



The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven

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*Working together to build a stronger community—now and forever*

# The Community Progress Report

MEASURING THE WELLBEING OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

**641,472** residents live in The Community Foundation service area

More than **210,000** adults volunteered in the last year

**1 in 8** residents are foreign-born

**59%** of 3- and 4-year-olds attend preschool

**13%** of adults have asthma

**340,000** adults use arts & cultural resources

**306,194** jobs are in New Haven County

**85%** of high schoolers graduate on time

# THE COMMUNITY PROGRESS REPORT

Three years ago we introduced *Calibrating the Community: Data to Strengthen Greater New Haven (2013)* to further our collective understanding of how people within our region are doing and how our region is doing as a whole. The *Community Progress Report (2016)* continues this ongoing work. Using the latest economic, demographic, educational, health, and well-being data, this report provides benchmarks that identify strengths to build on and challenges that need to be addressed. We invite you to use these indicators to engage policy makers, businesses, institutions, and—above all—your neighbors and colleagues in conversations about how to build a stronger community for all of Greater New Haven.

## GREATER NEW HAVEN: COMMUNITIES OF CONNECTION

More than 600,000 people live in the the region served by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Though many of these municipalities have strong, independent identities with roots dating back to the founding of the country, the region is and has always been economically, culturally and socially connected.

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven was established in 1928 as a local charitable endowment to provide a permanent source of funds for the changing needs of the community. Our mission is to create positive and sustainable change in Connecticut's Greater New Haven region by increasing the amount of and enhancing the impact of community philanthropy. For more than three generations, thousands of donors have built our community endowment by establishing permanent funds or making gifts to existing funds that distribute grants to organizations that address a broad range of issues.

## ABOUT DATAHAVEN

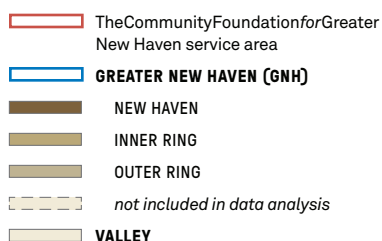
DataHaven is a non-profit organization with a 25-year history of public service to Greater New Haven and Connecticut. Its mission is to improve quality of life by collecting, sharing, and interpreting public data for effective decision making. DataHaven is a formal partner of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership of the Urban Institute in Washington, DC.

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This report is in based in part on the *Greater New Haven Community Index 2016*, a report produced by DataHaven in collaboration with community, government, and scientific partners including The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Download the entire report, including detailed notes on the sources and analyses used in this document, at [www.ctdatahaven.org](http://www.ctdatahaven.org).

## STUDY AREA

The adjacent map illustrates the geographic area(s) of study and corresponding terms referenced throughout this report; it serves as a guide only for the purposes of this report.



## A CHANGING REGION

Greater New Haven is undergoing rapid demographic changes. Urban areas are becoming more populated, and diversity is rising in the inner ring towns. The population over the age of 65 is the fastest growing demographic group for most of the region. Adapting to these changes and taking advantage of the new opportunities they present is critical for the region to remain competitive.

### A RETURN TO THE CITY

At a time when Connecticut's population is staying flat, New Haven continues to reverse a decades-long decline. Since 2000, the city's population has grown by 6% to more than 130,000, adding more residents than nearly any other town in Connecticut, and thousands of new apartments are being added to the city's downtown area.

### INCREASING DIVERSITY AND IMMIGRATION

Greater New Haven's diversity is its strength. One in 8 residents in the region is foreign-born, coming from 120 different countries. They contribute millions of dollars to the economy and rich cultural traditions. In addition, recent foreign immigrants are the primary source of population growth.

### INCOME INEQUALITY

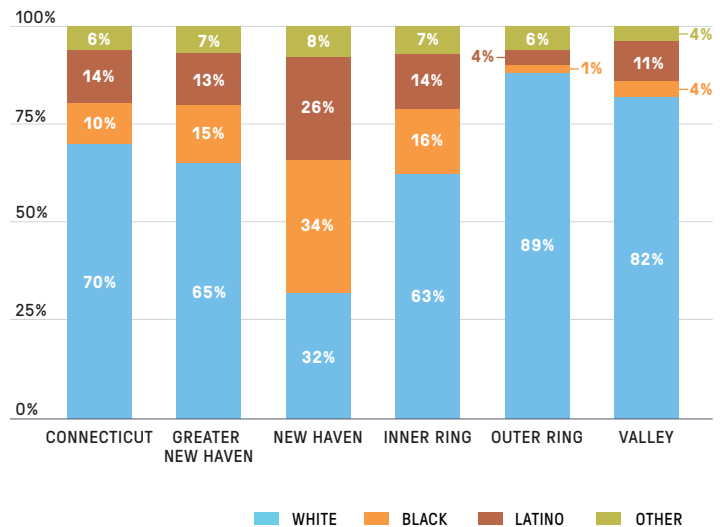
The number of Greater New Haven residents living in middle class neighborhoods—those with average incomes similar to the state—has been shrinking. Meanwhile, the populations of affluent and poor neighborhoods have more than doubled since 1980.

More than **1 in 3** residents identify as a racial or ethnic minority, compared to 1 in 5 in 1990.

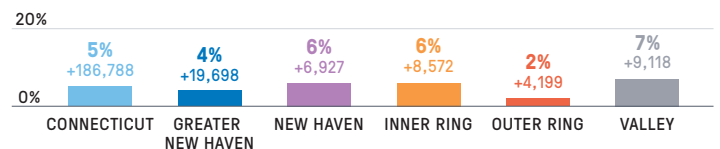
**12%** of Greater New Haven residents, or 56,105 people, are foreign-born.

Adults ages **65** and older are the region's only age group projected to grow significantly between 2014 and 2025.

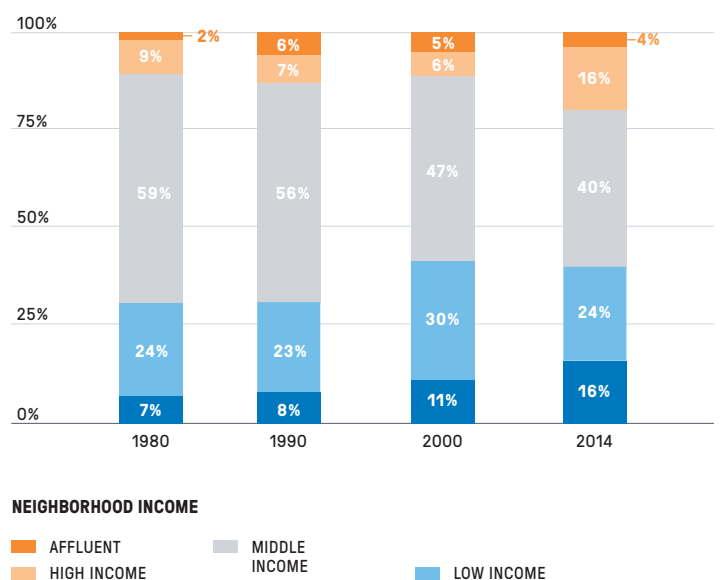
### POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2014



### CHANGE IN TOTAL POPULATION, 2000–2014



### DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY NEIGHBORHOOD INCOME LEVEL, GREATER NEW HAVEN,



# BOOST ECONOMIC SUCCESS

The towns that make up Greater New Haven are economically interdependent. A majority of working residents leave their own towns to commute to jobs somewhere else in Greater New Haven or beyond. New Haven, Milford, North Haven, Branford and Orange have a net influx of workers, while other towns have fewer jobs than workers.

The city of New Haven is the employment hub of the region, both in total jobs and number of high paying jobs.

*A high-wage job is defined here as one paying \$40,000 per year, or about \$3,333 per month. This is considered a “living-wage job” based on regional cost of living. A job paying less than a “living wage” is considered “low-wage.”*

Job growth has steadily increased since the economy’s emergence from the 2008–2010 recession. Despite these gains, a significant portion of the population is underemployed and working in jobs that pay less than a living wage. Increasing education and raising skill levels are critical to both helping individuals access better jobs and to attracting more high-wage jobs to the region.

New Haven has **47%** of the living-wage jobs in the region.

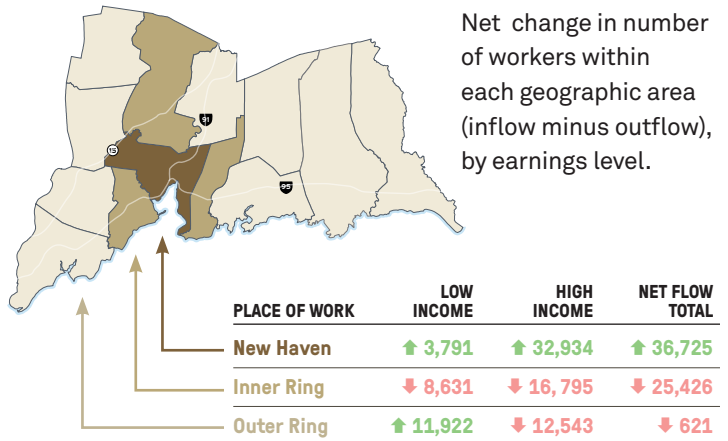
## WORKING POOR

Nationally, **84%** of children in low-income families lived with at least one working adult, but low wages and unstable jobs are often barriers to economic security.

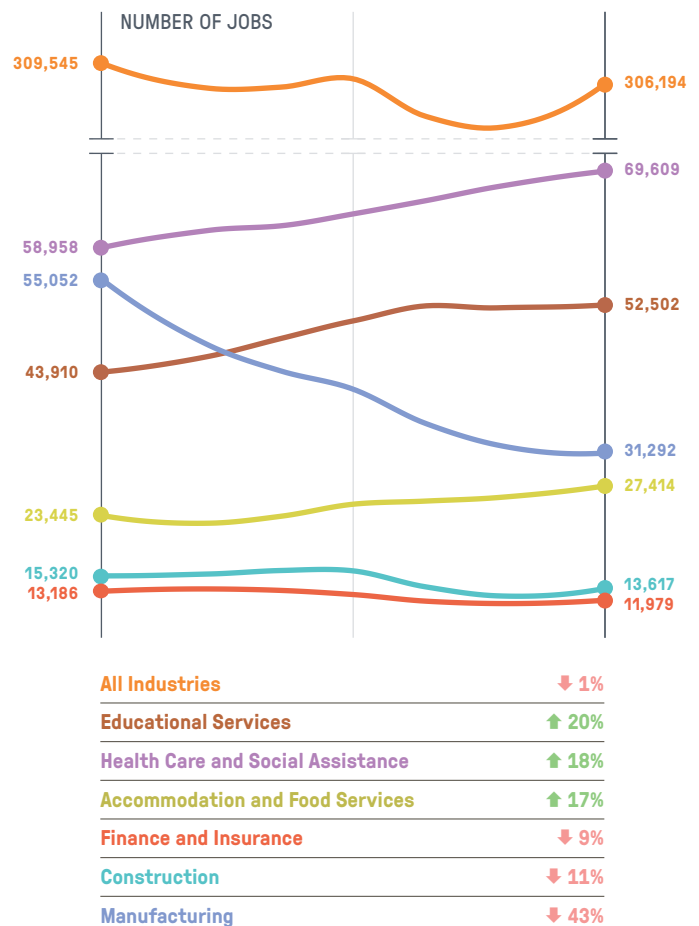
**45%** of employed people in Greater New Haven have low-wage jobs.

**13%** of workers in Greater New Haven are underemployed, meaning that they are looking for work or are working part time but would prefer to work full time. The underemployment rate in low-income New Haven neighborhoods is **22%**.

## MOVEMENT TO WORK WITHIN GREATER NEW HAVEN



## JOB TRENDS: GREATEST GAINS AND LOSSES, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, 2000–2014



## MEET BASIC NEEDS

More than one in ten people in Greater New Haven officially live in poverty, which is \$15,730 per year for a family of two and \$28,850 per year for a family of four. More than one quarter of residents live in low-income households, earning less than \$47,000 per year for a family of four. Extreme income constraints put families at risk of going without food and lacking stable housing. Children are more likely to live in poor or low-income households than the general population.

**27%** of Greater New Haven residents live in low-income households; for children ages 0–5, this increases to **37%**.

## TRAVELING TO WORK

In Greater New Haven, 76% of low-wage workers work in a different town from where they live—including 31% who work outside of the Greater New Haven region entirely. Among low-wage workers who live in New Haven, 66% leave the city to commute to a different town—typically to nearby suburbs such as Hamden, North Haven and Milford.

Residents of suburban towns are particularly reliant on jobs located within the city center. Seventy percent of low-wage jobs and 80% of high-wage jobs located in New Haven are held by residents of other towns.

The unemployment rate in Greater New Haven is **21%** among residents who don't have access to a car, more than three times higher than the rate among those with access to a car (6%).

## CHANGING ECONOMY

The total number of jobs is close to returning pre-recession levels, with most growth occurring in the health care and educational sectors. Manufacturing jobs in New Haven County, however, have declined by 43% since 2000, and now make up only a 10% share of total payroll in the area.

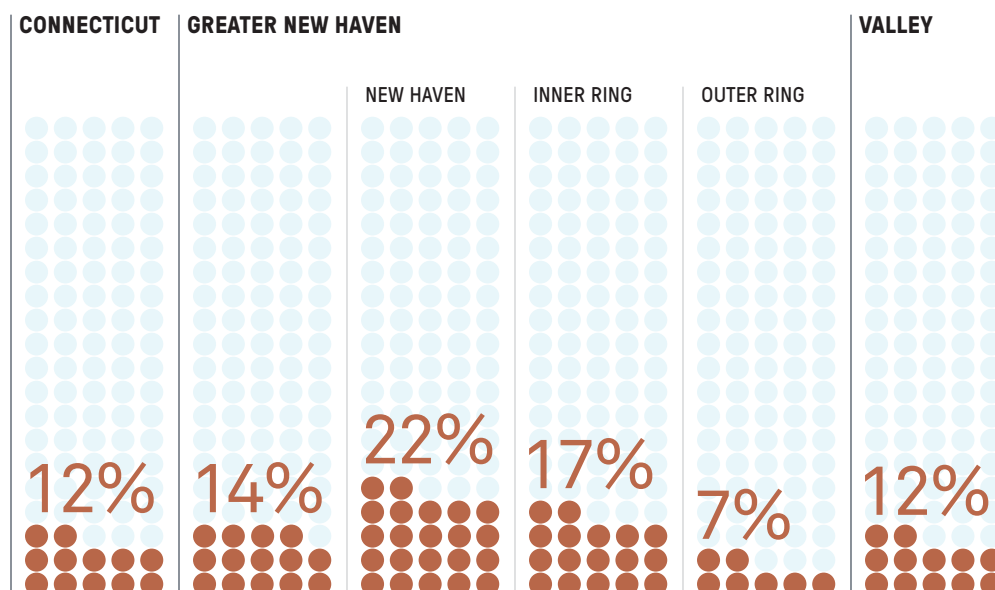
**41%** of all workers without four-year degrees report needing more education or training to advance in their careers.

## HOUSING COST BURDEN

**44%** of Greater New Haven's households spend more than the federally-recommended 30% of their income on housing costs.

From 2005 to 2014, the number of households in New Haven County that were severely cost-burdened increased by **16%**.

## PERCENT OF ADULTS WHO DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR FOOD IN THE PAST YEAR, 2015



# PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION

The growing sectors of the Greater New Haven economy depend on a highly educated workforce. Preparing students to succeed starts with early education through high school, and on to post-secondary education and college.

## EARLY EDUCATION AND PRESCHOOL

For the past two decades, early education has been a priority for towns throughout Greater New Haven. While the resulting high participation rates are encouraging, affordability remains a problem for many families. Increasing access for subsidized early care for infant and toddlers is the next challenge.

**72%** of children ages 0–5 in Greater New Haven live in families where both parents work or are looking for work, up from 60% in 2000.

The cost of early care and education programs increased by **14%** from 2007 to 2012 statewide.

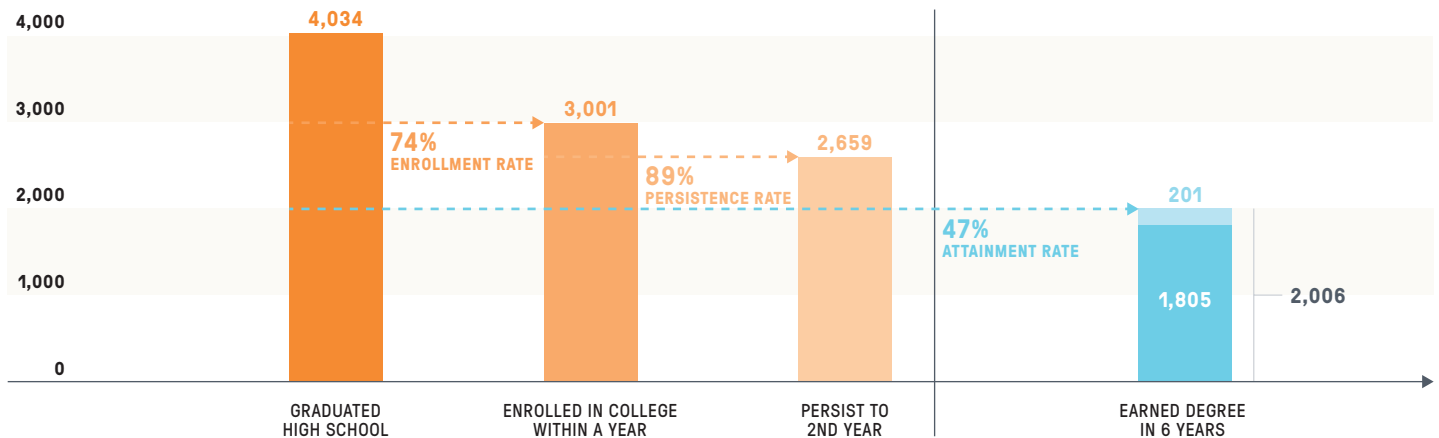
Greater New Haven's preschool enrollment rate for children ages 3–4 is **59%**, but affordability is a problem for many families. The preschool enrollment rate ranges from 47% in low-income neighborhoods in New Haven to 70% in outer ring suburbs.

The greatest need is in infant and toddler care. The region has enough subsidized slots to serve only **31%** of the infant and toddlers living in low-income households.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY GAPS

Disparities between students of color and white students in a variety of performance measures appear early and persist throughout school. Students of color in Greater New Haven are more than twice as likely to be chronically absent from school. Only one third of Greater New Haven students of color were proficient on the 2015 statewide standardized reading and math tests (the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, or SBAC) as compared to 64% of white students.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION THROUGH COLLEGE COMPLETION, GREATER NEW HAVEN, 2008 AND 2012



|                   | GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL | HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE | ENROLLED IN COLLEGE WITHIN A YEAR | PERSIST TO 2ND YEAR | PERSISTENCE RATE | EARNED DEGREE IN 6 YEARS | ATTAINMENT RATE |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Greater New Haven | 4,034                 | 84%                         | 3,001                             | 74%                 | 2,659            | 2,006                    | 47%             |
| New Haven         | 958                   | 75%                         | 627                               | 65%                 | 493              | 257                      | 26%             |
| Inner Ring        | 918                   | 81%                         | 631                               | 69%                 | 542              | 420                      | 37%             |
| Outer Ring        | 2,158                 | 92%                         | 1,743                             | 81%                 | 1,624            | 1,329                    | 62%             |
| Valley            | 1,453                 | 87%                         | 1,042                             | 72%                 | 942              | 586                      | 43%             |

## NURTURE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Depending on where they live, youth in Greater New Haven have significantly different levels of access to opportunity. Overall, 63% of Greater New Haven youth under the age of 25 report having the education and training they need to advance in their careers. This drops to less than half for youth in New Haven. Young women are more likely to graduate high school on time and go on to earn a bachelor's degree than young men, but still face wage gaps throughout their careers.

Youth living in areas of concentrated poverty have limited access to the educational resources and work opportunities of the region.

*Disconnected youth are those ages 16–19 who are neither in school nor working. They are more likely to never complete high school, face unemployment, and become involved in the criminal justice system.*

**13%** of young people in Greater New Haven ages 16–24 are neither employed nor attending school.

### ATTENDANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Rates of chronic absenteeism vary by group. In Connecticut, a student is considered chronically absent if he or she misses more than 10% of school days.

**21%** of students of color in Greater New Haven were chronically absent in the 2013–14 school year.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND BEYOND

Most jobs that pay more than minimum wage require a high school diploma, and a college degree is necessary for many of the higher-paying occupations. Seventy percent of the jobs in Connecticut are projected to require a post-secondary education by 2020.

More than **80%** of Greater New Haven high school graduates who attend state or community colleges are placed in remedial classes.

### OPPORTUNITY YOUTH AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM, 2014

|                   | YOUTH 16–19<br>NOT EMPLOYED OR<br>IN SCHOOL | STUDENTS<br>CHRONICALLY<br>ABSENT |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Connecticut       | 6%  | 11%                               |
| Greater New Haven | 5%  | 15%                               |
| New Haven         | 10%   | 25%                               |
| Inner Ring        | 3%  | 14%                               |
| Outer Ring        | 3%  | 8%                                |
| Valley            | 4%  | 10%                               |



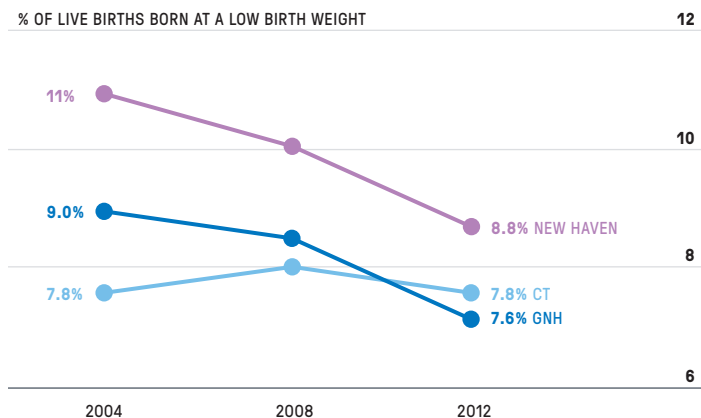
# ENSURE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Greater New Haven is a relatively healthy region by national standards. Yet the positive indicators for the population as a whole mask vast differences between towns and neighborhoods. Health issues such as childhood asthma, early-onset diabetes and heart disease are concentrated in economically distressed neighborhoods.

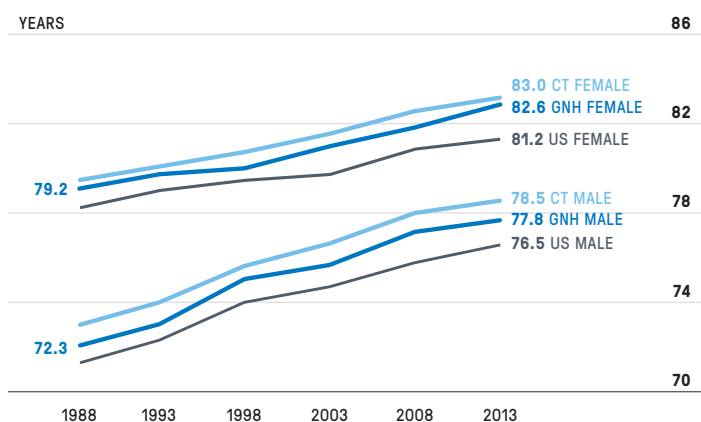
## PRENATAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Infant health is a key indicator of overall community-wide health. In the mid to late 1980s, there were 20 infant deaths per one thousand live births in New Haven and a rate of 31 deaths per one thousand live births for New Haven's African Americans. Work by New Haven Healthy Start and others have since helped to significantly lower infant mortality rates. Recent studies show rates of 7 deaths per one thousand live births in New Haven overall. However, disparities persist, with rates of low birthweight and very low birthweight in New Haven still significantly higher than rates in outer ring suburbs.

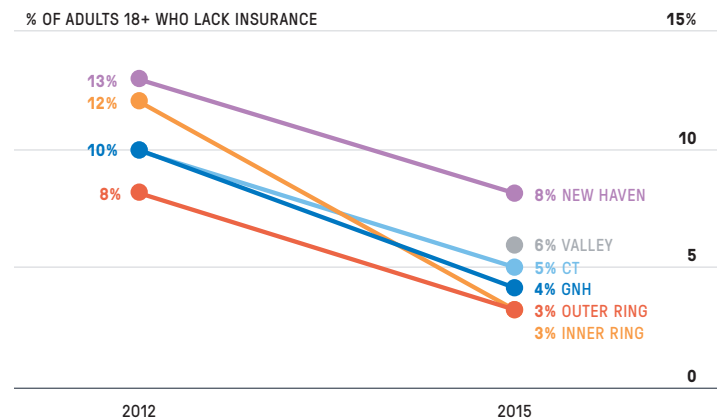
## LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, 3-YEAR AVERAGES



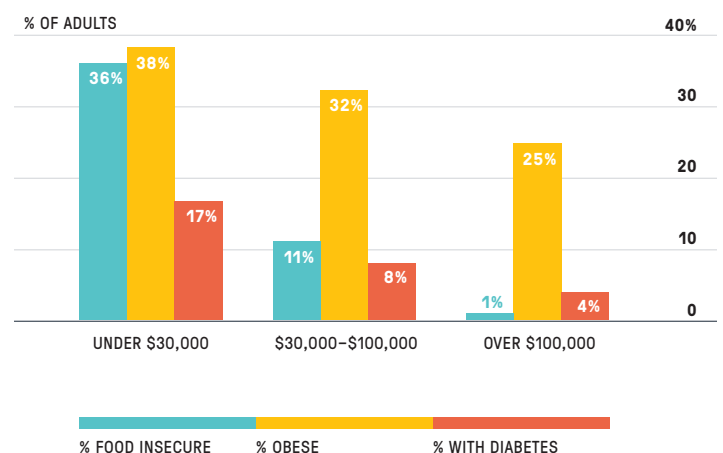
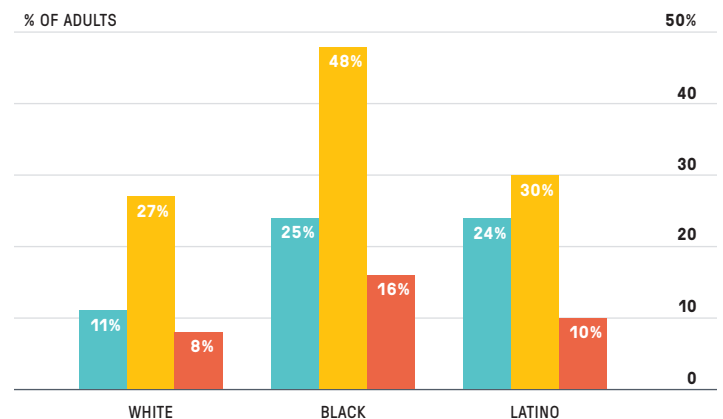
## LIFE EXPECTANCY



## ADULTS LACKING HEALTH INSURANCE



## NUTRITION, OBESITY AND DIABETES WITHIN GREATER NEW HAVEN, 2015





CHRONIC DISEASE AMONG YOUNGER ADULTS

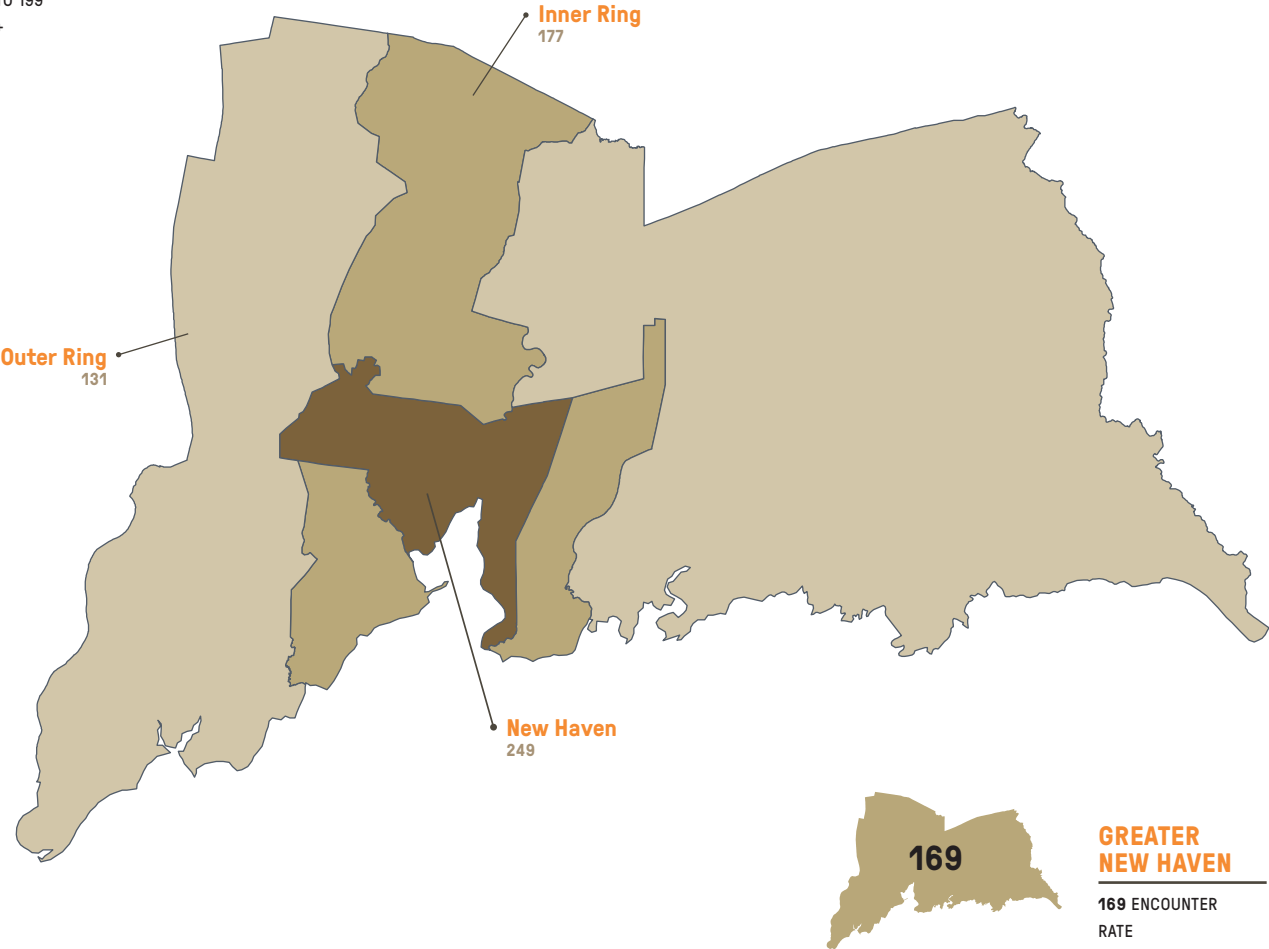
In low-income neighborhoods, adults are much more likely to be hospitalized for severe conditions such as heart disease and diabetes at an early age. The early onset of chronic diseases, linked to stressful conditions and barriers in access to nutrition, health care, exercise, and other resources, creates significant impacts on healthcare costs and quality of life. From 2012 to 2014, the rate of hospital encounters for diabetes was 282 per 10,000 adults ages 20–44 in New Haven and 192 per 10,000 in West Haven, as compared to 45 per 10,000 in Connecticut’s nine wealthiest towns.

Middle-aged adults in the state’s four largest cities were more likely to be admitted to the hospital for heart disease than were seniors ages 65–74 in wealthy communities.

HEART DISEASE INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION RATE PER 10,000 RESIDENTS, AGE ADJUSTED, 2012–2014

RATES PER  
10,000 RESIDENTS

- 80 TO 114
- 115 TO 139
- 140 TO 169
- 170 TO 199
- 200+



# PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

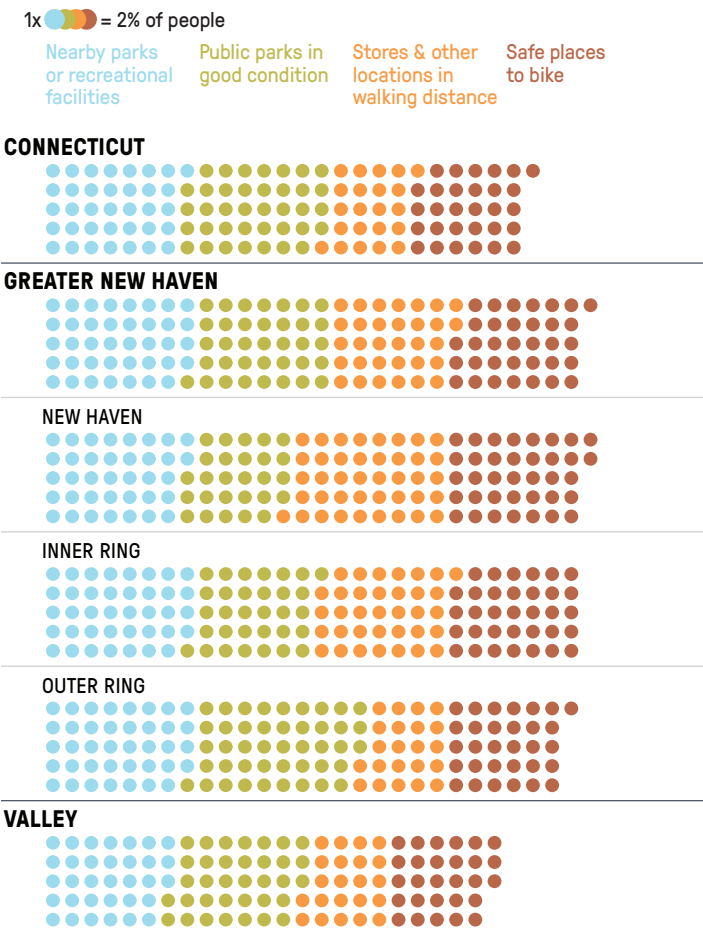
Clean air, land and water are fundamental to health and quality of life. An environment free of contaminants such as allergens, lead and toxic chemicals helps reduce and prevent disease and other health problems.

Local air quality is as variable as the weather. It can change from day to day or even hour to hour. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provides daily information about local air quality and health effects online ([www.ct.gov/deep/aqi](http://www.ct.gov/deep/aqi)).

Although water quality in Connecticut has improved greatly since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, pollution persists. The Quinnipiac, West and Mill Rivers all have sections that do not meet Clean Water Act goals of supporting aquatic life or recreation. Visit [www.thequinnipiacriver.com](http://www.thequinnipiacriver.com) for more information.

Accessible clean parks and safe sidewalks are also part of a healthy environment because they are associated with physical activity and positive health outcomes.

## PERCEIVED ACCESS AND USE OF OUTDOOR RESOURCES

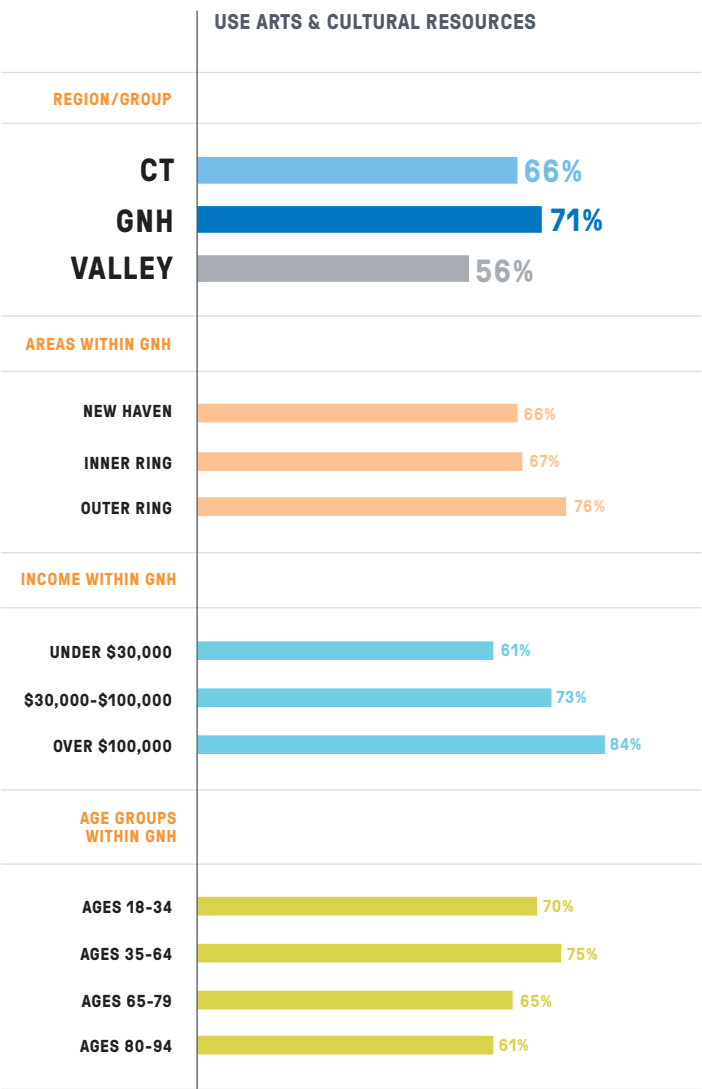


# SUPPORT ARTS & CULTURE

Greater New Haven is home to a thriving arts community that includes theater, music, dance and the visual arts. It is invested in its libraries, museums, historic preservation and the celebration of ethnic and cultural diversity.

The 2015 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey found that area residents were more likely to use cultural or artistic resources than residents in other parts of the state.

## ARTS & CULTURE



## PROMOTE CIVIC VITALITY

By measures of self-reported well-being and engagement, Greater New Haven as a whole has high civic vitality. A different picture emerges, however, when examining data at the town and neighborhood level. The proportion of adults who do not agree that their neighbors can be trusted ranges from 5% in outer ring suburbs to more than 80% in low-income city neighborhoods.

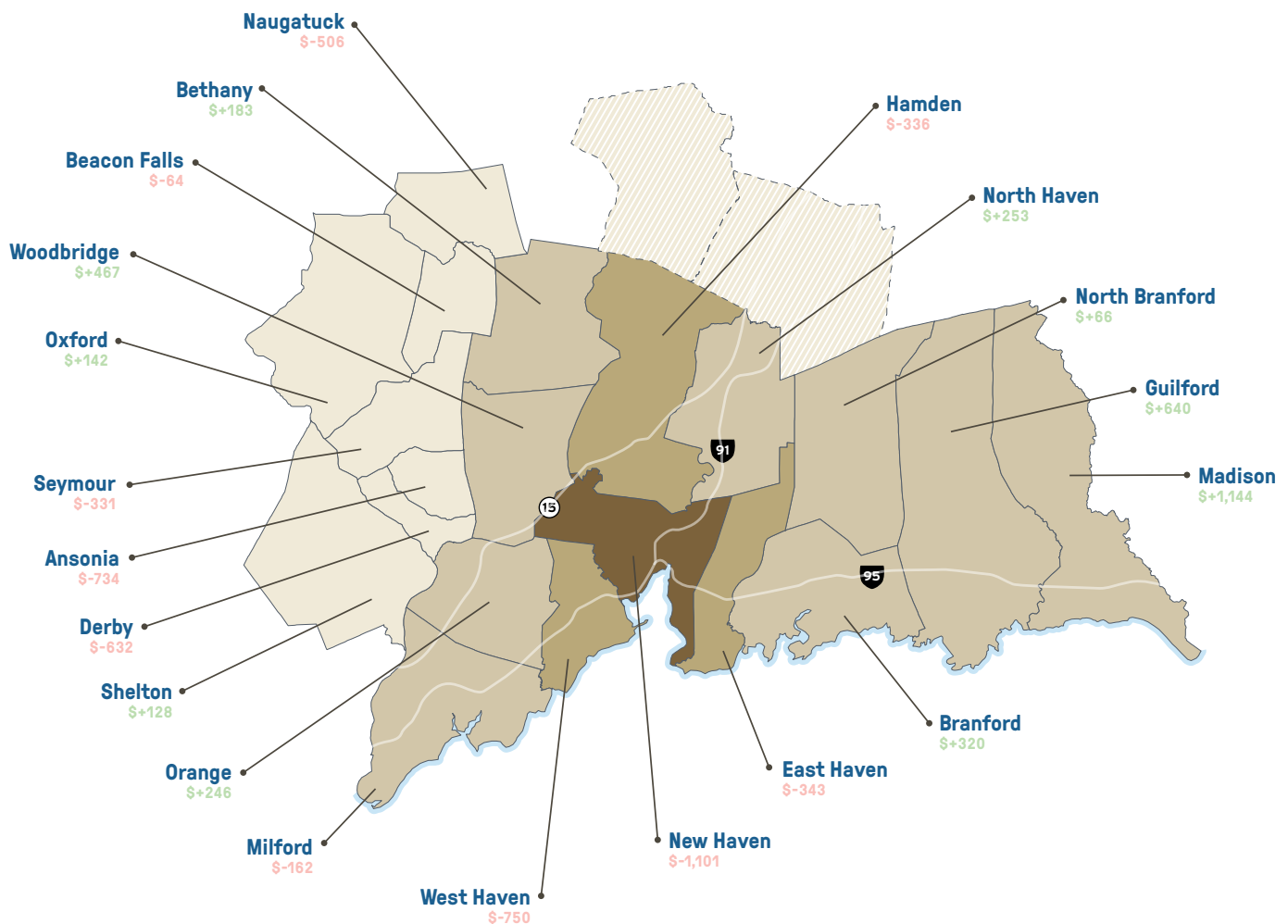
Because local services are based on property tax, towns with higher property values have more available tax revenue to support schools, parks, libraries and other public resources than towns with less valuable property per capita. These differences are illustrated by municipal financial capacity.

Annual library visits in Greater New Haven increased more than **20%** between 2002 and 2015, and nearly **30%** in New Haven.

**94%** of Greater New Haven adults reported having relatives or friends they can count on.

### MUNICIPAL TAX SURPLUS PER CAPITA, 2015

Surplus is calculated as tax capacity per capita minus municipal cost per capita.



# MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE: GREATER NEW HAVEN

Looking at data to measure wellbeing in Greater New Haven shows us a region with resilient towns where people love to live and where residents are in good health. At the same time, it makes it clear that dramatic disparities exist between communities, such that not all residents can take advantage of the region's opportunities and resources. These differences demand the attention of everyone invested in the region's prosperity.

It is also useful to look at trends of these measures. We find deep, lasting impacts of the Great Recession, where many families and children in the region are still recovering. We also get a sense of improvements and ways the composition of our region continues to change over time.

For more detail on these and all measures in this document, see the full *Greater New Haven Community Index 2016*. The new *Community Index*, as well as a separate report that focuses on the Valley region, are both available on the DataHaven website ([www.ctdatahaven.org](http://www.ctdatahaven.org)).

## INDICATOR TRENDS IN GREATER NEW HAVEN AND NEW HAVEN, 1980–2015

