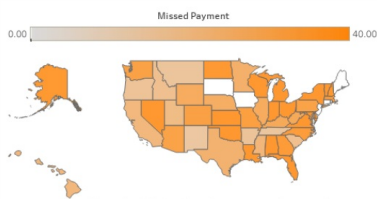


News from the CFS RDRC

Connecting Research to Policy and Practice

Since our founding, the Center for Financial Security at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has emphasized research translation, outreach and dissemination, and the creation of practicable strategies and resources for application in policy and practice as core to our mission. The CFS Retirement and Disability Research Center is committed to these same values of bringing research to the public in accessible and innovative formats. The CFS RDRC understands the importance of not only developing tools and materials that interpret research implications and relevance for policy and practice, but also building relationships and networks as channels for engagement. To this end, the CFS RDRC is pleased to highlight several opportunities and resources that are focused on building this bridge between retirement and disability research to policy and practice.



Visualizing Vulnerability: The “Visualizing Vulnerability” Series is an interactive, dynamic data visualization resource that provides insights into vulnerable populations across the U.S. These quarterly data dashboards of relevant, up-to-date information, statistics, and findings help promote

interest in new areas of study, introduce novel datasets, and provide viewers with the ability to explore a topic in the context of vulnerable populations. View our newly released dashboard: *Mapping Missed Rent and Mortgage Payments: Expectations of Eviction and Foreclosure* [HERE](#).

Security Matters: Quarterly Security Matters publications provide topical summaries of research findings and their applicability in practitioner and service-delivery settings. Find the newly released series [HERE](#) with Security Matters issues organized by theme: *Aging, Disability, Housing, Health, Retirement, and Financial Well-being & Economic Opportunity*.

Webinars: Archived recordings of CFS Webinars and Virtual Workshops are available to provide concise presentation of research findings along with discussants from practitioner and policy perspectives sharing implications for application. Join us for our upcoming webinar on April 14, 2021 at 12-1pm CT, *The Rise of Industrial Robots and Increased Overdose and Disability Rates: A*

Household Finance Seminar: The Center for Financial Security is pleased to provide a platform for sharing some of the most exciting and innovative early stage research in the household finance realm. Join us every Thursday of the academic year for a virtual seminar from 3:45-4:45 pm for this multi-disciplinary exploration of household finance research. View the current schedule [HERE](#).

Research Briefs: Research Briefs provide a visually engaging and brief format that summarizes research findings and implications for policy and practice. The CFS RDRC publishes a research brief publication for every report or working paper that is released through our center. View all briefs [HERE](#).

Spotlight on Research:

Fraud, Scams, and Identity Theft: Research to Inform Prevention-focused Policy and Protect the Public

Assessing Vulnerability to Social Security Scams

Cliff Robb & Steve Wendel

Over the last few years, Social Security scams have become one of the most common forms of government imposter fraud. This study will develop and test an intervention to combat Social Security scams by training individuals to discriminate between scams and sincere appeals. The effectiveness of the interventions will be tested in a randomized controlled trial on a nationally representative sample of Americans. The study will employ an interactive online tool to accomplish this. The study's primary outcome of interest is participants' ability to correctly distinguish scam from non-scam appeals, relative to a control group. Secondary outcome variables include level of comfort online and factual knowledge about scams. [Read full abstract](#)

Epidemiologic Study of the Correlates of Scam Susceptibility, Financial Exploitation, and Fraud in Older Adults

Patricia Boyle, Lei Yu, & Gary Mottola

Older adults are highly vulnerable to financial exploitation, with approximately 20% of individuals >65 victimized. Elder fraud results in losses of >\$35 billion annually, and this figure will undoubtedly rise with the increasingly sophisticated targeting of individuals receiving Social Security distributions. In addition to the economic costs of elder exploitation, the public health costs are tremendous. Exploitation leads to anxiety, depression, social isolation, hospitalization, and early mortality. To date, the reasons why older adults are vulnerable to scams and

exploitation remain unclear. The proposed study will leverage highly unique data available via an ongoing epidemiologic study of aging to address critical gaps in knowledge regarding the factors associated with scam susceptibility, financial exploitation and fraud among older adults without dementia. [Read full abstract](#)

Consequences and Response to Identity Theft Victimization among Older Americans

Marti DeLiema, Lynn Langton, & David Burnes

Society's growing reliance on technology to transfer and store private information has created new opportunities for financial predators to access and misuse personal data. Even routine, mandatory interactions with government (e.g., filing taxes) and healthcare systems (e.g., electronic health records) increasingly involve the online transfer and storage of highly identifiable information like social security and bank account numbers. The researchers prior work showed that baby boomers were significantly more likely than other age groups to be victims of identity theft. This study aims to examine relationships between socioeconomic status (SES) and the financial and psychological consequences of identity theft victimization. [Read full abstract](#)

New Publications, Events & Opportunities

- **Save the Date:** The SSA RDRRC Annual Meeting will take place virtually this year over two days. Please hold the afternoons of **August 5 and 6, 2021 from 12:00pm to 4:30pm ET** on your calendar. Stay tuned for a landing page with links and agenda soon.
- Registration is Open for our April 14, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00pm CT webinar: ***The Rise of Industrial Robots and Increased Overdose and Disability Rates: A Story of Automation and Addiction in the U.S.***

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Center for Financial Security
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1300 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

(608) 890-0229
cfs@mailplus.wisc.edu
cfsrdrc.wisc.edu
Contact us today!

