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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>HEARING</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME COLLEGE</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

NATIONAL

DEAF INDIVIDUALS

HEARING INDIVIDUALS

45% NOT IN LABOR FORCE

6% UNEMPLOYED

49% EMPLOYED

22% NOT IN LABOR FORCE

5% UNEMPLOYED

73% EMPLOYED

77% NOT IN LABOR FORCE

0% UNEMPLOYED

23% EMPLOYED

45% NOT IN LABOR FORCE

5% UNEMPLOYED

50% EMPLOYED
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.
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:

References: