



Illinois

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 Illinois 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.**

Illinois: Who's at Risk of Diaper Need *

Total Population Under Age 3	404,354	WIC Recipients that are Infants	27%
Infants and Toddlers living at <100% FPL	17%	SNAP Recipients Under Age 5	11%
Infants and Toddlers living at <200% FPL	36%	Families on TANF with a Child Under Age 3	17%
TANF Monthly Benefit Family of 3	\$549	Births Covered by Medicaid	39%
Monthly Diaper Cost as % of TANF	15%	Minimum Hourly Wage in Illinois	\$13.00

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

Households Using Diaper Banks



- **342** Illinois diaper bank recipients surveyed.
- **62%** of families receiving diapers have received diapers for one year or less.
- **57%** of families anticipated they would need future support for one year or less.
- **56%** reported income less than \$25,000.
- **92%** reported income less than \$50,000.
- Of families surveyed, **83%** of children were insured by Medicaid and **8%** of children were uninsured.

Impact on Employment



- **73%** of families receiving diapers in Illinois are working and still are unable to afford an adequate supply of diapers.
- **12%** of adults are working two or more jobs and still struggling to afford diapers.
- **18%** 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 Illinois 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



- **76%** of childcare providers, including child care centers, family child care homes, preschools, or family or friend care, required families to provide diapers.
- **84%** of families using childcare rely on childcare so an adult in their household can go to work.
- **90%** 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.

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