

2017

Seniors' Agenda Demographic Fact Sheet

A LOOK AT OLDER ADULTS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Older adults, ages 60 years and older, account for approximately 17% of the county population from 2012 to 2016. More than half of Santa Clara County's (SCC) older adult population (55%) identifies as female and 45% as male. In SCC, the median age for older adults is 69.5 years, similar to the median age of older adults in the State of California (69.3 years).¹



Department of
Aging and Adult Services

Key Findings

\$28,440

ANNUAL BASIC COST OF LIVING
for a single older adult in SCC, 18%
higher than the California average

APPROXIMATELY
17% OF THE POPULATION
is ages 60 years
or older



ETHNICALLY DIVERSE
older adult population,
similar to SCC as a whole

GROWING POPULATION
older adults ages 60 and older
projected to reach 26.3% of the
total population by 2030



**37% REPORTED LIVING IN
NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS**
34% of these reported living alone



69.5 YRS **MEDIAN AGE**
of older adults
in SCC

Demographics



Race/Ethnicity: The racial and ethnic composition of older adults in Santa Clara County is quite diverse, similar to the demographics of the County overall. Over four in five (82%) older adults, ages 60 and older, identify as either Asian/Pacific Islander (31%) or non-Hispanic White (51%). About one in seven (14%) older adults, ages 60 and older, identify as being of Hispanic or Latino origin, and a small percentage (2%) of older adults identify as African American.¹

Educational Attainment and Language: Santa Clara County is a highly educated county, where almost half of all residents have at least a bachelor's degree or higher. Among adults above

the age of 60, 40% have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹ While more than half of older adults (55%), ages 60 and over, speak English only, 45% of older adults speak a language other than English. Among the 45% of older adults who speak a language other than English, 29% say they speak English less than "very well." Barriers in

communication often result in a lack of access to services and poor health outcomes for older adults.¹

Economic Security: The Elder Economic Security Index looks at the minimum income necessary to cover a single elder's basic expenses for each county in California. (A single elder is defined as an older adult housing no adult children and no grandchildren.)

In 2015, the estimated annual basic cost of living for a single elder in Santa Clara County was \$28,440, 18% higher than the average for California. On a monthly basis, this equates to a total cost of \$2,370. The majority of this monthly amount is utilized for rent (\$1,365), food (\$286), and healthcare costs (\$235).²



References:

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table S0102

2 2015 Elder Index, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Retrieved November 20, 2017 from <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/programs/health-disparities/elder-health/elder-index-data/Pages/CostOfLiving.aspx>

Contact: Diana Miller, Project Manager

[408] 755-7795

diana.miller@ssa.sccgov.org