

Enhancing Workforce and Early Childhood Education Participation through Collaborative Provision of Diapers

National Association for Welfare and Research Statistics
Collaborating Across Lines to Build Up Lives
July 30, 2019

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Estimating Diaper Need in the United States

1 in 3

families in the US experience diaper need.¹

63%

of women with infants are in the workforce.³

11.9M

children under the age of 3 in the US.²

5M

children in the US under 3 live in poor or low-income families.²

\$70
to
\$80

estimated cost of diapers each month per baby.

Up to
14%

Diaper cost percent of after-tax income for low-wage families.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2018, June). *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth (PEPSYASEX): April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017*. U.S. Census Bureau (2018, September) *Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2017*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html> ² U.S. Census Bureau (2018, September) *Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html> ³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2018, September). *2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (S1301)*.

Impact of the National Diaper Bank Network

68M

diapers distributed annually

197,902

children served monthly

207

diaper programs in 49 states and DC

4,256

organizations partner to distribute diapers.

\$3.6M

spent to purchase diapers.

~ 60%

of network members distribute other basic needs items.

¹ National Diaper Bank Network Annual Member Survey , 2018.

Role of Community Based Diaper Banks

Collaborate

Raise
Awareness

Provide
Diapers at
No Cost

Support
Community

Advocate

**FREE
DIAPERS
FOR
FURLOUGHED
GOV'T
WORKERS**

World Central Kitchen -
Archives Navy Memorial
Metro

Jan 23rd, 24th & 25th
11am - 1pm

100 diapers per baby
period products
incontinence items

MUST bring gov't ID
and birth certificate
for each child



If you can donate funds to our efforts to help
furloughed families please visit
www.greaterdcdiaperbank.org



Media Highlights

- US News & World Reports - ***“In California, Food Banks Aim to Address Diaper Needs,”*** By Lauren Katims, June 27, 2019
- Philadelphia Inquirer – ***“An unlikely weapon in battling poverty: Diapers,”*** by May 29, 2019
- WAMU 88.5 American University Radio – ***“One Local Bank Is Helping New Mothers With Vital Currency: Free Diapers,”*** by Martin Austermuhle, March 6, 2019
- Psychology Today – ***“Diapers, Depression and Gender Matter for Social Policy: Research shows mothers in poverty struggle to keep their babies in diapers,”*** By Barbara Rishman Ph.D., November 4, 2018.
- The Nation – ***“Welcome to America, Where Parents Can’t Afford Diapers,”*** by Bryce Covert, August 22, 2018.
- CBN News – ***“The Diaper Gap: How a God-Sized Idea Closed a Little-Known Loophole Putting Infants at Risk,”*** by Caitlin Burke August 14, 2018.
- CityBeat – ***“At Cincinnati’s Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank, baby’s bottoms are the top concern,”*** by Steven Rosen, August 6, 2018.
- Chicago Tribune – ***“Twice As Nice Mother & Child strives to keep pace with diaper demand,”*** June 20, 2018.
- MIT News – ***“Using data science to improve public policy,”*** by Scott Murray, April 23, 2018.
- The Nation – ***“Poverty in 2013: When Even Diapers Are a Luxury: Being a poor mother in the United States today means reusing diapers and struggling to afford food,”*** by Katha Pollitt, September 11, 2013.

Consequences of Diaper Need

Health

Children's Health:
diaper rash, UTI,
difficult to sooth,
interrupts sleep,
stress

Parental Health:
stress, anxiety
and depression

Childcare

Children cannot
attend childcare
or early education
programs

Work and School

Forced absences,
less take home
pay

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Maternal mental health
 - Diaper Need and Its Impact on Child Health
 - Smith, Kruse, Weir, & Goldblum, 2013, Pediatrics
- Parenting
 - A mixed methods investigation of the experience of poverty among a population of low-income parenting women
 - Lange, Dáu, Goldblum, Alfano, & Smith, 2017, Community Mental Health
- Maternal mental health, food insecurity
 - Examining material hardship in mothers: Associations of diaper need and food insufficiency with maternal depressive symptoms
 - Austin & Smith, 2017, Health Equity
- Physical health, behavior, development
 - Diaper Need: A Change for Better Health
 - Porter & Steefel, 2015, Pediatric Nursing
- Benefits to families
 - Health, Social, and Economic Outcomes Experienced by Families as a Result of Receiving Assistance from a Community-Based Diaper Bank
 - Massengale, Erasquin, & Old, 2017, Maternal Children's Health
- Benefits to Partner Organizations
 - Organizational and health promotion benefits of diaper bank and community-based organization partnerships
 - Massengale, Erasquin, & Old, 2017, Children and Youth Services Review

Federal Legislation

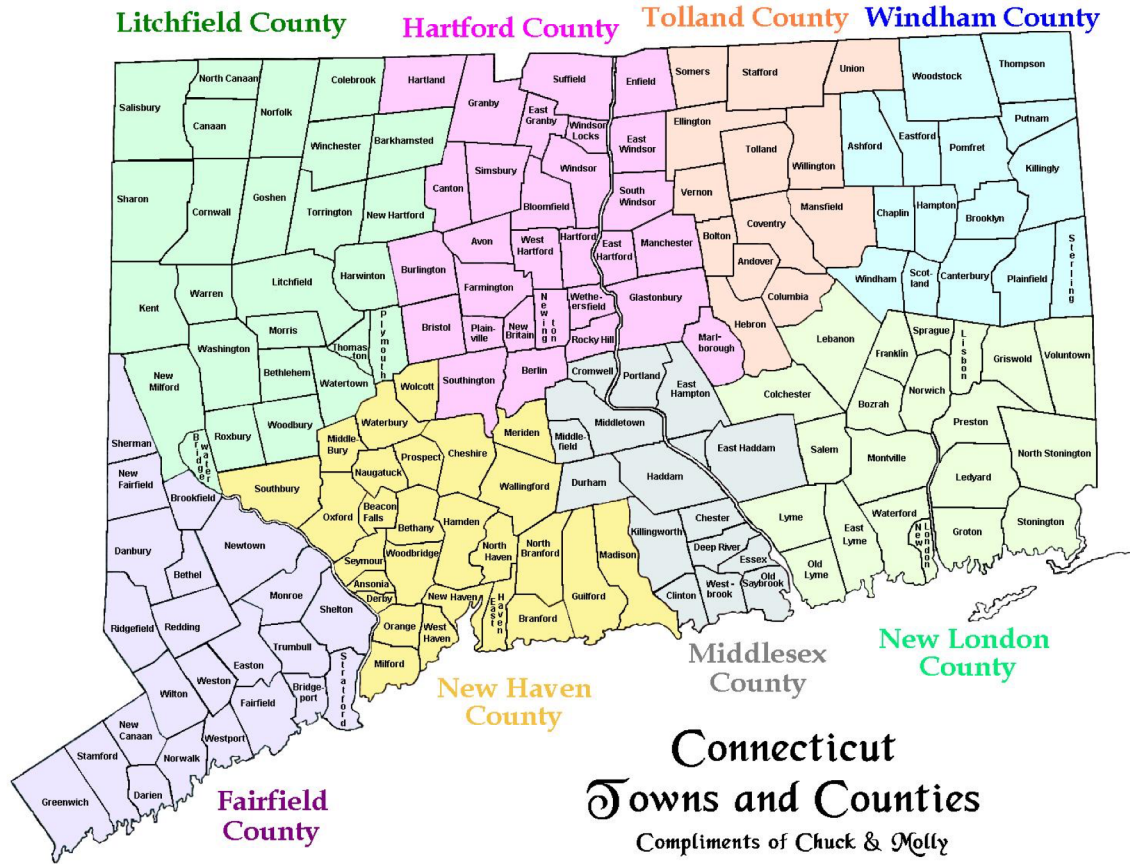
- 2011 HR3134 - DIAPER Act (Comp. Bill S1778) - 19 cosponsors
- 2015 HR4055 Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act of 2015 (Comp. Bill S3070) - 56 cosponsors
- 2016 President's Budget included \$10 million to test effective ways to get diapers to families in need
- 2017 HR1143 Hygiene Assistance for Families of Infants and Toddlers Act of 2017 - 48 Cosponsors
- 2019 HR1846 End Diaper Need Act of 2019 (Comp. Bill S1404) - 40 Cosponsors

State Legislation

- Minnesota funds \$2 million for mobile food shelf funding that may be used to purchase proteins, fruits, vegetables, and diapers (2016)
- California funds \$30 monthly diaper voucher for families enrolled in the CalWORKS program (2017)
- Nevada funds Diaper Resources Committee to research opportunities to improve access to diapers and diapering supplies for recipients of public assistance and other low-income families (2018)
- California funds \$10 million of legislature-approved funding among 4 regional food banks across California to help with their Diaper Bank Programs. (2018)
- Connecticut state budget includes an \$500,000 a year for The Diaper Bank of Connecticut to get diaper assistance to families in need (2019)
- State Sales Tax on Diapers (ongoing)
- TANF Family Caps (ongoing)

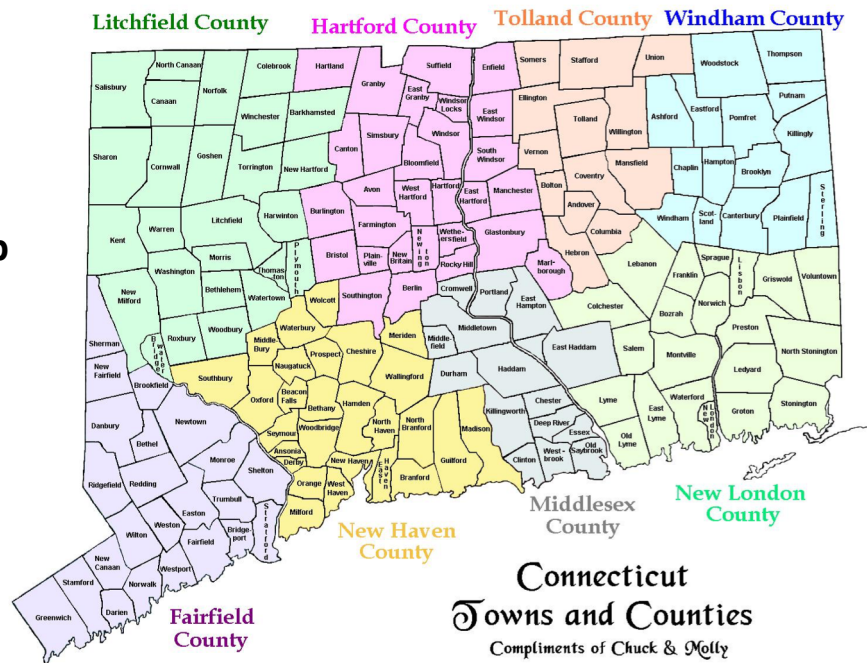
Local Legislation

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



Connecticut ranks #1 in inequality. ...

According to a recent study by the **Economic Policy Institute**, **Connecticut** has the dishonor of being the state with the most income **inequality**. Specifically, we have the largest **gap** between the richest 1 percent and the poorest 99 percent in the whole country.



CT landscape

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

Ansonia 33.3%

Bridgeport 32.9

Derby 21.5

Hartford 43.2

Meriden 21.0

New Britain 32.9

New Haven 36.5

New London 44.5

Norwich 26.1

Waterbury 37.8

West Haven 21.0

Windham 34.5

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

The Diaper Bank of Connecticut

- Established in 2004 as New Haven Diaper Bank
- Almost 25 million diapers distributed!



How we work



Better Health for Children and Increased Opportunities for Families

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS
OF THE DIAPER BANK OF CONNECTICUT

REPORT AUTHORS:

Fred Carstensen, *Director*

Peter Gunther, *Senior Research Fellow*

Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis

What was surprising about the data?

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





FAMILIES RECEIVING DIAPERS ARE IN ACUTE NEED OF SUPPORT.

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



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



A MAJORITY OF FAMILIES RECEIVING DIAPERS HAVE JOBS.

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



WITHOUT DIAPERS, PARENTS MISS WORK AND/OR SCHOOL.

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

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



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

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



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



Connections to Community Based Organizations

Childcare/Early Childhood Ed

- Early Head Start
- Teen Parenting Programs



CHANGING LIVES

HELPING A FAMILY WORK TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

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

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

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

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

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



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

Education and Workforce

- Adult Education (Two-Gen Model)
Middletown Adult Ed Even Start

The Even Start Family Learning Programs of Middletown Adult Education recognize that parents are their children's first and most important teacher. We support this by bringing parents in need of adult education and their children together to share the excitement and joy of learning. Our NAEYC accredited Even Start Family Learning program is a unique early preschool program combined with adult education. It provides early childhood education and adult academic instruction. It also reinforces the parent-child relationship and enhances parenting skills through a variety of services and components.

Education and Workforce

○ Family Child Care Provider Model

- Laurel Family Resource Center & Bloomfield School Readiness
- The Family Resource Center (FRC) is a free program for Bloomfield moms, dads, grandparents, home daycare providers and others caring for children to learn more about child development, interact with other families and grow together. They offer:
 - support group for parents
 - home daycare network
 - early childhood assessments
 - field trips

The FRC provides early childhood services such as the Parents as Teachers program and Family daycare home provider training and support.

The FRC also provides school-age support and services such as family support services, positive youth development and resource and referral services.

Diapers: How something so small can have such a large impact

Overall Health

- Severe diaper rash leading to eczema and possible urinary tract infections.
- Education for Children
 - Early Childhood Centers will not take children without an accompanying supply of diapers.
- Jobs and Education for Parents
 - Parents without access to daycare centers are prevented from training and entering the workforce.



How Can You Get Involved?

- Tell someone else about diaper need.
- Find out where your nearest diaper bank is located.
- Visit or tour your local diaper bank.
- Ask your Representatives and Senators to cosponsor HR1846 End Diaper Need Act of 2019 or Companion Bill S1404.
- Consider the effect that diaper need may have on your work and populations you serve.
- Engage local diaper banks in diaper need or related research topics
- Collaborate with NDBN on a research project.
- Participate in National Diaper Need Awareness Week September 23 - 29, 2019. During
- the week, share information on social media or host a diaper drive.
- Attend the Diaper Banks in America annual conference in Cincinnati this October.
- Join diaper need advocates from across the country in Washington D.C. during annual the NDBN lobby day in March.

Thank you!

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#EndDiaperNeed