

as men, and are less apt than men to receive information about their health status from the medical care system. In addition, older women have high rates of depression and their mental health functioning is lower than men's. Preventive measures, such as public education and encouraging responsibility for one's own health, will not only lower medical costs, but can enable older women to lead more productive lives. Since many women in late old age are institutionalized, a more humane system is needed—both in terms

of the present acute care system, and a greater commitment of resources to home care for the elderly. Another preventive measure is to further enable women to "integrate into mainstream society:" research suggests that women who have "integrated" show fewer health problems than women who remain in more traditional roles.

In their final chapter on further research, Gee and Kimball argue that the greatest lack in our theoretical understanding is in the paucity of findings on variations among

older women. They build a solid case for using qualitative approaches to illuminate individual and unique differences, as well as similarities, by eliminating predefined variables, definitions and categories.

I look forward to using this book as a text. Its multidisciplinary perspective, the selection and organization of materials, clarity of presentation, and the authors' analysis of the literature should provide students with an excellent overview of the world of aging women.

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