

POVERTY OVERVIEW

What Is Poverty?

As we begin the process of creating a new anti-poverty vision and strategy for our agency and for our community, we need to have a profile of poverty in our community. So, what are we talking about when we use the word “poverty”? The federal poverty guidelines were developed in the 1960s and have been adjusted for inflation annually ever since. The federal formula is based on a multiple of basic family food cost, a formula that has come under much scrutiny and criticism. Here are the most recent federal poverty guidelines:

2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,400	\$13,000	\$11,960
2	14,000	17,500	16,100
3	17,600	22,000	20,240
4	21,200	26,500	24,380
5	24,800	31,000	28,520
6	28,400	35,500	32,660
7	32,000	40,000	36,800
8	35,600	44,500	40,940
For each additional person, add	3,600	4,500	4,140

SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 15, Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Given the definition of poverty, the poverty rate is higher than it has been in over a decade and the number in poverty is the highest since 1960. The 2008 poverty rate, 13.2% was the highest poverty rate since 1997.

--- US Census. Historical Poverty Rates

The official poverty rate in recent years:

All People	
Year	Percentage
2000	12.5%
2005	12.6%
2006	12.3%
2007	12.5%
2008	13.2%

Note: Source for 2008 poverty rate is Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008. US Census. (Statistics from the US Census American Community Survey differ.)

Public policy makers, advocates and academics have argued that the federal poverty guidelines understate the severity of poverty in the nation and fail to define the real urgency of individuals and families who cannot meet their basic needs on a consistent basis. The State of Connecticut, for instance has doubled the federal guidelines in framing its new public policy commitment to reduce child poverty in the state by **50%** over the next ten years. The state assumes that citizens below 100% of the federal guidelines live in severe poverty; it assumes that citizens living below 200% of the federal guidelines—many of whom are the working poor—struggle to meet their basic needs on a consistent basis and struggle to provide their children with opportunities for success.

Academic Andrew Hacker argues that U.S. households with less than **\$25,000** income annually comprise an economic group he calls “Deprived,” families who cannot meet their basic needs on a consistent basis. Here is his picture of U.S. households living in three different economic groups:

18.6%	Comfortable	+\$75,000
53%	Coping	\$25,000--\$75,000
28%	Deprived	Under \$25,000

Hacker's perspective suggests that the U.S. economy is not working well enough for over one quarter of the population. Specifically, he points out:

- **1/3** of U.S. jobs pay less than **\$20,000**
- **17%** of the population is without health insurance
- In 1970, **one out of 15** children were on public assistance; in **1997 one out of 7**
- Percent of races in poverty
 - White **8.5%**
 - Black **29.3%**
 - Hispanic **30.3%**
 - Asian **14.6%**
- Of those who start life in the lowest economic quintile, **40%** will stay there for a long period
- Of those who start life in the highest economic quintile, **80%** will stay in the 4th or 5th quintile
- Only **1 in 10 children** in the Deprived economic group goes to college

Source: Andrew Hacker, *Money: Who Has How Much and Why*, 1997

Most recently, strategists in our own community action field have revisited the task of defining poverty, reframing the analysis in terms of a continuum of economic security in order to re-examine the issue from a fresh perspective:

CONTINUUM OF ECONOMIC SECURITY (Draft December 18, 2006 by the Poverty Definitions Working Group)

1. Economically In Crisis/Below subsistence/Chronically impoverished

Persons and households that regularly experience many of the following conditions:

- chronic lack of basic necessities including food
- unable to secure permanent shelter; actively homeless; or no capacity to meet market level rents
- lack long-term ties to labor market either formal or informal
- chronic/permanent mental or physical disability that limits employment
- Family structures seriously compromised; at-risk of failing children and elder supports.
- has few or no kin/"clan" support relationships
- minimal engagement with community or public resources
- no assets
- one-sided engagement with community services (i.e. only able to receive)
- limited transportation (undependable car) area of low transit options
- major health conditions with care insufficient to meet needs

2. Economically Impoverished - Vulnerable, Insecure, At Risk (includes the poor, "working poor/near poor")

This category includes what has been historically defined as those eligible for federal subsistence programs, but also working poor individuals, persons whose incomes are insufficient to meet basic household needs over the long-term.

- intermittent lack of basic necessities, including food
- limited or irregular access to labor market or self-employment
- temporary/short-term lack of cash
- irregular employment
- mental or physical disability that limits employment
- at risk of homelessness
- housing costs in local market exceeds 35% of income.
- has ability to work and seek out community and public services, interrupted by unemployment; relocations; immigration status
- Parent may lack resources to prepare children; Family/household status compromised putting children/elders at risk of being removed from household.
- Has few kin/clan support relationships
- 1 paycheck from financial crisis
- health conditions going under-treated; limits/constraints on health care access
- no asset base
- health care debt or other personal debt exceeds capacity to pay within current income

3. **Economically Stable** – *persons and households with resources and cash income sufficient to support itself over time; maintaining family structures, but still vulnerable to financial crises.*

- regular source of income; average risk of unemployment
- ability to engage the labor market
- can maintain basic necessities of household
- capacity and knowledge of community and public services
- able to access credit
- can save
- has regular access to private or community services and programs as eligible (health, counseling, etc.)
- housing is assured or stable within market conditions; rent is no more than 35% or less of income.
- can maintain stable family relationships; handle problems in a steady way
- engage in two-way civic/community participation
- understand basic financial planning principles, credit, debt
- have savings or assets to carry household expenses for at least 3 months
- regular dependable transportation options
- understands how to find a job, do business in the US

4. **Economically Thriving/Asset building** – *these households have income more than needed to meet basic needs; enabling them to save and plan for the future with security and meet contingencies and short-term shortfalls.*

- can support basic household needs on a regular basis
- can support family structures
- regularly engages the market economy institutions
- has knowledge and access to personal and business capital (formal or informal)
- stable housing; maximal housing choice costing no more than 35% of gross income
- education/skills available across range of labor market positions
- understands and may be engaged in entrepreneurial activities successfully
- understands and engaged in civic community of some kind (trade association, chamber of commerce, ethnic association) or votes on a regular basis.
- understands and makes use of tax deductions, financial planning and
- has retirement accounts
- assets/savings to carry household expenses for 6 months
- financial literate, understands how to use credit, debt, successfully
- personal debt not a burden on current income
- stable access to range of health care needs within budget
- transportation access to jobs and resources within reasonable cost and distance

5. **Economically Sustaining/Asset leveraging** – *these households can meet basic needs, and are investing surplus to generate long-range financial assets, becoming more independent of labor market with diversified incomes to meet contingencies and short-term shortfalls as well as retirement needs.*

- owns home; may own income –producing property
- able to leverage assets to increase future income (education/business/investments)
- can support basic household needs on a regular basis
- can support family structures
- has reliable and affordable transportation or close proximity to work and all needed private or community services (health, education, counseling, etc.)
- regularly engages the market economy institutions
- has knowledge and access to personal and business capital (formal or informal)
- understands compound interest/investment income
- education/skills available across range of labor market positions
- entrepreneurial
- understands and engaged in civic community of some kind (trade association, chamber of commerce, ethnic association) or votes on a regular basis.
- active financial planning, use of tax deductions to increase income
- assets/savings to carry household expenses for 12+ months
- has an active investment/savings account sufficient to cover retirement over time

These descriptors of levels of economic security do not mention income per se, but cause us to get to know individuals and families, to assess their situation carefully and then to address needs regardless of income.

Our Society's Mindset About Poverty

As we engage our community in a dialogue about what will become a new shared vision and new high impact strategies, we will be more successful if we define what we mean by the word poverty. We will also need to come to the dialogue with some ideas about what causes poverty. Decades of research into the causes of poverty in our wealthy country point to three foundational causes of poverty:

Education----- Race----- Family of origin

Having said that, we know that we will always have a wide range of opinions about the causes of poverty. The Ford Foundation has conducted research into what Americans think about poverty and reported their findings in [An Economy that Works for All](#). Their analysis tells us that:

- Most Americans believe in the American Dream, that any of us can gain wealth with hard work and good luck
- Americans believe in the value of work and the positive example we set for our children by hard work. Americans supported welfare reform because they believed that many people on welfare did not want to work
- Poverty is a low priority issue but Americans care about the poor
- Americans, including most poor people, believe that poverty is at least partially the fault of the poor—a personal problem brought on by poor choices
- Americans think poverty will always be with us
- Americans believe that the economy is a force of nature which cannot be governed without doing it damage
- Most people have some connection with people in poverty—friends, family or personal experience
- The media does not report extensively on the problems of the working poor

--<http://www.economythatworks.org>

As we plan with community groups, it will be helpful to know the values that guide Americans as they think about poverty and about people in poverty. According to the Ford Foundation's research, Americans hold these values:

1. Each individual is responsible for his or her own success or failure	3. Anyone can achieve the American Dream
2. With hard work comes reward	4. The goal is equal opportunity, not equal outcome



Connecticut: General Information

THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT: Situated on the New England coastline, Connecticut was the 5th state in the Union, acquiring statehood on Jan. 9, 1788. It is officially called, "The Constitution State." Hartford is the capital city and M. Jodi Rell is the state Governor. There are **8** counties, **169** towns, **21** cities and **9** boroughs.

Connecticut measures **5,018** square miles, which houses a population of **3,394,751**, **48.5%** of the population is male; **51%** female. The median age is **39**. Average household size is **2.5** persons and average family size is **three** persons. **23%** of the population is under 18 years and **13%** are 65 years and older.

Racial characteristics: White: **81.2%**; Black or African American: **9.1%**; Hispanic: **10.9%**.

Of the population 25 and older, **88%** have a high school degree or higher and **34.9%** have a Bachelor's degree or higher. **68%** of the population is in the labor force.

Connecticut ranks **3rd** in the nation in median household income (**\$68,411**), Median family income is (**\$84,657**). The per capita income is **\$37,083**.
-US Census 2008. American Community Survey

Yet, despite these advantages, too many families and children in Connecticut are in poverty. According to the 2008 American Community Survey 6.0 % of Connecticut, families were below the poverty level and 5.3 % of households were below the poverty level of \$10,000.
-US Census, 2008 ACS

Of all the state capitals across the country, Hartford is the poorest.
- NY Times, 9.3.2007

Connecticut: Economic

Household expenses (including food, housing, childcare, transportation and health care) nearly double for a single adult when that adult begins raising an infant.
- Child Poverty Council Plan. 1.2005

Nearly one-quarter (**24%**) of Connecticut children live in families with an income less than 200% of the federal poverty line, which is about **\$37,000** for a family of four.
-- 2004 Connecticut KIDS COUNT Data Book: Economic Security (CPC Plan.2005)

In 2003, despite working full-time, full-year, **9%** of Connecticut workers (**105,000**) earned less than **\$20,000** annually, and more than **a quarter of a million** workers earned less than **\$30,000** annually.
-- Hall, D., & Geballe, S. (2004, Sept.). *The state of working Connecticut, 2004, 44. Data CONNECTIONS. New Haven: Connecticut Voices for Children; U.S. Bureau of the Census (2004), reported in Connecticut Voices for Children. (2004, 8. 26). Too many working parents still struggling to make ends meet. Press release. New Haven: (CPC Plan.2005)*

Percent of Married-Couple Families With Both Husband and Wife in the Labor Force: 2006		
State	Rank	Percent
Connecticut	13	59.2%
US		55.2%

--US Census. 2008- ACS

Median Household Income (In 2008 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)		
State	Rank	Income
Connecticut	3	\$65,976
US		\$52,029

--US Census. 2008- ACS

Research indicates that the concerns of lower or moderate income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities, and legal immigrants are systematically **less likely** to be heard by government officials. -- *American Political Science*

Connecticut: Family Well Being - Jobs and Wages

Employment

Subject	Total	In labor force	Employed	Unemployment rate
Population 16 years and over	2,788,271	68.8%	64.2%	6.4%
16 to 19 years	200,956	48.7%	37.4%	22.8%
20 to 24 years	222,998	78.9%	68.7%	12.2%
25 to 44 years	917,942	85.4%	80.5%	5.4%
45 to 54 years	561,140	84.5%	80.8%	4.4%
55 to 64 years	407,992	71.8%	68.8%	4.1%
65 to 74 years	237,382	32.4%	30.9%	4.6%
75 years and over	239,861	7.1%	6.8%	3.9%
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN				
One race	N	N	N	N
White	2,279,806	68.4%	64.6%	5.3%
Black or African American	249,150	70.3%	60.5%	13.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	6,645	65.7%	56.6%	13.4%
Asian	94,190	72.4%	68.9%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	N	N	N	N
Some other race	115,842	69.4%	61.4%	11.5%
Two or more races	41,794	74.3%	65.3%	11.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	292,916	70.0%	63.4%	9.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	2,119,834	68.2%	64.5%	5.1%
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS				
Below poverty level	170,212	51.7%	36.4%	29.6%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Population 25 to 64 years	1,887,074	82.2%	78.0%	4.8%
Less than high school graduate	164,434	62.1%	54.4%	12.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	495,030	80.2%	74.8%	6.6%
Some college or associate's degree	505,721	85.0%	80.6%	4.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	721,889	86.2%	83.9%	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs requiring postsecondary education will account for **42%** of the total job growth between 2000 and 2010. However, the growth in the number of workers with postsecondary education over the next 20 years is expected to be only **19%**, which is much lower than the **38%** rate between 1980 and 2000.
 - Strawn, J. (2004, Feb.). Why Congress should expand, not cut, access to long-term training in TANF. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. (CPC Plan.2005)

Job openings in Connecticut are heavily oriented toward low-wage jobs requiring little preparation.
 - Child Poverty Council Plan.1. 2005

The 2008 unemployment rates in Connecticut among African- Americans workers (13.8%) were more than twice the rates of white workers (5.3%).
 - U.S. Census Bureau 2008 ACS Survey

Training, Education and Manpower, Inc. (TEAM) -- Poverty Data Report

A private, non-profit corporation, TEAM gives financial assistance, training, and supportive services to over 4,000 families in the region each year. TEAM is involved in Early Childhood Development Education, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Elderly Services, Heating Assistance, Housing, Economic Asset Building and Community and Neighborhood Services. The mission of TEAM, Inc. is to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community. TEAM, Inc. achieves its mission by conducting activities that focus on the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families residing in the Naugatuck-Housatonic Valley Region. Agency services include resource mobilization, education, advocacy and service delivery.

TEAM Inc. services the community around the Lower Naugatuck Valley region, which includes Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, and Woodbridge. The total land area of for the above communities is 180 square miles. Except for Shelton, which lies in Fairfield County, all the towns served by TEAM Inc, lie in New Haven County of Connecticut.

Lower Naugatuck population was the fastest growing sub-region in the state from 1990 through 2000 primary driven by young couples moving to more affordable area of living to purchase their first homes

Demographics

Population and projections

Town	2008 population	2013 projected population	% growth from 2008
Ansonia	18,737	18,688	-0.1
Beacon Falls	5,782	6,048	.9
Bethany	5,658	5,967	1.1
Derby	12,683	12,745	.1
Milford	55,421	56,888	.5
Orange	14,065	14,433	.5
Oxford	12,321	13,669	2.1
Seymour	15,984	16,159	.2
Shelton	38,739	38,779	.0
Woodridge	9,093	9,084	.0

--www.cerc.com. 2009 Town Profiles.

Race/ Ethnicity

Lower Naugatuck Valley region and the town of Milford are predominantly white, with approximately **90%** of the community identified as white in 2006 -2008. Over the past ten years, Naugatuck Valley's immigrant population, especially the Hispanic population, has grown dramatically. The Hispanic population of the Valley is highly concentrated in the towns of **Ansonia, Derby, Milford, and Shelton.**

--TEAM.2007, p. 26

Ansonia and Derby have a higher Spanish speaking population at **10%** each town.

---www.cerc 2009 Town Profiles---

Race / Ethnicity

Town	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic (any race)
Ansonia	82%	10%	2%	10%
Beacon Falls	92%	3%	2%	3%
Bethany	90%	4%	3%	3%
Derby	86%	6%	3%	10%
Milford	89%	4%	4%	5%
Orange	89%	3%	6%	2%
Oxford	93%	3%	2%	3%
Seymour	90%	4%	3%	4%
Shelton	92%	2%	3%	5%
Woodridge	86%	4%	7%	2%

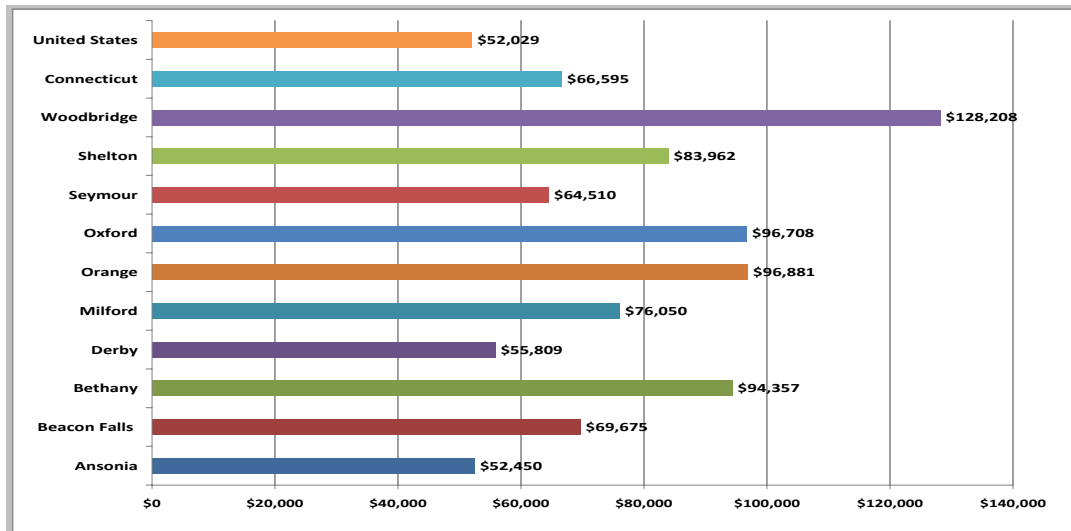
Note: totals exceed 100% as respondents may choose more than one category

--www.cerc.com. 2009 Town Profiles. --

Income Demographics

Table below indicates the recent census estimates (2008) median household income for TEAM's ten town Service Delivery Area as well as the State of Connecticut and the United States.

Median Household Income (2009)



www.cerc.com. Town Profiles 2009

TEAM Service Area Unemployment Rates

TEAM Service Area Employment Rates (August 2009)				
TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	RATE
Ansonia	10,321	9,350	971	9.4%
Beacon Falls	3,430	3,106	324	9.4%
Bethany	3,257	3,035	222	6.6%
Derby	7,123	6,490	633	8.9%
Milford	33,166	30,754	2,412	7.3%
Orange	7,467	7,023	444	5.9%
Oxford	7,648	7,143	505	6.6%
Seymour	9,576	8,830	746	7.8%
Shelton	23,714	22,042	1,572	7.1%
Woodbridge	4,951	4,736	215	4.3%
	110,653	102,309	8,044	7.33%

	2006	2007	2008	August 2009
Ansonia	5.3	5.6	7.1	9.4
Beacon Falls	4.2	4.4	5.8	9.4
Bethany	3.2	3.5	4.3	6.6
Derby	5.0	5.1	6.7	8.9
Milford	3.8	3.8	4.8	7.3
Orange	3.4	3.3	4.2	5.9
Oxford	3.3	3.5	4.6	6.6
Seymour	4.4	4.6	5.8	7.8
Shelton	3.7	4.0	5.1	7.1
Woodbridge	2.7	3.2	3.7	4.3

Ct. Dept. of Labor

Individuals and Families in Poverty

Town	Population	Individuals	Families	Children under 18	Children under 18 below 200%
Ansonia	18554	7.6%	6.2%	13%	33%
Beacon Falls	5246	5.9%	4.2%	10%	16%
Bethany	5040	2.6%	1.5%	4%	13%
Derby	12391	8.3%	6.9%	10%	21%
Milford	52305	3.7%	2.4%	4%	12%
Orange	13233	2.5%	2.1%	2%	5%
Oxford	9821	2.1%	1.6%	3%	9%
Seymour	15454	3.7%	3.6%	6%	17%
Shelton	38101	3.2%	2.5%	3%	11%
Woodbridge	8983	2.3%	1.4%	3%	9%

-----Census 2000

Education

	2007 Grad. Rate	Cumulative 4 – year drop out rate for class of 2007	Passed Physical fitness test	Expenditures per pupil by District
Ansonia	88.4%	9.4%	21.5%	\$7,225
Beacon Falls—	<i>data not included as Beacon Falls in part of a regional district (#16)</i>			
Bethany	PK-6		54%	\$10,604
Derby	96.4%	3.1%	25.2%	\$10,857
Milford	92.6%	6.7%	31%	\$12,534
Orange	PK-6		52.5%	\$11,569
Oxford	PK-10		44.6%	\$11,481
Seymour	92.3%	6.9%	40.9%	\$10,153
Shelton	92.7%	6.8%	47.1%	\$10,818
Woodbridge	PK-6		39.7%	\$13,503
Connecticut	92.6%	6.2%	36.1%	\$12,151

-- Connecticut Department of Education, 2007- 2008

Ansonia

District data for Ansonia	Ansonia	Connecticut
Ansonia has 4 public schools and 1 non-public school.		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Ansonia District, year: 2007-2008	48%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	10.3%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	46.5%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	44.8%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Ansonia School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE 4	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White	Grade 8	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
Math	84.7%	83.9	82.9%	92.1%	Math	58.4%	35.9%	60%	82.3%
Reading	60.7%	61.3	58.8%	74.3%	Reading	52.5%	30.8%	55%	79.0%

-http://www.cmtreports.com.

Bethany

District data for Bethany	Bethany	Connecticut
Bethany district has 1 public school and 0 non-public schools.	PK – 6 grade	
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Bethany District, year: 2007-2008	2.8%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	4.2%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	2.8%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	10.9%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Bethany School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE 4	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
Math	-	-	-	88.1%
Reading	-	-	-	77.6%

Derby

District data for Derby	Derby	Connecticut
Derby has 3 public schools and 1 non-public school.		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Derby District, year: 2007-2008	40.7%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	16.5%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	40.5%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	37.9%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Derby School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White	Grade 8	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4									
Math	50%	-	60%	70.4%	Math	48.6%	-	63%	77.4%
Reading	37%	-	25%	74.1%	Reading	56.8%	-	57.1%	79.8%

-http://www.cmtreports.com.

Milford

District data for Milford	Milford	Connecticut
Milford has 15 public schools and 9 non-public schools.		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Milford District, year: 2006-2007	14.3%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	6.9%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	14.3%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	17.2%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008/ *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Milford School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White	Grade 8	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4									
Math	70.7%	69.2%	66.7%	89.5%	Math	80%	80.8%	75%	87.9%
Reading	60.8%	61.5%	54.2%	84.0%	Reading	77.3%	66.7%	75%	86%

-http://www.cmtreports.com.

Orange

District data for Orange	Orange	Connecticut
Orange has 4 public schools and 3 non-public schools.		
PK – 6 grade		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Orange District, year: 2007-2008	2.9%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	3.9%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	2.9%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	16.8%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Orange School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2006-2007 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4				
Math		Information not available		
Reading		Information not available		

-http://www.cmtreports.com.

Oxford

District: Oxford	Oxford	Connecticut
Oxford has 4 public schools and 0 non-public schools.		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Waterbury District, year: 2007-2008	6.5%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	2.5%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	6.5%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	6.6%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Oxford School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White	Grade 8	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4					Math	-	-	-	90.8%
Math	-	-	-	89.1%	Reading	-	-	-	85.7%
Reading	-	-	-	80.1%					

-<http://www.cmtreports.com>.

Seymour

District data for Seymour	Seymour	Connecticut
Seymour has 5 public schools and 0 non-public schools.		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Seymour District, year: 2007-2008	14.3%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	6.7%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	14.3%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	13%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Seymour School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White	Grade 8	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4					Math	68.6%	-	-	84.7%
Math	69.4%	-	-	90.5%	Reading	60%	-	-	81.9%
Reading	52.8%	-	-	75.4%					

-<http://www.cmtreports.com>.

Shelton

District data for Shelton	Shelton	Connecticut
Shelton has 8 public schools and 2 non-public schools.		
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Shelton District, year: 2007-2008	11.3%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	9.7%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	11.3%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	14.4%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

Achievement Gap

Shelton School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White	Grade 8	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4					Math	68.3%	-	81.3%	89.9%
Math	48.4%	-	54.2%	88%	Reading	63.5%	-	65.6%	88.9%
Reading	41.9%	-	58.3%	81%					

Woodbridge

District data for Woodbridge	Woodbridge	Connecticut
Woodbridge has 2 public schools and 1 non-public school.	PK – 6 grade	
Percentage of students eligible for FRL in Woodbridge District, year: 2007-2008	3.6%	28.7%
Number of K-12 students with non-English home language:	8.6%	13%
District percent poverty (07-08)*:	3.6%	27.9%
District percent minority (07-08)*:	17.4%	34.8%

--CT. Dept. of Ed. Strategic School Profiles: 2007-2008 / *-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2007- 2008

The Woodbridge School District has been tagged by NCLB as “Not Achieved Adequate Yearly Progress.”
-- CT. Dept. of Ed. NCLB State Reports. 2005- 2006

Achievement Gap

Woodbridge School District: NCLB: Students scoring at or above proficient in 2007-2008 school year

GRADE	FRL	African-American	Hispanic	White
4				
Math	-	-	-	84.8%
Reading	-	-	-	82.8%

-http://www.cmtreports.com.

Poverty / Child Poverty

Families and Individuals in poverty: 2000

Town	Population	Individuals	Families
Ansonia	18554	7.6%	6.2%
Beacon Falls	5246	5.9%	4.2%
Bethany	5040	2.6%	1.5%
Derby	12391	8.3%	6.9%
Milford	52305	3.7%	2.4%
Orange	13233	2.5%	2.1%
Oxford	9821	2.1%	1.6%
Seymour	15454	3.7%	3.6%
Shelton	38101	3.2%	2.5%
Woodbridge	8983	2.3%	1.4%

See page 16 of this report for poverty data on children.

--US Census, 2000.
TEAM.2007, p.33

In analyzing the nutritional benefits available to people in the community, there is a large concentration of participants for food stamps and the WIC program in the towns of **Ansonia, Derby, Milford, Shelton, and Seymour**. Team #1's analysis of the child poverty by town, noted that these same towns had the highest level of children under the federal poverty line.

--TEAM.2007, p. 14-15

—TEAM.2007, p. 65, 66

Ansonia and **Derby** have the largest minority population in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") program, which comprises **54%** and **41%** of the families enrolled in TANF, respectively. The Caucasian population consumes a large portion of TANF resources regarding families served.

--TEAM.2007, p. 6

As evident in the Household Composition data, the towns that showed the highest numbers of single mothers in the most populated communities served by TEAM were **Ansonia, Derby** and **Seymour**.

--TEAM.2007, p. 6-7

In 2000, the number of children living below poverty was the highest in the towns of **Ansonia, Beacon Falls, and Derby** with **13%, 10%, and 10%** of children under the age of 18 below the federal poverty line, respectively.

--TEAM.2007, p. 7

In analyzing the demographics of the communities assessed, it was discovered that the population of children that are under the age of 19 are accountable for approximately **45,900** of the area's general population. **5%** of the children are below the federal poverty level according to the 2000 US Census data. The towns of **Ansonia, Beacon Falls, and Derby** had the highest percentage of children below the federal poverty level compared to the town's overall population of children under 19, which amounted to **13%, 10%, and 10%** of the population, respectively.

--TEAM.2007, p.11

National

From the US Census 2008 Poverty Report released September 10, 2009

- The increase in the poverty rate between 2007 and 2008 was the first statistically significant annual increase since 2004. The 2008 poverty rate (13.2 percent) was the highest since 1997.
- In 2008, the family poverty rate and the number of families in poverty were 10.3 percent and 8.1 million, respectively, up from 9.8 percent and 7.6 million in 2007.
- For married-couple families, both the poverty rate and the number in poverty increased — 5.5 percent (3.3 million) in 2008, up from 4.9 percent (2.8 million) in 2007. Both measures, however, showed no statistical change in 2008 for female-householder-with-no-husband-present families (28.7 percent and 4.2 million) and for male-householder-no wife-present families (13.8
- In 2008, the poverty rate increased for non-Hispanic whites (8.6 percent in 2008, up from 8.2 percent in 2007), Asians (11.8 percent in 2008, up from 10.2 percent in 2007) and Hispanics (23.2 percent in 2008, up from 21.5 percent in 2007). The poverty rate in 2008 was statistically unchanged for blacks (24.7 percent).
- The poverty rate increased for children younger than 18 (19.0 percent in 2008, up from 18.0 percent in 2007) and people 18 to 64 (11.7 percent in 2008, up from 10.9 percent in 2007), while it remained statistically unchanged for people 65 and older (9.7 percent).
- Similar to the patterns observed for the poverty rate in 2008, the number of people in poverty increased for children younger than 18 (14.1 million in 2008, up from 13.3 million in 2007) and people 18 to 64 (22.1 million in 2008, up from 20.4 million in 2007) but remained statistically unchanged for seniors 65 and older (3.7 million).

State

Child poverty in Connecticut has not improved in recent years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau:

◆ In 2007, 10.6% of Connecticut children under 18 (85,530 children) lived in a family with income below the Federal Poverty Level (\$21,027 for a two-parent family with two children). This data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) represents no improvement from the 2004 level (10.1%).

◆ One in four (25.1%) Connecticut children lived in a household with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2007

◆ In 2007, 19.1% of Connecticut workers did not earn enough to generate an income that meets the federal poverty threshold for a family of four, the highest rate since 1998.⁸

--Commission on Children- Child Poverty in CT. January 2009

Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity, states (2004-2005), U.S. (2005)

United States	Below Poverty in 2005	Below Poverty in 2006	Percentage difference
All	12.6%	12.3%	-.3%
White	8.3%	8.2%	-.1%
Black	24.9%	24.3%	-.7%
Hispanic	21.8%	20.6%	-1.1%

2008 census figures for Connecticut: Poverty Rate for the Past 12 Months: Individual--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent below the poverty level: 8.5% • Percent below the poverty level: White—6.2% • Percent below the poverty level: Black/ African American- 18% • Percent below the poverty level: Hispanic- 23% • Of people over 25 years old without a high school degree—19.6% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of people over 25 years old with a high school degree—8% • Of people over 25 years old with some college- 5.6% • Of people over 25 years old with a Bachelor's degree or higher—2.5% <p>-- US Census. 2008 American Community Survey</p>
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- As the number of **children** in the family increases, the number of families in poverty **increases**
 - As the number of **people** in the family increases, the number of families in poverty **increases**
 - As the number of **workers** in the family increases, the number of families in poverty **decreases**
- US Census. 2006 American Community Survey

While only **one-fourth** of whites ever experience poverty in one of thirteen years, almost **two-thirds** of all African-Americans experience at least one year of poverty. Because African-Americans are much more likely to be poor for long periods, they are much more likely to suffer the cumulative effects of continuing poverty.

-- 95 Blank, R.M. (1997). *It takes a nation, 22*. New York: Russell Sage, (CPC Plan.2005)

Connecticut Children in poverty (100%)

2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	US 2008
11%	10%	12%	11%	11.5%	18.2%

Connecticut Children below 150% poverty

2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	US 2008
17%	18%	19%	17%	19%	29%

Connecticut Children below 200% poverty

2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	US 2008
24%	24%	25%	25%	26%	40%

Definition: The share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes less than 100, 150 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

-- www.kidscount.org

Connecticut Child Poverty Statistics: 2006

- Children Living in Poverty - **88,582**
- Children Not Covered by Health Insurance at Any Time - **49,000**
- Children's Health Care Covered by Government Assistance - **217,000**
- Children Reported Abused (2004) - **32,097**
- 2 Year Olds Not Immunized - **7,740 (18.1%)**
- Child Abuse Deaths (2000-2005) - **51**
- 3-4 Year Olds Not Enrolled in a nursery school, pre-school, or pre-kindergarten education program- **36,472 (43.0%)**
- % of 4th Graders Scoring below Basic Reading Levels (2007) - **27**

--<http://www.everychildmatters.org/site/States-Connecticut.html>

What we know about child poverty:

- ◆ Eleven (11.5) percent of Connecticut children under 18 are poor (below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level).
- ◆ In 2006, one out of four Connecticut children (204,000) lived in families with income twice the poverty level or \$41,230 for a family of four.
- ◆ In 2007, Connecticut had the largest achievement gap between income groups in fourth and eighth grade reading and math scores among the 50 states.
- ◆ The gap between rich and poor in Connecticut is the second largest among the 50 states.⁶
- ◆ A \$10,000 increase in family income is associated with a 600 percent increase in the high school graduation rate for low-income children compared to a 16 percent increase for middle-income children.

We often think low-income families live in Connecticut's urban neighborhoods. While this is still true, 2000 Census revealed that poor families are increasingly moving from the state's largest core cities to smaller cities and suburbs, such as Bloomfield, Bristol, Manchester, Meriden, and West Haven. Town demographics are also changing in northeastern and northwestern Connecticut as well as the Naugatuck Valley.

-----Connecticut Association for Human Services



Note: In the fall of 2007, TEAM, INC. collaborated with Sacred Heart College to produce a community needs assessment in order to identify the met and unmet needs of the ten towns to which the agency provides services. The purpose of the needs assessment is to identify the extent of child poverty and bring TEAM, INC. agency strategies in alignment with the statewide initiative to reduce child poverty in the Naugatuck Valley and Milford area by 50% by 2014. This report draws extensively from that community needs assessment and is sourced as follows: "—TEAM, 2007." Please read the **TEAM, INC. 2007 Community Needs Assessment** available from the agency for further detail and information.

