

# Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

## Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2023

In partnership with DataHaven

In Greater Hartford and across the country, communities of color face persistent disparities which create barriers to health, wellbeing and wealth building. These disparities didn't happen by accident; they are the result of decades of systemic factors and disinvestment in our communities, many of which are still woven into the fabric of our institutions.

As a result, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has prioritized dismantling structural racism and advancing equity in social and economic mobility in Greater Hartford's Black and Latinx\* communities.

Community change can be driven by reliable information, therefore the Hartford Foundation is committed to supporting and sharing high quality, impartial research about our region and state. We are pleased to offer highlights from the **Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2023 (CWI)** to build shared understanding and promote dialogue on the challenges and opportunities we face as a community.

Produced by [DataHaven](#), in partnership with the Foundation and other local organizations, the CWI looks at our changing demographics and their intersection with health, housing, economic opportunity and civic life in Greater Hartford.

We encourage policymakers, nonprofits, businesses and residents to review this summary of key information from the new report, which can be found in its entirety at [hfpg.org/GHCWI2023](https://hfpg.org/GHCWI2023).

With a collective understanding of our region, we can better address the barriers that impede progress in our communities and develop solutions to ensure that every resident has an opportunity to thrive and contribute to Connecticut's future.

Jay Williams, President/CEO  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

## The Region We Serve

Andover  
Avon  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
Canton  
East Granby  
East Hartford

East Windsor  
Ellington  
Enfield  
Farmington  
Glastonbury  
Granby  
Hartford

Hebron  
Manchester  
Marlborough  
Newington  
Rocky Hill  
Simsbury  
Somers

South Windsor  
Suffield  
Tolland  
Vernon  
West Hartford  
Wethersfield  
Windsor  
Windsor Locks

\*While other Hartford Foundation for Public Giving communications usually use the term *Latinx* as a pan-ethnic category describing people who trace their roots to Latin America, this executive summary uses *Latino* to reflect the language used in DataHaven's CWI and the data sources used for that document.

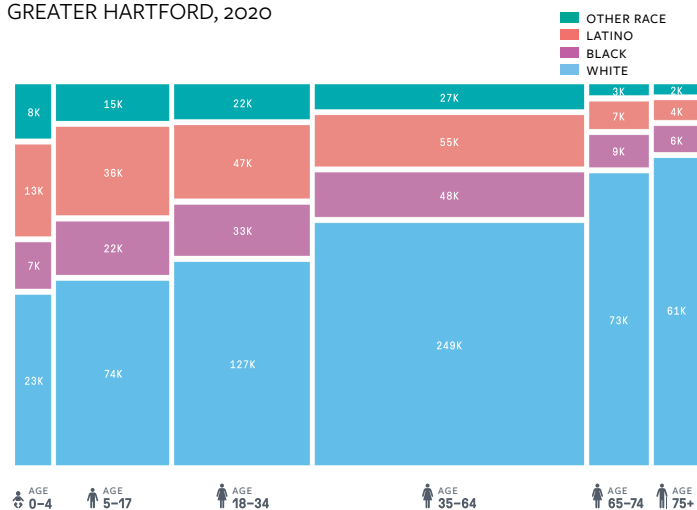
# Demographics and Inequity

Over the past decade, Greater Hartford's population increased by 0.2 percent (compared to a 0.9 percent statewide increase). Racial and ethnic diversity has also increased. Younger populations, including immigrants, tend to be more racially and ethnically diverse: while people of color constitute 19 percent of residents ages 65 and over in Greater Hartford, 51 percent of residents under 18 are people of color.

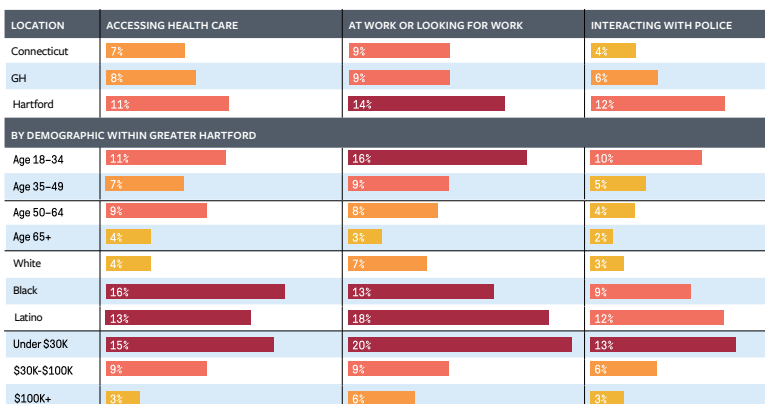
The region ranks 29th out of 100 US metro areas in terms of community wellbeing. However, this regional score hides local wellbeing disparities—by town and by demographic characteristics like race and ethnicity. DataHaven's **Personal Wellbeing Index**, which factors in residents' life satisfaction, health, anxiety, and happiness, reveals sizable inequalities by race/ethnicity and town.

Systemic oppression and structural inequities can act as drivers of these observed disparities. For example, there are considerable disparities by age, race/ethnicity, income, and town in the proportions of residents reporting discriminatory treatment in healthcare, work, and police interactions.

## YOUNGER GENERATIONS ARE MUCH MORE RACIALLY DIVERSE THAN OLDER ONES | POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND AGE, GREATER HARTFORD, 2020



## EXPERIENCE OF DISCRIMINATION | SHARE OF ADULTS REPORTING BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS BY SCENARIO, GREATER HARTFORD, 2021



The DataHaven Community Wellbeing Index (CWI) is a quality-of-life measure for Greater Hartford residents based on eight community-based indicators including homeownership rates, high school graduation, youthful labor force participation, workers with short commutes, housing cost burden, low-income population, childhood poverty rate, and insured population. The **Personal Wellbeing Index** is a more direct measure of residents' wellbeing and is a composite of four indicators including life satisfaction, self-rated health, anxiety, and happiness across demographic groups.

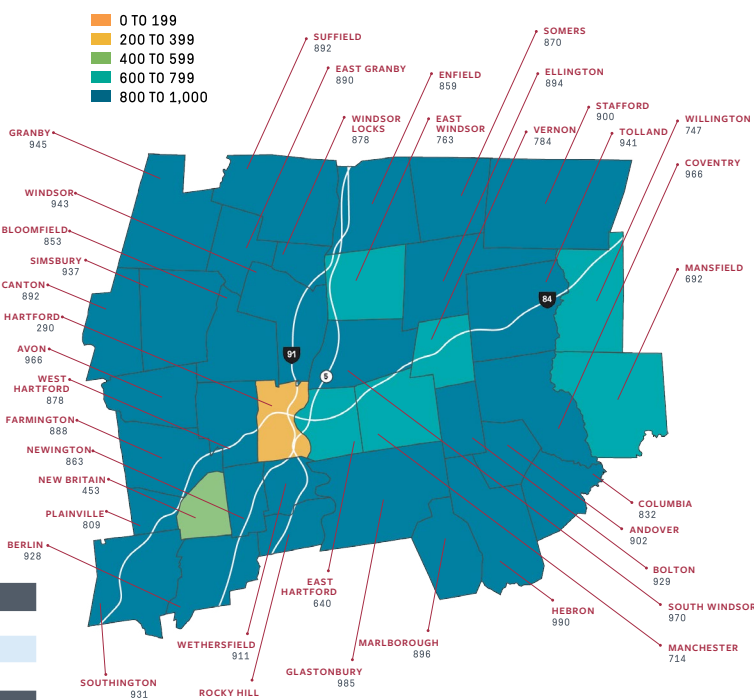
## DATAHAVEN INDEX SCORES | PERSONAL WELLBEING INDEX (2020) AND CWI SCORES (2020), GREATER HARTFORD

LOCATION	PERSONAL WELLBEING INDEX	COMMUNITY WELLBEING INDEX
CT	696	774
GH	717	763

BY DEMOGRAPHIC WITHIN GREATER HARTFORD		
White	824	909
Black	638	584
Latino	542	490

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING INDEX SCORES VARY BY TOWN WITHIN GREATER HARTFORD | INDEX SCORE BY TOWN, 2020



# Mobility and Income

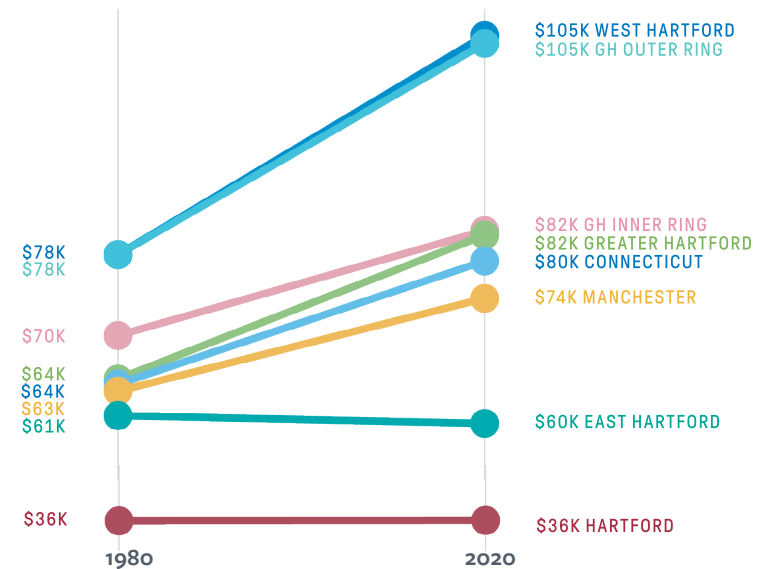
The pandemic exposed how fragile economic security is for many residents and how it is threatened by gradual changes such as rising prices and the replacement of full-time jobs by temporary ones. Income inequality has increased since 1980: while median incomes in Outer Ring towns grew by 34 percent, median incomes in Hartford and East Hartford were stagnant. While the region's poverty rate is below the national average, poverty varies widely and is higher for households with children, single-parent households, and female-led households.

## FINANCIAL SECURITY | SHARE OF ADULTS, GREATER HARTFORD, 2021

LOCATION	JUST GETTING BY	NEGATIVE NET WORTH	TRANSPORTATION INSECURE	NO CAR ACCESS
Connecticut	26%	14%	13%	10%
GH	25%	15%	12%	10%
BY DEMOGRAPHIC WITHIN GREATER HARTFORD				
Male	21%	12%	12%	9%
Female	28%	18%	12%	10%
Ages 18-34	31%	20%	22%	14%
Ages 35-49	24%	18%	7%	5%
Ages 50-64	25%	13%	10%	8%
Ages 65+	19%	9%	10%	12%
White	20%	11%	8%	5%
Black	39%	30%	20%	21%
Latino	37%	19%	26%	19%
High school or less	37%	16%	21%	21%
Some college or Associates	34%	16%	16%	12%
Bachelor's or higher	16%	15%	6%	4%
<\$30K	56%	26%	32%	29%
\$30K-\$100K	28%	17%	11%	8%
\$100K+	4%	7%	3%	2%
Kids in home	26%	17%	13%	10%
No kids	24%	15%	12%	10%

Debt is disproportionately concentrated in Black and Latino communities as 45 percent of adults who live in majority-Black and Latino ZIP codes have debt which restricts wealth generation. One in four people in Greater Hartford report "just getting by" and 56 percent of people with incomes less than \$30,000 report "just getting by." Many adults with high incomes have positive experiences living in Greater Hartford. Disparate life satisfaction reports by income demonstrate that basic needs structures and systems tend to benefit those with higher incomes.

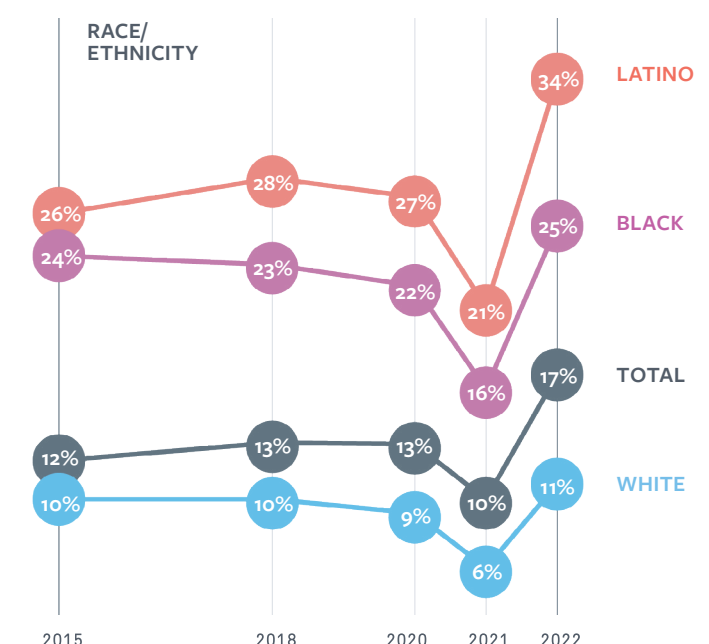
## MEDIAN INCOMES HAVE RISEN STEEPLY IN HIGHER-INCOME TOWNS | MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 2020 DOLLARS, GREATER HARTFORD, 1980-2020



# Basic Needs

Disparities across all basic needs persist and have been exacerbated by the pandemic. From 2015 - 2020 food insecurity rates held steady, but then dropped in 2021 with the introduction of pandemic relief programs. However, as these programs end and food prices have surged, food insecurity rates have dramatically increased, with Latino people and households with children being the hardest hit. Adults experiencing hardships such as food and transportation insecurity, unemployment, lack of timely medical care, and limited social support were more likely to report depression and had much lower levels of personal well-being. Poor mental health conditions like depression are strongly linked to chronic physical conditions including heart disease, diabetes, asthma, and many others that can significantly reduce life expectancy. Basic needs disparities like food and transportation insecurity may continue to increase if inflation drives up living costs.

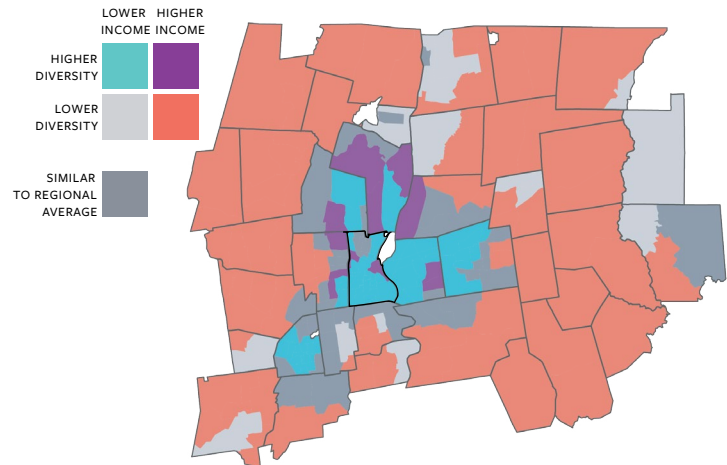
## AS PANDEMIC RELIEF PROGRAMS FADE, BLACK AND LATINO ADULTS ARE HIT BY FOOD INSECURITY | SHARE OF ADULTS REPORTING FOOD INSECURITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, CONNECTICUT, 2015-2022



# Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods

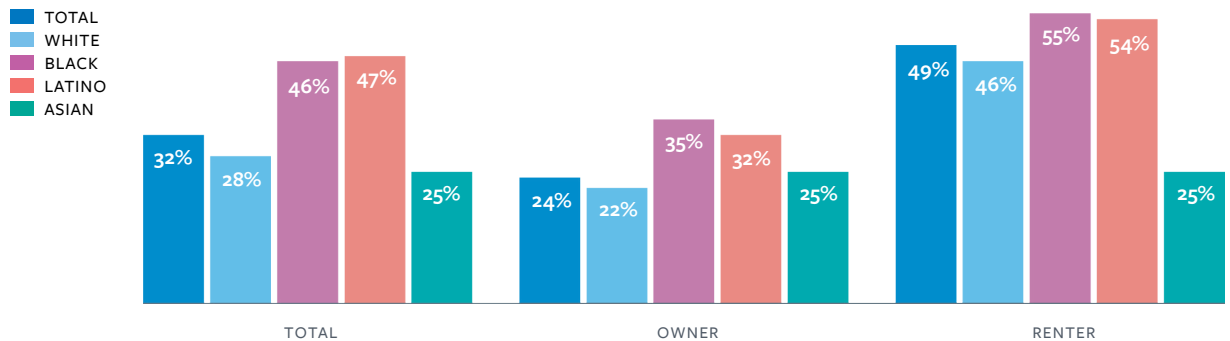
Housing segregation remains a serious issue: only five percent of Greater Hartford's population lives in a neighborhood that is both high income and high diversity, resulting in gross disparities across all aspects of life. Higher income neighborhoods remain disproportionately white: 21 percent of white residents live in higher income neighborhoods, compared to four percent of Black residents and five percent of Latino residents. Average home value varies widely across the towns in Greater Hartford, but they also vary by homeowners' race and ethnicity: white-owned homes are worth 32 percent more than Black-owned homes and 25 percent more than Latino-owned homes. Rising housing costs have exacerbated housing affordability as about a third of households are burdened by housing costs. Forty-nine percent of renters are burdened by housing costs, with higher shares among Black and Latino renters. Rising housing costs are also reflected in increased eviction and homelessness rates.

**VERY FEW NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BOTH HIGHER INCOMES AND HIGHER LEVELS OF DIVERSITY | HIGH/LOW CLASSIFICATION OF MEAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY BY CENSUS TRACT, GREATER HARTFORD, 2020**



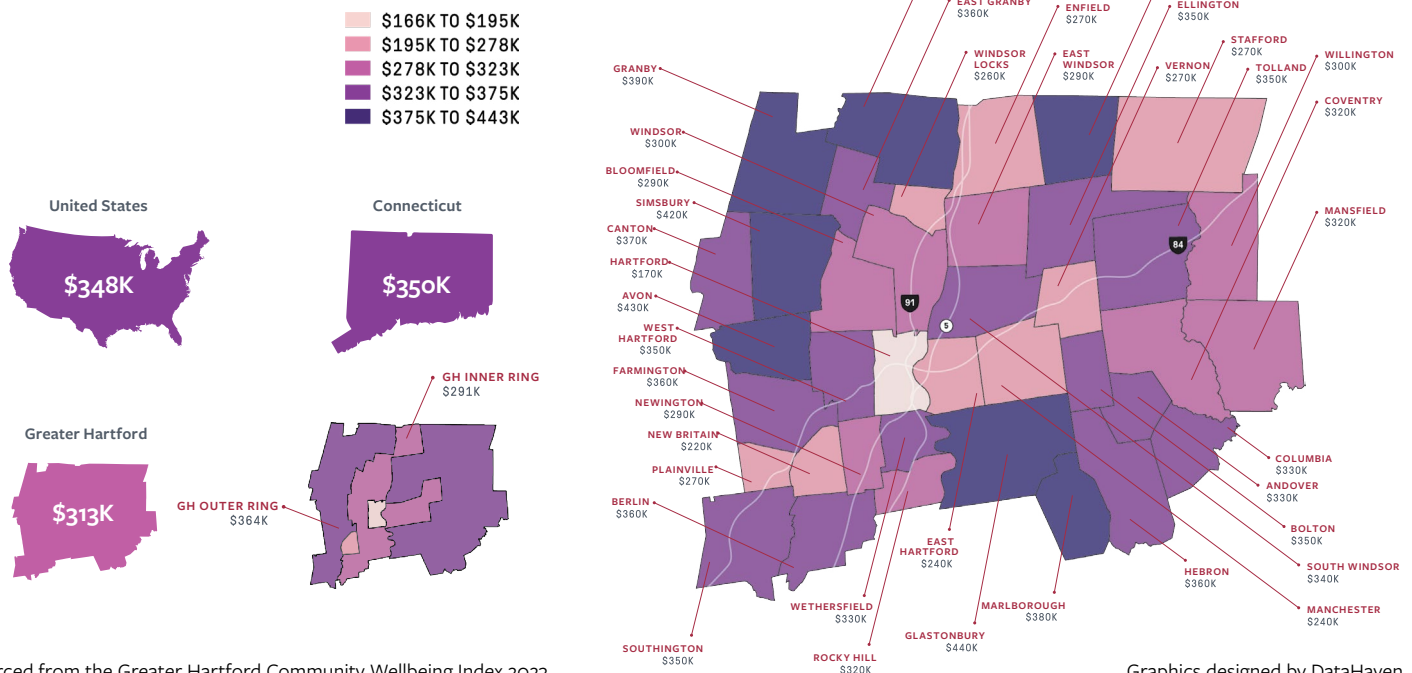
**HIGH SHARES OF BLACK AND LATINO RENTERS ARE BURDENED BY HOUSING COSTS**

COST-BURDEN RATES BY TENURE AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, GREATER HARTFORD, 2020



**THE CITY OF HARTFORD HAS LOWER HOUSING VALUES THAN THE REST OF THE REGION**

AVERAGE HOUSING VALUES BY TOWN, 2022

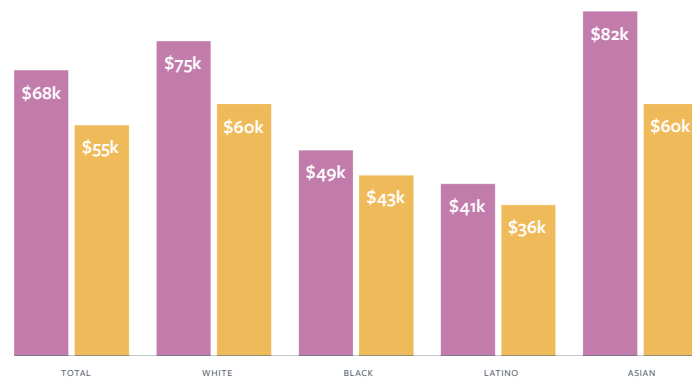


# Employment

Wage gaps based on race, ethnicity, and gender remain with white men continuing to outpace women and people of color. When disaggregated by sex, in 2020 white men had median earnings of \$75,000, compared to \$60,000 for white women. Income differences by race and ethnicity were even larger. The median income among Black men was \$49,000, while the median income among Latino men was \$41,000. Occupational differences, educational attainment, and discrimination contribute to wage disparities.

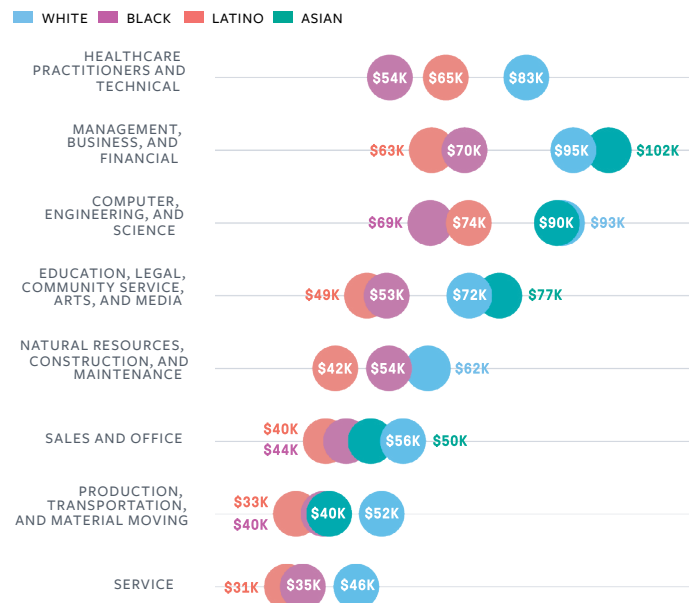
## WAGE GAPS ARE LARGER BY RACE/ETHNICITY THAN BY SEX

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY SEX AND RACE/ETHNICITY, GREATER HARTFORD ADULTS AGES 25+ WORKING FULL-TIME, 2020



## WIDE WAGE GAPS EXIST BY RACE/ETHNICITY, EVEN WITHIN OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND RACE/ETHNICITY, GREATER HARTFORD ADULTS AGES 25+ WORKING FULL TIME, 2020



Adults with high school diplomas or college degrees have more employment options and considerably higher potential earnings, on average, than those who do not finish high school. High school graduation rates have remained high: 90 percent of the class of 2021 graduated within four years of starting high school. While graduation rates are still lower for Black and Latino students and students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM), those gaps are closing: Black, Latino, and FRPM students in Greater Hartford's class of 2021 had graduation rates 9, 21, and 17 percentage points, respectively, above those of the class of 2011. Six years after graduating high school, only 35 percent of high school graduates in Hartford and less than 30 percent in East Hartford earned a college degree, versus 65 percent in the districts representing the outer ring suburbs.

## K-12 ACHIEVEMENT

SUSPENSIONS AND GRADUATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEALS (FRPM), SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED), ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STATUS (ELL), AND SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD), 2020-21 AND 2021-22 SCHOOL YEARS

LOCATION	SUSPENSIONS PER 1K STUDENTS *	GRADUATION RATE †
Connecticut	68	90%
Greater Hartford	72	90%
BY DEMOGRAPHIC WITHIN GREATER HARTFORD		
White	40	94%
Black	138	83%
Latino	108	80%
Asian	15	96%
FRPM	124	80%
Not FRPM	36	96%
SPED	131	69%
Not SPED	60	93%
ELL	92	72%
Not ELL	71	82%
Hartford SD	125	72%
Inner Ring	78	90%
East Hartford SD	127	91%
Manchester SD	117	81%
West Hartford SD	39	95%
Outer Ring	39	96%
Glastonbury SD	35	97%
Southington SD	47	96%

\* 2021-22 school year † 2020-21 school year

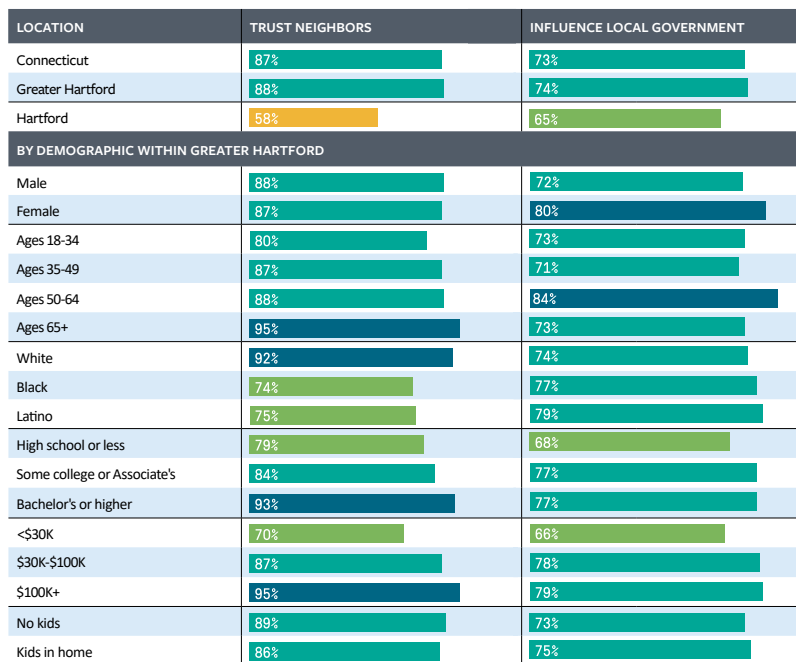


# Civic Life and Engagement

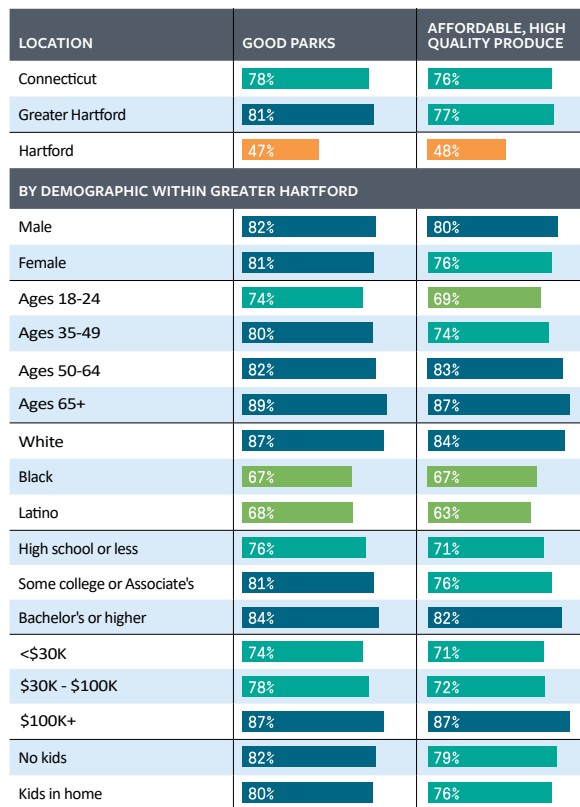
Residents' sense of agency and community trust are civic conditions necessary for political engagement and healthier, more cohesive communities. A majority of Greater Hartford adults (88 percent) say they trust their neighbors; however, this is not universal across towns—only 58 percent of those living in Hartford say they do. While across demographic categories a majority of adults felt they could affect local government, disparities about perceived influence exist. For example, adults with college degrees were more likely than those with a high school diploma or less to say they could influence their local governments.

There are also observable disparities between subgroups of residents who have access to resources that build community connectedness like good parks and vital resources like healthy food. While 81 percent of the region's adults report access to good parks, less than half of those living in Hartford report that they have access to that critical public land. A bright spot in the region's civic engagement is the uptick in voter turnout across sex, race, ethnicity, and age categories. Overall voter turnout grew by three percentage points from 2016 to 2020 elections—with particularly large increases among Black, Latino, and young voters.

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND VIEWS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT | SHARE OF ADULTS, GREATER HARTFORD, 2021



## VIEWS OF ACCESS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ASSETS | SHARE OF ADULTS, GREATER HARTFORD, 2021



## VOTER TURNOUT INCREASED AMONG ALL DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE OF COLOR | SHARE OF ELIGIBLE CT VOTERS WHO VOTED IN THE 2016 & 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP



Graphics designed by DataHaven  
Sourced from the Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2023