

1. Department of Elder Affairs Legislative Update. Volume 2, Issue 3  
<http://www.centeronaging.uiowa.edu/News/EconomicsAndPublicPolicy/LegislativeAlerts/Legislative%202008/Feb%202008/Feb%20%202011%20OIL.pdf>

2. BILLS IN THE 2008 SESSION OF THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTEREST TO THE OLDER IOWANS LEGISLATURE  
<http://www.centeronaging.uiowa.edu/News/EconomicsAndPublicPolicy/LegislativeAlerts/Legislative%202008/Feb%202008/OIL%20bills%20in%20iowa.pdf>

3. CENTER FOR RETIREMENT RESEARCH AT BOSTON COLLEGE ISSUE BRIEF: "Health Care Costs Drive Up the National Retirement Risk Index," by Alicia H. Munnell, Mauricio Soto, Anthony Webb, Francesca Golub-Sass, and Dan Muldoon (Issue Brief No. 8-3, February 2008, .pdf format, 11p.).  
[http://crr.bc.edu/briefs/health\\_care\\_costs\\_drive\\_up\\_the\\_national\\_retirement\\_risk.html](http://crr.bc.edu/briefs/health_care_costs_drive_up_the_national_retirement_risk.html)

4. ECONOMIST ARTICLE: "Running up the down escalator," (February 21, 2008).  
[http://www.economist.com/world/britain/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=10737761](http://www.economist.com/world/britain/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10737761)

5. NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH: "Household Saving Behavior: The Role of Financial Literacy, Information, and Financial Education Programs," by Annamaria Lusardi (w13824, February 2008, .pdf format, 43p.).

Abstract:

Individuals are increasingly in charge of their own financial security after retirement. But how well-equipped are individuals to make saving decisions; do they possess adequate financial literacy, are they informed about the most important components of saving plans, do they even plan for retirement? This paper shows that financial illiteracy is widespread among the U.S. population and particularly acute among specific demographic groups, such as those with low education, women, African-Americans, and Hispanics. Moreover, close to half of older workers do not know which type of pensions they have and the large majority of workers know little about the rules governing Social Security benefits. Notwithstanding the low levels of literacy that many individuals display, very few rely on the help of experts or financial advisors to make saving and investment decisions. Low literacy and lack of information affect the ability to save and to secure a comfortable retirement; ignorance about basic financial concepts can be linked to lack of retirement planning and lack of wealth. Financial education programs can help improve saving and financial decision-making, but much more can be done to improve the effectiveness of these programs.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w13824>

6. CENTER FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES/IFO INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH (CESifo) [MUNICH, BAVARIA, GERMANY]: "Young and Old Competing for Public Welfare Services," by Lars-Erik Borge and Jorn Rattso (CESifo Working Paper No. 2223, February 2008, .pdf format, 19p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

[http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/b-publ/b3publwp/wp\\_abstract?p\\_file\\_id=15122](http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/b-publ/b3publwp/wp_abstract?p_file_id=15122)

7. INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF LABOR (IZA) [UNIVERSITY OF BONN, GERMANY]: "Economic Well-Being and Poverty among the Elderly: An Analysis Based on a Collective Consumption Model," by Laurens Cherchye, Bram De Rock, and Frederic Vermeulen (Discussion Paper No. 3349, February 2008, .pdf format, 25p.).

Abstract:

We apply the collective consumption model of Browning, Chiappori and Lewbel (2006) to analyse economic well-being and poverty among the elderly. The model focuses on individual preferences, a consumption technology that captures the economies of scale of living in a couple, and a sharing rule that governs the intra-household allocation of resources. The model is applied to a time series of Dutch consumption expenditure surveys. Our empirical results indicate substantial economies of scale and a wife's share that is increasing in total expenditures. We further calculated poverty rates by means of the collective consumption model. Collective poverty rates of widows and widowers turn out to be slightly lower than traditional ones based on a standard equivalence scale. Poverty among women (men) in elderly couples, however, seems to be heavily underestimated (overestimated) by the traditional approach. Finally, we analysed the impact of becoming a widow(er). Based on cross-sectional evidence, we find that the drop (increase) in material well-being following the husband's death is substantial for women in high (low) expenditure couples. For men, the picture is reversed.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp3349.pdf>

