



News Release

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Persistent Child Poverty In Connecticut Contrasts with Encouraging Decrease in the Rate of the Uninsured

Troubling disparities by race and ethnicity persist in both poverty and insurance coverage

While Census data on health insurance coverage reflect the positive impact of changes in national and state policy, data on child poverty raises significant concerns. Despite an increase in state median income, child poverty in the state showed no significant change from 2013 to 2014. So too, significant disparities in well-being persist for state children, with differences reflected by race and ethnicity.

While national data show a decrease in child poverty from 2013 to 2014, there was no significant change in Connecticut's child poverty rate. Nearly 15% of Connecticut children lived below the U.S. Census Bureau's Poverty Threshold in 2014, surviving on an income of less than \$24,008 a year for a family of four. Connecticut's child poverty rates vary dramatically by race and ethnicity: with approximately 6% of non-Hispanic white children lived in poverty in contrast with nearly 31% of black children and over 33% of Hispanic children. The persistence of child poverty contrasts with an increase in state median income from \$67,944 in 2013 to \$70,048 in 2014.

"The 2014 data affirm the power of smart public policy to improve the lives of children and families, as reflected by the encouraging reduction in the rate of the uninsured," said Ellen Shemitz, Executive Director of Connecticut Voices for Children. "Now our state needs to commit to a significant reduction in child poverty and assure equitable opportunities for all of our children. Just as sound public investments can improve the rate of insurance coverage, so too can strategic investments lift families out of poverty and redress racial and ethnic barriers to success."

"Connecticut can be proud of the fact that almost all children in our state are insured and that children, regardless of race or ethnicity, are far less likely to be uninsured than adults," said Sharon Langer, Advocacy Director at Connecticut Voices for Children. "HUSKY health coverage is in large measure responsible for the low rate of un-insurance among children. We need to maintain the positive momentum and work towards ensuring that all children and families have affordable and quality health insurance coverage."

To see a full analysis of our findings please visit our website at www.ctvoices.org.

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