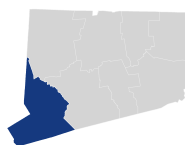


# FAIRFIELD COUNTY



## KEY FINDINGS

### Housing

**10%**

of housing is subsidized

**31%**

of households rent their home

**35%**

of housing units are in multifamily buildings

### Affordability

**20%**

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

**19%**

of households spend more than half of their income on housing

**\$35.37**

the hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment

### Population

**39**

the median age of residents

**39%**

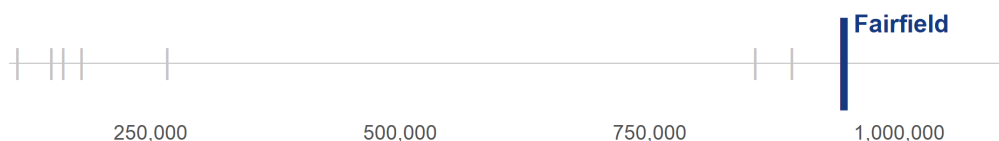
of residents are people of color (BIPOC)

**0%**

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 [Fairfield County](#) compares to [other counties](#) 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

64%

0%

25%

50%

75%

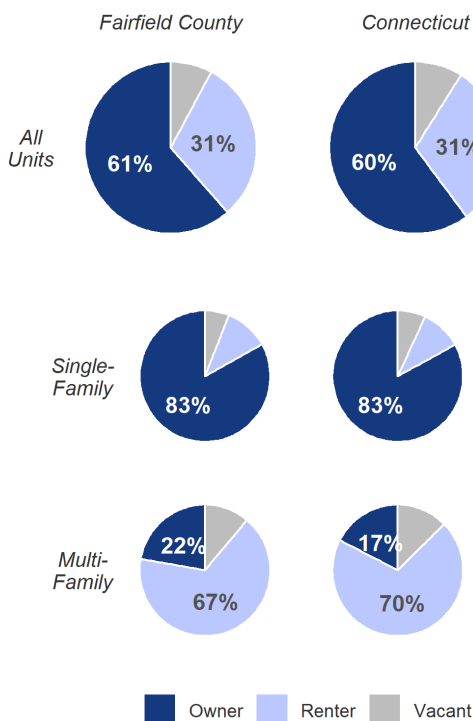
100%

PERCENT OF ALL HOMES  
OCCUPIED BY OWNERS

61%

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 Fairfield County, 64% of occupied homes are single-family, and 35% are multi-family. Owners live in 83% of Fairfield County's 240,377 single-family homes, and renters live in 67% of its 132,543 multifamily homes.

CHANGE IN BUILDING PERMITS,  
1990-2021

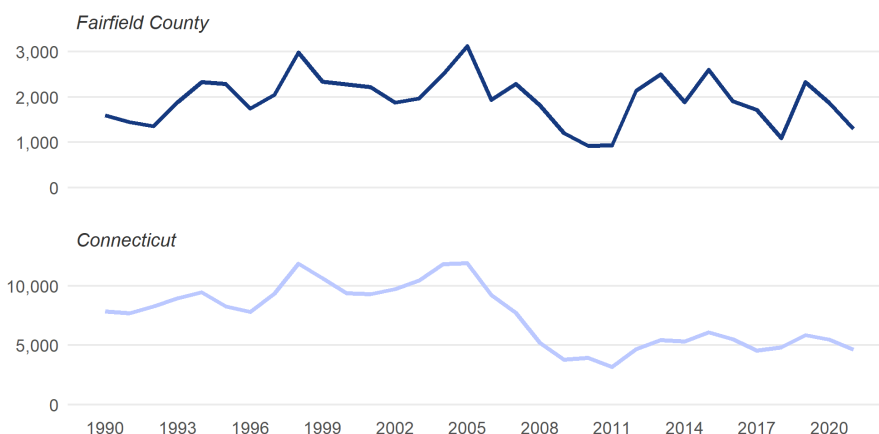
-19%

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

In Fairfield County, there were 1,593 building permits issued in 1990, compared to 1,292 issued in 2021, representing a 19% decrease.

## Number of building permits per year, 1990-2021

Note: y axis varies between locations



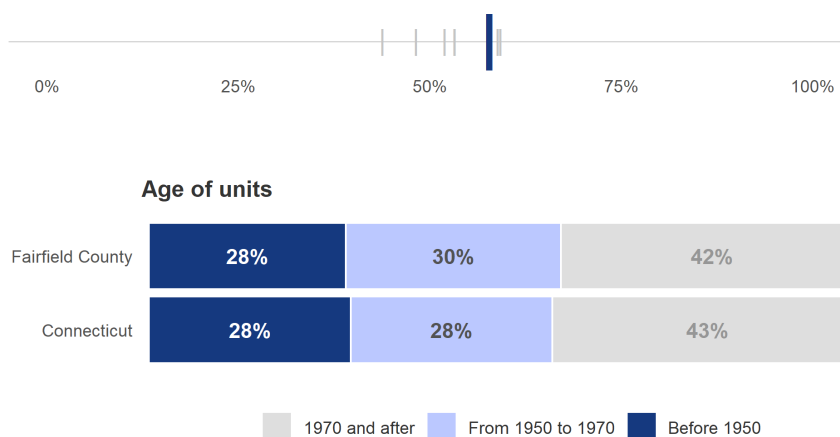
Source: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development



## UNITS BUILT BEFORE 1970

58%

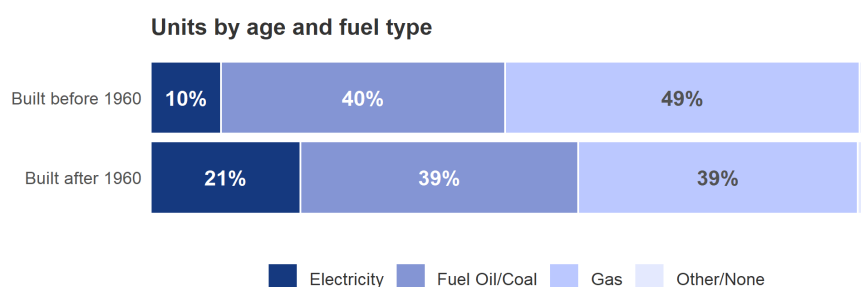
Older homes are prone to falling into disrepair, and often carry environmental risks such as lead paint. An aging housing stock can be a sign of poor housing quality.



## SPENDING ON ENERGY AS PERCENT OF TOTAL INCOME

2.7%

Households that use electricity spend 3.0% of their income on energy (2.6% for fuel oil/coal and 2.7% for gas).



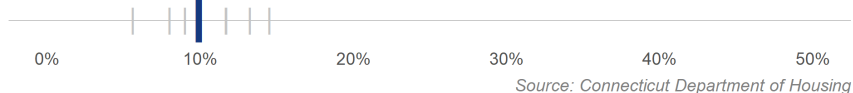
Source: United States Department of Energy

## AFFORDABLE HOMES AS A SHARE OF ALL HOUSING UNITS

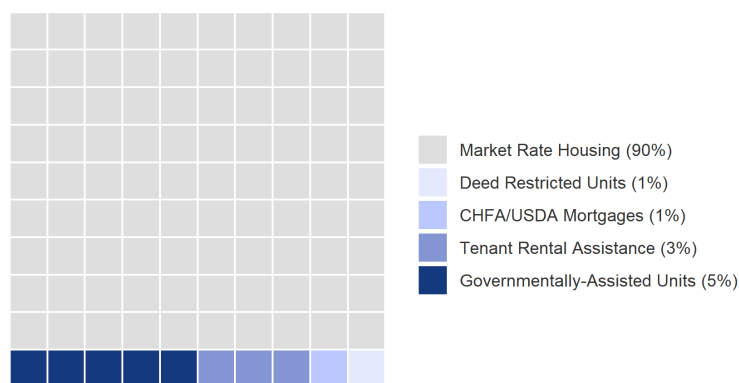
10%

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 361,221 total units in Fairfield County, 35,733 are considered to be affordable.



## Affordable units by type



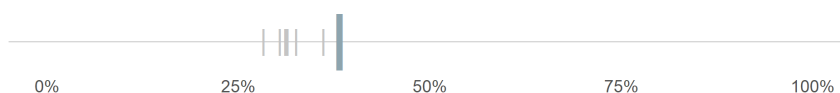
Source: Connecticut Department of Housing



## PEOPLE BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

38%

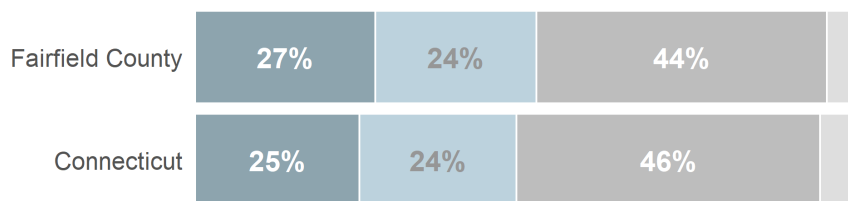
Households that are cost-burdened spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Severely cost-burdened spend more than 50% on housing.



## RENTERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

56%

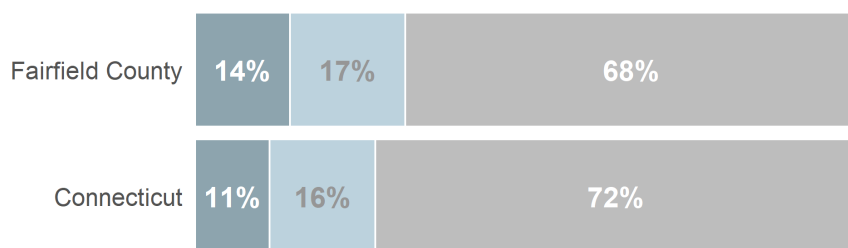
## Housing cost burden for renters



## OWNERS BURDENED BY COST OF HOUSING

32%

## Housing cost burden for owners



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

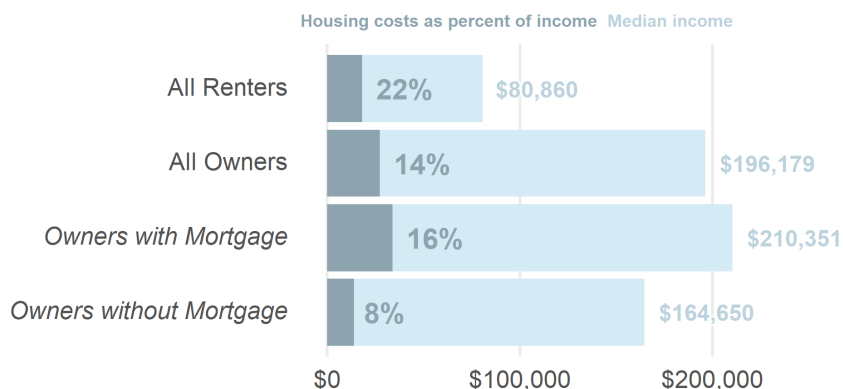
## RENTERS' HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

22%

## OWNERS' HOUSING COSTS AS PERCENT OF INCOME

14%

## Housing costs as percent of income

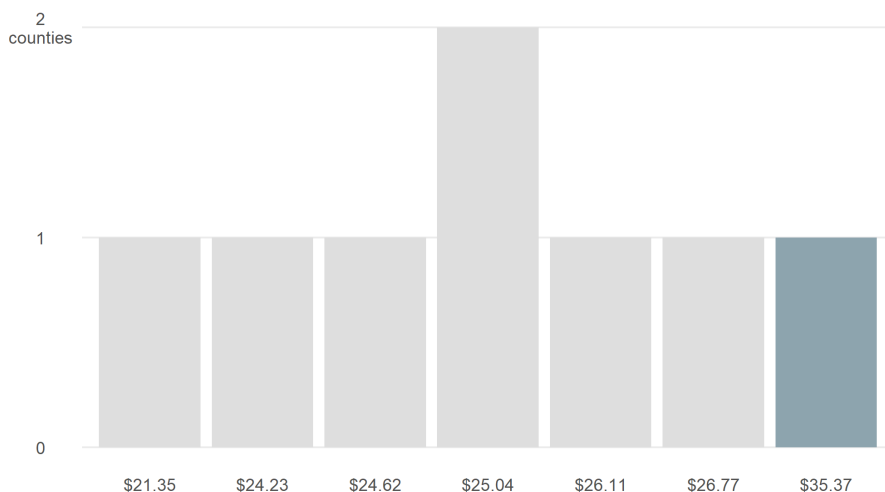


## HOUSING WAGE

# \$35.37

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.

Fairfield County's housing wage is higher than the state housing wage of \$27.80.

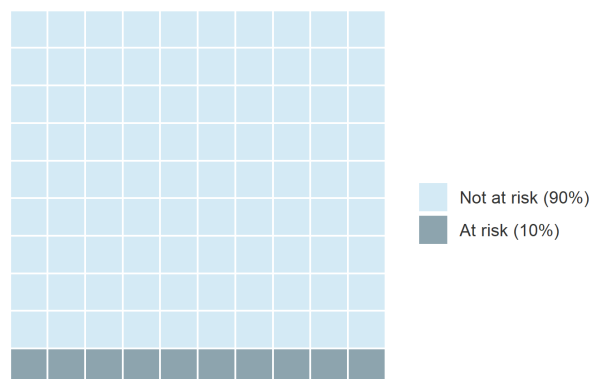
**The housing wage in Fairfield County is \$35.37**

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

## HOUSING PRESERVATION UNITS

# 10%

Fairfield County has 15,848 federally assisted housing units, of which 10% are at risk of loss within the next 5 years.

**Housing preservation by risk**

Source: National Housing Preservation Database



## TOTAL POPULATION

944,306



## PEOPLE OF COLOR

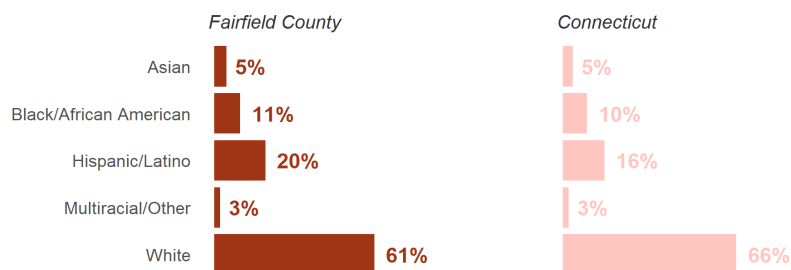
39%

Connecticut population is becoming increasingly diverse, but the BIPOC population is concentrated in certain municipalities, especially Connecticut's cities. In Fairfield County, 39% of residents are BIPOC, while 61% are white.

## Fairfield County is more diverse than Connecticut

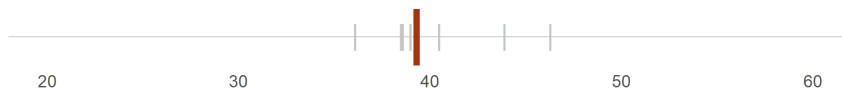


## The largest race/ethnicity group in Fairfield County is White at 61% of the population



## MEDIAN AGE

39

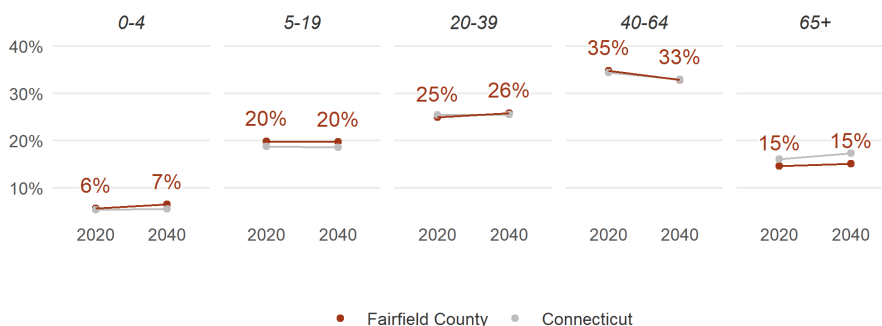


## POPULATION CHANGE, 2020 TO 2040

0%

In the next twenty years, Fairfield County's population is projected to shrink from 907,603 to 905,219.

## People age 20-39 are projected to grow the most in the next 20 years in Fairfield County



Source: Connecticut Data Center



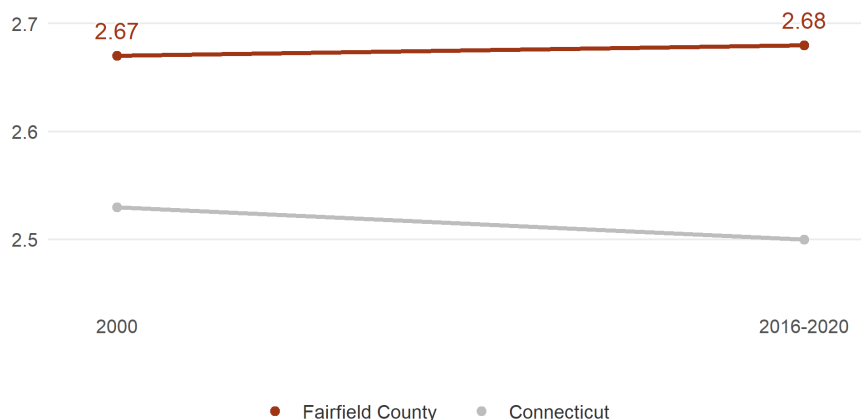
## AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

2.68



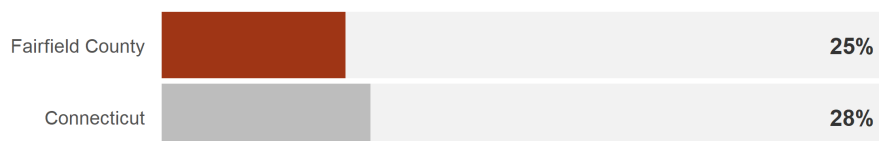
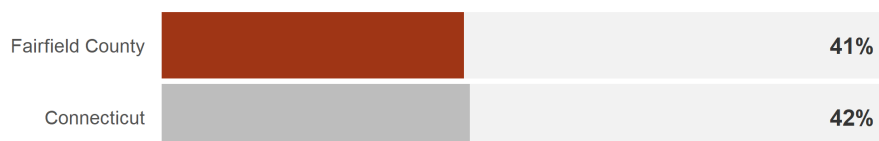
The average household size in Fairfield County has grown between 2000 and 2020.

**The average household size in Fairfield County has grown from 2.67 in 2000 to 2.68 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, Fairfield County has fewer households with someone older than 60 and more households with school-age children.

## Household types as a percent of total

*Householder living alone**Households with someone older than 60**Households with someone under 18*