





Yuba-Sutter Aging and Disabilities Plan Data Map: Summary Findings

A Data Map of available local and state data was compiled to provide a comprehensive view of the aging and disabilities landscape in Yuba and Sutter Counties. The Data Map is designed to help these counties identify local strategic priorities, assess additional data collection needs, and establish benchmarks for ongoing improvement. The Data Map was aligned with the California Master Plan for Aging's (MPA) five bold goals for 2030: 1) Housing for All Ages and Stages; 2) Health Reimagined; 3) Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation; 4) Caregiving that Works; and 5) Affordable Aging. Sources for available data included in the Data Map were:

- Local Sources: Adventist Health and Rideout Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA); Agency on Aging/Area 4 – Ombudsman Program; Regional Housing Authority – Sutter, Yuba, Colusa, and Nevada Counties; Sutter Yuba Homeless Consortium.
- State Sources: California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF); California Department of Aging (CDA) Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) and Master Plan for Aging (MPA); California Department of Fair Employment and Housing; California Department of Health and Human Services (CalHHS) Long-term Care Facilities Annual Utilization Database and Open Data Portal; California Department of Public Health California Community Burden of Disease Engine; California Department of Social Services (CDSS) In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program Data; California Employment Development Department (EDD) Employment and Wage Statistics; California Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (CalPACE); California Public Utilities Commission; California State Parks; UCLA Center for Health Policy Research California Elder Index, California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), and CHIS Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) Study.
- National Sources: American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Livability Index; American College of Emergency Physicians – Geriatric Emergency Department (GED) Accreditation; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – National Center for Health Statistics Wonder Online Database; Environmental Protection Agency – National Walkability Index; National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC); United States Census Bureau – American Community Survey and Public Use Microdata (PUM); United States Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS); United States Department of Health and Human Services; United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); United States Social Security Administration.

Key Takeaways and Considerations

Key Takeaways

- Aging Population Trends: Both counties are experiencing growth in their older adult populations, signaling a need for more targeted aging services.
- Disability Support: There's a high prevalence of disabilities, particularly among those 75 and older, stressing the need for more robust disability services.
- Housing and Transportation Challenges: Many seniors feel their homes are inadequate for aging, with transportation and walkability remaining key concerns.
- Healthcare Gaps: Both counties lack critical elder care services, with particular strain in access to long-term care and skilled nursing.
- Caregiver Strain: Many informal caregivers face significant emotional and financial burdens, requiring more support for caregiver wellbeing.
- Social Isolation and Engagement: There is widespread loneliness and low community engagement, indicating the need for stronger social inclusion efforts.
- Cultural Diversity and Access: Sutter's diverse population and language barriers highlight the need for culturally responsive programs and better communication strategies.
- **Economic Vulnerability**: Economic insecurity is high, with many older adults facing food insecurity and financial instability. There's a need for stronger financial and social support.

Considerations for Action

- Improve Housing and Transportation: Expand housing and transportation options while enhancing infrastructure to ensure accessibility for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Enhance Healthcare Access: Address the existing gaps in healthcare access, with a specific focus on seniors with disabilities and limited mobility to ensure they receive the necessary care.
- Address Food and Economic Insecurity: Prioritize initiatives that tackle food insecurity and provide economic support to low-income seniors, helping to improve their overall quality of life.
- Bolster Caregiver Support: Increase support for informal caregivers by offering mental health resources and financial assistance to alleviate their burdens.

- Develop Culturally Responsive Services: Create culturally and linguistically appropriate services tailored to the needs of diverse and non-English speaking populations, promoting inclusivity in care.
- Promote Community Engagement: Strengthen community engagement initiatives to reduce social isolation and improve overall life satisfaction among older adults.

Summary Findings and Insights

Community Demographic Data

The data presents a multifaceted view of the older adult population in Yuba and Sutter Counties, highlighting several critical areas. Sutter County's older adult population exceeds the state average, indicating a growing demographic that will require tailored services to address their unique needs. Additionally, Yuba County shows a higher prevalence of disabilities, especially those aged 75 and over, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced disability support services in the region. Sutter County's more diverse population presents opportunities for service providers to implement culturally relevant programs, particularly for Hispanic/Latinx and Asian communities. Moreover, the presence of older adults in Sutter County who have limited English proficiency suggests potential barriers to accessing services, necessitating improved communication strategies. In summary, these findings point to significant implications for service delivery, necessitating a comprehensive approach to address the aging population's diverse needs in both counties.

- Growing Older Adult Population: Sutter County (22.3%) has a larger percentage of older adults (60+) compared to both the statewide average (20.76%) and Yuba County (18.9%) (U.S. Census Bureau [USCB], 2022a). The substantial older adult population in both counties highlights the need for targeted services and support.
- Disability Prevalence: Yuba County has a higher percentage of individuals with disabilities (16.0%) than Sutter County (13.8%) and California (11%), indicating a greater demand for disability-related services in the area (USCB, 2022b).
- Age and Disability Correlation: Older adults aged 75 and over show significant rates of disability, with 57.4% in Yuba and 48.9% in Sutter, stressing the importance of age-specific disability services (USCB, 2022b).
- Gender Distribution: Gender ratios are similar across the regions, with females slightly outnumbering males (53.2% female vs. 46.8% male in the counties, and 54.0% female vs. 46.0% male in California) (USCB, 2022a), reflecting common trends in aging populations.

- Racial and Ethnic Diversity: Sutter County has a more diverse population, particularly among Hispanic/Latinx (32.3%) and Asian (16.6%) individuals compared to Yuba County (29.8% Hispanic/Latinx and 7.8% Asian), which may affect the cultural considerations for service delivery (USCB, 2022a).
- Race for Older Adults: There is a predominance of White residents aged 60+ in Yuba County (70%) and Sutter County (60.8%), with Sutter having a significantly larger Asian population (16.9%) compared to Yuba (5.4%). California shows greater diversity overall, especially among Hispanic/Latinx (22.7%), Asian (16.0%), and "some other race" populations (9.6%) (USCB, 2022a).
- Language Proficiency: A large majority of older adults in both counties primarily speak English (83.4% in Yuba and 71.6% in Sutter), but Sutter County has a notable percentage (20.4%) who speak English less than "very well," which could hinder access to services (USCB, 2022a).
- Educational Attainment: Sutter County has a higher percentage of older adults with less than a high school education (24.1%) compared to Yuba County (21.1%), potentially limiting their access to information and resources (USCB, 2022a).

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Goal 1: Housing for all Ages and Stages

We will live where we choose as we age, in communities that are age-, disability-, and dementia-friendly and climate- and disaster-ready.

The data reveals several key insights regarding the needs and challenges faced by older adults in Yuba and Sutter Counties. Older adults in Yuba and Sutter Counties face unique challenges in aging within communities that are supportive, accessible, and disaster-ready. Although both counties demonstrate high homeownership and housing stability, many older adults report that their current housing does not meet their needs, signaling a demand for more affordable, accessible, and adaptable housing options.

Transportation emerges as a critical concern, with limited public transit use and high reliance on personal vehicles, making accessibility a challenge for older adults and those without cars. The lack of walkability in most areas further exacerbates this issue, especially in rural communities.

Additionally, the quality of life in terms of infrastructure and community services for older adults is rated poorly, pointing to unmet needs in public services, utilities, and spaces. Despite high housing stability, there is a pressing need for improved transportation options, infrastructure, and housing that better aligns with the needs of the aging population in these counties.

- Homeownership Rates: A high percentage of older adults in both Yuba (74.2%) and Sutter (73.7%) counties live in owner-occupied housing, both above the California average (72.1%) (USCB, 2022a).
- Family Dynamics: Family households (defined as a household with at least two people related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing together) are prevalent among the older adult population, with 53.4% in Yuba County and 60.7% in Sutter County. Married-couple families represent 40.8% in Yuba and 45.0% in Sutter (USCB, 2022a).
- Housing Stability: Most older adults in both counties have lived in the same home for the past year, with 94.0% in Yuba County and 90.5% in Sutter County, showing strong housing stability (USCB, 2022a).
- Affordable Housing: Yuba (82.4 units per 10,000) and Sutter (95.3 units per 10,000) fall below California's average of 138 subsidized units (AARP Livability Index). California's shortage of 962,667 affordable rentals highlights the urgent need for more housing in underserved areas like Yuba and Sutter (NLIHC, 2022). Reflecting this shortage, only 18% of older adults in Yuba and 12% in Sutter rate affordable housing availability as "excellent" or "good" (CDA, 2023).

- Accessible Housing: In Yuba and Sutter Counties, only 16% and 15% of older adults, respectively, rated the availability of accessible housing (e.g., (homes with a no step entry, single floor living, wide hallways and doorways) as "excellent" or "good," highlighting a gap in accessible housing options for older adults in these areas (CDA, 2023).
- Living Conditions: A significant portion of older adults report inadequate housing, with 42% in Yuba and 36% in Sutter indicating their homes do not meet their needs (California Department of Aging [CDA], 2023).
- Transportation Accessibility: In California, only 4.7% of older adults use public transit, reflecting limited use among seniors (CDA, 2022). In Yuba County, 6.5% lack vehicle access, and in Sutter County, 6.1%, suggesting accessibility challenges for those without cars (CHNA, 2022).
- Transportation Concerns: Nearly half of older adults in Yuba (49%) and Sutter (50%) rate transportation availability as a moderate or major concern, pointing to a need for safer, more affordable options (CDA, 2023).
- Community Walkability: Most of Yuba and Sutter Counties are not walkable, except for cities like Marysville and Yuba City, highlighting the need for better pedestrian infrastructure, especially in rural areas (EPA, 2020).
- Quality of Life: Only 47% of older adults in Yuba and 43% in Sutter rated their utility infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband) as excellent or good, falling below the regional average of 69% (CDA, 2023).
- Community Services: Public spaces and services for older adults received very low ratings, with just 7% in Yuba and 10% in Sutter expressing satisfaction, highlighting significant opportunities for improvement (AAA4, 2023).
- Natural Hazards: There is a lack of data on how many seniors live in hazard-prone areas, indicating a gap in understanding their risk during natural disasters (CDA, 2022).

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Goal 2: Health Reimagined

We will have access to the care and services we need to optimize our health and quality of life and to continue to live where we choose.

The data from Yuba and Sutter Counties highlights critical gaps in elder care services, particularly in key programs and healthcare access essential for the aging population. Both counties lack Adult Day Health Care and PACE programs, and Yuba faces a significant shortage of skilled nursing facilities, creating challenges for seniors needing specialized care. Satisfaction with long-term and daytime care services is notably low, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction with available support.

Challenges in obtaining affordable health insurance and low Medicare Advantage enrollment rates further strain healthcare access. Many older adults report daily activity limitations, requiring significant support from In-Home Support Services (IHSS), while financial barriers prevent some from accessing necessary medications. Physical health and preventative care services receive poor ratings, underscoring a need for improved access and quality.

Access to oral healthcare remains a challenge, with nearly half of older adults facing difficulties. Psychological distress is prevalent, despite many older adults rating their mental health positively, pointing to unmet mental health support needs. High emergency department usage and readmission rates reveal systemic issues in preventative care and chronic disease management. Additionally, low awareness of cognitive decline and increasing dementia-related deaths indicate an urgent need for targeted interventions to support seniors' overall well-being.

Service Gaps and Provider Shortages: Yuba and Sutter Counties lack certain elder care programs, including Adult Day Health Care and Programs for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Yuba County has 10,270 seniors per skilled nursing facility, compared to

Sutter's 3,774, indicating a potential shortage of care options in Yuba County (CDA, 2020; MPA, 2020).

- Access to Residential Care: Seniors in Sutter County have slightly better access to Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), with 2,156 seniors per facility compared to 2,568 in Yuba County. However, only 14% of seniors in both counties rated long-term care services as good or excellent (CDSS, 2024; MPA, 2020).
- Low Long-Term Care and Daytime Care Ratings: Both counties receive low ratings for daytime care services, with only 4% of Yuba and 6% of Sutter older adults rating them as good, significantly below the regional average of 22% (AAA4, 2023).
- Medicare and Insurance Coverage Issues: Medicare Advantage enrollment is low in both counties—11.45% in Yuba and 6.09% in Sutter—compared to the statewide average of 56.22% (CMS, 2019; MPA, 2019).
- Challenges in Daily Activities: Many older adults report difficulty with daily activities, with 39% in Yuba and 45% in Sutter indicating these issues. In-Home Support Services (IHSS) clients in both counties experience challenges in performing these activities independently (CDSS, IHSS Program, 2024).
- Barriers to Healthcare and Medication Affordability: 42% of older adults in Yuba and Sutter Counties face difficulties affording necessary medications, and 42% in Yuba and 48% in Sutter encounter barriers in accessing healthcare (CDA, 2023).
- Physical and Preventative Health Gaps: Physical health issues are prevalent, with 62% of older adults in Yuba and 72% in Sutter reporting concerns. Preventative health services are rated poorly, with only 21% in Yuba and 40% in Sutter rating them excellent or good (CDA, 2023).
- Oral Health and Mental Health Challenges: Oral health access is problematic for many seniors, with 58% in Yuba and 51% in Sutter reporting issues. Additionally, 50% of older adults in both counties experience psychological distress (CDA, 2023; CHIS, 2022).
- High Emergency Department Usage and Readmission Rates: High emergency department usage, with 66,888 ED visits in 2022 at Adventist Health Rideout, and a 32.79% Medicare readmission rate underscore gaps in preventative care, discharge planning, follow-up care, and specialized geriatric services for older adults (ACEP GED Accreditation, 2022; California Health and Human Services, 2023; CMS, 2020).
- Cognitive Decline and Dementia Concerns: Statewide, only 36.8% of older adults discuss memory loss with healthcare providers, reflecting low awareness of cognitive decline. Dementia-related deaths are rising, emphasizing the need for support and intervention (CDC, 2022; CDA, 2020).

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Goal 3: Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation

We will have lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, community engagement, and leadership and will be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Older adults and individuals with disabilities in Yuba and Sutter Counties face numerous challenges that impact their ability to fully engage in their communities, maintain independence, and protect themselves from harm. While most have access to telecommunications and the internet, barriers such as digital literacy, affordability, and access to suitable devices persist, limiting their ability to stay connected and informed. Additionally, significant gaps in awareness of available services and resources leave many feeling unsupported and uninformed.

Community engagement and recreational opportunities are rated poorly, contributing to widespread feelings of loneliness and isolation. These issues are particularly acute for individuals with disabilities, who often face additional barriers to accessing inclusive activities. Despite lower labor force participation rates compared to the state average, many older adults and individuals with disabilities actively contribute through volunteering, reflecting a desire to remain engaged in their communities.

Concerningly, reports of elder abuse, neglect, and vulnerability to fraud and scams emphasize the urgent need for protective measures and educational programs to safeguard these populations from exploitation. Addressing these challenges will require targeted interventions to foster social inclusion, improve access to resources, and ensure the safety, well-being, and active participation of older adults and individuals with disabilities.

- Telecommunication Access: A small percentage of older adults lack telephone service— 1.2% in Yuba County and 0.7% in Sutter County—indicating some access issues for this demographic (USCB, 2022a).
- Internet Access: The data shows a gap between broadband availability (95.3% in Yuba and 97.1% in Sutter) and high-speed internet use among older adults (84% in Yuba and 82% in Sutter) (CPUC, 2021; CDA, 2023). Device-based access is even lower, with only 75% in Yuba and 85% in Sutter using computers or tablets at home (CDA, 2023). Addressing barriers like affordability, digital literacy, and access to technology is critical to closing the digital divide for older adults.
- Service and Resource Awareness: Awareness of services and resources is low, with only 42% of older adults in Yuba County and 43% in Sutter County feeling informed about available services (CDA, 2023). Additionally, only 5% in Yuba and 10% in Sutter rate the availability of information about resources as excellent or good (CDA, 2023). A high

percentage of older adults—85% in Yuba and 79% in Sutter—report not knowing what services are available, highlighting significant communication and outreach challenges (CDA, 2023).

- Life Satisfaction: Life satisfaction varies between counties, with 72.7% of older adults in Yuba County and 55.2% in Sutter County reporting satisfaction ratings of 8 or higher (on a scale of 0-10), suggesting differing quality of life experiences (CHIS, 2018).
- Community Engagement and Recreation: Community engagement is low, with only 24% in Yuba County and 29% in Sutter County rating their connection with the community as excellent or good (CDA, 2023). Local recreation opportunities are also rated poorly—11% in Yuba and 27% in Sutter rate these as excellent or good (CDA, 2023).
- Loneliness and Belonging: Around 51% of older adults in both Yuba and Sutter Counties feel lonely or isolated, showing significant challenges in fostering a sense of belonging and social connection among seniors (CDA, 2023).
- Labor Force Participation: In Yuba County, older adults have a labor force participation rate of 26.1%, while Sutter County's rate is slightly higher at 29.5%, both below the statewide rate of 30.5%. Among adults with disabilities, Sutter County shows a higher participation rate (44.4%) compared to Yuba County (36.6%), suggesting potentially better support systems in Sutter (USCB, 2022b).
- Volunteer Engagement: Volunteer participation among older adults is 42% in Yuba County and 44% in Sutter County, showing active engagement despite employment challenges (CHIS, 2022).
- Abuse and Neglect Concerns: In FY23-24, Yuba and Sutter Counties reported 85 elder abuse and neglect complaints across care facilities, with 38 complaints already recorded in FY24 to date, highlighting an ongoing need for protective measures in these communities (Ombudsman data, 2024).
- Fraud and Crime Vulnerability: Fraud and crime are significant concerns, with 39% of older adults in Yuba County and 22% in Sutter County expressing fear of being victims of fraud or scams. This suggests an urgent need for community education and protective measures to safeguard seniors from exploitation (CDA, 2023)

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Goal 4: Caregiving that Works

We will be prepared for and supported through the rewards and challenges of caring for aging and disabled loved ones.

The caregiving landscape in Yuba and Sutter Counties is marked by significant workforce challenges, with a limited number of paid caregivers compared to statewide trends. The shortage of professional caregiving resources, combined with gaps in data for the broader region, underscores the difficulty in fully assessing and addressing the needs of the caregiving workforce.

In response to these workforce shortages, informal caregiving has emerged as a critical support system for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Yuba County, in particular, demonstrates strong community networks through a high level of informal caregiving. However, this reliance on informal caregivers places considerable emotional and financial strain on families, highlighting an urgent need for targeted mental health resources and financial assistance to support these unpaid caregivers.

The absence of data on telehealth usage suggests a potential gap in healthcare access, particularly for aging populations. Expanding telehealth services could improve care delivery and reduce the strain on caregivers.

- Caregiver Shortages: Yuba City had 1,460 Home Health Aides and 6,680 Personal Care Aides, reflecting a smaller workforce compared to statewide trends, indicating potential caregiver shortages. Additionally, data was only available for Yuba City, highlighting significant data gaps that make it challenging to assess the full scope of caregiver availability in the region (EDD, 2024).
- Informal Caregiving: A significant percentage of adults provide informal caregiving—33.8% in Yuba County and 23.3% in Sutter County—indicating strong community-oriented support, particularly in Yuba County (CHIS, 2022).
- Intergenerational Care: Low percentages of older adults care for grandchildren (1.6% in Sutter, 1.2% in Yuba), reflecting limited roles for grandparents in childcare, possibly due to shifting family structures or alternative childcare needs (USCB, 2022).
- Caregiver Burden: Many caregivers experience emotional burdens, with 21% in Yuba County and 37% in Sutter County reporting stress. This highlights a critical need for mental health and emotional support services (CDA, 2023).
- IHSS Program and Wage Insights: Yuba and Sutter Counties have lower caregiver wage rates (\$16.40-\$16.65) and fewer authorized hours per recipient (97.6-118.3) compared to the

statewide average (\$17.46 and 116.9 hours). This highlights regional disparities in caregiving resources and compensation (IHSS Program Data, July 2024).

- Financial Strain: Caregivers face financial pressures, with 23% in Yuba County and 28% in Sutter County struggling with caregiving-related expenses. This points to a need for financial assistance programs (CDA, 2023).
- Telehealth Gaps: The lack of data on telehealth usage suggests potential barriers to healthcare access, signaling an opportunity to improve telehealth infrastructure for seniors in both counties (CDA, 2022).

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Goal 5: Affordable Aging

We will have economic security as long as we live.

The data reveal significant challenges for older adults and individuals with disabilities in Yuba and Sutter Counties, particularly in economic stability, housing, and access to essential services. Both counties report low satisfaction with their community's economic health and cost of living, reflecting financial pressures and the need for enhanced economic support. Housing insecurity is a major concern, with high homelessness rates among older adults and individuals with disabilities, far exceeding regional averages. Additionally, poverty impacts a substantial proportion of these populations, with many living below the California Elder Index or at or near the federal poverty line. Older adults with disabilities face the most acute challenges, with poverty rates in Yuba and Sutter Counties far exceeding the statewide average.

Access to financial planning services is notably limited, compounding financial difficulties for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Food insecurity is another critical issue, especially in Yuba County, where nearly half of low-income older adults struggle to meet their nutritional needs. Participation in assistance programs like CalFresh is higher in Yuba County than in Sutter County, but both counties face significant economic vulnerability, particularly among households with disabled individuals. These disparities underscore the urgent need for targeted resources and support tailored to the unique challenges of older adults and individuals with disabilities in these regions.

- Poverty Status: The data highlight the significant economic challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and low-income seniors in Yuba and Sutter Counties. Poverty impacts 40.5% of older adults with disabilities in Yuba County and 38.5% in Sutter County, compared to just 15.1% statewide (U.S. Census Bureau [USCB], 2022a). Among seniors aged 60 and older, 11.2% in Yuba County and 11.0% in Sutter County live below the poverty line, with Yuba County also showing a higher share in the 100–149% range (USCB, 2022b). These disparities underscore the urgent need for targeted support in these regions.
- Perception of Economic Health: Older adults in Yuba (26%) and Sutter County (29%) have a significantly lower perception of their community's economic health compared to the regional average (66%) (CDA, 2023).
- Cost of Living Concerns: A small percentage of older adults view the cost of living positively, with 10% in Yuba County and 17% in Sutter County expressing satisfaction (CDA, 2023).
- Homelessness Rates: Both counties report a homelessness rate of 418 per 100,000 population among older adults, indicating a concerning trend in housing insecurity (CHNA, 2022).

- Income Security Issues: A notable percentage of older adults live below the California Elder Index, with 27.59% in Yuba County and 22.02% in Sutter County facing financial challenges (California Elder Index [CEI], 2015; U.S. USCB, 2022b).
- Access to Financial Planning Services: Access to financial or legal planning services is low, with only 9% in Yuba County and 14% in Sutter County rating it as excellent or good, compared to a regional average of 34% (CDA, 2023).
- Food Insecurity: A high percentage of low-income adults aged 60 and older in Yuba County (42.6%) experience food insecurity, compared to a statistically unstable figure of 22.4% in Sutter County, indicating a critical need for food assistance programs (CHIS, 2022; CDA, 2022).
- Food Assistance Programs: Participation in food assistance programs is higher in Yuba County (13.1% in CalFresh) than in Sutter County (8.8%). Additionally, 9.77% of households with a disabled person in Yuba County receive CalFresh (Food Stamp/SNAP), compared to 6.16% in Sutter County and 4.38% statewide, highlighting greater economic vulnerability in Yuba County (USCB, 2022a; CDA, 2022).

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