

Elder Index Components and Data Sources

Costs are calculated based on household size (single/couple), housing tenure (owner with no mortgage/renter/owner with a mortgage), and health status (excellent/good/poor).

Housing	<p><u>Renter Costs</u>: Average of 2013, 2014, and 2015 Fair market rents (40th percentile rent for units occupied by recent movers in an area) for 1-bedroom unit, based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html</p> <p><u>Owner Costs</u>: Median selected monthly owner costs separately for elder owners with and without a mortgage, based on the 2011-2013 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata. Owner costs are adjusted to 2015 dollar values using CPI for housing.</p>
Food	<p>The average of June, 2013, 2014, and 2015 Low Cost Food Plan costs for older men and women, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/USDAFoodCost-Home.htm</p>
Transportation	<p>Estimated annual mileage driven by singles and couples separately, based on the 2009 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS). Mileage estimates are stratified by geographic region and population size of the MSAs. Expenses = mileage driven * IRS mileage reimbursement rate https://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Standard-Mileage-Rates</p>
Medical Care	<p>Estimated costs include the 2015 premium cost for Medicare Part B + Supplemental insurance plan + Prescription drug coverage + Out-of-pocket expenses: 1). Average of top 3 <u>Medicare Advantage plans</u> with prescription drug coverage https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/search-by-plan-name-or-plan-id.aspx</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2). <u>Medigap</u> (Policy C) + Medicare Part D for prescription drug coverage. Based on the Medicare Options Compare website, estimated medical expenses at three levels of health (excellent, good, and poor) can be obtained. https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx Based on the CMS Medicare Advantage enrollment rate, each county is determined either covered through Medicare Advantage plan (>=20% Medicare Advantage takeup) or Medigap plan (<20% Medicare Advantage takeup).</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>Estimated at 20% of all other costs (housing, food, transportation, and medical care) for owners without a mortgage separately for singles and couples, and same values were applied to each housing type.</p>
Statewide averages	<p>Expense-specific values are generated for the state using a weighted average of the county expenses, using the 2014 estimated county population age 65+ (Column Q). The miscellaneous expense values are generated for the state based on 20% of the other statewide values (as above).</p>