In 2019, 75.6 million Americans were age 60 and older. Among them, 18.8 million (25%) were members of racial and ethnic minority groups. Over the past decade, this population has increased from 21% in 2009 to 25% in 2019 and is projected to increase to 30% in 2029.1,2

Older Hispanic Americans numbered 6.9 million in 2019 and comprised 9% of the population age 60 and older.3 Among this population, 323,284 (5%) utilized OAA programs and services in 2019 through their local Area Agencies on Aging, and almost 10,000 people age 60 and older received caregiver support services to help care for family and friends.3

In 2019, 51% of older Hispanic Americans OAA clients age 60 and older had incomes below the poverty level, as compared with 18% of all Hispanic Americans age 60 and older in the United States (Figure 1).3,4

Research shows that older adults who have difficulty with three or more Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) (e.g., bathing, eating, getting dressed) tend to be at higher risk for nursing home placement.5 Figure 2 displays the percentage of older Hispanic American OAA clients who have three or more ADLs by service type. In 2019, more than half of older Hispanic American OAA clients receiving Personal Care, Homemaker, Home Delivered Meals, and/or Adult Day Care had difficulty with three or more ADLs.3

The high percentage of Hispanic American OAA clients living below the poverty level, combined with the large percentage of this population having difficulties with three or more ADLs, places them at a higher risk of entering a nursing home than the total Hispanic American population age 60 and older. OAA programs and services play an important role in helping these older adults remain living safely in their homes and communities by delaying or preventing the need for institutionalization.

3. Ibid. 2019 State Program Report Data (50 States + DC & Territories).