

A TALE OF
DISPROPORTIONATE
BURDEN: The special
needs of Connecticut's
poorer cities

BRIDGEPORT, HARTFORD, NEW HAVEN, & WATERBURY



THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

October 2010



A Tale of Disproportionate Burden: The special needs of Connecticut's poorer cities

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, & Waterbury

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connecticut's large cities are regional hubs for jobs, healthcare and culture. They are also among the poorest in the nation. They face enormous challenges in social services, education, public safety, and revenues:

- The **poverty rates** in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury are **at least twice as high as the rate for the state as a whole**.
- They have more than **half of Connecticut's homeless**.
- These cities experience **much higher unemployment rates** (Hartford - 16.9%, Waterbury - 14.5%, Bridgeport - 14.0%, New Haven - 13.4%) than the state average (9.3%).
- While 30.3 percent of Connecticut's K-12 students are eligible for **free/reduced-price meals**, **over 90 percent are eligible in both Bridgeport and Hartford**. In **New Haven, 73.4 percent** of students are eligible, and in **Waterbury, 74.7 percent** are eligible.
- In Connecticut, 5.2 percent of students learn **English as a second language**. Those numbers are significantly higher in the state's poorer cities: 14.4 percent in Hartford; 13.4 percent in Bridgeport; 12.6 percent in New Haven; and 11.4 percent in Waterbury.
- The **crime rate** for the state as a whole is 2,981 per 100,000 residents. That figure is 10,114 in Hartford, 7,964 in New Haven, 6,379 in Waterbury, and 5,435 in Bridgeport.
- These four cities have **higher equalized mill rates** than the state average (Connecticut mill rate - 14.13, Hartford - 39.42, New Haven - 29.18, Waterbury - 24.35, and Bridgeport - 18.78).

These cities are also the **hubs of major population areas**. They provide everything from **employment to health care to arts and culture**.

- Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury contain **14 percent of the state's population**.
- Almost **100,000 people** commute into these cities for **employment**.
- Bridgeport and Hartford account for **over 40 percent of their respective county's hospital beds**. New Haven and Waterbury together account for **86 percent of the hospital beds in New Haven County**.
- These cities provide **12 percent of all retail food and, beverage sales tax revenues (\$30.5 million)**.

The health of our central cities, their surrounding suburbs, and the state are linked. Despite tough fiscal times, state government has a moral and economic imperative to provide increased assistance to Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury. Strong cities will yield statewide benefits for years to come. As go these cities, so goes Connecticut.

INTRODUCTION

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury are four of Connecticut's largest cities. These cities are regional hubs for jobs, health care, and culture. In the state with the nation's highest per capita income, they are also among the poorest cities in the United States. These four communities bear a disproportionate burden when it comes to paying for and providing services to Connecticut's neediest residents. This report provides statistics that demonstrate this burden.

It's clear that if these cities fail, the suburbs around them will also founder. People won't move their families or businesses to regions without a cultural and work base, and these bases can't be spread out among 15-20 towns. Only a strong central city can provide these anchors. If the central city isn't viable, the only alternative for economic growth will be areas that haven't yet been developed, devouring Connecticut's green space and agricultural communities.

All of Connecticut has a stake in the vitality of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.



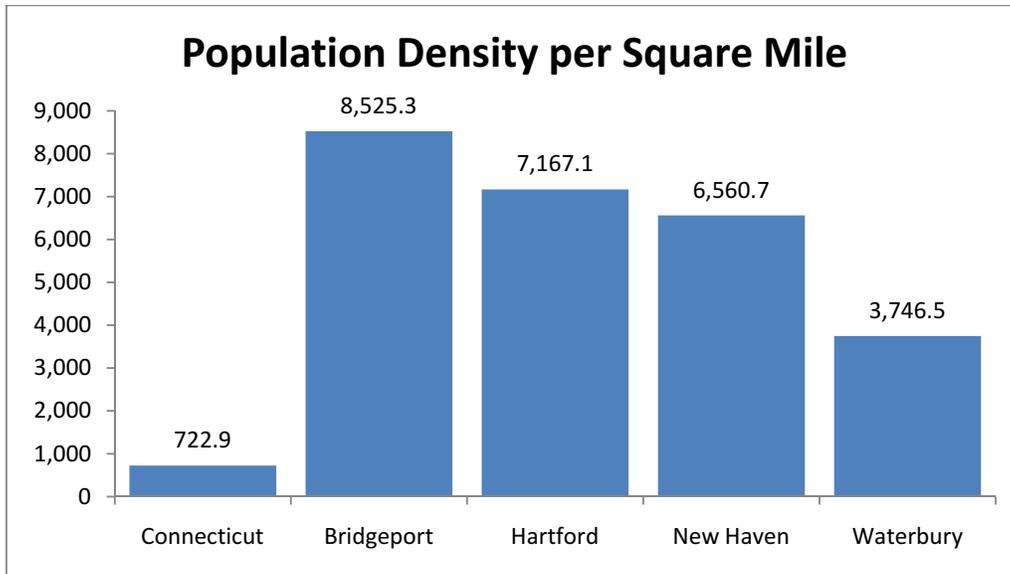
POPULATION

Fourteen percent (491,882 residents) of Connecticut's population resides within these four communities. These cities have very **high population densities** (Bridgeport: 8,525.3 per square mile; Hartford: 7,167.1 per square mile; New Haven: 6,560.7 per square mile; Waterbury: 3,746.5 per square mile) compared to the State average of 722.7 people per square mile.

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent of State's Population</u>
Connecticut	3,518,288	
Bridgeport	137,304	3.90%
Hartford	124,063	3.53
New Haven	123,314	3.50%
Waterbury	107,141	3.05%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN



Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Municipal Fiscal Indicators, 2004-2008

CENTERS OF EMPLOYMENT

Close to 100,000 Connecticut residents commute daily to Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury for their employment. This figure **does not include the 79,443 residents of these four cities that also work in their hometown**. Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury are **home to 27,985 businesses** of different shapes and sizes (New Haven: 8,983; Hartford: 8,602; Bridgeport: 5,527; Waterbury: 4,873).¹

Number of Commuters into Bridgeport from:	
Stratford	3,997
Shelton	2,563
Trumbull	2,288
Fairfield	2,244
Milford	2,115
Monroe	1,180
Stamford	995
Norwalk	795
West Haven	763
Total Commuters:	16,940

Number of Commuters into Hartford from:	
West Hartford	8,116
Manchester	5,200
East Hartford	4,859
Wethersfield	3,576
Windsor	3,493
Newington	3,342
Glastonbury	3,316
New Britain	3,088
Bloomfield	2,730
Total Commuters:	37,720

Number of Commuters into New Haven from:	
Hamden	7,829
West Haven	5,364
Branford	3,701
East Haven	3,577
North Haven	2,864
Guilford	2,213
Wallingford	2,210
Milford	2,014
North Branford	1,402
Total Commuters:	31,174

Number of Commuters into Waterbury from:	
Watertown	2,385
Naugatuck	2,162
Wolcott	1,978
Cheshire	1,105
New Haven	1,075
Prospect	1,003
Middlebury	747
Southington	704
Meriden	685
Total Commuters:	11,844

Source: Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Town Profiles, 2010

¹Reference USA: www.referenceusa.com, 2010 data.

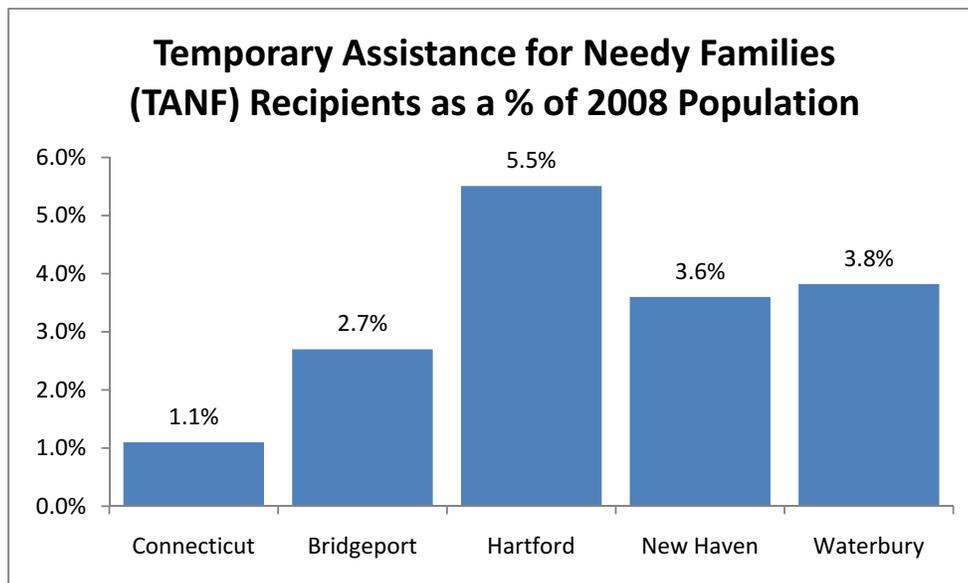
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CENTERS OF REGIONAL SERVICES

These cities **provide a multitude of services** to the regions that surround them. Each is home to hospitals that provide care to the people throughout their metropolitan areas - and the attendant doctors, therapists, and other treatment professionals that work at or near those facilities.

Hartford's three **tax-exempt hospitals** are home to 1,559 of the 2,642 (59%) beds in Hartford County. New Haven's two tax-exempt hospitals are home to 1,411 of the 2,487 (57%) beds in New Haven County, while Waterbury's two tax-exempt hospitals are home to 716 of the 2,487 (29%) beds. Bridgeport's two tax-exempt hospitals are home to 816 of the 1,954 (42%) beds in Fairfield County.² These four cities are also home to **tax-exempt colleges and universities**.

Most significantly, perhaps, is that these cities **provide social services for the neediest people in the state**. As shown below, **Hartford, Bridgeport New Haven, and Waterbury have a disproportionate share of Connecticut's poor**. Of the total Connecticut population, 1.1 percent receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Yet, in Hartford, 5.5 percent of the population are TANF recipients, the highest percentage in the state. In Waterbury, 3.8 percent are TANF recipients, while those numbers are 3.6 percent and 2.7 percent for New Haven and Bridgeport, respectively.



Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, *Municipal Fiscal Indicators 2004-2008*

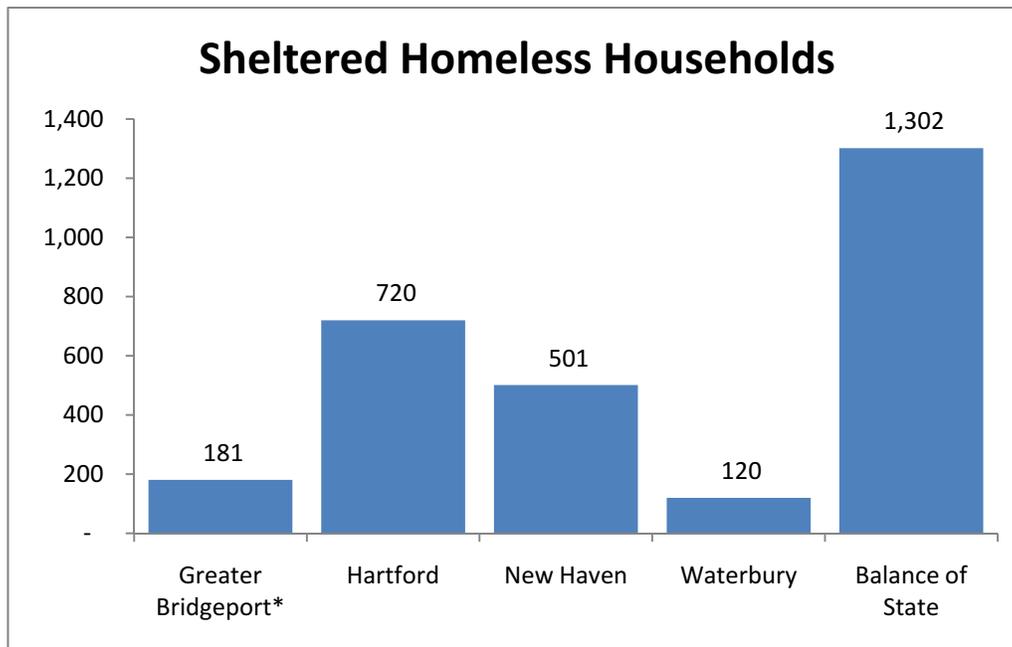
This means that Connecticut's cities have services in place like **emergency shelters** and **food pantries** to help those most in need. **The cities also tend to be the location of other kinds of non-profit, tax-exempt service providers, such as half-way houses for drug abusers and people released from prison.** We do not know how many tax-exempt state agency facilities

² Source: Connecticut Economic Resource Center, *Town Profiles, 2010*.

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facilities are concentrated in the cities because the State has never done a comprehensive inventory of where they are, despite a state legislative report from the early 1990s recommending one.

These cities care for Connecticut's worst-off citizens, alleviating much of the burden on the surrounding region. One such group is homeless people. A study by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness produced a snapshot of homelessness. In January 2009, there were an estimated 2,824 sheltered households statewide. Of those, 720 (26%) were located in Hartford, 501 (18%) were located in New Haven, 181 (6%) were located in Greater Bridgeport, and 120 (4%) were located in Waterbury. That means **more than half of Connecticut's homeless households were in these four cities.**



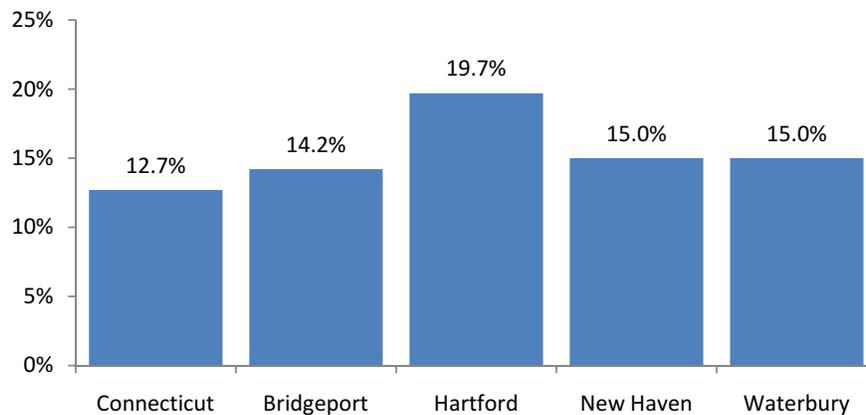
Source: Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, *Connecticut Counts 2009*

*The report does not list numbers for Bridgeport specifically.

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury also care for a higher percentage than the state average of **persons classified as having disabilities**. The state has 12.7 percent of non-institutionalized population with disability status. That number is 19.7 percent in Hartford, 15 percent in New Haven and Waterbury, and 14.2 percent in Bridgeport.

ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

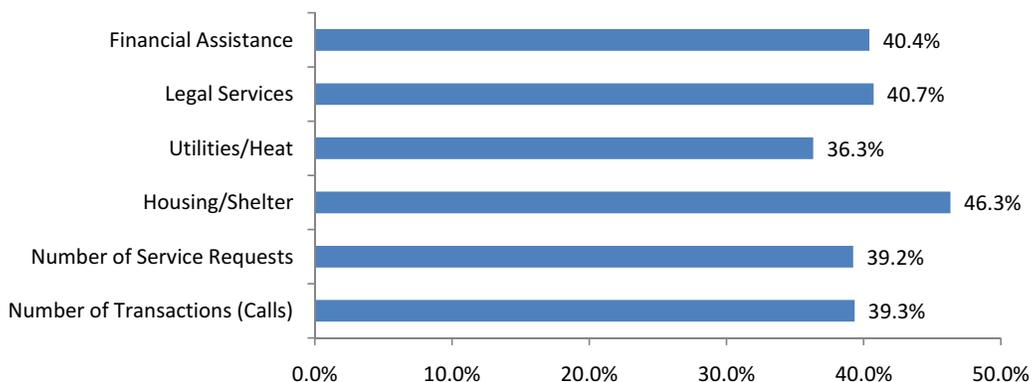
Percent of Non-institutionalized Population with Disability Status



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007

The **2-1-1 service** from United Way provides Connecticut residents with free information about community services, referrals to human services, and crisis intervention. Their reports illustrate the demand that exists in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury for services. Of the 2009 calls for the most frequent service requests in Connecticut, more than one-third came from residents of the four big cities.

2-1-1 Calls from Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury as a % of Total Connecticut Calls



Source: 2-1-1 Five Year Report, 2009

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CENTERS OF CULTURE

Everybody likes to live in a nice place. When families or friends visit we like to show them the amenities of our area - the restaurants, museums, theaters and other cultural activities that help define the quality of life in a region. **Connecticut's cities are cultural centers.** It is not the same to have such amenities spread around a large area - only the "center of the wheel" can give a cultural identity to a region, not its spokes.

Connecticut is in a battle to keep young people in the state. Vital cities help support this goal. When downtown areas are bustling at night with restaurants and clubs it creates an excitement and vibrancy that is impossible in strip shopping centers. This night life also supports sales and use tax revenues. In fact, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury's retail sales from food services and drink (\$528.6 million) account for approximately 12 percent (\$30.5 million) of the annual sales and use tax due in this category.³

Hartford's Wadsworth Athenaeum, the nation's first public museum, is one of the most respected art museums in the country. The same is true for the Yale museums: The Yale Center for British Art, Yale Peabody Museum, and Yale University Art Gallery cater to 400,000 visitors annually.⁴ The 12 tax-exempt colleges and universities in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven attract many public cultural and academic events for all Connecticut residents. The Yale Repertory Theater, Long Wharf Theater and the Hartford Stage Company have national reputations for excellence. Long Wharf Theater entertains over 90,000 guests in its audiences each year.

Bridgeport's Beardsley Zoo, the only one of its kind in Connecticut, sees approximately 250,000 visitors per year, approximately 15,000 of them from states other than Connecticut.⁵ Waterbury's Palace Theater hosts 113,000 paid attendees, while its Seven Angels Theater was named a "Best In Connecticut" winner by Connecticut Magazine in 2010.⁶

The oldest state house in America is in Hartford. Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; and The Prince and the Pauper were all written in his Hartford home which stands as a museum today. Approximately 65,000 people visit the Mark Twain House annually. On average, 80 percent of these visitors come from outside of Connecticut. New Haven, America's first planned city, is home to the first hamburger sandwich, first cotton gin, and what many consider to be America's best pizzerias.⁸

Ten percent (171,023) of all jobs in Connecticut are in Connecticut's culture and tourism industries. This industry yields \$1.715 billion (6.9% of the State and local total) in State and local revenue. Arts, film, history and tourism generate more than \$9 billion (5.7% of the State total) in personal income for Connecticut residents.⁹



³ Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, Retail Sales by Town Reports, 2009.

⁴ Arts Council of Greater New Haven Data, 2010.

⁵ Beardsley Zoo Data, 2010.

⁶ Palace Theater Annual Report 2007-08 and sevenangelstheater.org

⁷ The Mark Twain House and Museum Data, 2010.

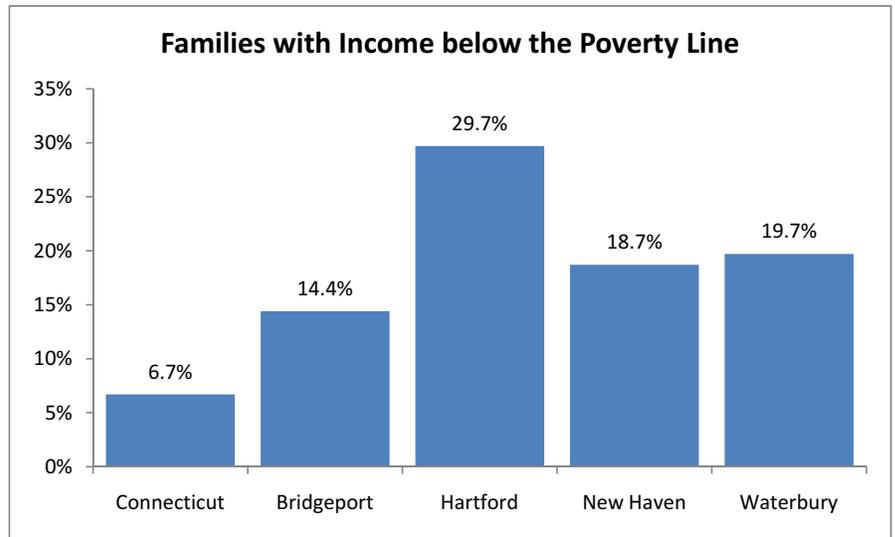
⁸ Connecticut's Visitor's Guide: www.visitnewhaven.com, 2010.

⁹ Carstensen, Fred. Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, 2006.

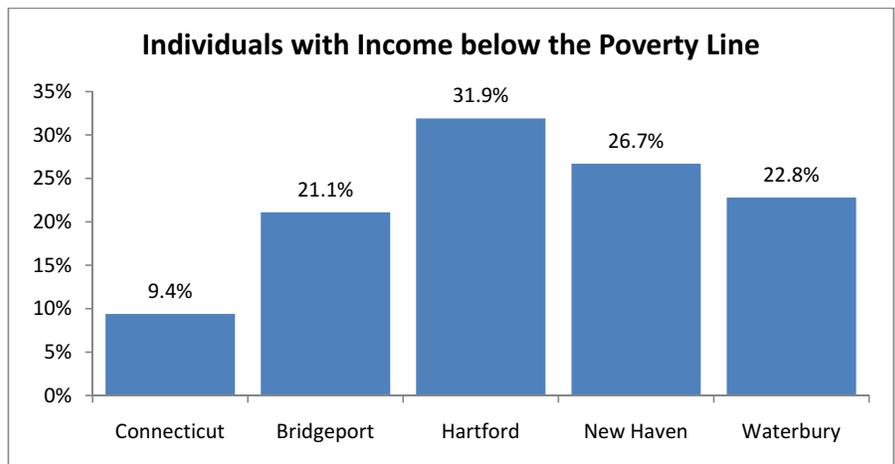
ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

POVERTY CHALLENGES

Connecticut as a whole has the third lowest poverty rate in the nation for families (6.7%). However, the poverty rates in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury for families are at least **twice as high as the state average**. Statistics for individuals and families living below the poverty level, and children under eighteen living in poverty, are below.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

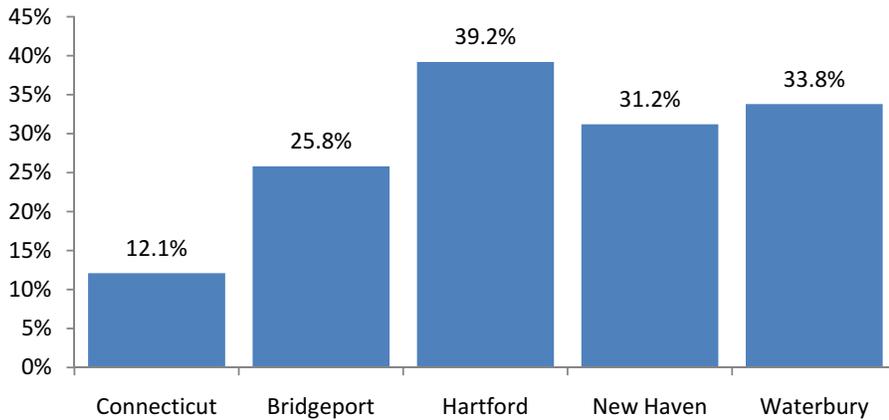


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

While 28.7 percent of Connecticut’s K-12 students are eligible for **free/reduced-price meals**, over 90 percent are eligible in both Bridgeport and Hartford. In Waterbury, 74.7 percent of students are eligible, and in New Haven, 73.4 percent are eligible.

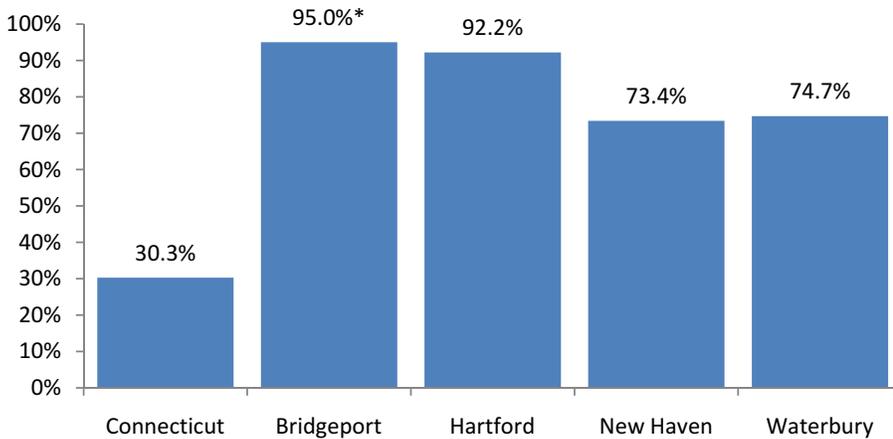
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Children under 18 Living in Poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

K-12 Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals



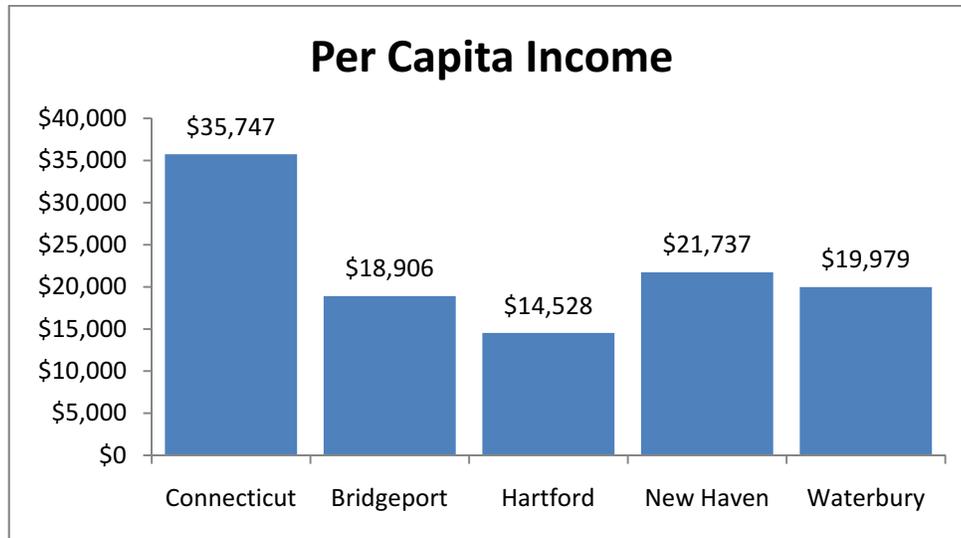
Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, Strategic School Profiles, 2008-2009

*Bridgeport profile lists percentage as ">95."



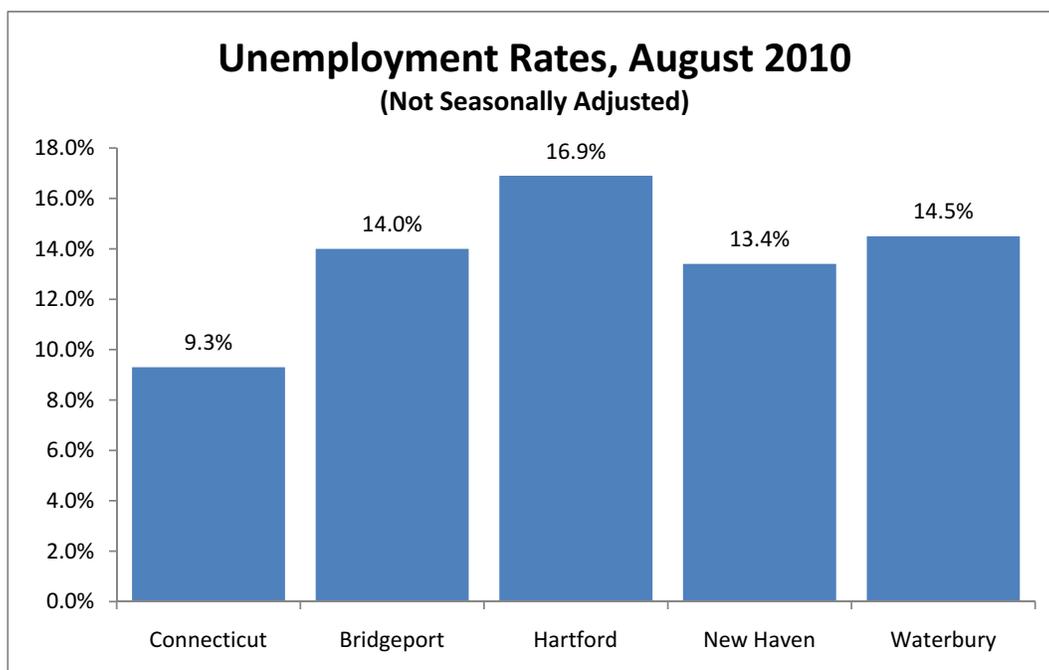
Connecticut ranks first in the nation in per capita income, at \$35,747, yet residents of our larger cities consistently report sharply lower incomes than the average. In New Haven, per capita income is \$21,737, while it is \$19,979, \$18,906, and \$14,528 in Waterbury, Bridgeport and Hartford, respectively.

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Source: US Census Bureau, America Community Survey, 2009

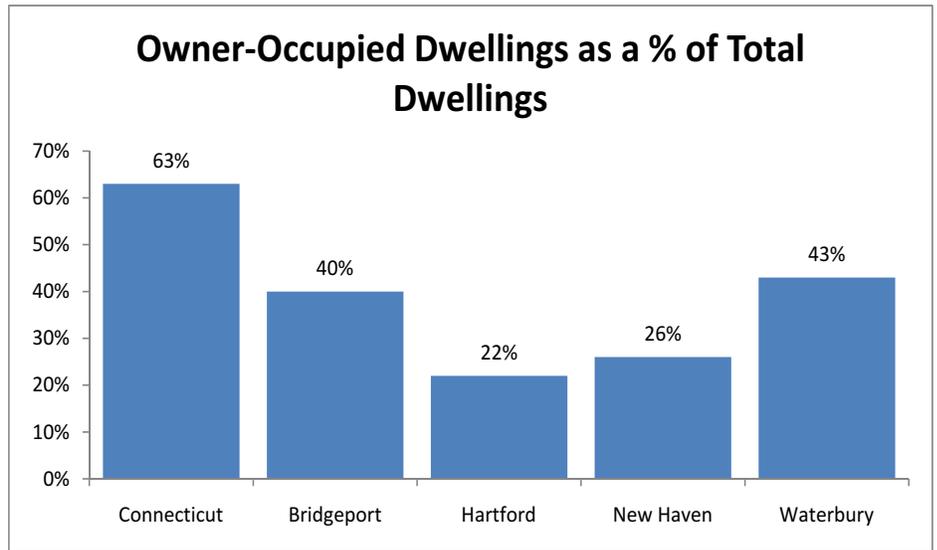
These cities experience **higher unemployment rates** (Hartford - 16.9%, Waterbury - 14.5%, Bridgeport - 14.0%, New Haven - 13.4%) than the State average (9.3%). They also maintain lower percentages of owner-occupied properties (Waterbury - 43%, Bridgeport - 40%; New Haven - 26%; Hartford - 22%) than the State average (63%).



Source: Connecticut Department of Labor, September 2010

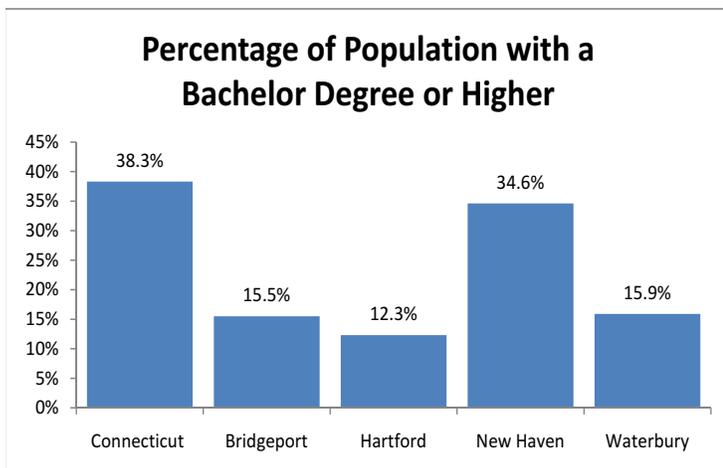
ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

When compared to the rest of the state, **the four cities have a lower percentage of owner-occupied dwellings.**

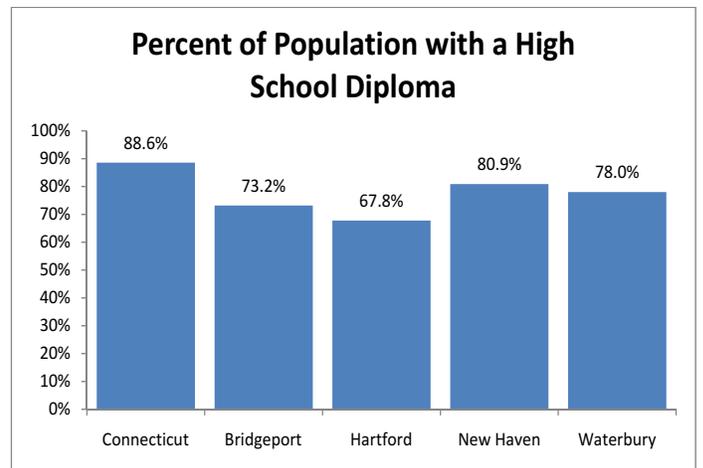


Source: CERC Town Profiles, 2010

When compared to the rest of the state, the cities have **fewer residents that are high school graduates and fewer graduates with higher degrees.** Over 38 percent of state residents have earned a bachelor degree or higher. That number is 34.6 percent for residents in New Haven, 15.9 percent in Waterbury, 15.5 percent in Bridgeport, and 12.3 percent in Hartford.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009



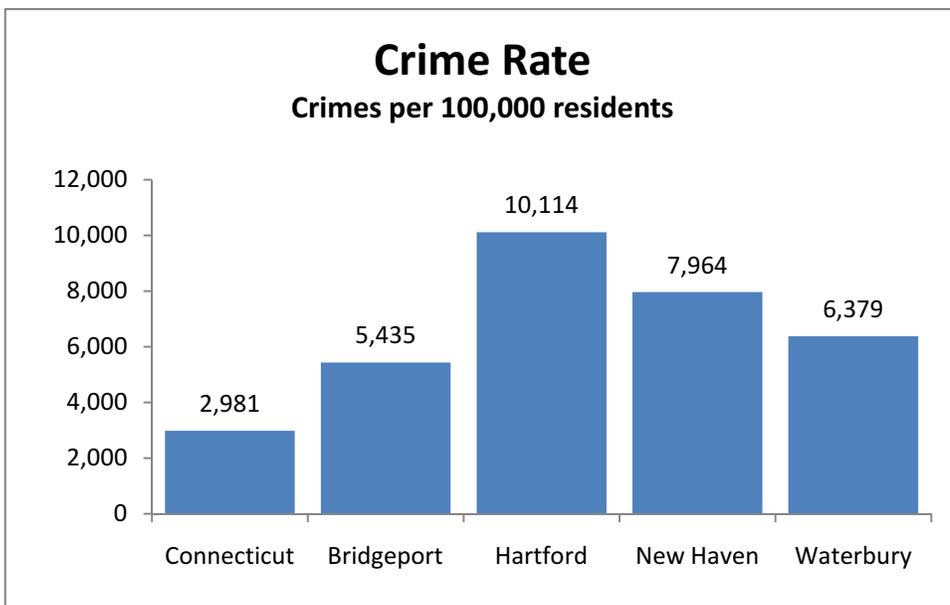
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009

ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

CRIME RATE CHALLENGES

In Connecticut, 87 municipalities (51%) have their own local police departments. The remaining 82 (49%) towns are under the jurisdiction of the State Police¹⁰, either directly or through the Resident State Trooper Program.

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury report **higher crime rates than the state average**. The crime rate for the state as a whole is 2,981 per 100,000 residents. That figure is 10,114 in Hartford, 7,964 in New Haven, and 6,379 in Waterbury, and 5,435 in Bridgeport.



Source: Connecticut Economic Resource Center Inc, Town Profiles, 2010



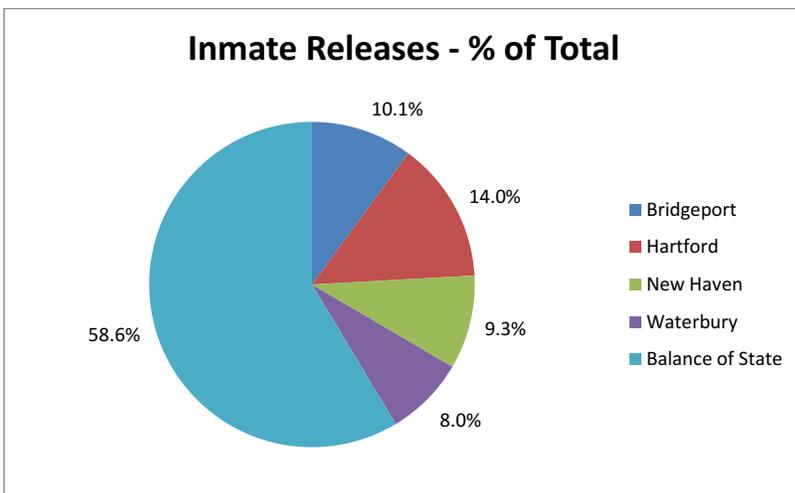
The Connecticut Uniform Crime Reports indicate that in 2008, 60.4 percent of all robbery incidents in Connecticut occurred in these four cities. Other crime statistics follow suit: 51.3 percent of aggravated assaults; 62.5 percent of murders; 47.8 percent of motor vehicle thefts; 30.5 percent of burglaries; 27.6 percent of larcenies; and 29.8 percent of rape incidents in Connecticut occurred in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.

These statistics are not an indictment of the four cities. Public safety must compete with education, social services, and public works for scarce resources.

¹⁰ Connecticut State Police Department, 2009

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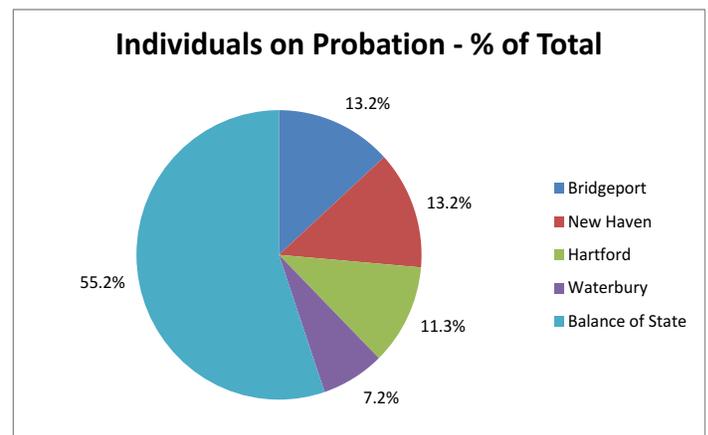
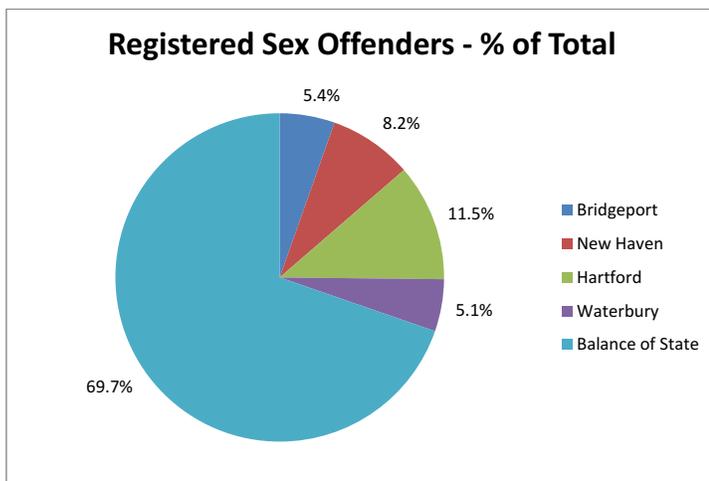
In 2009, over 15,000 inmates were released from Connecticut correctional facilities. Of that total, over 41 percent were released to these four cities. Hartford received 2,114 individuals (14% of the total), Bridgeport received 1,521 individuals (10.1%), New Haven received 1,405 (9.3%), and Waterbury received 1,198 (8.0%).



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction, 2009

These cities contain a significant share of the over 5,000 registered sex offenders in Connecticut. Almost one-third (30.3%) of these individuals live in the four cities (Hartford - 11.5%, New Haven - 8.2%, Bridgeport - 5.4%, Waterbury - 5.1%).

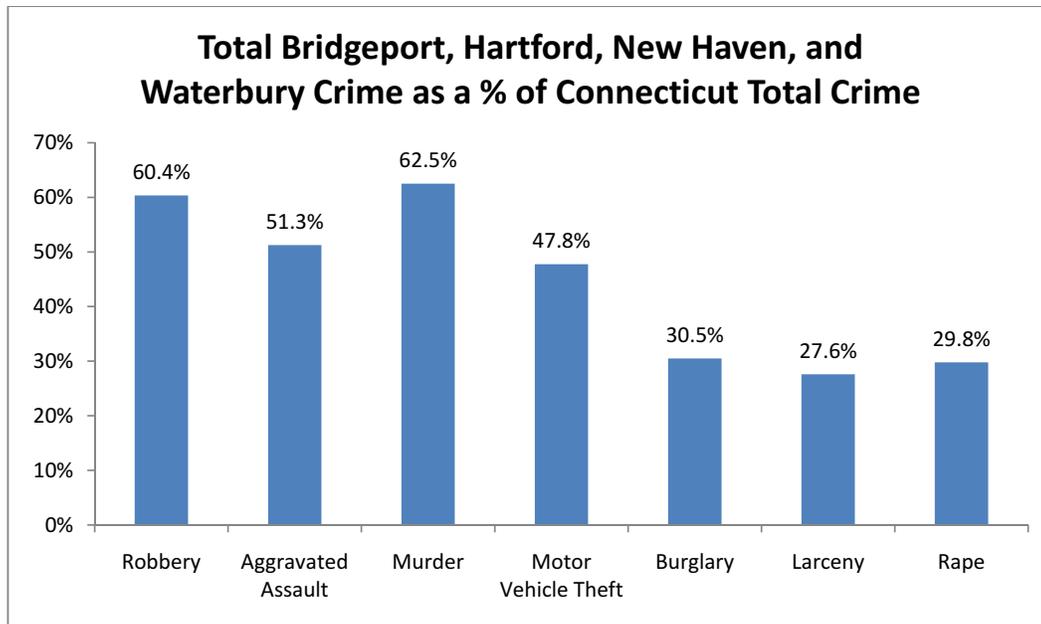
There are over 29,000 individuals on probation in Connecticut, and these four cities are home to 44.8 percent of them. Bridgeport and New Haven each have 13.2 percent of the probationers, while Hartford and Waterbury have 11.3 and 7.2 percent, respectively.



Source: Office of Policy and Management, 2010

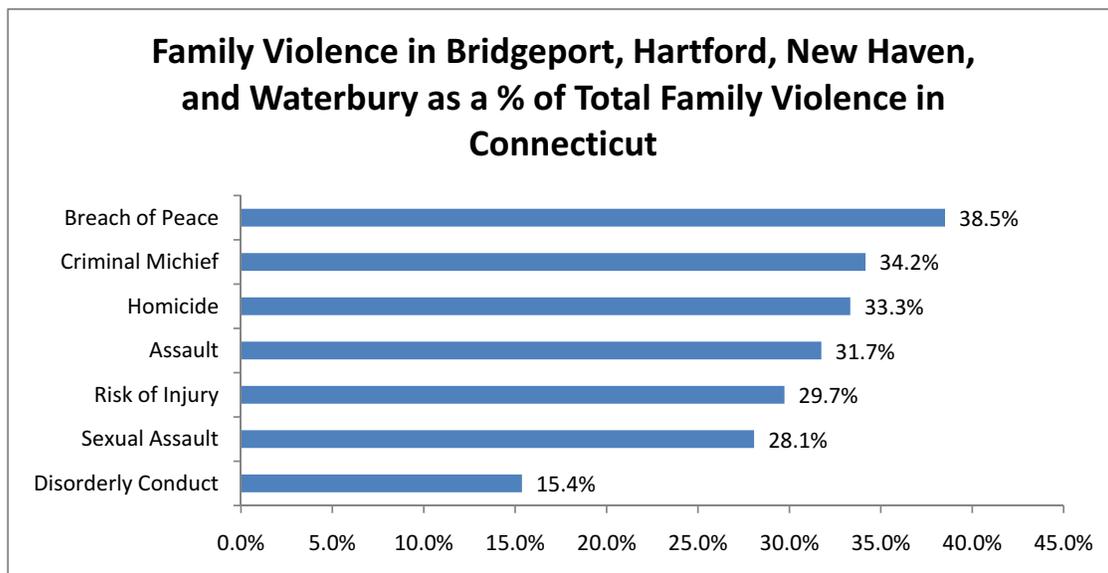
Source: Office of Policy and Management, 2010

A TALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN



Source: Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports, 2008

Similarly, **family violence** incidents in these four cities account for a large percentage of the arrests in Connecticut. This includes 38.5 percent of breaches of peace, 34.2 percent of criminal mischief incidents, 33.3 percent of homicides, 31.7 percent of assaults, 29.7 percent of sexual assaults, 28.1 percent of risks of injury, and 15.4 percent of disorderly conduct incidents.

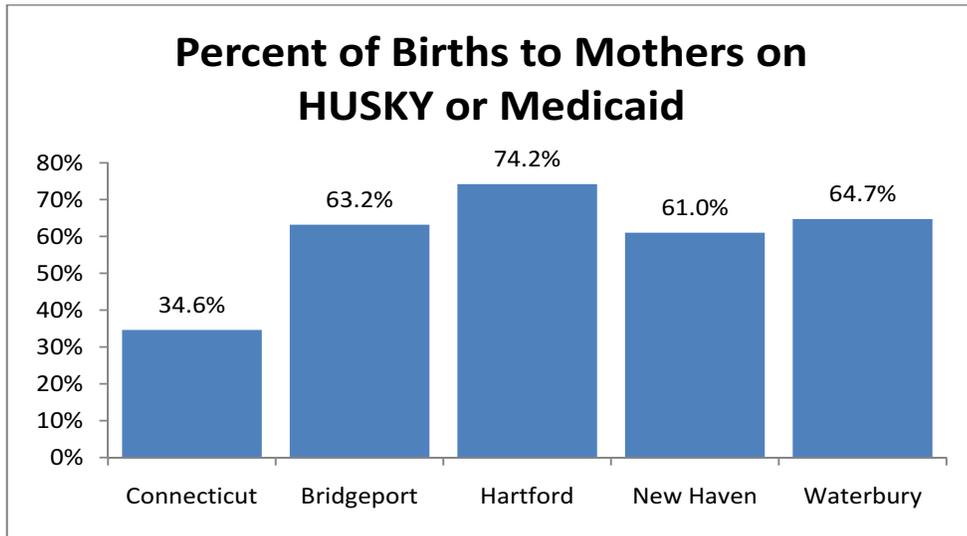


Source: Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Family Violence Arrests, 2009

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HEALTH CHALLENGES

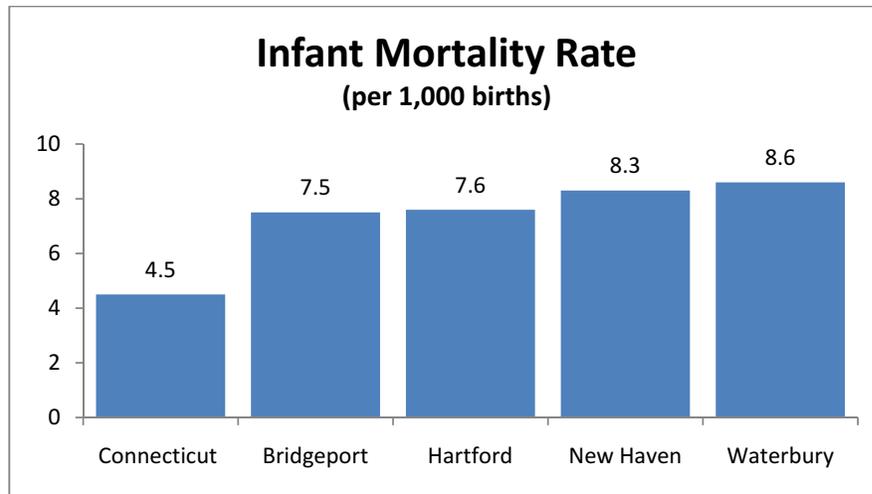
Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury also face health demographics that differ markedly from the state average. The number of births to mothers on the HUSKY or Medicaid programs is about twice as high as the state average (Hartford - 74.2%, Waterbury - 64.7%, Bridgeport - 63.2%, New Haven - 61%). These cities also suffer higher infant mortality rates, higher rates of diabetes, and higher rates of asthma. For example, while the infant mortality rate is 4.5 per 1,000 births for the state, Waterbury has an infant mortality rate of 8.6 per 1,000 births, nearly double the state average. New Haven's rate is 8.3, Hartford's rate is 7.6, and Bridgeport's rate is 7.5 per 1,000 births.



Source: CT Voices for Children, Births to Mothers with HUSKY Program and Medicaid Coverage, June 2009

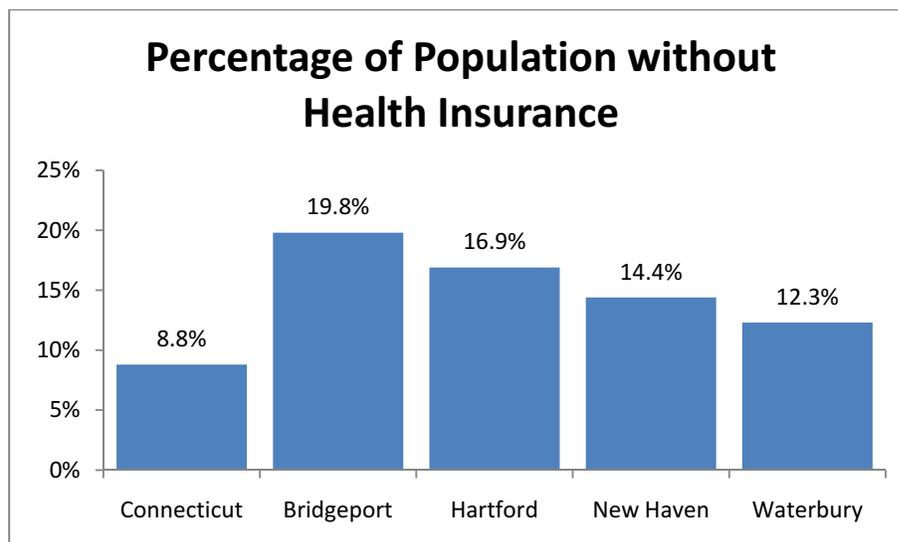


ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN



Source: CERC, Town Profiles, 2010

The number of **people in these cities without health insurance is also significantly higher than the state average.** In Connecticut, 8.8 percent of the population is uninsured. That number is 19.8 percent in Bridgeport, 16.9 percent in Hartford, 14.4 percent in New Haven, and 12.3 percent in Waterbury.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009

A TALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

EDUCATION CHALLENGES

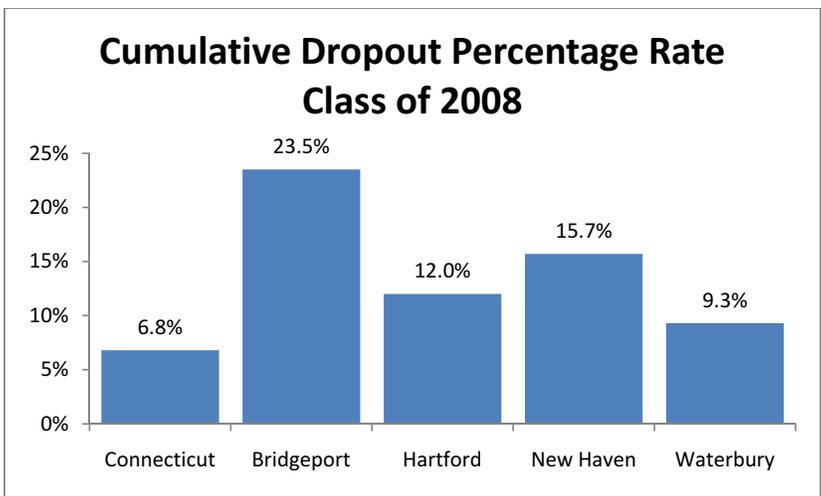
Fourteen percent (78,842 students) of Connecticut’s K-12 public school students are enrolled in the Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury school systems.¹¹

In Connecticut, 5.4 percent of students learn **English as a second language**. Those numbers are significantly higher in the state’s larger cities: 14.4 percent in Hartford; 13.4 percent in Bridgeport; 12.6 percent in New Haven, and 11.4 percent in Waterbury.

Connecticut	5.2%
Bridgeport	13.4%
Hartford	14.4%
New Haven	12.6%
Waterbury	11.4%

Source: CT State Dept of Education, CEDAR, 2008-09

When compared to the rest of the state, **the cities have higher drop-out rates**. The statewide drop-out rate is 6.8 percent. That number is 23.5 percent in Bridgeport, 15.7 percent in New Haven, 12.0 percent in Hartford, and 9.3 percent in Waterbury.



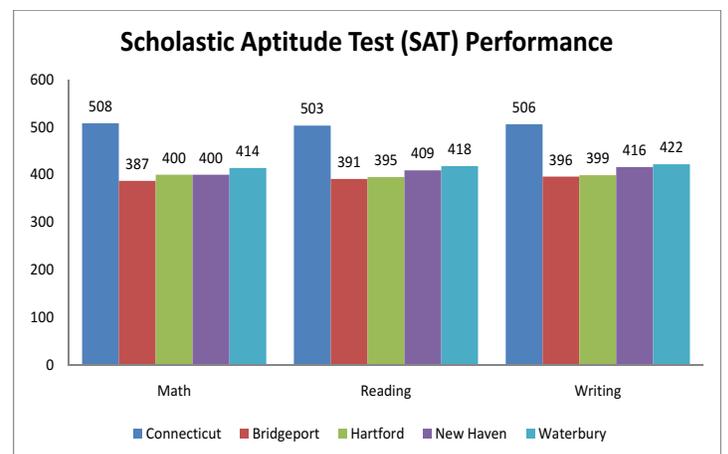
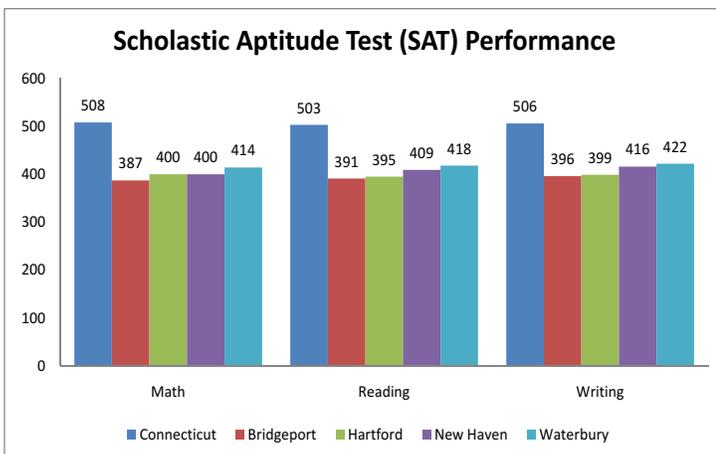
Source: CT State Dept of Education, CEDAR, 2008

Students in these four cities generally **perform below the Connecticut average on the academic performance tests**. For example, the average SAT performance in the state is 508 in math, 503 in reading, and 506 in writing. Waterbury’s scores are 414 in math, 418 in reading, and 422 in writing. New Haven students average 400 in math, 409 in reading, and 416 in writing.

¹¹ Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Grants Management, 2008-09 Data

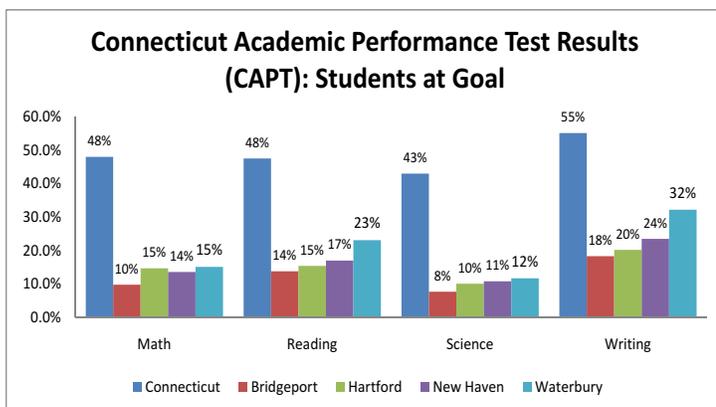
A TALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

Hartford students' SAT averages are 400 in math, 395 in reading, and 399 in writing. Bridgeport students average 387 in math, 391 in reading, and 396 in writing.



Source: CT State Dept of Education, CEDAR, 2008-09

Source: CT State Dept of Education, CEDAR, 2008-09



Source: CT State Dept of Education, CEDAR, 2008-09



REVENUE CHALLENGES

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury face a multitude of revenue challenges including a high percentage of property that is exempt -- by state mandate -- from property taxation. These tax-exempt properties include colleges, hospitals, and state-owned property, which affects the equalized net grand list (ENGL) per capita.

ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

Percentage of Property Exempt from Property Taxation

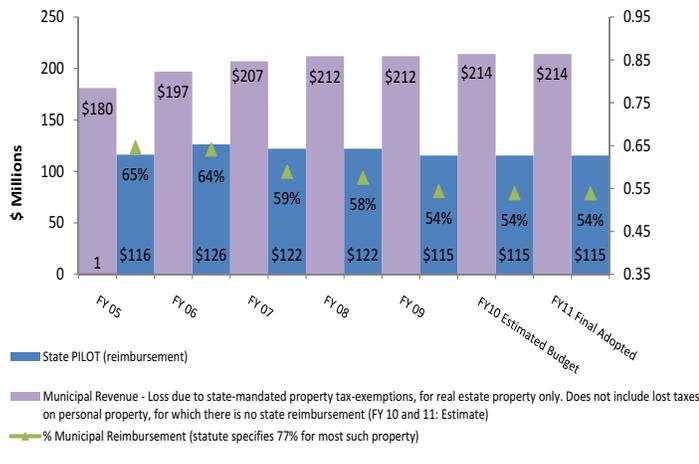
New Haven	47%
Hartford	44%
Bridgeport	35%
Waterbury	32%

Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

The State provides payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) reimbursements to municipalities for **revenue lost due to some state-mandated property tax exemptions**. These grants **reimburse for only a portion of lost real estate property tax revenue and have been flat for the last few years**. There is **no reimbursement for lost personal-property tax revenue**.

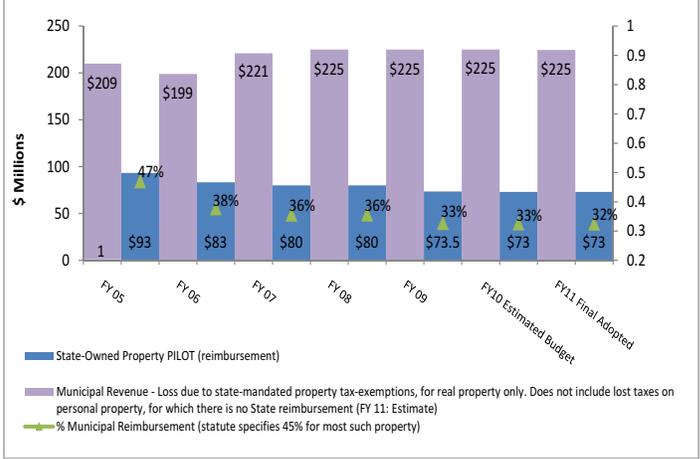
The reimbursement rate is estimated to be 54 percent for colleges and hospitals and 32 percent for state-owned property. State statutes set reimbursement goals of 77 percent on college and hospital property and 45 percent on state-owned property (with the exception of prisons, which are supposed to be reimbursed at 100%).

PILOT: Private Colleges and Hospital Property



Source: Adopted State Budgets, CCM Calculations

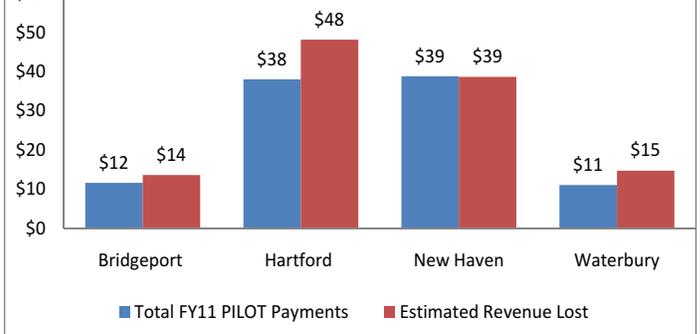
PILOT: State-Owned Property



Source: Adopted State Budgets, CCM Calculations

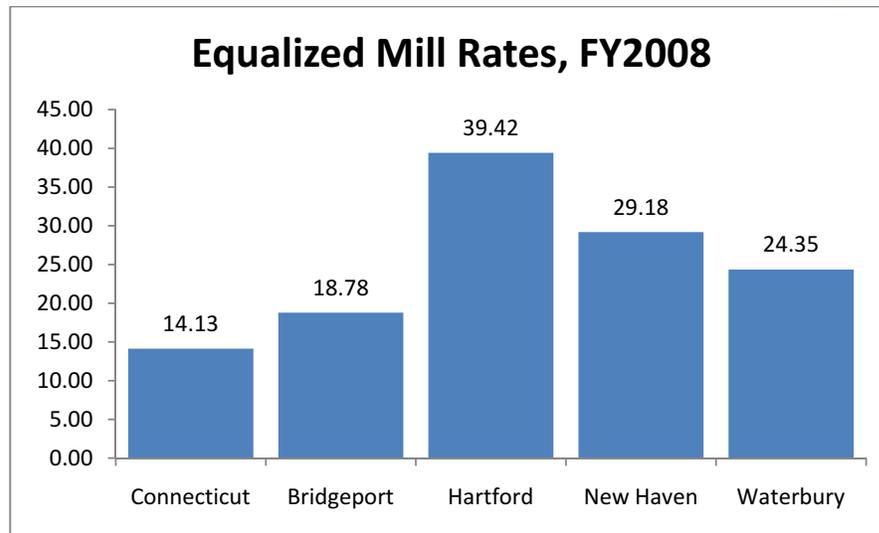
Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury lose at least \$115 million in property tax revenue due to these state-mandated exemptions and low reimbursement rates. This total represents lost taxes on real property only and **does not include revenue lost on personal property**.

PILOT Payments and Estimated Revenue Lost, FY2011 (millions \$)



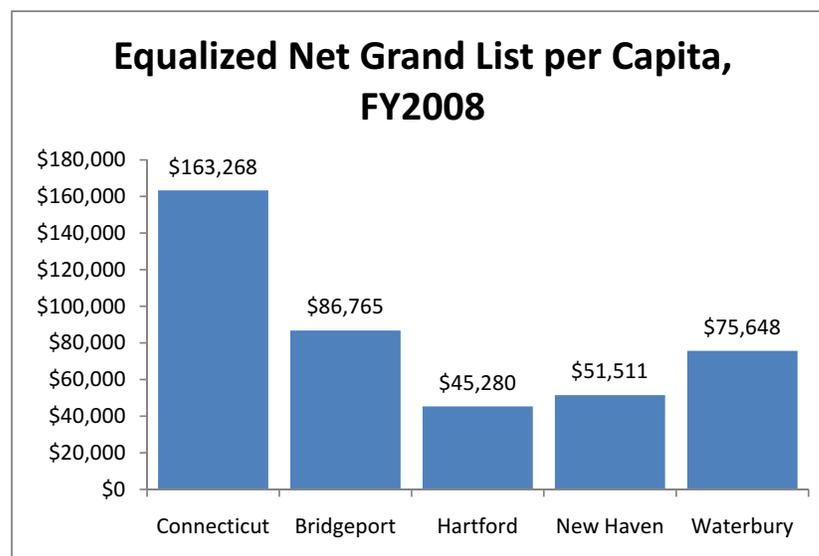
Source: Adopted FY2011 State Budget, CCM Calculations

ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN



Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Municipal Fiscal Indicators, 2008

The Connecticut ENGL per capita is \$163,268, while Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, and Hartford’s ENGLs are \$86,765, \$75,648, \$51,511, and \$45,280, respectively.

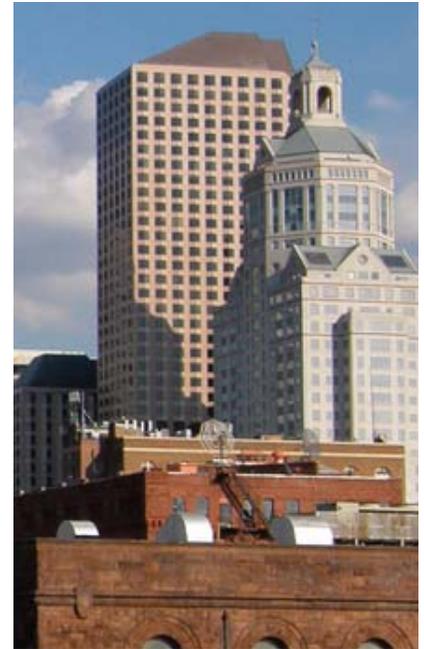
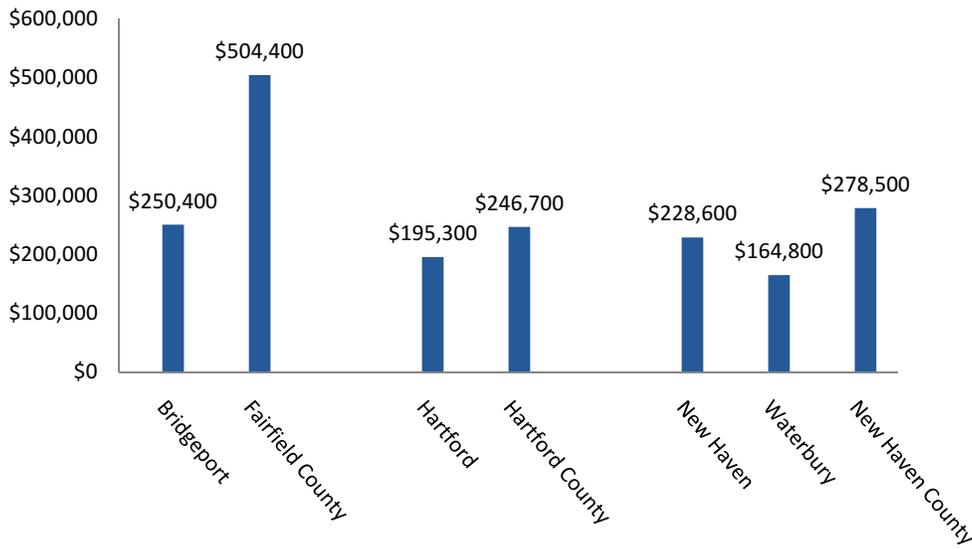


Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Municipal Fiscal Indicators, 2008

Given these ENGL figures, it is predictable that **these cities also have average home values far below those in their surrounding municipalities.** The median home value in Bridgeport is \$250,400, while the median home value in Fairfield County is \$504,400; the median home value in Hartford is \$195,300, while the median home value in Hartford County is \$246,700; and the median home values are \$228,600 in New Haven and \$164,800 in Waterbury, while the median home value in New Haven County is \$278,500.

ATALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

Median Home Prices



Source: Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

With such dramatic poverty indicators it is predictable that **Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Bridgeport rank in the top five “distressed municipalities” in Connecticut** (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th, respectively). The Department of Economic and Community Development calculates these designations based on socioeconomic criteria.



2010 Top 10 Distressed Municipalities

Municipality	Total Score	Ranking
Hartford	1550	1
New Haven	1513	2
Waterbury	1505	3
New Britain	1491	4
Bridgeport	1487	5
Meriden	1408	6
New London	1394	7
East Hartford	1394	8
Winchester	1359	9
West Haven	1351	10

Source: CT Department of and Economic and Community Development

A TALE OF DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN

BEYOND THE FOUR

While much focus is rightly on Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury, a number of **other Connecticut towns and cities are also dealing with similar issues**. These municipalities are of varying sizes and are located in all eight counties. Some have higher-than-average populations that are at risk. Others have seen economic hardships due to problems such as plant closings and other disinvestment. Below are some examples.¹²

- Over 18 percent of **Danbury** students are English language learners.
- **East Hartford**'s unemployment rate is 12.5 percent.
- **Meriden** has a crime rate of 3,699.1 per 100,000 residents.
- Less than half of **Middletown**'s dwellings are owner-occupied
- **New Britain** has the fourth highest percentage (3.4%) of TANF recipients in the state.
- Average SAT scores in **New London** are 23 percent lower than the state average.
- **Norwalk** is reliant on the property tax for over 83 percent of its revenues.
- In **Norwich**, over 64 percent of students are eligible for free/reduced-price lunches.
- **Stamford**'s student drop-out rate is six percent higher than the statewide average.
- Over 22 percent of **Windham**'s population has an income below the poverty level.

Many of these communities meet specific need criterias under statutory designations. A list of towns and cities and their designations can be found in Appendix A.

CONCLUSION

While other communities in Connecticut have needs - especially given the current economic downturn - it is clear that **Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury face extraordinary challenges**. These cities must deal with high poverty rates, educational need and outcome disparities, increased crime rates, and revenue challenges. It is equally clear that these four cities support surrounding communities as service centers, cultural hubs, and employment nuclei. Despite their numerous challenges, these cities have much to offer Connecticut residents and businesses and are crucial to the success of the state as a whole.

“The success of our central cities, their surrounding suburbs, and the state as a whole are linked. The reputation and viability of the entire metropolitan area and our state are shaped by public impressions of the central city. Allowing the central city to decay affects the entire metropolitan area and our state.”¹³ **Despite tough fiscal times, state government has a moral and economic imperative to provide increased assistance to Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.** Strong city hubs will yield statewide benefits for years to come. **As go these cities, so goes Connecticut.**

¹² Data are from Municipal Fiscal Indicators, CT Department of Labor, and State Department of Education.

¹³ Dreier, Peter. "Why Connecticut's Suburbs Need Healthy Cities." Connecticut Conference of Municipalities: March 1995.

APPENDIX A

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATIONS

Distressed Municipality - A municipality that meets the necessary number of quantitative physical and economic distress thresholds which are eligible for the federal Urban Development Action Grant program.

Public Investment Community - A municipality requiring financial assistance to offset its service burdens, defined as being in the top quartile of the "eligibility index" scale, which is a measure of local burden determined by calculating a town's disparity in relation to all municipalities.

C&D Plan Regional Center - A municipality identified on the State Plan of Conservation and Development as being a regional center.

Targeted Investment Community - A municipality with a designated Enterprise Zone.

Municipality	Urban Act			Targeted Investment Community
	Distressed Municipality	Public Investment Community	C&D Plan Regional Center	
Ansonia	X	X	X	
Ashford		X		
Beacon Falls		X		
Bloomfield		X		
Bridgeport	X	X	X	X
Bristol	X	X	X	X
Canterbury		X		
Chaplin		X		
Colchester		X		
Danbury			X	
Derby	X	X	X	
East Hartford	X	X	X	X
East Haven		X		
East Windsor	X	X		
Enfield	X	X	X	
Griswold		X		
Groton			X	X
Hamden		X		X
Hampton		X		
Hartford	X	X	X	X
Killingly	X	X	X	
Manchester		X	X	
Meriden	X	X	X	X
Middletown		X	X	X
Milford		X		
Montville		X		
Naugatuck	X	X		
New Britain	X	X	X	X
New Haven	X	X	X	X
Norwalk			X	X
Norwich	X	X	X	X
Plainfield		X		
Plainville	X	X		
Plymouth	X	X		
Portland		X		
Putnam	X	X		
Seymour		X		
Shelton			X	
Southington				X
Sprague	X	X		
Stafford		X		
Stamford			X	X
Sterling		X		
Stratford		X		
Thomaston		X		
Thompson		X		
Torrington	X	X	X	
Vernon	X	X	X	
Voluntown		X		
Waterbury	X	X	X	X
West Hartford			X	
West Haven	X	X	X	
Winchester	X	X		
Windham	X	X	X	X
Windsor		X		

CCM - CONNECTICUT'S STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND CITIES



The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities. CCM represents municipalities at the General Assembly, before the state executive branch and regulatory agencies, and in the courts. CCM provides member towns and cities with a wide array of other services, including management assistance, individualized inquiry service, assistance in municipal labor relations, technical assistance and training, policy development, research and analysis, publications, information programs, and service programs such as workers' compensation and liability-automobile-property insurance, risk management, and energy cost-containment. Federal representation is provided by CCM in conjunction with the National League of Cities. CCM was founded in 1966.

CCM is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by the member municipalities, with due consideration given to geographical representation, municipalities of different sizes, and a balance of political parties. Numerous committees of municipal officials participate in the development of CCM policy and programs. CCM has offices in New Haven (headquarters) and in Hartford.

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Do The Math

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Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

CUTS in state aid to your
Hometown = **INCREASES** in
your property taxes