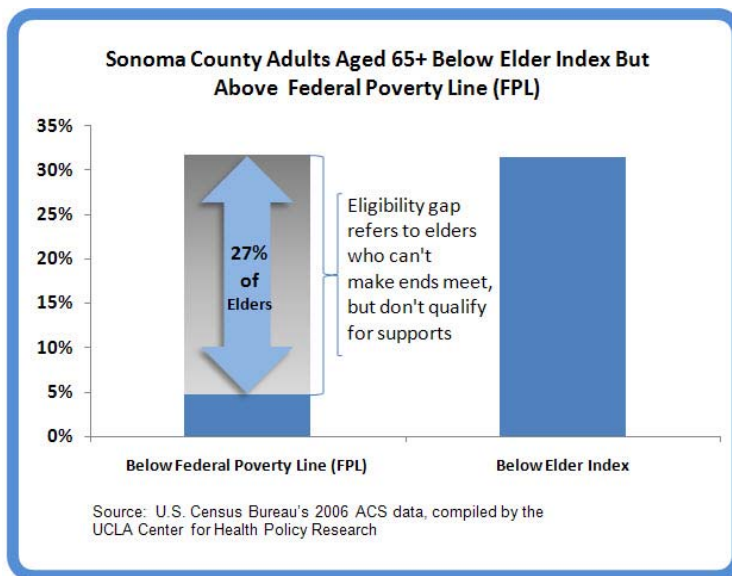


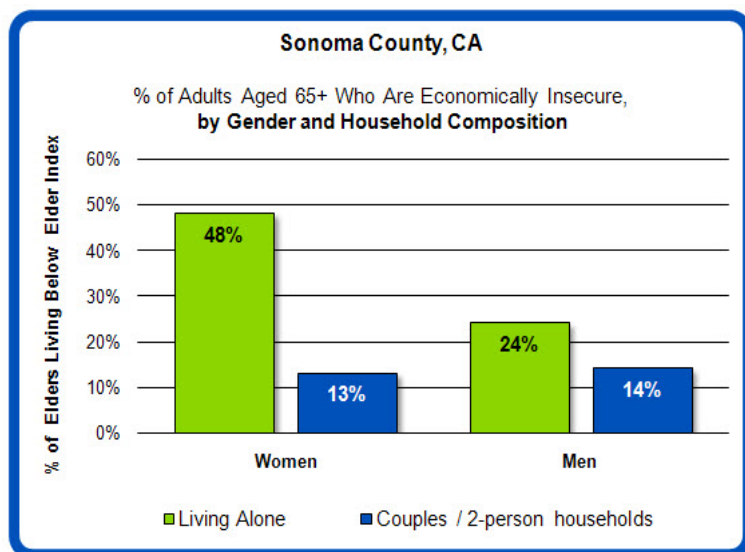
## Elders Who Can't Make Ends Meet in Sonoma County As Measured by the California Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index

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 Sonoma County, the Elder Index is approximately \$25,000/year.



### Not Just “Poor” Elders Who Are Struggling in Sonoma County

- 32% of *all* elders age 65+ do not have enough income to meet their most basic needs, as measured by the Elder Index. **That's over 19,000 elders struggling to make ends meet in Sonoma County.**
- In contrast, according to the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), only 5% (3,000) of elders in Sonoma County are considered “poor,” with annual individual incomes below \$10,210.
- But a large number of other elders (16,000 or 27%) 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.

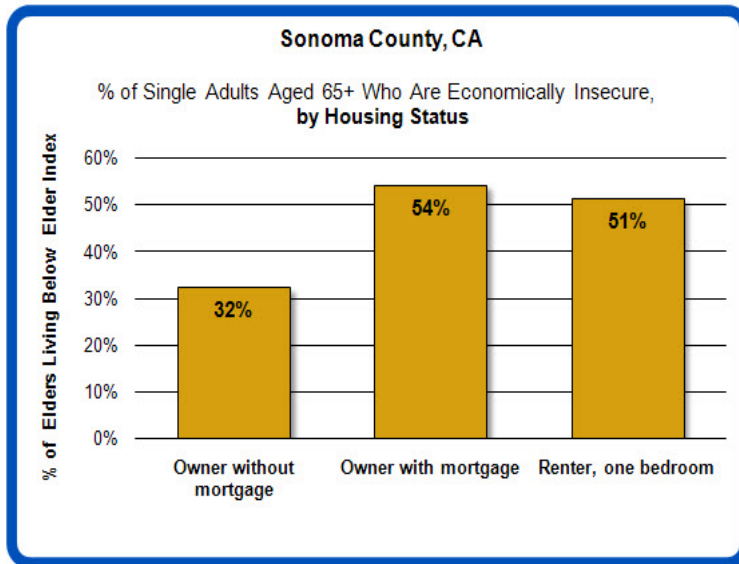


### Women Living Alone Most Economically Vulnerable

- 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, **nearly half of the elder women living alone in Sonoma County cannot make ends meet, as compared to 24% of elder men living alone.**

(more)

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



### Renters and Homeowners with a Mortgage are the Most Economically Vulnerable

- **Over half of elder renters and owners paying off a mortgage living alone** in high cost Sonoma County are trying to survive on incomes below the Elder Index.
- Although elders who own their homes outright are doing better, they are still having a hard time. More than 1 out of 3 of these elders don't have enough money to make ends meet.

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](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/elder_index09feb.html).