



Our Mission

The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition is a coalition of organizations, parents, and other concerned individuals committed to improving the well-being of Bridgeport's children through research, community education, advocacy, and mobilization.

BCAC provides the vehicle for the Greater Bridgeport community to take concerted action on issues that affect children's health, education, and safety. Our coalition is grassroots and independent, diverse and motivated. Together, we are advocating for policy and systems change that will clear a path to a better future, particularly for Bridgeport's most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Research.

Research is the foundation for everything BCAC does. Our reports provide objective data, identify best practices, and suggest practical steps to address the challenges our children face.

Advocate.

Advocacy is at the heart of BCAC's mission. We empower community members by giving them the tools and information to effectively advocate for positive change.

BCAC

Educate.

BCAC educates the community by sharing information, ideas, and resources. By advancing a shared understanding of children's issues, we can move forward as a cohesive community.

Mobilize.

As a coalition of diverse members, BCAC harnesses the power of people to bring about systems change and improve children's well-being.

Executive Summary



Perched on the shore of Long Island Sound, Bridgeport has ample shoreline and parks, a well-loved zoo, professional sports teams, performance centers, a community college, a university, two teaching hospitals, and easy access to several other hubs of industry, entertainment, and art.

While Bridgeport's location, landscape, and institutions set it apart, the city's crowning achievement is really its people. The 140,000 citizens of Bridgeport are astoundingly diverse and bring a cultural richness unmatched in Connecticut. In the summer, residents bring the streets to life with parades, festivals, and block parties. Residents are passionate about the city—its past, present, and future.

But, Bridgeport struggles. Too many of its citizens fight to make ends meet, and Bridgeport's children undeservedly suffer. Close to forty percent of the city's youngest residents live below the poverty line. Sadly, research has shown that living in poverty has a negative impact on just about every other area of these children's lives—including education, health, and safety.

Yet, within Bridgeport, progress is being made. Each day, in a thousand little ways, people are taking steps to ensure that all Bridgeport children receive the nurturing and supports they need. While this *State of the Child in Bridgeport 2013* report chronicles many of the disparities that Bridgeport children endure, it also highlights some of the people and programs that are opening doors for children.

We hope that this report both informs you and motivates you to take action. All of Fairfield County can benefit from a strong Bridgeport. With the support of the region, Bridgeport's youth will become Fairfield County's next generation of ready workers and inspired leaders.

We invite you to join the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition in mobilizing for children. In our alliance of organizations, parents, and other concerned individuals, there is a critical role for everyone to play!



TOTAL CHILDREN IN BRIDGEPORT

36,574

TOTAL POPULATION OF BRIDGEPORT

146,434



CHILDREN AS PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION

25



Bridgeport's Children

20,856

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Age Composition

AGE	POPULATION
UNDER AGE 3	6,204
AGES 3-4	3,549
AGES 5-9	10,116
AGES 10-14	10,245
AGES 15-17	6,460

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey ¹



Racial and Ethnic Composition Under Age 18

RACE	PERCENT
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	40.6
ASIAN	2.3
LATINO	45.9
WHITE	8.4
MULTIRACIAL	2.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, average 2010-12

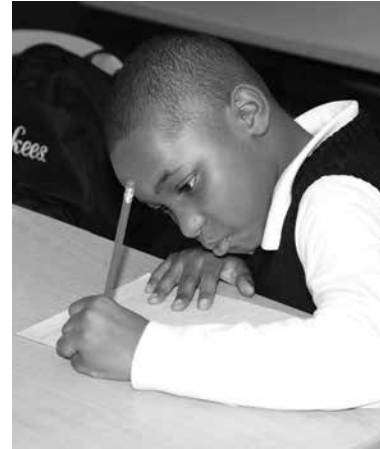
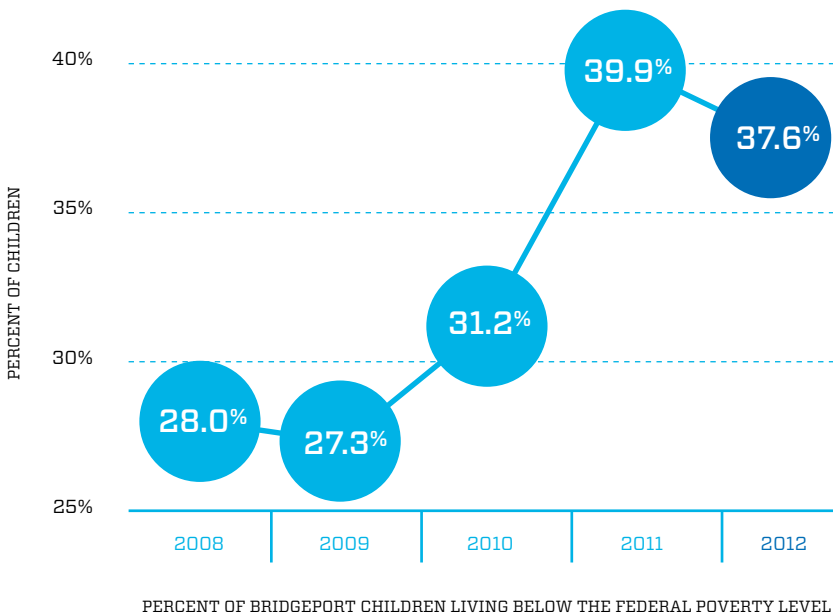
Poverty

Life is challenging for children living in poverty. These children face an increased risk of poor health and nutrition, low academic achievement, exposure to violence, abuse, and homelessness. Despite the United States' position in the top tier of world economies, one out of every five American children lives in poverty. In Connecticut, one out of every seven children lives in poverty. But here in Fairfield County, the income gap between rich and poor is simply staggering—the second most unequal region in the nation.

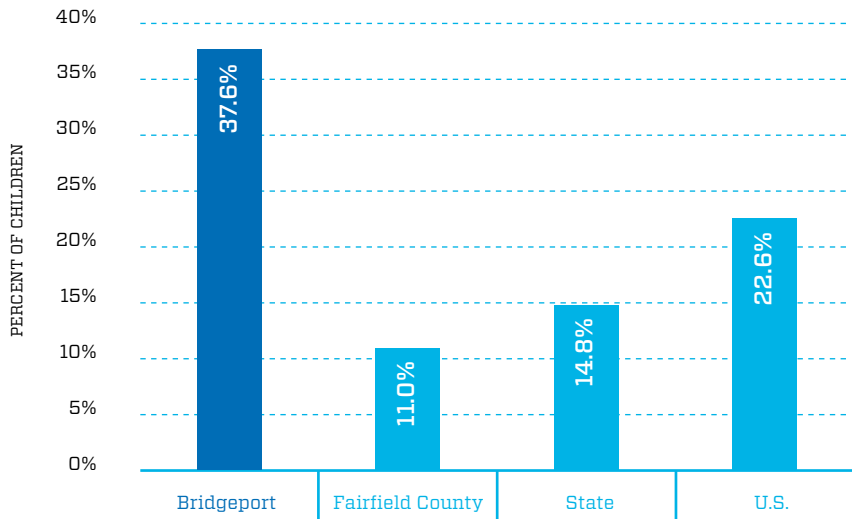
In 2012, 37.6% of Bridgeport children (more than 13,500) lived under the federal poverty level, compared to 39.9% in 2011.ⁱⁱ

The average rate of child poverty in 2010-12 in Bridgeport was 40.7% of African-American children, 38.6% of Latino children, and 13.6% of white children.

The Child Poverty Rate in Bridgeport Rose Nearly 10 Percentage Points Since 2008

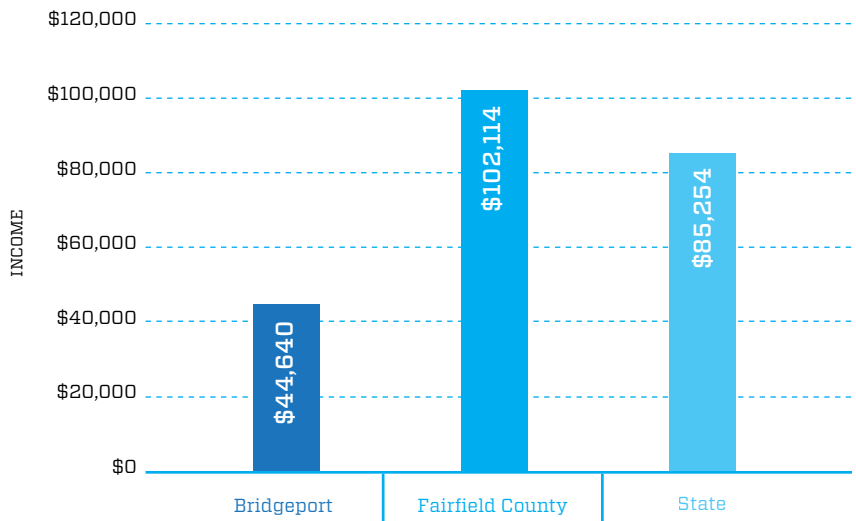


Bridgeport's Rate of Child Poverty is 2.5 Times the Statewide Rate



PERCENT OF CHILDREN LIVING BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, 2012

The Median Family Income in Fairfield County is More Than Double the Median Family Income in Bridgeport



MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, 2012

CHILD HUNGER

From July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, 14,700 Bridgeport children lived in families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP (formerly known as food stamps). This is 892 more children than in 2011-12, an increase of 6.5%, and slightly higher than the increase statewide of 6.2%.

An estimated 14.5% of adults and 19.8% of children statewide and 11.7% of adults and 15.4% of children in Fairfield County experience hunger or risk of hunger at some point during the year.ⁱⁱⁱ

FAMILY STATUS

In 2012, 57.7% of Bridgeport children under the age of 18 lived in single-parent families (45.4% with a single mother and 12.3% with a single father), compared to 30.4% of children statewide (24.5% with single mothers and 5.9% with single fathers).

In 2012, 41.0% of single female-headed families with children under age 18 in Bridgeport lived in poverty, compared to 11.4% of families with children under the age of 18 headed by married couples.

In 2012, 1,328 Bridgeport children (3.6%) were being cared for by a grandparent, compared to 1,294 (3.5%) children in 2011.



Economic Insecurity

Economic security is a delicate balancing act for low- and middle-income families. A family must have ample and reliable employment income, affordable housing, and access to transportation to maintain stability. Progress in any of these areas improves a family's overall stability. In Bridgeport, the cost of living is disproportionately high and the unemployment rate is one-and-a-half times the state rate. In addition, car ownership is low, and families must rely on public transportation. To secure stronger futures for children, we must help parents achieve economic security through solid employment, affordable housing, and access to dependable transportation.



Did You Know?

THE 2012
FEDERAL
POVERTY LEVEL
(FPL)

\$19,090



OR LESS FOR A
FAMILY OF THREE



37.6



RATE OF
BRIDGEPORT
CHILDREN
LIVING UNDER
FPL IN 2012

HOUSING

In 2013, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Greater Bridgeport was \$1,230 a month.^{iv}

The 2013 fair market rent in Bridgeport (\$1,230) was 86% of what a parent working 40 hours a week at minimum wage (\$8.25/hour) earns before taxes (\$1,430).

62.2% of Bridgeport families with children under the age of 18 are renters.

There are 2,523 public housing units in Bridgeport, of which 1,880 (75%) are two bedrooms or more. As of December 2013, there were 2,270 families on the waiting list for public housing in Bridgeport.

As of December 2013, there were 2,814 Bridgeport families using Section 8 rental assistance vouchers, with 1,281 families on the waiting list.

HOMELESSNESS

From October 1, 2011–September 30, 2012, 337 children spent time in a Bridgeport homeless shelter. Of these children, 171 (50.7%) were under the age of six.

In 2011-12, there were 9.2 homeless children in Bridgeport shelters per 1,000 children, compared to 2.7 homeless children per 1,000 children statewide.

The rate of children living in homeless shelters in Bridgeport is more than three times the statewide rate.

EMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate in Bridgeport decreased from 12.1% in October 2012 to 11.3% in October 2013.

In October 2013, Bridgeport's unemployment rate was nearly 1½ times the statewide unemployment rate of 7.5%.

Bridgeport youth are twice as likely to be unemployed as youth in Fairfield County or statewide.

In 2012, the unemployment rate for Bridgeport youth ages 16-19 who were looking for work was 53.4%, compared to 22.5% in Fairfield County or 24.4% statewide.

TRANSPORTATION

In 2012, 23.1% of Bridgeport occupied housing units did not have a car, compared to 8.5% in Fairfield County and 9.1% statewide.

2013
CONNECTICUT
MINIMUM WAGE

\$8.25/hr



WHAT A PARENT
NEEDS TO EARN
TO AFFORD A
TWO-BEDROOM
APARTMENT
IN GREATER
BRIDGEPORT
AT FAIR
MARKET RENT

\$23.65/hr



Child Care & Early Childhood Education

If a young child receives quality care and early childhood education, the benefits literally last a lifetime. This is especially true for children in poverty. Recent studies find that low-income children's educational, economic, and social success is greater if they attend early childhood education programs before entering kindergarten. Here in Bridgeport, the number of children who attend early childhood education programs has stagnated and falls short of statewide rates. To help the youngest members of our community reach their true potential, we need to push for more quality early care and early childhood education.

CHILD CARE CAPACITY AND NEED

In 2012, 8,481 Bridgeport children under the age of six (73.3%) lived in families in which all of the adults were in the labor force.

In 2012, there were 11.6 child care spaces per 100 children under the age of three in Bridgeport, compared to 17.3 spaces per 100 children under the age of three statewide.

Bridgeport Child Care and Early Childhood Education Spaces, 2012-13

	INFANTS & TODDLERS	3-4 YEAR OLDS
CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HEAD START PROGRAMS	529	2,219
FAMILY DAY CARE PROVIDERS	193	377
BOARD OF EDUCATION PRE-KINDERGARTEN SPACES		
FULL DAY	-	369
PART DAY	-	510
TOTAL	722	3,475

CHILD CARE COSTS

In Southwest Connecticut, the average cost for full-time licensed child care for one year is \$13,930 for infants and toddlers, and \$12,020 for preschool-age children.

In 2012, 3,413 Bridgeport children benefited from Care 4 Kids, Connecticut's child care subsidy program, 220 more children than in 2011.

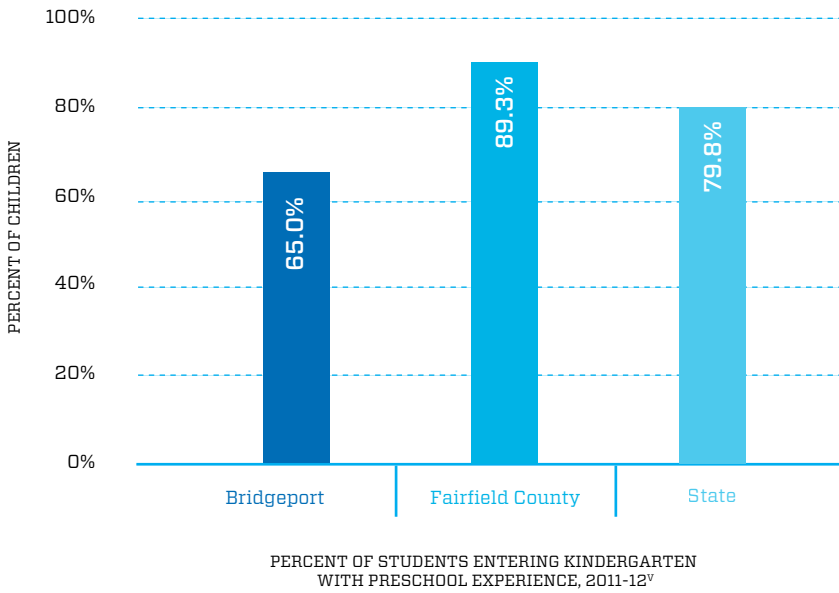
CHILD CARE QUALITY

1,833 children attend Bridgeport child care centers or preschool programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or its equivalent. In addition, 856 children attend programs that meet standards established by Head Start.

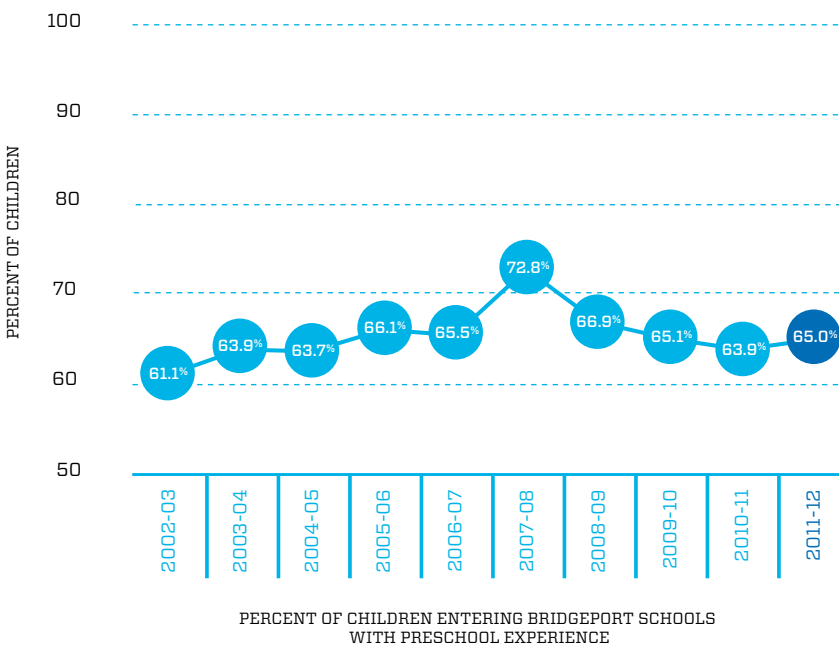
In 2012, of the Bridgeport children receiving state child care subsidies through Care 4 Kids, 1,134 (33.2%) were in informal child care settings, which included care provided by a grandparent, other relative, or non-related adult in the child's home.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

There are Fewer Kindergartners with Preschool Experience in Bridgeport



The Early Childhood Education Rate in Bridgeport Remains Nearly Unchanged





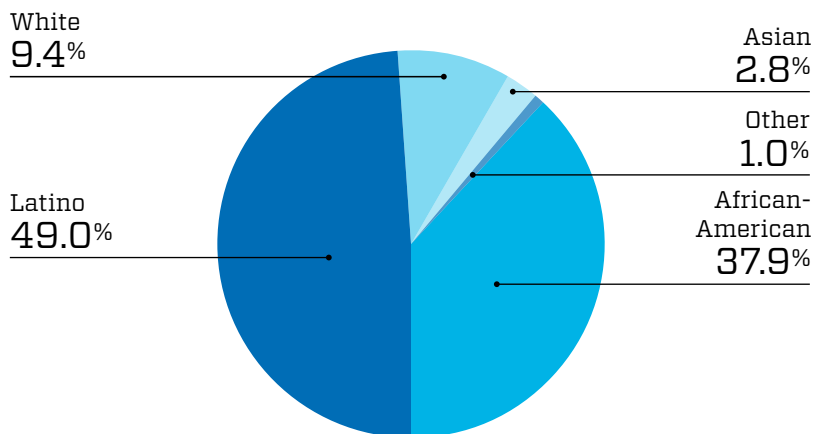
Education

In an urban community like Bridgeport, the quality of the public education system can make or break the city. While the right formula for public education continues to be debated at all levels, it's universally accepted that for children to learn, they must be safe, connected, and challenged at school. To ensure that all of our students enjoy such an education, people across Bridgeport are coming together to share their ideas and resources. As a cohesive community, we need to take responsibility for the education of the city's children—and secure a brighter future for all.

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT PROFILE

There were 20,856 students in the Bridgeport school system as of October 1, 2013.

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Bridgeport Schools, 2013-14



BRIDGEPORT
STUDENTS

3x



MORE
ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED
THAN STUDENTS
STATEWIDE

During the 2011-12 school year, 99.1% of Bridgeport Public School students were eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch because they lived in families earning less than 185% of the federal poverty level (\$35,316.50 for a family of three in 2012), compared to 35.2% of students statewide.

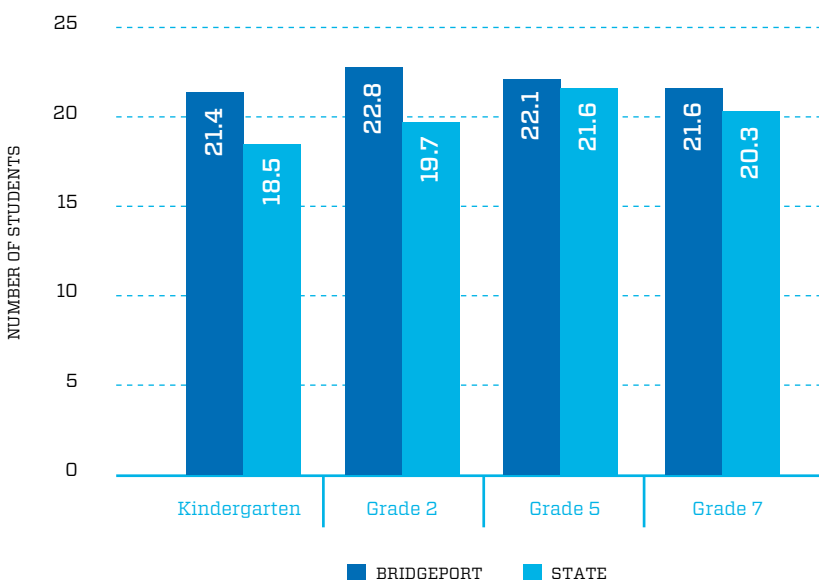
During the 2011-12 school year, 13.1% of Bridgeport students (2,536) were not fluent in English, compared to 5.6% of students statewide. Bilingual education is provided in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole.

12.7% of Bridgeport students (2,735) received special education services in 2011-12, compared to 11.5% statewide.

**Breakdown of Bridgeport Special Education Students
by Category**

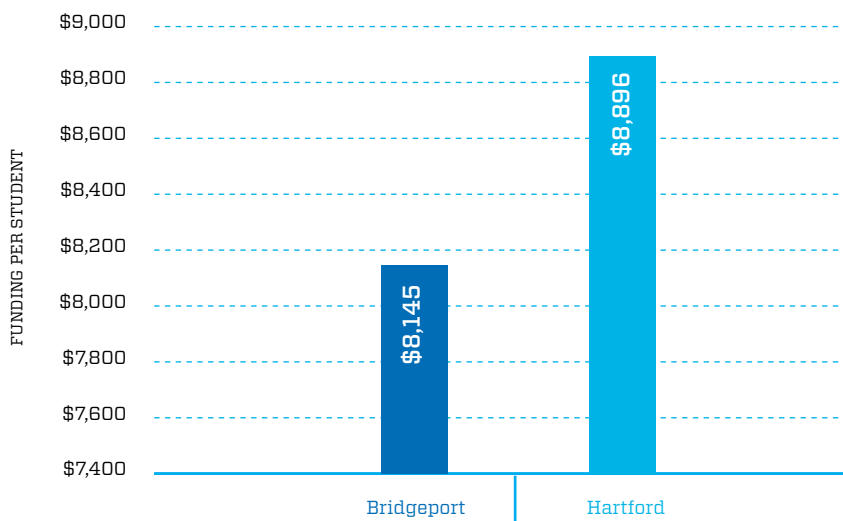
AUTISM	6.9%
LEARNING DISABILITY	35.4%
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	4.6%
EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE	9.4%
SPEECH IMPAIRMENT	15.8%
OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT	14.7%
OTHER DISABILITIES	13.5%

**Bridgeport's Classrooms are More Crowded
Than Classrooms Statewide**



AVERAGE CLASS SIZE, SELECTED GRADES, 2011-12

Bridgeport Students Get Less State Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Dollars Than Hartford Students



STATE EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) FUNDING PER STUDENT, 2012-13

STANDARDIZED TESTING RESULTS

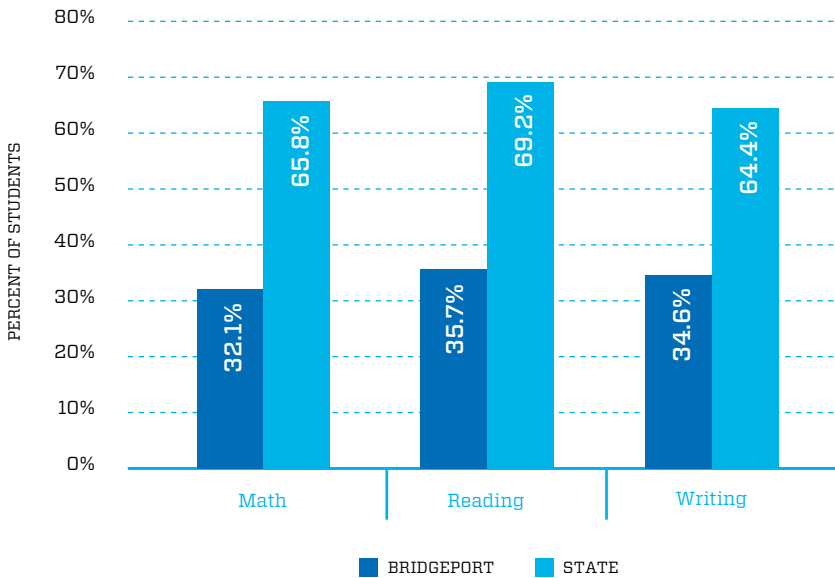
66.2% of Bridgeport's Class of 2011 took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), compared to 77.3% of students statewide. Bridgeport students averaged scores of 405 for reading, 397 for math, and 402 for writing. Statewide, students averaged scores of 502 for reading, 505 for math, and 506 for writing.

Bridgeport Students Meeting Goal on the Connecticut Mastery Tests (Grades 3-8) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (Grade 10)

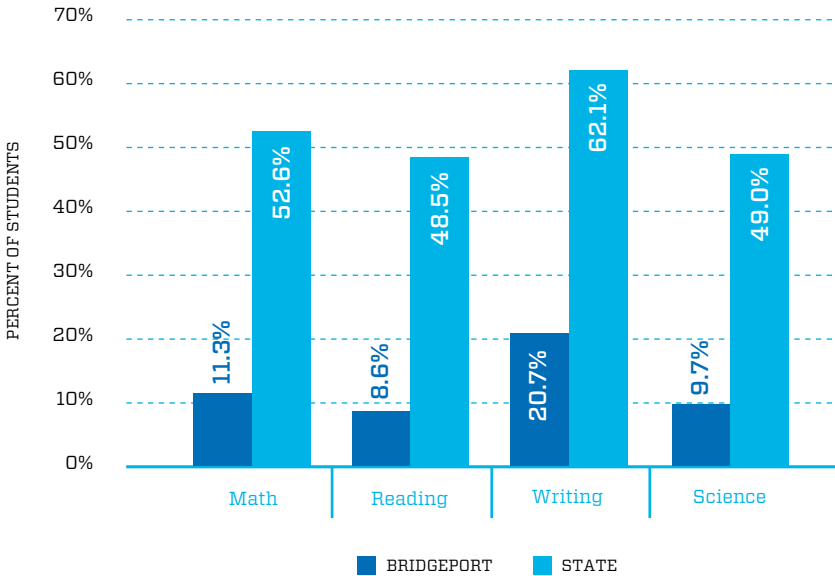
	CONNECTICUT MASTERY TESTS (CMT)		CONNECTICUT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TEST (CAPT)	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
MATH	36.4%	32.1%	10.3%	11.3%
READING	37.1%	35.7%	8.2%	8.6%
WRITING	34.1%	34.6%	21.3%	20.7%
SCIENCE	26.9%*	23.2%*	10.5%	9.7%

* 5th and 8th grade only

Bridgeport Students Lag Behind Students Statewide on Standardized Tests



STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-8 MEETING GOAL ON 2013 CONNECTICUT MASTERY TESTS



10TH GRADE STUDENTS MEETING GOAL ON 2013 CONNECTICUT
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TEST

Bridgeport Is Mobilizing For Children And Families



A HEAD START FOR MALACHI

To understand the difference early childhood education can make, talk to Melanie Rhodes. Melanie's four-year-old son, Malachi, has attended the Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD) Head Start program since he was nine months old. "He grew up in ABCD. All the staff love him to death," she says. Malachi, who is autistic, has made steady progress and is learning skills he'll need in kindergarten. "The main thing is to try to get him to slow down!" laughs Melanie. And now that Malachi is on his way to greater independence, Melanie is preparing to train to become a school bus driver.



ASSISTANCE FOR THE UNINSURED

Research shows that when parents are insured, their children are more likely to see a doctor. Unfortunately, Bridgeport has the highest rate of uninsured adults of any city in the state. To help close the gap, a small cadre of trained "Assisters" are helping families here and across Connecticut to understand their health care options on the new state health insurance exchange. The Assisters meet face-to-face with families and offer culturally and linguistically appropriate guidance. Here in Bridgeport, they have been working hard to spread the word and increase the number of insured adults and children.



LEARNING TO LEAD

When the tragedy in Sandy Hook struck in December of 2012, the students in Ms. Champagne's Central High School ninth grade social studies class decided to take decisive action. This bold group of young leaders-in-training learned all about the legislative process, advocated for Connecticut's new gun safety legislation by writing letters to the editor that ran in the *Connecticut Post*, and visited with officials at the State Capitol. Not only did they help pass the law, they learned a valuable lesson about their own power as young community members to bring about real, lasting change.



HARVESTING HEALTHY OPTIONS

Shopping for a healthy meal can be difficult in Bridgeport, where many neighborhoods are several miles from the nearest grocery store—a phenomenon called “urban food deserts.” So, when several farmers markets opened last year in the city, thousands of people attended. Best of all, low-income families could double their federal nutrition benefits at markets run by the nonprofit Wholesome Wave and the city of Bridgeport. At the St. Vincent's and East Side markets alone, over \$26,000 in federal nutrition benefits were spent. Now for much of the year, fresh, local produce is within reach for low-income families. “Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to buy so many vegetables,” explains one participant. “They're too expensive in the store.”



COMING TOGETHER TO END VIOLENCE

Bridgeport is rallying to keep its streets and schools safe for children. Over the past two years, BCAC has hosted four events that gathered over 480 people to talk about the impact of violence on education, health, and the community as a whole. At our annual Children's Issues Dialogue last fall, community members shared their ideas for how each of us can take action to support Project Longevity and Safe Streets Bridgeport, the city's new programs that bring together law enforcement and the community. What's emerging is a powerful vision for a city united against violence.



Did You Know?

GRADUATION
RATE IN
BRIDGEPORT
CLASS OF
2012

66.3

%

COMPARED TO



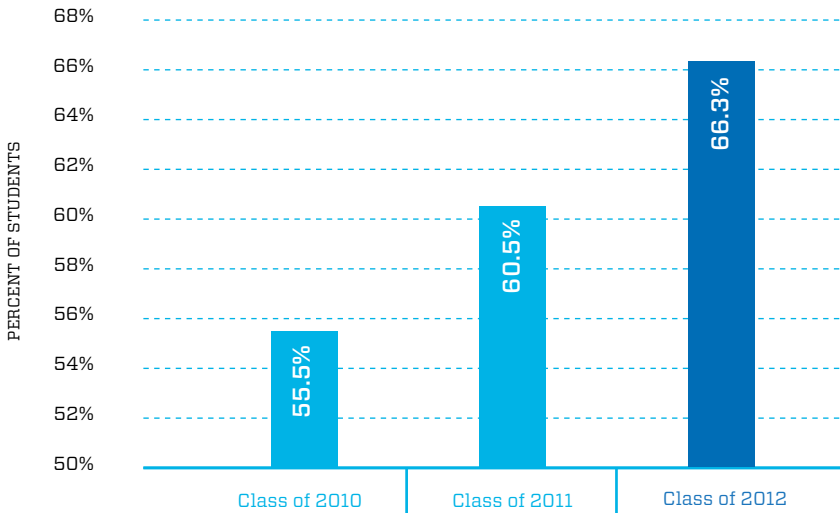
GRADUATION
RATE
STATEWIDE
CLASS OF
2012

84.8

%

GRADUATION RATE

Bridgeport Students Graduating Within Four Years is Up By More Than 10 Percentage Points



CUMULATIVE GRADUATION RATE, BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

69.2% of Bridgeport's graduating Class of 2011 went on to post-secondary education, compared to 84.5% statewide.

36.4% of Bridgeport's Class of 2012 who received special education services graduated within four years, compared to 64.4% statewide.

During the 2011-12 school year, 19.9% of Bridgeport students were chronically absent (missed 10% or more of all school days), compared to 11.0% of students statewide.

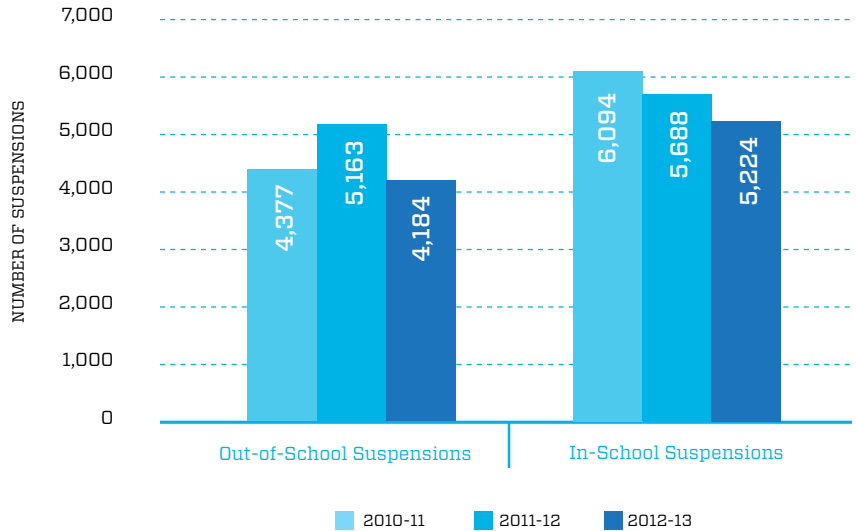
During the 2011-12 school year, 32.7% of Bridgeport high school students, 15.9% of students in grades 4-8, and 16.2% of students in kindergarten-grade 3, were chronically absent.

STUDENT ARRESTS

During the 2011-12 school year in Bridgeport, there were 143 school-based arrests (either on school grounds or during a school-based activity on or off school grounds), compared to 103 the previous school year. Of those arrests, 67 (46.9%) took place at the high school level.

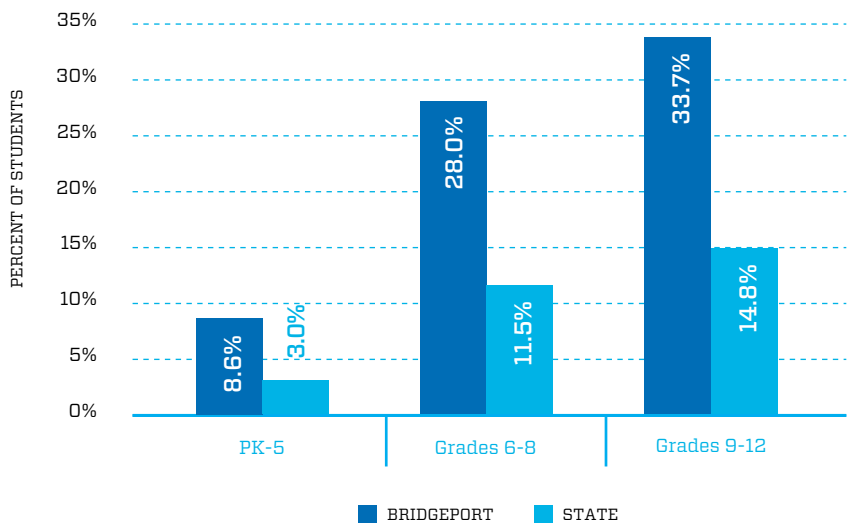
SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Suspensions are Down in Bridgeport Public Schools



TOTAL OUT-OF-SCHOOL AND IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

More Than Twice the Number of Bridgeport Students Are Suspended Compared to Students Statewide



PERCENT OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS SUSPENDED*, 2011-12

* Each student is only counted once.



Did You Know?

2010-11
BRIDGEPORT
SCHOOLS'
STUDENT
ARREST RATE

5.0

PER
1,000

COMPARED TO
➔

2010-11
STATEWIDE
SCHOOLS'
STUDENT
ARREST RATE

5.7

PER
1,000



Health

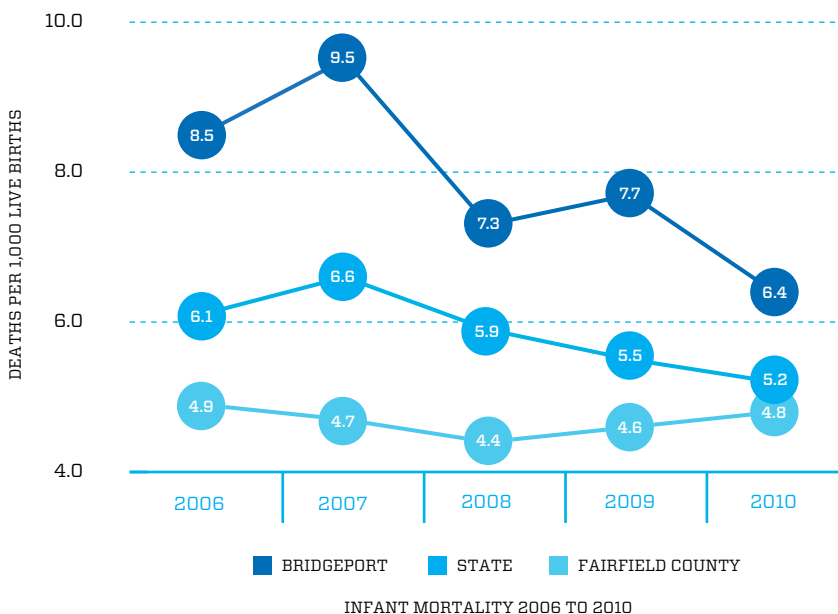
Good health is the cornerstone of a child's well-being. It starts before birth and is influenced by every part of a child's environment—his or her home, school, neighborhood, and city. In addition to a healthy environment, a child also needs ready access to quality, affordable health care. Because every child deserves a healthy start, we're working to create both healthy environments, as well as access to health care for all families, no matter who they are or where they live.

INFANT HEALTH

In 2010, 16.5% of Bridgeport mothers received late or no prenatal care during their pregnancies, compared to 14.7% in 2009. Statewide, 12.8% of mothers received late or no prenatal care in 2010.

In 2010, the infant mortality rate in Bridgeport was 6.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 7.7 in 2009, a decrease of 16.9%.

Infant Mortality is Higher in Bridgeport Than in Surrounding Communities



Bridgeport's 2010 infant mortality rate of 6.4 deaths per 1,000 live births was 23.1% higher than the statewide rate of 5.2 deaths per 1,000 live births and 33.3% higher than the Fairfield County rate of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

In 2010, 8.0% of all Bridgeport babies were born with low birthweights (less than 5.8 pounds at birth), compared to 9.9% in 2009, and the same as the statewide rate.

Infant Mortality, Low Birthweight, and Prenatal Care By Race and Ethnicity in Bridgeport, 2010

	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	LATINO	WHITE
INFANT MORTALITY (INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)	7.5	7.3	5.9
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	9.8%	8.0%	4.6%
LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE	16.1%	18.7%	11.3%

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

71% of Bridgeport children born in 2009 and enrolled in the State Immunization Registry and Tracking System were vaccinated against major vaccine-preventable diseases before they turned two, nearly the same as the statewide rate of 72%.

OBESITY

In 2010-11, 31.7% of students in kindergarten-grade 3 statewide were either overweight or obese. Children living at or near poverty and African-American and Latino students were nearly twice as likely to be obese.^{vi}

In 2011-12, 46.2% of Bridgeport Public School students met the health standards on all four state physical fitness tests (measuring flexibility, abdominal strength and endurance, upper-body strength, and aerobic endurance), compared to 50.6% of students statewide.

ASTHMA

A fall 2010 survey of 1,707 Bridgeport residents found that 14% of respondents had a child with asthma. The rate rose to 18% for families living in poverty.^{vii} A statewide study found that between 2010 and 2012, 10.4% of children in Fairfield County had asthma.^{viii}

LEAD POISONING

In 2011, 92 Bridgeport children under the age of six had lead poisoning. Bridgeport ranks second highest statewide in childhood lead poisoning cases after New Haven.

In 2011, 77.5% of Bridgeport children under the age of two were screened for lead poisoning, compared to 67.6% statewide.

86.3% of Bridgeport occupied housing units were built before 1979, compared to 74.0% in Fairfield County, and 72.5% statewide. Lead paint was banned nationwide in 1978.^{ix}

ORAL HEALTH

Percentage of Children in Bridgeport on HUSKY Receiving Dental Care

	2010	2011
PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE	57.2%	67.0%
DENTAL TREATMENT	35.9%	38.3%

HEALTH COVERAGE

According to the U.S. Census, 8.5% of Bridgeport children were uninsured in 2012, compared to 10% in 2011. Among Bridgeport adults, 23.4% were uninsured in 2012, nearly the same as in 2011 (23.3%). Statewide, 3.8% of children and 9.1% of adults were uninsured in 2012.

From July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, 24,894 Bridgeport children were enrolled in HUSKY A/Medicaid health insurance, compared to 24,107 children the previous year—an increase of 3.3%, the same as the statewide percentage enrollment increase.^x

TEEN HEALTH

A 2011 survey of Bridgeport students in grades 7-12 found that 23% reported feeling sad or depressed most or all of the time and 19% reported attempting suicide one or more times.^{xi}

In 2012, 531 Bridgeport adolescents under the age of 20 were treated for sexually transmitted diseases, compared to 436 in 2011, an increase of 21.8%.

Bridgeport's rate of sexually transmitted diseases in 2012 was 25.2 cases per 1,000 adolescents, compared to 12.2 cases per 1,000 adolescents statewide.

Substance Abuse Among Students* in Grades 7-12, 2011^{xii}

	BRIDGEPORT	SURROUNDING TOWNS**
ALCOHOL	25%	28%
MARIJUANA	13%	15%
INHALANTS	9%	7%
CIGARETTES	5%	8%

* Self-reported use by students during the month prior to the survey

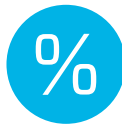
** Average of responses from Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, and Trumbull



Did You Know?

ACCORDING
TO THE
U.S. CENSUS

8.5



OF BRIDGEPORT
CHILDREN WERE
UNINSURED
IN 2012



COMPARED TO

10.0



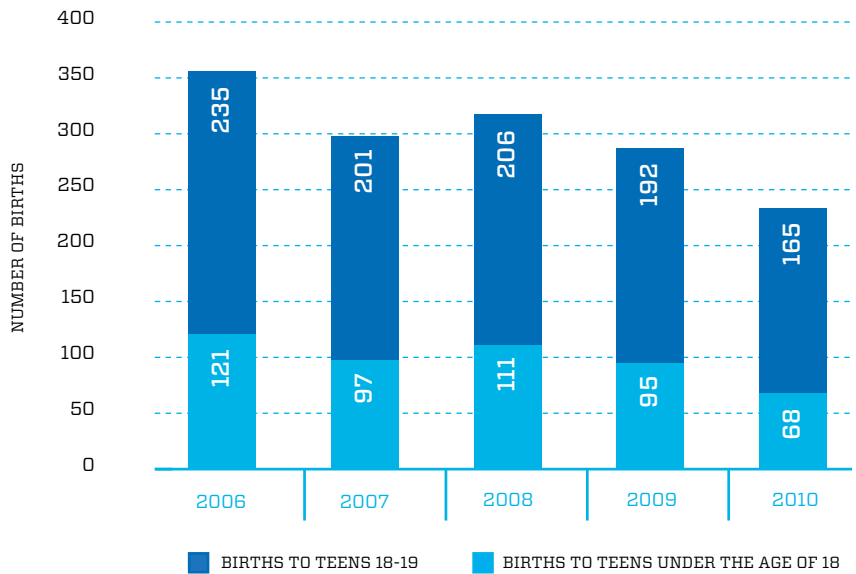
OF BRIDGEPORT
CHILDREN WERE
UNINSURED
IN 2011

TEEN PREGNANCY

In 2010, there were 68 births to teens under the age of 18, a decrease of 28.4% compared to 2009.

The 2008-10 birth rate for Bridgeport teens ages 15-17 was 30.9 births per 1,000 teenage girls, compared to the statewide rate of 10.1 births per 1,000 teenage girls.

Births to Teens in Bridgeport are Declining



Safety

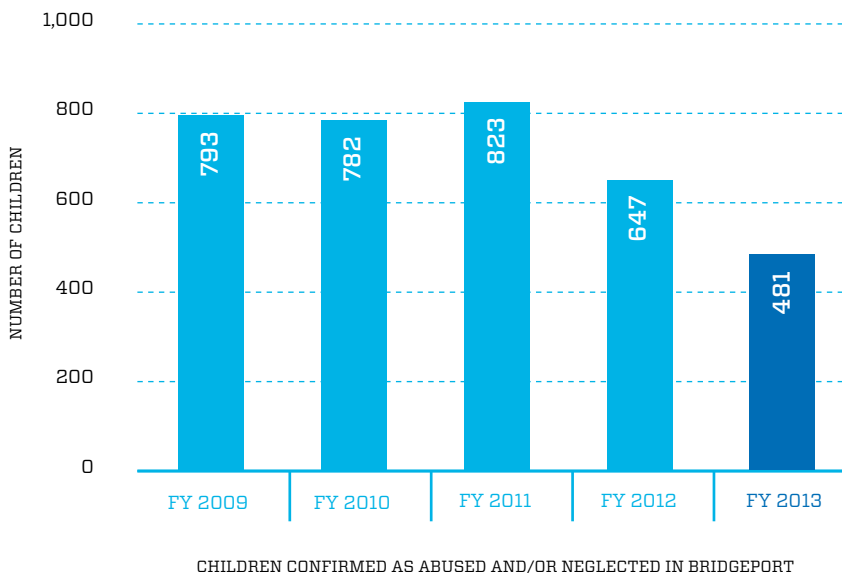
When children are safe and secure, they are healthier, happier, and better prepared to learn. Exposure to violence at home, in the streets, or at school causes stress in children—toxic stress that results in negative long-term effects on both mental and social development. Research has shown that when families and communities are economically secure, violence decreases both in and outside the home. To eliminate Bridgeport children’s exposure to violence, we must be creative and committed to positive change.

CHILD ABUSE

From 2011-12 to 2012-13, the number of children in Bridgeport confirmed as abused or neglected decreased 25.6%. Statewide, there was a 16.1% decrease.

In 2012-13 in Bridgeport, there were 13.2 children confirmed as abused and/or neglected per 1,000 children. Statewide, there were 8.5 children confirmed as abused and/or neglected per 1,000 children.

Bridgeport Child Abuse Cases Drop Significantly



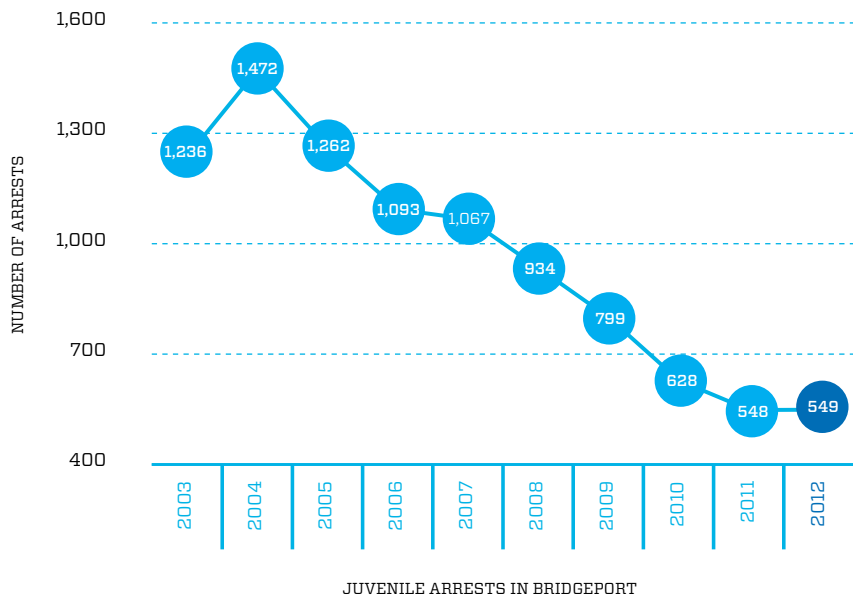
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2012, there were 770 arrests for family violence in Bridgeport, compared to 710 in 2011, an increase of 7.8%.

In 2012, Bridgeport's rate of family violence arrests was 24.7 arrests per 1,000 families, compared to 21.9 statewide.

JUVENILE VIOLENCE

Arrests of Bridgeport Youth is Trending Down

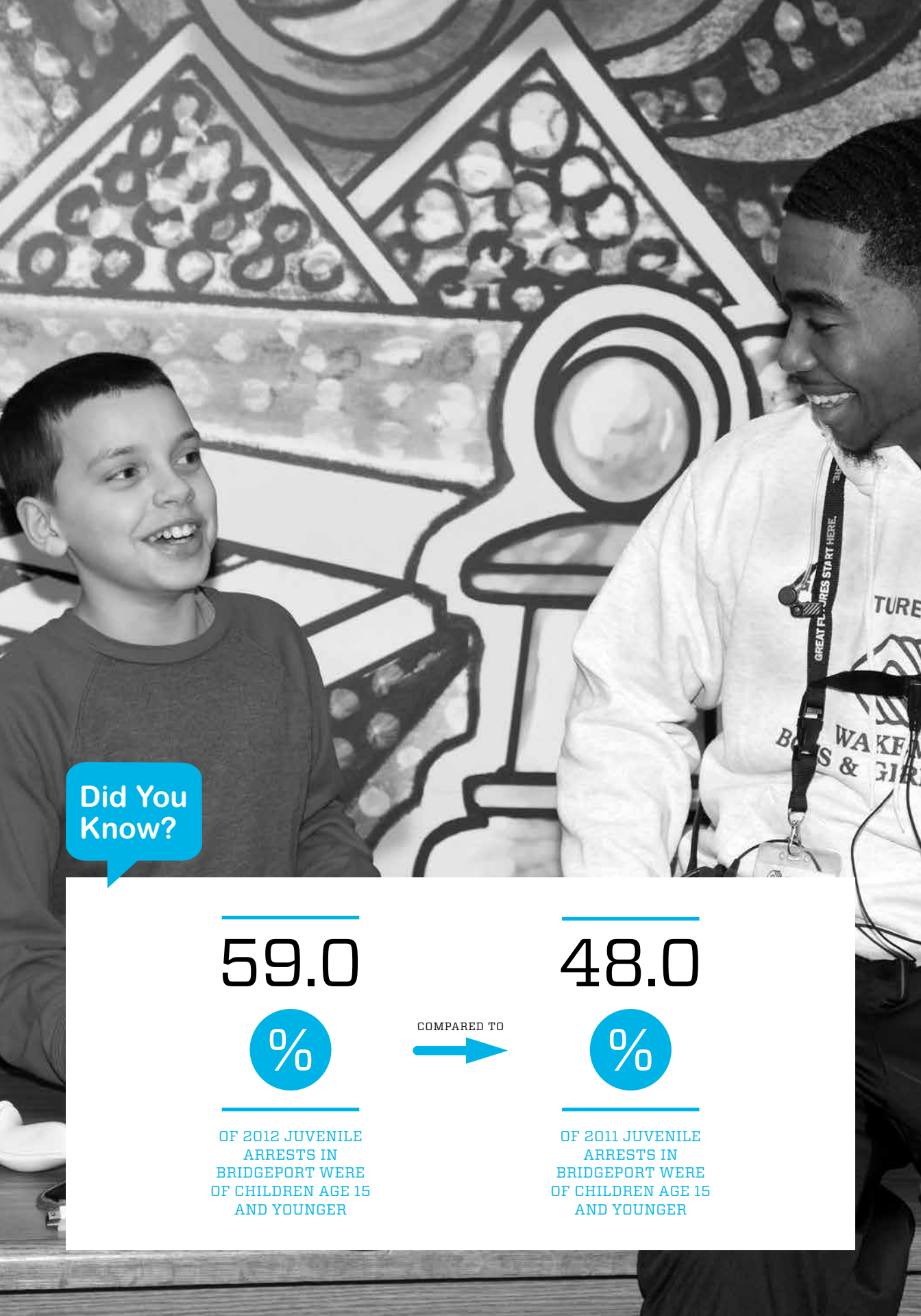


In 2012, there were 549 arrests of juveniles under the age of 18 in Bridgeport, nearly the same as in 2011 (548).

In 2012, Bridgeport's juvenile crime arrest rate (32.9 arrests per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17) was slightly higher than the statewide rate (30.8 arrests per 1,000 youth).

From 2011 to 2012, juvenile arrests for violent crimes (defined as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) in Bridgeport decreased by 14.1%. There were 79 juvenile arrests for violent crimes in 2012, compared to 92 in 2011.

In 2012, Bridgeport's juvenile violent crime arrest rate (4.7 arrests per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17) was more than double the statewide rate (1.7 arrests per 1,000 youth).



Did You Know?

59.0



OF 2012 JUVENILE ARRESTS IN BRIDGEPORT WERE OF CHILDREN AGE 15 AND YOUNGER

COMPARED TO



48.0



OF 2011 JUVENILE ARRESTS IN BRIDGEPORT WERE OF CHILDREN AGE 15 AND YOUNGER

Notes

- ⁱ Data compiled from the 2012 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS provides annual point-in-time estimates based on a random sampling of households. For more information, visit <https://www.census.gov/acs/>.
- ⁱⁱ In 2012, the 2012 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was defined as an annual income of \$19,090 for a family of three. Another common benchmark is 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, which was \$35,316.50 for a family of three in 2012. The U.S. government adjusts the FPL for inflation each year.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Source: "Map the Meal Gap, Food Insecurity in your County" Feeding America, 2011, <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>.
- ^{iv} The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines Fair Market Rent (FMR) as "the 40th percentile of gross rents (including utilities) for typical, non-standard rental units occupied by recent movers in a local housing market." Source: <http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/ushmc/winter98/summary-2.html>
- ^v As reported by parents at all Bridgeport Public Schools for the Connecticut Department of Education's Strategic School Profiles for the 2011-12 school year. <http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/WEB/ResearchandReports/SSPReports.aspx>
- ^{vi} Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health, "Overweight and Obesity Among Kindergarten and Third Grade Children in CT, 2010-2011," http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/hems/nutrition/obesity_report_2012_every_smile_counts_survey.pdf
- ^{vii} Source: Community Allied to REACH Health Equity (CARES) fall 2010 survey.
- ^{viii} Source: "The Burden of Asthma in Connecticut - 2012 Surveillance Report," Connecticut Department of Public Health, http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/hems/asthma/pdf/full_report_with_cover.pdf. (Bridgeport data is unavailable.)
- ^{ix} U.S. Census Bureau only has available data for Bridgeport housing built before 1979, not for Bridgeport housing built before 1978.
- ^x Children living below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$35,316.50 for a family of three in 2012) qualify for HUSKY A/Medicaid health insurance.
- ^{xi} Source: "Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth," Results from the Search Institute Survey "Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors," June 2011 conducted for Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP)
- ^{xii} Ibid.
- Additional sources available upon request.

Thanks to Salvatore J. Mollica, the Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse of the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, and Wholesome Wave for helping with imagery for the report.

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The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition

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All Our Kin
American Association of University Women
Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWCT
Boys and Girls Village, Inc.
Bridgeport Hospital
Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust
Bridgeport Parent Advisory Council
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2470 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
T (203) 549-0075
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2013

Join Us! There is Always a Role for Everyone to Play.

If you share the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition's vision that all children of Bridgeport and the region deserve the nurturing and supports needed to achieve their full potential, please join us.

Together, we'll work to create a community in which all children:

- Are safe, supported, and healthy.
- Receive a high-quality education at every stage.
- Grow up in families that are economically independent and secure.

BCAC works to improve the well-being of children by:

- Leading collaboratively.
- Acting as an information clearinghouse.
- Organizing our broader community.
- Employing facts, analytical tools, and proven practices.
- Highlighting Bridgeport's strengths.

Call or visit our website at bcacct.org to find out how you can get involved.

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