes

Postsecondary Achievement of Deaf People in U.S. Virgin Islands: 2017

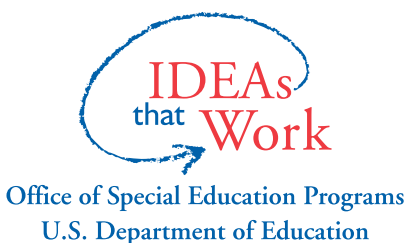
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NDC
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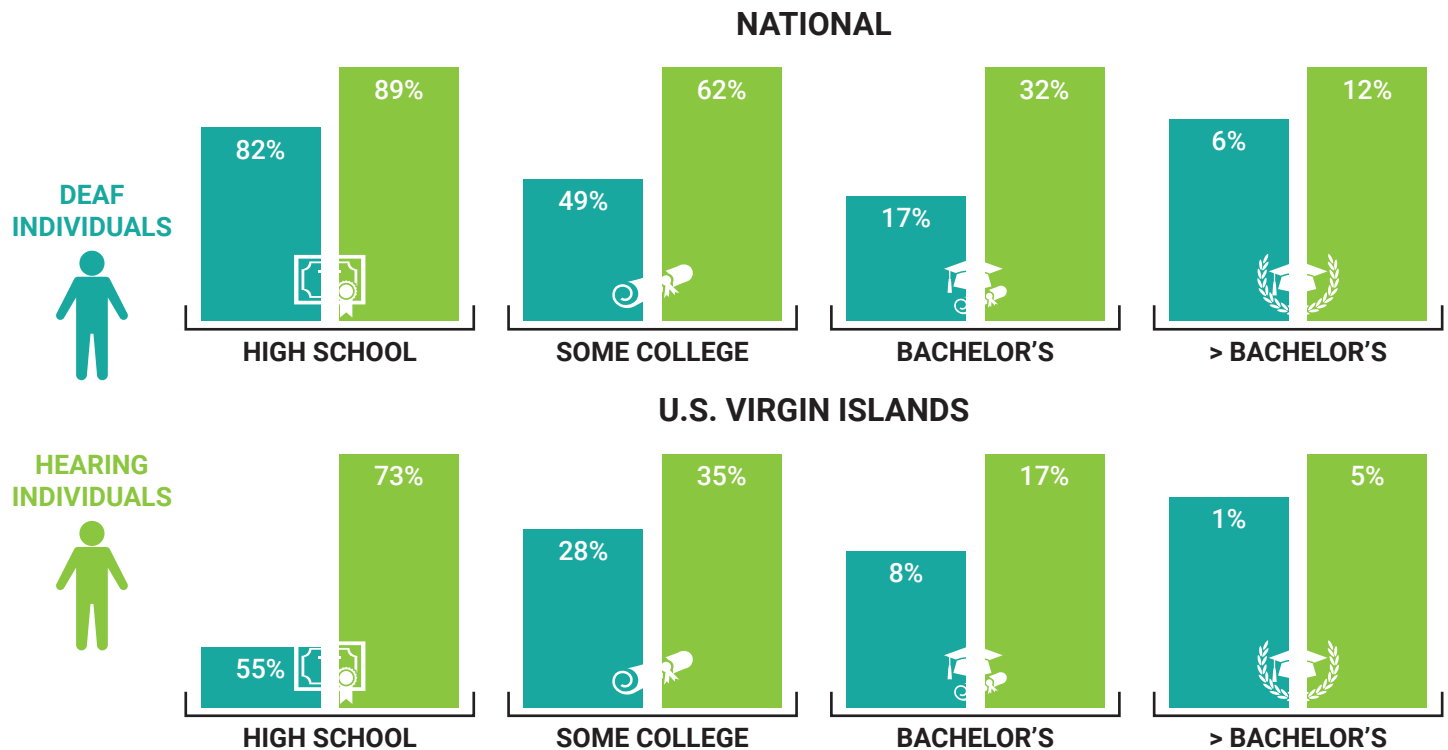
Postsecondary experiences of deaf people vary widely across the nation. National reports about educational attainment and employment are available at nationaldeafcenter.org (Garberoglio, Cawthon, & Bond, 2016; Garberoglio, Cawthon, & Sales, 2017). We used data from the 2012 U.S. Virgin Islands Community Survey to generate the findings in this report. More information about this dataset and the analyses are shared in the Methods section at the end of this report. Note that with the smaller sample of deaf individuals in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the margin of error is greater.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, **2.3%** of people ages 15 and older are deaf.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the United States, deaf people attained lower levels of education than their hearing peers in 2015, according to national educational attainment data (Garberoglio et al., 2017). Educational attainment also varied across gender, race, and ethnicity.

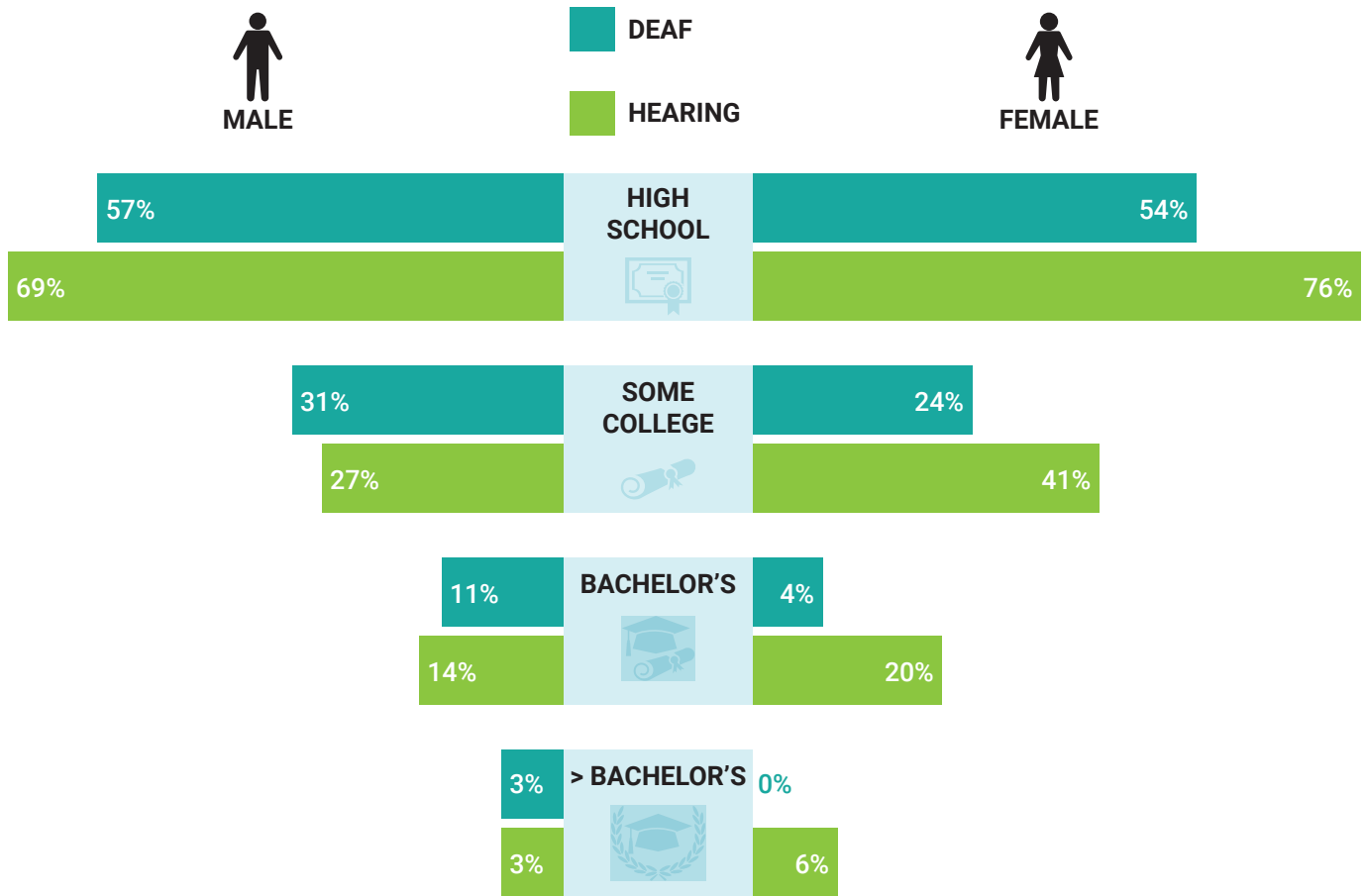
Figure 1
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



In this report, we use the term *deaf* in an all-encompassing manner to include individuals who identify as Deaf, hard of hearing, hearing impaired, late deafened, and deafdisabled.

Figure 2

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS BY GENDER



EMPLOYMENT RATES

National employment statistics show lower employment rates among deaf individuals. Almost half of deaf people are not in the labor force (Garberoglio, Cawthon, & Bond, 2016). Employment rates also vary by gender, race, and ethnicity.

Figure 3

EMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

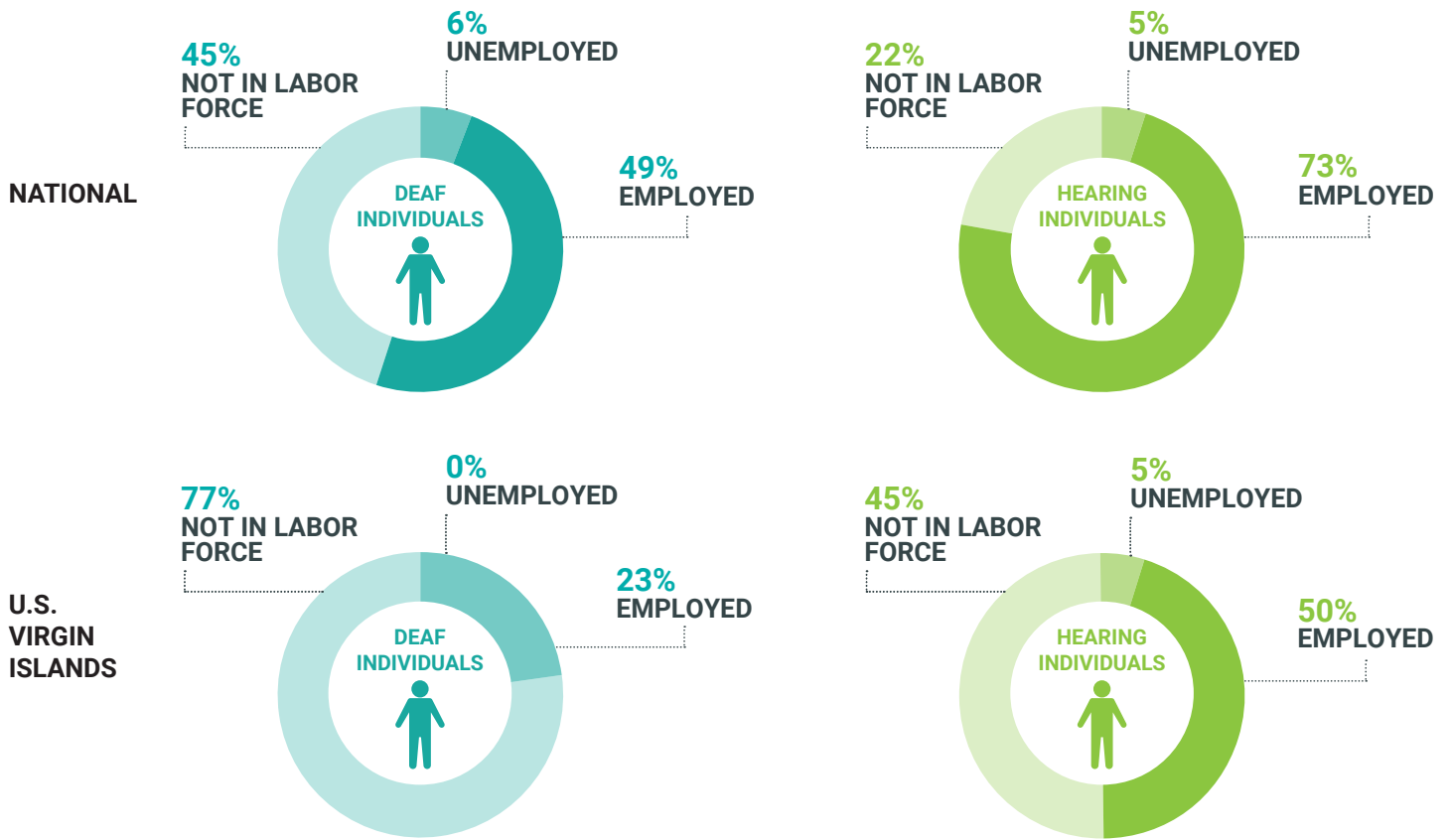


Figure 4

EMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS BY GENDER





EARNINGS

National data show lower median earnings among deaf individuals who were employed full time. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, the median income is shown for people ages 16 and older who have any type of income. Income data for deaf men were not available.

Figure 5

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE AGES 16 AND OLDER

		MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS OVERALL	U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS FEMALES
	DEAF INDIVIDUALS	20,662	18,017
	HEARING INDIVIDUALS	24,983	23,940

METHODS

The data for this project come from the 2012 U.S. Virgin Islands Community Survey (VICS), conducted by the Eastern Caribbean Center of the University of the Virgin Islands. The VICS is designed to provide population and housing statistics in the Virgin Islands on an annual basis using a two-level sampling scheme, which involves first sampling Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) from census records and then households from the PSUs. The total sample size was 2,400.

While the U.S. Virgin Islands data reported here are from people ages 16 and older, the national data shared in this report, which come from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, were restricted to people ages 25–64. Recall that the U.S. Census collects data on functional limitations and not disability or identity labels, so we used the variable “hearing difficulties” to track deaf individuals. The survey respondents who stated that they had “hearing difficulties” were used to represent the deaf population in these analyses. The comparison group, what we label as hearing individuals, were those who did not report having any “hearing difficulties.” For the most part, data for the group of hearing individuals are comparable to data for the general population. But for comparison purposes, we focused on individuals in the general population who did not report any type of “hearing difficulties,” which allows for an understanding of what educational experiences may be unique to the deaf population.

The descriptive statistics in this report were all corrected by the person-level survey weights provided by the U.S. Census. These survey weights are intended to account for the intricacies involved in getting a sample that is representative of the population.

THIS REPORT MAY BE CITED AS:

Garberoglio, C. L., Cawthon, S., & Sales, A. (2017). *Postsecondary Achievement of Deaf People in U.S. Virgin Islands: 2017*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes.

References:

Garberoglio, C. L., Cawthon, S., & Bond, M. (2016). *Deaf People and Employment in the United States: 2016*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes.

Garberoglio, C. L., Cawthon, S., & Sales, A. (2017). *Deaf People and Educational Attainment in the United States: 2017*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes.