This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: Themes in the Economics of Aging

Volume Author/Editor: David A. Wise, editor

Volume Publisher: University of Chicago Press

Volume ISBN: 0-226-90284-6

Volume URL: http://www.nber.org/books/wise01-1

Publication Date: January 2001

Chapter Title: Front matter, Themes in the Economics of Aging

Chapter Author: David A. Wise

Chapter URL: http://www.nber.org/chapters/c10317

Chapter pages in book: (p. -10 - 0)

Themes in the Economics of Aging



A National Bureau of Economic Research Conference Report

Themes in the Economics of Aging

Edited by

David A. Wise

The University of Chicago Press

Chicago and London

DAVID A. WISE is the John F. Stambaugh Professor of Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and the director for health and retirement programs at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 60637 The University of Chicago Press, Ltd., London © 2001 by the National Bureau of Economic Research All rights reserved. Published 2001 Printed in the United States of America 10 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 1 2 3 4 5 ISBN: 0-226-90284-6 (cloth)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Themes in the economics of aging / edited by David A. Wise.
p. cm. — (A National Bureau of Economic Research conference report)
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 0-226-90284-6 (cloth : alk. paper)
1. Aging—Economic aspects. 2. Aged—Economic conditions. I. Wise, David A. II. Series
HQ1061 .T467 2001
305.26—dc21 2001035162

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of the American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

National Bureau of Economic Research

Officers

Carl F. Christ, *chairman* Kathleen B. Cooper, *vice-chairman* Martin Feldstein, *president and chief executive officer* Robert Mednick, *treasurer*

Directors at Large

Peter C. Aldrich Elizabeth E. Bailey John H. Biggs Andrew Brimmer Carl F. Christ Don R. Conlan Kathleen B. Cooper George C. Eads Martin Feldstein Stephen Friedman George Hatsopoulos Karen N. Horn Judy C. Lewent John Lipsky Michael H. Moskow Alicia H. Munnell

Susan Colligan, corporate secretary Kelly Horak, controller and assistant corporate secretary Gerardine Johnson, assistant corporate secretary

> Rudolph A. Oswald Robert T. Parry Peter G. Peterson Richard N. Rosett Kathleen P. Utgoff Marina v. N. Whitman Martin B. Zimmerman

Directors by University Appointment

George Akerlof, *California, Berkeley*Jagdish Bhagwati, *Columbia*William C. Brainard, *Yale*Glen G. Cain, *Wisconsin*Franklin Fisher, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*Saul H. Hymans, *Michigan*Marjorie B. McElroy, *Duke* Joel Mokyr, Northwestern Andrew Postlewaite, Pennsylvania Nathan Rosenberg, Stanford Michael Rothschild, Princeton Craig Swan, Minnesota David B. Yoffie, Harvard Arnold Zellner, Chicago

Directors by Appointment of Other Organizations

Mark Drabenstott, American Agricultural Economics Association
Gail D. Fosler, The Conference Board
A. Ronald Gallant, American Statistical Association
Robert S. Hamada, American Finance Association
Robert Mednick, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Angelo Melino, Canadian Economics Association Richard D. Rippe, National Association for Business Economics
John J. Siegfried, American Economic Association
David A. Smith, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
Josh S. Weston, Committee for Economic Development
Gavin Wright, Economic History Association

Directors Emeriti

Moses Abramovitz Thomas D. Flynn Lawrence R. Klein Franklin A. Lindsay Paul W. McCracken Bert Seidman Eli Shapiro

Contents

	Preface	ix
	Introduction	1
I. PERSONAL RETIR	ement Plans	
1	 Preretirement Cashouts and Foregone Retirement Saving: Implications for 401(k) Asset Accumulation James M. Poterba, Steven F. Venti, and David A. Wise <i>Comment:</i> John B. Shoven 	23
2	2. The Personal Security Account 2000 Plan, Market Outcomes, and Risk Sylvester J. Schieber and John B. Shoven <i>Comment:</i> Steven F. Venti	59
3	3. Are the Elderly Really Over-Annuitized? New Evidence on Life Insurance and Bequests Jeffrey R. Brown <i>Comment:</i> Anne Case	91
II. WEALTH AND H	EALTH	
4	 Mortality, Education, Income, and Inequality among American Cohorts Angus Deaton and Christina Paxson <i>Comment:</i> James P. Smith 	129

5.	Predictors of Mortality among the Elderly Michael D. Hurd, Daniel McFadden, and Angela Merrill <i>Comment:</i> Finis Welch	171
III. HEALTH CARE		
6.	Trends in Medicare Spending Near the End of Life Jeffrey Geppert and Mark McClellan <i>Comment:</i> David M. Cutler	201
7.	The Concentration of Medical Spending: An Update David M. Cutler and Ellen Meara <i>Comment:</i> Joseph P. Newhouse	217
8.	The Sources of Cost Difference in Health Insurance Plans: A Decomposition Analysis Matthew Eichner, Mark McClellan, and David A. Wise <i>Comment:</i> Joseph P. Newhouse	241
IV. SOCIAL SECURIT	Y PROVISIONS AND RETIREMENT	
9.	Incentive Effects of Social Security under an Uncertain Disability Option Axel Börsch-Supan <i>Comment:</i> Daniel McFadden	281
10.	Social Security Incentives for Retirement Courtney Coile and Jonathan Gruber <i>Comment:</i> Andrew A. Samwick	311
V. BEQUESTS AND D	ISSAVING	
11.	Anticipated and Actual Bequests Michael D. Hurd and James P. Smith <i>Comment:</i> David Laibson	357
	Contributors	393
	Author Index	395
	Subject Index	399

Preface

This volume consists of papers presented at a conference held at Carefree, Arizona in May 1999. Most of the research was conducted as part of the Program on the Economics of Aging at the National Bureau of Economic Research. The majority of the work was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through National Institute on Aging grants P01-AG05842 and P20-AG12810 to the National Bureau of Economic Research. Any other funding sources are noted in individual papers.

Any opinions expressed in this volume are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Bureau of Economic Research or the sponsoring organizations.