

Connecticut's Aging Landscape: State policy overview



Connecticut Commission on
Women, Children *and* Seniors



CWCS

❖ Demographics in Connecticut

❖ Overview of Commission on Women, Children and Seniors

❖ Aging In Place Studies and Research

❖ Planning for An Aging Population-Livable Communities

Demographics: Connecticut by the numbers



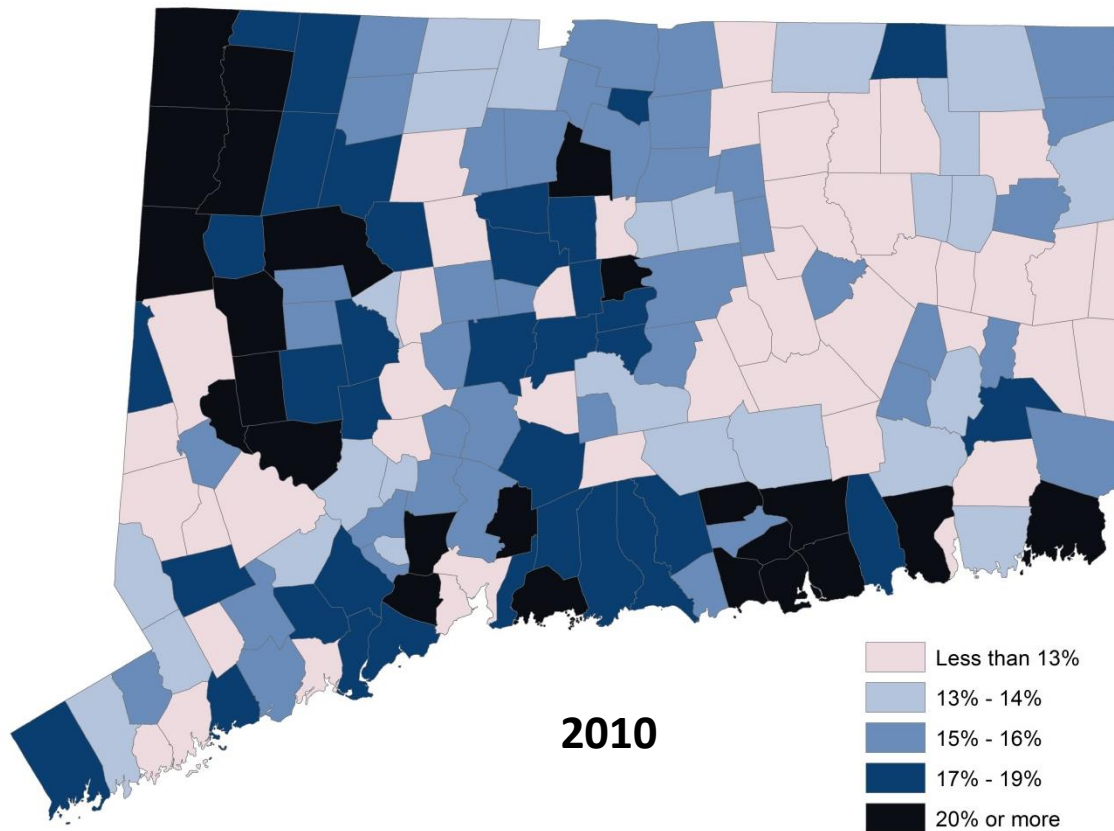
Delphine Gibson

113 years young
Oldest living
American as of
February 2017
(Altoona Mirror)

- 7th oldest state in the nation
- 1 million baby boomers (people born between 1946-1964) roughly 1/3 of CT's population
- 3rd longest lived constituency
- 930 centenarians ~ people over the age of 100+ roughly 83% were women.
- People are living so long we created a new term- Super Centenarians 110+
- Life expectancy:
 - 1900 = 47
 - 1935 = 62
 - 2013 = 80.7

An Aging Connecticut

Percentage of People Age 65 and Older as Proportion of Total Population

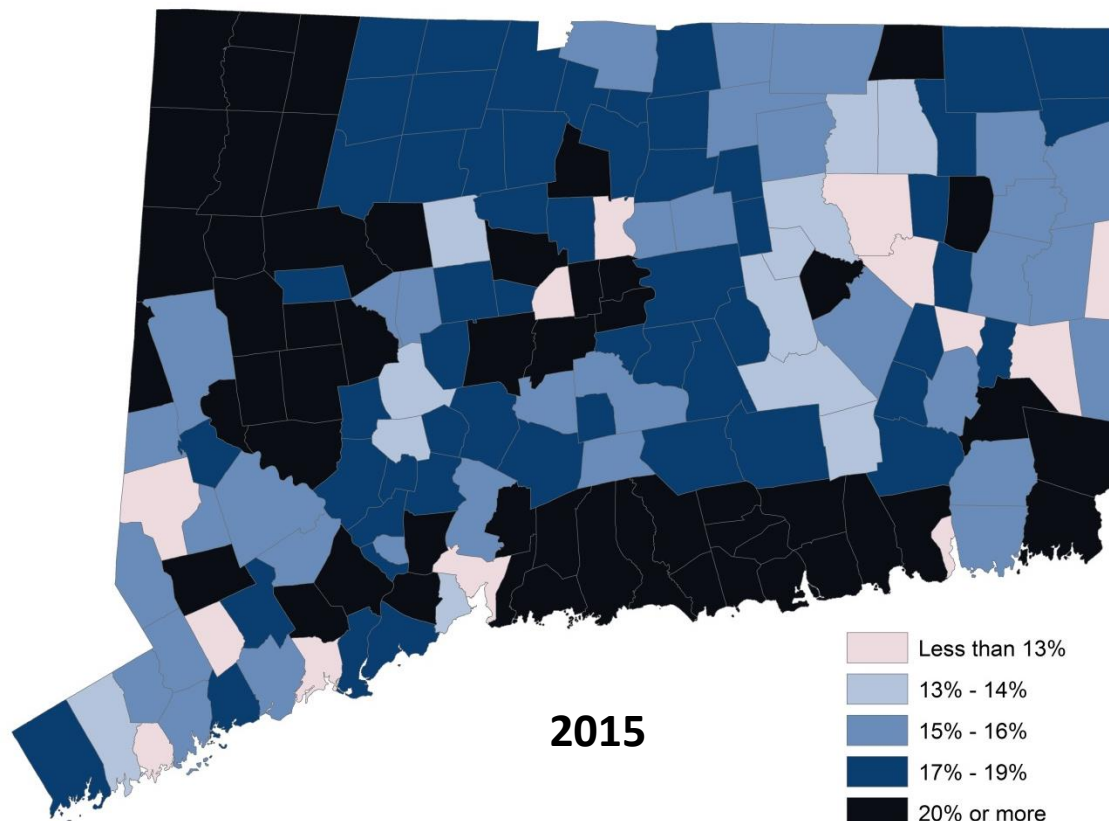


2010

Maps created by former Connecticut's
Legislative Commission on Aging, in partnership
with the Connecticut State Data Center

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Percentage of People Age 65 and Older as Proportion of Total Population

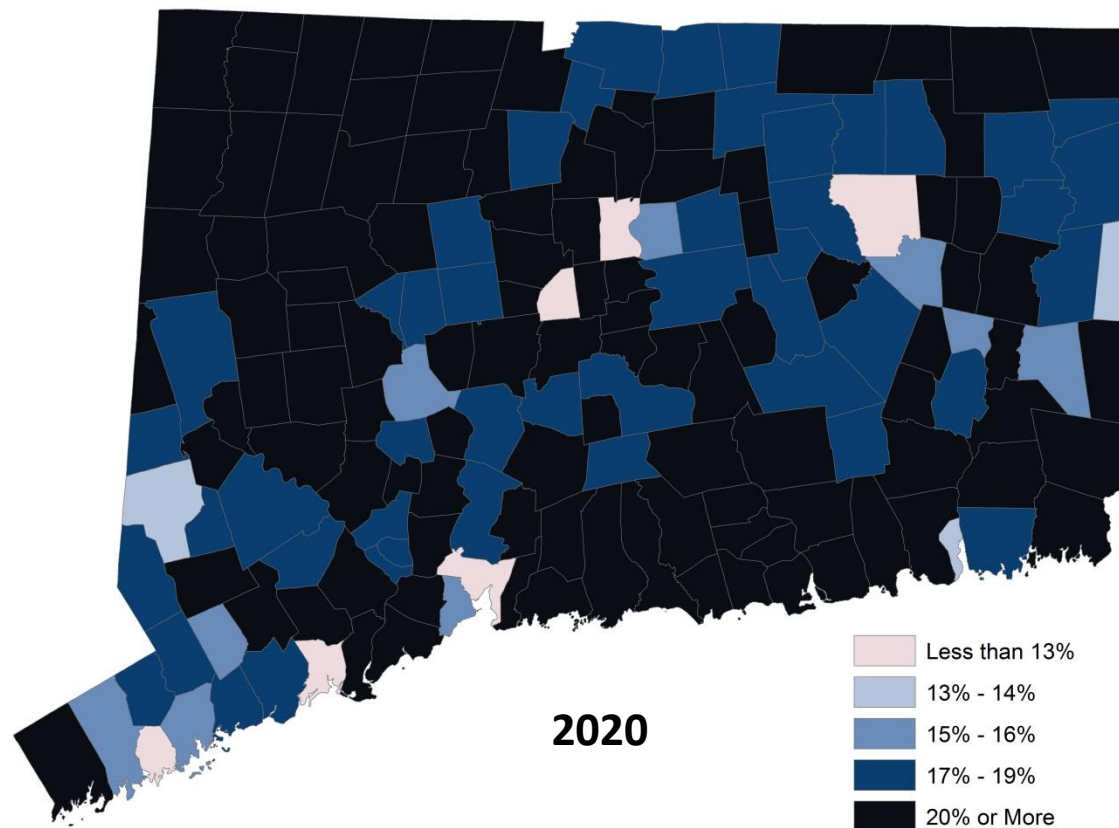


2015

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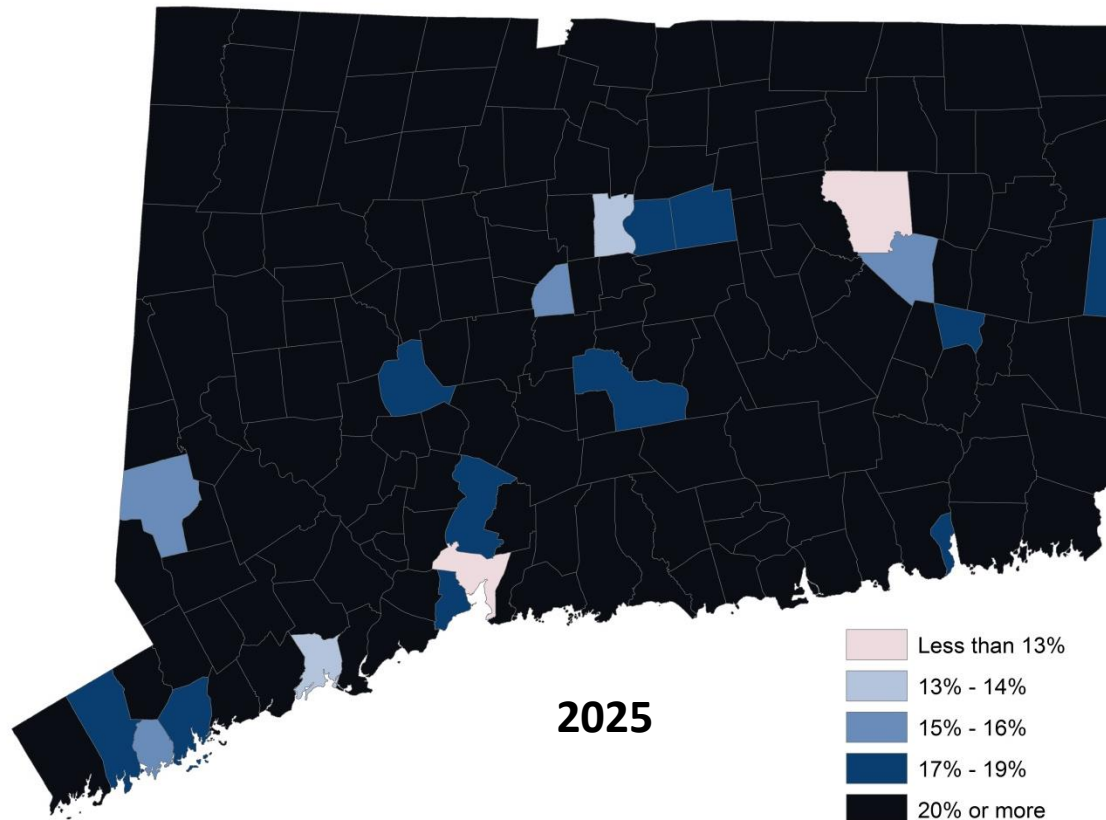


2020

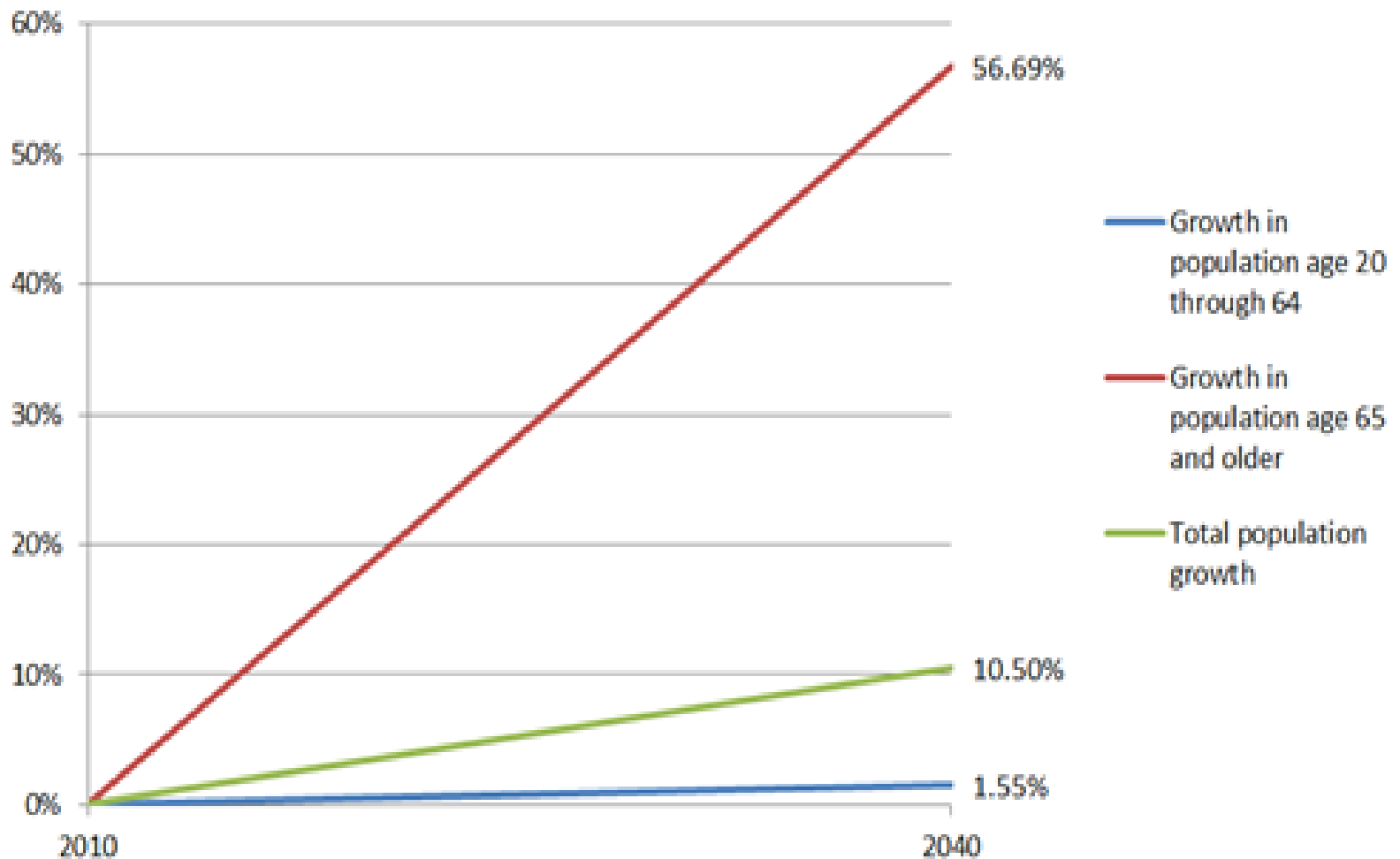
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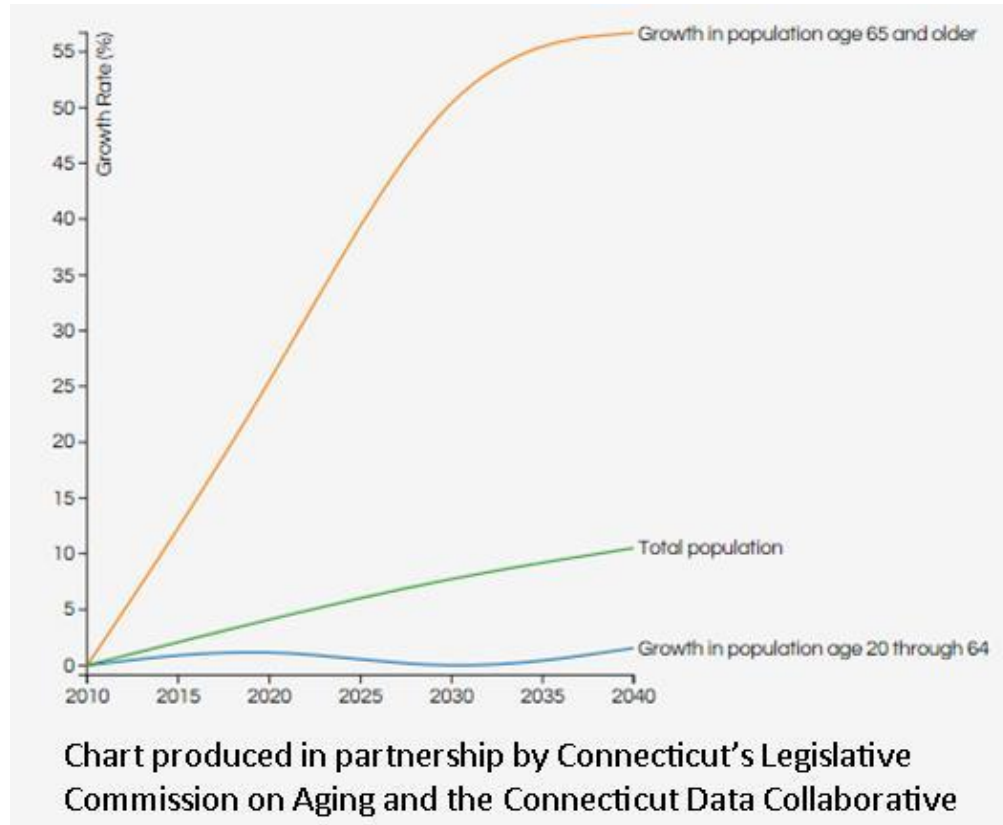


Maps created by Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging, in partnership with the Connecticut State Data Center



Projected Population Growth in Connecticut from 2010 to 2040. This figure was created and information calculated by the former Legislative Commission on Aging with population projections provided by the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (from 2010 U.S. Census Data).

An Aging Connecticut



Overview of Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS)

- The Commission on Women, Children and Seniors (CWCS) is a non-partisan arm of the Connecticut General Assembly.
- As staff to the legislature, the CWCS researches best practices and,
- Monitor bills and analyze pending legislation for consequences – both intended and unintended,
- Coordinates stakeholders, and
- Promotes public policies that are in the best interest of Connecticut's underserved and underrepresented women, children and older adults.

Overview of Commission on Women, Children and Seniors

- CWCS is the consolidation of the Permanent Commission of the Status of Women, Commission on Children and the Commission on Aging.
- **Legislative issue areas include:**
 - Promote economic security, choices and independence for older adults in both work and retirement;
 - Support livable and accessible communities where older adults can retain their dignity and age in place; and
 - Enhance the safety and wellbeing of seniors by preventing physical abuse and financial exploitation

Opportunities and challenges

- **Opportunities**-Innovation: types of care and programs, livable communities, reframe the aging narrative
- **Challenges**-Large numbers of Americans aging-Infrastructure: availability of programs and services, cost, stress to communities

Opportunities and challenges (con't.)

- **State:** Budget deficit for FY 17-18, growing numbers of older adults, workforce issues, transportation and housing
- **Federal-New administration:** Medicare-Medicaid-Social Security, aging demographic

Trending Areas:

- **Aging in Place**-According to a recent AARP survey of Americans over and discovered that 89 percent wanted to stay in their own homes as long as possible.

Aging in Place-

Aging in Place is defined as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level" (according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Studies and Research: Aging in Place

- AARP & National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) studied *Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices 2011*
- CT passed Aging in Place (AIP) Legislation 2012
- Center for Aging in Place in Westchester NY- Helps communities form AIP networks- toolkits
- Colorado Commission on Aging and Dept. of Human Services studied Colorado Aging framework (2015)

Aging in Place-CT

Special Act 12-6 created a 17-member Aging in Place Task force charged with examining:

- Infrastructure and transportation improvements
- Zoning changes to facilitate home care (Special Act 16-5-TF studying zoning of temporary health care structures-report issued in January 2017-SB 922 passed the senate and currently on the House Calendar)
- Enhanced nutrition programs and delivery options (additional resources proposed in Governor's budget)
- Improve fraud and abuse protections (PA 15-236 studied best practices for reporting and preventing elder abuse and financial exploitation of older adults-)
- Expansion of home medical care options (PA 16-198 requires DSS to provide Medicaid services for Telehealth)
- Tax incentives
- Incentives for private insurance

A final report was submitted to the joint standing Aging Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly in 2013.

**What Are Some Examples of
Livability in Connecticut?**

Complete Streets/Shared Spaces



This "before and after" section of Main Street looking north illustrates how it could be reshaped with a road diet to be a Complete Street.



TRANSPORTATION



PLANNING
& ZONING



PUBLIC SPACES
& BUILDINGS



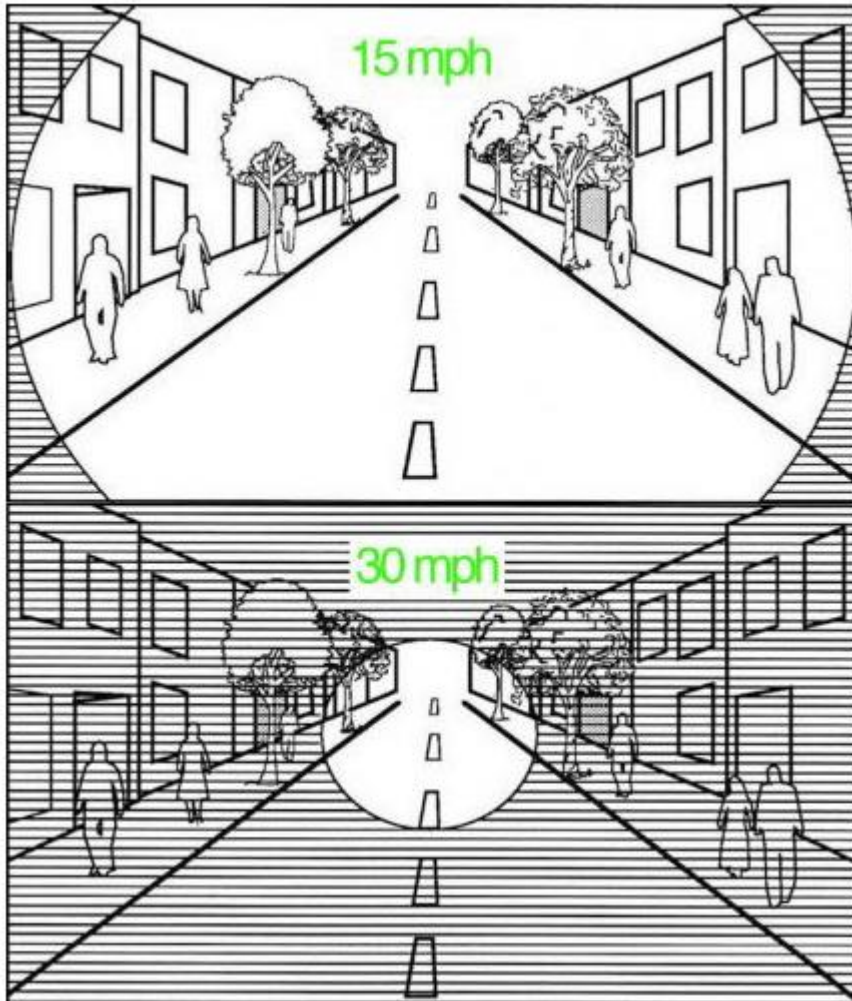
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



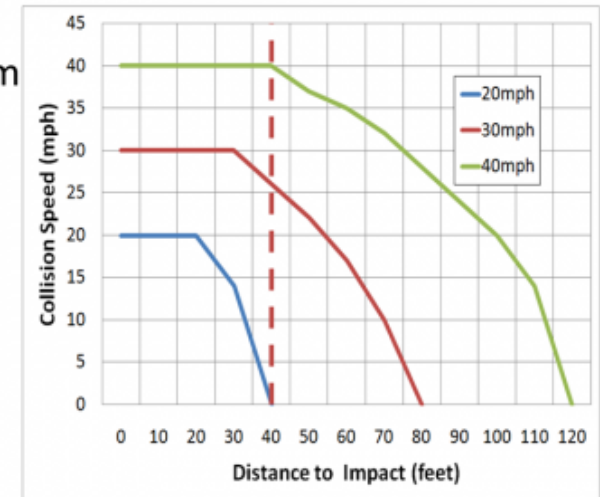
HEALTH
SERVICES

In New Britain, Connecticut

Design Impacts Speed






Stopping distances



Data from Road Safety Web Publication No. 16 *Relationship between Speed and Risk of Fatal Injury: Pedestrians and Car Occupants* - Department for Transport (September 2010)

The effect of speed

	Average for all ages	Over 60 year olds
At  40 mph	• 31% are killed	• 98% are killed
At  30 mph	• 7% are killed	• 50% are killed
At  20 mph	• 1% are killed	• 5% are killed

Data from Road Safety Web Publication No. 16 *Relationship between Speed and Risk of Fatal Injury: Pedestrians and Car Occupants* - Department for Transport (September 2010)

Accessory Dwelling Units



What is a 'Family'?



City Of Hartford Withdraws Suit In 'Scarborough 11' Case



Related



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What Does 'Family' Mean in Connecticut Zoning?

SOCIAL CHANGES LEAD TO WIDE VARIETY OF LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

By DIANE W. WHITNEY

"Family isn't about whose blood you have. It's about who you care about."

— "South Park" television show episode, 1998.

That's fine for a TV show, but try telling it to a zoning enforcement officer.

The definition of "family" has been an issue in zoning law since before 1974 when the U.S. Supreme Court said, in *Belle Terre v. Boraas*, 416 U.S. 1 (1974), that economic and social legislation will be upheld if it is reasonable, not arbitrary and bears a rational relationship to a permissible state objective. *Belle Terre's* legislation was the definition of family as one or more persons related by blood, marriage or adoption or not more than two unrelated persons living together as one housekeeping unit. Its objective was to restrict the use of single-family homes to use by one "family." Six college students from the State University of New York at Stony Brook did not fit the definition — and *Belle Terre's* definition and

Six Hockey Players

Conn. Gen. Stat. §8-2, originally enacted in 1949, permits Connecticut municipalities to regulate the "density of population and location and use of buildings." The authority to define "family" comes from that statute; without a definition of "family," the single-family residential zones in each town would have little meaning.

Even before the *Belle Terre* decision, the concept of the "single housekeeping unit" was important in deciding what was allowed in a single-family house. An interesting contrast is found in Connecticut between 16 members of one extended family spending summers together in a large house in New London and six unrelated hockey players in a large house in Milford. In *Neptune Park Association v. Steinberg*, 138 Conn. 357 (1951), the extended Steinberg family, consisting of four married sisters and their eight children, qualified as a "family" because they operated as a "single housekeeping unit," evidence of which largely consisted of the fact that there was

the facts that each resident had a separate rental agreement and there were two separate entrances, three doorbells and two mailboxes. In the court's words, there was a "lack of cohesion" among the residents.

The property owner's appeal actually succeeded, but only because part of the zoning enforcement officer's order was invalid. Eventually the New Haven Night-hawk hockey players lost this one, as they apparently also lost most of their games in the 1990-91 season — a fact the court took pains to include.



Diane W. Whitney

Cottage/Pocket Neighborhoods, Cohousing



Rocky Corner, Bethany, CT



Incentivize/Condition approval on universal design features



Public and Outdoor Spaces



Stratton Brook State Park, Simsbury

Public and Outdoor Spaces



Elizabeth Park, West Hartford



Memory Garden, Portland, Oregon

Public and Outdoor Spaces



Wayfinding, Salisbury



Outdoor reading room

Public and Outdoor Spaces



Hartford PARK(ing) Day

Embedding a lifespan approach in policy

(e) (1) Such plan of conservation and development shall (A) be a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality, (B) provide for a system of principal thoroughfares, parkways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, multipurpose trails and other public ways as appropriate, (C) be designed to promote, with the greatest efficiency and economy, the coordinated development of the municipality and the general welfare and prosperity of its people and identify areas where it is feasible and prudent (i) to have compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-oriented mixed use development patterns and land reuse, and (ii) to promote such development patterns and land reuse, (D) recommend the most desirable use of land within the municipality for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, conservation, agricultural and other purposes and include a map showing such proposed land uses, (E) recommend the most desirable density of population in the several parts of the municipality, (F) note any inconsistencies with the following growth management principles: (i) Redevelopment and revitalization of commercial centers and areas of mixed land uses with existing or planned physical infrastructure; (ii) expansion of housing opportunities and design choices to accommodate a variety of household types and needs; (iii) concentration of development around transportation nodes and along major transportation corridors to support the viability of transportation options and land reuse; (iv) conservation and restoration of the natural environment, cultural and historical resources and existing farmlands; (v) protection of environmental assets critical to public health and safety; and (vi) integration of planning across all levels of government to address issues on a local, regional and state-wide basis, (G) make provision for the development of housing opportunities, including opportunities for multifamily dwellings, consistent with soil types, terrain and infrastructure capacity, for all residents of the municipality and the planning region in which the municipality is located, as designated by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management under section 16a-4a, (H) promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low and moderate income households, and encourage the development of housing which will meet the housing needs identified in the state's consolidated plan for housing and community development prepared pursuant to section 8-37t and in the housing component and the other components of the state plan of conservation and development prepared pursuant to chapter 297, and (I) consider allowing older adults and persons with a disability the ability to live in their homes and communities whenever possible. Such plan may: (i) Permit home sharing in single-family zones between up to four adult persons of any age with a disability or who are sixty years of age or older, whether or not related, who receive supportive services in the home; (ii) allow accessory apartments for persons with a disability or persons sixty years of age or older, or their caregivers, in all residential zones, subject to municipal zoning regulations concerning design and long-term use of the principal property after it is no longer in use by such persons; and (iii) expand the definition of "family" in single-family zones to allow for accessory apartments for persons sixty years of age or older, persons with a disability or their caregivers. In preparing such plan the commission shall consider focusing development and revitalization in areas with existing or planned physical infrastructure. For purposes of this subsection, "disability" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-8.

Conn. Gen. Stat.
Sec. 8-23(e)(1)(I)

Can You Show Me the Data?

Issue briefs

Transportation Policy Brief: How Can We Best Support Residents' Transportation Needs Across the Lifespan in Connecticut?

Quick Facts:

92%

of Connecticut residents age 50 and older rely on their cars as their primary transit mode, a higher proportion than other age groups.

More 50-65-year-olds plan to use their bike at least monthly, compared to today's use (13% increase*), than any other age group, followed by adults age 66 and older (9% increase*).

43%

say keeping transportation costs low is a high priority.

47% But in the future, only **8%**
of Connecticut residents live in a suburb where most people usually drive. want to live in a suburban, car-dependent environment.

10%*
fewer residents plan to use their cars as future primary transit.

Among Connecticut residents age 66 and older,
12%*
more plan to use the bus as their primary transit mode than today.



*Please note that these statistics refer to percentage point changes, not percent changes.



Housing Report: Connecticut Adults Want Affordable Housing in Walkable Neighborhoods of Opportunity

Older adults generally want to live at home in a familiar community environment. As Connecticut's population ages and lives longer, demand for a broad range of accessible, affordable and creative housing options is increasing. Connecticut is the 7th oldest state in the nation. It also has the third longest life expectancy of 80.8 years for residents born in Connecticut today.¹

Towns are encouraged to be proactive in ensuring that their policies and practices support the housing needs of Connecticut resident across the lifespan.

Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging, together with the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Capitol Region Council of Governments, commissioned a statewide survey, conducted online by Harris Poll in the first quarter of 2015 among 1,011 Connecticut adults (see page 9 for detailed methodology), using an existing national tool, created by the American Planning Association.² The purpose of the Connecticut survey was to learn what residents have to say about how communities can best prepare to support residents across the lifespan. This report on our housing results analyzes survey responses to help inform housing policy in Connecticut. This is the second in our topical series, following the transportation report.³

The key theme to emerge from survey results analyzed in this report is that Connecticut adults want affordable housing, with adequate space to share, and in walkable neighborhoods of opportunity.

Towns are encouraged to assess the extent to which their zoning codes, plans of conservation of development, and other policy tools advance development that supports housing affordability, community walkability, choice and other needs of Connecticut residents across the lifespan.



AARP Livability Index

Livability Index | Great Neighborhoods for All Ages

LIVABILITY DEFINED CALCULATING SCORES LIVABILITY CATEGORIES ABOUT US FAQs



How **livable** is your **community**?

enter your address, city, state or zip code



Job opportunities

LEARN MORE

The Livability Index scores neighborhoods and communities across the U.S. for the services and amenities that impact your life the most.

Wilton, CT

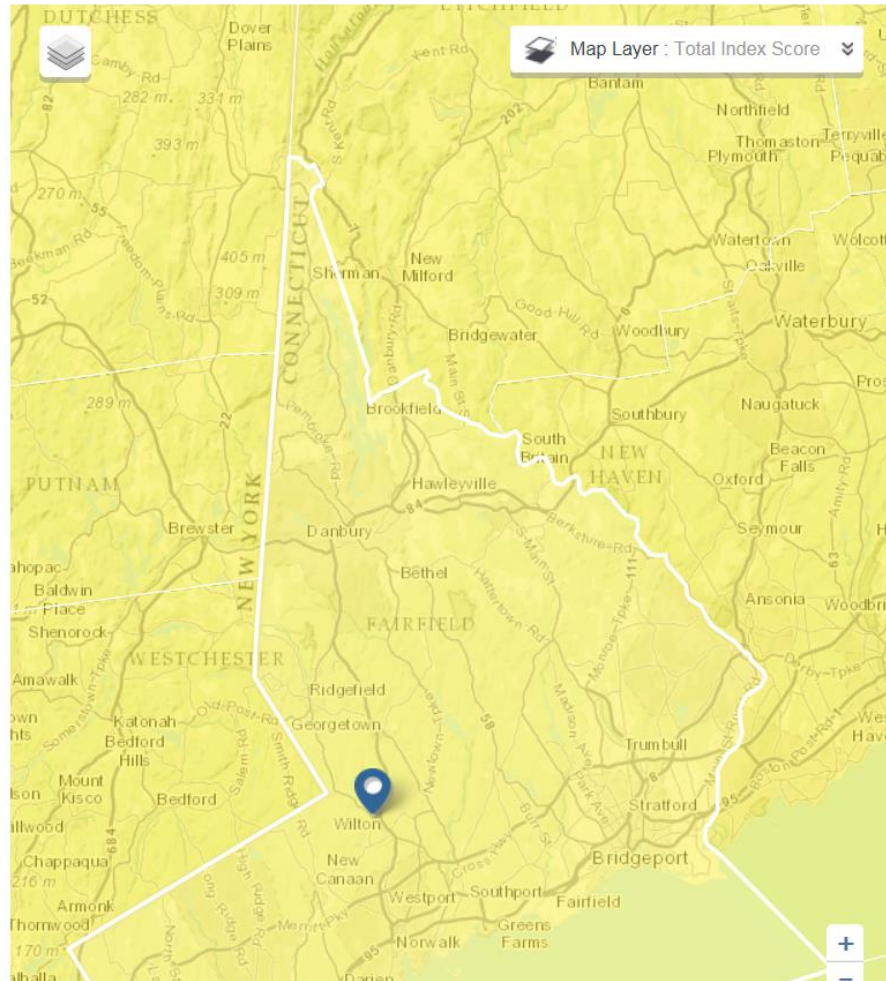
Livability Score ?



CUSTOMIZE THIS SCORE

CATEGORY SCORE

- 52** **HOUSING**
Affordability and access >
- 57** **NEIGHBORHOOD**
Access to life, work, and play >
- 42** **TRANSPORTATION**
Safe and convenient options >
- 46** **ENVIRONMENT**
Clean air and water >
- 68** **HEALTH**
Prevention, access, and quality >
- 64** **ENGAGEMENT**
Civic and social involvement >
- 42** **OPPORTUNITY**
Inclusion and possibilities >



Collaboration Opportunities and Trends

- Sustainable CT
- Main St. Center
- Regionalization
- AARP
- Aging in Place Organizations
- Senior Centers-Multi-use centers
- Planning for aging, retirement, downsizing...etc

Aging in Place Organizations



*Living lives to the fullest
at home in New Canaan!*
203 966-7762

The Latest News from Staying Put



Give Now

New Director of Member Services

Staying Put in New Canaan, Inc. is a member-

Staying Put Events

Today   Monday, June 5  Week

Wednesday, June 7



Connecticut Commission on
Women, Children *and* Seniors



CWCS

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