

STATES SERVING SENIORS

by Carrie Abner

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Americans age 65 and older is projected to reach **83.7 million by 2050**. That's nearly double the number of U.S. seniors in 2012, when the population stood at 43.1 million.

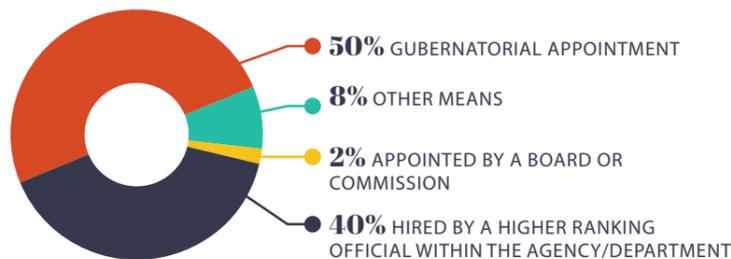
This growing population of older Americans has major implications for state policymakers and agencies that administer programs such as Medicare, Social Security, long-term care services and other programs for seniors.

With the rapidly aging population, state agencies that serve older citizens are preparing for increased demands following years of staff reductions and funding cuts as a result of the Great Recession, according to the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities. And despite the fiscal gains made in the recovery, state revenues for aging services have not grown as quickly as the demands for service, which are steadily increasing. That has led many states to restructure agencies serving older citizens and reshape the way services are provided to maximize service delivery despite constrained budgets.

Here's a look at how state units on aging are structured and how they are working to address the growing needs of an aging population.

SELECTION OF STATE AGING AND DISABILITY DIRECTORS

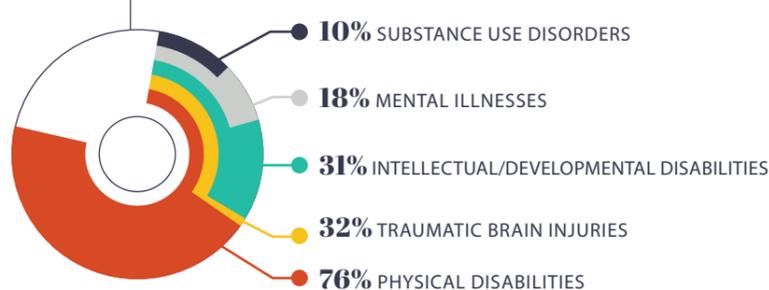
State aging agency directors are predominantly political appointees. When not appointed, agency directors are hired by a political appointee.



POPULATIONS SERVED BY STATE AGING AGENCIES

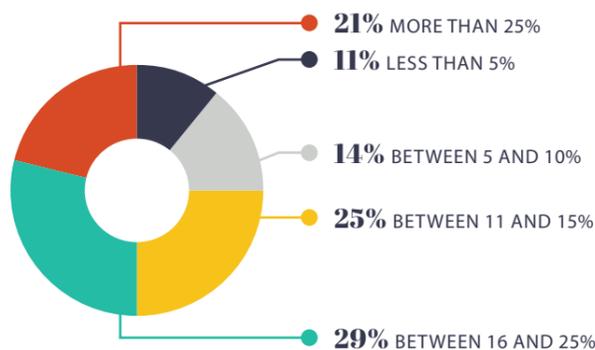
While all state aging agencies provide services to older adults, many agencies have restructured in recent years, consolidating a variety of health and human service programs into a single organization.

100% OF STATE AGING AGENCIES SERVE SENIORS. THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES OF AGING AGENCIES ALSO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH:



PERCENTAGE OF STATE AGING AND DISABILITY STAFF ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS—2015

States' aging populations aren't just affecting demands for service among state units on aging—many states are seeing a growing proportion of aging and disability agency staff who are eligible for retirement in the next five years. (Percentages reflect responding states)



Source: National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, "State of the States in Aging and Disability: 2015 Survey of State Agencies."

Funding Senior Services

STATE FUNDING OF AGING AGENCIES

has improved with the recovery, following several years of federal and state spending cuts during the Great Recession, but challenges remain.

62% OF STATES reported offsetting the impact of cuts to funding from the federal Older Americans Act and other programs in FY 2014. Most state agencies reported using state funds to compensate for federal funding cuts.

41 STATES REPORTED NO REDUCTIONS IN STATE GENERAL FUNDS (FY2015) *but* **14 STATES** ARE CONSIDERING PROGRAMMATIC REDUCTIONS DUE TO FISCAL CHALLENGES

Source: National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, "State of the States in Aging and Disability: 2015 Survey of State Agencies."

Medicaid Managed Long-Term Care

INCREASINGLY, STATE AGING AGENCIES ARE PROVIDING MANAGED LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS, OR MLTSS, PROGRAMS.

IN 2009 **6 STATES** HAD MLTSS PROGRAMS *but* BY 2015 **22 STATES** HAD MLTSS PROGRAMS

11 STATES ARE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS OR CONSIDERING IMPLEMENTING AN MLTSS PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE.

These complex programs include HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND NURSING HOME SERVICES

90% OF ADULTS AGE 65 OR OLDER HOPE TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES

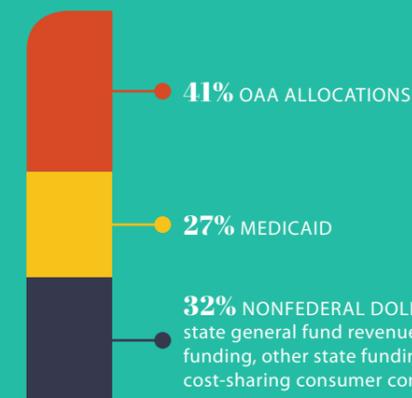
Sources: National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, "State of the States in Aging and Disability: 2015 Survey of State Agencies." AARP, "Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies & Practices," December 2011.

Area Agencies on Aging

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING, or AAAs, were established by the 1973 Older Americans Act, or OAA, as community-based organizations with the mandate to assist older adults to live independently and with dignity in their homes and communities.

AVERAGE AAA BUDGET BY FUNDING SOURCE

While 40 percent of AAA programs are funded by federal OAA allocations, AAAs receive additional nonfederal funding to help carry out services such as HCBS, much of which comes from state governments.



Source: National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, "Area Agencies on Aging: Local Leaders in Aging and Community Living."