



# **New Britain, Connecticut 2018**

A Demographic, Social & Environmental Scan

*conducted by FioPartners, LLC for*



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January 2018

Dear Colleague,

In 2017, as part of our strategic planning process, the American Savings Foundation commissioned environmental scans of New Britain and Waterbury. These reports present a wide range of demographic information and data trends, with a strong focus on factors impacting youth and families. To download the Waterbury report, visit our website at [www.asfdn.org](http://www.asfdn.org).

In an environment of increasing constraints on both staff time and financial resources, access to relevant and reliable information for decision making is more vital than ever. Just as the American Savings Foundation board utilizes this information to help inform our strategic planning, we hope it can serve as a resource for anyone who relies on community data to support their work.

Please note that the report is comprised of a main column and side notes. The main column is the formal report, which presents the data with no editorial comment. The Foundation Notes in the side column emphasize several key data points that we found to be particularly noteworthy for consideration.

We have also tried to keep the report current. Each report has nearly 75 footnotes, most linking to the source websites to make it easier to access the original citations, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. The staff of the American Savings Foundation is also happy to serve as a resource if you would like more information about any of the sources referenced.

We would like to acknowledge all those who made this report possible. First and foremost Anne Yurasek and Sarah Hall of Fio Partners, LLC, who compiled and wrote both reports. Their deep knowledge of the New Britain and Waterbury communities helped them navigate the abundance of available data and focus on the most relevant and useful information.

Maria Sanchez, the Foundation's director of grantmaking & community investment, led the project for the Foundation. Her understanding of and commitment to both cities and the issues that matter helped focus this report on the information that was most relevant to our work.

We hope you find this report as useful and informative as we have.

Maria Falvo  
*President & CEO*

## 1 Methodology

The purpose of the external scan of New Britain was to capture and update available data around key community indicators. From demographics to housing to health, a wide array of topics were included in the scope of the information gathering. Primary sources, such as the United States Census Bureau and various departments of Connecticut state government, were utilized. In addition, research efforts conducted by other organizations based in Connecticut, such as the University of Connecticut and Connecticut Voices for Children, were also integrated. Sources from which updated information is not available are marked with asterisks (\*) throughout.

## 2 Demographics

### 2.1 POPULATION GROWTH

The total population of New Britain has remained stable over the last decade, with an estimated 1.9% increase since the 2000 Census. The growth is slightly lower than growth at the statewide level of 5.5% since 2000.<sup>1</sup>

	New Britain	Connecticut
2000	71,538	3,409,549
2010	73,206	3,574,097
2015 (Est.)	72,988	3,593,222
Change since 2000	+2.03%	+5.39%

Population growth has been slower than expected. At our last report, it was estimated that the population of New Britain would reach 74,544 by 2015.<sup>2</sup>

### 2.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION

In New Britain, over the last ten years, there was an increase in the number of adults 15 to 19 and 55 to 64 while the number of young children and older adults declined.

Age	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Estimate <sup>3</sup>
Under 5 years	4,754	5,043	4,374
5 to 9 years	5,051	4,589	4,793
10 to 14 years	4,816	4,581	5,045
15 to 19 years	5,249	6,026	5,971
20 to 24 years	6,384	7,320	10,559
25 to 34 years	10,667	11,449	11,394
35 to 44 years	10,018	8,717	8,789
45 to 54 years	8,212	9,309	9,535
55 to 59 years	2,859	4,180	4,522
60 to 64 years	2,246	3,260	3,596
65 to 74 years	4,959	3,797	4,495
75 to 84 years	4,716	3,046	2,522
85 years and over	1,607	1,889	1,912

1 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2000,2010, 2015, using American FactFinder; <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

2 Connecticut Open Data Center; <https://data.ct.gov/>

3 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5 – year estimates 2015, using American FactFinder

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

While New Britain's population has grown 2% since 2000, the state's population has grown two and a half times faster.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

The biggest growth in population between 2000 and 2015 was among 20-24 year-olds, 55-59 year-olds, and 60-64 year-olds. Each group grew in number approximately 50%.

The biggest declines were among 35-44 year-olds and 75-84 year-olds (roughly -11% and -25% respectively).

## 2.3 ETHNICITY

New Britain is becoming an increasingly diverse city over time with increases in the Hispanic and the Black/African American population since 2000.<sup>4</sup>

	2000		2010		2015	
<i>One Race</i>	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
White	49,634	69.4	46,579	63.6	49,872	68.3
Black or African American	7,794	10.9	9,527	13.0	7,934	10.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	264	0.4	271	0.4	111	0.2
Asian <sup>5</sup>	1,687	2.4	1,729	2.4	2,129	2.9
Some Other Race <sup>6</sup>	9,388	13.1	11,980	16.4	10,062	13.8
Two or More Races	2,728	3.8	3,093	4.2	2,828	3.9
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19,138	26.8	26,934	36.8	29,293	40.1
Mexican	625	0.9	1,257	1.7	1,152	1.6
Puerto Rican	15,693	21.9	21,914	29.9	23,654	32.4
Cuban	226	0.3	233	0.3	151	0.2
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,594	3.6	3,530	4.8	4,336	5.9

## 2.4 LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

According to recent estimates, 51.2% of New Britain's total population speaks a language other than English. Of those who speak a language other than English, 61.8% speak English "very well" and 38.2% speak English less than "very well". The most prevalent languages other than English are Spanish (32.5% of the total population) and other Indo-European languages<sup>7</sup> (15.7% of the total population).<sup>8</sup>

## 2.5 DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS<sup>9</sup>

As of the 2015-16 school year, Hispanic students (62.8%) are the most represented race/ethnicity, followed by White/Caucasian (20.8%), and Black/African-American (11.5%).<sup>10</sup> In addition, the percent of minority professional staff is 15.1%.<sup>11</sup> (See chart, next page.)

4 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2000,2010, 2015, using American FactFinder;

5 Asian includes those from Yemen as well as wide array of countries across Central Asia, East Asia, West Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Native Hawaiian- Pacific Islands. <http://www.apiidv.org/resources/census-data-api-identities.php#>

6 Population estimates use the race categories mandated by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) 1997 standards: White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. These race categories differ from those used in Census 2010 in one important respect. Census 2010 also allowed respondents to select the category referred to as Some Other Race. When Census 2010 data were edited to produce the estimates base, respondents who selected the Some Other Race category alone were assigned to one of the OMB mandated categories. For those respondents who selected the Some Other Race category and one or more of the other race categories, the edits ignored the Some Other Race selection. This editing process produced tabulations from our estimates that show fewer people reporting two or more races than similar tabulations from Census 2010, because respondents who selected Some Other Race and one of the OMB mandated races in Census 2010 appear in the single OMB race category in the estimates base. ([http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long\\_RHI125213.htm](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_RHI125213.htm))

7 Includes English-based Pidgin Creoles, Germanic languages, Romance languages, Celtic languages, Slavic languages, Baltic languages, Iranian, and Indic languages. [https://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/language/about/02\\_Primary\\_list.pdf](https://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/language/about/02_Primary_list.pdf)

8 U.S. Census Bureau; 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, using American FactFinder;

9 Strategic School Profile 2015-16 New Britain School District; [http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/High-School/0890011\\_201516.pdf](http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/High-School/0890011_201516.pdf)

10 Strategic School Profile 2015-16 New Britain School District

11 Strategic School Profile 2015-16 New Britain School District

## FOUNDATION NOTES

The White and Black population numbers have stayed very stable since 2000.

The most change has been within the Latino community, which has grown 50%.

## FOUNDATION NOTES

Three out of five students in New Britain's public schools are Hispanics, one in five are White/Caucasian, while just over one in ten are Black/African Americans.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

New Britain public schools have more than twice the state average of English learners.

The rate of students eligible for free/reduced meals is twice the state rate.

New Britain Public School Students, October 1, 2015 Enrollment			
	District		State
	Count	% of Total	% of Total
Female	4,734	47.0	48.3
Male	5,337	53.0	51.6
American Indian or Alaska Native	12	0.1	0.2
Asian	238	2.4	4.9
Black or African American	1,160	11.5	12.8
Hispanic or Latino	6,321	62.8	23.0
Pacific Islander	7	0.1	0.0
Two or More Races	240	2.4	2.7
White	2,093	20.8	55.9
English Learners	1,587	15.8	6.4
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	7,829	77.7	38.0
Students with Disabilities*	1,697	16.9	13.7
<i>*Students in this category are students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) only. This category does not include students with Section 504 plans.</i>			

## 2.6 HOUSEHOLDS

In the most recent American Community Survey estimates, 49% of households with children under 18 years of age were headed by married couples. 46% of households were female headed with no husband present, and 9% of households were male headed with no wife present. Non-family households were not estimated in the latest ACS 5-year Survey.<sup>12</sup>

12 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;



## 3 Income

### 3.1 HOUSEHOLD INCOME<sup>13</sup>

The estimated median household income in New Britain (including benefits) increased slightly to \$40,457 in 2015 (from \$40,294 in 2013). The mean household income rose to \$53,246 (from \$51,274).

### 3.2 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

#### 3.2.1 Individuals<sup>14</sup>

In New Britain, 23.3% of all individuals had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level. This is an increase from 2013 (20.5%). For those individuals aged 18 to 64, 22% are living below the poverty level, up from 17.7% in 2013. In New Britain, 33% of all children under 18 were living below the poverty level in 2015.

Statewide, 10.5% of all individuals had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level. The state poverty rate for all children under 18 was 14.3%. These rates represent small decreases from 2013 numbers, both under 0.3%.

#### 3.2.2 Families<sup>15</sup>

In New Britain, 19.1% of all families had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level. This is an increase from 2013 (17.7%). The percentage of families with related children under 5 years living below the poverty level was 26.4% in 2015.

Statewide, 7.6% of all families had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level, unchanged from the 2013 estimates.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

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In 2015, nearly one in four individuals earned below the poverty level.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

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In 2015, one in five families had income below the poverty level, vs. the state rate of less than one in twelve. More than one in four New Britain families with children under age 5 are living below the poverty level.

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13 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

14 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

15 U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

## 4 HOUSING

### 4.1 OCCUPANCY AND TYPE OF PROPERTIES

The American Community Survey 2015 estimates that there are 31,670 total housing units in New Britain of those 88% are occupied and 12% are vacant. The homeowner vacancy rate is estimated to be 2.7% while the rental vacancy rate is 9.2%. These numbers are nearly unchanged from 2013.

The predominant types of housing unit structures in New Britain are 1-unit detached (28.6%), 3 to 4 units (21%), and 2-units (18.9%).<sup>16</sup>

### 4.2 HOUSING COSTS

#### 4.2.1 Gross Rental Costs and Housing Wage

The estimated median gross rent in 2015 is \$892. Of the occupied units paying renting, 31.5% pay between \$1,000 and \$1,499 (which increased from 25.2% in 2012) and 33% pay \$750 to \$999.<sup>17</sup>

In order to afford the estimated median gross rent in New Britain, a resident will require an hourly pay of \$17.15 per hour, or \$35,680 per year. This calculation assumes the resident will spend no more than 30% of their income on rent (the generally accepted standard of affordability). If the resident earns the minimum wage (\$9.60), then the resident will have to work 71 hours per week to have an income high enough to afford this rent.<sup>18</sup> This is 11 fewer hours than the last report of this type, since the CT state minimum wage has increased by \$.90 per hour.

#### 4.2.2 Rent as Percentage of Income<sup>19</sup>

The number of renting households who pay more than 50% of their income for rent was 39.6% of households in 2013 and increased slightly in 2015 to 39.8%.

To understand the issue more clearly, in 2015, 26.4% of renting households are spending over 50% of their income on rent and 33.9% are spending over 40% of income.

#### 4.2.3 Mortgage as Percentage of Income<sup>20</sup>

Homeowners spend less of their income on total mortgage expenses. In 2010, those homeowners with mortgages spending half or more of their household income on mortgage expenses in New Britain was 21.2%.<sup>21</sup> In 2015, that percentage dropped to 19.6%.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

A New Britain resident earning minimum wage and paying the city's median gross rent of \$892 must work 71 hours per week to afford the average rent.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

Four in ten renting households spend more than 50% of their income for rent. The standard of affordability is a maximum of 30%.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates 2013, using American FactFinder;

<sup>18</sup> <http://nlihc.org/library/wagecalc> - Housing Wage Calculator

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2010, using American FactFinder;



### 4.3 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Connecticut Department of Housing annually publishes the Affordable Housing Appeals List which lists the percentage of affordable units in each municipality based on Census figures for total number of housing units in the particular municipality. The list was created to guide municipalities and developers who are proposing the development of affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure requires municipalities with less than 10% affordable housing to demonstrate to the court that a municipality's rejection of a development proposal is supported by sufficient evidence in the record.

In developing the Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure List, the Department of Housing counts:

- Assisted housing units or housing receiving financial assistance under any governmental program for the construction or substantial rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing that was occupied or under construction by the end date of the report period for compilation of a given year's list;
- Rental housing occupied by persons receiving rental assistance under C.G.S. Chapter 138a (State Rental Assistance/RAP) or Section 142f of Title 42 of the U.S. Code (Section 8);
- Ownership housing or housing currently financed by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and
- Deed-restricted properties or properties with deeds containing covenants or restrictions that require such dwelling unit(s) be sold or rented at or below prices that will preserve the unit(s) as affordable housing as defined in C.G.S. Section 8-39a for persons or families whose incomes are less than or equal to 80% of the area median income.

2015 Affordable Housing Appeals List - Exempt Municipalities <sup>22</sup>							
Town	Total Housing Units 2010 Census	Government Assisted Units	Tenant Rental Assistance	CHFA/ USDA mortgages	Deed Restricted Units	Total Assisted Units	Percentage Affordable Total
New Britain	31,226	3,331	1,423	1,271	256	6,281	20.11%

For the exempt municipalities, where over 10% of total housing units are affordable, the average percentage is 17.4% and the median is 14.6%. The total percentage of affordable housing in the non-exempt municipalities is 11.59%.

The Housing Authority of the City of New Britain administers both a public housing and Section 8 housing voucher program. The housing authority owns and manages 8 projects that contain 803 affordable rental units. It also administers 851 Section 8 housing vouchers.<sup>23</sup>

According to HUD, Housing Authority of the City of New Britain is determined to be a Medium High public housing authority, meaning it manages between 500 - 1,249 public housing units. Also according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the housing authority is designated as Medium High, meaning it administers 500 - 1,249 Section 8 vouchers.

22 Connecticut Department of Housing - <http://www.ct.gov/doh/cwp/view.asp?a=4513&q=530486>

23 <http://affordablehousingonline.com/housing-authority/Connecticut/Housing-Authority-of-The-City-of-New-Britain/CT005/>

Comparing the housing assistance distribution of Housing Authority of the City of New Britain between Public Housing Units (49%) and Section 8 Housing Vouchers (51%) to that of all housing authorities in Connecticut, the New Britain Housing Authority has a larger proportion of public housing units available than the average housing authority. The proportion of Section 8 vouchers also exceeds the state average.

Tenants in public housing pay rent based on their income. Generally, the Total Tenant Payment (TTP) is 30% of the tenant's adjusted income. Housing Authority of the City of New Britain owns and manages 803 public housing units in 8 properties.

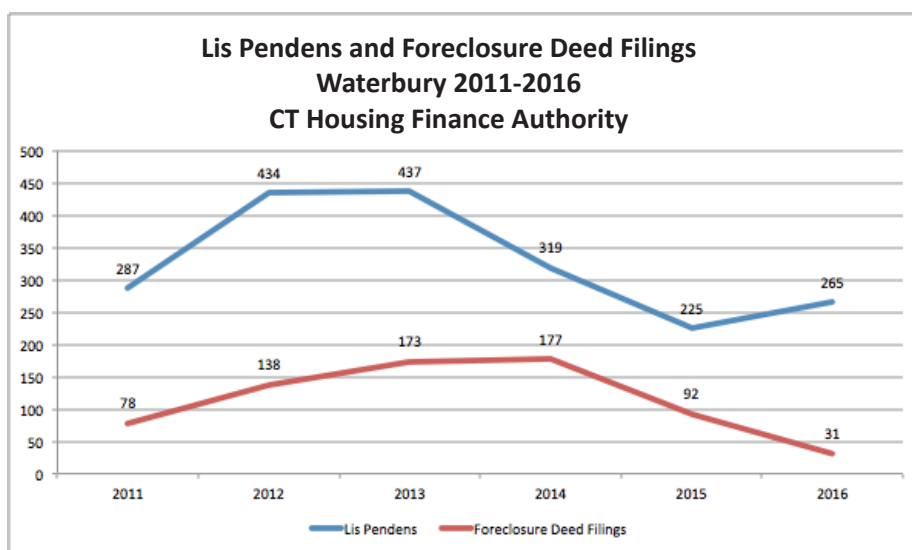
The Average Total Tenant Payment for Housing Authority of the City of New Britain is \$280.00 compared to the state average of \$409.00. The Average Total Tenant Payment for the state of Connecticut ranges from a low of \$257.00 to a high of \$768.00.

#### 4.3.1 Foreclosure Activity\*

Foreclosure activity in Connecticut is heavily concentrated in more urban areas, with eight communities (Bridgeport, Bristol, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Norwich, Waterbury) accounting for 39% of foreclosure deed filings and 32% of lis pendens.<sup>24,25</sup>

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

Both foreclosure deed filings and other legal actions (lis pendens) in New Britain have dropped considerably since 2013.

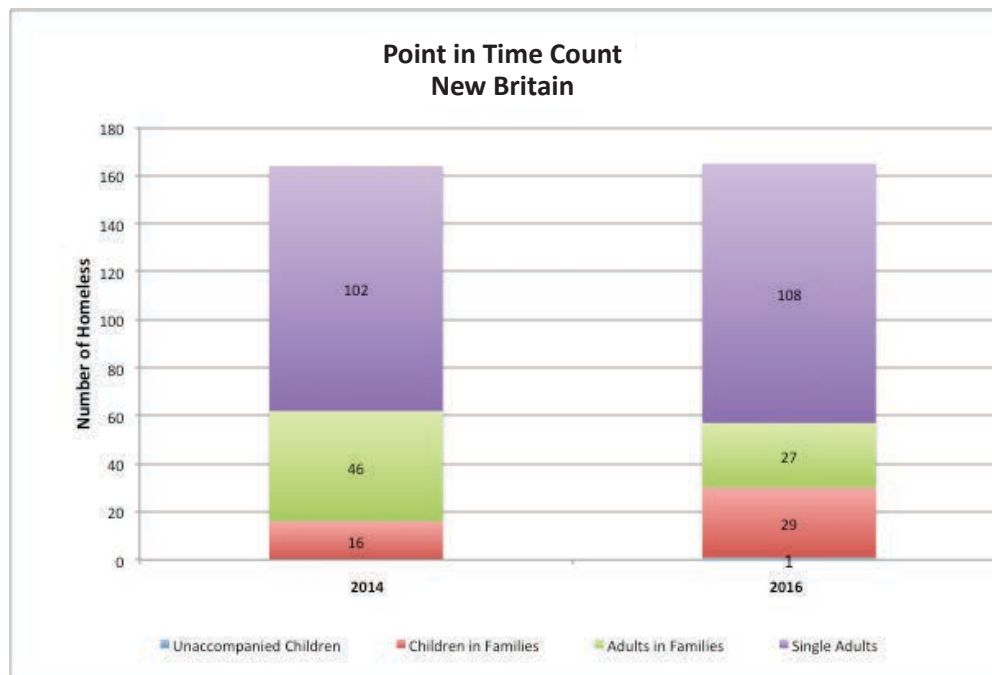


24 Housing Data Profile: New Britain - [http://www.pschohousing.org/housingprofiles2013/PSC\\_2013HsgProfile\\_New-Britain.pdf](http://www.pschohousing.org/housingprofiles2013/PSC_2013HsgProfile_New-Britain.pdf)

25 A *lis pendens* is a pending legal action, or a formal notice of foreclosure.

## 4.4 HOMELESSNESS

All states that apply for federal homelessness assistance are required by HUD to conduct a Point in Time (PIT) Count in communities across the state. The most recent Connecticut Point in Time count was conducted in January 2016. The 2016 Connecticut Point-in-Time count (CT PIT 2016) marks Connecticut's tenth annual count coordinated at a statewide level by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH). Under the count's federal guidelines, this year it included only those people (adults and children) who were homeless in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and domestic violence shelters, not those who were unsheltered.<sup>26</sup>



### FOUNDATION NOTES

The count of children in families who are homeless in New Britain nearly doubled from 2014 to 2016. This increase may reflect improved strategies to identify those who are affected by homelessness.

<sup>26</sup> Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness; <http://cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/CT-Counts-2016.pdf>

## 5 Academic Experience

### 5.1 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT \*

New Britain has seen gains over the last ten years in the percentage of Kindergartners with Pre-Kindergarten experience.

**Percentage of Kindergartners  
with Pre-K Experience<sup>27</sup>**

School Year	New Britain	State
2013-14	76.6	79.2
2012-13	74.1	79.0
2011-12	78.4	79.8
2010-11	77.6	80.2
2009-10	80.3	80.5
2008-09	77.0	79.7
2007-08	74.8	79.2
2006-07	63.8	79.3
2005-06	57.5	79.1
2004-05	43.7	77.0
2003-04	44.8	76.4
2002-03	47.0	75.9

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

In the past 10 years, the percentage of New Britain kindergartners who have had pre-K experience has nearly caught up to the state average. The gap has narrowed by more than 90%.

### 5.2 EDUCATION PERFORMANCE<sup>28</sup>

#### 5.2.1 Overall District Performance<sup>29</sup>

A District Performance Index (DPI) is the test performance of three subjects tested in the respective assessment for all students in the district. The DPI ranges in value from 0 to 100 points. The way DPI's are calculated has changed with the introduction of the Common Core Curriculum, beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Connecticut's new target for each subject DPI is 75.

**District Performance Index (DPI)  
2014-15 Academic Year**

	English Language Arts(ELA)		Math		Science	
	Count	DPI	Count	DPI	Count	DPI
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	112	62.9	111	56.5	42	46.4
Black or African American	576	51.8	572	43.6	274	41.1
Hispanic or Latino	2794	48.9	2786	41.9	1068	39.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	0	N/A
Two or More Races	102	53.6	101	47.3	*	*
White	965	58.0	958	50.9	351	48.9
English Learners	828	42.8	822	36.7	317	33.2
Non-English Learners	3731	53.6	3716	46.2	1460	43.7
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	3761	49.8	3743	42.7	1455	40.2
Not Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	798	60.2	795	53.2	322	49.4
Students with Disabilities	881	37.9	877	31.2	373	31.6
Students without Disabilities	3678	54.9	3661	47.7	1404	44.5
High Needs	3926	49.6	3907	42.5	1517	40.0
Non-High Needs	633	64.3	631	56.7	260	52.5
District	4559	51.7	4538	44.5	1777	41.8

<sup>27</sup> CT State Department of Education, CT Education and Data Research; <http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>

<sup>28</sup> CT State Department of Education, CT Education and Data Research

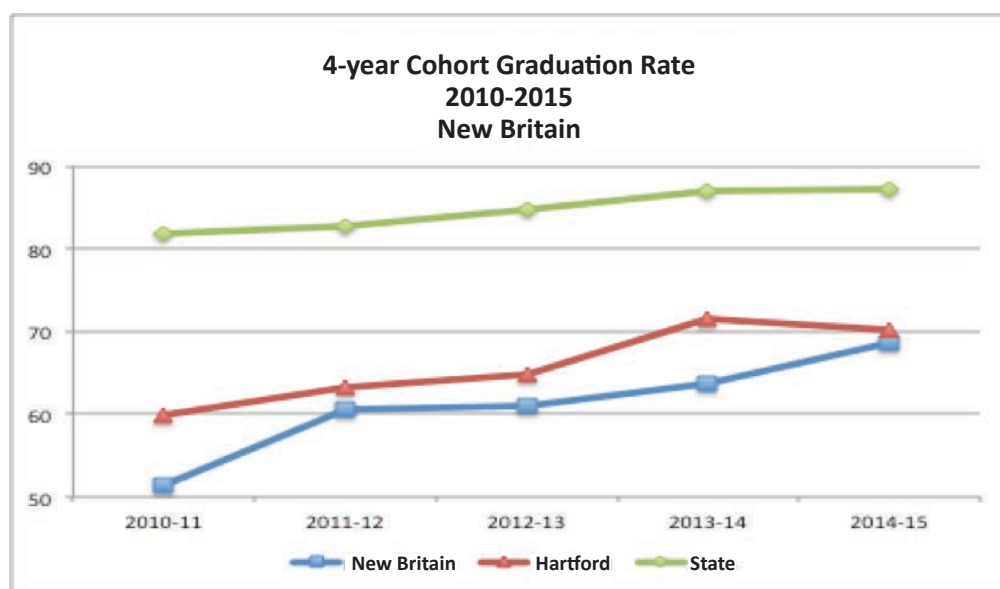
<sup>29</sup> All DPI data is available via each district's annual performance reports. The Connect Open Data Center consolidates the information for all districts for downloading and viewing. <https://data.ct.gov/>

## 5.2.2 Graduation Rate

### 5.2.2.1 2014-2015 School Year

For the 2014-2015 school year, 68.6 % of the New Britain student cohort that had begun high school four years earlier graduated. The graduation rate for students who are classified as Black or African American was 73.3%. For the ethnicity designation of Hispanic, the cohort that graduated in four years was 63.9%. The graduation rate for those students who qualify for free or reduced lunch was 65.7%. English Language Learners (ELL) students had a graduation rate at 60.6%. The group with the lowest graduation rate was students with identified disabilities, at 49.3%. There were improvements in these graduation percentages in every group from the last report of this kind.

### 5.2.2.2 Historical Perspective<sup>30</sup>



#### FOUNDATION NOTES

The high school graduation rate has improved over the past three years, to 68.6%. However, the rate remains far behind the state average of 87.2%.

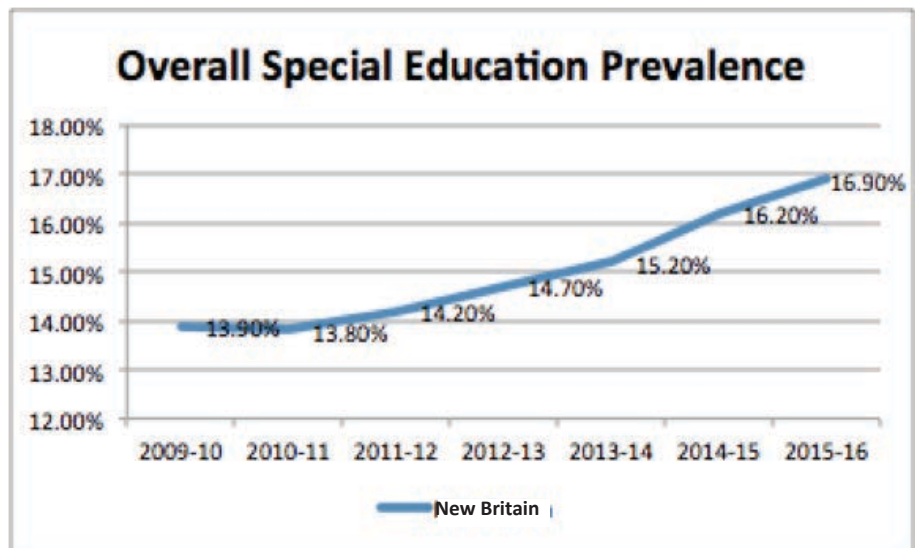
## 5.2.3 Educational Need\*

Each school captures a set of additional indicators of educational need.<sup>31</sup> These indicators from the 2011-12 school year give insight to some of the additional challenges students are facing:

	New Britain		State
Indicator	#	%	%
K-12 students who are English Language Learners	1,587	15.8	6.4
PK – 12 students who are receiving special education services in the district	1,697	16.9	13.7
Homeless	308	3	.3
Juniors and seniors working more than 16 hours per week	203	17.7	12.7

30 CT Department of Education, 4-year cohort graduation data 2013, <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2758&q=334898>

31 STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2015-16 New Britain School District; [http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/High-School/0890011\\_201516.pdf](http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/High-School/0890011_201516.pdf)



### 5.2.4 Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

#### State level data

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

The number of “chronically absent” students in the New Britain school system dropped by 33% between 2011 and 2015.

Section 10-198(a) of the CT general statutes, defines truancy as four or more unexcused absences in any one month, or 10 or more unexcused absences in one year. The CT State Department of Education defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of the school year, or 18 or more days.<sup>32</sup>

In New Britain, the total percentage of chronically absent students has been declining for the past several years. The percentage of chronically absent students in the district during the 2015-2016 school year is 18%. This represents a decline of 32.8% from the 2011-2012 school year. The district no longer reports chronic absenteeism by school level, so we are unable to analyze this indicator according to school level.

New Britain District	School Year	% Students Chronically Absent	Elementary Level (Grades K-3)	Middle Grades (Grades 4-8)	Secondary School (Grades 9-12)
	2011-2012	26.8	22.0	19.8	44.4
	2012-2013	24.8	15.7	21.1	43.4
	2014-2015	20.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2015-2016	18.0	n/a	n/a	n/a

#### District level data

District level data for New Britain indicates a decrease in chronic absenteeism in students over the last three years. The rate of chronic absenteeism for the 2012-2013 school year was 24.8%. This decreased in the 2013-2014 school year to 20.7%. The following year saw an additional decrease bringing the chronic absenteeism rate to 17.9% for the most recent school year.

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/publications/guidelines\\_excused\\_and\\_unexcused\\_absences.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/publications/guidelines_excused_and_unexcused_absences.pdf), Guidelines for the Implementation of the Definitions for Excused and Unexcused Absences and Best Practices for Absence Prevention and Intervention, CT State Department of Education, April 2013



Looking at the data by grade, the largest decreases between the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 years were in Kindergarten and first grade, with both decreasing by over 40%. The 8th grade cohort was next with a 36% decrease in chronic absenteeism. The following year, the largest decrease can be seen in 10th grade classes, with a decrease of 44%. Only the 9th grade saw an increase in chronic absenteeism in both years reported. The rate for this cohort increased 3% the first year and 13% the second. This differentiation is no longer reported on District School Profile Reports.

## 5.3 JUVENILE CRIME

### 5.3.1 Juvenile arrests by town<sup>33</sup>

There were substantial declines in juvenile arrests by town from 2007 to 2011 in New Britain. The most common types of identified offenses were disorderly conduct, assault, larceny, and vandalism, and drug possession. Declines in juvenile arrests continued through 2015.

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

Arrests for juvenile offenses declined by more than 60% from 2007-2015: 1,017 to 386.

Range of Offenses - Under 18; 2007 vs. 2011 vs. 2015					
	New Britain				
Offense (Under age 18)	2007 Totals	2011 Totals	Change	2015 Totals	Change
All Offenses	1,017	435	-57%	386	-11%
Disorderly Conduct	35%	45%		33%	
Other Assaults	18%	17%		21%	
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	14%	10%		9%	
Larceny-Theft	5%	6%		6%	
Vandalism	9%	7%		10%	
Aggravated Assault	1%	3%		1%	
Drug Abuse Possession	4%	4%		8%	
Burglary	5%	2%		3%	
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2%	1%		2%	
Robbery	1%	0%		3%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	2%	1%		3%	
Drug Abuse Sale-Manufacturing	1%	1%		0%	
Sex Offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	1%	1%		0%	
Forcible Rape	0%	1%		0%	
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	0%	0%		0%	
Forgery/Counterfeiting and Fraud				1%	

### 5.3.2 Juvenile arrests in school \*

The CT Voices for Children and the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance published a report in 2013, entitled “Student Arrests and Zero Tolerance in New Britain: Data, Policies, and Next Steps”. Their research found that New Britain students were arrested at a fifty percent higher rate than students in Connecticut and other students in socioeconomically similar

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.yale.edu/glc/lme/CVC.pdf>, “Arresting Development: Student Arrests in Connecticut”, CT Voices for Children, September 2013

districts. Overall, students were arrested 160 times in New Britain in 2011. From September 2012 through July 2013, nearly 7% of juvenile arrests in New Britain resulted from school-based discipline, a rate higher than in any other city or town in Connecticut. Student suspensions in New Britain were also higher than the statewide average. In 2011-2012, 34.1% of all high school students (grades 9-12) in New Britain received at least one in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension or expulsion, compared to 14.8% statewide.

In addition, research by CT Voices for Children found a wide array of reporting within key districts, raising concern about the climate in particular schools.<sup>34</sup> New Britain's three middle schools arrested students at very different rates. Two of them had arrests in excess of 50 students per thousand enrolled (38 and 22 arrests), while another arrested only 15 per thousand (one fewer than the state average), with only 9 arrests.<sup>35</sup>

## 6 Community Needs Assessment<sup>37</sup>

All youth enrolled in school in New Britain were given a survey to explore developmental assets and protective factors, based on the Search Institute's "Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes & Behaviors" survey. This effort, headed by the Coalition for New Britain's Youth, found the following:

### FOUNDATION NOTES

Roughly half the students in every grade from 6-12 report being involved in youth programs. From 23-36% report having a "positive role model" in their lives.

- Grade 6, 52% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 36% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 22.0
- Grade 7, 53% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 32% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 20.5
- Grade 8, 44% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 25% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 17.9
- Grade 9, 46% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 33% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 20.2
- Grade 10, 48% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 28% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 19.3
- Grade 11, 46% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 23% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 18.6
- Grade 12, 58% of youth are involved in Youth Programs, 30% report having a positive role model, average number of assets, 18.9

34 <http://www.yale.edu/glc/lme/CVC.pdf>, "Arresting Development: Student Arrests in Connecticut", CT Voices for Children, September 2013

35 <http://www.yale.edu/glc/lme/CVC.pdf>

37 New Britain CT Partnership of Success 2017 Community Needs Assessment, Coalition for New Britain's Youth, Klingberg Family Centers; [http://www.coalition4nbyouth.org/uploads/2/1/2/4/21247766/2017\\_community\\_needs\\_assessment\\_pfs\\_2015\\_new\\_britain\\_ct.pdf](http://www.coalition4nbyouth.org/uploads/2/1/2/4/21247766/2017_community_needs_assessment_pfs_2015_new_britain_ct.pdf)

## 7 Employment & Career

### 7.1 DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In New Britain, 80.8% of the population has a high school diploma or higher compared to the state average of 89.9%. 18.8% percent of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to the state average of 37.6%.

#### Degree Attainment Adults 25+ - 2015<sup>38</sup>

	New Britain	
	Count	Percent
Less than 9th Grade	3,940	8%
9-12th Grade/No Diploma	5,033	11%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	17,621	38%
Some College/No Degree	8,154	17%
Associate's Degree	3,229	7%
Bachelor's Degree	5,334	11%
Graduate/Professional Degree	3,454	7%

### 7.2 Workforce Readiness

#### 7.2.1 Youth in the Workplace

Connecticut Voices for Children published a report in 2013<sup>39</sup> examining young people in the workforce, which came to the following key findings:

- The youth unemployment rate in Connecticut is more than twice the rate for the state as a whole.
- The Great Recession exacerbated a trend of increasing youth unemployment.
- A smaller share of the working age population is working or looking for work, particularly among young people.
- While Connecticut has added jobs in the recent past, these jobs are among the state's lowest-paid sectors.
- Long-term unemployment for young people in Connecticut is higher than it is nationally, though it is worse for older workers.
- Connecticut's minorities and less-educated workers face high unemployment and low wages.
- Closing Connecticut's opportunity gaps for young and minority workers will be necessary for the future economic health and quality of life in the state.

38 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American Factfinder

39 The State of Working Connecticut 2013: Young People in the Workforce, 2013 - <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/econ13sowctfull.pdf>

Key relevant charts in the report include:

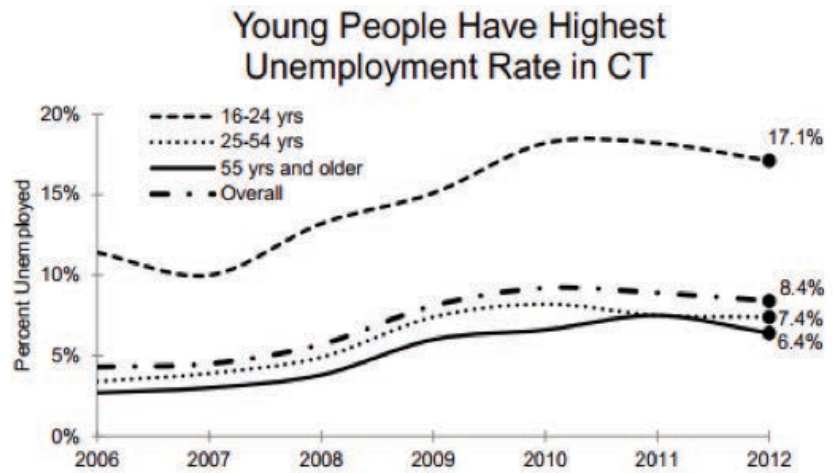


Figure 2. Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Seasonally adjusted.

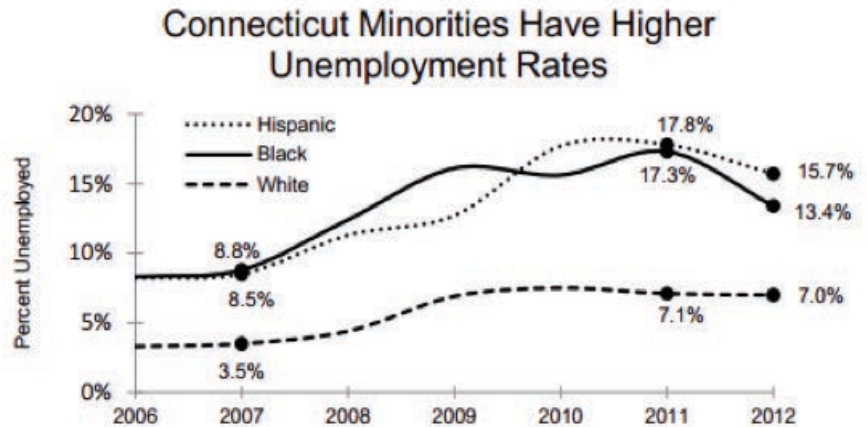


Figure 5. Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Seasonally adjusted.

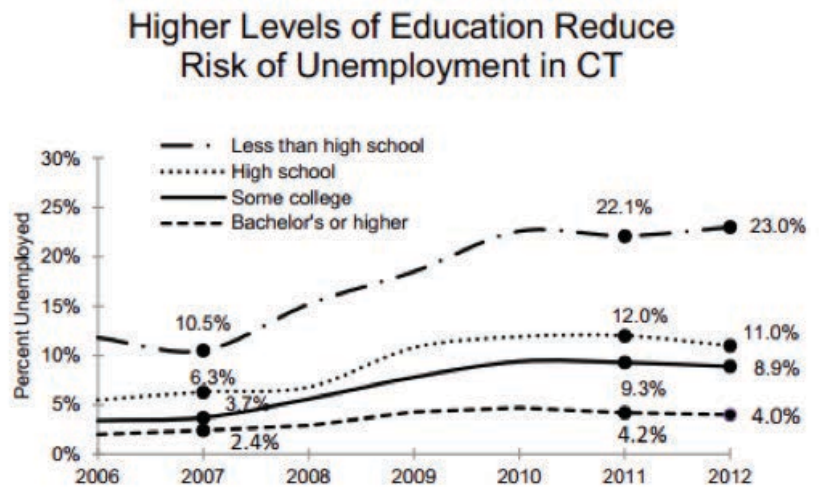


Figure 7. Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

## 7.3 WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

### Definition

The workforce participation rate is a measure of the active portion of an economy's labor force and refers to the number of people who are either employed or are actively looking for work. The number of people who are no longer actively searching for work would not be included in the participation rate.

In New Britain, as of 2015, 64.5% of the population of adults over 16 years old are estimated to be participating in the labor force. Of those, 56% are estimated to be employed and the unemployment rate is 12.6%.<sup>40</sup> The unemployment rate estimate has declined from 16% in 2012 and 19.3% in 2011.<sup>41</sup>

The youth unemployment rates are higher than the unemployment rate overall in New Britain. The unemployment rate for the age group 16-19 in New Britain is 19.7% according to 2015 five-year estimates. For age group 20-24, the rate is 14.3%, and the unemployment rate for 25-29 year olds is 15.3%.<sup>42</sup>

The unemployment rate for those with a Bachelor's degree or higher is 3.5%. This rate climbs to 12.5% for those with some college or an Associate's Degree, and 12.2% for those with a High School Diploma or GED. The unemployment rate for the group with less than a High School education is 31.1%.<sup>43</sup>

### FOUNDATION NOTES

The unemployment rate in New Britain has declined from 19.3% in 2011 to 12.6% in 2015. Teens ages 16-19 have a 19.7% unemployment rate.

For those with a Bachelor's degree or higher, the rate is 3.5%.

### 7.3.1 College Enrollment and Retention

Based on the graduating class of 2008<sup>44</sup>:

- 51% of graduates of New Britain High School enrolled in college in the fall following graduation. Of those, 82% returned for their sophomore year.
- Of the graduating class of 2008, 19% earned a bachelor's degree within six years after graduation, and an additional 8% earned an associate's degree. Combined, 27% earned a degree within six years.

In Connecticut, nearly 47% of the high school graduating class of 2008 graduated with an Associate's, Bachelor's or higher degree within six years.<sup>45</sup>

## 7.4 JOB AND WAGE GROWTH TRENDS

### 7.4.1 Wages \*

After adjusting for inflation, the median hourly wage in Connecticut was lower in 2012, at \$20.05, than before the start of the recession in 2007, showing a decline of 2.2 percent in real dollars. Median hourly wages have declined similarly for both the peer state average and the U.S. as a whole. From 2011 to 2012, Connecticut's median hourly wage fell sharply by \$0.66, or 3.2 percent.<sup>46</sup>

40 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American Factfinder

41 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates 2013, 2012, 2011, using American Factfinder

42 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American Factfinder

43 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American Factfinder

44 National Student Clearinghouse data available by school at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2758&Q=335288>

45 Connecticut State Department of Education, College Enrollment, Persistence, and Graduation: Statewide Results

46 The State of Working Connecticut 2013: Young People in the Workforce, 2013 - <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/econ13sowctfull.pdf>



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage in Connecticut in 2016 is \$21.68.<sup>47</sup>

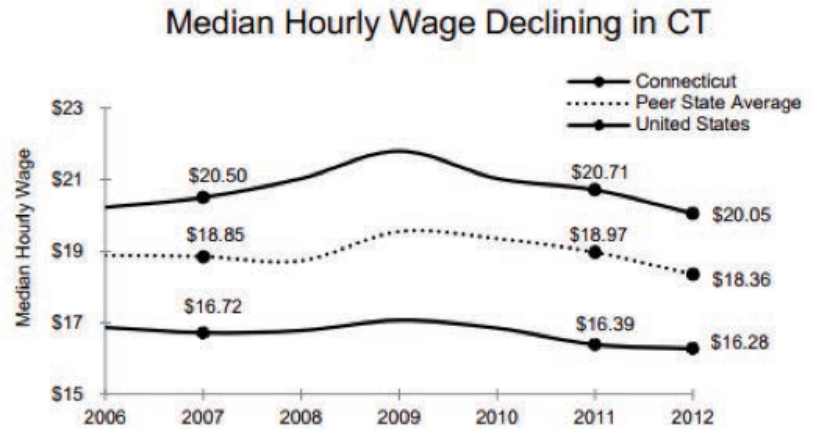


Figure 22: Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars using CPI-U-RS.

While Connecticut has a comparatively high median hourly wage, the cost of living in Connecticut is among the highest in the country. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2011 Connecticut had the 6th highest cost of living (i.e. Regional Price Parity Index value) among the 50 states and the highest in New England.<sup>48</sup>

#### 7.4.2 Fastest Growing Occupations \*

The fastest growing occupations in CT by 2020<sup>49</sup> are captured in the table below. The criteria used to develop the top ten list was the number of individual employed in 2010 was greater than 1000 and the anticipated growth was over 25%.

Job Title/Types	Employee Projections 2010	Employee Projections 2020	Percent Change	Average Annual Wage
Personal and Home Care Aides	15,794	24,162	53.0%	\$25,069
Home Health Aides	10,533	14,343	36.2%	\$29,300
Personal Financial Advisors	4,951	6,394	29.1%	\$132,054
Coaches and Scouts	4,325	5,461	26.3%	\$36,076
Medical Secretaries	3,894	5,126	31.6%	\$38,134
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	3,293	4,265	29.5%	\$40,141
Mental Health Counselors	2,514	3,158	25.6%	\$40,779
Medical Scientists, except Epidemiologists	1,856	2,440	31.5%	\$109,150
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	1,100	1,645	49.5%	\$37,789
Logisticians	1,037	1,300	25.4%	\$72,367

<sup>47</sup> Bureau of Labor statistics, available at [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_ct.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ct.htm)

<sup>48</sup> The State of Working Connecticut 2013: Young People in the Workforce, 2013 - <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/econ13sowctfull.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Connecticut Open Data Center



## 8 Library Usage<sup>50</sup>

In FY2016, the New Britain Public Library averaged 3.63 visits per capita as compared to 5.68 statewide. Program attendance per capita was .33 as compared to a .59 average statewide. Circulation per capita was 4.62 as compared to 7.36 average statewide. The New Britain Public Library is a focal point of the community as indicated by high circulation per hour, which was 62 items as compared to the 49 items average statewide. In addition, visits per hour were also higher than the state average with 48.9 as compared to 38.1. The New Britain Public Library receives 1.3% of town tax revenues, which is slightly higher than the statewide average of 1.22%. This represents 98% of its operating revenue. Operating expenditures per capita is \$41.79, lower than the statewide average of \$54.84.

The Community Commitment Index is a measure of a community's financial commitment to its library comparing the library's total operating expenditures with the total tax revenue. For New Britain, the CCI for FY2016 was 1.32% as compared to the statewide average of 1.44%.

### FOUNDATION NOTES

The New Britain Library circulation rate per hour is 26% higher than the state average (62 items vs. 49). Visits per hour exceeded the state average by nearly 30%.

## 9 Health Indicators

### 9.1 FOOD SECURITY

#### 9.1.1 Community Wellbeing Survey<sup>51</sup>

The 2015 Community Wellbeing Survey asked 16,219 randomly selected adults in New Britain a series of questions designed to help us better understand health and well being of New Britain's families, including food access and security. Results indicate 24% of New Britain families experienced times over the previous 12 months in which they did not have enough money to buy the food that they needed, compared with 12% statewide.

### FOUNDATION NOTES

A survey revealed that one in four New Britain families – twice the state average – felt they did not have enough money to buy the food they needed.

I'm going to read a list of things that you may or may not have experienced in the past 12 months, that is, since <month> 2014. Please let me know if any of these things happened to you, or not.										
Q64. Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?										
			Gender		Age				Children in HH	
	CT	New Britain	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	No	Yes
Yes	12%	24%	17%	30%	28%	25%	26%	9%	18%	34%
No	87%	75%	83%	69%	72%	75%	73%	91%	82%	65%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Refused	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

<sup>50</sup> State Library Organization, <http://www.ctstatelibrary.org>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.ctdatahaven.org/reports/datahaven-community-wellbeing-survey>

Q65. (if did not have enough money to buy food) How often did this happen: almost every month, some months but not every month, or in only 1 or 2 months?										
			Gender		Age				Children in HH	
	CT	New Britain	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	No	Yes
Almost every month	24%	14%	24%	9%	7%	8%	30%	21%	18%	11%
Some months but not every month	37%	43%	47%	41%	50%	58%	31%	0%	37%	48%
Only 1 or 2 months	37%	40%	29%	46%	43%	34%	35%	68%	39%	41%
Don't know	1%	3%	0%	4%	0%	0%	4%	11%	6%	0%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

### 9.1.2 SNAP Recipients<sup>52</sup>

Families in receipt of food stamps are on the rise in New Britain.

American Community Survey data from 2011 to 2015 indicate that New Britain's families receive SNAP at a rate of 29.2% in 2015. 48% of those families in 2012 had children present, and 47% of families in 2015 had children.

### 9.1.3 Free-reduced lunch %

As of 2015, 7,829 New Britain students (78% of total student population) were eligible for free/reduced price meals. This is a significantly higher percentage of free-reduced lunch eligible students than the state average of 38%.<sup>53</sup>

### 9.1.4 Community Food Security\*

The 2012 Community Food Security in Connecticut: An Evaluation and Ranking of 169 Towns<sup>54</sup>, focuses on a town-level assessment of community food security in Connecticut. The study developed three rankings of all 169 towns to inform and guide policy leaders and stakeholders that are interested in addressing hunger and food insecurity in their community. These include:

- Population At-Risk Ranking – an evaluation of populations at-risk for food insecurity
- Food Retail Ranking – an evaluation of retail food proximity and options
- Food Assistance Ranking – an evaluation of how well towns are responding to needs

Community food security is defined as “a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.”

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

Twice as many New Britain students were eligible for free/reduced price meals as compared to the state average.

<sup>52</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2011-2015, using American FactFinder

<sup>53</sup> Strategic School Profile 2015-16 New Britain School District

<sup>54</sup> Rabinowitz, Adam N., Martin, Jiff. “2012 Community Food Security in Connecticut: An Evaluation and Ranking of 169 Towns” [http://www.zwickcenter.uconn.edu/CFS/documents/2012foodsecurity2\\_13rev.pdf](http://www.zwickcenter.uconn.edu/CFS/documents/2012foodsecurity2_13rev.pdf)

In regard to Population At-Risk, New Britain (#167) is in the bottom 25% of cities and towns in CT and is at the greatest risk that a resident is food insecure.

The Food Retail Ranking for New Britain is based on an examination of food retail options and geographic proximity from town population centers. The analysis does not include convenience stores and town boundaries are eliminated. New Britain is ranked #72 in the state.

New Britain is ranked highly (#3) respective to the Food Assistance Ranking. This analysis includes an examination of participation in public food assistance programs and the availability of public bus transportation.

City	Population At Risk Ranking	Food Retail Ranking	Food Assistance Ranking
New Britain	167	72	3

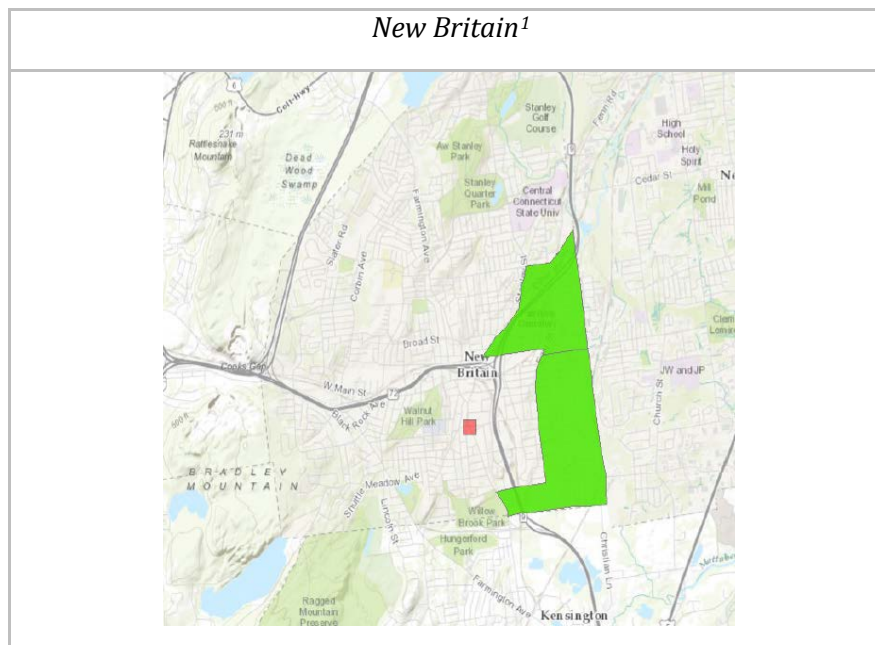
#### FOUNDATION NOTES

A 2012 study ranked New Britain at in the bottom quartile of the state's cities and towns (#167 of 169) when it comes to food insecurity.

### 9.1.5 Food deserts\*

A food desert is defined as “parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas. This is largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and healthy food providers.” These areas tend to have more “local quickie marts” that provide a variety of processed, sugar, and fat laden foods that are known as contributors to obesity.<sup>55</sup>

New Britain has areas that are considered food deserts, noted as the shaded area in the map below. These areas are census tracts where there are low income residents that are more than 1 mile from a supermarket.



<sup>55</sup> <http://americannutritionassociation.org/newsletter/usda-defines-food-deserts>

<sup>56</sup> USDA Food Research Atlas

## 9.2 DIABETES<sup>57</sup>

In 2014, 8.9% of Connecticut adults had been diagnosed with diabetes. Adults aged 65 and over were significantly more likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes (19.5%) than adults aged 45-64 (10.8%). Adults with incomes of at least \$75,000 were significantly less likely to have been told they had diabetes (5.7%) than middle-income adults (7.8%) or low-income adults (12.4%). Adults with a less than a high school degree were significantly more likely to have been told they had diabetes (15.9%) compared to adults who are college graduates (5.4%).

## 9.3 OBESITY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

### 9.3.1 Adults

The rate of obesity in the state has increased over the past ten years. According to prevalence analysis by the Center for Disease Control, in 2014, the percentage of adults considered obese in the State was 19.6%.<sup>58</sup> There has been a steady climb of the obesity rate both nationally and in the state with the most recent CDC estimates at 26.3%.<sup>59</sup>

The Connecticut Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Survey study estimated that in 2015, one quarter (25.3%) of CT adults were obese while over one third were overweight (36.4%). In addition, adults with a high school degree or less (30.4%) were significantly more likely to be obese compared to adults with more than a high school education (22.1%). The rate of obesity decreased as household income rose and the relationship between obesity and income categories was significant.<sup>60</sup>

The study also found that over one-fifth (23.5%) of Connecticut adults did not engage in any physical activity outside of work in 2015. According to additional analysis provided by the study, adults making less money were significantly less likely to engage in physical activity compared to adults in higher income categories. The rate of inactivity amongst the poorest adults (35.2%) was well over twice the rate for adults in households earning \$75,000 or more (14.4%). Adults with a high school education or less were significantly more likely to be inactive (35.5%) compared to adults with more than a high school education (16.0%).<sup>61</sup>

### 9.3.2 Youth

A recent UCONN research study on childhood health, in conjunction with the New Britain Health Department and the Consolidated School District of New Britain, found that:<sup>62</sup>

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

State experts estimate that 1 of every 4 adults is obese. They report a correlation with level of education, household income, and the amount of physical activity.

<sup>57</sup> "CT Diabetes Statistics Report, 2016" March, 2016 - [www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS](http://www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS)

<sup>58</sup> Center for Disease Control State Prevalence Data; [http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/atlas/countydata/County\\_EXCELstatelistOBESITY.html](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/atlas/countydata/County_EXCELstatelistOBESITY.html)

<sup>59</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention <https://sortablestats.cdc.gov/#/indicator>

<sup>60</sup> "Health Risk Behaviors In Connecticut: Results of the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey" March, 2017 - [www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS](http://www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS)

<sup>61</sup> "Health Risk Behaviors In Connecticut: Results of the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey" March, 2017- [www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS](http://www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS)

<sup>62</sup> "Childhood Obesity and Asthma in the Consolidated School District of New Britain, Connecticut 2015-16"

- Thirty-seven percent of students are overweight or obese. This is four times the expected rate according the Centers for Disease Control.
- The rate of obesity increases as children get older.
- The percentage of overweight/obese is highest among Hispanic/Latino and White students.
- Longitudinal data for 2011/12 to 2015/16 suggest a downward trend in overweight/obesity among children in preschool.
- Children who are overweight/obese at age 4 are ten times more likely to be overweight/obese at age 8 when compared with healthy/underweight children
- Weight is not related to school attendance.<sup>63</sup>

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

In the 2015-16 school year, 37% of students were overweight or obese, four times the CDC's expected rate.

## 9.4 ASTHMA

### 9.4.1 Connecticut

According to the 2015 BRFSS, one in ten CT residents, reports having asthma. Women are significantly more likely to be asthmatic, at 13.4%, than men at 7.4%. 13.1% of Hispanics report having asthma, a higher percentage than non-Hispanic Whites, at 10%. Non-Hispanic Blacks report the highest levels of asthma in the state, with 14%. Additionally, adults in the lowest income bracket, less than \$35,000 annually, are more likely at 14.3%, to report having asthma as those in higher income categories, 9.2% for those making \$35,000-\$74,999, and 9% for those making \$75,000 and more. Educational attainment also seems to be correlated with asthma prevalence, with those adults with less than a high school diploma reporting asthma at the significantly higher rate of 12.5% than those with more than a high school education at 9.3%.

Asthma is more likely to occur in children, according to the same report. In CT, 11.7% of children had asthma, higher than the 10.5% of reporting adults. Children aged 12-17 were more likely, at 14.1%, to be asthmatic than those aged 5-11, at 11.7%. Adult proxy income was not available for comparison in this year's report.

### 9.4.2 Youth

A recent UCONN research study on childhood health, in conjunction with the New Britain Health Department and the Consolidated School District of New Britain found that:<sup>64</sup>

- 28% of New Britain school children have physician-confirmed asthma
- Asthma prevalence increases with age; in 6th grade 35% of students have asthma
- Asthma prevalence is highest among Hispanic/Latino, non-Hispanic Black students, and boys

#### FOUNDATION NOTES

Three of every 10 New Britain school students have confirmed cases of asthma.

New Britain ranks fifth among the state's cities and towns for asthma hospitalizations.

63 "Childhood Obesity and Asthma in the Consolidated School District of New Britain, Connecticut 2015-16" - [http://www.publichealth.uconn.edu/assets/newbritainreport\\_16.pdf](http://www.publichealth.uconn.edu/assets/newbritainreport_16.pdf)

64 Childhood Obesity and Asthma in the Consolidated School District of New Britain, Connecticut 2015-16

- Overweight and obese students are more likely to have asthma
- Children with asthma have higher rates of chronic absenteeism
- Students with asthma have lower test scores
- Asthma rates for 6th grade and 9th grade students appear to trend upward over the past four years<sup>65</sup>

### 9.4.3 Historical Perspective \*

A retrospective analysis for 2005-2009<sup>66</sup> shows how New Britain ranks in the top ten cities and town for hospitalization and emergency doctor visits due to the diagnosis of asthma.

**Asthma Hospitalization & ED Visit (Primary Diagnosis) Crude and Age-Adjusted Rates by Town, 5-year period, 2005-2009<sup>67</sup>**

Town	Number of Hospitalizations	Hospitalization Crude Rate (Per 10,000) <sup>68</sup>	Hospitalization Age-Adjusted Rate (Per 10,000)	Number of ED Visits	ED Visit Crude Rate (Per 10,000)	ED Visit Age-Adjusted Rate (Per 10,000)
New Haven	3,428	55.5	63.4	8,303	134.3	136.6
Hartford	1,994	32.2	35	13,470	217.4	216.6
Bridgeport	1,820	26.6	27.5	8,782	128.5	126.3
Waterbury	1,499	28	27.7	8,969	167.8	168.7
New Britain	1,265	35.9	37.7	5,527	156.7	166.2
West Haven	785	29.8	31	1,956	74.2	77.8
Bristol	580	19.1	18.7	2,760	90.7	95.5
Stamford	530	8.9	9.1	3,281	55.2	58.3
Hamden	523	18.1	18.9	1,197	41.4	46.1
Windham	499	42.2	46.4	1,532	129.4	137.5

## 9.5 INFANT HEALTH AND MORTALITY AND PRENATAL CARE

Data from the CT Department of Health Office of Vital Statistics is available through 2014. Compared to state averages, the data indicate that New Britain has significantly poorer health outcomes.

- The average low birth weight for the state was 7.6% in 2014, and 9.9%\* for New Britain.
- CT has a very low birth rate of 1.4%. New Britain's rate was not statically significantly different from that of the state.
- 12.3% of Connecticut pregnancies were subject to late or no prenatal care. New Britain late or no prenatal care pregnancies were recorded at 21.2\*%.
- 9.5% of statewide births were premature, while 12.3%\* of New Britain's were premature.

<sup>65</sup> Childhood Obesity and Asthma in the Consolidated School District of New Britain, Connecticut 2015-16

<sup>66</sup> Connecticut Open Data Center

<sup>67</sup> Connecticut Open Data Center

<sup>68</sup> The hospitalization crude rate is the number of persons who had at least one hospitalization for a specific condition in a given region, divided by the population of that region. The age-adjusted rates are rates that would have existed if the population under study had the same age distribution as the "standard" population.



- Smoking during pregnancy was prevalent statewide at 3.7%. In New Britain, 7%\* of pregnant women smoked.
- The infant mortality rate for the state is 5.04%. New Britain's rate is 12.12%\*
- The fetal mortality rate of the<sup>69</sup> state was 3.91%. New Britain's rate is not significantly different.

\*Denotes statistical significance at ( $p < .01$ )

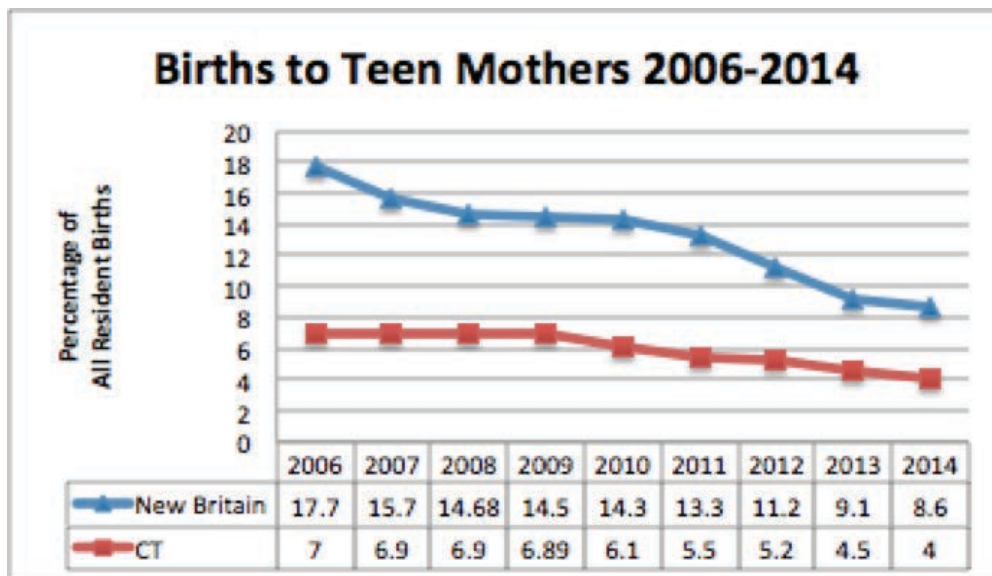
## 9.6 BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS<sup>70</sup>

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Registration Reports are the official vital statistics from the Department of Public Health and are the most accurate accounting of births to teenage mothers, under 20 years old. It takes considerable time for Department of Public Health to verify numbers, so the vital statistics are not immediately available. Currently, the Department of Public Health Registration Reports includes numbers through 2014. During the nine year period from 2006 through 2014, the proportion of teen births in New Britain, although declining, remains about double that of the state of Connecticut overall.

### FOUNDATION NOTES

New Britain teen births have dropped steadily from 17.7% of all births in 2006 to 8.6% in 2014, roughly a 50% cut in just eight years.

In the same period, the state rate declined from 7% to 4%. The rate of births to New Britain teens remains double the state rate.



<sup>69</sup> DPH Vital Statistics Annual Registration Reports, available at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3132&q=394598>

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## 10 Community Development Efforts

### 10.1 KEY PRODUCTS

#### 10.1.1 Invest Health

Invest Health is an initiative in New Britain between the RWJ Foundation and Philadelphia-based Reinvestment Fund to help city leaders plan development projects that will improve health outcomes and attract new investment through New Britain Transit Oriented Development. New Britain's Loop of Health is one strategy under this initiative, including Fastrak Station, Fastrak Multi-Use Trails, and Columbus Commons Development.

##### 10.1.1.1 CTfastrak Update

March marked the two-year anniversary of the beginning of the rapid transit bus service. CTfastrak has as many as 18,000 riders per day, which exceeds state estimates. Jeffrey Cohen, a UCONN Professor of Business, has been awarded \$194,000 from state Department of Transportation for a study of the economic impacts along the bus route<sup>70</sup>. According to Department of Transportation plans, additional service to link the UCONN Storrs is slated for late 2017<sup>71</sup>.

##### 10.1.1.2 Columbus Commons

Funding was confirmed for the first phase of construction on the former police headquarters in early May, 2017. Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits program, through CHFA has awarded \$10.7 million to support 80 apartments and commercial space at street level. The residential apartments will include 60 low-income units (for households with up to 60% of area median income), 16 supportive units and 16 units at market rate<sup>72</sup>.

#### 9.1.2 Coalition for New Britain's Youth

The Coalition for New Britain's Youth is a partnership of local organizations, families and volunteers working together to prepare New Britain's children and youth for success from cradle to career. Coalition partners work together towards equity so all children will be socially and emotionally ready for school, read well by grade three, graduate from high school on time to ensure they will be ready for a career in the workforce.

#### 9.1.3 Working Cities

New Britain was one of 10 cities chosen for a \$15,000 design grant as a part of a grant competition run by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Connecticut Working Cities Challenge. The grant aims to support multi-sector, collaborative innovation to improve the lives of people in low-income communities in small to mid-sized cities through economic development. New Britain will now submit an application for a multi-year implementation grant. Awards range between \$300,000-\$500,000 and will be announced in early 2018. If awarded, the New Britain Working Cities Challenge team will collaborate with major employers to pro-

vide employment opportunities to connect the low-income residents and residents of color. Through a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach, the initiative will engage residents in long-term system change processes to help ensure the intended outcomes directly benefit their economic well-being.<sup>73</sup>

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70 <http://www.business.uconn.edu/2016/09/26/real-estate-professor-jeffrey-cohen-study-impact-ctfastrak/>

71 <http://CTfastrak.com/about/expansion-study>

72 <http://www.newbritainherald.com/NBH-New+Britain+News/282360/phase-1-of-columbus-commons-project-is-funded>

73 "Grant to focus on job opportunities for Hispanics," Skyler Frazer, New Britain Herald, April 6, 2017



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