The State of Longevity Project: Tracking Progress on Critical Variables that Enhance Long-Term Well-Being

Project Overview
The Stanford Center on Longevity proposes to develop a set of indicators and a composite index that measure how well the United States is doing to improve the prospects for long-term well-being for people of all ages. Our approach posits that there are important actionable variables that enhance or impede prospects for long-term well-being. We believe an understanding of progress on these critical variables will improve decision making and enable more effective use of resources to enhance the long-term well-being of our citizens.

The attached “Conceptual Overview” represents our framework for thinking about the actionable variables and indicators. We have developed a preliminary list of broad categories as follows:

- Financial Security
- Physical Health
- Social Connectedness
- Educational Attainment
- Age-Friendly Communities

Our focus on actionable variables across all ages and multiple domains is new
We will focus on tracking progress on actionable variables that contribute to well-being at all ages. In addition, we will make the most relevant longevity data more accessible and useful. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive foundation of analysis and evidence that will improve decision making and, in turn, improve the prospects for long-term well-being.

The project will contribute to informed decision making
We envision an ongoing project with a full report issued every four to five years and special annual issues in the intervening years that focus on specific topics. The full report will include a comprehensive set of indicators for the critical variables and a composite index of overall progress. In addition to the composite index, we anticipate generating several subindices.

Stakeholder support for 2015 launch
We are seeking support that would enable us to publish the first full report in early 2016. We believe that key stakeholders will benefit from understanding where progress has been made and where further progress is needed in order to improve prospects for long-term well-being. We expect these stakeholders, including policy makers, community leaders, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, will gain insights that will help them develop their products and services to better serve our aging society.

We welcome your input on content and development and we thank you for your consideration.
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Conceptual Overview, Version 1.0
December 4, 2014

The dashboard will show recent progress for each variable, indicating whether the level of activity has increased, remained stable, or decreased.

\[\text{\textbf{Indicators Across the Life Span}}\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Brackets</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
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For example, selected indicators for “Save, build resources” include the following:

- % of families with a retirement plan
- % of all workers whose employer sponsored a retirement plan
- % of all workers who participated in an employer-based plan
- Median value of retirement plan

Note on Version 1.0:
The domains, actionable variables, and indicators identified above are preliminary and will be revised and further developed during the project.

Version 1.0 revised 12/4/14
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About Stanford Center on Longevity
The mission of the Stanford Center on Longevity is to redesign long life. The Center studies the nature and development of the human life span, looking for innovative ways to use science and technology to solve the problems of people over 50 by improving the well-being of people of all ages.

Meeting these challenges includes changing our public policies as well as personal behavior. To inspire change of this scale, the Center works with academic experts, business leaders and policy makers to target important challenges and opportunities for aging societies. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among these typically disconnected worlds, the Center aims to develop workable solutions to urgent issues confronting the world as the population ages.

Over 140 Stanford faculty members are Center affiliates. Their research foci include a broad range of topics, including behavioral economics and decision making, age-related changes in cognition, the potential of stem cells, and technology developments that reduce cost and improve healthcare delivery. The Center has three research divisions – Mind, Mobility and Financial Security. Demographic analysis at the global, national and community levels informs our work. The Center was founded by two of the world’s leading authorities on longevity and aging. Laura Carstensen PhD, professor of psychology, is the founding director. Thomas Rando MD, PhD, professor of neurology and neurological sciences, is deputy director.

Visit the Center’s website at:
http://longevity.stanford.edu

Read and download the Center’s FY 12-13 annual report at:
http://longevity3.stanford.edu/annualreport12-13/