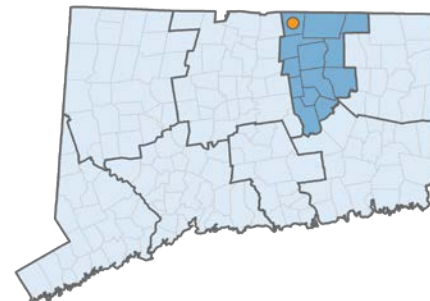


Somers (Tolland)

Somers is a town in Tolland County with 2,119 residents age 65 or older. Compared to state average rates, older residents fared better on some healthy aging indicators with lower rates of diabetes, fibromyalgia/chronic pain/fatigue, hypothyroidism, osteoporosis, peripheral vascular disease, pressure ulcers, traumatic brain injury, opioid use disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia or other psychotic disorder, and visual impairment. However, they had higher rates of cataract and ischemic heart disease. Community resources to support healthy aging include 8 primary care providers, a hospital, and a nursing home within 5 miles; 13 home health agencies, 10 hospice agencies, a senior center, a university or community college, and a public library.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
Total population all ages		11,137	3,581,504
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		25.8%	23.0%
Total population 60 years or older		2,872	823,529
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		19.0%	16.4%
Total population 65 years or older		2,119	587,580
% 65-74 years		58.2%	55.7%
% 75-84 years		29.4%	29.1%
% 85 years or older		12.3%	15.2%
% 65+ population who are female	*	46.2%	56.8%
% 85+ population who are female		54.4%	66.6%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White	*	96.1%	88.4%
% African American	*	2.0%	6.8%
% Asian		0.0%	2.3%
% Other race		1.9%	2.6%
% Hispanic/Latino	*	1.9%	5.8%
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married	*	68.2%	53.8%
% divorced/separated		11.2%	14.9%
% widowed	*	16.9%	24.2%
% never married	*	3.7%	7.1%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education	*	10.1%	14.7%
% with high school or some college		54.6%	53.3%
% with college degree		35.3%	32.1%
% with graduate or professional degree		13.2%	16.8%
% of 65+ population who speak only English at home	*	93.9%	84.3%
% of 65+ population who are veterans of military service		19.4%	17.4%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS			
% of 60+ who are LGBT (county)		2.1%	2.5%
Median age of females		49.7	42.6
Median age of males		44.4	39.1
Life expectancy at birth (county)		81.6	80.9
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate		4.0%	4.1%
WELLNESS			
% 60+ getting the recommended hours of sleep		69.2%	65.2%
% 60+ doing any physical activity within last month		76.3%	75.0%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity		27.0%	27.6%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity		62.3%	58.0%
% 60+ with fair or poor health status		14.4%	17.6%
% 60+ with 15+ physically unhealthy days in last month		10.7%	12.4%
FALLS			
% 60+ who fell within last year		28.5%	26.3%
% 60+ who were injured in a fall within last year		7.9%	9.8%
% 65+ had hip fracture		2.8%	3.7%
PREVENTION			
% 60+ with physical exam/check-up in last year		88.8%	88.5%
% 60+ flu shot in last year		59.5%	57.5%
% 60+ with pneumonia vaccine		62.1%	63.9%
% 60+ with shingles vaccine		32.7%	33.5%
% 60+ women with a mammogram within last 2 years		76.0%	79.7%
% 60+ with colorectal cancer screening		77.5%	78.2%
% 60+ with HIV test		13.1%	16.1%
% 60+ met CDC preventive health screening goals		35.5%	39.6%
NUTRITION & DIET			
% 60+ with 5 or more servings of fruit or vegetables per day		20.7%	19.9%
% 65+ with poor supermarket access		78.0%	32.4%
% 60+ stressed about buying food in last month		5.4%	8.6%
% 60+ self-reported obese		29.6%	26.1%
% 65+ clinically diagnosed obesity		21.0%	22.5%
% 65+ with high cholesterol		78.2%	77.0%
% 60+ with cholesterol screening		96.7%	97.1%
ORAL HEALTH			
% 60+ with dental insurance		68.3%	59.2%
% 60+ with annual dental exam		83.6%	79.9%
# of dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages)		9.0	75.1
% 60+ with loss of 6 or more teeth		21.6%	23.8%
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias		12.5%	14.4%
% 65+ with anemia		47.3%	50.6%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
% 65+ with asthma		15.1%	14.1%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation		17.3%	16.1%
% 65+ with autism spectrum disorder	*	0.07%	0.12%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)		40.7%	42.7%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)		10.8%	11.4%
% 65+ with cataract	W	69.3%	64.8%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease		32.2%	29.9%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		23.7%	21.0%
% 65+ with colon cancer		2.4%	2.7%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure		22.6%	22.6%
% 65+ with diabetes	B	29.8%	33.8%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)		1.7%	2.0%
% 65+ with epilepsy		2.4%	2.9%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic, pain and fatigue	B	23.4%	26.6%
% 65+ with glaucoma		30.4%	28.3%
% 65+ ever had a heart attack		3.8%	4.5%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS	*	0.11%	0.21%
% 65+ with hypertension		78.0%	76.2%
% 65+ with hypothyroidism	B	19.3%	25.1%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease	W	44.5%	40.7%
% 65+ with leukemias and lymphomas		2.6%	2.7%
% 65+ with liver disease		9.3%	9.5%
% 65+ with lung cancer		1.5%	1.9%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache		4.9%	5.2%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis		53.0%	54.2%
% 65+ with osteoporosis	B	16.5%	20.2%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease	B	15.3%	19.9%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer	B	7.4%	9.2%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)		13.6%	13.1%
% 65+ with stroke		11.6%	11.9%
% 65+ with traumatic brain injury	B	0.7%	1.3%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions		60.9%	61.8%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions		6.7%	7.2%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# of drug overdose deaths (all ages)		11	4,613
% 65+ with opioid use disorder	B	1.5%	2.2%
% 65+ with substance use disorder		5.9%	6.8%
% 60+ who used marijuana in last month		N/A	2.9%
% 60+ excessive drinking		10.0%	9.2%
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder		10.6%	10.1%
% 60+ current smokers		8.5%	7.7%
% 60+ ever used E-Cigarettes in last month		5.1%	6.3%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 60+ who reported receiving adequate emotional support		82.4%	78.3%
% 60+ with 15+ days poor mental health in last month		4.6%	6.9%
% 65+ with depression	B	25.7%	30.3%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		24.0%	25.5%
% 65+ with bipolar disorder	B	2.7%	3.8%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder		1.1%	1.2%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder	B	3.6%	4.6%
% 65+ with personality disorder		2.2%	2.5%
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty		16.6%	12.4%
% 65+ with clinical diagnosis of deafness or hearing impairment		13.8%	15.7%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty		2.1%	4.8%
% 65+ with clinical diagnosis of blindness or visual impairment	B	0.6%	1.1%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty		3.9%	7.6%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty		17.4%	19.1%
% 65+ with clinical diagnosis of mobility impairment		3.8%	4.0%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty		4.5%	7.5%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty		9.4%	13.6%
CAREGIVING			
# of caregiver support groups		0	127
# of Memory Cafes		0	6
% of 60+ who provide care to a family/friend in last month		14.8%	21.7%
% of grandparents raising grandchildren		0.3%	0.8%
% of grandparents who live with grandchildren	*	0.9%	2.7%
ACCESS TO CARE			
% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	17.2%	22.1%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees	*	32.3%	29.9%
% 60+ with a regular doctor		96.2%	96.0%
% 60+ who did not see a doctor when needed due to cost		3.0%	4.5%
# of primary care providers within 5 miles		8	10,508
# of hospitals within 5 miles		1	71
# of home health agencies		13	3,124
# of nursing homes within 5 miles		1	419
# of community health centers		0	83
# of adult day health centers		0	55
# of hospice agencies		10	38
SERVICE UTILIZATION			
# physician visits per year		8.5	8.6
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually		707.7	636.7

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually		48.9	50.3
# home health visits annually		3.3	4.1
# durable medical equipment claims annually		2.3	1.9
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		275.5	273.3
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		16.4%	17.2%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		113.1	104.7
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		0.0	42.3
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports	*	2.1%	5.5%
% 65+ hospice users		2.5%	2.7%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents		51.0%	45.5%
Median hospice days per hospice user (65+, deceased)		13.0	10
Median hospice payment (Medicare + other) per hospice user		\$2,739.94	\$3,741.18
COMMUNITY			
Air pollution: annual # of unhealthy days for 65+ (county)		4	N/A
Age-friendly efforts in community		Not yet	Not yet
# of senior centers		1	165
# of universities and community colleges		1	64
# of public libraries		1	238
# of YMCAs		0	19
% in county with access to broadband (all ages)		96.3%	99.1%
% 60+ who used Internet in last month		77.9%	75.1%
Voter participation rate in 2016 election (age 18+)		94.6%	76.9%
SAFETY & CRIME			
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (county)		1.2	2.0
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (county)		37	932
# 65+ deaths by suicide (county)		5	26
TRANSPORTATION			
% 65+ who own a motor vehicle	*	97.7%	87.3%
% 60+ who always drive or ride wearing a seatbelt		92.7%	93.0%
% 60+ who drove under the influence of drinking in last month		N/A	2.2%
# of fatal crashes involving adult age 60+/town		3	342
# of fatal crashes involving adult age 60+/county		21	342
HOUSING			
% 65+ population who live alone	*	15.1%	28.4%
Average household size (all ages)		2.7	2.5
Median house value		\$317,100.00	\$272,700.00
% 60+ own home	*	89.7%	76.9%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage		51.9%	47.1%
% 60+ stressed about paying rent/mortgage in last month	B	11.4%	17.4%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing		52.2%	44.0%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing		24.0%	29.5%
% 65+ moved within same county in last year	*	0.8%	3.7%
% 65+ moved from different county in last year		0.8%	0.8%
% 65+ moved from different state in last year		0.0%	0.9%
# of assisted living sites		0	80
% of vacant homes in community	*	3.7%	9.6%
ECONOMIC			
% 60+ receiving food benefits in last year	*	3.2%	10.9%
% 65+ employed in last year		23.6%	24.8%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in last year	*	3.3%	7.0%
Median household income		\$105,164.00	\$76,106.00
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000	*	6.2%	17.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999		31.5%	31.0%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		28.3%	27.6%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		34.0%	24.4%
COST OF LIVING			
	RATIO OF COUNTY TO STATE	\$ COUNTY ESTIMATE	\$ STATE ESTIMATE
Elder Index			
Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health	0.92	\$24,636.00	\$26,796.00
Single, renter, good health	0.94	\$26,772.00	\$28,536.00
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health	0.94	\$35,520.00	\$37,920.00
Couple, renter, good health	0.95	\$37,656.00	\$39,660.00

TECHNICAL NOTES

*See our technical report (online at <https://healthyagingdatareports.org>) for more information on data sources, measures, geographic units, margins of error, and statistical methodology. 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. "Better" is used where a higher/lower value has positive implications for the health of older residents. "Worse" is used where a higher/lower score has negative implications for the health of older people, and when the implication is unclear, we use an *.

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 2014-2018), The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2012-2018), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2020), The CMS Master Beneficiary Summary File ABCD/Other (2016-2017).
- Wellness, Falls, Prevention, Nutrition/Diet, Oral Health: BRFSS (2012-2018), CMS (2016-2017), the USDA Food Atlas (2017), CT Dept. of Public Health (DPH) (2020).
- Chronic Disease: CMS (2016-2017).
- Behavioral Health, Mental Health: CT DPH (2020), CMS (2016-2017), BRFSS (2012-2018), CDC Wonder (2014-2018).
- Living with Disability: CMS (2016-2017), ACS (2014-2018).
- Caregiving: CT Dept. of Aging (2020), memorycafedirectory.com (2020), BRFSS (2012-2018), ACS (2014-2018).
- Access to Care: CMS (2016-2017), BRFSS (2012-2018), Medicare.gov (Sep. 2020), Community Health Center Association of CT (2020), National Adult Day Services Association (2020).
- Service Utilization: CMS (2016-2017), Medicare.gov (Sep. 2020).
- Community: U.S. EPA Air Compare (2020), AARP (2020), CT Health and Human Services (2020), New England Commission of Higher Education (2020), CT State Library, Division of Library Development (2021), CT YMCA (2020), the FCC (2018), BRFSS (2012-2018), CT Secretary of State (2020).
- Safety & Crime: CDC Wonder (2014-2018).
- Transportation: ACS (2014-2018), BRFSS (2012-2018), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2014-2018).
- Housing, Economic, Cost of Living: BRFSS (2012-2018), ACS (2014-2018), www.seniorcare.com/assisted-living/ (2020), Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, University of Massachusetts Boston (2019).

Acknowledgments: Many people contributed to the CT Healthy Aging Data Report research. The University of Massachusetts Boston Gerontology Institute 2021 research team: Beth Dugan PhD, Nina Silverstein PhD, Chae Man Lee PhD, Frank Porell PhD, ShuangShuang Wang PhD, Haowei Wang PhD, Xiao Joyce Wang PhD, Evan Chunga, Taylor Jansen, Shu Xu, Maki Karakida, Elizabeth Gallagher, Celeste Beaulieu, Emily Lim. The Tufts Health Plan Foundation supported the research and provided important guidance.

Questions? Beth.dugan@umb.edu