

The 2020 New Jersey Elder Economic Security Standard™

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THE ELDER INDEX™

The Elder Index™ (formerly, the Elder Economic Security Standard Index) is a tool for use by policy makers, older adults, family caregivers, service providers, aging advocates and the public at large. Developed by the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), the Elder Index is a geographically specific measure of income that older adults require to maintain their independence in the community and meet their daily costs of living, including affordable and appropriate housing and health care. Previous statewide reports for New Jersey were produced with the support of the New Jersey Foundation for Aging and the State of New Jersey.

The information developed through the Elder Index helps us understand that many older adults who are not poor, as defined by the official poverty level, still do not have enough income to meet their basic needs. The Elder Index helps answer the following questions: How much income—or combination of personal income and public programs—is needed by older adults living on fixed incomes to cover today’s rising living costs? What is the impact of public programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or housing assistance, on an older person’s evolving ability to meet his or her shelter and health needs? How does the need for long-term services and supports affect economic security?

Members of the Gerontology Institute primarily responsible for this report are Jan Mutchler and Yang Li. We acknowledge the contributions of Laura Russell in developing the core methodology used in the Elder Index, Ellen Bruce for her leadership and insights on economic security, and Judith Conahan for her work developing the long-term care cost component of the Elder Index. We also thank WOW and Gerontology Institute staff members who participated in developing previous state-level reports on the Elder Index upon which the current report is based, including Shawn McMahon, Alison Gottlieb, Jiyoung Lyu, Nidya Velasco-Roldan, and Ping Xu. The authors are responsible for the contents of this report and accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

For more information about the Elder Index, see our website (https://www.umb.edu/demographyofaging/elder_economic_security) or contact us at CSDRA@umb.edu

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The 2019 New Jersey Elder Index™

Executive Summary

Many New Jersey residents age 65 and older struggle to make ends meet. Living costs are high, especially for housing and health care. In the face of rising expenses, many older people receive at most a modest cost of living adjustment each year; thus, they are spending down retirement savings or face growing debt. At the same time, older people strain to be prepared for the present but face a challenging future if their life circumstances change due to illness, loss of a spouse or partner, or growing needs for help with daily tasks.

The 2019 Elder Index for New Jersey was tabulated using a national methodology developed by the University of Massachusetts Boston Gerontology Institute (GI) in collaboration with Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and a national advisory board. The Elder Index measures the living expense costs for older adults in today's economy and helps us answer key questions: What is an adequate income for older adults in New Jersey to "age in place"? How do financial needs vary according to life circumstances—whether people live alone or with a spouse or partner, rent or own their home? How do living expenses change as health status and life circumstances change? What happens if an older person needs long-term care to remain at home? In answering these questions, the Elder Index presented in this report may be used to increase public awareness and inform public policies and programs meant to support older adults as they age in their communities.

A Framework for Measuring Economic Security for Older People

The Elder Index is a measure of the cost of basic expenses of older households—those exclusively including members age 65 or older—to age in place, continuing to live in the community setting of their choice. The Elder Index defines economic security as the financial status where an older person has sufficient income from Social Security, pension, retirement savings, and other sources to cover basic and necessary living expenses. The Elder Index estimates what it costs older people to meet their expenses without public support, such as food assistance, energy assistance, subsidized housing, or property tax assistance, and it illustrates how living expenses change when life circumstances change. The Elder Index also can be used to demonstrate the interplay between New Jersey residents' living expenses and actual income.

This report presents the 2019 Elder Index for New Jersey to benchmark basic living expense costs for older households. It illustrates how expenses vary both by specific New Jersey geographic areas and by the circumstances of households, including household size, homeowner or renter status, health status, and the need for long-term care. The expenses are based on market costs and do not assume any public or private needs-based supports.

Key Findings for New Jersey

1. Older New Jersey residents cannot meet their basic living expenses whether they live at the Federal Poverty Level or the level of the average Social Security benefit. This is true of older people statewide, whether they rent or own a home.

- Eight percent of New Jersey's older adults live at or below the federal poverty level.
- Expenses vary widely across types of communities. For example, older homeowners with no mortgage who live alone in Ocean County need \$23,256 per year to cover basic living expenses. In contrast, older homeowners with a mortgage who live alone in Bergen County need as much as \$47,184 to cover basic expenses. The statewide average for single older adults is \$28,056 for an owner with no mortgage, \$29,616 for a single renter, and \$41,292 for an owner with a mortgage.
- Older couples who own a home with no mortgage and live in Ocean County need \$33,612 per year to cover basic living expenses. In contrast, couples who own a home with a mortgage living in Bergen County need as much as \$57,288 to cover basic expenses. The statewide average for an older couple is \$38,568 for owners with no mortgage, \$40,128 for couples who rent, and \$51,804 for owners with a mortgage.

2. Housing costs (mortgage or rent, taxes, utilities and insurance) put a heavy burden on many older households, especially among renters and those with a mortgage.

- The Elder Index reflects a wide variation in housing costs depending on whether older adults own or rent, and by county. Older homeowners without a mortgage typically have the lowest housing costs, while homeowners still paying a mortgage typically have the highest housing costs.
- The monthly housing costs for older homeowners without a mortgage range from a low of \$739 per month in Cumberland County to a high of \$1,357 per month in Essex County.
- The monthly housing costs for older adults paying fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment range from a low of \$936 per month in Cumberland County to a high of \$1,425 per month in Bergen and Passaic Counties.
- The monthly housing costs for older homeowners with a mortgage range from a low of \$1,463 per month in Cumberland County to a high of \$2,659 per month in Bergen County.

3. The Elder Index shows the significance of health care costs for older New Jersey residents, who must purchase supplemental health and prescription drug coverage in addition to Medicare.

- The Elder Index includes premium costs of supplemental health and prescription drug coverage to Medicare, which provide critical protection against high medical and prescription drug costs.
- Older adults in New Jersey who are in good health face combined health care costs (insurance premiums plus co-pays, deductibles, fees, and other out-of-pocket expenses) of \$396 per month to have protection against high medical and prescription drug costs.
- Retired couples are unable to purchase supplemental health insurance through a “family plan”; rather, they must each buy coverage as an individual. Thus, combined health care costs are doubled for older couples, totaling \$792 per month.

4. Even older people who are currently making ends meet face an uncertain future if their life circumstances change, such as loss of a spouse/partner or a decline in health status.

- An older person paying market rate rent in New Jersey has expenses reduced by only 26% when a spouse dies, yet his or her income mix of Social Security and/or pension income may decrease substantially.
- Older adults often face a rise in health care expenses when their health declines. Although adding supplemental health and prescription drug coverage to Medicare provides protection against unanticipated health care expenses, average out-of-pocket expenses rise from \$396/month for an individual in good health to \$602/month for an individual in poor health.

5. The need for home and community-based long-term care can more than double an older person’s expenses, significantly increasing the income needed to meet basic needs.

- The need for home and community-based long-term services and supports adds substantially to an older person’s expenses. Purchasing a low level of care for one person adds \$9,660 per year to living costs for an older adult in northern New Jersey. Requiring a medium level of care adds \$25,323 and needing a high level of care adds \$42,683-\$52,823.
- As a comparison, national market surveys report an average annual rate of \$127,750 for nursing facility care (semi-private room) in New Jersey.

Introduction

This report addresses income adequacy for New Jersey’s older adults using the national Elder Index methodology. The Elder Index benchmarks basic costs of living and illustrates how those costs vary geographically and based on the characteristics of older households, including household size, housing tenure, and health status. The costs are based on market costs for basic needs of older households and do not assume any public or private supports.

The Elder Index presented in this report may be used to increase public awareness and inform public policies and programs. The Elder Index offers:

- Information to illustrate the basic expenses that older adults face and how changes in their life circumstances affect their financial security. Common changes include the need for long-term care services, which dramatically increases living expenses, or the death of a spouse or partner, which often greatly reduces income without substantially decreasing living expenses.
- A framework for analyzing the effects of public policy and policy proposals in such areas as retirement security, health and long-term care, taxes, and housing.
- An educational tool to inform older people about actual and projected living costs to support their financial, employment, and life decisions.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s population estimates for 2018, 15.5% of New Jersey residents were 65 years or older, and 13.4% were between the ages of 55-64, poised to dramatically increase the number of older residents as the “baby boomers” age.¹ The individual circumstances of New Jersey residents vary from the most fortunate, who are healthy and economically secure, to the least fortunate, who are poor, ill, or living with disability. Situations vary greatly in terms of family support, neighborhood networks, and community and social connections. New Jersey older people also differ according to their housing situation, health status, and need for long-term services and supports. Many of these characteristics change over a person’s lifetime. The Elder Index shows how older people may be prepared for the present, yet face a precarious future as living expenses rise markedly because of situational changes.

The Statewide New Jersey Elder Index

1. For older people living alone and in good health, the statewide New Jersey Elder Index for 2019 is \$28,056 for homeowners without a mortgage, \$29,616 for renters, and \$41,292 for homeowners with a mortgage (see **Table 1**). This represents the living expense costs (housing, health care, transportation, food and miscellaneous) for people age 65 and older in New Jersey. The Elder Index is much higher than other commonly used income benchmarks.
 - The federal poverty guideline, which is a formula measuring *income inadequacy* that is based solely on food costs, is \$12,490 per year for an individual. This is

¹ Source: 2018 Population Estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau. See https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0400000US34&tid=ACST5Y2018.S0101&y=2018&t=Populations%20and%20People&vintage=2018&hidePreview=false&cid=S0101_C01_001E

only 45% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners with no mortgage, 42% of the statewide Elder Index for renters, and 30% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners who have a mortgage.

- The average Social Security benefit in New Jersey is \$19,402 per year for an individual retired worker. This represents only 69% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners with no mortgage, 66% of the statewide Elder Index for renters, and 47% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners who have a mortgage.

Table 1
The Statewide Elder Index for New Jersey, 2019

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,071	\$1,201	\$2,174	\$1,071	\$1,201	\$2,174
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$224	\$224	\$224	\$344	\$344	\$344
Health Care (Good Health)	\$396	\$396	\$396	\$792	\$792	\$792
Miscellaneous	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$536	\$536	\$536
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,338	\$2,468	\$3,441	\$3,214	\$3,344	\$4,317
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$28,056	\$29,616	\$41,292	\$38,568	\$40,128	\$51,804

2. For two people living together and in good health, the statewide New Jersey Elder Index is \$38,568 for homeowners without a mortgage, \$40,128 for renters, and \$51,804 for homeowners with a mortgage. This represents the living expense costs (housing, health care, transportation, food and miscellaneous) for households including two people age 65 and older in New Jersey. The Elder Index is much higher than other commonly used income benchmarks.

- The federal poverty guideline is \$16,910 per year for older two-person households. This is only 44% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners with no mortgage, 42% of the statewide Elder Index for renters, and 33% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners who have a mortgage.
- The average Social Security benefit for New Jersey couples is estimated to be \$32,509 per year. This represents only 84% of the Elder Index for homeowners with no mortgage, 81% of the Elder Index for renters, and 63% of the statewide Elder Index for homeowners who have a mortgage.

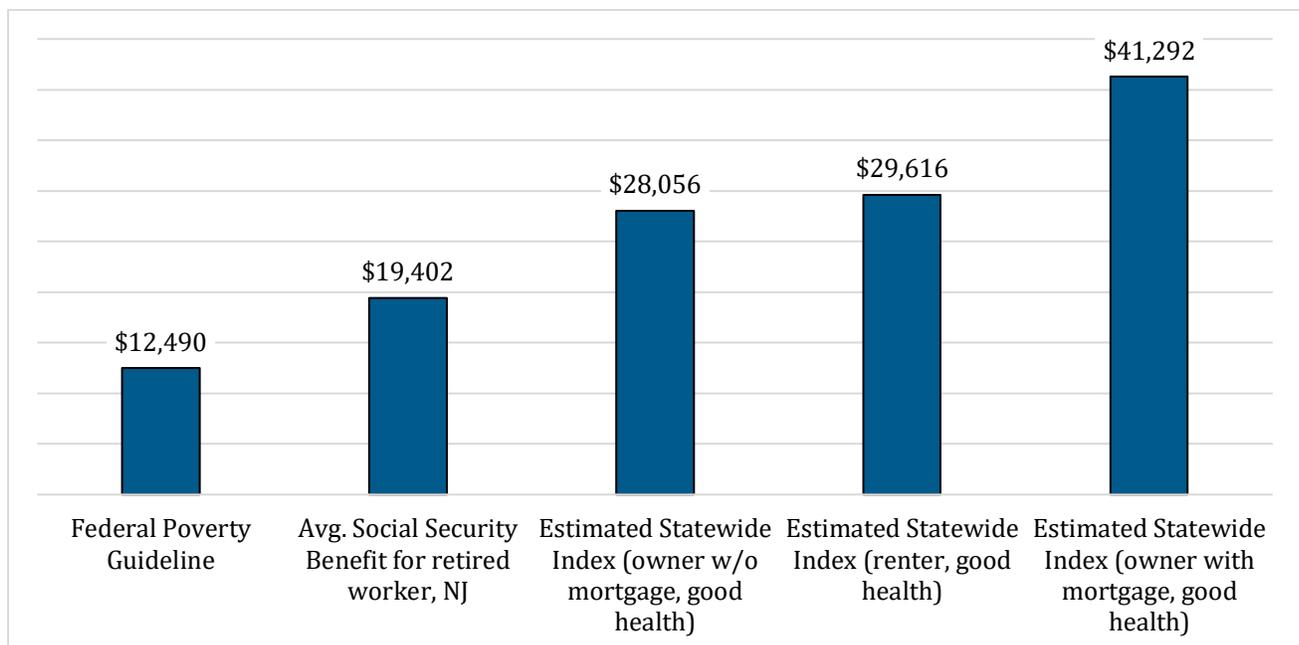
Comparison to Other Benchmarks of Income

One-Person Household

Federal Poverty Guidelines: As illustrated in **Figure 1**, the average after-tax income required by an older person living alone in New Jersey is 2.2 to 3.3 times as high as the official poverty guideline. In 2019, under the federal poverty guideline a single adult household is “poor” only if he or she has a monthly income of \$1,041 (\$12,490 per year) or less. The federal poverty guideline (not the federal poverty threshold) is used as the basis for most income eligibility guidelines for public support programs.

Average Social Security Benefit: The average Social Security benefit for a retired worker in New Jersey, at \$1,617 per month (\$19,402 per year), is higher than the poverty guideline, but well below the Elder Index for owners without a mortgage, further below the Elder Index for older adults paying market rate rents, and even further below (less than half) the Elder Index for owners who have a mortgage. *While Social Security was never intended to be the sole source of income, in reality it is the only income source for a sizable share of older New Jersey residents.*²

Figure 1
The Elder Index Compared to Other Benchmarks, 2019
Elder Index for One-Person Older Households in New Jersey



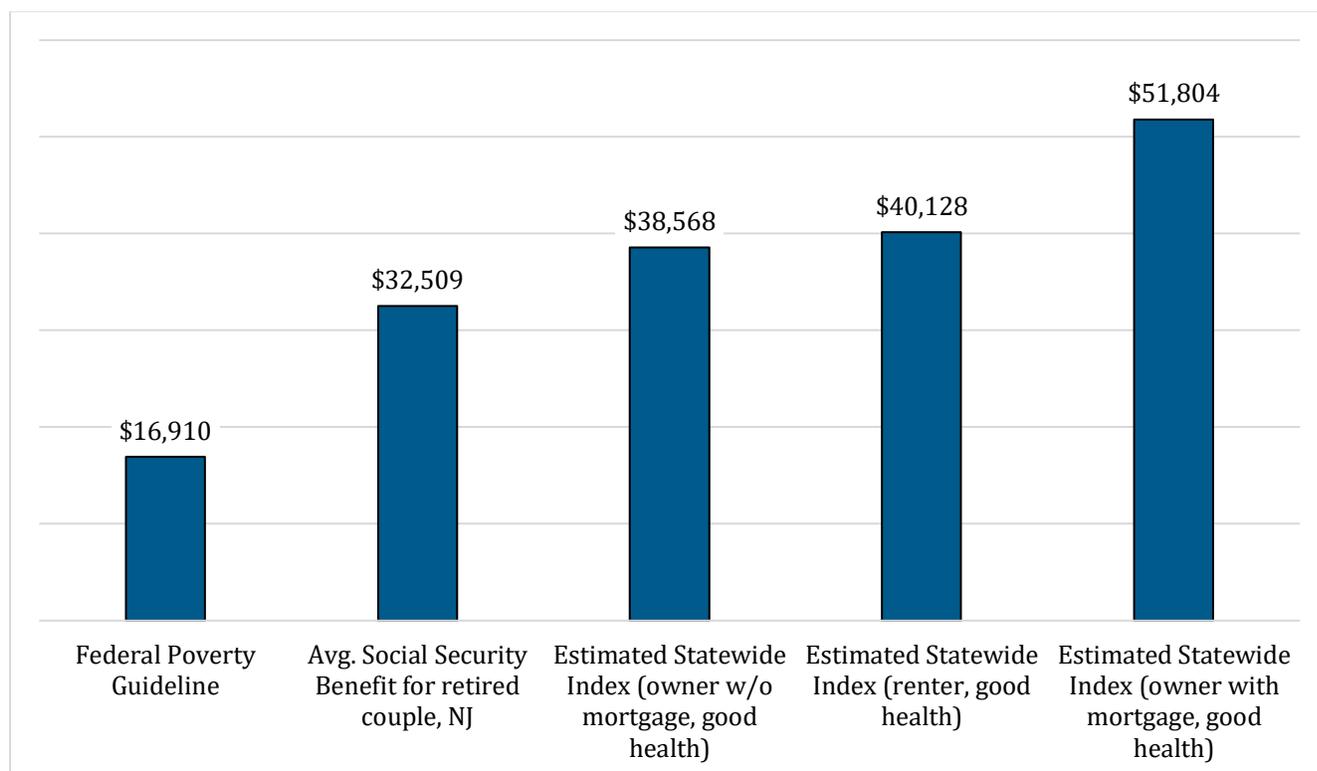
² Source: AARP. (2014). Social Security: 2014 New Jersey Quick Facts. Retrieved from http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/surveys_statistics/general/2014/ssqf/Social-Security-2014-New-Jersey-Quick-Facts-AARP-res-gen.pdf

Two-Person Households

Federal Poverty Guidelines: As illustrated in **Figure 2**, the average after-tax income required by a two-person older household in New Jersey is 2.3 to 3.1 times the official poverty guideline. In 2019, under the federal poverty guideline a two-adult household is poor if it has a monthly income of \$1,409 (\$16,910 per year).

Average Social Security Benefit: The estimated average Social Security benefit for an older couple in New Jersey in 2019, at \$2,709 per month (\$32,509 per year), is below the Elder Index for homeowner couples without a mortgage, further below the Elder Index for older couples renting at market rates, and just 63% of the value of the Elder Index for owners who have a mortgage.

Figure 2
The Elder Index Compared to Other Benchmarks, 2019
Elder Index for Two-Person Households in New Jersey

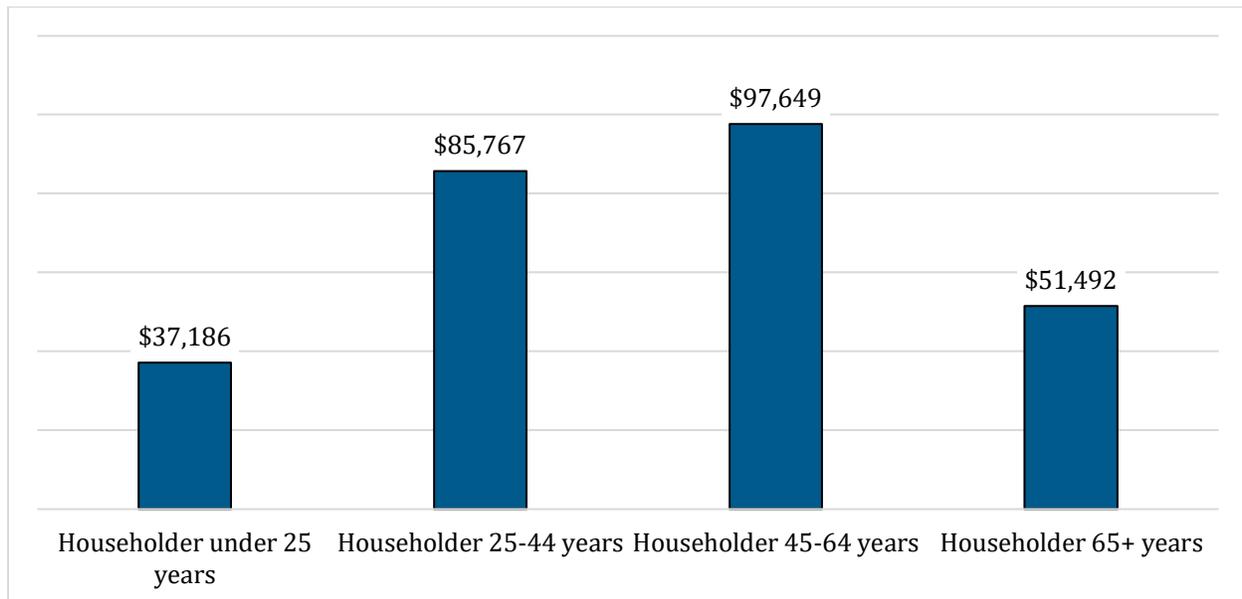


Income Patterns among New Jersey's Households

Household income levels vary by age and life circumstance. Typically, median income levels rise with age until mid-life and then decline with advancing age, as indicated in **Figure 3**. In New Jersey, median household income for householders 65 years and older³, at \$51,492 in

2018, was just over half the median household income of householders in their “peak earning” years of 45-64, at \$97,649.

Figure 3
New Jersey Median Household Income
By Age of Householder, 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018, Table B19049

According to the federal poverty threshold and the most current American Community Survey data, an estimated 8% of older New Jersey residents were considered “poor” in 2018, and a similar share was just above the poverty threshold. A full 15% were estimated to have incomes at or below 150% of the poverty threshold.⁴ Poverty rates for older women are considerably higher than for older men, at 9% (women) versus 6% (men). Moreover, poor older households are disproportionately headed by women. In 2018, 63% of older households in New Jersey with incomes below the poverty level were headed by a widowed or non-married woman.⁵ Reasons for higher poverty rates among women include lower wages, lower lifetime earnings, and less time in the workforce. Women also have longer life expectancies but more chronic illness, and are more likely than men to experience loss of income when widowed.

This report focuses on the challenges of meeting expenses for low- and moderate-income older adults. **Figure 4** shows that in 2018, 25% of New Jersey households headed by adults aged 65 or older had incomes under \$25,000; half had incomes under \$50,000 (representing the two lower income categories combined). In contrast, only 25% of households headed by

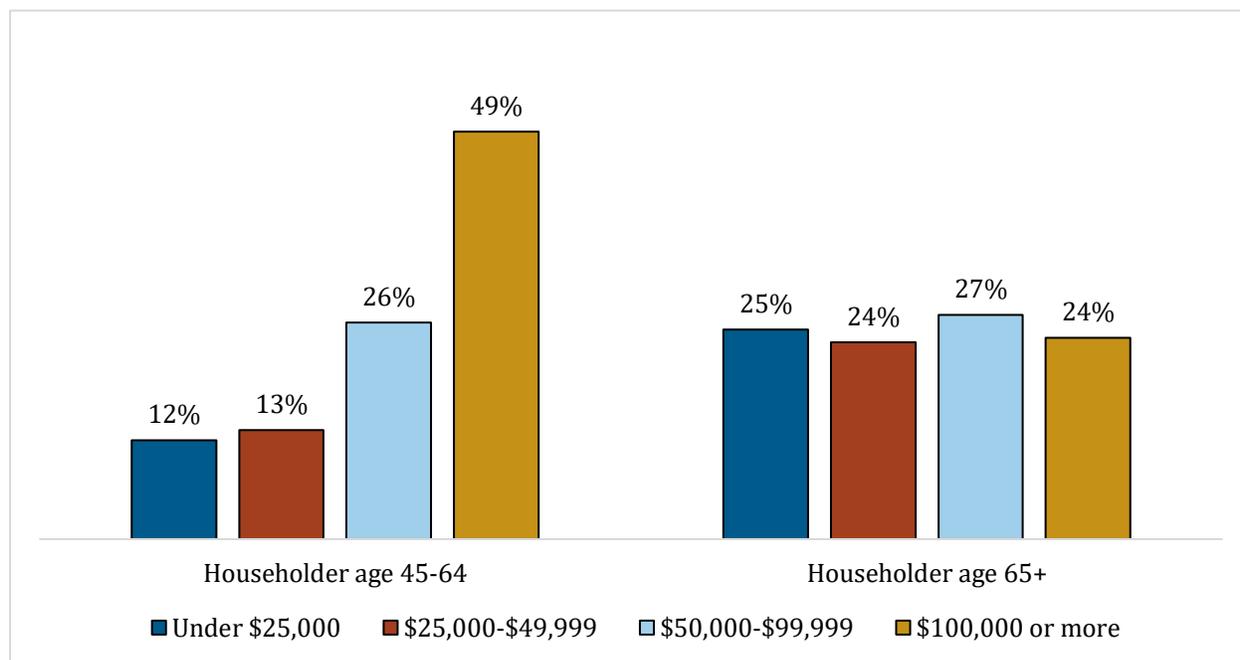
³ A “householder” is the person in whose name the home is owned or rented. Household income includes the income of the householder plus all other individuals living in the same home.

⁴ Estimated from Tables B17001 and B17024, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

⁵ Estimated using table B17017, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

an individual age 45-64 had incomes below \$50,000, highlighting substantial income disparities between older and middle-aged households. Households headed by those 65 and older have substantially lower income due in large part to less employment income; older households also include fewer members on average.

Figure 4
New Jersey Household Income Distribution by Age, 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018, Table B19037

The Federal Poverty Threshold

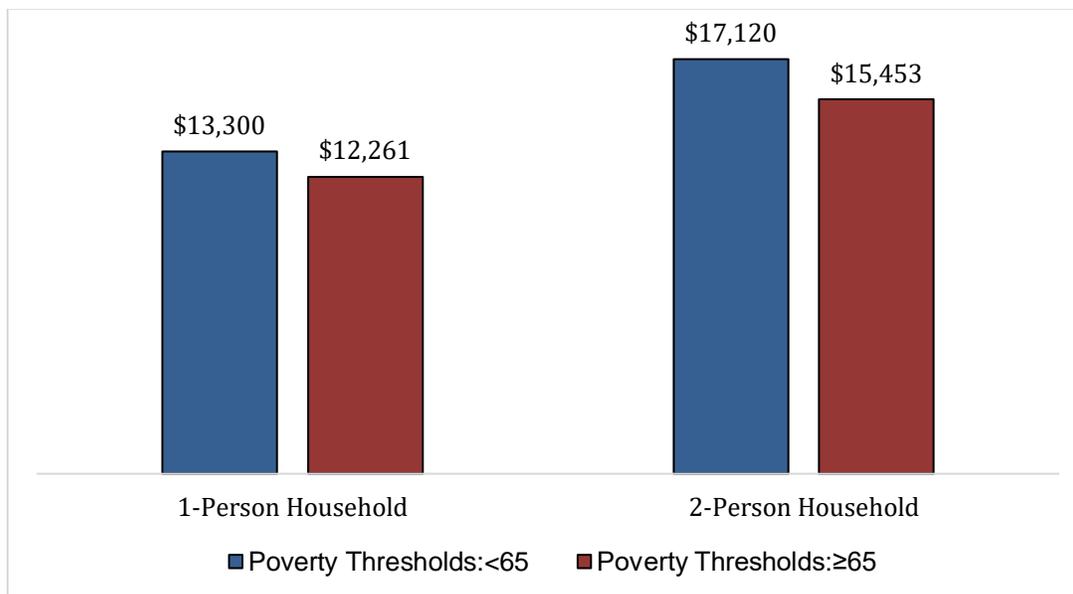
The poverty thresholds are drawn from the original version of the federal poverty measure.⁶ The poverty thresholds were first calculated in the 1960's by estimating the cost of food needed to meet the minimum nutritional needs of people of different ages, and multiplying this by three. This figure was then used as the reference point for the amount of income needed to live at a basic level. This calculation was based on consumption surveys conducted in the late 1950s showing that U.S. families spent about one-third of their incomes on food. Since that time, the thresholds are updated each year by the change in the consumer price index (CPI).

Despite this historical calculation's reliance on an outdated connection to households' food costs alone, the poverty thresholds continue to be used as the basis to estimate the number of Americans living in poverty each year. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture calculations assume that older adults have lower caloric requirements than younger adults.

⁶ The federal poverty thresholds were developed by Mollie Orshansky of the Social Security Administration in 1963-64 and are updated each year by the U.S. Census Bureau. For more information on the federal poverty measures, see <https://aspe.hhs.gov/history-poverty-thresholds>

As a result, the official U.S. poverty thresholds are lower for adults 65 and older than for younger adults. The federal poverty thresholds do not consider age variability in any other costs – e.g., housing, health care, transportation or long-term care. **Figure 5** compares the US poverty thresholds by age for one- and two-person households. The poverty cutoff for older people living alone is \$1,039 per year less than the cutoff for younger adults, and the poverty cutoff for older two-person households is \$1,666 less than the cutoff for younger couples.⁷

Figure 5
Comparison of U.S. Poverty Thresholds by Age, 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>

As indicated, the federal poverty measure’s methodology is based on outdated spending patterns and assumes households spend a fixed ratio of one-third of their incomes on food. In addition, it does not allow for different rates of inflation for different living expenses; for example, health care and housing costs have risen much more than food costs. Finally, it does not reflect regional variations in living costs.⁸

Defining the Elder Index: A Framework for Economic Security in Later Life

In contrast to the poverty threshold, the Elder Index is a measure of the living expenses for basic needs, for households to “age in place” in their homes or the community setting of their choice.

⁷ The poverty guidelines are a second version of the federal poverty measure. Issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services, they are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for administrative uses, such as determining eligibility for certain federal programs. The federal poverty guidelines for 2019 are \$12,490 for one-person households and \$16,910 for two-person households, and do not differ by age of householder. They are the same in 48 states and adjusted for living costs only in Alaska and Hawaii.

⁸ For discussion of the limitations of the federal poverty measures and information on the Supplemental Poverty Measure developed in recent years by the U.S. Census Bureau, which addresses some of these shortcomings, see Short (2015).

The cost components and methodology for the Elder Index were developed by researchers at the University of Massachusetts in collaboration with Wider Opportunities for Women, and with input and guidance from the Advisory Board for the national Elder Economic Security Initiative. The Elder Index methodology is based on the characteristics and spending patterns of older households, reflecting a realistic measure of *income adequacy* as opposed to the original intent of the federal poverty measure, which was to illustrate *income inadequacy*. Economic security requires that people have sufficient income (from Social Security, pensions, retirement savings, and other income) to cover living costs. Using the Elder Index we can illustrate the basic costs that older people face, and the interplay between living costs and income adequacy. For more information about features of the Elder Index, see Mutchler, Shih, Lyu, Bruce & Gottlieb (2015) and Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging (2017).

Calculating the Elder Index

The Elder Index uses data from public sources that are comparable, geographically specific, easily accessible, and widely accepted. In areas where existing public data sources are not currently available, the Elder Index uses a consistent methodology to derive comparable measures for costs within and across states.

The following represent some of the assumptions that are built into the Elder Index's methodology. The Elder Index:

- measures basic living expenses for older people living in the community (i.e., not in nursing homes or assisted living facilities);
- measures costs for households to live independently (vs. living in intergenerational households);
- measures living expenses for people ages 65 and older to reflect the age at which Medicare begins;
- includes Medicare because people qualify for and receive it based on age and without regard to income and assets, making Medicare nearly a universal program;⁹ and
- models costs for retired people, who no longer have work-related expenses such as payroll taxes and commuting to work.

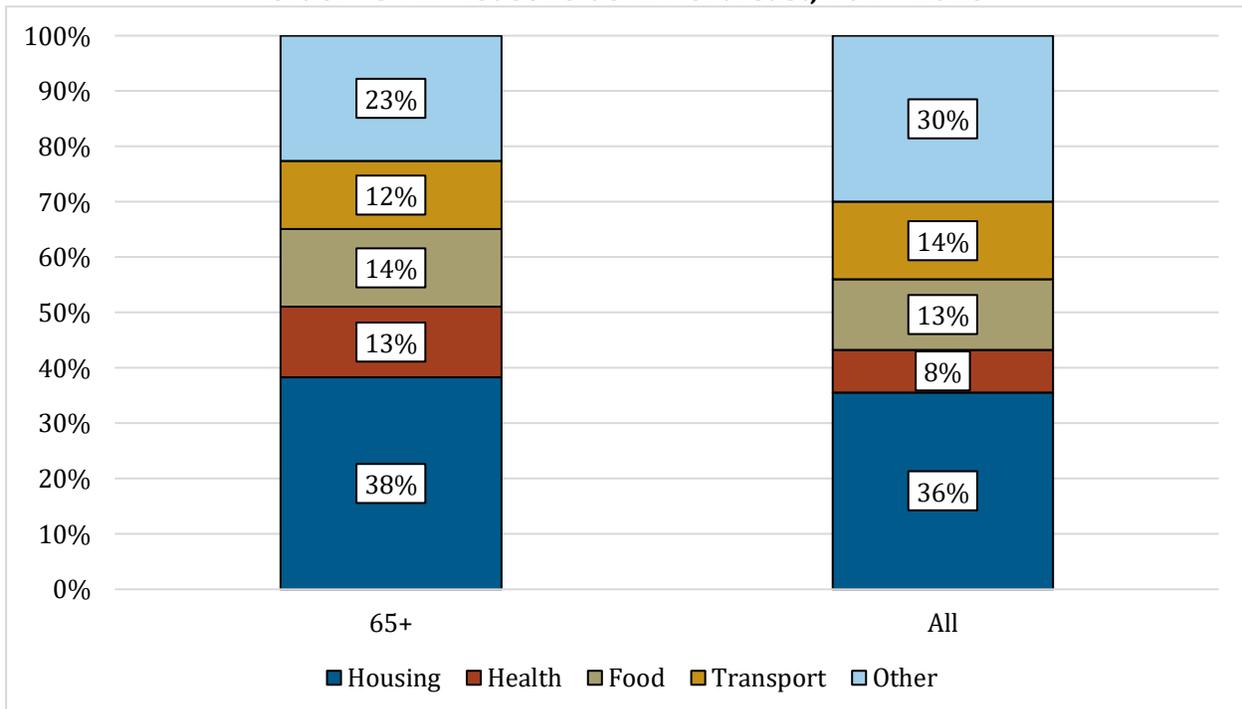
The Elder Index is tabulated separately for people living alone in one-person households, and for two-person households, including just two members, both of whom are age 65 or older. A large majority, but not all, of two-person older households are married couples.

⁹ Eligibility for Medicare based on age requires that a person is age 65 or older and has accumulated a sufficient amount of covered employment, or have a spouse who has accumulated sufficient employment credit (see <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/eligibility-and-enrollment/origmedicarepartabeligenrol/index.html>). Some individuals, such as recent immigrants, may not qualify for Social Security or Medicare.

The Big Picture: Spending among Older Households Compared to All Households

Figure 6 compares the spending between households headed by a person age 65 or older and all households, based on data from the Consumer Expenditure Survey. For the Northeast region as a whole, older households spend a similar percentage of their budgets on housing, food, and transportation as do all households, but substantially more on health care. All other expenditures account for 23% of household spending by the average older household, less than the percentage for all households in the Northeast (30%).

Figure 6
Household Spending as a Percentage of Total Budget:
Older vs. All Households in Northeast, 2017-2018



Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey 2017-2018, Tables 3104 and 3850.

Introduction to Cost Components of the Elder Index

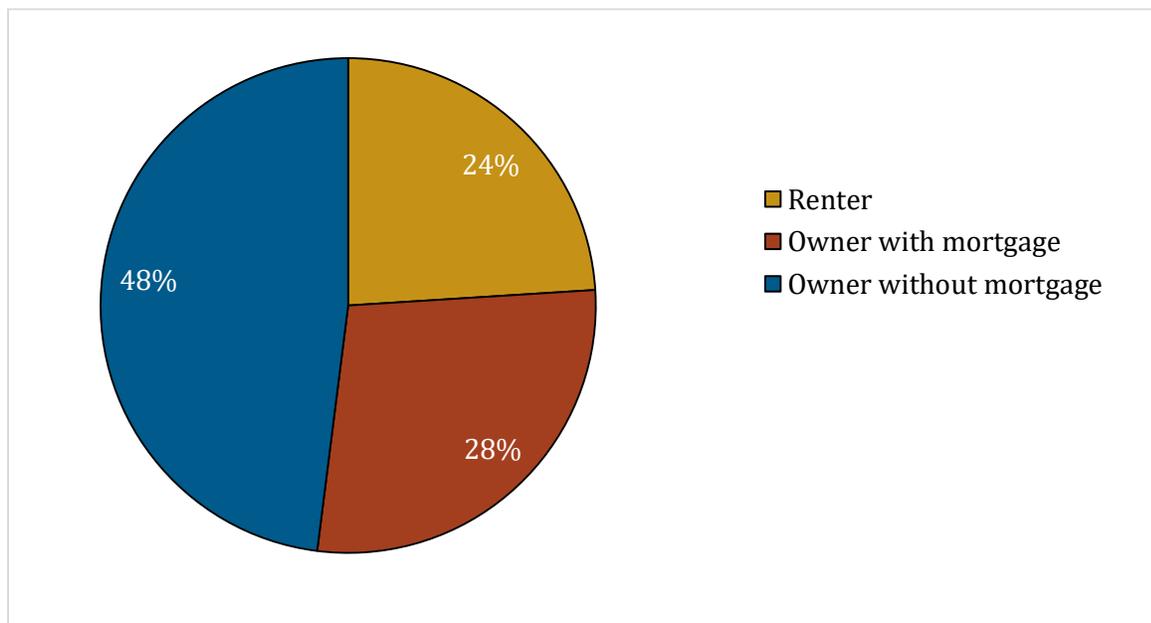
The basic cost components developed for the Elder Index include the following:¹⁰

Housing – includes housing (rent or mortgage payment, if any), and related costs (heat, utilities, insurance, and property taxes) for older renters and owners, based on U.S. Census-reported housing costs for homeowners age 65 and older, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Market Rents. As illustrated in **Figure 7**, 46% of older

¹⁰ All Elder Index values presented here are in 2019 dollars.

New Jersey households own their homes without a mortgage, 25% are renters, and 29% are homeowners with a mortgage.

Figure 7
Owner and Renter Status of Householders Age 65 and Older in New Jersey, 2014-2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018, Tables B25007 and B25027.

Food – represents costs of food prepared at home, based on USDA Low-Cost Food Plan for older adults, using the average of low-cost food plan budgets for women and men.¹¹

Health Care – includes premium costs for comprehensive supplemental coverage to Medicare. As embedded in the Elder Index national methodology, health care costs include Medicare Part B and either Medicare Advantage, including prescription drug coverage, or Medicare Supplemental Insurance (Medigap) plus Medicare Part D for prescription drug coverage. Calculations also include out-of-pocket costs including co-pays, deductibles, and fees for uncovered expenses, and are based on data from the Medicare Options Compare website.

In calculating New Jersey health care costs, we assume coverage through Medicare Advantage for all counties. This is consistent with the national methodology, which uses Medicare Advantage costs for any county in which Medicare Advantage enrollment rates are 20% or more for Medicare recipients. Although in previous years many New Jersey counties had enrollment rates lower than 20%, with the result being that Medigap purchase was assumed, in 2019 all counties surpassed that 20% threshold. Because Medicare Advantage costs are lower than costs assuming Medigap when a person is in good health, declines in the

¹¹ Although food expenses likely vary somewhat across geographic localities in New Jersey, data to adequately reflect this variability are not available.

cost of health care are estimated for virtually every New Jersey county in 2019. The implications of this important change are described elsewhere in the report. As in previous years, health care costs are estimated for people in good, poor, and excellent health.

To simplify presentation, in this report the Elder Index is presented for people in good health, which is the most common health status as self-reported by older people in the U.S. In New Jersey, the statewide average monthly health care cost for older adults in good health is \$396 (or \$4,752 per year). The estimated out-of-pocket health care expenses for all three levels of health are presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2
Estimated Out-of-Pocket Health Care Expenses, for Three Levels of Health (Statewide average)

Per Person:	Excellent Health	Good Health	Poor Health
Cost Per Month	\$293	\$396	\$602
Cost Per Year	\$3,516	\$4,752	\$7,224

Source: Calculated by the authors based on data from the Medicare Options Compare Website.

Transportation – uses automobile owner and operating costs from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) mileage reimbursement rates, and auto usage patterns estimated from the most recent National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), which was conducted in 2017.

Miscellaneous – represents all other goods, such as clothing, personal and household needs, and any additional expenses not captured elsewhere. Based on an analysis of the detailed spending patterns from consumer spending data, the Elder Index estimates miscellaneous expenses at 20% of all other costs (excluding long-term care) in each county for older owners without a mortgage.¹² This amount is calculated separately for older individuals and older couples, and applied to each of the three housing scenarios.¹³

Living expenses in each of the above components are summed to determine budgets for each of the respective household scenarios. This yields the Elder Index, the after-tax income required to cover older people’s living expenses based on where they live and the characteristics of their households.

Costs of *home and community-based long-term services and supports*, for those who require them to remain in their home, are presented for three service packages along the continuum of care. Because home and community-based long-term services and supports are not needed by all people, these cost estimates are provided as an add-on component to the basic Elder Index.

¹² See U.S. BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey (<http://www.bls.gov/cex/>), and Social Security Administration, *Expenditures of the Aged Chartbook*, 2015, for related data.

¹³ Note that 20% of all other costs equal 16.67% of total expenses. Miscellaneous expenses include all expenditures other than those specified elsewhere in the Elder Index. Within household size category, miscellaneous expenses are estimated based on the value of all other expenses for homeowners without a mortgage (the largest single segment of the older householder population). This strategy is used because miscellaneous expenses are not likely to vary dramatically across housing types. Note that the Elder Index budget does not include funds for savings, large purchases, or home repairs.

Local *property taxes* are included in the housing cost component for homeowners, and New Jersey sales tax (6.625%) is included in the miscellaneous category.¹⁴

A significant portion of Social Security income is exempt from federal *income tax* when combined incomes are under certain limits. Income tax treatment and rates vary by source of income; older people typically rely on a combination of Social Security, pension, and savings. Because most of the Elder Index household basic budgets are near the no-tax limits¹⁵, and because tax rates vary by income source, calculations do not include income taxes in the basic model.

The 2019 Elder Index for New Jersey

The four components—housing, food, health care, and transportation, plus miscellaneous expenses—are added together to calculate the Elder Index for New Jersey counties. These costs vary according to household size (living alone or living with another adult age 65 or older) and housing tenure (whether the person is renting a home, owns a home and is still paying a mortgage, or owns a home outright). Information is also presented on the budget impact of health status.

A Note on Geographic Areas

Data are tabulated for each of the 21 counties in New Jersey. The Elder Index is also tabulated for Newark City, for Jersey City, for the Camden metropolitan area (which includes Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties), and for the Jersey Shore region (including Atlantic, Cape May, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties). **Tables 3, 4, and 5** on the following pages illustrate the Elder Index for selected household scenarios in three counties: Mercer County, Essex County, and Ocean County.

The Elder Index values for all New Jersey counties plus the areas specified above are presented in **Appendix B**.

¹⁴ State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury (<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/pubs/sales/su4.pdf>)

¹⁵ For a single person, Social Security benefits will not be taxable unless modified adjusted gross income, plus one-half of Social Security benefits, exceeds \$25,000. For a couple, the no-tax limit is \$32,000. (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/are-social-security-benefits-taxable>)

Table 3
The Elder Index for Mercer County, 2019
Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,024	\$1,082	\$2,078	\$1,024	\$1,082	\$2,078
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$323	\$323	\$323
Health Care (Good Health)	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$738	\$738	\$738
Miscellaneous	\$372	\$372	\$372	\$511	\$511	\$511
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,232	\$2,290	\$3,286	\$3,067	\$3,125	\$4,121
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,784	\$27,480	\$39,432	\$36,804	\$37,500	\$49,452
Comparative Income Benchmarks						
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$12,490	\$12,490	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910
Average Social Security Benefit for Mercer County, 2019	\$19,937	\$19,937	\$19,937	\$33,405	\$33,405	\$33,405
Federal Poverty Guideline as a Percent of Index	47%	45%	32%	46%	45%	34%
Average Social Security Benefit as a Percent of Index	74%	73%	51%	91%	89%	68%
<p><i>Older people in Mercer County with incomes at the federal poverty level, or even if living on the average Social Security benefit in 2019, cannot afford living expenses without public or private supports for housing and health care.</i></p>						

Impact of Change in Health Status on Estimated Health Care Expenses
(change from estimated expenses for good health)

Per Person:	Poor Health Increase of:	Excellent Health Decrease of:
Change in Cost Per Month	\$202	-\$90
Change in Cost Per Year	\$2,424	-\$1,080

Summary of Findings for Mercer County

1. Older people in Mercer County at the poverty level or with the average Social Security benefit cannot make ends meet.

- The average Social Security benefit provides an older person living alone in Mercer County 51%-74% of the amount needed to cover basic expenses.
- In Mercer County, older people living alone on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 32%-47% of their basic living expenses.
- The average Social Security benefit provides an older couple living in Mercer County 68%-91% of the amount needed to cover basic expenses.
- In Mercer County, two older people living on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 34%-46% of their basic living expenses.

2. Older people living alone in Mercer County need \$26,784-\$39,432 to cover their basic annual living costs.

- Older people living alone in Mercer County who own their home without a mortgage need \$26,784 a year to cover their basic living expenses.
- If older people rent an apartment in Mercer County, their basic living expenses increase to \$27,480.
- Older people still paying a mortgage face housing costs more than double those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$39,432.
- Older people with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as financial assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.

3. Older couples in Mercer County need \$36,804-\$49,452 to cover their basic annual living costs.

- Older couples in Mercer County who own their home without a mortgage need \$36,804 a year to cover their basic living expenses.
- If older couples rent an apartment in Mercer County, their basic living expenses increase to \$37,500.
- Older couples still paying a mortgage face housing costs more than double those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$49,452.
- Older couples with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as financial assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.

4. Some older people who are currently making ends meet face a precarious future if their life circumstances change, such as losing a spouse/partner or experiencing a decline in health status.

- A member of an older couple paying market rate rent in Mercer County has expenses reduced by only 27% when a spouse or partner dies, from \$37,500 to \$27,480, yet his or her income may decrease substantially based on the mix of Social Security and/or pension income.
- Older people in good health in Mercer County face health care costs of \$369 per month – more than they spend on food. A decline in health status results in a \$202 monthly increase in health care costs, adding \$2,424 annually to expenses.

Table 4
The Elder Index for Essex County, 2019
Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older People Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,357	\$1,188	\$2,434	\$1,357	\$1,188	\$2,434
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$720	\$720	\$720
Miscellaneous	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$578	\$578	\$578
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,636	\$2,467	\$3,713	\$3,468	\$3,299	\$4,545
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$31,632	\$29,604	\$44,556	\$41,616	\$39,588	\$54,540
Comparative Income Benchmarks						
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$12,490	\$12,490	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910
Average Social Security Benefit for Essex County, 2019	\$18,670	\$18,670	\$18,670	\$31,283	\$31,283	\$31,283
Federal Poverty Guideline as a Percent of Index	39%	42%	28%	41%	43%	31%
Average Social Security Benefit as a Percent of Index	59%	63%	42%	75%	79%	57%
<i>Older people in Essex County, with incomes at the federal poverty level, or even if living on the average Social Security benefit in 2019, cannot afford basic living expenses without public or private supports for housing and health care.</i>						

Impact of Change in Health Status on Estimated Health Care Expenses (change from estimated expenses for good health)

Per Person:	Poor Health Increase of:	Excellent Health Decrease of:
Change in Cost Per Month	\$196	-\$92
Change in Cost Per Year	\$2,352	-\$1,104

Summary of Findings for Essex County

1. Older people in Essex County at the poverty level or with the average Social Security benefit cannot make ends meet.

- The average Social Security benefit provides an older person living alone in Essex County 42%-63% of the amount needed to cover basic expenses.
- In Essex County, older people living alone on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 28%-42% of their basic living expenses.
- The average Social Security benefit in Essex County provides an older couple 57%-79% of the amount needed to cover basic expenses.
- In Essex County, two older people living on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 31%-43% of their basic living expenses.

2. Older people living alone in Essex County need \$29,604 - \$44,556 to cover their basic annual living costs.

- Older people living alone in Essex County who own their home without a mortgage need \$31,632 a year to cover their basic living expenses.
- If older people rent an apartment in Essex County, their basic living expenses are slightly less, at \$29,604.
- Older people still paying a mortgage face housing costs 80% higher than those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$44,556.
- Older people with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as financial assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.

3. Older couples in Essex County need \$41,616-\$54,540 to cover their basic annual living costs.

- Older couples in Essex County who own their home without a mortgage need \$41,616 a year to cover their basic living expenses.
- If older couples rent an apartment in Essex County, their basic living expenses are slightly less, at \$39,588.
- Older couples still paying a mortgage face housing costs 80% higher than those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$54,540.
- Older couples with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as financial assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.

4. Some older people who are currently making ends meet face a precarious future if their life circumstances change, such as losing a spouse/partner or experiencing a decline in health status.

- A member of an older couple paying market rate rent in Essex County has expenses reduced by only 25% when a spouse or partner dies, from \$39,588 to \$29,604, yet his or her income may decrease substantially based on the mix of Social Security and/or pension income.
- Older people in Essex County face health care costs of \$360 per month – more than they spend on food. A decline in health status results in a \$196 monthly increase in health care costs, adding \$2,352 annually to expenses.

Table 5
The Elder Index for Ocean County, 2019
Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$749	\$1,137	\$1,624	\$749	\$1,137	\$1,624
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$386	\$386	\$386	\$772	\$772	\$772
Miscellaneous	\$323	\$323	\$323	\$467	\$467	\$467
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$1,938	\$2,326	\$2,813	\$2,801	\$3,189	\$3,676
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$23,256	\$27,912	\$33,756	\$33,612	\$38,268	\$44,112
Comparative Income Benchmarks						
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$12,490	\$12,490	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910
Average Social Security Benefit for Ocean County, 2019	\$19,300	\$19,300	\$19,300	\$32,339	\$32,339	\$32,339
Federal Poverty Guideline as a Percent of Index	54%	45%	37%	50%	44%	38%
Average Social Security Benefit as a Percent of Index	83%	69%	57%	96%	85%	73%
<p><i>Older people in Ocean County with incomes at the federal poverty level, or even if living on the average Social Security benefit in 2019, cannot afford living expenses without public or private supports for housing and health care.</i></p>						

Impact of Change in Health Status on Estimated Health Care Expenses (change from estimated expenses for Good Health)

Per Person:	Poor Health Increase of:	Excellent Health Decrease of:
Change in Cost Per Month	\$223	-\$112
Change in Cost Per Year	\$2,676	-\$1,344

Summary of Findings for Ocean County

- ***Older people in Ocean County at the poverty level or with the average Social Security benefit cannot make ends meet.***
 - The average Social Security benefit provides an older person living alone in Ocean County 57%-83% of the amount needed to cover basic expenses.
 - In Ocean County, older people living alone on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 37%-54% of their basic living expenses.
 - The average Social Security benefit provides an older couple living in Ocean County 73%-96% of the amount needed to cover basic expenses.
 - In Ocean County, two older people living on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 38%-50% of their basic living expenses.
- ***Older people living alone in Ocean County need \$23,256-\$33,756 to cover their basic annual living costs.***
 - Older people living alone in Ocean County who own their home without a mortgage need \$23,256 a year to cover their basic living expenses.
 - If older people rent an apartment in Ocean County, their basic living expenses increase to \$27,912.
 - Older people still paying a mortgage face housing costs more than double those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$33,756.
 - Older people with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as financial assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.
- ***Older couples in Ocean County need \$33,612-\$44,112 to cover their basic annual living costs.***
 - Older couples in Ocean County who own their home without a mortgage need \$33,612 a year to cover their basic living expenses.
 - If older couples rent an apartment in Ocean County, their basic living expenses increase to \$38,268.
 - Older couples still paying a mortgage face housing costs more than double those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$44,112.
 - Older couples with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as financial assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.
- ***Some older people who are currently making ends meet face a precarious future if their life circumstances change, such as losing a spouse/partner or experiencing a decline in health status.***
 - A member of an older couple paying market rate rent in Ocean County has expenses reduced by only 27% when a spouse or partner dies, from \$38,268 to \$27,912, yet his or her income may decrease substantially based on the mix of Social Security and/or pension income.
 - Older people in Ocean County face health care costs of \$386 per month – more than they spend on food. A decline in health status results in a \$223 monthly increase in health care costs, adding \$2,676 annually to expenses.

The Impact of Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports

Home and community-based long-term services and supports occur along a continuum ranging from a few hours of care per week to 24/7, year-round care. Not all people require long-term support, and the Elder Index shows it as an add-on component to the basic Elder Index. However, an estimated 70% of older people will need long-term services at some point in their later years; 16% will incur as much as \$100,000 in long-term care expenses and 5% will incur at least \$250,000 in expenses over their lifetime (Doty & Shipley, 2012).

Using national long-term care utilization data, the Elder Index constructed three packages of home- and community-based long-term services: “low,” “medium,” and “high.” The selected packages are representative of a possible continuum. The packages assume that the care is formal, paid care, since the Elder Index measures the market costs of goods and services. The high package has two variations, one with Adult Day Health Care (ADH) and one with all services provided at home.

Measuring Costs of Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports

The services and supports packages modeled here include hourly in-home services (homemakers/personal care aides and home health aides), care management, supplies, and a personal emergency response system. At the high level of care, there is also an option in which one-half of the care is provided through Adult Day Health Care. The long-term services package options are illustrated in **Table 6**. For example, a “low” level of service use assumes 6 hours of care per week, all of which are in the form of homemaker services. A modest amount of care management is assumed, and fees for a personal emergency response system are also included. In contrast, a “high” in-home service package assumes 36 hours per week of support, half of which are in the form of homemaker services and half in the form of home health assistance. A higher level of care management is assumed, and funds for health care supplies (e.g., incontinence supplies) are included as well as fees for a personal emergency response system. **Table 7** presents private pay rates for each element of the long-term services package.

Table 6
New Jersey Elder Index
Home and Community-Based Long-Term Supports Package
Long-Term Services and Supports at 6, 16, and 36 Hours/Week

Level of Need for Long-Term Care	Low	Medium	High with Adult Day Health	High without Adult Day Health
Hours Per Week	6 hours	16 hours	36 hours	36 hours
Total care hours per month	26	69	156	156
Distribution of Care Hours:				
Homemaker	100%	100%	33%	50%
Home Health Aide	Not used	Not used	17%	50%
Adult Day Health (3 days/week)	Not used	Not used	50%	Not used
Case Management	Routine	More	Intensive	Intensive
Supplies	None	Yes	Yes	Yes
Personal emergency response system	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 7
New Jersey Elder Index
Long-Term Services and Supports Private Pay Rates, 2019

	Northern New Jersey ¹	Atlantic County	Cape May County	Mercer County	Cumberland County	New Jersey statewide
Homemaker/Personal care (per hour)	\$25	\$25	\$20	\$25	\$19	\$25
Home Health Aide (per hour)	\$25	\$25	\$21	\$26	\$22	\$25
Adult Day Health (daily rate)	\$85	\$96	\$93	\$85	\$77	\$85
Case Management (per hour)	\$125	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Supplies (per month)	\$97	\$97	\$97	\$97	\$97	\$97
Personal Emergency Response System (per month)	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30

Sources:

Homemaker, Home Health Aide, & Adult Day Health pay rates from Genworth Financial 2019 Cost of Care Survey
 Care management rates based on web searches.

Supplies is incontinence supplies—4.5 briefs/day, online purchase at \$51 for package of 72.

PERS is medical alert system—Philips Lifeline, priced online

¹ The Northern New Jersey area includes the following counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. These values are also used for Newark City calculations.

The Impact of Home and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs on the Elder Index

Table 8 illustrates the annual cost of home and community-based long-term services and supports in New Jersey based on private pay rates. Each component in the service package uses the rate per hour (as shown in Table 7) and number of hours (Table 6) to determine the annual cost of obtaining supports to enable people to remain in their homes when they require ongoing, long-term services and support. The cost of home and community-based long-term services and supports can add substantially to the costs of all other items in the Elder Index, creating a severe financial crisis. Long-term service needs can vary considerably over time and tend to increase with age.

Table 8
Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports Costs
for the Elder Index, 2019
At Private Pay Rates in New Jersey

Level of Need for Long-Term Care	Low	Medium	High with Adult Day Health*	High without Adult Day Health
Hours Per Week	6 hours	16 hours	36 hours	36 hours
Northern New Jersey¹	\$9,660	\$25,323	\$42,683	\$52,823
Atlantic County	\$9,204	\$24,307	\$43,031	\$50,987
Cape May County	\$7,800	\$20,563	\$38,723	\$43,677
Mercer County	\$9,204	\$24,307	\$41,783	\$52,391
Cumberland County	\$7,488	\$19,731	\$35,855	\$43,499
New Jersey (statewide)	\$9,360	\$24,723	\$41,783	\$51,923
* 3 days at 6 hours/day = 18 hours/week in Adult Day Health Program (= 1/2 total hours)				
Source: Authors' calculations from applying private rates for NJ to the long-term care services package at three levels.				
¹ The Northern New Jersey area includes the following counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. These values are also used for Newark City calculations.				

The need for long-term services and supports markedly raises costs, multiplying the Elder Index. In the 12-county Northern New Jersey area, the “low” home and community-based long-term services package adds \$9,660 per year to living expenses. The “medium” home and community-based long-term services package adds \$25,323 per year. The “high” home and community-based long-term services package with Adult Day Health Care adds \$42,683 per year to living expenses, and the high home and community-based long-term services package with all in-home care adds \$52,823 per year to living expenses. Typically, estimated costs of home and community-based long-term services and supports are slightly lower outside the Northern New Jersey area.

To illustrate the overall impact of purchasing home and community-based long-term services and supports, **Table 9** outlines the financial implications at different levels of need

and for selected household scenarios in Mercer County. **Figure 8** illustrates the impact of adding these costs for an older renter in Mercer County. The impact of long-term care costs on estimated living costs in each county is included in **Appendix B**. Note that the Elder Index values in **Table 9** and **Figure 8** have been adjusted to reflect an older person in poor health, given that only individuals with poor health are likely to need long-term care.

Overview of Impact of Home and Community-Based Long-Term Care Findings for Mercer County

The need for home and community-based long-term care can more than double a person's expenses, substantially increasing the income required to meet basic needs:

- For the Mercer County household scenarios described in this report, the Elder Index ranges from \$29,208 to \$51,876 (without purchasing home and community-based long-term services, but assuming poor health for the older person or for one member of the older couple).
- Adding home and community-based long-term supports adds substantially to living expense costs - \$9,204 for "low" levels of care, \$24,307 "medium" levels of care, and \$41,783-\$52,391 for "high" levels of care.
- Surveys suggest that people prefer home and community-based long-term supports over nursing facility care, which is considerably more expensive. National market surveys report an average annual cost of \$127,750 for nursing facility care (semi-private room) in New Jersey.¹⁶

When older people become frail and are in poor health, they may need community-based long-term services to remain at home. Using the example of an older renter living alone in Mercer County, **Figure 8** illustrates the dramatic increase in annual expenses experienced when low (6 hours/week), medium (16 hours/week), or high (36 hours/week) levels of home and community-based long-term services are required. For example, compared to the older renter in poor health who purchases no long-term services (with estimated annual living expenses of \$29,904), annual expenses are more than two and a half times higher if high levels of home-based care are required (\$82,295).

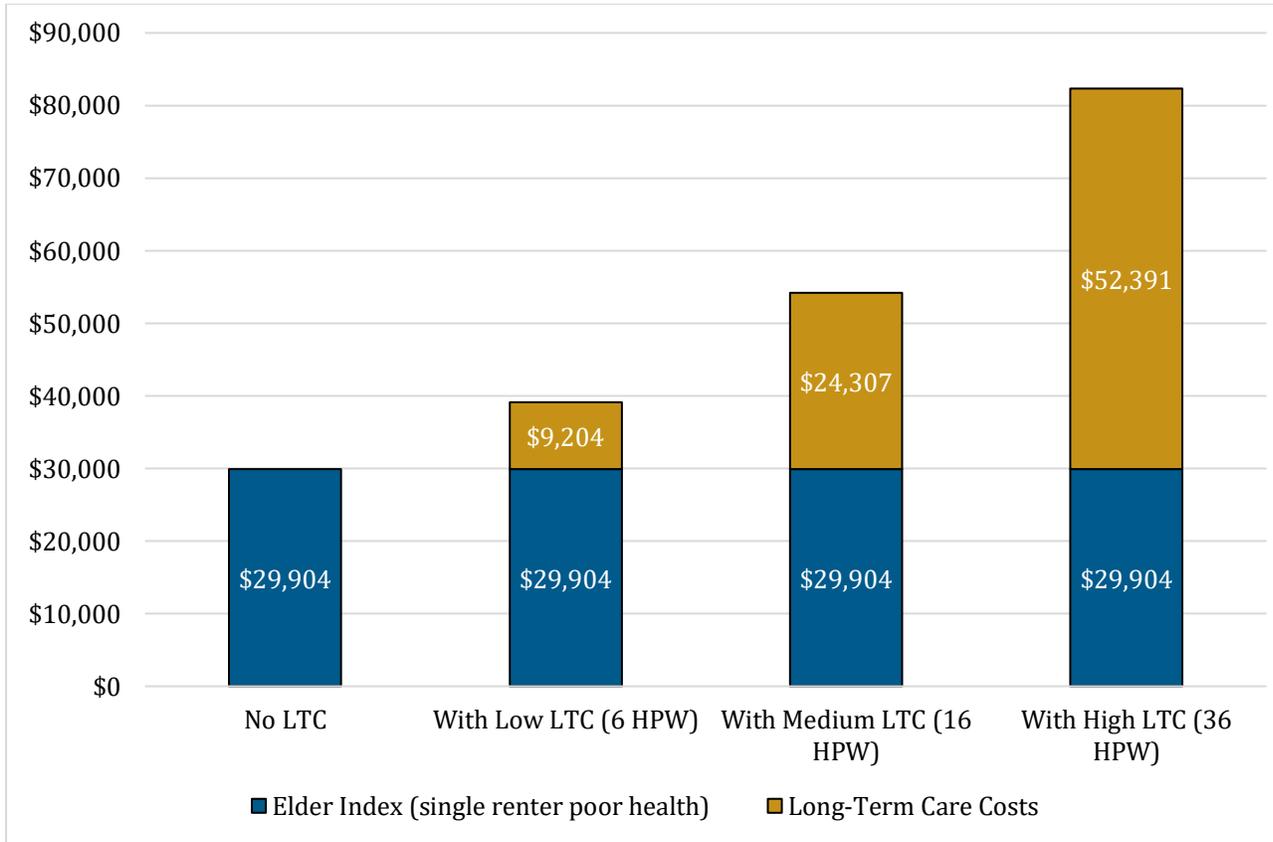
¹⁶ <https://www.genworth.com/about-us/industry-expertise/cost-of-care.html>

Table 9
The Elder Index for Mercer County, 2019
Addition of Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and
Supports Costs*

Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-Person Older Household		
	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner with Mortgage	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner with Mortgage
Index Per Year (assuming poor health)	\$29,208	\$29,904	\$41,856	\$39,228	\$39,924	\$51,876
Add Impact of Changes in Long-Term Care status:						
Low Long-Term Need: 6 hours per week						
Cost Per Year	\$9,204	\$9,204	\$9,204	\$9,204	\$9,204	\$9,204
Index Per Year	\$38,412	\$39,108	\$51,060	\$48,432	\$49,128	\$61,080
Medium Long-Term Need: 16 hours per week						
Cost Per Year	\$24,307	\$24,307	\$24,307	\$24,307	\$24,307	\$24,307
Index Per Year	\$53,515	\$54,211	\$66,163	\$63,535	\$64,231	\$76,183
High Long-Term Need with Adult Day Health: 36 hours per week						
Cost Per Year	\$41,783	\$41,783	\$41,783	\$41,783	\$41,783	\$41,783
Index Per Year	\$70,991	\$71,687	\$83,639	\$81,011	\$81,707	\$93,659
High Long-Term Need all in-home Support: 36 hours per week						
Cost Per Year	\$52,391	\$52,391	\$52,391	\$52,391	\$52,391	\$52,391
Index Per Year	\$81,599	\$82,295	\$94,247	\$91,619	\$92,315	\$104,267

*Older people needing home and community-based long-term services and supports are presumed to be in poor health. LTSS costs are added to the Elder Index for an older person in poor health, and to an older couple, one in poor and one in good health.

Figure 8
Adding Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports Costs
to the Elder Index for Mercer County, 2019
Example of a Single Renter



The Changing Cost of Getting by in New Jersey

Table 10 presents a comparison between the Elder Index values generated for 2016 and those generated for 2019. For older New Jersey residents, the cost of getting by, as reflected by the Elder Index values, were relatively stable over this time period. Using statewide average values, the Elder Index increased slightly during this time period for older singles, and decreased slightly for older couples. This finding reflects a mix of increasing and declining costs, primarily in housing, health care, and transportation, as well as patterns of change across counties within New Jersey.

Housing continues to be the most sizable expense for older households in most scenarios, although for couples the expense of health care exceeds that of housing (for example, see Ocean County, where the cost of health care for two people in good health <\$772> exceeds the cost of owning a home without a mortgage <\$749>). For every county, the cost of

homeownership among those with no mortgage increased between 2016 and 2019, largely reflecting changes in home values and property taxes. Housing costs associated with renting increased in all except for two counties. In comparison, the estimated housing costs for owners with a mortgage declined slightly in several counties. On balance, therefore, trends in housing costs served to push Elder Index values up over this time period.

Transportation costs increased for both singles and couples, and for nearly every county in New Jersey. The increase in cost resulted from updated mileage estimates based on a new survey of transportation patterns (the 2017 National Household Transportation Survey), as well as per-mile costs that were higher in 2019 than in 2016 (based on IRS reimbursement rates). On balance, trends in transportation costs also served to push Elder Index values up over this time period.

As noted above, significant changes in health care expenses were estimated for New Jersey in 2019. In calculating health care expenses, the Elder Index national methodology assumes coverage by a Medicare Advantage plan for counties in which at least 20% of Medicare enrollees have purchased such a plan; for counties falling short of that threshold, the cost is estimated assuming Medigap coverage. Between 2016 and 2019, take-up of Medicare Advantage plans increased and currently, every county in New Jersey surpasses the 20% enrollment threshold. As a result, health care expenses for the 2019 Elder Index are calculated assuming Medicare Advantage coverage in every county, whereas in the 2016 Elder Index calculations Medicare Advantage coverage was assumed in only two counties. Because Medicare Advantage costs are typically lower than costs assuming Medigap when a person is in good health, declines in the cost of health care are estimated for virtually every New Jersey county in 2019. In some counties, declines were substantial enough to offset rising housing costs, resulting in a decline in the value of the Elder Index between 2016 and 2019.¹⁷ As shown in the lower panel of Table 10, if the Elder Index calculations had been based on Medigap coverage in every county, we would have estimated increasing Elder Index values for New Jersey, ranging from 6%-7% for owners with a mortgage to 9%-10% for renters.

¹⁷ It is recognized that individual subscribers may prefer a Medigap over a Medicare Advantage plan due to health conditions, access to specific providers, or other reasons. In addition, note that estimated costs assuming Medigap coverage compares more favorably to Medicare Advantage in New Jersey when poor health is assumed.

Table 10
Elder Index Comparison for New Jersey: 2016 vs. 2019*

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner without mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner with mortgage
2019 Elder Index values assuming Medicare Advantage Coverage						
2016	\$27,696	\$29,016	\$41,016	\$38,952	\$40,272	\$52,272
2019	\$28,056	\$29,616	\$41,292	\$38,568	\$40,128	\$51,804
Change 2016 to 2019	1.3%	2.1%	0.7%	-1.0%	-0.4%	-0.9%
2019 Elder Index values assuming Medigap Coverage						
2019 (assuming Medigap)	\$30,084	\$31,644	\$43,320	\$42,624	\$44,184	\$55,860
Change 2016 to 2019 (with Medigap)	8.6%	9.1%	5.6%	9.4%	9.7%	6.9%

*All calculations assume good health. Figures assuming Medigap coverage are for comparison only.

Conclusion

The Elder Index, with its modeled scenarios for older adults living in different circumstances, shows the difficulties low- and moderate-income older people confront in meeting their living expenses. In every county in the state, older people who live at the federal poverty level, or who are totally dependent on the average Social Security payment in 2019, need housing and health care supports to make ends meet. Expenses for long-term services and supports, for those who need them to stay at home, add substantially to an older person's budget.

The Elder Index is a tool to help guide public, private, and personal decisions that can directly shape the well-being of today's and tomorrow's older adults. Additionally, it provides information for decisions that aging Baby Boomers will need to make for themselves and for the older family members for whom they often care. The information contained in the Elder Index may be used to develop and advocate for strategies that promote economic security to meet the goals of independence, choice and dignity for older adults.

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Appendix A: Data Sources

<i>Data Type</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
Housing	<p>Rent: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Fair Market Rents 2019. Retrieved from http://www.huduser.org</p> <p>Owner Costs: U.S. Census: American Community Survey 2013-2017 for Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMS data). Data retrieved from: http://factfinder.census.gov</p> <p>Owner costs adjusted to 2019 by CPI for housing (CPI June 2019). http://www.bls.gov/cpi/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fair Market Rents (FMRs) for 1-bedroom units by HUD statistical area (county or county group). - Median selected monthly owner costs (SMOC) for owners 65 and older with, and without a mortgage. - SMOC includes property taxes, insurance, heat & utilities, condo fees, & mortgage payment (if any)
Food	<p>USDA, Low-Cost Food Plan, 2019 (June): https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/media/file/CostofFoodJun2019.pdf</p>	<p>Low Cost Food Plan costs for older men and women are averaged to determine food costs. Per USDA, food costs for single adults are increased by 20% to reflect lesser economies of scale.</p>
Health Care Costs (premiums and out-of-pocket cost)	<p>Using 2019 CMS Medicare Advantage enrollment rates, we determined whether a county meets the criterion for calculating expenses based on Medicare Advantage (our methodology requires at least 20% Medicare Advantage take-up in the county); counties that do not meet this criterion have health care expenses estimated assuming Medigap coverage. All calculations assume prescription drug coverage. https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/?lang=en</p>	<p>Estimated costs including the premiums for Medicare Part B, for a supplemental insurance plan, prescription drug coverage and out of pocket expenses. Calculated by the Gerontology Institute.</p>
Transportation	<p>Miles driven based on analysis of the 2017 NHTS. Per mile cost based on IRS 2019 reimbursement rate for business. https://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Standard-Mileage-Rates</p> <p>County classification based on 2018 population estimates (all age) for MSA from American Community Survey (July 2018). This calculation uses the latest MSA/CBSA delineations (August 2018) from Census https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-files/time-series/demo/metro-micro/delineation-files.html</p>	<p>Estimated annual mileage driven by retired singles and couples by IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate for operating and owner costs.</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>Miscellaneous expenses are estimated at 20% of costs of other basic expenditure categories: housing, food, health care, and transportation, which is equal to 16.67% of total expenses. Includes all other essentials: clothing, shoes, paper products, cleaning products, household items, personal hygiene items, and telephone.</p>	<p>The Elder Index calculates miscellaneous expenses for owners without a mortgage, and applies that amount to each of the housing types.</p>
Long-Term Services and Supports	<p>Private rates for homemaker, home health aide, case management and Adult Day Health Care from Genworth Financial (2019). <i>2019 Cost of Care Survey</i>. Available online: https://www.genworth.com/about-us/industry-expertise/cost-of-care.html</p>	<p>Authors' calculations using area costs for three prototypical levels of long-term care services packages.</p>

Appendix B: Elder Index for New Jersey Counties and Selected Areas

Table B-1: The Elder Index for Atlantic County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$928	\$1,003	\$1,808	\$928	\$1,003	\$1,808
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$323	\$323	\$323
Health Care (Good Health)	\$407	\$407	\$407	\$814	\$814	\$814
Miscellaneous	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$507	\$507	\$507
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,162	\$2,237	\$3,042	\$3,043	\$3,118	\$3,923
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$25,944	\$26,844	\$36,504	\$36,516	\$37,416	\$47,076

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$18,195	\$30,487

Table B-1: The Elder Index for Atlantic County, 2019 (cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,204	\$35,148	\$36,048	\$45,708	\$45,720	\$46,620	\$56,280
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,307	\$50,251	\$51,151	\$60,811	\$60,823	\$61,723	\$71,383
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$43,031	\$68,975	\$69,875	\$79,535	\$79,547	\$80,447	\$90,107
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$50,987	\$76,931	\$77,831	\$87,491	\$87,503	\$88,403	\$98,063

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$192 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,304 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$25,860	\$27,564	\$37,032	\$37,596	\$39,300	\$48,768
2019	\$25,944	\$26,844	\$36,504	\$36,516	\$37,416	\$47,076
Change 2016 to 2019	\$84	-\$720	-\$528	-\$1,080	-\$1,884	-\$1,692

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Atlantic County decreased for all categories except single owners with a mortgage. Housing expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medicaid in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-2: The Elder Index for Bergen County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,270	\$1,425	\$2,659	\$1,270	\$1,425	\$2,659
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$738	\$738	\$738
Miscellaneous	\$424	\$424	\$424	\$564	\$564	\$564
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,543	\$2,698	\$3,932	\$3,385	\$3,540	\$4,774
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$30,516	\$32,376	\$47,184	\$40,620	\$42,480	\$57,288

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$20,273	\$33,969

Table B-2: The Elder Index for Bergen County, 2019 (cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$40,176	\$42,036	\$56,844	\$50,280	\$52,140	\$66,948
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$55,839	\$57,699	\$72,507	\$65,943	\$67,803	\$82,611
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$73,199	\$75,059	\$89,867	\$83,303	\$85,163	\$99,971
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$83,339	\$85,199	\$100,007	\$93,443	\$95,303	\$110,111

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$207 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,484 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$30,396	\$30,984	\$47,196	\$41,784	\$42,372	\$58,584
2019	\$30,516	\$32,376	\$47,184	\$40,620	\$42,480	\$57,288
Change 2016 to 2019	\$120	\$1,392	-\$12	-\$1,164	\$108	-\$1,296

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Bergen County increased for renters and for singles without a mortgage, but declined for couple homeowners. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-3: The Elder Index for Burlington County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$910	\$992	\$1,825	\$910	\$992	\$1,825
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$437	\$437	\$437	\$874	\$874	\$874
Miscellaneous	\$365	\$365	\$365	\$519	\$519	\$519
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,192	\$2,274	\$3,107	\$3,116	\$3,198	\$4,031
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,304	\$27,288	\$37,284	\$37,392	\$38,376	\$48,372

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,887	\$33,322

Table B-3: The Elder Index for Burlington County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,360	\$35,664	\$36,648	\$46,644	\$46,752	\$47,736	\$57,732
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,723	\$51,027	\$52,011	\$62,007	\$62,115	\$63,099	\$73,095
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$68,087	\$69,071	\$79,067	\$79,175	\$80,159	\$90,155
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$51,923	\$78,227	\$79,211	\$89,207	\$89,315	\$90,299	\$100,295

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$206 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,472 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$25,632	\$27,120	\$35,568	\$37,020	\$38,508	\$46,956
2019	\$26,304	\$27,288	\$37,284	\$37,392	\$38,376	\$48,372
Change 2016 to 2019	\$672	\$168	\$1,716	\$372	-\$132	\$1,416

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Burlington County increased for all categories except couples who rent. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-4: The Elder Index for Camden County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$950	\$992	\$1,796	\$950	\$992	\$1,796
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$452	\$452	\$452	\$904	\$904	\$904
Miscellaneous	\$376	\$376	\$376	\$533	\$533	\$533
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,258	\$2,300	\$3,104	\$3,200	\$3,242	\$4,046
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$27,096	\$27,600	\$37,248	\$38,400	\$38,904	\$48,552

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$18,826	\$31,544

Table B-4: The Elder Index for Camden County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,360	\$36,456	\$36,960	\$46,608	\$47,760	\$48,264	\$57,912
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,723	\$51,819	\$52,323	\$61,971	\$63,123	\$63,627	\$73,275
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$68,879	\$69,383	\$79,031	\$80,183	\$80,687	\$90,335
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$51,923	\$79,019	\$79,523	\$89,171	\$90,323	\$90,827	\$100,475

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$207 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,484 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$26,184	\$27,216	\$36,888	\$37,572	\$38,604	\$48,276
2019	\$27,096	\$27,600	\$37,248	\$38,400	\$38,904	\$48,552
Change 2016 to 2019	\$912	\$384	\$360	\$828	\$300	\$276

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Camden County increased for all categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-5: The Elder Index for Cape May County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$792	\$998	\$1,822	\$792	\$998	\$1,822
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$284	\$284	\$284	\$438	\$438	\$438
Health Care (Good Health)	\$457	\$457	\$457	\$914	\$914	\$914
Miscellaneous	\$358	\$358	\$358	\$523	\$523	\$523
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,148	\$2,354	\$3,178	\$3,138	\$3,344	\$4,168
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$25,776	\$28,248	\$38,136	\$37,656	\$40,128	\$50,016

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$18,834	\$31,558

Table B-5: The Elder Index for Cape May County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$7,800	\$33,576	\$36,048	\$45,936	\$45,456	\$47,928	\$57,816
Medium (16 hrs)	\$20,563	\$46,339	\$48,811	\$58,699	\$58,219	\$60,691	\$70,579
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$38,723	\$64,499	\$66,971	\$76,859	\$76,379	\$78,851	\$88,739
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$43,677	\$69,453	\$71,925	\$81,813	\$81,333	\$83,805	\$93,693

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$202 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,424 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$24,600	\$25,380	\$38,172	\$36,288	\$37,068	\$49,860
2019	\$25,776	\$28,248	\$38,136	\$37,656	\$40,128	\$50,016
Change 2016 to 2019	\$1,176	\$2,868	-\$36	\$1,368	\$3,060	\$156

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Cape May County increased for all categories except single owners with a mortgage. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-6: The Elder Index for Cumberland County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$739	\$936	\$1,463	\$739	\$936	\$1,463
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$284	\$284	\$284	\$438	\$438	\$438
Health Care (Good Health)	\$469	\$469	\$469	\$938	\$938	\$938
Miscellaneous	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$517	\$517	\$517
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,099	\$2,296	\$2,823	\$3,103	\$3,300	\$3,827
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$25,188	\$27,552	\$33,876	\$37,236	\$39,600	\$45,924

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$17,937	\$30,055

Table B-6: The Elder Index for Cumberland County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$7,488	\$32,676	\$35,040	\$41,364	\$44,724	\$47,088	\$53,412
Medium (16 hrs)	\$19,731	\$44,919	\$47,283	\$53,607	\$56,967	\$59,331	\$65,655
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$35,855	\$61,043	\$63,407	\$69,731	\$73,091	\$75,455	\$81,779
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$43,499	\$68,687	\$71,051	\$77,375	\$80,735	\$83,099	\$89,423

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$204 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,448 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$23,556	\$26,520	\$31,344	\$35,256	\$38,220	\$43,044
2019	\$25,188	\$27,552	\$33,876	\$37,236	\$39,600	\$45,924
Change 2016 to 2019	\$1,632	\$1,032	\$2,532	\$1,980	\$1,380	\$2,880

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Cumberland County increased for all categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined slightly (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-7: The Elder Index for Essex County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,357	\$1,188	\$2,434	\$1,357	\$1,188	\$2,434
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$720	\$720	\$720
Miscellaneous	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$578	\$578	\$578
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,636	\$2,467	\$3,713	\$3,468	\$3,299	\$4,545
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$31,632	\$29,604	\$44,556	\$41,616	\$39,588	\$54,540

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$18,670	\$31,283

Table B-7: The Elder Index for Essex County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$41,292	\$39,264	\$54,216	\$51,276	\$49,248	\$64,200
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$56,955	\$54,927	\$69,879	\$66,939	\$64,911	\$79,863
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$74,315	\$72,287	\$87,239	\$84,299	\$82,271	\$97,223
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$84,455	\$82,427	\$97,379	\$94,439	\$92,411	\$107,363

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$196 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,352 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$30,144	\$28,068	\$45,564	\$40,260	\$38,184	\$55,680
2019	\$31,632	\$29,604	\$44,556	\$41,616	\$39,588	\$54,540
Change 2016 to 2019	\$1,488	\$1,536	-\$1,008	\$1,356	\$1,404	-\$1,140

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Essex County increased for owners without a mortgage and for renters, but declined for owners with a mortgage. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medicare Advantage in both 2016 and 2019).

Table B-8: The Elder Index for Gloucester County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$873	\$992	\$1,787	\$873	\$992	\$1,787
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$960	\$960	\$960
Miscellaneous	\$367	\$367	\$367	\$529	\$529	\$529
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,200	\$2,319	\$3,114	\$3,175	\$3,294	\$4,089
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,400	\$27,828	\$37,368	\$38,100	\$39,528	\$49,068

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,289	\$32,320

Table B-8: The Elder Index for Gloucester County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,360	\$35,760	\$37,188	\$46,728	\$47,460	\$48,888	\$58,428
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,723	\$51,123	\$52,551	\$62,091	\$62,823	\$64,251	\$73,791
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$68,183	\$69,611	\$79,151	\$79,883	\$81,311	\$90,851
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$51,923	\$78,323	\$79,751	\$89,291	\$90,023	\$91,451	\$100,991

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$205 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,460 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$25,128	\$27,036	\$34,368	\$36,516	\$38,424	\$45,756
2019	\$26,400	\$27,828	\$37,368	\$38,100	\$39,528	\$49,068
Change 2016 to 2019	\$1,272	\$792	\$3,000	\$1,584	\$1,104	\$3,312

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Gloucester County increased for all categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, but the estimated cost of health care remained stable (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-9: The Elder Index for Hudson County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,199	\$1,322	\$2,396	\$1,199	\$1,322	\$2,396
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$732	\$732	\$732
Miscellaneous	\$409	\$409	\$409	\$549	\$549	\$549
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,454	\$2,577	\$3,651	\$3,293	\$3,416	\$4,490
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$29,448	\$30,924	\$43,812	\$39,516	\$40,992	\$53,880

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$15,841	\$26,542

Table B-9: The Elder Index for Hudson County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$39,108	\$40,584	\$53,472	\$49,176	\$50,652	\$63,540
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$54,771	\$56,247	\$69,135	\$64,839	\$66,315	\$79,203
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$72,131	\$73,607	\$86,495	\$82,199	\$83,675	\$96,563
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$82,271	\$83,747	\$96,635	\$92,339	\$93,815	\$106,703

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$198 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,376 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$27,924	\$28,476	\$44,280	\$38,040	\$38,592	\$54,396
2019	\$29,448	\$30,924	\$43,812	\$39,516	\$40,992	\$53,880
Change 2016 to 2019	\$1,524	\$2,448	-\$468	\$1,476	\$2,400	-\$516

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Hudson County increased for owners without a mortgage and for renters, but declining slightly for owners with a mortgage. Transportation and housing expenses rose, except for owners with a mortgage, and the estimated cost of health care declined slightly (assumed Medicare Advantage in both 2016 and 2019).

Table B-10: The Elder Index for Hunterdon County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,119	\$1,360	\$2,131	\$1,119	\$1,360	\$2,131
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$820	\$820	\$820
Miscellaneous	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$550	\$550	\$550
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,411	\$2,652	\$3,423	\$3,302	\$3,543	\$4,314
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$28,932	\$31,824	\$41,076	\$39,624	\$42,516	\$51,768

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$21,646	\$36,270

Table B-10: The Elder Index for Hunterdon County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$38,592	\$41,484	\$50,736	\$49,284	\$52,176	\$61,428
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$54,255	\$57,147	\$66,399	\$64,947	\$67,839	\$77,091
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$71,615	\$74,507	\$83,759	\$82,307	\$85,199	\$94,451
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$81,755	\$84,647	\$93,899	\$92,447	\$95,339	\$104,591

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$223 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,676 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$28,452	\$30,600	\$42,948	\$39,840	\$41,988	\$54,336
2019	\$28,932	\$31,824	\$41,076	\$39,624	\$42,516	\$51,768
Change 2016 to 2019	\$480	\$1,224	-\$1,872	-\$216	\$528	-\$2,568

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Hunterdon County increased for renters and for singles without a mortgage, but declined for other categories. Housing expenses for renters and for owners without a mortgage rose, along with transportation expenses, but the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-11: The Elder Index for Mercer County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,024	\$1,082	\$2,078	\$1,024	\$1,082	\$2,078
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$323	\$323	\$323
Health Care (Good Health)	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$738	\$738	\$738
Miscellaneous	\$372	\$372	\$372	\$511	\$511	\$511
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,232	\$2,290	\$3,286	\$3,067	\$3,125	\$4,121
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,784	\$27,480	\$39,432	\$36,804	\$37,500	\$49,452

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,937	\$33,405

Table B-11: The Elder Index for Mercer County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,204	\$35,988	\$36,684	\$48,636	\$46,008	\$46,704	\$58,656
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,307	\$51,091	\$51,787	\$63,739	\$61,111	\$61,807	\$73,759
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$68,567	\$69,263	\$81,215	\$78,587	\$79,283	\$91,235
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,391	\$79,175	\$79,871	\$91,823	\$89,195	\$89,891	\$101,843

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$202 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,424 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$27,432	\$28,932	\$40,116	\$39,168	\$40,668	\$51,852
2019	\$26,784	\$27,480	\$39,432	\$36,804	\$37,500	\$49,452
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$648	-\$1,452	-\$684	-\$2,364	-\$3,168	-\$2,400

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Mercer County declined in all categories. Housing expenses rose, but the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-12: The Elder Index for Middlesex County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,028	\$1,360	\$2,170	\$1,028	\$1,360	\$2,170
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$405	\$405	\$405	\$810	\$810	\$810
Miscellaneous	\$383	\$383	\$383	\$530	\$530	\$530
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,296	\$2,628	\$3,438	\$3,181	\$3,513	\$4,323
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$27,552	\$31,536	\$41,256	\$38,172	\$42,156	\$51,876

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,458	\$32,603

Table B-12: The Elder Index for Middlesex County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$37,212	\$41,196	\$50,916	\$47,832	\$51,816	\$61,536
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$52,875	\$56,859	\$66,579	\$63,495	\$67,479	\$77,199
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$70,235	\$74,219	\$83,939	\$80,855	\$84,839	\$94,559
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$80,375	\$84,359	\$94,079	\$90,995	\$94,979	\$104,699

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$210 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,520 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$27,312	\$30,408	\$40,608	\$38,712	\$41,808	\$52,008
2019	\$27,552	\$31,536	\$41,256	\$38,172	\$42,156	\$51,876
Change 2016 to 2019	\$240	\$1,128	\$648	-\$540	\$348	-\$132

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Middlesex County increased for singles and for couple renters, but declined slightly for couple owners. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-13: The Elder Index for Monmouth County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,071	\$1,137	\$2,264	\$1,071	\$1,137	\$2,264
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$388	\$388	\$388	\$776	\$776	\$776
Miscellaneous	\$388	\$388	\$388	\$532	\$532	\$532
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,327	\$2,393	\$3,520	\$3,192	\$3,258	\$4,385
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$27,924	\$28,716	\$42,240	\$38,304	\$39,096	\$52,620

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$20,415	\$34,207

Table B-13: The Elder Index for Monmouth County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$37,584	\$38,376	\$51,900	\$47,964	\$48,756	\$62,280
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$53,247	\$54,039	\$67,563	\$63,627	\$64,419	\$77,943
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$70,607	\$71,399	\$84,923	\$80,987	\$81,779	\$95,303
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$80,747	\$81,539	\$95,063	\$91,127	\$91,919	\$105,443

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$211 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,532 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$28,104	\$29,604	\$41,052	\$39,504	\$41,004	\$52,452
2019	\$27,924	\$28,716	\$42,240	\$38,304	\$39,096	\$52,620
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$180	-\$888	\$1,188	-\$1,200	-\$1,908	\$168

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Monmouth County declined for owners without a mortgage and renters, and increased for owners with a mortgage. Ownership and transportation expenses rose, rent was stable, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-14: The Elder Index for Morris County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,162	\$1,188	\$2,464	\$1,162	\$1,188	\$2,464
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$405	\$405	\$405	\$810	\$810	\$810
Miscellaneous	\$409	\$409	\$409	\$557	\$557	\$557
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,456	\$2,482	\$3,758	\$3,342	\$3,368	\$4,644
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$29,472	\$29,784	\$45,096	\$40,104	\$40,416	\$55,728

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$21,185	\$35,497

Table B-14: The Elder Index for Morris County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$39,132	\$39,444	\$54,756	\$49,764	\$50,076	\$65,388
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$54,795	\$55,107	\$70,419	\$65,427	\$65,739	\$81,051
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$72,155	\$72,467	\$87,779	\$82,787	\$83,099	\$98,411
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$82,295	\$82,607	\$97,919	\$92,927	\$93,239	\$108,551

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$210 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,520 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$29,292	\$28,980	\$44,580	\$40,680	\$40,368	\$55,968
2019	\$29,472	\$29,784	\$45,096	\$40,104	\$40,416	\$55,728
Change 2016 to 2019	\$180	\$804	\$516	-\$576	\$48	-\$240

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Morris County increased for singles but declined slightly for couple homeowners. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-15: The Elder Index for Ocean County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$749	\$1,137	\$1,624	\$749	\$1,137	\$1,624
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$386	\$386	\$386	\$772	\$772	\$772
Miscellaneous	\$323	\$323	\$323	\$467	\$467	\$467
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$1,938	\$2,326	\$2,813	\$2,801	\$3,189	\$3,676
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$23,256	\$27,912	\$33,756	\$33,612	\$38,268	\$44,112

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,300	\$32,339

Table B-15: The Elder Index for Ocean County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$32,916	\$37,572	\$43,416	\$43,272	\$47,928	\$53,772
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$48,579	\$53,235	\$59,079	\$58,935	\$63,591	\$69,435
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$65,939	\$70,595	\$76,439	\$76,295	\$80,951	\$86,795
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$76,079	\$80,735	\$86,579	\$86,435	\$91,091	\$96,935

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$223 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,676 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$23,472	\$28,836	\$33,384	\$34,860	\$40,224	\$44,772
2019	\$23,256	\$27,912	\$33,756	\$33,612	\$38,268	\$44,112
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$216	-\$924	\$372	-\$1,248	-\$1,956	-\$660

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Ocean County declined for all categories except single owners with a mortgage. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-16: The Elder Index for Passaic County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,235	\$1,425	\$2,489	\$1,235	\$1,425	\$2,489
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$367	\$367	\$367	\$734	\$734	\$734
Miscellaneous	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$556	\$556	\$556
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,498	\$2,688	\$3,752	\$3,338	\$3,528	\$4,592
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$29,976	\$32,256	\$45,024	\$40,056	\$42,336	\$55,104

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$18,119	\$30,359

Table B-16: The Elder Index for Passaic County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$39,636	\$41,916	\$54,684	\$49,716	\$51,996	\$64,764
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$55,299	\$57,579	\$70,347	\$65,379	\$67,659	\$80,427
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$72,659	\$74,939	\$87,707	\$82,739	\$85,019	\$97,787
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$82,799	\$85,079	\$97,847	\$92,879	\$95,159	\$107,927

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$198 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,376 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$30,036	\$30,924	\$45,132	\$41,424	\$42,312	\$56,520
2019	\$29,976	\$32,256	\$45,024	\$40,056	\$42,336	\$55,104
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$60	\$1,332	-\$108	-\$1,368	\$24	-\$1,416

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Passaic County increasing for renters, but declined slightly for homeowners. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-17: The Elder Index for Salem County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$831	\$992	\$1,521	\$831	\$992	\$1,521
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$458	\$458	\$458	\$916	\$916	\$916
Miscellaneous	\$354	\$354	\$354	\$512	\$512	\$512
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,123	\$2,284	\$2,813	\$3,072	\$3,233	\$3,762
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$25,476	\$27,408	\$33,756	\$36,864	\$38,796	\$45,144

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$18,965	\$31,777

Table B-17: The Elder Index for Salem County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,360	\$34,836	\$36,768	\$43,116	\$46,224	\$48,156	\$54,504
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,723	\$50,199	\$52,131	\$58,479	\$61,587	\$63,519	\$69,867
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$67,259	\$69,191	\$75,539	\$78,647	\$80,579	\$86,927
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$51,923	\$77,399	\$79,331	\$85,679	\$88,787	\$90,719	\$97,067

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$201 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,412 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$24,264	\$26,892	\$32,988	\$35,652	\$38,280	\$44,376
2019	\$25,476	\$27,408	\$33,756	\$36,864	\$38,796	\$45,144
Change 2016 to 2019	\$1,212	\$516	\$768	\$1,212	\$516	\$768

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Salem County increased slightly for all categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-18: The Elder Index for Somerset County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,163	\$1,360	\$2,342	\$1,163	\$1,360	\$2,342
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$380	\$380	\$380	\$760	\$760	\$760
Miscellaneous	\$405	\$405	\$405	\$547	\$547	\$547
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,428	\$2,625	\$3,607	\$3,283	\$3,480	\$4,462
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$29,136	\$31,500	\$43,284	\$39,396	\$41,760	\$53,544

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$21,227	\$35,568

Table B-18: The Elder Index for Somerset County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$38,796	\$41,160	\$52,944	\$49,056	\$51,420	\$63,204
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$54,459	\$56,823	\$68,607	\$64,719	\$67,083	\$78,867
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$71,819	\$74,183	\$85,967	\$82,079	\$84,443	\$96,227
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$81,959	\$84,323	\$96,107	\$92,219	\$94,583	\$106,367

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$208 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,496 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$29,604	\$30,792	\$44,292	\$40,992	\$42,180	\$55,680
2019	\$29,136	\$31,500	\$43,284	\$39,396	\$41,760	\$53,544
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$468	\$708	-\$1,008	-\$1,596	-\$420	-\$2,136

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Somerset County decreased for all categories except for single renters. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-19: The Elder Index for Sussex County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,020	\$1,188	\$2,004	\$1,020	\$1,188	\$2,004
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$420	\$420	\$420	\$840	\$840	\$840
Miscellaneous	\$384	\$384	\$384	\$535	\$535	\$535
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,304	\$2,472	\$3,288	\$3,208	\$3,376	\$4,192
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$27,648	\$29,664	\$39,456	\$38,496	\$40,512	\$50,304

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$20,037	\$33,574

Table B-19: The Elder Index for Sussex County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$37,308	\$39,324	\$49,116	\$48,156	\$50,172	\$59,964
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$52,971	\$54,987	\$64,779	\$63,819	\$65,835	\$75,627
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$70,331	\$72,347	\$82,139	\$81,179	\$83,195	\$92,987
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$80,471	\$82,487	\$92,279	\$91,319	\$93,335	\$103,127

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$216 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,592 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$27,120	\$28,620	\$40,020	\$38,508	\$40,008	\$51,408
2019	\$27,648	\$29,664	\$39,456	\$38,496	\$40,512	\$50,304
Change 2016 to 2019	\$528	\$1,044	-\$564	-\$12	\$504	-\$1,104

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Sussex County increased for renters and for single owners without a mortgage, but declined or remained stable for the other categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, except for housing costs with a mortgage, which declined slightly. The estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-20: The Elder Index for Union County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,223	\$1,188	\$2,430	\$1,223	\$1,188	\$2,430
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$738	\$738	\$738
Miscellaneous	\$414	\$414	\$414	\$555	\$555	\$555
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,486	\$2,451	\$3,693	\$3,329	\$3,294	\$4,536
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$29,832	\$29,412	\$44,316	\$39,948	\$39,528	\$54,432

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,000	\$31,836

Table B-20: The Elder Index for Union County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$39,492	\$39,072	\$53,976	\$49,608	\$49,188	\$64,092
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$55,155	\$54,735	\$69,639	\$65,271	\$64,851	\$79,755
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$72,515	\$72,095	\$86,999	\$82,631	\$82,211	\$97,115
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$82,655	\$82,235	\$97,139	\$92,771	\$92,351	\$107,255

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$202 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,424 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$29,892	\$29,076	\$43,536	\$41,280	\$40,464	\$54,924
2019	\$29,832	\$29,412	\$44,316	\$39,948	\$39,528	\$54,432
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$60	\$336	\$780	-\$1,332	-\$936	-\$492

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Union County increased for single renters and single homeowners with a mortgage, but declined for the other categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-21: The Elder Index for Warren County, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$930	\$1,069	\$2,123	\$930	\$1,069	\$2,123
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$241	\$241	\$241	\$371	\$371	\$371
Health Care (Good Health)	\$419	\$419	\$419	\$838	\$838	\$838
Miscellaneous	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$522	\$522	\$522
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,216	\$2,355	\$3,409	\$3,132	\$3,271	\$4,325
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,592	\$28,260	\$40,908	\$37,584	\$39,252	\$51,900

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404
Average County Social Security Benefit 2019	\$19,536	\$32,734

Table B-21: The Elder Index for Warren County, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,360	\$35,952	\$37,620	\$50,268	\$46,944	\$48,612	\$61,260
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,723	\$51,315	\$52,983	\$65,631	\$62,307	\$63,975	\$76,623
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$68,375	\$70,043	\$82,691	\$79,367	\$81,035	\$93,683
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$51,923	\$78,515	\$80,183	\$92,831	\$89,507	\$91,175	\$103,823

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$211 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,532 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$26,976	\$27,516	\$43,104	\$38,652	\$39,192	\$54,780
2019	\$26,592	\$28,260	\$40,908	\$37,584	\$39,252	\$51,900
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$384	\$744	-\$2,196	-\$1,068	\$60	-\$2,880

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Warren County increased for renters, but declined for homeowners. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-22: The Elder Index for Newark City, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,154	\$1,188	\$2,338	\$1,154	\$1,188	\$2,338
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$720	\$720	\$720
Miscellaneous	\$399	\$399	\$399	\$537	\$537	\$537
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,393	\$2,427	\$3,577	\$3,224	\$3,258	\$4,408
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$28,716	\$29,124	\$42,924	\$38,688	\$39,096	\$52,896

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404

Table B-22: The Elder Index for Newark City, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$38,376	\$38,784	\$52,584	\$48,348	\$48,756	\$62,556
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$54,039	\$54,447	\$68,247	\$64,011	\$64,419	\$78,219
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$71,399	\$71,807	\$85,607	\$81,371	\$81,779	\$95,579
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$81,539	\$81,947	\$95,747	\$91,511	\$91,919	\$105,719

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$196 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,352 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$26,364	\$27,444	\$40,980	\$36,492	\$37,572	\$51,108
2019	\$28,716	\$29,124	\$42,924	\$38,688	\$39,096	\$52,896
Change 2016 to 2019	\$2,352	\$1,680	\$1,944	\$2,196	\$1,524	\$1,788

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Newark City increased for all categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined slightly (assumed Medicare Advantage in both 2016 and 2019).

Table B-23: The Elder Index for Jersey City, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$1,102	\$1,322	\$2,456	\$1,102	\$1,322	\$2,456
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$366	\$366	\$366	\$732	\$732	\$732
Miscellaneous	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$529	\$529	\$529
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,338	\$2,558	\$3,692	\$3,176	\$3,396	\$4,530
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$28,056	\$30,696	\$44,304	\$38,112	\$40,752	\$54,360

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404

Table B-23: The Elder Index for Jersey City, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,660	\$37,716	\$40,356	\$53,964	\$47,772	\$50,412	\$64,020
Medium (16 hrs)	\$25,323	\$53,379	\$56,019	\$69,627	\$63,435	\$66,075	\$79,683
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,683	\$70,739	\$73,379	\$86,987	\$80,795	\$83,435	\$97,043
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,823	\$80,879	\$83,519	\$97,127	\$90,935	\$93,575	\$107,183

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$198 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,376 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$29,328	\$28,476	\$45,120	\$39,444	\$38,592	\$55,236
2019	\$28,056	\$30,696	\$44,304	\$38,112	\$40,752	\$54,360
Change 2016 to 2019	-\$1,272	\$2,220	-\$816	-\$1,332	\$2,160	-\$876

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for Jersey City increased for renters, but declined for homeowners. Rent and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of homeownership and health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-24: The Elder Index for Camden Metro Division*, 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$917	\$992	\$1,805	\$917	\$992	\$1,805
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$223	\$223	\$223	\$342	\$342	\$342
Health Care (Good Health)	\$453	\$453	\$453	\$906	\$906	\$906
Miscellaneous	\$370	\$370	\$370	\$527	\$527	\$527
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,220	\$2,295	\$3,108	\$3,163	\$3,238	\$4,051
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,640	\$27,540	\$37,296	\$37,956	\$38,856	\$48,612

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404

*Includes Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties

Table B-24: The Elder Index for Camden Metro Division, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,360	\$36,000	\$36,900	\$46,656	\$47,316	\$48,216	\$57,972
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,723	\$51,363	\$52,263	\$62,019	\$62,679	\$63,579	\$73,335
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$41,783	\$68,423	\$69,323	\$79,079	\$79,739	\$80,639	\$90,395
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$51,923	\$78,563	\$79,463	\$89,219	\$89,879	\$90,779	\$100,535

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$206 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,474 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$25,728	\$27,132	\$35,808	\$37,128	\$38,532	\$47,208
2019	\$26,640	\$27,540	\$37,296	\$37,956	\$38,856	\$48,612
Change 2016 to 2019	\$912	\$408	\$1,488	\$828	\$324	\$1,404

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for the Camden Metro Area increased for all categories. Housing and transportation expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined slightly (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).

Table B-25: The Elder Index for New Jersey Shore,* 2019
Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types

Monthly Expenses	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Housing	\$929	\$1,178	\$1,967	\$929	\$1,178	\$1,967
Food	\$257	\$257	\$257	\$471	\$471	\$471
Transportation	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$345	\$345	\$345
Health Care (Good Health)	\$398	\$398	\$398	\$796	\$796	\$796
Miscellaneous	\$362	\$362	\$362	\$508	\$508	\$508
Total Monthly (Index) Expenses	\$2,171	\$2,420	\$3,209	\$3,049	\$3,298	\$4,087
Total Annual (Index) Expenses	\$26,052	\$29,040	\$38,508	\$36,588	\$39,576	\$49,044

Comparative Income Benchmarks	Older Person Living Alone	Two-person Older Household
Federal Poverty Guideline (2019 DHHS)	\$12,490	\$16,910
SSI Payment Maximum - NJ 2020	\$9,771	\$14,404

*Includes Atlantic, Cape May, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

Table B-25: The Elder Index for New Jersey Shore, 2019 (Cont.)

Adding Home- and Community-Based Long-Term Care Costs to the Elder Index (Annual Expenses)							
	LTC Cost Per Year	Elder Index plus Cost of Long-Term Care					
		Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
Need for Long-Term Care (hours/week)		Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
Low (6 hrs)	\$9,507	\$35,559	\$38,547	\$48,015	\$46,095	\$49,083	\$58,551
Medium (16 hrs)	\$24,948	\$51,000	\$53,988	\$63,456	\$61,536	\$64,524	\$73,992
High w/ADH (36 hrs)	\$42,500	\$68,552	\$71,540	\$81,008	\$79,088	\$82,076	\$91,544
High w/o ADH (36 hrs)	\$52,116	\$78,168	\$81,156	\$90,624	\$88,704	\$91,692	\$101,160

To reflect the difference between an older person in good health (depicted in table) and in poor health (and therefore being at higher risk of needing LTSS), \$212 should be added to the monthly totals for out-of-pocket medical costs resulting in an annual increase in costs of \$2,543 (for an older person). For information on data sources and assumptions, please refer to Appendix A: Data Sources.

Elder Index Comparison: 2016 vs 2019

	Older Person Living Alone			Two-person Older Household		
	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage	Owner, w/o Mortgage	Renter	Owner, with Mortgage
2016	\$25,992	\$29,136	\$37,932	\$37,428	\$40,572	\$49,368
2019	\$26,052	\$29,040	\$38,508	\$36,588	\$39,576	\$49,044
Change 2016 to 2019	\$60	-\$96	\$576	-\$840	-\$996	-\$324

Compared to 2016, the Elder Index for the New Jersey Shore region increased for single homeowners but declined for the other categories. Housing expenses rose, and the estimated cost of health care declined (assumed Medigap in 2016 and Medicare Advantage in 2019).