



# Philadelphia 2025

The State of the City

## About this report

The annual “State of the City” report is part of The Pew Charitable Trusts’ ongoing work to support Philadelphia and its residents. Staff members Maridarlyn Gonzalez, Omar Ibrahim, Katie Martin, and Jun Ho Phue gathered the data and assembled the report. Larry Eichel, senior adviser for Pew’s Philadelphia research and policy initiative, helped edit the publication, along with Erika Compart and Carol Hutchinson. Ned Drummond and Cara Bahniuk created the graphics and designed the report; Louisa Barnes led photography art direction; and Margot Hoagland, Elizabeth Lowe, and Mary Markley managed the publication’s production.

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Founded in 1948, **The Pew Charitable Trusts** uses data to make a difference, addressing the challenges of a changing world and helping communities thrive. In our hometown of Philadelphia, Pew promotes pathways to economic advancement, access to civic and cultural enrichment, and the safety and well-being of all residents by strengthening local nonprofits', government's, and civic institutions' abilities to address complex challenges. Pew does this through its grantmaking, capacity building, research, policy analysis, and stakeholder convenings.

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# The Big Picture

**As 2025 began, Philadelphia appeared to be entering a new and different phase after years of pandemic-related reverberations. The question is which effects from the past few years will turn out to have been temporary and which will prove more enduring. The answers are beginning to come into sharper focus.**

Homicides and shootings, which rose dramatically at the height of the pandemic, have fallen to the lowest levels in a decade. Unemployment rates, which were high in 2020 and 2021, have been relatively low for several years. And the poverty rate continues to decline.

Nevertheless, Philadelphia faces major uncertainties in the form of shifts in federal funding, increasing housing costs, the ongoing opioid epidemic, and a citywide population that has shrunk from its pre-pandemic peak.

Let's start with the positives: Philadelphia's economy continued to show strength last year. The unemployment rate averaged 4.5%, one of the lowest levels in several decades. The city's poverty rate stood at 20.3%, the lowest since 2000. And the median household income reached \$60,302, growing more than in some other cities, albeit with significant income disparities among households by race and ethnicity.



The city government's fiscal health was strong as well, with Philadelphia's S&P Global credit rating rising to A+, its highest level in 40 years—a development that will reduce future borrowing costs. Much of the improved rating is attributable to the relative health of the city's pension fund, which is 65.4% funded, its highest level in 20 years.

Many data points related to Philadelphians' health were also encouraging. Only 7.1% of residents reported not having health insurance, and life expectancy rose to 76.2 years, roughly matching pre-pandemic levels.

Most dramatically, the number of homicides came in at 269 last year, down 52% from the peak of 562 in 2021. Over the same period, shootings declined by 54%.

Although those numbers dominated the headlines, the overall crime picture was more mixed. Robberies and aggravated assaults committed with a gun declined by 32% in 2024 compared with three years earlier, but there were more aggravated assaults committed without a gun over the same period. And while overall property crime was 10% lower last year than in 2023—with a 33% reduction in the number of stolen cars—overall property crimes were still 35% higher than in 2021.

In this new era in which Philadelphia seems to be on the upswing in many ways, the city still faces many challenges, some of them familiar and others not.

While the poverty rate has dropped, the city still has more than 300,000 people living below the poverty line. More residents experienced homelessness in 2024 than ever before, with a 10% increase from the previous year. The percentage of adults with a college degree declined slightly, after 20 years of steady annual increases.

Philadelphia's labor force participation rate fell as well, meaning that fewer people ages 18-64 were actively looking for work in 2024 than in the previous year. Remote and hybrid work remained well above pre-pandemic levels, a trend that generally has a negative impact on city tax revenues, the number of workers in business districts, and the operations of SEPTA, the Philadelphia-area transportation system. In fact, the return to ridership slowed in 2024, with SEPTA's City Transit Division still down 20% compared with 2019. And SEPTA is facing a budget reckoning, albeit delayed because of a late infusion of funds from the state.

Housing affordability also continues to be a struggle for some residents. In addition to the 10% increase in the number of Philadelphians experiencing homelessness, nearly half of renters were cost-burdened, meaning they spent 30% or more of their income on housing. The number of permits issued last year for construction of new housing units (2,962) was the lowest since 2013. And the number of home sales increased to 18,338 in 2024, up 17% from last year. All these trends point to tighter inventory, higher costs for renters, and fewer opportunities for buyers.

In addition, misuse of opioids and other drugs remains a major problem. Drug overdoses were the city's third most prevalent cause of death in 2023, behind heart disease and cancer. And approximately 1,100 people died from unintentional drug overdoses in Philadelphia in 2024, according to the city's Department of Public Health. In January 2025, Mayor Cherelle Parker opened a new long-term recovery treatment center in Philadelphia's Holmesburg neighborhood to provide nearly 340 beds for patients who can be referred after completing inpatient treatment elsewhere. The city also established a new drug court, located in the Kensington neighborhood, to compel treatment.

Since 2020, when the city's population briefly surpassed 1.6 million, the number of residents has declined by 1.9%. Much of Philadelphia's population growth before then came from immigrants, who accounted for 15.1% of residents in 2023, up from 9% in 2000. But with a new administration in the White House, the flow of immigrants into the country is likely to subside, which may make it difficult for the city to maintain its current population and workforce numbers.

In fact, on immigration and many other fronts, a key question for Philadelphia and other cities is how changing federal policies will affect residents, businesses, and local government.

Pandemic-era challenges are fading. But the issues taking their place will test Philadelphia's leaders and residents in new ways in the years ahead.



## Figure 1.1

# Portrait of the City

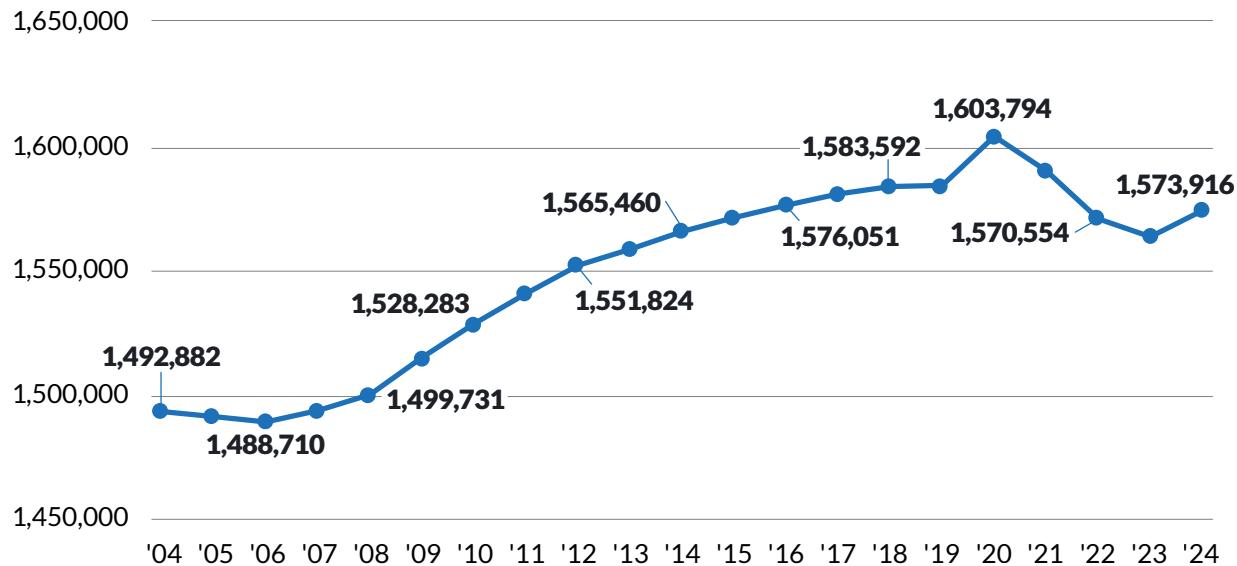
<b>Population</b>	<b>1,573,916</b>	<b>Total housing units</b>	<b>760,242</b>
<b>Percentage of residents who are:</b>			
Male	47%	Married	34%
Female	53%	Never married	49%
Younger than 20	24%	Divorced or separated	11%
Ages 20-34	25%	Widowed	6%
Ages 35-54	25%	<b>Percentage of single-parent households among those with children under 18</b>	
Age 55 or older	26%	37%	
Black or African American	39%	<b>Median household income</b>	
Non-Hispanic White	33%	\$60,302	
Hispanic or Latino	16%	<b>Percentage of households with annual incomes of:</b>	
Asian	8%	Less than \$35,000	32%
Members of other racial and ethnic groups	5%	\$35,000 to \$74,999	28%
<b>Percentage of residents who:</b>			
Were born in Philadelphia	62%	\$75,000 to \$99,999	12%
Were born in other states	18%	\$100,000 or more	28%
Were born in Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory	2%	<b>Percentage of population below poverty level</b>	
Are foreign-born	15%	20%	
Speak a language other than English at home	25%	<b>Percentage of households with:</b>	
<b>Percentage of adult residents who:</b>			
Graduated from college	36%	No vehicles available	29%
Did not graduate from high school	12%	Two or more vehicles available	26%
<b>Percentage of workers employed by:</b>			
Private sector		A computer at home (including tablets and smartphones)	
Government agencies		95%	
Their own businesses		Broadband internet service	
5		91%	

Note: Percentages may not add up precisely due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, one-year estimates, 2023

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Figure 1.2  
**Philadelphia Population, 2004-24**



Philadelphia's population grew each year from 2006 to 2020. The steady, albeit marginal, increase stopped during the pandemic. Beginning in 2021, the city's population started to decline and was down by 1.9% as of 2024. But in the past year, around 10,000 more people lived in Philadelphia than in the previous year—the first increase since 2020.

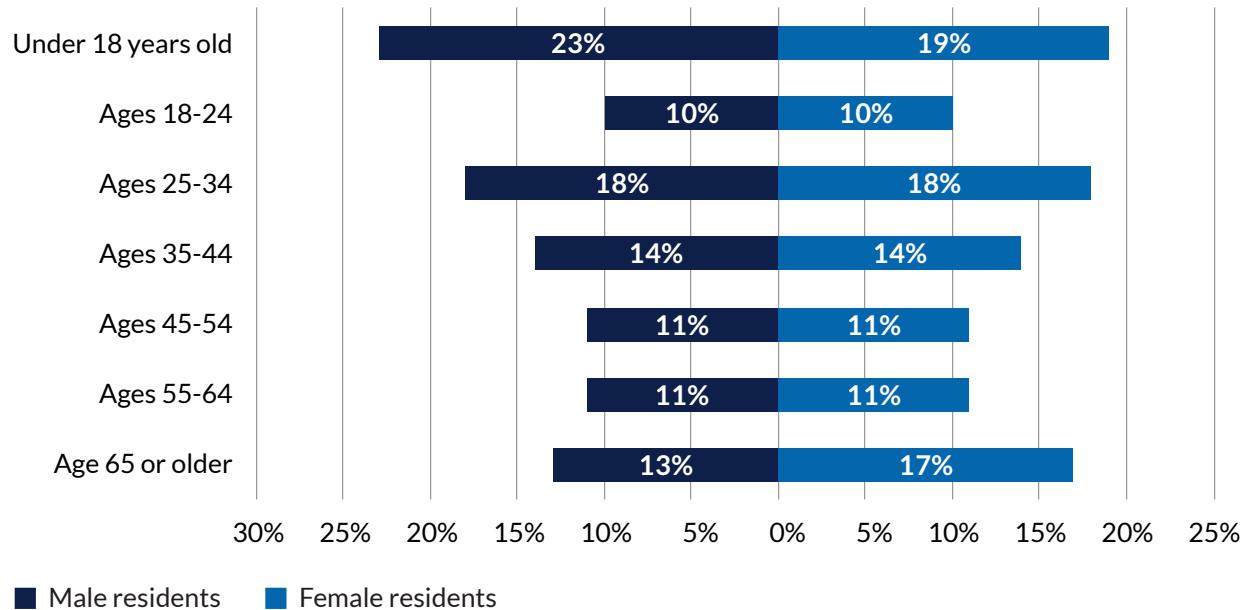
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *City and Town Intercensal Datasets: 2000-2010*; U.S. Census Bureau, *City and Town Population Totals: 2010-2019*; U.S. Census Bureau, *City and Town Population Totals: 2020-2024*

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Figure 1.3

## Philadelphia Residents by Sex and Age, 2023



Across most age groups, Philadelphia's population is evenly split between male and female residents, with exceptions among the youngest and oldest Philadelphians. Males outnumber females by nearly 6,000 among Philadelphians under age 18, but the trend is reversed among the city's oldest residents, with around 42,000 more women age 65 or older than men of this age group living in Philadelphia. Among working-age adults (those ages 18-64), the breakdown is nearly even.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Age and Sex*, Table S0101, 2023

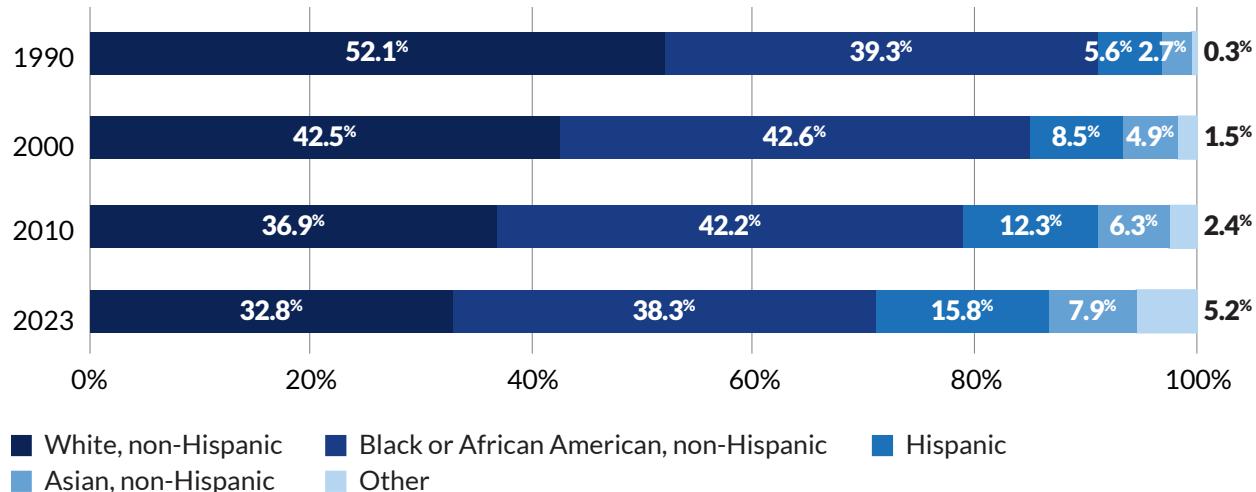
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Figure 1.4

## Racial and Ethnic Changes in Philadelphia, 1990-2023



During the past 30 years, Philadelphia's racial and ethnic composition has changed significantly. The share of non-Hispanic White residents has decreased, from representing more than half of all Philadelphians in 1990 to 32.8% as of 2023. The share of non-Hispanic Asian and Hispanic residents has increased the most—nearly tripling over the same period. And the percentage of Black or African American residents, the city's largest racial and ethnic group, has remained fairly constant.

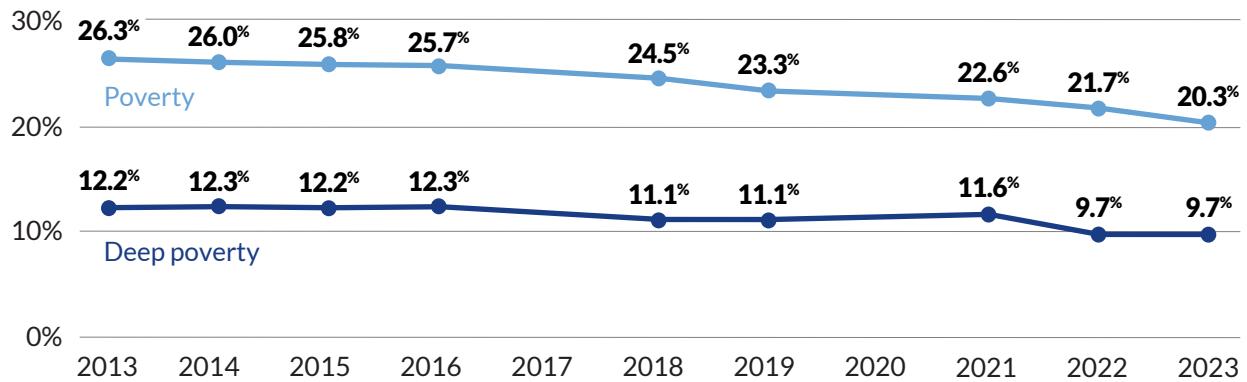
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census, Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, Table B03002: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race

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Figure 1.5

## Poverty and Deep Poverty in Philadelphia, 2013-23



In 2023, Philadelphia recorded its lowest level of poverty since the beginning of the century. The share of residents living in poverty fell by 6 percentage points over the past decade. This decline represents about 90,740 fewer Philadelphians living in poverty. However, the percentage of residents living in deep poverty has declined only marginally, decreasing by around 2 percentage points over the same period. As of 2025, a household of four is considered to be living in poverty if its income is \$32,150 or less and in deep poverty if its income is \$16,075 or less.

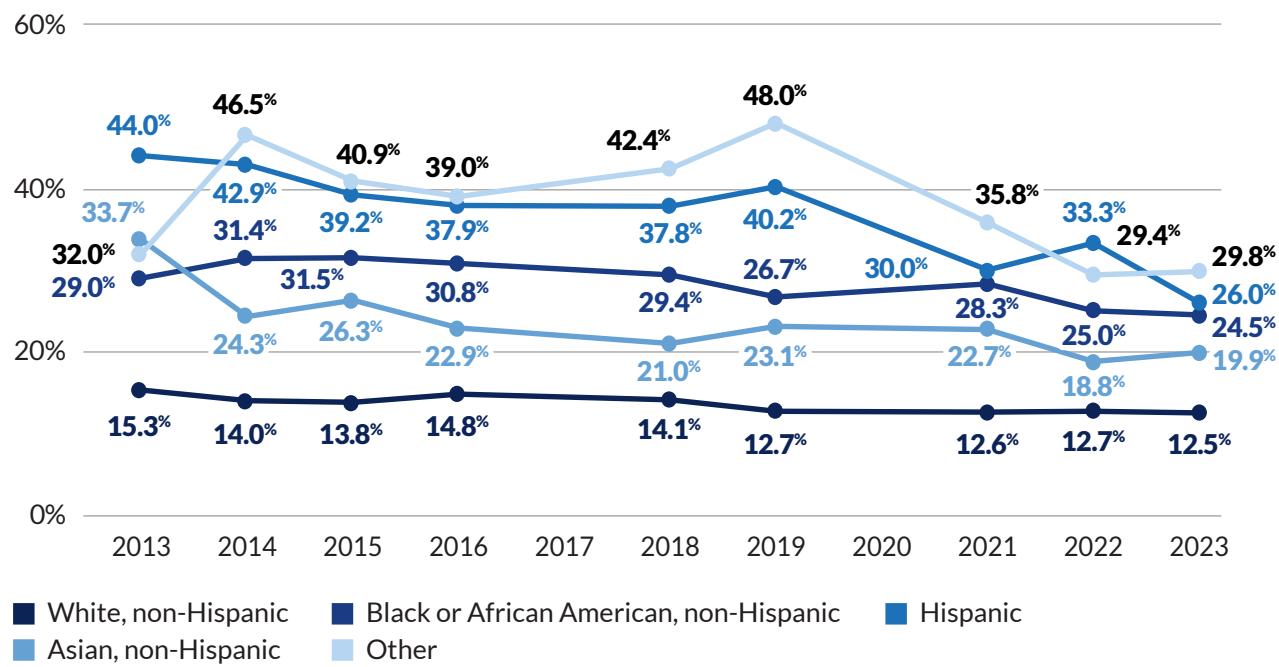
Note: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2013-23, *Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months*

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Figure 1.6

## Poverty in Philadelphia by Race and Ethnicity, 2013-23



Although Hispanic residents had the highest poverty rate among Philadelphians in recent years, the share of Hispanic residents living in poverty decreased markedly, from 44% of residents in 2013 to 26% as of 2023, only a few percentage points higher than the citywide share. Most racial and ethnic groups had a poverty rate slightly higher than the citywide percentage, with White, non-Hispanic residents being the only group with a poverty rate below the citywide share.

Note: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

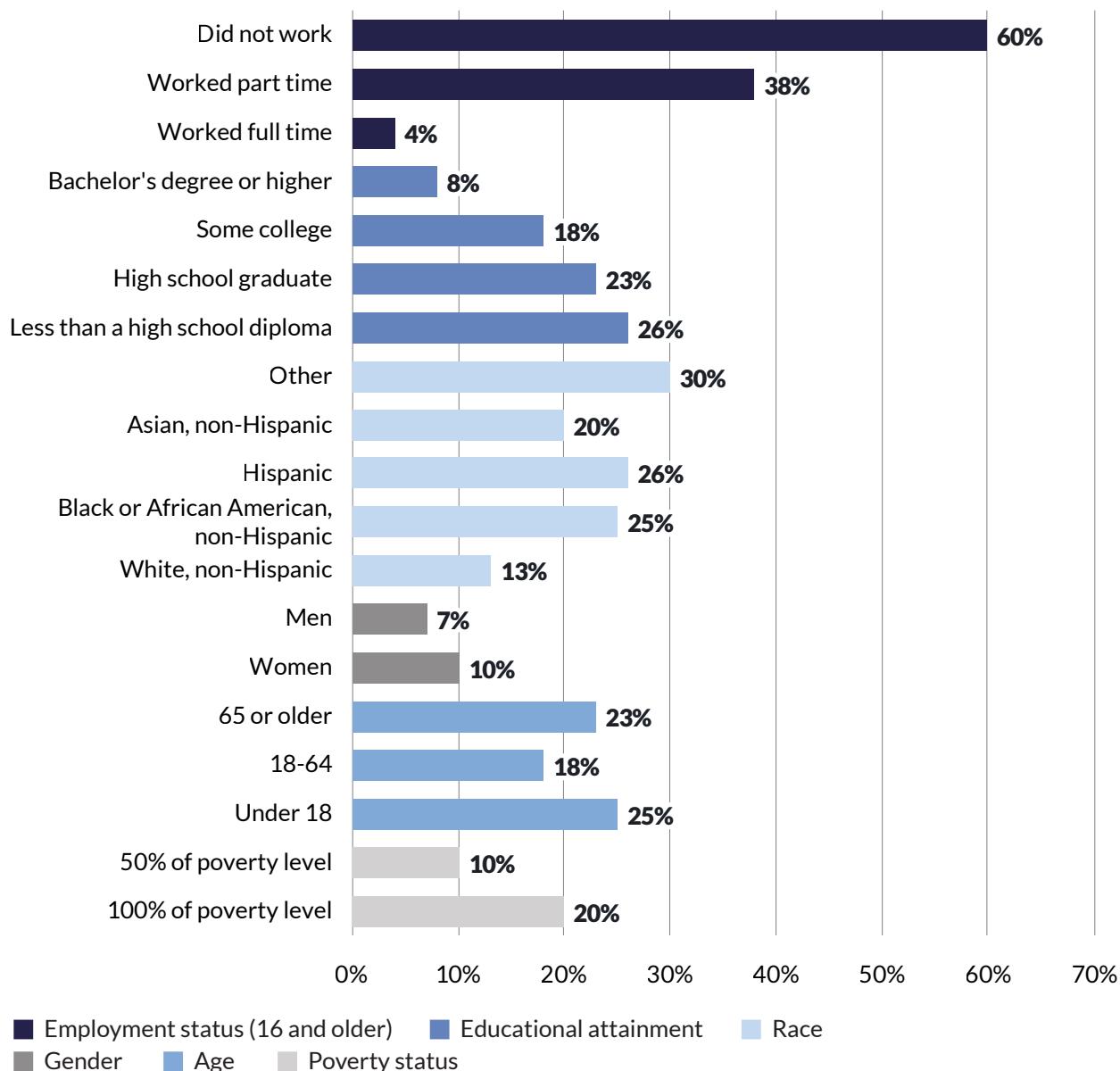
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2013-23, Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months

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Figure 1.7

## Profile of People Living in Poverty in Philadelphia, 2023



In 2023, 20.3% of Philadelphians lived in poverty, with the percentage varying across demographic groups. About 25% of children—defined as those under the age of 18—lived in poverty, which was higher than the corresponding national rate (16%) but down from previous years. Philadelphia residents without a high school diploma; those who identify as Black, Hispanic, or “other”; and those who either did not work or worked part time were also more likely to experience poverty than the population as a whole.

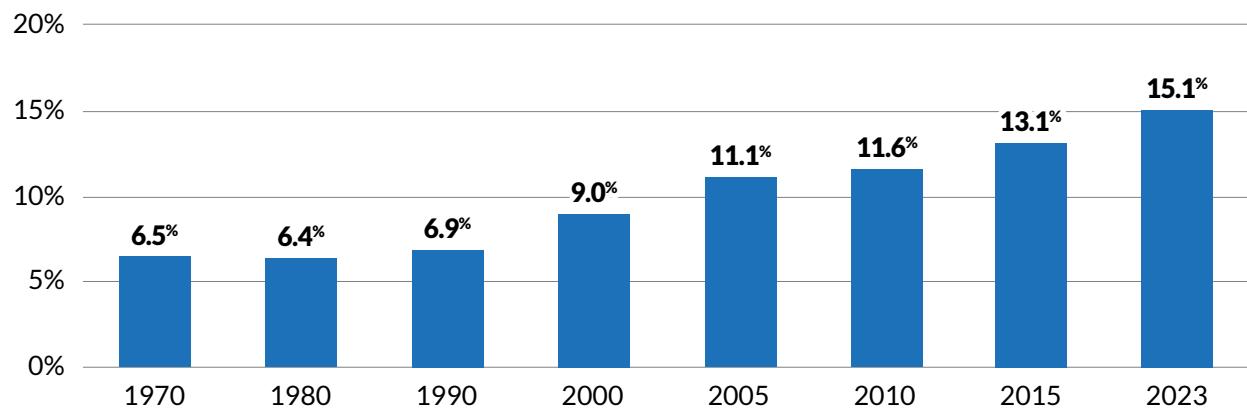
Note: The U.S. Census Bureau’s “other” category includes all non-Hispanic residents who identify as multiracial or as members of any racial group other than Black, White, or Asian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months*

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Figure 1.8

## Percentage of Philadelphia Residents Born Outside the U.S., 1970-2023



Despite a slight decrease from 2022 to 2023, the share of foreign-born Philadelphia residents had a positive overall trend from 1970 to 2023. In 2023, the share of residents who identified as foreign-born more than doubled from 1970. Among Philadelphia's immigrants, about 37.9% have come from Asia and 34.2% from Latin America, including the Caribbean.

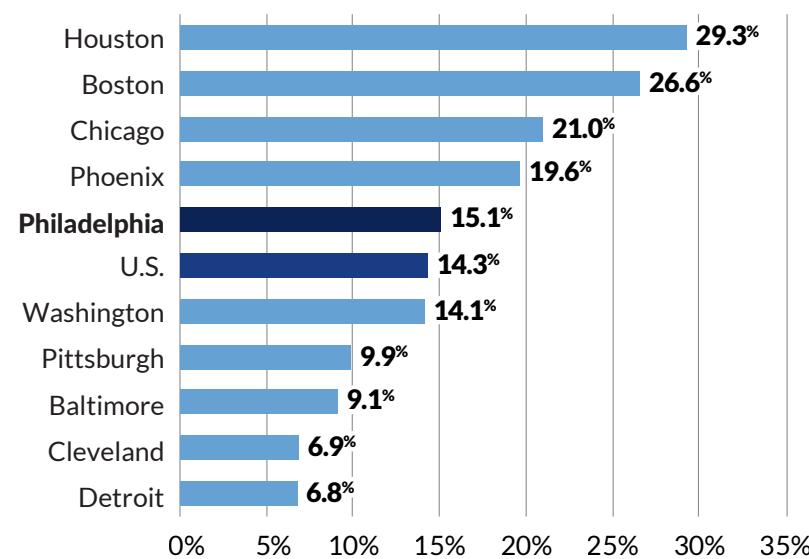
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States: 1790 to 1990*; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, Table DP2: *Profile of Selected Characteristics*; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2023, Table B05002: *Place of Birth by Nativity and Citizenship Status*

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Figure 1.9

## Percentage of Philadelphia Residents Born Outside the U.S., 2023

Compared with other cities



In 2023, about 15% of Philadelphia's residents were foreign-born. Philadelphia's share of foreign-born residents continues to be slightly above the national figure but below those of Houston, Boston, Chicago, and Phoenix.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, Table B05002: *Place of Birth by Nativity and Citizenship Status*

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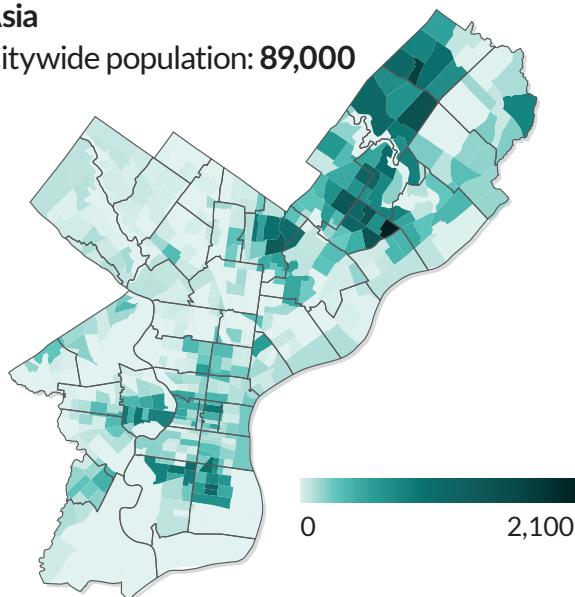
Figure 1.10

## Immigrants in Philadelphia by Continent of Origin, 2019-23

By ZIP code

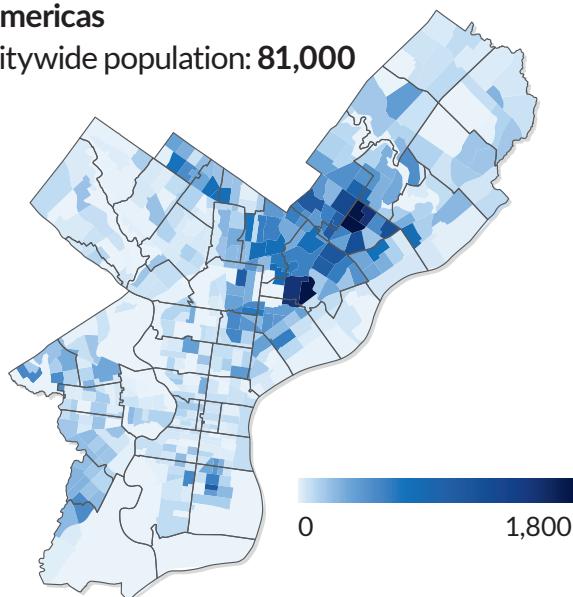
### Asia

Citywide population: 89,000



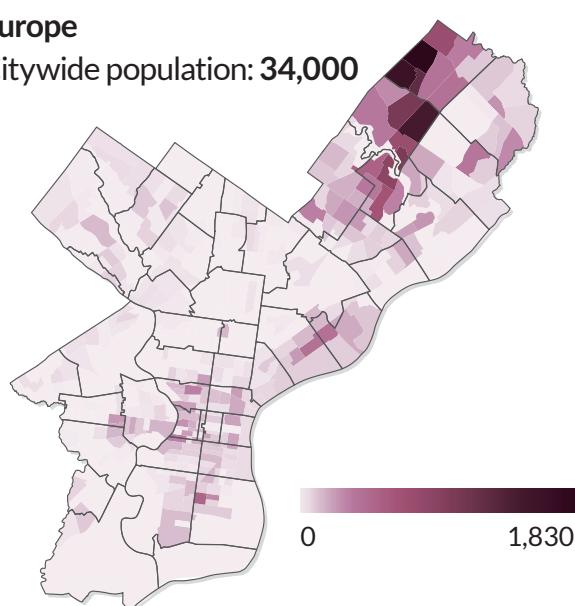
### Americas

Citywide population: 81,000



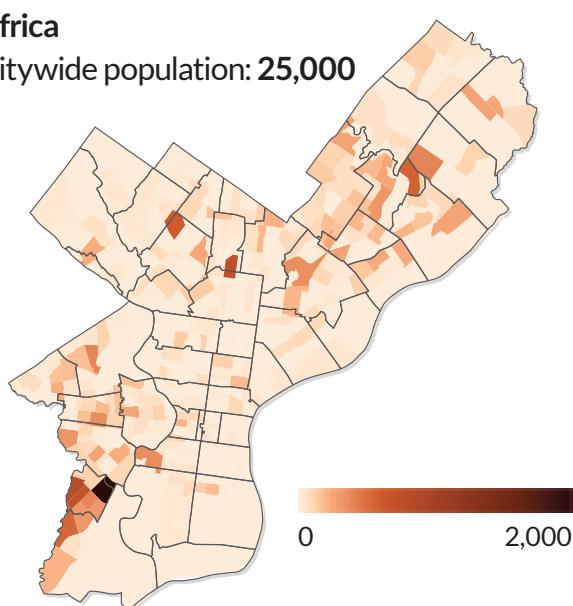
### Europe

Citywide population: 34,000



### Africa

Citywide population: 25,000



People from Asia represented the largest group of immigrants living in Philadelphia in the 2019-23 period by continent of origin, with many Asian immigrants residing in the northeastern section of the city. Immigrants from the Americas, the second-largest group, live mainly in the Lower Northeast. European immigrants, the third-largest group, live primarily in the Far Northeast. And people from Africa, representing the smallest group of immigrants in the city by continent, live mainly in Southwest Philadelphia.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, Table B05006, 2019-23*

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Figure 1.11

## Immigrants in Philadelphia by Country of Origin, 2023

Country	Number of residents
China	25,930
Dominican Republic	21,600
India	12,360
Vietnam	12,060
Jamaica	8,990
Haiti	7,410
Brazil	7,190
Mexico	7,180
Ukraine	6,420
Liberia	5,600

In 2023, eight of the top 10 countries of origin for immigrants living in Philadelphia were in Asia and the Americas. Ukraine was the only European country on the list, and Liberia was the only African country.

Note: The China category excludes immigrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, Table B05006, 2019-23*

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Figure 1.12

## Top Languages Spoken at Home by Philadelphians, 2023

Not including English

Language	Number of residents
Spanish	161,379
Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese)	37,180
Russian	16,480
Arabic	14,676
Vietnamese	12,679
Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other Western African languages	11,694
Haitian	9,887
Portuguese	9,624
French (including Cajun)	8,342
Ukrainian or other Slavic languages	6,941

More than 360,000 Philadelphians over the age of 5, or 25% of these residents, speak a language other than English. Of those residents, 44.5% speak Spanish. The share of residents who speak a language other than English has grown 13.9% since 2013. Other languages spoken by large numbers of Philadelphians include Chinese, Russian, and Arabic. Of the most prevalent languages in the city, only Vietnamese saw a reduction in the number of speakers since 2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table B16001: Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over*

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## Education

**It has been over two years since the nearly 200,000 students in Philadelphia's district and charter schools returned to full-time in-person learning. Despite some uncertainty about the pandemic's longer-term impact on students, particularly regarding academic achievement, some positive trends have started to emerge.**

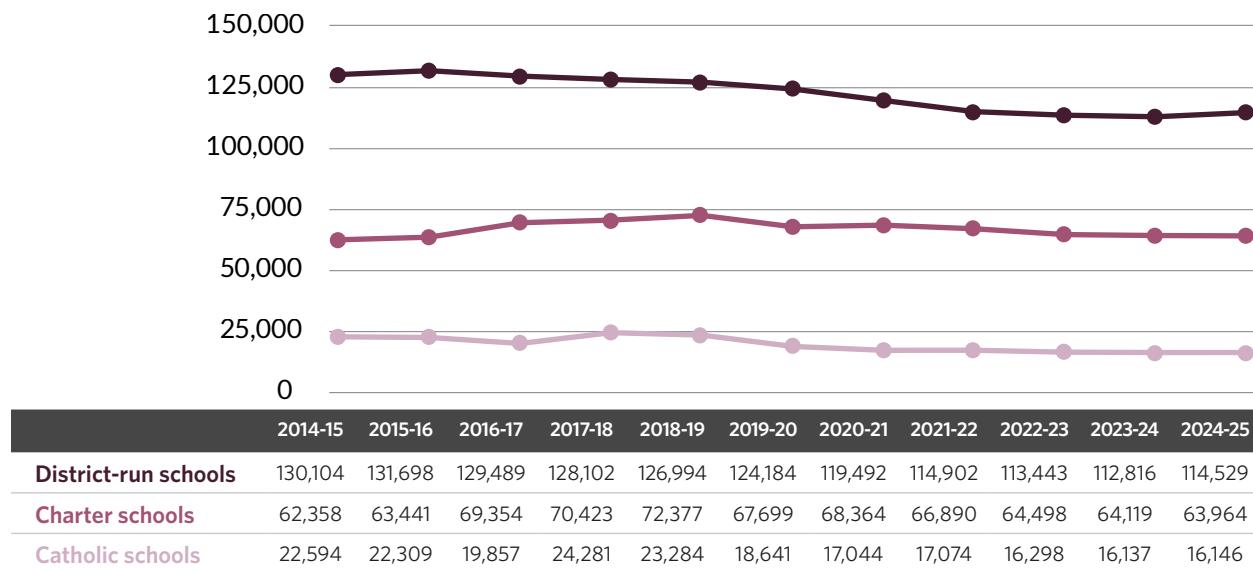
For the first time since 2014, the School District of Philadelphia's enrollment numbers increased from the previous year, rising by 1,713, or about 1.5%, for the 2024-25 school year. And according to the most recent data available, the four-year graduation rate rose to 74% for the class of 2023, up from a low of 70% during the pandemic for the class of 2021.

Yet some parts of the education sector had not fully recovered. The percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds attending nursery school and preschool was 41.5% in 2023, down from 49.2% in 2019, before the pandemic.

As for adult residents, nearly 36% of Philadelphians ages 25 and older had bachelor's degrees in 2023, according to the Census Bureau—roughly the same share as the year before and in line with the national average.

Figure 2.1

## K-12 Enrollment Trends, 2014-25



The 2024-25 school year marked the first increase in enrollment in district-run schools in Philadelphia since the 2015-16 school year. Enrollment in schools run by the School District of Philadelphia rose by about 1,700 for the 2024-25 school year. Catholic school enrollment was essentially the same, with only nine more students than in the previous school year. Charter schools had 155 fewer students than in the previous year.

Sources: School District of Philadelphia, *Evaluation, Research, and Accountability, Total Enrollment, 2014-25*; Archdiocese of Philadelphia, *School Enrollment Data, 2014-25*

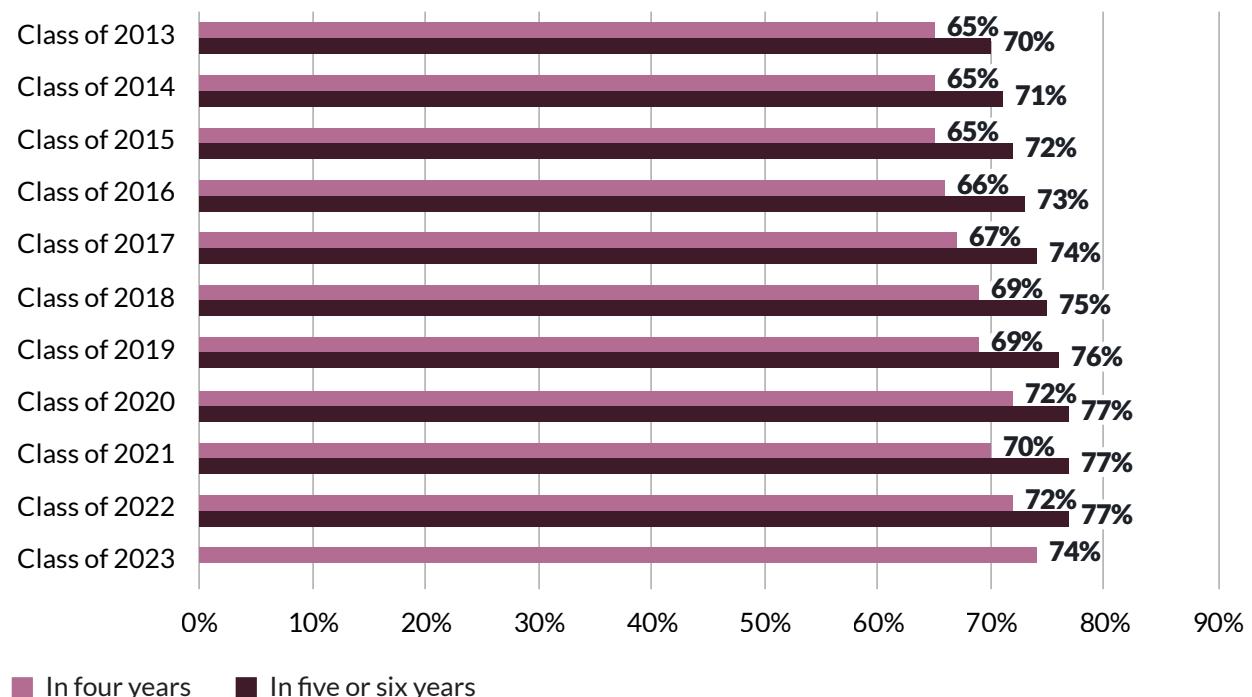
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Figure 2.2

## High School Graduation Rates in Philadelphia, 2013-23



The four-year graduation rate in Philadelphia's district-run schools reached 74% for the class of 2023, the most recent group for which data was available. This represents a 9 percentage-point increase over the class of 2013's graduation rate—and the highest percentage in decades. Five- and six-year graduation rates have stabilized in the last few years, at 77%.

Source: School District of Philadelphia, *Ninth Grade Cohort Graduation Rates, 2013-23*

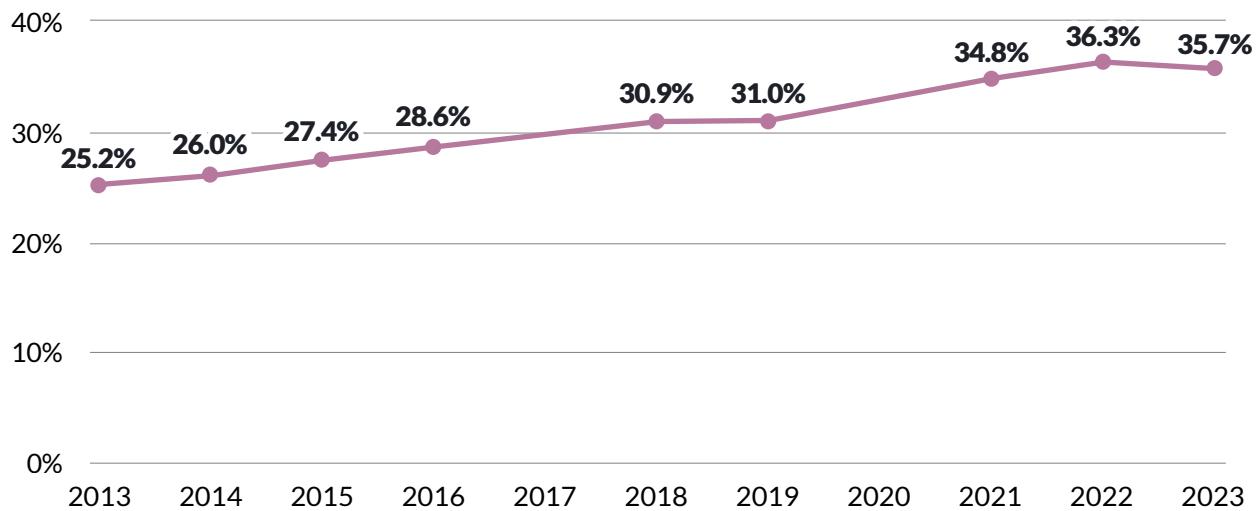
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Figure 2.3

## Percentage of Philadelphia Residents With a College Degree, 2013-23

Adults 25 and older



The percentage of Philadelphia adults with at least a bachelor's degree had been steadily increasing for the past 10 years. But the most recent census data shows that the percentage of Philadelphians with a college degree has stopped growing. The decline was driven by a small reduction in the percentage of Philadelphians between the ages of 25 and 44 with a college degree. It remains to be seen whether the city's educational attainment will plateau at about a third of the population or continue to rise in the coming years.

Note: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

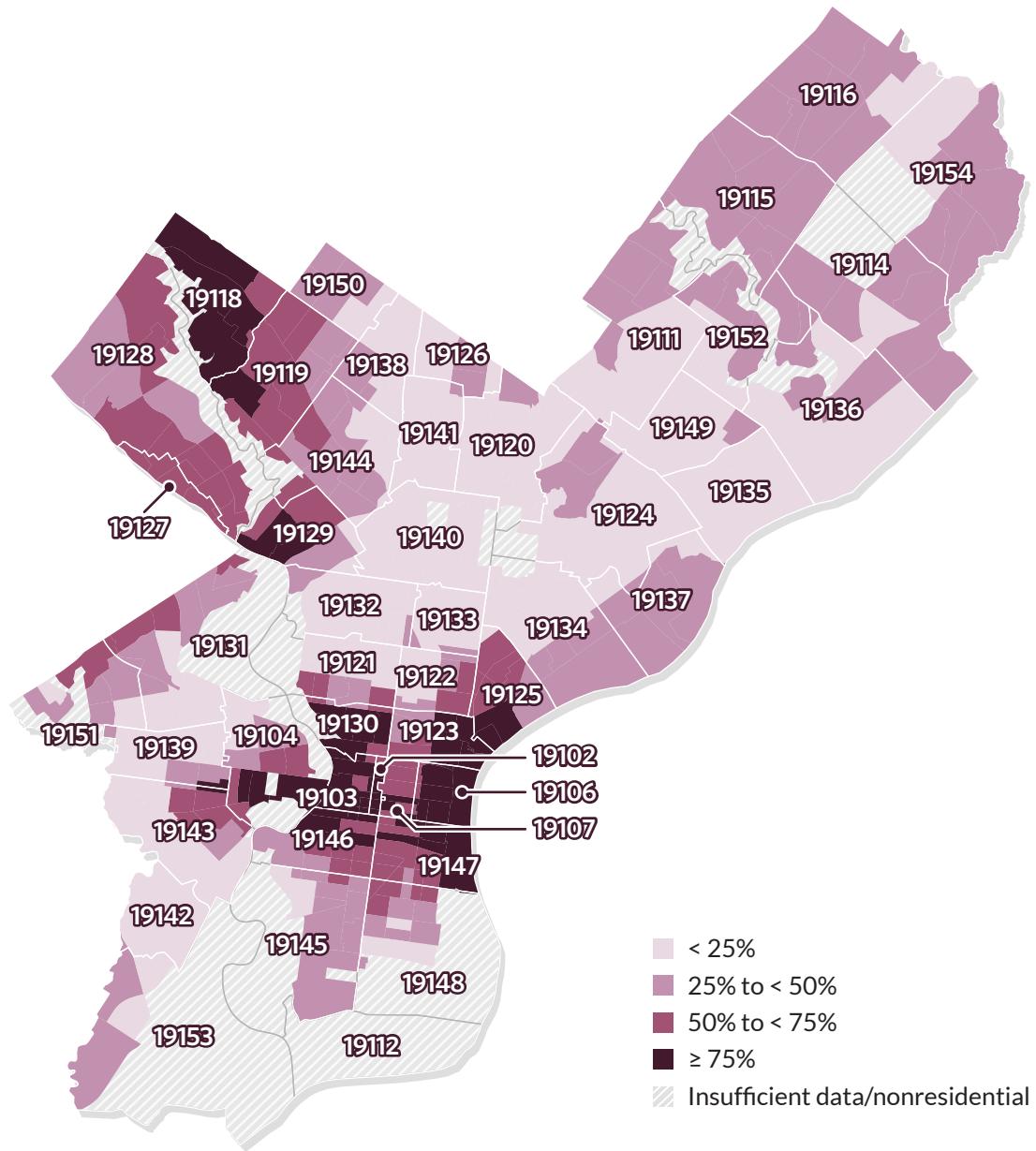
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2013-23, *Table S1501: Educational Attainment*

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Figure 2.4

## Percentage of Philadelphia Residents Age 25 or Older With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2023

By ZIP code



As of 2023, nearly 36% of residents in Philadelphia age 25 or older had a bachelor's degree or higher, a much larger percentage than a decade earlier. But the level of educational attainment is much higher in some neighborhoods than in others. In some areas of Northwest Philadelphia, Center City, and West Philadelphia, at least 75% of residents age 25 or older have a bachelor's degree or more education, while in numerous parts of the city, less than 25% of residents do.

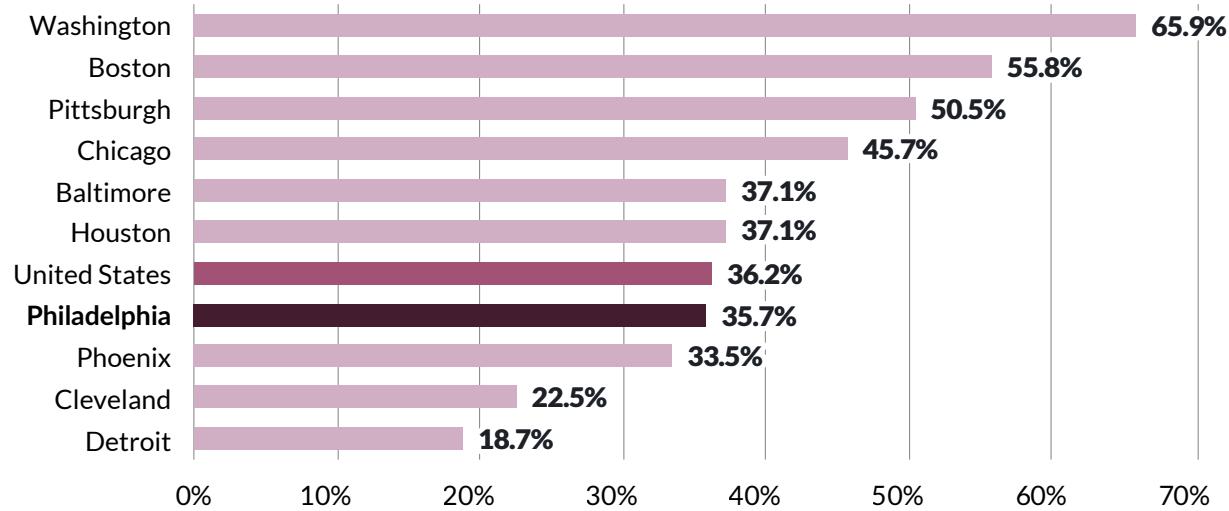
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, five-year estimates, *Educational Attainment*, Table S1501, 2019-23

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Figure 2.5

## Percentage of Adult Residents With at Least a College Degree, 2023

Philadelphia and comparison cities, among people ages 25 and older



In 2023, the share of Philadelphians with a college degree roughly matched the national average. But there was wide variation among the comparison cities. In Washington, approximately two-thirds of residents have a bachelor's degree or more education, compared with fewer than 20% in Detroit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2013-23, *Table S1501: Educational Attainment*

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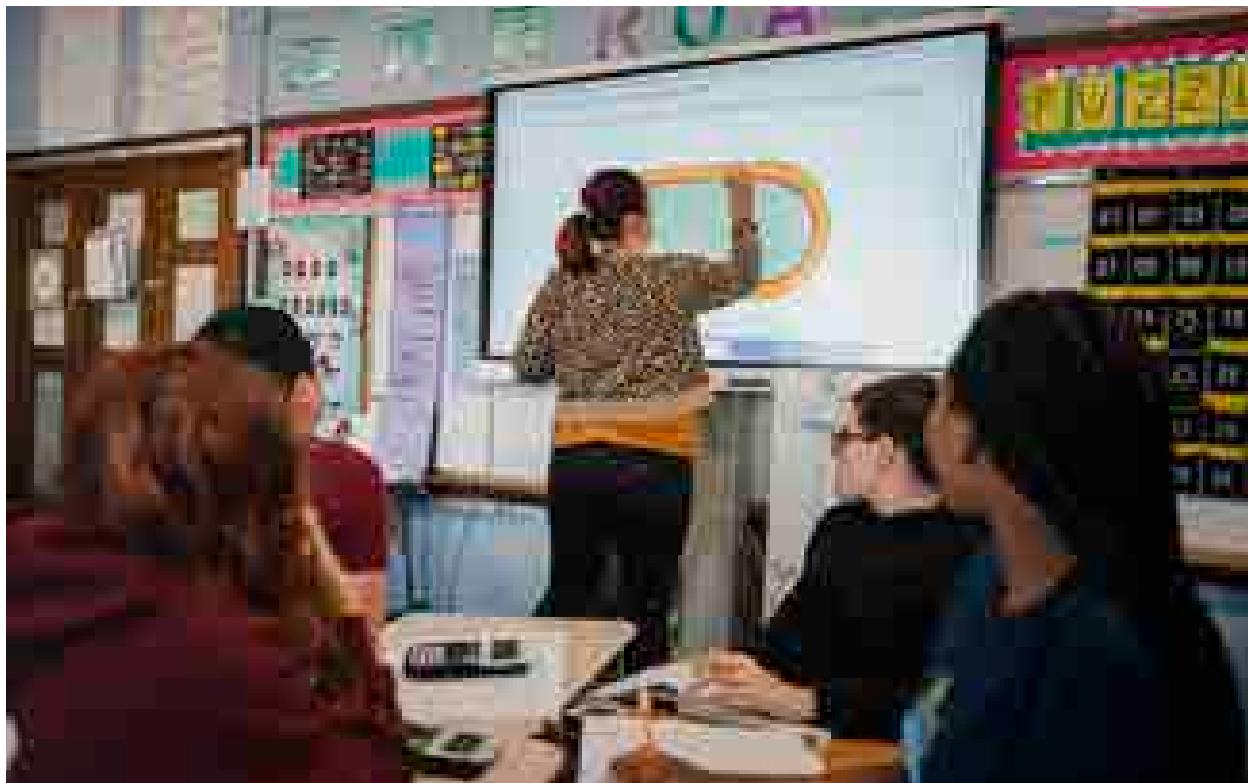
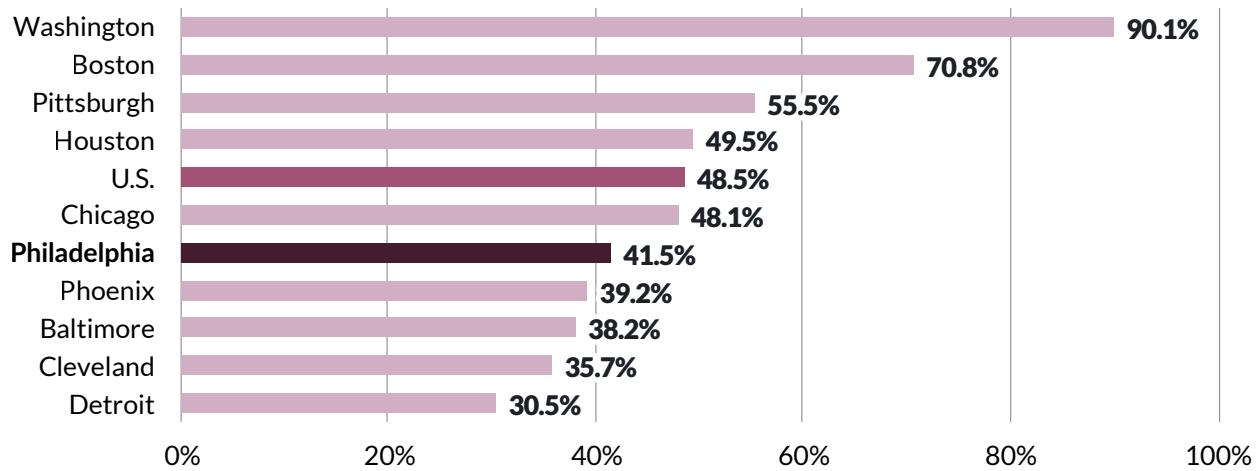




Figure 2.6

## Percentage of 3- and 4-Year-Olds Enrolled in School, 2023 In Philadelphia and other large cities



The percentage of Philadelphia children enrolled in nursery school or preschool, 41.5%, was below the national average of 48.5%. In 2021, the city's share was essentially the same as the national figure, but the national number has grown much faster than Philadelphia's. Among the comparison cities, Washington had the highest rate, with 90.1% of children enrolled in nursery school or preschool.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S1401: School Enrollment*

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Figure 2.7

## Philadelphians' Top 5 Occupations, 2023

### By educational attainment

Education	Top occupations
Less than high school (Median income: \$22,000)	Janitors and building cleaners Cashiers Food preparation workers Home health aides Construction laborers
High school diploma or high school equivalent (Median income: \$32,200)	Cashiers Personal care aides Driver/sales workers and truck drivers Security guards and gaming surveillance officers Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers
Some college (Median income: \$32,000)	Cashiers Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers Customer service representatives Driver/sales workers and truck drivers Waiters and waitresses
Associate degree (Median income: \$42,000)	Customer service representatives Registered nurses Personal care aides Home health aides Driver/sales workers and truck drivers
Bachelor's degree or higher (Median income: \$69,000)	Managers Postsecondary teachers Registered nurses Lawyers and judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers Elementary and middle school teachers

This table lists the top five occupations that Philadelphians held in 2023, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, for each of five different levels of educational attainment. Also shown is the median income for each educational cohort. Residents with the lowest levels of education—Philadelphians with less than a high school diploma and high school graduates—had a similar range of occupations, including laborers and cashiers. For those with some college and up to an associate degree, the most common jobs were customer service representatives and driver/sales workers and truck drivers. For those with a bachelor's degree or more education, nursing and teaching were common occupations.

Source: Pew analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Public Use Microdata Sample* (2023 one-year estimates)

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Figure 2.8

## Student Attendance, 2023-24 School Year

Percentage of students who came to school at least 95% of the time in Philadelphia



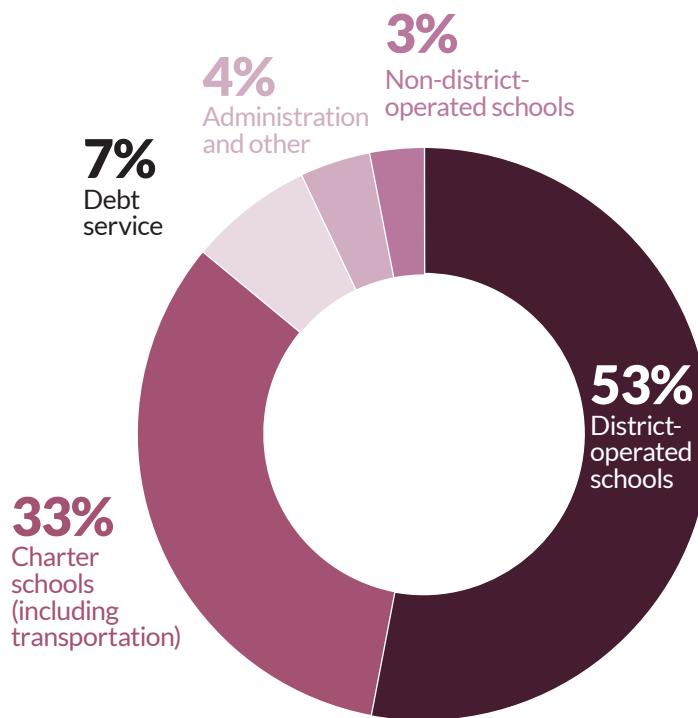
During the 2023-24 school year, 43.6% of all students enrolled in a school run by the School District of Philadelphia had 95% attendance records, meaning they missed nine or fewer days. Fifth graders had the highest share of students with such attendance records, at 48.1%. In the 2020-21 academic year, when school was largely virtual, 59.8% of students had such records.

Source: School District of Philadelphia, *School Performance: School and District 95% Attendance, 2023-24*

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Figure 2.9

## School District of Philadelphia Budget, FY 2025



The School District of Philadelphia's budget for fiscal year 2025 totals nearly \$4.7 billion. More than half of that amount, 53%, funds district-operated elementary, middle, and high schools. Charter schools (including transportation for charter school students) represent the second-largest category of spending, accounting for 33% of the budget. Debt service, administration and other, and non-district-operated schools make up the rest of the budget.

Source: School District of Philadelphia, *FY 2025 Operating Budget, 2024*

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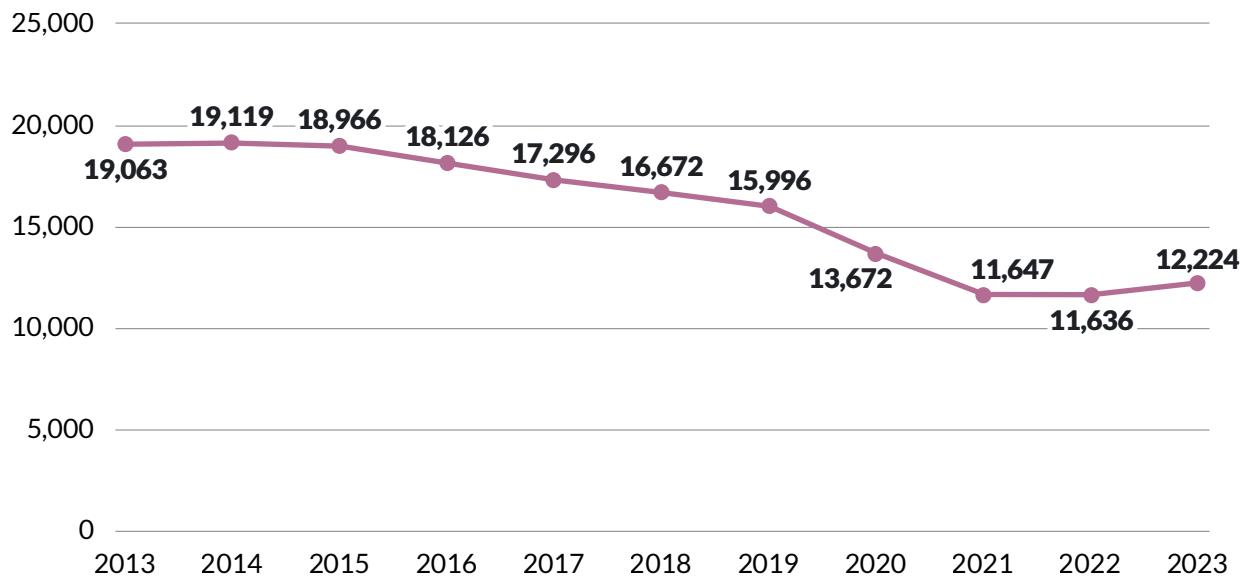




Figure 2.10

## Community College of Philadelphia Enrollment, 2013-23

As of fall of each year



The Community College of Philadelphia's fall enrollment declined every year from 2014 through 2022, falling from 19,119 students to 11,636. But enrollment rose to 12,224 students in fall 2023, the last year for which data was available.

Note: Enrollment numbers for fall 2023 are based on provisional data released by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). According to IPEDS, "These data reflect full quality control procedures, which may include follow-up with institutions, missing data imputation, and data validation."

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Enrollment, 2013-23*

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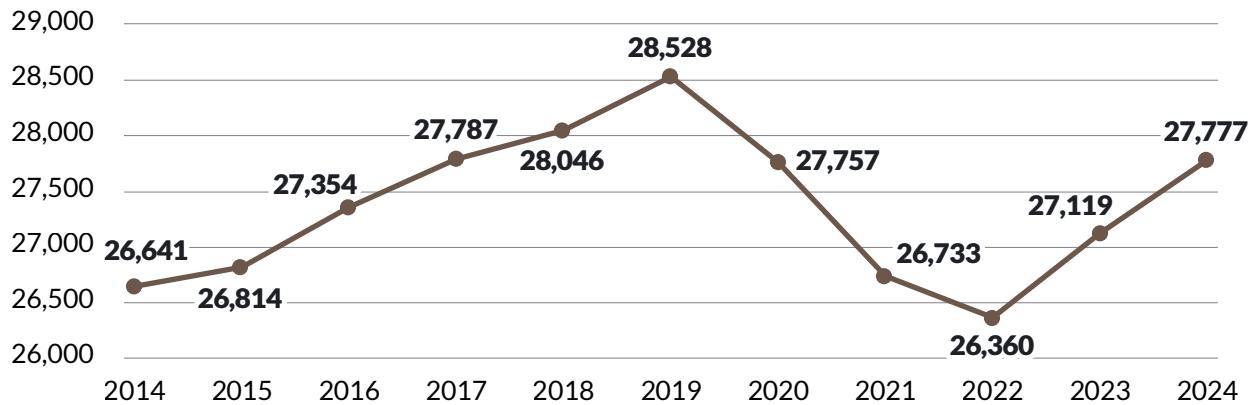
# Government

**In 2024, the city of Philadelphia received an A+ credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, its highest standing in 40 years, due in large part to the much-improved fiscal status of its municipal pensions. The city reported that its pension funds were 65.4% funded in fiscal 2024, up from 44.8% in 2016 and on track to reach full funding in 2033, which would allow the city to spend more on other priorities. The city's higher credit rating will also help lower borrowing costs in the future.**

City employment rose to 27,777 employees in 2024, up by 5% from 2022. The job vacancy rate was 18%. And overtime costs kept rising, accounting for 12.9% of all wage and salary expenditures in 2024.

Figure 3.1

## City Employees in Philadelphia, 2014-24



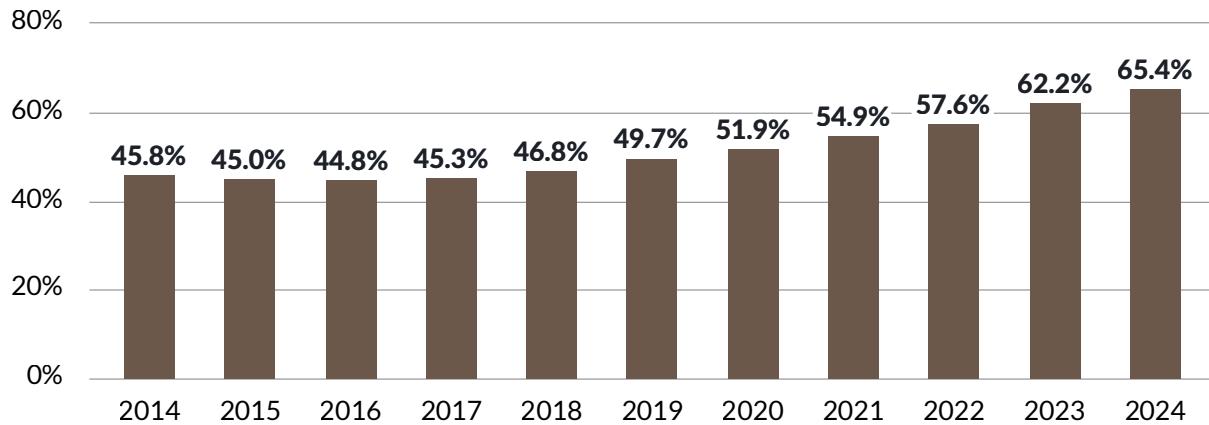
The number of Philadelphia city employees, which fell by more than 2,000 in the wake of the pandemic, increased between 2022 and 2024. By 2024, employment had returned roughly to 2020 levels. As of December 2024, 82% of all budgeted positions on the city's books were filled. The greatest numbers of vacancies were in the police, fire, and prisons departments.

Source: City of Philadelphia, Office of the Director of Finance, *Quarterly City Managers Report*, 2014-24, for the period ending Dec. 31 each year

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Figure 3.2

## Funding Level for City of Philadelphia's Pension Fund, 2014-24



Philadelphia has continued to improve the level of funding for its pension fund, reaching 65.4% in 2024—the highest percentage since 2003, when the level was 63.3%. Changes to the pension plan starting in 2016 helped boost the funding level by allowing both city government and municipal workers to increase their contributions to the pension system.

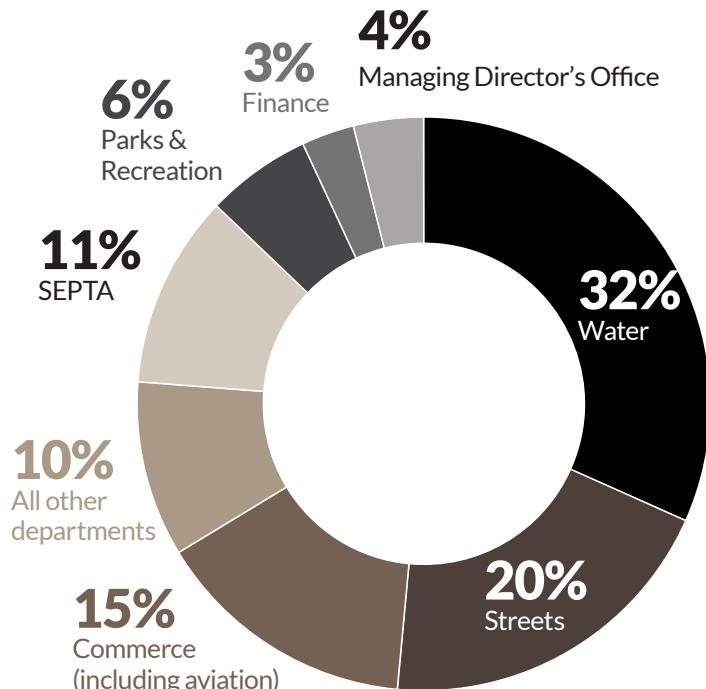
Sources: Philadelphia Board of Pensions, *Municipal Retirement System Actuarial Valuation Report* as of July 1, 2023, prepared by Cheiron; *Preliminary Actuarial Valuation*, presentation of preliminary 2024 data to the Philadelphia Board of Pensions, Feb. 27, 2025

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Figure 3.3

## City of Philadelphia Capital Spending, FY 2025

By department



The city of Philadelphia allocated approximately \$6.08 billion in capital spending for fiscal year 2025. Nearly one-third of the total, \$1.9 billion, went toward the Water Department for projects such as water and sewer mains, water treatment facility maintenance, and stormwater management improvements. The Streets Department received the second-largest share, getting one-fifth of the funds, or around \$1.2 billion.

Source: Philadelphia Office of the Director of Finance, *Recommended Six-Year Capital Program for Fiscal Years 2025-2030: Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2025*, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

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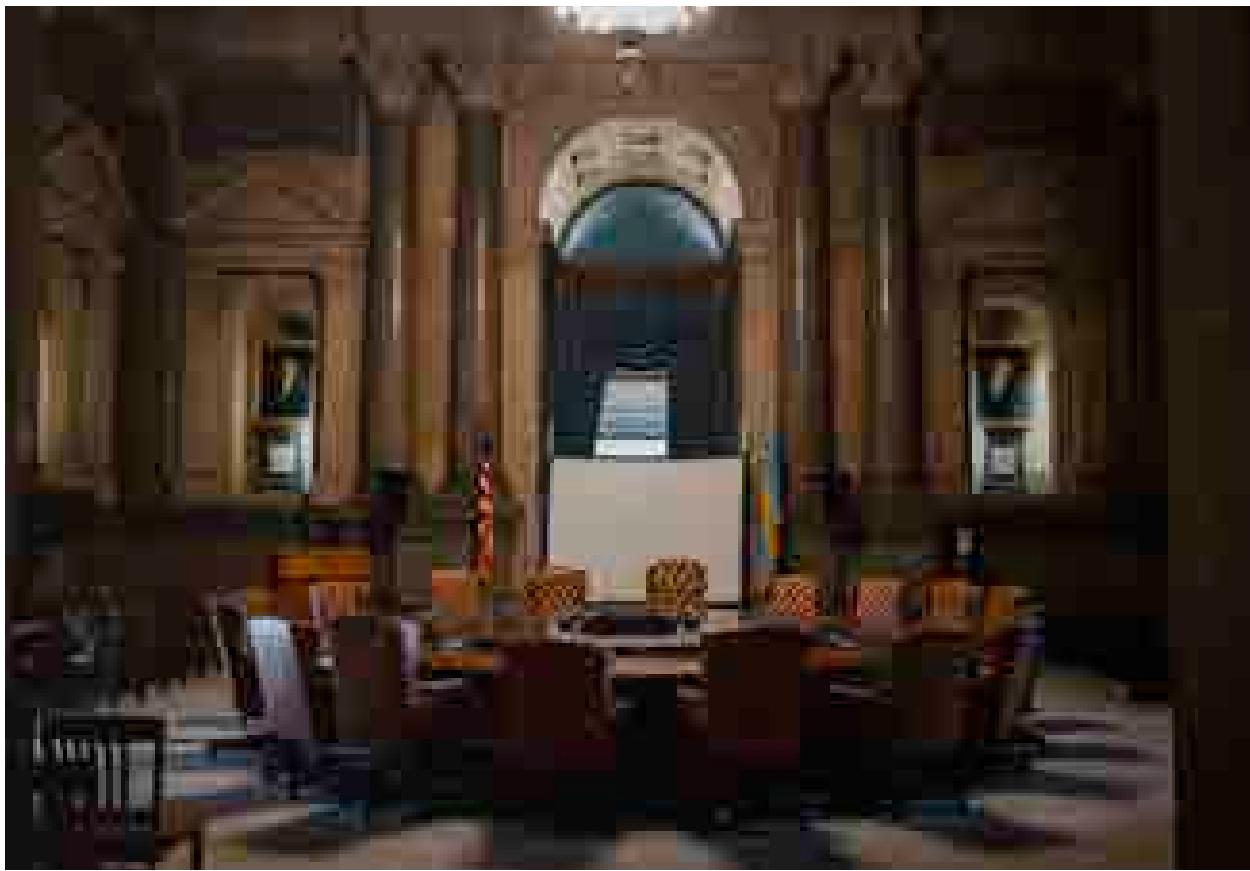
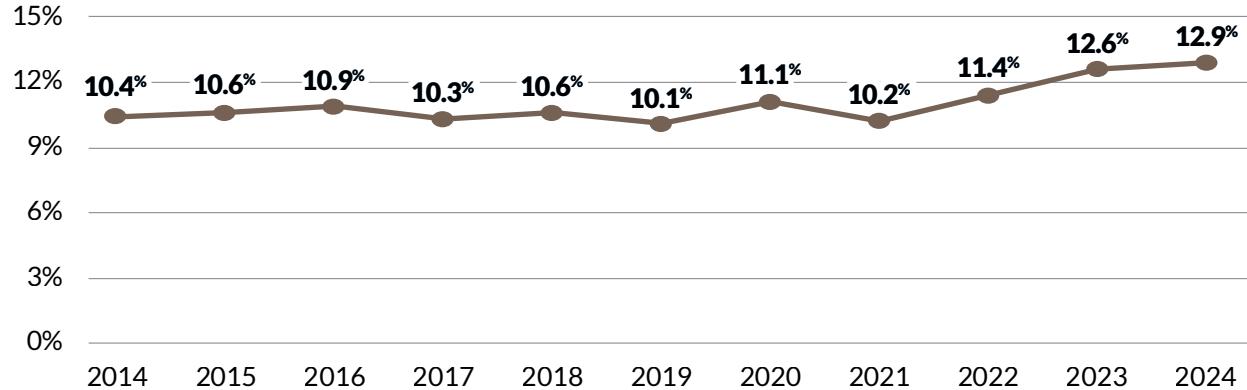


Figure 3.4

## **City of Philadelphia General Fund Overtime Spending, FY 2014-24**

Overtime as a percentage of salary and wage expenditures



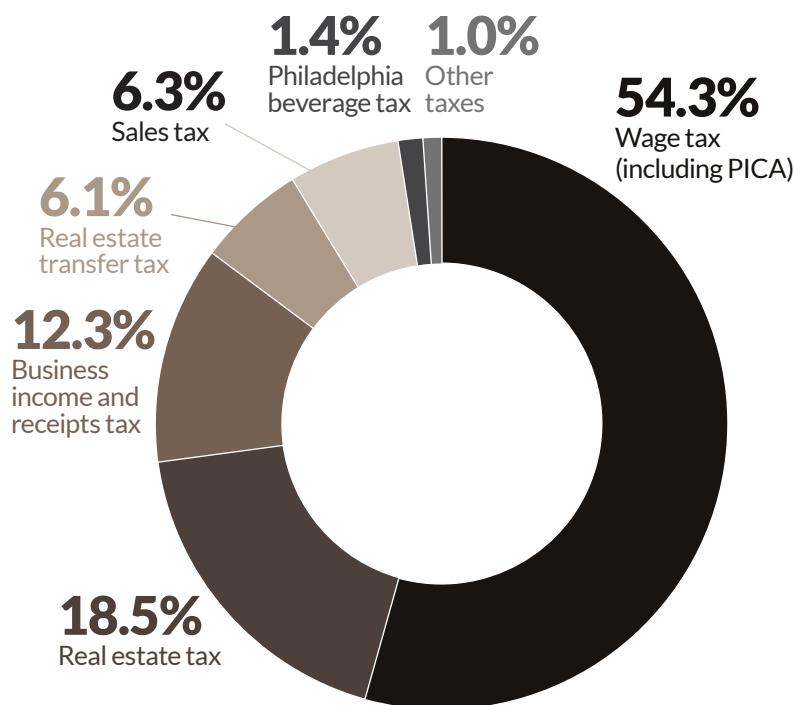
In 2024, the city's general fund overtime spending increased to a total of \$263.8 million, making up 12.9% of all salary and wage expenditures. This is the largest percentage recorded in the last 10 years. City officials say a large number of vacant positions is one reason for the high overtime costs.

Source: Philadelphia Office of the Director of Finance, *City of Philadelphia Quarterly City Managers Report* for the period ending Sept. 30 of each fiscal year, 2014-24

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Figure 3.5

## Projected City Tax Revenue by Type, FY 2025



In funding its local government, Philadelphia relies heavily on the wage tax, a payroll tax that applies to all Philadelphians regardless of where they work and to all nonresidents who work in the city. The wage tax was expected to account for 54.3% of the city's projected local tax revenue for fiscal 2025. The real estate tax is the second-largest source, representing 18.5% of the city's projected tax revenue.

Note: The 2023 "State of the City" report did not include the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (PICA) wage, earnings, and net profits tax in the city's projected wage tax revenue. The 13% increase in the city wage tax's share of city tax revenue is attributed mainly to the PICA tax revenue's inclusion in this year's report.

Source: Philadelphia Office of the Director of Finance, *Mayor's Operating Budget in Brief for Fiscal Year 2025 as Approved by Council, June 2024*

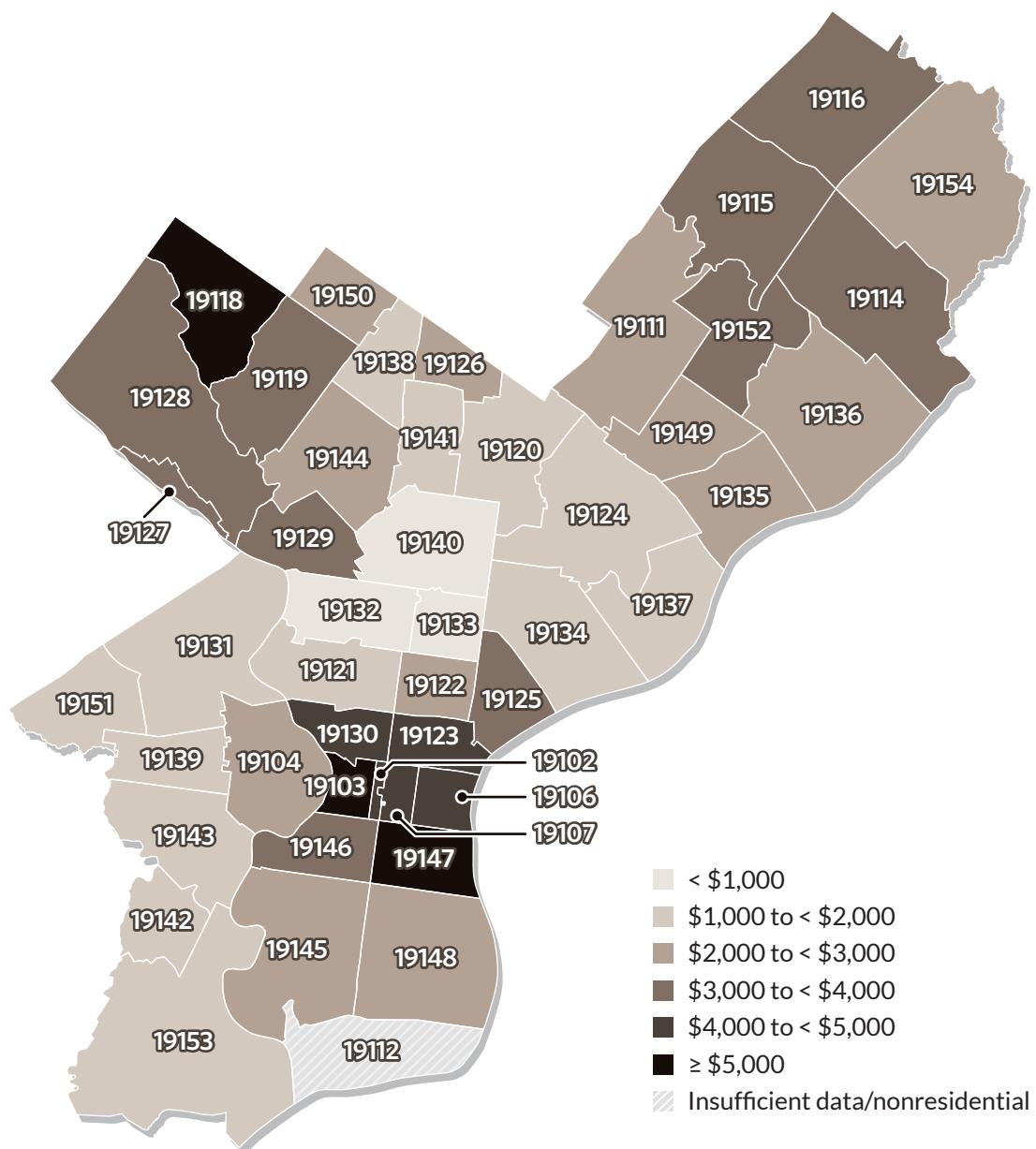
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Figure 3.6

## Median Household Property Tax Bill Liability by ZIP Code

For tax year 2025



The median residential property tax bill for 2025 was \$2,325—15% more than two years earlier. Property taxes were the highest in Center City and the Northwest, and lowest in North Philadelphia. The ZIP code with the highest property tax was Chestnut Hill (19118), with a median tax bill of \$8,799. The lowest was in North Philadelphia—East (19133), where the median was \$804.

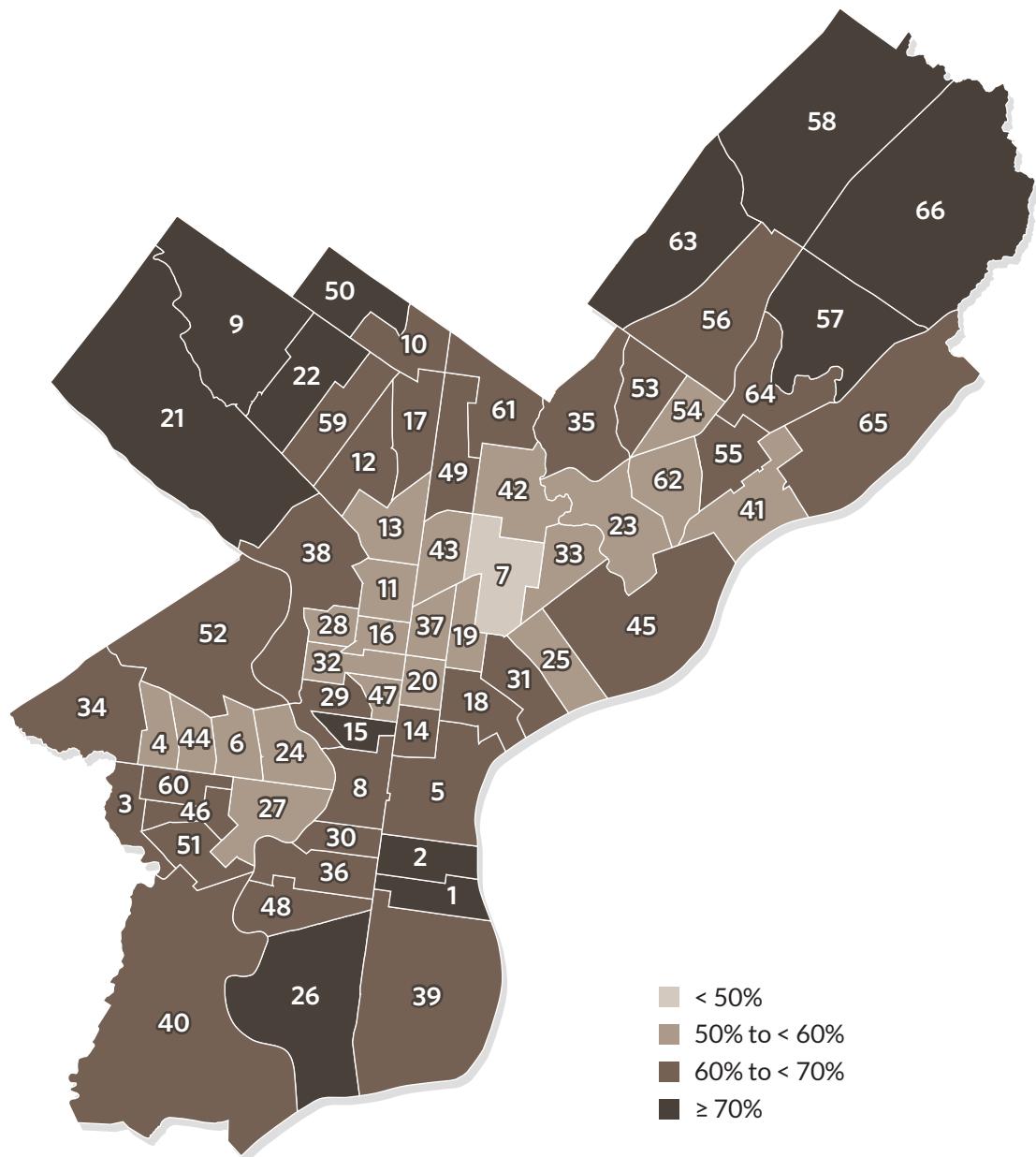
Note: Property tax liability was limited to only residential properties that were assessed in 2024.

Source: City of Philadelphia, OpenDataPhilly, *Philadelphia Properties and Assessment History*

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Figure 3.7

## Philadelphia Voter Turnout, 2024 Election



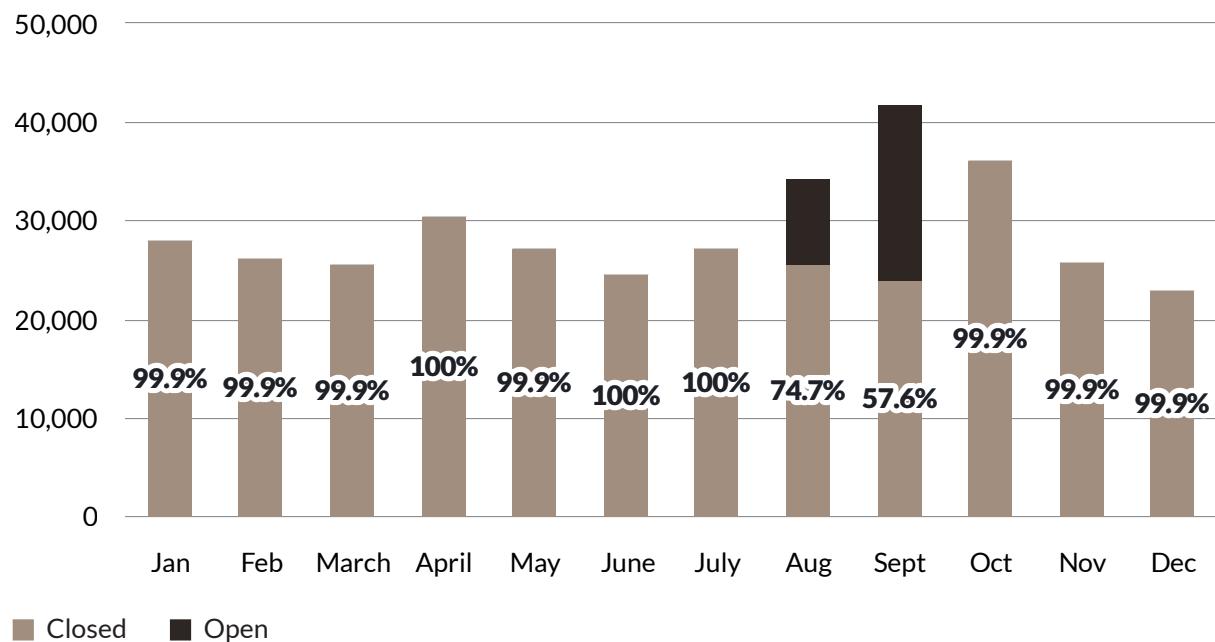
About 65% of Philadelphia's roughly 1.1 million registered voters participated in the 2024 general election, in which Pennsylvanians voted for president; a U.S. senator; and members of the House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and three state row offices (attorney general, auditor general, and treasurer). Of the 727,595 votes, 528,845 (73%) were cast at polling places and 198,390 (27%) by mail. This map shows the overall turnout percentages in each of the city's 66 political wards. The 9th Ward, in Chestnut Hill, had the highest turnout, at about 81%; it had also had the highest turnout in the 2020 election. The 7th Ward, in North Philadelphia, had the lowest turnout, at about 46%.

Source: Philadelphia City Commissioners, *Unofficial 2024 General Election Results*, Nov. 5, 2024

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Figure 3.8  
**311 Requests and Completions**  
By month in 2024



In 2024, people made a total of 350,630 requests to 311, Philadelphia's system for handling nonemergency requests for service and information, with an average of 29,219 requests per month. Almost all cases were addressed and labeled closed each month, except in August and September. In August, 74.7% of 311 calls were closed; and only 57.6% were closed in September. The city attributed the reduced closures in those two months to an atypically high volume of spam requests.

Note: In some of the months where the graphic shows that 100% of the cases were closed, a very small number of cases remained open. Nonetheless, the percentages for those months still round to 100% rather than 99.9%.

Source: City of Philadelphia, OpenDataPhilly, 311 Service and Information Requests

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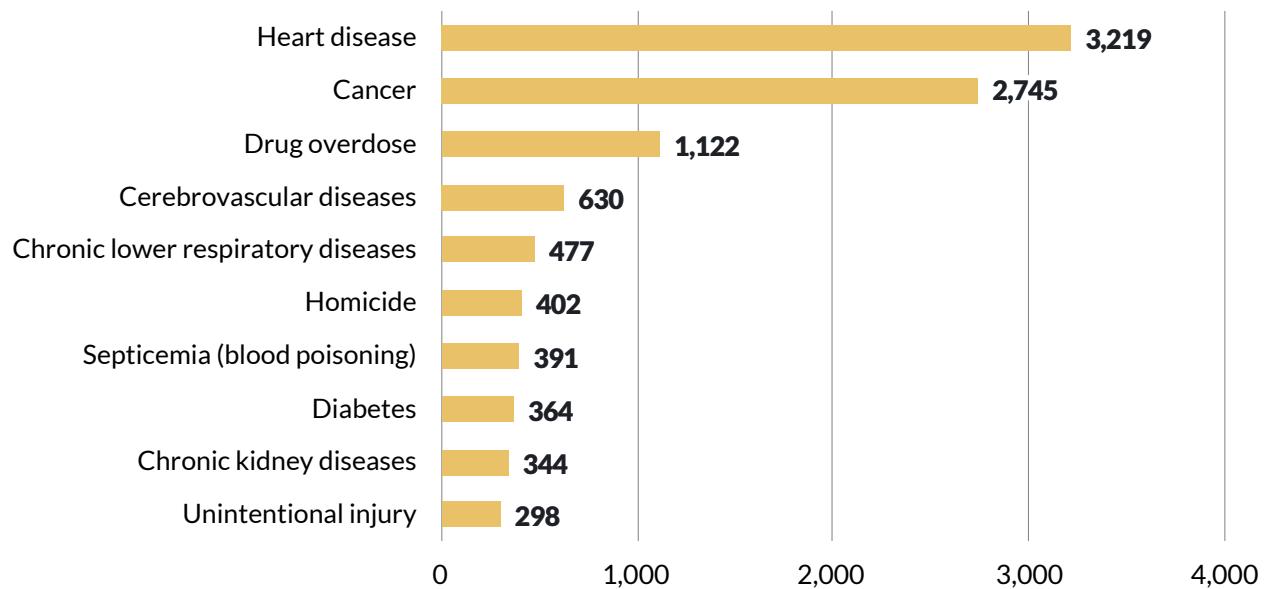
# Health

**Drug use and overdoses continue to have a large impact on Philadelphians' health. In 2024, an estimated 1,100 unintentional overdose deaths occurred in Philadelphia. And among comparison cities, Philadelphia had the second-highest unintentional overdose death rate, according to the most recent data.**

Other health-related data showed that Philadelphians' life expectancy is up to 76 years, nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. Roughly 7% of Philadelphians do not have health insurance—lower than the national average. And the number of residents enrolled in Medicaid decreased by about 8% in 2024, continuing to decline since pandemic-era enrollment waivers expired in April 2023.

Figure 4.1

## Leading Causes of Death in Philadelphia, 2023



In 2023, the leading causes of death in Philadelphia were heart disease, cancer, and unintentional drug overdoses—the same as before the pandemic. COVID-19 was no longer among the top 10 causes of death (it is now ranked 13th), with fewer than 175 Philadelphians dying from the illness. Six of the leading causes of death were related to chronic illnesses, including heart disease, cancer, cerebrovascular conditions such as a stroke, chronic lower respiratory ailments, diabetes, and chronic kidney disorders. Causes of death not related to illness included drug overdoses, homicides, and unintentional injuries.

Note: The Philadelphia Health Department indicated that these totals are still preliminary. “Unintentional injury” deaths exclude drug overdoses and motor vehicle deaths.

Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Health, 2023 Vital Statistics

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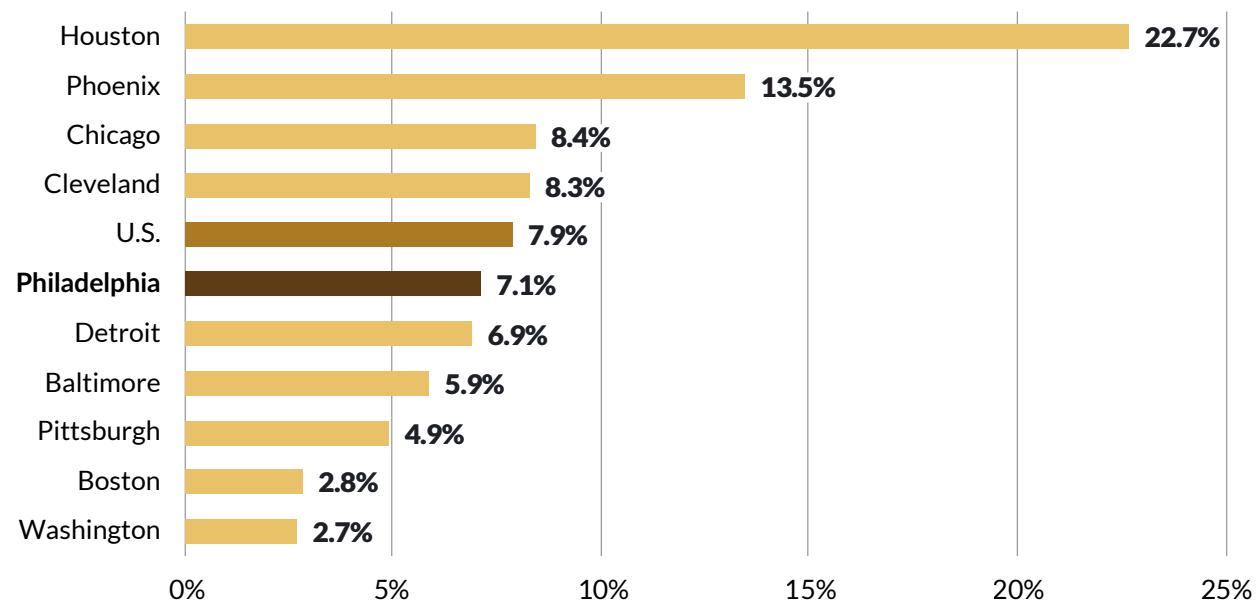




Figure 4.2

## Residents Without Health Insurance, 2023

In Philadelphia and other large cities



The percentage of Philadelphians lacking health insurance was 7.1% in 2023—and below the national rate of 7.9%. Among the comparison cities, Houston and Phoenix had the highest rates of uninsured residents, at 22.7% and 13.5%, respectively. The lowest percentages were in Washington (2.7%) and Boston (2.8%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S2701: Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States*

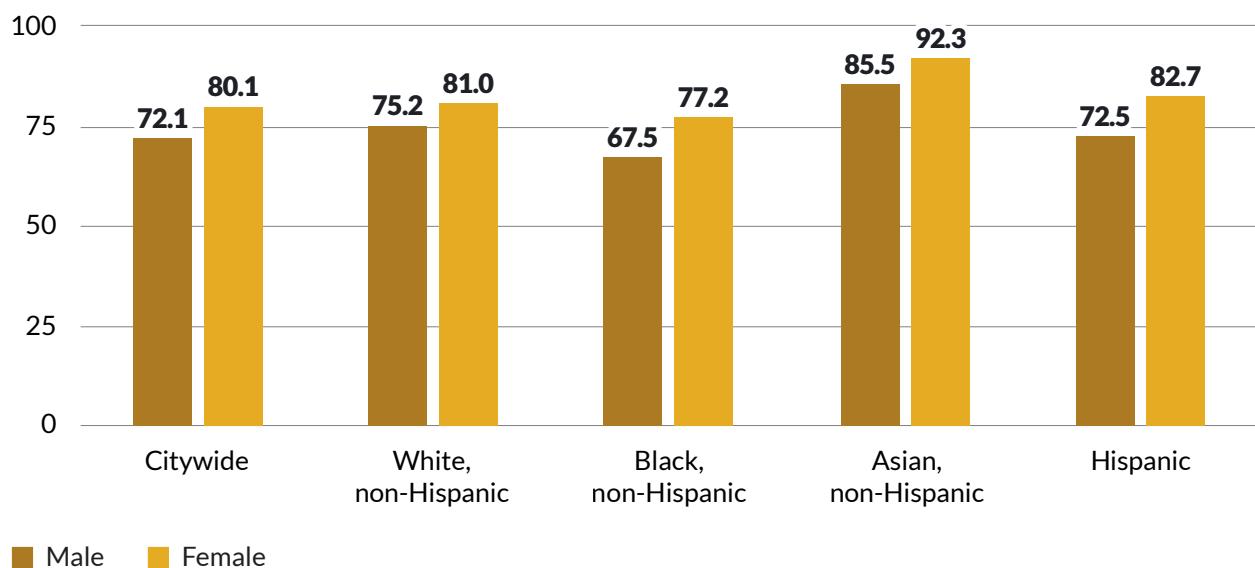
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Figure 4.3

## Life Expectancy in Philadelphia by Race and Sex, 2023

In years



Philadelphia's overall life expectancy was 76.2 years in 2023. As in previous years, there were significant disparities by race and ethnicity. Non-Hispanic Black men, for example, had a life expectancy of 67.5 years, nearly 25 fewer years than non-Hispanic Asian women (92.3 years). Since 2020, the greatest increase in life expectancy has been among Hispanic women, who saw a gain of five years. Overall, Philadelphians' life expectancy was roughly back to where it had been before the pandemic, at 76.7 years in 2019.

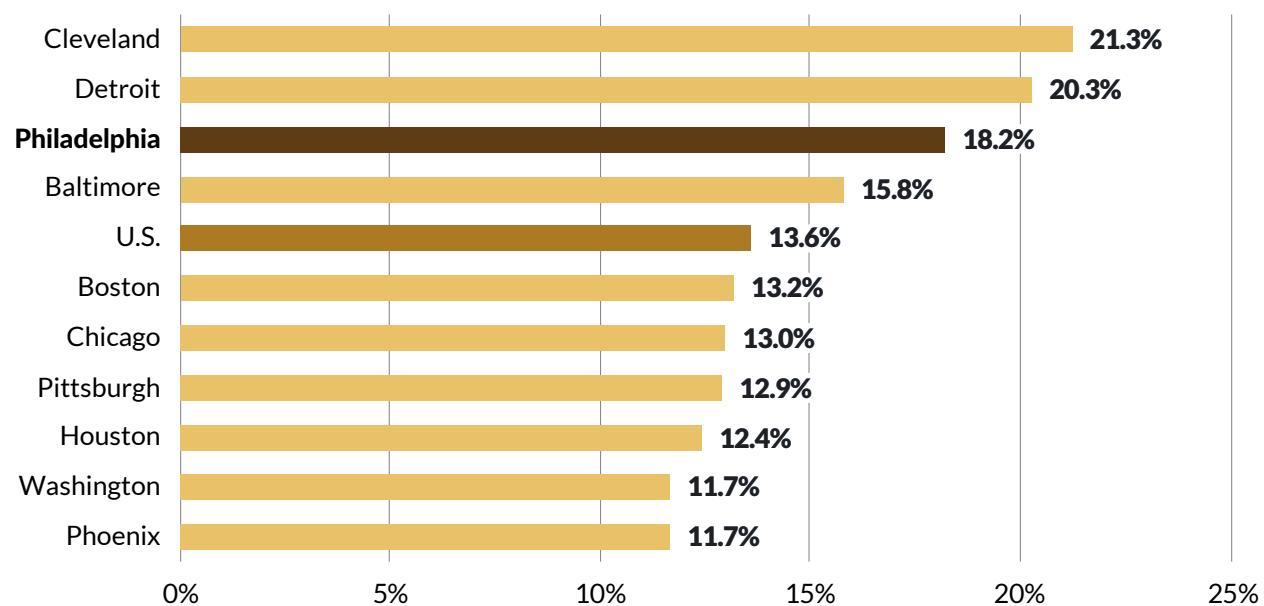
Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Health, *Preliminary Vital Statistics, 2023*

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Figure 4.4

## Disability Rate, 2023

In Philadelphia and other large cities



In 2023, 18.2% of Philadelphians reported having a physical or intellectual disability, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, higher than the national rate of 13.6% and the third-highest among the comparison cities.

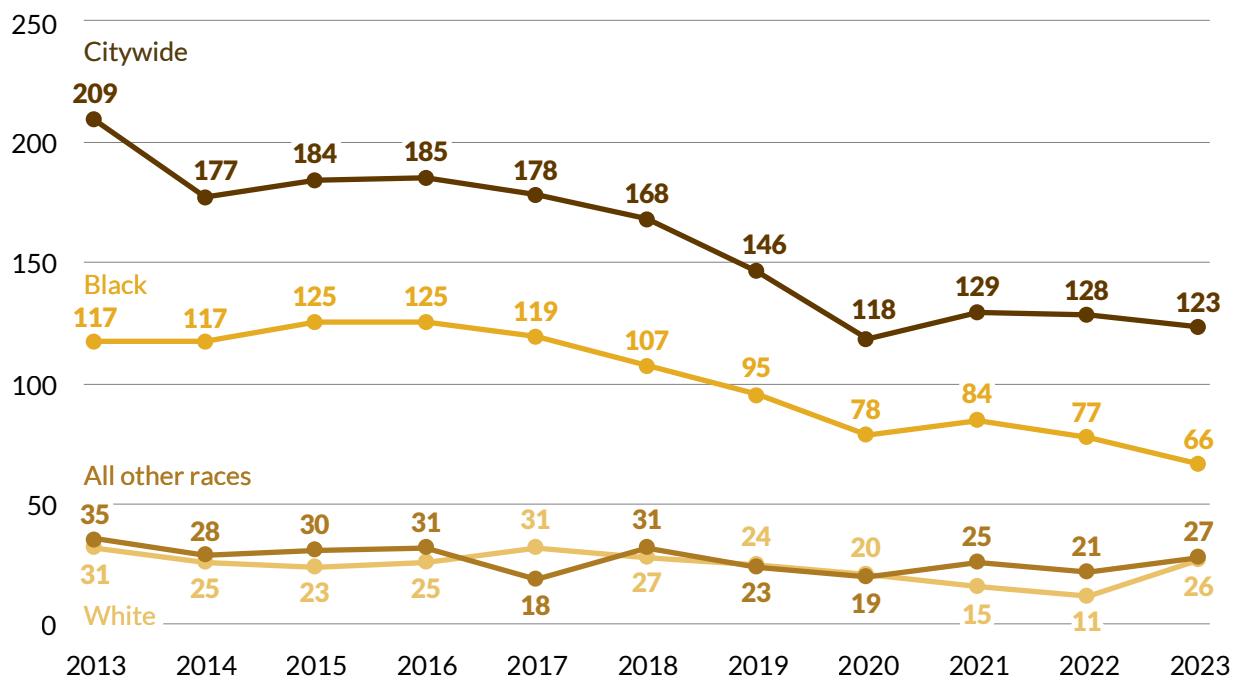
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S1810: Disability Characteristics*

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Figure 4.5  
**Infant Mortality in Philadelphia, 2013-23**  
By race and ethnicity



From 2013 to 2020, infant deaths in Philadelphia declined from 209 to 118. In 2023, the figure was slightly higher, at 123. The number of children who died before their first birthday was 41% lower in the most recent count than it was a decade earlier. Among non-Hispanic Black infants, deaths fell from 117 in 2013 to 66 in 2023, a 44% decline.

Note: Deaths of infants without a determined race or ethnicity are not included in the count of “all other races.”

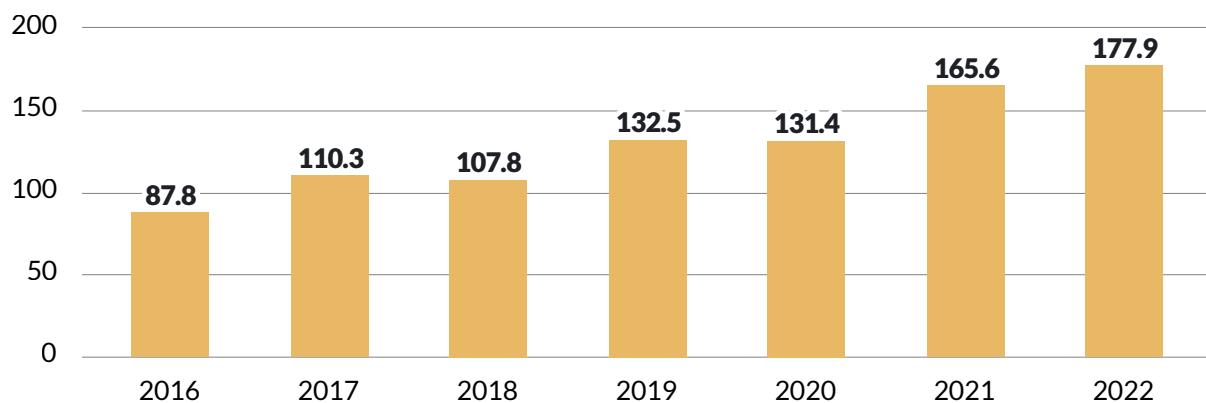
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, *Resident Infant Deaths by Age, Race, Sex, and County (Single Year)*, Pennsylvania, 2013-23

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Figure 4.6

## Rate of Severe Maternal Morbidity, 2016-22

Per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations



The term “severe maternal morbidity” includes unexpected outcomes from a pregnancy—such as heart failure, eclampsia, or a hysterectomy—that can have a dramatic impact on women’s health and their ability to have more children. In Philadelphia, the rates of severe maternal morbidity, conditions that are sometimes fatal, have risen in recent years.

In 2022, 177.9 in 10,000 births resulted in severe health complications for the mother, up from 87.8 in 2016. Statewide, the rate of severe maternal morbidity also increased from 75.2 per 10,000 births in 2016 to 105.2 in 2022, with some of the greatest increases in rural areas such as Crawford and Fayette counties. Throughout Pennsylvania, women over the age of 35, non-Hispanic Black mothers, and people receiving health insurance through Medicaid had higher rates of severe outcomes.

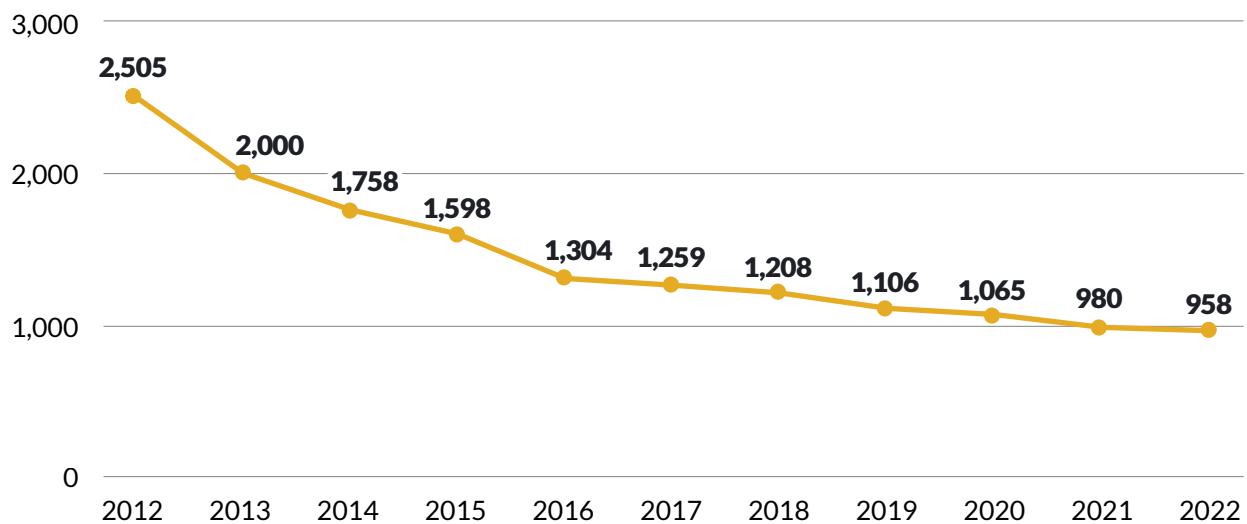
Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, *Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pennsylvania, 2016-2022: Individual Level & Regional Factors*, April 2024

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Figure 4.7

## Births to Mothers Ages 19 and Younger in Philadelphia, 2012-22



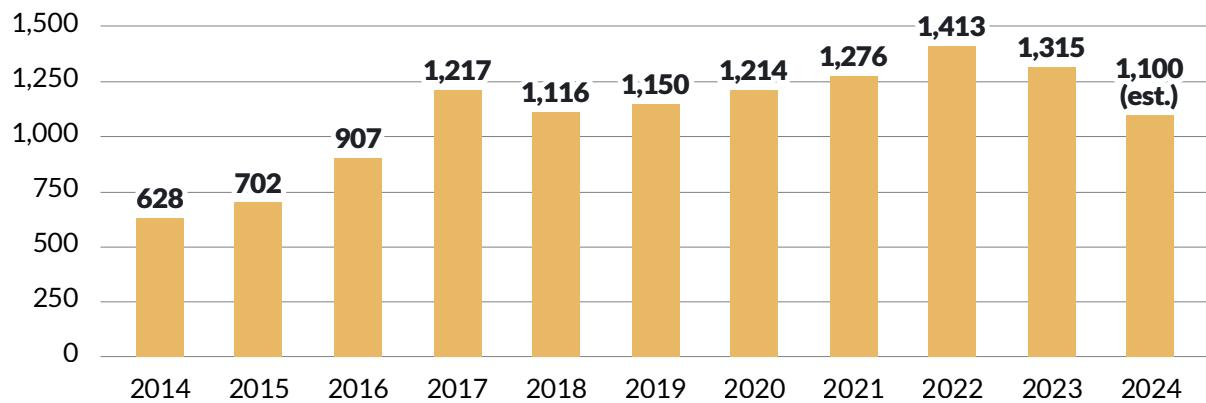
In Philadelphia, the number of births to teenage mothers declined by 62% from 2012 to 2022, from 2,505 to 958. The greatest decrease was among mothers ages 14 and younger.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, *Resident Live Births by Age of Mother—Municipalities, Counties, and Pennsylvania, 2012-22*

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Figure 4.8

## Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Philadelphia, 2014-24



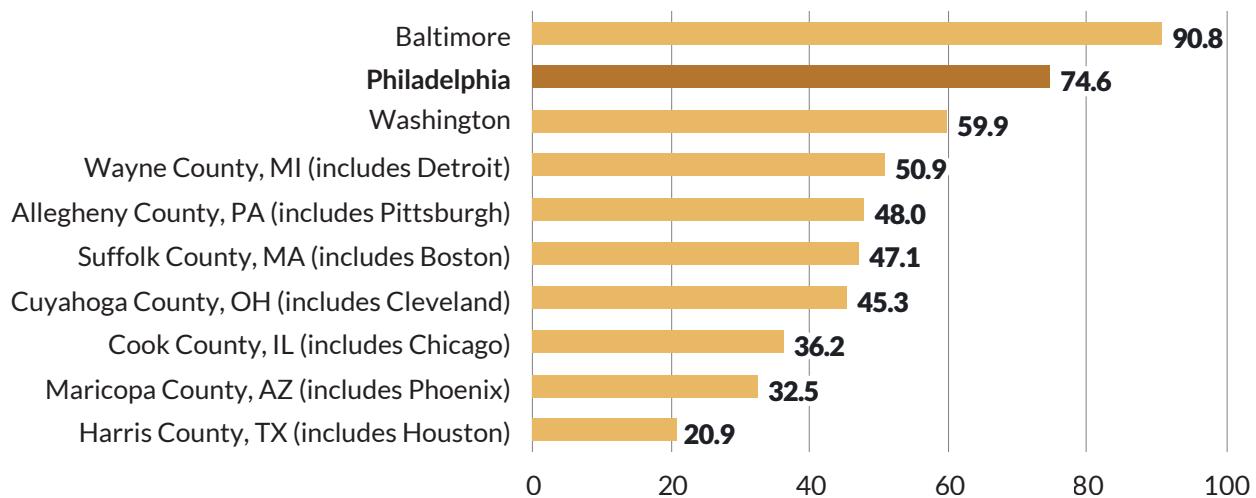
City officials estimate that the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2024 was 1,100, down more than 20% from two years earlier. If confirmed, this would be the lowest number of drug deaths since 2016.

Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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Figure 4.9

## Drug Overdose Deaths Per 100,000 Residents, 2023



In 2023, Philadelphia reported 74.6 deaths per 100,000 residents due to unintentional drug overdoses. About 74% of Philadelphians who died of unintentional overdoses were ages 35-64. Philadelphia had the second-highest rate among comparison cities (and, in some cases, the counties that include them), trailing only Baltimore, which reported 90.8 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 residents. These statistics represent overdose deaths that occurred in each jurisdiction, regardless of where the person lived.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, *Multiple Cause of Death Data, 2023*

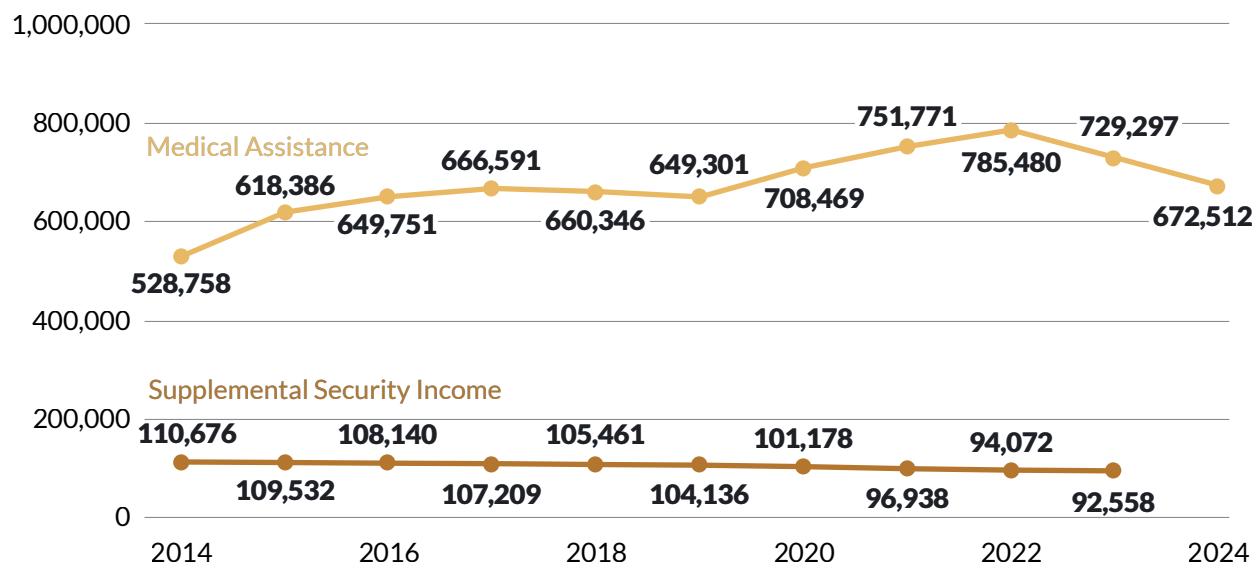
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Figure 4.10

## Public Benefits Enrollment Trends in Philadelphia, 2014-24



The number of Philadelphians enrolled in Medicaid, also known as Medical Assistance, continued to fall in 2024, dropping to 672,512 after pandemic-related automatic reenrollment ended in April 2023. It was the city's lowest enrollment level since 2020 and a 14% drop from 2022. In Pennsylvania, Medicaid provides health insurance to children, people with disabilities, adults with incomes at or below 133% of the federal poverty level, and adults 65 or older. Philadelphians account for 22% of all enrollees in the commonwealth. Supplemental Security Income provides monthly payments to adults with \$2,000 or less in total assets and to people with disabilities. Philadelphia enrollment in the program in 2023 was 16% lower than in 2014, when the city had 110,676 participants.

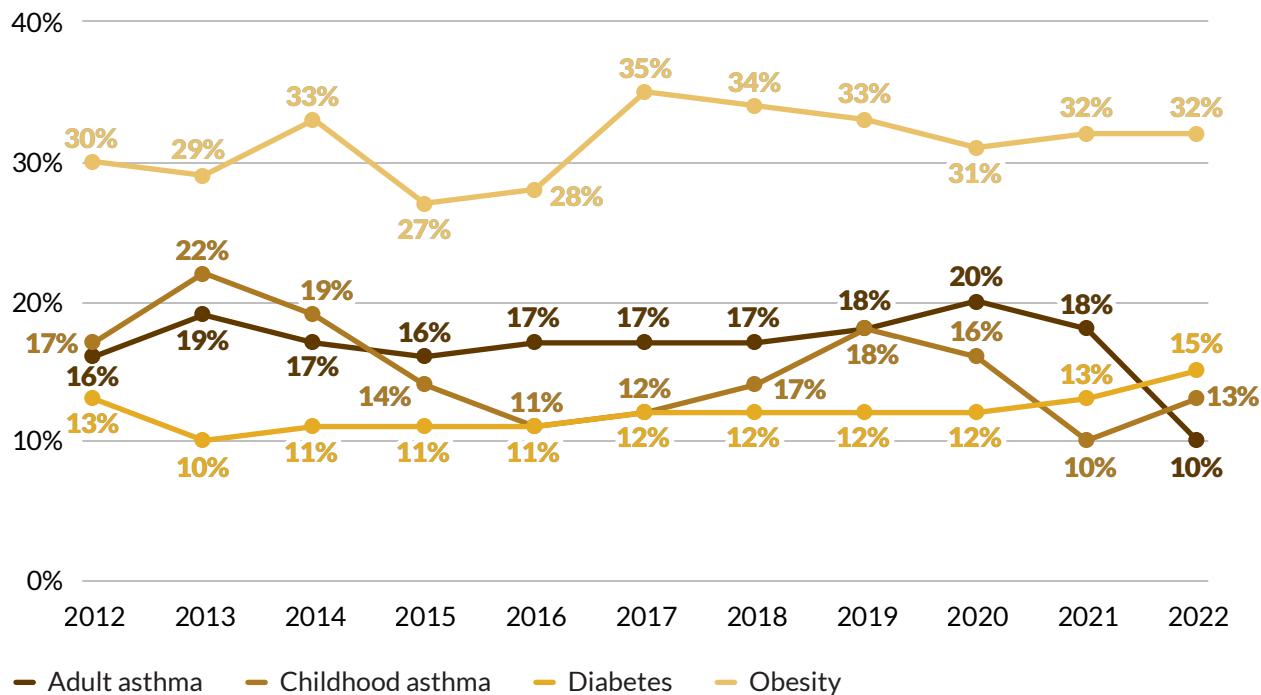
Note: Medical Assistance enrollment numbers as of December of each year. Supplemental Security Income enrollment information for 2024 was unavailable at the time of publication.

Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, *Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, and Cash Assistance Statistics Reports*, 2014-24 (Medical Assistance data); Social Security Administration, *SSI Recipient by State and County, 2014-23* (Supplemental Security Income data)

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Figure 4.11

## Chronic Health Conditions in Philadelphia, 2012-22



Chronic health conditions—long-lasting noncommunicable diseases—can have a significant impact on both quality of life and health care costs. In Philadelphia, obesity was the most common such condition in 2022, affecting about one-third of all adults. The percentage of children with asthma and people with diabetes rose slightly from 2021 to 2022, while the percentage of adults with asthma dropped from 18% in 2021 to 10% in 2022.

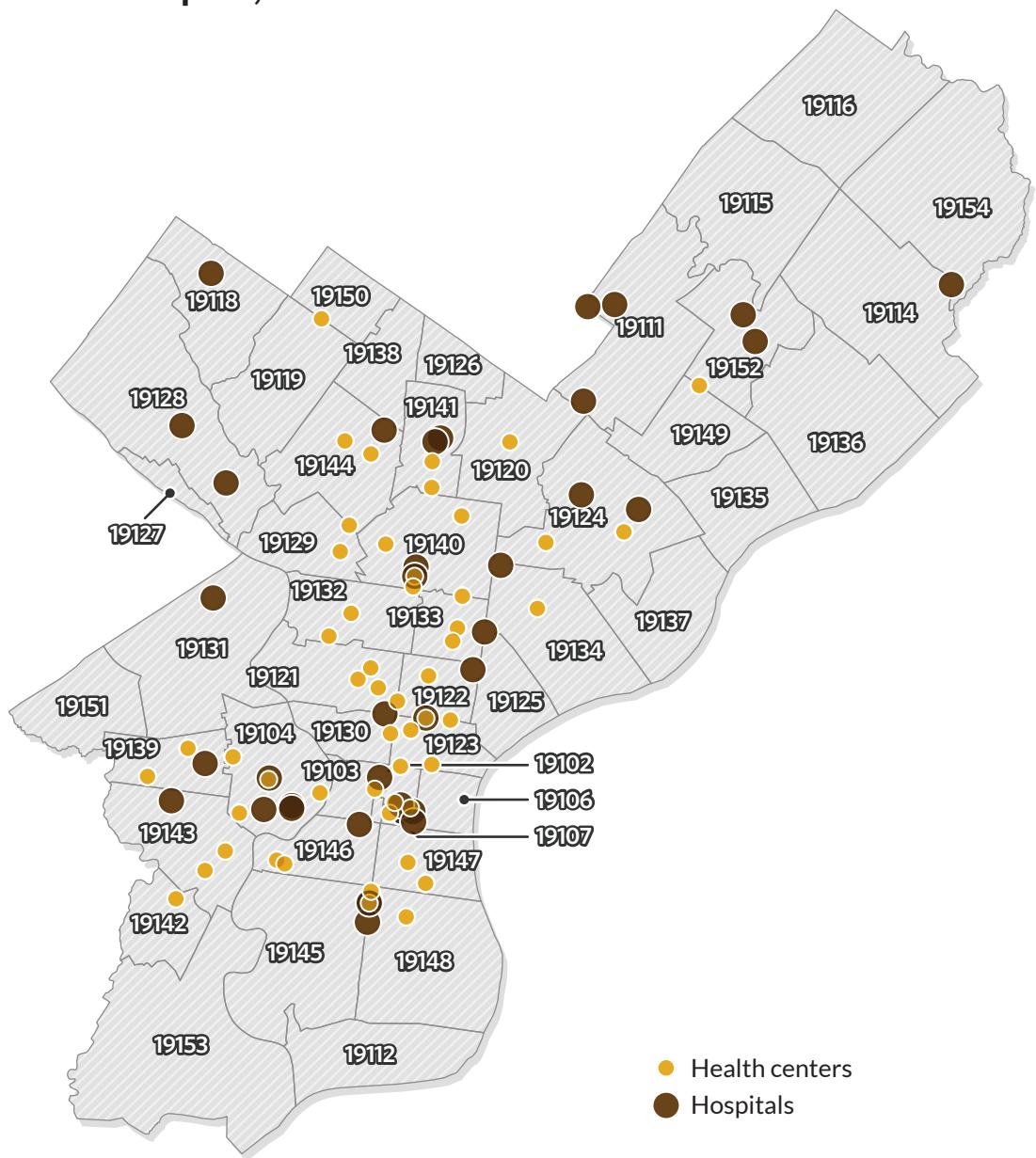
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange database, *District: Table*, 2012-22

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Figure 4.12

## Locations of Hospitals and Health Centers in Philadelphia, 2025

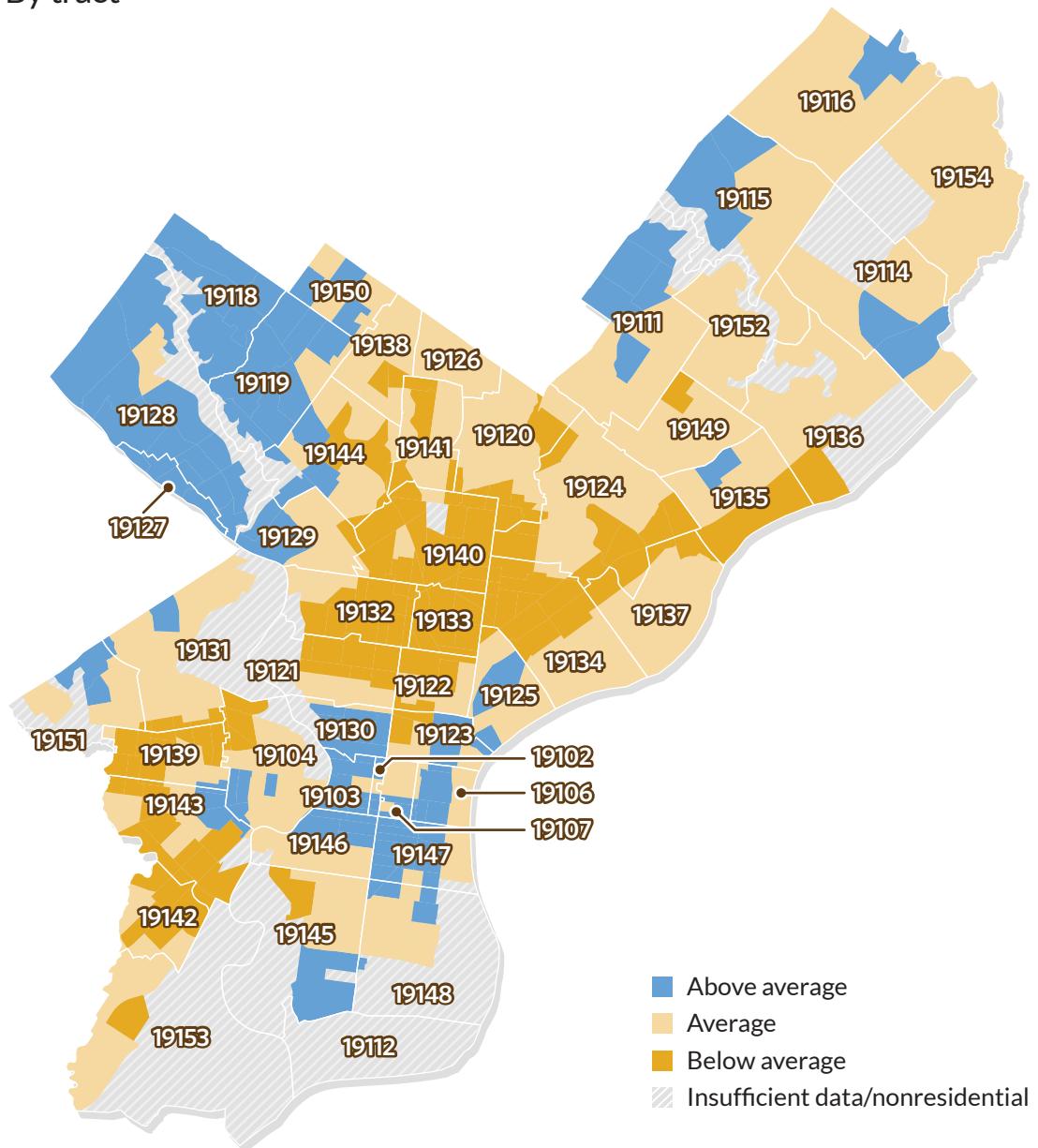


The city's hospitals are concentrated in Center City, North, and West Philadelphia, with a few in the Northeast and Northwest. Health centers—community-based clinics that are run by the city and state/federal grants and offer affordable health care services—tend to be located in Center City, North, and West Philadelphia as well. There are very few centers and hospitals in the lower South and Upper Northeast regions. In total, the city has 36 hospitals and 55 health centers.

Sources: Open Data PHLmaps, *Hospitals*; Open Data PHLmaps, *Health Centers*

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Figure 4.13  
**Philadelphia Social Progress Index, 2023**  
By tract

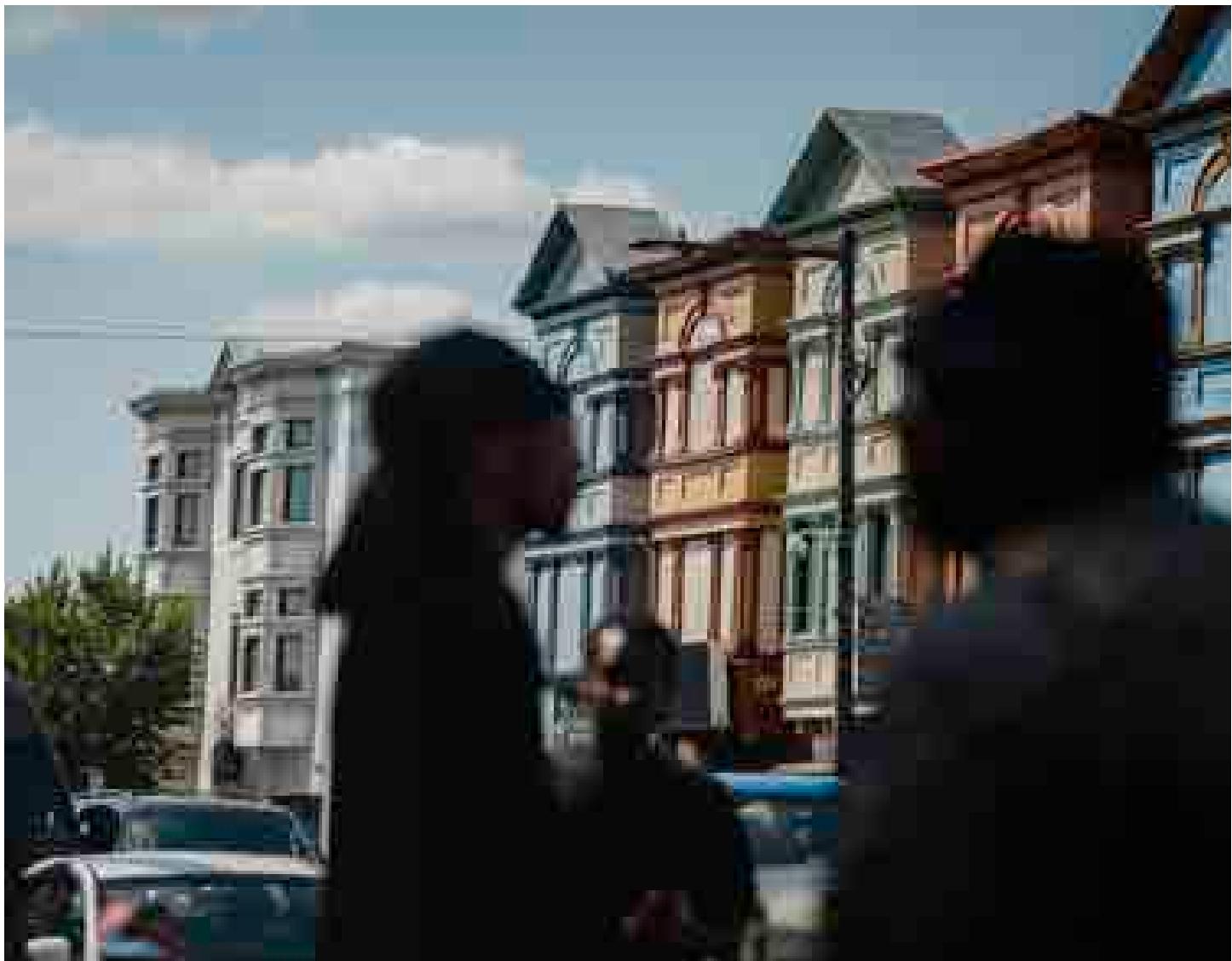


The Social Progress Index, created by a U.S.-based nonprofit organization called the Social Progress Imperative, considers 47 indicators of social progress, including personal safety, opportunity, and foundations of well-being such as mental health and the prevalence of coronary heart disease. Applying the index to Philadelphia finds that census tracts in Center City, the Northwest, and a few in Northeast and South Philadelphia had scores that were higher than the city average. The areas that scored below the city average were concentrated in Lower North and Southwest Philadelphia.

Source: City Controller, City of Philadelphia, *Progress PHL*, 2023

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# Housing

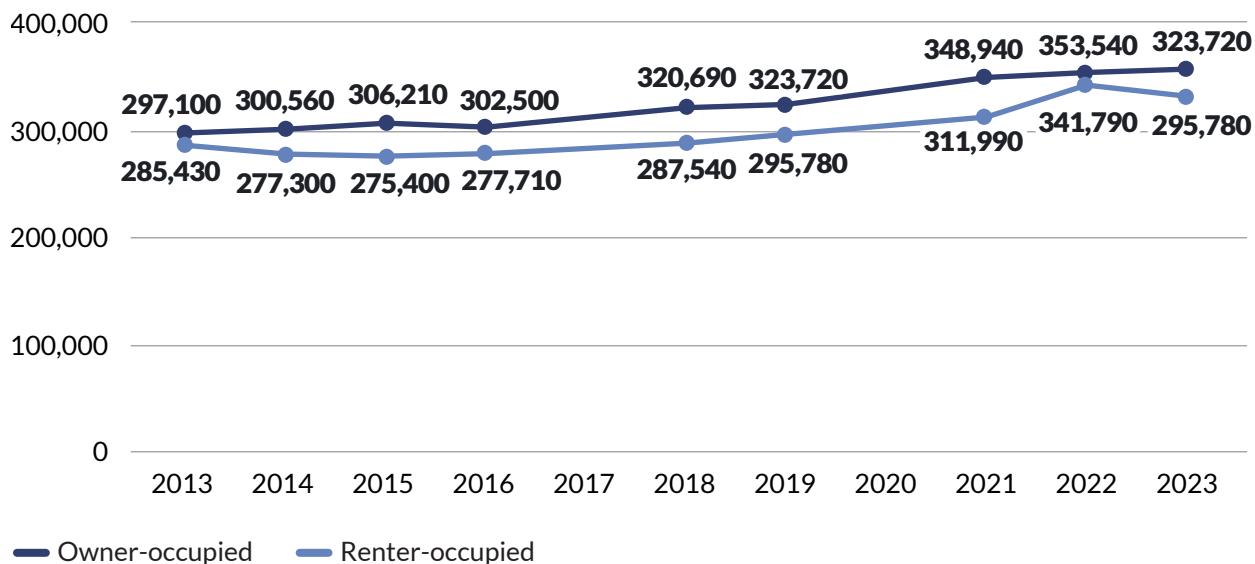
**Philadelphia has a relatively high homeownership rate, with more than half of all households living in homes that they own. The city's homeownership rate in 2023 was 51.8%, the third highest among the nine comparison cities, behind Phoenix and Detroit.**

The overall housing market in Philadelphia was mixed. Home sales in the city increased by 17% last year, and median home prices rose to \$240,625, more than \$15,000 higher than in 2022. Additionally, the total number of residential units for which the city issued building permits was the lowest since 2013.

Meanwhile, the percentage of renters in the city decreased marginally in 2023, after rising for nearly a decade. Affordability continues to be an issue for renters: More than half are paying 30% or more of their income on rent and utilities, similar to the national average of 51.8%. In 2023, the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Philadelphia was \$1,475, the fourth highest among comparison cities.

Figure 5.1

## Homeownership in Philadelphia, 2013-23



In 2023, Philadelphia had slightly more owner-occupied than renter-occupied residential units. In percentage terms, about 52% of units were owner-occupied. The number of renter-occupied units grew steadily from 2015 to 2022 before dropping marginally in 2023.

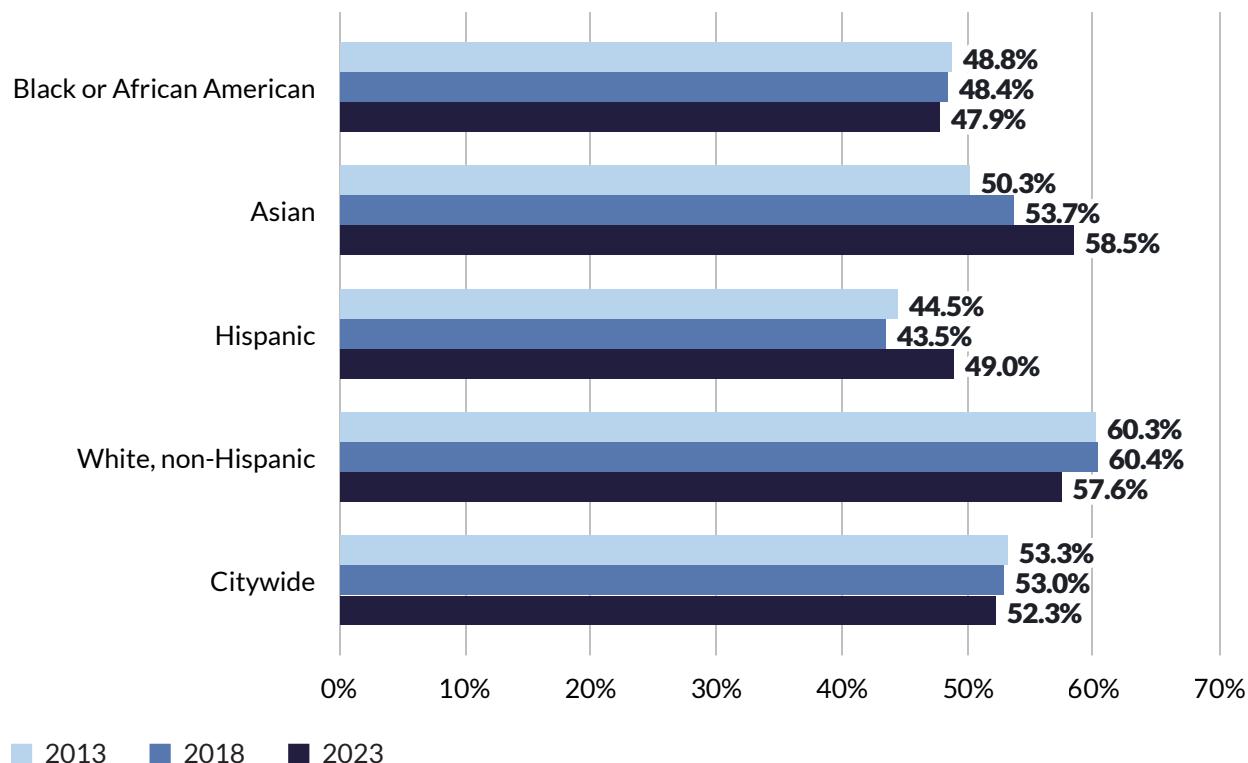
Note: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data. Each annual total is rounded to the nearest tenth.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2013-23, *Table B25003: Tenure*

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Figure 5.2  
**Homeownership Rate, 2013, 2018, and 2023**  
By race and ethnicity



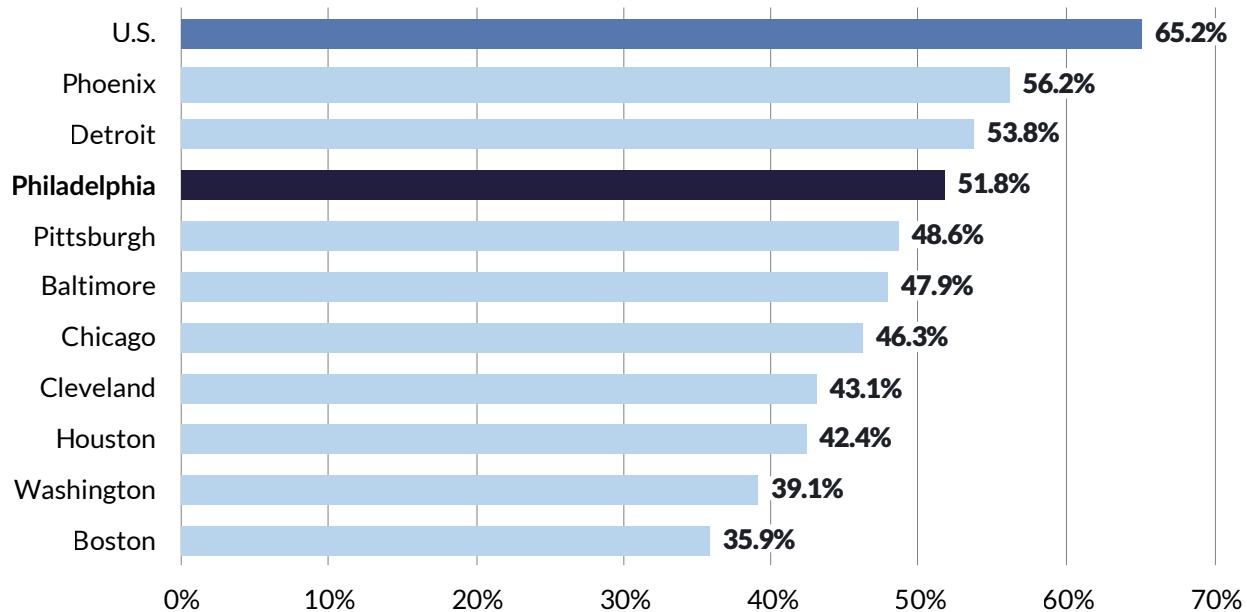
From 2013 to 2023, the citywide homeownership rate in Philadelphia declined slightly, dropping from 53.3% to 52.3%. The rate fell for White, non-Hispanic and Black or African American residents as well. But it rose for Asian and Hispanic residents, with the Asian homeownership rate increasing by 8 percentage points and the Hispanic homeownership rate increasing by around 5 points. Among racial and ethnic groups, Asian households had the highest homeownership rate in 2023, at 58.5%, and Black or African American households had the lowest, at 47.9%.

Note: Race and ethnicity categories reflect U.S. Census Bureau terminology. Black or African American and Asian households reflect household members' race and Hispanic or Latino origins.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Demographic Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units, Table S2502, 2009-13, 2014-18, 2019-23*

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Figure 5.3  
**Homeownership Rate, 2023**  
In Philadelphia and comparison cities



At 51.8%, Philadelphia had one of the highest homeownership rates among the comparison cities, trailing only Phoenix and Detroit. Boston had the lowest rate. All of the cities' homeownership rates were below the national figure of 65.2%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Demographic Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units, Table S2502, 2023*

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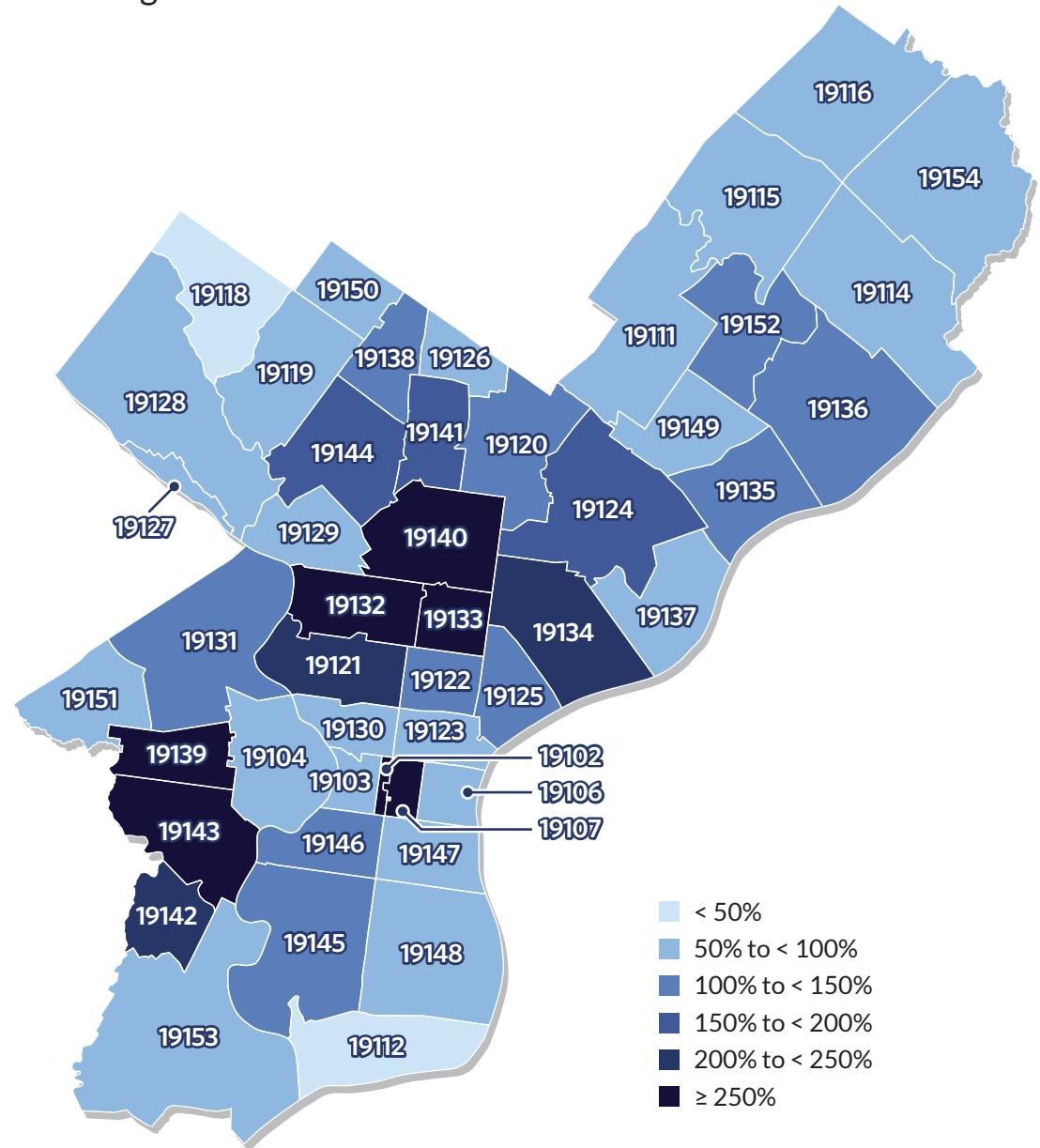




Figure 5.4

## Home Sales Prices in Philadelphia, 2014 and 2024

Percentage increase

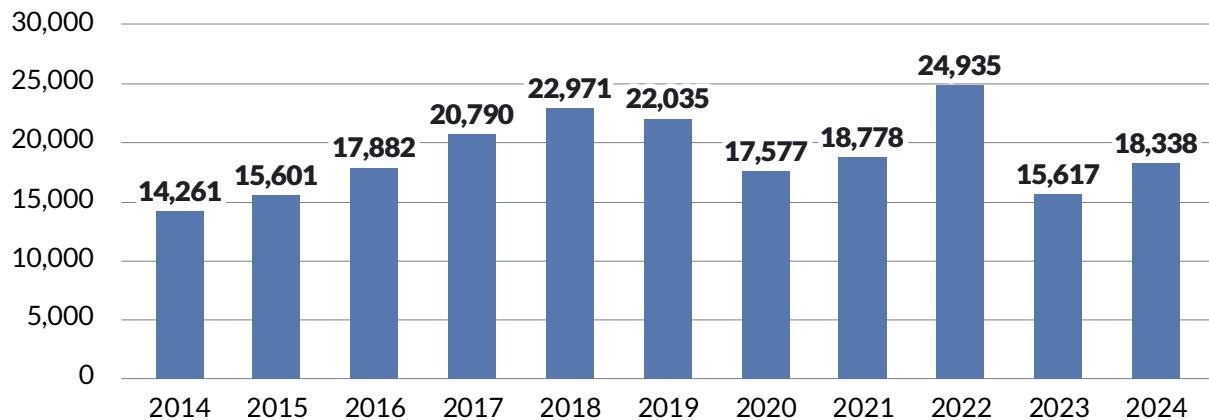


The median home sales price in Philadelphia continues to rise, increasing from a median of \$114,750 in 2014 to \$240,625 as of 2024. ZIP codes in West and North Philadelphia as well as in Center City saw the greatest increases. Although Chestnut Hill (19118) recorded the smallest change, at 42%, the homes in that area exceeded the city median. No Philadelphia ZIP codes registered a decrease in sales prices over this period.

Source: Data from Kevin C. Gillen, senior research fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation

ZIP code	2014	2024	Percentage change from 2014 to 2024
19107	\$114,000	\$834,200	632%
19102	\$255,000	\$1,576,250	518%
19132	\$15,000	\$71,500	377%
19140	\$20,500	\$89,950	339%
19139	\$29,500	\$124,000	320%
19133	\$15,000	\$63,000	320%
19143	\$37,000	\$155,000	319%
19134	\$31,000	\$105,000	239%
19121	\$51,000	\$172,450	238%
19142	\$34,500	\$105,000	204%
19144	\$65,100	\$180,000	176%
19124	\$58,850	\$155,000	163%
19141	\$65,000	\$165,000	154%
19120	\$63,000	\$155,888	147%
19138	\$69,900	\$160,000	129%
19135	\$80,800	\$184,000	128%
19145	\$108,750	\$240,000	121%
19122	\$124,950	\$272,500	118%
19125	\$160,500	\$346,000	116%
19136	\$109,000	\$225,000	106%
19146	\$180,000	\$365,500	103%
19131	\$61,500	\$123,500	101%
19152	\$160,000	\$320,000	100%
19137	\$103,000	\$205,000	99%
19104	\$101,000	\$200,000	98%
19149	\$110,000	\$213,000	94%
19154	\$170,000	\$319,800	88%
19111	\$147,000	\$275,000	87%
19126	\$107,250	\$200,000	86%
19150	\$130,700	\$241,250	85%
19123	\$327,000	\$597,500	83%
19103	\$770,000	\$1,400,000	82%
19116	\$213,000	\$385,000	81%
19115	\$213,700	\$383,500	79%
19114	\$174,000	\$310,000	78%
19129	\$186,750	\$330,000	77%
19153	\$115,500	\$204,000	77%
19127	\$200,000	\$350,000	75%
19148	\$143,000	\$250,000	75%
19147	\$299,900	\$520,000	73%
19128	\$210,000	\$356,250	70%
19151	\$99,000	\$163,000	65%
19130	\$349,000	\$565,000	62%
19119	\$223,000	\$350,000	57%
19106	\$850,000	\$1,280,000	51%
19118	\$477,000	\$675,000	42%

Figure 5.5  
**Home Sales in Philadelphia, 2014-24**

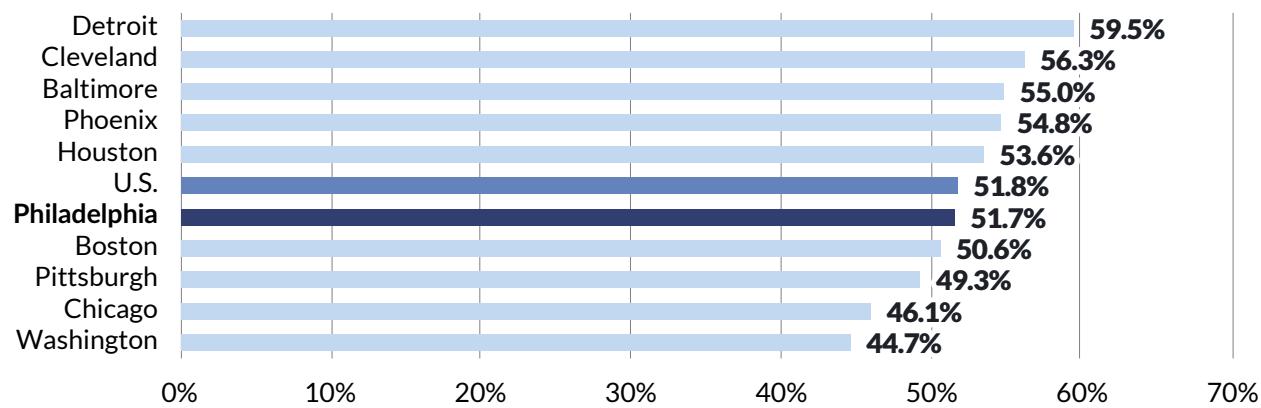


The number of homes sold in Philadelphia increased by 17% in 2024 compared with the previous year. Home sales—which are affected by various factors, including supply and interest rates—peaked in 2022 and reached their lowest level in 2014.

Source: Data from Kevin C. Gillen, senior research fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation

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Figure 5.6  
**Share of Renters Spending at Least 30% of Income on Housing, 2023**  
In Philadelphia and other large cities



An estimated 51.7% of renters—more than 160,800 Philadelphia residents—reported spending 30% or more of their income on rent and utilities. That qualifies them as cost-burdened, a measure of housing affordability established by the federal government. As a group, Philadelphia's renters are as likely to be cost-burdened as renters are nationally. Among the comparison cities, Washington had the lowest share of cost-burdened renters, at 44.7%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, Table B25070: Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months

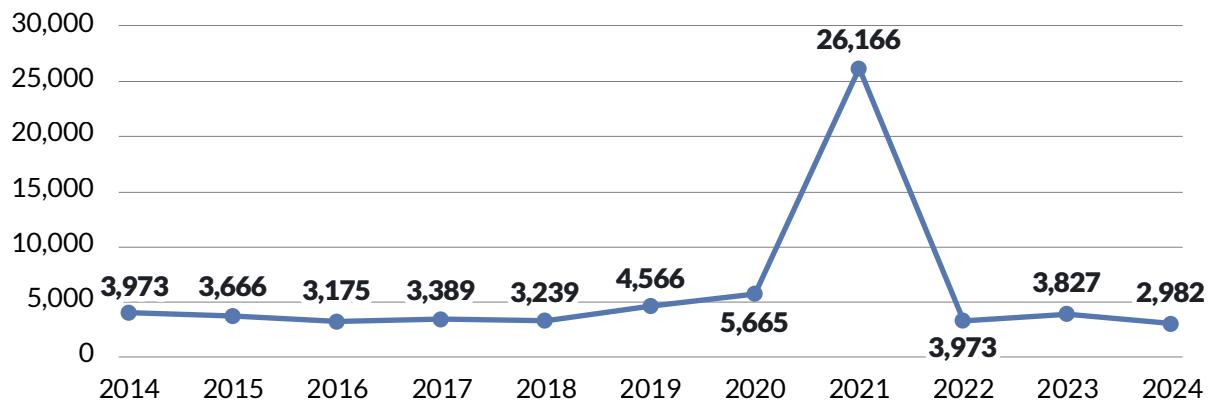
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Figure 5.7

## Residential Building Permits Issued in Philadelphia, 2014-24

By number of units authorized



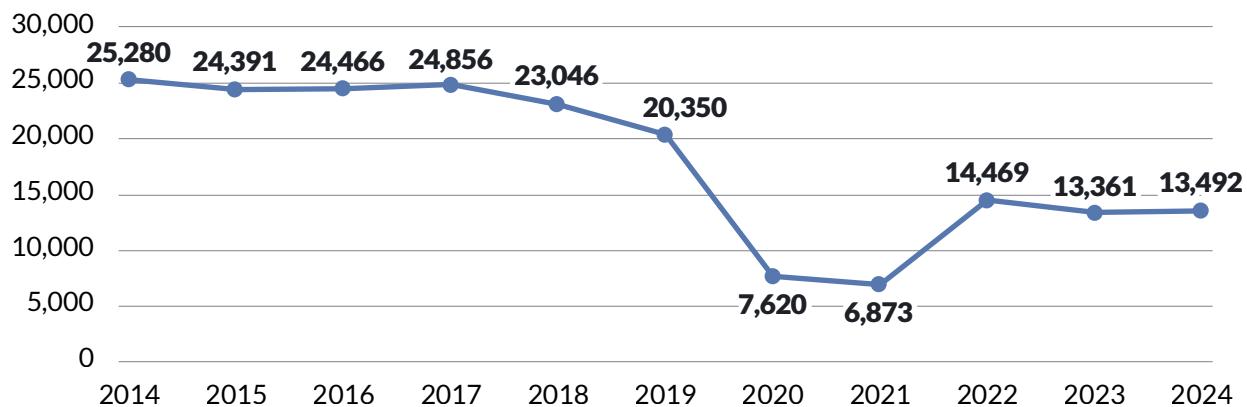
Building permits, issued by the city's Department of Licenses and Inspections, allow construction to begin on a building or a parcel of vacant land. In Philadelphia, permits were issued for 2,982 housing units in 2024, the lowest number since 2013. The number of permits spiked to 26,166 in 2021, before the full 10-year tax abatement on new construction expired. Since then, permit totals have returned to historical norms.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Building Permit Survey*, 2014-24

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Figure 5.8

## Eviction Filings in Philadelphia Municipal Court, 2014-24



In recent years, eviction filings have stabilized at levels substantially below where they had been before the pandemic. Last year, 13,492 tenant evictions were filed, down 47% from 2014. In 2024, Philadelphia City Council made the Eviction Diversion Program permanent, requiring that tenants and landlords engage in mediation prior to the filing of an eviction proceeding.

Source: Philadelphia Municipal Court

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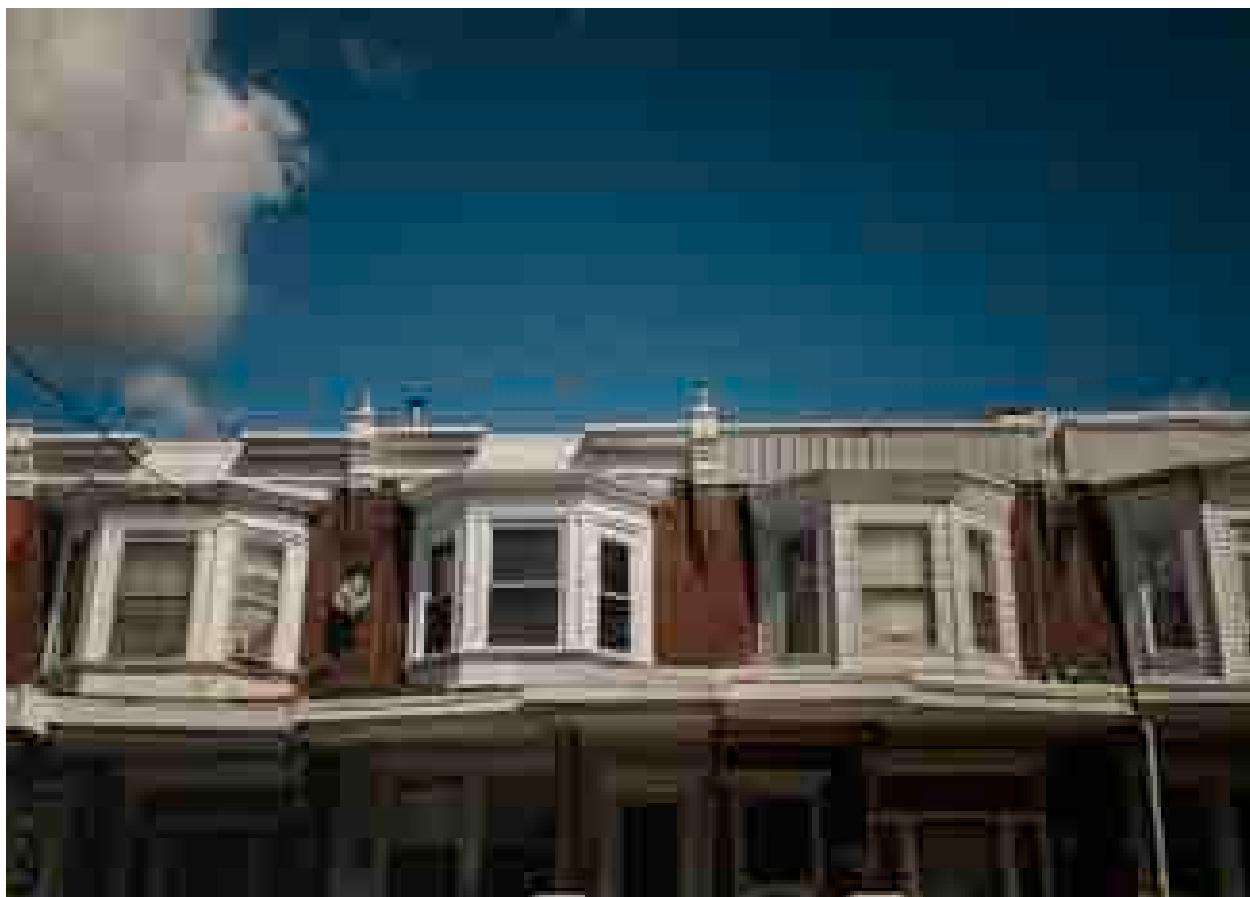
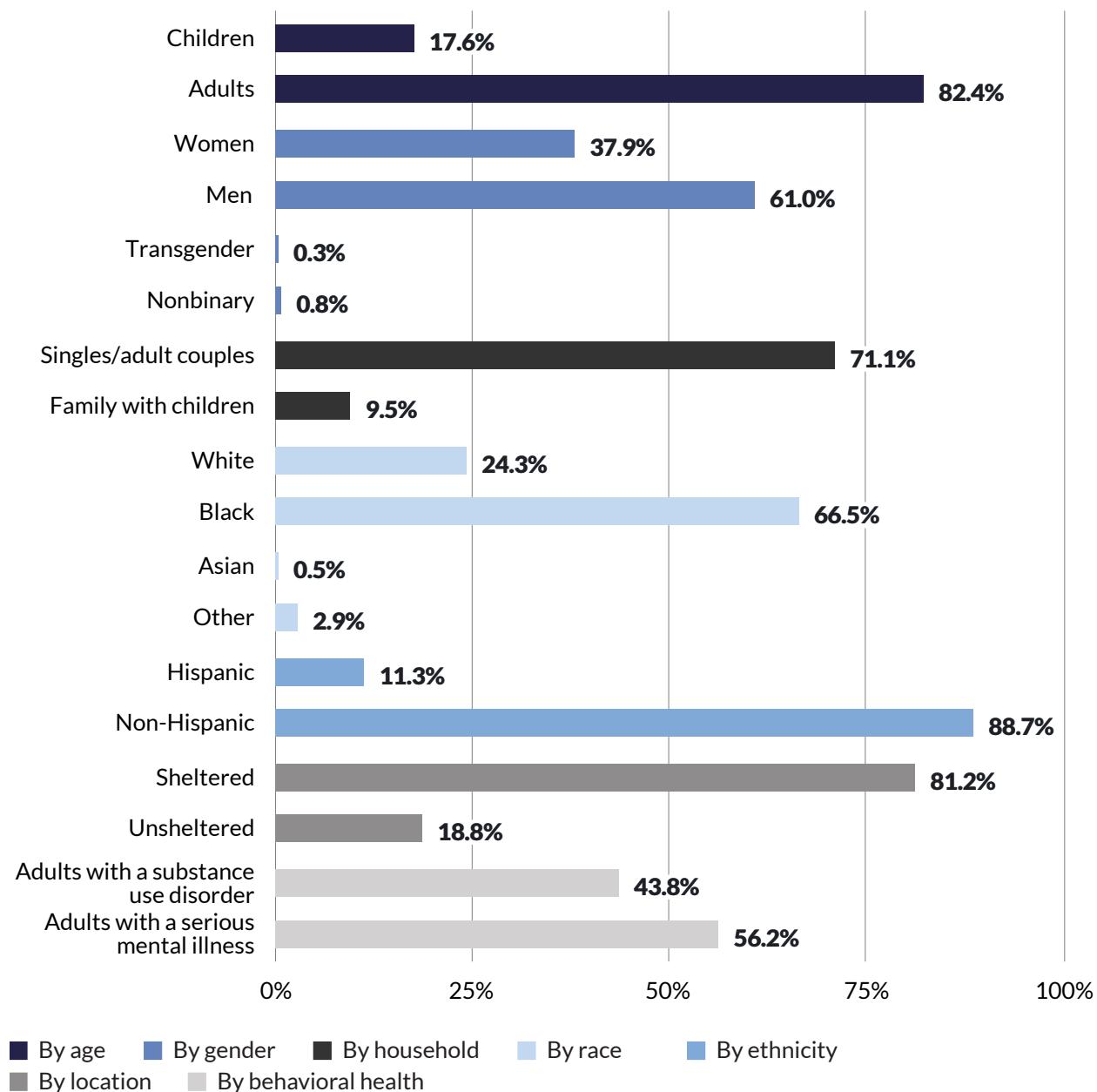


Figure 5.9

## Profile of People Experiencing Homelessness in Philadelphia, 2024



On Jan. 24, 2024, Philadelphia conducted its annual point-in-time count, finding 5,191 people experiencing homelessness in the city, up 10% from 2023. The point-in-time count tallies the number of people experiencing homelessness both with and without shelter, including emergency shelters and transitional housing.

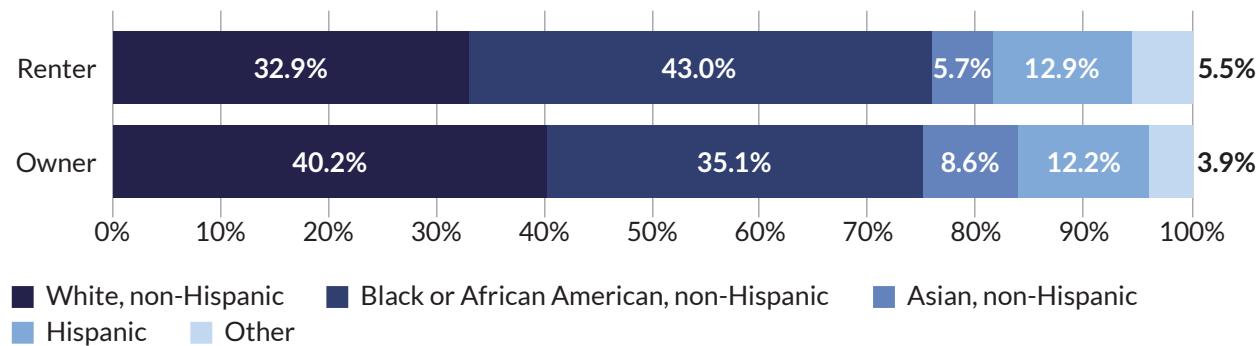
Source: City of Philadelphia, email from Office of Homeless Services

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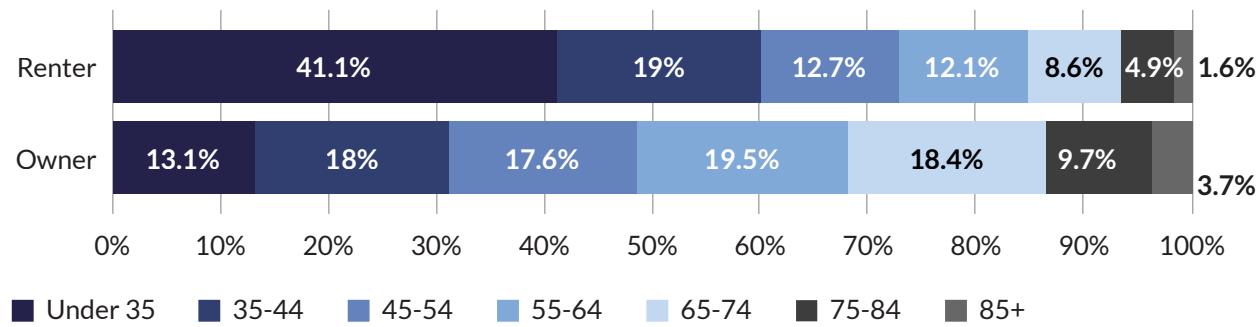
Figure 5.10

## Demographics of Philadelphia Renters and Homeowners, 2023

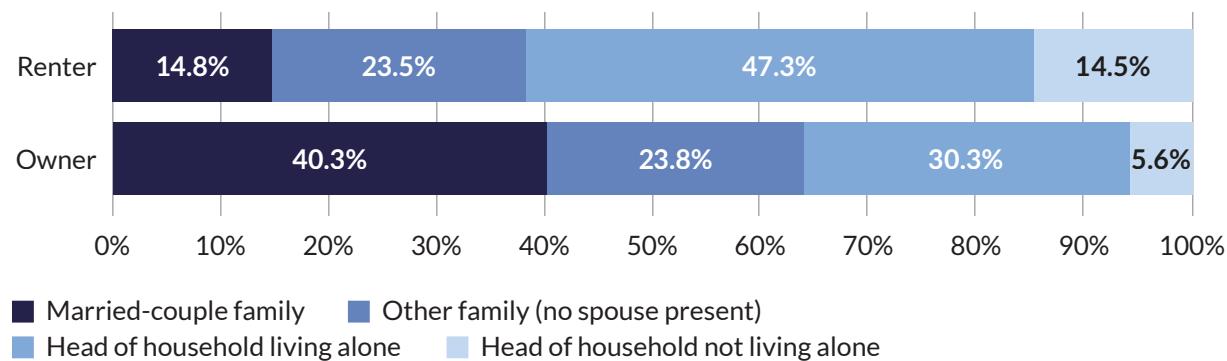
### Race and ethnicity



### Age



### Household makeup



In 2023, the largest share of renter households in Philadelphia, 47.3% of them, consisted of people living alone. The largest group of renters by age were those under 35 (41.1%), and the largest group by race or ethnicity were Black or African American residents, at 43%. Among homeowners, 40.3% were married, and 55-to-64-year-olds were the largest age cohort. By race and ethnicity, the largest share of homeowners were non-Hispanic White people, at 40.2%.

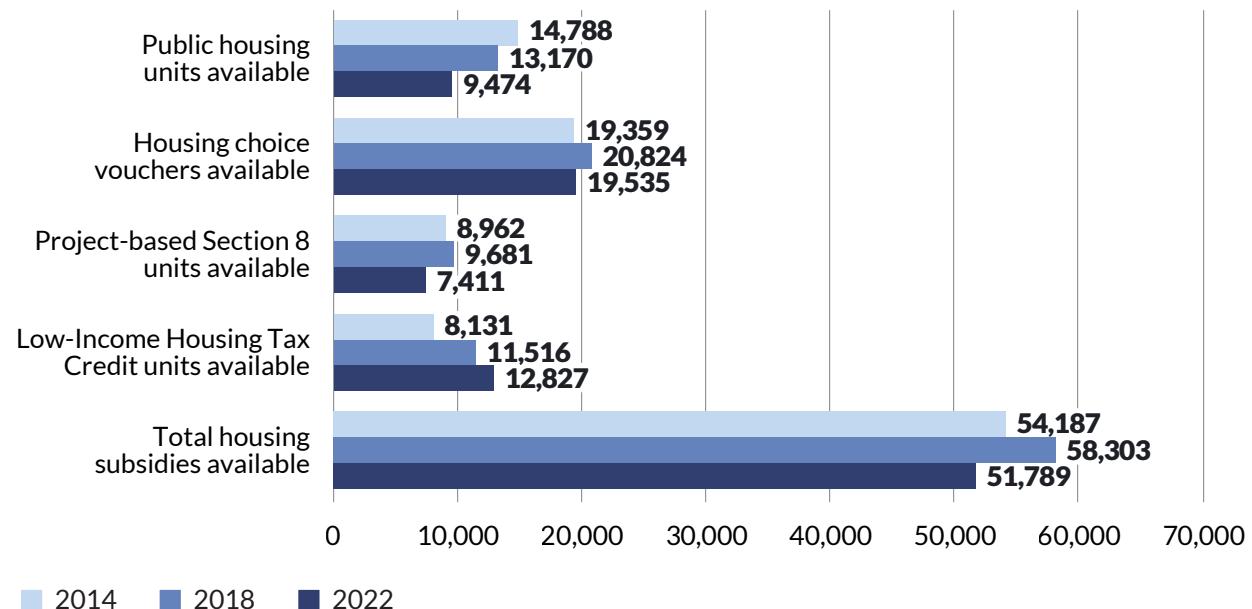
Source: Pew analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample*, 2023 one-year estimates

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Figure 5.11

## Subsidized Housing Over Time in Philadelphia, 2014, 2018, and 2022



From 2014 to 2022, the number of housing subsidies available in Philadelphia decreased by 4%, from 54,187 to 51,789. Housing choice vouchers and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units increased in number over the eight-year span shown. Public housing units registered the biggest decrease, falling by 36% during this period.

Note: Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units that were not part of the official LIHTC program were excluded from this analysis. “Total housing subsidies available” incorporates other categories of housing, including Section 236 multifamily rental housing/below-market interest rate housing (S236/BMIR), Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program units (202/PRAC), Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons With Disabilities (811/PRAC), and moderate rehabilitation program housing.

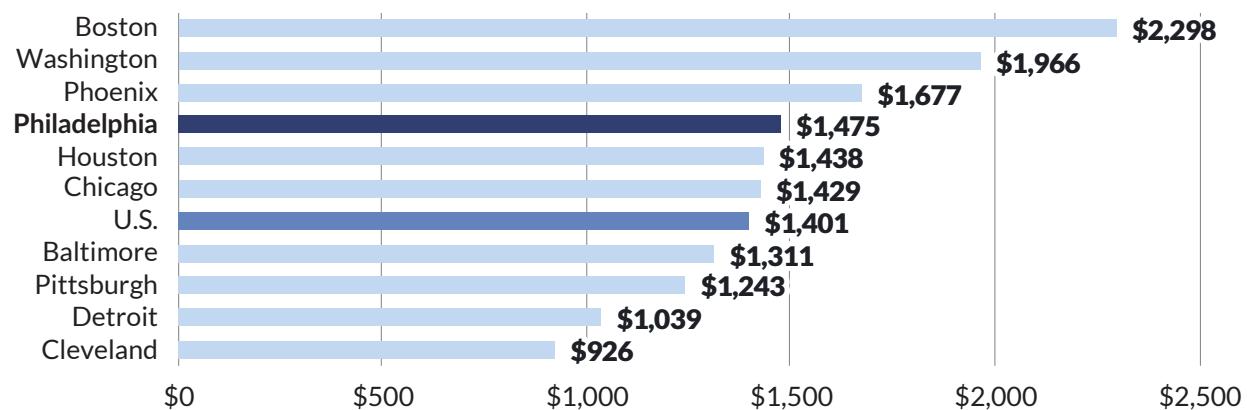
Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Assisted Housing: National and Local—Picture of Subsidized Households*, 2014-22; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *LIHTC Database Access*

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Figure 5.12

## Median Rent for a Two-Bedroom Unit, 2023

In Philadelphia and other large cities



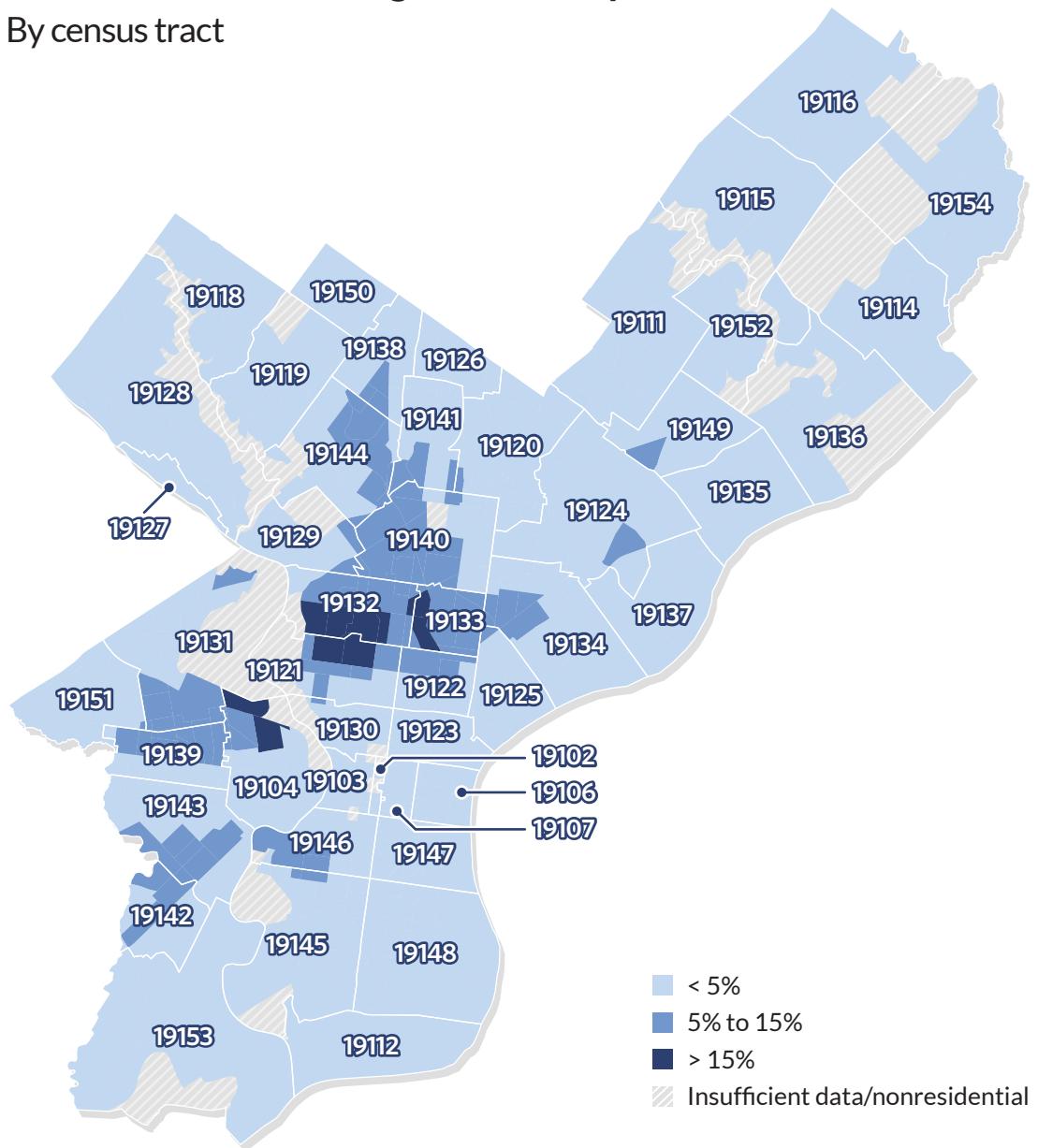
In 2023, the median rent for a two-bedroom unit in Philadelphia was about \$1,475 per month—higher than the national average of \$1,401 and fourth-highest among the comparison cities, all of which have seen large rent increases in recent years. Phoenix, Houston, and Boston recorded increases of more than 20% from 2021 to 2023. Boston had the highest median cost for a two-bedroom unit, at \$2,298, while Cleveland was the only city with a median below \$1,000 per month.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S25031: Median Gross Rent*

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Figure 5.13  
**Vacant Land or Buildings in Philadelphia, 2025**  
By census tract



At the start of 2025, there were roughly 21,000 vacant properties in Philadelphia, representing about 3.5% of all parcels, a 1.5 percentage-point decrease from January 2024. Although there was at least some vacant property in every ZIP code in Philadelphia, areas in North Philadelphia (including 19121, 19132, and 19133) as well as areas in West Philadelphia (19104) had a high share of vacancy and the highest share of the city's vacant properties.

Note: The city of Philadelphia created an aggregated vacancy indicator by combining information from the Department of Licenses and Inspections, Office of Property Assessment, Philadelphia Land Bank, and Philadelphia Water Department. The indicator models land and building vacancy status by 20 different indicators. Parcels that meet at least eight of these criteria are considered vacant.

Source: City of Philadelphia, OpenDataPhilly, *Vacant Property Indicators*, 2025

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# Jobs and the Economy

## **Philadelphia's economy kept growing in 2024, although not as robustly as in the year before.**

The local economy had an estimated 791,400 jobs as of December 2024, up nearly 19,000 compared with the previous year. The unemployment rate remained below 5% for the second year in a row. Median household incomes rose, reaching \$60,302 in 2023—up nearly 7% from the previous year.

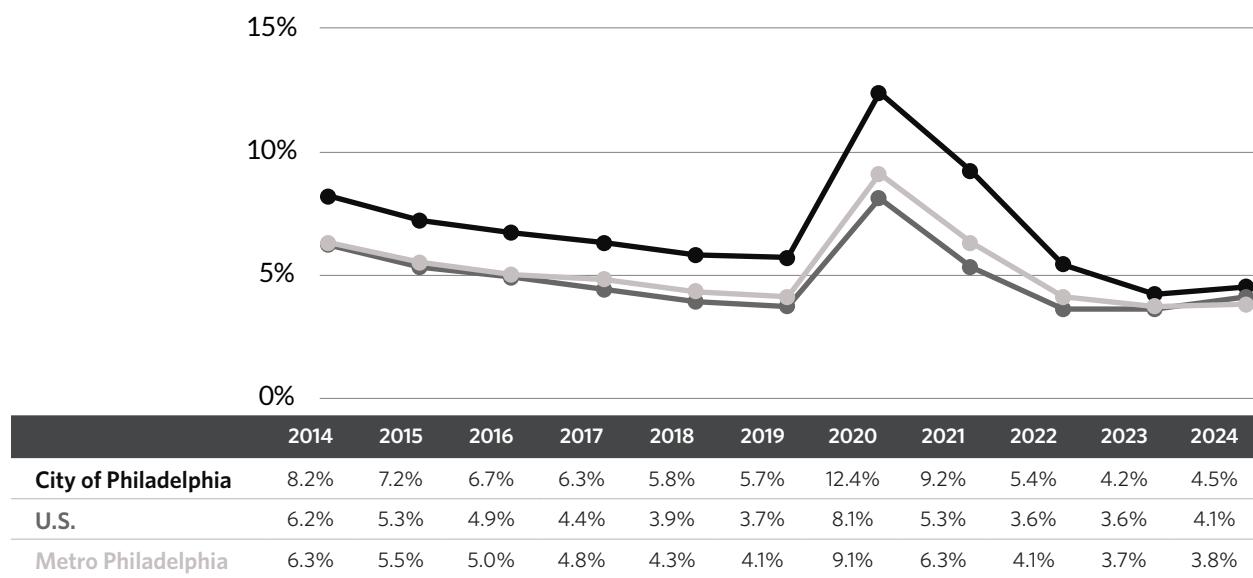
Education and health services, as well as leisure and hospitality, continued to pace the local economic expansion, posting the largest growth of any sectors compared with the previous year.

And Philadelphia remained a city of small businesses, which account for more than 92% of all firms in the area.

Figure 6.1

## Unemployment Rate, 2014-24

In Philadelphia, the surrounding region, and nationwide



Philadelphia's unemployment rate was 4.5% in 2024, slightly above both the national rate of 4.1% and the 3.8% figure for the metropolitan area. In the past few years, the gap between the unemployment rate in the city and the metro area's rate has narrowed, with the city's rate only 0.7 percentage points higher than the region's. That gap, while marginally higher in 2024 than in 2023, was nearly 3 percentage points as recently as 2021.

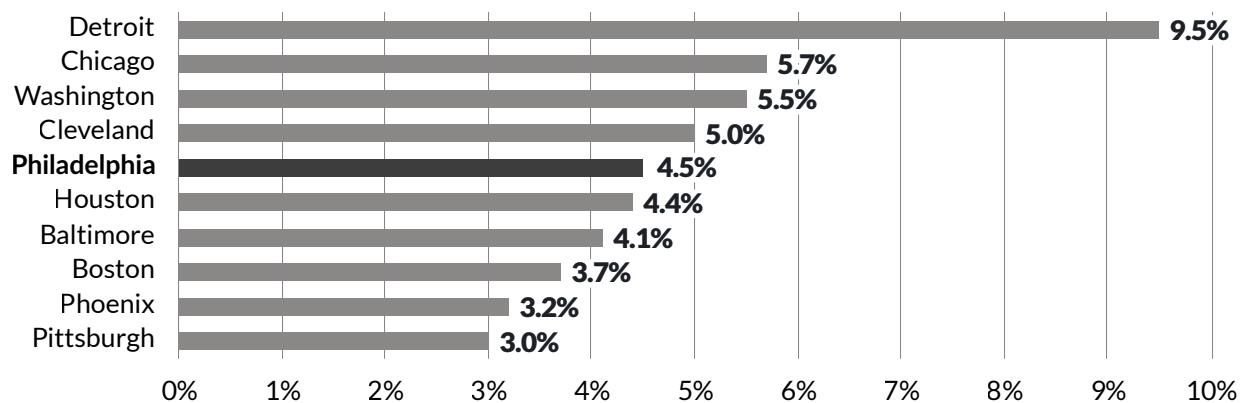
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014-24*

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Figure 6.2

## Unemployment Rate in Philadelphia and Comparable Cities, 2024



In 2024, Philadelphia had an unemployment rate of 4.5%, which put it near the middle of the comparison cities. Detroit had the highest rate, at 9.5%, and Pittsburgh the lowest, at 3%.

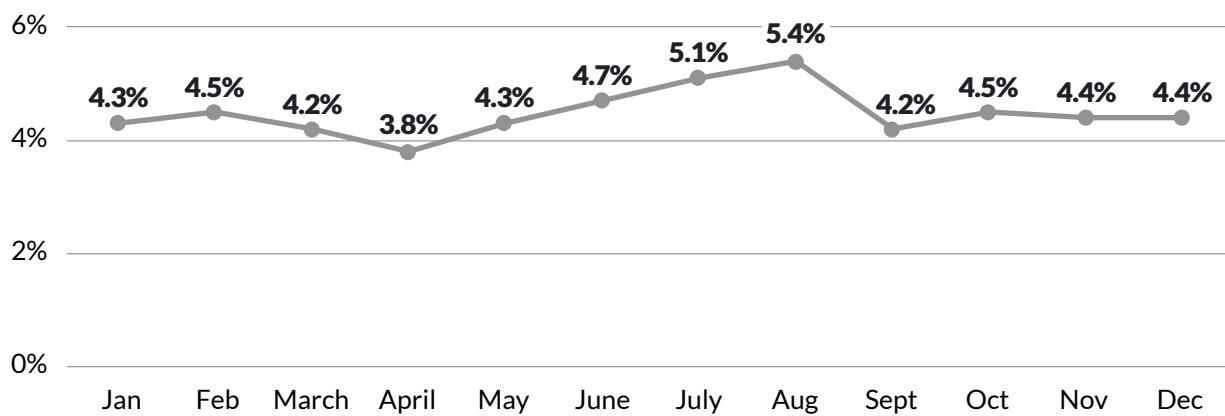
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Current Population Statistics, 2024*

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Figure 6.3

## Unemployment Rate in Philadelphia, 2024

By month



Although Philadelphia's unemployment rate averaged 4.5% in 2024, there were some monthly fluctuations. The lowest rate was 3.8% in April, and the highest rates were in the summer, peaking at 5.4% in August, as a large influx of high school and college students and graduates entered the labor force seeking jobs.

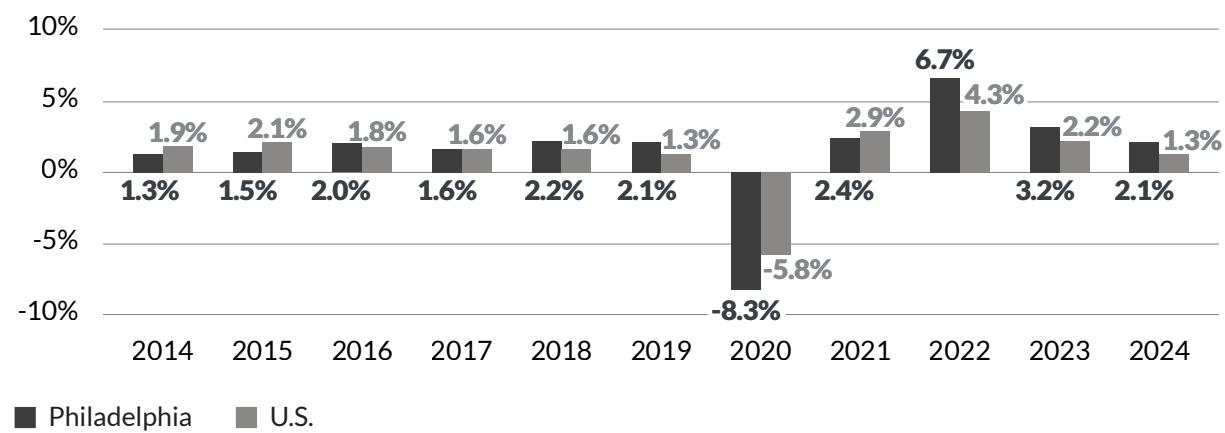
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Current Population Statistics, 2024*

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Figure 6.4

## Job Growth and Decline, 2014-24

In Philadelphia and the U.S.



In 2024, the number of jobs in Philadelphia grew by 2.1%, an increase 0.8 percentage points greater than the nationwide increase. These figures are similar to those recorded in 2018 and 2019, the last full years before the pandemic.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Employment Statistics*; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *State and Metro Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings*

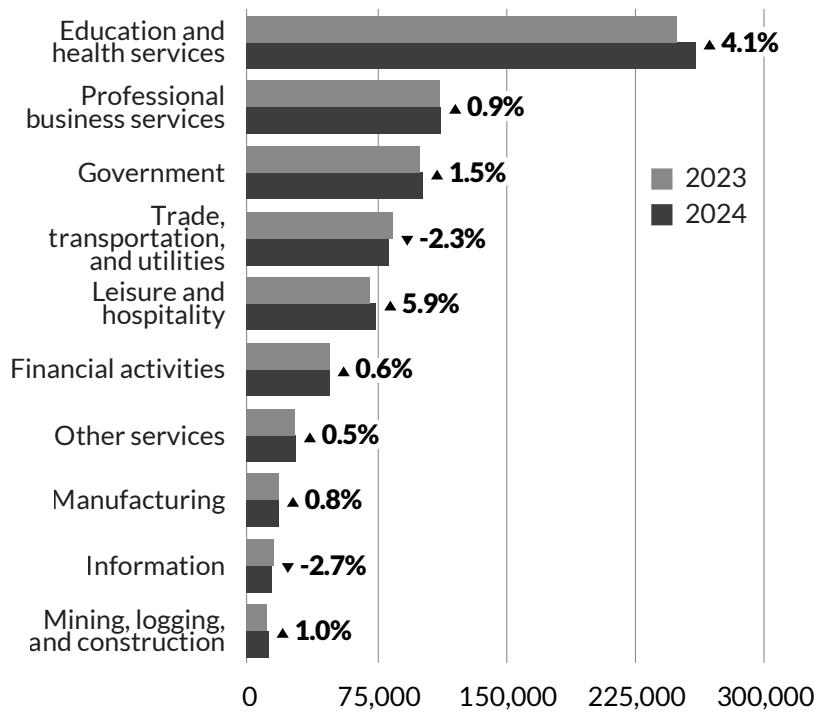
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Figure 6.5

## Philadelphia's Job Growth and Decline by Sector, 2023-24



Most sectors in Philadelphia's economy recorded slight increases in the number of jobs from 2023 to 2024. Education and health services—the largest provider of jobs in the city—had the second-highest increase, 4.1%. Declines were recorded in the information sector (-2.7%) and in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (-2.3%). In the graphic, sectors are listed in order of size, starting with education and health services (268,650 jobs) at the top and ending with mining, logging, and construction (12,833 jobs).

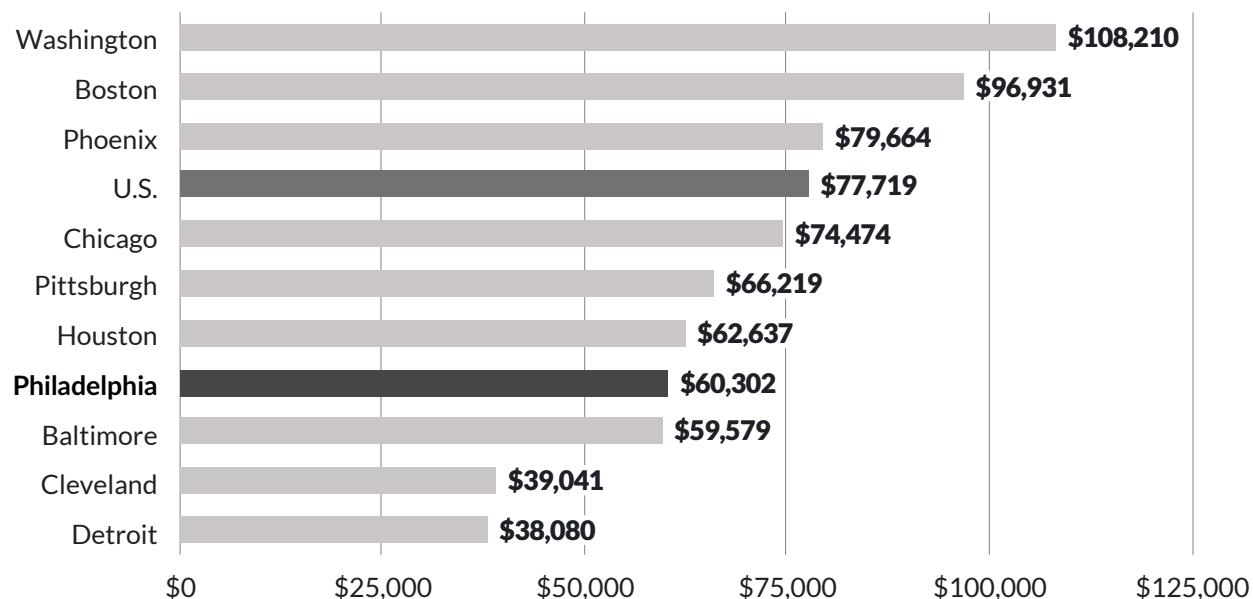
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *State and Metro Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings*

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Figure 6.6

## Median Household Income, 2023

In Philadelphia and other large cities



In 2023, Philadelphia's median household income grew to \$60,302. This figure is below the national average of \$77,719 and much lower than Washington's median household income of \$108,210 and Boston's \$96,931. However, Philadelphia's 14% increase in median household income since 2021 was the fifth-highest among comparison cities and higher than the national average.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars*

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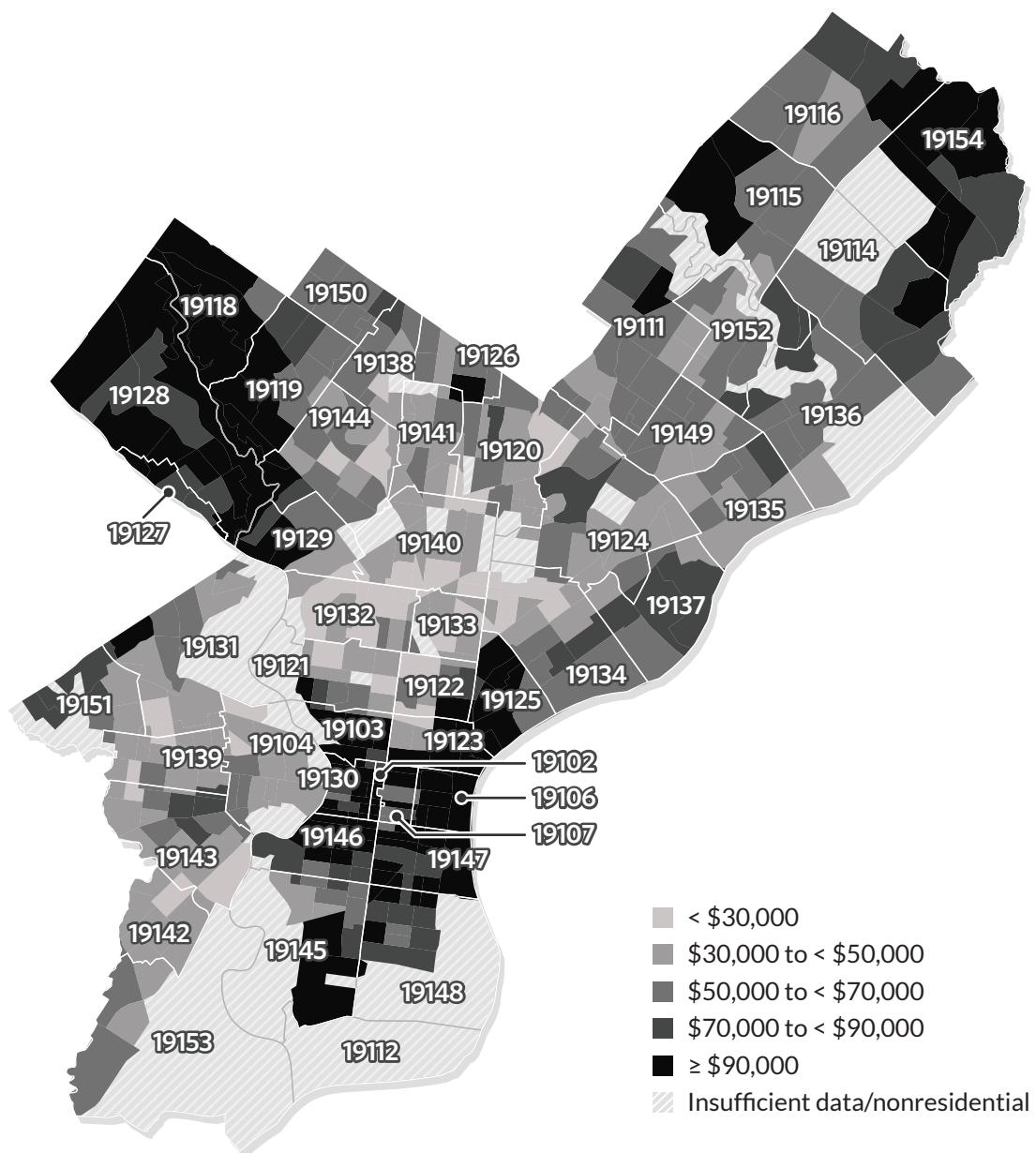




Figure 6.7

## Median Household Income in Philadelphia, 2019-23

By census tract



During the 2019-23 period, the highest-earning areas were located in Center City and Northwest Philadelphia, while the lowest-earning areas were in some North, West, and Southwest Philadelphia neighborhoods. The overall citywide median income during this period was \$60,698. Center City-Society Hill had the highest median household income (\$129,779), and North Philadelphia-West had the lowest (\$30,974).

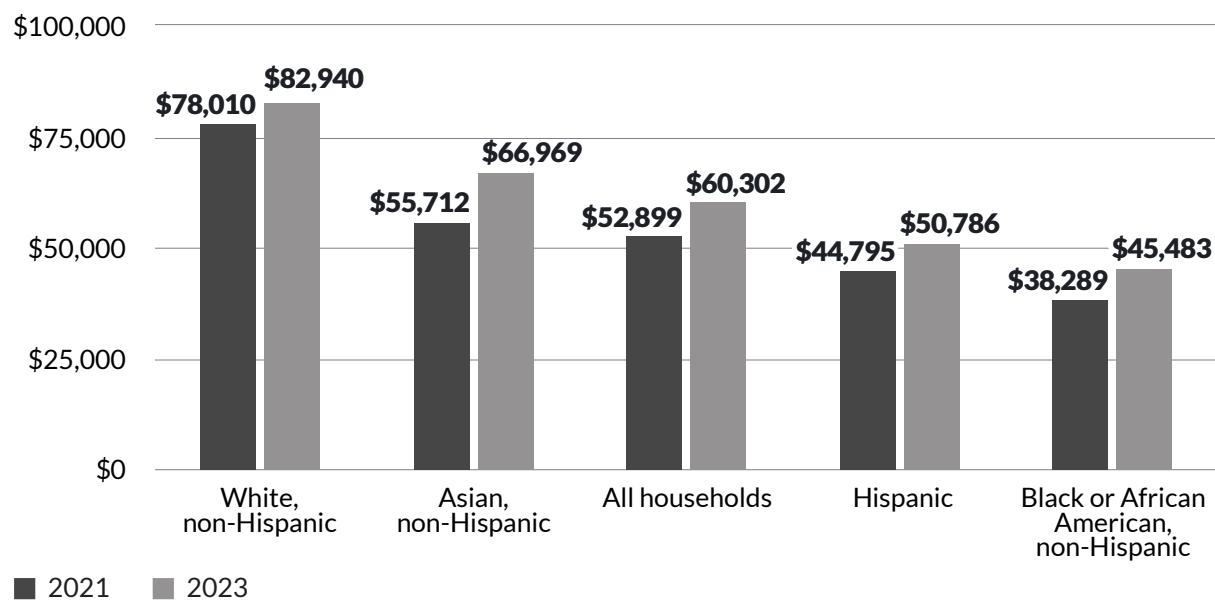
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, five-year estimates, 2019-23, Table B19013: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

ZIP code	Neighborhood	Median household income (2019-23)
19106	Center City–Society Hill	\$129,779
19102	Center City West	\$114,844
19125	Kensington/Fishtown	\$110,842
19130	Fairmount South	\$110,436
19118	Chestnut Hill	\$105,667
19147	South Philadelphia–Bella Vista	\$104,190
19127	Manayunk	\$99,792
19146	South Philadelphia–Schuylkill	\$99,702
19103	Center City West	\$97,940
19123	Northern Liberties/Spring Garden	\$95,872
19154	Northeast–Torresdale North	\$93,479
19128	Roxborough	\$89,639
19119	Mount Airy	\$81,609
19148	South Philadelphia–East	\$80,469
19129	East Falls	\$77,225
19114	Northeast–Torresdale South	\$76,076
19115	Northeast–Bustleton South	\$70,388
19107	Center City–Washington Square	\$70,382
19145	South Philadelphia–West	\$70,374
19116	Northeast–Bustleton North/Somerton	\$67,558
19136	Northeast–Holmesburg	\$65,499
19137	Northeast–Bridesburg	\$64,401
19150	Northwest–Wadsworth	\$61,257
19111	Northeast–Fox Chase	\$60,441
19151	Overbrook	\$58,046
19152	Northeast–Rhawnhurst	\$57,966
19122	North Philadelphia–Yorktown	\$57,785
19149	Northeast–Mayfair/Oxford Circle	\$54,679
19153	Eastwick	\$53,434
19126	Oak Lane	\$52,847
19120	Olney	\$51,993
19135	Northeast–Tacony	\$51,817
19138	Germantown East	\$51,586
19143	Southwest Philadelphia–Kingsessing	\$47,964
19124	Northeast–Frankford	\$46,100
19131	Wynnefield/West Park	\$46,057
19144	Germantown	\$45,727
19142	Southwest Philadelphia–Paschall/Elmwood	\$42,812
19141	Logan	\$42,461
19134	Port Richmond	\$41,849
19104	West Philadelphia–University City	\$39,526
19139	West Philadelphia–West Market	\$38,701
19121	Fairmount North/Brewerytown	\$36,208
19140	Nicetown	\$33,149
19133	North Philadelphia–East	\$31,756
19132	North Philadelphia–West	\$30,974

Figure 6.8

## Median Household Income in Philadelphia, 2021 and 2023

By race and ethnicity



Wide gaps persist in Philadelphia's median household income by race and ethnicity. The city's highest earners—non-Hispanic White households—had a median income of \$82,940 in 2023, around \$37,000 higher than the income earned by non-Hispanic Black households (\$45,483). Interestingly, non-Hispanic White households had the smallest increase in median household income of all the groups, at about 6%. Income for non-Hispanic Asian households grew by 20%, Black households by 19%, and Hispanic households by 13%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months in 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars*

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Figure 6.9

## Largest Employers in Philadelphia, 2024

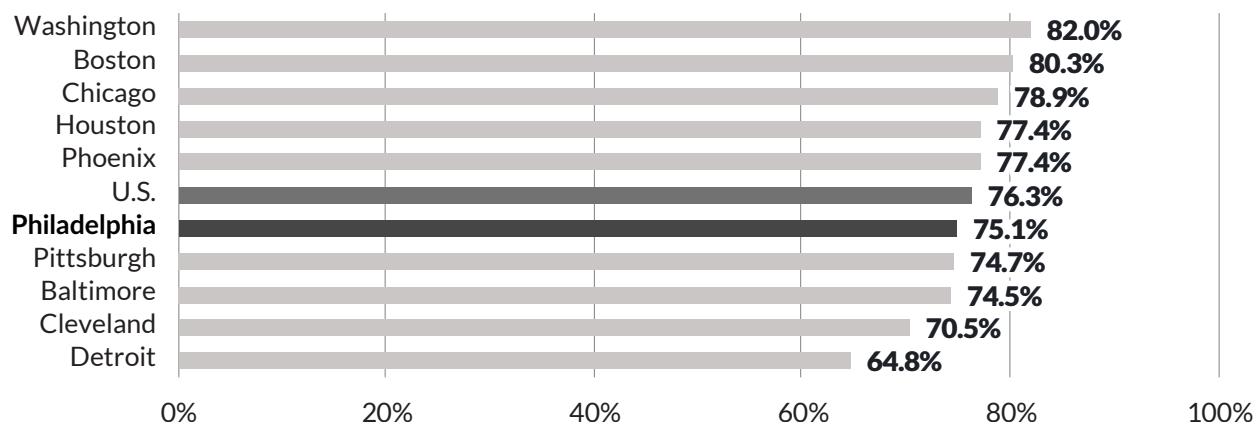
2024 rank	Employer
1	University of Pennsylvania
2	U.S. government
3	City of Philadelphia
4	School District of Philadelphia
5	The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
6	Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
7	Temple University
8	Temple University Hospital
9	American Airlines
10	SEPTA
11	Comcast Corp.
12	Thomas Jefferson University
13	Drexel University
14	Albert Einstein Medical Center
15	Universal Protection Service

Among the 15 largest employers in Philadelphia, only three were for-profit companies: American Airlines, Comcast Corp., and Universal Protection Service. For the most part, Philadelphia's largest employers are public sector entities: the U.S. government, the city of Philadelphia, the School District of Philadelphia, and SEPTA, as well as large health care systems. The University of Pennsylvania—both the educational institution and its health system—is the city's largest employer.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, "Pennsylvania's Top 50 Employers and Companies: Philadelphia County, 2nd Quarter, 2024"

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Figure 6.10  
**Labor Force Participation Rate, 2023**  
 In Philadelphia and other large cities

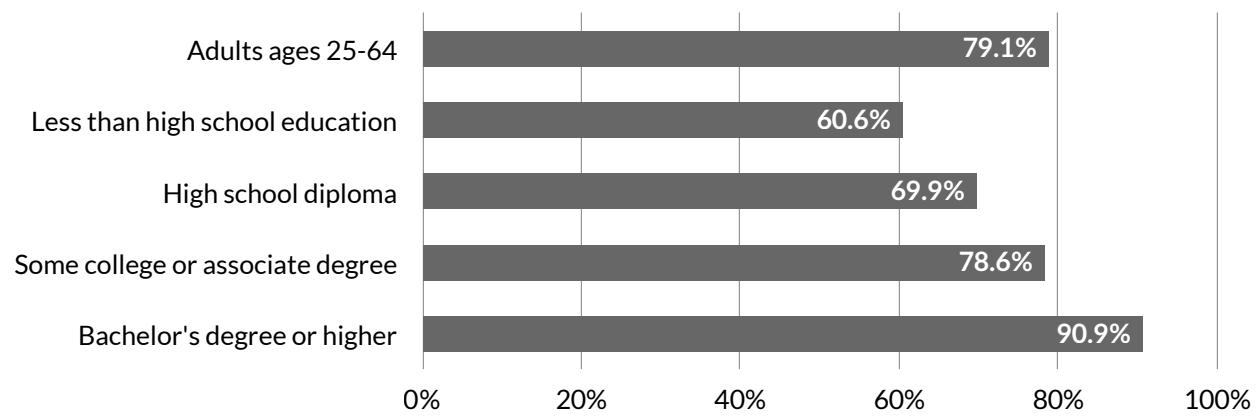


In 2023, Philadelphia had a labor force participation rate of 75.1% for residents ages 16-64, down slightly from 2021 and close to the national average. Among the comparison cities, the rate grew only in Baltimore and Washington from 2021 to 2023.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S2301: Employment Status*

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Figure 6.11  
**Labor Force Participation Rate in Philadelphia, 2023**  
 By educational attainment and among adults ages 25-64



Among adult Philadelphians, nearly 80% are in the labor force, with participation varying by educational attainment. Among residents with a college degree or more education, 9 in 10 are in the labor force, compared with only about 61% of those with less than a high school diploma. The labor force includes those who are employed or are actively looking for work.

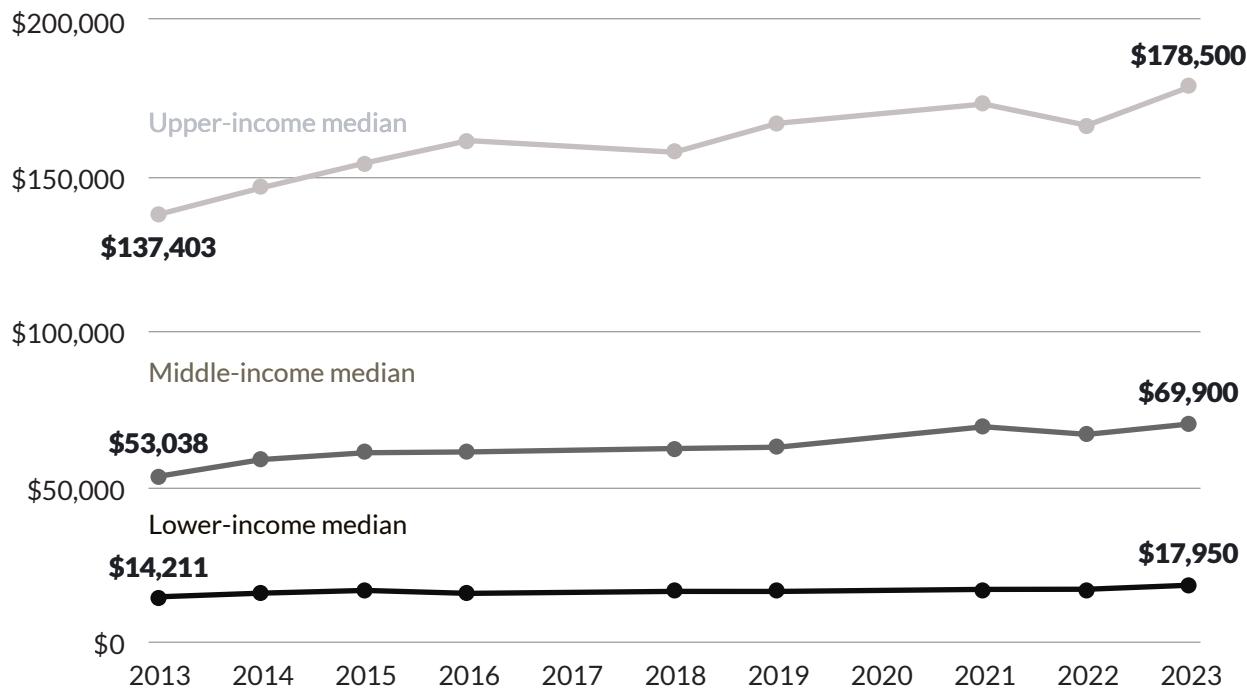
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2023, *Table S2301: Employment Status*

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Figure 6.12

## Median Household Income in Philadelphia by Income Group, 2013-23

Adjusted to 2023 dollars



Philadelphia's middle-income households—those earning two-thirds to double the citywide median of \$60,302—saw the largest increase in median income from 2013 to 2023, at 32%. Upper-income households—those earning more than double the citywide median—increased by nearly 30%. Lower-income households, earning less than two-thirds of the median household income, saw an increase of 26%. Over the same period, the percentage of households that qualified as lower income and middle income increased slightly: from 34% to 35% for lower-income households, and from 42% to 45% for middle-income households. The percentage that qualified as upper-income households fell over the decade, from 24% to 20%.

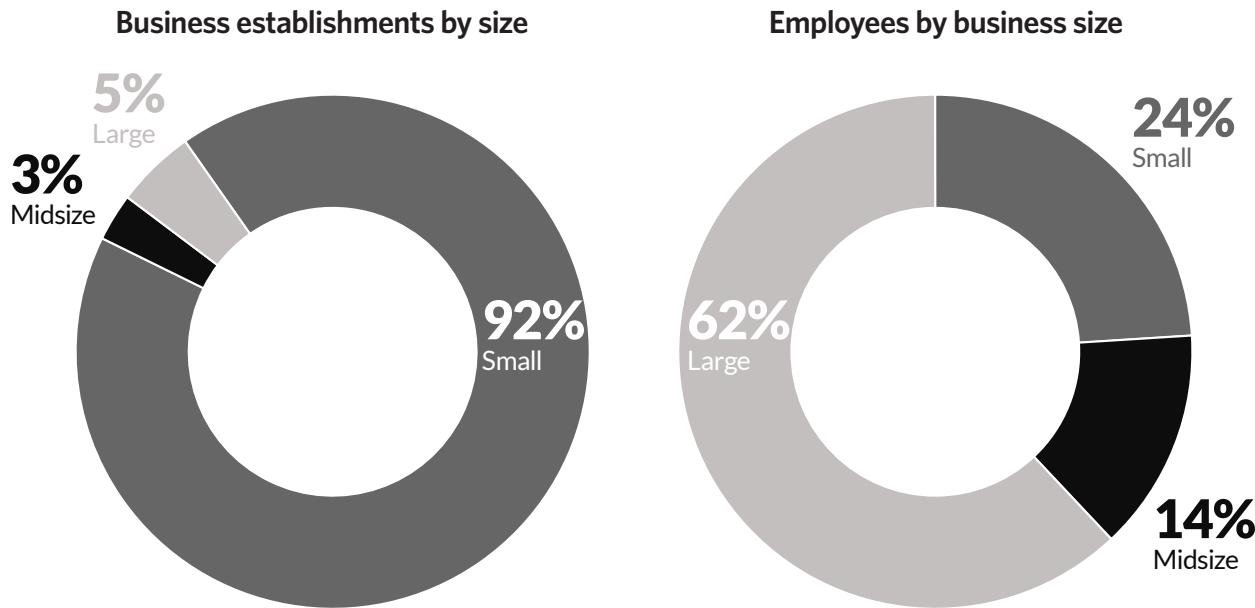
Notes: Pew assigned residents to income tiers based on the number of people living in each household as well as their household income. Figure 6.12 applies that analysis to Philadelphia. Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

Source: Pew analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, 2013-23, IPUMS one-year estimates*

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Figure 6.13

## Business Establishments and Employment by Company Size, 2021



In 2021, the most recent year for which data was available, large businesses—those that employ more than 500 people—made up only 5% of all business establishments in Philadelphia but accounted for 62% of people employed in the city. About 92% of businesses in Philadelphia are considered small businesses, meaning that they employ fewer than 100 people. From 2017 to 2021, the number of small businesses in Philadelphia grew by 9%, reaching a total of roughly 1,800 enterprises.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistics of U.S. Business Data*, 2021

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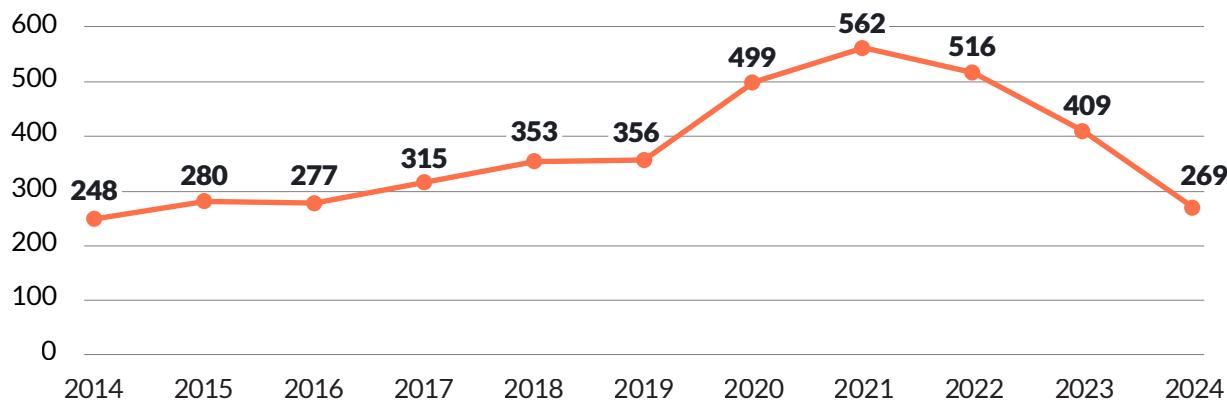


## Public Safety

Like many cities throughout the country, Philadelphia experienced a decrease in both violent crimes and property crimes in 2024. The number of homicides was at a 10-year low last year, at 269—more than 50% below the historic high of 562 recorded in 2021.

Although the total number of major crimes has declined, theft-related offenses still are the most prevalent types of property crimes, with increases in offenses such as retail theft and motor vehicle tag theft. Aggravated assault was the only type of violent crime that did not decrease in 2024.

Figure 7.1  
**Homicides in Philadelphia, 2014-24**

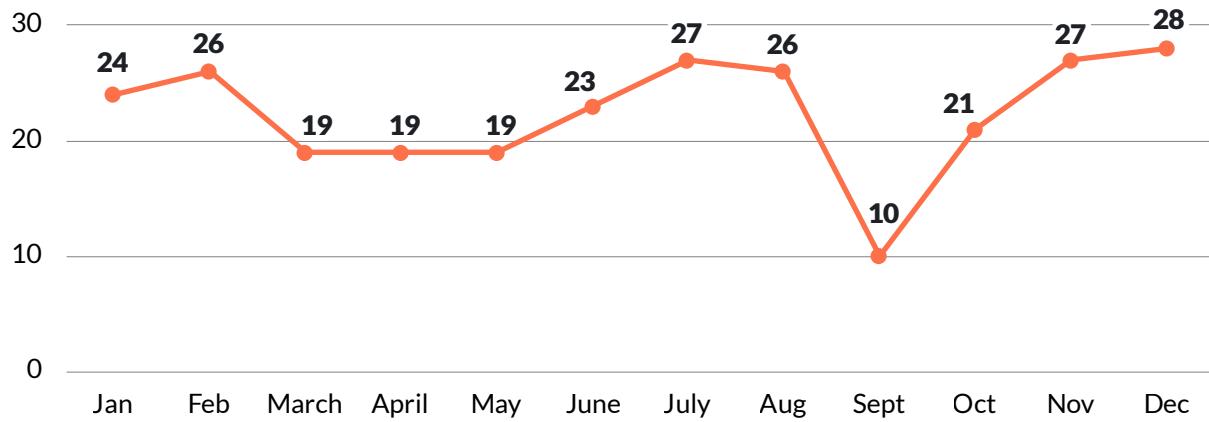


A total of 269 homicides were reported in Philadelphia in 2024, the lowest figure in a decade. This represented a 34% reduction from 2023 and a 52% reduction from 2021, when homicides peaked at 562.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department, *Crime Map and Stats*, 2014-24

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Figure 7.2  
**Homicides by Month in Philadelphia, 2024**



There were 269 homicides in Philadelphia in 2024, an average of about 22 per month. The highest numbers were recorded in July, November, and December, a pattern similar to previous years. The fewest homicides (10) took place in September.

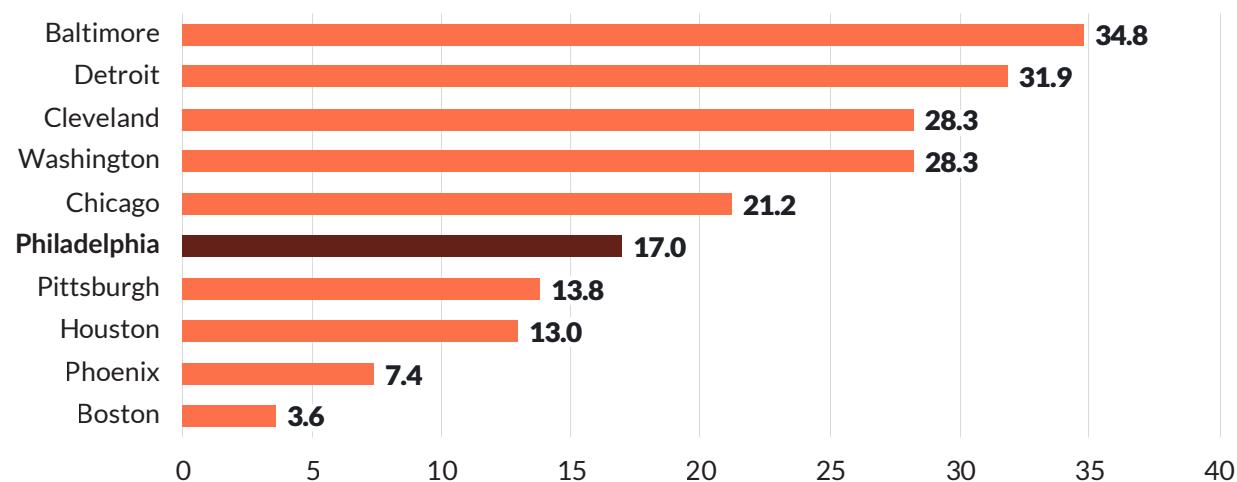
Source: Philadelphia Police Department, *Crime Incidents*, 2024

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Figure 7.3

## Homicide Rate for Philadelphia and Comparison Cities, 2024

Per 100,000 residents



In the last few years, homicides have decreased in the United States and several big cities. In 2024, Philadelphia recorded 17 homicides per 100,000 residents, its lowest rate since 2014. This put it around the middle of the comparison cities. In 2024, Baltimore had the highest rate, at 34.8 homicides per 100,000 residents, and Boston the lowest, at 3.6.

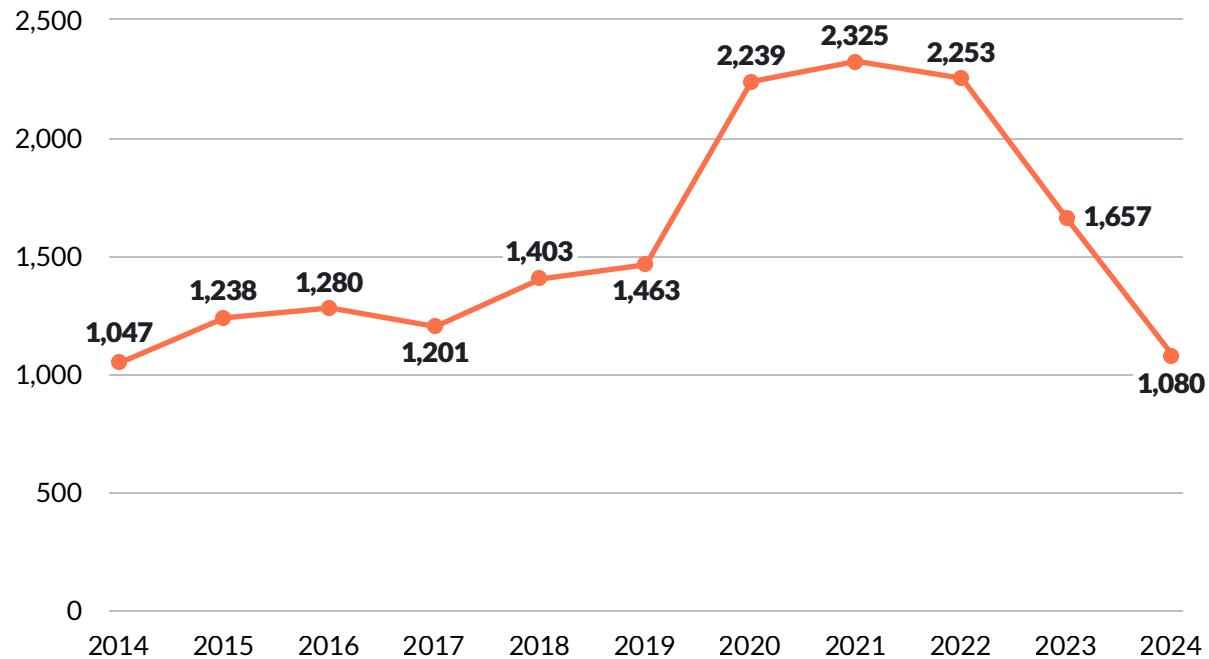
Sources: Police departments in all 10 cities; population numbers drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau, *American Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places, July 1, 2023*

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Figure 7.4  
**Shooting Victims in Philadelphia, 2014-24**



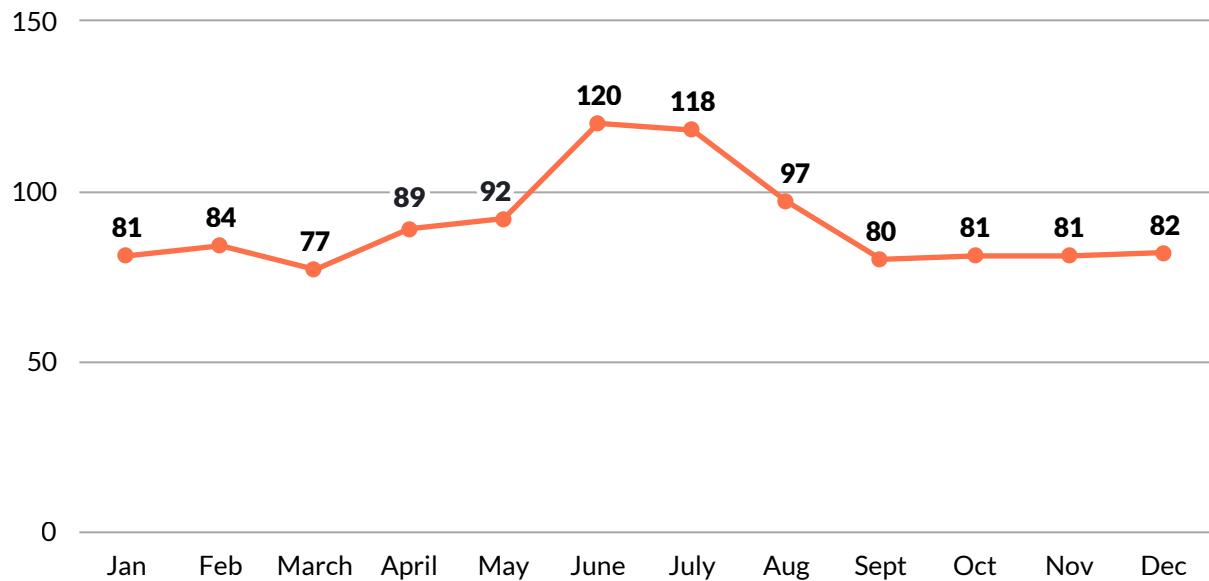
The number of shooting victims in the city continued to decline in 2024, falling from a high of 2,325 in 2021 to 1,080, down 54% from that year and 35% lower than in 2023, according to Philadelphia Police Department records.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department, *Crime Map and Stats*, 2014-24

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Figure 7.5

## Shooting Victims by Month in Philadelphia, 2024



In 2024, the number of shootings declined dramatically, reaching a historic low that highlighted a significant shift in public safety. Only two years earlier, at least 100 shootings were recorded every month. But in 2024, the count reached that level in only two months, June and July. The lowest monthly total came in March, at 77.

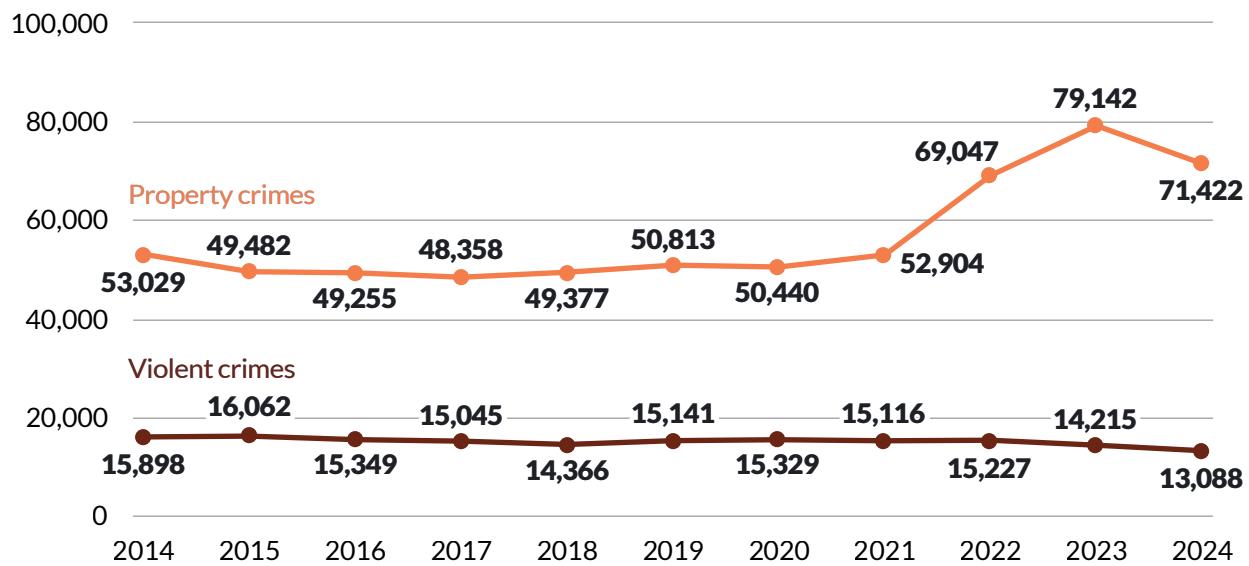
Source: Philadelphia Police Department

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Figure 7.6  
**Major Crime in Philadelphia, 2014-24**



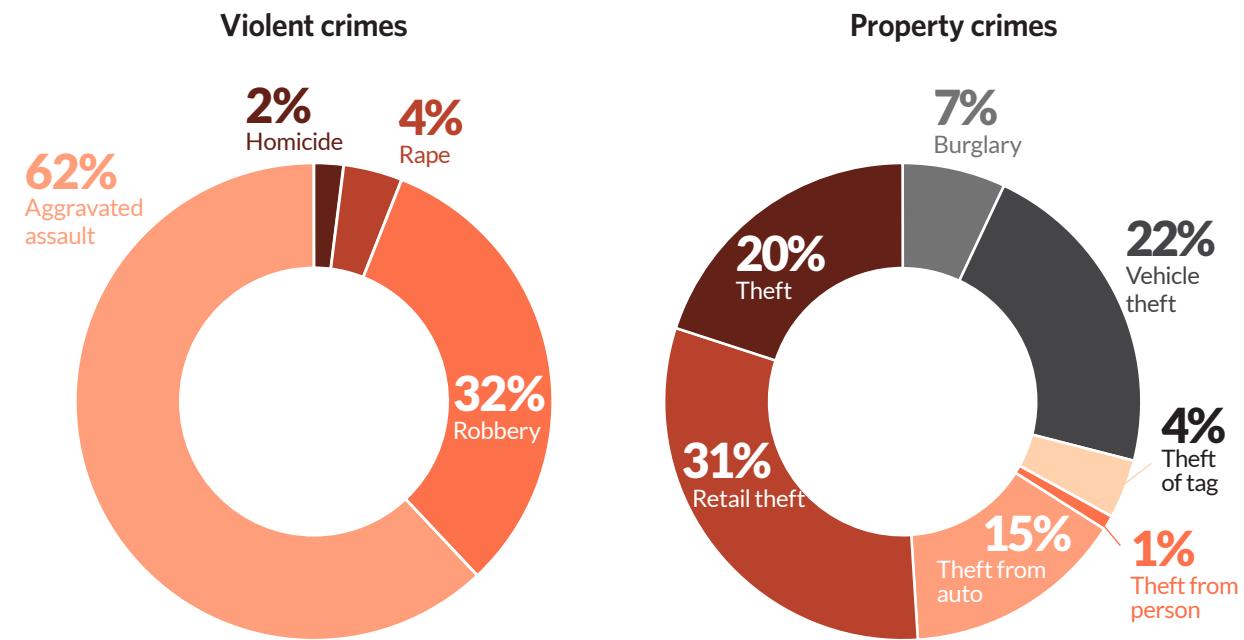
In 2024, there were 84,510 major crimes in Philadelphia, which include violent crimes such as homicides and robberies as well as property crimes such as theft, stolen cars, and burglaries. Philadelphia recorded its fewest violent crimes in the 21st century, at 13,088, last year. All types of violent crime declined, except for assault without a gun. Property crime declined 10% from its high of 79,142 in 2023, but it is still up dramatically from previous years. Among categories of property crime, retail theft rose by 22% and motor vehicle tag theft increased by 7%, while most other types of property crime—such as burglaries, stolen vehicles, and other thefts—had large declines.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department

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Figure 7.7

## Types of Violent Crimes and Property Crimes in Philadelphia, 2024



Among violent crimes committed in Philadelphia in 2024, aggravated assaults made up the highest percentage (62%), up from 57% in 2023, followed by robberies, rapes, and homicides. As for property crimes, 31% were retail thefts, followed by car thefts, at 22%, down from 30% in 2023.

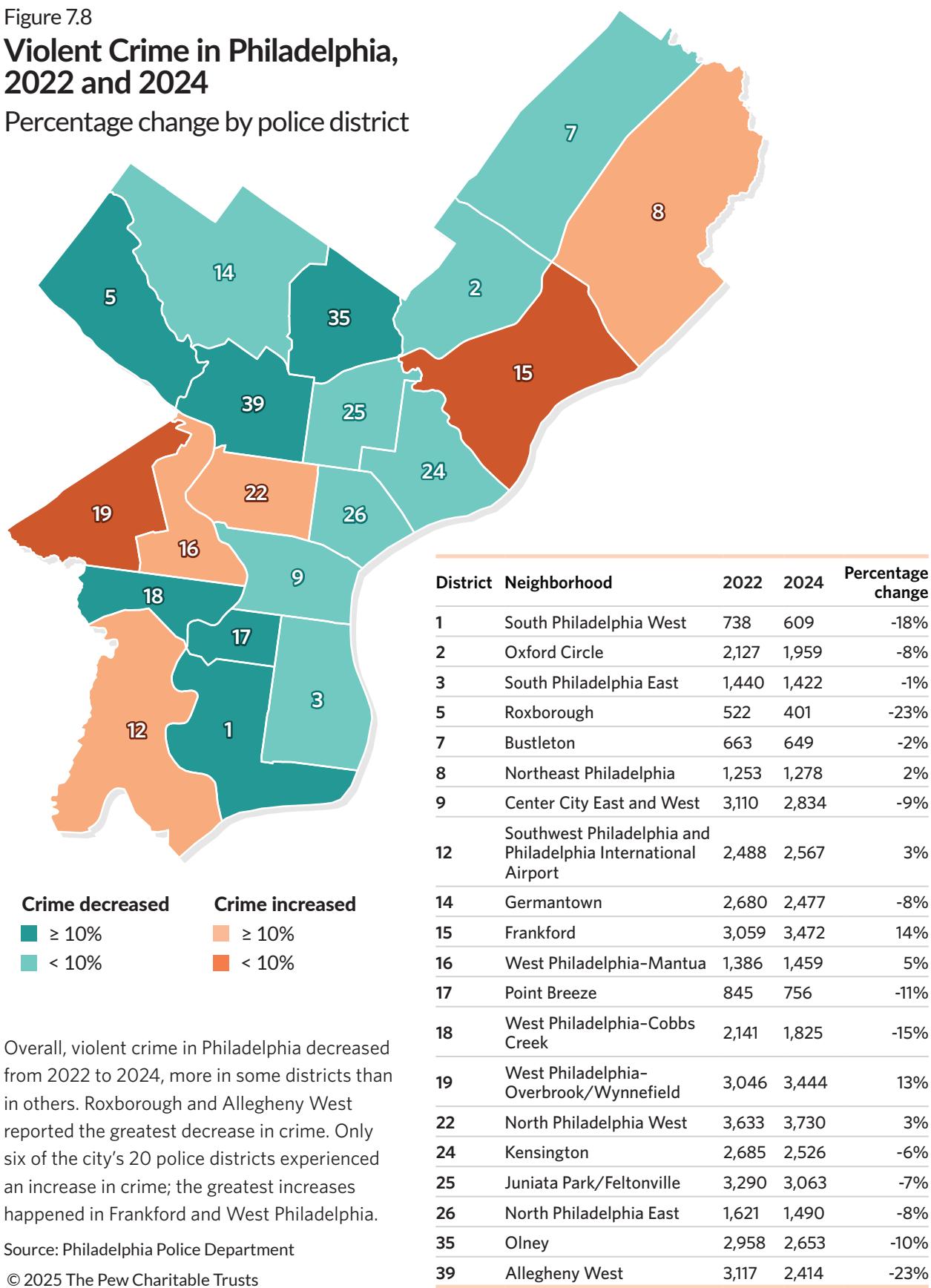
Note: All figures are based on preliminary Philadelphia Police Department crime data and are subject to reclassification upon further investigation.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department

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Figure 7.8  
**Violent Crime in Philadelphia,  
 2022 and 2024**  
 Percentage change by police district



Overall, violent crime in Philadelphia decreased from 2022 to 2024, more in some districts than in others. Roxborough and Allegheny West reported the greatest decrease in crime. Only six of the city's 20 police districts experienced an increase in crime; the greatest increases happened in Frankford and West Philadelphia.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department

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Figure 7.9

## Homicide Motives in Philadelphia, 2024

Argument	44.2%
Undetermined	18.2%
Domestic	10.0%
Retaliation	8.1%
Drugs	7.4%
Highway robbery	6.3%
Other	4.8%
Residential robbery	0.3%
Child abuse	0.3%

The Philadelphia Police Department reported arguments as the leading motive for homicides in the city in 2024, accounting for 44.2% of cases. In more than 18% of homicides in 2024, police said the cause was undetermined—more than triple the percentage in 2022, when homicide motives were undetermined only 5.8% of the time.

Note: All figures are based on preliminary Philadelphia Police Department crime data and could be reclassified upon further investigation. “Argument” refers to violence sparked by verbal disputes.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department

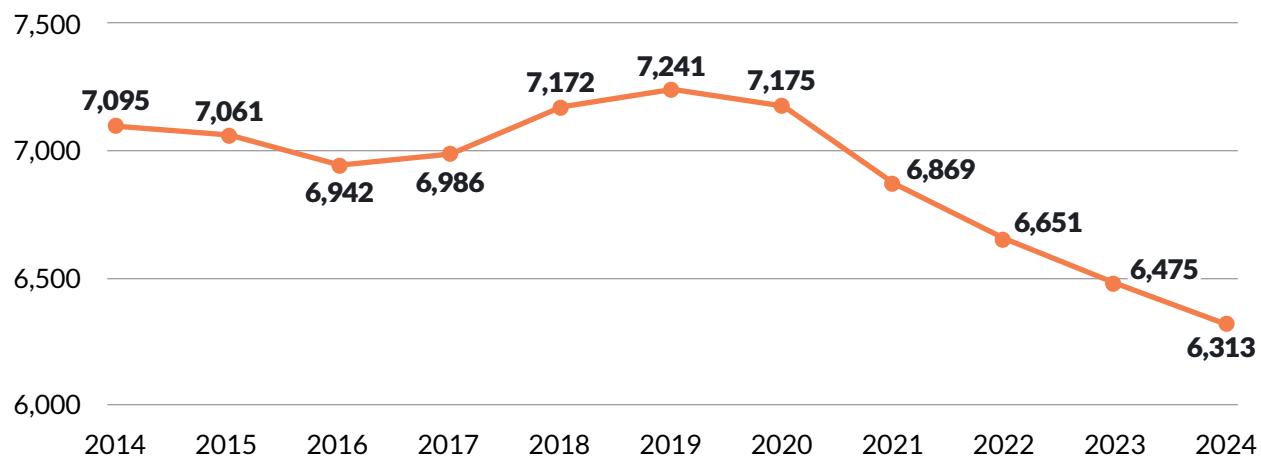
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Figure 7.10

## Philadelphia Police Employment Over Time, 2014-24

As of June 30 each year



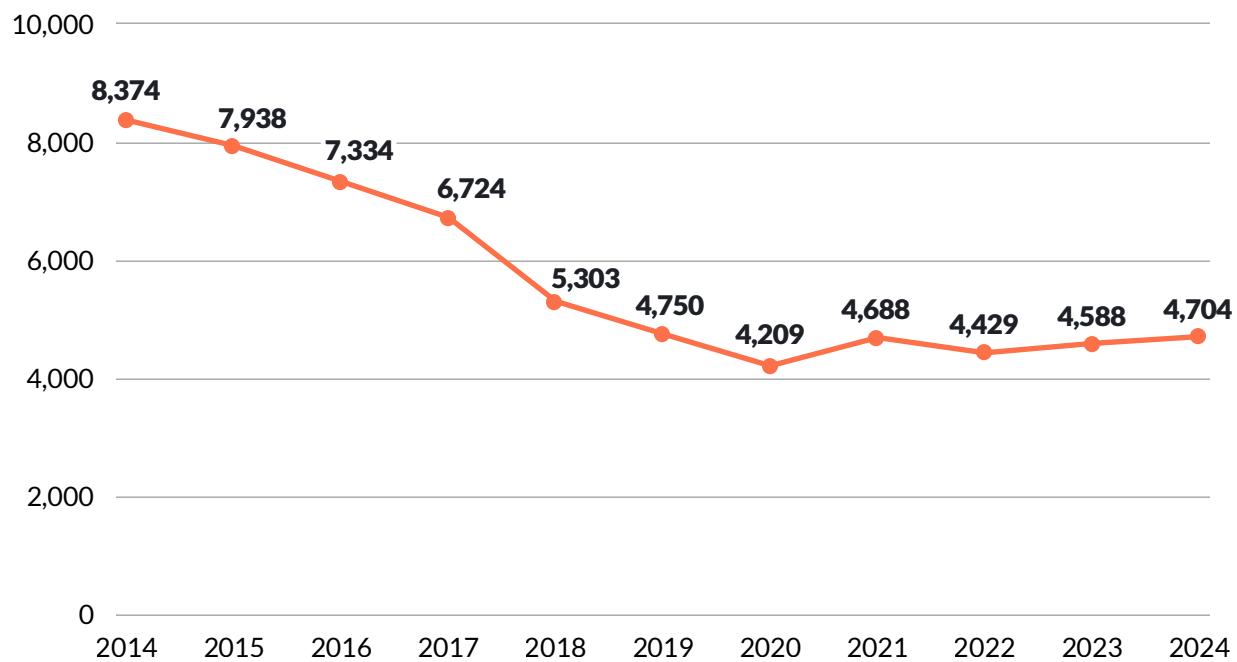
Since the pandemic, uniformed and civilian staffing at the Philadelphia Police Department has declined by 13% from the end of fiscal 2019 to the close of fiscal 2024. When Mayor Cheriele Parker took office in January 2024, she committed to hiring 400 additional police officers per year. The police department announced that it had hired 51 new officers in March 2024, with additional classes graduating throughout the year.

Source: City of Philadelphia, Office of the Director of Finance, *Quarterly City Managers Report* (for June 30 of each year), 2014-24  
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Figure 7.11  
**Philadelphia Jail Population, 2014-24**



In 2024, Philadelphia's average daily jail population was 4,704, about the same as it has been since 2019 but 44% lower than it was a decade earlier, when the jails had an average daily population of 8,374.

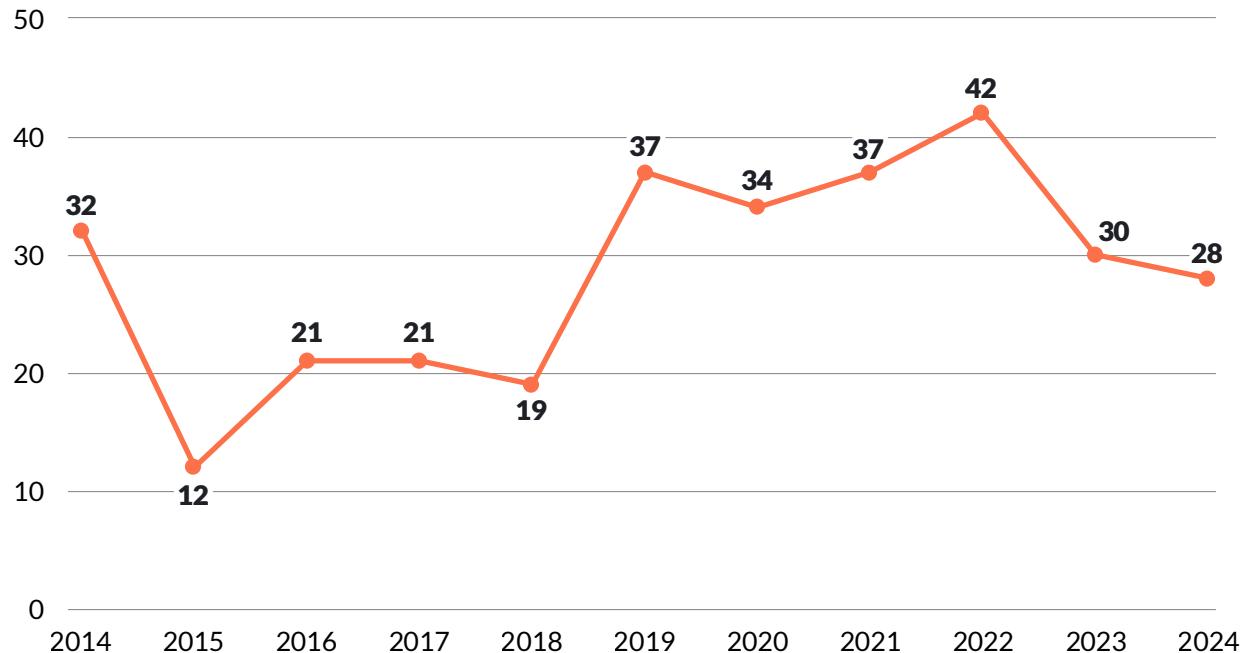
Source: First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Department of Research and Development, *Philadelphia Prison Population Report*, 2014-24

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Figure 7.12

## Fire-Related Deaths in Philadelphia, 2014-24



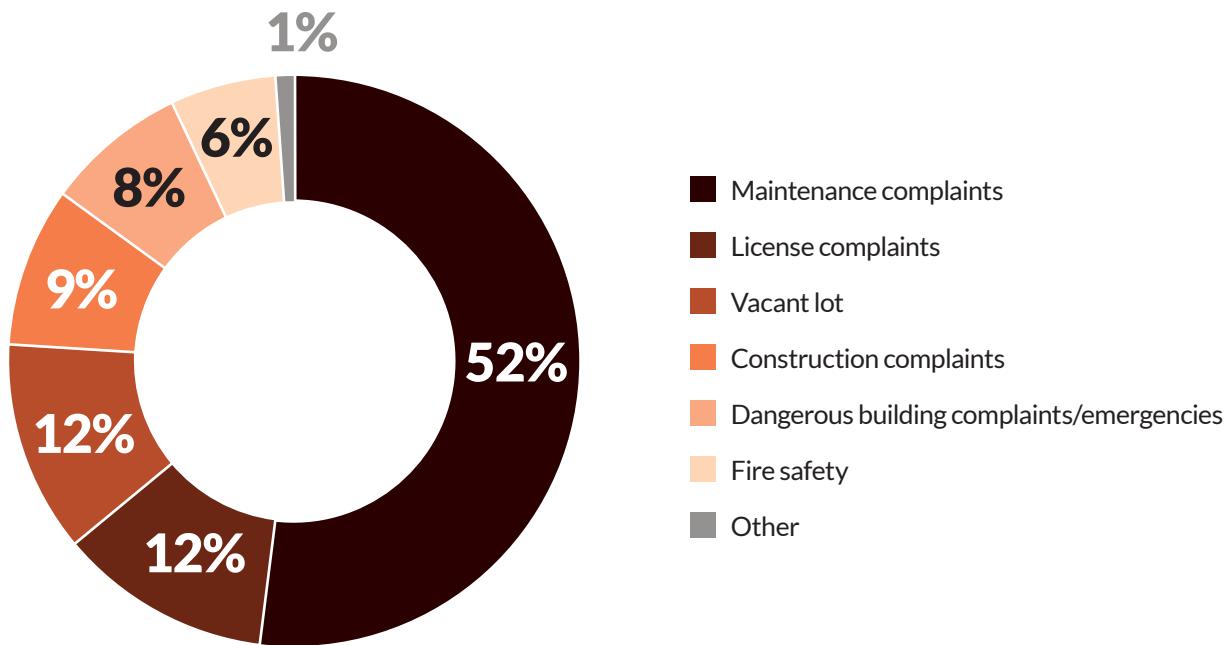
Philadelphia recorded 28 fire-related deaths last year—a third fewer than in 2022, when 42 were reported, representing the highest number since 2007.

Source: Email from the Philadelphia Fire Department, January 2025

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Figure 7.13

## License and Inspection Requests for Action From Philly 311 in 2024



In 2024, Philadelphia's 311 nonemergency customer service system assigned 58,730 requests for action or information to the city's Department of Licenses and Inspections. More than half of these requests had to do with property maintenance issues, including concerns such as a lack of heat. Other frequently raised issues included concerns over vacant lots and complaints about unlicensed commercial businesses and units.

Source: City of Philadelphia, OpenDataPhilly, *Licenses and Inspections Complaints*, 2024

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# Transportation

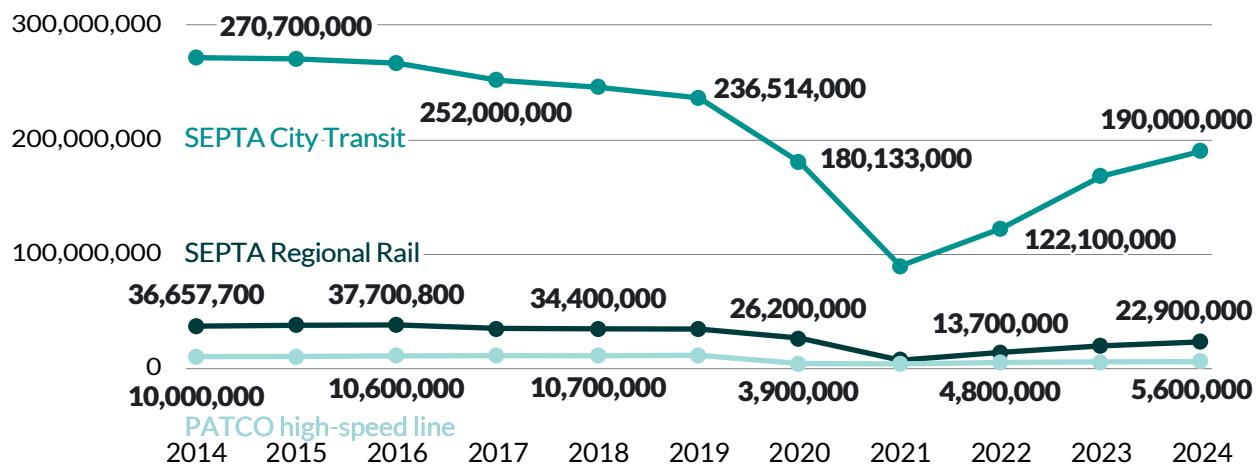
**Ridership on the key transportation systems serving Philadelphia—SEPTA, PATCO, and Amtrak—increased in 2024. However, the number of passengers still has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.**

In fact, the growth in ridership on SEPTA and PATCO slowed in 2024, indicating that both transit systems may be experiencing permanent decreases in ridership as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. SEPTA's reduced numbers are significant given the central role it plays in city and regional travel. And since federal American Rescue Plan Act funding expired at the end of 2024, the transit agency has faced a structural deficit. SEPTA's ability to maintain current service levels and avoid fare increases remains in doubt because of uncertainty about funding that it has been counting on receiving from the commonwealth by the end of the fiscal year.

Amtrak, meanwhile, experienced a significant increase in ridership into and out of Philadelphia in the 12 months ending in September 2023, the most recent year for which data was available. And although passenger traffic increased at Philadelphia International Airport, it also remains below pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 8.1

## Local Mass Transit Ridership in Philadelphia, 2014-24



In 2024, mass transit ridership in and around Philadelphia continued to make its way back toward pre-pandemic levels. SEPTA City Transit ridership was twice as high as it was 2021, when it reached a pandemic low. SEPTA Regional Rail ridership was more than three times its 2021 low, and PATCO's was up by 56%. Even so, all ridership figures remained well below levels recorded in 2019, the last full year before the pandemic. In November 2024, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro made \$153 million available to SEPTA from the state's federal highway capital funds to help bridge the revenue gap.

Sources: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, *SEPTA Unlinked Trips by Line and Month, 2014-24*; Delaware River Port Authority (PATCO high-speed line data)

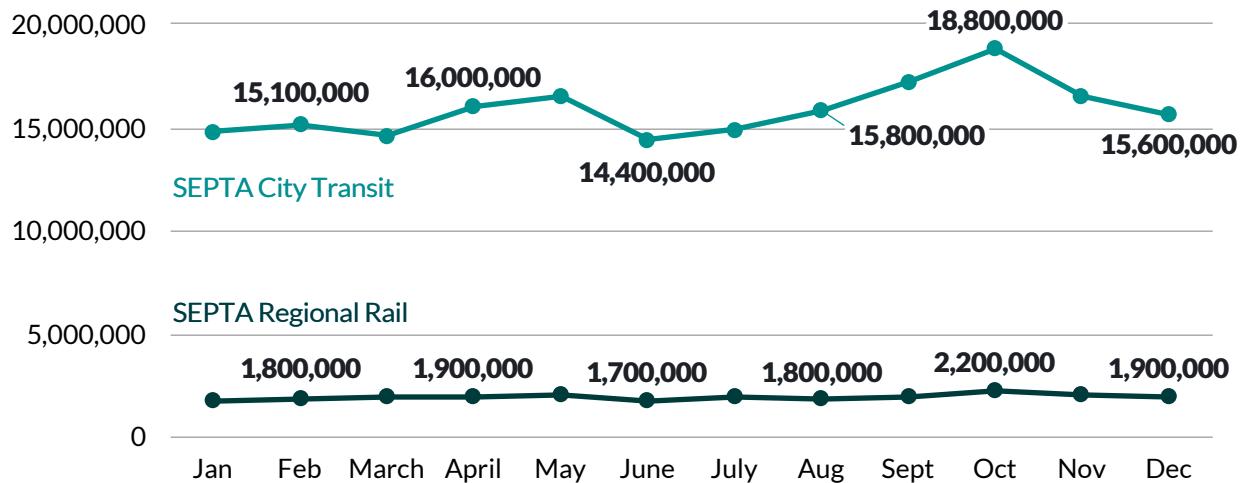
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Figure 8.2

## SEPTA Ridership by Month, 2024



In 2024, ridership on both SEPTA City Transit and SEPTA Regional Rail was lowest in June, then increased in July—when Mayor Parker required municipal workers to return to full-time in-office work. City Transit ridership then spiked in October, with over 18.8 million trips, before declining in November and December. SEPTA attributed the October ridership increase to mild weather, the beginning of the school year, and no major holiday-related closures that month.

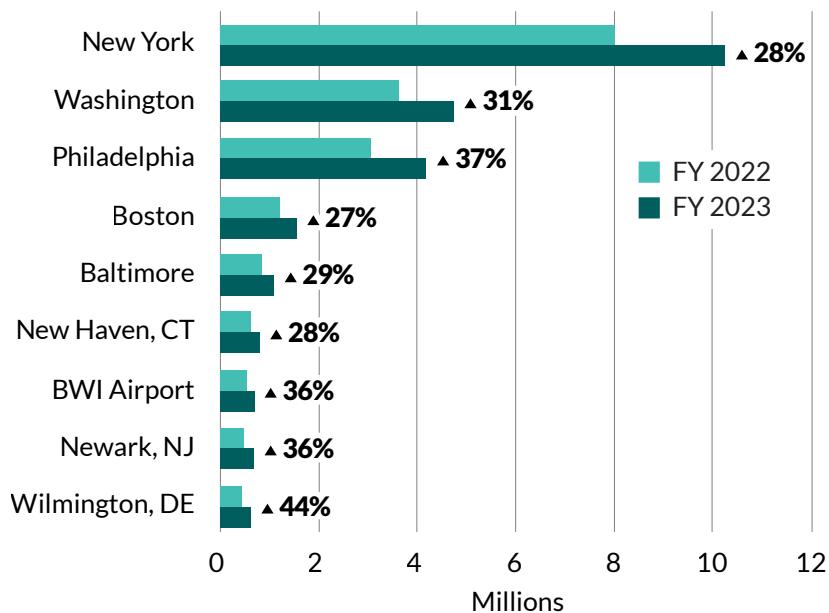
Source: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, *SEPTA Unlinked Trips by Line and Month, 2024*

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Figure 8.3

## Amtrak Ridership, Northeast Corridor

Change from FY 2022 to FY 2023



Amtrak ridership along the Northeast Corridor jumped dramatically in fiscal 2023. All of the stops in comparison cities along that route saw increases in ridership, from Boston (27%) to Wilmington, Delaware (44%). Philadelphia's William H. Gray III 30th Street Station registered the second-highest increase, at 37%. Of these stops, Baltimore and New Haven, Connecticut, surpassed their pre-pandemic ridership numbers. Overall, there were 5.8 million more rides in fiscal 2023 compared with the previous year.

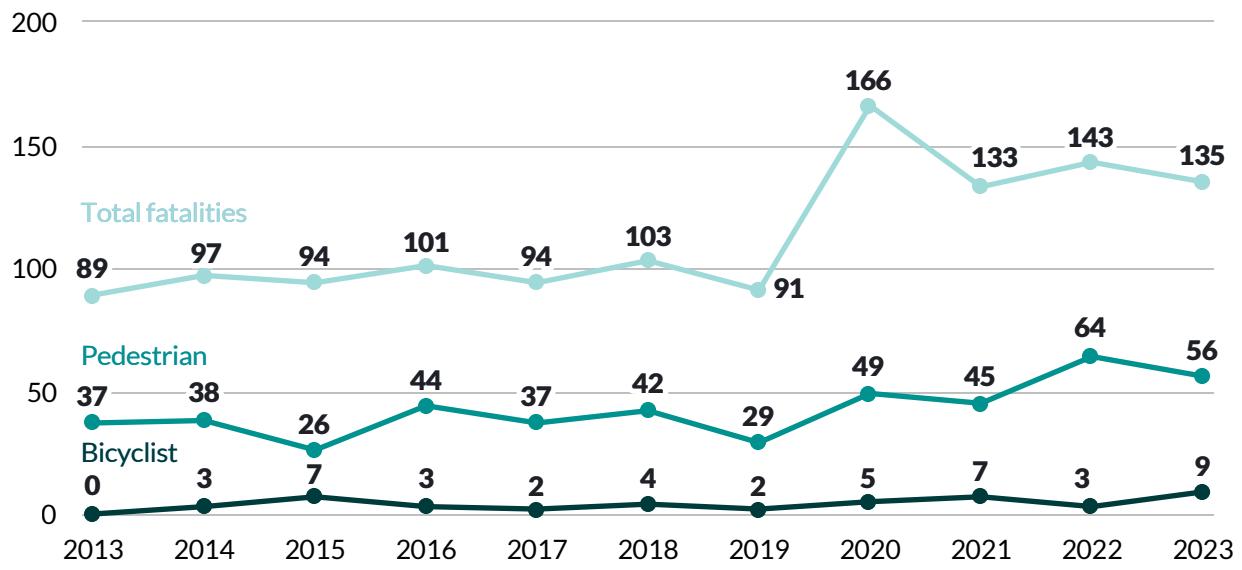
Sources: U.S. Department of Transportation, *FY 2023 Amtrak Company Profile, FY 2022 and FY 2023*; U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Amtrak Fact Sheet Fiscal Year 2023, State of Delaware, State of Maryland, State of New Jersey, 2024*

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Figure 8.4  
**Traffic-Related Deaths in Philadelphia, 2013-23**



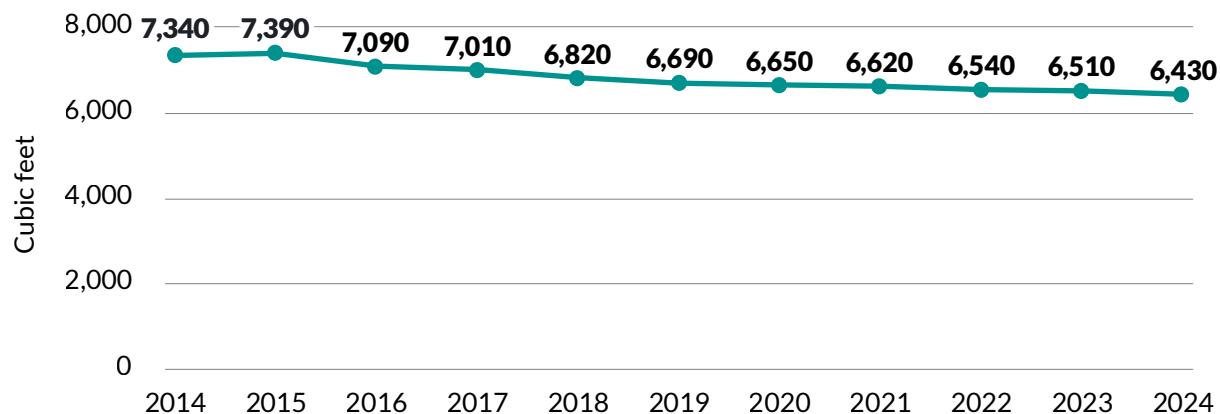
Philadelphia reported 135 traffic-related deaths in 2023, the third-highest number in the past decade, although it was down from the recent peak of 166 in 2020. The 2023 toll included nine bicycle-related fatalities, the most recorded in the 2013-23 period, and 56 pedestrian deaths, the second-highest number in that decade.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, *Crash Facts & Statistics*, 2013-23

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Figure 8.5

## Average Annual Water Consumption for Residents and Small Businesses in Philadelphia, 2014-24



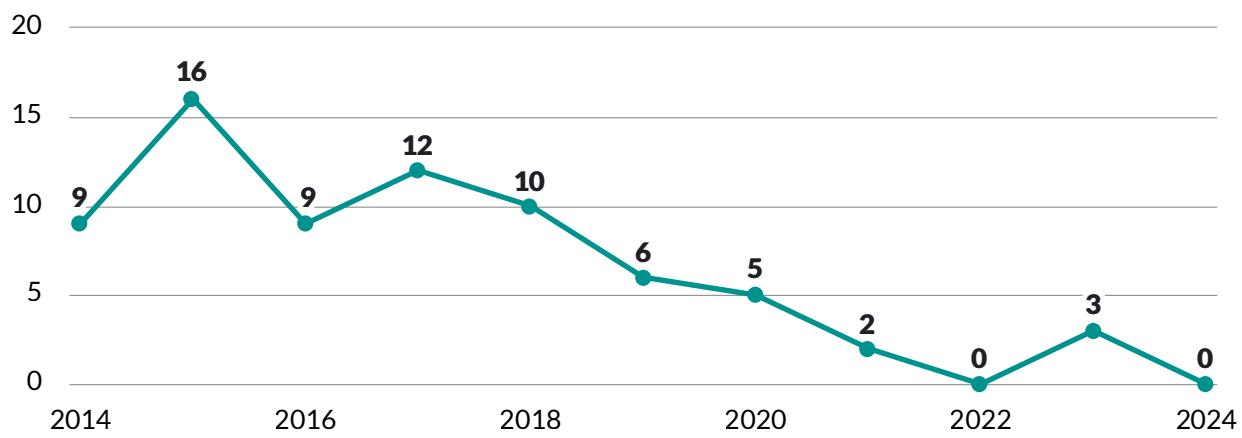
Water use by residents and small businesses in Philadelphia has declined year over year since 2015. In 2024, the average was 6,430 cubic feet, down from 7,340 cubic feet in 2014. Water Department officials attribute this decline to the increased water efficiency of many appliances.

Source: Philadelphia Water Department

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Figure 8.6

## Days of Unhealthy Air in Philadelphia, 2014-24



Philadelphia had no days with unhealthy air in 2024, matching the record low in 2022, following three days of unhealthy air in 2023 as a result of wildfires in Canada. Philadelphia has had five or fewer days of unhealthy air every year since 2020.

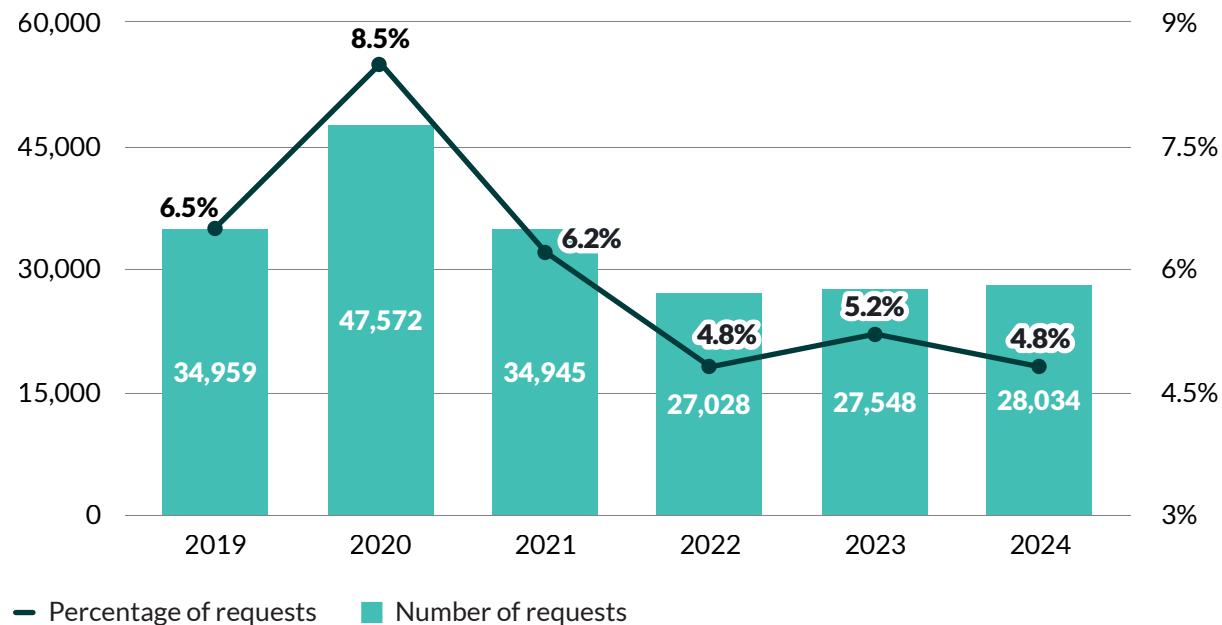
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Air Quality Index Report*, 2014-24

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Figure 8.7

### Philadelphia 311 Service Requests for Trash and Recycling Collection, 2019-24



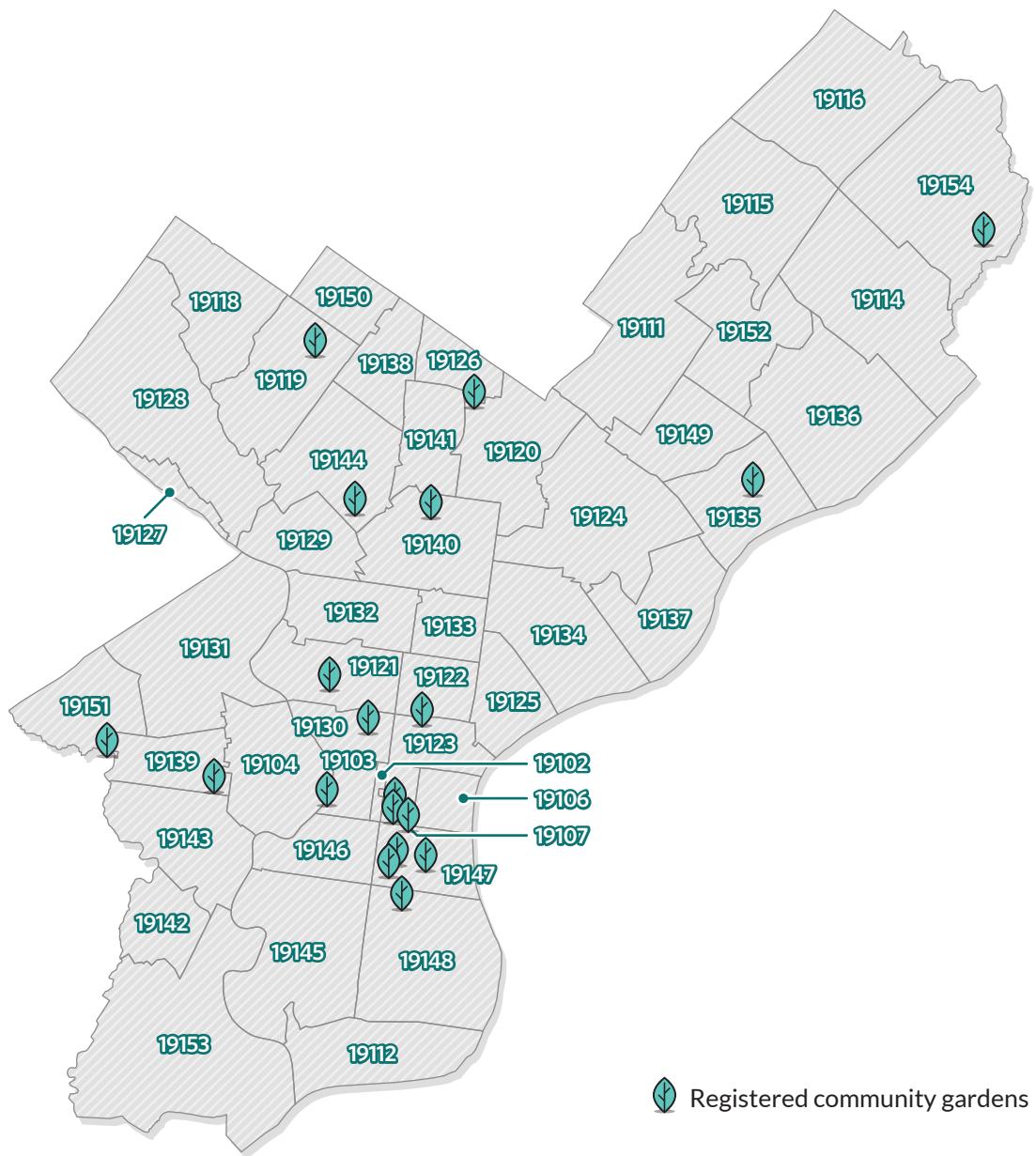
Residents made 28,034 requests for trash and recycling collection in 2024 through the 311 nonemergency customer service system. That figure was about the same as it has been for the last three years but 20% lower than in 2019. Requests peaked in 2020 as the pandemic began. In 2024, only 4.8% of requests to 311 were for trash and recycling collection.

Source: City of Philadelphia, OpenDataPhilly, 311 Service and Information Requests, 2019-24

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Figure 8.8

# Community Gardens in Philadelphia, 2025



Community gardens provide people with the opportunity to grow produce and are also a place of connection. Philadelphia has 19 registered community gardens, with the largest number of them located in and around ZIP code 19147, which includes the South Philadelphia neighborhoods of Queen Village and Bella Vista, near Center City.

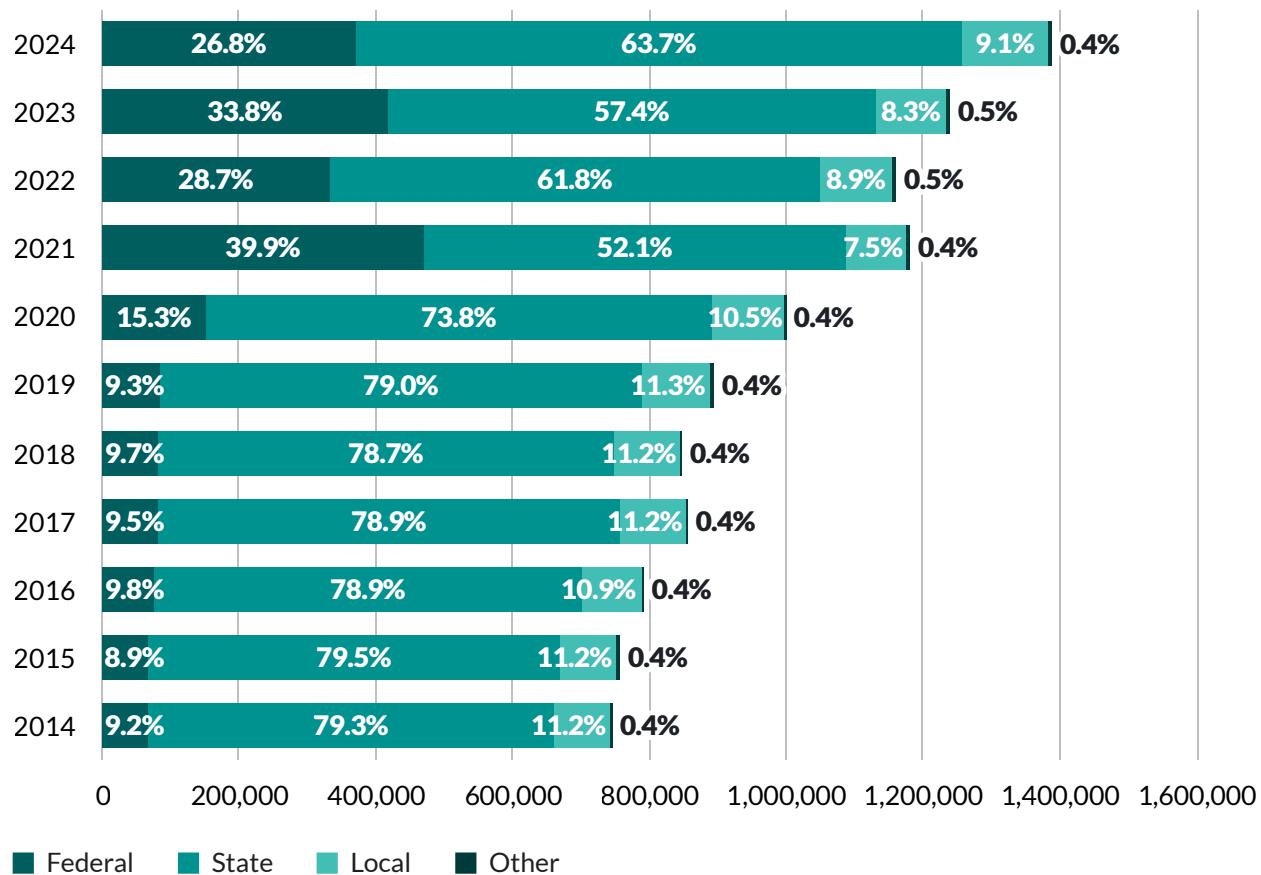
Source: City of Philadelphia, OpenDataPhilly, Registered Community Gardens, 2025

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Figure 8.9

## SEPTA's Operating Budget Subsidies, FY 2014-24

Amounts in thousands of dollars



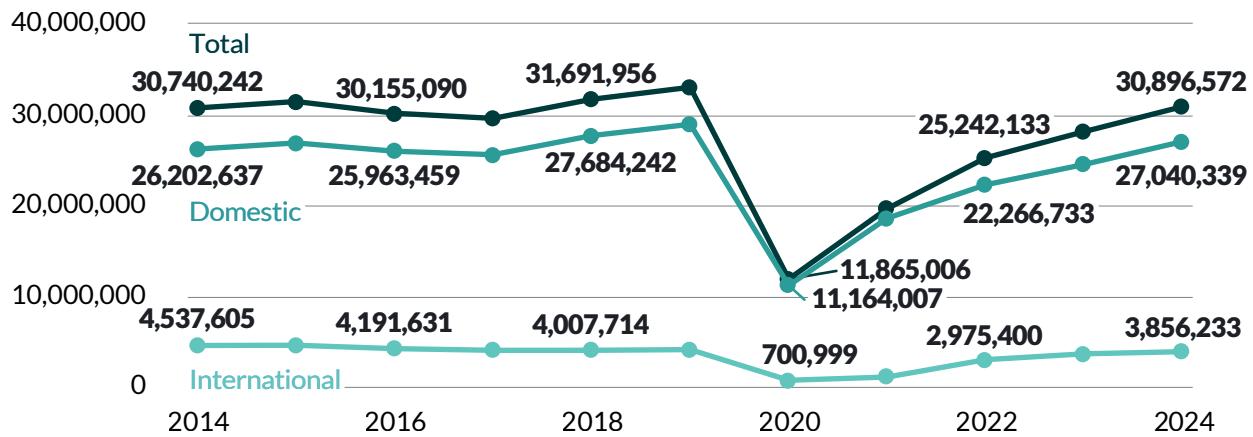
In the past several years, SEPTA's budget has benefited from increased federal subsidies, most coming in the form of pandemic relief through the American Rescue Plan Act, which is ending. The federal subsidy peaked at more than \$472 million in 2021. Over the same period, state funding increased as well, reaching nearly \$885 million in 2024, but represented a lower percentage of total subsidies than before the pandemic, when state contributions accounted for nearly 80% of all subsidies.

Sources: SEPTA, *Operating Budget Report*, FY 2014-24; SEPTA, *Full Budget Book (Amended)*, FY 2025

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Figure 8.10

## Passengers at Philadelphia International Airport, 2014-24



In 2024, the number of passengers at Philadelphia International Airport continued to inch back to pre-pandemic levels. Last year, more than 30.8 million passengers flew on domestic or international flights, up from 2023 but still well below the pre-pandemic peak of 33 million in 2019. Of all the passengers using the airport, roughly 27 million, or 87.5%, were on domestic flights, and nearly 3.9 million, or 12.5%, were on international flights.

Note: Passenger data for 2024 is an estimate.

Source: Philadelphia International Airport, *Activity Reports*, 2025

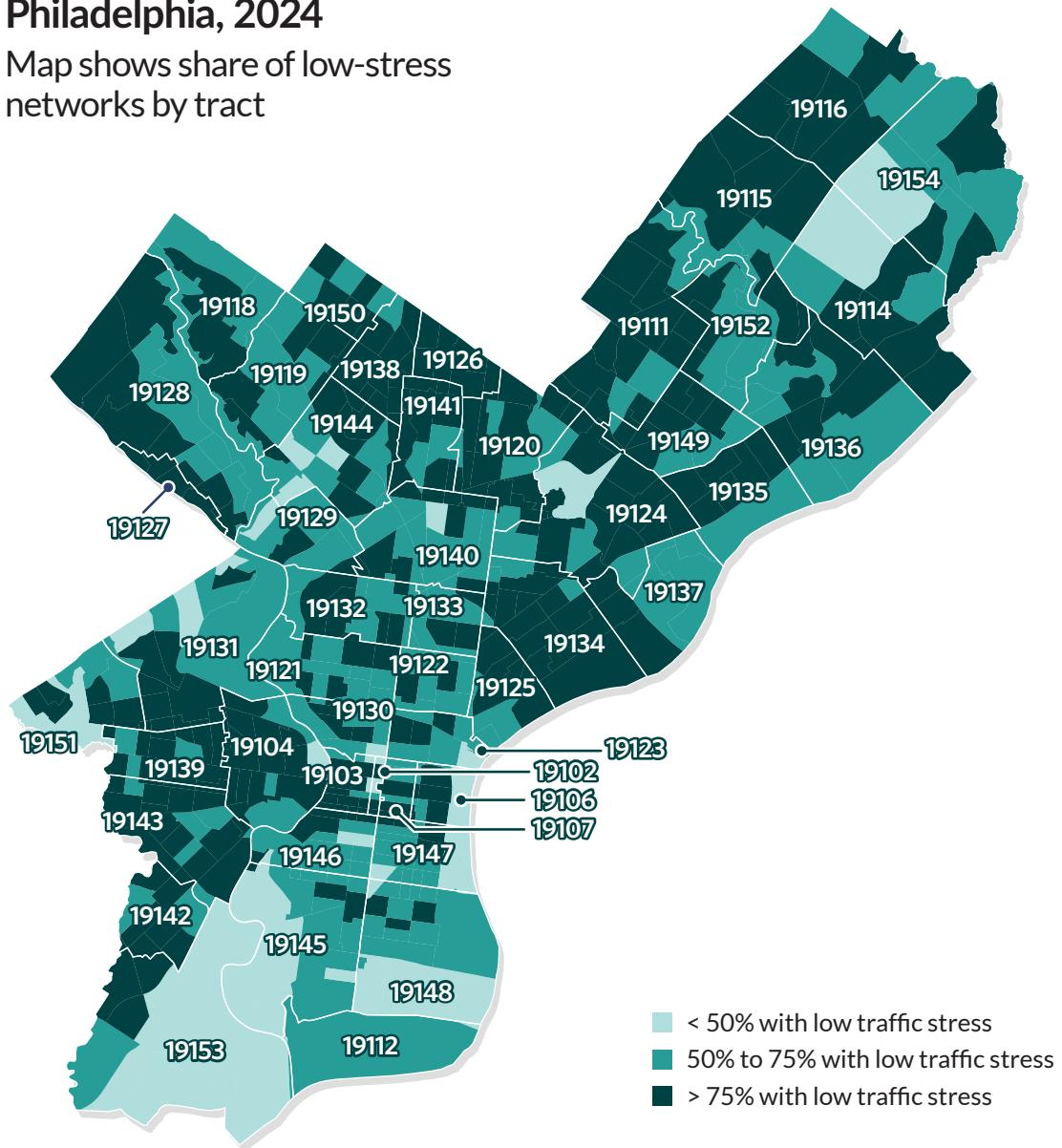
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Figure 8.11

## Level of Traffic Stress for Biking in Philadelphia, 2024

Map shows share of low-stress networks by tract

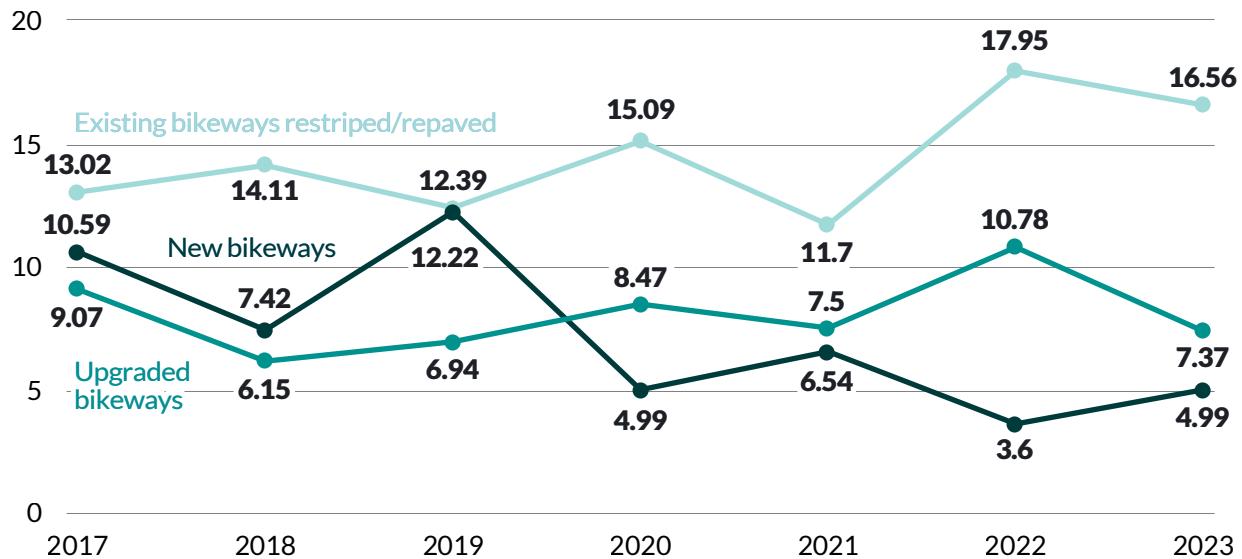


The “level of traffic stress” score, compiled by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, evaluates how stressful a road or trail network is for biking. The score is affected by the number of lanes on a road, the speed limit, the slope, and bike facilities such as protective barriers and markings. The lower the score, the lower the stress for biking. Fewer lanes contribute to a lower score, but on some very narrow streets, this can also contribute to the stress of biking. This map defines a low score as 2 or lower on a 4-point scale. Many of the areas getting the lowest stress scores were in Southwest and Northeast Philadelphia. In 2024, the city government decided to invest in some concrete-protected bike lanes, and from 2023 to 2024, there was a decrease in fatalities among bicyclists. The map does not take into consideration the connectivity of low-stress lanes.

Source: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, *Level of Traffic Stress (LTS): Network*, January 2025

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Figure 8.12  
**Miles of Bike Lanes in Philadelphia, 2017-23**



In 2023, Philadelphia reported its highest number of bicycle-related fatalities in more than a decade. And in 2024, City Council passed legislation to ensure increased bicycle safety. Some 7.37 miles of bikeways were upgraded in Philadelphia in 2023, along with 4.99 miles of new bikeways and 16.56 miles of restriped or repaved bikeways.

Source: Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability

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# Photo Captions

## Photographs by Hannah Yoon for The Pew Charitable Trusts

Cover A family gathers on a stoop in Philadelphia's Mount Airy neighborhood.

Page 2 A pedestrian walks past a clothing boutique's window display in West Philadelphia.

Page 3 People dine, shop, and walk past vendor booths at the Southeast Asian Market in South Philadelphia's FDR Park.

Page 4 A shopper enters a convenience store in Southwest Philadelphia.

Page 6 An adult and two children play at Houston Playground in Andorra, a neighborhood in Northwest Philadelphia.

Page 7 Women sit around a table inside the Northeast Older Adult Center.

Page 8 A vendor serves food at FDR Park's Southeast Asian Market.

Page 9 People gather during the holiday season at the Hub of Hope, a center that offers resources and connection for people experiencing homelessness.

Page 10 People walk along Bustleton Avenue in Oxford Circle, a neighborhood in Lower Northeast Philadelphia.

Page 16 Students play during recess at the Tacony neighborhood's Hamilton Disston School.

Page 17 Children at the Hamilton Disston School practice writing at their desks.

Page 18 A student walks in front of Abraham Lincoln High School in Northeast Philadelphia.

Page 19 A Drexel University sign adorns a small archway over a busy intersection.

Page 21 A group of Abraham Lincoln High School students receive a math lesson.

Page 22 Children grab a soccer ball and a basketball from a crate at Philadelphia's Mayfair Community Center.

Page 24 School buses queue up at Abraham Lincoln High School.

Page 25 Children work on computers at the Mayfair Community Center.

Page 26 Students walk outside Abraham Lincoln High School.

Page 28 People congregate in City Hall's central courtyard.

Page 30 Water Department workers tend to a West Philadelphia street.

Page 31 The caucus room in Philadelphia's City Hall.

Page 32 Patrons inside Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books, a small business in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood.

Page 35 An office worker sits at a cubicle in the Philadelphia Municipal Services Building.

Page 36 The William Penn statue atop City Hall appears just beyond a pair of office buildings.

Page 38 A medical staff member at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania helps a patient administer a finger prick test.

## Photo Captions

### Photographs by Hannah Yoon for The Pew Charitable Trusts

Page 39 Ambulances line up outside Temple University Hospital.

Page 40 Students practice with a medical mannequin at Orleans Technical College, a nonprofit that offers training in health care and other disciplines.

Page 41 A medical professional examines a patient at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Page 42 A person passes by the Free Library of Philadelphia's Bustleton branch.

Page 43 Hospital staff members walk near Temple University Hospital.

Page 44 A patient receives care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Page 46 A staff member sorts through medical supplies at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Page 47 A medical professional greets a patient at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Page 48 A medical professional checks a patient's blood pressure at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Page 52 People stand in silhouette outside colorful row homes in West Philadelphia.

Page 53 A small construction crew works on a building in the Northern Liberties neighborhood.

Page 55 A person walks a small dog along a residential street in Northeast Philadelphia's Bustleton neighborhood.

Page 56 Two children play outside in the East Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Page 60 Construction in West Philadelphia.

Page 61 Bay windows trimmed in white and beige add a little pop of color to a line of brick row homes in West Philadelphia.

Page 64 A street with small businesses and row homes in West Philadelphia.

Page 65 A new development under construction in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood.

Page 68 People work on wiring at the Orleans Technical College in Northeast Philadelphia.

Page 69 People sit in a waiting room at the Philadelphia Municipal Services Building.

Page 71 Students in Orleans Technical College's health care training program examine a test tube.

Page 72 Students attend class at the Orleans Technical College.

Page 73 Houses with bay windows and covered porches along a tree-lined West Philadelphia street.

Page 74 An adult pushing a stroller walks with a child down Germantown Avenue.

Page 77 A person looks out a window at a West Philadelphia street.

Page 81 A worker prepares a small shopping bag at Vera Doyle, a boutique in the city's Mount Airy neighborhood.

Page 82 A florist arranges a red-and-pink bouquet at Pomelo, a small business in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood.

## Photo Captions

### Photographs by Hannah Yoon for The Pew Charitable Trusts

Page 84 A group of Philadelphia police officers chat while standing on a Center City street.

Page 86 A view of the Liberty Place skyscrapers in Center City.

Page 87 A pedestrian passes a Philadelphia Fire Department ambulance.

Page 88 Police on bicycles ride through a West Philadelphia neighborhood.

Page 89 Center City high-rises and skyscrapers tower above the Schuylkill River.

Page 90 Public safety workers patrol West Philadelphia.

Page 92 Police officers work the scene of a shooting in Philadelphia. *Via AP Images*

Page 93 Security guards stand near the Rothman Ice Rink in Center City's Dilworth Park.

Page 94 A pair of Center City high-rise buildings.

Page 95 A fire truck in Philadelphia's Nicetown neighborhood.

Page 96 Pedestrians walk under scaffolding on a busy Center City street.

Page 98 A person waits for the bus on a rainy day in Center City.

Page 99 People board a SEPTA bus along Germantown Avenue.

Page 100 A SEPTA bus route sign near City Hall.

Page 101 Trains snake along the tracks at Philadelphia's William H. Gray III 30th Street Station. *Via Getty Images*

Page 102 A cyclist rides under scaffolding on a Philadelphia sidewalk.

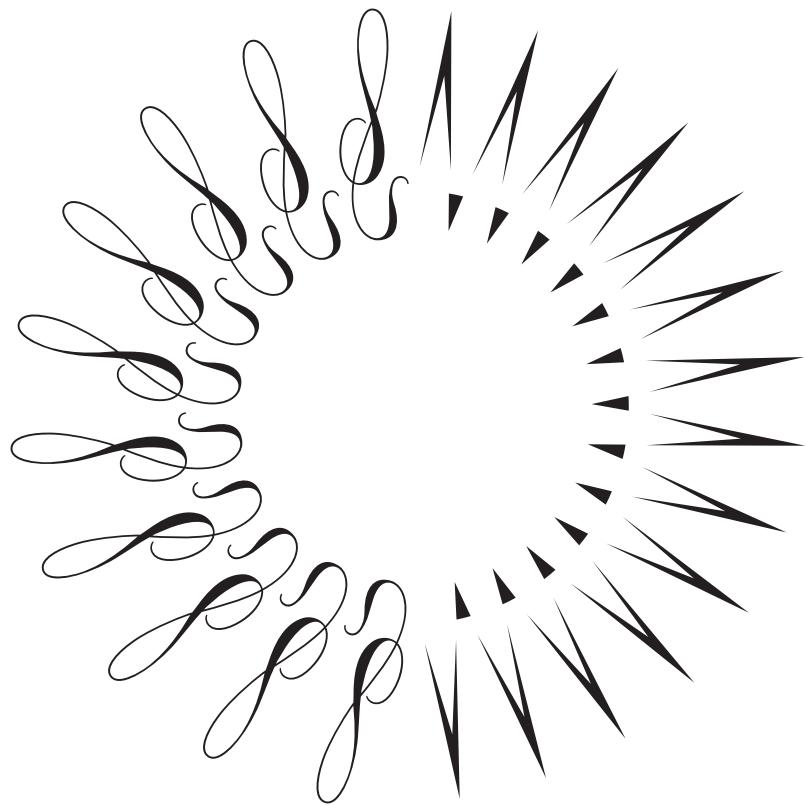
Page 104 Pedestrians on Market Street in West Philadelphia.

Page 107 Planes line up at gates at Philadelphia International Airport. *Courtesy of Visit Philadelphia*

Page 109 A cyclist rides alongside Center City traffic.

Page 110 A double shot of Philadelphia's City Hall, both real and reflected.





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