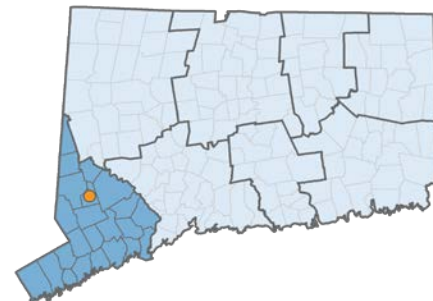


Bethel (Fairfield)

Bethel is a town in Fairfield County with 2,915 residents age 65 or older. Compared to state average rates, older residents fared better on some healthy aging indicators with lower rates of Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, anemia, atrial fibrillation, breast cancer, congestive heart failure, diabetes, glaucoma, heart attack, hypertension, hypothyroidism, substance use disorder, depression, and hearing impairment. However, they had higher rates of obesity, epilepsy, and peripheral vascular disease. Community resources to support healthy aging include 175 primary care providers, a hospital, and 6 nursing homes within 5 miles; 11 home health agencies, 4 hospice agencies, a senior center, a university or community college, and a public library. There are age-friendly efforts underway in the community.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
Total population all ages		19,551	3,581,504
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		21.7%	23.0%
Total population 60 years or older		4,247	823,529
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		14.9%	16.4%
Total population 65 years or older		2,915	587,580
% 65-74 years		61.9%	55.7%
% 75-84 years		24.3%	29.1%
% 85 years or older		13.8%	15.2%
% 65+ population who are female		56.3%	56.8%
% 85+ population who are female		55.0%	66.6%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White		92.6%	88.4%
% African American	*	3.2%	6.8%
% Asian		3.8%	2.3%
% Other race		0.5%	2.6%
% Hispanic/Latino	*	1.1%	5.8%
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married		55.7%	53.8%
% divorced/separated		11.6%	14.9%
% widowed		26.8%	24.2%
% never married		6.0%	7.1%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education	*	9.6%	14.7%
% with high school or some college	*	59.7%	53.3%
% with college degree		30.7%	32.1%
% with graduate or professional degree		14.1%	16.8%
% of 65+ population who speak only English at home		84.4%	84.3%
% of 65+ population who are veterans of military service		18.1%	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		45.4	42.6
Median age of males		39.7	39.1
Life expectancy at birth (county)		82.7	80.9
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate		4.4%	4.1%
WELLNESS			
% 60+ getting the recommended hours of sleep		67.4%	65.2%
% 60+ doing any physical activity within last month		77.9%	75.0%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity		25.8%	27.6%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity		54.4%	58.0%
% 60+ with fair or poor health status		14.4%	17.6%
% 60+ with 15+ physically unhealthy days in last month		11.8%	12.4%
FALLS			
% 60+ who fell within last year		24.0%	26.3%
% 60+ who were injured in a fall within last year		8.5%	9.8%
% 65+ had hip fracture		4.0%	3.7%
PREVENTION			
% 60+ with physical exam/check-up in last year		85.3%	88.5%
% 60+ flu shot in last year		61.5%	57.5%
% 60+ with pneumonia vaccine		62.1%	63.9%
% 60+ with shingles vaccine		34.4%	33.5%
% 60+ women with a mammogram within last 2 years		83.1%	79.7%
% 60+ with colorectal cancer screening		82.6%	78.2%
% 60+ with HIV test		12.9%	16.1%
% 60+ met CDC preventive health screening goals		42.8%	39.6%
NUTRITION & DIET			
% 60+ with 5 or more servings of fruit or vegetables per day		18.7%	19.9%
% 65+ with poor supermarket access		36.2%	32.4%
% 60+ stressed about buying food in last month		7.8%	8.6%
% 60+ self-reported obese		22.7%	26.1%
% 65+ clinically diagnosed obesity	W	26.2%	22.5%
% 65+ with high cholesterol		78.0%	77.0%
% 60+ with cholesterol screening		97.5%	97.1%
ORAL HEALTH			
% 60+ with dental insurance		56.2%	59.2%
% 60+ with annual dental exam		81.2%	79.9%
# of dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages)		51.1	75.1
% 60+ with loss of 6 or more teeth		19.0%	23.8%
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias	B	12.2%	14.4%
% 65+ with anemia	B	43.2%	50.6%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
% 65+ with asthma		14.4%	14.1%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation	B	13.7%	16.1%
% 65+ with autism spectrum disorder		0.07%	0.12%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)		44.4%	42.7%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)	B	8.9%	11.4%
% 65+ with cataract		62.7%	64.8%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease		31.5%	29.9%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		20.5%	21.0%
% 65+ with colon cancer		2.5%	2.7%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure	B	16.3%	22.6%
% 65+ with diabetes	B	30.0%	33.8%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)		1.7%	2.0%
% 65+ with epilepsy	W	4.2%	2.9%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic, pain and fatigue		28.5%	26.6%
% 65+ with glaucoma	B	22.6%	28.3%
% 65+ ever had a heart attack	B	2.5%	4.5%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS	*	0.14%	0.21%
% 65+ with hypertension	B	73.5%	76.2%
% 65+ with hypothyroidism	B	22.1%	25.1%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease		39.7%	40.7%
% 65+ with leukemias and lymphomas		2.8%	2.7%
% 65+ with liver disease		9.7%	9.5%
% 65+ with lung cancer		1.3%	1.9%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache		5.1%	5.2%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis		52.6%	54.2%
% 65+ with osteoporosis		22.0%	20.2%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease	W	23.6%	19.9%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer		10.7%	9.2%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)		12.5%	13.1%
% 65+ with stroke		12.6%	11.9%
% 65+ with traumatic brain injury		1.4%	1.3%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions		59.6%	61.8%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions		7.3%	7.2%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# of drug overdose deaths (all ages)		10	4,613
% 65+ with opioid use disorder		1.8%	2.2%
% 65+ with substance use disorder	B	4.7%	6.8%
% 60+ who used marijuana in last month		N/A	2.9%
% 60+ excessive drinking		11.5%	9.2%
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder		9.4%	10.1%
% 60+ current smokers	B	4.7%	7.7%
% 60+ ever used E-Cigarettes in last month		5.5%	6.3%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 60+ who reported receiving adequate emotional support		78.2%	78.3%
% 60+ with 15+ days poor mental health in last month		4.9%	6.9%
% 65+ with depression	B	27.7%	30.3%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		24.1%	25.5%
% 65+ with bipolar disorder		4.6%	3.8%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder		0.8%	1.2%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder		4.3%	4.6%
% 65+ with personality disorder		3.0%	2.5%
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty	*	4.9%	12.4%
% 65+ with clinical diagnosis of deafness or hearing impairment	B	12.7%	15.7%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty	*	0.9%	4.8%
% 65+ with clinical diagnosis of blindness or visual impairment		0.9%	1.1%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty	*	4.1%	7.6%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty	*	11.7%	19.1%
% 65+ with clinical diagnosis of mobility impairment		4.8%	4.0%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty	*	4.7%	7.5%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty	*	8.4%	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		18.5%	21.7%
% of grandparents raising grandchildren		0.7%	0.8%
% of grandparents who live with grandchildren		1.9%	2.7%
ACCESS TO CARE			
% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	18.5%	22.1%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees	*	19.7%	29.9%
% 60+ with a regular doctor		93.2%	96.0%
% 60+ who did not see a doctor when needed due to cost		4.2%	4.5%
# of primary care providers within 5 miles		175	10,508
# of hospitals within 5 miles		1	71
# of home health agencies		11	3,124
# of nursing homes within 5 miles		6	419
# of community health centers		0	83
# of adult day health centers		0	55
# of hospice agencies		4	38
SERVICE UTILIZATION			
# physician visits per year	*	9.3	8.6
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	560.0	636.7

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually		49.0	50.3
# home health visits annually	*	3.1	4.1
# durable medical equipment claims annually	*	1.6	1.9
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		241.6	273.3
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		18.1%	17.2%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		92.0	104.7
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		49.9	42.3
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports		5.4%	5.5%
% 65+ hospice users		2.9%	2.7%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents		49.6%	45.5%
Median hospice days per hospice user (65+, deceased)		10.5	10
Median hospice payment (Medicare + other) per hospice user		\$3,318.13	\$3,741.18
COMMUNITY			
Air pollution: annual # of unhealthy days for 65+ (county)		21	N/A
Age-friendly efforts in community		Yes	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)		99.9%	99.1%
% 60+ who used Internet in last month		80.1%	75.1%
Voter participation rate in 2016 election (age 18+)		80.3%	76.9%
SAFETY & CRIME			
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (county)		3.1	2.0
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (county)		200	932
# 65+ deaths by suicide (county)		15	26
TRANSPORTATION			
% 65+ who own a motor vehicle	*	92.8%	87.3%
% 60+ who always drive or ride wearing a seatbelt		91.2%	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		1	342
# of fatal crashes involving adult age 60+/county		61	342
HOUSING			
% 65+ population who live alone		24.7%	28.4%
Average household size (all ages)		2.7	2.5
Median house value		\$338,800.00	\$272,700.00
% 60+ own home	*	84.7%	76.9%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage		45.1%	47.1%
% 60+ stressed about paying rent/mortgage in last month		17.6%	17.4%

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS	BETTER / WORSE STATE RATE	COMMUNITY ESTIMATE	STATE ESTIMATE
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing		42.7%	44.0%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing		23.8%	29.5%
% 65+ moved within same county in last year		4.0%	3.7%
% 65+ moved from different county in last year		0.7%	0.8%
% 65+ moved from different state in last year		0.1%	0.9%
# of assisted living sites		0	80
% of vacant homes in community	*	5.6%	9.6%
ECONOMIC			
% 60+ receiving food benefits in last year		7.7%	10.9%
% 65+ employed in last year		22.8%	24.8%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in last year		5.8%	7.0%
Median household income		\$101,473.00	\$76,106.00
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000	*	10.4%	17.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999		29.2%	31.0%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		33.9%	27.6%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		26.5%	24.4%
COST OF LIVING			
	RATIO OF COUNTY TO STATE	\$ COUNTY ESTIMATE	\$ STATE ESTIMATE
Elder Index			
Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health	1.11	\$29,664.00	\$26,796.00
Single, renter, good health	1.11	\$31,560.00	\$28,536.00
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health	1.07	\$40,692.00	\$37,920.00
Couple, renter, good health	1.07	\$42,588.00	\$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).

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