



# The Status of Women and Girls in New Haven

A report by the Institute for Women's Policy Research

# Report Sections

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- ▶ Demographic Characteristics
- ▶ Employment and Earnings
- ▶ Economic Security
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Health and Well-Being
- ▶ Crime and Safety
- ▶ Political Participation and Leadership



**Local initiatives that focus on women and girls must address the complex realities of their lives.**





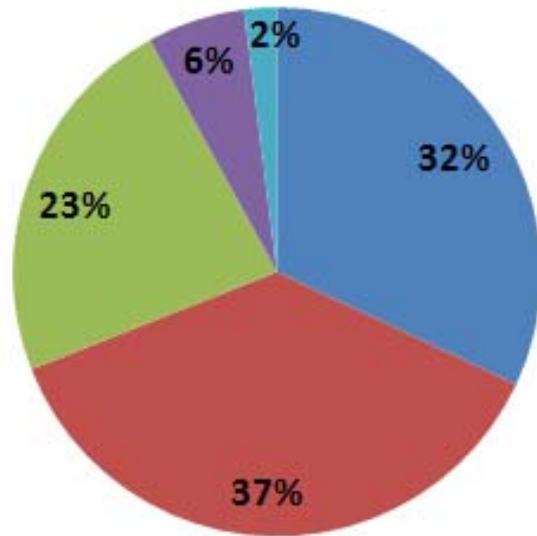
# Demographic Characteristics



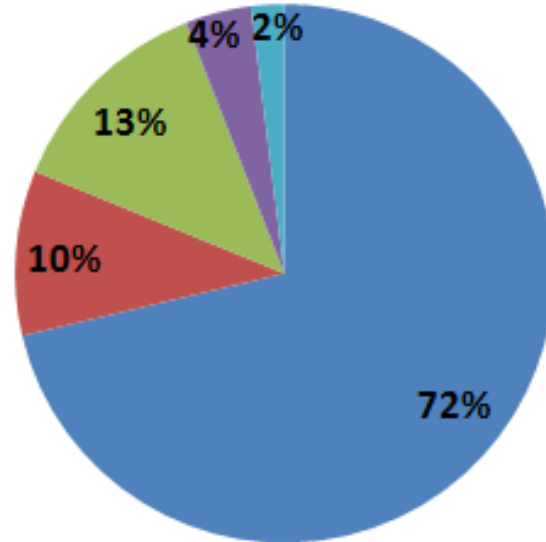
# Percent of Female Residents by Race and Ethnicity, 2008-2010

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## New Haven

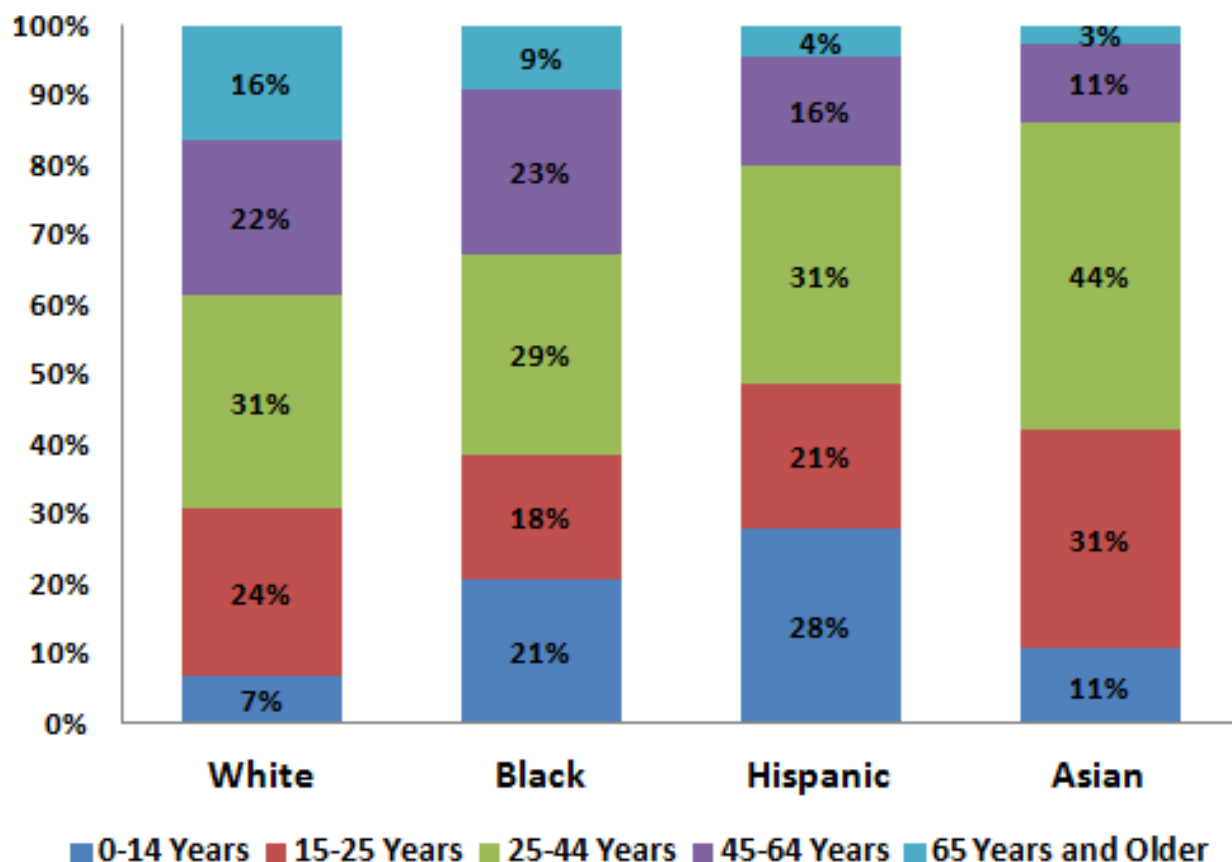


## Connecticut



■ White ■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ Asian ■ Other

## Age Distribution of Women and Girls by Race and Ethnicity in New Haven, 2008-2010



## A Portrait of Women and Girls in New Haven

- More than 68,000 women and girls live in New Haven, comprising 53% of the city's total population.
- The age distribution of women and girls varies considerably by race and ethnicity.
- The female population in the city is older, on average, than the male population.
- Women in New Haven are less likely than men to be married.
- Nearly one in four (23 percent) households in New Haven is headed by a single woman.



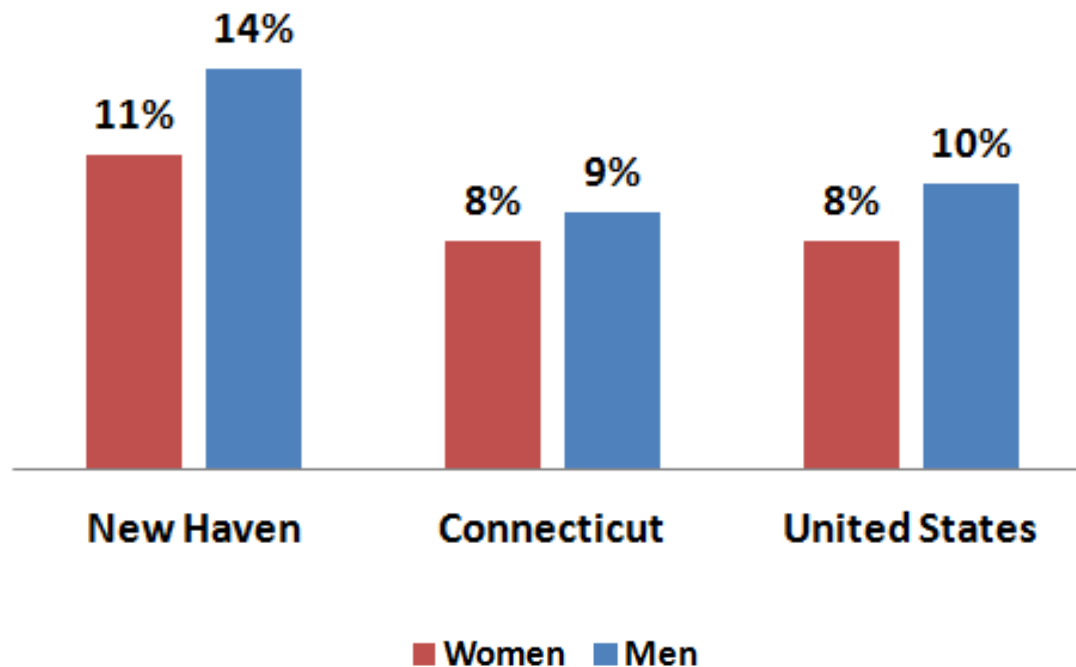


# Employment and Earnings

- ▶ Women's earnings are important to many families' well-being and long-term economic security.
- ▶ 63 % of women aged 16 and older in New Haven are employed or looking for work, and 47% are full-time, year-round workers.
- ▶ Working women in New Haven and the rest of Connecticut will significantly benefit from Connecticut's passage of the first statewide paid sick days law in the United States.
- ▶ 7.9 % of women in New Haven have a disability that limits their work or prevents them from working at all.



## Unemployment Rate for Women and Men in New Haven, Connecticut and the United States, 2008-2010

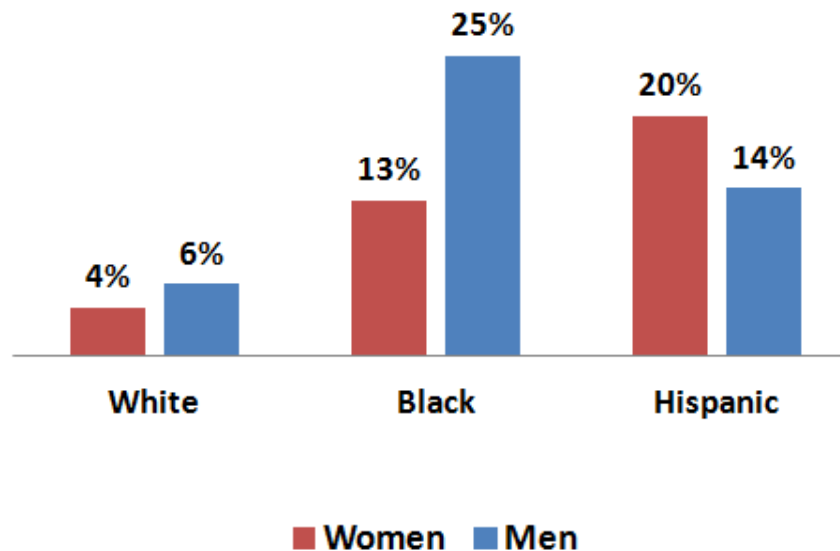


The unemployment rate for both women and men in New Haven is significantly higher than in Connecticut and the United States.



# Unemployment Rate for Women and Men in New Haven, by Race and Ethnicity, 2008-2010

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- ▶ Unemployment in New Haven is particularly high for communities of color.
- ▶ Black men and Hispanic women experience the highest unemployment rates.



# Earnings and the Gender Wage Gap

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## Median Annual Earnings

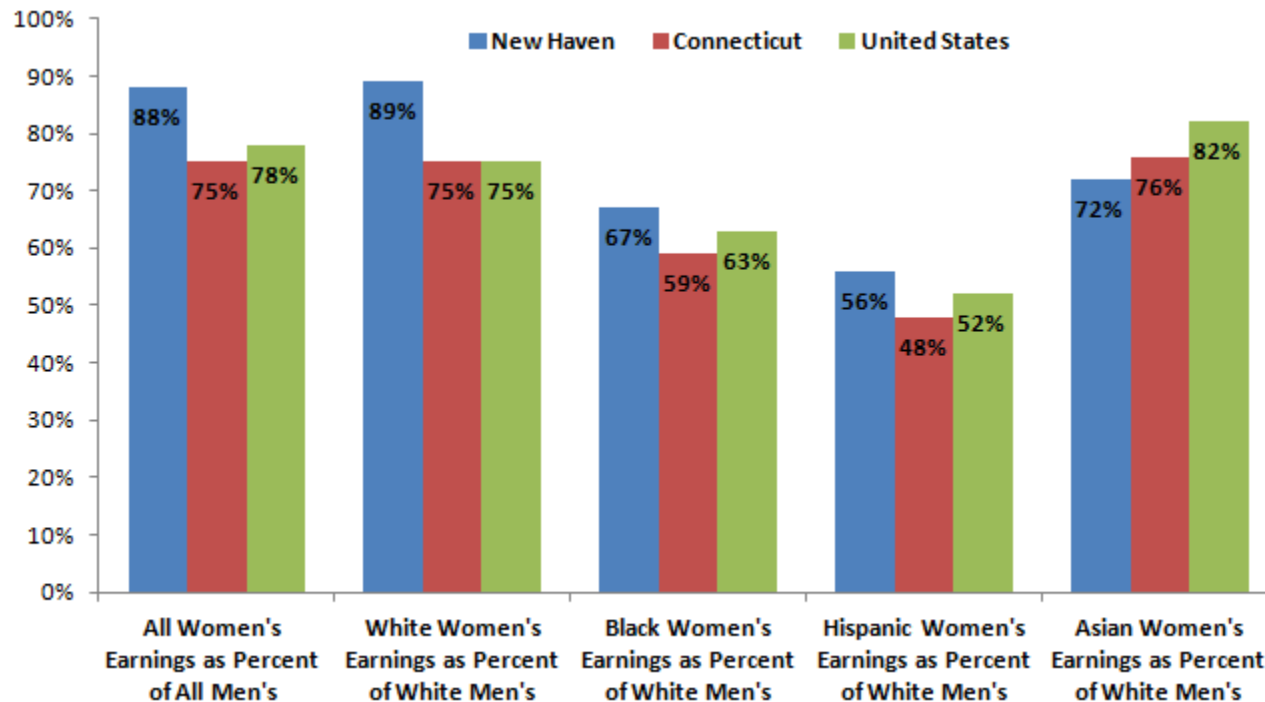
- ▶ All women: \$37, 530
  - ▶ All men: \$42, 433
  - ▶ White women: \$47,585
  - ▶ Asian women: \$38,448
  - ▶ Black women: \$35, 977
  - ▶ Hispanic women: \$30,153
- 
- ▶ On average, women in New Haven earned 88% of men's earnings.

**The gender wage gap in New Haven is smaller than in the United States, mostly because men's earnings in New Haven are considerably lower than in the U.S.**



# Ratio of Women's to Men Full-Time, Year Round Median Annual Earnings by Race and Ethnicity, 2008-2010

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# Occupational Distribution

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- ▶ Women in New Haven, as in the U.S. as a whole, tend to concentrate in lower-paid occupational groups.
- ▶ Hispanic and black women are more likely than white women to work in service occupations.
- ▶ The most common occupations for women in New Haven are sales and office occupations and service occupations.
- ▶ The wage gap in New Haven may be due largely to differences in wages that men and women are paid within similar broad occupational fields.





# Economic Security



# Economic security

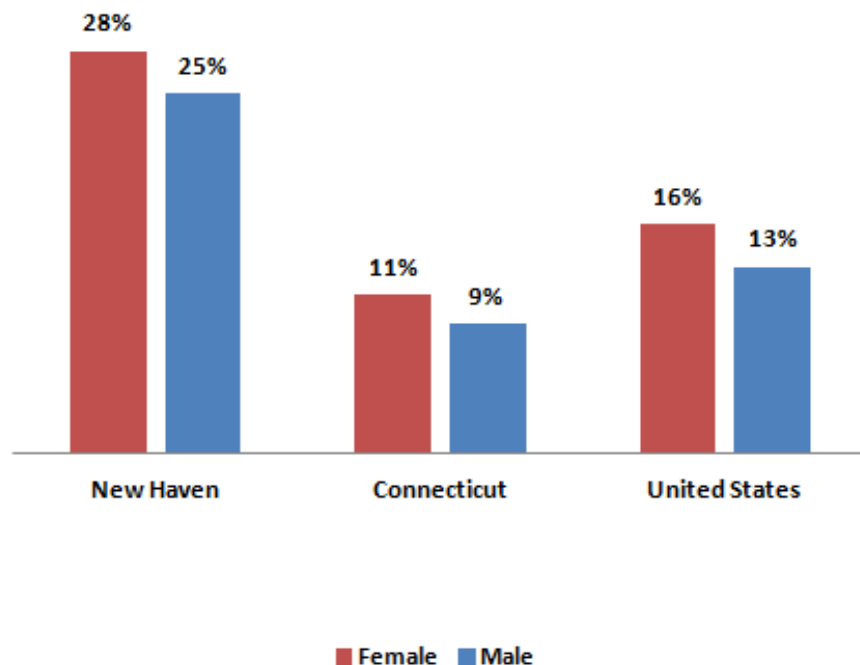
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- ▶ The median annual income for all households in New Haven (\$38,585) is much lower than the median annual income for all households in Connecticut (\$67,067) and the United States (\$51,222).
- ▶ White households in New Haven have the highest income (\$47,860), followed by Asian (\$45,192), black (\$32,096), and Hispanic households (\$28,869).
- ▶ Households headed by single women with children under age 18 have the lowest median income (\$22,660).





## Poverty Rates by Gender in New Haven, Connecticut, and the United States, 2008-2010



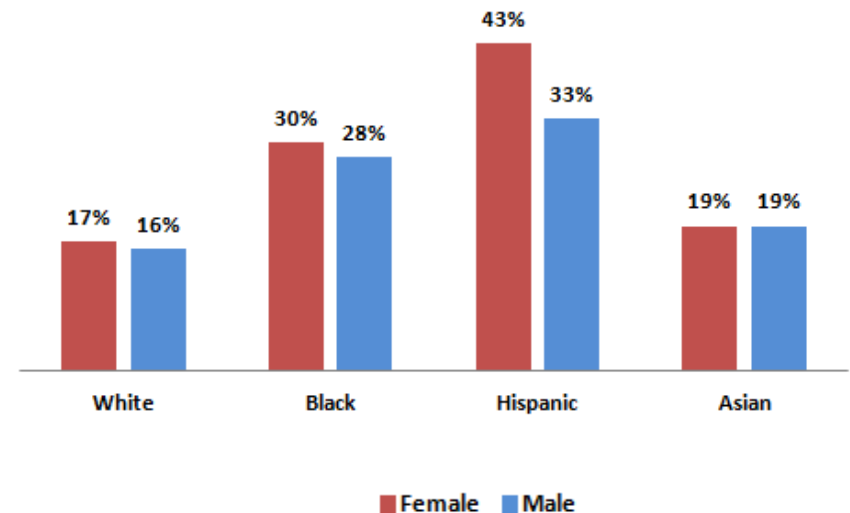
## Poverty

- More than one in four individuals is poor in New Haven and more than half of those living in poverty are female.
- Women in New Haven are more than twice as likely as women in Connecticut as a whole to be poor.
- The federal poverty threshold on which poverty rates are based does not come close to capturing the cost of living for most families.

# Poverty

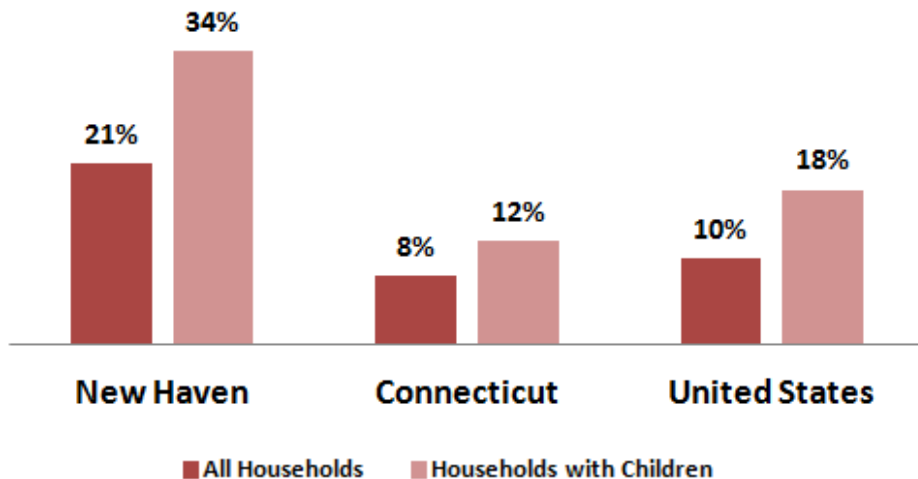
- ▶ Poverty is disproportionately borne by Hispanics and blacks.
- ▶ More than four in ten households headed by single mothers with children under 18 are living in poverty.
- ▶ A slightly higher proportion of female immigrants live in poverty than male immigrants.
- ▶ Older women are more than twice as likely as older men to be poor.

Poverty Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity in New Haven, 2008-2010



# Safety Nets

Percent of all households and households with children receiving food stamps, 2008-2010



- ▶ The proportion of households receiving food stamps varies widely by race.
- ▶ 2% of Asian households, 6% of white households, 30% of black households and 39 % of Hispanic households receive food stamps

# Housing

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- ▶ 30% percent of householders in New Haven own their home compare to 69% in Connecticut and 66% in the United States.
- ▶ More than half (52%) of all households in New Haven spend at least 30% of their monthly income on housing.
- ▶ During a one-year period, 2,185 people, including 711 women, sought services from six emergency shelters in the New Haven area.
- ▶ Female-headed households in New Haven are three times as likely as male-headed households to reside in public housing.





# Education



# Education

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- ▶ One of New Haven greatest challenges is to close the gap between poor and wealthy students.
- ▶ The New Haven Early Childhood Council created an early care education system that serves about 2,700 children by working to improve their access to high quality early childhood care and education.





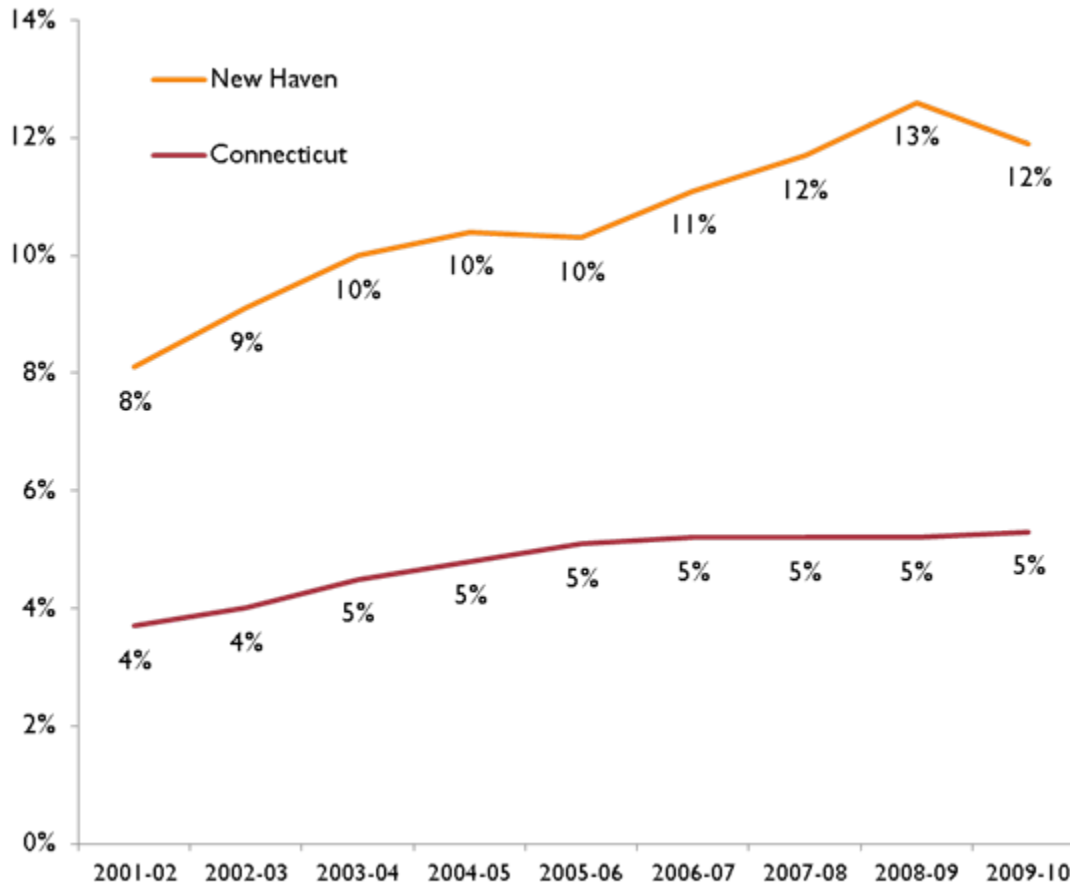
# Academic Achievement

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- ▶ Student performance in the city has improved over the last several years.
- ▶ In New Haven public schools, girls outperform boys in many ways, including scoring higher in nearly every section of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT).
- ▶ Girls have a lower dropout rate than boys in New Haven.
- ▶ In New Haven, girls receive, on average, better SAT scores than boys, but the scores for both girls and boys are below the average scores for Connecticut and the minimum scores required for admission to top universities.



## Percent of English Language Learners in New Haven and Connecticut Public Schools, 2001-2010



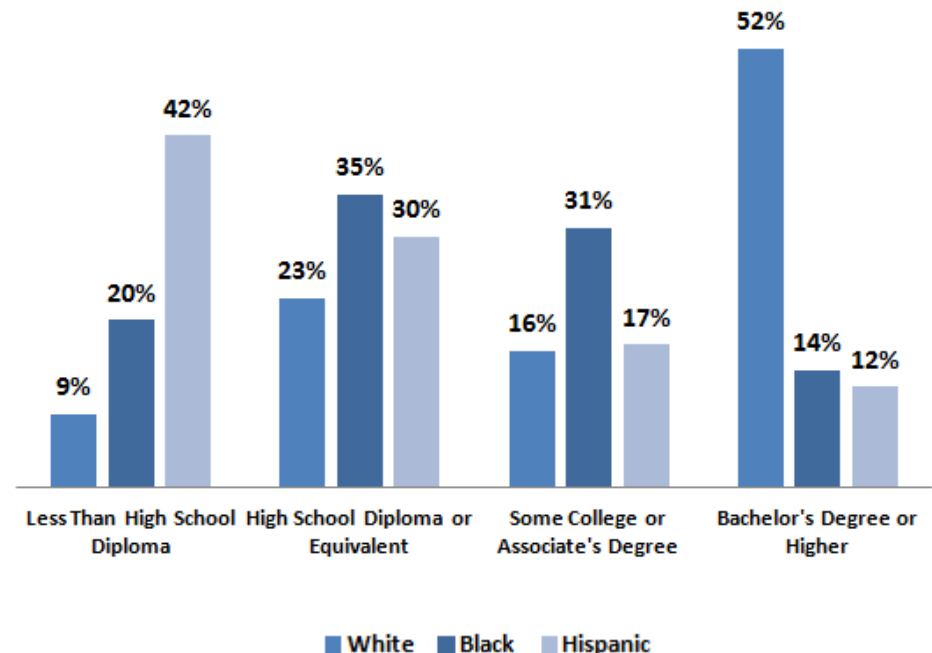
## Challenges

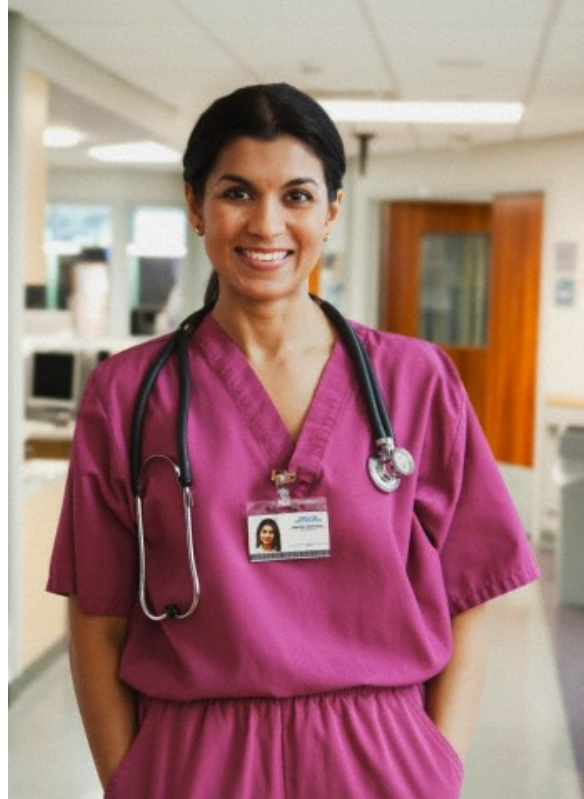
- A relatively high proportion of students' families lack economic security.
- 78% students in New Haven public schools qualify for free lunches compared with only 34% in Connecticut as a whole.
- The number of English Language Learners (ELLs) increased between 2001 and 2010.

# Educational Attainment

- ▶ Women and men in New Haven have similar levels of education.
- ▶ More than half (52%) of white women have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 14% of black women and 12% of Hispanic women.
- ▶ Women in New Haven who do not have high school diploma are 62% more likely than comparable men to live in poverty.

Women's Educational Attainment in New Haven by Race and Ethnicity, 25 years and older, 2008-2010





# Health and Well-Being



# Women's and Girls' Health

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- ▶ When accounting for distributional age differences among women and men, women are less likely to die from heart disease and stroke.
- ▶ Women are more likely than men to have health insurance coverage, although rates of coverage differ by race and ethnicity. Hispanic women are the least likely to have coverage.
- ▶ Black and Hispanic women had higher rates of infant mortality and low birth weight babies and were less likely to receive adequate prenatal care than white women.
- ▶ Asthma is a major concern, especially for adult women.



# Women's and Girls' Health

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White women in New Haven County have a higher incidence rate for ovarian and breast cancer than black and Hispanic women. Hispanic women have the highest incidence rate for cervical cancer.

- ▶ Women in New Haven are more likely to be diagnosed with chlamydia and gonorrhea than their male counterparts.



- ▶ Teens between the age of 10 and 19 make up about four in ten diagnosed cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea.



# Women's and Girls' Health

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- ▶ White women have a higher crude mortality rate (CMR) for heart disease and stroke than black women, while black women have a higher CMR for diabetes.
- ▶ In a survey of children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 47% of girls and 51% of boys were overweight.
- ▶ The number of new HIV/AIDS cases in New Haven has decreased significantly in recent years. In 2010, women made up 32 percent of newly diagnosed cases.



# Health Data in New Haven City

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- ▶ The availability of reliable health data for New Haven City varies, highlighting the need for developing regular data collection that will aid the prioritizing of health issues in New Haven. Particularly pressing gaps in data include information about mental health, addiction, and the adequacy of prenatal health care.





## Crime and Safety

# Crime and Safety

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- ▶ Violent crime in New Haven declined sharply between 1990 and 2000, then rose again between 2000 and 2010, but did not return to 1990 levels.
- ▶ Women are more vulnerable to domestic violence and rape, while men are more likely than women to be homicide victims. 90% of homicide victims in New Haven between 2001 and 2011 were male.
- ▶ Youth violence threatens the safety of many teen girls and boys. Nearly half of girls and 60% of boys in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in New Haven public schools have started fist fights.
- ▶ Many teen mothers speak about the stress of raising their children in an unsafe environment and their desire to provide their children with a secure home.





# Political Participation

## At the ballot box

- ▶ Women are more actively engaged as voters than men. In 2008, more than 19,283 women in New Haven voted in the elections, compared with 13,520 men.
- ▶ A strong majority of female registered voters in New Haven identify with the Democratic party.



## Women's Institutional Resources

Connecticut's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

The Community Fund for Women and Girls at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.



# Women in Elm City Government

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- ▶ Women hold a majority (16 of 30) of seats on the city's legislative body, the Board of Alderman.
- ▶ But they comprise only 40 percent of all occupied posts on the city's boards and commissions.
- ▶ Women make up only 16 percent of those who hold sworn positions in the New Haven police department.



The strong presence of women in New Haven's legislative body provides an opportunity to shape a wide range of legislative initiatives.



International  
Festival of

Arts & Ideas



Creating a brighter future for women  
and girls in New Haven

# Creating a brighter future

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- ▶ Interconnected Barriers
- ▶ Diversity and Disparity
- ▶ The Need for Data



# Public Policy Recommendations

- ▶ Create a commission to provide an organized method of regularly communicating concerns and progress about gender, race, and poverty to city leaders, policymakers, and politicians.
- ▶ Implement a comprehensive health curriculum in the New Haven School District that addresses physical and mental health.
- ▶ Create better mechanisms for data collection and sharing across agencies to track progress for New Haven's women and girls.
- ▶ Make a concerted effort to increase the number of women in positions of leadership.



For more information

<http://iwpr.org/>

