Social Contexts of Ageing

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SOCIAL CONTEXTS

Chapter 2
Socio-demographics

Age / Sex
Marital Status
Fertility
Living arrangements
Education
Occupation
Migration history

Chapter 3
Transfers

Proximity to children
Living parents & assistance provided
Financial & practical assistance to/from children
Practical assistance from/to other relatives, friends & neighbours

Chapter 4
Participation

Participation in social/recreational activities
Soc connectedness
Loneliness
Religiosity
Transport

Chapter 10
Quality of life

Perceptions of ageing
Quality of life
Stereotypes

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

- Married
- Never married
- Sep/divorced
- Widowed

Male:
- 50-64
- 65-74
- >=75

Female:
- 50-64
- 65-74
- >=75
SOCIAL

Living arrangements by age

- Living alone
- Living with spouse only
- Living with child/step/adopted/grandchild
- Lives with other relatives/unrelated

Chart showing living arrangements by age groups:
- 50-64: Living alone, Living with spouse only, Living with child/step/adopted/grandchild, Lives with other relatives/unrelated
- 65-74: Similar to 50-64
- >=75: Similar to 50-64
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)

The diagram illustrates the social connectedness of different age groups: 50-64, 65-74, and >=75. The categories are:

- Most isolated
- Moderately isolated
- Moderately integrated
- Most integrated

The x-axis represents the age groups, and the y-axis represents the degree of social connectedness. The bars indicate the percentage of individuals in each category within each age group.
Feeling isolated by level of social connectedness

- Hardly ever or never
- Some of the time
- Often

Level of Social Connectedness:
- Most isolated
- Moderately isolated
- Moderately integrated
- Most integrated
TRANSFERS

Parents

Respondents

Children
(Grandchildren)

Space, Time, Money

Space, Time, Money
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
Providing help to & receiving help from children

- Looks after grand-children or great-grandchildren
- Provides other help to children
- Received other assistance from children
Material and financial gifts to / from children

- Gave property or large gift to children
- Received financial assistance from children

Bar chart showing the distribution of material and financial gifts by age group (50-64, 65-74, >=75):

- For those who gave property or large gift to children:
  - 50-64 group has a higher number than the other two age groups.
- For those who received financial assistance from children:
  - The number is lower compared to the other two age groups.
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

Mean CASP-19

- At least once per week
- Once or twice per month
- Every few months/once per year
- Never

Age groups:
- 50-64
- 65-74
- >=75
**Quality of life**

**I look forward to each day**

- Often: 81%
- Sometimes: 17%
- Rarely: 2%
- Never: 1%

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

- Often: 60%
- Sometimes: 32%
- Rarely: 5%
- Never: 2%
Ageing beliefs

As I get older I appreciate things more

- Disagree: 5%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 9%
- Agree: 86%

Whether I continue living life to the full depends on me

- Disagree: 6%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 8%
- Agree: 87%
Importance of religion

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important

Age groups:
- 50-64
- 65-74
- >=75
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
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
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
FIFTY PLUS IN IRELAND 2011:
First results from The Irish Longitudinal Study On Ageing