

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Daniel J. McKee Governor of the State of Rhode Island

RE: Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission Annual Report

In accordance with Rhode Island General Law § 42-128-16, the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission (HRC) submits the following annual report. This report includes information on HRC activities and programs, housing related data, and findings regarding current housing issues in the state.

The contents of this report underscore the significant housing challenges in this state – many of which are exacerbated by the lack of sufficient housing production. While significant work remains to address housing needs in our state, thanks to the investments in housing made by the Governor, the General Assembly, and the HRC, in 2023, Rhode Island made significant progress on this front, with 2,453 housing units were permitted, the most in nearly two decades.

The HRC looks forward to highlighting additional ways to increase housing production and address other housing needs in the State, including through the upcoming state housing plan, *Housing 2030*, a preview of which is included herein.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your partnership.

Best,

Hannah Moore Executive Director Housing Resources Commission

- cc: Melina Lodge, Vice-Chair, Housing Resources Commission Deborah Goddard, Acting Secretary of Housing, Rhode Island Department of Housing
- Attachment 1: HRC Activities and Programs

Attachment 2: Findings and recommendations regarding housing issues

Attachment 3: Progress towards long-term affordable homes

Attachment 4: Community specific housing conditions

Attachment 5: Health related housing assessment

Attachment 6: Information regarding the incidence of lead poisoning



RHODE ISLAND Housing Resources Commission

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio President of the Senate

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The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi Speaker of the House of Representatives

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### Attachment 1

### HRC Activities and Programs

Below is a summary of programs supported with HRC resources in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025:

- <u>Homeless Assistance</u> The substantial majority of HRC program resources for FY 2025 are allocated through the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF). The CHF allocates funding to homeless shelter operations, essential services including outreach, rapid re-housing rental assistance and systems supports. CHF is comprised of federal, State, and local resources which are distributed through a coordinated RFP process. \$4.5M in HRC resources were allocated to this process.
- <u>Centralized Wait List</u> Rhode Island Housing was allocated \$100,000 to support the costs to support the costs associated with operating a centralized wait list for subsidized properties. This system enables applicants to apply for multiple affordable housing opportunities through a single portal, improving efficiency.
- <u>Lead Hazard Mitigation</u> The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), through a Memorandum of Agreement with the HRC, has assumed responsibility for administration of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act. The HRC allocates \$500,000 annually in support of administrative costs for assumption of this assignment. RIDOH is able to coordinate administration of training and enforcement with the agency's other healthy housing initiatives.
- <u>Building Homes Rhode Island</u> The HRC has allocated resources through the Building Homes Rhode Island program to the following projects:
  - Center City Hybrid 4% (East Providence, census tract 010200) \$1,000,000 in 2024 for development of 95 units of affordable housing. This project is being developed by One Neighborhood Builders in partnership with Foster Forward, Family Service of Rhode Island, and Crossroads of Rhode Island, a partnership known as the Taunton Avenue Collaborative.
  - *321 Knight Street (Providence, census tract 001100)* \$490,000 in 2024. Development of 41 affordable apartments and ground-floor commercial and community space on the corner of Westminster and Knight Streets. This project is being developed by SWAP.
  - Center City Hybrid 9% (East Providence, census tract 010200) \$582,437 in 2024. Development of 49 apartments. This project is being developed by One Neighborhood Builders in partnership with Foster Forward, Family Service of Rhode Island, and Crossroads of Rhode Island, a partnership known as the Taunton Avenue Collaborative.
  - *Parcel 9 Phase II East Building (Providence, census tract 003700)* \$952,253 in 2024 for the development of 61-unit affordable mixed-income apartment building in the I-195 District. This project is being developed by Pennrose, LLC.
  - *1624 Lonsdale Avenue (Lincoln, census tract 011701)* \$490,164 in 2024 for a proposed residential re-development consisting of the conversion of the former Lincoln Memorial School into 26 new affordable apartments. This project is being developed by Lonsdale Valley JV, LLC, a joint venture between Valley Affordable Housing Corp. and Lonsdale Memorial Holdings, LLC.
  - *Frontline Childcare (Woonsocket, census tract 017600)* \$600,000 in 2024 to develop four affordable apartments. This project is being developed by NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley.

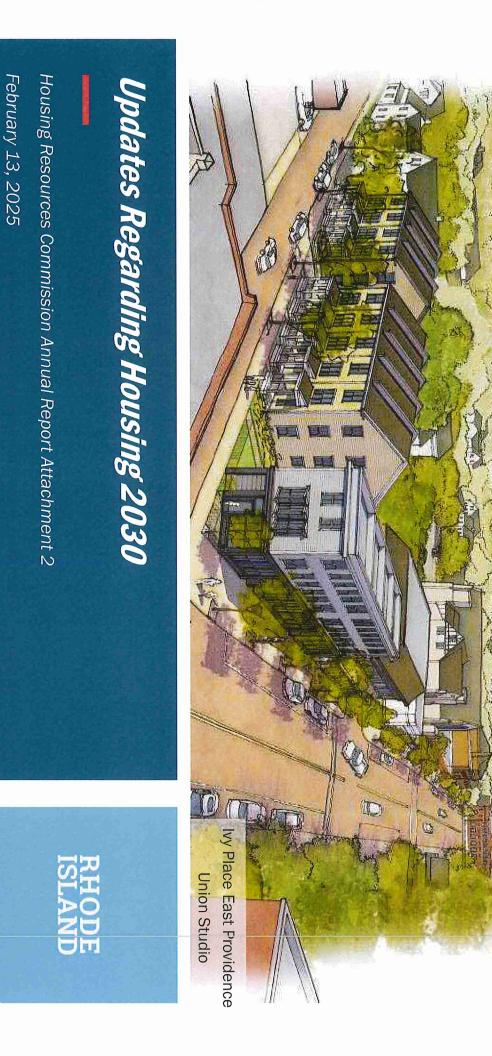
In addition to its annual process, the HRC conducted a process of developing additional plans for allocating additional funds that became available. The HRC aligned on prioritizing resources for increasing housing development, addressing homelessness, and focusing on special populations with specific housing needs. As such, in FY2024, the HRC approved the following additional awards:

- <u>Pipeline Development Mini-grants</u> -- \$400,000 to assist municipalities in identifying potential sites for redevelopment as affordable or mixed-income housing and successfully moving those projects forward.
- <u>Data Analysis and Planning</u> -- \$200,000 consisting of (1) \$150,000 to hire a contract staffer to work at the Department of Housing as a HMIS data analyst and (2) to \$50,000 to conduct additional data analysis and/or planning.
- <u>Residential Construction Workforce Training</u> -- \$200,000 for housing-related workforce training through the Governor's Workforce Board.
- <u>Housing Production Fund Capital and Extremely Low-Income (ELI)</u> -- \$1,200,000 plus any additional funds generated in FY2024: Funding to support both the development of new affordable housing and the preservation of existing affordable units, as well as operating subsidies needed to support extremely low-income units.

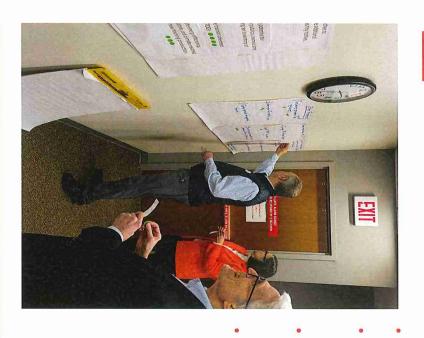
### Attachment 2

### Findings and recommendations regarding housing issues

In consultation with the Housing Resources Commission, the Department of Housing is in the process of developing the upcoming state housing plan, *Housing 2030*. The attached presentation summarizes key goals that are being set to address housing issues in Rhode Island and the proposed strategies to address them over the next five years. Additionally, the Department of Housing is in the process of publishing its Annual Integrated Housing Report which will be issued by April 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Quick reminders: What is Housing 2030?



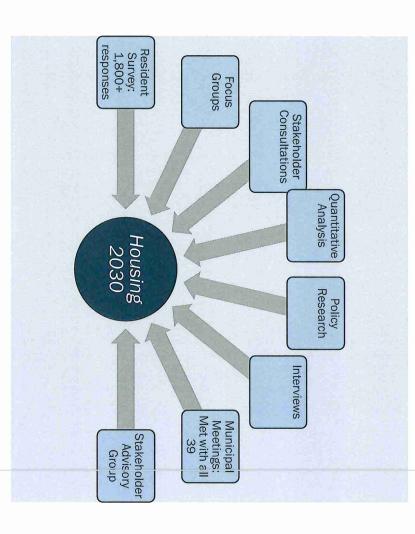
- Housing 2030 is the state housing plan for 2026-2030
- The plan will set out concrete and measurable housing-related goals and align or strategies for achieving these goals
- Housing 2030 is grounded in the existing and projected housing needs of Rhode Islanders and Rhode Island communities.
- Housing 2030 will be an actionable plan:
- Creates and informs tools for Rhode Island communities to use
- Serves as a roadmap for policy and budget proposals for FY2026 and beyond
- Helps guide the State's use of federal funds
- To be adopted as the State's Guide Plan Element which will inform municipal planning efforts for years to come

### **Quick reminders: Process overview**

- Led by the Rhode Island Department of Housing over the last year and a half with contract support from Abt Global, RI League of Cities and Towns, Housing Works RI, and Root Policy Research
- On track to share proposed plan in March
- Planning to accept public comments on that draft before proceeding with adoption process through State Guide Plan process
- This presentation:
- Previews draft goals and strategies
- Discusses key recommendation around municipal goals & zoning/regulatory reforms

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### Over and over, we heard...

### Our kids and grandkids can't afford to live here anymore

### 02

Employers are struggling to attract and retain a talented workforce due to rising housing costs

### 00

Seniors want to downsize but cannot find available and affordable homes

### 04

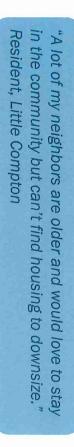
A lack of affordable housing is driving increased rates of homelessness



### **Diverse Housing Options**

### Resident survey data

- diverse Rhode Islanders: Residents want more options for housing that meets the needs of
- 58% want duplexes/townhouses/triple-deckers
- 53% want more multifamily apartments
- 53% want more accessible housing options





"We live in a summer community. There is a critical shortage of year-round rental units available for families." Resident, Portsmouth

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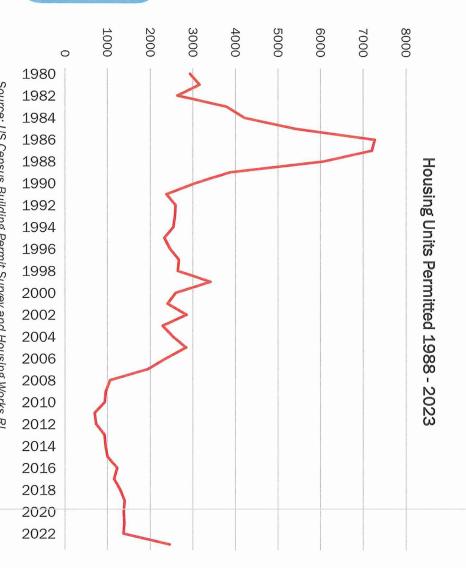
### How did we get here?

By not building enough homes...

- 79% of residents agreed that Rhode Island needs more housing.
- Rhode Island's current pace of housing production is not sufficient to keep up with the state's projected population growth.

"There isn't enough being built to handle the number of people who would like to move here and help our city grow."

Resident, Providence



Source: US Census Building Permit Survey and Housing Works RI

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### strong communities with a diversity of housing options that Vision Statement: Housing 2030 Produce and preserve housing to meet and respond to the needs of all Rhode Islanders; with a focus on creating

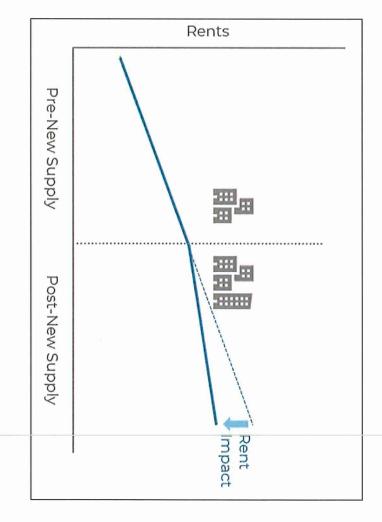
are affordable and accessible.

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## Impact of Housing Supply on Affordability

- Increased housing production and preservation are essential strategies for achieving long term housing affordability
- Increased housing supply helps moderate price increases therefore making housing more affordable to low- and moderate-income families<sup>1</sup>
- Vacancy rates in Rhode Island and growing housing prices signal a strong need for additional housing construction



1. NYU Furman Center – "Supply Skepticism". 2018. Been, Ellen, O'Reagan

Draft content for discussion

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### Housing 2030 Goals

- <u>+</u> Increase the production of homes and focus on
- P Middle market units
- N Accessory dwelling units
- ω Affordable rentals
- 4. Low-cost homeownership
- N Preserve affordable homes
- ω Navigate towards 2030 goals

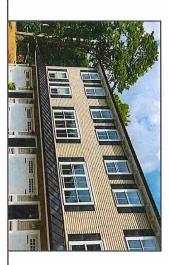


Draft content for discussion



family, bungalows, and cottage courts

Currently permitting an average of 195 middle market units ('19-'23)



Affordable Homeownership - sales priced under \$400k



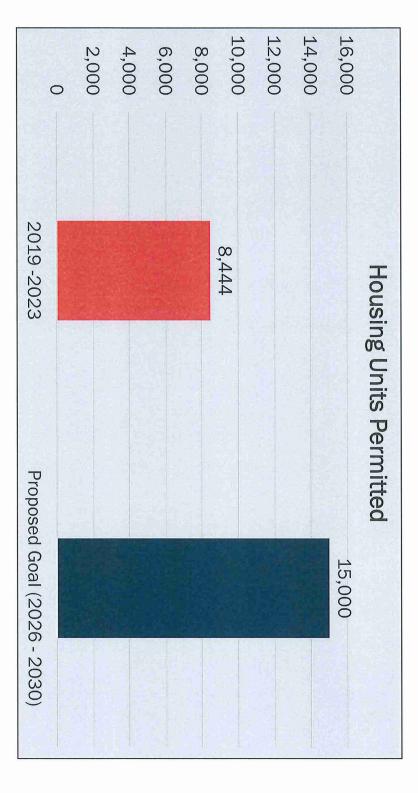
AMI) Averaging 237 COs annually ('19-'23) Affordable Rentals - LMIH units (up to 80% of

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Currently averaging 90 units per year ('19-'23)

Draft content for discussion	Navigate towards 2030 goals	Preserve affordable homes	Finance 2,250 affordable rental units	Increase middle-market units by 50%	Triple ADUs permitted	Create 1,000 low-cost homeownership units	Permit 15,000 new homes	By 2030 proposing to	Housing 2030 Goals
1 10 I ISLAND	Complement efforts to improve education, create a healthier RI, address climate change, and build a Rhode to Prosperity	Maintain affordability that already exists	Support low and moderate income Rhode Islanders and include 375 permanent supportive housing and 500 extremely low income homes	Building a variety of home types that meet community needs	Expand lower cost options that more families, seniors, and our workforce can afford	Increase inventory of for sale homes that cost less than \$400k	Slow housing cost growth and put Rhode Island on a path to healthier vacancy rates	This would mean more housing options and would	

## Housing 2030 Overall Production Goal



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# What is standing in the way of building more...

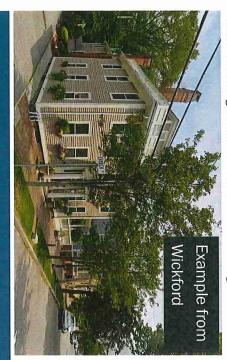
We don't allow the homes we need to be built by right

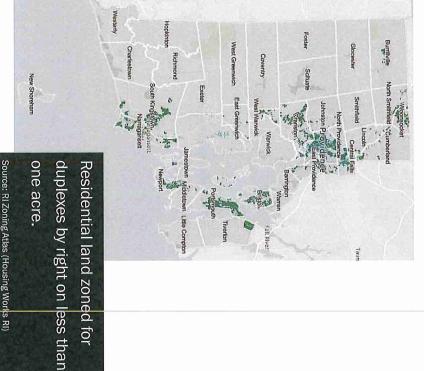
Local zoning ordinances present barriers to middle market housing production

- -> Require extra review
- -> Require large minimum lot sizes

87% of Rhode Island is zoned for single-family by right

20% of Rhode Island is zoned for 2-family by right Source: HousingWorks RI Factbook and RI Zoning Atlas





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## The effects of rising development costs

include costs for land, hard costs 1. Total development costs (TDC) (labor, materials) and soft costs (architecture, permitting, etc.)

prices or rents needed to support 2. When TDC rises, the sales that development also rise

won't support the higher rents or sales prices, the development 3. In cases where the market isn't built





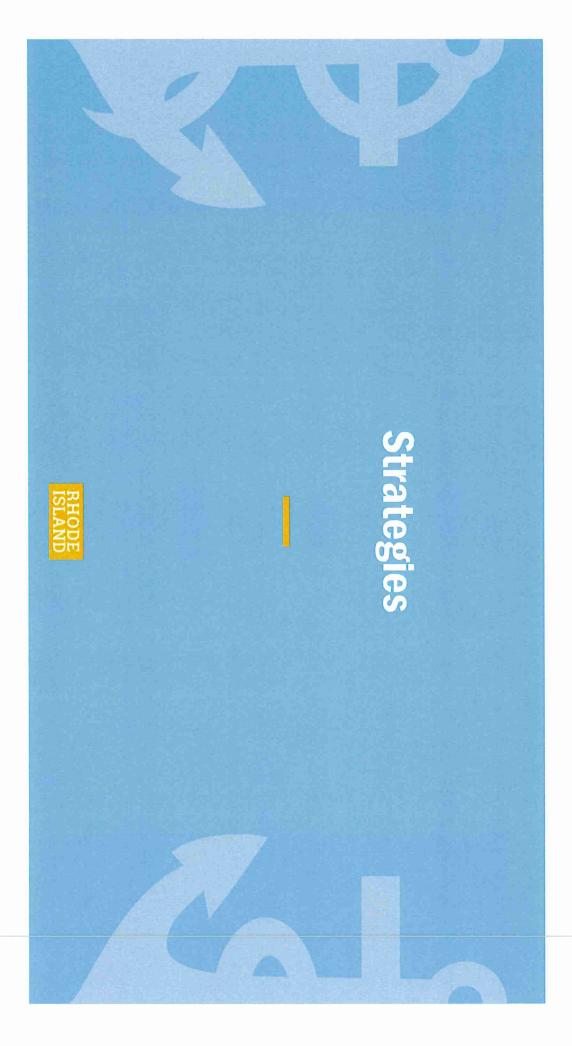


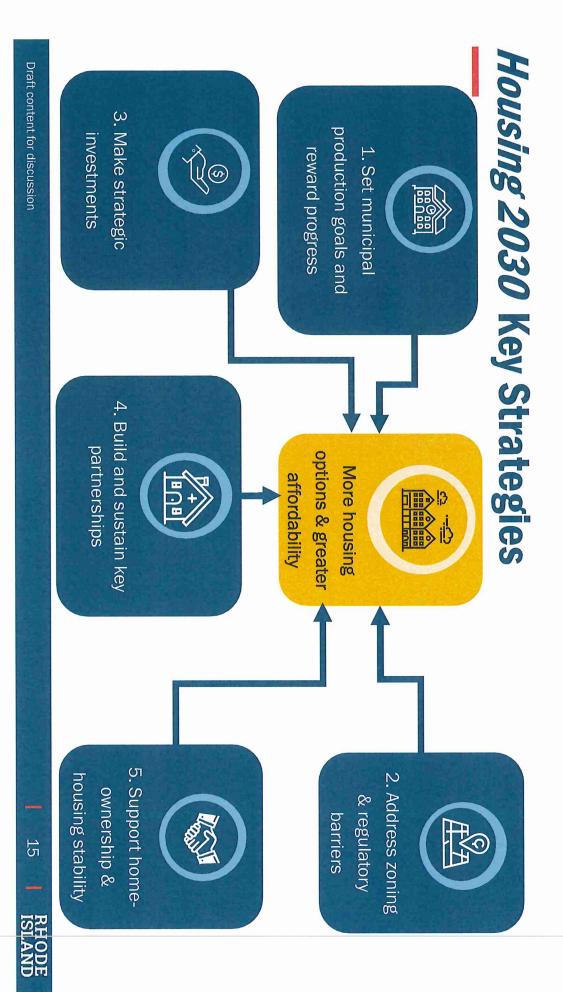
RI land values, 2012-22

newly developed homes with a sales price under \$400k has 5. As a result, the number of fallen by 47% since 2022

construction costs have skyrocketed 4. With land values, materials and labor costs all on the rise,

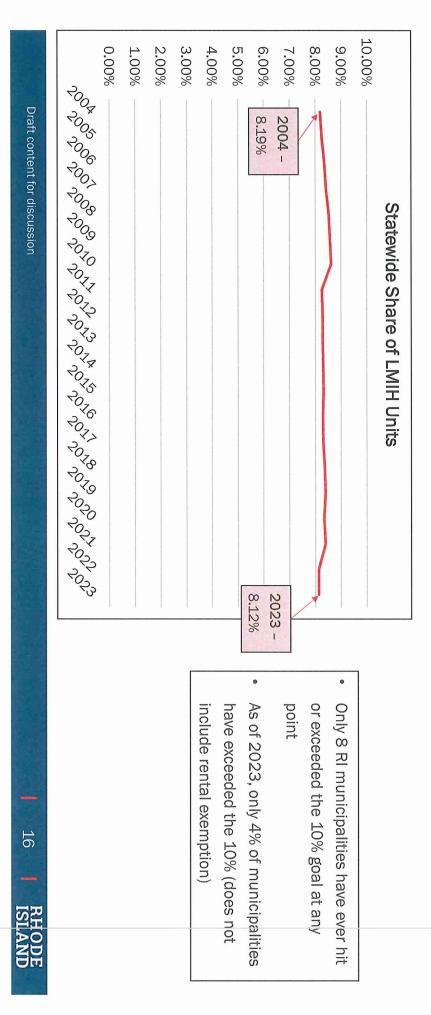
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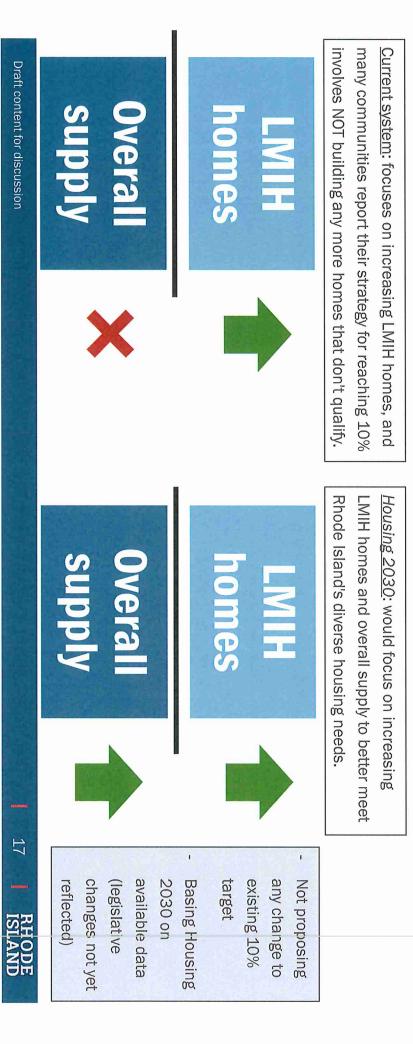


Share of LMIH housing has not increased over the last 20 years



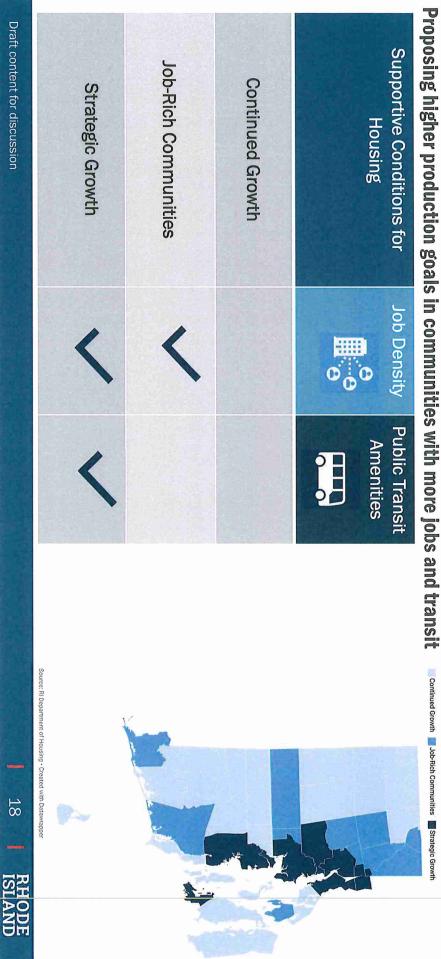
# Proposing "both and" approach to municipal goals

Asking municipalities to focus on both LMIH production and overall production

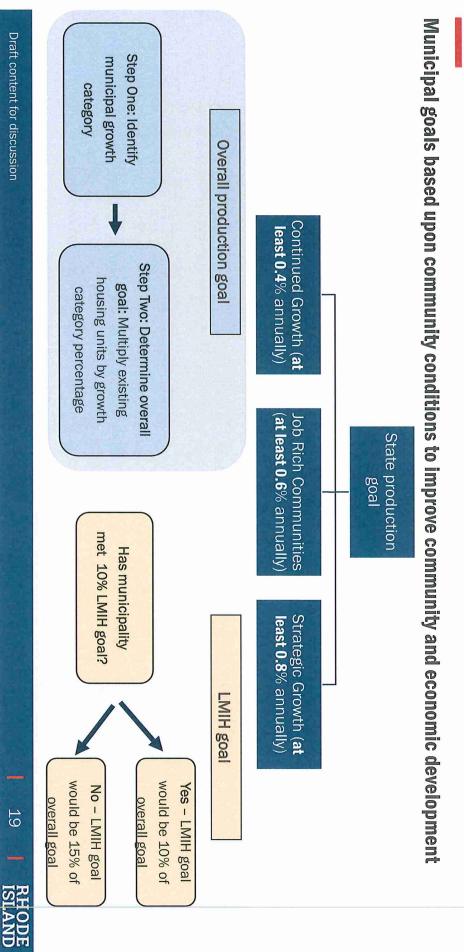


## Not proposing a one-sized fits all approach

**Updated Municipal Growth Categories** 







Note: Overall production goals for each municipality is at least equal to units permitted over the last five years

## Potential menu of pro-housing reforms

recommended strategies: To increase housing supply, municipalities need to adopt changes to achieve their goals. Below is a list of several

- Allow ADUs by right in any zone where residential uses are allowed, including in mixed-use zones and on lots smaller than 20,000 square feet
- Allow by-right development of duplexes in any zone where residential uses are allowed
- Allow by-right development of three- and four-plexes in at least one additional residential zone
- Allow by-right development of multifamily housing (5+ units) in at least one additional residential zone
- Reduce parking minimums, establish parking maximums for multifamily developments and residential components of mixed-use developments, and allow shared parking options
- Implement TOD zoning of at least 15 units an acre in areas with transit service or planned transit service

- Increase buildable area in some other way, such as by allowing higher building heights or increasing lot coverage maximums and reduce minimum frontages, setbacks, and step backs
- Waive or reduce building and development application fees for middle-market and affordable housing development
- Adopt preapproved blueprints for middle-market housing types to streamline the permitting process
- Adopt form-based codes that emphasize building form and public spaces rather than land use separation, enabling more flexible residential and mixed-use development and streamlined administrative review of new developments

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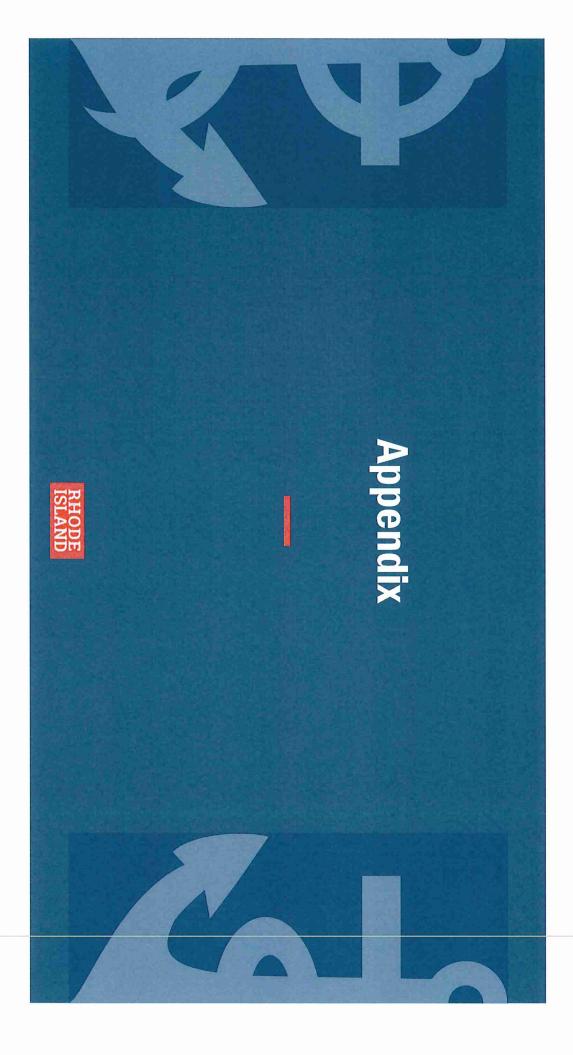
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Draft content for discussion	Collaborate with universities Educate Rhode Islanders	Housing workforce development	Support for nonprofits, PSH developers, builders and PHAs	Achieve economies of scale to produce lower- cost homes	4. Build and sustain key partnerships	Key strategies
	Accessibility retrofits and shared housing	Homelessness prevention	Employer homeownership partnerships	First-generation homebuyers & asset building	5. Support homeownership and housing stability	
1 22   RHODE ISLAND				<ul> <li>Success will require partnerships</li> <li>Supports Rhode to Prosperity goals</li> <li>Supports proceed by and build wealth</li> </ul>		



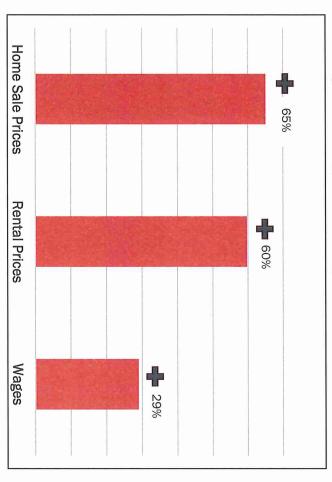
### Thank you

Contact Patrick Duffy at <u>Patrick.S.Duffy@housing.ri.gov</u> with questions or feedback



## Why do we need a state housing plan?

Change in Housing Costs vs. Wages, Q4 2018 - Q4 2024



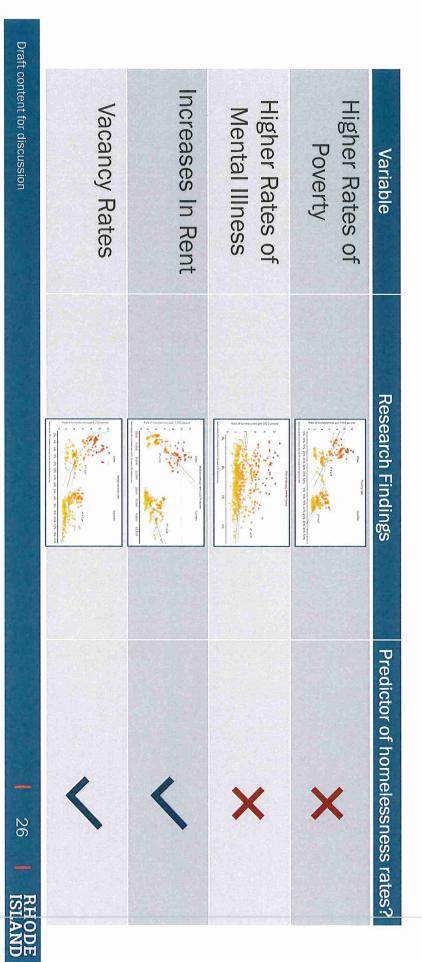
Source: Zillow Home Value Index for RI; Zillow Observed Rent Index for Providence MSA; Bureau of Labor Statistics Average Hourly Earnings for RI

> Seeks to respond to growing housing challenges and put Rhode Island on a path to improved housing options for all

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# Housing Supply Impacts Affordability and Homelessness

Recent research<sup>1</sup> demonstrates that rent levels and vacancy rates are associated with regional rates of homelessness



1. Homelessness Is A Housing Problem, Colburn, Aldern, 2022

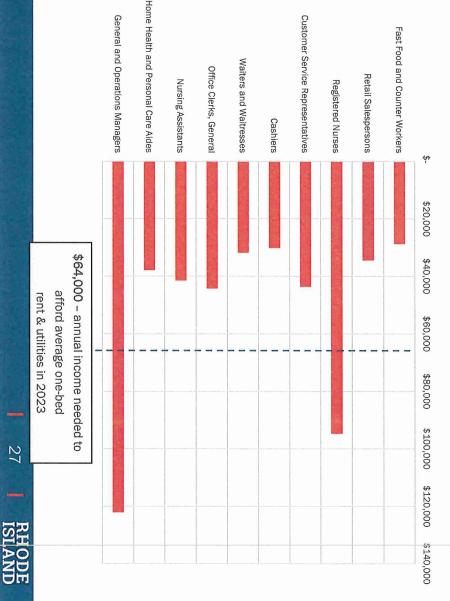
### **Housing Affordability**

- Residents emphasized that rents for many households in Rhode Island are out-of-reach
- felt their rent was too expensive Among renter households, 49%

about paying for it." basic life expenses, I worry \$2,000 a month, and other "I make a decent salary but with rents being \$1,800 -

Resident, Cumberland

27



Median Annual Wages for RI's Most Common Jobs, 2023



### Housing Stability & Homelessness

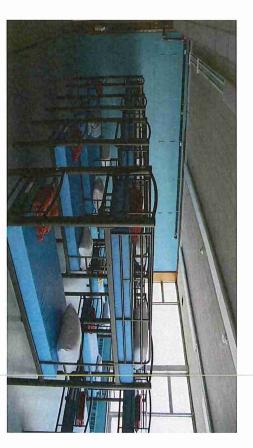
- Residents expressed deep concern about rising levels of homelessness in Rhode Island
- Residents recognized that rising rents, stagnant incomes, and lack of supportive housing options leave many people vulnerable to homelessness.

"It is WAY too expensive. People with jobs are just one mishap away from homelessness."

Resident, Cranston

"Rents keep going up, pay stays the same...l could end up homeless, sad to have to live in that fear."

Resident, East Providence



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### **New Construction of Homes**

### GOAL: Permit 15,000 new homes over five years

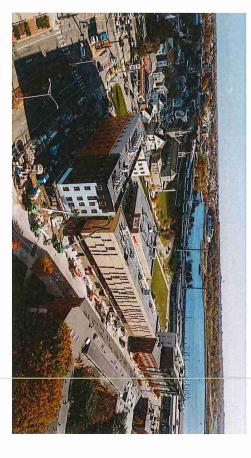
### Why this goal?

- Increasing the construction of new homes will help ease existing affordability challenges
- Key part of the solution for creating communities where our children and grandchildren can afford to live
- New construction encourages economic growth and supports our workforce
- What kind of housing is important (see additional goals on following slides)

### How will we get there?

- Encourage and incentivize zoning reform and removal of other regulatory barriers to new construction
- Invest in infrastructure, new development, adaptive reuse, and home repair

Draft content for discussion



- Establish housing production goals for municipalities
- Expand partnerships to meet housing goals
- I 30 I RHODE

# **Affordable Rentals**

# GOAL: Finance 2,250 new rental units for low- and moderate- income Rhode Islanders over 5 years

# Why this goal?

- Provide housing options that the private market are not currently offering
- Reduce cost burdens on existing and new renter households
- Deed restricted rental units ensure a level of affordability that lasts for decades
- Inclusive of permanent supportive housing and extremely low-income targets (described on the next slide)

# How will we get there?

- Build upon recent state actions including the State low-income housing tax credit and 2024 affordable housing bond
- Additional strategies are needed
- Reduce costs of development with zoning and regulatory reforms
- Unlock additional federal resources with greater use of 4% low-income housing tax credits
- Continue State LIHTC and make additional investments (e.g., a 2026 housing bond) to provide additional needed funding

Draft content for discussion



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# Permanent supportive and extremely low-income housing

# Why this goal? GOAL: Including financing for 375 new PSH and 500 new ELI units over five years

# Dermanent cumportive housing (DCH) reduce

- Permanent supportive housing (PSH) reduces chronic homelessness by providing stable housing coupled with supportive services
- Improves communities by helping the most vulnerable and reducing need for emergency responses to homelessness
- Extremely low-income (ELI) homes support vulnerable Rhode Islanders including seniors and those with disabilities

# How will we get there?

- Set aside funds for PSH and ELI in documents guiding tax credit allocation
- Provide resources for capacity building to help communities build the capital, create strong partnerships to ensure long-term project success operating and services financing required, navigate permitting/zoning, and
- Create state reporting tools to include municipal goals/progress on ending homelessness





Crossroads PSH units on Summer Street, Providence

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# Homeownership

# GOAL: Create<sup>1</sup> 1,000 new low-cost homeownership units over five years

# Why this goal?

- Homeownership is an important tool for household wealth building and community development
- than \$400,000) Market is currently not producing these homes (homes that cost less
- An average of 90 homes at this price point were built in Rhode Island over the last three years
- and those starting out. Emphasize a range of unit options that meet the needs of families

# How will we get there?

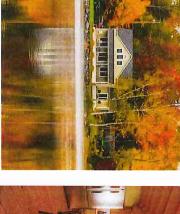
- Implement zoning and regulatory reforms to unlock development options and reduce cost
- Invest in infrastructure including in proximity to transit to enable new housing opportunities and reduce costs of development
- Partner with a modular construction firm via bulk purchase/pre-buy agreement for lower-cost homes with limited design options at discounted rates

# Draft content for discussion

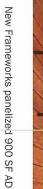
1. Defined as units financed and units for sale (deduplicated)

with compressed straw bale exterior walls

New Frameworks panelized 900 SF ADU



Huntington volumetric modular home in Vermon



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# ADUs and Other Middle-Market Housing

# GOAL: Triple ADUs permitted and increase other middle-market housing units permitted by 50% by 2030

# Why this goal?

- ADUs provide lower cost options for families, individuals, and seniors looking to downsize or purchase a smaller home
- Middle-market housing units (duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes) are more likely to be lower cost and provide density to develop walkable communities

# How will we get there?

### ADUs

- Recent ADU by right legislation is estimated to create most new units
- Pre-approved ADU designs and ADU financing would reduce costs

# Duplexes and 3- and 4-plexes

- Reduce zoning and other barriers that effectively prohibit middle-market housing
- By right zoning for this housing type in some areas
- Reduce minimum lot sizes and reduce parking requirements or allow flexibility in meeting requirements
- Anticipated to require more time to make progress than ADUs

# Draft content for discussion

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# **Preservation Goal**

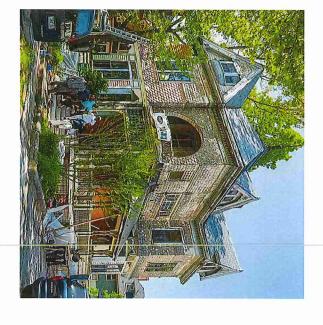
# Goal: Prevent the loss of affordable units

# Why this goal?

- Preserving existing deed restricted affordable units ensures that Rhode Island retains affordability already invested in
- No current comprehensive database of upcoming expiring affordability restrictions
- Home repair programs help maintain physical structures and keep homeowners in their homes

# How will we get there?

- Improve data on existing deed restricted properties
- Work with developers to develop long-term plans for existing properties
- Investments in home repair programs and capital repairs for affordable rentals
- Support home energy efficiency improvements
- Explore ways to boost capital reserves and duration of affordability requirements



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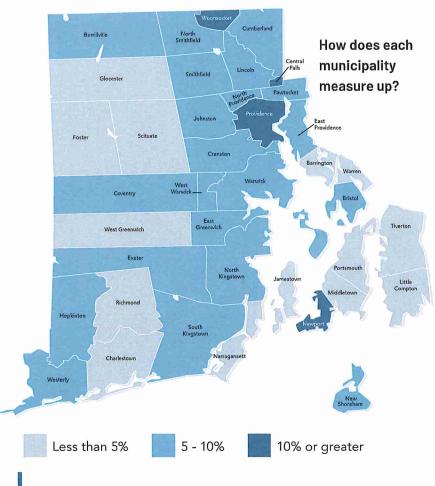
Draft content for discussion

### Attachment 3

Progress towards long-term affordable homes per HousingWorksRI's 2024 Housing Fact Book

### PROGRESS TOWARD LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE HOMES"

Rhode Island State Law 45-53 was first passed in 1991. It was designed to address housing unaffordability by establishing a goal that 10 percent of every city or town's housing stock qualify as Low- and Moderate-Income Housing (LMIH). The 10 percent is defined as "consistent with local needs"<sup>49</sup> yet in actuality local housing needs have turned out to be far higher: statewide, 26 percent of owner households and 48 percent of renter households today are cost burdened. In addition, the calculation used in the legislation skews results such that the state's larger cities are not required to meet the state's goal; this has been a subject of discussion among housing advocates.



Four of Rhode Island's 39 communities meet the 10% goal: Central Falls, Newport, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Municipality	Overall LMIH as % of Year- round Housing	Needed To Hit 10%
Barrington	3.51%	406
Bristol	5.69%	400
Burrillville	9.76%	16
Central Falls	10.02%	Achieved
Charlestown	3.50%	241
Coventry	5.06%	726
Cranston	5.30%	1,600
Cumberland	5.5 <mark>4%</mark>	667
East Greenwich	6.57%	187
East Providence	9.56%	96
Exeter	7.28%	70
Foster	1.98%	146
Glocester	2.34%	308
Hopkinton	6.76%	114
Jamestown	4.42%	146
Johnston	7.91%	261
Lincoln	6.76%	307
Little Compton	0.53%	161
Middletown	4.80%	391
Narragansett	3.79%	451
New Shoreham	7.53%	18
Newport	15.64% <mark></mark>	Achieved
North Kingstown	8.57%	169
North Providence	6.37%	576
North Smithfield	7.81%	117
Pawtucket	8.21%	603
Portsmouth	2.66%	562
Providence	14.31%	Achieved
Richmond	3.36%	206
Scituate	0.87%	387
Smithfield	5.44%	361
South Kingstown	5.20%	557
Tiverton	4.26%	429
Warren	<b>3.84</b> %	331
Warwick	5.37%	1,763
West Greenwich	1.69%	211
West Warwick	8.83%	168
Westerly	5.02%	545
Woonsocket	15.37%	Achieved

### Attachment 4

Community specific housing conditions per HousingWorksRI's 2024 Housing Fact Book

# LOCAL HOUSING FACTS

HousingWorks RI @ RWU | 2024 Housing Fact Book

### **MUNICIPAL PAGES OVERVIEW**

Since the passage of a number of new laws regarding local land use in 2023, many municipalities have updated their ordinances accordingly and some have deployed new strategies to encourage housing development. As these changes are implemented, it is critical to track their effects on housing creation and rehabilitation, and any corollary influences on overall affordability and cost burdens.

The development and rehabilitation of new and older homes will depend on a mix of factors specific to each of Rhode Island's 39 municipalities. Considerations of multifamily zoning by right, parking minimums, and accessory dwelling units are challenging municipal officials to think differently about their community's needs.

Rhode Island is not alone in facing these issues. In recognition of the nationwide affordability crisis, the national American Planning Association with the National League of Cities and Towns published the *Housing Supply Accelerator Playbook* to assist with the decision-making necessary at the local level that will drive or impede the development of a larger and more diverse housing stock. Themed as Solutions, Systems, and Partnerships, it acknowledges there is no single solution to increasing housing production, and that many stakeholders must play a role.<sup>51</sup>

### **RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCES**

The ten terms below represent common strategies cited in municipal Comprehensive Plans to support more production of affordable housing. Terms that exist in Rhode Island General Law are cited as such; otherwise, definitions come from the Rhode Island Citizens' Guide to Smart Growth Terms and Concepts, published by the Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative in November 2007, or other sources as noted.

**ADU** ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS §45-24-31(2): Residential living unit on the same lot where the principal use is a legally established single family dwelling or multifamily dwelling unit. An ADU provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons.

**AHTF** AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND: Housing trust funds are distinct funds established by city, county or state governments that receive ongoing dedicated sources of public funding to support the preservation and production of affordable housing and increase opportunities for families and individuals to access decent affordable homes. (Housing Trust Fund Project, Community Change, Portland, OR).

AR ADAPTIVE RE-USE: The conversion of outmoded buildings, including old school buildings and mills, to economically viable new uses.

**CP** COMPREHENSIVE PERMIT §45-53-4: Procedure for approval of construction of low or moderate income housing. (a) Any applicant proposing to build low- or moderate-income housing may submit to the local review board a single application for a comprehensive permit to build that housing in lieu of separate applications to the applicable local boards. This procedure is only available for proposals in which at least 25 percent of the housing is low- or moderate-income housing.

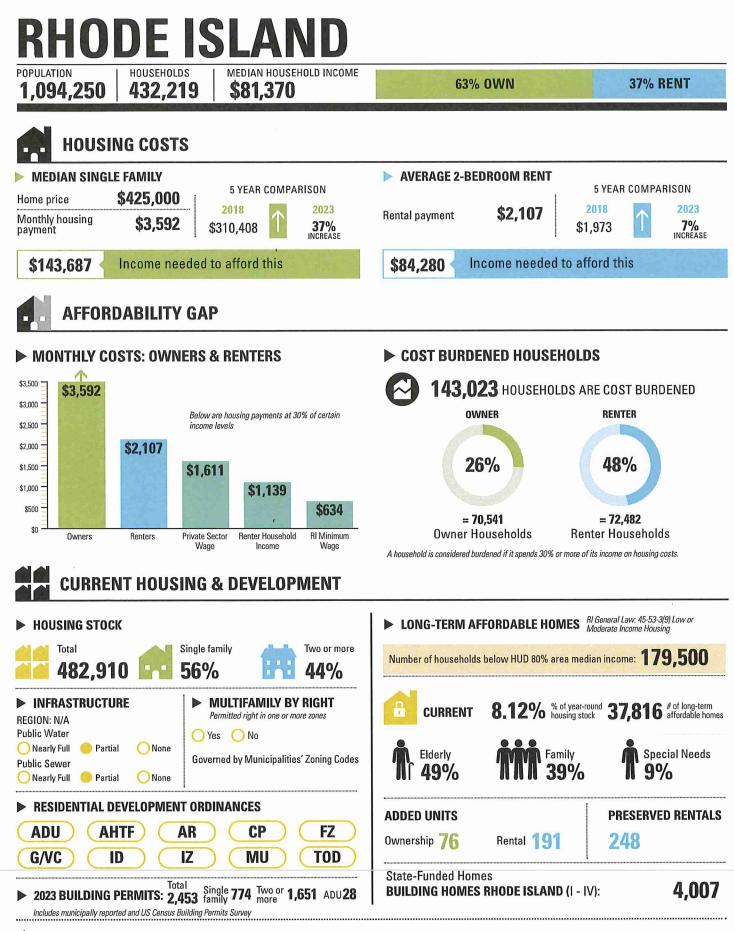
**FZ** FLEXIBLE ZONING / Two types: FLOATING ZONE §45-24-31(28): An unmapped zoning district adopted within the ordinance that is established on the zoning map only when an application for development, meeting the zone requirements, is approved. OVERLAY DISTRICT §45-24-31 (54): A district established in a zoning ordinance that is superimposed on one or more districts or parts of districts. The standards and requirements associated with an overlay district may be more or less restrictive than those in the underlying districts consistent with other applicable state and federal laws. **G/VC** GROWTH/VILLAGE CENTERS: Dynamic and efficient centers for development that have a core of commercial and community services, residential development, and natural and built landmarks and boundaries that provide a sense of place. May differ in size, regional importance, and services provided but share common characteristics such as public and private investments in services, facilities, buildings, transportation, water and wastewater systems; and contain some combination of schools, commercial and industrial buildings, and housing. (Growth Centers, Governor's Growth Planning Council, 2002.)

ID INFILL DEVELOPMENT: Development that takes place within built-up areas on under-utilized or vacant sites. Interest in infill development stems from a desire to channel development into areas that are already served by public facilities, including police, fire, utilities, schools, and transit, to make more efficient use of existing land and infrastructure.

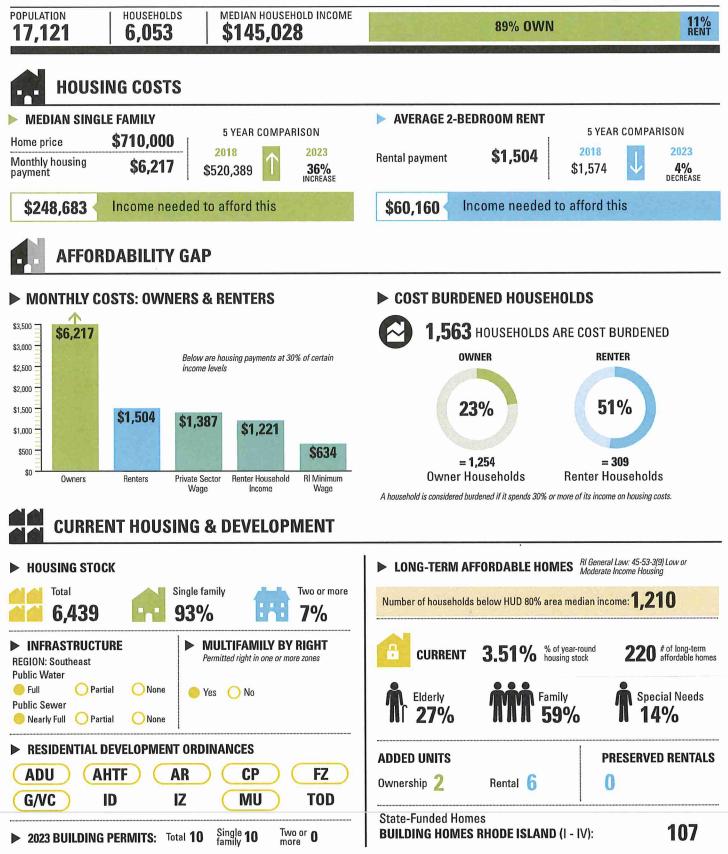
**IZ** INCLUSIONARY ZONING §45-24-46.1(a): A zoning ordinance requiring the inclusion of affordable housing as part of a development shall provide that the housing will be affordable housing, as defined in §42-1288.1(d)(1); that the affordable housing will constitute not less than 15 percent of the total units proposed for the development; and that the units will remain affordable for a period of not less than 30 years from initial occupancy enforced through a land lease and/or deed restriction enforceable by the municipality and the state of Rhode Island.

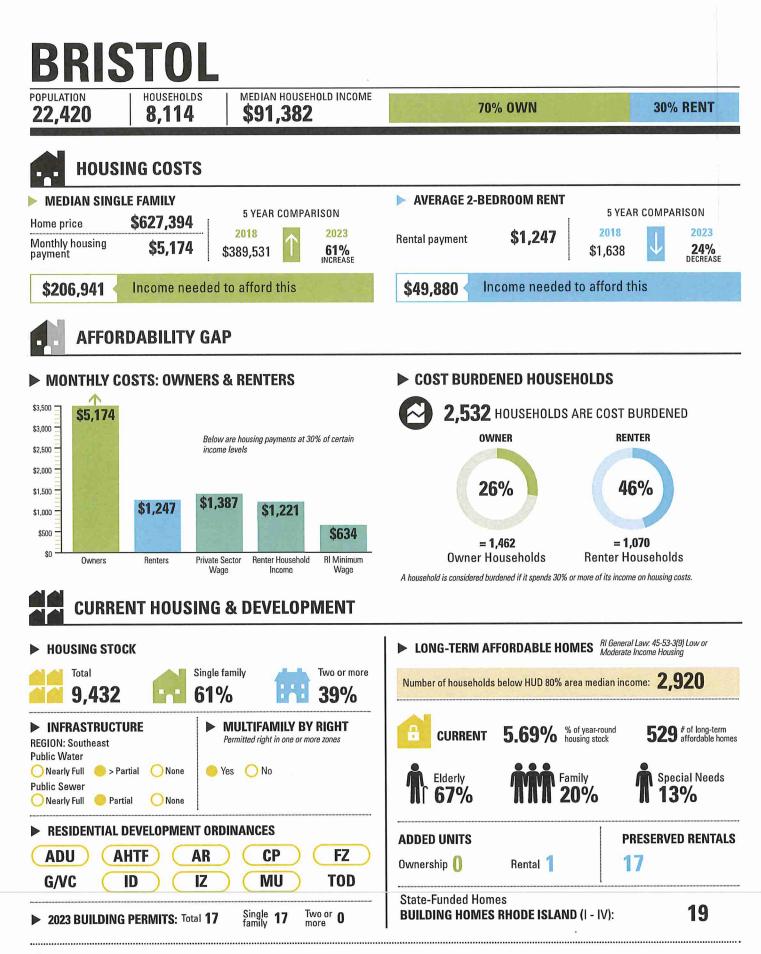
MU MIXED-USE §45-24-31 (51): A mixture of land uses within a single development, building, or tract.

**TOD** TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT: TOD and transit supportive development (TSD) land use planning creates an environment around a transit stop or station that supports pedestrian activities and transit use by providing a mix of uses and relatively dense residential development.

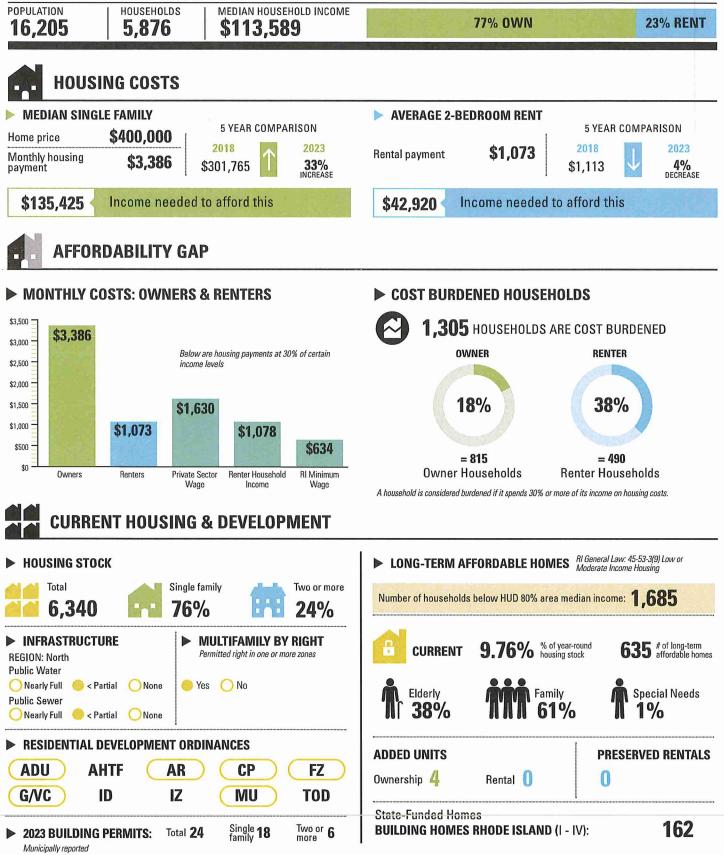


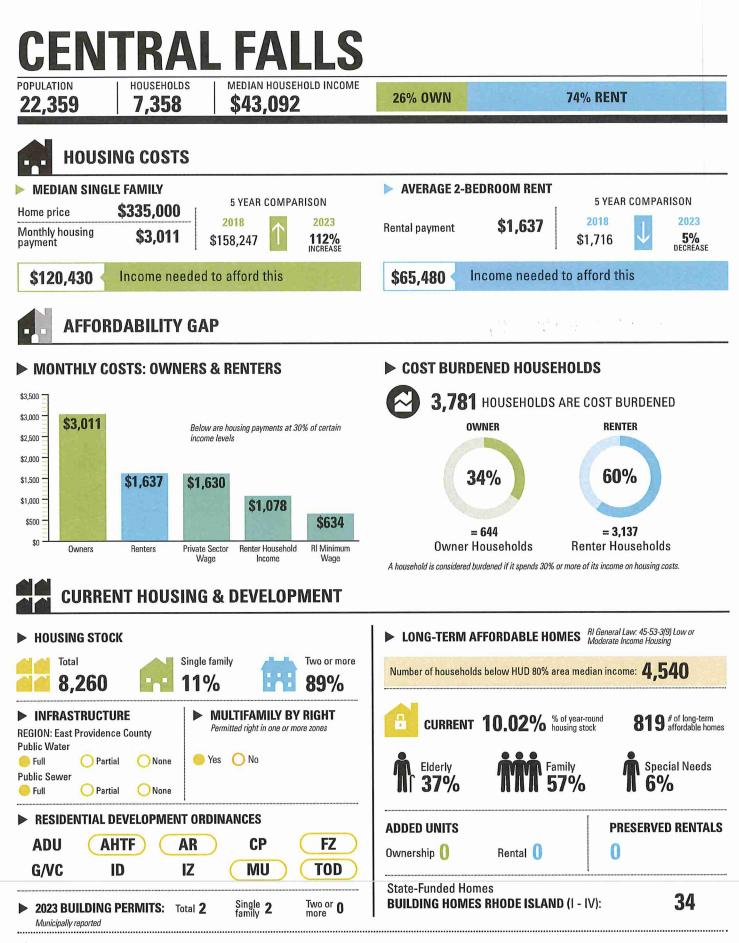
## BARRINGTON



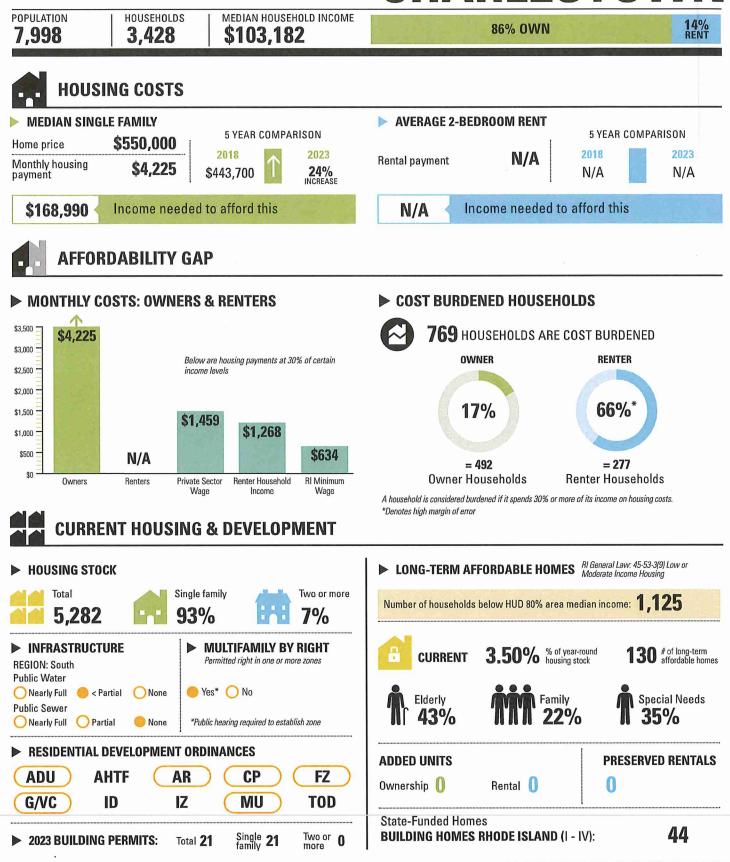


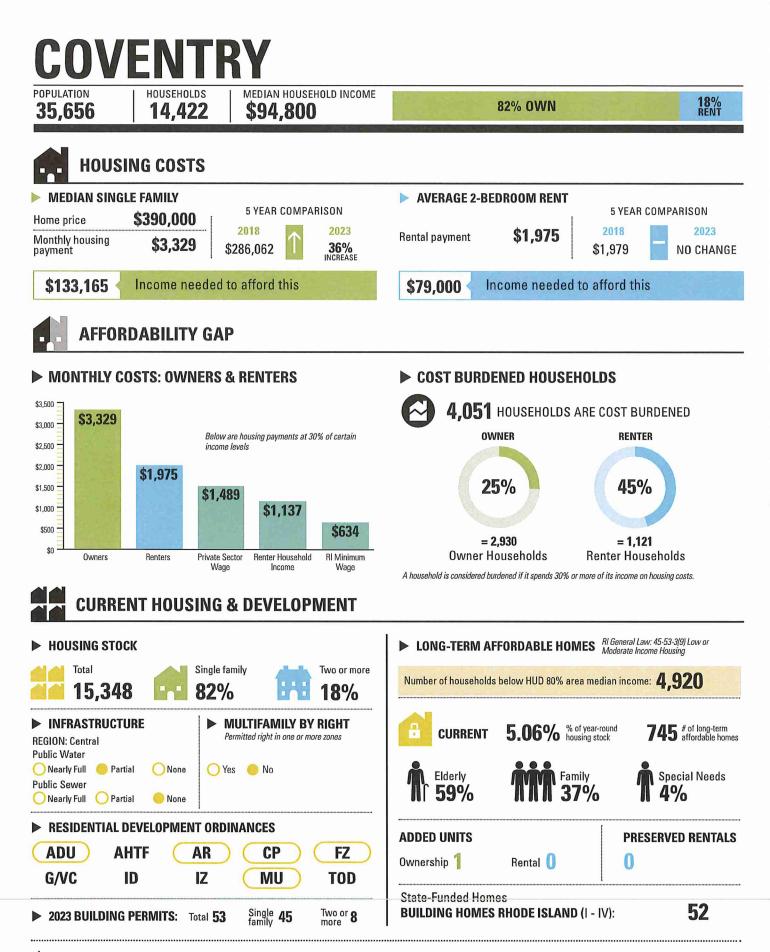
### BURRILLVILLE





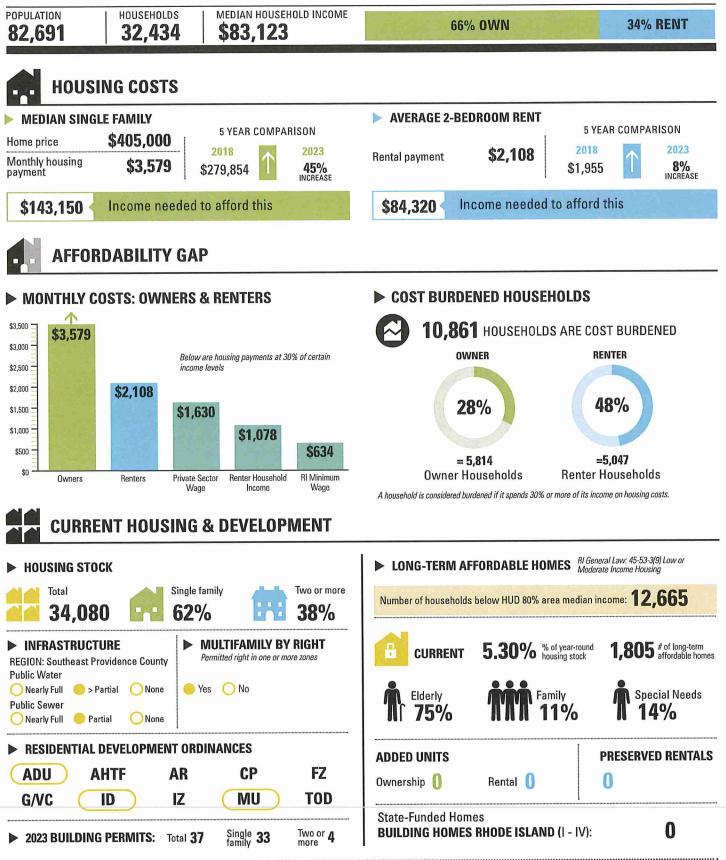
# **CHARLESTOWN**

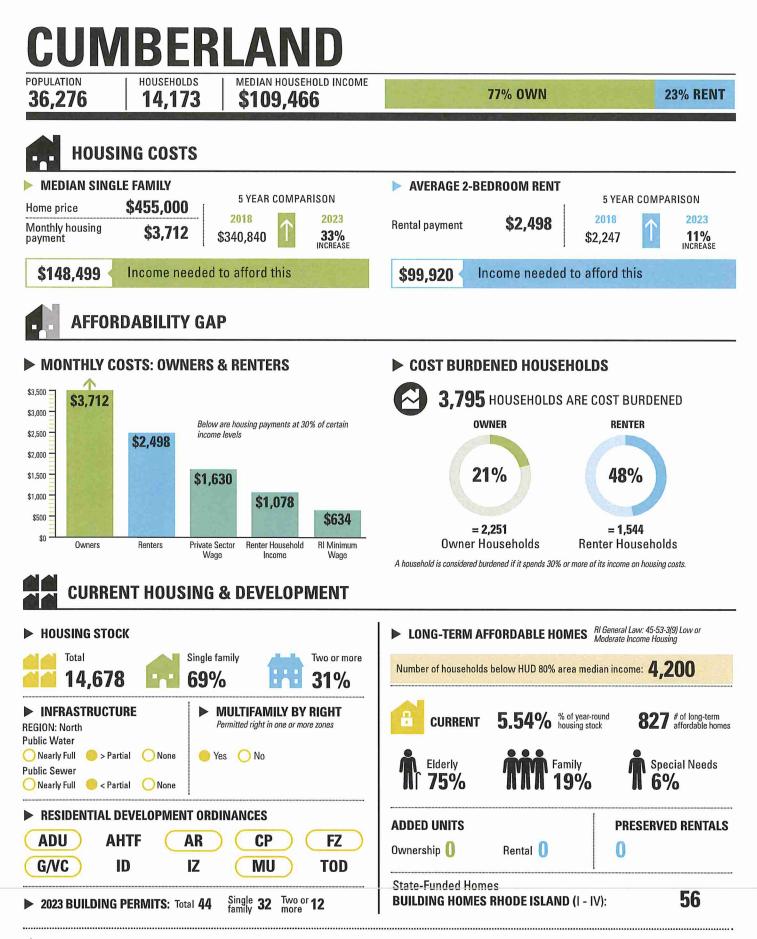




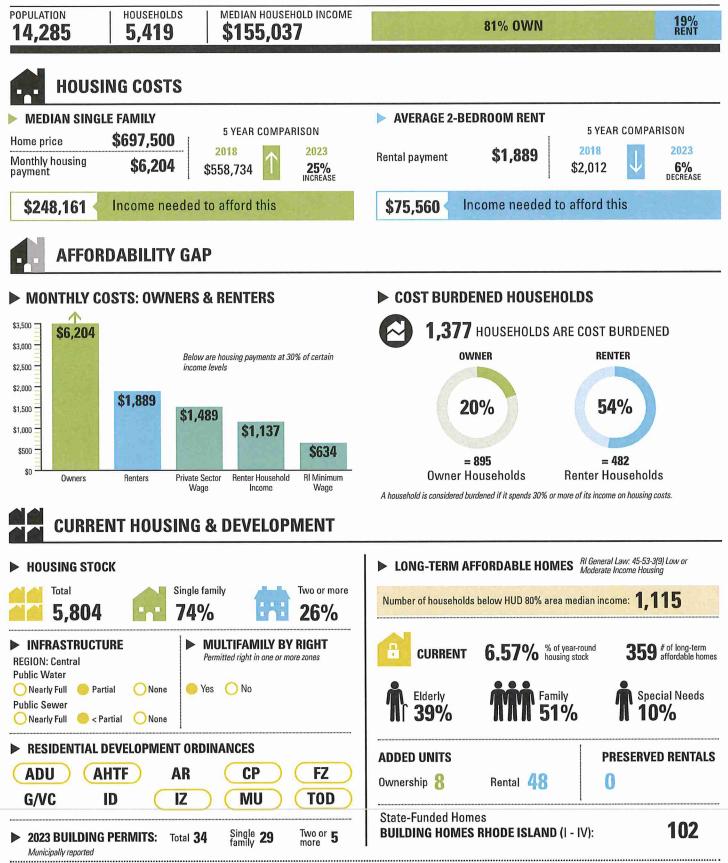
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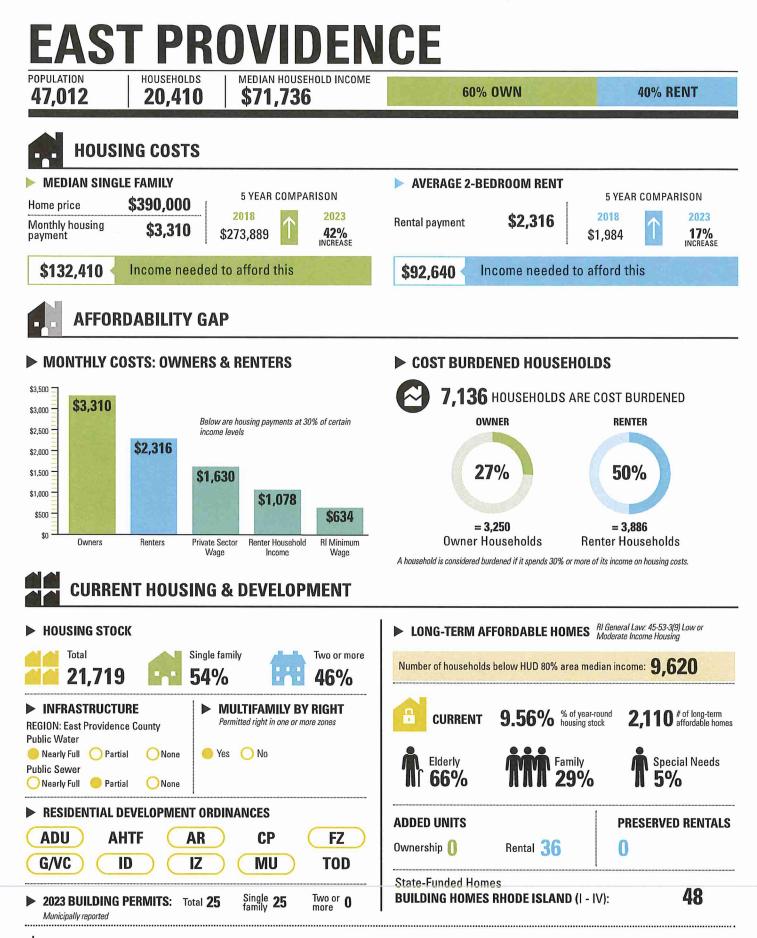
## **CRANSTON**



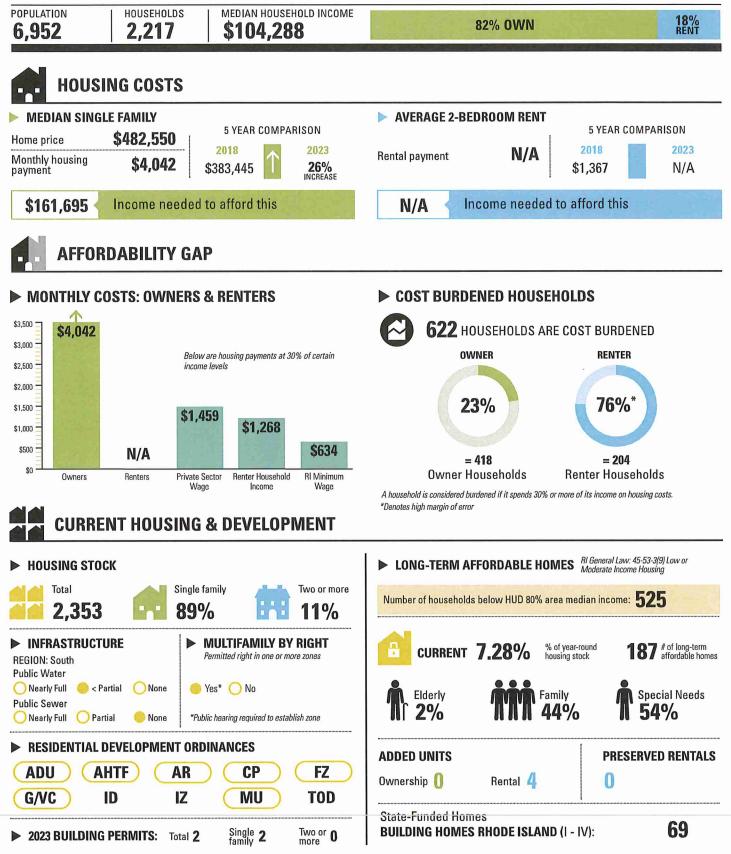


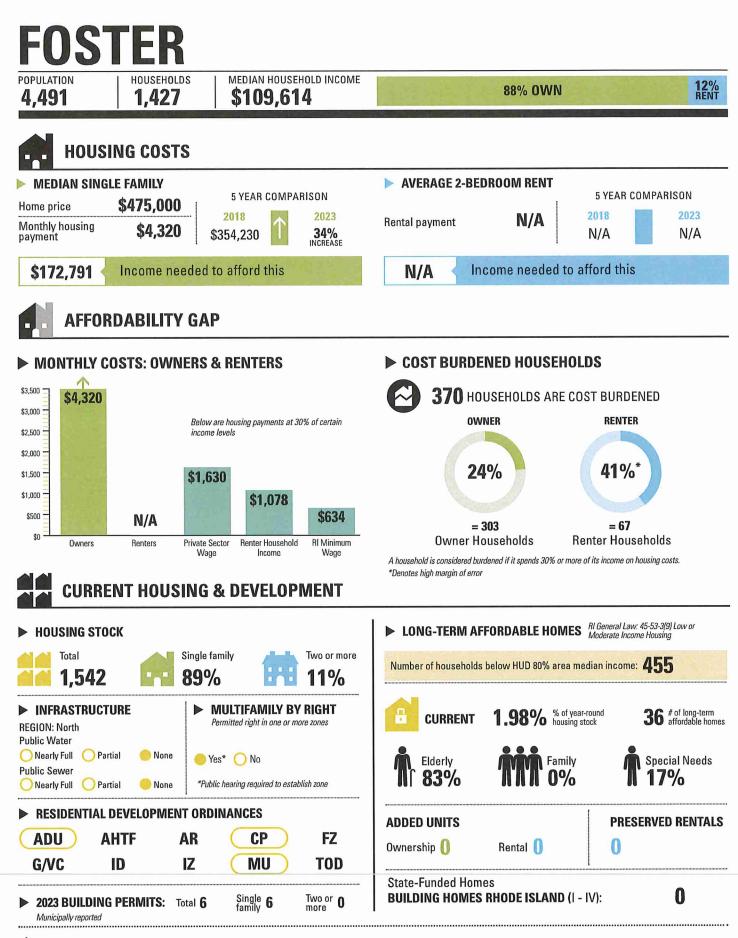
# **EAST GREENWICH**





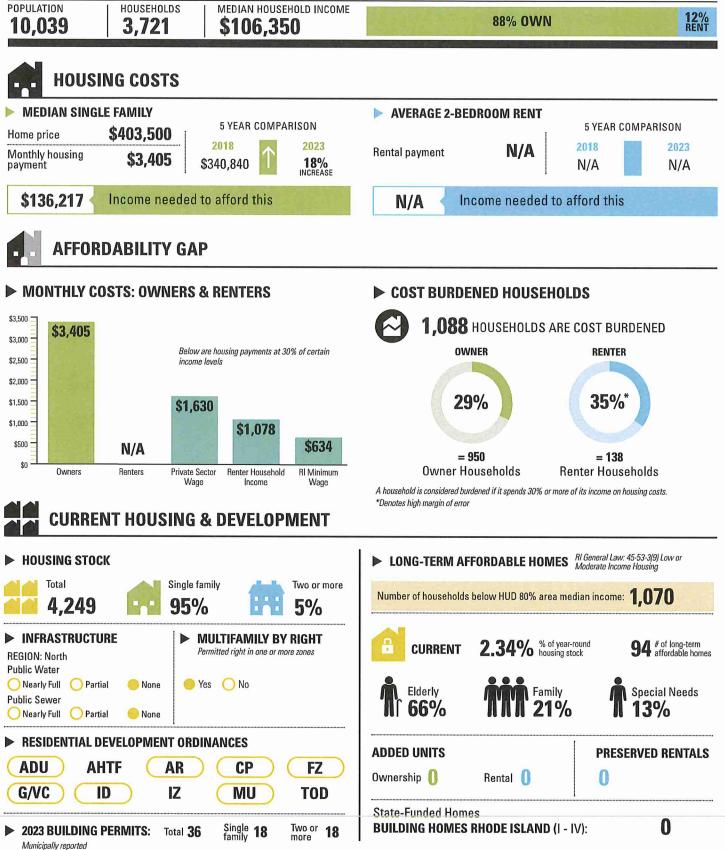
### EXETER

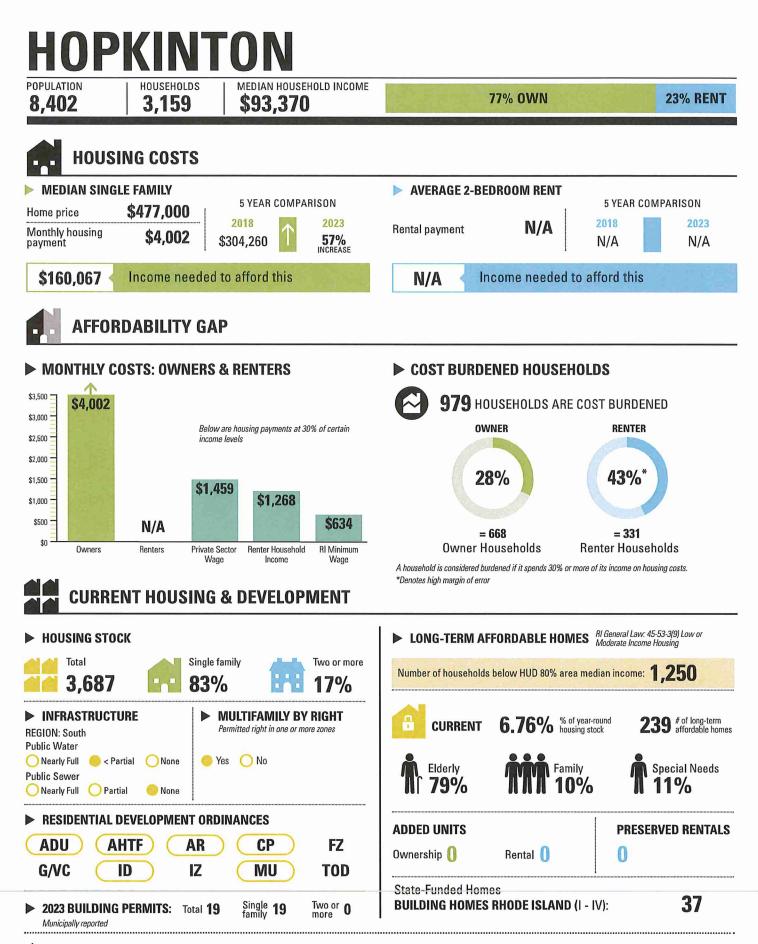




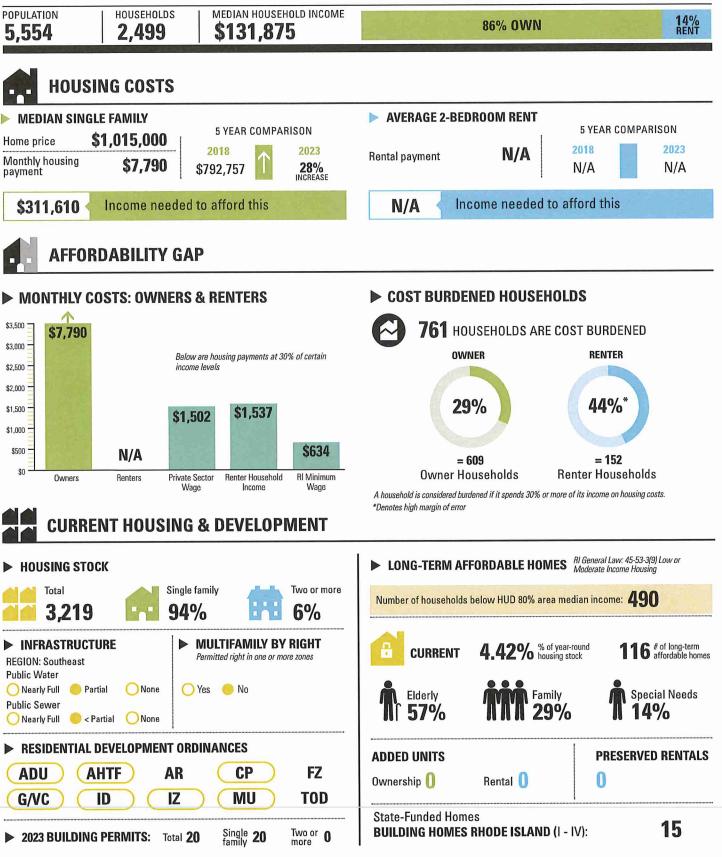
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### **GLOCESTER**

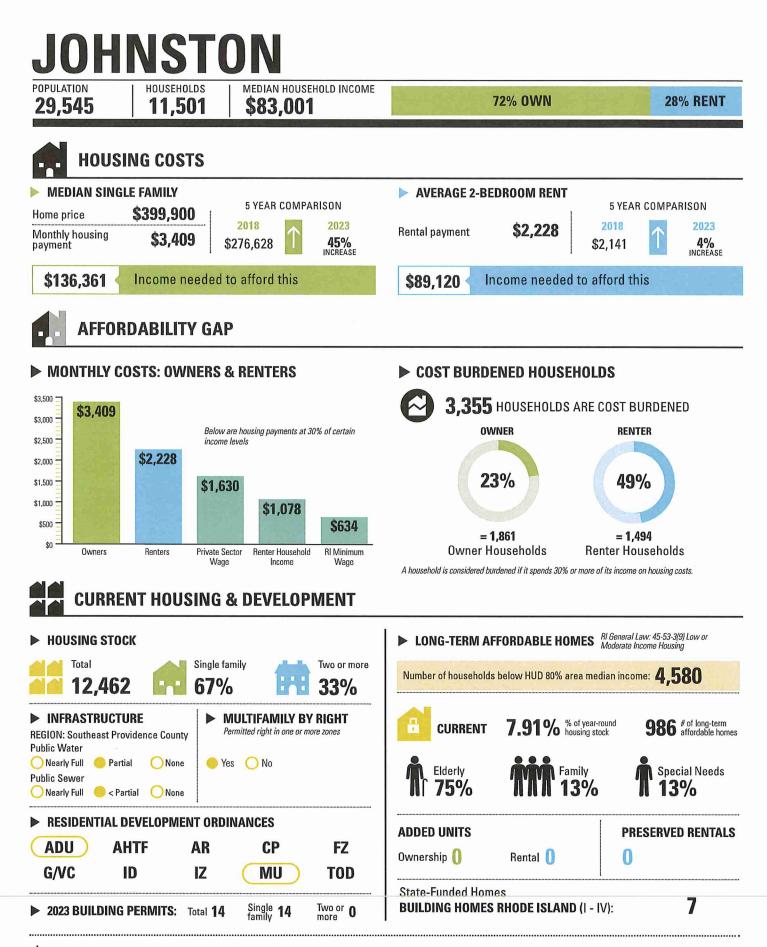




# **JAMESTOWN**

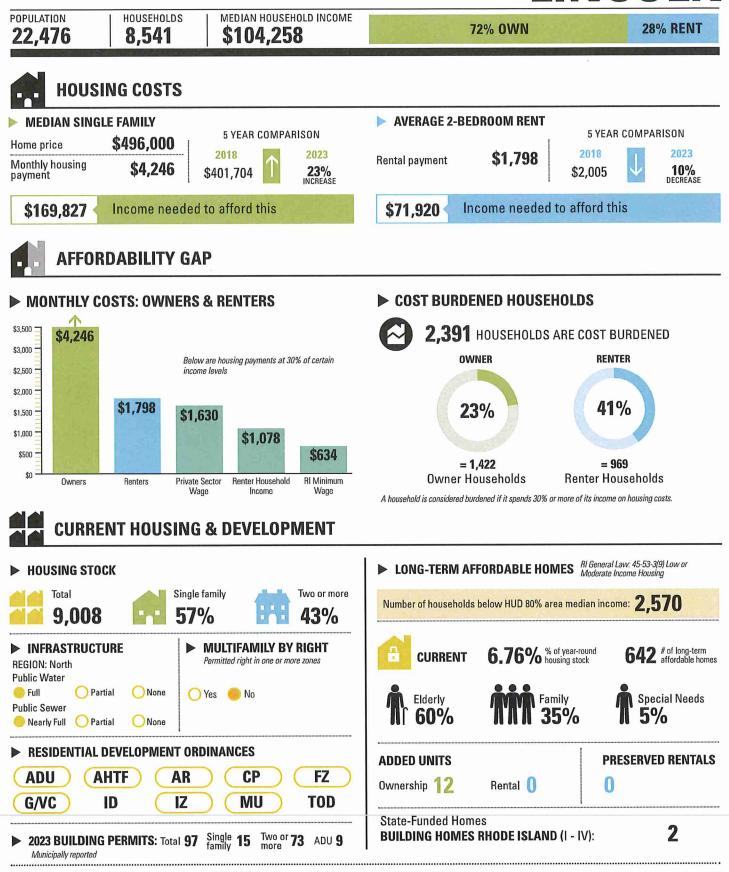


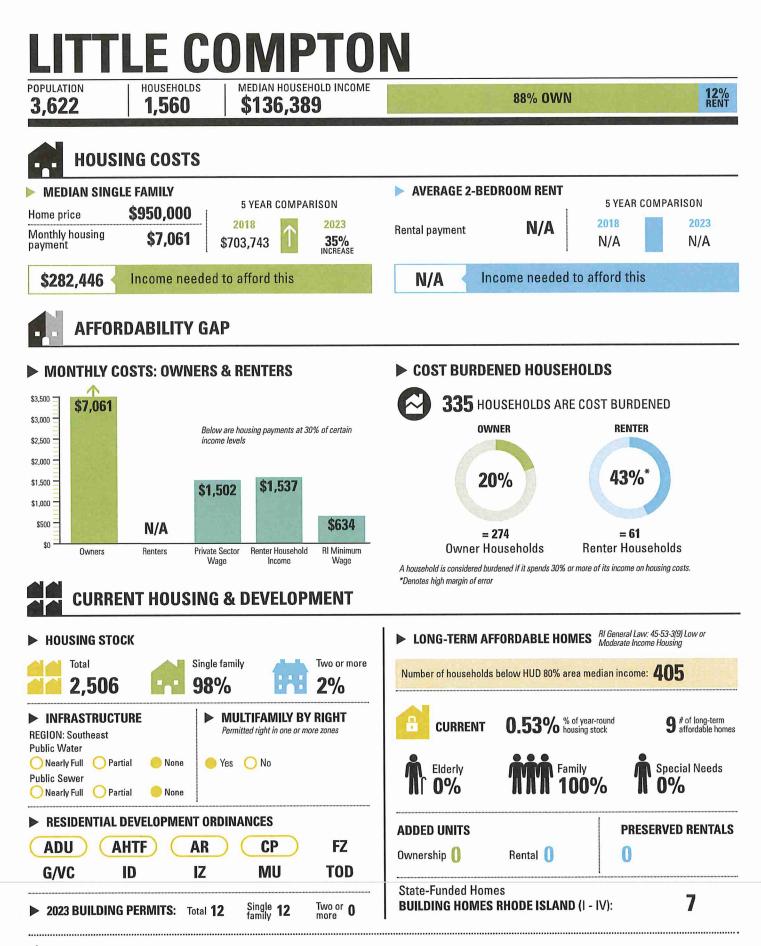
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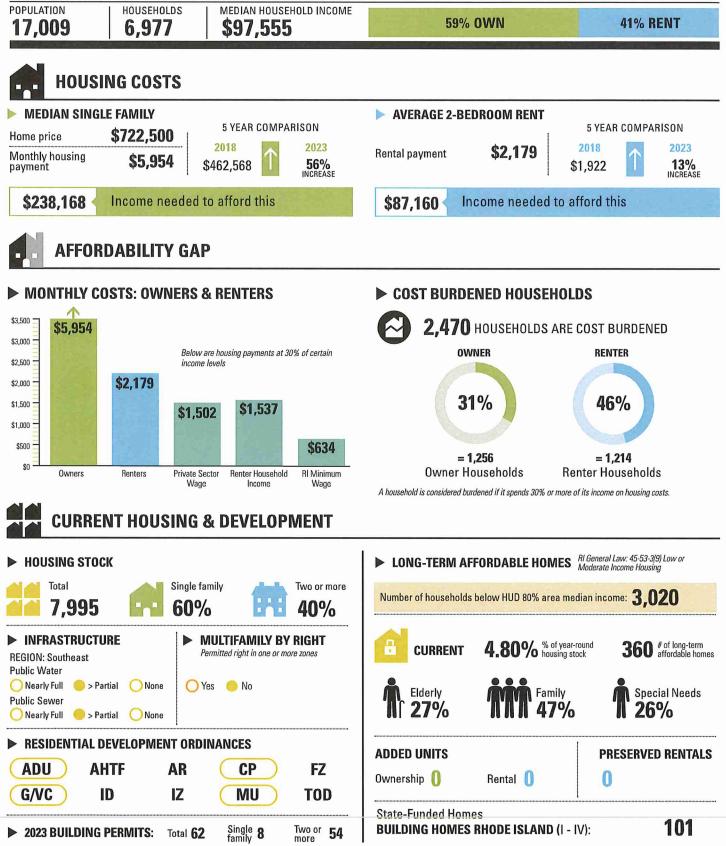
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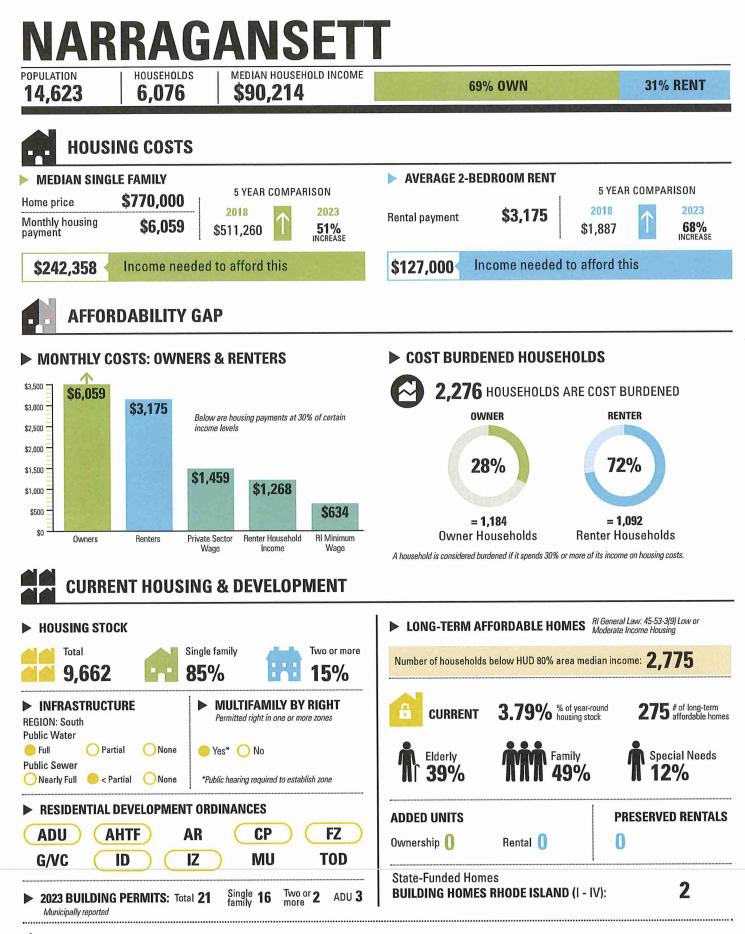
## LINCOLN





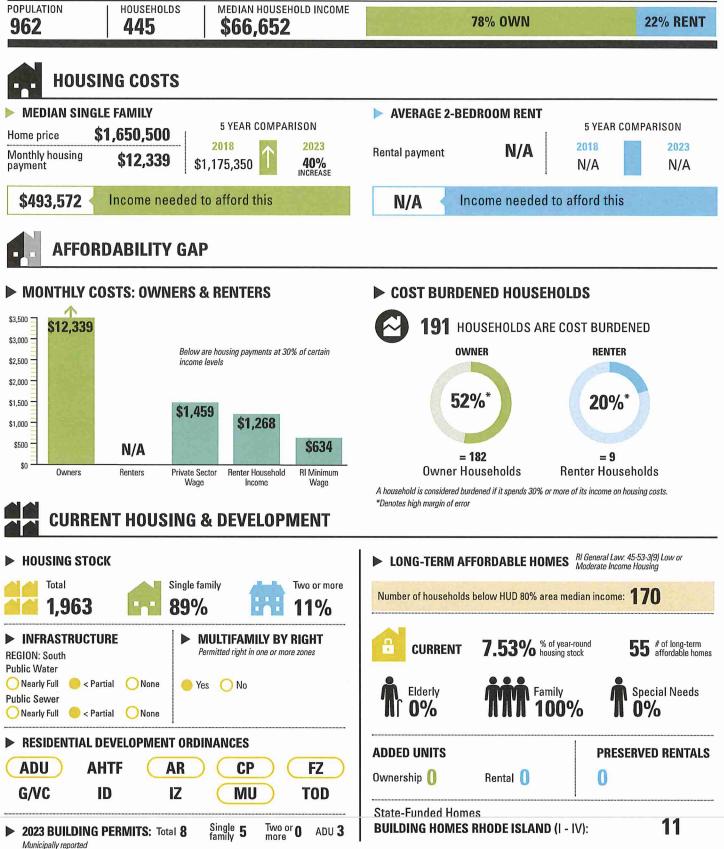
## **MIDDLETOWN**

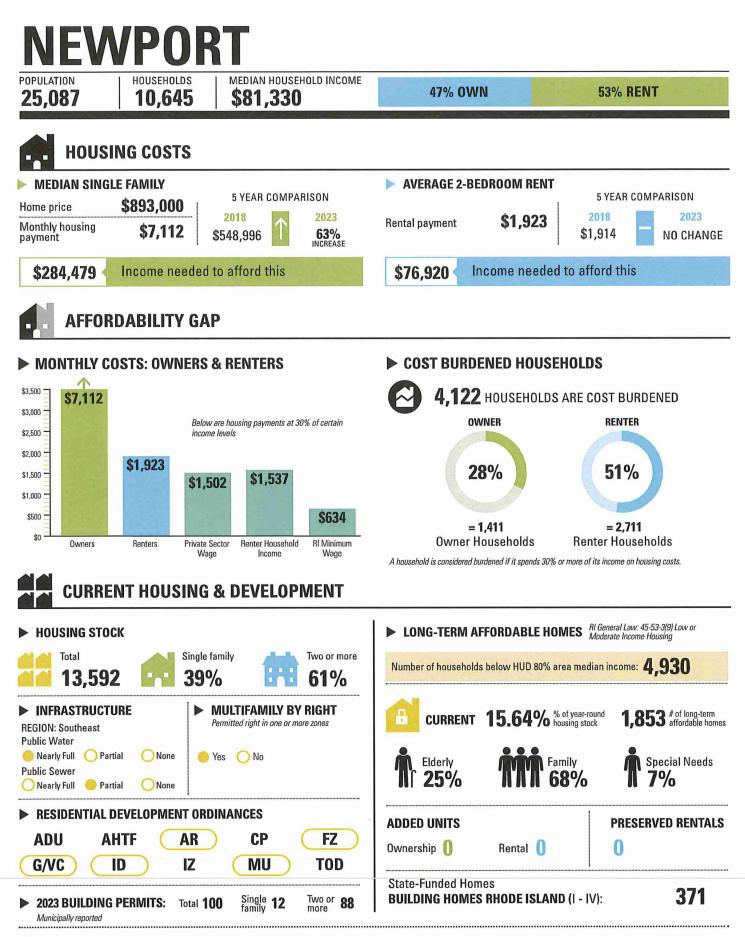




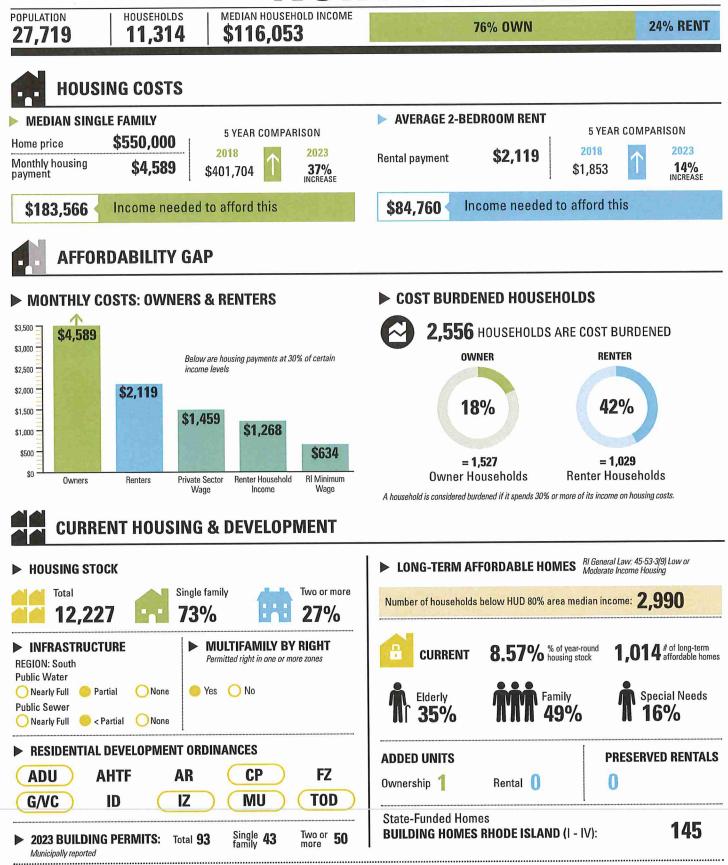
58 2024 Housing Fact Book | HousingWorks RI @ RWU

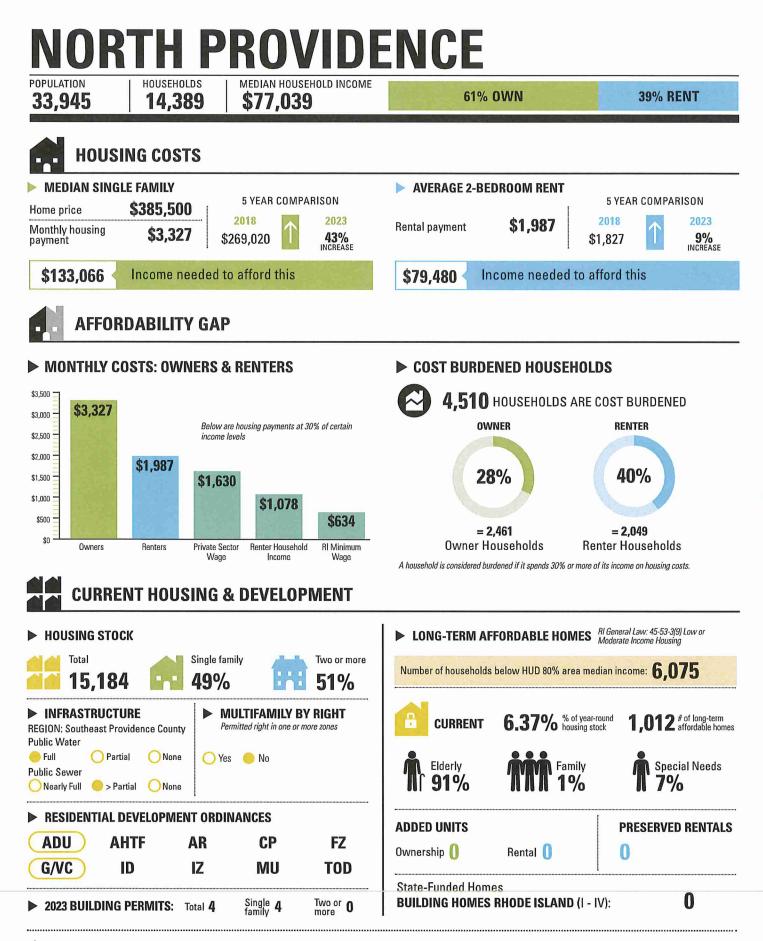
## **NEW SHOREHAM**



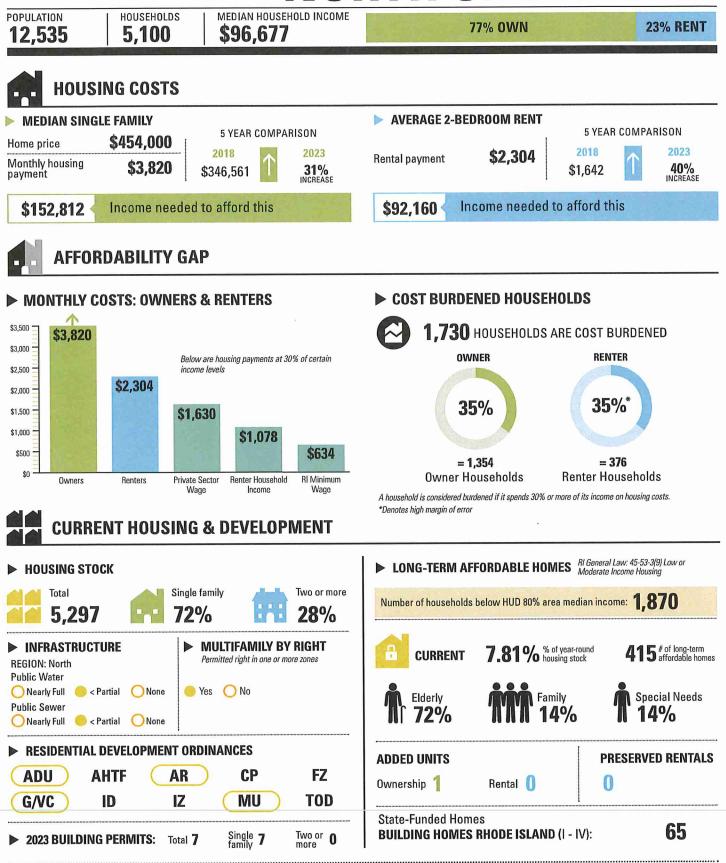


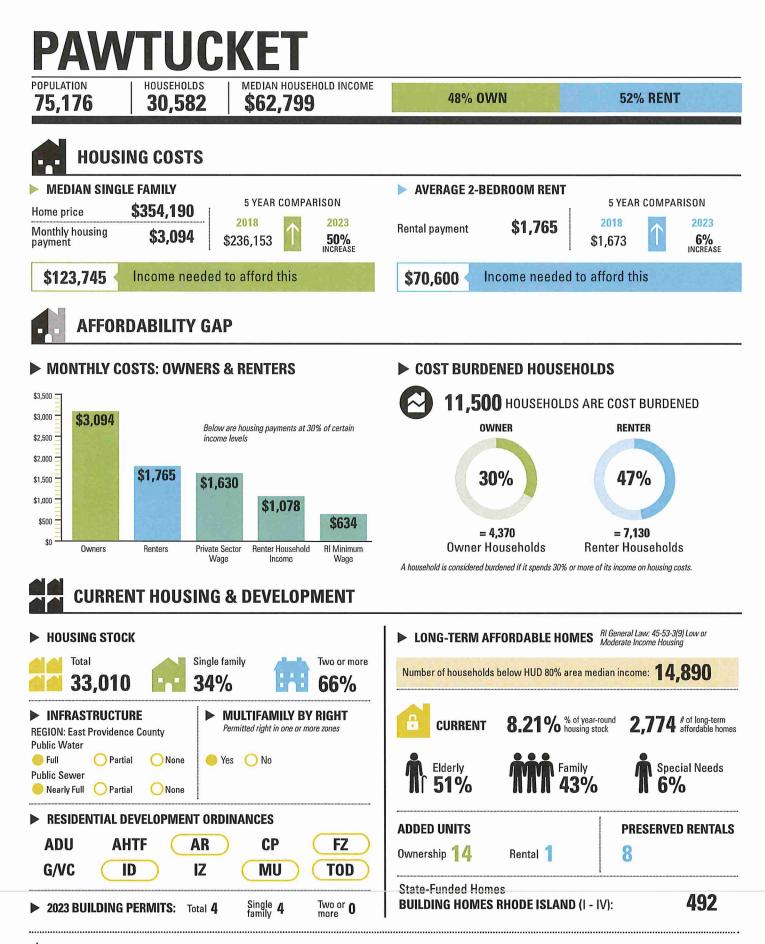
# **NORTH KINGSTOWN**



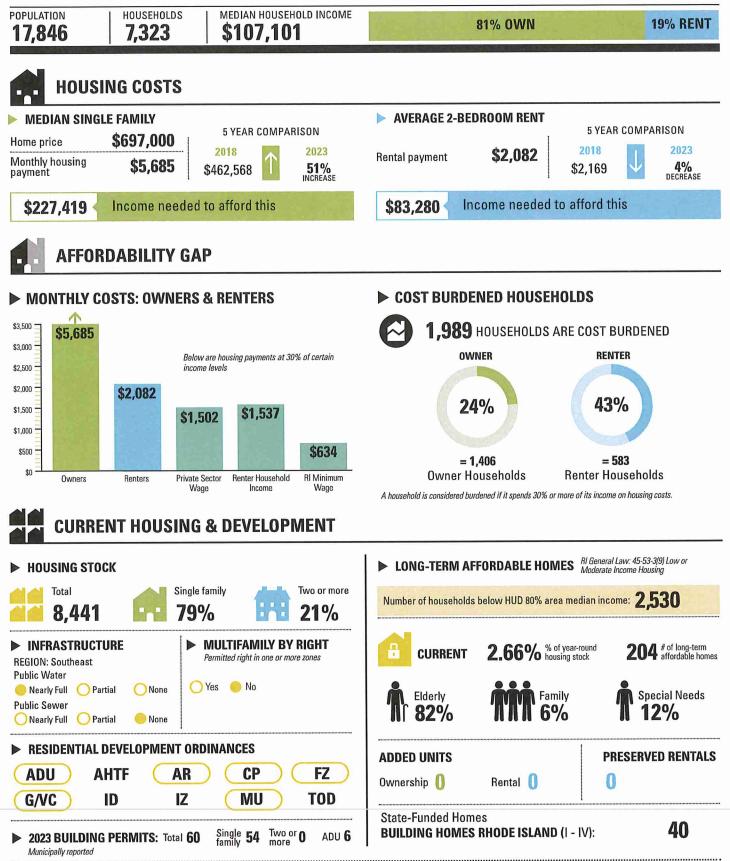


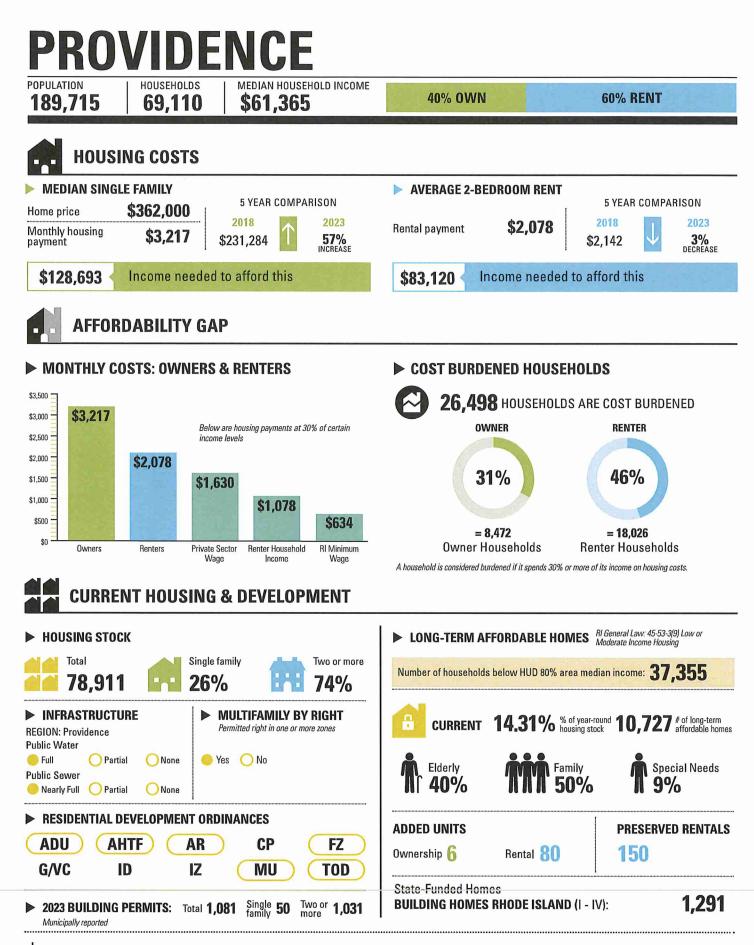
# **NORTH SMITHFIELD**



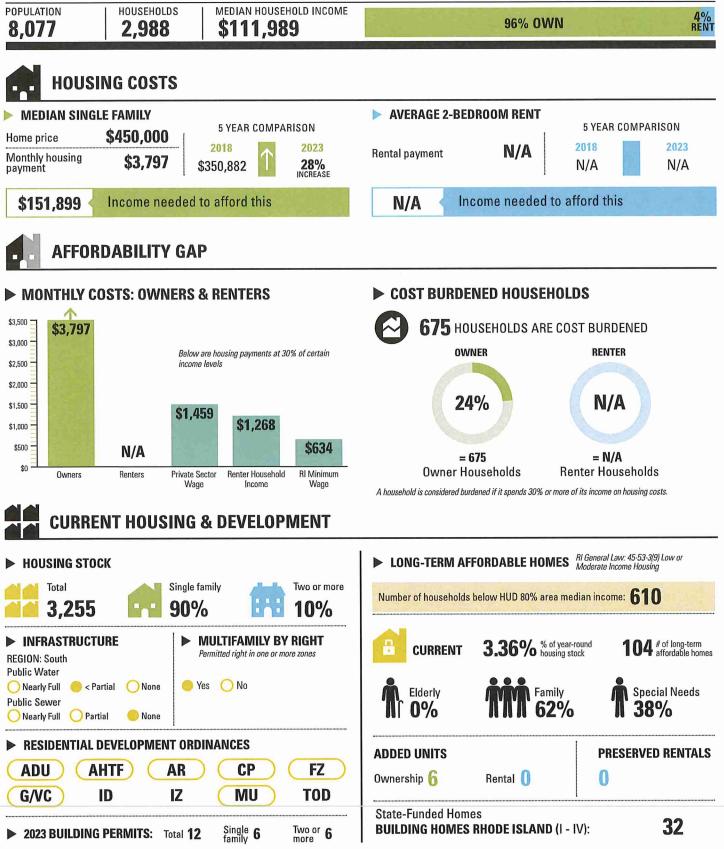


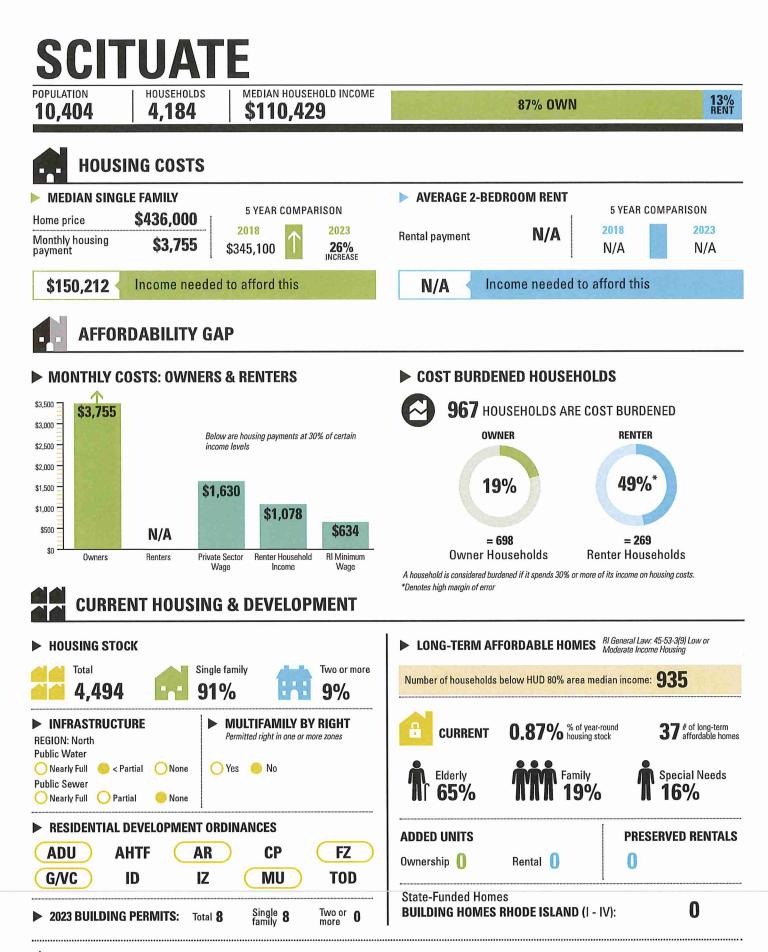
## PORTSMOUTH



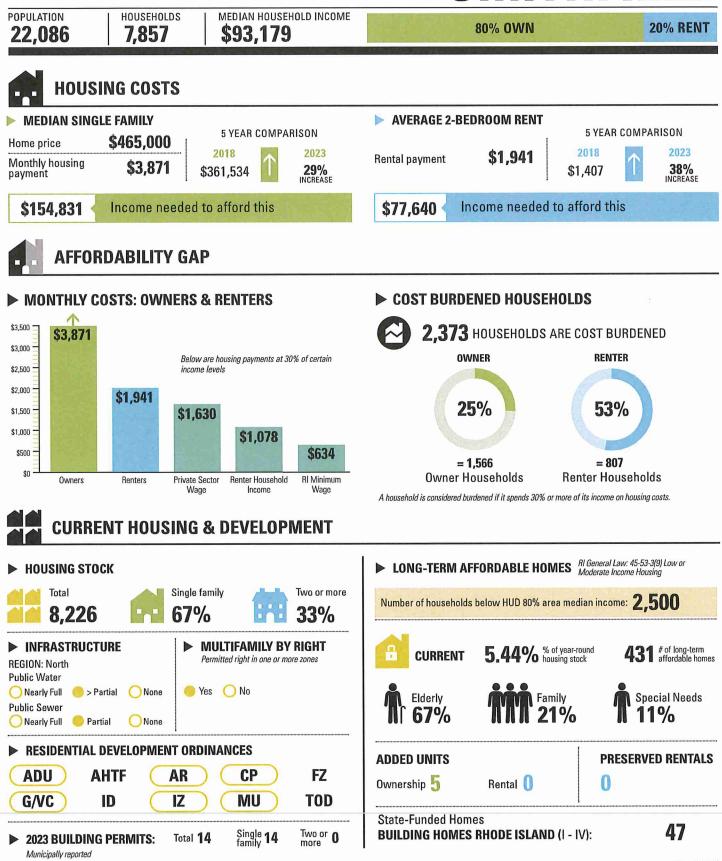


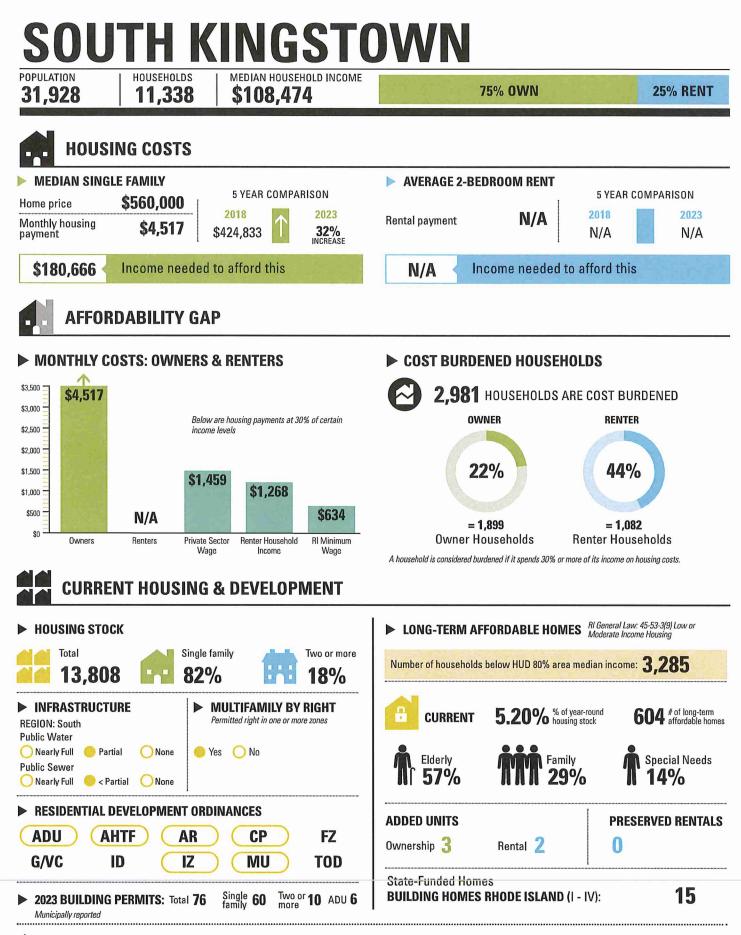
### RICHMOND



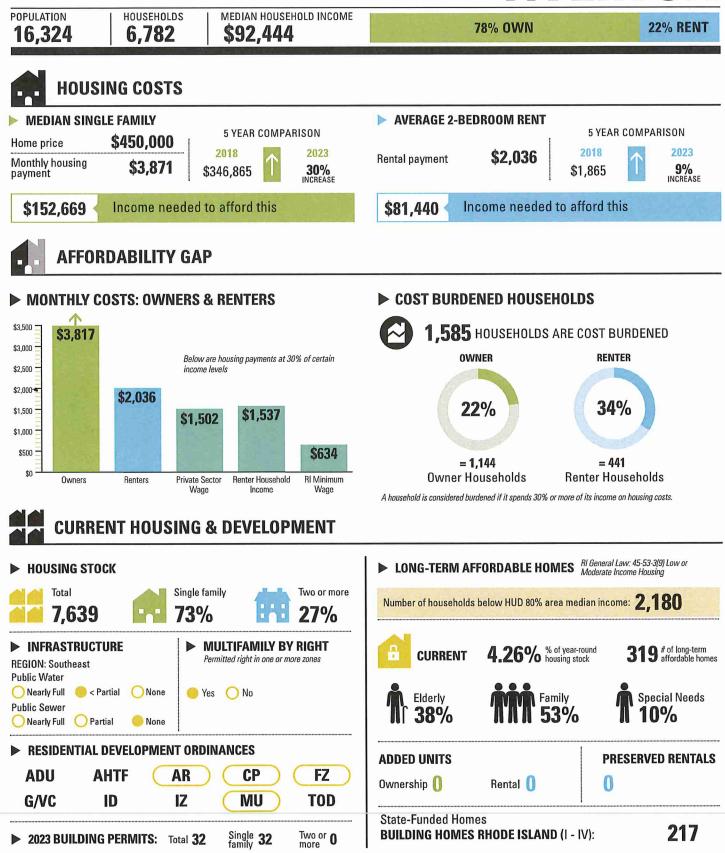


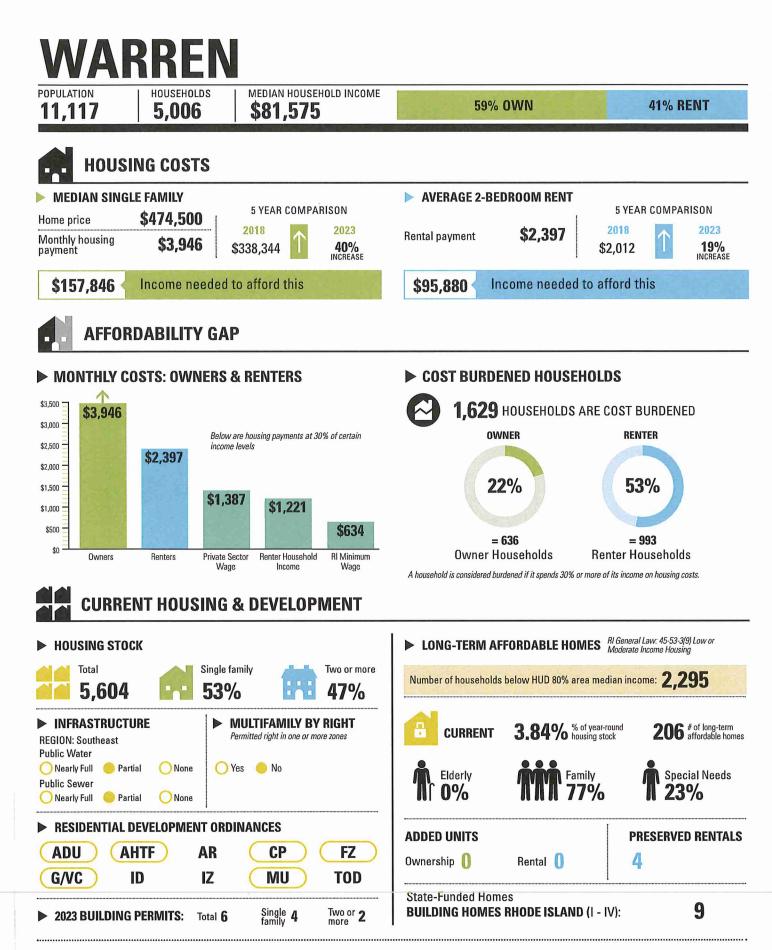
### **SMITHFIELD**



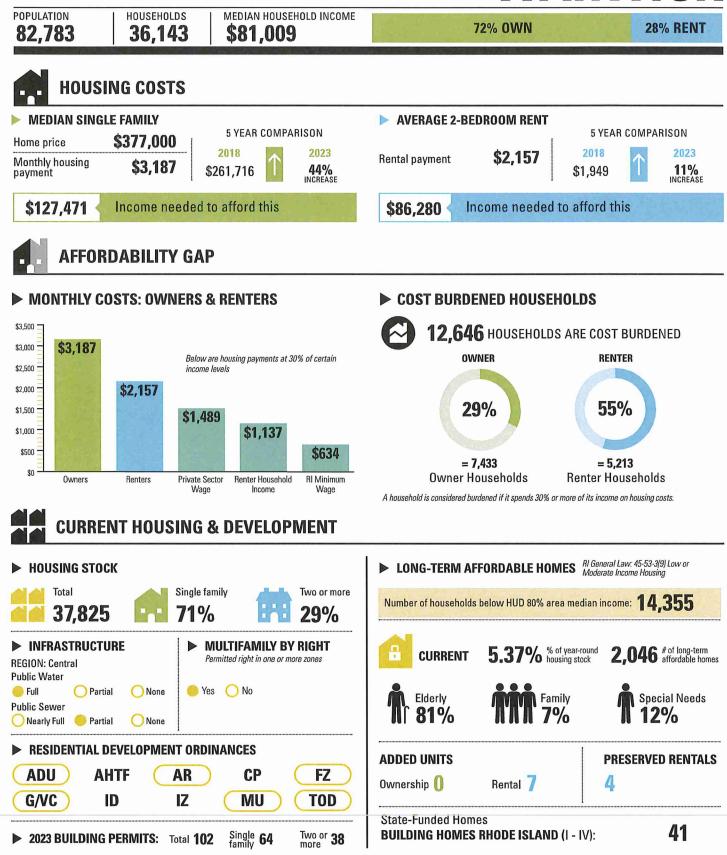


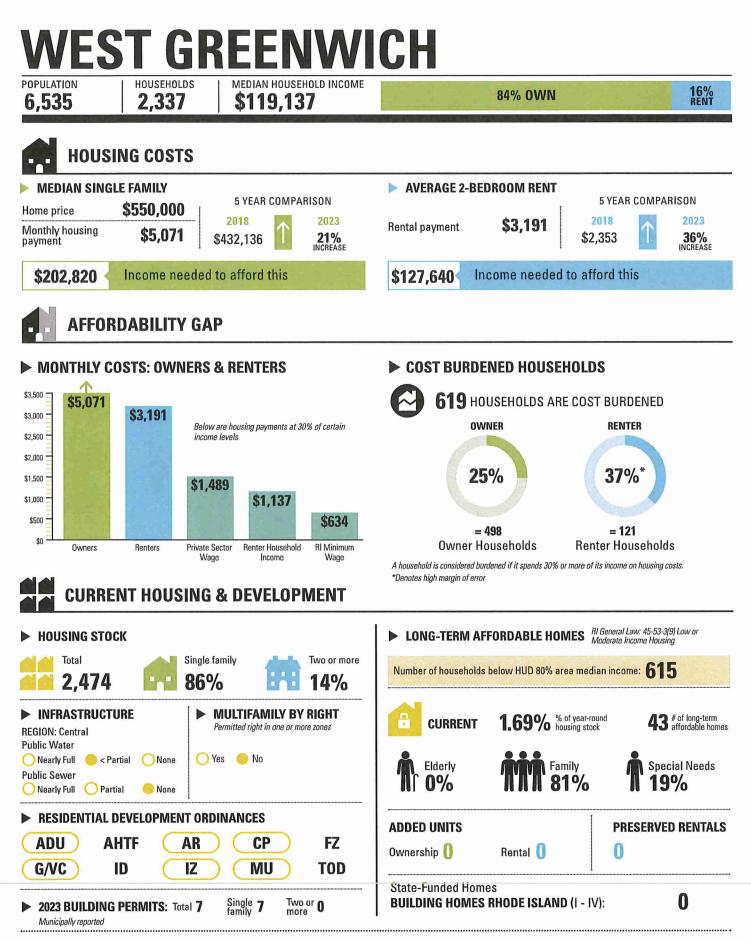
### TIVERTON



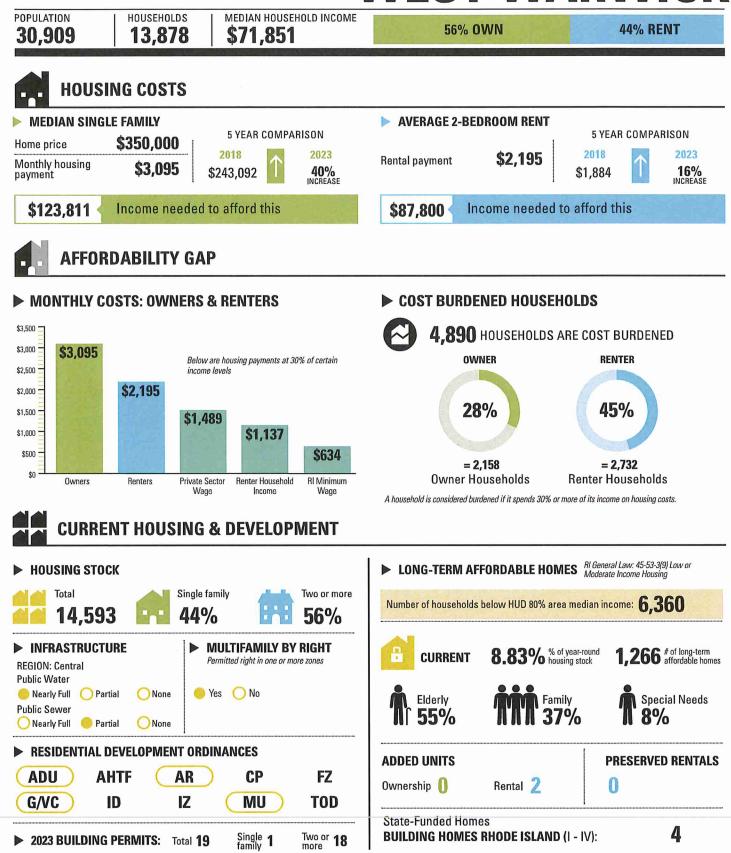


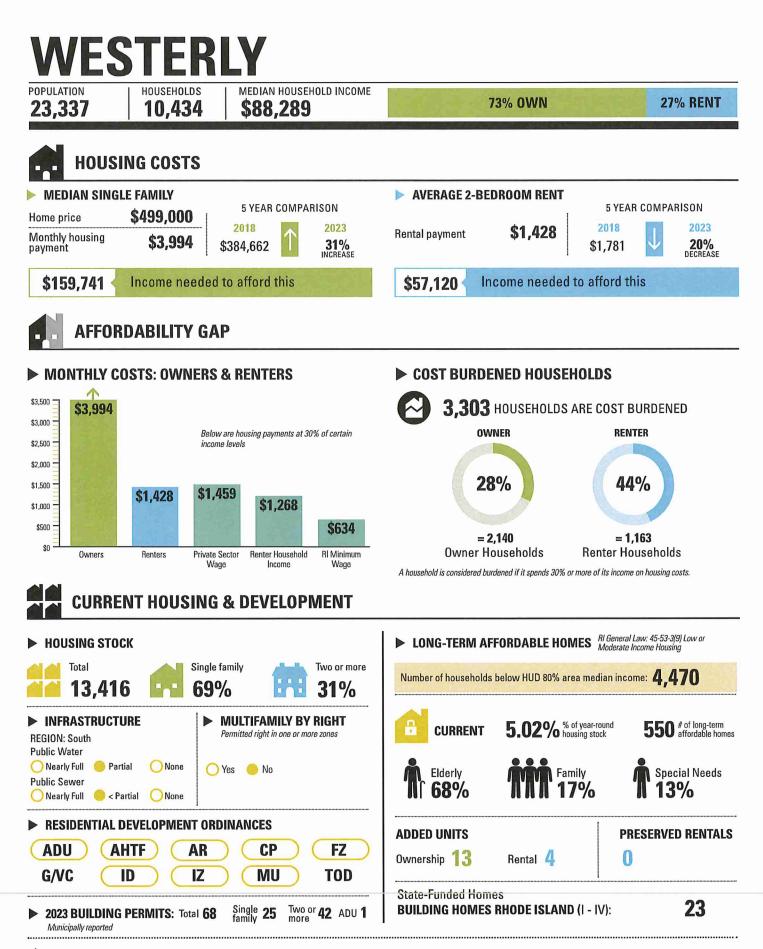
### WARWICK



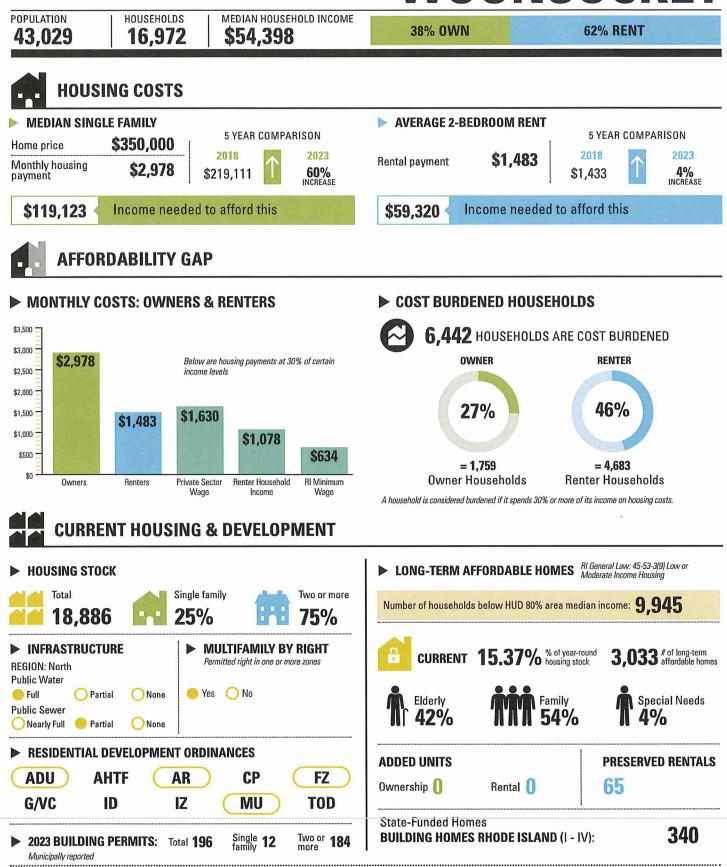


### **WEST WARWICK**

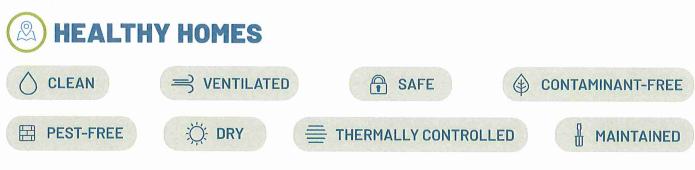




### WOONSOCKET



Attachment 5 Health related housing assessment from HousingWorksRI's 2024 Housing Fact Book

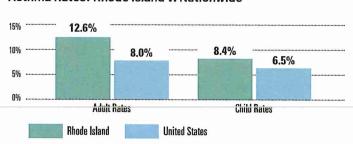


#### **Hazards to Health**

As HousingWorks RI has noted, while the age of housing remains the greatest indicator of possible healthy housing issues, it is merely a proxy for actual problems. More than 300,000 of Rhode Island's housing units—or 72 percent—were built before 1980. Of those, 41 percent are 2-family or multifamily (3+) units, putting renters, who occupy 78 percent of this stock, at much greater risk.

Ensuring a healthy home is generally the responsibility of the property owner. There are statutory provisions at both the state and municipal levels concerning the condition of housing, though enforcement is generally relegated to reports by occupants or sometimes by community members. Healthy homes standards related to cleanliness, maintenance, and pests tend to be those that are most visible; ventilation, thermal control, or keeping a home dry, safe and contaminant-free fall mostly to the occupants. Each of these hazards, however—whether visible or not—can have detrimental health effects, particularly to those who are already vulnerable.

All varieties of cleanliness, maintenance, and pests can exacerbate respiratory issues for anyone with asthma. Conditions within the home, including poor ventilation, poor thermal control, and high humidity (leading to mold), are all respiratory triggers. The latest available Rhode Island asthma rates for both adults and children are well above the national average.<sup>13</sup>



#### Asthma Rates: Rhode Island v. Nationwide

Extreme climate conditions can also serve as respiratory triggers.<sup>14</sup> Federal programs for heat and weatherization for low-income households date back to the late 1970s and early 1980s.<sup>15</sup> Only more recently have regulatory discussions considered cooling standards, and begun to require air conditioning in rental homes.<sup>16</sup>

In Rhode Island, programs that seek to address these conditions include the US Department of Health and Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and its Weatherization Program, and Rhode Island Department of Health's (RIDOH) Cool It Off Program. Implemented by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, LIHEAP provided \$27,497,951 to assist 26,052 households; the Weatherization Program dispersed \$1,709,781 to weatherize 1,326 homes.<sup>17</sup> The Cool It Off Program, run by RIDOH in collaboration with the Providence Housing Authority and HousingWorks RI, has provided 88 households with air conditioners since its inception during the pandemic in 2020.<sup>18</sup>

### **Risks to Special Populations**

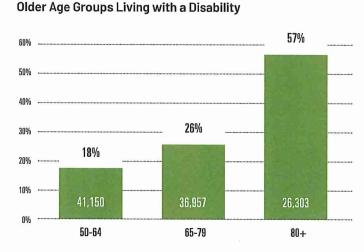
In growing the supply of healthy homes, the two routes—new construction and rehabilitation of the state's older stock— represent different opportunities, especially for the wellbeing of both older adults and children.

#### HOUSING'S KEY ROLE IN THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

#### **Older Adults**

# Rhode Island has a growing number of older adults. Since the 2000 US Decennial Census, the population of adults aged 50 and older has grown by nearly 123,000 people, and now comprises 39 percent of the state's population compared to 29 percent in 2000.<sup>19</sup>

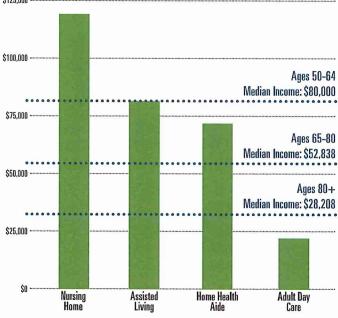
The healthy housing needs associated with an aging population primarily relate to safety issues, like fall prevention and accessibility. Even non-ambulatory disabilities can exacerbate unsafe conditions, especially for those living alone. More than 100,000 adults aged 50 and older in Rhode Island live with a disability; 70 percent live in homes that are more than 40 years old, making many of these homes inconvenient (at best) and unsafe (at worst) for many of their occupants.



Good design is design in which everyone benefits from an experience that is accessible, usable, and convenient. Universal design has become the standard of good design: buildings, products, and environments that are accessible for people of all abilities. As the state and municipalities increase housing production, rehabilitate existing stock, and upgrade the surrounding infrastructure, incorporating the principles of inclusion and accessibility that are core to universal design is critical to meeting the needs of our diverse population.

For older adults, affordability is further compounded by the additional expense of assistance with activities of daily living (known as ADL) and/or healthcare. The combination of housing and health is one of the more dramatic crises playing out across the state and country, and options that provide both are far outstripping what Rhode Islanders can afford.<sup>20</sup>

Housing with Healthcare Options for Older Adults
Annual Cost
\$125.000



Recognizing that housing needs change throughout one's lifetime, diversified housing options in all municipalities support aging in *community*, and not just necessarily aging in *place*. With a spectrum of inventory, factors such as changes in ability, household size, or income will not determine an individual's ability to remain within and connected to their community or neighborhood.

#### HOUSING'S KEY ROLE IN THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

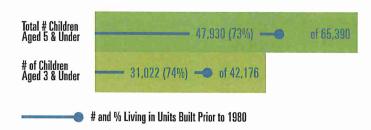
#### Children

The major health risk factor to children in older homes relates to ensuring the home is contaminant-free. The age of Rhode Island's housing stock means that there is a high incidence of lead paint. New housing production does not include lead paint. Rhode Island Department of Health implements the state's mitigation program, which addresses the potential lead hazards in older homes.

Childhood exposure to lead can cause irreversible damage, including disruptions to growth and development, cognitive delays, behavioral problems, and brain damage.<sup>21</sup> Current research links lead exposure to increased rates of school suspension and, particularly for boys, juvenile detention.<sup>22</sup> Given the recent expansion of homes covered by Rhode Island's lead hazard mitigation law, research indicates the state could anticipate beneficial economic impacts in reduced health and education costs, and increased earning and tax revenue.<sup>23</sup>

#### Lead Exposure Risk

Children Aged Five & Younger in Homes Built Prior to 1980



### 

According to The Lancet Public Health, "education is strongly associated with life expectancy, morbidity, [and] health behaviors, and educational attainment plays an important role in health by shaping opportunities, employment, and income."<sup>25</sup> HousingWorks RI tracks three measures for insight into the housing insecurities threatening the educational success of students: homelessness, student mobility, and chronic absenteeism.

During the pandemic Rhode Island experienced large increases in student homelessness and chronic absenteeism. Measures to keep families housed led to a 28 percent decrease in student homelessness from SY2019-20 to SY2020-21. When those measures expired there were two years of dramatic increases. (A 32 percent increase immediately followed the end of assistance programs, and in SY2022-23 there was another 12 percent increase.) Rhode Island now has 1,739 students experiencing homelessness.



2020-2021

2021-2022

2022-2023

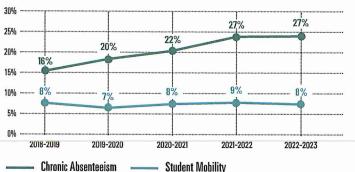
2019-2020

1.000

2018-2019

Of the two remaining measures, school mobility-a student's departure during the school year-is presumed to be related to housing issues, and the other, chronic absenteeism, may be related to healthy housing issues that cause illness, particularly asthma, although there are a number of other causes. While the median rate for school mobility has not varied much over the last five school years, the rate for chronic absenteeism in Rhode Island's high schools took a five percentage-point jump after the pandemic. Chronic absenteeism—missing at least 10 percent of days in a school year—has increased nationally and has remained elevated since the pandemic.<sup>26</sup>

#### Median Rates of Student Mobility & HS Chronic Absenteeism Across RI School Districts



#### School Years September 2018 through June 2023

#### Attachment 6

Information regarding the incidence of lead poisoning from the Rhode Island Department of Health

Since 2024, 20,930 children under the age of 6 have had their blood lead levels measured. The mean BLL level for this group was  $1.19 \ \mu g/dL$ . 4 percent of children tested had samples that exceeded  $3.5 \ \mu g/dL$ , while 2.1 percent of children tested had samples that exceeded 5  $\ \mu g/dL$ . Rhode Island's core cities, which were settled early in our nation's history and therefore have older housing stock than most of the nation, have higher mean BLL and a greater percent of the children tested exceeding the blood lead reference values. South coast RI communities also appear to have elevated mean BLL.

