



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

# SENIORS

## OVERVIEW

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) believes that every person has the right to live with respect and dignity at every stage of life. As the baby boomer generation continues to enter into retirement and the older population grows, the Catholic Charities network is responding to the growing needs of our aging society. Catholic Charities agencies provide services that support the unique needs of seniors in areas including housing, health, nutrition, and community engagement.

## WHY OUR NETWORK SERVES

**11.6 million**

seniors live alone, risking isolation, which can lead to negative health impacts and lower quality of life.

**4.3 million**

Americans 65 and older live below the poverty line.

**1.2 million**

households of elderly persons living alone are food insecure.

Source: US Census Bureau (2014); USDA (2014).

The information provided in this report comes from the *Catholic Charities USA 2014 Annual Survey*. In 2014, 150 of 177 Catholic Charities agencies and affiliates responded to the survey. The survey is conducted and compiled by researchers at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. Full citations for national statistics available upon request; please contact [Advocacy@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](mailto:Advocacy@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org).

## HOW OUR NETWORK SERVES



**1,185,867**

unique seniors served across all service areas, representing almost a fifth of all clients identified by age.



**18,082**

permanent housing units provided for seniors, ensuring a safe and affordable living environment.



**146**

senior centers provided socialization opportunities to improve quality of life and abate the risks of isolation.



**3,276,498**

home-delivered meals provided to primarily senior clients, enabling them to meet nutritional needs while remaining in their own homes.

## WHO OUR NETWORK SERVES



**3.6%**

Asian/Pacific Islander

**41.5%**

Black/African American

**0.4%**

American Indian/Alaska Native

**43.6%**

White

**11%**

Other/Unknown

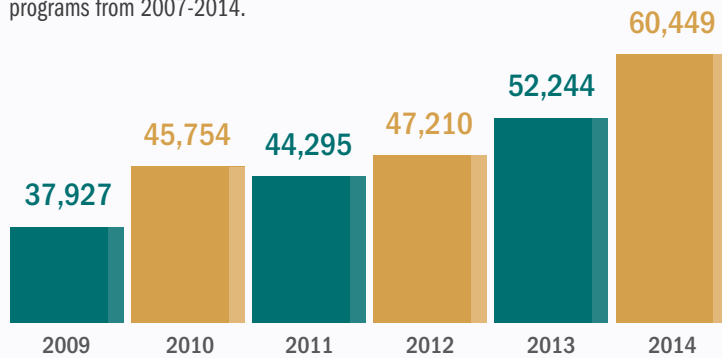
Reflects senior clients for whom race is identified.

### HEALTH SERVICES

In 2014, Catholic Charities agencies provided health-related services to 60,449 seniors in need. These services range from prescription assistance to hospice care, helping ensure that cost-burdened seniors receive quality care.

**+117%**

increase in seniors served in health-related programs from 2007-2014.



**3,678**

seniors received addiction counseling, more than double the number reported in 2011.

**16,257**

seniors counseled in other behavioral health care ministries.

### HOUSING SERVICES

Catholic Charities agencies employ a number of approaches to ensure seniors have access to safe, affordable housing, including independent permanent housing units, residential care services, transitional shelter, and utilities assistance to help seniors remain in their own homes.



Transitional Housing

**9,026** seniors



Utility Assistance

**17,358** seniors



Permanent Housing

**18,082** senior units

### OTHER SENIOR SERVICES

Catholic Charities agencies provide a number of social support services targeting senior needs in particular. In 2014, the following number of agencies provided these services to seniors and their caregivers:

23	Employment Training
32	Chore Services
32	Adult Day Care
34	Legal Services
44	Respite Care
61	Caregiver Support
71	Homebound Services
72	Transportation
98	Case Management

### ENGAGING SENIORS IN SERVICE

**39** agencies

participated in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

**29** agencies

offered the Foster Grandparents Program.

**21** agencies

ran the Senior Companion Program.



Catholic  
Charities  
USA®

*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*

2050 Ballenger Avenue, Suite 400 · Alexandria, VA 22314  
703.549.1390 · [www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org)

