

2019 **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



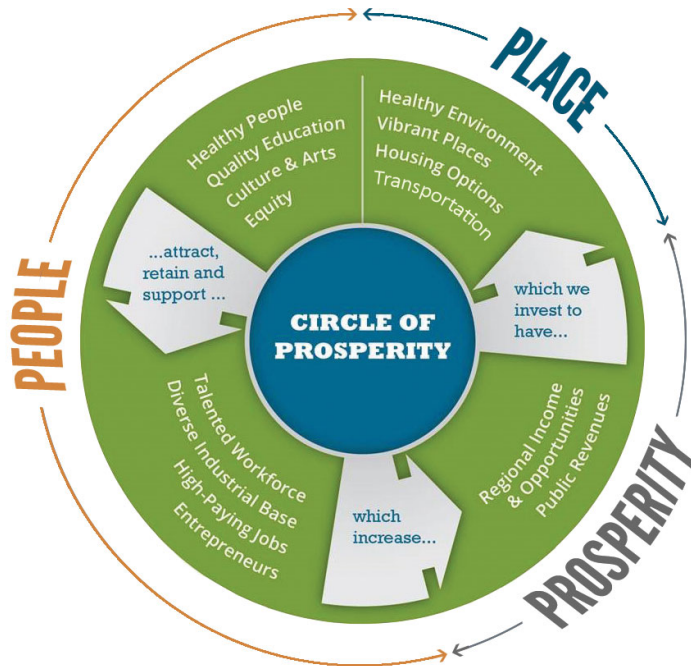
THE
University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER



VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

INTRODUCTION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Six 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](#).

2019 UPDATES



Approved Municipal Enhanced Energy Plans

9 out of 19 municipalities in Chittenden County have enhanced energy plans which will advance critical energy transformations in the heating, transportation, and electric sectors to meet state energy goals.



Young Professionals Survey Results

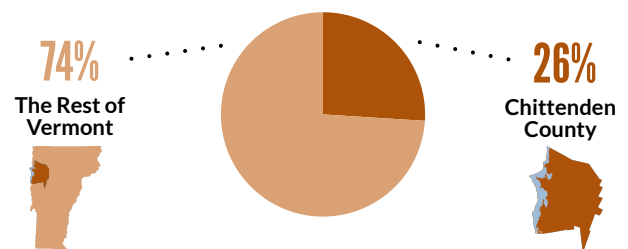
The Burlington Young Professionals Survey identifies key challenges in affording to live in Chittenden County. [Read the results here.](#)

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 164,572 in 2018).

Chittenden County Population Within Vermont



Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate

DIVERSITY

We are growing more diverse.

79%

of the population growth in the last nine years has been Hispanic (of any race), Black or African American, Asian, and/or American Indian and Alaska Native. This equates to 6,205 of the additional 7,867 people from 2010-2018. 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.



Adults in Chittenden County:

38% Do NOT get the Recommended Physical Activity (2017)	6% Diagnosed w/ Cancer (2018)	24% Deaths from Cancer (2017)
77% Do NOT Eat 5 Servings of Fruits & Vegetables Per Day (2015)	6% Diagnosed w/ Cardiovascular Diseases (2018)	20% Deaths from Cardiovascular Diseases (2017)
12% Currently Smoke (2018)	7% Diagnosed with Diabetes (2017)	3% Deaths from Diabetes (2017)
	14% Diagnosed with Lung Disease (2018)	6% Deaths from Lung Diseases (2016)
		= 53% of Total Deaths

Source: Vermont Department of Health

Of Note:

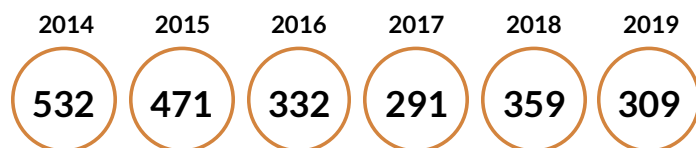
The percent of Vermont students who have ever tried a vaping product has significantly increased between 2017 and 2019.

Source: Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2019 High School Results Report

HOMELESSNESS

While the Point-in-Time count decreased in 2019 for homeless individuals, it increased for chronically homeless households (see [this summary](#) for details). It is also important to know that this one-time count under-represents the total extent of homelessness.

Number of Homeless Individuals



Source: 2019 Point-in-Time Count

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. At least 479 unique individuals were reached with more than 2,700 face-to-face and phone contacts.



Recovery Peer Support Specialists

Recovery Peer Support Specialists are in recovery themselves, and in turn, directly identify with guests of Turning Point Center of Chittenden County. Every day of the week, from 9am to 5pm, there is someone available to talk with. Find out more:

<https://turningpointcentervt.org/what-we-offer/recovery-peer-support>



SUBSTANCE USE

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

MAT in Corrections



In July 2018, Act 176 expanded access to addiction treatment for Vermont inmates with opioid use disorders (OUD). Since June 2019, over 800 inmates have been on MAT each month. People with OUD are at highest risk of fatal overdose upon release from incarceration; being on MAT significantly reduces this risk.

Opioid Overdose Fatalities

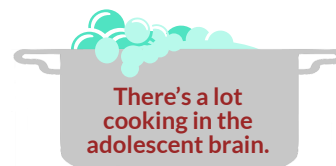
The 50% decrease in accidental opioid overdose fatalities in Chittenden County from 2017-2018 has held in 2019, with 15 fatalities compared to 17 in 2018.

Source: Chittenden County Opioid Alliance

Prevention is Essential



Prevention is a protective approach that supports healthy lifestyles and attitudes and reduces substance use in our communities, especially for youth.



There's a lot cooking in the adolescent brain.

Tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, opioids and other drugs turn up the heat. Prevention "turns down the temperature" for youth and can prevent problems from boiling over, or even starting to simmer.



MILTON
VERMONT

The [Town of Milton](#) is making positive change to protect the health of their residents. The Selectboard recently adopted an ordinance making public parks smoke free.

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 from Chittenden County residents related to mental health:

1,168

Visits in 2015

1,065

Visits in 2016

1,238

Visits in 2017

957

Visits in 2018

First Call: Mental Health Hotline

First Call for Chittenden County serves clients and the community regardless of age or diagnosis. Trained, professional Howard Center staff are available 24/7/365, regardless of the type of service.

howardcenter.org/first-call-for-chittenden-county/



HERE'S
WHAT YOU
CAN DO!

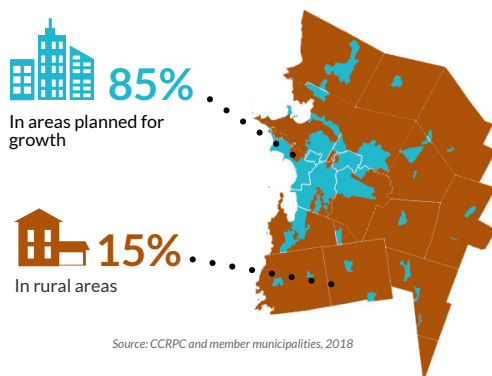
PLACE

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 sixth 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 updated **Road Erosion Inventories** for all municipalities in Chittenden County and helped with water quality grant applications.

In 2019 the Legislature passed the Clean Water Service Delivery Act, Act 76, that establishes a system for distributing clean water funds to local partners for non-regulatory projects in each basin. CCRPC will work with municipalities and clean water stakeholders on implementation of this program.

ENERGY

Electric vehicle use is on the rise.

1,226 of registered vehicles in Chittenden County are plug-in hybrid or electric as of July 2019.

Plug-in electric vehicle (EV) registrations grew about **35%** over the past year in Chittenden County. Some reasons why:

- More EV models are available, making it easier for drivers to find options that meet their needs.
- Incentive programs, offered by electric utilities and the State of Vermont, are supporting more purchases.
- Public and workplace charging infrastructure is growing steadily, with State grants funded by the VW diesel settlement helping increase availability.

ButtonUp Vermont 2019 Campaign Results

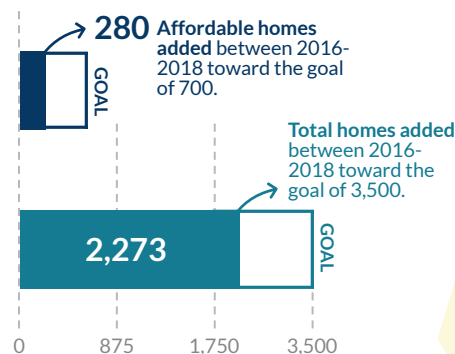
2019 was the biggest year ever for Button Up Vermont, a statewide effort to cut energy use and keep families warm and healthy. [View this report](#) for statistics and break-outs of Home Energy Visit sign-ups by town, event attendance, and customer engagement numbers.



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 Three Years of the Campaign (2016-2018)



Quick Facts: Vacancy Rate

2.2%

The average 2019 vacancy rate for the rental market in Chittenden County

5%

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

Also of note:

Preserving Existing Housing

In 2018, Champlain Housing Trust permanently protected 105 naturally occurring affordable homes at Dorset Commons in South Burlington.

Student Housing

Though not included in the totals above, Champlain College added 314 student beds within 105 apartments in Burlington in 2018. UVM added 304 student beds in 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 6 miles of on-road bike lanes and shared use paths were added, and 26 miles of sidewalks were added.



greenride bikeshare 3,274 **greenride bikeshare** users have taken 5,552 trips since January 2019.



The **Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA)** provides accessible transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities to medical appointments and other activities. **SSTA provided 133,598 rides in 2019.**



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

OUR ECONOMY CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN; LACK OF WORKFORCE REMAINS A CHALLENGE

Chittenden County is the economic engine of Vermont.



As of 2018, 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. It is home to **33%** of Vermont's jobs.

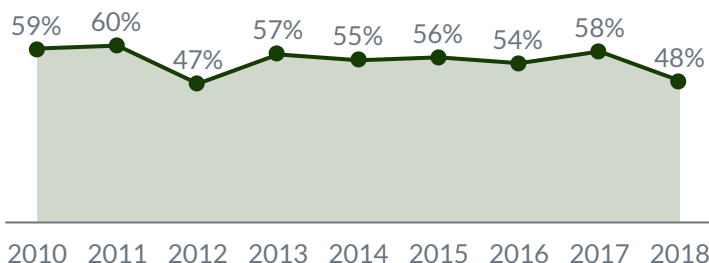
While many parts of the Chittenden County economy have improved since the recession, it isn't all positive.



About 7,000 jobs have been created since employment peaked in 2007 before the recession and median household income has risen (including a **17%** increase from 2017 to 2018); 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) decreased in 2018, a positive trend that will hopefully continue.



Source: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate. Margin of error is associated with these data. Comparisons between single years may not all be statistically different.

The unemployment rate continues to decline in Chittenden County (**2.1%**) and Vermont (**2.7%**) compared to the U.S. (**3.9%**). An unemployment rate this low indicates a lack of available workforce, making it challenging for employers to attract qualified employees. In addition, there are important caveats to this:

4.5%

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

70%

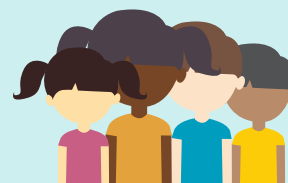
of Chittenden County residents over 16 were participating in the labor force in 2018, down slightly from 72% in 2010.

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: VT Department of Labor; NSA 12-Month Moving Average from CPS Demecon Files; ACS 1-Year Estimates Data (2018); Higher Education Fact Sheet, VSAC FY2019

CHILD CARE



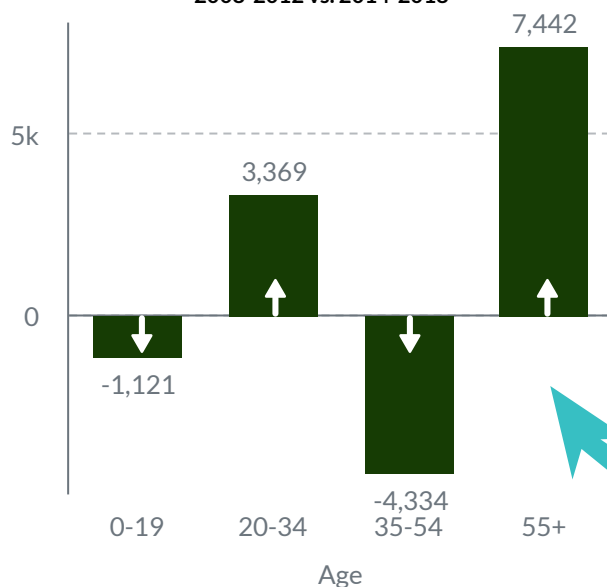
Child care shortages negatively impact our businesses, schools, communities, health care system and the economy.

The percent of infants and toddlers likely to need care without access to care in Chittenden County has decreased since 2018, meaning more infants and toddler have access to high quality care. However, the County is still experiencing a shortage of child care to support working families and provide early childhood education.

	2018	2020
Percent of infants likely to need care without access to high quality regulated care	77%	68%
Percent of toddlers likely to need care without access to high quality regulated care	47%	41%
Percent of preschoolers likely to need care without access to high quality regulated care	No data	31%

Source: 2020 Let's Grow Kids Stalled at the Start Report

Change in Age Cohort Distribution 2008-2012 vs. 2014-2018



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2008-2012, 2014-2018). Margin of error is associated with these data. Data trends are statistically significant.

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 professionals 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.



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