

Snapshot of Older Adults in Kern County

California is the state with the most older adults living in poverty. By 2030, older adults will make up one-quarter of California's population, intensifying the need to invest in the critical programs that support them.

Overviewⁱ

- Older adults age 60+ account for 20% of California's population.
- In **Kern County**, **141,000** older adults are 60+.
- Statewide demographics among older adults: Black, 6.5%; Asian, 11.4%; Hispanic, 24.1%; White, 55.1%.

Medi-Cal & Medicareⁱⁱ

Older adults 65+ who have incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level qualify for both Medi-Cal & Medicare for their health care coverage.

- There are 1,658,539 older adults statewide who are dually eligible.
- In **Kern County**, there are **39,055** older adults dually eligible.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)ⁱⁱⁱ

SSI is a federal income supplement program available to low-income older adults and people with disabilities.

- 567,486 older adults statewide receive SSI payments.
- In **Kern County**, there are **10,832** older adults 65+ receiving SSI payments.

Poverty Levels Using the Elder Index^{iv}

A new, more accurate standard of measurement gauges income security among California's older adults and takes into account local cost of living.

- 1,547,000 older adults 65+ statewide don't have enough income to meet their basic needs.
- **35%** of older adults 65+ in **Kern County** don't have enough income to meet their basic needs.
- A single older adult who rents in **Kern County** needs at least **\$20,796** per year to meet their basic needs.

In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)^v

IHSS provides in-home assistance to eligible older adults and people with disabilities as an alternative to institutional care and enables recipients to remain safely in their own homes.

- In **Kern County**, **5,220** older adults 65+ receive IHSS services.
- 388,736 older adults statewide receive IHSS services.

Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness^{vi}

- 45% of homeless individuals in California are age 50+.
- 57,715 older adults statewide interacted with the homeless response system.
- In **Kern County**, **1,219** adults age 55+ interacted with the homeless response system.

ⁱ Data Dashboard for Aging, [California Population Profile, Adults Age 60 and Older](#)

ⁱⁱ CHHS Open Data Portal, [Month of Eligibility, Dual Status, by County, Medi-Cal Certified Eligibility](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Social Security Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, [SSI Recipients by State and County, 2021](#)

^{iv} UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, [California Elder Economic Security™ Index \(CEI\)](#)

^v California Department of Social Services, [Monthly IHSS Program Data, December 2022](#)

^{vi} Homeless Data Integration System, [Demographic Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness](#)