



VIDEO SOURCES & METHODS

THE TIME IS NOW

Note: This video presents the most recent data available on the topic at the time of publication.

- A. “The senior population is growing”** is from Meals on Wheels America analysis of 1999 to 2025 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates by Characteristics. Counts calculated by Meals on Wheels America by aggregating values for all ages of women and men 60+ years old. Latest data available from data *table NC-EST2025-AGESEX-RES: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2025* Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Data for 2024 available at: <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-detail.html>
- B. “Hunger is skyrocketing”** is from Meals on Wheels Analysis of the 1999 to 2024 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement. Estimate is for adults age 60 and who were considered “marginally food insecure”, “food insecure”, or “very low food secure”. Values for “marginally food secure” calculated by adding numbers for “marginal food secure,” “low food secure” and “very low food secure.” Data for 2024 available at: https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-supp_cps-repwgt/cps-food-security.html
- C. “2.5 million older adults not receiving the meals they need”** is from Meals on Wheels America calculations from the 2021 CPS Food Security Supplement. Data include adults age 60 and older who were categorized as having income below 185% of official poverty line and experienced “Low food security” and/or “Very low food security.” Note that this estimate does not include older adults who need meals services but do not have low income and food insecurity and is not a substitute for assessment of a people’s individual service needs. Data available at: [https://data.census.gov/app/mdat/CPSFOODSECURITY202112/table?v=PRTAGE\(60:90\)&v=HESC1&rv=HESC2,HRFS12M1&nv=HRPOOR\(1\)&wt=PWSUPWGT](https://data.census.gov/app/mdat/CPSFOODSECURITY202112/table?v=PRTAGE(60:90)&v=HESC1&rv=HESC2,HRFS12M1&nv=HRPOOR(1)&wt=PWSUPWGT)
- Note: there are an estimated 400,059 additional individuals under 60 eligible for OAA Nutrition Program services with food insecurity and living below 185% of the federal poverty level who are not receiving meals services, including spouses and household members with a disability living with individuals age 60 and older. For more information, please see <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-107513>
- D. “The Meals on Wheels network stands ready to do more”** is from the Meals on Wheels America 2025 Member Benchmarking survey conducted by Meals on Wheels America. 61% are confident that they could serve more seniors, if the new clients came with more funding. Figure includes programs that selected “5”, “6” or “7 – Extremely easy” in response to the question “How easy would it be to start serving home-delivered meals to 10% more clients in the next 60-90 days, assuming they came with meal funding?”

- E. **“8 out of 10 providers rely on federal funding”** is from the Meals on Wheels America 2026 Member Benchmarking survey conducted by Meals on Wheels America.
- F. **“For 6 in 10, it’s half or more of their budget”** is from a Meals on Wheels America Pulse survey, conducted fall 2023.
- G. **“While costs keep going up”**
- **Gas prices increased 53% from 2015 to 2025** is from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics time series data. Series Title: Gasoline, unleaded regular, per gallon/3.785 liters in U.S. city average, average price, not seasonally adjusted, U.S. city average. Calculations from January 2015 to March 2025. Available at: <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/APU000074714> Data extracted on: November 4, 2025
 - **Grocery prices increased 30% from 2014 to 2024** is from Sweitzer, M., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Food-away-from-home price growth outpaced food at home and overall inflation over past decade. Available at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/charts-of-note/chart-detail?chartId=109406>
- H. **“Federal funding for Meals on Wheels is not keeping pace”** is from Meals on Wheels America Analysis of Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports on Funding for the Older Americans Act and Other Aging Services Programs. Values reflect the change in OAA buying power from 1999, in 1999 dollars. Change in buying power calculated using the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI inflation calculator. Costs adjusted from October of the relevant fiscal year (i.e. October 2023 for start of FY2024) to October 1998 dollars (start of FY1999). Data does not include supplemental funding extended in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. OAA Nutrition Funding includes Older Americans Act Title III funding for congregate meals, home-delivered meals, and Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NISP) grants. Data for 2024 available at: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R43414>