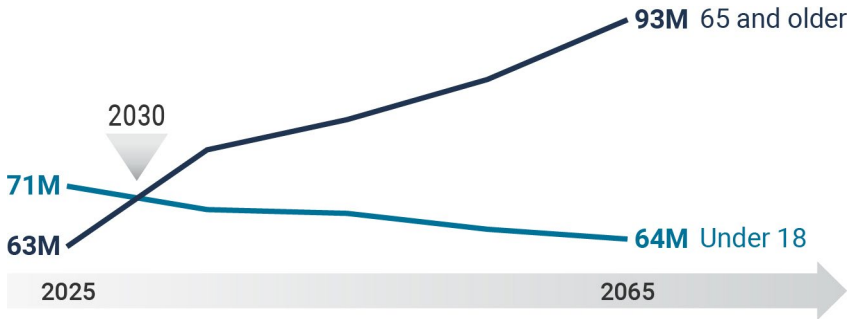


Turning Point – Planning for an Older America

Historic Population Shift

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it is estimated that by **2030**, the population aged 65+ will surpass those under 18 for the first time:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Projections are rounded to the nearest million.

Only 4% of Americans strongly agree that the U.S. is prepared to care for its aging population over the next 10 years.

Three in five U.S. adults say **more affordable health and social services are needed** in their community to help residents live independently as long as possible.

What do Americans say is needed?

Affordable Housing

Nearly **two in three** Americans agree that their community **needs more affordable housing** to support living independently.

Women are more likely than men to **agree** their community needs **more affordable housing**.

Women %	72
Men %	58

Accessible Healthcare

Mental Health

Only **16%** say it is very easy to access needed mental health services.

Physical Health

Only **32%** say it is very easy to access needed physical health services.

Women are more likely than men to **agree** their community needs **more accessible mental health services**.

Women %	28
Men %	16

What is being done?

Congress has directed the development of a set of recommendations for advancing healthy aging. This research supports the federal government’s National Plan on Aging and is conducted in coordination with the National Plan on Aging Community Engagement Collaborative. It targets four areas:

- 1** Age-friendly communities
- 2** Coordinated housing and supportive services
- 3** Increased access to long-term services and supports
- 4** Aligned healthcare and supportive services

Source: West Health-Gallup Survey on Living Independently of U.S. adults (aged 18+) conducted by web via the Gallup Panel June 3-18, 2024 (N=2,180)

About West Health and Gallup: West Health is a family of nonprofit and nonpartisan organizations focused on lowering healthcare costs to enable seniors to successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence. Since 2018, West Health and Gallup have partnered to track perceptions of aging and the U.S. healthcare system in relation to quality, affordability, equity and access, with the aim of giving voice to the American experience. Learn more about this [study](#).