

2018 **ecos** Annual Report

The State of Chittenden County

Achieving our vision for a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous future



Prepared by CCRPC
on behalf of the
ECOS Partnership



The University of Vermont



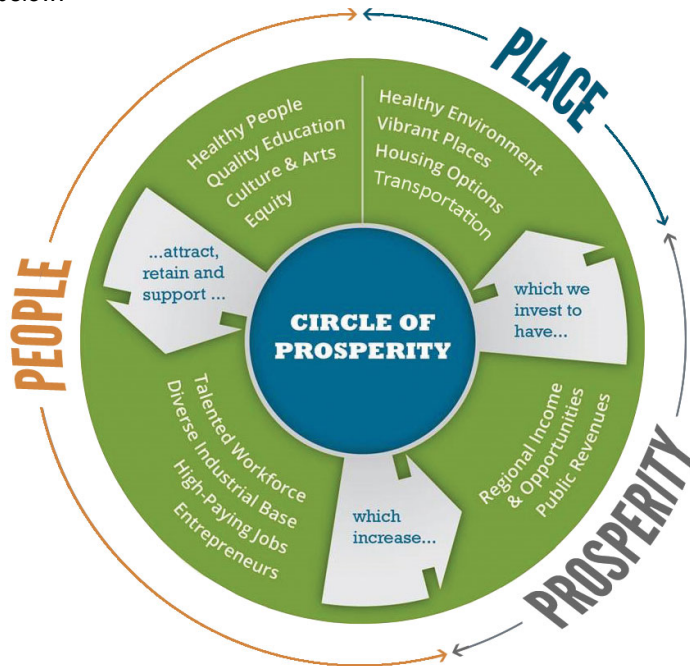
THE
University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER



VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

INTRODUCTION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Five years since the adoption of the **ECOS Plan**, the ECOS Partners remain invested in making progress toward accomplishing the plan's vision for a healthy, prosperous, and inclusive Chittenden County. The challenges we face are multi-faceted and often interrelated. We keep working to break down silos and ensure that our efforts are mutually supportive. This interdependence is reflected in the Circle of Prosperity below:



Elements of the **ECOS Plan** are integrated into each partner organization's work plans, and the partners approach work differently as a result of implementing the principles of collective impact.

To monitor and build on successes, bring new information to the legislature and community leaders, and continue to work on areas that need improvement, the ECOS Partnership prepares this Annual Report and an online data scorecard each year. These resources provide insight into current and future needs in Chittenden County, and allow us to focus on long-term solutions rather than just treating short-term symptoms.

In this report, the ECOS Partnership has selected a few key indicators from the ECOS Plan. They are not intended to be inclusive of all the goals; the full set of goals can be found in the **ECOS Scorecard**.

2018 UPDATES

2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and GBIC adopted the **2018 ECOS Plan** on June 20, 2018. The 2018 Plan focused mainly on updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and will serve as the region's Enhanced Energy Plan.

University of Vermont Health Network

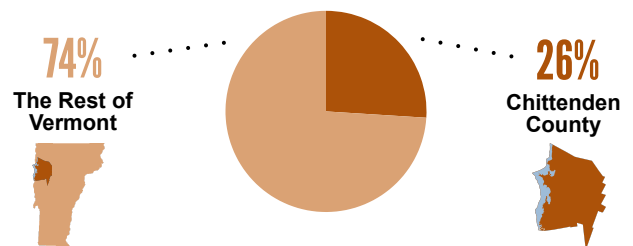
The UVM Medical Center released the draft **2019 Community Health Needs Assessment** for Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties.

POPULATION

Chittenden County continues to grow, but at a slow rate.

Chittenden County's annual growth rate is 0.5% (156,705 in 2010 to 162,372 in 2017).

Chittenden County Population Within Vermont



Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate

DIVERSITY

We are growing more diverse.

88%

of the population growth in the last eight years has been Hispanic (of any race), Black or African American, Asian, and/or American Indian and Alaska Native. This equates to 4,982 of the additional 5,677 people from 2010-2017. Immigrant workers are a vital reason why businesses have been able to thrive in recent years.

Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Investments in social circumstances and healthy behaviors have the greatest potential to improve health.

Behaviors contribute 40%, while social circumstances including food, access to transportation, employment, education, and housing contribute 15%. Social circumstances strongly influence behavior, so together, the two contribute largely to health -- much more so than health care at 10%.



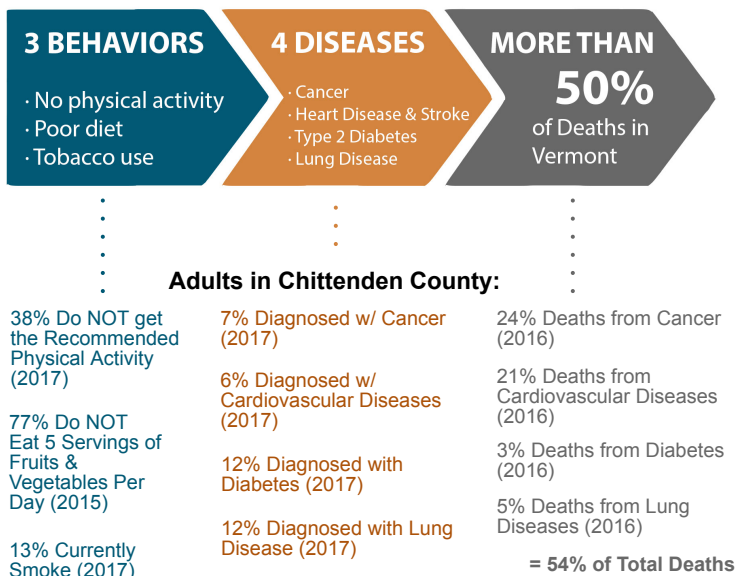
This concept, referred to as **the social determinants of health**, is woven throughout this report by looking at trends regarding people, the places they live, and their prosperity. Because these elements are directly related to people's overall well-being, healthcare in Vermont is moving to a progressive delivery and payment system to improve the health and well-being of individuals and the community.

Learn more in the **2018 ECOS Plan** (pg. 41).

PEOPLE

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

A change in only three behaviors can have a major influence on the health of Vermonters.



OF NOTE:

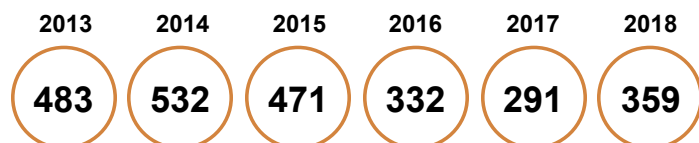
Nationally, e-cigarette use among youth increased **75%** from 2017 to 2018. Many e-cigarettes contain nicotine and other harmful and potentially harmful ingredients. E-cigarettes are promoted with marketing strategies known to appeal to youth.

HOMELESSNESS

The 2018 Annual Statewide Count of the Homeless indicates that the number of individuals in Chittenden County experiencing homelessness increased by 68, though the overall count is still lower than 2015 and earlier years.

For this year's count, homelessness increased likely due to adverse weather, causing more people to seek shelter. Homeless households with children and those unsheltered declined. The [Chittenden County Homeless Alliance](#) made progress this year in streamlining access to resources and developed a new strategic plan.

Number of Homeless Individuals



Source: Point-in-Time Count - Burlington Continuum of Care Report & UW Chittenden County

SUBSTANCE USE

Significant strides have been made in opioid treatment, and the waitlist for medication-assisted treatment has remained virtually at zero since September 2017.

Treatment Efforts Expand; 2018 Fatalities Dropped 50%



Buprenorphine is available as a low-barrier treatment option at [Howard Center's Safe Recovery](#) and is also available 24/7 at the University of Vermont Medical Center Emergency Department.

In 2018, there were 17 accidental opioid overdose fatalities in Chittenden County which was a **50% decrease** from 2017.

Source: Vermont Department of Health

Prevention is Essential



Youth are impacted by messages they receive where they live, learn, and play. Cultural norms in a community related to alcohol and marijuana influence the rate of use, especially for youth.

21% of youth reported using marijuana in the last 30 days

31% of youth reported using alcohol in the last 30 days

Source: Vermont Department of Health, YRBS

We have much work to do to ensure youth make healthy choices and substance use prevention is integrated into our culture.

Learn about prevention activities for your community [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH

21% of Chittenden County adults have been diagnosed with a depressive disorder.



UVM Medical Center Emergency Department regularly sees visits related to mental health:



One response to this community challenge is a partnership between the [Howard Center](#) and police departments in Colchester, Winooski, South Burlington, Shelburne, Essex, and Williston to launch the [Community Outreach Program](#) to respond to mental health crises. Since April 2018, 586 total cases have been reported.

Source: WCAX 12/12/2018

**HERE'S
WHAT YOU
CAN DO!**



Substance-Free College Housing

University of Vermont students are choosing to live in substance-free dormitories. Learn more at:

uvm.edu/we



Do Your Part!

When you properly store and get rid of unused medications, you're doing your part to keep Vermonters and Vermont healthy and safe. Learn more at:

healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/services/prescription-drug-disposal

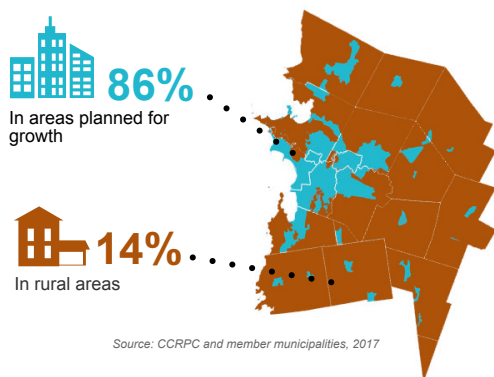
PLACE

SMART GROWTH

We've continued to invest in the centers of our communities.

While development in existing communities can be difficult, infill in the right places has positive benefits of increased inclusivity and economic strength. For the fifth year in a row, the goal for 80% of new development to occur in areas planned for growth has been met or exceeded.

5-Year Average of Homes Built in Chittenden County



CLEAN WATER

We continue to work toward reducing excess phosphorus in Lake Champlain by **34%** statewide.

Stormwater runoff from roads is a notable phosphorus input to the Lake, and the region has done a significant amount of work to address this issue.

The CCRPC completed **Road Erosion Inventories** for all municipalities in Chittenden County and helped with water quality grant applications.

In FY18, municipalities received \$1.15M in water quality grant funding from VTrans and the Department of Environmental Conservation to address road erosion, develop Stormwater Master Plans to identify local phosphorus reduction projects, and implement stormwater treatment upgrades.

ENERGY

Electric vehicle use is on the rise.

977 of registered vehicles in Chittenden County are plug-in hybrid or electric.

While this is still only 1% of all vehicles, there was a 63% jump last year.

The State of Vermont Public Utilities Commission is **studying** what is needed to increase electric vehicle use.

Chittenden County municipalities are working toward full energy compliance.

The **2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan** received a positive determination of energy compliance from the Vermont Department of Public Service, which means the CCRPC now has the authority to approve municipal plans for energy compliance.

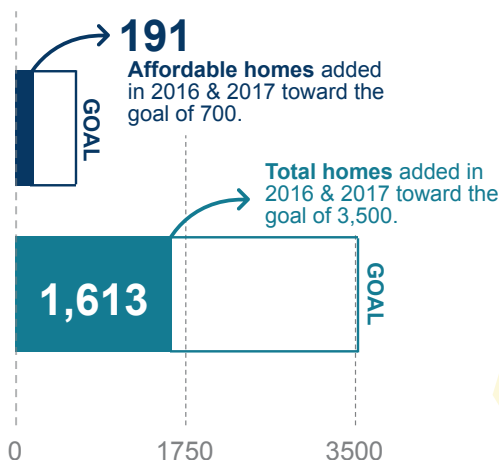


Richmond is the first town to receive this and most municipalities are actively working toward it.

HOUSING

The **Building Homes Together** campaign seeks to build 3,500 new homes by 2021, 700 of which are affordable.

Homes Built in Chittenden County During the First Two Years of the Campaign (2016 & 2017)



Quick Facts: Vacancy Rate

1.8%

The average 2018 vacancy rate for the rental market in Chittenden County

5%

The vacancy rate most agree will yield a healthy market for renters & owners



Though not included in the totals above, UVM demolished two dormitories (391 beds) and replaced them with a new dormitory (695 beds), creating a net gain of 304 beds for 2017. This is an important component of the overall housing picture.

TRANSPORTATION

Chittenden County is striving for a transportation system for our region's residents, businesses, and visitors that is:

ACCESSIBLE · SAFE · INTERCONNECTED · EQUITABLE · SUSTAINABLE



More robust investment in transit, walking/biking, car-sharing and ride-sharing is needed to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel. These investments can:

ENHANCE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING · IMPROVE AIR QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH · REDUCE SOCIAL ISOLATION · REDUCE CONGESTION



There is a significant link between transportation choices and public health. Physical activity in our communities has a cross-cutting societal impact and is directly dependent on transportation opportunities, infrastructure, and community design. A lack of safe and convenient alternatives to automobile travel disproportionately affects vulnerable populations.



Since 2010, an additional 5 miles of on-road bike lanes and shared use paths were added, and 24 miles of sidewalks were added.



Since the launch of **greenride bikeshare** in April 2018, 3,218 users have taken 8,806 trips.



The **Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA)** provides accessible transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities to medical appointments and other activities. **SSTA provided 130,249 rides in 2018**, an 8% decline from the 2015 peak.



Included in the SSTA data are the volunteer driver trips of **Neighbor Rides**, a program of the **United Way of Northwest Vermont**, and a program first established under an ECOS grant.

To learn more about transportation planning in Chittenden County, visit: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/>

PROSPERITY

WHILE OUR ECONOMY IS STRONG, IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED



Chittenden County is the economic engine of Vermont.

As of 2017, Chittenden County makes up over 25% of Vermont's population, sales tax revenue and private businesses, and over 35% of the state's gross domestic product and income tax revenue.

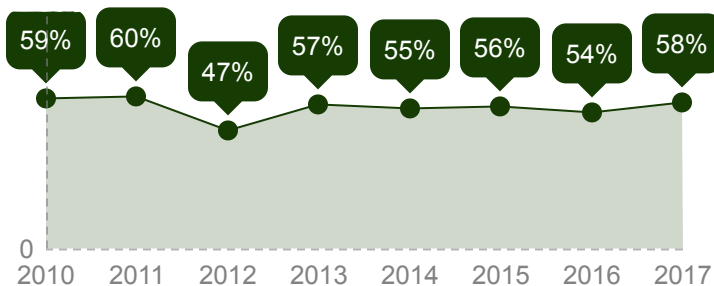


While many parts of the Chittenden County economy have improved since the recession, it isn't all positive.

About 7,000 jobs have been created since employment peaked in 2007 before the recession and median household income has risen; however, the unemployment rate has dropped too low and over the last two years, employment growth has been stagnant and housing costs are still too high for many.

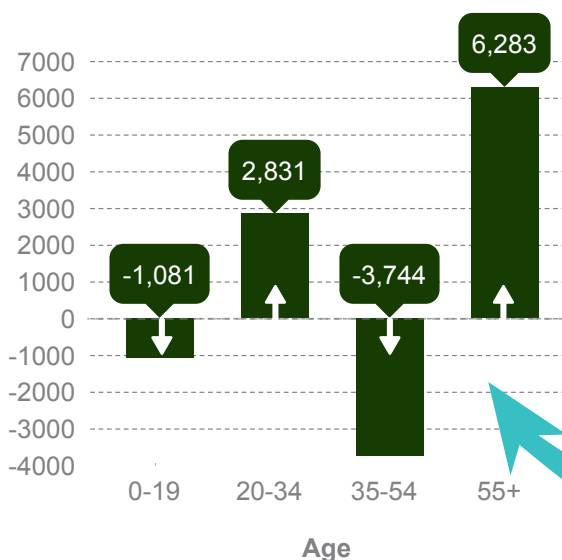


The percentage of renters who are cost burdened (those who spend over 30% of their income on housing) remains steady:



Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate, Margin of error is associated with these data. These data are not statistically different.

Change in Age Cohort Distribution 2008-2012 vs. 2013-2017



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2008-2012, 2013-2017), Margin of error is associated with these data. Data trends are statistically significant.

Although the unemployment rate is low in Chittenden County (2.3%) and Vermont (3%) compared to the U.S. (4.4%), an unemployment rate this low indicates a lack of available workforce. In addition, there are important caveats to this:

7%

of Vermonters aged 20-24 are unemployed and looking for work, compared to 4.1% for the general population. A lack of job experience for young Vermonters undermines the future workforce and leaves them without a strong basis for future work.

70%

of Chittenden County residents over 16 were participating in the labor force in 2017, down slightly from 72% in 2010.

52%

of graduating high school seniors in Vermont either enrolled in post-secondary school but left early or did not go on to any further education or training.

Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table S23012: Employment Status, 2013-2017 Estimates VSAC-VSC Senior Survey Report (2012-2016)

CHILD CARE

Child care shortages negatively impact our businesses, schools, communities, health care system and the economy.



Since 2015, home-based child-care providers are down 26% statewide. 9 child care center-based programs and 51 registered homes closed in Chittenden County in 2015-2016.

Anecdotal evidence suggests contributing factors could be retirement, perception of onerous regulations (which changed in 2016 to increase quality of care), younger providers not entering the child-care field, and smaller family size.

Source: Child Care and Prekindergarten Capacity Baseline Report, November 2018

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS



Chittenden County is experiencing a decline in the workforce population due to demographic shifts: An aging population, low birth rates, the out-migration of young adults and the high cost of housing.

In addition to our demographic challenges, what our economic and labor market now faces can best be described as a skills gap, where work opportunities are not able to be met by the available labor force. Based on work from the Vermont Futures Project, we estimate a workforce gap in Chittenden County of around 3,500+/year when we account for employment growth relative to employment exits.



Environment. Community. Opportunity. Sustainability.

..... ecosproject.com

Visit the ECOS Scorecard to view all the indicators
measuring progress toward the ECOS Plan goals.