

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE AND FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUNDS REPORT: "2006 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds," (May 2006, .pdf format, 218p.). <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/TR/TR06/>
Press Release: <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/trustee06-pr.htm>
2. BOARDS OF TRUSTEES, FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE AND FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUNDS REPORT: "2006 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds," (May 2006, .pdf format, 219p.).
<https://www.cms.hhs.gov/ReportsTrustFunds/downloads/tr2006.pdf>
Press Release: <http://hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060501.html>
3. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF POLICY REPORT:
 - A. "OASDI (Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance) Monthly Statistics, March 2006," (April 2006, .pdf and HTML format).
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/oasdi_monthly/2006-03/index.html
 - B. "SSI (Supplementary Security Income) Monthly Statistics, March 2006," (April 2006, .pdf and HTML format). http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_monthly/2006-03/index.html
 - C. "International Update, April 2006," (April 2006, .pdf and HTML format, 4p.).
http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/intl_update/2006-04/index.html
4. AARP REPORT, PRIME TIME RADIO: "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds: 2006 Trustees' Projections," by Laurel Beedon and Lisa Southworth (May 2006, .pdf and HTML format, 2p.). See item 1 in this report for the relevant Trustees report.
http://www.aarp.org/research/socialsecurity/financing/dd137_oasdi.html
5. CENTER FOR RETIREMENT RESEARCH AT BOSTON COLLEGE ISSUE BRIEF: "Social Security's Financial Outlook: The 2006 Update in Perspective," by Alicia H. Munnell (IB #46, May 2006, .pdf format, 7p.). See item 1 in this report for the relevant Trustees report.
http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/ib_46.shtml
6. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE ISSUE BRIEF: "Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances," by (Issue Brief 293, May 2006, .pdf format, 32p.). http://www.ebri.org/publications/ib/index.cfm?fa=ibDisp&content_id=3638
7. "Disease and Disadvantage in the United States and in England," by James Banks, Michael Marmot, Zoe Oldfield, and James P. Smith (Vol. 295, No. 17, May 3, 2006, p. 2037-2045).
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/295/17/2037>
8. UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT [UNRISD]: "Pensions and Pension Funds in the Making of a Nation-State and a National Economy: The Case of Finland," by Olli E. Kangas (Social Policy and Development Programme Paper No. 25, March 2006, .pdf format, 26p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:
<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/>
(LookupAllDocumentsByUNID)/BD28FF70A11F370AC125715C002B40BD?OpenDocument
9. CENTER FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES/INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH (CESifo) [UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, GERMANY]: "Social Security and Risk Sharing," by Piero Gottardi and Felix Kubler (CESifo Working Paper No. 1705, April 2006, .pdf format, 40p.).
Abstract:

In this paper we identify conditions under which the introduction of a pay-as-you-go social security system is ex-ante Pareto-improving in a stochastic overlapping generations economy with capital accumulation and land. We argue that these conditions are consistent with many calibrations of the model used in the literature. In our model financial markets are complete and competitive equilibria are interim Pareto efficient. Therefore, a welfare improvement can only be obtained if agents' welfare is evaluated ex ante, and arises from the possibility of inducing, through social security, an improved level of intergenerational risk sharing. We will also examine the optimal size of a given social security system as well as its optimal reform. The analysis will be carried out in a relatively simple set-up, where the various effects of social security, on the prices of long-lived assets and the stock of capital, and hence on output, wages and risky rates of returns, can be clearly identified.

http://www.cesifo.de/~DocCIDL/cesifo1_wp1705.pdf

10. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS [UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS, DENMARK]: "The link between individual expectations and savings: Do nursing home expectations matter?" by Kristin J. Kleinjans and Jinkook Lee (working Paper No. 2006-05, 2006, .pdf format, 38p.).

Abstract:

Preparing for the end of life, especially for the prospect of needing long-term care, is an important issue facing older Americans. Those who reach age 65 have a 40% chance of going into a nursing home in their remaining lifetime, and about 10% of those who do will stay there for at least five years. The costs of a stay are high with on average US\$70,000 annually for a private room. Long-term stays in nursing homes are, therefore, not likely, but very expensive. In this paper, we examine individual expectations about future nursing home entry and study the relationship between these expectations and savings behavior, using data from the Health and Retirement Study. We find a clear relation between subjective expectations and probability of future nursing home entry, and a positive effect of these expectations on savings behavior. Surprisingly, we find no difference of this effect by wealth group, so it seems that Medicaid eligibility in the context of nursing home entry plays no factor in the decision to save. ftp://ftp.econ.au.dk/afn/wp/06/wp06_05.pdf

11. INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS [HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES]: "Social Security Reform in the US: Lessons from Hungary," by András Simonovits (Discussion Paper No. 2006-02, 2006, .pdf format, 28p.).

Abstract:

The partial privatization of the US Social Security system was clearly the top economic policy priority for the new Bush administration. While many famous economists, publicists and politicians support, others reject the partial privatization of the Social Security system. The international comparisons have been quite infrequent, concentrated on few countries (Chile, Great Britain and Sweden) and left out similar reforms introduced in similar situations, like in Hungary, Poland and other ex-communist countries. In this article I try to make up for this omission and outline the lessons from the Hungarian reform, started in 1998. The conclusion is simple: such a reform is possible but does not solve the problems of social security. <http://econ.core.hu/doc/dp/dp/mtdp0602.pdf>

12. US CONGRESS JOINT ECONOMICS COMMITTEE REPORT: "Costs and Consequences of the Federal Estate Tax," (May 2006, .pdf format, 38p.).

<http://www.house.gov/jec/publications/109/05-01-06estatetax.pdf>

13. US HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING PUBLICATION: "Fifth In a Series of Subcommittee Hearings on Protecting and Strengthening Social Security," a hearing held June 14, 2005 (Serial No. 109-21, ASCII text and .pdf format, 78p.).

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wmhearings/109.html> Scroll down to or "find in page" "109-21" (without the quotes).

14. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION STATEHEALTHFACTS.ORG UPDATE: Kaiser has recently updated this website. Items listed from Apr. 14 - Apr. 21, 2006 have been updated.

New data of interest to aging researchers:

- Medicare Beneficiaries with Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage by Type, as of 4/21/2006
- New Distribution of Medicare Beneficiaries by Age, 2004, as of 04/19/2006
- New State Activity Relating to "Individual Budget" Models of Long Term Care for the Elderly, as of January 2006, 04/18/2006.

<http://statehealthfacts.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=whatsnew>

15. NEW YORK NEWS: "Gay Pension Ruling Could Impact All Of New York State," by Doug Windsor (365Gay.com, May 4, 2006). <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/05/050406pension.htm>