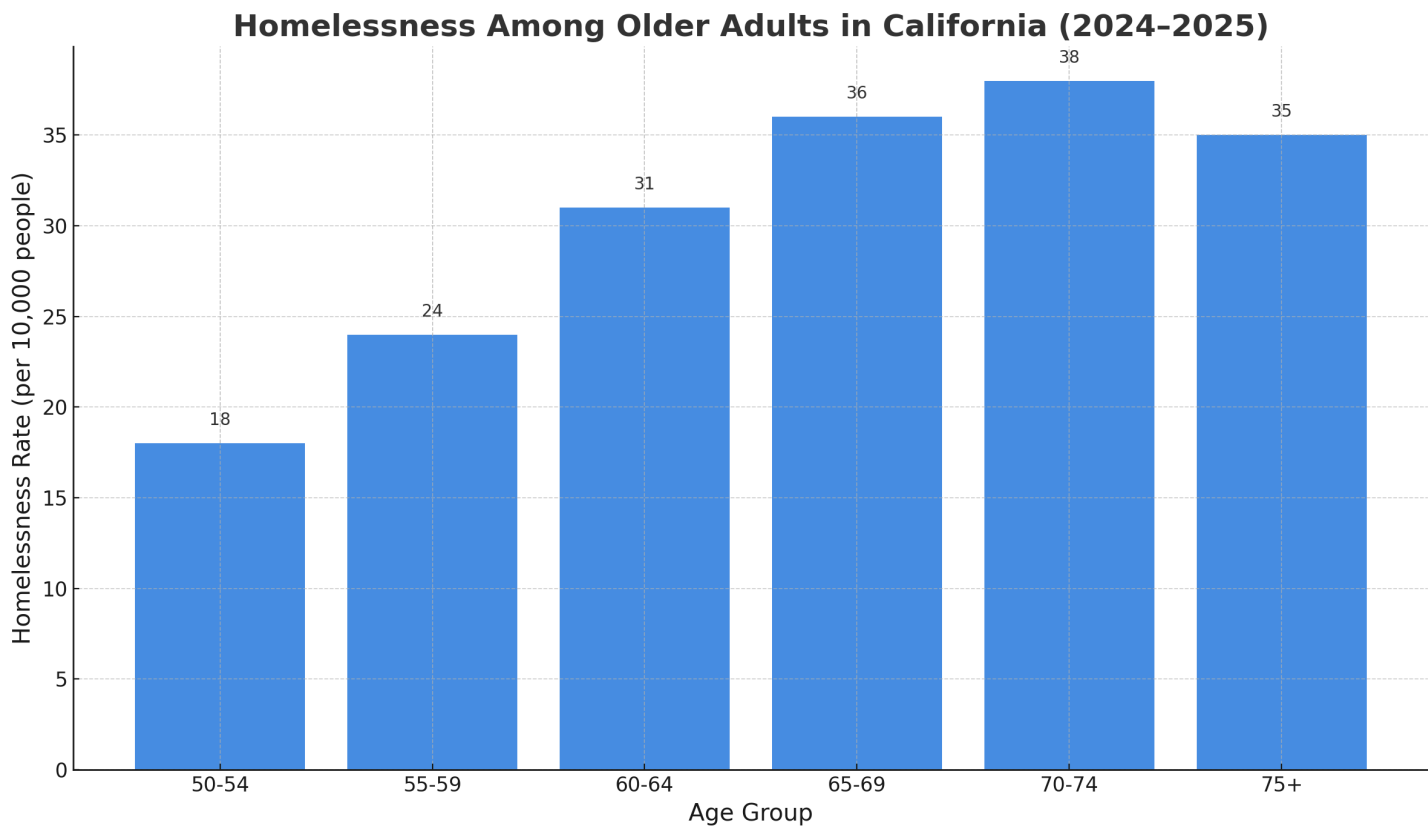# News you can use from CAGS 2025!

Here is what we are about this year: Rising Homelessness, AI in Geriatrics, and Current Events!

1. Golden Years Without a Roof: How Homelessness Affects Older Californians

Homelessness Among Older Adults in California (2024–2025)

Age Group	Homelessness Rate (per 10,000 people)
50-54	18
55-59	24
60-64	31
65-69	36
70-74	38
75+	35

Source: California Budget & Policy Center & UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, 2024

The growing population of homeless seniors in California is a crisis hiding in plain sight. While homelessness is often associated with younger populations or those with substance use disorders, seniors make up one of the fastest-growing segments of the unhoused population. In California alone, it's estimated that **nearly half of unsheltered adults are over the age of 50**, and the percentage has been rising steadily.

Older adults face **unique vulnerabilities** when unhoused: chronic illness, physical disabilities, and limited mobility are compounded by a lack of consistent access to care, nutritious food, and shelter from the elements. Many seniors experiencing homelessness

today are **first-timers**—individuals who lived stable lives until a job loss, rent increase, medical emergency, or the death of a spouse pushed them past the tipping point.

Why Are So Many Seniors Becoming Homeless?

There are multiple intersecting factors:

- **Rising housing costs** in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco have far outpaced Social Security and fixed retirement incomes.
- **Lack of affordable senior housing** has created long waitlists for shelters or government-supported housing units.
- **Health care costs** force many older adults to choose between rent and medications.
- **Ageism** in the workplace makes it harder for seniors to re-enter the workforce after a setback.

With the state's aging population projected to **double by 2030**, this issue will only worsen if not addressed systemically.

What Can Be Done?

- California needs **comprehensive, age-specific responses** to combat senior homelessness:
- Increase funding for **permanent supportive housing** and assisted living options.
- Expand **in-home caregiving services** to prevent eviction due to health-related job loss or injury.
- Launch **mobile outreach programs** that bring health care, hygiene services, and case management directly to elderly encampments.
- Encourage cross-agency partnerships between **health departments, housing authorities, and nonprofits** that specialize in elder care.
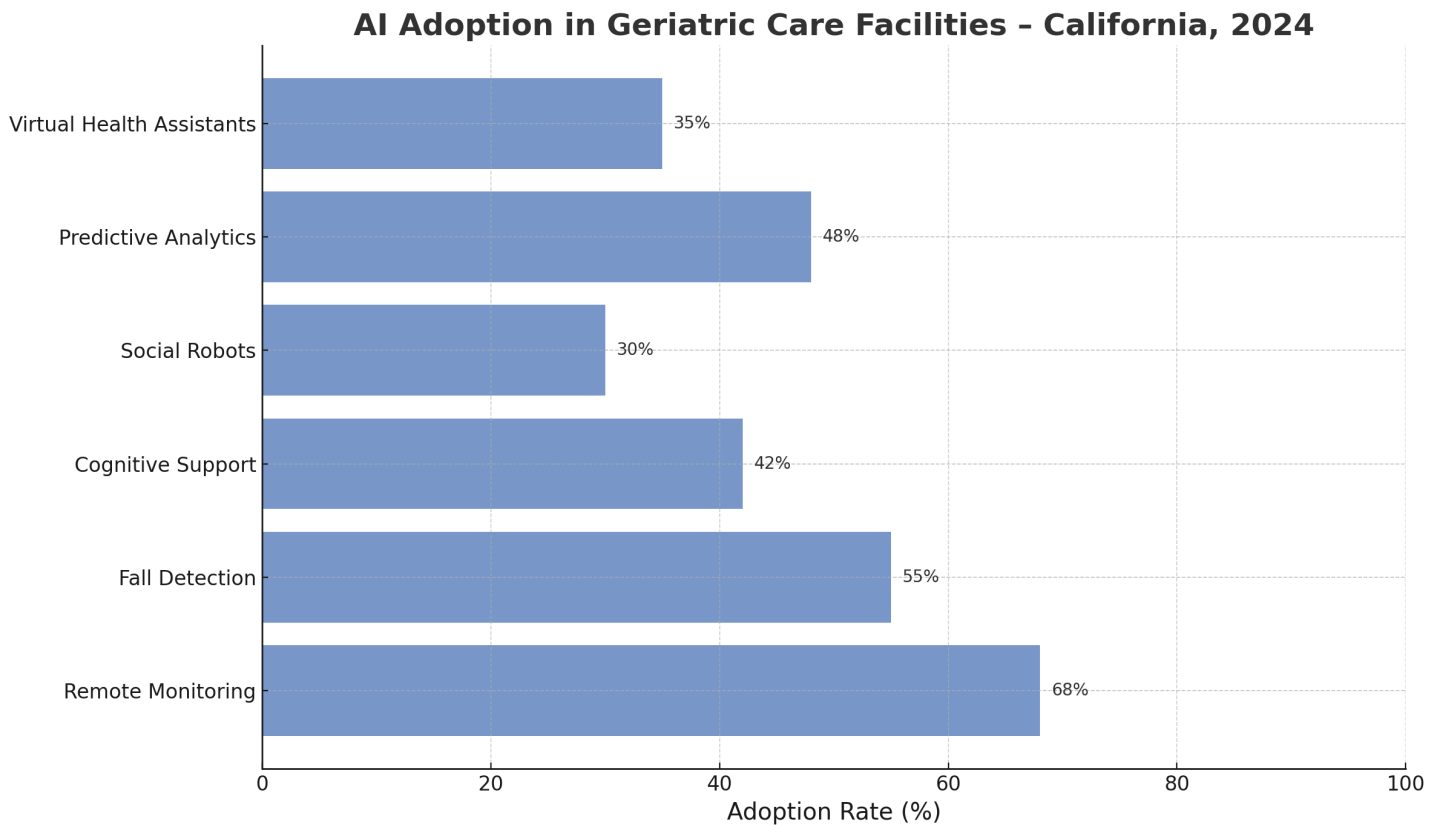
How You Can Help

Your voice matters. Here's how you can make a difference:

- Support local organizations like **L.A. Family Housing** or **St. Mary's Center** that offer senior-specific services.
- Volunteer at shelters that serve older adults.
- Call on legislators to pass bills supporting elder rent subsidies and mental health care access.
- Use your **smartphone** to report unsafe conditions or elderly individuals in need through city apps or local hotlines.

As Californians, we owe it to our elders to ensure that their final decades are lived with **dignity, security, and shelter**—not on sidewalks or in makeshift tents.

2. Smart Aging: How AI is Transforming Geriatric Care in California

AI Adoption in Geriatric Care Facilities – California, 2024

Category	Adoption Rate (%)
Virtual Health Assistants	35%
Predictive Analytics	48%
Social Robots	30%
Cognitive Support	42%
Fall Detection	55%
Remote Monitoring	68%

Source: California Health and Human Services, UCSF Health Hub (2024 estimates)

With over **8.6 million adults aged 65+** in California, the state is rapidly adapting to meet the healthcare demands of an aging population. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant concept—it's here, and it's **redefining senior care**.

From **fall detection systems** and **predictive analytics** to **AI-powered companionship robots**, California is leading the way in using technology to ensure older adults live healthier, safer, and more connected lives.

How AI is Already Helping Older Adults

Here are a few ways AI is improving care:

- **Remote Monitoring & Predictive Alerts**
  Wearable AI-powered devices monitor vitals like heart rate and oxygen, alerting caregivers of early warning signs before emergencies occur.
- **Cognitive Support Tools**
  Virtual assistants and memory-prompting software help seniors with mild cognitive impairment stay on track with medications, appointments, and daily routines.
- **Robotic Companions**
  AI-driven social robots like ElliQ or PARO provide interaction and emotional support,

reducing loneliness and depression in isolated older adults.
- **Healthcare Data Analysis**
 AI helps doctors analyze patient records more quickly and accurately, identifying patterns that predict hospital readmission or deteriorating health.

Why It Matters

- **Over 60%** of California's 65+ population lives with at least one chronic condition.
- **Fall-related injuries** are the leading cause of ER visits for seniors—many can now be prevented with AI-powered detection systems.
- **Rural regions** with healthcare provider shortages benefit greatly from virtual care systems enhanced by AI triage tools.

AI isn't replacing caregivers—it's **empowering them** with tools to respond faster, manage more patients, and provide **more personalized care**.

Challenges & Ethical Considerations

Despite its promise, AI in elder care must address:

- **Privacy concerns** with data collected from wearables and home monitoring.
- **Bias in AI algorithms**, especially for seniors from underrepresented communities.
- The need for **human touch**, even with robotic assistance.

Ongoing collaboration between tech developers, healthcare workers, and ethicists is essential to make AI **safe, fair, and effective**.

Get Involved or Learn More

- Explore programs like **CalGrows (https://aging.ca.gov/Providers_and_Partners/Digital_Inclusion/)** and **AgeTech Collaborative** ⊕ **AgeTech Collaborative from AARP** senior tech literacy.
- Follow us ⊕ California Geriatric Society
- Advocate for policies that ensure AI in healthcare remains accessible and ethically deployed.

As AI evolves, it has the power to make aging in California **not only possible—but thriving**.

3. Current Events in the California Geriatric Society

In other news, **Thursday, May 8, 2025 (6:00 - 7:00 PM)**, we will be providing a forum to discuss clinical care for homeless older adults at **Hyatt-Chicago at the national American Geriatrics Society annual meeting.** Join us as we address homeless care and the needed 4Ms for homeless or low-income seniors and their caregivers. This Special Interest Group is meant to be a place where the members can interact to find and expand access to care when it comes to caring for Homeless Older Adults. Additionally, the featured panelists this year include **David Picella NP**, GWEP Director from AzusaPacificUniversity, and moderator **Diane Chau, MD.** Finally, we will be hosting an Ai Symposium this fall, TBD.

www.cageriatric.org

We Invite You to Join Our CAGS Volunteer Group

Please contact our Volunteer Director at jacob.miller@cageriatric.org or (909) 610-7730 with any questions or concerns.

Above content is provided by Diane Chau, MD, Megan Ho, Rohit Praveen, Andrew Plodkowski, and Akshay Praveen