

# Aging Well in Simsbury Survey Results

BOS Meeting, May 8, 2023

Presented by Aging and Disability Commission

Jan Beatty

Diana Yeisley, Chair

# DATA IN YOUR BACKYARD

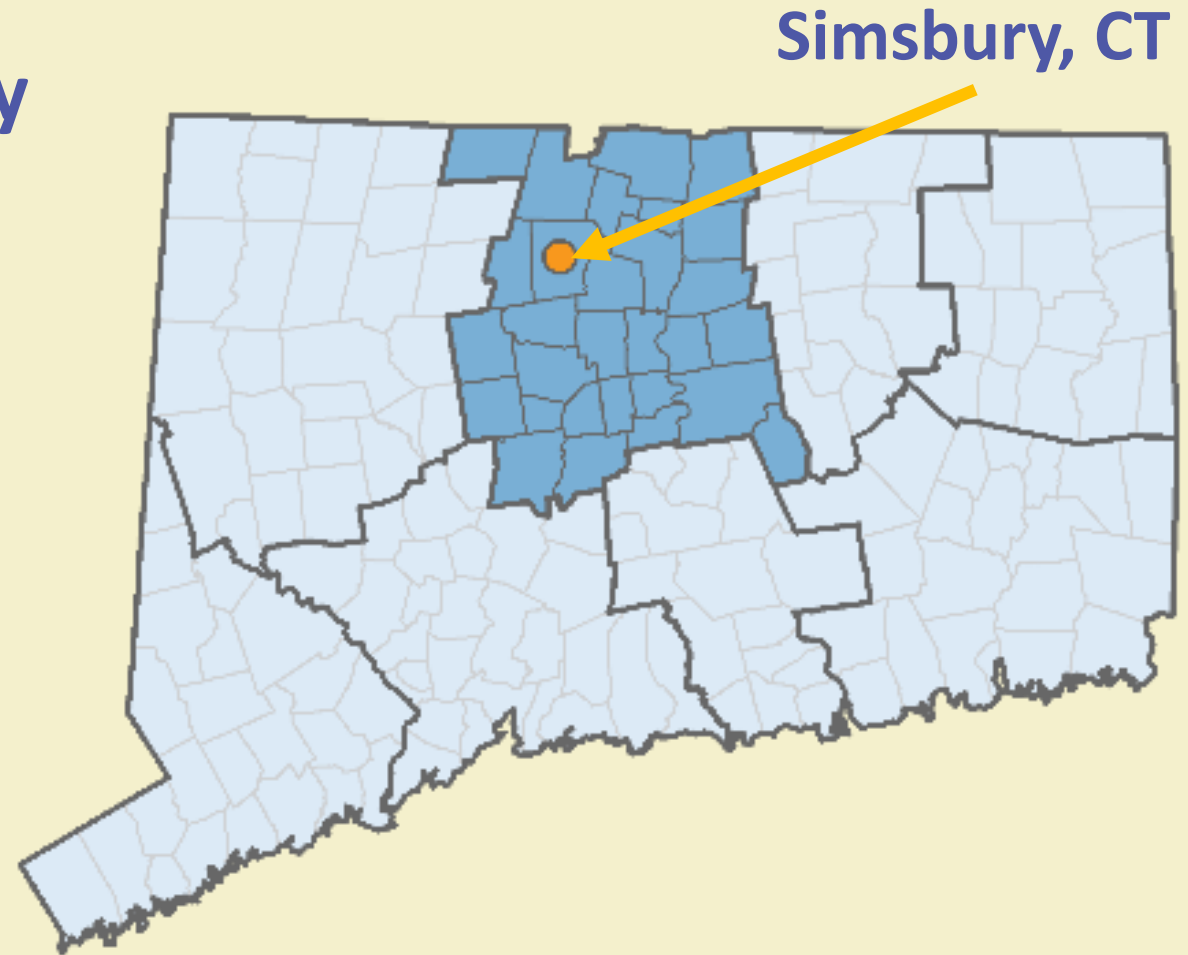
## The Aging Population of Simsbury

Total population: **24,519**

Population 65+: **5,805**

% of community is 65+: **17.2%**

% of 65+ population live alone: **25.8%**



# Background: Becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community

- Simsbury was 4<sup>th</sup> town in CT to sign on in August 2019
- Multi-year process culminates in membership denoting town leadership's commitment to making town age-friendly in WHO's 8 domains of livability:
  - ❖ Outdoor spaces and buildings
  - ❖ Transportation
  - ❖ Housing
  - ❖ Social participation
  - ❖ Respect and social inclusion
  - ❖ Work and civic participation
  - ❖ Communication and information
  - ❖ Community and health services
- Step 2 in process: conducting baseline assessment of town's age-friendliness

# Survey Methodology

- The 36-question survey modeled other AARP age-friendly assessments
- Rolled out July 12, 2022; closed September 15, 2022
- Offered both online and in hard copy through numerous venues
- 674 responses
- Slightly more than 11% of Simsbury's 65+ population
- About 4% of Simsbury's 54-65 year-old population

# Survey Response Demographics

- 67% Simsbury; 15% Weatogue; 11% W. Simsbury; 6% Tarriffville
- 68% lived in town more than 20 years
- 72% female
- 71% 65+ years old
- 68% retired
- 31% live alone

# Notable Survey Responses

- 61% said extremely or very important to stay in Simsbury
- On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being best, rate town as place for people to live as they age:
  - 5: 26%
  - 4: 37%
  - 3: 27%
  - 2: 6%
  - 1: 4%
- 88% felt respected as older person
- 79% noted ease of learning about community events
- 32% want to be more social; 40% want to be more active in community
- 29% envision future needs for selves as unpaid caregivers

# Responses to given options for what is needed

- 22% -- sidewalks and trails that are accessible and in good condition
- 21% -- more affordable housing
- 20% -- separate pathways for bicycles and pedestrians
- 18% -- well-maintained public buildings (library, Senior Center, Town Hall, etc.)
- 16% -- additional transportation options

# Open-ended answers to what is working

- Safety
- Community
- Friendly
- Library
- Parks
- Open spaces
- Activities & recreation
- Restaurants
- Town services
- Beauty; location



# Open-ended answers to what is NOT working

- Transportation
- Taxes
- Affordability
- Single-level housing
- Development
- Traffic
- Senior center facilities
- Lack of diversity/inclusivity



# Next Steps Re AARP Age-Friendly Status

- Recommitment of town leadership to seeking AARP Age-Friendly Community status
- Conducting several focus group sessions to clarify top issues from survey
- Devising action plan with community partners and town leadership to address top concerns raised in assessment