

# Fact Sheet



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## Women and Entitlements

Women are nearly 60% of Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries, and 71% of adult Medicaid participants.

Only 29% of women aged 65 and older receive pension income (even including survivor benefits from husbands' pensions) compared with 46% of older men.

Women are 2.5 times more likely to reach age 85 than men. Women have more chronic diseases than men, use medical services more, and have higher out of pocket costs.

Older women are twice as likely as older men to use long term care. 1,250,000 older women lived in residential care facilities in 2002 compared with 450,000 older men. Medicare and Medicaid pay for 63% of long term care in the United States.

At 75 and above, there are 7.3 million unmarried women and 1.9 million unmarried men.

2.5 million older women in the United States are poor (have incomes below approximately \$10,326 the 2008 poverty line for an older person living alone), even with current federal benefits.

From federal data sources extracted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research and other scholars  
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