

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
CARRIBEAN
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Country Founded in: October 27, 1979

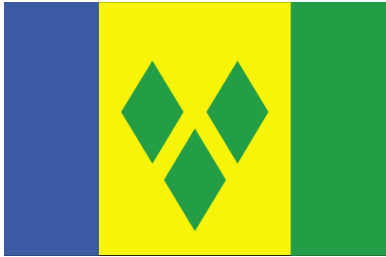
Population: 104,574

Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy within the Commonwealth of Nations

Geography/location in the world: In the Caribbean Sea, South of Saint Lucia, North of Grenada and West of Barbados

Number of people groups: 9

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot (compiled from different websites)

Major Religion and percentage of population: Protestant Christianity (75.7%)

All religions and % for each:

Protestant Christianity (75.7%)

Anglican (40%), Methodist (11.4%), Seventh-Day Adventist (10.2%),
Pentecostal (11.3%), Baptist (1.6%), Christian Brethren (1.2%)

Spiritual Baptist (7.4%)

Catholic (7.5%)

Muslim (1%)

Hindu (2%)

Traditional/Animism (2%)

Rastafarian (1.5%)

Non-religious (1%)

Other (1.1%)
Mormon (0.4%)
Jehovah's Witness (0.3%)
Baha'i (0.3%)

Government interaction with religion: The government promotes and advocates the freedom of religion and its practice.

<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/country/?CountryID=20>
<http://stmatthewsparishbiabou.webs.com/windwardislandsdiocese.htm>
<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dkina.html>
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127404.htm>
http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country_id=199#religion
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/kingchatsvg/CHURCHMISSIONS.HTM>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vc.html>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Official Country Name: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Demographics:

According to July 2009 estimates, the population of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines includes 104,574 persons. About 47% of these live in an urban area and those in rural areas are migrating to urban centers at a rate of 1.3% each year. The average age on the island is 28.9 years old.

The total population is declining at a rate of 0.344% each year. This can be attributed to a high migration rate of 11.8 persons for every 1,000 persons. There are 6.91 deaths that occur for every 1,000 people in the population.

For every 1,000 people in Saint Vincent, about 15.27 people are born each year. Each woman, on average, gives birth to 1.98 children and there are equal numbers of male and female births. For every 1,000 births, 15.14 will die during infancy. The infant mortality rate is higher for newborn males than it is for females. Those children who do survive infancy can be expected to live an average of 73.65 years with females living approximately 4 years longer than the men.

The majority of the population is found between the ages of 15 and 64 which accounts for 66.4% of the total population and there are slightly more males than females in this age group. Those who are under the age of 15 compose 25.9% of the total population and there are slightly more males than females in this age group. The only age group with significantly more females than males includes those that are over the age of 65 which composes 7.8% of the population.

<http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines>

<http://discoversvg.com/index.php/en/about-svg/essentials?start=2>

<http://www.gov.vc/govt/index.asp>

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/kingchatsvg/CHURCHHISTORY.HTM>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vc.html>

Language:

There are two main languages spoken in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The official language of the country is English. This language was introduced into the area during the mid-1700s when the British reclaimed the territory. English is the language that is spoken for business matters, in politics and is used for teaching students in public schools.

Another language which is predominantly spoken in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is Vincentian Creole English. Also known as *Vincy Twang*, this language has English, African, and possible French influences. Interestingly, the more southward you go on the island, the closer the dialect is to English.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vc.html>

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=VC

Society/Culture:

Like other Caribbean countries that have sought and gained their independence from European powers, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines still has an overtone of the British culture. However, those who live in this nation of islands continue to hold on to the culture of their ancestors which includes Amerindian and African roots. The culture which has emerged from sharing of these cultures is what makes the culture of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines unique.

Most of those who live in this country live in rural areas and in small villages. The largest town in the country is the capital, Kingstown. Most people participate in subsistence farming and the majority of the population would be considered poor. The affluent are more likely to be educated in a foreign nation, speak English, and live in the smaller islands like Petit Saint Vincent. The poorest people on the main island are the Caribs who live closer to the volcano, Mt. Soufriere.

Education in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is not mandatory, but is free up until the child is 8 years of age. There are many who cannot afford tuition and many children help on their family's subsistence farms as soon as they have the ability to do so.

Those who can afford the tuition costs send their children to a Secondary school which is followed by a Post Secondary school. A Post Secondary level of education would include the local college and other technical schools. The University of the West Indies does have an extension office, but there are no degrees offered as of yet. There is, however, a small college on the islands which includes a teaching, a nursing, and a medical degree program.

The government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is responsible for the operation and functioning of all public health care facilities. Basic healthcare is available to all who need and is free, or has a minimal cost. There are 5 rural hospitals which help to care for those who are in need. However, many of the more intensive and more expensive procedures are not covered by the government plan and many of the poor go without some of these operations.

In terms of economy, men and women share many of the same tasks; however men usually do the farming and fishing while women tend to the garden and sell the produce that is harvested. Women are paid less than men when doing service jobs and tourism is a large part of the service sector. Regardless of gender, it is considered rude to call out someone's name in public and it is also considered rude for a foreigner to use a camera without first asking permission.

Family is especially important to Vincentians and the concept of "the family" is varied. Usually most families are matrilineal and may include members of the extended family which gives the family a multi-generational focus. Every member of the family is responsible for the rearing of a child from infancy to adulthood. Interestingly, an infant is not given a name until after the infant has survived for a month!

Generosity is a strong value in Vincentian culture which is shown through the sharing of resources and lending a helping hand in time of need. This effect is greater if an individual finds out that a member within their immediate or extended family is in need. In fact, when there is a

need, children are sometimes “lent” to other households within the family to help with subsistence farming and other needs.

Family and community play a major role in the two most important holidays in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which are the Christmas holiday and a festival that is called Carnival. The Christmas holidays are celebrated by holding parties in the pre-dawn hours for the nine days that precede Christmas. Christmas Day is reserved for spending time with the family and the following two days are reserved for spending time with friends and neighbors.

The holiday of Carnival mostly focuses on the community and it is celebrated with parades, displays of costume, and musical concerts. The two common forms of music in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are Calypso and Soca. These combine African beats and French aspects of music in order to make satirical observations of society and politics. Soca is typically faster than Calypso. Other forms of Vincentian music include Gospel and Reggae.

Another aspect of holidays is the special foods which are made at certain times of the year. When someone is invited over to an individual’s home for a meal they are fed until they are contented. Rum is normally served to males before or after a festive meal. It is not common for women to be strong drinkers, but they occasionally have beer during festive times. One special type of drink that is made around Christmas time is called Sea Moss and includes milk, seaweed, and spices. This drink is also considered an aphrodisiac and is made on other special occasions.

Normally, the main meal is dinner. A common dish that is prepared for this time of the day is called *pilau*. This meal consists of rice mixed with pigeon peas that is served with meat or fish and possibly vegetables. These would include different types of potatoes and cassava. Breakfast is also an important part of the daily fare which would include fish, vegetables, bread, and coffee. Between the two main meals snacks including fruit are eaten.

<http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/Saint-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines.html>

http://www.gov.vc/govt/Government/Executive/Ministries/Education,Youth,Sports/EYS_Int.asp

http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/saint_vincent_and_grenadines.htm

<http://homepage.mac.com/karlek/.Public/SVG/SVG620.HTM>

<http://svgancestry.com/index.php/noted-vincentians/>

<http://web.archive.org/web/19980219171632/http://www.garifuna-world.com/caribcus.htm>

<http://discoversvg.com/index.php/en/about-svg/did-you-know>

<http://www.visitsvg.com/discover/culture.html>

<http://www.silvertorch.com/jottings/stvijots.html>

Government:

Due to the fact that Saint Vincent was a territory of the British Empire and continues to function as an independent nation within the Commonwealth of Nations, British law has had a great influence on the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Regardless, the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have full jurisdiction over domestic matters.

Today, the Vincentian government functions as a parliamentary democracy which is divided into 6 administrative divisions known as parishes. The parishes are named Charlotte, Grenadines,

Saint Andrew, Saint David, Saint George, and Saint Patrick. The capital is located in Kingstown and is also known as the “city of arches.”

Interestingly, the country is governed by the federal level of government with no local government. Regardless, like most other governments, the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is composed of three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial.

The Executive Branch

The Executive branch is headed by the office of the Chief of State which is currently held by Queen Elizabeth II. She has held this office since 1952 and is represented through the office of the Governor General. Currently, Sir Fredrick Nathaniel Ballantyne was appointed to this position by Queen Elizabeth II in 2002.

The domestic government is headed by the office of Head of Government which is currently filled by the Prime Minister Ralph E. Gonsalves since 2001. Usually, the Prime Minister is appointed after legislative elections, with the leader of the majority party appointed to this office. After the Governor General confers with the Prime Minister, a Deputy Prime Minister is appointed.

The Legislative Branch

The Legislative branch is made up of a unicameral House of Assembly which is composed of 21 seats. Those who are 18 years or older are allowed to vote in elections for the purpose of representation. 15 of the seats are chosen based on election results while 6 are appointed by the Governor General. Each representative is elected to a term of 5 years and the next election will occur in 2010.

Currently, there are two major political parties in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: the United Labour Party (ULP) and the New Democratic Party (NDP). The ULP is made up of social democrat politicians and the NDP is made up of conservative politicians. The current leader of the majority is part of the ULP.

The Judicial Branch

The Judicial branch is composed of 11 courts which serve one of three districts. These courts are part of a larger system known as the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Supreme Court which consists of a High Court and a Court of Appeals. These courts are a part of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. If a matter cannot be resolved by either of these courts, the matter is sent to Her Majesty’s Privy Council in England.

<http://www.gov.vc/govt/government/government.asp>

http://worldstatesmen.org/Saint_Vincent.html

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2345.htm>

Economy:

The currency in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines comes in the form of the East Caribbean dollar (XCD) which is the equivalent of 2.7 United States Dollars (USD). The rest of the following information is given in USD values.

Overall, the country has the power to purchase about \$1.07 billion in goods annually and the economy is growing at a rate of 0.9% a year. The national budget expects about \$94.6 million each year and only spends about \$85.8 million each year. However, the inflation rate has reached 6.1% and the country has an external debt of \$223 million.

The labor force is made up of about 57,520 persons with an average income of \$10,200 each year. About 57% are employed in the service sector of the economy, 17% are employed in industry, and another 26% find their employment in the agricultural sector. The tourism and agricultural sectors are the main components of the economy's revenue. Out of the total population, about 15% are currently unemployed.

In all about \$193 million in goods is exported from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines each year. Exported goods would include bananas, tennis rackets, and starchy vegetables like the taro or arrowroot. Greece receives about 38.8% of the total exports and France receives another 23.1%. Italy receives the rest of the exports sent from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Overall, about \$578 million in goods is imported into the country of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These imported goods would include food, machinery, chemicals, and fuel. About 27.3% of total imported goods come from Singapore and another 13.3% is imported from Trinidad and Tobago. The United States, China, Italy and Norway also serve as import partners for the nation.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vc.html>

Literacy:

When literacy is defined as those over the age of 15 who are able to read and write, about 96% of the total population is said to be literate. While many would be considered literate, there is a good number of people who have difficulty reading material that is correlated with their age group. The government is putting forth effort in helping those who are in this situation and has started a distance learning program for literacy which is delivered over the television. In addition, the government has partnered with the Global Literacy Project to help them in their endeavors.

http://www.glpinc.org/Graphics/Project_Sites/Caribbean/St_Vincent_and_the_Grenadines/SVGOverview.htm

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/vc.html>

http://portal.unesco.org/fr/ev.php-URL_ID=39077&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Land/Geography:

Located in the Caribbean Sea, south of Saint Lucia and west of Barbados, the nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is made up of 32 islands and cays. The country covers a span of 48 miles from its northernmost point to its southernmost point. Of these islands, only 9 are inhabited

and together they have a total area of 241.7 square miles (sq mi) with 52.2 miles (mi) of coastline. Of the total area, the main island of Saint Vincent has an area of 213.75 sq mi. So overall, the area of the nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is about twice the size of Washington, DC.

The largest island in the island chain is Saint Vincent which is very mountainous and has a history of volcanic activity. The highest point in the nation is the volcano, Mt. Soufriere which rises to 4,048 feet above sea level. Because of the volcanic activity, the colors of the beaches on any of the islands vary; some are white, some are pink, and others are black. The smaller islands are also known for the coral reefs that circle around them.

Due to the islands location in the Caribbean Sea and the volcanic activity which enriches the soil, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are well known for the rainforests which cover the landscape. These forests include hardwood and broad-leaved trees which include the breadfruit tree, the banana tree, and various coconut palms. The oldest Botanic Garden of the Western Hemisphere was founded here in 1763!

The positioning of the country allows for a climate that would sustain such a marvelous landscape. Though most of the climate could be described as humid, trade winds keep the island cool. The rainy season starts in July and lasts until October.

The combination of the climate and foliage on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines allows for biodiversity, especially in reference to marine wildlife and birds. One endangered animal that is endemic to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is the St. Vincent Pygmy Rice Rat. Another vulnerable species is the Humpback Whale, who makes trips around the islands. The national bird is the Amazona Guildingi which is a type of multi-colored parrot.

As the islands of Saint Vincent are bio-diverse hotspots of foliage and animals, the government has taken precautions to protect their environment. Current problems include the pollution of coastal waters which has made swimming in some areas prohibited. To ensure that the environment of the islands will be preserved, the government has made a commitment to projects like the Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, the Law of the Sea, and other laws against ship pollution and whaling.

http://books.google.com/books?id=MCCWzPHKGQ4C&pg=PT177&dq=Catholic+Saint+Vincent+and+the+Grenadines&lr=&as_brr=3#

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/caribb/vc.htm>

<http://discoversvg.com/index.php/en/theislands>

http://www.animalinfo.org/country/st_vin_&.htm

<http://www.definitivecaribbean.com/guide/StVincentandtheGrenadines.aspx?group=1#Flora%20&%20Gardens>

<http://discoversvg.com/index.php/en/whattodo/eco-adventures/tropicalgardens>

<http://discoversvg.com/index.php/en/about-svg/weather>

<http://discoversvg.com/index.php/en/about-svg/did-you-know>

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/country-profile/saint-vincent-grenadines-information-geography-history.html>

History

The first inhabitants of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are an Amerindian group known as the *Ciboneys*. These people came from northern South America around 500 BC and lived there peaceably until about 200 AD when another Amerindian group from South America called the *Arawaks* took over the area.

Again there was a period of relative peace until the Caribs came and displaced the Arawak people by killing the males and taking the females as their wives. Known as cannibals, these would have been the persons that early explorers and shipwrecked persons met on the island that the Caribs called *Youroumei*.

European discovery occurred when Christopher Columbus found the island in 1498 and named it after the Catholic patron Saint of the day who was Saint Vincent. The Amerindians on the island, however, proved hard to conquer as they resisted European settlement for a number of years. In 1627, Spain granted the land to Britain, but the Caribs continued to resist European settlement.

In the mid-1600s there was a shipwreck, whose cargo was Nigerian slaves that were being carried to a neighboring island. Others came later seeking refuge from neighboring islands and the plantation system. Both of these groups intermarried with some of the Caribs and their descendants were known as Black Caribs. The Yellow Caribs were those who had not intermarried with those who had been marooned. By 1700, tensions between the two groups mounted until there was a civil war which divided the island. The Yellow Caribs lived to the west and the Black Caribs lived to the east.

<http://www.mayaparadise.com/garifune.htm>

<http://web.archive.org/web/19980219171632/http://www.garifuna-world.com/caribus.htm>

<http://www.centrelink.org/StVincent.html>

<http://www.in-west-indies.com/saint-vincent/discover/history.htm>

The first successful attempts at colonization took place in 1719 by the French, because the Yellow Caribs feared that the Black Caribs would take over the island. This first settlement was named *Barrouallie*. The French then sent missionaries of the Catholic Church to both sides and served as a diplomat in helping to resolve tensions among them which made it easier for the French to continue colonizing the area.

In 1763, the British attempted to reclaim their territory which was followed by twenty years of warfare. Though the French fought, the British were given rights to the islands through the Treaty of Versailles in 1763. It was then that slavery was introduced to the island through the plantation system.

The French promoted an uprising against the British settlement alongside the Caribs on the island. Battle ensued. The climax of warfare peaked in 1795 when the Caribs and French chased the British to the southern part of the island near Kingstown. The turn of events came with the death of the Carib leader in 1797 which led to the surrender of the French and the Caribs to the British. Black Caribs were then sent to neighboring islands by ship and a few were left to the north to remain on the island.

<http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/ERC/bgnotes/wha/saintvincent9411.html>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20020219072419/http://cwr.utoronto.ca/Cultural/english/stvincent/alook.html>
<http://svgancestry.com/index.php/the-second-carib-war-on-st-vincent>

The slavery system did not last long on Saint Vincent and was abolished in 1834. Due to the fact that slavery was not on the islands for more than 50 years, the period following the abolition of slavery was not as tumultuous as other neighboring islands. After the emancipation of the slaves, the British contracted East Indian and Portuguese laborers to work the fields on the plantations. This system was abolished by 1871 and Saint Vincent was recognized as a Crown colony government in 1877.

Britain remained in complete control of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines until 1925 when a Legislative Council was organized. In 1951, universal suffrage was instituted and Saint Vincent began attempting to gain its independence, working together with neighboring island nations through the West Indies Federation.

However, this federation collapsed by 1962. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was given complete control over internal affairs in 1969. In 1979 the nation was the last of the Windward Islands to gain independence. The country has since functioned within the Commonwealth of Nations.

<http://www.svgtourism.com/index.php/en/about-svg/svg-history>
<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/St.+Vincent+and+the+Grenadines/History>
<http://www.in-west-indies.com/saint-vincent/discover/history.htm>
<http://svgancestry.com/index.php/st-vincent-history>
<http://www.country-studies.com/caribbean-islands/the-windward-islands-and-barbados.html>
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2345.htm>

Christian History

The first church to start a mission on the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was the Catholic Church whose central authority for the region was placed in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The French sent missionaries to this island in order to ease tensions among the natives in 1719. This was the only mission on the islands until European powers started to fight for the right to claim the nation as their own.

During the mid to late 1700s, the Church of England, also known as the Anglican Church, was introduced as the British started to stake their claim to the territory. Later, after the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were ceded to Britain, other denominations were introduced to the nation. In the early 1800s, Methodists came and ministered to those who were enslaved. By the end of that century, the Baptists and the Seventh-Day-Adventists would start their work among the Vincentians.

The turn of 20th century was one of change as some churches were being persecuted. Since then, the government has worked to eliminate discrimination based on religion. This was made all the more prevalent when the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became their own independent nation functioning within the common wealth in 1979. The constitution allows for the freedom of religion including the belief and practice of Christian denominations.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20020219072419/http://cwr.utoronto.ca/Cultural/english/stvincent/alook.html>
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127404.htm>
http://books.google.com/books?id=HOa3JiTnPS0C&pg=PA470&dq=Catholic+mission++Saint+Vincent+and+the+Grenadines&lr=&as_brr=3#
<http://www.prolades.com/cra/regions/caribe/wind-chron.htm>
http://books.google.com/books?id=XSQUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA291&dq=Catholic+mission++Saint+Vincent+and+the+Grenadines&lr=&as_brr=3#v=onepage&q=the%20grenadines&f=false

Religion

Non Christian

Islam

Islam was introduced to the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by way of the indentureship system which brought East Indians to the islands in the mid-1800s. Currently, about 1% of the total population is Muslim which accounts for about 1,045 persons. As of now, there are no mosques or other types of centers which allow for an organized type of worship. There is a community development association located in the capital which is in pursuit of an established center for worship.

<http://svgenealogy.com/index.php/st-vincent-history>
http://www.islamicpopulation.com/America/Saint%20Vincent%20&Grenadines_Caribbean/Islam%20in%20Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines.html
http://www.islamicfinder.org/worldIslamicCountry.php?more=more&startPoint=0&endPoint=50&country=saint_vincent_grenadines&lang

Hinduism

Like Islam, Hinduism was introduced through the indentureship system in which East Indians were contracted for labor after the abolition of slavery in the mid-1800s. Currently, about 2% of the total population is Hindu which accounts for about 2,090 persons. The government allows them to practice their religion as dictated by their belief system without discrimination.

<http://www.indocaribbeanheritage.com/content/view/20/41>
<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~jmcelroy/New%20Perspectives.html>

Baha'i

It is unknown as to the exact date of the introduction of the Baha'i faith to this nation. About 0.3% of the total population practices this religion which accounts for a little over 300 members. Like other religions, those of the Baha'i faith are free to practice their religion without discrimination.

<http://www.bahaindex.com/en/news/1-general-news/4887-bahai-world-loses-most-distinguished-member>

Jehovah's Witness

It is unknown as to the date when the religion of the Jehovah's Witnesses was introduced to the nation. Currently about 0.3% of the total population is a member of a Jehovah's Witness church which accounts for about 330 members. These are served by 7 congregations located throughout the islands that are free to practice their religion as their belief system dictates.

http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS/Mormons)

The LDS church was introduced to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 1980 when the first missionaries were sent to the islands. Currently about 427 people are members of this church which accounts for about 0.4% of the population. These members are served by 2 congregations and one of these is located in the capital city of Kingstown.

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/contact-us/saint-vincent>

Spiritual Baptists

The Spiritual Baptist church was introduced to the nation in the early 1900s, but the government did not officially recognize them until 1951. Also known as "shouters," about 7.4% of the total population is Spiritual Baptist. This accounts for about 7,738 persons.

http://www.blackwellreference.com/public/tocnode?id=g9780631181392_chunk_g978063118139220_ss1-150
http://www.nalis.gov.tt/Communities/communities_BanningShouterBaptists.htm
<http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/Saint-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines.html>

Traditional/Animism

Animism and traditional religions have been a part of the Vincentian landscape since before its European discovery. About 2% of the total population continues to practice these types of religions. This accounts for about 2,090 persons on the islands.

Non-religious/ Other

About 1% of the total population, 1,045 persons, is not affiliated with any religious order or establishment. Meanwhile, 1.1% of the population or 1,150 people are members of other religions not mentioned above.

Catholic/Orthodox

The first documented missionaries were sent in 1719 to help ease racial tensions on the island. Catholics in this country were under the authority of the Archdiocese of the Port of Spain located in Trinidad and Tobago until the year 1989 when the Archdiocese split into smaller jurisdictions.

Though the locations of leadership have changed since 2007, the Catholic Church currently functions as a Diocese under the Archdiocese of Castries which is located in Saint Lucia. About

7.5% of the total population is a member of this church which accounts for about 7,850 people. There are 6 parishes and about 10 priests function as ministers to the Catholics in this country.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12291a.htm>

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dkina.html>

<http://home.catholicweb.com/diocesefkingstown>

<http://www.gcatholic.com/dioceses/country/VC.htm>

<http://www.rcpos.org/v3.0/about>

<http://www.country-studies.com/caribbean-islands/the-windward-islands-and-barbados.html>

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican

The Anglican Church is associated with the arrival of the British in the area of the Windward Islands in the early 1600s. By 1810, this church had a mission in the conversion of slaves. The Diocese of the Windward Islands was formally established in 1878.

Currently, the Anglican Church is the largest denomination practiced in the nation. Approximately 40% of the total population, accounting for 41,830 people, belongs to this faith background. These members are served by 25 churches which are located throughout the islands.

<http://stmatthewsparishbiabou.webs.com/windwardislandsdiocese.htm>

Methodists

The Methodist Church has been working in Saint Vincent since the year 1787. The first chapel was built in 1840. In the 1990s the Methodist Church further organized itself and the Islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were divided into two manageable administrative divisions known as circuits: the Kingstown/Chateaubelair circuit and the Mt. Coke Circuit. Currently, about 11.4% of the total population is a member of the Methodist Church which accounts for 11,920 persons.

http://www.mcca-southcaribbean.org/our_church.php?contentid=12

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/kingchatsvg/index.html>

Seventh Day Adventist

The Seventh Day Adventist Church first began its mission to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 1898. In 1981 the church became an independent local body. Today around 10.2% of the total population belongs to a Seventh Day Adventist Church which accounts for 10,660 persons. There are currently 44 congregations throughout the islands which work together to minister to those living in the nation.

http://www.svgadventists.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=38

Baptists

Mission work by the Baptist Church began in 1834 and Baptist Mid-missions began in 1947. Other Independent Baptists came in 1977 and in 1987 the Baptist Convention of Saint Vincent was established. It is important to note that the Baptists that are a part of this denomination are not associated with the Spiritual Baptists who emerged in the 1860s. Currently, about 1.6 % of the total population holds membership at a Baptist Church which accounts for 1,670 persons.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=u2cRPScugBwC&pg=PA563&dq=Baptists+in+Saint+Vincent+and+the+Grenadines#v=onepage&q=Baptists%20in%20Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines&f=false>
<http://kbcsvg.org>

Christian Brethren

It is unknown as to when the Christian Brethren church first started working in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. About 1,254 people, accounting for 1.2% of the total population, are members of the Christian Brethren Church. Also known as the Plymouth Brethren, there are currently 31 congregations which serve their members.

<http://www.brethrenportal.com/PlymouthBrethren/PlymouthBrethrenStatistics.html>

Pentecostals

Pentecostals came to the Caribbean in the early 1900s and has since grown rapidly. The Church of Christ, the Church of the Nazarene, and the Church of God are all included in this category. Together they minister to 11.3% of the total population which accounts for 11,817 people. There are at least 11 churches which serve its members.

<http://www.pawionline.org/stvincent2.php>
http://church-of-christ.org/churches/Saint_Vincent_and_the_Grenadines/Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines_S.htm

Independent churches found in the country

Other independent churches with smaller followings would include churches like the Salvation Army Church. It is unknown how many members make up these independent churches and each one has its own history and work in Saint Vincent.

<http://www.gov.vc/Govt/Government/Executive/Ministries/SocialDevelopmentEtc/EcclesiasticalAffairs/EcclesiasticalAffairs.asp?a=2304&z=435>

General:

<http://www.prolades.com/cra/regions/caribe/wind-chron.htm>
<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/country/?CountryID=20>
<http://www.prolades.com/historical/lee-chron.pdf>

People Groups

16416

Black Carib (est. 3,347)

Those who are Black Carib are the descendants of the Amerindian group called Caribs who were present on the island before 1300. At around 1700, there was a shipwreck on the island whose ship was carrying Nigerian slaves to neighboring islands. Those on the ship intermarried with the Caribs and their descendants are called Black Caribs.

The Black Caribs are also known as Garifuna which is the name of their primary language. Today, most are Roman Catholic. Less than 2% are known to be evangelical Christian. There are a few evangelical organizations reaching out to this people group and there are a variety of resources available to them. These would include the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and other gospel recordings.

<http://www.mayaparadise.com/garifune.htm>

<http://sygancestry.com/index.php/slavery-in-st-vincent>

<http://sygancestry.com/index.php/carib-history>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20020219072419/http://cwr.utoronto.ca/Cultural/english/stvincent/alook.html>

16417

British (est. 40)

A British presence has been on the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since before its cession to Britain in 1763. Those who currently live on the islands primarily speak English and most practice a form of Protestant Christianity. It is estimated that up to 5% of the British population on these islands is evangelical Christian. Resources available for ministry include the Scriptures, the *Jesus* film, gospel recordings, and worship music.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2345.htm>

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East Indian (est. 5,900)

East Indians first came to these islands during the period of indentured labor which followed the abolition of slavery. Most came from India between the years 1840 and 1871. East Indians primarily speak Hindi and, for the most part, practice Hinduism. It is important to note, however, that some of those who came intermarried with Christians and later converted to Christianity. It is estimated that up to 5% are evangelical Christian. Resources like the Hindi Bible, the *Jesus* film, and ethnic worship music are available for ministerial use.

<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~jmcclroy/New%20Perspectives.html>

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French (est. 200)

The French were the first European power to settle the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, settling the area in 1719. Today they continue to speak French and up to 5% are known to be evangelical Christian. There are churches on the islands which are reaching out to this people group and there are many resources available to them for ministry purposes. These would include the Bible, the *Jesus* film and other gospel recordings in their primary language.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2345.htm>

16419

Vincentian (est. 94,500)

Those who are considered Vincentian are people who have a diverse ethnic background which would include African, European, East Indian, and Amerindian groups. They primarily speak a Vincentian/Virgin Island Creole English known as *Vincy Twang* and are mostly Roman Catholic. Over 24%, are evangelical Christian. The Bible is available to this people group in their primary language in addition to the *Jesus* film. Other materials are available to them in the country's official language of English.

<http://www.gov.vc/govt/Citizens/citizen.asp>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2345.htm>

16420

Portuguese (est. 511)

Like the East Indian people group, the Portuguese came to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines during the period of indentured labor after the abolition of slavery. Most came from Madeira and still practice Roman Catholicism. Less than 2% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian. Ministry tools which include the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and gospel recordings are available to this people group in their primary language of Portuguese.

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~portwestind/diaspora/waves_of_migration.htm

16421

Syrian Arab (est. 90)

It is unknown as to the exact date when the first Syrian Arabs immigrated to the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. They primarily speak a northern dialect of Arabic and practice the Sunni Islam. It is believed that less than 2% of this population is evangelical Christian. Christian resources like the Bible and gospel recordings are available in their primary language. The *Jesus* film is available to them in the country's primary language of English.

<http://svgancestry.com/index.php/families-surnames>

General:

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

<http://svgancestry.com/index.php/st-vincent-history>

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to help local believers evangelize the followers of the Spiritual Baptists that make up about 7.4% of the total population, almost 8000 persons. Followers of this group practice a form of syncretic Protestantism.

The local people could use training and inspiration to reach these peoples with the true teachings of the Bible.

2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek help with economic development on the islands. One of the largest problems faced by the nation is the underemployment and unemployment of about 15% of the total population. Many rely on subsistence farming for survival. Sponsoring churches could help the unemployed by job training and guiding in farming techniques. Churches could help families who are going through difficult times by providing counseling through the church.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches could provide some prenatal care and early life help. Over 15.4% of the babies die during infancy. Clinics and other medical aid might turn this around. Medical mission trips in the poorest areas, like the area around Mt. Soufriere, would be helpful in meeting the physical needs of the poor so that believers could attend to their spiritual needs.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid local leaders in meeting the social and physical needs of the people along with the obvious spiritual needs of the people.

Pictures

<http://www.flickr.mud.yahoo.com/photos/karlek/tags>
http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&safe=active&rls=com.microsoft%3A*%3AIE-SearchBox&rlz=1I7GGLG_en&um=1&sa=1&q=St.+Vincent+and+Grenadines&aq=f&oq=&aqi=&start=0
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<http://www.gov.vc/govt/Gallery/index.htm>

Links

<http://www.benrff.org/documents/Mission%20Textbook%20web.pdf>
<http://svgancestry.com>
http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761559060/Saint_Vincent_and_the_Grenadines.html
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