

 **Pennsylvania**

Diaper Need and Its Impact

What is Diaper Need? Diaper need is the inability to provide a sufficient supply of diapers to keep a baby clean, dry, and healthy.

A study of families who received diapers from July 2021 through April 2022 from Pennsylvania diaper banks examined the impact of diaper need. The study found that when families receive diapers, **more families are able to work or attend school, healthcare spending is reduced, and children are healthier.**

Pennsylvania: Who's at Risk of Diaper Need *

Total Population Under Age 3	392,051	WIC Recipients that are Infants	22%
Infants and Toddlers living at <100% FPL	19%	SNAP Recipients Under Age 5	11%
Infants and Toddlers living at <200% FPL	35%	Families on TANF with a Child Under Age 3	28%
TANF Monthly Benefit Family of 3	\$403	Births Cover by Medicaid	34%
Monthly Diaper Cost as % of TANF	20%	Minimum Hourly Wage in Pennsylvania	\$7.25

* Sources: US Census, USDA, HHS, DOL, Kaiser Family Foundation

Households Using Diaper Banks



- **485** Pennsylvania diaper bank recipients surveyed.
- **73%** of families receiving diapers have received diapers for one year or less.
- **75%** of families anticipated they would need future support for one year or less.
- **48%** reported income less than \$25,000.
- **95%** reported income less than \$50,000.
- Of families surveyed, **69%** of children were insured by Medicaid and **21%** of children were uninsured.

Impact on Employment



- **87%** of families receiving diapers in Pennsylvania are working and still are unable to afford an adequate supply of diapers.
- **8%** of adults are working two or more jobs and still struggling to afford diapers.
- **24%** of households had an adult enrolled in a school or job training program. As educational attainment rises, wages increase and unemployment rates fall.

Impact on Healthcare & Illness



Families reported that after receiving diapers from a Pennsylvania diaper bank, their children experienced:

- **fewer** cases of diaper rash and severe diaper rash.
- **fewer** cases of urinary tract infections.
- **fewer** visits to their pediatrician, urgent care, emergency room, and hospital admissions for diaper-related illnesses.

Impact on Childcare



- **96%** of childcare providers required families to provide diapers.
- **85%** of families using childcare rely on childcare so an adult in their household can go to work.
- **85%** of children enrolled attend 3+ days per week.
- **1 in 10** families use childcare to allow an adult to attend school or a job training program.

Source: National Diaper Bank Network-funded research conducted in partnership with 65 U.S. diaper banks. For more information visit nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/EIS.