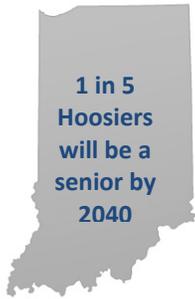
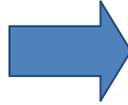


Connect2Help™

More Seniors are Calling 2-1-1 for Help

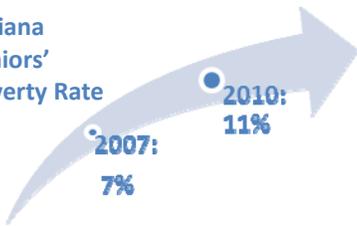


According to the **Indiana Business Research Center's Indiana Population Projections: 2010-2040** report, "the senior population [will increase] from a 12% to 21% share of the state's population."



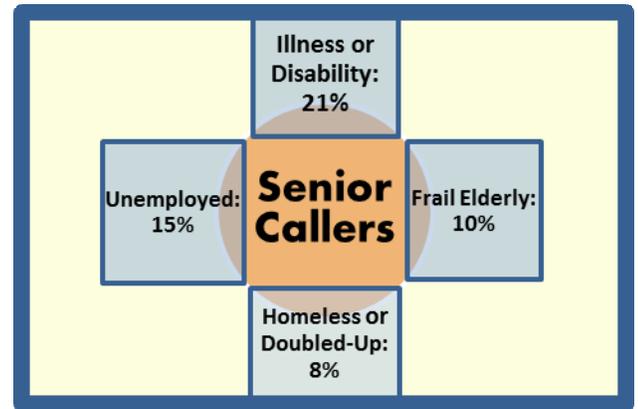
This growth has translated into an increasing number of calls for help to **Connect2Help 2-1-1** from Hoosier seniors (*defined as 55+ years old*). Nearly **18,000 seniors** called C2H 2-1-1 from January-August of 2012. This is a **17% increase** compared to the same time period in 2011.

Indiana Seniors' Poverty Rate

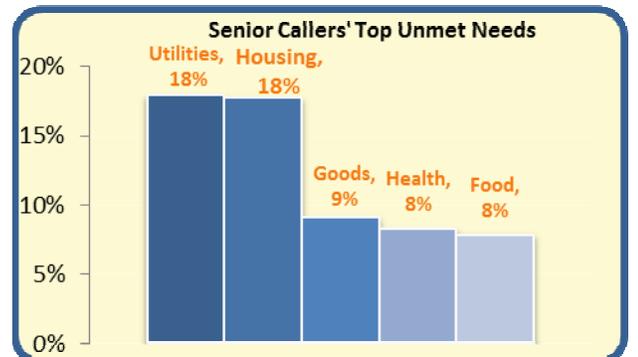
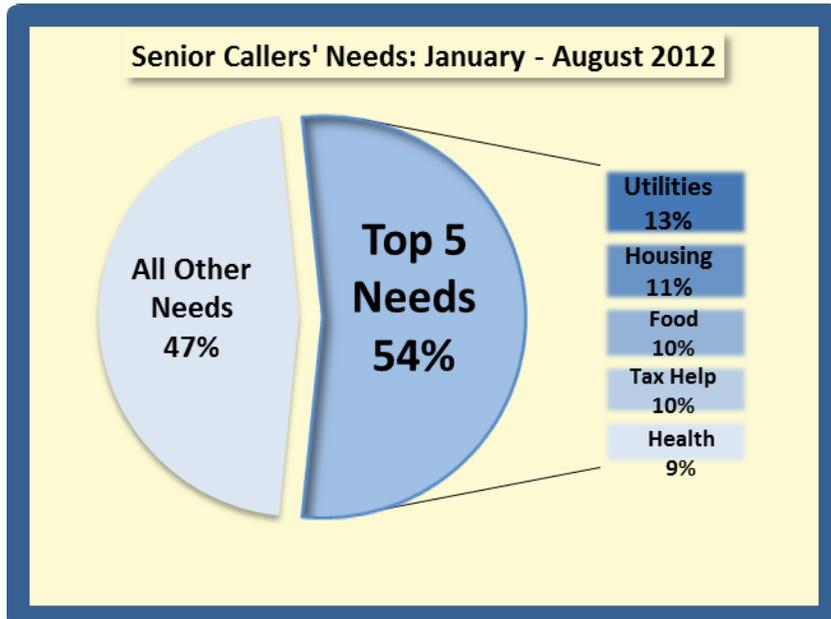


The "Great Recession" has not been kind to this group. In 2007, before the recession began, the **Indiana senior poverty rate was 7%** (US Census Bureau). The latest figures (2010) indicate that **11% of Hoosier seniors (more than 91,000) now live in poverty.**

Many senior callers have little opportunity to move out of poverty. Data from 2-1-1 reveal some of the **barriers that seniors face**. More than 1 out of 5 (**21%**) reported that someone in their household was **ill or disabled**; **15%** said that at least one person in their household was **unemployed**, causing financial strain on the household; **10%** were unable to seek services on their own behalf (**frail elderly**); and **8%** were **homeless or doubled-up**.



2-1-1 data show that senior callers' **top need** was help **paying a utility bill**. **Housing** issues were next on the list; housing needs **increased 27%** compared to 2011. **Food** needs, which affected 1 out of every 10 senior callers, were the next most pressing issue; these needs **increased 22%**. Calls for **tax help** and other government services ranked 4th; these **jumped 33%**. **Health** needs rounded out the top 5; these **rose by 22%**.



5% of senior callers' needs were "unmet," according to 2-1-1. Unfortunately, the top 5 unmet categories were nearly identical (in terms of category, but not percentage) to the top 5 presenting senior needs.