



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

## 2016 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SENIOR FACT SHEET

### Population Changes

- The 60+ population has increased by 37% since 2011.
- 7,500 of the County's 61,000 seniors are eligible for Medi-Cal
- The Over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible population grew 61% since 2011
- 8% of the population consumes 75% of the health care costs, with the vast majority being seniors with chronic conditions
- 94 seniors per week turned 60 in Santa Cruz County in 2015
- 28 Medi-Cal eligible County residents turn 60 every week, a 375% increase over the previous 12 months
- 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
- **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

234 Santa Cruz Avenue • Aptos, California 95003      [www.seniorscouncil.org](http://www.seniorscouncil.org)  
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAYS OF MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES & YOUR PRIVATE DONATIONS