



AGING FORUM PRESENTATION

AGING STARTS THE DAY YOU ARE BORN!

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CONTEXT



- ❖ 1965 - Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) created structures at the federal, state, and local levels to administer programs for older adults.
- ❖ AAA's are responsible for analyzing the needs of seniors and assessing the existing services and implementing new services where needed in the region they serve.
- ❖ Region 9's AAA is a Type A agency, which administers Oregon Project Independence and Older Americans Act programs.

❖ Region 9 Area Agency on Aging provides services within Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties, which comprise the Planning and Service Area (PSA) for the region (approximately 6,796 square miles) . The total population of the region is estimated to be 55,825 as of April 2016. People age 65 and older (n = 10,286) constitute 18.4% of the Region 9 population, but 32.5% of the population is 55 and older (n = 18,139), indicating an immediate need to plan for providing services for a growing population of elders.

- ❖ Wasco County is designated “urban,” with 33% of its population considered “rural.” Hood River County is designated “rural,” with 52% of its population considered “rural” (ACS). Three counties, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler, are considered “frontier.” Population estimates for these three frontier counties show that by 2030, more than one-third of their total populations will be age 65 or older. If trends in State funding for AAA programs does not increase, the burden of support will fall hardest on these counties.

AAA SERVICES

- ❖ Some of Region 9 AAA services are contracted with local service providers:
- ❖ including 12 Senior Nutrition Programs in the five-county area.
- ❖ Other programs and services provided by our AAA through staff and volunteers include: helping people remain in their homes (Oregon Project Independence, OPI)
- ❖ information and referral (Aging and Disability Resource Center, ADRC)
- ❖ health and wellness - Living Well with Chronic Conditions, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Wisdom Warriors, Strong Women, Walk with Ease and Tai Chi), outreach (Friendly Visitor Program)
- ❖ advocacy (Senior Advisory Council, SAC), Area Plan administration, help with Medicare questions (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program, SHIBA), Medicare Fraud investigations (Senior Medicare Patrol), Elder Abuse Awareness, tax counseling, and the DHS Money Management program. Legal services and elder abuse investigations are available through APD.

POPULATION PROFILE

- ❖ People age 65 and older (n = 10,286) constitute 18.4% of the Region 9 population
- ❖ 32.5% of the population is 55 and older (n = 18,139), indicating an immediate need to plan for providing services for a growing population of elders.
- ❖ The five counties vary in the proportion of those aged 65 and older. Hood River County has the lowest percentage at 14.5%, followed by Wasco County at 20.3%, Sherman County at 24.9%, Gilliam County at 26.7%, and Wheeler County at 31.9%.
- ❖ **These percentages are, except for Hood River County, much higher than the 16.4% average for all of Oregon (POP).**
- ❖ Sherman, Wheeler and Gilliam counties have among the lowest population densities in the state at 2.1, 0.8 and 1.6 residents per square mile respectively

- ❖ Currently, more than 6,000 adults with a disability live in the five-county area (ACS). As the aging population grows in number, we will see more older adults living with a disability.
- ❖ There are 170 Native Americans aged 60 and over, mostly living in Wasco County, with 38 of them living in poverty.
- ❖ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, African American, and those who identified as being from two or more races; this group numbered 266, with 22 persons living in poverty. There are 7,123 adults over the age of 60 who live with a disability; 3,046 who live alone; and 411 with limited English proficiency.

Region 9 Population Profile (ACS 5-year estimates, 2010-2014)

Characteristics	Region 9 AAA	Wasco County	Hood River County	Gilliam County	Sherman County	Wheeler County
Total population	52,780	25,281	22,427	1,915	1,865	1,292
Age 60+	12,049	6,208	4,220	538	563	520
Age 60+ in poverty	931	427	320	157	75	49
Hispanic, 60+	557	177	363	9	2	6
Hispanic, 60+, in poverty	105	34	0	0	8	0
Native American, 60+	170	146	0	10	11	3
Native American, 60+ in poverty	38	30	0	0	8	0
Native American Tribes		Warm Springs, Yakama	Warm Springs			
Other minority, 60+) Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, African American, 2 + races)	266	114	132	13	7	0
Other minority, 60+, in poverty	22	13	8	0	1	0
60+ with disability	7,123	3,950	2,204	361	338	270
60+ living alone	3,046	1,527	1,75	153	145	146
60+ limited English proficiency (LEP)	411	137	271	3	0	0
Rural or frontier, 60+	5,841	0	4,220	538	563	520

TARGET POPULATION



The core mission of Region 9 AAA is to target resources for seniors that:

- ❖ Are isolated from family, friends or community and/or living alone; increasingly this group includes seniors who are alone all day as the family or caregivers may be working multiple jobs.
- ❖ Have financial issues (inability to pay for health care, food, housing, utilities) and include those who do not own their own home or are in female headed households.
- ❖ Are of an ethnic minority including Hispanics, Native Americans, limited English speakers, as well as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) seniors.
- ❖ Are 85 years and older.
- ❖ Are in poor physical or mental health (depression, cognitive problems including Alzheimer's disease or dementias, or emotional problems).
- ❖ Require protection from abuse, fraud and physical harm.