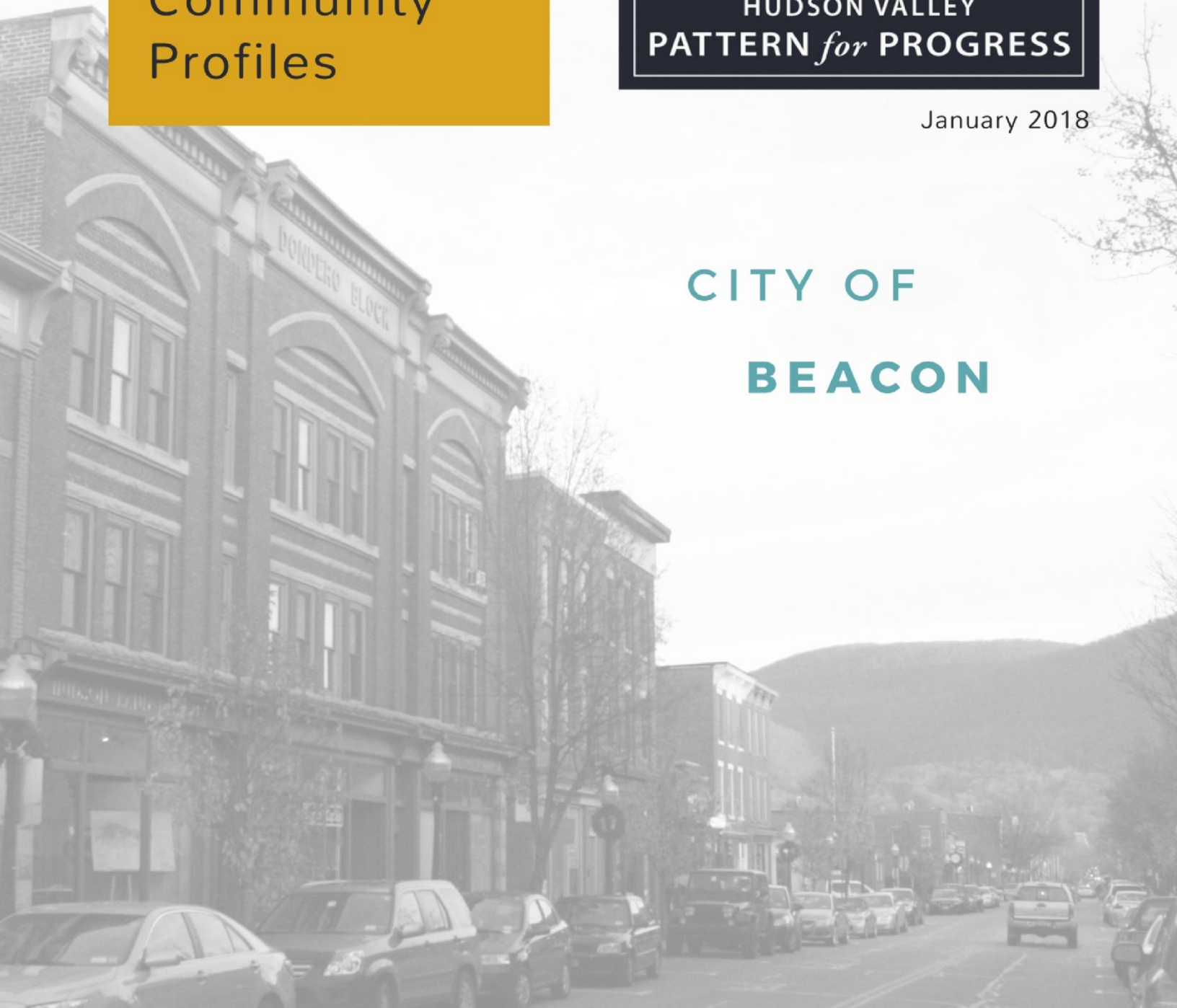
URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

HUDSON VALLEY PATTERN *for* PROGRESS

January 2018



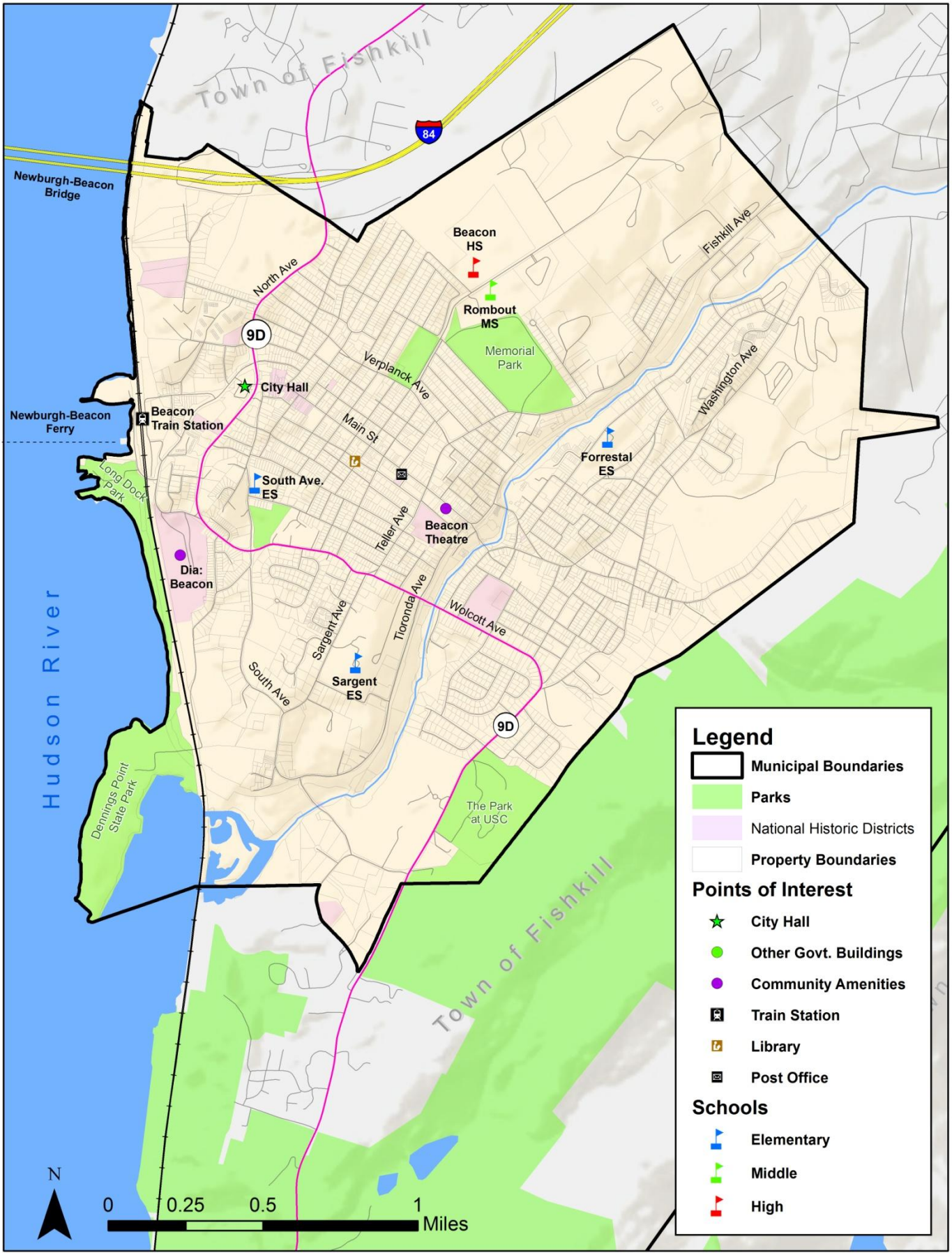
CITY OF BEACON

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW MAP



URBAN ACTION AGENDA
Community Profiles

city of BEACON
POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Basics

14,375 Population (2015)

4.1% Population Change since 2000

4.7 Square Miles

3,059 Population Density (people per sq. mile)

Community Snapshot

21% Population under age 20

66% Population ages 20-64

13% Population 65 and older

$65,305 Median household income

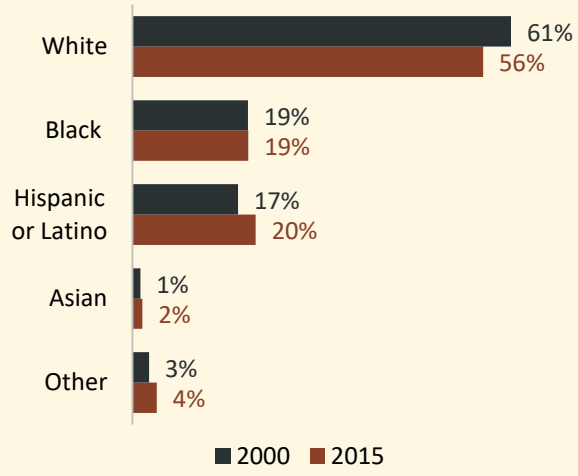
30% Residents with a bachelor's degree or higher

49% Owner-occupied housing

44% Renter-occupied housing

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Population by Race and Ethnicity



Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census

Population & Demographics Analysis

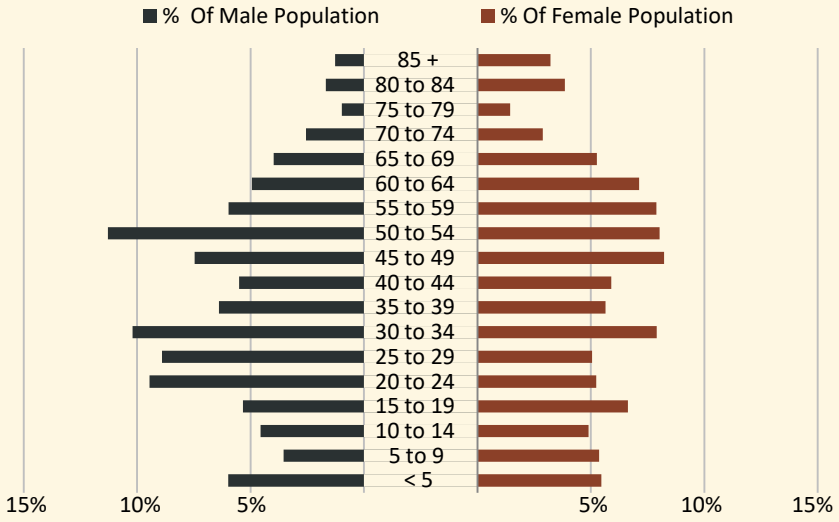
Beacon's population has grown slowly since 2000, with an average annual increase of far less than 1%. Over the last 16 years, the percent of the city's population identifying as White has dropped by 5% while the percent identifying as Hispanic or Latino has increased by 3%. Only a small number of Beacon residents were not born in the U.S.

Data Notes

Population by Race & Ethnicity – The "Other" category includes Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, those who checked "Other" on the Census, and individuals with two or more races.

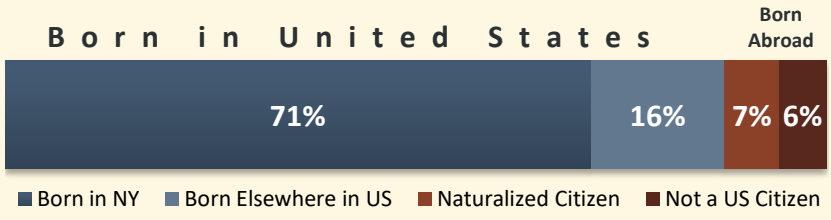
Place of Birth – The category of individuals who were born abroad and are not U.S. citizens includes both legal immigrants (with green cards, student visas, etc.) and undocumented immigrants. The U.S. Census does not ask individuals about their immigration status.

Share of Population by Age and Sex



Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Place of Birth



Source: 2015 American Community Survey

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON
HOUSING

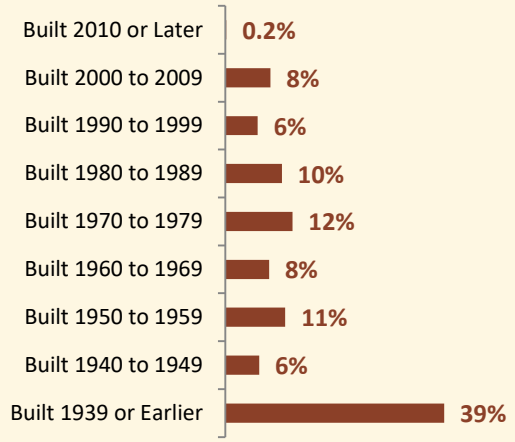
Housing Analysis

Beacon's housing stock is divided relatively evenly between owner-occupied and renter-occupied units. While only 34% of Beacon homeowners are "cost burdened" (paying more than 30% of their income towards housing), 50% of renters are cost burdened including 25% who are severely cost burdened (paying more than 50% of their income towards rent). Inflation-adjusted home values in Beacon have risen by 44% since 2000, compared to just 30% in Dutchess County. A majority of homes (57%) are worth between $200,000 - $299,999 while about a quarter (24%) are valued under $200,000. A majority of Beacon homes are at least 50 years old.

Data Notes

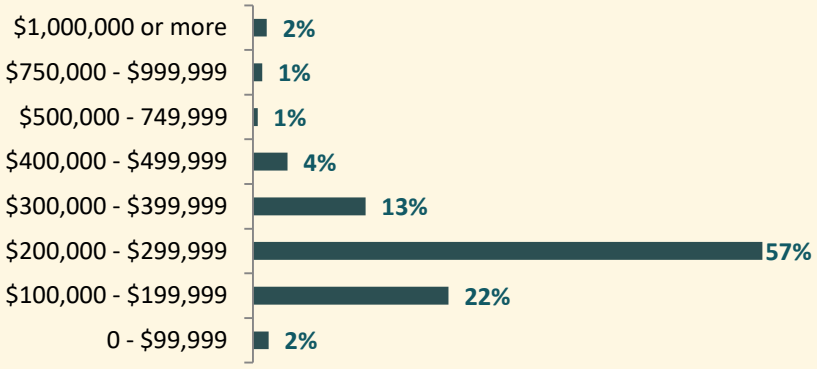
Median Home Value – 2000 figures adjusted for inflation using CPI inflation tables from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Age of Housing Stock



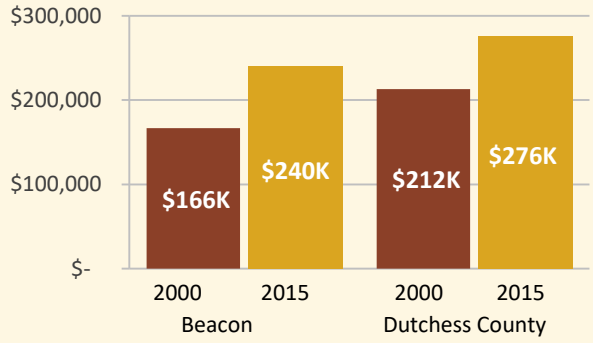
Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Home Values



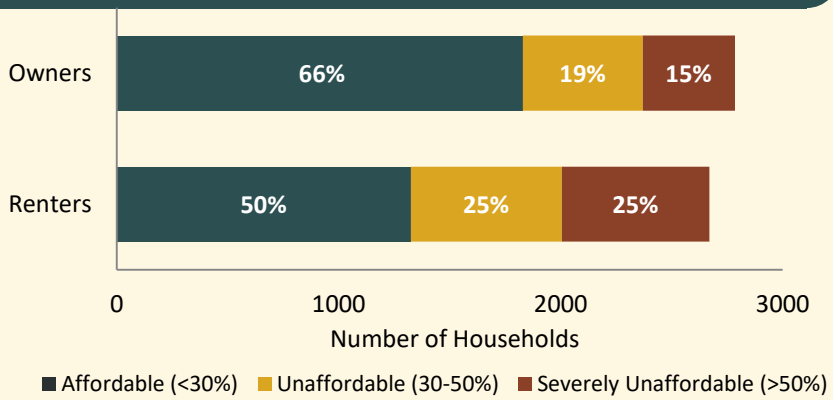
Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Median Home Value



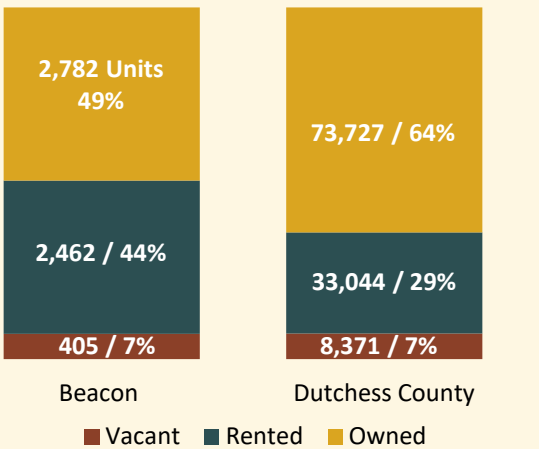
Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census

Affordability (% of Income Towards Housing Costs)



Source: U.S. Dept. of HUD - Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Data (2017)

Housing Occupancy



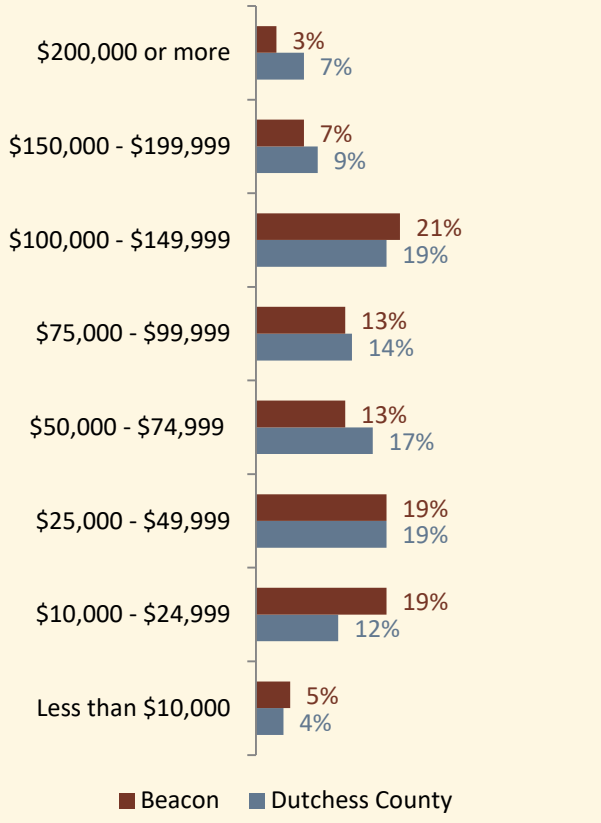
Source: 2015 American Community Survey

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON
INCOME & POVERTY

Household Income Distribution



Source: 2015 American Community Survey

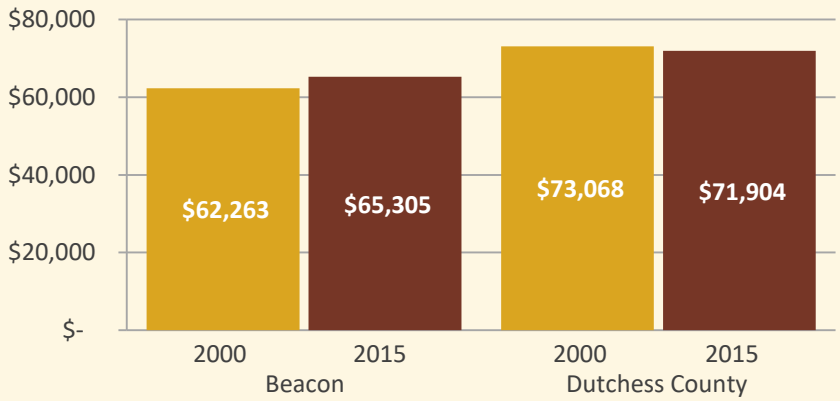
Income & Poverty Analysis

Since 2000, Beacon's median household income has risen 5% when accounting for inflation, while the poverty rate has risen from 11% to 13% and the share of households receiving SNAP benefits has risen from 13% to 18%. 30% of households earn more than $100,000 while 43% of households earn less than $50,000.

Data Notes

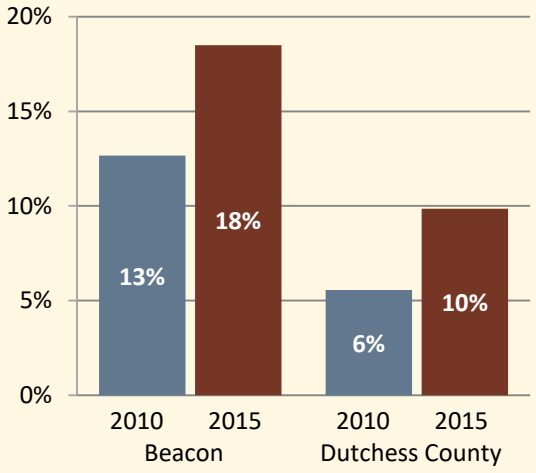
Median Household Income – 2000 figures adjusted for inflation using CPI inflation tables from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Households Below the Poverty Line – The federal poverty line is adjusted on a yearly basis and varies by household size. As of 2015, the poverty line for a family of four was $24,250.
Households Receiving SNAP – SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps). To qualify for SNAP, a household must have an income below 130% of the poverty line.

Median Household Income



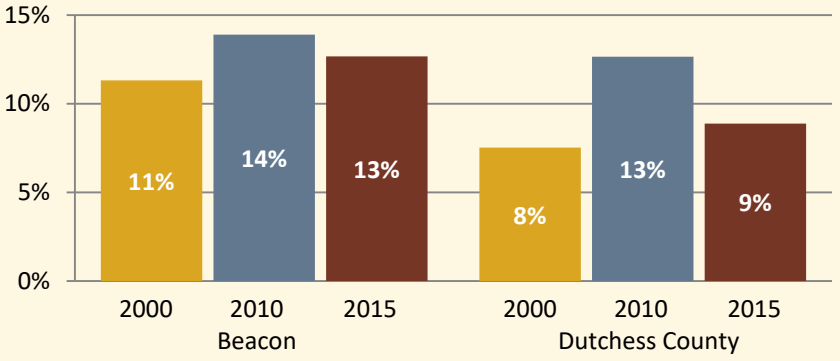
Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census (Inflation Adjusted)

Households Receiving SNAP



Source: 2010 & 2015 American Community Survey

Households Below the Poverty Line



Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON ECONOMY

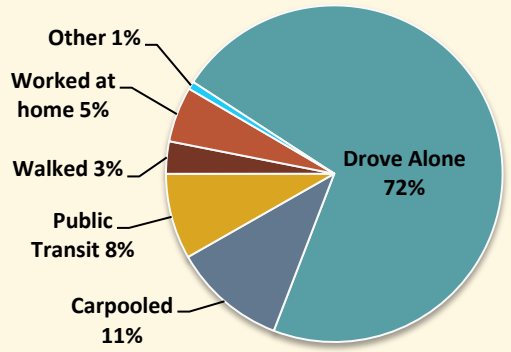
Economy Analysis

The unemployment rate in Beacon has risen since 2000, although much of the change has come from people who were formerly not in the labor force. Only 20% of Beacon residents work in Beacon, and only 51% work in Dutchess County. More than 80% of residents commute by car, while just 8% take public transportation. Relative to 2010, there are fewer residents working in the "educational services, health care and social assistance" and "public administration" sectors and more working in the "arts, entertainment, and accommodation and food services" sector.

Data Notes

Employment – Data on unemployment comes from American Community Survey, which reports data by municipality. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is a common source for national unemployment rate data but does not report data at the municipal level.

Means of Travel to Work



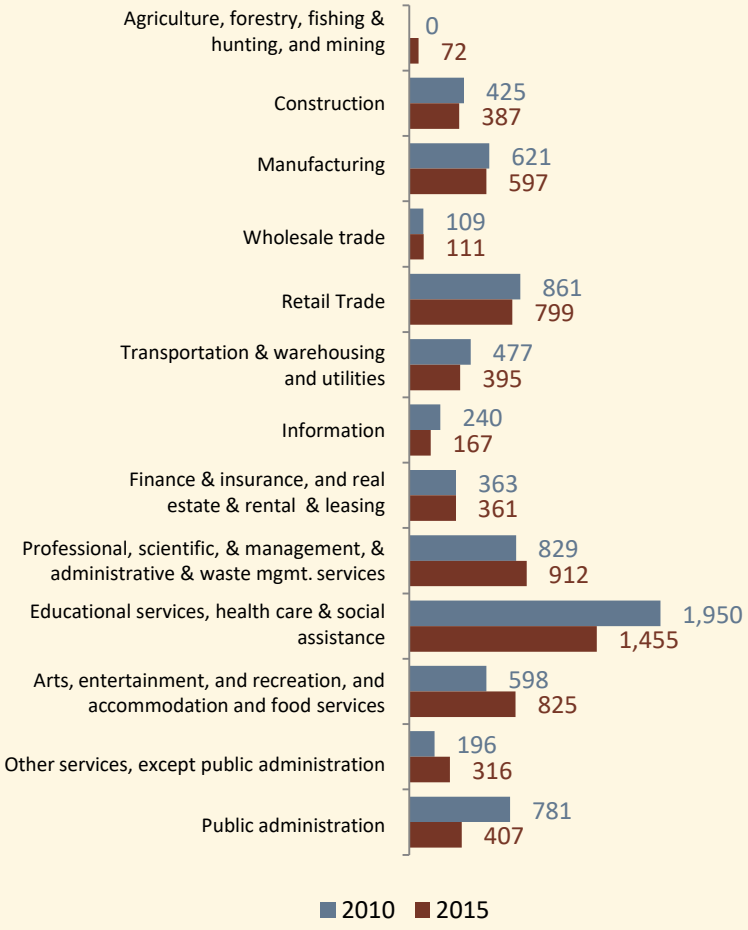
Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Place of Work & Commute Time

% of residents who work in Beacon	20%
% of residents who work in Dutchess County	51%
Average Commute Time	34 Minutes

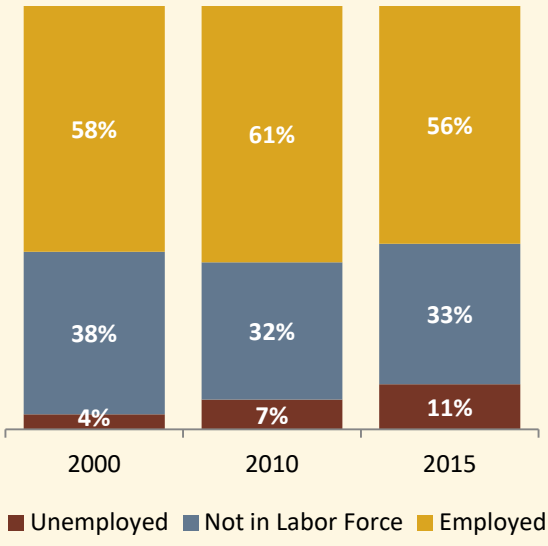
Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Employment by Industry Among Beacon Residents



Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Employment (Age 16 and Older)



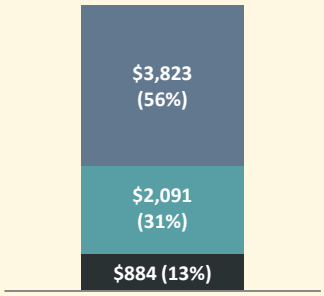
Source: American Community Survey, US Decennial Census

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON
DOLLARS & CENTS

Taxes on Median Home



Median Home Value **$240,100**

- School District
- City
- County

Total Taxes - $6,798

Source: Dutchess County (2015)

Municipal Finances

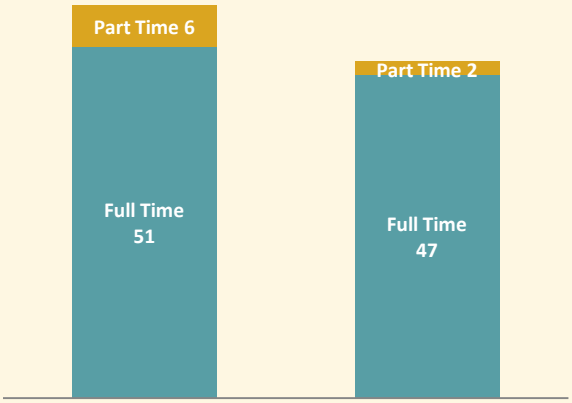
Did City Budget Stay Under NY State Tax Cap?

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Bond Rating (Moody's)
Aa2 (High Grade)
Rating Date: May 9, 2016

Sources: Moody's; Office of the New York State Comptroller

Municipal Employees



General Employees Median FT Salary: $65,071

Police/Fire Employees Median FT Salary: $92,578

Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller (2016)

Dollars and Cents Analysis

Beacon has kept its municipal budget under the Tax Cap in all but one year since 2012 and its bond rating is strong. City property taxes are 31% of the average tax bill. The city has 98 full time and 8 part time employees. Transportation is the city's largest expense.

Data Notes

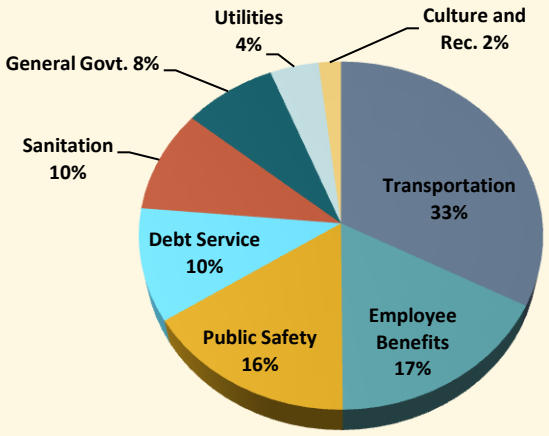
Municipal Finances – The NY Tax Cap law restricts schools and local governments from raising the property tax levy by more than 2% without a supermajority vote of the local governing body.

Municipal Employees – Employees were counted as part time if they earned less than $30,000 in 2016 and full time if they earned over $30,000. "General" employees are non-police/fire employees.

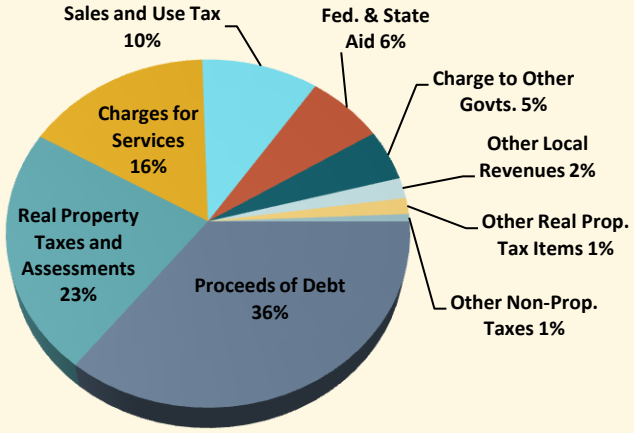
Municipal Revenues and Expenditures – Categories are determined by the Comptroller's Office. "Proceeds of Debt" revenue comes from sale of bonds and is not a recurring yearly source of revenue.

Municipal Revenues and Expenditures

2016 Expenditures $36,152,256



2016 Revenues $44,200,668



Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON
EDUCATION

Education Analysis

Beacon City School District serves 2,923 students in the city, and parts of two nearby towns. Over the past 10 years the graduation rate and CCR rate (see below) has steadily increased. Total enrollment is down 23% since the 04-05 school year. The number of students receiving free or reduced lunch (a measure of poverty) has increased significantly since the 2009-10 school year. Among all residents of Beacon, 38% have an associate's degree or higher, while only 11% lack a high school diploma.

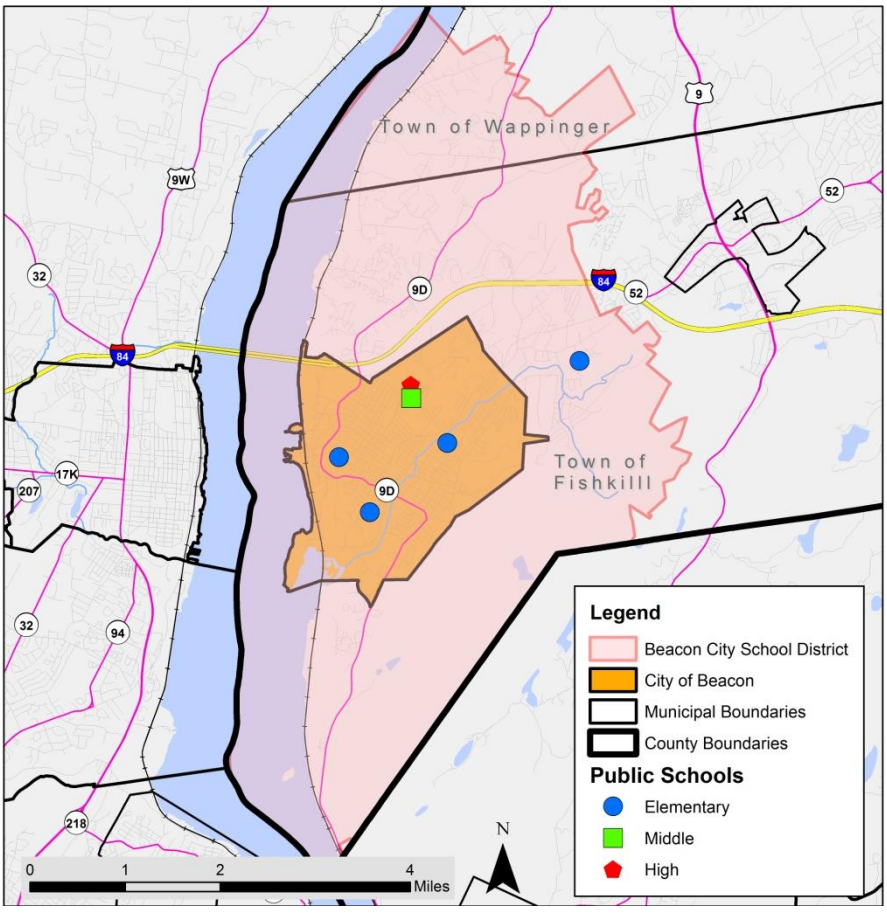
Data Notes

Expenditures per Pupil – Adjusted for inflation using CPI inflation tables from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Graduation Rate & College/Career Readiness – College/Career Readiness (CCR), also known as Aspirational Performance Measure, is a statistic created by NY State to track high school graduates' ability to succeed in college or the workforce. CCR is based on a student's Regents scores and was introduced in the 09-10 school year. 2015-16 data is not yet available.

Student Characteristics – Students are eligible for free school lunch if their family's income is below 130% of the poverty line and reduced price lunch if their family's income is below 185% of the poverty line. English Language Learners are students who have been classified as not proficient in English and require additional instruction.

Beacon City School District

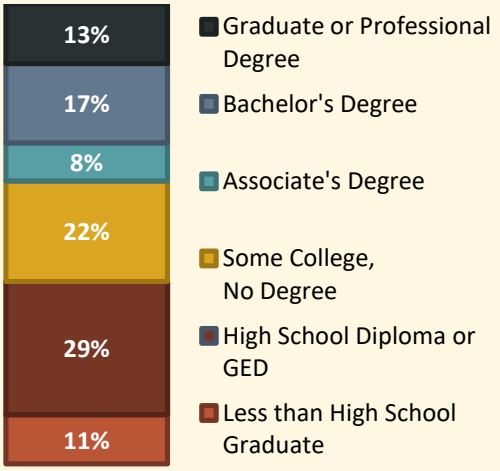


Average SAT Scores

Category	Score (800 max)	Rank Among 23 UAA districts
Reading	498	10
Math	495	9
Writing	469	10

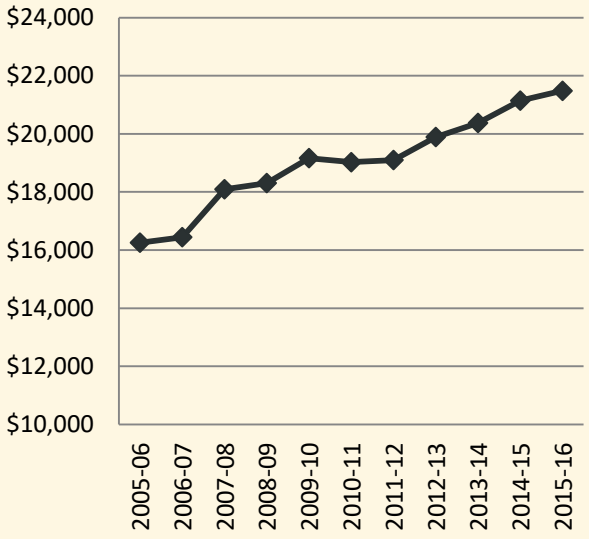
Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Education Level of City Residents



Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Expenditures Per Pupil



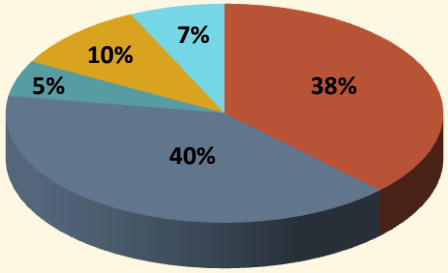
Source: New York State Department of Education (Infl. Adjusted)

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

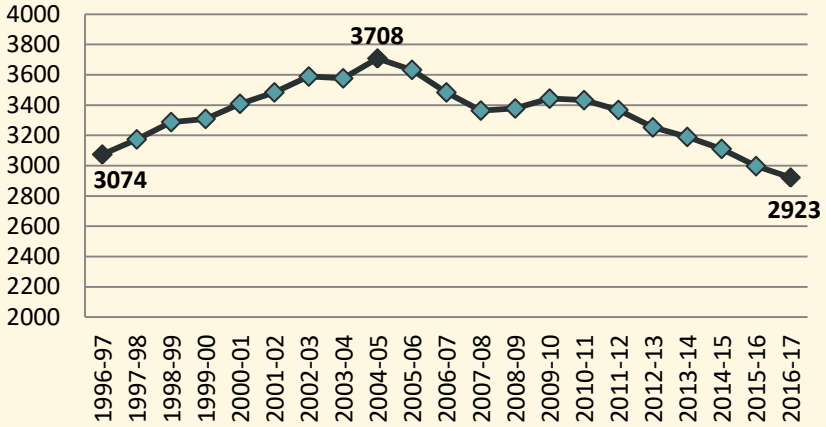
city of BEACON
EDUCATION

Post-Graduation Plans of Graduating High School Seniors



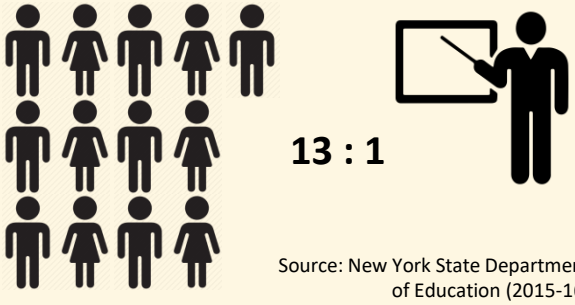
Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Beacon City School District Enrollment



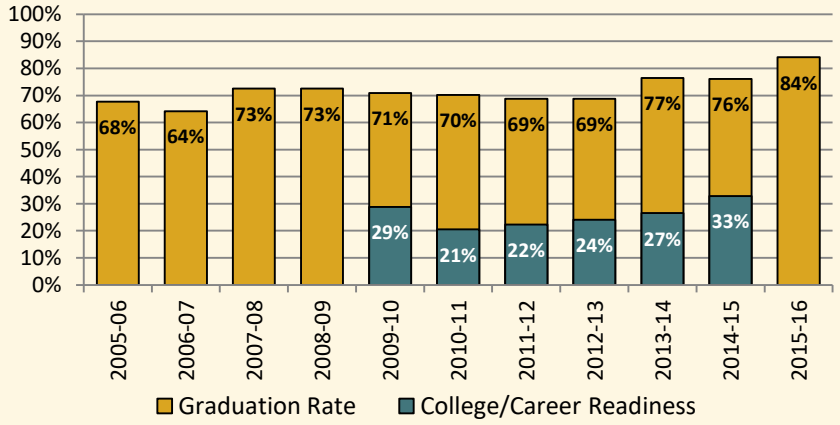
Source: New York State Department of Education

Student to Teacher Ratio



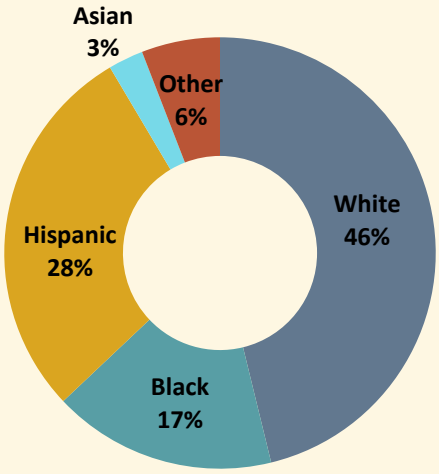
Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Graduation Rate & College/Career Readiness



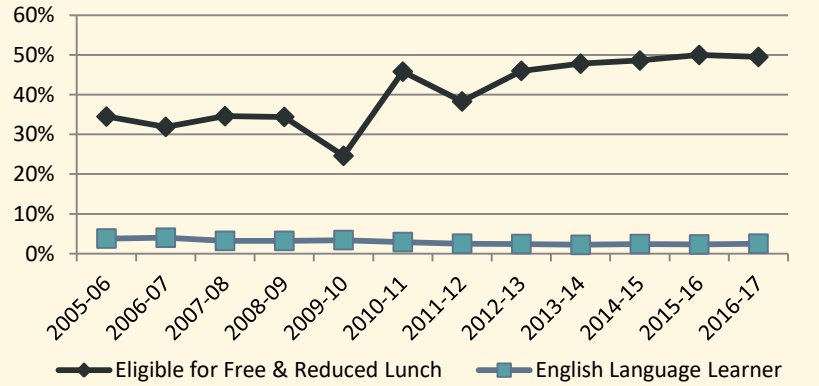
Source: New York State Department of Education

Race & Ethnicity of Students



Source: New York State Department of Education (2015-16)

Student Characteristics



Source: New York State Department of Education

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON HEALTH

Health Analysis

The number of births in Beacon has declined since 2002. 26% of students in the public schools were overweight or obese, lowest of any UAA community. 11% of residents lack health insurance.

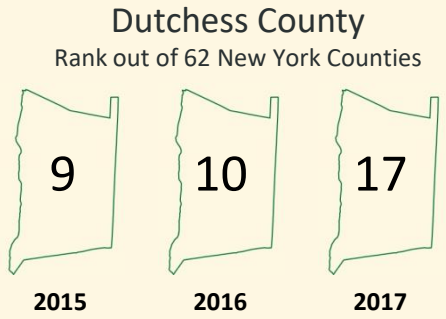
Data Notes

County Health Ranking – Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation releases a health ranking for every county in the U.S. These rankings are based on dozens of key health metrics.

Access to Quality Food – The US Dept. of Agriculture defines census tracts as food deserts if the tracts have high poverty and low access to food. Pattern analyzed GIS data to find supermarket walktimes.

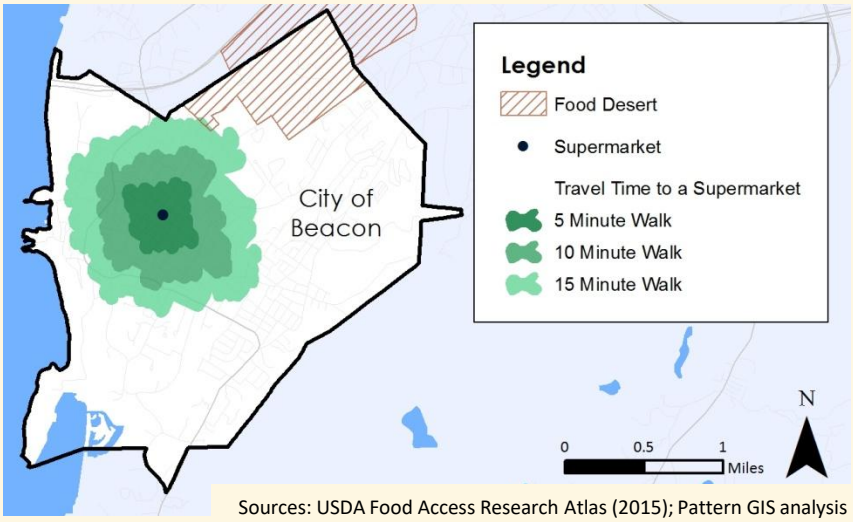
Childhood Obesity – These categories are mutually exclusive. Obese individuals are not also counted as overweight.

County Health Ranking



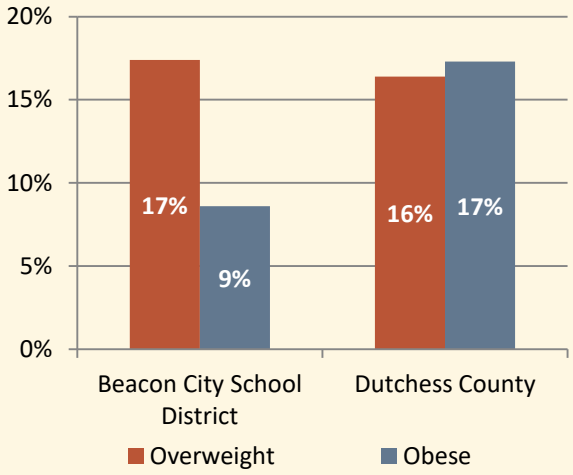
Source: Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings

Access to Quality Food



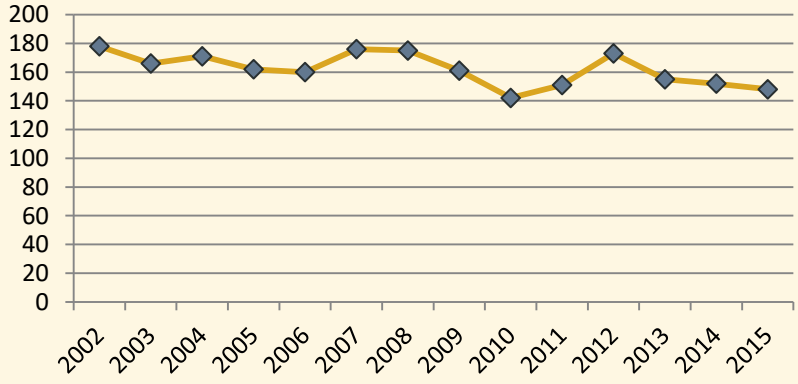
Sources: USDA Food Access Research Atlas (2015); Pattern GIS analysis

Childhood Obesity



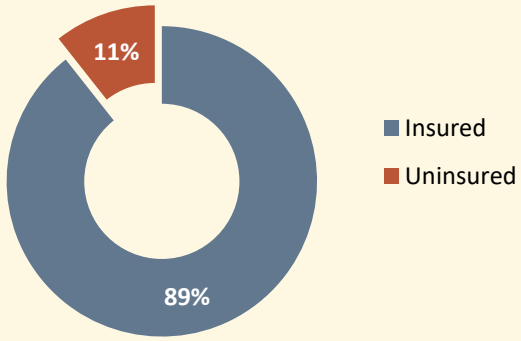
Source: New York State Department of Health (2014-16 average)

Number of Births



Source: New York State Department of Health

Health Insurance Rate



Source: 2015 American Community Survey

URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

city of BEACON
QUALITY OF LIFE

Access to Parks

Acres of Open Space & Parks in Municipality	234
Residents per Acre of Parkland	61

Source: Pattern for Progress Analysis of GIS Data

Quality of Life Analysis

Beacon's waterfront is preserved in several local and state parks, and just outside the city, Mount Beacon offers panoramic Hudson River views. Since 1990, crime in Beacon has significantly declined.

Data Notes

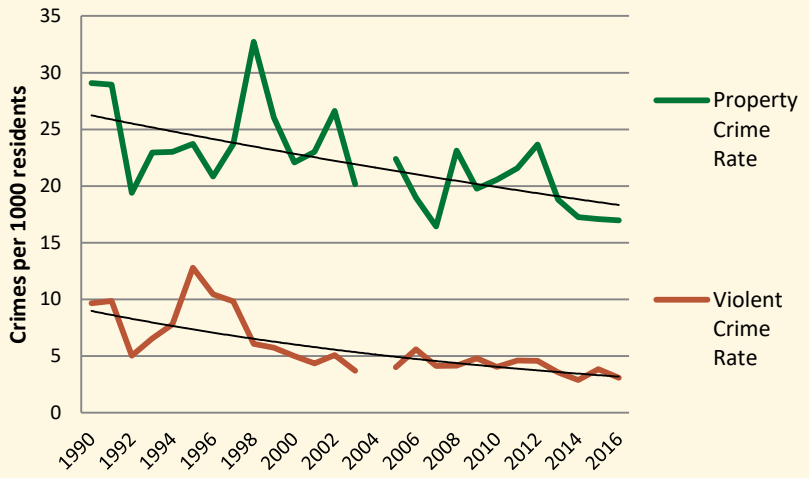
Per Capita Crime Rate – This metric tracks totals for certain types of property and violent crimes. The property crimes tracked are burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The violent crimes tracked are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Data for 2004 was unavailable.

Avg. Annual Household Spending

$2,115 Apparel & Services	$3,187 Eating Out
$4,825 Groceries	$5,243 Health Care

Source: ESRI Business Analyst 2017

Per Capita Crime Rate



Source: NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The Urban Action Agenda (UAA) is a major initiative led by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress to promote growth and revitalization in urban centers throughout the nine-county Hudson Valley Region. The Valley contains a wide variety of urban centers, large and small, located along the Hudson River and other historic transportation corridors. These cities and villages are where population, social, cultural, civic, and economic activity traditionally clustered. With their existing infrastructure, access to transit, and traditions of denser development, these communities are well positioned to accommodate the region's growth in the 21st Century.

Pattern began working on the UAA profiles in 2014 thanks to a multi-year grant from the Ford Foundation. To keep the project's scale manageable, the UAA focuses on a group of 25 higher-need urban areas in the region, selected for reasons Including changing demographics and poverty. An initial set of profiles were issued in early 2016 in partnership with the Regional Plan Association. Now, this set of updated and expanded community profiles represent the next step in the UAA's efforts to provide useful data to policymakers, residents, and business and community groups in the Valley's urban areas. Current funding for these profiles comes from Empire State Development and the NYS Department of State through the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council.

About Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Pattern is a half-century old not-for-profit policy, planning, advocacy, and research organization whose mission is to promote regional, balanced, and sustainable solutions that enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. To learn more about Pattern and the UAA, visit our website: www.pattern-for-progress.org.

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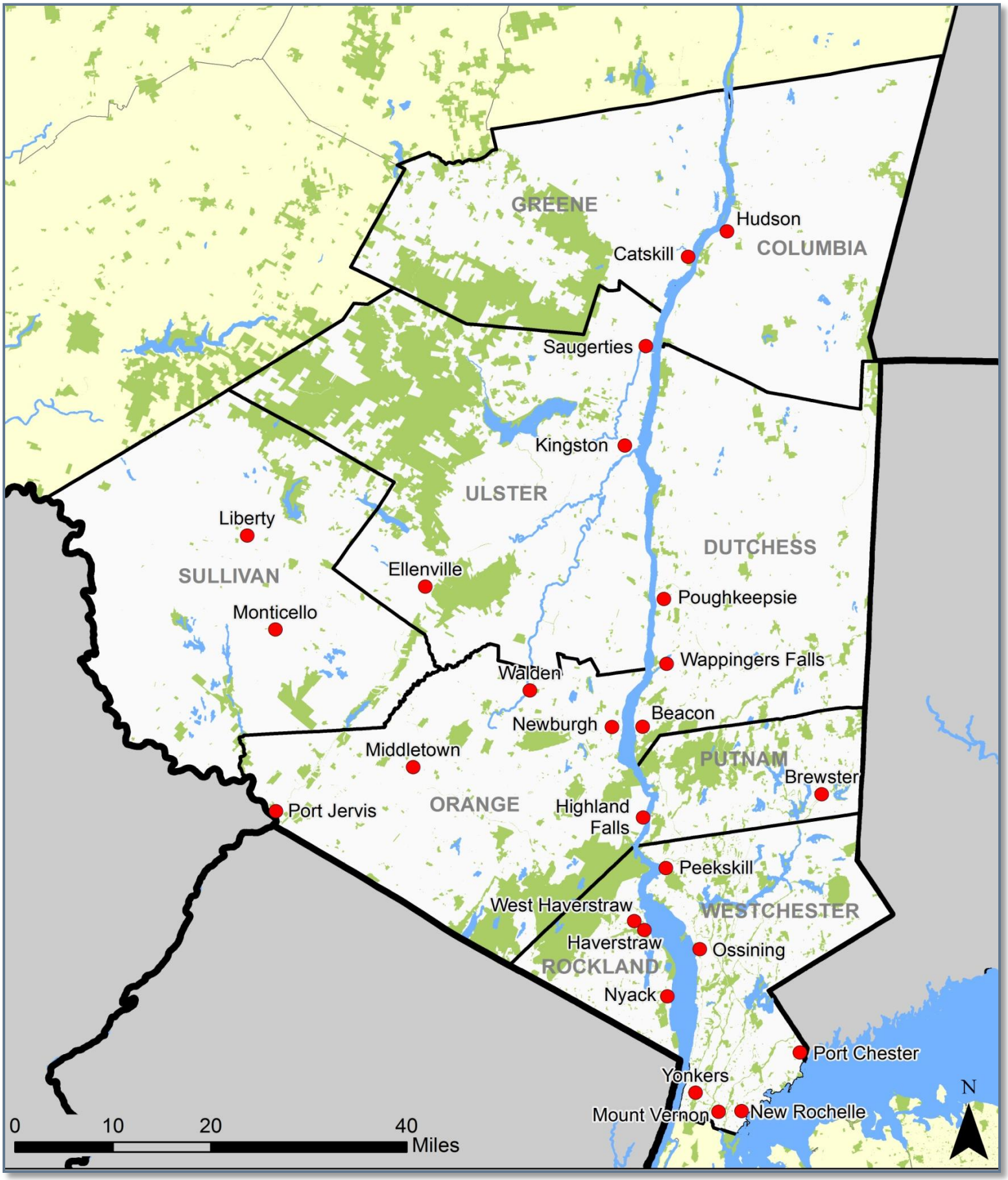
URBAN ACTION AGENDA

Community Profiles

URBAN ACTION AGENDA COMMUNITIES