



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

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION
Navigating the San Benito County Senior & Disability Services Network

2024 SAN BENITO COUNTY SENIOR FACT SHEET

Population Changes

- Seniors are the fastest growing age group in California and the United States.
 - The 60+ population has grown by over 40% since 2010 in California
 - The population of Californians aged 0-59 has increased less than 1% since 2010
- **San Benito Co. has the third highest growth rate (67.2%) for the 65-84 population among all California Counties since 2010¹**
- 270 more seniors in the County were Medi-Cal Eligible last year than the year before
- The over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible in San Benito County population doubled in the past decade
- 1,000 Californians are turning 65 *every day* for the next twelve years

Senior Services Funding and the Cost of Long Term Care

- The 2023 average cost of a nursing home in California was over \$115,000 per year
- Pre-COVID funding for local Older Americans Act programs has increased 10% in 35 yrs.
- U.S. Inflation since 1984-85 is over 160%
- Baseline Funding for the AAA has 32% of the buying power that it had 40 years ago.
- Successful programs such as Linkages & Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers have been closed due to the elimination of state funding

Senior Loneliness & Isolation has been a national crisis BEFORE COVID-19

- Being isolated has the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes per day
- Senior isolation increases Medicare costs by about \$7 billion per year
- Lonely seniors have a 45% increase in their risk of death
- COVID is estimated to have tripled the senior isolation crisis
- Seniors in rural communities are twice as likely to be isolated as their urban counterparts

Seniors and COVID-19

- 65% of ICU beds have been occupied by individuals 61+
- 85% of deaths were individuals aged 61+

Homeless Seniors

- Homeless seniors over age 50 are growing at a faster rate than any other age group
- In the 55+ population, homelessness is identified as a trigger for Mental Health Issues

¹ 2020 U.S. Census Results