

# Senior BENEFITS PROGRAM



1. Does the percentage increase of recipients parallel the age demographics across the state?
2. How have the percentages changed within the cohorts?

*Senior Benefits Recipients, December 2013*

| Age Group | Population |      | Senior Benefit Recipients |      | Percent of population in age group receiving Senior Benefits |
|-----------|------------|------|---------------------------|------|--|
|           | #          | %    | #                         | %    |  |
| 65-69     | 28,052     | 41%  | 3,225                     | 29%  | 11%  |
| 70-74     | 16,915     | 25%  | 2,906                     | 27%  | 17%  |
| 75-79     | 10,390     | 15%  | 2,123                     | 19%  | 20%  |
| 80-84     | 6,761      | 10%  | 1,490                     | 14%  | 22%  |
| 85+       | 5,645      | 8%   | 1,210                     | 11%  | 21%  |
| Total 65+ | 67,763     | 100% | 10,954                    | 100% | 16%  |

*Senior Benefits Recipients, December 2008*

| Age Group | Population |      | Senior Benefit Recipients |      | Percent of population in age group receiving Senior Benefits |
|-----------|------------|------|---------------------------|------|--|
|           | #          | %    | #                         | %    |  |
| 65-69     | 18,958     | 39%  | 2,574                     | 28%  | 14%  |
| 70-74     | 11,889     | 24%  | 2,325                     | 25%  | 20%  |
| 75-79     | 8,533      | 17%  | 1,973                     | 21%  | 23%  |
| 80-84     | 5,546      | 11%  | 1,372                     | 15%  | 25%  |
| 85+       | 4,300      | 9%   | 1,043                     | 11%  | 24%  |
| Total 65+ | 49,226     | 100% | 9,287                     | 100% | 19%  |

\*\*Population estimates are from Department Of Labor Research & Analysis and are limited

**3. Is the 2.8% increase the average since 2007 in order to get a projected cost?**

*The division uses a combination of caseload growth and an analysis of the payment category breakdown to generate projections in the Senior Benefits Payment Program. Population statistics from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Alaska Population by Age and Sex baseline is also used to inform projections.*

*Due to a projected increase in the aging population in the 60 and older category, we are anticipating an overall increase in caseload growth of 20% over the next five years. This growth, coupled with changes in the percent of seniors eligible in each payment level within the program, may result in even larger growth to program expenditures.*

*SFY2014 program payment levels reflect 11.8% of eligible seniors are receiving payment at the highest payment level in the program while 41.9% are receiving payment at the middle payment level and 46.3% are receiving benefits at the lowest level. Since SFY2012, there has been an overall increase of 7% in the number of eligible seniors who receive payment at the mid payment level and a 2% increase in the number who receive payment at the highest level.*