FACT SHEETS SOURCES & METHODS 2019: 
THE ESCALATING PROBLEM OF SENIOR HUNGER & ISOLATION

OUR NATION’S SENIOR POPULATION IS GROWING EXPONENTIALY

“Americans 60 or older” figure comes from the Census Bureau 2017 Population Estimates. Estimate is for seniors living in 50 states, DC, and territories. Data available in the Administration for Community Living’s (ACL) AGing Integrated Database (AGID): https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/Pop_State/Year/


Calculated by subtracting the numbers of annual estimated deaths among those age 59 from the total population of those age 59 then dividing by 365 days. Estimated deaths calculated by multiplying the total population of those age 59 by CDC’s age-specific mortality rate of 886 deaths per 100,000 people.


“2060 Population” figure comes from the Census Bureau 2017 National Population Projections by Detailed Age. Projected estimate is for 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. Data available in Table 3 at: www.census.gov/content/census/en/data/tables/2017/demo/popproj/2017-summary-tables.html

LEAVING MORE AND MORE AMERICANS AT RISK OF HUNGER AND ISOLATION

“Senior hunger” figures come from The State of Senior Hunger in America in 2017, a report prepared for Feeding America by J. Ziliak and C. Gunderson (2019). Estimates are for the population ages 60 and older who are marginally food insecure (i.e., “threatened by hunger”), food insecure and very low food secure. Note: Values for each of the three categories are not mutually exclusive (i.e., the count for marginally food insecure seniors includes seniors who are food insecure and very low food secure; count for food insecure seniors includes seniors who are very low food secure). Full report available at: https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/senior-hunger-research/senior

“Seniors living alone” figure comes from the Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic Data. Estimates are for the Household Only sample of the population aged 60 and older

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living in 50 states, DC, and territories. **Data available in AGID under Living Alone:**
https://agid.acl.gov/customtables/ACS/Year/

“Feels lonely” figure comes from *A Profile of Social Connectedness in Older Adults*, an AARP Foundation report by L. Hawkley, M. Kozloski, and J. Wong (2017). **Full report available at:**


**AND WHILE HUNGER AND ISOLATION CAN AFFECT ANYONE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY AND DECLINING HEALTH, FINANCIAL STRAIN MAKES THEM MUCH WORSE**

“Seniors living in poverty” figures come from the Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic Data. Estimates are for the Total Non-Institutionalized population ages 60 and older living at or below 100 percent of the poverty line in 50 states, DC, and territories. **Data available in AGID under Poverty Status:** https://agid.acl.gov/CustomTables/ACS/Year/


**THESE THREATS FROM AGING NOT ONLY JEOPARDIZE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OLDER ADULTS, THEY ALSO PLACE A SIGNIFICANT STRAIN ON OUR COUNTRY’S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND ECONOMY**


MEALS ON WHEELS IS THE ONLY FEDERALLY SUPPORTED PROGRAM DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO MEET THE NUTRITONAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF SENIORS, YET THIS SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP REMAINS SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERFUNDED


AND WE KNOW THAT SENIORS WAITING TO RECEIVE MEALS ON WHEELS ARE MORE LIKELY TO: