

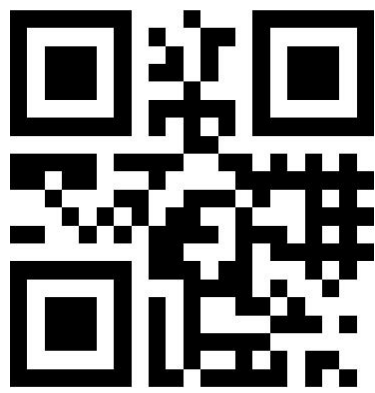
# St. John

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

U.S. Virgin Islands  
Comprehensive Land  
and Water Use Plan



Visit [www.planusvi.com](http://www.planusvi.com)  
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### OVERVIEW

Diverse historic and cultural buildings, landmarks, places, and events collectively shape the Territory's heritage and are an integral part of the community's vision for the USVI. It is imperative that the physical resources which represent significant cultural and historic events, such as buildings and sites, are protected so as to educate, inform, and maintain the identity of the Territory for future generations.

### THREATS TO RESOURCES

- **Pressure from Development Activities.** Archaeological and historic sites are threatened by various forms of development that may occur without proper agency consultation.
- **Public Education.** Although many of the Territory's historic buildings are in poor condition, public education about the significance of the Territory's cultural resources would help residents of USVI understand the value of preserving and/or rehabilitating historic sites and buildings.
- **Natural Hazards.** Because many significant cultural resources are located in low-lying areas near or on the coastline, these resources are regularly vulnerable to the impacts of erosion, flooding, and storm surges.
- **Limited Capacity.** The Territory has resource gaps that limit its ability to offer consultation, educate the public, and enforce preservation regulations.



St. John recovers from Hurricane Irma in 2017 (US Department of Defense/Flickr).



Virgin Islands National Park in St. John (Alanna Smith/National Park Service).

#### National Register of Historic Places Listings

Annaberg Historic District  
Brown Bay Plantation Historic District  
Catherineberg-Jockumsdahl-Herman Farm  
Cinnamon Bay Plantation  
Congo Cay Archaeological District  
Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Dennis Bay Historic District  
Emmaus Moravian Church and Manse  
Enighed  
Estate Beverhoudt  
Estate Carolina Sugar Plantation  
Fortsberg  
Hermitage Plantation Historic District  
HMS Santa Monica  
Jossie Gut Historic District  
Lameshur Plantation  
L'Esperance Historic District  
Liever Marches Bay Historic District  
Lind Point Fort  
Mary Point Estate  
More Hill Historic District  
Petroglyph Site  
Reef Bay Great House Historic District  
Reef Bay Sugar Factory Historic District  
Rustenberg Plantation South Historic District  
Trunk Bay Sugar Factory

### PRESERVATION AGENCIES & ACTS

The following entities and legislation are primarily responsible for the preservation of local historical resources and culture in the USVI:

- VI Statewide Historic Preservation Plan
- VI State Historic Preservation Office
- VI Registry of Historic Buildings, Sites, and Places
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Antiquities and Cultural Properties Act
- Historic and Architectural Control Districts
- VI Historic Preservation Commission
- National Park Service
- VI Department of Education
- VI Council on the Arts
- VI Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums
- Local Organizations and Non-Profits



Annaberg Sugar Plantation in St. John (National Park Service).



Cruz Bay in St. John (Cruz Bay/Flickr).

### Historic and Cultural Resources - St. John

#### Legend

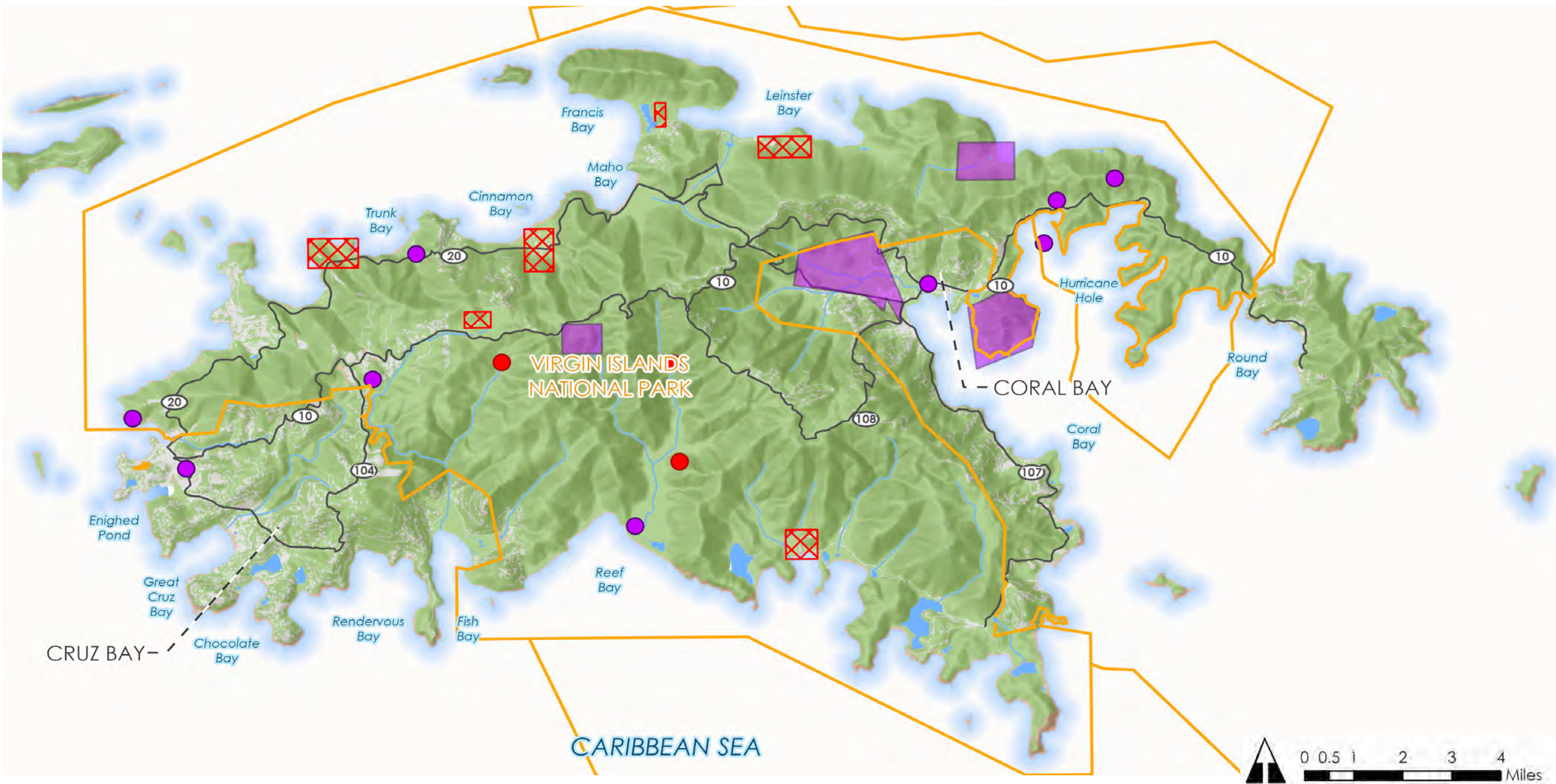
- Surface Water Bodies
- Guts
- Major Roads
- NPS Land

#### Land Cover (2012)

- Developed Land
- Barren Land
- Undeveloped Land

#### National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Resources

- Buildings, Sites, and Structures
- Districts



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, National Park Service, NOAA

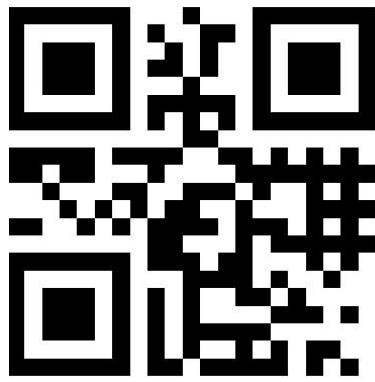


# St. John ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

U.S. Virgin Islands  
Comprehensive  
Land and Water  
Use Plan



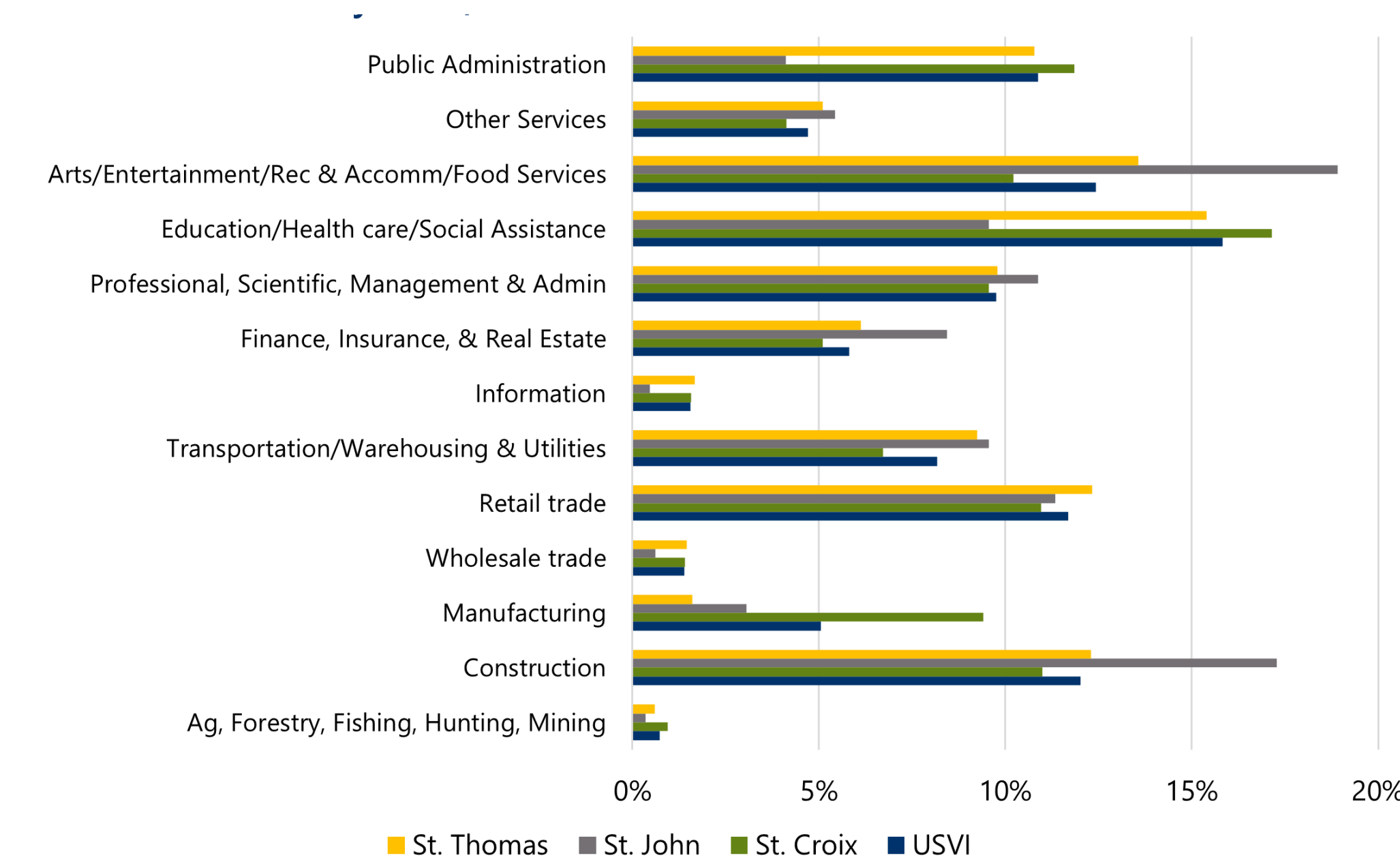
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## EMPLOYMENT

- From 2017-2022, the total number of jobs in the USVI decreased by 0.6%.
- The biggest loss was in leisure and hospitality jobs which fell by 464 jobs over that time.
- The biggest job gains were in the construction and transportation/warehousing sectors.
- Compared to the United States overall, a higher portion of the USVI's jobs is dependent on tourism-based industries such as retail trade and accommodation & food services. This is especially true on St. John where the arts, entertainment, recreation and accommodation, and food services industry contributes almost 1/3 of all jobs on St. John.

### Sector Share of Total Jobs, by Island

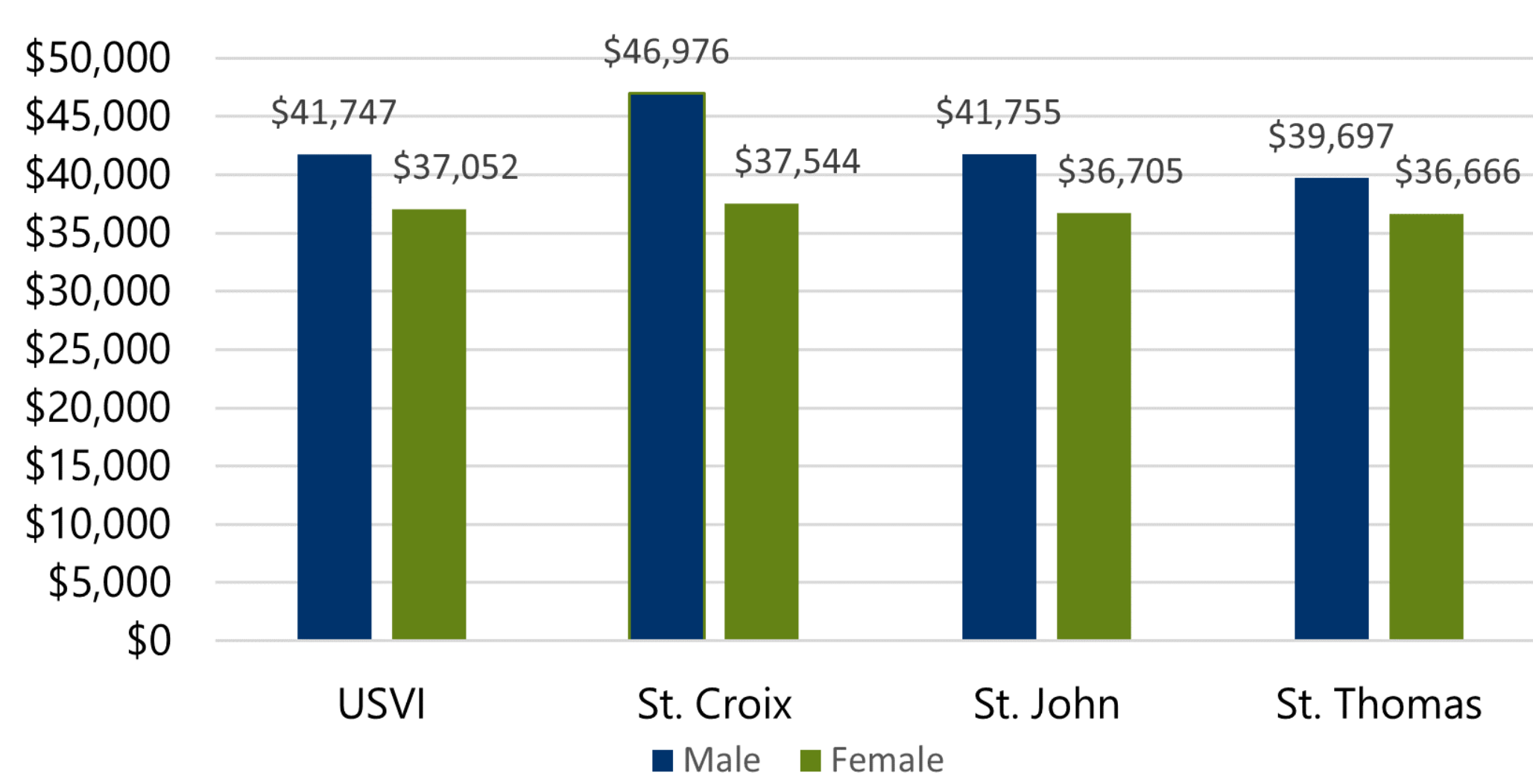


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census of Island Areas

## EARNINGS

- As of 2020, the median annual earnings for full-time, year round workers across jobs in all industries in the USVI was \$41,747 for males and \$37,052 for females.
- On St. John, the median annual earnings for full-time, year round workers across jobs in all industries was \$41,755 for males and \$36,705 for females.

### Median Annual Earnings, Full-Time, Year Round Workers, 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census of Island Areas

## INDUSTRY

- The economy of St. John is less diverse compared to the other islands.
- Arts, entertainment, recreation and accommodation, and food services contributes 19% of jobs while construction contributes 17% to the St. John Economy.
- Retail trade also comprises a notable portion of St. John's economy, at 11% of jobs.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- The USVI's economy is reliant on imports from outside the Territory. Except for 2015, the USVI's imports have exceeded exports since 2010. Between 2016 and 2018, the gap between imports and exports steadily increased before leveling off in recent years. As of 2020, imports exceeded exports by \$1.590 billion.
- As of 2020, 86% of imports to the USVI were goods, while 14% were services. This reflects trade with the U.S. mainland and foreign countries. Exports were a little more evenly split with 63% being goods and 37% being services.

## ST. JOHN INDUSTRY MIX

Snapshot of top three industries by employment

**Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation + Accommodation and Food Services**  
Makes up 19% of all jobs



**Construction**  
Makes up 17% of all jobs



**Retail Trade**  
Makes up 11% of all jobs



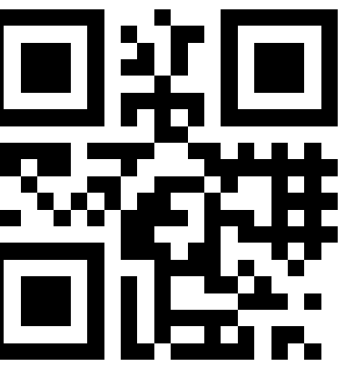


# St. John HEALTH SERVICES & INSTITUTIONS

U.S. Virgin Islands  
Comprehensive Land  
and Water Use Plan



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## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (USVI DOH)

USVI DOH functions as both the state regulatory agency and territorial public health agency.

- USVI DOH has direct responsibility for conducting programs of preventive medicine, including the programs to the right:
- USVI DOH is responsible for public health promotion and protection, regulation of health care providers and facilities, and policy development and planning.
- USVI DOH provides Emergency Medical Services, issues birth and death certificates, performs environmental health services, and conducts health research and surveys.

## HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

There are 48 health care facilities in the USVI, with providers offering a range of healthcare services and specialties.

- USVI DOH provides services from the Morris F. DeCastro Clinic on St. John.
- Most facilities are accessible via public transportation.



The **Immunization Program** works to prevent, promote, and protect through education and collaboration with healthcare providers to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases.



The **Division of Chronic Disease and Prevention** provides information and resources to help people make healthy choices in their lives and ensure they undergo regular health screenings.



The **Maternal and Child Health Program** works to improve and maintain the health status of women, infants, and children.



The **Behavioral Health, Alcoholism, and Drug Dependency Services Program** provides help to individuals with substance use disorders and behavioral health, individuals and families in crisis, and individuals coping with stress after a disaster or traumatic event.

## Major Health Care Facilities and Public Transportation Access



Source: Adapted from Virgin Islands Transit

## SDOH Categories



## WHAT ARE “SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH” (SDOH)?

SDOH are the environmental conditions where people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age that affect one’s health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks.

Examples of SDOH include:

- » Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- » Education, job opportunities, and income
- » Access to nutritious foods
- » Polluted air and water
- » Racism, discrimination, and violence

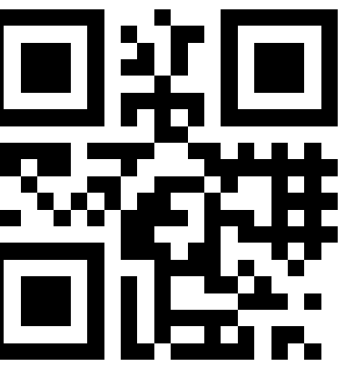


# U.S. Virgin Islands HEALTH SERVICES & INSTITUTIONS

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## KEY HEALTH TAKEAWAYS



The number of residents aged 65 and older has **increased 37.6% from 2005-2015**.



The number of residents aged 20 and younger has **decreased 31.6% from 2005-2015**.



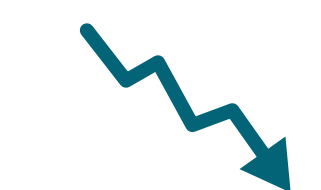
81.5% of residents have health insurance, but **16.4% delay medical care due to a lack of insurance**. The USVI is a **Geographic High Needs Health Professional Shortage Area**.



USVI children have the **lowest rate of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination in the U.S. at 70.5%**. The percent of high school students who **dropped out of school increased to 9.2%** during the 2017-2018 school year.



The rate of death by suicide among adult men has **increased 351.3%** since 2005. Firearms are responsible for **59% of all teen deaths** and **67% of male teen deaths**.



The rates of HIV/AIDS and certain Sexually Transmitted Diseases are trending downward. The 2018 rate of HIV infection diagnosis was **8.4 per 100,000 people**. The 2017 rate of chlamydia cases was **430.7 per 100,000 people**.



**71.4%** of residents identified as Black or African American.

**75.7%** of residents identified as Hispanic or Latino (of any race).



**Birth rates are decreasing** for all age groups, including teenagers. **Pre-term births are trending downwards**, from 15.2% of births in 2006 to 10.2% in 2016).



**79.4%** of residents report being in good or better health.

**75.7%** of residents engage in health promoting behaviors (e.g., physical activity).

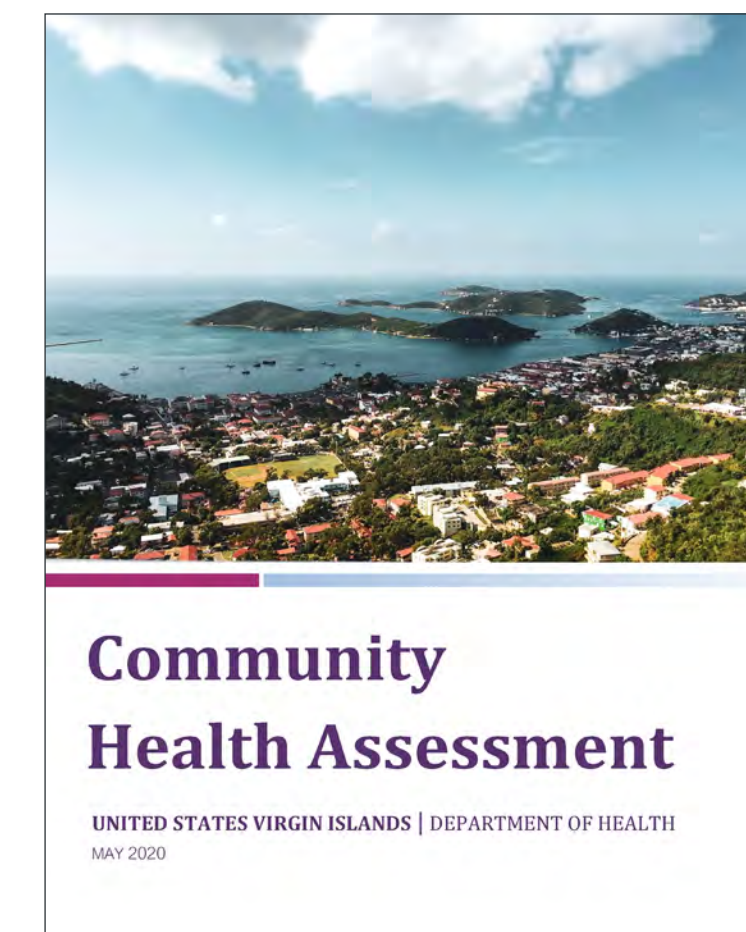


USVI DOH's Vector Control Program conducts mosquito surveillance. A Zika virus epidemic that began in early 2016 resulted in **2,017 Zika fever cases** in the Territory.

**Heart disease, cancer, homicide, and unintentional injuries** were the four leading causes of death in the USVI in 2016.

## HEALTHIER HORIZONS INITIATIVE

Governor Bryan's Healthier Horizons Initiative was designed to culminate with **three strategic products** developed by the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health (USVI DOH) with distinct goals **aligned around a common vision of health improvement**.



### Community Health Assessment Report

This plan is the first health assessment developed by USVI DOH in over a decade. It is a starting point for creating change that will enable all Virgin Islanders to pursue their own health regardless of background or socioeconomic circumstance. The assessment presents data on several health topics ranging from vital statistics to the social determinants of health.



### USVI DOH Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Readers should consider this plan as an internal blueprint for the USVI DOH to become stronger and better at its work. The plan was developed with input from internal stakeholders and external partners. It defines the USVI DOH's priorities, directions, and rollover the next several years. It is a manifesto for change.



### Healthy Virgin Islands 2030 Community Health Improvement Plan

This plan is designed to embark on breaking down the most challenging barriers to good health and address the social determinants of health that impact population health. Two cross-cutting strategies were uncovered common to the health priorities identified: reducing health inequities and improving the health of priority populations.

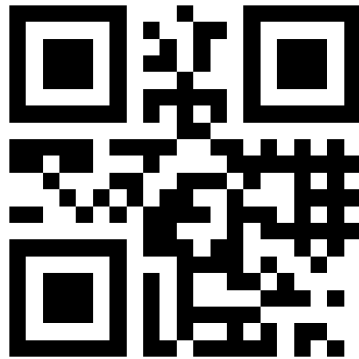


# St. John HOUSING

U.S. Virgin Islands  
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Land and Water  
Use Plan



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## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IS A CHALLENGE

- Over 20% of owners and 40% of renters in the USVI are cost-burdened.
- Many factors can increase housing demand and cost, including non-residents, incoming workers, teleworkers, conversion of apartments to short-term rentals, and supply shortages, especially following the 2017 hurricanes.
- Homeownership remains inaccessible for many USVI residents. Average home prices have increased since 1990 and have risen sharply since 2018.
- As many as 9,000 low- to median-income units are estimated to be needed across the USVI to meet housing needs.

A household is considered “cost-burdened” if it spends **more than 30% of household income on housing costs**



Homeownership remains inaccessible for many residents: median household income in the USVI is ~\$40,000, but the average home sale price on St. Thomas/St. John was \$816,975 in 2020

## Selected Housing Data

	USVI Total	St. Thomas	St. John	St. Croix
No. Housing Units	57,257	28,142	3,645	25,470
Avg. Household Size	2.14	2.11	2.08	2.18
% Owner Occupied Households	47.8%	40.6%	48.7%	55.7%
Median Value (Owner Occupied Housing)	\$290,558	\$356,977	\$591,160	\$247,090
Median Monthly Rent (Renter Occupied Housing)	\$926	\$960	\$1,283	\$822
% Cost-burdened, Owner Occupied Housing Units	24%	29%	26%	20%
% Cost-burdened, Renter Occupied Housing Units	43%	47%	49%	35%

Source: 2020 U.S. Census



Houses as seen from Centerline Road, St. John (Source: Google Maps)

## PUBLIC HOUSING

The Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) manages ~3,000 public housing units on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

- There are no VIHA properties on St. John at this time.
- VIHA’s Portfolio Repositioning Strategy aims to rehabilitate or construct more than 3,000 public housing units.

## Affordable Rental Units in the USVI as of 2019

Type of Unit	No. Units in USVI
Public Housing (VIHA)	3,014
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)	1,500
Project-Based Rental Assistance	1,275
Rural Development Administration (RDA)	430

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Comprehensive Market Analysis: USVI,” (2019)



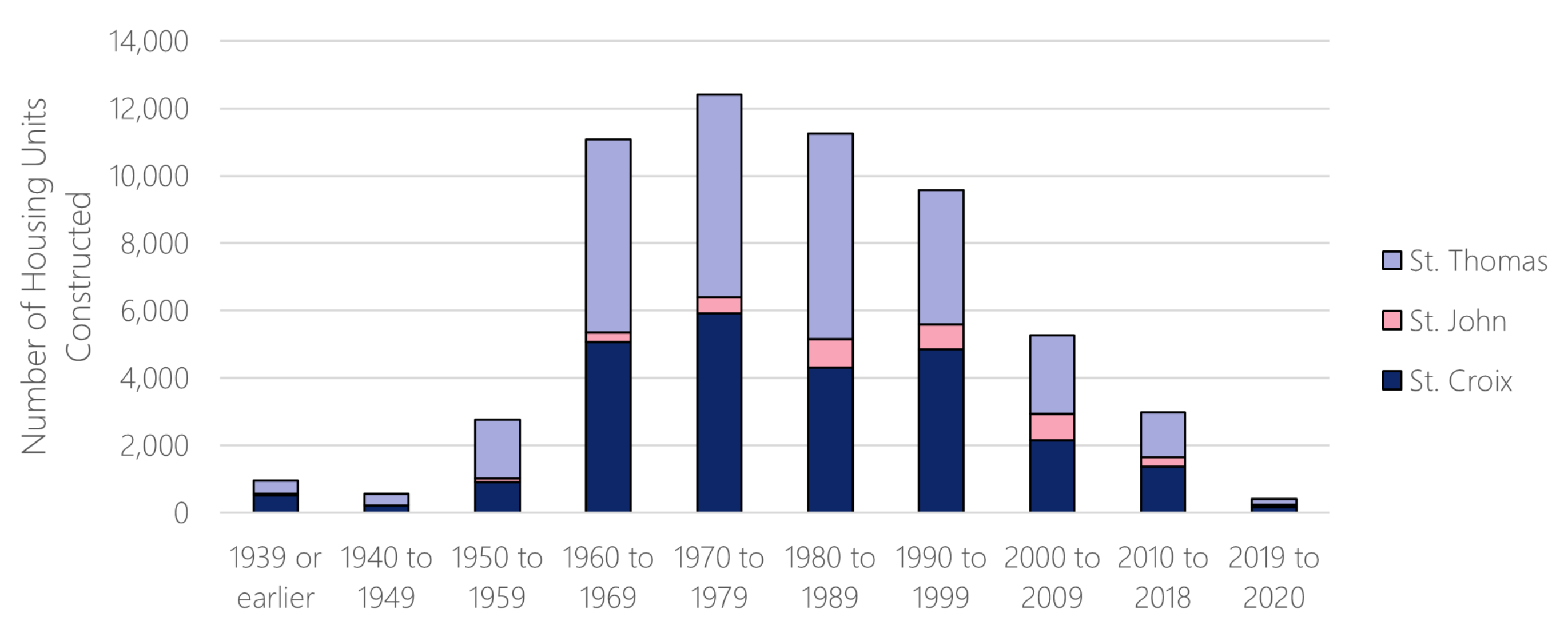
Houses overlooking Cruz Bay, St. John (Source: Prayitno via Flickr)

## BUILDING CODES & VULNERABILITY

Much of the U.S. Virgin Islands’ housing stock, including on St. John, was built before protective building codes and guidance were adopted.

- The *Construction Information for a Stronger Home* guidance document was most recently updated in 2018, following the 2017 hurricanes.
- Homes built to these standards experienced little or no damage during the 2017 hurricanes.

## Housing Construction Over Time



Source: U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources; FEMA, “Construction Information for a Stronger Home,” (2018); 2020 Census



# St. John INFRASTRUCTURE



## DRINKING WATER

- Most USVI residents use rainwater harvesting cisterns, bottled water purchased in stores, or bottle refilling.
- ~40% of USVI housing units have access to the WAPA water system.

### USVI Population By Water Source

Water Source	% of USVI Housing Units*	% of St. Croix Housing Units	% of St. John Housing Units	% of St. Thomas Housing Units
Public system	39%	42%	21%	38%
Cistern, catchment, tanks, or drums	72%	70%	85%	73%
Delivery vendor or water truck	14%	8%	21%	18%
Supermarket or grocery store	37%	23%	18%	53%
Some other source	3%	3%	1%	2%

\* It is presumed that some housing units have multiple sources of water, so percentages do not sum to 100.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 DECIA U.S. Virgin Islands Demographic Profile

### Drinking Water - St. John

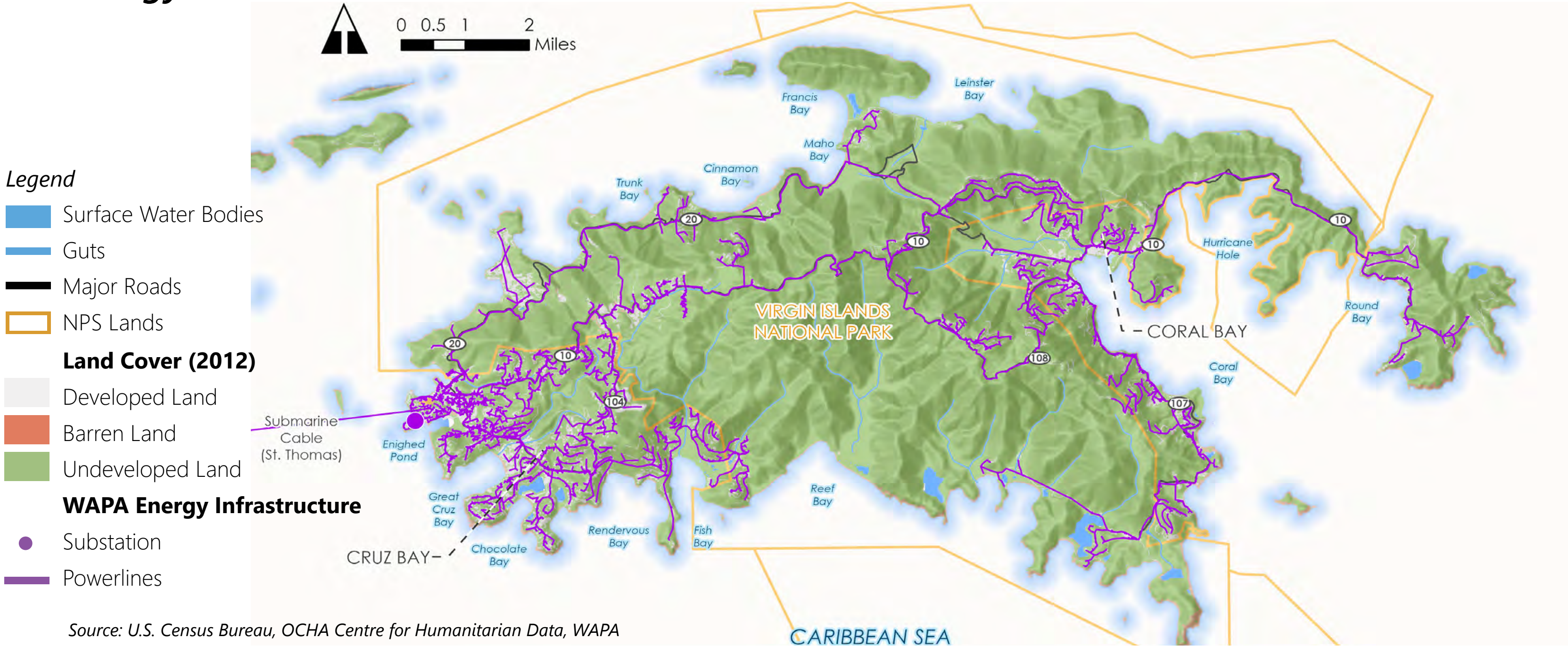


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, WAPA

## ENERGY

- WAPA's system serves ~45,000 residential customers and ~9,000 commercial and industrial customers in the USVI.
- Energy rates in the USVI are among some of the highest in the world.

### Energy - St. John



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, WAPA

## SCHOOLS

- There are 31 public schools, serving over 13,000 students in the USVI, along with 28 private and parochial schools.
- VIDE is currently working on *The Educational Facility Master Plan* for modernization and new construction of USVI public schools.
- The plan includes consolidation of 32 educational facilities to 18, over a five-year process.



The Guy Benjamin School, a historic schoolhouse in St. John, was severely damaged after Hurricane Irma in 2017 (Kayden Richards/St. Thomas Source).



# St. John INFRASTRUCTURE



## SOLID WASTE

- The average USVI resident produces ~9 pounds of trash per day, nearly 40% more trash than the average U.S. mainland resident.
- Most USVI residents collect their household waste and bring it to VIWMA roadside pick-up locations, designated convenience centers, and/or directly to landfills.



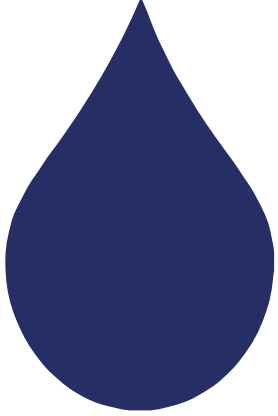
### Solid Waste - St. John



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, VIWMA

## STORMWATER

- Stormwater is water from rainfall that flows over developed areas and picks up pollutants, sending them to waterbodies either directly or via drainage systems, such as culverts, inlets, swales, and guts.
- Stormwater causes water quality and quantity (flooding) issues throughout the USVI.



The USVI's stormwater system consists of drainage culverts, inlets, swales, and guts.



Approximately 15% of USVI homes have residential solid waste collection service.

## WASTEWATER

- VIWMA's system serves ~40% of the USVI population, with a range between islands.
- Private onsite sewage disposal systems (i.e., septic systems) have been identified as one of the primary sources of groundwater contamination in the USVI.

### USVI Population By Wastewater Disposal Method

Wastewater Disposal Method	% of USVI Housing Units	% of St. Croix Housing Units	% of St. John Housing Units	% of St. Thomas Housing Units
Public sewer	43%	40%	25%	47%
Septic tank or cesspool	56%	59%	73%	51%
Other means	1%	1%	3%	2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 DECIA U.S. Virgin Islands Demographic Profile

### Wastewater - St. John



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, VIWMA



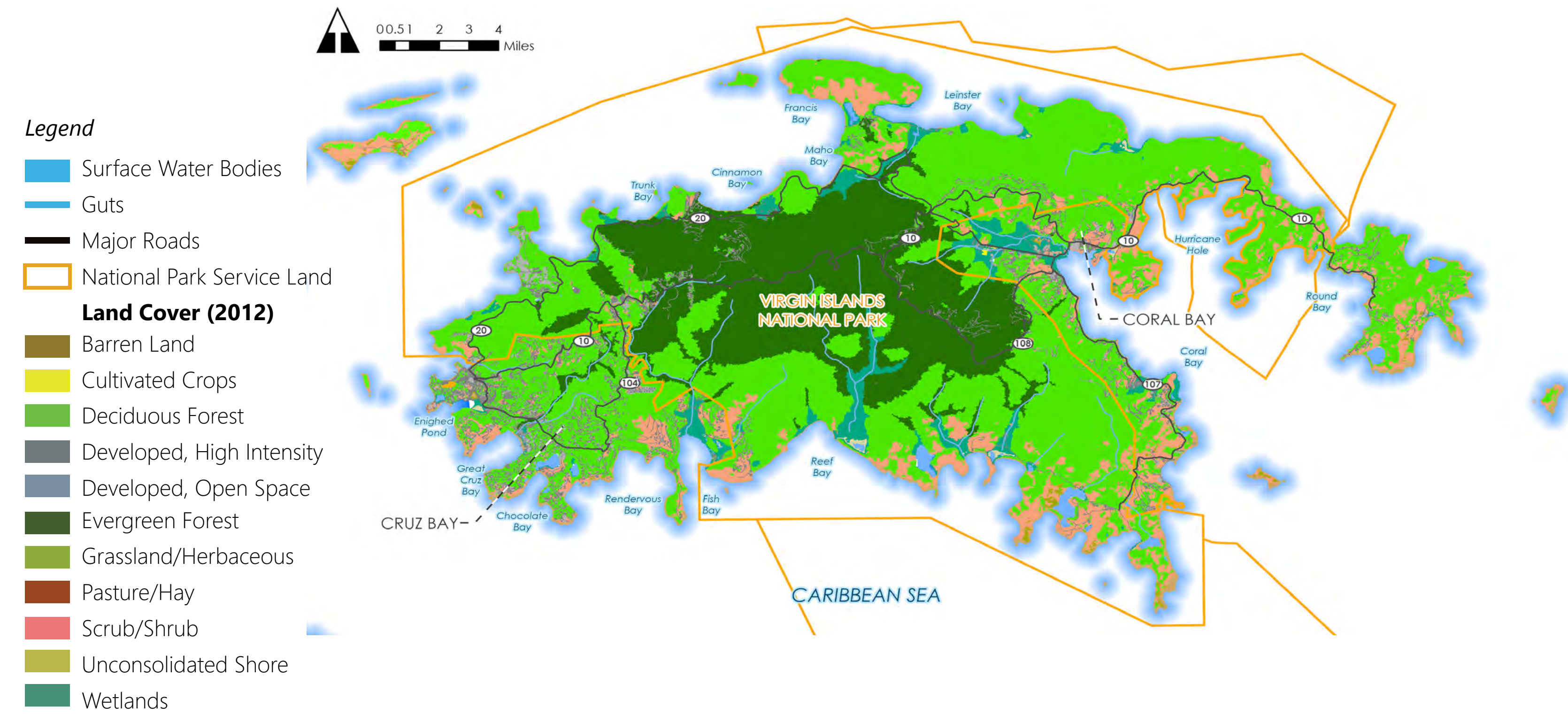
# St. John LAND & WATER REGULATIONS & TRENDS

## LAND AND WATER REGULATIONS

- Zoning.** The USVI's zoning regulations are over 50 years old and likely do not reflect the future that most Virgin Islanders want to see. The Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (CLWUP) will provide the framework for a comprehensive overhaul of the zoning regulations.
- Conflicts of Uses.** There are often conflicts among the different uses of the USVI's coastal waters and land areas. The USVI needs more tools to evaluate development to ensure we protect the environment, reduce strain on infrastructure, and stay compatible with neighbors The CLWUP will provide a framework for future land and water use that avoids harmful effects.
- Permitting.** The CLWUP will provide recommendations for a clear, consistent permitting process that is easy to understand and enforce.



## Land Cover (2012) - St. John

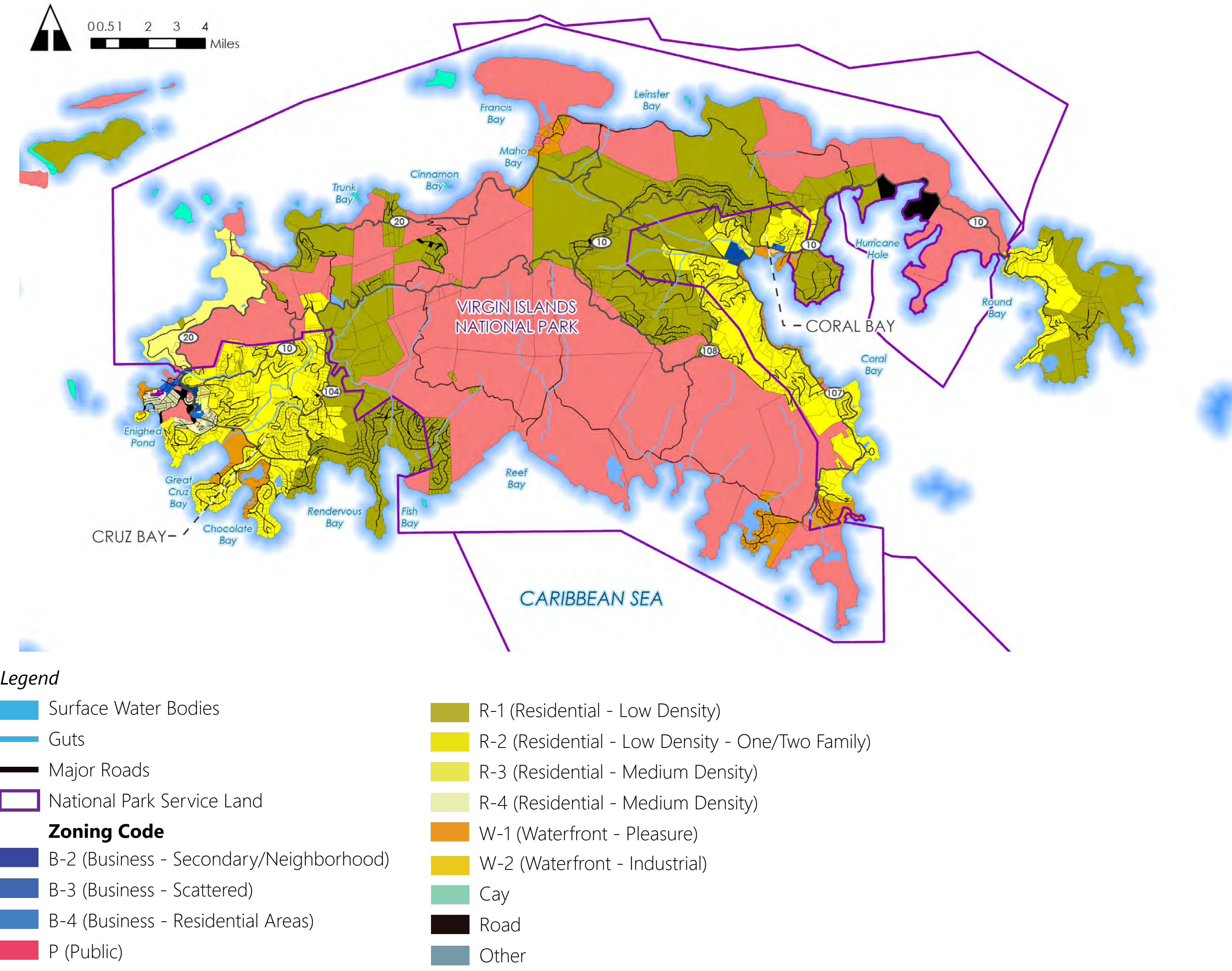


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, USDA Forest Service

## LAND COVER TRENDS

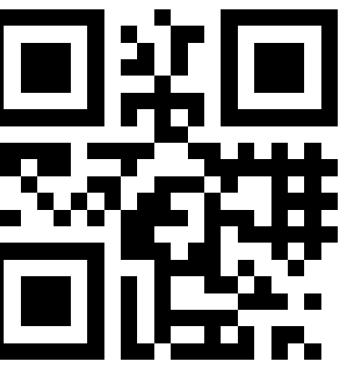
- While development in the USVI has slowed compared to the rapid development after World War II, loss of natural lands continues to be a significant concern
- In an analysis of land cover changes from 2005-2012, approximately 62 acres of undeveloped lands were developed on St. John, representing a change in roughly 0.5% of the island's land area in just seven years.

## Zoning - St. John



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, VI DPNR





## INTERRELATED CHALLENGES

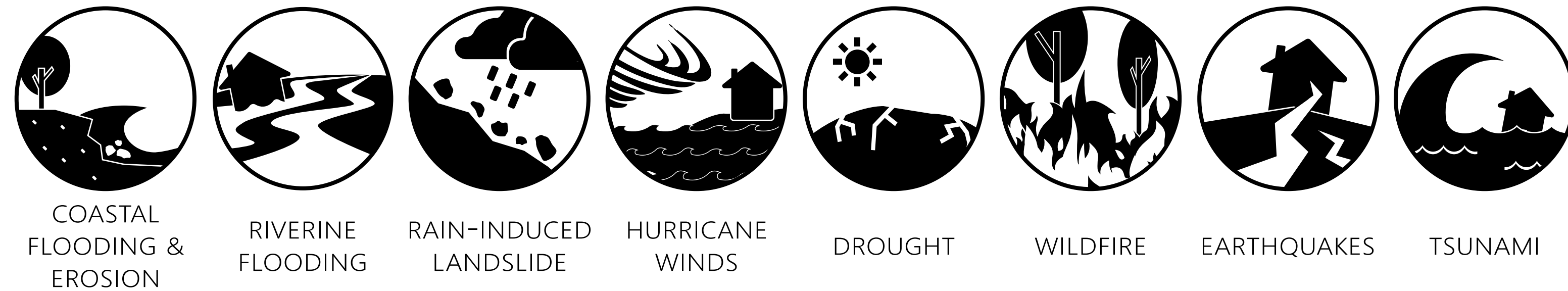
Natural hazards and climate change require the USVI to strengthen and coordinate its investments in community resources, economic development, infrastructure, and environmental protection.

- Natural hazards may occur simultaneously, worsen the severity of another hazard, and/or initiate a secondary hazard.
- Public feedback gathered during the 2019 update to the Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan indicates St. John residents are most concerned about hurricanes, earthquakes, and landslides.



Damage from Hurricane Irma on St. John (Source: U.S. Navy)

## What are the Major Hazards?



## KEY TERMS

- Adaptation** » Adjusting natural and human systems to respond to changed conditions under new climate realities and to expected conditions under future climate scenarios
- Mitigation** » Reducing the impact of natural hazards to people, infrastructure, and the environment and ensuring they can continue to function even when damaged
- Resilience** » The ability to prepare for and recover from natural hazards quickly and adapt to the long-term impacts of climate change

## LAND USE PATTERNS INCREASE RISK



Smith Bay, St. Thomas (Source: Unsplash)

**Development in flood prone and high runoff areas** puts residents in areas of known flood risk.

- Increased impervious surfaces (e.g., roads, buildings, and parking lots), changes to stream flow, removal of vegetation, and the use of fill degrades watersheds' capacity to manage stormwater and can increase flooding impacts.
- Inadequate drainage systems that are unable to accommodate new development growth can also lead to increased flood risks.



Cruz Bay, St. John (Source: Prayitna via Wikimedia)

**Development in low-lying coastal areas** is exposed to coastal flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise.

- Development on fill and in floodplains is vulnerable. The soils common in these areas can lose strength during earthquakes, leading to collapsed buildings and other major damages.
- Earthquakes also carry the risk of tsunamis for low-lying coastal areas.

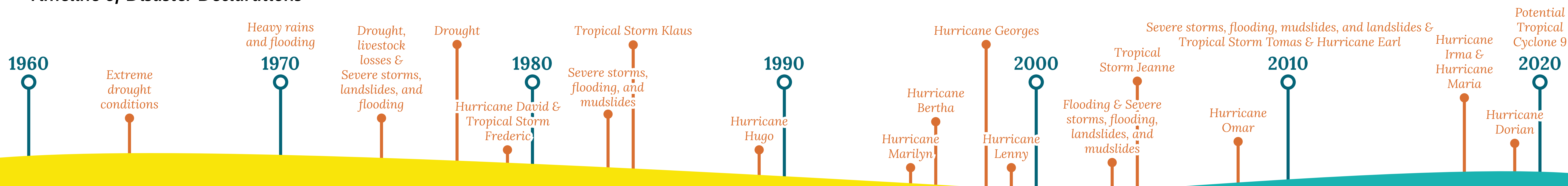


View of Saloman Bay, St. John (Source: Scott Long via Wikimedia)

**Development on steep slopes** removes vegetation that acts as a natural soil stabilizer and increases stormwater and sediment runoff.

- The landscape is more susceptible to erosion and landslides, including landslides triggered by earthquakes.
- Development also contributes to downstream flooding and reduced water quality due to increased runoff and sedimentation.

## Timeline of Disaster Declarations





# St. John

# NATURAL HAZARDS, CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

## HOW SHOULD THE USVI INCREASE ITS RESILIENCE?

- The USVI's plans agree about specific challenges that must be addressed to improve resilience. These include:
- Upgrading, adapting, and maintaining public infrastructure; ensuring consistency of systems and services; and keeping emergency backup generators online.
  - Improving and enforcing standards for housing and buildings and retrofitting older structures to meet updated codes.
  - Increasing the individual resilience of vulnerable residents, who make up a high proportion of Virgin Islanders based on income, age, and other demographic characteristics.
  - Improving pre-storm preparedness and planning activities.
  - Making smart choices about where new development occurs.

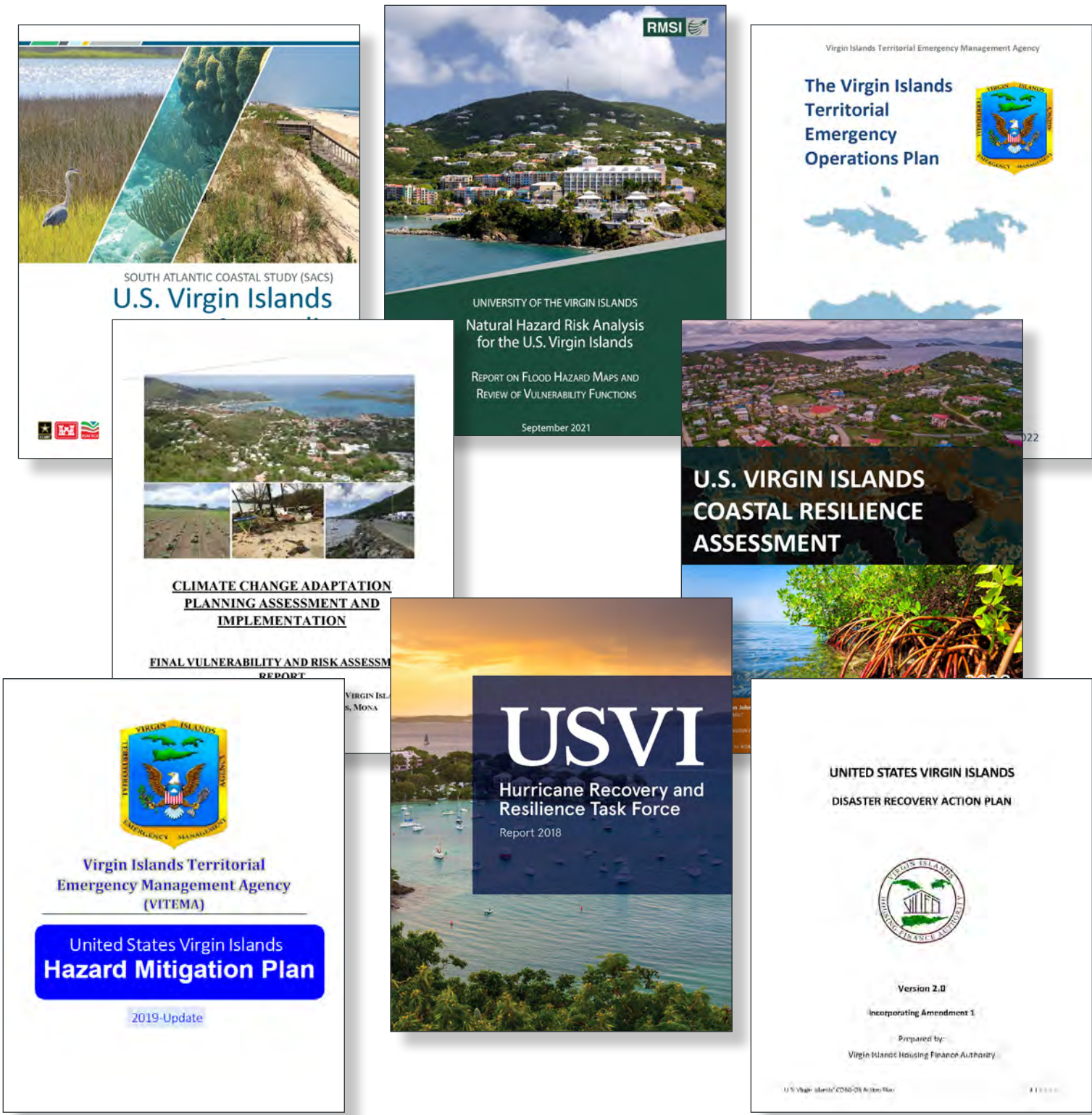
## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is shifting temperature and weather patterns, which may cause future storms and other natural hazards to be more impactful, costly, and dangerous to the USVI.

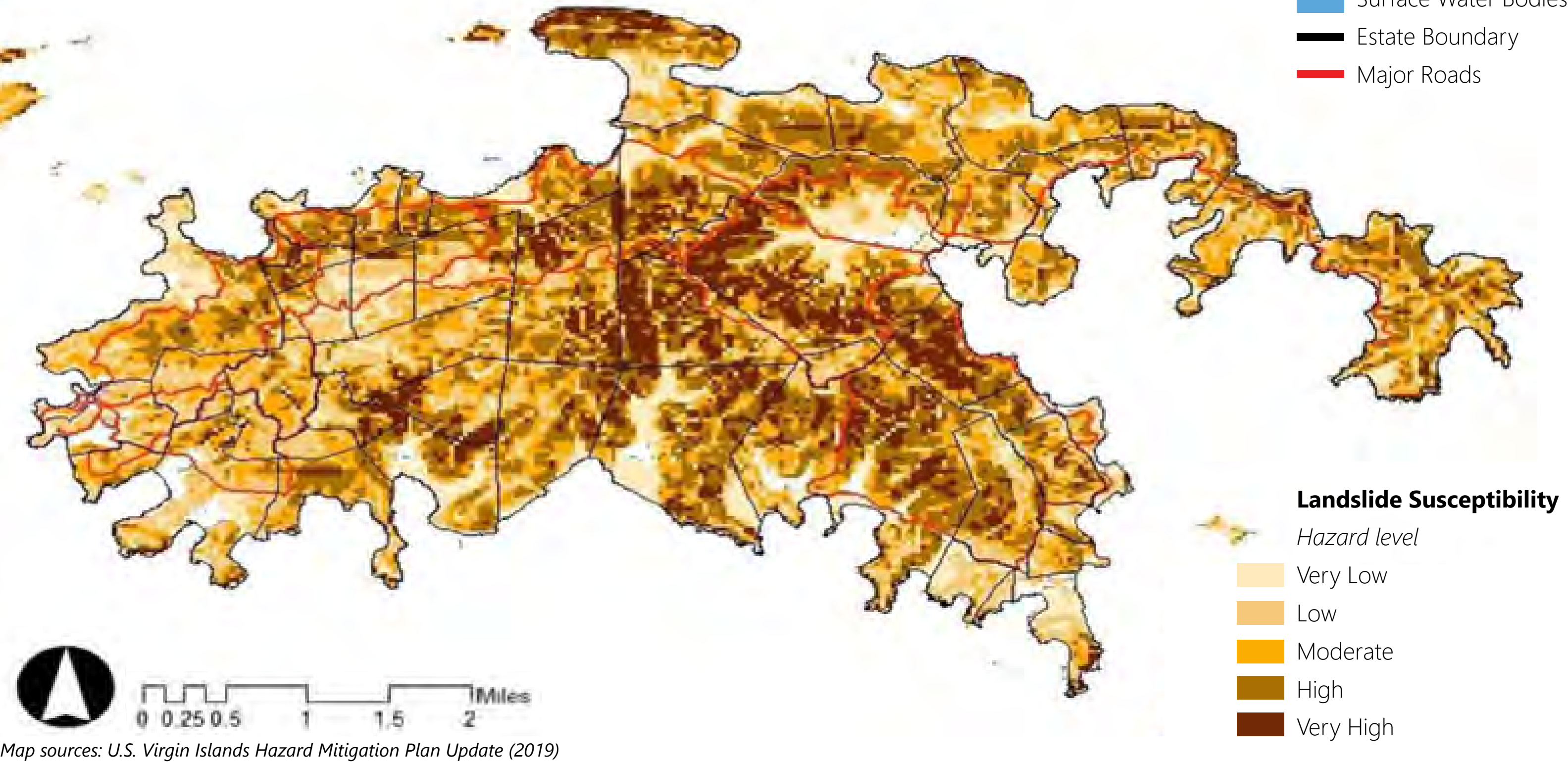
### Climate Trends & Selected Local Impacts

Climate Trend	Future Projection	Local Impacts
Rising Temperatures	Increase of 1.5-4° F in average temperatures by 2050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heat-related illness</li><li>• Risk of wildfire &amp; drought</li><li>• Increased demand for drinking water</li><li>• Increased incidence of coral bleaching events</li></ul>
More Variability in Precipitation Patterns	Greater variability; wet and dry seasons become drier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased riverine flooding, rain-induced landslides, and erosion</li><li>• Decreased drinking water supply</li><li>• Negative impacts to agricultural production</li></ul>
Rising Sea Surface Temperature	Increase of 0.43° F per decade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential for stronger hurricanes and tropical storms</li><li>• Negative impacts to fish populations</li></ul>
Increasing Ocean Acidity	Increase by 40-50% by 2100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased incidence of coral bleaching events</li><li>• Coral reef degradation</li></ul>
Rising Sea Levels	1.2 ft rise by 2050 and 3.6 ft rise by 2100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased coastal and tidal flooding, and coastal erosion</li><li>• Potential for saltwater intrusion into drinking water supplies</li><li>• Loss of mangroves and other protective natural areas</li></ul>

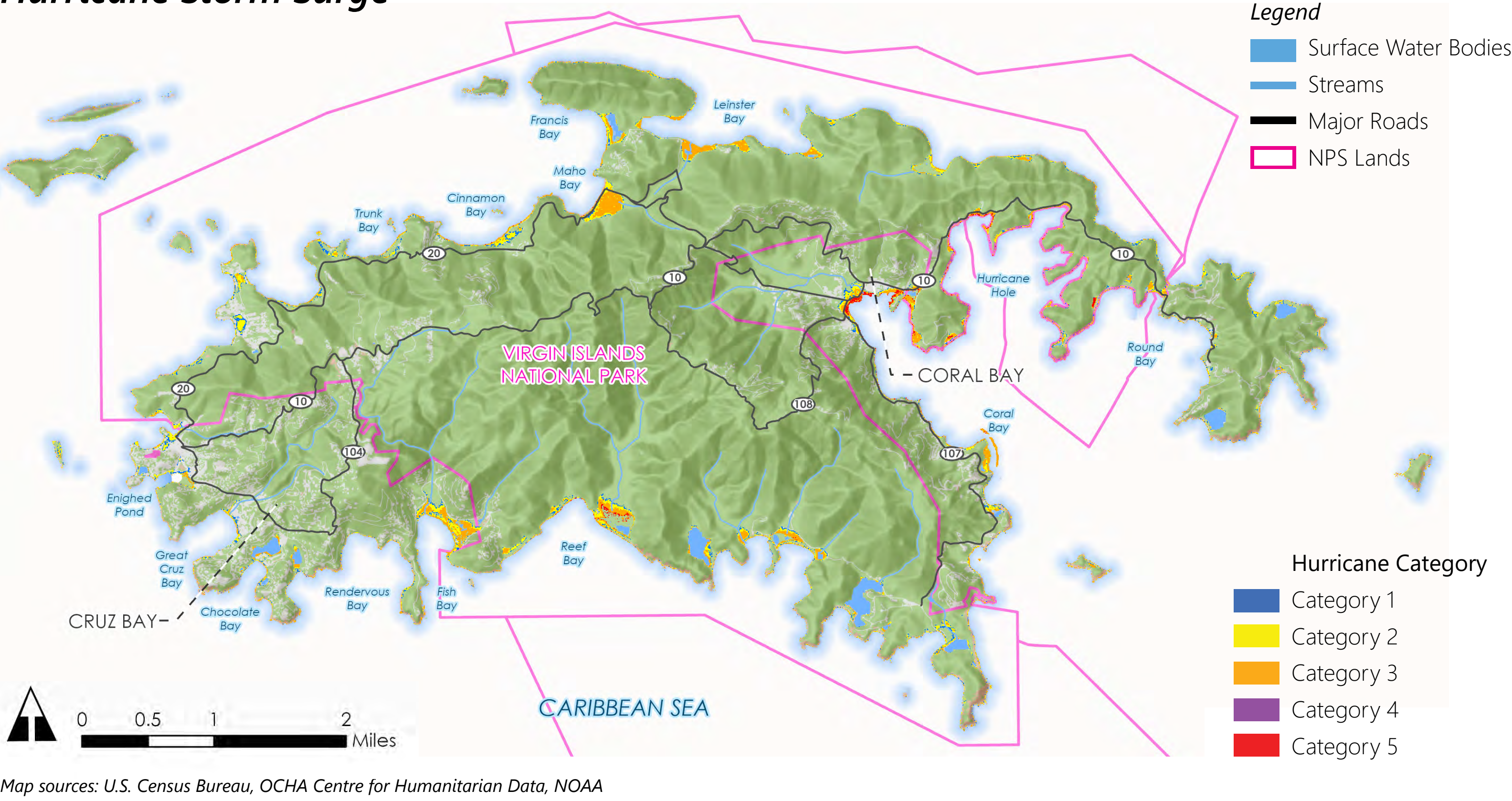
### Recent Plans and Assessments:



### Landslide Hazard



### Hurricane Storm Surge





# St. John NATURAL RESOURCES

## OVERVIEW

The Territory has ecologically rich and diverse natural resources. Ensuring their protection from environmental degradation will be essential to preserving the islands' quality of life, local character, economy, and the ecosystems which support many different species and provide services which benefit the entire region.

## LAND RESOURCES

Land resources in the USVI provide many different benefits to the region, including:

- Forests help to capture carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change and provide shade from canopy which mitigates heat.
- Shrublands and grasslands provide wildlife habitat and help control erosion.
- Guts provide nursery and nesting areas, are used for foraging, and serve as important watering holes and migration corridors.
- Offshore cays provide important habitat for many threatened and endangered species, including the Roseate Tern, St. Croix Ground Lizard, and Virgin Islands Tree Boa.

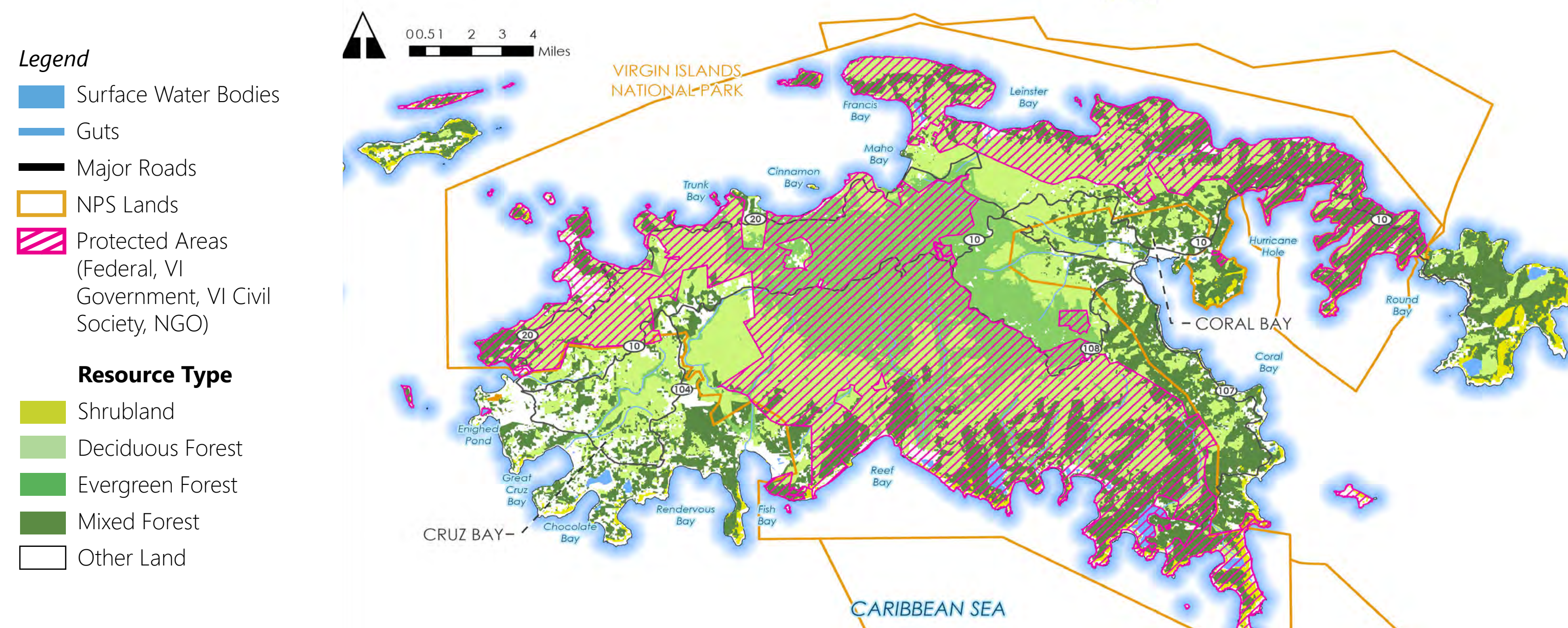


Trunk Bay in St. John (Cyrus Crossan/Unsplash).



Caneel Bay in St. John (Blake Carol/Flickr).

### Land Resources - St. John



Map sources: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, USDA Forest Service



## MARINE RESOURCES

Marine resources in the USVI provide many different benefits to the Territory, including:

- Salt ponds and salt flats prevent marine sedimentation by trapping runoff and pollutants, protecting coral reef and seagrass beds.
- Mangroves serve an important role as nurseries to many juvenile fish and birds which have recreation and commercial importance.
- Coral reefs support commercial and local fishermen, producing economically important species such as grouper, snapper, and spiny lobster.



Green sea turtle glides over the ocean floor in the Virgin Islands National Park (National Parks Gallery).



Approximately **99** bird  
species are associated  
with forest habitats in  
the U.S. Virgin Islands.

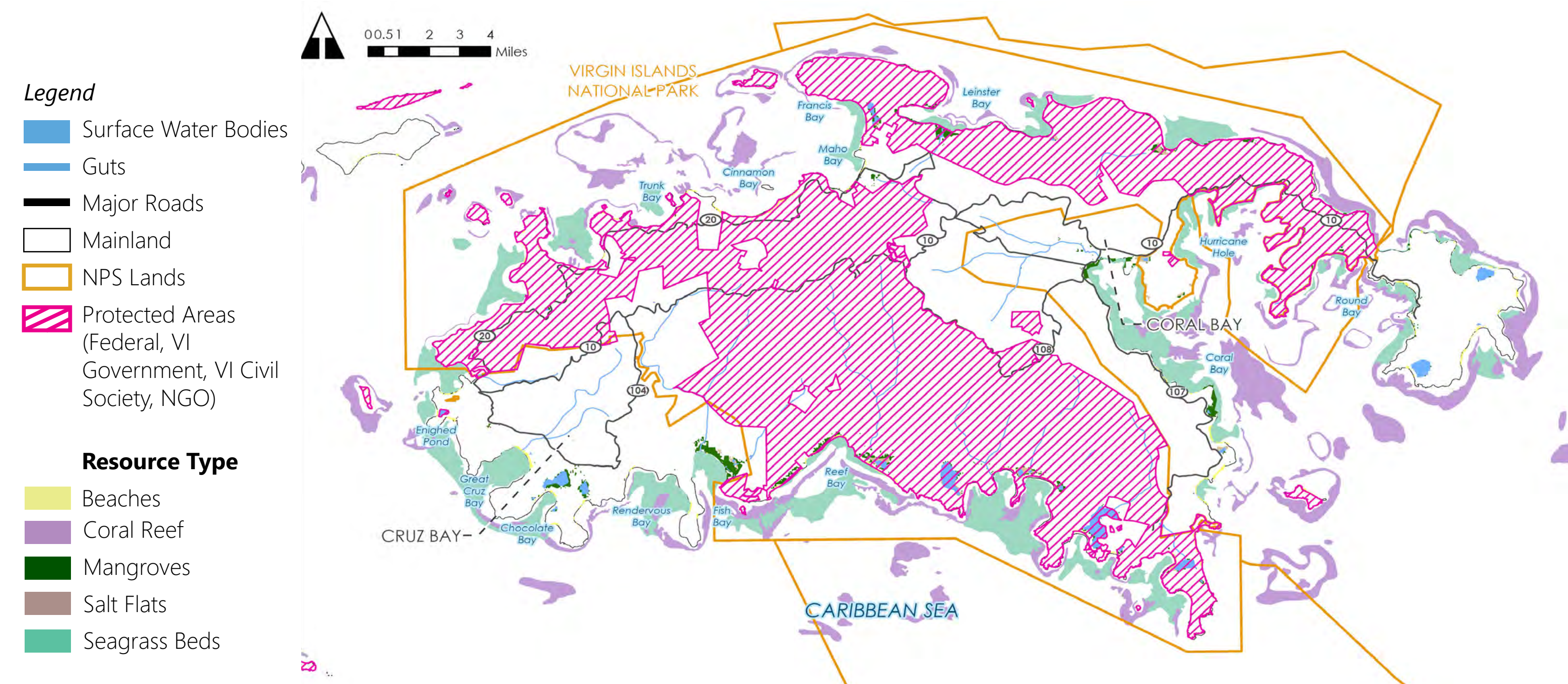
Source: McGinley, K., Robertson, G., Friday, K., and  
Carpenter, C. (2017). Assessing Forest Sustainability in  
the Tropical Islands of the United States.



The total economic value  
for coral reef ecosystems  
in the USVI is estimated at  
**\$187 million** per year.

Source: DEP. (2020). USVI 2020 Integrated Water  
Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report.

### Marine Resources - St. John



Map sources: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, USDA Forest Service



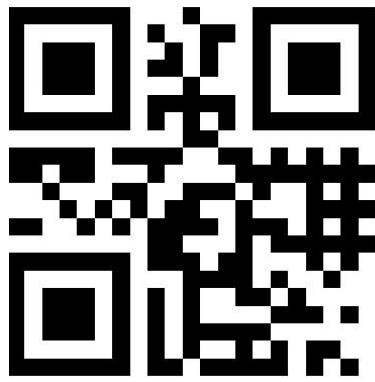
# St. John

## POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

U.S. Virgin Islands  
Comprehensive  
Land and Water  
Use Plan



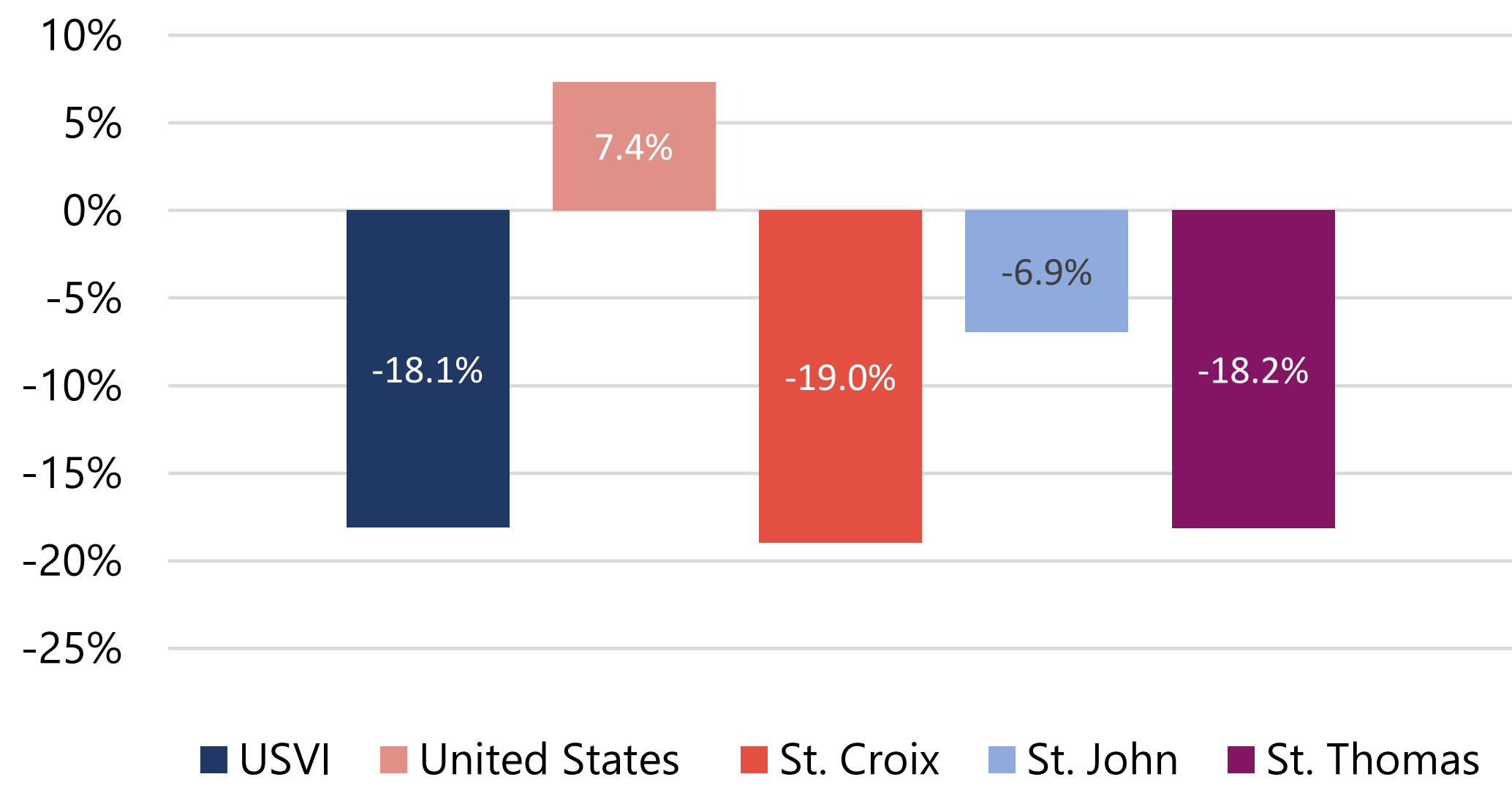
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### POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLDS

- The population of the USVI is shrinking, though there is debate as to whether the 2020 US Census undercounted the USVI population.
- According to the 2020 US Census, the population of the USVI is estimated to be 87,146, 18.1% lower than the population level in 2010. Comparatively, the US population grew by 7.4% over the same period.
- 48% of the 2020 USVI population lives on St. Thomas, 47% on St. Croix, and 4% on St. John.

Population Change, 2010-2020

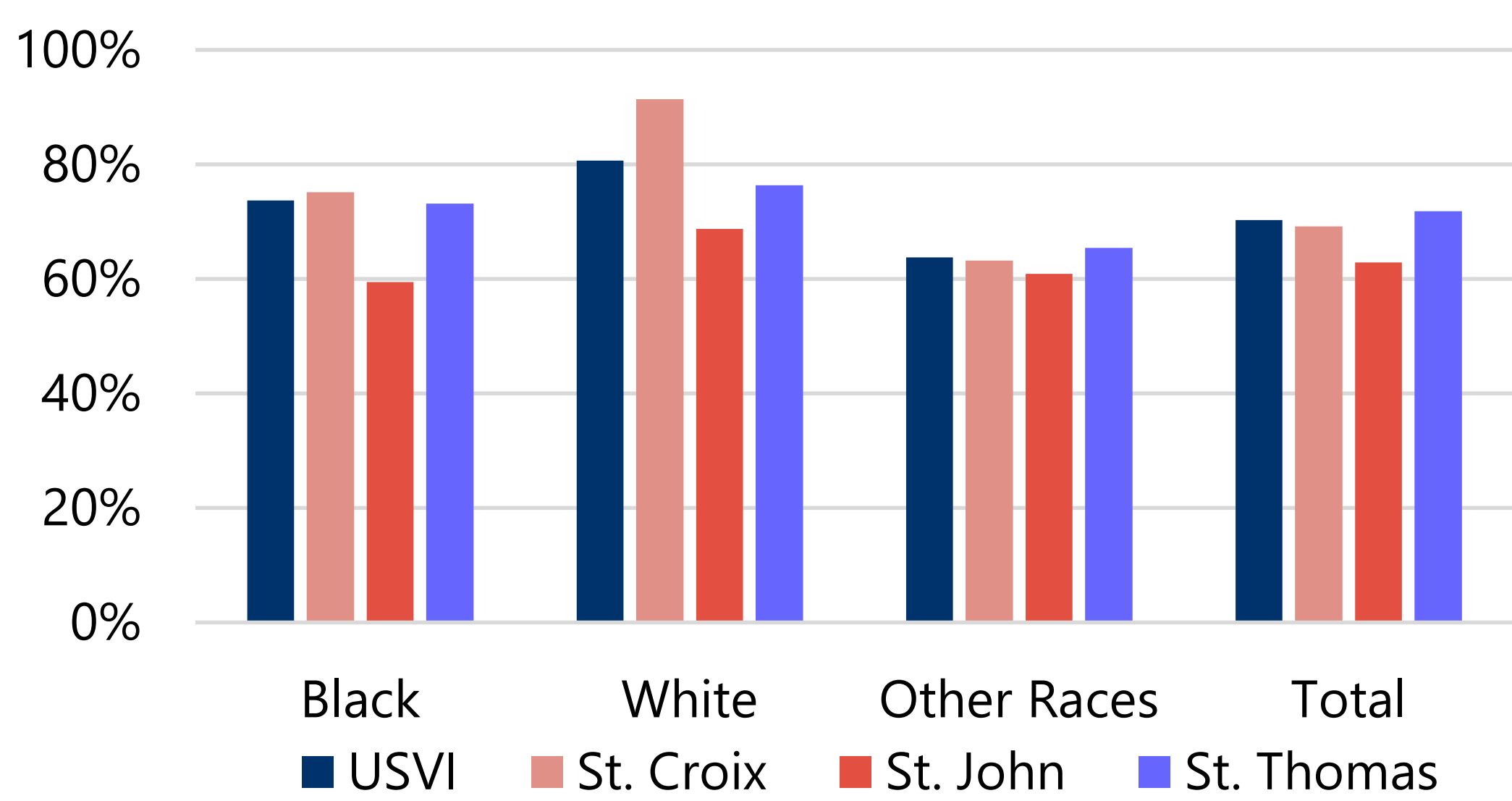


Source: USVI Bureau of Economic Research, US Bureau American Community Survey, US Decennial Census

### EDUCATION

- In 2020, 78.3% of adults in the USVI hold at least a high school diploma and 22.3% of adults possess a bachelor's degree or higher.
- In 2020, 83.4% of St. John adults hold at least a high school diploma and 27.1% of adults possess a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Across all islands, there is a disparity in educational attainment by race. The disparity is more pronounced in the proportion of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher.
- A higher proportion of white residents have obtained a high school diploma or higher than Black residents and residents of other races.

Percent High School Attainment by Race, 2015\*

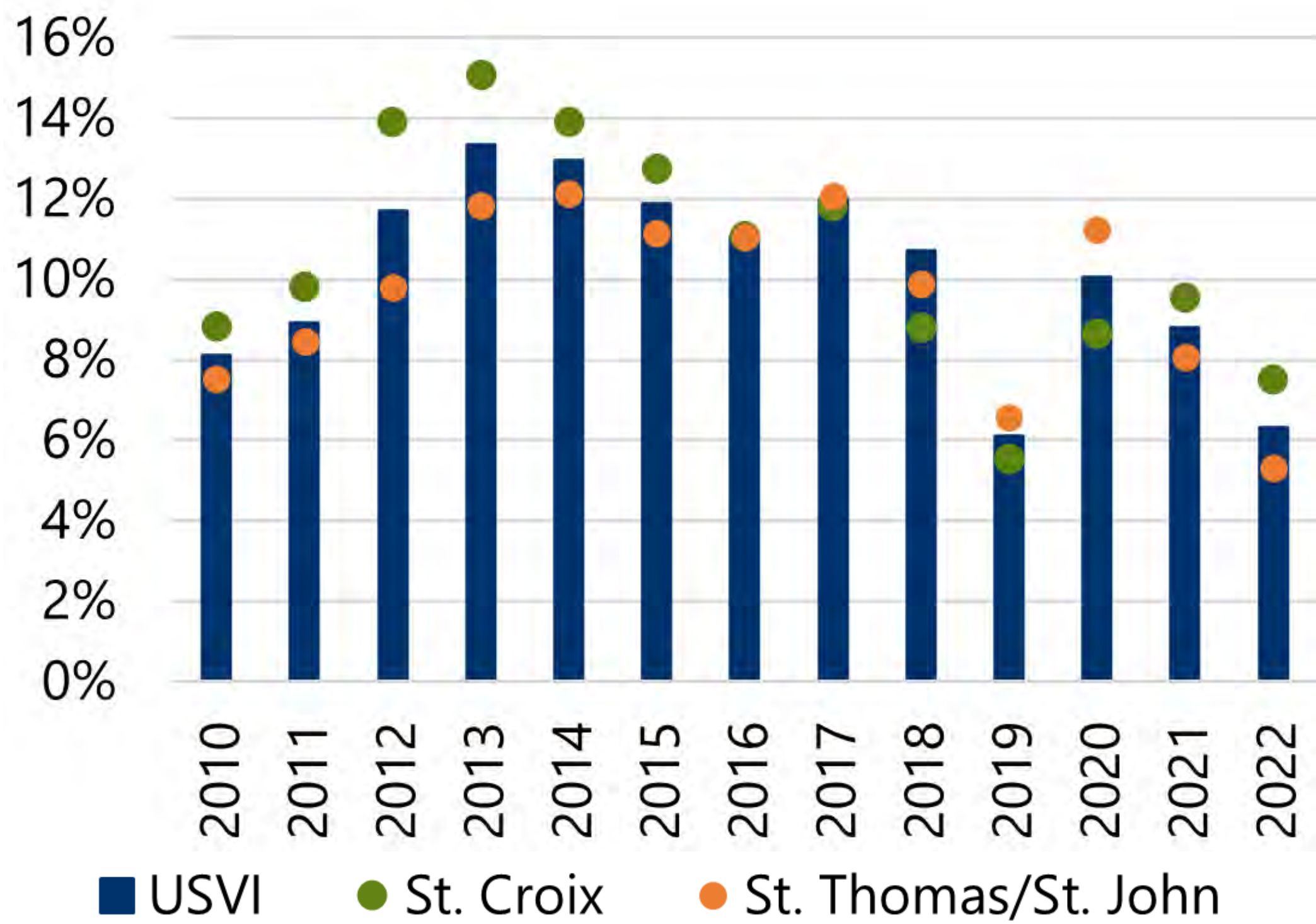


Source: 2015 USVI Community Survey, Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands  
\* Educational attainment by race data are not available beyond 2015.

### UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

- Since 2010, unemployment in the USVI has trended the highest on St. Croix.
- Across the USVI, the unemployment rate increased in 2020 to 10.1%, before falling slightly to 8.8%. This is higher than the US average of 5.5% in 2021.
- Within the Territory, household poverty rates are the highest on St. Croix and the lowest on St. John.

Unemployment Rate

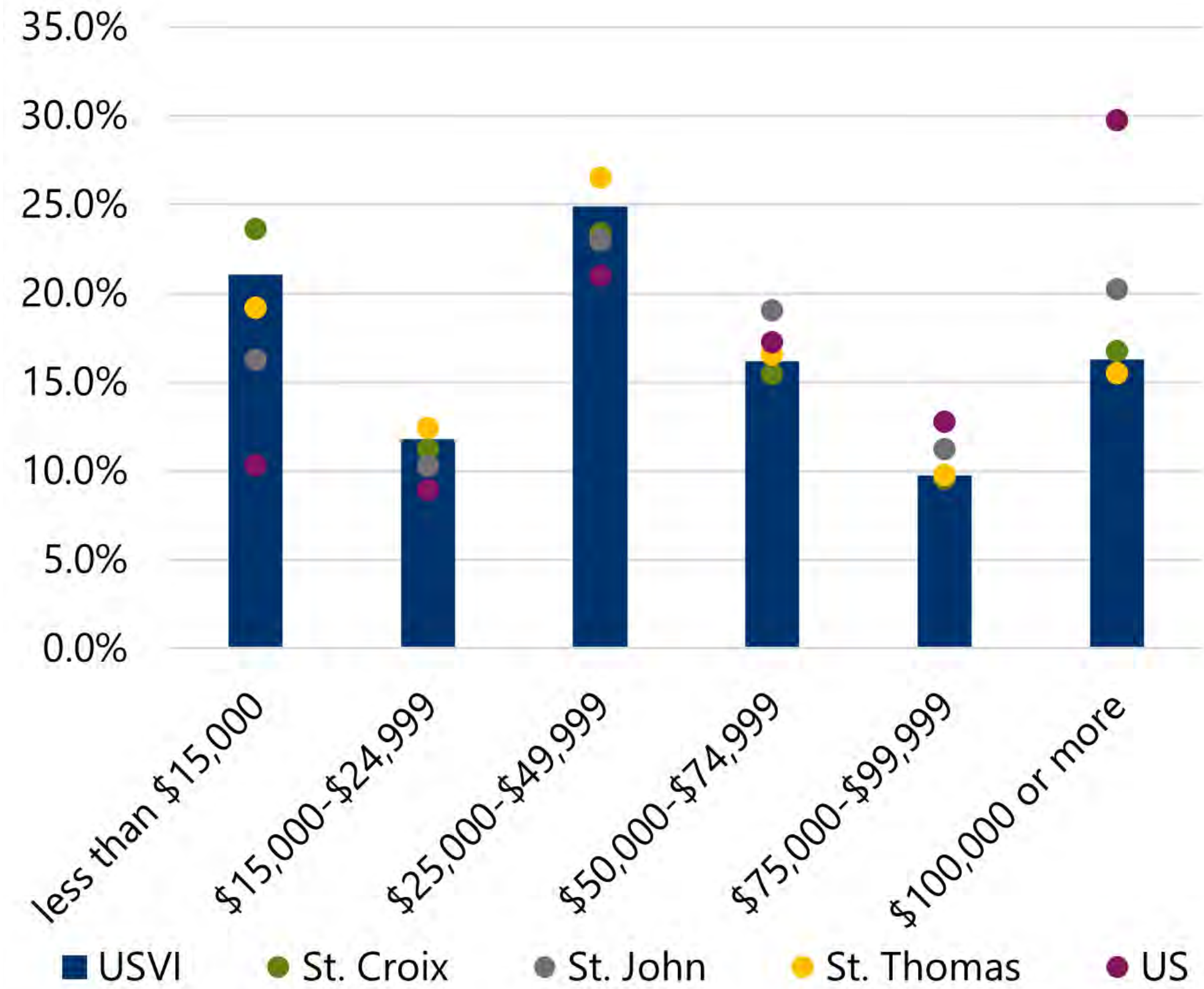


Source: USVI Department of Labor

### INCOME

- As of 2015, the median household income across the USVI was \$33,964 compared to \$53,889 in the US overall. As of 2019, incomes increased to \$40,408 and \$62,843, respectively.
- The highest median income was on St. John, with the lowest being on St. Croix.
- In 2015, 36% of USVI households made less than \$25,000 per year. By 2019, the same was still true for 33% of households, even while the cost of living has increased.

Household Income Distribution, 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census of Island Areas; ACS 5-year estimates, 2019



# St. John TRANSPORTATION

## TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Many entities own and manage USVI transportation infrastructure:

- Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains public roads.
- Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) owns and maintains the two airports and nearly all public seaports and harbors, including 12 cargo and ferry ports and two cruise ports.
- Virgin Islands Transit (VITRAN), as part of DPW, provides three bus routes on St. John.
- Ferries provide linkages to other islands in the Caribbean.

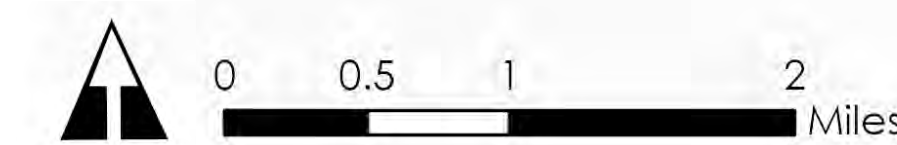


Cruise ships bring 1-2 million tourists to the Territory each year (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic).



Most products, including most food and building materials, enter the Territory via cargo ship.

## Transportation Network



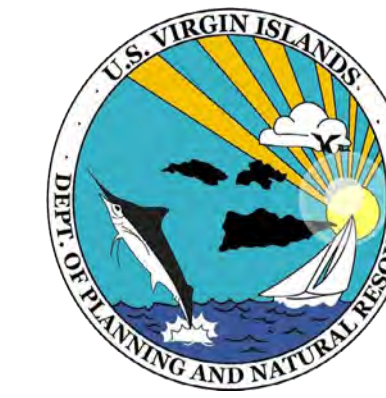
### Legend

- Surface Water Bodies
- Streams
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- NPS Lands
- Ferry Routes
- VITRAN Bus Route 101
- Transportation Facilities
- Cargo & Ferry

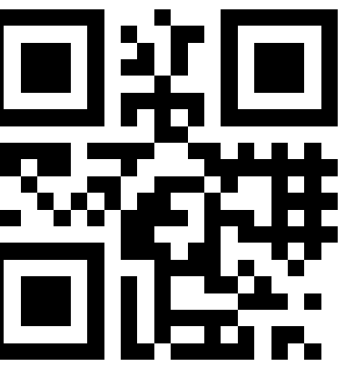


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, Virgin Islands Port Authority, Virgin Islands Transit

U.S. Virgin Islands  
Comprehensive Land  
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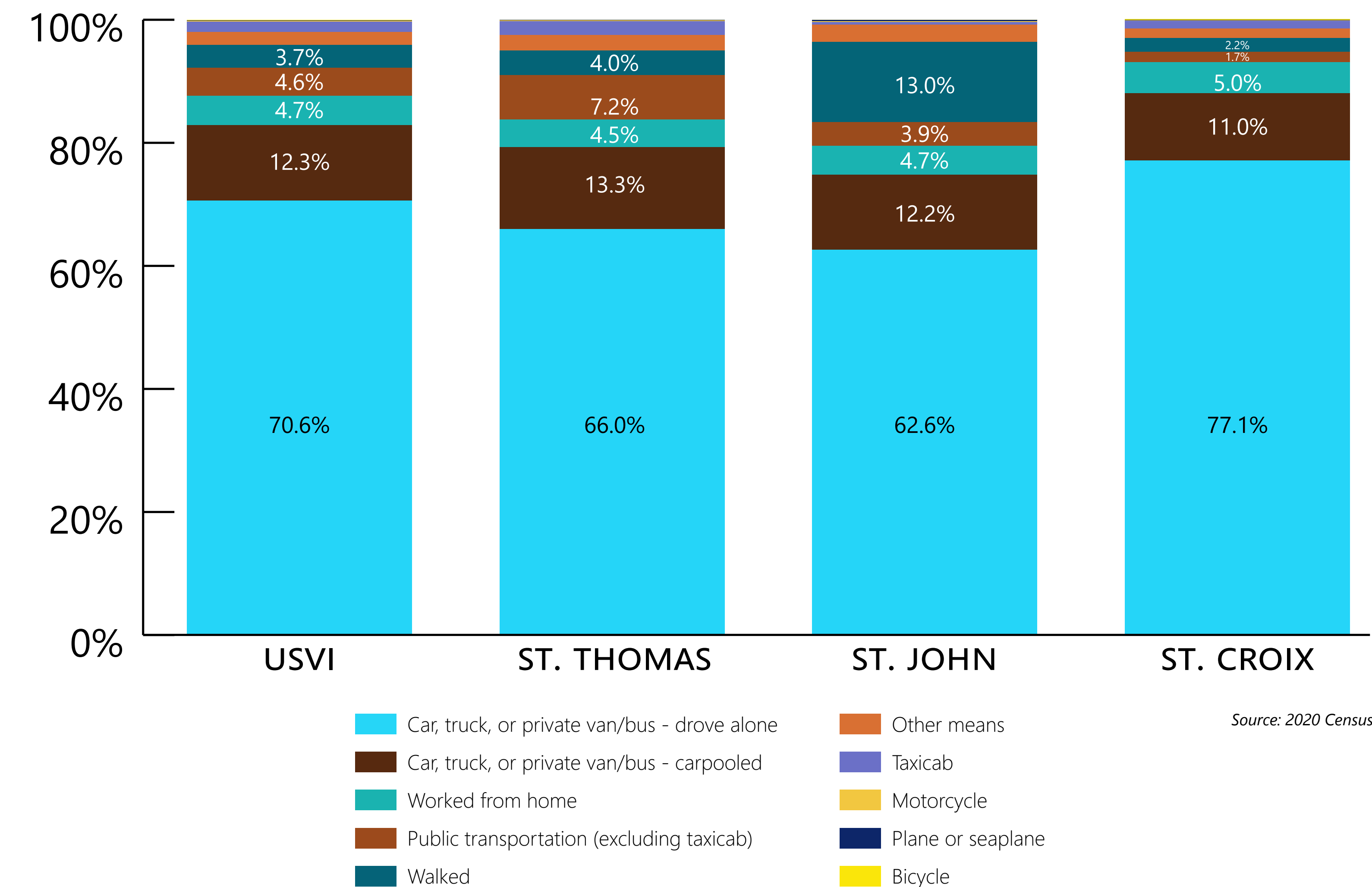
## COMMUTING PATTERNS

Most residents commute to work alone in a private vehicle.

- 70% of U.S. Virgin Islanders, including 3% of St. John residents, commute to work alone by car, truck, or private van/bus.
- 5% of U.S. Virgin Islanders, including 4% of St. John residents, commute to work via public transportation.
- 13% of St. John residents walk to work.
- VITRAN ridership is four times higher on St. Thomas than St. Croix and St. John.
- 5% of workers in the USVI work from home, possibly inclusive of teleworkers who have moved from the mainland U.S. since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Commuting Patterns for Workers Aged 16 and Older



Source: 2020 Census