

# Division of Aging Services

## NJ Department of Human Services

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# New Jersey 2010 Census Profile

- In 2013, NJ's population was 8,899,339 and 1,789,920 or 20% were age 60+
- NJ's current population of 1.5 million adults 60+ is projected to reach 2.5 million by 2030
- Ages 85+ and those age 60 – 64 are fastest growing cohorts
- 1,190,000 caregivers; Total hours of care is 1,140 Million; Total economic value - \$13.2 Billion (AARP: 2011 update)

# NJ's Diversity Among Aged 60+

- **English Proficiency**

- Statewide - 13.8% spoke English less than “very well.”
- Counties with highest percentage of English proficiency
  - Salem (97.6%)
  - Cape May (97.3%)
  - Gloucester(97.2%)
- Counties with lowest percentage of “English less than well” proficiency
  - Hudson (42.1%)
  - Passaic (26.4%)
  - Union (22%)

# NJ's Diversity Among Aged 60+

## Marital Status

- 56% of NJ's 60+ years are married
- 23.5% are widowed
- Counties with highest proportion married
  - Sussex (65.1%)
  - Hunterdon (65%)
- Counties with lowest proportion married
  - Essex (46.6%)
  - Hudson (47.8%)

# NJ's Diversity Among Aged 60+

- **Isolation**

- 40.6% of NJ households were made up of a single householder age 60+ years living alone.
- Largest proportion of isolated seniors
  - Hudson (45.3%)
  - Essex (44.1%)
  - Cumberland (43.8)
- Smallest proportion of isolated seniors
  - Sussex County (32.8%).

# 2014 Update of the NJ Elder Economic Security Index



**INCREASING SOCIETY'S AWARENESS TO  
INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY AND MEET  
THE NEEDS OF NEW JERSEY'S SENIORS**



# Findings of Elder Economic Index

- 43% of all seniors – single or married in New Jersey cannot cover their basic expenses.
- Social Security is the sole income for 30% of NJ's older adults.
- The average Social Security payment in NJ is: \$15,191 for a woman and \$19,393 for a man.
- According to the Elder Economic Security Standard Index 2014:
  - Yearly cost to live in NJ for a single person renting is \$29,436
  - Yearly cost to live in NJ for a single person who owns a home is \$26,652
  - Yearly cost to live in NJ for a couple renting is \$40,956
  - Yearly cost to live in NJ for a couple who owns their home is \$38,172

# Case Study: An Elderly Single Woman Renter with Social Security Income of \$15,191

A woman who receives the average monthly social security payment of \$1,266 is at 52% of the elder economic index. If she receives the benefits through PAAD, her economic status increases to 79%.

- Yearly value of PAAD = \$2,758.80
- Yearly value of SLMB = \$2,258.80
- Yearly value of SNAP = \$1,461.00
- Total yearly value = \$6,472.60

## Value of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS):

- Yearly value of Statewide Respite Care Program = \$4,500
- Yearly value of JACC = \$8,400
- Yearly value of Alzheimer's Adult Day Services Program = \$12,246
- Yearly value of Home Delivered Meals = \$1,716



# Financial Exploitation and Super Storm Sandy

- Evidence from previous disasters that victims of natural disasters are targeted as they try to recover by con-artists, scammers and perpetrators of financial exploitation.
- There exists the need to help to protect older adults from economic fraud and abuse particularly following a disaster, like Super Storm Sandy in 2012.
- Federal government gave \$226.7M in Disaster Social Services Block Grant dollars to New Jersey, including funding for post-disaster financial exploitation.
- Three years later, the recovery still continues.

# Financial Exploitation: The Facts

- About 4% of older adults are victims of financial exploitation every year.
- More than a million victims of all ages
- More than \$2.6 billion stolen each year

# Financial Exploitation Initiative

- Two professional conferences on post-disaster financial exploitation
  - 9/19/14 at Rutgers University (North Jersey)
  - 6/8/15 at Stockton University (South Jersey)
- Mobile Community Trainings
  - Completed over 50 workshops to educate community groups and organizations on the prevention, identification and responding to financial exploitation of vulnerable populations following a disaster.
  - Served as a resource for everyone who has even been scammed, and not just those recovering from the storm.