

# EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY PROFILE – Ashford

## COMMUNITY BASICS:

### *How is Ashford classified and ranked?*

- Has a population of **4,098** people.<sup>1</sup>
- Ranks **20th** in need by Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula.<sup>2</sup>
- Is in District Reference Group (DRG) **E**.
- **Has** a School Readiness Council.
- **Does not participate** in the Discovery Initiative.
- **Is not** a Priority School District.
- Uses **EASTCONN** as its regional education service center.

# Ashford

## THE READY FAMILY:

### *What do families with young children look like in Ashford?*

There are **228** families with a total of **306** children under age 6. <sup>4</sup>

Race of children under 6 <sup>3</sup>	Ashford	CT
Black only	0.4%	11.8%
White only	97.2%	73.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.0%	0.3%
Asian	0.4%	3.1%
Hawaiian or other Pacific-Islander	0.0%	0.1%
Other race	0.8%	6.8%
Two or more races	1.2%	4.6%

Characteristic	Ashford	CT
Children under 6 who are Hispanic. <sup>5</sup>	3.2%	15.1%
Families with children under age 6 that have all parents working. <sup>6</sup>	70.3%	61.9%
Children under 6 in families who receive Temporary Family Assistance. <sup>7</sup>	7 (2.3%)	14,694 (5.4%)
Children under 19 receiving HUSKY A Medicaid. <sup>8</sup>	250	211,991
Children under 19 receiving HUSKY B. <sup>9</sup>	24	15,163

## KEY RISK FACTORS: *How do Ashford young children and their families fare on key factors that put them at-risk?*

Characteristic	Ashford	CT
Children under 6 living in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. <sup>10</sup>	8 (2.6%)	29,348 (10.9%)
School children eligible for free or reduced priced meals (185% of federal poverty line). <sup>11</sup>	16.1%	28%
Births to mothers with a high school education or less. <sup>12</sup>	12 (27.3%)	15,544 (37.3%)
Births to mothers who have not completed high school. <sup>13</sup>	0 (0.0%)	5,417 (13.0%)
Children under age 6 living in single-parent households. <sup>14</sup>	18 (9.6%)	63,946 (24.8%)
Individuals living in families where the primary language is not English. <sup>15</sup>	3.2%	12.6%
Child abuse/neglect reports substantiated for children age 8 and under. <sup>16</sup>	4	6,676

## COMMUNITY ASSETS AND SERVICES: *How are Ashford children and families served?*

### Statewide Services:

- ◇ Birth to Three
- ◇ Care4Kids
- ◇ Help Me Grow
- ◇ HUSKY A and B
- ◇ Preschool Special Education
- ◇ Temporary Family Assistance
- ◇ Women Infants and Children (WIC)

### Examples of Local Services:

- ◇ Birth to Three

**Please note that the data reported here are from a variety of sources at the statewide level and may be calculated differently than data collected at the local level. Data are the latest available. For some indicators trend data are available upon request. Comparisons to other communities and the state can also be done.**

## HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### THE READY CHILD AT BIRTH: *What are the conditions of children and their families at birth in Ashford?*

	Ashford	CT
Total births. <sup>17</sup>	47	41,722
Births to teen mothers (15-19 years of age). <sup>18</sup>	1 (0%)	2,842 (6.8%)
Low birthweight (under 5 lb 10 oz). <sup>19</sup>	4 (NA)	3,312 (8.0%)
Very low birthweight (under 1lb 12 oz). <sup>20</sup>	0 (0%)	666 (1.6%)
Mothers receiving non-adequate prenatal care. <sup>21</sup>	7 (15.9%)	8,112 (19.8%)

- 1 children die before their first birthday in a five-year period (1997-2001).<sup>22</sup>
- NA infant deaths occur per 1,000 live births (1997-2001).<sup>23</sup>

### THE READY COMMUNITY: *How adequate are the health and development community resources in Ashford?*

- 1 children age 1 and 2 are identified with elevated blood lead levels.<sup>24</sup>
- 55% of infants and toddlers enrolled in HUSKY A receive 6 or more well-child visits statewide.<sup>25</sup>
- 81% of children age 2 to 5 enrolled in HUSKY A have well-child visits statewide.<sup>26</sup>
- 5 children under age 3 are referred to the Birth to Three System.<sup>27</sup>
- 3 children are served by the Birth to Three System.<sup>28</sup>

### COMMUNITY PLANNING QUESTIONS: *Health and Development*

Is there disparity in birth outcomes by race and ethnicity?

Are eligible families enrolling in HUSKY A and B?

Are there effective teen pregnancy prevention programs?

Is there access to and utilization of preventive health care for pregnant women and young children?

Are there smoking cessation and substance abuse treatment services for women of child bearing age?

Are all children under age 2 screened for lead?

Are young children receiving on time well-child visits?

Is care family-centered, comprehensive, culturally competent and addressing physical, social and emotional development?

Are children receiving developmental screening and assessment on the recommended schedule?

Do families use supports like Help Me Grow and Birth to Three to learn about healthy child development and connect to services?

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE)

### THE READY CHILD IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: *What are the learning conditions of children and their families in Ashford?*

	Ashford	CT
Percent of children age 4 who attend preschool. <sup>29</sup>	86.5%	77%
Children demonstrate reading proficiency at 3rd grade on the Connecticut Mastery Test. <sup>30</sup>	36 (58.1%)	28,688 (69.2%)
Children demonstrate reading proficiency at 4 <sup>th</sup> grade on the Connecticut Mastery Test. <sup>31</sup>	41 (73.2%)	30,285 (71.8%)

### THE READY COMMUNITY: *How adequate are the early care and education and school resources in Ashford for each age?*

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Spaces per 100 children. <sup>32</sup>	3.8	100.5	11.2
Spaces in accredited or Head Start programs. <sup>33</sup>	NA	23.8%	NA
School Readiness. <sup>34</sup>	NA	25	NA
Care4Kids, number of and distribution by age. <sup>35</sup>	1 (12.5%)	2 (25.0%)	5 (62.5%)
Care4Kids, percent in informal care. <sup>36</sup>	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

- 0.0% of kindergarten children are in full school day classes.<sup>37</sup>
- 18.0 is the average kindergarten class size.<sup>38</sup>

**COMMUNITY PLANNING QUESTIONS: *Early Care and Education***

- Do parents know what to expect from their children and the programs that serve them at each age?
- Is there an adequate supply of quality care for each age group to give families good choices?
- Are center-based and family home child care programs accredited?
- Are quality improvement initiatives in place to service providers and families?
- Are there strategies to improve the qualifications of teachers in early care and education?
- Are kindergarten and preschool programming aligned?
- Are there teen parent programs with child care in the high schools?
- Are developmental delays and disabilities detected for the first time in kindergarten and first grade?

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

**A SAFE AND NURTURING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT: *Are children growing up safe in Ashford?***

- 0 children (age 0-2) have substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect.<sup>39</sup>
- 1 children (age 3-5) have substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect.<sup>40</sup>
- 0 children under 3 live in relative or non-relative foster care.<sup>41</sup>
- 1 children age 3 to 5 live in relative or non-relative foster care.<sup>42</sup>

**COMMUNITY PLANNING QUESTIONS: *Protective Services***

- Are young children in foster care experiencing multiple placements?
- How quickly does permanency occur for young children?
- Are young children exposed to violence in the home or community?
- Is there a home visiting program for high-risk new families?
- Are families in need of it connected to substance abuse treatment programs?
- Are all children in foster care or protective services assessed and receiving needed health, mental health and developmental services?

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>2</sup> State Department of Education
- <sup>3</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>4</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>5</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>6</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>7</sup> Department of Social Services, July 2005
- <sup>8</sup> Department of Social Services, 2006
- <sup>9</sup> Department of Social Services, 2006
- <sup>10</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>11</sup> State Department of Education, 2004
- <sup>12</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>13</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>14</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>15</sup> US Census, 2000
- <sup>16</sup> Department of Children and Families, 2005, analysis done by Susan Wilson, Child Health and Development Institute, 2007
- <sup>17</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>18</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>19</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>20</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>21</sup> Department of Public Health, Registration Report, 2005
- <sup>22</sup> Duran, F. & Wilson, S. (2004). *Keeping Children on the Path to School Success*. Farmington, CT: Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut. Analysis of Department of Public Health data 1997-2001.
- <sup>23</sup> Duran, F. & Wilson, S. (2004). *Keeping Children on the Path to School Success*. Farmington, CT: Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut. Analysis of Department of Public Health data 1997-2001.
- <sup>24</sup> Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 2004.
- <sup>25</sup> CT Voices for Children, 2005, unpublished data.
- <sup>26</sup> CT Voices for Children, *Ambulatory Care Utilization by Children Enrolled in HUSKY A in 2005*, February 2007.
- <sup>27</sup> Department of Mental Retardation, Annual Report, 2006
- <sup>28</sup> Department of Mental Retardation, Annual Report, 2006
- <sup>29</sup> State Department of Education, Strategic School Profiles, 2006
- <sup>30</sup> State Department of Education, 2006
- <sup>31</sup> State Department of Education, 2006
- <sup>32</sup> Duran, F. & Wilson, S. (2004). *Keeping Children on the Path to School Success*. Farmington, CT: Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut. Analysis of United Way of Connecticut, Child Care Infoline 2003 data.
- <sup>33</sup> Duran, F. & Wilson, S. (2004). *Keeping Children on the Path to School Success*. Farmington, CT: Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut. Analysis of United Way of Connecticut, Child Care Infoline 2003 data.
- <sup>34</sup> State Department of Education, 2006
- <sup>35</sup> Department of Social Services, 2006. Analysis done by Peg Oliveira, Connecticut Voices for Children, 2007.
- <sup>36</sup> Department of Social Services, 2006. Analysis done by Peg Oliveira, Connecticut Voices for Children, 2007.
- <sup>37</sup> State Department of Education, Strategic School Profiles, 2006
- <sup>38</sup> State Department of Education, Strategic School Profiles, 2006
- <sup>39</sup> Department of Children and Families, 2005, unpublished data, analysis done by Susan Wilson, Child Health and Development Institute, 2007
- <sup>40</sup> Department of Children and Families, 2005, unpublished data, analysis done by Susan Wilson, Child Health and Development Institute, 2007
- <sup>41</sup> Department of Children and Families, 2006, unpublished data, analysis done by Susan Wilson, Child Health and Development Institute, 2007
- <sup>42</sup> Department of Children and Families, 2006, unpublished data, analysis done by Susan Wilson, Child Health and Development Institute, 2007

