Why women need higher social security benefits

Social Security is the largest source of income for senior women

29.3% of US households (27.3% in Washington) receive Social Security income

14% of single mothers receive Social Security income

Women tend to outlive men

- Life expectancy for a 65 year old woman is 20.3 years in the U.S., 20.5 years in Washington
- Life expectancy for a 65 year old man is 17.7 years in the U.S., 18.1 in Washington

Working women earn less than men, and have less access to workplace benefits, including retirement plans.

- Average monthly earnings for women in Washington are only 61% of men’s earnings
- Among full-time, year-round workers, Washington women earn 78% of men’s earnings

Women over age 75 are at high risk of poverty or near poverty.
Notes
1 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012.
2 U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstab/032010/rdcall/7_001.htm
4 U.S. Census Bureau, QWI, 2012 4 quarter average.
5 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012.