



Town of Berlin

**2023 Plan of Conservation and Development Committee
and Affordable Housing Plan Meeting #1**

9/23/21

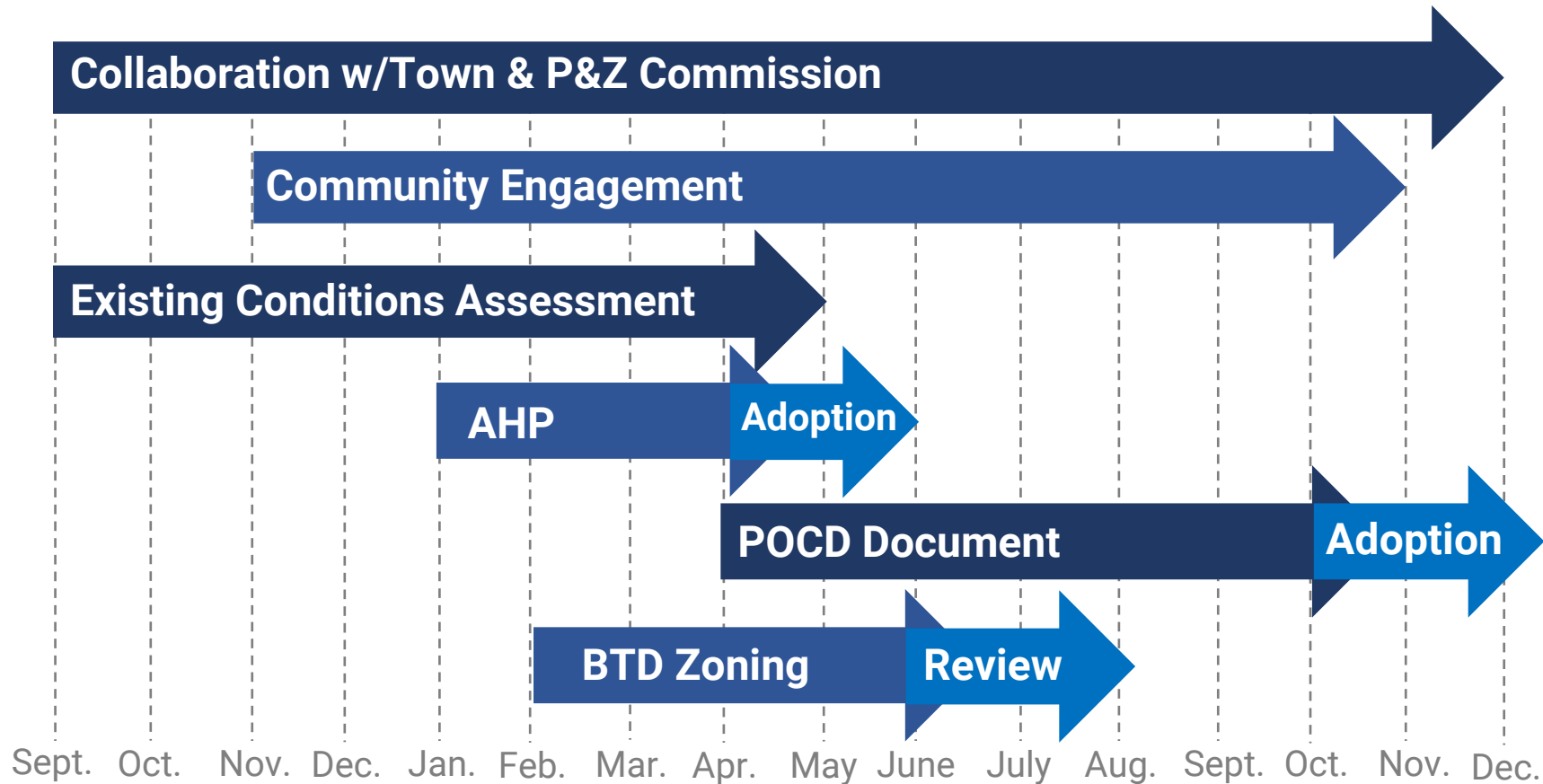


Agenda

1. Review recommended project schedule
2. Review demographic and socioeconomic trends and findings
3. Review preliminary housing analysis data
4. Discuss demographic, socioeconomic, and housing findings, issues, and needs
5. Visioning Exercise (work towards establishing a vision statement for Berlin)
6. Next steps
7. Discussion of Affordable Housing Committee

Project Schedule

15 months (concluding by end of 2022)



Population Trends and Characteristics

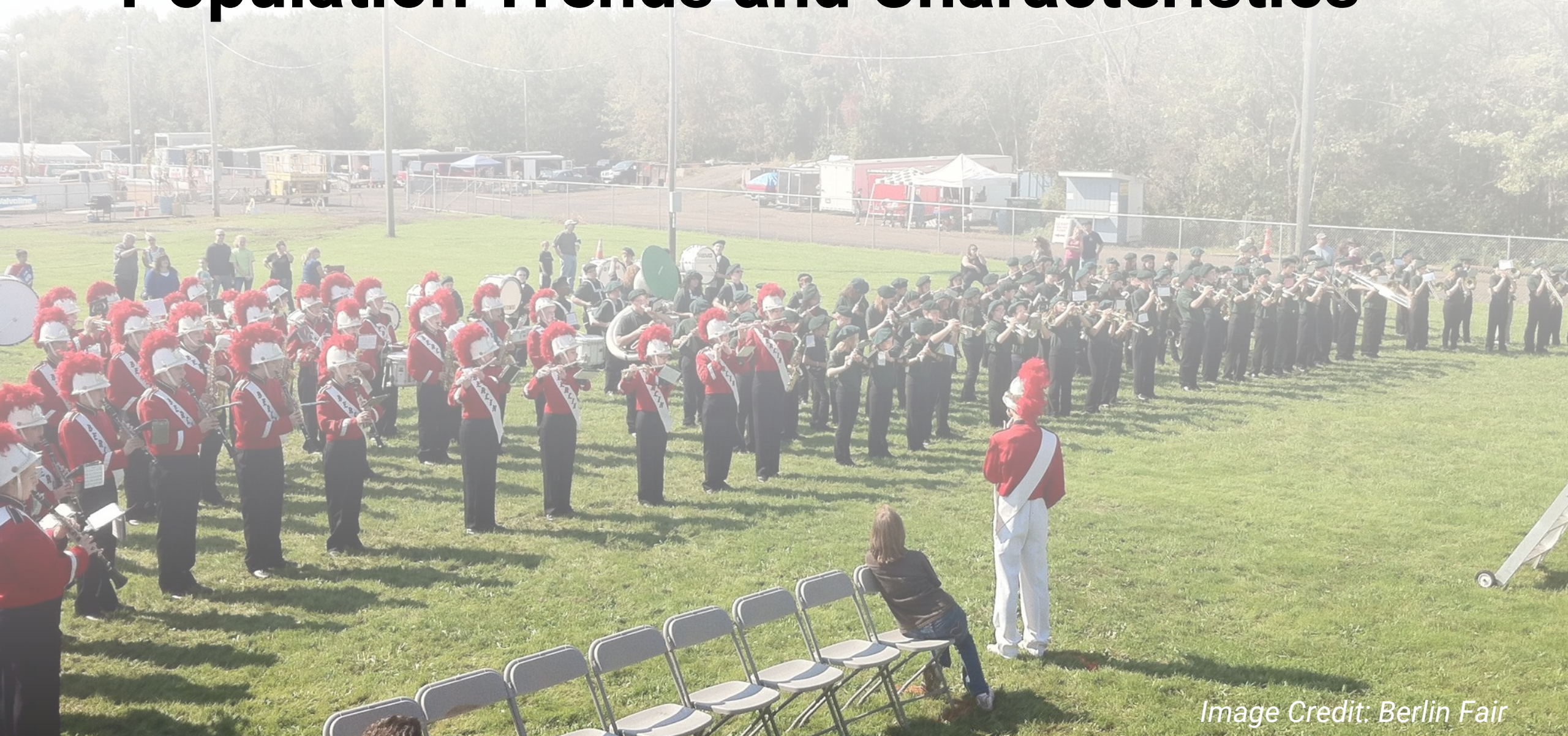
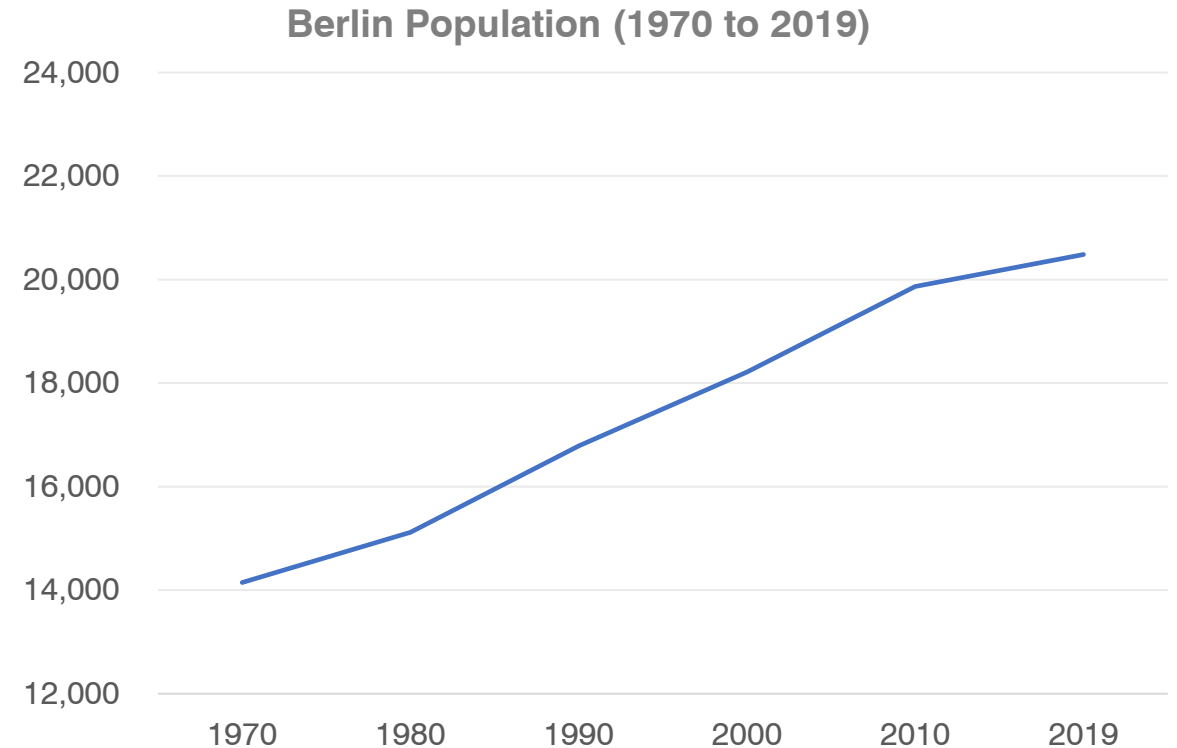


Image Credit: Berlin Fair

Population Change

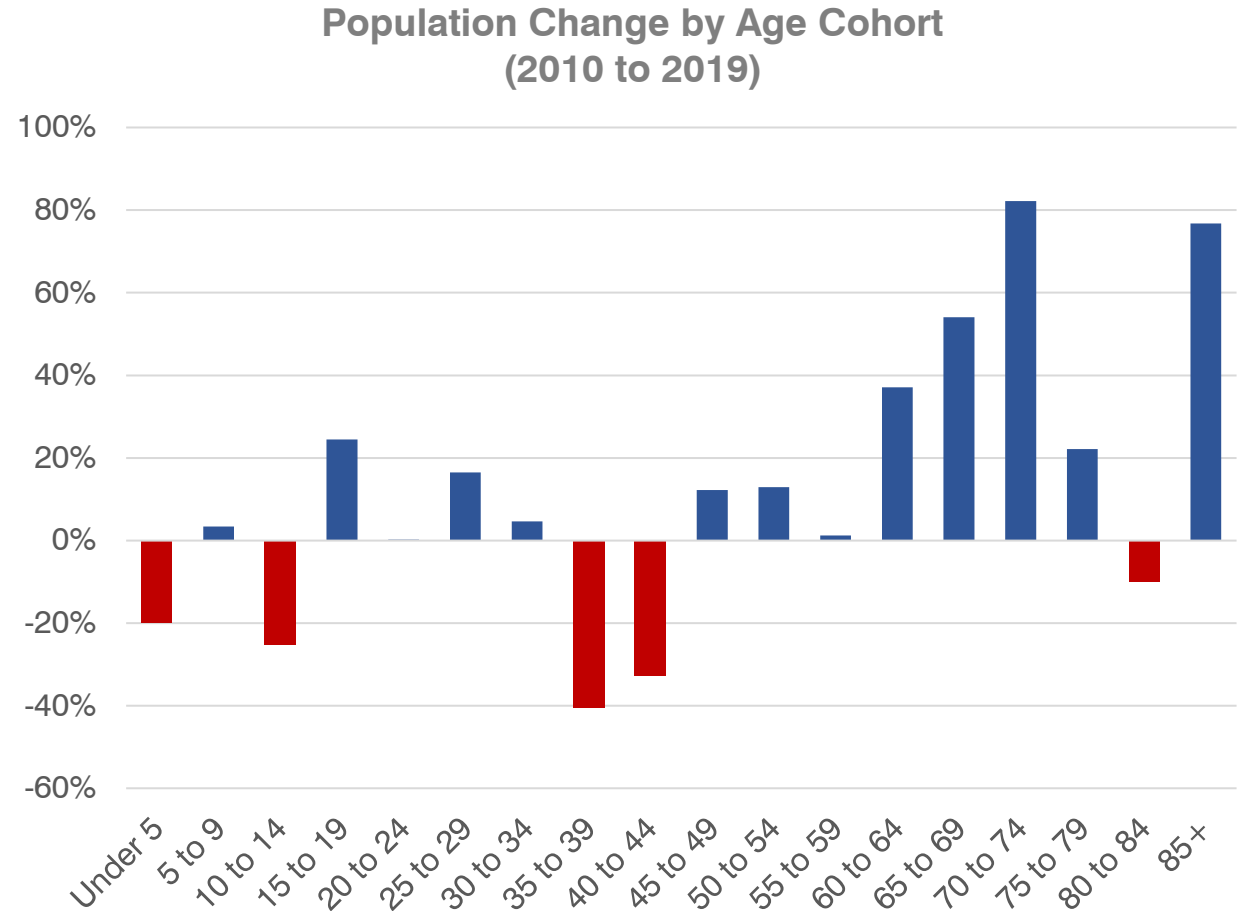
- Berlin's population grew at a steady rate in the 30 years between 1980 and 2010.
- Growth has slowed since 2010



Source: US Census and American Community Survey

Population Change

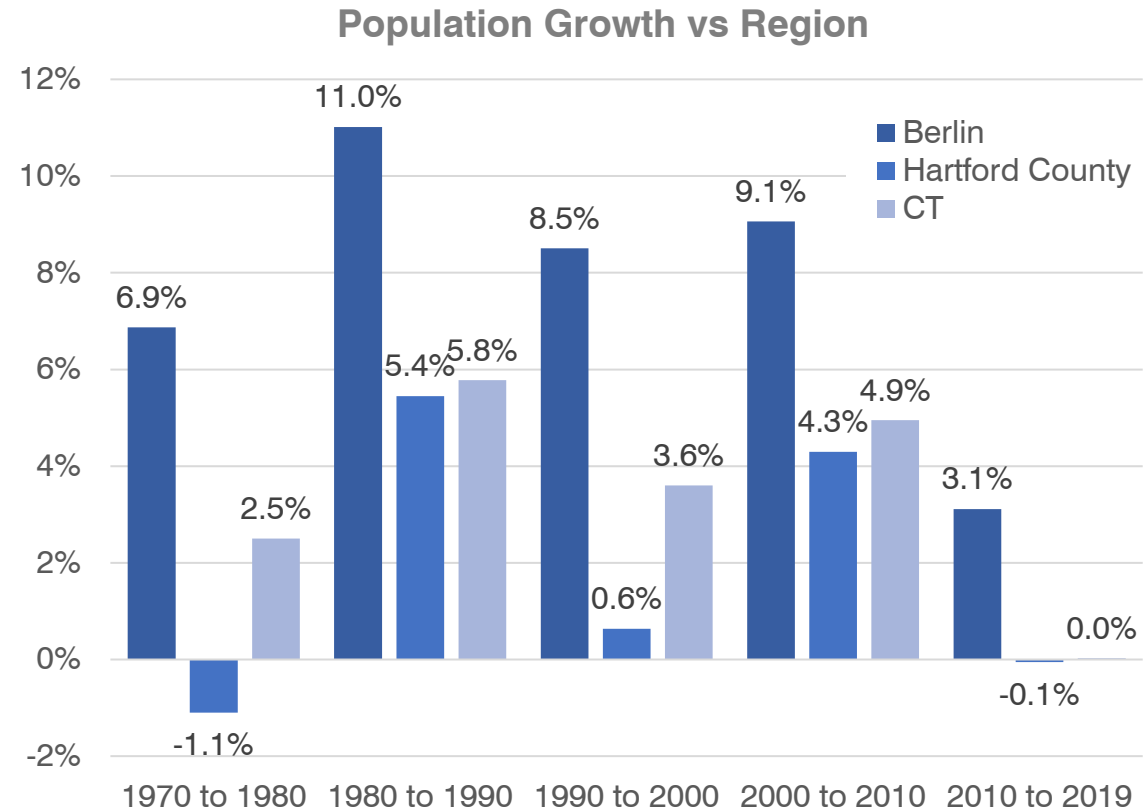
- Berlin's population is growing in those age 45 and older with exception of ages 80-84.
- Population shrunk or grew at a slower rate in those below the age of 45.



Source: US Census and American Community Survey

Population Change

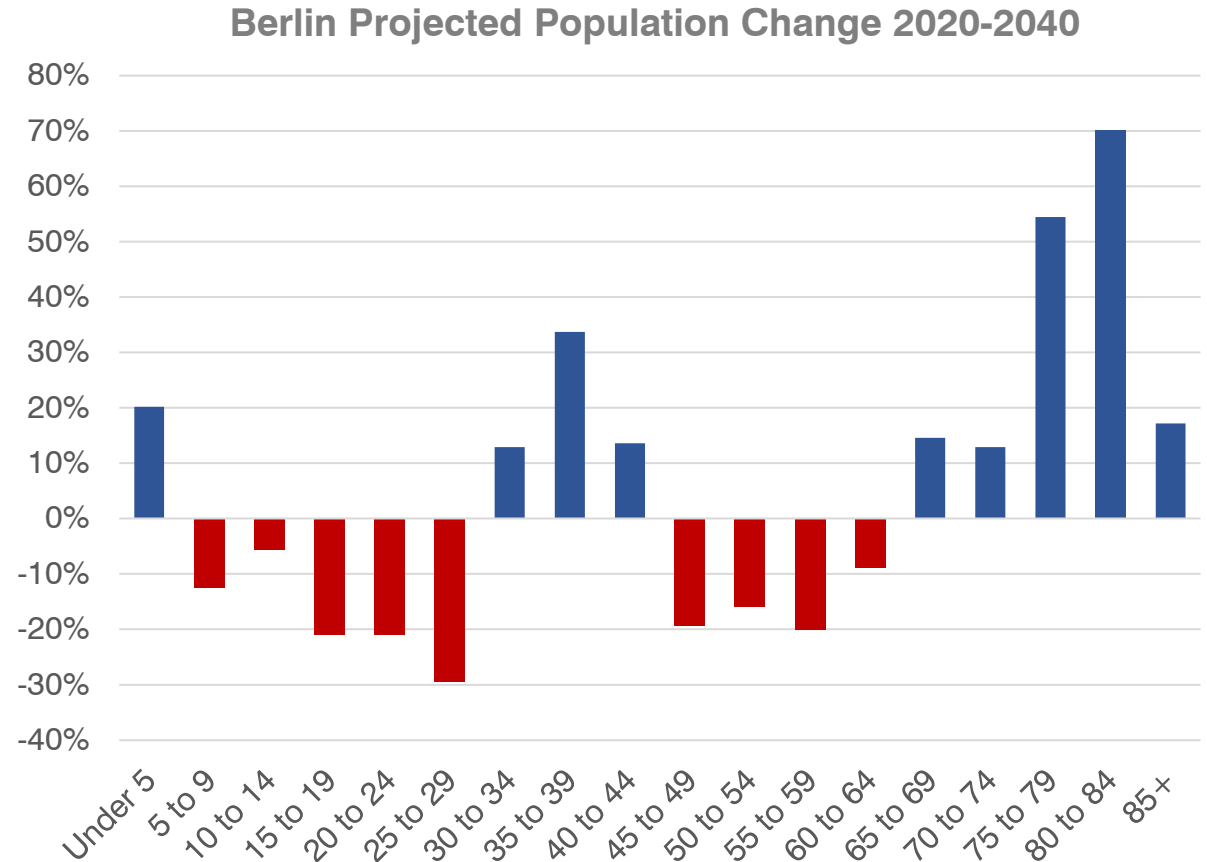
- Berlin has consistently exceeded both Hartford County and the State in population growth over the past five decades.
- Growth in all three geographies was at a five-decade low in the past decade.



Source: US Census and American Community Survey

Population Projections

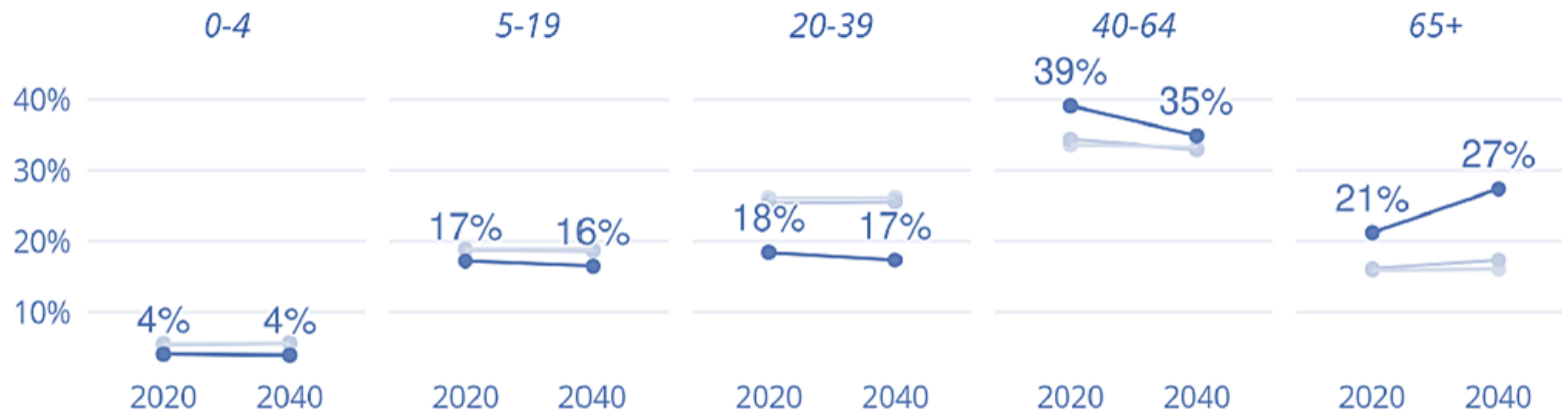
- According to projections conducted by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Berlin's population is expected to contract in the age cohorts between 5 and 29 years old and 45 and 64 years old.
- *Projections were conducted in 2017 and may not reflect recent demographic shifts.*



Source: CT DECD

Population Projections

- Berlin is projected to experience more growth than Hartford County and the State in those age 65 and older
- Berlin's population of between ages of 40 and 64 is expected to contract more than Hartford County and the State.



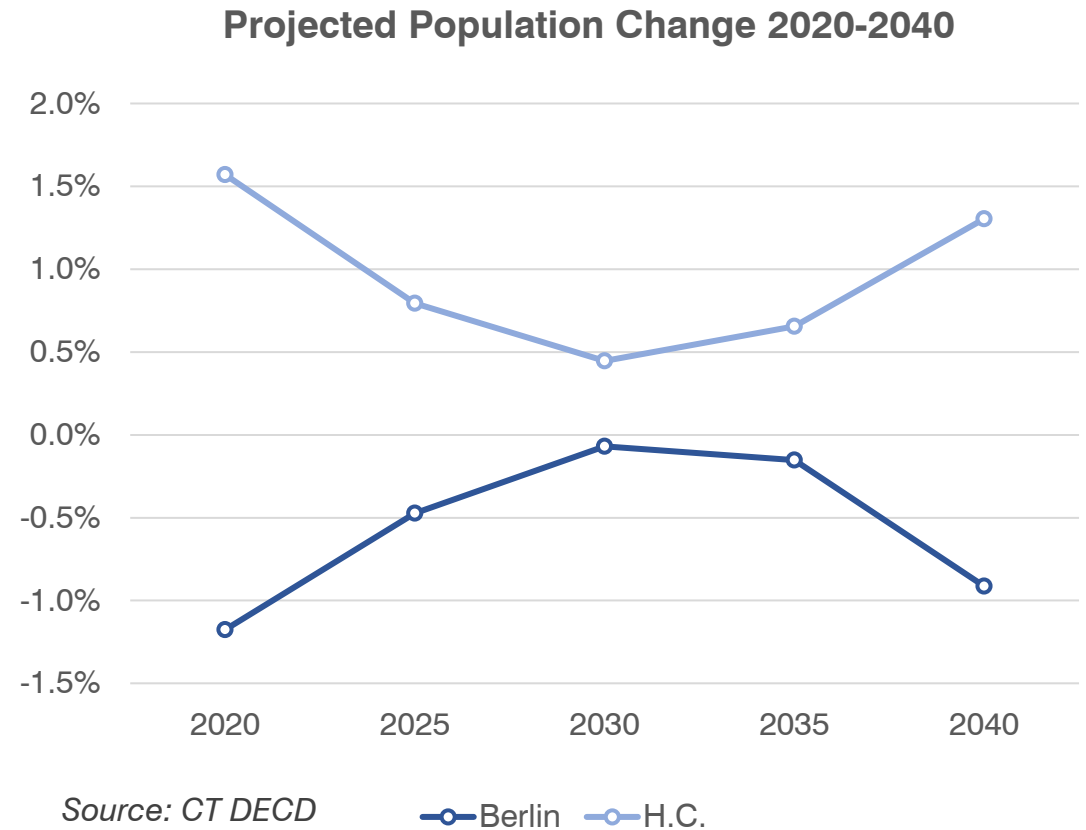
Projections were conducted in 2017 and may not reflect recent demographic shifts

Source: CT DECD

● Berlin ● Hartford County ● Connecticut

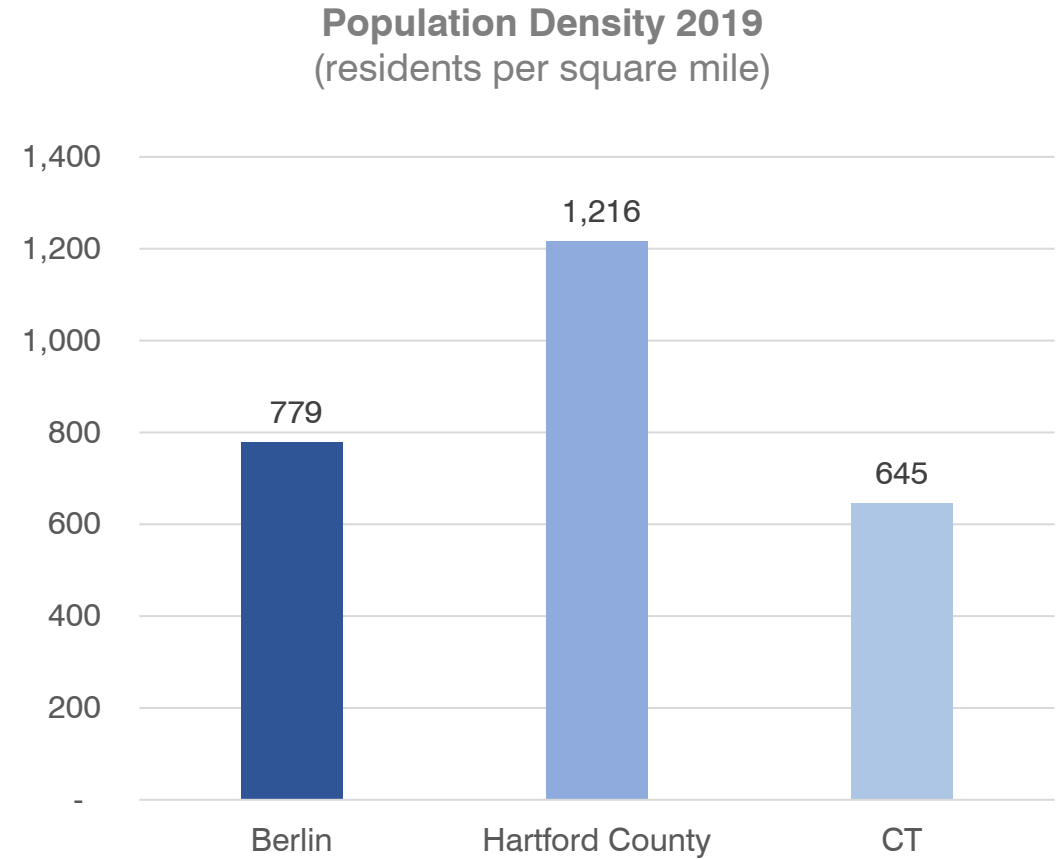
Population Projections

- Berlin's population change is expected to be negative through 2040.
- Berlin's population change is directly inverse of Hartford County's, which will remain positive through 2040.
- *Projections were conducted in 2017 and may not reflect recent demographic shifts.*



Population Density

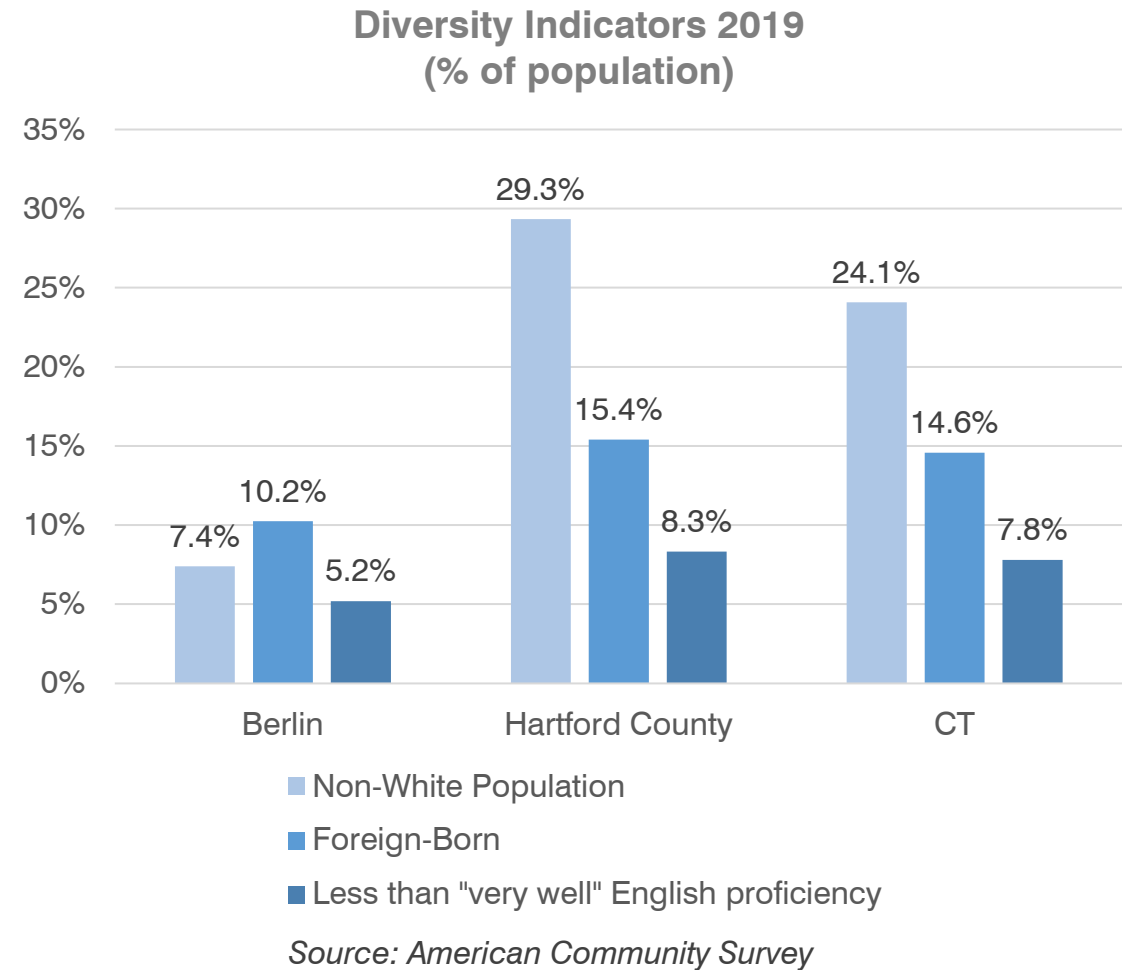
- Berlin's population density is comparable to Connecticut's but is much lower than Hartford County's.



Source: American Community Survey

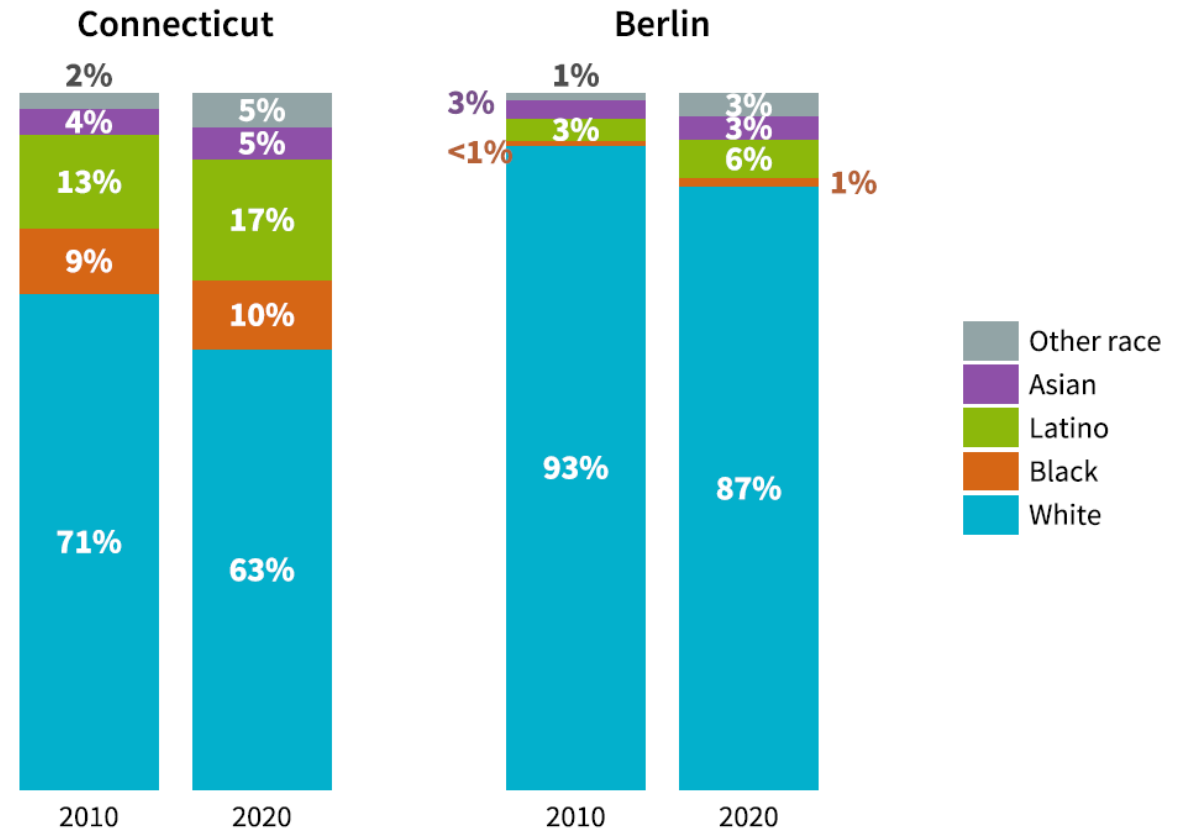
Population Race and Ethnicity

- Berlin is less racially and ethnically diverse than the State and Hartford County.



Population Race/Ethnicity

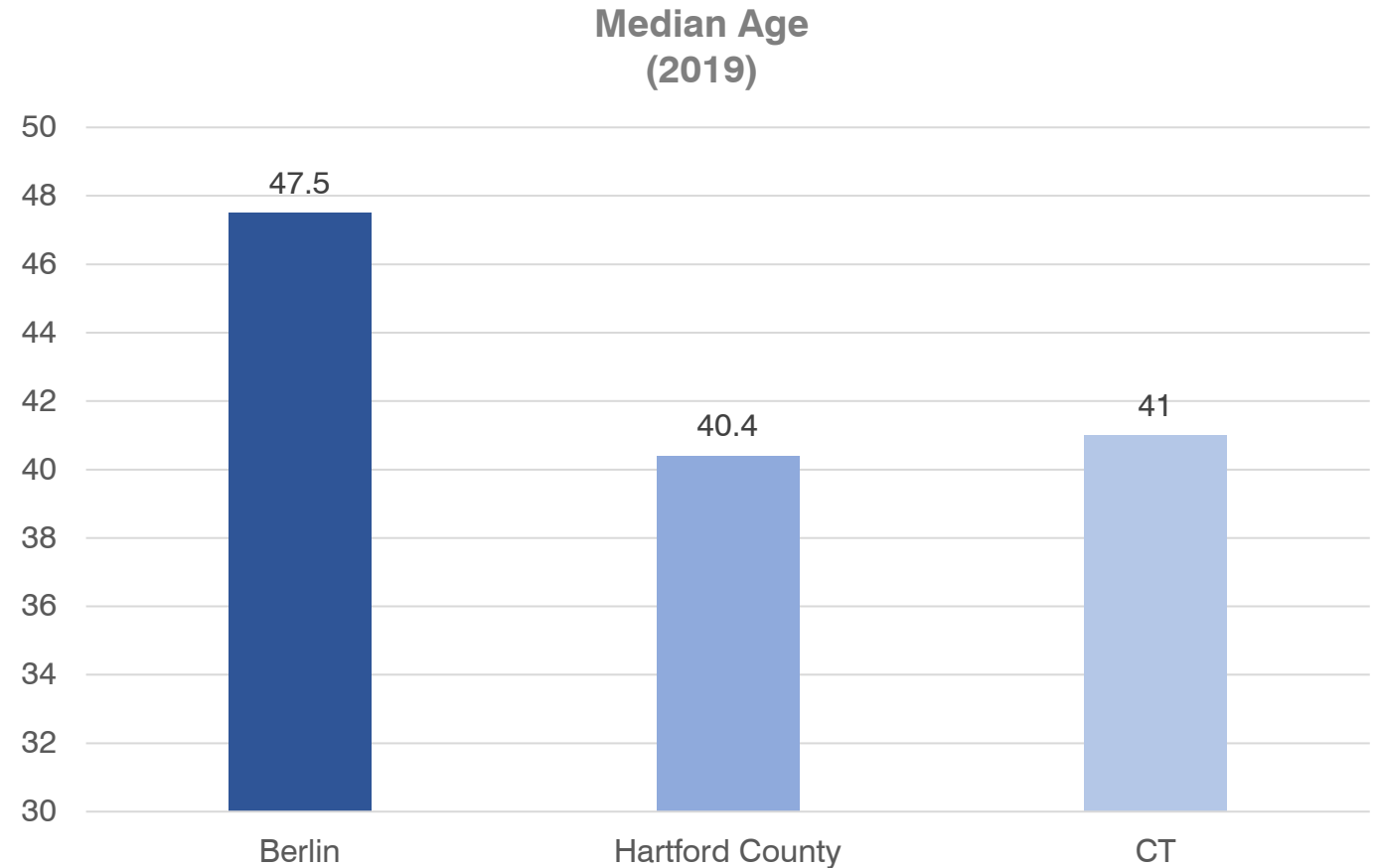
- Berlin is more racially and ethnically diverse now than it was in 2010.
- Connecticut experienced a greater shift in diversity over the same period.



Data Source: American Community Survey

Resident Age

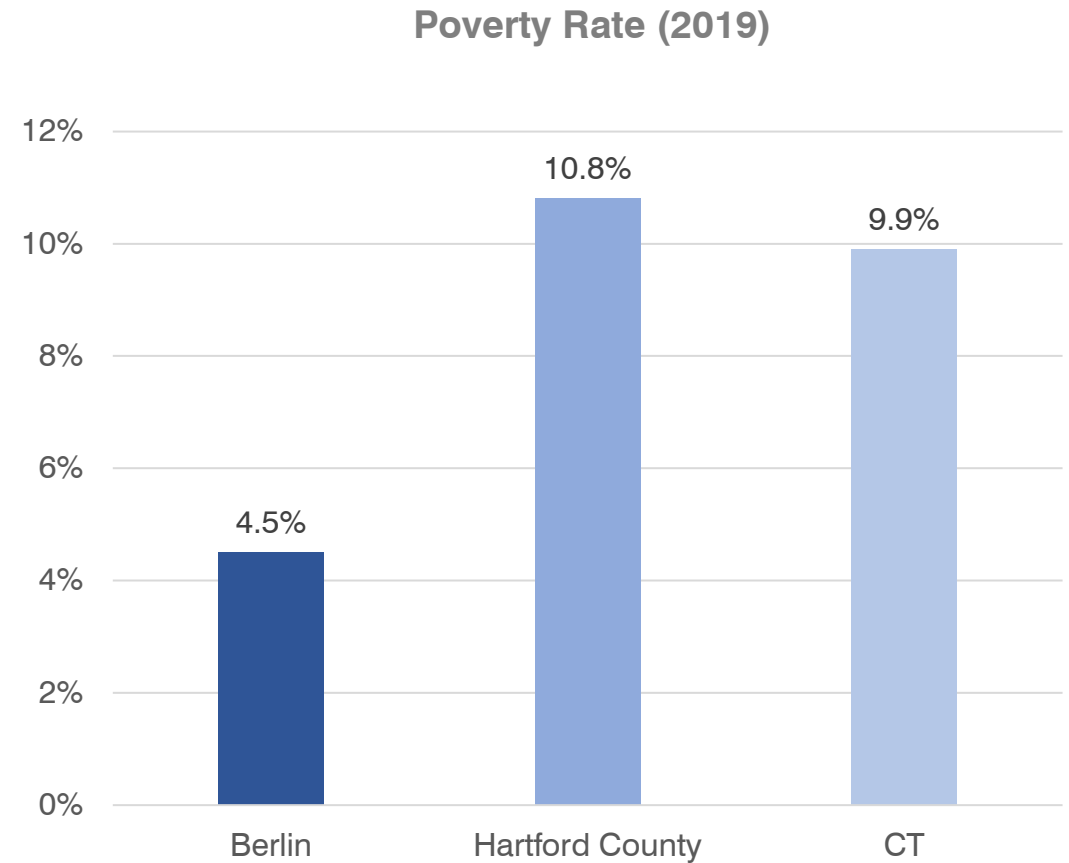
- Berlin's population is significantly older than both Hartford County's and the State's.



Source: American Community Survey

Poverty

- Berlin's poverty rate is substantially lower than both Hartford County's and the State's.



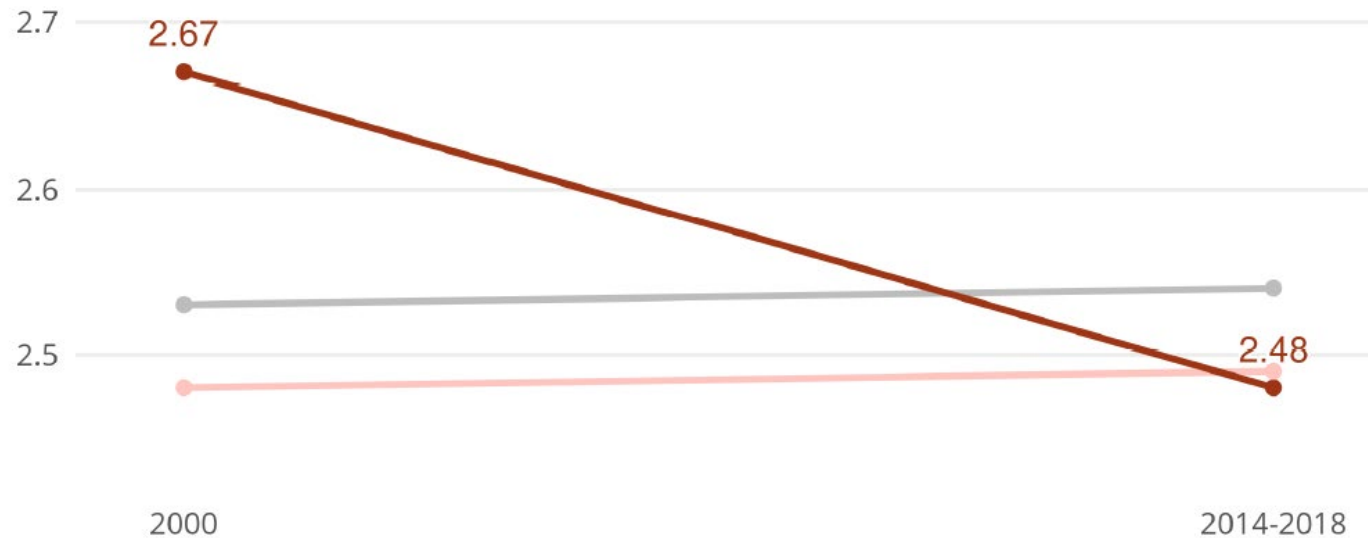
Source: American Community Survey

Household Characteristics



Household Size

- The average household size in Berlin declined from 2.67 to 2.48 between 2000 and 2018



Source: US Census and American Community Survey

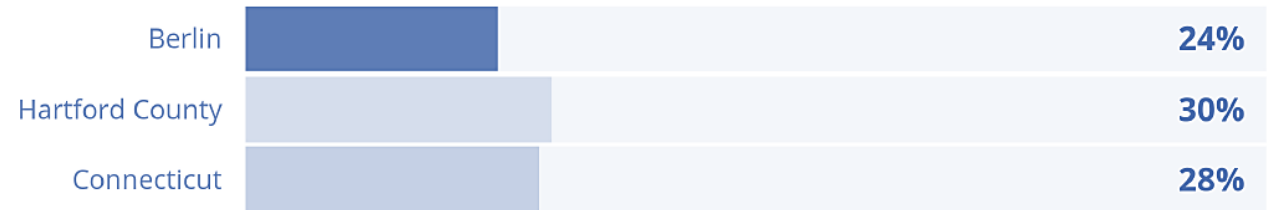
● Berlin ● Hartford County ● Connecticut

Household Type

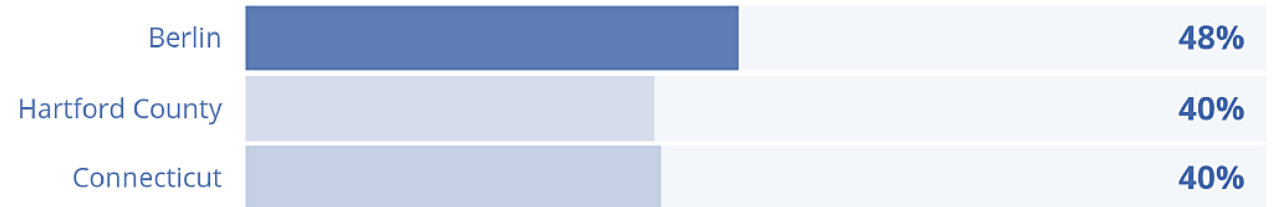
- Berlin has fewer householders living alone than Hartford County and the State.
- Berlin has a greater share of households with someone older than 60 years old than Hartford County and the State.
- Berlin has fewer households with someone under 18 than the County or the State.

Household Types as a Percent of Total (2019)

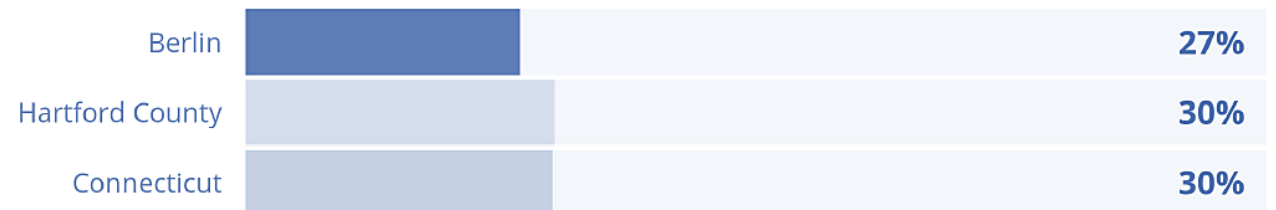
Householder living alone



Households with someone older than 60



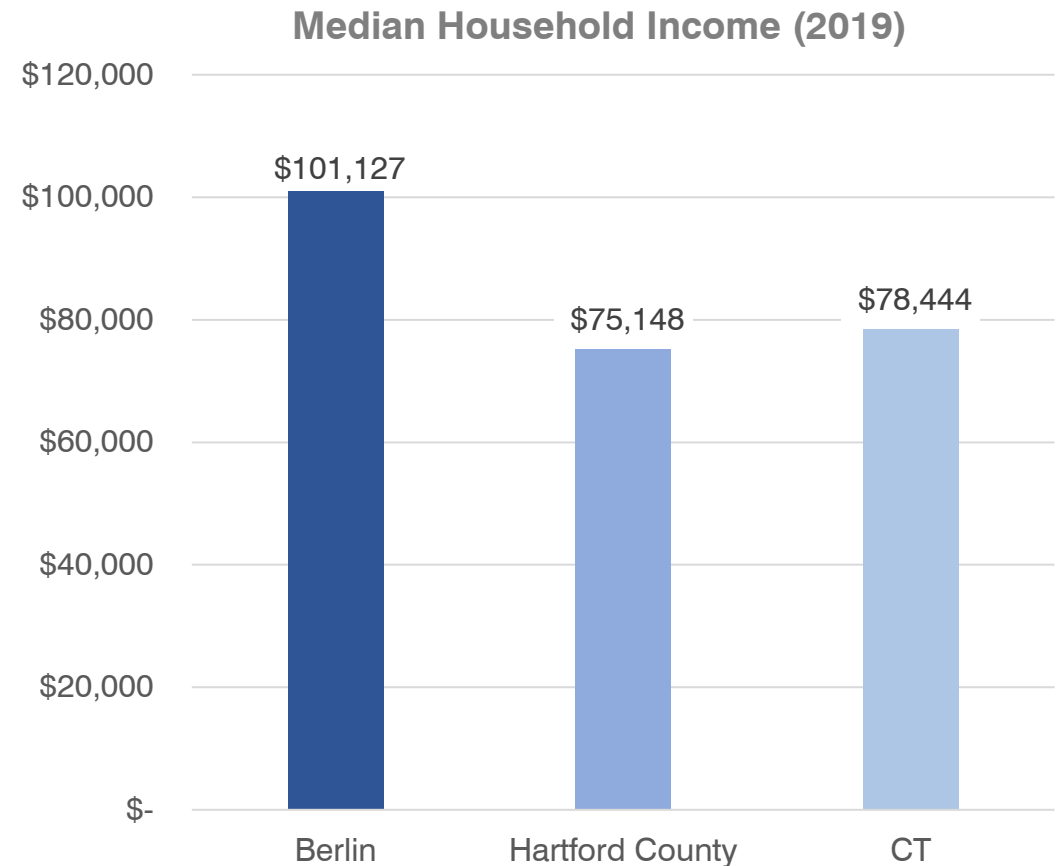
Households with someone under 18



Source: American Community Survey

Median Household Income

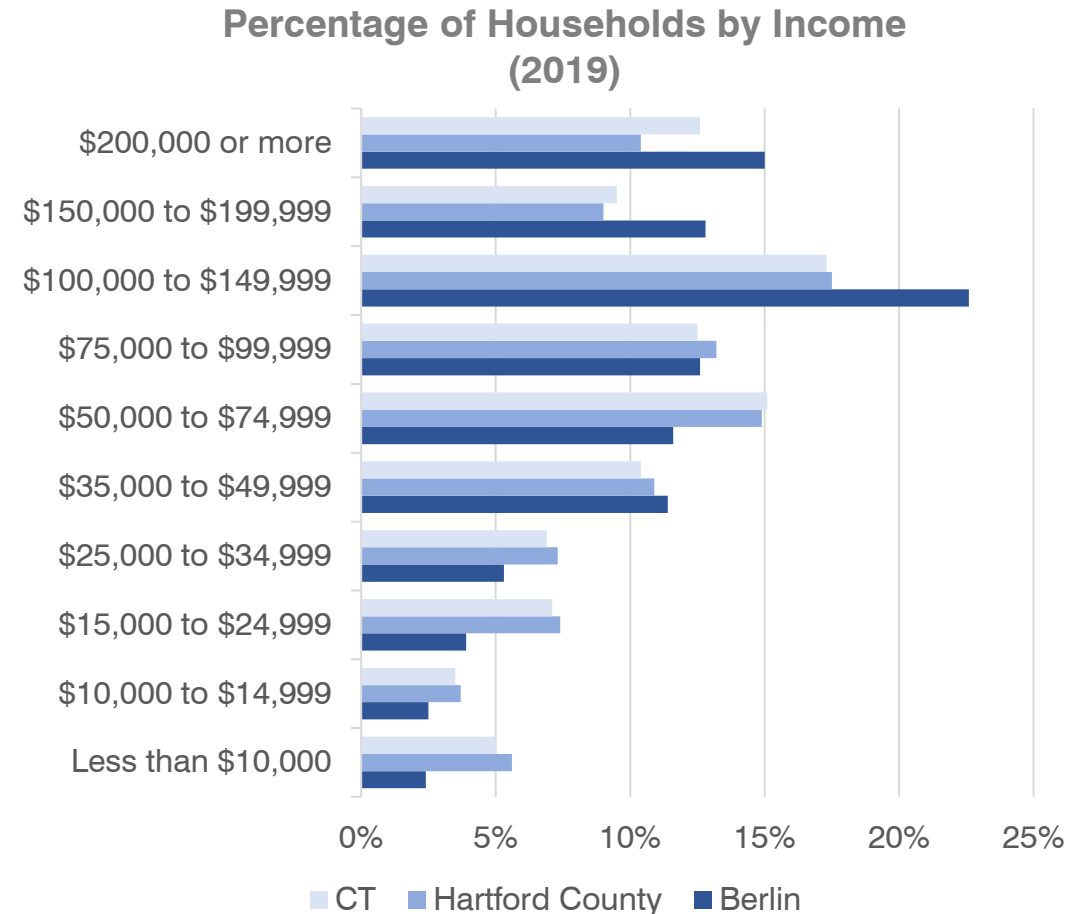
- Berlin's median household income is higher than both Hartford County's and the State's.
- 35% higher than Hartford County
- 29% higher than Connecticut



Source: American Community Survey

Household Income

- Berlin has a higher share of households in income brackets over \$100k than both Hartford County and the State.
- Berlin also has a lower share of households in income brackets below \$35k.



Source: American Community Survey

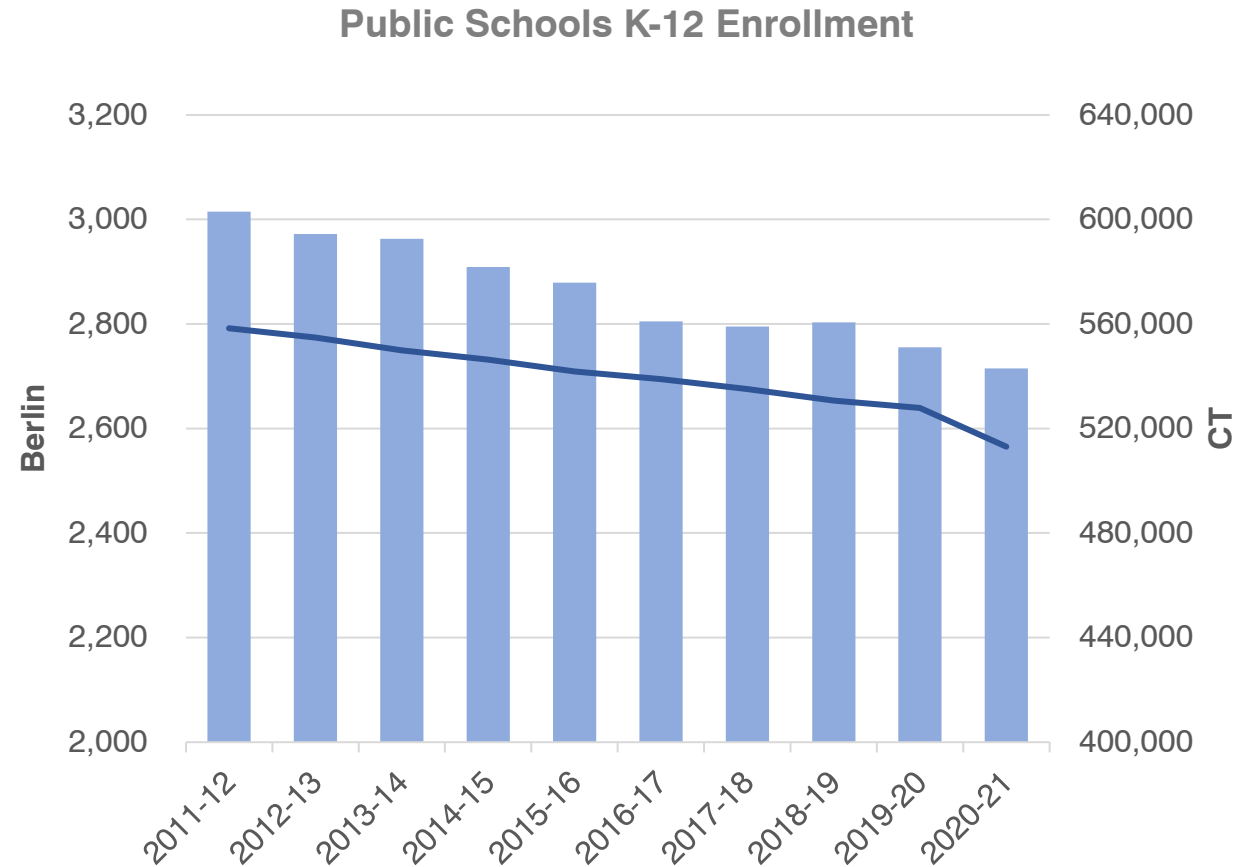
Schools and Educational Attainment



Image Credit: FIP Construction

School Enrollment

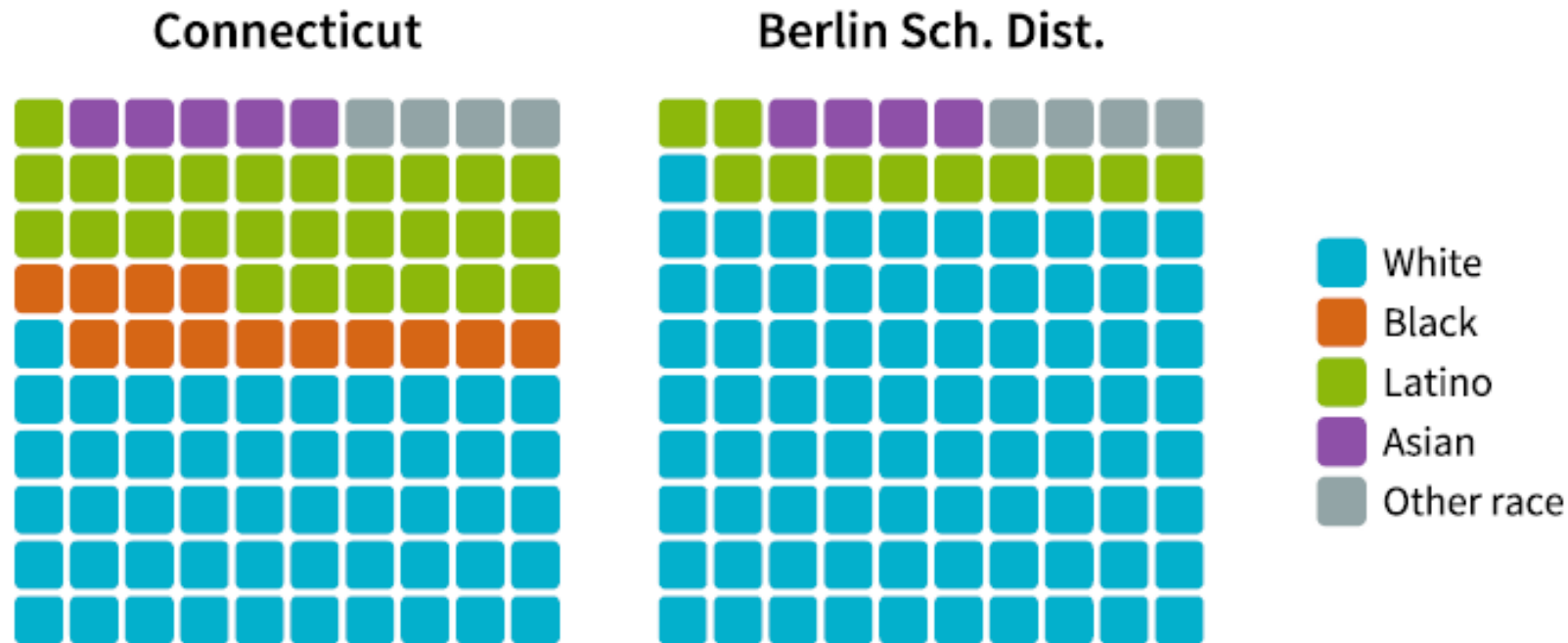
- School enrollment in Berlin's public schools has consistently decreased over the past ten years.
- This follows the same trend as school enrollment in the State.



Source: CT Department of Education

Student Race/Ethnicity

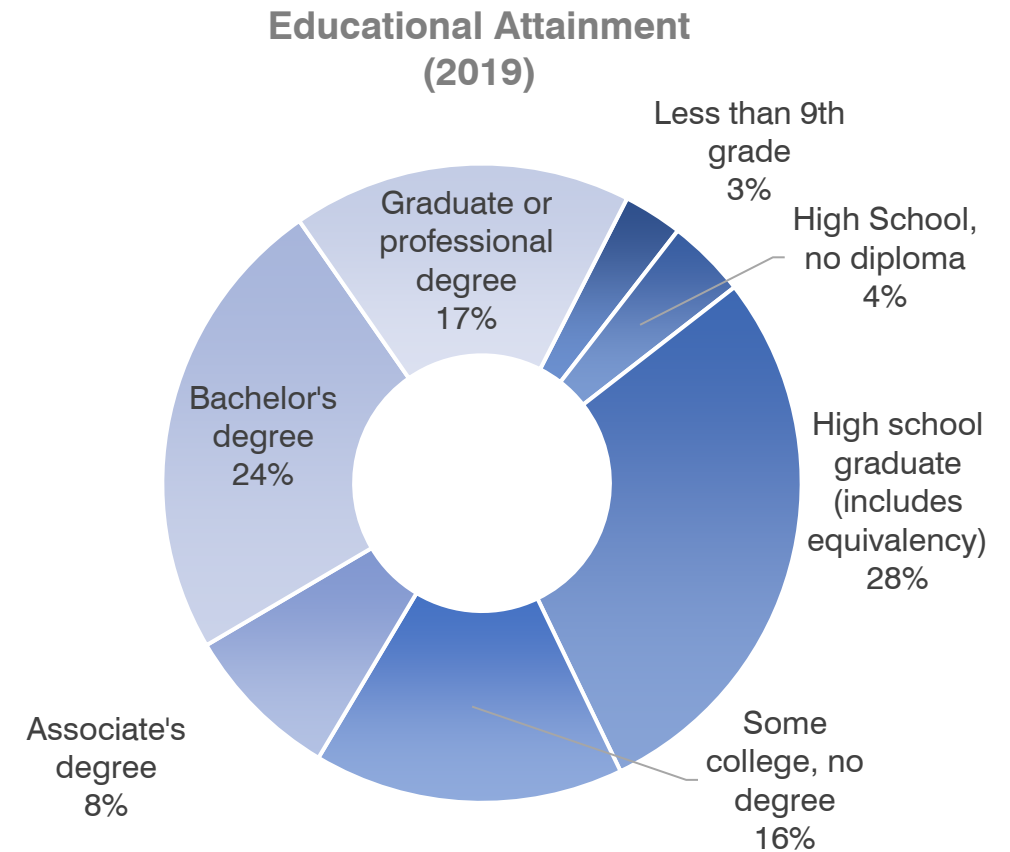
- Berlin's public school enrollment is less diverse than Connecticut's.



Source: 2021 Equity Profile, Datahaven and CT Department of Education

Educational Attainment

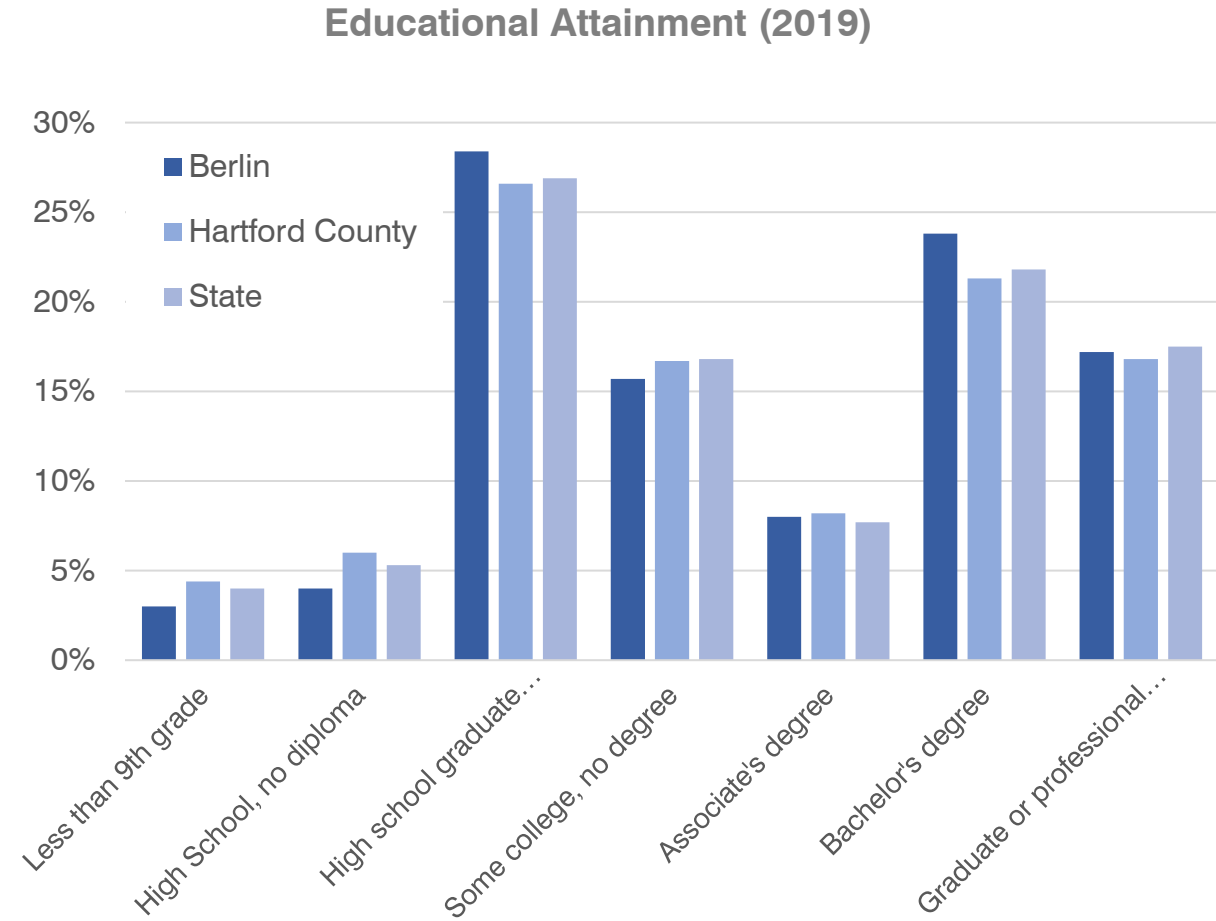
- 41% of Berlin's residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- Only 7% of residents lack a High School Diploma



Source: American Community Survey

Educational Attainment

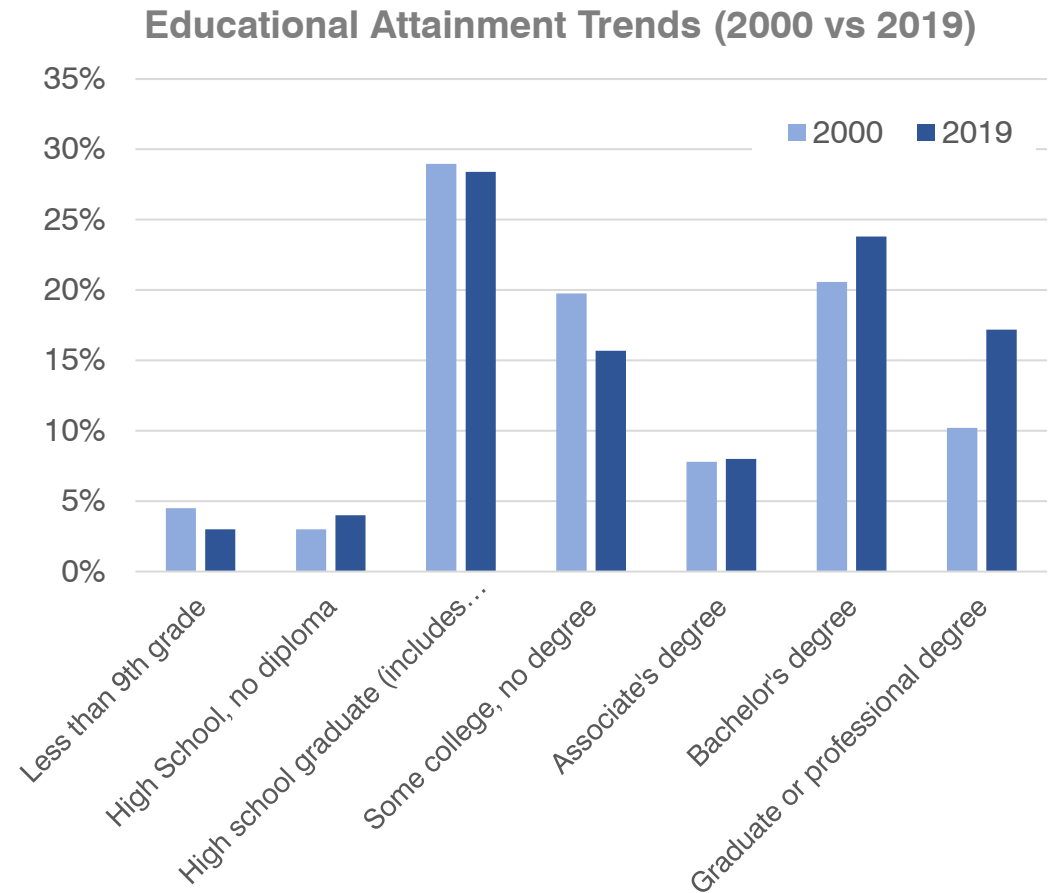
- Berlin's population has higher educational attainment than both Hartford County's and the State's.



Source: American Community Survey

Educational Attainment

- Berlin's population shifted towards more educational attainment between 2000 and 2019.
- The greatest growth in educational attainment was seen in those with a Bachelor's or Graduate or Professional Degree.



Source: US Census and American Community Survey

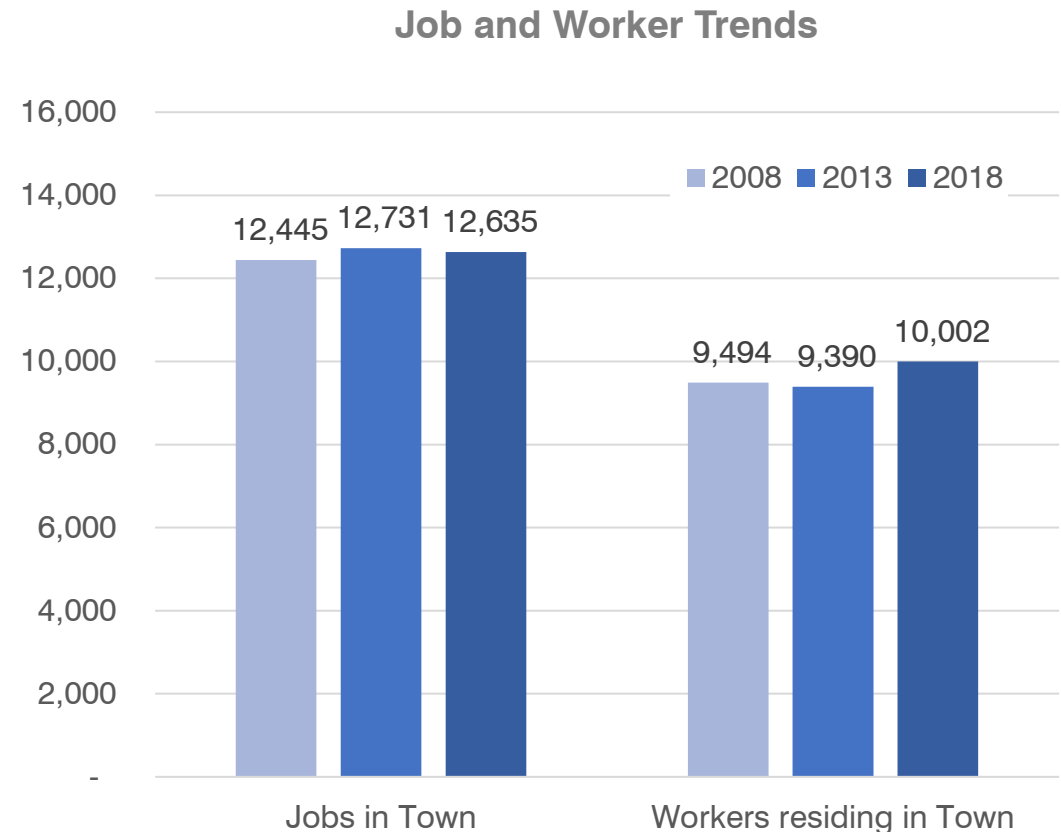
Jobs and Employment



Image Credit: Forrest Machine Inc.

Job and Worker Trends

- Berlin has more jobs in the town than workers residing in the town.
- The number of workers residing in town grew by 5% between 2008 and 2018.
- The number of jobs in town grew by 1.5% over the same period.

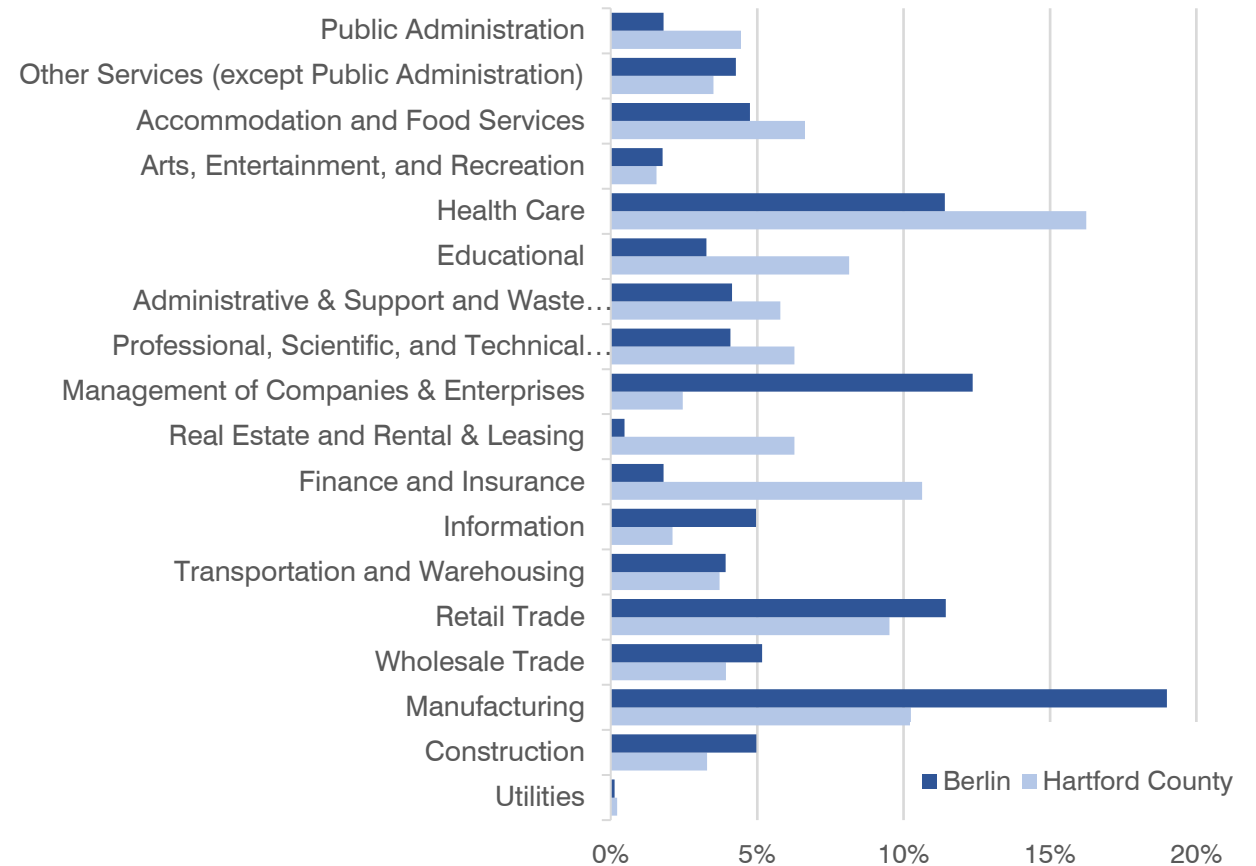


Source: USCB Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

Jobs by Industry

- Berlin has a high share of jobs in the health care, management, retail, and manufacturing industries.
- Berlin leads Hartford County in share of jobs in management, retail, and manufacturing, but lags the County in share of jobs in health care.

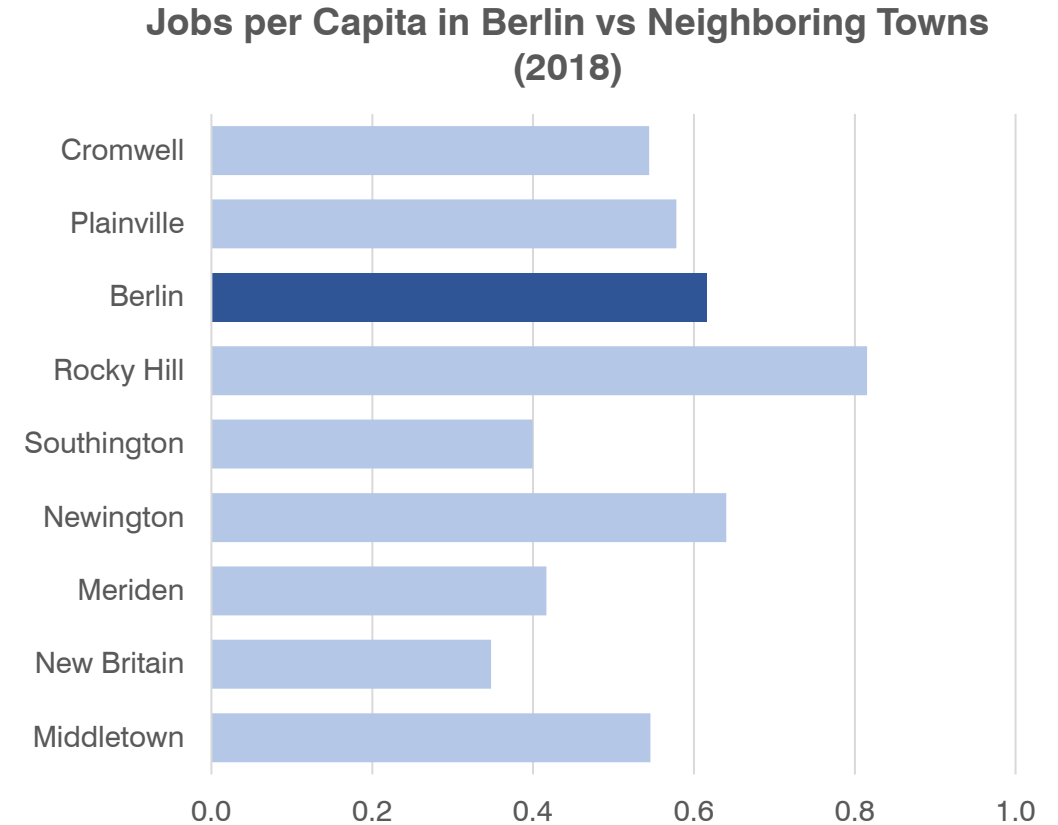
Share of Jobs by Industry
(2018)



Source: USCB Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

Jobs in Berlin vs Region

- Berlin has a comparable number of jobs per capita as Cromwell, Plainville, Newington, and Middletown.
- Berlin exceeds communities such as Southington, Meriden, and New Britain in jobs per capita
- Berlin lags Rocky Hill in jobs per capita

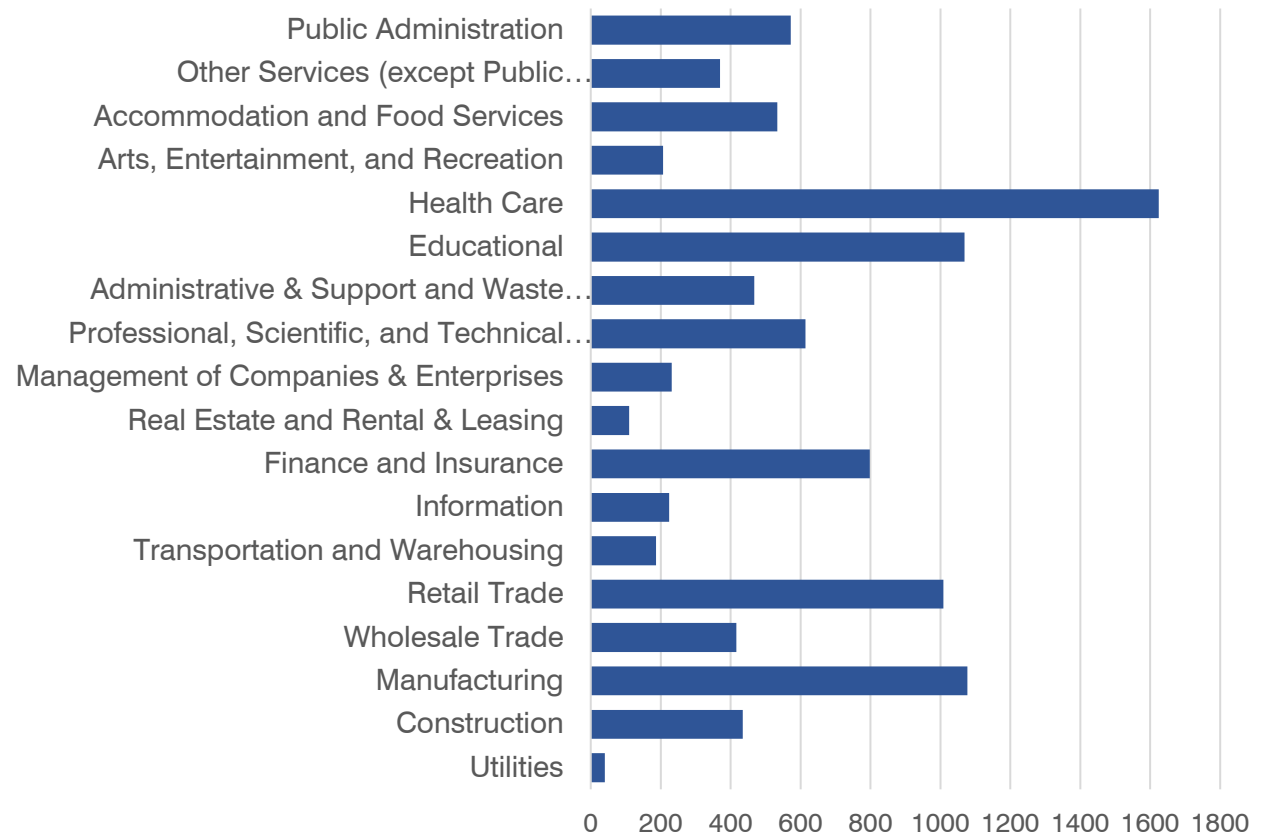


Source: USCB Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

Resident Employment

- The greatest share of resident employment is in the health care, education, retail, and manufacturing industries.
- Resident employment is well aligned with the industry sectors of jobs in Berlin.

Resident Employment by Industry (2018)

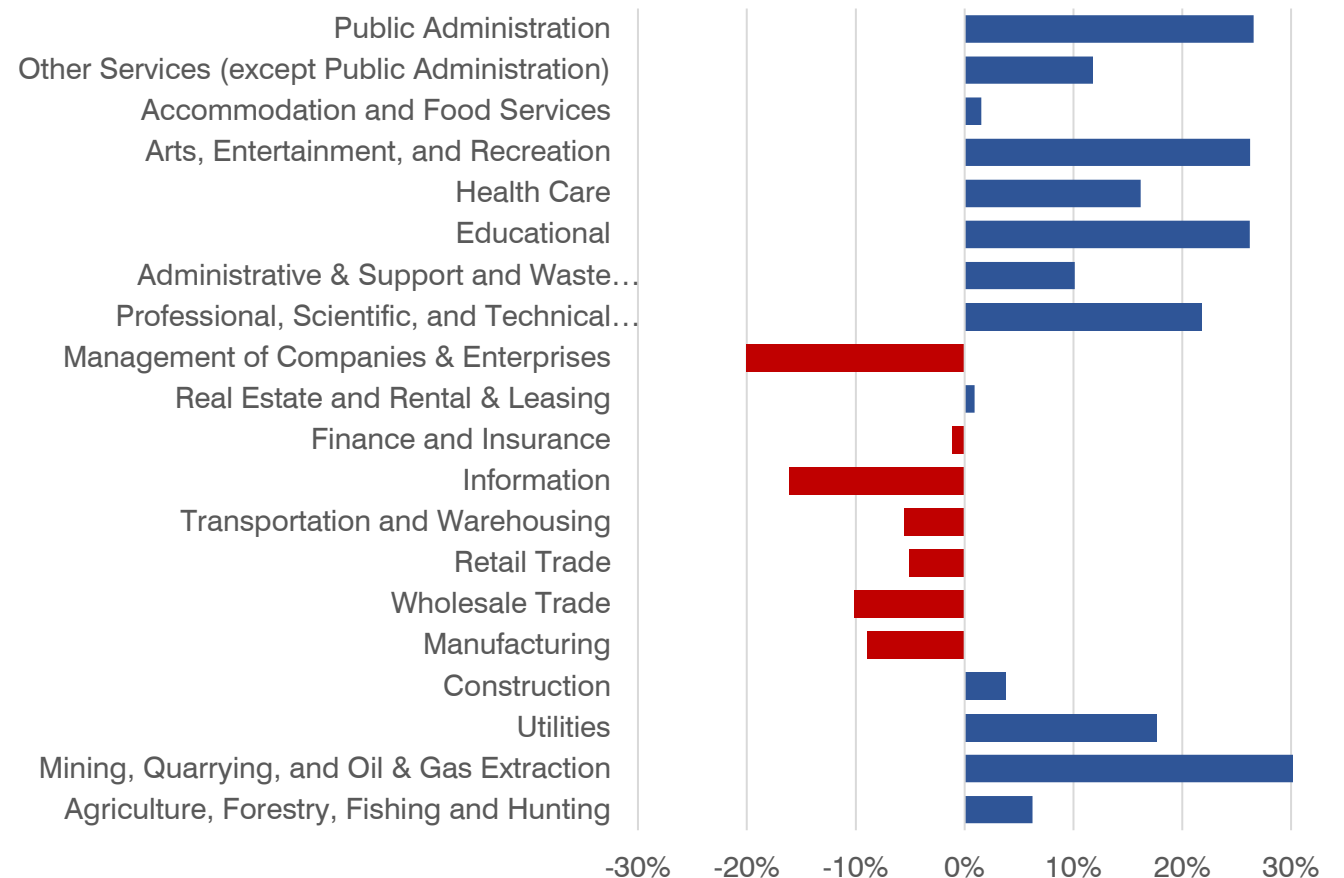


Source: USCB Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

Resident Employment

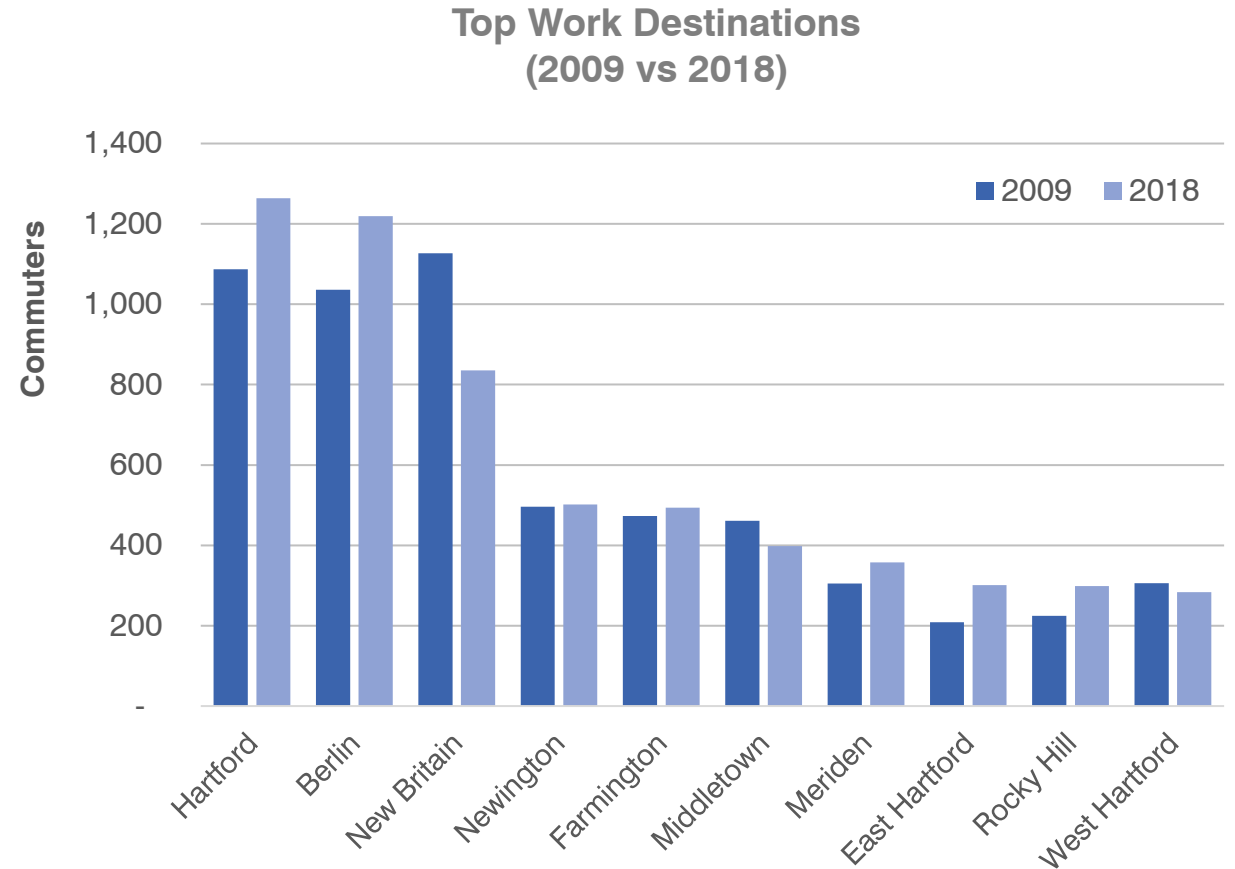
- Resident employment contracted in industry sectors such as management and information but grew in multiple other sectors between 2008 and 2018.

Resident Employment Shifts by Industry
(2008 vs 2018)



Resident Employment Locations

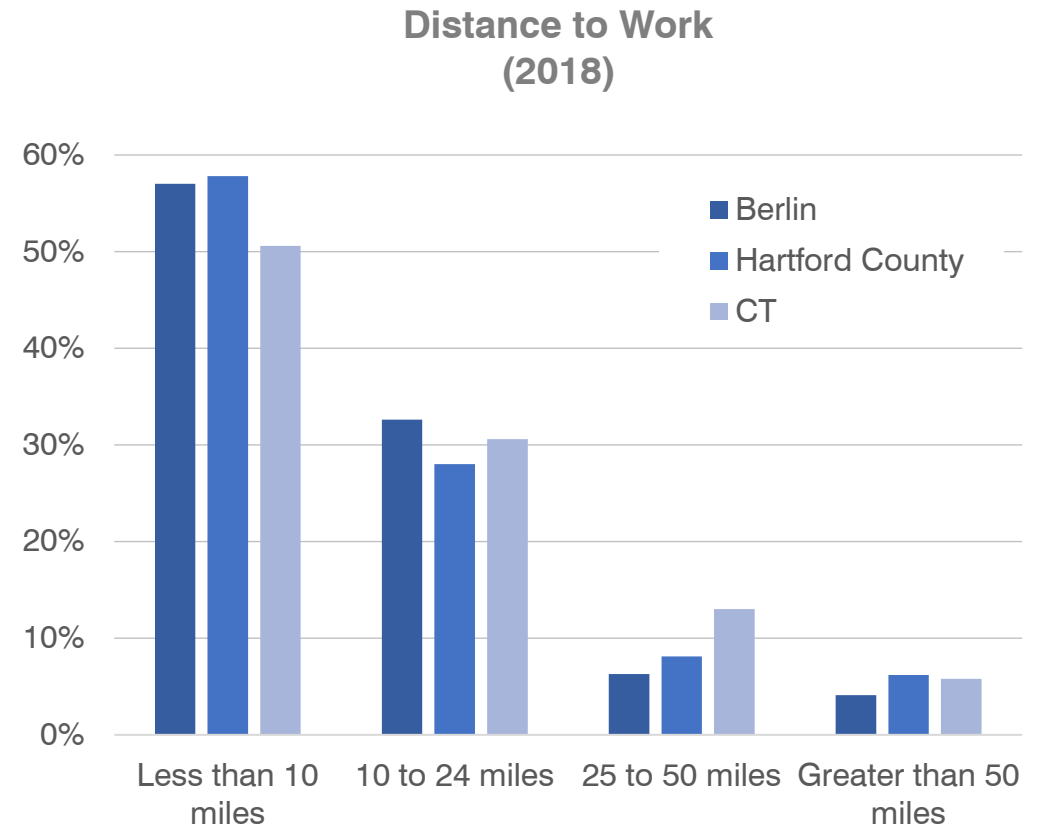
- Hartford, Berlin, and New Britain are the top employment locations of the town's residents.
- Resident employment in Hartford and Berlin grew by approximately 11% between 2009 and 2018.
- Resident employment in New Britain contracted by 26% over the same period.



Source: USCB Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

Distance to Employment

- Berlin's workers work close to home, with 57% working within 10 miles of home.
- This is comparable to the commuting ranges of both Hartford County and State residents.



Source: USCB Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

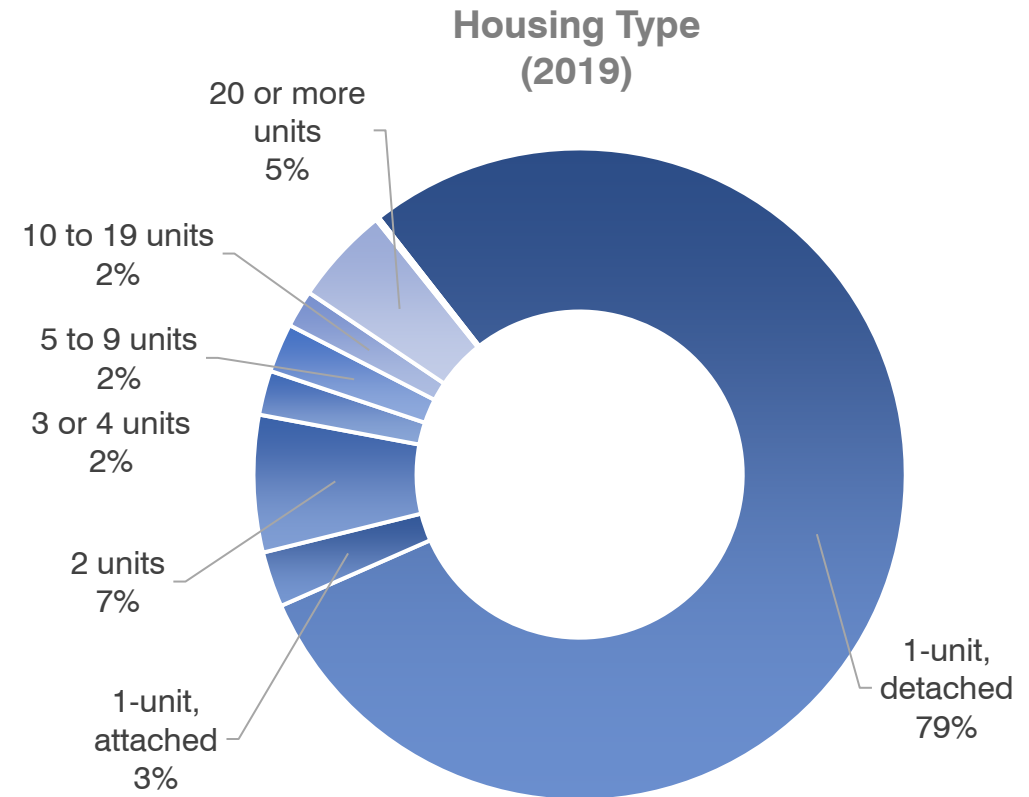
Housing Characteristics



Image Credit: SmartMLS

Housing Supply

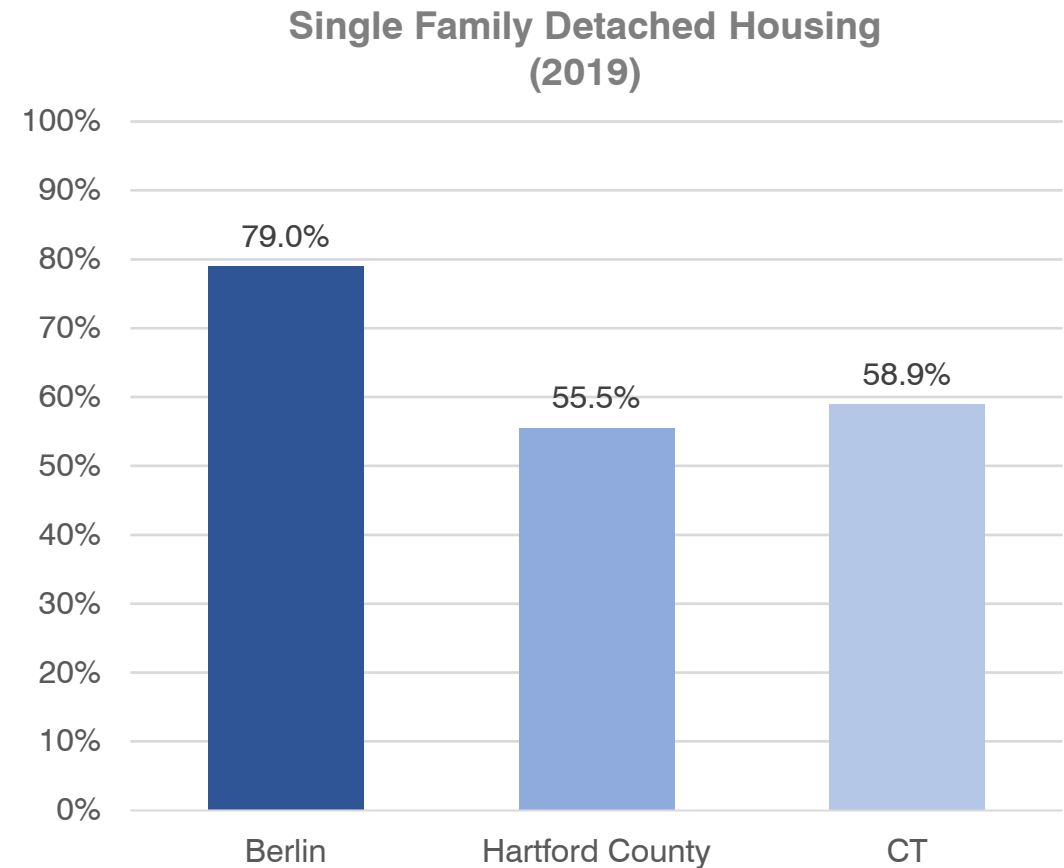
- Most (79%) of Berlin's housing is single-family detached housing
- Housing with 20 or more units comprises 5% of the town's housing.



Source: American Community Survey

Housing Supply

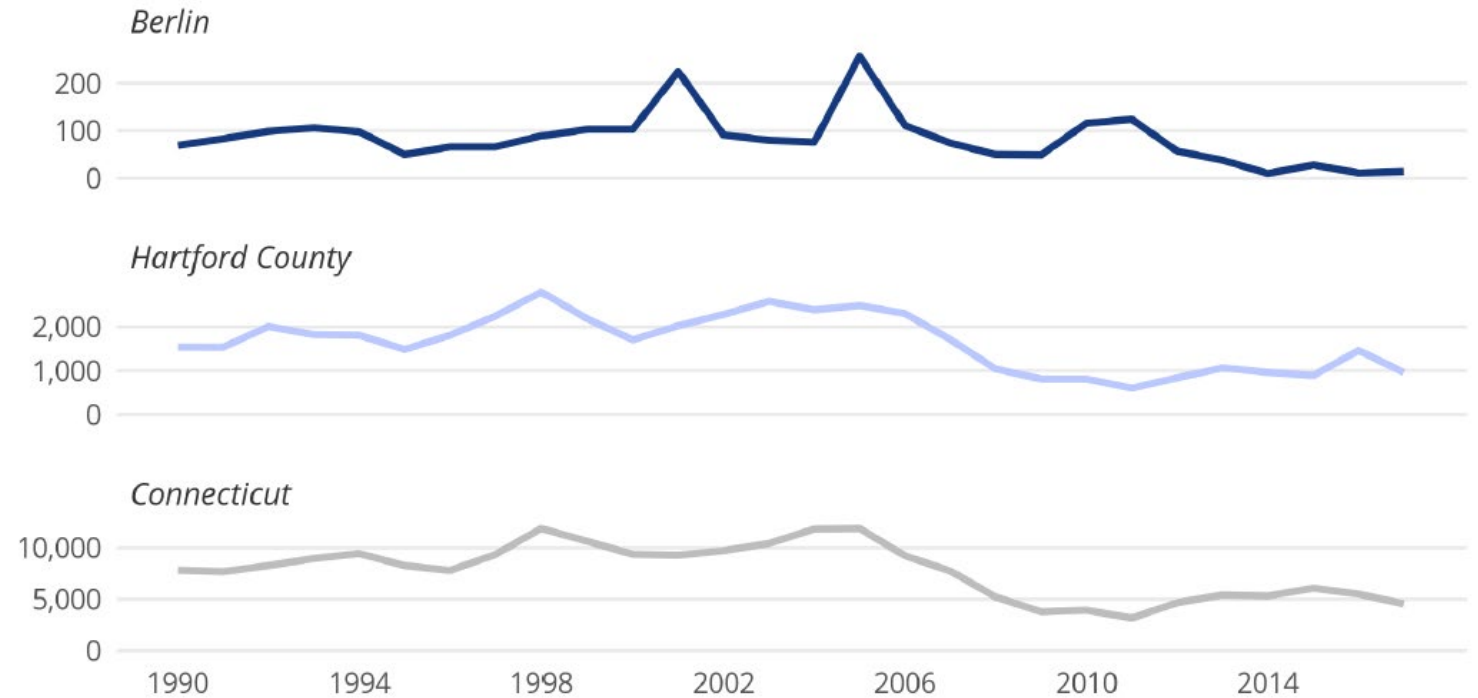
- Berlin's housing supply is oriented more towards single family housing than Hartford County or the State.



Source: American Community Survey

Housing Permit Activity 1990-2017

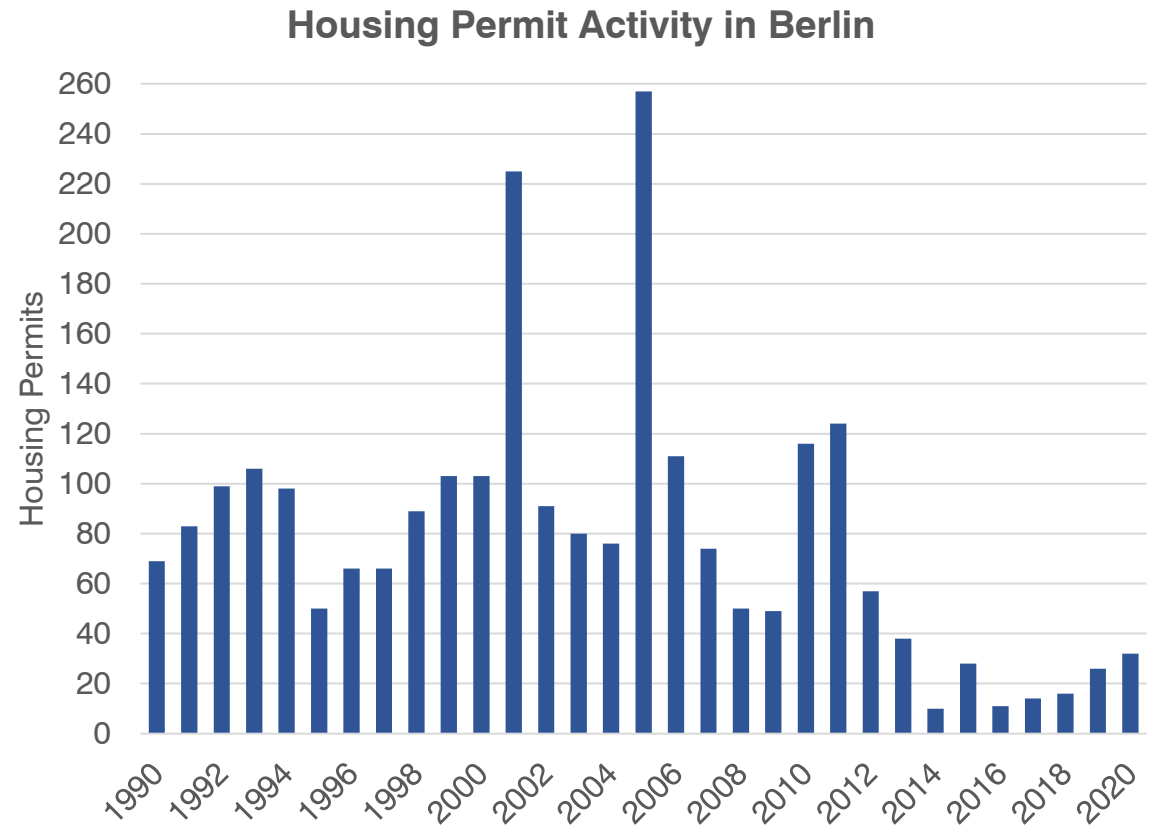
- Housing permit activity in Berlin followed similar trends as both Hartford County and the State between 1990 and 2017.
- Housing permit activity in Berlin has been relatively low since 2010.



Source: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

Housing Permit Activity 1990-2020

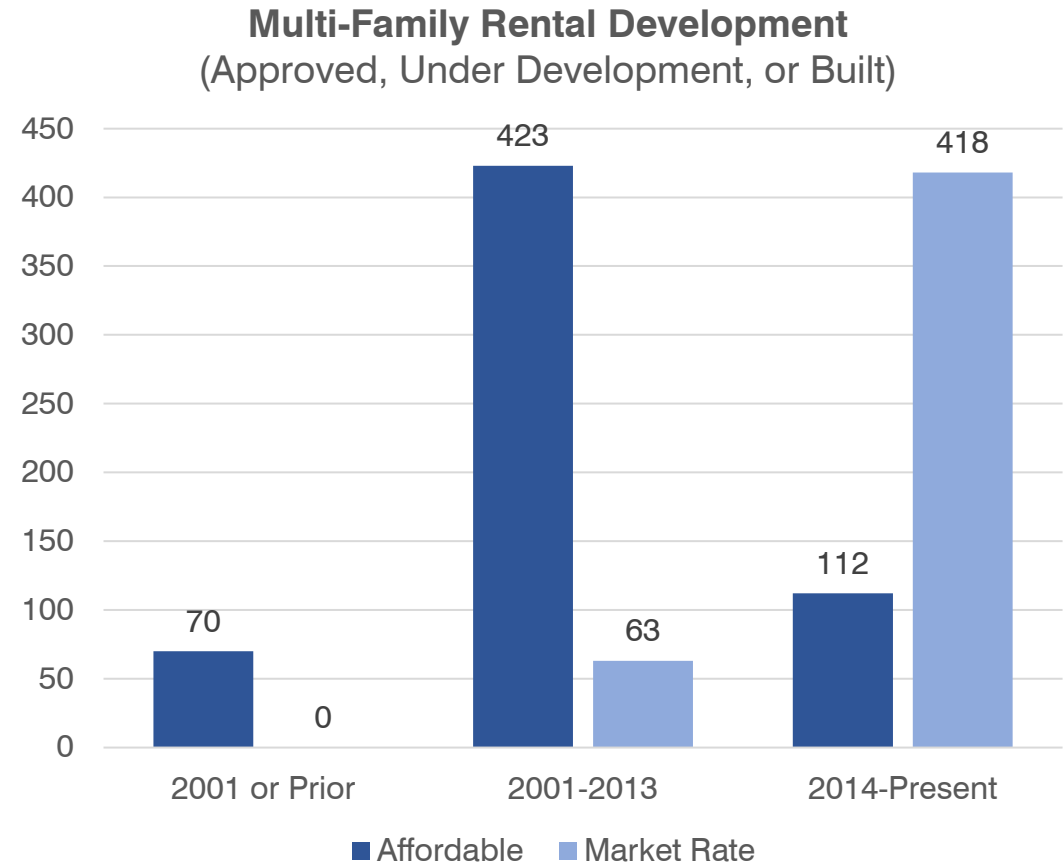
- Housing permit activity is at a 30+ year low over the past 8 years.
- Average housing permit activity is 22 units per year over the past 8 years.
- This compares to an average of 99 housing permits per year between 1990 and 2012.



Source: CT DECD, Town of Berlin

Multi-Family Rental Development

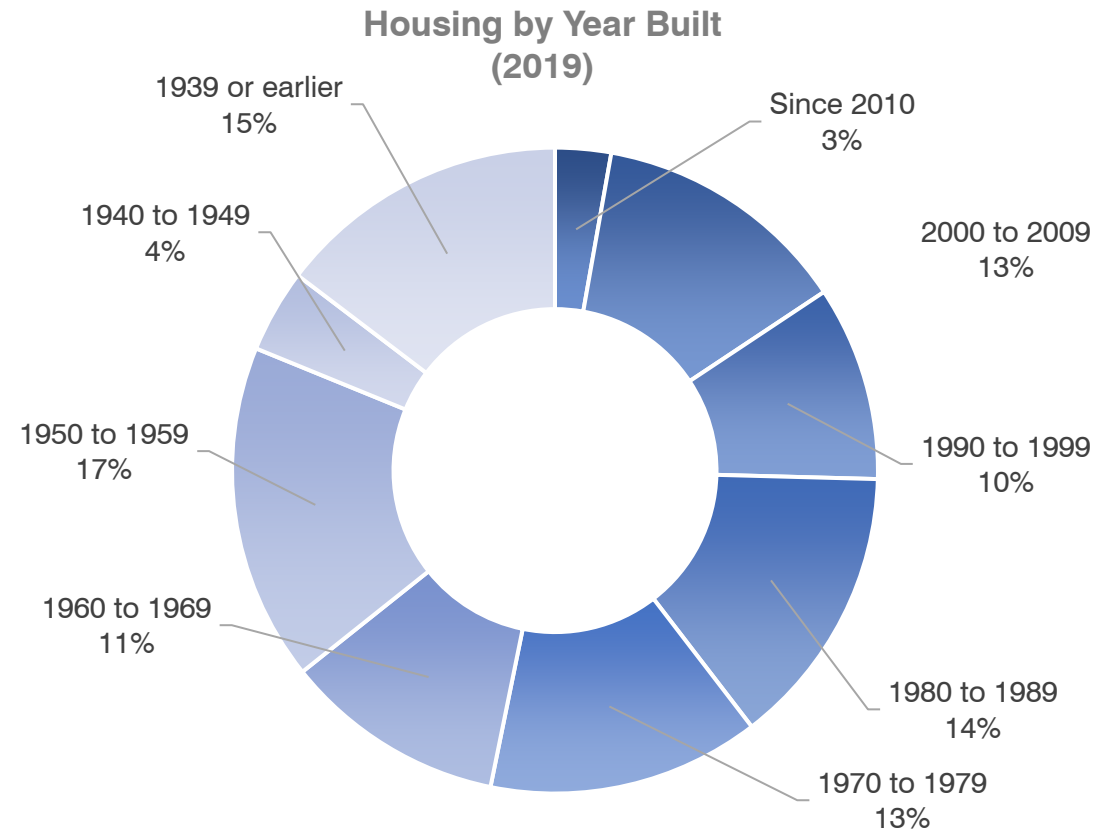
- 530 housing units in multi-family residential developments have been approved or are under development in Berlin since 2014.
- 556 housing units in multi-family residential developments were built in Berlin prior to 2013.
- Built and approved developments include a mixture of market rate, mixed income, age restricted mixed income, and age restricted affordable apartments.



Source: Town of Berlin

Age of Housing

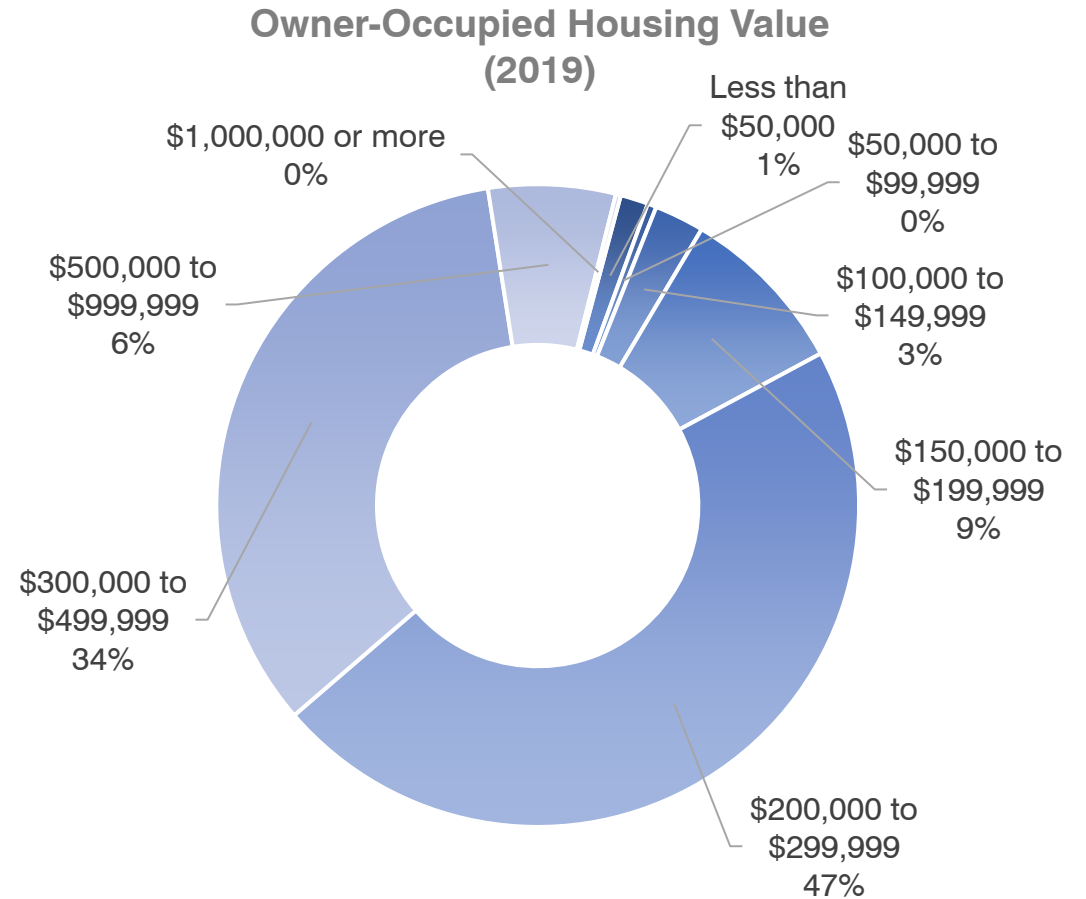
- Berlin's housing ranges in age with 47% of housing constructed more than 50 years ago.
- Only 3% of the town's housing has been constructed since 2010.



Source: American Community Survey

Housing Value

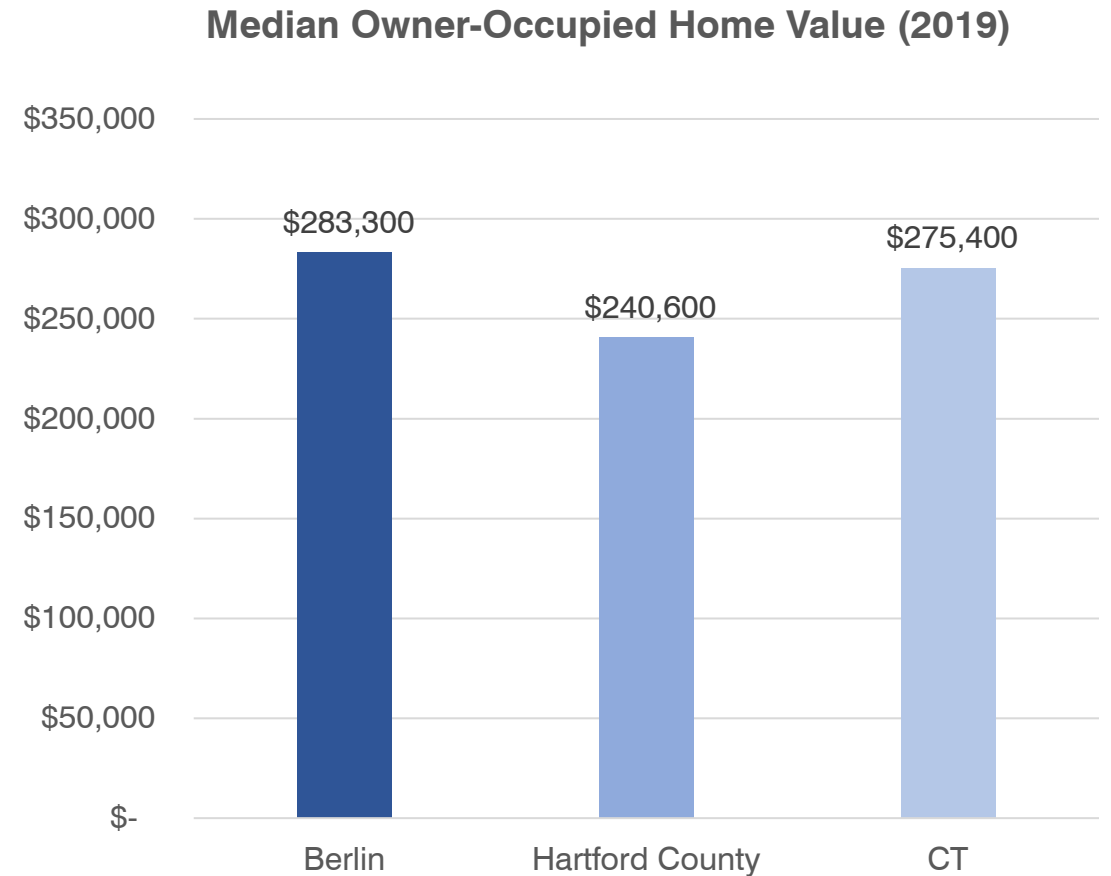
- 40% of Berlin's housing stock is valued at more than \$300,000.



Source: American Community Survey

Housing Value vs Region

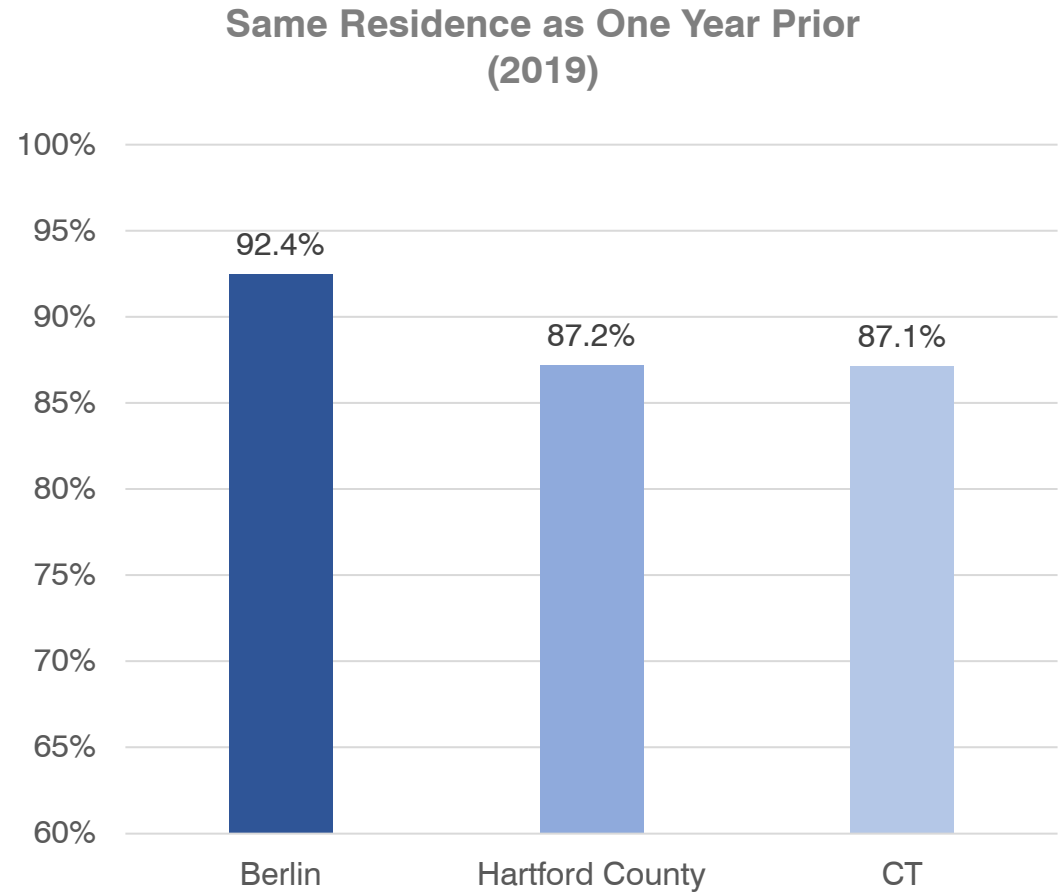
- Berlin's median housing value is higher than both Hartford County's and the State's.



Source: American Community Survey

Housing Tenure

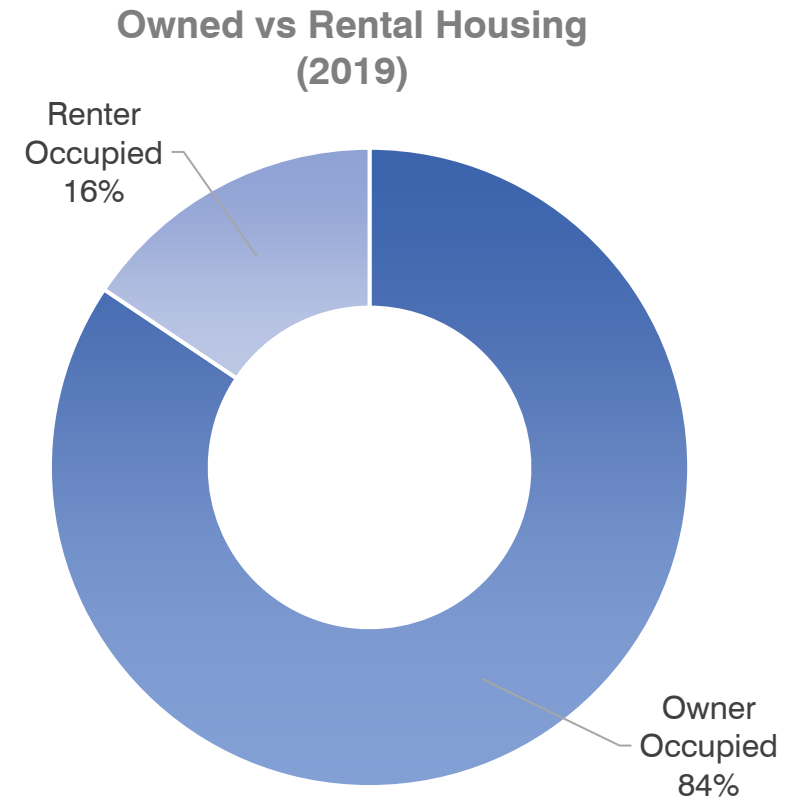
- Berlin's has lower housing turnover than both Hartford County and the State.



Source: American Community Survey

Housing

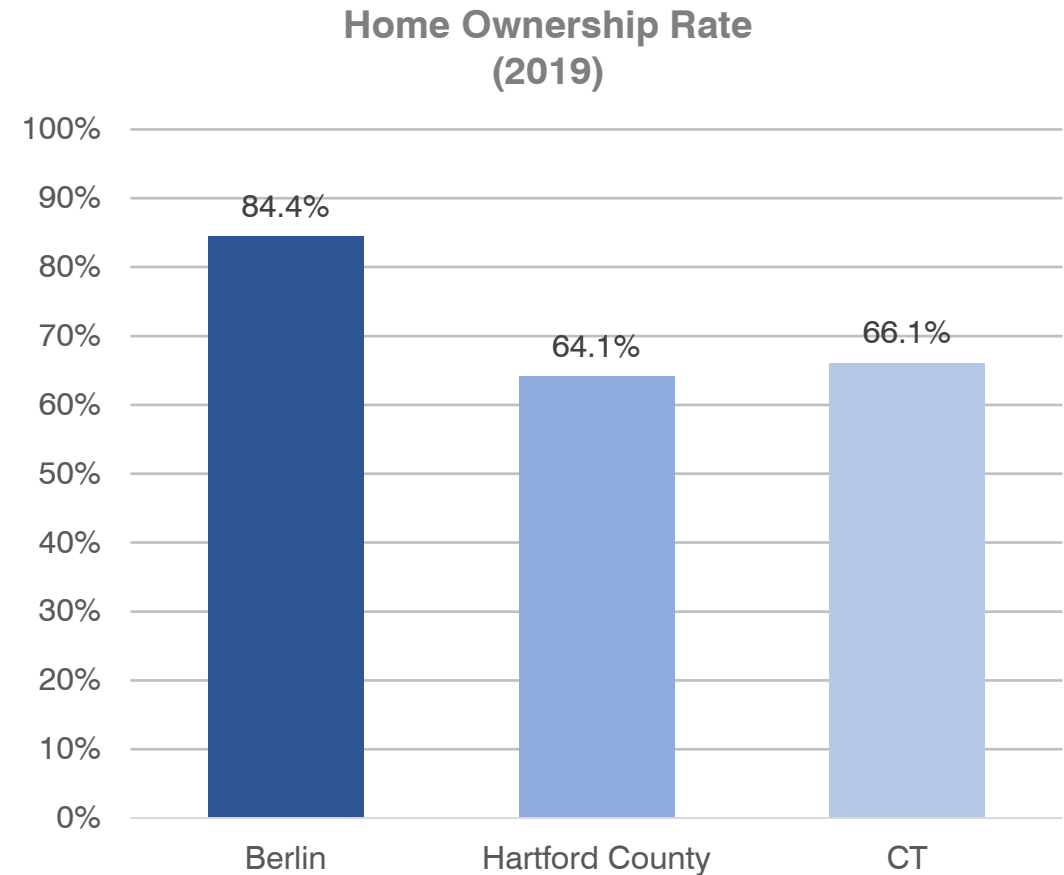
- Most of Berlin's housing is owner occupied



Source: American Community Survey

Home Ownership Rate

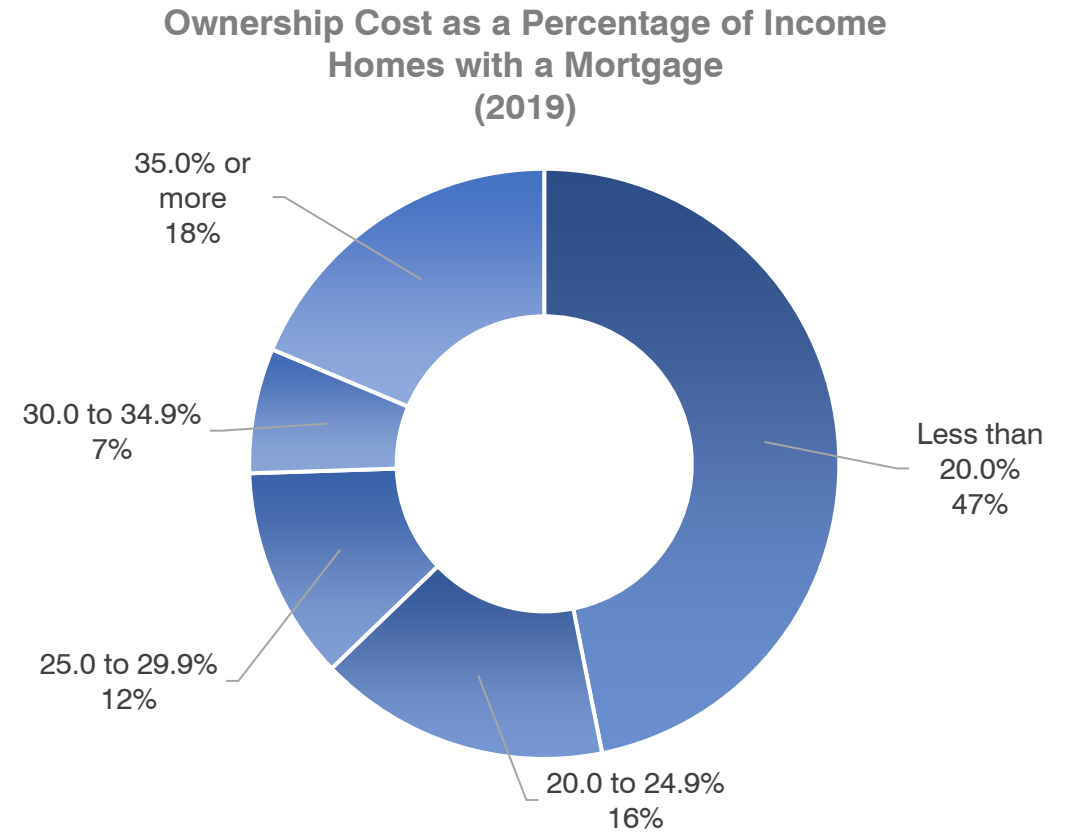
- Berlin has a higher home ownership rate than both Hartford County and the State



Source: American Community Survey

Ownership Cost vs Income

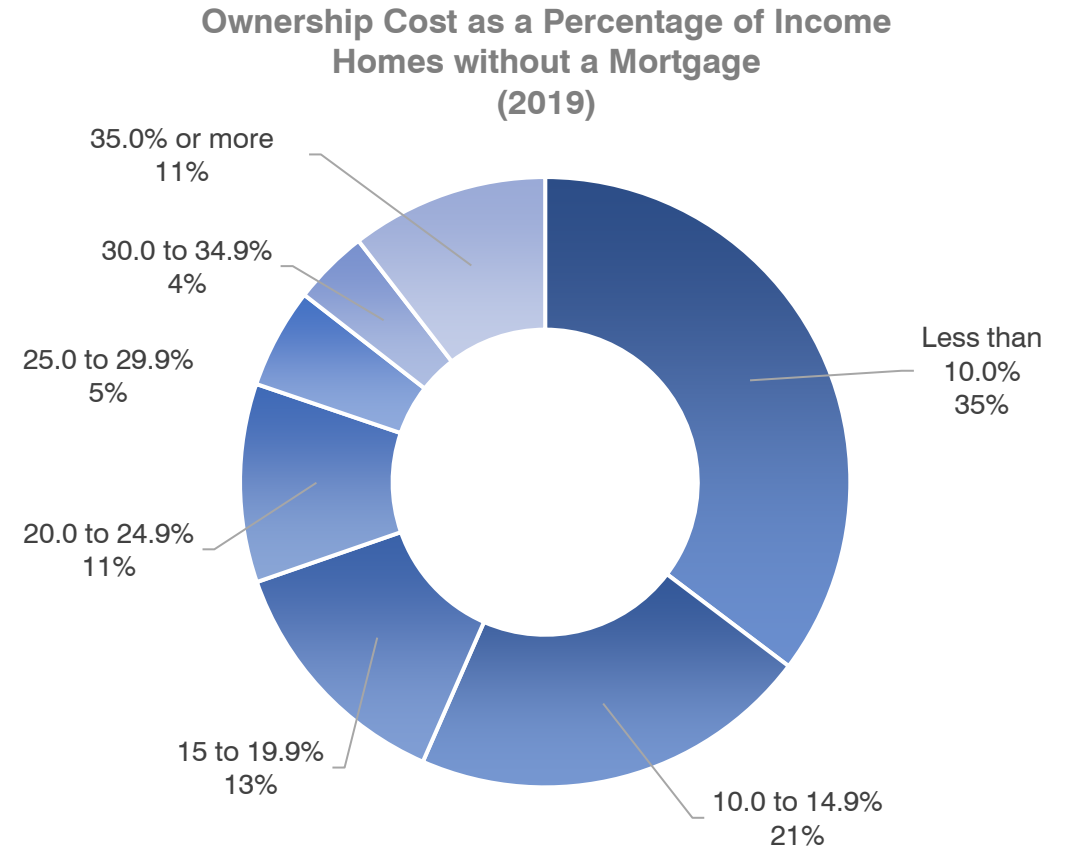
- 25% of homeowner households with a mortgage spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.



Source: American Community Survey

Ownership Cost vs Income

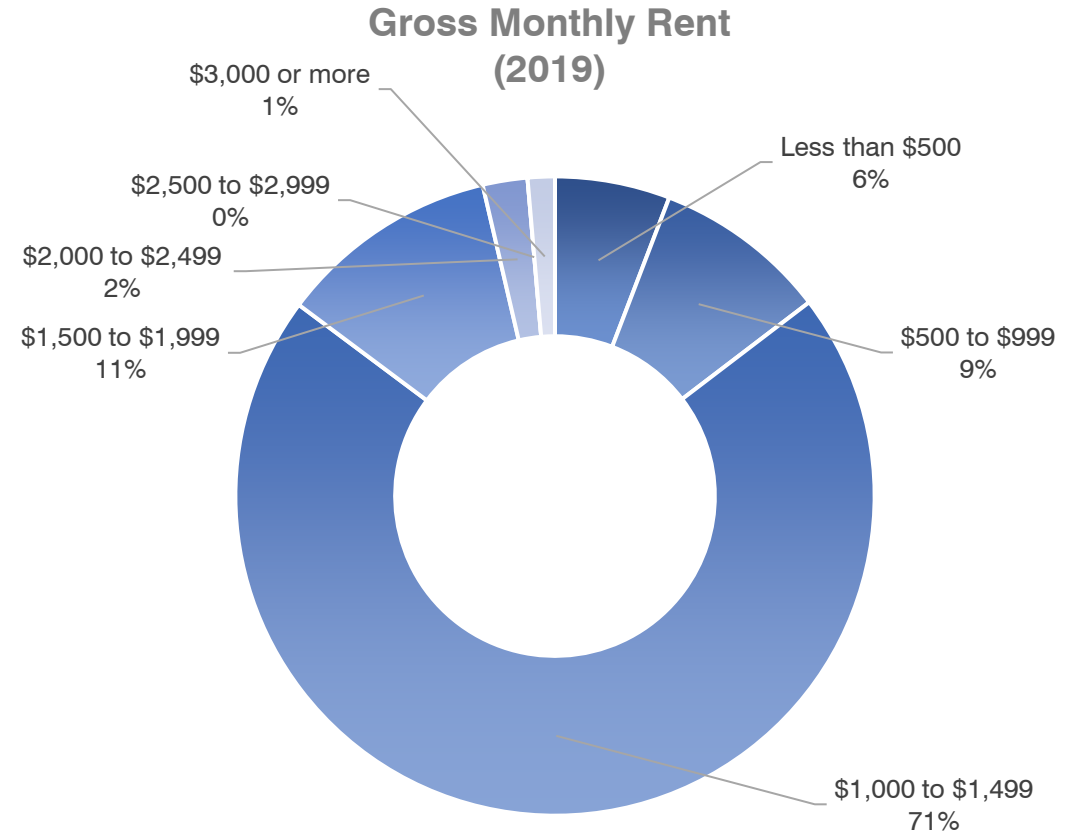
- 15% of homeowner households without a mortgage spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.



Source: American Community Survey

Rental Cost

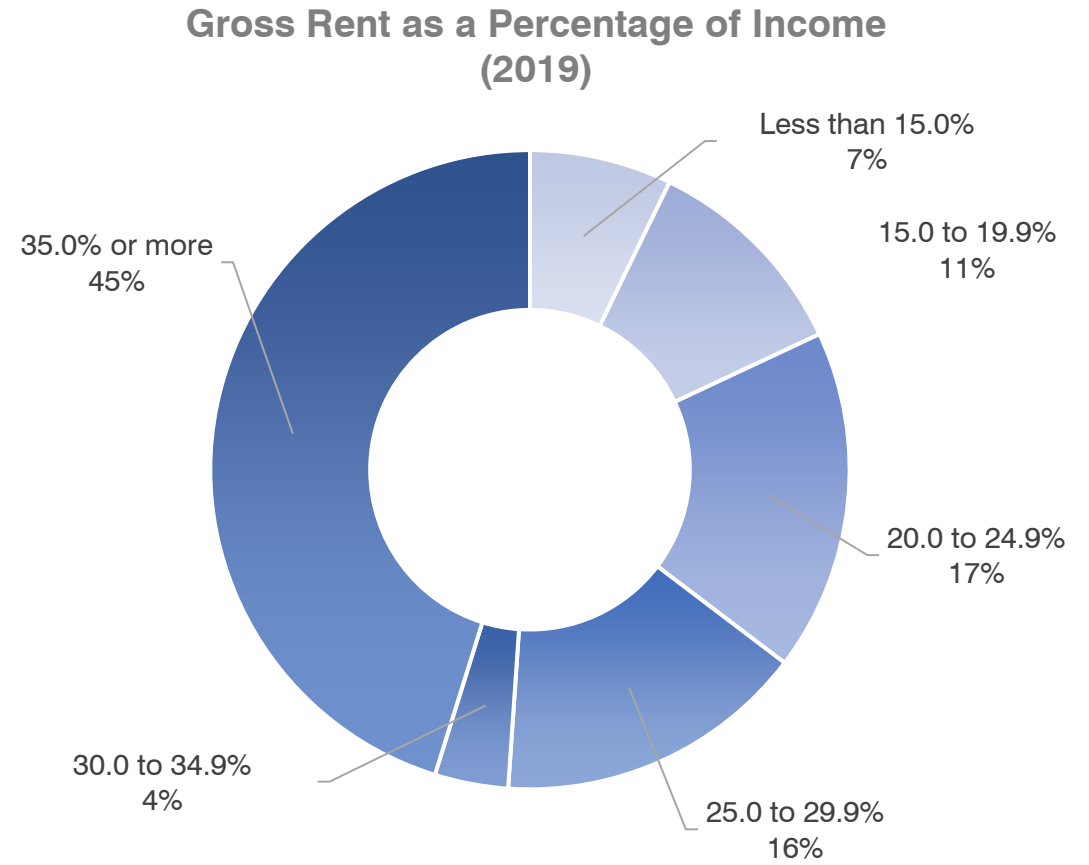
- Most of the town's rental housing costs between \$1,000 and \$1,499 per month.
- Only 15% of the town's housing costs less than \$1,000 per month.



Source: American Community Survey

Rental Cost vs Income

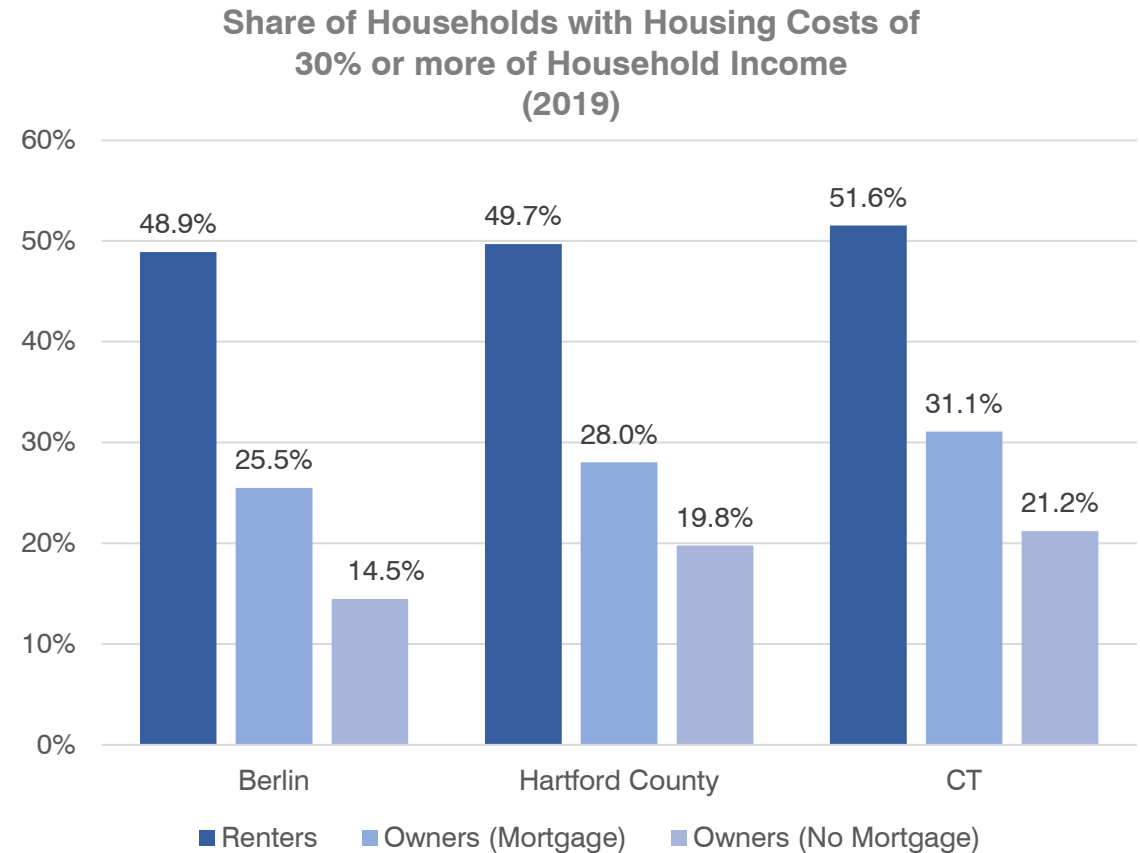
- Almost half (49%) of renters in Berlin spend 30% or more of their income on rent



Source: American Community Survey

Housing Cost Burdened Households

- Berlin has a lower share of housing burdened households than both Hartford County and the State.
- This includes renter and homeowner households.

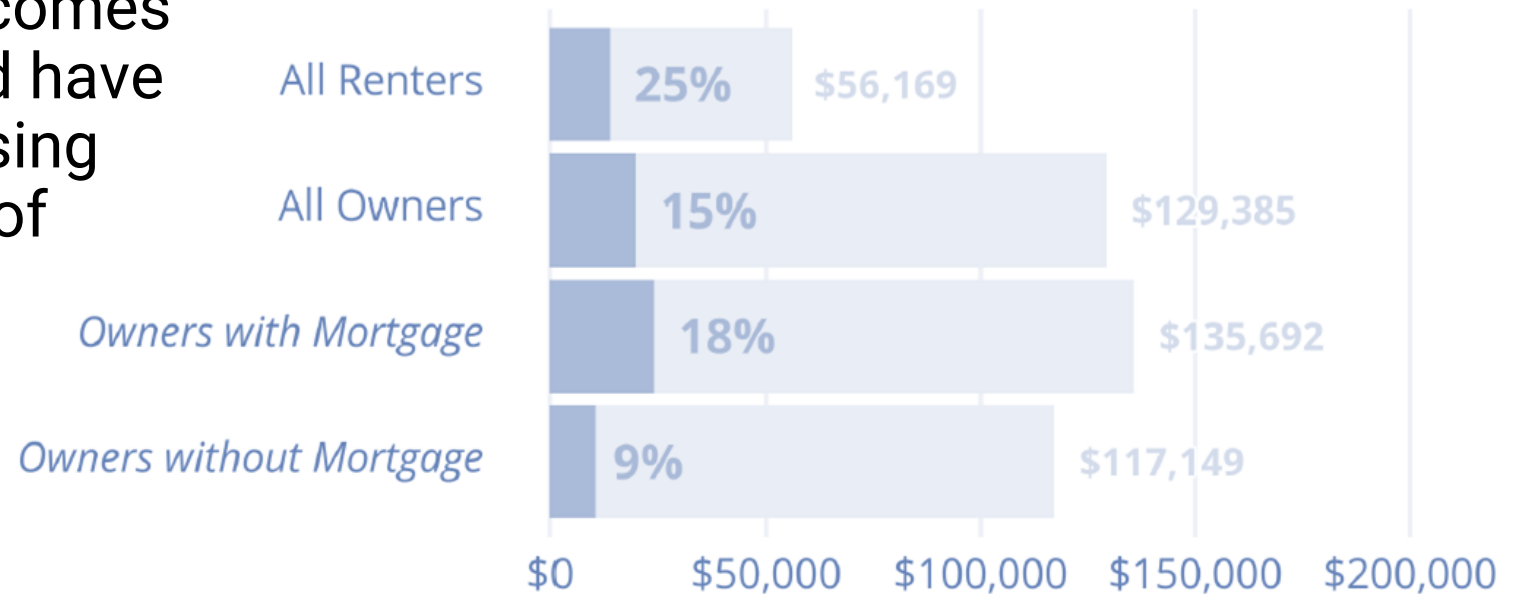


Source: American Community Survey

Housing Cost

- Renters in Berlin have substantially lower incomes than homeowners and have a higher share of housing cost as a percentage of their income.

Housing Cost as a Percent of Income (2019)

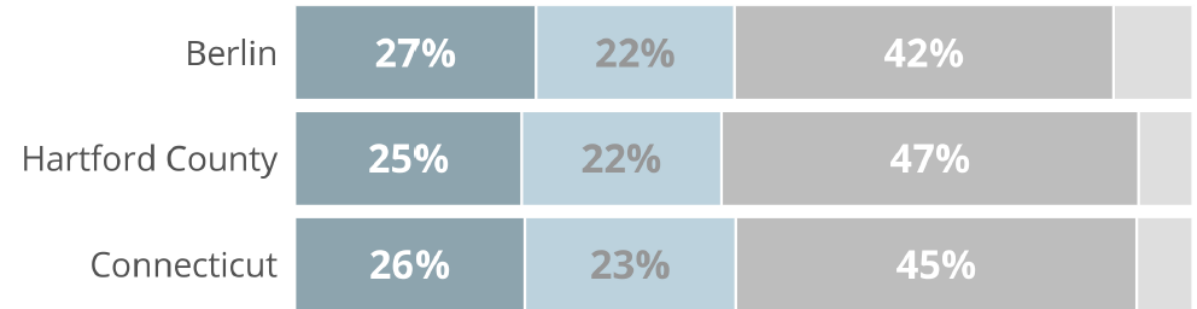


Source: American Community Survey

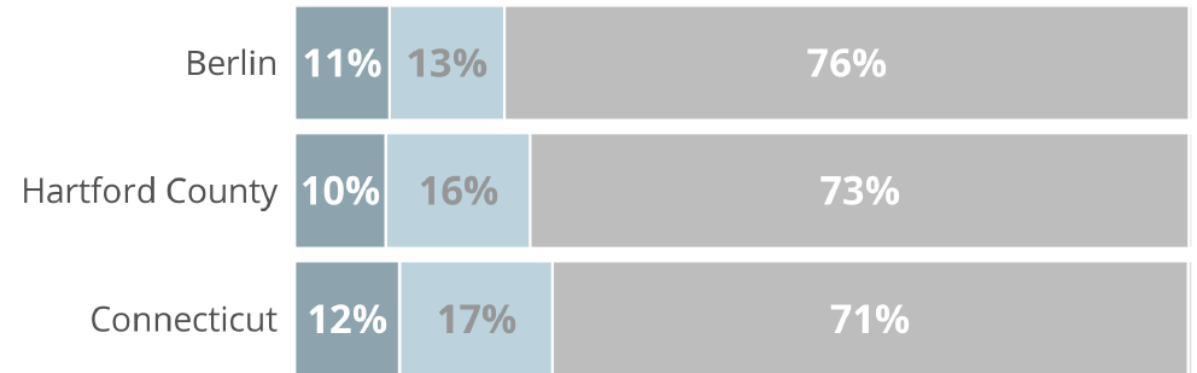
Housing Cost

- Housing cost burden in Berlin is slightly lower than both Hartford County and the State

Housing cost burden for renters (2019)



Housing cost burden for owners (2019)

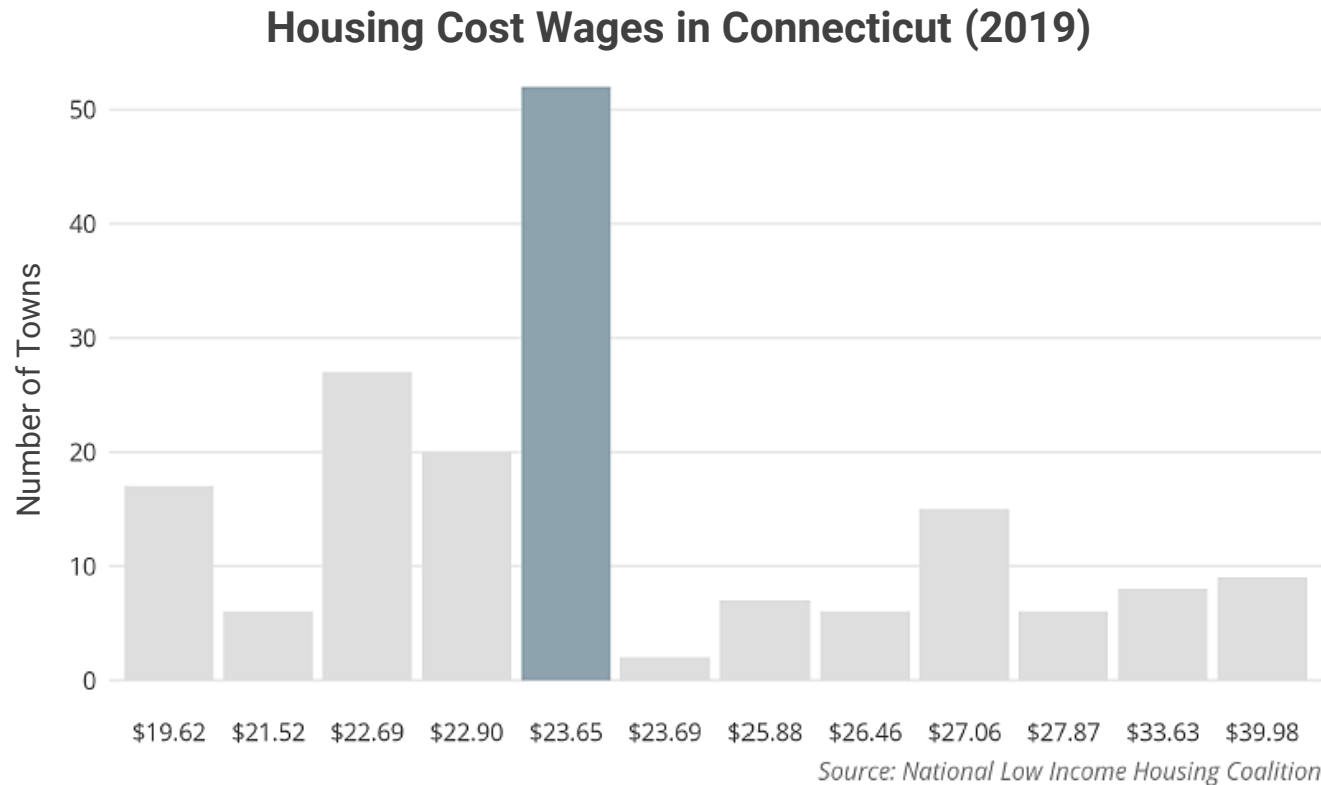


Severe burden (50% or greater)
 Moderate burden (Between 30% and 50%)
 Not burdened (Less than 30%)
 Not Computed

Source: Partnership for Strong Communities 2020 Housing Data Profile, American Community Survey

Housing Cost

- Berlin is one of 52 towns in Connecticut with an hourly housing wage of \$23.65



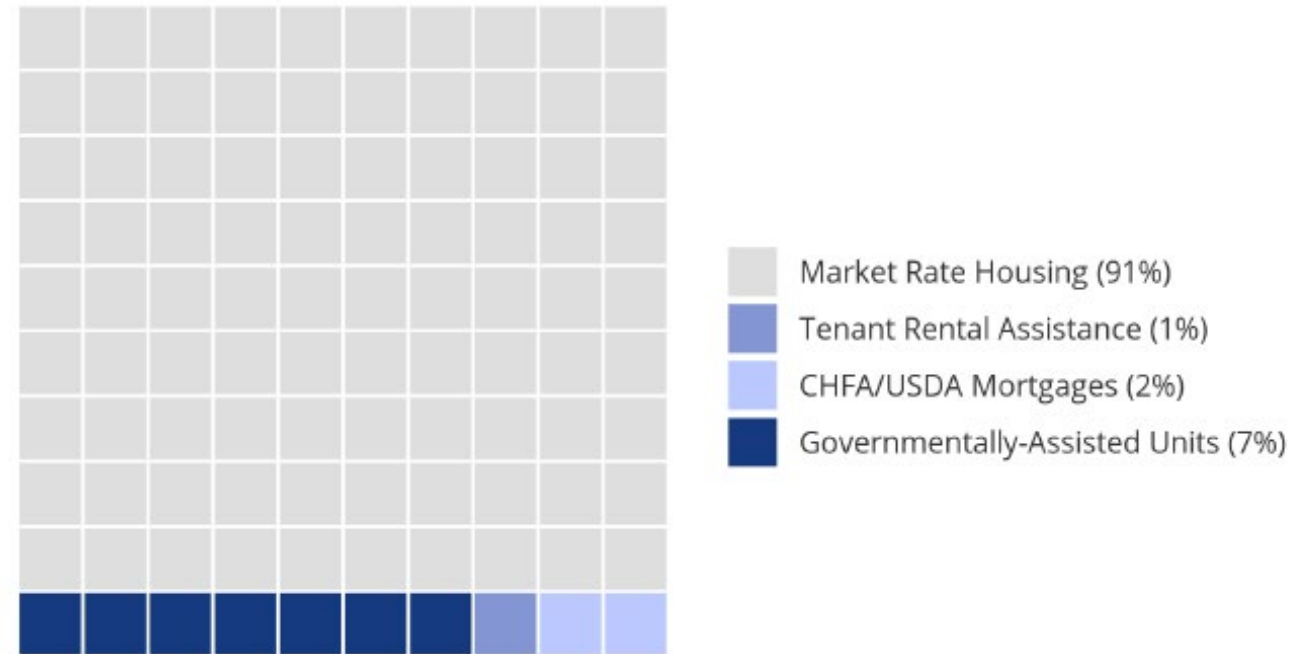
Affordable Housing



Affordable Housing

- 8,140 housing units in Berlin (based on 2010 Census)
- 556 government assisted
- 50 tenant rental assistance
- 142 CHFA/USDA mortgages
- 4 deed restricted
- 752 total assisted units
- 9.24% affordable

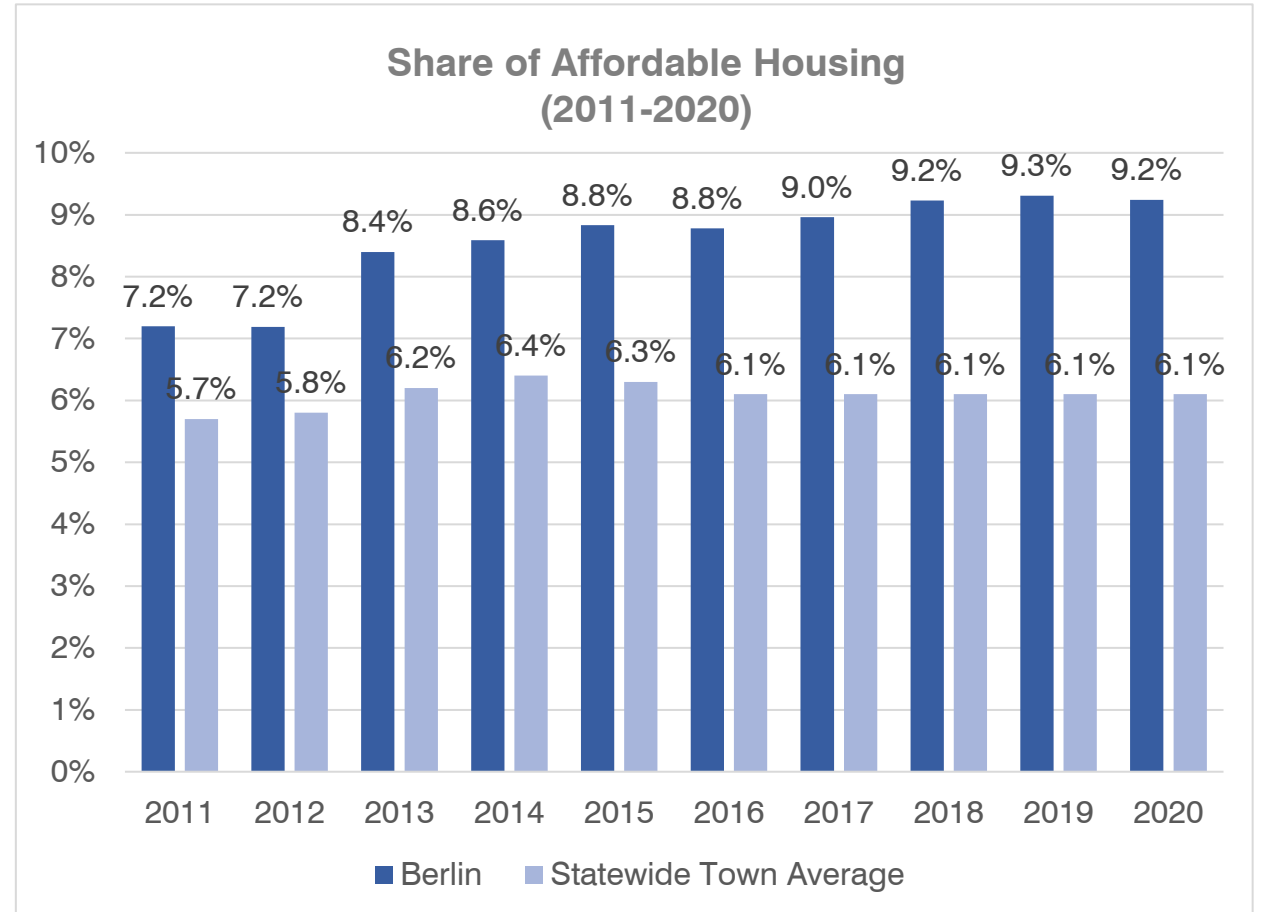
Affordable units by type



Source: Connecticut Department of Housing

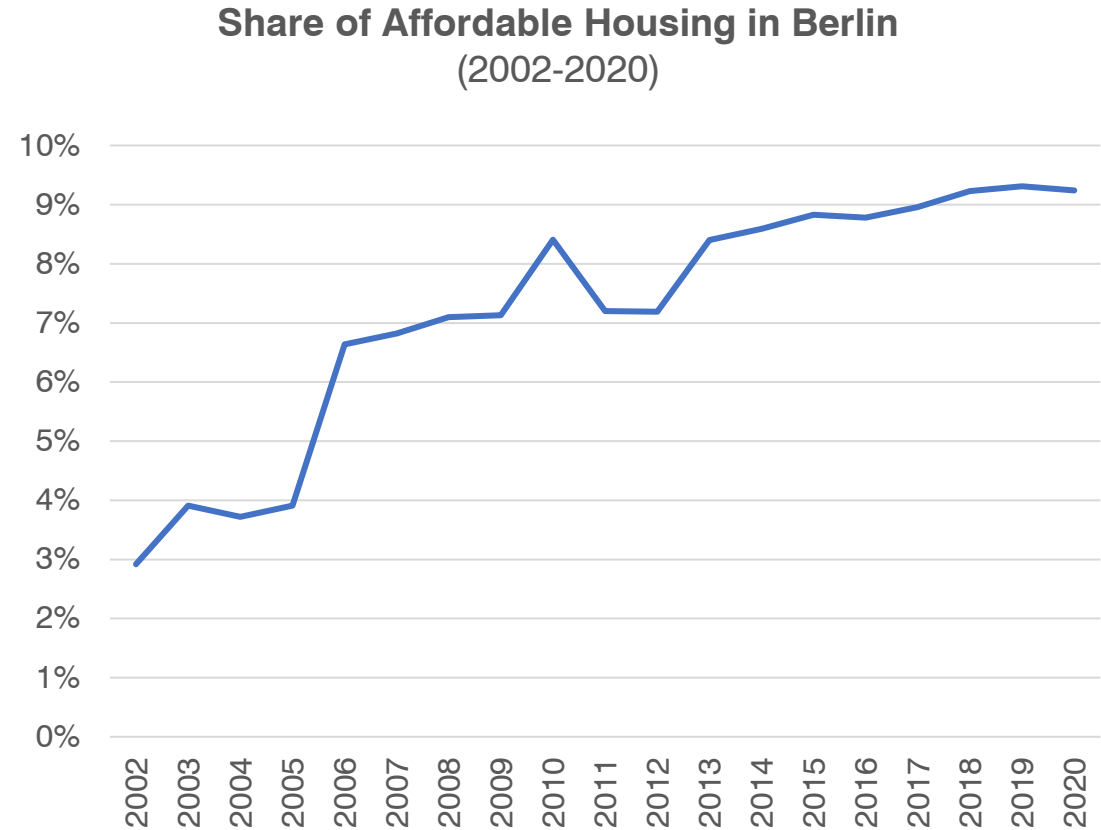
Affordable Housing

- Berlin is close to meeting the State's mandate of 10% affordable housing (as defined by the State).
- Berlin's share of affordable housing has increased consistently since 2011.
- Berlin exceeds the statewide average for affordable housing by approximately three percentage points.



Affordable Housing

- Berlin's share of State qualified affordable housing increased from 2.9% in 2002 to 9.2% in 2020.



Source: CT Department of Housing

Discussion

- Do any of these statistics or trends surprise you?
- What concerns you the most?
- Are there recent changes or developments that might alter these statistics and trends?
- What issues do you think need further exploration?
- Is there a particular issue that the POCD should directly address?

Visioning Exercise



Visioning Exercise

What do you value most about Berlin?

- Location, location, location, geographic center of State
- Farmlands, small town feel, water courses, meandering roads, walking trails (more)
- Accessibility to outdoor activities and conservation spaces, parks
- History of town, historic properties, history of industry, heritage, agriculture (3rd generation farmer)
- Peaceful atmosphere and community

Visioning Exercise

What would you like to see more of in Berlin?

- Develop more businesses along Berlin Turnpike
- Provide more water supply from aquifer
- Further establish greenways
- Improve Kensington Center
- More entertainment venues
- Summer concerts in the park, more opportunities for the community to come together, more cultural opportunities
- Better pedestrian access, more sidewalks and bikeways
- Make Kensington Center more walkable and attractive
- Work with surrounding towns to make a regional walking and biking network
- Capture people from New Britain Bees traffic for restaurants

Visioning Exercise

What concerns do you have for Berlin's future?

- The Town's water resources need to be protected
- Tax base needs continued expansion, growth has been good over last couple of years under economic dev. Director
- Character of town potentially being lost due to development
- Future of emergency services, particularly firefighters, may need greater share of paid employees in the future

Next Steps

- Launch Community engagement efforts
 - Develop press release and social media content
 - Begin development of online surveys and mapping tool
 - Develop list of key stakeholders for interviews/focus group meetings
- Coordinate mapping with NEGEO
- Continue collection of data for the Affordable Housing Plan
- Conduct Land Use and Zoning assessment

Recommended Meeting Topics through April 2022

- **October:** Land Use and Zoning
- **November:** Conservation, Open Space & Recreation
- **December:** Cultural and Historic Resources
- **January:** Facilities and Infrastructure
- **February:** Mobility
- **March:** Economic Development
- **April:** Affordable Housing
- *Discussion and updates on Community Engagement progress will be conducted at all meetings*

Affordable Housing Plan

- We are considering establishing a steering committee for the Affordable Housing Plan
- The State's Affordable Housing Guidebook recommends establishing a committee, although this is not required

Building Support for an Affordable Housing Plan

CREATING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

One of the most critical factors for success in any planning effort is local leadership. A key first step in creating a local affordable housing plan is to identify a leadership team to spearhead the effort.

Strong and vocal leaders who believe in the effort and are willing and able to put in the time necessary to recruit, support, communicate and carry out an inclusive planning process is essential to developing a meaningful plan.

A champion can be a chief elected official who is passionate about the issue of affordable housing or a group of community leaders who come together to form a local affordable housing committee. Ideally both the chief elected official and community leaders are working together towards the common goal of elevating the issue of affordable housing in the community. A local affordable housing committee can form organically with a group of concerned citizens coming together to advocate and

plan for affordable housing in collaboration with the municipality. Or a committee can be appointed by the municipality's elected officials to take on the role and lead the effort. In both cases, leadership should work to ensure the committee consists of a diverse group of people representing different demographics and perspectives.

The affordable housing committee plays several important roles:

- ▶ Bringing together local leaders to proactively plan for affordable housing.
- ▶ Creating a constituency of advocates for more affordability in the community.
- ▶ Providing support to elected and appointed local officials on decision making related to affordable housing development.

Your affordable housing committee leaders can help your town identify the most effective ways to engage different sectors of the community. Elected officials, business owners, community advocates, and others involved in the planning process know the most effective ways to engage their sectors of the community. By sharing the message out broadly across the community via social media, news outlets, or other communication tools throughout the planning process, members of your leadership team can create sustained, broad-based support for your affordable housing plan.

Image by Tyrina Alex and RPA

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Next Meeting

- Thursday, October 28th at 7:00 pm

October 2021

Wk	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
39						1	2
40	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
41	10	11 <small>Columbus Day</small>	12	13	14	15	16
42	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
43	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
44	31 <small>Halloween</small>						