



SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

County Administration North
First Floor, Multi-Purpose Room
400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair
2nd District Representative

Christine Marick, Vice Chair
4th District Representative

Vacant
1st District Representative

Jolynn Mahoney
3rd District Representative

Joanne Weiss
5th District Representative

Laura Ramos
At Large Representative

Crystal Miles
At Large Representative

County Executive Office Liaison
Liz Guillen-Merchant
Data Analytics
Chrislyn Nefas
Health Care Agency Liaison
Brandy Miller

Social Services Agency Liaison
Dr. Sara Marchese

Clerk of the Commission
Valerie Sanchez
County Counsel Liaison
Cynthia Inda
OC Community Resources Liaison
Mary Beth Anderson

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Brazer Aceves, Mahoney, Marick, Miles and Weiss

ABSENT: Commissioner(s): Ramos

CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brazer Aceves led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and confirmed quorum

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve minutes of the April 3, 2025 regular meeting of the Commission.

On the motion of Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Marick, the Commission approved as recommended

2. Discuss Commission budget and available funding, expenditures to date and allowable allocations, administrative costs and ongoing funding, and clarify what County department will oversee and process expenditures of the Commission.

Liz Guillen-Merchant provided information and answered questions to clarify that the available allocation of \$100,000 for the Commission has had no expenditures to-date; that the administrative and staff support costs will be borne by the County; and the County Executive Office will process procurement for the Commission

3. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.
 - a. Data Ad Hoc Committee

Data Ad Hoc Committee had no report

4. Presentation on Aging and the Orange County Older Adult Needs Assessment Findings for Women 55 and Older.

Chrislyn Nefas provided data and findings from the recent Older Adults Needs Assessment Survey Report including demographics, the primary health and mental health concerns prevalent among older women and caregiver survey results on the impacts and challenges caregivers experience providing care to older adults

5. Develop guidance for guest speakers invited to present on topics of interest to the Commission.

The Commission discussed guidance proposed in the handouts submitted by Chair Brazier Aceves and Commissioner Miles and agreed that one handout with broader more general questions and the other containing specific topic-based questions could be combined to include elements of both and that the Data Ad Hoc could further refine the list when they meet and bring back the combined guidance to the Commission

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & ROUNDTABLE

Chair Brazer Aceves – Noted that the next meeting would focus on women and girls with disabilities and how they navigate or are impacted by the key focus areas

ADJOURNMENT: 11:02 a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Signed by:

Valerie Sanchez

Valerie Sanchez, Clerk of the Commission

Signed by:

Katelyn Brazer Aceves

Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair

Orange County Older Adults Needs Assessment Findings for Women 55 and Older

Thursday May 1, 2025

Chrislyn Nefas, MA
CEO, Data Analytics, Senior Manager

Dr. Xiaozhe Yin
CEO, Data Analytics, Administrator



Presentation Logistics & Objectives

- Background for the Older Adults Needs Assessment
 - Aging Adult Community Survey
 - Caregiver Survey
- Findings related to Women 55 and older

Older Adults Needs Assessment **Methodology**

Design of the Needs Assessment based on State's Five Bold Goals

3 surveys - 7,522 valid responses

- Community Survey - 5,657
- Caregiver Survey - 923

Convenience targeted sampling method

- Results are specific to those who chose to voluntarily answer

**Different number of responses based on
each question**

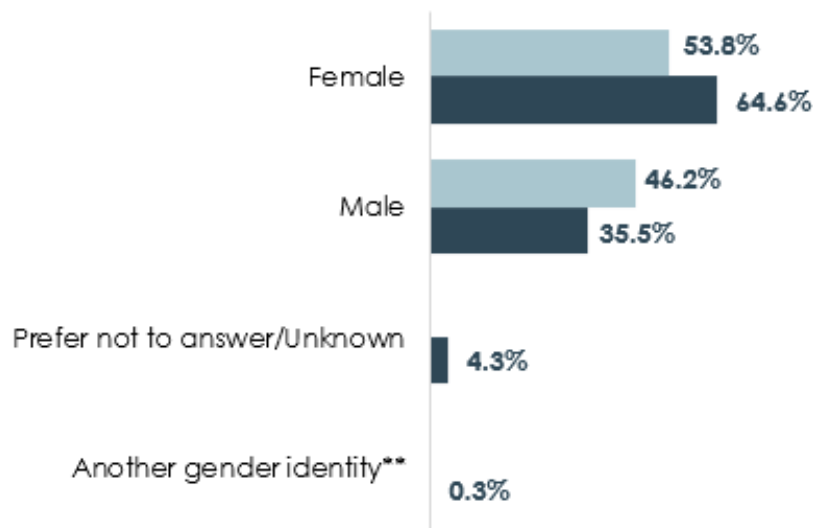


OC Community Survey Demographics

Orange County Census Comparison

■ Orange County Census
■ Older Adults Community Survey

Gender

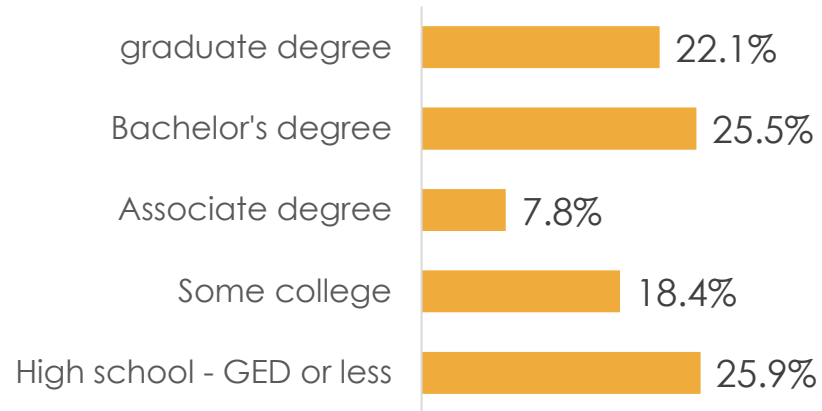


**Another gender identity includes transgender female, Agender/Do Not Identify and Gender Non-Conforming.

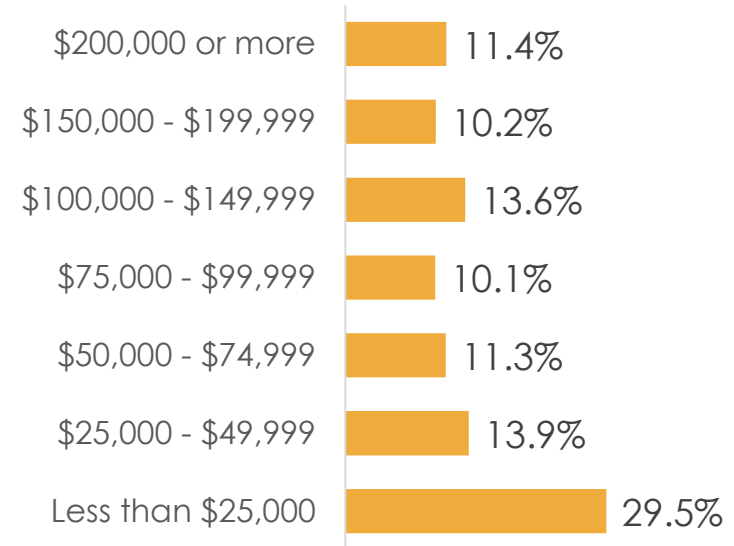
OC Community Survey Demographics

Orange County Women 55 and Older

Education

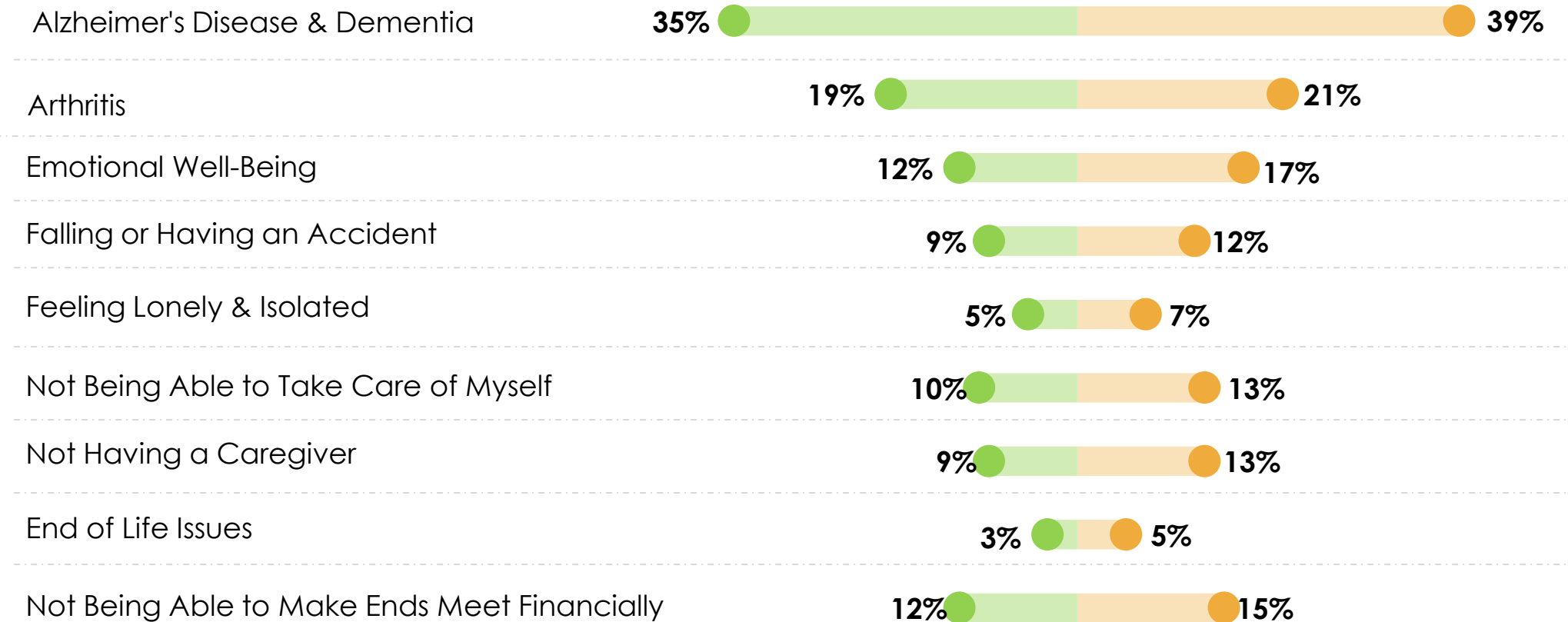


Household Income



OC Community Survey Results

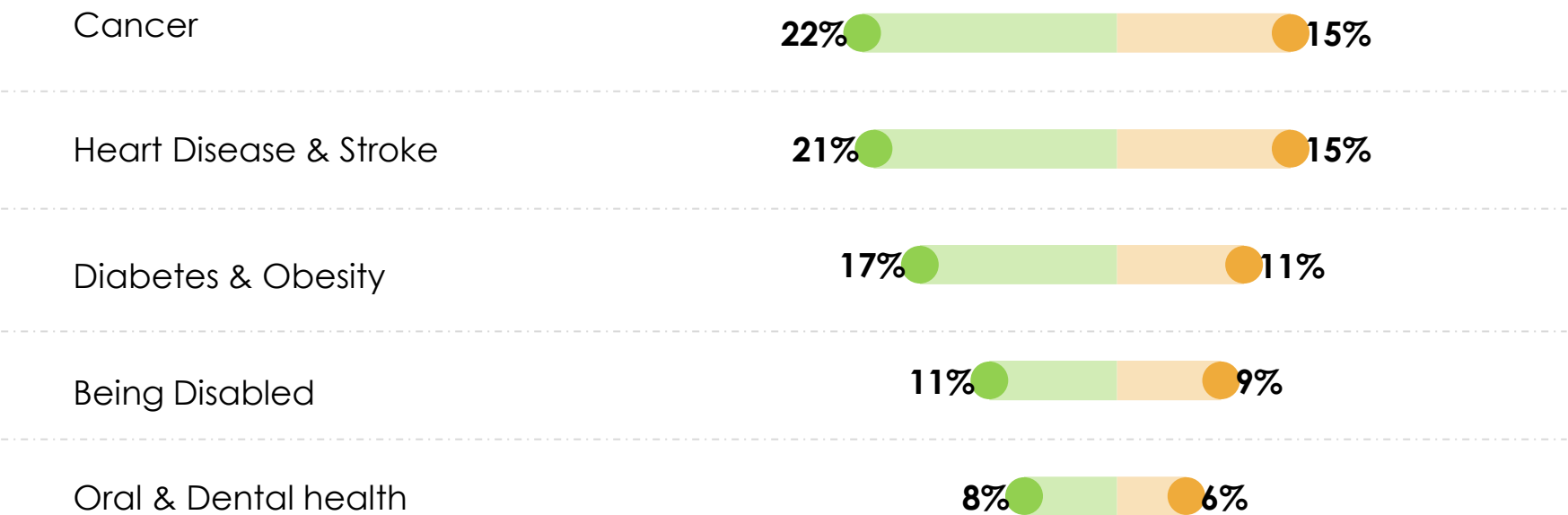
Concerns more Prevalent among Women*



*Participants top three concerns, percentages shown for those more than two percentage points.

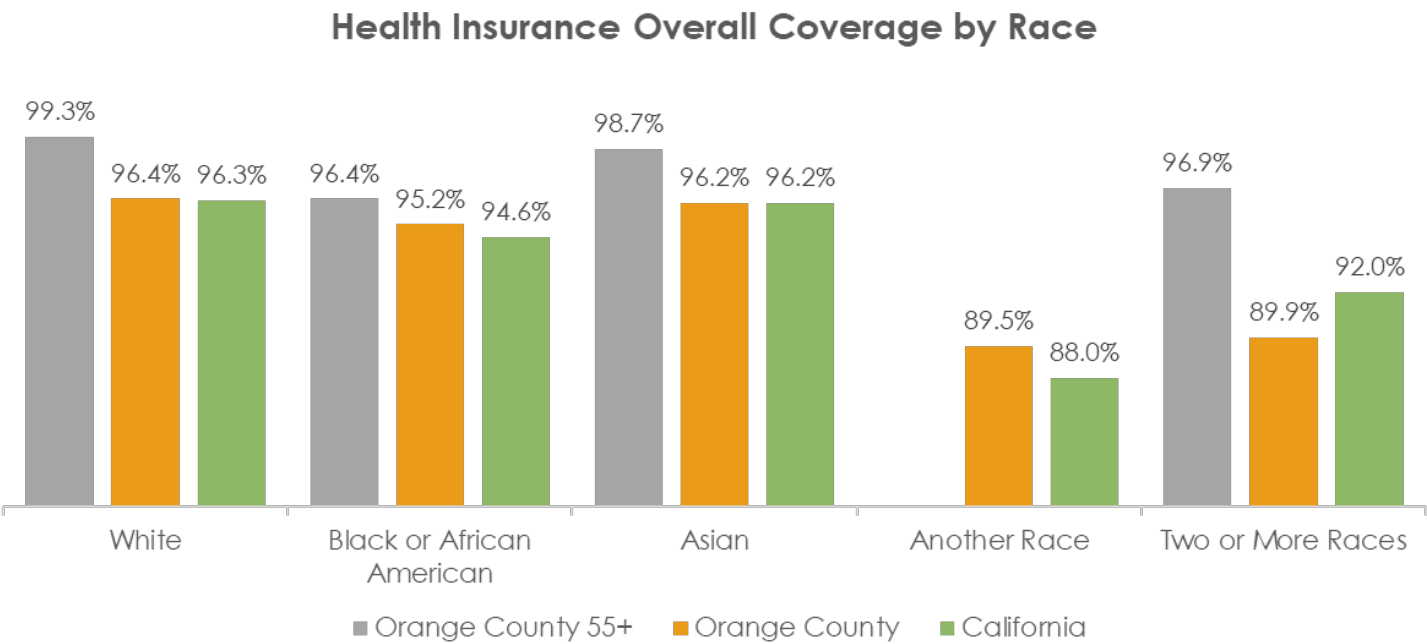
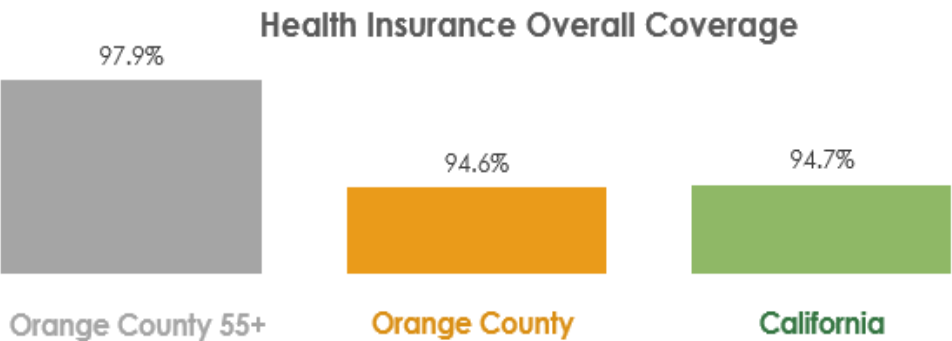
OC Community Survey Results

Concerns less Prevalent among Women*



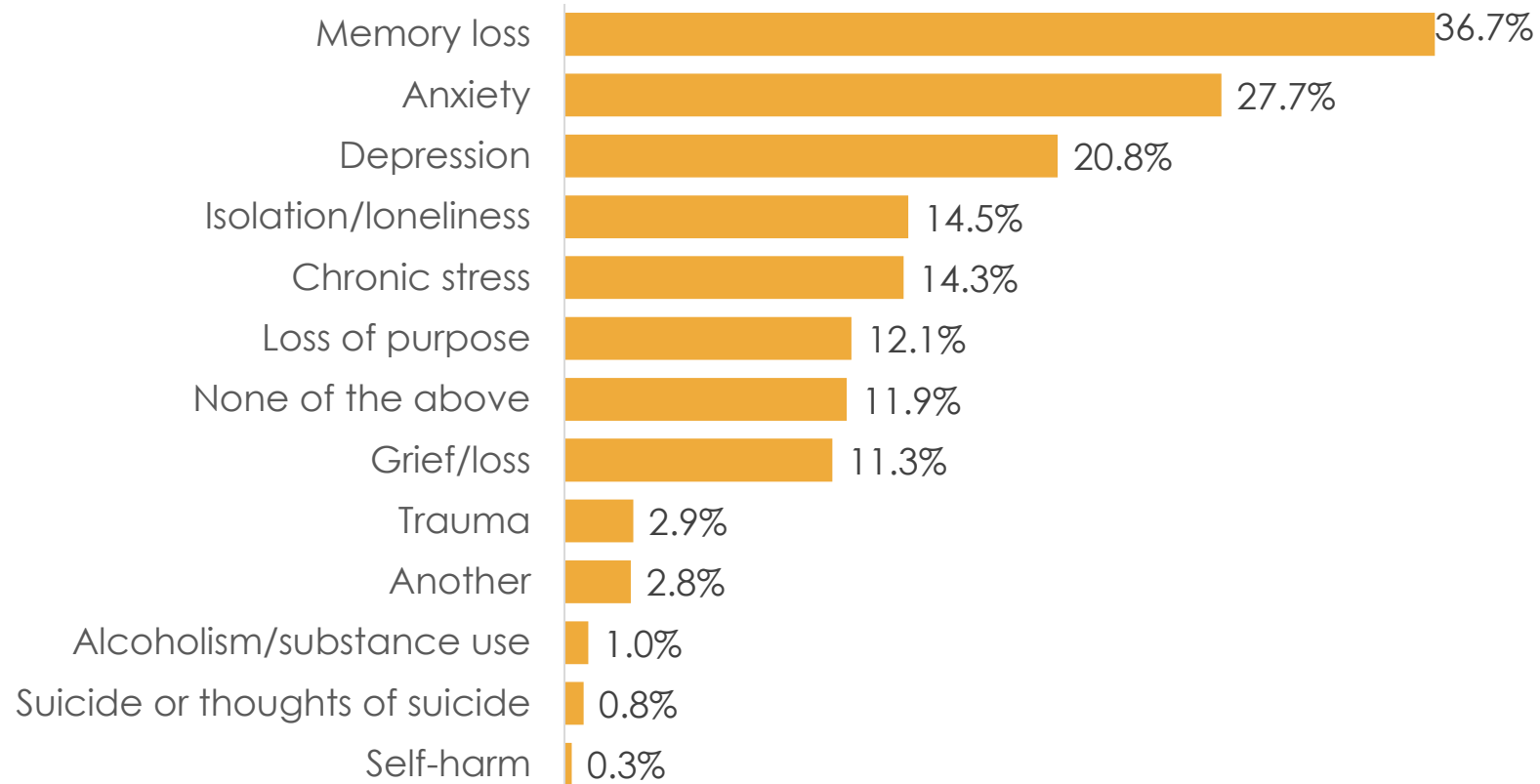
*Participants top three concerns, percentages shown for those more than two percentage points.

OC Community Survey Results



OC Community Survey Results

Top mental or behavioral health concerns*



*Participants were asked to select their top three.

OC Community Survey Results

Selection Rates for “Becoming Homeless”

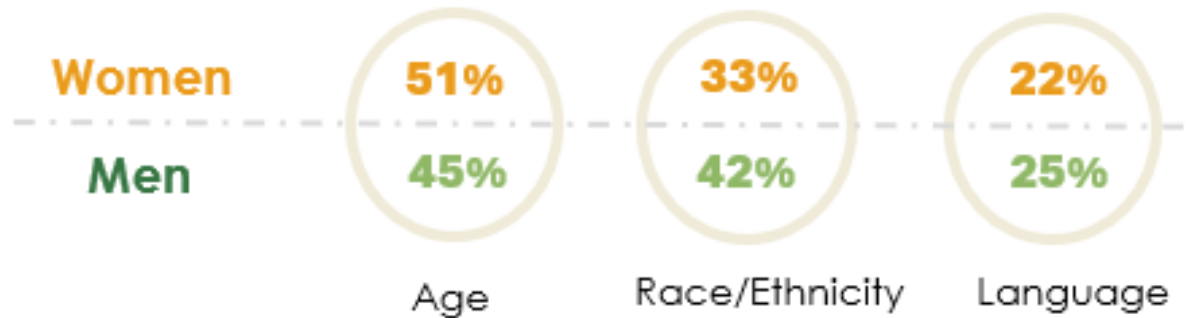
Non-Home Owner	Gender	Home Owner
16%	Female	3%
16%	Male	2%
10%	Unknown	3%

Current Living Situation

Own my own home or condo	59.6%
Renting a home or apartment	21.5%
In a relative's or friend's home	8.8%
Mobile home – I own my unit	2.9%
Assisted living or retirement community	1.6%
Transitional housing (e.g., shelters, motels)	1.2%
With multiple families	1.0%
Unhoused	1.0%
Mobile home – I do not own my unit	0.8%
Other	0.6%
Car, boat, RV, van	0.3%
Unknown	0.3%
Nursing home or long-term care facility	0.1%
Group home	0.1%
Correctional institution	0.1%

OC Community Survey Results

Selection Rates for Different Types of Discrimination



Age of Women who Reported Discrimination based on Age

≤59	40%
60 – 64	46%
65 -69	49%
70 – 74	57%
75 – 79	59%
>80	59%

Community Survey

36%



28%



Caregiver Survey

- 77% Female
- 47% White
- 67% Spoke English with the person they cared for

7 Years

Average time caregivers have **provided care**

79 Years

Average age of **those receiving care**

OC Caregiver Survey Results

Caregiver Socio-Emotional Functioning

Many caregivers shared that caregiving affects their social lives and emotional well-being:

66% Social Lives
Affected

Age

- **80%** 65 – 74
- **69%** >75
- **68%** 50 – 64

Race/Ethnicity

- **76%** White

41% Feel
Isolated

Age

- **56%** 65 – 74
- **42%** >75

Race/Ethnicity

- **48%** White

39% Feel
Depressed

Age

- **50%** 65 – 74
- **41%** 50 – 64

Race/Ethnicity

- **44%** White

Subgroups with higher rates on an item are listed below if the subgroup had 100 or more respondents for that item.

OC Caregiver Survey Results

Impact of Caregiving on Caregivers

Most caregivers said caregiving is “somewhat” or “very” difficult in one or more different ways:

71% Emotionally
Difficult

Age

- **79%** 65 – 74
- **73%** 50 – 64

Race/Ethnicity

- **76%** Asian
- **74%** White

50% Physically
Difficult

Age

- **66%** 65 – 74
- **59%** >75

Race/Ethnicity

- **55%** White
- **53%** Asian

58% Financially
Difficult

Age

- **60%** 65 – 74
- **59%** 50 – 64

Race/Ethnicity

- **63%** Asian
- **62%** Hispanic/Latino

OC Caregiver Survey Results

Caregiver Health

About a third of caregivers described having their own health concerns:

39% Described their health as "poor" or "fair"

Age

- **45%** 65 – 74
- **41%** <50

Race/Ethnicity

- **46%** Asian

33% Have some kind of health problem

Age

- **58%** >75
- **49%** 65 – 74

Race/Ethnicity

- **38%** White

OC Caregiver Survey Results

Impact on Working Caregivers

The most commonly reported impact was having to rearrange their work schedules:

60% Have a full or part-time job

Age

- **45%** 65 – 74
- **41%** <50

Race/Ethnicity

- **46%** Asian

56% of working caregivers have had to rearrange their work schedules

Age

- **58%** >75
- **49%** 50 – 64

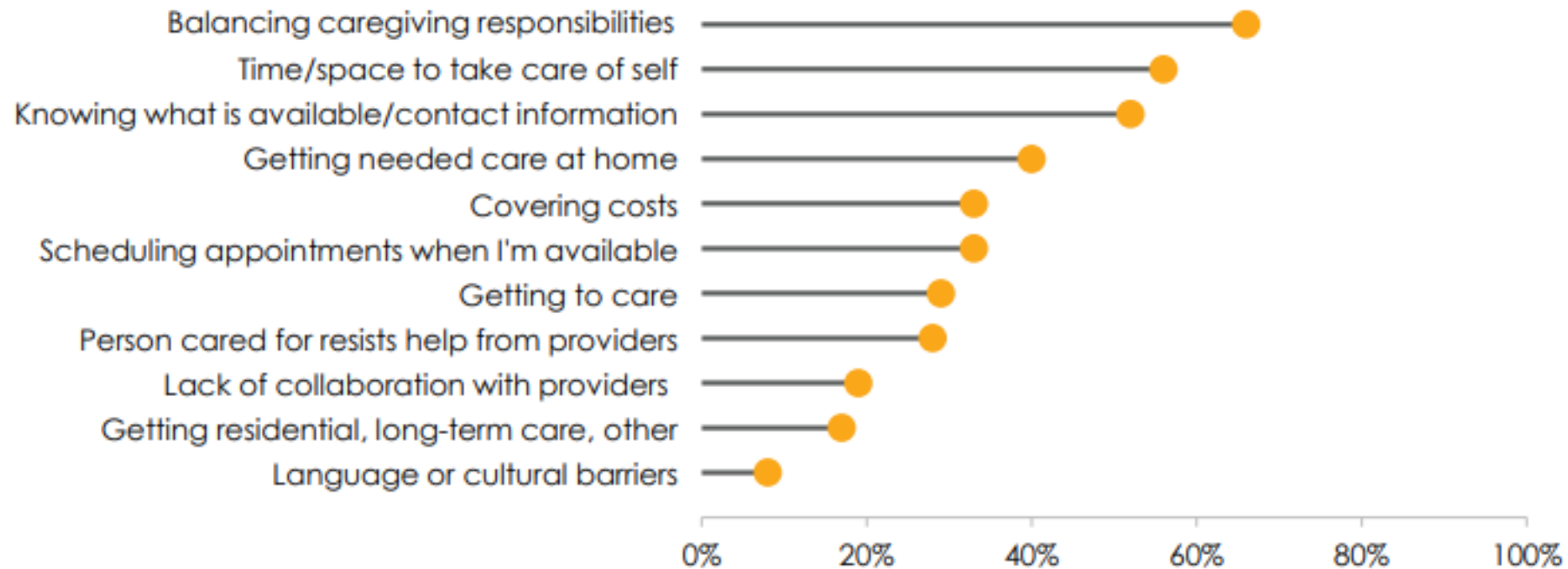
Race/Ethnicity

- **38%** White

OC Caregiver Survey Results

Biggest Barriers Faced by Caregivers

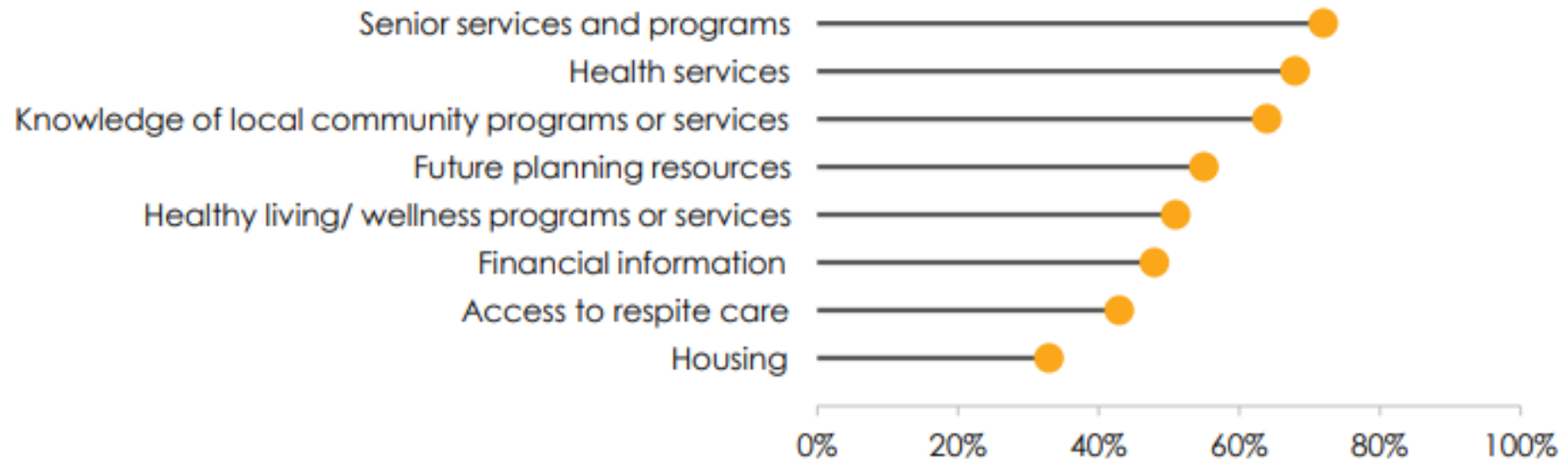
The areas of biggest concern were related to not having enough time for their responsibilities or themselves, or knowing what resources are available:



OC Caregiver Survey Results

Information & Resources Important to Caregivers

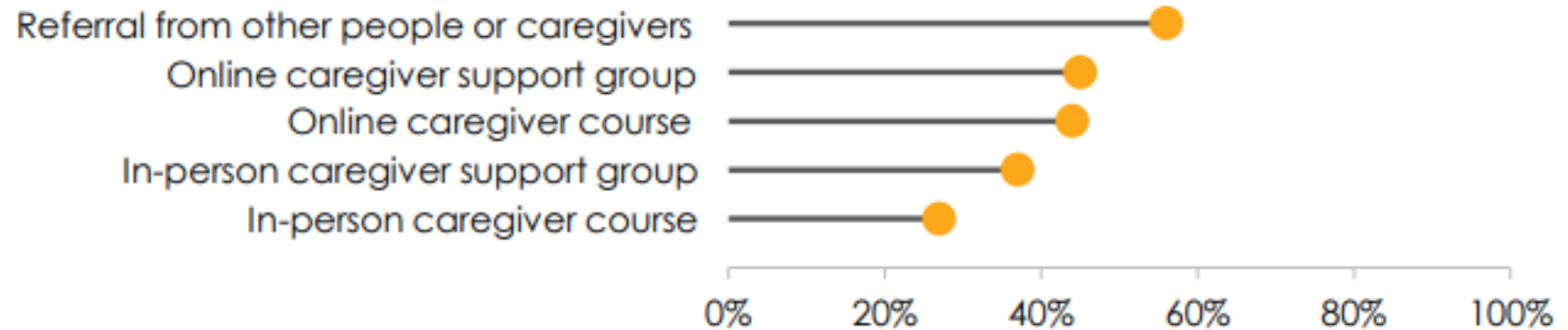
Interest in respite care jumped from 43% to 90% if it was free:



OC Caregiver Survey Results

Preferred Methods of Learning about Resources & Information

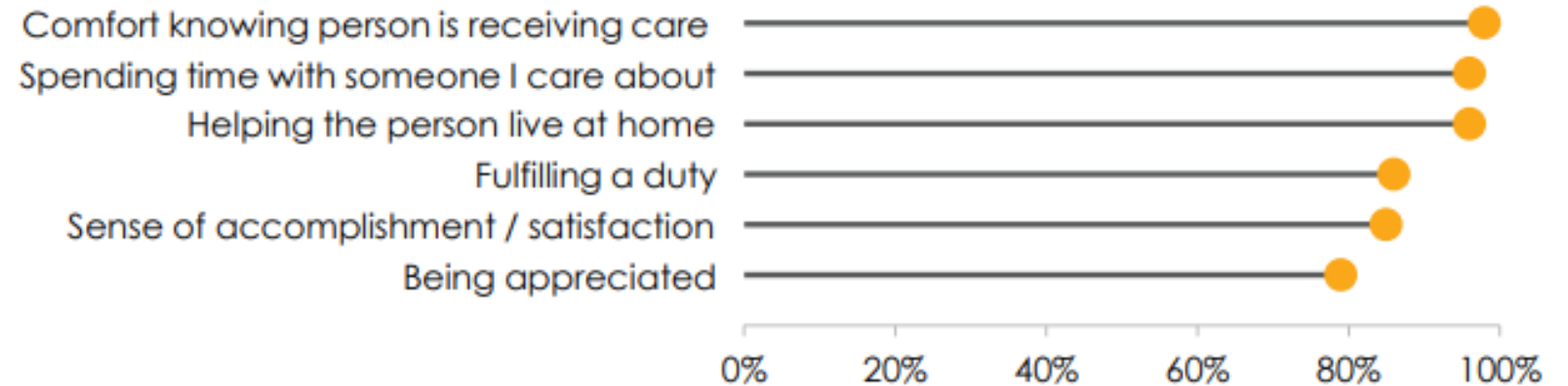
Caregivers preferred preferred word of mouth referrals, and online support over in-person support:



OC Caregiver Survey Results

The Importance of Caregiving

While caregiving for a family member or other loved one can take a physical, emotional and social toll, people also shared that they find a great deal of value and meaning in their role as a caregiver:



Design of the Report

OC Items Related to CA Strategies

Goal 4: Caregiving that Works OC Items Related to CA Strategies

CA Strategy

Inclusion & Equity in Aging

The digital divide is an area of potential concern for older adults as virtual care options expand. As reported in [Goal Three](#), 10.5% identified the digital divide (lack of access to or familiarity with technology) as a factor that had prevented them from seeking services. Approximately 10% also said the digital divide contributed to their medical and/or behavioral health issues. As stated in [Bridging the Digital Divide Strategy](#), not all participants were interested in internet or technology devices. This increased by age group, with the highest rate of no interest, 9%, seen among those 80 years old or older. Additional information and trends about those reporting "not being comfortable with using technology and the internet" are reported on the right.

12% Reported not being comfortable using technology and the internet

Subgroup findings for those with 100 participants or more

Age

- **24%** > 80 years
- **14%** 75 – 79 years
- **12%** 70 – 74 years
- **9%** 60 – 64 years
- **8%** 65 – 69 years
- **6%** 55 – 59 years

Language

- **32%** Spanish
- **21%** Korean
- **16%** Vietnamese
- **7%** English

Gender

- **13%** Female
- **11%** Male

Race/Ethnicity

- **25%** Hispanic/Latino
- **19%** MENA
- **15%** Asian
- **13%** Multi-racial
- **6%** White

CA Strategy

Family & Friends Caregiving

Unpaid caregiving is often provided by family, including spouses and friends. Over time, this can potentially lead to burdens such as emotional and physical stress and financial hardship. One-third of participants had cared for someone 55 years or older in the past twelve months and 15% had cared for someone under 55 years old. In addition, 14% reported that caregiving responsibilities contributed to their behavioral health concerns. Findings are shown on the right.

33% Reported caring for someone 55 years or older in the past 12 months

Subgroup findings for those with 100 participants or more

Age

- **44%** 55 – 59 years
- **40%** 60 – 64 years
- **36%** 65 – 69 years
- **32%** 70 – 74 years
- **26%** 75 – 79 years
- **21%** > 80 years

Household Income

- **52%** \$300,000+
- **49%** \$200,000 – \$299,999
- **48%** \$150,000 – 199,999
- **46%** \$100,000 – 149,999
- **43%** \$75,000 – 99,999
- **38%** \$50,000 – 74,999
- **31%** \$25,000 – 49,999
- **18%** <\$25,000

Race/Ethnicity

- **42%** White
- **34%** MENA
- **30%** Multi-racial
- **23%** Asian
- **19%** Hispanic/Latino

Gender

- **36%** Female
- **28%** Male

Lack of caregiver or childcare relief prevented seeking services:

- **6%** Support Services
- **6%** Medical Care
- **3%** Behavioral Health Care

ORANGE COUNTY OLDER ADULTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT



- The Orange County Paid Provider Survey. This survey was administered to those who are paid providers primarily for older adult Orange County residents. Survey findings are within CA State goal 4.

[Orange County Older Adults Needs Assessment Report \(PDF\)](#)[Executive Summary](#)[Overarching Themes and Trends](#)[Introduction and Methodology](#)[Community Survey Respondent Demographics](#)

Orange County Survey Results within California's Five Goals



Orange County Survey Results within California's Five Goals



Goal 1: Housing for all Ages & Stages

We will live where we choose as we age in communities that are age-, disability- and dementia-friendly and climate- and disaster-ready.

As described in the CA Master Plan for Aging, this goal focuses on community planning which includes housing for older adults designed to accommodate different...



Goal 2: Health Reimagined

We will have access to the services we need to live at home in our communities and to optimize our health and quality of life.

As described in the CA Master Plan for Aging, this goal frames health as a lifelong journey and strives to support aging adults in continuing to live well within their homes...



Key Findings

While participants tended to regard their communities as favorable places to retire, their perceptions of the availability of accessible housing within their city of residence varied greatly (0 – 78%). Participants were also consistent in not viewing their cities favorably on the availability of daytime and/or long-term care options. Thus, to better support individuals and families with aging in place, Orange County's organizations, cities and communities should consider identifying and supporting programs and initiatives that increase accessible housing and in-home or local care options. This could include a collective legislative advocacy strategy at the State and Federal level for additional funding and increased Assisted Living waivers. Although emergency preparedness was not identified as a top concern by participants, due to the increasing risk of events such as earthquakes and wildfires, Orange County should continue its efforts in disaster planning and preparation, including developing and/or updating safety and localized evacuation plans for older adults.

Orange County Survey Findings related to CA Strategies

Concern Ratings

Scale for Top Concerns

Percentages reflect how often an item was selected as one of a participant's top three concerns from a list of 31 items. A total of 4,503 respondents selected their top three concerns and were included in the ratings. Rates ranged from 0% to a maximum of 38%.



Low 0% - 12%



Medium 13% - 25%



High 26% - 38%

Memory



"Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia"

38% of participants identified as a top 3 concern

Click on the category below to view percentages for subgroups with 100 or more responses.

Age ^{cf}

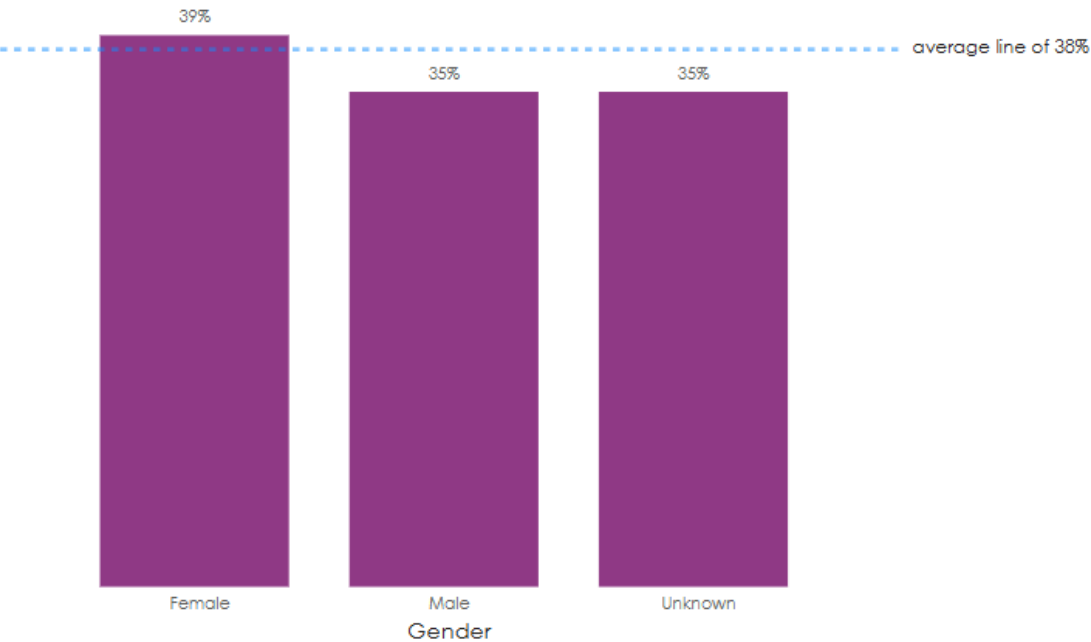
Race/Ethnicity ^{cf}

Household Income ^{cf}

Gender ^{cf}

Education ^{cf}

Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia by Gender



Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia

Thank You!

Questions?



Purpose:

The **Status of Women in Orange County Commission** seeks to engage guest speakers who can provide valuable insights, research, and lived experiences related to issues affecting women and girls in the county. This guidance ensures presentations align with the Commission's mission and foster meaningful discussions.

Presentations should focus on topics such as economic mobility, mental health, education, workforce development, public policy, and other issues impacting women and girls in Orange County.

Discussion Questions for Presenters

Discrimination against Women

- How does discrimination impact women's access to opportunities in education, employment, and leadership?
- What policy or advocacy efforts have been effective in addressing discrimination against women?

Affordable Housing

- How does the housing crisis disproportionately impact women, especially single mothers?
- What solutions have been effective in increasing access to affordable housing for women?
- How can local policies better support women experiencing housing insecurity?

Child and Dependent Care

- What are the biggest barriers women face in accessing affordable, quality childcare?
- How can workplace policies be improved to support caregivers?
- What are some innovative programs or models that have successfully addressed dependent care needs?

Mental Health

- What mental health challenges disproportionately affect women in Orange County?
- How does financial insecurity or domestic violence impact mental health outcomes for women?
- What strategies can be implemented to improve mental health services for women?

Healthcare

- What are the key disparities in healthcare access and quality for women?
- How does reproductive healthcare accessibility affect economic stability for women?

Violence and Domestic Abuse

- What are current trends in domestic violence cases affecting women in our community?
- How can intervention and prevention programs be improved to better serve survivors?
- What barriers prevent survivors from seeking help, and how can they be addressed?

Economic Equity and Financial Security

- What are the most significant challenges women face in achieving financial stability?
- How does the gender wage gap affect economic mobility?
- What financial literacy programs or economic policies have successfully empowered women?

Education

- What educational disparities exist for women and girls in Orange County?
- How can schools and higher education institutions better support women?
- What role does mentorship play in advancing women's educational attainment?

Leadership and Representation

- What are the barriers preventing women from reaching leadership roles in various sectors?
- How can organizations and governments actively promote women in leadership?
- What strategies have proven effective in increasing women's representation in decision-making positions?

General Questions for Guest Speakers

- How can local organizations and policymakers collaborate to create meaningful change?
- What role does community engagement play in solving these issues?
- Are there successful case studies or models from other regions that Orange County can learn from?
- What data or research gaps still exist that need more attention to improve policies?

Policy & Legislative Questions

- Are there upcoming policy changes that could significantly impact women in Orange County?
- What are the most effective legislative actions taken to support women's rights and economic mobility?

- How can the Commission better advocate for policy improvements on a county or state level?
- What partnerships between government and nonprofits have been most effective in addressing these issues?

Personal Stories & Lived Experiences

- What are the biggest misconceptions about this issue, and how can they be corrected?
- How do cultural and societal norms influence how women experience these challenges?

Proposed General Questions to Guide Presenters

To ensure that guest presentations consistently support the Commission's charge to assess and improve the status of women and girls in Orange County, the following set of general, cross-cutting questions is proposed for adoption. These questions are designed to keep presentations focused, relevant, and rich with actionable insight—regardless of the presenter's specific area of expertise. They aim to help the Commission surface disparities, identify opportunities, and inform thoughtful, data-driven recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

1. What are the most significant trends or disparities you see affecting women and girls in Orange County in your area of expertise?
2. How have these trends changed over the past 5 to 10 years? Are there any new or emerging issues we should be aware of?
3. What populations of women and girls are most impacted or underserved in this area (e.g., by race, income, age, or immigration status)?
4. What data or evidence do you use to track outcomes and measure impact? Are there any gaps in the data you wish you had?
5. What programs, policies, or practices have shown the most promise in addressing the challenges you've outlined?
6. What role does the County currently play in supporting or regulating this issue? Where are the biggest opportunities for local government to intervene?
7. What barriers prevent women and girls from accessing resources, services, or protections in this area?
8. Are there specific recommendations you would make to the Board of Supervisors to better address the needs of women and girls?
9. How can our commission help amplify or support your efforts? Are there partnerships we should be considering?
10. What would meaningful progress in this area look like over the next 3–5 years?