



Children in the States

CONNECTICUT

September 2015

Child Population

775,430 children lived in Connecticut in 2014; 42 percent were children of color.

- 58 percent were White
- 22 percent were Hispanic
- 11 percent were Black
- 5 percent were Asian
- 4 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 7 (14.9 percent) of Connecticut's children were poor in 2014, a total of 113,712 children.¹

- Connecticut ranked 7th in child poverty among states.²
- Nearly 1 in 14 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Connecticut are disproportionately poor.

- More than 3 in 10 Black children and more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children were poor in 2014, compared to 1 in 18 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Connecticut leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- More than 2,800 Connecticut public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- 19 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 30 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Connecticut ranked 8th of 50 states in child food security and 22nd in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 20 percent of Connecticut children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- 73 percent of Connecticut children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Connecticut 4th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Connecticut's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage or access to care, which can jeopardize their education and their future.

- In FY2013, 92.6 percent of eligible children participated in Connecticut Medical Assistance Program or HUSKY Program, Connecticut's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

325,414 Connecticut children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Connecticut Medical Assistance Program, and 18,999 in HUSKY Program.

- Nearly 34,000 Connecticut children ages 0-17 (4.3 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 9th lowest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 19,000 children ages 0-18 were eligible for Connecticut Medical Assistance Program or HUSKY Program but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$13,241 – 29.7 percent more than the average in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Connecticut.
- Connecticut did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 63 percent of Connecticut's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 56 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Connecticut's state-funded preschool program met 6 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Connecticut's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 57 percent of Connecticut's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 55 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 85 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 86 percent could not compute.
 - 80 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 81 percent could not compute.
- 86 percent of Connecticut public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Connecticut 12th among states. 73 percent of Black students and 74 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 90 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 7 percent of Connecticut public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Connecticut 8th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 17 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Connecticut, 7,287 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.3 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 4,486 Connecticut children in foster care.

Too many Connecticut children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 11,918 children were arrested in Connecticut in 2012 – a rate of 3,116 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 252 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 46 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 30 percent were Hispanic, and 20 percent were White.
- 88 Connecticut children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Connecticut spent 2.2 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Connecticut ranked 2nd out of 41 states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 10 children and teens were killed by guns in Connecticut in 2013 – a rate of 1.1* out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

*Rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.