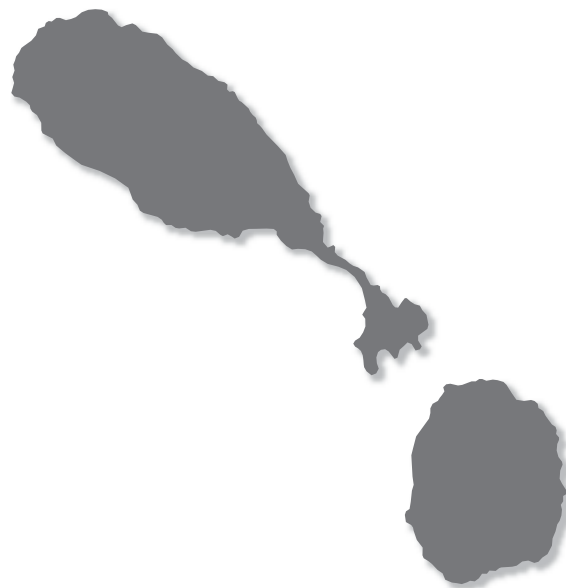


# Saint Kitts and Nevis

*Saint Kitts and Nevis does not appear to have a significant child labor problem; however, children work in agriculture and as domestic servants may be vulnerable to worst forms abuses. Gaps in legislation do not adequately protect some children from being employed in hazardous conditions.*

## Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable



## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor<sup>4949</sup>




Children in Saint Kitts and Nevis may be engaged in the worst forms of child labor, particularly in agriculture, where they assist with livestock farming and vegetable production.<sup>4950</sup> Children’s work in agriculture commonly involves using potentially dangerous machinery and tools, carrying of heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides.

Children are also found working as domestic servants in other households, which is an acceptable social practice.<sup>4951</sup> Child domestic labor may involve long hours of work and may expose children to risks of physical and sexual exploitation from their employers.

## Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act and the Employment of Children (Restriction) Ordinance set the minimum age for employment at 16, including employment that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the employed child. The Employment of Children (Restriction) Ordinance does not define types of hazardous work.<sup>4952</sup> Children ages 16 and 17

appear to lack legal protection from employment in hazardous conditions.

	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	No
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	No
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓
	Minimum Age for Work	16
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	16
	Compulsory Education Age	16
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Constitution explicitly prohibits forced or slave labor.<sup>4953</sup> Trafficking is also prohibited and criminalized by the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Bill.<sup>4954</sup>

A person who procures children for prostitution may be prosecuted under the Probation and Child Welfare Board Act, which prohibits the infliction of non-accidental injury on a child by a caretaker, including sexual abuse or activities of a sexual nature.<sup>4955</sup>

The Education Act of 2005 makes schooling free and compulsory until age 16 and attendance is strictly enforced by school truancy officers.<sup>4956</sup>

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

Although the worst forms of child labor do not appear to be widely prevalent, research found no evidence that the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has established a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.

The Ministry of Labor is the lead agency responsible for the enforcement of laws regarding the worst forms of child labor. It has nine labor inspectors responsible for investigating all labor violations, including those related to children.<sup>4957</sup> There were no reported complaints, inspections, prosecutions or violations related to the worst forms of child labor during the reporting period.<sup>4958</sup>

The police force takes the lead in any trafficking investigation and refers suspected cases of child

trafficking to the Ministry of Social Development, which oversees child abuse cases.<sup>4959</sup>

### **Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Government's White Paper on Education Development and Policy 2009-2019 outlines the Ministry of Education's developments and policies, including improving access to and quality of education for all children.<sup>4960</sup> The Government holds monthly assessment meetings to monitor the impact of the plan; however, according to a Ministry of Education official, neither working children nor dropout rates is a major concern in Saint Kitts and Nevis.<sup>4961</sup> The question of whether this policy has an impact on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

### **Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Ministry of Education offers vocational educational opportunities to children who are failing in the public schools.<sup>4962</sup> The question of whether these programs have an impact on child labor does not appear to have been addressed.

Research found no evidence of any programs to address the worst forms of child labor in agriculture and domestic service.

**Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Saint Kitts and Nevis:**

**IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:**

- Amend current laws to increase the minimum age for hazardous employment to 18 and to define work that is hazardous for children.

**IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:**

- Establish a coordinating mechanism to combat the worst forms of child labor.

**IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:**

- Assess the impact that the existing policy may have on addressing children engaged in domestic service and agriculture.

**IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:**

- Assess the impact that existing programs may have on addressing child labor.
- Implement programs to address the worst forms of child labor in agriculture and domestic service.

<sup>4949</sup> Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. For more information on sources used for these statistics, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in these report, please see the “Children’s Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions” section.

<sup>4950</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, para 2.

<sup>4951</sup> Ibid. See also U.S. Department of State, “Saint Kitts and Nevis,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2010*, Washington, DC, April 8, 2011, section 7d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154517.htm>.

<sup>4952</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Saint Kitts and Nevis (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2010*, March 1, 2011, paras 5, 7; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

<sup>4953</sup> Government of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, *Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis Constitutional Order of 1983*, No. 881, (June 23, 1983), article 6; available from <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Kitts/kitts83.html>.

<sup>4954</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Saint Kitts and Nevis,” in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2009*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2010, section 6; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/wha/136124.htm>. See also IOM, *Counter-Trafficking Activities in St. Kitts and*

*Nevis: An Overview of 2008*, January 2009; available from <http://www.iom.int/unitedstates/ct/PDFs/Building%20Capacity/2008/St.%20Kitts%20and%20Nevis-%20Activities%20Summary%202008.pdf>.

<sup>4955</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Saint Kitts and Nevis (2010)*, para 3.

<sup>4956</sup> UNESCO, “Saint Kitts and Nevis,” in *World Data on Education: 7th Edition, 2010/2011*, June 2010, 2; available from [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Saint\\_Kitts\\_and\\_Nevis.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Saint_Kitts_and_Nevis.pdf). See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, paras 3E, 4H. See also U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 11, 2011 (1:58 p.m.).

<sup>4957</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, paras 4D-1, 4D-3.

<sup>4958</sup> Ibid., paras 4D-3, 4D-6, 4D-7, 4D-8, 4D-9.

<sup>4959</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, February 5, 2010*, sections 2D-I-1, 2D-II-1.

<sup>4960</sup> Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, White Paper on Education and Development, 2009-2019: Raising the Standard, Maximising Resources, Aligning with Best Practices - Promoting Success for All, March 2009, 2; available from [http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Saint%20Christopher%20and%20Nevis/St\\_Kitts\\_Nevis\\_White\\_Paper\\_Ed\\_Development\\_and\\_Policy\\_2009-2019.pdf](http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Saint%20Christopher%20and%20Nevis/St_Kitts_Nevis_White_Paper_Ed_Development_and_Policy_2009-2019.pdf).

<sup>4961</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 11, 2011 (2:33 p.m.).

<sup>4962</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bridgetown, *reporting, January 28, 2011*, para 3F.