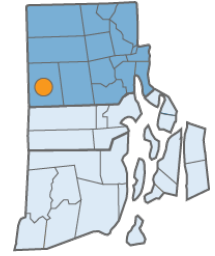


## Foster (Providence)

Foster is a town in Providence County with a population of 4,606. Foster contains Rhode Island's highest point, Jerimoth Hill, with an elevation of 248 m (812 ft). About 13% of Foster residents are age 65 or older. Older residents in Foster fare better than state estimates on some health indicators (lower rates of high cholesterol, diabetes, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, osteoporosis, cataract, and anemia) and worse on other indicators (lower rates of preventive screening and immunizations for flu and shingles). Tri-Town Community Action agency provides assessments for seniors needing home and community services and case management for seniors receiving state-funded home and community services. Age-friendly community resources include the Recreation Department that offers yoga, Zumba and flower arranging classes as well as the Woody Lowden recreational facility, which includes a walking track. A Department of Elderly Affairs grant provides funds for senior food vouchers, snow removal, fuel, medical, transportation and housing assistance. Foster has two libraries which offer book clubs. Residents age 60 and older are significantly less likely than state estimates to volunteer or attend community events.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
Total population all ages	4,606	1,052,567
Population 60 years or older as % of total population	19.6%	20.6%
Total population 60 years or older	905	217,066
Population 65 years or older as % of total population	13.2%	14.8%
Total population 65 years or older	611	155,558
% 65-74 years	66.6%	50.4%
% 75-84 years	17.3%	32.0%
% 85 years or older	16.0%	17.6%
Gender (65+ population)		
% female	57.1%	58.4%
Race/Ethnicity (65+ population)		
% White	97.2%	93.0%
% African American	2.8%	2.6%
% Asian	0.0%	1.3%
% Other	0.0%	3.2%
% Hispanic/Latino	0.0%	3.7%
Marital Status (65+ population)		
% married	67.6%	50.1%
% divorced/separated	7.9%	12.6%
% widowed	20.1%	30.8%
% never married	4.4%	6.4%
Education (65+ population)		
% with less than high school education	30.0%	26.8%
% with high school or some college	51.4%	50.7%
% with college degree	18.7%	22.5%
% of 60+ LGBT	2.1%	2.0%
% of 65+ population living alone	13.1%	30.4%
% of 65+ population who speak only English at home	93.0%	81.7%
% of 65+ population who are veterans of military service	30.8%	22.7%
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate	5.3%	4.8%

<b>HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS</b>	<b>BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNITY ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>STATE ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Geographic Migration (65+ population)</b>			
% moved within same county		3.9%	3.5%
% moved from different county in Rhode Island		0.0%	0.8%
% moved from different state		0.7%	1.1%
% 60+ lived at same address 25 years or more		51.0%	48.1%
<b>WELLNESS and PREVENTION</b>			
% any physical activity within last month		68.1%	70.0%
% injured by a fall within last year		13.5%	10.0%
% ever had a hip fracture		3.2%	3.9%
% with self-reported fair or poor health status		21.4%	20.4%
% with 15+ physically unhealthy days last month		14.9%	13.9%
% with physical exam/check-up in past year		90.4%	91.9%
% met CDC preventive health screening goals	W	30.6%	39.5%
% flu shot past year	w	52.9%	59.1%
% pneumonia vaccine		69.2%	73.8%
% shingles vaccine	W	23.3%	30.3%
% cholesterol screening		90.1%	88.4%
% mammogram within last 2 years (women)		80.9%	81.8%
% colorectal cancer screening		74.0%	76.1%
<b>Oral Health</b>			
% with complete tooth loss		35.1%	32.4%
% with annual dental exam		72.7%	74.7%
# dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages)		22	58
<b>NUTRITION/DIET</b>			
% with 5 or more servings of fruit or vegetables per day		20.3%	23.0%
% obese		30.1%	25.4%
% high cholesterol	B	73.1%	78.0%
% current smokers		11.1%	8.9%
% excessive drinking		9.0%	8.9%
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>			
% with 15+ days poor mental health last month		9.0%	7.5%
% 60+ talked with family or friends almost daily		72.3%	75.3%
% ever diagnosed with depression		28.3%	30.0%
<b>CHRONIC DISEASE</b>			
% with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias		13.9%	14.4%
% with diabetes	B	28.8%	35.7%
% with stroke	B	8.8%	12.5%
% with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	B	17.9%	24.1%
% with asthma		13.0%	14.0%

<b>HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS</b>	<b>BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNITY ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>STATE ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup></b>
% with hypertension	B	72.6%	79.0%
% ever had a heart attack		4.6%	5.4%
% with ischemic heart disease	B	38.6%	45.9%
% with congestive heart failure		20.7%	24.8%
% with atrial fibrillation		12.6%	15.2%
% with osteoarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis		48.1%	52.0%
% with osteoporosis	B	15.0%	21.0%
% with glaucoma		24.7%	26.6%
% with cataract	B	61.4%	67.9%
% women with breast cancer		12.7%	10.7%
% with colon cancer		3.8%	3.2%
% men with prostate cancer		9.5%	13.8%
% with lung cancer		2.2%	2.1%
% with hypothyroidism		21.3%	21.1%
% with anemia	B	43.6%	52.2%
% with benign prostatic hyperplasia		35.3%	40.3%
% with chronic kidney disease		20.4%	23.3%
<b>Summary chronic disease measures</b>			
% with 4+ chronic conditions	B	52.3%	63.9%
% with 0 chronic conditions		11.0%	8.4%
<b>LIVING WITH DISABILITY</b>			
% 65+ with hearing difficulty		24.1%	13.8%
% 65+ with vision difficulty		7.7%	5.2%
% 65+ with cognition difficulty		3.9%	7.8%
% 65+ with ambulatory difficulty		12.4%	19.9%
% 65+ with self-care difficulty		1.8%	6.6%
% 65+ with independent living difficulty		4.6%	13.7%
<b>ACCESS TO CARE</b>			
<b>Medicare (65+ population)</b>			
% Medicare managed care enrollees		39.0%	39.4%
% dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	9.2%	14.6%
% with a regular doctor		96.9%	96.5%
% did not see a doctor when needed due to cost		6.7%	6.3%
# of primary care providers (within 5 miles)		0	1,566
# of hospitals (within 5 miles)		0	11
# of nursing homes (within 5 miles)		1	84
# of home health agencies (in same town)		15	38

<b>HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS</b>	<b>BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNITY ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>STATE ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>SERVICE UTILIZATION</b>			
Physician visits per year	*	6.3	8.0
Emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years per year		527	628
Part D monthly prescription fills per person per year	*	48.3	54.2
Home health visits per year		3.7	3.7
Durable medical equipment claims per year		1.5	2.0
Inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years per year		257	284
Inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		12.0%	16.9%
Skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years per year		72	100
Total skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		24	52
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports		4.1%	6.2%
<b>COMMUNITY VARIABLES &amp; CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</b>			
Air Pollution/Air Quality Index			
Annual # of unhealthy days for older adults		1	NA
Walkability of Community			
Walkability score (0-100)		7	NA
% of vacant housing units in community		4.7%	11.3%
% 60+ who are satisfied with neighborhood	B	86.4%	80.0%
# of registered voters (age 18+)		3,798	725,309
Voter participation rate in 2012 presidential election (age 18+)		64.3%	61.5%
% 60+ who believe local service orgs understand needs		43.6%	44.1%
% 60+ who believe he/she can make a difference	w	45.6%	51.6%
% 60+ who believe working together can make a difference		77.9%	81.0%
% 60+ who volunteer at least once per month	W	17.5%	22.8%
% 60+ who attend community events (e.g., church, club) at least once per month	w	38.3%	44.2%
<b>SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Violent crime rate / 100,000 persons		64	253
Property crime rate / 100,000 persons		815	2,394
# of motor vehicle fatalities involving adult age 60+/town		0	90
# of motor vehicle fatalities involving adult age 60+/county		40	90
# of alternative transportation programs by county		26	43
Municipal senior transportation available		No	NA
Volunteer driver programs available		NA	NA

## HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS

COMMUNITY  
ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup>

STATE  
ESTIMATE<sup>2</sup>

### ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

#### Poverty (65+ Population)

% with income below the poverty level past year	4.9%	8.6%
% 60+ receiving food stamps past year	2.4%	11.9%
% 65+ working past year	27.2%	16.3%

#### Household income (65+ householder)

% households with annual income < \$20,000	13.7%	28.0%
% households with annual income \$20,000-49,999	26.0%	34.2%
% households with annual income ≥ \$50,000	60.3%	37.7%
% 60+ own home	50.5%	43.9%
% 60+ homeowners with mortgage	58.4%	45.3%

### COST OF LIVING

\$ COUNTY  
ESTIMATE

\$ STATE  
ESTIMATE

RATIO OF COUNTY  
TO STATE

#### Elder Economic Security Standard Index

Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health	\$21,732	\$22,188	0.98
Single, renter, good health	\$23,352	\$23,544	0.99
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health	\$31,896	\$32,352	0.99
Couple, renter, good health	\$33,516	\$33,708	0.99

TECHNICAL NOTES: Read our technical report for information on data sources and methodology at <http://healthyagingdatareports.org/ri/technicalreport>.

<sup>1</sup> For most indicators the community and state values are both statistical estimates derived from sample data. Thus, it is possible that some of the differences between state and community estimates may be due to chance associated with population sampling. We use the terms “better” and “worse” to highlight differences between community and state estimates that we are confident are not due to chance. When an upper case letter is used the 95% confidence intervals were used, the lowercase indicates a 90% confidence interval. When the implication for healthy aging is unclear we use an “.”

<sup>2</sup> “C” indicates that the community rate is censored due to inadequate sample size and “NA” indicates that the data were not available.

#### Other notes:

- We used a hierarchical approach to reporting estimates for every city/town in Rhode Island when data allow. In other cases, we could only report indicators for aggregated areas (e.g., cities and towns with similar demographic and socioeconomic population composition were combined for some indicators and counties were used for others). The same estimate is reported for all cities/towns within aggregated geographic areas.
- Total population estimates are from the 2010 Census and are reported for the 41 geographic units. Other population characteristic estimates are from the American Community Survey (ACS) (2009-2013) and are reported for 41 geographic units. Note that % may not add up to 100% due to rounding error.
- Mortality rate, specific chronic disease, access and utilization estimates are for beneficiaries 65 years or older in 2013 from the 2012 and 2013 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Master Beneficiary Summary File (MBSF).
- The 2009-2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the source for wellness, health behavior, and some prevention estimates. BRFSS indicators were estimated for persons 60 years or older for 14 aggregated geographic areas derived by combining cities and towns with similar population composition. The same rate is reported for all cities/towns within the same unit.
- Access to care data pertaining to the # of primary care providers, hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies were obtained from the following CMS websites: <http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>, <http://www.medicare.gov/homehealthcompare/search.html>, <http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html>, <http://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare/results.html>. The dentist data come from the RI Department of Health (<http://www.health.ri.gov/find/oralhealthservices/>).
- Walkability Estimates were downloaded from <http://www.walkscore.com/> using the finder term “city/town name, Rhode Island.”
- Air pollution/air quality estimates are from the US Environmental Protection Agency reported for 3 RI counties for older adults with no specific health concerns (2015). The same rate is reported for cities/towns within the same county.
- 2012 voter participation data from the Rhode Island Board of Elections.
- Crime estimates are from 2013 FBI Uniform Crime Reports (<http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/crimestats>).
- Data on fatal auto (driver, passenger) and pedestrian accidents for persons age 60+ is from the Fatal Accident Reporting System of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2009-2013), reported at the town and county level.
- The housing, migration, and income indicators are from the ACS (2009-2013) and are reported for individual cities/towns.
- The 2016 Elder Economic Security Standard Index estimates were obtained from researchers at the University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging.
- Our research team: Elizabeth Dugan, Frank Porell and Nina Silverstein. Graduate Student researchers included: Chae Man Lee, Hyo Jung Lee, Bon Kim, and Krystal Kittle. We thank Amanda Cox from the [NYTimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) for data visualizations; and Maureen Maigret for sharing data on municipal senior transportation and volunteer driver programs collected by Mensel & Maigret (April, 2016). Please send your questions, comments, or ideas to [beth.dugan@umb.edu](mailto:beth.dugan@umb.edu). Let us know how you are using the Data Report in your community!