

TEACHING GERONTOLOGY

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SATISTICS, AND MORE STATISTICS

Looking for the numbers? They're all on the web. The sources listed below provide aging-related demographic data of various kinds, including Census data.

PROFILE OF OLDER AMERICANS. Concise, compact and comprehensive collections of facts and figures about the age 65 and older population in the United States. Topics include health, life expectancy, marital status, living arrangements, geographic distribution, racial/ethnic composition, economic status, employment, education.

<http://www.aarp.org/research/reference/statistics/aresearch-import-519.html>

ON THE AGING POPULATION. Includes "Older Americans Update 2006: Key Indicators of Well-Being" and many other important data sets.

<http://www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/statistics.asp>

ONLINE STATISTICAL DATA ON AGING. A convenient set of links to online statistical information on the demographic characteristics, health, social conditions, and economic condition of older persons. Includes links to online resources including Census, HHS health statistics, and more.

http://www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/online_stat_data/online_stat_data.asp

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS. Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging tables on trends in the health of older Americans showing data by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/agingact.htm>

FAST STATS A-Z. Quick access to statistics on topics of public health importance and is organized alphabetically. Links are provided to publications that include the statistics presented, to sources of more data, and to related web pages
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/default.htm>

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU: Age Data. A compendium of data at the national, state and local levels, as well as break-outs for groups such as aging boomers.
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age.html>

TEACHING AGING POLICY

For faculty who want to strengthen their teaching in the policy area, there is no better place to go than the syllabi and resources available from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. These include three critical areas:

"Demography, Aging, and Public Policy: A Policy Oriented Curriculum Component" (by Prof. Douglas A. Wolf):
http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/gero_ed/demog.htm

"Political Science Perspectives on Aging Policy: A Policy Oriented Curriculum" (by Robert B. Hudson): http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/gero_ed/fullcurc.htm

"Economic Issues of Aging: A Policy Oriented Curriculum Component":
http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/gero_ed/econ_ed.htm

Also note the book recently published by two of the towering scholarly authorities in the economics and politics of aging: AGING NATION: The Economics and Politics of Growing Older in America. by James Schulz and Robert Binstock (Praeger, 2006).

The "Public Policy & Aging E-Report" is a new, no-cost bimonthly email publication from GSA that highlights key developments and viewpoints in the field of aging policy from a wide variety of sources, including articles and reports circulating in the media, academy, think tanks, private sector, government and nonprofit organizations. For information about how to subscribe to this publication contact teachgero@yahoo.com

AGELINE ONLINE

Are you and your students using AgeLine, the world's largest bibliographic database in aging? Don't delay any longer. Look at "How to Use AgeLine: Online Demo & Related Resources: A brief introduction and Guide to AgeLine" for classroom use or for those who wish to refresh their skills on the database. This

tutorial includes information on obtaining a free Thesaurus of Aging Terminology; using the Thesaurus to search AgeLine; writing a gerontology term paper; and browsing over 200 pre-searched topics from AgeLine's Searches to Go series.

To find out more these resources visit: <http://www.aarp.org/geroageline>

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT AGING

What do our students know-- or think they know-- about aging? Look at "Myths About Aging: A Classroom Exercise" at:
<http://depts.washington.edu/geroctr/Curriculum3/ClassExercises/AgingMythsExercise.doc>

For a useful classroom test on "Some Facts Related to the Aging Process: True or False?" look at:
<http://depts.washington.edu/geroctr/Curriculum3/ClassExercises/AgingFactsExercise-Questions.doc>

For answers to the questions, see:
<http://depts.washington.edu/geroctr/Curriculum3/ClassExercises/AgingFactsExercise-Answers.doc>

INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Can there be a truly international curriculum in gerontology? One ambitious response is found in "INTERGERO" an international interdisciplinary program for teaching gerontology growing out of a consortia implementation project involving European and American universities.

This project has been designed to develop a new common teaching curriculum that will comply with the system of credits in both the United States and the European Union. This new curriculum is to include a comparative view of socio-health services on an international basis, as well as specific teaching materials developed by the teaching staff involved. U.S. Partners include Miami University (Ohio), Oregon State University, San Francisco State University, and AGHE. For more on this project, visit: <http://www.intergero.org/proyect.htm>

CDs AVAILABLE

Who said our government doesn't do much? There are many CDs and Books on Aging and Health available free from the US National Academies. Contact them at the National Institute on Aging Information Center (1-800-222-2225) to place an order. A comprehensive CD contains the complete contents of fourteen books published by the National Academies Press, including "The Aging Mind:

Opportunities in Cognitive Research," "Assessing Knowledge of Retirement Behavior," "Demography of Aging," "Elder Mistreatment," and others.

CAREERS IN AGING

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) are sponsoring the 6th Annual Careers in Aging Week, which will take place April 8-14, 2007, on college campuses around the country. If you are interested in holding a Careers in Aging Week event on your campus, you can find out more at: <http://www.careersinaging.com>

See also "Exploring Careers in Aging" at:
http://businessandaging.blogs.com/ecg/2005/06/founder_linda_w.html

WEB SITES TO SEE

WORKLIFE EXTENSION. Many analysts predict we'll be working longer in the future. But how will that come about? Read "Policies to Promote Labor Force Participation of Older People" by Alicia H. Munnell at:
http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2006-2.shtml

LONG TERM CARE. "Workers Who Care: A Graphical Profile of the Frontline Workforce" is available at:
http://www.rwjf.org/files/publications/other/workers_who_care.pdf

POWERPOINTS. To get PowerPoint slides for Data on "Older Americans 2006" from the federal government, visit:
http://www.agingstats.gov/update2006/OA_2006.ppt

This electronic newsletter is edited by Harry (Rick) Moody at the AARP Office of Academic Affairs. TEACHING GERONTOLOGY contains items of interest to improve the teaching of aging in higher education. To submit items or request subscription changes, contact hrmoody@aarp.org