

Impact: The Importance of Social Security to the Economic Security of Workers and their Families



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Social Security is a Comprehensive Insurance System



Value:

- **\$225,000 in retirement benefits for a typical retiree**
- **\$414,000 in disability insurance for a 30-year old worker with a spouse and two young children**
- **\$433,000 in life insurance for the same worker's family**

Source: National Academy of Social Insurance, "Social Security is Worth \$225,000 for a Typical Retiree," Press Release February 1, 2008

Use of Social Security by Beneficiary Type and Race/Ethnicity

Whites

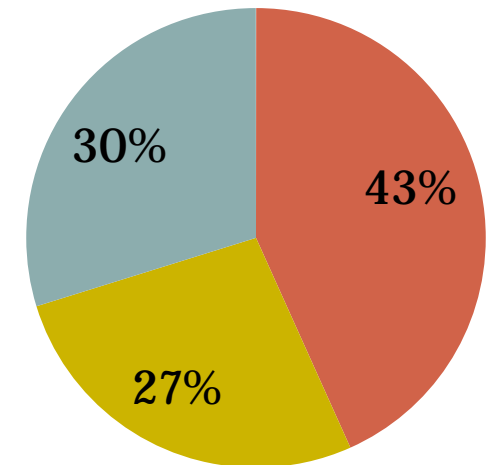
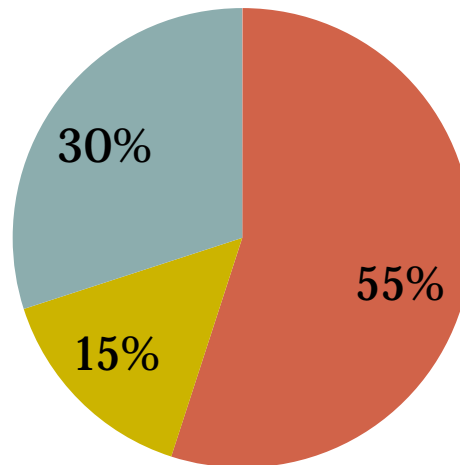
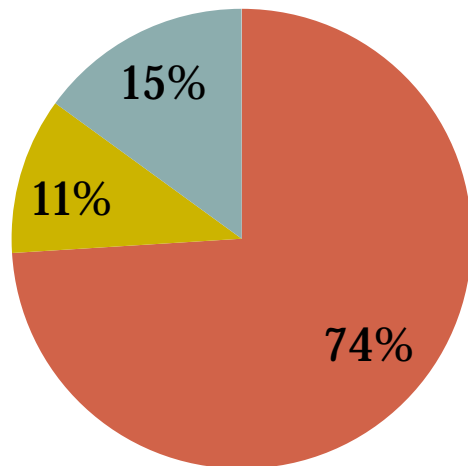
Blacks

“Other”

■ Retirement

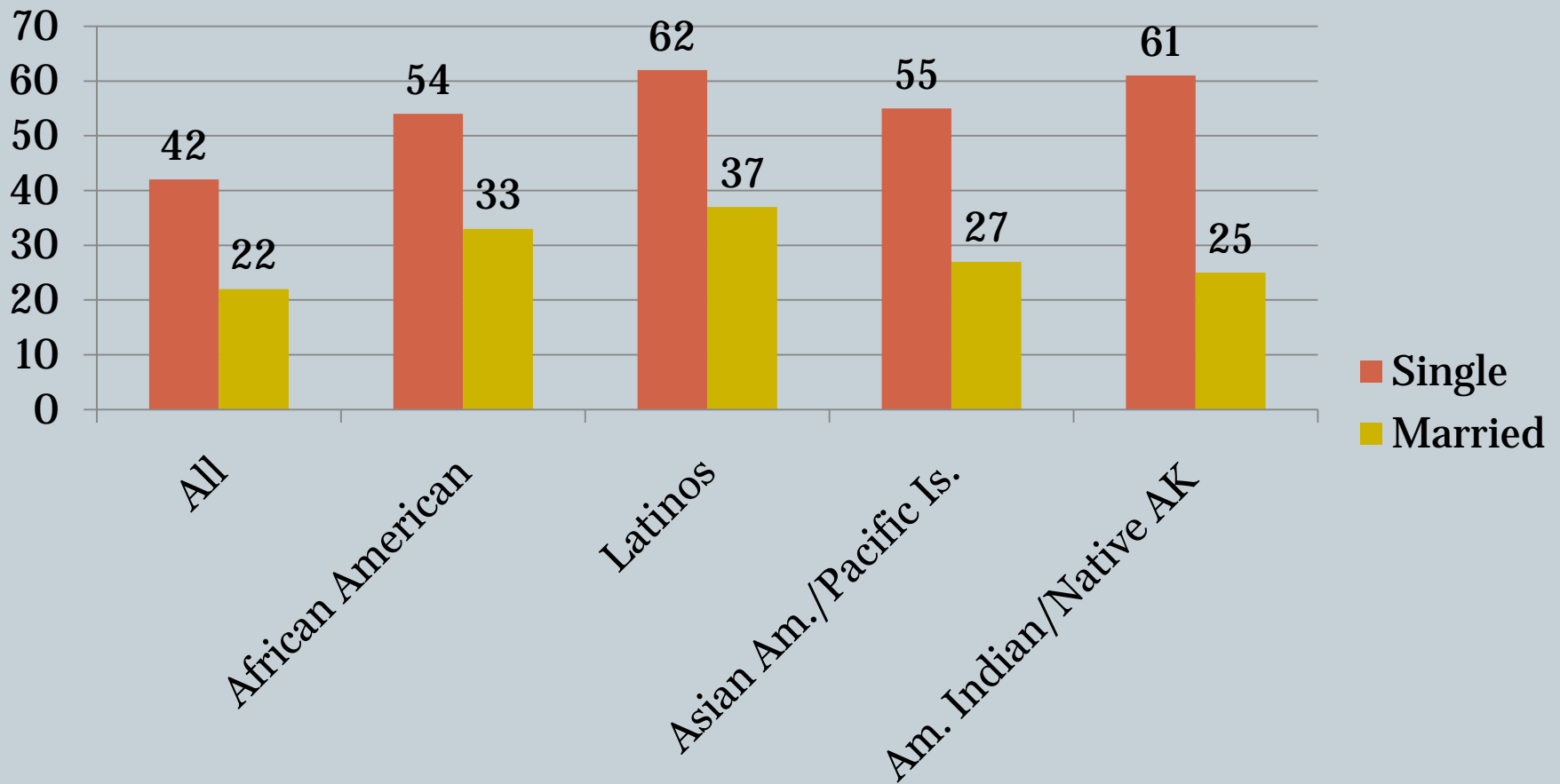
■ Survivor

■ Disability



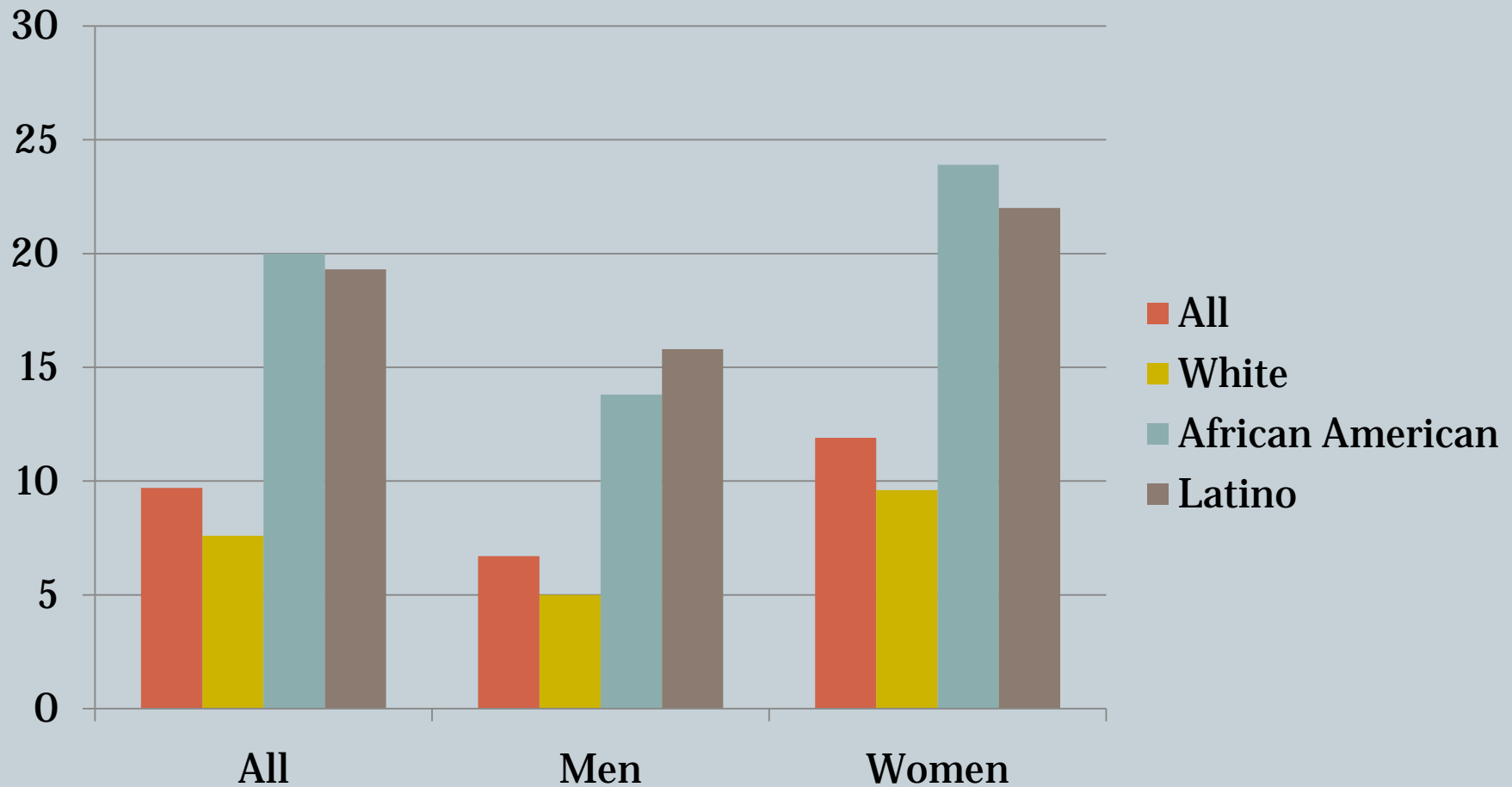
Source: Insight Center for Community Economic Development, “Social Security at 75: Building Economic Security, Narrowing the Racial Wealth Divide,” 2010. Data Source: Social Security Administration, Annual Statistical Supplement, Table 5A1, 2008

Reliance on Social Security for 90% or More of Income by Beneficiaries Age 65+



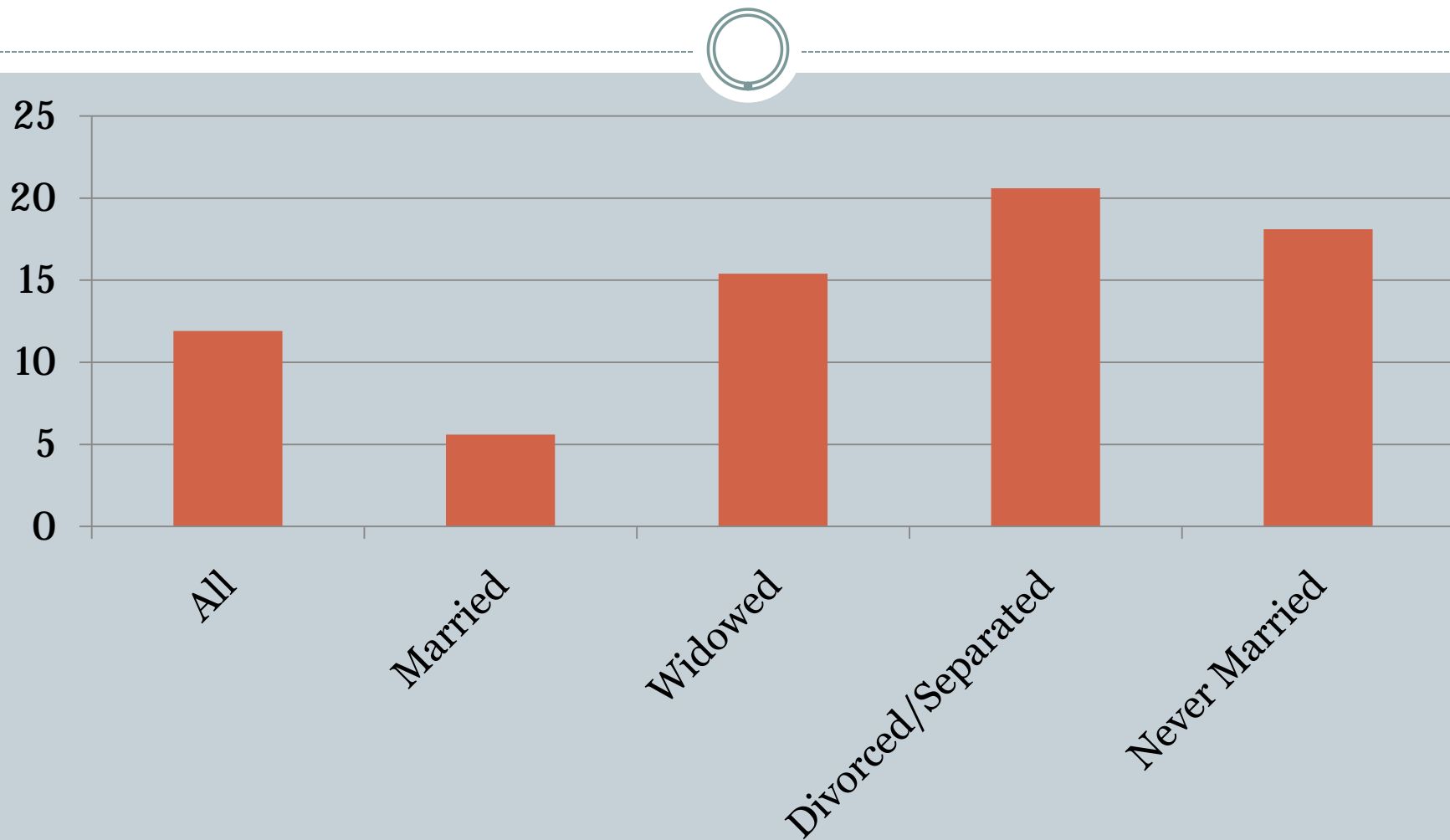
Source: National Academy of Social Insurance, "Social Security is Worth \$225,000 for a Typical Retiree," Press Release February 1, 2008

Elderly Poverty Rates by Race, Ethnicity, & Gender



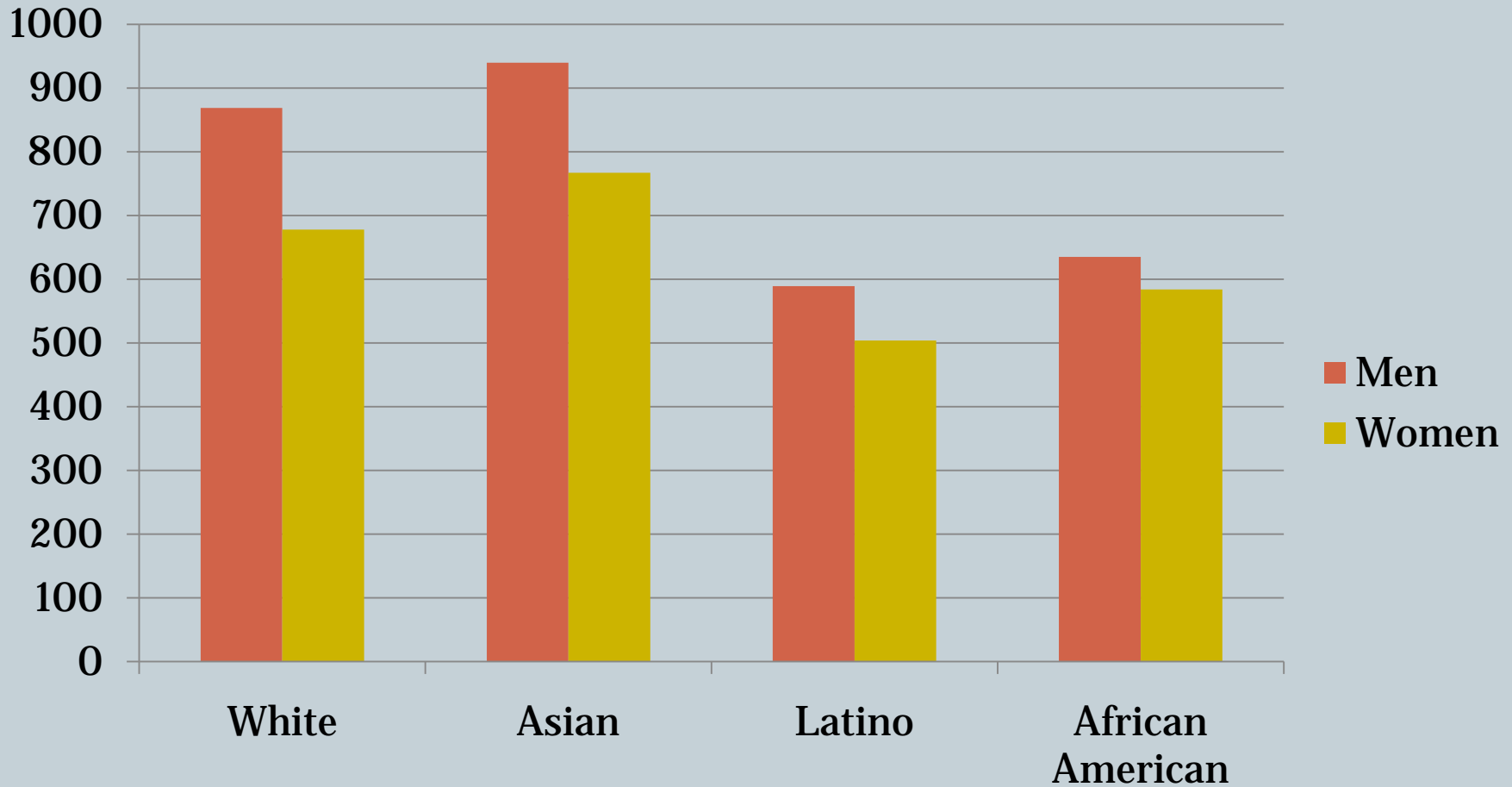
Source: AARP Public Policy Institute, *Older Americans in Poverty: A Snapshot*, Washington, DC, 2010
Figure 18, p. 17.

Poverty Rates for Women Age 65+ by Marital Status



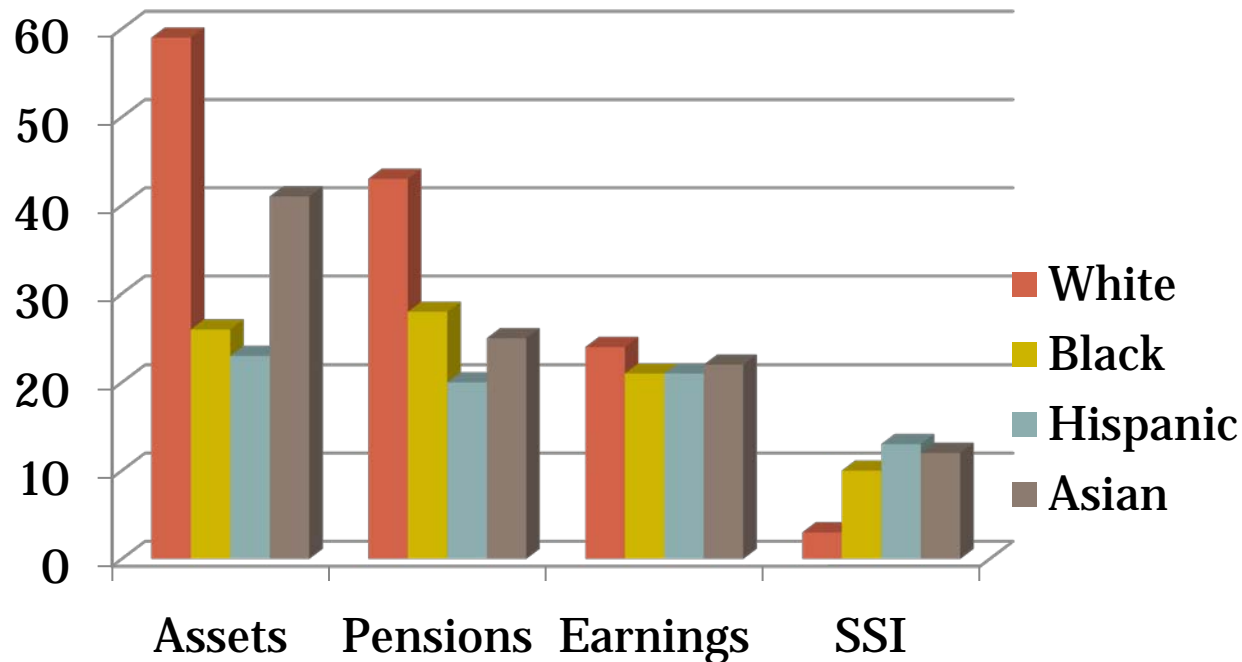
Source: AARP Public Policy Institute, *Older Americans in Poverty: A Snapshot*, Washington, DC, 2010 Figure 21, p. 19.

Median Weekly Earnings by Race, Ethnicity and Gender (First Quarter, 2010)



Source: Insight Center for Community Economic Development, "Social Security at 75: Building Economic Security, Narrowing the Racial Wealth Divide," 2010. Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted, 2010.*

Pensions and Assets Upon Retirement by Race and Ethnicity (SSA, 2004)



Source: Insight Center for Community Economic Development, "Social Security at 75: Building Economic Security, Narrowing the Racial Wealth Divide," 2010. Data Source: Income of the Population 55 and Older, 2004, Social Security Administration, Table 2.A3

Social Security has Improved with Age, New Improvements are Needed



Some options for increasing benefit adequacy:

- Effective minimum benefit
- Student benefits for surviving children
- Family care credits
- Addressing issues with disability benefit claims