



The State of Connecticut's Families

a resource publication of the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies

Fast Facts about CT's Families:

- As of 2001, Connecticut's families reflected these characteristics: ¹
 - 24% or 816,000 of the state's population is under 18 years of age,
 - 37% or 1.26 million are 18 to 44 years old,
 - 25% or 850,000 are 45 to 64 years old,
 - 13% or 476,000 are 65 years and older.
 - The median age is 38.4 years.
- According to the U.S. Census:
 - 85% of the state's population is White,
 - 9% is Black or African American,
 - 3% is Asian,
 - 3% reported some other race.
 In addition, 10% reported being Hispanic and 2% reported two or more races.
- In 2001, 87% of the population was living in the same residence as the year before; 10% had moved from another residence in Connecticut, 2% from another state, and 1% from abroad.

Work requirements under TANF – will greater restrictions spell success?

In February, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 4, which would reauthorize the 1996 welfare law. As currently designed, this bill - The Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2003 - would:

- Increase both the work requirements for recipients from 30 to 40 hours per week.
- Increase the recipients who must meet this requirement from 50% to 70%.
- Require termination of all assistance to a family (including the children) if a parent failed to meet program expectations for just two months.
- Freeze TANF funding.

By 2007, when adjusting for inflation, the real value of the TANF block grant will be 22 percent lower than in 1997.

Did You Know?

- More than 7 in 10 Connecticut children ages 6-17 live in families where both parents, or the only parent are working.²
- Day care costs between \$7,300 and \$9,700 per child, per year in Connecticut.³
- A recent study found that:
 - 185,200 people in Connecticut had no health insurance.
 - More than 2/3 of all uninsured working-age adults were employed.
 - Forty percent of uninsured workers report that their employer did not offer health benefits, and twenty percent said they weren't currently eligible for their employer's coverage.⁴



Senator Mary Ann Handley receives the CCFSA 2003 FAMILY LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR award from Galo Rodriguez, Chair of the CCFSA Public Policy Committee

How can CT ensure that its approximately 22,000 families on TANF find success in the workplace?

A new report from the Center on Law and Social Policy (CLASP) finds that the skills that employers want stand in stark contrast to the actual skills and credentials of parents receiving welfare. It makes sense then that the most successful welfare-to-work programs make substantial use of education and training services.

More recommendations for designing successful programs is included in "Built to Last: Why Skills Matter for Long-Run Success in Welfare Reform", available at www.clasp.org click on "Publications" and then "Postsecondary Education and Training."⁶

Substance abuse in older Americans

Across the nation alcohol and drug abuse affects up to 17% of adults aged 60 or older.

Federal estimates suggest that the number of adults with substance abuse problems will double from 1999 to 2020. Changes in the patterns of substance use that "baby boomers" exhibit will have a dramatic impact on the content, focus, and delivery of specialized substance abuse prevention and interventions that will be needed for adults in late life.⁸

These services will be increasingly important to the well being of families, since what appears to be dementia may in some cases be an undiagnosed case of substance abuse.

Juvenile Justice – If we could reduce recidivism by only 1%...

In a study by the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council (CPEC), it is estimated that a mere 1% reduction in the rate of juvenile recidivism over an 18-month period, **would save CT more than \$8 million**. This would result from such factors as fewer DCF residential placements and less children moving into the adult corrections system. The study estimated that 116 felonies and 102 misdemeanor crimes would also be avoided. The full report is available at www.cpec.org under CPEC reports.⁷

Footnotes: Data was taken from reports by the US Census Bureau 2000, the US Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the US Dept. of Defense and the CT Dept. of Children and Families. For full source data view this document on-line at www.ctfsa.org/news



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Contact us or visit our web site: www.ctfsa.org

Sources for “The State of CT’s Families”, Volume II

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<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2001/SS01/Narrative/040/NP04000US09.htm>
- ² United States Census Bureau , Census 2000, *Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents (Table P46)*.
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTable?_ts=71587662660
- ³ Child Care Infoline of Connecticut and the Nation’s Network of Child Care Resources and Referral. “*2003 Child Care in the State of Connecticut*”.
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- ⁴ State of Connecticut, Office of Health Care Access. *Summarizing the Findings of OHCA’s 2001 Household Survey*, April 2003.
<http://www.ohca.state.ct.us/Publications/CTuninsuredsummary.pdf>
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- ⁶ Center for Law and Social Policy, *Built to Last: Why Skills Matter for Long-Run Success in Welfare Reform*, April 2003.
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- ⁷ Connecticut Policy and Economic Council, *State of Connecticut Juvenile Justice Programs: An Analysis of the Costs and Benefits*, December 2002.
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- ⁸ United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Substance Use by Older Adults: Estimates of Future Impact on the Treatment System*, December 2002. Overview, page 1, and *Many More Older Americans Will Require Substance Abuse Treatment by 2020*, March 3, 2003. (Listed under Current 2003 News Releases.)
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