San Francisco’s Changing Demographics

Our population of older adults is growing substantially. Investing in this community is important for the future of our City.

Older Adults are the Fastest Growing Age Group

Nearly 30% of San Francisco residents will be age 60 or older by 2030.

We are Among the Nation’s Most Diverse

Over the past three decades, our community of older adults has shifted to become predominantly a population of immigrants.²

Many San Francisco older adults are living on a fixed income. They face higher housing costs and are more likely to live alone than in other urban communities throughout California.

Aging at home can lead to better health and prolonged independence, however the cost for in-home care is becoming increasingly out of reach for those who may benefit from supportive services.

Challenges and Priorities

Poverty

13% are severely poor, living below the federal poverty level⁴

Limited Retirement Income

Average Social Security benefits are $17,220 per year⁵

Social Isolation

Nearly 28% are living alone⁴

Rising Home Care Costs

Average San Francisco cost for in-home support services is $37,575⁶

High Cost of Living to Meet Basic Needs

Average: $45,348 needed for a single older renter to meet basic needs
Average: $49,476 needed for a single older homeowner to meet basic needs⁷

2. Source: 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, IPUMS 1990 5% sample
4. Source: American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates
5. Source: U.S. Social Security Administration, OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County, 2019
6. Source: Based on average hours per month for IHSS clients and the San Francisco median homecare private pay rate of $32 (Genworth, 2020)
7. Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Elder Index, 2019