

[Working Papers](#)

Financial Literacy and Planning: Implications for Retirement Wellbeing

Annamaria Lusardi & Olivia S. Mitchell

SHARE      

WORKING PAPER 17078

DOI 10.3386/w17078

ISSUE DATE May 2011

Relatively little is known about why people fail to plan for retirement and whether planning and information costs might affect retirement saving patterns. This paper reports on a purpose-built survey module on planning and financial literacy for the Health and Retirement Study which measures how people make financial plans, collect the information needed to make these plans, and implement the plans. We show that financial illiteracy is widespread among older Americans, particularly women, minorities, and the least educated. We also find that the financially savvy are more likely to plan and to succeed in their planning, and they rely on formal methods such as retirement calculators, retirement seminars, and financial experts, instead of family/relatives or co-workers. These results have implications for targeted financial education efforts.

[Download a PDF](#)

Acknowledgements and Disclosures



Download Citation



Published Versions

“[Financial Literacy and Planning: Implications for Retirement Well - being](#),” joint with Olivia Mitchell , in A. Lusardi and O Mitc hell (eds), “Financia l Literacy. Implications for Retirement Security and the Fina ncial Marketplace,” Oxford University Press , 2011, p p. 17 - 39 .

Related

TOPICS

[Microeconomics](#)

[Behavioral Economics](#)

PROGRAMS

[Economics of Aging](#)

Mentioned in the News

[Financial planners aren't just for rich people. They're for you, too](#)

MARCH 16, 2023

SOURCE: [Big Think](#)

[Read the research here.](#)

[Nontraditional Workers Exhibit High Levels of Financial Literacy](#)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

SOURCE: [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#)

[Read the research here](#) and [here](#).

[View All →](#)

More from NBER

In addition to [working papers](#), the NBER disseminates affiliates' latest findings through a range of free periodicals — the [NBER Reporter](#), the [NBER Digest](#), the [Bulletin on Retirement and Disability](#), the [Bulletin on Health](#), and the [Bulletin on Entrepreneurship](#) — as well as online conference reports, video lectures, and interviews.



16th Annual Martin Feldstein Lecture:

Lessons for Economists from the Pandemic

Cecilia E. Rouse, The Brookings Institution
and Princeton University
July 22, 2024

2024, 16th Annual Feldstein Lecture, Cecilia E. Rouse, "Lessons for Economists from the Pandemic"

FELDSTEIN LECTURE

PRESENTER: [CECILIA E. ROUSE](#)

Cecilia Rouse, president of the Brookings Institution and a professor at Princeton University, who chaired the Council...



Methods Lectures, Summer Institute 2024:

Analysis and Design of Multi-Armed Bandit Experiments and Policy Learning

Susan Athey, Stanford University and NBER
July 25, 2024

2024 Methods Lecture, Susan Athey, "Analysis and Design of Multi-Armed Bandit Experiments and Policy Learning"

METHODS LECTURES

PRESENTER: [SUSAN ATHEY](#)

Background Materials: [backgroundAthey, Susan, Undral Byambadalai, Vitor Hadad, Sanath Kumar Krishnamurthy, Weiwen Leung...](#)



Economics of Social Security Panel Discussion

Earnings Inequality and Payroll Tax Revenues

Karen Dynan, Harvard University

Karen Glenn, Social Security Administration

Stephen Goss, Social Security Administration

Fatih Guvenen, University of Minnesota and NBER

James Pearce, US Congressional Budget Office

NBER Summer Institute, July 24, 2024

2024, Economics of Social Security Panel, "Earnings Inequality and Payroll Tax Revenues"

PANEL DISCUSSION

PRESENTERS: [KAREN DYNAN](#), KAREN GLENN, STEPHEN GOSS, [FATIH GUVENEN](#) & [JAMES PEARCE](#)

National Bureau of Economic Research

[Contact Us](#)

1050 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02138

[617-868-3900](tel:617-868-3900)

info@nber.org

webaccessibility@nber.org

[HOMEPAGE](#)

[Accessibility Policy](#)

[Diversity Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

FOLLOW



