**Population & Demographics Analysis**

Since 2000, Walden’s population has grown by nearly 12%, and the village’s demographics have changed. Residents of Hispanic origin now make up 21% of the population (up from 9%) while White residents are 66% (down from 85%). The village has a very young population, with 29% under age 20, and only 9% over age 65. More than 90% of residents were born in the United States.

**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.

---

**Population Basics**

- **6,886** Population (2015)
- **11.7%** Population Change since 2000
- **2.0** Square Miles
- **3,443** Population Density (people per sq. mile)

**Community Snapshot**

- **29%** Population under age 20
- **62%** Population ages 20-64
- **9%** Population 65 and older
- **$66,989** Median household income
- **23%** Residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher
- **58%** Owner-occupied housing
- **33%** Renter-occupied housing

**Population by Race and Ethnicity**

- **White**: 85% White, 66% 2000, 66% 2015
- **Black**: 3% Black, 5% 2000, 5% 2015
- **Hispanic or Latino**: 9% Hispanic or Latino, 21% 2000, 21% 2015
- **Asian**: 1% Asian, 1% 2000, 1% 2015
- **Other**: 1% Other, 7% 2000, 7% 2015

**Share of Population by Age and Sex**

- **% of Male Population**: 85+ (5%), 80 to 84 (15%), 75 to 79 (5%), 70 to 74 (8%), 65 to 69 (10%), 60 to 64 (12%), 55 to 59 (12%), 50 to 54 (12%), 45 to 49 (12%), 40 to 44 (12%), 35 to 39 (12%), 30 to 34 (12%), 25 to 29 (12%), 20 to 24 (12%), 15 to 19 (12%), 10 to 14 (12%), 5 to 9 (12%), < 5 (12%)
- **% of Female Population**: 85+ (5%), 80 to 84 (15%), 75 to 79 (5%), 70 to 74 (8%), 65 to 69 (10%), 60 to 64 (12%), 55 to 59 (12%), 50 to 54 (12%), 45 to 49 (12%), 40 to 44 (12%), 35 to 39 (12%), 30 to 34 (12%), 25 to 29 (12%), 20 to 24 (12%), 15 to 19 (12%), 10 to 14 (12%), 5 to 9 (12%), < 5 (12%)

**Place of Birth**

- **Born in United States**: 79%
- **Born Abroad**: 14%

**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

Almost 60% of Walden’s housing units are owner-occupied, and just one third are rentals. Housing is affordable for a majority (64%) of homeowners, but 52% of renters are “cost burdened” (paying more than 30% of their income towards housing), including 44% who are severely cost burdened (paying more than 50% of their income towards rent), higher than many other UAA communities. Inflation-adjusted home values in Walden have risen 50% since 2000, much more than in Orange County (where home values rose 32%). A majority of homes (52%) are worth between $200,000 - $299,999. A quarter of the housing units in Walden were built since 1990, making the village’s housing stock one of the newest in the UAA.

Data Notes


Home Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Value Range</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750,000 - $999,999</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000 - $749,999</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400,000 - $499,999</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000 - $399,999</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 - $299,999</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $199,999</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $99,999</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Median Home Value


Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census

Affordability (% of Income Towards Housing Costs)

- Owners:
  - Affordable (<30%): 64%
  - Unaffordable (30-50%): 20%
  - Severely Unaffordable (>50%): 15%

- Renters:
  - Affordable (<30%): 48%
  - Unaffordable (30-50%): 8%
  - Severely Unaffordable (>50%): 44%


Age of Housing Stock

- Built 2010 or Later: 2%
- Built 2000 to 2009: 16%
- Built 1990 to 1999: 7%
- Built 1980 to 1989: 6%
- Built 1970 to 1979: 7%
- Built 1960 to 1969: 9%
- Built 1950 to 1959: 10%
- Built 1940 to 1949: 1%
- Built 1939 or Earlier: 43%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Housing Occupancy

- Walden:
  - Vacant: 11,668 / 9%
  - Rented: 39,086 / 29%
  - Owned: 86,184 / 63%

- Orange County:
  - Vacant: 220 / 9%
  - Rented: 800 / 33%
  - Owned: 1,427 Units / 58%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey
village of WALDEN
INCOME & POVERTY

**Household Income Distribution**

- **$200,000 or more**: Walden 2%, Orange County 7%
- **$150,000 - $199,999**: Walden 9%, Orange County 13%
- **$100,000 - $149,999**: Walden 14%, Orange County 19%
- **$75,000 - $99,999**: Walden 16%, Orange County 13%
- **$50,000 - $74,999**: Walden 18%, Orange County 16%
- **$25,000 - $49,999**: Walden 17%, Orange County 18%
- **$10,000 - $24,999**: Walden 18%, Orange County 18%
- **Less than $10,000**: Walden 2%, Orange County 6%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

**Income & Poverty Analysis**

Walden’s median household income has risen 12% since 2000 when accounting for inflation, in contrast to Orange County’s, which has fallen by 1%. The poverty rate increased from 9% to 13% over that time. Walden’s income distribution is very wide, with at least 13% of households in every income group from $10,000 to $199,999.

**Data Notes**


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**

- **2000**
  - Walden: $59,883
  - Orange County: $71,653

- **2015**
  - Walden: $66,989
  - Orange County: $70,848

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

**Households Receiving SNAP**

- **2010**
  - Walden: 7%
  - Orange County: 5%

- **2015**
  - Walden: 11%
  - Orange County: 10%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2010 Decennial Census

**Households Below the Poverty Line**

- **2000**
  - Walden: 9%
  - Orange County: 9%

- **2015**
  - Walden: 13%
  - Orange County: 12%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey; 2000 Decennial Census
**Economy Analysis**

More Walden residents are employed in “educational services, health care and social assistance” than in any other industry. Since 2010, the number of people working in “retail trade” has increased by 68% while the number working in “manufacturing” and “public administration” has declined by over 50% in each sector. Nearly 90% of commuters use a car to get to work, and just 4% take public transit. Only 13% of residents work in the village, but 71% work in Orange County. At an average of 32 minutes, the commute time for Walden residents is longer than most other UAA communities.

**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.

### Employment by Industry Among Walden Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing &amp; hunting, and mining</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; warehousing and utilities</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; insurance, and real estate &amp; rental &amp; leasing</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific, &amp; management, &amp; administrative &amp; waste mgmt. services</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services, health care &amp; social assistance</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services, except public administration</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

### Means of Travel to Work

- **Drove Alone** 79%
- **Carpooled** 10%
- **Public Transit** 4%
- **Walked** 5%
- **Other** 1%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

### Place of Work & Commute Time

- % of residents who work in Walden: 13%
- % of residents who work in Orange County: 71%
- Average Commute Time: 32 Minutes

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

### Employment (Age 16 and Over)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing &amp; hunting, and mining</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services, health care &amp; social assistance</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services, except public administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey, US Decennial Census
**Dollars and Cents Analysis**

Walden’s budget exceeded the Tax Cap in 2017 but has been under the cap all other years since 2013. Village property taxes are 34% of the $9,757 tax bill on a median-value home. The village has 40 full time and 60 part time 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.

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**Taxes on Median Home**

- **Median Home Value:** $214,300
- **Total Taxes:** $9,757

**Municipal Finances**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did Village Budget Stay Under NY State Tax Cap?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Municipal Employees**

- **Part Time:** 48
- **Full Time:** 29

**General Employees**

- **Median FT Salary:** $57,082

**Police/Fire Employees**

- **Median FT Salary:** $100,293

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

Valley Central School District serves 4,400 students from Walden, the Town of Montgomery and parts of six other towns. Since 2006, district enrollment is down 15% and per pupil expenditures are up 41%. The College/Career Readiness (CCR) (see below) and graduation rate are higher than most UAA districts. The number of students receiving free or reduced lunch (a poverty measure) has nearly doubled in the last ten years. Among Walden residents, 34% have an associate’s degree or higher, but 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.

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>487</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>T-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Education Level of Village Residents

- Graduate or Professional Degree: 9%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 14%
- Associate’s Degree: 11%
- Some College, No Degree: 24%
- High School Diploma or GED: 32%
- Less than High School Graduate: 11%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey

Expenditures Per Pupil

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

Post-Graduation Plans of Graduating High School Seniors

- 4-Year College: 45%
- 2-Year College: 34%
- Military: 9%
- Employment: 10%
- Other: 2%

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

Student to Teacher Ratio

12 : 1

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

Race & Ethnicity of Students

- White: 65%
- Black: 8%
- Hispanic: 22%
- Asian: 2%
- Other: 3%

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

Valley Central School District Enrollment

Source: New York State Department of Education

Graduation Rate & College/Career Readiness

- Graduation Rate: 81% - 87%
- College/Career Readiness: 42% - 44%

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
A centrally located supermarket gives most residents easy access to food. Over 90% of residents have health insurance. One third of students in Valley Central School District are obese or overweight.

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
![Map of Village of Walden with supermarket locations and walktimes](image)

Legend
- Supermarket
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valley Central School District</th>
<th>Orange County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>Obese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orange County
Rank out of 62 New York Counties
2015: 20
2016: 23
2017: 23

Source: Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings

Number of Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Births</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State Department of Health

Health Insurance Rate

- Insured: 94%
- Uninsured: 6%

Source: 2015 American Community Survey
Quality of Life Analysis
Located on the scenic Wallkill River, Walden has an expansive park system for a small village, with several large parks offering hiking, swimming, playgrounds, ball fields, and more. Since 1990, the crime rate has fallen nearly 50% and violent crime rate is now near zero.

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.

Access to Parks
- Acres of Open Space & Parks in Municipality: 188
- Residents per Acre of Parkland: 37

Source: Pattern for Progress Analysis of GIS Data

Avg. Annual Household Spending
- Apparel & Services: $2,158
- Eating Out: $3,225
- Groceries: $4,880
- Health Care: $5,379

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.

This community profile was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.