

Fast Facts about Diaper Need



Major Findings

- **The portion of U.S. families experiencing diaper insecurity is unchanged from 2023.** In 2024, 46% of U.S. families with young children under age 4 wearing diapers reported diaper insecurity. In the first diaper insecurity investigation in 2010 and in several subsequent studies in 2013 & 2017, approximately 33% or 1/3 of families reported diaper insecurity.
- **Families in all income-brackets report experiencing diaper insecurity.** Of families with diaper insecurity, 61% reported low-income, 30% reported middle-income, and 9% reported high-income for their household.
- **Families with diaper insecurity are more likely to worry about finances.** 69% of households with diaper insecurity worry about their financial futures, compared to 43% of families who don't struggle to afford diapers for their children.
- **Households with diaper insecurity also struggle to meet food needs.**
 - One-quarter of families with diaper insecurity report that often, they cannot afford to eat balanced meals.
 - One-quarter (27%) of families with diaper insecurity have skipped meals so that they could buy diapers.
 - Three-quarters of families with diaper insecurity have run out of food in the past year and could not afford to buy more.
- **Diaper need impacts daily life.** Families with diaper need reported more instances of unmet health needs; stress and anxiety; limitations on free time and social contact; and barriers to work.
- **Families who struggle to afford diapers also struggle to afford other material basic needs like laundry detergent and personal hygiene items for other household members.** 92% of families with diaper insecurity have struggled to afford hygiene items and cleaning products in the past few months.
- **Households with diaper insecurity are more likely to also struggle to meet housing needs.**
 - Half of households with diaper insecurity find it hard to meet their families' housing needs.
 - 1 in 5 households (17%) with diaper insecurity have had to delay paying their rent or mortgage to afford diapers.