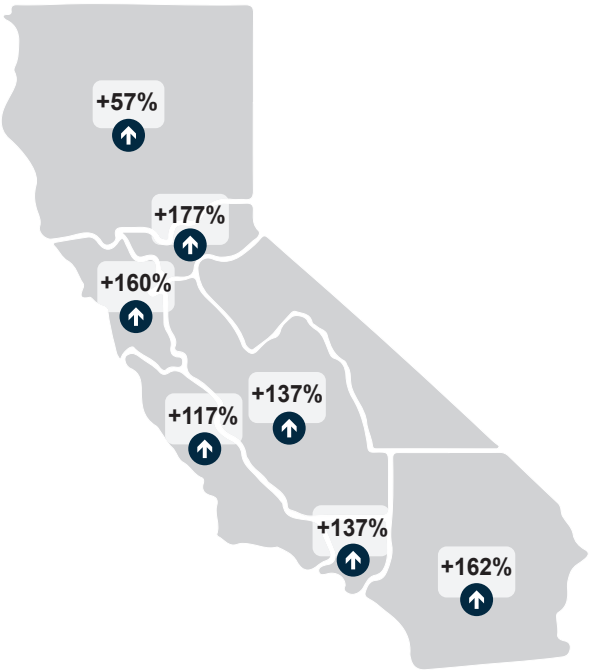
California Department of AGING

FACT SHEET
Older Adult Demographics

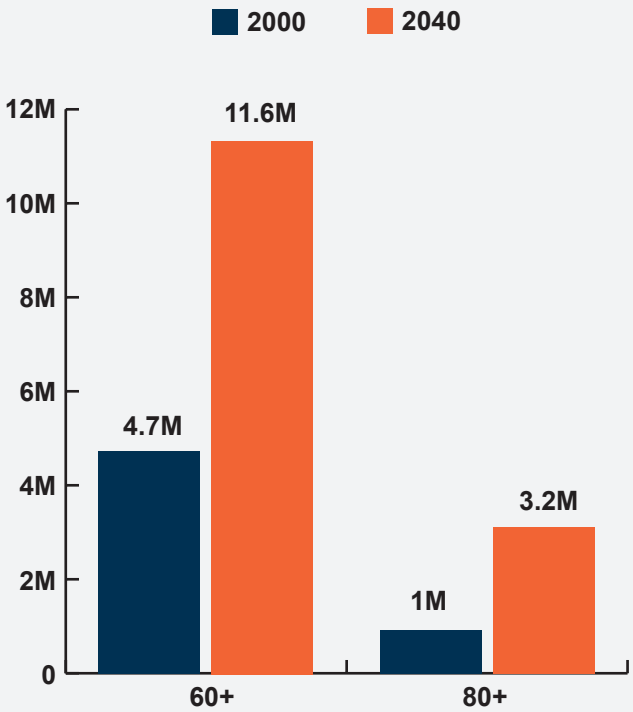


60+ Population Growth by Region, 2000-2040

More than 9 million Californians are currently over the age of 60, and this number is rapidly growing. In 2024, the older adult population outnumbered those under 18 for the first time in California's history.

Looking further ahead, by 2040, California's older adult population is projected to reach 11.6 million—about 28% of the total population. Many regions will see their older adult populations more than double.

In 2000, 1-in-7 Californians were older adults. By 2040, 1-in-4 Californians will be over age 60. That means the overall older adult population in California will grow by 145% from 2000-2040. At the same time, the "oldest old" population, Californians aged 80 and older will grow by 250%.



Data Sources: CA Department of Finance (DOF), U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH).

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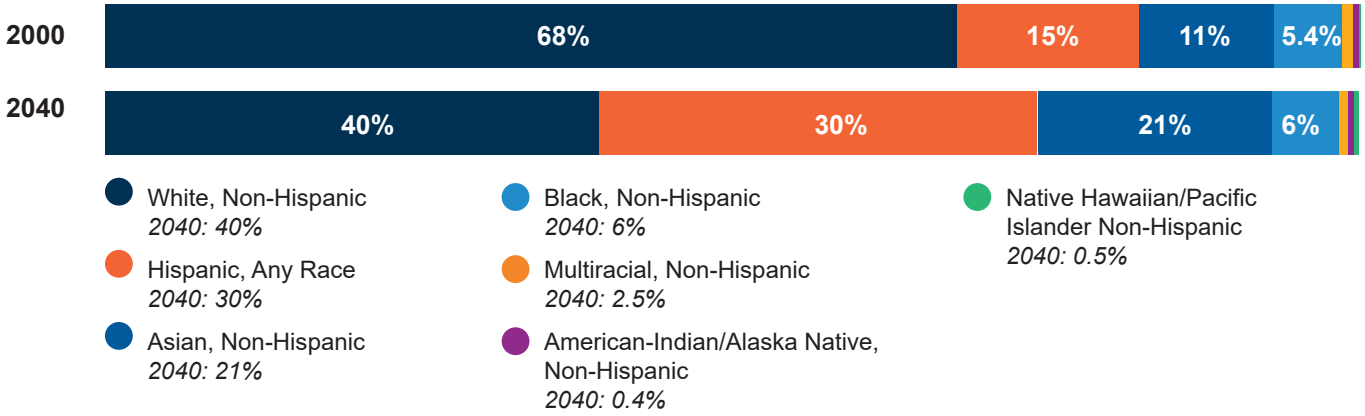
Older Adult Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2000-2040

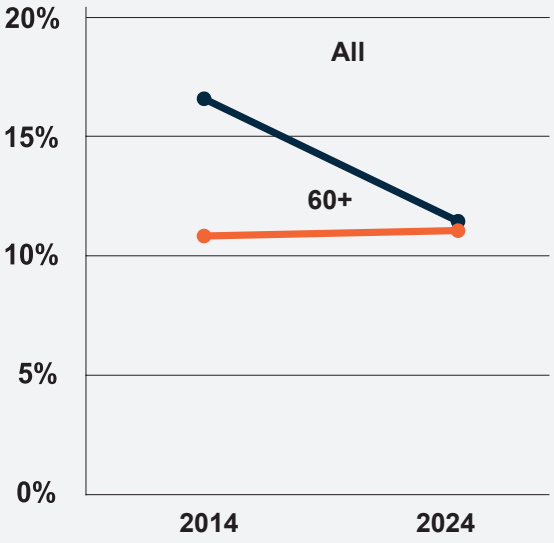
In addition to a marked increase in size, California's older adult population will experience a dramatic demographic shift by 2040. Most notably, the second-largest racial/ethnic group – Hispanic, Any Race – will comprise a larger proportion of both the older adult and overall state populations. By 2040, non-White groups combined will outnumber White older adults, marking a historic change in the racial and ethnic composition of California's aging population.



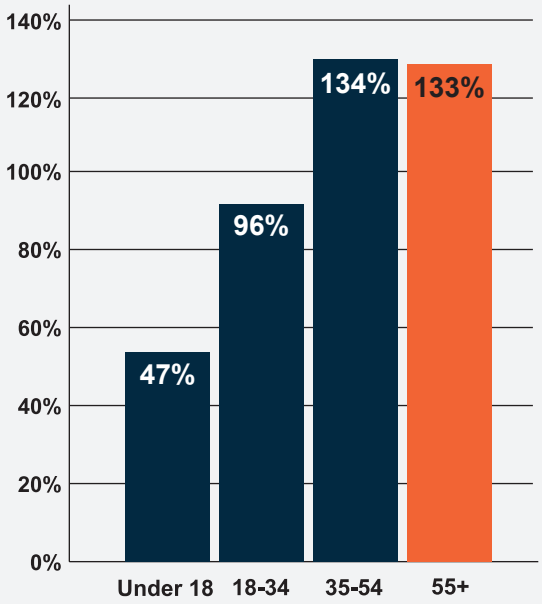
Poverty and Homelessness

While poverty has decreased for the general population since 2012, it has increased slightly for older adults. The number of people experiencing homelessness has increased substantially overall since 2017, with the population of adults over 55 experiencing homelessness more than doubling.

Population Living Below the Federal Poverty Level by Age Group



Percent Increase in Homelessness by Age Group, 2017 to 2025



Updated 09/04/2026