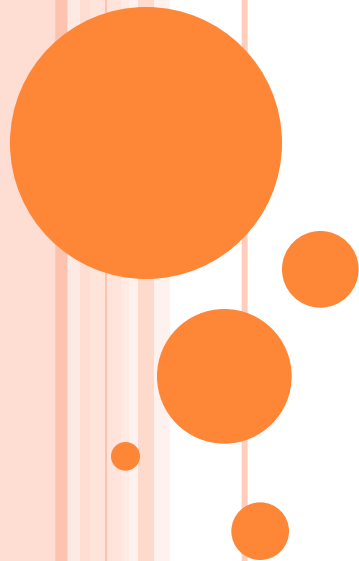


CSW 59 side event: 'Gender Equality and Aging Society'

ELDERLY WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY

Saori Kamozaawa
JAWW(Japan Women's Watch)

13 March 2015 in NY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

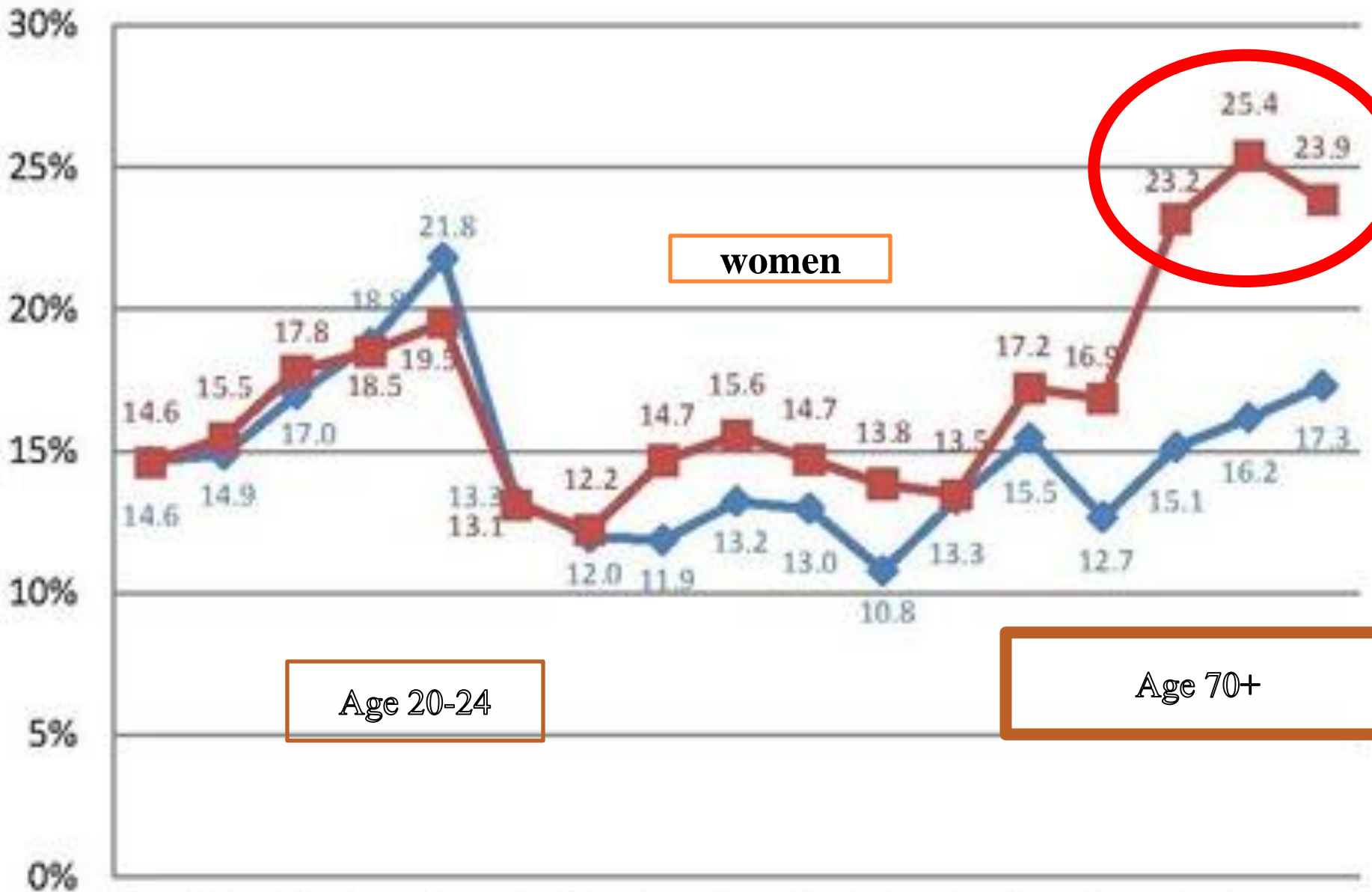
Japanese women celebrate 117 years old.

BUT: still anxious about their future

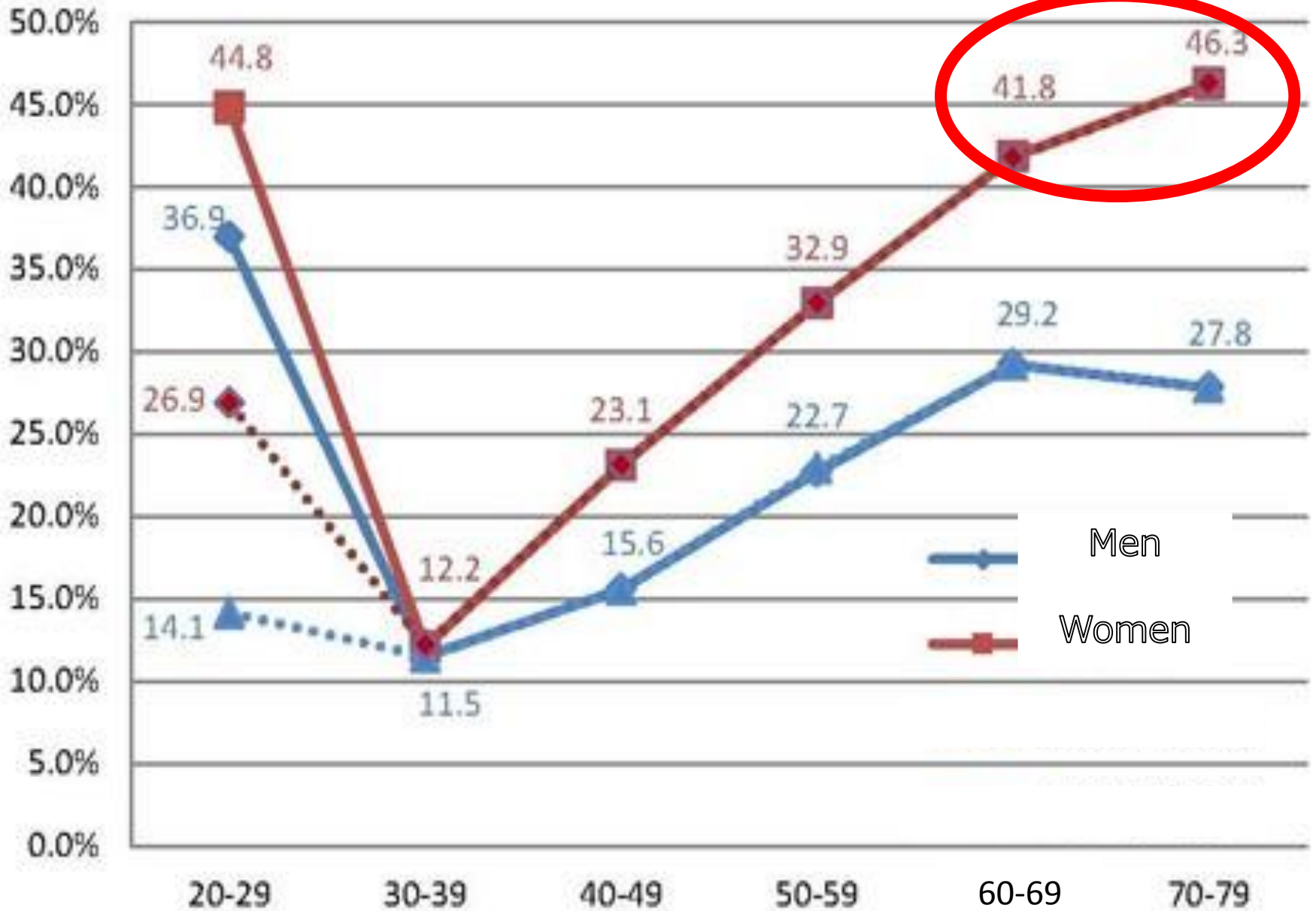


RELATIVE POVERTY RATE (2012)

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT | BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS | WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY



POVERTY RATE AMONGST THOSE LIVING ALONE



RELATIVE POVERTY RATE (2012)

- For women aged 50-59, the rate has risen sharply
- For women aged 75-79, 25% are in relative poverty
- The relative poverty rate is higher amongst women at *all* ages
- However, the gap between women and men increases at older ages
- Poverty is especially affecting women living on their own and it is getting worse at older ages



WHY ARE WOMEN POOR IN THEIR OLD AGE①

~Work and employment~

Care work and domestic work is undertaken by women

Therefore,

- **Quit full-time job when they are young.**

⇒ **work in non-regular employment after childrearing**

70% of non-fulltime workers are women (2012)

- **Women are working, however**

⇒ **in low income employment (2012)**

Ratio of earnings (men: women) are:

100:71 for regular workers

100:51 for part-time workers



WHY ARE WOMEN POOR IN THEIR OLDAGE②

~Social security system~

Women receive less pension than men

⇒70% of those who receive **only** national pension are women

The average national pension benefit ¥54,682

⇒ If women work F/T, they receive employee's pension.

The average employee's pension benefit

men ¥170,265 / women ¥103,989

This gap is a direct result of women's shorter
fulltime employment.

Result: low pensions in their old age



POLICY INITIATIVES NEEDED TO PREVENT ELDERLY WOMEN FROM LIVING IN POVERTY

As the poverty of Japanese women in their old age is the result of gender inequality throughout their life cycle polices and measures are needed regarding;

- Economic independence (double breadwinner model, F/T employment and changes in social security system)
- Human rights and the quality of life
- Gender equality in all spheres of Japanese society.

Even the universal social security system exists, women continue to be poor unless we achieve gender equality.



THANK YOU



This doll is handmade by a 92 years old woman.
The title is 'Mother'.

