

RATING

15,000 - 25,000

THE TOWNS

The top finishers in this population group enjoy the best educational test results in Connecticut, the most robust local economies, the greatest number of cultural and social amenities per capita, and most likely a wonderful feeling of security. The top 10 finishers, from Ridgefield through East Lyme, have a combined population of just under 200,000 and a minuscule average crime rate of 1.9 crimes a year per 1,000 residents. Of course, if you check out the median house price, you'll see that they pay dearly for all that.

Several towns shifted position in and out of the Top 10. East Lyme leapfrogged both Guilford and Brookfield to grab No. 10. Farmington disappeared into the next most populous group, making way for Stonington to move all the way from No. 14 last time to No. 9. Stonington's numbers for its schools and library were below par, but the classic coastal town makes up for that in a lot of other ways.

TOWN	EDUCATION	CRIME	ECONOMY	COST	LEISURE	TOTAL
1. RIDGEFIELD	4	1	4	29	2	40
2. NEW CANAAN	1	4	1	31	4	41
3. AVON	5	2	5	27	3	42
4. WILTON	2	3	3	30	5	43
5. DARIEN	3	6	2	32	1	44
6. SIMSBURY	6	7	10	23	6	52
7. MADISON	7	13	6	28	7	61
8. SOUTHURY	9.5	5	11	24	17	66.5
9. STONINGTON	21	9	9	20	8	67
10. EAST LYME	9.5	17	13	18	10	67.5
11. GUILFORD	8	19	7	25	9	68
12. TOLLAND	14	11	18	12	13	68
13. BROOKFIELD	12	10	8	26	18	74
14. ROCKY HILL	18	12	16	17	14	77
15. ELLINGTON	15	14	21	14	15	79
16. BETHEL	16	8	15	21	21	81

1 Ridgefield

population 24,638
 crime rate 0.69
 SAT score 1735
 median house . . \$663,000
 equalized mill rate . . 13.76
 library per capita . . \$67.44
 PIC points 158
 voter turnout 86.42%

2 New Canaan

population 19,738
 crime rate 1.57
 SAT score 1796
 median house . \$1,410,000
 equalized mill rate . . 8.48
 library per capita . \$123.66
 PIC points 168
 voter turnout 87.13%

3 Avon

population 18,098
 crime rate 1.31
 SAT score 1717
 median house . . \$392,500
 equalized mill rate . . 15.17
 library per capita . . \$75.43
 PIC points 153
 voter turnout 88.09%

Simsbury

population 23,511
 crime rate 2.13
 SAT score 1730
 median house . . \$345,000
 equalized mill rate . . 20.71
 library per capita . . \$79.94
 PIC points 114
 voter turnout 88.37%



ROBERT GREGSON

7 Madison

population 18,269
 crime rate 3.25
 SAT score 1696
 median house . . \$425,000
 equalized mill rate . . 12.47
 library per capita . . \$74.67
 PIC points 148
 voter turnout 80.81%

Madison street scene

KEY TO THE NUMBERS

The numbers below represent only a small portion of all the data collected to determine town rankings.

Crime rate is the average number of major crimes in 2007, 2008 and 2009 per 1,000 population.

SAT score is the average combined verbal, math and writing scores in 2010 (perfect score is 2400).

The median house price is based on first-half 2011 sales.

The 2009 equalized mill rate determines the local tax burden by dividing the tax rate

by the grand list.

Library expenditures per capita are for 2010.

PIC points take into account per-capita income, equalized mill rate, adjusted equalized grand list per capita and aid to children. It is an indicator of wealth and need—the number shows where the town ranks among all 169 cities and towns in the state; the greater the number, the less need in the community.

Voter turnout reflects those voting in the November 2008 presidential election.

HOW TO READ THE CHART

The chart shows the 32 Connecticut towns with populations between 15,000 and 25,000.

The best possible rating in any category is 1 and the worst is 32.

Remember: Low scores are good. Ties were broken in favor of the town with the higher voter turnout.

TOWN	EDUCATION	CRIME	ECONOMY	COST	LEISURE	TOTAL
17. WATERFORD	19	29	14	8	12	82
18. MONROE	11	15	12	22	24	84
19. COLCHESTER	24	16	23	13	16	92
20. LEDYARD	20	18	24	9	22	93
21. SUFFIELD	13	24	19	19	20	95
22. BERLIN	17	26	20	16	19	98
23. NORTH HAVEN	22	25	17	15	23	102
24. WATERTOWN	28	23	22	7	25	105
25. BLOOMFIELD	32	32	29	4	11	108
26. MONTVILLE	27	22	25	3	31	108
27. PLAINFIELD	29	20	31	2	28	110
28. WOLCOTT	23	21	26	11	32	113
29. PLAINVILLE	25	31	28	6	27	117
30. KILLINGLY	30	30	30	1	26	117
31. SEYMOUR	26	27	27	10	29	119
32. ANSONIA	31	28	32	5	30	126

Wilton

population 18,062
 crime rate 1.37
 SAT score 1768
 median house . . \$820,000
 equalized mill rate . . 13.46
 library per capita . \$174.06
 PIC points 163
 voter turnout 87.41%



New Canaan Historical Society

Darien

population 20,732
 crime rate 2.03
 SAT score 1781
 median house . \$1,420,000
 equalized mill rate . . 7.70
 library per capita . \$196.17
 PIC points 167
 voter turnout 87.38%

Southbury

population 19,904
 crime rate 1.76
 SAT score 1660
 median house . . \$367,400
 equalized mill rate . . 14.56
 library per capita . . \$46.86
 PIC points 113
 voter turnout 71.77%

Stonington

population 18,545
 crime rate 2.34
 SAT score 1595
 median house . . \$291,200
 equalized mill rate . . 10.60
 library per capita . . \$19.32
 PIC points 137
 voter turnout 84.20%

East Lyme

population 19,159
 crime rate 3.97
 SAT score 1654
 median house . . \$275,000
 equalized mill rate . . 12.86
 library per capita . . \$60.65
 PIC points 110
 voter turnout 73.28%