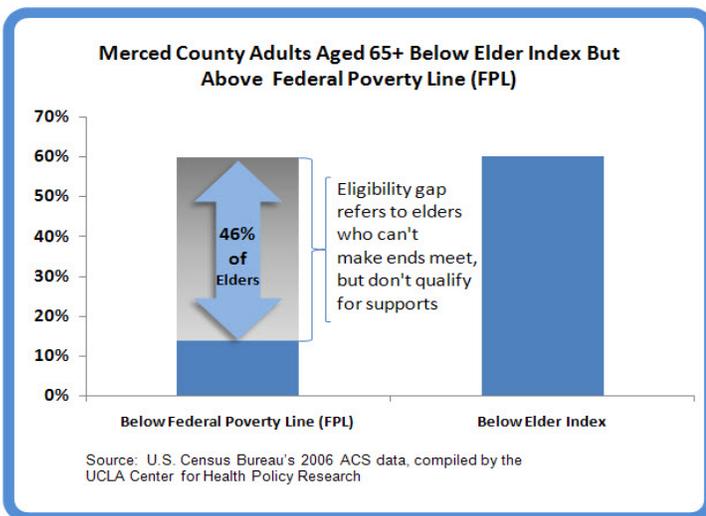


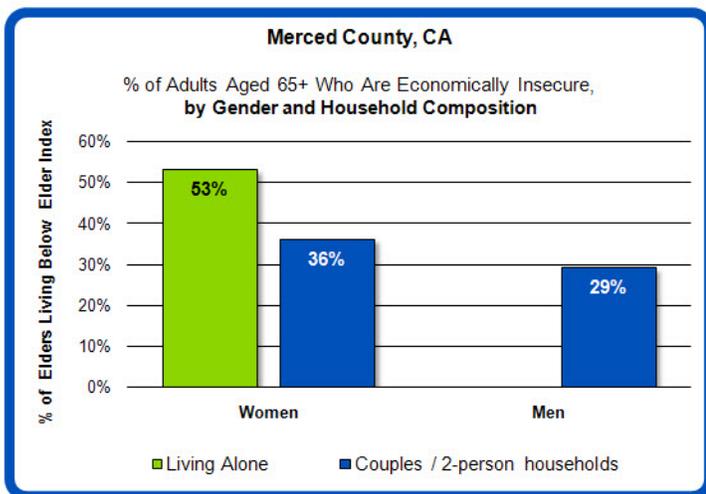
Elders Who Can't Make Ends Meet in Merced County As Measured by the California Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index

The California Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (Elder Index) measures how much income is needed for a retired adult age 65 and older to adequately meet his or her basic needs including housing, food, out-of-pocket medical expenses, transportation, and other necessary spending. For an elderly renter living alone in Merced County, the Elder Index is approximately \$22,000/year.



Not Just "Poor" Elders Who Are Struggling in Merced County

- **60% of all elders age 65+** do not have enough income to meet their most basic needs, as measured by the Elder Index. **That's more than 13,000 elders struggling to make ends meet.**
- In contrast, according to the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), only 14% (3,000) Merced County elders are considered "poor," with annual individual incomes below \$10, 210.
- But a large number of other elders (10,000 or 46%) fall into the "eligibility gap," with incomes above the FPL but below the Elder Index. These elders don't have enough money to cover their most basic needs, but have too much to qualify for many public programs.



Women Living Alone Are Economically Vulnerable

- Historically, women have earned less than men. Today they still earn, nationally, an average of 78 cents for every dollar a man earns. It's no wonder that women are particularly vulnerable.
- In the face of increasing costs and fixed incomes, **more than half of elder women living alone in Merced County cannot make ends meet.**

Number of male elders living alone under the Elder Index is less than 1,000 and therefore too small to calculate reliable estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2006 ACS data, compiled by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

To view the numerical data behind these graphs and access a statewide comparison, [click here](#).

For more information, see *Half A Million Older Californians Living Alone Unable to Make Ends Meet* by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development at http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/elder_index09feb.html.