



**United Way of Milford**

Community Results Center  
July 2007

# 2007 Milford Needs Assessment



The Community Results Center (CRC) is a department of the United Way of Connecticut that seeks to improve community life by providing research and analysis that informs local planning, measures community change, and increases citizen decision-making capacity.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Results Center (CRC) of the United Way of Connecticut conducted a needs assessment for the United Way of Milford to help determine the best use of its resources to impact the lives of the residents of Milford. In order to ensure that the perceptions and opinions of many segments of the community were included in the research, data were gathered from residents, community leaders, high school students, publicly available data sources, published reports, and from the 2-1-1 information and referral service.

The report begins with a *Portrait of Milford* which presents information about the demographics and economics of Milford. The report then reviews the several major issue areas discussed during the focus groups and raised by the surveys. These issue areas are: children and youth, housing, health, and older adults.

### Portrait of Milford

Milford is a small coastal city of approximately 52,000 residents. When compared to the State as a whole, the City has a higher median household income, a lower unemployment rate, and a lower percent of individuals living in poverty. A review of population and economic data show the following:

#### Population

The total population in 2000 is just over 52,000, compared with close to 50,000 in 1990. Older residents, those 65 and above, account for 15 percent of the City's population. The oldest segment of the population, those 85 and older, showed the largest increase at 57 percent between 1990 and 2000, compared to the statewide increase of 37 percent. There are 11,600 children under the age of 18, comprising 19 percent of the population. In all, 29 percent of all households contain children and youth.

In 2000, 94 percent of the population was identified as white, two percent as black, and two percent as Asian. Hispanics, who can be of any race, comprise three percent of the population. The minority school enrollment is increasing. In the 2005-2006 school year minority enrollment was 14.6 percent, compared with 9.7 percent in the 2000-2001 school year.

#### Economics

The median household income, at just over \$61,000, is higher than the state's median of \$54,000. The unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in June 2007, similar to the state's rate of 4.6 percent statewide. The median price of a home in 2005 was over \$330,000, compared with \$271,000 statewide.

Milford's poverty rate is lower than the rate statewide. 2.4 percent of families and 3.7 percent of individuals live below the poverty level, compared with 5.6 percent, and 7.9 percent respectively statewide.<sup>1</sup> In 2000, just over four percent (or 485) of children under 18 live in families with income at or below the federal poverty level, (\$18,810 for a family of four in 1999) while 12 percent (or 1,387) of children live in families at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Health and Human Services Information Requests*

In 2006, there were 4,388 service requests made to 2-1-1, the statewide phone-based information and referral service for health and human service issues operated by United Way of Connecticut. This is a slight increase over 2005. The top five calls from Milford residents related to basic needs including: utility assistance, homeless shelters, food pantries, and subsidized rental housing.

### Issue Areas

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#### Children and Youth

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The main issues raised during the focus groups that revolve around children and youth dealt with **school readiness**, **after-school programs**, and the need for a **teen community center**. The need for after-school programs and a teen community center were also found to be two of the top five needs identified in the survey.

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#### Housing

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Seventy percent of survey respondents indicated that there is a lack of affordable housing in Milford. Increased demand for housing has driven up housing prices. Milford's approach to ease the high cost of housing and to maintain housing stock has been to direct Community Development Block Grant money to the first-time homebuyer assistance program and to a housing rehabilitation program. However, the City is getting less CDBG funding than it has in the past. Approximately 5,500 owners and renters experience housing problems in Milford. Focus group discussions highlighted the issues of **public housing** and the need to support those who are **homeless**.

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#### Health and Healthcare

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The need for **affordable healthcare** was the top need identified by residents in the survey. The challenges of rising healthcare costs, the numbers of uninsured and underinsured are nationwide challenges. In 2006, there were over 62,000 people in New Haven County who were uninsured.<sup>2</sup> In Milford there are 2,285 people enrolled in the state's health insurance program for low income families (HUSKY A) and 179 children enrolled in the state's health insurance program for children in families with income over 185 percent of federal poverty guidelines (HUSKY B).

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#### Older Adults

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In 2000, there were close to 7,800 residents of Milford who were 65 and older, a 12 percent increase from 1990. Milford's oldest age group, those ages 85 and older grew 57 percent from 1990 to 2000, while that age group for the state saw an increase of only 37 percent. When asked to consider the top five needs of Milford, the issues older adults raised were related to **housing**, **healthcare**, and **transportation**.

## INTRODUCTION

**United Way of Milford** conducted a community needs assessment in order to help determine the best use of its resources to impact the lives of the residents of Milford. The needs assessment was completed by the Community Results Center (CRC) of the United Way of Connecticut using a multifaceted research approach. Data and information were collected through focus groups and interviews with community leaders, through a resident needs assessment survey, and through a survey of high school students.

To provide further perspective, the report also reviews various reports from City departments, administrative data, and call data from the 2-1-1 information and referral service (2-1-1 is a statewide phone-based information and referral service for health and human service issues operated by United Way of Connecticut).

The report begins with a *Portrait of Milford* which presents information about the demographics, economics, and poverty rate of Milford. The report continues with a review of the several major issue areas discussed during the focus groups and raised by the surveys. These issue areas are: children and youth, housing, health, and older adults.





# PORTRAIT OF MILFORD

**M**ilford is a small coastal city of approximately 52,000 residents. Reviewing some of the City's vital economic statistics shows that Milford compares favorably to the state as a whole. The City has a higher median household income (\$61,183 vs. \$53,935), a lower unemployment rate (4.1 percent vs. 4.6 percent), and a smaller percent of individuals living in poverty (3.7 percent vs. 7.9 percent) than does the State of Connecticut as a whole. The City has a diversified economy that supports manufacturing, retail, corporate, and service industries. The changes that are currently having the largest impact on Milford include the impending loss of a portion of Bic Corporation, one of the City's top five employers, and the purchase and resale of the former Milford Jai Alai site. Bic Corporation is moving 350 jobs in its corporate area to Shelton, while maintaining 100 jobs in its lighter division in Milford. The City purchased the former Jai Alai property for \$12.8 million and subsequently sold the site for \$14 million. The site will house a Lowe's Home Improvement Center and a Hilton Garden Inn.<sup>3</sup>

Milford's current economic development goals include assisting local businesses and attracting new businesses to Milford with a special emphasis on the downtown, Walnut Beach and Devon areas. The City's efforts at assisting local businesses include improvements to streetscapes, sidewalks, and parking. The City's current community development goals include using annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for programs that align with the national CDBG objectives of benefiting low and moderate-income persons, aiding the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and meeting the needs where existing conditions pose a serious threat to the health and welfare of the community.<sup>4</sup>

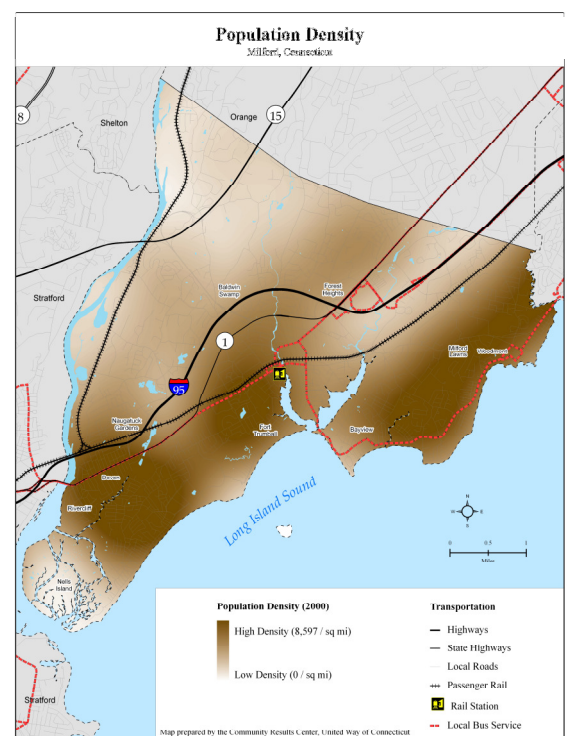
In 2007, the City received approximately \$540,000 in CDBG funds. Annual CDBG awards have been reduced over the past few years. In the past, the City had received closer to \$750,000 in block grant funding.<sup>5</sup> CDBG dollars support transportation services to the elderly, domestic violence counseling, literacy training, employment counseling, housing rehabilitation, support for first time homebuyers, the Beth El shelter, and the support for the new location of the Good Shepherd Day Care Center.

This report will further review population and economic data for Milford. Appendix C provides detailed administrative data for Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven, and for the State of Connecticut for comparison purposes. Where possible, data from previous years is included in order to show trends. A review of population and economic data provide the following profile of the area. Full size maps can be found in Appendix B.

## POPULATION

- The total population in 2000 for Milford was just over 52,000, an increase of 4.7 percent from the 1990 U.S. Census.<sup>6</sup> Milford's population grew at a greater rate during this time period than the state average of 3.6 percent.
- Map 1 shows the concentration of population across Milford and surrounding towns.

**Map 1: Population Density**





# PORTRAIT OF MILFORD

## Older Adults

- Fifteen percent of Milford's population is 65 years of age and older, similar to the state average of 14 percent.
- Nationwide, the oldest segment of the population, those 85 and older, is recording the largest growth rate. In Milford, this age group increased around 57 percent between 1990 and 2000, compared with a statewide increase of close to 37 percent. Map 2 shows concentrations of those ages 65 and above.

## Children and Youth

- There are 11,600 children under the age of 18 in Milford, comprising 21 percent of the population.
- In all, 29 percent of households contain children and youth.
- Children under the age of 5 comprise 6 percent of the population.

## Race

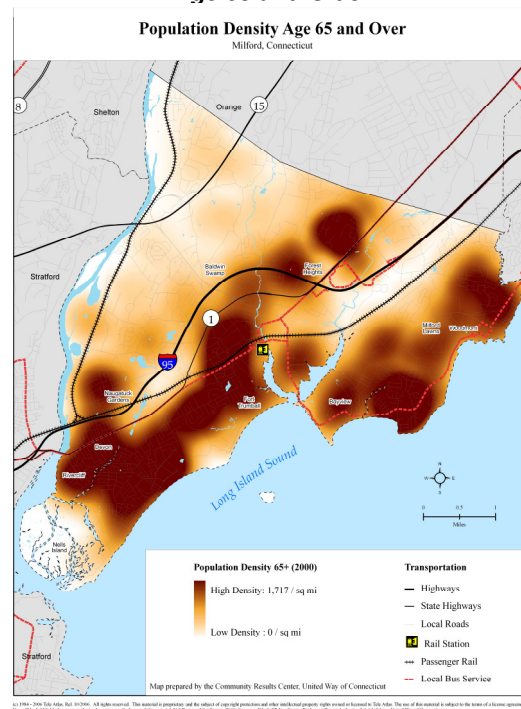
- In 2000, 94 percent of the population identified as white, 2 percent identified as black or African American, and 2 percent identified as Asian. Three percent identified as Hispanic who can be of any race.
- The minority enrollment in Milford schools in the 2005-2006 school year was 14.6 percent, compared with 9.7 percent in the 2000-2001 school year.
- The percent of school age children with a non-English home language is also increasing. In the 2005-2006 school year 5.8 percent of students were from non-English speaking homes, compared with 4.1 percent in 2000-2001.

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

### Income

- Median household income is just over \$61,000 in Milford, compared with close to \$54,000 statewide (Table 1). Orange has the highest median income in the towns surrounding Milford at close to \$80,000, while West Haven has the lowest at just over \$42,000.
- Median family income in Milford is just over \$71,000, compared to \$65,000 statewide (Table 1). The family income level in Milford exceeds the amount of annual household income needed to achieve self-sufficiency (which includes covering expenses for housing, child care, food, transportation, and healthcare). The self-sufficiency standard for two adults and two school age children in Greater New Haven, which includes Milford, is \$59,399.<sup>7</sup> This standard means that a family needs to earn over three times the poverty rate to maintain self-sufficiency.

**Map 2: Population Density Age 65 and Older**



**Table 1: Median Household Income - 1999**

	Household Income	Family Income
Connecticut	\$53,935	\$65,521
<b>Milford</b>	<b>\$61,183</b>	<b>\$71,226</b>
Orange	\$79,365	\$88,583
Stratford	\$53,494	\$64,364
West Haven	\$42,393	\$51,631

Source: U.S. Census

# PORTRAIT OF MILFORD

## Unemployment

- The unemployment rate in Milford was 4.1 percent in June 2007, compared with 4.6 percent statewide (Table 2).
- West Haven has the highest unemployment rate of the towns surrounding Milford at 5.3 percent.<sup>8</sup>

## Housing

- The median price of a home in Milford in 2005 was over \$330,000, compared with \$271,000 statewide. Orange posted the highest home price in this four town area at \$410,000 (Table 3).
- Milford had the highest number of housing permits issued in 2006 at 281 compared with neighboring towns. The number of housing permits issued in Milford has more than tripled since 1990 (Table 3). Housing permits represent the number of new private housing units being developed and provide a general indication of the amount of new housing stock.
- In 2000, there were 5,500 owners and renters experiencing housing problems in Milford. Housing problems are defined as spending more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on housing costs, living in overcrowded conditions, and/or living in dwellings lacking a complete kitchen or bathroom.<sup>9</sup>

## Poverty

- In Milford, 2.4 percent of families and 3.7 percent of individuals live below the poverty level, compared with 5.6 percent and 7.9 percent respectively statewide.<sup>10</sup>
- U.S. Census data shows that in 2000, just over 4 percent (or 485) of children under age 18 live in families with income at or below the federal poverty level, (\$18,810 for a family of four in 1999) while 12 percent (or 1,387) of children live in families at 200 percent (\$37,620) of the federal poverty level.
- Nine percent of households headed by females were below the poverty level while close to 19 percent of female headed households with children under then age of 5 were below the poverty level.

## Health and Human Services Requests

- In 2006, there were 4,388 service requests made to 2-1-1, the statewide phone-based information and referral service for health and human service issues operated by United Way of Connecticut. This is a slight increase from 2005.
- The top five calls from Milford residents related to basic needs (Table 4). These callers were looking for information about utility assistance, homeless shelters, food pantries, and subsidized rental housing. The nature of these calls has remained fairly constant over the past three years. Appendix E contains a full listing of calls for Milford and surrounding towns.

**Table 2: Unemployment**

	Percent unemployed June 2007	Number unemployed June 2007
Connecticut	4.6%	86,500
<b>Milford</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>1,324</b>
Orange	3.6%	272
Stratford	4.8%	1,294
West Haven	5.3%	1,587

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

**Table 3: Housing Permits and Median Home Price**

	Number of Permits			Median home price 2005
	1990	2000	2006	
Connecticut	7,832	9,376	9,236	\$271,500
<b>Milford</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>\$332,800</b>
Orange	10	19	8	\$410,000
Stratford	48	23	42	\$290,000
West Haven	38	43	22	\$234,000

Source: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

**Table 4**

<b>Top 5 Calls to 2-1-1 2006</b>
▪ Utility assistance
▪ Helplines/Warmlines
▪ Homeless Shelter
▪ Food pantries
▪ Subsidized rental housing

Source: 2-1-1

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The main issues raised during the focus groups that revolve around children and youth dealt with school readiness, after-school programs, and the need for a teen community center. The need for after-school programs and a teen community center were also found to be two of the top five needs identified in the survey. This section of the report will review those issues as well as poverty as it relates to children, education data, and juvenile justice data. Appendix D contains data relating to children and youth. Appendix E contains the full results of the survey of public high school students.

### Children and Youth in Poverty

Research has found that children's academic ability is closely related to family income and to issues of poverty.<sup>11</sup> Children who grow up poor tend to have lower levels of academic achievement throughout their school years. In 1999 the federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of four (two adults and two children under the age of 18) was \$18,810 annually. In Milford, 2.4 percent of families live below the poverty level. However, many more families may experience economic insecurity because the FPL is low considering the cost of living in Connecticut and considering that the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Greater New Haven, which includes Milford, is \$59,399.<sup>12</sup> This standard means that a family needs to earn over three times the poverty rate to maintain self-sufficiency. A review of poverty related data shows the number of children living below the poverty line in Milford:

- In 1999, the most recent year for which poverty data are available, there were 4.2 percent (485) of children (those age 17 and under) living in families at the FPL and 12 percent (1,387) of children living in families at 200 percent FPL (Table 5).<sup>13</sup>
- In 2005, there were 258 child recipients of Temporary Family Assistance in Milford, an increase of 10 percent over 2003.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2005, there were 523 child recipients of food stamps, an increase of 11 percent over 2003.<sup>15</sup>
- In the 2005-2006 school year, 16 percent of students were eligible for free or reduced meals, compared with 13 percent in 2002-2003.<sup>16</sup>

While there are many other factors that impact the health and emotional, social, physical, and academic development of a child, the identification and support for children in families that experience economic insecurity is certainly a key to helping children succeed academically.

### School Readiness

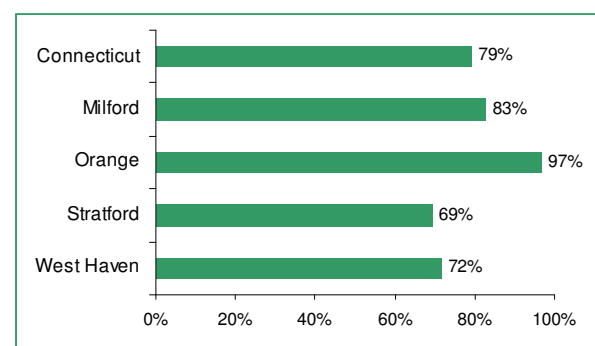
Access to quality preschool programs can help ensure a child's academic success. Attendance in preschool varies widely in cities and towns throughout Connecticut. In the state as a whole, 79 percent of kindergartners have preschool experience (Table 6).

**Table 5: Percent Under 18 at 100% and 200% of Federal Poverty**

	<100% FPL	<200% FPL
Connecticut	10.4%	24.1
<b>Milford</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
Orange	1.9%	5.0%
Stratford	5.8%	17.8%
West Haven	12.0%	31.4%

Source: CT State Department of Education

**Table 6: Percent of Kindergartners with Preschool, Nursery School, or Head Start Experience 2005-2006**



Source: CT State Department of Education

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH (cont.)

It is important to note that the definition of preschool experience and the data collection method for measuring the number of children with preschool experience is not standardized. Therefore it may not be completely accurate. Nonetheless, it is the number most widely used in Connecticut as a measure of school readiness. Data concerning preschool experience for Milford indicates the following:

- In 2005, 83 percent of Milford kindergartners had preschool experience. Experience levels for the City's public elementary schools range from 75 percent to 98 percent. (A complete listing of preschool experience by elementary schools can be found in Appendix D.)
- The 17 percent of children who did not have preschool experience translates into an estimated 120 children.
- In Milford, the average cost of a preschool center is \$178 per week, which is just over the state average of \$172 per week. The cost for an infant/toddler center averages \$223 per week in Milford and \$213 statewide.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, on an annual basis, the cost of a preschool or infant/toddler center ranges from between \$9,000 to \$11,500.
- The needs assessment survey shows that only 59 percent of Milford residents indicate that children are ready for school. That leaves four in ten who either disagree or are not sure. The survey indicates residents are concerned about the readiness of children for school.

The City is currently directing a portion of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the construction of the Good Shepherd Early Childhood Development Center which will include 92 slots for low-income children. The Center currently has 29 preschool and 24 infant and toddler slots on-site and 41 slots at its East Shore facility.

### Education

Eighty-eight percent of the total school-age population is enrolled in Milford's public schools, which totals 7,569 students. Fifteen percent of the school population is described as minority in the 2005-2006 school year, compared to 10 percent in the 2000-2001 school year. In terms of academic performance, the Strategic School Profile for the 2005-2006 school year indicates the following:

- Sixty-six percent of fourth grade students in Milford are at or above the state reading goal, compared with 58 percent statewide.
- Forty-two percent of tenth grade students are at or above the state goal on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test for Reading Across the Disciplines, compared with 47 percent statewide.
- Milford has a cumulative drop out rate of 6.2 percent compared to 7.4 percent statewide.



### After-School Programs

Research suggests that participation in after-school programs is essential for enriching the lives of school age children. Participation in after-school programs can help young people stay out of trouble, improve interpersonal and academic skills, and broaden skills in general. The need for more after-school programs was discussed during the focus groups, the resident survey, and the high school survey. The research found the following:

- Survey respondents identified after-school programs to be one of the top five needs. This issue was also widely discussed in the focus groups.
- Only 31 percent of Milford residents believe there are adequate after-school activities for children and youth.
- The number one after-school activity for public high school students is hanging out with friends, followed by doing homework, watching TV, and emailing or instant messaging with friends.
- Just over a third of these high school students say they go to the mall one day a week without shopping, while 20 percent say they go to the mall at least twice a week without shopping.
- Over a third of high school students say transportation is a challenge for attending after-school programs.

A study done by the State of Connecticut identified barriers to operating before and after school activities. The major barriers were identified as insufficient funds, transportation, and the lack of adequate school staff to oversee building use. That study's recommendations are listed in Appendix D.<sup>18</sup>

In recent years, organizations concentrating on youth in Milford have focused on several initiatives:

- Milford's Promise is working in conjunction with the Big Brother's Big Sister's to reinvigorate an academic mentoring program within the City's elementary schools.
- Milford's Youth Network, a partnership of agencies that serve youth in Milford, meets monthly to foster communication between agencies.

### Teen Community Center

The resident survey found that the establishment of a teen community center was identified as a top five need for Milford. Discussions during the focus groups shed some light on the findings of the survey. Participants suggest that there is no central location where teens can gather and this may encourage the use of the Connecticut Post Mall and the movie theater as a place for teens to "hang out". The participants in the focus groups also noted the rationale for and some of the challenges surrounding the establishment of a teen center:

- Successful youth centers tend to have input from the youth for which they are intended.
- Youth and teens will not be likely to use a youth center if it is overly supervised or regulated.

Thirty-nine percent of teens said they would use a youth center. Teenage girls, who are more likely to say that Milford does not have adequate programs for teens, are also more likely than teenage boys to say they would go to a youth center (43 percent vs. 34 percent respectively). A majority of youth say the center should be located near the town green (58 percent). Teens said the youth center should house sports facilities, a computer lab, and offer help with homework, job interview training, and counseling.

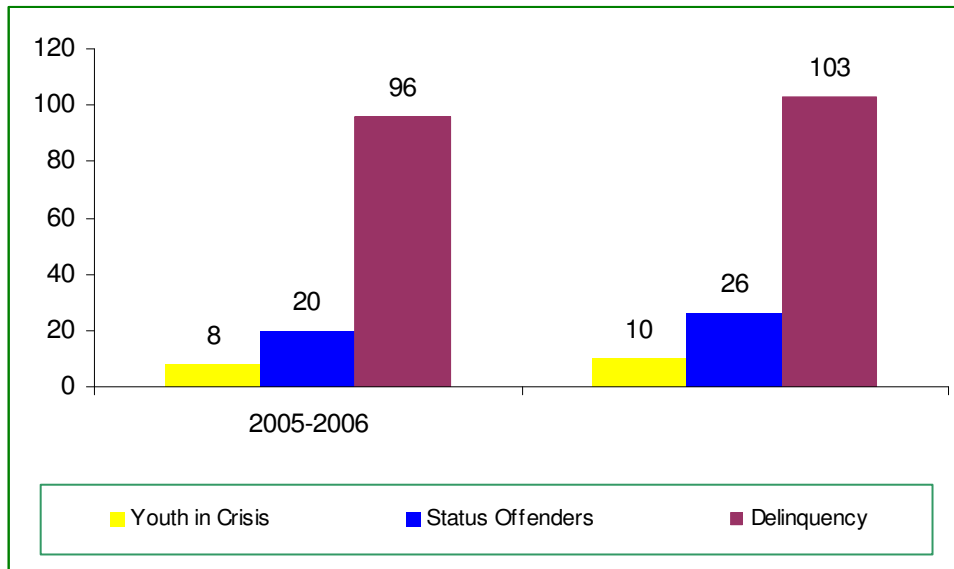


## CHILDREN AND YOUTH (cont.)

### Juvenile Justice

The number of Milford youth involved in the juvenile justice system increased to 129 in 2006-2007 from 113 in the previous year. Juvenile justice involved youth include those who have committed “delinquency” offenses, such as burglary, larceny, and assault, those who have committed “status” offenses such as truancy and running away from home, and Youth In Crisis who are status offenders age 16 and 17. Juvenile justice data for Milford are listed in Table 7.

**Table 7: Juvenile Justice Involved Youth - Milford 2005-2006 and 2006-2007**



Source: Connecticut Court Support Services

Seventy percent of survey respondents perceive that there is a lack of affordable housing in Milford. Like many communities throughout Connecticut, Milford is facing the challenge of maintaining an adequate supply of affordable housing. Between 2000 and 2005, housing prices have risen by close to 64 percent statewide, while wages have risen by just over 18 percent. Milford's location, with its proximity to major highways, the railway, New York City, and Fairfield County, has always made it a desirable location for homeowners.

Increased demand for housing has driven up housing prices. The median price of a home in Milford in 2005 was over \$330,000, compared with \$271,000 statewide. The vast majority of the City's housing stock is owner occupied units. Owner occupied units represent 76 percent of the housing stock, with most of these being single family structures.

**70%**  
*say there is a lack of  
affordable housing in  
Milford*

Milford's approach to ease the high cost of housing and to maintain housing stock has been to direct Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money to the first-time homebuyer assistance program and to a housing rehabilitation program. However, the City is getting less CDBG funding than it has in the past. The City's current CDBG award is \$538,000 while in the past the award was closer to \$750,000. The City currently estimates that it could provide help to three first time home buyers per year for five years. Those qualified can receive up to \$15,000 in down payment and closing costs. However, as housing costs rise, this assistance may become less and less effective.

### **At-risk Owners and Renters**

Data from the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) provided by HUD for the year 2000 shows the numbers of renters and owners who are experiencing difficulty in supporting their dwelling in Milford. In 2000, CHAS reported that there were 5,500 owners and renters experiencing housing problems. Housing problems are defined as cost burden, those spending more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on housing costs (including utilities), living in overcrowded conditions (more than one person per room), and/or living in dwellings with physical defects (lacking a complete kitchen or bathroom). The data shows that in 2000, 25 percent of all owner households (4,000) and 32 percent of all renter households (1,500) were experiencing housing problems.<sup>19</sup>

A further review of these data is warranted because of the relationship between the existence of housing problems and the increased risk of homelessness. CHAS reports that the main cause of housing problems is the cost burden. Three-quarters of those households earning less than 30 percent of median family income are experiencing a cost burden. Fifty-eight percent of those earning between 31 percent to 50 percent of median income experience cost burden.

Do racial and ethnic minorities experience housing problems more than non-minorities or the population as a whole? The difference between the percent of homeowners and renters with housing problems for residents who are white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic and Hispanic is not great. For homeowners, 25 percent of white non-Hispanic homeowners, 24 percent of black non-Hispanic, and 29 percent of Hispanic households are experience housing problems. For renters, 32 percent of white non-Hispanic, 41 percent of black non-Hispanic, and 39 percent of Hispanic households experience housing problems.

### Public Housing

According to the City's 2005 strategic plan, Milford manages 631 units of public housing and scattered site housing, which includes 211 Section 8 vouchers, and 420 federal and state units in public housing complexes. There is a waiting list of approximately 50 families for public family housing. Only two to three units turn over on an annual basis. When the federal government opens the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers, there are approximately 1,500 applications received from those who wish to receive a voucher. Housing concerns for older adults are discussed in the Older Adult section of this report.

### Homelessness and Hunger

The lack of affordable housing and the existence of the aforementioned housing issues, are some of the key causes of homelessness. Statewide, 33,000 people experience homelessness in a 12 month period and 13,000 of these are children; this means that 20,000 households in Connecticut need housing over the course of a year. In Connecticut, 2,000 people spend the night in an emergency shelter on any given evening.<sup>20</sup>

Almost half of residents responding to the needs assessment agree that homelessness is a problem in the City. Among the top calls to 2-1-1 from Milford residents are calls requesting information about homeless shelters. Milford has one shelter, Beth El Center, that serves the homeless population. It is the only shelter from West Haven to Stratford and serves both Milford and non-Milford residents. The center estimates that between 30 percent and 40 percent of its residents are from Milford. In 2006, the shelter served 207 clients while turning away 423 due to a lack of beds (Table 8).

**Table 8: Beth El Homeless Shelter Statistics – 2004 to 2006**

	2004	2005	2006
<b>Total Clients</b>	170	208	207
<b>Number of parents</b>	14	22	28
<b>Number of children</b>	33	41	52
<b>Turned Away (no beds available)</b>	449	422	423

Source: Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

The Beth El Center has a total of 32 beds and is separated into three distinct sections for families, single women, and single men. The shelter director says that the shelter is often full. Residents can stay for 90 days, but if they are making progress toward achieving self-sufficiency they can stay longer. The director says the Center is still waiting to receive information on the count of the homeless that was conducted in 2007 to understand the size of the homeless population. However, it is hard to count the homeless population since many of those who are homeless stay temporarily with friends and relatives. Mental illness and substance abuse problems also increase the risk of homelessness and many residents of the Beth El shelter experience these conditions. The shelter maintains caseworkers to assist the residents move toward self sufficiency. The shelter cites its biggest needs as increasing its case management staff by one part-time case worker and also opening an emergency "no-freeze" shelter in the City that can be used on a nightly basis during the winter. The City is currently building five units of supported housing across from the Beth El Center which will provide low-income housing, supported by case management to residents.

The shelter is also the site of a soup kitchen which serves between 50 and 70 meals a day. The soup kitchen is open to the public. The needs assessment survey also found that two-thirds of Milford residents surveyed agree that there are people in Milford who do not have enough to eat, while only 37 percent agree that food pantries in the City are adequately meeting the needs of the community. Calls looking for information about food pantries are among the top five calls by Milford residents to 2-1-1.

The need for affordable healthcare was the top need identified by residents in the survey. The challenges of rising healthcare costs and the number of uninsured and underinsured are nationwide challenges. While the number of uninsured at the town level is not available, in 2006, there were over 62,000 people in New Haven County who were uninsured.<sup>21</sup> It is important to consider that most of those who are uninsured are employed; 61 percent of all uninsured Connecticut residents are working.<sup>22</sup> Young adults (ages 19 to 29) have the highest risk of being uninsured. Twenty-two percent of this age group statewide are uninsured, and nearly three-quarters of those uninsured are employed full-time.<sup>23</sup>

**Affordable healthcare was the top need identified by residents.**

Despite state programs that insure young people, in 2007, the Office of Health Care Access estimated that there were approximately 24,700 children under the age of 19 who are uninsured in Connecticut.<sup>24</sup> This represents about 2.7 percent of all Connecticut children.<sup>25</sup> In Milford there are 2,285 people enrolled in the state's health insurance program for low income families (HUSKY A) and 179 children enrolled in the state's health insurance program for children in families with income over 185 percent of federal poverty guidelines (HUSKY B). However, comments in the focus groups suggest that it can be a challenge to find physicians and dentists in the City that accept HUSKY. Similar experiences were confirmed by a secret shopper audit conducted by the Connecticut Department of Social Services in 2006.

## Infant Deaths, Low Birthweight Babies and Births to Teen Mothers

Public Health Departments often cite infant mortality as a measure of a region's health. The rate reflects the health status of the mother as well as their access to health care. In Connecticut, the goal is to reduce the infant death rate to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 births by 2010. The rate for Connecticut is currently 5.4. In this four town area, only West Haven has an infant death rate higher than the state (Table 9).

Milford has a lower rate of births to teenagers compared to the State and most of its surrounding towns. In 2004, statewide, close to seven percent of all births are to those under age 20. In Milford, just over 2 percent of births are to teenagers. Milford, however, has a slightly higher rate of low birthweight babies (8.2 percent) than the State (7.8 percent).

**Table 9: Infant Deaths, Low Birthweight Babies, Number and Percent of Births to Mothers Under 20**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
Number of infant deaths	230	1	--	1	7
<i>Infant death rate*</i>	5.4	**	--	**	10.2
Number of low birthweight babies+	3229	30	10	32	281
<i>Percent of low birthweight babies</i>	7.8%	8.2%	7.0%	7.6%	10.7%
Number of births to mothers <20	2884	14	--	30	56
<i>Percent of births to mothers &lt;20</i>	6.7%	2.4%	--	5.2%	8.2%

-- No cases

\*Infant death rate is per 1,000 live births

\*\* percentages not calculated for less than 5 cases

+ Low birthweight is defined as less than 2,500 grams

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

### Community Health Issues

A review of the issues Milford's Public Health Department focused on in 2006 can shed some light on the public health issues the City is addressing. The following are some of the health department's 2006 initiatives:

- The Health Department held a symposium at the senior center on hoarding. The symposium shed light on how communities deal with cases of hoarders.\* A result of that symposium is the plan for the Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly (C.R.I.D.E.) to conduct educational seminars in the community.
- The City is taking part in a regional effort focused on improving environmental conditions for asthmatic children. The program, Putting on AIRS, works through public health nurses and environmental specialists who conduct home assessments to help improve living conditions for children with asthma.
- The Health Department, Police Department, and Milford Public Schools are developing a Walking School Bus Program to increase levels of physical activity for students. The program will recruit volunteers to supervise a group of children as they walk to school along regular routes.
- The City also undertook a program that distributed pedometers to third, fourth, and fifth grade students in one elementary school, to measure the steps they walked each day and analyze the relationship between physical activity levels and body mass index.

Participants in the focus groups also discussed the challenges of identifying preschool children who have developmental and behavioral health issues. It was suggested that there is more need than there are currently services available for services aimed at children with developmental delays. Participants said that pediatricians often refer these patients for help but there are many children that may not be seen regularly by a physician.

### Mental Health – Milford and Bridges

The needs assessment survey found that close to two-thirds of residents agree that people who suffer from mental health problems can find help in Milford. The City is home to Bridges, the primary mental health and addiction resource for all age groups in Milford and surrounding towns. Bridges sees over 5,800 clients each year and at any given time has a 1,000 open cases. Bridges' director says the clinic has never had as many people waiting for service as it does at this time. While the clinic now offers a walk-in option for some services, there is usually a 4-8 week wait for a general service appointment. The challenges facing the facility cited by Bridges' director are the declining number of private mental health practitioners who take insurance and a growing need for behavioral

\* Compulsive hoarding is characterized by the accumulation of excessive clutter, to the point that parts of one's home can no longer be used for its intended purpose.



## OLDER ADULTS

In 2000, there were close to 7,800 residents of Milford who were 65 and older, a 12 percent increase from 1990 (Table 10). Milford's older adult population is growing at a faster rate than Connecticut's as a whole. Connecticut's population of those 65 and older grew 5 percent from 1990 to 2000. Milford's oldest age group, those ages 85 and older, grew 57 percent from 1990 to 2000, while that age group for the state saw an increase of only 37 percent. At the state level, that age group is expected to increase another 37 percent by 2010. Applying that growth rate to Milford would increase this age group by at least another 320 residents.

Older adults who attend the Milford Senior Center were asked to respond to the needs assessment survey. It must be noted that these results therefore exclude those seniors who do not attend the center or may not be able to attend the center due to ill or frail health. When asked to consider the top five needs of Milford, these older adults reported issues related to housing, healthcare, and transportation (Table 11).

### Health and Human Services Information Requests

Milford's older adult residents made 297 calls to 2-1-1 in 2006. The most common reason for calling was to seek information about utility assistance. Older adults also made calls regarding subsidized rental housing, Medicaid and Medicare. The nature of the calls in 2004 and 2005 was similar to that in 2006.

### Housing for Older Adults

Participants in the focus groups and respondents to the survey cited affordable housing for older adults as a challenge. Older adults responding to the needs assessment survey identified the need for affordable rental housing and subsidized housing for older adults as two of their top five needs. Focus group participants mentioned the increased tax burden challenges seniors may face after the recent property revaluation.

There are approximately 350 publicly assisted and 380 private units of age restricted housing in Milford. The City indicates there is a waiting list of between 125 and 150 older adults for the publicly assisted senior housing units.

Data from the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) provided by HUD for the year 2000 indicates that in 2000 there were approximately 4,200 elderly owners and 990 elderly renters in Milford. The data shows that close to 30 percent of owners and 50 percent of renters have housing issues mainly due to cost burden.

Milford's Health Department administers a program aimed at assisting older adults, as well as those who are disabled, who find themselves in substandard housing situations. The program, the Collaborative for Residential Integrity for the Disabled and Elderly (C.R.I.D.E.), consists of representatives from social services agencies and City departments. C.R.I.D.E. assists the older adults so that they may either remain in their homes or find alternative housing.

**Table 10: Population 65 and older, Percent of Population, and Population Growth 1990-2000 - Milford**

	2000 Population	% of Population	Population Growth 1990 to 2000
65-74	3,895	7.4%	-10.6%
75-84	3,035	5.8%	50.0%
85+	866	1.7%	56.6%
Total	7,796	14.9%	12.4%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table 11: Survey of Older Adults - Top Five Needs**

Affordable Rental Housing
Affordable Healthcare
Subsidized Senior Housing
Increased Transportation
Health Screening for Seniors

## OLDER ADULTS (cont.)

### Healthcare

The needs assessment survey found access to affordable healthcare to be a top concern for older adult residents. Health care affordability is a national issue. Typical challenges for older adults are often health care procedures that are not covered by Medicare such as dental visits and some foot care procedures. Despite the fact that The Milford Senior Center provides a number of health screening services, older adults also named access to health screenings as a top need. The senior center provides oral health screenings, annual flu clinics and frequent blood pressure, cholesterol, and glaucoma screenings. There is also a mobile mammogram clinic that visits Milford.



### Transportation

Transportation is often a challenge for older adults who no longer drive. Older adults who no longer drive can become isolated if they do not have family members or friends who can assist them. Milford currently has three transportation options for seniors. The Milford Transit District, the Milford Senior Center, and the American Red Cross provide various transportation services. However, not all of these service providers can accommodate wheelchairs and none of them offer same day service.

- Milford Transit serves the City of Milford with fixed route bus service and a door-to-door van service for residents age 60 and older and for those with disabilities. The van service is available for general transportation needs, but will only travel out-of-town for medical appointments. It is recommended that appointments be made at least three days in advance. The charge in Milford is \$4.00 per round trip and \$12.00 for out-of-town trips. Milford Transit has vehicles that are equipped to transport wheelchair bound residents.
- The Milford Senior Center provides transportation to and from the Senior Center and to and from medical appointments in Milford. Appointments for rides need to be made one week in advance. This transportation includes vehicles that are equipped to transport wheel-chair bound residents.
- The American Red Cross provides transportation for medical appointments for the disabled and older adults. The Red Cross has approximately ten volunteer drivers but no vehicles that accommodate wheel chairs. Transportation is provided in Milford and surrounding towns.

A review of research on suggested practices for senior transit systems suggests that the most successful systems provide escorts, services for any transportation need, services that are available anytime, and door-to-door service.<sup>26</sup>

### Senior Center

The seniors surveyed almost universally agree that Milford has adequate recreation programs available for older adults. Milford has an active senior center that provides congregate meals, educational and recreational programs, and transportation. The senior center also has programs and services for older adults who are homebound. The center has a meals-on-wheels service for homebound older adults and has a full-time social service worker who offers home visits to assess and to make appropriate referrals concerning older residents. The center also administers the Ahrens program, that provides recreation, nutrition and educational activities for older adults with physical and cognitive impairments.



## APPENDIX A: Methodology

This needs assessment used several data collection methods to ensure that the perceptions and opinions of many segments of the community are included in the research. Focus groups and interviews sought to provide an understanding of the main issues faced by Milford and the needs community members perceive to be unmet. The purpose of the needs assessment survey was to further understand resident perceptions of the major areas of need in Milford. The survey of high school students attempted to understand their needs relating to programs and services.

Specifically, the data collection methods included:

- **Focus groups** – Two focus groups were held with community leaders focused on housing, older adults, education, healthcare, basic needs, children and youth, human resources, and public safety.
- **Interviews** – Six interviews were conducted with community leaders focused on basic needs, community development, mental health care, and youth.
- **A web-based survey** – This needs assessment survey was completed by those who work for social service agencies. (153 responses)
- **A paper survey** – This needs assessment survey was distributed to members of the Milford Senior Center (105 responses), members of the business community (78 responses), clients of social service agencies (22 responses), and randomly selected residents (168 responses).
- **A survey of public high school students** – This paper survey, distributed during home room period to all high school students in Milford's four public high schools, focused on the adequacy of programs for teens and whether Milford needs to establish a teen community center. (1,450 responses)
- **Additional data from publicly available sources and published reports** – These data are included to provide perspective on various issues. The data provide information on population trends, economic conditions, education, health, and healthcare. Data listing service requests made to the 2-1-1 information and referral service are also included.







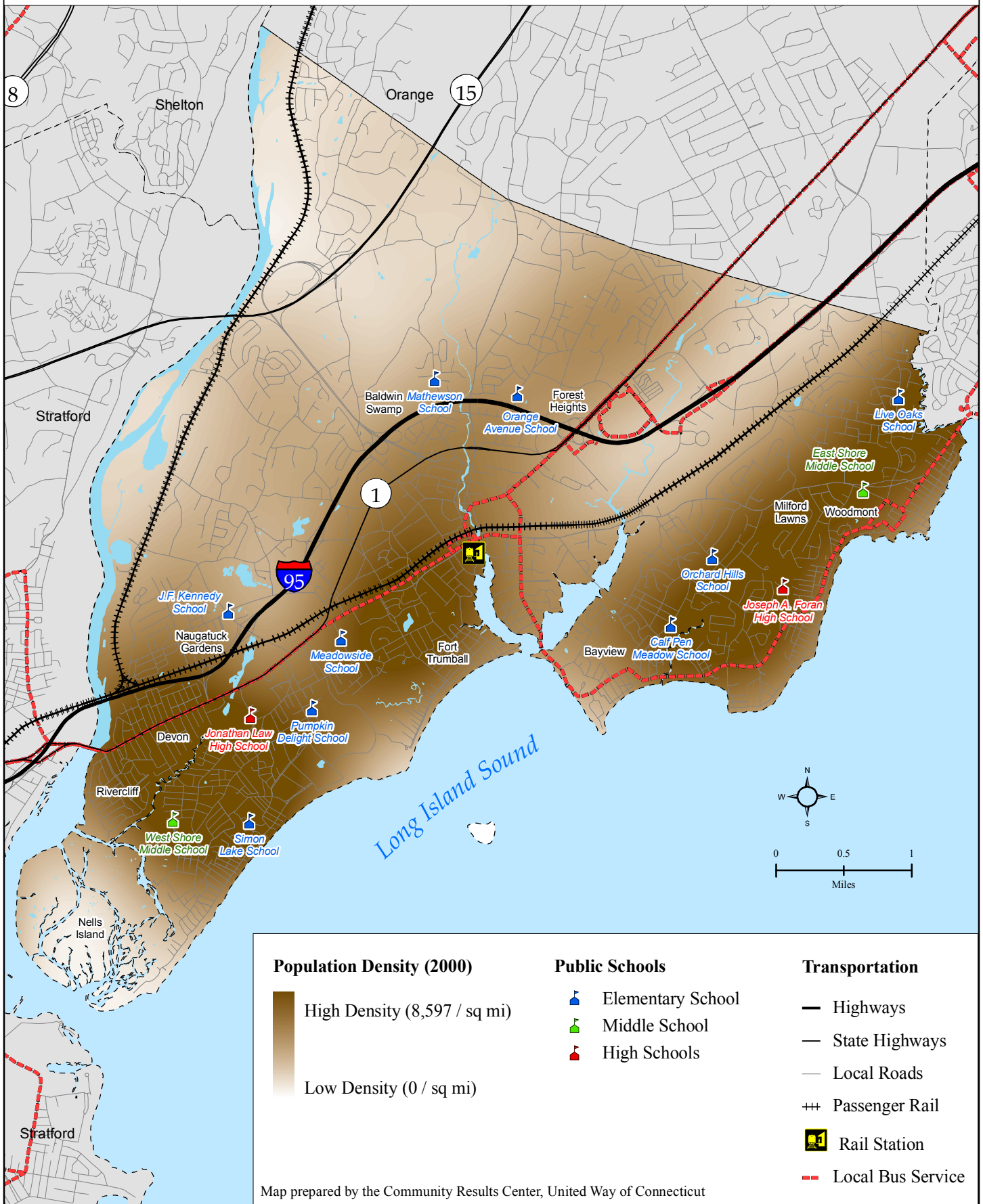
## APPENDIX B: Maps of Milford and Surrounding Towns

<b>Map 1:</b>	Population Density Milford
<b>Map 2:</b>	Population Density Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven
<b>Map 3:</b>	Population Density of Older Adults and Resources Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven
<b>Map 4:</b>	Subsidized Housing for Older Adults Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven
<b>Map 5:</b>	Population Under 18, (Percent) Milford
<b>Map 6:</b>	Population Under 18, (Number) Milford
<b>Map 7:</b>	Median Household Income, Milford
<b>Map 8:</b>	Families Living in Poverty, Milford
<b>Map 9:</b>	Transportation Network, Milford



# Population Density

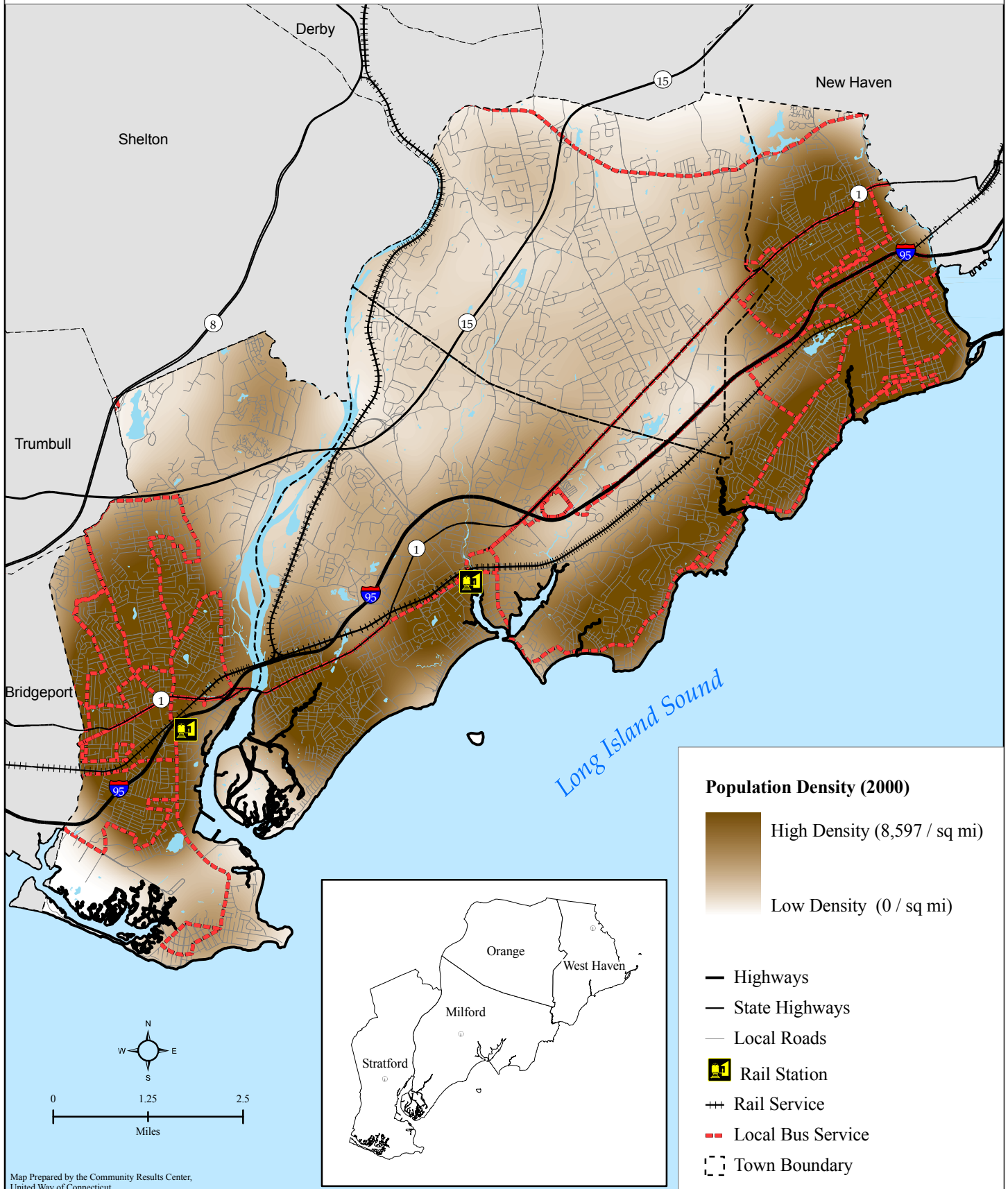
Milford, Connecticut





# Population Density (2000)

## Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven



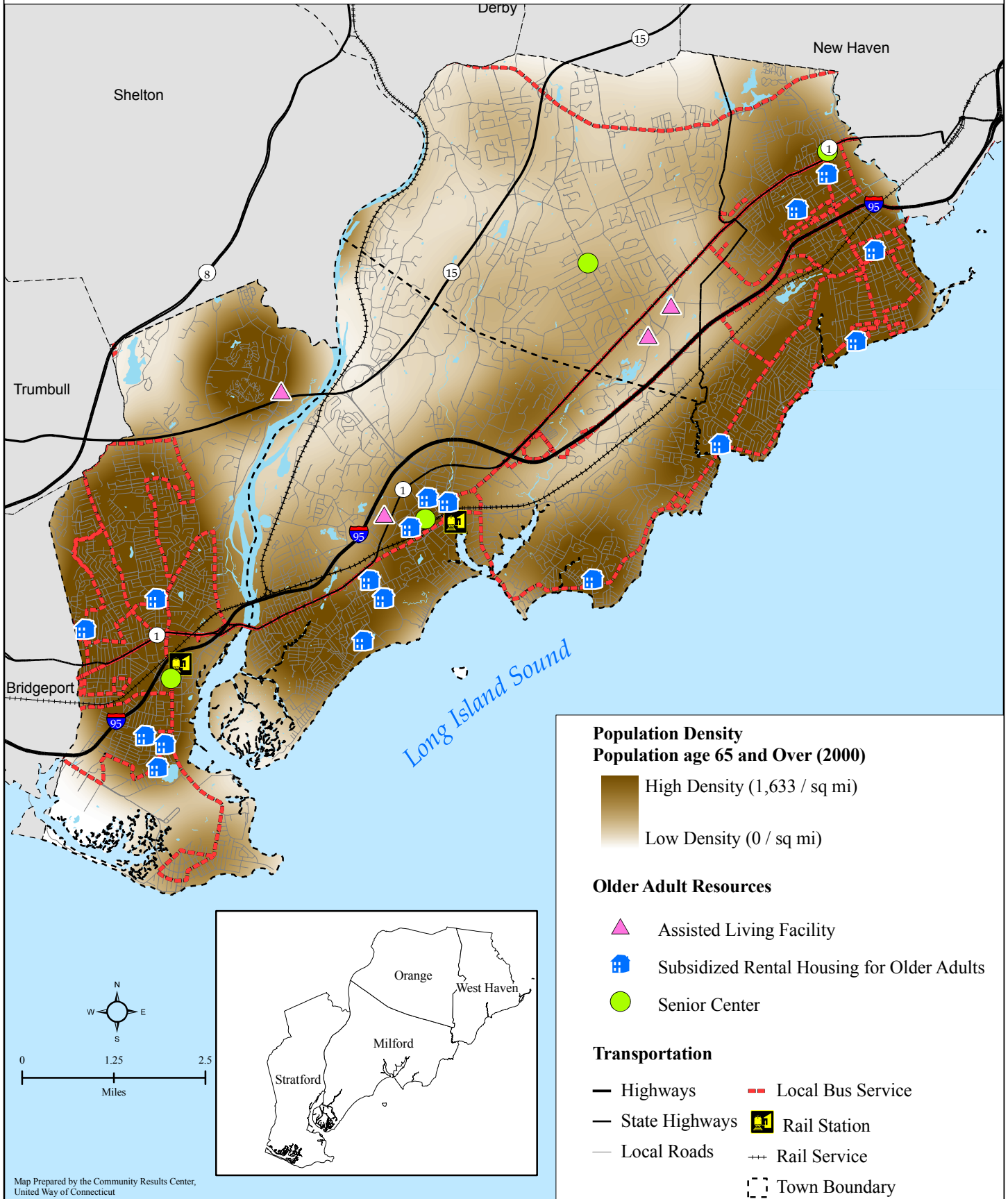
Map Prepared by the Community Results Center,  
United Way of Connecticut





# Population Density of Older Adults & Resources

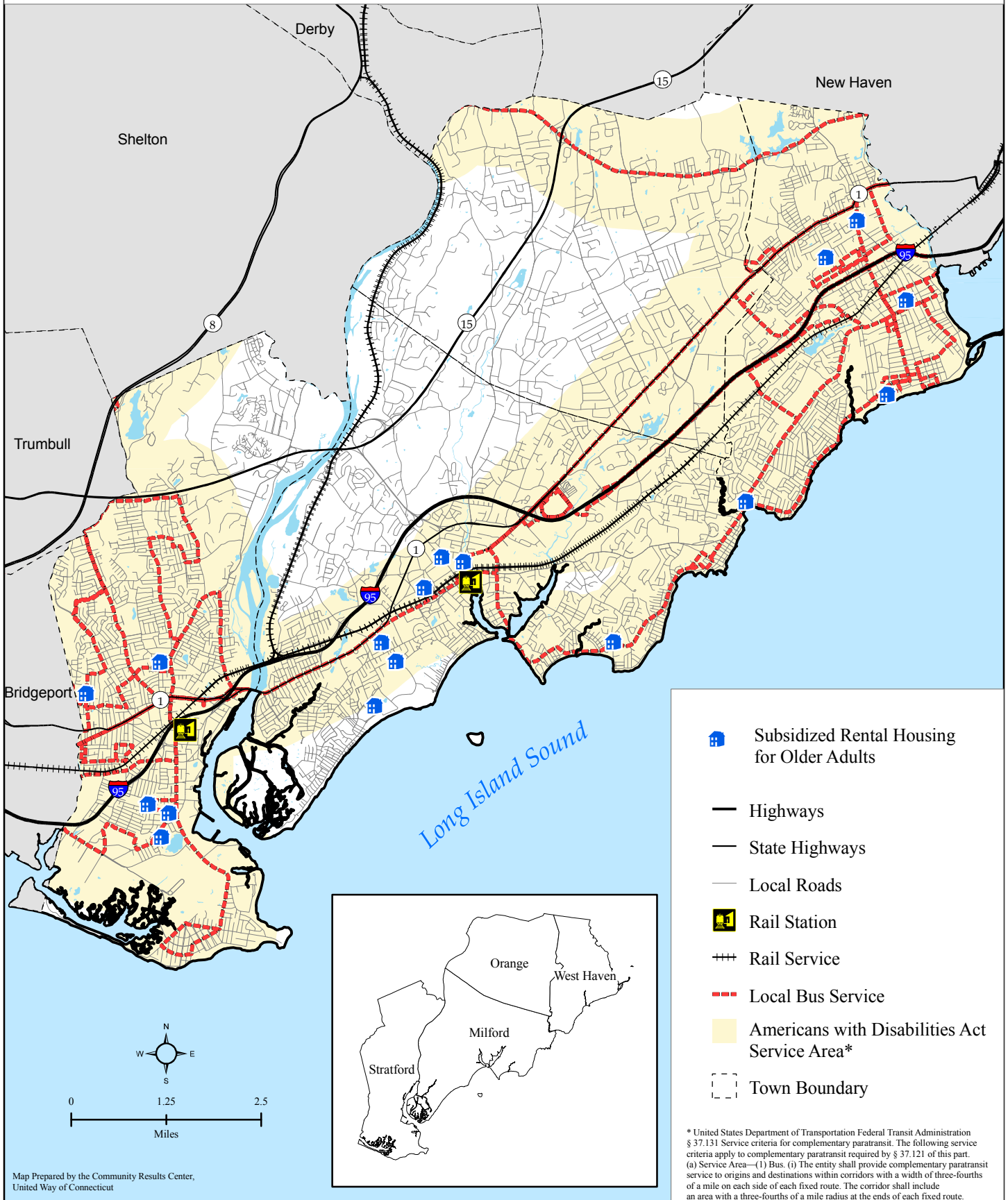
## Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven





# Subsidized Housing for Older Adults

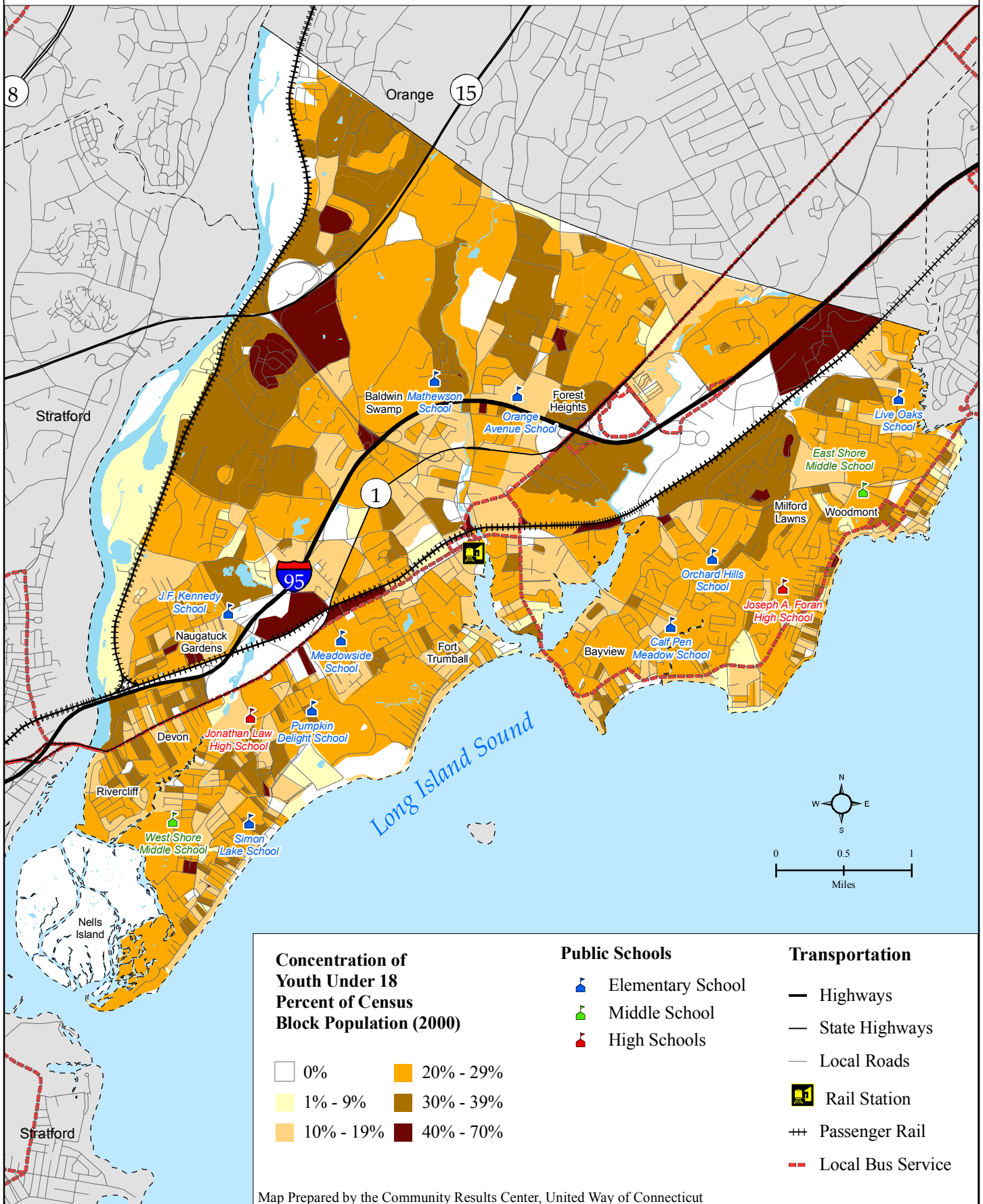
## Milford, Orange, Stratford, West Haven





# Population Under 18

Milford, Connecticut

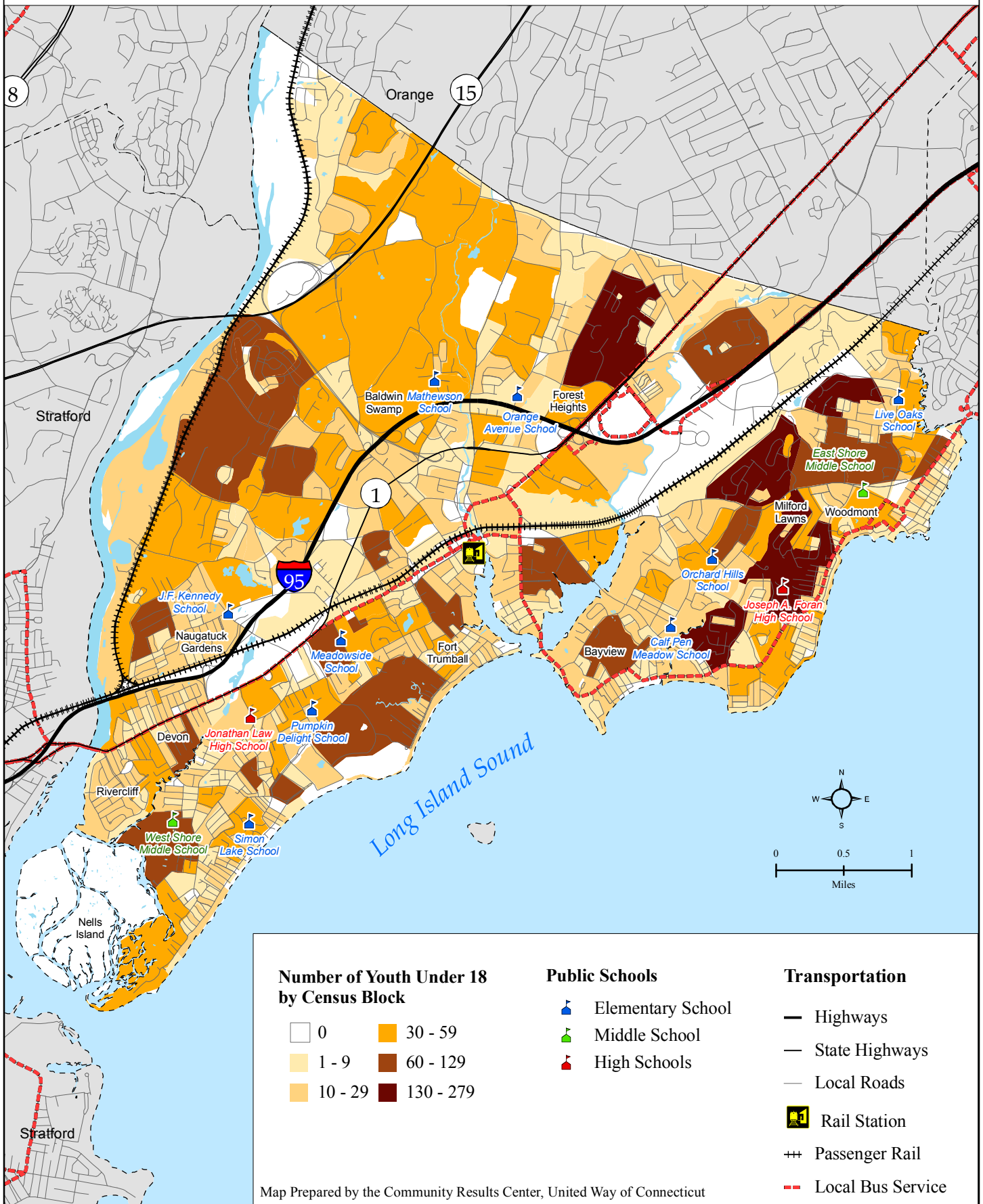






# Population Under 18 (Numbers)

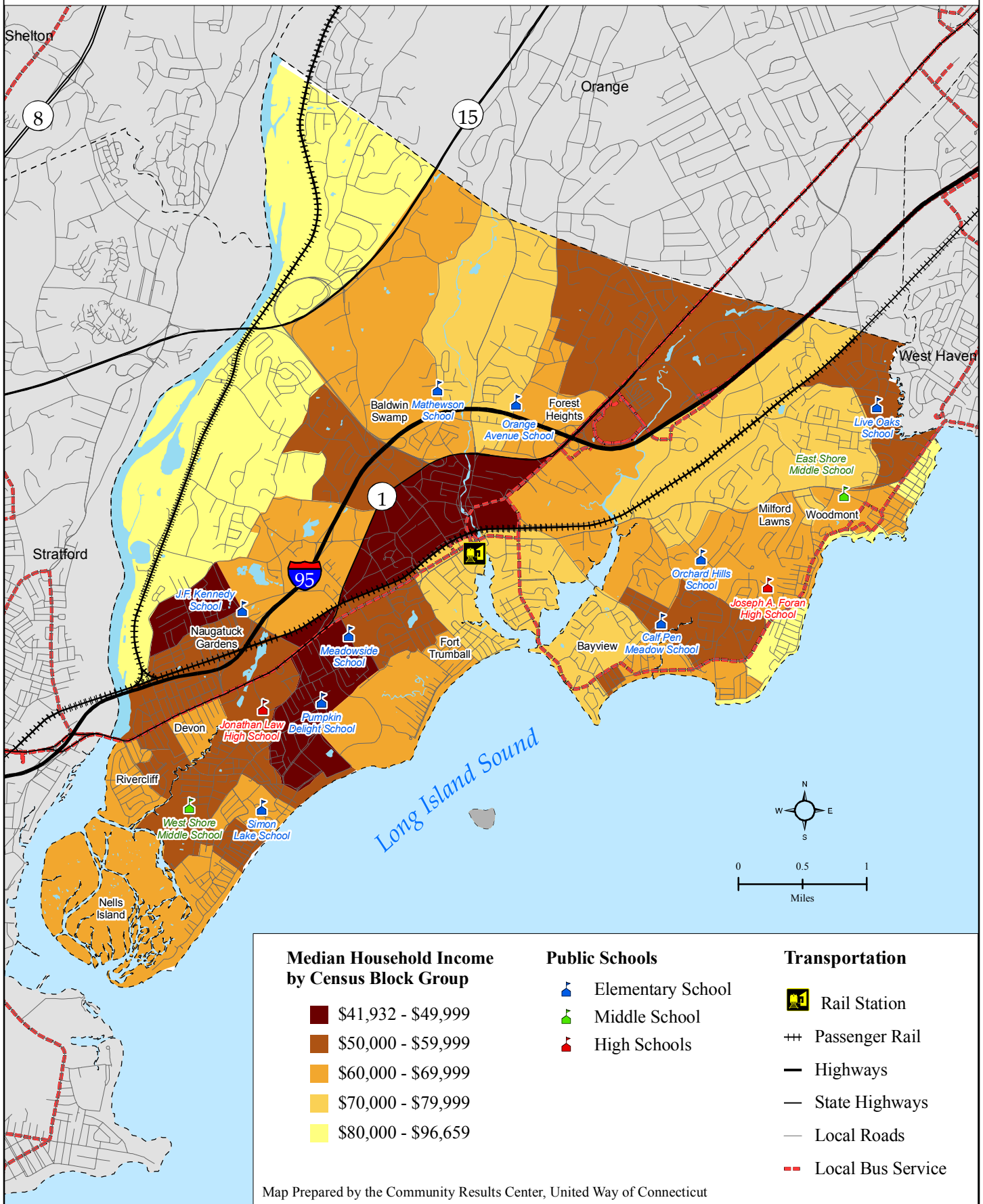
Milford, Connecticut





# Median Household Income

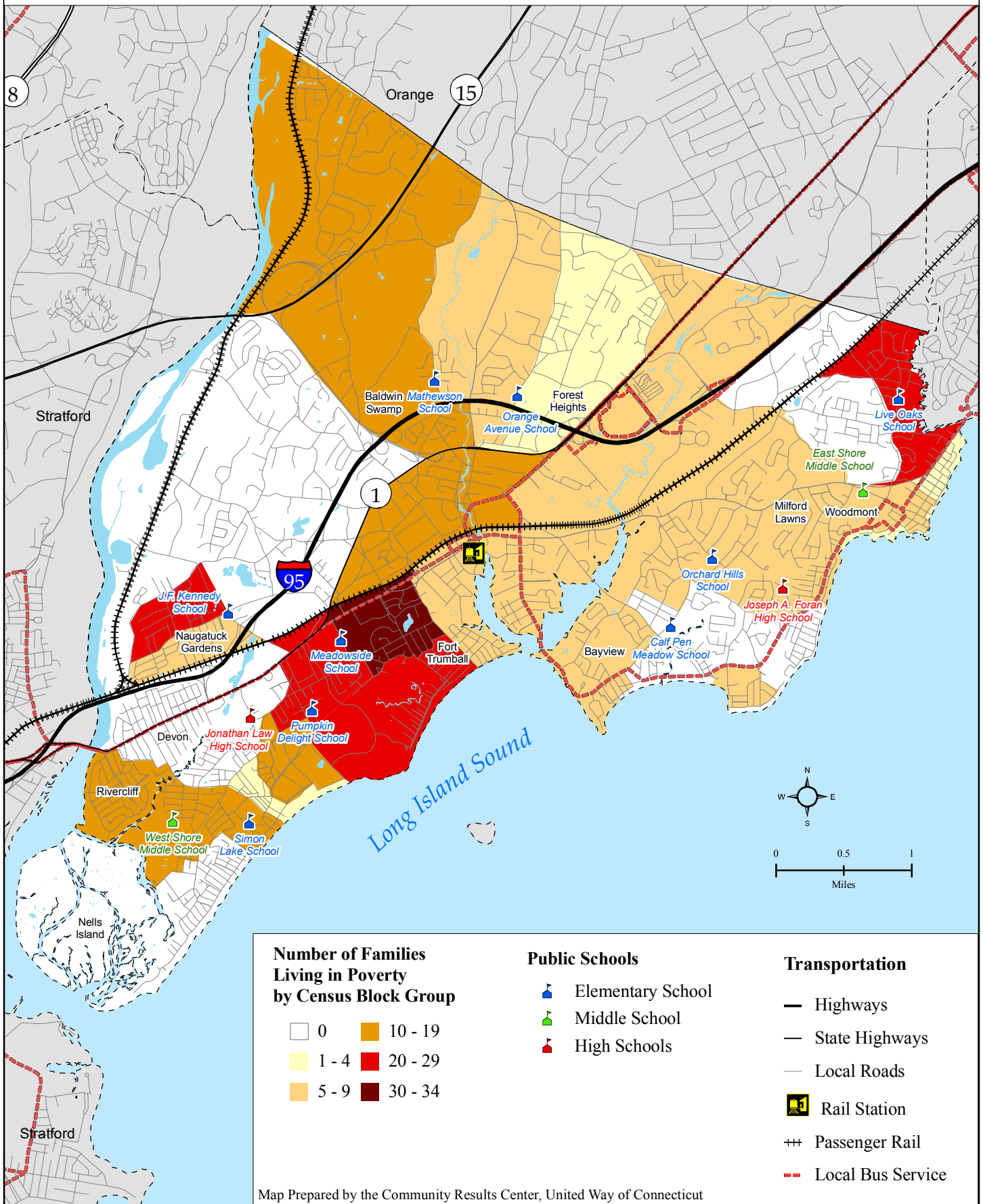
Milford, Connecticut





# Families Living in Poverty

Milford, Connecticut



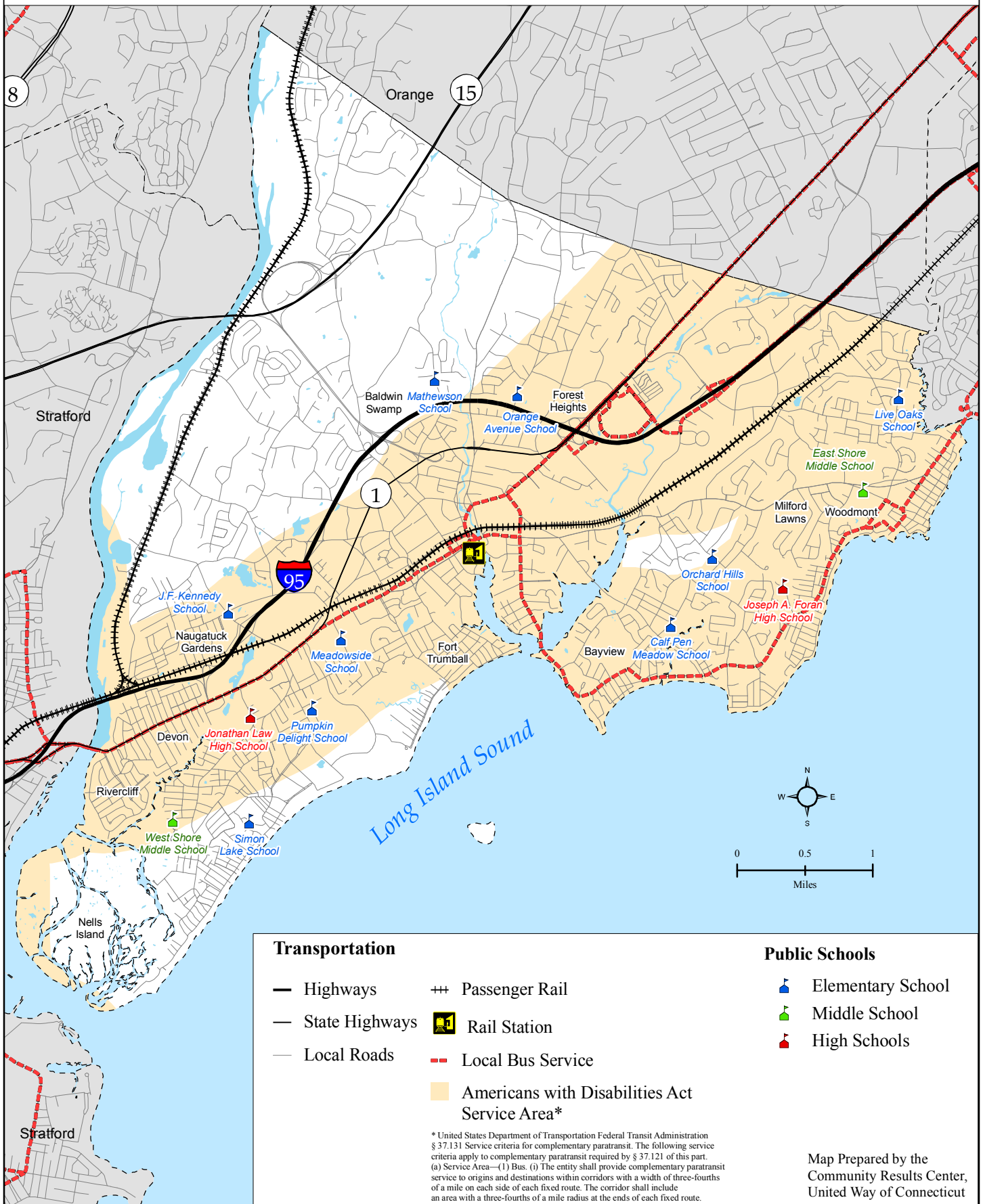
Map Prepared by the Community Results Center, United Way of Connecticut





# Transportation Network

Milford, Connecticut



\* United States Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration § 37.131 Service criteria for complementary paratransit. The following service criteria apply to complementary paratransit required by § 37.121 of this part. (a) Service Area—(1) Bus. (i) The entity shall provide complementary paratransit service to origins and destinations within corridors with a width of three-fourths of a mile on each side of each fixed route. The corridor shall include an area with a three-fourths of a mile radius at the ends of each fixed route.

Map Prepared by the  
Community Results Center,  
United Way of Connecticut



## APPENDIX C: Demographic and Social Indicator Data

**Table C-1: Population 2000, Population Growth 1990 to 2000**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
<b>Population 2000</b>	3,405,565	<b>52,305</b>	13,233	49,976	52,360
Estimated Population growth (1990 to 2000)	3.60%	<b>4.74%</b>	3.14%	1.19%	-3.07%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table C-2: Population and Percent of Population by Age, 2000**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
Ages 0-4	223,344 6.6%	<b>3,130</b> <b>6.0%</b>	728 5.5%	2,983 6.0%	3,270 6.2%
Ages 5-17	618,344 18.2	<b>8,548</b> <b>16.3%</b>	2,526 19.1%	8,523 17.1%	8,838 16.9%
Ages 18-24	271,585 8.0%	<b>3,089</b> <b>5.9%</b>	572 4.3%	2,917 5.8%	5,068 9.7%
Ages 25-49	1,285,443 39.7%	<b>20,751</b> <b>39.7%</b>	4,335 32.8%	17,693 35.4%	19,952 38.1%
Ages 50-64	536,666 15.8%	<b>8,991</b> <b>17.2%</b>	2,434 18.4%	8,267 16.5%	7,790 14.9%
Ages 65 +	470,183 13.8%	<b>7,796</b> <b>14.9%</b>	2,638 19.9%	9,593 19.2%	7,442 14.2%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table C-3: Population and Percent of Population by Race, 2000\***

Race/Ethnicity	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
White	2,780,355 81.6%	<b>48,967</b> <b>93.6%</b>	12,450 94.1%	42,361 84.8%	38,824 74.1%
Black	309,843 9.1%	<b>989</b> <b>1.9%</b>	104 0.8%	4,892 9.8%	8,530 16.3%
Hispanic (any race)	320,323 9.4%	<b>1,750</b> <b>3.3%</b>	190 1.4%	3,399 6.8%	4,757 9.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	83,679 2.4%	<b>1,234</b> <b>2.3%</b>	509 3.8%	717 1.4%	1,552 3.0%
American Indian	9,639 0.3%	<b>69</b> <b>0.1%</b>	11 0.1%	82 +	128 0.2%
Other/Multi Race	222,049 6.5%	<b>1,046</b> <b>2.0%</b>	159 1.1%	1,924 3.8%	3,326 6.4%

\*Percentages will not add to 100 because Hispanic can be of any race

+Less than ½ of 1 percent

Source: U.S. Census

## APPENDIX C: Demographic and Social Indicator Data (Cont.)

**Table C-4: Population for Ages 65 and Older and 85 and Older by Area – 2000**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
<b>Ages 65 -74</b>	231,565 6.8%	<b>3,895</b> <b>7.4%</b>	1,382 10.4%	4,531 9.1%	3,619 6.9%
<b>Ages 75-84</b>	174,345 5.1%	<b>3,035</b> <b>5.8%</b>	960 7.3%	3,815 7.6%	2,926 5.6%
<b>Ages 85+</b>	64,273 1.9%	<b>866</b> <b>1.7%</b>	296 2.2%	1,247 2.5%	897 1.7%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table C-5: Population Growth for Ages 65 and Older and 85 and Older by Area – 1990 to 2000**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
Population Growth 65-74	-9.6%	<b>-10.6%</b>	1.4%	-22.7%	-24.0%
Population Growth 75-84	22.2%	<b>50.0%</b>	63.8%	22.8%	18.5%
Population Growth 85+	36.8%	<b>56.6%</b>	69.1%	68.5%	20.7%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table C-6: Projected Population Growth for Ages 55 and Older in Connecticut from 2000 to 2010**

Growth Rate (2000 to 2010)			
Age 55+	Age 65+	Age 75+	Age 85+
19%	8%	7%	37%

Source: U.S. Census, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Services 95-1 September, 1995

## APPENDIX C: Demographic and Social Indicator Data (cont.)

**Table C-7: Unemployment, Home Value, Income, Poverty**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
<b>Unemployment</b>					
Percent Unemployed 2002	4.0%	<b>4.1%</b>	3.1%	4.7%	4.8%
Percent Unemployed June 2007	4.6%	<b>4.1%</b>	3.6%	4.8%	5.3%
<i>Number Unemployed June 2007</i>	<i>86,500</i>	<b><i>1,324</i></b>	<i>272</i>	<i>1,294</i>	<i>1,587</i>
<b>Home Value</b>					
Median Price of a Home 2005	\$271,500	<b>\$332,800</b>	\$410,000	\$290,000	\$234,000
<b>Income</b>					
Median Household Income 1999	\$53,935	<b>\$61,183</b>	\$79,365	\$53,494	\$51,631
<b>Poverty Data</b>					
Percent of families below poverty level	5.6%	<b>2.4%</b>	2.1%	3.5%	6.6%
<i>Number of families below poverty level</i>	<i>49,983</i>	<b><i>333</i></b>	<i>84</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>865</i>
Percent of individuals below poverty level	7.9%	<b>3.7%</b>	2.5%	5.0%	8.8%
<i>Number of individuals below poverty level</i>	<i>259,514</i>	<b><i>1,936</i></b>	<i>332</i>	<i>2,473</i>	<i>4,474</i>
Number of children in poverty ages 5-17 2000	58,246	<b>368</b>	22* 61**	445	946
Number of children in poverty ages 5-17 2004	na	<b>398</b>	26* 68**	556	1,018
Percent of students receiving free/reduced meals (2005-2006)	26.9%	<b>15.7%</b>	2.5%* 1.7%**	34.3%	41.3%

\* Orange Pre Kindergarten to grade 6

\*\* Regional High School District 5 Grades 7-12, include data for Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge

Source: Connecticut Department of Education, U.S. Census, CERC





## APPENDIX D: Children and Youth Data

**Table D-1: Percent of Kindergartners with Preschool, Nursery School, or Head Start Experience**

	2005-2006	2000-2001	Percent Change
Connecticut	79.2%	74.7%	4.5
<b>Milford</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>85.1%</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Orange	96.9%	98.8%	-1.9
Stratford	69.2%	71.5%	-2.3
West Haven	71.7%	61.0%	10.7

Source: CT State Department of Education

**Table D-2: Percent of Kindergartners with Preschool, Nursery School, or Head Start Experience - Milford Elementary Schools**

	2005-2006	2000-2001	Percent Change
Calf Pen Meadow	74.6%	67.1%	7.5
J. F. Kennedy	68.2%	86.1%	-17.9
Live Oaks	98.1%	73.8%	24.3
Mathewson	90.7%	90.9%	-0.2
Meadowside	88.1%	91.0%	-2.9
Orange Avenue	77.3%	92.9%	-15.6
Orchard Hills	85.5%	95.7%	-10.2
Pumpkin Delight	80.5%	78.1%	2.4
Simon Lake	80.6%	86.9%	-6.3

Source: CT State Department of Education

**Table D-3: Test Scores 2005-2006  
Percent of Students At or Above State Goal**

	Connecticut	Milford	Orange	Stratford	West Haven
Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Grade 4 Reading Scores	57.8%	<b>66.2%</b>	73.1%	48.9%	48.4%
Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Grade 10 Reading Across the Disciplines	46.5%	<b>42.2%</b>	72.5%	36.7%	34.3%

Source: CT State Department of Education

## APPENDIX D: Children and Youth Data (cont.)

**Table D-4: Percent of School Age Children Passing the Fitness Test**

Town	School Year		
	2005-2006	2003-2004	2000-2001
Connecticut	34.2%	34.6%	35.6%
<b>Milford</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Regional District 5	51.1%	41.6%	51.4%
Orange (K-6)	51.7%	42.0%	54.2%
Stratford	27.3%	32.4%	31.6%
West Haven	20.2%	24.5%	22.2%

Source: CT State Department of Education

**Table D-5: Cumulative Dropout Rates**

	Cumulative Dropout Rate		Percent Change
	Class of 2005	Class of 2000	
Connecticut	7.4%	12.2%	-4.8
<b>Milford</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Stratford	8.9%	14.5%	-5.6
West Haven	4.3%	18.4%	-14.1
Regional District 5 (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge)	1.5%	1.7%	-0.2

Source: CT State Department of Education

**Table D-6: Activities of Graduates by School District  
Percent of Students**

	Class of	Pursuing Higher Education	Employed or in Military	Unemployed
Connecticut	2005	82.3%	13.9%	0.9%
	2000	78.5%	17.6%	0.7%
<b>Milford</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
	<b>2000</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Regional District 5 (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge)	2005	91.1%	5.1%	0.0
	2000	87.1%	8.2%	1.4%
Stratford	2005	89.5%	7.5%	0.6%
	2000	84.2%	14.0%	0.3%
West Haven	2005	76.7%	16.4%	0.0
	2000	83.9%	14.8%	0.0

Source: CT State Department of Education

## APPENDIX D: Children and Youth Data (cont.)

**Table D-7: Activities of Graduates by Milford High School  
Percent of Students**

High School	Year	Attending Two- or Four- Year Colleges	Employed or in Military
Alternate Education	2005	6.3%	62.5%
	2000	NA	NA%
Joseph A. Foran	2005	83.0%	12.2%
	2000	75.5%	19.0%
Jonathan Law	2005	81.4%	8.2%
	2000	80.3%	15.5%
Platt Technical	2005	29.7%	66.5%
	2000	32.3%	62.0%

Source: CT State Department of Education  
NA Not available

**Table D-8: Juvenile Justice Involved Youth  
2005-2006 and 2006-2007**

	Year	Total Youth in Juvenile Justice System (Unduplicated)	Delinquency*	Status Offenders**	Youth in Crisis***
<b>Milford</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>
Orange	FY 2007	21	14	2	5
	FY 2006	10	7	1	2
Stratford	FY 2007	149	108	42	10
	FY 2006	146	98	55	14
West Haven	FY 2007	273	227	61	12
	FY 2006	309	227	48	63

\* Delinquency – offenses that are codified in the general statutes (burglary, larceny, assault, etc.)

\*\*Status offenses include truancy, runaway, and beyond parental control.

\*\*\* Youth in Crisis – status offenders age 16 or 17

Source Connecticut Court Support Services

**Table D-9: Truancy**

	Year	Truancy
<b>Milford</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>10</b>
Orange	FY 2007	0
	FY 2006	1
Stratford	FY 2007	27
	FY 2006	37
West Haven	FY 2007	40
	FY 2006	26

Source: Connecticut Court Support Services

## APPENDIX D: Children and Youth Data (cont.)

**Figure D-1: Connecticut Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee  
After-School Program Recommendations**

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee has the following recommendations for the establishment and maintenance of after school programs:<sup>27</sup>

- All elementary and middle school-aged children and youth should have access to programs during after-school hours that provide developmentally appropriate, enriching, safe, and well-supervised activities of interest to them.
- Every community should have a mechanism in place to regularly inventory the capacity and accessibility of after-school programs both within schools and in other locations to assess and plan for the needs of their children and youth.
- Funders and policymakers should work closely with communities, recognizing and supporting them as the experts in identifying needs and planning for their after-school programs.
- State and local government should budget for consistent ongoing support of successful after-school programs.
- Programs should be located in safe, appropriate, accepting and accessible settings including schools and other suitable locations in the community.
- After-school programs should maintain adequate levels of qualified, accepting, and committed staff with appropriate experience and realistic expectations of children and youth. Programs should also provide attractive compensation and work environments to retain staff.
- After-school programs should provide enriching learning opportunities and meet the social emotional and physical development needs of children and youth. Programs should be appropriate to the age, maturation level, gender, and culture of participants.

## APPENDIX E: 2-1-1 Service Requests

2-1-1 is the statewide phone-based information and referral service for health and human service issues operated by United Way of Connecticut. 2-1-1 tracks all calls received and the requests callers make. Since callers frequently have multiple needs during a call, 2-1-1 tracks the multiple requests for service that may be made. In 2006, callers in Milford made 4,388 service requests. The top five requests are listed below for Milford and surrounding towns for 2004 through 2006.

**Table E-1: Top Five 2-1-1 Service Requests 2006**

Town	Service Requests	Top 5 Service Requests				
<b>Milford</b>	<b>4,388</b>	Utility assistance (246)	Helplines/Warmlines (215)	Homeless Shelter (175)	Food pantries (114)	Subsidized rental housing(112)
Orange	415	Utility assistance (18)	Temporary financial assistance (11)	Job finding assistance (10)	Subsidized rental housing (9)	WIC (9)
Stratford	3,870	Utility assistance (311)	Temporary financial assistance (129)	Food pantries (111)	Homeless Shelter (111)	Subsidized rental housing (81)
West Haven	9,456	Utility assistance (711)	Food pantries (347)	Holiday gifts/toys (275)	Subsidized rental housing (249)	Temporary financial assistance (230)

Source: 2-1-1

**Table E-2: Top Five 2-1-1 Service Requests 2005**

Town	Service Requests	Top 5 Service Requests				
<b>Milford</b>	<b>4,366</b>	Helplines/Warmlines (258)	Utility Assistance (243)	Homeless Shelter (175)	Food Pantries (129)	Subsidized Rental Housing (115)
Orange	375	Utility Assistance (16)	Household Goods Donation Programs (13)	Mental Health Related Support Groups (9)	Temporary Financial Assistance (8)	Food Stamps (7)
Stratford	4,223	Utility Assistance (350)	Homeless Shelter (125)	General Information (109)	Subsidized Rental Housing (102)	Food pantries (101)
West Haven	9,788	Utility Assistance (868)	Food pantries (407)	General Information (288)	Subsidized Rental Housing (224)	Temporary Financial Assistance (211)

Source: 2-1-1

**Table E-3: Top Five 2-1-1 Service Requests 2004**

Town	Service Requests	Top 5 Service Requests				
<b>Milford</b>	<b>4,211</b>	Utility Assistance (274)	General Information (171)	Homeless Shelter (148)	Food Pantries (122)	Subsidized Rental Housing (107)
Orange	472	Helplines/Warmlines (28)	General Counseling Services (18)	General Information (18)	Utility Assistance (14)	Therapist Referrals (11)
Stratford	3,959	Utility Assistance (329)	General Information (145)	Subsidized Rental Housing (129)	Food Pantries (125)	Homeless Shelter (102)
West Haven	9,271	Utility Assistance (738)	Food Pantries (40)	General Information (393)	Subsidized Rental Housing (303)	Holiday Gifts/Toys (218)

Source: 2-1-1





## APPENDIX F: Focus Group Summary

### HOUSING

Participants expressed concern about the lack of affordable rental and owner housing. The concern was that young people who grew up in Milford and older residents who have lived here a long time are unable to find affordable housing options. Participants suggested the need for more congregate housing in Milford for lower income residents and older adults. There was also concern about older adults in public housing who are unable to care for themselves. The need for more space in the Beth El Center was also expressed.



### HEALTHCARE

The issues discussed include the difficulty in finding doctors and dentists in the City who accept Medicaid and HUSKY, the State's health plan for uninsured children. Participants also cited the decreasing reimbursement rates for Medicare procedures. For the most part, during discussions around medical transportation, it was felt that there is adequate transportation available within Milford, but not to regional facilities.

### MENTAL HEALTH FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Participants discussed the challenge of identifying preschool children who have developmental and behavioral health issues. It was suggested that there is more need for services aimed at children with developmental delays. Participants said that pediatricians often refer these patients for help but there are many children who may not be seen regularly by a physician.

### OLDER ADULTS

Issues surrounding older adults were many: the challenges for identifying isolated older adults, property tax burdens, the challenges of maintaining homes, transportation, and the probate challenges when indigent elderly pass away. It was suggested that more intergenerational programs be developed for older adults and children and youth.

### YOUTH CENTER

Discussions around children and youth in both focus groups centered on whether there is a need for a town youth center. There was consensus that more activities are needed for teens in town, but less on whether the establishment of a teen center is the appropriate response to that need. Participants suggested that if a teen center is too heavily structured or supervised, teens will not be inclined to attend. They suggest that teens need a place to go where they can have fun and relax and where they feel respected. Participants also suggested that programs for teens may need to be held at scattered sites around Milford, or at an intergenerational community center. One participant also suggested that there is no place in town for teens who play music or have a band to play and that a youth center could be used for that purpose.

## **APPENDIX F: Focus Group Summary (cont.)**

### **SKATEBOARD PARK**

Milford currently has a skateboard park on the Boston Post Road. The comments in the focus groups were that there are several barriers that keep the park from being used more often, including: the park is too easy, there are too many regulations, it is difficult to get to, and there is a yearly fee. It was suggested that teens tend to use the skateboard park in West Haven, because there is no charge. They also tend to use the parking lot at the Senior Center after the staff leaves.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

The discussions revolved around the escalating numbers of people seeking care at Bridges where there are over 1,000 open cases at any given time. The need for adolescent outpatient programs for kids who are on drugs or who are at risk was also expressed. Participants suggested more preventive measures in high schools aimed at substance abuse.

### **CURRENT BUSINESS CLIMATE**

The impact of the departure of Bic Corporation and neighboring Bayer could have on the United Way was discussed. A level of uncertainty was expressed about whether new businesses moving to Milford will be supportive of the United Way. Participants commented that businesses owned by national or global entities might not be as willing to participate in the United Way.

Participants also lamented the loss of manufacturing jobs and that the job gain has been in part-time jobs in the retail sector that do not offer benefits.

### **DIVERSITY**

Participants suggested that the City needs to pay attention to the needs of recent immigrants to make sure any City program is accessible to all.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Participants suggested that transportation is often among the last things considered in the planning phase for programs for children and youth and older adults. It was suggested that transportation be considered as part of any project and the need to secure funding for transportation be considered early in the planning process.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION**

Participants cited several vehicles for collaboration between agencies, namely the United Way's monthly meeting, the Milford Youth Council and the Milford Social Service Network. Suggestions were made for better communication between public safety agencies.

On the business front, it was suggested that local business organizations need to discuss the needs of the community and make sure that some of the money earmarked for philanthropic endeavors remains in Milford. It was also suggested that city residents looking for assistance with programs might not see local business organizations as a funding source.

## APPENDIX G: Resident Survey and Results

### United Way of Milford Needs Assessment Survey

*The United Way of Milford is conducting research to better understand the needs of the area. You have been asked to complete this survey because you live in Milford. All answers and comments will be confidential.*

**1. Please indicate in what capacity you are responding to this survey? (Please check one only)**

- ☐ I am a resident of Milford.  
☐ I live **and** work in Milford.

**2. Please indicate the level to which you agree or disagree with the following statements as they relate to Milford.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Young children in Milford are prepared to enter elementary school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are adequate after-school programs for young people in Milford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are people in Milford who do not have enough to eat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness is a problem in Milford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a lack of affordable housing in Milford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food pantries in Milford adequately provide for the needs of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The recreational programs available for seniors in Milford are adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who have problems with substance abuse can find help in Milford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who suffer from mental health problems can find help in Milford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior citizens in Milford have adequate transportation options for traveling to medical appointments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## APPENDIX G: Resident Survey and Results (cont.)

3. From the following list, please choose **five** items that you feel are the most pressing needs of Milford.

	Please check 5 items only
a. Access to affordable rental housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Access to affordable homes (purchase)	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expand homeless shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Shelter for victims of domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Increased public transportation options	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. More senior recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. More subsidized senior housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Health screening clinics for senior citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. More home health care services	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Preventive health services	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Parenting education classes	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Teen after-school programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Teen community center	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Mentoring programs for children	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Affordable child day care	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Affordable health care	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Mental health counseling	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Pre-school behavioral health screening	<input type="checkbox"/>
s. Teen pregnancy prevention counseling	<input type="checkbox"/>
t. Substance abuse treatment programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
u. Recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
v. Job training programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
w. Expanded library services	<input type="checkbox"/>
x. Remediate industrial pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>
y. More acceptance of diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: If you have comments about the needs of Milford, please add them here.

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## APPENDIX G: Resident Survey and Results (cont.)

**Table G-1: Top Five Needs**

Affordable Healthcare
Affordable Rental Housing
After-school Programs
Affordable Homes
Teen Community Center

**Title G-2: Percent who Strongly Agree or Agree**

Overall	
<b>Basic Needs</b>	
There is a lack of affordable housing in Milford	70%
There are people in Milford who do not have enough to eat	67%
Homelessness is a problem in Milford	49%
Food pantries in Milford adequately provide for the needs of the community	37%
<b>Health</b>	
People who suffer from mental health problems can find help in Milford	63%
People who have problems with substance abuse can find help in Milford	56%
<b>Education</b>	
Young children in Milford are prepared to enter elementary school	59%
There are adequate after-school programs for young people in Milford	31%
<b>Older Adults</b>	
The recreational programs available for seniors in Milford are adequate	52%
Senior citizens in Milford have adequate transportation options for traveling to medical appointments	46%



## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results

### High School Survey Highlights

A survey was distributed to Milford public high school students to better understand the after-school activities in which they participate, and their interest in a town youth center. The surveys were given to students at Jonathan Law, Joseph Foran, Platt Technical, and the Alternate Education Program, during home room periods. Surveys were distributed during January 2007. Highlights from the survey are listed below.



### *After-school Activities*

- When asked about all of the activities in which they participate after school, students are most likely to say they tend to hang out with friends, do homework or watch TV. When asked what one activity they participate in most often, students at all four high schools are most likely to say they hang out with friends (Tables H-1 and H-2).
- When reviewing after-school activities by grade, there is little variation; students in grades 9 through 11 are most likely to say they hang out with friends after school, while those in grade 12 are most likely to work after school.

### *Milford Programs for Teenagers*

- Overall, 42 percent of high school students say Milford has enough programs for teens. Over half of teenage boys agree the town has adequate programs, while only a third of teenage girls share that opinion. Younger students, those in grades 9 and 10, are also more likely to agree that there are enough programs for teens in Milford (53 percent and 46 percent respectively), while only around a third of those in grades 11 and 12 agree (Table H-3).

### *Youth Center*

- When asked whether Milford needs a town youth center, overall 39 percent of teens said they would use such a youth center. There is some variation between the opinion of teens by high school and by gender. Teens at Foran High School are more likely (43 percent) to say they would use a youth center than are those at the other high schools. Teenage girls, who are more likely to say that Milford does not have adequate programs for teens, are also more likely than teenage boys to say they would go to a youth center (43 percent vs. 34 percent respectively) (Table H-4).
- Those students who indicated that they would use a youth center were most likely to say they would use the center both after school and on the weekends (43 percent). Forty percent said they would most likely use the center just on the weekends (Table H-5).
- More than half of the teens who said they would use a youth center said it should be located near the town green (58 percent). Close to a third of teens at Foran who said they would use a youth center indicated that the center should be located in Woodmont (Table H-5).

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

- Teens were also asked about the programs that should be offered at the Youth Center. There was considerable support for sports facilities, a computer lab, help with homework, job interview training, and counseling. Teens also expressed an interest in having the teen center be a place where they could hang out with friends. In addition, teens offered some suggestions for other youth center activities. These most commonly included providing the local bands and teen bands a place to perform (Table H-5).
- The idea of participating in youth programs at various sites around Milford received slightly more support than visiting a youth center. Overall, 44 percent of teens said they would participate in youth programs located around Milford.

### *Transportation*

- For most teens, transportation to after-school programs is not a deterrent for attendance. Overall, close to two thirds of teens say they have no problem getting to an after-school program or getting home. However, 45 percent of student who attend the Alternate Education program indicate that getting to and from after-school programs is a challenge (Table H-6).
- Overall Milford high school students are not very likely to use public transportation. Seventy percent say they never use public transportation. The exception are students who attend the Alternate Education program and Platt Regional school. Twenty-eight percent of students from the Alternate Education program and 23 percent from Platt use public transportation occasionally or often (Table H-7).

### *Mall*

- At the time this research project began, Milford had experienced a negative incident at the mall involving teenagers. High school students were thus asked how often they go to the mall each week without shopping. The intent was to get a sense of the percent of high school students who go to the mall on a regular basis to hang out. Overall, 44 percent say they never go to the mall without shopping, leaving 56 percent who say they go to the mall at least once a week without shopping (Table H-8).
- High school students in the two highest grades and students who attend Jonathan Law are the least likely to go to the mall without shopping, however, just over half of them report this activity. Students from Platt and the Alternate Education program are the most likely go to the mall without shopping.
- Overall, 15 percent of high school students say they do not feel safe at the mall (Table H-9).

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

### Safety Issues

- Overall, 90 percent of students indicate that they feel safe at their high school. Students at the Alternate Education program were the least likely to say they felt safe (81 percent) (Table H-10).
- There was little difference between teenage boys and girls in terms of safety. Eighty-nine percent of high school boys and 91 percent of high school girls said they feel safe.
- When asked whether they have been harassed or bullied at school in the past six months, 16 percent of all students said had been harassed or bullied. The most likely to indicate that they had been harassed were those in grades 9 and 10 (20 percent and 18 percent respectively), and students at Jonathan Law (18 percent). Female students were slightly more likely than were male students to say they had been harassed or bullied (17 percent and 14 percent respectively).

### Plans for the Future

- The vast majority of Milford high school students plan to continue their education upon graduation. Overall, 94 percent of students say they will continue their education. The highest percent is of females (97 percent) and students at Foran high school (96 percent). Students from Platt Technical and Alternate Education are the least likely to say they plan to continue their education (79 percent and 77 percent respectively) (Table H-11).

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## HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

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### *What do you usually do after school?*

**Table H-1: All After-School Activities Engaged in – by High School**

	Overall
Hang out with friends	66%
Homework	56%
Watch TV	53%
Instant message/email friends	43%
Surf the Internet	32%
School sports team	31%
Work	27%
Play video games	27%
School clubs	17%
Sports outside of school	17%
Other	11%
Exercise/Gym	3%
Sleep	2%
Band	1%
Dance/martial arts	1%

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

*What one after-school activity do you do most often?*

**Table H-2: After School Activities Engaged in Most Often – by High School**

	Overall
Hang out with friends	22%
Homework	17%
School sports team	16%
Work	10%
Watch TV	8%
Instant message/email friends	7%
Surf the Internet	4%
Play video games	4%
Sports outside of school	3%
Other	3%
School clubs	2%
Band	1%
Exercise/Gym	1%
Skateboard	1%
Sleep	1%

*Questions Regarding Milford Teen Programs*

**Table H-3: Percent Answering “ Yes”**

	Does Milford have Enough Programs for Teens?	Would You Use a Youth Center?	Would You Participate in Youth Programs Located Around Milford Instead of at a Town Youth Center?
<b>Overall</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>High School</b>			
Joseph A. Foran	40%	43%	47%
Jonathan Law	43%	36%	42%
Platt Technical	54%	28%	38%
Alternate Education	29%	33%	37%
<b>Grade</b>			
Grade 9	53%	35%	43%
Grade 10	46%	38%	44%
Grade 11	33%	46%	46%
Grade 12	34%	37%	42%
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	33%	43%	48%
Male	51%	34%	39%

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

### Questions Regarding a Youth Center

Table H-4

	Overall
<b>Would You Use a Youth Center?</b> (percent answering “yes”)	<b>39%</b>
<b>Where should the center be located?*</b>	
Near the town green	58%
Woodmont	17%
At the mall	12%
Devon	10%
Other	3%
<b>When would you use a Youth Center?*</b>	
After school	17%
On the weekends	40%
Both	43%
<b>What should the Youth Center offer?*</b>	
Sports facilities	80%
Computer lab	65%
Programs	63%
Just a place to hang out	62%
Help with homework	62%
Job interview training	61%
Counselors	44%
Other	23%

\* Asked only of those who said “yes” to  
“Would you use a Youth Center?”

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

**Table H-5: Questions Concerning Establishment of a Town Youth Center – by Gender**

	Overall	Female	Male
<b>Would use a town Youth Center</b> (Percent answering “yes”)	<b>39%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Where should be center be located?</b>			
Near the town green	58%	59%	57%
Woodmont	17%	18%	16%
At the mall	12%	13%	10%
Devon	10%	8%	14%
Other	3%	2%	3%
<b>When would you use a Youth Center?</b>			
After school	17%	16%	20%
On the weekends	40%	39%	41%
Both	43%	45%	39%
<b>What should the Youth Center offer?</b>			
Sports facilities	80%	75%	86%
Computer lab	65%	68%	62%
Programs	63%	66%	60%
Help with homework	63%	67%	57%
Just a place to hang out	62%	66%	56%
Job interview training	62%	67%	55%
Counselors	44%	51%	36%
Other	22%	20%	24%

\* Asked only of those who said “yes” to “Would you use a Youth Center?”

### Transportation

**Table H-6: Is Getting to or Getting Home from After-School Programs a Problem? – by High School, Grade and Gender**

	Getting there is a problem	Getting home is a problem	Both are a problem	Neither is a problem
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>High School</b>				
Joseph A. Foran	4%	17%	12%	67%
Jonathan Law	5%	13%	16%	66%
Platt Technical	2%	10%	19%	69%
Alternate Education	10%	11%	34%	45%
<b>Grade</b>				
Grade 9	4%	11%	16%	69%
Grade 10	6%	19%	20%	55%
Grade 11	5%	18%	18%	59%
Grade 12	3%	9%	12%	76%



## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

**Table H-7: Do You Use Public Transportation to Reach After-School or Weekend Activities – by High School, Grade and Gender**

	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
<b>Overall</b>	5%	8%	8%	79%
<b>High School</b>				
Joseph A. Foran	4%	6%	7%	83%
Jonathan Law	5%	9%	8%	78%
Platt Technical	14%	9%	8%	69%
Alternate Education	9%	19%	25%	47%
<b>Grade</b>				
Grade 9	7%	10%	8%	75%
Grade 10	7%	8%	9%	76%
Grade 11	4%	10%	9%	77%
Grade 12	3%	4%	6%	87%

### Mall Activity

**Table H-8: How Often Do You Go to the Mall Each Week Without Shopping? – By High School, Grade and Gender**

	1 day per week	At least 2 days per week	Never
<b>Overall</b>	36%	20%	44%
<b>High School</b>			
Joseph A. Foran	38%	19%	43%
Jonathan Law	33%	19%	48%
Platt Technical	36%	32%	32%
Alternate Education	40%	24%	36%
<b>Grade</b>			
Grade 9	40%	20%	40%
Grade 10	41%	18%	41%
Grade 11	33%	19%	48%
Grade 12	29%	23%	48%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	35%	20%	45%
Female	36%	22%	42%

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

**Table H-9: Do you Feel Safe at the Mall? – High School, Grade, and Gender**

	Percent answering “No”
<b>Overall</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>High School</b>	
Joseph A. Foran	21%
Jonathan Law	11%
Platt Technical	10%
Alternate Education	11%
<b>Grade</b>	
Grade 9	15%
Grade 10	14%
Grade 11	16%
Grade 12	17%
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	16%
Male	14%

### School Safety

**Table H-10: School Safety and Bullying Experience – by High School, Grade and Gender Percent Answering “Yes”**

	Do you feel safe at school?	Have you been harassed or bullied at school in the past 6 months?
<b>Overall</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>High School</b>		
Joseph A. Foran	89%	15%
Jonathan Law	91%	18%
Platt Technical	88%	13%
Alternate Education	81%	17%
<b>Grade</b>		
Grade 9	91%	20%
Grade 10	89%	18%
Grade 11	91%	13%
Grade 12	88%	13%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	91%	17%
Male	89%	14%

## APPENDIX H: Youth Survey and Results (cont.)

### Future Plans

Table H-11: Plan to Continue Your Education? – By High School, Grade and Gender

	Percent Answering “Yes”
<b>Overall</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>High School</b>	
Joseph A. Foran	96%
Jonathan Law	95%
Platt Technical	79%
Alternate Education	77%
<b>Grade</b>	
Grade 9	94%
Grade 10	94%
Grade 11	94%
Grade 12	94%
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	97%
Male	91%

## United Way of Milford High School Survey

**Please complete this needs assessment survey about some of your experiences in Milford. Your opinions are important to us!**

1. In which part of Milford do you live?

<input type="checkbox"/> Devon
<input type="checkbox"/> Woodmont
<input type="checkbox"/> Another part of Milford
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

2. What do you usually do after school? **(Please check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Watch TV
<input type="checkbox"/> School clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Instant message/email friends
<input type="checkbox"/> School sports team	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf the Internet
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports outside of school	<input type="checkbox"/> Play video games
<input type="checkbox"/> Hang out with friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Work
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

3. What one after school activity do you do most often? **(Please check one only)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Watch TV
<input type="checkbox"/> School clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Instant message/email friends
<input type="checkbox"/> School sports team	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf the Internet
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports outside of school	<input type="checkbox"/> Play video games
<input type="checkbox"/> Hang out with friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Work
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

4. If you want to participate in an activity after school, is getting there or getting back home a problem? **(Please check one only)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Getting there is a problem	<input type="checkbox"/> Both are a problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting back home is a problem	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither is a problem

5. Do you currently use public transportation to reach after school or weekend activities?

<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally
<input type="checkbox"/> Seldom	<input type="checkbox"/> Often

6. How often do you go to the Mall each week without shopping?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 day a week	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 days a week
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 days a week	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 days a week
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 days a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Everyday
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 days a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Never

7. Do you feel safe at the mall?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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8. Does Milford offer enough programs for teenagers?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

9. If there was a town Youth Center would you use it?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <b>(SKIP TO Question 13)</b>
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10. Where should the town Youth Center be located? **(Please check one only)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Near the town green	<input type="checkbox"/> In the Woodmont area
<input type="checkbox"/> At the mall	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Devon area	

11. When would you use this town Youth Center? **(Please check one only)**

<input type="checkbox"/> After school	<input type="checkbox"/> On the weekends
<input type="checkbox"/> Both	

12. What should the Youth Center offer? **(Please check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> No programs, just a place to hang out	<input type="checkbox"/> Help with homework
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Job interview training
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Counselors
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer lab	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

13. Would you participate in town youth programs if they were at various locations around Milford instead of at a town Youth Center?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

14. Do you feel safe at school?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

15. During the last six months have you been harassed or bullied at school?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

16. After your high school graduation do you plan to continue your education?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

17. What is your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
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18. What is your age?

<input type="checkbox"/> 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 13
<input type="checkbox"/> 14
<input type="checkbox"/> 15
<input type="checkbox"/> 16
<input type="checkbox"/> 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 or older

19. What grade are you in?

<input type="checkbox"/> 9 <sup>th</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 <sup>th</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 <sup>th</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <sup>th</sup>

**Thank you very much for your time!**

## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census
- <sup>2</sup> Office of Healthcare Access, *Databook: Health Insurance Coverage in Connecticut*, January 2007.
- <sup>3</sup> City of Milford, *Community Development Annual Report 2006-2007*.
- <sup>4</sup> City of Milford, *Community Development Annual Report 2006-2007*.
- <sup>5</sup> City of Milford, *Community Development Annual Report 2006-2007*.
- <sup>6</sup> Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), *Town Profiles*, April 2007.
- <sup>7</sup> Connecticut Voices for Children, *The State of Working Connecticut*, September 2006.
- <sup>8</sup> Connecticut Department of Labor, *Labor Situation*, May 2007.
- <sup>9</sup> City of Milford, *Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan – Fiscal Years 2005-2009*, July, 2005.
- <sup>10</sup> U.S. Census
- <sup>11</sup> Connecticut Association for Human Services, *Seeds of Prosperity: Children of Low-Income Working Families*, 2006.
- <sup>12</sup> Office of Workforce Competitiveness, *The Real Cost of Living in 2005: The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Connecticut*, December 2005.
- <sup>13</sup> Connecticut Association for Human Services, *Seeds of Prosperity: Children of Low-Income Working Families*, 2006.
- <sup>14</sup> Connecticut Association for Human Services, *Seeds of Prosperity: Children of Low-Income Working Families*, 2006.
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>16</sup> Connecticut Department of Education, *Strategic School Profiles*, 2005-2006.
- <sup>17</sup> 2-1-1 ChildCare
- <sup>18</sup> Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, *Before and After School Activities in Connecticut's Elementary and Middle Schools*, 2002.
- <sup>19</sup> City of Milford, *Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan – Fiscal Years 2005-2009*, July, 2005.
- <sup>20</sup> CT Coalition to End Homelessness in CT, February 2006
- <sup>21</sup> Office of Healthcare Access, *Databook: Health Insurance Coverage in Connecticut*, January 2007.
- <sup>22</sup> Office of Healthcare Access, *Databook: Health Insurance Coverage in Connecticut*, January 2007.
- <sup>23</sup> Office of Healthcare Access, *Overview of OHCA's 2006 Young Adults Survey*, March 2007.
- <sup>24</sup> Connecticut Voices for Children, *Uninsured Children in Connecticut 2005*. February 2007.
- <sup>25</sup> Office of Healthcare Access, *Child Health Coverage in Connecticut 2006*, March 2007.
- <sup>26</sup> Maine Health Access Foundation, *The Eastern Main Transportation Collaborative Health Services Initiative Needs Assessment Research Final Report*, November 18, 2005.
- <sup>27</sup> Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, *Before and After School Activities in Connecticut's Elementary and Middle Schools*, 2002.