

**Addressing the Needs of Older Adults in
Alameda County -
Quantitative & Qualitative Data
Supporting the Need for
Increased Service Capacity**

June 5, 2025

Wendy Peterson

wendy@seniorservicescoalition.org

(510) 332-4669

Contents

- Context
 - Planned Reductions to Aging Services
 - Budget Request
- What CBOs are seeing in their communities
- Data that points to areas of concern
- Population and vulnerability trends by city
- Trends in calls to 211
- Research findings

Context: Planned Reductions & Budget Request

- On April 29, 2025 the Senior Services Coalition sent a memo to each of Alameda County's Supervisors outlining the history, scope and impact of funding reductions that are currently planned for FY 2025/26 to contracts administered by the Area Agency on Aging.
- The reductions are a result of the sunseting of the American Rescue Funding Act (ARPA) dollars.
- While the pandemic is over, the number of seniors in need of supportive services in the community has grown.
- SSC is requesting that the Board of Supervisors allocate \$2 million to backfill the planned reductions.

Context : Planned Reductions & Budget Request

- The planned reductions total \$2.08 million across 11 of the programs administered by the AAA, affecting 23 organizations.
- The following table shows the dollar amount of the funding reductions by program for FY 25/26 vs. current year funding (using a spread sheet shared with us by SSA Finance).

Planned Reductions to AAA Contracts by Program

Program	FY26 vs FY25	(% Decrease)	# CBOs Impacted
Health Promotion	(\$108,484)	(40%)	2
Information & Assistance	(\$279,309)	(30.7%)	8
Family Caregiver Support Program	(\$454,342)	(30.4%)	10
Transportation	(\$4,417)	(26.9%)	1
Senior Center Activities	(\$133,096)	(25.9%)	11
Telephone Reassurance	(\$54,836)	(25.5%)	3
Case Management	(\$254,311)	(24.3%)	8
Visiting	(\$82,606)	(26.7%)	7
Legal Services	(\$124,072)	(21.2%)	1
Senior Injury Prevention	(\$52,688)	(11.2%)	7
Home-Delivered Nutrition	(\$572,635)	(9%)	6

Impact of the Cuts Include:

- 150 meals on wheels clients in the Tri-Valley who are high need, and eligible for 2 meals per day, will be cut from 5 meals per week to 2-3 meals per week.
- Each quarter, 125 seniors in the county will not have access to Fall Prevention classes.
- 400 Afghan seniors in Fremont will suffer significant reductions to the cultural and language appropriate services they rely on.
- In Oakland, 1,740 monolingual Asian seniors will not have access to information and assistance and 232 will lose access to senior center activities; 50 socially isolated monolingual seniors will no longer receive Friendly Visiting services.

Impact of the Cuts Include:

- In Oakland, 51 monolingual Spanish-speaking seniors will lose access to hot meals, wellness activities and information & assistance.
- In San Leandro, over 1,100 Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish-speaking seniors will only have access to senior center services 2 days per week.
- 450 home-bound seniors in south, central and north county will lose their meals on wheels service.
- More than 40 destabilized seniors who need help navigating crisis and avoiding displacement will not have access to the case management services they need.



Supporting Data

- SSC has received requests for supporting data from BOS offices, and we hope the following slides provide answers to these questions.

What CBOs are seeing in their communities:

- More older adults who have serious health issues, functional limitations, and cognitive impairment
- Increasing numbers of older adults with more acute needs
- Increasing economic insecurity
- High food insecurity and continuing high demand for brown bag, meals on wheels and congregate dining programs
- Growing numbers of precariously housed, displaced and newly homeless older adults

Chronic underfunding of preventive and home and community-based services fuels a system of long term services and supports that is biased towards institutionalization, and that disproportionately impacts older adults of color

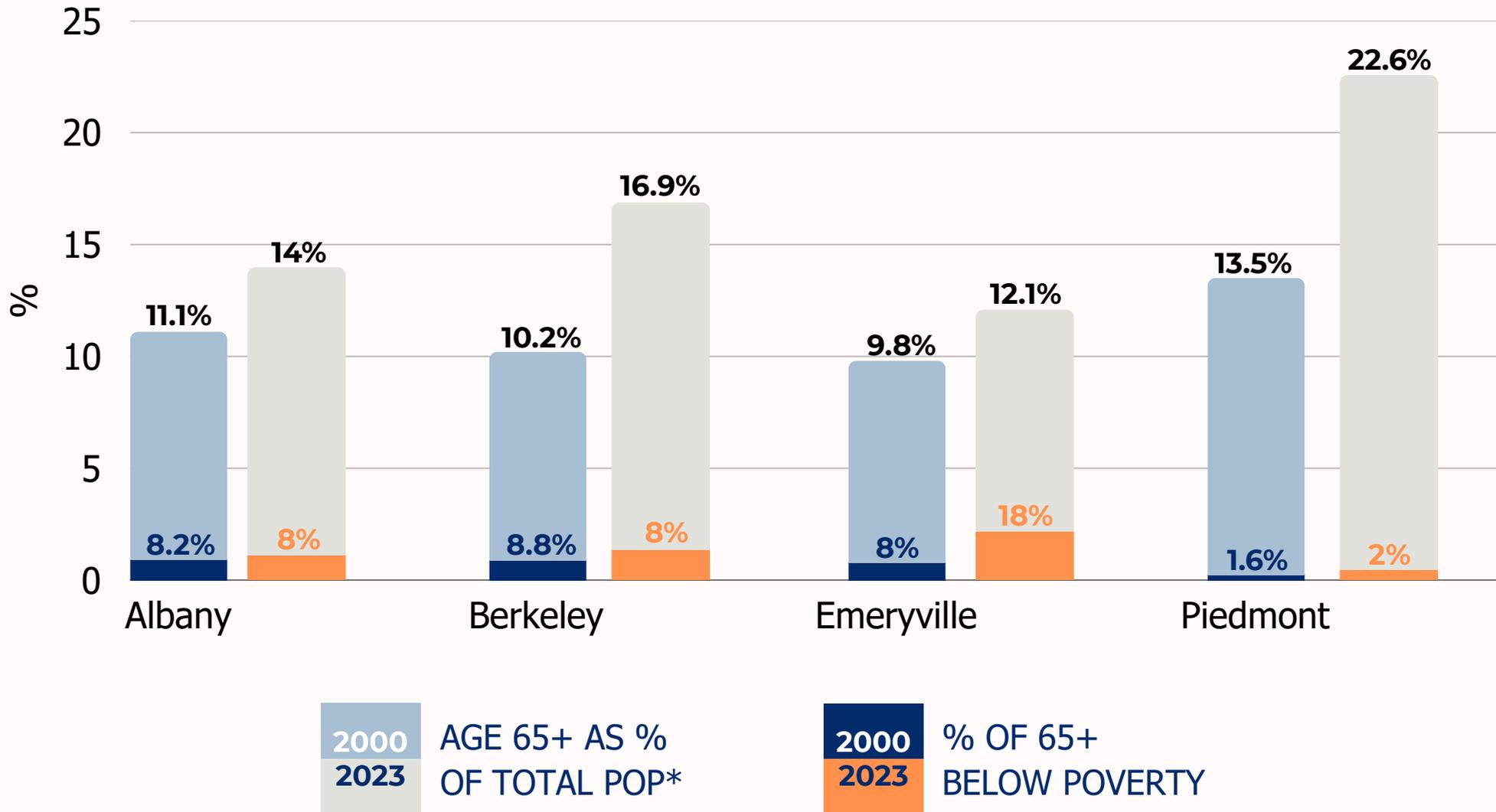
Data that points to areas of concern:

- A tremendous demographic change has been underway. In just 5 years older adults will represent 25% of the population in our county (CA Dept of Finance projections).
- The number of county residents age 80+ is growing rapidly (by 2040 it will increase nearly three-fold, to 148,000), and disability and functional limitations increase significantly after age 75.
- The cost of living has been outpacing income for years, making it difficult to save and increasing economic insecurity.
 - 27.5% of older residents live at or below 200% of FPL, which means that even if their housing costs match the HUD Fair Market Rent for a studio they will be severely rent burdened.
 - The number of precariously housed and homeless older adults is growing. 25.3% of unhoused people are age 55 or older, according to the county's 2024 Point In Time count. 7% are 65+.
 - Economic insecurity is not a burden shared equally among the older population. People of color, women and LGBTQ individuals face a greater likelihood of aging into poverty.
- As economic insecurity increases, so do pressures on individuals and families. Adult Protective Services caseloads have grown from just over 600/month in 2012 to over 1,600/month in 2023.

Deeper Dive: Poverty as an indicator of Vulnerability

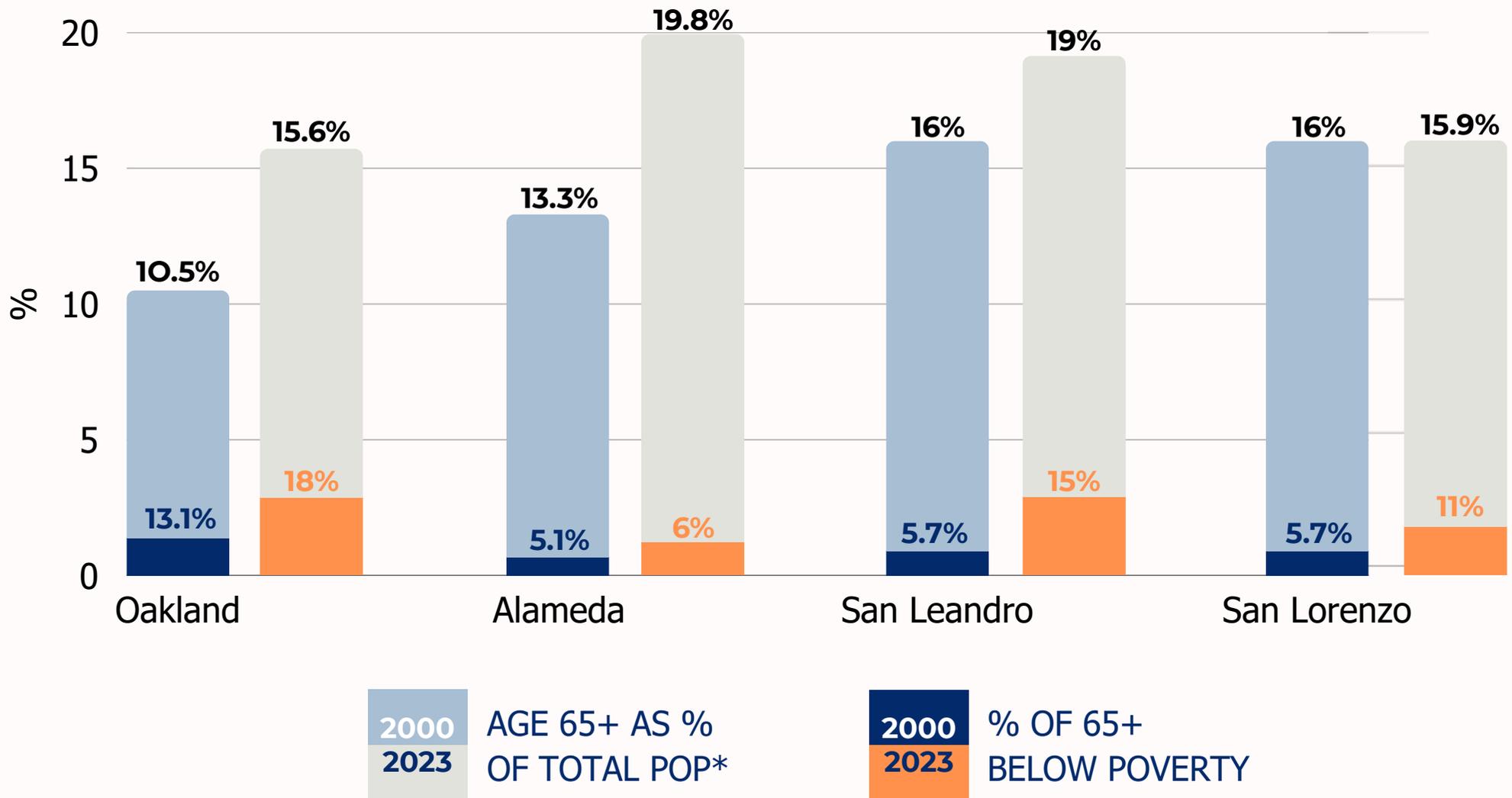
- Poverty is a good indicator of vulnerability for older adults, as those with fewer resources are less equipped to manage the challenges of aging and have the supportive services they need to live safely in the community.
- **The following charts** show the percentage of the population that is age 65+ in each city in Alameda County, and the percentage of those elders who live below the Federal Poverty Line (which in 2023 was \$1,215/month for an individual).
- We compared the 2023 data with 2000 because that was the source that was easily available, but would welcome assistance from ACH's CAPE unit to fill in the intervening years.
- *It should be noted that Federal Poverty Level is a measure of deep poverty in the Bay Area, and that the Elder Economic Security Index for Alameda County , a measure of what it takes for an older adult to make ends meet, is about 230% of FPL.*

DISTRIBUTION AND VULNERABILITY OF THE AGE 65+ POPULATION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



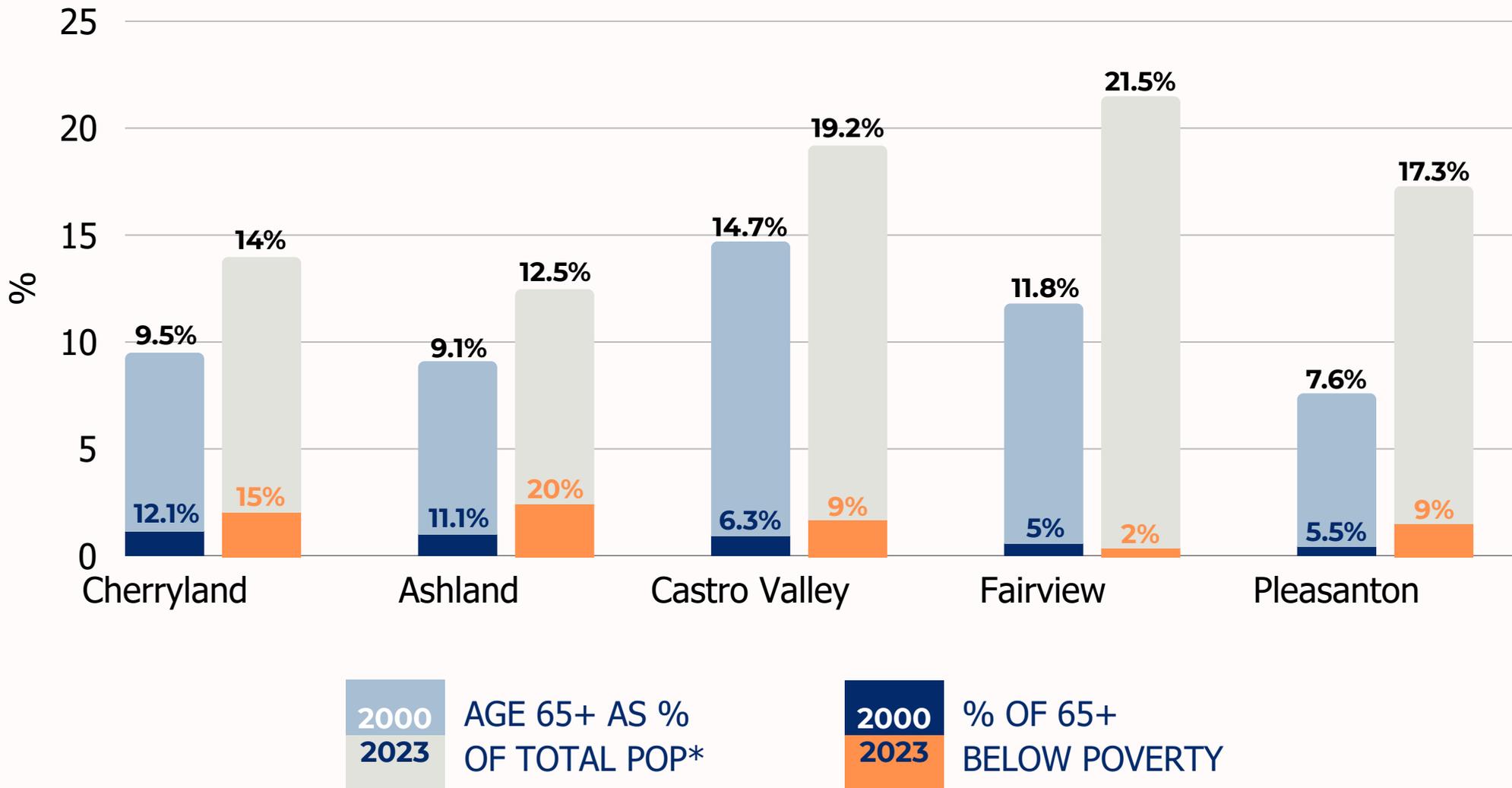
*2000 data from the US 2000 Census. 2023 data from the US Census American Community Survey via [censusreporter.org](https://www.censusreporter.org)

DISTRIBUTION AND VULNERABILITY OF THE AGE 65+ POPULATION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



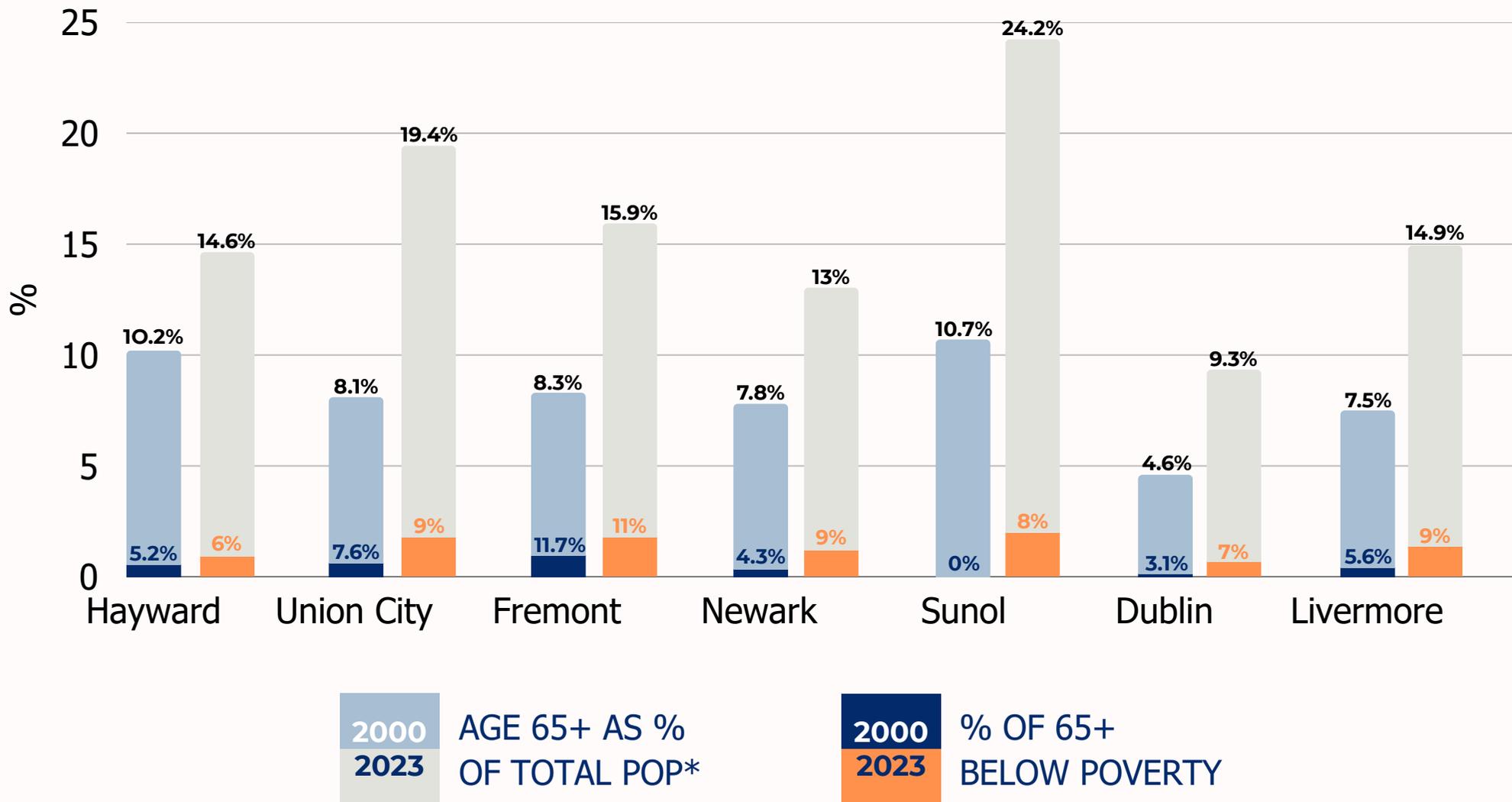
*2000 data from the US 2000 Census. 2023 data from the US Census American Community Survey via [censusreporter.org](https://www.censusreporter.org)

DISTRIBUTION AND VULNERABILITY OF THE AGE 65+ POPULATION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



*2000 data from the US 2000 Census. 2023 data from the US Census American Community Survey via [censusreporter.org](https://www.censusreporter.org)

DISTRIBUTION AND VULNERABILITY OF THE AGE 65+ POPULATION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



*2000 data from the US 2000 Census. 2023 data from the US Census American Community Survey via censusreporter.org

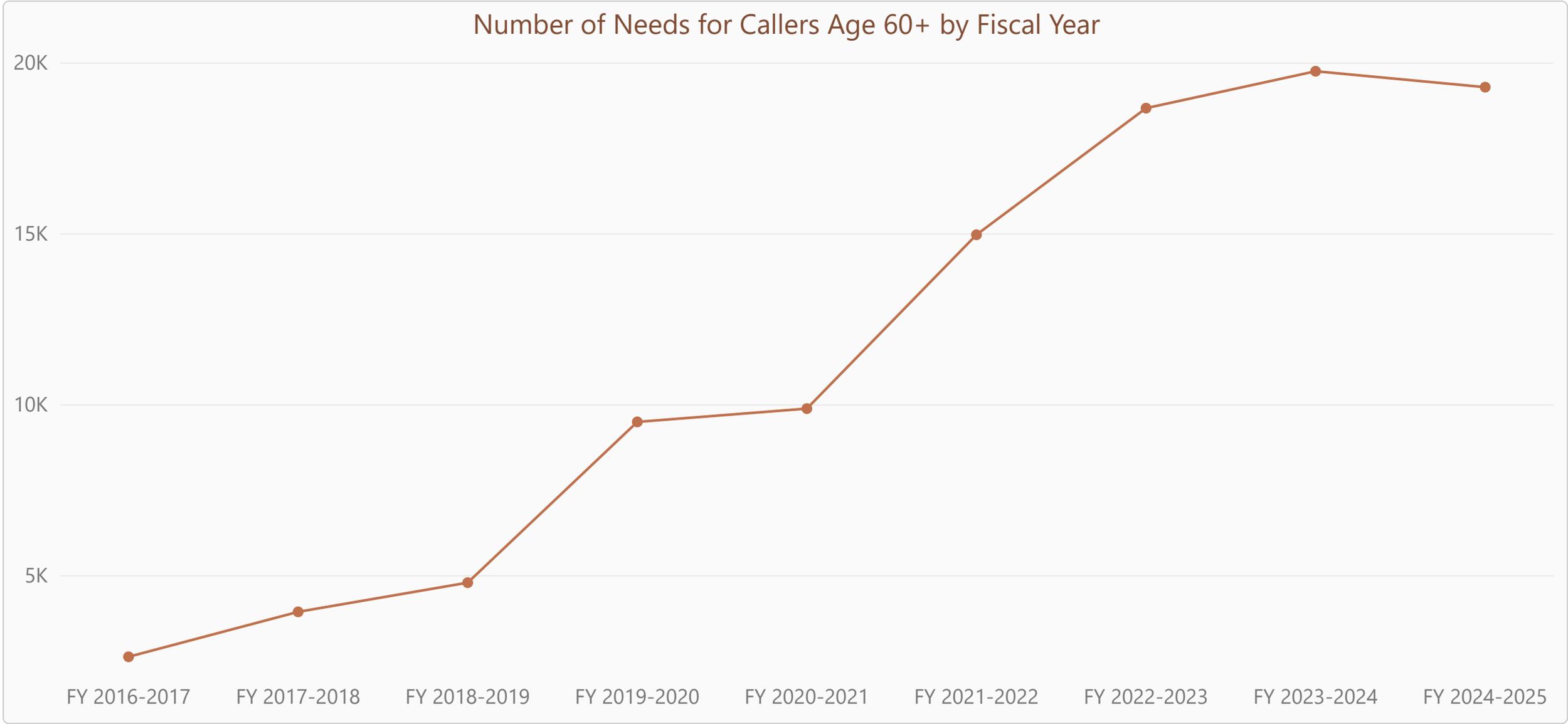
Deeper Dive: Trends in Calls to 211 Over Time

- As the number of older people in the county grows, it makes sense that more older people will be calling 211 to get help connecting to resources. That is certainly happening.
- However, there is a second, separate trend: the number of needs that older callers have has increased.
- Neither of these two trends have returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- **The following slides** were provided by Eden I&R, the 211 provider for our county.
 - The first shows the cumulative number of needs logged each year from callers who are age 60+
 - The next three slides show the demographics and needs of the 60+ callers in FY 19/20
 - The last three slides show the demographics and needs of 60+ callers in FY 23/24



Senior Services Coalition Fiscal Year Trend

Number of Needs for Callers Age 60+ by Fiscal Year





Senior Services Coalition Senior 211 Call Demographics

Date Range

7/1/2019

6/30/2020

Age Range

60

120

Total Number of Senior Calls

8403

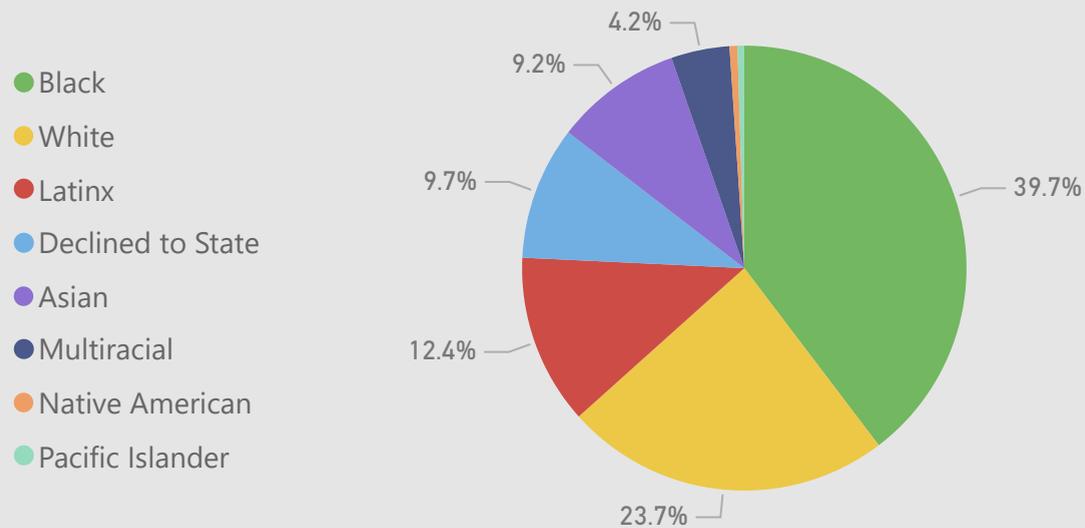
Total Number of Calls for All 211 Program

70554

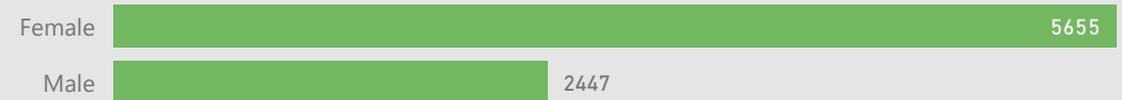
Percentage of Senior Calls

11.9%

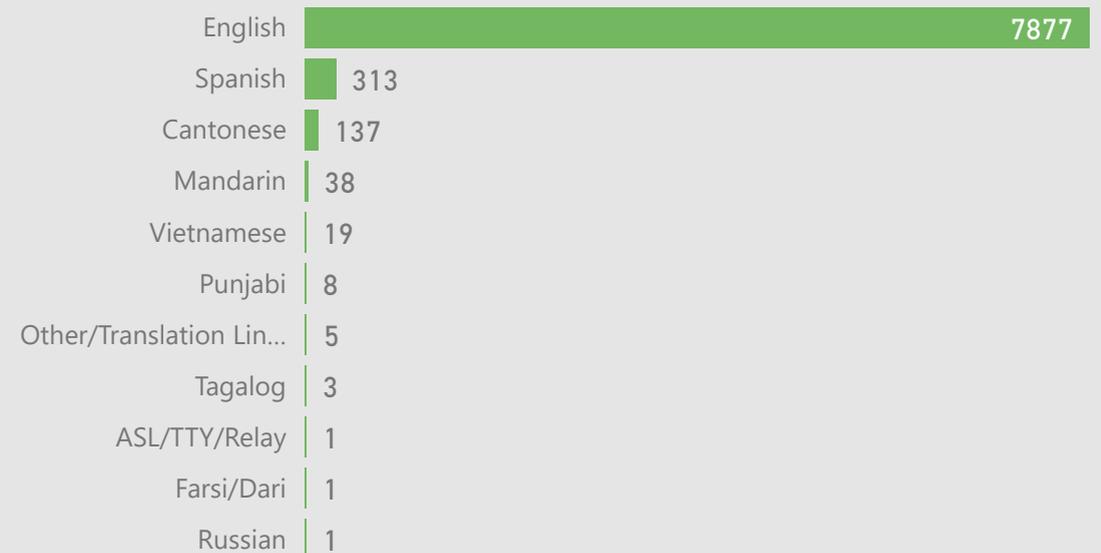
Number of Senior Calls Displayed as a Percentage, by Race



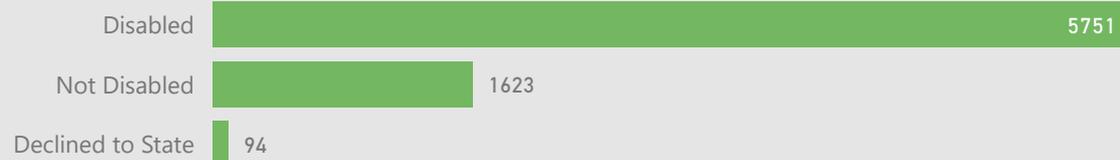
Number of Senior Calls, by Gender



Number of Senior Calls, by Language



Number of Senior Calls, by Disability





Senior Services Coalition Senior 211 Calls by Location

Date Range

7/1/2019

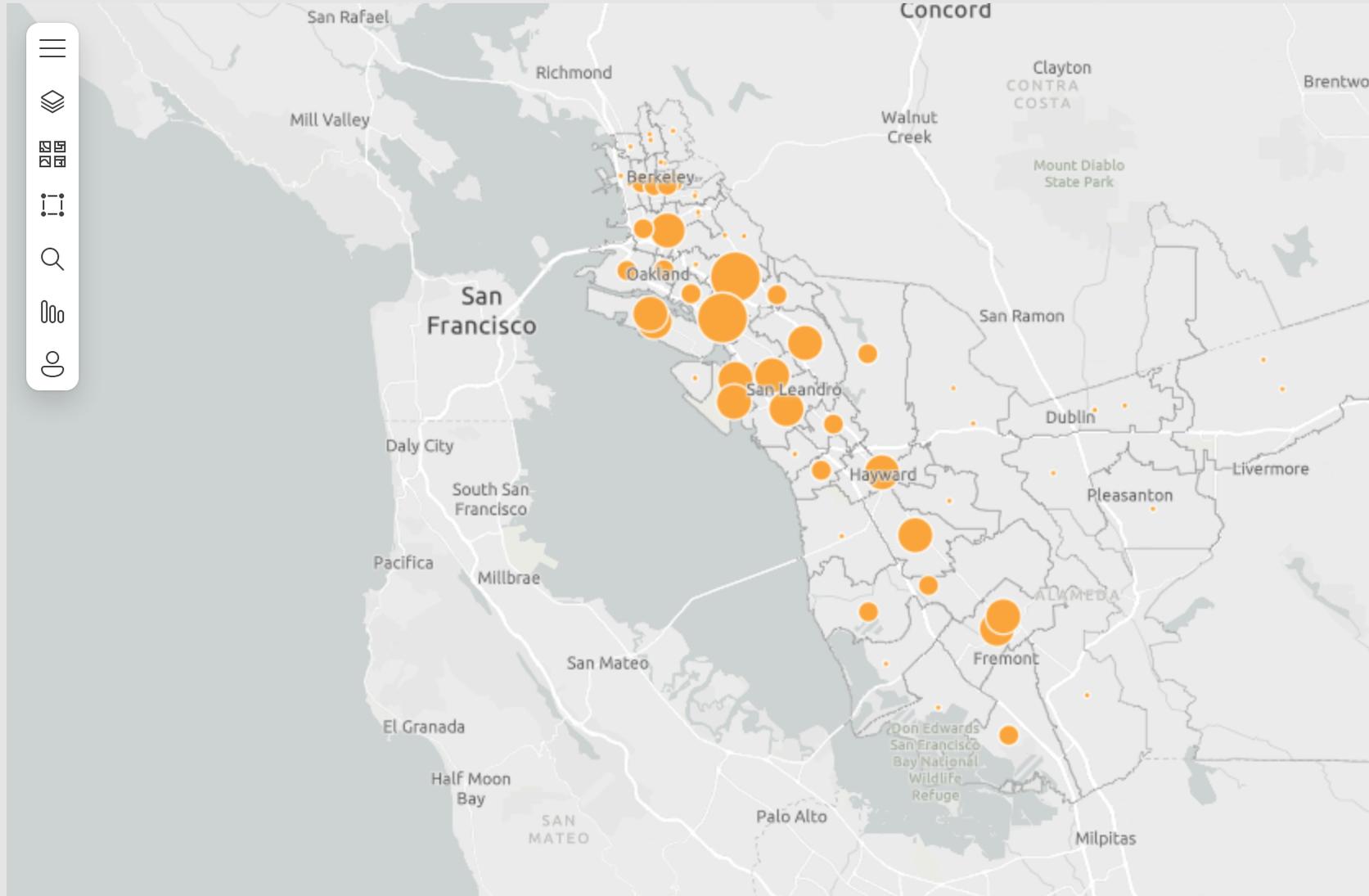
6/30/2020

Age Range

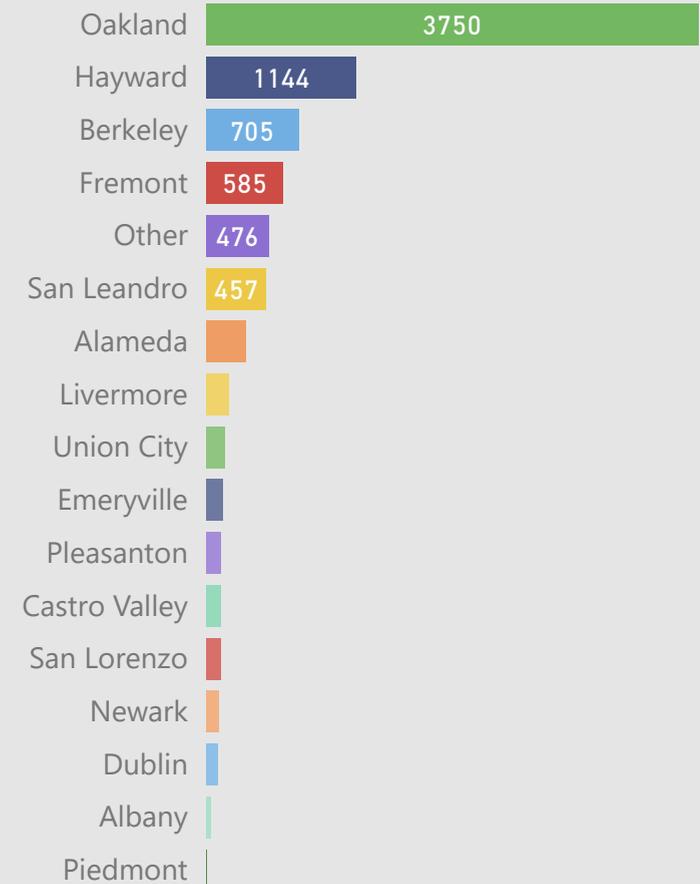
60

120

Number of Senior Calls Displayed as Magnitude, by Zip Code



Number of Senior Calls, by City





Eden I & R

linking people and resources

Senior Services Coalition Senior 211 Top Needs

Top 20 AIRS Needs

Number of Calls	Level 2 AIRS Need
2175	Housing/Shelter
708	Food
545	Information Services
409	Transportation
384	Legal Services
241	Utilities
227	Individual and Family Support Services
225	Public Assistance Programs
225	Temporary Financial Assistance
141	Public Health
130	Community Groups and Government/Administrative Offices
114	Legal Assistance Modalities
105	Mental Health Assessment and Treatment
105	Tax Organizations and Services
89	Material Goods
69	Health Supportive Services
59	Law Enforcement Services
59	Social Insurance Programs
48	Consumer Regulation
39	Donor Services

Date Range

7/1/2019

6/30/2020

Age Range

60

120



Senior Services Coalition Senior 211 Call Demographics

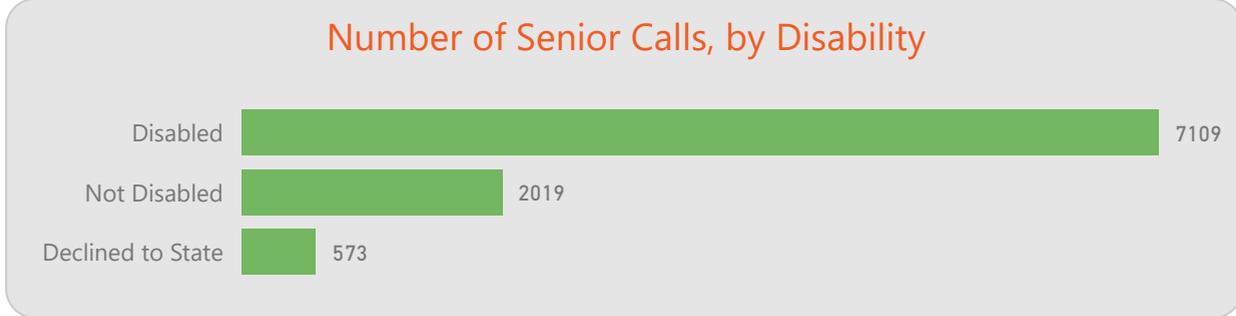
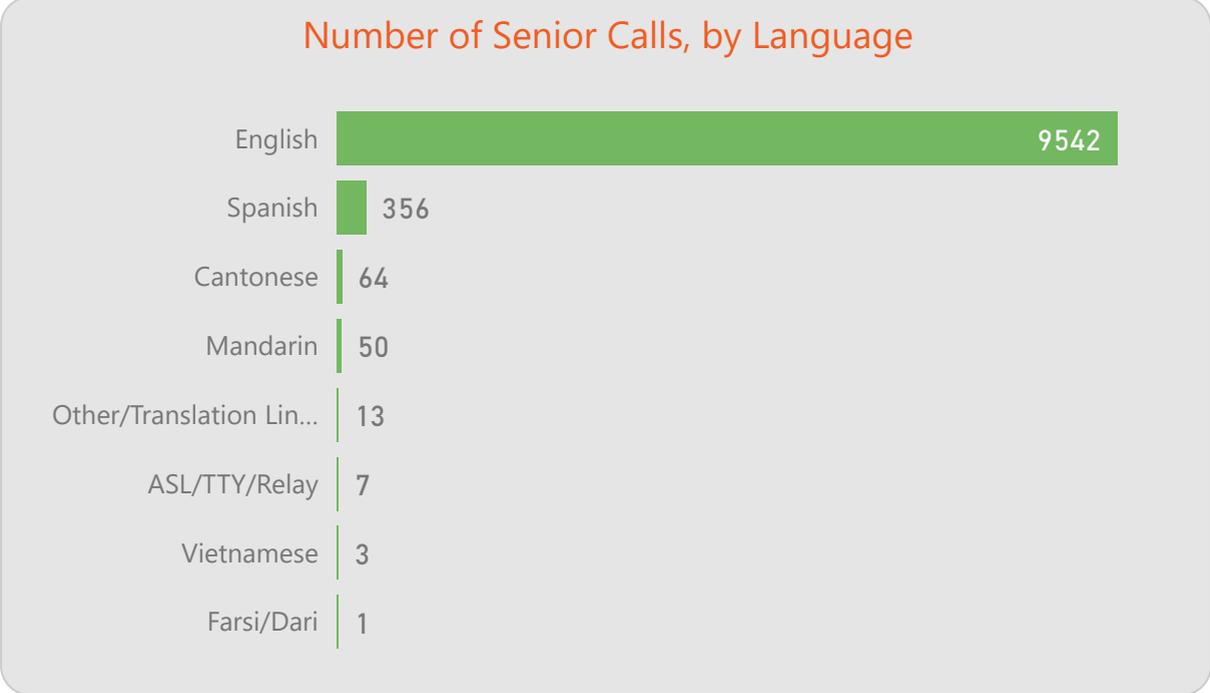
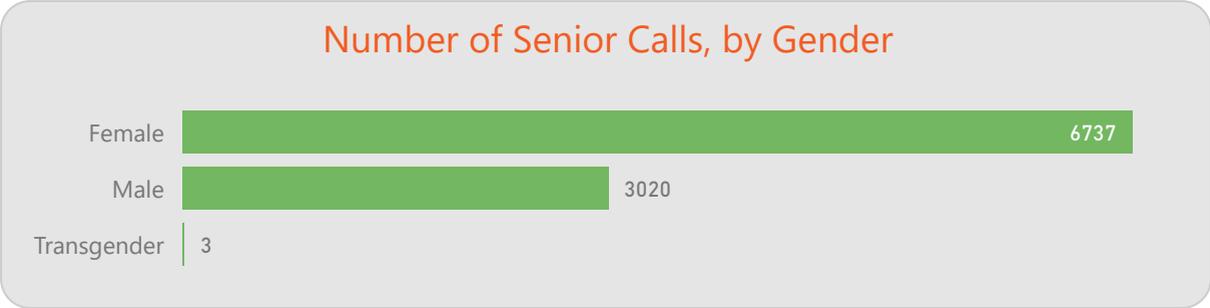
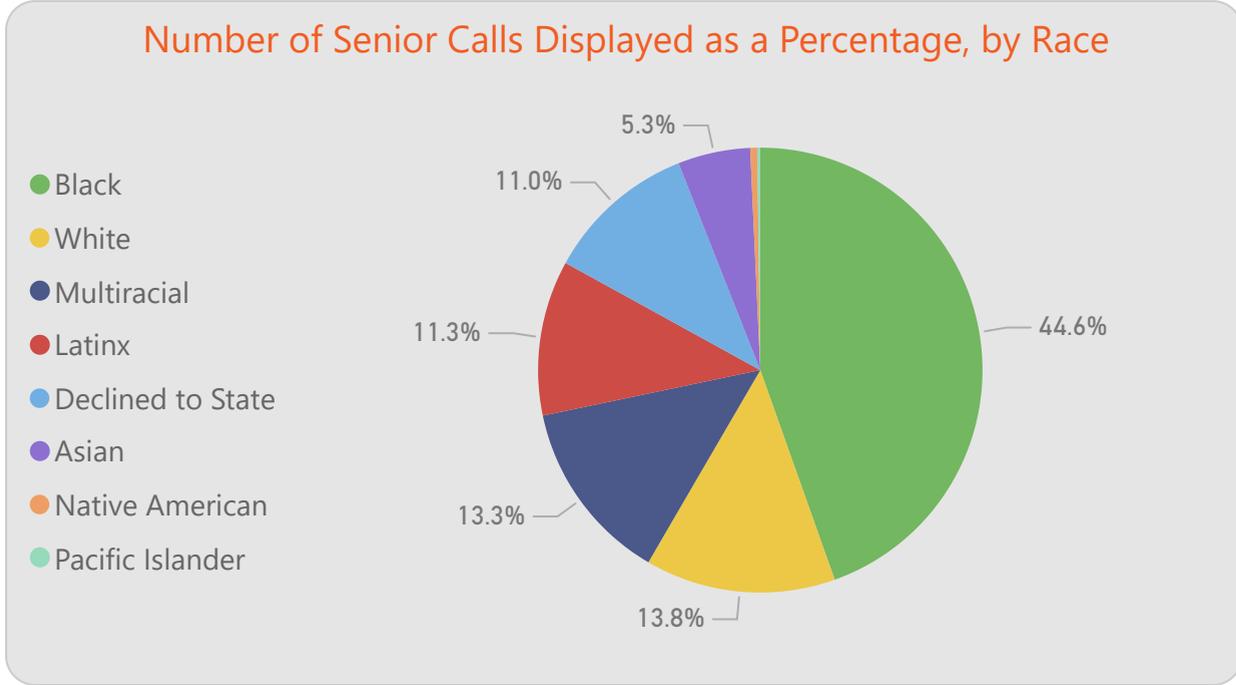
Date Range
7/1/2023 6/30/2024

Age Range
60 120

Total Number of Senior Calls
10037

Total Number of Calls for All 211 Program
64186

Percentage of Senior Calls
15.6%





Senior Services Coalition Senior 211 Calls by Location

Date Range

7/1/2023

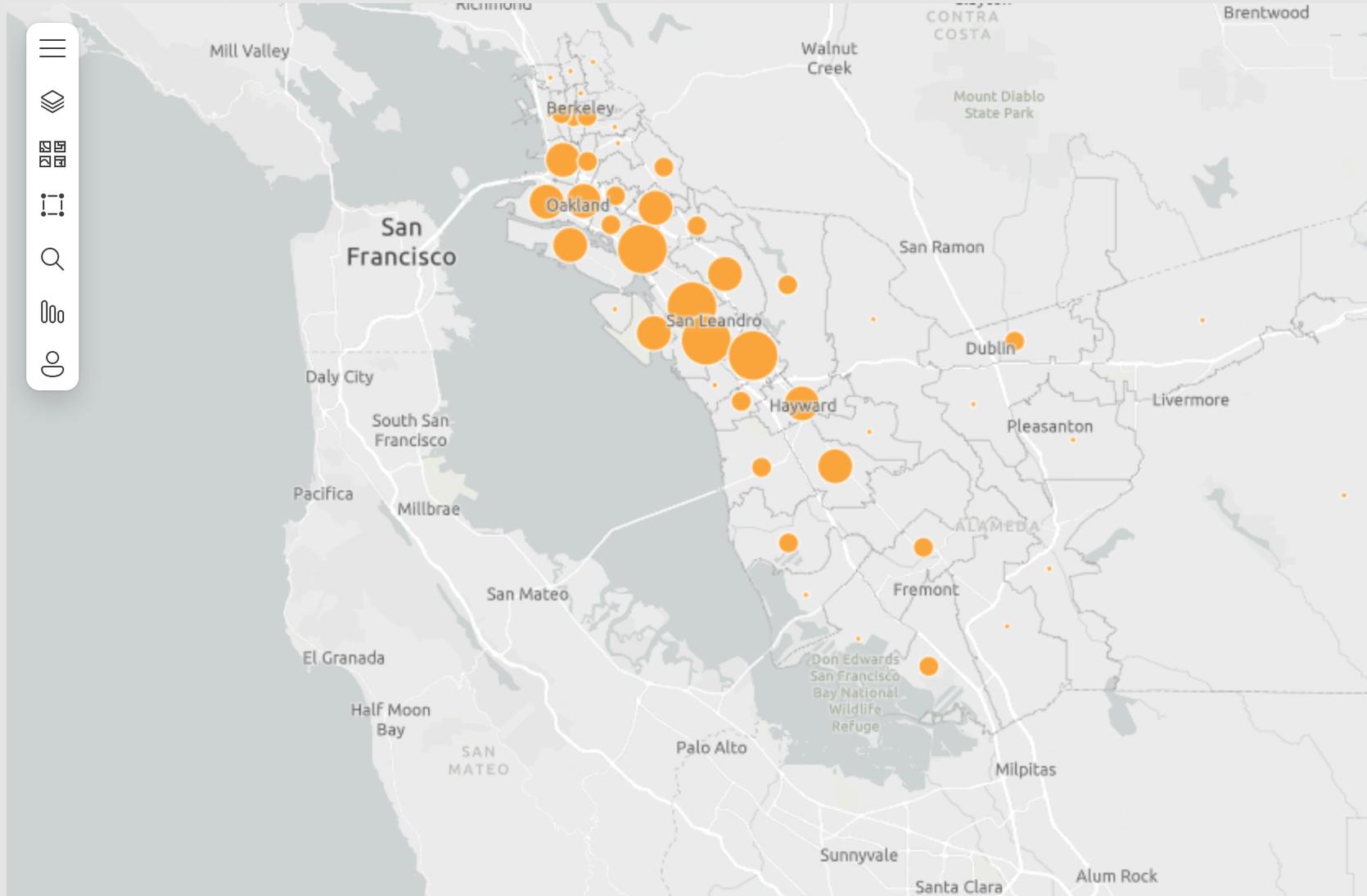
6/30/2024

Age Range

60

120

Number of Senior Calls Displayed as Magnitude, by Zip Code



Number of Senior Calls, by City

Oakland	4358
Hayward	1367
San Leandro	1011
Berkeley	631
Fremont	
Other	
Alameda	
Emeryville	
Castro Valley	
Union City	
San Lorenzo	
Livermore	
Dublin	
Newark	
Pleasanton	
Albany	
Piedmont	



Eden I & R

linking people and resources

Senior Services Coalition Senior 211 Top Needs

Top 20 AIRS Needs

Number of Calls	Level 2 AIRS Need
3432	Housing/Shelter
1316	Substance Use Disorder Services
1277	Disaster Services
972	Utilities
886	Legal Services
482	Information Services
442	Food
392	Material Goods
384	Public Assistance Programs
318	Individual and Family Support Services
228	Tax Organizations and Services
207	Transportation
160	Mental Health Assessment and Treatment
154	Community Groups and Government/Administrative Offices
145	Health Supportive Services
131	Legal Assistance Modalities
120	Consumer Assistance and Protection
112	Money Management
77	Employment
56	Social Insurance Programs

Date Range

7/1/2023

6/30/2024

Age Range

60

120

Impact of Community-Based Services:

- The services provided through AAA contracts with community-based organizations help keep older adults living safely in the community.
- We often provide anecdotes from CBOs and their clients to describe the impact of services, but here we wanted to include research that backs up the stories.
- A recent meta-analysis find a positive relationship between home-and community-based services and the health of older adults, with high correlations between HCBS and well-being and depression relief, and moderate correlations with self-rated health https://www.researchgate.net/publication/384457711_The_Impact_of_Home-_and_Community-Based_Services_on_the_Health_of_Older_Adults_A_Meta-Analysis
- Details of the Older Americans Act services that are provided through AAAs can be found in this KFF Brief: <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/what-to-know-about-the-older-americans-act-and-the-services-it-provides-to-older-adults/>