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Almost 27,000 girls live in low-income households in Fairfield County.

Children living with a single mother are much more likely (40 percent) to be in a household that receives public assistance than those living with a single father (22 percent) and those living in a married-couple household (8 percent).

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Women who experience Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) have a higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence later in life compared to women who experience relatively fewer ACEs. As the number of ACEs during childhood increases, the risk of poor health behaviors and outcomes in adulthood also increases.

People of color are more likely to experience traumatic events as children. For many reasons, including the culmination of toxic stress and adverse lifetime events, women of color in Connecticut are more likely to give birth to underweight babies and are more likely to have higher infant mortality rates.

LOW-INCOME RATE BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS
Percent of population in low-income households; Fairfield County, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Under 18</th>
<th>18-64</th>
<th>64+</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<td>Asian</td>
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</tr>
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Produced in partnership with DataHaven and Knowledge Designs to Change, our two bodies of research collectively include more than 70 pages of data. The status report uses quantitative data from federal and state government sources and qualitative data derived from stakeholders to ascertain how women and girls in our county are faring. The landscape analysis uses qualitative data derived from providers who offer gender-specific supports for women and girls in Fairfield County. Together, these two research reports help us better understand the under-met needs of women and girls in our diverse county, as well as barriers to accessing services.

This summary highlights key information found in both reports, which are located at FCCFoundation.org/FWG2019. Below are action steps to consider as you read.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**READ** the two reports.

**ANALYZE** the data.

**ADVOCATE** for the issues that resonate the most with you, your organization, and your community.

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A Diverse County

Of Fairfield County’s total population of 947,328, just over 51 percent is female, and 22 percent are girls under age 18. The median age of these 485,948 women and girls is 42 years, about four years higher than that of men in the county.

About half the female populations of Danbury, Norwalk, and Stamford are non-white, and about four out of every five women and girls in Bridgeport are women or girls of color.

46 percent of the girls in Fairfield County are girls of color.

20 percent of women age 65 and older are women of color.

Nonprofit providers expressed a desire for more opportunities for women and girls in workplace internships, leadership activities, civic engagement training and science careers.

Role models are critical and there is a need to increase the number of adult and peer mentoring opportunities inside schools as well as in community settings. Service providers expressed the need for more counselors of color who can understand and relate to the lived experience of young girls of color. In addition, girls interviewed also called for mentorship programs that expose them to female leaders and, more specifically, to women who look like they do.

Fairfield County has a large immigrant population: 22 percent of its residents are foreign-born, compared to 14 percent of all Connecticut residents.

Between 1990 and 2017, the immigrant population in Fairfield County doubled, following trends in other parts of the state and across the nation. There are about 19,500 women and 6,000 girls living in Fairfield County who were born outside of the United States.

Language needs are not yet completely being met by service organizations. In addition, nonprofit providers also identified transportation, childcare, economic insecurity, fear of government and limited awareness of available services/resources as barriers to women thriving.

Language barriers were linked to underdeveloped cultural understanding and noted as critical impediments to meeting the need of women and girls, particularly those who are underserved and may not feel comfortable accessing supports.

More specifically, providers noted newer immigrant communities as having high populations of English-language learners not yet receiving the support they need.

Educational Attainment

Throughout most of Fairfield County, a higher share of women have a master’s or other advanced degree compared to women across the nation.

In contrast, about one in four women living in Bridgeport lack a high school diploma, which is twice the national rate of 12 percent.

There are many reasons why women and girls living in areas in the county with higher levels of social needs have significantly lower educational attainment, including the heavy financial burden of post-secondary tuition or family responsibilities such as caregiving. These women may have had fewer opportunities as girls to network with women who have higher levels of educational attainment for myriad reasons, including differences in family social and migration histories, discrimination, and a lack of exposure to programs and experiences that facilitate such connections.

More than 54,000 women and girls in Fairfield County (over the age of 4) speak English less than very well or not at all.

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FEMALE IMMIGRANT POPULATION Percent of foreign-born women and girls, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latina</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairfield County</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other towns in FC</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
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Most of the women living in Fairfield County are English language learners who are not speaking English well or at all.

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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
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