



Photo Credit: Kathleen Cei

# Guilford Community Report

The Guilford Foundation connects people who care to the causes that matter to them, to enrich the quality of life in Guilford. Established in 1975 as a community foundation, the Foundation builds and maintains a charitable endowment valued at nearly \$2.5 million and uses a portion of the annual income to address the needs of the Guilford community.

Learn more at [guilfordfoundation.org](http://guilfordfoundation.org)



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation *for* Greater New Haven

# Demographic Trends

Guilford has a total population of 22,392.

**Guilford's population is less racially diverse than the region:** Greater New Haven is 35% non-white, versus Guilford's 8%. However, the town's youth population is more diverse than the adult population: 12% of children under age 18 are racial/ethnic minorities.

While Guilford's overall population is projected to stay about the same between 2015 and 2025, the number of young adults ages 18 to 34 is projected to increase by 27%, and **the number of adults ages 65 and over is projected to increase by 45%.**

Guilford is made up of 8,725 households, an increase of 1,544 since 1990. **64% more of the town's adults live alone than did in 1990.**

From 2009 to 2014, **87% of the 164 new homes built in Guilford were single-family units.** In contrast, within the Greater New Haven region as a whole, 59% of the 2,719 new homes built during that time period were units within multi-family buildings.



THE POPULATION OF ADULTS AGE 65+ IS PROJECTED TO GROW

45%

FROM 2015 - 2025

11%

OF ALL RESIDENTS ARE LOW INCOME

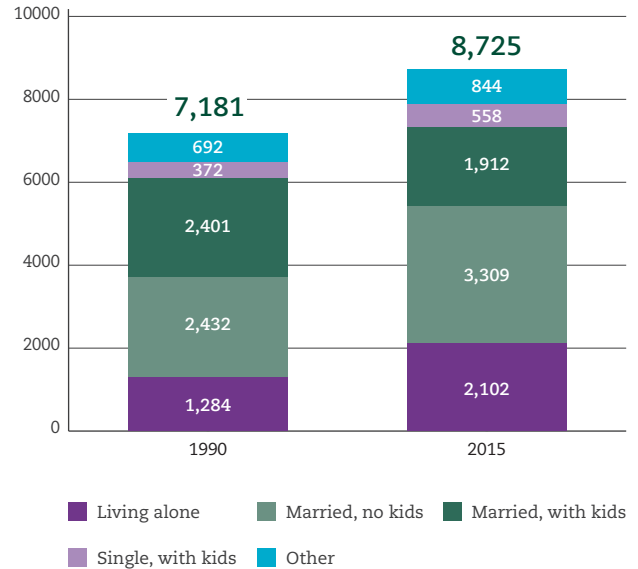
14%

OF CHILDREN ARE LOW INCOME

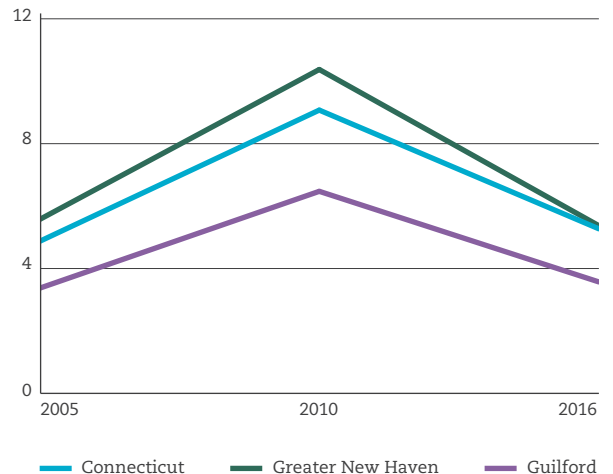
13%

OF SENIORS ARE LOW INCOME

## HOUSEHOLD TYPES



## UNEMPLOYMENT



# Income and Family Hardship

**Guilford residents have a much higher median household income than the state and region,** with the average household earning \$99,132 compared to \$66,169 in Greater New Haven and \$70,331 statewide.

Guilford has much lower poverty and low-income rates than the state or the region. However, both **children and seniors are slightly more likely to live in low-income households than other age groups.**

Guilford residents are less likely to be severely cost-burdened (i.e., spending more than 50% of their income on housing costs) than residents of the region. However, **14% of the town's households are severely cost-burdened.**

**Guilford's unemployment rate has nearly recovered since the Great Recession** (2007–2009), and has consistently remained substantially lower than rates in the state and region.

**WHAT IS IT?** The **poverty rate** is defined as the share of people living in households with income below the federal poverty line (\$24,257 for a family of four). Residents are considered **low income** if their household makes below two times this amount.

# Education

There were **3,427** students in the **Guilford Public Schools** as of the **2013–2014 school year**. This includes 394 students (11%) in special education, 327 students (10%) receiving free or reduced price meals, and 40 (1%) English language learners.

Guilford has high graduation rates: **93% of high school students graduate in four years**, much higher than the region (84%) or state (87%).

Of the students who graduate high school on time, 87% enroll directly in college. **67% of high school graduates go on to complete a degree within 6 years**.

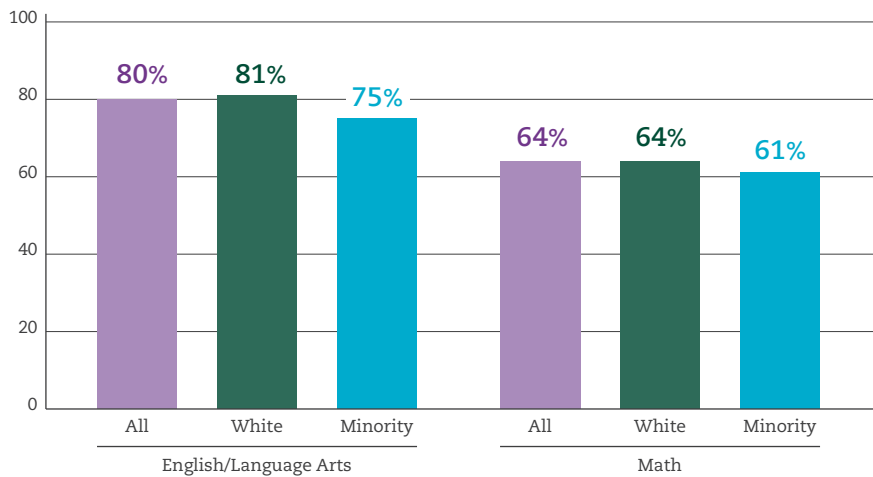
**80% of Guilford students passed the English/language arts SBAC test in 2015, and 64% passed the math test**. Passing rates were lower for minority students.

**5.8% of the town's public school students were chronically absent** in the 2013–2014 school year.

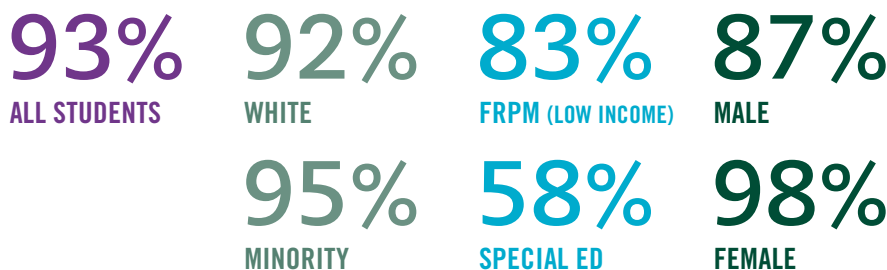
**WHAT IS IT?** Students are considered **chronically absent** if they miss more than 10% of the school days in a year, regardless of reason.

Guilford is home to an estimated 377 preschool-age children. **65% of Guilford's three- and four-year-olds are enrolled in school**, about the same as the enrollment rate of the state (64%) and higher than that of the region (60%).

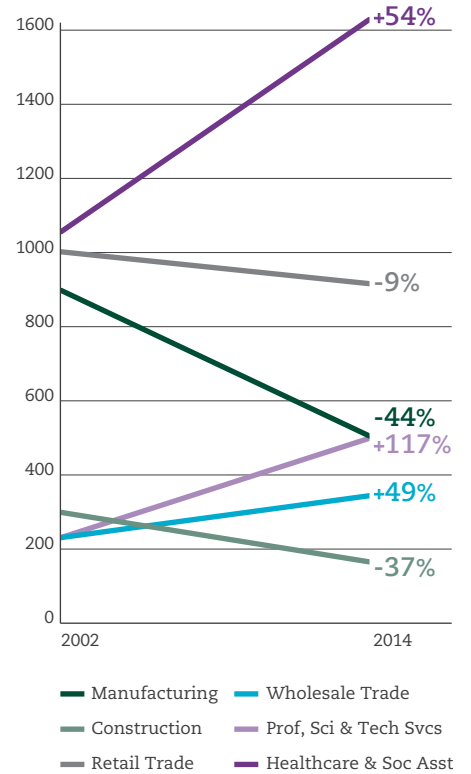
## SBAC (SMARTER BALANCED TEST) PASS RATES



## FOUR YEAR GRADUATION RATES



## JOB LOSSES & GAINS



# Economic Development

There were **7,273** jobs located within Guilford in 2014, an increase of **822 jobs (13%)** since 2002. These jobs paid an average wage of \$51,298 per year, lower than the statewide average of \$63,909.

On any given day, there is a net flow of 3,079 high-income workers leaving Guilford for work in other towns, while **the number of low-income workers traveling to or from Guilford breaks even**.

**WHAT IS IT?** Low-income workers are defined here as those with salaries below \$40,000 per year.

From 2002 to 2014, **the manufacturing industry has lost the most jobs in Guilford, while the health care and social assistance industry has gained the most**, consistent with statewide and regional trends.

# Community Well-Being

New Haven's Outer Ring suburbs, which include Guilford (see definition below), fare very well on a variety of measures of well-being and health risk factors.

**72% of Guilford and Outer Ring residents rate their overall health as good or excellent.** Guilford and Outer Ring residents have lower rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes and asthma than the state and region, lower rates of smoking, and are more likely to have visited a dentist in the past year.

**Guilford has a lower age-adjusted mortality rate than Connecticut.** The town has lower rates of death due to diabetes and heart disease. The overall mortality rate has decreased in recent years.

## HEALTH RISK FACTORS

Condition	Connecticut	Outer Ring
Self-Rated Health (good or excellent)	63%	72%
Anxiety (mostly or completely)	11%	10%
Depression (fairly or very often)	9%	6%
Diabetes	9%	5%
Obesity	26%	24%
Food insecurity	12%	7%
Smoking	15%	10%
Asthma	13%	11%
No health insurance	5%	3%
Dentist visit in past year	77%	81%

## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, GUILFORD

Cause of Death	Change over Time	Compared to CT
All deaths	⬇ Decreasing	⬇ Lower
Accident	↔ Steady	↔ Same
Cancer	↔ Steady	↔ Same
Diabetes	↔ Steady	⬇ Lower
Heart Disease	↔ Steady	⬇ Lower

**91% GOOD PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN**

**60% RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**92% GOOD JOB DONE BY POLICE**

**46% VOLUNTEERED IN THE LAST YEAR**

## Civic Life

Guilford and Outer Ring residents give high ratings to their towns on many aspects of community cohesion, including local governance and policing.

**91% of Guilford and Outer Ring adults feel their town is a good or excellent place to raise children**, much higher than the statewide rate (74%).

**46% of Guilford and Outer Ring adults engaged in volunteer activities** in the past year, similar to the statewide rate.

**Guilford residents vote at higher rates than the state or region**, including very high rates in the most recent midterm election, but lower rates in the 2015 local ones.

In 2014, **276,868 books and other materials were checked out of the Guilford Free Library**, averaging 12 items checked out per resident. Annual visits increased from 4 per capita in 2004 to 6 per capita in 2014.

**ABOUT THIS REPORT** This report was produced by the Guilford Community Foundation in partnership with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, and is based on local, state, and federal public data analyzed by DataHaven, a non-profit organization with a 25-year history of public service to Greater New Haven and Connecticut. Reporting is drawn from the *Greater*

*New Haven Community Index 2016*, produced by DataHaven in collaboration with community, government, and scientific partners including The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and Yale-New Haven Health. Data on well-being and community cohesion are drawn from the 2015 DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey's in-depth interviews with

16,219 randomly-selected adults throughout Connecticut including 500 in the Outer Ring suburbs of New Haven (defined as Guilford plus Madison, Branford, North Branford, North Haven, Bethany, Woodbridge, Orange, and Milford). Download the entire report, including detailed notes on the sources and analyses used in this document, at [www.ctdatahaven.org](http://www.ctdatahaven.org).