Elders Who Can’t Make Ends Meet in Stanislaus 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 Stanislaus County, the Elder Index is approximately $21,000/year.

Not Just “Poor” Elders who are Struggling in Stanislaus County

- Half 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 34,000 elders struggling to make ends meet in Stanislaus County.

- In contrast, according to the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), only 8% (5,000) of Stanislaus County elders are considered “poor,” with individual incomes below $10,210.

- But a large number of other elders (28,000 or 42%) fall into the “eligibility gap,” with annual individual 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.

Elders Living Alone Most Economically Vulnerable

- Without the additional income provided by a partner, elders who live alone are particularly vulnerable. In the face of increasing costs and fixed incomes, more than half of all elder women and elder men living alone in Stanislaus County cannot make ends meet.

(more)
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Renters the Most Economically Vulnerable

- 7 out of 10 elder renters living alone in Stanislaus County are struggling to survive on incomes below the Elder Index.
- More than half of elders living alone who own their home but are still paying off a mortgage are unable to make ends meet.
- And even elders living alone who own their home outright are struggling. More than one-third cannot meet their basic needs.

High Rates Economic Insecurity Among Latino Elders

- Slightly more than half of all non-Latino white elders don’t have enough income to make ends meet. But even more Latino elders are struggling in Stanislaus County. A striking 80% of them don’t have enough income to afford their basic daily expenses.

Number of African American and Asian elders under the Elder Index is less than 1,000 and therefore too small to calculate a 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.