



The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven

Imagine.

Inform.

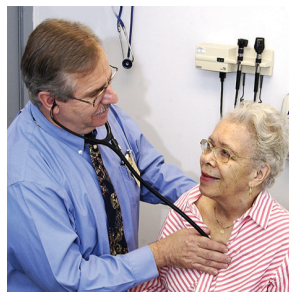
Invest.

Inspire.

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

# CALIBRATING THE COMMUNITY

## Data to Strengthen Greater New Haven



Economic indicators, like Gross Domestic Product, have long been the dominant measure of our collective performance as a region, as a state, and as a country. But the proliferation of social data collected at both neighborhood and national levels gives us an unprecedented opportunity to understand how people are doing in their day-to-day lives and to think of new ways to address social issues.

**DATA FOR COMMUNITY ACTION** Building a stronger community starts with knowledge. The more that we know about our region, the better we are able to engage with each other in meaningful dialogues about how Greater New Haven is doing and what needs to be done.

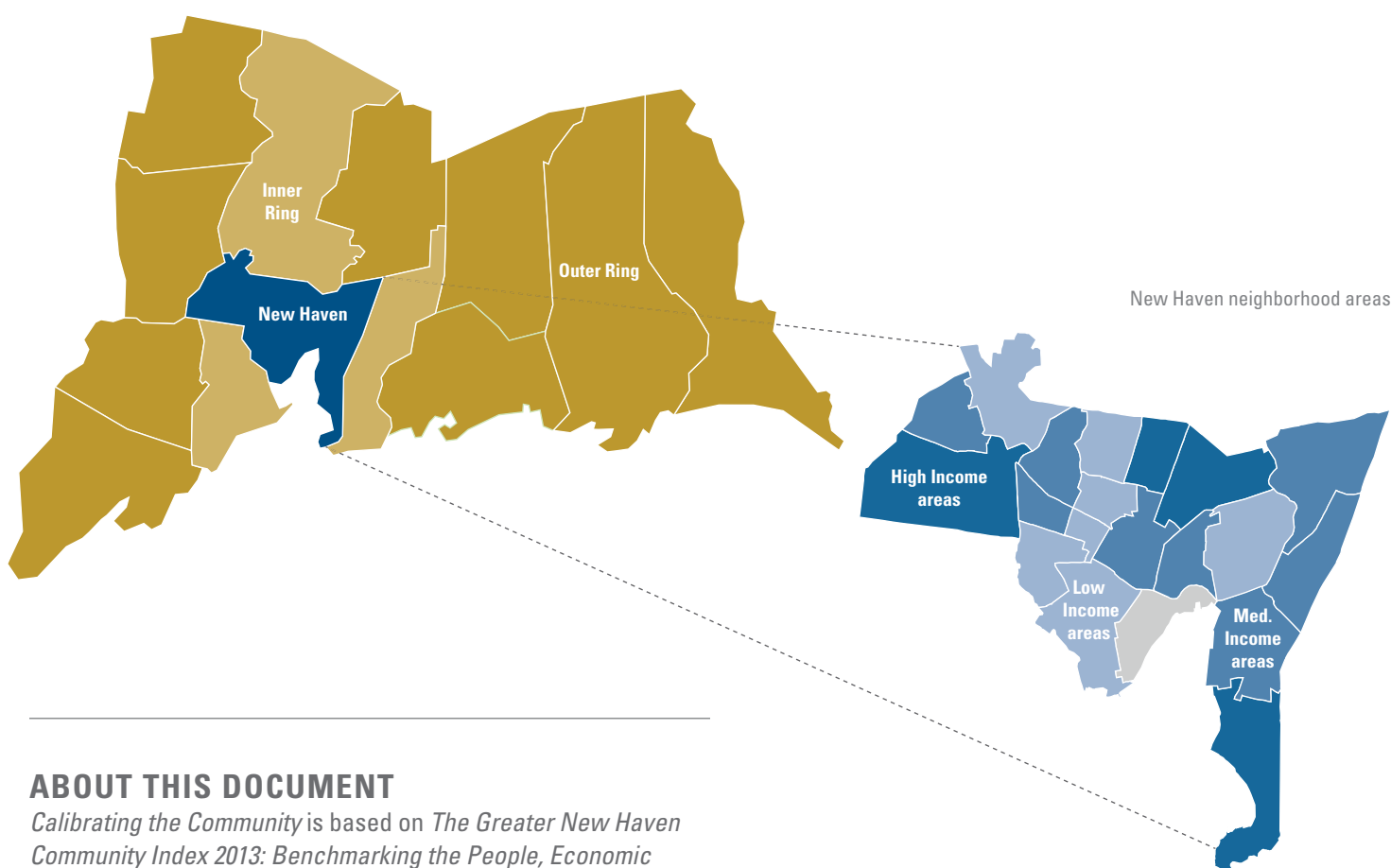
The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven presents the social indicator data in these pages to provide a portrait of our region through the framework of eight interconnected issue areas that are critical to the prosperity and health of our region's people, economy, and civic life. For more information about each issue in Greater New Haven, visit [www.cfgnh.org/learn](http://www.cfgnh.org/learn).

We believe that these indicators give us a new way to look at our community. With fresh perspectives, we can better harness our advantages. We can better identify and prioritize our challenges. We can reframe conversations around seemingly intractable issues to create specific solutions to problems within our power to solve. And we can measure our progress over time.

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.

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## AREAS STUDIED



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## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

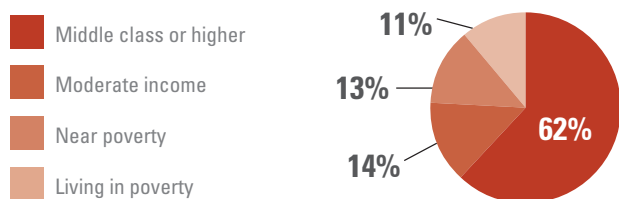
*Calibrating the Community* is based on *The Greater New Haven Community Index 2013: Benchmarking the People, Economic Opportunity, Health Needs, and Civic Life of Our Region*, a new report produced by DataHaven in collaboration with community, government, and scientific partners, including The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven. Download the entire report at [www.ctdatahaven.org](http://www.ctdatahaven.org).

**INTRODUCTION: A CHANGING POPULATION** Greater New Haven was forged by centuries of investment and migration, and continues to see rapid demographic changes. These changes impact our infrastructure needs and civic life. In order to compete with other metropolitan regions, we must understand and react to them in a timely fashion.

**Growth and increasing density** Greater New Haven is one of the most densely populated urban areas in the Northeast, and is growing more quickly than metropolitan Boston, New York, and Providence. Most of this growth is taking place in the City of New Haven and its inner ring suburbs. Since 2000, New Haven has seen the largest net gain of residents of any single town or city in Connecticut.

**Middle class opportunity** Compared to most metropolitan areas, Greater New Haven has a higher proportion of middle-class families. A “middle class” income is three times the Federal Poverty Level, or \$70,650 for a family of four.

Greater New Haven income levels



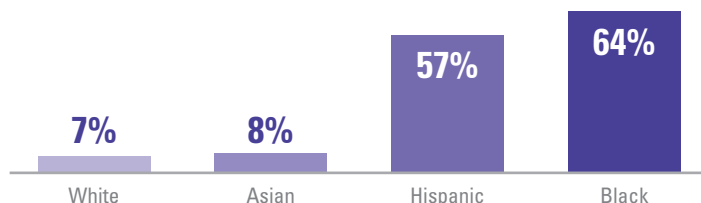
**Youthful city, aging region** While our population is growing overall, we continue to see a decline in the population of younger adults. Out of all cities and towns in Connecticut, the City of New Haven is the single notable exception to this trend.

Change in population age 25-44, 2000 to 2020 (Actual and projected)

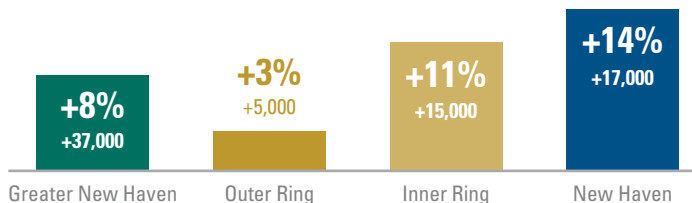


**Increasing diversity and immigration** Greater New Haven residents are as diverse as the nation as a whole: 1 in 3 (161,000 people) now identify as a race or ethnicity other than White, up from 1 in 5 (91,000 people) in 1990. But residential segregation, while similar to other Northeastern urban areas, is still high and exacerbates the “achievement gap” in educational outcomes.

Segregation: Percent of all young children in region living in low or medium income city neighborhood areas

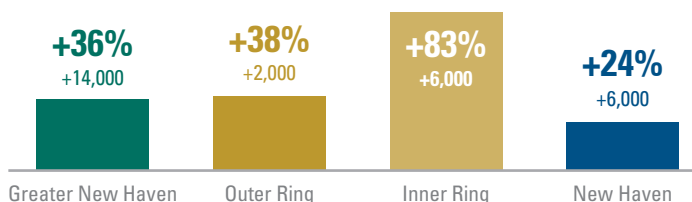


Change in total population, 2000 to 2020 (Actual and projected)



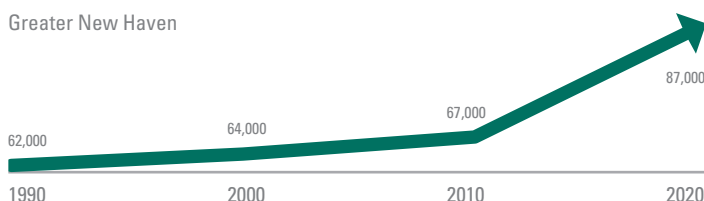
Yet, Greater New Haven is also affected by income inequality, which nationally is now at its highest level since 1917. One in ten residents in our region, including one in four in New Haven, is living in poverty.

Change in population in poverty, 1990 to 2011



Over the next 10 years, our region’s population growth will be characterized by a truly unprecedented increase in the population of adults over the age of 65, particularly within the Outer Ring.

Change in population over age 65 (Actual and projected)



Since 1990, the share of people living in our region who were born abroad has increased from 7 percent to 12 percent of our total population, almost exactly mirroring the change in the U.S. as a whole. In the City of New Haven, the foreign-born population more than doubled and now stands at 22,000 people — 17 percent of the population.

**Quick facts: foreign-born population**

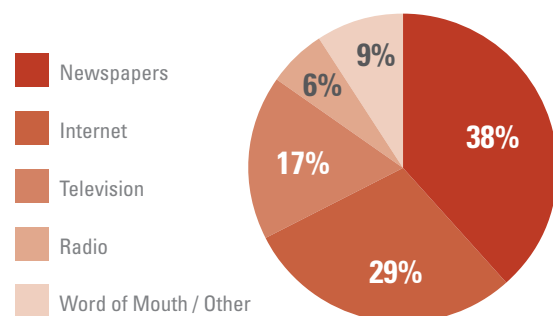
- 55,000 foreign-born live in Greater New Haven (12% of total population)
- 21,000 have arrived since 2000
- 22,000 live in New Haven; 17,000 in the Inner Ring; 17,000 in the Outer Ring
- 37% were born in Latin America, 30% Asia, 24% Europe, 5% Africa, 3% Other

## PROMOTE CIVIC VITALITY

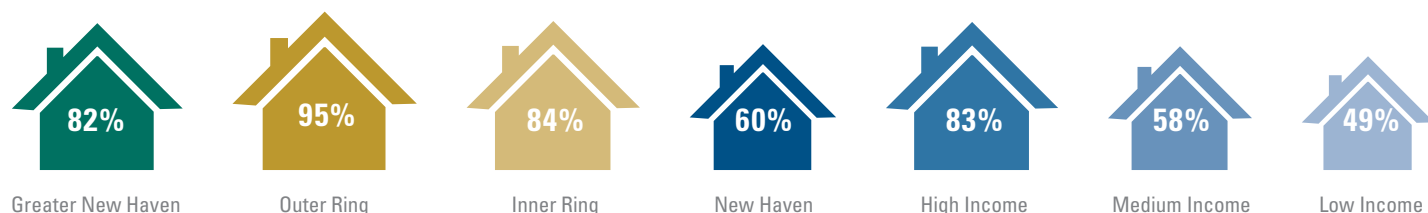
A community thrives when its people are engaged in its institutions and in each other, and when they have access to safe streets, **good sources of information** and places to gather. In Greater New Haven, most adults **volunteer or give** to local causes, and most believe that they or their neighbors can effect change at a local level.

Although rates of volunteering are high throughout Greater New Haven, other measures of civic wellbeing show disparities. For example, although most residents in Greater New Haven's suburbs and within high-income neighborhoods in the City of New Haven agree that their neighborhood is **safe to take walks in at night**, only 2 out of every 10 residents of low-income city neighborhoods do.

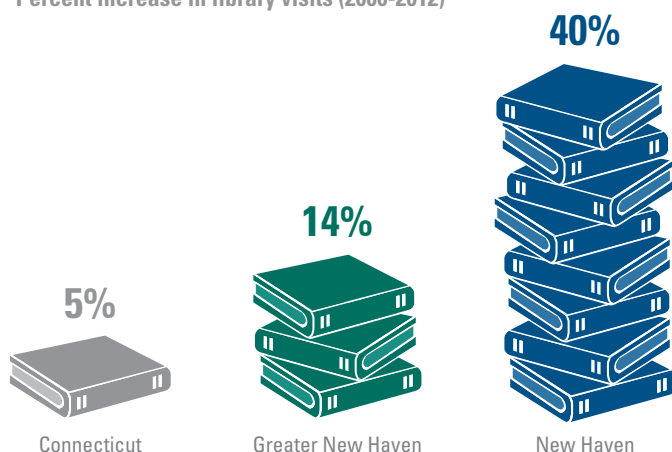
Main source of local information in Greater New Haven (2012)



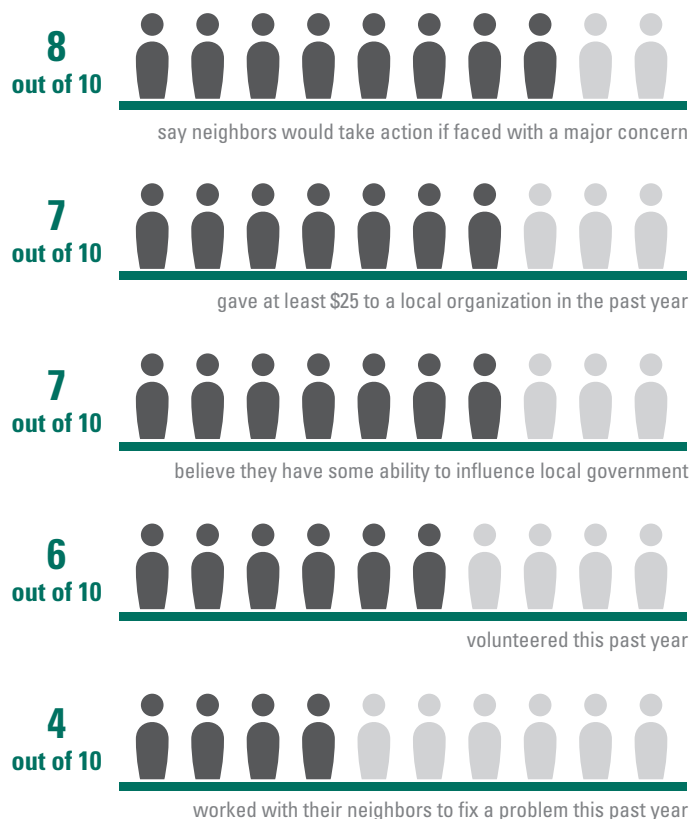
Percent of adults who agree that people in their neighborhood can be trusted (2012)



Percent increase in library visits (2000-2012)



Civic engagement among adults in Greater New Haven (2012)



## 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. More than 850,000 people **attend performances or exhibits** in our region each year. Regional arts organizations account for over 4,000 performances, 500 open days of gallery space, and 45,000 students viewing the arts or taking lessons. In the Greater New Haven Wellbeing Survey, 42 percent of adults said that they use arts and culture resources at least somewhat often.

Since 2000, **library visits** rose by 5% in Connecticut and 14% in Greater New Haven, driven by a 40% increase at the New Haven Free Public Library.

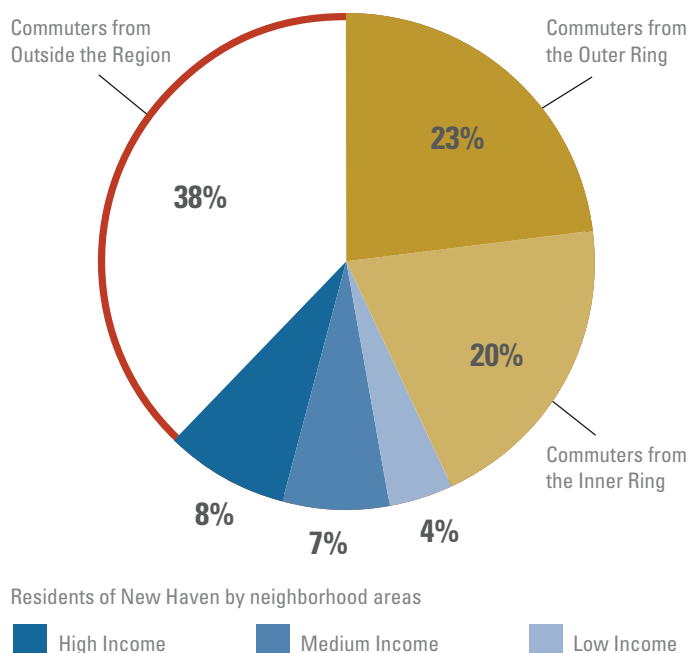
## BOOST ECONOMIC SUCCESS

As employment patterns shift, the prosperity of our suburban towns increasingly depends upon the **growing number of good jobs** located within the City of New Haven. The total numbers and average wages of jobs are rising more rapidly in New Haven than they are in suburban towns.

Nevertheless, **job access and unemployment** are the top concern within many city neighborhoods. For example, while a majority of jobs located in the City of New Haven now pay \$20 per hour or more, 81 percent of these “living wage” jobs are held by workers who commute to the city from homes outside of it. Only 4 percent are held by residents of the city’s low-income neighborhood areas, even though these areas comprise over a third of the city population.

New Haven residents are far more likely to have low-wage jobs outside the city than within it, highlighting the issues of **transportation and housing access**. Most jobs in the region are not accessible via a 90-minute bus ride, and families with children earning less than \$50,000 per year are at least 10 times less likely to have access to a car when needed than those making \$50,000 or more.

Residents who work the 47,452 “living wage” jobs located in the City of New Haven (2011)



Job and wage growth trends by location (2002-2012)

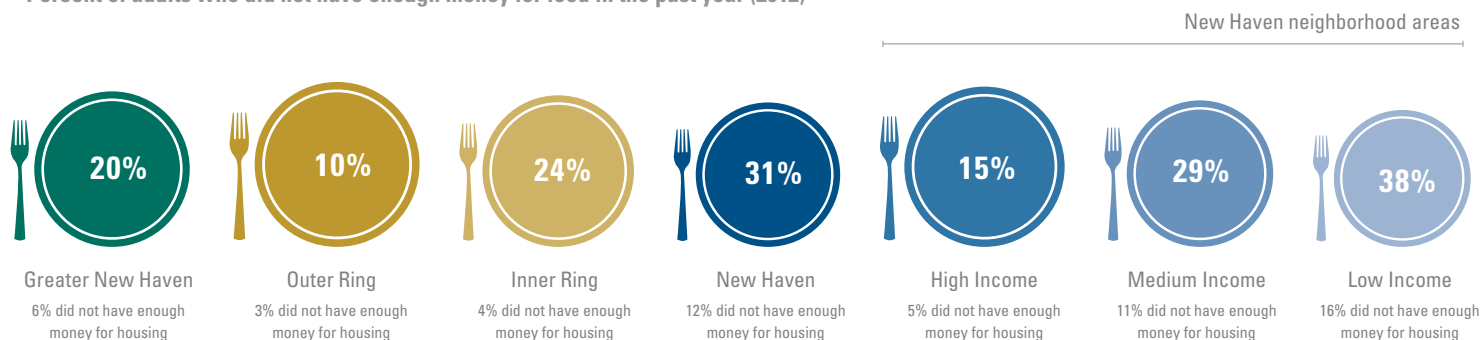
|                                 | Connecticut | Outer Ring | Inner Ring | City of New Haven |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Change in Total Jobs since 2002 | -21,428     | -4,192     | -2,390     | 3,833             |
| Percent change since 2002       | -1%         | -4%        | -6%        | +5%               |
| Average Wage, 2012              | \$62,157    | \$47,352   | \$45,554   | \$61,841          |
| Percent change since 2002       | +4%         | -4%        | -6%        | +6%               |

## SUPPORT BASIC NEEDS

Unmet basic needs put our community at risk. **Hunger and housing insecurity** make children more likely to miss school, and undermine their academic progress. Within Greater New Haven, 21 percent of households spend more than half of their income on housing costs—a rate higher than that of the

Boston or Hartford regions, and almost as high as the New York City metro area (23%). Lack of affordable housing also can force people to live farther from their jobs, undermining their stability and quality of life.

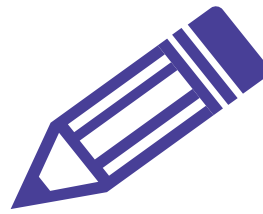
Percent of adults who did not have enough money for food in the past year (2012)





## PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION

Greater New Haven's **preschool enrollment** is high (57%, versus 43% nationally) but needs improvement so children from all neighborhoods start out with the right foundation. Costing an average of \$10,000 per year or more, preschool is unaffordable for many families. At least 25% of Connecticut preschoolers living in lower-income families are not served by any state or federal subsidy.

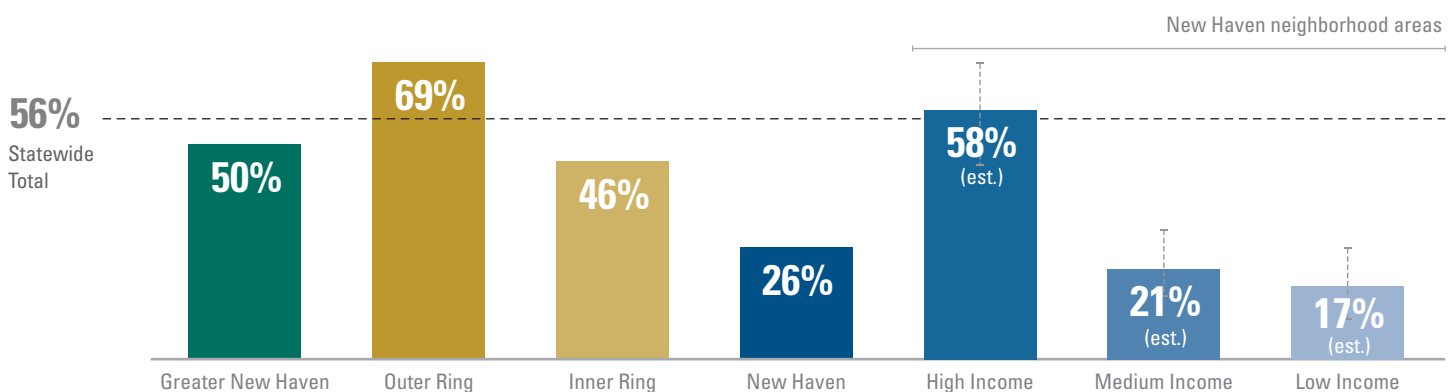


**57%**  
preschool enrollment

Although an incomplete measure of educational quality, **third grade reading levels** can strongly predict future educational outcomes, including graduation rates. Statewide reading achievement levels increased from 2008 through 2013, and Greater New Haven mirrored this trend almost exactly.

A relative increase among students within the City of New Haven was offset by stable or decreasing scores in the Inner Ring. These reading levels vary more by neighborhood and family socioeconomic status than between school districts.

Percent of all third graders who are reading at or above goal level (2008-2013, 6-year average)



**85%**  
graduation rate



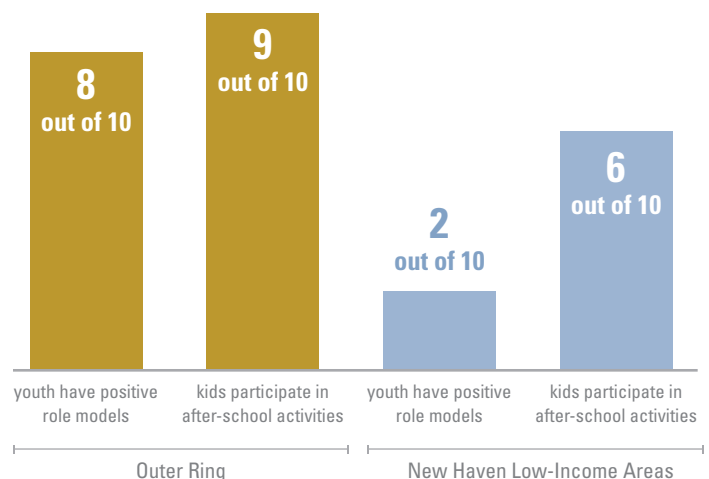
Connecticut's **high school graduation rate** of 85% is high by national standards and is rising. Within the City of New Haven, the graduation rate is rising even more quickly, but significant differences persist by race and socioeconomic status—in the New Haven Public Schools, the graduation rate is 86% among students who identify as White, 70% among those who identify as Black, and 64% among those who identify as Hispanic.

## NURTURE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

On the whole, Greater New Haven is a place of great opportunity for children and youth. The proportion of youth disconnectedness—that is, teenagers who are not in school and not working at a job—is one of the lowest in the United States. Most adults in the Greater New Haven region say that youth have the **positive role models** they need. About half say that the opportunities for children to succeed will be better than those they have had, suggesting a slightly higher level of intergenerational economic mobility than the nation as a whole.

Yet, challenges persist within the City of New Haven's low income neighborhood areas, where youth are twice as likely to not participate in **after-school activities**, and adults are about twice as likely to say that youth lack positive role models. Since youth disconnectedness is associated with unemployment and youth violence, this is a significant concern in our region.

Youth opportunity (2012)



## ENSURE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Connecticut and Greater New Haven are relatively healthy regions by national standards—for instance, rates of premature mortality are about 20% below the U.S. average. Because good health contributes to a strong economy and lower health care costs, health is an issue that impacts us all.

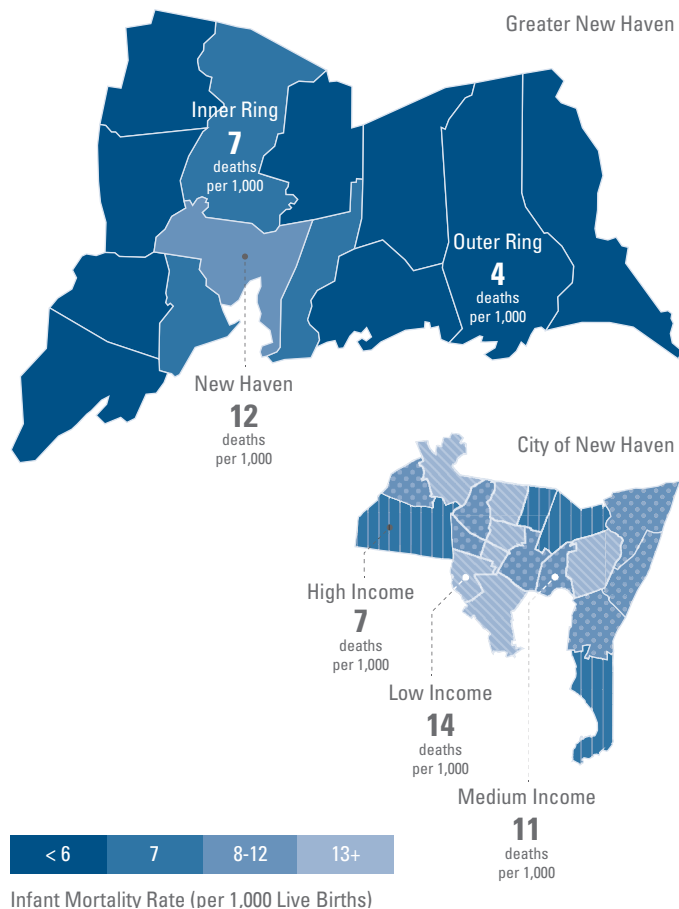


For the first time, the Community Index 2013 has gathered regional health leaders to provide a **comprehensive health assessment** of our region and its neighborhoods. Key concerns included infant mortality, obesity, diabetes, death from assault, and hospitalization due to asthma, which remain well above the national average within some neighborhoods.

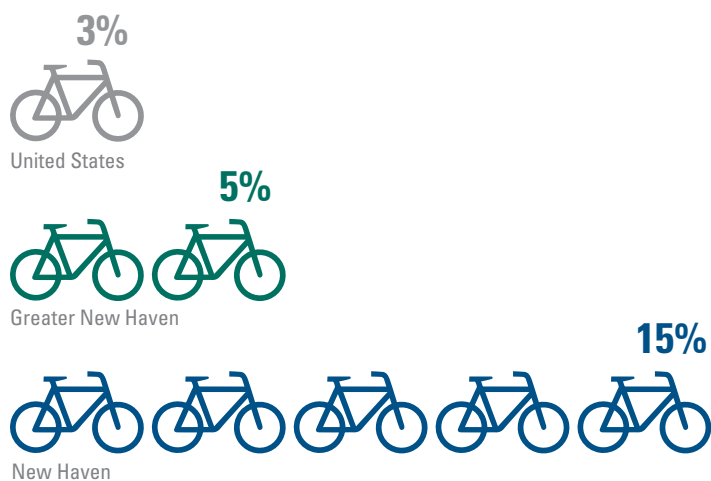
Seventeen percent of Greater New Haven residents are current smokers, a rate similar to the U.S. average. However, these rates range from 6 percent in high-income city neighborhoods to 26 percent in low-income areas. Nearly 2 out of 3 smokers say they have **attempted to quit smoking** in the past year.



Infant mortality rates (2003-2009, 7-year average)



Commuters who walk or bike to work every day (2011)



## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Greater New Haven is known for its **beautiful parks, open space, and shoreline**. Even within our densely-settled core city, public parks comprise 17% of the total land area—a proportion slightly higher than that of other core cities known for their extensive park systems, including Boston, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia.

**Transportation alternatives and short commutes** can lead to a healthier environment and a happier workforce. Greater New Haven has fewer commuters traveling 30 minutes or more per day (29%) than the New York (55%), Boston (46%), Bridgeport (37%), Providence (32%), and Hartford (30%) metropolitan areas. However, many residents who rely on public transportation face lengthy reverse commutes to suburban jobs.





## MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE: GREATER NEW HAVEN AMONG THE TOP 15 PERCENT OF U.S. URBAN REGIONS

Connecticut often places among the top 10 states in overall rankings of quality of life and opportunity. But as illustrated in this document, these measures typically differ far more within a city than they do between one city and any other city. To monitor our progress, we must have reliable measurements at a neighborhood level.

In 2012, the Greater New Haven Wellbeing Survey, the largest scientific survey of its kind ever conducted in our

region, expanded our neighborhood knowledge by examining public opinion on a variety of aspects of life including civic engagement, economic optimism, health, and local infrastructure. To further illustrate the relative strengths and opportunities within our community, the Community Index 2013 includes a preliminary ranking of all U.S. metropolitan areas and neighborhoods using 15 social indicators. This index ranks Greater New Haven as the 19<sup>th</sup> best-performing out of the nation's 130 largest metropolitan areas.

| Indicator   | Greater New Haven's performance relative to other U.S. metro areas*  |
|---|--|
| Brain Gain  | 34% of adults moving from out-of-state have an advanced degree   |
| College Degrees   | 46% of adults age 25-34 have a bachelor's degree or above  |
| Connected Youth   | 96% of youth age 16-19 are enrolled in school or working   |
| Young Children in Stable Families   | 67% of children age 0-5 are in families with moderate income or above  |
| Health Care   | 90% of adults age 18+ have health insurance  |
| High School Degrees   | 92% of adults age 25-34 have a high school degree or above   |
| Preschool Enrollment  | 57% of children age 3-4 are enrolled in preschool  |
| Poverty   | The poverty rate is 11%  |
| Short Commutes  | 71% of commuters travel for less than 30 minutes each way  |
| Transportation Alternatives   | 23% of commuters do not drive alone  |
| Unemployment  | The unemployment rate is 9%  |
| Youthful Workforce  | 26% of people are age 25-44  |
| Severe Housing Cost   | 21% of households pay over half of income towards housing costs  |
| School Segregation  | Score based on Black:White and Hispanic:White Dissimilarity  |
| Income Inequality   | Households in the top 20% earn \$122,000 or more per year, but those in the bottom 20% earn \$24,000 or less |
| Excellent (Index = 90-100)   Very Good (Index = 80-89)   Average (Index = 20-79)   Lagging (Index = 0-19) |  |

\*See the Greater New Haven Community Index 2013 for details, [www.ctdatahaven.org/communityindex](http://www.ctdatahaven.org/communityindex)

**MOBILIZING TO IMPROVE GREATER NEW HAVEN** Greater New Haven is distinguished by its exceptional people, diverse and growing population, relative accessibility, and cultural and civic resources. Yet like other metropolitan areas throughout the United States, Greater New Haven faces significant challenges to its future aspirations.

We hope that you will layer the information in this report with your own stories, and use it to take action in your community. If the information is insufficient, we hope you will request more specific data, or suggest complementary ways that Greater New Haven can monitor its forward progress. Through an ongoing dialogue, we can target opportunities for action and become a more competitive and sustainable place to live.

— Greater New Haven Community Index 2013, Page 73. New Haven, CT: DataHaven  
Available for download at [www.ctdatahaven.org/communityindex](http://www.ctdatahaven.org/communityindex)