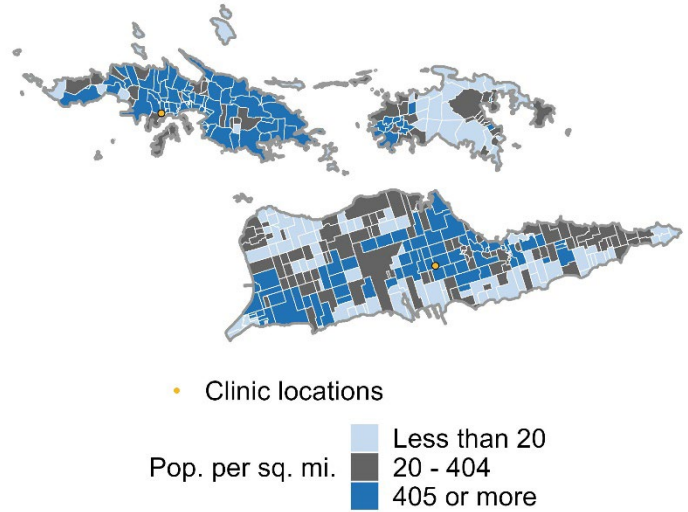


Virgin Islands Department of Health Group

This grantee dba U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health Family Planning Program (VIFPP) has been a Title X grant recipient since the early 1970s. VIFPP serves the four main islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, and Water Island. VIFPP delivers services to approximately 2,500 people through two local health departments on St. Croix and St. Thomas. Clients residing on other islands receive services through satellite sites that operate twice a month on St. John.¹







Stats at a Glance²

- ▶ Number of family planning (FP) encounters – 2,852
- ▶ FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – 2,450 (94%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL – 2,600 (99%)
- ▶ Number of tests performed for gonorrhea – 1,167, syphilis – 4, and HIV – 525
- ▶ Number of female users who received a chlamydia test – 1,000 or a Pap test – 578

Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, VIFPP provides a broad range of FP services including pregnancy prevention and birth spacing, pregnancy testing and counseling, assistance to achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, and other preconception health services. The services are voluntary, confidential, and provided regardless of ability to pay.³ The infographic below is an Overview of Services Offered within the VIFPP network. The data shown below are not specific to any particular site but rather are representative of the broader grantee network. For information on services available at individual service sites, please refer to the [OPA clinic locator](#).

 Pregnancy assistance and counseling	 Contraceptive services	 STI services	 Other preventative health services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Counseling on achieving pregnancy ● Preconception health services ● Pregnancy testing and counseling ● Basic infertility services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FDA approved long-acting contraceptives ● FDA approved short-acting contraceptives ● Natural family planning methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● STI and HIV education and counseling ● STI and HIV screening and testing ○ STI and HIV treatment ● STI self-testing ● Expedited partner therapy ● PrEP counseling and risk assessment ○ PrEP prescription services ● PEP counseling ○ PEP prescription services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Screening for breast cancer ● Screening for cervical cancer ○ HPV vaccinations ● Screening for intimate partner violence ● Screening for mental health ● Screening for obesity ● Screening for smoking, drug, and alcohol use ● Adolescent-friendly health services
<p>LEGEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Available at all service sites ○ Available at service sites and through referrals ○ Available through referral only 			

¹ Source: Data collected by Mathematica in 2023 for the Title X Implementation Study.

² Source: Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR): [2022 National Summary](#).

³ See the [Title X Service Grants web page](#) for more information on the requirements and regulations guiding Title X projects.

Equity in Practice



To provide Title X services to youth, VIFPP partners with public high schools on St. Croix and St. Thomas, where it provides free and confidential FP services at school-based health centers. To increase its outreach to youth, VIFPP partners with a nonprofit called Project Promise on St. Croix, which works with youth on the island to provide positive support services and help them live healthier lives. VIFPP provides sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education to youth participating in Project Promise.

Innovations in Practice



The U.S. Virgin Islands is characterized by small, tight-knit communities. To build trust with communities, VIFPP staff attend local events such as agricultural affairs, cultural events, and Carnival. VIFPP sets up tables and mobile sites at these events, where it provides FP education, conducts preventative health screenings (for conditions such as breast cancer, hypertension, and diabetes) and schedules follow-up and referral appointments for clients. VIFPP also regularly releases public service announcements to raise awareness about its services, and administers client satisfaction surveys to improve outreach and quality of care.

Did You Know?



VIFPP is working to improve access to Title X services for undocumented communities, particularly in St. Thomas and St. Croix, which have large undocumented Haitian Creole and Spanish-speaking populations. To better serve these communities, VIFPP is working with the language services team in the Department of Health to develop outreach materials to raise awareness that FP and SRH services are available to everyone through VIFPP, regardless of their immigration status. In addition, the Department of Health recently contracted with a remote language interpretation service that VIFPP staff can use to communicate with clients whose first language is not English or clients who are hearing impaired.



Given the remote location of the U.S. Virgin Islands, it used to take several weeks to obtain STI lab results from the mainland United States. To meet this challenge, the Department of Health recently received Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification for its public health laboratory. VIFPP has transitioned to running lab tests in house, including obtaining appropriate STI testing kits, which has dramatically increased the turnaround time for clients to receive STI test results.



In 2017, the islands were extensively damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which destroyed much of the VIFPP clinic on St. Croix. Despite these challenges, VIFPP has continued to deliver Title X services at steady rates through extensive partnerships with other health department agencies, community organizations, and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). The grantee works closely with the Maternal and Child Health Program to provide support services for perinatal clients and with the Communicable Diseases Division for STI and HIV screening and treatment. VIFPP also works closely with an FQHC on St. Croix to provide Title X services to people experiencing homelessness.

About the Title X Program

The Title X Family Planning Program, created in 1970 and authorized under Title X of the Public Health Service Act, is administered by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please refer to OPA's [website](#).

Grant number: FPHPA006534

Website: doh.vi.gov/programs/family-planning-clinics