

West Gardiner (Kennebec)

West Gardiner is a town in Kennebec County with 694 residents aged 65 and older. Compared to state average rates, older residents fare better on some healthy aging indicators with lower rates of high cholesterol, anemia, asthma, benign prostatic hyperplasia, cataract, glaucoma, hypertension, and osteoarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis. However, they have a higher rate of schizophrenia. Older residents in Kennebec County varied in obtaining preventive health screenings: residents 18 and older got annual physical exams (77.7%) and annual dental exams (67.3%), while 53.7% of men and 41% of women 65 and older completed all CDC recommended vaccinations and cancer screenings.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
Total population (all ages)		3,667	1,366,949
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		23.2%	29.4%
Total population 60 years and older		851	402,170
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		18.9%	21.5%
Total population 65 years and older		694	293,488
% 65-74 years		74.8%	59.9%
% 75-84 years		18.0%	28.5%
% 85 years or older		7.2%	11.6%
% 65+ population who are female		57.5%	54.3%
% 85+ population who are female	*	0.0%	64.8%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White		100.0%	96.6%
% African American		0.0%	0.3%
% Asian		0.0%	0.5%
% Other race(s)		0.0%	2.5%
% Hispanic		0.0%	0.7%
# 55+ who are Native American / Alaskan		0	1,794
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married		64.6%	57.0%
% divorced/separated		23.1%	16.9%
% widowed		12.4%	20.6%
% never married	*	0.0%	5.6%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education	*	2.6%	7.6%
% with high school or some college	*	77.7%	59.0%
% with college degree		18.6%	18.3%
% with graduate or professional degree	*	1.2%	15.1%
% 65+ population who speak only English at home		98.7%	92.7%
% 65+ population who are veterans of military service		19.6%	18.4%

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
HOUSING			
% 65+ population who live alone		14.4%	28.3%
Average household size (all ages)		2.9	2.3
Median house value (all ages)		\$208,700	\$244,800
% 60+ own home		88.0%	80.4%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage	*	20.4%	40.6%
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing		34.5%	35.2%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing	*	0.0%	20.4%
% grandparents who live with grandchildren		7.7%	1.8%
# of assisted living sites		0	21
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH			
COST OF LIVING			
Elder Index			
Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	0.97	\$23,808	\$24,528
Single, renter, good health (County)	0.90	\$25,788	\$28,704
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	0.97	\$36,312	\$37,380
Couple, renter, good health (County)	0.92	\$38,292	\$41,556
ECONOMIC			
% 60+ receiving food stamps in past year	*	0.0%	10.8%
% 65+ employed in past year		20.2%	18.8%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in past year	*	0.0%	9.0%
Median annual income for households with a householder age 65+		\$52,361	\$49,828
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000		6.3%	17.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999		40.9%	33.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		25.9%	29.4%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		26.9%	20.4%
WELLNESS			
% 18+ with less than 7 hours sleep (County)		28.7%	NA
% 18+ without leisure-time physical activity (County)		26.5%	NA
% 18+ with fair or poor self-reported health status (County)		15.0%	NA
% 18+ with 14+ physically unhealthy days (County)		11.5%	NA
COMMUNITY			
Annual # unhealthy days due to air pollution for 65+ (County)		1	NA
AARP Age-Friendly Communities		Not yet	Yes
# of public universities and community colleges		0	42
# of public libraries		0	261
# of senior centers		0	27
# of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI)		0	1
% households with a smartphone (all ages)		87.7%	82.5%
% households with only a smartphone to access the Internet (all ages)		5.9%	6.4%
% households without a computer (all ages)		3.8%	7.1%
% households with access to Broadband (all ages)	*	94.3%	87.3%
% households without access to the Internet (all ages)	*	5.7%	12.3%

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH		Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
COMMUNITY				
Voter participation rate in 2020 election (age 18+)			77.5%	74.1%
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (County)			1.8	1.5
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (County)			66	770
# 65+ deaths by suicide (County)			24	290
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate			4.8%	4.2%
TRANSPORTATION				
% householders 65+ who own a motor vehicle			100.0%	91.0%
# fatal crashes involving adult age 60+ (County)			27	251
AllTransit Score			NA	0.51
HEALTH OUTCOMES				
FALLS				
% 65+ with hip fracture			3.0%	3.1%
PREVENTION				
% 18+ with physical exam/check-up in past year (County)			77.7%	NA
% mammography use among women age 50-74 Years (County)			73.3%	NA
% 50-75 with fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy (County)			81.8%	NA
% 65+ men up to date on preventive services (County)			53.7%	NA
% 65+ women up to date on preventive services (County)			41.0%	NA
NUTRITION & DIET				
% 18+ with obesity (County)			34.3%	NA
% 65+ with high cholesterol		B	62.4%	69.5%
% 18+ with cholesterol screening (County)			62.6%	NA
ORAL HEALTH				
% 18+ with annual dental exam (County)			67.3%	NA
# dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages) (County)			65.1	47.2
% 65+ with complete tooth loss (County)			13.3%	NA
CHRONIC DISEASE				
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias			10.7%	11.0%
% 65+ with anemia		B	34.0%	38.1%
% 65+ with asthma		B	9.4%	11.8%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation			12.3%	14.3%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)		B	23.9%	35.2%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)			6.9%	9.6%
% 65+ with cataract		B	54.6%	60.4%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease			28.2%	29.4%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease			21.8%	20.9%
% 65+ with colon cancer			2.2%	2.1%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure			17.5%	18.1%
% 65+ with diabetes			27.9%	26.2%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)			2.4%	2.2%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and fatigue			35.5%	34.8%
% 65+ with glaucoma		B	18.9%	23.3%

HEALTH OUTCOMES	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ ever had a heart attack		6.4%	6.1%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS		0.26%	0.17%
% 65+ with hypertension	B	58.8%	67.1%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease		34.4%	35.3%
% 65+ with liver disease		9.4%	10.2%
% 65+ with lung cancer		1.8%	1.8%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache		8.5%	7.1%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis	B	47.1%	51.5%
% 65+ with osteoporosis		13.5%	15.7%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease		15.8%	15.3%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer		7.0%	6.8%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)		7.6%	10.3%
% 65+ with stroke		9.5%	10.0%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions	B	50.4%	55.5%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions	B	19.1%	12.4%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# drug overdose deaths (all ages) (County)		229	2,080
% 65+ with substance use disorder		9.0%	8.7%
% 18+ excessive drinking (County)		13.3%	NA
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder		16.7%	13.6%
% 18+ current smokers (County)		17.2%	NA
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 18+ with 14+ days poor mental health (County)		15.5%	NA
% 65+ with depression		33.6%	34.8%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		28.9%	30.7%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder		4.1%	3.9%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder	W	4.3%	3.2%
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty		14.6%	15.5%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty		4.8%	4.6%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty		11.1%	7.5%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty		31.7%	17.8%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty		11.1%	5.2%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty		15.9%	10.5%
CAREGIVING			
# of Alzheimer's support groups		0	11
% grandparents raising grandchildren		0.00%	0.55%

HEALTH OUTCOMES	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
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Community estimate

State estimate

ACCESS TO CARE

% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid		18.5%	18.7%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees	*	59.1%	50.3%
% 18-64 who lack health insurance (County)		7.8%	NA
# of primary care providers		0	2,199
# of hospitals		0	37
# of home health agencies		0	20
# of skilled nursing facilities		0	87
# of hospice agencies		0	14
# of community health centers		0	164
# of adult day health centers		0	33

[illegible]

# physician visits per year		4.7	4.7
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	448.2	556.1
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually		49.8	49.8
# home health visits annually		1.4	1.7
# durable medical equipment claims annually		1.9	2.0
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually		160.8	169.8
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)	*	7.3%	14.3%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	26.4	43.3
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		0.0	20.0
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports		1.6%	2.1%
% 65+ hospice users		3.1%	3.0%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents		46.4%	49.7%

NOTES

TECHNICAL NOTES

*For more information on data sources, measures, and methodology used in the 2025 Maine 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; Maine Home Care Association (MEHCA), 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; NECHE, 2023; State of Maine, 2023; Maine State Library, 2023; Maine Secretary of State, 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; HRSA, 2023; Medicare.gov, 2023; Maine.gov, 2023.*
- *Service Utilization: CMS, 2020-2021.*

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Suggested citation: Dugan E, Lee CM, Jansen T, Su YJ, Silverstein NM, & Song Q. (2025). The Maine 2025 Healthy Aging Data Report. Retrieved from www.healthyagingdatareports.org

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