

# Diaper Need Information

The statistics below help illustrate the serious diaper need that exists in our community and across the country. It isn't just families at or below the poverty level that struggle to afford diapers but the high costs of diapering children affect lower-income families above the federal poverty level. There are serious physical and mental health risks associated with a shortage of diapers, and they affect the parents and the children.

## United States

- 5.2 million babies living in poor & low-income families<sup>2</sup>
- 1 in 3 families reports experiencing diaper need<sup>6</sup>
- Disposable diapers cost \$70-\$80 per month, per child<sup>3</sup>
- Diapers cannot be obtained with food stamps or other federal assistance programs<sup>6</sup>
- 98+ million diapers distributed by diaper banks in US<sup>3</sup>
- 2016 FPL for 2 parents with 2 children is \$24,339<sup>1</sup>
- "The lowest-income quintile of families with infants pay 14 percent of their income for diapers alone – an average of \$936 for diapers per child each year, while many higher income families pay less than half that amount."<sup>6</sup>

## North Carolina

- 28% of children under 6 live in poverty; 54% of children under 6 live in low-income households<sup>2</sup>
- 24% of children under age 3 receive federal child care support, but those funds do not include diapers<sup>3</sup>
- 12% of families are two-parent households<sup>3</sup>
- 41% of families are single-parent households<sup>3</sup>
- NC charges sales tax to consumers on diapers, except during sales tax exemption periods<sup>3</sup>
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefit in NC for a single parent with 2 children has a maximum of \$272, but diaper costs of 2 children can use up \$160+ and those funds also cover heat, utilities, rent, clothing, transportation<sup>4</sup>

## Buncombe County

- All of our partners receiving diapers have a consistent deficit of diapers for their clients
- Approximately 38,000 people enrolled in SNAP<sup>5</sup>
- Average daily benefit is \$3.80 per person in 4-person household (2017)<sup>4</sup>
- 33.6% of households with children are single-parent households (2015)<sup>5</sup>
- 13,000+ children under 5 years old<sup>1</sup>

Babies Need Bottoms is a nonprofit, volunteer diaper bank that covers the bottoms of babies across the Greater Asheville area of North Carolina. For more information on diaper need in our community and how you can help, contact us by e-mail at [info@babiesneedbottoms.org](mailto:info@babiesneedbottoms.org) or visit our website at <https://babiesneedbottoms.org>.

1 – US Census Bureau (census.gov); 2 – National Center for Children in Poverty (nccp.org); 3 – National Diaper Bank Network (<http://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org>); 4 – CBPP (cbpp.org); 5 – Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (<https://fred.stlouisfed.org>); 6 – WH.gov (<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2016/03/10/diaper-divide>)



**Babies Need  
Bottoms**