Excerpted from the Report, *Social Security Especially Vital to Women and People of Color, Men Increasingly Reliant*

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of findings from a larger report on Social Security, *Social Security Especially Vital to Women and People of Color, Men Increasingly Reliant*. In 2009, Social Security helped more than 14 million Americans aged 65 and older stay above the poverty line. Without access to Social Security, 58 percent of women and 48 percent of men above the age of 75 would be living below the poverty line.

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**Figure 1. Social Security provides more than half of all income for men and women aged 65 and older.**

Figure 2. Reliance on Social Security is increasing for men and shifting to greater reliance (80% or more) for both men and women.

![Graph showing reliance on Social Security for women and men aged 65 and older, 1999 and 2009.]


Figure 3. Poverty is halved by Social Security for all groups of older Americans.

![Graph showing poverty rates with and without Social Security for men and women aged 75 and older, by race & ethnicity, 2009.]


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