
Most middle-income Americans ignore longevity risk: Bankers Life

By Editor Test Thu, Mar 28, 2013

Middle-income Americans, ages 55 to 75, tend to believe that wisdom arrives at about age 56, but old age doesn't necessarily start until age 78.

Although one in four of today's 65-year olds will live past age 90, 87% of Americans don't discuss longevity risk, according to a new study, *Longevity Risk and Reward for Middle-Income Americans*, from Bankers Life's Center for a Secure Retirement (CSR).

Ironically, those surveyed for the study accurately estimated the average life expectancy of American adults. On average, respondents with a median age of 65 said they think they will live to age 86, irrespective of gender, income or health.

Two-thirds say that genetics (65%) is the determining factor in how long they will live. Fewer linked longevity to eating right (46%), exercising (44%) or smoking (37%).

The survey also showed that:

- Middle-income Americans, ages 55 to 75, tend to believe that wisdom arrives at about age 56, but old age doesn't necessarily start until age 78.
- 60% middle-income Americans age 55 and older say their best years are ahead of them.
- For the 40% who report that their best years are behind them, they attribute the realities of aging, their health and an overall negative outlook as the primary reason.

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