



Aging in America: The Silver Surge

Monday, February 2, 2004, Washington, DC - By the year 2030 almost 20 percent of the United States population will be 65 years of age or older. Understanding the implications of this "silver surge" for American society will be a major challenge to decision-makers at all levels of government. This program provided a statistical portrait of today's older Americans, outlined how this portrait is projected to change over the next four decades and identified emerging issues confronting both the public and private leaders of our society.

Introduction:

Rebecca Beauregard, Consultant, Population Resource Center and Former Deputy Staff Director, Senate Special Committee on Aging

Speakers:

"America's Golden Years: Data for Decision Makers"

Victoria A. Velkoff, Ph.D., Chief, Aging Studies Branch, International Studies Center, U.S. Census Bureau

"The Challenge of Change"

Robert N. Butler, M.D., President and CEO, International Longevity Center - USA



Co-Sponsors:

Northeast-Midwest Institute

The Offices of Representatives Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Jim Greenwood (R-PA), Rush Holt (D-NJ), and Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL)

Quick Facts:

"In 2000 12.4% of the population in the United States was 65 years of age or older. In 2030 it is projected that nearly 20% of the American population will be in that age group."
Victoria A. Velkoff, Chief, Aging Studies Branch, International Studies Center, U.S. Census Bureau

"If we look at people age 85 and older over of half of men in this cohort are married compared to 13% of women."

Victoria A. Velkoff, Chief, Aging Studies Branch, International Studies Center, U.S. Census Bureau

"Older people make up 40% of over-the-counter drug use, yet are not required to be represented in clinical drug trials."

Robert Butler, President and CEO, International Longevity Center - USA

"Some 50% of older Americans would be living in poverty were it not for Social Security (payments)."

Robert Butler, President and CEO, International Longevity Center - USA

"Since OSHA was passed into law in 1972 there has been a 50% reduction of deaths in the workplace. This has contributed significantly to the increase in life expectancy over the past 30 years."

Robert Butler, President and CEO, International Longevity Center - USA

Downloads: (see Presentations web page)

Dr. Velkoff's PowerPoint Presentation

Dr. Butler's PowerPoint Presentation

Materials:

Annual Report, International Longevity Center - USA (2003)

Clinical Trials and Older Persons: The Need for Greater Representation, International Longevity Center - USA (November-December 2002)

Elderly Americans, Population Reference Bureau (June 2002)

Old and Poor in America, International Longevity Center - USA (October 2001)

Preparing for an Aging Nation: The Need for Academic Geriatricians, International Longevity Center - USA (June 2002)

Walk to a Healthy Future, International Longevity Center - USA (May-June 2003)

In Attendance:

The Office of Senators:

Jack Reed (D-RI)

The Offices of Representatives:

Sherwood L. Boehlert (R-NY)

John D. Dingell (D-MI)

Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)

Rush Holt (D-NJ)

Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)

Jim Ramstad (R-MN)

Ted Strickland (D-OH)

Senate Committees:

Special Committee on Aging

Government Agencies:

Administration on Aging

Census Bureau

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Management and Budget

Social Security Administration

National Institute on Aging

Other Organizations:

Alliance for Aging Research

Families USA

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

National Association of Counties

National Caucus and Center on Black Aged

National Council on the Aging

Media:

Scripps Howard News Service