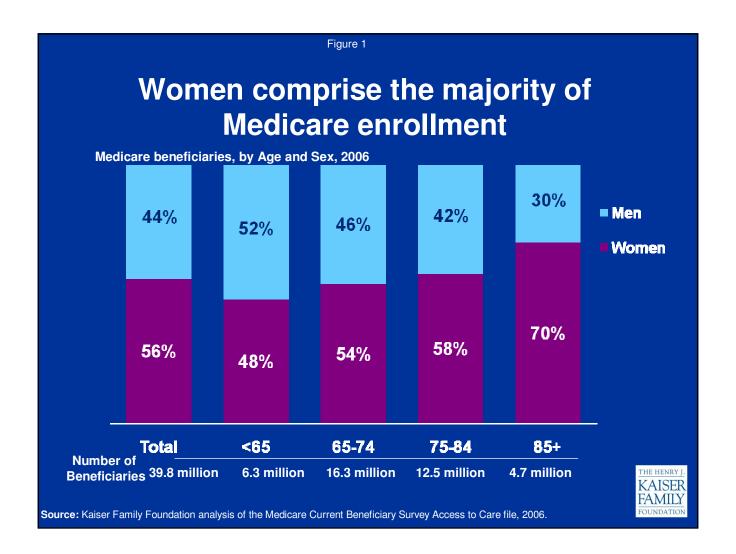
# Health Coverage and Concerns Facing Older Women

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#### Figure 2

## **How does Medicare work?**

- Part A: Covers inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facility care (following hospitalization), hospice care, and limited home health services (up to 100 days post-hospital)
- **Part B:** Supplementary Medical Insurance program helps pay for Physician services, outpatient hospital care, preventive services, such as mammography screening, mental health services, home health, and x-rays, diagnostic tests, durable medical equipment
- Part C: Provides care through managed care plans, such as local HMOs, new regional PPOs, private fee-for-service plans, and is referred to as Medicare Advantage
- Part D: Medicare prescription drug benefit, which are private plans that contract with Medicare. These include stand-alone prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans that also include the Part D benefit.

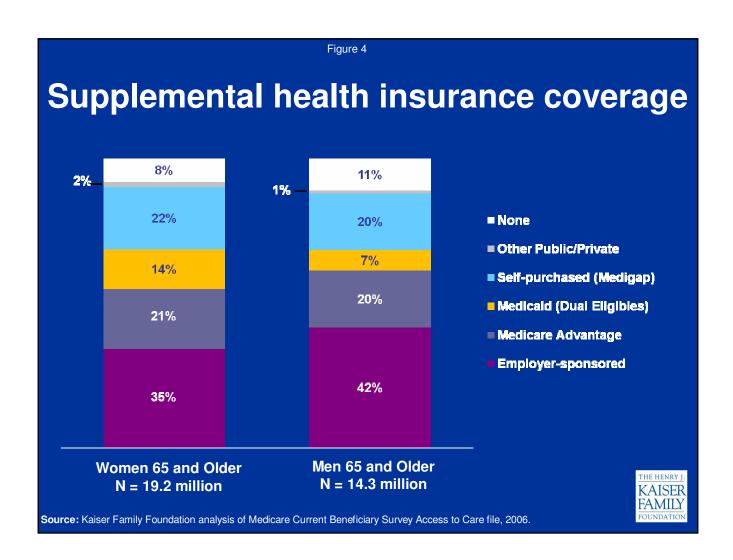
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#### Figure 3

## **Medicare costs and gaps**

- Benefit gaps
  - No hearing aids, eyeglasses, or dental care
  - Limited long-term care
- Significant cost-sharing requirements
  - Part A deductible (\$1,024 in 2008)
  - Part B monthly premium (\$96.40/month in 2008)
    - Most preventive services have cost-sharing requirement
    - 20% coinsurance for mammography, CBE, Bone Mass, Pap test (no charge for lab)
  - Part D Medicare drug plans charge various premiums, deductibles, co-payments, and "donut hole"
  - No cap on out-of-pocket spending
- Medicare paid for 48% of total covered health and long-term care costs in 2005; beneficiaries paid 18% out-of-pocket
- Out of pocket burden continues to rise
  - Grew from 11.9% of income in 1997 to 16.1% in 2005

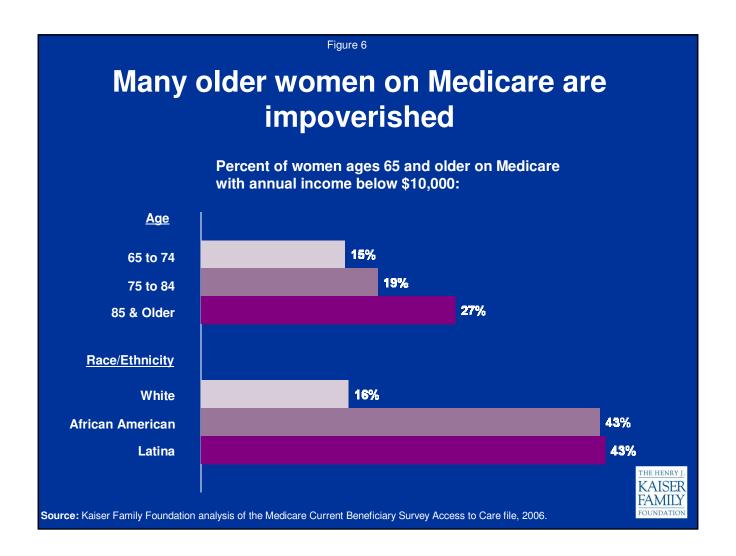


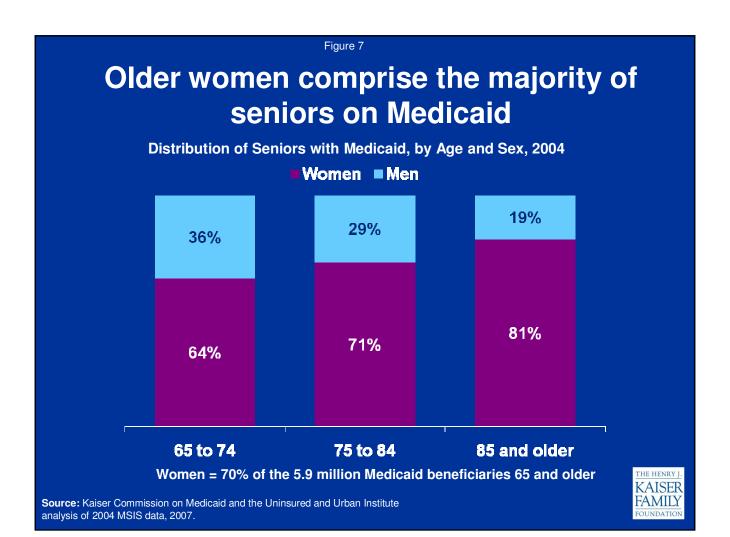


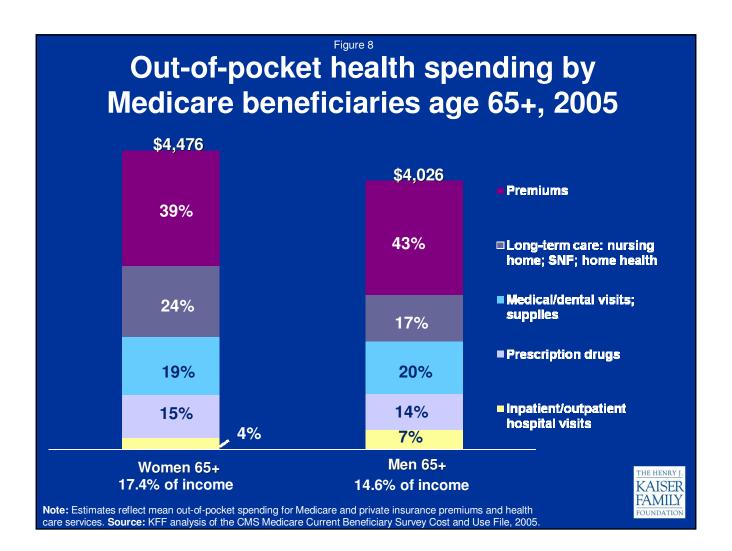
### **Medicaid matters for older women**

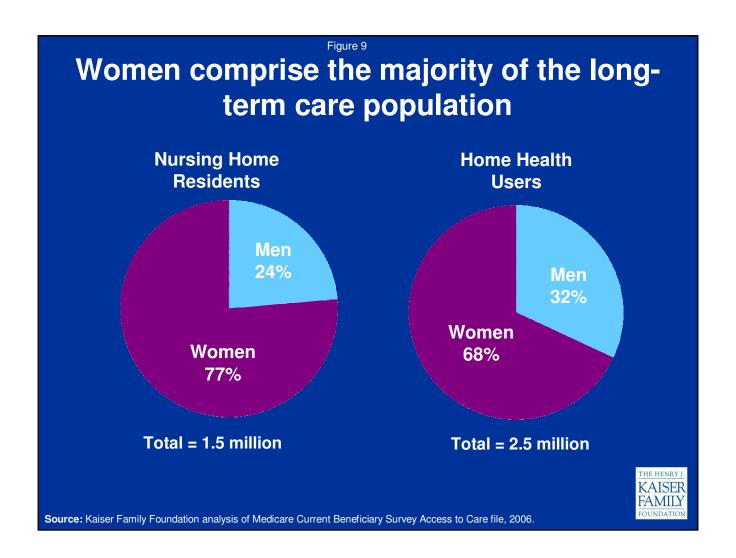
- Medicaid—a federal/state health insurance program or low-income families, elderly, and disabled
  - Covers 55 million people, including 6 million people age 65 and older
  - Elderly account for 11% of Medicaid enrollees but 28% of overall spending
- Covers benefits not included in Medicare
  - Vision, dental, and hearing services, differs by state
  - Long-term care services
  - Pays for Medicare premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and copays
- Eligibility is limited to very low income/disabled elderly
  - Incomes below 100% of poverty
  - Others must spend-down or deplete their income and assets to become eligible
  - Some low-income Medicare beneficiaries who are not poor enough to qualify for full Medicaid benefits can get Medicaid assistance for Medicare cost-sharing

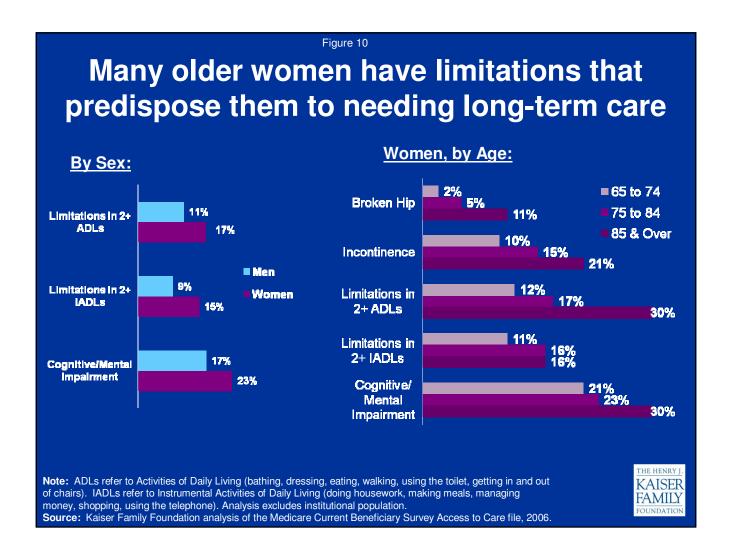


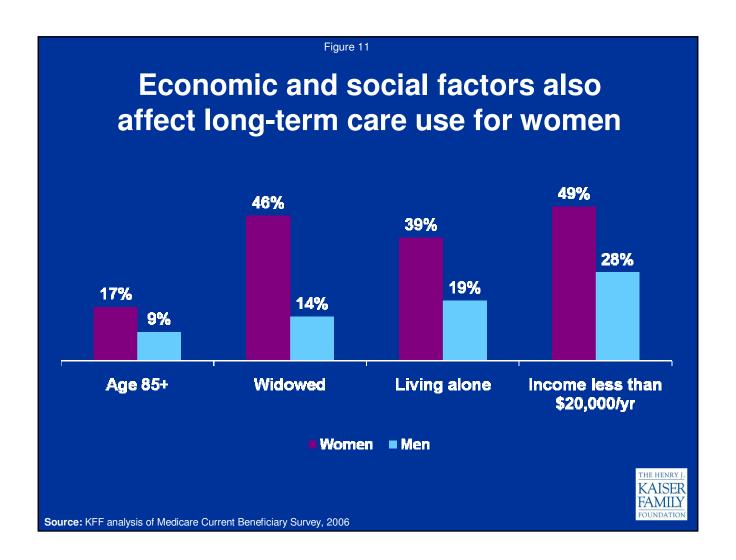












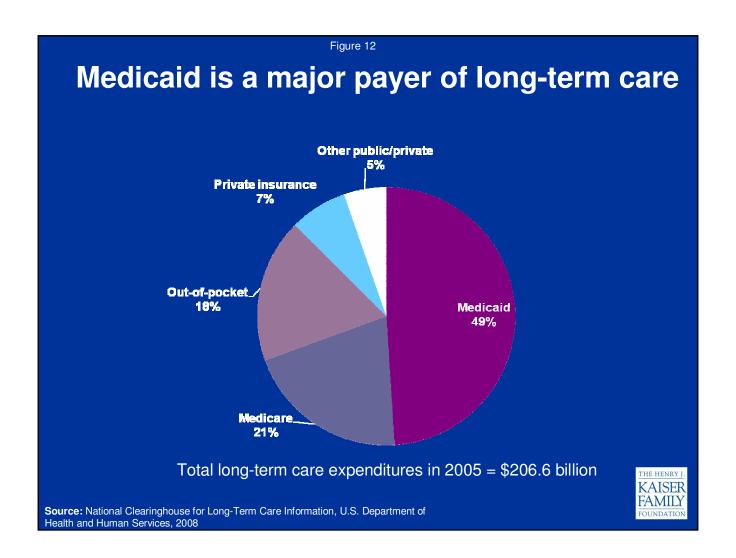


Figure 13

## Coverage and cost challenges for older women

- Women have fewer financial resources: Social Security, pensions, and assets
- Medicare out-of-pocket costs can be burdensome
- Long-term care coverage limited
  - Medicare and home care
  - Medicaid and nursing home care

