



SERVICE • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

FOSTER GRANDPARENT/SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz Counties

PROJECT SCOUT
Tax Counseling Assistance

COMPANION FOR LIFE
Emergency Response Systems

2017 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SENIOR FACT SHEET

Population Changes

- The 60+ population has increased by almost 43% since 2011.
- 8,448 of the County's 63,244 seniors are eligible for Medi-Cal
- The Over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible population grew 75% since 2011
- 8% of the population consumes 75% of the health care costs, with the vast majority being seniors with chronic conditions
- 43 residents per week turned 60 in Santa Cruz County in 2016
- 13 Medi-Cal eligible County residents turned 60 every week in 2016
- 40% of all older Santa Cruzans (age 65+) do not have enough income to meet their basic needs
- 1,000 Californians are turning 65 every day for the next fifteen years
- There are twice as many homeless people over age 50 as there are under the age of 25
- **Seniors are the fastest growing age group** in California and the United States. The 65-74 age group is projected to grow by 20.7% over the next 5 years (compared to 4.7% for all age groups).

Food-insecure seniors are at greater risk for chronic health conditions and are:

- 60 percent more likely to experience depression
- 53 percent more likely to report a heart attack
- 52 percent more likely to develop asthma
- 40 percent more likely to report an experience of congestive heart failure

Elder Abuse

- Financial abuse cases of seniors rose 41% between 2009 and 2013 in California
- Adult Protective Services workers receive only 4 cents of every dollar of state and federally funded training that is provided to Child Welfare workers

Senior Services Funding and the Cost of Long Term Care

- The average cost of a nursing home in California is over \$86,000 per year
- Funding for Older Americans Act programs is at 1984-85 levels.
- State funding for Older Californians Act Programs has been **eliminated**.
- Successful programs such as Linkages have been closed.
- Per Capita Community Program funds for seniors are 50% of what they were in 1984.

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