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 grown 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