

Martha's Vineyard Statistical Profile

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Glossary

Accessory apartment: Also known as an in-law or guest apartment; an individual living unit meant to serve as an accessory to a residential dwelling. In most cases on the Vineyard it may be located within or apart from the residential dwelling.

Affordable housing: Housing that does not cost more than one third of a household's total income. May also apply to housing that is affordable (as defined here) to households earning 80 percent of the area median income as established by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Aircraft operation: The landing or takeoff of an aircraft.

Aquifer: A body of porous material that contains groundwater. The US Environmental Protection Agency has designated Martha's Vineyard as a sole-source aquifer, the only source being rainfall.

Bedrooms per unit: A measure of density. On the Vineyard and elsewhere, on-site sewage disposal systems must be designed to handle certain daily flows, in many cases based on the number of bedrooms per unit.

Binomial filter: A smoothing technique often used in climate analysis to reveal underlying trends in data. In this case, four data points on either side of a value are averaged, with decreasing weights further from the center, to create a smoothed value.

Blue economy: That portion of the economy (jobs, services, etc.) that depends directly (dark blue) or indirectly (medium blue) on the water.

Cape Light Compact: An energy services organization (also known as a Community Choice Aggregation or CCA) that is operated by towns in Barnstable and Dukes counties. Works to deliver energy efficiency programs and renewable electricity, and conducts consumer advocacy.

Central outwash plain: Sand and gravel deposits that extend south from Tisbury and comprise most of the south shore. Contains the Island's main aquifer, which supplies most of the potable water for Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and Tisbury.

Co-mingled (single-stream) recycling: A process where recyclables are collected and processed in a single waste stream, then separated at a materials recovery facility.

Coastal pond: A saltwater or brackish pond that periodically opens to the sea, either naturally or by mechanical means for the sake of supporting shellfish populations and pond health. Martha's Vineyard has 27 coastal ponds.

Community Development Block Grant: A competitive grant program administered by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development that aims to support local community development needs such as affordable housing, infrastructure and public social services. Any community may apply.

Community housing: Year-round rental or ownership housing that is permanently deed-restricted for households earning between 81 and 150 percent of the area median income.

Community water system: As defined by the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, a public water system that provides at least 15 year-round residential service connections, or supplies at least 25 year-round residents.

Community Preservation Act: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44B, passed in 2000, which allows participating communities to raise funds through a property tax surcharge of up to three percent. Funds may be spent on open space and historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreational facilities. The state's Community Preservation Trust Fund distributes additional funds annually to participating communities.

Cost of living: The cost of maintaining a certain standard of living, as determined through comparison to an index measuring certain items or services.

Cost-of-living index: A number that measures the average cost of living over time, or compared to an average that is equal to 100. The index of 133.3 in this report is relative to the national average, meaning that the cost of maintaining a national standard of living is 33.3 percent higher on the Vineyard than nationally.

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: A collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute that measures vital health factors in counties across the United States.

Covanta SEMASS (Southeast Massachusetts Resource Recovery Facility): A municipal waste disposal and recycling facility in Rochester that converts waste to electricity via incineration. Opened in 1988 following the US Environmental Protection Agency's mandate to close outdated landfills in the state.

Crude death rate: The annual number of deaths in an area, divided by the population, multiplied by 100,000.

Eelgrass: A flowering aquatic plant that grows in coastal ponds. In part because it supports many organisms and requires clear water to photosynthesize, eelgrass is a primary indicator of pond health. Eelgrass meadows have declined significantly on the Vineyard since the 1950s and have largely disappeared on the Cape.

Eligible class-I renewable generation unit: An electricity-generating unit built on or after Jan. 1, 1998 that meets the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Class-I regulations.

Enplanement: The boarding of an airplane by an individual.

Establishment: A physical location where business is conducted, or where services or industrial operations are performed. Indicates the number of locations with paid employees at a given time.

Excursion vehicle: Martha's Vineyard residents whose names ap-

pear on their town's street list are eligible for a Steamship Authority discount known as an excursion fare. The discount applies to vehicles that originate on Martha's Vineyard and return within 31 days. A general measure of resident traffic to and from the Island.

FEMA floodplain: An area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as having a certain risk of flooding. Different flood zone designations are included in an area's Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Finfish: A bony or cartilaginous fish with fins, as opposed to shellfish or aquatic invertebrates.

Five-hundred-year flood: A flood event that has a 0.2-percent chance of occurring or being exceeded in a given year. Areas in the 500-year floodplain have a minimal risk of flooding, according to FEMA.

Food security: A person's access throughout the year to food that meets his or her dietary needs and preferences and supports a healthy lifestyle.

General fund: In this case, a town's primary operating fund, which accounts for revenues and expenditures not accounted for in other funds. Revenue comes primarily from property taxes, licenses, permits and other sources.

Geographic mobility: The movement of people from one place to another. In this case, the percentage of people who lived in the same house the previous year.

Gini Index: A measure of income inequality. The index ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 equals perfect equality (everyone has the same income) and 1 equals perfect inequality (all the income goes to a single person or group).

Gross regional product: Also known as regional GDP; the market value of all goods and services produced in a region over a given period of time. One measure of the size, income and productivity of an economy.

Groundfish: A bottom-dwelling fish, typically with a commercial value.

Health behavior: An action that affects someone's health. Health behaviors considered in this report include tobacco use, diet and exercise, alcohol and drug use, and sexual activity.

Health factor: Factors that influence people's health. The data related to health factors in this report consider health behaviors, clinical care (access and quality), social and economic factors, and physical environment.

Health outcome: The result of health care interventions, investments, etc. The data for health outcomes in this report relate to length and quality of life.

Homelessness: The state of being without a permanent place to reside; includes people living in vehicles, shelters, transitional housing, abandoned buildings and other places not meant for human habitation.

Housing cost burden: Applies to households paying more than 30 percent of their annual income on rent or mortgage costs.

Income inequality: The extent to which income is distributed unevenly in a population.

Invertebrates (aquatic): Water-dwelling animals without backbones.

IRS Form 990: An official form that is filed with IRS each year and provides a public accounting of a nonprofit's finances, mission and programs. Includes varying levels of detail depending on the type of nonprofit. Faith-based organizations are exempt from filing.

Labor force: According to the US Census Bureau, all people classified as employed or unemployed in the civilian labor force, including those on active duty in the US Armed Forces.

Landfill cap: Layers of earth, plastic and other materials installed over a closed landfill to help prevent rain from leaching through the waste and into the ground.

Landfill liner: Layers of earth, plastic and other materials installed beneath a landfill to prevent liquids from leaching into the ground. Liners are required of new and expanded landfills in the state, but many older landfills, including those on the Vineyard, were constructed without them.

Managed trail: A walking trail maintained by a town or conservation group.

Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group: A consortium of the six Vineyard shellfish departments that among other things operates a shellfish hatchery and supplies quahog, scallop and oyster seed annually to each town.

Massachusetts Enterococci Bacterial Standard: The US Environmental Protection Agency requires the monitoring of enterococci in the water along beaches during bathing season. Testing is done by separating the bacteria and feeding it nutrients and chemicals that promote its growth. If the resulting colonies exceed 104 "colony forming units" per 100 milliliters of water, the beach will be closed to swimmers. Beaches that exceed the threshold are often retested and opened soon after.

Mean maximum temperature: The average of the highest temperature recorded every day over a given period of time.

Mean minimum temperature: The average of the lowest temperature recorded every day over a given period of time.

Mean sea level: The average level of the surface of the ocean; calculated here as the mean of hourly heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch (1983–2001).

Mean temperature: The average air temperature over a given period of time.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): A standard system used by federal statistical agencies to

classify establishments into industries based on their production processes. Covers all economic activities in the United States.

Name-plate capacity: Also “installed capacity;” the intended sustained output of an energy facility operating under ideal conditions. Usually measured in megawatts.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program rare species: Species threatened by changes in the environment, primarily habitat loss and degradation, and protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Species are classified as endangered, threatened or of special concern, and protected accordingly.

Non-community groundwater system: As defined by the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, a public water system that serves at least 25 of the same people about four days a week or more, for more than 180 days per year; or one that serves 25 different people at least 60 days of the year.

Nonprofit organization: An organization that devotes its surplus revenue to furthering a specific cause, rather than distributing it to its shareholders, staff or members. Nonprofits registered under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, among others, are exempt from paying income tax on the money they receive.

Occupied housing unit: In this case, a housing unit occupied as a primary residence at the time of the American Community Survey 5-year estimates. This number is considered the same as the number of households in an area.

One-hundred-year flood: A flood event that has a one-percent chance of occurring or being exceeded in a given year.

Open space: In this case, land that is either wetland; permanently protected, term-limited or conserved; or vacant town-owned land with an unknown level of protection.

Operating budget: The proposed expenditures for personnel, supplies and other expenses in a town or city for the coming fiscal year.

Opioid overdose death: As counted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, a confirmed death (unintentional or otherwise) related to heroin, opioid-based prescription painkillers, or other unspecified opioids.

Outwash plain aquifer: A unified aquifer occupying about 40 square miles in the middle of the Island, including the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest and extending to the south shore between Chilmark and Chappaquiddick. Supplies the majority of public water to Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and Tisbury.

Ozone Air Quality Index (AQI): A measure of air quality with values ranging from 0 to 500, where 100 generally indicates the threshold for unhealthy amounts of ozone in the air—an average of about 0.07 parts per million over eight hours.

Payroll: All forms of compensation, including salary, wages, commissions, dismissal pay, bonuses, paid vacations and sick leave and

in-kind compensation, prior to deductions. Excludes payments to proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses.

Point-in-Time count: An annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people, conducted on a single night in January. Mandated and funded by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development. Counts to not include people living in hotels or sheltering with family and friends.

Population density: The number of residents per square mile.

Potentially available land: Land that is 1) not developed with a structure, 2) not in conservation or other form of permanent restriction so that it can not be developed, or 3) not in wetlands or water courses. Also includes parcels that have some existing development but are large enough to be subdivided under current zoning laws.

Private water supply: As defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, a water supply that provides water for human consumption, with fewer than 15 service connections; and that serves fewer than 15 people, or an average of 25 or more people for less than 60 days of the year. Private water supplies are regulated primarily by the local boards of health.

Private well: Typically, a well that provides drinking water for a single-family dwelling.

Public water system (public well): As defined by the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, a system that provides public water for human consumption, with at least 15 service connections, or an average of at least 25 customers for at least 60 days of the year. Includes community and non-community water systems.

Quality of life: A measure of health in a population. In this case, a combination of overall, physical and mental health; and the percentage of babies born with a low birthweight.

Road centerline mileage: The total length of a road regardless of the number of lanes.

Shared-use path: A constructed path that supports multiple means of transportation such as walking, biking and wheelchairs. Most often separated from the general roadway.

Shellfish seed: Cultivated shellfish that are less than market size. Typically grown in a hatchery and distributed to communities to enhance shellfish resources.

Solar carve-out II qualified unit: An electricity-generating unit built on or after Jan. 1, 2013, that meets the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Class-I regulations.

Solar carve-out qualified unit: An electricity-generating unit built on or after Jan. 1, 2008, that meets the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Class-I regulations.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA): The flood hazard areas identified in a Flood Insurance Rate Map as being within the 100-year floodplain.)

Special way: A public or private road that the Martha's Vineyard Commission has designated as having exceptional historical, cultural or symbolic importance. A special way extends 20 feet on either side of its centerline, and is protected from alterations that would destroy its essential character.

Subsidence: The downward settling of land relative to sea level. Coastal Massachusetts is subsiding at a rate of about 1.5 mm per year.

Subsidized housing inventory (SHI): A list compiled by the state Department of Housing and Community Development that counts the number of low- and moderate-income housing units in a municipality. Used for purposes related to Chapter 40B, the state's comprehensive permit law.

Total maximum daily load (TMDL): A regulatory term that defines the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can withstand while still meeting and maintaining water quality standards. The TMDL sets a target for reduced pollution in a given body of water, and allocates the necessary load reductions.

Town operating budget: The costs of maintaining town personnel, programs, debt service and facilities, not including capital improvements. Each town adopts an operating budget, usually at its annual town meeting.

Transfer station: In this case, a designated site for the temporary storage of garbage, recycling and other materials, which are later hauled off-Island.

Travel expenditure: Money paid by a traveler in exchange for an activity related to his or her trip.

Travel-generated employment: The number of full- and part-time jobs generated by traveler spending.

Travel-generated payroll: Wage and salary income paid to employees who directly serve travelers.

UA: Indicates data points that were unavailable.

Unemployment rate: The percentage of unemployed workers in a labor force.

Unmanaged trail: A trail that is used by the public but does not receive regular maintenance.

Vacant housing unit: In general, a dwelling unit that is not occupied when the US Census conducts its interviews, unless the occupants are temporarily absent. Includes units whose occupants have their usual residence elsewhere.

Velocity zone: Areas designated by FEMA as having at least a one-percent annual chance of flooding (a 26-percent annual chance over the life of a 30-year mortgage) and the additional risk of storm waves.

Water table: The upper surface of an aquifer, where pores and fractures in the ground are filled with water.

Watershed: An area of land that drains to a given body of water.

Wellhead Protection Area (Zone I): As defined in the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, a protective radius of 400 feet surrounding public wells or wellfields with yields of 100,000 gallons per day or more. For tubular wellfields, the radius is 250 feet, and for all other public water systems, the radius is calculated using the formula $r = (150 \times \log \text{ of pumping rate in gallons per day}) - 350$. May not be less than 100 feet.

Wellhead Protection Area (Zone II): As defined in the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, the area of an aquifer that contributes water to a well under the most extreme recharge and withdrawal conditions. Zones II extend up-gradient from the well.

Western moraine: The rocks and other glacial deposits that form the western part of the Vineyard, from Tisbury to Aquinnah. Complex layers of silt, sand and gravel create many small aquifers at varying depths.

Zone of influence: The area of groundwater where changes in the water table resulting from the pumping of water from a well can be detected.