

*Towards making Ireland the best  
place in the world to grow old*

**tilda**

Staidéar Fadaimeartha na  
hÉireann um Dhul in Aois

The Irish Longitudinal  
Study on Ageing

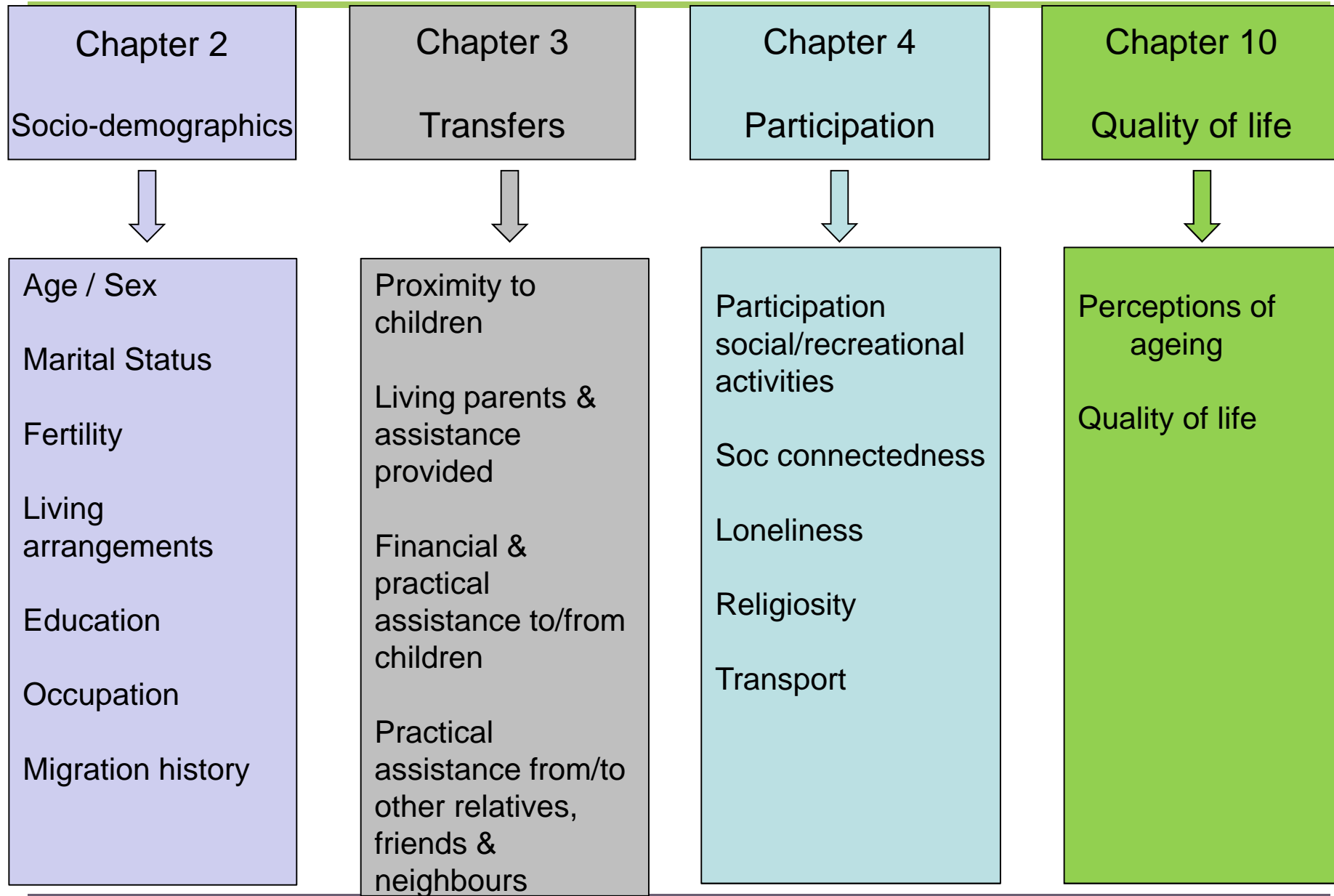
# Social Contexts of Ageing

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The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing  
(TILDA) is supported by the  
Department of Health and Children,  
Irish Life and the Atlantic  
Philanthropies.

[www.tilda.ie](http://www.tilda.ie)

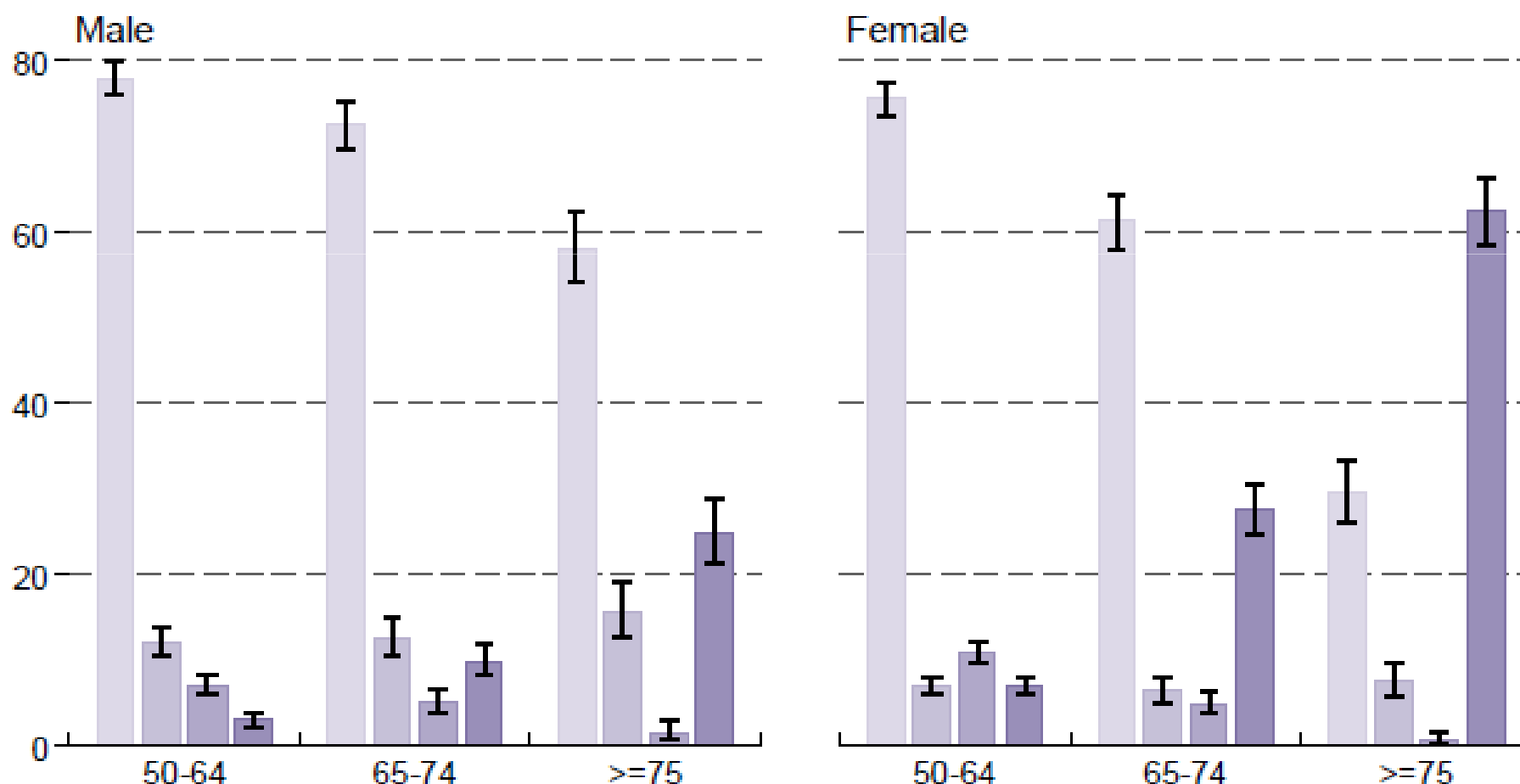
# SOCIAL CONTEXTS



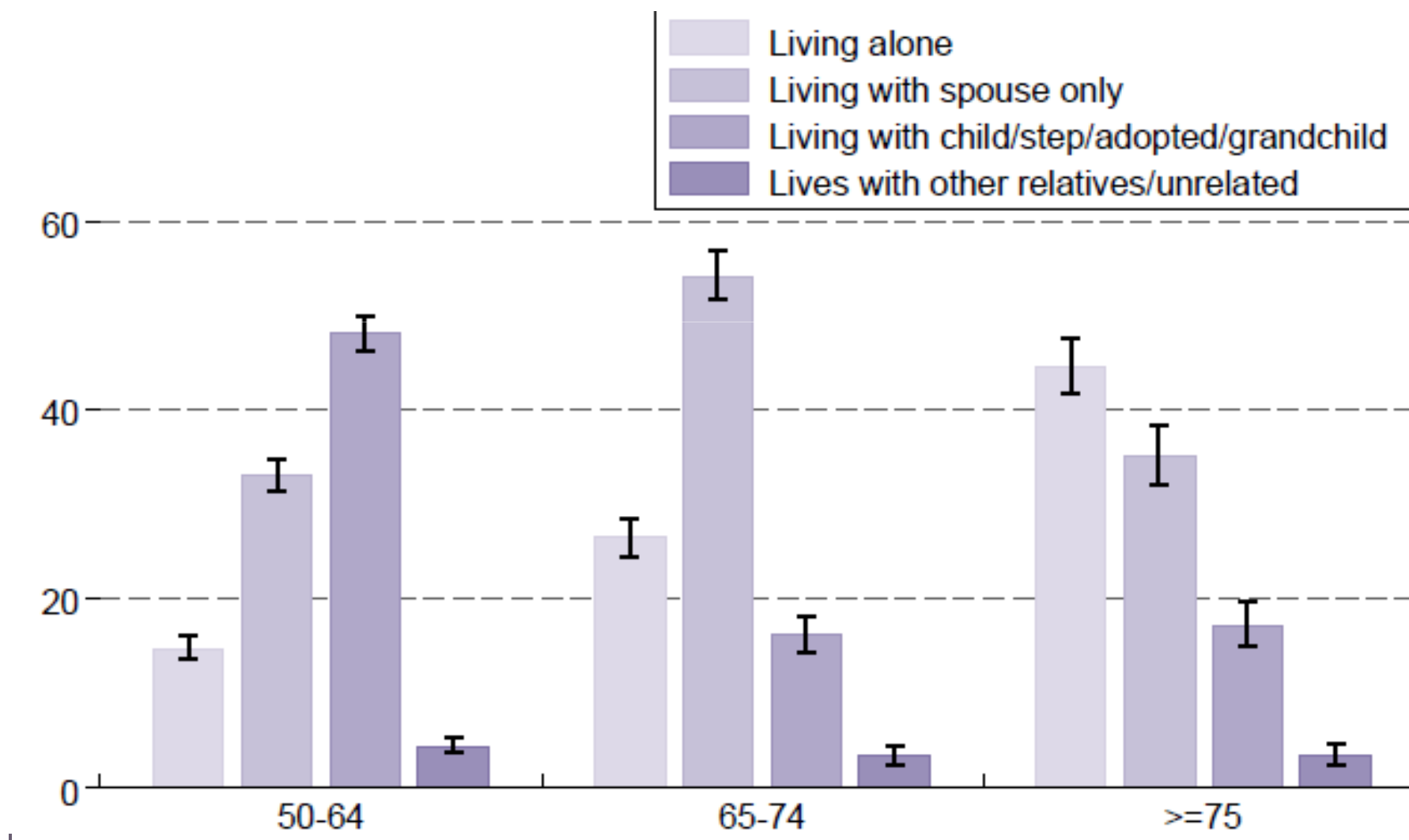
# Stereotypes

- ❖ ‘Older people are lonely’
  - ❖ ‘Older people are a drain on their families and society’
  - ❖ ‘Older people don’t enjoy life’
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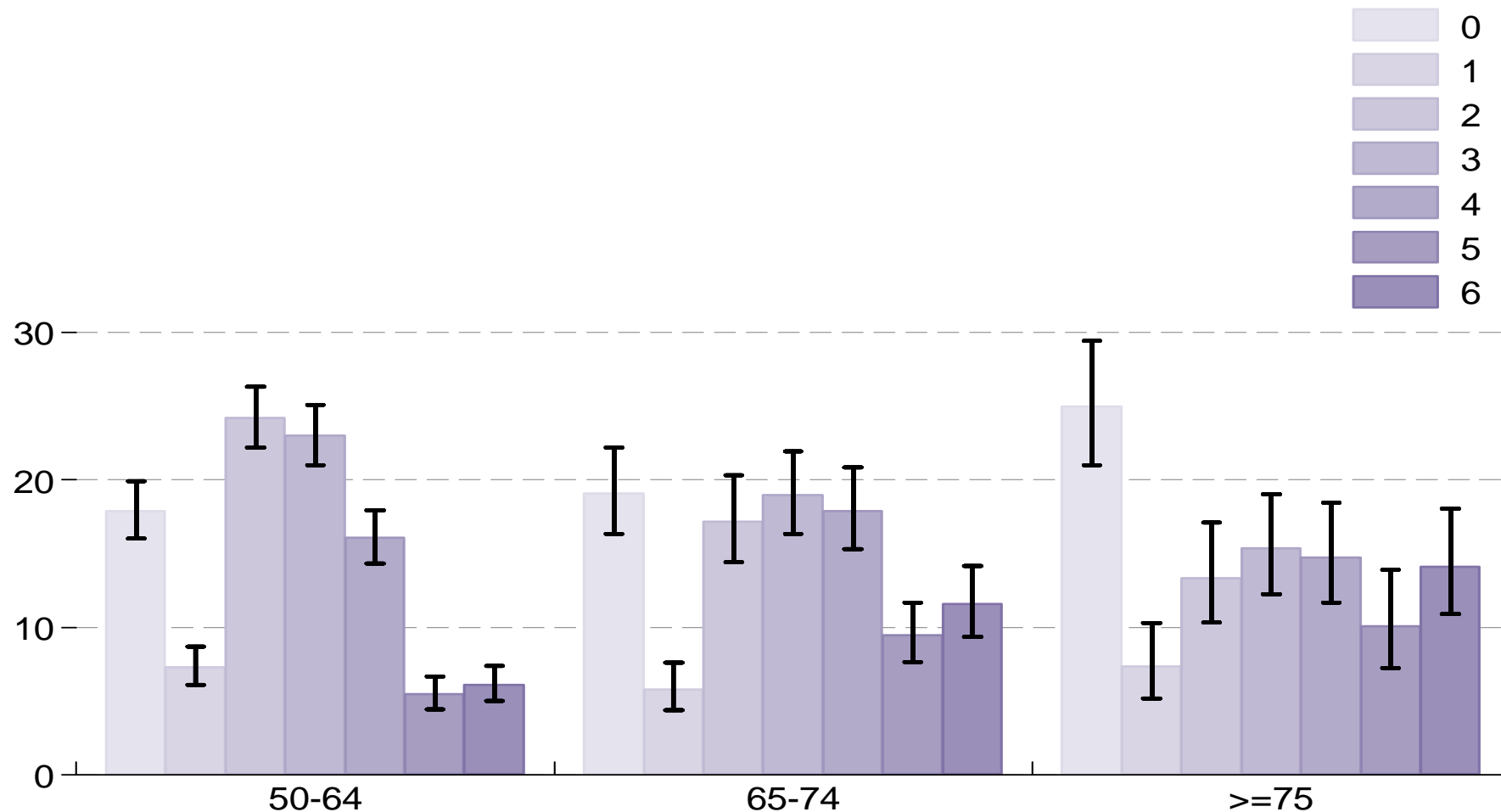
## Marital status by age and sex



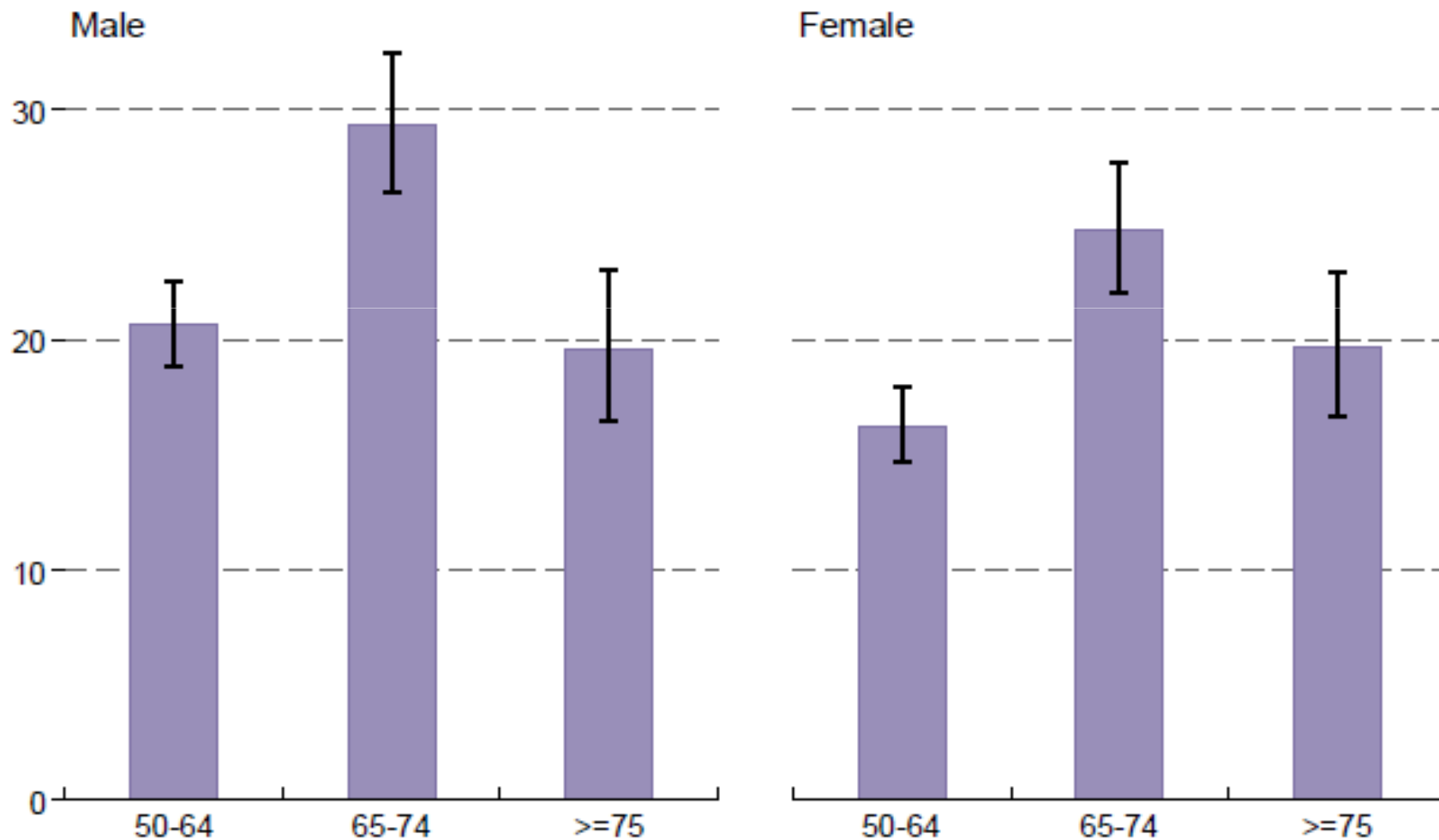
## Living arrangements by age



## Proportion of childless; average number of children

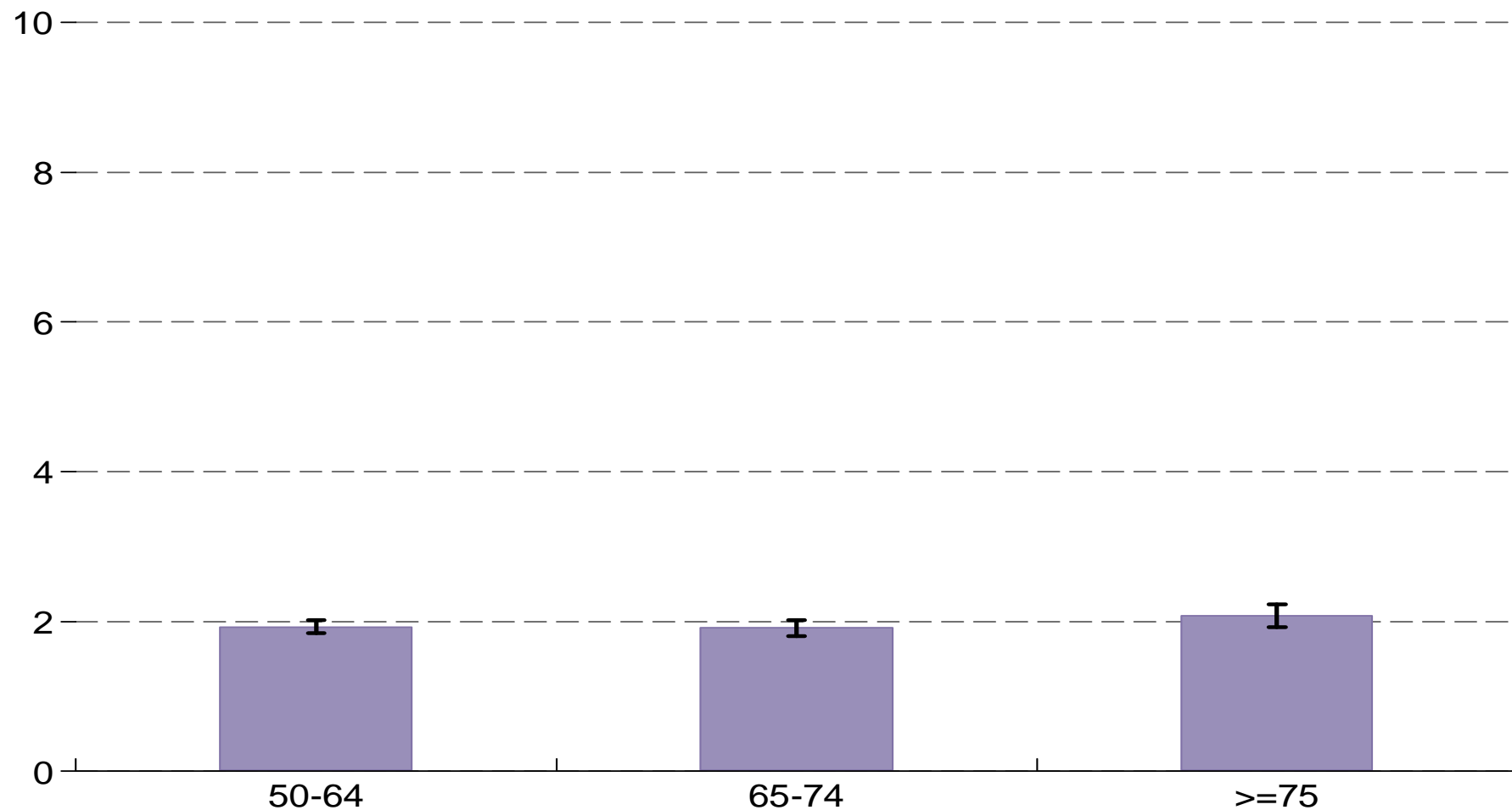


## Percentage who have lived abroad (6+ months)



# Loneliness by age

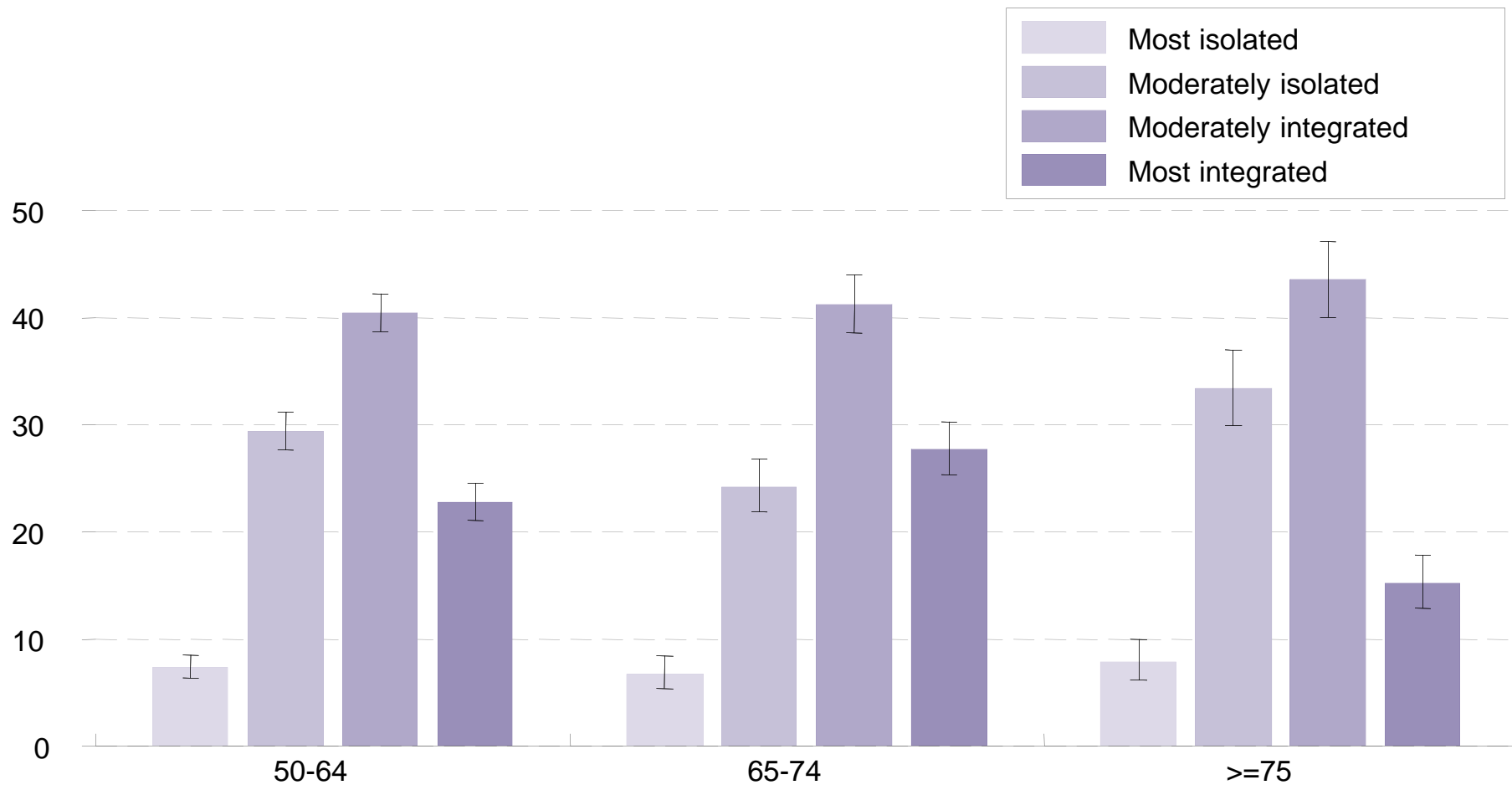
(average score on modified UCLA loneliness scale)



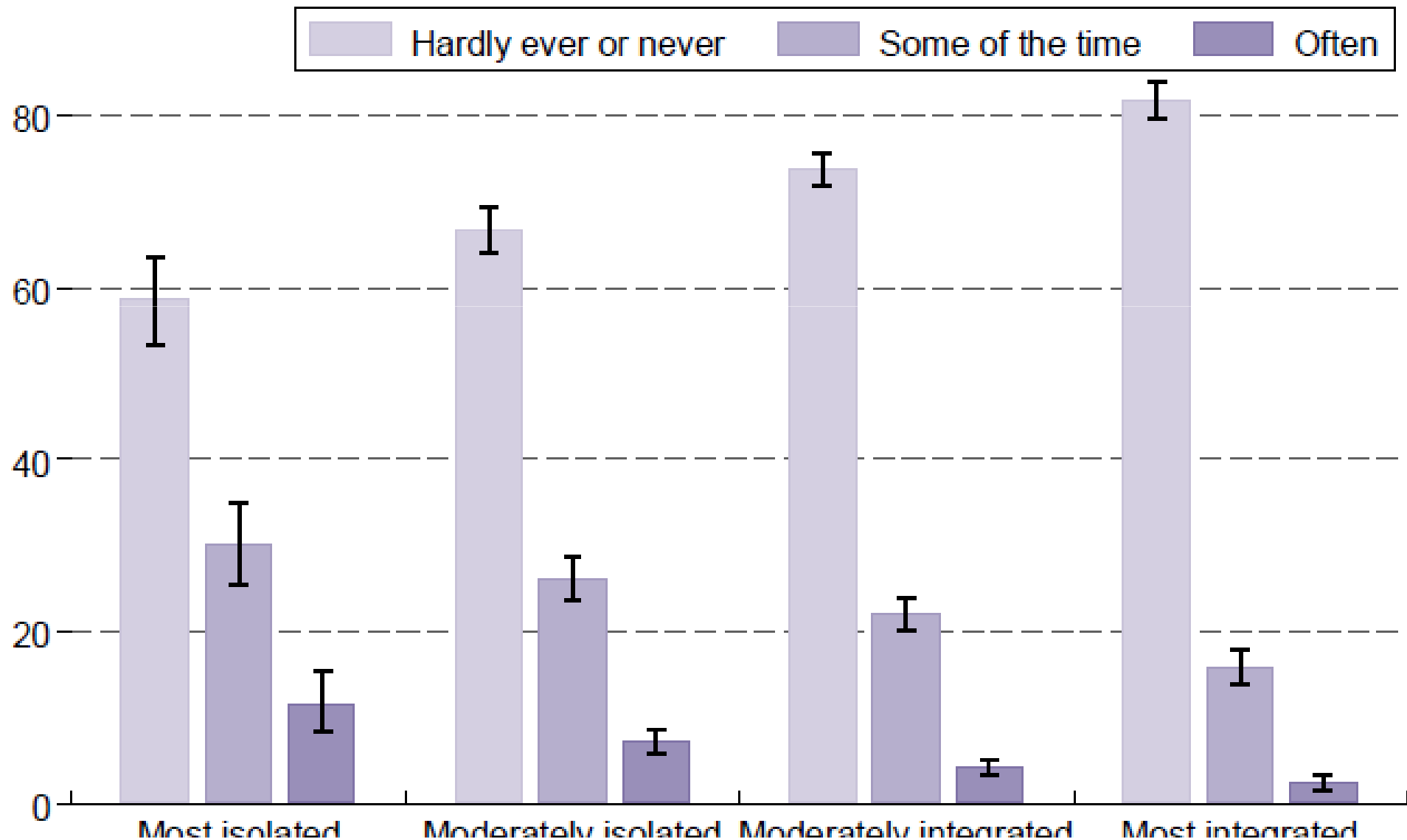
Note. N = 6055; Missing obs = 2123; Error bars correspond to 95% confidence intervals



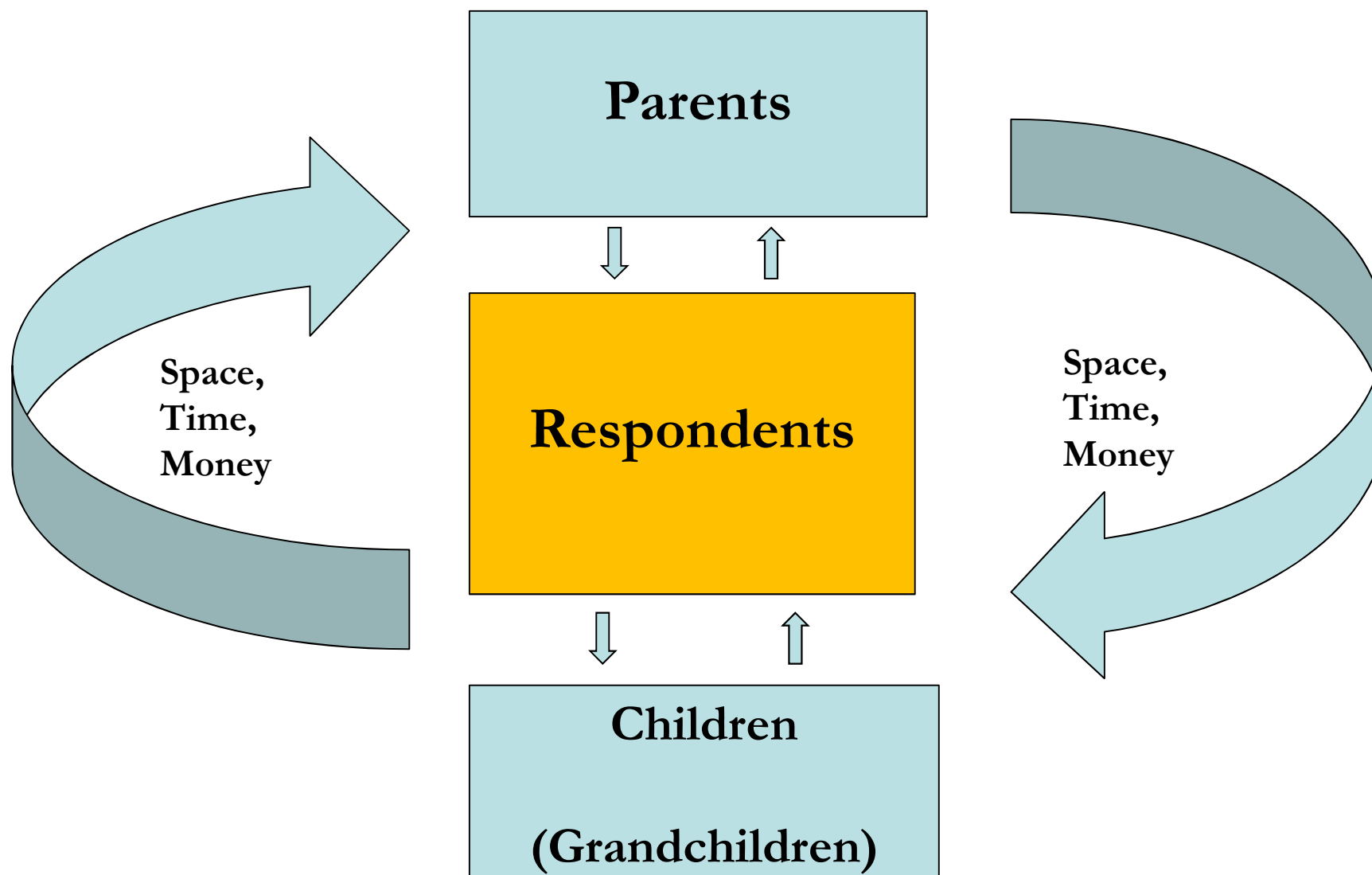
## Social connectedness (Berkman SNI)



## Feeling isolated by level of social connectedness



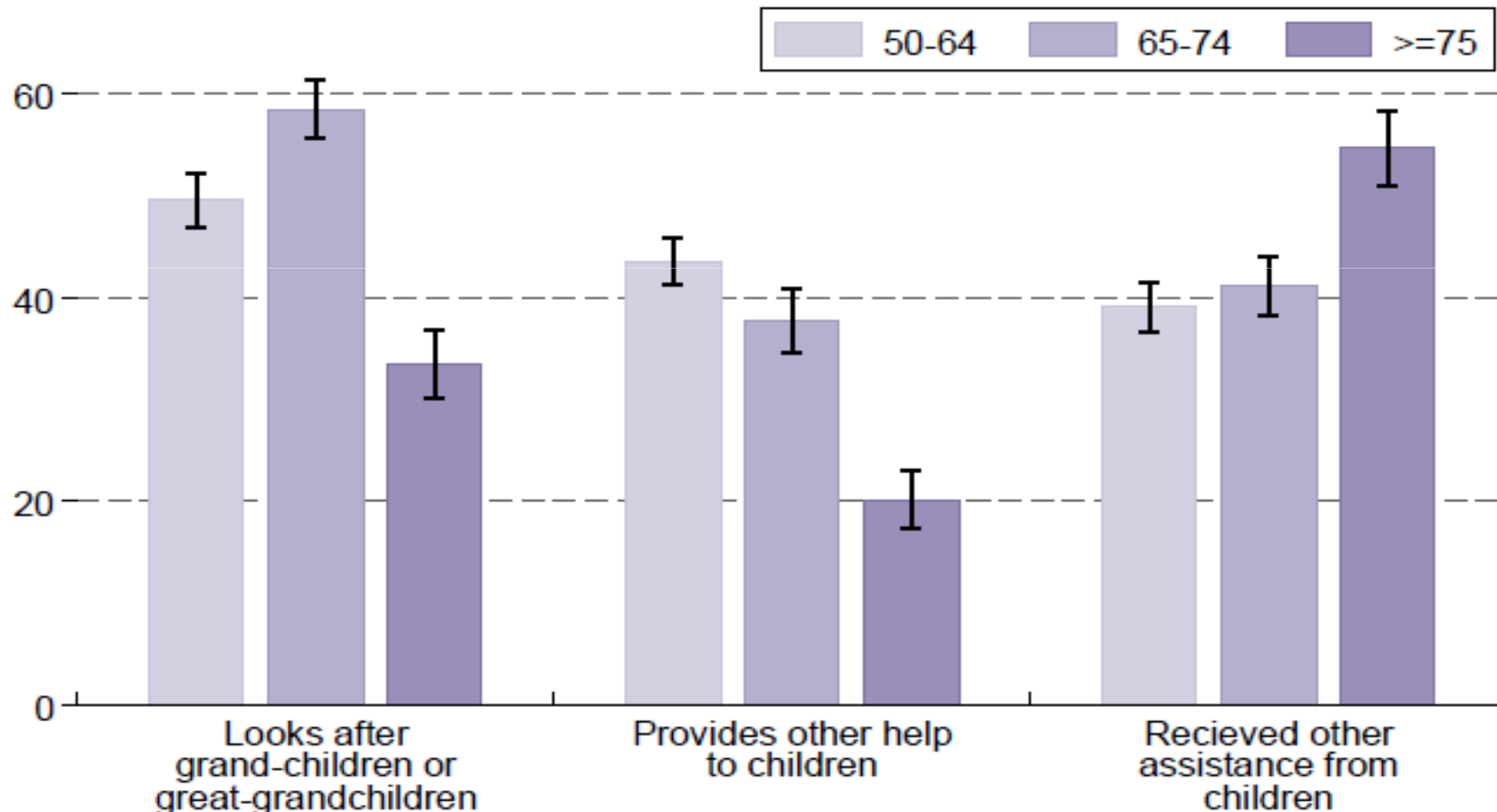
# TRANSFERS



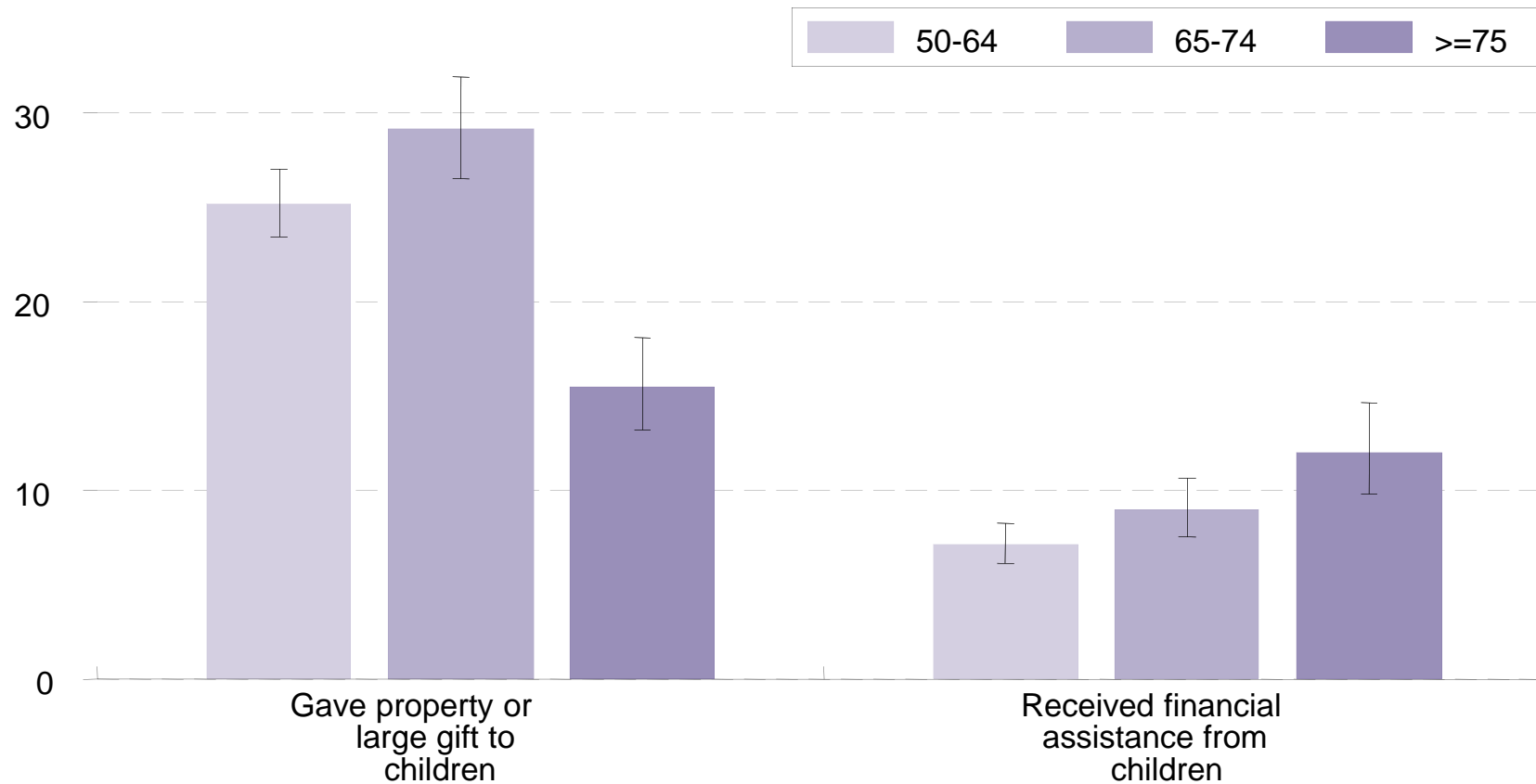
## 50-64-year-olds with surviving parents

- ❖ 32 % have surviving parents (28 % have both surviving parents *and* children – 21 % within this group have parents with care needs)
    - Nearly 80 % have frequent contact with parents
    - Nearly 30 % provide personal care to parents, on average for 18 hours per week
    - Half provide household & other practical help to their parents, on average 10 hours per week
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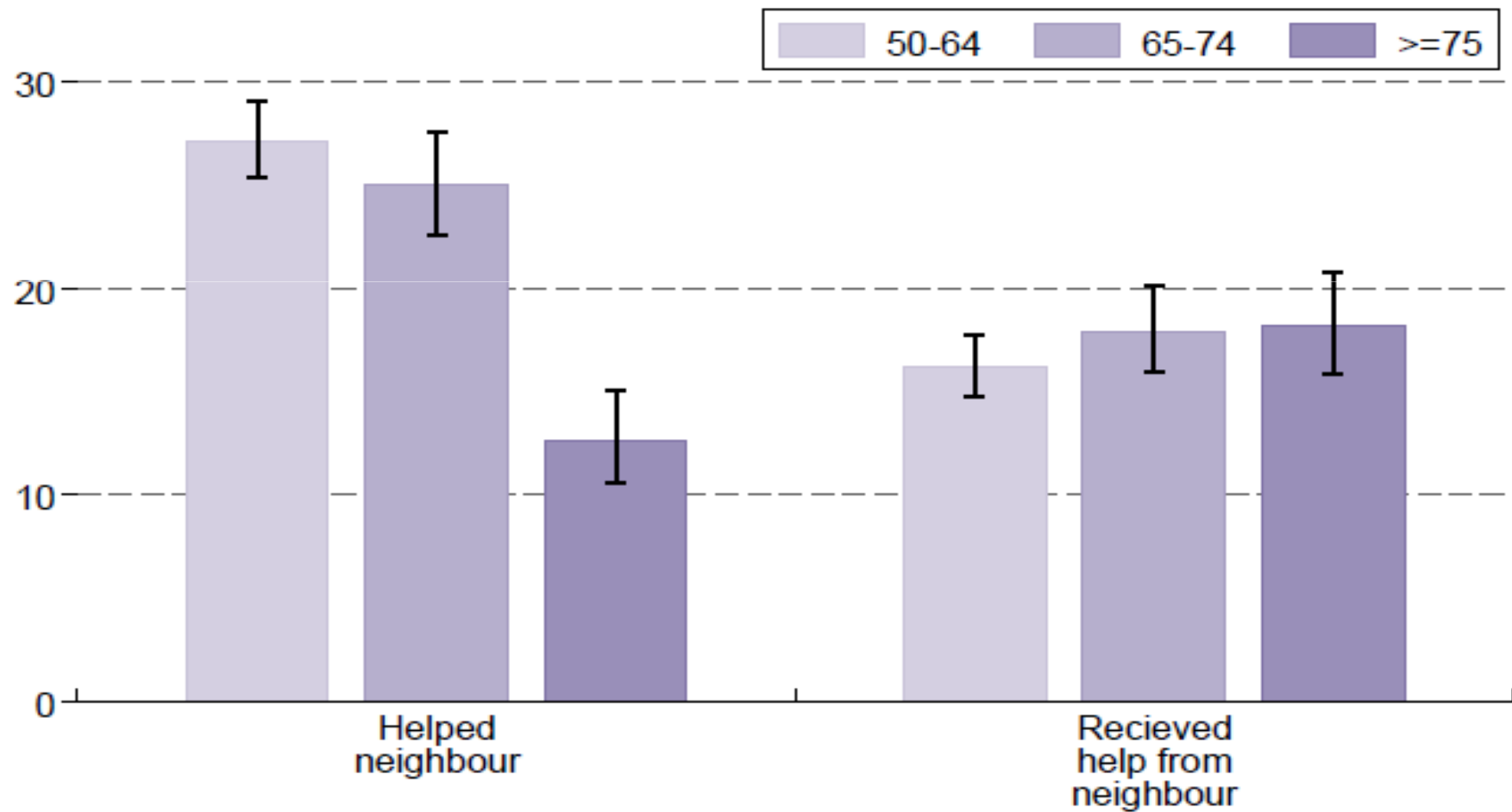
## Providing help to & receiving help from children



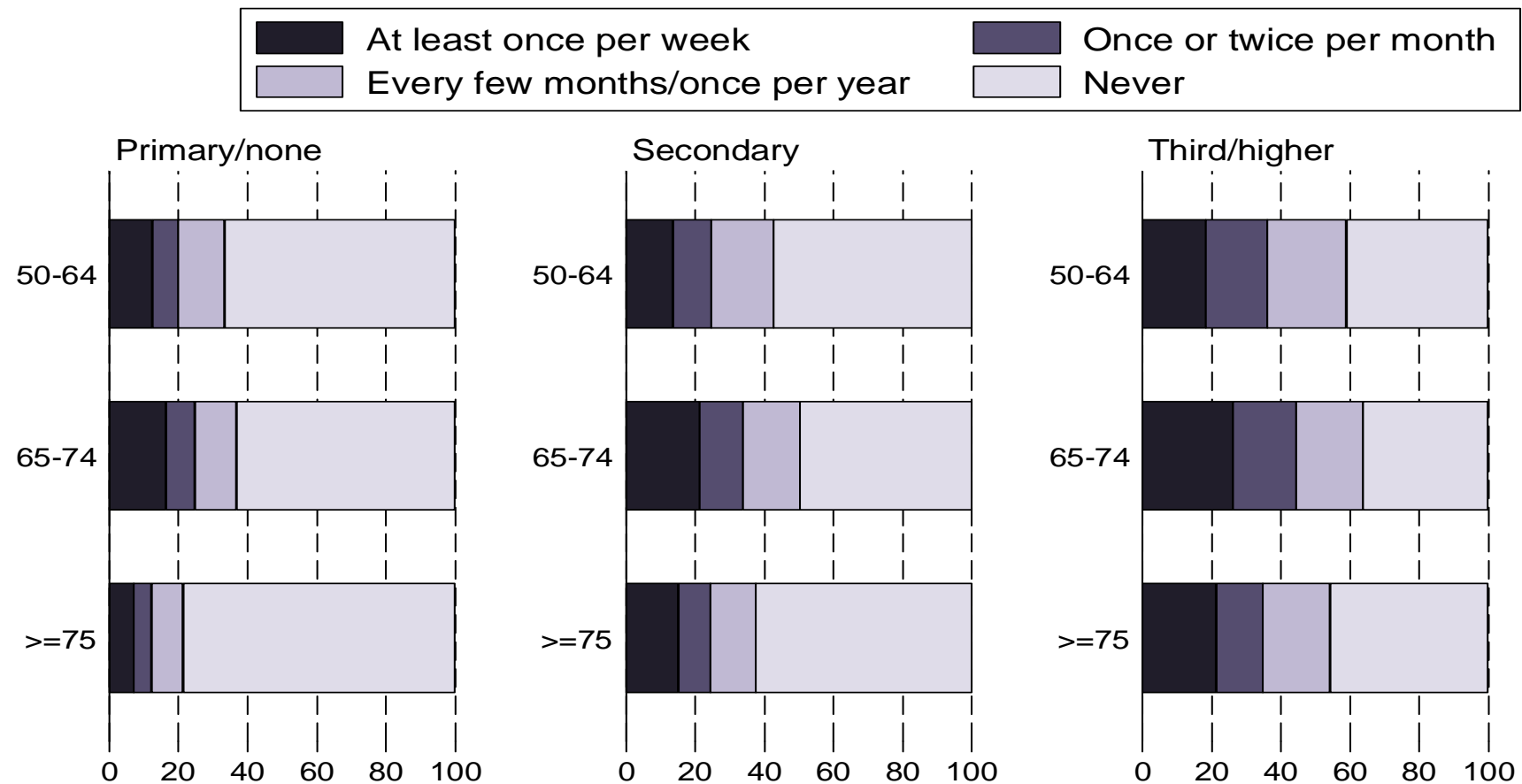
## Material and financial gifts to / from children



## Providing help to & receiving help from neighbours



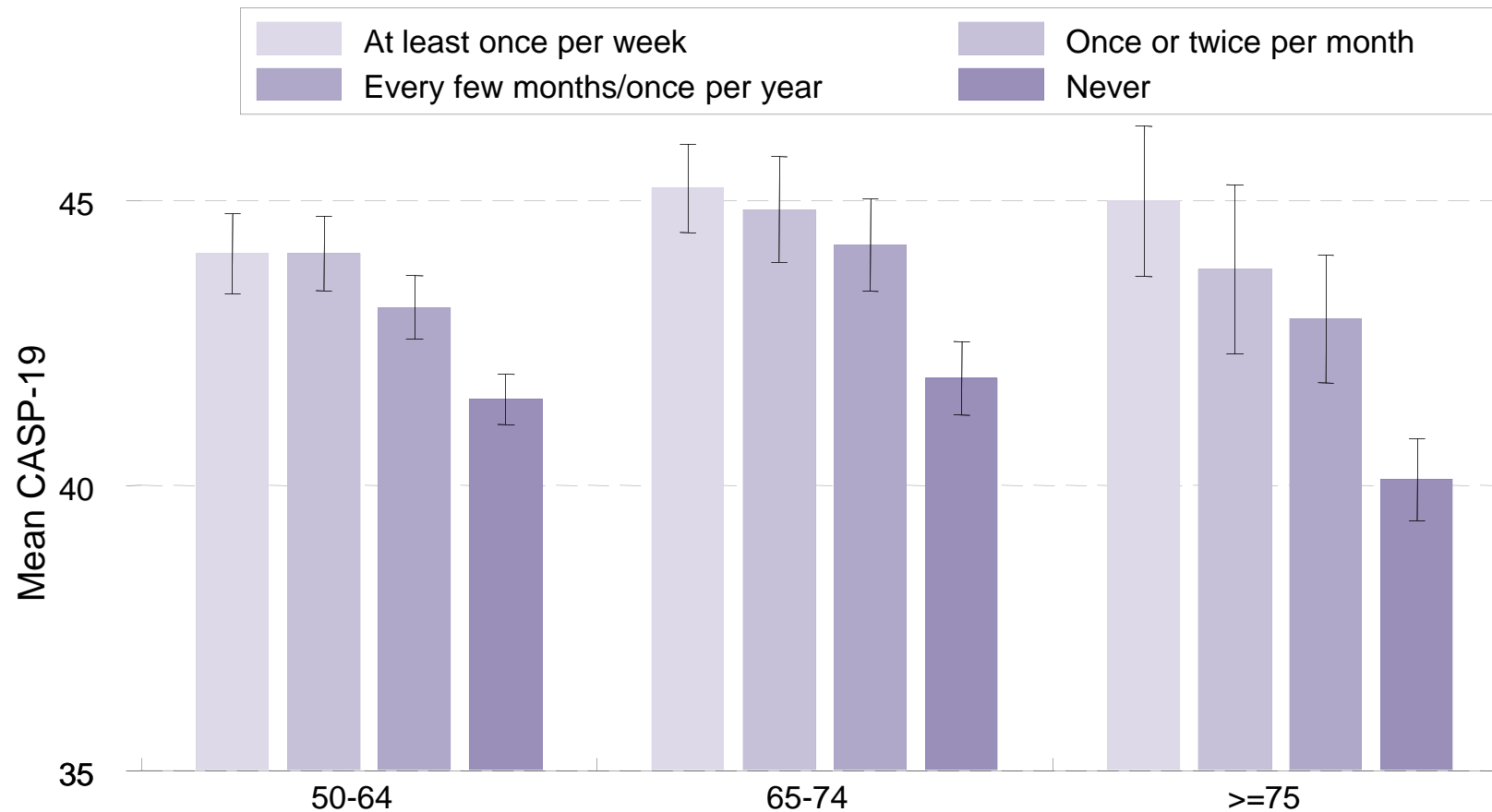
# Volunteering by age and education



Note. N = 5993; Missing obs = 269

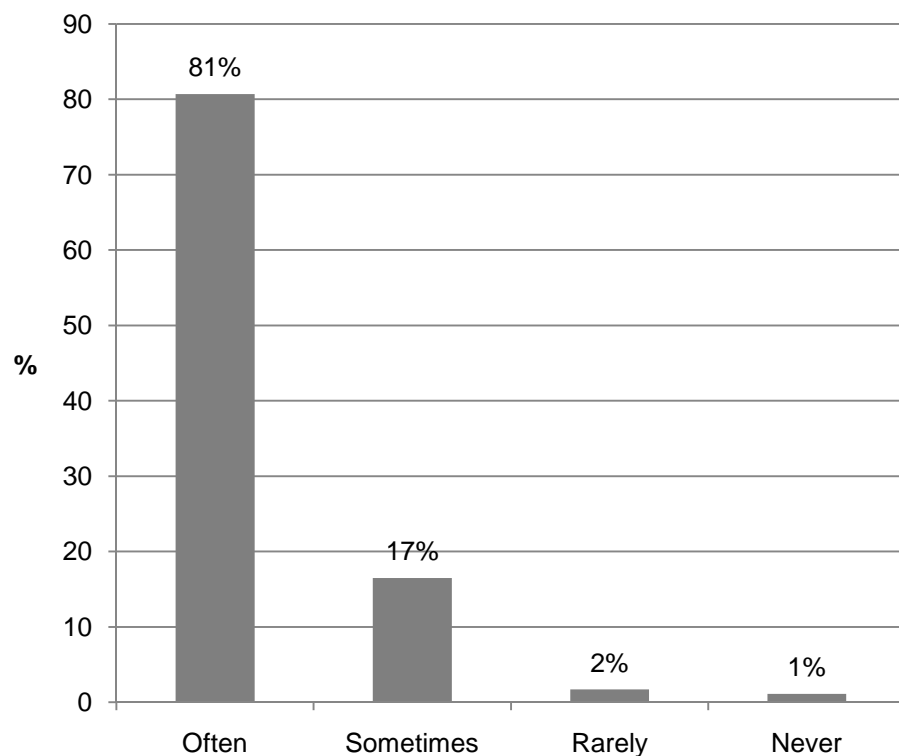


## Quality of life by age and volunteering

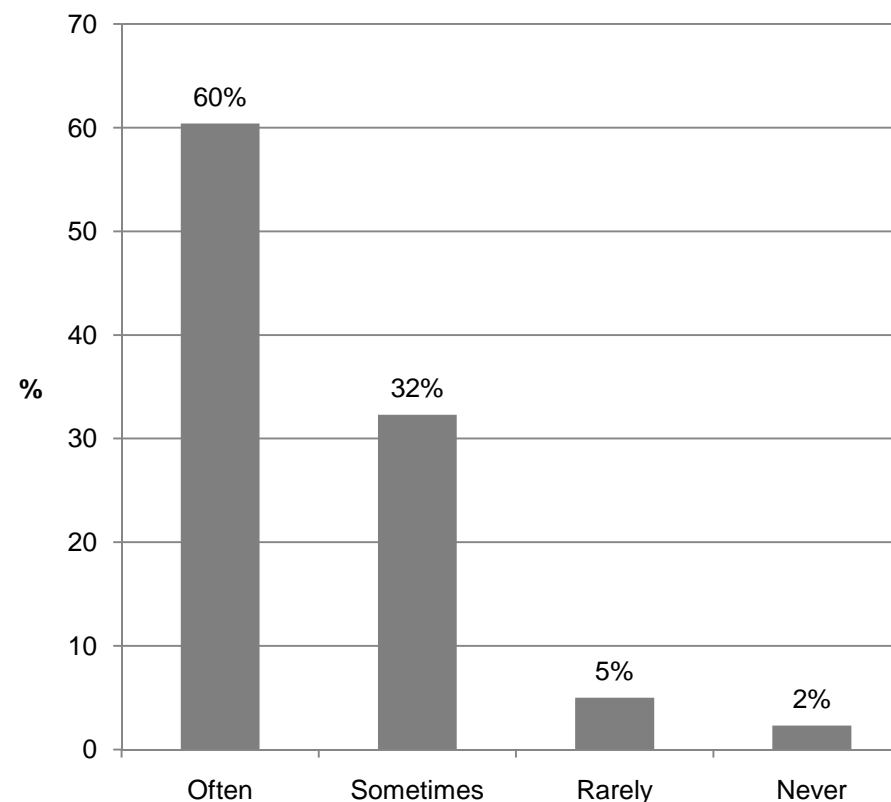


# Quality of life

## I look forward to each day

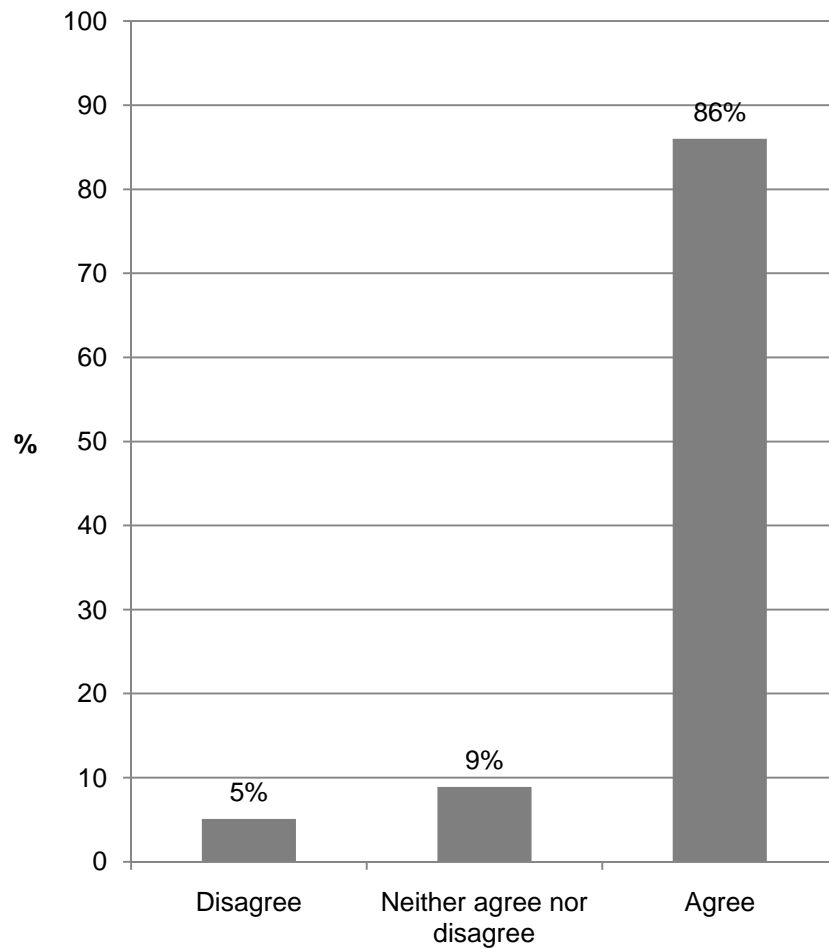


## I feel satisfied with the way my life has turned out

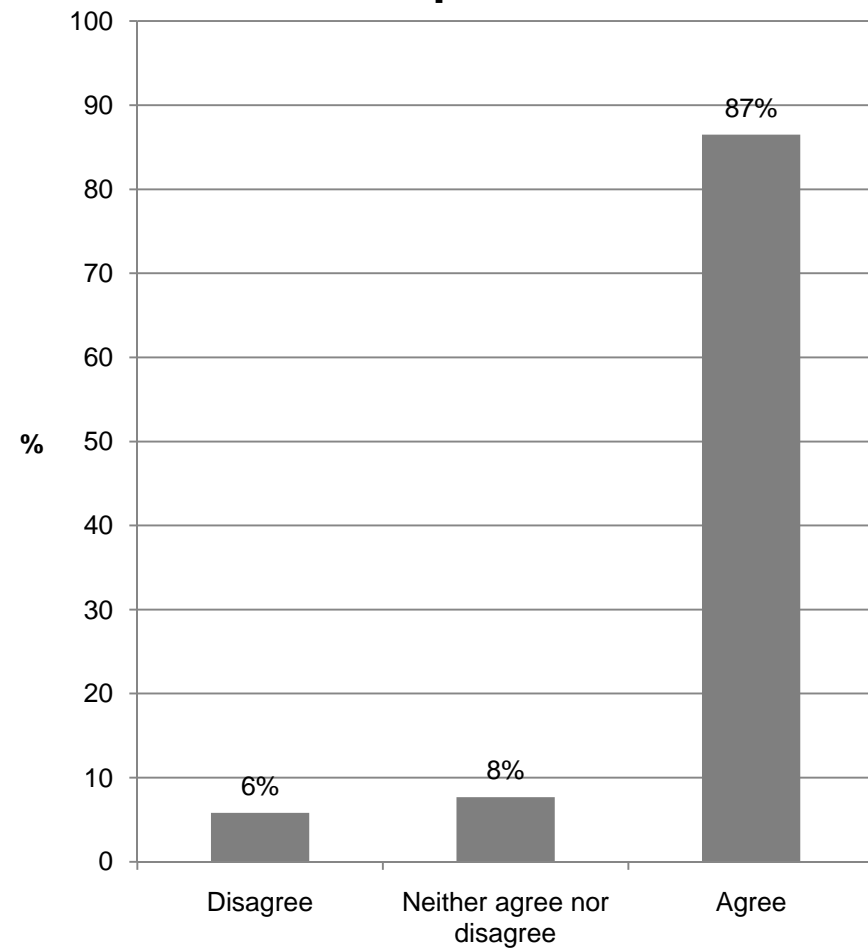


# Ageing beliefs

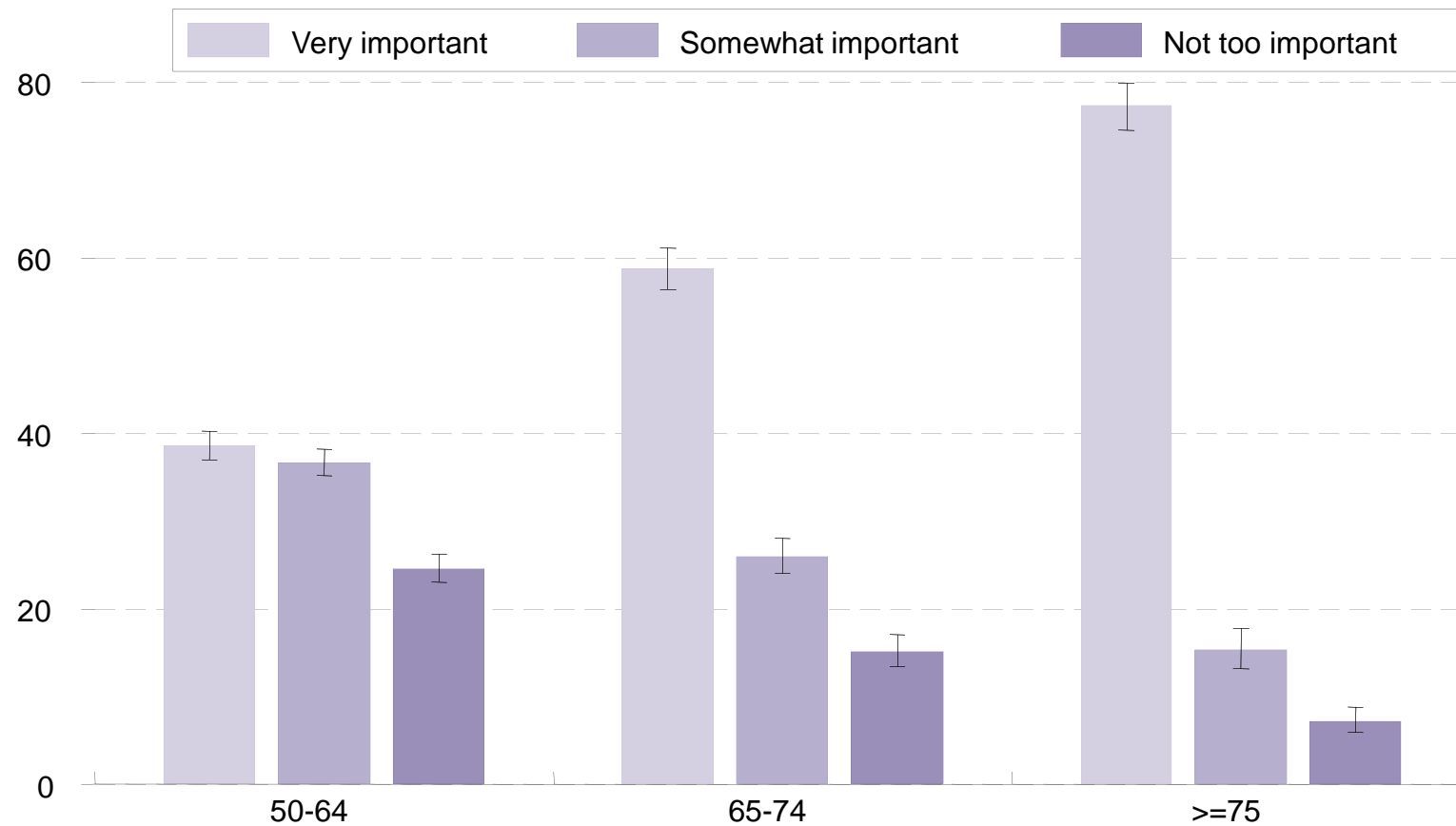
**As I get older I appreciate things more**



**Whether I continue living life to the full depends on me**



## Importance of religion



### How did the stereotypes fare?

‘Older people are lonely’

- Only 6 % are socially isolated (have weak networks)
  - Majority of people in this group do not feel isolated
  - Loneliness increases only very slightly with age
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### How did the stereotypes fare?

‘Older people are a drain on their families and society’

- Quarter of older households have given large material gifts to their children
  - One third help children with household & other practical tasks
  - One half regularly help with grandchild care
  - One quarter help friends and neighbours
  - One fifth in the 65-74 age group are very active volunteers
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### How did the stereotypes fare?

‘Older people don’t enjoy life’

- The older population as a whole experiences a high quality of life
  - The beneficial aspects of ageing are widely acknowledged and the negative aspects are perceived less strongly
  - Nine out of ten agree that they appreciate things more as they get older
  - Nine out of ten agree that they have control over their ability to live life to the full
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2011

# FIFTY PLUS IN IRELAND 2011:

First results from The Irish  
Longitudinal Study On Ageing

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