

## Demographic Characteristics of Households Below Economic Self-Sufficiency in Connecticut in 2019: Key Findings

### Background

The “Demographic Characteristics of Households Below Economic Self-Sufficiency in Connecticut in 2019” report analyzes the findings from the Self-Sufficiency Standard. It identifies who is most affected by the barriers to reaching self-sufficiency in Connecticut, and breaks down these numbers by race/ethnicity, gender, work supports, family type, geography, and occupation.

**The report found that almost one out of four (23%) of working age households in Connecticut live below the Standard.**

**Geographically, the highest rates of income inadequacy are in urban Connecticut.** With 44%-48% of households below the Standard, the cities of Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Waterbury have the highest income inadequacy rates in the state. **Over a quarter of households** below the Standard in Connecticut live in these four cities.

**Households with children are at a greater risk of not meeting their basic needs, accounting for more than half of households with inadequate income.** Reflecting the higher costs associated with children (such as child care), families with children have a higher rate of income inadequacy (33%). Among families with children under six, 44% have incomes under the Standard, and

There are 222,319 households living below the Self-Sufficiency Standard in Connecticut



**84%** of CT households below the Standard have at least one worker



**55%** of CT households below the Standard have at least one child



**52%** of CT householders below the Standard have at least some college



**31%** of CT households below the Standard receive food assistance

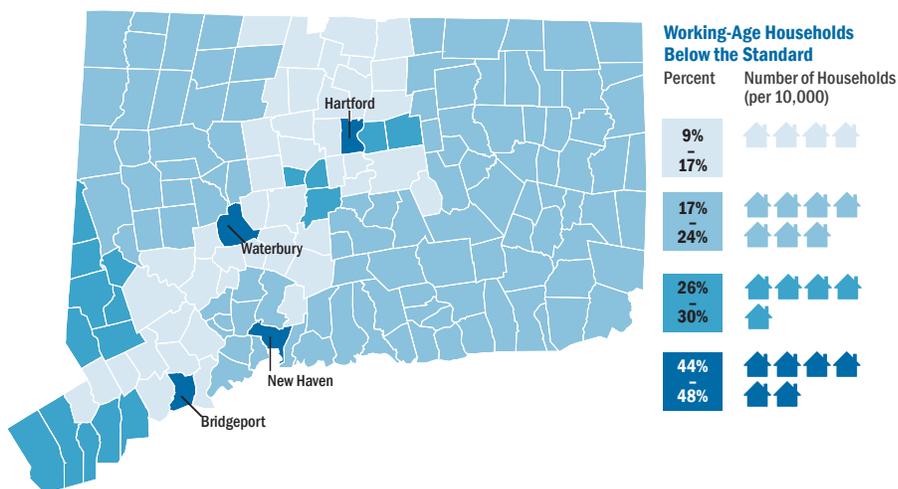


**83%** of CT households below the Standard experience a high housing-cost burden



**25%** of CT households below the Standard are married-couples with children

### Income Inadequacy Rate by Town: CT 2017



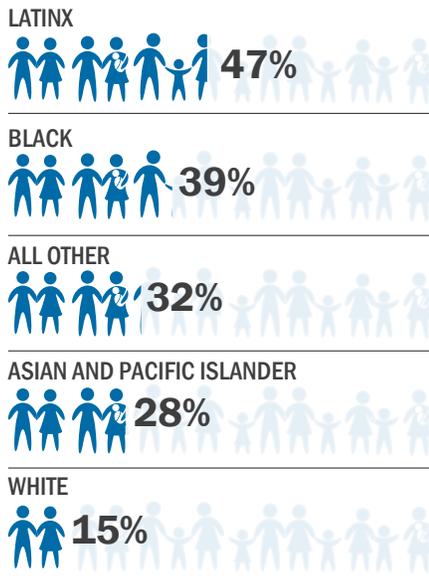
over half (55%) of households below the Standard have children.

**Households maintained by single mothers, particularly if they are women of color, have the highest rates of income inadequacy.** While 22% of married-couple households with children have inadequate income, 63% of single mothers and 39% of single fathers have inadequate income. There is a large racial

disparity among single mothers, with 75% of single mothers of color lacking adequate income, compared to 45% of single white mothers.

**Households headed by people of color are disproportionately likely to have incomes below the Self-Sufficiency Standard.** While white families are 68% of Connecticut’s households, they are only 44% of households struggling with income inadequacy.

## Income Inadequacy Rate by Race/ Ethnicity: CT 2017



Latinx households have the highest rate of income inadequacy at 47%, followed by black households (39%), all other races (32%), Asian and Pacific Islanders (28%), and white households (15%).

## Being foreign born increases the likelihood of having inadequate income.

While native-born households have an income inadequacy rate of 21%, the likelihood of having inadequate income is higher if the householder is a naturalized citizen (28%) and more than doubles if the householder is not a citizen (45%). In addition, householders not fluent in English have over twice the rate of income inadequacy (59%) compared to those who are fluent in English (22%).

**The median wage of householders of color is only 66% of the median wage of white householders.** Among working householders, those above the Standard work about 24% more hours than those below, but householders above have wages that are more than two times the wage of those below (\$30.77 per hour vs. \$13.74 per hour). Thus it is

the lower wages, rather than fewer hours, especially for householders of color, that lead to higher rates of income inadequacy.

**Demographic trends in Connecticut are both similar and different compared to other states (that have also been analyzed using the Standard).** For example, consistently across six states (see below), householders, who are women and/or people of color, who have children and who have less education, have higher rates of income inadequacy compared to their counterparts. However, Connecticut differs from national trends in that the changes between pre- and post-recession are not as large. At the same time, Connecticut has, along with Pennsylvania, the highest difference in rates of income inadequacy between householders who are white versus non-white.

## Income Inadequacy Rates Before and After the Great Recession for Select States

	CALIFORNIA		WASHINGTON		PENNSYLVANIA		COLORADO		CONNECTICUT	
	2007	2012	2007	2013	2007	2010	2000	2016	2000	2017
<b>Households Below Standard</b>	31%	38%	18%	28%	21%	26%	21%	27%	19%	23%
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY OF HOUSEHOLDER</b>										
<b>Non-White</b>	43%	50%	34%	42%	41%	47%	38%	43%	41%	41%
<b>White</b>	18%	25%	14%	23%	17%	21%	16%	21%	14%	15%
<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</b>										
<b>No children</b>	20%	28%	12%	20%	15%	19%	14%	21%	12%	17%
<b>Young children present (under 6)</b>	52%	60%	39%	50%	40%	46%	39%	50%	36%	44%
<b>Married with children</b>	36%	42%	20%	31%	19%	24%	29%	31%	18%	22%
<b>Single mother</b>	64%	72%	51%	67%	58%	65%	54%	62%	59%	63%
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLDER</b>										
<b>Less than high school</b>	68%	77%	47%	63%	49%	60%	51%	58%	46%	59%
<b>High school diploma</b>	42%	53%	26%	38%	26%	32%	27%	40%	26%	34%
<b>Some college or associate's degree</b>	28%	39%	20%	32%	21%	28%	21%	33%	18%	27%
<b>Bachelor's degree or higher</b>	12%	17%	8%	14%	9%	12%	10%	14%	8%	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5% Census data 2000; 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017 ACS 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard was developed by Dr. Diana Pearce, Director of the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington School of Social Work. The Standard has been calculated for Connecticut in 1998, 2005 and 2015. For information on the Standard please visit [www.selfsufficiencystandard.org](http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org), or contact Dr. Pearce at [pearce@uw.edu](mailto:pearce@uw.edu) or Lisa Manzer at [Imanzer@uw.edu](mailto:Imanzer@uw.edu), or at (206) 685-5264.