

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777059303321
Titolo	Aging issues in the United States and Japan [[electronic resource] /] / edited by Seiritsu Ogura, Toshiaki Tachibanaki, and David A. Wise
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2001
ISBN	1-281-12595-4 9786611125950 0-226-62083-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (420 p.)
Collana	National Bureau of Economic Research conference report
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Disciplina	305.26/0952
Soggetti	Older people - United States - Economic conditions Older people - Japan - Economic conditions Age distribution (Demography) - Economic aspects - United States Age distribution (Demography) - Economic aspects - Japan
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Choice, Chance, and Wealth Dispersion at Retirement -- 2. Household Portfolio Allocation over the Life Cycle -- 3. The Social Security System and the Demand for Personal Annuity and Life Insurance: An Analysis of Japanese Microdata, 1990 and 1994 -- 4. An Empirical Investigation of Intergenerational Consumption Distribution: A Comparison among Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom -- 5. The Third Wave in Health Care Reform -- 6. Concentration and Persistence of Health Care Costs for the Aged -- 7. The Effects of Demographic Change on Health and Medical Expenditures: A Simulation Analysis -- 8. Choice among Employer-Provided Insurance Plans -- 9. Employees' Pension Benefits and the Labor Supply of Older Japanese Workers, 1980's-1990's -- 10. The Motivations for Business Retirement Policies -- 11. Promotion, Incentives, and Wages -- 12. What Went Wrong with the 1991-92 Official Population Projection of Japan? -- Contributors -- Author Index -- Subject Index

The population base in both the United States and Japan is growing older and, as those populations age, they provoke heretofore unexamined economic consequences. This cutting-edge, comparative volume, the third in the joint series offered by the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Japan Center for Economic Research, explores those consequences, drawing specific attention to four key areas: incentives for early retirement; savings, wealth, and asset allocation over the life cycle; health care and health care reform; and population projections. Given the undeniable global importance of the Japanese and U.S. economies, these innovative essays shed welcome new light on the complex correlations between aging and economic behavior. This insightful work not only deepens our understanding of the Japanese and American economic landscapes but, through careful examination of the comparative social and economic data, clarifies the complex relation between aging societies, public policies, and economic outcomes.
