

Diaper Need and Period Poverty in Connecticut

The Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight, Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council (MAPOC),
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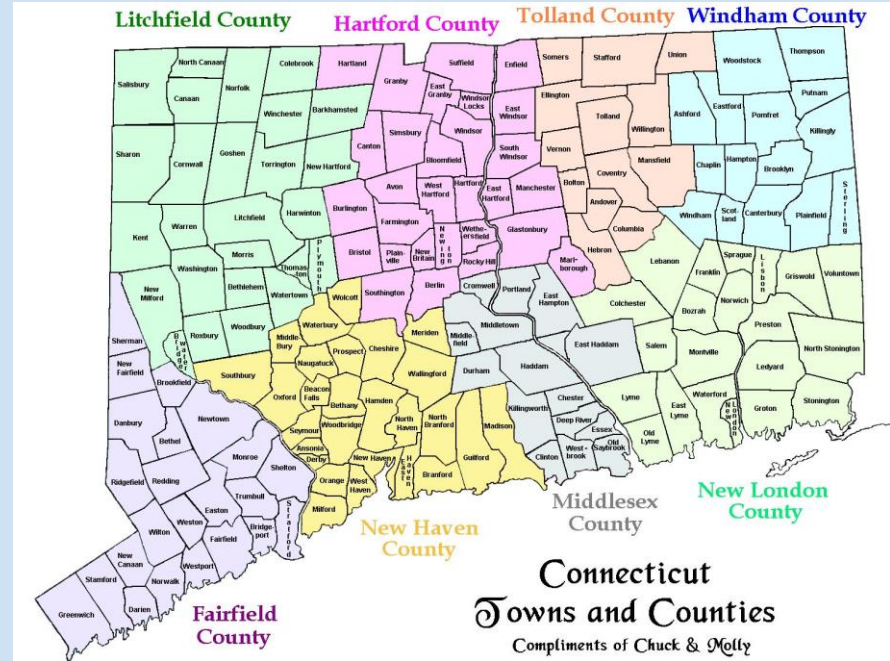
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Connecticut ranks #1 in **inequality**.
... According to a recent study by the **Economic Policy Institute**, **Connecticut** has the dishonor of being the state with the most income **inequality**. Specifically, we have the largest **gap** between the richest 1 percent and the poorest 99 percent in the whole country.



CT landscape

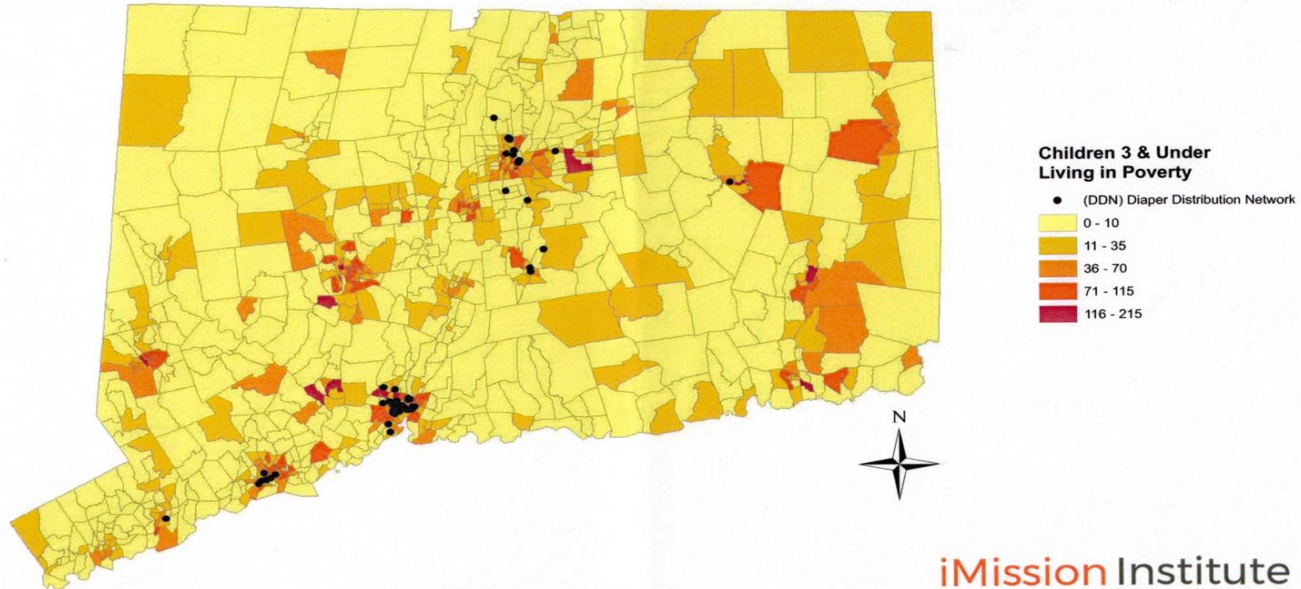
- Child poverty in the state-12.6%
- 12 CT cities/towns have child poverty rates over 20%

Ansonia 33.3%
Bridgeport 32.9
Derby 21.5
Hartford 43.2
Meriden 21.0
New Britain 32.9

New Haven 36.5
New London 44.5
Norwich 26.1
Waterbury 37.8
West Haven 21.0
Windham 34.5

Goldfarb, Kayla, (2018) Taking Stock: Considering the Future of Child Well-Being and Family Opportunity in Connecticut: 2018 Kids Count Data Book. Hartford, CT: Connecticut Association for Human Services.

Children 3 and Under Living in Poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

iMission Institute

The Diaper Bank of Connecticut

- Established in 2004 as New Haven Diaper Bank



The Diaper Bank of Connecticut

- CT -1st state to have line item in state budget for diapers in 2007.
- Emergency supply 2010 TANF ARRA
- Sales tax on diapers and period supplies: passed 2016 enacted 2018
- 1st Economic Analysis of diaper bank in the country 2018

The Diaper Bank of Connecticut

- 25 million diapers distributed!



How we work



Diapers:

How something so small can have such a large impact

Overall Health

- Severe diaper rash leading to eczema and possible urinary tract infections.

- Education for Children

- Early Childhood Centers will not take children without an accompanying supply of diapers.

- Jobs and Education for Parents

- Parents without access to daycare centers are prevented from training and entering the workforce.

Better Health for Children and Increased Opportunities for Families

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS
OF THE DIAPER BANK OF CONNECTICUT

REPORT AUTHORS:

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Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis

What was surprising about the data?

- Sheer level of need
- Health impacts
- Magnifying economic impacts





FAMILIES RECEIVING DIAPERS ARE IN ACUTE NEED OF SUPPORT.

- More than **60%** of families receiving diapers report incomes of less than the **\$20,000** per year, well below the federal poverty level.
- More than **90%** of families receiving diapers live on less than **\$40,000** per year, which is approximately 160% of the federal poverty level for a family of three.



Source: Better Health for Children and Increased Opportunities for Families study
conducted by the Diaper Bank of Connecticut © 2018



A MAJORITY OF FAMILIES RECEIVING DIAPERS HAVE JOBS.

51% of adults living in households receiving diapers are employed. **32%** of the adults work a total of 30 hours per week in one or more jobs or as full-time employees.



WITHOUT DIAPERS, PARENTS MISS WORK AND/OR SCHOOL.

- More than half (**56%**) of parents using child care to go to work have missed work because of an inadequate supply of diapers.
- Parents unable to access child care because of a lack of diapers missed work or school on average **4 days** per month.



PERSONAL INCOME INCREASES 11 TIMES FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN DIAPER ASSISTANCE.

For every **\$10,000** of assistance from The Connecticut Diaper Bank, total current personal income of all diaper recipients will increase by **\$114,000** in 2016, with increases of **\$296,000** by 2031, when adjusted for inflation and the cumulating education wage and salary supplements within the REMI model.



Source: Better Health for Children and Increased Opportunities for Families study
conducted by the Diaper Bank of Connecticut © 2018

CHANGING LIVES

HELPING A FAMILY WORK TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

Michelle Inahuazo just passed the licensing exam to become a registered nurse. That opens up a world of possibilities for the Inahuazos after some lean years. The family was helped by diapers from The Diaper Bank that kept the children clean, dry and healthy.

Diapers also made it possible for Kiva and Malakai to attend childcare, so that Michelle could take classes at Southern Connecticut State University.

Michelle already had a degree in health sciences. But once the recession hit, she found there were no jobs for people with her qualifications. Her husband teaches English as a second language and runs a program for refugee children. His job, however, is 37 hours per week, just below the cut off for benefits. This left the family of four in a financial squeeze.

Michelle enrolled in Nurturing Families Network, a program that provides parenting classes and other services for first-time parents, from pregnancy through kindergarten.

Michelle hopes to land a job where she is working with children, perhaps as a labor and delivery nurse. Nursing offers wide flexibility in scheduling, which is important to her with two little ones at home.



"Slowly but surely, we've been able to get on our feet," Michelle says.



1 in 4 women

Have Struggled to Purchase Period Products
in the Past Year Due to Lack of Income

Consequences of Period Poverty

- Participation in daily life
- Coping strategies
- Impacts on physical & psychological health



The Alliance for Period Supplies

76

Allied Programs

1,526

Partner Agencies

36.9 K

Individuals helped
monthly

17 M

Products donated

Medicaid

- Diapers covered as an expense for children with special needs
- Adult incontinence products covered as an expense

Medical Necessity Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity:
(as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 17b259b)

Federal Legislation

- 2016 President's Budget included \$10 million to test effective ways to get diapers to families in need
- 2017 HR1143 Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act of 2017 - 48 Cosponsors
- 2019 HR1846/S.1404 End Diaper Need Act of 2019 - 40 Cosponsors
- 2019 HR1882 Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2019 - 84 Cosponsors

State Legislation

- CA funds \$30 monthly diaper voucher for families enrolled in the CalWORKS program (2017)
- NV funds Diaper Resources Committee to research opportunities to improve access to diapers and diapering supplies for recipients of public assistance and other low-income families (2018)
- CA funds \$10 million of legislature-approved funding among 4 regional food banks across CA to help with their Diaper Bank Programs. (2018)
- CT state budget includes \$500K/year for The Diaper Bank of Connecticut diaper assistance for families in need (2019)
- MA period supply legislation, I AM MASS coalition providing period supplies in prisons, homeless shelters and public schools

Local Legislation

- City of New York provides diapers in city run child care centers and shelters (2018)
- San Francisco, the city and county Human Services Agency, contracted with Help A Mother Out, a local diaper bank, to provide diapers to all residents with children under 3 years old enrolled in TANF or SNAP through the Family Resource Centers in the city and the HSA offices.
- Westchester, County, New York, the Junior League has partnered with the County Department of Social Services to create the Westchester County Diaper Bank. The Junior League collects diapers and funds to buy diapers and the County stores the diapers in their warehouses and distributes to families in need through their offices.



Thank you!

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#EndDiaperNeed
#EndPeriodPoverty