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Collection Development
Community Data Collection

Westbrook, Connecticut, is a small, coastal town with a measured population just short of seven thousand individuals. According to the information retrieved from American FactFinder website, the community is made up of several components. The town sits directly on the Long Island Sound, with beaches and other summer attractions, leading to a higher population in the summer months (when people living inland come and live in their beach houses for three months of the year). Geographically, it sits between New Haven, Connecticut and New London, Connecticut, about equally distant between the two larger cities. This location means that community members can travel to one of these two cities fairly easily for services that might not be offered in town. The Library is also part of the Libraries Online (LION) system, meaning it has access to a much larger catalog than the physical building can hold.

Census data from the FactFinder website tells us that most of the community members have a reliable mode of transportation, a majority of citizens owning their own cars or having easy access to public transportation. The median age is roughly 47 years of age, though a majority of the age grouping is over thirty years of age. Most of the community has completed high school education or higher, so most have some form of higher education. For the most part, the community members are fairly well off economically, with the median household income at \$63, 884. The majority household income estimate is between \$50,000 and \$79,999. Racially, the town is made up of primarily Caucasian individuals, with almost 95% of the population as identifying as “One Race: White” leaving the remaining five percent spread out between black, Native

American and Asian (as well as a small percentage of individuals who identify as mixed race).

Overall, however, the community is very similar demographically when factoring concepts such as race, education, economic opportunity and so on. A very important thing to note is the change in population (and therefore population needs) in the three months of summer when part-time vacationers claim residence and need to be accounted for when distributing services. There is a lot of cooperation with nearby towns for offering services and venues to serve the community and provide programs and opportunities.