

Why Should We Care About Aging in Mexico?

by

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Abstract

The Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS) was designed as a nationally representative, prospective panel study of Mexicans aged 50 and older in the 2000 screen. Spouse/partners of sampled persons also were interviewed. Wave-1 data collection was completed in the summer of 2001 (n=15,354; M= 6485, F= 8642). MHAS was designed to provide insights into the effects of individual behaviors, early life circumstances, migration and remittances, and economic circumstances on diverse late life health outcomes. In these first analytic papers from MHAS we describe the health status of older Mexicans and assess their health relative to comparable populations in the US and select South American countries. Because of the substantial economic disparities in Mexico correlate with disease risks, environmental conditions, and nutrition, we also locate research on health dynamics and preventive health behaviors in an economic context.