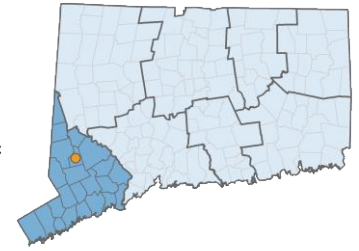


Bethel (Fairfield)

Bethel is a town in Fairfield County with 2,971 residents aged 65 and older. Compared to state average rates, older residents fare better on some healthy aging indicators with lower rates of Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, anemia, atrial fibrillation, breast cancer, congestive heart failure (CHF), diabetes, glaucoma, heart attack, hypertension, migraine, osteoarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis, and substance and tobacco use disorders. Older residents in Fairfield County varied in obtaining preventive health screenings: residents 18 and older got annual physical exams (73.6%) and annual dental exams (72.4%), while 49.5% of men and 44.9% of women 65 and older completed all CDC recommended vaccinations and cancer screenings. Community resources to support healthy aging include two assisted living facilities, nine primary care providers, one skilled nursing facility, five community health centers, an Alzheimer's caregiver support group, one senior center, and one public library.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
Total population (all ages)		20,406	3,611,317
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		22.2%	24.5%
Total population 60 years and older		4,538	885,046
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		14.6%	17.4%
Total population 65 years and older		2,971	629,108
% 65-74 years		54.0%	57.6%
% 75-84 years		31.2%	28.4%
% 85 years or older		14.8%	14.0%
% 65+ population who are female		54.5%	55.7%
% 85+ population who are female		53.3%	66.0%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White		88.3%	84.8%
% African American	*	2.9%	6.7%
% Asian		2.1%	2.6%
% Other race(s)		6.7%	5.9%
% Hispanic		7.2%	6.7%
# 55+ who are Native American / Alaskan		0	1,729
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married		51.6%	54.5%
% divorced/separated		20.9%	16.1%
% widowed		22.9%	21.2%
% never married	*	4.6%	8.2%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education		11.8%	11.9%
% with high school or some college		56.4%	52.4%
% with college degree		16.4%	17.0%
% with graduate or professional degree		15.4%	18.6%
% 65+ population who speak only English at home		84.4%	84.4%
% 65+ population who are veterans of military service		15.7%	13.4%

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
HOUSING			
% 65+ population who live alone		26.1%	27.7%
Average household size (all ages)	*	2.7	2.5
Median house value (all ages)	*	\$404,100	\$323,700
% 60+ own home	*	80.2%	76.0%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage		52.0%	46.7%
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing	*	32.8%	45.1%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing		27.7%	27.1%
% grandparents who live with grandchildren		2.8%	2.6%
# of assisted living sites		2	207

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

COST OF LIVING

Elder Index			
Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	1.12	\$34,320	\$30,552
Single, renter, good health (County)	1.14	\$37,356	\$32,832
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	1.08	\$46,992	\$43,344
Couple, renter, good health (County)	1.10	\$50,028	\$45,624

ECONOMIC

% 60+ receiving food stamps in past year	*	4.4%	11.0%
% 65+ employed in past year		23.3%	21.5%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in past year		7.4%	7.9%
Median annual income for households with a householder age 65+		\$71,227	\$65,666
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000		11.7%	14.0%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999		27.4%	25.6%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		31.4%	28.2%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		29.5%	32.3%

WELLNESS

% 18+ with less than 7 hours sleep (County)		30.9%	NA
% 18+ without leisure-time physical activity (County)		20.4%	NA
% 18+ with fair or poor self-reported health status (County)		12.0%	NA
% 18+ with 14+ physically unhealthy days (County)		9.5%	NA

COMMUNITY

Annual # unhealthy days due to air pollution for 65+ (County)		19	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)	*	90.4%	87.5%
% households with only a smartphone to access the Internet (all ages)		5.7%	7.3%
% households without a computer (all ages)	*	3.2%	5.9%
% households with access to Broadband (all ages)		91.3%	90.1%
% households without access to the Internet (all ages)		8.5%	9.7%
Voter participation rate in 2020 election (age 18+)		85.2%	82.9%

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
COMMUNITY			
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (County)		2.8	3.1
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (County)		206	955
# 65+ deaths by suicide (County)		83	404
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate		4.6%	4.0%
TRANSPORTATION			
% householders 65+ who own a motor vehicle		87.3%	88.0%
# fatal crashes involving adult age 60+ (County)		64	349
AllTransit Score		4.70	2.79
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
FALLS			
% 65+ with hip fracture		3.9%	3.5%
PREVENTION			
% 18+ with physical exam/check-up in past year (County)		73.6%	NA
% mammography use among women age 50-74 Years (County)		80.5%	NA
% 50-75 with fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy (County)		78.4%	NA
% 65+ men up to date on preventive services (County)		49.5%	NA
% 65+ women up to date on preventive services (County)		44.9%	NA
NUTRITION & DIET			
% 18+ with obesity (County)		25.0%	NA
% 65+ with high cholesterol		78.9%	77.9%
% 18+ with cholesterol screening (County)		89.3%	NA
ORAL HEALTH			
% 18+ with annual dental exam (County)		72.4%	NA
# dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages) (County)		78.3	61.4
% 65+ with complete tooth loss (County)		6.8%	NA
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias	B	12.1%	13.9%
% 65+ with anemia	B	42.1%	49.2%
% 65+ with asthma		14.3%	14.1%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation	B	13.7%	15.5%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)		42.9%	44.0%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)	B	9.6%	11.8%
% 65+ with cataract		61.4%	61.5%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease		33.3%	32.8%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		17.8%	19.6%
% 65+ with colon cancer		2.5%	2.4%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure	B	16.8%	21.0%
% 65+ with diabetes	B	28.1%	31.8%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)		2.2%	2.3%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and fatigue		32.9%	34.8%
% 65+ with glaucoma	B	22.2%	26.4%
% 65+ ever had a heart attack	B	2.7%	4.3%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS		0.16%	0.28%

HEALTH OUTCOMES

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with hypertension	B	71.5%	74.2%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease		38.7%	39.1%
% 65+ with liver disease		13.1%	11.6%
% 65+ with lung cancer		1.6%	2.0%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache	B	5.3%	7.1%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis	B	52.7%	55.7%
% 65+ with osteoporosis		20.7%	20.2%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease		20.9%	19.1%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer		9.0%	9.1%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)		13.3%	13.4%
% 65+ with stroke		12.2%	11.5%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions		59.4%	61.6%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions		7.9%	7.7%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# drug overdose deaths (all ages) (County)		993	5,902
% 65+ with substance use disorder	B	6.4%	8.3%
% 18+ excessive drinking (County)		15.1%	NA
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder	B	9.3%	11.5%
% 18+ current smokers (County)		11.1%	NA
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 18+ with 14+ days poor mental health (County)		12.9%	NA
% 65+ with depression		31.9%	32.3%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		30.5%	30.9%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder		1.5%	2.0%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder		3.5%	4.2%
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty	*	7.9%	11.4%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty	*	1.8%	4.8%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty		5.9%	7.2%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty	*	11.7%	17.8%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty		5.5%	6.9%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty	*	7.1%	12.7%
CAREGIVING			
# of Alzheimer's support groups		1	29
% grandparents raising grandchildren		0.84%	0.73%

HEALTH OUTCOMES

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
ACCESS TO CARE			
% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	17.8%	22.5%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees	*	39.3%	50.1%
% 18-64 who lack health insurance (County)		8.0%	NA
# of primary care providers		9	4,547
# of hospitals		0	36
# of home health agencies		0	80
# of skilled nursing facilities		1	202
# of hospice agencies		0	27
# of community health centers		5	388
# of adult day health centers		0	38
SERVICE UTILIZATION			
# physician visits per year	*	9.3	8.4
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually		533.4	586.6
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually		50.8	52.1
# home health visits annually	*	2.5	3.1
# durable medical equipment claims annually		1.9	2.0
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		232.2	241.8
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		16.7%	17.6%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		83.9	89.9
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		43.3	37.1
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports		4.5%	4.4%
% 65+ hospice users		2.2%	2.6%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents	*	32.0%	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.*

Healthy Aging Data Report Research Team (2025): Beth Dugan PhD, Nina Silverstein PhD, Chae Man Lee PhD, Taylor Jansen PhD, Yan-Jhu Su, Yan Lin, Shan Qu, Tiffany Tang & Qian Song PhD, from the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The Point32Health Foundation supported the research and provided important guidance.

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Questions or Ideas? Beth.dugan@umb.edu



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