

# **Family Economic Security: Investing in Families . . . Investing in Our Future**

*2004 Connecticut KIDS COUNT Data Book*

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**Published by**

Connecticut Association for Human Services, Inc.  
Hartford, Connecticut  
May 2004

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Carroll, J., & Mastrobuono, S. (2004). *Family Economic Security: Investing in Families . . . Investing in Our Future. 2004 Connecticut KIDS COUNT Data Book*. Hartford, CT: Connecticut Association for Human Services.

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Printed in the United States of America  
May 2004, First Edition

## Foreword

The focus of the 2004 Connecticut KIDS COUNT Data Book, *Family Economic Security*, was chosen as a result of policy discussions that have taken place across the state and the country over the past few years about the results of welfare reform and the issue of persistent poverty.

As the country slipped from the abundance of the 1990s to the economic constraints of the new millennium, our understanding of the many contributing factors that influence family success has grown. As one of our colleagues so aptly stated, “A job alone is not enough.” A job may or may not provide adequate income to support a family. Public acknowledgement that *Family Economic Security* policies are important to our state is growing and represents an important paradigm shift.

This year’s Data Book contains several changes to content and format that we hope will support your analytic and planning needs. Responding to feedback from our Advisory Committee and users, we have changed the book’s layout to facilitate better comparison of town-level data. Maps, policy narratives, and information sources provide context for each indicator.

For purposes of continuity with past Connecticut KIDS COUNT Data Books, we have updated other child health and well-being indicators and report them on our organizational website — [www.cahs.org](http://www.cahs.org). These additional indicators include:

- ▶ Health – Low Birthweight, Late or No Prenatal Care, Infant Mortality;
- ▶ Education – Pre-kindergarten Experience, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Scores, Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Scores; and
- ▶ Safety – Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Deaths, and Teen Deaths.

We hope these changes will support your work on behalf of Connecticut’s children and families.

## Acknowledgments

Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) would like to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its work on behalf of all children, for its continued support of the Connecticut KIDS COUNT project, and CAHS's work on family economic security. We would also like to thank the Foundation's staff, including Cory Anderson, Laura Beavers, Tony Cipollone, Don Crary, Debra Delgado, Bill O'Hare, and Carol Rickel for their vision, support, and hard work.

For their sponsorship of the 2004 Data Book, we would like to thank Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Northeast Utilities Foundation, Pitney Bowes, and Webster Bank.

Each year we rely on representatives from the state agencies who provide us with departmental data. They include: Peter Palermino, Don Beltrame, Steve Colangelo, and Cuyler Massicotte from the Connecticut Department of Social Services; Maureen Staggenborg, Alison Zhou, and Rick Cloud from the Connecticut Department of Education; Federico Amadeo, Marcie Cavacas, and Lloyd Mueller from the Connecticut Department of Public Health; and Jay Anderson from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

Thank you to Peg Cibes for her great ideas and suggestions for the book. Thank you to George Feisthamel of Ace Printery for his advice and exceptional patience as we readied our book for print. Thank you to Right Place School Readiness Child and Family Center, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, the Connecticut Commission on Children, and the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women for the photographs they contributed. Thank you to The Dixon Group for their photographs and in-kind donation. Thank you to Kerri Rivers of the Population Reference Bureau and Kathy Pettit of The Urban Institute for their technical support.

The Connecticut KIDS COUNT Advisory Committee has given us a wealth of thoughtful feedback, stimulating ideas, and statistical guidance. We wish to thank the following members:

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