



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS OF AGING

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THE NIA DEMOGRAPHY CENTERS

With the proportion of older people increasing in the United States and around the world, nations face new challenges and opportunities, particularly in health care and retirement systems, intergenerational relationships within families, and labor market supply. To help inform public discussion of these issues, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) has promoted economic and demographic research on population aging.

The NIA Demography and Economics of Aging Centers Program has been an important mechanism for promoting this research. Founded by NIA with supplemental support from the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research and the Fogarty Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the program has been instrumental in constructing critical databases, attracting and developing scholars, establishing international and interdisciplinary networks, and informing public policy. The program has expanded the demography and economics of aging rapidly in the United States, and now includes 14 Centers and more than 500 scientists. The program's reach is global, with almost all 14 Centers involved in international projects, helping to develop the fields of demography and economics of aging in many countries.

Although each of the NIA Demography Centers has its own set of disciplinary specializations, research conducted by staff at the different Centers is often inter-related. All Centers investigate aspects of health and health care, the societal impact of population aging, and the economic and social circumstances of the elderly. Many Centers also conduct research on global aging and cross-national comparisons, and several Centers are pioneering work on the biodemography of aging, investigating the relationships among biology and genetics, health and mortality, and life expectancy. Among the innovative areas of research emerging from these Centers are studies of: the transmission of longevity over generations, brain function, judgment and financial decisionmaking, population differences in management of chronic disease, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on older family members.

NIA Demography Centers train new researchers, develop and share data resources and research methodologies,

Major Research Areas

- Demographics and Population Research
- Aging of Biological Systems, Longevity and Genetics
- Population, Economic and Policy Forecasting
- Health, Chronic Illness and Disability
- Health Care and Health Policy
- Income, Savings, Work and Retirement
- Family Support Systems
- Socioeconomic Status and Health
- Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Disparities
- Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease
- Cognition and Neuroeconomics
- Psychology and Aging
- Comparative International Research

Center Activities

- Research on Population Aging
- Pilot Projects on Innovative Topics
- External Research Networks
- Data Resource Development
- Statistical Enclaves for Sensitive Data
- Methodological Research
- Training Tomorrow's Scholars
- Workshops and Conferences
- Newsletters, Reports, and Outreach
- Web-Based Information and Resources
- Interdisciplinary Science
- International Collaborations
- Collaborations Across Institutions

and facilitate the formation of collaborative networks. In addition, they provide resources that encourage investigators to engage in aging-related research and that aid in the widespread dissemination of research findings. As a result, these Centers enhance the research community within and beyond their home institutions.

The Fourteen Centers

University of California at Berkeley

CENTER ON THE ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING (CEDA)

FORECASTING | LIFESPAN | INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFERS

The Berkeley Center facilitates and encourages economic and demographic research on aging, with a number of themes: the biodemography of aging; demographic and fiscal projections and analysis; health, disability, and mortality; behavioral, psychological, and experimental economics; and intergenerational transfers and population aging. It includes three major NIA-funded collaborative projects: the Human Mortality Database, National Transfer Accounts, and the Biodemography of Longevity. A major new focus of the Berkeley Center is to develop behavioral and experimental economic approaches to aging-related decisionmaking. The Center provides access to web-based programs for forecasting mortality and projecting Social Security finances.

University of Chicago & National Opinion Research Center (NORC)

CENTER ON THE DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS OF AGING

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS | FAMILY | BIOMEASURES

Research at the Chicago Center focuses on: social relationships, living arrangements, and family; the social context of aging in households and neighborhoods; health care; and biobehavioral pathways. Current projects examine the predictors and health consequences of loneliness in older adults, the biological foundations of longevity, socioeconomic status and age-related disability, and the alterations of circadian timing in sleep and aging. The Chicago Center is also home to the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP), a longitudinal study of the health and well-being of American adults ages 57 to 84. The Chicago Center brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars from the Harris School of Public Policy, the Pritzker School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Business, the School of Social Service Administration, the National Opinion Research

Center (NORC), and the Departments of Sociology and Economics. Through the Chicago Core on Biomarkers in Population-Based Aging Research (CCBAR), the Chicago Center facilitates the exchange of evolving ideas related to the collection of biological and physiological data in population-based health and aging research. The CCBAR sponsors a website (<http://biomarkers.uchicago.edu>), a monthly newsletter, and conferences and workshops to promote an interdisciplinary approach to the study of health in aging populations, and has a special research focus in integrated biosocial approaches to the study of gerosexuality.

Duke University

CENTER ON THE DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING BIODEMOGRAPHY

The Duke Center on the Demography of Aging draws on faculty and resources from the Duke Population Research Institute, an affiliate of Duke's Social Science Research Institute. Having its focus on supporting research and networking in the biological demography of aging and biomedical demography of aging, the Center fosters new and pilot research projects, organizes annual scientific network meetings for national and international researchers in biodemography, and supports the hiring of new faculty. The Center has an international emphasis

The National Institute on Aging

The Demography Centers are supported through the Division of Behavioral and Social Research at the National Institute on Aging. As a part of the National Institutes of Health in the Department of Health and Human Services, NIA seeks to improve the health and well-being of older Americans through efforts to understand the aging process and to extend healthy life. The Institute conducts and supports research on all aspects of aging, from investigating basic questions about cellular and molecular changes that occur as people age to the demographic and economic implications of an aging society. Applied research programs funded by the Institute encourage rapid translation of research findings into practical information that physicians or the public can use to benefit the health of older people. The Behavioral and Social Research Division focuses on how people change over the adult life course, the interrelationships between older people and social institutions, and the societal impact of population aging. Current initiatives examine: health disparities; aging minds; increasing health expectancy; health, work, and retirement; interventions and behavior change; genetics, behavior, and the social environment; and the burden of illness and the efficiency of health systems.

resulting from faculty and research groups with ties to Europe, the former Soviet Union, China, Indonesia, Mexico, and elsewhere. By developing emerging research areas, and supporting and enlarging the world's community of scientists with research interests in the biodemography of aging, the Duke Center advances understanding of the determinants (including evolutionary, genetic, economic, social, behavioral, medical, and biological) of healthy aging and longevity.

Harvard University

CENTER FOR THE GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING

AGING | HEALTH | DEVELOPING WORLD

Harvard University's Program on the Global Demography of Aging (PGDA) focuses on pressing questions related to global aging and health, particularly in the developing world. Interdisciplinary research teams are examining changes in patterns of adult morbidity and mortality, associated implications, and the policies and programs designed to address these implications. PGDA also supports research on determinants of health and aging and on the demographic and economic consequences of global aging. Particular strengths of the Program are: measuring risk factors and modeling the effect of interventions on population health; the role of social networks in determining health; the effects of incentives in Medicare on utilization, quality, and health outcomes; and the effects of demographic change and social security systems on labor supply, savings, and economic growth. This Center fosters international collaboration on population aging issues through various activities. Center members participate in international conferences and publish in magazines and journals targeting a global audience. PGDA also makes data and technical assistance available through the Harvard-MIT Virtual Data Center, hosts international workshops, and holds an annual conference on the global demography of aging.

Johns Hopkins University

HOPKINS CENTER FOR POPULATION AGING AND HEALTH

DISABILITY | INTERGENERATIONAL SUPPORT

The Hopkins Center for Population Aging and Health (HCPAH) supports the development of transdisciplinary science on population aging and health. The strengths that Johns Hopkins has developed in the study of aging and disability from both social science and biomedical perspectives have helped to foster new interdisciplinary collaborations that enhance understanding of the social and behavioral pathways to disability and the consequences of disablement for individuals, families, and

society. The HCPAH is located in the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, but facilitates collaboration across the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing, as well as other academic enterprises. The HCPAH supports pilot research that brings together researchers with common interests from different disciplines and supports the development of tools that can be used by other researchers both within the University and in the larger research community. The HCPAH also includes the NIA-funded National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS).

University of Michigan

CENTER ON THE DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING

HEALTH | RETIREMENT | SURVEY DATA

At the Michigan Center, researchers study health, work, and retirement; trends in chronic disease and disability; health disparities across racial and ethnic populations and socioeconomic groups; and the migration and geographic concentration of older people. Comparative international research is also an emerging area at Michigan. Current projects incorporate biological measures into the study of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health; investigate the effect of aging on perceptions and behavior; and assess the impact of HIV/AIDS on the elderly in South Africa, Vietnam, and in high poverty areas in the United States. Michigan is home to the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA), and the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). The Michigan Center is a joint program of the Population Studies Center and Survey Research Center at the Institute for Social Research, and also incorporates researchers from the Departments of Economics and Sociology. The Center fosters international collaboration through coordination of several research networks covering such topics as disability trends, AIDS and the older population, effects of early life conditions on aging, psychology and aging, and international sister studies to the HRS. It also provides coordinating support for the overall Centers' program in the demography of aging, including management of a website with extensive information on programs at all the Centers (<http://agingcenters.org>).

National Bureau of Economic Research

CENTER FOR AGING AND HEALTH RESEARCH

FINANCIAL STATUS | AGING AROUND THE WORLD |
BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

Major themes of research at the NBER Center include work and retirement behavior, the financial circumstances of people as they age, health and health care, behavioral

economics, and aging around the world. International projects include comparative work on social security and disability policies and their implications, the relationships between socioeconomic circumstances and health in a multinational context, and the effects of health interventions on health and life conditions in less developed regions of the world. Other work is exploring the psychological, biological, and genetic influences on economic behavior, including studies of behavior change interventions, and their effect on both health-related behaviors and economic decisionmaking. Center investigators are also exploring the changing landscape of financial resources and needs at older ages, the growth of saving in 401(k) plans, and how these accumulated assets are used in later life. A cross-project theme considers the intersection between declining disability and capacity for continued work at older ages, the design incentives and financial sustainability of public and private retirement policies, individual decisions about work and retirement at older ages, and the macroeconomic transition implicit in the demographics of an aging population.

National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging

www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACDA/

Funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA) is the world's largest repository of secondary data on aging and health and is a program within the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. Its mission is to advance research on aging, providing both easy access to secondary data and research support for these data.

NACDA acquires and preserves data relevant to gerontological research, processes the data as needed to promote effective research use, disseminates the data to researchers, and facilitates their use. The NACDA collection consists of over 1,600 datasets relevant to gerontological research. By preserving and making these data available, NACDA offers opportunities for secondary analysis on major issues of scientific and policy relevance.

The NACDA Program on Aging began over 30 years ago under the sponsorship of the United States Administration on Aging (AoA). Originally conceived as a storehouse for data, NACDA has aggressively pursued increased involvement in the research community by actively promoting and distributing data. In 1984, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) became the sponsor of the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging, and NACDA has flourished under its support.

The initial collection of 28 public use datasets first offered on the Internet in 1992 has now expanded to over 1,600 datasets freely available to any researcher.

University of Pennsylvania

CENTER ON THE DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING

MORTALITY | RETIREMENT | INTERGENERATIONAL EXCHANGE

The Population Aging Research Center (PARC) specializes in research on health, disease, and mortality at older ages; the economics of pensions, retirement, health care, and health care systems; domestic and international perspectives on well-being at older ages; networks as mechanisms of diffusion, vectors of disease risk, systems of resource distribution, matrices of social support, and instruments for health policy interventions; and social, economic, environmental, and behavioral aspects of HIV and chronic diseases in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. The Penn Center is home to the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS 1 & 2) and hosts its bilingual website. PARC researchers also participate in the Latin American Network on Aging (LANA). The Center brings together an interdisciplinary group of researchers from the Institute on Aging, the Population Studies Center, the Pension Research Council, the Boettner Center for Pensions and Retirement Security in the Wharton School of Business, the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics, and the Departments of Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Business and Public Policy, Biology, Statistics, Nursing, and Medicine.

Princeton University

CENTER FOR THE DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS OF AGING

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS | DECISIONMAKING | GLOBAL AGING

Princeton's Center specializes in research on the interrelationships between socioeconomic status and health over the life cycle; the determinants and measurement of decisionmaking and well-being among the elderly; comparative and cross-national studies of health, well-being, and aging; and the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health and living conditions of the elderly. Current projects focus on the measurement of subjective well-being in the United States and other countries using the daily reconstruction method (DRM); SES gradients in health among Hispanics; the effect of relative income on mortality; the role of genetics in determining cognitive function and mood among the elderly; and judgment and decisionmaking on health and health care and contributions to flexible spending accounts. Housed within the Center for Health and Wellbeing, the Aging Center also coordinates research with Princeton's Roybal Center on Experience and Wellbeing. The Center's interdisciplinary researchers are drawn from the Departments of Economics,

Sociology, and Public Affairs; and from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, the Office of Population Research, and the Center for the Study of Brain, Mind, and Behavior.

Rand Corporation

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AGING

HEALTH | ECONOMIC STATUS | INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

RAND's Center focuses on the complex relationship between the economic status and well-being of persons in and approaching old age, with an emphasis on international comparisons. Some researchers are examining the evolution of economic circumstances over the course of life and implications for savings and wealth. Others are investigating health changes that accompany aging, trends in population health, and the role of health insurance. Researchers are also conducting cross-national studies of attitudes toward retirement and work disability, self-employment among the elderly, and how policy influences health and income differences among the elderly. RAND is active in data collection and dissemination, including development of user-friendly versions of HRS data, collaboration on European studies of aging (SHARE, ELSA), and development of tools for Internet interviewing. In addition, the RAND Center holds annual summer institutes for new scholars in the demography, economics, and epidemiology of aging, and hosts a "mini-med" workshop that introduces social scientists to biomedical aspects of aging.

Stanford University

CENTER ON THE DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS OF HEALTH AND AGING (CDEHA)

COST EFFECTIVENESS | SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES

The Stanford Center promotes the study of trends in demography, economics, health, and health care, and the effects of these trends on the well-being of the elderly. Its program areas are: effects of medical technology on costs, health outcomes, physical and psychological well-being, and health care decisions of the elderly; longitudinal and cohort studies of medical care, costs, and health and economic outcomes of older populations in the United States and other countries; application of demographic techniques, including biodemography, to the understanding of changes in survival, health, and well-being among the elderly over time; and promotion of research in the demography and economics of aging at Stanford and in collaborating institutions, including other demography Centers.

Benefiting from a University environment supportive of multidisciplinary research, CDEHA has access to a unique combination of clinical expertise and strength in economic and other disciplines relevant to the program areas. Some of the Center's key affiliates at Stanford are the Centers for Health Policy and Primary Care and Outcomes Research (CHP/PCOR); the Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies; the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR); the Stanford Center on Longevity; the Stanford Prevention Research Center (SPRC); the Graduate School of Business; and the Departments of Medicine, Health Research and Policy, Economics, Statistics, Sociology, and Psychology. CDEHA will support enhanced communications, seminars, educational workshops, and research development.

Large-Scale Data Collection and Database Development Activities

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|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Berkeley | Linked Database of Death Records and Micro-Census Information, Human Mortality Database |
| Chicago | Union Army Life History Data, National Social Life, Health and Aging Project (NSHAP) |
| Duke | National Long-Term Care Survey, Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey |
| Hopkins | National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) |
| Michigan | Health and Retirement Study, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging |
| U Penn | Mexican Health and Aging Study MHAS 1 & 2 |
| Princeton | Social Environment and Biomarkers of Aging Study (SEBAS) in Taiwan |
| RAND | Family Life Surveys (Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh); RAND HRS |
| Wisconsin | Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, National Survey of Families and Households, BADGIR (Better Access to Data for Global Interdisciplinary Research) |

Syracuse University

CENTER FOR AGING AND POLICY STUDIES

BEHAVIORIAL RESPONSES TO AGING |
PUBLIC POLICY | GERONTOLOGY EDUCATION

The Center for Aging and Policy Studies (CAPS) supports research in two thematic areas: age-related changes in everyday context; and demographic change, late-life well-being, and public policy. The first encompasses topics that connect physiological, psychosocial, cognitive, and sensory changes associated with the typical aging process to observable choices and health behaviors. The second addresses ways in which individual economic choices and health behaviors are influenced by various public policies and interventions, and how those choices and behaviors, in turn, have implications for public health and for the design and effectiveness of public policies. CAPS encourages research that informs the dynamics of age-related changes and economic well-being, in the context of demographic factors such as family composition, living and household arrangements, and disability and health at older ages. The Center's research has implications for services to support older people, and for the design and targeting of policy interventions. CAPS also hosts a biennial gerontology education summer workshop for undergraduate- and graduate-level instructors of current or proposed aging-related courses. CAPS draws on the expertise of faculty who are associated with the Syracuse University Gerontology Center, the Center for Policy Research, the Hearing Science Laboratory, the Memory Labs, and the Cognition and Health Laboratory, and who come from the Departments of Economics, Public Administration, Sociology, Psychology, and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

University of Southern California and University of California at Los Angeles

CENTER ON BIODEMOGRAPHY AND POPULATION HEALTH

BIODEMOGRAPHY | HEALTH | SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

The USC-UCLA Center brings together a variety of disciplines, including biology, epidemiology, and clinical geriatrics, for the collaborative study of population health using a biodemographic approach. The aim of this Center is to promote research to increase understanding of the biological mechanisms through which social, economic, and psychological factors affect health. This Center supports the development of approaches to biodemographic data collection and validation for demographic research through the

use of pilot projects and research infrastructure including an External Research Support and Dissemination Core that includes a clinical and a genetic laboratory component. This Core serves as a clinical facility to support development and validation of new research methodologies for use in data collection, assay, and analysis for biodemographic research. The Center will encourage the use of these facilities for the wider biodemographic research community. The research supported by the CBPH and the development of infrastructure for measurement and integration of genetic factors will continue to improve our understanding of how individual biological risk factors, combinations of biological risk factors, and interactions of risk factors affect the total length of life, the length of life with health problems, and the population prevalence of specific chronic conditions and disabilities. Results of research supported by this Center will clarify the effects of risk factors on race/ethnic and socioeconomic differences in health within the United States, as well as differences between the United States and other countries. This Center has organized a Network for Measurement of Biological Risk among the Demography of Aging Centers.

University of Wisconsin – Madison

CENTER FOR DEMOGRAPHY OF HEALTH AND AGING MIDLIFE DEVELOPMENT | SURVEYS

Research activities at the University of Wisconsin Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) fall under five major themes: early and mid-life determinants of late-life health and well-being; race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status; demography of aging; trends in chronic disease and disability and burden of illness; and health, work, and retirement. CDHA also seeks to link social-demographic and biomedical and epidemiological research on population aging. It maintains unique data resources: the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey (WLS); the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH); Health, Well-being and Aging in Latin America and the Caribbean (SABE); and Puerto Rican Elderly Health Conditions (PREHCO). Through the SABE project, the Center participates in a cross-national cooperative venture involving researchers from eight countries in the Americas.

CORE MISSIONS

The NIA Demography Centers provide a research infrastructure to address critical questions about population aging in the United States and globally. These Centers serve a large community of investigators engaged in national and international research on aging. The Centers' programs also stimulate innovation in all aspects of research from design to analysis and dissemination of findings. The types of activities in which all Centers engage are:

Program Development. Each Center promotes exploratory research on innovative topics in aging through the funding of pilot projects, recruiting new investigators to study aging, and supporting the career development of established scholars. Pilot projects lay the foundation for more comprehensive research projects in new topic areas. Recruitment and career development expand the network of researchers in the field of aging and enhance the skills of existing researchers.

Training. NIA-supported training programs enable new investigators to gain experience in aging-related research. Centers provide an environment with a variety of research projects on aging, with regular interactions and connections to research scholars in aging, and with convenient access to data and other resources. The pre- and postdoctoral fellowships through which this training is provided ensures a continuing stream of new scholars in the field.

Data Resources. Data resources developed and managed by the Centers contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge about aging and healthy years of life. Centers administer major surveys of older people both in the United States and abroad. They also initiate and design new surveys, supplement existing surveys, and formulate and evaluate experimental survey questions and techniques. In addition, they ensure the availability of data and facilitate its use by other researchers through the maintenance of data libraries, the linking of data from multiple sources, and the management of sensitive data.

Statistical Data Enclaves. The Centers have developed secure data environments where researchers can analyze sensitive data under highly restricted conditions. Without these secure data enclaves, fewer researchers would be able to analyze detailed information on finances, health, medical care, and geographic environment.

Conferences and Workshops. Weekly seminar series, annual summer institutes, data use workshops, and formal research conferences enable the interaction of a broad network of investigators engaged in aging-related research. The Centers foster cross-national comparisons and international collaboration in the study of aging by sponsoring meetings of international scholars.

Research Dissemination. Investigators at the Centers disseminate their research results through articles published in scholarly journals and through books. They also present their findings to policy audiences in both technical and nontechnical formats. In addition, Center-based newsletters serve to circulate results among other researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. These include the *NBER Digest*, the *Issue Brief* series (U Penn), and *RAND Research Briefs*, as well as working paper series supported at many of the Centers. Also, the Wisconsin Center manages an electronic mailing service for news and information on aging. (For more information or to subscribe to this service, visit the Wisconsin website at www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/pubs/caar.html.) *Research Highlights in the Demography and Economics of Aging* is produced by the Centers, and summarizes research findings from the Centers program as a whole. (Find *Research Highlights* at http://agingcenters.org/res_high.html.)

Multidisciplinary Collaborations. Faculty and affiliates of the NIA Centers on the Demography and Economics of Aging come from many disciplines including biology, economics, medicine, psychology, and sociology. Collaborations across disciplines and institutions have been a hallmark of the work fostered at these institutions and of their training programs for graduate and post-graduate students. The *RAND Summer Institute* and *Mini Medical* programs continue to help integrate learning across disciplinary areas. The research networks supported by the Centers generate interdisciplinary research and publications.

International Collaborations. As the United States and the world age rapidly, economic and demographic population research benefits from cross-national comparisons that allow researchers to distinguish cultural effects from the effects of national policies and programs. The NIA Demography Centers provide supportive infrastructure for the development of international networks of scholars and for the implementation of collaborative projects across national boundaries.

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Visit the all-centers website at <http://agingcenters.org>

The National Institute on Aging supports 14 research centers on the demography and economics of aging, based at the University of California at Berkeley; the University of Chicago; Duke University; Harvard University; Johns Hopkins University; the University of Michigan; the National Bureau of Economic Research; the University of Pennsylvania; Princeton University; the RAND Corporation; the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles; Syracuse University; and the University of Wisconsin. *Research Highlights in the Demography and Economics of Aging* is prepared as a cooperative activity of these Centers. For further information about the Centers and to view other issues of *Research Highlights*, please visit the all-centers website at <http://agingcenters.org>.