

# How we make ACS data accessible

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# Connecticut Data Collaborative

We empower an ecosystem of data users by democratizing access to public data and building data literacy.

**Make data accessible**

**Liberate data**

**Census State Data  
Center**

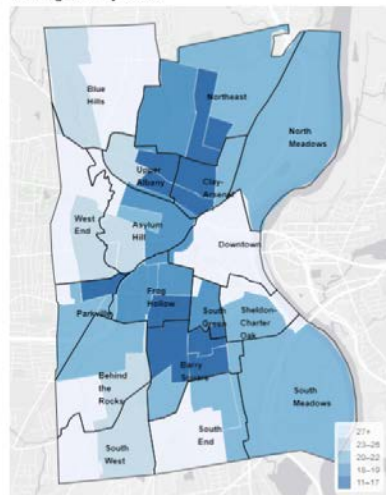
**Increase data literacy**

# What we do with ACS data



physical quality of the housing stock as part of the built environment.

### Housing Stability Index

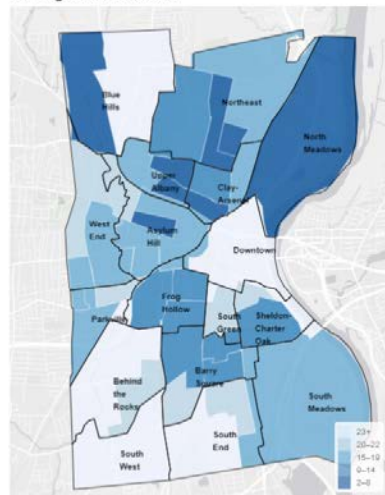


#### The Housing Stability Index includes:

- occupancy,
- rent to income ratio,
- mortgage to income ratio,
- eviction rate,
- foreclosure rate,
- average length of tenure, and
- assessed price per square foot.

Each tract could receive a potential score from 7 to 35. The most unstable

### Housing Conditions Index



#### The Housing Conditions Index includes:

- housing code violations,
- vacancy rates,
- fire incidents.

Each tract could receive a potential score from 2 to 30. For Housing Conditions Index, the highest census tract scored 29, while the lowest scored 2.

**Northeast, Clay Arsenal, Upper Albany, and Asylum Hill neighborhoods have some of the most dilapidated housing conditions.**



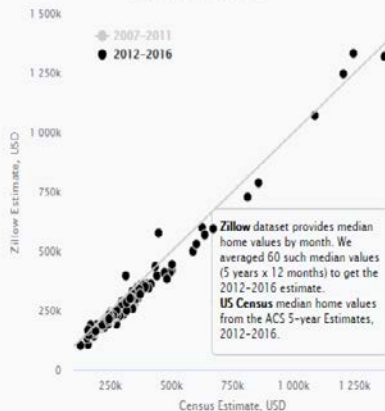
## Zillow and Census Home Values

In the U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates, data are collected on the value of Owner-Occupied Housing. Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property would sell for if it were for sale. These data are then aggregated and a median home value is calculated. Given that people are known to overestimate the value of their homes, we were interested in comparing these data with another source to determine the accuracy of the data.

To do this, we analyzed data publicly provided by Zillow<sup>1,2,3</sup>. We took the same five year time period as the Census ACS 5-year estimates (from 2012 to 2016) and averaged the monthly median values.

Home Values in Connecticut by Town

Sources: Zillow, US Census



The scatterplot shows that most Census data estimates are higher than the Zillow Average of the Median Values (dots below the diagonal line). Six towns had Zillow estimated values higher than the census estimates (Darien, Greenwich, Winchester, Washington, Stonington, and Windham).



housing.ctdata.org

# Mapping ACS data

- Make it more accessible
- Enable comparisons between 5-year estimates
- Data at town level (we don't have counties in CT) and census tract

## American Community Survey 2017

Select tables for Connecticut towns and Census tracts by [Connecticut Data](#)

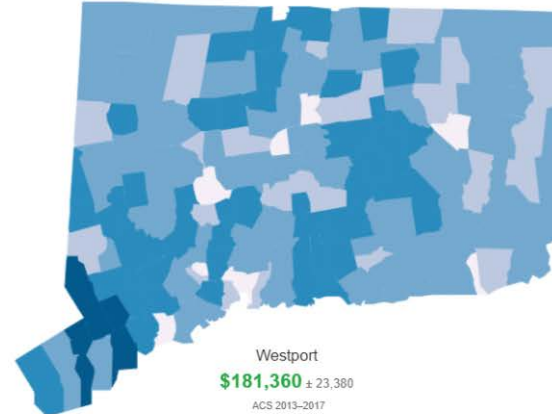
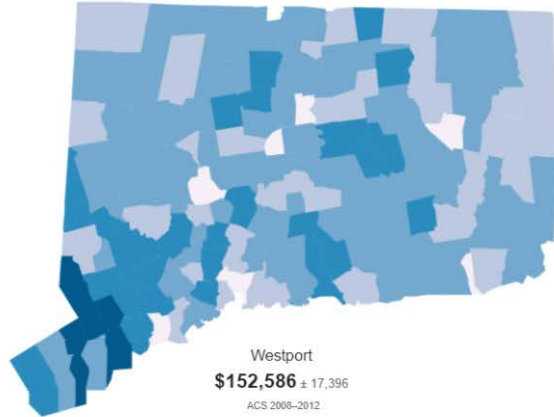
Median Household Income, \$

Census Tracts

Change

Double-click on the map for zoom. [Download dataset](#) powering this visualization.

The median increase in household income across all towns in Connecticut was 5.8%. In 129 towns, median household income increased, most significant increases in North Canaan (+26,400, or +50%), Westbrook (+31,700, or +50%), and Southbury (+23,100, or +34%). Note that North Canaan and Westbrook both have large margins of errors due to small populations. In 40 towns, median household income decreased compared to 2008-2012 estimate, with the highest decreases occurring in Ansonia (~-\$9,200, or nearly -17%), New London (~-\$6,800, or -15%), and East Haddam (~-\$13,000, or -14%). Hartford remains the town with the lowest median household income in Connecticut despite a 17% increase in median household income between ACS 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 estimates. New Haven median income increased 1.8% and changing its rank from 2nd to 3rd poorest municipality, while New London dropped from 7th to 2nd due to a 15% decrease.



## American Community Survey 2017

Select tables for Connecticut towns and Census tracts by [Connecticut Data](#)

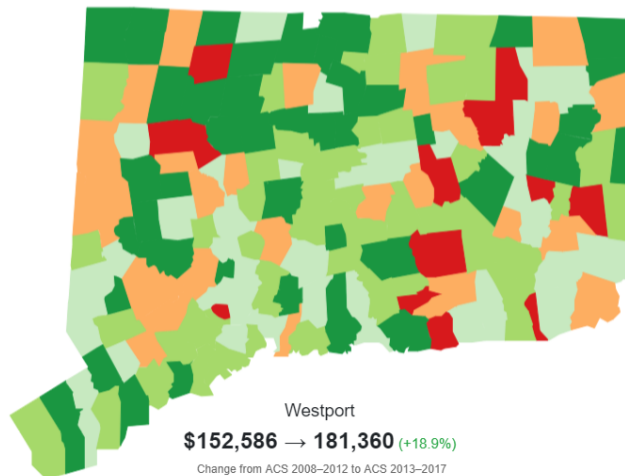
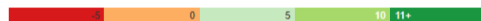
Median Household Income, \$

Census Tracts

Change

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The median increase in household income across all towns in Connecticut was 5.8%. In 129 towns, median household income increased, most significant increases in North Canaan (+26,400, or +58%), Westbrook (+31,700, or +50%), and Southbury (+23,100, or +34%). Note that North Canaan and Westbrook both have large margins of errors due to small populations. In 40 towns, median household income decreased compared to 2008-2012 estimate, with the highest decreases occurring in Ansonia (~-\$9,200, or nearly -17%), New London (~-\$6,800, or -15%), and East Haddam (~-\$13,000, or -14%). **Hartford remains the town with the lowest median household income in Connecticut** despite a 17% increase in median household income between ACS 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 estimates. New Haven median income increased 1.8% and changing its rank from 2nd to 3rd poorest municipality, while New London dropped from 7th to 2nd due to a 15% decrease.





# American Community Survey 2017

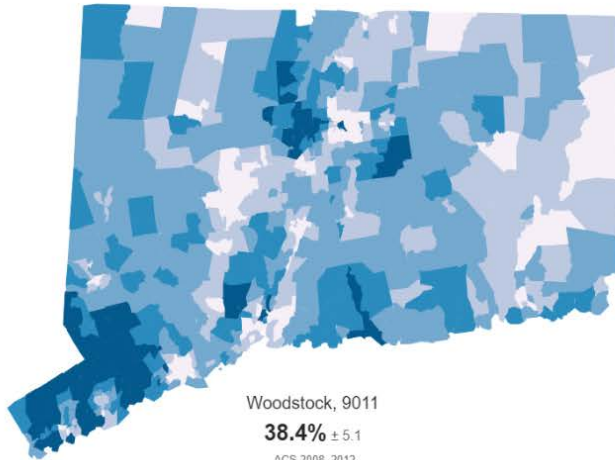
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Population with Bachelor's degree or higher, %

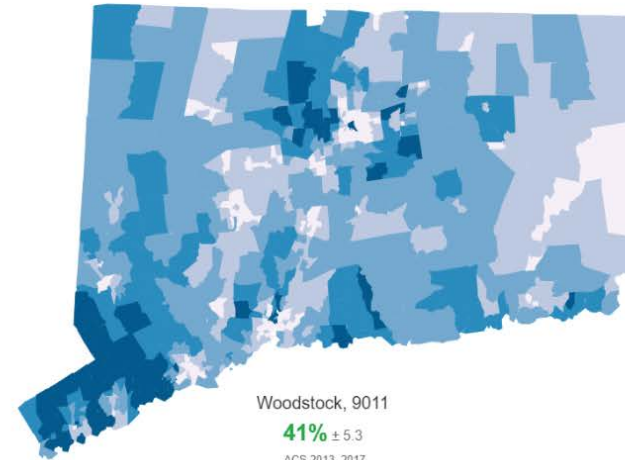
Census Tracts    
 Change

Double-click on the map for zoom. [Download dataset](#) powering this visualization.

In 2013-17, the median share of population with Bachelor's degree or higher across Connecticut towns was about 40%, ranging from <20% in towns such as Waterbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, New Britain and East Hartford, to >80% in Darien and Weston. The share got lower in 45 towns compared to 2008-12 estimate, with most dramatic decreases in North Stonington, Sherman, Goshen, and Bethany. The highest increases (> +10%) in share of population with Bachelor's degree or higher were in Sharon, Washington, and East Granby.



Woodstock, 9011  
**38.4%** ± 5.1  
 ACS 2008-2012



Woodstock, 9011  
**41%** ± 5.3  
 ACS 2013-2017



# And the code is open...

<https://github.com/CT-Data-Collaborative/before-after-map>



**Thank you & stay in touch...**

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