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# **VOLUNTOWN 2023 EQUITY PROFILE**

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**DataHaven**

# VOLUNTOWN 2023 EQUITY PROFILE

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Compiled by DataHaven in August 2023.

This report is designed to inform local-level efforts to improve community well-being and racial equity. This is version 2.0 of the DataHaven town equity profile, which DataHaven has published for all 169 towns and several regions of Connecticut. Please contact DataHaven with suggestions for version 3.0 of this report.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout most of the measures in this report, there are important differences by race/ethnicity and neighborhood that reflect differences in access to resources and other social needs. Wherever possible, data are presented with racial/ethnic breakdowns, as defined by existing federal data collection standards. However, for smaller groups or more detailed breakdowns, some values may not be available or have less reliable data. In these cases, values are marked as “N/A,” not available.

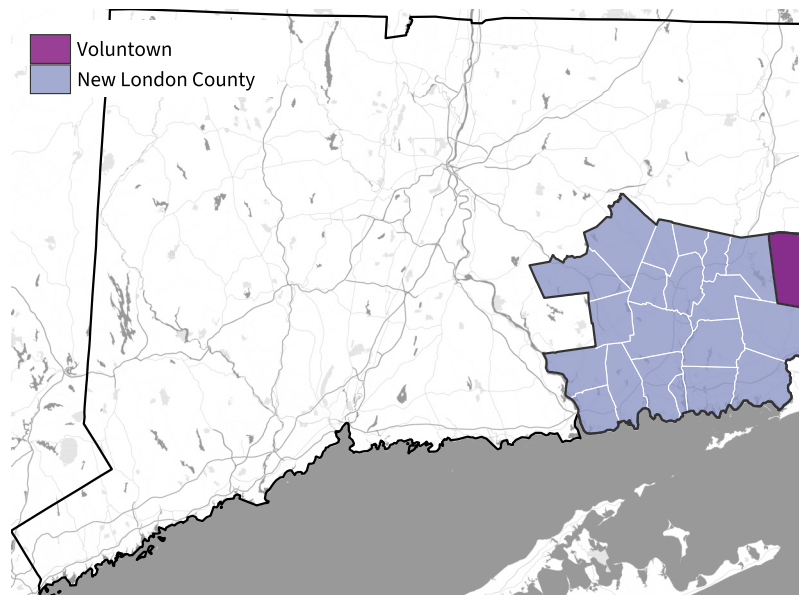
Federal and statewide approaches to data collection, including small sample sizes, tend to hide disparities within certain population groups. This does not mean that a given population is not impacted by inequitable social conditions. DataHaven and other organizations often collect information on demographic characteristics besides race/ethnicity, and encourage further analysis and advocacy that can lead to more inclusive data reporting. Please contact DataHaven at [info@ctdatahaven.org](mailto:info@ctdatahaven.org) with questions about additional reporting that may be possible.

- Voluntown is a town of **2,570 residents**, **9 percent** of whom are people of color. The town’s population has decreased by **1 percent** since 2010.
- Of the town’s **1,053 households**, **75 percent** are homeowner households.
- **Nineteen percent** of Voluntown’s households are cost-burdened, meaning they spend at least 30 percent of their total income on housing costs.
- Among the town’s adults ages 25 and up, **25 percent** have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- Voluntown is home to **309 jobs**, with the largest share in the Accommodation and Food Services sector.
- The median household income in Voluntown is **\$84,583**.
- As of 2015, Voluntown’s average life expectancy was **84.4 years**.
- **Fifty-seven percent** of adults in New London County say they are in excellent or very good health.
- In 2021, **fewer than 5 people** in Voluntown died of drug overdoses.
- **Eighty-three percent** of adults in New London County are satisfied with their area, and **49 percent** say their local government is responsive to residents’ needs.
- In the most recent state election, **65 percent** of registered voters in Voluntown voted.
- **Forty-four percent** of adults in New London County report having stores, banks, and other locations in walking distance of their home, and **54 percent** say there are safe sidewalks and crosswalks in their neighborhood.

# OVERVIEW

For the purposes of this report, Voluntown will be compared to Connecticut as a whole, as well as to the towns in New London County.

**FIGURE 1: STUDY AREA**



**New London County** is made up of the following towns (with 2020 populations):

- Bozrah (2,429)
- Colchester (15,555)
- East Lyme (18,693)
- Franklin (1,863)
- Griswold (11,402)
- Groton (38,411)
- Lebanon (7,142)
- Ledyard (15,413)
- Lisbon (4,195)
- Lyme (2,352)
- Montville (18,387)
- New London (27,367)
- North Stonington (5,149)
- Norwich (40,125)
- Old Lyme (7,628)
- Preston (4,788)
- Salem (4,213)
- Sprague (2,967)
- Stonington (18,335)
- Voluntown (2,570)
- Waterford (19,571)

**TABLE 1: ABOUT THE AREA**

| Indicator                                   | Connecticut | New London County | Voluntown |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Total population                            | 3,605,944   | 268,555           | 2,570     |
| Total households                            | 1,397,324   | 109,481           | 1,053     |
| Homeownership rate                          | 66%         | 67%               | 75%       |
| Housing cost burden rate                    | 35%         | 32%               | 19%       |
| Adults with less than a high school diploma | 9%          | 7%                | 6%        |
| Median household income                     | \$83,572    | \$79,040          | \$84,583  |
| Poverty rate                                | 10%         | 9%                | 7%        |
| Adults 18–64 w/o health insurance           | 10%         | 9%                | 8%        |
| Life expectancy (years, 2015)               | 80.3        | 79.7              | 84.4      |

# DEMOGRAPHICS

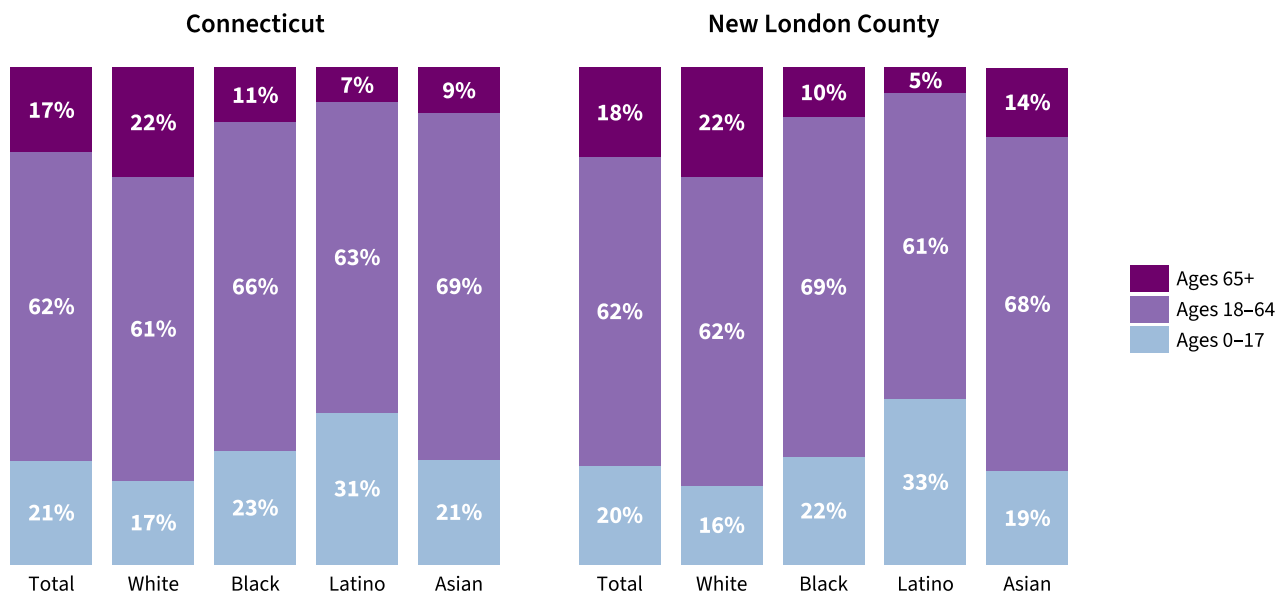
As of 2020, the population of Voluntown is 2,570, including 474 children and 2,096 adults. Nine percent of Voluntown's residents are people of color, compared to 37 percent of residents statewide.

**TABLE 2: POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2020**

| Area              | White     |       | Black   |       | Latino  |       | Asian   |       | Other race/ethnicity |       |
|-------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|----------------------|-------|
|                   | Count     | Share | Count   | Share | Count   | Share | Count   | Share | Count                | Share |
| Connecticut       | 2,279,232 | 63%   | 360,937 | 10%   | 623,293 | 17%   | 170,459 | 5%    | 172,023              | 5%    |
| New London County | 194,894   | 73%   | 14,422  | 5%    | 30,920  | 12%   | 10,633  | 4%    | 17,686               | 7%    |
| Voluntown         | 2,335     | 91%   | <50     | N/A   | 73      | 3%    | <50     | N/A   | 142                  | 6%    |

As Connecticut's predominantly white Baby Boomers age, younger generations are driving the state's increased racial and ethnic diversity. Black and Latino populations in particular skew much younger than white populations.

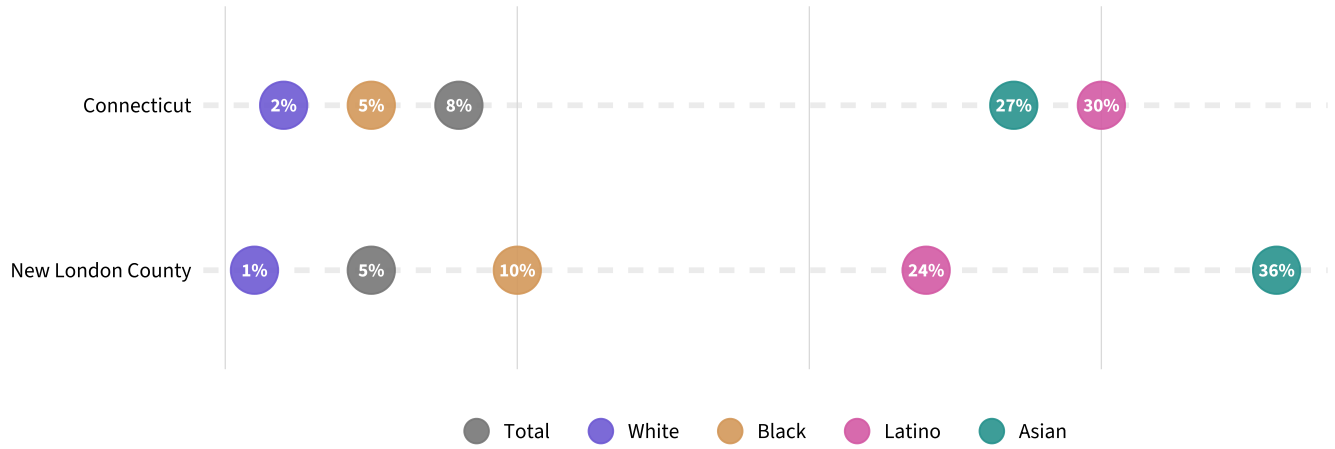
**FIGURE 2: POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND AGE GROUP, 2021**



Note: Only groups with at least 50 residents in each age group shown.

About 59 residents of Voluntown, or 2 percent of the population, are foreign-born. The largest number of immigrants living in New London County were born in China, followed by the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

**FIGURE 3: LINGUISTIC ISOLATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2021**



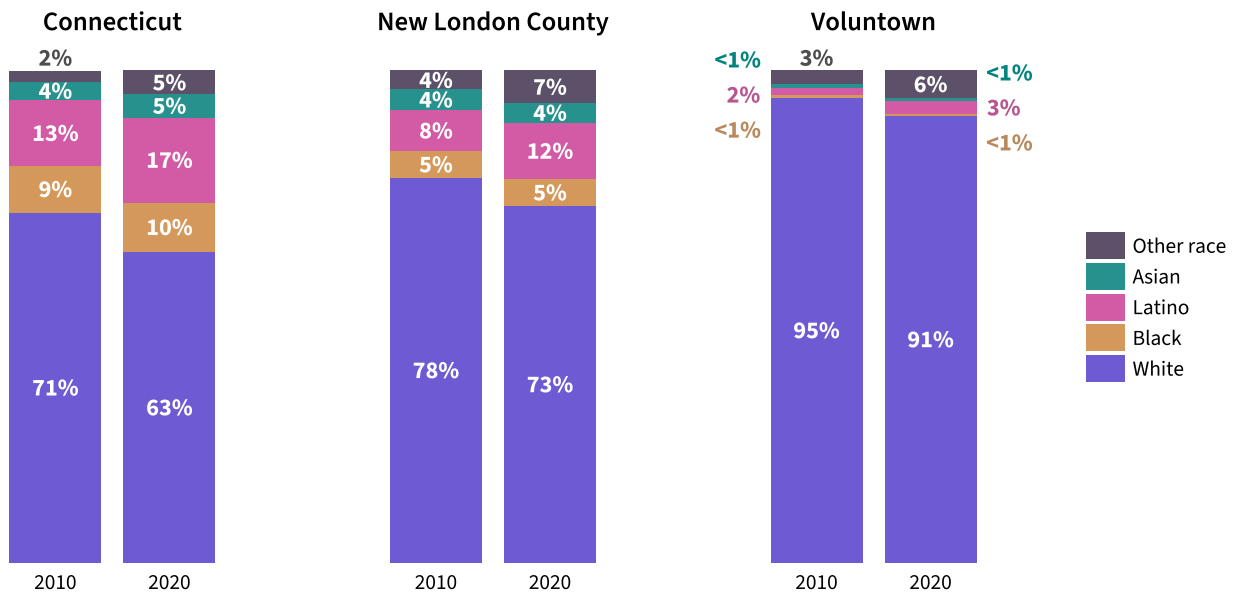
## POPULATION CHANGE: 2020 CENSUS

The first set of data from the 2020 Census was released in August 2021, containing basic population counts by age and race/ethnicity. Between 2010 and 2020, Connecticut's population was nearly stagnant. During the same period, Voluntown shrank by 33 people, a 1.3 percent decrease. The number of white residents in Voluntown shrank by 5.1 percent, while the non-white population grew by 65 percent.

**TABLE 3: POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGE BY AGE GROUP, 2010–2020**

| Area              | Age             | Population, 2010 | Population, 2020 | Change   | Percent change |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Connecticut       | All ages        | 3,574,097        | 3,605,944        | +31,847  | +0.9%          |
|                   | Children (0–17) | 817,015          | 736,717          | –80,298  | –9.8%          |
|                   | Adults (18+)    | 2,757,082        | 2,869,227        | +112,145 | +4.1%          |
| New London County | All ages        | 274,055          | 268,555          | –5,500   | –2.0%          |
|                   | Children (0–17) | 59,599           | 51,633           | –7,966   | –13.4%         |
|                   | Adults (18+)    | 214,456          | 216,922          | +2,466   | +1.1%          |
| Voluntown         | All ages        | 2,603            | 2,570            | –33      | –1.3%          |
|                   | Children (0–17) | 577              | 474              | –103     | –17.9%         |
|                   | Adults (18+)    | 2,026            | 2,096            | +70      | +3.5%          |

**FIGURE 4: SHARE OF POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010–2020**



# HOUSING

Voluntown has 1,053 households, of which 75 percent are homeowner households. Of Voluntown's 1,161 housing units, both occupied and vacant, 84 percent are in single-family buildings and 16 percent are in multifamily buildings, compared to New London County, where 69 percent are single-family and 29 percent are multifamily.

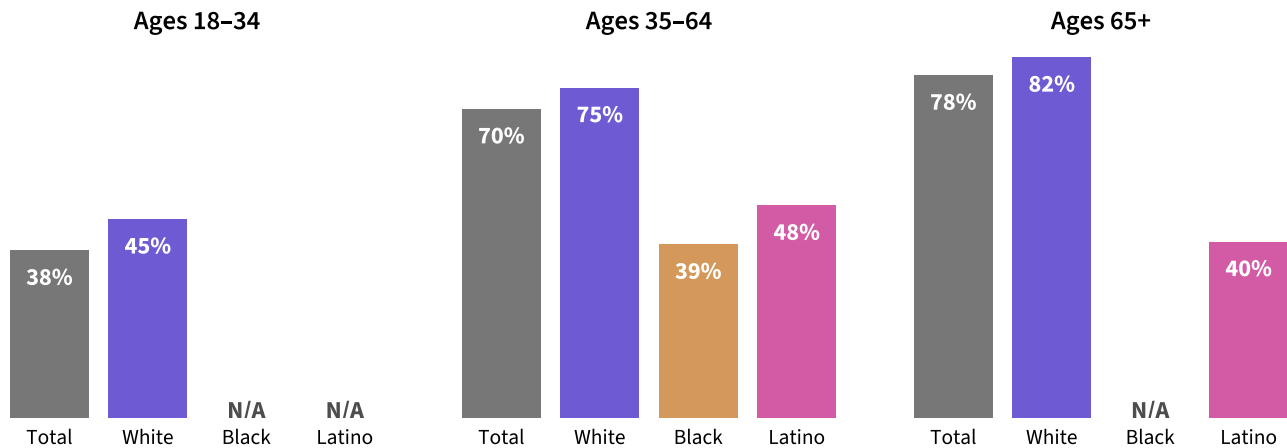
Homeownership rates vary by race/ethnicity. Purchasing a home is more attainable for advantaged groups because the process of purchasing a home has a long history of racially discriminatory practices that continue to restrict access to homeownership today. This challenge, coupled with municipal zoning dominated by single-family housing, results in de facto racial and economic segregation seen throughout Connecticut.

**TABLE 4: HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 2021**

| Area              | Total | White | Black | Latino | Asian |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| Connecticut       | 66%   | 76%   | 41%   | 37%    | 60%   |
| New London County | 67%   | 73%   | 32%   | 40%    | 62%   |
| Voluntown         | 75%   | 78%   | N/A   | N/A    | N/A   |

Younger adults are less likely than older adults to own their homes across several race/ethnicity groups. However, in most towns, younger white adults own their homes at rates comparable to or higher than older Black and Latino adults.

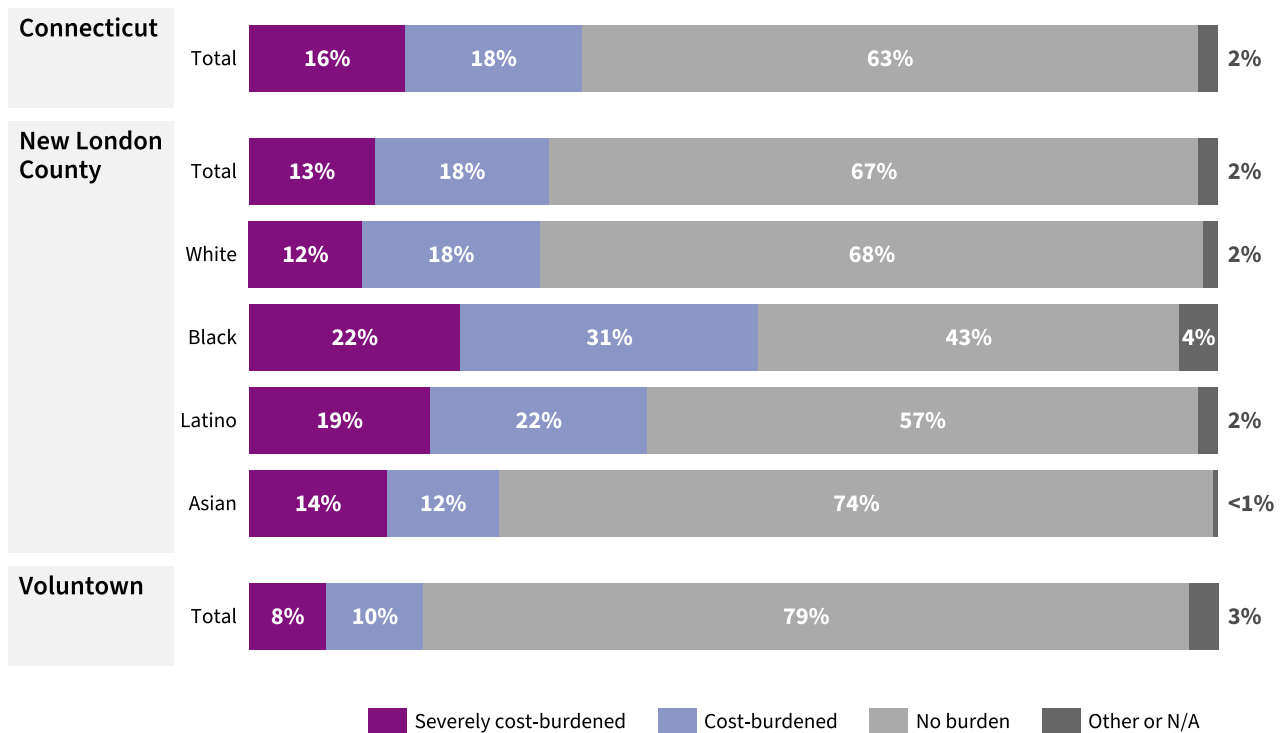
**FIGURE 5: HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, NEW LONDON COUNTY, 2021**





A household is cost-burdened when they spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing costs, and severely cost-burdened when they spend half or more of their income on housing costs. Housing costs continue to rise, due in part to municipal zoning measures that limit new construction to very few towns statewide. Cost-burden generally affects renters more than homeowners, and has greater impact on Black and Latino householders. Among renter households in Voluntown, 20 percent are cost-burdened, compared to 18 percent of owner households.

**FIGURE 6: HOUSING COST-BURDEN RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2021**



Household overcrowding is defined as having more than one occupant per room. Overcrowding may increase the spread of illnesses among the household and can be associated with higher levels of stress. Increasing the availability of appropriately-sized affordable units helps to alleviate overcrowding.

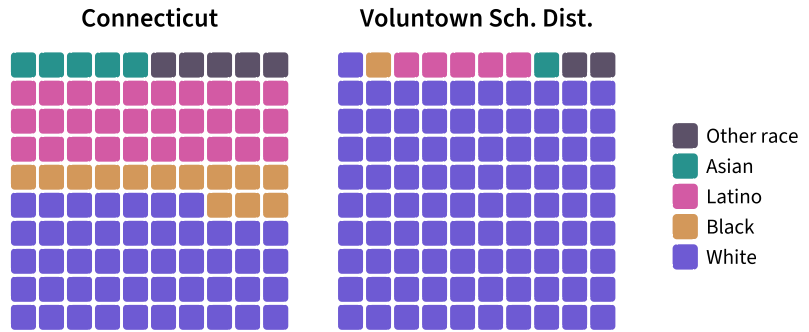
**TABLE 5: OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 2021**

| Area              | Total  |       | White |       | Black |       | Latino |       | Asian |       |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
|                   | Count  | Share | Count | Share | Count | Share | Count  | Share | Count | Share |
| Connecticut       | 27,078 | 2%    | 7,418 | 1%    | 4,868 | 3%    | 10,971 | 6%    | 3,445 | 6%    |
| New London County | 1,192  | 1%    | 442   | 1%    | 173   | 3%    | 396    | 4%    | <50   | N/A   |
| Voluntown         | <50    | N/A   | <50   | N/A   | <50   | N/A   | <50    | N/A   | <50   | N/A   |

# EDUCATION

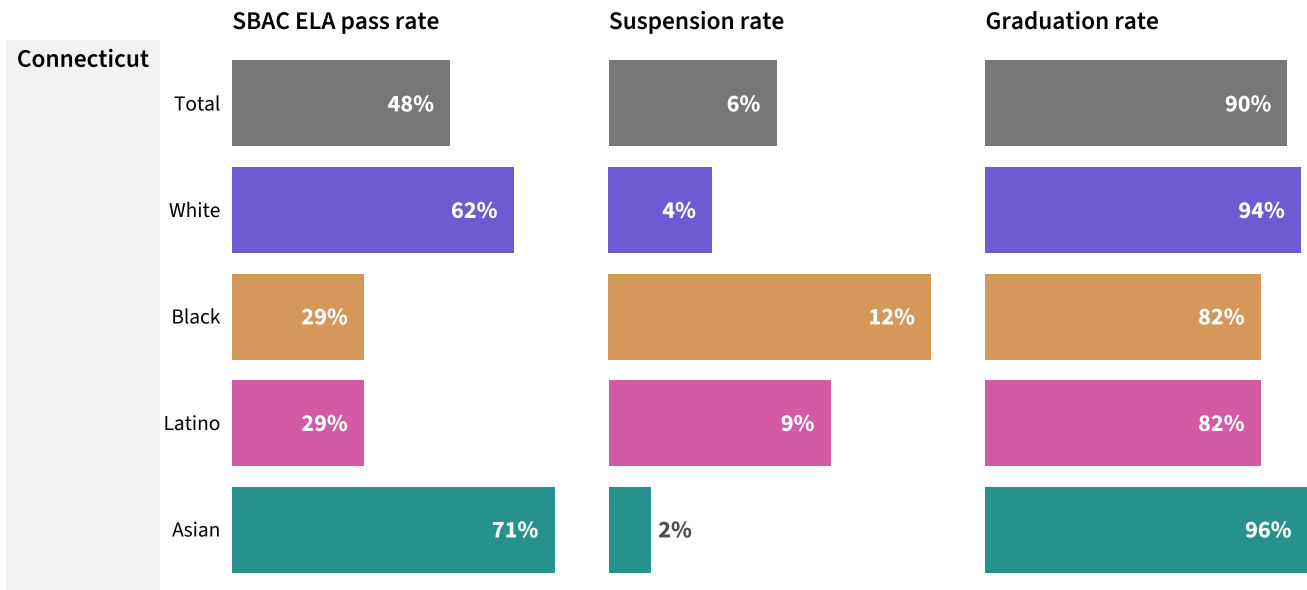
Public school students in Voluntown are served by the Voluntown School District for pre-kindergarten through grade 8. During the 2022-23 school year, there were 250 students enrolled in the Voluntown School District. Tracking student success measures is important since disparate academic and disciplinary outcomes are observed as early as preschool and can ultimately affect a person's long-term educational attainment and economic potential.

**FIGURE 7: PUBLIC K-12 STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY PER 100 STUDENTS, 2022-23**



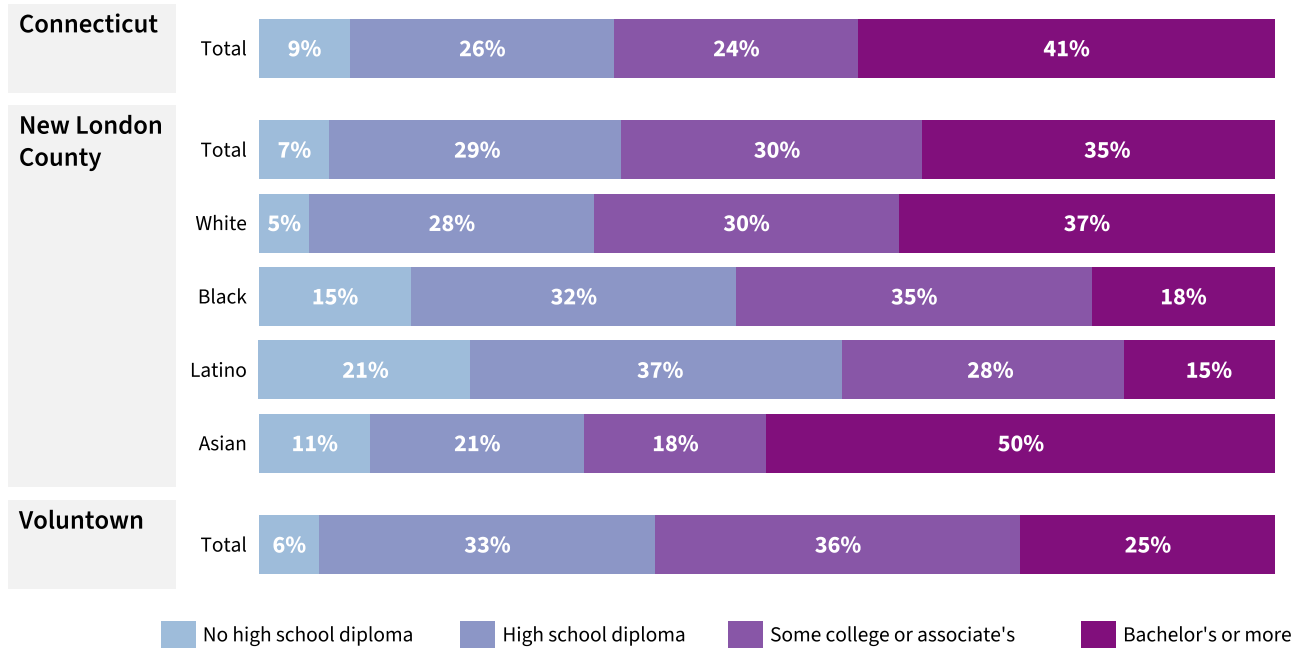
Note: Counts of small groups are suppressed by the Dept. of Education and may be missing from this chart.

**FIGURE 8: SELECTED ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINARY OUTCOMES BY STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY, 2020-21 AND 2021-22 SCHOOL YEARS**



Adults with high school diplomas or college degrees have more employment options and considerably higher potential earnings, on average, than those who do not finish high school. In Voluntown, 6 percent of adults ages 25 and over, or 110 people, lack a high school diploma; statewide, this value is 9 percent.

**FIGURE 9: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY, SHARE OF ADULTS AGES 25 AND UP, 2021**



## ECONOMY

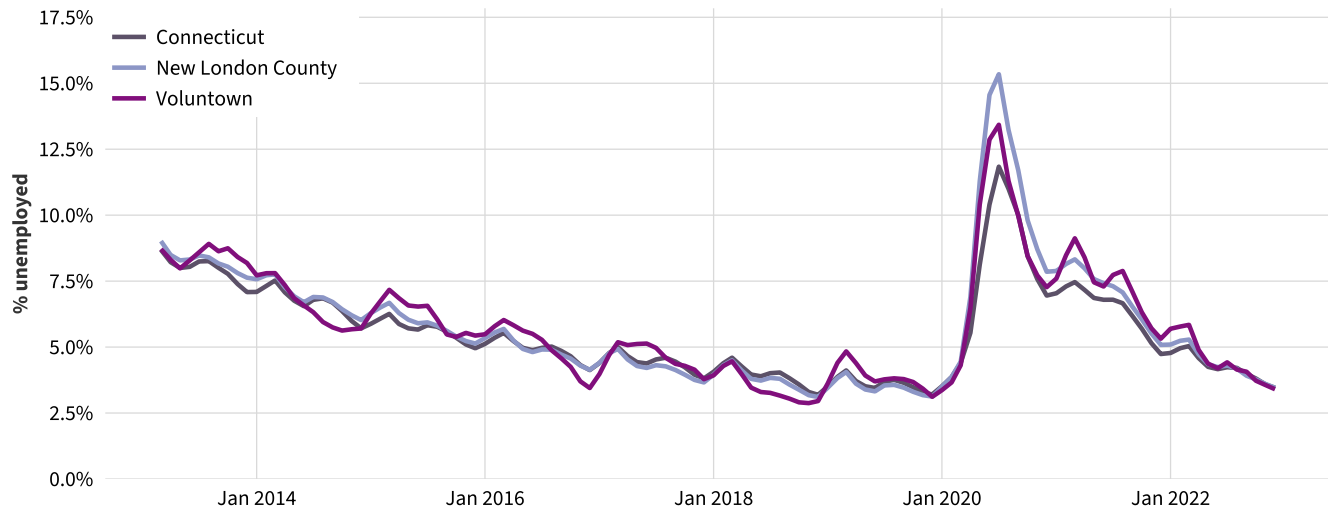
At the end of 2021, there were 309 total jobs in Voluntown, with the largest share in the Accommodation and Food Services sector. While many industries saw major job losses early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, by early 2023 the number of jobs statewide had nearly caught back up to pre-pandemic counts.

**TABLE 6: JOBS AND WAGES IN NEW LONDON COUNTY'S 5 LARGEST SECTORS, 2021**

| Sector   | Connecticut |                | New London County |                |
|--|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
|  | Total jobs  | Avg annual pay | Total jobs        | Avg annual pay |
| All Sectors  | 1,591,760   | \$77,816       | 111,094           | \$65,607       |
| Health Care and Social Assistance  | 267,984     | \$60,835       | 16,616            | \$58,147       |
| Retail Trade   | 167,286     | \$41,652       | 12,941            | \$35,746       |
| Accommodation and Food Services  | 111,160     | \$26,767       | 10,617            | \$26,982       |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services                         | 95,313      | \$121,874      | 4,794             | \$114,828      |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 87,861      | \$54,005       | 2,906             | \$46,902       |

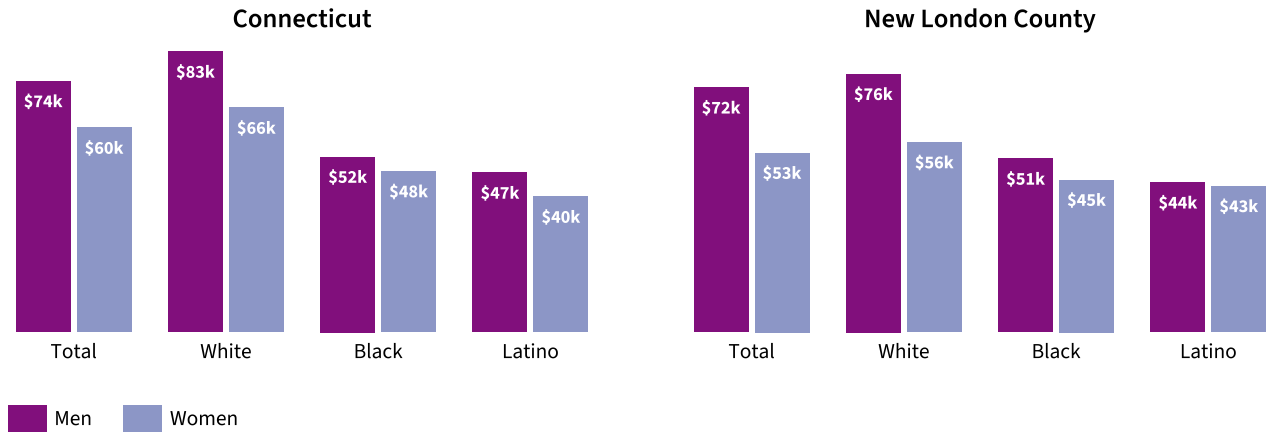
Nationwide, the onset of the pandemic led to a huge spike in unemployment rates, mirrored across Connecticut. At its peak in July 2020, Connecticut's unemployment rate was 12.0 percent. As of December 2022, unemployment rates statewide and in Voluntown were 3.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

**FIGURE 10: MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2013–2022, 3-MONTH ROLLING AVERAGE**



Individual earnings vary by race/ethnicity, sex, and other characteristics. These can be measured comparing the differences in average earnings between groups. White workers and men often out-earn workers of color and women. These trends hold even when controlling for educational attainment and within many occupational groups.

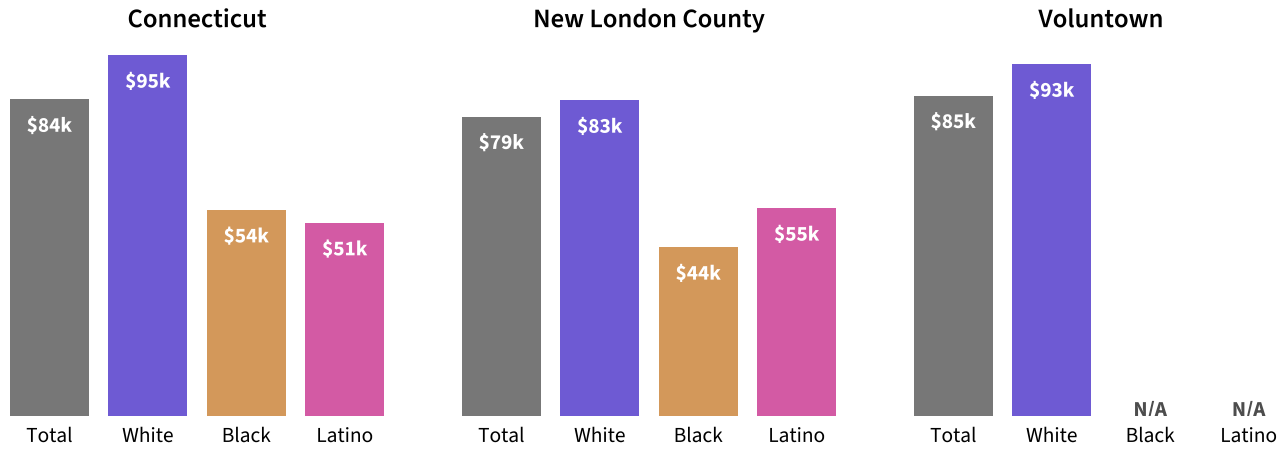
**FIGURE 11: MEDIAN INCOME BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX FOR FULL-TIME WORKERS AGES 25 AND OVER WITH POSITIVE INCOME, 2021**



# INCOME & WEALTH

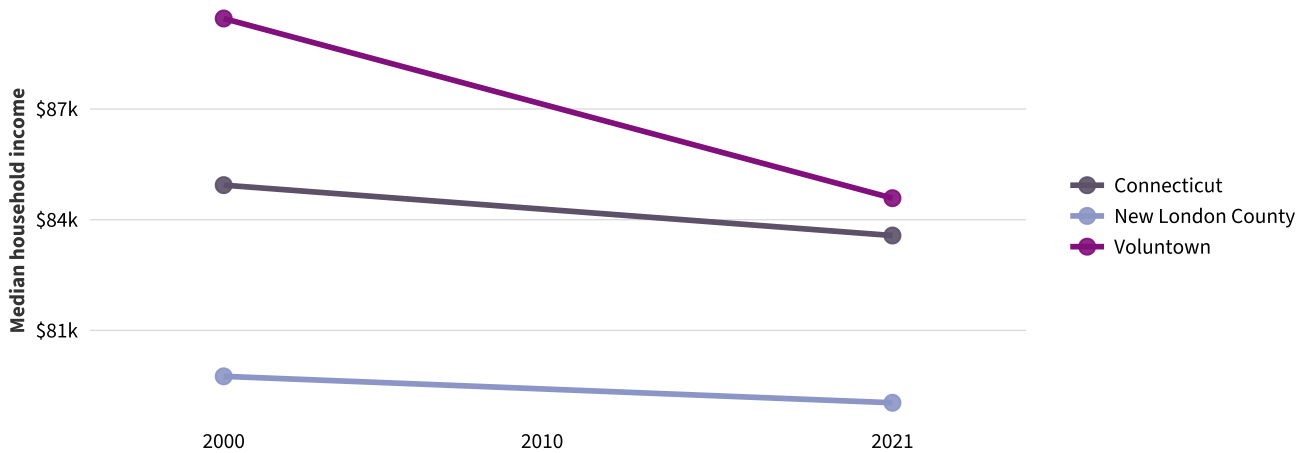
The median household income in Voluntown is \$84,583, compared to \$83,572 statewide. Racial disparities in outcomes related to education, housing, employment, and wages result in disparate household-level incomes and overall wealth. Households led by Black or Latino adults generally average lower incomes than white households.

**FIGURE 12: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 2021**



Between the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, average incomes have not kept pace with inflation over the past two decades. Connecticut’s median household income was \$83,572 in 2021; adjusted for inflation, this was \$1,365 lower than in 2000.

**FIGURE 13: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 2000–2021, IN 2021 DOLLARS**



The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps) is a program available to very low-income households earning less than 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$26,500 for a family of four in 2021). Throughout the state, poverty and SNAP utilization rates are higher among Black and Latino households than white households.

With many of the safety measures early in the COVID-19 pandemic, having reliable, high-speed internet at home became a necessity for remote participation in school, expanded job opportunities, and telehealth. Statewide, Black and Latino residents are slightly more likely than average to live in a household without broadband access.

Access to a personal vehicle may also be considered a measure of financial security since reliable transportation plays a significant role in job access and quality of life. Vehicle access reduces the time a family may spend running errands or traveling to appointments, school, or work.

**TABLE 7: SELECTED ECONOMIC RESOURCES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2021**

|  | Total   |       | White   |       | Black  |       | Latino  |       | Asian  |       |
|--|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
|  | Count   | Share | Count   | Share | Count  | Share | Count   | Share | Count  | Share |
| <b>Population living below poverty level</b>         |         |       |         |       |        |       |         |       |        |       |
| Connecticut  | 351,476 | 10%   | 139,246 | 6%    | 64,472 | 17%   | 127,775 | 21%   | 14,134 | 9%    |
| New London County                                    | 22,436  | 9%    | 11,984  | 6%    | 2,934  | 20%   | 5,767   | 20%   | N/A    | N/A   |
| <b>Population without broadband internet at home</b> |         |       |         |       |        |       |         |       |        |       |
| Connecticut  | 269,234 | 8%    | 159,553 | 7%    | 38,465 | 10%   | 61,883  | 10%   | 5,334  | 3%    |
| New London County                                    | 18,925  | 7%    | 13,981  | 7%    | 1,370  | 10%   | 2,596   | 9%    | N/A    | N/A   |

**TABLE 8: SELECTED HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC INDICATORS BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 2021**

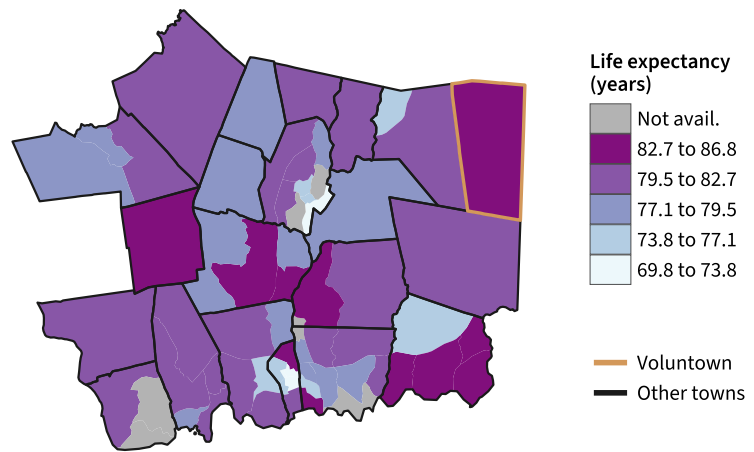
|  | Total   |       | White  |       | Black  |       | Latino |       | Asian |       |
|--|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | Count   | Share | Count  | Share | Count  | Share | Count  | Share | Count | Share |
| <b>Households receiving food stamps/SNAP</b> |         |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |       |       |
| Connecticut                                  | 160,416 | 11%   | 62,974 | 6%    | 34,132 | 24%   | 57,456 | 30%   | 3,501 | 6%    |
| New London County                            | 11,290  | 10%   | 6,267  | 7%    | 1,887  | 32%   | 2,410  | 27%   | N/A   | N/A   |
| <b>Households without a vehicle</b>          |         |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |       |       |
| Connecticut                                  | 118,174 | 8%    | 53,628 | 5%    | 25,802 | 19%   | 31,312 | 16%   | 4,728 | 9%    |
| New London County                            | 7,017   | 6%    | 4,269  | 5%    | 1,085  | 21%   | 1,009  | 11%   | N/A   | N/A   |

# HEALTH

The socioeconomic disparities described above tend to correlate with health outcomes. Factors such as stable housing, employment, literacy and linguistic fluency, environmental hazards, and transportation all impact access to care, physical and mental health outcomes, and overall quality of life. Income and employment status often drive differences in access to healthcare, the likelihood of getting preventive screenings as recommended, the affordability of life-saving medicines, and the ability to purchase other goods and services, including high-quality housing and nutritious food.

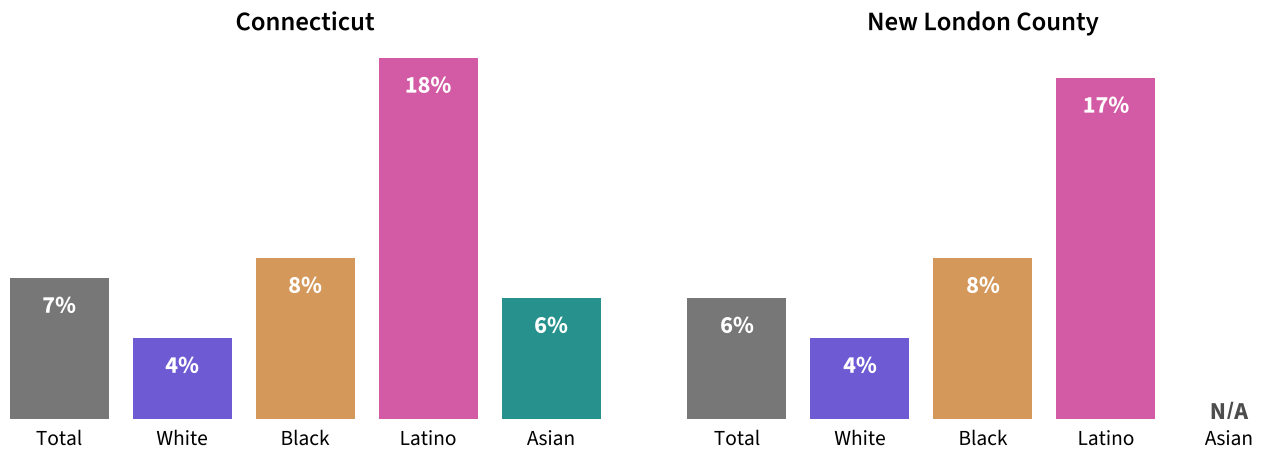
Life expectancy is a good proxy for overall health and well-being since it is the culmination of so many other social and health factors. The average life expectancy in Voluntown is 84.4 years, compared to 79.7 years across New London County and 80.3 years statewide.

**FIGURE 14: LIFE EXPECTANCY, NEW LONDON COUNTY BY CENSUS TRACT, 2015**



Health-related challenges begin with access to care. Due to differences in workplace benefits, income, and eligibility factors, Black and especially Latino people are less likely to have health insurance than white people.

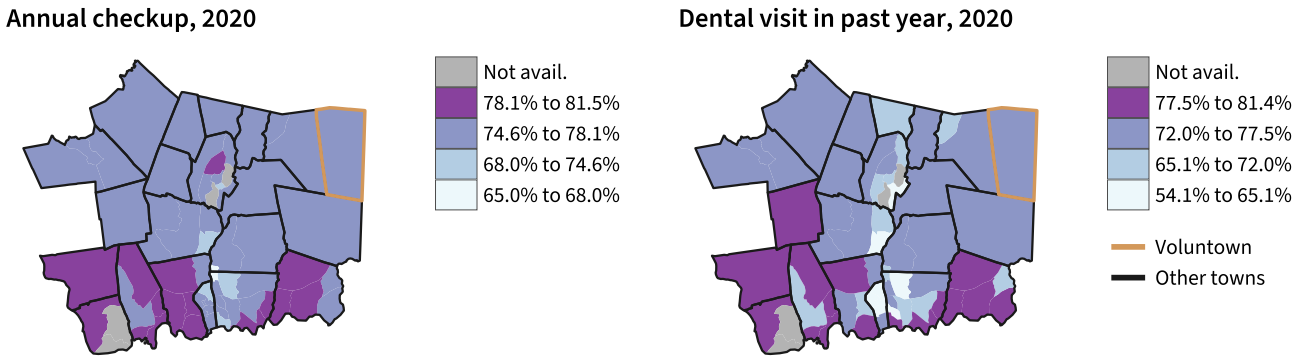
**FIGURE 15: UNINSURED RATE AMONG ADULTS AGES 19–64 BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2021**





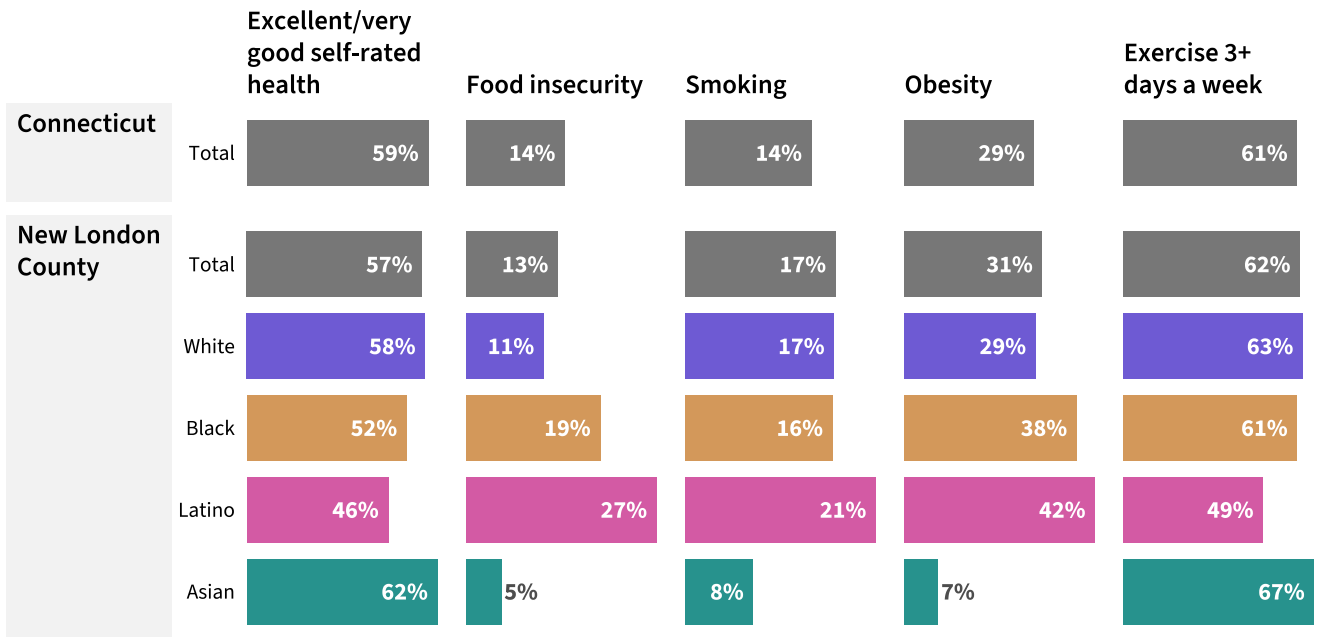
Preventive care can help counteract economic disadvantages, as a person’s health can be improved by addressing risk factors like hypertension and chronic stress early. Lack of affordable, accessible, and consistent medical care can lead to residents relying on expensive emergency room visits later on. Overall, 76 percent of the adults in Voluntown had an annual checkup as of 2020, and 73 percent had had a dental visit in the past year.

**FIGURE 16: PREVENTIVE CARE MEASURES, SHARE OF ADULTS BY CENSUS TRACT, NEW LONDON COUNTY**



Throughout the state, people of color face greater rates and earlier onset of many chronic diseases and risk factors, particularly those that are linked to socioeconomic status and access to resources. For example, diabetes is much more common among older adults than younger ones, yet middle-aged Black adults in Connecticut have higher diabetes rates than white seniors.

**FIGURE 17: SELECTED HEALTH RISK FACTORS, SHARE OF ADULTS, 2015–2021**

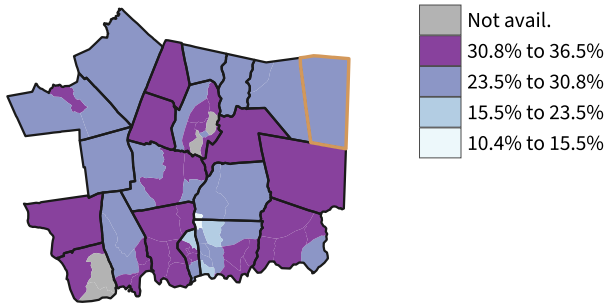


**FIGURE 18: SELECTED HEALTH INDICATORS BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY, SHARE OF ADULTS, NEW LONDON COUNTY, 2015–2021**

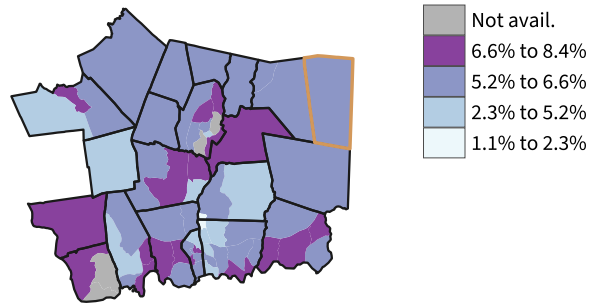
|                   | Asthma |       |       |        | Diabetes |       |       |        | Hypertension |       |       |        |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|----------|-------|-------|--------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
|                   | Total  | White | Black | Latino | Total    | White | Black | Latino | Total        | White | Black | Latino |
| Ages 18 to 34     | 17%    | 16%   | 29%   | 23%    | 4%       | 3%    | 4%    | 10%    | 11%          | 11%   | 8%    | 12%    |
| Ages 35 to 49     | 15%    | 15%   | 16%   | 18%    | 8%       | 7%    | 14%   | 14%    | 25%          | 22%   | 36%   | 35%    |
| Ages 50 to 64     | 15%    | 14%   | 18%   | 22%    | 14%      | 11%   | 32%   | 22%    | 39%          | 39%   | 49%   | 27%    |
| Ages 65 and older | 13%    | 12%   | 13%   | 20%    | 24%      | 23%   | 38%   | 27%    | 59%          | 59%   | 59%   | 42%    |

**FIGURE 19: CHRONIC DISEASE PREVALENCE, SHARE OF ADULTS BY CENSUS TRACT, NEW LONDON COUNTY**

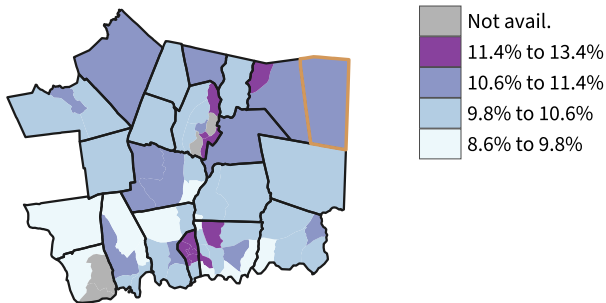
High blood pressure, 2019



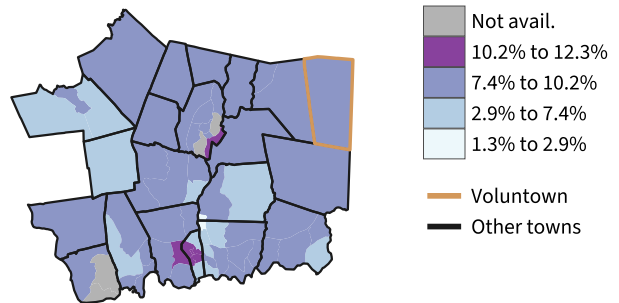
Coronary heart disease, 2020



Current asthma, 2020



Diabetes, 2020



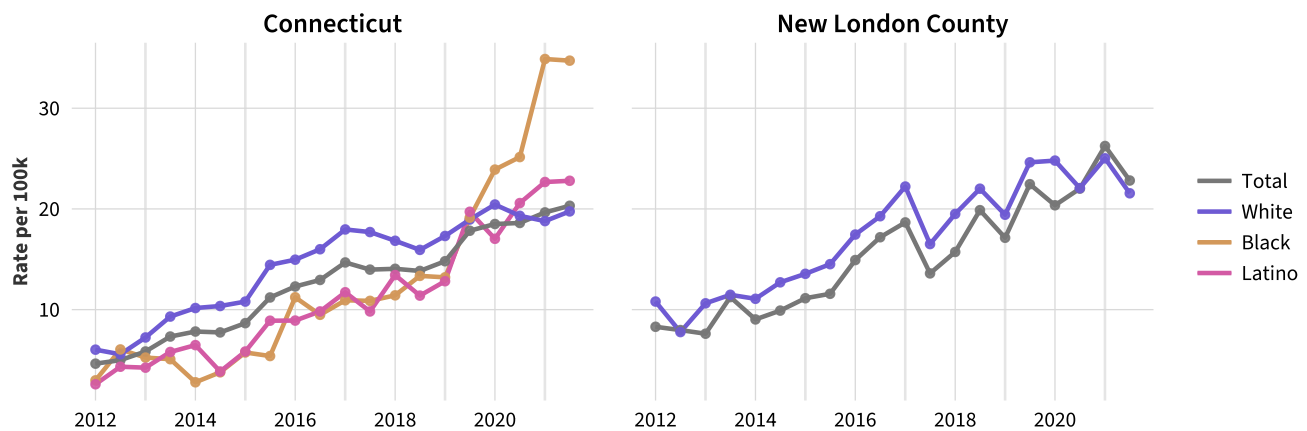
Mental health issues like depression and anxiety can be linked to social determinants like income, employment, and environment, and can pose risks of physical health problems as well, including by complicating a person’s ability to keep up other aspects of their health care. People of color are slightly more likely to report feeling mostly or completely anxious and being bothered by feeling depressed or hopeless. Overall, 12 percent of New London County adults report experiencing anxiety regularly and 10 percent report being bothered by depression.

**TABLE 9: SELECTED MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS, SHARE OF ADULTS, 2015–2021**

|                               | Total | White | Black | Latino | Asian |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| <b>Experiencing anxiety</b>   |       |       |       |        |       |
| Connecticut                   | 13%   | 11%   | 15%   | 19%    | 15%   |
| New London County             | 12%   | 11%   | 13%   | 20%    | 10%   |
| <b>Bothered by depression</b> |       |       |       |        |       |
| Connecticut                   | 9%    | 8%    | 10%   | 14%    | 9%    |
| New London County             | 10%   | 10%   | 8%    | 19%    | 3%    |

Like other states, Connecticut has seen a rise in drug overdose deaths in the last several years. In 2021, Connecticut saw an average of 122 overdose deaths per month, up from 59 in 2015. White residents long comprised the bulk of these deaths, but as overall overdose death rates have increased, an increasing share of those deaths have been people of color.

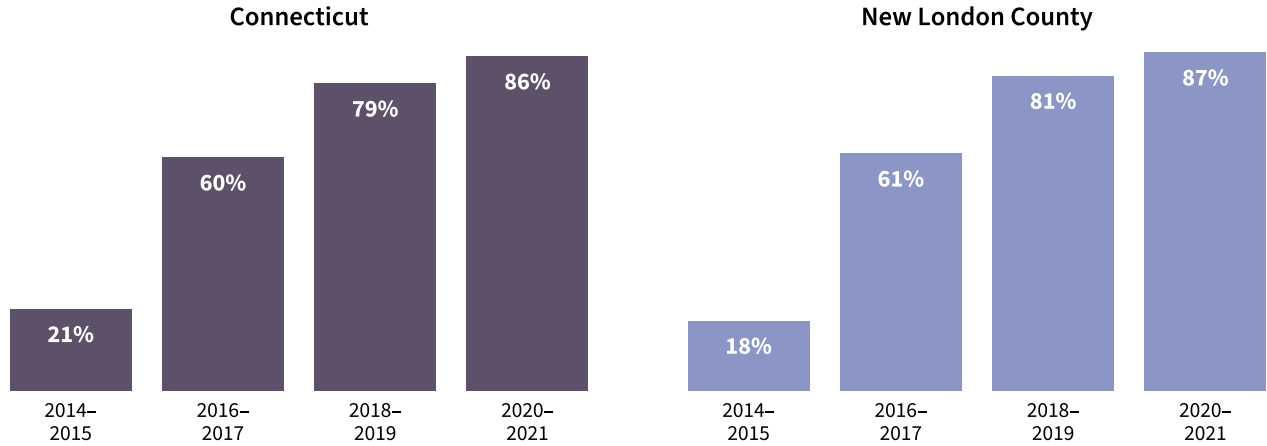
**FIGURE 20: AGE-ADJUSTED SEMI-ANNUAL RATES OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2012–2021**



Note: Values are suppressed for small populations or few overdose incidents. Dashed lines indicate periods where values are suppressed or otherwise unavailable.

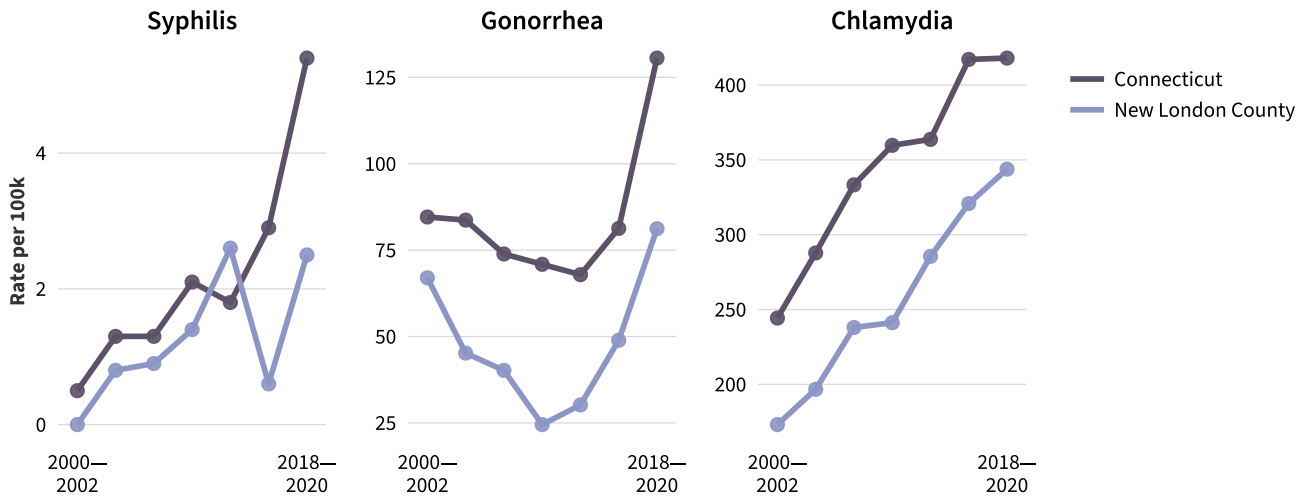
The introduction and spread of fentanyl in drugs—both with and without users’ knowledge—is thought to have contributed to this steep rise in overdoses. In 2016 and 2017, 61 percent of the drug overdose deaths in New London County involved fentanyl; in 2020 and 2021, this share was 87 percent.

**FIGURE 21: SHARE OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING FENTANYL, 2012–2021**



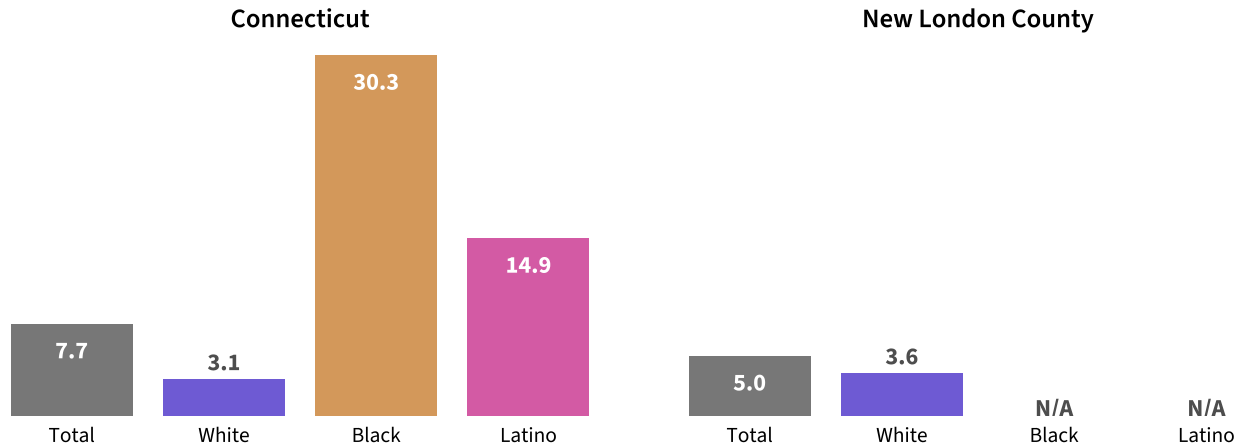
Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can have long-term implications for health, including reproductive health problems and certain cancers, and can increase the risk of acquiring and transmitting diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C. Following nationwide trends, Connecticut has seen increases in the rates of STIs like chlamydia and gonorrhea over the past two decades. Between 2018 and 2020, New London County had annual average case rates of 344 new cases of chlamydia per 100,000 residents, 81 cases of gonorrhea per 100,000, and 2.5 cases of syphilis per 100,000.

**FIGURE 22: ANNUALIZED AVERAGE RATES OF NEW CASES OF SELECTED SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS, 2000–2020**



As with many other diseases, Connecticut's Black and Latino residents face a higher burden of HIV rates. Statewide between 2016 and 2020, Black residents ages 13 and up were nearly 10 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than white residents.

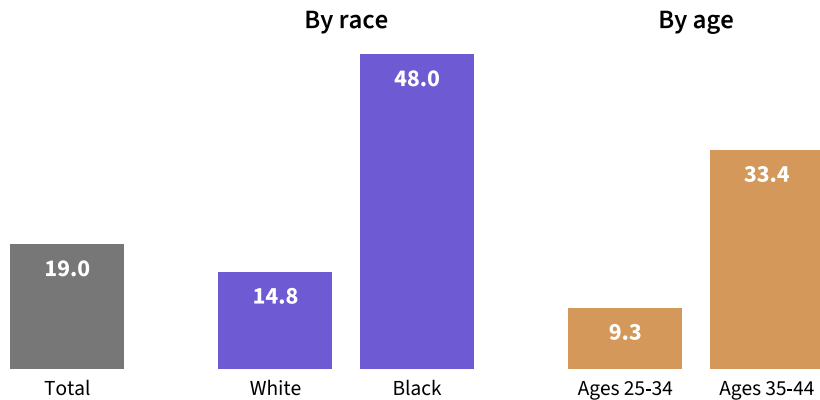
**FIGURE 23: ANNUALIZED AVERAGE RATE OF NEW HIV DIAGNOSES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS AGES 13 AND OVER, 2016–2020**



Birth outcomes often reflect health inequities for parents giving birth, and those outcomes can affect a child throughout their life. Often, parents of color have more complications related to birth and pregnancy than white parents. Complications during pregnancy or childbirth also contribute to elevated mortality among parents giving birth.

**TABLE 10: SELECTED BIRTH OUTCOMES BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF PARENT GIVING BIRTH, 2017–2021**

| Area   | Total | White | Black | Latina           |              |              | Asian |
|--|-------|-------|-------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
|  |       |       |       | Latina (overall) | Puerto Rican | Other Latina |       |
| <b>Late or no prenatal care</b>              |       |       |       |                  |              |              |       |
| Connecticut                                  | 3.4%  | 2.5%  | 5.2%  | 4.4%             | 3.0%         | 5.6%         | 3.4%  |
| New London County                            | 2.4%  | 1.9%  | 5.3%  | 3.2%             | 2.1%         | 4.0%         | 2.5%  |
| <b>Low birthweight</b>                       |       |       |       |                  |              |              |       |
| Connecticut                                  | 7.9%  | 6.4%  | 12.4% | 8.4%             | 10.0%        | 7.0%         | 9.0%  |
| New London County                            | 7.3%  | 6.4%  | 11.4% | 8.2%             | 10.2%        | 6.5%         | 8.1%  |
| <b>Infant mortality (per 1k live births)</b> |       |       |       |                  |              |              |       |
| Connecticut                                  | 4.5   | 3.0   | 9.1   | 5.4              | N/A          | N/A          | N/A   |
| New London County                            | 3.5   | 3.5   | N/A   | N/A              | N/A          | N/A          | N/A   |

**FIGURE 24: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE PER 100K BIRTHS, CONNECTICUT, 2013–2017**

Children under 7 years old are monitored annually for potential lead poisoning, based on having blood-lead levels in excess of the state’s accepted threshold. Between 2018 and 2020, 1.7 percent of children tested in New London County were found to have elevated lead levels. Children living in homes built before 1960 are at a higher risk of potential lead poisoning due to the more widespread use of lead-based paints in older homes. Black and Latino households are more likely to live in structures built before 1960.

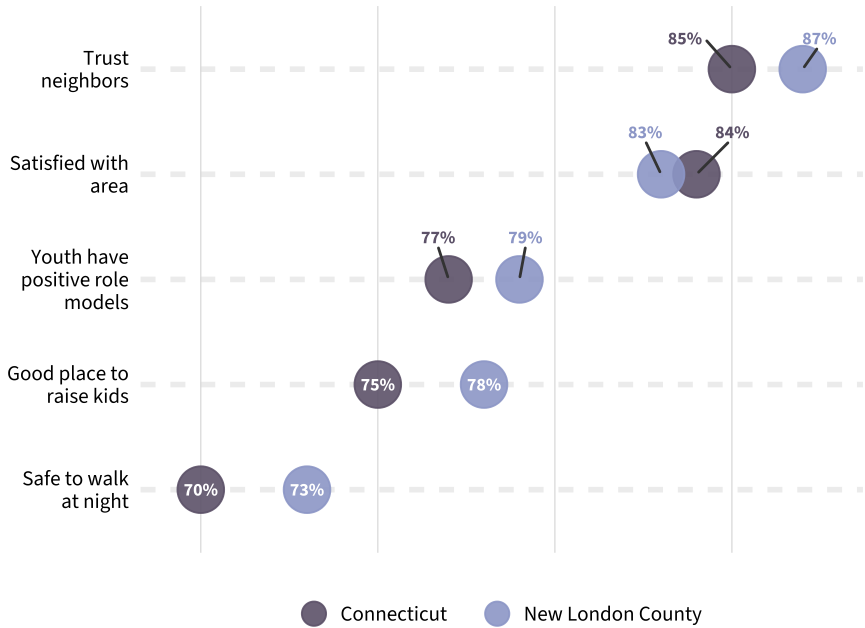
**TABLE 11: HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN STRUCTURES BUILT BEFORE 1960 BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 2021**

| Area              | Total   |       | White   |       | Black  |       | Latino |       | Asian  |       | Other race |       |
|-------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|------------|-------|
|                   | Count   | Share | Count   | Share | Count  | Share | Count  | Share | Count  | Share | Count      | Share |
| Connecticut       | 579,568 | 41%   | 390,197 | 40%   | 64,854 | 49%   | 95,979 | 50%   | 14,732 | 27%   | 14,953     | 42%   |
| New London County | 41,263  | 38%   | 32,550  | 37%   | 2,332  | 45%   | 4,201  | 47%   | 1,035  | 28%   | 1,615      | 41%   |
| Voluntown         | 284     | 27%   | N/A     | N/A   | N/A    | N/A   | N/A    | N/A   | N/A    | N/A   | N/A        | N/A   |

# CIVIC LIFE & COMMUNITY COHESION

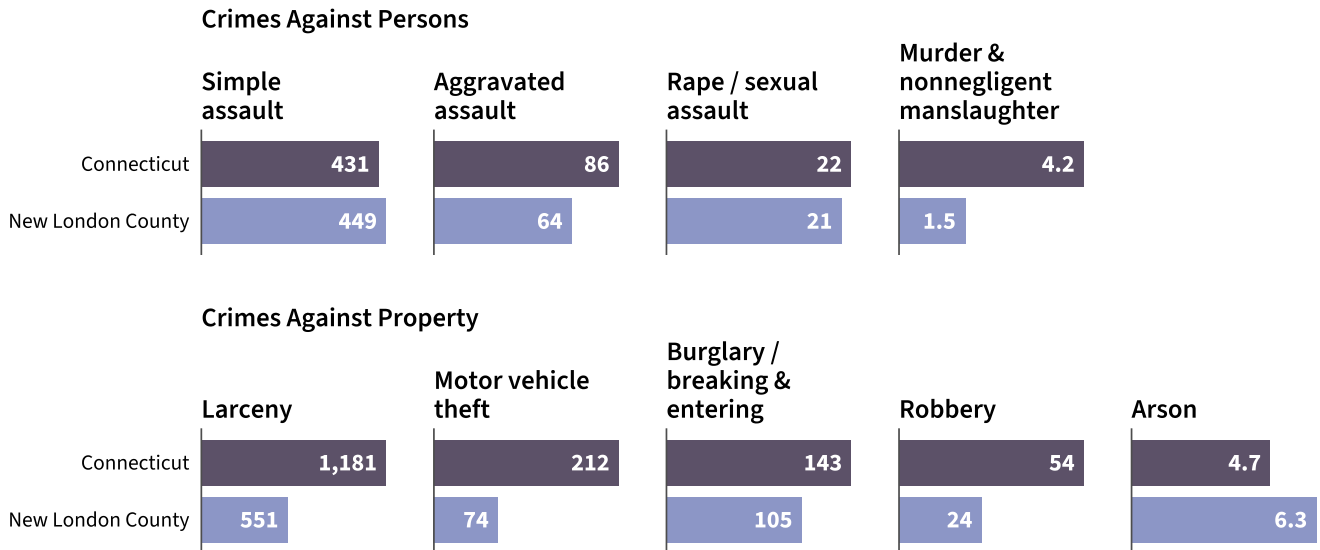
Beyond individual health, several measures from the DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey show how local adults feel about the health of their neighborhoods. High quality of life and community cohesion can positively impact resident well-being through the availability of resources, sense of safety, and participation in civic life. For example, adults who see the availability of role models in their community may enroll their children in extracurricular activities that benefit them educationally and socially; residents who know and trust their neighbors may find greater social support. Overall, 85 percent of Voluntown adults report being satisfied with the area where they live.

**FIGURE 25: RESIDENTS' RATINGS OF COMMUNITY COHESION MEASURES, SHARE OF ADULTS, 2015-2021**



Crime rates are based on reports to law enforcement of violent force against persons, as well as offenses involving property. Not all crimes involve residents of the areas where the crimes occur, which is important to consider when evaluating crime rates in areas or towns with more commercial activity. Crime patterns can also vary dramatically by neighborhood. Crime can impact the social and economic well-being of communities, including through negative health effects.

**FIGURE 26: GROUP A CRIME RATES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS BY TOWN / JURISDICTION, 2021**



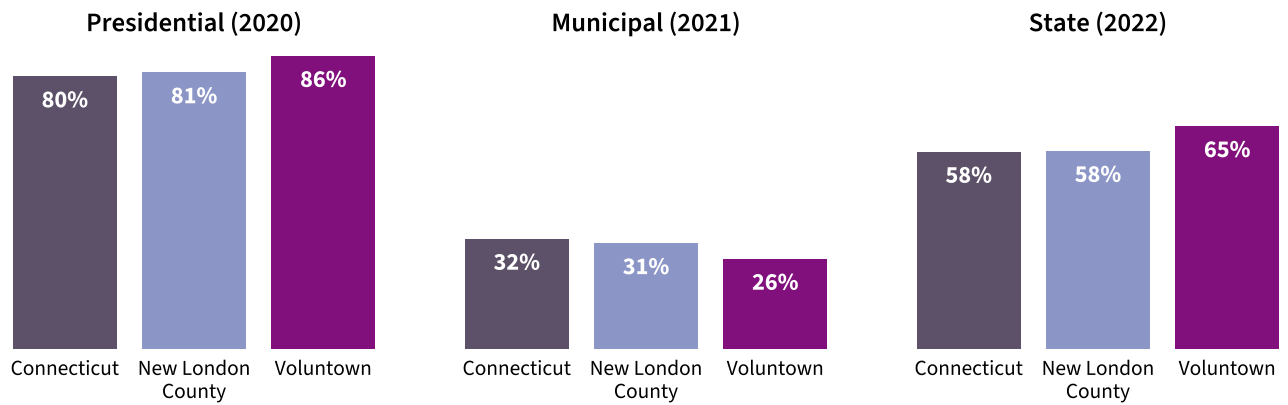
A lack of trust in and engagement with local government and experiences of unfair treatment by authorities can impair community well-being and cohesion. Fifty-two percent of adults in Voluntown feel their local government is responsive to residents’ needs, compared to 53 percent of Connecticut adults.

**TABLE 12: RESIDENTS’ RATINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SHARE OF ADULTS, 2015–2021**

| Area              | Local govt is responsive | Have some influence over local govt |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Connecticut       | 53%                      | 67%                                 |
| New London County | 49%                      | 66%                                 |

Eighty-six percent of Voluntown’s eligible voters, or 1,532 people, voted in the 2020 presidential election, and 65 percent (1,173 people) voted in the 2022 state election.

**FIGURE 27: REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT, 2020–2022**



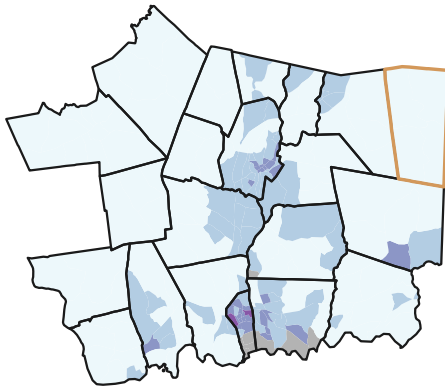


# ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

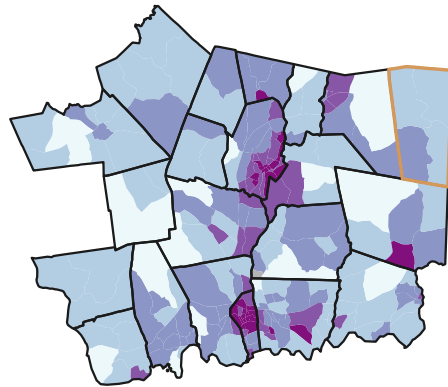
Many environmental factors—from access to outdoor resources to tree canopy to exposure to pollutants—can have direct impacts on residents’ health and quality of life. Environmental justice is the idea that these factors of built and natural environments follow familiar patterns of socioeconomic disparities and segregation. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ranks small areas throughout the US on their risks of exposure to a variety of pollutants and hazards, scaled to account for the historically disparate impact of these hazards on people of color and lower-income people.

**FIGURE 28: EPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INDEX BY BLOCK GROUP, NEW LONDON COUNTY**

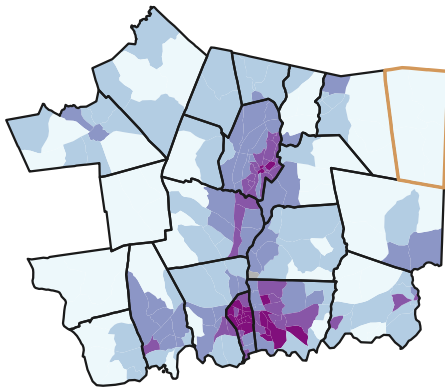
**Air toxics cancer risk**



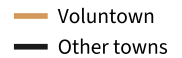
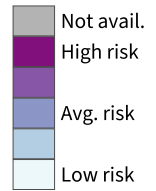
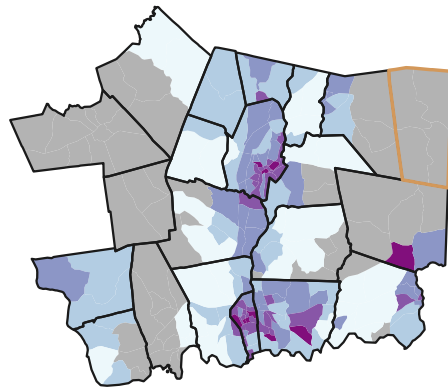
**Lead paint exposure**



**Hazardous waste proximity**

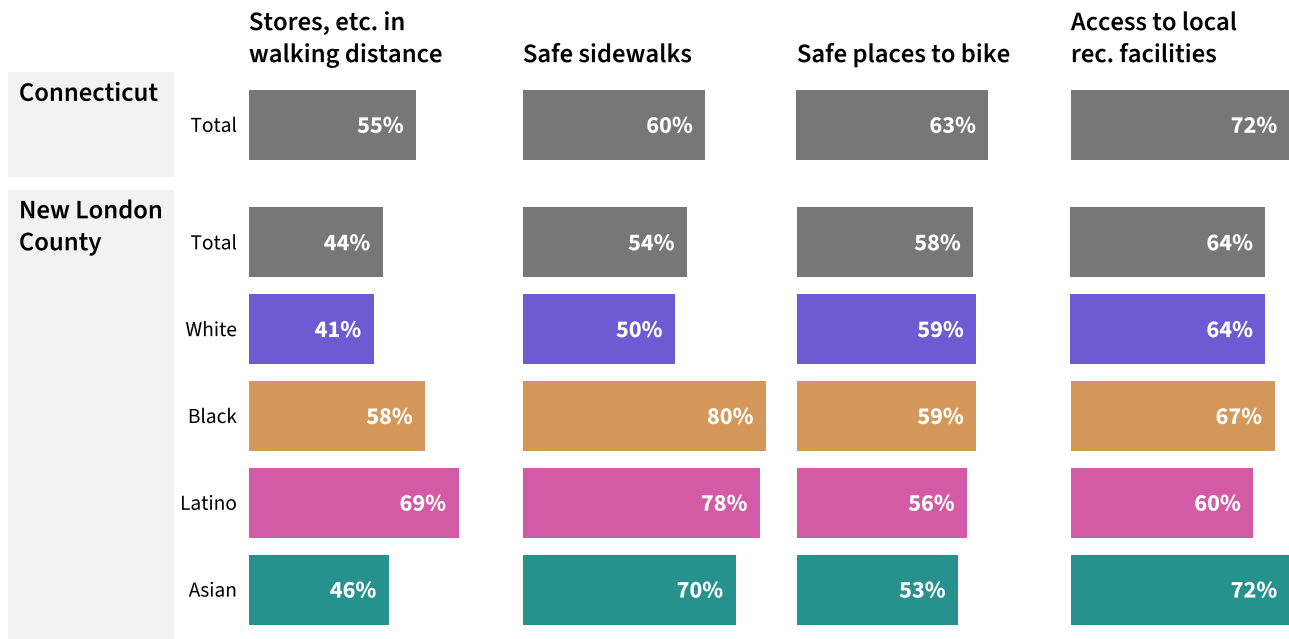


**Wastewater discharge**



High-quality built environment resources, such as recreational facilities and safe sidewalks, help keep residents active and bring communities together. Walkable neighborhoods may also encourage decreased reliance on cars. Throughout Connecticut, Black and Latino residents are largely concentrated in denser urban areas which tend to offer greater walkability. Of adults in New London County, 44 percent report having stores, banks, and other locations they need in walking distance, lower than the share of adults statewide.

**FIGURE 29: RESIDENTS' RATINGS OF LOCAL WALKABILITY MEASURES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, SHARE OF ADULTS, 2015–2021**



## NOTES

**Figure 1. Study area.** Map tiles by Stamen Design, under CC BY 3.0. Data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

**Table 1. About the area.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates. Available at <https://data.census.gov>; US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data. Available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo.html>; PLACES Project. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/places>; and National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP): Life Expectancy Estimates Files, 2010–2015. National Center for Health Statistics. 2018. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/usaleep/usaleep.html>. Note that for the sake of privacy, the Census Bureau suppresses any income values above \$250,000 in their tables; any such values not calculated by DataHaven will be shown as \$250,000+.

**Table 2. Population by race/ethnicity, 2020.** US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data.

**Figure 2. Population by race/ethnicity and age group, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Figure 3. Linguistic isolation by race/ethnicity, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Table 3. Population and population change by age group, 2010–2020.** US Census Bureau 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data.

**Figure 4. Share of population by race/ethnicity, 2010–2020.** US Census Bureau 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data.

**Table 4. Homeownership rate by race/ethnicity of head of household, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Figure 5. Homeownership rates by age and race/ethnicity of head of household, New London County, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year public use microdata sample (PUMS) data, accessed via IPUMS. Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Danika Brockman, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, and Megan Schouweiler. IPUMS USA: Version 13.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V13.0>

**Figure 6. Housing cost-burden rates by race/ethnicity, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of Ruggles, et al. (2023).

**Table 5. Overcrowded households by race/ethnicity of head of household, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Figure 7. Public K–12 student enrollment by race/ethnicity per 100 students, 2022-23.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of enrollment data from the Connecticut State Department of Education, accessed via EdSight at <http://edsight.ct.gov>. At the school district level, not all groups may be shown due to CTSDE data suppression rules for small enrollment counts, even though they may represent more than 1% of the school district population.

**Figure 8. Selected academic and disciplinary outcomes by student race/ethnicity, 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing (3rd and 8th grade English/language arts), discipline, and four-year graduation data from the Connecticut State Department of Education, accessed via EdSight. Not all groups' values may be included, or in some cases may be based on estimates, due to CTSDE data suppression rules for small counts. Because students can be suspended more than once in a school year, the suspension rate represents the percentage of students with one or more suspension or expulsion during the school year.

**Figure 9. Educational attainment by race/ethnicity, share of adults ages 25 and up, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Table 6. Jobs and wages in Voluntown’s 5 largest sectors, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of annual employment data from the Connecticut Department of Labor. Note that in some cases, especially for smaller towns or where data were deemed unreliable for whatever reason, data have been suppressed by the department. In a few cases, that may mean large sectors in an area are missing from the analysis here. Available at [https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/202/202\\_annualaverage.asp](https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/202/202_annualaverage.asp)

**Figure 10. Monthly unemployment rate, 2013–2022, 3-month rolling average.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/lau>

**Figure 11. Median income by race/ethnicity and sex for full-time workers ages 25 and over with positive income, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of Ruggles, et al. (2023).

**Figure 12. Median household income by race/ethnicity of head of household, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates and Ruggles, et al (2023).

**Table 7. Selected economic resource indicators by race/ethnicity, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Table 8. Selected household economic indicators by race/ethnicity of head of household, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates and Ruggles, et al (2023).

**Figure 13. Median household income, 2000–2021, in 2021 dollars.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; and American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Table 9. Median household income in large towns, 2000–2021, in 2021 dollars.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; and American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Figure 14. Life expectancy, New London County by Census tract, 2015.** Data from National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP): Life Expectancy Estimates Files, 2010–2015. National Center for Health Statistics. 2018. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/usaleep/usaleep.html>

**Figure 15. Uninsured rate among adults ages 19–64 by race/ethnicity, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates.

**Figure 16. Preventive care measures, share of adults by Census tract, New London County.** Data from PLACES Project. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Figure 17. Selected health risk factors, share of adults, 2015–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2015, 2018, and 2021 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey. Available at <https://ctdatahaven.org/reports/datahaven-community-wellbeing-survey>

**Figure 18. Selected health indicators by age and race/ethnicity, share of adults, New London County, 2015–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2015, 2018, and 2021 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey.

**Figure 19. Chronic disease prevalence, share of adults by Census tract, New London County.** Data from PLACES Project. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Table 10. Selected mental health indicators, share of adults, 2015–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2015, 2018, and 2021 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey.

**Figure 20. Age-adjusted semi-annual rates of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 residents by race/ethnicity, 2012–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of Accidental Drug Related Deaths. Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Available at <https://data.ct.gov/resource/rybz-nyjw>. Rates are weighted with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2000 U.S. Standard Population 18 age group weights available at <https://seer.cancer.gov/stdpopulations>

**Figure 21. Share of drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl, 2012–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of Accidental Drug Related Deaths. Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

**Figure 22. Annualized average rates of new cases of selected sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 residents, 2000–2020.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NCHHSTP AtlasPlus. Updated 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm>

**Figure 23. Annualized average rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 residents ages 13 and over, 2016–2020.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NCHHSTP AtlasPlus.

**Table 11. Selected birth outcomes by race/ethnicity of parent giving birth, 2017–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of data from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Vital Statistics. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports>

**Figure 24. Maternal mortality rate per 100k births, Connecticut, 2013–2017.** America’s Health Rankings analysis of CDC WONDER Online Database, Mortality files, United Health Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.americashealthrankings.org>

**Table 12. Households living in structures built before 1960 by race/ethnicity of head of household, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates and Ruggles, et al (2023).

**Figure 25. Residents’ ratings of community cohesion measures, share of adults, 2015–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2015, 2018, and 2021 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey.

**Figure 26. Group A crime rates per 100,000 residents by town / jurisdiction, 2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2021 Crime in Connecticut Overview By Town. Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DESPP/Division-of-State-Police/Crimes-Analysis-Unit/Crimes-Analysis-Unit>. Group A crimes under the FBI’s National Incident Based Reporting System are categorized into crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society. The first two of these, shown here, are similar to the Part I Offenses of the previous reporting system and shown in older reports.

**Table 13. Residents’ ratings of local government, share of adults, 2015–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2015, 2018, and 2021 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey.

**Figure 27. Registered voter turnout, 2020–2022.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of data from the Connecticut Office of the Secretary of the State Elections Management System. Available at <https://ctemspublic.pcctg.net>

**Figure 28. EPA Environmental Justice Index by block group, New London County.** United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2022 version. EJSCREEN. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

**Figure 29. Residents’ ratings of local walkability measures by race/ethnicity, share of adults, 2015–2021.** DataHaven analysis (2023) of 2015, 2018, and 2021 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey.

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Visit DataHaven ([ctdatahaven.org](https://ctdatahaven.org)) for more information. This report was authored by Camille Seaberry, Kelly Davila, and Mark Abraham of DataHaven.

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## ABOUT DATAHAVEN

DataHaven is a non-profit organization with a 30-year history of public service to Connecticut. Our mission is to empower people to create thriving communities by collecting and ensuring access to data on well-being, equity, and quality of life. DataHaven is a formal partner of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership of the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

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