



**Understanding Proposition 1 and the Behavioral
Health Services Act:
Opportunities for the Aging Network**

May 6, 2025 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Welcome



Carroll De Andreis

*Manager, MPA Stakeholder Engagement
California Department of Aging*

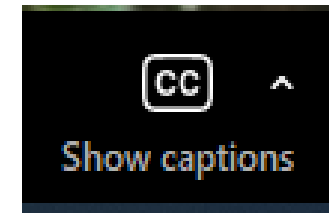
Accessibility



- Closed captioning is available during this meeting.

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1. Click the CC icon on the Zoom toolbar



2. Click "Show captions" to display spoken meeting content as text

3. Click "View full transcript" to review previous caption text

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Webinar Operations



- **American Sign Language (ASL)** interpretation is provided.
- The chat function is enabled for Panelists, CDA staff, and Chapman Consulting staff to share meeting-related resources and information.
- The Question/Answer (Q/A) function is enabled for questions from attendees.
 - We will work to respond to questions during the presentation and/or provide written responses in the Q/A.

Webinar Follow-up

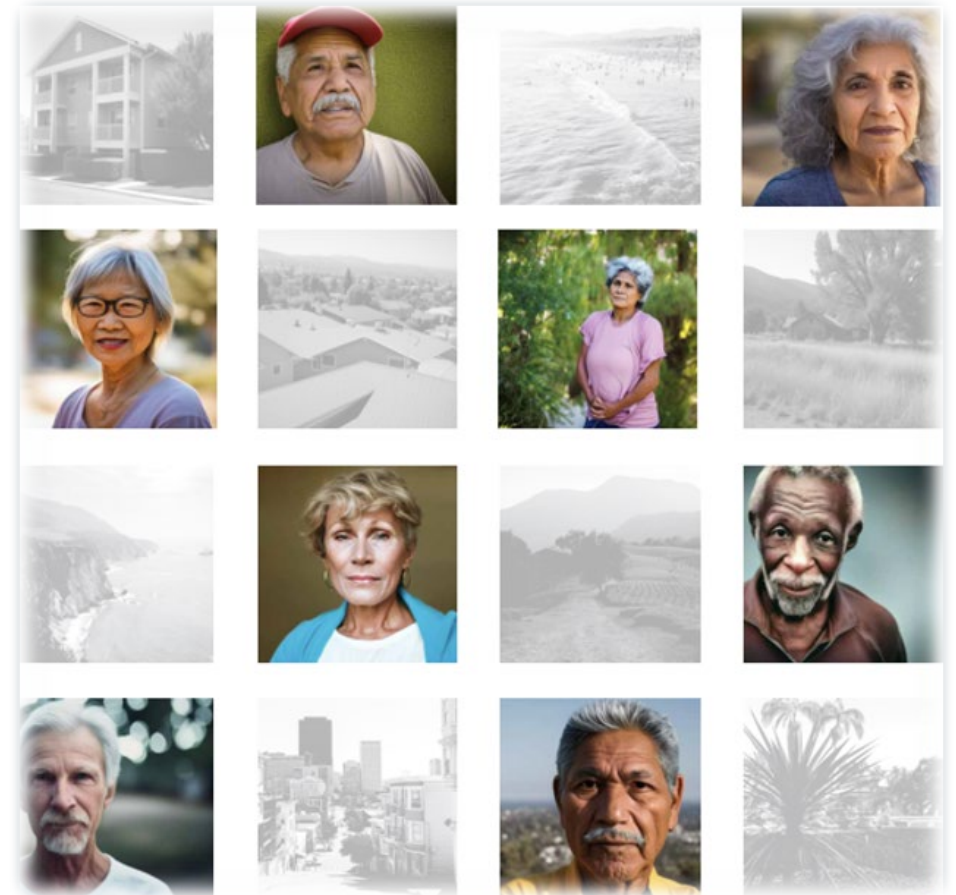


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- Additional comments and questions can be directed to OABH@aging.ca.gov.

Today's Discussion



- Introduction & Welcome
- Why Older Adult Behavioral Health?
- Overview of Proposition 1 & the Behavioral Health Services Act
- Advancing Older Adult Behavioral Health in Your County – Proposition 1 Toolkit
- Voices from the Community – Best Practices & Lessons Learned
- Questions & Answers
- Closing Remarks





Introduction and Welcome

Susan DeMarois

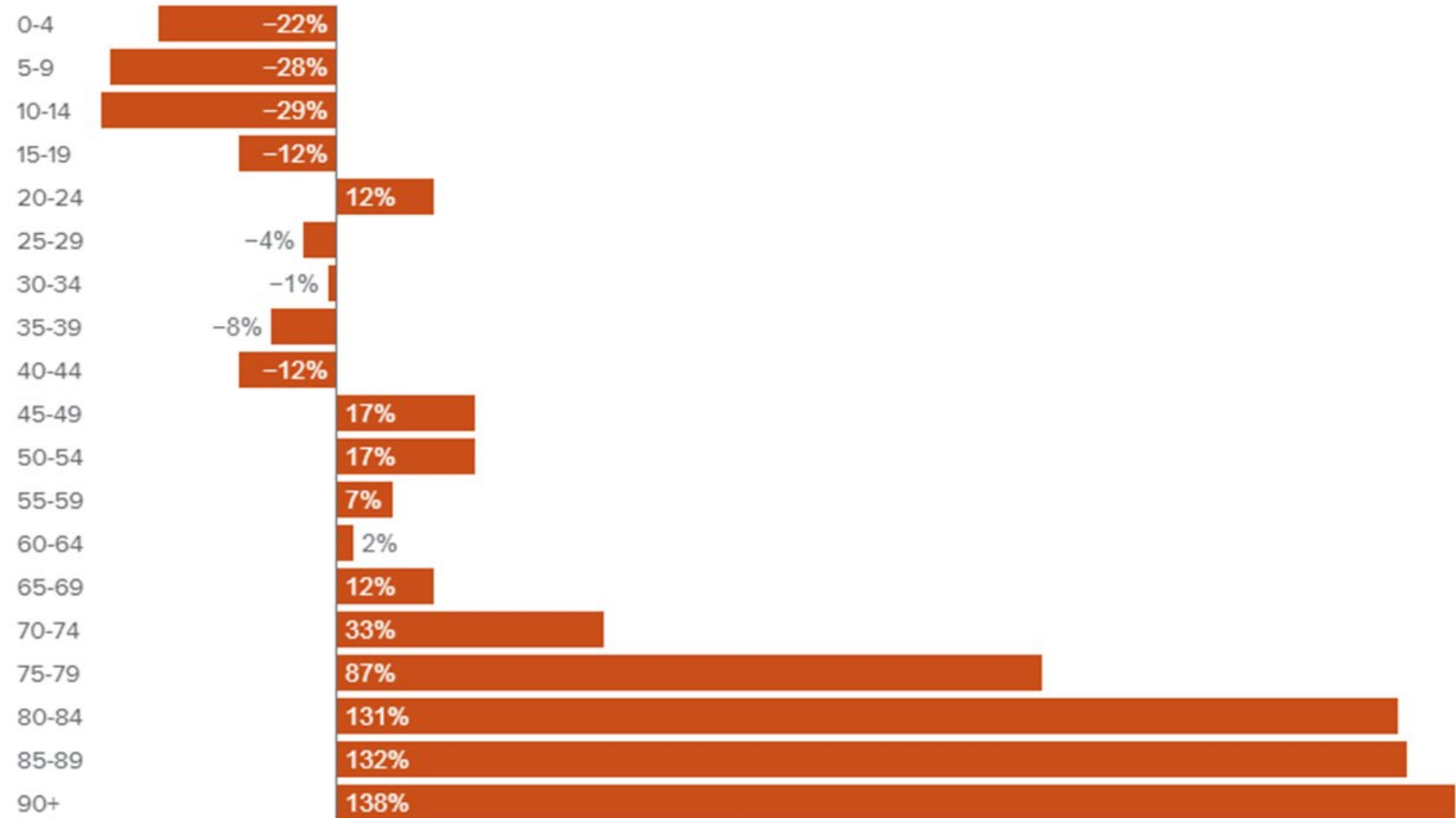
Director, California Department of Aging

California Communities are Changing

Older populations will increase dramatically

Percent change, 2020–2040

Numeric change, 2020–2040



SOURCE: California Department of Finance, Population Projections, Vintage September 2024.



Stephanie Welch

*Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health
California Health and Human Services Agency*



Zia Agha, MD
Chief Medical Officer
West Health Institute



Why Older Adult Behavioral Health?

Jax Kelly

*President and CEO, Aging and HIV Institute
Member, Equity Advisory Committee on Aging
and Disability*

The Need: Jane's Story



The Problem



- **Unmet need**
- **Stigma**
- **Higher rates of suicide**
- **Social isolation**
- **Equity considerations**



The Problem



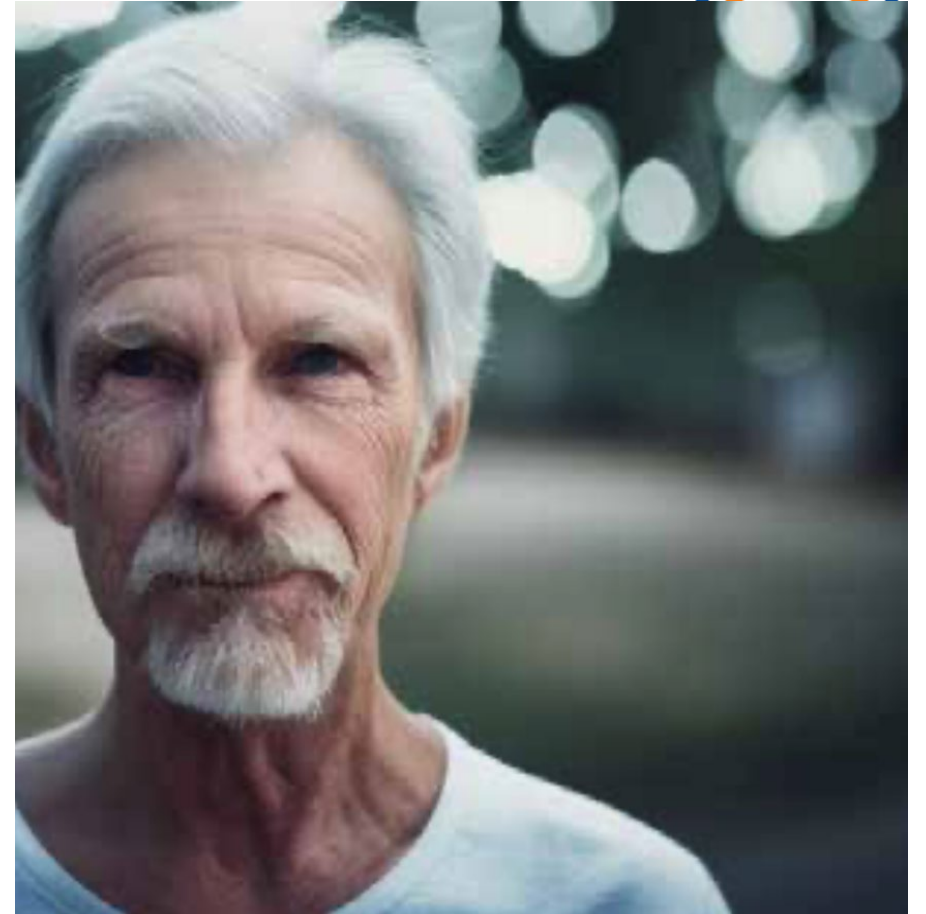
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Spotlight: California's First Statewide Older Adult Consumer Survey



CA Department of Aging's 2023 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults: 17,000 Surveyed

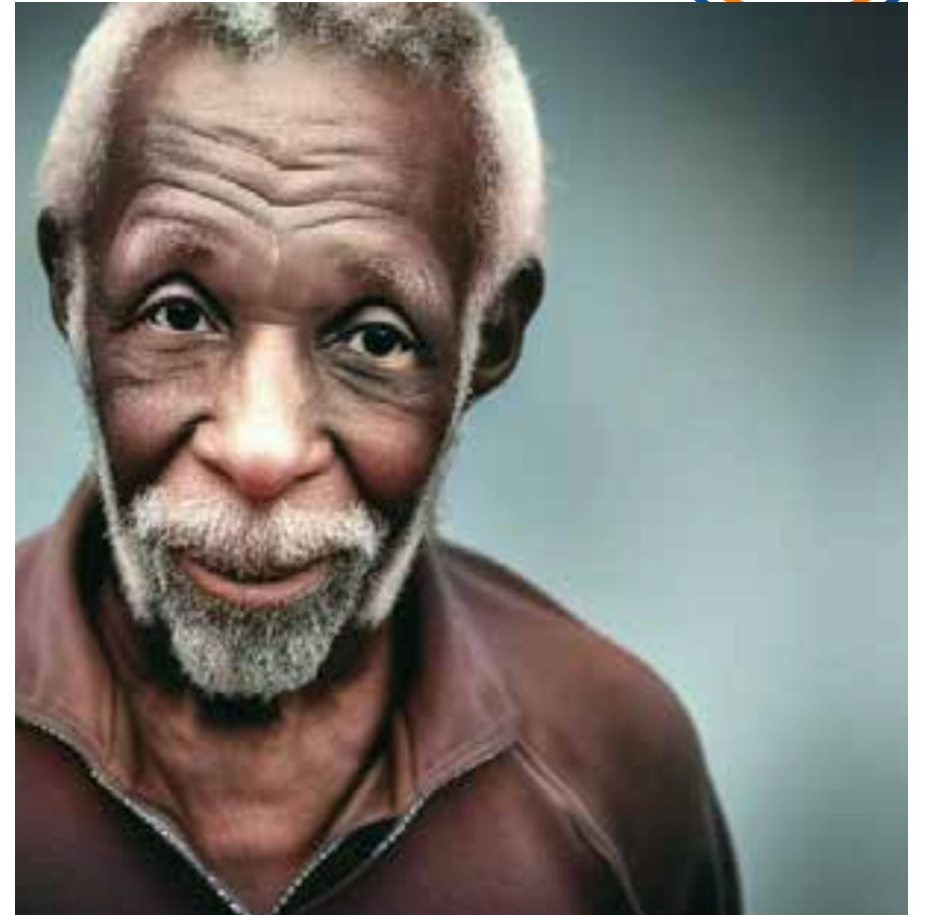
- 40% reported that feeling lonely or isolated was a problem
- Approximately 45% reported feeling depressed
- Nearly half of those surveyed are dealing with recent grief or loss



The Problem



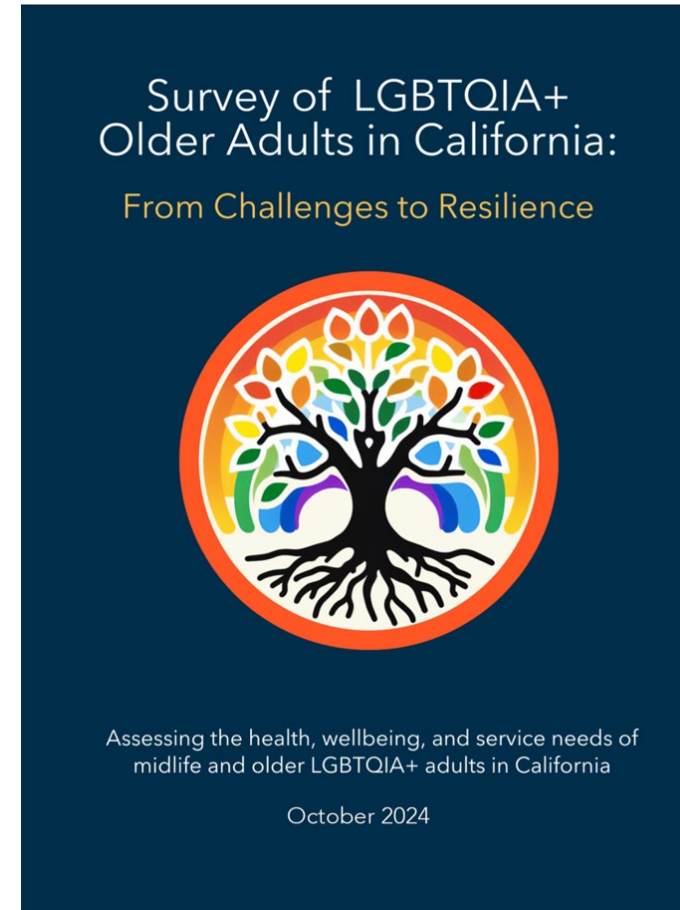
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Spotlight: California's First Statewide Study of LGBTQIA+ Older Adults



- **4037 older adults surveyed**
- Nearly half had experienced a traumatic event in their lifetime
- One in Four had symptoms consistent with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- One in ten reported serious thoughts of suicide in the past year.



Potential: Meeting Older Adult Behavioral Health Needs



- Focus on Resilience
- Address stigma
- Tailor messaging– culturally responsive
- Encourage recognition of need
- Increase social support, social connectedness





Overview of Proposition 1 & the Behavioral Health Services Act

Sarah Steenhausen

Deputy Director, California Department of Aging

Overview: Proposition 1 & the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)



Behavioral Health Transformation (2023)

- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)
- Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act (Prop 1)
 - Approved by voters in 2024



Opportunities in the Behavioral Health Services Act



Opportunities for older adults to access new or enhanced services

- Substance Use Disorder Services
- Evidence-based and Community-defined Practices
- Housing
- Full-Service Partnerships



Opportunities in the Behavioral Health Services Act



Opportunities for counties to invest in Older Adult Behavioral Health

- Integrated Planning
- Age-based Data
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Priority Populations
- Flexibility to Innovate



State-Level Investments and Initiatives



- **Workforce initiatives:**
 - CA Department of Health Care Access and Information
- **Population-Based Prevention:**
 - CA Department of Public Health
- **Development of Outcome Measures:**
 - CA Department of Health Care Services



Advancing OABH in Your County – Proposition 1 Toolkit

Athena Chapman

President, Chapman Consulting

Prop 1 Toolkit Overview



1. The Growing Behavioral Health Needs for Older Adults
2. Stakeholder Engagement: Get a Seat at the Table
3. Stakeholder Engagement Checklist
 - BHSA funding allocations
 - BHSA service priorities
4. Early Intervention Programs Focusing on Older Adults
5. County Resources & Contacts
 - County points of contact for BHSA
 - County BHSA stakeholder meetings
 - County demographic profiles of older adults

Section 1: The Growing Behavioral Health Needs for Older Adults



- **Raise Awareness**
- **Demonstrate the need**
- **Underscore the importance of investing in behavioral health for older adults**



Section 2: Stakeholder Engagement - Get a Seat at the Table



Counties are required to engage with local stakeholders to develop each element of their Integrated Plan. Stakeholder groups include:

- People with lived experience (including older adults and caregivers)
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Independent Living Centers
- Community-based organizations serving diverse communities
- Behavioral health providers, peers, and workforce representatives

Section 2: What is Stakeholder Engagement?



Examples of stakeholder engagement may include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding new BHSA funding and service changes;
- Education and engagement;
- Listening sessions;
- Client advisory meetings;
- Public comment; and
- Stakeholder workgroups and committees

Section 3: Stakeholder Engagement Checklist



- Education and Advocacy
 - Engage and partner with County Behavioral Health Departments, County Aging Departments, and County Board of Supervisors
 - Develop effective outreach and communication approaches
 - Coalition Building
 - Share an older adult's story
- Join County Committees and Workgroups
 - Engage in the planning process to advocate for funding for older adult services

Section 4: Appendices on Early Intervention Programs



- Counties are required to establish Early Intervention Programs
 - Designed to prevent mental illnesses and SUDs from becoming severe and disabling, while also addressing disparities in behavioral health outcomes.
 - Outreach to individuals and communities;
 - Access and linkage to medically necessary care; and,
 - Treatment services aimed at preventing the progression of behavioral health conditions
- Examples of Early Intervention Programs Targeting Older Adults

Section 5: County Resources and Contacts

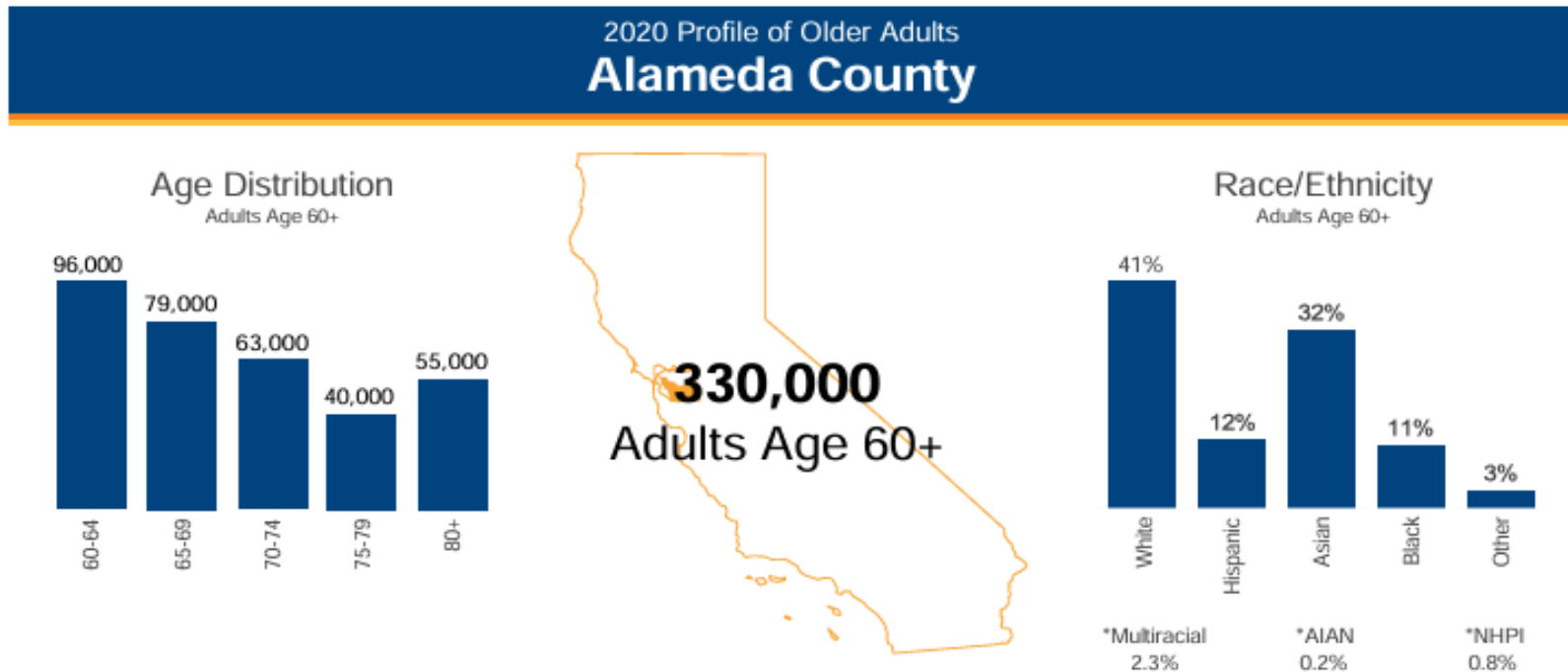


- Directory of County Behavioral Health Transformation Contacts and Resources
 - County Behavioral Health Contacts
 - Board of Supervisors Contacts
- Stakeholder meetings relevant to BHSA
 - County MHSA/BHSA Advisory Meetings
 - Board of Supervisor Meetings

Section 5: Demographic Profile of Older Adults



The CA Department of Aging created county profiles of older adults in each county.

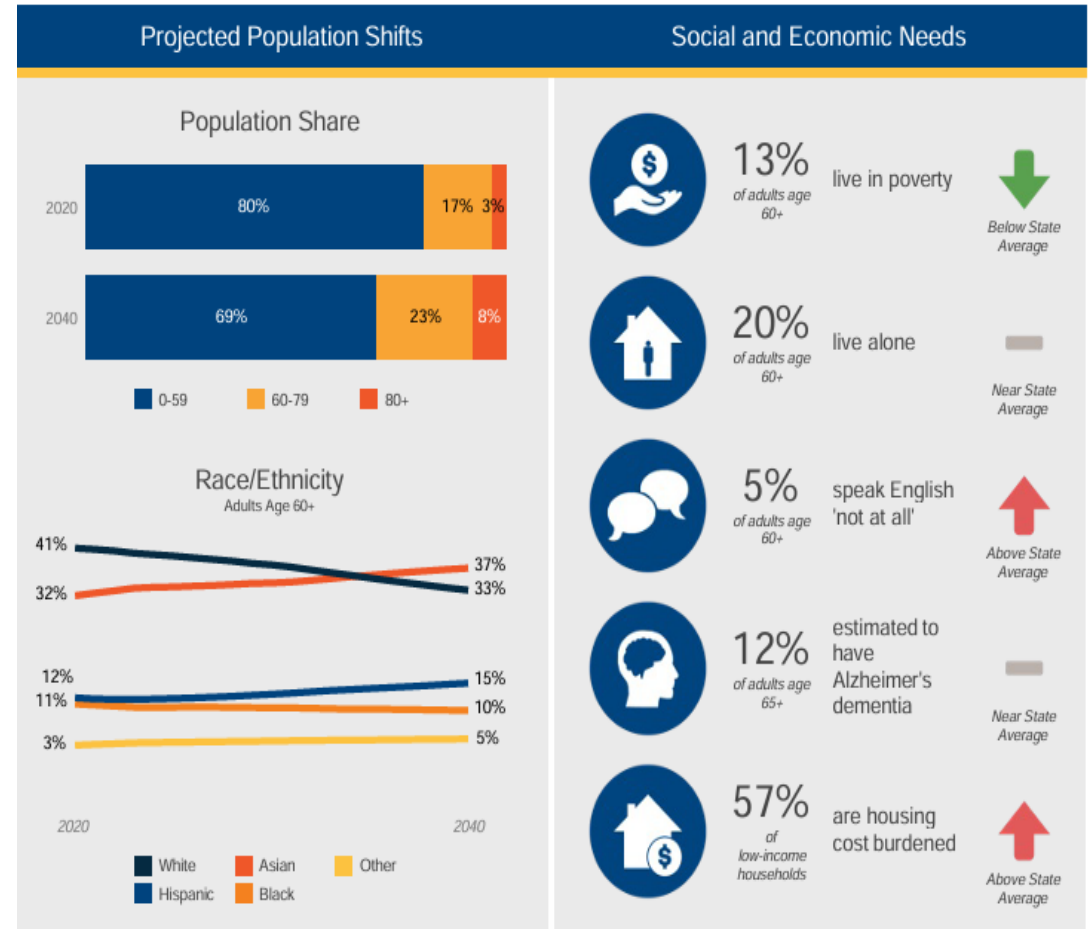


Section 5: Demographic Profile of Older Adults



To review California's state-level profile and other county profiles, visit

➤ [Master Plan for Aging Data Dashboard – County Profiles for Older Adults.](#)



CDA Proposition 1 Toolkit



- [CDA Older Adult Behavioral Health Resources for Providers](#)
- County Toolkits – Coming Soon!
- Designed to help providers, advocates, and community partners:
 - Understand local planning and funding structures under Proposition 1
 - Identify where and how to engage in stakeholder processes
 - Strengthen partnerships with behavioral health and aging departments
 - Advocate for programs that address the needs of older adults



Voices from the Community – Best Practices & Lessons Learned

Christina Mills

*Executive Director, Association of Area
Agencies on Aging
Moderator*

Panelists



Kristen Smith, Chief of Agency Operations
Aging & Independence Services
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency

Annie Mikal, Program Manager
FREED Center for Independent Living

Priya Kannall, Program Manager
Nevada County Behavioral Health Department



Q&A + Discussion



Closing Remarks

Susan DeMarois

Director, California Department of Aging

California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)



- **Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program**
 - Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) Workforce Initiative.
 - Goal is to reduce educational debt for behavioral health professionals who commit to serving Medi-Cal members and underserved communities.
 - Eligible behavioral health practitioners can receive up to \$240,000 in loan repayment.
- [Informational Webinar May 13th, 2025](#)

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