

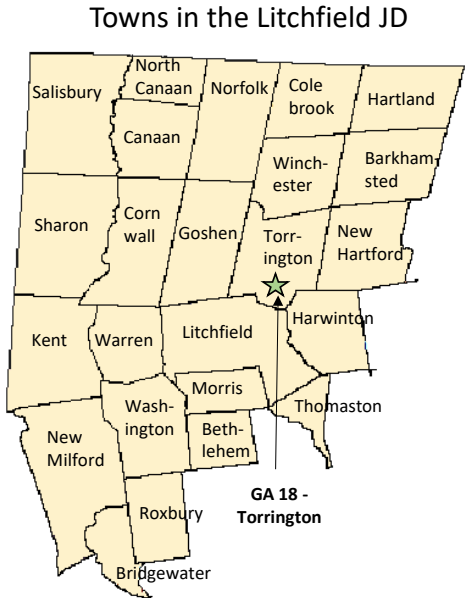
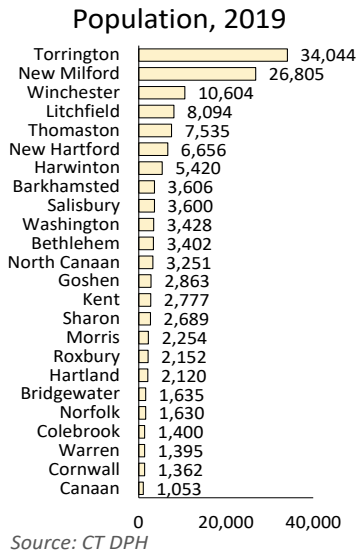


CT DCJ Fact Sheet:

The Litchfield Judicial District

The Litchfield Judicial District (JD) serves 24 towns in the northwestern part of the state. The local GA court (GA-18) is located in Torrington.

About 140,000 people live in the towns served by the Litchfield JD, making it the state's second smallest District by population. Covering just over 865 square miles, the Litchfield JD is also the state's largest Judicial District, by area.



are considerably lower than the statewide average.

Each year, the FBI releases its Uniform Crime Report (UCR) which details the number of major crimes reported by state and local jurisdictions during the previous calendar year. In the report, violent crimes includes murder, non-negligent manslaughter, robbery, aggravated assault and rape. Property crimes include larcenies, burglaries and motor vehicle theft.

While public safety is a significant concern across the state, for many towns in the District, the incidence of violent crime is quite rare.

Crime and crime rates per 10,000 residents, 2018

| | Violent crimes | Violent crime rate | Property crimes | Property crime rate |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Torrington | 46 | 12.4 | 569 | 153.6 |
| New Milford | 21 | 7.4 | 292 | 102.3 |
| Thomaston | 11 | 13.9 | 84 | 106.4 |
| Winchester | 8 | 7.1 | 97 | 86.4 |
| All other towns | 22 | 3.4 | 267 | 41.1 |
| District wide | 108 | 7.2 | 1309 | 87.8 |

Only 9.8% of residents in the District belong to racial or ethnic minority groups. Statewide, minorities make up about 30% of the population. Almost three quarters of District's minority residents live in three towns; Torrington, New Milford or Winchester. Hispanics comprise the largest minority group in the District.

In 2018, four towns (Torrington, New Milford, Thomaston and Winchester) accounted for 80% of all violent and property crimes reported in the entire JD. To provide some context to these figures, consider that in 2018, 101 cars were stolen in the entire Litchfield JD. That same year, 839 cars were stolen in the city of Waterbury alone. In Hartford 741 were taken; another 674 were stolen in New Haven. In terms of violent crime, the JD's 108 incidents pales next to Hartford's (1,313 and New Haven's (1,114).

Several towns in the District, like Roxbury, Washington, Sharon and Bridgewater, are among the most affluent in the state. At the other extreme, towns like Thomaston, Winchester, Torrington and North Canaan, have per capita incomes that

According to Judicial Branch data, police departments in the Litchfield JD made 2,317 criminal arrests and 2,278 motor vehicle arrests in 2019. The data for 2020 reflects the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Arrests, Litchfield JD

| Year | Criminal Arrests | MV arrests |
|------|------------------|------------|
| 2017 | 2,827 | 2,403 |
| 2018 | 2,752 | 2,290 |
| 2019 | 2,317 | 2,278 |
| 2020 | 1,742 | 1,351 |

Source: CJIS

Many towns in the Litchfield JD are too small to justify the cost of maintaining a municipal police force. As a result, the CT State Police play a very large public-safety role in the District. In fact, only four towns in the District maintain a fully-autonomous police department. Torrington's PD is the most active among this small group with respect to criminal arrests. Torrington police made 45% of criminal arrests in the Litchfield JD in 2019. State Police officers made 51% of motor vehicle arrests.

In a typical year 2,700 to 3,000 cases are disposed each year at the GA court in Torrington. Most serious cases are typically transferred to the Part A Court at the JD.

Cases - GA-18 Torrington

| | Cases added | Cases disposed |
|---------|-------------|----------------|
| FY 2017 | 2,961 | 2,721 |
| FY 2018 | 2,887 | 2,742 |
| FY 2019 | 2,732 | 2,251 |
| FY 2020 | 1,606 | 1,447 |

In fiscal year 2019, the Part A court in Litchfield disposed 247 cases, out of about 2,500 total cases disposed in the jurisdiction. In most JDs, Part-A courts generally dispose less than 5% of cases. In the Litchfield JD, about 10% of cases are resolved in the Part-A court.

Arrests by agency, 2019

| Agency | Criminal | | MV | Police Type |
|----------------------|----------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| | Arrests | arrests | arrests | |
| Torrington PD | 1,045 | 483 | | Local PD |
| New Milford PD | 372 | 394 | | Local PD |
| State Police Troop L | 281 | 698 | | State Police |
| Winchester PD | 256 | 97 | | Local PD |
| Stat Police Troop B | 244 | 464 | | State Police |
| Thomaston PD | 106 | 85 | | Local PD |
| Litchfield PD | 7 | 40 | | Local PD, trooper supv. |
| New Hartford PD | 3 | 12 | | Local PD, trooper supv. |
| All other agencies | 3 | 5 | | |
| Litchfield JD | 2,317 | 2,278 | | |

Source: CJIS

Part A cases, Litchfield JD

| Fiscal Year | Cases Added | Cases disposed | | Cases disposed |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| | | w/o Trial | w/trial | |
| FY 2017 | 216 | 186 | 1 | 187 |
| FY 2018 | 263 | 213 | 2 | 215 |
| FY 2019 | 290 | 245 | 2 | 247 |
| FY 2020 | 202 | 182 | 2 | 184 |

Source: CT Judicial Branch

In terms of arrest volumes, the Litchfield JD places among the smallest Judicial Districts in the state. This is not surprising given the District's small population and the lack of a major urban center within its borders. On the other hand, the low-population density of the district and its dispersal across so many towns creates challenges that are unique to only a few JDs in the state.

Although no level of crime is acceptable, the towns in the Litchfield Judicial district are fortunate to experience relatively low levels of crime and crime rates that are considerably lower than the statewide average.

Arrests by Judicial District, 2019

| Judicial District | Criminal arrests | MV arrests | JD pop., 2019 est. |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Hartford JD | 16,918 | 10,390 | 589,513 |
| New Haven JD | 11,308 | 8,041 | 472,223 |
| Waterbury JD | 6,954 | 3,627 | 223,414 |
| New Britain JD | 6,427 | 4,737 | 311,685 |
| Fairfield JD | 5,570 | 3,488 | 320,921 |
| New London JD | 5,550 | 4,435 | 265,206 |
| Stamford-Norwalk | 4,393 | 2,720 | 380,341 |
| Ansonia-Milford | 3,949 | 2,862 | 231,329 |
| Middlesex JD | 2,657 | 1,934 | 162,436 |
| Danbury JD | 2,334 | 2,302 | 200,941 |
| Litchfield JD | 2,317 | 2,278 | 139,775 |
| Tolland JD | 1,680 | 1,814 | 150,721 |
| Windham JD | 1,480 | 1,173 | 116,782 |

Source: CJIS

Crimes and crime rates per 10,000 residents, 2018

| | Violent crimes | Violent crime rate | Property crimes | Property crime rate |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Hartford JD | 1,815 | 30.4 | 13,211 | 221.6 |
| New Haven JD | 1,642 | 34.1 | 10,698 | 222.2 |
| Fairfield JD | 1,129 | 34.9 | 5,843 | 180.5 |
| Waterbury JD | 554 | 24.1 | 5,768 | 251.4 |
| New Britain JD | 524 | 16.6 | 6,154 | 194.8 |
| Stamford-Norwalk | 491 | 13.2 | 4,724 | 127.0 |
| New London JD | 385 | 15.0 | 2,593 | 100.8 |
| Ansonia-Milford | 248 | 10.8 | 4,000 | 174.8 |
| Danbury JD | 157 | 8.1 | 1,702 | 88.2 |
| Windham JD | 130 | 11.3 | 643 | 56.0 |
| Litchfield JD | 108 | 7.2 | 1,309 | 87.8 |
| Middlesex JD | 89 | 5.5 | 1,623 | 99.5 |
| Tolland JD | 76 | 5.3 | 846 | 59.0 |
| Statewide | 7,348 | 20.6 | 59,114 | 165.7 |

Source: CT DESPP, UCR

The bulk of cases disposed in CT courts each year are handled in 19 Geographical Area (GA) courts. The Litchfield JD contains a single GA court, GA-18 in Torrington.

Note: GA-18 was moved from Bantam to Torrington in 2017.