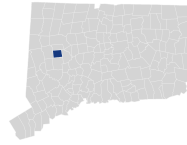


# BETHLEHEM



## KEY FINDINGS

### Housing

**2%**

of housing is subsidized

**20%**

of households rent their home

**6%**

of housing units are in multifamily buildings

### Affordability

**14%**

of households spend between 30% and 50% of their income on housing

**20%**

of households spend more than half of their income on housing

**\$24.62**

the hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment

### Population

**50**

the median age of residents

**8%**

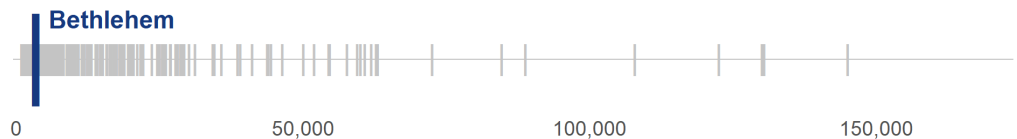
of residents are people of color (BIPOC)

**-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

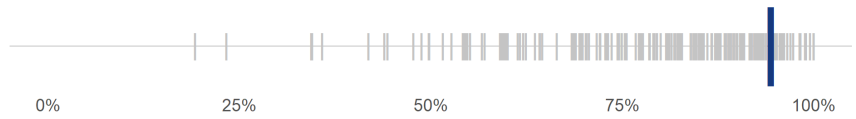
The Partnership for Strong Communities' Housing Data Profiles are a free resource to help Connecticut residents, developers, legislators, municipal officials, and others make data-informed decisions. Profiles are available for every town and county in the state. To learn more, please visit [pschousing.org](https://pschousing.org)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

## DATA NOTES

Data comes from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey unless stated otherwise. Percentages may differ slightly or not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES AS PERCENT OF ALL HOMES

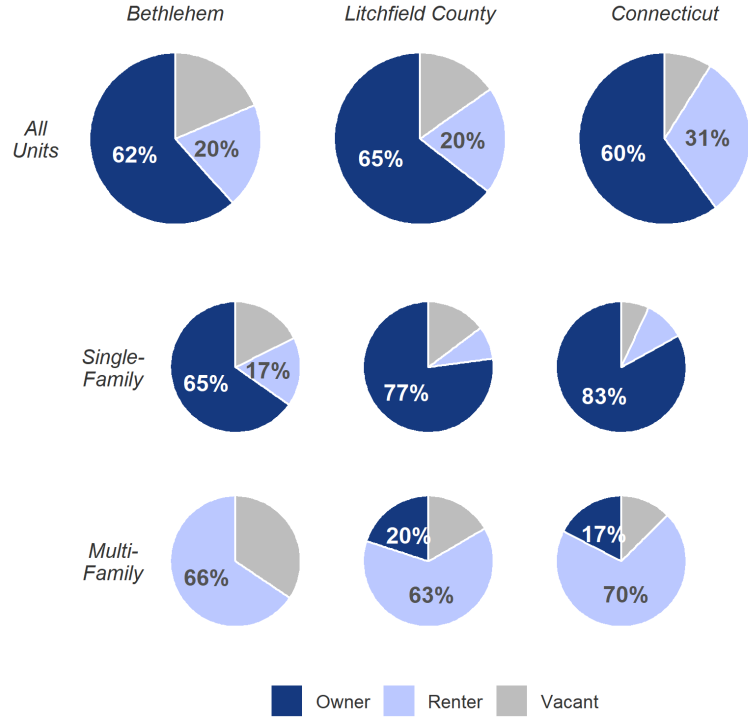
## 94%



PERCENT OF ALL HOMES OCCUPIED BY OWNERS

## 62%

Overall, 65% 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 65% of Bethlehem's 1,556 single-family homes, and renters live in 66% of its 93 multifamily homes.

CHANGE IN BUILDING PERMITS, 1990-2021

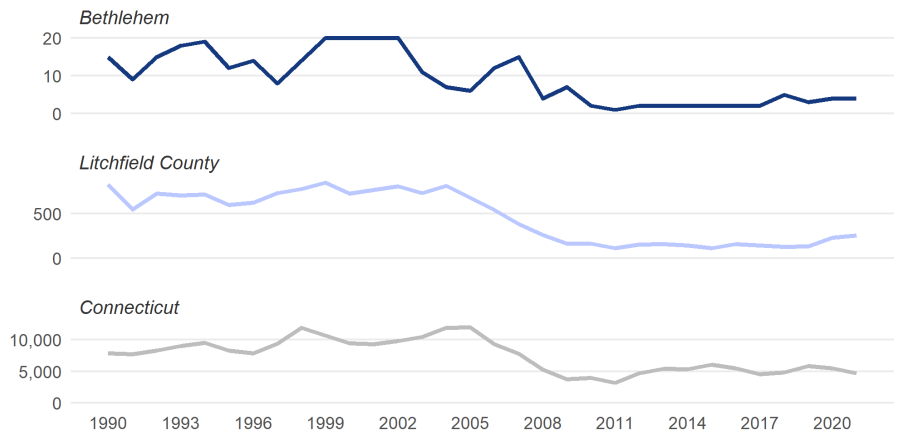
## -73%

Growth is slow in the state, which has seen a 41% decrease in building permits between 1990 and 2021.

In Bethlehem, there were 15 building permits issued in 1990, compared to 4 issued in 2021, representing a 73% decrease.

Number of building permits per year, 1990-2021

Note: y axis varies between locations



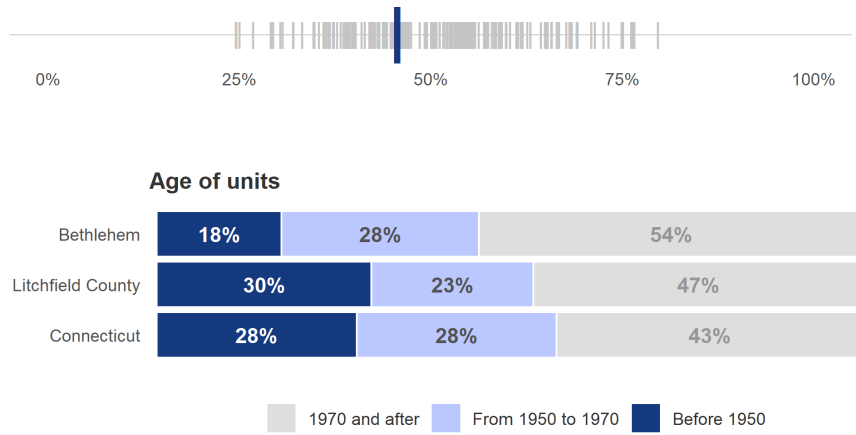
Source: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development



UNITS BUILT BEFORE 1970

## 46%

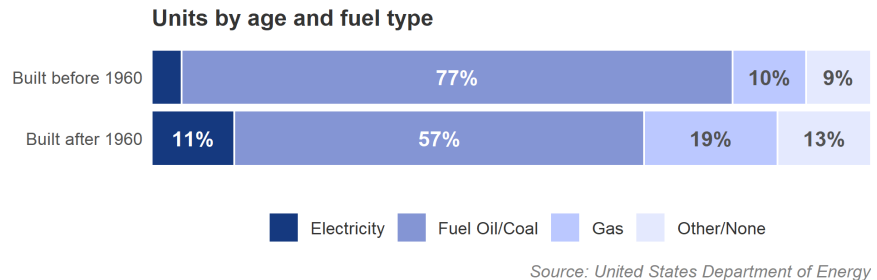
Older homes are prone to falling into disrepair, and often carry environmental risks such as lead paint. An aging housing stock can be a sign of poor housing quality.



SPENDING ON ENERGY AS PERCENT OF TOTAL INCOME

## 4.1%

Households that use electricity spend 5.6% of their income on energy (3.9% for fuel oil/coal and 4.5% for gas).

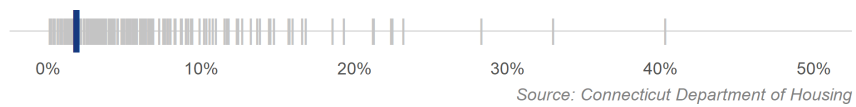


AFFORDABLE HOMES AS A SHARE OF ALL HOUSING UNITS

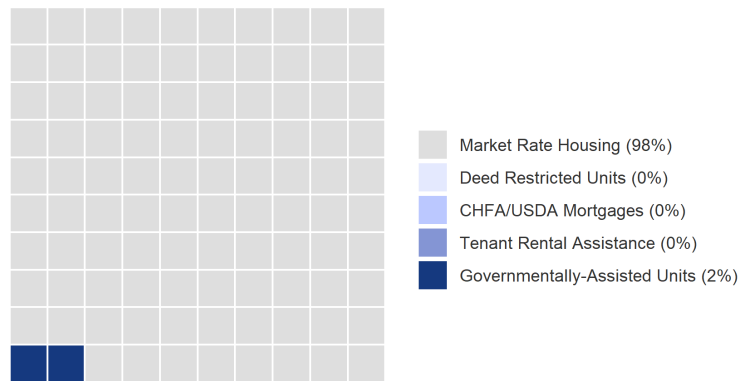
## 2%

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, 29 are considered to be affordable.



Affordable units by type



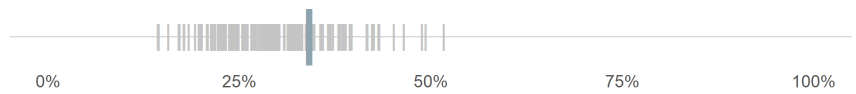
Source: Connecticut Department of Housing



PEOPLE BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

## 34%

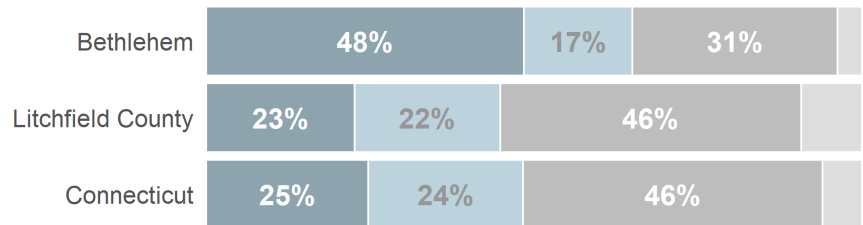
Households that are cost-burdened spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Severely cost-burdened spend more than 50% on housing.



RENTERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

## 69%

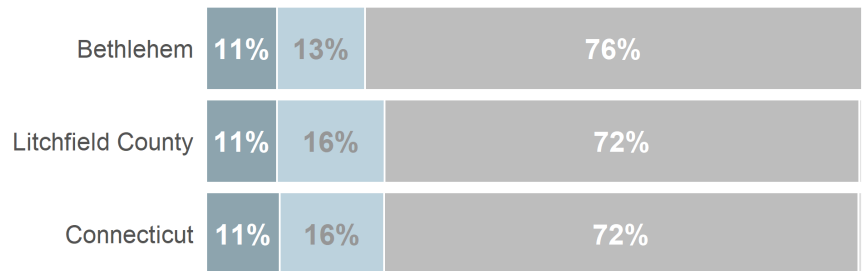
### Housing cost burden for renters



OWNERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

## 24%

### Housing cost burden for owners



Severe burden (50% or greater) Moderate burden (Between 30% and 50%) Not burdened (Less than 30%) Not Computed

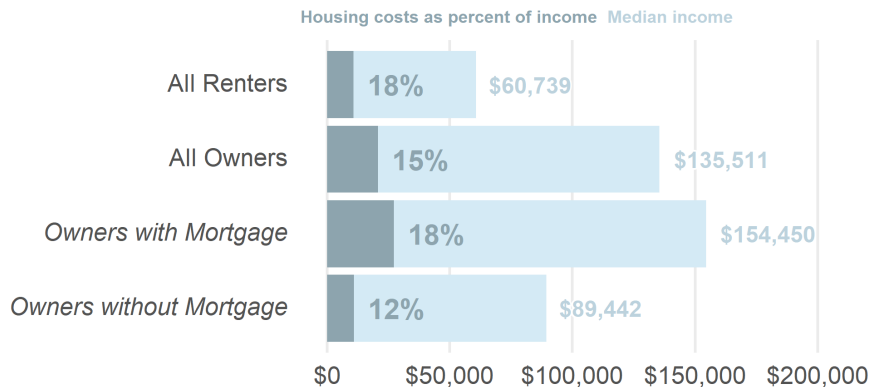
RENTERS' HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

## 18%

OWNERS' HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

## 15%

### Housing costs as percent of income



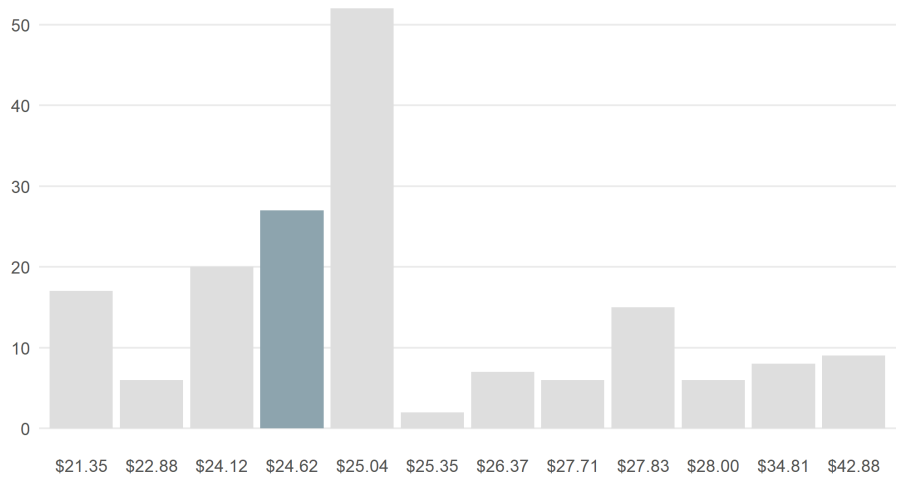
## HOUSING WAGE

# \$24.62

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 \$27.80.

**Bethlehem is one of 27 towns with a housing wage of \$24.62**

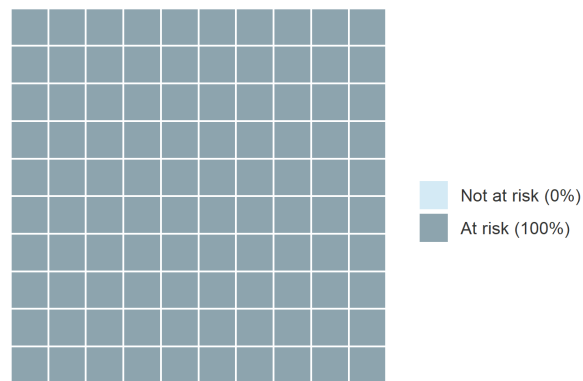


## HOUSING PRESERVATION UNITS

# 100%

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

**Housing preservation by risk**



Source: National Housing Preservation Database



TOTAL POPULATION

## 3,413

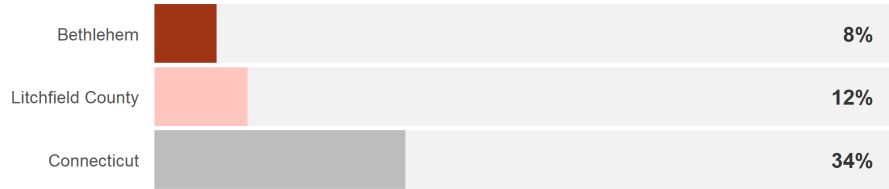


PEOPLE OF COLOR

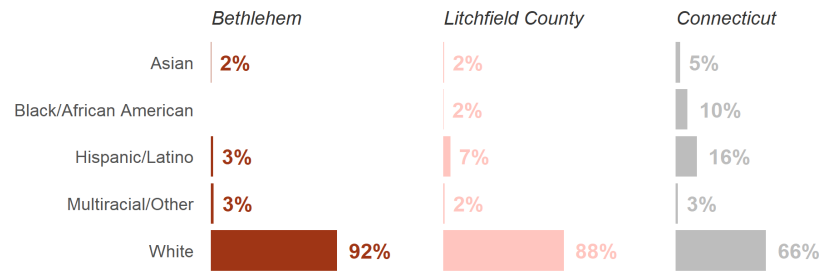
## 8%

Connecticut population is becoming increasingly diverse, but the BIPOC population is concentrated in certain municipalities, especially Connecticut's cities. In Bethlehem, 8% of residents are BIPOC, while 92% are white.

**Bethlehem is less diverse than Connecticut**

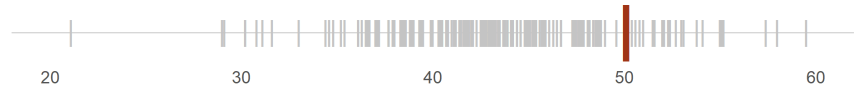


**The largest race/ethnicity group in Bethlehem is White at 92% of the population**



MEDIAN AGE

## 50

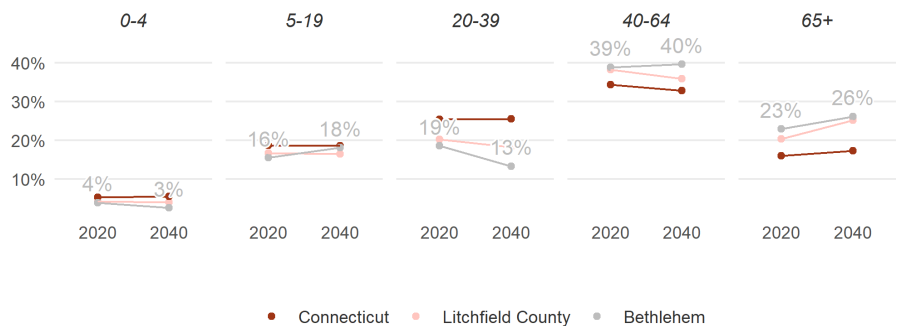


POPULATION CHANGE, 2020 TO 2040

## -7%

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

**People age 65+ are projected to grow the most in the next 20 years in Bethlehem**

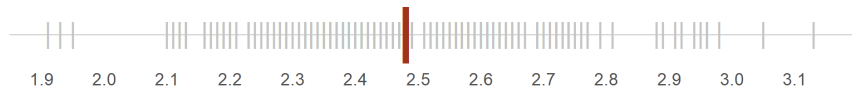


Source: Connecticut Data Center



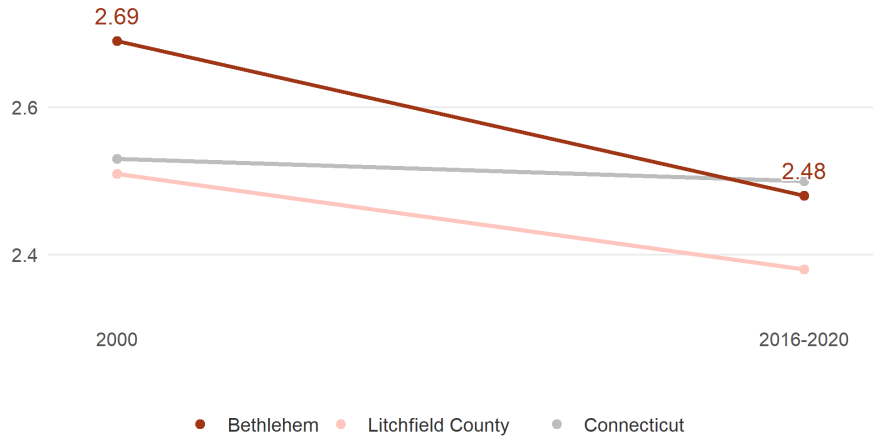
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

2.48



The average household size in Bethlehem has declined between 2000 and 2020.

The average household size in Bethlehem has declined from 2.69 in 2000 to 2.48 in 2020



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

