

# Longer lives will not affect health care cost

By Linda A. Johnson  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More "golden years" do not cost the health care system more: Whether people are healthy at age 70 and live independently for many more years or are sickly and die sooner, their medical costs are about the same, federal researchers say.

The findings have big implications for taxpayers, because they suggest that the outlook for the Medicare program as America's baby boomers grow old is not as dire as some policymakers feared.

Given projections saying the baby boom generation will bankrupt the Medicare trust fund in about 25 years, politicians and economists have wondered whether the increasing longevity of healthier senior citizens would increase or reduce Medicare spending.

The answer is neither, say researchers at the National Center for Health Statistics. They found medical expenses from age 70 until death averaged \$140,700, with little difference between active, long-lived senior citizens and disabled ones — except for those already in a nursing home.

"The basic lesson of our study is that although healthy people live longer, they don't cost more in the long run," said Jim Lubitz, acting chief of the Aging Studies Branch in the statistics center's Office of Analysis, Epidemiology

and Health Promotion. "Improving health should be the overall goal of our health care system, but it's not going to save Medicare money."

Sandra Decker, a researcher at the International Longevity Center-USA, said Medicare costs will rise because of the sheer number of beneficiaries not their longer life span.

Lubitz said the study should give a boost to efforts by government and doctors to encourage middle-aged and older people to improve their health by getting more exercise, eating better and not smoking.

Uwe Reinhardt, a professor of health economics at Princeton University, said 70-year-olds today have far more disabilities than their counterparts a couple of decades ago when economist Victor R. Fuchs first reported that longevity did not affect health-care spending much. Reinhardt said the study provides updated numbers on those costs.

The study was reported Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Lubitz and colleagues used Medicare and other health records and interviews to determine average long- and end-of-life costs. Average life expectancy in this country hit a record 77 years in 2001.

## Traveler

By Ja

ANNAPOLIS — "the new Friday transportation, said a George Washington

Because of the by the terrorist attack in New York City will not fly or ride again.

"It's going to Hilliard, assistant Tourism and Hospitality Washington University wily of normal day," similar to actions on Friday

Law enforcement are trying to reach



People flee lower Manhattan in New York, Tuesday, after terrorist attacks on the

**Grand Opening Special!!**  
**\$1.79 Cleaners**  
*(Discount Price...Not Quality)*  
**\$1.79 Dry Cleaning any garment**  
 89¢ Shirts      \$1.99 Blue Jeans  
 505 University Dr. E (next to Fox & Hound) • 260-1991

**THE BOAT SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**  
 Seafood Fresh from The Boat  
**Brazos Valley's Oldest Oyster Bar**  
 Flounder • Shrimp • Red Snapper  
 Salmon • Catfish • Frog Legs • Oysters  
**Happy Hour Mon-Fri 3-7pm**  
 \*1 drafts • \*2.95 dozen oysters  
 OPEN Sun-Thurs 11-10 • Fri-Sat 11-11  
 206 E. Villa Maria • Bryan • 979-775-9079

**LEARN TO FLY NOW**  
 At United Flight Systems  
 THE EXPERIENCED FLIGHT SCHOOL

2001-2003 Best of the Brazos Valley Winner!

FAA Approved Flight School  
 Private - Advance Training  
 Aircraft Rental Available  
 VA Eligible Benefits  
 Pilot Shop

COLLEGE STATION  
 At Easterwood Airport  
 (979) 260-6322  
 www.unitedflight.com

**AVIATION CAREER TRACKS**  
 While working on your college degree accomplish your pilot's certificates at the same time. Upon finishing your college career, you can secure a job as an airline pilot.

**STUDENT TRAVEL**  
 elevate europe  
 as seen on MTV's the Real World Paris

This is THE trip of the season! Follow the cast's footsteps from Paris to » Nice » Florence » Rome » Zermatt

Experience beach fun, city nights and mountain dreams in 2 weeks or less! starting at **\$607\***  
\*airfare not included

ENTER TO WIN THE trip for 2 at your local branch or www.statravel.com!

**Lufthansa Take a Friend For \$99!\***  
 airline special \*see your branch for details

721 Texas Ave. S  
 College Station  
**(979) 696.5077**  
 exciting things are happening @ www.statravel.com

**Find life confusing? Even a compass needs the North Pole.**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."  
 John 8:12.

And now here's the really good news:  
 God is reaching out to men and women through His son, Jesus Christ.  
 To find out more about God's relevance in your life,  
 We encourage you to read this free article by Josh McDowell:  
**Does Christianity Work?**  
 www.leaderu.com/everystudent/josh/josh.html

**FACULTY FRIENDS**

We are a group of professors, instructors, lecturers, and administrators united by our common experience that Jesus Christ provides intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions. We are available to students, faculty, and staff who might like to discuss such questions with us. For more information about the Faculty Friends ad, please contact Dr. Murphy Smith 5-3108, Dr. Steve Crouse 5-3997, or Dr. Lee Lowry 5-4395. The Faculty Friends Web site is <http://facultyfriends.tamu.edu>

W. Miles Marks 12th Man Foundation	Jack Lunsford Chemistry	Linda Bow English	O. E. (Ed) Elmore Management	Duane McVay Petroleum Engineering
Natalie L. Allen Accounting	Jim Pennington Accounting	William Bedford Clark English	George Rice, Jr. Management	Roger Schultz Performance Studies
Austin Daily Accounting	Bob Hildreth Chemistry	Craig Kallendorf English & Mod. Languages	Frederick Larson Management	John A. McIntyre Physics
Larry Joiner Accounting	Lynn Beason Civil Engineering	Terry Larsen Environmental Design	Charles Futtrell Marketing	Marlan Scully Physics
Mary Lea McAnally Accounting	Dallas N. Little Civil Engineering	Russell K. Biles Family & Community Medicine	Richard T. Hise Marketing	Patricia Griffin Political Science
Kelli Shomaker Accounting	Lee Lowery, Jr. Civil Engineering	George McInaney Family & Community Medicine	Stephen McDaniel Marketing	Rob Heffer Psychology
L. Murphy Smith Accounting	James S. Noel Civil Engineering	Lamar McNew Family & Community Medicine	Lisa Cox Mathematics	Charles Johnson Psychology
Karen Turner Accounting	Paul Roschke Civil Engineering	David Segrest Family & Community Medicine	Robert Gustafson Mathematics	Mort Kothmann Rangeland Ecology & Mgmt.
Don Warren Accounting	Hayes E. Ross Jr. Civil Engineering	Linda Ladd Family Development & Resource Mgmt.	Jeff Morgan Mathematics	Gary W. Maler Real Estate Center
Michael Wilkins Accounting	Donald Saylak Civil Engineering	Paige Fields Finance	Patrice Poage Mathematics	Louis Hodges Recreation & Parks
Walter Halster Aerospace Engineering	Ralph Wurbs Civil Engineering	James Kolari Finance	Nancy Simpson Mathematics/GTE	Carson E. Watt Recreation & Parks
John Valasek Aerospace Engineering	Michael Greenwald Communications	Lawrence Wolken Finance	Eric Weber Mathematics	Jane Nelson Bolin Rural and Public Health
John Whitcomb Aerospace Engineering	Martin Medhurst Communications	W. Todd Watson Forest Science	Richard M. Alexander Mechanical Engineering	James N. Burdine Rural and Public Health
Oral Capps, Jr. Agricultural Economics	Rick Rigby Communications	Walter F. Juliff FSIS Project Management	Walter L. Bradley Mechanical Engineering - Emeritus	Brian Colwell Rural and Public Health
James E. Christiansen Agricultural Education	Walter Daugherty Computer Science	Terry Spencer Geophysics	L. Roy Cornwell Mechanical Engineering - Emeritus	Maurice Dennis Safety Education
Alvin Larke Jr. Agricultural Education	Hoh In Computer Science	Danny Ballard Health and Kinesiology	Louis Everett Mechanical Engineering	Henrik Schmiedtche Statistics
Karen Beathard Animal Science	Mac Lively Computer Science	Camille Bunting Health and Kinesiology	Richard Griffin Mechanical Engineering	Buzz Refugio Student Financial Aid
Dan Hale Animal Science	Dick Volz Computer Science	Stephen Crouse Health and Kinesiology	Warren Heffington Mechanical Engineering	Diane Graham Student Teaching
Amy A. Chapman Animal Science	James W. Craig Jr. Construction Science	Judy M. Delp Health and Kinesiology	Harry Hogan Mechanical Engineering	Mike Nelson TEES Info Sys
Paul Harms Animal Science	Charles W. Graham Construction Science	Michael D. Delp Health and Kinesiology	C. L. Hough Mechanical Engineering - Retired	Donald A. Sweeney Urban Planning
Douglas Householder Animal Science	Elizabeth Tebeau Distance Education	Steve Dorman Health and Kinesiology	Ken D. Kihm Mechanical Engineering	Robert Field Veterinary Medicine
Jimmy T. Keeton Animal Science	Richard K. Anderson Economics	Carl Gabbard Health and Kinesiology	Gerald Morrison Mechanical Engineering	E. Dean Gage Veterinary Medicine
Steven Nizietzki Animal Science	James M. Griffin Economics	Kerrie Green Health and Kinesiology	Dennis O'Neal Mechanical Engineering	Ron Green Veterinary Medicine
Richard Davison, Jr. Architecture	Tim Gronberg Economics	Sandy Kimbrough Health and Kinesiology	Ozden Ochoa Mechanical Engineering	Loren Skow Veterinary Medicine
Jeff Haberl Architecture	Steven Wiggins Economics	Leonard Ponder Health and Kinesiology	David Rhode Mechanical Engineering	Michael Willard Veterinary Medicine
Theodore S. Maffitt Architecture	Maynard Bratlien Educational Administration	Rose Schmitz Health and Kinesiology	H.J. Sue Mechanical Engineering	John W. Huff Veterinary Microbiology
Kristin Hill Athletics	David A. Erlandson Educational Administration	Jack H. Wilmore Health and Kinesiology	C. Steve Suh Mechanical Engineering	Nate Bauer Veterinary Pathobiology
Colin Killian Athletics	Robert K. James Educational Curriculum	Wayne Wylie Health and Kinesiology	Dan Turner Mechanical Engineering	Kenneth Pierce Veterinary Pathobiology - Emeritus
James R. Wild Biochemistry & Genetics	Patricia Larke Educational Curriculum	Barry Nelson Medical Science Center	Wayne Sampson Medical Anatomy	Travis Small Veterinary Pathobiology
Jason Poole Biomedical Science	Will Worley Electrical Engineering - Emeritus	Steve Smith Human Resources	Iona Petrikovics Medical Pharmacology	Karen Snowden Veterinary Pathobiology
Ben Welch Business Center for Executive Dev.	Andrew K. Chan Electrical Engineering	Richard Feldman Industrial Engineering	Michael Davis Medical Physiology	James E. Womack Veterinary Pathobiology
Ashley Kinnard Career Center	Robert Nevells Electrical Engineering	Albert Garcia-Diaz Military Science	Rick Mallahan Military Science	James G. Anderson Veterinary Physiology
Matt Upton Career Center	John H. Painter Electrical Engineering	Cesar Malave Industrial Engineering	Hilaine Kallendorf Modern & Classical Languages	Larry D. Claborn Veterinary Physiology - Retired
Sharon Helger Center for Academic Enhancement	A. D. Patton Electrical Engineering	Don Phillips Industrial Engineering	Steven Oberhelman Modern & Classical Languages	Jim Jensen Veterinary Physiology
Joel McGee Center for Academic Enhancement	B. Don Russell Electrical Engineering	Thomas Rodgers Info & Operations Management	Alfred Amendola Nuclear Engineering	J.D. McCrady Veterinary Physiology
Liz Miller Center Teaching Excellence	Karan Watson Electrical Engineering	Terry Blanchard Large Animal Med/Surgery	Judith M. Ball Pathobiology	
Richard Davison Chemical Engineering	Jerry Vinson Engineering Technology	Robert Field Large Vet. Animal Clinic	Joyce Davis Pathology & Lab Med-Emeritus	

NOTE: This ad presents the personal convictions of the individuals listed herein; the ad does not represent or support any view or position of Texas A&M University or any academic department. The ad does represent and acknowledge the diversity of academic contributions to Texas A&M University by men and women of various race, ethnic group, and cultural background who share the Christian faith.

great jobs for great people

learning, discovering, advancing science, the Experiment Station growing people, ideas, and communities Extension

greatjobs.tamu.edu

An online employment service for people interested in working for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station or Texas Cooperative Extension. Employment opportunities are available at departments and units on the Texas A & M campus and at Experiment Station and Extension offices throughout Texas.

For more information, contact us:  
 Phone: 979-458-4194 (4473)  
 E-mail: [employment@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:employment@ag.tamu.edu)  
 Web: <http://greatjobs.tamu.edu>

**GREATemps!**  
 Discover temporary employment opportunities available throughout the Texas A & M Campus. The Agricultural Experiment Station and Texas Cooperative Extension are seeking individuals for general labor, technical, and temporary assignments. Please visit our employment website at <http://greatjobs.tamu.edu> and follow the link to GREATemps for more information.

**CHINA KING 中 皇 BUFFET RESTAURANT**

**FRESH SEAFOOD BUFFET**

- Fresh Oysters
- King Crab Legs
- Salmon
- Mussels
- Sushi
- Roast Duck

**FUN! DELICIOUS! HEALTHY!** Mongolian BBQ available all day long

YOUR CHOICE OF FRESH FOOD • MADE WHILE YOU WATCH

**LUNCH BUFFET \$5.55**  
 Mon.-Sat. 11:00am-4:00pm

**DINNER BUFFET \$7.75**  
 Mon.-Sat. 4:30pm-9:30pm

**10% Discount with Student ID**

2402-D Texas Avenue S.  
 College Station, TX 77845  
 Parkway Square Shopping Center  
 (Next to Stein Mart)  
 694-7959 • 694-7482

**Early Career Petroleum Human Resources Accounting**

The sea is constantly and far reaching that makes the It also represents specialize and internationally completely.

Whichever route given a real job More than that experts and ins take your care more, visit you apply online or collegerecruit

Shell Companies opportunity emp [www.shell.com](http://www.shell.com)