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**Abstract 161**

**Older Men's Re-entry into the Labor Force in Singapore: Does Health Status Play a Role?**

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Singapore's population is ageing, and the old-age dependency ratio is increasing. If more employment opportunities were available to, and availed by, older Singaporeans, individual, familial, and societal benefits will be reaped. Like other advanced economies, Singapore is encouraging increased employment of older workers through various measures, including the enactment of the Retirement and Re-employment Act, to be fully implemented in 2012.

With these considerations in mind, this empirical paper investigates Singaporean male retiree re-entry into the labor force and how this decision is influenced by health status. We use data from the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports' Social Isolation, Health and Lifestyles Survey (2009), using both subjective (self-reported) and objective health measures as the main independent variable, and the intention to re-enter and retirement as the dependent variables.

A probit model accounting for sample selection was estimated with various control variables, such as age, education, marital status, perceived income inadequacy, and whether the major income source was children.

We find that poorer health was associated with lower intention to re-enter the labor force and that perceived income inadequacy was associated with greater likelihood of re-entry. Health status may matter substantially in older workers' labor force participation decisions, especially if the workers' prior occupations were low-skilled and required physical labor, requiring that special consideration should be given to poor older adults who are in poorer health.

These results also suggest that investment in public health in early life can have positive long-term employment and economic growth effects.