

Bristol (Bristol)

Bristol is a town in Bristol County with 4,623 residents aged 65 and older. Compared to state average rates, older residents demonstrate lower rates of tooth loss, congestive heart failure (CHF), and tobacco use disorders. However, they have higher rates of benign prostatic hyperplasia, cataract, and osteoporosis. They are more likely to take the health promotion steps of getting adequate sleep, engaging in physical activity, meeting the CDC guidelines for aerobic activity, having a regular doctor, and having an annual dental exam. Community resources to support healthy aging include an adult day health center, one assisted living facility, one public library, one senior center, two skilled nursing facilities, an Alzheimer's caregiver support group, and five primary care providers. Bristol is designated as an AARP Age-Friendly Community.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
Total population (all ages)		22,420	1,094,250
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		27.5%	25.0%
Total population 60 years and older		6,158	273,831
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		20.6%	17.9%
Total population 65 years and older		4,623	195,378
% 65-74 years		54.0%	57.8%
% 75-84 years		26.3%	29.0%
% 85 years or older	*	19.7%	13.2%
% 65+ population who are female		54.2%	56.3%
% 85+ population who are female	*	48.8%	67.8%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White	*	97.0%	88.6%
% African American	*	0.5%	3.1%
% Asian		1.0%	1.8%
% Other race(s)	*	1.5%	6.5%
% Hispanic	*	0.7%	5.9%
# 55+ who are Native American / Alaskan		5	832
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married	*	57.1%	51.6%
% divorced/separated	*	10.8%	16.9%
% widowed		24.3%	22.2%
% never married		7.7%	9.3%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education		11.9%	14.9%
% with high school or some college		48.9%	53.3%
% with college degree		17.1%	15.9%
% with graduate or professional degree	*	22.1%	16.0%
% 65+ population who speak only English at home		79.9%	83.3%
% 65+ population who are veterans of military service		18.2%	14.6%
% 60+ LGBT		4.4%	4.3%

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
HOUSING			
% 65+ population who live alone		27.1%	29.3%
Average household size (all ages)	*	2.3	2.4
Median house value (all ages)	*	\$426,000	\$343,100
% 60+ own home	*	79.6%	71.7%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage		48.4%	48.4%
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing		42.7%	38.9%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing		22.5%	25.2%
% grandparents who live with grandchildren		3.3%	2.8%
# of assisted living sites		1	63
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH			
COST OF LIVING			
Elder Index			
Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	1.08	\$29,244	\$27,168
Single, renter, good health (County)	1.01	\$30,420	\$30,216
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	1.06	\$41,520	\$39,264
Couple, renter, good health (County)	1.01	\$42,696	\$42,312
ECONOMIC			
% 60+ receiving food stamps in past year	*	4.0%	14.7%
% 65+ employed in past year		19.4%	19.2%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in past year	*	3.7%	10.7%
Median annual income for households with a householder age 65+	*	\$79,808	\$56,242
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000	*	12.1%	19.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999		19.7%	26.8%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		34.1%	26.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		34.1%	28.0%
WELLNESS			
% 60+ getting the recommended hours of sleep	B	72.6%	63.1%
% 60+ doing any physical activity in past month	B	79.9%	73.5%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity		29.6%	26.1%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity	B	61.5%	55.4%
% 60+ with fair or poor self-reported health status		14.1%	17.9%
% 60+ with 15+ physically unhealthy days in past month		10.4%	13.6%
% 60+ who reported being satisfied with life		97.1%	95.5%
COMMUNITY			
Annual # unhealthy days due to air pollution for 65+ (County)		NA	NA
AARP Age-Friendly Communities		Yes	Not yet
# of public universities and community colleges		0	9
# of public libraries		1	72
# of senior centers		1	34
# of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI)		0	1
% households with a smartphone (all ages)		84.0%	85.8%
% households with only a smartphone to access Internet (all ages)	*	4.0%	8.2%

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
COMMUNITY			
% households without a computer (all ages)		7.5%	7.1%
% households with access to Broadband (all ages)		90.5%	89.2%
% households without access to the Internet (all ages)		9.4%	10.7%
% 60+ who used Internet in past month		75.6%	71.4%
Voter participation rate in 2020 election (age 18+)		70.1%	68.3%
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (County)		NA	2.1
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (County)		NA	226
# 65+ deaths by suicide (County)		NA	92
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate		4.0%	4.3%
TRANSPORTATION			
% householders 65+ who own a motor vehicle		92.1%	86.2%
% 60+ who always drive or ride wearing a seatbelt		91.5%	92.3%
% 60+ drove under influence		1.7%	1.9%
# fatal crashes involving adult age 60+ (County)		0	94
AllTransit Score		NA	2.85
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
FALLS			
% 60+ who fell in past year		23.7%	26.0%
% 60+ who were injured by a fall in past year		8.6%	10.0%
% 65+ with hip fracture		2.8%	3.1%
PREVENTION			
% 60+ with physical exam/check-up in past year		94.1%	93.0%
% 60+ flu shot in past year		70.2%	67.8%
% 60+ with pneumonia vaccine		68.5%	64.2%
% 60+ with shingles vaccine		44.0%	37.8%
% 60+ women with mammogram in past 2 years		80.1%	82.1%
% 60+ had colorectal cancer screening		70.4%	68.7%
% 60+ with HIV test	*	15.5%	23.5%
% 60+ with optimal preventive health		32.4%	32.3%
NUTRITION & DIET			
% 60+ with 5 or more servings of fruit or vegetables per day		19.7%	18.8%
% 60+ stressed about buying food in past month		9.2%	12.3%
% 60+ self-reported obese	B	20.6%	27.1%
% 65+ with high cholesterol		80.5%	79.3%
% 60+ with high cholesterol screening		96.4%	97.3%
ORAL HEALTH			
% 60+ with dental insurance		59.5%	65.1%
% 60+ with annual dental exam	B	83.8%	77.5%
# dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages) (County)		37.4	53.0
% 60+ with loss of 6+ teeth	B	18.4%	26.0%

HEALTH OUTCOMES

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias		12.2%	12.0%
% 65+ with anemia		48.7%	47.0%
% 65+ with asthma		15.5%	15.0%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation		15.1%	14.3%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)	W	47.5%	43.3%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)		13.0%	11.5%
% 65+ with cataract	W	68.4%	65.0%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease		32.2%	34.0%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		19.9%	20.8%
% 65+ with colon cancer		2.3%	2.4%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure	B	17.6%	20.0%
% 65+ with diabetes		30.3%	32.4%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)		2.5%	2.3%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and fatigue		35.7%	33.7%
% 65+ with glaucoma		26.0%	26.3%
% 65+ ever had a heart attack		4.9%	5.3%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS		0.11%	0.19%
% 65+ with hypertension		74.5%	75.8%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease		40.9%	39.4%
% 65+ with liver disease		12.9%	13.0%
% 65+ with lung cancer		1.6%	2.0%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache		9.0%	8.3%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis		57.5%	57.3%
% 65+ with osteoporosis	W	21.1%	18.9%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease		21.1%	23.1%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer		6.8%	7.7%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)		15.3%	13.4%
% 65+ with stroke		10.9%	11.6%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions		63.1%	63.0%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions		6.3%	7.2%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# drug overdose deaths (all ages) (County)		56	1,699
% 65+ with substance use disorder		7.8%	8.4%
% 60+ who used marijuana in past month		3.9%	4.9%
% 60+ excessive drinking		13.2%	10.0%
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder	B	10.3%	12.1%
% 60+ current smokers	B	3.6%	8.8%
% 60+ ever used E-Cigarettes in past month		0.9%	1.6%

HEALTH OUTCOMES	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 60+ who reported receiving adequate emotional support		80.4%	77.5%
% 60+ with 15+ days poor mental health in past month		5.9%	8.3%
% 65+ with depression		33.3%	34.5%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		34.6%	34.3%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder		1.8%	2.2%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder		3.9%	3.1%
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty		16.2%	12.2%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty		3.4%	5.1%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty		5.0%	7.0%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty		16.4%	18.7%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty		5.6%	7.1%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty		12.4%	13.0%
CAREGIVING			
# of Alzheimer's support groups		1	9
% 60+ who provide care to a family/friend in past month		28.7%	22.1%
% grandparents raising grandchildren		2.26%	0.71%
ACCESS TO CARE			
% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	10.4%	15.0%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees		51.6%	51.4%
% 60+ with a regular doctor	B	98.8%	96.6%
% 60+ who did not see a doctor when needed due to cost		3.2%	3.9%
# of primary care providers		5	1,176
# of hospitals		0	12
# of home health agencies		0	24
# of skilled nursing facilities		2	75
# of hospice agencies		0	9
# of community health centers		0	52
# of adult day health centers		1	31
SERVICE UTILIZATION			
# physician visits per year		7.7	7.8
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	423.4	500.0
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually		53.4	54.2
# home health visits annually		2.8	3.0
# durable medical equipment claims annually		1.7	1.9
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	193.2	230.9
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		17.0%	17.1%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		68.8	76.0
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		49.7	41.2
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports		4.1%	4.0%
% 65+ hospice users		3.2%	3.4%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents	*	61.2%	50.7%

TECHNICAL NOTES

*For more information on data sources, measures, and methodology used in the 2025 Rhode Island Healthy Aging Data Report see our technical documentation at (healthyagingdatareports.org). For most indicators, the community and state values are 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. We balance two goals. First, we aim to report data at very local levels because we believe change is often locally driven. Second, we vowed to protect the privacy of the people providing the information reported. Thus, given the constraints of the data analyzed, we used a hierarchical approach to reporting.

Data Sources:

- *Population Characteristics: The U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey (ACS)) 2018-2022; Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), 2010-2022.*
- *Housing: ACS, 2018-2022; RIDOH, 2023.*
- *Cost of Living: Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging at the University of Massachusetts Boston, 2023.*
- *Economic: ACS, 2018-2022.*
- *Wellness: BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Community: AARP, 2023; ACS, 2018-2022; AgeFriendly RI, 2023; BRFSS, 2010-2022; CDC WONDER, 2016-2020; The CMS Master Beneficiary Summary File ABCD/Other (CMS), 2020-2021; NECHE, 2023; OLLI, 2023; RI State Library, 2023; RI Secretary of State, 2023; U.S. EPA Air Compare, 2023.*
- *Transportation: ACS, 2018-2022; AllTransit™, 2023; BRFSS, 2010-2022; NHTSA, 2018-2022.*
- *Falls: CMS, 2020-2021; BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Prevention: BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Nutrition/Diet: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Oral Health: BRFSS, 2010-2022; HRSA, 2023.*
- *Chronic Disease: CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Behavioral Health: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CDC WONDER 2016-2020; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Mental Health: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Living with Disability: ACS, 2018-2022.*
- *Caregiving: ACS, 2018-2022; Alzheimer’s Association, 2023; BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Access to Care: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CMS, 2020-2021; HRSA, 2023; Medicare.gov, 2023; RI Adult Day Services, 2023.*
- *Service Utilization: CMS, 2020-2021.*

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