

Waterbury, 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 New Britain report, visit our website at 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 Waterbury 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 Waterbury has remained stable over the last decade, with an estimated 2% increase since the 2000 Census. The growth is slightly lower than growth at the statewide level of 5.4% since 2000.¹

FOUNDATION NOTES

Waterbury's population has grown at a rate half that of the state's.

	Waterbury	Connecticut
2000	107,271	3,409,549
2010	110,366	3,574,097
2015 (Estimated)	109,551	3,596,080
Change since 2000	+2.1%	+5.4%

The population growth in Waterbury has been slower than expected. In 2013 the population was estimated to reach 112,736 by 2015.²

2.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION

In Waterbury, over the last ten years, there was an increase in the number of adults 60 to 74 but a decline in adults age 75 and over.³

Age	2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Estimate ¹
Under 5 years	8,176	7,920	7,887
5 to 9 years	8,415	7,485	7,148
10 to 14 years	7,681	7,903	7,925
15 to 19 years	6,829	8,281	7,995
20 to 24 years	6,919	7,771	8,185
25 to 34 years	15,844	15,600	15,367
35 to 44 years	16,183	14,647	14,618
45 to 54 years	12,592	15,356	15,004
55 to 59 years	4,747	6,227	6,185
60 to 64 years	3,840	5,233	5,824
65 to 74 years	7,223	6,718	7,174
75 to 84 years	6,408	4,613	3,739
85 years and over	2,414	2,612	2,500

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 2000,2010, 2015, using American FactFinder;

2.3 ETHNICITY

Waterbury is an increasingly diverse city over time with increases in the Hispanic and the Black/African American population since 2000.⁴

One Race	2000		2010		2015	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
White	72,018	67.1	64,864	58.8	68,499	65.5
Black or African American	17,500	16.3	22,138	20.1	22,105	20.2
American Indian & Alaska Native	453	0.4	626	0.6	173	0.0
Asian ²	1,615	1.5	1,989	1.8	2,442	2.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	61	0.1	38	0.0	32	0.0
Some other race	11,698	10.9	15,610	14.1	11,720	10.7
Two or more races	3,926	3.7	5,101	4.6	4,580	4.2
Ethnicity	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	23,354	21.8	34,446	31.2	38,617	35.6
Mexican	588	0.5	1,572	1.4	1,433	1.3
Puerto Rican	18,149	16.9	24,947	22.6	28,238	25.8
Cuban	206	0.2	277	0.3	298	0.3
Dominican (Dominican Republic)					4,566	4.2
Other Hispanic or Latino	4,411	4.1	7,650	6.9	4,082	3.7

2.4 LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

According to recent estimates, 36.9% of Waterbury'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 are Spanish (26.1% of the total population) and other Indo-European languages (8.8% of the total population).⁵

2.5 DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As of the 2015-16 school year, in Waterbury, Hispanic students (52.7%) are the most represented race/ethnicity, followed by Black/African-American (22.8%), and White/Caucasian (19%). The percent of minority professional staff is 11.9%.⁶

See demographics chart on top of next page

2.6 HOUSEHOLDS

In Waterbury in 2015, the largest group of households are considered non-family, at 36.9%. Households with married couples make up one-third of Waterbury's households. 46.2% of households with children under 18 are female headed with no husband present. This represents a decrease from 2013 in which 58% of Waterbury's households were female headed with no husband present. An estimated 6% of Waterbury's families are headed by men with no wife present. This is also a decline from 2013, when this group made up 9% of families.^{7,8}

FOUNDATION NOTES

After dropping from 67% to 59% of the population, the White population has increased back to 65.5%.

After a 30% increase between 2000 and 2010, the Black or African American community stands at one-fifth of Waterbury's population.

Latinos have seen the greatest increase in Waterbury, growing from 21.8% in 2000 to 35.6% in 2015.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Two-thirds of Waterbury's public school students are minorities.

Waterbury schools have twice the state average of English learners.

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

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

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau; 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, using American FactFinder;

⁶ Strategic School Profile 2015-16 Waterbury School District

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013, using American FactFinder;

Demographics in the Waterbury Public Schools

	District		State
	Count	% of Total	% of Total
<i>Gender</i>			
Female	9,123	48.4	48.3
Male	9,739	51.6	51.6
<i>Race</i>			
American Indian or Alaska Native	102	0.5	0.2
Asian	309	1.6	4.9
Black or African American	4,299	22.8	12.8
Hispanic or Latino	9,931	52.7	23.0
Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0.0
Two or more races	631	3.3	2.7
White	3,584	19.0	55.0
<i>Other categories</i>			
English learners	2,434	12.9	6.4
Eligible for free or reduced-price meals	18,754	72.9	38.0
Students with disabilities ¹	3,419	18.1	13.7
¹ Students in this category are students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) only. This category does not include students with Section 504 plans.			

3 Income

3.1 HOUSEHOLD INCOME⁹

The estimated median household income decreased slightly in 2015 to \$40,467 (from \$40,639 in 2013). The mean household income in 2015 was \$52,597, which is a slight decrease from the 2013 average of \$53,036.¹¹

3.2 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

3.2.1 Individuals¹⁰

In Waterbury, 25.1% of all individuals had income in the 12 months of 2015 below the poverty level. This is an increase from 2012 (24.9%). For those individuals aged 18 to 64, there was an increase from the 2012 rate of 20.2% to 21.9%. In addition, 37.8% of all children under 18 were also considered below the poverty level in 2015.

Statewide, 10.5% of all individuals had income in the 12 months of 2015 below the poverty level. The state rate for all children under 18 was 14.3%.

3.2.2 Families¹¹

In Waterbury, 21.2% of all families had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level. This is an increase from 2012 (19.7%). The percentage of families with related children under 5 years that had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level was 35.2% in 2015. Statewide, 7.6% of all families had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Individuals, children, and families in Waterbury are all living below the poverty level at rates at least two and a half times that of the state average.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

¹¹ 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 47,356 total housing units in Waterbury. Of those 84.9% are occupied and 15.1% are vacant. The homeowner vacancy rate is estimated to be 3.3% while the rental vacancy rate is 9% (an increase from 6% in 2012). The predominant types of housing unit structures in Waterbury are 1-unit detached (37%), 3 to 4 units (20.6%), and 2 units (11.3%).¹²

4.2 HOUSING COSTS

4.2.1 Gross Rental Costs and Housing Wage

The estimated median gross rent in 2015 is \$902, which increased from the 2013 cost of \$866. Of the occupied units paying rent, 30.9% pay \$750 to \$999 and 33.4% pay between \$1,000 and \$1,499.¹³

In order to afford the median monthly rent in Waterbury, the resident will require an hourly pay of at least \$17.35 per hour, or \$36,080 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 (\$9.15), then the resident will have to work 76 hours per week to have an income high enough to afford this rent.^{14,15}

4.2.2 Rent as Percentage of Income¹⁶

The number of renting households who pay more than 35.0% of their income for rent was 51.8% of households in 2012 and declined slightly in 2013 to 50.5%. This number further declined in 2015 to 46.9%. In addition, in 2015, 32.2% of renting households were spending over 50% of their income on rent and 40.9% of renting households were spending over 40% of their income on rent.

4.2.3 Mortgage as Percentage of Income¹⁷

Homeowners in Waterbury spend less of their income on total mortgage expenses. In 2008, 20% of homeowners with mortgages were spending half or more of their household income on mortgage expenses. In 2015, the percentage had dropped to 18.3% in Waterbury.

4.3 AFFORDABLE HOUSING*

The Connecticut Department of Housing annually publishes the Affordable Housing Appeals List. It 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

FOUNDATION NOTES

An estimated 84.9% of Waterbury's housing stock is occupied.

The estimated *median* rent in 2015 was \$902. See also 6.4.1 for wage information.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Nearly half of Waterbury's renters are paying more than the recommended maximum of 35% of a family's income. One in three households is spending more than half its income on rent.

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

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

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

15 CT Minimum wage has increased to \$10.10 per hour. This report uses the minimum that was in place for the 2015 calendar year.

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

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

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.

Waterbury in the 2015 Affordable Housing Appeals List - Exempt Municipalities¹⁸

Total Housing units 2010 Census	Government-Assisted Units	Tenant Rental Assistance	CHFA/ USDA Mortgages	Deed Restricted Units	Total Assisted Units	Percentage Affordable Total
47,991	5,561	2,904	2,429	172	11,066	23.6%

FOUNDATION NOTES

The Waterbury Housing Authority has fewer public housing units available than the average housing authority, but more Section 8 vouchers.

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 Waterbury Housing Authority administers both a public housing and Section 8 housing voucher program. The housing authority owns and manages 5 projects which contain 783 affordable rental units. It also administers 2,809 Section 8 housing vouchers.

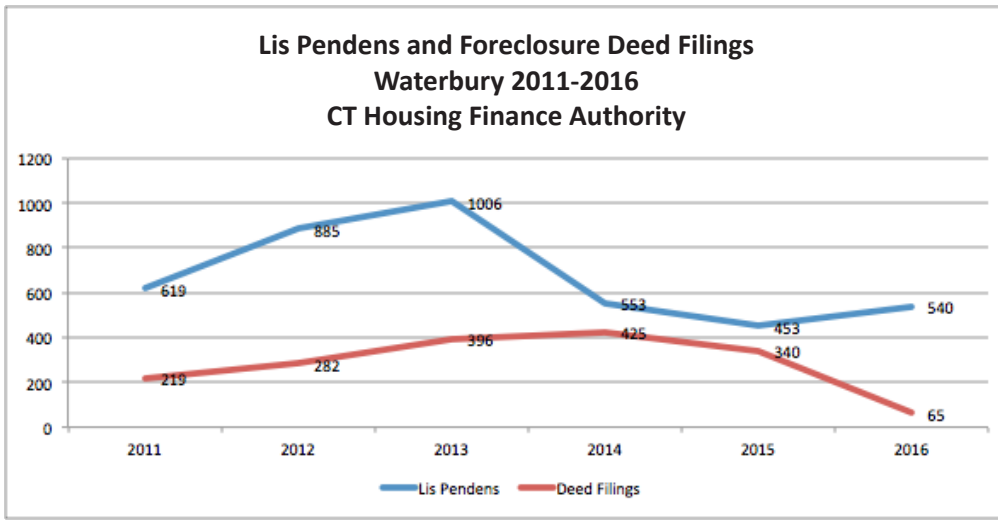
According to HUD, Waterbury Housing Authority is determined to be a Medium High public housing authority, meaning it manages between 500 - 1,249 public housing units. Also according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the housing authority is designated as Large, meaning it administers 1,250 - 9,999 Section 8 vouchers.

¹⁸ Connecticut Department of Housing - <http://www.ct.gov/doh/cwp/view.asp?a=4513&q=530486>

Comparing the housing assistance distribution of Waterbury Housing Authority between Public Housing Units (22%) and Section 8 Housing Vouchers (78%) to that of all housing authorities in Connecticut, Waterbury Housing Authority has a smaller proportion of public housing units than the average housing authority. The housing authority's proportion of Section 8 vouchers under management is larger than the average housing authority in Connecticut.

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.¹⁹

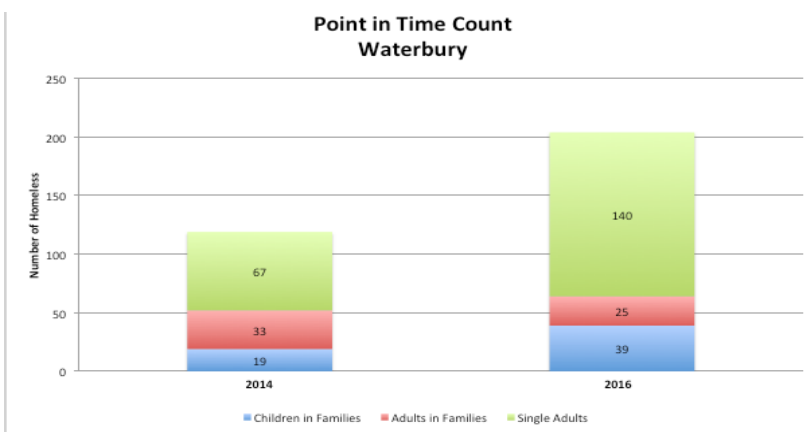


FOUNDATION NOTES

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

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.²⁰



FOUNDATION NOTES

The count of children in families and the number of individuals who are homeless in Waterbury more than doubled from 2014 to 2016. This increase may reflect improved strategies to identify those who are affected by homelessness.

¹⁹ A *lis pendens* is a pending legal action, or a formal notice of foreclosure.

²⁰ Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

5 Academic Experience

5.1 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT *

Waterbury has seen gains over the last ten years in the percentage of Kindergartners with Pre-Kindergarten experience. Yet, after trending in a positive direction in recent years, there was a dip starting in 2010-11.

Percentage of Kindergartners with Pre-K Experience²¹

School Year	Waterbury	Connecticut
2013-14	61.9	79.2
2012-13	67.5	79.0
2011-12	67.1	79.8
2010-11	62.5	80.2
2009-10	65.6	80.5
2008-09	65.4	79.7
2007-08	64.8	79.2
2006-07	60.4	79.3
2005-06	63.6	79.1
2004-05	56.9	77.0
2003-04	51.2	76.4
2002-03	49.3	75.9

FOUNDATION NOTES

While the percentage of Waterbury kindergartners who had preschool experience still lags the state average by about 25%, the gap narrowed by 65% between 2003-2014.

5.2 EDUCATION PERFORMANCE

5.2.1 Overall District Performance

A District Performance Index (DPI) is the test performance of three subjects tested in the respective state summative assessments for all students in the district. The DPI ranges in value from 0 to 100 points. The way DPIs are calculated has changed with the introduction of the Common Core Curriculum, beginning with the 2014-15 school year.²² Connecticut's new target for each subject DPI is 75.²³

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	*	*	*	*	25	46.1
Asian	149	67.6	149	61.8	75	53.5
Black or African American	2158	51.4	2160	42.6	922	40.7
Hispanic or Latino	4638	52.1	4636	43.9	1942	41.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	0	N/A
Two or More Races	269	59.4	269	50.6	88	45.0
White	1759	61.8	1761	54.3	731	50.8
English Learners	1138	43.0	1137	36.7	459	32.1
Non-English Learners	7893	56.0	7896	47.5	3324	45.0
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	7331	52.7	7332	44.4	3041	42.0
Not Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	1700	61.2	1701	53.5	742	48.9
Students with Disabilities	1956	39.3	1957	32.3	822	32.0
Students without Disabilities	7075	58.5	7076	50.0	2961	46.6
High Needs	7640	52.3	7642	44.2	3169	41.7
Non-High Needs	1391	65.2	1391	57.1	614	52.1
District	9031	54.3	9033	46.2	3783	43.4

²¹ State Department of Education

²² Due to the change in assessment tools, we are unable to do a longitudinal comparison

²³ Strategic School Profile 2015-16 Waterbury School District; http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/High-School/1510011_201516.pdf

5.2.2 Graduation Rate

5.2.2.1 2014-15 School Year

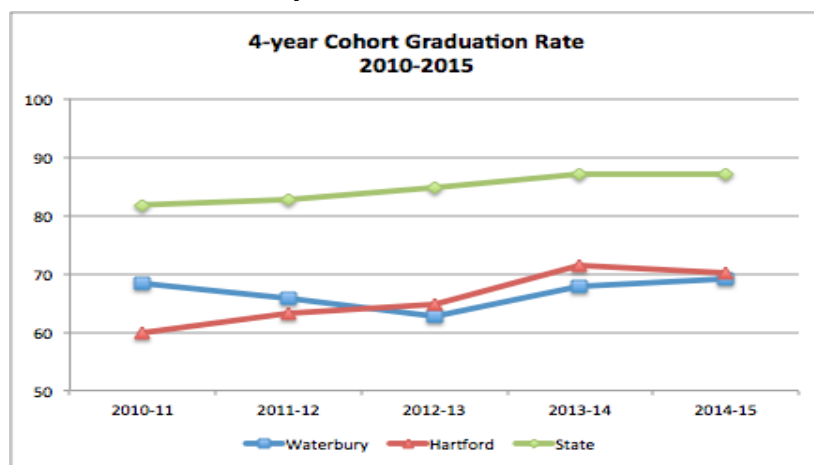
For the 2011-2012 school year, 62.6% of the Waterbury cohort that had begun high school four years earlier graduated. In the 2014-15 school year, that percentage increased to 69.2, compared to 87.2% for the state as a whole. Black students in Waterbury had a graduation rate of 71.3% for the 2014-15 school year. The rate of graduation for Hispanic students is 64%. The rate for those students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch is 66.5%. The graduation rate for ELL learners is 54.4%. Students who were special education designated (learning disabled) had the lowest graduation rate, at 44.4%. The 2014-15 school year saw improvements in graduation rates for each group reported here compared to the 2011-12 school year.

FOUNDATION NOTES

The high school graduation rate has improved over the past three years, to 69.2%. However, this remains far behind the state average of 87.2%.

For more data on youth outcomes, see Section 7, Employment & Career.

5.2.2.2 Historical Perspective²⁴



5.2.3 Educational Need*

Each school captures a set of additional indicators of educational need²⁵. These indicators from the 2011-2012 school year give insight to some of the additional challenges students are facing:

Indicator	Waterbury		Connecticut
	#	%	%
K-12 students who are not fluent in English	2,024	11.4	05.8
PK – 12 students who are receiving special education services in the district	2,955	16.1	11.9
Homeless	68	.4	00.3
Juniors and seniors working more than 16 hours per week	191	10	12.7

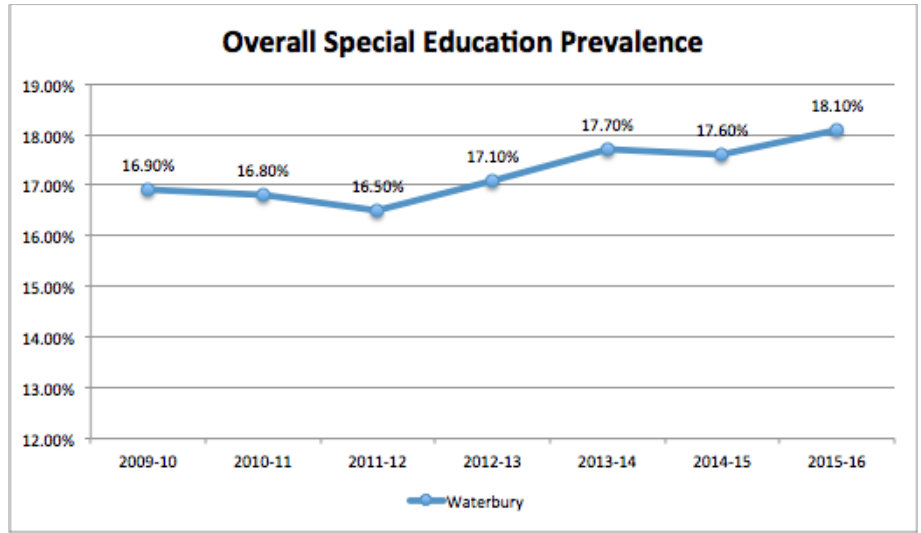
Data also shows that the overall prevalence of special education is increasing slightly in Waterbury, to 18.1% in the 2015-2016 school year.

²⁴ CT Department of Education, 4-year cohort graduation data 2013, <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2758&q=334898>

²⁵ STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2012-13 Waterbury School District

FOUNDATION NOTES

Nearly one in five students in the Waterbury Public Schools is enrolled in Special Education.



5.2.4 Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

State level data

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 days²⁶.

In Waterbury, the percentage of chronically absent students for the 2014-2015 school year was 16.2%, a decrease from the previous year's rate of 18.6%.

Connecticut state school districts no longer report by school level, meaning analysis of chronic absenteeism by grade cohort is no longer available.

FOUNDATION NOTES

One in six of all Waterbury students missed at least 10% of the 2014-15 school year, making them "chronically absent".

In 2012-13, one in three *high school* students missed 18 days or more of school.

Waterbury School District	School Year	% Chronically Absent	Elementary (Grades K-3)	Middle Grades (Grades 4-8)	Secondary (Grades 9-12)
	2011-2012	18.1	11.7	16.6	28.8
	2012-2013	19.8	13.9	16.2	33.0
	2013-2014	18.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2014-2015	16.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

²⁶ 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

5.3 JUVENILE CRIME

5.3.1 Juvenile arrests by town

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

FOUNDATION NOTES

Juvenile arrests have declined by well over 50% since 2007.

Range of Offenses - Under 18; 2007 vs. 2015					
Offense (Under 18)	Waterbury				
	2007 Totals	2011 Totals	Change	2015 Totals	Change
All Offenses	1,568	876	-57%	671	-23%
Disorderly Conduct	46%	35%		35%	
Simple Assault	11%	18%		18%	
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	12%	14%		9%	
Larceny-Theft	11%	13%		8%	
Vandalism	7%	8%		8%	
Aggravated Assault	0%	1%		1%	
Drug Abuse Violations (Including liquor law)	4%	3%		6%	
Burglary and Stolen Property	3%	2%		3%	
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2%	2%		1%	
Robbery	1%	2%		1%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	1%	1%		4%	
Drug Abuse Sale-Manufacturing	1%	0%		0%	
Sex Offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	1%	0%		0%	
Forcible Rape	0%	0%		>1%	
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	0%	0%		0%	

5.3.2 Juvenile arrests in school *

The city's magnet middle school had fewer than six arrests, compared to 75 arrests (65.4 arrests per thousand) at the middle school with the highest arrests. Although the magnet school's student population was possibly quite different from traditional middle schools, the other two middle schools also had significantly fewer arrests than the highest-rate school, and differed markedly from each other, with 50 and 25 arrests (37.1 and 20.7 arrests per thousand). Waterbury's high schools followed a similar pattern, with fewer than six arrests at the magnet high school and 31 at the highest-arrest high school (23.7 per thousand), and 19 arrests each at the other two schools (13.7 and 13.9 arrests per thousand, respectively).²⁷

²⁷ <http://www.yale.edu/glc/lme/CVC.pdf>, "Arresting Development: Student Arrests in Connecticut", CT Voices for Children, September 2013

6 Youth Development* 28

The Waterbury Prevention Policy Board has adopted the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets, a Positive Youth Development Framework. The Developmental Assets, internal and external, are building blocks young people need to grow and become caring, competent adults. The more assets that young people have, the more likely they are to report that they engage in safe and healthy behaviors and the less likely they are to report they engage in high-risk behaviors.

In 2013, 1,460 Waterbury youth participated in the survey that assesses Developmental Assets and other behaviors, across the 6th–12th grades. The results found that on average Waterbury youth had 18.7 out of 40 assets. The national average for medium sized cities is 20.3(2010).²⁹

The results highlight the assets that are contributing to youth development.

Asset	Percent Reported
Family support: Family life provides high levels of love and support	71%
Equality and social justice: Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty	72%
Integrity: Young person acts on convictions and stands up for his or her beliefs	77%
Honesty: Young person tells the truth even when it is not easy	72%
Responsibility: Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility	71%
Positive view of personal future: Young person is optimistic about his or her personal future	75%

The results also highlight the opportunities to improve:

Asset	Percent Reported
Community values youth: Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth	20%
Youth as resources: Young people are given useful roles in the community	24%
Adult role models: Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior	26%
Creative activities: Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts	22%
Homework: Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.	26%
Reading for pleasure: Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week	20%

28 Waterbury Youth Services; <http://waterburyyouthservices.org/>

29 WATERBURY’S YOUTH VOICE: Building Developmental Assets in Waterbury’s Youth” April 30, 2014, Bridge to Success; http://www.waterburybts.org/index.php/download_file/view_inline/553/

7 Employment & Career

7.1 DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Waterbury, 75% of the population has a high school diploma or higher compared to the state average of 89.0%. Twenty percent of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to the state average of 36.5%.

Degree Attainment Adults 25+ - 2015³⁰

	Waterbury	
	Count	Percent
Less than 9th Grade	6,607	9.4%
9-12th Grade/No Diploma	8,097	11.5%
High School Diploma or GED	25,716	36.5%
Some College/No Degree	13,680	19.4%
Associate's Degree	5,625	8%
Bachelor's Degree	6,671	9.5%
Graduate/Professional Degree	4,015	5.7%

7.2 WORKFORCE READINESS

7.2.1 Youth in the Workplace *

Connecticut Voices for Children published a report in 2013³¹ examining young people in the workforce. The study 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.

FOUNDATION NOTES

One in five Waterbury residents has neither a high school diploma nor a GED.

Only one in five has earned a bachelor's degree.

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

31 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:

Young People Have Highest Unemployment Rate in CT

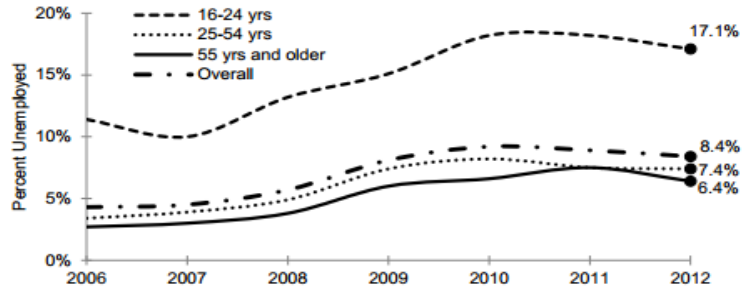


Figure 2. Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Seasonally adjusted.

Connecticut Minorities Have Higher Unemployment Rates

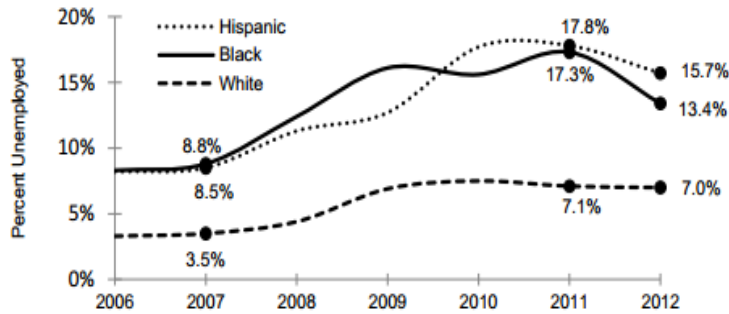


Figure 5. Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Seasonally adjusted.

Higher Levels of Education Reduce Risk of Unemployment in CT

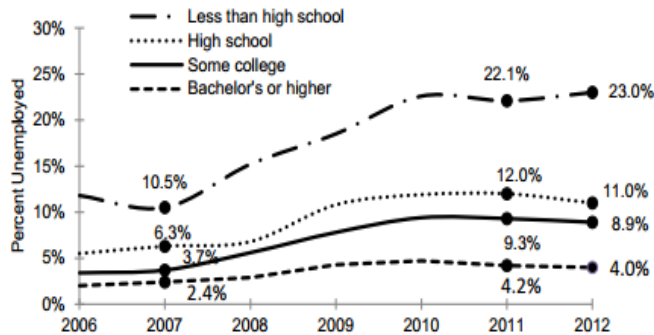


Figure 7. Source: CT Voices and Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

7.3 WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION & UNEMPLOYMENT

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 Waterbury, as of 2015, 62.0% of the population of adults over 16 years old are estimated to be participating in the labor force. Of those, 53.5% are estimated to be employed and the unemployment rate is 13.7%.³²

Youth unemployment rates vary in Waterbury. For the group aged 20-24, the unemployment rate is 19.4% in 2015. The group aged 16-19, the unemployment rate is 37.4%. The group aged 25-29, however, has a lower unemployment rate than that of the City as a whole, at 12.7% for 2015.³³

In Waterbury, the unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's degree or higher is 5.5%. This rate climbs to 9.6% for those with an associate's degree or some college, and 13.6% for those with a High School diploma or GED. The group with less than a High School education have an unemployment rate of 20.5%.

7.3.1 College Enrollment and Retention

Based on the graduating class of 2008³⁴:

- 27% of graduates of the four Waterbury public high schools enrolled in 4-year colleges in the fall following graduation. Of those, 91% returned for their sophomore year.
- 23% of graduates enrolled in 2-year colleges in the fall. Of those, 70% returned for their sophomore year.
- Of the graduating class of 2008, 17% earned a bachelor's degree within six years after graduation, and an additional 8% earned an associate's degree. Combined, 25% earned a degree within six years.

In Connecticut, 47% of the high school graduating class of 2008 graduated with an Associate's, Bachelor's or higher degree within 6 years.³⁵

FOUNDATION NOTES

Unemployment is high among young people:

- More than one in three 16-19 year olds are unemployed (37.4%)
- One in five 20-24 year olds is unemployed (19.4%)
- One in eight 25-29 years olds is unemployed (12.7%).

The unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's degree or higher is only 5.5% vs. 13.6% for those with a high school diploma or GED.

³² U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

³³ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2015, using American FactFinder;

³⁴ National Student Clearinghouse data available by school at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2758&Q=335288>

³⁵ Connecticut State Department of Education, College Enrollment, Persistence, and Graduation: Statewide Results

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.³⁶

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage in Connecticut in 2016 is \$21.68.³⁷

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.³⁸

7.4.2 Fasting Growing Occupations*

The fastest growing occupations in CT by 2020³⁹ are captured in the table below. The criteria used to develop the top ten list was the number of individuals employed in 2010 was greater than 1000 and the anticipated growth was over 25%.

Job Title/Types	Emp Projections 2010	Emp 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

³⁶ The State of Working Connecticut 2013: Young People in the Workforce, 2013 - <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/econ13sowctfull.pdf>

³⁷ Bureau of Labor statistics, available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ct.htm

³⁸ The State of Working Connecticut 2013: Young People in the Workforce, 2013 - <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/econ13sowctfull.pdf>

³⁹ Connecticut Open Data Center

8 Library Usage

In 2016, the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury averaged 2.10 visits per capita as compared to 5.68 statewide. Program attendance per capita was .07 as compared to a .59 average statewide. Circulation per capita was 1.41 as compared to 7.36 average statewide. The circulation per hour was 39 items as compared to the 49 items average statewide. Yet, visits per hour were higher than the state average with 57.2 as compared to 38.1. The Silas Bronson Library receives .49% of town tax revenues, which is much lower than the statewide average of 1.22%. Town tax revenue represents 96% of the library's operating revenue. Operating expenditures per capita were \$20.11 which is 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 Waterbury, the CCI for FY2016 was .53% as compared to the statewide average of 1.44%.

9 HEALTH INDICATORS

9.1 FOOD SECURITY

9.1.1 Community Wellbeing Survey⁴⁰

Corrected 1/11/18- an earlier version showed data for Greater Waterbury.

In 2015, the DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey asked respondents to answer questions about food security. In Waterbury, 20% of respondents indicated there were times in the last month they did not have enough money to buy food.

FOUNDATION NOTES

The rate of those reporting that they experienced difficulty buying food is more than two and a half times greater for those ages 35-49 than for seniors 65 and older (28% vs. 11%).

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	Waterbury	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	No	Yes
Yes	12%	20%	15%	24%	18%	28%	21%	11%	18%	23%
No	87%	80%	85%	75%	82%	72%	79%	89%	82%	77%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Refused	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

⁴⁰ <http://www.ctdatahaven.org/reports/datahaven-community-wellbeing-survey>

Correction: <http://ctdatahaven.org/sites/ctdatahaven/files/DataHaven2015%20Waterbury%20Crosstabs%20Pub.pdf>

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	Waterbury	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	No	Yes
Almost every month	24%	27%	24%	29%	25%	26%	37%	26%	30%	22%
Some months but not every month	37%	43%	58%	35%	31%	52%	37%	41%	45%	40%
only 1 or 2 months	37%	28%	17%	33%	37%	22%	26%	27%	21%	38%
Don't know	1%	2%	1%	3%	7%	0%	0%	5%	4%	0%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

FOUNDATION NOTES

3 of 10 Waterbury families receive SNAP benefits. Half of those families include children under age 18.

Nearly twice as many Waterbury Public School students are eligible for free/reduced-price meals (72.9%) as the state average (38%).

FOUNDATION NOTES

In a 2012 study, Waterbury ranked in the bottom quartile of the state's cities and towns (#164 of 169) when it comes to food insecurity.

9.1.2 SNAP Recipients

Families in receipt of SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamps) are on the rise in Waterbury.

American Community Survey data indicate that the percentage of families in Waterbury that receiving SNAP benefits has gone from 28.8% in 2012 to 29.4% in 2015. 51.5% of those families have children under 18 present in the home.

9.1.3 Free-reduced lunch %

As of 2015, 13,754 students (72.9% of total student population) in Waterbury were eligible for free/reduced-price meals. This represents a significantly higher percentage of free-reduced lunch eligible students than the state average of 38%.⁴¹

9.1.4 Community Food Security*

The 2012 Community Food Security in Connecticut: An Evaluation and Ranking of 169 Towns⁴², 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

⁴¹ Strategic School Profile 2012-13 Waterbury School District

⁴² 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

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.”

In regard to Population At-Risk, Waterbury (#164) is in the bottom 25% of cities and towns in CT and is at the greatest risk that a resident is food insecure.

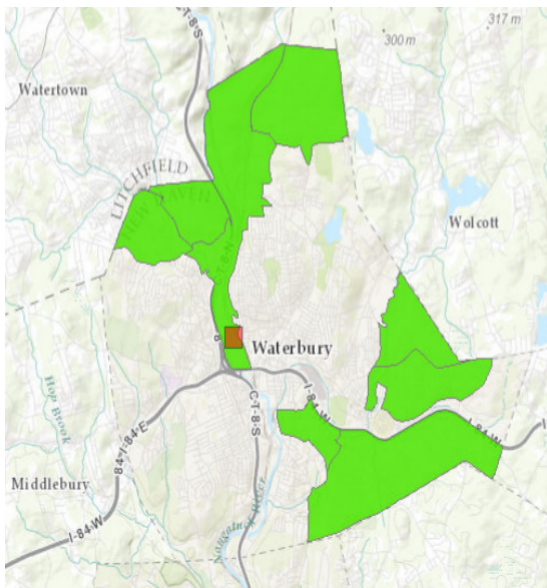
The Food Retail Ranking for Waterbury is based on an examination of food retail options and geographic proximity from town population centers. The analysis does not include convenience stores and town boundaries are eliminated. Waterbury is ranked #7.

Waterbury is ranked #4 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.

9.1.5 Food deserts

A food desert is defined as “parts of the country void 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.⁴³

Waterbury 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.



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

9.2 DIABETES⁴⁴

In 2015, 9.3% of Connecticut adults had been diagnosed with diabetes. Adults aged 55 and over were significantly more likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes (16.8%). Adults with incomes of at least \$75,000 were significantly less likely to have been told they had diabetes (6.2%) than middle-income adults (8.8%) or low-income adults (14.6%). Adults with a high school degree or less were more likely to have been told they had diabetes (13.1%) compared to adults with more than a high school degree (6.8%).

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 2004, the percentage of adults considered obese in the State was 19.6%.⁴⁵ There has been a steady climb of the obesity rate both nationally and in the state with the most recent CDC estimates (2014) at 26.3%.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷

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%).⁴⁸

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.

⁴⁴ "Health Risk Behaviors In Connecticut: Results of the 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey" April, 2014 - www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS

⁴⁵ Center for Disease Control State Prevalence Data; http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/atlas/countydata/County_EXCELstalistOBESITY.html

⁴⁶ Center for Disease Control and Prevention <https://sortablestats.cdc.gov/#/indicator>

⁴⁷ "Health Risk Behaviors In Connecticut: Results of the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey" March, 2017 www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS

⁴⁸ "Health Risk Behaviors In Connecticut: Results of the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey" March, 2017- www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS

9.4 ASTHMA

9.4.1 Connecticut⁴⁹

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 Historical Perspective *

A retrospective analysis for 2005-2009⁵⁰ shows how Waterbury ranks in the top ten cities and towns for hospitalization and emergency doctor visits due to the diagnosis of asthma.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Waterbury ranks fourth among the state's cities and towns for asthma hospitalization.

Asthma Hospitalization and ED Visit (Primary Diagnosis) Crude and Age-Adjusted Rates by Town, 5-year period, 2005 to 2009⁵¹

Town	Number of Hospitalizations	Hospitalization Crude Rate (Per 10,000) ⁴	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

49 "Health Risk Behaviors In Connecticut: Results of the 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey" April, 2014 - www.ct.gov/dph/BRFSS

50 Connecticut Open Data Center

51 Connecticut Open Data Center

9.5 INFANT HEALTH AND MORTALITY AND PRENATAL CARE

Data from the CT State of Connecticut Department of Public Health office of Vital Statistics is available through 2014. Compared to state averages, the city of Waterbury had significantly poorer outcomes for birth statistics.⁵²

- The average low birth weight for the state was 7.6% during this time, and was 10.5%* for Waterbury.
- 1.4% of births at the state level were considered very low birth weight. For Waterbury, the average was of no statistically significant difference.
- 12.3% of Connecticut pregnancies were subject to late or no prenatal care. Waterbury had a rate of late or no prenatal care of 25.9%*.
- 9.5% of statewide births were premature, while 10.6%* of births in Waterbury were premature.
- Smoking during pregnancy was prevalent statewide at 3.7%. In Waterbury, 6.2%* of pregnant women smoked.
- The infant mortality rate for the state is 5.04%. There was no statistical significance in Waterbury's rate.
- The fetal mortality rate of the state was 3.91%. There is no statistical significance in Waterbury's fetal mortality rate.

*Denotes statistical significance at ($p < 0.01$)

FOUNDATION NOTES

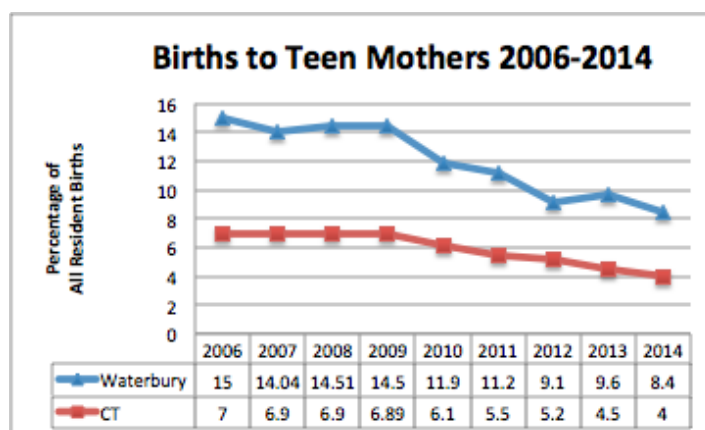
One of four Waterbury mothers has late or no prenatal care, twice the state rate.

9.6 BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS⁵³

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. 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 include numbers through 2014. During the nine-year period from 2006 through 2014, the proportion of teen births in Waterbury, although declining, remains about double that of the state of Connecticut overall.

FOUNDATION NOTES

The rate of teens giving birth in Waterbury declined remarkably between 2006 and 2014, nearly in half. As of 2014, however, the rate of births to teens remains double that of the state.



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

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

10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

10.1 KEY PROJECTS

10.1.1 Working Cities

Waterbury 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. If awarded, in Waterbury, the Working Cities Challenge initiative will restructure the deployment of childcare, after school programs, job training, and other services and processes to focus on a targeted neighborhood approach to determine how education and job training supports can be better aligned to connect residents to employment

10.1.2 Secure Jobs

Secure Jobs Connecticut is a demonstration pilot of the Melville Charitable Trust. The Melville Charitable Trust is a private foundation with a primary mission to end homelessness. In late 2014, the Trust launched Secure Jobs Connecticut in five regional areas: Hartford, Waterbury, Fairfield, New Haven and the Southeast region. The goal is to improve services for families facing homelessness across the state. The resulting projects are being funded through a combination of Melville Trust funds and matching grants from local funders in each of the five regions. Central to this initiative is the way the funding partners along with the lead agencies hope to achieve the goals of the initiative —supporting the homeless service, workforce, and childcare sectors to work together effectively and efficiently as one team.

Secure Jobs Connecticut takes a holistic approach and aims to address both barriers at the same time. The goal of the initiative is to raise the income of families transitioning from homelessness to housing by connecting them to the education, training, and supports they need to secure and maintain stable employment.

All the families in the program are currently receiving rapid re-housing housing assistance from nonprofit service organizations through the Connecticut Rapid Re-Housing Program, a state-funded program providing short-term rental assistance and case management support services. In addition, the families are also receiving employment services and support from the American Job Centers.

10.1.3 Waterbury Regional Food Hub

Brass City Harvest, an agricultural non-profit organization, will be overseeing the construction of the Waterbury Regional Food Hub. Brass City Harvest was able to move forward with the plans after the state bond commission approved a \$1.7 million bond to begin Phase I of the project. The Waterbury Food Hub will serve as a regional entity to aggregate, process, and distribute farm fresh food. The facility will sit on a 4-1/2-acre site with three commercial greenhouses, where food will be grown, stored, processed, packaged and sold in a year-round farmers market. The greenhouse space will secure new anchor farmers

in the City of Waterbury who will produce hydroponic crops and house dedicated space for a year-round farmer's market. Some of the food will also be donated to area food charities that serve low-income families. The food hub will also employ an additional 24 people.

10.1.4 Bridge to Success

Bridge to Success (BTS) is a partnership of more than 90 local organizations, families and volunteers working together to prepare Waterbury's youth for success from cradle to career. BTS partners follow a collective impact framework working jointly towards equity so all children will be socially and emotionally ready for school, read well by grade three, AND graduate from high school on time to ensure they will be ready for a career in their community. BTS partners are action-oriented, engaged volunteers from the schools, city, and choice that are committed to building a strong bridge to connect youth to their community and school. Waterbury is also a STRIVE Network cradle-to-career partner that received national recognition for its work.

10.1.5 Greenway Project

The City of Waterbury Plan of Conservation and Development recognizes the Greenway as the principal component of an inter-connected open space plan with a multi-use recreational path that will run through Waterbury and connect to the Greenways of other Valley cities and towns. It is envisioned that the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) will serve as a sustainable transportation corridor, provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, improve quality of life, and attract new businesses.⁵⁴

A 2015 study was conducted by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, and the University of Connecticut. The goal of the study was to demonstrate the potential economic impact of the completed NRG on area communities. The report argues that the economic benefits communities will derive from the NRG will more than pay for the estimated \$77 million cost of the project before it is completed. The report goes further to say that the economic benefits from the NRG in the form of user spending, consumer surplus, and monetized health benefits will exceed \$7.3 billion between now and 2031. This will mostly be in the form of health benefits. The authors also caution that their estimates are based on the assumption the trails will be used. Built into this assumption are proper maintenance of the trails, amenities, community engagement around the project, promotion of the trails, business engagement and other recommended activities. They further recommend ongoing data collection to assess the progress toward goals and the use of the NRG.

⁵⁴ <http://waterburycct.org/content/25076/26225/26227/26379/default.aspx#sthash.tp7Th4CH.dpuf>



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