Health at Older Ages
The Causes and Consequences of Declining Disability among the Elderly

Edited by David M. Cutler and David A. Wise

The University of Chicago Press
Chicago and London
# Contents

Preface xi

**Introduction**
David M. Cutler, David A. Wise, and Richard G. Woodbury 1

## I. DISABILITY TRENDS

1. **The Health of Older Men in the Past**
   Dora L. Costa 21

2. **Arthritis: Changes in Its Prevalence during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries**
   Paula Canavese and Robert W. Fogel 55

3. **Socioeconomic and Demographic Disparities in Trends in Old-Age Disability**
   Robert F. Schoeni, Vicki A. Freedman, and Linda G. Martin 75

## II. PATHWAYS TO DISABILITY

4. **Pathways to Disability: Predicting Health Trajectories**
   Florian Heiss, Axel Börsch-Supan, Michael Hurd, and David A. Wise 105

5. **Clinical Pathways to Disability**
   Mary Beth Landrum, Kate A. Stewart, and David M. Cutler 151
III. Medical Advances and Disability

6. Intensive Medical Care and Cardiovascular Disease Disability Reductions 191
   David M. Cutler, Mary Beth Landrum, and Kate A. Stewart

7. Are Baby Boomers Aging Better Than Their Predecessors? Trends in Overweight, Arthritis, and Mobility Difficulty 223
   Suzanne G. Leveille, Christina C. Wee, and Lisa I. Iezzoni

8. Disability and Spending Growth 237
   Michael E. Chernew, Dana Goldman, Feng Pan, and Baoping Shang

IV. Work Disability

9. Work Disability is a Pain in the ****, Especially in England, the Netherlands, and the United States 251
   James Banks, Arie Kapteyn, James P. Smith, and Arthur van Soest

10. Disability Risk and the Value of Disability Insurance 295
    Amitabh Chandra and Andrew A. Samwick

    Mark Duggan and Scott A. Imberman

12. Early Retirement and DI/SSI Applications: Exploring the Impact of Depression 381
    Rena M. Conti, Ernst R. Berndt, and Richard G. Frank

V. Assistive Technology and Caregiving

    Vicki A. Freedman, Linda G. Martin, Jennifer Cornman, Emily M. Agree, and Robert F. Schoeni
14. How Do Medicare Beneficiaries with Physical and Sensory Disabilities Feel About Their Health Care? 439
Lisa I. Iezzoni, Jane R. Soukup, and Suzanne G. Leveille

15. Inter-Spousal Mortality Effects: Caregiver Burden Across the Spectrum of Disabling Disease 455
Nicholas A. Christakis and Paul D. Allison

Contributors 479
Author Index 483
Subject Index 489