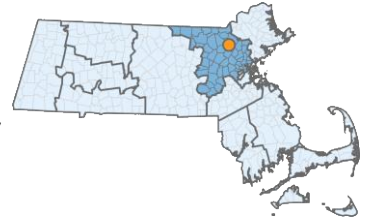


Billerica (Middlesex)

Billerica is a town in Middlesex County with 6,796 residents aged 65 and older. Compared to state average rates, older residents in Billerica have lower rates of Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, benign prostatic hyperplasia, cataract, osteoarthritis/rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, prostate cancer, depression, PTSD, and schizophrenia. However, they report higher rates of chronic kidney disease, congestive heart failure (CHF), diabetes, glaucoma, and tobacco use disorder. Older residents are more likely to take the health promotion step of having a regular doctor. Community resources to support healthy aging include a COA, one adult day health center, 17 primary care providers, two assisted living facilities, two skilled nursing facilities, and a public library. Billerica is a Dementia-Friendly Community.



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
Total population (all ages)		41,708	6,984,205
Population 60 years or older as % of total population		24.0%	23.8%
Total population 60 years and older		9,998	1,661,076
Population 65 years or older as % of total population		16.3%	17.1%
Total population 65 years and older		6,796	1,195,589
% 65-74 years		60.9%	58.4%
% 75-84 years		29.1%	28.1%
% 85 years or older		10.0%	13.4%
% 65+ population who are female		55.8%	56.2%
% 85+ population who are female		74.5%	66.6%
Race and ethnicity of the population 65+			
% White	*	91.6%	86.3%
% African American		3.6%	4.4%
% Asian		3.3%	4.0%
% Other race(s)	*	1.5%	5.3%
% Hispanic	*	1.8%	4.8%
# 55+ who are Native American / Alaskan		0	3,537
Marital status of the population 65+			
% married		55.5%	54.0%
% divorced/separated		12.2%	15.8%
% widowed		24.5%	21.1%
% never married		7.8%	9.0%
Education of the population 65+			
% with less than high school education	*	8.8%	12.7%
% with high school or some college	*	67.1%	50.3%
% with college degree	*	13.1%	18.1%
% with graduate or professional degree	*	11.0%	18.9%
% 65+ population who speak only English at home	*	89.2%	83.1%
% 65+ population who are veterans of military service		15.1%	12.7%
% 60+ LGBT		3.6%	3.5%

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
HOUSING			
% 65+ population who live alone	*	18.3%	28.1%
Average household size (all ages)	*	2.6	2.5
Median house value (all ages)	*	\$519,200	\$483,900
% 60+ own home	*	84.6%	72.9%
% 60+ homeowners who have mortgage		47.1%	46.8%
% 65+ households (renter) spend >35% of income on housing		48.8%	43.6%
% 65+ households (owner) spend >35% of income on housing		24.1%	27.3%
% grandparents who live with grandchildren		3.3%	2.8%
# of assisted living sites		2	275
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH			
COST OF LIVING			
Elder Index			
Single, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	1.07	\$32,592	\$30,552
Single, renter, good health (County)	1.12	\$43,044	\$38,580
Couple, homeowner without mortgage, good health (County)	1.05	\$46,584	\$44,520
Couple, renter, good health (County)	1.05	\$57,036	\$54,548
ECONOMIC			
% 60+ receiving food stamps in past year	*	8.5%	13.3%
% 65+ employed in past year		28.2%	22.0%
% 65+ with income below the poverty line in past year		7.4%	9.9%
Median annual income for households with a householder age 65+	*	\$75,032	\$61,624
% 65+ households with annual income < \$20,000		12.5%	17.1%
% 65+ households with annual income \$20,000-\$49,999	*	15.3%	25.3%
% 65+ households with annual income \$50,000-\$99,999		33.5%	26.7%
% 65+ households with annual income \$100,000+		38.7%	31.0%
WELLNESS			
% 60+ getting the recommended hours of sleep		55.0%	63.1%
% 60+ doing any physical activity in past month		73.6%	72.8%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity		27.5%	25.8%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity		59.4%	53.9%
% 60+ with fair or poor self-reported health status	B	12.3%	18.5%
% 60+ with 15+ physically unhealthy days in past month		10.3%	13.1%
COMMUNITY			
Annual # unhealthy days due to air pollution for 65+ (County)		2	NA
AARP Age-Friendly Communities		Not yet	Yes
Dementia Friendly Communities		Yes	Yes
# of public universities and community colleges		0	124
# of public libraries		1	455
# of Councils of Aging (COAs)		1	350
# of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI)		0	4
% households with a smartphone (all ages)	*	90.4%	87.6%
% households with only a smartphone to access the Internet (all ages)	*	3.7%	6.4%

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
COMMUNITY			
% households without a computer (all ages)	*	3.0%	5.7%
% households with access to Broadband (all ages)	*	95.9%	90.7%
% households without access to the Internet (all ages)	*	4.0%	9.2%
% 60+ who used Internet in past month		77.1%	70.6%
Voter participation rate in 2020 election (age 18+)		80.8%	80.8%
Homicide rate/100,000 persons (County)		1.0	2.3
# firearm fatalities (all ages) (County)		152	1267
# 65+ deaths by suicide (County)		109	527
Age-sex adjusted 1-year mortality rate		4.3%	3.9%
TRANSPORTATION			
% householders 65+ who own a motor vehicle	*	92.8%	84.2%
% 60+ who always drive or ride wearing a seatbelt		87.2%	85.9%
% 60+ drove under influence		NA	1.3%
# fatal crashes involving adult age 60+ (County)		83	545
AllTransit Score		2.60	2.93
HEALTH OUTCOMES			
FALLS			
% 60+ who fell in past year		29.3%	26.6%
% 60+ who were injured by a fall in past year		13.0%	10.1%
% 65+ with hip fracture		3.3%	3.2%
PREVENTION			
% 60+ with physical exam/check-up in past year		90.6%	89.8%
% 60+ flu shot in past year		63.8%	67.6%
% 60+ with pneumonia vaccine		68.0%	61.7%
% 60+ with shingles vaccine		51.5%	46.3%
% 60+ women with mammogram in past 2 years		79.8%	79.9%
% 60+ had colorectal cancer screening		56.9%	62.4%
% 60+ with optimal preventive health		24.3%	26.1%
NUTRITION & DIET			
% 60+ with 5 or more servings of fruit or vegetables per day		11.1%	16.3%
% 60+ self-reported obese		29.6%	27.8%
% 65+ with high cholesterol		74.9%	75.9%
% 60+ with high cholesterol screening		94.2%	96.3%
ORAL HEALTH			
% 60+ with annual dental exam		76.2%	74.9%
# dentists per 100,000 persons (all ages) (County)		95.6	69.0
% 60+ with loss of 6+ teeth		28.5%	28.2%

HEALTH OUTCOMES	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
CHRONIC DISEASE			
% 65+ with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias	B	11.0%	12.9%
% 65+ with anemia		42.4%	43.1%
% 65+ with asthma		12.9%	13.9%
% 65+ with atrial fibrillation		15.6%	15.2%
% 65+ with benign prostatic hyperplasia (men)	B	36.6%	42.6%
% 65+ with breast cancer (women)		13.1%	11.6%
% 65+ with cataract	B	61.1%	64.3%
% 65+ with chronic kidney disease	W	36.4%	34.3%
% 65+ with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		20.2%	19.1%
% 65+ with colon cancer		2.4%	2.4%
% 65+ with congestive heart failure	W	21.1%	19.6%
% 65+ with diabetes	W	30.3%	28.6%
% 65+ with endometrial cancer (women)		2.4%	2.2%
% 65+ with fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and fatigue		37.7%	37.2%
% 65+ with glaucoma	W	27.7%	25.3%
% 65+ ever had a heart attack		5.3%	4.6%
% 65+ with HIV/AIDS		0.17%	0.30%
% 65+ with hypertension		73.5%	72.9%
% 65+ with ischemic heart disease		37.5%	37.1%
% 65+ with liver disease		11.9%	12.2%
% 65+ with lung cancer		2.5%	2.1%
% 65+ with migraine and other chronic headache		8.5%	8.0%
% 65+ with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis	B	53.5%	55.5%
% 65+ with osteoporosis	B	18.6%	20.1%
% 65+ with peripheral vascular disease		17.1%	18.1%
% 65+ with pressure ulcer or chronic ulcer		7.4%	7.8%
% 65+ with prostate cancer (men)	B	10.8%	13.6%
% 65+ with stroke		11.3%	11.2%
% 65+ with 4+ (out of 15) chronic conditions		60.0%	60.4%
% 65+ with 0 chronic conditions	B	8.3%	7.2%
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH			
# drug overdose deaths (all ages) (County)		1,928	11,845
% 65+ with substance use disorder		8.4%	9.4%
% 60+ excessive drinking		11.2%	10.9%
% 65+ with tobacco use disorder	W	14.5%	12.3%
% 60+ current smokers		10.9%	8.9%
MENTAL HEALTH			
% 60+ with 15+ days poor mental health in past month		6.7%	8.4%
% 65+ with depression	B	32.4%	34.6%
% 65+ with anxiety disorder		32.1%	33.0%
% 65+ with post-traumatic stress disorder	B	2.2%	3.0%
% 65+ with schizophrenia & other psychotic disorder	B	3.0%	4.0%

HEALTH OUTCOMES	Significantly different than state rate	Community estimate	State estimate
LIVING WITH DISABILITY			
% 65+ with self-reported hearing difficulty		9.8%	12.3%
% 65+ with self-reported vision difficulty		4.2%	4.8%
% 65+ with self-reported cognition difficulty		8.3%	7.5%
% 65+ with self-reported ambulatory difficulty		14.3%	18.6%
% 65+ with self-reported self-care difficulty	*	4.1%	7.3%
% 65+ with self-reported independent living difficulty		10.3%	13.2%
CAREGIVING			
# of Alzheimer's support groups		0	25
% grandparents raising grandchildren		0.45%	0.66%
ACCESS TO CARE			
% 65+ dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid	*	9.1%	17.1%
% 65+ Medicare managed care enrollees	*	34.4%	30.5%
% 60+ with a regular doctor	B	98.3%	96.5%
% 60+ who did not see a doctor when needed due to cost	B	2.4%	3.9%
# of primary care providers		17	8,899
# of hospitals		0	79
# of home health agencies		0	269
# of skilled nursing facilities		2	352
# of hospice agencies		0	76
# of community health centers		0	215
# of adult day health centers		1	143
SERVICE UTILIZATION			
# physician visits per year	*	6.9	7.3
# emergency room visits/1000 persons 65+ years annually		524.2	558.8
# Part D monthly prescription fills per person annually		53.5	53.5
# home health visits annually		2.9	2.9
# durable medical equipment claims annually		2.1	1.9
# inpatient hospital stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	280.1	251.7
% Medicare inpatient hospital readmissions (as % of admissions)		19.1%	18.2%
# skilled nursing facility stays/1000 persons 65+ years annually	*	62.1	72.9
# skilled nursing home Medicare beds/1000 persons 65+ years		27.5	33.7
% 65+ getting Medicaid long term services and supports	*	2.1%	3.4%
% 65+ hospice users		2.8%	2.8%
% 65+ hospice users as % of decedents		45.4%	44.0%

NOTES

TECHNICAL NOTES

*For more information on data sources, measures, and methodology used in the 2025 Massachusetts 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; Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)), 2010-2022.*
- *Housing: ACS, 2018-2022; Mass.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: BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Community: AARP, 2023; ACS, 2018-2022; BRFSS, 2010-2022; CDC WONDER, 2016-2020; The CMS Master Beneficiary Summary File ABCD/Other (CMS), 2020-2021; Dementia Friendly Massachusetts, 2023; Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), 2023; NECHE, 2023; OLLI, 2023; MA State Library, 2023; MA Secretary of State, 2023; U.S. EPA Air Compare, 2023.*
- *Transportation: ACS, 2018-2022; AllTransit™, 2023; BRFSS, 2010-2022; NHTSA, 2018-2022.*
- *Falls: CMS, 2020-2021; BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Prevention: BRFSS, 2010-2022.*
- *Nutrition/Diet: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Oral Health: BRFSS, 2010-2022; HRSA, 2023.*
- *Chronic Disease: CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Behavioral Health: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CDC WONDER 2016-2020; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Mental Health: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CMS, 2020-2021.*
- *Living with Disability: ACS, 2018-2022.*
- *Caregiving: ACS, 2018-2022; Alzheimer’s Association, 2023.*
- *Access to Care: BRFSS, 2010-2022; CMS, 2020-2021; HRSA, 2023; Medicare.gov, 2023; Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (HHS), 2023.*
- *Service Utilization: CMS, 2020-2021.*

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