

# Connecticut Sociodemographic Profile

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According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 3,574,097 people living in Connecticut. The median age of state residents is 40 years, males account for 51.2% of the population, and 71.2% of inhabitants are classified as non-Hispanic Whites (Table 1). American Community Survey Data (2007-2009), presented in Table 2, illustrate some of the differences between the Connecticut population and the population of the United States. Compared to the nation, Connecticut has: higher median household income; a greater percentage of foreign-born residents who were from a European country; a higher percentage of persons aged 25 years and older who were graduates of high school or had completed



*Connecticut is a small state with large contrasts... Aggregate numbers obscure marked inequalities in economic opportunity, income, educational attainment, and health disparities.*

(Stratton, Hynes & Nepal, 2009, p. 10)



higher degrees; and a larger percentage of occupied housing units which were heated with oils or other fuels (excluding gas).

Connecticut is a densely-populated state with fewer families living below the federal poverty level compared to the nation as a whole. However, data from the 1990 and 2000 censuses demonstrated that the lowest income levels, highest poverty rates, greatest population densities, and highest concentration of racial and ethnic minorities were in the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Waterbury, and West Haven (Levy, Rodriguez & Villemez, 2004).<sup>8</sup>

The *self-sufficiency standard* measures how much income a family of a certain composition in a specific place needs to adequately meet basic needs (e.g., housing, food, health care) without private or public assistance. Pearce, Huang, and Newby (2007) analyzed 2000 U.S. Census data to assess the self-sufficiency standard for Connecticut<sup>9</sup> and found that: 1) 19% of Connecticut households lacked the necessary income to meet basic needs without assistance; 2) People of color (especially Hispanics) were more likely to have high rates of inadequate income than Whites; 3) Households maintained by women were twice as likely to have insufficient incomes compared to those maintained by men; 4) Households maintained by single mothers were three times as likely to not meet the self-sufficiency standard than those maintained by married couples with children; and 5) the highest concentrations of households below the standard were in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury.

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<sup>8</sup> Evenness, exposure, concentration, centralization, and clustering are aspects of racial and ethnic residential segregation measured by the U.S. Census Bureau. The dissimilarity index is a measure of evenness that identifies "the percentage of a group's population that would have to change residence for each neighborhood to have the same percent of that group as the metropolitan area overall" (Iceland, Weinberg, & Steinmetz, 2002, p. 8). 2000 U.S. Census data show that the dissimilarity index for non-Hispanic Blacks was 66.0 for the city of Hartford, 58.8 for New Haven; and 47.9 for Bridgeport (Frey, Myer, & SSDAN, n.d.). These dissimilarity indices represent the percent of non-Hispanic Blacks that would have to relocate to other places in order for the number of non-Hispanic Whites to be evenly distributed across the respective cities.

<sup>9</sup> Pearce based the self-sufficiency standard for Connecticut on costs for housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, and taxes across 23 regions within the State.

**Table 1. Connecticut Demographic Profile – Census 2010**

	Adults 18+ years old		Children 0 -17 years old		Total Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	2,757,082	100.0%	817,015	100.0%	3,574,097	100.0%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	1,321,418	47.9%	418,196	51.2%	1,739,614	48.7%
Female	1,435,664	52.1%	398,819	48.8%	1,834,483	51.3%
<b>Race</b>						
White	2,199,380	79.8%	573,030	70.1%	2,772,410	77.6%
Black or African American	261,438	9.5%	100,858	12.3%	362,296	10.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	7,940	0.3%	3,316	0.4%	11,256	0.3%
Asian	101,416	3.7%	34,149	4.2%	135,565	3.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,050	0.0%	378	0.0%	1,428	0.0%
Some other race	136,900	5.0%	61,566	7.5%	198,466	5.6%
Two or more races	48,957	1.8%	43,719	5.4%	92,676	2.6%
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic or Latino	318,947	11.6%	160,140	19.6%	479,087	13.4%
Not Hispanic or Latino	2,438,134	88.4%	656,876	80.4%	3,095,010	86.6%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White, non-Hispanic	2,046,547	74.2%	499,715	61.2%	2,546,262	71.2%
Black, non-Hispanic	246,016	8.9%	89,103	10.9%	335,119	9.4%
American Indian, non-Hispanic	5,044	0.2%	1,841	0.2%	6,885	0.2%
Asian, non-Hispanic	100,486	3.6%	33,605	4.1%	134,091	3.8%
Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	729	0.0%	229	0.0%	958	0.0%
Other race, non-Hispanic	8,512	0.3%	3,678	0.5%	12,190	0.3%
Two or more races, non-Hispanic	30,800	1.1%	28,705	3.5%	59,505	1.7%
<b>Age group</b>						
0 – 4 years			202,106	24.7%	202,106	5.7%
5 – 9 years			222,571	27.2%	222,571	6.2%
10 – 14 years			240,265	29.4%	240,265	6.7%
15 – 17 years			152,073	18.6%	152,073	4.3%
18 – 24 years	326,659	11.8%			326,659	9.1%
25 – 34 years	420,377	15.2%			420,377	11.8%
35 – 44 years	484,438	17.6%			484,438	13.6%
45 – 54 years	575,597	20.9%			575,597	16.1%
55 – 64 years	443,452	16.1%			443,452	12.4%
65 + years	506,559	18.4%			506,559	14.2%

**Table 2. Selected Population Profile – Connecticut and the United States, 2007 – 2009**

<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>United States</b>
2.56 ± 0.01	Average household <sup>a</sup> size (persons)	2.62 ± 0.01
3.13 ± 0.01	Average family size (persons)	3.21 ± 0.01
\$67,724 ± 601	Median household income	\$51,369 ± 49
\$36,570 ± 289	Per capita income	\$27,100 ± 37
9% ± 0.3	Poverty rate for all people	13.6% ± 0.1
12% ± 0.6	Poverty rate for individuals less than 18 years old	18.9% ± 0.1
41.4% ± 4.3	Female-headed households with related children under 5 years old living in poverty	45.4% ± 0.4
<i>Marital status among persons &gt; 15 years old</i>		
50.3% ± 0.3	Now married	49.7% ± 0.1
6.4% ± 0.1	Widowed	6.2% ± 0.1
10% ± 0.2	Divorced	10.6% ± 0.1
1.2 ± 0.1	Separated	2.2% ± 0.1
31.9 ± 0.2	Never married	31.4% ± 0.1
<i>Educational attainment of population ≥ 25 years old</i>		
88.4% ± 0.2	High school graduate or higher	84.9% ± 0.1
11.6 ± 0.2	Less than high school diploma	15.1% ± 0.2
13%	Not born in the United States (foreign-born)	12.5%
<i>World region of birth of foreign-born residents<sup>b</sup></i>		
41.2% ± 0.8	Latin America	53.2% ± 0.1
29.5% ± 0.7	Europe	13.0% ± 0.1
21.4% ± 0.5	Asia	27.2% ± 0.1
20% ± 0.2	Language other than English spoken at home by population ≥ 5 years old	19.8% ± 0.1
68.3% ± 0.2	Population ≥ 16 years old in the labor force	65.3% ± 0.1
73.1% ± 0.5	Occupied housing units built pre-1939 to 1979	59.1% ± 0.2
51% ± 0.3	Occupied housing units heated with oil or other fuels (excluding gas)	9.6% ± 0.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2007 – 2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates (S0201). Tables for Connecticut and the United States were retrieved using American FactFinder.

<sup>a</sup> An household includes everyone who occupies a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes persons born at sea.