

Elusive Equity

Continuing Effects of Covid-19 on Women's Economic Security



Poverty, Earnings, and Wage Gaps



11% of CT women live in poverty, remaining steady for over the past decade.

Rates are over **20%** in Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, and Waterbury.

Median Earnings in 2021 (Full-Time)



\$60,672



\$73,022

National Median Hourly Wage in 2022

White Men \$27.11

White Women \$22.47

Black Women \$19.00

Hispanic Women \$17.54

Women are More Likely to Work in Low-Paying Industries with Higher Covid-19 Risk and Less Likely to Work Remotely



Work Remotely 1+ Days Per Week

Men: **46%** Women: **36%**

Work Remotely 5+ Days Per Week

Men: **18%** Women: **12%**

73% of workers in Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance are women.



High Rents and Evictions Reveal Housing Instability Persists for Women

Women spend over **25%** of their earnings on rent based on overall median rent data from 2021.

From 2020 to 2022, rents for some towns have risen **16-30%**.

From 2019 to 2022, nearly **50,000** eviction filings were estimated to be against female householders.



Childcare: Lost Slots and High Cost Impact Women and Families

The total number of CT daycare centers decreased by **8%**.

4,387 in 2019  **4,052** in 2022

Average annual cost per child in 2021

\$12,368 to \$14,351

Half of the 5,474 parents surveyed reported a reduction in work hours or stopping work altogether to take care of their children during the pandemic, based on the 2022 CT OEC Parent Survey.

34% of these parents had not fully returned to work at the time of the survey in August through September of 2022.

Women Seek Opportunity Through Higher Education, but Struggle with Student Loan Debt



60% of undergraduate students were women, while a notable **63%** of graduate students were women as well.

As of March 2022, **27%** of CT students had outstanding student loans, with an average loan amount of **\$35,931**.



Women Continue to Drive Connecticut's Economy Through Labor Force Participation and Entrepreneurship

Women make up **48%** of Connecticut's labor force.

9,202 new women-owned businesses were opened in CT from 2020 through June 2023.