

Drake

ILS 519

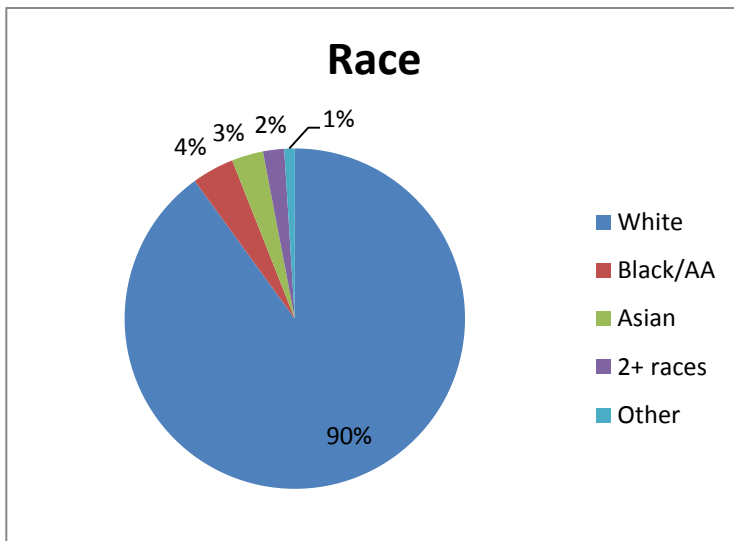
Fall 2014

Assignment 6: Community Assessment of Cromwell, Connecticut

Collect the geographic information, the transportation data, and the demographic and economic data for your community. Identify the social, educational cultural and recreational organizations as well.

Cromwell was established in 1651, as part of the Middletown settlement. However, due to the geographic placement of the area known as the Middletown Upper Houses, it became a separate town in 1851 (Cromwell Historical Society, 2014).

At the time of the 2010 US Census, the town of Cromwell had a population of ~14,000



individuals, the median age being 43 years of age (US Census Bureau, 2010).

Of the town's population, the majority is white (90%) (US Census Bureau, 2010). Approximately 5% of the town identifies as Latino/Hispanic (US Census Bureau, 2010). Approximately 10% of the population is civilian

veterans (US Census Bureau, 2012b). Of those 5 years and older, 86% speak only English at home (US Census Bureau, 2012b).

In the town, 97% of residents are in households, with 64% of households being families (US Census Bureau, 2010). Of households, 29% have individuals under 18 living there (US Census Bureau, 2010). Of housing units, 96% are occupied with 80% being owner-occupied (US Census Bureau, 2010). Sixty-nine percent (69%) have 2 or 3 bedrooms (US Census Bureau, 2012a). Of owner-occupied units, 62% were worth between \$200,000 and \$500,000 (US Census Bureau, 2012a). Where households are paying a mortgage, the majority (53%) are paying 25% or less of their household income (US Census Bureau, 2012a). Where households are paying rent, the majority (66%) are paying more than 25% of their household income (US Census Bureau, 2012a).

The median household income is ~\$80,000 while the median family income is ~\$105,000 (US Census Bureau, 2012c). The town has an unemployment rate of 6.1% and 3.4% of residents have income that places them below the poverty line (US Census Bureau, 2012c).

Cromwell Public Schools include Edna C. Stevens Elementary (K-2nd), Woodside Intermediate (3rd, 4th, 5th), Cromwell Middle (6th, 7th, 8th), and Cromwell High Schools (Cromwell Public Schools, 2014). Adelbrook (previously known as the Cromwell Children's Home), a residential facility and private school for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is located in Cromwell (Adelbrook, 2014). In regards to education, forty-six percent (46%) of town residents 25 years and older have an Associate's, Bachelor's, or graduate/professional degree (US Census Bureau, 2012b). The town is served by the Cromwell Belden Public Library (Town of Cromwell, 2013).

There are four town-maintained parks. Watrous Park located behind the public middle school offers volleyball, tennis, and tennis courts; a playground; walking trails; softball fields; and a skatepark. Pierson Park located next to the police department offers a picnic pavilion; lit softball and football fields; a playground; paved walking trail; and a rose garden. Cromwell Landing offers benches with a view of the Connecticut River, while nearby Riverport Park at Frisbee Landings offers a gazebo, benches, and picnic tables overlooking the Connecticut River, as well as a public landing area for boating enthusiasts (Town of Cromwell, 2011).

There are over 8 different Protestant and Catholic churches in Cromwell, including a Mormon church. For those interested in Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Jehovah's Witnesses, or Christian Scientist services, those can be found nearby in Middletown.

The area is served by the Middletown Area Transit though the buses do not provide full coverage to the town (MAT, 2014). The nearest Greyhound Bus station is in New Britain and the nearest Amtrak train station is in Berlin, both approximately 10 minutes from Cromwell by car.

In general, Cromwell residents are white, Christian, English speaking, financially established homeowners, and formally educated. However, there are residents in the town living in poverty and struggling to pay rent. The library needs to provide services to and meet the needs of both.

References

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