

Fact Sheet

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The Economic Security of Older Women and Men in Texas

Social Security is a crucial source of income for Texas's seniors, and especially so for women.

- More than 8 in 10 men and women aged 65 or older receive Social Security benefits (Table 2).
- For older women, Social Security averages half of their income (50 percent of income; Figure 3).

Fewer women than men have pension income.

- Less than 1 in 3 women receives pension income (compared with 43 percent of men; Table 2).
- For those who have pensions, the typical woman receives little more than half as much as the typical man (\$7,421 vs. \$13,230; Table 2). Comparing all women and men (those with and without pensions) women's pension income is only about one-third of men's (Figure 3).

The majority of Texas's senior women live alone.

- 56 percent are not currently married; they are widowed, divorced or never married.
- 53 percent of older white women (407,100), 76 percent of older African American women (70,100), and 58 percent of Hispanic women (171,400) are not married (Table 1).

Many seniors in Texas continue to work for pay.

- 14 percent of older women (165,400) and 27 percent of older men (267,600) in Texas work for pay (Table 2).
- Older men outearn older women almost two to one (\$21,840 for men and \$12,049 for women annually).

Women are more likely than men to be poor or disabled.

- More older women (65,500) than older men (27,800) report that they receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) government assistance.
- Older women are almost twice as likely to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) government assistance as older men (5.5 percent vs. 2.8 percent; Table 2).

Older African American and Hispanic women are the most likely to be poor and the least likely to have income from assets such as savings accounts or stocks and bonds.

- More than 1 in 3 older African American women (35 percent) and more than 1 in 4 older Hispanic women (28 percent) in Texas is poor, compared with only 1 in 14 white men (7 percent), as shown in Table 1 and Figure 2.
- Only 20 percent of African American women and 16 percent of Hispanic women, compared with 66 percent of white men, have income from assets, and among those who have asset income, the typical African American woman receives little over one-twentieth and the typical Hispanic women receives about one-fifth the amount the typical white man receives (\$85 per year and \$336 per year vs. \$1,541 per year; Table 2).

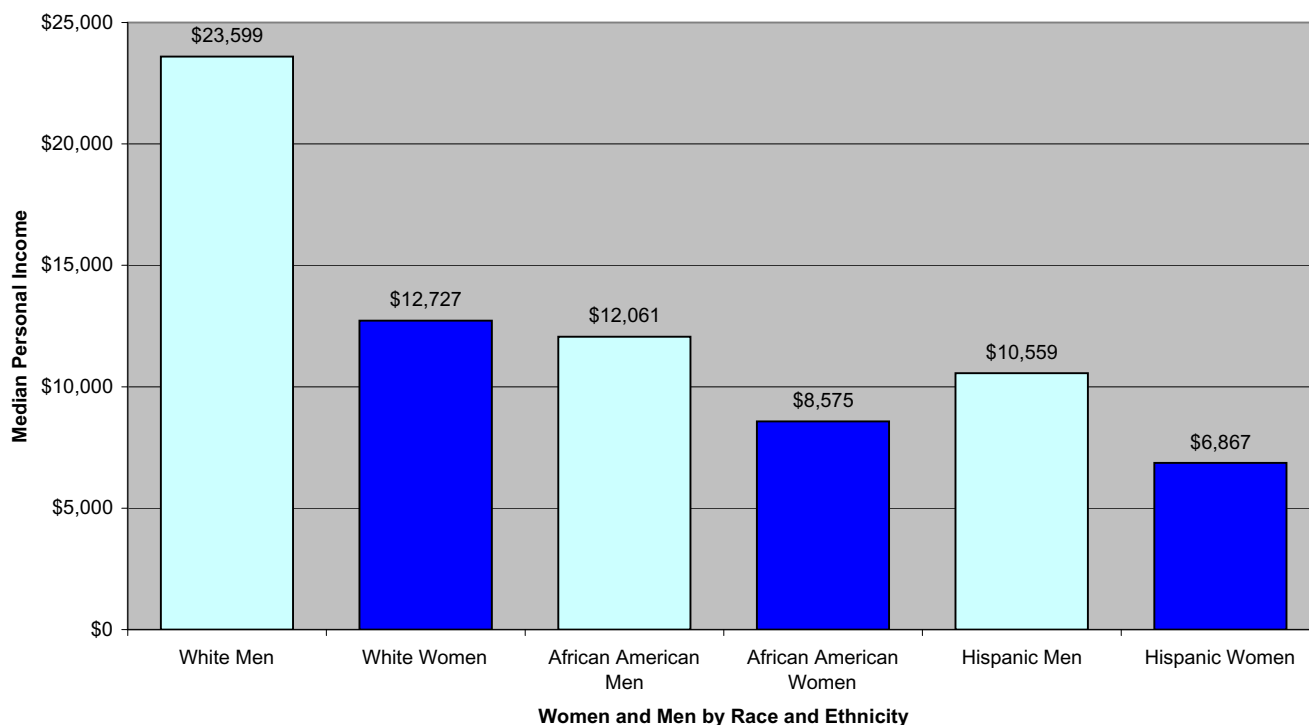
Table 1. Characteristics of Older Women and Men by Race/Ethnicity (Aged 65 and Older) : Texas vs. United States

TEXAS						
	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian American	All ¹	Total Population ²
WOMEN						
Racial composition	66.3	8.3	22.8	1.5	100.0	1,190,150
Percent married	46.9	24.4	41.9	47.6	43.7	520,096
Percent living in poverty	9.2	35.3	28.4	15.5	15.8	188,044
Median personal income ³	\$12,727	\$8,575	\$6,867	\$7,371	\$10,399	
(Sample N)	(998)	(211)	(655)	(31)	(1924)	
MEN						
Racial composition	69.0	7.0	21.5	1.8	100.0	991,134
Percent married	79.7	56.0	71.9	n/a ⁴	75.6	749,297
Percent living in poverty	6.8	30.0	22.7	n/a	12.6	124,883
Median personal income	\$23,599	\$12,061	\$10,559	n/a	\$18,801	
(Sample N)	(785)	(132)	(453)	(26)	(1,412)	
UNITED STATES						
	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian American	All	Total Population
WOMEN						
Racial composition	81.5	8.7	5.9	2.9	100.0	20,062,666
Percent married	44.7	26.3	39.6	48.1	42.8	8,586,821
Percent living in poverty	10.0	27.2	22.3	11.8	12.3	2,467,708
Median personal earnings	\$12,407	\$9,350	\$7,703	\$8,604	\$11,671	
MEN						
Racial composition	82.5	7.5	6.0	3.1	100.0	15,146,792
Percent married	75.4	59.0	70.3	78.9	73.8	11,178,333
Percent living in poverty	5.3	17.3	17.6	11.4	7.3	1,105,716
Median personal earnings	\$21,958	\$13,860	\$12,000	\$14,046	\$20,420	

Source: IWPR calculations based on the Census Bureau’s March Current Population Survey, 2002-2005.

Notes: ¹Statistics for “All” include Native Americans, others, and those with two or more races. ²“Total Population” refers to population estimates for the population aged 65 and older calculated by IWPR using DataFerrett at the Census Bureau website based on the 2005 March Current Population Survey. ³Income data are for calendar years 2001-2004 in 2004 constant dollars. ⁴N/A indicates a sample size smaller than 30.

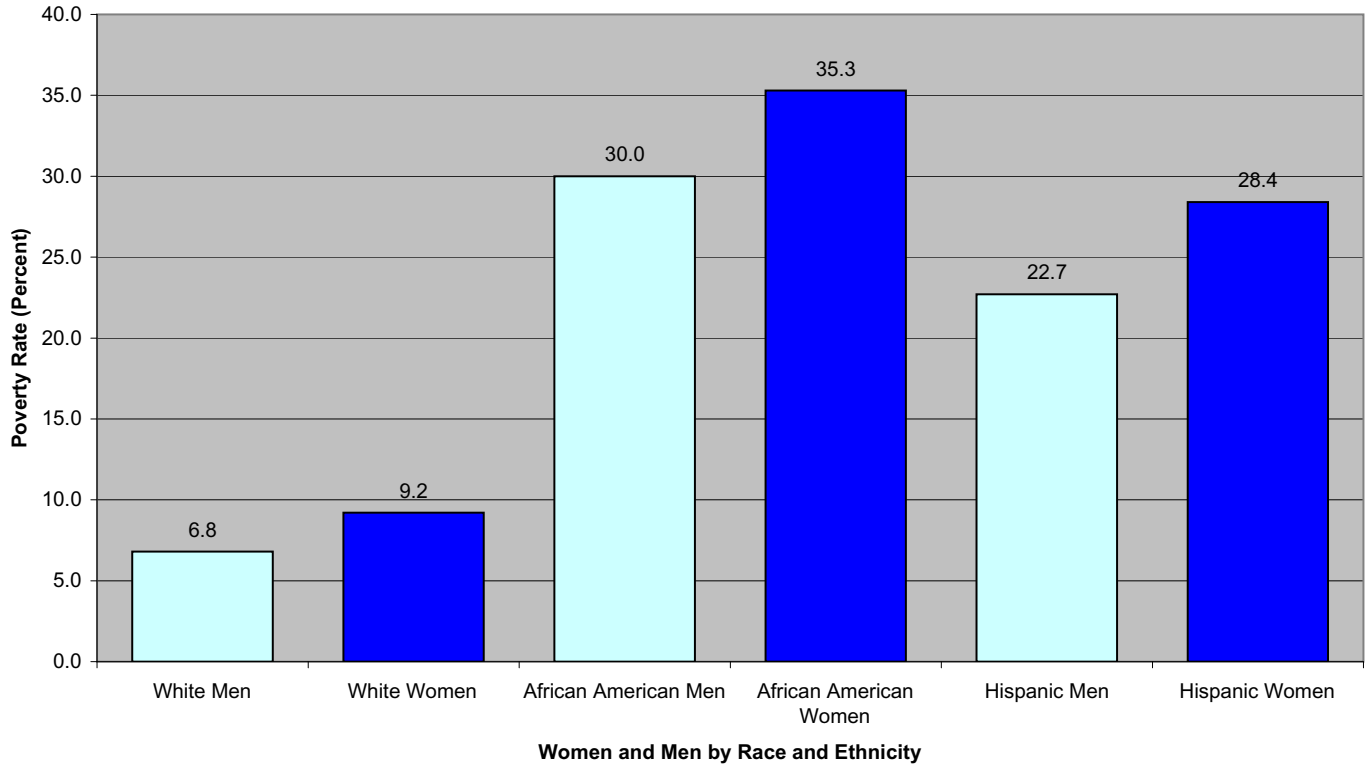
Figure 1. Median Annual Personal Income in Texas for Older Women and Men by Race and Ethnicity (Aged 65 and Older)



Source: IWPR calculations based on the Census Bureau’s March Current Population Survey, 2002-2005.

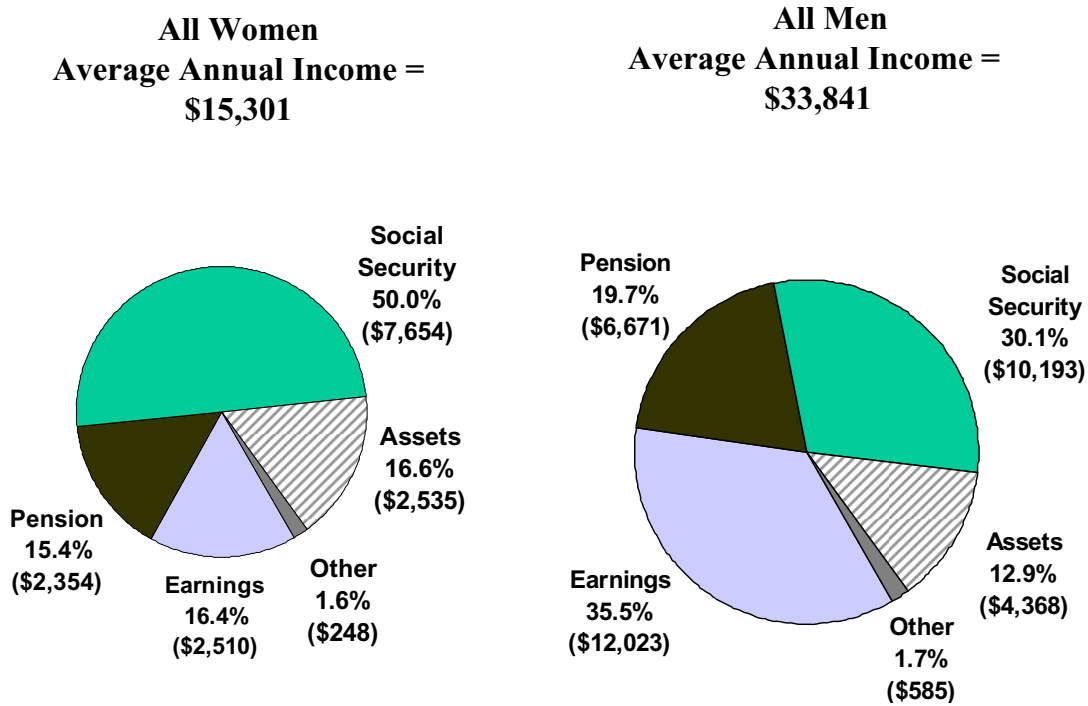
Note: Income data are for calendar years 2001-2004 in 2004 constant dollars.

Figure 2. Poverty Rates in Texas for Older Women and Men by Race and Ethnicity (Aged 65 and Older)



Source: IWPR calculations based on the Census Bureau's March Current Population Survey, 2002-2005.

Figure 3. Texas: Sources of Income for Women and Men Aged 65+



Source: IWPR calculations based on the March Current Population Survey, 2002-2005.

Note: Benefits, income, and earnings data are for calendar years 2001-2004 in 2004 constant dollars. Percentages are calculated based on average annual incomes for each source including zero values. Average amounts for each source are in parentheses. Average (or mean) amounts are typically higher than median amounts (the amount received by the person in the middle of the income distribution, which are shown elsewhere) because those at the high end of the income distribution often have very high incomes that raise the mean above the median.

Table 2. Texas: Overview of Retirement Income Security by Race and Ethnicity (Aged 65 and older)

WOMEN				
	White	African American	Hispanic	All¹
Total Population ²	766,595	92,735	295,055	1,190,150
Social Security				
Percent receiving	89.5	84.1	78.8	86.4
Median annual benefit received ^{3,4}	\$8,820	\$7,736	\$6,312	\$8,239
Pension				
Percent receiving	30.1	19.9	9.6	24.2
Median annual pension received	\$7,421	\$6,299	\$6,402	\$7,042
Assets				
Percent receiving	58.8	19.8	15.6	45.0
Median annual income received	\$1,205	\$85	\$336	\$1,052
Earnings				
Percent employed	14.9	14.3	11.4	13.9
Median earnings received	\$13,000	\$11,097	\$9,450	\$12,049
SSI				
Percent receiving	2.0	11.2	13.8	5.5
Median benefit received	n/a ⁵	n/a	\$2,400	\$2,292

MEN				
	White	African American	Hispanic	Total
Total Population	684,392	71,877	199,991	991,134
Social Security				
Percent receiving	88.8	80.6	84.3	86.3
Median annual benefit received	\$12,804	\$9,500	\$8,675	\$11,863
Pension				
Percent receiving	43.0	28.2	18.3	36.1
Median annual income received	\$13,230	\$12,348	\$10,441	\$12,919
Assets				
Percent receiving	65.9	22.8	22.4	52.5
Median annual income received	\$1,541	\$481	\$315	\$1,408
Earnings				
Percent employed	30.4	15.8	21.4	27.0
Median earnings received	\$26,675	n/a	\$15,405	\$21,840
SSI				
Percent receiving	0.6	7.4	7.6	2.8
Median benefit received	n/a	n/a	\$2,860	\$3,069

Source: IWPR calculations based on the Census Bureau’s March Current Population Survey, 2002-2005

Notes: ¹Statistics for “All” includes Native Americans, others, and those with two or more races. ² “Total Population” refers to population estimates for the population aged 65 and older calculated by IWPR using DataFerrett at the Census Bureau website based on the 2005 March Current Population Survey. ³Benefits, income, and earnings data are for calendar years 2001-2004 in 2004 constant dollars. ⁴Median annual amounts are calculated only among people who received income from each source, excluding zero values in the calculation. ⁵N/A indicates a sample size smaller than 30.

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