

# Growing Old in a New America: Latino Immigration, Health and Life-expectancy Inequalities among Older Americans

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Prepared for the conference “Embracing Diversity: Latino Immigration and the Transformation of American Society,” Harvard University, Oct. 13-14, 2006.

## Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to identify the projected rise in health and life-expectancy inequality among older Americans as a result of continuing Latino immigration, and to identify the challenges that these inequalities will place on social security and Medicare reform plans. At the center of my argument is the existence of a trade-off that Latino women in particular face between relying on ethnically-based networks of support, personal savings, and government benefits. The implication of the analysis presented here is to rethink standard assumptions about the character and the needs of the older Americans in the next half-century. Any plans to rethink social security and Medicare will have to be based on a better understanding of emerging inequalities in aging Americans.

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