

VIRGIN ISLANDS 1960 – A Snapshot in Time

Research Questions for the 1960 Census Documents

These questions are designed to encourage students to engage with the data, analyze trends, and think critically about the historical and social context of the Virgin Islands during this period.

Population Trends and Distribution

1. How did the total population of the Virgin Islands change from 1846 to 1960?
2. What were the main reasons for population increases or decreases during certain decades?
3. How did the urban and rural populations compare over time?
4. Which cities or islands had the largest population in 1960?
5. How did the population of Charlotte Amalie and Christiansted change between 1835 and 1960?

Demographic Characteristics

6. What was the racial composition of the Virgin Islands in 1960?
7. How did the percentage of white, Negro, and mixed/other races change from 1917 to 1960?
8. What was the gender distribution in the population, and did it differ by race or area?
9. What was the median age of the population in 1960, and how did it compare to previous decades?
10. How did the age distribution differ between urban and rural areas?

Nativity and Immigration

11. What proportion of the population was native-born versus foreign-born in 1960?
12. From which countries or regions did most foreign-born residents originate?
13. How did the number of people born in Puerto Rico or the British West Indies compare to those born in the Virgin Islands?

Education

14. What percentage of children aged 5 to 34 were enrolled in school in 1960?
15. How did school enrollment rates differ by race or by urban/rural location?
16. What were the most common levels of educational attainment among adults?
17. How did years of school completed vary by age, sex, or race?

Income and Economic Characteristics

18. What was the distribution of income among different racial groups in 1960?
19. How did income levels differ between males and females?
20. What percentage of the population had no income, and how did this vary by area or demographic group?
21. What were the most common occupations or industries for workers in the Virgin Islands?
22. How did the labor force participation rate vary by age group?

Marital Status and Family Structure

- 23. What were the most common marital statuses among adults in 1960?
- 24. How did marital status differ by race or by urban/rural area?

General Analytical Questions

- 25. What social or economic factors might explain the demographic changes observed in the Virgin Islands between 1846 and 1960?
- 26. How might changes in education and income have affected population growth or migration patterns?
- 27. What impact did immigration have on the racial and cultural makeup of the Virgin Islands?