How we make ACS data accessible

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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
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 33. The most unstable

The Housing Conditions Index includes:
- housing code violations
- vacancy rates
- fire incidents

Each tract could receive a potential score from 2 to 40. 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 deleterious 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.1,2. 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 (Danbury, Greenwich, Winchester, Washington, Stonington, and Windham).
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

The median increase in household income across all towns in Connecticut was 5.8%. In 125 towns, median household income increased. Most significant increases in South Canaan (+26,400, or +55%), Westport (+17,700, or +50%), and Southbury (+25,700, or +54%). Note that South Canaan and Westport both have large margins of error due to small populations. In 40 towns, median household income decreased compared to 2006-2012 estimates, with the highest decreases occurring in Ansonia (-29,200, or nearly -17%), New London (-26,000, or -19%), and East Hampton (-15,000, or -14%). Hartford remains the town with the lowest median household income in Connecticut (only a 17% increase in median household income between ACS 2006-2012 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 17% decrease.

Westport
$152,586 ± 17,396
ACS 2006-2012

Westport
$181,360 ± 23,380
ACS 2013-2017
American Community Survey 2017

Select tables for Connecticut towns and Census tracts by Connecticut Data

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 (+26.4%, or +$58,000), Westbrook (+31.7%, or +$50,000), and Southbury (+23.1%, or +$34,000). Note that North Canaan and Westbrook both have large margins of error due to small populations. In 40 towns, median household income decreased compared to 2006-2012 estimates, with the highest decreases occurring in Ansonia (-9.2%, or -$9,200), nearly -17%), New London (-86,800, or -15%), and East Hartford (-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 2006-2012 and 2013-2017 estimates. New Haven median income increased 1% and changing its rank from 2nd to 3rd poorest municipality, while New London dropped from 7th to 2nd due to a 15% decrease.

Westport
$152,586 → $181,360 (+18.9%)
American Community Survey 2017
Select tables for Connecticut towns and Census tracts by Connecticut Data

In 2013-17, the median share of population with Bachelor’s degree or higher across Connecticut towns was about 41%, ranging from <20% in towns such as Waterbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, New Britain and East Hartford, to >60% in Danbury and Weston. The share got lower in 45 towns compared to 2008-12 estimates, with most dramatic decreases in North Stonington, Sherman, Goshen, and Bethany. The highest increases (> +10%) in share population with Bachelor’s degree or higher were in Sharon, Washington, and East Granby.

Woodstock, 06281
38.4% ± 5.1
ACS 2008-2012

Woodstock, 06281
41.0% ± 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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