

THE OPPORTUNITY PICTURE CONNECTICUT

When measuring a community's success we often rely on business metrics like the unemployment rate. But what do you see when you picture a thriving community? Good schools, safe streets, affordable housing, accessible grocery stores and plentiful jobs. Only using the unemployment rate to determine community health does not provide community leaders, elected officials or residents a complete understanding of the barriers to social and economic mobility where they live.

From preschool enrollment to income inequality, expanding opportunity depends on the intersection of multiple economic, educational and civic factors. The Opportunity Index measures how available these opportunities are in communities across the country.

Connecticut ranks high on the Opportunity Index (13th overall), but it was among the 10 states that saw the greatest declines in the economic, education and social dimensions between 2011 and 2013.

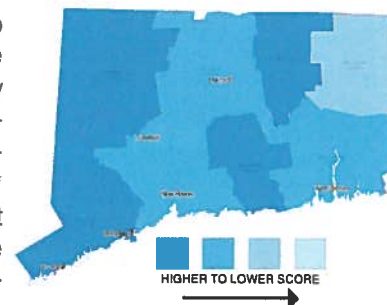
Connecticut lost the most ground in education. The state's decreased score between 2011 and 2013 is more than seven times the decreasing trend evident in any other state.

However, it's important to note that this decrease reflects a major policy change and does not necessarily indicate a worsening of student outcomes.* Connecticut's Department of Education altered the way it calculates its graduation rate to comply with a

cohort method that tracks students from freshman year. This approach was created by the National Governor's Association and has been adopted by a majority of states over the past few years.

Connecticut's education score may not be as high as it was in the past, but its students are still doing much better than the majority of Americans. The state had the 11th highest education score even with the decline.

But that does not mean our work to expand opportunity is done. Connecticut ranks 45th for affordable housing, and 12.3 percent of young adults between the ages of 16-24 are neither in school nor working.



STATE RANKING

3 → **13**
2011 2013

[AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT]

Connecticut overall scores well, but based on decreasing trends in its economic, education and community score, the state still has areas for improvement on the road to opportunity.

43rd → 45th
**AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

12th → 40th
**ON-TIME HS
GRADUATION**

10th → 14th
**DISCONNECTED
YOUTH**

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OPPORTUNITY IN CONNECTICUT

The Opportunity Index is the first statistical measure of access to the American Dream. The Index focuses on the conditions present in different communities and is designed to connect economic, educational, civic and other factors together to help identify concrete solutions to lagging conditions for opportunity and economic mobility. The Index measures 16 indicators, and scores all 50 states plus Washington DC on a scale of 0-100 each year. In addition, more than 3,000 counties are graded A-F, giving policymakers and leaders a useful tool to identify areas for improvement and to gauge progress over time.

STATE RANK

13

INDICATOR	DESCRIPTION	CT AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	RANK OUT OF 51 (50 states plus DC, 1st=best)
ECONOMY				
Jobs	Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8%	7.1%	37th
Wages	Median Household Income (\$)	\$63,742	\$48,958	4th
Poverty	Poverty (% of population below poverty line)	10.9%	15.9%	5th
Inequality	80/20 Ratio (Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile)	5.11	4.94	40th
Assets	Banking Institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions per 10,000 residents)	4.62	3.96	18th
Affordable Housing	Households spending less than 30% of household income on housing (%)	57.7%	62.2%	45th
Internet Access	High-speed Internet (5-level categories for counties, % of households for states)	77.5%	67.8%	4th
EDUCATION				
Preschool Enrollment	Preschool (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	61.7%	47.8%	3rd
On-time High School Graduation	On-time high school graduation (% of freshmen who graduate in four years)	75.1%	78.2%	40th
Postsecondary Completion	Associate degree or higher (% of adults 25 and over)	43.5%	36.3%	5th
COMMUNITY				
Group Membership	Members of social, civic, service, recreational or religious groups (% of adults 18 and over)	39.6%	35.6%	17th
Volunteerism	Adults who volunteer (% of adults 18 and over)	29%	26.5%	19th
Disconnected Youth	Young people not in school nor working (% ages 16-24)	12.3%	14.6%	14th
Community Safety	Violent Crime (per 100,000 population)	272.8	386.3	19th
Access to Health Care	Primary Care Providers (per 10,000 population)	137.1	117.9	12th
Access to Healthy Food	Grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	2.2	2.2	15th

Opportunity Nation is a bipartisan, cross-sector national campaign made up of more than 300 non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, community organizations, and individuals all working together to expand economic opportunity and close the opportunity gap in America. The Opportunity Index was jointly developed by Opportunity Nation and Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council.

CONTACT US

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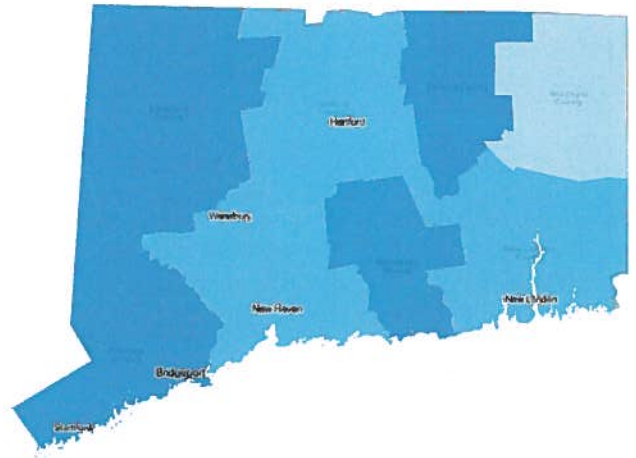
MEASURE OF AMERICA
of the Social Science Research Council

OPPORTUNITY REPORT CARD

STATE NAME: Connecticut

STATE RANK: 13 of 51

OPPORTUNITY
SCORE: 56.9 / 100



B

COUNTY NAME:
Fairfield

C+

COUNTY NAME:
New Haven

B-

COUNTY NAME:
Hartford

B-

COUNTY NAME:
New London

B

COUNTY NAME:
Litchfield

B

COUNTY NAME:
Tolland

B+

COUNTY NAME:
Middlesex

C

COUNTY NAME:
Windham

OPPORTUNITY
NATION



THE SHARED PLAN TO RESTORE OPPORTUNITY