KEY FINDINGS

**Housing**
- 2% of housing is subsidized
- 11% of households rent their home
- 6% of housing units are in multifamily buildings

**Affordability**
- 16% of households spend between 30% and 50% of their income on housing
- 15% of households spend more than half of their income on housing
- $22.69 the hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment

**Population**
- 45 the median age of residents
- 6% of residents are people of color (BIPOC)
- -7% projected population change from 2020 to 2040

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT
Throughout this report, a series of graphs like the one below are used to show how **Bethlehem** compares to **other towns** in the state on a variety of measures.

**ABOUT THE HOUSING DATA PROFILES**
The Partnership for Strong Communities' Housing Data Profiles are a free resource to help Connecticut residents, developers, legislators, municipal officials, and others make data-informed decisions. Profiles are available for every town and county in the state. To learn more, please visit [pschousing.org](http://pschousing.org) or [housingprofiles.pschousing.org](http://housingprofiles.pschousing.org) to view the interactive version of the profiles.

**DATA NOTES**
Data comes from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey unless stated otherwise. Percentages may differ slightly or not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding.
Housing

2020 Housing Data Profiles

BETHLEHEM

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES AS PERCENT OF ALL HOMES

94%

PERCENT OF ALL HOMES OCCUPIED BY OWNERS

68%

Overall, 64% of Connecticut’s occupied housing stock is comprised of single-family housing, while 35% is multifamily housing (2+ units in structure). Most single-family homes are occupied by homeowners, while most multifamily units are occupied by renters.

In Bethlehem, 94% of occupied homes are single-family, and 6% are multi-family. Owners live in 72% of Bethlehem’s 1,558 single-family homes, and renters live in 92% of its 97 multifamily homes.

CHANGE IN BUILDING PERMITS, 1990-2017

-87%

Growth is slow in the state, which has seen a 42% decrease in building permits between 1990 and 2017.

In Bethlehem, there were 15 building permits issued in 1990, compared to 2 issued in 2017, representing a 87% decrease.

Number of building permits per year, 1990-2017

Note: y axis varies between locations

Source: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
UNITS BUILT BEFORE 1970

47%

Older homes are prone to falling into disrepair, and often carry environmental risks such as lead paint. An aging housing stock can be a sign of poor housing quality.

SPENDING ON ENERGY AS PERCENT OF TOTAL INCOME

3.2%

Households that use electricity spend 3.4% of their income on energy (3.2% for fuel oil/coal and 2.9% for gas).

AFFORDABLE HOMES AS A SHARE OF ALL HOUSING UNITS

2%

The CT Department of Housing calculates the percentage of affordable units in a municipality annually for the Affordable Housing Appeals List. Affordable units are units that are subsidized below market-rate through programs like Housing Choice Vouchers or CHFA/USDA mortgages.

Of the 1,575 total units in Bethlehem, 34 are considered to be affordable.
PEOPLE BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

31%

Households that are cost-burdened spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Severely cost-burdened spend more than 50% on housing.

RENTERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

77%

OWNERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

27%

RENTERS' HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

32%

OWNERS' HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

15%
HOUSING WAGE

$22.69

Each year, the National Low Income Housing Coalition calculates the “housing wage,” the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home without paying more than 30% of income on housing. Bethlehem is included in the Litchfield County. Bethlehem’s housing wage is lower than the state housing wage of $26.42.

HOUSING PRESERVATION UNITS

100%

Bethlehem has 24 federally assisted housing units, of which 100% are at risk of loss within the next 5 years.
TOTAL POPULATION
3,452

PEOPLE OF COLOR
6%

Connecticut population is becoming increasingly diverse, but the BIPOC population is concentrated in certain municipalities, especially Connecticut's cities. In Bethlehem, 6% of residents are BIPOC, while 94% are white.

MEDIAN AGE
45

POPULATION CHANGE, 2020 TO 2040
-7%

In the next twenty years, Bethlehem's population is projected to shrink from 3,595 to 3,342.
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

2.59

The average household size in Bethlehem has declined between 2000 and 2018.

Understanding who lives in our towns provides insight into the housing and service needs for each community such as accessibility, transportation, child care, and education. Compared to Connecticut, Bethlehem has more households with someone older than 60 and fewer households with school-age children.

Household types as a percent of total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household type</th>
<th>Bethlehem</th>
<th>Litchfield County</th>
<th>Connecticut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Householder living alone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with someone older than 60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with someone under 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>