KEY FINDINGS

Housing
- 15% of housing is subsidized
- 34% of households rent their home
- 40% of housing units are in multifamily buildings

Affordability
- 20% of households spend between 30% and 50% of their income on housing
- 14% of households spend more than half of their income on housing
- $25.04 the hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment

Population
- 39 the median age of residents
- 27% of residents are people of color (BIPOC)
- -4% 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 Bristol 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 or 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

59%

PERCENT OF ALL HOMES OCCUPIED BY OWNERS

59%

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 Bristol, 59% of occupied homes are single-family, and 40% are multifamily. Owners live in 87% of Bristol's 15,518 single-family homes, and renters live in 71% of its 10,523 multifamily homes.

CHANGE IN BUILDING PERMITS, 1990-2021

+4%

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

In Bristol, there were 90 building permits issued in 1990, compared to 94 issued in 2021, representing a 4% increase.

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

55%

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

3.9%

Households that use electricity spend 4.0% of their income on energy (3.8% for fuel oil/coal and 4.1% for gas).

AFFORDABLE HOMES AS A SHARE OF ALL HOUSING UNITS

15%

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 27,011 total units in Bristol, 3,987 are considered to be affordable.
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

57%

OWNERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

23%

RENTERS’ HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

27%

OWNERS’ HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

16%
HOUSING WAGE

$25.04

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.

Bristol is included in the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford HMFA. Bristol’s housing wage is lower than the state housing wage of $27.80.

HOUSING PRESERVATION UNITS

7%

Bristol has 1,647 federally assisted housing units, of which 7% are at risk of loss within the next 5 years.
TOTAL POPULATION

60,039

PEOPLE OF COLOR

27%

Connecticut population is becoming increasingly diverse, but the BIPOC population is concentrated in certain municipalities, especially Connecticut’s cities. In Bristol, 27% of residents are BIPOC, while 73% are white.

MEDIAN AGE

39

POPULATION CHANGE, 2020 TO 2040

-4%

In the next twenty years, Bristol’s population is projected to shrink from 59,535 to 57,129.
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

2.43

The average household size in Bristol has grown between 2000 and 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, Bristol has fewer households with someone older than 60 and fewer households with school-age children.