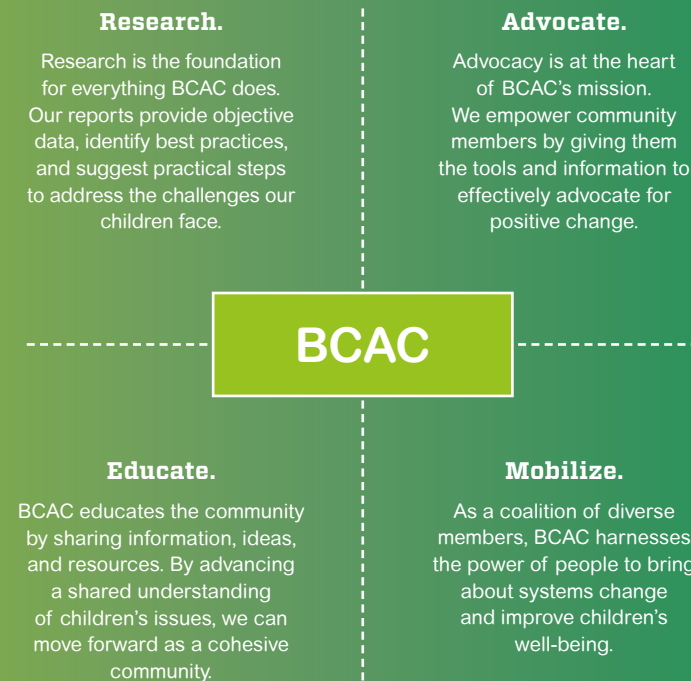




The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition is a coalition of organizations, parents, and other concerned individuals committed to improving the well-being of Bridgeport’s children through research, education, advocacy, and mobilization.

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.



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 147,000 citizens of Bridgeport are astoundingly diverse and bring a cultural richness unmatched in Connecticut. In the summer, residents bring the city 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. Over thirty 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 so that all Bridgeport children receive the nurturing and support they need. While this State of the Child in Bridgeport 2014 report chronicles many of the disparities that Bridgeport children endure, it also highlights some of the people and programs that are opening more doors for our families.

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 diverse organizations, parents, and other concerned individuals, there is a role for everyone to play!



TOTAL
CHILDREN
BRIDGEPORT

37,466

TOTAL
POPULATION
BRIDGEPORT

147,216



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—according to a recent *Business Insider*ⁱⁱ study – the most unequal in the country.

In 2013, 32.7% of Bridgeport children (more than 12,200) lived under the federal poverty level, compared to 37.6% in 2012.ⁱⁱⁱ

The average rate of child poverty in 2011-2013 in Bridgeport was 40.9% of African-American children, 40.1% of Latino children, and 11.7% of white children.

Analysts estimate that Bridgeport parents need to make an hourly wage of \$22.17 – \$28.96 in order to meet their families' basic needs.^{iv} In 2014, the minimum wage in Connecticut increased from \$8.25 to \$8.70 an hour, and will increase to \$10.10 an hour over the next three years.



CHILDREN
AS PERCENT
OF TOTAL
POPULATION

25.4

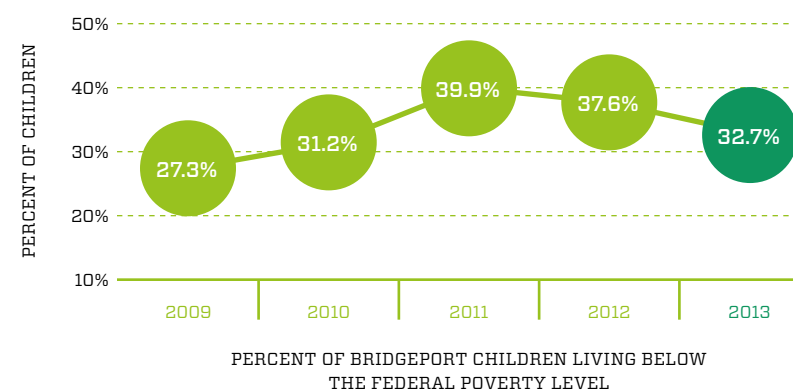
%

Bridgeport's Children

21,127

NUMBER OF
STUDENTS IN
BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Child Poverty Rate in Bridgeport, While Still High, is Continuing to Decline



Age Composition

AGE	POPULATION
UNDER AGE 3	6,720
AGES 3-4	4,214
AGES 5-9	12,506
AGES 10-14	8,812
AGES 15-17	5,214

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
2013 American Community
Surveyⁱ

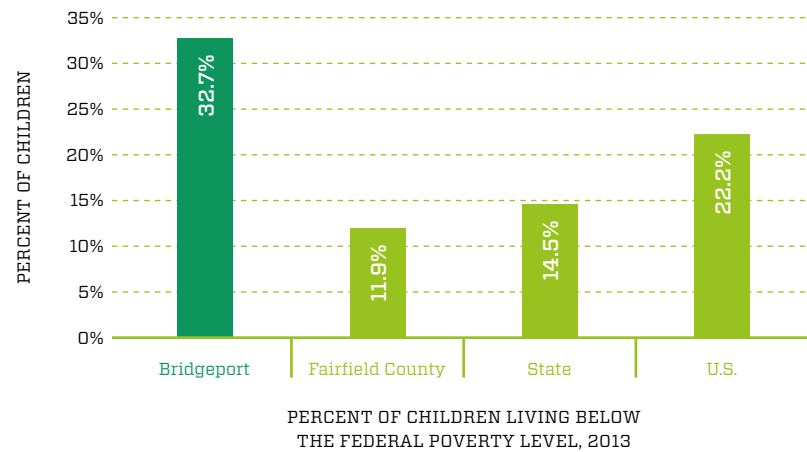


Racial and Ethnic Composition Under Age 18

RACE	PERCENT
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	39.4%
ASIAN	1.4%
LATINO	45.8%
WHITE	8.9%
MULTIRACIAL	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
American Community Survey,
average 2011-2013

Bridgeport's Rate of Child Poverty is Much Higher Than the Statewide and County Rates



An estimated 13.9% of adults and 19.6% of children statewide and 11.7% of adults and 16.4% of children in Fairfield County (37,090 children countywide) experienced hunger or risk of hunger at some point during 2012.^v

FAMILY STATUS

In 2013, 49.9% of Bridgeport children under the age of 18 lived in single-parent families (41.9% with a single mother and 8.0% with a single father), compared to 32.0% of children statewide (26.0% with a single mother and 6.0% with a single father).

In 2013, 44.3% of single female-headed families with children under the age of 18 in Bridgeport lived in poverty, compared to 10.4% of families with children under the age of 18 headed by married couples.

In 2013, 1,345 Bridgeport children (3.6%) were being cared for by a grandparent.

THE TOP 5% OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY RESIDENTS SHARE ALMOST

30



OF THE REGION'S INCOME



WHILE THE BOTTOM

20



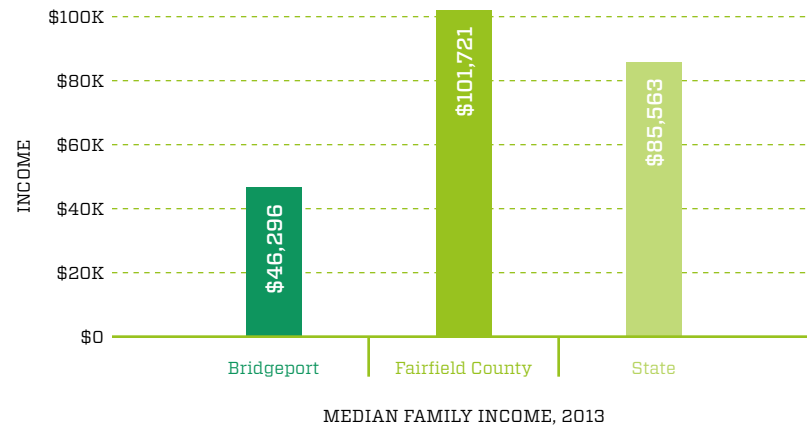
SHARE JUST 2.3% OF THE REGION'S INCOMEⁱⁱ



Economic Insecurity

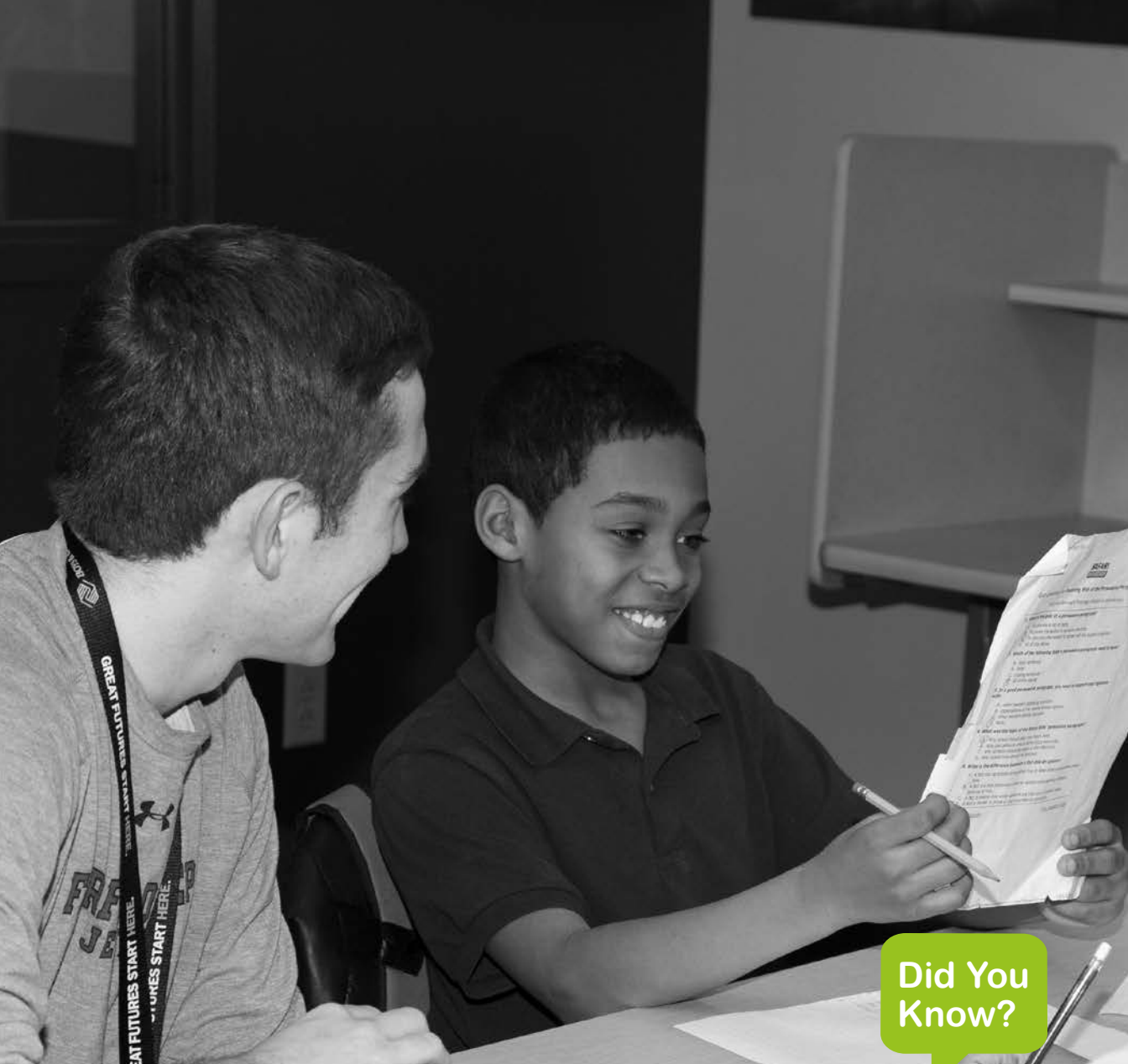
Economic security is a delicate balancing act for low- and middle-income families. A family must have ample and reliable employment income, affordable housing, and access to transportation to maintain stability. Progress in any of these areas improves a family's overall stability. In Bridgeport, the 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 stable employment, affordable housing, and access to dependable transportation.

The Income Disparity Between Bridgeport and Fairfield County is Significant



CHILD HUNGER

From July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, 15,201 Bridgeport children lived in families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP (formerly known as food stamps). This is 501 more children than in 2012-13, an increase of 3.4%. The number of children on SNAP statewide increased 1.2%.



Did You Know?

2013 FEDERAL
POVERTY LEVEL
WAS AN ANNUAL
INCOME OF

\$19,530



FOR A FAMILY
OF THREE



THAT MEANS

32.7



MORE THAN
12,200
BRIDGEPORT
CHILDREN LIVE
IN POVERTY

HOUSING

In 2014, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Greater Bridgeport was \$1,161 a month.^{vi}

The 2014 fair market rent in Bridgeport (\$1,161) was 77% of what a parent working 40 hours a week at minimum wage (\$8.70/hour) earns before taxes (\$1,508 a month).

55.8% of Bridgeport families with children under the age of 18 are renters.

There are 2,700 public housing units in Bridgeport, of which 1,923 (71%) are two bedrooms or more. As of October 2014, there were 1,580 families on the waiting list for public housing in Bridgeport.

As of October 2014, there were 2,537 Bridgeport families using Section 8 rental assistance vouchers, with 600 families on the waiting list.

HOMELESSNESS

From October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014, 285 children spent time in a Bridgeport area homeless shelter. Of these children, 155 (54.4%) were under the age of six. In 2012-13, 337 children spent time in a Bridgeport area shelter.

In 2013-14, there were 7.6 homeless children in Bridgeport shelters per 1,000 children, nearly three times the statewide rate of 2.6 homeless children per 1,000 children statewide.

EMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate in Bridgeport decreased from 11.3% in October 2013 to 9.6% in October 2014.

In October 2014, Bridgeport's unemployment rate was more than 1½ times the statewide unemployment rate of 6.3%.

Bridgeport youth are twice as likely to be unemployed as youth in Fairfield County and statewide. In 2013, the unemployment rate for Bridgeport youth ages 16-19 who were looking for work was 59.8%, compared to 30.0% in Fairfield County and 26.4% statewide.

TRANSPORTATION

In 2013, 21.1% of Bridgeport occupied housing units did not have a car, compared to 8.2% in Fairfield County and 9.5% statewide.

CONNECTICUT
MINIMUM WAGE

\$8.70/hr



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

\$22.33/hr



Child Care & Early Childhood Education

If a young child receives quality care and early childhood education, the benefits literally last a lifetime. This fact is especially true for children in poverty. 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 falls short of statewide rates. However, last year, Bridgeport benefited from CT State Legislation that added 126 new pre-kindergarten school readiness slots for 2014. To help the youngest members of our community reach their true potential, we need to continue to push for more quality early care and early childhood education.

CHILD CARE CAPACITY AND NEED

In 2013, 8,700 Bridgeport children under the age of six (63.9%) lived in families in which all of the adults were in the labor force.

In 2013, there were 11.9 child care spaces per 100 children under the age of three in Bridgeport, compared to 17.0 spaces per 100 children under the age of three statewide.

Bridgeport Child Care and Early Childhood Education Spaces, 2014

	INFANTS & TODDLERS	3-4 YEAR OLDS
CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HEAD START PROGRAMS	604	2,767
FAMILY DAY CARE PROVIDERS	195	384
BOARD OF EDUCATION PRE-KINDERGARTEN SPACES*		
FULL DAY	-	405
PART DAY	-	504
TOTAL	799	4,060

* 2014-15 school year

CHILD CARE COSTS

A study of licensed child care costs in 2012 found that the average cost for full-time licensed child care in family day care homes and child care centers for one year in Bridgeport was \$10,856 for infants and toddlers, and \$9,057 for preschool-age children.

In 2013, 3,392 Bridgeport children benefited from Care 4 Kids, Connecticut's child care subsidy program, nearly the same as in 2012 (3,413 children).

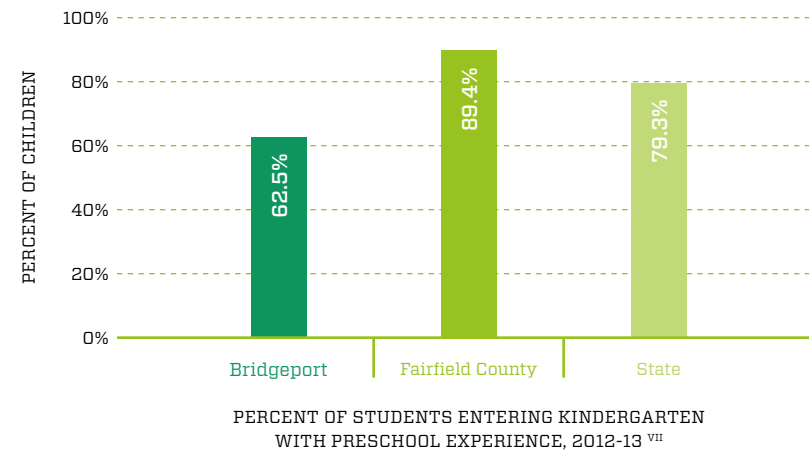
CHILD CARE QUALITY

2,026 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, 831 children attend programs that meet standards established by Head Start.

Of the Bridgeport children receiving state child care subsidies through Care 4 Kids in 2013, 1,082 (31.9%) were in informal child care settings, which includes 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





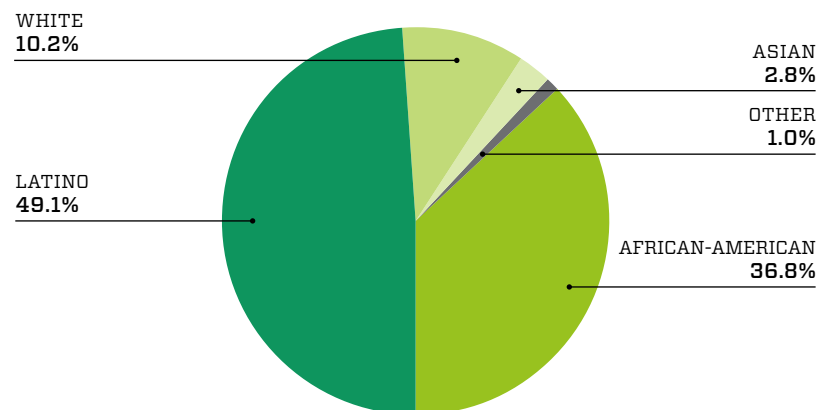
Education

In an urban community like Bridgeport, the quality of the public education system can make or break the success of 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, engaged, 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 our city's children—and secure a brighter future for all.

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT PROFILE

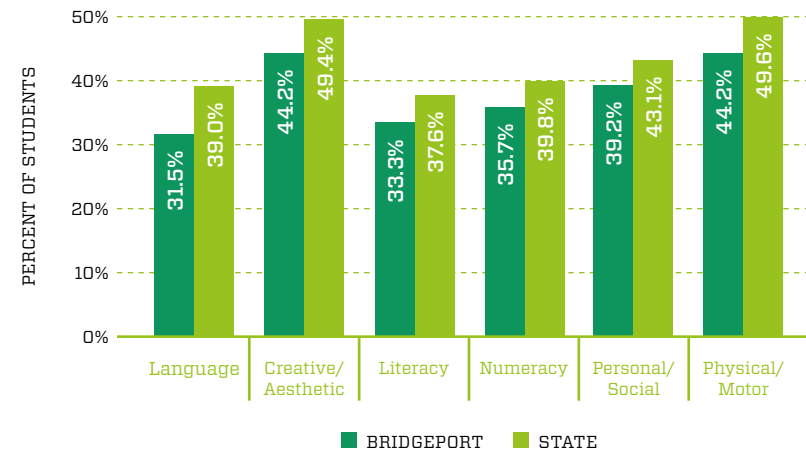
There were 21,127 students in the Bridgeport school system as of October 1, 2014.

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Bridgeport Schools, 2014-15



During the 2012-13 school year, nearly 100% of Bridgeport Public School students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch because they lived in families earning less than 185% of the federal poverty level (\$36,130.50 for a family of three in 2013), compared to 36.7% of students statewide.

Bridgeport Children Begin School Behind their Peers in the State ^{viii}



KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE INVENTORY RESULTS,
PERCENT OF STUDENTS AT LEVEL 3*, 2011-12

* Students have skills needed and require minimal instructional support.

During the 2012-13 school year, 13.8% of Bridgeport students (2,664) were not fluent in English, compared to 5.8% of students statewide. Bilingual education is provided in two languages: Spanish and Portuguese. There are currently more than 70 languages spoken by students in the Bridgeport schools.

12.7% of Bridgeport students (2,553) received special education services in 2012-13, compared to 11.9% statewide.

Breakdown of Bridgeport Special Education Students by Category, 2012-13

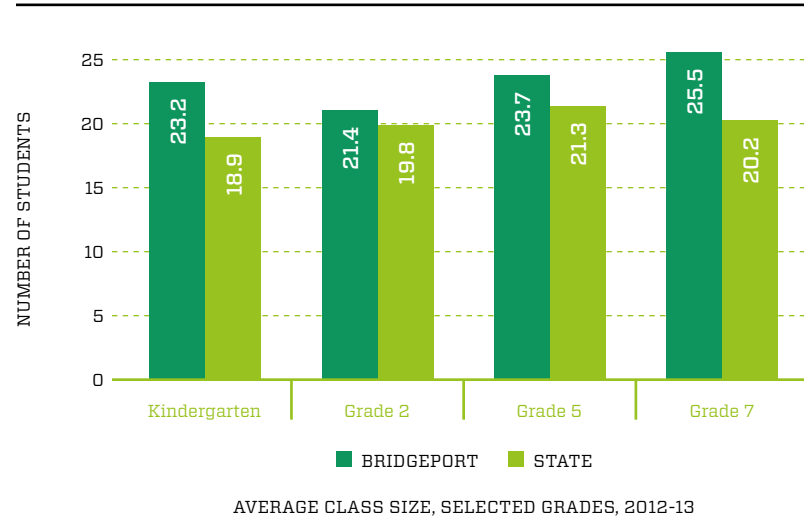
AUTISM	7.1%
LEARNING DISABILITY	35.8%
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	4.6%
EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE	9.2%
SPEECH IMPAIRMENT	14.4%
OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT	16.2%
OTHER DISABILITIES	12.7%

21.9

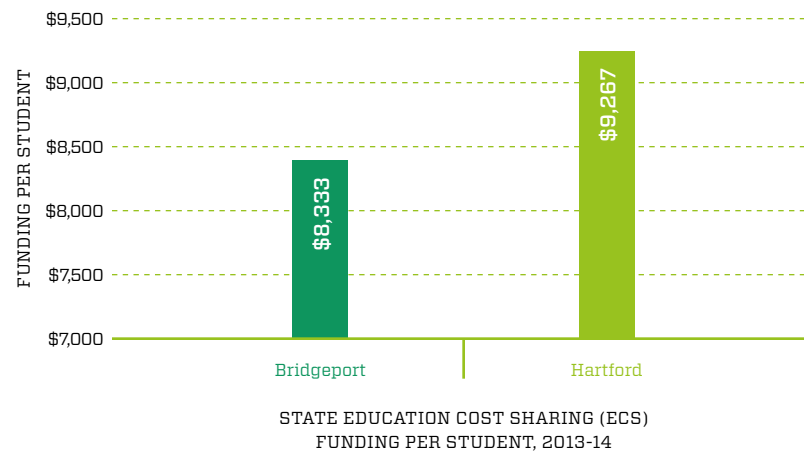


WITHOUT A
HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA LIVING
IN POVERTY

Bridgeport's Classrooms are More Crowded Than Classrooms Statewide



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



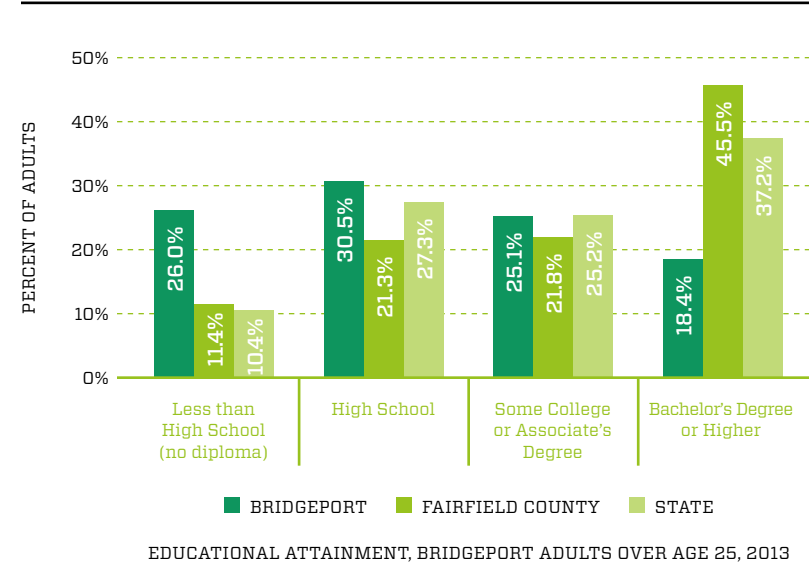
STANDARDIZED TESTING RESULTS

Beginning the 2013-14 school year, Connecticut stopped offering the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) in English Language Arts and Mathematics as it transitions to the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Bridgeport participated in a field test of this assessment, but results are not available.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF ADULTS

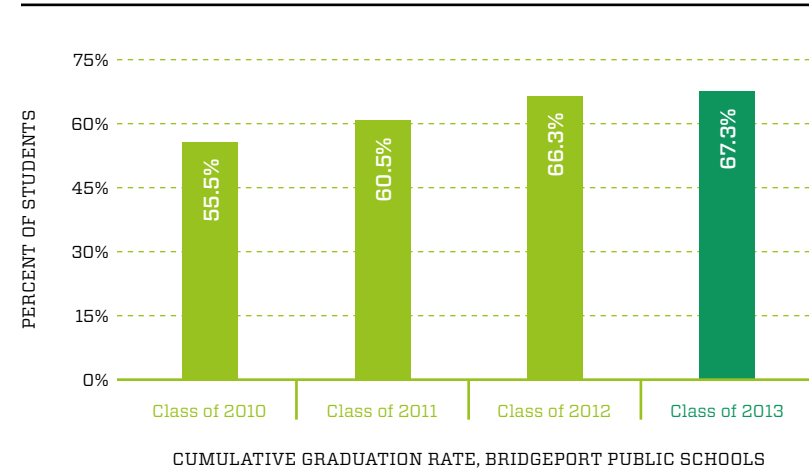
Research shows a positive relationship between the educational attainment of parents and their children's academic achievement.

Bridgeport Adults Lag Behind Adults in the County and Statewide in Educational Attainment



GRADUATION RATE

Bridgeport Students Graduating Within Four Years Increased Slightly



67.3% of Bridgeport's Class of 2013 graduated high school within four years, compared to 85.5% statewide.

Bridgeport Is Mobilizing For Children And Families



THE BRIDGEPORT MELTING POT

Bridgeport's schools are a melting pot of languages, cultures and traditions. Nowhere was this diversity more obvious than on the Bassick High School Soccer team. BCAC Board Member Sal Hanaif coached this year's team that had members from five continents, representing 15 countries. "Soccer may have been the basis of our communication, but the lessons we learned from each other were far greater. Not only did we break down barriers and stereotypes, but we all became a big family. It was a great year."



GAINING REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

Last June, Shiloh Coram, a junior at Fairchild Wheeler Information Technology and Software Engineering High School, began an internship in database management and website design at Yale University. The eight-week Information Technology Service High School Internship Program provides students interested in information technology the opportunity to be immersed in various technology careers, as well as an opportunity to gain real work experience. Shiloh is one of the few Connecticut high school students invited to participate in Yale's academic year internship program, and he exemplifies what can be accomplished by a serious commitment and devotion to the work.



SON OF THURGOOD MARSHALL INSPIRES

The Bridgeport Public Education Fund, Inc. (a BCAC member organization) marked the 60th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education by hosting John Marshall, son of Thurgood Marshall. During his trip, he visited the Regional Magnet Thurgood Marshall Middle School where he met with students and teachers. Later, over 100 people from throughout the community listened to him discuss the historic landmark case and stories of his childhood growing up with such a powerful father figure. His inspiring presentation reminded everyone that the battle for racial and economic justice is not yet won, and has barely begun.



EDUCATING MOTHERS IMPROVES CHILDREN'S LIVES

Over the last 27 years, Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport (MLC) has helped over 9,000 women learn English, improve their skills, and earn their high school diplomas. Studies show that there is no more significant factor in a child's educational attainment than the mother's education level. And, almost every woman at MLC cites her children as the motivation to further her own education. One student, Patricia, explained that her daughter was struggling in math. Patricia was able to review the lessons with her own teacher at MLC, mastered the concepts, and ultimately help her daughter. "Now" she beams, "she's getting all A's!"



KEEPING CHRISTOPHER HEALTHY

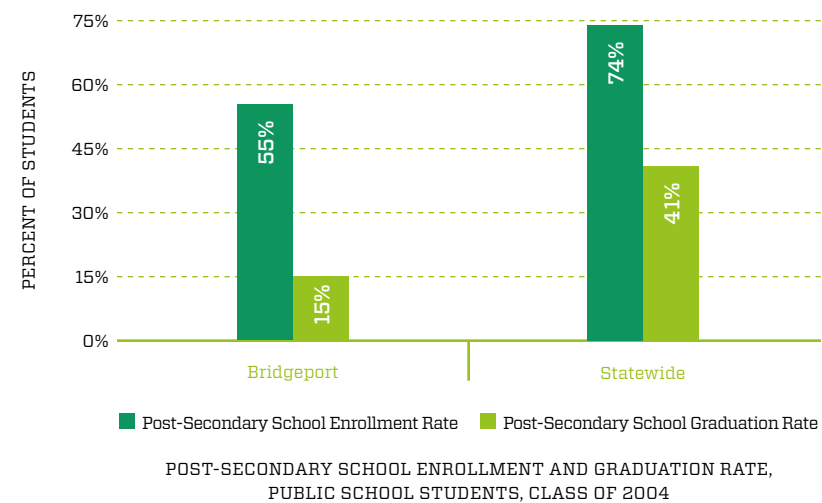
Southwest Community Health Center's Albion Street Medical and Dental Center opened in 2013. Amongst the over 9,000 patients who use this facility is Christopher Santos. He was born with a condition called intestinal atresia and was hospitalized for the first seven months of his life. After undergoing four major corrective surgeries, Christopher surpassed the odds and is now eating by mouth on his own and is a happy, healthy boy. According to his mother, Dawn, "Christopher has now been a patient of Southwest for 5 years. The providers at Southwest have provided great care in meeting all of his needs in one place and complimenting the services of his specialists."

47.3% of Bridgeport students receiving special education services in 2012-13 graduated with a standard high school diploma, compared to 64.7% statewide.

59.7% of Bridgeport's Class of 2012 took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), compared to 78.5% of students statewide and 66.2% of the Class of 2011. Bridgeport students averaged scores of 403 for reading, 395 for math, and 397 for writing. Statewide, students averaged scores of 499 for reading, 503 for math, and 504 for writing.

63.4% of Bridgeport's graduating Class of 2012 went on to post-secondary education, compared to 82.6% statewide.

Fewer Bridgeport Students Graduate College



ABSENTEEISM

Research shows that missing school at any grade level puts students at high risk of poor school success and dropping out of school. During the 2012-13 school year, 25.4% of Bridgeport students were chronically absent (missed 10% or more of all school days), compared to 11.5% of students statewide.

LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

4x



MORE LIKELY TO BE CHRONICALLY ABSENT THAN OTHERS, OFTEN FOR REASONS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL



Did You Know?

2013-14 BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

100

%

RECEIVED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

12.6

%

WERE NOT FLUENT IN ENGLISH

13.0

%

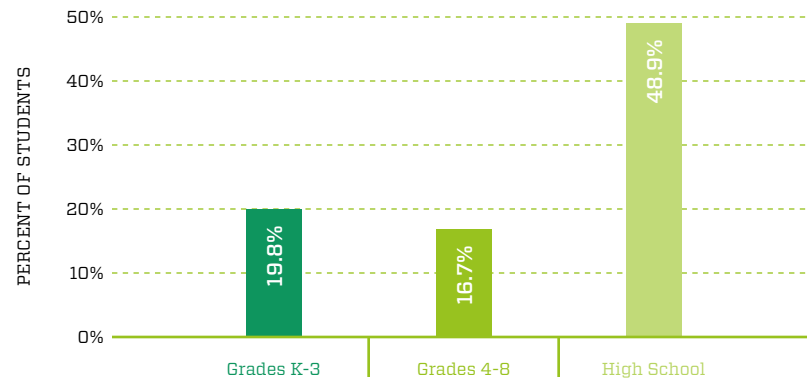
CHRONIC ABSENCE

BY
6th

GRADE

IT'S A LEADING INDICATOR THAT A STUDENT WILL DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

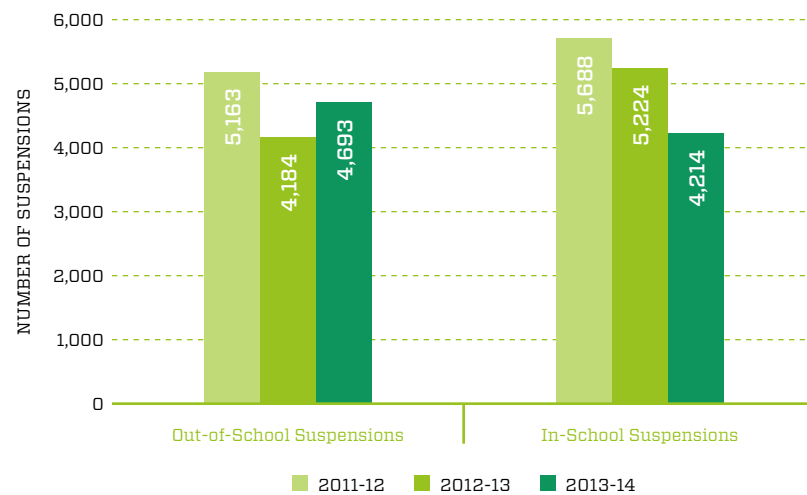
Many Students, Especially in High School, are Missing School



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM, BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2012-13

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

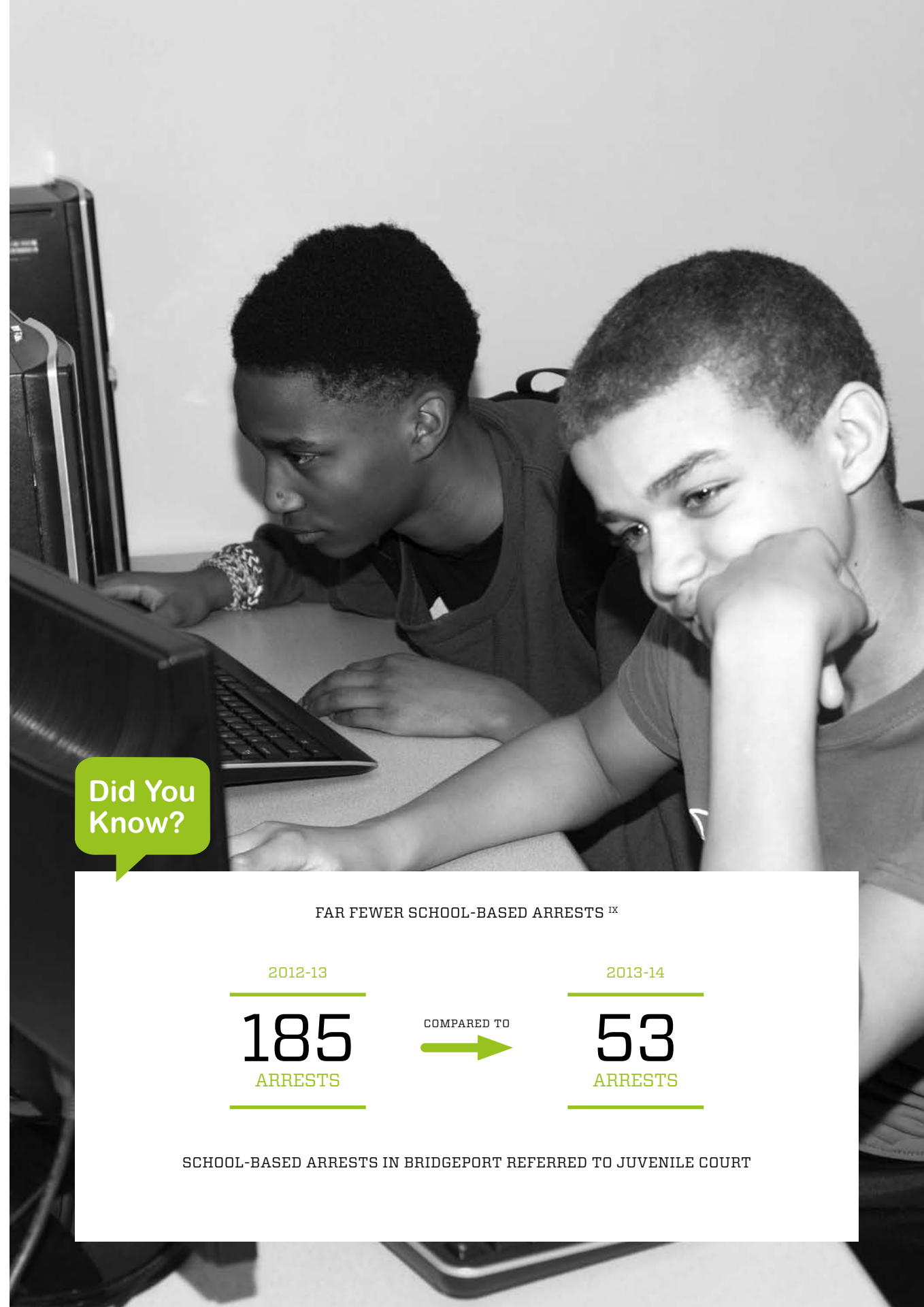
Out-of-School Suspensions are Up, and In-School Suspensions are Down



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

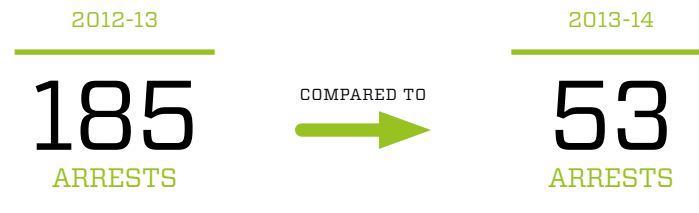
During the 2013-14 school year, 2,335 Bridgeport Public School students were suspended out-of-school and 2,193 were suspended in-school.

In 2013-14, 241 Bridgeport students were referred to the Juvenile Review Board (JRB), a court diversion program, compared to 215 in 2012-13 and 146 in 2011-12. Police can make referrals to the JRB.



Did You Know?

FAR FEWER SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS ^{IX}



SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS IN BRIDGEPORT REFERRED TO JUVENILE COURT



Health

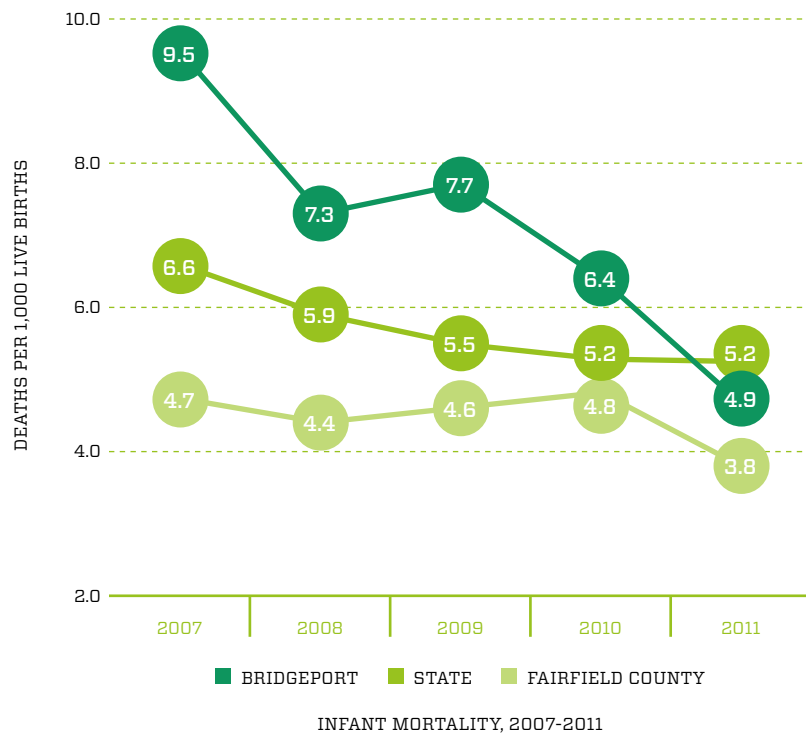
Good health is the cornerstone of a child's well-being. It starts before birth and is influenced by every part of a child's environment—his or her home, school, neighborhood, and city. In addition to a healthy environment, a child also needs ready access to quality, affordable health care. Because every 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 2011, 21.6% of Bridgeport mothers received late or no prenatal care during their pregnancies, compared to 16.5% in 2010. Statewide, 13.0% of mothers received late or no prenatal care in 2011.

In 2011, the infant mortality rate in Bridgeport was 4.9 infant deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births, compared to 6.4 in 2010, a decrease of 23.4%.

Infant Mortality in Bridgeport Fell Below the Statewide Rate



Most infant deaths are neonatal, occurring in the first month of life. In 2011, the neonatal death rate in Bridgeport was 3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

In 2011, 9.4% of all Bridgeport babies were born with low birthweight (less than 5.8 pounds at birth), compared to 8.0% in 2010, and 7.7% statewide. During 2011, 11.2% of Bridgeport babies were born premature (born more than three weeks before the due date), compared to 10.2% statewide.

Smoking has been correlated to premature births. In 2011, 2.3% of Bridgeport mothers reported smoking during pregnancy, compared to 3.1% in 2010.

Infant Mortality, Low Birthweight, and Prenatal Care By Race and Ethnicity in Bridgeport, 2011

	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	LATINO	WHITE
INFANT MORTALITY (INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)	8.6%	4.8%	2.5%
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	12.4%	7.5%	7.6%
LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE	23.1%	21.7%	17.8%

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

80% of Bridgeport children born in 2010 and enrolled in the State Immunization Registry and Tracking System were vaccinated against major vaccine-preventable diseases before they turned 2, nearly the same as the statewide rate of 82%.

OBESITY

The CT Department of Public Health estimates that 15.3% of low-income 2- to 5-year-olds in Connecticut were overweight and 15.9% obese; 15.6% of students in kindergarten and grade 3 were overweight and 16.1% obese; and 14.1% of high school students were overweight and 12.5% obese. ^x

In 2012-13, 40.8% 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 51.1% of students statewide.

ASTHMA

A CT Department of Public Health analysis of data from the 2009-10 to 2011-12 school years found that 15.3% of Bridgeport students had asthma. Asthma rates were highest among middle school students (20.1%), followed by elementary (14.1%) and high school (12.4%). Statewide 13.9% of students had asthma.

LEAD POISONING

In 2012, 342 Bridgeport children (5.3% of those screened) under the age of six had lead poisoning (based on a confirmed blood lead level >5 ug/dL).^{xi}

In 2012, 80.8% of Bridgeport children under the age of two were screened for lead poisoning, compared to 67.8% statewide.

86.7% of Bridgeport occupied housing units were built before 1979, compared to 74.8% in Fairfield County and 72.0% statewide. Nearly 40% of Bridgeport's housing was built in 1939 or earlier. Lead paint was banned nationwide in 1978.^{xii}

ORAL HEALTH

Percentage of Children in Bridgeport on HUSKY A ^{xiii} Receiving Dental Care

	2008	2012
PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE	40.9%	70.0%
DENTAL TREATMENT	24.3%	37.2%

HEALTH COVERAGE

According to the U.S. Census, 7.2% of Bridgeport children were uninsured in 2013, compared to 8.5% in 2012. Among all Bridgeport residents, 22.0% were uninsured in 2013, compared to 23.4% in 2012. Statewide, 4.3% of children and 9.4% of all residents were uninsured in 2013, slightly less than in 2012. The effect of the Affordable Care Act will not be known until the results of the 2014 American Community Survey are released.

From July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, 24,910 Bridgeport children were enrolled in HUSKY A/Medicaid health insurance, nearly the same as the previous year (24,894 children). The number of children on HUSKY statewide also stayed nearly the same from 2012-13 to 2013-14.^{xiii}

TEEN HEALTH

A June 2014 survey of Bridgeport students in grades 7-12 found that 24% reported feeling sad or depressed most or all of the time and 23% reported attempting suicide one or more times.^{xiv}

In 2013, 333 Bridgeport adolescents under the age of 20 were treated for sexually transmitted diseases, compared to 531 in 2012, a significant decrease of 37.3%.

Bridgeport's rate of sexually transmitted diseases in 2013 was 17.9 cases per 1,000 adolescents, compared to 7.0 cases per 1,000 adolescents statewide.

2014 SURVEY OF BRIDGEPORT STUDENTS

24

%

IN GRADES 7-12 REPORTED FEELING SAD OR DEPRESSED

Did You Know?

ACCORDING TO A RYASAP SURVEY ^{xiv}, BRIDGEPORT STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-12 REPORT:

OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS OR HER PERSONAL FUTURE

68

%

HELP FRIENDS OR NEIGHBORS AT LEAST ONE HOUR A WEEK

66

%

ARE MOTIVATED TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL

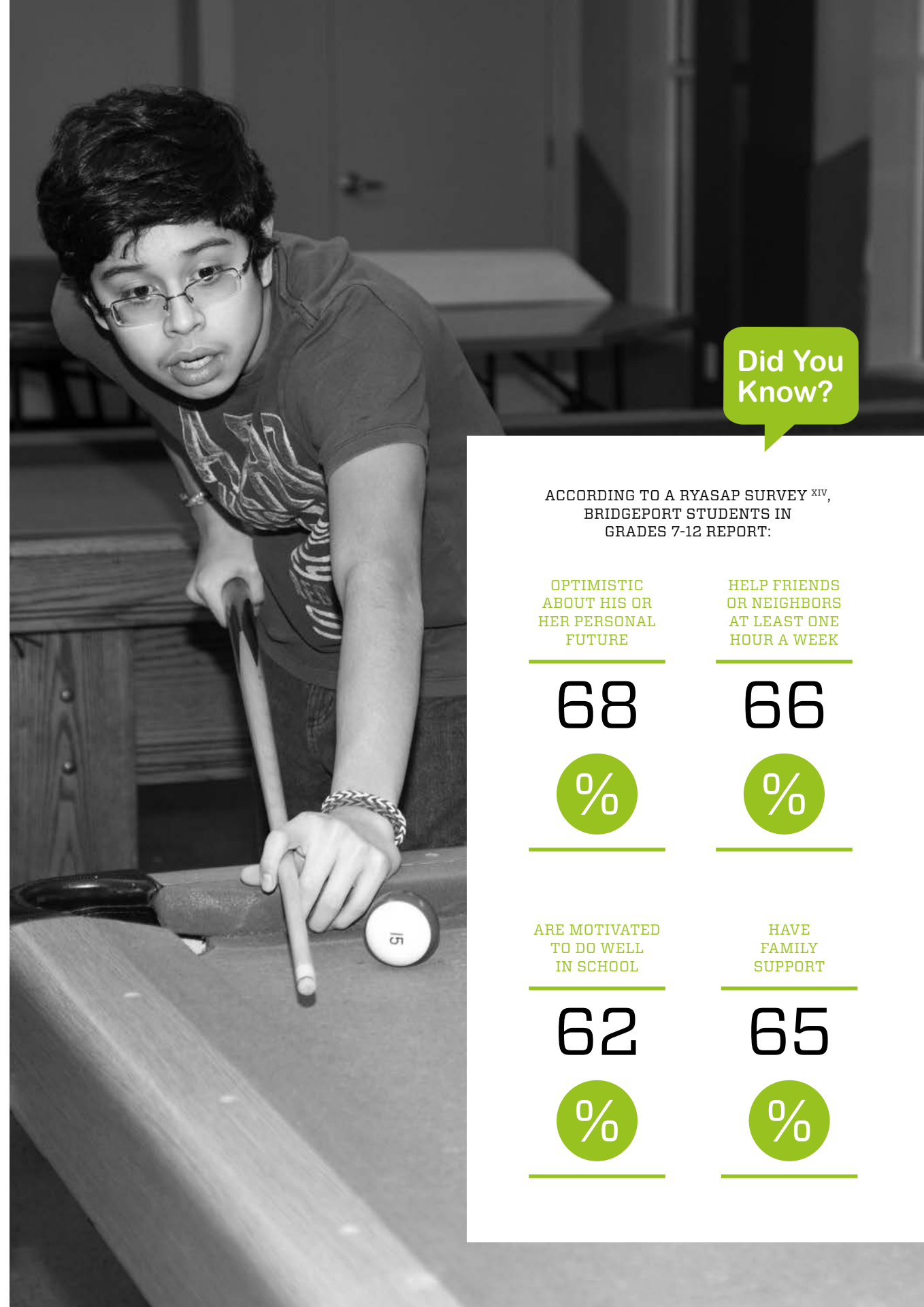
62

%

HAVE FAMILY SUPPORT

65

%



Substance Abuse Among Students* in Grades 7-12, 2014 ^{xiv}

	BRIDGEPORT	SUBURBS **
ALCOHOL	32%	26%
CIGARETTES	6%	6%
INHALANTS	10%	5%
MARIJUANA	16%	17%
TOTAL	799	4,060

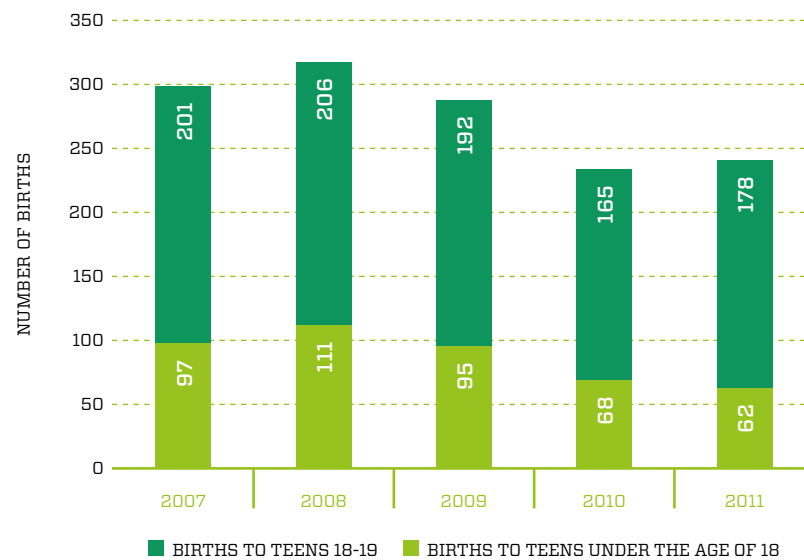
* Self-reported use by students during the month prior to the survey
** Average of responses from Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, and Trumbull

TEEN PREGNANCY

In 2011, there were 62 births to teens under the age of 18, a decrease of 8.8% compared to 2010.

The 2009-11 birth rate for Bridgeport teens ages 15-17 was 38.1 births per 1,000 teenage girls, compared to the statewide rate of 9.1 births per 1,000 teenage girls.

Births to Younger Teens in Bridgeport Continue to Decline



TEEN BIRTHS IN BRIDGEPORT, 2007-2011

Safety

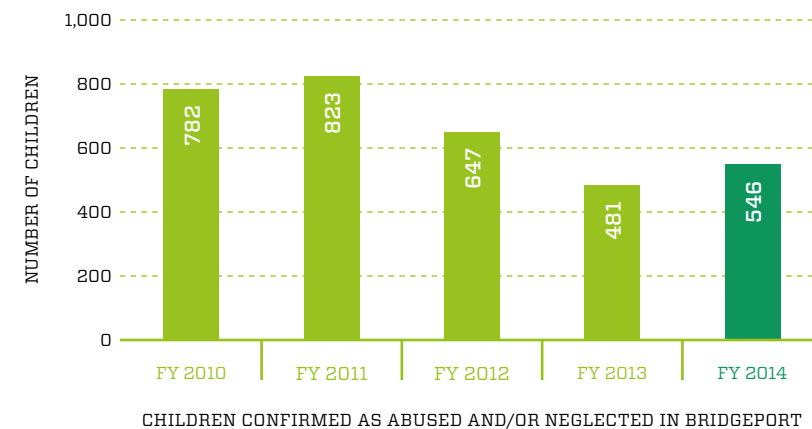
When children are safe and secure, they are healthier, happier, and better prepared to learn. Exposure to violence at home, in the streets, or at school causes stress in children—toxic stress that can cause negative long-term effects on both mental and social development. Research has shown that when 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 2012-13 to 2013-14, the number of children in Bridgeport substantiated as abused and/or neglected rose 13.5%. Statewide, there was a 3.4% increase.

In 2013-14, there were 14.6 children substantiated as abused or neglected per 1,000 children in Bridgeport, compared to 8.9 children substantiated as abused and/or neglected per 1,000 children statewide.

Bridgeport Child Abuse Cases Rise



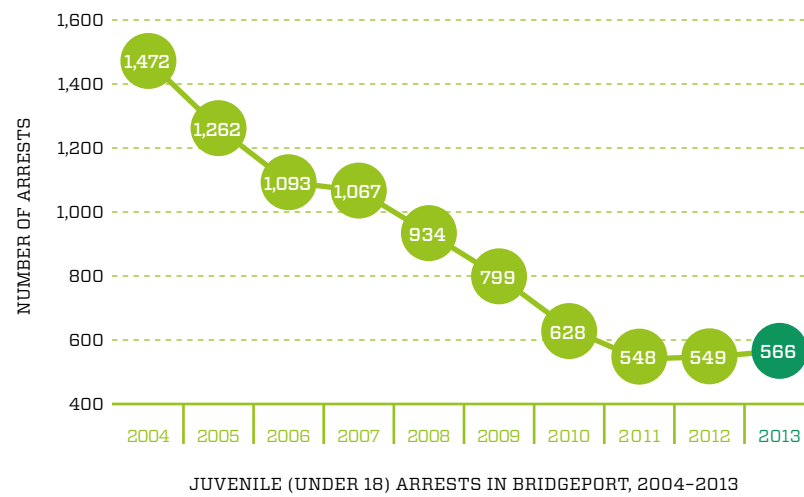
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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 are Stabilizing



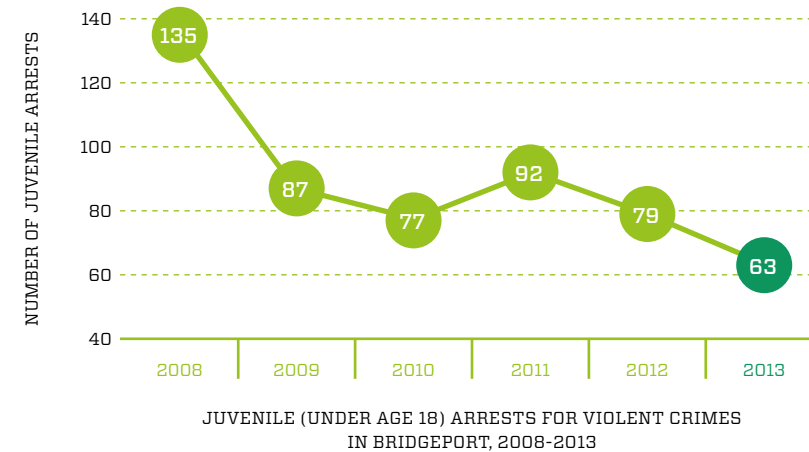
In 2013, there were 566 juvenile arrests in Bridgeport, a 3% increase compared to 2012. Nearly 40% of all juvenile arrests occurred between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm, the hours immediately after school.

In 2013, Bridgeport's juvenile crime arrest rate was 40.4 arrests per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17, compared to a rate of 27.2 arrests per 1,000 youth statewide.

In 2013, 344 arrests, 60.8% of all juvenile arrests in Bridgeport, involved children 15 years of age or younger, compared to 324 arrests (59.0%) in 2012.

From 2012 to 2013, juvenile arrests for violent crimes (defined as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) in Bridgeport decreased by 20.2%. There were 63 juvenile arrests for violent crimes in 2013, compared to 79 in 2012.

Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes in Bridgeport are Declining



The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition

Member Organizations

- A Child's World, Inc.
- ABCD, Inc.
- All Our Kin
- American Association of University Women
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWCT
- Boys and Girls Village, Inc.
- Bridgeport Alliance for Young Children
- Bridgeport Hospital
- Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust
- Bridgeport Public Education Fund
- Burroughs Community Center
- Cardinal Shehan Center
- Career Resources
- Caroline House
- Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc.
- The Child and Family Guidance Center
- Christ and Holy Trinity Church
- Congregation B'nai Israel
- Congregation Rodeph Shalom
- Connecticut Against Gun Violence (CAGV)
- Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
- The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
- The Discovery Museum
- Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church
- Fairfield University - School of Nursing
- Friends of New Beginning Family Academy
- FSW, Inc.
- GBAPP, Inc.
- Golden Hill United Methodist Church
- Greenfield Hill Congregational Church
- Hall Neighborhood House, Inc.
- International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.
- The Kennedy Center
- McGivney Community Center
- Mercy Learning Center
- Mount Aery Baptist Church
- Nichols United Methodist Women
- Optimus Health Care
- RYASAP
- The Salvation Army
- School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport
- Southwest Community Health Center
- Southwestern AHEC
- St. Mark's Day Care Center
- St. Vincent's Medical Center
- St. Vincent's Special Needs Center
- Summerfield United Methodist Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Church in Westport
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Bridgeport, Inc.
- United Congregational Church of Bridgeport
- United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
- Wakeman Boys & Girls Club - Smilow Burroughs Clubhouse

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Notes and Definitions

- i Census data from the 2013 American Community Survey, unless otherwise noted.
- ii Kiersz, Andy. "The 18 Most Unequal Cities in America." *Business Insider*. November 5, 2014.
- iii The 2013 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was defined as an annual income of \$19,530 for a family of three. Another common benchmark is 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, which was \$36,130.50 for a family of three in 2013. The U.S. government adjusts the FPL for inflation each year.
- iv Living Wage as calculated for a family of 3 (one adult; two children), and a family of 4 (two adults; two children), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Living Wage Project, <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>.
- v Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2014. Overall Food Insecurity in Connecticut by County in 2013, http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2012/ct_allcountiescfi_2012.pdf.
- vi 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-substandard rental units occupied by recent movers in a local housing market." Source: <http://www.huduser.org/periodicals/ushmc/winter98/summary-2.html>.
- vii As reported by parents at all Bridgeport Public Schools for the Connecticut Department of Education's Strategic School Profiles for the 2012-13 school year, http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/WEB/ct_report/DTHome.aspx.
- viii The kindergarten assessment is a "snapshot of the skills and behaviors students demonstrate, based on teachers' observations, at the beginning of the kindergarten year." Students at Level 3 "consistently demonstrate the skills in the specified domain and require minimal instructional support," The Evolution of the Connecticut Kindergarten Entrance Inventory, Peter Behuniak, University of Connecticut, Presentation at the Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association, April 2012, Vancouver, B.C.
- ix Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division, defines a school-based arrest as "an arrest for an incident that occurred on school grounds during school hours." The data does not include students age 18 and older (those referrals go to adult court) or arrests not referred to court; police may refer students to a Juvenile Review Board or other diversion options in the community.
- x Connecticut Department of Public Health analysis of 2011 data for high school students; 2010-11 data for kindergarten and students in grade 3; and 2005-2011 data on WIC participants from 2005-2011, CT Department of Public Health, Childhood Obesity in Connecticut, DPH Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Program, Fall 2013, http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/hems/nutrition/pdf/chob_fact_sheet_dec2013.pdf.
- xi According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, children are considered lead poisoned when diagnosed with a confirmed blood lead level >5 ug/dL. In 2013, CT DPH lowered the case management action level from >10 ug/dL to >5 ug/dL to correspond with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- xii U.S. Census Bureau only has available data for Bridgeport housing built before 1979, not for Bridgeport housing built before 1978.
- xiii Children living below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$36,130.50 for a family of three in 2013) qualify for HUSKY A/Medicaid health insurance.
- xiv Results from the Search Institute Survey, "Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors," August 2014, conducted and financed by Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP).





2470 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
T (203) 549-0075
F (203) 549-0203

bcacct.org

State of
the Child
in Bridgeport
2014

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

If you share the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition's vision that all of Bridgeport's children 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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



ELIZABETH M. PFRIEM

**NORMA F. PFRIEM
FOUNDATION**