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**ABSTRACT**

[September 1996, Vol. 119, No. 9](#)

## **Elderly and nonelderly expenditures on necessities in the 1980s**

*Rose M. Rubin*

Professor of Economics, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

*Kenneth Koelin*

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

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For much of the U.S. population, both real income and discretionary spending increased over the 1980s; elderly households, however, fared better, on average, than nonelderly households. The research presented in this article ties together the related issues of the growing elderly population and the flattening of growth of public social support programs. The article also compares elderly households with nonelderly households in both years, to determine their relative welfare.

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