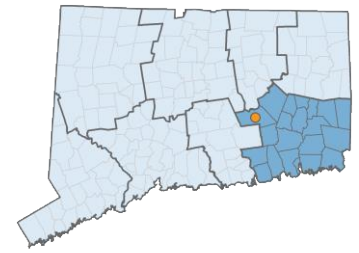


Colchester (New London)

Colchester is a town in New London County with 2,621 residents aged 65 and older. Compared to state average rates, older residents fare better on some healthy aging indicators with lower rates of hip fracture, glaucoma, and osteoporosis. However, they have higher rates of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), tobacco use disorder, depression, and schizophrenia. Older residents in New London County varied in obtaining preventive health screenings: residents 18 and older got annual physical exams (78%) and annual dental exams (72.6%), while 56.1% of men and 41.6% of women 65 and older completed all CDC recommended vaccinations and cancer screenings. Community resources to support healthy aging include three primary care providers, two skilled nursing facilities, one community health center, one senior center, and one public library.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
Total population (all ages)		15,550	3,611,317
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		24.5%	24.5%
Total population 60 years and older		3,815	885,046
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		16.9%	17.4%
Total population 65 years and older		2,621	629,108
% 65-74 years		55.4%	57.6%
% 75-84 years		32.9%	28.4%
% 85 years or older		11.8%	14.0%
% 65+ population who are female		55.7%	55.7%
% 85+ population who are female		78.6%	66.0%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White	*	95.8%	84.8%
% African American	*	2.1%	6.7%
% Asian	*	0.0%	2.6%
% Other race(s)		2.1%	5.9%
% Hispanic	*	2.8%	6.7%
# 55+ who are Native American / Alaskan		0	1,729
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married	*	63.1%	54.5%
% divorced/separated	*	9.8%	16.1%
% widowed		23.0%	21.2%
% never married	*	4.0%	8.2%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education	*	4.8%	11.9%
% with high school or some college	*	64.0%	52.4%
% with college degree		13.5%	17.0%
% with graduate or professional degree		17.7%	18.6%
% 65+ population who speak only English at home	*	95.7%	84.4%
% 65+ population who are veterans of military service	*	21.3%	13.4%

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Significantly
different than
state rate

Community
estimate

State
estimate

HOUSING

% 65+ population who live alone		25.6%	27.7%
Average household size (all ages)		2.5	2.5
Median house value (all ages)		\$315,500	\$323,700
% 60+ own home		81.3%	76.0%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage		54.7%	46.7%
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing		64.9%	45.1%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing		24.6%	27.1%
% grandparents who live with grandchildren		1.8%	2.6%
# of assisted living sites		0	207

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

COST OF LIVING

Elder Index

Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	0.91	\$27,840	\$30,552
Single, renter, good health (County)	0.91	\$29,916	\$32,832
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	0.93	\$40,200	\$43,344
Couple, renter, good health (County)	0.93	\$42,276	\$45,624

ECONOMIC

% 60+ receiving food stamps in past year	*	3.8%	11.0%
% 65+ employed in past year		19.1%	21.5%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in past year		6.2%	7.9%
Median annual income for households with a householder age 65+		\$67,348	\$65,666
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000		11.6%	14.0%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999		28.3%	25.6%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		24.3%	28.2%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		35.8%	32.3%

WELLNESS

% 18+ with less than 7 hours sleep (County)		33.3%	NA
% 18+ without leisure-time physical activity (County)		20.4%	NA
% 18+ with fair or poor self-reported health status (County)		12.7%	NA
% 18+ with 14+ physically unhealthy days (County)		10.1%	NA

COMMUNITY

Annual # unhealthy days due to air pollution for 65+ (County)		7	NA
AARP Age-Friendly Communities		Not yet	Not yet
# of public universities and community colleges		0	38
# of public libraries		1	237
# of senior centers		1	163
# of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI)		0	1
% households with a smartphone (all ages)		88.1%	87.5%
% households with only a smartphone to access the Internet (all ages)		4.6%	7.3%
% households without a computer (all ages)		6.2%	5.9%
% households with access to Broadband (all ages)		92.3%	90.1%
% households without access to the Internet (all ages)		7.5%	9.7%
Voter participation rate in 2020 election (age 18+)		89.4%	82.9%

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
COMMUNITY			
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (County)		2.2	3.1
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (County)		74	955
# 65+ deaths by suicide (County)		34	404
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate		4.0%	4.0%
TRANSPORTATION			
% householders 65+ who own a motor vehicle		92.5%	88.0%
# fatal crashes involving adult age 60+ (County)		44	349
AllTransit Score		1.60	2.79
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
FALLS			
% 65+ with hip fracture	B	2.5%	3.5%
PREVENTION			
% 18+ with physical exam/check-up in past year (County)		78.0%	NA
% mammography use among women age 50-74 Years (County)		78.5%	NA
% 50-75 with fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy (County)		81.9%	NA
% 65+ men up to date on preventive services (County)		56.1%	NA
% 65+ women up to date on preventive services (County)		41.6%	NA
NUTRITION & DIET			
% 18+ with obesity (County)		30.7%	NA
% 65+ with high cholesterol		76.5%	77.9%
% 18+ with cholesterol screening (County)		88.7%	NA
ORAL HEALTH			
% 18+ with annual dental exam (County)		72.6%	NA
# dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages) (County)		54.3	61.4
% 65+ with complete tooth loss (County)		7.8%	NA
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias		13.9%	13.9%
% 65+ with anemia		47.2%	49.2%
% 65+ with asthma	W	16.9%	14.1%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation		14.8%	15.5%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)		45.4%	44.0%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)		9.4%	11.8%
% 65+ with cataract		60.2%	61.5%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease		32.9%	32.8%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	W	24.4%	19.6%
% 65+ with colon cancer		2.9%	2.4%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure		22.4%	21.0%
% 65+ with diabetes		30.7%	31.8%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)		2.0%	2.3%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and fatigue		34.3%	34.8%
% 65+ with glaucoma	B	22.3%	26.4%
% 65+ ever had a heart attack		5.1%	4.3%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS		0.20%	0.28%

HEALTH OUTCOMES

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with hypertension		76.6%	74.2%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease		39.9%	39.1%
% 65+ with liver disease		12.0%	11.6%
% 65+ with lung cancer		2.5%	2.0%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache		7.6%	7.1%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis		58.4%	55.7%
% 65+ with osteoporosis	B	17.6%	20.2%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease		20.3%	19.1%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer		9.2%	9.1%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)		11.9%	13.4%
% 65+ with stroke		11.2%	11.5%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions		63.4%	61.6%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions		6.4%	7.7%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# drug overdose deaths (all ages) (County)		532	5,902
% 65+ with substance use disorder		9.3%	8.3%
% 18+ excessive drinking (County)		16.0%	NA
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder	W	14.9%	11.5%
% 18+ current smokers (County)		14.0%	NA
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 18+ with 14+ days poor mental health (County)		14.4%	NA
% 65+ with depression	W	35.6%	32.3%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		34.1%	30.9%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder		2.3%	2.0%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder	W	6.0%	4.2%
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty		17.0%	11.4%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty		5.8%	4.8%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty		4.6%	7.2%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty		23.1%	17.8%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty		4.8%	6.9%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty		12.5%	12.7%
CAREGIVING			
# of Alzheimer's support groups		0	29
% grandparents raising grandchildren	*	0.22%	0.73%

HEALTH OUTCOMES

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
ACCESS TO CARE			
% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	19.6%	22.5%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees	*	55.8%	50.1%
% 18-64 who lack health insurance (County)		7.1%	NA
# of primary care providers		3	4,547
# of hospitals		0	36
# of home health agencies		0	80
# of skilled nursing facilities		2	202
# of hospice agencies		0	27
# of community health centers		1	388
# of adult day health centers		0	38
SERVICE UTILIZATION			
# physician visits per year		8.6	8.4
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	810.5	586.6
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually	*	57.9	52.1
# home health visits annually		2.6	3.1
# durable medical equipment claims annually	*	2.7	2.0
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	317.6	241.8
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		20.4%	17.6%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		94.0	89.9
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		62.7	37.1
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports		5.1%	4.4%
% 65+ hospice users		2.4%	2.6%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents		50.1%	42.4%

NOTES

TECHNICAL NOTES

*For more information on data sources, measures, and methodology used in the 2025 Connecticut 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.*
- *Housing: ACS, 2018-2022; CT.gov, 2023.*
- *Cost of Living: Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging at the University of Massachusetts Boston, 2023.*
- *Economic: ACS, 2018-2022.*
- *Wellness: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)), 2020-2021.*
- *Community: AARP, 2023; ACS, 2018-2022; CDC WONDER, 2016-2020; The CMS Master Beneficiary Summary File ABCD/Other (CMS), 2020-2021; CT.gov, 2023; CT State Library, 2023; CT Secretary of State, 2023; NECHE, 2023; OLLI, 2023; U.S. EPA Air Compare, 2023.*
- *Transportation: ACS, 2018-2022; AllTransit™, 2023; NHTSA, 2018-2022.*
- *Falls: CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Prevention: BRFSS, 2020-2021.*
- *Nutrition/Diet: BRFSS, 2020-2021; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Oral Health: BRFSS, 2020-2021; HRSA, 2023.*
- *Chronic Disease: CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Behavioral Health: BRFSS, 2020-2021; CDC WONDER 2016-2020; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Mental Health: BRFSS, 2020-2021; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Living with Disability: ACS, 2018-2022.*
- *Caregiving: ACS, 2018-2022; Alzheimer’s Association, 2023.*
- *Access to Care: BRFSS, 2020-2021; CMS, 2020-2021; Connecticut Association of Adult Day Services, 2023; HRSA, 2023; Medicare.gov, 2023.*
- *Service Utilization: CMS, 2020-2021.*

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