



*Virgin Islands Department of Health*  
*Bureau of Health Education*  
**Diabetes Prevention and Control Program**  
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## ***DIABETES FACT SHEET: FOCUS ON DISPARITIES***

### ***I. Impact:***

- Diabetes mellitus is the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).<sup>1</sup>

### ***II. Frequency of Diabetes in the USVI***

- It is estimated that in 2009 8% (06.8-09.2) of the USVI population age 18 and older have been diagnosed with diabetes.<sup>2</sup>
- Among age groups, 22.1% (18.0-26.2) of those 65 and older have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes compared to only 2.2% (00.2-04.2) of those ages 25-34.<sup>2</sup>
- The frequency of diabetes in USVI women 9.2% (07.6-10.8) is slightly higher than the frequency among men 6.7% (04.9-08.5).<sup>2</sup>
- In the USVI, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes mellitus was higher for Non Hispanic Blacks 8.4% (06.8 -10.0) and Hispanics 8.4% ((05.1-11.7) compared to Non Hispanic Whites 4.9% (02.7-07.1).<sup>2</sup>

### ***III. Diabetes-Related Outcomes***

- Approximately 22.6% (16.5-28.7) of diabetic patients in the USVI are using insulin to control their blood sugar.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2009, approximately 24.9% of persons with diabetes in the USVI indicated that the disease had affected their eyes.<sup>2</sup>
- Overall, 64.2% of diabetic persons reported that they had never taken a course on how to manage their diabetes.<sup>2</sup>
- Among diabetic patients approximately 44.5% had their Hemoglobin A1c checked less than 2 times a year.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Vital Statistics, 2008    <sup>2</sup>BRFSS Diabetes Module, 2009  
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