

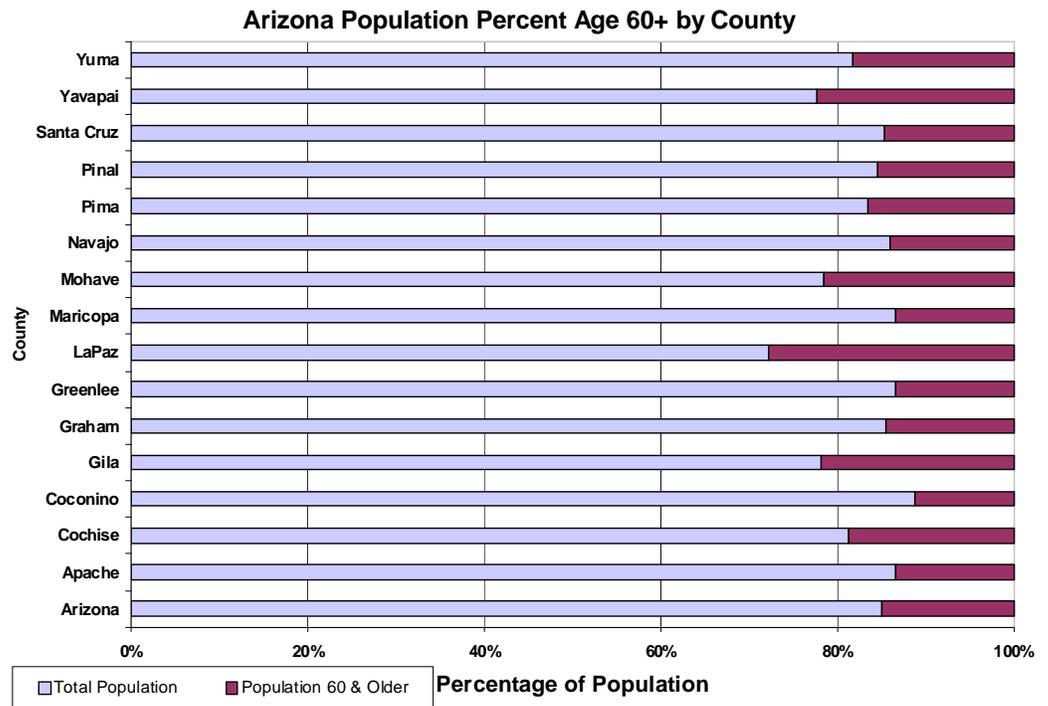
# AGING IN ARIZONA: “Why Older Arizonans Need Our Support”



## Arizona’s Population is Growing Older

- By 2020, older Arizonans will make up one quarter of our State’s population.<sup>1</sup>
- Arizona’s age 85+ population will increase 141% by the year 2020.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2007, 191,690 of Arizonans age 65 and older lived alone, increasing their need for outside support.<sup>3</sup>

- Four Arizona counties currently have more than 20% of their population over age 60, as shown in the chart at the right.<sup>4</sup>
- Approximately 610,000 family caregivers in Arizona provided nearly \$7 billion in unpaid care last year.<sup>5</sup>

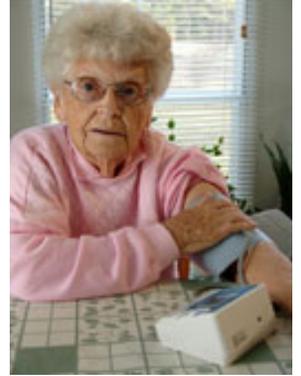


## The Impact of the Economic Downturn on Older Arizonans

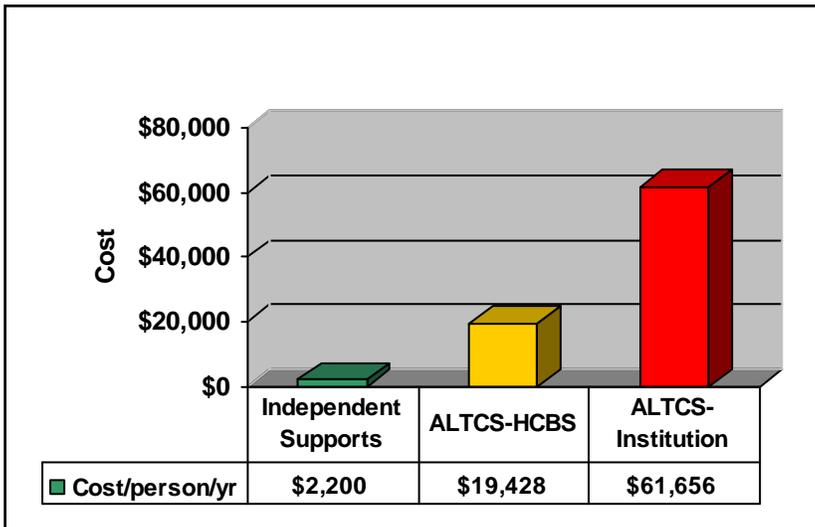
- In 2008, homebound Arizona seniors needed nearly 2,000,000 home delivered meals.<sup>6</sup>
- 93,000 people are no longer receiving Medicare Part D copayment financial assistance.<sup>7</sup>
- A local center for homeless seniors reported a 40% increase in services in 12 months<sup>8</sup>
- Adult Protective Services experienced a 17% increase in calls in FY 08.
- During the first 5 months of 2009, more than 7,100/month people sought jobs and employment resources monthly through the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging’s Mature Worker website
- The number of Arizonans age 55+ who qualified for unemployment insurance increased from 5,470 to 13,334 between 2007 and 2008.<sup>9</sup>
- Half of all caregivers provide more than 40 hours of care a week – the equivalent of a second full-time job.<sup>10</sup>

## Independent Living Supports

Numerous studies over the past 25 years have shown that Americans prefer to stay in their own homes and communities as they age instead of residing in institutions. Support services, such as help with bathing, dressing, eating, medication management, and meal preparation, allow seniors to remain living independently, and with dignity, in their own homes and communities.



- Not only is it good public policy to support this preference by investing in independent living supports, but it also makes good economic sense.
- More than 30% of adults age 60+ have one or more disabilities, including disabilities that affect self care.<sup>11</sup>



In 2008, the average cost of care for:

- a person in a nursing home with a semi-private room was \$61,656/year.<sup>12</sup>
- Medicaid-eligible members receiving home and community based services thru the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) was \$19,428/year.<sup>13</sup>
- Seniors receiving independent living support services was \$2,174/year.<sup>14</sup>

## Adult Protective Services

The Adult Protective Services (APS) program is required by law to receive and evaluate reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable and/or incapacitated adults and to offer those vulnerable adult services based on need and acceptance. APS will assist the victim to alleviate mistreatment, prevent further harm, and seek community resources.

- People are eligible to receive Adult Protective Services when they are 18 years old or older, are vulnerable or incapacitated, and are being abused, neglected or exploited. The adult must be within the geographic boundaries of the state (excluding Native American Reservations).
- In SFY 2008, APS received and assessed 9,592 reports of vulnerable adult mistreatment.
- Family members make up 28% of the alleged abusers.
- Females make up 62% of victims of mistreatment.

Reports to Adult Protective Services must be made to the APS Central Intake Hotline, 1-877-767-2385 (1-877-SOS-ADULT), fax number 602-277-4984, which is available from 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday and 10:00am to 6:00pm Saturday and Sunday. Reports can also be submitted on-line 24 hours per day, 7 days a week at [www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse](http://www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse).



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



- More than 130,000 Arizona children are living in households headed by grandparents or other non-parent relatives, with almost 55,000 having neither parent present.<sup>15</sup>
- According to the Arizona Division of Aging & Adult Services, over 60% of the families served by the Arizona Grandparent Kinship Care Program reported incarceration or drug abuse as the primary cause for the kinship care situation.

The number of grandparents responsible for the welfare of their grandchildren is on the rise across the country, and unfortunately Arizona is a leader in this category. At a time when grandparents have health, income, and housing issues of their own to manage, the increased responsibility of raising their grandchildren stresses even the most loving families. For more information visit: [http://www.grandfactsheets.org/state\\_fact\\_sheets.cfm](http://www.grandfactsheets.org/state_fact_sheets.cfm) or [www.azkincare.org](http://www.azkincare.org).

## Oral Health Needs of Older Arizonans

Decline in oral health is not a normal part of aging. Poor oral health in later life can lead to significant health consequences linked to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and nutrition while negatively impacting speech and self-confidence.

### CURRENT STATUS/NEED IN ARIZONA<sup>16</sup>

- 44% of older Arizonans (with natural teeth) require dental treatment
- 42% of older Arizonans have bleeding gums; 25% have moderate to severe gum disease
- Lower dentist-to-population ratios exist in rural and low-income, high minority urban areas
- Uneven distribution of providers exists, particularly to the underserved
- Average age of dentists in Arizona is 48; thus, in next 15 years or less, many will retire
- Generally, there is a lack of providers willing to care for Medicaid beneficiaries
- Dental care is expensive and majority of older Arizonans have no dental insurance

## Hearing Loss Facts<sup>17</sup>

- More than 1 in 10 Arizonans have hearing loss
- A third of all Arizonans 65+ have hearing loss and the problem is only getting worse
- 1 in 12 Arizonans need a hearing aid and don't have one
- Most health insurance plans don't cover hearing aids
- Arizonans are leaving the workplace earlier due to their untreated hearing loss



For more information, contact the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging by calling 602-542-4710 or by emailing: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov)

## REFERENCES:

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<sup>1</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005. Available at URL: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates. Available at URL: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau 2007 Population Estimates [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>5</sup> AARP “Valuing the Invaluable: The Economic Value of Family Caregiving”, 2008 Update. [http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/caregiving/i13\\_caregiving.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/caregiving/i13_caregiving.html)

<sup>6</sup> 2008 National Aging Program Information System, State Program Report.

<sup>7</sup> Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

<sup>8</sup> 03-16-09 phone conversation with the Justa Center.

<sup>9</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available at URL: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

<sup>10</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available at URL: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

<sup>11</sup> Arizona Respite Care Throughout the Lifespan: Characterizing Unmet Needs [www.azcaregiver.org/PDF/Az\\_RespiteCare\\_Lifespan.pdf](http://www.azcaregiver.org/PDF/Az_RespiteCare_Lifespan.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

<sup>13</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Economic Security, State AIMS Data, FFY 2008

<sup>15</sup> AARP Foundation, Arizona GrandFacts: A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

<sup>16</sup> “Open Wide: The Future of Oral Health in Arizona: Arizona Health Futures” September 2002, <http://www.slhi.org/>

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<sup>17</sup> Cochlear Americas (2009 email communication 02-24-09 estimate of severe-to-profound HL pop in AZ;

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