




FONS Roundtable



Senior Life in Newtown

Newtown Senior Center
May 26, 2026

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May Agenda

- Upcoming FONS Events
- Follow-up from May - Housing
- Senior life in Newtown
 - Pre Survey Results
 - Recognizing the growing senior population

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April Roundtable Newtown Housing

Follow-up Questions

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April FONS Roundtable Follow-up Population Numbers


1. How are population numbers produced between decennial censuses?


Key Methods for Intercensal Estimates

- **Components of Change Method:** The primary method calculates population by starting with the last census and adding the **natural change** (births minus deaths) and **net migration** (domestic and international).
- **Administrative Records:** The Census Bureau uses reliable records to track changes, including:
 - **Birth/Death Certificates:** Recorded by state departments of health.
 - **Internal Revenue Service (IRS):** Used to track domestic migration based on tax returns.
 - **Medicare Enrollment Data:** Used to estimate migration for the older population.
 - **Social Security Administration:** Used for international migration data.
- **Housing Unit Method (Town Level):** To estimate population at the town level, the Census Bureau distributes the county population based on the change in the number of **occupied housing units** (households) and the average number of people per household.
- **Blended Base Method:** Following the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau began using a "blended base," which integrates 2020 Census counts, 2020 Census quality survey results, and other administrative data to improve accuracy

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 April FONS Roundtable Follow-up



Population Numbers

2. How many children are schooled outside (private schools, or home schooled) of public schools? How does that affect trends of student enrollment in Newtown?

Accurate, localized data for the exact number of children in Newtown, CT, attending schools outside of public education is not explicitly reported, as Connecticut does not mandate reporting for homeschooled children. However, regional data shows about 3% of Connecticut families homeschool and 9.7% of students attend private schools.


3. Graduated High School students who do not live in Newtown:


- a. Where are they moving to? Connecticut, Northeast, other?
- b. Why are they not staying/returning to Newtown?

No data found. NHS Principal was asked

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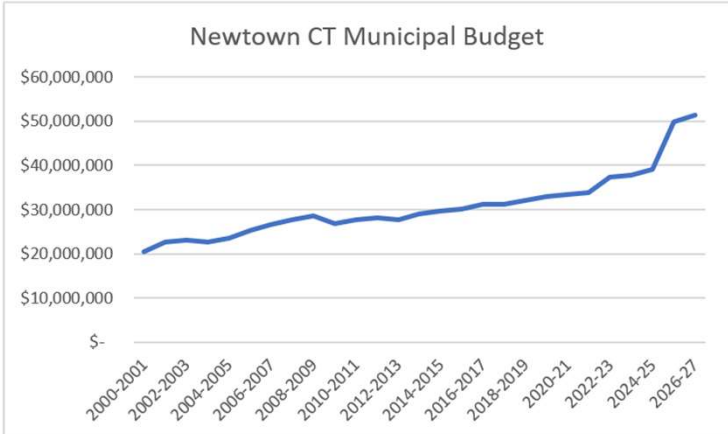
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 April FONS Roundtable Follow-up



Population Numbers

4. What is the trend of Newtown taxes and inflation over the past 20 or more years?





Newtown CT Municipal Budget

Year	Approximate Budget (\$)
2000-2001	20,000,000
2002-2003	22,000,000
2004-2005	23,000,000
2006-2007	25,000,000
2008-2009	28,000,000
2010-2011	27,000,000
2012-2013	28,000,000
2014-2015	29,000,000
2016-2017	31,000,000
2018-2019	32,000,000
2020-21	34,000,000
2022-23	38,000,000
2024-25	40,000,000
2026-27	52,000,000

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April FONS Roundtable Follow-up

Population Numbers

5. What are the demographics and characteristics of people living in Newtown apartments?
Unable to find an answer
6. What is the divorce rate in Newtown?
Divorce rate in Newtown, CT, is approximately 3.1%. Notably lower than the broader Connecticut state average of 5.0% and well below the U.S. average of 10.9%.
7. Are there FONS like groups for 20 to 30 somethings and 40 to 50 somethings in Newtown?
Not really
 - Lions, Rotary, Knights of Columbus have a broad range of member's age
 - Women in Newtown (WIN)
 - Service Clubs – Gardn Clubs, Pollinator's, Hiking Club
 - See The Newtown Bee, Annual Guide to Newtown

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Senior Live in Newtown

Pre Survey

36 Responses. Not Statistically significant

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May Roundtable Senior Live in Newtown



Pre Survey

1. State and Federal regulations have age thresholds, as do many organizations and retailers. What do you think is the age threshold for “Senior” status?

• AARP	50 and older	0.0%
• Newtown Commission on Aging Charter	50 and older	
• Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS)	55 and older	22.9%
• Newtown Senior Center	60 and older	14.73%
• Treadwell Pool & Eichler’s Cove Sr Membership	60 and older	
• Newtown Continuing Education	62 and older	
• Medicare	65 and older	45.7%
• Newtown Senior Tax Relief	65 and older	
• CT DEEP	65 and older	
• Social Security Full (base Benefits)	66 - 67	
•	70 and Older	17.1%

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Newtown Sr Population

Newtown Population 2025	Pre Survey % Respondents
• 60 and over 26.8%	• 55 – 64 11.8%
• 65 and over 19.0%	• 65 – 69 23.5%
• 70 and over 12.7%	• 70 – 79 50.0%
	• 80 and Over 14.7%
	88% > 65
Living alone	23.5%
Living with a partner	64.9%
Living with children or other family	8.8%
Living in a group setting (AL, LTC, other)	0.0%

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Pre Survey



4. What are your sources of income

1. I'm still working (full or part-time)	14.1%
2. Social Security, State and Federal pensions	25.3%
3. Pension from company(ies) I worked for	14.1%
4. IRA, 401k and other tax advantaged savings	20.2%
5. Equity Market (stocks, mutual funds, etc.)	11.1%
6. Other savings (CDs, bonds, annuities, etc.)	9.1%
7. Income from rental property and other royalties	6.1%
8. Family support	0.0%

Not Working – Only 1 source of income	3.0%
Not Working – 4 or more sources of income	7.1%

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Newtown Sr Population


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• 70 and over 12.7%	• 70 – 79 50.0%
	• 80 and Over 14.7%

Retirement experts generally classify the retirement journey into three distinct chronological and lifestyle stages:


- "Go-Go" years, 62 - 75
- "Slow-Go" years, 75 - 85
- "No-Go" years 85 and older

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Pre Survey


6. Do you participate in any of the following?

1. Church or Faith Based	22.2%
2. Newtown Service Organization	8.9%
3. Social clubs	15.6%
4. School focused program (PTO)	0.0%
5. Sports or activity organization	2.2%
6. Political or advocacy groups	13.3%
7. Elected or appointed Town body	20.0%
8. Friends of Newtown Seniors	17.8%


Volunteer Firefighter, Social Media Manager, Historical Society, YMCA, Choral Society

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Pre Survey



2. What "Senior Discounts" do you use most?

• Sports	2.9%
• Pharmacy	5.7%
• AARP	8.6%
• Anything	8.6%
• Coffee & Restaurant	8.6%
• Travel	8.6%
• Movies& Events	14.3%
• None & Blank	42.9%

Any I remember to ask for. None locally as I like to support local business

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FONS Discounts

- Waterbury Symphony
- Newtown Little Theater
- Ricci’s Salon
- Document Shredding

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Pre Survey

3. What “Senior Discounts” would you most like to have?

• Grocery stores	25.0%
• Taxes	15.6%
• Restaurants	6.3%
• Fuel	6.3%
• Anything - Everything	3.1%
• Car Insurance	3.1%
• None or Blank	40.6%


None, seniors don't need special discounts.

Good question


Would like to see stores or organizations make known they have senior discounts available.

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Pre Survey

7. What would you like to have Newtown government do differently for seniors?

- Transportation 2.9%
- Housing 2.9%
- Parks & Rec Activities 2.9%
- More Sr Programs 2.9%
- Lower Taxes 60.0%
- None Not Sure or Blank 28.6%

The town does a great job supporting seniors in general and especially those with needs. I don't think they need to do anymore.

I would like the Town to be more forward thinking in planning

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Pre Survey

5. What Newtown programs and services do you use:

1. Senior Center
2. Community Center Pool
3. Other Community Center
4. Parks & Recreation Programs
5. School District Adult Education
6. C H Booth Library
7. Meals on Wheels
8. Food Pantries
9. Wheel it Forward

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May Roundtable

Being a Senior in Newtown

Accommodating the Growing Senior Population

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Newtown Merchant Senior Offerings

1. Discount Cards
 - Type of Merchants (Restaurant, Goods, Services)
 - When
 - How Much
 - Other Characteristics
2. Special Senior Accommodations
 - What (Senior only hours, be creative ...)
 - Type of Merchants (Restaurant, Goods, Services)
 - When
3. Verification
 - Merchant Sign-up
 - Senior Proof of Eligibility
 - Directory of available offers
4. Other - Define

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Newtown Merchant Senior Offerings – Make It Happen

1. Merchant Groups to Approach
 - Sandy Hook Organization for Prosperity (SHOP)
 - Danbury Chamber of Commerce
 - Assistance from Economic & Community Development Department, or Economic Development Commission
2. Other - Define

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May Roundtable Being a Senior in Newtown Notes

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Newtown Merchant's Senior Offerings

- Senior Discounts
 - What products or services?
 - Fuel oil / propane *Sited multiple times*
 - Gas stations *Sited multiple times*
 - Restaurants *Sited multiple times*
 - Food stores
 - Cleaners
 - Pet Supplies
 - Car Services
 - When
 - Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday *Sited multiple times*
 - Designated Discount days
 - Identification for eligibility
 - Senior (FONS) card
 - Driver's license
 - Other important considerations
 - Directory of available Discounts
 - Window decal for merchants to declare Senior Discount or other accommodation.

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Notes and Follow-up

- What is the number of apartments and mobile homes in Newtown?
- Sr Center program on retirement planning by Marie Kavi is very good
- Message and education about retirement finances needed more for the 40s to 50s than folks at the Senior Center.
- Walgreen's has Senior Discount Tuesdays
- TAXES! Big issue. There will be a FONS Roundtable on that in coming months
- Flagpole – Another hot topic. See Street Scape on FONS website. Will be part of a future Traffic Roundtable

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