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*Policy Update* is a bimonthly publication that highlights the latest research, analysis, and statistics from the Social Security Administration's Office of Policy. It includes summaries of all recent products and highlights work done by outside researchers funded through a cooperative agreement with SSA. Information about the availability of the publications is given in each section.

## Publications

Documents from the Office of Policy are available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/policy](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy). For information about the availability of printed copies, please e-mail [op.publications@ssa.gov](mailto:op.publications@ssa.gov), call 202-358-6274, or fax 202-358-6192.

### *International Programs*

#### *Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa, 2003*

(released September 2003)

This publication is one of a four-volume series that provides a cross-national comparison of the social security systems in more than 170 countries. Each volume focuses on a different region of the world: Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas. Published at 6-month intervals, the volumes summarize the five main social insurance programs of the countries in that region: old-age, disability, and survivors; sickness and maternity; work injury; unemployment; and family allowances.

Online: [www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2002-2003/africa/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2002-2003/africa/index.html)

### *Retirement*

#### *Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Public-Use Microdata File, 2001 Data*

(released October 2003)

Information needed to administer the OASDI program resides on SSA's Master Beneficiary Record (MBR) file, which in December 2001 contained records for

approximately 46 million individuals who were entitled to receive an OASDI benefit for that month. The OASDI Public-Use Microdata File contains an extract of data fields from the MBR and consists of a 1 percent random, representative sample of persons entitled to receive an OASDI benefit payment for December 2001. This file contains approximately 460,000 records, with 16 data fields on each record.

Online: [www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/microdata/mbr/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/microdata/mbr/index.html)

### *Supplemental Security Income*

#### *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Public-Use Microdata File, 2001 Data*

(released October 2003)

Information needed to administer the federal SSI program resides on SSA's Supplemental Security Record (SSR) file, which in December 2001 contained records for approximately 6.4 million individuals who received a federal SSI benefit for that month. The SSI Public-Use Microdata File contains an extract of data fields from the SSR and consists of a 5 percent random, representative sample of persons who received a federal SSI benefit in December 2001. This file contains approximately 320,000 records, with 13 data fields on each record.

Online: [www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/microdata/ssr/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/microdata/ssr/index.html)

### *Taxes*

#### *Earnings and Employment Data for Workers Covered Under Social Security and Medicare, by State and County, 2000*

(released September 2003)

This annual statistical report presents employment and earnings data by sex, age, and race for people in Social Security-covered employment. The tables include data on workers in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Online: [www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/eedata\\_sc/2000/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/eedata_sc/2000/index.html)

## Journal Articles

Summaries of journal articles and information on how to obtain the full text of an article may be available on the journal's Web site. Links to the respective journals have been provided, where applicable. Journals may also be available through libraries. SSA does not have copies of these articles for distribution.

### ***Defining Participation in Defined Contribution Pension Plans***

John Turner, Leslie Muller, and Satyendra K. Verma  
*Monthly Labor Review* 126(8): 36-43 (August 2003).

Online: [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.html](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.html)

## Books

### ***Paying for Results in Vocational Rehabilitation: Will Provider Incentives Work for Ticket to Work?***

Kalman Rupp and Stephen Bell, eds. (Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute, 2003).

Note: Chapter 1 and the table of contents of the book are available at [urban.org/url.cfm?ID=8255](http://urban.org/url.cfm?ID=8255).

### ***The Impact of Minority Group Status on the Projected Retirement Income of Divorced Women in the Baby-Boom Cohort***

Barbara A. Butrica and Howard M. Iams

In *Widows and Divorcees in Later Life: On Their Own Again*, edited by Carol L. Jenkins (Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Press, 2003), pp. 67-88.

A summary of the book is available at [www.haworthpressinc.com/store/product.asp?sku=4955](http://www.haworthpressinc.com/store/product.asp?sku=4955).

## Papers from the Retirement Research Consortium

The Retirement Research Consortium comprises three multidisciplinary centers that are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration. The centers are located at Boston College, the University of Michigan, and the National Bureau of Economic Research. These centers provide research and policy analysis to inform decisionmakers about issues critical to Social Security's retirement program.

### ***Boston College***

The following papers are available on the Center for Retirement Research Web site ([www.bc.edu/crr](http://www.bc.edu/crr)) and can be requested by e-mail from [crr@bc.edu](mailto:crr@bc.edu).

### ***Simulating the Distributional Consequences of Personal Accounts: Sensitivity to Annuitization Options***

Sheila Zedlewski, C. Eugene Steuerle, Karen Smith, and Melissa Favreault

*BCCRR Working Paper 2003-17* (October 2003)

### ***The Effect of Social Security Incentives on Divorce and Remarriage Behavior***

Stacy Dickert-Conlin and David Weaver

*BCCRR Working Paper 2003-18* (October 2003)

### ***The Notional Defined Contribution Model: An Assessment of the Strengths and Limitations of a New Approach to Provision of Old Age Security***

John B. Williamson

*BCCRR Working Paper 2003-19* (September 2003)