



Status of Seniors in Santa Barbara County

Adult & Aging Network Co-Chairs:
3rd District Supervisor Doreen Farr
1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal

Recommended Action

Receive and file a report from the Adult & Aging Network on the status of seniors in Santa Barbara County and provide additional direction as appropriate

- Key demographic trends
- Systemic issues
- Gaps in the service continuum
- Need for additional county resources



Background

What is the Adult & Aging Network?

- Advisory body of public and private partners
- Collaborates, informs, recommends action
- Focus: older adults and adults with disabilities in Santa Barbara County; also their families and caregivers
- 35 members, 27 organizations

Today's focus: Seniors



Many Partners Consulted for this Report

ADMHS

Public Guardian

Dept. of Social Services

County Fire

Public Health

Area Agency on Aging

Cen Cal Health

Cottage Hospital

County Housing Authority

SB City Housing Authority

Central Coast Collaborative on
Homelessness

Buellton Senior Center

Easy Lift

Santa Barbara Foundation

Community Action Commission

Senior Ombudsman



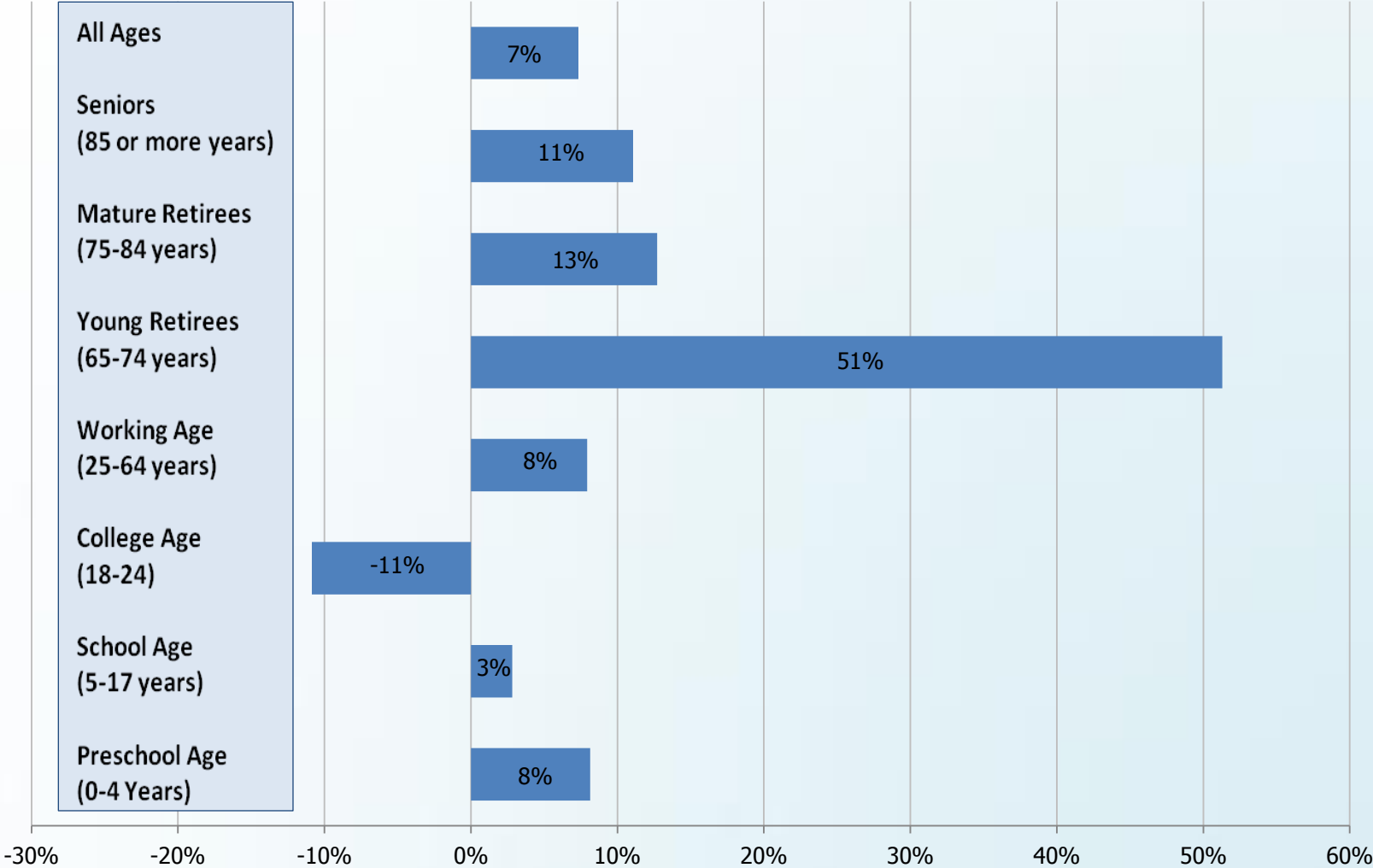
Considerations

Is Santa Barbara County prepared to meet the needs of our rapidly aging population?

What investments can we make now to build a continuum of care for our older adults?



SBC Projected Population Growth by Age 2010-2020

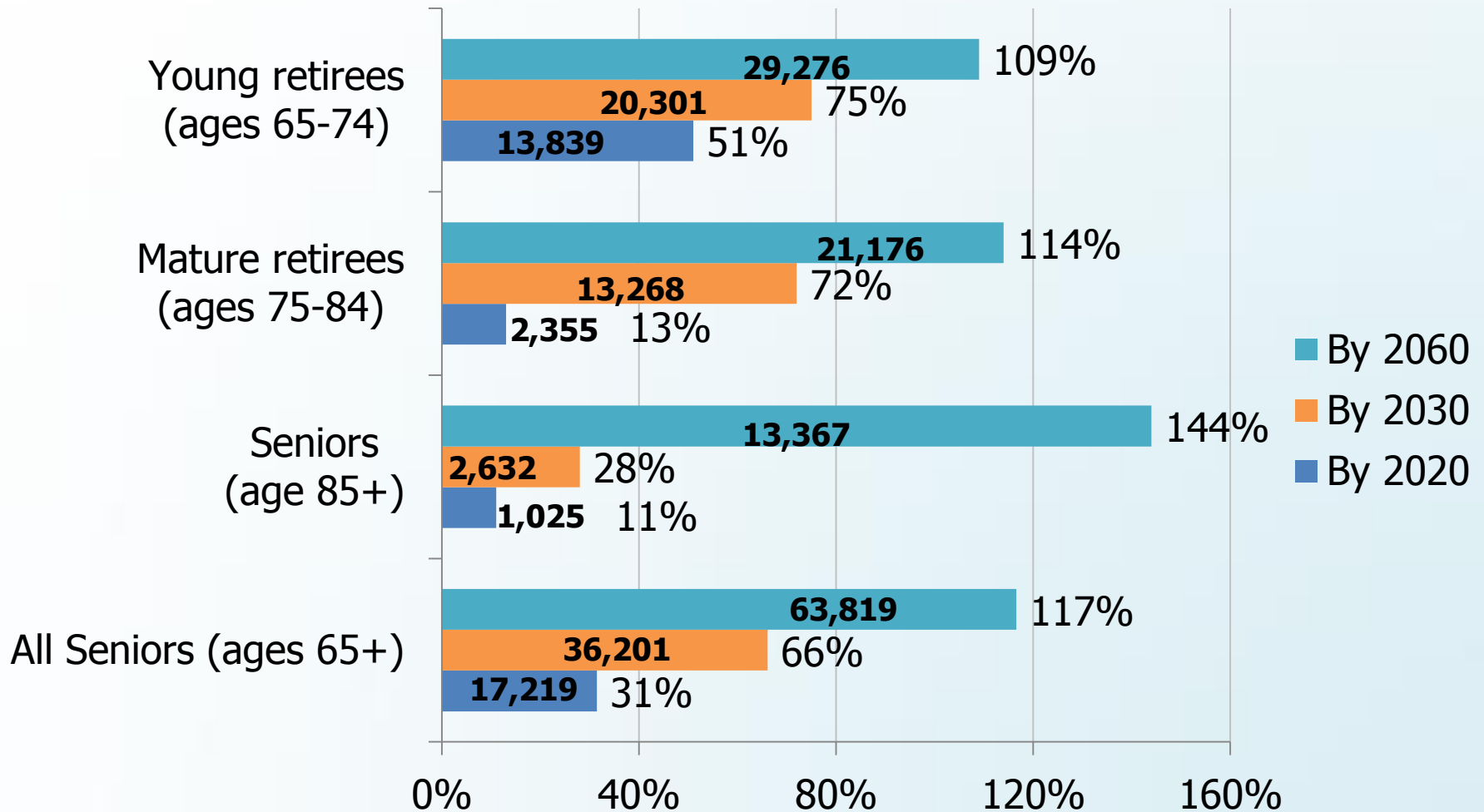


Source: CA Dept. of Finance – Unit Report P-1 (Age)

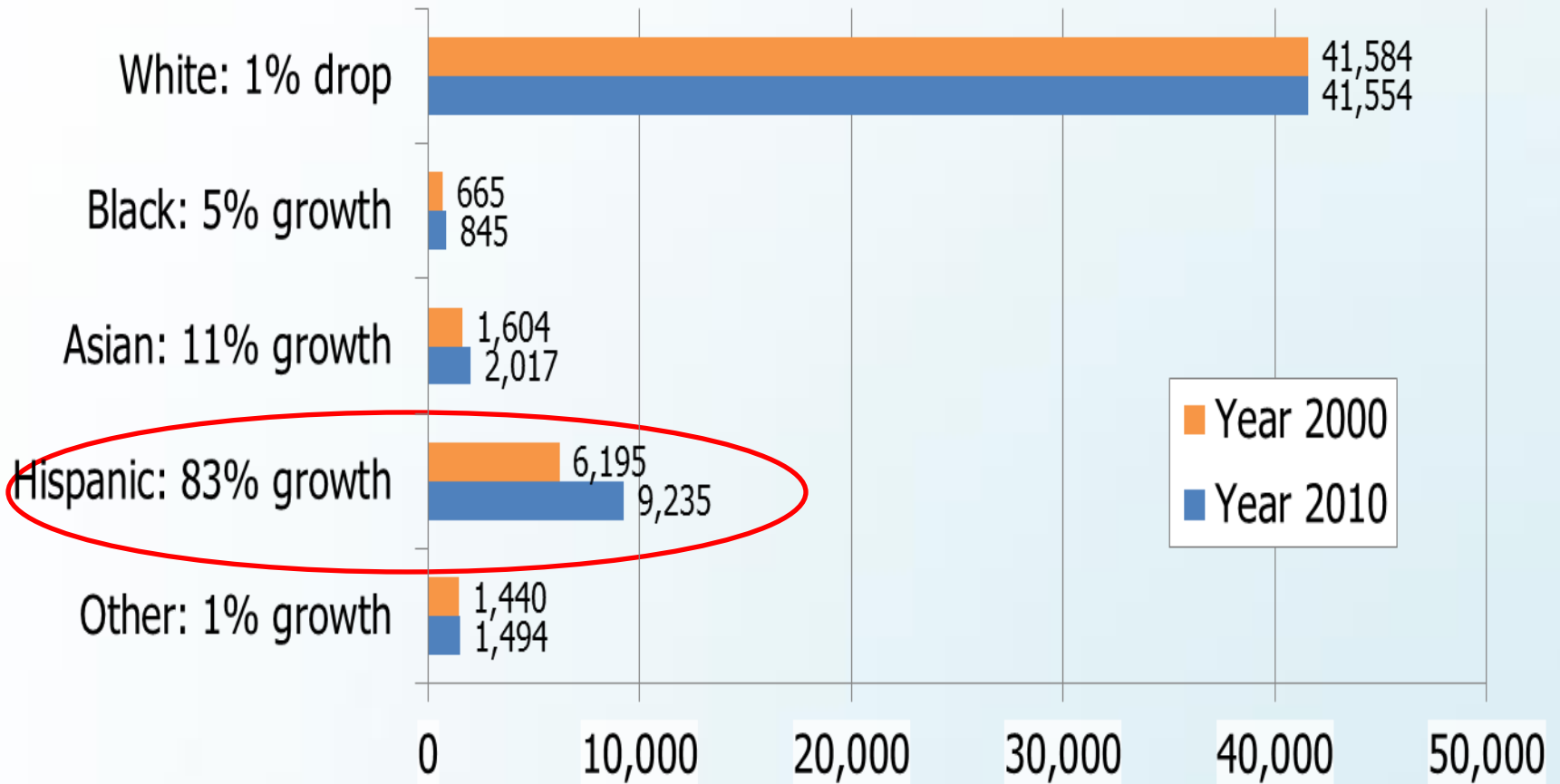


Growing Elderly Population

Projected population growth from 2010



Growing Diversity



Financial Insecurity

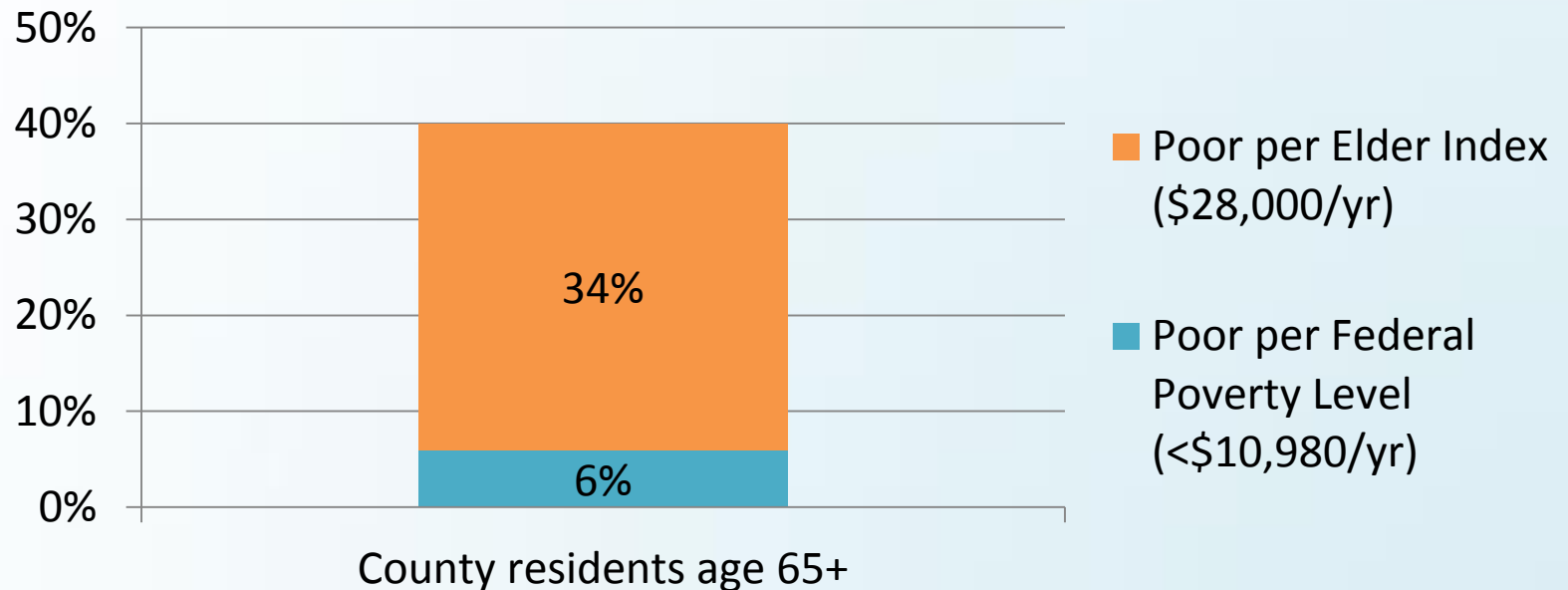
40% of Santa Barbara County seniors do not have adequate financial resources to ensure a safe, healthy lifestyle

- Economic downturn
- Retirement savings lost
- Poverty
- Eligibility gap



Eligibility Gap

40% of County seniors are not economically self-sufficient but only 6% are below the federal poverty level



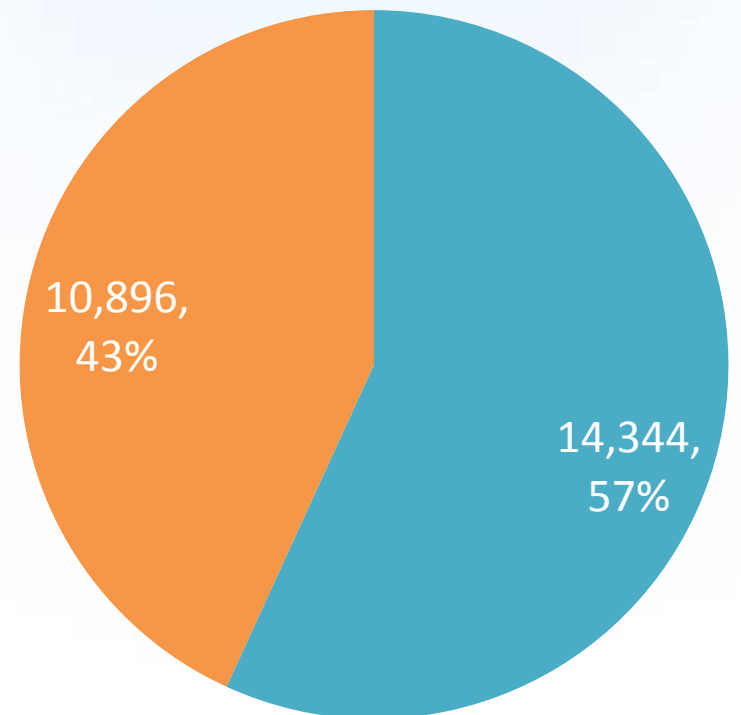
The Network Surveyed County Departments

Senior health and safety is a
shared concern



Senior Impacts to Public Health Dept. Emergency Medical Services

In FY 2014-2015
seniors
accounted for
almost half of all
ambulance
transfers

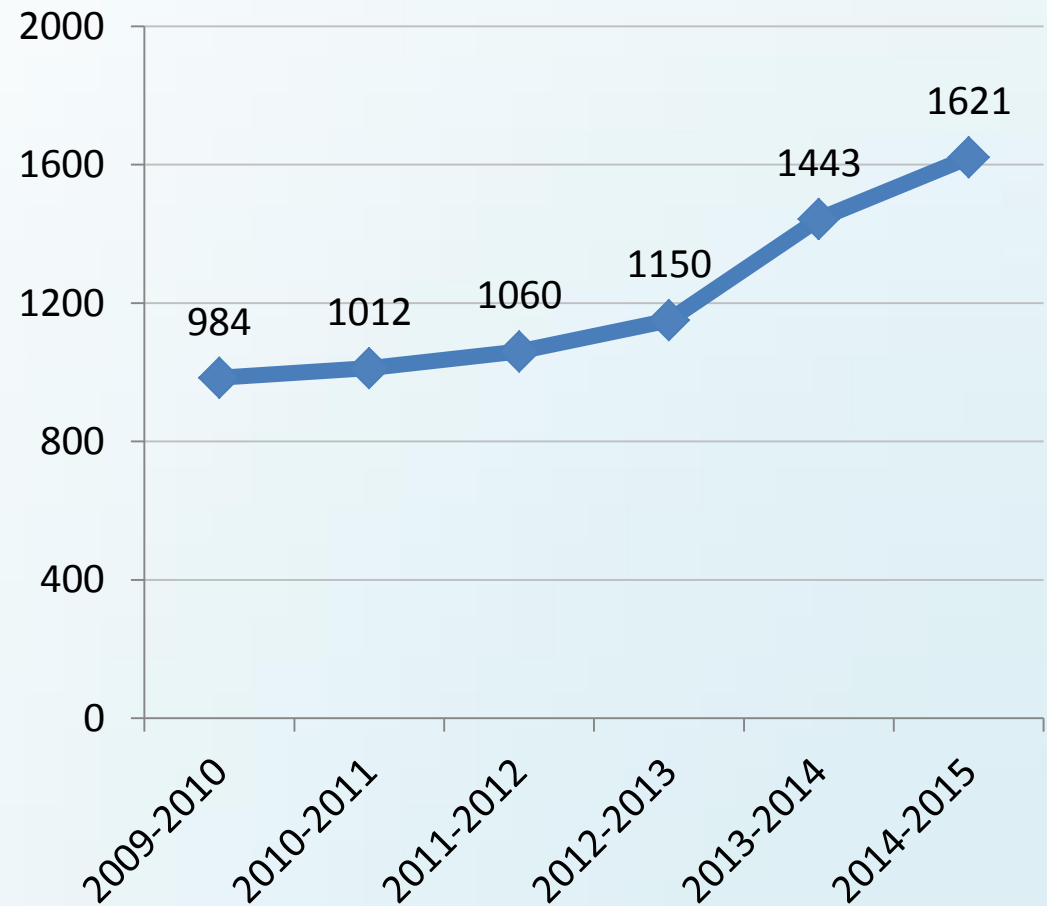


■ 0-65 years old ■ over 65 years old



Impacts to Dept. of Social Services

Elder APS reports increased 64% over 5 years



Critical Role of Public Health Nurse

- Serves most vulnerable, frail elderly
- Referrals from Adult Protect Services and In-Home Supportive Services
- Medical evaluation and medication management
- Coordination of care and consultation with physicians
- Linkages to services



Need for Additional Public Health Nurse

- Only one nurse for the whole county
- Serves 56 seniors per month
- Services time and labor intensive
- Need for this service will increase

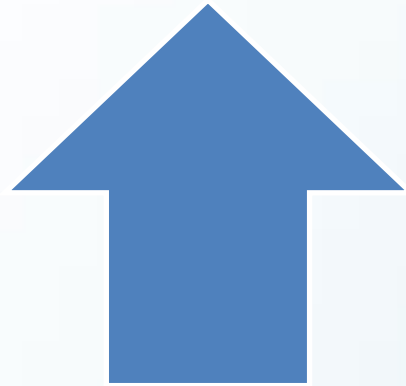


Impacts to Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services

- Lack of sufficient resources for geriatric assessment & intervention
- Need for specialty services
- Diagnosis and treatment complicated by dementia
- Elderly clients have increasing primary care needs



The Network Surveyed Community Service Providers



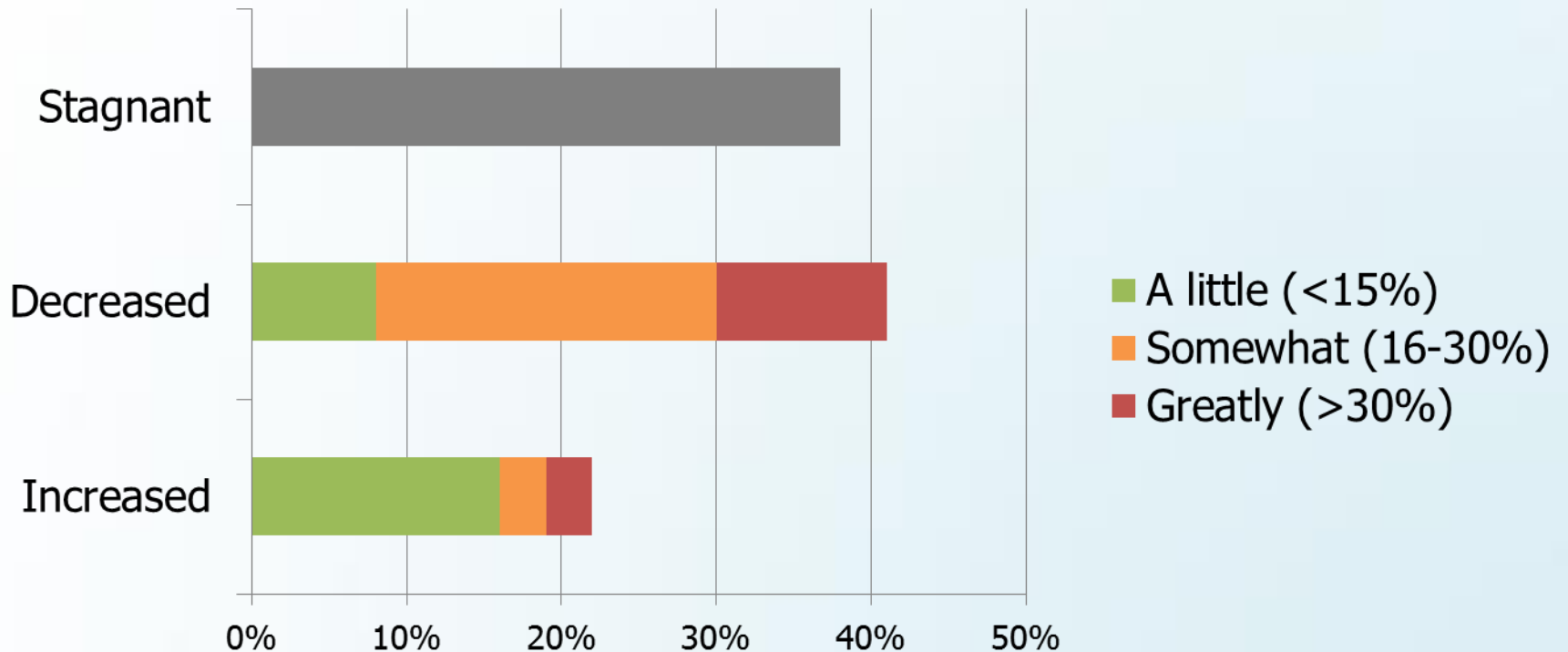
Increased demand
for basic services



Decreased or
stagnant funding



Service Providers Have Seen Funding Decrease or Remain Stagnant



Source: 2010 Senior Trends Survey



Key Issue: Hunger

- Food insecurity growing concern
- 1 in 4 local seniors utilize meal supports
- Many of these seniors are extremely low income; income less than \$15,000 annually
- More support is needed



Key Issue: Transportation

- Challenges include
 - Distance to transportation
 - Prohibitive fees & schedules
- Providers have seen increases in demands
- More support is needed



Conclusion

Many challenges on the horizon

Today represented most urgent needs

1. Public Health Nurse
2. Increased support for nutrition and transportation service providers



Follow-Up

- The Network will report back to your Board with further recommendations
- Future topics to include affordable housing, caregivers, healthy aging, disabilities



Recommendation:

- Invest in an additional Public Health Nurse to serve homebound seniors
- Ensure food distribution programs for seniors county-wide remain fully funded through Human Services Commission grants and General Fund contributions
- Ask Public Works and SBCAG to seek out additional funding for specialized transit services for seniors county-wide





Thank you.