Population & Demographics Analysis
Since 2000, Liberty’s population has grown by 7%, and the village’s has witnessed a demographic shift of race and ethnicity. The percent of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino has more than doubled, from 14% to 32%, while White and Black residents now make up a smaller percent of the population. 17% of residents are senior citizens, higher than most other UAA communities.

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.
### Housing Analysis

Liberty’s housing stock primarily consists of rentals, nearly double the percentage of owner-occupied units. While housing is affordable for 67% of owners, 53% of renters are “cost burdened” (paying more than 30% of their income towards housing), including 28% who are severely cost burdened (paying more than 50% of their income towards rent). Inflation-adjusted home values have fallen 4% in Liberty since 2000, but have grown 29% in Sullivan County. Over 90% of homes are worth under $200,000, including 42% which are worth under $100,000. Half of housing units are at least 50 years old but 22% were built since 1990, a higher percent of newer housing than most other UAA communities.

### Data Notes


### Home Values

- **$1,000,000 or more**: 2%
- **$750,000 - $999,999**: 3%
- **$500,000 - $749,999**: 0%
- **$400,000 - $499,999**: 0%
- **$300,000 - $399,999**: 0%
- **$200,000 - $299,999**: 2%
- **$100,000 - $199,999**: 51%
- **$0 - $99,999**: 42%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

### Median Home Value

- **2000 Liberty**: $111K
- **2015 Liberty**: $128K
- **2000 Sullivan County**: $166K
- **2015 Sullivan County**: $107K

Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census

### Affordability (% of Income Towards Housing Costs)

- **Owners**: 67% Affordable, 20% Unaffordable, 13% Severely Unaffordable
- **Renters**: 47% Affordable, 25% Unaffordable, 28% Severely Unaffordable


### Housing Occupancy

- **Liberty**: 578 Units / 31%, 1,051 / 56%, 249 / 13%
- **Sullivan County**: 18,611 / 55%, 9,793 / 29%, 5,503 / 16%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey
Income & Poverty Analysis

Since 2000, Liberty’s median household income has fallen by 11% when accounting for inflation, while the poverty rate has risen from 15% to 22%. The share of households receiving SNAP benefits has risen from 17% to 29% since 2010. Over 60% of households earn less than $50,000, and just 13% of households earn over $100,000.

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.

Household Income Distribution

- $200,000 or more: Liberty 3%, Sullivan County 3%
- $150,000 - $199,999: Liberty 2%, Sullivan County 4%
- $100,000 - $149,999: Liberty 6%, Sullivan County 11%
- $75,000 - $99,999: Liberty 7%, Sullivan County 12%
- $50,000 - $74,999: Liberty 21%, Sullivan County 21%
- $25,000 - $49,999: Liberty 19%, Sullivan County 24%
- $10,000 - $24,999: Liberty 18%, Sullivan County 26%
- Less than $10,000: Liberty 8%, Sullivan County 16%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Households Receiving SNAP

2010 Liberty: 17% 2015 Liberty: 29%
2010 Sullivan County: 9% 2015 Sullivan County: 14%

Source: 2010 & 2015 American Community Survey

Households Below the Poverty Line

2000 Liberty: 15% 2015 Liberty: 23%
2000 Sullivan County: 14% 2015 Sullivan County: 16%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census
Economy Analysis
Since 2010, there has been a surge in the number of residents who work in the “manufacturing” sector and a large drop in the number working in “arts, entertainment and recreation, and food services and accommodation.” The unemployment rate in Liberty has risen since 2000, although almost all of the change has come from people who were formerly not in the labor force. Over 40% of Liberty residents work in the village, and 89% work in Sullivan County. Nearly 90% of residents commute to work by car, while 5% walk to work. 7% use “other” means to commute, principally taxis.

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.

Mean of Travel to Work
- Drove Alone: 70%
- Carooled: 17%
- Public Transit: 1%
- Walked: 5%
- Other: 7%

Place of Work & Commute Time
- % of residents who work in Liberty: 43%
- % of residents who work in Sullivan County: 89%
- Average Commute Time: 23 Minutes

Employment by Industry Among Liberty Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment (Age 16 and Over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>204 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services, health care &amp; social assistance</td>
<td>441 (2010) 379 (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services</td>
<td>337 (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services, except public administration</td>
<td>40 (2010) 103 (2015)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 American Community Survey
Dollars and Cents Analysis
Liberty’s budget has stayed under the Tax Cap each year since 2013, but the village’s bond rating is not strong. Village taxes make up 29% of the $6,670 tax bill for a median-value home. There are 39 full time, and 12 part time village employees.

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.
Education Analysis

Liberty Central School District serves 1,600 students in the Village and Town of Liberty plus parts of three other towns. Over the past 10 years the graduation rate has steadily increased. District enrollment has been growing since 2010 though it is still 15% below its peak in 2003. Average reading and math SAT scores are higher than most other UAA districts. Among all village residents, 25% have an associate’s degree or higher, but 20% 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.

Average SAT Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score (800 max)</th>
<th>Rank Among 23 UAA districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>T-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Education Level of Village Residents

Graduate or Professional Degree
Bachelor’s Degree
Associate’s Degree
Some College, No Degree
High School Diploma or GED
Less than High School Graduate

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Expenditures Per Pupil

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

Post-Graduation Plans of Graduating High School Seniors

- 4-Year College: 30%
- 2-Year College: 16%
- Military: 7%
- Employment: 16%
- Other: 2%

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

Liberty Central School District Enrollment

- 2005-06: 1842
- 2016-17: 1628

Source: New York State Department of Education

Student to Teacher Ratio

11:1

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

Race & Ethnicity of Students

- Hispanic: 40%
- White: 47%
- Black: 8%
- Other: 4%

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

Graduation Rate & College/Career Readiness

- Graduation Rate:
  - 2005-06: 54%
  - 2016-17: 76%

- College/Career Readiness:
  - 2005-06: 32%
  - 2016-17: 35%

Source: New York State Department of Education

Student Characteristics

- Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch
- English Language Learner

Source: New York State Department of Education
Health Analysis
Most of Liberty is classified as a food desert (see below). 41% of students in Liberty public schools are overweight or obese. 15% of village residents are uninsured. Births are up most years since 2004.

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.

Access to Quality Food

Legend
- Supermarket
- Food Desert
- Travel to a Supermarket
  - 5 Minute Walk
  - 10 Minute Walk
  - 15 Minute Walk

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

Childhood Obesity

Sources: 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

County Health Ranking

Sullivan County
Rank out of 62 New York Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings
**Quality of Life Analysis**

Property crime is 50% lower now than at its peak in 1994. The violent crime rate is relatively low and has been slowly dropping. Walnut Mountain, a large park with hiking trails, is partly in Liberty.

**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.

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**Access to Parks**

| Acres of Open Space & Parks in Municipality | 58 |
| Residents per Acre of Parkland | 73 |

Source: Pattern for Progress Analysis of GIS Data

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**Avg. Annual Household Spending**

| Apparel & Services | $1,440 |
| Eating Out | $2,303 |
| Groceries | $3,774 |
| Health Care | $4,251 |

Source: ESRI Business Analyst 2017

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**Per Capita Crime Rate**

![Crime Rate Graph]

Source: NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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**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](http://www.pattern-for-progress.org).

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