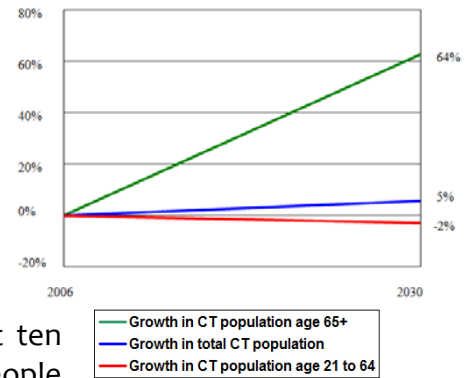




Aging Issues Fact Sheet (May 2011)

• **Demographic trends:**

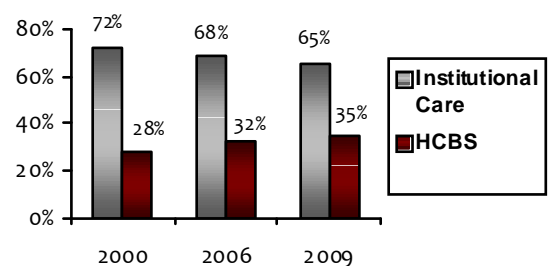
- CT has more than 487,000 residents over the age of 65 (US Census Bureau, 2010).
- CT is the 7th oldest state in the nation, for median age. It is 10th for people aged 85+.
- CT is home to one million baby boomers (people born between 1946-1964) or roughly one third of its population.
- From 2006 to 2009, CT's 65+ population grew by 3.5%, about ten times faster than the general population. CT's population of people under the age of 65 actually decreased during that time.
- From 2006 to 2030, CT's older adult population is expected to increase by 64%.



- **Life expectancy:** A child born in Connecticut in 2005 is expected to live an average of 80.1 years, compared to the US average of 78 years (Statehealthfacts.org). In 2003, the US life expectancy was 77.5 and in 1900 it was 47.3 (National Center for Health Statistics).
- **Health care:** All Connecticut residents over the age of 65 are eligible for Medicare, but many individuals aged 50-64 are in need of comprehensive health care coverage. In illustration, **65% of all Charter Oak Health Plan enrollees are over age 50**, reflecting a lack of employer-sponsored health care for these individuals (data from DSS and ACS for April, 2011).

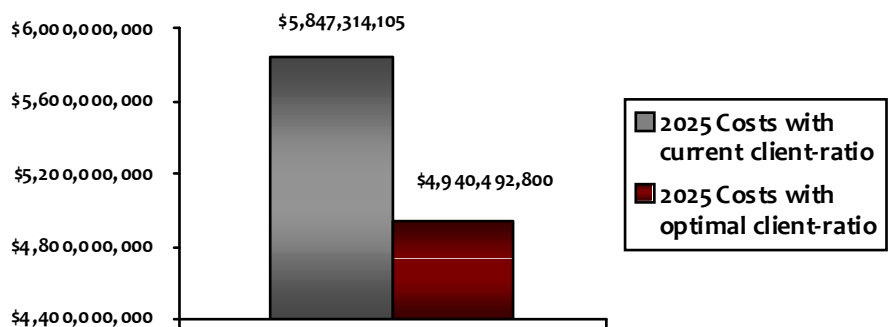
- **Choice in long-term care services and supports:** CT spends over \$2 billion annually on long-term care services and supports through Medicaid. This represents 13% of the state budget. Of that, 65% is spent on institutional care and 35% on home and community-based services (HCBS). (Notably, this 35% serves over half of all LTC Medicaid recipients.)

Choice in LTC Services and Supports

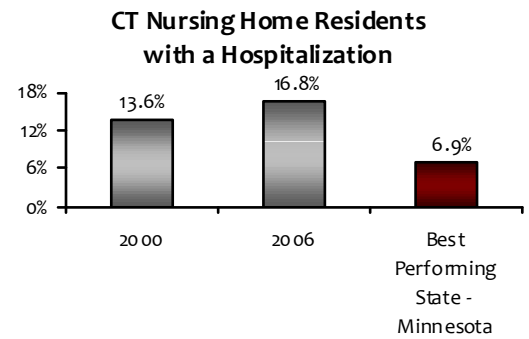


Utilizing Medicaid LTC dollars for HCBS costs significantly less.

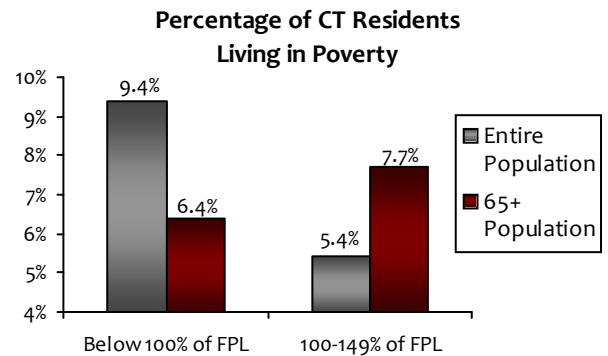
CT's cost avoidance in 2025 will exceed \$900 million if we rebalance the long-term care system (CT State Long-Term Care Plan, 2010).



- Health of nursing home residents:** In 2006, almost 17% of nursing home residents in CT had to be hospitalized for a health condition, leading to disruption, decreased quality of life and increased costs. Unfortunately, CT is headed in the wrong direction—with a 22% increase in this data point from 2000. If CT performed at the level of the best-performing state (MN), it would have increased quality of care and save an estimated \$17 million.



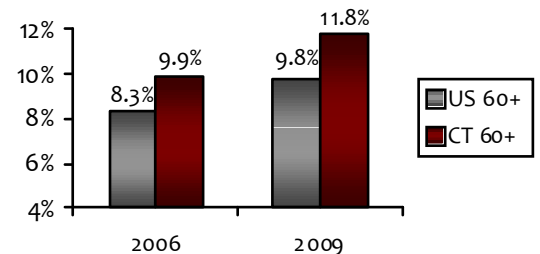
- Income:** A disproportionate number of older adults are living with limited means, between 100 and 149% of poverty level - for a single person, \$10,830-\$16,137 annually (American Community Survey, 2008). Being slightly above the poverty level makes them ineligible for certain programs, but does not provide economic self-sufficiency in our high-cost state.



To meet basic needs in Connecticut, a single older adult renter needs to earn \$24,408 annually (Elder Economic Security Index, 2009).

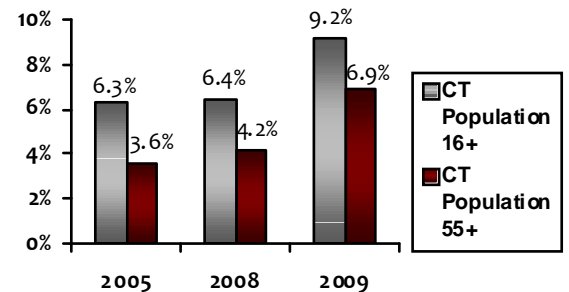
- Workforce:** CT's workforce is older than the national workforce and is aging rapidly. This will have broad implications in the next few years as the Baby Boomers begin to retire.
- Unemployment:** Older workers are losing their jobs at a rate disproportionate to younger workers.

Percentage of Workforce that is 60+



From 2005 to 2009, the percentage of unemployed adults aged 55+ in CT increased by 92%, while overall unemployment increased by 46%. The actual number of unemployed 55+ adults in our state more than doubled in that timeframe. The effect is even more dramatic for those over age 65, whose unemployment increased by 243% during that time. The largest impact is on the 65-74 age group: in the past year alone, the percentage unemployed dramatically increased from 4.6% to 9.3%.

Unemployment Rates in CT



For more information, contact the CT Commission on Aging, at 860-240-5200, check the web, at www.cga.ct.gov/coa or look for us on facebook.