

# InPlace: Covid & Commuting

NCSG



Middletown, MD

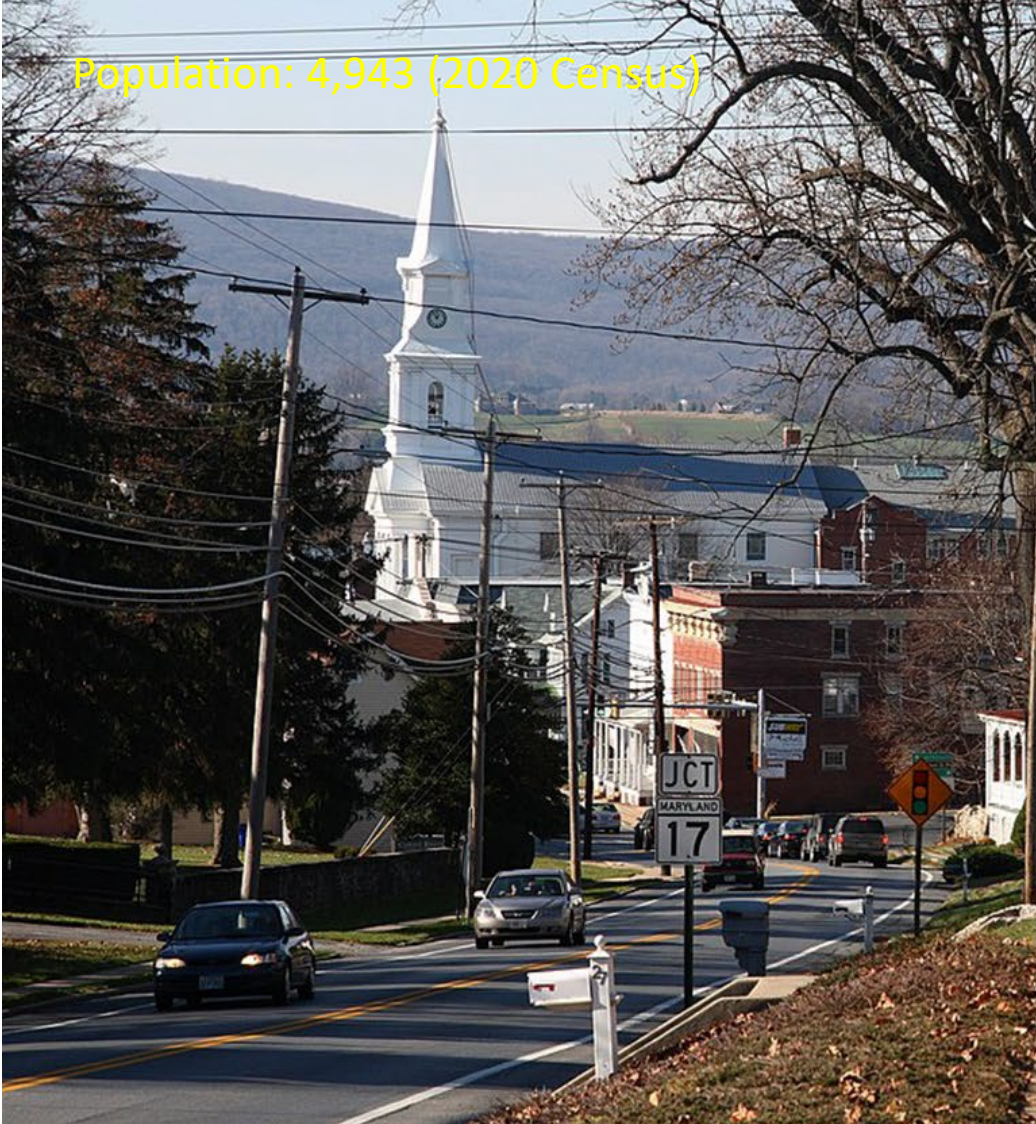


North Beach, MD



# Middletown, MD

Population: 4,943 (2020 Census)



# North Beach, MD

Population: 2,146 (2020 Census)

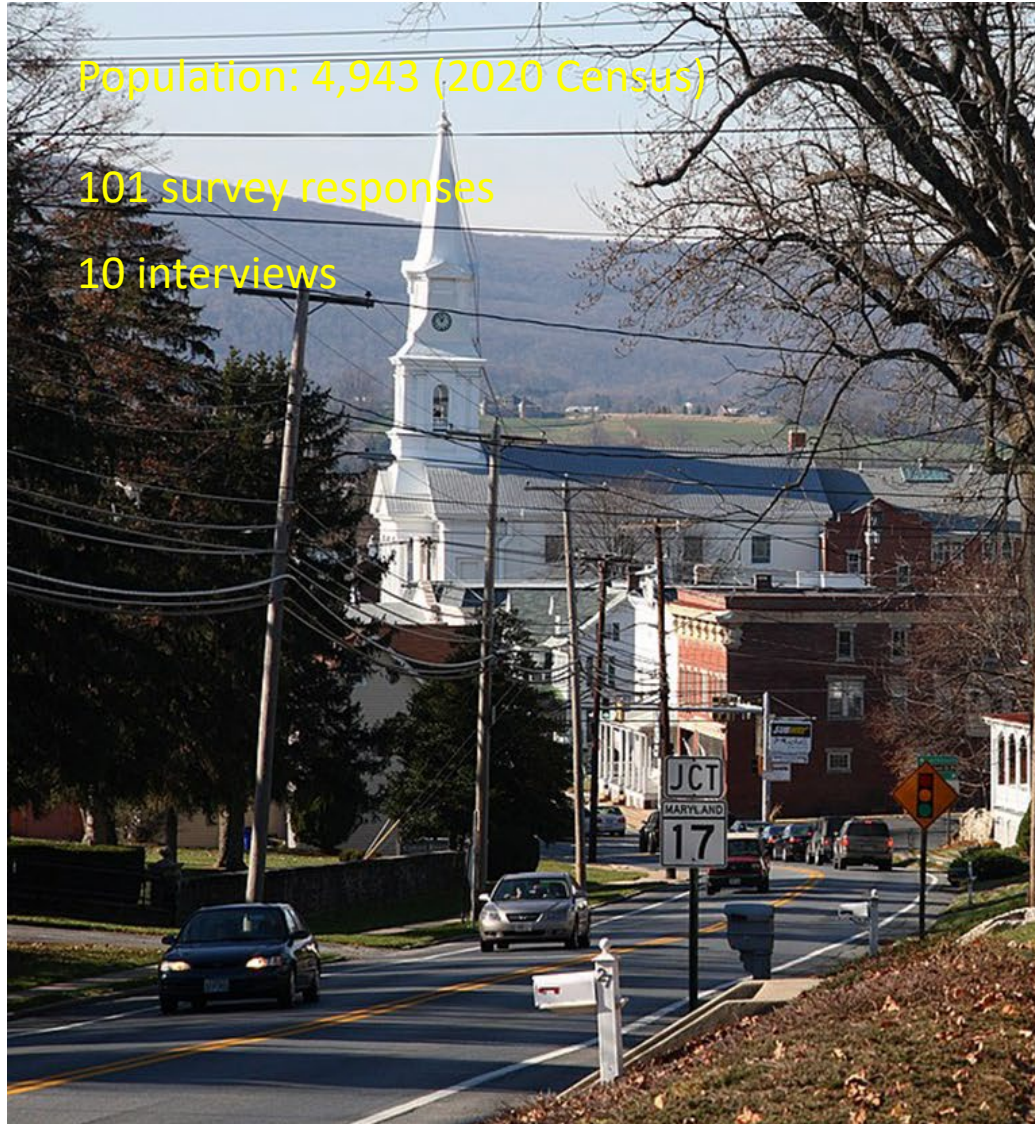


## Middletown, MD

Population: 4,943 (2020 Census)

101 survey responses

10 interviews

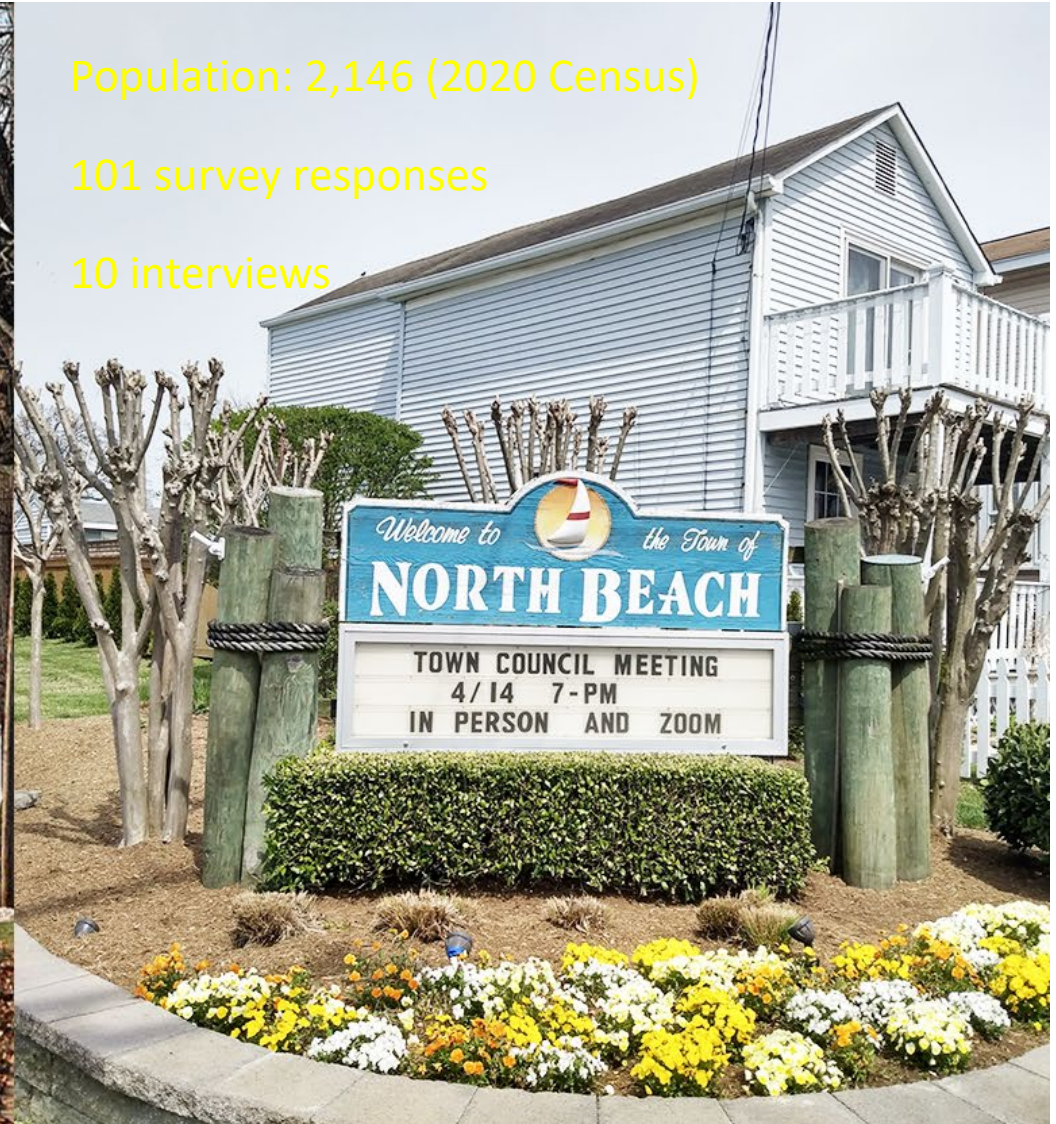


## North Beach, MD

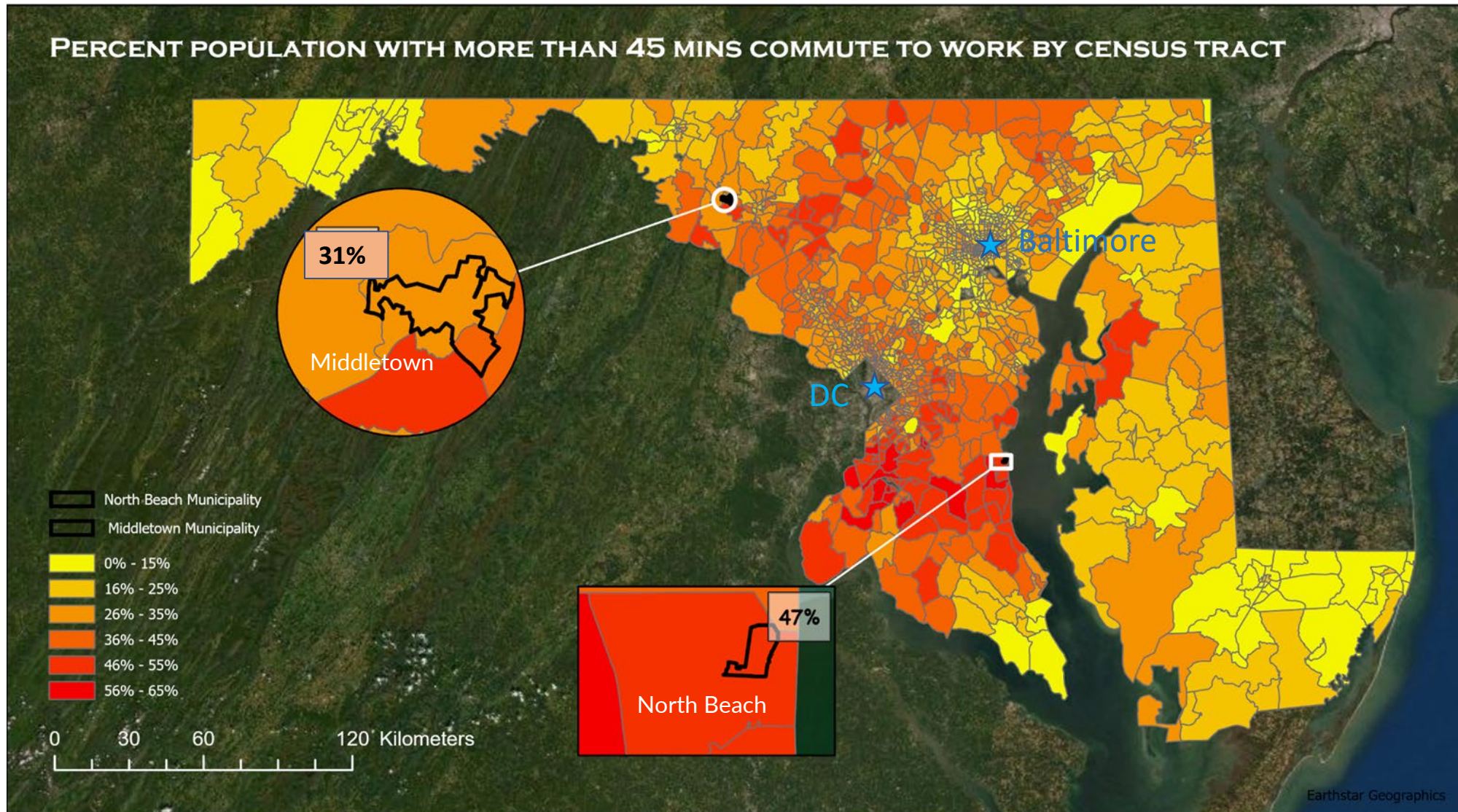
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# COMMUTING CHARACTERISTICS (ACS 2019)



# The Place Standard: How residents feel about their place





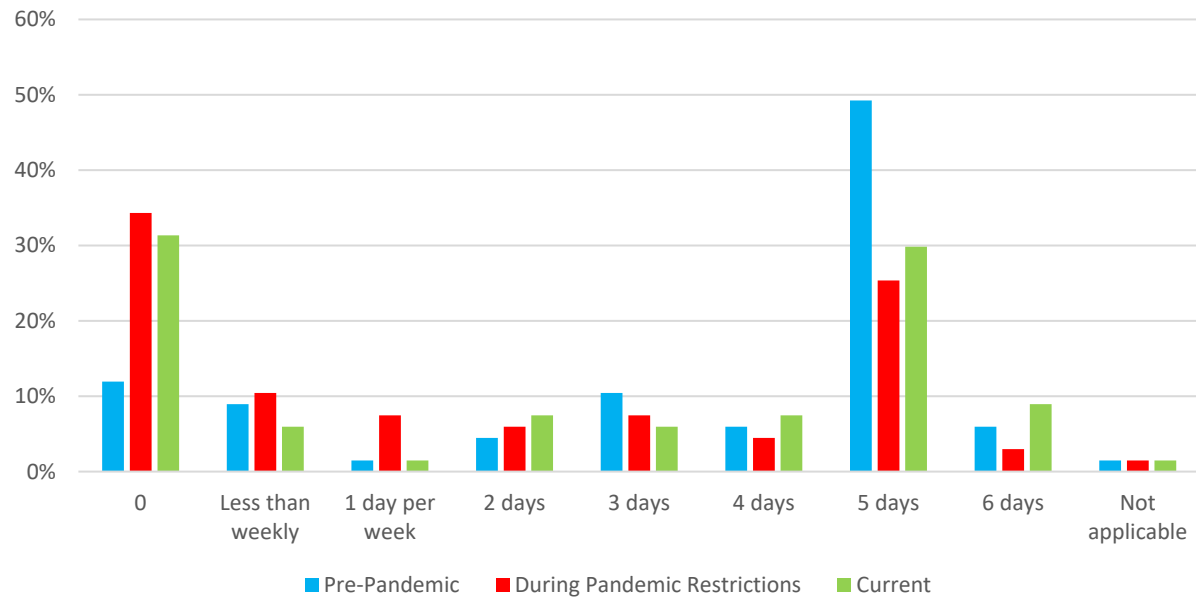
## From the Interviews: Walkability and Nature

“I love living in a small little beach town. And I really like the people here. It's a nice, nice mix of people, you know, young and old, everything in between. And I just like the feel; I love being near the water. When we bought this house -- we knew it was going to be North Beach if we could, and one other criteria, the top one probably was that we had to be able to walk to the boardwalk and all the stuff down there. And, and we did, we can it's only a five minute walk maybe. So I just really like it, like the small town, beach town feel. And that's probably the biggest draw for me.”

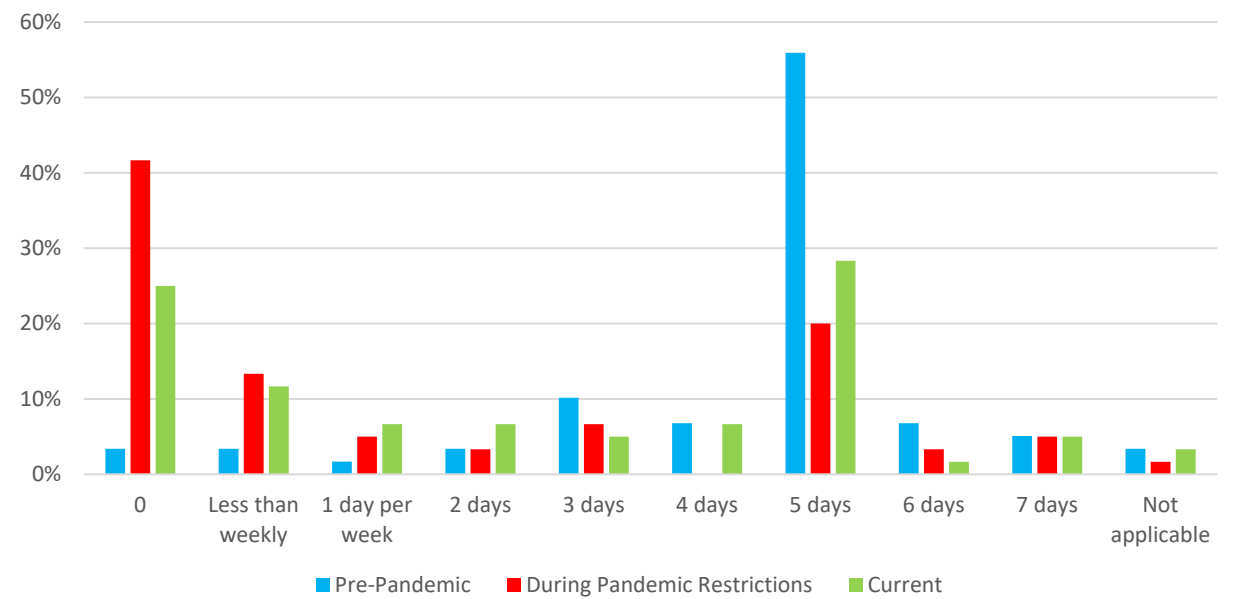
-North Beach resident, female, 50s, meeting professional/event planner

# Commute Days Per Week

Middletown



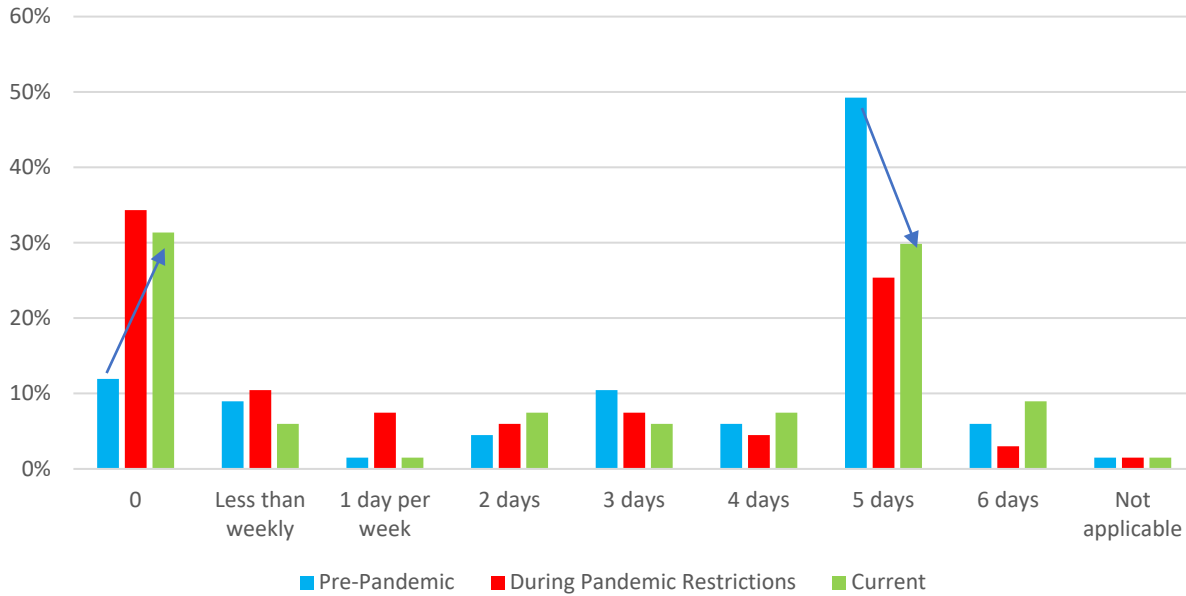
North Beach



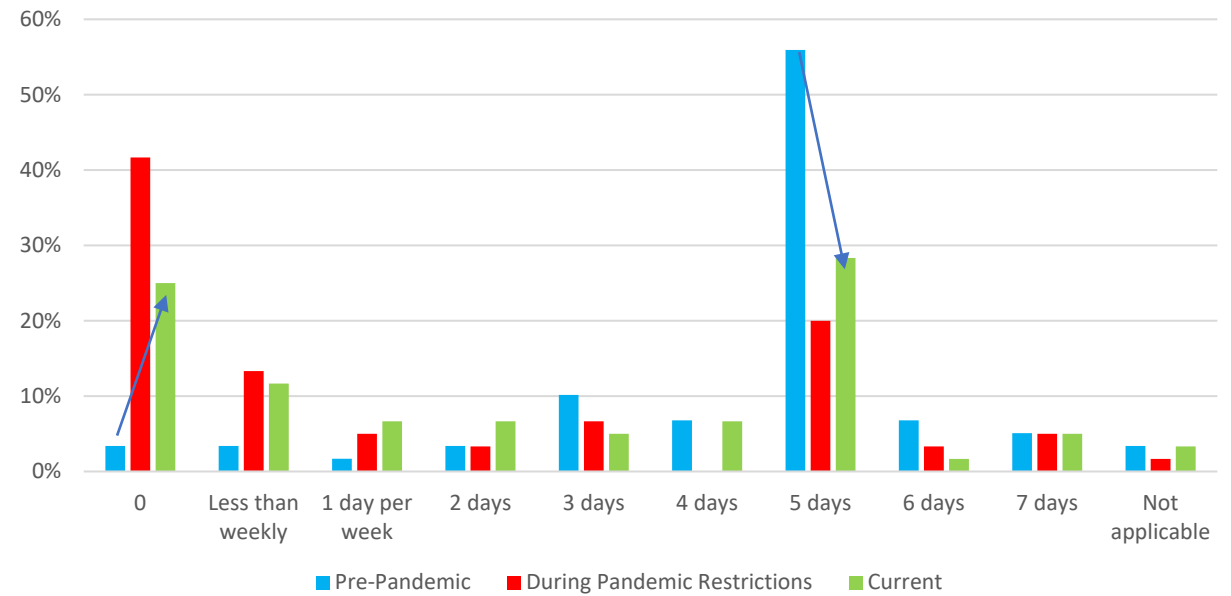


# Commute Days Per Week

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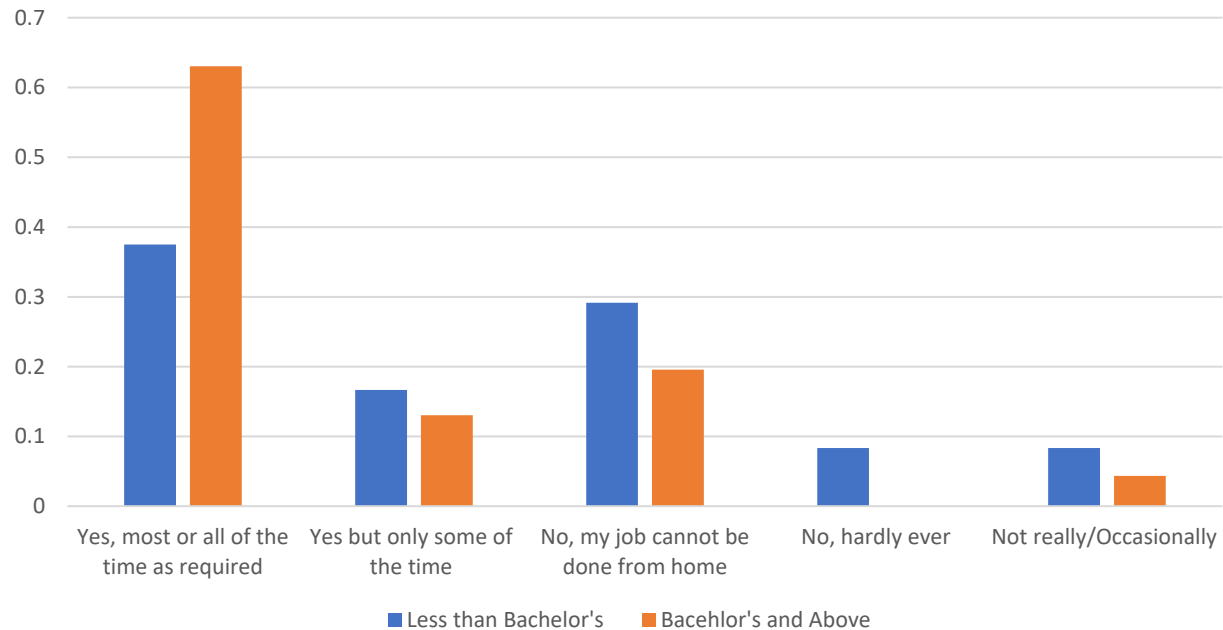


North Beach

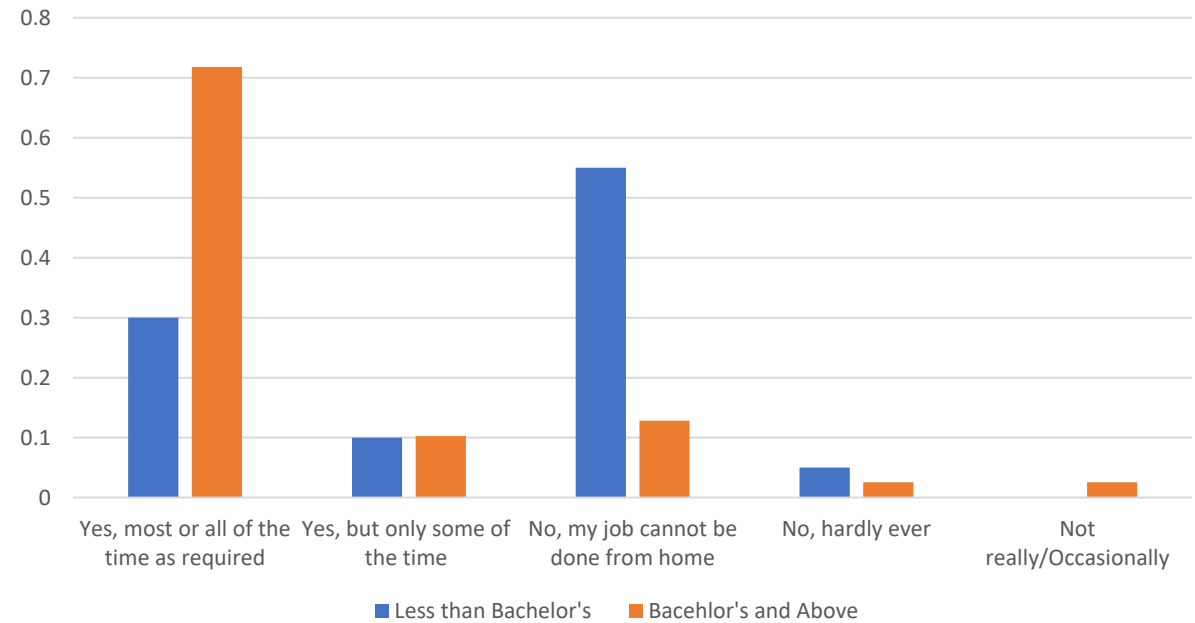


# Ability to work from home during the pandemic by education level

Middletown: Were you able to work from home?

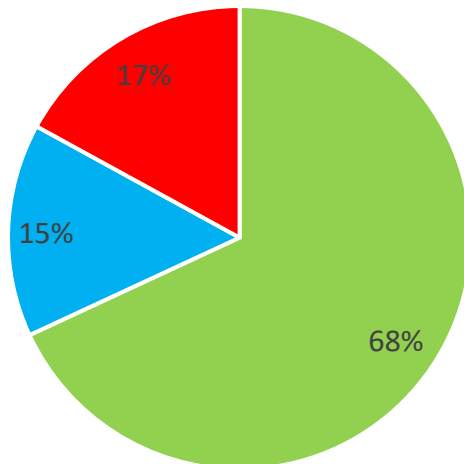


North Beach: Were you able to work from home?



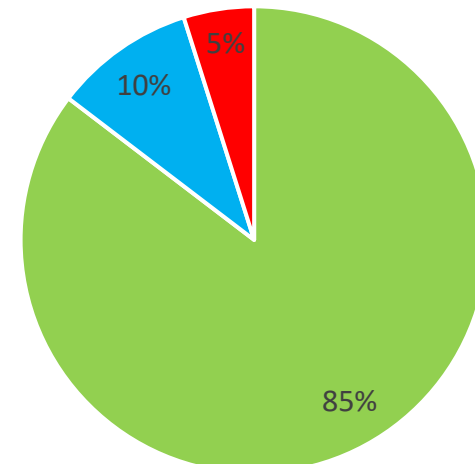
# Can you see yourself working remote in the future?

Middletown: Can you see yourself continuing at home/remote working in the future?



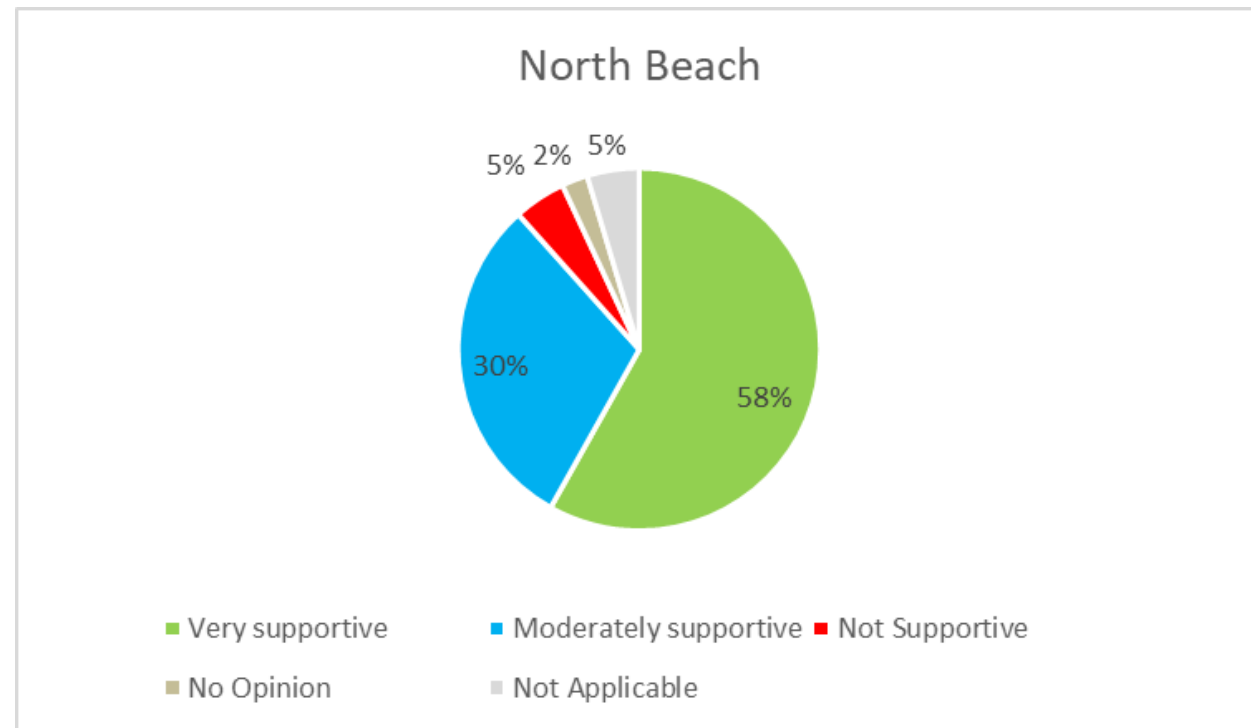
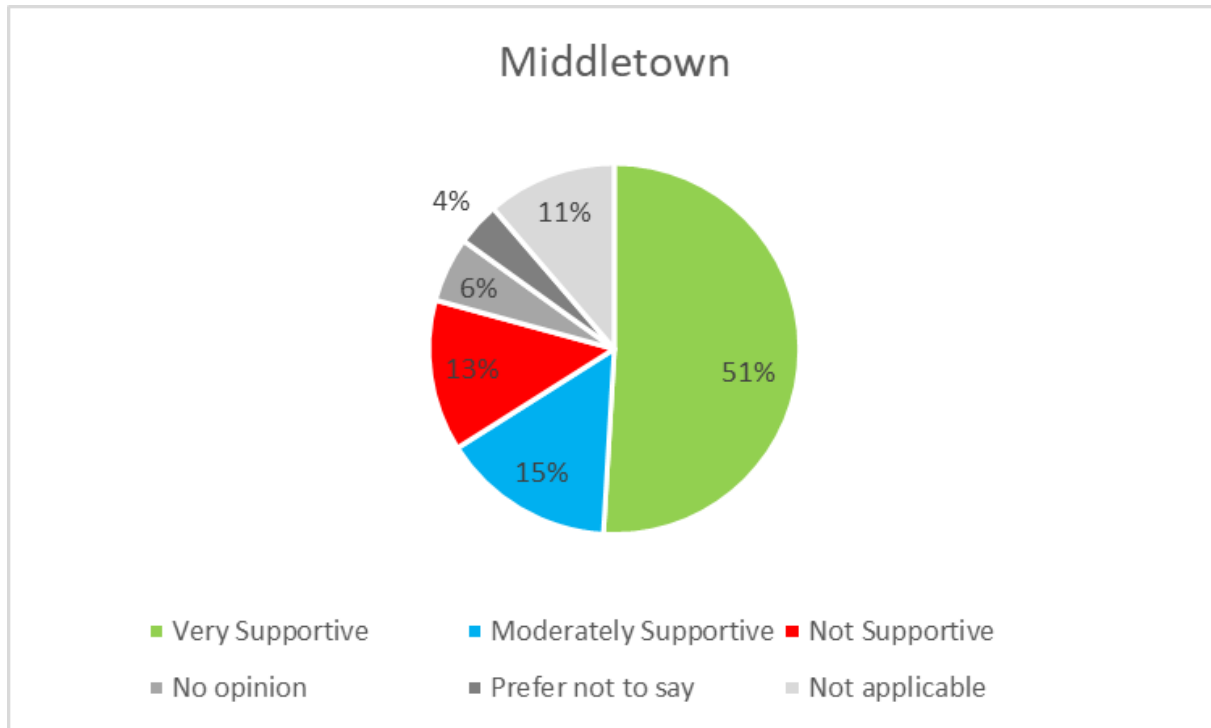
■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No

North Beach: Can you see yourself continuing at home/remote working in the future?



■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No

# How supportive is your employer of remote work?





# Interviews: Office Changes

“And then when COVID happened, and they were like, okay, everybody go home, we all felt pretty prepared for it because we'd been doing it once in a while. And then our lease went up for our office, our lease came due. And we talked, you know, met as staff and my boss decided that we're going to stay remote. So we went from a....five office space....it was a suite, you know, in an office building. And we went from that to a basically a one room office which is in the same building across the hall, so that if we do need to meet together we can.”


–North Beach resident, female, 50s, Meeting Professional/Event Planner



# Interview Stories: Residential Mobility

“So during the pandemic, we were 100% remote, and that's been the last two and a half years. And that was a huge, actually, reason we decided to move, is because, well, I falsely believed that they would just keep us remote. Everybody else knew that they, we would probably go back to once a week, but we decided, even if it was once a week, it's fine. We can manage once a week. Otherwise, I would not be living in this area because I would not want to do this commute, like, on a daily basis ever, so, but there definitely has been push back. But before the pandemic, I was in Minnesota, and I was not a full time remote, I would go to the office like three or four times a week.”

-Middletown resident, female, 30s, Tax Accountant



# Interview Stories: Hybrid Schedules

“We used to do a five days a week. Ever since COVID, we've, we've switched to a four day... we run our factory four 10-hour days instead of five eight-hour days. So us office folks come in four days a week and then we work at home on Fridays.”

-Middletown resident, male, 50s, Senior Engineering Manager



# Key Takeaways & Further Questions:

- The two towns are experiencing telecommuting above the national average. Could this be a general trend for towns with high levels of pre-pandemic commuting?
- Will towns that are highly regarded experience higher levels of telecommuting? (i.e., because people enjoy staying home?)
- How common are experiences like that of the Middletown resident who moved because of telecommuting?





# Thank you!

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