



Older and Wiser : Public Policy Issues for an Aging America

Edited by R.N. Butler



Today, one in eight Americans - 32 million people - is aged 65 or older. That proportion will rise to one in five by 2020. The number of elderly Americans is growing faster than the US population at large, with those aged 85 or older representing the most rapidly increasing segment of all. Because most of the elderly are no longer in the workforce, and because they are especially vulnerable to chronic illness, disability and social isolation, the projected explosion in their numbers has enormous ramifications for American society and public policy. This collection of essays, cosponsored by The Century Foundation/Twentieth Century Fund and the International Longevity Center, explores the wide-ranging economic and social consequences of the ageing of America. Compiled under the supervision of Pulitzer Prize-winning author and gerontologist Dr. Robert N. Butler, the volume presents essays by some of the nations foremost experts on economics, demography, public policy, health care, and the media. The authors include Marilyn Moon of the Urban Institute Robert H. Binstock, professor of aging, health, and society at Case Western Reserve University economist James Schulz of Brandeis University former NBC News president Lawrence K. Grossman William Gale of the Brookings Institution and Sara Rix of the American Association of Retired Persons. Robert N. Butler is the director of the International Longevity Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and editor-in-chief of the journal Geriatrics. He is the author of *The Longevity Revolution* (HarperCollins, forthcoming) and *Why Survive? Being Old in America* (HarperCollins, 1976).

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