



California Budget
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Federal Policy Changes Threaten the Well-Being of Older Californians

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Federal Policy Changes Threaten the Well-Being of Older Californians

- **Adults age 65 or older are the fastest growing age group in California.** This rapid growth will increase demands for health care and other public services that contribute to a decent quality of life as people age.
- **Many Californians struggle to get by late in life.** The policies proposed by federal policymakers would likely increase the share of older adults facing economic hardship.
- **Your voice matters.** Now is the time to contact your representatives to let them know how the policies being considered would impact you and your community.

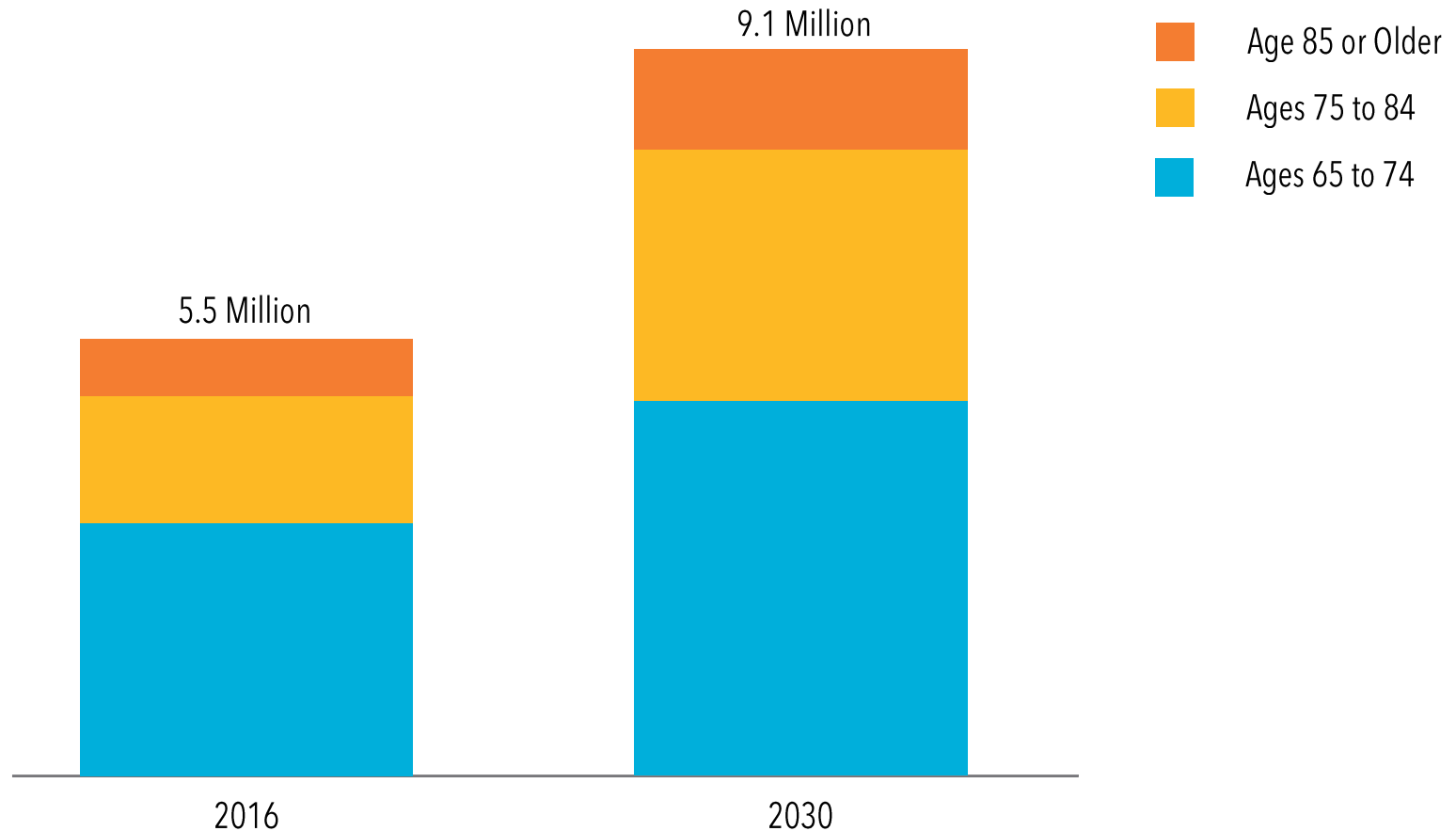


Adults age 65 or older are the fastest growing age group in California.



The Number of Californians Age 65 or Older Is Projected to Rise by Two-Thirds Between 2016 and 2030

Even Faster Growth Is Anticipated Among Those Age 75 or Older



Note: Population is estimated for July 1, 2016 and projected for July 1, 2030.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Department of Finance data



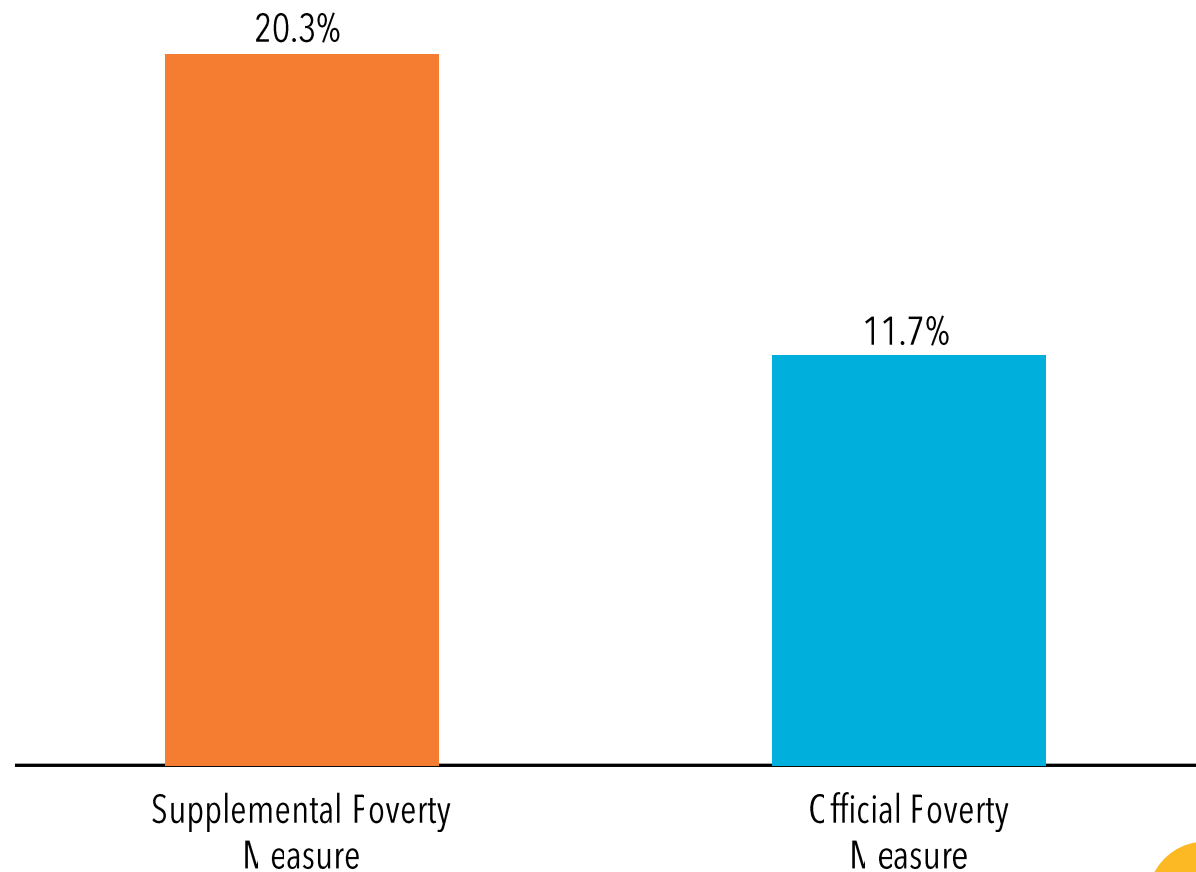
Many Californians struggle to get by late in life.

Rates of hardship are higher among women, people of color, and immigrants.



1 in 5 Older Californians Struggle to Get By Under a Poverty Measure That Factors in Our High Cost of Living

Percentage of Californians Age 65 or Older With Incomes Below the Poverty Line, 2013-2015



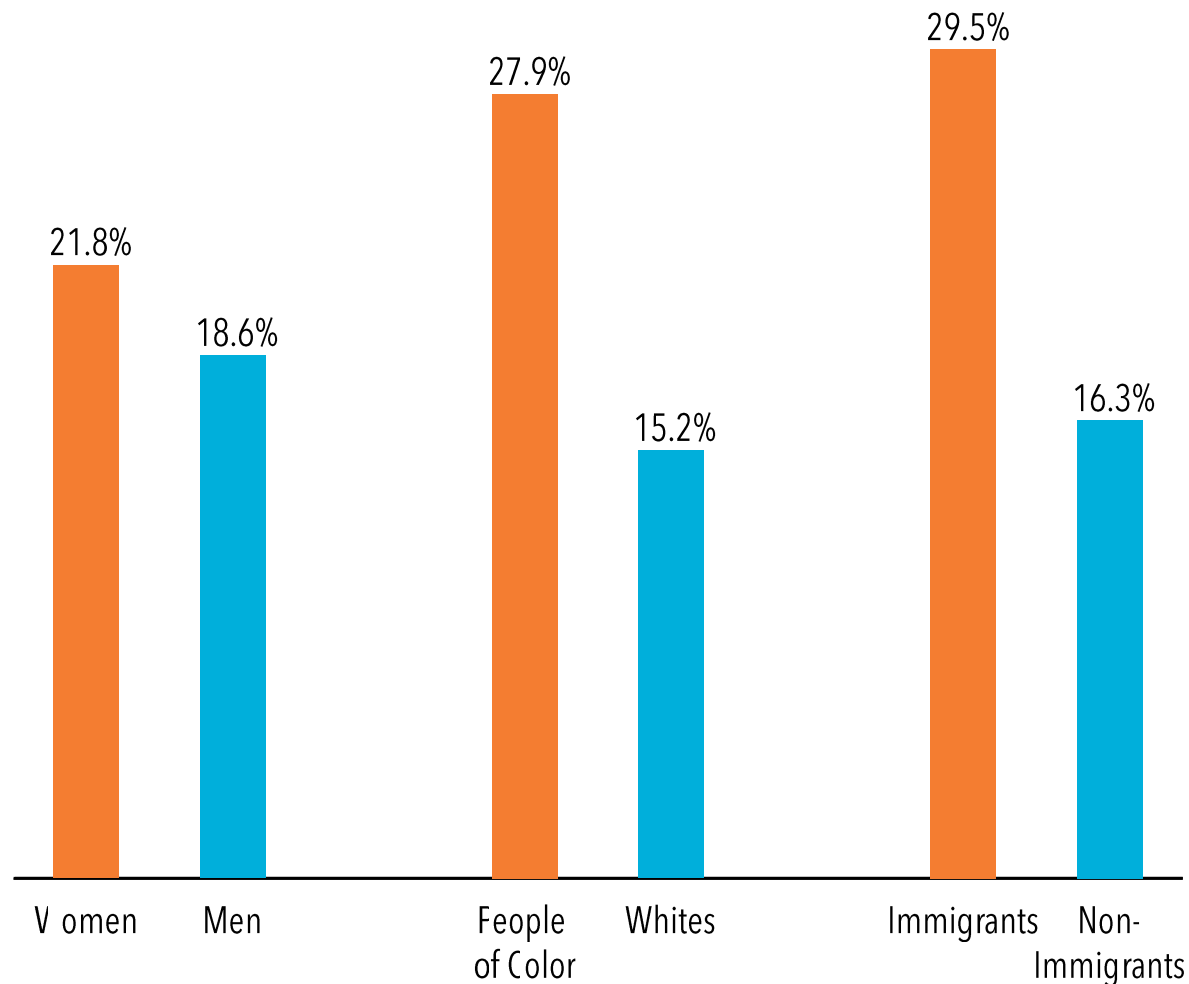
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data



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Women, People of Color, and Immigrants in California Are More Likely to Struggle to Get By Late in Life

Percentage of People Age 65 or Older With Incomes Below the Poverty Line, 2013-2015



Note: Analysis is based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure.

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data



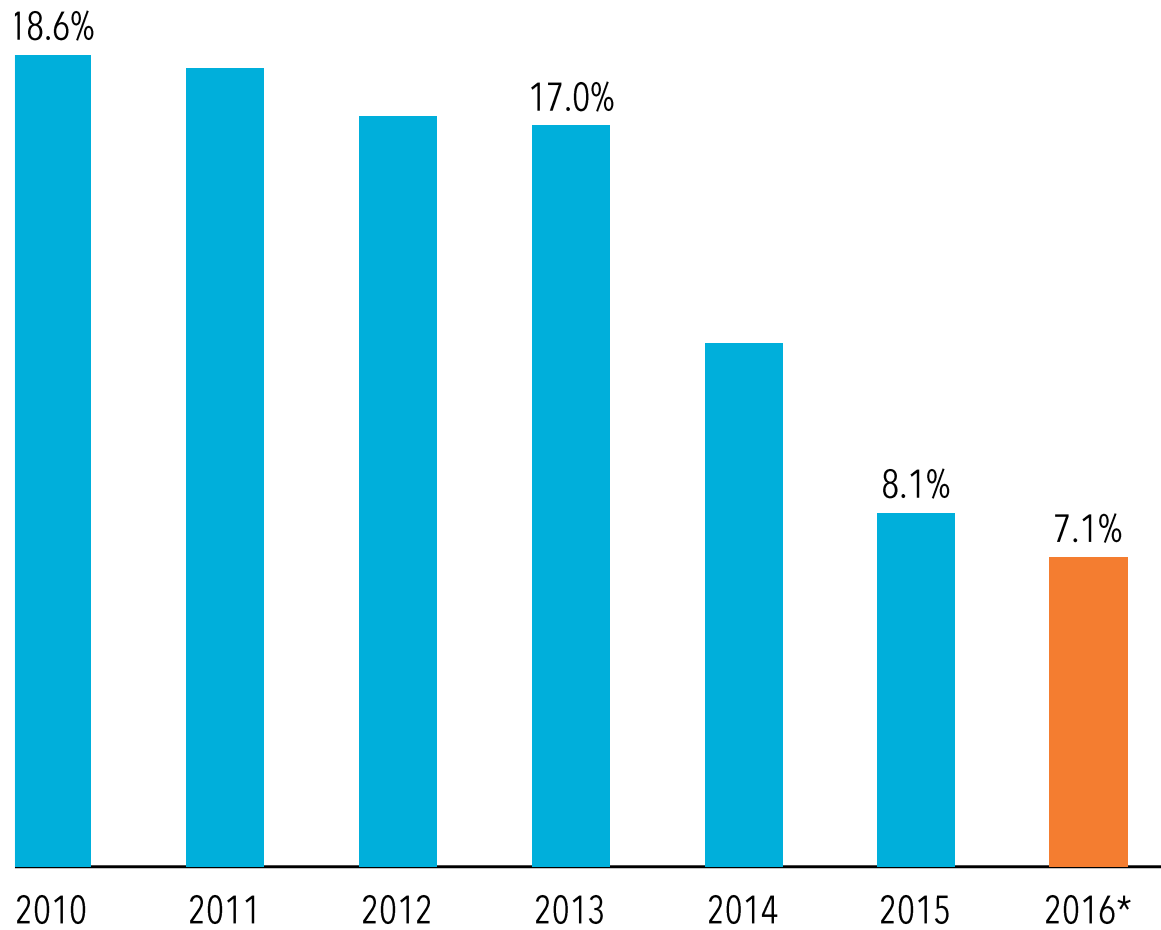
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Federal policy changes would threaten the well-being of many older Californians.



The Share of Californians Without Health Care Coverage Continued to Decline Into 2016

California Fully Implemented Federal Health Care Reform in January 2014



* January to September.

Note: Estimates are based on survey respondents' health care coverage status at the time of the interview.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey



The Most Immediate Threat Is From the American Health Care Act (AHCA)

- The AHCA would:
 - **Substantially cut federal support for Medicaid** (Medi-Cal in California) at a time when federal dollars are needed most due to the aging population.
 - **Cause health care costs for older adults to skyrocket.** A low-income 64-year-old would face an *800% increase* in premium costs for coverage on the individual market.
 - **Cause a total of 23 million people to lose health coverage.** The share of low-income people ages 50 to 64 without coverage would *more than double*.

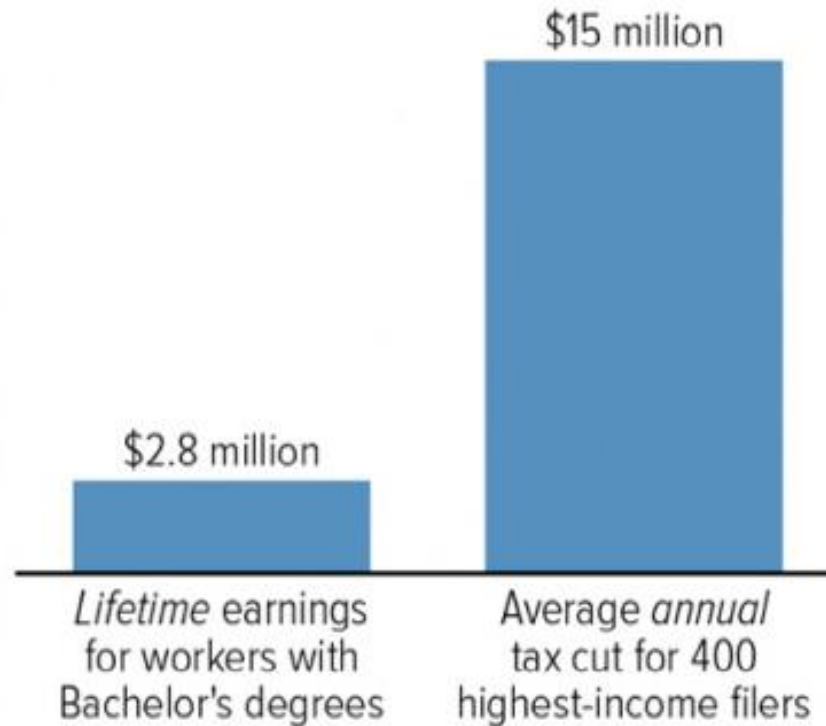


Also, President Trump Has Called for Deep Cuts in Critical Federal Programs

- The President's proposed budget would:
 - Slash critical food assistance for struggling families and individuals provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California).
 - Slash assistance for people with severe disabilities through Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
 - Cut Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.
 - Eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
 - Eliminate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which supports services such as Meals on Wheels.
 - Eliminate federal rental assistance.



Trump Plan's *Annual* Tax Cut for the Top 400 Households Is 5 Times the Typical College Graduate's *Lifetime* Earnings



Source: CBPP estimates based on IRS data, Bureau of Labor Statistics data, and U.S. Census Bureau, "Work-Life Earnings by Field of Degree and Occupation for People With a Bachelor's Degree: 2011"

Key Messages to Share With Your Representatives About the AHCA

- **Key messages:**
 - Millions of Americans are worried about losing their health care. They deserve the opportunity to understand how the AHCA will affect them before the Senate votes.
 - Don't vote for a bill that causes millions of people to lose health coverage.
 - Don't vote for a bill that makes health care less affordable or reduces the quality of coverage.



Key Messages to Share With Your Representatives About the Federal Budget

- **Key questions to ask: Will you commit to opposing any budget that:**
 - Requires cuts in key programs that help struggling families afford the basics, including food on the table, a roof over their heads, and access to health care?
 - Paves the way for tax cuts that benefit mostly the wealthy and that will lose revenue, causing deep spending cuts in the future?





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