

Connecticut Minimum Wage, Poverty Rate, and Medicaid Participants, 2015-2024

By: Lee Hansen, Principal Legislative Analyst
February 6, 2026 | 2026-R-0036

Issue

For each year since 2015, what was Connecticut's minimum wage, poverty rate, and number of people served through Medicaid?

Minimum Wage, Poverty Rate, and Medicaid Data

Table 1 below shows the most recently available data on Connecticut's minimum wage rate, poverty rate, and number of people served by the Department of Social Services (DSS) through Medicaid each year since 2015. (Connecticut's minimum wage rate increased to \$16.35 in 2025 and \$16.94 in 2026, however poverty rate and Medicaid data for those years is not yet available.)

Table 1: Minimum Wage, Poverty Rate, and Medicaid, 2015-2024

Year	Minimum Hourly Wage ¹ (Effective Jan. 1 unless noted otherwise)	Estimated Percent of Population Below Poverty Level ²	Medicaid ³ (number of people served)
2015	\$9.15	10.5%	934,966
2016	\$9.60	9.8%	944,987
2017	\$10.10	9.6%	955,266
2018	\$10.10	10.4%	963,850
2019	\$11.00 (Effective Oct. 1)	10.0%	976,910
2020	\$12.00 (Effective Sept. 1)	N/A	970,500

Table 1 (continued)

Year	Minimum Hourly Wage ¹ (Effective Jan. 1 unless noted otherwise)	Estimated Percent of Population Below Poverty Level ²	Medicaid ³ (number of people served)
2021	\$13.00 (Effective Aug. 1)	10.1%	1,055,534
2022	\$14.00 (Effective July 1)	9.8%	1,112,358
2023	\$15.00 (Effective Jun. 1)	10.3%	1,159,630
2024	\$15.69	10.2%	1,073,458

¹ Source: [CGS § 31-58\(i\)](#) and [CT Department of Labor](#)

² Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 1-Year Estimates

³ Source: [Connecticut Department of Social Services – People Served – CY 2012-2024](#)

Background

Minimum Wage. The General Assembly specified the amount of Connecticut’s minimum wage in [statute](#) through 2023, after which [PA 19-4](#) required that it be annually adjusted based on changes to the [employment cost index](#), which generally measures the change in the hourly labor cost to employers over time.

Poverty Rate. According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), “poverty status is determined by comparing annual income to a set of dollar values (called poverty thresholds) that vary by family size, number of children, and the age of the householder. If a family’s before-tax money income is less than the dollar value of their threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For people not living in families, poverty status is determined by comparing individuals’ income to their poverty threshold. The [poverty thresholds](#) are updated annually to account for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. They do not vary geographically.”

Medicaid. [The DSS report](#) provides information on the demographics of the people served by the department, from 2012 to 2024. The data is broken down at the state and town levels, by medical benefit plan, assistance type, and program.

LH:ms