Show Me the Numbers! Data-Informed Community and Economic Development in VT

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Introductions

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Agenda

The Problem of Data

- What is data?
- Challenges of rural data
- Vermont's unique data challenges
- Data-informed problem definition

The Promise of Data

- Resources
  - Federal | State
- Opportunities for building VT's data-informed decision making capacity
  - Building data systems
  - Collaboration

Discussion

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What is Data?

- Answer on menti.com with the code: XXXXXXX

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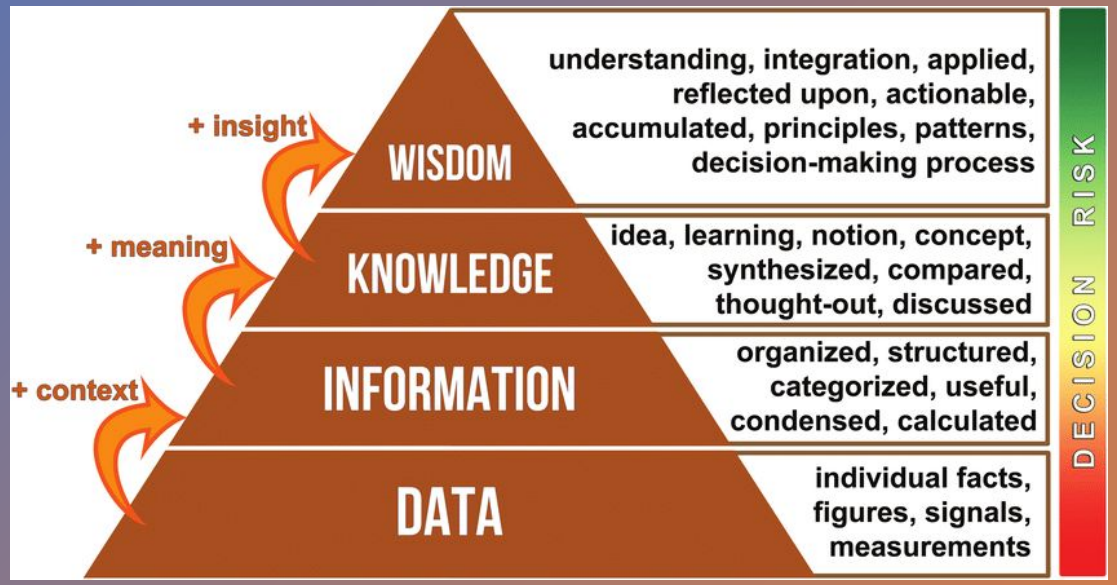

DIKW Hierarchy

What is Data?

"Where is the wisdom we have lost in the knowledge?

Where is the knowledge we have lost in the information?"

TS Eliot, *The Rock*, 1938

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Two Questions for You:

Why do we need data?

How does your organization utilize (or aspire to use) data?

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Challenges of Rural Data

- Smart Cities vs. Smart Rural Communities: What shifts need to be made to accommodate unique rural circumstances?
- Studies on Rural Datafication focuses on digital divides rather than how rural communities leverage digital technologies (Young 2019, p.66)
- Center on Rural Innovation's Rural Aperture Project: How do we equitably and accurately account for diversity in rural communities?

Rural Aperture Project

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Vermont's Unique Data Challenges

- GovTech score of B
- Data access and availability was cited as a significant challenge to progress in VT from the Roundtable Report
- Discussion of mentimeter results

DIGITAL STATES

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The Promise of Data

Turn to your neighbor and discuss:

- How do we currently utilize data?
- Where and how can we use data to develop programming and policies?
- How do we take into account the challenges?

We will ask folks to report back to the group!

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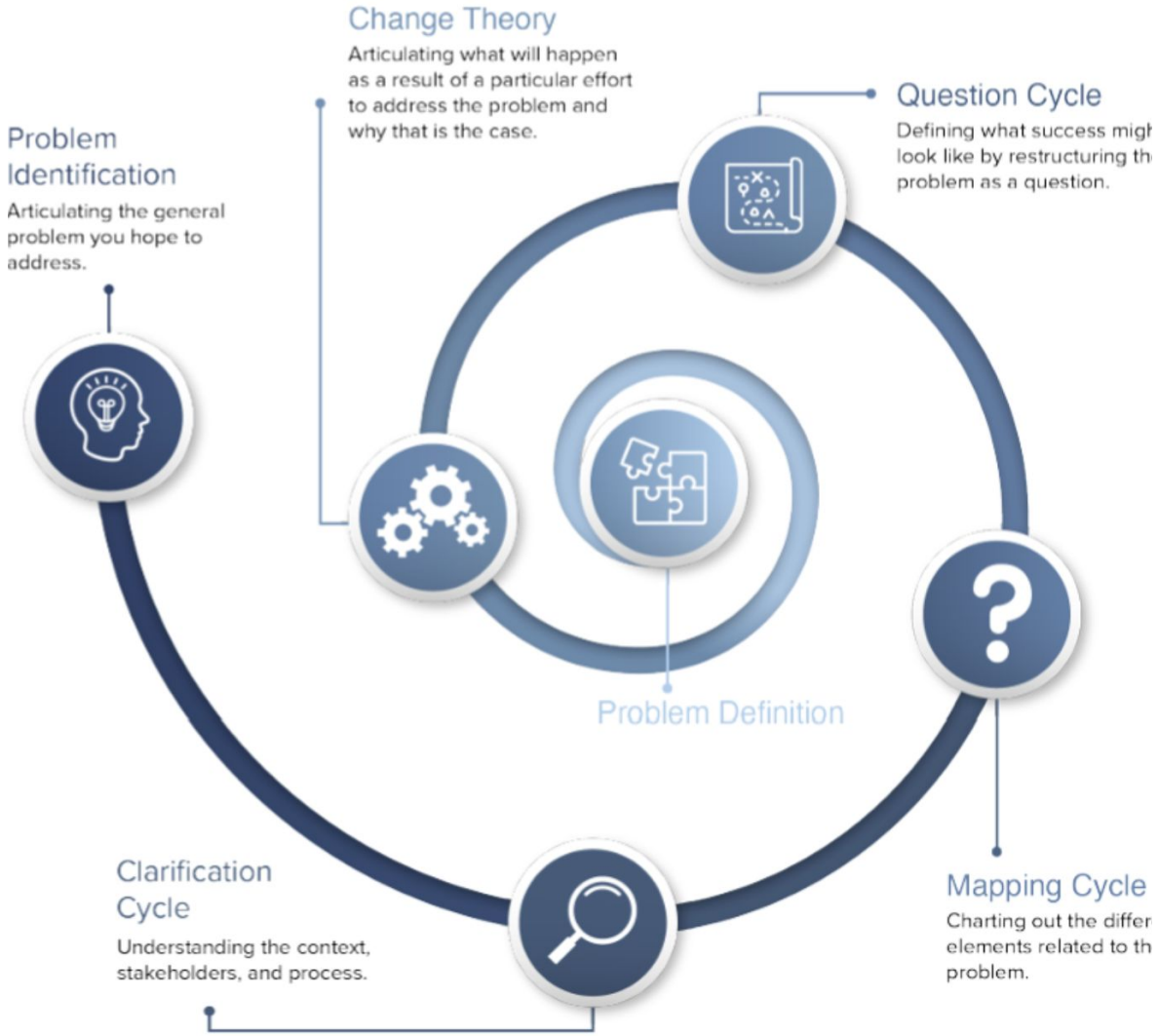
Data-Informed Problem Definition



Open Data Policy Lab

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Pursuing a Mission Question

Our Mission Question: How can we use data to support the evolution of Vermont's economy towards a thriving future full of opportunity for all?

Developing an economic action plan

- Data-informed
- Building on existing work
- Consensus on a framework and targets

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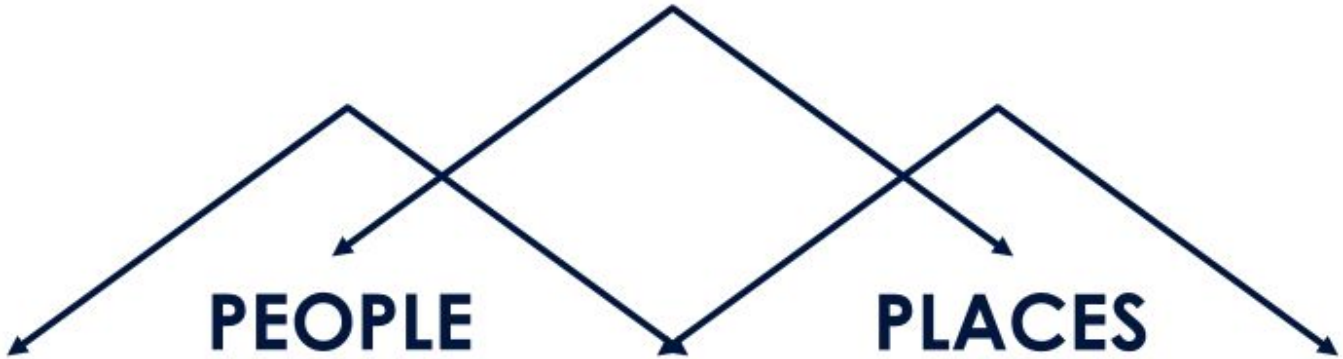
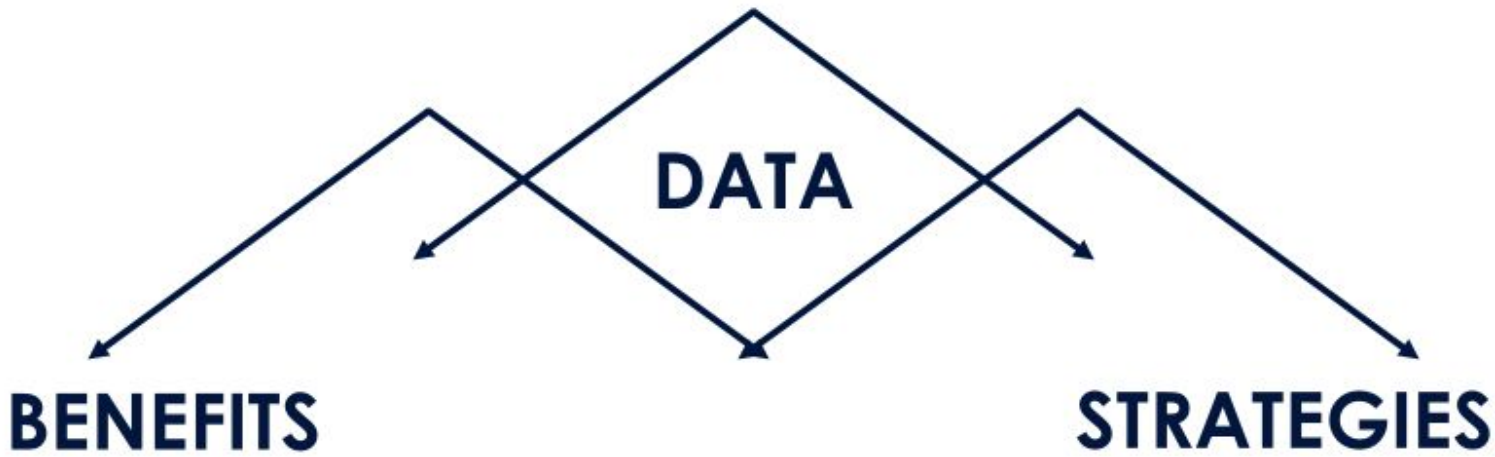
VERMONT'S FUTURE



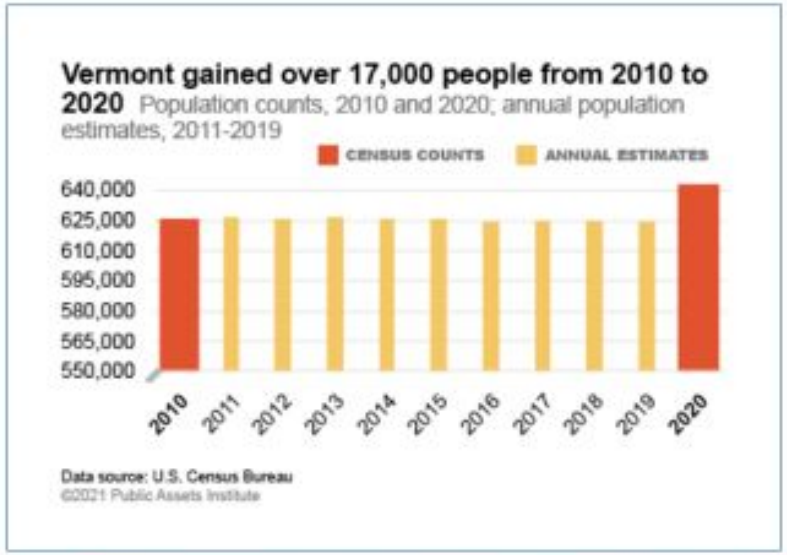
PEOPLE | PLACES



Asking Better Questions

US Census 2020: Vermont is growing older

... and we don't know what we want to be when we grow up!



Sound alarm on demographics

Public Assets Institute Vermonters can stop sounding the alarm about a dwindling population. The state gained 17,336 people in the last decade, according to the 2020 US Decennial Census. While Vermont's 2.8 percent growth is lower than the 7.4 percent national increase, it is not the slight population drop suggested by estimates made yearly by the Census.

Screenshot from Vermont Biz, annotations by Vermont Futures Project

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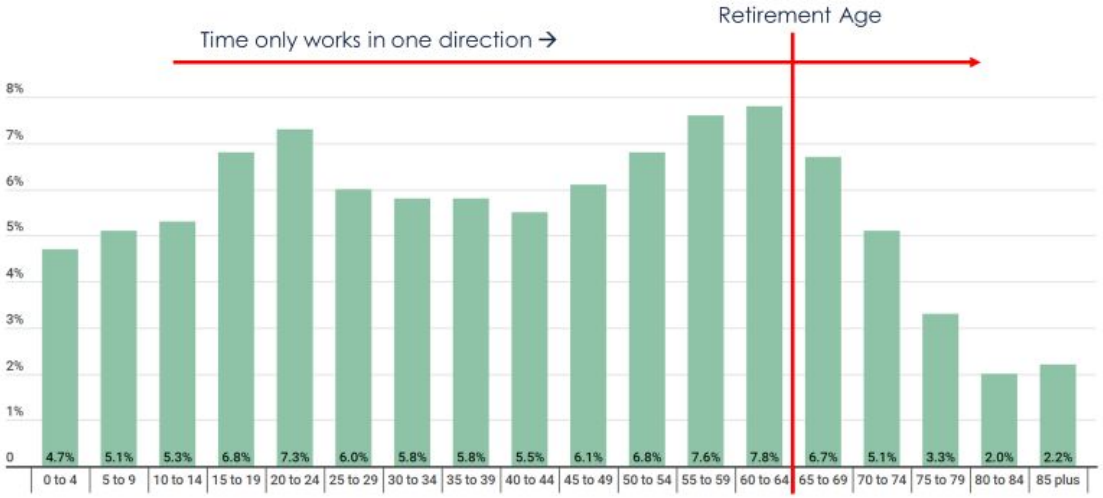
Vermont Needs More People. More People Need Vermont.

Data → Information → Knowledge → Wisdom

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF VERMONT'S POPULATION



Source: US Census Bureau data compiled by Vermont Futures Project

WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

What if every unemployed person in Vermont found a job?

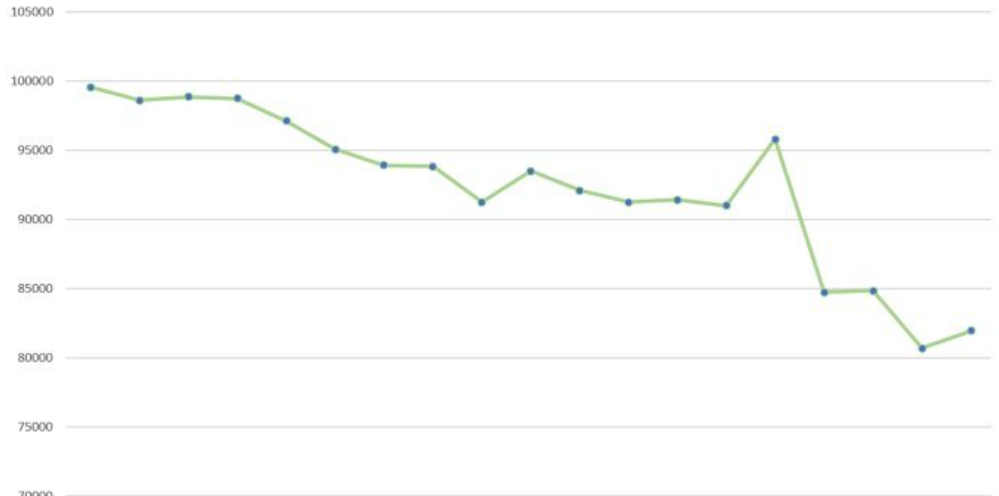
20,000 open jobs – 10,000 job seekers = 10,000 remaining jobs still open

Vermont - Unemployed Persons per Job Opening Ratio

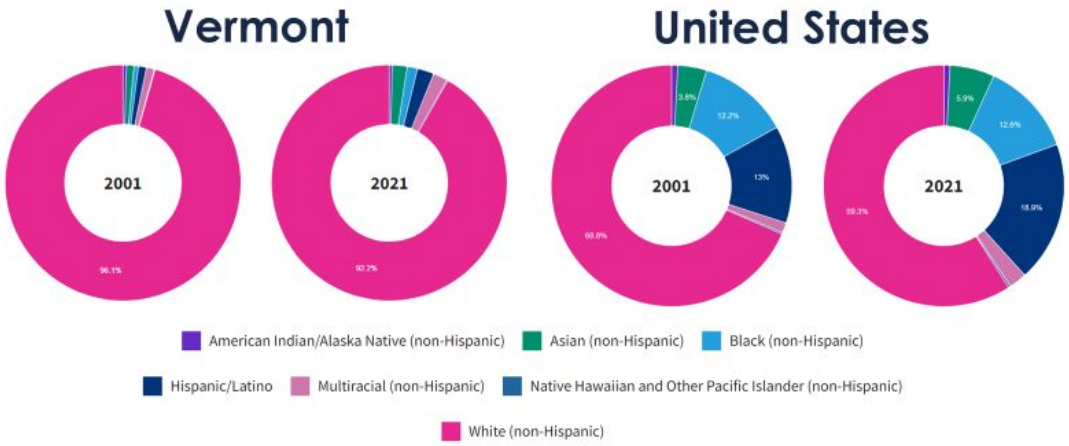
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.8
2013	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.4
2014	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
2015	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
2016	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
2017	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
2018	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2019	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
2020	0.5	0.6	0.7	4.0	2.5	2.0	2.7	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9
2021	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
2022	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4

Table: Vermont Futures Project • Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics • Get the data • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

TOTAL PRE-K TO 12TH GRADE ENROLLMENT



RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION



Data Resources: Federal

- Open data platforms like data.gov
- Can help you access resources like:
  - Bureau of Economic Analysis
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics
  - Census Bureau

Others?

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Data Resources: State

State Agencies

Department of Labor

Vermont Center for Geographic Information

ANR Atlas

Organizations

VT Futures Project

Building Bright Futures

Advance VT

Vermont Housing and Finance Agency

University Resources

UVM Office of Engagement

Center for Rural Studies

Others?

Opportunities for Building VT's Data-Informed Decision Making Capacity

Networks and collaboration

Building data literacy

Shared vision and targets

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Discussion

- Reflections on today's presentation
- What types of resources at the state and local levels would feel useful to you?
- How could you begin to incorporate data-informed decision making into your current processes?
- What are the major barriers?
- How can we help each other?

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Keep in Touch!

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you on building data-informed approaches to your work!

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