

A Profile of Older Adults in the California Bay Area Region



PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

The nine county Bay Area region of northern California is home to a significant and rapidly growing population of older adults. In the past decade, the number of adults age 65 years and older living in the Bay Area has increased by 48%, from 886,252 in 2010 to 1,308,615 in 2019.¹ **By 2060, the Bay Area is projected to be home to 2,876,944 older adults, a 120% increase from the current estimated population (Figure 1).**²

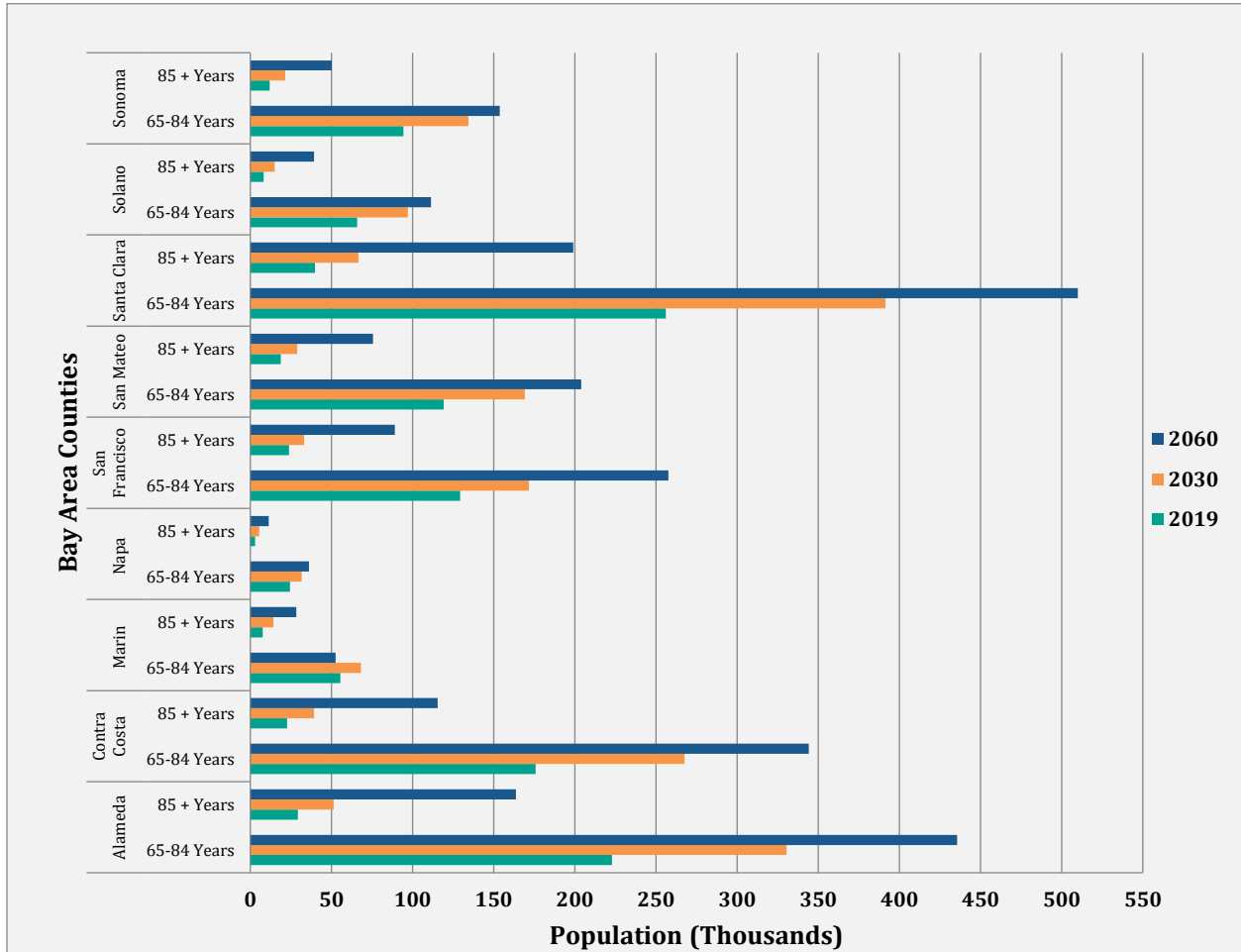


Figure 1: Projected Older Adult Population by Age Category and Bay Area County (2019–2060)³

Growth among the older adult population will vary by age category, with the 85 and over age category projected to experience the greatest increase, growing from 165,114 to 772,092 (367%) by 2060. By 2060, the number of older adults between the ages of 65 and 84 years is projected to increase by 84%, growing in size from 1,143,501 to 2,104,852 older adults (Figure 1).⁴

¹ State of California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. (May 2019). P-2: County Population Projections (2010-2060): County Population by Age (1-year increments). [Data File]. Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/>

² Author’s analysis of California Department of Finance 2010-2060 data set.

³ Author’s analysis of California Department of Finance 2010-2060 data set.

⁴ Author’s analysis of California Department of Finance 2010-2060 data set

OLDER ADULT POPULATION BY GENDER

In 2019, women comprise the greatest share of the older adult population in California and across the nine county Bay Area region. Population projections indicate that women will continue to comprise the majority share of the older adult population in the Bay Area region in 2060 (Figure 2).

By 2060, the population of older adults aged 65 years to 84 years will be majority men in Santa Clara County and Marin County and majority female in all other counties. Women will continue to comprise a greater share of the population over the age of 85 years in each of the nine Bay Area counties in 2060 (Figure 3).⁵

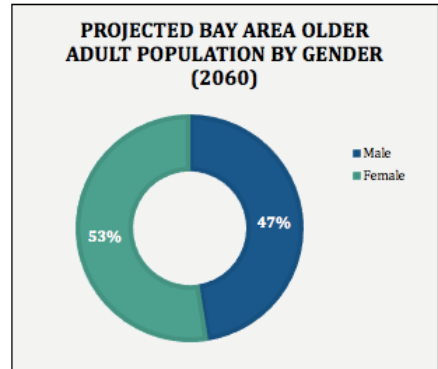


Figure 2: Bay Area Older Adult Population by Gender

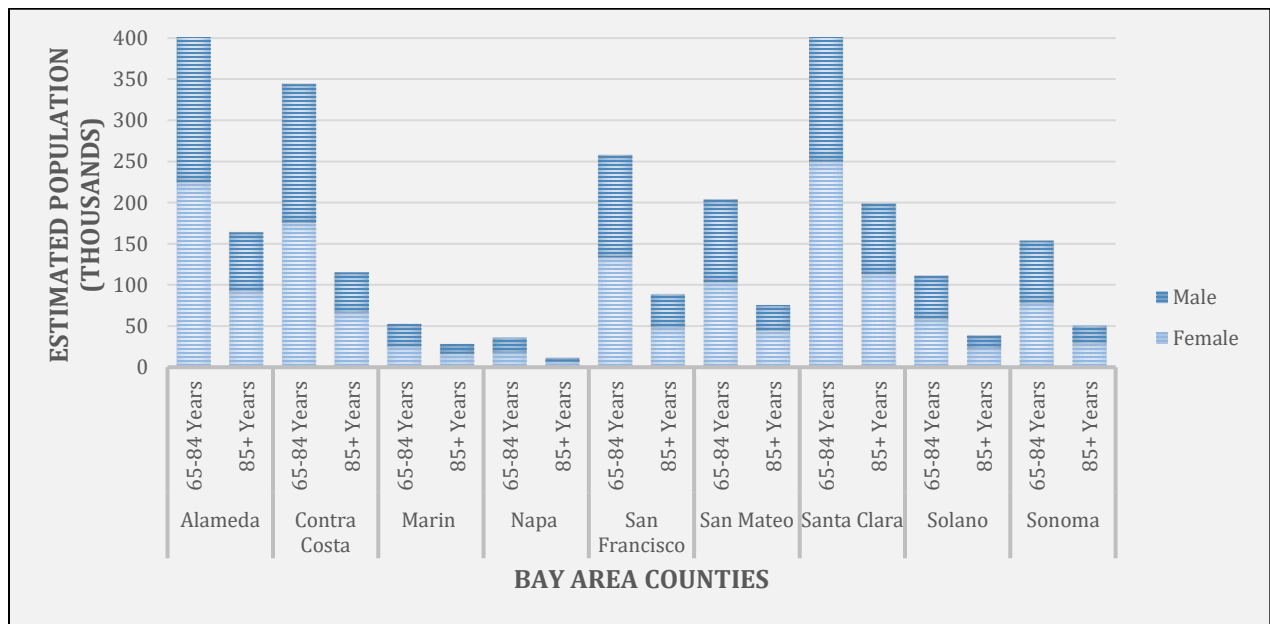


Figure 3: Projected Older Adult Population by Sex and Bay Area County (2060)

OLDER ADULT POPULATION BY RACE

Current population estimates indicate that the majority of the older adult population over the age of 65 years living in the nine county Bay Area region self-identify as white (65.3%), Asian (26.1%) or Black (5.9%).⁶ Projections of population growth by race are limited for the Bay Area region; however, data for the state of California indicate that by 2030 projected growth among nonwhite older adult populations is expected to exceed growth among the white older adult population: 118% projected growth among Latinos older adults; 90% among African Americans; 61% among Asians; and 53% among white older adults.⁷

⁵ Author’s analysis of California Department of Finance 2010-2060 data set.

⁶ Author’s analysis of United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder. (n.d.) Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. [Data File]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-counties-detail.html>

⁷ The Public Policy Institute of California. (January 2019). Population. Retrieved from <https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/californias-future-population-january-2019.pdf>