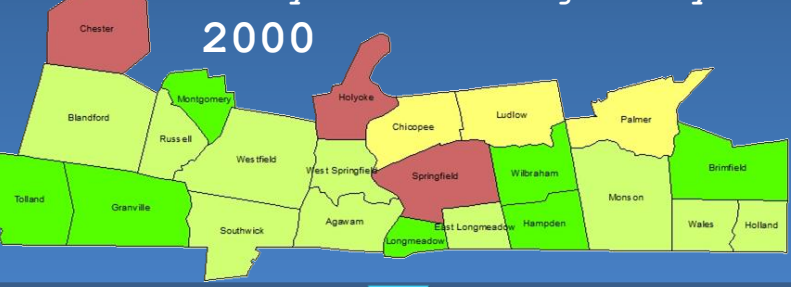


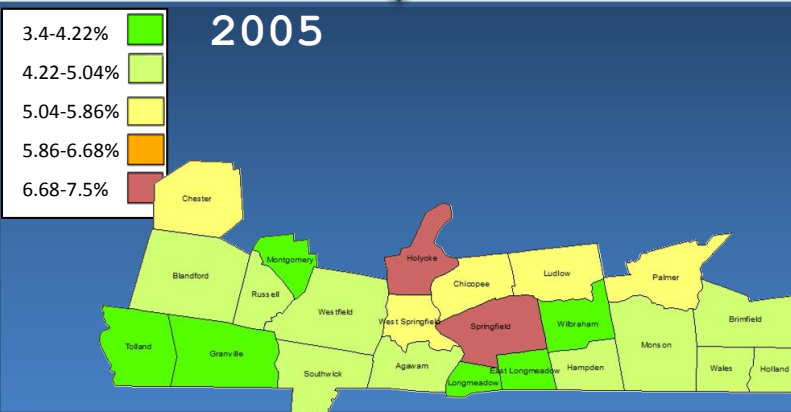
# Unemployment Rate; Hampden County

2.1-2.6%  
2.6-3.1%  
3.1-3.6%  
3.6-4.1%  
4.1-4.6%

For the years 2000, 2005, and 2010, unemployment rate is shown as a percentage of each town's population and color is determined with relative to the unemployment rates in the county for the given year.



2000



2005

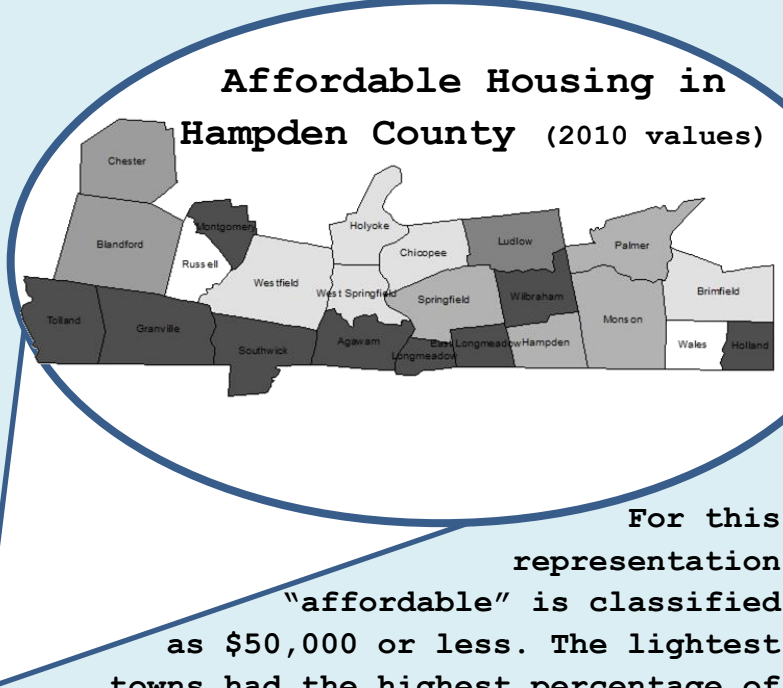


2010

It is worth noting that, although the unemployment rate continues to rise in Hampden county, affordable housing is still hard to come by (even in towns like Granville that have fallen from one of the lowest rates to middle of the pack over ten years).

# UNEMPLOYMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING: AN ARGUMENT FOR INCLUSIONARY PLANNING

Without inclusionary planning policies in place, the poor and the unemployed are limited to living in areas where there is affordable housing. This inflates the poverty rates in urban centers, contributes to blight, and decreases property values - creating a self-perpetuating circle of poverty in cities when there are not affordable housing options in nearby suburbs.



For this representation "affordable" is classified as \$50,000 or less. The lightest towns had the highest percentage of affordable homes and the darkest shaded towns had the smallest percentage of affordable homes. Of the seven towns in the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile with regard to unemployment statistics for Hampden in 2010, 71% had more than 2.5% of homes valued at \$50,000 or less. Of the towns in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, 100% had less than 1% of homes valued at \$50,000 or less. This kind of trend makes it difficult for cities like Holyoke to tackle unemployment and poverty levels as those who need low income housing in Hampden have few other options.