Health, wealth and lifestyles of the older population in England

THE 2002 ENGLISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF AGEING

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1.1 Why an English Longitudinal Study of Ageing?

Ask people about ageing in our society, and everyone has a view. Most would think it widely known that older age is a time of declining mental and physical function, worse health, and economic and social dependency. The elderly are a 'problem'. Indeed, a small number of people over the age of 65 fit this stereotype. Most do not. What is striking about the health and social circumstances of older people in society is how variable the picture is, ranging from this rather depressing stereotype to that of vigorous octogenarians, economically and socially independent, with little disability, wide social and cultural interests and much to contribute to society.

It is precisely to understand this variability that the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) was established. It has three principal purposes. Firstly, to complete the picture of what it means to grow older in the new century. Surprisingly, the range of pictures painted in this report has hitherto been available only in partial form. There has been much concern with pensions, but little information on who has what financial arrangements for retirement; much concern with increasing disability, but sparse data on the range of positive functions with increasing age; worry over increasing social isolation of older people, but little evidence on who is doing what at older ages. Completing the picture means going into detail. It is not sufficient to know that mental functions decline with age; it is important to know which functions. It is not enough to know that people's physical functions decline with age; it is important to know how that decline varies depending on gender, occupational career and circumstances in later life.

This leads to a second principal purpose of ELSA, which is to examine the interrelationship between different areas of life. What is the relationship, for example, between health and adequacy of financial arrangements for older age? How does social status relate to the quality of the social environment? Why do people in lower social positions appear to be suffering from age-related declines at an earlier age than people in higher social positions? How does the nature of pension arrangements affect people's continued

participation in the workplace? How does cognitive function influence people's ability to plan for their financial future? By bringing together scientists from different disciplines and gathering high-quality information on these different 'domains' of life, ELSA provides a resource that is unique in Britain.

The third purpose of ELSA is understanding. What accounts for the variety of patterns that we see? The aim here is, very clearly, to provide the scientific basis for policy. What determines whether old age will be a time of misery and dependency, or one of vigour, social engagement and good health? Which of these pictures, and the whole range in between, will dominate has profound import for social and medical services, for the economy and for the design of neighbourhoods, as well as for the well-being of the population.

1.2 Background to ELSA

The ageing of the population that is now unfolding is qualitatively different from what has gone before. Life expectancy for those reaching age 65, for example, is now over 15 years for men and nearly 20 years for women. This has increased by more than four years for each group between 1960 and 2000. This rate of change is unprecedented for men – male life expectancy at age 65 rose by only one year between 1840 and 1960 – while female life expectancy at age 65 has been rising steadily since 1900. By 2020, the over-50s will constitute 40% of the British population (and 47% of the population aged 15 and over), and by 2040, 30% will be aged 60 or over.

The increase in life expectancy differs markedly for people in different social strata. Life expectancy at 65 for men in the top social class is 17.5, compared with 13.4 for men in the bottom one. Healthy life expectancy shows even bigger social differences. A comparison of areas of England classified according to degree of social and material deprivation showed that healthy life expectancy at birth was 66 for men and 68 for women in the most affluent areas, compared with 49 (men) and 52 (women) in the most deprived. The challenge, then, is to understand not only differences in length of life, but differences in quality of life among social groups.

In policy terms, the economic, social and political consequences of this dramatic shift in the age distribution are bound to be far-reaching. Older people are currently relatively large consumers of NHS resources and of benefit expenditures (38% of NHS expenditure is spent on the 16% of the population currently over 65, and those over state pension age account for 57% of benefit expenditures). So, with increases in longevity and therefore in the proportion of the oldest old within the population, the consequences both for the NHS and for social services will be considerable. Social isolation is exacerbated with old age as family members and friends in the same cohort tend to die, as physical mobility tends to decrease and as a sense of vulnerability tends to increase. These correlates of old age are likely to place increasing pressure on state and local authority provision, including that of social workers, home helps and sheltered housing schemes. Such pressures will be impossible to ignore, not just because of burgeoning need but since, in straightforward electoral terms, the preferences of older voters will be

important to all political parties, particularly if turn-out among young voters continues at its present low level.

However, trends in the age profile of the population will provide an increasingly crude yardstick by which to measure pension, health care or social service needs. In the first instance, to the extent that extended healthy lives lead to longer working lives, the relative numbers of pension or benefit dependants to taxpayers will rise by less than expected, easing the pressure on the financing of state provision. But even if working lives did not lengthen, other socially productive activities engaged in by healthier older individuals (such as caring) may reduce the demands that would otherwise have been placed on the State, and may result in a further lowering of needs to the extent that these activities lead to more favourable outcomes for the individuals themselves. ELSA will enable us to study the determinants of retirement and how employment patterns in later life might be expected to change with changes in health and in the economic and social environment.

In this context, it is important to acknowledge that the ways in which people retire have changed and that the ways in which people live in their retirement are also undergoing a radical transformation. Indeed, the experience and image of old age as a whole is changing. As a result of the increase in healthy life expectancy and improvements in the economic position of older people, a new phase of the life course – the 'Third Age' – has opened for some between exit from the labour market and the onset of physical dependency. However, this experience is by no means uniform for this particular cohort, with great inequalities in both health and economic position. And it may be a phenomenon that becomes less common with future cohorts of older people, as expectations and policies around retirement and pension provision change. This reflects a growing diversity of experiences of older ages that is likely to be structured by socio-economic position, gender and ethnicity, as well as by generational and time-period-specific effects. Nevertheless, the growth of the demographic group for whom earning through employment is no longer a primary activity may also be giving rise to a reinvigoration of non-material objectives and values. Research based on the data gathered in ELSA will be able to document this process, and diversity and inequalities in it, and to investigate its implications both for individuals' mental and physical health and quality of life and for the wider community and economy.

1.3 Wider significance of ELSA

ELSA is supported by major grants from the US National Institute on Aging (NIA) and from several departments of the British Government. The British Government supports ELSA because of its unique ability to lay out the picture of the diversity of ageing trajectories and to inform both short- and long-term policy options for our ageing population. The NIA supports ELSA because of its scientific and international value. In particular, there is a companion study to ELSA in the USA – the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). HRS, as is ELSA, is a longitudinal study that follows people's health and economic and social circumstances through retirement into older age. ELSA has been planned to be directly comparable to HRS. Scientists and policy-makers in

both the USA and Britain will benefit from the comparative analysis of data obtained from people living under very different arrangements of health and social services and economic policies.

ELSA and HRS have also become models for other studies of ageing. The Study of Health and Retirement in Europe is being planned in several European countries and will yield data comparable to ELSA, and a study similar to HRS has been established in Mexico. Similarly, a programme of work setting up new longitudinal studies in the Czech Republic, Poland and Russia is being coordinated from the International Centre for Health and Society at University College London. New cohort studies, along ELSA lines, are now under active consideration in Ireland, Canada and Australia.

1.4 Key challenges emerging from the present report

ELSA is a longitudinal study, which means that the same individuals are followed and re-interviewed every two years. The real scientific yield from ELSA will come, therefore, from analysing how changes over time in one domain feed into functioning in another. For example, the finding that sick people have lower incomes than those who are healthy could arise because low income leads to ill health. The causal direction could also be the other way: ill health could lead to loss of earning power and hence to lower income. Longitudinal data hold out better prospect of determining the relative importance of these two pathways than the simple 'cross-sectional' description of low income and poor health being linked.

Nevertheless, this first report of findings from the first wave of ELSA has highlighted a number of areas that demand attention. These are presented in the Summary in this chapter and, in detail, in the chapters that follow. The theme of this review of broad issues emerging from the findings is diversity.

Middle age is no paradise; old age is not hell

Difficulty with mobility increases with age. This does not mean that middle-age people are immune to declines in function. Surprisingly, 43% of respondents in their 50s reported some difficulty with mobility.

Similarly, difficulties with independent living increase with age. This does not mean that all older people have difficulty: 58% of respondents in their 80s and beyond have no difficulties with basic activities of daily life. The challenge for the future is to understand what leads some 80-year-olds to high levels of functioning and some 50-year-olds already to show signs of decline.

Diversity means inequality

The economic situation for individuals over 50 vary from rich, through comfortable to parlous. There are, of course, big differences in incomes. More extreme are the differences in wealth. Average financial wealth plus wealth from physical assets (excluding housing) in the over-50 population is £82,500.

Half the population have £17,500 or less; and a quarter of the population have £2,200 or less. Holdings of the three main forms of wealth – housing, pensions and financial assets – are correlated: those without housing or pension wealth also have the lowest levels of financial wealth.

Adequacy of pension arrangements varies greatly, and people's likelihood of staying in the workforce appears to be related not only to age or ability to function, but also to whether pension arrangements for retirement provide an incentive to retire.

Health and wealth are linked

The issue of social inequality runs right through this report. People with more education, higher-status jobs, higher income or more wealth have better health and better cognitive and physical function. It is not simply that poor people have worse health than those who are not poor; there is a social gradient. The lower the social position, the more ill health and loss of function.

The link between social status and health is seen, too, when people are asked to rank their social standing. Even allowing for their level of wealth, those who rank themselves lower in the hierarchy have worse health than those whose self-ranking is more favourable.

Being lower in the social hierarchy is equivalent to more rapid ageing

Ill health comes to all of us eventually, but it comes, on average, at an earlier age to people lower in the social hierarchy. A similar pattern is present for loss of function. The disability gap between social classes is equivalent to the gap between age groups 10 or more years apart. When assessing memory, education and occupational class have a more powerful effect than age.

The extent to which this insight can be translated into policy is, as yet, unknown. If it were possible to delay the decline in function of those with little education to the age when those with more education show decline, the impact on the population would be profound.

Wide diversity in social and physical environment

Participation in most social activities varies according to level in society. In terms of the social activities covered, with few exceptions, people of higher status have a wider array of social activities and participation in clubs and organisations than people of lower status.

The social environment is important. The lower the social position, the more likely are people to live in neighbourhoods characterised by low social capital – here measured by descriptions of the area according to degrees of vandalism and graffiti, loneliness, trustworthiness and friendliness.

Next steps

Such findings raise a number of more complex questions. The long-term agenda of ELSA is to provide the data that can address such questions. The

longitudinal nature of the study is central to this, and that involves two elements. Firstly, the ELSA sample was drawn from the Health Survey for England (HSE), and so there already exist two observations of the ELSA participants. As part of the general release of ELSA data for use by other analysts, we will provide mechanisms to link the data from the HSE with those from ELSA.

More importantly, and on an ongoing basis, ELSA participants will be contacted every two years to participate in a new wave of data collection. This will allow us to understand how and why people's lives change as they grow older. The next wave of ELSA data collection will take place in 2004 and will involve both an interview along the lines of that conducted for the first wave of ELSA and a physical assessment conducted by a nurse.

1.5 Methods

Our focus in this report is on the findings from the first wave of ELSA, not its design or its implementation. It goes without saying that a rigorous methodological approach must be a key feature of any longitudinal study that will stay the course and provide the quality of data needed for analysis. More detail is provided in Chapter 9 of this report and in a separate technical volume.[1]

The ELSA sample is drawn from households previously responding to the HSE, and the HSE survey years 1998, 1999 and 2001 were used as a basis for this. Individuals were eligible for interview if they were born on or before 29 February 1952, had been living in a responding HSE household and were, at the time of the ELSA interview, still living in a private residential address in England. In addition, partners under the age of 50, and new partners who had moved into the household since HSE, were also given a full interview. Great efforts were made to ensure that the fieldwork was successful, including a thorough strategy for tracing and contacting eligible individuals who had moved since their last interview. Ultimately, the survey achieved a household response rate of 70%, with 96% of individuals responding within households. This equates to an overall individual response rate of 67%. This provides a sample of 11,392, which includes 204 partial and 158 proxy responses. In addition, 636 partners under 50 and 72 new partners were interviewed, equating to a total sample of 12,100. This provides a sound basis for future waves of the study. It should be noted that the main analysis of this report excludes proxy interviews and interviews with new and younger partners.

The topic areas covered by the ELSA questionnaire at wave 1 included: individual and household characteristics; physical, cognitive, mental and psychological health; social participation and social support; housing, work, pensions, income and assets; and expectations for the future. In translating such a wide variety of concepts into operationalised measures that could fit together in a household setting, the study benefited from the close

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[1]R. Taylor, L. Conway, L. Calderwood and C. Lessof, *Health, Wealth and Lifestyles of the Older Population in England: The 2002 English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, Technical Report*, National Centre for Social Research, London, forthcoming.

collaboration between survey specialists and substantive experts from the different fields. ELSA uses tried-and-tested measures where they exist, and has developed or incorporated survey approaches new to the UK where they do not. Examples of these include: unfolding bracket methods to mitigate non-response problems on financial variables; concurrent interviewing in the cases where households have more than one eligible respondent (coupled with a period of the interview spent privately with each respondent for the collection of sensitive data); and the use of 'percentage chance' questions to understand people's expectations of the future.

The early development of the survey instruments was characterised by lively debates, 'expert panels' convened to aid the design of new or difficult elements of the survey, cognitive testing of new modules of questions and two extensive pilots that tested the survey instruments and fieldwork approach. ELSA benefited from its relatively long development period. As we will interview respondents at two-yearly waves, we are now preparing to start fieldwork again in 2004. Wave 2, which will include a nurse visit, is being developed using the same approach.

1.6 Reporting conventions

Throughout this report, all tables give weighted calculations. For further details on the weighting methods, see Chapter 9. Statistics in cells with between 30 and 49 observations are indicated by the use of square brackets. Statistics that would be based on fewer than 30 observations are omitted from tables.

1.7 Acknowledgements

ELSA is a large multi-centre and multi-disciplinary study that would not have been possible without the efforts and dedication of a great number of people. The study is managed by a small committee chaired by Professor Sir Michael Marmot and made up of James Banks, Richard Blundell, Bob Erens, Carli Lessof and James Nazroo. Roger Jowell played a crucial role in establishing the study and was formerly a member of this committee. We would like to express our gratitude for the support we have received from a number of sources.

Foremost of those who deserve recognition are the participants in the study. They have given generously of their time in both the ELSA interview and the earlier Health Survey for England interview. We hope that participating in the interview has been of interest to them and that the value of this work is apparent – and, of course, that they will continue to participate in the study!

The institutions involved in the study are the International Centre for Health and Society at University College London, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the National Centre for Social Research, the University of Cambridge, the University of Nottingham and the University of Oxford. A great many individuals in each of these institutions have been involved in the study, some of whom are reflected in the authorship of chapters in this report. Others,

1.8 Summary

Chapter 2
The socio-demographic characteristics of the ELSA population

- Marriage was highly prevalent in the cohorts studied here, but at younger ages, living with a partner became more common.

- Among people reported as having children, the most common number of children was two, with the proportion of people who reported having one child increasing with age.

- Only a small proportion of people in the population aged 50 or over have one or more children living in the household. This proportion declined with age.

- The prevalence of most socio-demographic characteristics covered in this chapter showed differences by education and occupation. Men and women in managerial and professional occupations, or who have attained higher levels of education, were more likely to be married or to be living with a partner, to have more children and to have parents who were still alive.

- In many of the socio-demographic aspects analysed, the differences related to education and occupation were greater at younger ages.

Chapter 3
Socio-economic position

- Average net disposable family income for individuals aged 50 and over is £346.82 per week. Taking account of household size, this equates to an equivalent for a single adult of £243.44 per week.

- The average level of net financial assets of those aged 50 and over is £43,400 (not counting pensions). Adding housing and other physical wealth results in an average level of resources (excluding pensions) of £155,700.

- The inequality in wealth across the older population is much greater than that observed in incomes. As an indication of this inequality, and also the degree to which the 'average' wealth measures are driven by a small number of very wealthy individuals, despite average financial wealth being over £40,000, half the population aged 50 and over have less than £12,000 and a quarter have less than £1,500.

- There are a large number of individuals, particularly amongst single men and women, who have little or no wealth. A quarter of single men and women aged 50 and over have almost no wealth at all.

- Holdings of the three main forms of wealth – housing, pensions and financial assets – are positively correlated in the population. Those without housing or pension wealth also have the lowest levels of financial savings.

- There is a strong correlation between socio-economic position and health. This holds whether socio-economic position is measured by income, wealth or other socio-economic classification. In addition, individuals from higher wealth groups expect to live longer on average.

- The average expectation of receiving inheritances is largest amongst those from the highest wealth groups. These groups are also the most likely to report high probabilities of leaving bequests.

- Individuals' subjective assessment of their own socio-economic position is correlated with both their actual financial resources and their health.

Chapter 4
Work and retirement

- Less than three-quarters of 55- to 59-year-old men and less than half of 60- to 64-year-old men are currently working. For women, these numbers are around 60% and 30% respectively; many working women are working part-time.

- Looking at individuals below the state pension age, there is a strong positive correlation between economic activity and health, whether health is self-reported or measured by mobility limitations.

- Concentrating just on workers, there are only relatively minor differences in hours worked and job types by health status. Similarly, there are only minor differences by health status in expectations of remaining in work.

- Looking across wealth groups, labour market inactivity rates for individuals younger than state pension age are U-shaped – the lowest wealth groups are least likely to be working, but the wealthiest individuals are also less likely to work than those in the middle of the wealth distribution.

- Single men are substantially less likely to be economically active than their married counterparts. The differences are much smaller for single and married women.

- The association of private pensions with 'early retirement' is stronger for defined benefit than for defined contribution pensions. This is true both for those who have already retired and for the retirement expectations of those who are still working.

- Expectations of returning to work, for those out of the labour market before the state pension age, are relatively pessimistic. Those in poor health, in particular, report low expectations of returning to work.

Chapter 5
Social activity

- Overall, greater percentages of women than men provide care, although this is not the case for providing care for a spouse, where rates are equal.

- Most carers provide between 1 and 19 hours of care a week. A quarter of carers provide round-the-clock care.

- In general, those in poorer health are less likely to belong to organisations such as political parties or trade unions, charities or sports clubs.

- Those in more managerial and professional occupational groups tend to be more likely to be a member of an organisation other than social clubs, where the opposite is true.

- Around 50% of people aged 50 and older say that they go to the cinema, opera or theatre or visit an art gallery or museum. Almost all say that they eat out of the house sometimes.

- Those in older age groups, poorer health or more routine and manual occupational groups are less likely to participate in these activities.

- Those in older age groups are more likely to have voted in the last general election.

- Access to email and the Internet is strongly related to age (younger people have greater access), occupational class (those in the managerial and occupational classes have greater access) and gender (men have greater access than women).

Chapter 6
Health

- There is an occupational class gradient in the prevalence of most health outcomes covered in ELSA, including: heart disease, respiratory illness, self-reported fair or poor health, having a limiting long-standing illness and mental health symptoms. Men and women in routine or manual occupational class households were most likely, and men and women in professional or managerial class households were least likely, to report having each of these conditions.

- Social inequalities in health are more marked at younger ages than older ages. For example, in the 50–59 age group, men in routine and manual occupations were twice as likely to have a limiting long-standing illness as men in professional and managerial occupations, while, among men aged 75 or older, there was very little difference between the two groups in the proportions suffering from a limiting long-standing illness. A similar pattern appeared for heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and respiratory illness, although generally more so for men than for women.

- Similar occupational class differences in age trends appeared for health-related behaviours. For instance, sedentary behaviour increased with age more rapidly for men and women in routine or manual households than for those in professional or managerial households.

- There is a suggestion that the variation in the social inequality in health by age is a consequence of those in routine and manual occupational classes reaching a state of poor health a decade or two earlier in their lives than their peers in more advantaged social positions. Around a third of routine and manual men in the 50- to 59-year-old group report a limiting long-standing illness, while rates for men in the professional and managerial groups remain much lower than this until they get beyond age 75; for example, only just over a quarter of professional and managerial men aged 60–74 report a limiting long-standing illness.

- People in routine or manual occupational class households were most likely to abstain from drinking alcohol or only drink alcohol on special occasions, while people in professional or managerial households were more likely to drink moderately, in line with the pattern now thought to be protective against chronic illness.

Chapter 7
Physical and cognitive function

- There is considerable variation in the level of physical impairment between age groups. The prevalence of reported physical functional limitation is surprisingly high at the youngest end of the sample, with 43% of respondents in their 50s reporting difficulty with mobility and 13% reporting difficulty with a basic activity of daily life (self-care). At the same time, most (58%) of the respondents in their 80s and older report no difficulties with basic activities of daily life and 17% report no difficulty with mobility functions.

- The variation in the level of impairment by occupational class is also considerable. Respondents with routine and manual occupations report up to twice as many difficulties with physical function as those with managerial or professional occupations. This occupational class disability gap is equivalent to the disability gap between age groups 10–15 years or more apart.

- Walking speed slows dramatically with age. Only around one in forty people aged between 60 and 64 walk more slowly than 0.4 metres/second, compared with one in five at age 80 and over. This deterioration in walking speed is more marked in women than in men.

- Chronological age is the strongest determinant of scores on the objective cognitive tests, whereas scores on the subjective measure (self-reported memory) are more strongly influenced by education and occupational class than by age.

- There was a very high level of forgetfulness in the sample, particularly in the older groups. Over two-thirds of the oldest group forgot to carry out actions that they had earlier been instructed to perform. Assuming that the

measures of forgetfulness used in ELSA are indicative of forgetfulness in daily life, these findings raise concerns about activities such as remembering to take medication, pay bills or take safety precautions such as turning off the cooker.

- Although older respondents in general perform less well than younger respondents on the cognitive tests, older respondents (aged 75 and over) who have a degree or higher education often performed as well as, and sometimes better than, younger respondents with no educational qualifications. This trend was particularly strong in the case of numerical ability, where the youngest group with no qualifications gave fewer correct responses than older groups with intermediate education or a degree or higher education.

- There is an interesting pattern of gender differences on the various cognitive measures. Women performed better than men on most of the memory tests, while men performed better than women on most of the executive function tests. The gender difference on memory is in line with many published studies, but the gender difference on executive function measures has received relatively little attention to date.

Chapter 8
Physical and social environment

- Density of accommodation (number of people per room) decreases with age and is lower for women than for men, suggesting that undercrowding or isolation, rather than overcrowding, may be an issue for women in the oldest age groups.

- Whereas certain durable goods, such as televisions and landline phones, are almost universally owned by members of today's older population, men and people in higher occupational classes are more likely than women and those in other occupational classes to own other goods, such as computers and CD players.

- Men and people of higher occupational status are more likely to perceive good social capital in their communities. Notably, perceived social capital deteriorates with age.

- While, in general, few people report difficulties accessing local amenities, such as a post office or supermarket, women, older people, those in poor health and those in lower occupational groups are all more likely to have difficulty accessing these services. In contrast, a far greater proportion of individuals indicate that they do not take public transport because of lack of availability.

- Adult children appear to play a central role in the social networks of the ELSA population, with more than half the sample seeing their children at least once a week.

- The disadvantage experienced by women in such areas as perceived social capital and access to local amenities is generally not found in measures of personal social networks. For example, women have more face-to-face,

phone and written contact with others than men do, and these gender differences in frequency of contact are more pronounced than age differences.

- Younger people and those of higher occupational class are more likely to have frequent written contact with network members, possibly reflecting disparities in access to email.

- There is some evidence that the quality of social relationships improves with age, as reflected in measures of positive and negative social support from network members.

2. Socio-demographic characteristics

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Amongst other things, the analyses presented in this chapter show:

- Marriage was highly prevalent in the cohorts studied here, but at younger ages, living with a partner became more common.

- Among people reported as having children, the most common number of children was two, with the proportion of people who reported having one child increasing with age.

- Only a small proportion of people in the population aged 50 or over have one or more children living in the household. This proportion declined with age.

- The prevalence of most socio-demographic characteristics covered in this chapter showed differences by education and occupation. Men and women in managerial and professional occupations, or who have attained higher levels of education, were more likely to be married or to be living with a partner, to have more children and to have parents who were still alive.

- In many of the socio-demographic aspects analysed, the differences related to education and occupation were greater at younger ages.

ELSA is a study of people aged 50 or over and provides a rich source for exploring issues relating to ageing that are important both for scientific understanding and for policy analysis. It offers a unique opportunity in Britain for the study of a range of topics necessary to understand the economic, social, psychological and health elements of the ageing process and to inform policy in these areas. The increase in life expectancy, as well as the demographic shift, has raised questions about population trends in disability, the impact on health services, the need for long-term care, trends in the workforce, changes in productive activities after retirement, and appropriate pension and other economic arrangements.

This chapter gives an overview of the demographic characteristics of the ELSA population, such as age and sex, as well as other socio-demographic variables, including marital status, household composition, living arrangements, ethnicity, education and occupational class. The results are presented at both individual and household levels. This helps to create a larger picture about each respondent and the household in which the respondent lives. It also describes some of the outcomes that are used as a basis for analyses in other chapters and provides a starting point for many research

questions, including comparative studies that rely on a comparison between ELSA and other survey samples.

Age and sex are the most important factors that affect mortality and health and are the main characteristics by which analyses have been carried out in this report. There is a large literature focusing on sex differences in health and mortality. While different authors argue on the importance of either biological or socio-economic and behaviour factors in these sex differences, it is generally agreed that women live longer than men. On average, women in developed countries live more than five years longer than men (Waldron, 1983; Verbrugge, 1989).

Marital status has also been found to influence health and mortality. Married people have significantly better health and a lower mortality than their single counterparts (Smith and Zick, 1994). These results are particularly strong for men (Lillard and Panis, 1996; Hu and Goldman, 1990). A number of studies (Korenman and Goldman, 1993; Goldman, Korenman and Weinstein, 1995; Mineau, Smith and Bean, 2002) have found that widowed, divorced and never married individuals were more likely to die than married people. In the case of the ELSA survey, it has been particularly important to look at changes in marital status with time. As people age and die, there is an increase in the proportion of widows and widowers. This can bring economic, social, psychological and other changes. Cohabitation has been another area on which the ELSA study has focused. This has been regarded as important because of an increase in cohabitation that could be reflected in the cohorts of the ELSA population.

Among other factors, living arrangements, family ties, relationship and support are also thought to be of particular importance for health and mortality, especially at older ages. The influence or presence of family could have a positive effect in terms of the well-being of the older person and can also provide a good preventive measure against lengthy institutionalisation (Grundy, Bowling and Farquhar, 1993; Steinbach, 1992). In most developed countries, the proportion of elderly living alone has increased in the last decades. However, few studies have investigated the general impact of living arrangements on health and survival. Patterns have changed substantially in the last two decades, with more older adults living alone as they age. As living alone becomes more 'normative', its negative influence on health and well-being may become less powerful (Davis et al., 1997).

Childlessness and the number of children could be a predictor for the presence (or lack) of social relationships and, in consequence, of health and mortality. These are of great importance at old age, especially when it is associated with a reduction in physical functioning and widowhood. Children can mediate environmental stress that threatens to overwhelm the coping abilities of the older parent (Silverstein and Bengtson, 1991) and, at the same time, close intergenerational relations may help to compensate for the lost support of the deceased spouse. The number of children in itself does not necessarily equate with meaningful help and support, so the association with mortality reflects inconsistent trends (Bowling, 1994).

Few studies have analysed the presence of siblings and the effect on mortality. Bowling (1994) found an association with longevity and the number of live siblings.

Ethnic background has been identified as one of the factors that influence health and mortality. A number of studies have shown the influence of ethnic and cultural background on health and have pointed to the facts that disease and mortality are functions of social culture as well as of class, and that different diseases prevail in different cultures (Cruickshank and Beevers, 1989; Nazroo, 1997).

Education has been widely perceived as one of the most important socio-economic determinants of health and mortality. There is considerable evidence that low educational attainment is strongly correlated with diseases, health risks and mortality (Winkleby et al., 1992). It has been suggested that education affects health and mortality through a number of pathways, such as lifestyle, health behaviour, problem-solving abilities, social relations, self-esteem and stress-management, as well as through income or occupation (Elo and Preston, 1996; Pappas et al., 1993). Research from a number of countries has shown that this effect is present even at older ages (Martelin, Koskinen and Valkonen, 1998; Silventoinen and Lahelma, 2002).

Social class is typically used in sociology as a central theoretical concept indicating the individual's location in the social stratification system and access to material resources, influence and information. Social class is thought to affect health and mortality in many ways: by influencing attitudes, beliefs and values people use to make life-course choices and by influencing life-course opportunities. The literature portrays a strikingly strong relationship between an individual's place in the social structure of the society and his/her health status and mortality. Different studies have demonstrated clearly that even small social class differences can strongly affect health and mortality (Marmot, Shipley and Rose, 1984; Pamuk, 1985; Wilkinson, 1996; Marmot and Wilkinson, 1999). Researchers have also concluded that socio-economic circumstances, nutrition and infections early in life have major effects on adult mortality (Notkola et al., 1985; Elo and Preston, 1992; Nystrom, 1992; Lundberg, 1993).

ELSA, as a rich source of data, will provide the opportunity to explore in detail the demographic and social characteristics of the population and shed more light on the factors that could affect health and mortality at old age.

2.1 Measures

In ELSA's main interview, information regarding age, sex, marital status, ethnic background and number of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren was asked for, together with the number of siblings, educational attainment, occupational characteristics and information concerning ELSA respondents' parents and socio-economic circumstances in childhood. Finally, information on household size, relationships in the household and living arrangements was collected. The general information was collected both at the household and at the individual level.

It is important to point out here that the information on household characteristics and relations in the household were collected first in the household module and recorded in the household grid. In particular, the data regarding relationships in the household, living arrangements and number of children was obtained from the household grid. Each ELSA respondent was then asked individually about a number of demographic characteristics. The results presented in this chapter and in the tables in the Annex to it combine information from both the household grid and the individual questionnaire.

Age and sex, as the main demographic characteristics, were collected first in the household module and then in the individual one. Age, which was initially recorded in exact years, was then regrouped into 10-year and 5-year age groups for the purposes of the analyses.

Each ELSA respondent was asked about legal marital status in the individual questionnaire. The response options were: single, never married; married, first and only marriage; married, second or later marriage; legally separated; divorced; widowed.

The term 'cohabitation' is used here to describe whether the single, divorced or widowed respondent is living with a partner or not. Details of cohabitation and living arrangements were derived using the household grid, in which the relation of each ELSA respondent to every other person in the household was collected. Cohabitation was not, however, defined in terms of the legal marital status of the respondent.

The predetermined response options regarding the relationships in the household were: husband/wife; partner/cohabitee; natural son/daughter; adopted son/daughter; foster son/daughter; stepson/stepdaughter/child of partner; son-in-law/daughter-in-law; natural parent; adoptive parent; foster parent; step-parent/parent's partner; parent-in-law; natural brother/sister; half-brother/half-sister; stepbrother/stepsister; adopted brother/sister; foster brother/sister; brother-in-law/sister-in-law; grandchild; grandparent; other relative; other non-relative.

All respondents were asked whether they had any living children (response options: yes/no), how many they had and, if they had children living outside the household, whether they were their natural (i.e. biological) children, adopted, step or fostered children. These questions were answered by all respondents in the household. The household grid was used to derive the number of children living in the household.

Questions were also asked about whether respondents had any grandchildren and great-grandchildren (response options: yes/no) and, if yes, the number of living grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Similarly, respondents were asked how many brothers and/or sisters they had. Questions about whether respondents had any grandchildren, great-grandchildren or siblings, as well as their number, were asked in the individual questionnaire. The household grid was only used to establish whether any of the grandchildren, great-grandchildren or siblings were living in the same household as the ELSA respondent.

Information was collected on whether parents were still alive or dead (response options: yes/no). Where the parents were dead, the age at death (in

years) and the cause of death (response options: cancer; heart attack, stroke, other cardiovascular-related illness, respiratory disease; none of these) were recorded. Where a parent was still alive, the parent's current age (in years) was recorded.

Respondents were asked with whom they lived during most of their childhood. The following list of response options was given to the respondent: both natural parents; natural mother and stepfather; natural father and stepmother; natural mother; natural father; step-parents; foster parents; adoptive parents; grandparent(s), sibling(s) or other relative; children's home; other. Information on the main occupation of the father (or the main carer if the respondent did not live with the father or if the father was dead) when the respondent was 14 years old was also collected.

When asking about ethnicity or the cultural group to which the respondent considered him/herself to belong, the response options given to the respondent were: white; mixed ethnic group; black; black British; Asian; Asian British; any other group.

Respondents were also asked about educational attainment – whether they had attained any further qualifications since they were last interviewed as part of the Health Survey for England (HSE) interview. In cases where the answer was yes, or if there was no information from the HSE, respondents were given a predetermined list of response options from which to choose.

Finally, a series of questions were asked about the occupation of the ELSA respondent. Based primarily on this information, occupational categories were drawn and a socio-economic (NS-SEC – see below) classification was then derived. (It is worth noting that the full set of questions about occupation was only asked if the information was not available from an earlier HSE interview with the respondent or if they had subsequently changed jobs. Wherever possible, the occupation recorded at HSE was checked and, if still current, was used to determine the occupational status of the respondent.)

The first wave of ELSA included a number of 'harmonised' questions about occupation and employment status, which have been agreed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and allow for the derivation of several important classifications that are used in official statistics. The most basic occupational classification collected in ELSA is the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), which was updated by ONS from SOC90 to SOC2000. The key socio-economic variable, which is reported extensively here, is the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC). This indicator replaced the Registrar General's Social Class (RGSC) and the Socio-Economic Group (SEG) in 2001. These classifications are based on occupation, in combination with employment status and in some circumstances size of workplace (Donkin, Yuan and Toson, 2002).

Three different summaries of NS-SEC are available in the ELSA data. The first is an eight-category variable (higher managerial and professional; lower managerial and professional; intermediate; small employers and own-account workers; lower supervisory and technical; semi-routine; routine; never worked and long-term unemployment). The second is a five-category variable (managerial and professional; intermediate; small employers and own-account

workers; lower supervisory and technical; semi-routine). The last is a three-category variable (managerial and professional; intermediate; routine and manual).

2.2 Results

Age and sex composition

In the ELSA population, 46.4% are men and 53.6% are women. This is expected in a population above the age of 50, where women outnumber men as a result of higher survival rates at these ages. For analysis purposes, the population has been regrouped into 5-year age groups with the exception of the highest group, which is open-ended. The mean age of the ELSA population is 65, and the maximum age is 100. The largest proportion of the survey population is in the younger age groups, with age group 50–54 having the greatest number of people for both sexes (20.9% for men and 18.5% for women) (Table 2A.1). The population distribution is more skewed to the left at the younger ages for men than for women, reflecting the weighting strategy which ensured that the ELSA population had a similar distribution to the population of England from the 2001 census.

Figure 2.1. ELSA's population age pyramid

Females   Males
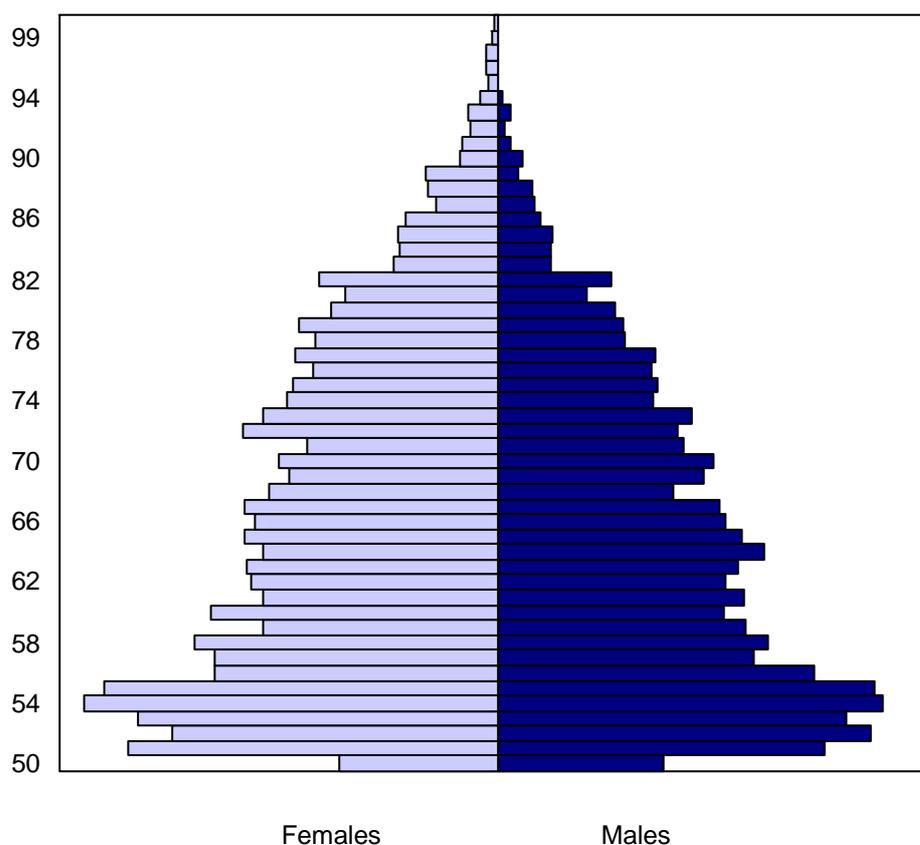
Figure 2.1 shows the population age pyramid for the ELSA population. The number of women who survive to old age is clearly larger than the number of men and, reflecting the characteristics of the whole British population, the influence of the baby boom after the Second World War is evident, with more people concentrated at ages 53 to 55, who were born between 1947 and 1950. The reduction of fertility during the Second World War as well as the baby bust of the 1930s is also evident. However, the evidence of these two demographic events has now slightly diminished. The cohorts that were subject to these events are now in their late 50s to early 70s, and while the size of the birth cohort has long-lasting effects on the structure of the population even after 50 years, other factors, such as survival rates, also play an important role at these ages. In particular, the effect of mortality might be selective and thus affect one cohort more than another.

The number of the oldest old in the sample is small – only 3% of the ELSA sample is aged 85 or over. On the one hand, the small number of the oldest old in the sample might limit separate analyses of them as a group. On the other hand, they are, in the short term, a very important group and the early cross-sectional analyses that are being conducted will provide immediate lessons for policy, theoretical development and the design of future waves. In the first wave of ELSA, 11.8% of respondents are aged 80 or older. Although a focus on this age group is not a central part of the study, the data will provide an important resource in carrying out analyses of this age group and the changes it experiences over time.

Ethnic composition

With regards to ethnic composition, the ELSA population is very homogeneous. There are two main reasons why this could be so. Firstly, ethnic minorities in England tend to be younger, reflecting the timing of and the age at past migration. In addition, people who do not speak English were excluded from the HSE sample and, as a result, are virtually absent from ELSA.

In all age groups and for both sexes, the 'white' category is by far the largest. In total, 96.5% of the men and 97.7% of the women are white. The second largest group is Asian for men (1.7%) and black or Asian for women (both 0.9%). There are, however, slightly more in other ethnic groups at younger ages. For example, the proportion of Asians is 2.3% for men aged 50–54 and 0.2% for men aged 80 and over. These proportions for women are respectively 1.6% and 0.1%. (Table 2A.5)

Marital status

The population data split by marital status show that 62.1% of men and 49.4% of women are married (first and only marriage); 12.8% of men and 9% of women are remarried; 6.6% of men and 4.9% of women are single (never married); 9.4% of men and 11.2% of women are either separated or divorced; and 9% of men and 25.5% of women are widowed (Figure 2.2, Table 2A.2). This is a pattern that might be expected in this cohort and in these age groups. Among married people (either first and only marriage or remarriage), there is a larger proportion of men than of women. This is not unexpected, as it mainly

reflects the age difference at marriage – women tend to marry older men. This automatically increases the proportion of women who are widowed, as their partners would, on average, be older than them and also because female survival is higher than male. There is not much difference between men and women in the percentages of separated and divorced individuals. It is notable that these cohorts have some of the highest proportions of married people in the past 50 years, and the proportion of people who have never married is lower than among other groups.

Figure 2.2. ELSA's population, by marital status, age and sex
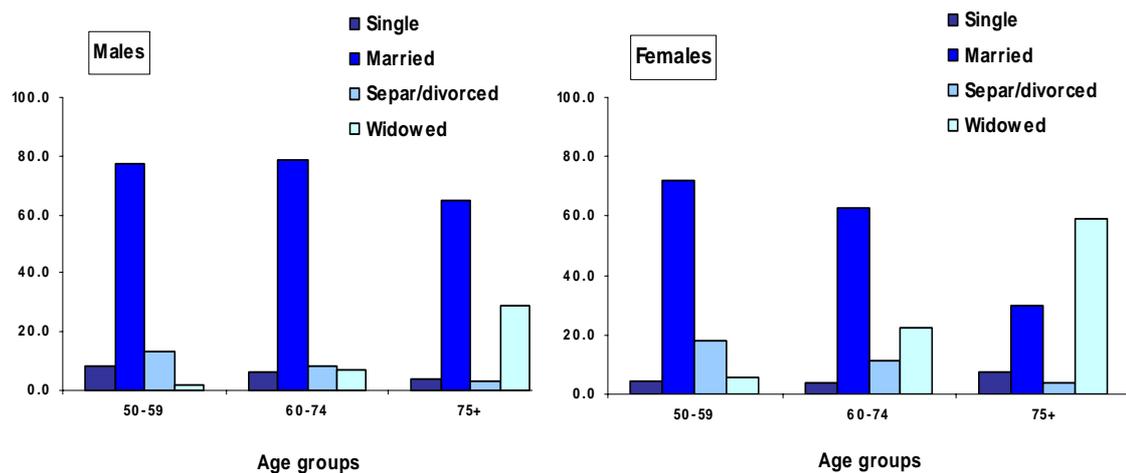
Not surprisingly, the single are more concentrated in the younger age groups (50–59) and the widowed (men or women) are mostly concentrated at older ages (ages 75 and over) (Figure 2.2). Single people are almost equally distributed between the two sexes, while the widowed are mostly women. This result is expected and can be explained by higher female survival rates. However, some interesting disparities are found by age. Thus for men, the largest proportion who never married is found among young ages (50–59), while for women, this is found in the oldest ages (75 and over). For men, the most married cohort is the 60- to 64-year-old cohort, and for women, it is the 55–59 cohort. The proportion of women who are widows is nearly three times the proportion of men who are widowers. The differences are very clear for all age groups, as can be seen in Table 2A.2. There are very few widows and widowers at the young ages. In all age groups, there are more widows than widowers but the difference is especially clear in older age groups. The proportion of widows at ages 65 and over is much higher than the proportion of widowers at these ages. Over a third of men aged 80 or over are widowers (38.3%) and more than two-thirds of women of this age are widows (71.5%). This shows a clear selection effect in survival.

When marital status is analysed by education (categories: degree or other higher educational qualification, intermediate level, no qualifications) and sex, it is interesting that while for men there is variation in marital status by education level, for women this either does not exist or is not very clear. Thus, the proportion of married men increases with the level of education. 83.4% of men with a degree or other higher educational qualification are married, 77.8%

of men with an intermediate level of education are married and 67.6% of those with no qualification are married. This probably has to do with the fact that marriage is a selective process. This is also supported by the fact that the proportion of never-married men is highest among the people with no qualification. In the group of men with no qualification, 9.4% have never married, compared with 5.6% in the group of men with the highest qualification (degree or other higher educational qualification). (Table 2A.15)

When marital status is analysed by the NS-SEC three-category occupational classification (managerial and professional, intermediate, and routine and manual, as in NS-SEC), some patterns of variation are found among men but not among women. This is probably related to the fact that the occupation data for older ages, in particular the very old, might reflect true occupation for men more than it does for women, because men in these age groups have been in longer employment and their occupation is a better indicator of their lifelong employment. On the other hand, for women in these age groups, occupation is probably not an indicator of lifelong employment and occupational class. The occupation category by marital status behaves in the same way as for education: the higher the type of occupation, the larger the proportion of married men. For example, there are 68.1% married and 13.0% remarried men in the managerial and professional occupations, compared with 58.4% married and 11.7% remarried men in routine and manual occupations. The opposite is found for the proportion of single people, whose proportion is higher among the men employed in routine and manual occupations. The percentage of widowers also increases with lower levels of occupation. For example, while there are 6.8% widowed men and 16.9% widowed women in the managerial and professional occupations, these proportions increase to 11.1% widowed men and 28.3% widowed women in routine and manual occupations. (Table 2A.16)

Cohabitation – living with a partner

Cohabitation with a partner was analysed using data from the first wave of ELSA; the information on whether people were or were not living with a partner was obtained from the data collected in the household grid. As mentioned earlier, information on cohabitation was collected separately from legal marital status. Thus it reflects whether a single, divorced, separated or widowed respondent is living with or without a partner.

Cohabitation is to some extent a recent phenomenon and high levels of cohabitation would be unexpected in a population as old as this one. Table 2A.3 shows that 4.1% of the men and 2.8% of the women are living with a partner. The proportion of people who do not live with a partner is 22.3% for men and 39.6% for women. The figures show clear age and gender differences, and the proportion of people who live with a partner becomes smaller at older ages. For example, while 7.8% of men and 6.1% of women aged 50–54 report living with a partner, these proportions for people aged 80 or over are only 0.6% and 0.3% respectively. Conversely, the proportion of people who do not live with a partner becomes larger with age. So 17.2% of men and 22.6% of women aged 50–54 do not report living with a partner. The proportion of people aged 80 or over who do not live with a partner is much

larger: 44.3% for men and 81.8% for women. This could, of course, be as a result of widowhood and the fact that women have a higher survival rate than men. (Table 2A.3)

Table 2A.4 shows the proportions of non-married people who are or are not living with a partner. Out of all non-married people, it is clear that men are more likely than women – and younger people are more likely than older people – to live with a partner. For example, 3.1% of non-married men and 0.7% of non-married women are single and report living with a partner; 10.0% of non-married men and 4.8% of non-married women are divorced or separated and report living with a partner; and 1.4% of non-married men and 0.8% of non-married women are widowed and report living with a partner. The proportions for all the above-mentioned categories except widowed people reduce dramatically with age. (Table 2A.4)

Looking at the results of the analyses of married and non-married people who report living or not living with a partner and their educational status, it is clear that for both sexes, but especially for men, the proportion of people that live with a partner decreases with the fall in educational attainment. Thus, 81.7% of men and 63.4% of women who have a degree or other higher educational qualification live with a spouse, 4.4% of men and 3.2% of women who have a degree or other higher educational qualification live with someone to whom they are not married, and 13.9% of men and 33.3% of women who have a degree or other higher educational qualification do not live with a partner or spouse. The proportions for people who do not have any qualifications and report living with either a spouse or partner are smaller. In this group, 66.7% of men and 51.5% of women live with a spouse, 3.0% of men and 1.8% of women live with a partner, and 30.4% of men and 46.8% of women do not live with a spouse or partner. (Table 2A.17)

Similarly, Table 2A.19 shows that respondents in the highest occupational position (managerial and professional) report the highest proportions of either living with a spouse (79.8% of the men and 60.4% of the women) or living with a partner (4.6% of the men and 4.1% of the women), while respondents in the lowest occupational position (routine and manual) report the lowest proportions of either living with a spouse (68.7% of the men and 55.5% of the women) or living with a partner (3.3% of the men and 2.5% of the women). As other studies have shown, these results could be due to a selection effect in marriage, remarriage and cohabitation whereby marriage, remarriage and cohabitation select healthier people as well as people of higher socio-economic status (Goldman, Korenman and Weinstein, 1995).

Number of living children

ELSA respondents were asked about the number of living children and whether they lived in or outside the household. The information on whether these were their natural children, stepchildren, adopted or fostered children was also collected. The information has mostly been derived from the household grid. Information was not collected about the full fertility history of the female respondents. Instead, the number of children reflects the number of children that are alive at the point when the survey was conducted. The information was collected for both male and female respondents and the

results shown here are for both sexes. There are a few reasons that justify this decision. It is important to include men, as here we are interested not only in the fertility history (usually related to female respondents), but also in the number of children alive and the number living with the parents, since this has important implications for social relationships and social support. It should also be pointed out that most people in our sample are married and, because they are living in the same households, most married respondents are married to other ELSA respondents and are likely to 'share' the children among them. When the results are presented by sex, many of the children are included in both male and female data. However, the analyses should not completely exclude men, as some men in the sample are not living with a spouse or a partner, so it is also of interest to analyse this group.

Looking at the type of living children (whether natural, adopted, step or fostered) by age group and gender of the respondent, it is clear that the proportion of natural children is the largest, followed by the proportion of stepchildren. The proportion of adopted or fostered children is very small. 82.9% of men and 85.3% of women have natural children, 10.1% of men and 6.9% of women have stepchildren, 2.8% of men and 2.2% of women have adopted children, and only 0.3% of men and 0.4% of women have foster children. (Table 2A.6)

The total number of living children of all types that each respondent has varies slightly by sex but mostly by age. A large variation by sex is unlikely, because many of the people in the ELSA sample are married to each other, thus sharing the children among them. Differences may, however, come about as a result of male–female differences in reporting the number of children alive, as men tend to under-report. The proportion of people who do not have children is relatively small – 13.9% of men and 12.2% of women. However, when looking at this category by age and sex, some differences are found. 15.5% of men and 10.4% of women aged 50–54 do not have any living children. These proportions for those aged 80 or over are respectively 14.4% and 19.4%. The most prevalent groups are those of people who have two children (37.4% of men and 36.5% of women) and people who have three children (18.9% of men and 20.0% of women). The proportions for these two categories change slightly by gender and age. The proportions of both men and women who have two or three children tend to decrease by age. 41.3% of men and 44.6% of women aged 50–54 have two children, while the proportions for people aged 80 or over are 31.9% of men and 30.5% of women. The proportion of people who have more than three children is quite small. The mean number of children is 2.2 for both men and women. (Table 2A.7)

Table 2A.8 shows the number of natural children who are alive. Again, the sex differences are small but the age differences are clear. For those who have living natural children, the mean number is 1.98 for men and 2.06 for women. However, 19.1% of men and 13.2% of women aged 50–54 have no living natural children, while the proportions for this category for respondents aged 80 and over are 17.4% of men and 21.0% of women. People who have two living natural children make up the largest group for both men (38.7%) and women (37.5%). Looking at this category, it can be seen that the proportion of people who have two living natural children decreases with age. This

proportion is 43.2% for men and 46.3% for women aged 50–54 and becomes 30.5% for men and 29.7% for women aged 80 and over.

Looking at the total number of living children by educational attainment, it was found that for both sexes, higher educational attainment was associated with a decrease in the number of children. For example, the mean number of living children for men who have attained a degree or other higher educational qualification is 2.20 while this number for women is 2.07. The mean number of living children for men who have no qualifications is 2.25 while this number for women is 2.32 (Table 2A.23). The proportion of people with a degree or other higher educational qualification who have natural children is 84.9% for men and 80.0% for women. The proportion of people with no qualifications who have natural children is 79.7% for men and 85.8% for women (Table 2A.21). Looking more specifically at the total number of living children of all types per person, it is found that the proportion of men with a degree or other higher educational qualification who have two children is 42.7%, while 38.5% of women with a degree or other higher educational qualification have two children. The proportion of people with no qualifications who have two children is 31.4% for men and 31.6% for women. There could be a number of reasons for this pattern. The issue deserves further investigation.

Kinship relationships

ELSA respondents were asked about the number of living siblings. The categories were: no siblings; one sibling; two siblings; three siblings; and four or more siblings. The largest proportion is that of people with one sibling (30.5% of men and 30.4% of women), followed by people with no siblings (21.1% of men and 23.1% of women). The proportions of men and women who have two siblings are respectively 21.0% and 19.4%. There is a clear trend by age in the number of siblings for both men and women. The proportion of people with no siblings increases with age. One would expect this, as some of the respondents are quite old themselves and their older siblings might have died already. For example, only 13.6% of men and 11.7% of women aged 50–54 have no siblings. These proportions are 41.1% and 45.3% respectively for those aged 80 or over. (Table 2A.10)

Since the ELSA population is aged 50 years or over, it is also very important to collect the number of living grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The survey questions do not distinguish between the number of grandchildren and the number of great-grandchildren but asks for these together. The number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren reported here are: none, one, two, three, four to seven, eight or nine, and ten or more. However, as the age distribution and population pyramid of the ELSA sample show, the proportion of older people is quite small. As a result, the number of respondents who do not have grandchildren or great-grandchildren is large: 41.4% of men and 33.0% of women. The second largest group is those with four to seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren (20.1% of men and 23.6% of women). The proportion of respondents who have more than seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren is very small. As expected, there are clear differences by age but to a lesser extent by gender. The proportions of men and women aged 50–54

and have no grandchildren or great-grandchildren are large, at 72.1% and 61.6% respectively. These proportions decrease dramatically with age, as people grow older and their children and grandchildren have their own children. By the age of 80 or over, only 19.3% of the men and 24.2% of the women do not have any grandchildren or great-grandchildren. Meanwhile, the proportion of people who have larger numbers of grandchildren and great-grandchildren increases with age. So only 5.3% of men and 8.7% of women aged 50–54 have four to seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whereas 31.7% of men and 27.1% of women aged 80 or over do. (Table 2A.9)

Living arrangements

Living arrangements are an important determinant of health and mortality, particularly for the age groups that are the focus of ELSA. Since our respondents are aged 50 and over, many of their children might have moved, or be in the process of moving, away from home. At the same time, the older respondents might be losing their spouses or partners due to widowhood. This also has important consequences and is associated with changes in living arrangements. As people grow older, their health and physical functioning may deteriorate. Some move in with other younger family members and some move to institutions, bringing other changes in living arrangements. At the same time, it is likely that for those older individuals who experience changes in living arrangements, health and well-being also reflect both past life circumstances and expectations regarding the future.

The analyses of living arrangements (living with children and spouse or partner) show that 62.2% of men and 68.5% of women have children but live in households without children. 7.9% of men and 5.3% of women live with all their children and 16% of men and 14.1% of women live with some of their children. The results show a clear age pattern. Younger respondents are more likely to be living with some of their children. For example, 21.8% of men and 16.3% of women aged 50–54 live with all their children. The proportions for men and women aged 80 or over who live with all their children are respectively 1.9% and 2.6%. The proportion of people living without children increases dramatically with age. (Table 2A.32)

The prevalence of living alone increases with age and is higher among women than men. For example, 18.2% of men and 31.4% of women are living alone. Also, 54.9% of men and 46.2% of women are in couples living alone. (Table 2A.33)

The analyses of living arrangements by education (Table 2A.34) and three-category occupational category (Table 2A.35) show that for both men and women, but more so for men, higher educational attainment and higher occupational category are both associated with a lower chance of living alone. This could reflect the fact that – as was shown earlier – people with higher education or occupational status have higher chances of getting married or cohabiting. For example, 66.9% of the men and 53.8% of the women who have a degree or other higher educational qualification live with a partner and no other adult. These proportions are 55.8% and 43.4% respectively for people with no qualifications. (Table 2A.34)

Following up on this discussion, household size was also calculated, by educational attainment, age group and sex of the respondent (Table 2A.36) and by NS-SEC occupational category, age group and sex of the respondent (Table 2A.37). Here, too, it was found that the higher the education attained, the lower the chance that people live alone. For example, 11.6% of men with a degree or other higher educational qualification live alone (in a household that has only one person), while the proportion of women with a degree or other higher educational qualification who live alone is 26.1%. The proportion of men with no qualifications who live alone is 25.0%, while the proportion of women in the same category who live alone is 37.4%. The proportion of men with a degree or other higher educational qualification who live in a household of two people is 58.1%, compared with 53.2% for women. These proportions are smaller for people with no qualifications: 55.6% for men and 49.1% for women. (Table 2A.36)

Similarly, people in a higher occupational category are more likely to live in a household with at least one other person. This is especially so for men. (Table 2A.37)

Education and occupational status

Most ELSA respondents have not achieved a high educational qualification. This is expected for people of these age groups. People with no qualifications are the largest group for both men (36.6%) and women (48.9%). Looking across age groups for both sexes, it is clear that younger respondents have achieved higher educational levels than older ones. This is so for both sexes. For example, men aged 50–54 that have achieved A-level qualifications make up 30.3% of the people in this age group, while the proportion for women is 20.2%. Looking at people aged 80 or over, it is evident that the proportion of people that achieved A-level qualifications is small – 9.7% for men and 9.1% for women. However, some gender differences can be seen, especially at the younger ages. At all ages, men have achieved higher levels of qualifications than women of the same age. (Table 2A.11)

Looking at the educational attainment by the three-category occupational classification, one can clearly see the gradient: the higher the occupational category, the higher the proportion of people that have achieved higher educational levels. This finding applies for all age groups and for both sexes. For example, 40.5% of men and 33.8% of women aged 50–59 who are in managerial and professional positions have obtained a degree or other higher educational qualification. Only 3.7% of the men and 1.8% of the women aged 50–59 and doing routine and manual work have obtained a degree or other higher educational qualification. (Table 2A.14)

Looking at the five-category occupational classification, there are some age differences and even stronger gender differences by occupation. 35.1% of the men and 21.9% of the women are in managerial and professional positions, while 28.3% of the men and 40.7% of the women are working in semi-routine occupations. The largest male–female differences are found in the oldest age groups, which could reflect changes that have occurred in employment, with women entering more into professions that used to be almost exclusively male. (Table 2A.12)

Parental histories

Each respondent was asked whether their parents were alive or dead. The age at death and cause of death were also collected. The analyses show that 20.2% of men and 19.2% of women have mothers who are still alive. The percentage of people whose fathers are still alive (7.6% for both men and women) is smaller, due to lower survival of men than of women. The proportions of people whose parents are still alive are, as expected, higher in the younger age groups. (Table 2A.25)

It is interesting to point out here that people whose parents are still alive tend to be better qualified or to be in higher occupations. 28.4% of men with a degree or other higher educational qualification have a mother alive and 12.7% of that category have a father alive. The proportion of women with a degree or other higher educational qualification whose mother is alive is 26.6% and whose father is alive is 12.2%. However, the proportions for people with no qualifications are smaller: they are respectively 12.6% and 3.2% for men and 12.2% and 4.2% for women. (Table 2A.28)

Similarly, the proportions of men in managerial and professional positions whose mother/father is alive are 25.1%/9.7%, while the proportions for women in the same category are respectively 25.1% and 10.4%. The proportions for men and women in the routine and manual occupational categories are 16.0% and 5.6% for men and 15.8% and 5.9% for women. (Table 2A.29)

Analyses of parents' longevity, their cause of death and age at death, in particular by the respondent's socio-economic status, could point to interesting explanations of health and mortality. Therefore this issue merits further and more profound analysis.

2.3 Conclusion

We are living in an era of continuous improvements in mortality and increased life expectancy. Populations are ageing throughout the world, but especially in developed countries. Investigating the relationships between different socio-demographic factors and health is becoming of greater importance as people age. As a result, this is one of the issues on which many researchers and policy-makers are now focusing. The age-related patterns that are found in this chapter include the increase in widowhood, the decrease in probability of living with a spouse or partner, and the decrease in the average number of people who live in a household. These are very important factors in determining health, mortality and a number of other aspects in the life of elderly people. ELSA is unique as a source of data and information, since there are few data sources that combine such a large and multi-dimensional amount of information regarding people at old ages.

Throughout the chapter, the analyses were carried out by age and sex, in order to point out the gender and age differences. The proportion of people who were married was high, although this proportion became smaller with increasing age as widowed status became more prevalent. At the same time,

the larger number of widows than of widowers showed once again the higher survival rate of women than of men.

Analyses of cohabitation also showed an age and sex disparity. The proportion of old people living with a partner was small compared with the proportion for younger people. Also, men were more likely than women to be cohabiting.

The number of living children was analysed for both men and women. People with natural children were the largest group, while the proportions having adopted, fostered and stepchildren were quite small. There was a clear age difference in the proportion of people who had two or three children of any type, this proportion decreasing with age. Looking just at the number of natural children alive, it was also found that the proportion with two or three decreased with age.

Kinship relationships are important, particularly at old ages, because of their effects on mortality and well-being. Over three-quarters of ELSA respondents reported having at least one living sibling. There were some age differences in the number of siblings, the proportions of people who report having living siblings declining with age. At the same time, more than half of ELSA respondents reported having grand children and great-grandchildren.

The analyses of living arrangements showed that more than three-quarters of the ELSA population lives in households without children. A relatively small proportion reported living with children in the household, and this proportion fell dramatically with age.

The differences associated with socio-economic status (educational attainment and occupational classification) were presented throughout the chapter. Marital status differed by educational attainment of the respondent and so did cohabitation with a partner. More highly educated people were more likely either to be married or to live with a partner.

The number of children varied with educational attainment for women but not for men. The mean number of children per woman was lower for those with a degree or other higher educational qualification than for those with no qualifications. A similar pattern was found when analyses were carried out by occupational classification.

Living arrangements also differed by educational attainment and occupational category. People with higher educational attainments or who were in a higher occupational category were less likely to live alone. The effect was attenuated for women.

Another interesting finding was that people with higher educational attainment or who had higher occupational positions were more likely to have parents alive.

These findings all provide an important starting point for further analyses using the ELSA data.

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Annex 2.1
Tables on socio-demographic characteristics[1]

Table 2A.1. Age and gender composition of the ELSA population

All ELSA sample members			*Wave 1*
Age	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**
	%	%	%
50–54	20.9	18.5	19.6
55–59	19.1	16.8	17.9
60–64	15.7	14.1	14.8
65–69	14.0	13.3	13.6
70–74	12.1	12.4	12.3
75–79	9.5	10.9	10.2
80+	8.8	14.3	11.8
Bases (weighted)	*5204*	*6018*	*11221*
Bases (unweighted)	*5111*	*6123*	*11234*

Table 2A.2. Legal marital status, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Single, never married	8.1	8.4	7.4	7.5	4.0	4.8	2.1	6.6
Married, first and only marriage	63.0	60.9	62.6	64.2	67.5	64.4	48.7	62.1
Remarried	13.9	14.5	16.5	12.7	9.6	8.7	8.9	12.8
Separated/divorced	13.1	13.9	8.5	9.8	7.0	3.6	2.0	9.4
Widowed	1.9	2.4	5.0	5.8	11.8	18.5	38.3	9.0
Women								
Single, never married	5.5	3.2	3.1	4.1	3.8	7.3	7.7	4.9
Married, first and only marriage	59.7	59.0	60.9	57.2	47.6	37.5	15.4	49.4
Remarried	12.8	15.9	10.6	7.1	6.4	2.8	2.9	9.0
Separated/divorced	18.9	14.9	13.5	11.2	7.7	4.2	2.5	11.2
Widowed	3.0	6.9	12.0	20.4	34.4	48.2	71.5	25.5
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1085*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5202*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*805*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6017*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*886*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5110*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*900*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6122*

[1]In all tables, gender and age group are those of the respondent.

Table 2A.3. Living or not with a partner, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Living with spouse	75.0	74.4	77.7	76.1	76.3	72.1	55.1	73.6
Cohabiting with partner	7.8	6.4	3.5	2.1	1.7	1.1	0.6	4.1
Not cohabiting	17.2	19.1	18.8	21.8	22.1	26.8	44.3	22.3
Women								
Living with spouse	71.3	73.7	70.9	63.8	53.1	39.3	17.9	57.6
Cohabiting with partner	6.1	5.1	2.8	1.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	2.8
Not cohabiting	22.6	21.2	26.3	34.5	45.9	60.2	81.8	39.6
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.4. Living or not with a partner, by gender and age group: non-married sample members

All ELSA non-married sample members   *Wave 1*

	Age							Total
	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Single – cohabiting	7.8	4.2	4.1	1.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	3.1
Single – not cohabiting	27.4	29.8	31.5	31.5	16.7	18.0	5.0	23.4
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	21.3	19.0	8.0	5.1	3.8	1.7	0.6	10.0
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	35.1	37.4	32.4	37.2	27.0	11.6	4.2	27.6
Widowed – cohabiting	1.0	0.8	2.2	2.1	2.3	1.6	0.8	1.4
Widowed – not cohabiting	7.4	8.8	21.8	22.9	49.5	67.1	89.4	34.4
Women								
Single – cohabiting	2.9	2.8	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Single – not cohabiting	17.2	10.1	10.3	11.2	8.3	12.3	9.4	11.0
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	16.9	13.4	7.8	3.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	4.8
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	51.8	46.1	39.4	27.8	16.5	6.4	2.7	22.1
Widowed – cohabiting	1.2	2.4	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.8
Widowed – not cohabiting	9.8	25.3	40.9	56.4	73.6	80.4	87.5	60.5
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*251*	*245*	*171*	*169*	*144*	*133*	*194*	*1305*
Women	*305*	*256*	*243*	*288*	*346*	*390*	*673*	*2501*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*200*	*234*	*155*	*175*	*150*	*137*	*204*	*1255*
Women	*316*	*305*	*257*	*331*	*368*	*343*	*586*	*2506*

Table 2A.5. Ethnic composition of ELSA population, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
White	96.1	96.0	95.9	95.6	96.7	97.5	99.3	96.5
Black	0.5	0.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.4	1.0
Asian	2.3	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.2	1.0	0.2	1.7
Mixed/other	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	.9
Women								
White	96.2	97.6	97.3	97.8	97.1	99.3	99.8	97.7
Black	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.7	0.1	.9
Asian	1.6	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.1	.9
Mixed/other	1.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	.4
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1079*	*989*	*807*	*726*	*623*	*492*	*452*	*5169*
Women	*1108*	*1016*	*847*	*799*	*746*	*649*	*817*	*5982*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*881*	*1002*	*788*	*789*	*658*	*492*	*465*	*5075*
Women	*1078*	*1153*	*868*	*893*	*783*	*582*	*729*	*6086*

Table 2A.6. Type of living children, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Has natural children	80.9	80.9	84.6	84.3	85.2	83.9	82.6	82.9
Has adopted children	2.3	3.1	2.2	2.7	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.8
Has foster children	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.3
Has stepchildren	12.6	11.5	12.4	8.0	7.7	6.9	6.7	10.1
Women								
Has natural children	86.8	88.1	89.2	86.6	85.5	79.3	79.0	85.3
Has adopted children	1.5	1.3	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.7	2.1	2.2
Has foster children	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4
Has stepchildren	10.2	11.3	7.6	5.6	4.9	3.3	2.3	6.9
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.7. Number of living children, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
0	15.5	15.3	12.3	13.9	11.1	13.0	14.4	13.9
1	12.0	11.1	12.5	12.1	13.6	15.7	22.8	13.4
2	41.3	41.4	35.5	37.6	35.0	31.9	31.9	37.4
3	17.6	17.4	21.3	19.7	19.3	22.1	15.7	18.9
4	8.2	8.8	10.5	9.8	10.2	8.3	9.7	9.3
5	3.6	2.9	4.2	3.6	6.2	3.6	2.7	3.8
6 or more	1.7	3.2	3.6	3.3	4.7	5.2	2.9	3.3
Mean	2.10	2.18	2.35	2.25	2.44	2.34	2.05	2.24
Women								
0	10.4	9.6	8.9	11.1	10.9	17.0	19.4	12.2
1	11.5	13.2	13.2	13.8	14.7	18.8	25.3	15.4
2	44.6	39.8	35.5	37.3	33.1	29.4	30.5	36.5
3	19.4	20.6	24.8	18.7	24.2	18.2	13.9	20.0
4	7.9	9.2	9.6	12.0	8.2	8.2	6.5	8.8
5	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.9	3.1	2.7	3.9
6 or more	2.1	3.1	4.0	3.2	3.9	5.3	1.7	3.2
Mean	2.25	2.34	2.44	2.35	2.38	2.16	1.80	2.25
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.8. Number of living natural children, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
0	19.1	19.1	15.4	15.7	14.8	16.1	17.4	17.1
1	14.3	12.3	15.3	14.0	14.3	17.9	24.2	15.2
2	43.2	43.5	37.4	39.2	35.5	31.9	30.5	38.7
3	15.2	16.6	19.6	18.3	17.9	20.1	15.9	17.4
4	6.2	5.8	8.6	8.6	9.6	7.4	7.5	7.5
5	1.3	1.4	2.4	2.5	5.2	3.0	2.4	2.4
6 or more	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.7	3.6	2.1	1.6
Mean	1.82	1.88	2.04	2.05	2.22	2.13	1.89	1.98
Women								
0	13.2	11.9	10.8	13.4	14.5	20.7	21.0	14.7
1	13.2	14.8	15.2	13.6	14.7	17.5	26.1	16.2
2	46.3	43.4	36.6	38.3	32.5	29.3	29.7	37.5
3	19.1	19.9	24.1	19.0	22.7	17.9	13.4	19.4
4	5.1	6.6	8.1	10.0	8.5	7.5	6.0	7.2
5	2.4	2.4	3.2	3.3	4.2	2.8	2.3	2.9
6 or more	0.8	1.0	1.9	2.5	3.0	4.2	1.5	2.0
Mean	2.00	2.06	2.22	2.21	2.23	2.03	1.72	2.06
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.9. Number of living grandchildren and great-grandchildren, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
0	72.1	56.5	35.2	27.0	20.7	21.9	19.3	41.4
1	10.0	13.2	11.7	8.6	6.6	5.0	6.8	9.5
2	7.2	10.6	13.7	15.2	14.4	14.2	14.9	12.2
3	4.1	6.1	12.2	11.3	10.9	6.9	5.9	8.0
4–7	5.3	10.3	20.3	29.4	30.8	33.3	31.7	20.1
8 or 9	0.5	1.1	3.6	4.1	7.4	8.7	7.6	3.8
10 or more	0.7	2.3	3.4	4.3	9.4	10.0	13.8	5.0
Women								
0	61.6	42.7	27.1	19.7	18.1	22.0	24.2	33.0
1	12.5	12.9	9.9	7.1	6.0	4.9	4.7	8.8
2	8.9	13.0	15.1	16.7	13.7	13.4	13.4	13.2
3	5.4	9.1	11.3	11.0	10.3	8.1	6.2	8.6
4–7	8.7	16.7	26.7	30.6	32.9	31.6	27.1	23.6
8 or 9	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.9	7.9	5.8	8.0	5.0
10 or more	1.1	3.1	5.0	8.1	11.2	14.1	16.5	7.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1081*	*990*	*810*	*725*	*625*	*490*	*455*	*5176*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*850*	*804*	*752*	*651*	*823*	*6010*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*883*	*1003*	*791*	*788*	*661*	*490*	*468*	*5084*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*872*	*899*	*789*	*583*	*735*	*6115*

Table 2A.10. Number of living siblings, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
0	13.6	15.2	18.5	21.0	25.6	30.2	41.1	21.1
1	29.4	33.2	30.4	29.4	28.8	31.7	30.7	30.5
2	23.0	22.0	21.6	19.6	20.0	20.1	17.8	21.0
3 siblings	12.8	10.9	11.9	12.9	12.9	7.5	5.6	11.2
4 or more	21.2	18.7	17.7	17.1	12.7	10.5	4.8	16.1
Women								
0	11.7	17.0	18.5	20.2	25.1	31.6	45.3	23.1
1	28.9	33.1	29.2	31.6	28.5	31.1	30.6	30.4
2	21.8	19.6	22.0	20.3	19.9	18.0	12.9	19.4
3	14.3	12.4	11.6	13.5	13.1	7.1	5.2	11.3
4 or more	23.3	17.9	18.7	14.5	13.5	12.3	6.1	15.8
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1079*	*994*	*814*	*724*	*625*	*491*	*451*	*5178*
Women	*1111*	*1018*	*848*	*801*	*751*	*651*	*820*	*6001*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*882*	*1007*	*795*	*787*	*660*	*491*	*465*	*5087*
Women	*1081*	*1155*	*870*	*896*	*788*	*583*	*734*	*6107*

Table 2A.11. Educational attainment, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	**Age** 80+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Degree or equivalent	21.1	18.1	16.4	11.0	10.4	10.4	8.1	14.9
A level / higher education below degree	30.3	23.5	21.7	16.5	14.2	11.3	9.7	20.2
O level or other	17.8	20.2	14.8	14.6	10.3	8.7	7.4	14.7
CSE or other	9.5	10.9	11.5	14.5	18.5	21.4	15.8	13.6
No qualifications	21.3	27.2	35.5	43.4	46.5	48.1	59.0	36.6
Women								
Degree or equivalent	12.4	11.1	7.5	5.5	4.8	4.2	2.4	7.4
A level / higher education below degree	20.2	16.4	15.8	13.2	9.7	9.9	9.1	14.1
O level or other	25.2	22.0	18.8	15.9	9.9	9.2	7.2	16.4
CSE or other	12.3	14.8	13.1	14.0	15.9	13.1	10.2	13.3
No qualifications	29.8	35.7	44.8	51.4	59.7	63.6	71.1	48.9
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1085*	*993*	*811*	*730*	*625*	*492*	*456*	*5192*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*848*	*805*	*751*	*653*	*822*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*886*	*1006*	*793*	*793*	*661*	*492*	*469*	*5100*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*870*	*900*	*788*	*585*	*735*	*6115*

Table 2A.12. Five-category NS-SEC occupational classification, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Managerial and professional	40.8	38.3	32.9	30.5	28.9	33.5	36.3	35.1
Intermediate	6.0	4.5	3.6	4.1	4.9	5.2	5.5	4.8
Small employees and own-account workers	15.2	15.5	15.6	14.2	12.8	12.7	10.0	14.2
Lower supervisory and technical	14.3	14.2	16.6	14.8	22.3	21.8	22.1	17.1
Semi-routine	23.1	27.0	30.8	35.7	30.7	26.7	26.1	28.3
Other	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5
Women								
Managerial and professional	28.1	26.9	24.1	20.6	17.5	16.0	14.9	21.9
Intermediate	18.9	18.1	19.5	22.2	19.8	21.0	21.1	19.9
Small employees and own-account workers	8.5	7.4	6.9	7.8	6.9	5.9	5.1	7.0
Lower supervisory and technical	5.4	6.6	5.4	7.6	6.3	9.5	7.1	6.7
Semi-routine	37.3	39.4	42.4	39.5	45.3	40.4	42.3	40.7
Other	1.8	1.6	1.7	2.2	4.1	7.2	9.6	3.8
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*994*	*814*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5201*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1007*	*795*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5109*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.13. Five-category NS-SEC occupational class of head of household, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Managerial and professional	39.8	38.3	33.0	29.9	29.4	33.6	36.2	34.9
Intermediate	7.5	4.8	4.1	4.4	4.4	5.1	5.5	5.2
Small employers and own-account workers	15.3	15.2	15.9	14.4	12.9	13.1	10.0	14.3
Lower supervisory and technical	13.4	13.5	16.0	14.7	21.4	21.9	22.1	16.5
Semi-routine	23.2	27.5	30.7	35.8	31.3	26.4	25.9	28.5
Other	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.6
Women								
Managerial and professional	35.2	37.1	33.4	29.4	26.4	24.2	19.3	29.9
Intermediate	8.4	7.1	6.7	9.9	11.3	12.2	17.7	10.3
Small employers and own-account workers	12.7	11.1	14.4	13.4	9.6	8.5	6.7	11.0
Lower supervisory and technical	10.7	12.8	13.3	12.4	14.3	16.2	8.9	12.4
Semi-routine	31.7	30.5	31.4	33.6	35.7	33.5	39.8	33.6
Other	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.3	2.7	5.3	7.6	2.8
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1073*	*984*	*810*	*726*	*619*	*489*	*455*	*5155*
Women	*1012*	*943*	*793*	*773*	*729*	*630*	*816*	*5697*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*876*	*997*	*791*	*789*	*655*	*490*	*469*	*5067*
Women	*979*	*1068*	*813*	*867*	*766*	*566*	*730*	*5789*

Table 2A.14. Educational attainment, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Degree/higher	40.4	33.8	24.0	35.0
Intermediate	53.8	52.1	47.5	52.0
No qualifications	5.8	14.1	28.5	13.0
Intermediate				
Degree/higher	10.3	8.7	3.6	8.6
Intermediate	62.0	53.5	35.2	54.2
No qualifications	27.7	37.9	61.1	37.2
Routine and manual				
Degree/higher	3.7	1.2	0.7	2.0
Intermediate	55.5	39.4	30.8	43.3
No qualifications	40.8	59.3	68.6	54.7
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Degree/higher	33.7	20.5	15.1	25.4
Intermediate	58.5	63.9	58.9	60.6
No qualifications	7.8	15.7	26.0	13.9
Intermediate				
Degree/higher	6.4	4.4	2.2	4.6
Intermediate	72.5	58.3	42.7	59.5
No qualifications	21.1	37.3	55.0	35.9
Routine and manual				
Degree/higher	1.8	0.7	0.3	1.0
Intermediate	44.1	25.5	14.6	28.9
No qualifications	54.1	73.8	85.1	70.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.15. Marital status, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
Single, never married	6.6	5.2	2.9	5.6
Married, first and only marriage	71.2	71.4	68.3	71.0
Remarried	12.8	12.6	9.7	12.4
Separated/divorced	8.0	5.0	3.3	6.4
Widowed	1.4	5.9	15.8	4.6
Intermediate				
Single, never married	6.8	3.8	1.6	4.9
Married, first and only marriage	62.1	65.9	61.2	63.5
Remarried	14.0	16.1	10.4	14.3
Separated/divorced	14.7	7.3	2.9	10.1
Widowed	2.4	7.0	24.0	7.2
No qualifications				
Single, never married	12.7	9.9	5.0	9.4
Married, first and only marriage	54.3	60.8	51.8	56.7
Remarried	15.5	10.3	7.4	10.9
Separated/divorced	15.2	11.0	2.7	9.9
Widowed	2.3	8.0	33.1	13.1
Women				
Degree/higher				
Single, never married	7.3	11.6	28.4	10.9
Married, first and only marriage	59.0	51.3	30.8	53.5
Remarried	13.3	5.5	3.1	9.7
Separated/divorced	17.5	17.1	2.1	15.7
Widowed	2.8	14.7	35.6	10.2
Intermediate				
Single, never married	4.0	3.5	9.0	4.6
Married, first and only marriage	59.5	59.6	26.7	54.2
Remarried	14.8	8.5	3.8	10.6
Separated/divorced	16.7	10.6	4.3	12.3
Widowed	4.9	17.8	56.2	18.3
No qualifications				
Single, never married	4.2	2.8	5.9	4.2
Married, first and only marriage	59.3	52.6	24.2	44.5
Remarried	13.8	8.0	2.5	7.5
Separated/divorced	17.2	10.5	2.9	9.5
Widowed	5.6	26.0	64.5	34.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2077*	*2167*	*948*	*5191*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1891*	*2247*	*961*	*5099*
Women	*2237*	*2557*	*1320*	*6114*

Table 2A.16. Marital status, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Single, never married	6.2	4.2	2.5	4.8
Married, first and only marriage	66.9	71.9	63.4	68.1
Remarried	14.2	12.5	10.8	13.0
Separated/divorced	10.3	6.1	2.9	7.4
Widowed	2.4	5.3	20.5	6.8
Intermediate				
Single, never married	7.0	5.0	3.4	5.6
Married, first and only marriage	58.1	63.9	57.1	60.3
Remarried	17.1	15.7	8.3	15.1
Separated/divorced	15.7	8.8	2.4	10.8
Widowed	2.1	6.7	28.7	8.2
Routine and manual				
Single, never married	10.3	8.4	4.3	8.3
Married, first and only marriage	59.4	60.3	52.0	58.4
Remarried	12.8	12.7	7.5	11.7
Separated/divorced	15.5	9.8	3.0	10.4
Widowed	1.9	8.7	33.2	11.1
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Single, never married	5.3	8.0	19.1	8.7
Married, first and only marriage	59.6	54.5	27.6	52.1
Remarried	13.1	7.3	3.1	9.2
Separated/divorced	18.0	11.2	4.3	13.1
Widowed	3.9	18.9	45.8	16.9
Intermediate				
Single, never married	4.7	2.8	6.8	4.4
Married, first and only marriage	62.5	59.4	26.1	52.5
Remarried	16.7	8.3	4.1	10.2
Separated/divorced	12.3	10.4	3.0	9.3
Widowed	3.7	19.1	59.9	23.6
Routine and manual				
Single, never married	3.5	2.5	5.5	3.6
Married, first and only marriage	57.7	53.7	24.2	47.4
Remarried	13.9	8.8	2.6	8.9
Separated/divorced	19.0	11.2	3.6	11.8
Widowed	5.9	23.8	64.2	28.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2066*	*2160*	*950*	*5176*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1884*	*2242*	*963*	*5089*
Women	*2205*	*2501*	*1233*	*5939*

Table 2A.17. Living or not with a partner, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
Living with spouse	81.4	83.5	77.0	81.7
Cohabiting with partner	6.8	2.4	0.0	4.4
Not cohabiting	11.8	14.1	23.0	13.9
Intermediate				
Living with spouse	72.3	79.5	67.4	74.4
Cohabiting with partner	8.4	2.4	1.5	5.0
Not cohabiting	19.3	18.2	31.1	20.7
No qualifications				
Living with spouse	68.9	70.4	57.9	66.7
Cohabiting with partner	5.8	2.7	0.8	3.0
Not cohabiting	25.3	26.9	41.4	30.4
Women				
Degree/higher				
Living with spouse	73.2	62.8	33.1	63.4
Cohabiting with partner	5.0	2.3	0.0	3.2
Not cohabiting	21.8	34.9	66.9	33.3
Intermediate				
Living with spouse	72.3	67.2	28.5	63.4
Cohabiting with partner	6.8	2.1	0.7	4.0
Not cohabiting	20.9	30.7	70.8	32.5
No qualifications				
Living with spouse	72.3	60.2	26.1	51.5
Cohabiting with partner	4.2	1.6	0.3	1.8
Not cohabiting	23.5	38.2	73.5	46.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.18. Living or not with a partner, by educational attainment, gender and age group: non-married sample members

ELSA non-married sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
Single – cohabiting	8.8	4.2	0.0	6.1
Single – not cohabiting	26.2	19.7	7.5	21.4
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	25.4	5.9	0.0	15.3
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	31.8	27.2	14.7	27.9
Widowed – cohabiting	2.6	4.0	0.0	2.7
Widowed – not cohabiting	5.2	38.9	77.8	26.7
Intermediate				
Single – cohabiting	6.9	1.5	0.0	3.8
Single – not cohabiting	21.8	21.2	6.4	18.6
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	20.7	4.3	2.6	12.0
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	39.8	37.4	6.7	32.6
Widowed – cohabiting	0.6	3.2	1.1	1.5
Widowed – not cohabiting	10.2	32.4	83.0	31.4
No qualifications				
Single – cohabiting	2.4	1.7	0.0	1.3
Single – not cohabiting	39.7	32.6	12.3	27.6
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	15.1	6.5	0.6	6.6
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	35.3	31.5	6.2	23.9
Widowed – cohabiting	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.9
Widowed – not cohabiting	7.5	26.6	79.7	39.7
Women				
Degree/higher				
Single – cohabiting	5.4	1.2	0.0	2.3
Single – not cohabiting	22.0	21.1	23.7	22.1
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	13.4	4.4	0.0	6.2
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	49.1	28.7	7.1	29.6
Widowed – cohabiting	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3
Widowed – not cohabiting	10.0	43.9	69.2	39.5
Intermediate				
Single – cohabiting	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.0
Single – not cohabiting	10.0	8.8	12.5	10.4
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	18.0	4.2	1.0	7.9
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	48.0	30.6	4.4	28.4
Widowed – cohabiting	2.9	1.9	0.0	1.6
Widowed – not cohabiting	18.3	54.5	82.1	50.7
No qualifications				
Single – cohabiting	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Single – not cohabiting	14.2	7.2	8.1	8.6
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	12.5	2.8	0.3	2.8
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	51.2	23.9	3.6	17.0
Widowed – cohabiting	1.4	0.7	0.1	0.5
Widowed – not cohabiting	19.5	65.3	87.8	70.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*495*	*483*	*327*	*1304*
Women	*560*	*877*	*1062*	*2498*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*433*	*480*	*341*	*1254*
Women	*620*	*956*	*928*	*2504*

Table 2A.19. Living or not with a partner, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Living with spouse	79.7	83.5	72.5	79.8
Cohabiting with partner	7.9	2.1	1.3	4.6
Not cohabiting	12.3	14.4	26.2	15.6
Intermediate				
Living with spouse	73.5	78.3	65.4	74.2
Cohabiting with partner	8.4	2.7	1.1	4.9
Not cohabiting	18.1	19.0	33.4	20.9
Routine and manual				
Living with spouse	70.9	72.0	57.3	68.7
Cohabiting with partner	5.9	2.7	0.5	3.3
Not cohabiting	23.2	25.4	42.3	27.9
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Living with spouse	71.5	61.1	30.3	60.4
Cohabiting with partner	6.4	3.1	0.4	4.1
Not cohabiting	22.2	35.8	69.3	35.5
Intermediate				
Living with spouse	77.6	67.4	29.4	61.8
Cohabiting with partner	6.1	1.0	0.3	2.6
Not cohabiting	16.4	31.5	70.2	35.6
Routine and manual				
Living with spouse	70.7	61.7	26.0	55.5
Cohabiting with partner	5.0	1.9	0.5	2.5
Not cohabiting	24.3	36.5	73.5	42.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

Table 2A.20. Living or not with a partner, by occupational class, gender and age group: non-married sample members

ELSA non-married sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Single – cohabiting	10.5	3.6	0.0	5.8
Single – not cohabiting	22.3	23.1	9.6	19.4
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	25.6	9.3	2.5	14.9
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	28.8	29.9	8.5	24.1
Widowed – cohabiting	2.9	0.8	1.1	1.8
Widowed – not cohabiting	9.9	33.4	78.3	33.9
Intermediate				
Single – cohabiting	6.2	1.2	0.0	3.1
Single – not cohabiting	22.1	23.1	10.0	19.7
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	23.1	4.7	0.0	11.6
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	40.2	38.5	6.9	32.1
Widowed – cohabiting	0.0	3.8	3.3	2.0
Widowed – not cohabiting	8.4	28.8	79.8	31.5
Routine and manual				
Single – cohabiting	3.0	1.8	0.0	1.7
Single – not cohabiting	34.2	29.5	10.7	26.0
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	15.8	4.8	0.7	7.2
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	40.0	31.6	6.7	27.7
Widowed – cohabiting	0.0	2.3	0.5	1.1
Widowed – not cohabiting	6.9	30.0	81.5	36.2
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Single – cohabiting	3.9	0.8	0.0	1.5
Single – not cohabiting	15.7	20.1	27.6	21.0
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	17.8	5.8	0.6	8.0
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	48.3	23.6	5.7	25.8
Widowed – cohabiting	1.6	1.5	0.0	1.1
Widowed – not cohabiting	12.6	48.1	66.1	42.6
Intermediate				
Single – cohabiting	5.8	0.0	0.0	1.1
Single – not cohabiting	16.8	8.6	9.8	10.7
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	19.8	2.8	0.5	5.0
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	39.6	29.5	3.9	19.9
Widowed – cohabiting	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.1
Widowed – not cohabiting	17.3	59.1	85.8	63.0
Routine and manual				
Single – cohabiting	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Single – not cohabiting	11.2	6.6	7.5	8.0
Separated/divorced – cohabiting	12.5	3.0	0.4	3.9
Separated/divorced – not cohabiting	54.3	27.0	4.4	23.1
Widowed – cohabiting	2.3	1.5	0.2	1.1
Widowed – not cohabiting	18.5	61.9	87.5	63.6
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*488*	*480*	*327*	*1295*
Women	*545*	*848*	*967*	*2359*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*428*	*478*	*341*	*1247*
Women	*607*	*931*	*866*	*2404*

Table 2A.21. Type of living children, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
Has natural children	82.5	87.0	88.8	84.9
Has adopted children	2.5	3.1	2.7	2.7
Has foster children		0.5	0.0	0.2
Has stepchildren	8.8	8.8	7.8	8.7
Intermediate				
Has natural children	81.3	87.5	87.0	84.7
Has adopted children	2.2	2.8	3.6	2.7
Has foster children	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Has stepchildren	13.7	11.9	6.5	11.9
No qualifications				
Has natural children	78.1	80.8	79.4	79.7
Has adopted children	3.7	2.6	2.7	2.9
Has foster children	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
Has stepchildren	14.3	8.2	6.7	9.4
Women				
Degree/higher				
Has natural children	81.4	81.1	72.8	80.0
Has adopted children	1.8	2.5	3.5	2.3
Has foster children	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4
Has stepchildren	9.4	5.9	4.1	7.3
Intermediate				
Has natural children	89.6	88.1	77.3	87.1
Has adopted children	1.4	2.4	4.2	2.2
Has foster children	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.5
Has stepchildren	12.8	7.0	4.0	9.2
No qualifications				
Has natural children	88.6	88.4	80.7	85.8
Has adopted children	1.1	2.7	2.3	2.2
Has foster children	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3
Has stepchildren	8.9	5.6	2.1	5.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.22. Type of living children, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
	Age			
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Has natural children	82.2	87.0	84.7	84.4
Has adopted children	3.6	1.8	3.2	2.9
Has foster children	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.3
Has stepchildren	10.3	7.0	7.7	8.7
Intermediate				
Has natural children	80.8	87.9	83.4	84.1
Has adopted children	2.1	3.6	3.7	3.0
Has foster children		0.2	0.0	0.1
Has stepchildren	13.5	10.8	6.6	11.3
Routine and manual				
Has natural children	80.4	82.0	82.2	81.5
Has adopted children	2.0	3.1	2.6	2.6
Has foster children	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4
Has stepchildren	13.4	10.6	6.2	10.7
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Has natural children	84.3	79.7	64.4	79.1
Has adopted children	1.7	3.0	3.9	2.6
Has foster children	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Has stepchildren	10.9	6.1	2.1	7.6
Intermediate				
Has natural children	86.2	85.5	77.2	83.8
Has adopted children	1.1	1.9	2.1	1.7
Has foster children	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.4
Has stepchildren	12.7	6.1	5.8	8.3
Routine and manual				
Has natural children	90.3	90.7	82.1	88.3
Has adopted children	1.5	2.8	3.2	2.5
Has foster children	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
Has stepchildren	9.7	6.2	1.6	6.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

Table 2A.23. Number of living children, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
0	14.7	10.6	8.8	12.6
1	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.7
2	45.8	41.6	32.0	42.7
3	18.2	19.8	25.9	19.6
4	7.7	10.6	15.6	9.6
5	2.5	4.1	5.1	3.4
6 or more	0.5	2.6	1.8	1.4
Mean	2.03	2.34	2.52	2.20
Intermediate				
0	14.9	10.0	10.3	12.2
1	13.0	12.6	18.1	13.6
2	41.9	38.5	35.3	39.5
3	15.4	21.8	19.8	18.6
4	8.9	8.4	10.2	8.9
5	3.6	4.6	2.0	3.8
6 or more	2.5	4.1	4.3	3.4
Mean	2.13	2.39	2.27	2.25
No qualifications				
0	16.9	15.8	17.2	16.5
1	10.8	14.0	22.3	15.4
2	33.9	30.8	29.9	31.4
3	20.2	19.0	16.6	18.7
4	9.2	11.2	6.1	9.3
5	3.9	4.8	3.2	4.2
6 or more	5.0	4.3	4.7	4.6
Mean	2.33	2.30	2.06	2.25
Women				
Degree/higher				
0	14.7	16.2	23.1	16.5
1	11.2	12.5	17.7	12.6
2	44.5	34.2	29.8	38.5
3	18.2	23.5	18.2	20.2
4	7.0	7.5	7.1	7.2
5	3.7	4.4	1.3	3.6
6 or more	0.7	1.8	2.8	1.4
Mean	2.06	2.15	1.86	2.07
Intermediate				
0	8.0	9.3	20.3	10.5
1	11.7	12.0	18.6	12.9
2	46.1	41.8	34.0	42.5
3	19.8	21.5	14.9	19.7
4	8.2	9.6	7.0	8.5
5	3.9	3.3	2.8	3.5
6 or more	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.4
Mean	2.30	2.33	1.88	2.25

Continues

Table 2A.23 contd. Number of living children, by educational attainment, gender and age group

	Age			Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
No qualifications				
0	9.4	9.1	16.9	11.9
1	13.8	15.4	24.5	18.1
2	35.6	31.7	28.8	31.6
3	21.6	23.1	15.8	20.2
4	10.0	10.7	7.3	9.4
5	5.2	5.0	3.1	4.4
6 or more	4.4	5.0	3.6	4.4
Mean	2.44	2.50	2.00	2.32
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.23a. Number of living natural children, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	Age			Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
0	17.5	13.0	11.2	15.1
1	11.6	13.4	14.2	12.6
2	47.6	41.9	31.4	43.7
3	17.3	18.9	25.1	18.7
4	4.6	9.5	14.7	7.5
5	1.0	2.4	2.8	1.7
6 or more	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.6
Mean	1.84	2.11	2.29	1.99
Intermediate				
0	18.7	12.5	13.0	15.3
1	15.7	15.4	20.2	16.3
2	43.6	40.8	35.8	41.3
3	13.7	20.4	17.6	17.0
4	6.1	6.5	8.2	6.6
5	1.3	2.7	2.4	2.0
6 or more	0.8	1.7	2.8	1.5
Mean	1.80	2.08	2.08	1.96

Continues

Table 2A.23a contd. Number of living natural children, by educational attainment, gender and age group

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
No qualifications				
0	21.9	19.2	20.6	20.3
1	11.8	14.6	23.5	16.2
2	37.0	32.1	28.5	32.4
3	17.3	17.0	16.2	16.9
4	8.1	10.4	4.7	8.3
5	2.1	4.3	2.9	3.3
6 or more	1.9	2.4	3.7	2.6
Mean	1.95	2.09	1.89	2.00
Women				
Degree/higher				
0	18.6	18.9	27.2	20.0
1	11.3	12.9	17.8	12.8
2	45.7	34.1	28.0	38.8
3	17.9	23.6	18.6	20.2
4	4.7	6.0	5.9	5.3
5	1.6	3.4	1.3	2.3
6 or more	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.7
Mean	1.85	2.00	1.68	1.88
Intermediate				
0	10.4	11.9	22.7	12.9
1	14.3	12.5	18.9	14.4
2	50.1	43.6	33.9	45.0
3	18.7	21.0	14.6	18.9
4	4.7	7.3	6.6	6.0
5	1.5	2.4	2.0	1.9
6 or more	0.3	1.4	1.4	0.9
Mean	1.99	2.14	1.75	2.01
No qualifications				
0	11.4	11.6	19.3	14.2
1	15.3	16.3	24.2	18.7
2	37.4	31.6	28.4	31.9
3	21.7	22.1	15.2	19.6
4	8.1	10.5	6.8	8.7
5	4.1	4.3	2.9	3.8
6 or more	2.1	3.6	3.3	3.1
Mean	2.22	2.34	1.91	2.16
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.24. Number of living children, by occupational class, gender and age group

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
0	14.4	11.1	12.6	12.9
1	11.2	11.4	17.3	12.4
2	44.2	42.1	34.4	41.6
3	18.1	21.2	20.7	19.7
4	7.4	8.5	9.2	8.1
5	3.7	3.6	2.8	3.5
6 or more	1.0	2.1	3.0	1.8
Mean	2.08	2.25	2.20	2.16
Intermediate				
0	15.2	8.7	13.4	12.3
1	12.1	14.6	19.0	14.2
2	42.0	34.8	33.8	37.7
3	16.2	21.8	13.1	18.0
4	8.7	10.2	12.3	9.9
5	3.7	5.7	5.6	4.8
6 or more	2.0	4.2	2.8	3.0
Mean	2.11	2.47	2.22	2.27
Routine and manual				
0	15.6	14.8	14.6	15.0
1	11.4	12.9	20.5	13.9
2	38.7	32.7	29.5	34.2
3	17.9	18.9	19.9	18.7
4	9.7	11.2	7.6	10.0
5	2.7	4.8	2.6	3.6
6 or more	4.1	4.7	5.3	4.6
Mean	2.24	2.35	2.20	2.28
Women				
Managerial and professional				
0	12.8	17.0	32.0	17.7
1	13.6	12.5	18.5	14.0
2	45.0	36.8	22.9	38.1
3	17.5	18.5	14.3	17.3
4	5.9	9.0	8.4	7.5
5	3.8	4.3	2.7	3.8
6 or more	1.3	1.9	1.2	1.5
Mean	2.07	2.11	1.62	2.01
Intermediate				
0	11.1	11.5	20.0	13.4
1	11.2	16.2	21.2	15.6
2	45.5	38.6	35.8	40.4
3	17.8	23.0	14.6	19.2
4	8.6	6.0	4.2	6.5
5	3.5	2.9	1.3	2.7
6 or more	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.3
Mean	2.23	2.13	1.78	2.08

Table 2A.24 contd. Number of living children, by occupational class, gender and age group

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Routine and manual				
0	7.4	7.2	15.4	9.4
1	12.1	13.2	23.1	15.4
2	40.0	33.1	29.1	34.4
3	22.6	24.1	16.5	21.6
4	9.5	12.3	8.2	10.3
5	5.1	5.1	4.0	4.8
6 or more	3.4	5.1	3.8	4.2
Mean	2.46	2.62	2.10	2.43
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

Table 2A.24a. Number of living natural children, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
0	17.8	13.0	15.3	15.6
1	12.3	12.8	19.8	13.9
2	47.0	43.7	34.0	43.4
3	17.0	19.6	19.5	18.4
4	4.6	7.6	7.5	6.2
5	1.0	2.3	1.9	1.6
6 or more	0.2	1.0	1.8	0.8
Mean	1.82	2.07	2.00	1.95
Intermediate				
0	19.2	12.1	16.6	15.9
1	15.4	16.2	21.5	16.7
2	43.1	35.6	31.3	38.2
3	13.7	21.9	13.7	17.0
4	5.3	9.0	10.7	7.7
5	2.2	3.4	5.0	3.1
6 or more	1.0	1.8	1.2	1.4
Mean	1.82	2.19	2.01	2.00

Continues

Table 2A.24a contd. Number of living natural children, by occupational class, gender and age group

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Routine and manual				
0	19.6	18.0	17.8	18.5
1	13.0	15.1	21.5	15.6
2	40.4	34.2	29.2	35.4
3	16.1	16.8	18.5	16.9
4	8.0	9.7	6.3	8.4
5	1.4	3.8	2.5	2.7
6 or more	1.5	2.3	4.2	2.4
Mean	1.92	2.07	2.03	2.01
Women				
Managerial and professional				
0	15.7	20.3	35.6	20.9
1	15.7	12.1	17.1	14.6
2	46.4	37.5	22.3	38.9
3	17.1	19.4	14.3	17.5
4	3.7	6.6	7.1	5.4
5	1.1	2.9	2.3	2.0
6 or more	0.3	1.3	1.2	0.8
Mean	1.82	1.94	1.53	1.82
Intermediate				
0	13.8	14.5	22.8	16.2
1	12.6	16.5	21.4	16.3
2	50.1	39.5	36.0	42.3
3	16.7	21.8	13.9	18.1
4	4.8	4.9	3.1	4.5
5	1.4	2.1	1.1	1.6
6 or more	0.7	0.8	1.7	0.9
Mean	1.93	1.96	1.64	1.87
Routine and manual				
0	9.7	9.3	17.9	11.7
1	13.7	14.4	22.9	16.4
2	42.2	33.6	28.4	35.1
3	22.3	22.9	15.8	20.9
4	7.2	11.8	8.1	9.4
5	3.7	4.5	3.6	4.0
6 or more	1.2	3.4	3.2	2.6
Mean	2.20	2.44	2.00	2.25
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

Table 2A.25. Parents alive, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Mother alive	47.4	33.0	16.5	7.5	2.4	0.2	0.2	20.2
Father alive	21.7	11.4	4.3	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	7.6
Women								
Mother alive	50.3	34.0	18.6	8.9	2.7	0.1	0.0	19.2
Father alive	24.0	13.0	5.6	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.0	7.6
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.26. Parents' age at death, by gender and age group: those with mother/father dead

ELSA sample members with mother/father dead   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Mother's age at death								
16–39	2.4	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.3	2.8
40–59	21.2	14.8	10.3	9.2	9.5	10.0	10.2	12.2
60–69	21.4	17.9	14.8	13.3	14.7	15.8	16.5	16.2
70–79	33.4	34.3	29.7	26.8	28.0	24.6	25.0	29.1
80–89	19.4	27.6	35.0	34.7	32.4	30.6	27.8	29.9
90+	2.1	3.0	7.7	12.7	12.7	15.7	17.2	9.7
Mean	68.32	71.71	74.45	75.78	75.30	75.15	74.98	73.65
Father's age at death								
16–39	2.5	2.1	4.0	1.8	2.4	3.3	6.3	3.0
40–59	18.1	15.0	16.2	14.3	16.2	16.9	14.9	16.0
60–69	29.2	27.0	20.2	21.8	21.7	19.5	23.2	23.7
70–79	34.6	32.0	30.4	32.7	32.6	32.6	26.9	32.0
80–89	14.9	22.4	24.7	23.3	21.6	23.5	22.4	21.6
90+	0.8	1.5	4.4	6.1	5.4	4.1	6.2	3.8
Mean	68.04	69.99	70.25	71.95	70.72	70.37	69.17	70.04
Women								
Mother's age at death								
16–39	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.0	3.4	2.4
40–59	16.8	12.2	11.1	9.8	10.5	10.5	12.9	11.9
60–69	24.9	17.7	18.8	14.7	14.6	13.8	14.5	16.7
70–79	32.0	36.1	30.0	27.0	26.0	25.2	27.1	28.9
80–89	22.7	29.2	31.7	34.8	33.6	32.6	30.3	31.0
90+	1.8	3.4	6.2	11.1	12.8	15.9	11.7	9.3
Mean	69.87	72.78	73.53	75.15	75.31	76.12	73.85	73.93
Father's age at death								
16–39	2.1	2.3	5.2	2.4	5.0	3.8	4.5	3.6
40–59	20.2	15.5	13.1	16.4	15.8	18.1	21.3	17.2
60–69	28.2	22.4	22.7	20.5	21.7	18.3	20.6	22.2
70–79	32.6	38.1	33.8	32.4	32.5	29.9	28.2	32.6
80–89	15.8	20.2	21.1	22.5	20.3	24.8	19.5	20.4
90+	1.1	1.6	4.0	5.8	4.7	5.0	5.9	3.9
Mean	68.01	70.26	69.68	70.79	69.39	69.97	68.43	69.49
Bases (weighted):								
Men – mother	*556*	*647*	*664*	*657*	*595*	*472*	*446*	*4037*
Men – father	*819*	*836*	*745*	*689*	*604*	*470*	*436*	*4599*
Women – mother	*540*	*654*	*679*	*720*	*717*	*635*	*809*	*4754*
Women – father	*807*	*829*	*766*	*768*	*717*	*620*	*773*	*5280*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men – mother	*454*	*658*	*648*	*716*	*630*	*473*	*458*	*4037*
Men – father	*669*	*848*	*729*	*750*	*639*	*472*	*448*	*4555*
Women – mother	*525*	*748*	*699*	*808*	*753*	*570*	*723*	*4826*
Women – father	*785*	*944*	*787*	*858*	*752*	*557*	*691*	*5374*

Table 2A.27. Parents' cause of death, by gender and age group: those with mother/father dead

ELSA sample members with mother/father dead   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Mother's cause of death								
Don't know	0.9	1.5	2.4	1.5	4.0	3.1	4.0	2.4
Cancer	31.9	27.1	22.1	18.1	17.0	15.3	14.3	21.2
Heart attack	16.0	16.6	14.6	14.3	14.3	12.8	12.5	14.6
Stroke	10.0	11.9	9.8	10.7	8.8	8.9	9.2	10.0
Other cardiovascular disease	9.9	8.8	7.5	7.2	8.7	7.0	5.2	7.8
Respiratory	5.4	8.1	7.5	8.0	7.0	6.6	6.9	7.2
Other	26.0	26.1	36.0	40.1	40.2	46.4	47.8	36.8
Father's cause of death								
Don't know	1.5	1.3	2.0	2.6	3.5	2.9	5.3	2.5
Cancer	28.2	25.2	22.6	24.2	22.8	18.8	16.4	23.4
Heart attack	23.2	24.5	21.9	19.5	17.1	15.6	14.7	20.3
Stroke	10.5	9.4	7.8	6.8	7.5	8.3	6.9	8.3
Other cardiovascular disease	10.9	7.8	7.4	7.4	6.3	8.7	4.8	7.8
Respiratory	7.0	9.7	12.9	12.3	13.2	13.5	15.1	11.5
Other	18.7	22.1	25.5	27.3	29.5	32.1	36.8	26.2
Women								
Mother's cause of death								
Don't know	1.4	0.7	1.4	1.7	0.9	0.9	3.7	1.6
Cancer	29.1	26.6	23.8	22.1	18.9	15.7	14.2	21.1
Heart attack	17.8	18.0	14.3	15.5	14.2	12.8	12.8	14.9
Stroke	12.0	11.8	12.5	12.5	15.6	12.8	11.0	12.6
Other cardiovascular disease	7.1	9.8	9.1	7.9	8.1	6.9	6.6	7.9
Respiratory	9.6	7.2	6.9	7.9	7.2	6.9	6.2	7.3
Other	22.9	26.0	32.1	32.4	35.1	43.9	45.6	34.6
Father's cause of death								
Don't know	1.1	1.4	2.1	1.7	2.3	4.5	3.7	2.3
Cancer	26.7	27.7	22.8	23.2	21.9	20.9	16.4	22.9
Heart attack	25.5	24.1	21.5	20.7	20.1	17.1	14.1	20.6
Stroke	7.9	8.8	8.2	9.1	8.5	7.7	6.9	8.2
Other cardiovascular disease	8.6	7.7	8.6	7.3	6.9	6.3	4.8	7.2
Respiratory	11.0	10.9	12.6	12.3	11.7	11.4	12.2	11.7
Other	19.2	19.3	24.2	25.6	28.6	32.1	41.9	27.0
Bases (weighted):								
Men – mother	*556*	*647*	*664*	*657*	*595*	*472*	*446*	*4037*
Men – father	*819*	*836*	*745*	*689*	*604*	*470*	*436*	*4599*
Women – mother	*540*	*654*	*679*	*720*	*717*	*635*	*809*	*4754*
Women – father	*807*	*829*	*766*	*768*	*717*	*620*	*773*	*5280*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men – mother	*454*	*658*	*648*	*716*	*630*	*473*	*458*	*4037*
Men – father	*669*	*848*	*729*	*750*	*639*	*472*	*448*	*4555*
Women – mother	*525*	*748*	*699*	*808*	*753*	*570*	*723*	*4826*
Women – father	*785*	*944*	*787*	*858*	*752*	*557*	*691*	*5374*

Table 2A.28. Parents alive, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
Mother alive	45.3	12.7	0.6	28.4
Father alive	22.0	3.4	0.0	12.7
Intermediate				
Mother alive	41.3	8.1	0.0	21.7
Father alive	16.0	2.2	0.0	8.0
No qualifications				
Mother alive	32.4	8.4	0.2	12.6
Father alive	10.3	1.1	0.0	3.2
Women				
Degree/higher				
Mother alive	46.8	11.3	0.0	26.6
Father alive	22.6	3.7	0.0	12.2
Intermediate				
Mother alive	45.3	12.4	0.3	25.7
Father alive	19.6	3.3	0.0	10.3
No qualifications				
Mother alive	35.7	8.9	0.0	12.2
Father alive	14.9	1.5	0.1	4.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.29. Parents alive, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Mother alive	45.4	12.3	0.6	25.1
Father alive	19.8	2.2	0.0	9.7
Intermediate				
Mother alive	38.8	10.6	0.0	21.1
Father alive	17.4	2.3	0.0	8.5
Routine and manual				
Mother alive	36.8	7.2	0.0	16.0
Father alive	13.7	1.9	0.0	5.6
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Mother alive	45.6	12.5	0.0	25.1
Father alive	20.8	2.9	0.0	10.4
Intermediate				
Mother alive	49.2	11.7	0.2	22.0
Father alive	22.2	3.2	0.3	9.1
Routine and manual				
Mother alive	36.4	9.2	0.0	15.8
Father alive	15.3	2.0	0.0	5.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

Table 2A.30. Whom lived with for most of childhood, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Both natural parents	89.2	85.7	82.8	85.3	85.2	85.8	85.8	85.9
Natural parent and step-parent	1.6	2.1	2.6	1.8	2.0	1.4	3.6	2.1
Single natural parent	6.1	7.5	10.9	7.8	6.7	7.4	7.0	7.6
Step/foster/adoptive parent(s)	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.6	1.0
Grandparent(s)/sibling(s)/other relative	1.3	1.9	2.2	3.2	3.6	3.6	2.6	2.4
Children's home/other	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.7	1.7	1.4	0.4	0.9
Women								
Both natural parents	88.9	85.1	83.3	86.0	84.6	84.3	84.9	85.5
Natural parent and step-parent	1.6	3.1	2.4	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.2
Single natural parent(s)	6.0	7.2	10.1	6.7	8.3	8.7	7.7	7.7
Step/foster/adoptive parent	1.0	1.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.1
Grandparent(s)/sibling(s)/other relative	1.5	2.0	2.9	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.5	2.7
Children's home/other	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1085*	*992*	*815*	*729*	*623*	*491*	*456*	*5191*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*800*	*751*	*650*	*825*	*6005*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*886*	*1005*	*796*	*792*	*659*	*491*	*469*	*5098*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*895*	*788*	*582*	*737*	*6110*

Table 2A.31. Father's (carer'sª) occupation when respondent was 14, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

							Age	Total
	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Armed Forces	2.2	1.5	2.7	2.5	4.9	3.8	1.7	2.6
Manager/self-employed	10.5	11.7	11.7	10.9	8.2	10.4	12.0	10.8
Professional/technical	14.5	11.3	10.5	9.8	6.7	7.6	9.6	10.6
Administrative	5.6	7.4	5.1	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.3	5.9
Skilled trade	28.3	29.0	29.0	27.8	30.2	27.8	30.1	28.8
Leisure/sales	5.5	5.7	3.3	4.9	1.7	5.5	6.0	4.7
Machine operator	10.1	9.3	10.2	7.7	9.7	9.9	4.8	9.1
Other jobs	20.4	21.0	24.2	28.2	29.0	25.4	27.2	24.3
Retired/out of employment	2.9	3.1	3.2	2.6	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.1
Women								
Armed Forces	1.8	1.2	1.8	3.5	7.3	4.3	2.7	3.0
Manager/self-employed	12.3	13.6	12.3	12.1	12.0	12.8	16.2	13.1
Professional/technical	12.9	12.1	12.9	9.0	7.1	7.3	8.9	10.4
Administrative	5.8	7.8	5.2	5.4	4.3	7.6	5.1	5.9
Skilled trade	26.2	28.7	27.3	28.5	28.0	28.6	25.5	27.5
Leisure/sales	3.9	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
Machine operator	11.4	10.0	9.2	7.5	8.9	6.9	8.0	9.1
Other jobs	22.6	20.2	23.2	25.3	24.6	23.5	24.3	23.3
Retired/out of employment	3.0	2.2	3.5	4.3	3.2	4.6	5.1	3.6
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1075*	*984*	*806*	*720*	*615*	*482*	*449*	*5131*
Women	*1099*	*1002*	*839*	*795*	*738*	*640*	*813*	*5926*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*878*	*997*	*788*	*783*	*650*	*483*	*462*	*5041*
Women	*1068*	*1138*	*860*	*889*	*775*	*573*	*727*	*6030*

a. Main carer's occupation if the respondent did not live with the father or if the father was dead.

Table 2A.32. Living children in and out of the household, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
No children	15.5	15.3	12.3	13.9	11.1	13.0	14.4	13.9
Living with all children	21.8	9.1	4.7	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.9	7.9
Living with some of children	28.2	23.0	16.0	9.9	7.4	4.8	4.8	16.0
Living with none of children	34.5	52.6	66.9	73.9	79.6	80.4	78.9	62.2
Women								
No children	10.4	9.6	8.9	11.1	10.9	17.0	19.4	12.2
Living with all children	16.3	4.7	2.9	1.4	1.5	2.8	2.6	5.3
Living with some of children	30.8	20.0	11.0	6.5	6.6	8.2	6.4	14.1
Living with none of children	42.5	65.7	77.2	81.0	80.9	72.0	71.6	68.5
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.33. Living arrangements, by gender and age group

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
No cohabiting spouse/partner								
Living alone	12.8	14.0	14.8	18.1	18.5	23.7	40.2	18.2
Living with dependent children only	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Living with non-dependent children only	1.0	1.4	1.9	1.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.7
Living with other combination including at least one other adult	2.6	3.3	1.8	1.9	1.2	0.8	1.7	2.1
Cohabiting spouse or partner								
Couple living alone	33.3	50.2	61.4	65.8	70.2	68.5	52.0	54.9
Couple living with dependent children only	18.9	7.6	4.7	1.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	6.4
Couple living with non-dependent children only	18.6	17.3	11.8	8.5	6.1	3.7	3.3	11.6
Couple living with other combination including at least one other adult	12.0	5.8	3.3	2.6	1.6	0.9	0.4	4.8
Women								
No cohabiting spouse/partner								
Living alone	12.2	14.3	19.2	28.5	39.9	49.3	72.2	31.4
Living with dependent children only	2.6	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Living with non-dependent children only	4.2	3.2	3.1	2.4	4.0	6.8	5.9	4.1
Living with other combination including at least one other adult	3.6	2.6	3.7	3.7	2.1	4.1	3.7	3.3
Cohabiting spouse or partner								
Couple living alone	37.2	57.7	63.0	59.8	50.1	37.7	16.6	46.2
Couple living with dependent children only	9.8	3.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
Couple living with non-dependent children only	21.8	14.2	8.6	4.7	3.2	2.0	1.3	9.1
Couple living with other combination including at least one other adult	8.6	3.5	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.2	2.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 2A.34. Living arrangements, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	**Total**
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
No partner, no other adults	9.5	12.6	21.2	11.9
Partner, no other adults	58.6	76.6	74.0	66.9
No partner, other adults	2.3	1.5	1.8	2.0
Partner, other adults	29.6	9.3	3.1	19.2
Intermediate				
No partner, no other adults	15.2	14.3	27.6	16.7
Partner, no other adults	54.4	69.6	66.7	62.4
No partner, other adults	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.9
Partner, other adults	26.3	12.2	2.2	17.0
No qualifications				
No partner, no other adults	18.7	22.3	37.2	25.3
Partner, no other adults	50.1	60.5	53.0	55.8
No partner, other adults	6.7	4.6	4.1	5.0
Partner, other adults	24.5	12.6	5.7	13.9
Women				
Degree/higher				
No partner, no other adults	15.9	29.4	56.3	26.9
Partner, no other adults	55.6	60.1	31.8	53.8
No partner, other adults	5.9	5.5	10.6	6.4
Partner, other adults	22.6	5.0	1.3	12.8
Intermediate				
No partner, no other adults	14.9	25.4	63.7	26.6
Partner, no other adults	54.5	62.5	28.3	53.4
No partner, other adults	6.0	5.3	7.1	5.9
Partner, other adults	24.6	6.7	0.9	14.1
No qualifications				
No partner, no other adults	14.8	31.0	62.4	37.9
Partner, no other adults	51.3	54.5	24.3	43.4
No partner, other adults	8.7	7.2	11.1	8.9
Partner, other adults	25.2	7.3	2.2	9.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.35. Living arrangements, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	**Total**
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
No partner, no other adults	9.7	11.9	24.2	13.1
Partner, no other adults	61.9	76.1	71.1	68.8
No partner, other adults	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.5
Partner, other adults	25.8	9.6	2.7	15.6
Intermediate				
No partner, no other adults	14.1	15.9	30.9	17.5
Partner, no other adults	54.7	69.4	61.9	61.8
No partner, other adults	3.9	3.1	2.5	3.4
Partner, other adults	27.2	11.6	4.7	17.2
Routine and manual				
No partner, no other adults	17.8	20.8	37.2	23.0
Partner, no other adults	48.2	61.6	52.7	55.2
No partner, other adults	5.4	4.5	5.0	4.9
Partner, other adults	28.6	13.0	5.0	16.9
Women				
Managerial and professional				
No partner, no other adults	17.0	29.8	62.4	29.7
Partner, no other adults	54.5	59.9	30.3	52.4
No partner, other adults	5.1	6.0	6.9	5.8
Partner, other adults	23.4	4.4	0.4	12.1
Intermediate				
No partner, no other adults	13.1	26.7	60.6	30.1
Partner, no other adults	57.0	62.6	28.3	52.4
No partner, other adults	3.3	4.8	9.6	5.4
Partner, other adults	26.7	5.8	1.5	12.1
Routine and manual				
No partner, no other adults	14.6	29.3	63.3	33.2
Partner, no other adults	52.2	55.3	24.0	46.3
No partner, other adults	9.7	7.1	10.3	8.8
Partner, other adults	23.5	8.2	2.4	11.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

Table 2A.36. Household size, by educational attainment, gender and age group

ELSA sample members				*Wave 1*
			Age	**Total**
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Degree/higher				
1	9.2	12.2	21.2	11.6
2	42.8	74.4	75.8	58.1
3	23.6	8.1	2.5	15.6
4	17.1	4.2	0.0	10.5
5+	7.3	1.1	0.5	4.3
Mean	2.73	2.08	1.83	2.39
Intermediate				
1	14.7	14.3	27.2	16.5
2	45.3	70.3	69.1	59.0
3	22.5	10.9	3.1	14.9
4	13.6	3.2	0.4	7.4
5+	3.8	1.2	0.3	2.2
Mean	2.48	2.08	1.78	2.21
No qualifications				
1	17.5	22.2	37.2	25.0
2	43.7	61.7	56.5	55.6
3	22.7	12.2	4.6	12.9
4	11.3	3.0	1.1	4.7
5+	4.8	0.8	0.6	1.8
Mean	2.46	1.99	1.72	2.04
Women				
Degree/higher				
1	14.2	29.4	56.3	26.1
2	48.7	63.9	40.1	53.2
3	22.4	5.2	2.2	13.0
4	10.6	1.0	1.4	5.6
5+	4.1	0.5	0.0	2.1
Mean	2.42	1.80	1.49	2.05
Intermediate				
1	12.7	25.0	63.7	25.5
2	52.7	66.4	33.5	54.8
3	21.8	6.2	1.8	12.7
4	10.6	1.7	0.7	5.7
5+	2.2	0.7	0.3	1.4
Mean	2.38	1.87	1.40	2.03
No qualifications				
1	13.4	30.7	62.3	37.4
2	53.9	59.6	32.7	49.1
3	22.3	7.3	3.3	9.5
4	8.7	1.7	1.0	3.1
5+	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.9
Mean	2.32	1.83	1.46	1.82
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2167*	*948*	*5192*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1475*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2247*	*961*	*5100*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1320*	*6115*

Table 2A.37. Household size, by occupational class, gender and age group

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
1	9.3	11.6	24.2	12.8
2	46.3	76.8	72.8	62.3
3	23.0	7.0	1.8	13.3
4	15.9	3.7	0.7	8.6
5+	5.5	0.9	0.6	2.9
Mean	2.64	2.06	1.81	2.28
Intermediate				
1	13.8	15.9	30.3	17.3
2	44.6	68.4	63.8	57.4
3	22.4	12.4	5.4	15.6
4	14.9	2.4	0.0	7.4
5+	4.2	1.0	0.5	2.3
Mean	2.52	2.04	1.77	2.21
Routine and manual				
1	17.0	20.7	37.2	22.6
2	41.3	62.0	56.7	53.8
3	23.4	12.6	4.6	14.8
4	12.6	3.6	1.0	6.2
5+	5.7	1.1	0.5	2.6
Mean	2.52	2.03	1.71	2.14
Women				
Managerial and professional				
1	16.0	29.8	62.4	29.2
2	50.1	63.8	36.2	52.9
3	20.4	4.7	1.0	11.1
4	10.6	0.9	0.4	5.1
5+	3.0	0.8	0.0	1.6
Mean	2.35	1.79	1.39	1.97
Intermediate				
1	11.3	26.4	60.6	29.4
2	51.9	66.2	33.5	53.4
3	23.9	5.5	3.7	11.5
4	10.4	1.7	1.1	4.6
5+	2.5	0.2	1.1	1.2
Mean	2.42	1.83	1.49	1.95
Routine and manual				
1	12.9	28.9	63.1	32.4
2	53.7	60.8	32.5	51.2
3	22.0	7.9	2.8	11.3
4	9.5	1.7	1.3	4.2
5+	1.8	0.7	0.3	0.9
Mean	2.34	1.85	1.43	1.91
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2067*	*2160*	*950*	*5177*
Women	*2094*	*2345*	*1352*	*5791*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1885*	*2242*	*963*	*5090*
Women	*2205*	*2502*	*1233*	*5940*

3. Socio-economic position

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The analysis in this chapter shows that:

- Average net disposable family income for individuals aged 50 and over is £346.82 per week. Taking account of household size, this equates to an equivalent for a single adult of £243.44 per week.

- The average level of net financial assets of those aged 50 and over is £43,400 (not counting pensions). Adding housing and other physical wealth results in an average level of resources (excluding pensions) of £155,700.

- The inequality in wealth across the older population is much greater than that observed in incomes. As an indication of this inequality, and also the degree to which the 'average' wealth measures are driven by a small number of very wealthy individuals, despite average financial wealth being over £40,000, half the population aged 50 and over have less than £12,000 and a quarter have less than £1,500.

- There are a large number of individuals, particularly amongst single men and women, who have little or no wealth. A quarter of single men and women aged 50 or over have almost no wealth at all.

- Holdings of the three main forms of wealth – housing, pensions and financial assets – are positively correlated in the population. Those without housing or pension wealth also have the lowest levels of financial savings.

- There is a strong correlation between socio-economic position and health. This holds whether socio-economic position is measured by income, wealth or other socio-economic classification. In addition, individuals from higher wealth groups expect to live longer on average.

- The average expectation of receiving inheritances is largest amongst those from the highest wealth groups. These groups are also the most likely to report high probabilities of leaving bequests.

- Individuals' subjective assessment of their own socio-economic position is correlated with both their actual financial resources and their health.

Possibly one of the most pressing concerns in the debate on the ageing population is whether individuals will have adequate economic resources to maintain sufficient standards of living in retirement, and, if not, what the government can provide, in terms of health care and retirement income, to

meet the needs of a population with an increasing fraction of older individuals. Yet this is only one reason to be interested in the incomes and wealth of older individuals. An equally important set of issues surround the relationship between financial resources and health outcomes over an individual's lifetime. Previous research on this question has typically analysed variation in health outcomes with broader measures of socio-economic position, such as occupational group, social class or even home-ownership. In the UK, such research has only occasionally looked at differences in current income, and even more rarely looked at differences in wealth, not least because of lack of data. The ELSA data provide individual- and family-level indicators of all these dimensions for the first time. Therefore in this chapter we concentrate on describing all aspects of 'socio-economic position' in the population in England and discuss the way in which they are related to health outcomes measured very broadly.

When thinking about financial resources, income and wealth measure two different aspects of an individual's economic position and we discuss both in what follows. Although much policy debate focuses on differences across groups defined by income, such differences do not always reflect underlying 'permanent' differences in economic resources if individuals can borrow or draw on savings in order to provide consumption expenditures when their incomes are low. Older individuals are a particularly important case in point, since their earnings are low once they have retired and left the labour market, and this is a predictable event from the point of view of the individual. An extreme example could be an individual with no pension but a large stock of savings held in a bank account. Such savings will not generate particularly high interest income, and the individual will look poor on an income measure, despite living standards being high as a result of their being able to finance consumption from 'running down' previously accumulated savings.

For older individuals, accumulated wealth is therefore a particularly attractive supplementary measure of economic resources. Since wealth is just the accumulated sum of past borrowing or saving, it carries with it information on an individual's past circumstances. Indeed, once someone has left the labour market for good, wealth is a good measure of an individual's 'permanent' income, which can be thought of as capturing their lifetime living standards.[1] Such a measure needs to capture private pension wealth, however, which in turn depends on the labour market history of the individual. The ELSA data have been designed to calculate such wealth measures, but at the present time such measures have not been calculated, so we focus simply on ownership of pensions and on any income they may generate after retirement. Of course, once an individual is in the withdrawal or annuity phase of their pension, their private pension income is a sufficient statistic for understanding their private pension wealth.

In addition to private pension wealth, state pension wealth is also important (both the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme – SERPS – and the basic

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[1]For studies focusing on younger individuals, permanent income may be better captured by information on parental background, educational qualifications or wages, depending on the age of the individuals in question.

state pension). For those who have retired, we can learn about their state pension wealth from their state pension income. However, for those who are yet to retire, we do not have information on accumulated rights to state pensions. Other benefit income can also be thought of as wealth for those who are entitled to them. For less wealthy or lower income groups, wealth from these sources is likely to be particularly important. In order to calculate these sources of wealth, work histories and National Insurance (NI) contributions histories are required. Plans to collect work histories in a future wave of ELSA have been discussed and it is hoped that the ELSA data will be linked to administrative data on NI contributions in order to calculate other wealth. However, such information is not currently available and in this report we only consider private pension wealth.

As well as pension wealth, housing wealth is also very important, as for many people it represents the largest component of their wealth portfolio. Although ELSA collects information on house values and mortgages, conceptually housing wealth is not straightforward to calculate. This issue is discussed in more detail in Section 3.2 and, despite the conceptual difficulties, we do include housing in our measure of total wealth.

Two broader measures of socio-economic position are examined in addition to income and wealth. One (the NS-SEC or National Statistics socio-economic classification) involved an occupational classification and could be seen as a more objective measure, while the other (the ladder) is a self-reported assessment of 'social standing' and could therefore be seen to be a more subjective measure. Subjective social status is examined since it has been argued to reflect not only current social circumstances, but also past socio-economic, educational and economic background, as well as an assessment of a person's future prospects, opportunities and resources (Singh-Manoux, Adler and Marmot, 2003).

A full breakdown of many of the relevant dimensions of income, wealth and other measures of economic position in the ELSA sample is provided in tables in the Annex to this chapter. The text that follows refers briefly to some of those tables and focuses on a number of key findings that illustrate potentially important variation in circumstances and outcomes in the older population.

3.1 Income and income sources

Tables 3A.1–3A.5 provide a characterisation of income levels, and the importance of various income sources, by age, gender, marital status, employment status and health. The analysis shows variation in both levels of income and sources of income, across age groups and within age groups across employment status groups. In this section, we briefly describe the main differences across age groups.

Figure 3.1 draws data from Table 3A.2 and shows average total income and income sources by age, gender and marital status (couple or single) where, as is now standard, the definition of 'married' includes both married and cohabiting individuals. Total income is defined net of taxes and is the sum of employment income (including income from self-employment), private

pension income, state pension income, other benefit income (excluding housing benefit and council tax benefit), asset income and any other income.[2] The data are analysed at the individual level but we use a family-unit[3] measure of income. This means that for couples, income is summed across the unit and so, all other things equal, a couple would be better off than a single person simply because there are two individuals contributing to family income. For this reason, we take care not to compare income across the different family types.[4]

Figure 3.1. Mean total weekly net family income and income sources, by age
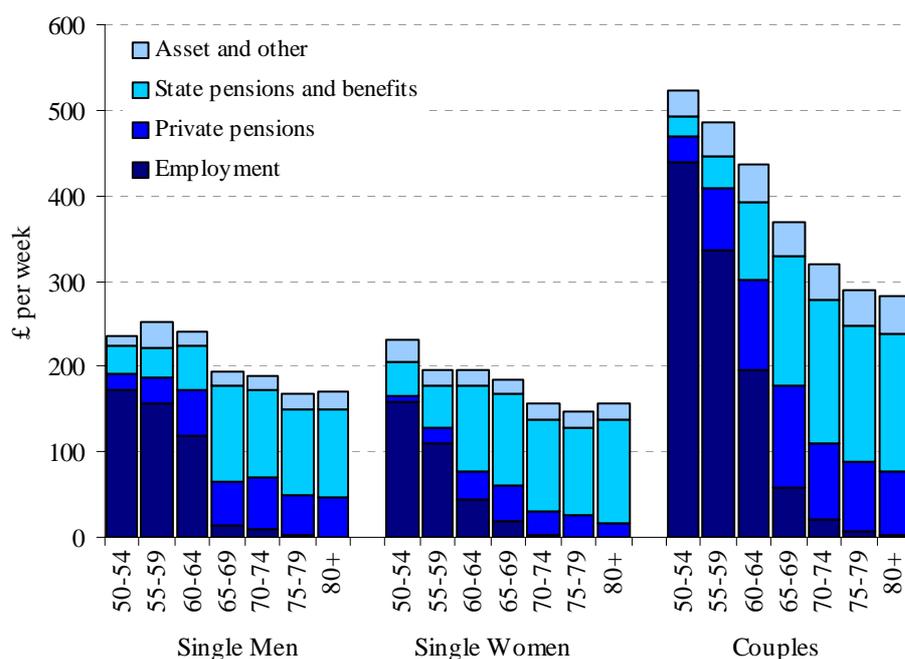
As would be expected, younger age groups tend to receive more income from employment and older age groups tend to rely more on state benefits and pensions. Older people have lower income on average than their younger counterparts, and this is particularly true for couples. Note, however, that this

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[2]Although direct comparisons cannot be made from the tables, income measured in ELSA compares well to income measured in the Family Resources Survey. Mean total income in nominal terms for 50- to 69-year-olds is £404 in ELSA (for the year 2002/3) compared to £384 for the same components measured in the DWP/ONS Family Resources Survey for the previous financial year (2001/2).

[3]A family unit is defined as a single person or a couple and any dependent children that they might have.

[4]An alternative approach is to use an equivalence scale. An equivalence scale is a common, but imperfect, way to take account of economies of scale and household size when comparing income across different types of family. Standard equivalence scales such as the McClements or OECD scales are based on households spanning the entire age distribution and so are not ideal for our purposes. In addition, an equivalence scale is a fairly ad hoc way to take account of differing family size and economies of scale. For this reason, we use an unequivalised measure but only compare income within family types (couples or singles).

does not necessarily mean that income declines with age. Current 50-year-olds may well receive different income levels when they reach older ages from those of the current generation of older people because of different lifetime characteristics, different policy environments and real economic growth over time.

On average, couples have higher average levels of income than singles, and while this is to be expected because income is summed across couples, in many age groups couples are at least twice as well off on average as singles. So unless there are no economies of scale in living as a couple, those in couples are typically better off than singles. Single women have less income than single men in all age groups except those aged 50–54, and these differences are most noticeable for those aged 55–64.[5] The relative importance of each of the components is broadly comparable in all but the later working ages, where employment income represents a less important component of income for women than for men.

3.2 Wealth levels and wealth inequality

As was discussed at the beginning of this chapter, current income is not the only important factor in assessing living standards. Wealth is an important component of financial resources, particularly in older age groups, as it represents the funds that can be drawn on in retirement. The ELSA survey is the first to collect very detailed information on wealth for all respondents.[6] As a result, we have the necessary data to provide a complete picture of the amount of wealth that older people have for the first time.

Since respondents cannot typically 'self-report' a financial value for their pension wealth, the ELSA questions are focused on the key features of the pension arrangements and will enable us, in due course, to compute levels of pension wealth from current and past earnings. Since such an exercise is inherently complicated and time-consuming, at this stage we simply report whether respondents currently have (or have ever had) a private pension, and look at how other components of wealth – financial, physical (such as business wealth, land or jewellery) and housing – vary according to pension plan membership. In this section, however, we concentrate solely on total non-pension wealth[7] (financial plus physical plus housing wealth minus any debt).

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[5]This analysis is based on current marital status and, of course, there may be differences within these groups according to past marital history. The potential importance of these effects is not investigated here.

[6]The British Household Panel Survey collected summary information on financial wealth in 1995 and 2000 but no information on physical assets. The Financial Resources Survey only collects measures of savings (and not debts or physical assets) for a small group of the population. The British Retirement Survey collected some information on wealth although the information was collected at a more aggregate level and respondents were asked only to report a band. In addition, this survey was carried out only in 1988 and 1994 and is not an ongoing study.

[7]Although we do not include private pension wealth in this analysis, non-pension wealth may include lump sums from private pension plans that have already been received but not yet consumed. This will lead to higher wealth amongst the just retired than amongst those who

Once again, for couples, wealth is summed across the family unit but analysed at the individual level.

Tables 3A.6–3A.12 provide evidence on the distribution of various measures of wealth, by age, gender, marital status and employment status. Broadly speaking, they show that average wealth is lower amongst older age groups and slightly lower for women than for men (see, for example, Tables 3A.7 and 3A.10). Differences across employment status groups are apparent, with the most striking being the low average wealth of the group defined as 'long-term sick' (Table 3A.12). In what follows, we concentrate on the distribution of total non-pension wealth by age, gender and marital status.

Figure 3.2. The distribution of total non-pension family wealth, by age, gender and marital status
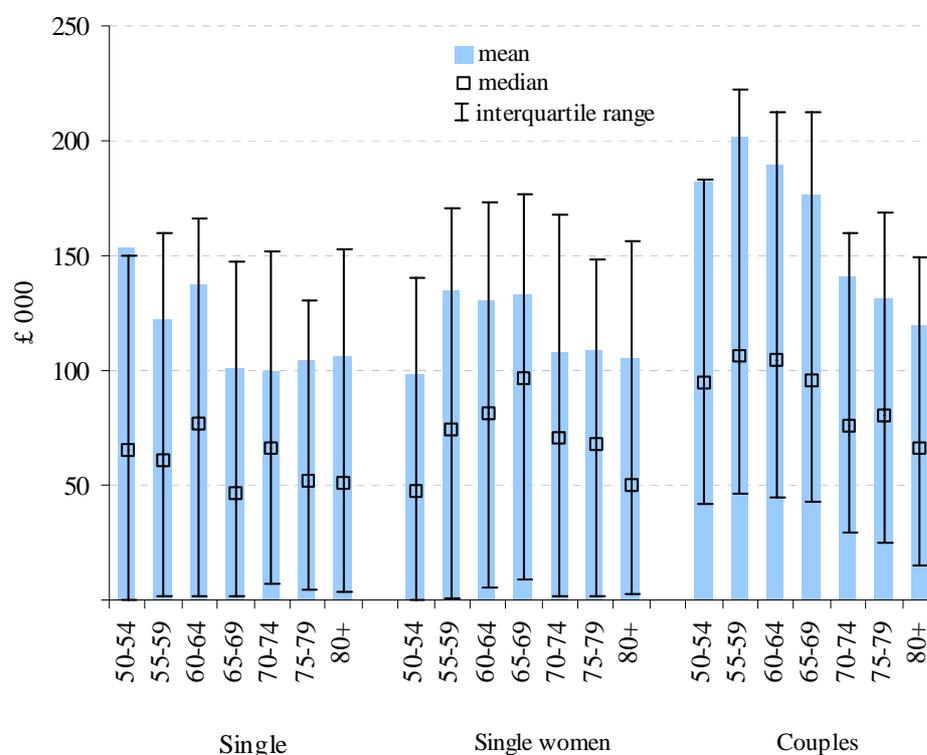
Figure 3.2 shows the level and distribution of total (non-pension) wealth across groups defined by age and marital status. The grey bars show mean wealth but because of the uneven nature of the distribution of wealth, this mean is heavily influenced by individuals who hold very large amounts of wealth and so is not necessarily a good guide to the amount of wealth held by the majority. For this reason, Figure 3.2 also shows median wealth – the level of wealth that splits the population into two equal halves (half having wealth below this level and half having wealth above it). In order to learn more about inequality in wealth holdings, the black lines surrounding the median span the

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have not yet retired, even if all other characteristics are identical. The ELSA data do contain information on lump sums received in the last year but we do not attempt to analyse this here.

interquartile range, their ends representing the 25th and 75th percentile points of the wealth distribution for this group.

The first thing to note about Figure 3.2 is that, in broad terms, older age groups have lower mean and median wealth. Half of individuals aged 50–69 and living in couples have total non-pension wealth of less than around £100,000, whilst for older individuals in couples this value is around £75,000. At any age, singles have less wealth at the mean and median than married individuals of the same age although, because we are measuring family wealth, this is to be expected to some extent. However, in most age groups, mean and median wealth of couples is higher than the wealth of singles by less than a factor of two, so it is possible that the standards of living that their wealth will provide may be comparable at the mean and median. But it is also worth noting that at the 25th percentile, couples are many times wealthier than singles of the same age. It would be hard to argue that such a large difference would be compensated for by lower consumption needs of single people. Simple economic theory suggests that individuals should smooth consumption over their lifetime, and broadly speaking this translates into accumulating assets when income is high (in middle age) and then drawing on those assets after exiting the labour market. However, the hump shape that is apparent in Figure 3.2 should not necessarily be taken as evidence of this sort of 'life-cycle' behaviour since, within a cross-section, different age groups are observationally equivalent to different cohort groups. When the current generation of 50-year-olds reach their 70s and 80s, their stock of wealth may look very different from that of people currently at the older ages.

The second noticeable feature of Figure 3.2 is the unequal nature of the distribution of wealth within each group. Although we do not analyse inequality in income in this report, inequality statistics are widely available elsewhere[8] and the inequality that is found in the wealth distribution far outweighs that found in the income distribution. For example, amongst single men aged 55–59, mean total wealth is around £122,000 and median wealth is around £60,000. However, 25% of these men have more than £160,000 and 25% have almost zero wealth. For financial wealth alone, the inequality is even more pronounced (Table 3A.7). It is worth noting that this is inequality *within* age groups. When looking at wealth over the whole population, substantial inequality will emerge purely as a result of age differences within the group meaning that individuals at different points of their life course are being considered together.

The increased inequality in wealth over income is to be expected since the accumulation of wealth is a dynamic process. The stock of wealth is the result of past saving decisions, so inequality that is observed in the stock is the result of the accumulation of past inequality in saving decisions. Nevertheless, the data reveal that, especially for single men and women, a large number of individuals have little or no wealth either to fund their retirement or to draw on in an emergency – a particularly striking feature of Figure 3.2 is the low values for the 25th percentile of wealth for single individuals at all ages.

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[8]See, for example, Department for Work and Pensions (2003).

Total non-pension wealth measured here includes residential housing wealth.[9] Tables 3A.8 and 3A.9 show that housing forms a very large part of wealth portfolios. We have defined housing wealth to be the current value of the home less any outstanding debt secured on it. However, it is not straightforward to measure housing wealth, because, as well as having investment value, housing also has a consumption value – if an individual were to sell their house, the resources becoming available would then need to finance somewhere else to live. Strictly speaking, this 'future consumption' component of housing wealth should be treated differently from the investment component, yet the separation of the components depends on the individual's future demand for housing services and the extent to which they are willing to downsize their house as they age. Hence we treat the two together, and the housing wealth identified in this section can be thought of as an upper bound on the investment component.

3.3 Wealth and health

As discussed above, ELSA is the first English study to contain detailed information on all components of wealth, so it provides the first opportunity to look at how health measures vary across the wealth distribution. As argued above, wealth represents a better measure of the permanent economic status of older people than income, since it captures the stock of assets that they could use to finance consumption if necessary. There is a strong correlation between wealth and health, which comes through in the data in a number of ways, whether we choose to look at average wealth across health groups (Table 3A.13) or the proportion of each wealth quintile that falls into each health category (Table 3A.14).

Figure 3.3 summarises the key information from Table 3A.13 and shows the full extent of wealth differences across health groups. Within each age group, median wealth for those reporting excellent or very good health is around three times that of those reporting fair or poor health. Similar results are obtained if the data are split by gender subgroups or if one looks at different parts of the wealth distribution.

In Figure 3.4, we present the corresponding data from Table 3A.14, which looks at variation in the fraction reporting fair or poor health across wealth groups within each five-year age band. Again, the health differences are immediately apparent. Taking individuals aged 50–54, for example, amongst those in the poorest fifth of the wealth distribution within this age group almost four in ten report poor health, whereas amongst those in the richest fifth of the wealth distribution less than one in ten report poor health. These differences persist at all ages, although the average across all wealth groups clearly rises with age, as would be expected.

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[9]Non-pension wealth also includes secondary housing, but the following discussion relates only to residential or primary housing.

Figure 3.3. Median non-pension family wealth, by age and self-reported health
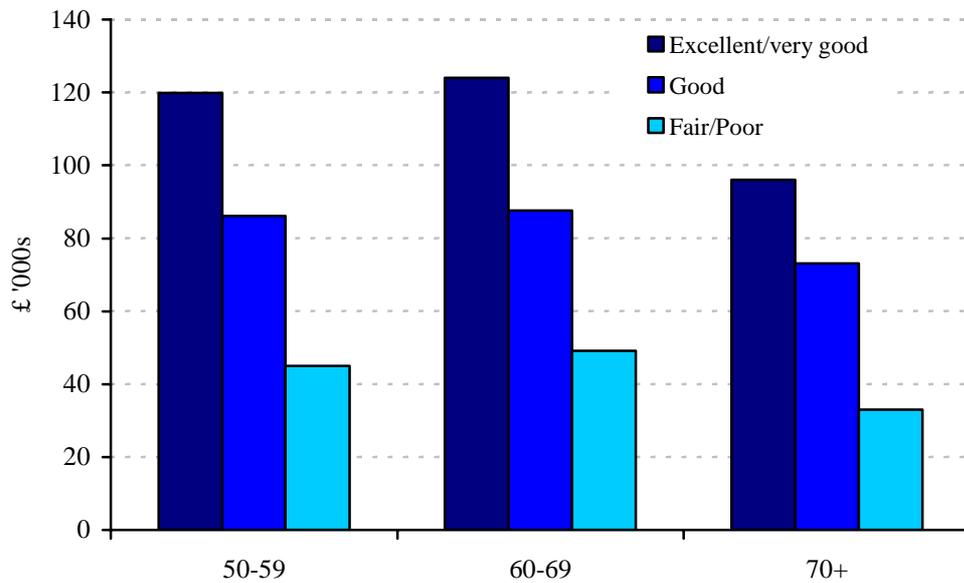
Figure 3.4. Percentage reporting fair/poor health, by age and wealth quintile
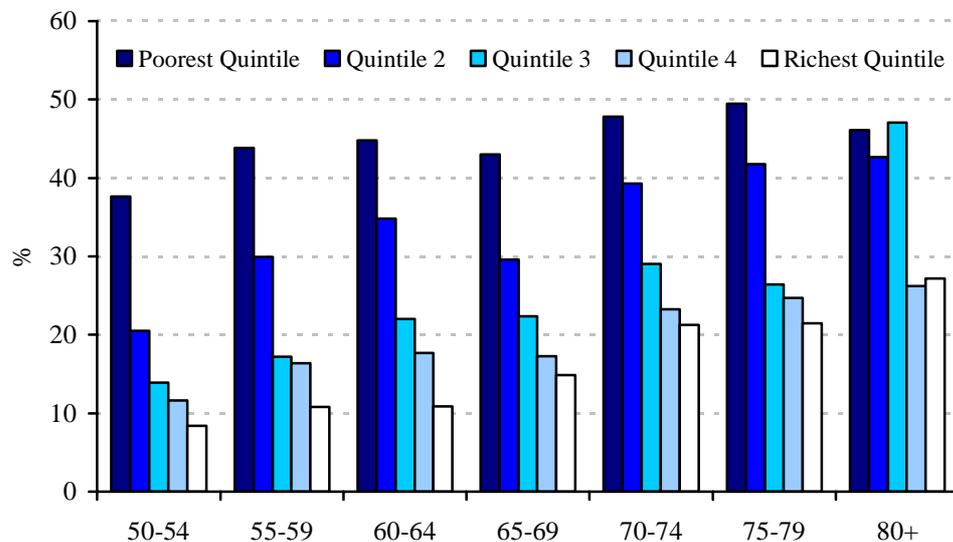
Gradients between health and other measures of socio-economic position, such as income, education or occupational class, are empirically well established, and the evidence on health–wealth gradients above should be interpreted within the context of these other gradients, bearing in mind the discussion about the differing dimensions of individuals' current and lifetime living standards that are captured by each of the various measures of socio-economic position.

With regard to other evidence on how wealth might be correlated with health, perhaps the part of the health–wealth relationship about which most is known in Britain is the relationship between wealth and mortality. Recent research has shown that, even when controlling for the state of health, an individual's position in the wealth distribution is an important determinant of subsequent mortality (Attanasio and Emmerson, 2003). The final part of this brief preliminary investigation into links between health and wealth considers the extent to which this relationship holds up when we look at individuals' expectations of their own future longevity.

The ELSA data are unusual in that they contain information on individuals' assessments of the chances of various events or circumstances occurring at some point in the future. Individuals are instructed to report a number between 0 and 100 (per cent), where '0 means absolutely no chance and 100 means you think it is absolutely certain to happen'. Individuals aged under 66, 66–69 and 70–74 are asked their chances of living to 75, 80 and 85 respectively.

Tables 3A.15 and 3A.16 report how these probabilities vary across income and wealth groups within each broad age category. For the purposes of the detailed tables, we divide the distribution of respondents' subjective probabilities into five groups which one can think of as 'certain not to happen' (0%), 'unlikely' (1%–39%), '50–50' (40%–60%), 'quite likely' (61%–99%) and 'certain' (100%). The average self-reported chances of living to the relevant age are summarised across wealth groups in Figure 3.5. Again, we see a gradient by wealth group, although less pronounced than in the contemporaneous health measures and only within the two youngest age groups in the ELSA sample.

Figure 3.5. Average expectation of living to 75/80/85, by wealth quintile within age group
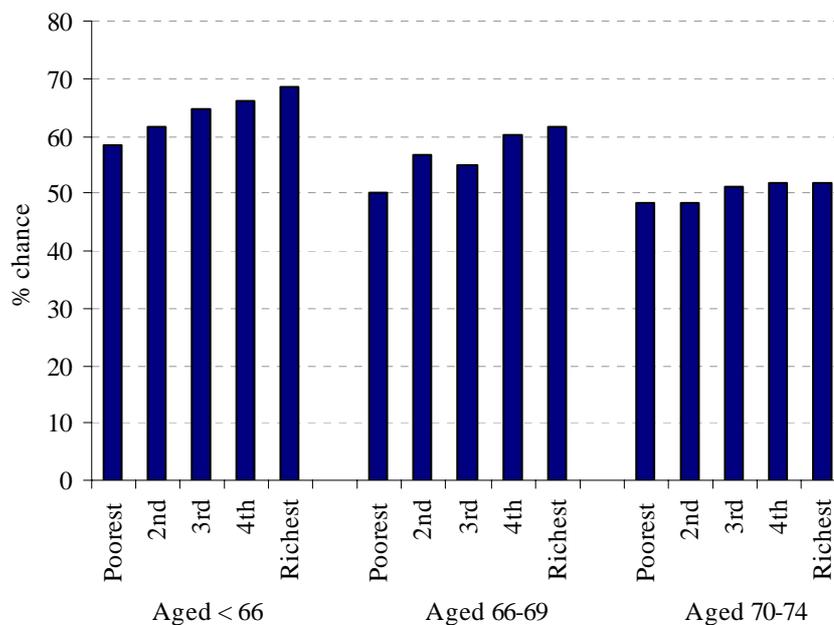
As with all the tables in this volume, cross-sectional relationships should certainly not be interpreted causally. When looking at wealth and health, however, it is not even clear that an extension to longitudinal analysis is always sufficient to enable causal statements to be made, since wealth itself represents the outcome of a forward-looking choice by individuals. The analysis of health and mortality provides perhaps the clearest example of this. Even though wealth is accumulated many years before mortality outcomes are observed, it is possible that the variation in mortality rates may be 'causing' the variation in wealth – if an individual expects to die young, they may choose to accumulate less wealth. The unravelling of causal relationships from health (or other measures of socio-economic position) to wealth and vice versa requires careful empirical analysis, and is expected to be one of the main purposes to which ELSA data are put. Only when repeated observations in all the relevant dimensions are available will such analysis begin to become possible.

3.4 Pension and non-pension wealth

So far, we have presented data on income and wealth for the over-50s but that measure of wealth excluded pension wealth. In thinking about adequacy of saving for retirement, pension wealth is clearly very important. As discussed previously, calculating pension wealth for ELSA respondents is complex and we do not directly address it in this report. For those who are still in the contribution phase of their private pension, we can gain some understanding of pension wealth by looking at private pension status – that is, how many people are currently contributing or have ever contributed to a private pension. Chapter 4 analyses pension status in detail and how it varies with activity status. Here, we simply present private pension status in order to learn something about pension wealth and its correlation with other asset holding.

Figure 3.6 is based on the analysis in Chapter 4 (Table 4A.16) and shows the percentage of men and women, by age, who are currently contributing or who have ever contributed to a private pension. Over 90% of men and over 65% of women aged 50–54 have contributed to a private pension at some point in their lifetime. While this is a large proportion, some of these people may have only contributed to a private pension for a small number of years.

The question that we address here is how people choose to allocate their savings across different assets, and whether individuals without pensions are saving for their retirement in other ways. The analysis in Table 3A.17 investigates this, reporting mean and median financial wealth across groups split according to whether individuals have pensions and/or owner-occupied housing.

Figure 3.7 presents summary evidence, showing median financial wealth for couples, split by whether either member of the couple has (or has ever had) a private pension and whether they have any housing wealth. The numbers reveal that, on average, it is couples who have both housing wealth and a private pension who have the highest financial wealth. Those who have neither a house nor a private pension have little or no financial wealth on average.

Figure 3.6. Individual ownership of private pensions, by age and gender
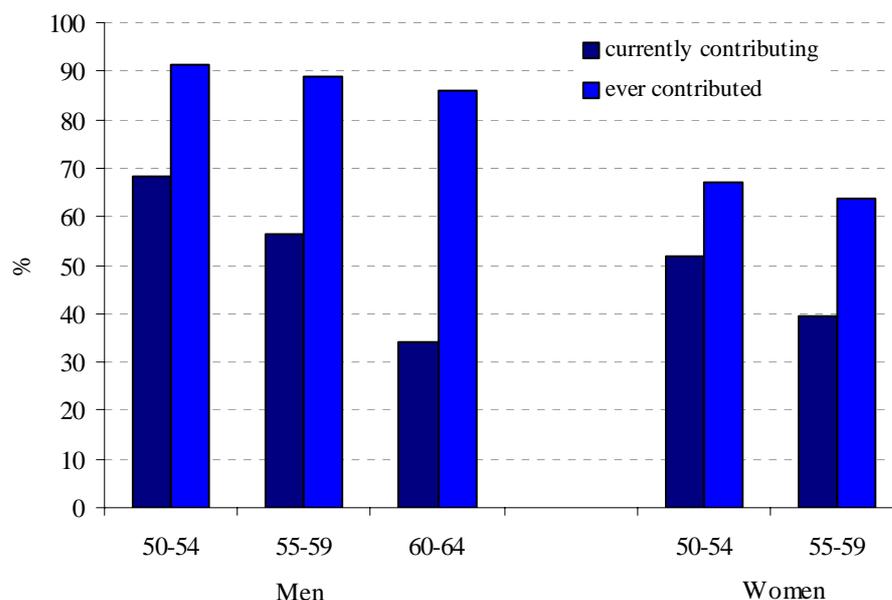
Figure 3.7. Median financial wealth, by age and broad portfolio status: couples only
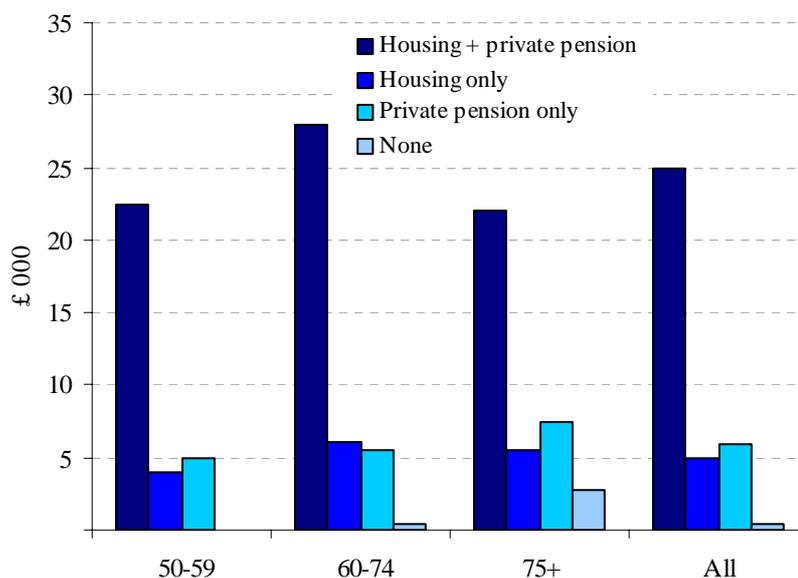
In Figure 3.8, we investigate the type of financial assets held by individuals 50 and over. The chart shows the proportion holding each of the various different classes of financial assets and debts that are available. It shows percentages for men and women of all age groups together, but Table 3A.6 also shows numbers for different age groups and men and women separately. The most common savings vehicle is a savings account (including current accounts), which over 90% of individuals hold. Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) have become a commonly held asset, despite their relatively recent introduction, with over 40% of this age group owning one. Debt is relatively uncommon, in

comparison with the holdings of assets, as would be expected given the age of the ELSA sample. The numbers in Table 3A.6 reveal that it is also the younger age groups within the ELSA sample who are more likely to have debt, as would be expected. Nevertheless, debt is still far from negligible in the older population. Almost one in five of those over 50 have outstanding credit-card balances (after monthly payments have been made) and more than one in five have other types of outstanding debt.

Figure 3.8. Percentage with different types of financial assets
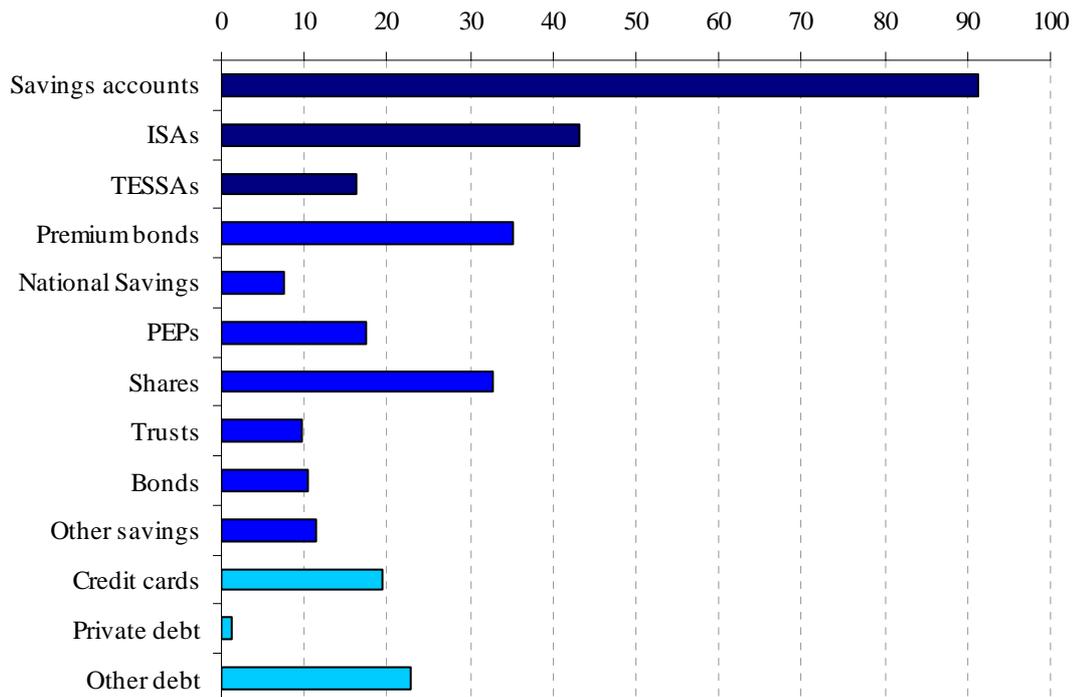
3.5 Expectations of future resources

Recent policy debate on the adequacy of retirement saving has focused on designing policies to encourage people to save more or work longer.[10] The data on wealth presented in this chapter reveal that there are subgroups of individuals who have little or no private resources to fund their retirement or draw upon in an emergency. An understanding of why this is the case, and the way in which such differences feed through into individuals' expectations of their future resources in retirement, is a key factor in understanding whether policies aiming to encourage increased saving, or indeed compelling people to save more, might be either desirable or effective. In this section, we discuss evidence on individuals' expectations of future resources. Such data represent a significant departure from standard measures collected in surveys (with the exception of the Health and Retirement Study in the USA) and clearly require

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[10]HM Treasury / Department for Work and Pensions, 2002.

significant further analysis in the future. The analysis in this section presents a flavour of the variation in individual expectations with other characteristics.

Firstly, ELSA sample members are asked to report the chances that 'at some point in the future you will not have enough financial resources to meet your needs'. Again, these chances are collected on a scale of 0 to 100. The distribution of these chances is presented by income and wealth, within age group, in Tables 3A.18 and 3A.19. The probability distribution varies with both income and wealth, as would be expected, but even the most well-off groups are far from certain that their resources will be adequate.

Figure 3.9 plots the mean chance of having insufficient resources to meet needs in future by age-specific wealth quintile and age. In general, the average chance decreases with age except in the richest wealth quintile. It is not surprising that younger individuals state a higher probability since they have a longer expected remaining lifetime in which uncertain events may occur (either with respect to earnings or with respect to post-retirement 'needs'). The average chance of having insufficient resources also decreases with wealth. This suggests that individuals who have not saved during their life have not necessarily done so under the misapprehension that the State will provide sufficient resources during their retirement.

Figure 3.9. Mean chance of financial resources being insufficient to meet future needs, by age and wealth quintile
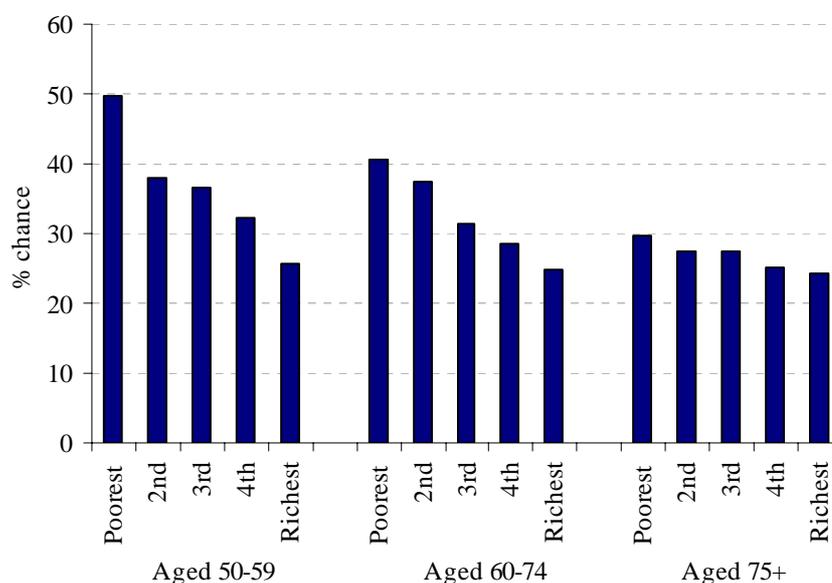
As pointed out above, even those in the richest wealth quintile anticipate a chance of around 25% on average of having insufficient resources to meet their needs (and Table 3A.19 shows that fewer than one in five 50- to 59-year-olds in this richest group report that there is a zero probability of having insufficient resources in the future). There could be a number of explanations for this. One possibility is that the 'needs' of those in the richest quintile are great, perhaps because those 'needs' are defined relative to the standard of living over their lifetime. Another explanation could be that some individuals intend not to use their wealth in order to provide resources in the future. This

might be because their wealth is tied up in their house and either they are unwilling to withdraw equity or they may wish to bequeath their wealth. We can examine the issue of bequests using information contained in the survey on expected bequests. Respondents are asked what the chances are of them leaving a bequest at all, leaving a bequest totalling £50,000 or more and leaving a bequest totalling £150,000 or more. The values include the value of property or housing. Tables 3A.20–3A.25 present the distributions of subjective probabilities of leaving a bequest of each magnitude, split by income and wealth groups.

Figure 3.10 shows the average probability of leaving a bequest totalling £150,000 or more by age and (age-specific) wealth quintile. As would be expected, the probability of leaving a large bequest increases with wealth. The average probability decreases slightly with age, particularly in the poorer wealth quintiles. Again, this is not surprising, since the younger age groups have a longer remaining lifetime in which to accumulate greater assets and their existing assets will become worth more over time. It is interesting to note that individuals in the 4th wealth quintile or lower have current wealth of around £225,000 or less. This means that, ignoring any further wealth accumulation, many individuals in these quintiles are expecting to bequeath a large portion of their current wealth.

Figure 3.10. Mean chance of leaving a bequest totalling £150,000 or more, by age and wealth quintile
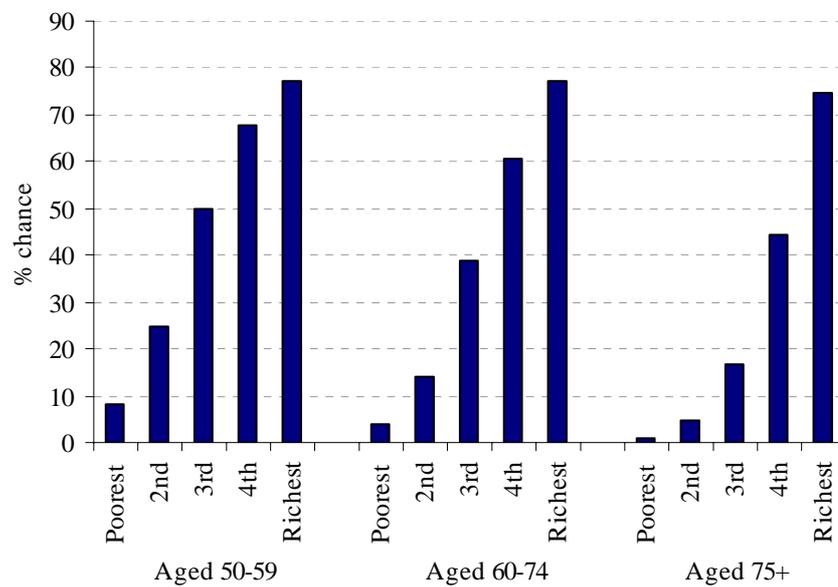
The other side of the coin to bequests, and potentially equally important for thinking about resources in retirement, is whether people expect to receive any inheritance. Expecting to receive a large inheritance in future is likely to influence saving behaviour. The distribution of subjective probabilities of receiving inheritance, by size of inheritance, are presented in Tables 3A.26–3A.31. To summarise the key finding, Figure 3.11 shows the average probabilities of receiving inheritance totalling £10,000 or more (the dark blue bars) or £100,000 or more (the light blue bars) by age-specific wealth quintile

for those aged under 75.[11] Firstly, very few people expect to receive inheritance of £100,000 or more. Secondly, the average chance of receiving a large inheritance increases with current wealth, which suggests intergenerational immobility in the wealth distribution.

Figure 3.11. Mean chance of receiving inheritance totalling £10,000 or more or £100,000 or more, by age and wealth quintile
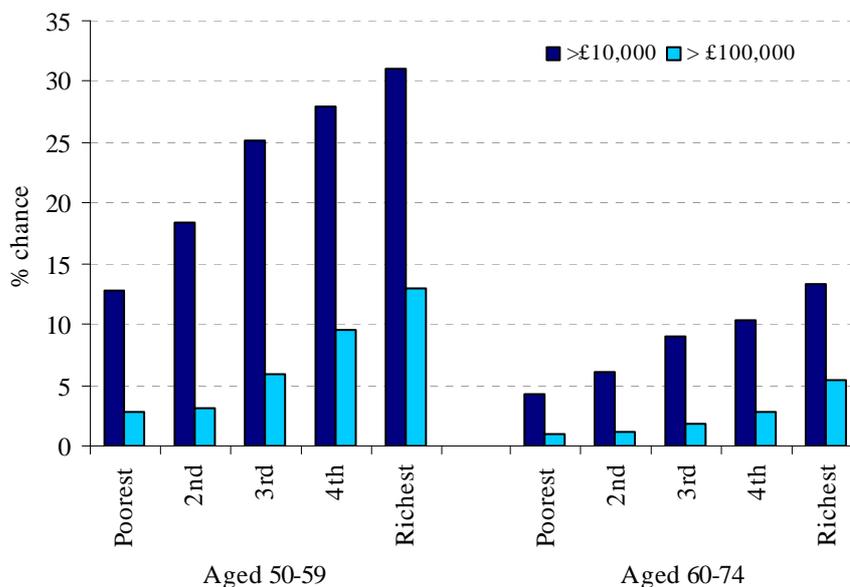
3.6 Broader socio-economic position

As discussed at the beginning of this chapter, income and wealth are only two possible summary measures of socio-economic position. Others that are explored in this section are occupational classification and subjective economic position. Interpretation of the former needs to take account of the fact that the majority of the older population will have stopped working, so the measure will only be relevant in the sense that it captures their 'average' or lifetime status as represented by their occupation in their working life. Cohort differences might be particularly important here when comparing across age groups in a cross-section of the population.

Table 2A.12 in Chapter 2 shows the distribution of the sample into the five National Statistics socio-economic classification (NS-SEC) groups, by age and gender. There is some variation in the occupational division by gender. Greater proportions of men occupy the managerial and professional occupations, small employers and own-account workers and lower supervisory and technical occupations groups, and greater proportions of women are located in the intermediate occupations and semi-routine occupations groups. Variation by age is also apparent, although the degree to which surviving

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[11]The question was also asked of those aged 75 or over but we do not report these numbers in the chart because of the (unsurprisingly) very low chances reported in this age group.

members from each cohort are differentially drawn from various lifetime occupational groups, as a result of differential mortality, makes such variation relatively uninteresting unless more covariates are added to the analysis.

Table 3A.32 shows how the distribution of occupational classifications varies according to respondents' self-assessed health. The distribution of respondents into the five NS-SEC classes is similar for men and women reporting excellent, very good or good health. There is some variation between these and those reporting fair or poor health, however, with, particularly, lower proportions of respondents in both gender groups in the managerial and professional occupations group and greater proportions in the semi-routine occupations group.

The second broad measure of socio-economic position we consider is self-reported social position, as captured by 'ladder position'.[12] Table 3A.33 shows the mean scores on the subjective social status ladder, by age and gender. For both men and women, mean self-reported social status scores are lower in older age groups, although this association is less strong for women than for men.

Tables 3A.34 and 3A.35 show the correlations between subjective social status and self-reported health and between subjective social status and income, respectively. Poorer health and lower incomes are both associated with declining mean subjective social status scores.

Table 3A.36 shows that higher wealth is also associated with a higher mean subjective social status score. The pattern of scores by age was less uniform than that seen for income quintiles, however. For both men and women, those in net total wealth quintiles 3, 4 and 5 had some decline in mean subjective social status score with increasing age. However, women in the lowest net total wealth quintile (quintile 1) had increasing mean subjective social status scores with increasing age, while mean subjective social status scores for women in quintile 2 remained similar at each age. Men in the two lowest net total wealth quintiles had mean subjective social status scores that declined between the youngest and middle age ranges, rising again at the oldest ages. The mean subjective social status scores for men in quintile 1 rose (at this oldest age range) to a level above that at either of the two youngest age ranges, while those for men in quintile 2 rose to a level higher than that reported for men aged between 60 and 74 but lower than that reported for men aged between 50 and 59.

To conclude this section and provide some food for thought regarding the general theme of the importance of multi-dimensional measures of socio-economic position such as income, wealth and the broader measures discussed

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[12]A self-anchoring pictorial scale in the form of a 10-rung ladder was used to measure subjective social status. Respondents were asked: 'Think of this ladder as representing where people stand in our society. At the top of the ladder are the people who are the best off – those who have the most money, most education and best jobs. At the bottom are the people who are the worst off – who have the least money, least education, and the worst jobs or no jobs. The higher up you are on this ladder, the closer you are to the people at the very top and the lower you are, the closer you are to the people at the very bottom. Please mark a cross on the rung on the ladder where you would place yourself.'

above, we present some preliminary analysis into the correlation of health with subjective socio-economic position that exists even when controlling for financial resources. Figure 3.12 groups the ELSA population into five wealth quintiles according to the total non-pension wealth measure discussed and analysed in Section 3.2. Within each of these wealth groups, we divide the population according to their subjective ladder position. Although the correlation between wealth and subjective ladder position has been demonstrated above, there is still considerable variation within wealth quintiles. Figure 3.12 shows that this variation is correlated with self-reported health. Although not reported here, results are similar for a measure of health based on limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs), and whether the wealth quintiles are adjusted for age. Possible interpretations of this finding are discussed in the conclusions below.

Figure 3.12. Proportion in excellent/very good/good health, by subjective socio-economic position within wealth quintile
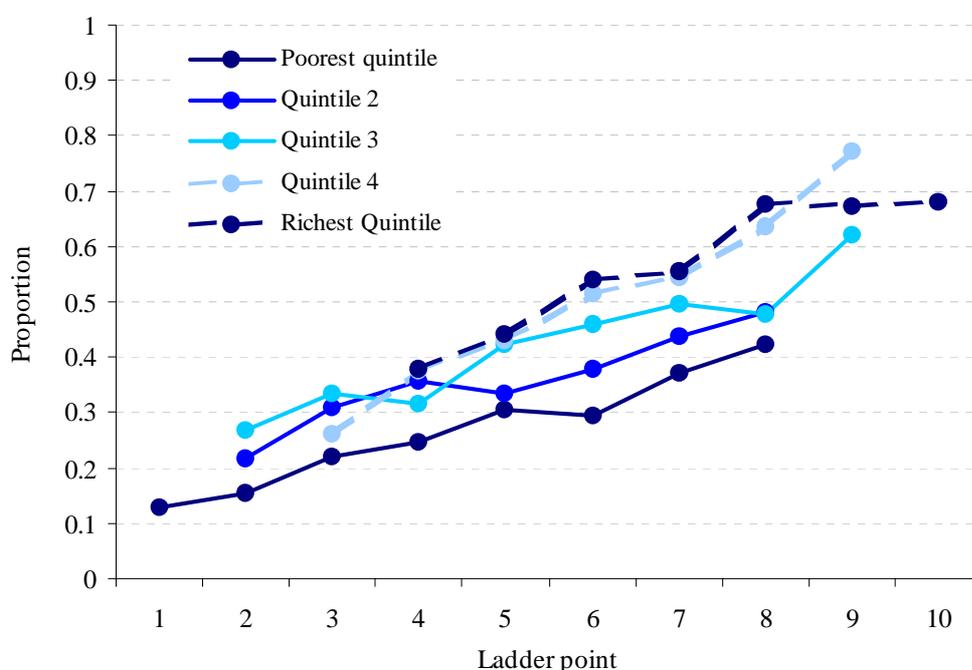
3.7 Conclusions

Income, wealth and broader measures of socio-economic position are key dimensions to measure in an ageing study. Firstly, income and, more importantly, wealth provide resources with which individuals can finance consumption, both currently and in the future, particularly during retirement. The analysis in this chapter has characterised the economic resources of the older population in England and discussed the level of, and inequality in, wealth and how it varies according to various characteristics.

The second reason income and wealth are crucial to an ageing study is that such measures of socio-economic position are also key determinants of health outcomes. The income and wealth measures in ELSA will provide variation

over and above broad socio-economic position measures such as occupational class or education, which can be mapped into health outcomes, and this chapter has provided some preliminary descriptive evidence along these lines. When it comes to a more sophisticated analysis, unravelling which dimensions of socio-economic position are important and why is both important and difficult. As an example of this, consider again Figure 3.12, which shows that subjective economic position is correlated with self-reported health even when controlling for an individual's position in the wealth distribution. Possible interpretations of this correlation could be any one, or indeed any combination, of the following:

- Subjective socio-economic position captures other unobserved dimensions of current socio-economic position that are omitted when we simply control for wealth. For example, if an individual's 'needs' are lower, then their wealth will go further and hence lead to a higher standard of living.

- Subjective socio-economic position captures elements of 'permanent' status more accurately than current wealth, and the correlation with health reflects the link between permanent or 'lifetime' status and health outcomes.

- Subjective economic position matters over and above true (financial) economic position as a result of psychosocial factors that directly affect health.

- Health is part of what individuals think of when thinking about their socio-economic position, so having better health leads to higher evaluations of subjective socio-economic position, even within a group with the same level of wealth.

- Individuals with more positive dispositions tend to report both higher subjective health and higher subjective socio-economic position than those with a less favourable outlook on life.

In reality, there may well be something to all of these interpretations, and more interpretations may also be relevant. However, the relative importance of such explanations is absolutely key when it comes to designing policy reforms aimed at increasing the health or quality of life of the older population. In addition, the relative importance may well be different for different age or cohort groups within the population aged 50 and over. The ELSA data are unique in providing measurements in all the dimensions needed to evaluate these questions as individuals within the population age, and only as more waves of ELSA data become available will the importance of such relationships become apparent.

References

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Department for Work and Pensions (2003), *Households Below Average Income, 1994/95–2001/02* (http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai2002/contents.html).

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Singh-Manoux, A., Adler, N.E. and Marmot, M.G. (2003), 'Subjective social status: its determinants and its association with measures of ill-health in the Whitehall II study', *Social Science and Medicine*, 56: 1321–33.

Annex 3.1
Tables on socio-economic position

Definitions

Family income: Total income is defined net of taxes and is the sum of employment income (including income from self-employment), private pension income, state pension income, other benefit income (excluding housing benefit and council tax benefit), asset income and any other income. Total income is summed across family members (where a family is defined as a couple or a single person and any dependent children they may have) to obtain family income. See Section 3.1 for a more detailed discussion.

Equivalisation: Equivalising income takes into account economies of scale and household size. It enables comparisons to be made across different family types, albeit in an imperfect way. The equivalence scale used is the OECD scale in which a single person with no children is taken as the benchmark. Secondary adults contribute 0.5 to the scale, meaning that a couple needs 50% more income than a single in order to be equally well off. Children aged 13 and under contribute 0.3 to the scale and older children contribute 0.5. See Section 3.1 for a more detailed discussion.

Net financial wealth: Net financial wealth is defined as savings (interest-bearing deposit accounts) plus investments (other savings products such as shares, unit trusts and PEPs but not including pensions or housing) minus debt (products such as outstanding balance on a credit card after monthly payment, loans, overdrafts and mail-order borrowing but not including outstanding mortgages). As for income, financial wealth is measured at the family level.

Net physical wealth: Net physical wealth is defined as wealth held in second homes, farm or business property, other business wealth, other land and other assets such as jewellery or works or art or antiques. As for income, physical wealth is measured at the family level.

Net housing wealth: Net housing wealth is defined as the self-reported current value of primary housing (i.e. residential housing) less any debt outstanding on that house. See Section 3.2 for more discussion surrounding the measurement of housing wealth. As for income, housing wealth is measured at the family level.

Total non-pension wealth: Total non-pension wealth is the sum of net financial wealth, net physical wealth and net housing wealth. As for income, total wealth is measured at the family level.

The ladder: A self-anchoring pictorial scale in the form of a 10-rung ladder, which was used to measure subjective social status. See Section 3.6 for more detail.

Notes

The unit of observation in all tables in Annex 3.1 is the individual.
All numbers are based on weighted data, but frequencies (*N*) are unweighted.

Table 3A.1. Total family income and sources of family income, by age: equivalised[a] and unequivalised

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Unequivalised									
All	**346.82**	**132.32**	**28.85**	**62.11**	**66.05**	**25.17**	**30.25**	**2.07**	*11135*
	(3.99)	*(2.41)*	*(2.38)*	*(1.27)*	*(1.13)*	*(1.40)*	*(1.03)*	*(0.81)*	
50–54	**463.36**	321.41	62.36	25.79	2.18	24.66	25.33	1.62	*1931*
	(10.30)	*(7.15)*	*(8.05)*	*(1.98)*	*(0.33)*	*(1.20)*	*(2.46)*	*(0.48)*	
55–59	**431.71**	253.62	40.65	62.90	8.08	30.51	32.04	3.91	*2139*
	(8.69)	*(6.51)*	*(3.60)*	*(3.89)*	*(0.60)*	*(1.34)*	*(2.41)*	*(3.15)*	
60–64	**385.22**	129.37	39.35	90.30	49.37	38.98	32.21	5.63	*1659*
	(14.17)	*(5.91)*	*(9.81)*	*(3.67)*	*(1.39)*	*(6.21)*	*(2.40)*	*(3.82)*	
65–69	**316.74**	26.61	20.81	96.63	122.79	18.06	31.36	0.47	*1688*
	(8.33)	*(2.15)*	*(5.60)*	*(3.98)*	*(1.37)*	*(2.79)*	*(1.96)*	*(0.14)*	
70–74	**265.80**	10.83	4.31	70.26	124.89	21.54	33.51	0.45	*1439*
	(9.52)	*(1.38)*	*(1.46)*	*(3.18)*	*(1.20)*	*(7.32)*	*(3.73)*	*(0.31)*	
75–79	**226.63**	2.21	2.34	58.13	115.94	15.81	31.90	0.31	*1072*
	(5.48)	*(0.67)*	*(0.65)*	*(3.15)*	*(1.35)*	*(1.12)*	*(3.03)*	*(0.12)*	
80+	**198.32**	0.77	–0.09	39.20	110.34	20.59	26.97	0.54	*1207*
	(9.26)	*(0.28)*	*(0.61)*	*(2.39)*	*(8.14)*	*(1.07)*	*(3.21)*	*(0.33)*	
Equivalised									
All	**243.44**	**87.31**	**19.11**	**44.22**	**51.07**	**18.50**	**21.83**	**1.40**	*11135*
	(2.71)	*(1.56)*	*(1.59)*	*(0.88)*	*(1.05)*	*(0.94)*	*(0.75)*	*(0.54)*	
50–54	**297.32**	203.87	39.77	17.29	1.45	16.97	17.02	0.95	*1931*
	(6.55)	*(4.29)*	*(5.35)*	*(1.36)*	*(0.22)*	*(0.85)*	*(1.71)*	*(0.24)*	
55–59	**294.27**	172.03	27.01	42.67	5.60	21.75	22.56	2.63	*2139*
	(5.67)	*(4.25)*	*(2.35)*	*(2.61)*	*(0.42)*	*(0.93)*	*(1.72)*	*(2.10)*	
60–64	**269.92**	89.09	27.20	63.03	36.60	27.62	22.49	3.90	*1659*
	(9.61)	*(4.41)*	*(6.57)*	*(2.53)*	*(1.03)*	*(4.16)*	*(1.64)*	*(2.56)*	
65–69	**228.58**	18.56	14.57	68.77	90.61	13.32	22.42	0.34	*1688*
	(5.65)	*(1.48)*	*(3.89)*	*(2.74)*	*(1.01)*	*(1.88)*	*(1.36)*	*(0.10)*	
70–74	**196.61**	7.57	2.93	51.27	94.06	16.04	24.38	0.35	*1439*
	(6.36)	*(0.96)*	*(0.99)*	*(2.22)*	*(0.75)*	*(4.89)*	*(2.61)*	*(0.21)*	
75–79	**174.41**	1.51	1.68	43.40	90.71	12.71	24.14	0.26	*1072*
	(3.94)	*(0.44)*	*(0.47)*	*(2.29)*	*(0.81)*	*(0.90)*	*(2.38)*	*(0.11)*	
80+	**168.61**	0.54	–0.22	31.52	95.65	18.22	22.47	0.43	*1207*
	(8.85)	*(0.19)*	*(0.57)*	*(1.88)*	*(8.10)*	*(0.98)*	*(2.85)*	*(0.23)*	

a. See definitions above.

Note: Standard errors are shown in parentheses.

Table 3A.2. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and marital status

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Single men	**208.42**	**59.85**	**12.33**	**43.38**	**50.87**	**23.17**	**18.48**	**0.34**	*1125*
	(6.10)	*(5.67)*	*(2.06)*	*(2.59)*	*(1.70)*	*(1.47)*	*(1.79)*	*(0.19)*	
50–54	**235.82**	142.55	29.17	20.04	0.00	31.96	12.10	0.00	*150*
	(14.67)	*(14.86)*	*(9.07)*	*(6.49)*	*(0.00)*	*(4.14)*	*(3.05)*	*(0.00)*	
55–59	**251.80**	133.23	23.69	30.88	0.00	33.76	29.11	1.13	*179*
	(17.62)	*(15.95)*	*(5.87)*	*(5.91)*	*(0.00)*	*(4.06)*	*(7.84)*	*(1.08)*	
60–64	**241.58**	97.12	22.46	53.79	1.06	48.96	17.85	0.33	*137*
	(30.30)	*(30.00)*	*(7.52)*	*(8.45)*	*(0.80)*	*(6.42)*	*(4.65)*	*(0.33)*	
65–69	**192.90**	9.74	3.21	53.10	98.40	13.28	15.07	0.10	*164*
	(11.02)	*(3.42)*	*(1.57)*	*(7.05)*	*(6.04)*	*(2.82)*	*(2.56)*	*(0.10)*	
70–74	**188.12**	7.39	1.61	61.74	94.98	7.59	14.43	0.38	*145*
	(8.65)	*(3.41)*	*(1.00)*	*(6.51)*	*(2.52)*	*(1.65)*	*(2.15)*	*(0.38)*	
75–79	**167.69**	0.62	1.11	46.99	91.93	9.35	17.33	0.37	*137*
	(9.28)	*(0.32)*	*(0.77)*	*(7.61)*	*(1.89)*	*(1.94)*	*(3.10)*	*(0.29)*	
80+	**169.93**	0.36	0.28	46.16	88.94	13.06	21.04	0.08	*213*
	(8.15)	*(0.34)*	*(0.28)*	*(5.64)*	*(1.44)*	*(2.22)*	*(4.45)*	*(0.08)*	
Single women	**173.28**	**28.37**	**4.51**	**23.65**	**74.52**	**22.63**	**18.07**	**1.52**	*2384*
	(5.33)	*(1.67)*	*(1.47)*	*(1.12)*	*(4.43)*	*(0.87)*	*(1.89)*	*(0.35)*	
50–54	**231.44**	139.94	17.73	7.88	2.02	38.62	19.95	5.30	*263*
	(15.25)	*(9.84)*	*(9.56)*	*(1.99)*	*(0.77)*	*(3.75)*	*(7.43)*	*(1.71)*	
55–59	**195.44**	101.49	7.08	19.66	7.12	41.65	16.79	1.65	*262*
	(8.87)	*(8.04)*	*(2.07)*	*(3.42)*	*(1.68)*	*(3.45)*	*(3.39)*	*(0.69)*	
60–64	**195.23**	33.39	9.98	34.09	82.89	17.15	12.08	5.64	*237*
	(8.46)	*(4.50)*	*(3.58)*	*(4.40)*	*(2.12)*	*(2.29)*	*(1.87)*	*(2.93)*	
65–69	**185.54**	9.21	10.54	41.86	89.87	16.50	17.08	0.48	*321*
	(9.87)	*(2.26)*	*(7.95)*	*(4.05)*	*(1.72)*	*(1.90)*	*(2.60)*	*(0.26)*	
70–74	**155.84**	1.22	0.03	28.22	90.50	16.87	18.55	0.44	*368*
	(5.61)	*(0.46)*	*(0.96)*	*(2.84)*	*(1.36)*	*(2.04)*	*(4.19)*	*(0.24)*	
75–79	**147.00**	0.13	0.68	24.68	85.87	16.09	19.15	0.39	*346*
	(6.82)	*(0.06)*	*(0.69)*	*(2.82)*	*(1.29)*	*(1.83)*	*(4.86)*	*(0.26)*	
80+	**156.45**	0.05	–1.02	16.88	99.17	21.71	19.31	0.36	*587*
	(16.18)	*(0.03)*	*(1.02)*	*(1.91)*	*(15.36)*	*(1.58)*	*(4.63)*	*(0.16)*	
Couples	**422.58**	**176.09**	**39.04**	**77.07**	**65.72**	**26.28**	**35.89**	**2.50**	*7626*
	(5.29)	*(3.25)*	*(3.44)*	*(1.77)*	*(0.85)*	*(2.02)*	*(1.36)*	*(1.18)*	
50–54	**521.83**	367.26	72.47	29.03	2.44	21.84	27.55	1.26	*1518*
	(12.19)	*(8.29)*	*(9.94)*	*(2.36)*	*(0.40)*	*(1.32)*	*(2.87)*	*(0.55)*	
55–59	**485.53**	288.83	47.26	72.64	9.18	28.60	34.47	4.55	*1698*
	(10.22)	*(7.65)*	*(4.44)*	*(4.79)*	*(0.72)*	*(1.54)*	*(2.84)*	*(3.95)*	
60–64	**435.75**	150.07	46.53	104.54	49.29	41.61	37.46	6.26	*1285*
	(17.66)	*(6.59)*	*(12.65)*	*(4.50)*	*(1.64)*	*(7.99)*	*(3.02)*	*(4.92)*	
65–69	**368.14**	33.49	25.99	116.91	134.72	19.15	37.37	0.52	*1203*
	(10.93)	*(2.89)*	*(7.57)*	*(5.27)*	*(1.51)*	*(3.85)*	*(2.62)*	*(0.18)*	
70–74	**321.00**	15.13	6.41	88.04	143.04	25.56	42.36	0.47	*926*
	(14.19)	*(2.05)*	*(2.22)*	*(4.57)*	*(1.42)*	*(11.29)*	*(5.50)*	*(0.46)*	
75–79	**290.15**	3.88	3.66	81.88	140.31	17.01	43.18	0.24	*589*
	(8.08)	*(1.22)*	*(1.10)*	*(5.10)*	*(1.75)*	*(1.65)*	*(4.59)*	*(0.14)*	
80+	**282.39**	2.17	1.29	72.96	139.69	22.48	42.72	1.08	*407*
	(9.45)	*(0.88)*	*(0.90)*	*(5.87)*	*(2.10)*	*(1.83)*	*(6.15)*	*(1.02)*	

Note: Standard errors are shown in parentheses.

Table 3A.3a. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported employment status: men and women

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Men and women									
Aged 50–54	**463.36**	**321.41**	**62.36**	**25.79**	**2.18**	**24.66**	**25.33**	**1.62**	*1931*
Employed	509.83	434.31	19.75	18.38	1.27	10.80	24.28	1.04	*1234*
Self-employed	546.36	126.21	361.09	21.39	1.88	8.35	25.66	1.77	*217*
Retired	414.06	133.49	25.11	151.98	8.42	42.94	52.13	0.00	*79*
Unemployed	[169.90]	[63.74]	[34.84]	[12.39]	[1.54]	[48.27]	[8.60]	[0.51]	*45*
Long-term sick	194.72	48.39	3.54	15.30	3.18	118.96	5.35	0.00	*162*
Other	373.60	173.01	61.59	39.70	5.28	44.48	41.81	7.72	*194*
Aged 55–59	**431.71**	**253.62**	**40.65**	**62.90**	**8.08**	**30.51**	**32.04**	**3.91**	*2139*
Employed	495.62	397.07	12.95	43.85	6.03	10.64	24.67	0.41	*1120*
Self-employed	511.41	97.06	283.36	42.00	8.11	11.13	36.82	32.94	*208*
Retired	385.59	89.08	5.82	184.83	10.79	26.60	67.03	1.44	*252*
Unemployed	[281.29]	[56.92]	[25.52]	[96.12]	[2.91]	[41.18]	[58.64]	[0.00]	*46*
Long-term sick	233.42	50.82	6.83	37.04	7.07	124.23	7.00	0.44	*250*
Other	351.29	146.39	28.01	68.15	16.63	43.72	46.95	1.44	*263*
Aged 60–64	**385.22**	**129.37**	**39.35**	**90.30**	**49.37**	**38.98**	**32.21**	**5.63**	*1659*
Employed	454.87	320.97	3.90	56.26	36.90	6.96	28.33	1.56	*443*
Self-employed	705.95	77.52	414.92	72.49	30.96	11.18	34.08	64.80	*105*
Retired	316.55	51.40	15.98	118.95	62.71	27.55	38.28	1.69	*747*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*27*
Long-term sick	317.01	46.06	3.58	41.51	23.81	192.92	8.93	0.19	*162*
Other	392.04	84.27	39.31	123.39	66.47	34.85	41.77	1.98	*175*

Table 3A.3b. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported employment status: men

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	*N*
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Men									
Aged 50–54	**477.24**	**347.04**	**58.42**	**21.83**	**0.98**	**23.91**	**24.14**	**0.92**	*873*
Employed	539.85	483.61	6.50	13.89	0.68	10.18	24.58	0.40	*562*
Self-employed	482.95	124.19	314.60	15.72	0.46	5.64	22.15	0.19	*144*
Retired	[408.03]	[124.26]	[24.23]	[151.38]	[4.71]	[45.06]	[58.38]	[0.00]	*45*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*28*
Long-term sick	194.04	38.37	0.00	14.51	2.84	131.93	6.38	0.00	*71*
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*23*
Aged 55–59	**461.33**	**277.11**	**52.23**	**59.24**	**4.44**	**28.85**	**32.56**	**6.92**	*1005*
Employed	523.30	451.67	3.05	32.63	2.99	8.58	24.28	0.09	*543*
Self-employed	531.17	85.35	310.18	39.86	7.16	10.00	35.89	42.73	*155*
Retired	421.08	89.36	5.17	218.88	3.30	24.53	77.86	1.98	*120*
Unemployed	[321.49]	[68.41]	[27.10]	[114.70]	[3.50]	[39.48]	[68.30]	[0.00]	*36*
Long-term sick	207.09	33.61	1.42	27.48	5.69	134.68	3.78	0.43	*122*
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*29*
Aged 60–64	**412.04**	**166.65**	**49.97**	**89.44**	**15.13**	**55.46**	**34.05**	**1.35**	*793*
Employed	474.71	371.82	2.06	48.80	12.99	6.40	31.11	1.53	*266*
Self-employed	682.85	86.70	462.01	71.16	16.38	12.24	34.35	0.00	*79*
Retired	340.57	61.82	8.19	159.62	16.70	36.72	55.48	2.05	*266*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*27*
Long-term sick	313.60	36.67	0.29	42.00	14.63	215.94	3.85	0.23	*130*
Other	366.26	107.40	6.02	151.62	20.85	54.01	26.36	0.00	*25*

Table 3A.3c. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported employment status: women

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Women									
Aged 50–54	**449.77**	**296.31**	**66.23**	**29.68**	**3.35**	**25.40**	**26.49**	**2.31**	*1058*
Employed	480.27	385.77	32.79	22.80	1.86	11.40	23.98	1.67	*672*
Self-employed	693.06	130.87	468.64	34.53	5.17	14.63	33.79	5.43	*73*
Retired	[424.20]	[148.99]	[26.59]	[152.98]	[14.65]	[39.38]	[41.61]	[0.00]	*34*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*17*
Long-term sick	195.39	58.25	7.01	16.07	3.51	106.20	4.34	0.00	*91*
Other	392.80	182.79	71.06	41.02	6.13	42.32	44.13	5.34	*171*
Aged 55–59	**402.31**	**230.31**	**29.16**	**66.53**	**11.70**	**32.16**	**31.53**	**0.92**	*1134*
Employed	466.80	340.23	23.26	55.52	9.18	12.78	25.08	0.75	*577*
Self-employed	446.95	135.25	195.88	48.95	11.21	14.81	39.86	0.99	*53*
Retired	349.53	88.79	6.47	150.25	18.40	28.71	56.03	0.89	*132*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*10*
Long-term sick	262.31	69.70	12.75	47.53	8.58	112.76	10.53	0.45	*128*
Other	348.53	150.95	27.57	65.42	16.55	41.84	44.56	1.64	*234*
Aged 60–64	**359.43**	**93.54**	**29.15**	**91.14**	**82.30**	**23.13**	**30.44**	**9.74**	*866*
Employed	423.87	241.56	6.76	67.91	74.24	7.83	23.97	1.60	*177*
Self-employed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*26*
Retired	302.58	45.33	20.51	95.29	89.47	22.22	28.27	1.48	*481*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*0*
Long-term sick	[331.66]	[86.41]	[17.75]	[39.43]	[63.22]	[94.07]	[30.78]	[0.00]	*32*
Other	396.29	80.45	44.80	118.74	73.99	31.69	44.31	2.30	*150*

Table 3A.4a. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported activity status:ª singles

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Single men									
Aged 50–54	**235.82**	**142.55**	**29.17**	**20.04**	**0.00**	**31.96**	**12.10**	**0.00**	*150*
Working	294.58	221.21	48.53	8.59	0.00	4.95	11.31	0.00	*92*
Not working	141.05	15.71	–2.05	38.52	0.00	75.51	13.37	0.00	*58*
Aged 55–59	**251.80**	**133.23**	**23.69**	**30.88**	**0.00**	**33.76**	**29.11**	**1.13**	*179*
Working	335.88	246.16	44.85	23.05	0.00	2.80	18.93	0.09	*95*
Not working	157.69	6.81	0.00	39.65	0.00	68.43	40.51	2.29	*84*
Aged 60–64	**241.58**	**97.12**	**22.46**	**53.79**	**1.06**	**48.96**	**17.85**	**0.33**	*137*
Working	350.66	237.72	56.45	39.65	0.00	1.74	15.10	0.00	*54*
Not working	169.48	4.17	0.00	63.14	1.76	80.18	19.67	0.55	*83*
Single women									
Aged 50–54	**231.44**	**139.94**	**17.73**	**7.88**	**2.02**	**38.62**	**19.95**	**5.30**	*263*
Working	280.34	204.15	26.72	5.24	0.77	13.06	22.42	7.98	*174*
Not working	134.92	13.23	0.00	13.09	4.47	89.06	15.07	0.00	*89*
Aged 55–59	**195.44**	**101.49**	**7.08**	**19.66**	**7.12**	**41.65**	**16.79**	**1.65**	*262*
Working	240.75	176.34	10.76	12.03	7.02	15.57	16.82	2.19	*146*
Not working	137.07	5.06	2.33	29.49	7.25	75.25	16.75	0.94	*116*
Aged 60–64	**195.23**	**33.39**	**9.98**	**34.09**	**82.89**	**17.15**	**12.08**	**5.64**	*237*
Working	268.14	109.78	29.28	19.66	80.10	6.90	10.93	11.49	*64*
Not working	167.31	4.14	2.58	39.62	83.96	21.08	12.52	3.40	*173*

a. Working is defined as employed or self-employed. Not working is any other status.

Table 3A.4b. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported activity status: couples

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Men in couples									
Aged 50–54	**528.31**	**390.30**	**64.61**	**22.20**	**1.19**	**22.21**	**26.69**	**1.11**	**723**
Working	564.39	440.51	71.61	15.13	0.73	9.93	26.06	0.42	*614*
Not working	326.83	109.98	25.51	61.67	3.76	90.75	30.18	4.98	*109*
Aged 55–59	**511.03**	**311.24**	**58.99**	**65.96**	**5.49**	**27.68**	**33.38**	**8.29**	**826**
Working	557.39	391.42	75.88	36.15	4.59	9.94	28.22	11.19	*603*
Not working	383.93	91.40	12.70	147.69	7.95	76.32	47.52	0.34	*223*
Aged 60–64	**451.73**	**182.84**	**56.38**	**97.74**	**18.40**	**56.97**	**37.82**	**1.59**	**656**
Working	558.57	320.41	118.80	56.94	16.65	9.00	35.36	1.42	*291*
Not working	366.47	73.07	6.56	130.29	19.79	95.24	39.78	1.72	*365*
Women in couples									
Aged 50–54	**515.03**	**343.06**	**80.72**	**36.19**	**3.74**	**21.45**	**28.45**	**1.42**	**795**
Working	561.25	404.03	88.23	29.05	2.57	11.35	25.62	0.40	*571*
Not working	393.25	182.39	60.94	55.02	6.83	48.07	35.89	4.10	*224*
Aged 55–59	**459.42**	**265.88**	**35.25**	**79.47**	**12.96**	**29.54**	**35.59**	**0.72**	**872**
Working	527.36	363.78	45.16	66.88	10.00	12.22	28.95	0.37	*484*
Not working	372.75	140.98	22.62	95.54	16.73	51.63	44.08	1.16	*388*
Aged 60–64	**418.80**	**115.28**	**36.08**	**111.76**	**82.08**	**25.30**	**37.07**	**11.23**	**629**
Working	560.09	265.39	44.09	91.35	72.23	8.24	31.57	47.21	*139*
Not working	378.60	72.58	33.80	117.56	84.88	30.15	38.64	0.99	*490*

Table 3A.5a. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported health: singles

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	N
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Men									
Aged 50–59	**244.07**	**137.70**	**26.48**	**25.60**	**0.00**	**32.97**	**20.75**	**0.57**	*328*
Excellent/Vgood	294.77	184.08	33.26	35.36	0.00	10.89	31.17	0.00	*130*
Good	257.20	156.78	34.86	28.75	0.00	22.61	14.20	0.00	*98*
Fair/Poor	161.66	55.18	8.77	9.10	0.00	73.53	13.15	1.92	*100*
Aged 60–74	**207.87**	**38.16**	**9.29**	**56.14**	**64.43**	**23.72**	**15.86**	**0.27**	*445*
Excellent/Vgood	259.49	71.02	17.60	76.95	60.30	9.65	23.67	0.31	*161*
Good	193.14	24.45	7.90	54.48	76.95	13.79	15.04	0.53	*129*
Fair/Poor	165.55	14.87	1.64	35.47	58.27	47.01	8.28	0.00	*155*
Aged 75+	**169.04**	**0.46**	**0.61**	**46.49**	**90.12**	**11.59**	**19.57**	**0.20**	*350*
Excellent/Vgood	181.24	0.18	0.52	60.81	89.86	7.12	22.51	0.25	*116*
Good	168.15	1.47	0.83	48.31	90.34	8.83	18.36	0.00	*92*
Fair/Poor	159.11	0.05	0.54	32.95	90.21	17.26	17.83	0.28	*142*
Women									
Aged 50–59	**215.02**	**122.33**	**12.82**	**13.36**	**4.39**	**40.00**	**18.51**	**3.61**	*524*
Excellent/Vgood	277.84	179.27	25.53	13.48	5.54	18.63	29.89	5.50	*204*
Good	178.16	111.61	6.98	12.21	4.08	31.88	7.09	4.30	*145*
Fair/Poor	172.72	64.83	2.89	14.18	3.30	71.84	14.84	0.83	*175*
Aged 60–74	**176.27**	**12.38**	**6.12**	**34.32**	**88.36**	**16.86**	**16.39**	**1.83**	*924*
Excellent/Vgood	195.96	22.25	3.71	44.27	89.48	9.71	24.89	1.64	*349*
Good	173.09	7.66	10.91	35.73	87.89	14.45	15.32	1.13	*306*
Fair/Poor	154.00	4.71	3.93	19.70	87.41	28.94	6.45	2.87	*269*
Aged 75+	**152.97**	**0.08**	**–0.39**	**19.75**	**94.27**	**19.64**	**19.25**	**0.37**	*933*
Excellent/Vgood	137.55	0.15	–1.16	22.04	82.14	13.57	19.92	0.89	*306*
Good	182.08	0.04	0.00	23.01	114.01	18.21	26.80	0.01	*301*
Fair/Poor	140.97	0.04	–0.01	14.43	87.80	27.00	11.50	0.20	*326*

Table 3A.5b. Unequivalised total family income and sources of family income, by age and self-reported health: couples

	Total income	Earnings	Self-emp.	Private pension	State pension	Benefits	Asset	Other	*N*
	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	£ p.w.	
Men									
Aged 50–59	**520.31**	**352.68**	**62.00**	**43.10**	**3.24**	**24.84**	**29.90**	**4.54**	*1547*
Excellent/Vgood	583.03	395.50	75.10	48.77	2.83	12.41	40.61	7.81	*768*
Good	502.52	362.94	60.62	35.22	1.96	16.08	23.82	1.88	*486*
Fair/Poor	381.31	220.30	29.07	41.06	6.49	72.98	11.25	0.17	*293*
Aged 60–74	**392.39**	**89.65**	**31.91**	**105.85**	**92.87**	**33.54**	**37.74**	**0.83**	*1792*
Excellent/Vgood	423.22	113.45	30.40	128.89	88.94	10.80	49.93	0.79	*761*
Good	386.57	94.05	19.56	111.36	97.62	27.46	35.33	1.20	*524*
Fair/Poor	351.12	48.52	47.13	64.72	93.96	74.79	21.51	0.50	*507*
Aged 75+	**291.39**	**3.79**	**3.06**	**80.90**	**139.35**	**18.30**	**45.10**	**0.88**	*607*
Excellent/Vgood	318.17	5.95	5.17	97.64	139.50	8.40	61.41	0.09	*191*
Good	292.13	1.30	3.99	83.74	139.44	18.07	43.44	2.15	*202*
Fair/Poor	267.10	4.25	0.32	63.47	139.14	27.24	32.30	0.39	*214*
Women									
Aged 50–59	**488.00**	**305.50**	**58.84**	**57.11**	**8.20**	**25.35**	**31.92**	**1.08**	*1665*
Excellent/Vgood	540.52	345.50	75.11	60.44	8.73	12.78	37.40	0.56	*829*
Good	476.88	300.72	51.65	61.04	7.20	22.18	32.14	1.95	*530*
Fair/Poor	359.28	200.77	25.73	40.60	8.52	66.69	15.97	1.00	*306*
Aged 60–74	**369.03**	**56.62**	**24.09**	**102.77**	**115.18**	**25.59**	**39.92**	**4.86**	*1615*
Excellent/Vgood	414.02	73.58	28.15	124.23	113.36	10.22	54.68	9.80	*685*
Good	334.10	49.29	20.50	99.64	117.06	17.05	30.10	0.47	*528*
Fair/Poor	337.34	36.96	21.81	69.74	115.83	63.50	27.38	2.13	*402*
Aged 75+	**280.32**	**2.33**	**2.22**	**74.38**	**141.00**	**20.40**	**39.87**	**0.11**	*388*
Excellent/Vgood	315.27	5.13	5.74	98.03	142.36	14.91	48.95	0.15	*109*
Good	287.49	2.40	1.52	83.93	140.56	15.74	43.18	0.16	*140*
Fair/Poor	244.85	0.00	0.08	45.65	140.34	29.56	29.18	0.03	*139*

Table 3A.6. Ownership of financial assets, by age and gender

	Sav+curr accounts	ISAs	TESSAs	Premium bonds	National Savings	PEPs	Shares	Trusts	Bonds	Other savings	Credit card	Private debt	Other debt
						Percentage of group holding asset, by type of asset							
All	**91**	**43**	**16**	**35**	**7**	**18**	**33**	**10**	**10**	**11**	**19**	**1**	**23**
50–54	90	47	15	38	5	17	39	9	7	20	33	2	43
55–59	91	49	19	38	7	22	40	13	12	19	29	2	34
60–64	92	48	19	37	7	23	37	12	13	13	23	1	26
65–69	93	49	19	35	8	21	31	11	13	7	15	1	16
70–74	92	41	17	34	8	16	28	9	11	6	11	1	11
75–79	90	36	14	33	9	12	24	8	10	3	6	0	6
80+	91	24	9	28	11	7	20	4	8	2	3	0	3
Men	**92**	**45**	**17**	**37**	**8**	**19**	**35**	**10**	**10**	**13**	**21**	**1**	**25**
50–54	91	47	16	38	5	17	42	10	5	20	33	2	42
55–59	90	49	19	39	7	22	41	12	11	22	30	2	36
60–64	91	46	17	38	7	24	36	12	13	14	25	1	29
65–69	94	50	20	35	6	21	33	10	13	8	17	1	17
70–74	93	44	18	38	9	19	30	9	12	6	12	1	11
75–79	91	40	16	37	10	14	27	10	12	4	7	0	6
80+	92	28	9	33	13	10	23	7	8	3	4	1	3
Women	**91**	**42**	**16**	**34**	**7**	**16**	**31**	**9**	**10**	**10**	**18**	**1**	**21**
50–54	89	48	15	37	4	16	37	8	8	20	33	2	45
55–59	91	49	19	37	7	23	39	14	12	16	28	2	31
60–64	92	50	21	36	6	23	37	12	14	12	21	1	24
65–69	93	48	19	34	9	20	30	11	13	7	14	0	15
70–74	91	39	15	31	8	14	26	8	9	5	10	1	11
75–79	89	33	12	31	9	10	21	7	8	2	5	0	6
80+	91	21	9	25	10	6	18	3	8	2	3	0	3

Table 3A.7. Net financial wealth and net physical wealth, by age and gender

	Net financial wealth					Net financial wealth + physical wealth					N
	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	% > 0[b]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
All	**86.7**	**1.5**	**12.0**	**44.5**	**43.4**	**88.4**	**2.2**	**17.5**	**70.7**	**82.5**	*11135*
50–54	78.3	0.3	10.5	43.2	39.9	81.9	1.0	18.6	73.4	98.6	*1931*
55–59	82.5	1.5	17.0	57.3	53.8	84.9	2.7	25.0	95.8	109.0	*2139*
60–64	86.2	2.0	19.1	54.8	48.9	88.2	3.2	25.9	88.0	96.7	*1659*
65–69	89.8	2.5	14.6	53.4	48.8	90.9	3.2	19.9	84.3	84.0	*1688*
70–74	91.9	2.0	11.0	38.9	39.2	92.8	2.2	14.4	54.0	60.7	*1439*
75–79	92.3	2.0	9.9	36.0	37.1	92.9	2.5	12.0	50.0	53.9	*1072*
80+	93.5	1.7	6.1	22.7	29.9	93.8	2.0	7.5	31.1	42.2	*1207*
Men	**86.3**	**1.9**	**14.0**	**50.0**	**47.1**	**88.5**	**2.9**	**20.5**	**78.8**	**90.4**	*5077*
50–54	78.8	0.5	11.8	43.4	36.3	83.3	1.8	21.4	76.5	102.1	*873*
55–59	81.8	1.5	17.9	58.0	56.0	84.4	2.6	27.5	96.5	111.9	*1005*
60–64	84.8	1.8	19.5	57.5	52.5	87.1	3.0	27.5	94.0	98.9	*793*
65–69	89.0	2.6	16.1	55.9	50.4	90.5	3.3	21.0	84.6	90.4	*791*
70–74	93.7	2.4	13.0	45.2	44.3	94.5	3.0	17.0	68.0	70.2	*657*
75–79	93.2	3.0	12.4	47.9	48.0	94.0	3.5	17.4	66.0	66.9	*488*
80+	94.6	2.4	9.0	32.5	41.3	94.8	2.6	10.0	43.4	54.3	*470*
Women	**87.0**	**1.3**	**10.5**	**40.3**	**40.2**	**88.4**	**2.0**	**15.0**	**64.1**	**75.5**	*6058*
50–54	77.8	0.2	9.1	43.0	43.5	80.6	0.7	16.5	69.5	95.3	*1058*
55–59	83.2	1.4	16.2	55.0	51.7	85.4	2.8	24.0	95.5	106.2	*1134*
60–64	87.5	2.8	18.7	53.7	45.4	89.3	4.0	25.3	82.0	94.6	*866*
65–69	90.5	2.5	13.7	50.7	47.4	91.2	3.1	18.7	84.2	78.2	*897*
70–74	90.4	1.3	9.3	34.7	34.9	91.4	1.8	12.0	44.8	52.7	*782*
75–79	91.7	1.5	7.4	29.0	28.9	92.0	2.0	9.5	40.0	44.2	*584*
80+	92.9	1.0	5.0	19.5	23.6	93.2	1.3	6.0	25.7	35.5	*737*

a. Percentage of people with net financial wealth greater than zero.
b. Percentage of people with net financial plus physical wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.8. Net housing wealth, by age and gender

	All individuals					Individuals with net housing wealth >0				
	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
All	**0.0**	**52.5**	**100.0**	**73.2**	**72.8**	**45.2**	**77.5**	**125.0**	**100.7**	*11135*
50–54	10.0	54.0	100.0	71.3	77.0	43.0	73.3	117.5	93.1	*1931*
55–59	13.0	60.0	108.0	78.2	77.4	47.5	78.3	125.0	101.2	*2139*
60–64	17.0	58.5	105.5	79.5	77.3	45.0	76.3	125.0	102.9	*1659*
65–69	0.0	57.5	105.0	76.9	74.6	46.0	80.0	125.0	103.1	*1688*
70–74	0.0	47.5	97.0	67.9	69.8	45.0	75.0	120.0	97.4	*1439*
75–79	0.0	47.0	100.0	66.6	67.0	45.0	80.0	125.0	99.4	*1072*
80+	0.0	40.0	100.0	67.7	59.0	50.0	90.0	145.0	114.7	*1207*
Men	**7.5**	**55.1**	**100.0**	**75.2**	**76.1**	**45.0**	**75.0**	**123.5**	**99.0**	*5077*
50–54	19.5	57.5	100.5	74.3	80.2	43.3	75.0	115.0	93.1	*873*
55–59	12.5	60.0	102.5	78.5	77.4	49.5	77.5	125.0	101.8	*1005*
60–64	20.0	60.0	105.0	83.4	79.4	46.0	77.5	125.0	105.0	*793*
65–69	5.0	55.0	100.5	78.2	75.7	45.0	77.5	125.0	103.3	*791*
70–74	0.0	50.0	95.0	70.4	74.8	45.0	70.0	110.0	94.3	*657*
75–79	0.0	47.5	95.5	65.8	72.4	40.0	75.0	120.0	90.9	*488*
80+	0.0	45.0	100.0	67.2	64.0	50.0	80.0	125.0	105.0	*470*
Women	**0.0**	**50.0**	**100.0**	**71.5**	**70.0**	**47.5**	**80.0**	**126.0**	**102.3**	*6058*
50–54	0.0	50.0	95.8	68.4	73.9	42.5	70.0	120.0	93.2	*1058*
55–59	13.5	60.0	110.0	77.8	77.5	46.0	79.0	125.0	100.5	*1134*
60–64	0.1	55.0	105.5	75.7	75.2	45.0	75.0	125.0	100.8	*866*
65–69	0.0	60.0	105.0	75.8	73.6	50.0	80.0	130.0	102.9	*897*
70–74	0.0	45.0	100.0	65.8	65.7	45.0	80.0	125.0	100.3	*782*
75–79	0.0	45.0	100.0	67.1	62.9	50.0	84.0	135.0	106.7	*584*
80+	0.0	35.0	100.0	67.9	56.2	55.0	95.0	150.0	120.8	*737*

a. Percentage of individuals with net housing wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.9. Net housing wealth, by age, gender and marital status

	All individuals					Individuals with housing wealth > 0				N
	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Single men	**0.0**	**38.0**	**100.0**	**67.6**	**56.8**	**60.0**	**95.0**	**150.0**	**119.3**	*1125*
50–54	0.0	30.0	105.0	66.0	57.5	60.0	100.0	148.0	115.4	*150*
55–59	0.0	38.0	100.0	69.3	56.0	60.5	90.0	150.0	125.0	*179*
60–64	0.0	55.0	100.0	76.2	61.4	71.0	95.0	152.0	124.1	*137*
65–69	0.0	27.0	95.0	63.5	52.7	50.0	82.0	150.0	120.4	*164*
70–74	0.0	38.0	100.0	63.5	58.2	50.0	90.0	125.0	109.2	*145*
75–79	0.0	38.5	92.0	60.9	59.7	45.0	80.0	130.0	102.0	*137*
80+	0.0	32.0	112.0	71.2	53.7	70.0	105.0	180.0	132.5	*213*
Single women	**0.0**	**50.0**	**120.0**	**78.5**	**60.6**	**65.0**	**100.0**	**170.0**	**129.7**	*2384*
50–54	0.0	32.0	112.0	64.5	56.0	54.0	100.0	154.0	115.3	*263*
55–59	0.0	60.0	125.0	83.2	67.9	60.0	95.0	150.0	122.6	*262*
60–64	0.0	65.0	140.0	96.2	68.2	60.0	112.0	180.0	141.5	*237*
65–69	0.0	75.0	136.0	92.0	71.1	70.0	100.0	170.0	129.4	*321*
70–74	0.0	45.0	125.0	76.3	60.1	65.0	101.5	175.0	127.1	*368*
75–79	0.0	50.0	110.0	75.9	58.0	68.0	100.0	170.0	130.9	*346*
80+	0.0	40.0	110.0	73.4	54.8	60.0	100.0	175.0	133.9	*587*
Couples	**17.5**	**55.0**	**100.0**	**72.4**	**79.1**	**43.3**	**70.6**	**115.0**	**91.7**	*7626*
50–54	22.0	56.4	100.0	72.9	82.2	41.0	69.5	110.0	89.3	*1518*
55–59	24.5	60.5	105.0	78.6	81.3	47.3	75.0	122.8	96.8	*1698*
60–64	22.5	57.5	100.0	76.9	80.8	45.0	71.5	120.0	95.3	*1285*
65–69	17.5	57.5	100.0	75.1	78.7	44.0	75.0	125.0	95.4	*1203*
70–74	0.1	47.5	90.0	65.3	75.5	40.0	66.0	100.0	86.7	*926*
75–79	0.0	50.0	90.0	61.8	74.3	40.0	65.0	100.0	83.2	*589*
80+	0.0	42.5	85.0	56.4	68.6	40.0	65.0	100.0	82.2	*407*

a. Percentage of individuals with net housing wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.10. Total non-pension wealth, by age and gender

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
All	**93.2**	**24.5**	**84.3**	**181.3**	**155.7**	*11135*
50–54	90.4	32.0	86.8	174.8	170.0	*1931*
55–59	92.1	37.5	100.0	203.9	187.2	*2139*
60–64	92.6	38.3	99.7	198.5	176.2	*1659*
65–69	94.3	32.1	90.8	195.7	160.9	*1688*
70–74	95.0	18.4	73.0	160.0	128.6	*1439*
75–79	94.7	10.0	72.8	156.0	120.5	*1072*
80+	95.5	5.0	57.0	151.0	109.9	*1207*
Men	**93.5**	**31.0**	**89.0**	**187.5**	**165.6**	*5077*
50–54	91.9	36.5	92.5	175.2	176.4	*873*
55–59	92.0	38.5	100.2	202.0	190.4	*1005*
60–64	91.7	40.0	100.6	216.5	182.3	*793*
65–69	93.6	32.0	92.9	198.5	168.7	*791*
70–74	96.6	28.0	76.0	169.5	140.7	*657*
75–79	95.9	16.5	79.2	176.5	132.8	*488*
80+	96.6	7.5	65.8	152.4	121.6	*470*
Women	**92.9**	**18.3**	**81.0**	**175.9**	**147.0**	*6058*
50–54	88.9	24.9	81.0	174.0	163.7	*1058*
55–59	92.3	36.0	99.3	205.5	184.1	*1134*
60–64	93.5	38.0	96.5	192.7	170.3	*866*
65–69	94.9	32.1	90.5	193.0	153.9	*897*
70–74	93.6	9.6	70.5	152.7	118.6	*782*
75–79	93.9	6.0	67.8	148.4	111.3	*584*
80+	94.9	4.0	52.1	151.0	103.4	*737*

a. Percentage of individuals with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.11. Total non-pension wealth, by age, gender and marital status

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Single men	**88.0**	**2.5**	**60.0**	**152.0**	**118.9**	*1125*
50–54	82.6	0.2	65.5	149.9	153.5	*150*
55–59	83.5	2.0	60.4	160.0	122.5	*179*
60–64	85.2	2.0	76.5	166.5	137.3	*137*
65–69	85.7	1.3	46.0	147.0	100.9	*164*
70–74	94.5	7.5	66.0	152.0	100.2	*145*
75–79	91.8	4.2	51.9	130.0	104.1	*137*
80+	94.4	3.7	50.5	152.7	106.2	*213*
Single women	**88.6**	**2.6**	**66.0**	**162.7**	**113.7**	*2384*
50–54	72.9	0.0	47.7	140.0	98.6	*263*
55–59	80.0	0.5	74.4	170.1	134.4	*262*
60–64	88.2	5.7	81.3	173.5	130.0	*237*
65–69	91.4	9.0	96.0	176.6	133.0	*321*
70–74	89.7	2.0	70.8	168.1	108.0	*368*
75–79	91.3	2.1	67.8	148.4	109.1	*346*
80+	94.0	3.0	50.0	156.0	105.1	*587*
Couples	**95.4**	**39.4**	**92.9**	**192.0**	**174.5**	*7626*
50–54	93.8	41.8	94.3	183.0	182.2	*1518*
55–59	94.9	46.5	106.0	222.2	202.2	*1698*
60–64	94.2	45.0	104.8	212.8	188.9	*1285*
65–69	96.3	42.6	95.7	212.8	176.8	*1203*
70–74	97.1	29.5	76.0	160.0	141.1	*926*
75–79	97.5	25.3	80.5	168.6	131.3	*589*
80+	98.4	15.1	65.8	149.5	119.7	*407*

a. Percentage of individuals with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.12a. Total non-pension wealth, by age and self-reported employment status: men and women

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Men and women						
Aged 50–54	**90.4**	**32.0**	**86.8**	**174.8**	**170.0**	*1931*
Employed	94.9	40.0	87.1	166.2	139.5	*1234*
Self-employed	96.9	74.1	138.1	328.5	351.6	*217*
Retired	97.4	74.0	181.4	320.5	293.6	*79*
Unemployed	[62.1]	[0.0]	[0.6]	[112.1]	[89.8]	*45*
Long-term sick	58.9	–0.1	1.0	44.0	35.0	*162*
Other	83.1	5.0	89.0	214.0	238.1	*194*
Aged 55–59	**92.1**	**37.5**	**100.0**	**203.9**	**187.2**	*2139*
Employed	96.1	45.0	100.9	183.5	166.6	*1120*
Self-employed	97.4	78.4	171.5	336.5	285.4	*208*
Retired	97.2	83.5	177.0	311.0	279.7	*252*
Unemployed	[82.7]	[0.2]	[18.0]	[126.5]	[237.9]	*46*
Long-term sick	69.2	0.0	23.4	70.4	58.6	*250*
Other	89.9	27.5	93.0	238.5	225.1	*263*
Aged 60–64	**92.6**	**38.3**	**99.7**	**198.5**	**176.2**	*1659*
Employed	94.9	42.9	94.8	177.8	159.5	*443*
Self-employed	99.1	77.5	179.5	342.2	390.9	*105*
Retired	92.6	45.5	113.0	228.5	174.2	*747*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	*27*
Long-term sick	81.9	1.1	35.4	82.8	62.3	*162*
Other	93.4	38.5	109.5	223.6	219.9	*175*

a. Percentage with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.12b. Total non-pension wealth, by age and self-reported employment status: men

	% > 0ᵃ	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Men						
Aged 50–54	**91.9**	**36.5**	**92.5**	**175.2**	**176.4**	*873*
Employed	95.9	43.0	91.3	165.5	146.8	*562*
Self-employed	97.3	73.1	137.0	283.0	340.4	*144*
Retired	[98.1]	[94.0]	[187.1]	[332.1]	[314.6]	*45*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	*28*
Long-term sick	64.7	–0.1	1.8	44.9	35.1	*71*
Other	–	–	–	–	–	*23*
Aged 55–59	**92.0**	**38.5**	**100.2**	**202.0**	**190.4**	*1005*
Employed	95.8	48.6	100.9	180.0	162.1	*543*
Self-employed	96.6	75.0	167.4	293.5	289.7	*155*
Retired	98.3	86.0	180.5	317.0	291.4	*120*
Unemployed	[81.2]	[0.2]	[18.0]	[111.5]	[254.5]	*36*
Long-term sick	68.0	0.0	14.3	60.4	49.6	*122*
Other	–	–	–	–	–	*29*
Aged 60–64	**91.7**	**40.0**	**100.6**	**216.5**	**182.3**	*793*
Employed	94.9	45.0	98.5	184.9	164.4	*266*
Self-employed	98.8	69.3	172.0	302.0	333.4	*79*
Retired	93.1	65.0	139.5	299.5	221.7	*266*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	*27*
Long-term sick	79.0	0.2	33.0	81.5	57.3	*130*
Other	–	–	–	–	–	*25*

a. Percentage with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.12c. Total non-pension wealth, by age and self-reported employment status: women

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Women						
Aged 50–54	**88.9**	**24.9**	**81.0**	**174.0**	**163.7**	*1058*
Employed	93.9	35.5	85.5	166.2	132.4	*672*
Self-employed	96.0	79.2	149.0	378.9	377.6	*73*
Retired	[96.2]	[57.6]	[160.8]	[320.5]	[258.3]	*34*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	*17*
Long-term sick	53.2	–0.1	0.1	44.0	34.9	*91*
Other	86.0	7.8	91.7	228.8	254.6	*171*
Aged 55–59	**92.3**	**36.0**	**99.3**	**205.5**	**184.1**	*1134*
Employed	96.5	43.9	100.5	183.8	171.4	*577*
Self-employed	100.0	117.9	173.5	376.1	271.5	*53*
Retired	96.1	77.4	173.8	305.5	267.8	*132*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	*10*
Long-term sick	70.5	0.0	40.9	90.2	68.4	*128*
Other	89.9	27.5	91.4	238.5	214.1	*234*
Aged 60–64	**93.5**	**38.0**	**96.5**	**192.7**	**170.3**	*866*
Employed	95.0	39.3	93.2	173.5	151.9	*177*
Self-employed	–	–	–	–	–	*26*
Retired	92.4	37.4	99.7	192.8	146.7	*481*
Unemployed	–	–	–	–	–	*0*
Long-term sick	[94.5]	[6.3]	[49.5]	[89.1]	[83.6]	*32*
Other	93.8	38.0	101.8	203.0	215.5	*150*

a. Percentage with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.13a. Total non-pension wealth, by age and self-reported health status: men and women

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Men and women						
Aged 50–59	**91.2**	**34.3**	**92.0**	**188.6**	**178.3**	*4064*
Excellent/Very good	95.9	54.5	119.9	233.1	230.8	*1931*
Good	93.1	33.0	86.1	177.4	158.5	*1259*
Fair/Poor	77.7	0.2	45.0	114.5	87.1	*874*
Aged 60–74	**93.9**	**31.0**	**88.0**	**186.0**	**156.2**	*4776*
Excellent/Very good	96.5	56.0	124.0	237.1	206.1	*1956*
Good	95.5	32.3	87.7	174.1	143.7	*1487*
Fair/Poor	88.0	2.9	49.2	117.5	95.6	*1333*
Aged 75+	**95.1**	**6.0**	**65.0**	**152.7**	**114.9**	*2278*
Excellent/Very good	96.1	13.0	96.0	188.9	139.7	*722*
Good	96.1	10.0	73.1	165.1	124.1	*735*
Fair/Poor	93.3	3.0	33.0	104.1	84.0	*821*

a. Percentage with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.13b. Total non-pension wealth, by age and self-reported health status: men

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Men						
Aged 50–59	**91.9**	**37.8**	**96.0**	**191.2**	**183.3**	*1875*
Excellent/Very good	95.4	59.3	120.0	226.4	231.2	*898*
Good	94.7	42.5	91.7	185.5	176.1	*584*
Fair/Poor	79.6	0.5	45.2	114.5	81.8	*393*
Aged 60–74	**93.7**	**33.8**	**90.4**	**193.2**	**165.9**	*2237*
Excellent/Very good	96.6	58.0	125.0	246.4	218.3	*922*
Good	95.9	42.0	94.4	188.0	158.5	*653*
Fair/Poor	87.5	2.9	51.0	119.0	99.0	*662*
Aged 75+	**96.2**	**10.6**	**72.3**	**162.5**	**127.5**	*957*
Excellent/Very good	97.3	33.5	100.6	193.1	159.8	*307*
Good	98.4	23.9	78.0	178.1	133.6	*294*
Fair/Poor	93.4	4.5	45.6	109.8	94.1	*356*

a. Percentage with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.13c. Total non-pension wealth, by age and self-reported health status: women

	% > 0[a]	25th %ile	Median	75th %ile	Mean	N
		£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Women						
Aged 50–59	**90.5**	**32.0**	**89.0**	**185.3**	**173.4**	*2189*
Excellent/Very good	96.4	52.5	119.4	238.1	230.4	*1033*
Good	91.5	27.1	79.8	171.5	141.3	*675*
Fair/Poor	75.9	0.1	42.4	114.7	92.3	*481*
Aged 60–74	**94.0**	**27.5**	**86.3**	**180.6**	**147.4**	*2539*
Excellent/Very good	96.5	54.0	121.0	231.0	195.0	*1034*
Good	95.2	28.4	80.3	164.9	131.7	*834*
Fair/Poor	88.5	3.0	46.1	114.4	92.2	*671*
Aged 75+	**94.4**	**4.1**	**59.9**	**150.2**	**106.9**	*1321*
Excellent/Very good	95.4	8.1	89.0	186.7	126.8	*415*
Good	94.7	6.0	70.0	160.2	118.5	*441*
Fair/Poor	93.3	2.7	26.6	100.5	77.0	*465*

a. Percentage with total non-pension wealth greater than zero.

Table 3A.14. Percentage with self-reported fair or poor health, by age, gender and wealth quintile

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+
Percentage with self-reported health = fair or poor							
Men	**18.0**	**23.5**	**28.9**	**29.4**	**29.7**	**34.6**	**39.4**
Poorest wealth quintile	36.9	47.2	53.0	48.2	52.8	57.3	54.5
Quintile 2	22.8	31.5	37.3	34.3	31.8	41.7	44.5
Quintile 3	13.3	14.5	23.4	25.7	29.3	30.9	44.0
Quintile 4	11.7	16.1	19.7	20.9	21.9	26.9	27.4
Richest wealth quintile 5	8.5	9.4	12.3	18.3	17.6	21.3	30.9
Women	**18.8**	**23.8**	**23.4**	**21.9**	**34.2**	**31.6**	**36.8**
Poorest wealth quintile	38.2	40.8	37.0	38.7	44.9	45.6	42.7
Quintile 2	18.3	28.7	33.0	25.6	45.9	42.2	41.7
Quintile 3	14.5	20.4	20.9	19.7	28.8	22.7	49.2
Quintile 4	11.6	16.7	15.8	13.7	24.4	23.1	25.4
Richest wealth quintile 5	8.3	12.3	9.5	11.7	24.7	21.6	25.0
All	**18.4**	**23.6**	**26.1**	**25.5**	**32.1**	**32.9**	**37.7**
Poorest wealth quintile	37.6	44.0	44.8	43.2	47.8	49.5	46.1
Quintile 2	20.5	30.0	35.0	29.7	39.3	42.0	42.6
Quintile 3	13.9	17.2	22.1	22.4	29.0	26.4	47.1
Quintile 4	11.7	16.4	17.7	17.3	23.3	24.7	26.2
Richest wealth quintile 5	8.4	10.8	10.9	14.9	21.3	21.5	27.2
Sample sizes (N):							
Men	*873*	*1002*	*791*	*789*	*657*	*487*	*470*
Women	*1058*	*1131*	*864*	*893*	*782*	*584*	*737*
All	*1931*	*2133*	*1655*	*1682*	*1439*	*1071*	*1207*

Table 3A.15. Expected mortality, by age and income quintile

Prob.(living to be 75, 80 or 85)[a]	Aged < 66					Aged 66–69					Aged 70–74				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	3	3	2	1	1	2	5	6	5	3	5	6	9	5	6
1%–39%	13	12	9	6	6	16	17	17	16	13	23	23	23	19	22
40%–60%	39	35	35	36	30	47	40	37	41	34	37	38	38	38	43
61%–99%	36	38	45	50	56	27	32	32	31	42	27	27	26	31	27
100%	9	12	10	7	7	9	6	9	7	8	7	6	5	6	3
Average prob.	59	62	65	66	69	56	54	56	56	61	51	50	49	53	50
N	1164	1189	1182	1195	1201	255	256	248	266	259	270	274	273	281	291

a. Individuals aged < 66, 66–69 and 70–74 are asked the probability of living to be age 75, 80 and 85 respectively.

Table 3A.16. Expected mortality, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(living to be 75, 80 or 85)[a]	Aged < 66					Aged 66–69					Aged 70–74				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	4	3	1	2	1	7	5	4	3	1	9	7	7	5	4
1%–39%	15	11	8	7	5	20	17	16	12	14	23	25	18	20	23
40%–60%	37	38	35	34	31	45	37	44	35	38	35	38	42	41	39
61%–99%	34	38	48	49	56	22	31	29	43	39	25	24	29	31	30
100%	11	10	8	9	8	6	11	7	6	8	9	6	5	3	4
Average prob.	59	62	65	66	69	50	57	55	60	62	49	48	51	52	52
N	1154	1169	1178	1205	1225	253	259	260	259	253	269	271	281	283	285

a. Individuals aged < 66, 66–69 and 70–74 are asked the probability of living to be age 75, 80 and 85 respectively.

Table 3A.17. Mean and median net financial wealth, by portfolio status[a]

	Median				Mean				N
	50–59	60–74	75+	All	50–59	60–74	75+	All	
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.	
Single men	**3.5**	**5.9**	**6.0**	**5.2**	**22.9**	**30.6**	**31.4**	**28.3**	*1125*
Housing + private pension	18.8	18.3	20.0	18.7	38.4	49.6	56.6	47.6	*549*
Housing only	3.0	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	12.7	19.8	14.1	*97*
Private pension only	0.6	2.0	4.0	2.0	10.8	15.7	10.7	12.6	*300*
None	0.0	0.3	2.4	0.2	–3.8	8.3	5.2	4.0	*179*
Single women	**1.0**	**5.7**	**4.7**	**4.0**	**21.9**	**22.2**	**20.1**	**21.2**	*2384*
Housing + private pension	7.7	15.2	16.3	14.0	37.7	33.3	41.8	36.7	*749*
Housing only	2.7	8.0	7.2	7.0	23.2	26.3	25.7	25.6	*722*
Private pension only	0.1	2.5	3.0	2.5	5.1	10.3	9.7	8.8	*263*
None	0.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	1.6	4.9	6.8	5.4	*650*
Couples	**18.0**	**19.8**	**14.0**	**18.0**	**52.8**	**54.3**	**47.7**	**52.7**	*7626*
Housing + private pension	22.5	28.0	22.1	24.9	57.9	65.1	62.2	61.4	*5653*
Housing only	4.0	6.0	5.5	5.0	26.4	28.2	26.5	27.3	*397*
Private pension only	5.0	5.5	7.5	6.0	38.0	28.8	30.8	32.9	*1281*
None	0.0	0.4	2.8	0.4	17.8	6.4	7.9	9.7	*295*

a. Portfolio status refers to combinations of ownership of housing wealth and private pension wealth.
For couples, ownership of private pension wealth is defined as either member of the couple having a
private pension.

Table 3A.18. The chances of having insufficient resources to meet needs, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob.(insuffic. resources)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	15	13	13	14	14	21	21	26	23	26	32	36	31	41	42
1%–39%	27	35	39	44	53	29	32	30	36	43	26	26	30	30	33
40%–60%	29	32	30	28	22	30	28	26	24	20	26	23	24	20	12
61%–99%	21	15	15	13	10	15	15	14	13	9	10	11	10	7	10
100%	8	5	3	2	1	6	4	4	3	2	6	4	5	3	3
Average prob.	45	39	37	33	28	37	35	33	32	26	31	29	30	22	22
N	779	789	786	804	805	887	918	914	939	943	408	412	412	426	456

Table 3A.19. The chances of having insufficient resources to meet needs, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(insuffic. resources)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	9	12	12	17	19	18	20	25	27	28	33	35	37	37	40
1%–39%	22	38	41	44	53	25	30	34	37	44	26	29	27	30	31
40%–60%	37	30	30	23	19	32	29	25	23	18	26	23	20	20	14
61%–99%	22	17	14	13	8	18	16	13	11	9	10	9	12	9	9
100%	9	3	3	3	1	6	5	4	2	2	4	4	3	3	6
Average prob.	50	38	37	32	26	41	37	31	29	25	30	27	27	25	24
N	777	772	789	803	822	882	917	933	938	931	380	416	429	451	438

Table 3A.20. The chances of leaving a bequest, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob.(bequest)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	20	9	3	1	1	18	13	7	4	2	16	19	15	13	5
1%–39%	14	14	8	7	3	16	19	11	8	4	20	21	17	17	7
40%–60%	13	11	12	11	7	14	11	15	14	11	14	12	15	13	11
61%–99%	19	23	26	28	31	16	19	23	26	25	14	12	13	13	23
100%	34	43	50	52	58	37	38	45	48	57	36	36	40	43	53
Average prob.	59	70	80	83	88	59	62	72	78	85	57	55	61	63	79
N	791	792	795	805	807	899	930	925	937	952	424	422	421	438	457

Table 3A.21. The chances of leaving a bequest, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(bequest)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	29	2	1	1	1	37	4	2	0	0	46	17	4	3	1
1%–39%	25	10	5	4	2	32	15	6	4	2	31	30	11	7	4
40%–60%	16	13	9	7	8	11	18	15	11	10	9	17	19	12	8
61%–99%	11	30	30	27	30	8	22	26	28	25	4	9	20	20	21
100%	18	45	54	61	60	12	40	52	58	63	10	26	47	58	66
Average prob.	39	78	85	88	89	29	70	82	87	89	22	47	74	82	88
N	782	784	791	807	826	901	924	937	943	938	406	424	436	456	440

Table 3A.22. The chances of leaving a bequest totalling £50,000 or more, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob.(bequest ≥ £50,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	38	23	13	5	2	39	35	21	13	6	47	51	41	39	16
1%–39%	6	9	6	6	3	6	8	5	5	3	6	6	7	6	3
40%–60%	9	8	10	11	7	9	8	11	11	10	9	8	9	9	8
61%–99%	16	21	24	27	31	14	16	21	25	25	10	10	11	11	22
100%	30	38	47	51	57	32	33	41	46	56	28	25	32	36	51
Average prob.	49	61	74	80	88	49	52	65	73	82	41	38	47	50	74
N	791	791	792	802	805	899	928	927	936	950	418	420	423	436	457

Table 3A.23. The chances of leaving a bequest totalling £50,000 or more, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(bequest ≥ £50,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	63	9	5	3	2	81	23	6	4	2	90	71	20	10	3
1%–39%	11	9	5	3	2	7	11	5	3	2	5	8	8	4	3
40%–60%	9	12	9	7	8	3	13	13	10	10	2	8	15	11	8
61%–99%	7	28	29	26	30	4	19	25	27	25	1	5	18	20	20
100%	10	42	52	60	59	4	35	51	56	62	1	8	39	55	66
Average prob.	22	73	82	87	89	11	59	79	84	88	4	17	62	78	87
N	781	781	790	805	824	904	926	936	938	936	410	424	433	451	436

Table 3A.24. The chances of leaving a bequest totalling £150,000 or more, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob.(bequest ≥ £150,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	60	49	37	25	11	62	62	49	35	16	71	75	66	61	29
1%–39%	9	13	12	14	11	10	10	10	13	10	6	6	7	8	9
40%–60%	7	11	12	16	10	8	8	13	12	14	7	5	9	6	10
61%–99%	11	13	17	20	27	7	9	11	16	23	7	4	7	8	16
100%	14	14	22	25	41	13	11	17	24	37	9	11	11	17	36
Average prob.	28	32	44	52	71	25	24	34	46	65	19	17	22	27	56
N	785	787	789	796	798	891	924	917	924	937	412	421	421	428	449

Table 3A.25. The chances of leaving a bequest totalling £150,000 or more, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(bequest ≥ £150,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	83	53	27	11	7	91	73	37	16	5	98	90	70	35	10
1%–39%	8	18	14	12	7	5	11	16	12	9	2	5	10	12	7
40%–60%	4	10	16	14	12	2	7	15	18	13	0	2	8	16	10
61%–99%	2	11	21	23	29	1	5	16	22	24	0	2	6	13	20
100%	3	8	22	39	45	1	5	16	31	49	0	2	7	24	52
Average prob.	8	25	50	68	77	4	14	39	61	77	1	5	17	44	75
N	781	776	786	796	816	903	920	926	923	921	410	424	428	443	426

Table 3A.26. The chances of receiving inheritance, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob. (inheritance)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	55	49	47	42	37	78	75	73	67	65	91	86	88	89	85
1%–39%	18	17	18	19	21	9	15	15	16	17	6	10	10	8	10
40%–60%	9	14	13	12	12	5	4	4	6	6	1	2	2	2	3
61%–99%	11	13	16	19	23	4	2	5	6	7	0	1	1	1	0
100%	7	7	6	7	7	3	3	3	5	5	1	1	0	0	2
Average prob.	22	27	28	32	35	10	9	11	15	16	2	4	3	3	5
N	789	796	792	805	803	914	935	928	943	953	432	430	427	440	463

Table 3A.27. The chances of receiving inheritance, by age and wealth quintile

Prob. (inheritance)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	58	49	44	41	39	81	75	70	69	65	89	89	87	89	85
1%–39%	19	20	18	20	17	11	14	15	15	17	8	9	9	9	9
40%–60%	11	12	13	12	13	3	5	6	6	5	2	0	2	2	3
61%–99%	8	14	18	20	22	2	4	5	6	7	1	1	1	0	1
100%	5	6	8	7	9	2	3	4	4	6	1	0	1	0	2
Average prob.	19	26	31	33	36	7	10	14	14	17	3	2	4	3	5
N	786	781	791	805	822	911	930	948	943	941	411	432	444	464	441

Table 3A.28. The chances of receiving inheritance totalling £10,000 or more, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob.(inherit. ≥ £10,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	68	60	59	54	46	85	85	85	78	74	96	94	93	94	89
1%–39%	12	15	14	15	18	7	9	7	10	12	3	4	6	4	6
40%–60%	7	10	9	10	10	3	2	3	5	4	1	1	0	1	3
61%–99%	8	11	13	13	18	3	3	3	5	6	0	0	1	0	0
100%	5	5	5	8	7	2	2	2	3	5	0	1	0	0	1
Average prob.	16	21	22	26	30	7	6	6	11	13	1	2	1	2	4
N	789	793	788	800	800	915	934	926	937	953	430	430	429	441	463

Table 3A.29. The chances of receiving inheritance totalling £10,000 or more, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(inherit. ≥ £10,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	73	62	54	51	46	88	86	79	78	74	95	96	92	94	90
1%–39%	11	15	16	16	16	7	7	10	10	11	4	4	6	4	6
40%–60%	7	8	10	10	12	1	3	4	4	5	1	0	1	2	2
61%–99%	5	11	14	17	17	2	2	4	5	6	0	0	0	0	0
100%	3	4	6	7	9	1	2	3	3	5	0	0	1	0	2
Average prob.	13	18	25	28	31	4	6	9	10	13	2	1	2	2	4
N	786	777	783	806	818	910	931	945	939	940	411	433	444	464	441

Table 3A.30. The chances of receiving inheritance totalling £100,000 or more, by age and equivalised income quintile

Prob.(inherit. ≥ £100,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	87	84	85	82	73	95	95	94	92	89	98	98	97	97	95
1%–39%	8	10	8	9	13	4	4	5	5	6	1	2	2	2	3
40%–60%	2	2	3	3	6	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
61%–99%	2	3	3	3	6	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
100%	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Average prob.	5	6	5	8	11	1	1	2	3	5	1	0	1	0	1
N	788	794	787	802	798	913	936	929	939	952	431	430	429	440	463

Table 3A.31. The chances of receiving inheritance totalling £100,000 or more, by age and wealth quintile

Prob.(inherit. ≥ £100,000)	Aged 50–59					Aged 60–74					Aged 75+				
	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest	Poorest	2nd	3rd	4th	Richest
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0%	90	90	83	78	71	96	95	92	93	87	97	99	97	97	96
1%–39%	7	7	11	12	13	3	3	6	4	7	2	1	2	3	3
40%–60%	2	2	3	4	7	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	1
61%–99%	1	2	3	5	7	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
100%	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Average prob.	3	3	6	10	13	1	1	2	3	5	1	1	0	1	1
N	785	779	783	806	816	910	933	947	940	939	412	433	443	464	441

Table 3A.32. National Statistics socio-economic classification (NS-SEC), by self-reported health, age and sex

	Aged 50–59	Aged 60–74	Aged 75+	All
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Excellent or very good				
Managerial and professional occupations	48.1	37.7	38.9	42.6
Intermediate occupations	4.4	4.3	5.8	4.5
Small employers and own-account workers	15.2	16.2	11.8	15.1
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	12.6	15.0	20.2	14.6
Semi-routine occupations	19.4	26.4	23.3	22.8
Other	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.4
Good				
Managerial and professional occupations	36.4	31.1	40.0	34.9
Intermediate occupations	6.3	5.4	4.8	5.7
Small employers and own-account workers	14.9	12.6	12.2	13.4
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	15.7	18.4	21.5	17.9
Semi-routine occupations	26.3	31.8	21.6	27.6
Other	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.5
Fair or poor				
Managerial and professional occupations	24.5	21.4	27.2	23.8
Intermediate occupations	5.7	2.8	5.5	4.3
Small employers and own-account workers	16.5	13.4	10.5	13.6
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	15.9	20.9	23.9	20.1
Semi-routine occupations	36.1	41.2	33.0	37.6
Other	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.6
Women				
Excellent or very good				
Managerial and professional occupations	33.8	27.2	18.2	28.2
Intermediate occupations	20.5	22.5	24.8	22.1
Small employers and own-account workers	9.8	7.7	6.8	8.4
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	5.2	6.4	8.4	6.3
Semi-routine occupations	29.8	34.4	34.3	32.5
Other	1.0	1.9	7.4	2.6
Good				
Managerial and professional occupations	25.7	18.4	17.0	20.5
Intermediate occupations	17.9	22.6	20.7	20.5
Small employers and own-account workers	7.0	7.2	5.2	6.6
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6.3	5.7	9.9	7.0
Semi-routine occupations	41.3	44.0	38.6	41.7
Other	1.9	2.1	8.6	3.7
Fair or poor				
Managerial and professional occupations	15.7	14.1	11.2	13.6
Intermediate occupations	14.9	15.0	17.7	15.8
Small employers and own-account workers	5.6	6.2	4.4	5.4
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	7.3	7.5	6.2	7.0
Semi-routine occupations	53.4	52.8	51.0	52.4
Other	3.2	4.5	9.5	5.7
Sample sizes (N):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*962*	*5103*
Women	*2235*	*2557*	*1322*	*6114*

Table 3A.33. Scores on the ladder, by age and sex

							Age	
	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
Mean	6.11	5.89	5.89	5.65	5.52	5.55	5.57	5.80
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Women								
Mean	5.78	5.70	5.71	5.63	5.41	5.35	5.41	5.60
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00
Sample sizes (N):								
Men	*814*	*916*	*726*	*721*	*596*	*431*	*381*	*4585*
Women	*1001*	*1059*	*802*	*815*	*670*	*480*	*547*	*5374*

Table 3A.34. Scores on the ladder, by self-reported health, age and sex

	Aged 50–59	Aged 60–74	Aged 75+	All
Men				
Excellent or very good				
Mean	6.48	6.21	5.88	6.29
Median	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Good				
Mean	6.01	5.68	5.57	5.79
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Fair or poor				
Mean	4.83	4.96	5.24	4.98
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Women				
Excellent or very good				
Mean	6.16	5.99	5.70	6.01
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Good				
Mean	5.66	5.56	5.43	5.57
Median	6.00	6.00	5.80	6.00
Fair or poor				
Mean	4.85	4.95	5.00	4.93
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sample sizes (N):				
Men	*1729*	*2043*	*812*	*4584*
Women	*2059*	*2287*	*1027*	*5373*

Table 3A.35. Scores on the ladder, by equivalised income quintile, age and sex

	Aged 50–59	Aged 60–74	Aged 75+	All
Men				
Lowest quintile				
Mean	4.95	4.99	4.97	4.97
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 2				
Mean	5.05	5.12	5.28	5.15
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 3				
Mean	5.63	5.48	5.45	5.52
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Quintile 4				
Mean	5.93	6.02	6.23	6.00
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Highest quintile				
Mean	6.84	6.85	7.02	6.86
Median	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Women				
Lowest quintile				
Mean	4.76	4.96	5.07	4.95
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 2				
Mean	4.84	5.23	5.25	5.16
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 3				
Mean	5.33	5.53	5.49	5.46
Median	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Quintile 4				
Mean	5.90	5.95	6.09	5.94
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Highest quintile				
Mean	6.62	6.66	6.34	6.62
Median	7.00	7.00	6.00	7.00
Sample sizes (N):				
Men	*1717*	*2034*	*808*	*4559*
Women	*2019*	*2273*	*1027*	*5319*

Table 3A.36. Scores on the ladder, by net total wealth quintile, age and sex

	Aged 50–59	Aged 60–74	Aged 75+	All
Men				
Lowest quintile				
Mean	4.52	4.40	4.75	4.52
Median	5.00	4.00	5.00	4.00
Quintile 2				
Mean	5.57	5.11	5.32	5.33
Median	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 3				
Mean	5.92	5.52	5.46	5.68
Median	6.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
Quintile 4				
Mean	6.43	6.16	5.85	6.23
Median	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Highest quintile				
Mean	7.00	6.87	6.60	6.88
Median	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Women				
Lowest quintile				
Mean	4.27	4.45	4.75	4.49
Median	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 2				
Mean	5.29	5.29	5.33	5.30
Median	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Quintile 3				
Mean	5.84	5.57	5.31	5.63
Median	6.00	6.00	5.00	6.00
Quintile 4				
Mean	6.18	5.97	5.80	6.01
Median	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Highest quintile				
Mean	6.78	6.55	6.17	6.58
Median	7.00	6.00	6.00	7.00
Sample sizes (N):				
Men	*1717*	*2034*	*808*	*4559*
Women	*2019*	*2273*	*1027*	*5319*

4. Work and retirement

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Amongst other things, the analysis presented in this chapter shows:

- Less than three-quarters of 55- to 59-year-old men and less than half of 60- to 64-year-old men are currently working. For women, these numbers are around 60% and 30% respectively; many working women are working part-time.

- Looking at individuals below the state pension age, there is a strong positive correlation between economic activity and health, whether health is self-reported or measured by mobility limitations.

- Concentrating just on workers, there are only relatively minor differences in hours worked and job types by health status. Similarly, there are only minor differences by health status in expectations of remaining in work.

- Looking across wealth groups, labour market inactivity rates for individuals younger than state pension age are U-shaped – the lowest wealth groups are least likely to be working, but the wealthiest individuals are also less likely to work than those in the middle of the wealth distribution.

- Single men are substantially less likely to be economically active than their married counterparts. The differences are much smaller for single and married women.

- The association of private pensions with 'early retirement' is stronger for defined benefit than for defined contribution pensions. This is true both for those who have already retired and for the retirement expectations of those who are still working.

- Expectations of returning to work, for those out of the labour market before the state pension age, are relatively pessimistic. Those in poor health, in particular, report low expectations of returning to work.

This chapter provides a complete cross-sectional description of the labour market activity and retirement status of the older population in England. The possibility of longer working lives in the future has been a topic of considerable interest in the recent policy debate on the adequacy of retirement saving. Longer working lives for future cohorts would imply both more years of pension contributions and accumulation of private savings and fewer years for which those accumulated pension funds and savings would need to finance consumption, thus mitigating problems with the provision of resources for retirement. But the issue of whether future cohorts will have the opportunity to work longer and the ability to work longer and then whether they will choose

to work longer raises a host of complex questions about retirement possibilities and retirement choices. Important dimensions of this problem will include: health, physical functioning and the nature of work; the interaction of choices between individuals within couples; the financial incentives implicit in private pension arrangements, state pensions and state benefits; the adequacy or otherwise of wealth, which could be used to finance an extended retirement; social participation and leisure possibilities.

All these factors will vary across cohorts, and across individuals within cohorts, and, given the key importance of the retirement decision to the debate on ageing, measurements in these dimensions have therefore been one of the main aims of the ELSA questionnaire design. The degree to which we can provide the critical evidence on these issues is currently limited by the cross-sectional nature of the data collected so far. In due course, when longitudinal information is available on ELSA sample members, it will be possible to analyse in detail the causes and consequences of movements from work into retirement. At this point, we simply provide cross-sectional evidence on the current status of the older population in England and note that outcomes for older age groups are not necessarily predictive of what will happen to the younger groups, since observed differences across age groups are a combination of age and cohort effects. Nevertheless, much of the evidence provided here is the first available evidence of its type in England.

A full breakdown of many of the relevant dimensions of work, inactivity and retirement in the ELSA sample is provided in the tables in the Annex to this chapter. The text that follows refers briefly to some of those tables, but focuses mainly on a number of key findings that illustrate potentially important variation in circumstances and outcomes in the older population.

4.1 Employment and economic activity

As is becoming increasingly well known, many individuals have ceased economic activity by the time they reach the state pension age (SPA), currently 65 for men and 60 for women.[1] This is true for both men and women whether economic inactivity is measured by self-reported employment status (Table 4A.1) or by actual recorded economic activity in the preceding month (Table 4A.2). The prevalence of self-reported retirement amongst women is lower than that for men, primarily as a result of a relatively large fraction choosing to report their status as 'looking after home or family', included in the 'other' category in Table 4A.1.

The ELSA questionnaire is designed to allow individuals to self-report their economic status separately from any questions that are asked on economic activities carried out, such as full- or part-time employment or self-employment. In addition, individuals can report multiple activities over the last month. As a result, neither Table 4A.1 nor Table 4A.2 gives a single summary of individuals' primary economic position with regard to the labour market. Table 4.1 therefore reports individuals' *primary* economic activity in

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[1]For a summary of UK evidence, see Banks et al. (2002).

the last month. Less than three-quarters of men aged 55–59 did any economic activity in the month prior to the ELSA interview, and this fraction falls to less than one-half for the group aged 60–64. For women, these fractions are 61% and 30% respectively.[2]

Table 4.1. Primary activity status, by age and gender

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Economically active men	**83.3**	**72.9**	**48.3**	**16.5**	**10.8**	**5.1**	**1.1**
Full-time emp.	63.4	51.0	29.9	3.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Part-time emp.	2.3	4.9	6.2	6.0	5.2	1.5	0.4
Full-time self-emp.	14.9	14.2	6.9	3.6	1.6	2.0	0.0
Part-time self-emp.	2.3	2.2	3.7	2.8	2.2	1.4	0.7
Economically active women	**75.5**	**61.3**	**30.3**	**13.1**	**4.1**	**1.6**	**0.4**
Full-time emp.	39.9	29.2	7.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time emp.	26.5	25.6	17.3	7.9	2.7	0.3	0.3
Full-time self-emp.	4.7	2.9	1.5	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.1
Part-time self-emp.	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.8	1.0	0.9	0.0
Sample size:							
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*

Notes: Full-time is defined as individuals reporting normal hours of 30 or more per week. Numbers in bold may not be the sum of the four activity categories due to observations in the former category with missing hours information or those temporarily away from work.

What Table 4.1 also reveals, however, is that the distribution of types of economic activity within the active groups varies substantially by gender and also by age. Specifically, the proportion of the economically active in part-time work before the SPA is hugely higher for women than for men. For both men and women, older groups show considerably higher fractions of part-time work.

Such low rates of labour market participation amongst those below the SPA are an issue of some policy relevance. The remainder of the sections in this chapter discuss the evidence relating to how participation rates, typically defined according to current economic activity status as opposed to self-reported labour market status, are related to health, economic resources, the nature of work and pension arrangements. We also go on to look at how individuals expect their labour market activities to evolve in the future,

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[2]These proportions compare well to evidence from other surveys. Disney and Hawkes (2003) report numbers from the 2002 Labour Force Survey (LFS) showing that the proportions employed amongst men aged 50–54, 55–59 and 60–64, for example, are 64%, 56% and 36% respectively, which are almost exactly the same as the sum of the ELSA full-time and part-time proportions. Corresponding numbers for women are 66%, 51% and 23%, which also accord well. As a further example, the proportions self-employed in the 2002 LFS are around 15% for 55- to 59-year-old men and 5% for women of the same age.

focusing on differences between those currently active and those currently inactive.

4.2 Economic activity and health

Two summary measures of health will be used to explore the relationship between health and activity status. These correspond to different dimensions of general health – self-reported status and limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) – which might, in theory, be associated differently with an individual's economic activity state. Nevertheless, these two summary measures represent only a small fraction of the possible relationships that can be explored in the ELSA data. Our interest here is simply in providing broad gradients relating health to economic activity. Needless to say, such gradients cannot and should not be interpreted causally.

Figure 4.1. Percentage economically active, by age, gender and self-reported health
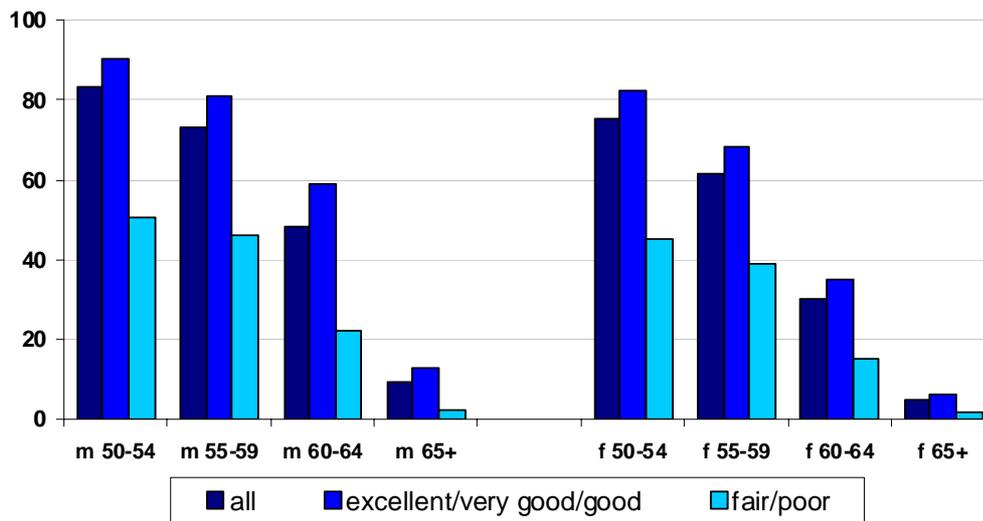
Tables 4A.3 to 4A.6 show that both self-reported employment status and labour market participation rates are lower for individuals in poorer health.[3] This is the case for all age groups independently of the health measure considered. The association of low activity rates with lower health status is particularly evident when individuals are classified according to their self-reported health status. As can be seen in Figure 4.1, men before the SPA who report being in excellent, very good or good health are between 35 and 40 percentage points more likely to be active than those who are in fair or poor health. Women who have not reached the SPA are between 30 and 40 percentage points less likely to be active if they are in fair or poor health than if their health is very good or excellent. When economic activity is measured

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[3]This is consistent with findings from the British Retirement Survey for previous cohorts of older working-age individuals. See, for example, Meghir and Whitehouse (1997).

by self-reported activity status (Table 4A.3), there is also a lower percentage of people describing themselves as employed or self-employed amongst lower health status groups.

Whether or not individuals have any mobility limitation is also a good predictor of activity status. Table 4A.6 shows that the probability of having been economically active in the preceding month is considerably lower for both men and women reporting difficulties with one or more limitation.[4]

For active individuals, there is not a clear association between health and work hours. Tables 4A.7 and 4A.8 show no evidence of a decreasing pattern – consistent across health measures and age groups – in the number of hours worked by active men amongst lower health status groups. In the case of women, those in poorer health and below the SPA seem to be less likely to work full-time, but the differences between them and those in better health are small. The relationship between health and job type is not very strong, but Table 4A.9 shows that individuals in fair or poor health are, in most cases, less likely to have a sedentary job, and generally more likely to have a physical or heavy manual job.

The data suggest, therefore, that health is strongly associated with the labour market participation decisions and/or opportunities. Nevertheless, once we look only at those who are participating in the labour market, work hours seem to be independent of health, and the association between health and type of job is not particularly marked.

Self-reported health status is correlated with occupational class as measured by the SOC 2000 classification of occupational categories (SOC) (Table 4A.10). This could be due to occupations on the lower end of the SOC scale having a detrimental effect on health, but could also be the consequence of unobserved wealth effects – since SOC is correlated with wealth and there are strong links between health and wealth.

Table 4A.11 shows that people in physical or heavy manual jobs generally report higher expectations of their health limiting their ability to work before they reach 65.[5] This may be taken as an indication of the higher demands on health inherent in physical and heavy manual work, although, once again, the lower chances of observing wealthy people in these types of jobs must also be taken into account when interpreting the results.

Understanding the implications of Tables 4A.10 and 4A.11 requires a multivariate analysis. As more waves become available, the information contained in the ELSA data will allow for the relationships among the different variables to be considered at the same time.

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[4]For more details on the measurement of mobility limitation, see Chapter 7.

[5]These expectations are collected using the 'percentage chance' methodology described briefly in Chapter 3 and in more detail in the ELSA questionnaire documentation. The resulting subjective probability measures are tabulated as in Chapter 3.

4.3 Economic inactivity and wealth

Previous sections have discussed the correlation between economic activity, both employment and self-employment, by age, gender and health. We now move on to look at correlations with levels of wealth. Rather than focus simply on whether an individual is in paid work or not, however, we begin to look more deeply at those who are not economically active and, in particular, focus on the distinction between those who are 'retired' and those who are not in paid employment but not yet retired (according to their own self-reported assessment of their labour market status).

Table 4A.12 shows that there are strong patterns in economic activity and inactivity rates by wealth. The table reports the proportion retired (self-reported definition) and the proportion inactive within each five-year age group and by wealth quintile within this five-year age group.[6] Concentrating first on those who report themselves as retired (or semi-retired), Figure 4.2 takes the numbers for men from Table 4A.12 and shows that 'early retirement' is clearly associated with high wealth levels – the proportion retired amongst the highest wealth quintiles is strikingly higher than that amongst the lower wealth groups.

Figure 4.2. Percentage 'retired', by age and wealth quintile: men
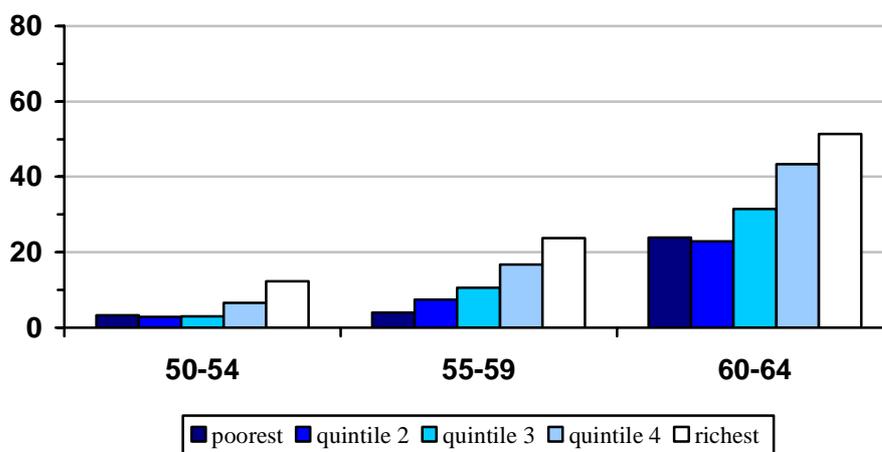
Figure 4.3 shows that these patterns look remarkably different when we consider a broader measure of labour market inactivity. Inactivity rates are highest in the lowest wealth group, and overall demonstrate a U-shaped pattern by wealth. The lowest two wealth groups are likeliest to be inactive, but not retired. The highest two wealth groups are likeliest to be inactive and retired. It is those in the middle of the wealth distribution who are least likely to be economically inactive – that is, who are most likely to be in paid work.

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[6]The wealth definition used to create wealth groups corresponds to the total non-pension wealth definition discussed in Chapter 3. Given the positive correlation between pension wealth and other forms of wealth, the inclusion of pension wealth prior to constructing wealth groups will not change the patterns observed.

Figure 4.3. Percentage economically inactive, by age and wealth quintile: men
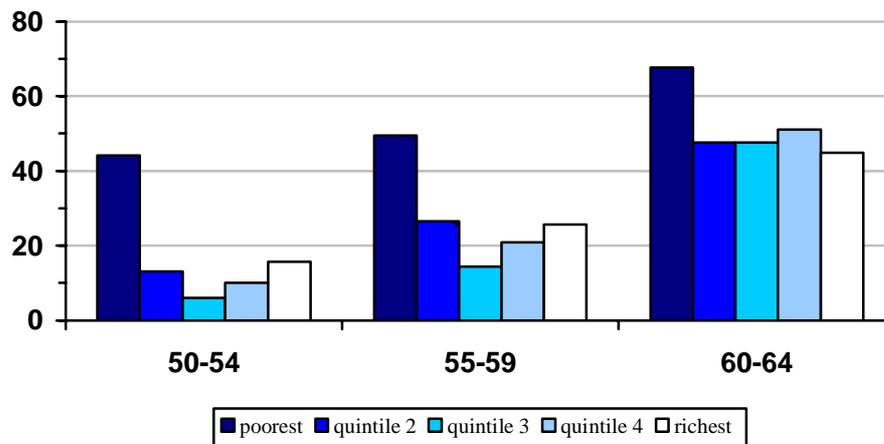
Table 4A.12 also shows that, by later ages, the association between retirement or inactivity and wealth flattens out considerably. Indeed, by the oldest ages, the pattern has reversed – although the proportions in paid work are almost negligibly small, those who are working are concentrated at either extreme of the wealth distribution. Members of the wealthiest group presumably do not need to remain active at these later ages for financial reasons, so such activity rates presumably reflect preferences for work, which in turn probably contribute to the high accumulated wealth levels. Table 4A.12 also demonstrates that these patterns, at both younger and older ages, are present for women as well as men, although the fraction self-reporting retired is lower on average, as discussed earlier.

These differences across wealth groups, particularly at younger ages, accord well with expectations, given the positive correlation between health and wealth and the negative correlation between health and work, both discussed previously. Full separation of the contributions of health and wealth, amongst other variables, in explaining labour market activity rates is clearly a priority for research as more waves of ELSA data become available.

4.4 Labour market outcomes within couples

As successive cohorts of women reach retirement with more extensive labour market histories than their predecessors, the issue of joint retirement and the nature of joint labour market outcomes within couples is becoming increasingly important. In Tables 4A.13 and 4A.14, we look at differences in labour market activity by partnership status for the self-reported measure of activity and the current labour market activity definitions respectively. Big differences in activity rates emerge between married and single men – married men are considerably more likely to be economically active than their single counterparts. These differences are summarised in Figure 4.4, which also shows that the same does not apply to women. The activity rates of married and single women are quite similar.

Figure 4.4. Percentage economically active, by marital status, gender and age group
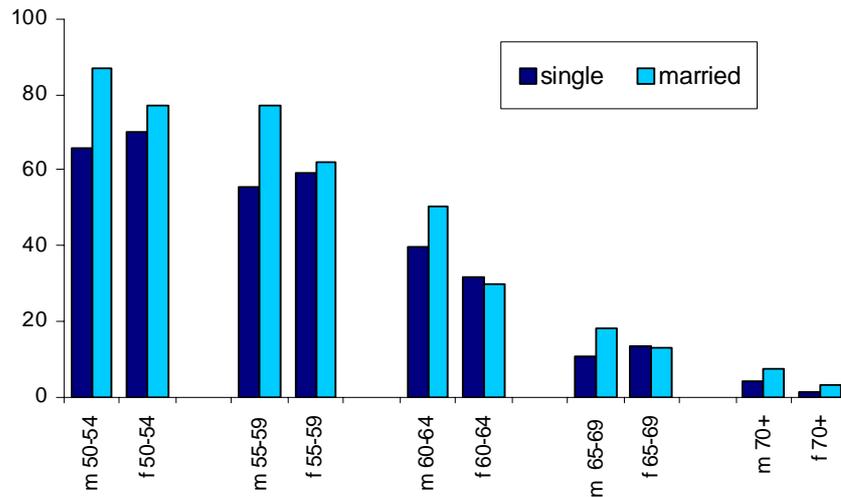
A number of possible stories could explain this phenomenon, one of which is a selection effect as opposed to a labour supply effect – the average characteristics of older single men relative to married men may be different from those for women. The full explanation is likely to be more complicated, however. In reality, single men in their 50s are a heterogeneous group, with some not employed and in poor health, and some in full-time paid employment, and these composition effects may feed through into outcomes other than employment status. Indeed, Chapter 3 (Figure 3.2, for example) demonstrated that for income or wealth measures, the relativities of single men to their married counterparts are on a comparable scale to those for women.

Higher overall inactivity rates of single men who have not yet reached the SPA are accompanied by a higher probability of being unemployed or long-term sick or disabled, compared with married men (Table 4A.13). Other forms of economic inactivity – mainly retirement – have a similar prevalence among married and single men in these age groups. In the years after the SPA, these differences vanish, as the majority of men in both groups are retired.

Table 4A.13 also shows that married women below the SPA are slightly less likely to report themselves as retired than single women but that the differences widen in the years following the SPA, since a higher proportion of married women include themselves in the category 'other', mostly reporting themselves as 'looking after home or family', as discussed earlier.

Finally, we look at the issue of the correlation between labour market activities of each member of a couple. Table 4A.15 classifies people below the SPA living in couples according to whether their partners are economically active. There is a strong correlation between spouses' activity rates. Only just over a third of men aged 60–64 whose partner is inactive are themselves active. This contrasts with over two-thirds of men whose partner is economically active. Similar results are evident for the younger groups. This issue will be returned to when looking at reasons for retirement below, but suggests that retirements,

or at least economic activity outcomes, should be studied jointly in future research.

4.5 Retirement

In this section, we consider the characteristics of individuals who self-report themselves as 'retired' or 'semi-retired', focusing on those below the SPA. In particular, we distinguish this group from the broader group, identified in previous sections, who are economically inactive. Throughout this section, it should be remembered that the early retired are only one subgroup of the older population who are not in paid work. As Figure 4.2 showed, they are typically a high-wealth subgroup.

As discussed previously, the ELSA survey allows individuals to report their labour market status separately from their labour market activity and hence it is possible that not all those who consider themselves retired are inactive. Indeed, such a situation would be in accord with the idea that retirement has, for many, become a gradual process of withdrawal from the labour market, as opposed to a discrete switch from full-time work into complete labour market inactivity. Table 4.2 shows that, amongst those who say they are retired, a non-negligible fraction actually carried out some form of paid economic activity – either employment or self-employment – in the month previous to the interview. The same is true for voluntary work, with around a fifth of men and a quarter of women who are aged 55–59 and classify themselves retired before the SPA being engaged in some voluntary work in the previous month.

Table 4.2. Economic activity and voluntary work amongst the retired

	50–54	55–59	60–64
% of male retired who are also:			
economically active	[21.9]	20.1	12.7
doing voluntary work	[13.7]	19.1	16.7
% of female retired who are also:			
economically active	[23.2]	10.7	8.4
doing voluntary work	[19.0]	25.0	18.9
Sample size:			
Male	*49*	*133*	*280*
Female	*38*	*137*	*494*

For those who are retired and not economically active, the expectation of returning to work in the future is extremely low. Section 4.6, which looks at expectations of work in the future, shows, for example, that for 75% of retired inactive men aged 50–59 and 74% of retired inactive women aged 55–59, the reported chance of working after age 60 is zero (see Table 4.3).

One of the most important dimensions to understand when considering individuals' retirement decisions is the role of pension incentives in determining the nature and timing of retirement. In Chapter 3, we discussed briefly how ownership of private pensions was correlated with holdings of

other assets and wealth levels. In what follows, we go on to look in more detail at private pension arrangements and how they vary with labour market activity, both before and after the SPA.

Table 4A.16 shows current and lifetime private pension status by age, gender and labour market activity, and differentiates between defined contribution (DC) and defined benefit (DB) schemes.[7] Individuals of all ages are more likely to have contributed to a DB scheme at some point in their lifetime than to a DC scheme. Looking at current contributions, however, men below the SPA are actually more likely to be currently contributing to a DC scheme than to a DB scheme. This could be a result of individuals making current contributions to a plan of which they have not been a member over their entire working life, or due to those with DB plans leaving the labour market before the SPA and hence discontinuing their contributions. The following analysis shows that each of these stories has a role to play in explaining the data.

As preliminary evidence of the importance of pensions in retirement decisions, Table 4A.17 shows that around a third of those with private pensions who retired before the normal retirement age (NRA) in their pension plan reported that they were offered reasonable financial terms to do so and that this was relevant to their retirement decision. The table also shows that many early retirements are not voluntary – with ill health and redundancy both high on the list of reasons for retirement for those retiring before either the SPA or the NRA in their private pension plan. Table 4A.17 also offers some preliminary evidence on joint retirement within couples. However, an asymmetry between men and women is apparent, with many more women than men reporting reasons relating to 'joint' retirement (i.e. 'in order to retire at the same time as partner', 'ill health of a relative or friend', 'to spend more time with partner/family').

Further evidence on the importance of pensions in retirement decisions is presented in Table 4A.18, where we look at the fraction of men and women within each five-year age band who report themselves as retired, and break the analysis down by whether or not individuals have a private pension and, if so, whether they have solely DB, solely DC or some other combination of private pensions. Figures 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 present the key findings from this table. For both men and women, there is a positive association between retirement before the SPA and membership of a private pension. The differences are most marked in the 55-59 age group, where those with private pensions are twice as likely to be retired as those without.

It is worth noting here that, when looking at private pension membership defined over an individual's entire working life, there are relatively few who have no private pension rights at all, particularly amongst men. Those without private pension rights are typically poorer and are in fact considerably more likely than those with private pensions to be economically inactive.

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[7]A defined contribution pension scheme is one where money is invested in a fund and the size of the fund determines income in retirement. A defined benefit scheme is an arrangement whereby income in retirement is determined by a formula that is based on age, years of service in the pension scheme and some measure of final salary.

Figure 4.5. Percentage retired, by age and private pension status: men
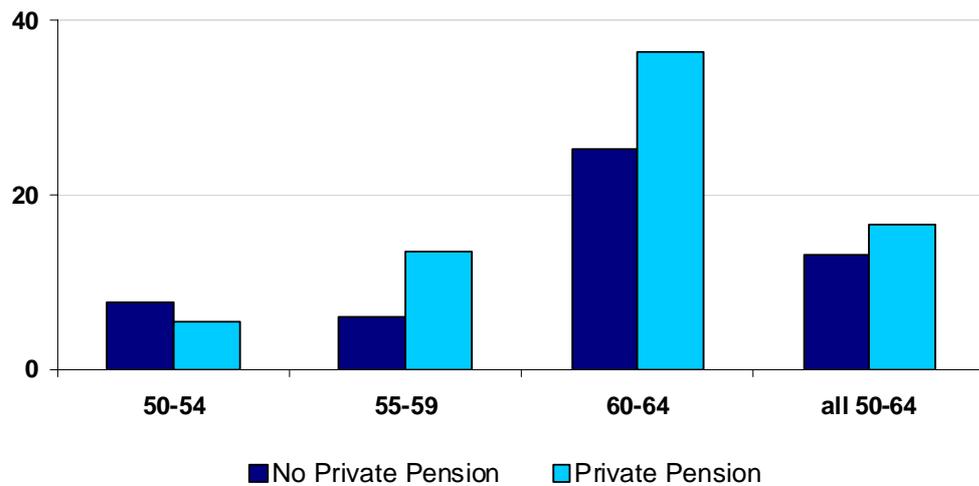
Figure 4.6. Percentage retired, by age and private pension status: women
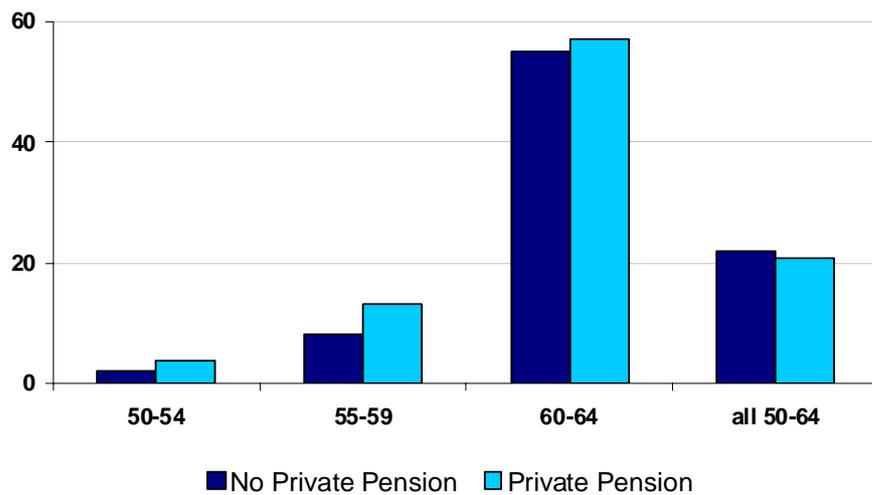
Figure 4.7 shows that, among men with private pensions, there are also differences according to the type of pension held. The most likely to be retired are those with defined benefit private pensions – amongst all 50–64 age groups, the proportion of DB pension holders who are retired is over twice that of DC pension holders. Whilst it would be tempting to interpret this as an effect of the early retirement incentives often associated with DB plans (which would also be in accordance with the discussion of reasons for retirement listed in Table 4A.17 above), it should be remembered that a number of other characteristics, not least wealth, health and job type, co-vary with pension type, so such a correlation should not necessarily be interpreted causally. In particular, there may be strong wealth effects.

Figure 4.7. Percentage retired, by age and private pension type: men with private pensions
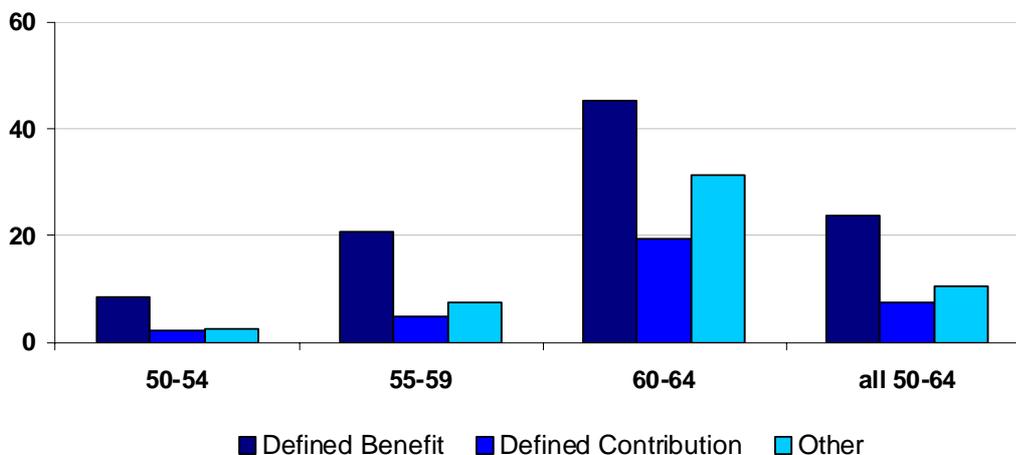
Note: 'Other' category includes those who have contributed to both types of pension over their working life and those who have a private pension but do not know whether their pension is DB or DC.

4.6 Expectations of work and retirement

The retirement behaviour of older cohorts is not necessarily a good predictor of the retirement patterns that will be observed when younger generations reach retirement age. Due to differences in life expectancy, work and pension contribution histories, private saving profiles, flexibility in the choice of retirement age or just the economic or policy environment they face, there is no reason to expect current workers' outcomes to be similar to those of their predecessors.

The answers to ELSA questions on individual expectations for the future may provide a more accurate predictor of future behaviour. The use of numerical questions to elicit an individual's expectations of various events or circumstances occurring at some point in the future represents one of the most innovative aspects of the ELSA questionnaire. In due course, since the same respondents are repeatedly observed, we will be able to see how accurate these expectations turn out to be. At present, however, we can use the expectations data to bring together the themes of the previous sections and look at the way a younger respondent's expectations of leaving work, or remaining in work, vary by the themes identified above: health, type of job, and current and past pension arrangements.

As before, for the purposes of the detailed tables, we divide the distribution of respondents' subjective probabilities into five groups. Nevertheless, we also report the average probability reported, and, for simplicity, we focus on this measure in the figures presented in this section. Although trivial, it is also worth pointing out that should individuals' subjective expectations turn out to be accurate, this average percentage chance also represents the fraction of the group for whom the event will actually occur.

The first set of columns in Table 4A.19 show the subjective probabilities of being in paid work after age 60, by self-reported health status, for male respondents who are currently economically active and aged 50–59. The average probability across all health groups is around 66%, implying that more than 30% of current male workers expect to be inactive at least five years before they reach the SPA. The average probability of working after age 65 for men aged 60–64 is 47%. So, in addition to the fact that, as shown earlier, a substantial fraction of men aged 55–64 are already out of the labour market, a significant further fraction are also intending or expecting to leave early.

For both age groups, the probability of being in paid work in the future is lower for individuals in fair or poor health (Figure 4.8), although the differences across health categories are very small. This accords with the finding in Section 4.2 that, conditional on labour market participation, health does not have a strong effect on work hours or job type.

Figure 4.8. Expectations of being in paid employment at 60/65/55/60, by health, gender and age group: economically active individuals
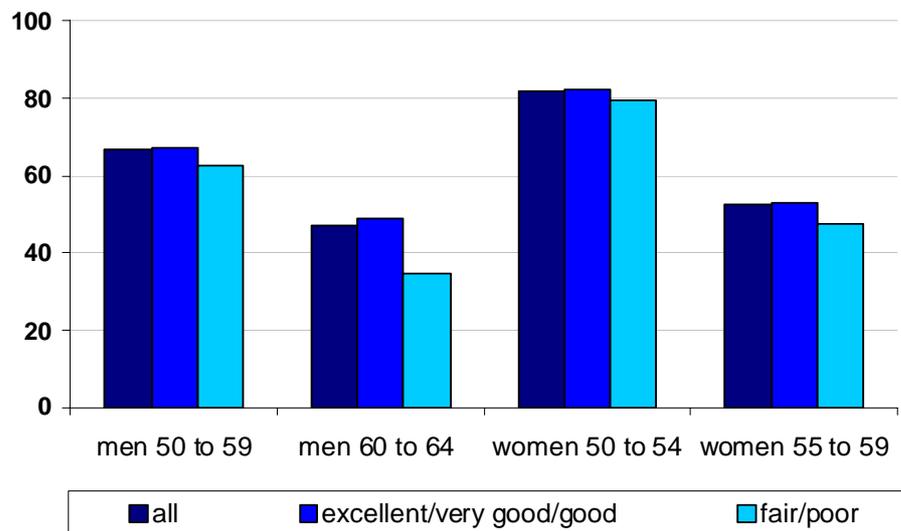
Note: Men below age 60 are asked the chances of their being in paid employment at or after age 60; those between ages 60 and 64 are asked the same question with reference to age 65. Women below age 55 are asked the chances of their being in paid employment at or after age 55; those between ages 55 and 59 are asked the same question with reference to age 60.

The proportion of active women aged 50–54 who expect to be inactive before 55 is close to 20% (Table 4A.19). The average probability that women aged 55–59 will still be active after the SPA is around 52%, slightly higher than the corresponding one for men (47%), although for this cohort the SPA is still different for men and women. Figure 4.8 shows again that those in poorer health are less likely to expect to remain in work but these differences are almost negligible for most groups.

Tables 4A.20 and 4A.21 relate reported work expectations to the type of pension individuals are contributing to and have ever contributed to, respectively. On average, individuals who have a DB pension expect to retire

early, as shown in Figure 4.9. This is consistent with the evidence in Section 4.5, where the proportion of individuals with a DB pension who are retired was found to be much higher than that of individuals with a DC pension.

Figure 4.9. Percentage reporting 'low' chances of paid employment after age 60, by private pension type: economically active men aged 50–59
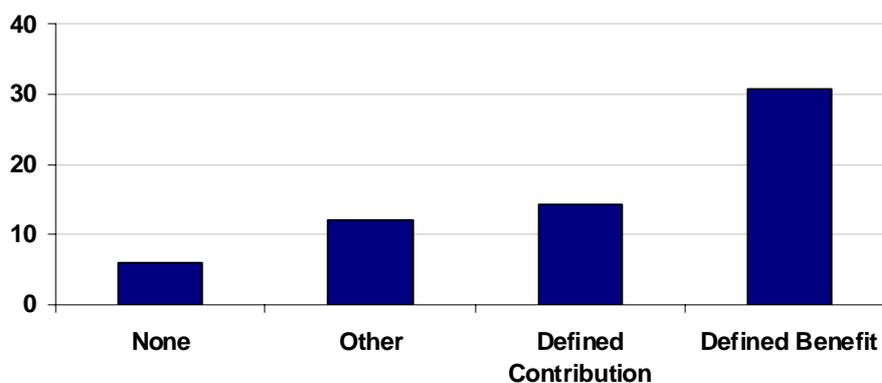
Notes: 'Low' chance of working defined as subjective probability less than 40%. 'Other' category includes those who have contributed to both types of pension over their working life and those who have a private pension but do not know whether their pension is DB or DC.

The category 'other' in Table 4A.21 includes individuals who have contributed to both DB and DC pensions and also those who do not know the type of private pension they are contributing to or have ever contributed to. Figure 4.9 shows that the subjective probability of early retirement for men aged 50–59 in this category is very similar to that for men in the DC category. Again, there could be a variety of potential explanations, but one contributing factor is that 70% of this category comprises men who are currently contributing to a DC pension, having contributed to a DB plan in the past. To the extent that there are retirement incentives inherent in DB plans, these will typically not affect those who were members of the DB plan at some point earlier in their work history.

The expectations of being in work for those currently out of work (Table 4A.22) are generally low and much more strongly associated with health than are those for individuals currently working. Table 4.3 shows that the large majority of inactive individuals below the SPA do not expect to work in the future, and this is even more exaggerated for those inactive individuals who consider themselves retired. Looking across health groups, the average chances of working at age 60, reported by economically inactive men aged 50–59, vary from 21% for those who are in good health to 10% for those in fair or poor health. In the case of inactive women aged 50–54, the probability of being in work five years before the SPA goes from 19% to 8% across the two broad health groups (Figure 4.10). Again, this shows that health, which is not associated with strong trends in labour market outcomes conditional on participation, is indeed strongly correlated with participation status.

Table 4.3. Expected chances of returning to paid employment for economically inactive individuals below SPA

	Sample size	Fraction reporting zero chance of working in future	Average percentage chance of returning to work
		%	%
Men, 50–59			
All inactive	*409*	64.5	14.8
Inactive and retired	*141*	74.5	8.9
Men, 60–64			
All inactive	*404*	82.9	5.5
Inactive and retired	*240*	83.5	5.0
Women, 50–54			
All inactive	*270*	63.8	14.5
Inactive and retired	*29*	–	–
Women, 55–59			
All inactive	*440*	74.2	8.7
Inactive and retired	*122*	73.9	8.2

Note: See Note to Figure 4.8.

Figure 4.10. Expectations of being in paid employment at 60/65/55/60, by health, gender and age group: all economically inactive individuals
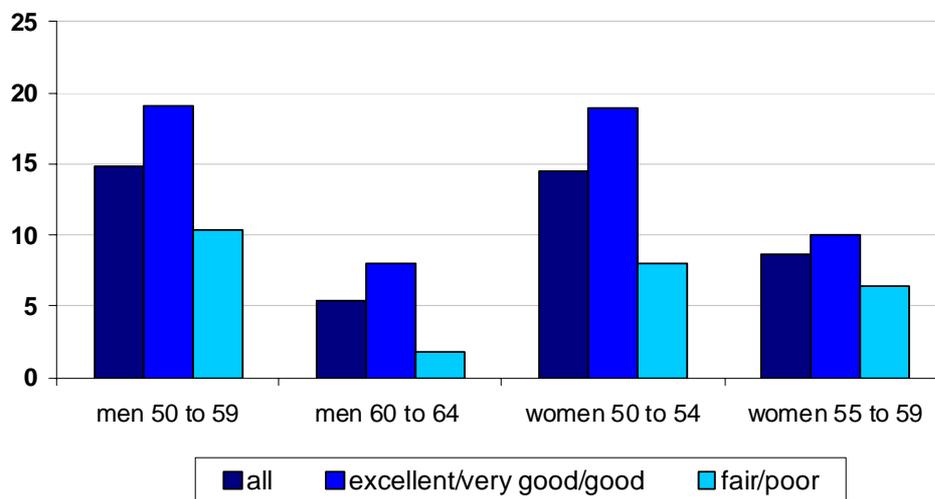
Note: See Note to Figure 4.8.

4.7 Conclusions

The economic activity of older individuals, and particularly those aged 50–64, is a key policy issue. The analysis here has shown important differences between 'retirement' and other forms of labour market inactivity, and systematic patterns in both measures when the population is analysed by gender, health, wealth, marital status or pension status. The key to providing further evidence for the policy debate is to disentangle these various relationships to establish the effects, other things being equal, of variation in any one dimension. Over the longer term, as future waves of data on the same sample of individuals become available, this is precisely what the ELSA data have been designed to do.

By using repeated observations on the same individuals and households, future analysis will be able to compare the labour market outcomes that result from changes in health or wealth, for example, or compare an individual's expectations of future work patterns with what actually transpires as their retirement evolves. In addition, the detailed measurement of health and functioning and pension status in particular, much of which has not been exploited in the analysis above, will provide the opportunity for a much more precise understanding of individual circumstances and how work and retirement experiences differ within the population.

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Annex 4.1
Tables on work and retirement

Table 4A.1. Self-reported labour market status, by gender and age group

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men							
Employed	64.8	53.9	33.5	4.8	2.2	0.0	0.4
Self-employed	16.3	15.4	10.0	4.4	2.3	2.3	0.5
Retired	5.1	11.6	33.5	87.0	92.6	95.5	96.7
Unemployed	3.3	4.0	3.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	7.9	12.3	16.4	2.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
Other	2.6	2.9	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.3	1.6
Women							
Employed	64.0	51.7	20.7	5.8	0.9	0.2	0.2
Self-employed	7.0	4.8	3.0	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.1
Retired	3.0	10.9	55.1	74.4	76.9	78.4	75.9
Unemployed	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	8.0	11.1	3.7	2.3	3.2	3.1	4.7
Other	16.4	20.8	17.6	15.7	18.2	18.1	19.1
All							
Employed	64.4	52.8	27.0	5.3	1.5	0.1	0.2
Self-employed	11.6	10.0	6.4	3.0	1.5	1.2	0.2
Retired	4.0	11.3	44.5	80.4	84.1	85.7	83.3
Unemployed	2.5	2.4	1.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	7.9	11.7	9.9	2.1	2.2	2.2	3.4
Other	9.6	11.9	10.5	9.1	10.8	10.8	12.8
Sample size:							
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*
All	*1968*	*2165*	*1669*	*1695*	*1452*	*1078*	*1207*

Table 4A.2. Labour market activity, by gender and age group

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men							
Employment	69.9	59.9	38.4	11.7	8.0	2.0	0.6
Self-employment	17.6	15.6	11.0	5.6	3.8	3.1	0.5
Voluntary work	8.7	8.5	10.3	12.9	13.9	11.5	7.2
Women							
Employment	68.2	55.7	25.8	10.2	3.2	0.8	0.3
Self-employment	8.3	6.3	4.7	2.9	1.2	0.8	0.1
Voluntary work	9.1	13.3	16.6	17.0	13.5	12.9	6.2
All							
Employment	69.0	57.7	31.9	10.9	5.4	1.3	0.4
Self-employment	12.9	10.9	7.8	4.2	2.4	1.8	0.2
Voluntary work	8.9	10.9	13.6	15.0	13.7	12.3	6.6
Sample size:							
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*
All	*1968*	*2165*	*1669*	*1695*	*1452*	*1078*	*1207*

Table 4A.3. Self-reported labour market status, by gender, self-reported health status and age group

	50–54			55–59			60–64			65–69		
	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men												
Employed	71.5	67.9	40.2	60.1	59.1	34.8	42.1	39.0	14.9	7.4	5.6	0.4
Self-empl.	17.7	18.3	9.1	17.7	17.1	8.8	13.9	10.7	3.3	7.3	3.6	1.3
Retired	4.6	4.4	7.5	12.7	13.3	7.2	36.0	31.2	31.9	82.0	87.4	93.2
Unemployed	3.5	2.3	4.6	4.2	4.8	2.4	2.9	4.6	3.8	0.0	0.4	0.0
Perm. sick	0.3	4.2	36.2	2.0	3.9	43.8	2.7	10.3	43.8	1.1	0.8	4.4
Other	2.5	2.9	2.4	3.3	1.7	3.1	2.4	4.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	0.8
Women												
Employed	72.7	66.6	36.1	60.9	53.3	31.8	27.5	18.4	10.6	7.1	5.3	4.0
Self-empl.	8.5	5.4	5.7	6.4	4.9	1.5	4.7	2.1	0.9	1.8	1.8	2.0
Retired	3.0	1.8	5.1	10.9	11.7	10.2	49.4	60.5	59.1	75.6	75.2	72.0
Unemployed	1.1	2.7	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Perm. sick	0.3	4.9	33.8	1.2	6.2	36.3	0.5	1.4	12.8	0.3	1.1	8.0
Other	14.4	18.6	18.0	19.9	23.4	19.3	18.0	17.5	16.7	15.2	16.6	14.0
All												
Employed	72.1	67.3	38.1	60.5	56.2	33.2	34.6	27.6	12.9	7.3	5.4	2.0
Self-empl.	13.1	11.7	7.4	12.0	11.0	5.0	9.2	5.9	2.2	4.3	2.6	1.6
Retired	3.8	3.1	6.3	11.8	12.5	8.8	42.9	47.5	44.4	78.5	80.6	83.6
Unemployed	2.3	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.7	1.7	1.4	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Perm. sick	0.3	4.6	34.9	1.6	5.0	40.0	1.6	5.4	29.5	0.6	1.0	6.0
Other	8.4	11.0	10.4	11.8	12.6	11.4	10.4	11.6	9.0	9.3	10.2	6.8
Sample size:												
Men	*449*	*276*	*162*	*459*	*313*	*233*	*357*	*207*	*230*	*312*	*245*	*235*
Women	*537*	*335*	*209*	*525*	*351*	*278*	*392*	*271*	*208*	*379*	*319*	*199*
All	*986*	*611*	*371*	*984*	*664*	*511*	*749*	*478*	*438*	*691*	*564*	*434*

Table 4A.3 (contd). Self-reported labour market status, by gender, self-reported health status and age group

	70–74			75–79			80+		
	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men									
Employed	2.6	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.0
Self-employed	2.3	4.2	0.5	3.8	2.5	0.7	1.5	0.0	0.0
Retired	91.9	89.8	96.5	94.4	96.7	95.4	96.6	97.1	96.4
Unemployed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Perm. sick	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.7	0.9	1.2
Other	3.2	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.5	2.4
Women									
Employed	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Self-employed	1.5	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Retired	78.2	79.5	73.3	75.3	78.9	81.0	80.5	73.2	74.2
Unemployed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Perm. sick	0.4	1.3	7.9	0.6	2.0	7.0	1.7	5.2	7.0
Other	18.9	17.5	18.0	22.7	19.1	12.0	17.4	21.2	18.8
All									
Employed	1.8	2.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0
Self-employed	1.9	2.4	0.2	2.2	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retired	84.8	84.2	83.1	83.7	86.0	87.5	86.0	81.5	82.5
Unemployed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Perm. sick	0.2	0.7	5.9	0.3	1.2	5.1	1.4	3.7	4.8
Other	11.3	10.6	10.4	13.5	11.8	7.1	11.6	14.3	12.7
Sample size:									
Men	*257*	*206*	*200*	*170*	*153*	*169*	*139*	*143*	*188*
Women	*272*	*248*	*269*	*189*	*208*	*188*	*227*	*233*	*277*
All	*529*	*454*	*469*	*359*	*361*	*357*	*366*	*376*	*465*

Table 4A.4. Labour market activity, by gender, self-reported health status and age group

	50–54			55–59			60–64			65–69		
	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men												
Employment	78.0	72.0	43.2	67.8	65.1	37.4	49.2	42.6	17.4	17.9	12.1	2.5
Self-empl.	20.2	18.2	9.1	17.3	18.4	8.7	16.7	9.6	3.3	8.5	5.9	1.3
Volunt. work	10.8	5.0	9.0	9.7	11.3	2.5	13.7	8.2	7.0	17.7	14.0	5.4
Women												
Employment	78.4	68.5	40.0	65.0	56.8	36.4	34.5	23.1	12.6	13.1	10.8	3.9
Self-empl.	10.9	6.1	5.3	7.8	7.4	2.0	6.8	4.0	1.7	3.1	3.0	2.5
Volunt. work	9.6	8.0	9.2	14.4	14.5	9.9	19.5	19.4	7.5	23.0	16.2	7.0
All												
Employment	78.2	70.2	41.5	66.4	61.0	36.9	41.6	31.8	15.2	15.3	11.4	3.2
Self-empl.	15.5	12.0	7.1	12.5	12.9	5.3	11.6	6.5	2.6	5.6	4.3	1.8
Volunt. work	10.2	6.6	9.1	12.1	12.9	6.3	16.7	14.4	7.3	20.6	15.2	6.1
Sample size:												
Men	*449*	*276*	*162*	*459*	*313*	*233*	*357*	*207*	*230*	*312*	*245*	*235*
Women	*537*	*335*	*209*	*525*	*351*	*278*	*392*	*271*	*208*	*379*	*319*	*199*
All	*986*	*611*	*371*	*984*	*664*	*511*	*749*	*478*	*438*	*691*	*564*	*434*

Table 4A.4 (contd). Labour market activity, by gender, self-reported health status and age group

	70–74			75–79			80+		
	Excel/ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel/ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel/ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men									
Employment	11.6	9.8	1.5	3.7	2.5	0.0	1.4	0.6	0.0
Self-empl.	4.2	5.1	1.9	4.9	2.5	1.7	1.5	0.0	0.0
Volunt. work	19.0	12.2	9.1	14.4	14.2	6.2	11.1	7.5	3.9
Women									
Employment	5.7	2.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.0
Self-empl.	2.6	1.1	0.0	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0
Volunt. work	21.0	13.9	5.5	20.4	14.8	3.1	9.7	6.2	3.2
All									
Employment	8.5	6.0	1.3	2.2	1.5	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.0
Self-empl.	3.4	3.0	0.8	3.0	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.0
Volunt. work	20.1	13.1	7.0	17.7	14.5	4.5	10.2	6.6	3.5
Sample size:									
Men	*257*	*206*	*200*	*170*	*153*	*169*	*139*	*143*	*188*
Women	*272*	*248*	*269*	*189*	*208*	*188*	*227*	*233*	*277*
All	*529*	*454*	*469*	*359*	*361*	*357*	*366*	*376*	*465*

Table 4A.5. Percentage economically active, by gender, self-reported health status and age group

	50–54			55–59			60–64			65+		
	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men	92.3	87.5	50.5	81.7	80.2	46.1	62.1	53.3	22.1	15.1	10.4	2.2
Women	86.9	75.3	45.3	71.3	63.8	39.2	40.9	26.6	14.9	7.4	5.1	2.0
N men	*449*	*276*	*162*	*459*	*313*	*233*	*357*	*207*	*230*	*878*	*747*	*792*
N women	*537*	*335*	*209*	*525*	*351*	*278*	*392*	*271*	*208*	*1067*	*1008*	*933*

Table 4A.6. Percentage economically active, by age, gender and mobility limitations

	50–54		55–59		60–64		65+	
	None	One or more	None	One or more	None	One or more	None	One or more
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men	91.5	66.2	81.1	60.8	59.8	35.3	13.5	6.8
Women	84.9	64.7	69.2	54.7	38.7	24.6	9.2	3.6
N men	*593*	*294*	*593*	*414*	*416*	*379*	*936*	*1482*
N women	*571*	*509*	*529*	*626*	*353*	*518*	*751*	*2256*

Table 4A.8. Normal work hours per week, by age, gender and mobility limitations: economically active only

	50–54		55–59		60–64		65+	
	None	One or more	None	One or more	None	One or more	None	One or more
Men								
< 10	1.0	1.0	1.2	3.3	4.9	3.8	25.4	26.4
10–20	2.0	1.5	1.8	3.4	10.5	5.5	14.9	21.1
20–30	2.0	4.4	5.8	5.2	8.7	6.4	18.1	19.3
30+	95.1	93.2	91.3	88.1	76.0	84.2	41.7	33.3
Average hours	44.6	43.4	43.7	41.9	37.4	39.4	24.9	24.8
Women								
< 10	5.5	6.0	6.4	10.1	13.2	12.8	32.2	34.4
10–20	13.4	14.7	19.5	15.9	26.6	30.5	31.4	33.6
20–30	21.2	20.0	20.3	22.2	26.8	27.0	21.5	14.2
30+	60.0	59.4	53.8	51.9	33.4	29.6	15.0	17.8
Average hours	31.4	30.0	29.6	28.3	24.6	23.8	16.8	16.0
All								
< 10	2.9	3.9	3.3	7.0	7.7	8.2	27.9	30.1
10–20	6.9	9.2	9.0	10.2	15.9	17.6	21.0	26.9
20–30	10.2	13.5	11.7	14.5	14.8	16.4	19.3	16.9
30+	80.1	73.3	76.1	68.3	61.5	57.9	31.8	26.1
Average hours	39.0	35.6	38.0	34.5	33.1	31.9	21.9	20.7
Sample size:								
Men	*542*	*194*	*477*	*253*	*243*	*129*	*124*	*99*
Women	*475*	*321*	*362*	*336*	*128*	*127*	*72*	*88*
All	*1017*	*515*	*839*	*589*	*371*	*256*	*196*	*187*

Table 4A.9. Job type, by age, gender and self-reported health status: economically active only

	50–54				55–59			
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All
Men								
Sedentary	41.0	38.6	31.8	39.2	41.8	35.6	35.2	38.7
Standing	22.3	21.1	23.0	22.0	25.9	26.0	23.6	25.6
Physical	25.0	31.0	30.3	27.5	22.9	30.1	33.4	26.9
Heavy manual	11.7	9.3	15.0	11.3	9.4	8.4	7.8	8.8
Women								
Sedentary	41.8	37.3	31.5	39.2	37.0	37.3	33.5	36.6
Standing	38.9	41.7	40.9	40.0	38.9	37.7	40.6	38.8
Physical	18.4	20.1	24.2	19.6	23.6	23.6	25.1	23.8
Heavy manual	1.0	0.8	3.4	1.2	0.6	1.4	0.9	0.9
All								
Sedentary	41.4	38.0	31.7	39.2	39.5	36.4	34.4	37.7
Standing	30.3	30.9	31.7	30.6	32.1	31.2	31.6	31.7
Physical	21.8	25.8	27.3	23.7	23.2	27.2	29.5	25.5
Heavy manual	6.5	5.3	9.4	6.4	5.2	5.3	4.6	5.1
Sample size:								
Men	*413*	*241*	*83*	*737*	*373*	*250*	*109*	*732*
Women	*463*	*250*	*93*	*806*	*373*	*221*	*109*	*703*
All	*876*	*491*	*176*	*1543*	*746*	*471*	*218*	*1435*

Table 4A.9 (contd). Job type, by age, gender and self-reported health status: economically active only

	60–64				65+			
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All
Men								
Sedentary	30.0	26.6	28.9	28.9	30.9	31.7	–	30.9
Standing	22.4	27.0	32.2	25.0	27.2	32.9	–	29.2
Physical	33.5	35.5	37.1	34.5	38.8	34.1	–	37.7
Heavy manual	14.1	10.9	1.9	11.6	3.1	1.4	–	2.3
Women								
Sedentary	34.4	32.3	[24.4]	32.7	41.5	28.3	–	36.1
Standing	43.3	43.6	[42.9]	43.3	37.2	53.9	–	42.4
Physical	21.0	24.2	[32.7]	23.2	21.3	17.8	–	21.5
Heavy manual	1.4	0.0	[0.0]	0.8	0.0	0.0	–	0.0
All								
Sedentary	31.8	28.7	27.2	30.4	35.0	30.3	[31.0]	33.0
Standing	31.0	33.3	36.1	32.3	31.1	41.5	[30.2]	34.6
Physical	28.3	31.2	35.5	30.0	32.0	27.4	[38.8]	31.1
Heavy manual	8.9	6.8	1.2	7.3	1.9	0.8	[0.0]	1.3
Sample size:								
Men	*221*	*111*	*51*	*383*	*133*	*80*	*18*	*231*
Women	*161*	*70*	*31*	*262*	*85*	*57*	*19*	*161*
All	*382*	*181*	*82*	*645*	*218*	*137*	*37*	*392*

Table 4A.7. Normal work hours per week, by age, gender and self-reported health status: economically active only

	50–54			55–59			60–64			65+		
	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor	Excel./ v.g.	Good	Fair/ poor
Men												
< 10	1.2	0.0	2.5	1.0	2.4	3.9	6.0	2.6	[2.0]	25.5	24.1	–
10–20	1.7	2.3	1.2	2.1	2.3	3.4	7.6	11.3	[8.3]	20.9	10.3	–
20–30	2.6	1.5	6.2	7.2	4.2	3.3	9.2	6.1	[6.1]	18.1	18.5	–
30+	94.5	96.2	90.1	89.8	91.1	89.3	77.2	80.0	[83.7]	35.5	47.2	–
Ave. hours	44.6	44.0	43.5	43.2	43.2	42.7	37.6	39.1	[38.1]	22.8	30.0	–
Women												
< 10	4.8	6.3	8.5	5.2	11.2	12.2	10.6	12.3	[27.4]	26.8	42.3	–
10–20	14.5	12.1	16.2	18.6	16.1	18.4	29.5	30.4	[18.4]	33.7	29.9	–
20–30	21.9	18.3	21.2	20.5	22.4	21.6	28.1	27.0	[20.1]	18.6	17.5	–
30+	58.9	63.3	54.1	55.7	50.3	47.8	31.7	30.2	[34.0]	21.0	10.3	–
Ave. hours	30.7	31.6	29.6	29.9	28.0	27.4	24.4	24.9	[21.4]	18.0	14.5	–
All												
< 10	2.9	3.0	5.4	3.0	6.3	7.8	7.9	6.3	11.4	26.0	31.8	[36.7]
10–20	7.9	6.9	8.4	9.9	8.4	10.4	16.6	18.6	12.0	25.9	18.7	[29.9]
20–30	11.9	9.5	13.4	13.5	12.3	11.8	16.9	14.1	11.3	18.3	18.1	[17.7]
30+	77.3	80.6	72.8	73.7	73.0	70.0	58.6	60.9	65.2	29.8	31.5	[15.7]
Ave. hours	37.9	38.1	36.8	37.0	36.4	35.6	32.2	33.7	31.9	20.9	23.4	[16.5]
N men	*413*	*241*	*82*	*371*	*249*	*109*	*216*	*108*	*48*	*132*	*74*	*17*
N women	*458*	*248*	*91*	*368*	*222*	*107*	*156*	*69*	*30*	*85*	*56*	*19*
N all	*871*	*489*	*173*	*739*	*471*	*216*	*372*	*177*	*78*	*217*	*130*	*36*

Table 4A.10. SOC (2000), by age, gender and self-reported health status: economically active only

	50–54				55–59			
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All
Men								
Managers and senior officials	23.6	15.3	15.0	20.0	19.7	17.2	18.5	18.7
Professional occupations	17.1	14.7	16.6	16.3	13.6	14.0	8.6	13.0
Associate professional and technical occupations	10.7	8.9	10.7	10.1	14.6	11.1	6.4	12.2
Administrative and secretarial occupations	5.8	2.9	5.6	4.8	4.0	4.9	2.6	4.1
Skilled trade occupations	20.6	27.1	25.3	23.2	20.0	22.3	18.5	20.6
Personal service occupations	3.1	1.6	2.4	2.5	3.0	2.5	1.8	2.7
Sales and customer service occupations	1.1	3.1	0.0	1.6	3.4	1.7	5.7	3.2
Process, plant and machine operatives etc.	9.7	14.8	17.2	12.1	12.9	12.7	20.4	13.9
Elementary occupations	8.3	11.8	7.4	9.3	9.0	13.7	17.5	11.9
N	*415*	*242*	*83*	*740*	*375*	*250*	*109*	*734*
Women								
Managers and senior officials	9.3	8.2	6.7	8.7	9.4	8.2	4.3	8.2
Professional occupations	13.6	8.9	6.3	11.4	10.7	8.5	6.5	9.4
Associate professional and technical occupations	13.5	8.7	6.5	11.2	12.6	8.4	5.9	10.3
Administrative and secretarial occupations	26.9	25.3	11.1	24.6	26.7	25.6	21.5	25.6
Skilled trade occupations	2.5	0.8	5.6	2.3	3.5	3.4	5.0	3.7
Personal service occupations	14.2	13.7	16.1	14.2	8.9	10.9	18.9	11.1
Sales and customer service occupations	7.0	12.8	15.8	9.8	8.5	12.2	7.0	9.5
Process, plant and machine operatives etc.	3.1	3.2	4.5	3.3	3.3	4.5	7.4	4.3
Elementary occupations	10.0	18.5	27.4	14.6	16.5	18.2	23.6	18.1
N	*464*	*251*	*92*	*807*	*373*	*222*	*109*	*704*
All								
Managers and senior officials	16.7	11.9	11.0	14.5	14.8	13.2	11.8	13.8
Professional occupations	15.4	12.0	11.6	13.9	12.2	11.6	7.6	11.3
Associate professional and technical occupations	12.1	8.8	8.7	10.6	13.6	9.9	6.2	11.3
Administrative and secretarial occupations	16.0	13.5	8.2	14.4	14.8	14.1	11.5	14.1
Skilled trade occupations	11.8	14.6	15.8	13.2	12.2	13.9	12.2	12.7
Personal service occupations	8.5	7.3	9.0	8.2	5.8	6.2	9.8	6.6
Sales and customer service occupations	4.0	7.7	7.6	5.6	5.8	6.4	6.3	6.1
Process, plant and machine operatives etc.	6.5	9.3	11.1	7.9	8.3	9.0	14.3	9.5
Elementary occupations	9.1	14.9	17.0	11.8	12.5	15.7	20.4	14.8
N	*879*	*493*	*175*	*1547*	*748*	*472*	*218*	*1438*

Table 4A.10 (contd). SOC (2000), by age, gender and self-reported health status: economically active only

	60–64				65+			
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	All
Men								
Managers and senior officials	14.8	9.9	5.1	12.1	10.8	18.5	–	13.8
Professional occupations	16.4	8.5	13.1	13.7	12.4	11.9	–	11.7
Associate professional and technical occupations	5.8	14.8	9.5	8.9	9.2	9.5	–	9.4
Administrative and secretarial occupations	2.6	1.6	3.9	2.5	6.6	3.7	–	5.6
Skilled trade occupations	21.7	29.3	19.3	23.6	26.1	16.5	–	22.1
Personal service occupations	2.9	4.3	2.7	3.3	1.5	0.0	–	0.9
Sales and customer service occupations	4.8	0.0	1.6	3.0	6.0	9.8	–	7.6
Process, plant and machine operatives etc.	18.6	19.0	19.8	18.9	12.5	8.8	–	10.7
Elementary occupations	12.3	12.7	25.1	14.1	14.9	21.3	–	18.1
N	*221*	*111*	*51*	*383*	*134*	*80*	*18*	*232*
Women								
Managers and senior officials	5.9	10.6	[12.7]	8.0	3.7	8.2	–	4.8
Professional occupations	12.8	5.4	[0.0]	9.3	7.2	10.3	–	9.7
Associate professional and technical occupations	12.5	11.5	[11.9]	12.2	9.3	6.6	–	7.9
Administrative and secretarial occupations	22.3	16.6	[21.9]	20.7	26.8	22.0	–	24.2
Skilled trades occupations	4.1	4.1	[0.0]	3.6	8.2	5.5	–	6.9
Personal service occupations	11.7	20.7	[17.6]	14.8	9.1	14.8	–	10.6
Sales and customer service occupations	12.5	15.9	[9.6]	13.1	10.2	9.4	–	8.6
Process, plant and machine operatives etc.	2.3	2.7	[3.9]	2.6	3.4	1.9	–	3.0
Elementary occupations	16.0	12.5	[22.6]	15.8	22.2	21.4	–	24.3
N	*161*	*71*	*31*	*263*	*85*	*57*	*19*	*161*
All								
Managers and senior officials	11.2	10.2	7.8	10.5	8.1	14.3	[7.5]	10.1
Professional occupations	14.9	7.3	8.4	11.9	10.4	11.2	[12.6]	10.9
Associate professional and technical occupations	8.6	13.5	10.4	10.2	9.2	8.3	[8.0]	8.8
Administrative and secretarial occupations	10.7	7.4	10.4	9.7	14.4	11.2	[12.7]	13.2
Skilled trades occupations	14.5	19.6	12.3	15.6	19.2	12.0	[10.6]	15.9
Personal service occupations	6.5	10.6	8.1	7.9	4.5	6.1	[3.1]	4.9
Sales and customer service occupations	8.0	6.1	4.5	7.0	7.6	9.6	[4.8]	8.0
Process, plant and machine operatives etc.	11.9	12.8	14.0	12.4	9.0	6.0	[4.9]	7.6
Elementary occupations	13.8	12.6	24.2	14.8	17.7	21.3	[36.0]	20.7
N	*382*	*182*	*82*	*646*	*219*	*137*	*37*	*393*

Table 4A.11. Expectations of health limiting ability to work, by self-reported health status and type of job

a) Economically active men aged 50–54

Probability	Excellent or very good				Good, fair or poor			
	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All
0%	4.7	10.2	14.9	9.6	5.9	0.0	6.2	4.7
1%–39%	60.4	48.4	38.8	49.9	34.7	30.5	23.3	29.1
40%–60%	19.8	28.7	28.0	24.7	38.1	40.0	41.1	39.7
61%–99%	15.1	12.7	17.7	15.5	20.6	25.0	26.1	23.8
100%	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.8	4.6	3.4	2.7
Ave. prob.	32.1	34.1	34.4	33.4	43.0	49.7	49.7	47.2
N	*173*	*89*	*142*	*404*	*122*	*70*	*128*	*320*

b) Economically active men aged 55–59

Probability	Excellent or very good				Good, fair or poor			
	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All
0%	10.7	6.0	9.9	9.2	6.7	15.9	8.3	9.7
1%–39%	55.7	43.3	31.2	44.7	30.1	28.2	27.6	28.7
40%–60%	16.5	26.0	29.3	23.0	35.3	32.9	38.2	35.8
61%–99%	15.9	22.6	27.2	21.2	24.9	22.0	25.3	24.3
100%	1.2	2.1	2.4	1.8	3.1	1.0	0.6	1.6
Ave. prob.	31.4	39.5	43.4	37.3	45.2	38.6	44.9	43.4
N	*156*	*96*	*113*	*365*	*124*	*90*	*133*	*347*

c) Economically active men aged 60–64

Probability	Excellent or very good				Good, fair or poor			
	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All
0%	26.7	30.0	23.8	26.1	[13.2]	[20.5]	18.7	17.8
1%–39%	61.2	48.3	46.1	51.0	[47.8]	[26.9]	31.8	34.6
40%–60%	5.9	15.8	20.5	15.2	[13.7]	[27.9]	32.7	26.3
61%–99%	4.5	5.9	9.6	7.3	[25.3]	[20.2]	12.9	18.2
100%	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	[0.0]	[4.6]	3.9	3.1
Ave. prob.	17.5	20.0	25.7	22.0	[34.8]	[39.4]	36.1	36.7
N	*65*	*50*	*101*	*216*	*44*	*44*	*69*	*157*

Table 4A.11 (contd). Expectations of health limiting ability to work, by self-reported health status and type of job

d) Economically active women aged 50–54

Probability	Excellent or very good				Good, fair or poor			
	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All
0%	12.3	10.0	12.9	11.6	4.0	3.8	1.2	3.3
1%–39%	49.9	39.1	28.3	41.5	25.4	30.7	27.5	28.1
40%–60%	24.0	29.9	29.8	27.5	33.9	32.4	35.3	33.6
61%–99%	13.2	19.4	27.1	18.4	33.4	30.0	33.0	31.9
100%	0.5	1.5	2.0	1.2	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.2
Ave. prob.	32.0	38.3	41.4	36.3	51.1	49.2	51.7	50.4
N	*191*	*177*	*89*	*457*	*126*	*138*	*73*	*337*

e) Economically active women aged 55–59

Probability	Excellent or very good				Good, fair or poor			
	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All	Sedentary	Standing	Physical or heavy manual	All
0%	11.7	15.1	8.1	12.2	8.8	7.1	8.3	8.0
1%–39%	54.8	44.0	43.2	47.9	27.7	22.1	20.9	23.9
40%–60%	19.9	21.4	26.7	22.1	35.8	36.8	40.8	37.4
61%–99%	12.9	18.7	20.8	17.0	25.2	25.5	30.0	26.5
100%	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.9	2.6	8.5	0.0	4.2
Ave. prob.	28.5	34.5	38.7	33.2	44.9	51.4	48.7	48.3
N	*138*	*137*	*86*	*361*	*117*	*123*	*76*	*316*

Table 4A.12. Percentage retired and percentage economically inactive, by age, gender and wealth quintile

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+
Percentage describing themselves as retired or semi-retired:							
Men	**5.5**	**12.6**	**34.9**	**88.2**	**93.5**	**96.3**	**96.7**
Poorest wealth quintile	3.3	3.9	23.8	88.5	95.4	94.4	91.0
Quintile 2	2.8	7.5	22.9	91.4	93.4	98.2	95.1
Quintile 3	2.9	10.5	31.5	86.2	91.6	98.9	98.3
Quintile 4	6.5	16.6	43.3	89.8	96.9	96.9	99.2
Richest wealth quintile 5	12.3	23.7	51.4	85.3	90.7	92.5	97.9
Women	**3.3**	**11.3**	**56.2**	**75.2**	**77.3**	**78.8**	**76.0**
Poorest wealth quintile	1.6	6.2	55.5	71.1	73.1	85.1	85.3
Quintile 2	2.4	6.5	54.7	74.4	80.0	81.1	78.7
Quintile 3	1.9	9.5	57.1	75.6	80.5	77.0	71.3
Quintile 4	3.6	15.4	58.0	82.0	76.6	79.7	79.4
Richest wealth quintile 5	7.1	20.5	56.5	73.1	77.1	69.9	64.4
Percentage economically inactive:							
Men	**16.7**	**27.1**	**51.7**	**83.5**	**89.2**	**94.9**	**98.9**
Poorest wealth quintile	44.1	49.6	67.6	91.4	92.6	100.0	98.6
Quintile 2	13.2	26.6	47.6	90.7	92.2	95.4	100.0
Quintile 3	6.0	14.3	47.7	79.3	86.9	96.7	99.2
Quintile 4	10.0	20.8	51.1	83.6	93.1	94.9	99.0
Richest wealth quintile 5	15.7	25.6	44.9	72.8	82.3	90.6	97.9
Women	**24.5**	**38.7**	**69.7**	**86.9**	**95.9**	**98.4**	**99.6**
Poorest wealth quintile	47.0	53.8	76.3	91.6	96.2	100.0	100.0
Quintile 2	16.8	35.9	70.0	87.0	96.6	100.0	100.0
Quintile 3	16.0	33.1	70.0	88.7	96.0	99.1	100.0
Quintile 4	15.0	32.5	68.4	82.5	97.0	96.9	100.0
Richest wealth quintile 5	23.4	40.4	63.2	84.7	93.5	95.8	97.8
N men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*
N women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*

Note: Wealth quintiles are defined *within* each five-year age group.

Table 4A.13. Self-reported labour market status, by age, gender and marital status

	50–54		55–59		60–64		65–69	
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Employed	45.6	68.8	40.4	57.1	29.1	34.5	4.7	4.8
Self-employed	16.1	16.4	12.5	16.1	10.7	9.8	2.3	4.9
Retired	5.7	4.9	10.4	11.9	33.1	33.6	89.2	86.4
Unemployed	9.0	2.1	9.1	2.7	3.2	3.7	0.6	0.0
Permanently sick	18.2	5.8	24.8	9.4	21.1	15.4	2.0	1.9
Other	5.4	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	1.2	2.0
Women								
Employed	61.3	64.8	51.2	51.8	23.1	19.8	5.6	5.9
Self-employed	5.1	7.6	5.1	4.7	4.6	2.4	2.4	1.5
Retired	3.2	3.0	13.1	10.3	59.5	53.5	81.8	70.5
Unemployed	4.0	0.9	3.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	20.0	4.4	17.5	9.4	3.9	3.6	2.8	2.0
Other	6.4	19.3	9.8	23.7	8.9	20.8	7.4	20.1
All								
Employed	54.6	66.8	46.1	54.4	25.5	27.4	5.3	5.3
Self-employed	9.8	12.1	8.6	10.4	7.1	6.2	2.4	3.3
Retired	4.3	4.0	11.9	11.1	48.8	43.3	84.5	78.8
Unemployed	6.1	1.5	6.0	1.4	1.3	1.9	0.2	0.0
Permanently sick	19.2	5.1	20.9	9.4	10.9	9.6	2.5	2.0
Other	6.0	10.5	6.5	13.3	6.5	11.7	5.1	10.7
Sample size:								
Men	*150*	*737*	*179*	*829*	*137*	*659*	*164*	*630*
Women	*263*	*818*	*262*	*895*	*237*	*636*	*321*	*580*
All	*413*	*1555*	*441*	*1724*	*374*	*1295*	*485*	*1210*

Note: 'Married' includes married people and those who live as married.

Table 4A.13 (contd). Self-reported labour market status, by age, gender and marital status

	70–74		75–79		80+	
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Employed	1.4	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Self-employed	2.7	2.2	1.5	2.6	0.5	0.4
Retired	94.0	92.2	97.2	94.8	97.9	95.7
Unemployed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	1.3	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.6	1.2
Other	0.7	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.6	2.3
Women						
Employed	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
Self-employed	0.3	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0
Retired	85.0	70.1	82.7	71.8	78.4	64.7
Unemployed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	3.0	3.4	2.7	3.8	4.9	4.2
Other	11.4	23.9	14.0	24.1	16.4	31.0
All						
Employed	0.6	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2
Self-employed	1.0	1.8	0.6	1.7	0.2	0.3
Retired	87.6	82.2	86.4	85.2	82.9	84.2
Unemployed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanently sick	2.6	2.0	2.3	2.1	3.9	2.3
Other	8.3	12.1	10.5	11.1	12.8	12.9
Sample size:						
Men	*145*	*518*	*137*	*356*	*213*	*257*
Women	*368*	*421*	*346*	*239*	*587*	*150*
All	*513*	*939*	*483*	*595*	*800*	*407*

Note: 'Married' includes married people and those who live as married.

Table 4A.14. Labour market activity, by gender, marital status and age group

	50–54		55–59		60–64		65–69	
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Employment	52.3	73.5	43.8	63.7	31.3	40.0	5.3	13.4
Self-employment	15.9	17.9	12.9	16.2	8.5	11.5	5.2	5.7
Voluntary work	3.7	9.8	5.1	9.3	7.5	11.0	7.8	14.3
Women								
Employment	65.4	69.0	54.5	56.0	26.1	25.7	9.3	10.7
Self-employment	5.1	9.3	7.2	6.1	6.1	4.2	3.9	2.4
Voluntary work	7.1	9.6	9.4	14.4	16.4	16.7	17.8	16.5
All								
Employment	59.8	71.3	49.5	59.8	28.2	33.0	7.8	12.1
Self-employment	9.7	13.7	9.8	11.1	7.1	8.0	4.4	4.1
Voluntary work	5.6	9.7	7.4	11.9	12.8	13.8	14.2	15.4
Sample size:								
Men	*150*	*737*	*179*	*829*	*137*	*659*	*164*	*630*
Women	*263*	*818*	*262*	*895*	*237*	*636*	*321*	*580*
All	*413*	*1555*	*441*	*1724*	*374*	*1295*	*485*	*1210*

Note: 'Married' includes married people and those who live as married.

Table 4A.14 (contd). Labour market activity, by gender, marital status and age group

	70–74		75–79		80+	
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Employment	5.3	8.8	2.2	2.0	0.9	0.4
Self-employment	4.0	3.7	2.2	3.4	0.0	0.8
Voluntary work	11.6	14.6	7.1	13.1	6.2	7.9
Women						
Employment	2.9	3.5	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.8
Self-employment	1.3	1.2	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.0
Voluntary work	14.8	12.4	15.5	9.1	6.2	6.4
All						
Employment	3.6	6.4	1.0	1.7	0.4	0.5
Self-employment	2.1	2.6	1.0	2.4	0.1	0.5
Voluntary work	13.9	13.6	13.4	11.4	6.2	7.4
Sample size:						
Men	*145*	*518*	*137*	*356*	*213*	*257*
Women	*368*	*421*	*346*	*239*	*587*	*150*
All	*513*	*939*	*483*	*595*	*800*	*407*

Note: 'Married' includes married people and those who live as married.

Table 4A.15. Percentage economically active, by partner's activity status, gender and age group: married or living-as-married individuals only

	50–54	55–59	60–64
Men	**86.9**	**76.9**	**50.3**
Partner economically inactive	72.7	63.8	35.7
Partner economically active	91.5	84.7	67.6
Women	**77.1**	**62.0**	**29.7**
Partner economically inactive	62.9	47.9	22.2
Partner economically active	82.5	72.2	43.7
Sample sizes:			
Men	*736*	*830*	*660*
Partner economically inactive	*183*	*307*	*354*
Partner economically active	*553*	*523*	*306*
Women	*819*	*894*	*635*
Partner economically inactive	*238*	*385*	*423*
Partner economically active	*581*	*509*	*212*

Table 4A.16. Current and lifetime private pension status, by age, gender and labour market activity status

	Percentage currently contributing to:				Percentage ever contributed to:				*N*
	None	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	Don't know type	None	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	Both	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men									
50–54	**31.7**	**30.1**	**36.8**	**1.3**	**8.6**	**44.4**	**28.4**	**18.6**	*887*
Active	20.0	36.1	42.3	1.6	5.4	43.0	30.8	20.8	*740*
Inactive	90.0	0.6	9.4	0.0	24.4	51.5	16.5	7.6	*147*
55–59	**43.8**	**20.2**	**33.9**	**2.0**	**11.2**	**45.3**	**25.7**	**17.7**	*1008*
Active	27.0	27.4	43.1	2.5	6.2	42.6	30.2	21.0	*736*
Inactive	89.1	1.0	9.2	0.7	24.7	52.6	13.8	8.9	*272*
60–64	**66.0**	**9.7**	**21.9**	**2.4**	**13.9**	**50.9**	**22.9**	**12.3**	*796*
Active	39.0	19.0	37.3	4.7	13.4	50.7	23.0	12.9	*384*
Inactive	91.2	1.1	7.6	0.3	17.4	59.3	14.7	8.6	*412*
Women									
50–54	**48.3**	**25.9**	**20.8**	**4.9**	**33.0**	**36.9**	**19.2**	**11.0**	*1081*
Active	33.8	34.0	25.7	6.5	22.2	42.0	22.7	13.1	*808*
Inactive	93.0	1.1	5.9	0.0	65.6	22.0	8.4	4.0	*273*
55–59	**60.7**	**19.4**	**15.2**	**4.7**	**36.1**	**38.1**	**16.4**	**9.5**	*1157*
Active	40.7	30.7	21.5	7.0	24.5	42.0	21.3	12.3	*705*
Inactive	92.3	1.5	5.2	0.9	54.4	33.0	8.6	4.0	*452*

Table 4A.17. Reasons for retirement, by age of retirement relative to state pension age (SPA) and normal retirement age (NRA)

Percentage reporting reason for retirement	**All individuals**		**Retired with private pension and a reported NRA**	
	Retired before SPA	Retired at or after SPA	Retired before NRA	Retired at or after NRA
Men				
Reached retirement age	7.7	75.1	0.0	69.8
Own ill health	27.1	6.6	27.9	6.1
Made redundant / dismissed / had no choice / could not find another job	23.6	6.7	22.2	11.7
Offered reasonable financial terms to retire early or take voluntary redundancy	23.2	1.9	33.4	0.0
Fed up with job and wanted a change	8.0	3.6	9.5	3.9
To enjoy life while still young and fit enough	17.3	8.9	18.4	11.7
To spend more time with partner/family	6.6	5.3	6.8	5.9
Ill health of a relative/friend	5.2	1.7	5.0	1.6
To retire at the same time as husband/wife/partner	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.6
Other	9.9	8.9	9.5	9.3
Women				
Reached retirement age	2.1	58.3	0.3	67.5
Own ill health	26.2	10.0	34.0	6.2
Made redundant / dismissed / had no choice / could not find another job	14.1	7.8	13.3	8.8
Offered reasonable financial terms to retire early or take voluntary redundancy	7.7	0.8	19.4	0.0
Fed up with job and wanted a change	8.1	5.6	10.3	6.9
To enjoy life while still young and fit enough	13.8	11.2	17.6	14.3
To spend more time with partner/family	19.1	9.5	13.5	9.3
Ill health of a relative/friend	11.3	4.4	10.0	3.7
To retire at the same time as husband/wife/partner	7.9	5.7	7.8	4.7
Other	16.6	10.6	10.9	9.0
Sample size:				
Men	*1762*	*923*	*1287*	*913*
Women	*1333*	*1610*	*625*	*656*

Note: Respondents were asked to report all relevant reasons for retirement.

Table 4A.18. Percentage retired, by age, gender and private pension status

	50–54	55–59	60–64	All 50–64	All 65+	All
% self-reported retired or semi-retired:						
All men	**5.5**	**12.6**	**34.9**	**16.2**	**93.0**	**50.3**
Of which:						
No private pension	7.6	6.0	25.3	13.2	90.6	59.6
Private pension	5.4	13.5	36.4	16.6	93.7	48.7
Of which:						
Defined benefit	8.5	20.8	45.2	23.9	95.2	60.7
Defined contribution	2.2	4.7	19.6	7.4	86.4	28.2
Other	2.6	7.4	31.3	10.6	91.3	28.5
All women	**3.3**	**11.3**	**56.2**	**21.2**	**76.7**	**49.2**
Of which:						
No private pension	2.1	8.1	55.2	22.0	72.5	54.6
Private pension	3.8	13.2	57.1	20.7	85.2	43.4
Of which:						
Defined benefit	5.0	15.5	60.9	24.9	87.4	52.0
Defined contribution	1.7	7.6	48.7	14.4	69.7	25.4
Other	3.8	13.7	[48.5]	14.2	[86.5]	22.7
Sample sizes:						
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*2691*	*2420*	*5111*
No private pension	*72*	*109*	*104*	*285*	*480*	*765*
Private pension	*815*	*899*	*692*	*2406*	*1940*	*4346*
Defined benefit	*395*	*458*	*405*	*1258*	*1504*	*2762*
Defined contribution	*251*	*259*	*182*	*692*	*287*	*979*
Other	*169*	*182*	*105*	*456*	*149*	*605*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*3111*	*3012*	*6123*
No private pension	*353*	*412*	*385*	*1150*	*1952*	*3102*
Private pension	*728*	*745*	*488*	*1961*	*1060*	*3021*
Defined benefit	*401*	*446*	*338*	*1185*	*892*	*2077*
Defined contribution	*206*	*189*	*112*	*507*	*130*	*637*
Other	*121*	*110*	*38*	*269*	*38*	*307*

Note: 'Other' includes people who have contributed both to a defined benefit and a defined contribution pension and those who do not know the type of pension they are contributing to or have ever contributed to.

Table 4A.19. Expectations of working after age 55/60/65, by self-reported health status and age group: economically active individuals

a) Economically active men

Probability of working after age 60	Men 50–59				Men 60–64				Probability of working after age 65
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	
0%	7.6	7.2	11.3	7.9	21.2	29.0	[33.0]	25.0	0%
1%–39%	12.7	13.3	9.1	12.5	17.2	17.8	[23.7]	18.2	1%–39%
40%–60%	16.9	20.5	22.8	18.8	19.2	17.1	[16.5]	18.2	40%–60%
61%–99%	34.1	33.1	34.0	33.8	20.0	13.6	[18.4]	18.0	61%–99%
100%	28.8	25.9	22.7	27.1	22.4	22.5	[8.4]	20.6	100%
Ave. prob.	67.7	66.1	62.7	66.6	50.6	45.3	[34.7]	47.0	Ave. prob.
N	*781*	*482*	*188*	*1451*	*218*	*109*	*49*	*376*	*N*

b) Economically active women

Probability of working after age 55	Women 50–54				Women 55–59				Probability of working after age 60
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	
0%	2.5	2.6	3.2	2.6	15.7	22.0	26.8	19.3	0%
1%–39%	4.3	6.1	4.4	4.9	18.3	14.9	15.9	16.9	1%–39%
40%–60%	11.5	11.4	12.7	11.6	18.1	20.4	18.4	18.8	40%–60%
61%–99%	33.5	34.8	38.2	34.4	25.5	25.4	21.1	24.8	61%–99%
100%	48.2	45.2	41.5	46.5	22.5	17.3	18.0	20.2	100%
Ave. prob.	83.0	81.3	79.5	82.1	54.8	50.4	47.6	52.4	Ave. prob.
N	*463*	*251*	*92*	*806*	*368*	*217*	*108*	*693*	*N*

Table 4A.20. Expectations of working after age 55/60/65, by type of pension currently contributing to and age group: economically active individuals

a) Economically active men

Probability of working after age 60	Men 50–59				Men 60–64				Probability of working after age 65
	State	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	All	State	Defined benefit	Defined contributio	All	
0%	8.3	13.6	3.3	7.9	23.2	36.1	21.5	25.0	0%
1%–39%	10.6	19.4	8.3	12.5	20.0	17.4	16.6	18.2	1%–39%
40%–60%	18.4	18.0	19.6	18.8	20.4	15.5	17.1	18.2	40%–60%
61%–99%	35.5	30.2	35.5	33.8	15.2	16.0	22.2	18.0	61%–99%
100%	27.1	18.9	33.3	27.1	21.2	15.0	22.7	20.6	100%
Ave. prob.	67.4	56.2	74.0	66.6	46.8	37.8	51.9	47.0	Ave. prob.
N	*368*	*465*	*619*	*1452*	*162*	*71*	*143*	*376*	*N*

b) Economically active women

Probability of working after age 55	Women 50–54				Women 55–59				Probability of working after age 60
	State	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	All	State	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	All	
0%	2.8	2.7	2.1	2.6	18.7	19.7	20.3	19.3	0%
1%–39%	5.4	3.8	5.4	4.9	14.6	18.4	19.8	16.9	1%–39%
40%–60%	13.2	11.3	9.5	11.6	19.6	19.1	16.8	18.8	40%–60%
61%–99%	33.2	39.3	29.9	34.4	25.3	23.6	25.5	24.8	61%–99%
100%	45.3	42.9	53.1	46.5	22.0	19.2	17.7	20.2	100%
Ave. prob.	80.4	82.6	83.9	82.1	54.0	51.1	50.5	52.4	Ave. prob.
N	*323*	*274*	*209*	*806*	*330*	*214*	*149*	*693*	*N*

Table 4A.21. Expectations of working after age 55/60/65, by type of private pension ever contributed to and age group: economically active individuals

a) Economically active men

Probability of working after age 60	Men 50–59				Men 60–64				Probability of working after age 65
	None	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	Other	None	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	Other	
0%	4.8	12.5	4.4	4.4	[31.0]	29.9	17.4	24.2	0%
1%–39%	1.3	18.2	9.8	7.6	[11.1]	17.8	17.7	24.0	1%–39%
40%–60%	21.8	17.5	18.9	20.5	[24.0]	19.0	17.7	14.3	40%–60%
61%–99%	41.9	31.8	32.6	37.3	[13.6]	15.4	19.8	23.0	61%–99%
100%	30.2	20.1	34.3	30.1	[20.3]	17.9	27.5	14.5	100%
Ave. prob.	75.5	58.4	72.8	72.0	[46.5]	42.5	55.0	43.2	Ave. prob.
N	*82*	*624*	*440*	*306*	*35*	*151*	*122*	*68*	*N*

Note: 'Other' includes individuals who have contributed both to a DB and a DC pension and those who do not know the type of pension they are or have been contributing to.

b) Economically active women

Probability of working after age 55	Women 50–54				Women 55–59				Probability of working after age 60
	None	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	Other	None	Defined benefit	Defined contribution	Other	
0%	2.6	3.3	1.7	2.0	17.4	19.5	20.1	21.4	0%
1%–39%	5.6	4.5	4.6	5.6	16.0	15.8	19.4	18.1	1%–39%
40%–60%	12.5	11.2	9.4	15.3	20.2	19.9	14.5	20.1	40%–60%
61%–99%	32.9	39.7	32.5	23.5	24.9	26.2	24.0	21.4	61%–99%
100%	46.5	41.4	51.8	53.6	21.5	18.8	22.1	19.0	100%
Ave. prob.	80.9	81.0	85.2	82.1	53.5	52.4	52.0	50.3	Ave. prob.
N	*175*	*339*	*183*	*109*	*166*	*293*	*147*	*87*	*N*

Note: 'Other' includes individuals who have contributed both to a DB and a DC pension and those who do not know the type of pension they are or have been contributing to.

Table 4A.22. Expectations of working after age 55/60/65, by self-reported health status and age group: economically inactive individuals

a) Economically inactive men

Probability of working after age 60	Men 50–59				Men 60–64				Probability of working after age 65
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	
0%	54.5	58.0	73.1	64.5	73.6	82.6	90.3	82.9	0%
1%–39%	23.3	14.3	14.1	16.7	17.8	7.5	8.4	11.3	1%–39%
40%–60%	12.3	14.0	7.2	10.2	4.6	3.8	0.7	2.7	40%–60%
61%–99%	8.1	6.8	4.5	6.0	3.1	4.1	0.6	2.3	61%–99%
100%	1.8	6.9	1.1	2.6	1.0	2.1	0.0	0.8	100%
Ave. prob.	17.5	21.1	10.4	14.8	7.8	8.3	1.8	5.4	Ave. prob.
N	*115*	*96*	*198*	*409*	*134*	*96*	*174*	*404*	*N*

b) Economically inactive women

Probability of working after age 55	Women 50–54				Women 55–59				Probability of working after age 60
	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	Excel./v.g.	Good	Fair/poor	Total	
0%	53.6	55.8	76.6	63.8	70.8	68.4	81.8	74.2	0%
1%–39%	21.3	21.4	12.8	17.8	17.5	22.6	11.0	16.5	1%–39%
40%–60%	16.8	12.8	9.8	12.6	5.6	3.8	3.4	4.3	40%–60%
61%–99%	5.6	6.6	0.8	3.9	4.5	1.7	3.3	3.3	61%–99%
100%	2.7	3.4	0.0	1.8	1.7	3.5	0.5	1.8	100%
Ave. prob.	18.9	19.1	8.1	14.5	10.5	9.5	6.4	8.7	Ave. prob.
N	*72*	*83*	*115*	*270*	*151*	*125*	*164*	*440*	*N*

5. Social activity

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The analysis in this chapter shows that:

- Overall, greater percentages of women than men provide care, although this is not the case for providing care for a spouse, where rates are equal.

- Most carers provide between 1 and 19 hours of care a week. A quarter of carers provide round-the-clock care.

- In general, those in poorer health are less likely to belong to organisations such as political parties or trade unions, charities or sports clubs.

- Those in more managerial and professional occupational groups tend to be more likely to be a member of an organisation other than social clubs, where the opposite is true.

- Around 50% of people aged 50 and older say that they go to the cinema, opera or theatre or visit an art gallery or museum. Almost all say that they eat out of the house sometimes.

- Those in older age groups, poorer health or more routine and manual occupational groups are less likely to participate in these activities.

- Those in older age groups are more likely to have voted in the last general election.

- Access to email and the Internet is strongly related to age (younger people have greater access), occupational class (those in the managerial and occupational classes have greater access) and gender (men have greater access than women).

There is a growing awareness that a significant proportion of those who have retired are enjoying an active and relatively healthy lifestyle (Laslett, 1996; Gilleard and Higgs, 2000; Hirsch, 2000; Scase and Scales, 2000). In *A Fresh Map of Life*, Peter Laslett argued that older age should no longer be seen as a residual category of the life course whose inhabitants are preoccupied with decrepitude and death. The fact that people are living longer, healthier lives with more disposable income in their retirement means that older age should be seen as the 'crown of life' in which people are free to develop themselves and their interests (Laslett, 1996). Although these arguments are not without their critics (Bury, 1995), they do illustrate that the nature and expectations of retirement have changed over the past few decades. Increasingly, older age is seen and portrayed as a time of leisure and personal enjoyment. The expansion of the Universities of the Third Age (Carnegie Inquiry into the Third Age, 1993) and the increasing participation of older people in a variety of leisure pursuits (Hogg, 1993; Midwinter, 1992; Office for National Statistics, 1999;

Hirsch, 2000) and foreign travel (Burnett, 1991) show that older people are keen to develop new interests. The growing number of websites designed for older people, such as www.boomercafe.com and www.thirdage.com, demonstrates that older people are also engaging with information technology and Internet services. Social and cultural participation is not only inherently worthwhile, but has also been shown to be associated with improved health and quality of life amongst the older population (Evenson et al., 2002; Di Mauro et al., 2001; Silverstein and Parker, 2002). Increasingly, national and local government focus is on promoting an active life in older age (Department of Health, 2001) and improving access to leisure activities, email and Internet for older people (National Audit Office, 2003).

There is growing interest in the amount and degree of productive ageing both from governments and from older people themselves. Productive ageing is generally defined as activities done by older people that contribute, directly or indirectly, to economic productivity (Bass and Caro, 2001). No longer being in paid work does not mean that one does not contribute to the community and society at large. The UK government has clearly identified the voluntary and caring work done by older people as a crucial benefit to the nation (Department of Social Security, 2000). However, if the unpaid work that older people do is taken for granted, it could have a deleterious impact on their physical and mental health due to the increased stress of unrewarded work (Siegrist, Knesebeck and Pollack, forthcoming). There are many types of activities that contribute to productive ageing and that can benefit others, although different social groups are likely to be more involved in certain activities than others (Burr, Caro and Moorhead, 2002). For example, most individuals provide informal care to sick or disabled others at some point in their lives, with the onset of caring episodes peaking in late middle and early older age (Hirst, 2002). The economic and societal value of informal, or unpaid, carers to older people in the UK has been highlighted by a recent government paper and national strategy (*Caring about Carers*, 1999). The extent to which older people are able to provide care to others may depend on their own health; in turn, having onerous or stressful caring responsibilities may also adversely affect the health of carers (Schulz and Beach, 1999).

5.1 Methods

ELSA respondents were asked whether they have looked after anyone in the last week, the relation of the care recipient to the respondent, and the number of hours spent caring during the past week. These hours were categorised into low (up to 19 hours/week), medium (20 to 49 hours/week), high (50 to 167 hours/week) and round-the-clock (168 hours/week). As a measure of cultural participation, respondents were asked how often they went to the cinema, ate out of the house, went to a museum or art gallery and went to the theatre or opera. For each activity respondents said whether they went more than twice a month, once or twice a month, a couple of times a year, once a year, less than once a year, or never. These answers were transformed to show whether respondents ever did these activities or if they never did them. Those who said that they did an activity less than once a year or never were asked an additional question about whether they would like to go more often but felt

that they were obstructed from doing so. In the self-completion section of the interview, respondents were asked whether they were members of any of the following organisations: political party, trade union or environmental groups; tenants' groups or residents' groups; neighbourhood watch; church or other religious groups; charitable associations; education, art or music groups or evening classes; social club; sports clubs, gym or exercise classes; or any other organisations, clubs or societies. In the same section, they were asked whether they were involved in any of the following social and civic activities: whether they voted in the last general election, read a daily newspaper, had a hobby, had been on a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months, had been on a holiday abroad in the last 12 months, had been on a day trip in the last 12 months, used email or the Internet, and had a mobile phone.

5.2 Carers and caring

Overall, men and women are approximately equally likely to report looking after their spouse (6.4% of men, 6.5% of women), with more women than men before the age of 70 caring for their spouse and the pattern reversing after age 70. Across age groups, women are more likely to look after children or grandchildren than men, with the prevalence of child/grandchild care within each sex peaking at ages 60–64 (5.4% for men, 11.0% for women). Women are also more likely to be looking after their parents or parents-in-law, with the 50–54 age group having the highest proportions within each sex of those engaged in this kind of care (6.5% for men, 11.2% for women), and subsequently declining with age. Although more women than men look after other relatives or friends, the overall percentages, across age groups, are smaller than for the other categories of care recipients (2.1% for men, 3.7% for women). The proportion of respondents providing this type of care peaks at ages 65–69 within both sexes. (Figures 5.1 and 5.2, Table 5A.1)

Figure 5.1. Percentage of men providing care to someone in last week, by care recipient
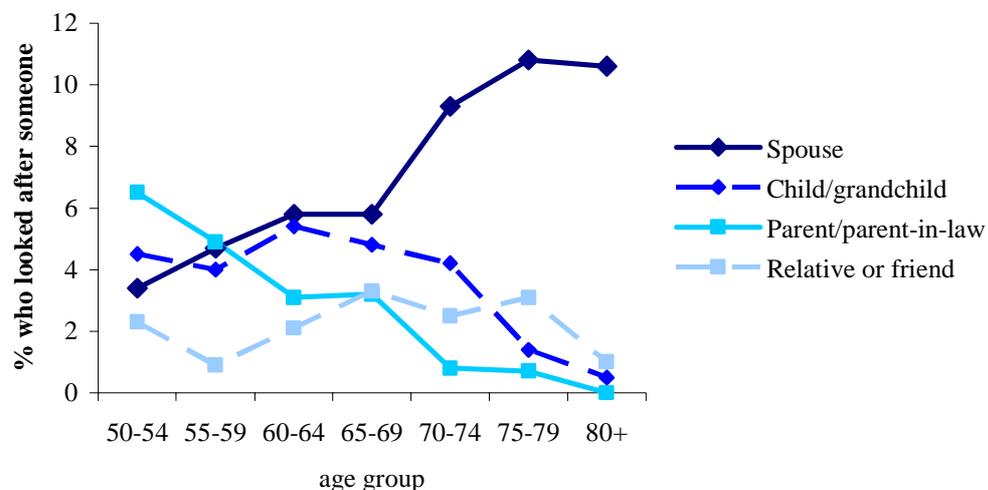
Figure 5.2. Percentage of women providing care to someone in last week, by care recipient
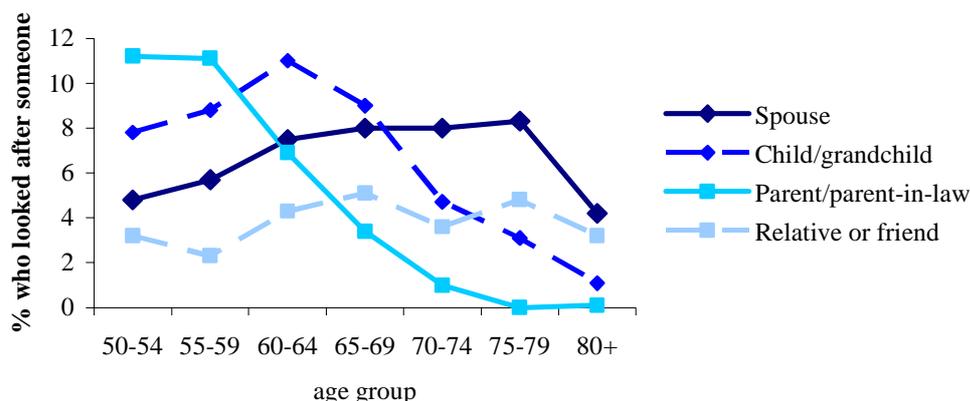
The majority of carers (defined as those who identified themselves as having looked after someone in the last week) provided less than 20 hours of care in the last week (52.5% of men and 50.7% of women, averaged across age groups). However, approximately a quarter of carers of both sexes reported caring for someone 168 hours in the last week – that is, round-the-clock caring. Round-the-clock care increases in prevalence with age for both men and women, and is particularly high among male carers aged 80 and over, of whom 59.1% provide this level of care. This suggests that caring responsibilities become more intense with advancing age. (Table 5A.2)

Unmarried respondents of both sexes are clearly less likely to provide any care to spouses (with a small number of individuals providing care to divorced or separated spouses), and are also less likely to be providing care to children or grandchildren. However, unmarried men aged 50–59 are more likely than their married counterparts to care for a parent or parent-in-law (7.1% compared with 5.3%) and up to age 75 are more likely to look after a friend or relative. Unmarried women of all ages are also somewhat more likely to look after a parent or parent-in-law, or friend or other relative, than their married counterparts. Unmarried people of both sexes are the least likely to provide round-the-clock care to someone, probably due to this group not providing care to spouses. (Tables 5A.3 and 5A.4)

Self-reported health interacts differently with informal caring depending on the recipient of care and the age of the carer. For both sexes and up to age 75, there is a gradient such that those in fair/poor health have higher rates of care-giving for their spouse or partner than those in good or excellent / very good health. This may reflect either the obligatory nature of the spouse-caring role or a negative impact of providing spousal care on the carer's own health. For example, 9.4% of women and 9.6% of men aged 60–74 who said that they had fair or poor health reported caring for their spouse compared with 6.6% and 4.1% respectively of those in excellent / very good health. This pattern is not found universally across care recipients, however; for example, among both women and men aged 60–74, there is a gradient such that the better one's self-reported health, the greater the likelihood of providing care for a relative or friend. (Table 5A.5)

In general, greater percentages of carers in excellent / very good health provide low or moderate levels of care than of those in poorer health, while, in turn, those in poorer health have greater rates of round-the-clock care-giving than those in better health. For example, 64.0% of male carers and 56.9% of female carers in excellent / very good health aged between 60 and 74 report giving up to 19 hours of care a week, while these proportions are 39.0% and 32.8% respectively among carers with fair/poor health. Averaged across age groups, 39.1% of male carers and 34.6% of female carers in fair/poor health provide round-the-clock care, compared with 19.3% and 17.5% respectively among those in excellent / very good health. (Table 5A.6)

The tables showing the relationship between economic activity and informal caring highlight the trade-off between paid and unpaid work. Men and women who are not economically active are generally more likely to be providing care than those who are employed. Exceptions to this include women aged between 60 and 74 who report looking after children/grandchildren (8.9% of employed women versus 8.3% of not employed women do so) or parents/parents-in-law (5.1% versus 3.7%). Not surprisingly, employed carers of both sexes under age 75 are less likely to provide round-the-clock care and more likely to provide light care (less than 20 hours of care per week) than their economically inactive counterparts. (Tables 5A.7 and 5A.8)

5.3 Organisational membership

The proportions of older people who are members of an organisation vary by age, sex and type of organisation. For both sexes, those in age groups below the respective state retirement age have the highest percentages of members of a political party, trade union or environmental group. The pattern is somewhat reversed for membership of a tenants' or neighbourhood organisation and for membership of a church or religious organisation, where, with two exceptions, those under the state retirement age have lower percentages of members. For all age groups, greater percentages of men than women report being members of a political party, trade union or environmental group. Women of all age groups are more likely than men to belong to a charitable organisation. For both men and women, the rates of membership of a sports club are over twice as great in the age group 50–54 years (23.6% and 26.3%) as in the age group 80 and older (9.3% and 5.4%). (Table 5A.9)

In almost all cases, those in poorer health are less likely to be members of any organisation. For example, around a quarter to a third of men who say that they are in excellent or very good health in the 50–59 age group are members of a sports club or of a political party or trade union, compared with 9.2% and 17.4% respectively amongst those who say that they have fair or poor health. However, amongst men in the younger age groups, those with poorer health are slightly more likely to be members of a social club. Amongst the 50–59 age group, 22.6% of those in fair or poor health belong to a social club, compared with 20.7% of those in excellent or very good health. In the 60–74 age group, 27.5% of those in poor health belong to a social club compared with 24.9% of those in excellent or very good health. (Table 5A.10)

Although, in general, those in the higher occupational groups are more likely to be members of an organisation, the relationship is not entirely clear. For example, for the 50–59 age group, 30.8% of men and 36.7% of women in the managerial and professional occupational group are members of a sports club, compared with 15.0% and 16.1% respectively of those in routine and manual occupations. There are similar socio-economic gradients in the membership of tenants' groups and neighbourhood watch organisations. For both men and women in all age groups, those in the top socio-economic groups are around twice as likely to be members of such an organisation as those in the lower occupational groups. However, the trend is reversed for membership of a social club. In all age groups and for both sexes, higher proportions of those in the routine and manual occupational group are members of a social club than of those in the higher socio-economic groups. The difference in the rates of membership between the top and bottom occupational classes is greater for men than for women. Just under a third of men in the lowest socio-economic group aged 50–59 and 60–74 are members of a social club, compared with 16.2% and 21.3% respectively of those in the managerial and professional occupational group. Amongst men, there is no clear pattern of socio-economic difference in membership of a political party or trade union. Around a quarter of men in the managerial and professional occupational group and routine and manual occupations aged 50–59 are members of a political party or a trade union, compared with 14.2% of those in intermediate occupations. However, amongst women, there is a clear pattern of difference, with those from the higher occupational groups reporting higher percentages than those in the lower groups. (Table 5A.11)

Number of organisations

The majority of both men and women in the sample are a member of at least one organisation. However, women are more likely than men not to be a member of any organisation. 37.2% of men and 41.5% of women say that they do not belong to any organisation. Yet women are slightly more likely to be members of four or more organisations. 8.3% of men and 9.1% of women are members of four or more organisations. In general, there is an increase with increasing age in the percentages of people who say that they are not a member of any organisation for both men and women. 31.8% of men and 37.9% of women aged between 50 and 54 say that they are not a member of an organisation, compared with 50.0% of men and 50.6% of women aged over 80. There is a corresponding general decline in the rates of people who say that they are members of either one organisation or two or three organisations amongst both men and women with increasing age. However, amongst men, those aged between 70 and 74 have the highest rate for reporting being in four or more organisations (10.2%), and amongst women it is those in the age group 65–69 who have the highest rates (11.3%). (Table 5A.12)

For both men and women, those who say that they are in excellent or very good health have the lowest percentages who are not members of any organisations. For men, 29.4% of those in excellent or very good health say that they are not members of any organisation, compared with 35.2% of those in good health and 51.3% of those in fair or poor health. Amongst women, the corresponding figures are 32.8%, 41.5% and 55.1%. However, there is little

difference in the percentages of people who are in one organisation between those who report different states of health. Amongst women, 24.4% of those in excellent or very good health are in one organisation compared with 23.7% of those in good health and 23.5% of those in fair or poor health. The corresponding figures for men are 27.7%, 26.2% and 25.9%. (Table 5A.13)

Amongst men, those in the managerial and professional occupational groups are much less likely than those in either the intermediate or routine and manual groups to report being a member of any organisation. Around a quarter of men in the managerial and professional occupational group report not being a member of an organisation, compared with 40.6% of men in the intermediate occupational groups and 45.4% in the routine and manual groups. Amongst women, there is also a difference between the intermediate and routine and manual occupational groups. 23.3% of women in managerial and professional groups are not members of any organisation, compared with 35.9% of women in the intermediate groups and 52.3% in the routine and manual groups. However, there is little difference in the rates of being a member of just one organisation between the different occupational groups. Amongst men, 24.1% of those in managerial and professional groups are in one organisation, compared with 28.3% of those in the intermediate occupations and 28.1% of those in routine and manual occupations. The corresponding figures for women are 20.5%, 25.7% and 24.5%. Men in the managerial and professional occupational groups are more likely to be members of four or more organisations (14.1%), whereas men in the intermediate and routine and manual groups report similar rates (6.3% and 4.6% respectively), and 19.3% of women in the managerial and professional groups report being a member of four or more organisations, compared with 9.9% of women in the intermediate groups and 4.1% in the routine and manual groups. (Table 5.14)

5.4 Cultural participation

For both men and women, there is a clear trend for lower proportions of those in the older age groups to report participation in the cultural activities covered in the questionnaire (Figures 5.3 and 5.4). For cinema-going, visiting a museum or art gallery and visiting the theatre or opera, the differences in the rates of participation for the youngest and oldest age groups are rather large. The proportions of both sexes in the youngest age group who visit the theatre or opera are around twice as big as those in the oldest age group. Although there are still differences in the percentages of older people who eat out of the house, they are not as great. 94.8% of men and 94.5% of women aged 50–54 eat out of the house compared with 90.0% and 93.2% of those aged 65–69 and 82.7% and 79.1% of those aged over 80 respectively. (Table 5A.15)

For both men and women and for any of the age groups, lower proportions of those who have fair or poor health, report engaging in any cultural activities than of those who report being in good health. Also, there tends to be a widening of the differences in participation amongst the older age groups. 71.1% of women in the 50–59 age group with excellent or very good health go to the cinema compared with just under half of those with poor health in the same age group. For women aged 75 years and over, around a quarter of those

in excellent or very good health go to the cinema, whilst only 11.8% of those in fair or poor health do so. 70.2% of men and women in excellent or very good health aged between 50 and 59 visit a museum or art gallery, compared with 41.9% of men and 42.3% of women in the same age group with fair or poor health. (Table 5A.16)

Figure 5.3. Percentage of men engaged in selected forms of cultural participation
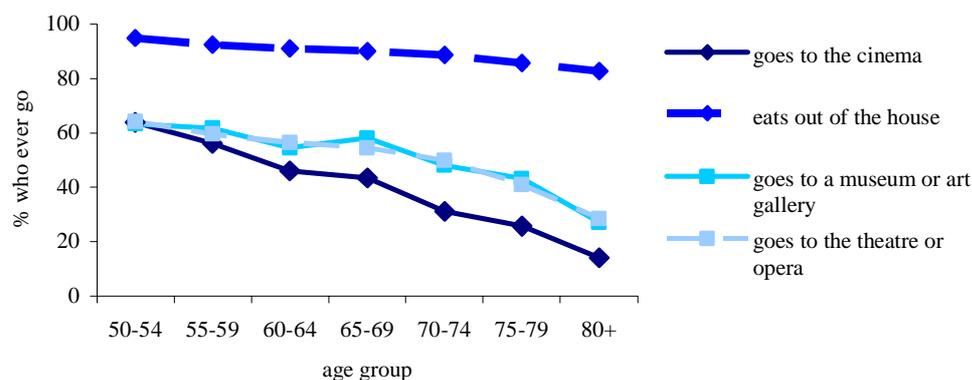
Figure 5.4. Percentage of women engaged in selected forms of cultural participation
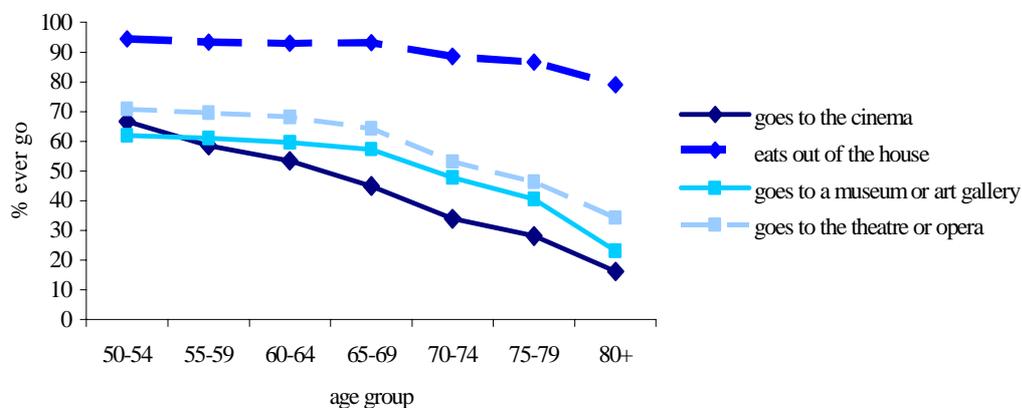
There are clear occupational group differences in the rates of participation in cultural activities amongst the older population. In all age groups and for both sexes, there is a occupational class gradient in reporting going to the cinema, eating out of the house, visiting a museum or art gallery and going to the theatre or opera. The rate of going to the theatre or opera is over twice as great amongst men in the managerial and professional class (72.5%) as amongst men from the routine and manual class (38.5%). 74.1% of women in the managerial and professional class go to a museum or art gallery compared with 37.6% of those in the routine and manual class. Around three-quarters of men aged between 50 and 59 who are in the managerial and professional occupations go to the cinema, or visit a museum or art gallery, compared with

44.8% and 46.0% respectively of those in the routine and manual occupational classes. The difference in rates of eating out of the house between the highest and lowest occupational class is narrower than for the other activities. For both sexes, almost all of those in the top occupational class in the youngest age group say that they eat out of the house, compared with 89.1% of men and 90.0% of women in the routine and manual occupational class in the same age group. (Table 5A.17)

Obstructed from social participation

Some people who do not participate in such activities, or do so only rarely, might not want to participate more than they do, while others might wish to and feel that they are obstructed in some way. Those who said that they went to the cinema, ate out of the house, visited a museum or art gallery or went to the theatre or opera less than once a year or never were asked whether they felt that they were unable to do so for any reason. In general, amongst those who say they that did these activities less than once a year or never, greater percentages of women than men feel that they are unable to participate in these activities. For going to the cinema, eating out of the house and visiting a museum or art gallery, generally greater percentages of those in the younger age groups feel that they are obstructed from participating for some reason than of those in the older age groups. 39.5% of women and 36.7% of men aged 50–54 who rarely or never visited a museum or art gallery would have liked to have gone more often but felt that they were unable to do so, compared with 25.6% and 21.4% respectively of those aged over 80. The pattern for the rates of going to the theatre or opera is somewhat different. Amongst men, those in the 50–54 age group have the highest rates for feeling that they are obstructed from going (42.8%). This rate falls in successive age groups to 29.9% of those in the 70–74 age group saying that they are obstructed from going. However, amongst the over-80s, 32.4% say that they are obstructed. Amongst women, the pattern is very similar. (Table 5A.18)

Self-reported general health relates to feeling obstructed from participating in these activities in the following ways. Those who said that they went to the cinema, ate out of the house, visited a museum or art gallery or went to the theatre or opera less than once a year or never were asked whether they felt that they were unable to do so for any reason. Those in fair or poor health report that they would like go to the cinema or eat out of the house more often than they do but feel that they cannot. 40.1% of women and 29.6% of men who have fair or poor health say that they are unable to eat out of the house as often as they would like, compared with 28.6% and 25.8% respectively of those in excellent or very good health. For those who say that they feel unable to go to a museum or art gallery, those with better health, notably amongst men, seem to feel most obstructed. 32.2% of men and 33.7% of women who say that their health is excellent or very good say that they cannot go to a museum or art gallery as often as they would like, compared with 27.7% and 32.8% of those in fair or poor health. (Table 5A.19)

With the exception of eating out of the house, where those in the manual and routine or intermediate occupational groups are more likely to feel that they are unable to do so as often as they would like to, both men and women in the

managerial and professional classes would like to go to museums, art galleries, the theatre or opera more often but feel that they are unable to do so. In relation to going to the cinema, the same is true only for women. 16.3% of women aged over 75 years in the routine or manual occupational group said that they would like to go to the cinema more often but were unable to do so, compared with 27.3% of women in the managerial and professional class in the same age group. Just under a quarter of men in the routine and manual group and around a third of those in the managerial and professional group in the 60–74 age group felt that they were unable to visit an art gallery or museum as often as they would like to. (Table 5A.20)

Social and civic participation

Although the majority of the older population voted in the last general election, the trend is for greater rates of voting in the last general election amongst the older age groups. In general, and especially amongst the oldest age groups, men report slightly greater rates of voting than women. 89.0% of men and 80.8% of women aged over 80 voted in the last general election, compared with 79.1% of men and 77.0% of women aged between 50 and 54 years. For men, rates of daily newspaper readership are highest in the 70–74 and 75–79 age groups, whilst amongst women, those in the 60–64 and 65–69 age groups report the highest rates of daily newspaper readership. (Table 5A.21)

In a somewhat similar fashion, those aged between 60 and 64 years have the highest percentages that say that they have a hobby or pastime, for both men and women. For both sexes, the percentage of each age group that has a hobby declines after this age and reaches its lowest – 62.4% for men and 63.6% for women – amongst those aged over 80. (Table 5A.21)

Although over half of the older population have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months, those aged between 60 and 64 have the highest rates. 61.6% of men and 66.1% of women in this age group took a holiday in the UK over the last 12 months, which are around one-and-a-half times the rates for those aged over 80. For taking a holiday abroad in the last 12 months and for going on a day trip, those in the younger age groups report the highest percentages. There is a clear decline in the rates of people who take a foreign holiday with increasing age. Around 58% of both men and women in the 50–54 age group took a holiday abroad in the last 12 months, compared with around 19% amongst the over-80s. (Table 5A.21)

Overall, men report higher rates of Internet use than women. For both men and women, there are clear age-related differences in the rates of people that use the Internet or email, or have a mobile phone. 59.4% of men in the 50–54 age group say that they use the Internet or email, compared with only 9.0% of those aged over 80. Differences amongst the age groups in women are not as extreme as amongst men, with 47.7% of those aged 50–54 using the Internet, compared with 6.5% of those aged over 80. Similar trends apply to the ownership of mobile phones. (Table 5A.21)

Poor health is related to older people's ability to engage in various forms of social and civic participation. 83.6% of men aged between 50 and 59 years

who say that they are in excellent or very good health voted in the last general election, compared with 74.6% of those who have fair or poor health. However, amongst men in the oldest age group, the gap in voting rates between those in excellent or very good health (91.2%) and those in fair or poor health (87.4%) is considerably smaller. For both men and women, greater proportions of those in excellent or good health report having a hobby than of those with fair or poor health. The greatest health-related differences are for those who say that they took a holiday abroad in the last 12 months, especially amongst the oldest age groups. Women in excellent or good health in the oldest age group are three times more likely to have taken a foreign holiday in the last 12 months than those in fair or poor health, whilst for men those in excellent or very good health are around twice as likely to have been on holiday abroad. (Table 5A.22)

For both men and women and in all age groups, those in the managerial and professional occupational groups reported higher percentages of people who voted in the last general election. For example, 89.4% of men and 88.0% of women in the managerial and professional group had voted in the last general election, compared with 80.7% and 77.6% respectively of those in the routine and manual occupational group. There is a clear occupational class gradient in all age groups and for both sexes in the rates at which members of the older population report having a hobby or pastime, taking a holiday in the UK, taking a holiday abroad, using the Internet or email, or owning a mobile phone. Greater percentages of those in the managerial and professional class report doing any of these activities than those in the intermediate class, who in turn report higher rates of activity than those in the manual and routine classes. For example, nearly 90% of men and women in the managerial and professional class in the 50–59 age group say that they have a hobby or pastime, compared with around three-quarters of those in the routine and manual class. The differences are particularly large for rates of Internet or email usage, especially amongst those aged between 50 and 59 years. 69.7% of women and 80.5% of men in the managerial and professional class in this age group use the Internet or email, compared with 24.0% and 30.0% respectively of those in the routine and manual occupations. (Table 5A.23)

5.5 Conclusion

These data from the first wave of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing reveal that although older people are increasingly involved in various forms of social and cultural participation, there are still inequalities, by age, sex and occupational class, in their ability to do so. The figures for care-giving demonstrate that older people can continue to be a socially productive group even though they are no longer in the labour market. Fortunately, the data show that even amongst the older cohorts, old age is not dominated by caring for the ill and infirm. However, some do have care-giving responsibilities and that burden of care does not fall evenly on the older population. Rather, it is socially patterned by age, sex and recipient of care. That women continue to be the main providers of care, especially for non-spousal relations, raises concerns about their role in later life and the obstructions they might face against engaging in fuller social participation. The increasing hours of care

given by older people, who themselves might have care needs, also raise issues about whether the section of the ageing population that requires social and welfare support the most is receiving it.

Increasingly, older people are becoming heavy consumers of leisure and engaging in various social and cultural forms of participation. The results presented here certainly show that there are reasonable numbers of older people who are engaged in a range of activities. Around half of the sample go to the cinema, or to an art gallery or museum, or to the theatre or opera, and almost all of them eat out of the house sometimes. Older people are also involved in a range of clubs, societies and organisations. Some of these activities, such as charity work and volunteering, have been identified as important areas by the government, which is encouraging older people to be more active. Other activities, such as being a member of a political party or trade union or being part of the neighbourhood watch, could be important for building a sense of community in local areas or the workplace. Such activities have benefits for the whole of society, not just for older people themselves.

However, the ability to participate in these activities and belong to these organisations is not equally distributed throughout the older population. Poor health and low occupational position are major impediments to people's engagement. Although the numbers reporting fair or poor health are low throughout the sample, these are people who then suffer a double injury from not being able to participate as fully as they would like in society. The rates at which people from the manual and routine occupational groups engage in cultural activity are much lower than those for people from the other occupational groups. However, even amongst the managerial and professional and the intermediate occupations, people have a sense of frustration at not being able to participate in the activities that they would like to, to the extent that they would like to. If government is keen to facilitate the increased social participation of older people, then it needs to address the obstacles that people face.

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Annex 5.1
Tables on social activity

Table 5A.1. Providing informal care to others, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% looked after someone in last week	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Looked after spouse	3.4	4.7	5.8	5.8	9.3	10.8	10.6	6.4
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(0.3)
Looked after children/grandchildren	4.5	4.0	5.4	4.8	4.2	1.4	0.5	3.9
Standard error	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	6.5	4.9	3.1	3.2	0.8	0.7	0.0	3.4
Standard error	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.0)	(0.3)
Looked after other relative or friend	2.3	0.9	2.1	3.3	2.5	3.1	1.0	2.1
Standard error	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.4)	(0.2)
Women								
Looked after spouse	4.8	5.7	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.3	4.2	6.5
Standard error	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(0.7)	(0.3)
Looked after children/grandchildren	7.8	8.8	11.0	9.0	4.7	3.1	1.1	6.8
Standard error	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.4)	(0.3)
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	11.2	11.1	6.9	3.4	1.0	0.0	0.1	5.5
Standard error	(1.0)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(0.7)	(0.4)	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.3)
Looked after other relative or friend	3.2	2.3	4.3	5.1	3.6	4.8	3.2	3.7
Standard error	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.9)	(0.7)	(0.2)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*804*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*899*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6118*

Table 5A.2. Hours providing informal care in last week, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% of those who did look after someone in last week	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Up to 19 hours	65.6	57.9	55.2	51.0	47.2	36.5	23.6	52.5
20–49 hours	15.5	18.8	16.2	16.7	18.9	15.2	11.3	16.5
50–167 hours	4.2	5.4	4.7	2.2	3.9	5.2	6.0	4.4
168 hours (round the clock)	14.7	18.0	23.9	30.1	30.0	43.1	59.1	26.6
Women								
Up to 19 hours	56.1	51.6	51.2	51.6	40.1	47.1	44.1	50.7
20–49 hours	20.1	17.0	18.3	19.5	19.5	14.2	14.7	18.2
50–167 hours	4.1	6.5	5.4	3.9	9.4	5.3	5.9	5.5
168 hours (round the clock)	19.8	24.8	25.0	25.0	31.0	33.3	35.3	25.6
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*167*	*143*	*129*	*121*	*99*	*75*	*50*	*785*
Women	*282*	*273*	*231*	*196*	*124*	*101*	*65*	*1272*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*137*	*146*	*128*	*131*	*103*	*73*	*50*	*768*
Women	*271*	*305*	*234*	*217*	*128*	*92*	*63*	*1310*

Table 5A.3. Providing informal care to others, by age, sex and marital status

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
% looked after someone in last week	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men				
Married				
Looked after spouse	4.8	8.6	16.2	8.3
Looked after children/grandchildren	4.8	5.2	1.1	4.4
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	5.3	2.6	0.5	3.4
Looked after other relative or friend	1.3	2.4	2.2	1.9
Not married				
Looked after spouse	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.8
Looked after children/grandchildren	2.5	3.6	0.7	2.4
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	7.1	1.9	0.3	3.5
Looked after other relative or friend	2.7	3.5	2.0	2.8
Women				
Married				
Looked after spouse	6.8	12.1	21.5	10.8
Looked after children/grandchildren	8.5	8.5	2.5	7.8
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	11.2	3.7	0.0	6.6
Looked after other relative or friend	2.3	4.0	3.0	3.1
Not married				
Looked after spouse	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.4
Looked after children/grandchildren	7.6	8.1	1.8	5.3
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	11.3	4.2	0.1	4.1
Looked after other relative or friend	4.2	4.9	4.3	4.5
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2169*	*950*	*5196*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1478*	*6012*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*963*	*5104*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1322*	*6117*

Table 5A.4. Hours providing informal care in last week, by age, sex and marital status

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
% of those who did look after someone in last week	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men				
Married				
Up to 19 hours	62.4	51.8	28.6	51.6
20–49 hours	15.6	16.1	14.0	15.5
50–167 hours	4.3	3.8	6.0	4.4
168 hours (round the clock)	17.7	28.3	51.4	28.5
Not married				
Up to 19 hours	59.9	[49.7]	--	56.4
20–49 hours	22.6	[23.9]	--	22.0
50–167 hours	6.5	[2.1]	--	4.3
168 hours (round the clock)	11.1	[24.2]	--	17.2
Women				
Married				
Up to 19 hours	55.1	45.6	28.2	48.0
20–49 hours	17.9	18.5	14.5	17.8
50–167 hours	3.3	6.2	7.8	5.0
168 hours (round the clock)	23.7	29.7	49.5	29.2
Not married				
Up to 19 hours	49.9	57.3	75.3	57.7
20–49 hours	20.8	20.4	14.2	19.4
50–167 hours	11.6	4.8	1.8	6.9
168 hours (round the clock)	17.7	17.5	8.7	16.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*311*	*349*	*125*	*785*
Women	*555*	*551*	*166*	*1272*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*283*	*362*	*123*	*768*
Women	*576*	*579*	*155*	*1310*

Table 5A.5. Providing informal care to others, by relationship, age, sex and self-reported health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
% looked after someone in last week	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
Looked after spouse	2.3	4.1	9.7	4.1
Looked after children/grandchildren	3.2	5.6	0.9	3.9
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	6.1	3.3	0.5	4.2
Looked after other relative or friend	1.6	3.2	2.3	2.3
Good health				
Looked after spouse	4.5	7.8	11.9	7.2
Looked after children/grandchildren	4.8	4.1	0.3	3.7
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	6.9	3.0	0.7	4.2
Looked after other relative or friend	2.1	2.7	3.5	2.6
Fair/poor health				
Looked after spouse	7.3	9.6	10.7	9.2
Looked after children/grandchildren	5.9	4.6	1.5	4.2
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	3.3	0.8	0.0	1.4
Looked after other relative or friend	1.0	1.7	0.8	1.3
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
Looked after spouse	4.6	6.6	5.1	5.5
Looked after children/grandchildren	7.9	9.2	2.7	7.4
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	11.2	4.2	0.0	6.3
Looked after other relative or friend	2.9	5.0	3.8	3.9
Good health				
Looked after spouse	4.6	8.2	4.9	6.1
Looked after children/grandchildren	8.3	9.3	1.8	7.1
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	12.2	3.7	0.0	5.7
Looked after other relative or friend	2.9	4.7	5.3	4.3
Fair/poor health				
Looked after spouse	7.7	9.4	8.0	8.4
Looked after children/grandchildren	9.1	5.8	1.4	5.4
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	9.6	3.6	0.2	4.2
Looked after other relative or friend	2.2	2.8	2.7	2.6
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2169*	*950*	*5198*
Women	*2130*	*2405*	*1478*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2249*	*963*	*5105*
Women	*2237*	*2559*	*1322*	*6118*

Table 5A.6. Hours providing informal care in last week, by age, sex and self-reported health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% of those who did look after someone in last week	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
Up to 19 hours	69.8	64.0	[37.7]	63.2
20–49 hours	12.7	15.8	[10.6]	13.9
50–167 hours	4.6	1.6	[7.7]	3.6
168 hours (round the clock)	12.8	18.6	[43.9]	19.3
Good health				
Up to 19 hours	63.3	46.5	[31.7]	51.3
20–49 hours	17.9	18.4	[17.6]	18.1
50–167 hours	5.8	5.5	[4.1]	5.4
168 hours (round the clock)	12.9	29.6	[46.6]	25.3
Fair/poor health				
Up to 19 hours	45.0	39.0	[25.6]	38.2
20–49 hours	23.7	17.8	[12.4]	18.6
50–167 hours	3.2	4.5	[5.0]	4.2
168 hours (round the clock)	28.0	38.7	[57.0]	39.1
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
Up to 19 hours	61.6	56.9	[55.8]	59.0
20–49 hours	16.9	20.0	[15.5]	18.1
50–167 hours	5.5	5.9	[1.9]	5.4
168 hours (round the clock)	16.0	17.1	[26.8]	17.5
Good health				
Up to 19 hours	48.9	49.1	44.5	48.4
20–49 hours	21.1	17.0	11.2	18.0
50–167 hours	3.0	5.3	6.0	4.4
168 hours (round the clock)	27.0	28.6	38.2	29.2
Fair/poor health				
Up to 19 hours	45.7	32.8	39.0	39.2
20–49 hours	18.3	20.2	16.5	18.7
50–167 hours	8.2	6.4	8.2	7.5
168 hours (round the clock)	27.9	40.6	36.4	34.6
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*311*	*349*	*125*	*785*
Women	*555*	*551*	*166*	*1272*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*283*	*362*	*123*	*768*
Women	*576*	*579*	*155*	*1310*

Table 5A.7. Providing informal care to others, by relationship, age, sex and economic activity status

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% looked after someone in last week	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Men				
Economically active				
Looked after spouse	3.0	4.6	10.9	3.5
Looked after children/grandchildren	4.2	4.5	3.5	4.3
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	5.6	3.5	0.0	5.0
Looked after other relative or friend	1.2	2.1	0.0	1.4
Economically inactive				
Looked after spouse	7.5	7.6	10.7	8.6
Looked after children/grandchildren	4.5	5.0	0.9	3.6
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	6.3	2.1	0.4	2.2
Looked after other relative or friend	3.1	2.8	2.2	2.7
Women				
Economically active				
Looked after spouse	4.0	3.8	0.0	4.0
Looked after children/grandchildren	6.7	8.9	0.0	7.1
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	10.9	5.1	0.0	9.6
Looked after other relative or friend	2.6	4.0	6.7	2.9
Economically inactive				
Looked after spouse	7.9	8.7	6.1	7.6
Looked after children/grandchildren	11.6	8.3	2.0	6.6
Looked after parent/parent-in-law	11.9	3.7	0.1	3.7
Looked after other relative or friend	3.2	4.4	3.9	4.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2169*	*950*	*5198*
Women	*2130*	*2405*	*1478*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2249*	*963*	*5105*
Women	*2237*	*2559*	*1322*	*6118*

Table 5A.8. Hours providing informal care in last week, by age, sex and economic activity status

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% of those who did look after someone in last week	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Men				
Economically active				
Up to 19 hours	66.9	61.0	--	64.7
20–49 hours	18.5	16.9	--	17.8
50–167 hours	3.7	2.6	--	3.4
168 hours (round the clock)	10.9	19.5	--	14.1
Economically inactive				
Up to 19 hours	50.0	48.6	31.6	44.6
20–49 hours	13.4	17.2	14.1	15.7
50–167 hours	7.3	3.9	5.7	5.0
168 hours (round the clock)	29.4	30.3	48.5	34.7
Women				
Economically active				
Up to 19 hours	59.2	66.5	--	60.7
20–49 hours	19.7	19.2	--	19.6
50–167 hours	4.1	1.0	--	3.5
168 hours (round the clock)	17.0	13.3	--	16.2
Economically inactive				
Up to 19 hours	45.6	45.6	45.7	45.6
20–49 hours	16.8	19.0	14.5	17.5
50–167 hours	7.1	6.7	5.6	6.6
168 hours (round the clock)	30.5	28.8	34.3	30.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*311*	*349*	*125*	*785*
Women	*555*	*551*	*166*	*1272*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*283*	*362*	*123*	*768*
Women	*576*	*579*	*155*	*1310*

Table 5A.9. Organisational membership, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	**Age** **Total**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	25.0	22.0	19.9	12.5	13.5	14.7	16.0	18.8
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.8)	(1.9)	(0.6)
Tenants' groups, residents' groups or neighbourhood watch	12.4	17.3	21.4	18.9	23.0	22.3	19.8	18.4
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.1)	(0.6)
Church or other religious groups	11.1	12.1	16.8	15.7	21.0	22.1	22.8	15.9
Standard error	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.7)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(0.6)
Charitable associations	15.6	15.1	16.5	14.7	16.8	14.7	14.0	15.4
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(0.5)
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	9.1	9.3	10.9	10.7	9.1	10.2	4.5	9.4
Standard error	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.0)	(0.4)
Social clubs	21.5	23.0	25.7	27.0	26.9	24.9	23.3	24.3
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.9)	(2.2)	(2.2)	(0.6)
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	23.6	20.9	17.9	19.3	16.6	11.4	9.3	18.5
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.5)	(0.6)
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	29.4	28.7	26.7	26.8	26.5	21.2	21.5	26.7
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.1)	(0.7)
Women								
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	16.9	13.5	8.5	9.2	9.2	10.0	9.2	11.4
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.6)	(1.3)	(0.4)
Tenants' groups, residents' groups or neighbourhood watch	14.8	16.6	18.3	23.7	19.6	19.3	16.9	18.2
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.8)	(1.6)	(0.5)
Church or other religious groups	16.6	19.1	27.6	26.9	27.0	33.5	35.9	25.4
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(2.2)	(2.1)	(0.6)
Charitable associations	19.0	20.1	21.3	20.6	18.1	17.8	19.1	19.5
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.8)	(1.7)	(0.6)
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	17.6	17.1	18.3	19.3	15.3	12.2	8.5	15.9
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.2)	(0.5)
Social clubs	15.4	14.9	20.4	19.9	22.3	16.3	22.5	18.4
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(0.5)
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	26.3	22.9	22.2	22.7	12.9	11.6	5.4	19.0
Standard error	(1.4)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.0)	(0.5)
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	19.1	20.7	21.8	23.1	21.5	17.7	17.7	20.3
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.6)	(0.6)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	994	891	731	660	549	415	364	4605
Women	1013	922	766	714	636	537	618	5205
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	812	906	718	718	582	417	378	4531
Women	987	1048	786	801	670	484	564	5340

Table 5A.10. Organisational membership, by age, sex and self-rated health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		
	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	24.4	17.1	17.5	20.5
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	15.8	25.2	26.1	21.0
Church or other religious groups	11.2	20.1	23.3	16.5
Charitable associations	17.2	19.3	17.2	18.1
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	10.0	13.8	10.5	11.6
Social club	20.7	24.9	28.4	23.5
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	29.0	23.2	11.6	24.4
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	33.9	33.3	29.2	33.0
Good health				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	26.2	16.9	17.5	20.9
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	14.0	22.2	21.8	18.7
Church or other religious groups	12.4	17.5	23.8	16.5
Charitable associations	16.0	16.1	14.3	15.7
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	9.7	8.3	7.6	8.8
Social club	24.3	27.8	20.8	25.1
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	20.1	18.5	14.4	18.4
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	26.2	26.2	21.8	25.5
Fair/poor health				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	17.4	11.8	11.3	13.4
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	13.1	13.1	15.7	13.7
Church or other religious groups	11.0	13.8	20.4	14.4
Charitable associations	9.6	10.6	11.7	10.5
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	6.3	7.0	4.5	6.2
Social club	22.6	27.5	23.1	25.0
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	9.2	9.2	5.6	8.4
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	21.6	16.6	13.3	17.4

Continues

Table 5A.10 contd. Organisational membership, by age, sex and self-rated health

	Age			
	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	17.2	10.3	11.0	13.4
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	16.3	23.7	21.8	20.2
Church or other religious groups	18.9	29.6	37.9	26.5
Charitable associations	20.9	24.2	21.5	22.3
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	20.5	23.0	14.0	20.4
Social club	14.1	22.2	20.6	18.5
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	31.4	27.5	11.0	26.3
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	21.4	26.8	20.0	23.4
Good health				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	16.0	9.4	10.5	12.0
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	17.1	20.4	19.4	19.0
Church or other religious groups	19.4	28.2	32.6	26.1
Charitable associations	20.2	18.6	19.5	19.4
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	15.5	16.6	11.5	15.0
Social club	17.7	22.5	21.1	20.5
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	22.4	17.0	8.3	16.9
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	19.4	20.8	20.6	20.3
Fair/poor health				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	9.5	5.9	7.1	7.3
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	11.7	15.0	12.7	13.3
Church or other religious groups	12.7	21.5	33.8	22.5
Charitable associations	14.7	15.1	14.3	14.7
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	12.4	10.0	5.0	9.2
Social club	14.1	16.0	17.0	15.7
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	11.7	9.1	5.3	8.8
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	16.7	15.8	12.3	15.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1883*	*1939*	*781*	*4603*
Women	*1933*	*2115*	*1155*	*5204*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1717*	*2018*	*795*	*4530*
Women	*2034*	*2257*	*1048*	*5339*

Table 5A.11. Organisational membership, by age, sex and NS-SEC

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		
	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	24.3	17.3	21.4	21.2
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	19.9	33.0	31.6	26.8
Church or other religious groups	14.8	28.2	28.6	22.2
Charitable associations	22.2	27.6	17.7	23.5
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	12.6	16.8	13.2	14.3
Social club	16.2	21.3	22.0	19.1
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	30.8	25.7	15.3	26.3
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	39.6	38.3	31.6	37.7
Intermediate				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	14.2	13.7	9.6	13.3
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	12.6	17.6	23.3	16.2
Church or other religious groups	6.8	14.6	25.7	12.9
Charitable associations	10.8	12.3	21.3	13.0
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	8.7	12.0	7.8	9.9
Social club	22.2	24.9	17.6	22.6
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	18.8	19.6	9.1	17.7
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	26.0	24.8	20.4	24.7
Routine and manual				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	27.9	15.2	12.5	19.3
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	9.6	14.1	11.8	12.1
Church or other religious groups	10.1	11.7	16.3	11.9
Charitable associations	10.2	9.5	9.2	9.7
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	5.6	5.2	2.7	4.9
Social club	29.1	30.7	28.3	29.7
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	15.0	12.3	6.9	12.3
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	19.4	19.1	13.3	18.2

Continues

Table 5A.11 contd. Organisational membership, by age, sex and NS-SEC

	Age			Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	27.6	18.0	14.8	21.9
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	21.5	29.4	31.0	26.1
Church or other religious groups	24.9	36.5	47.8	33.0
Charitable associations	31.5	34.8	32.1	32.9
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	32.2	34.3	23.5	31.6
Social club	12.6	19.0	17.4	15.9
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	36.7	26.6	11.8	28.9
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	25.5	31.5	26.6	28.0
Intermediate				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	11.1	9.7	12.8	10.9
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	16.8	21.5	18.9	19.2
Church or other religious groups	17.4	31.6	32.7	26.8
Charitable associations	21.9	21.5	20.3	21.4
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	14.9	19.4	11.9	16.1
Social club	13.4	21.3	19.1	18.0
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	25.9	22.5	10.0	21.0
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	22.8	26.3	18.4	23.3
Routine and manual				
Political party, trade union or environmental groups	10.1	4.4	5.3	6.6
Tenants' groups, residents' groups, neighbourhood watch	11.3	15.8	12.7	13.5
Church or other religious groups	12.4	19.9	30.3	19.6
Charitable associations	10.4	12.5	12.4	11.7
Education, art or music groups or evening classes	9.6	9.2	4.7	8.3
Social club	18.4	21.2	20.1	20.0
Sports clubs, gym or exercise classes	16.1	14.8	6.3	13.3
Any other organisations, clubs or societies	14.8	15.3	14.3	14.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1885*	*1940*	*779*	*4604*
Women	*1933*	*2115*	*1155*	*5204*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1717*	*2018*	*795*	*4530*
Women	*2034*	*2257*	*1048*	*5339*

Table 5A.12. Rates of organisational membership, by sex and age

ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
No organisations	31.8	35.4	34.5	37.1	38.5	43.9	50.0	37.2
Standard error	(1.58)	(1.53)	(1.71)	(1.73)	(1.91)	(2.20)	(2.34)	(0.69)
One organisation	28.6	27.1	26.6	29.7	25.4	24.3	21.4	26.7
Standard error	(1.54)	(1.41)	(1.57)	(1.64)	(1.70)	(1.95)	(1.92)	(0.63)
Two or three organisations	32.7	29.4	29.7	23.3	26.0	24.8	22.3	27.8
Standard error	(1.59)	(1.44)	(1.63)	(1.51)	(1.71)	(1.95)	(1.92)	(0.64)
Four or more organisations	6.9	8.1	9.3	9.8	10.2	7.1	6.4	8.3
Standard error	(0.84)	(0.86)	(1.03)	(1.03)	(1.19)	(1.16)	(1.12)	(0.39)
Women								
No organisations	37.9	39.1	39.8	34.9	44.2	47.6	50.6	41.5
Standard error	(1.49)	(1.45)	(1.68)	(1.61)	(1.78)	(2.08)	(1.91)	(0.64)
One organisation	25.5	25.3	21.7	26.2	22.8	22.5	22.2	23.9
Standard error	(1.34)	(1.29)	(1.41)	(1.47)	(1.51)	(1.75)	(1.59)	(0.55)
Two or three organisations	27.4	26.4	27.5	27.7	24.5	21.7	21.2	25.5
Standard error	(1.38)	(1.31)	(1.53)	(1.50)	(1.53)	(1.91)	(1.52)	(0.56)
Four or more organisations	9.2	9.2	11.0	11.3	8.5	8.2	6.0	9.1
Standard error	(0.89)	(0.85)	(1.05)	(1.05)	(1.00)	(1.13)	(0.88)	(0.37)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 5A.13. Rates of organisational membership, by sex, age and self-rated health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	Age			
	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Excellent or very good				
No organisations	28.6	28.0	36.0	29.4
One organisation	28.0	27.6	27.3	27.7
Two or three organisations	34.7	30.8	27.1	32.1
Four or more organisations	8.7	13.6	9.6	10.8
Good				
No organisations	30.9	35.0	45.3	35.2
One organisation	28.4	26.3	21.4	26.2
Two or three organisations	33.8	29.3	25.8	30.5
Four or more organisations	7.0	9.4	7.6	8.0
Fair or poor				
No organisations	48.7	49.7	57.3	51.3
One organisation	27.2	28.0	20.4	25.9
Two or three organisations	18.8	17.7	18.6	18.3
Four or more organisations	5.3	4.6	3.7	4.6
Women				
Excellent or very good				
No organisations	31.0	31.0	40.1	32.8
One organisation	26.8	21.4	25.7	24.4
Two or three organisations	32.0	33.7	25.8	31.5
Four or more organisations	10.2	14.0	8.4	11.3
Good				
No organisations	39.8	38.6	48.4	41.5
One organisation	24.4	25.1	20.4	23.7
Two or three organisations	24.8	26.0	22.5	24.7
Four or more organisations	11.0	10.4	8.7	10.2
Fair or poor				
No organisations	53.2	53.5	58.7	55.1
One organisation	23.9	25.3	20.9	23.5
Two or three organisations	18.5	16.6	16.3	17.0
Four or more organisations	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.4
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2168*	*948*	*5194*
Women	*2129*	*2403*	*1477*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*962*	*5103*
Women	*2235*	*2557*	*1322*	*6114*

Table 5A.14. Rates of organisational membership, by sex, age and NS-SEC

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		
	50-59	60-74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
No organisations	23.0	22.2	33.6	24.6
One organisation	26.0	22.8	22.2	24.1
Two or three organisations	39.5	36.8	31.9	37.1
Four or more organisations	11.5	18.2	12.3	14.1
Intermediate				
No organisations	41.6	38.9	42.3	40.6
One organisation	27.9	28.8	28.4	28.3
Two or three organisations	26.5	23.2	24.1	24.8
Four or more organisations	4.1	9.1	5.2	6.3
Routine and manual				
No organisations	39.9	44.4	57.8	45.4
One organisation	29.8	29.5	21.5	28.1
Two or three organisations	25.3	21.3	17.3	21.9
Four or more organisations	5.0	4.8	3.4	4.6
Women				
Managerial and professional				
No organisations	21.0	23.0	30.1	23.3
One organisation	22.3	17.9	21.8	20.5
Two or three organisations	38.1	37.1	33.2	36.9
Four or more organisations	18.6	22.0	14.9	19.3
Intermediate				
No organisations	35.6	31.6	43.6	35.9
One organisation	26.2	25.2	26.0	25.7
Two or three organisations	30.3	31.1	21.2	28.5
Four or more organisations	8.0	12.1	9.2	9.9
Routine and manual				
No organisations	50.4	49.9	58.7	52.3
One organisation	27.0	25.4	20.2	24.5
Two or three organisations	18.4	20.2	18.1	19.1
Four or more organisations	4.3	4.5	3.1	4.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2081*	*2172*	*949*	*5202*
Women	*2130*	*2409*	*1477*	*6016*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1895*	*2253*	*963*	*5111*
Women	*2238*	*2563*	*1322*	*6123*

Table 5A.15. Percentages engaging in selected forms of cultural participation, by sex and age

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

| | | | | | | | | Age |
	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Goes to the cinema	63.8	56.1	45.9	43.3	31.1	25.7	14.1	44.7
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(1.6)	(0.7)
Eats out of the house	94.8	92.4	91.0	90.0	88.6	85.8	82.7	90.4
Standard error	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(0.4)
Goes to a museum or art gallery	63.2	61.7	54.5	58.1	48.0	43.2	27.1	53.9
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(2.1)	(0.7)
Goes to the theatre or opera	64.2	59.5	56.4	54.4	49.9	41.0	28.5	53.6
	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(2.1)	(0.7)
Women								
Goes to the cinema	66.6	58.5	53.4	44.9	33.9	28.1	16.1	45.2
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.9)	(1.4)	(0.7)
Eats out of the house	94.5	93.4	93.0	93.2	88.6	86.6	79.1	90.2
Standard error	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(0.4)
Goes to a museum or art gallery	61.9	61.0	59.5	57.3	47.8	40.6	23.1	51.4
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(1.6)	(0.7)
Goes to the theatre or opera	70.8	69.6	68.1	64.3	53.1	46.3	34.2	59.4
Standard error	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(1.8)	(0.6)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*801*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6010*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*896*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6115*

Table 5A.16. Percentages engaging in selected forms of cultural participation, by sex, age and self-rated health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	Age			
	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
Goes to the cinema	68.1	53.2	26.9	56.3
Eats out of the house	96.7	94.3	88.4	94.6
Goes to a museum or art gallery	70.2	65.7	49.9	65.6
Goes to the theatre or opera	70.2	68.0	45.1	65.8
Good health				
Goes to the cinema	62.1	39.2	20.5	45.1
Eats out of the house	95.2	93.1	88.9	93.2
Goes to a museum or art gallery	64.1	53.6	35.2	54.5
Goes to the theatre or opera	64.5	52.7	38.3	54.8
Fair/poor health				
Goes to the cinema	38.6	24.6	13.9	26.2
Eats out of the house	84.3	80.6	77.2	80.9
Goes to a museum or art gallery	41.9	37.2	23.1	35.1
Goes to the theatre or opera	38.8	34.9	23.5	33.2
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
Goes to the cinema	71.1	54.2	26.8	55.9
Eats out of the house	97.3	95.4	90.1	95.2
Goes to a museum or art gallery	70.8	67.0	42.4	63.8
Goes to the theatre or opera	80.3	72.7	49.7	71.4
Good health				
Goes to the cinema	60.3	45.9	26.1	45.8
Eats out of the house	93.3	93.7	84.7	91.3
Goes to a museum or art gallery	59.9	55.8	35.0	51.9
Goes to the theatre or opera	66.9	65.1	42.7	60.0
Fair/poor health				
Goes to the cinema	46.8	27.3	11.8	27.8
Eats out of the house	87.2	83.4	72.9	81.1
Goes to a museum or art gallery	42.3	35.6	16.0	31.2
Goes to the theatre or opera	52.0	41.8	26.8	39.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2168*	*948*	*5194*
Women	*2128*	*2403*	*1478*	*6008*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*962*	*5103*
Women	*2235*	*2556*	*1322*	*6113*

Table 5A.17. Percentages engaging in selected forms of cultural participation, by sex, age and NS-SEC

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	Age			
	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Goes to the cinema	75.7	57.7	31.5	61.1
Eats out of the house	98.0	98.5	91.4	97.0
Goes to a museum or art gallery	79.1	75.8	50.6	72.7
Goes to the theatre or opera	79.3	74.9	50.7	72.5
Intermediate				
Goes to the cinema	60.1	43.5	19.9	46.9
Eats out of the house	94.8	92.2	88.0	92.6
Goes to a museum or art gallery	62.2	59.1	40.4	57.4
Goes to the theatre or opera	60.9	55.9	37.9	55.2
Routine and manual				
Goes to the cinema	44.8	29.3	12.0	31.3
Eats out of the house	89.1	83.7	78.0	84.5
Goes to a museum or art gallery	46.0	38.2	22.8	37.9
Goes to the theatre or opera	45.4	40.0	22.6	38.5
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Goes to the cinema	79.0	64.9	33.4	65.7
Eats out of the house	97.7	96.7	85.5	95.2
Goes to a museum or art gallery	81.3	76.6	50.0	74.1
Goes to the theatre or opera	88.1	79.7	54.6	79.1
Intermediate				
Goes to the cinema	67.7	51.2	22.8	50.1
Eats out of the house	98.2	96.2	88.4	95.0
Goes to a museum or art gallery	68.3	68.0	32.9	59.7
Goes to the theatre or opera	77.6	73.3	45.1	68.0
Routine and manual				
Goes to the cinema	50.3	32.8	16.9	34.5
Eats out of the house	90.0	87.5	78.6	86.0
Goes to a museum or art gallery	46.1	39.8	23.2	37.6
Goes to the theatre or opera	55.7	49.6	33.0	47.4
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2168*	*949*	*5196*
Women	*2130*	*2403*	*1478*	*6010*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2249*	*963*	*5105*
Women	*2237*	*2556*	*1322*	*6115*

Table 5A.18. Percentages obstructed from engaging in selected forms of cultural participation, by sex and age

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

							Age	
% of those who go less than once a year or never	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	**Total**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Obstructed from going to the cinema	26.0	19.8	18.2	14.6	10.2	14.3	12.8	17.4
Standard error	(1.7)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.2)	(1.7)	(1.6)	(0.6)
Obstructed from eating out of the house	35.5	33.4	26.7	25.4	21.7	20.9	20.7	26.7
Standard error	(4.1)	(3.4)	(3.4)	(3.2)	(3.0)	(3.4)	(3.2)	(1.3)
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	36.7	36.7	29.6	24.9	27.2	23.2	21.4	30.0
Standard error	(1.8)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(1.7)	(1.9)	(2.1)	(2.0)	(0.7)
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	42.8	37.9	35.2	27.4	29.9	26.7	32.4	34.4
Standard error	(1.9)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(2.3)	(0.8)
Women								
Obstructed from going to the cinema	30.9	26.9	24.9	22.4	22.6	18.2	18.7	23.7
Standard error	(1.7)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.5)	(0.6)
Obstructed from eating out of the house	44.5	44.8	41.2	34.0	36.3	30.3	24.6	35.3
Standard error	(3.9)	(3.5)	(3.8)	(3.5)	(3.2)	(3.5)	(2.6)	(1.3)
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	39.5	39.0	34.4	32.4	32.2	30.2	25.6	33.7
Standard error	(1.7)	(1.5)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(1.7)	(0.7)
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	51.0	53.0	48.5	45.7	43.4	38.2	38.5	45.8
Standard error	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(9.6)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(2.0)	(0.8)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1097*	*1008*	*827*	*740*	*639*	*498*	*472*	*5281*
Women	*1116*	*1026*	*859*	*812*	*758*	*666*	*875*	*6111*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*896*	*1020*	*808*	*804*	*676*	*498*	*485*	*5187*
Women	*1086*	*1164*	*880*	*907*	*795*	*596*	*777*	*6205*

Table 5A.19. Percentages obstructed from engaging in selected forms of cultural participation, by sex, age and self-rated health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		
% of those who go less than once a year or never	50–59	60–74	75+	**Total**
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	22.7	13.4	12.5	17.1
Obstructed from eating out of the house	39.2	18.5	17.1	25.8
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	39.8	27.2	22.3	32.2
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	43.3	33.2	31.9	37.6
Good health				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	21.9	15.7	15.6	18.0
Obstructed from eating out of the house	24.0	24.4	18.3	22.7
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	34.9	26.8	23.1	29.3
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	40.7	31.4	31.9	35.3
Fair/poor health				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	24.6	15.0	12.9	17.2
Obstructed from eating out of the house	37.4	28.2	24.3	29.6
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	32.3	28.0	21.7	27.7
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	35.1	28.1	26.0	29.7
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	27.2	21.6	18.1	22.8
Obstructed from eating out of the house	38.0	27.6	23.4	28.6
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	37.4	33.0	28.3	33.7
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	53.2	48.0	40.3	48.3
Good health				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	28.9	22.7	16.0	22.8
Obstructed from eating out of the house	44.8	38.6	24.1	35.2
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	40.9	32.0	29.9	34.4
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	49.0	55.6	61.2	55.0
Fair/poor health				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	32.0	26.2	21.0	26.0
Obstructed from eating out of the house	49.0	44.1	30.7	40.1
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	40.9	34.2	24.8	32.8
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	48.9	55.2	63.5	56.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1600*	*1909*	*896*	*4405*
Women	*1590*	*2042*	*1403*	*5035*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1460*	*1976*	*909*	*4345*
Women	*1670*	*2167*	*1257*	*5094*

Table 5A.20. Percentages obstructed from engaging in selected forms of cultural participation, by sex, age and NS-SEC

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	Age			
	50-59	60-74	75+	**Total**
	%	%	%	
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	20.9	14.8	13.4	16.7
Obstructed from eating out of the house	25.4	20.8	18.2	21.5
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	39.6	31.1	30.1	34.4
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	47.4	36.9	38.2	41.6
Intermediate				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	22.6	16.4	11.5	17.8
Obstructed from eating out of the house	39.4	20.7	17.8	26.4
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	35.0	32.3	19.7	31.2
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	40.7	38.1	33.1	38.2
Routine and manual				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	23.2	14.2	14.6	17.1
Obstructed from eating out of the house	35.8	26.8	23.2	28.1
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	35.3	23.7	18.2	26.3
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	35.0	26.4	23.8	28.6
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	32.0	27.2	27.3	29.1
Obstructed from eating out of the house	51.1	30.9	26.3	34.7
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	45.8	42.8	42.5	44.1
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	60.6	59.1	47.2	57.5
Intermediate				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	29.6	24.0	20.7	25.0
Obstructed from eating out of the house	50.8	43.2	37.0	42.7
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	42.1	33.4	32.4	36.3
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	58.2	49.0	50.2	52.5
Routine and manual				
Obstructed from going to the cinema	27.0	21.7	16.3	22.0
Obstructed from eating out of the house	42.8	37.6	24.8	34.6
Obstructed from going to a museum or art gallery	35.9	29.9	21.7	29.7
Obstructed from going to the theatre or opera	45.7	41.1	33.2	40.4
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1600*	*1909*	*896*	*4405*
Women	*1590*	*2042*	*1403*	*5035*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1460*	*1976*	*909*	*4345*
Women	*1670*	*2167*	*1257*	*5094*

Table 5A.21. Civic participation, by sex and age

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men								
I voted in the last general election	79.1	82.0	82.2	84.6	89.3	88.7	89.0	83.9
Standard error	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.6	0.6
I read a daily newspaper	62.8	67.5	73.7	76.5	79.0	77.7	74.4	71.7
Standard error	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.2	0.7
I have a hobby or pastime	81.8	81.9	82.8	81.2	78.7	71.2	62.4	78.9
Standard error	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.5	0.6
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	60.2	59.7	61.6	59.0	58.0	52.7	40.0	57.5
Standard error	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.5	0.7
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	58.6	54.0	52.4	48.3	40.4	32.9	19.5	47.5
Standard error	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.0	0.7
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	79.9	73.5	70.9	67.8	62.0	54.2	45.9	68.2
Standard error	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.5	0.7
I use the Internet and/or email	59.4	48.7	36.8	28.8	18.7	15.6	9.0	36.3
Standard error	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.4	0.7
I own a mobile phone	79.1	70.8	63.3	57.3	45.3	40.0	29.0	60.1
Standard error	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.3	0.7
Women								
I voted in the last general election	77.0	78.0	84.4	85.9	81.8	86.5	80.8	81.5
Standard error	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.5
I read a daily newspaper	61.4	66.0	71.8	72.8	68.4	69.4	69.0	67.9
Standard error	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.0	0.6
I have a hobby or pastime	79.3	80.5	82.0	81.4	75.6	70.8	63.6	76.9
Standard error	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.0	2.0	0.6
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	60.5	61.9	66.1	59.5	58.0	49.4	44.0	57.9
Standard error	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.1	0.7
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	57.9	57.7	56.3	45.6	37.3	30.0	18.9	45.7
Standard error	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.6	0.7
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	76.2	77.4	75.0	71.5	62.9	61.2	53.5	69.6
Standard error	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.1	0.6
I use the Internet and/or email	47.7	40.4	26.5	17.9	10.7	10.0	6.5	25.7
Standard error	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.6
I own a mobile phone	75.7	71.2	64.7	54.4	44.0	33.1	18.1	55.0
Standard error	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.6	0.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1007*	*914*	*755*	*675*	*573*	*440*	*389*	*4753*
Women	*823*	*928*	*741*	*735*	*607*	*440*	*401*	*4675*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*1045*	*950*	*799*	*750*	*681*	*582*	*663*	*5470*
Women	*1017*	*1079*	*819*	*841*	*717*	*523*	*604*	*5600*

Table 5A.22. Civic participation, by sex, age and self-rated health

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
I voted in the last general election	83.6	86.8	91.2	85.9
I read a daily newspaper	66.1	76.0	76.6	71.6
I have a hobby or pastime	88.1	88.5	75.2	86.6
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	64.5	69.3	54.6	65.2
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	63.1	59.3	35.9	58.0
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	81.3	77.2	62.6	77.2
I use the Internet and/or email	62.1	36.3	14.3	45.1
I own a mobile phone	78.3	63.2	39.9	67.0
Good health				
I voted in the last general election	79.4	84.5	88.0	83.0
I read a daily newspaper	65.5	80.7	74.5	73.3
I have a hobby or pastime	81.1	81.6	73.0	79.8
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	63.0	59.1	50.6	59.1
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	56.9	45.4	27.8	47.0
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	78.3	63.8	50.0	67.3
I use the Internet and/or email	54.8	27.7	13.5	36.3
I own a mobile phone	76.1	55.5	38.6	60.9
Fair/poor health				
I voted in the last general election	74.6	82.8	87.4	81.4
I read a daily newspaper	61.7	71.7	77.2	69.9
I have a hobby or pastime	67.3	69.2	54.1	65.0
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	44.1	45.6	35.9	42.8
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	39.1	32.0	16.9	30.6
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	63.8	55.9	39.1	54.3
I use the Internet and/or email	34.2	19.0	10.0	21.6
I own a mobile phone	66.1	46.1	26.8	47.7
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
I voted in the last general election	80.3	87.1	88.3	84.5
I read a daily newspaper	65.3	75.7	67.0	69.8
I have a hobby or pastime	83.3	86.6	74.1	83.0
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	66.8	67.7	53.9	64.9
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	65.7	56.3	30.1	55.6
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	83.6	77.1	65.7	77.8
I use the Internet and/or email	52.3	23.8	9.9	33.3
I own a mobile phone	76.8	60.9	26.7	61.5
Good health				
I voted in the last general election	78.0	84.8	85.6	82.6
I read a daily newspaper	64.1	68.0	72.9	67.8
I have a hobby or pastime	78.5	79.8	69.0	76.8
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	60.7	61.7	48.8	58.3
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	57.4	46.6	30.8	46.6
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	75.7	69.0	60.7	69.4
I use the Internet and/or email	43.4	17.6	9.0	24.5
I own a mobile phone	72.2	53.2	27.6	53.7
Fair/poor health				
I voted in the last general election	69.8	78.2	76.6	75.2
I read a daily newspaper	58.7	67.5	67.6	64.9
I have a hobby or pastime	73.8	68.5	57.9	66.9
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	48.5	50.3	36.9	45.7
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	39.4	31.3	11.4	27.7
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	61.7	59.8	44.9	55.8
I use the Internet and/or email	26.1	11.9	5.5	14.2
I own a mobile phone	47.1	47.1	47.1	47.1

Bases on next page

Bases for Table 5A.22

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1919*	*2004*	*829*	*4752*
Women	*1995*	*2231*	*1244*	*5469*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1750*	*2083*	*841*	*4676*
Women	*2095*	*2377*	*1127*	*5599*

Table 5A.23. Civic participation, by sex, age and NS-SEC

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		**Total**
	50–59	**60–74**	**75+**	
Men				
Managerial and professional				
I voted in the last general election	86.7	91.2	92.3	89.4
I read a daily newspaper	64.1	76.6	78.4	71.3
I have a hobby or pastime	89.4	89.3	76.0	87.0
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	70.4	72.7	56.0	68.7
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	67.7	64.6	38.8	61.5
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	87.1	81.2	54.6	79.2
I use the Internet and/or email	80.5	50.7	19.9	58.8
I own a mobile phone	79.9	68.2	47.1	69.8
Intermediate				
I voted in the last general election	76.3	84.6	85.5	81.1
I read a daily newspaper	60.2	73.1	75.1	67.8
I have a hobby or pastime	78.4	81.5	71.2	78.5
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	54.4	58.2	48.0	55.0
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	53.2	45.7	29.2	46.4
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	72.2	65.6	57.6	67.2
I use the Internet and/or email	48.2	26.4	9.7	33.3
I own a mobile phone	77.9	56.8	35.1	62.7
Routine and manual				
I voted in the last general election	76.5	81.2	87.4	80.7
I read a daily newspaper	68.7	77.0	74.8	73.7
I have a hobby or pastime	75.4	75.7	58.6	72.4
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	52.5	51.8	39.1	49.7
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	46.9	37.2	16.3	36.8
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	68.6	59.0	44.4	59.7
I use the Internet and/or email	30.0	15.5	7.8	19.2
I own a mobile phone	69.0	48.3	25.3	51.3
Women				
Managerial and professional				
I voted in the last general election	85.0	90.3	91.1	88.0
I read a daily newspaper	65.0	73.6	72.8	69.6
I have a hobby or pastime	88.5	91.5	82.7	88.7
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	71.9	68.9	52.3	67.5
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	71.9	60.9	30.5	60.9
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	86.7	78.0	61.3	79.2
I use the Internet and/or email	69.7	32.3	12.4	45.9
I own a mobile phone	84.3	68.8	40.8	71.2
Intermediate				
I voted in the last general election	78.2	86.9	84.7	83.3
I read a daily newspaper	63.0	74.7	70.4	63.0
I have a hobby or pastime	81.8	83.0	70.3	79.7
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	60.0	65.5	50.3	60.1
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	59.4	53.5	25.9	49.4
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	81.7	73.2	61.6	73.6
I use the Internet and/or email	52.5	24.3	7.4	30.5
I own a mobile phone	76.8	60.9	26.0	58.7
Routine and manual				
I voted in the last general election	72.7	79.8	80.9	77.6
I read a daily newspaper	64.0	68.6	68.3	66.9
I have a hobby or pastime	74.0	73.7	60.6	70.8
I have taken a holiday in the UK in the last 12 months	56.2	56.8	43.8	53.5
I have taken a holiday abroad in the last 12 months	48.9	37.8	21.0	37.7
I have gone on a day trip or outing in the last 12 months	68.0	65.1	54.9	63.7
I use the Internet and/or email	24.0	10.0	6.5	14.0
I own a mobile phone	65.9	46.5	20.4	47.1

Bases on next page

Bases for Table 5A.23

	Age			Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1921*	*2003*	*829*	*4753*
Women	*1995*	*2231*	*1244*	*5469*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1750*	*2083*	*841*	*4676*
Women	*2095*	*2377*	*1127*	*5599*

6. Health

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Amongst other things, the analysis presented in this chapter shows:

- There is an occupational class gradient in the prevalence of most health outcomes covered in ELSA, including: heart disease, respiratory illness, self-reported fair or poor health, having a limiting long-standing illness and mental health symptoms. Men and women in routine or manual occupational class households were most likely, and men and women in professional or managerial class households were least likely, to report having each of these conditions.

- Social inequalities in health are more marked at younger ages than older ages. For example, in the 50–59 age group, men in routine and manual occupations were twice as likely to have a limiting long-standing illness as men in professional and managerial occupations, while, among men aged 75 or older, there was very little difference between the two groups in the proportions suffering from a limiting long-standing illness. A similar pattern appeared for heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and respiratory illness, although generally more so for men than for women.

- Similar occupational class differences in age trends appeared for health-related behaviours. For instance, sedentary behaviour increased with age more rapidly for men and women in routine or manual households than for those in professional or managerial households.

- There is a suggestion that the variation in the social inequality in health by age is a consequence of those in routine and manual occupational classes reaching a state of poor health a decade or two earlier in their lives than their peers in more advantaged social positions. Around a third of routine and manual men in the 50- to 59-year-old group report a limiting long-standing illness, while rates for men in the professional and managerial groups remain much lower than this until they get beyond age 75; for example, only just over a quarter of professional and managerial men aged 60–74 report a limiting long-standing illness.

- People in routine or manual occupational class households were most likely to abstain from drinking alcohol or only drink alcohol on special occasions, while people in professional or managerial households were more likely to drink moderately, in line with the pattern now thought to be protective against chronic illness.

Physical and mental health are key areas of focus for the ELSA study, in addition to physical and cognitive functioning (Chapter 7). Health and well-being are important outcomes of interest both on their own and in relation to people's social and economic circumstances. The link between social and economic circumstances and health is well established and research has now turned toward understanding the causal mechanisms involved in these relationships (Macintyre, 1997; Marmot et al., 1997). The complex interplay of social and biological chains of risk over the life course to influence health in later life is an important aspect of these relationships (Kuh et al., 1997; Davey Smith, 1997). In addition to their relevance as an outcome of interest, physical and mental health also influence people's employment patterns, their economic circumstances and the levels at which they are able to participate in society (Smith, 1999). These issues become increasingly salient as people age and the risk for most health problems increases. With its multidisciplinary focus incorporating high-quality measurement of health and a longitudinal design, ELSA provides a unique opportunity to understand these relationships.

At wave 1, ELSA collected detailed self-reports of both symptomatic and diagnosed illness, as well as of health-related behaviours. All of the major illnesses experienced by people in middle and older age were included. Respiratory and musculoskeletal illnesses featured prominently, as results from national surveys have shown them to be among the major sources of long-standing illness for people aged 65 and over (Falaschetti, Malbut and Primatesta, 2002; Bridgewood et al., 2000). As the main cause of death in the UK, cardiovascular disease also comprised a main focus of the ELSA health module. Mortality associated with cardiovascular disease has fallen in the last few decades. For example, between 1989 and 1999, the death rate due to coronary heart disease fell by 43% in men aged 45–55 and by 34% in those aged 65–74 (British Heart Foundation, 2003). By contrast, in older age groups, morbidity associated with cardiovascular disease has not fallen and is a particular burden.

In addition to physical health, the ELSA wave 1 interview also included a separate module focusing on mental health. Depression is associated with increased rates of mortality (Prince et al., 1998) as well as greater dependency and reduced quality of life (Mann, Graham and Ashby, 1984). Prevalence of depression is strongly associated with factors that are more common among older people, such as physical disability and social support (Harwood et al., 1998, Kivelä et al., 1996).

The health behaviours of older people have typically been less of a focus among health researchers and professionals than those of younger individuals. However, accumulating evidence points to the ongoing importance of health behaviours to health status across the lifespan (Morley and Flaherty, 2002). For example, smoking continues to be a major risk factor for death from cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke in older age, and smoking cessation confers benefits well into older age (Benfante, Reed and Frank, 1991; Burns, 2000). Consumption of alcohol presents both particular problems among the elderly (Moore et al., 1999) and potential cardiovascular benefits at moderate levels (for example, Abramson et al. (2001)). Finally, besides reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, engaging in regular physical activity also preserves

functional abilities among older people and benefits psychological health (McAuley and Katula, 1998).

The next section describes the measures included in this chapter. This is followed by separate sections describing findings on cardiovascular disease, non-cardiovascular chronic illness, general and mental health, and health-related behaviours.

6.1 Measures

Information regarding diagnosed illness was collected via self-report in this wave of ELSA. The Health Survey for England (HSE), from which the sample for ELSA was selected, included a nurse interview with a wide range of physical and biological measures. A second nurse interview is being conducted at wave 2 of ELSA in 2004.

Cardiovascular disease

Regarding cardiovascular disease, participants were asked about morbidity associated with coronary heart disease (heart attack, angina and heart failure) and risk factors that remain important in older age groups (hypertension and diabetes) (Abbott et al., 2002). Participants were therefore asked whether a doctor had ever told them that they suffered from any of the following conditions: high blood pressure or hypertension, angina, a heart attack, congestive heart failure, an abnormal heart rhythm, diabetes or high blood sugar, a stroke, any other heart trouble. Those participants who reported having a heart attack diagnosis were asked if it had occurred in the past two years.

In addition to self-reported diagnosed angina and heart attack, the Rose Questionnaire was used to collect data on symptomatic angina or heart attack. The Rose Questionnaire was developed to identify the characteristic symptom complex known as angina in a standard way. Its validity has been established by studies that compared the questionnaire to clinical diagnosis. From this questionnaire, the more severe grade 2 angina was classified. In addition, participants were classified as having had a possible heart attack if, according to the Rose Questionnaire, they reported having ever had an attack of severe pain across the front of the chest lasting for more than half an hour.

Intermittent claudication is a cramp-like pain in the calf on walking that occurs because of narrowed arteries in the leg leading to reduced blood supply to the muscles. It is a painful, debilitating condition that reduces mobility in those affected and has a detrimental effect on quality of life. It is often the first symptom of peripheral arterial disease and is a marker for increased risk from fatal and non-fatal cardiovascular events. Based on the Edinburgh Intermittent Claudication Questionnaire (Leng and Fowkes, 1992), participants were classified as having the condition if they reported leg pain on walking, but not at rest, which disappeared within 10 minutes after they stopped walking. Intermittent claudication was further classified as grade 1 or grade 2, with grade 2 being more severe.

The results section on cardiovascular disease presents the prevalence of diagnosed heart attack, angina, hypertension, diabetes and stroke as well as symptomatic angina, heart attack and intermittent claudication by age and sex (Table 6A.1). In addition, occupational class differences in heart disease (Table 6A.2), hypertension (Table 6A.3) and diabetes (Table 6A.4) are examined for men and women in three age groups. Heart disease is defined as diagnosed or symptomatic angina or heart attack. Regional differences in heart disease are included in Table 6A.5.

Non-cardiovascular chronic illness

ELSA respondents were asked whether a doctor had ever told them they had, or had had, chronic lung disease (such as chronic bronchitis or emphysema), asthma, arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer or Parkinson's disease. If the respondent reported having had one of these diagnoses, they were asked some follow-up questions such as date of onset or level of treatment. Respondents with arthritis were asked which type(s) of arthritis they had. Respondents aged 60 or over were asked additional questions about whether they had ever fractured their hip and whether they had ever had a joint replaced.

In addition, symptomatic respiratory illness was assessed using the British Medical Research Council (MRC) Respiratory Questionnaire (Fletcher et al., 1978). The version of the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire used here measures two aspects of respiratory illness. One is the presence of cough and sputum as an indication of chronic respiratory disability (chronic obstructive airways disease). Another is wheezing and attacks of shortness of breath, symptoms frequently found in patients suffering from asthma.

With the exception of symptomatic respiratory illness, each of these measures is examined by age and sex (Table 6A.6). This is followed by a section focusing on arthritis by occupational class (Table 6A.7) and, among those with diagnosed arthritis, data on types of arthritis (Table 6A.8) and the prevalence of joint replacements (Table 6A.9) are also presented. In addition, respiratory illness, which is defined as diagnosed asthma or lung disease or showing signs of symptomatic respiratory illness on the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire, is examined in relation to occupational class (Table 6A.10), quality of housing (Table 6A.11) and area type (urban, suburban, rural) (Table 6A.12).

General and mental health

In addition to information on specific physical illness, this wave of ELSA collected self-reports on general health and long-standing illness, mental health and a measure of quality of life, as well as measures of demand and control. The measure of self-reported general health used was that included in the Health and Retirement Study (HRS/AHEAD) in the USA, with which ELSA is designed to be comparable where possible. Respondents rated their health as excellent, very good, good, fair or poor. All respondents were also asked whether they suffered from any illness or disability that affected them over a long period of time. Those who reported that they were suffering from a long-standing illness were asked whether the illness limited their activities in some way.

Measures of mental health in this wave of ELSA included diagnosed mental illness as well as two measures of symptomatic mental health. For diagnosed mental illness, respondents were asked whether a doctor had ever told them that they had any emotional, nervous or psychiatric problems. This was asked within the context (on the same show card) of the non-cardiovascular chronic illnesses described above. The two measures of symptomatic mental illness included were the 12-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12) and an abbreviated version of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D). The GHQ12 was asked in the self-completion component of the interview. The GHQ12 is a well-validated and widely used measure of psychological well-being. Respondents were classified as having no symptoms, one to three symptoms or four or more symptoms (Goldberg and Williams, 1988). The eight-item version of the CES-D was used to estimate the prevalence of depressive symptoms. The questions asked the degree to which the respondent had experienced depressive symptoms, such as restless sleep, being unhappy and so on, over the past month. The CES-D appears in the HRS/AHEAD studies and has been extensively used in a range of clinical and non-clinical settings with a range of different populations. In line with the way in which the scale has been used in the HRS/AHEAD those who reported three or more symptoms were classified as being depressed (Steffick, 2000).

Quality of life was measured using the CASP-19 in the self-completion booklet. CASP-19 contains 19 questions on four sub-domains of quality of life. These sub-domains (from which the acronym is derived) are: Control, Autonomy, Self-realisation and Pleasure. The scale has been validated in a previous study of a non-institutionalised population of people aged between 65 and 75 years in the UK. All the sub-domains exhibited good internal consistency (Cronbach αs between 0.6 and 0.8) and the overall scale correlated well with a pre-existing life satisfaction scale (LSI-W) (Hyde et al., 2003). The scale was dichotomised at the mean to divide the sample between those with worse-than-average quality of life and those with better-than-average quality of life.

The first wave of ELSA also included seven questions in the self-completion booklet measuring control and demand. Two of these focused specifically on work, two on home and three on life in general. These questions were derived from questions in the Whitehall II study of civil servants (Marmot et al., 1997). Low control at home was defined as those who strongly or moderately agreed with the statement 'At home I feel I have control over what happens in most situations'. Low control at work was defined as those who strongly or moderately agreed with the statement 'At work I feel I have control over what happens in most situations'. Those who strongly or moderately agreed with the statement 'Considering all the things I have to do at work, I have to work very fast' were defined as having high demands at work. Those who strongly or moderately agreed with the statement 'Considering all the things I have to do at home, I have to work very fast' were defined as having high demands at home.

Section 6.4 reports differences in self-reported general health, long-standing and limiting long-standing illness, symptomatic and diagnosed mental illness and quality of life, as well as measures of demand and control at home and at work. Each of these measures is reported by age and sex (Tables 6A.13 and

6A.14). In addition, self-reported health, limiting long-standing illness and both measures of symptomatic mental health are examined by occupational class (Tables 6A.15, 6A.16 and 6A.17).

Health-related behaviours

The final section of this chapter reports on smoking, alcohol consumption and physical activity. The ELSA interview asked about current smoking habits, including cigarettes and roll-ups, and differentiated between weekday and weekend use. These questions were used in the Health Survey for England. Reports of the number of cigarettes smoked (or the amount of tobacco used, for roll-ups) on weekdays and weekends were used to derive an average number of cigarettes smoked per day. Among current smokers, daily number of cigarettes was banded into light (fewer than 10 cigarettes/day), moderate (between 10 and 19 cigarettes/day) and heavy (20 or more cigarettes/day) use, following the definition used in prior reports of the HSE. Baseline data from respondents at ELSA wave 0 (that is, HSE 1998, 1999 or 2001) were used to assess the prevalence of changes in smoking status since the HSE interview.

Because detailed baseline data on the drinking habits of ELSA respondents is available from the Health Survey for England, wave 1 of ELSA focused on self-reported change in alcohol use from HSE interview. A question on current drinking frequency was also included, in order to differentiate between those who drink most frequently (twice a day or more), those who are less frequent drinkers and those who abstain completely from alcohol consumption.

ELSA questions on physical activity were designed to capture a general picture of the activity status of the older population in England, both leisure-time and, for those still working, occupational. All respondents were asked the frequency with which they took part in sports or activities that were vigorous (for example, jogging, cycling, aerobics), moderately energetic (for example, gardening, walking at moderate pace) or mildly energetic (for example, laundry, home repairs). These items were modified from the Whitehall II Health Questionnaire administered in 1991–93 (Marmot et al., 1991). Examples of activities for each question were those most commonly reported in two population-based cohorts in a similar age group (40–65 years) in the UK arm of the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer (EPIC) cohort and the Ely Diabetes Study (Pols et al., 1997). These were categorised according to the activity's metabolic equivalent (MET) score using a compendium of activity energy costs that was designed to facilitate coding of self-reported activity across studies (Ainsworth et al., 1993; Ainsworth et al., 2000). Activity examples provided to respondents correspond to $MET \geq 6$, $MET \geq 3.5$ to < 6 and $MET \geq 2$ to < 3.5 respectively for vigorous, moderate and mild activity.

Physical activity at work was assessed using a question from the EPIC Short Physical Activity Questionnaire. Currently employed respondents were asked whether their job was mainly (1) sedentary (most of time spent sitting), (2) standing (most of time spent standing), (3) physical work (involving some effort including handling heavy objects and use of tools) or (4) heavy manual work (involving very vigorous physical activity). This question has been validated against an objective concurrent measure of daily energy expenditure,

using four-day heart-rate monitoring with individual calibration in a randomly selected group of men and women aged 45 to 65 years (Wareham et al., 2003).

A pragmatic approach was used to develop two summary physical activity variables, ensuring that the population would be roughly evenly distributed across the categories to enable sufficient power for statistical analysis and that the derivation of each category was interpretable. The first variable summarises leisure-time physical activity into five ordinal categories (from 0 as sedentary to 4 as active).[1] The second summary variable takes into account on-the-job physical activity and categorises respondents as sedentary or as having low, moderate or high activity.[2]

Each of the health behaviour measures is reported by age and sex (Tables 6A.18 and 6A.19) and occupational class (Tables 6A.20, 6A.22, 6A.24 and 6A.25). Change in alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking between the HSE and ELSA wave 1 interviews is also reported (Tables 6A.21 and 6A.23).

6.2 Cardiovascular disease

Heart disease

Overall, 8.3% of men and 3.7% of women reported having had a heart attack. In both sexes, prevalence of heart attack increased with age until the 70s, and then declined slightly in the oldest age group. The prevalence of diagnosed heart attack ranged from 3.6% of men and 0.6% of women in the youngest age group (50–54) to 14.2% in men aged 75–79 and 7.9% of women aged 70–74.

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[1] Level 0   (Sedentary) No moderate and no vigorous activity.

   Level 1   (Low moderate) Moderate activity once a week or 1–3 times a month and no vigorous activity.

   Level 2   (Some moderate or vigorous) Moderate activity more than once a week and no vigorous activity; OR vigorous activity 1–3 times a month and no moderate activity.

   Level 3   (More moderate or vigorous) Moderate activity once a week or more and vigorous activity once a week or 1–3 times a month; OR vigorous activity once a week and moderate activity 1–3 times a month or never; OR moderate activity 1–3 times a month and vigorous activity 1–3 times a month.

   Level 4   (Active) Vigorous activity more than once a week, with or without moderate activity.

[2] Sedentary Not working or sedentary occupation, engages in mild exercise 1–3 times a month or less, with no moderate or vigorous activity.

   Low   Standing occupation, engages in moderate leisure-time exercise 1–3 times a month or never and no vigorous activity; OR engages in mild leisure-time activity at least 1–3 times a month, moderate once a week or less and no vigorous; OR has a sedentary or no occupation and engages in moderate leisure-time activity once a week or 1–3 times a month, with no vigorous activity.

   Moderate Does physical work; OR engages in moderate leisure-time activity more than once a week; OR engages in vigorous activity once a week to 1–3 times a month.

   High   Heavy manual work or vigorous leisure activity more than once a week.

Of those reporting that they had had a heart attack, 23.2% of men and 20.1% of women reported having had it in the last two years. These values corresponded to 1.9% of men and 0.8% of women overall. (Figure 6.1, Table 6A.1)

Figure 6.1. Comparing diagnosed and symptomatic heart attack, by age and sex
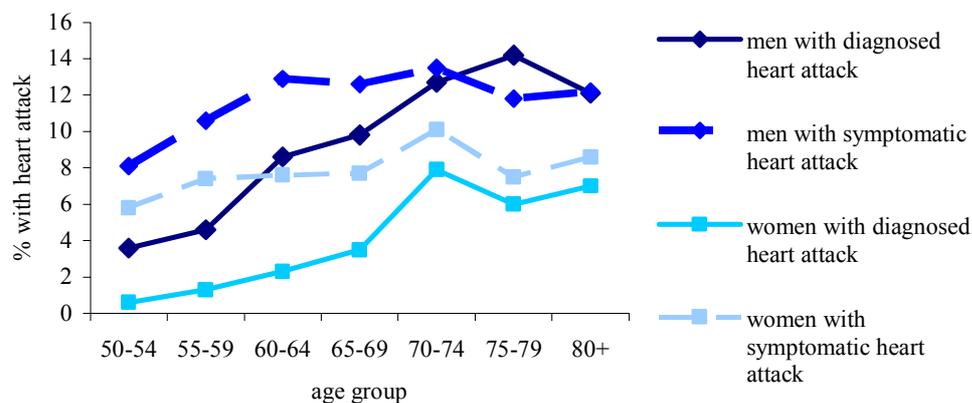
11.1% of men and 8.1% of women reported having diagnosed angina. Men aged 75–79 and women aged 80 or over were the most likely to report diagnosed angina, at 20.8% and 16.8% respectively. (Table 6A.1)

1.4% of men and 1.0% of women were positive for symptomatic severe angina on the Rose Angina Questionnaire. Amongst men aged over 80, the prevalence of symptomatic angina was 1.9%, compared with 1.0% amongst men aged 50–54. The prevalence of symptomatic angina increased with age amongst women and peaked for women aged between 70 and 79 at 1.7%, compared with 0.7% amongst women aged 50–54. 11.3% of men and 7.7% of women were positive for symptomatic heart attack on the Rose Questionnaire. Rates of symptomatic heart attack from the Rose Questionnaire were higher than doctor-diagnosed heart attack. The difference in these rates diminished with increasing age. (Figure 6.1, Table 6A.1)

There was an occupational class gradient in the prevalence of heart disease (diagnosed or symptomatic heart attack or angina) among both men and women. Overall, 15.7% of men and 10.2% of women in the managerial or professional group had heart disease, compared with 20.7% of men and 14.6% of women in the routine or manual group. Looking at differences across age groups, this gradient did not hold for men aged 75+. Amongst men aged 50–59, the prevalence was 8.9% amongst those in managerial occupations compared with 14.3% amongst those in manual occupations. A gradient was also apparent in men aged 60–74 and for women aged 50–59. In the oldest age group, an inverse gradient seemed apparent in men whilst among women the intermediate group were more likely to have heart disease than their counterparts in other groups. (Figure 6.2, Table 6A.2)

Figure 6.2. Heart disease,ᵃ by occupational class of head of household and sex
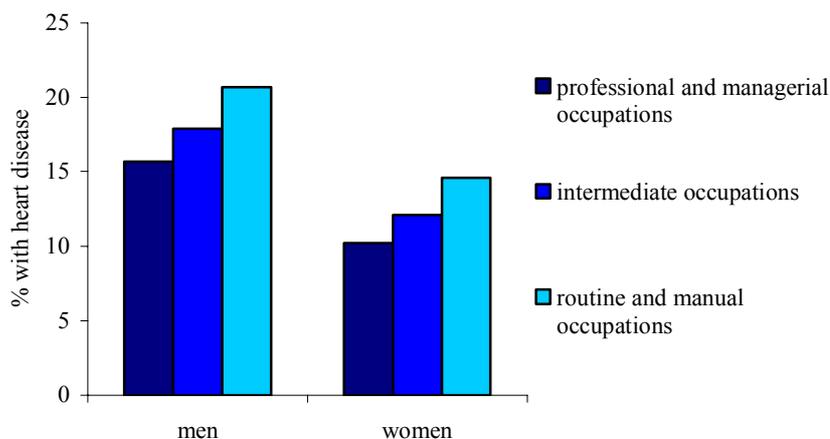
a. Heart disease is defined as having diagnosed or symptomatic angina or heart attack.

Stroke

Overall, 4.8% of men and 3.7% of women were diagnosed with stroke. There was a sharp rise in the prevalence of stroke with age. The prevalence ranged from 1.4% in those aged 50–59 to 7.8% in those aged over 70. (Table 6A.1)

Hypertension

The prevalence of diagnosed hypertension was similar among men and women (36.1% of men and 38.8% of women). The prevalence of hypertension increased with increasing age. The highest rate of hypertension was for those aged between 75 and 79, at 44.5% for men and 50.8% for women. (Table 6A.1)

There were no occupational class differences in the prevalence of hypertension in men. In women, an occupational class gradient was apparent. Amongst women in routine and manual households, the prevalence of hypertension was 41%, compared with 34% amongst those in managerial households. (Table 6A.3)

Diabetes

Men had a higher prevalence of diabetes than women (8.5% in men and 6.1% in women). Diabetes was most prevalent in men and women aged between 70 and 74 (13.0% of men and 9.9% of women) and showed declining prevalence with additional increasing age. (Table 6A.1)

While an occupational class gradient in diabetes was not generally apparent, an occupational class gradient in diabetes was apparent among women in their 50s. Amongst women with manual occupations in this age group, the prevalence of diabetes was 4.8%, compared with 1.7% amongst those in managerial occupations. (Table 6A.4)

Intermittent claudication

Symptomatic intermittent claudication prevalence was slightly higher among men than among women (6.5% in men and 6.1% in women). The prevalence of intermittent claudication also showed a rise among men and women aged between 70 and 74, and it remained raised with additional increasing age. (Table 6A.1)

6.3 Non-cardiovascular chronic illness

Among chronic physical illnesses that were not cardiovascular diseases, arthritis was the most common, followed by asthma. This section focuses specifically on musculoskeletal illness, respiratory illness and cancer.

Musculoskeletal illness

Here, arthritis, osteoporosis, hip fractures and joint replacements are all considered as musculoskeletal illnesses. As has been seen in previous samples (Bassey, Sayter and Cooper, 2002; Walters, McDonough and Strohschein, 2002), women were much more likely than men to have musculoskeletal-related illnesses. 37.8% of women had arthritis compared with 25.2% of men, and the equivalent numbers for osteoporosis were 7.7% and 1.3% respectively. Also, women in their 80s, and to a lesser extent in their late 70s, were particularly likely to have had a hip fracture. Among people aged 80 and over, 6.2% of women had fractured a hip compared with 1.6% of men. The equivalent numbers among those aged 75–79 were 3.5% and 2.0%. Overall, women were more likely than men to have had a joint replacement, at 8.2% compared with 6.2%. This was true in every age group. (Only respondents aged 60 or over were asked about hip fractures and joint replacements.) With the exceptions of hip fractures and osteoporosis among men, the prevalence of each of the musculoskeletal illnesses considered here increased with increasing age. (Table 6A.6)

Among those who reported diagnosed arthritis, 60.3% of women and 53.3% of men had osteoarthritis while 22.0% of women and 22.4% of men reported having rheumatoid arthritis. 10.8% of women and 13.8% of men with diagnosed arthritis reported having some other kind of arthritis and 10.7% of women and 12.6% of men reported that they did not know what kind of arthritis they had. (Respondents were able to indicate multiple response categories, and so these proportions total more than 100%.) (Table 6A.8)

Among those who reported diagnosed arthritis, 10.9% of women and 11.3% of men aged 60–74 had had a joint replacement. This climbed to 18.4% of women and 20.0% of men among those aged 75 or over. (Again, only respondents aged 60 or over were asked about joint replacements.) (Table 6A.9)

There was a slight social gradient in diagnosed arthritis using the NS-SEC measure of occupational class among respondents in the two younger age groups (aged 50–74). The bulk of the increased prevalence of arthritis was among men and women in manual-class households compared with men and

women in other households. 40.3% of women and 29.7% of men in households in which the head of household was in a routine or manual occupation reported diagnosed arthritis compared with 34.0% of women and 21.0% of men in households in which the head of household was in a managerial or professional occupation. (Table 6A.7)

Respiratory illness

Women were slightly more likely than men to have asthma. Overall, 12.7% of women reported diagnosed asthma compared with 10.1% of men. This sex difference existed for every age group. The prevalence of diagnosed asthma is known to decline with age (Primatesta, Bost and Dong, 1998), and in the ELSA sample, the prevalence of asthma was highest prior to age 75. For both men and women, the prevalence of diagnosed asthma reached a peak in the 60–64 age group, at 12.8% for men and 15.3% for women. The prevalence of diagnosed asthma was lowest in the oldest age group, at 7.0% of men and 10.6% of women. (Table 6A.6)

For diagnosed lung disease (which was specified as separate from asthma on the show card), after age 75, men were much more likely than women to report having the disease. Among those aged 75–79, 10.5% of men reported having diagnosed lung disease compared with 5.5% of women. The equivalent figures among those in their 80s were 9.8% and 6.0%. For men, the prevalence of diagnosed lung disease increased with age from 3.2% among those aged 50–54 to 10.5% among men aged 75–79, and then decreased slightly in the oldest age group, to 9.8%. Age patterns in diagnosed lung disease were less consistent for women. Women aged 70–74 had the highest levels, at 9.9%, while women in the youngest age group had the lowest levels, at 3.5%. The prevalence did not vary much for women in other age groups, hovering between 5.5% and 7.3%. (Table 6A.6)

There was a clear occupational class gradient in respiratory illness for both men and women. 49.6% of men and 55.1% of women in households in which the head of household was in a routine or manual occupation had a respiratory illness, compared with 38.0% of men and 40.8% of women in households in which the head of household was in a managerial or professional occupation. This relationship was true for each age group, with the exception of men aged 75 or over. (Figure 6.3, Table 6A.10)

Men and women who lived in houses that had rising damp or condensation problems (as reported by the respondents themselves – see Chapter 8) were more likely to have respiratory illness than their counterparts who did not. 57.8% of men and 59.7% of women who reported living in a house with rising damp or a condensation problem had respiratory illness, compared with 43.5% of men and 48.3% of women who did not report either of these problems with their houses. This relationship held true for each age group. (Figure 6.4, Table 6A.11)

Figure 6.3. Respiratory illness,[a] by occupational class of head of household and sex
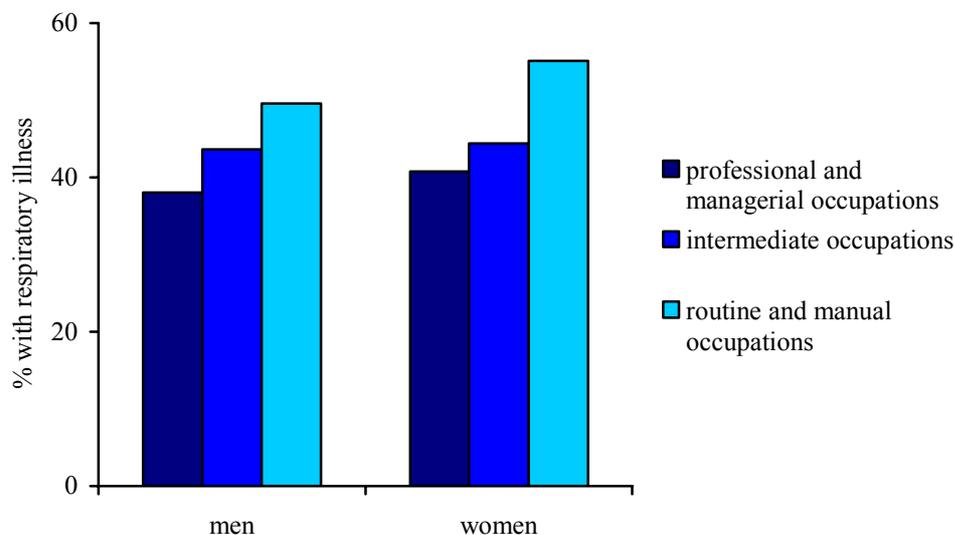
a. Respiratory illness is defined as diagnosed lung disease or asthma, or showing signs of symptomatic respiratory illness on the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire.

Figure 6.4. Respiratory illness,[a] by rising damp or condensation problems and sex
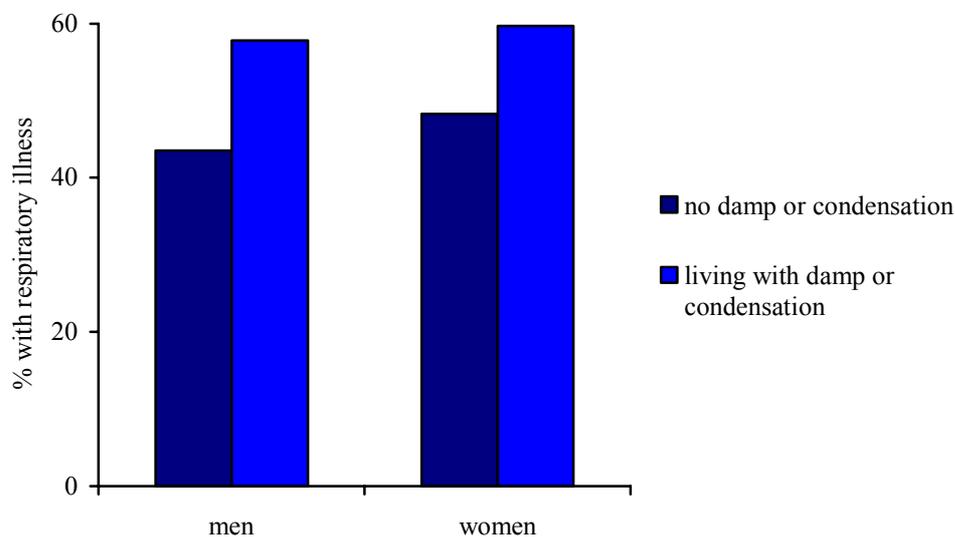
a. Respiratory illness is defined as diagnosed lung disease or asthma, or showing signs of symptomatic respiratory illness on the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire.

Risk of having respiratory illness increased with increasing degree of urbanisation of the area in which people lived. 50.3% of men and 53.7% of women living in urban environments had respiratory illness, compared with 41.5% of men and 47.5% of women living in rural environments. This relationship was true for the two younger age groups. Among those aged 75 or older, it was weaker for men and did not exist for women. (Table 6A.12)

Cancer

Women were more likely than men to have diagnosed cancer, but only prior to age 70, possibly reflecting the incidence of breast cancer which has a younger age distribution than other cancers (Dos Santos Silva and De Stavola, 2002). The age pattern for cancer differed somewhat for men and women. For men, the prevalence of diagnosed cancer increased with age from 1.9% among those aged 50–54 to 9.8% among those aged 75–79, and then dropped slightly to 7.0% in the oldest age group (possibly reflecting cancer-related mortality). For women, the prevalence increased from 4.4% among those aged 50–54 to 7.7% among women aged 60–64. The prevalence of cancer then dropped somewhat for women over their late 60s and early 70s (to 6.7% and 6.5% respectively), and then increased again in the late 70s (9.1%) and the 80s (9.9%). (Table 6A.6)

6.4 General and mental health

This section reports age and sex differences in self-reported general health, long-standing and limiting long-standing illness, symptomatic and diagnosed mental illness, and quality of life, as well as measures of demand and control at home and at work.

Self-rated health

Differences between the sexes were slight, but older people were more likely to report poor health than people in the younger age groups. 17.8% of women and 17.5% of men aged 50–54 said that they had excellent health, compared with 8.6% and 5.8% respectively of those aged over 80. Conversely, only 4.5% of women and 5.6% of men in the youngest age group reported poor health. This increased steadily with age, reaching 9.2% of women and 12.1% of men in the oldest age group. (Table 6A.13)

For analysis by occupational class, respondents reporting excellent and very good health were combined, as were those reporting fair or poor health, to create three groups. For all age groups and for both sexes, those in the managerial and professional occupational social groups were less likely to report fair or poor health than those in either the intermediate or routine and manual social groups. Overall, 16.5% of women and 18.4% of men in the professional and managerial socio-economic group reported having fair or poor health compared with 33.1% and 34.6% respectively in the manual socio-economic group. This relationship held true for each of the age groups. (Figure 6.5, Table 6A.15)

Figure 6.5. Self-reported fair or poor health, by occupational class of head of household and sex
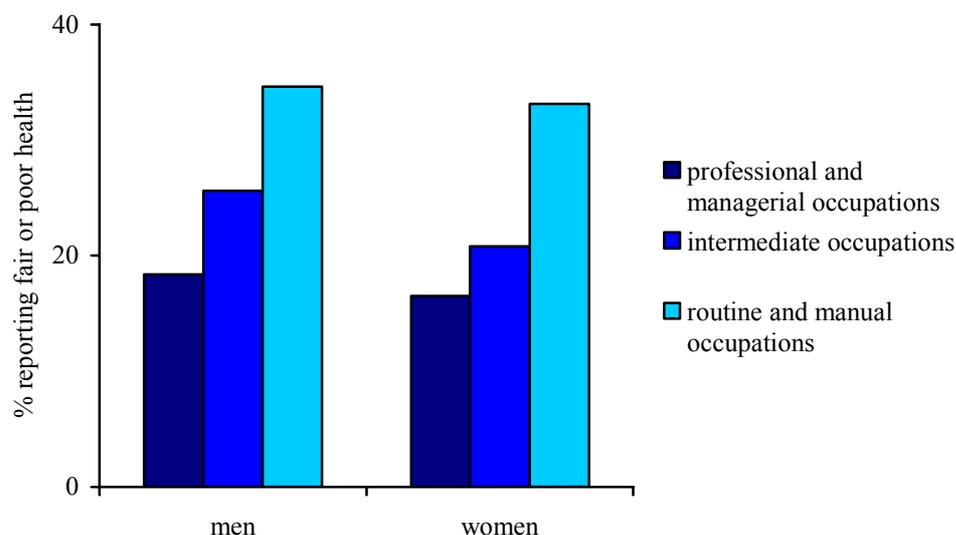
Long-standing illness

Trends in long-standing illness are similar to the pattern for self-reported health. Differences between the sexes were slight. There were increasing proportions who reported that they suffer from a long-standing illness with increasing age. Just under half (43.0% of men and 44.3% of women) of those aged between 50 and 54 say that they have a long-standing illness compared with 68.2% of men and 67.3% of women aged 80 or over. (Table 6A.13)

Limiting long-standing illness

As with long-standing illness, there were no significant sex differences with limiting long-standing illness, but its prevalence generally increased with increasing age. 24.1% of men and 25.4% of women aged between 50 and 54 reported having a limiting long-standing illness, compared with 53.0% of men and 50.3% of women aged over 80. (Table 6A.13)

Overall, there was an occupational class gradient in reporting a limiting long-standing illness. 25.7% of men and 27.7% of women in managerial or professional groups had a limiting long-standing illness, compared with 40.3% of men and 39.1% of women in routine or manual groups. This gradient was consistent across age groups for women, but less consistent for men. The occupational class gradient was apparent for men in the middle age group (aged 60–74). In the youngest age group (aged 50–59), men in managerial or professional occupations were much less likely to report a limiting long-standing illness than men in other occupations (16.7% compared with 30.9% in intermediate and 33.6% in routine or manual occupations). There was no real gradient in the oldest age group (75 years and over) for either men or women. 48.0% of men aged 75 or over who had worked in routine or manual

occupations reported a limiting long-standing illness compared with 47.0% in managerial or professional and 38.0% in intermediate occupations. (Table 6A.16)

Symptomatic mental illness

GHQ12

Women were slightly more likely than men to score 4 or more on the GHQ12 (14.2% compared with 12.1%). Other studies of older people have also found women to be more likely than men to score 4+ on the GHQ12 (Tait and Fuller, 2002). (Table 6A.14)

Age trends in a score of 4+ on the GHQ12 were similar for both men and women. Although those in the younger age groups were more likely to have a lower GHQ12 score than those in older age groups, respondents in the middle age groups (60–74 years) were the least likely to report 4+ symptoms. For both men and women, those aged 65–69 were the least likely to score 4+ on the GHQ12, at 9.5% of men and 11.0% of women. Men and women aged 80 or over were more likely than younger men and women to score 4+, at 15.9% for men and 18.7% for women. (Table 6A.14)

For men, there was a clear occupational class gradient in scoring 4+ on the GHQ12, with men in managerial and professional occupations least likely to score 4+, at 9.6%, and men in routine or manual occupations most likely, at 14.3%, overall. For women, those in manual households were more likely to score 4+ on the GHQ12, at 16.5%, than women in other occupational class groups. There was very little difference between the proportion of women scoring 4+ in intermediate groups, at 11.6%, and the proportion of women scoring 4+ in managerial or professional households, at 12.3%. These relationships were consistent across the three age groups for both men and women. (Table 6A.17)

CES-D

There were clear sex and age differences in the rates of people who reported suffering from depression on the CES-D. In all ages, women were more likely than men to be suffering from depression. 20.1% of men reported three or more symptoms compared with 28.1% of women, overall. Also, rates of depression increased with age for both sexes. 26.4% of men and 37.2% of women aged 80 or over were depressed, compared with 18.7% of men and 25.5% of women aged between 50 and 54. (Table 6A.14)

There were also clear occupational class differences in the rates of people suffering from depression for all age groups. Overall, both men and women in managerial and professional households were the least likely to be depressed, at 13.2% for men and 20.7% for women. Similarly, men and women in manual households were the most likely to be depressed, at 25.5% of men and 33.7% of women (Figure 6.6, Table 6A.17).

Figure 6.6. Mental illness symptoms, by occupational class of head of household and sex

CES-D
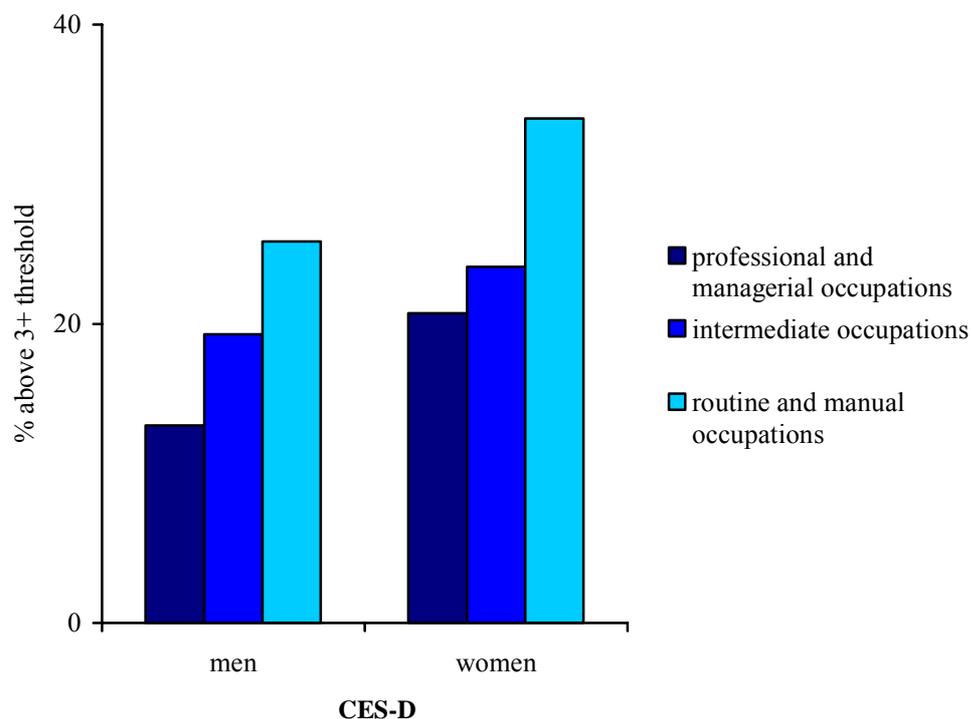
Diagnosed mental illness

Overall, there was a low prevalence of mental illness in the older population according to self-reports of diagnosed mental illness. The prevalence was highest amongst women and generally declined with age for both sexes. 12.7% of women aged between 50 and 54 reported a mental illness diagnosis of some kind, compared with 9.0% of men in the same age group and 4.9% of women aged over 80. Interestingly, the rates of diagnosed mental illness were much

Figure 6.7. Symptomatic depression and diagnosed mental illness, by age
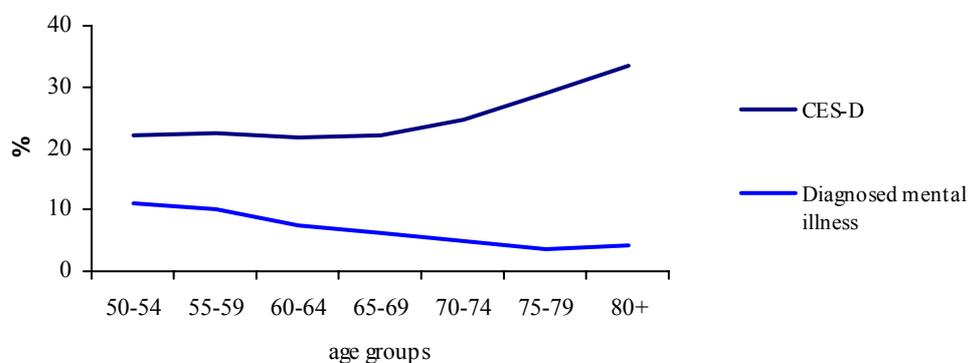
lower than those for symptomatic mental illness, and the two have opposing relationships with age, with diagnosed rates declining with age and levels of reported symptoms increasing. Other studies have suggested that depression among older persons may go undiagnosed and untreated (Clark, 1992; Harrison, Savla and Kafetz, 1990). (Figure 6.7, Table 6A.14)

Quality of life

There are clear distinctions in the quality of life of different age groups. For both men and women, the proportion reporting a better-than-average quality of life declines swiftly in the oldest age groups, from age 75 for men and age 70 for women. Men aged between 50 and 75 have similar rates of enjoying a better-than-average quality of life, at just over 60%. However, this declines to 38.8% of men aged 80 or over. For women, rates of better-than-average quality of life are similar between 50 and 69 years at around 65%. However, the proportions who report better-than-average quality of life decline to 43.4% of those aged 80 or over. (Table 6A.14)

Control at home and at work

Neither men nor women have high rates of low control at home. Only 9.3% of men and 7.9% of women report having low control at home. Nor is there an obvious age-related pattern for either sex. Around a fifth of both men and women report having low control at work. In general, those in the younger age groups have higher rates reporting low control at work. (Table 6A.14)

Demands at home and at work

Thinking of their home life, 55.0% of women and 45.0% of men reported having high demands at home. For both sexes, there was a general decline in the rates reporting high demands with increasing age. 46.5% of men aged 50 to 54 and 58.6% of women aged 50 to 54 reported high demands at home, compared with 36.4% of men and 37.4% of women aged over 80. (Table 6A.14)

Just under one-fifth of men and 29.1% of women reported high demands at work. The proportion reporting high demands at work declined with age, but more so for women than for men. 40.8% of women and 21.1% of men in the 50–54 age group reported high demands at work, compared with 26.9% of women aged 60–65 and 15.9% of men aged 65–69. (Table 6A.14)

6.5 Health-related behaviour

Smoking

Smoking typically shows a decline with age, partly due to selective mortality of heavy smokers. This is true in ELSA data as well. For both sexes, the prevalence of current smokers was highest in the 50–54 age group (24.0% for men and 25.8% for women) and declined generally with age. Between ages 55 and 69, there is a higher prevalence of current smoking among men than

women; in all other age groups, the pattern is reversed. (Figure 6.8, Table 6A.18)

Among smokers, the proportion engaging in heavy smoking (20 or more cigarettes/day) was higher in men than in women across all age groups (40.4% of male smokers compared with 30.5% of female smokers, overall). A linear decline with age in prevalence of heavy smoking is evident after age 60, for both sexes. (Table 6A.19)

Figure 6.8. Proportion of current smokers, by age and sex
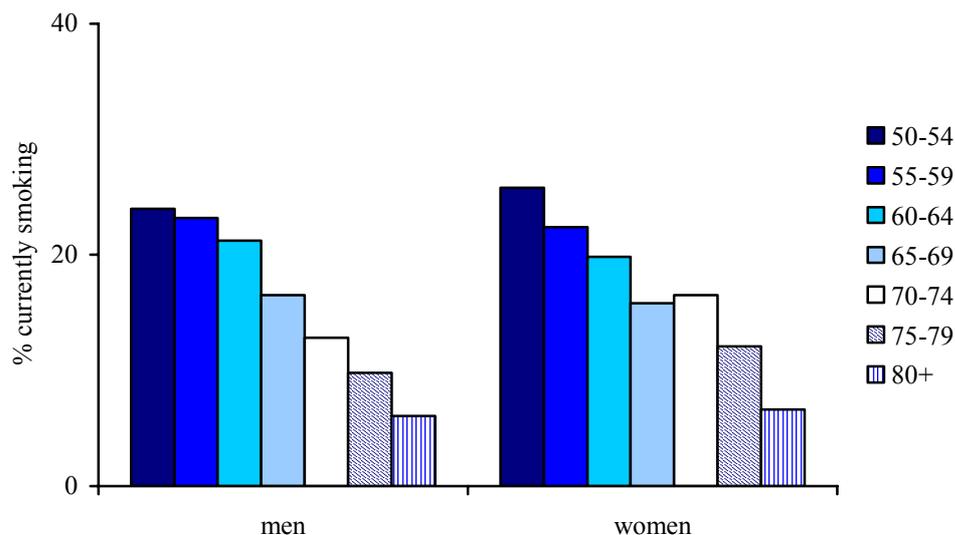
When examined by NS-SEC occupational classification, the highest prevalence of current smoking is among those in routine and manual occupations for both sexes (22.8% for men, 22.1% for women, averaged across age groups). However, sex and age appear to affect the relationship between NS-SEC classification and smoking status. For example, among those in managerial and professional occupations, a higher proportion of men than women in the 50–59 age group were current smokers (16.3% compared with 15.9%), but in the 60-74 and 75+ groups, a higher proportion of women in this occupational category are current smokers (9.3% of men compared with 11.8% of women, and 6.1% compared with 9.2%). Among those in routine and manual occupations, there are few differences by sex in prevalence of current smokers, across all age groups. (Table 6A.20)

While the vast majority of respondents (78.9% of men and 79.6% of women) did not smoke at either the HSE or ELSA interviews, a small percentage (3.1% of men and 2.7% of women in the total sample) quit smoking between the two. About 1% of the sample 'relapsed' (that is, was a former smoker at HSE and a current smoker at ELSA) and fewer than 1% of respondents took up smoking in between the two data collection points. (Table 6A.21)

Alcohol use

The percentage of men and women in the ELSA sample who drank more frequently than twice a day (5.7% for men and 3.2% for women) was low and did not appear to be related to age. (Table 6A.18)

Compared with other occupational categories, both women and men in managerial and professional occupations had the highest overall frequency of drinking twice a day or more (6.7% for men and 4.3% for women), and this percentage peaked among women aged 75 or over (7.2%) in this group and among men aged 60–74 (8.9%). Individuals aged 75 or over in routine and manual occupations were the most likely to abstain from drinking completely compared with other age/occupational categories within each sex (16.4% for men and 26.0% for women). (Table 6A.22)

The overwhelming majority of respondents (83.2% of men and 88.6% of women) reported no change in drinking habits since they were interviewed as part of the Health Survey for England, with those aged 75 or older being the least likely to have changed. The most common change in drinking patterns was drinking a lot less (7.5% for men and 4.3% for women). Very few respondents (less than 1% for each sex) reported drinking a lot more than they did at HSE. (Table 6A.23)

Physical activity

Consistent with past research, the proportion of respondents who were sedentary (defined as never engaging in either moderate or vigorous leisure-time physical activity) increased with each successive age group (though remained roughly equal between 60–64 and 65–69 for men), and was higher among women than men for almost all age groups, the exceptions being 55–59 and 60–64. Among women, 11.1% of those aged 50–54 were sedentary compared with 55.5% of those aged 80 or over. The equivalent figures for men were 7.9% and 42.1%. (Figure 6.9, Table 6A.18)

When NS-SEC occupational class was considered, for leisure-time physical activity only (not counting any on-the-job activity), a general pattern emerged of men in routine and manual occupations being less likely than those in other classifications to have the highest (Level 4) activity level, though the trend across the three-group occupational hierarchy was not linear. There appears to be a linear trend such that among women in manual and routine households, there are fewer very active (Level 4) and more sedentary individuals. (Table 6A.24)

For the summary measure that incorporates information about on-the-job as well as leisure-time activity, patterns were similar to those found for leisure-time activity, with certain exceptions: for example, among men aged 50–59, those in routine and manual occupations were the least likely to be in the highest leisure-time activity category, but using the measure incorporating occupational-related activity, men in professional and managerial occupations were the least likely to be in the high-level physical activity category. For women across age groups, the same linear relationship between household occupational class and activity was evident for this measure as for the exclusively leisure-time activity measure. (Table 6A.25)

Figure 6.9. Proportion of sedentary behaviour,[a] by age and sex
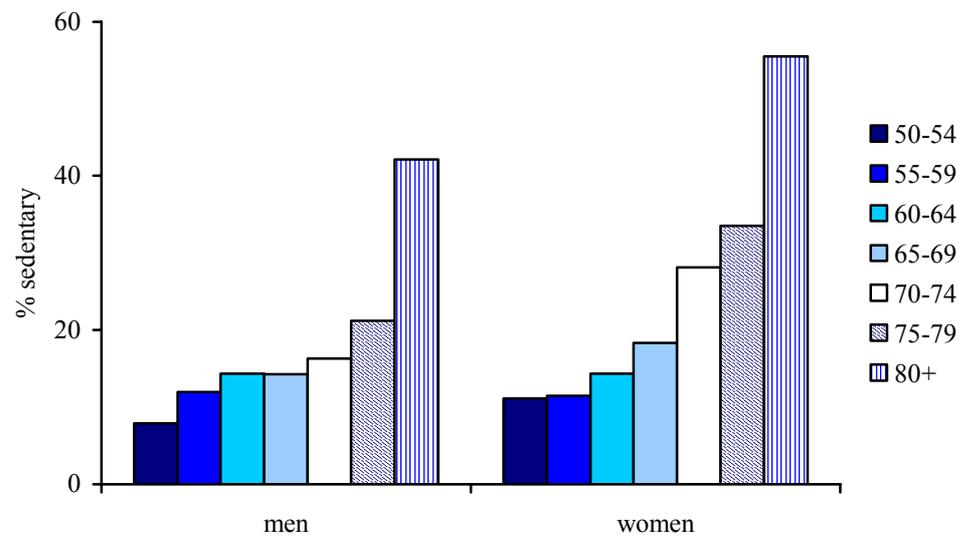
a. Defined as no moderate and no vigorous activity.

6.6 Conclusion

Ageing is often associated with illness and poor health. Health data from the first wave of ELSA suggest that, while this picture is broadly true, a closer examination of the pattern reveals important inequalities. Age trends for different occupational class groups shown in this chapter imply that people in certain occupational classes may reach a state of poor health a decade or two earlier in their lives than their peers in more advantaged social positions. For example, Table 6A.16 shows that in the 50–59 age group, men in routine and manual occupations were twice as likely to have a limiting long-standing illness as men in professional and managerial occupations, while, among men aged 75 or older, there was very little difference between the two groups in the proportions suffering from a limiting long-standing illness. Looking at the table slightly differently, around a third of routine and manual men in the 50–59 age group report a limiting long-standing illness, while rates for men in the professional and managerial groups remain much lower than this until they get beyond age 75 (for example, only just over a quarter of professional and managerial men aged 60–74 report a limiting long-standing illness). A similar pattern appeared for women, although to a lesser degree. These occupational class differences in age trends were also shown for heart disease (see Figure 6.10), diagnosed hypertension (although not for women), diabetes, arthritis and respiratory illness (again, not for women). It appears that while the risk of ill health increases after age 75 for people in professional and managerial groups, this increased risk appears much earlier in life for people in routine and manual social groups. Of course, in cross-sectional data, identifying underlying reasons for these socioeconomic differences in age trends is not possible. For example, do they relate to an early ageing effect, or to selective survival, or to a reduction in socioeconomic influences on health at older ages?

These are the kinds of questions about health and ageing that ELSA will be able to address with longitudinal data in the future.

Figure 6.10. Proportion with heart disease, by occupational class of head of household, age and sex

Men
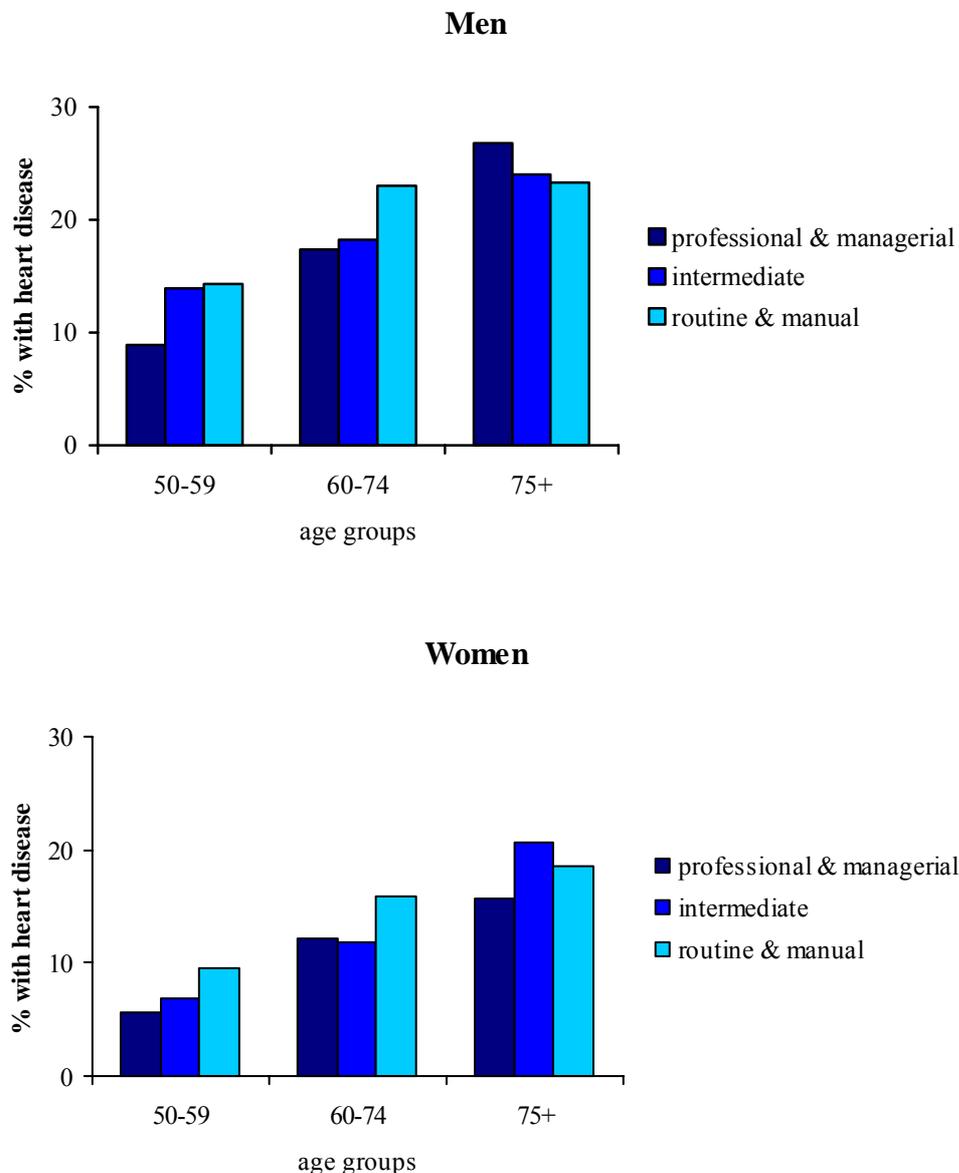
Women

In some respects, occupational class differences for the age trends of health-related behaviours mirrored the patterns seen for illness. For instance, the prevalence of sedentary behaviour increased with age more rapidly for men and women in routine and manual social groups than for those in professional and managerial groups (see Tables 6A.24 and 6A.25). Examining cross-sectional data, it is not possible to know whether earlier onset of poor health in particular social groups is causing decreases in physical activity, or whether increased sedentary behaviour at earlier ages leads to early onset of poor health. Future waves of ELSA will allow the direction of such relationships to

be investigated. Longitudinal data will also be key for understanding age trends in disease outcomes, such as the decrease in diagnosed mental illness with age shown in Table 6A.14. Such a decrease might be related to cohort effects – for example, people who are now aged 75 or over may have been more likely to have had positive life experiences that increased their psychological well-being. The decrease could also be due to period effects – for example, as a result of the rate of diagnosis for mental illness being low in particular times. Or the decline in rates may be attributable to a real decline in mental illness with age.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the occupational class differences in alcohol consumption among older people shown by wave 1 ELSA data (Table 6A.22). Men and women in manual households were much more likely than their professional counterparts to abstain from drinking alcohol or to drink on special occasions only. Conversely, men and women in professional households were much more likely to drink moderately, in line with the pattern that is now thought to be protective against chronic illness.

These occupational class and age variations in health and health-related behaviour shown by the first wave of ELSA suggest important areas for future work to improve our understanding of social differences in health and ageing. Future waves of ELSA will provide opportunities for investigating cohort, period and time effects, as people age, so that the complex nature of the relationships presented here can be better understood.

Acknowledgement

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Annex 6.1
Tables on health

Table 6A.1. Cardiovascular disease, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Diagnosed heart attack								
Men	3.6	4.6	8.6	9.8	12.7	14.2	12.1	8.3
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.7)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.5)	(0.4)
Women	0.6	1.3	2.3	3.5	7.9	6.0	7.0	3.7
Standard error	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(0.3)
Diagnosed heart attack in last two years								
Men	0.5	1.3	2.2	1.9	2.5	3.4	2.8	1.8
Standard error	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.2)
Women	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.7	0.8
Standard error	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.1)
Diagnosed angina								
Men	3.3	7.9	11.7	11.7	14.5	20.8	19.1	11.1
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.9)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.9)	(1.8)	(0.4)
Women	1.6	2.9	5.9	8.7	13.3	12.7	16.8	8.1
Standard error	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(0.4)
Symptomatic angina (Rose Questionnaire)								
Men	1.0	1.2	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.9	1.4
Standard error	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.2)
Women	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.7	1.7	0.8	1.0
Standard error	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.3)	(0.1)
Symptomatic heart attack								
Men	8.1	10.6	12.9	12.6	13.5	11.8	12.2	11.3
Standard error	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(0.5)
Women	5.8	7.4	7.6	7.7	10.1	7.5	8.6	7.7
Standard error	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(0.3)
Diagnosed stroke								
Men	1.2	2.2	3.8	5.5	6.8	7.8	13.3	4.8
Standard error	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.0)	(0.3)
Women	1.0	1.0	2.3	3.8	5.9	5.0	9.3	3.7
Standard error	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.1)	(0.3)
Diagnosed hypertension								
Men	25.8	32.8	37.5	40.0	44.3	44.5	38.5	36.1
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(1.9)	(2.3)	(2.3)	(0.7)
Women	24.7	31.7	35.4	43.3	49.1	50.8	46.7	38.8
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(1.9)	(0.6)
Diagnosed diabetes								
Men	4.6	6.9	8.1	9.9	13.0	12.3	9.7	8.5
Standard error	(0.7)	(0.8)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(0.4)
Women	2.1	5.4	5.7	6.4	9.9	9.4	6.5	6.1
Standard error	(0.4)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(0.9)	(0.3)

Continues

Table 6A.1 contd. Cardiovascular disease, by age and sex

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
Symptomatic intermittent claudication (Edinburgh Questionnaire)								
Men								
Grade 1	2.3	3.0	3.1	3.2	4.4	3.6	4.1	3.2
Standard error	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.3)
Grade 2	1.7	2.6	2.8	3.5	4.8	3.6	7.4	3.3
Standard error	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.2)	(0.3)
Women								
Grade 1	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.5	4.4	3.4	4.7	3.3
Standard error	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.2)
Grade 2	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.4	4.8	3.9	3.8	2.8
Standard error	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.2)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 6A.2. Heart disease,[a] by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	Age 60–74	75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	8.9	17.4	26.8	15.7
Intermediate	13.9	18.2	24.0	17.9
Routine and manual	14.3	23.0	23.3	20.7
Women				
Professional and managerial	5.6	12.1	15.7	10.2
Intermediate	6.8	11.9	20.7	12.1
Routine and manual	9.5	15.8	18.6	14.6
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2081*	*2173*	*950*	*5204*
Women	*2131*	*2409*	*1478*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1895*	*2253*	*963*	*5111*
Women	*2238*	*2563*	*1322*	*6123*

a. Defined as diagnosed or symptomatic heart attack or angina.

Table 6A.3. Diagnosed hypertension, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	27.9	40.4	40.9	34.9
Intermediate	27.2	38.2	42.2	34.1
Routine and manual	31.5	41.1	41.9	37.1
Women				
Professional and managerial	26.8	38.7	42.4	34.0
Intermediate	26.4	40.1	49.2	37.5
Routine and manual	29.5	45.2	49.5	41.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2081*	*2172*	*949*	*5202*
Women	*2131*	*2405*	*1477*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1895*	*2252*	*962*	*5109*
Women	*2238*	*2559*	*1321*	*6118*

Table 6A.4. Diagnosed diabetes, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	5.1	9.3	12.9	8.1
Intermediate	6.4	7.8	9.9	7.5
Routine and manual	6.2	11.6	10.1	9.4
Women				
Professional and managerial	1.7	5.4	8.2	4.2
Intermediate	3.4	4.7	5.2	4.4
Routine and manual	4.8	9.2	8.6	7.6
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2081*	*2172*	*949*	*5202*
Women	*2131*	*2405*	*1477*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1895*	*2252*	*962*	*5109*
Women	*2238*	*2559*	*1321*	*6118*

Table 6A.5. Heart disease,[a] by region, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
North East	18.8	26.7	16.3	22.3
North West	13.5	26.7	24.6	21.6
Yorkshire & Humberside	14.7	24.2	34.4	22.3
East Midlands	10.7	22.6	28.0	19.0
West Midlands	8.8	15.9	30.6	16.4
East of England	8.9	17.1	17.3	14.2
London	16.0	17.3	22.0	17.7
South East	11.5	17.1	21.8	16.0
South West	11.2	17.1	22.2	16.2
Women				
North East	7.8	18.6	29.1	17.1
North West	8.0	14.8	18.8	13.2
Yorkshire & Humberside	8.5	17.8	23.3	15.5
East Midlands	9.1	11.7	17.2	11.6
West Midlands	10.5	12.0	22.2	13.6
East of England	8.2	14.9	20.7	13.7
London	7.5	14.1	16.4	12.2
South East	5.2	12.7	17.7	11.1
South West	9.0	11.2	13.6	11.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2081*	*2172*	*950*	*5203*
Women	*2131*	*2405*	*1478*	*6014*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1895*	*2252*	*963*	*5110*
Women	*2238*	*2559*	*1322*	*6119*

a. Defined as diagnosed or symptomatic heart attack or angina.

Table 6A.6. Non-cardiovascular chronic illness, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Diagnosed lung disease								
Men	3.2	5.0	6.9	8.5	9.0	10.5	9.8	6.8
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(0.4)
Women	3.5	5.7	7.3	6.3	9.9	5.5	6.0	6.1
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(0.3)
Diagnosed asthma								
Men	8.8	10.9	12.8	9.7	11.3	8.5	7.0	10.1
Standard error	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(0.4)
Women	13.1	12.9	15.3	13.8	11.4	11.0	10.6	12.7
Standard error	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(0.4)
Diagnosed arthritis								
Men	15.9	20.3	26.6	26.8	30.4	32.4	38.3	25.2
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(2.3)	(0.6)
Women	24.4	31.6	36.0	40.1	45.6	47.1	48.8	37.8
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(1.9)	(0.6)
Hip fractures								
Men	a	a	1.2	0.4	0.8	2.0	1.6	0.7
Standard error			(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.6)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Women	a	a	0.9	1.0	1.9	3.5	6.2	1.7
Standard error			(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.2)
Joint replacements								
Men	a	a	2.4	3.8	7.4	9.9	10.2	6.2
Standard error			(0.6)	(0.7)	(1.0)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(0.4)
Women	a	a	2.7	5.8	8.5	11.2	13.0	8.2
Standard error			(0.6)	(0.8)	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(0.5)
Diagnosed osteoporosis								
Men	0.6	0.6	1.1	2.1	1.5	2.9	1.5	1.3
Standard error	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.8)	(0.6)	(0.2)
Women	3.6	3.6	7.7	8.1	11.9	10.2	11.2	7.7
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(0.4)
Diagnosed cancer								
Men	1.9	2.6	4.7	6.3	7.8	9.8	7.0	5.0
Standard error	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.2)	(0.3)
Women	4.4	7.1	7.7	6.7	6.5	9.1	9.9	7.2
Standard error	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.2)	(1.2)	(0.3)
Diagnosed Parkinson's								
Men	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.5	1.1	0.5
Standard error	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.1)
Women	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.4
Standard error	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.0)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.1)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

a. Questions regarding hip fractures and joint replacements were only asked of respondents aged 60+.
Bases vary; those shown are for all ELSA sample members excluding interviews conducted by proxy.

Table 6A.7. Diagnosed arthritis, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	15.6	20.1	36.0	21.0
Intermediate	16.1	26.0	31.7	22.6
Routine and manual	21.5	33.2	35.9	29.7
Women				
Professional and managerial	24.8	37.9	49.2	34.0
Intermediate	25.9	38.2	46.6	35.9
Routine and manual	30.9	42.2	49.3	40.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2080*	*2170*	*948*	*5198*
Women	*2130*	*2405*	*1476*	*6011*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1894*	*2251*	*962*	*5107*
Women	*2238*	*2558*	*1321*	*6117*

Table 6A.8. Type of arthritis, by age and sex

ELSA sample members with diagnosed arthritis   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Osteoarthritis	51.4	56.2	50.2	53.3
Rheumatoid arthritis	19.5	22.4	25.7	22.4
Other	17.0	12.1	13.3	13.8
Don't know	14.7	11.5	12.3	12.6
Women				
Osteoarthritis	60.3	64.4	54.6	60.3
Rheumatoid arthritis	21.8	20.3	24.6	22.0
Other	12.0	10.1	10.6	10.8
Don't know	9.1	10.0	13.1	10.7
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*374*	*604*	*334*	*1312*
Women	*593*	*970*	*710*	*2273*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*352*	*631*	*343*	*1326*
Women	*641*	*1050*	*646*	*2337*

Proportions total more than 100% as respondents were permitted to choose more than one response option.

Table 6A.9. Joint replacement among those with diagnosed arthritis, by age and sex

ELSA sample members with diagnosed arthritis   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
With joint replacement				
Men	a	11.3	20.0	14.5
Women	a	10.9	18.4	14.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*a*	*570*	*334*	*904*
Women	*a*	*929*	*708*	*1637*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*a*	*597*	*343*	*940*
Women	*a*	*1006*	*645*	*1651*

a. Questions regarding joint replacement were only asked of those aged 60+.

Table 6A.10. Respiratory illness,[a] by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	29.5	40.0	54.8	38.0
Intermediate	37.4	44.9	57.2	43.6
Routine and manual	42.2	52.2	56.6	49.6
Women				
Professional and managerial	33.6	46.3	47.1	40.8
Intermediate	35.7	47.0	52.7	44.4
Routine and manual	48.0	57.0	61.1	55.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2164*	*942*	*5185*
Women	*2118*	*2400*	*1470*	*5988*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2245*	*956*	*5094*
Women	*2225*	*2553*	*1316*	*6094*

a. Defined as diagnosed lung disease or asthma, or symptomatic respiratory illness on the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire.

Table 6A.11. Respiratory illness,^a by housing problems, age and sex

ELSA sample members — *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+ Age	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
No damp or condensation	35.1	46.1	55.5	43.5
Has damp or condensation	48.6	64.6	68.5	57.8
Women				
No damp or condensation	39.9	51.3	55.4	48.3
Has damp or condensation	52.3	60.8	72.9	59.7
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2068*	*2154*	*941*	*5163*
Women	*2104*	*2389*	*1465*	*5958*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1883*	*2234*	*953*	*5070*
Women	*2210*	*2543*	*1312*	*6065*

a. Defined as diagnosed lung disease or asthma, or symptomatic respiratory illness on the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire.

Table 6A.12. Respiratory illness,^a by degree of urbanisation, age and sex

ELSA sample members — *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+ Age	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Urban	44.9	52.4	57.8	50.3
Suburban	36.0	47.3	56.6	44.4
Rural	32.1	44.6	54.1	41.5
Women				
Urban	44.5	57.0	59.7	53.7
Suburban	41.3	51.8	53.9	48.6
Rural	38.3	49.4	59.3	47.5
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2165*	*942*	*5186*
Women	*2117*	*2399*	*1470*	*5986*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2245*	*956*	*5094*
Women	*2225*	*2553*	*1315*	*6093*

a. Defined as diagnosed lung disease or asthma, or symptomatic respiratory illness on the MRC Respiratory Questionnaire.

Table 6A.13. Self-reported health and long-standing illness, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Self-reported health								
Men								
Excellent	17.5	14.7	15.4	12.2	8.3	9.8	5.8	13.0
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.1)	(0.5)
Very good	33.2	30.3	29.0	26.8	29.9	14.0	23.5	29.0
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.9)	(2.0)	(0.7)
Good	30.6	30.5	25.6	30.6	30.7	21.0	29.4	29.7
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.5)	(15.7)	(10.7)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(0.7)
Fair	12.2	15.1	20.6	21.1	20.6	23.1	26.1	18.6
Standard error	(1.1)	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(0.7)
Poor	5.6	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.6	10.9	12.1	8.2
Standard error	(0.8)	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(0.4)
Women								
Excellent								
Standard error	17.8	14.2	14.2	12.9	8.7	7.4	8.6	12.5
Very good	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(0.4)
Standard error	31.7	31.3	30.6	29.6	25.7	25.0	21.6	28.3
Good	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.6)	(0.6)
Standard error	31.5	30.0	30.7	34.9	31.1	34.8	29.4	31.6
Fair	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(2.0)	(1.8)	(0.6)
Standard error	13.9	17.2	17.7	15.9	24.8	22.1	25.5	19.2
Poor	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(0.5)
Standard error	4.5	6.4	5.4	5.9	8.9	8.8	9.2	6.8
	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(0.3)
Long-standing illness								
Men								
Standard error	43.0	50.4	56.6	58.0	63.3	64.4	68.2	55.4
Women	(1.7)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.9)	(2.2)	(2.2)	(0.7)
Standard error	44.3	52.8	53.3	58.8	63.0	62.3	67.3	56.5
	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(2.0)	(1.8)	(0.7)
Limiting long-standing illness								
Men								
Standard error	24.1	28.9	36.4	35.1	36.3	39.5	53.0	34.0
Women	(1.4	(1.4	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.9)	(2.2)	(2.3)	(0.7)
Standard error	25.4	30.3	30.2	32.7	40.2	42.6	50.3	35.0
	(1.3	(1.4	(1.5)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(2.1)	(1.9)	(0.6)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Bases vary; those shown are for all ELSA sample members excluding interviews conducted by proxy.

Table 6A.14. Psychological health and well-being, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
GHQ12 score 4+								
Men	13.8	13.7	9.9	9.5	10.1	11.9	15.9	12.1
Standard error	(1.2)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(1.9)	(0.5)
Women	15.5	14.7	11.8	11.0	12.4	15.8	18.7	14.2
Standard error	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(0.5)
CES-D 3+ symptoms								
Men	18.7	20.0	20.2	19.3	17.3	22.6	26.4	20.1
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(2.1)	(0.6)
Women	25.5	24.9	23.3	24.5	31.0	33.7	37.2	28.1
Standard error	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(2.0)	(1.9)	(0.6)
Diagnosed mental illness								
Men	9.0	6.7	6.1	4.9	3.9	2.7	3.2	5.8
Standard error	(1.0)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.3)
Women	12.7	13.4	8.8	7.2	5.7	4.5	4.9	8.6
Standard error	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(0.4)
Above-average quality of life								
Men	63.8	61.4	64.6	64.1	61.9	52.3	38.8	60.5
Standard error	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(1.9)	(2.1)	(2.6)	(2.8)	(0.8)
Women	64.4	64.3	67.6	65.3	58.9	55.9	43.4	61.3
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.4)	(2.4)	(0.7)
Low control at home								
Men	10.2	11.0	8.4	8.4	6.8	7.4	12.1	9.3
Standard error	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.7)	(0.4)
Women	7.6	8.7	7.5	5.9	9.3	7.7	8.9	7.9
Standard error	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.0)	(0.8)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(0.4)
Low control at work								
Men	22.8	24.7	16.2	9.2	--	--	--	21.3
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.7)	(1.9)	(2.4)	--	--	--	(0.9)
Women	22.4	22.2	19.6	--	--	--	--	21.0
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.6)	(2.6)	--	--	--	--	(0.9)
High demands at home								
Men	46.5	48.2	44.5	31.6	33.9	35.7	36.4	45.0
Standard error	(1.9)	(1.9)	(2.6)	(4.0)	(5.1)	(7.5)	(8.8)	(1.1)
Women	58.6	56.1	51.8	48.9	46.7	26.8	37.4	55.0
Standard error	(1.8)	(1.9)	(3.2)	(4.5)	(6.5)	(8.1)	(9.5)	(1.1)
High demands at work								
Men	21.1	21.4	17.0	15.9	--	--	--	19.1
Standard error	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.4)	--	--	--	(0.6)
Women	40.8	37.0	26.9	--	--	--	--	29.1
Standard error	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.6)	--	--	--	--	(0.6)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Bases vary; those shown are for all ELSA sample members excluding interviews conducted by proxy.

Table 6A.15. Self-reported health, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Excellent or very good	58.9	50.5	36.0	51.7
Good	28.3	29.3	35.4	30.0
Fair or poor	12.7	20.2	28.6	18.4
Intermediate				
Excellent or very good	46.1	45.9	33.9	44.1
Good	31.7	28.4	31.2	30.3
Fair or poor	22.1	25.7	34.9	25.6
Routine and manual				
Excellent or very good	39.6	34.4	29.1	35.2
Good	33.1	29.3	27.5	30.2
Fair or poor	27.2	36.3	43.4	34.6
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Excellent or very good	59.0	53.6	38.5	53.4
Good	28.9	28.6	36.5	30.1
Fair or poor	12.0	17.8	25.1	16.5
Intermediate				
Excellent or very good	54.7	44.9	38.9	46.9
Good	29.0	35.1	32.4	32.3
Fair or poor	16.2	20.1	28.7	20.8
Routine and manual				
Excellent or very good	37.9	34.4	27.9	33.9
Good	33.3	33.2	32.3	33.0
Fair or poor	28.8	32.4	39.8	33.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2164*	*942*	*5185*
Women	*2118*	*2400*	*1470*	*5988*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2245*	*956*	*5094*
Women	*2225*	*2553*	*1316*	*6094*

Table 6A.16. Limiting long-standing illness, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	16.7	26.2	47.0	25.7
Intermediate	30.9	35.2	38.0	33.8
Routine and manual	33.6	42.1	48.0	40.3
Women				
Professional and managerial	22.9	26.0	44.0	27.7
Intermediate	24.7	29.7	46.1	31.9
Routine and manual	32.2	39.4	47.7	39.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2079*	*2164*	*942*	*5185*
Women	*2118*	*2400*	*1470*	*5988*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1893*	*2245*	*956*	*5094*
Women	*2225*	*2553*	*1316*	*6094*

Table 6A.17. Psychological health, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

				Age	Total
		50–59	60–74	75+	
		%	%	%	%
GHQ12 score 4+					
Men					
Professional and managerial		11.4	6.3	11.9	9.6
Intermediate		11.8	10.8	13.7	11.7
Routine and manual		17.0	11.7	15.4	14.3
Women					
Professional and managerial		13.1	9.7	16.3	12.3
Intermediate		11.8	9.2	16.4	11.6
Routine and manual		18.4	13.9	18.7	16.5
CES-D 3+ symptoms					
Men					
Professional and managerial		13.6	10.4	18.1	13.2
Intermediate		19.0	18.7	21.8	19.3
Routine and manual		24.4	24.4	29.9	25.5
Women					
Professional and managerial		19.8	18.6	27.9	20.7
Intermediate		19.9	20.7	35.2	23.8
Routine and manual		31.2	32.5	39.0	33.7
Bases (weighted):					
Men		*2079*	*2164*	*942*	*5185*
Women		*2118*	*2400*	*1470*	*5988*
Bases (unweighted):					
Men		*1893*	*2245*	*956*	*5094*
Women		*2225*	*2553*	*1316*	*6094*

Table 6A.18. Smoking, frequent drinking and sedentary behaviour, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

							Age	Total
	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Currently smokes								
Men	24.0	23.2	21.2	16.5	12.8	9.8	6.1	18.1
Standard error	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.1)	(0.6)
Women	25.8	22.4	19.8	15.8	16.5	12.1	6.6	17.8
Standard error	(1.4)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.4)	(1.0)	(0.5)
Drinks twice a day or more								
Men	4.1	5.0	5.6	6.3	8.4	5.8	6.9	5.7
Standard error	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(0.3)
Women	2.6	2.5	2.2	3.8	4.2	3.5	4.1	3.2
Standard error	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.2)
Sedentary behaviour								
Men	7.9	12.0	14.4	14.3	16.3	21.2	42.1	15.9
Standard error	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(2.3)	(0.5)
Women	11.1	11.5	14.4	18.3	28.1	33.5	55.5	23.3
Standard error	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(1.6)	(2.0)	(1.9)	(0.6)
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Bases vary; those shown are for all ELSA sample members excluding interviews conducted by proxy.

Table 6A.19. Level of current smoking, by age and sex

Current smokers   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Light	21.9	22.4	23.2	27.2	29.3	[47.7]	--	25.5
Moderate	35.3	32.0	35.4	33.0	36.8	[31.7]	--	34.2
Heavy	42.8	45.6	41.4	40.0	33.9	[20.6]	--	40.4
Women								
Light	18.0	21.4	26.1	33.1	26.1	47.0	40.5	26.1
Moderate	45.8	43.9	37.5	40.0	49.0	38.0	49.4	43.4
Heavy	36.2	34.7	36.4	26.8	25.0	15.0	10.0	30.5
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*246*	*215*	*167*	*114*	*76*	*44*	*24*	*886*
Women	*276*	*219*	*166*	*120*	*122*	*78*	*54*	*1036*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*197*	*213*	*161*	*121*	*79*	*44*	*26*	*841*
Women	*268*	*250*	*172*	*135*	*127*	*69*	*51*	*1072*

Table 6A.20. Current smokers,[a] by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial	16.3	9.3	6.1	11.8
Intermediate	23.7	18.1	4.9	18.4
Routine and manual	30.9	21.8	10.5	22.8
Women				
Professional and managerial	15.9	11.8	9.2	13.2
Intermediate	22.5	12.6	6.9	14.7
Routine and manual	30.2	22.8	10.3	22.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2080*	*2168*	*950*	*5198*
Women	*2130*	*2403*	*1477*	*6010*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1894*	*2248*	*963*	*5105*
Women	*2237*	*2556*	*1322*	*6115*

a. Self-reported smoking of cigarettes and/or roll-ups.

Table 6A.21. Change in smoking status since HSE,[a] by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Quit since HSE	3.4	3.5	1.5	3.1
Current non-smoker, no change	73.2	79.1	90.6	78.9
Smoker, no change	20.9	16.2	7.1	16.4
Previous smoker, relapsed	2.1	1.0	0.7	1.4
New smoker	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2
Women				
Quit since HSE	3.2	3.2	1.1	2.7
Current non-smoker, no change	72.6	79.4	90.0	79.6
Smoker, no change	22.8	16.1	8.8	16.7
Previous smoker, relapsed	1.2	1.2	0.1	0.9
New smoker	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2023*	*2119*	*941*	*5083*
Women	*2107*	*2385*	*1472*	*5964*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1840*	*2200*	*954*	*4994*
Women	*2212*	*2539*	*1317*	*6068*

a. Data from ELSA sample members' responses to the Health Survey for England in 1998, 1999 or 2001.

Table 6A.22. Frequency of alcohol use, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Twice a day or more	4.3	8.9	8.3	6.7
Daily or almost daily	40.7	38.8	33.6	38.7
Once or twice a week	35.1	31.9	29.4	32.9
Once or twice a month	9.0	8.3	6.4	8.3
Special occasions only	6.5	8.3	14.5	8.6
Not at all	4.4	3.8	7.8	4.8
Intermediate				
Twice a day or more	3.9	6.8	7.8	5.7
Daily or almost daily	35.6	28.9	25.0	31.2
Once or twice a week	35.9	32.2	27.2	33.0
Once or twice a month	11.0	9.4	9.1	10.0
Special occasions only	9.5	13.8	19.6	12.9
Not at all	4.1	9.0	11.4	7.3
Routine and manual				
Twice a day or more	5.1	5.3	4.5	5.1
Daily or almost daily	21.8	23.0	20.2	22.1
Once or twice a week	42.4	34.8	28.0	36.1
Once or twice a month	10.6	9.9	7.5	9.7
Special occasions only	12.5	15.9	23.4	16.2
Not at all	7.5	11.2	16.4	10.9
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Twice a day or more	3.3	4.2	7.2	4.3
Daily or almost daily	28.9	28.7	23.9	28.0
Once or twice a week	36.4	27.8	17.5	29.8
Once or twice a month	12.1	11.8	7.4	11.2
Special occasions only	13.7	19.7	28.9	18.6
Not at all	5.7	7.9	15.1	8.2
Intermediate				
Twice a day or more	2.8	4.8	4.6	4.1
Daily or almost daily	20.2	19.6	18.5	19.6
Once or twice a week	39.7	28.3	19.6	30.2
Once or twice a month	11.9	12.7	9.5	11.7
Special occasions only	19.0	22.3	31.1	23.3
Not at all	6.5	12.2	16.7	11.3
Routine and manual				
Twice a day or more	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.1
Daily or almost daily	13.9	12.5	13.2	13.2
Once or twice a week	30.6	23.1	15.7	23.7
Once or twice a month	14.3	10.5	8.6	11.2
Special occasions only	26.6	29.9	34.4	30.0
Not at all	12.6	21.8	26.0	19.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2169*	*949*	*5196*
Women	*2129*	*2403*	*1477*	*6009*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*962*	*5103*
Women	*2236*	*2557*	*1321*	*6114*

Table 6A.23. Self-reported change in drinking habits since HSE,[a] by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
No change	82.2	82.4	87.4	83.2
A lot more	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.3
A bit more	3.8	2.8	1.2	2.9
A bit less	6.5	6.4	4.4	6.1
A lot less	7.1	8.0	7.0	7.5
Women				
No change	84.5	89.7	92.7	88.6
A lot more	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.3
A bit more	3.9	2.4	1.6	2.7
A bit less	5.5	3.9	2.4	4.1
A lot less	5.5	3.9	3.3	4.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2010*	*2104*	*934*	*5048*
Women	*2094*	*2379*	*1416*	*5889*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1829*	*2184*	*946*	*4959*
Women	*2199*	*2532*	*1307*	*6038*

a. Data from ELSA sample members' responses to the Health Survey for England in 1998, 1999 or 2001.

Table 6A.24. Leisure-time activity level,[a] by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Level 0	6.1	7.3	23.2	9.7
Level 1	11.1	12.8	16.4	12.7
Level 2	29.6	31.3	33.5	30.9
Level 3	26.4	25.4	14.0	23.8
Level 4	26.8	23.2	12.9	23.0
Intermediate				
Level 0	10.9	13.5	29.0	14.9
Level 1	12.8	16.2	16.0	14.7
Level 2	24.4	27.0	24.0	25.4
Level 3	21.9	19.8	16.3	20.2
Level 4	30.0	23.5	14.6	24.9
Routine and manual				
Level 0	12.7	20.1	37.7	21.0
Level 1	16.3	16.6	15.3	16.3
Level 2	26.8	26.8	25.0	26.4
Level 3	20.6	19.7	13.5	18.8
Level 4	23.6	16.8	8.6	17.5
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Level 0	7.2	13.4	32.8	14.0
Level 1	13.4	11.2	16.1	13.0
Level 2	24.8	33.7	32.5	29.5
Level 3	25.7	20.9	9.2	21.0
Level 4	28.9	20.9	9.4	22.5
Intermediate				
Level 0	10.1	13.9	43.8	19.8
Level 1	14.8	14.3	14.7	14.6
Level 2	29.7	34.5	26.6	30.9
Level 3	21.3	21.2	8.3	18.1
Level 4	24.1	16.0	6.7	16.6
Routine and manual				
Level 0	13.8	25.2	50.1	27.8
Level 1	16.7	16.8	16.3	16.6
Level 2	33.3	32.5	22.9	30.3
Level 3	18.6	15.2	6.2	14.0
Level 4	17.6	10.4	4.6	11.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2169*	*950*	*5197*
Women	*2126*	*2403*	*1477*	*6006*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*963*	*5104*
Women	*2233*	*2556*	*1321*	*6110*

a. Level 0 is least active and level 4 is most active.

Table 6A.25. Leisure-time and occupational activity level, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Sedentary	2.3	3.4	11.4	4.3
Low	14.5	16.6	28.2	17.8
Moderate	55.8	56.6	47.5	54.6
High	27.5	23.4	12.9	23.3
Intermediate				
Sedentary	4.0	5.5	14.1	6.2
Low	12.4	20.0	29.8	18.3
Moderate	48.6	49.3	41.6	47.8
High	35.0	25.3	14.6	27.8
Routine and manual				
Sedentary	4.2	10.3	22.2	10.5
Low	16.5	23.9	30.7	22.7
Moderate	49.3	47.5	38.5	46.3
High	30.1	18.3	8.6	20.5
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Sedentary	0.7	5.0	12.7	4.4
Low	17.9	19.6	36.3	21.7
Moderate	52.4	54.6	41.7	51.4
High	29.0	20.9	9.4	22.5
Intermediate				
Sedentary	2.5	5.4	18.9	7.6
Low	21.0	22.6	39.6	26.1
Moderate	51.7	56.1	34.9	49.4
High	24.8	16.0	6.7	16.8
Routine and manual				
Sedentary	2.7	9.6	24.3	11.1
Low	23.2	30.6	42.1	31.1
Moderate	55.8	49.2	29.1	46.2
High	18.4	10.6	4.6	11.6
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2169*	*950*	*5197*
Women	*2126*	*2403*	*1477*	*6006*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*963*	*5104*
Women	*2233*	*2556*	*1321*	*6110*

7. Physical and cognitive function

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The results presented in this chapter show that:

- There is considerable variation in the level of physical impairment between age groups. The prevalence of reported physical functional limitation is surprisingly high at the youngest end of the sample, with 43% of respondents in their 50s reporting difficulty with mobility and 13% reporting difficulty with a basic activity of daily life (self-care). At the same time, most (58%) of the respondents in their 80s and older report no difficulties with basic activities of daily life and 17% report no difficulty with mobility functions.

- The variation in the level of impairment by occupational class is also considerable. Respondents with routine and manual occupations report up to twice as many difficulties with physical function as those with managerial or professional occupations. This occupational class disability gap is equivalent to the disability gap between age groups 10–15 years or more apart.

- Walking speed slows dramatically with age. Only around one in forty people aged between 60 and 64 walk more slowly than 0.4 metres/second, compared with one in five at age 80 and over. This deterioration in walking speed is more marked in women than in men.

- Chronological age is the strongest determinant of scores on the objective cognitive tests, whereas scores on the subjective measure (self-reported memory) are more strongly influenced by education and occupational class than by age.

- There was a very high level of forgetfulness in the sample, particularly in the older groups. Over two-thirds of the oldest group forgot to carry out actions that they had earlier been instructed to perform. Assuming that the measures of forgetfulness used in ELSA are indicative of forgetfulness in daily life, these findings raise concerns about activities such as remembering to take medication, pay bills or take safety precautions such as turning off the cooker.

- Although older respondents in general perform less well than younger respondents on the cognitive tests, older respondents (aged 75 and over) who have a degree or higher education often performed as well as, and

sometimes better than, younger respondents with no educational qualifications. This trend was particularly strong in the case of numerical ability, where the youngest group with no qualifications gave fewer correct responses than older groups with intermediate education or a degree or higher education.

* There is an interesting pattern of gender differences on the various cognitive measures. Women performed better than men on most of the memory tests, while men performed better than women on most of the executive function tests. The gender difference on memory is in line with many published studies (Huppert and Whittington, 1993; Portin et al., 1995; Maitland et al., 2000), but the gender difference on executive function measures has received relatively little attention to date.

This chapter provides a cross-sectional description of physical and cognitive function among people aged 50 and over in England. Disability or impairment of function is a key marker of population health at all ages. In older people, disability and impairment measures are especially useful, as older people often have more than one illness, and disability measures are a good way of quantifying the overall impact of several coexisting conditions on a person's ability to function. Physical and cognitive function are covered together in this chapter, because both profoundly influence independence in older people, and it is likely that they have many of the same underlying causes. This chapter complements the detailed information about symptoms, diagnosed illness and health-related behaviours reported in Chapter 6.

England is experiencing a prolonged period of increasing life expectancy and population ageing, in common with most countries around the world. There is considerable uncertainty and debate about the likely effects of this population ageing, in particular about how many added years of life will be spent with a disability and about which groups within the population will suffer most from poor health, disability and impaired function. Disability has powerful effects on individual well-being, on the need for informal help and health care and on long-term care needs and costs (Gill et al., 2001). Good information on disability and all levels of function is vital for understanding and informing policy responses to population ageing.

This chapter describes the measures of physical and cognitive function used in ELSA wave 1, and then gives the main findings. The prevalence of physical and cognitive impairment by age, sex and occupational class, as well as the prevalence of different types of disability, is shown. For occupational class, the National Statistics socio-economic classification (NS-SEC) is used. A full breakdown of the findings is shown in the tables in the Annex to this chapter. The chapter updates the data for England from previous surveys of disability (Box 7.1). The results presented here are the first results from a national survey in England to use such a broad range of measures of both physical and cognitive function.

The population studied in the first wave of ELSA is limited to people living in the community and does not cover institutions. The Health Survey for England 2000 found that 4% of the total population aged 65 and over were resident in

care homes, with a progressive increase in the proportion of the total population resident in care homes, up to those aged 90 and over, where three in ten people were resident in care homes. The true population burden of impairment and disability is therefore likely to be greater than that found in ELSA, especially at the top end of the age distribution. ELSA also has limited information from proxies.

Box 7.1. Previous British surveys of disability

Previous major national surveys of the disabled population in England include those undertaken in 1969, 1985 and 1996 (Martin, Meltzer and Elliott, 1988; Grundy et al., 1999). The 1985 survey of disabled adults in private households was one of four linked surveys of disabled adults and children living in private households and communal establishments, conducted by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys between 1985 and 1988. Both the 1985 and the 1996 survey screened a nationally representative sample population to identify those with a disability, but the screening questions were different.

Several other surveys have included questions on disability. The Health Survey for England (HSE) included questions on disability in 1995, 2000 and 2001 (Bajekal, Primatesta and Prior, 2003; Hirani and Malbut, 2002; Prescott-Clarke and Primatesta, 1997). The same questions were asked in HSE 1995 and 2000, and covered incontinence and limitations in functional activities (seeing, hearing, communication, walking and using stairs) and in activities of daily living (ADLs) – getting in and out of bed or a chair, bathing, washing, eating and toileting. The General Household Survey in 1998 had questions on disability in those aged 65 or over (Office for National Statistics, 2000). The Medical Research Council Cognitive Function and Ageing Study estimated the prevalence of limiting disability in people aged over 65 in England and Wales (Parker, Morgan and Dewey, 1997). The Allied Dunbar National Fitness Survey asked questions about current and past activity in adults, and included a physical appraisal (Skelton et al., 1996).

7.1 Defining and measuring physical function

Physical function is a person's ability to perform normal physical activities of daily living. Disability occurs when a person has problems with physical function, and is commonly defined as a restriction in a person's ability to perform normal activities of daily living (Verbrugge and Jette, 1994). The World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1980 distinguished this concept of disability from impairment and handicap (World Health Organisation, 1980). Impairments are concerned with the abnormalities of body structure and appearance and with organ or system function; disabilities reflect the consequences of impairment in terms of functional performance or inability to undertake activities considered normal; and handicap refers to the disadvantage experienced by an individual as a result of impairments or disabilities. WHO replaced the 1980 International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) classification in 2001 by the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) (World Health Organisation, 2001), and ICF retains the widely accepted concept of disability as a reduction in a person's functional performance.

Information regarding physical function was collected via self-report in this wave of ELSA, with the exception of walking speed, which was directly observed. Additional performance tests will be conducted during the nurse visit in wave 2 of ELSA in 2004.

The core questions about physical function in ELSA fall into one of three domains: activities of daily living (ADLs) or self-care activities; instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) or activities necessary for independent living in a community; and mobility (or lower-limb function), here reported jointly with upper-limb function (Pearson, 2000). In addition, participants were asked about problems with eyesight, hearing and incontinence. Participants aged 60 years and older were asked about falls, both with and without medical treatment, and were timed over two 8-foot-long walks. The questions are designed to be comparable where possible with those asked in the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) in the USA, a sister survey to ELSA (Wallace and Herzog, 1995).

Mobility measures, activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs)

These were assessed using show cards. Yes/no response codes were used, in order to be consistent with recent waves of HRS, where a yes/no response was used for the telephone interviews (Health and Retirement Survey, 2003).

Mobility (leg) and arm function

To assess mobility and arm function, respondents were shown a card and the following text was read to them: 'We need to understand difficulties people may have with various activities because of a health or physical problem. Please tell me whether you have any difficulty doing each of the everyday activities on this card. Exclude any difficulties that you expect to last less than three months. Because of a health problem, do you have difficulty doing any of the activities on this card?' (Box 7.2).

Box 7.2. Show card for mobility, arm function and fine motor function

1	Walking 100 yards
2	Sitting for about two hours
3	Getting up from a chair after sitting for long periods
4	Climbing several flights of stairs without resting
5	Climbing one flight of stairs without resting
6	Stooping, kneeling, or crouching
7	Reaching or extending your arms above shoulder level
8	Pulling or pushing large objects like a living room chair
9	Lifting or carrying weights over 10 pounds, like a heavy bag of groceries
10	Picking up a 5p coin from a table
96	None of these

Respondents were also timed over an 8-foot-long walk (twice) and asked the following mobility question, drawn from the US Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III): 'By yourself and without using any special equipment, how much difficulty do you have walking for a quarter of a mile?' (Lan et al., 2002; US Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2003).

Activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs)

To assess ADLs and IADLs, respondents were shown a card and the following text was read to them: 'Here are a few more everyday activities. Please tell me if you have any difficulty with these because of a physical, mental, emotional or memory problem. Again exclude any difficulties you expect to last less than three months. Because of a health or memory problem, do you have any difficulty doing any of the activities on this card?' (Box 7.3).

Box 7.3. Show card for ADLs (items 1–6) and IADLs (items 7–13)

1	Dressing, including putting on shoes and socks
2	Walk across a room
3	Bathing or showering
4	Eating, such as cutting up food
5	Getting in or out of bed
6	Using the toilet, including getting up or down
7	Using a map to figure out how to get around in a strange place
8	Preparing a hot meal
9	Shopping for groceries
10	Making telephone calls
11	Taking medications
12	Doing work around the house or garden
13	Managing money such as paying bills and keeping track of expenses
96	None of these

Further measures for those reporting difficulties with ADLs or IADLs or mobility

Those reporting difficulty with one or more ADL, IADL or mobility function were asked further questions. They were asked if anyone ever helped with the activities they had problems with. If they replied that somebody helped them, they were shown a card and asked, 'Who helps you with these activities?' (Box 7.4).

Those reporting difficulty with one or more ADL, IADL or mobility function were also asked if they used any of the following items, from a list read aloud:

1. a cane or walking stick?

2. a Zimmer frame or walker?

3.   a manual wheelchair?

4.   an electric wheelchair?

5.   a buggy or scooter?

6.   special eating utensils?

7.   a personal alarm?

8.   none of these [exclusive code]?

The interviewer was instructed to code all items that applied.

Box 7.4. Show card for who helps with activities

1	Husband or wife or partner
2	Mother or father
3	Son
4	Son-in-law
5	Daughter
6	Daughter-in-law
7	Sister
8	Brother
9	Grandson
10	Granddaughter
11	Other relative
12	Unpaid volunteer
13	Privately paid employee
14	Social or health service worker
15	Friend or neighbour
95	Other person

Other physical function measures

Respondents were asked whether they had fallen down in the last two years (for any reason) and, if so, how many times they had fallen down in the past two years and whether in any of the falls they had injured themselves seriously enough to need medical treatment.

Respondents were asked to rate their eyesight (using glasses or corrective lenses as usual) and hearing (using a hearing aid as usual) respectively using the following five response categories: excellent, very good, good, fair or poor.

Respondents were asked about incontinence as follows: 'During the last 12 months, have you lost any amount of urine beyond your control?'.

Again, all these questions were designed to be comparable with HRS.

7.2 Defining and measuring cognitive function

There is known to be a broad spectrum of cognitive capability among middle-aged and, especially, older people, with dementia at one extreme and maintained function at the other. If we consider the full spectrum, the overall human and economic costs associated with cognitive impairment and cognitive decline are very high. While the prevalence of dementia is low before the age of 70 (around 1.4% for ages 65–69, rising to 4.1% for ages 70–74 (Hofman et al., 1991)), the presence of mild cognitive impairment may nevertheless interfere with work performance, the management of finances and social activities. Indeed, independence in later life is as much determined by mental ability as by physical ability.

Progressive age-associated decline in memory, name-finding, complex decision-making and speed of information-processing is common throughout late middle age and later life, and may lead to social withdrawal and depression. Many of the decisions that individuals make about retirement, health and housing in later life are complex and may be compromised by impairments in decision-making ability or other aspects of memory and executive function, including planning, organisation and mental flexibility. Numerical skills, such as quantitative reasoning, appear to decline markedly as individuals age. A classical longitudinal study showed that older individuals declined more on number skills than on any other primary mental ability over a seven-year period (Schaie and Strother, 1968). In addition to marked longitudinal decline within an age cohort, this study and others also found substantial cohort differences, and these will be addressed in future waves of ELSA.

Surprisingly little is yet known about the biological, social and environmental factors that determine cognitive impairment or the rate of cognitive decline in individuals. There is some evidence that cardiovascular disease is moderately associated with cognitive impairment in the general population (Breteler et al., 1994), but less is known about the association of cognitive performance and risk factors such as hypertension, where results have been inconsistent (e.g. Posner et al., 2002). Some studies have shown a relationship between cognitive performance and self-reported health and level of physical activity (Christensen et al., 1996; Hultsch, Hammer and Small, 1993), but the size of these associations is very modest.

Environmental or contextual factors appear to play a role in self-reported cognitive capability in that the functional consequences of cognitive impairment, like physical impairment, depend on environmental demands. For example, it has been reported that memory complaints are more common among individuals in demanding occupations than among those in clerical and manual occupations, even though memory test performance is better in the former group (Rabbitt and Abson, 1990). A full understanding of how individuals make the economic, social and lifestyle decisions associated with retirement requires an assessment of key aspects of cognitive function, along with information about their health and social environment.

The cognitive measures selected for ELSA cover a diversity of cognitive domains and were chosen on the basis of four primary considerations: (a) assessing cognitive processes that are relevant to the everyday function of older people; (b) using tasks that are known to be sensitive to age-related decline; (c) avoiding floor effects (too many people failing) and ceiling effects (too many obtaining maximum scores); and (d) employing measures used in other studies to facilitate comparisons. The cognitive processes that were assessed include learning and memory, word-finding ability, executive function, speed of processing and numerical ability. Given the primacy of memory in age-related cognitive impairment, memory assessment is further subdivided into retrospective memory (recalling information that was learned previously) and prospective memory (remembering to carry out an intended action). The term 'executive function' refers to a number of cognitive control processes, which include attention, initiation, set-shifting or mental flexibility, organisation, abstraction, planning and problem-solving. The non-memory tasks used in ELSA tap into a number of these processes (see below).

The specific cognitive measures used in ELSA wave 1 are as follows:

Memory measures

1. Self-rated memory – this measure provides an indication of whether the respondent is worried about their memory. They are asked to rate whether their memory at the present time is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor. The item comes from the HRS.

2. Orientation in time – knowing the day and date is a simple but effective test of memory. Time orientation was assessed by standard questions about the date (day, month, year) and the day of the week. This item is included in the HRS and forms part of the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) which is used in numerous studies of ageing.

3. Word-list learning – this is a test of verbal learning and recall, in which 10 common words are presented aurally and the participant is asked to remember them. Word recall is tested both immediately and after a short delay that is filled with other cognitive tests. ELSA uses the word lists developed for HRS, which comprise four different versions, so that different lists can be given to different members of the same household. The first member of the household to be tested is assigned a list at random by the computer, and where there is more than one member of the household in the ELSA sample, the remaining lists are also selected at random. To ensure standardisation, the lists are presented by the computer, using a taped voice.

4. Prospective memory – sometimes referred to as 'remembering to remember', prospective memory concerns memory for future actions. Early in the cognitive assessment section, respondents are informed about two actions that they will be asked to carry out at the appropriate time, later in the session. They are told that they will need to carry out these actions without being reminded. The first task is to remember to write their initials in the top left-hand corner of a page that is attached to a clipboard, when they are later handed the clipboard. The second task is to remember

to remind the interviewer to record the time when the interviewer announces that the cognitive section is finished. When the appropriate point is reached for the respondent to carry out the actions, the interviewer waits for five seconds to see if the respondent performs the correct action without a prompt. If they fail to carry out the action spontaneously, the interviewer reminds them that they were going to do something and records what the respondent then did. A correct response requires the person to carry out the correct action without being reminded. The first task is based on a similar task used in the Medical Research Council Cognitive Function and Ageing Study (MRC CFA Study, 1998), and the second task is based on a similar task used in the Rivermead Behavioural Memory Test (Wilson, Cockburn and Baddeley, 1985).

Executive function / other cognitive items

1. Word-finding (verbal fluency) – this is a test of how quickly participants can think of words from a particular category, in this case naming as many different animals as possible in one minute. Successful performance on this test requires self-initiated activity, organisation and abstraction (categorising animals into groups such as domestic, wild, birds, dogs) and set-shifting (moving to a new category when no more animals come to mind from a previous category).

2. Letter cancellation – this is a test of attention, visual search and mental speed. The participant is handed a clipboard to which is attached a page of random letters of the alphabet set out in rows and columns, and is asked to cross out as many target letters (P and W) as possible within one minute. An example is given at the top of the page to show the respondent how to cross out the letters. The page comprises 26 rows and 30 columns, and there are 65 target letters in all. Respondents are asked to work across and down the page as though they were reading and to perform the task both as quickly and as accurately as possible. When the time is up, the respondent is asked to underline the letter they reached. The total number of letters searched provides a measure of speed of processing. The number of target letters (P and W) missed up to the letter reached by the respondent provides a measure of accuracy. This test was developed for the 1946 birth cohort study (Richards et al., 2001) and has also been used in the MRC Cognitive Function and Ageing Study (MRC CFA Study, 1998).

3. Numerical ability – this aims to establish the participant's level of numeracy by asking them to solve problems requiring simple mental calculations based on real-life situations. The test begins with three moderately easy items to provide a rapid assessment of ability level. Respondents who make errors on all these items are then asked an easier question. Respondents who get any of the first three questions correct are then asked two progressively more difficult questions (and given credit for the easiest question). A score of 1 is given for correct answers on the first five questions, and for the final question (calculation of compound interest), a score of 1 is given if the answer is almost correct and a score of 2 if the answer is fully correct. These items were developed for ELSA and have also been used in HRS in an experimental module.

Summary cognitive measures

For some purposes, it is useful to derive summary cognitive performance measures. Accordingly, we have derived a memory index, an executive function index and a global cognitive index which combines the two in the derivation of these summary measures. Some test scores have been recoded. The memory index combines all the scores on the objective memory tests and has a range of possible scores from 0 to 30. The executive function index combines all the scores on the other cognitive tests and also has a range of possible scores from 0 to 30. The global cognitive index combines these two to produce a score ranging from 0 to 60.

7.3 Findings on physical function

Activities of daily living (ADLs)

The prevalence of reported difficulty with ADLs increases with age, with 10.6% of respondents aged 50–54 reporting difficulty, compared with 41.9% of those aged 80 and over. This comparatively high rate of disability in younger respondents, while many older respondents report no difficulty with ADLs, demonstrates that disability and age are not synonymous, and is consistent with previous studies (Manton, 1989). (Table 7A.1, Figure 7.1)

Figure 7.1. Difficulty with activities of daily living (ADLs), by age
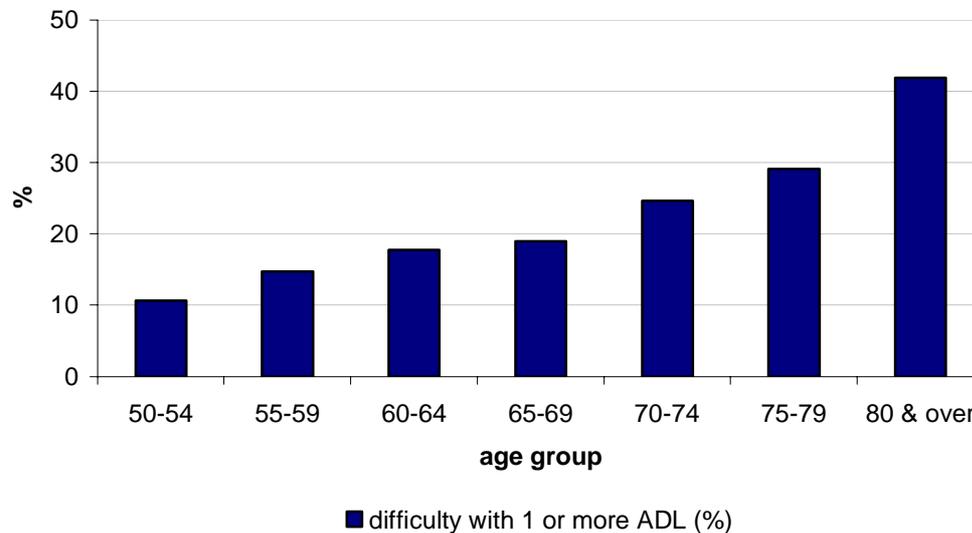
There is very little difference between the sexes for reported difficulty with ADLs, although disability is slightly higher in men than in women up to age 64, and in women than in men over age 64 (44.1% for women and 38.1% for men over 80 years old) (Table 7A.1). Particularly high rates of difficulty were reported for dressing and bathing (13.4% and 12.5% respectively) (Table 7A.2).

There is considerable difference between occupational classes for reported difficulty with ADLs. Overall, the rates of difficulty with ADLs are 14.0% for

those with managerial and professional occupations and 25.5% for those with routine and manual occupations. The excess disability in routine and manual occupational classes, compared with managerial and professional occupational classes, is present in all age groups. The rates of difficulty with ADLs reported by respondents in routine and manual occupational classes are 17.8% for ages 50–59 and 38.4% for ages 75 and over. For those in managerial and professional occupational classes, the rates are 7.7% for ages 50–59 and 29.2% for ages 75 and over. The relative difference between occupational classes thus decreases with age, whilst the absolute difference remains similar (17.8 is more than twice as high as 7.7, but 38.4 is less than a third as high again as 29.2, whilst the absolute differences are 10.1 and 9.2). (Table 7A.3, Figure 7.2)

Figure 7.2. Difficulty with one or more activity of daily living (ADL), by age and occupational class
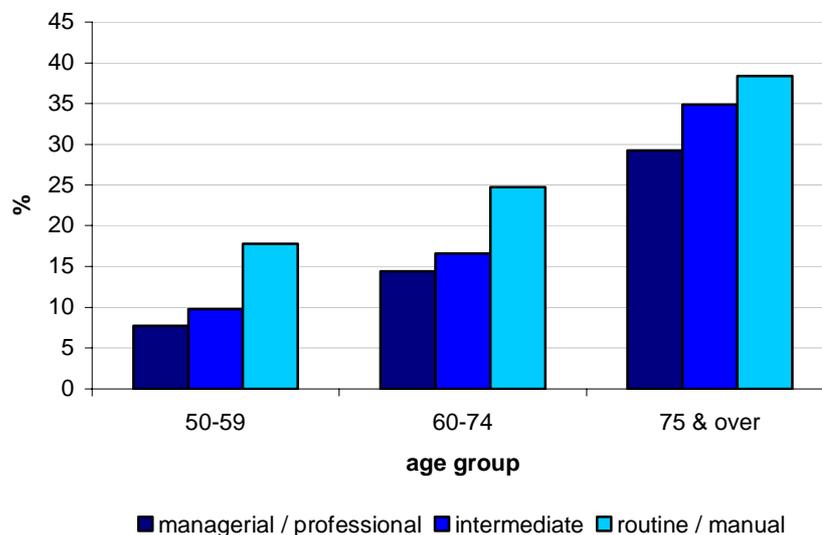
Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs)

Again, the prevalence of reported difficulty with IADLs increases with age, with 12.2% of respondents aged 50–54 reporting difficulty, compared with 48.8% of those aged 80 and over. These percentages are only very slightly higher than the percentages for ADLs. There is a big increase (from 28.6% to 48.8%) in the number reporting difficulty with IADLs between the 75–79 age band and the 80-and-over band. Overall, women report more difficulty with IADLs than men do at all ages (25.1% and 17.5% respectively). (Table 7A.4)

Particularly high rates of difficulty were reported for doing work around the house and garden (16.2%) and shopping for groceries (9.7%). The over-75s reported problems more than twice as often as those aged 60–74 in both sexes for nearly all IADLs, suggesting that there is a threshold around age 75. (Table 7A.5)

The difference between the occupational classes for IADLs follows a similar pattern to that described above for ADLs. Overall, the rates of difficulty with IADLs were 14.1% for those with managerial and professional occupations

and 26.2% for those with routine and manual occupations. The excess disability in routine and manual occupational classes, compared with managerial and professional occupational classes, is present in all age groups. The rates of difficulty with IADLs reported by respondents in routine and manual occupational classes are 18.3% for ages 50–59 and 42.4% for ages 75 and over. For those in managerial and professional occupational classes, the rates are 8.4% for ages 50–59 and 33.1% for ages 75 and over. The relative difference between occupational classes thus decreases with age, whilst the absolute difference remains similar (18.3 is more than twice as high as 8.4, but 42.4 is less than a third as high again as 33.1, whilst the absolute differences are 9.9 and 9.3). For IADLs, the difference between occupational classes is as big as the difference between age groups. 18.3% of the youngest respondents (aged 50–59) with a routine or manual occupation report a difficulty with an IADL, compared with only 11.8% of older respondents aged 60–74 with a managerial or professional occupation. (Table 7A.6)

Mobility (leg) and arm function

As expected, the prevalence of reported difficulty with mobility and arm function increases with age, with 39.7% of respondents aged 50–54 reporting difficulty, compared with 82.7% of those aged 80 and over. Higher rates of difficulty were reported with mobility than with IADLs or ADLs. Women report more difficulty with mobility and arm function than men do at all ages (64.0% and 49.2% respectively). (Table 7A.7, Figure 7.3)

Figure 7.3. Difficulty with mobility items, by age

■ difficulty with 1 or more mobility item (%)
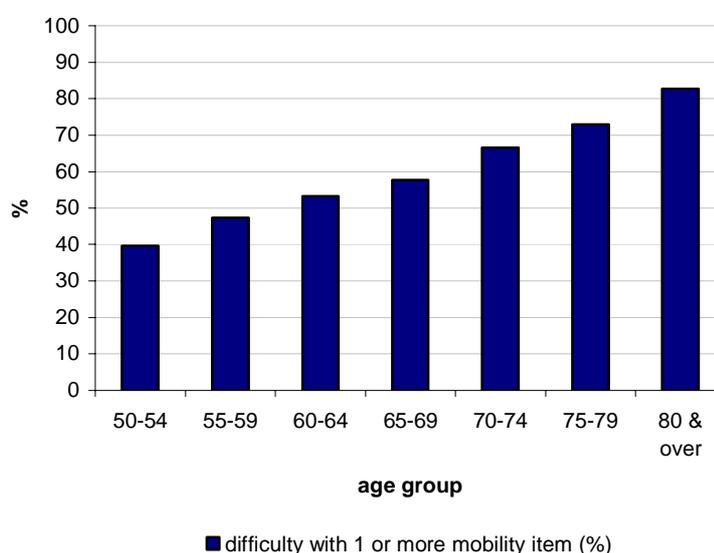
High rates of difficulty were reported by both sexes with climbing several flights of stairs (men up to 48.4%, women up to 59.7%), stooping, kneeling or crouching (men up to 47.3%, women up to 58.2%), lifting or carrying heavy weights (men up to 28.6%, women up to 55.3%) and getting up from a chair after sitting for long periods (men up to 33.3%, women up to 41.6%). There is a big increase in the proportion of both sexes reporting problems with all

items, except sitting, between the 60–74 age group and the over-75 age group. (Table 7A.8)

The difference between the occupational classes for mobility is similar but slightly smaller than that described above for IADLs and ADLs. Overall, the rates of difficulty with mobility are 47.1% for those with managerial and professional occupations and 63.2% for those with routine and manual occupations. The excess disability in routine and manual occupational classes, compared with managerial and professional occupational classes, is present in all age groups. The rate of difficulty with mobility and arm function reported by respondents in routine and manual occupational classes is 50.3% for ages 50–59, and 80.6% for ages 75 and over. For those in managerial and professional occupational classes, the rates are 35.1% for ages 50–59 and 72.5% for ages 75 and over. Both the relative and absolute differences between occupational classes thus decrease with age (50.3 is 43% more than 35.1, but 80.6 is only 11% more than 72.5, whilst the absolute differences are 15.2 and 8.1). Some of this decreased gap between occupational classes may be due to a ceiling effect, due to the high rates of older respondents reporting difficulty with the mobility measures. (Table 7A.9)

Walking speed

Walking speed was measured only in those aged 60 and over, and only those who successfully completed both walks were entered into the analysis here. The proportion of respondents walking at 0.4 metres/second (m/s) or slower increases with age, from 2.7% at age 60–64 to 19.4% at age 80 or over. The median speed in m/s decreases with age, from 0.94 at age 60–64 to 0.61 at age 80 or over. The proportion of women walking slower than 0.4 m/s is higher than the proportion of men after age 65, and the gap widens with increasing age, to 22.8% of women and 13.7% of men at age 80 and over. (Table 7A.10)

Falls

Questions on falls were asked only of those aged 60 and over. Of those asked, 32.0% had fallen down in the last two years. The prevalence increased with age, from 25.6% of those aged 60–64 to 47.3% of those aged 80 and over. More women than men had fallen in the last two years (37.2% and 25.7% respectively). Of those who had fallen, 38.2% had needed medical treatment as a result of the fall. (Table 7A.11)

In men (but not women), the percentage of falls resulting in medical treatment stayed fairly constant, at around 30%, even though the percentage of men who fell increased with age from 20.8% to 43.1%. In women, the percentage of falls resulting in medical treatment increased as the percentage of women who fell increased, from around 30% to around 50%.

Problems with eyesight, hearing and incontinence of urine

The percentage reporting fair or poor eyesight increases with age after about age 70, from 12.6% for ages 65–69 to 32.7% at age 80 and over. The percentage reporting fair or poor hearing increases with age after about age 60,

from 15.6% at ages 55–59 to 39.2% at age 80 and over. For eyesight, there is little difference between the sexes, but for hearing, 1.5 to 2 times as many men as women report difficulties at all ages except 80 and over. (Table 7A.12)

The percentage reporting being incontinent also increases with age, and was much higher for females than for males in all age groups. The size of the difference between men and women reporting being incontinent narrows with increasing age. In the 50–54 age group, 3.1% of men and 17.9% of women report being incontinent, whereas in the over-80 age group, the figures are 18.8% for men and 25.5% for women. (Table 7A.13)

Receipt of help for those reporting difficulty

Out of all those reporting difficulty with one or more ADL, IADL or mobility and arm function, 40.6% received help. The percentage receiving help increased with age, from 33.0% at age 50–59 to 53.9% at age 75 and over. At all ages, women received more help than men (for example, 39.6% and 32.2% respectively receiving help at age 60–74).

The commonest sources of help overall (percentage of all who reported difficulty with an ADL, IADL or mobility function) were spouse or partner (21.4%), daughter (11.2%), son (7.5%), other unpaid individual (7.3%) and paid individual (6.7%). Unpaid individuals included other relatives, voluntary workers, and friends and neighbours. Very low percentages received help from parents, and this decreased further with increasing age, to 0.1% at age 75 and over, as expected. Little help was received from siblings (1.6%) or grandchildren (2.3%), although grandchildren provided some support for their grandparents aged over 75 years (4.6%).

Nearly all sources of help increased with increasing age, except for help from a spouse, which remained roughly constant for men (21.0% at age 50–59 and 23.7% at age 75 or over) and decreased markedly for women aged 75 and over (from 26.0% at age 50–59 to 12.0% at age 75 or over). Paid help for women aged 75 and over increased markedly to 19.8%, from 3.8% at age 60–74. In men, paid help increased from 2.7% at age 60–74 to 10.5% at age 75 or over. (Table 7A.14)

Use of aids for those reporting difficulty

Out of all those reporting difficulty with one or more ADL, IADL or mobility and arm function, 30.4% used an aid. The percentage using an aid increased with age, from 15.4% at age 50–59 to 52.7% at age 75 or over. By far the most common aid used (percentage of all who reported difficulty with an ADL, IADL or mobility function) was a cane or walking stick (26.8%). 4.8% used a personal alarm, 4.2% a manual wheelchair and 3.5% a Zimmer frame or walker. The use of personal alarms and Zimmer frames increased markedly in the 75-and-over age group. Personal alarms were used by 2.4% of respondents aged 60–74 and 12.0% aged 75 and over. Zimmer frames were used by 1.7% of respondents aged 60–74 and 8.9% aged 75 and over. (Table 7A.15)

7.4 Findings on cognitive function

Memory

Self-reported problems with memory were present in almost a third of the total sample, with 32.3% rating their memory as fair or poor rather than excellent, very good or good (Table 7A.16). In men, the measure showed a steady increase with age, with 28.7% describing their memory as fair or poor in the youngest group rising to 40.4% in the oldest group. However, a very different pattern emerged for women. Those aged 65–69 reported the lowest percentage of problems. Indeed, the percentage reporting fair or poor memory fell steadily between ages 50–54 and ages 65–69, then began to rise. There was also an interesting pattern of gender differences. At ages 60 and over, women were less likely than men to report fair or poor memory, while at ages under 60, women were more likely than men to report fair or poor memory. Self-reported memory was also related to level of education (Table 7A.17). The higher the level of education, the smaller the percentage who reported their memory to be fair or poor. This pattern was seen for men and women in each age group. The association between self-rated memory and occupational class was similar to the association between self-rated memory and education – the higher the occupational class, the smaller the percentage reporting their memory as fair or poor (Table 7A.18). It is interesting that this finding conflicts with the earlier results of Rabbitt and Abson (1990), who used a volunteer sample. Volunteers often included the 'worried well', which may account for the discrepancy.

In the ELSA sample as a whole, 23.1% made at least one error on time orientation (day, month, year, day of week). The percentage making an error increased progressively with advancing age, from 15.0% in the youngest group to 36.8% in the oldest (Table 7A.19), and this trend was seen for both men and women. Of those who made an error, the great majority made only one error, which was usually giving an incorrect day of the month. Women performed better than men in every age group, and this gender difference was particularly evident for the percentage making two or more errors in the younger age groups. There was an overall effect of educational level and occupational class on this test, in the expected direction (Williams et al., 2003), with most errors in the groups without educational qualifications or in routine and manual occupations (Tables 7A.20 and 7A.21).

For the sample as a whole, the mean number of words recalled from the 10-word list was 5.4 immediately and 3.9 after a delay. As expected, the older the group, the fewer the words they recalled. The youngest group recalled an average of 6.2 words immediately and 4.9 after a delay, compared with the oldest group, who recalled 3.9 words immediately and 2.1 after a delay (Table 7A.22). Figure 7.4 shows the mean number of words retained after the delay as a percentage of the mean number recalled immediately. This shows that even after a short delay, older people recall a much smaller proportion of the information they acquired. Women outperformed men on the word-recall task in every age group, on both immediate and delayed recall. The advantage shown by women on this verbal learning task is in line with numerous other studies (Huppert and Whittington, 1993; Portin et al., 1995; Maitland et al.,

2000). Higher educational level was strongly associated with better performance on this task, as expected, and the effect was seen in every age group for both men and women and for both immediate and delayed recall (Table 7A.23). A similar pattern of results was seen for occupational class but the effect was smaller than that for education (Table 7A.24).

Figure 7.4. Mean delayed word recall as percentage of mean immediate recall
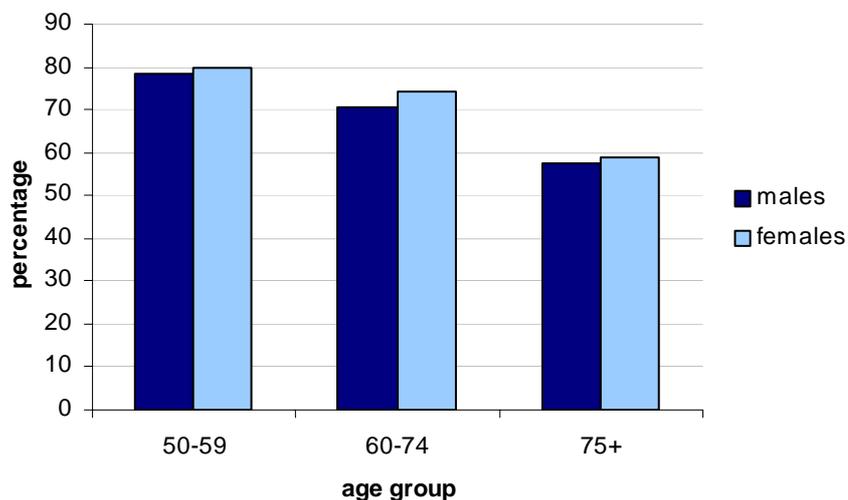
On the two tests of prospective memory, almost half of the sample forgot to carry out the specified actions without being reminded (48.8% and 49.6% for the initials and time-recording tasks respectively – Table 7A.25). As expected, performance decreased steadily with increasing age. Just over a third of respondents in the youngest age group failed to carry out the appropriate actions without a reminder, compared with over two-thirds of those in the oldest age group (69.8% on the initials task and 78.3% on the time-recording task in the oldest group). On both prospective memory tasks, men outperformed women in every age group. The direction of the gender difference on these two tasks in ELSA contrasts with the findings from the MRC Cognitive Function and Ageing Study, in which a similar test was administered in a population sample of almost 12,000 respondents aged 65 and over (Huppert et al., 2001). On this task, women were 11% more likely than men to perform correctly without a prompt. Further investigation is required to establish why women performed better than men on the MRC CFAS prospective memory task but not on the two tasks used in ELSA.

There was a strong effect of educational level on these tasks: well over half of the group without educational qualifications failed to carry out the required actions without a reminder (Table 7A.26). The effect of education was evident in every age group and particularly pronounced in the oldest group, where amongst those with no educational qualifications, around 70% failed on the initials task and over 75% failed on the time-recording task. The gender difference on these tasks reported above appears to be partly explained by gender differences in education, since when education was matched (Table 7A.26), women performed better than men in about a third (3/9 and 4/9) of the age-by-education comparisons for each task. As was the case for the word-

recall test, the effect of occupational class was very similar to the effect of education but somewhat smaller (Table 7A.27).

To the extent that these tasks provide an indication of prospective memory in everyday life, the high prevalence of age-associated forgetfulness is a cause for concern, particularly in the oldest age groups. These findings raise questions about the extent to which older individuals remember to carry out essential actions such as those concerned with health (taking medication), security (locking doors, turning off the cooker) and economic activity (collecting pensions, checking statements). There may be less of a problem remembering appointments, social commitments or family events, since there is evidence from experimental research that older people are more likely than younger people to record appointments and important dates in diaries or calendars, whereas young adults tend to rely on their memory (Moscovitch, 1982).

Executive / other cognitive performance

The number of different animal names that ELSA respondents produced on the verbal-fluency task ranged from 0 to 52, with an overall mean of 19.1. 10% of the sample produced 10 animal names or fewer, and 6% of the sample produced 30 or more. As expected, there was a progressive decrease in the number of animal names produced with advancing age (Table 7A.28). On average, respondents aged 50–54 produced 21.9 different animal names, compared with 14.6 in respondents aged 80 and over. There was also a gender difference, with men showing an advantage over women, particularly in the older age groups. However, this gender difference partly reflects gender differences in education, since in the group with a degree or higher education, women performed slightly better than men overall, and this trend was only reversed at age 75 and over (Table 7A.29). Occupational class also exerted an effect on verbal fluency, which was the same for men and women, and smaller than the effect of education (Table 7A.30).

The letter-cancellation task provided measures of both speed and accuracy of performance. The speed measure was the number of letters that were searched during the one-minute interval, and ranged from 16 to 780, with a mean of 305. The mean number of letters searched decreased, as expected, with advancing age, from 328 in the youngest group down to 257 in the oldest (Table 7A.31). Women performed better than men on this measure and the gender difference was seen in every age group. The effect of education on speed of processing was in the expected direction and was evident for both sexes and each age group (Table 7A.32). The effect of occupational class was in the expected direction for men, but for women, there was no discernible difference between those in intermediate occupations and those in routine and manual occupations (Table 7A.33). Accuracy of performance was measured in terms of the number of target letters missed, i.e. the number of letters P and W that were not crossed out up to the point the respondent reached. This value ranged from 0 to 52 out of a maximum of 65 targets. The average number missed was 5.5, this number increasing with age up to age 70–74 and remaining stable thereafter (Table 7A.31). Women missed more targets than men – an average of 5.7 versus 5.3 for men. There was an interesting effect of

education and occupational class on the accuracy measure (Tables 7A.32 and 7A.33). For both men and women, respondents with an intermediate level of education showed the highest level of accuracy overall (i.e. the lowest number of targets missed). Likewise, women in intermediate occupations showed the highest level of accuracy overall, although this was not the case for men.

It is useful to consider the results of the letter-cancellation task in terms of the well-known trade-off between speed and accuracy. In general, an individual can maximise either their speed of performance or their accuracy of performance but not both. A similar pattern can often be seen in group data. The gender differences reported above are consistent with the notion of a speed–accuracy trade-off, since women were both faster and less accurate than men. A similar pattern was observed for education, where respondents with a degree or higher education were faster and less accurate than those with an intermediate level of education (Table 7A.32). Likewise, women in professional or managerial occupations were faster and less accurate than women in intermediate occupations, although this effect was not observed for men (Table 7A.33). There was also some degree of speed–accuracy trade-off with respect to age: while search speed decreased progressively with age, respondents in the oldest age groups (70–74, 75–79, 80+) maintained their level of accuracy (Table 7A.31). On the other hand, respondents in the youngest age group were both faster and more accurate than older respondents, while respondents who had no educational qualifications or were employed in routine or manual jobs were both slower and less accurate than other groups (Tables 7A.32 and 7A.33).

The average score on the tests of numerical ability was 4.4 out of a possible total of 7.3% of the sample got none of the answers correct, and 11.4% got all the answers correct. Performance on these tests showed substantial age and gender differences (Table 7A.34). The youngest group obtained an average score of 5.0, compared with the oldest group, whose average was 3.5. The average score for women was 4.0 compared with 4.8 for men, and the gender difference was apparent in every age group. Performance was related to level of education and occupational class and the effects of these two variables were the same for both genders and all ages (Tables 7A.35 and 7A.36). It is noteworthy that on the numeracy task, the oldest group with a degree or higher education performed better than the youngest group with no educational qualifications. This can be seen for women in Figure 7.5. The relatively low numeracy of certain groups – notably the poorly educated, women and the elderly – provides cause for concern if we assume that the measures of numeracy used in ELSA are indicative of numerical ability in daily life. In our computerised age, there is unprecedented access to numerical information and we are increasingly deluged with data. Indeed, a seminal publication entitled *Mathematics and Democracy* argues that individuals who lack the ability to think numerically cannot participate fully in civic life (Steen, 2001). Certainly, individuals whose numerical ability is limited will be hampered when faced with many important decisions about finances, lifestyle and health. Making sensible decisions about savings and pensions, and understanding the risks involved in health-related behaviours or medical treatments, depend in part on numerical ability and quantitative reasoning. Future waves of ELSA will

examine the comparative effects of ageing and cohort differences on numeracy and its impact on behaviour.

Figure 7.5. Numerical ability, by age and education: women
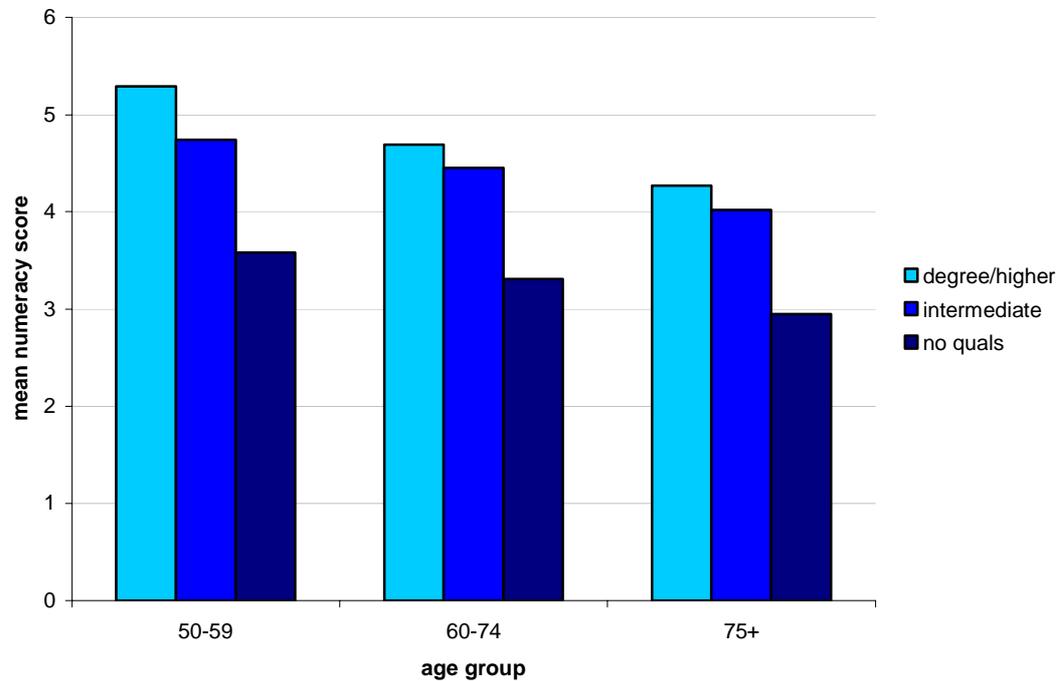
Summary cognitive measures

A memory index has been derived from all the objective memory tests used in ELSA, and scores on the memory index spanned the full range of possible values from 0 to 30. An executive function index has also been derived from all the non-memory items, and scores on the executive index ranged from 4 to 29. Finally, we derived a global cognitive index combining scores on all the objective cognitive tests, and scores on the global cognitive index ranged from 5 to 55 (out of a maximum of 60). For the ELSA sample as a whole, all three of these measures form a near-normal distribution, with no evidence of floor or ceiling effects. This distribution of scores makes these summary measures very suitable for detecting change in the longitudinal component of ELSA. Mean scores on the global cognitive index are shown in Table 7A.37, by age, gender and education. Figure 7.6 shows the distribution of the global cognitive index by age group. It can be seen that the distribution of scores becomes broader with advancing age, indicating increasing heterogeneity among the older groups. The graph also shows the large area of overlap in cognitive capability between different age groups.

Cognitive capability is likely to be related to measures of physical function, particularly the ability to perform instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), which make demands on both physical and cognitive function. This association is seen in Table 7A.38. Within each age group, the mean score on the global cognitive index decreases as the number of IADL problems

Figure 7.6. Distribution of global cognitive index, by broad age band
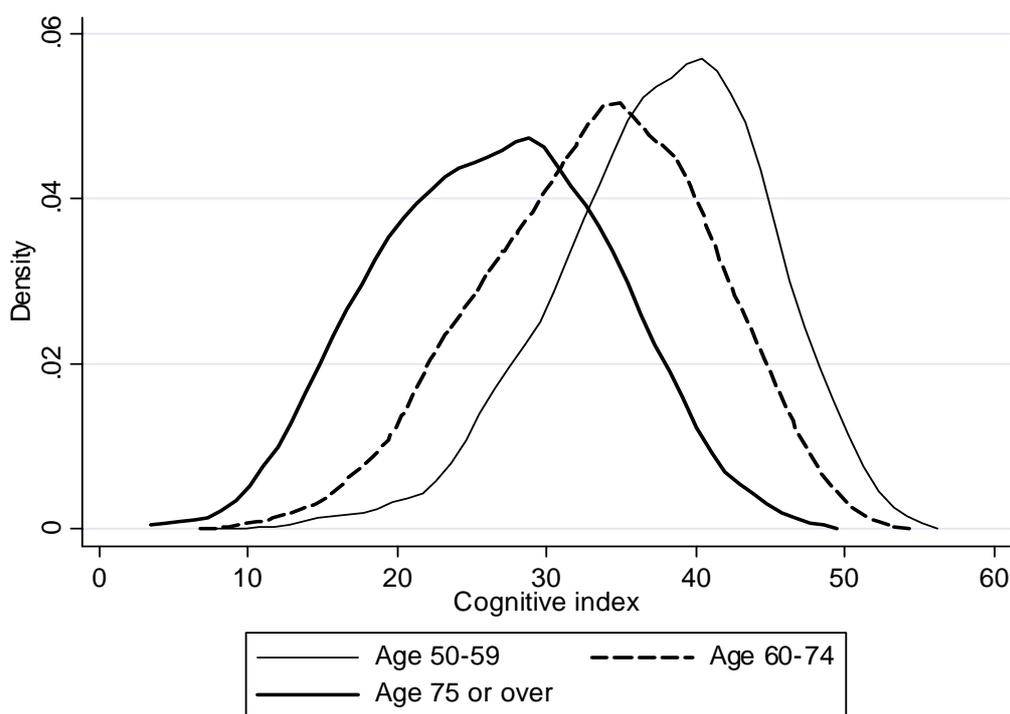
increases. The mean cognitive index score was 34.7 for those reporting no difficulties with IADLs, 30.1 for those reporting 1–2 difficulties and 26.1 for those reporting 3 or more difficulties with IADLs. The association between physical and cognitive function may be due to a common underlying cause, such as age-related physiological changes, or to other factors associated with both physical and cognitive impairment, such as occupational class.

7.5 Conclusions

Disability or impairment of function is a key marker of population health and independence at all ages. This chapter has described the variation in physical and cognitive function between age groups, and the effects of occupational class and education, for people aged 50 and over in England. The levels of physical and cognitive impairment are surprisingly high in the younger age groups, especially in those with no educational qualifications and in routine and manual occupations. In contrast, many older respondents reported and showed no difficulties with physical and cognitive function. In general, physical and cognitive function is associated with education and occupational class, with respondents from managerial and professional occupations and/or with higher levels of education performing better and reporting fewer difficulties with function.

The results presented are all from the cross-sectional data in wave 1 of ELSA and provide important information about disability and impairment of function. The differences in function at different ages shown by the cross-

sectional data presented in this chapter are due to differences between cohorts as well as to the effects of ageing. Data from future waves of the study will provide information on trajectories of health, disability and impairment of function. Until the longitudinal data become available, it is not possible to separate the relative contribution of age and cohort effects. The most useful information for policy-makers will come from the comparison of this cross-sectional data with data from the same respondents to be collected in wave 2 and future waves of ELSA. The longitudinal design of ELSA allows for repeated collection over time of the data presented here, as well as future collection of detailed data on objective physical performance measures and on the quality of health care received. This will inform policy debates about the manner in which health, health care and social and economic circumstances interact over time, and the extent to which they each affect disability and functional decline.

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Annex 7.1
Tables on physical and cognitive function

Table 7A.1. Difficulty with activities of daily living (ADLs), by age group and sex (%)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
0	88.4	85.4	80.3	82.4	76.1	73.0	61.9	80.5
1–2	8.6	9.4	13.6	12.5	18.8	19.7	27.1	14.0
3+	3.0	5.2	6.0	5.1	5.1	7.3	10.9	5.6
N	*1085*	*994*	*814*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5199*
Women								
0	90.5	85.1	84.2	79.8	74.7	69.4	55.9	78.2
1–2	6.8	10.5	11.5	15.3	19.0	21.7	33.1	16.0
3+	2.7	4.4	4.2	4.9	6.3	8.9	11.0	5.8
N	*1110*	*1019*	*849*	*802*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6010*
All								
0	89.4	85.3	82.3	81.1	75.3	70.9	58.1	79.3
1–2	7.7	9.9	12.6	14.0	18.9	20.9	31.0	15.1
3+	2.9	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.7	8.2	10.9	5.6
N	*2196*	*2012*	*1663*	*1530*	*1379*	*1146*	*1281*	*11207*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=183).

Table 7A.2. Reporting difficulty with specific ADLs, by age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Dressing including putting on shoes and socks	10.5	15.3	21.1	14.4
Walking across a room	1.8	3.0	5.6	3.0
Bathing or showering	6.1	10.1	20.7	10.4
Eating such as cutting up your food	1.3	1.6	2.9	1.7
Getting in or out of bed	5.1	6.1	9.2	6.3
Using the toilet including getting up or down	2.1	3.3	6.1	3.3
N	*2080*	*2170*	*949*	*5199*
Women				
Dressing including putting on shoes and socks	7.8	11.3	20.9	12.4
Walking across a room	1.8	3.0	8.1	3.8
Bathing or showering	6.2	13.0	28.4	14.4
Eating such as cutting up your food	1.4	2.1	2.8	2.0
Getting in or out of bed	6.1	6.3	9.7	7.1
Using the toilet including getting up or down	2.7	3.5	6.3	3.9
N	*2129*	*2403*	*1478*	*6010*
All				
Dressing including putting on shoes and socks	9.2	13.2	21.0	13.4
Walking across a room	1.8	3.0	7.1	3.4
Bathing or showering	6.2	11.6	25.4	12.5
Eating such as cutting up your food	1.4	1.9	2.9	1.9
Getting in or out of bed	5.6	6.2	9.5	6.7
Using the toilet including getting up or down	2.4	3.4	6.2	3.6
N	*4209*	*4572*	*2427*	*11208*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=183).

Table 7A.3. Difficulty with physical function (defined as reporting difficulty with one or more ADL), by occupational class, age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial and professional	8.4	13.7	25.4	13.4
N	*823*	*671*	*331*	*1825*
Intermediate	11.2	17.5	31.4	17.0
N	*428*	*401*	*159*	*988*
Routine and manual	18.7	25.0	37.5	25.2
N	*815*	*1085*	*459*	*2359*
Other	23.1	27.3	0	25.0
N	*13*	*11*	*0*	*24*
Women				
Managerial and professional	6.8	15.1	34.8	14.8
N	*585*	*502*	*227*	*1314*
Intermediate	8.8	15.9	36.2	18.3
N	*565*	*665*	*390*	*1620*
Routine and manual	17.2	24.4	39.0	25.8
N	*942*	*1171*	*734*	*2847*
Other	16.7	27.0	46.0	36.0
N	*36*	*63*	*126*	*225*
All				
Managerial and professional	7.7	14.4	29.2	14.0
N	*1409*	*1174*	*558*	*3141*
Intermediate	9.8	16.6	34.9	17.9
N	*992*	*1067*	*550*	*2609*
Routine and manual	17.8	24.7	38.4	25.5
N	*1757*	*2256*	*1193*	*5206*
Other	18.4	28.0	46.0	35.2
N	*49*	*75*	*126*	*250*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.7% of sample excluded as data not available (n=190).

Table 7A.4. Difficulty with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), by age group and sex (%)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
0	89.2	87.0	83.8	83.1	83.3	76.5	58.4	82.5
1–2	8.8	9.4	12.3	12.9	13.4	17.8	30.2	13.3
3+	2.0	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.3	5.7	11.4	4.2
N	*1085*	*994*	*814*	*729*	*628*	*493*	*457*	*5200*
Women								
0	86.5	81.4	81.9	80.0	72.6	67.6	47.2	74.9
1–2	11.0	14.8	14.4	15.5	21.0	25.7	33.4	18.6
3+	2.5	3.8	3.8	4.5	6.4	6.7	19.4	6.4
N	*1109*	*1019*	*850*	*801*	*753*	*654*	*824*	*6010*
All								
0	87.8	84.2	82.9	81.6	77.5	71.4	51.2	78.4
1–2	9.9	12.1	13.3	14.2	17.5	22.3	32.2	16.2
3+	2.3	3.7	3.8	4.3	5.0	6.3	16.5	5.4
N	*2196*	*2013*	*1663*	*1529*	*1380*	*1147*	*1282*	*11210*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=182).

Table 7A.5. Reporting difficulty with specific IADLs, by age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Using a map to figure out how to get around in a strange place	1.7	2.6	6.0	2.8
Preparing a hot meal	3.0	3.6	7.2	4.0
Shopping for groceries	4.1	6.4	14.0	6.9
Making telephone calls	1.3	1.3	5.7	2.1
Taking medication	1.6	1.3	2.4	1.6
Doing work around the house or garden	9.1	13.2	25.9	13.9
Managing money such as paying bills and keeping track of expenses	1.9	1.8	4.6	2.4
N	*2080*	*2170*	*950*	*5200*
Women				
Using a map to figure out how to get around in a strange place	4.6	7.0	14.4	8.0
Preparing a hot meal	2.8	4.0	10.2	5.1
Shopping for groceries	6.8	9.4	24.2	12.1
Making telephone calls	0.9	0.9	4.5	1.8
Taking medication	0.8	1.7	2.4	1.5
Doing work around the house or garden	11.0	15.7	32.8	18.2
Managing money such as paying bills and keeping track of expenses	1.2	2.0	6.6	2.8
N	*2128*	*2403*	*1478*	*6009*
All				
Using a map to figure out how to get around in a strange place	3.1	4.9	11.1	5.6
Preparing a hot meal	2.9	3.8	9.0	4.6
Shopping for groceries	5.5	8.0	20.1	9.7
Making telephone calls	1.1	1.1	4.9	1.9
Taking medication	1.2	1.5	2.3	1.6
Doing work around the house or garden	10.1	14.5	30.1	16.2
Managing money such as paying bills and keeping track of expenses	1.6	1.9	5.8	2.6
N	*4208*	*4572*	*2428*	*11208*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=182).

Table 7A.6. Difficulty with physical function (defined as reporting difficulty with one or more IADL), by occupational class, age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial and professional	6.2	8.9	28.4	11.2
N	*823*	*671*	*331*	*1825*
Intermediate	12.6	14.2	27.5	15.7
N	*428*	*401*	*160*	*989*
Routine and manual	16.7	22.0	36.4	23.0
N	*815*	*1085*	*459*	*2359*
Other	46.2	18.2	0	33.3
N	*13*	*11*	*0*	*24*
Women				
Managerial and professional	11.4	15.7	39.9	18.0
N	*586*	*502*	*228*	*1316*
Intermediate	13.8	17.7	41.7	22.2
N	*564*	*665*	*391*	*1620*
Routine and manual	19.6	25.4	46.2	28.9
N	*942*	*1172*	*733*	*2847*
Other	27.8	37.5	43.3	39.2
N	*36*	*64*	*127*	*227*
All				
Managerial and professional	8.4	11.8	33.1	14.1
N	*1408*	*1173*	*559*	*3140*
Intermediate	13.4	16.4	37.5	19.7
N	*993*	*1067*	*550*	*2610*
Routine and manual	18.3	23.8	42.4	26.2
N	*1757*	*2256*	*1193*	*5206*
Other	32.7	34.7	43.3	38.6
N	*49*	*75*	*127*	*251*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=185).

Table 7A.7. Difficulty with mobility and upper-limb functions, by age group and sex (%)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
0	67.3	59.3	52.8	48.3	42.8	33.4	23.5	50.8
1–2	19.2	22.4	21.8	27.2	28.2	34.0	28.9	24.7
3+	13.4	18.3	25.5	24.6	29.0	32.6	47.6	24.5
N	*1086*	*994*	*813*	*729*	*628*	*494*	*456*	*5200*
Women								
0	53.3	46.3	41.2	37.1	25.5	22.2	13.8	36.0
1–2	27.6	28.5	28.4	31.2	29.5	24.8	21.8	27.5
3+	19.1	25.2	30.5	31.7	44.9	53.0	64.3	36.6
N	*1110*	*1018*	*850*	*801*	*752*	*653*	*824*	*6008*
All								
0	60.3	52.7	46.8	42.4	33.4	27.1	17.3	42.9
1–2	23.4	25.5	25.1	29.3	28.9	28.7	24.4	26.2
3+	16.3	21.8	28.0	28.3	37.6	44.2	58.4	31.0
N	*2195*	*2013*	*1663*	*1530*	*1379*	*1146*	*1281*	*11207*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=184).

Table 7A.8. Reporting difficulty with specific mobility and upper-limb tasks, by age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Walking 100 yards	7.5	12.4	20.7	11.9
Sitting for about two hours	11.9	13.5	12.6	12.7
Getting up from a chair after sitting for long periods	15.5	23.8	33.3	22.2
Climbing several flights of stairs without resting	17.6	31.9	48.4	29.2
Climbing one flight of stairs without resting	7.1	13.0	22.7	12.4
Stooping, kneeling or crouching	23.1	32.3	47.3	31.4
Reaching or extending your arms above shoulder level	7.0	9.5	13.3	9.2
Pulling or pushing large objects like a living room chair	8.7	13.7	21.2	13.1
Lifting or carrying weights over 10 pounds, like a heavy bag of groceries	10.7	17.8	28.6	16.9
Picking up a 5p coin from a table	3.2	4.5	7.4	4.5
N	*2080*	*2170*	*949*	*5199*
Women				
Walking 100 yards	6.7	11.7	25.9	13.4
Sitting for about two hours	13.6	15.4	17.2	15.2
Getting up from a chair after sitting for long periods	21.0	29.7	41.6	29.5
Climbing several flights of stairs without resting	29.9	43.3	59.7	42.6
Climbing one flight of stairs without resting	8.2	16.7	32.8	17.7
Stooping, kneeling or crouching	25.6	41.7	58.2	40.0
Reaching or extending your arms above shoulder level	9.8	12.5	18.2	12.9
Pulling or pushing large objects like a living room chair	13.8	22.4	37.4	23.0
Lifting or carrying weights over 10 pounds, like a heavy bag of groceries	22.0	32.5	55.3	34.4
Picking up a 5p coin from a table	2.7	5.5	11.3	5.9
N	*2128*	*2402*	*1477*	*6007*
All				
Walking 100 yards	7.1	12.0	23.9	12.7
Sitting for about two hours	12.8	14.5	15.4	14.0
Getting up from a chair after sitting for long periods	18.3	26.9	38.3	26.1
Climbing several flights of stairs without resting	23.9	37.9	55.3	36.4
Climbing one flight of stairs without resting	7.7	15.0	28.9	15.2
Stooping, kneeling or crouching	24.4	37.2	53.9	36.0
Reaching or extending your arms above shoulder level	8.4	11.1	16.3	11.2
Pulling or pushing large objects like a living room chair	11.3	18.2	31.1	18.4
Lifting or carrying weights over 10 pounds, like a heavy bag of groceries	16.4	25.5	44.9	26.3
Picking up a 5p coin from a table	2.9	5.0	9.8	5.3
N	*4209*	*4572*	*2428*	*11209*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=184).

Table 7A.9. Difficulty with physical function (defined as reporting difficulty with one or more mobility function), by occupational class, age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial and professional	28.9	41.6	69.2	40.9
N	*823*	*671*	*331*	*1825*
Intermediate	35.7	48.8	68.6	46.3
N	*428*	*402*	*159*	*989*
Routine and manual	44.8	58.9	73.9	57.0
N	*815*	*1084*	*459*	*2358*
Other	30.8	54.5	0	41.7
N	*13*	*11*	*0*	*24*
Women				
Managerial and professional	43.7	60.2	77.1	55.7
N	*586*	*502*	*227*	*1315*
Intermediate	47.1	62.3	79.7	61.2
N	*565*	*665*	*390*	*1620*
Routine and manual	55.0	68.8	84.9	68.4
N	*942*	*1172*	*734*	*2848*
Other	69.4	67.2	86.5	78.3
N	*36*	*64*	*126*	*226*
All				
Managerial and professional	35.1	49.5	72.5	47.1
N	*1409*	*1174*	*559*	*3142*
Intermediate	42.2	57.2	76.5	55.6
N	*993*	*1067*	*550*	*2610*
Routine and manual	50.3	64.1	80.6	63.2
N	*1757*	*2256*	*1193*	*5206*
Other	59.2	64.5	86.5	74.5
N	*49*	*76*	*126*	*251*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. 1.6% of sample excluded as data not available (n=187).

Table 7A.10. Walking speed 0.4 metres per second (m/s) or slower (%), and median speed (m/s), by age group and sex for all aged 60 years or older who completed two timed 8-foot-long walks

	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men						
Walking speed ≤ 0.4 m/s (%)	2.7	2.5	4.3	5.3	13.7	4.9
Median speed (m/s)	0.96	0.93	0.84	0.80	0.67	0.86
N	*716*	*644*	*563*	*430*	*366*	*2719*
Women						
Walking speed ≤ 0.4 m/s (%)	2.6	4.1	7.2	9.6	22.8	8.7
Median speed (m/s)	0.93	0.89	0.80	0.72	0.59	0.80
N	*758*	*710*	*653*	*544*	*605*	*3270*
All						
Walking speed ≤ 0.4 m/s (%)	2.7	3.3	5.8	7.7	19.4	7.0
Median speed (m/s)	0.94	0.91	0.81	0.75	0.61	0.83
N	*1476*	*1354*	*1216*	*973*	*971*	*5990*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. Excluded all with time >30 seconds (speed < 0.08 m/s) for either walk (n=61, 1%).

Table 7A.11. Reporting one or more fall in the last two years (%), and need for medical treatment as a result of a fall in the last two years (% of those with a fall), by age group and sex for all aged 60 years or older

	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men						
Fall	20.8	19.5	20.3	32.7	43.1	25.7
N	*730*	*729*	*627*	*492*	*457*	*3035*
Treatment	30.3	24.6	26.0	32.9	34.7	30.2
N	*152*	*142*	*127*	*161*	*196*	*778*
Women						
Fall	30.2	30.6	35.1	40.1	49.6	37.2
N	*755*	*801*	*752*	*653*	*824*	*3785*
Treatment	34.6	34.3	43.6	45.4	49.6	42.6
N	*228*	*245*	*264*	*262*	*409*	*1408*
All						
Fall	25.6	25.2	28.4	36.9	47.3	32.0
N	*1485*	*1529*	*1379*	*1146*	*1280*	*6819*
Treatment	32.9	30.6	38.0	40.7	44.8	38.2
N	*380*	*386*	*392*	*423*	*605*	*2186*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. Excluded refusals, don't knows and not applicables (n=324, 4.5%).

Table 7A.12. Reporting fair or poor eyesight or hearing in the last 12 months, by age group and sex (%)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
Eyesight	10.3	10.5	13.1	12.2	14.3	19.4	29.0	14.0
N	*1094*	*1007*	*824*	*734*	*637*	*495*	*462*	*5253*
Hearing	18.9	20.2	24.7	26.1	33.3	37.7	44.4	26.9
N	*1098*	*1005*	*825*	*739*	*640*	*499*	*473*	*5279*
Women								
Eyesight	12.6	13.2	12.0	12.9	20.1	24.6	34.8	18.0
N	*1115*	*1023*	*857*	*807*	*752*	*665*	*851*	*6070*
Hearing	9.7	11.1	13.1	15.4	19.7	24.2	36.4	17.9
N	*1116*	*1026*	*856*	*810*	*759*	*665*	*875*	*6107*
All								
Eyesight	11.5	11.9	12.5	12.6	17.6	22.4	32.7	16.2
N	*2210*	*2028*	*1681*	*1544*	*1391*	*1158*	*1313*	*11325*
Hearing	14.2	15.6	18.8	20.5	25.9	30.0	39.2	22.1
N	*2213*	*2031*	*1683*	*1549*	*1397*	*1164*	*1347*	*11384*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. Excluded refusals, don't knows and not applicables (eyesight n=69, 0.6%; hearing n=6, 0.1%).

Table 7A.13. Reporting being incontinent of urine in the last 12 months, by age group and sex (%)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
Incontinence	3.1	5.0	7.4	9.9	9.1	14.4	18.8	8.3
N	*1084*	*994*	*811*	*728*	*628*	*494*	*453*	*5192*
Women								
Incontinence	17.9	22.0	21.2	19.8	21.1	21.2	25.5	21.1
N	*1110*	*1018*	*849*	*802*	*752*	*652*	*823*	*6006*
All								
Incontinence	10.6	13.7	14.4	15.1	15.7	18.2	23.1	15.2
N	*2194*	*2013*	*1659*	*1530*	*1379*	*1145*	*1276*	*11196*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. Excluded refusals, don't knows and not applicables (n=194, 1.7%).

Table 7A.14. Reported source of help for those reporting difficulty with one or more ADL, IADL or mobility function, by age group and sex (% of those reporting difficulty with ADL/IADL/mobility)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
No help	71.6	67.8	52.8	65.0
Spouse or partner	21.0	23.5	23.7	22.8
Parent	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Daughter	5.2	5.6	11.5	7.0
Son	5.2	5.8	7.6	6.1
Daughter-in-law or son-in-law	0.8	1.8	4.4	2.2
Sibling	1.4	1.0	0.4	1.0
Grandchild	0.3	1.2	3.3	1.5
Other unpaid	4.3	4.7	8.2	5.5
Other paid	1.6	2.7	10.5	4.4
N	*792*	*1156*	*697*	*2645*
Women				
No help	63.6	60.4	42.3	55.6
Spouse or partner	26.0	23.3	12.0	20.4
Parent	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2
Daughter	11.4	10.7	20.6	14.0
Son	7.0	6.4	12.4	8.4
Daughter-in-law or son-in-law	1.5	3.3	8.0	4.3
Sibling	1.6	1.8	2.5	2.0
Grandchild	0.8	2.1	5.4	2.8
Other unpaid	5.5	6.8	13.1	8.4
Other paid	1.6	3.8	19.8	8.2
N	*1085*	*1603*	*1245*	*3933*
All				
No help	67.0	63.5	46.1	59.4
Spouse or partner	23.9	23.4	16.2	21.4
Parent	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2
Daughter	8.8	8.6	17.4	11.2
Son	6.2	6.1	10.6	7.5
Daughter-in-law or son-in-law	1.2	2.7	6.7	3.4
Sibling	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.6
Grandchild	0.6	1.7	4.6	2.3
Other unpaid	5.0	5.9	11.3	7.3
Other paid	1.6	3.3	16.4	6.7
N	*1877*	*2759*	*1942*	*6578*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. Excluded don't knows (n=1) and those with no ADL/IADL/mobility problems (n=4812).

Table 7A.15. Reported aids used, for those reporting difficulty with one or more ADL, IADL or mobility function, by age group and sex (% of those reporting difficulty with ADL/IADL/mobility)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
No aid used	80.7	72.1	49.1	68.6
A cane or walking stick	17.5	25.8	47.3	29.0
A Zimmer frame or walker	0.6	1.4	4.9	2.1
A manual wheelchair	2.6	3.1	3.7	3.1
An electric wheelchair	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.8
A buggy or scooter	0.6	1.8	2.9	1.7
Special eating utensils	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6
A personal alarm	1.4	1.5	7.0	2.9
N	*793*	*1156*	*697*	*2646*
Women				
No aid used	87.4	77.2	46.3	70.2
A cane or walking stick	10.4	19.7	45.5	25.3
A Zimmer frame or walker	0.6	1.9	11.0	4.4
A manual wheelchair	2.7	4.1	8.1	5.0
An electric wheelchair	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.7
A buggy or scooter	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.5
Special eating utensils	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6
A personal alarm	0.8	3.0	14.8	6.1
N	*1085*	*1603*	*1245*	*3933*
All				
No aid used	84.6	75.0	47.3	69.6
A cane or walking stick	13.4	22.2	46.1	26.8
A Zimmer frame or walker	0.6	1.7	8.9	3.5
A manual wheelchair	2.7	3.7	6.5	4.2
An electric wheelchair	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7
A buggy or scooter	1.0	1.6	2.1	1.6
Special eating utensils	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6
A personal alarm	1.1	2.4	12.0	4.8
N	*1877*	*2760*	*1942*	*6579*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. Excluded don't knows (n=1) and those with no ADL/IADL/mobility problems (n=4812).

Table 7A.16. Self-reported memory, by age group and sex (% reporting fair or poor)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
%	28.7	31.7	34.0	34.2	35.2	35.3	40.4	33.3
N	*1076*	*978*	*799*	*722*	*619*	*487*	*448*	*5129*
Women								
%	32.3	32.0	30.4	26.6	30.3	31.0	36.9	31.5
N	*1109*	*1010*	*843*	*788*	*742*	*645*	*813*	*5950*
All								
%	30.5	31.9	32.1	30.3	32.5	32.9	38.1	32.3
N	*2184*	*1989*	*1641*	*1509*	*1361*	*1132*	*1261*	*11077*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (299 people (2.6%): 2.1% not applicable, 0.2% don't know, 0.3% refusal).

Table 7A.17. Self-reported memory, by education, age group and sex (% reporting fair or poor)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Degree/higher	22.9	24.2	30.9	24.3
Intermediate	29.7	31.9	37.2	31.7
No qualifications	41.6	42.6	40.0	41.7
N	*2054*	*2139*	*935*	*5128*
Women				
Degree/higher	25.2	21.8	26.1	24.1
Intermediate	29.6	28.3	31.6	29.4
No qualifications	40.5	31.7	36.4	35.4
N	*2119*	*2373*	*1458*	*5950*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (2.8%).

Table 7A.18. Self-reported memory, by occupational class, age group and sex (% reporting fair or poor)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial and professional	22.3	24.3	32.2	24.8
Intermediate	35.4	36.0	37.8	36.0
Routine and manual	35.4	40.4	41.7	38.9
N	*2054*	*2139*	*935*	*5128*
Women				
Managerial and professional	25.2	23.1	27.7	24.8
Intermediate	28.2	26.3	28.9	27.6
Routine and manual	38.6	32.6	39.5	36.4
N	*2119*	*2373*	*1458*	*5950*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (4.9%).

Table 7A.19. Time orientation: errors in combined score on day, month, year and day of week, by age group and sex (%)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
0	82.7	80.3	74.6	73.7	73.8	65.6	62.1	75.2
1	15.4	15.4	20.5	21.7	21.7	25.3	25.3	19.7
2+	1.9	4.2	4.8	4.7	4.5	9.1	12.6	5.1
N	*1081*	*992*	*808*	*729*	*626*	*494*	*454*	*5184*
Women								
0	87.3	83.3	79.9	78.8	77.0	72.6	63.9	78.3
1	11.9	14.7	17.3	17.4	20.0	21.7	24.3	17.6
2+	0.8	2.1	2.8	3.8	3.1	5.7	11.8	4.0
N	*1110*	*1016*	*850*	*798*	*751*	*649*	*822*	*5996*
All								
0	85.0	81.9	77.3	76.4	75.5	69.6	63.2	76.9
1	13.7	15.0	18.9	19.4	20.8	23.3	24.7	18.6
2+	1.3	3.1	3.8	4.2	3.7	7.2	12.1	4.5
N	*2191*	*2008*	*1658*	*1528*	*1377*	*1143*	*1276*	*11181*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (197 people (1.7%) not applicable).

Table 7A.20. Time orientation: errors in combined score on day, month, year and day of week, by education, age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Degree/higher				
0	84.4	77.8	73.9	80.8
1	13.5	18.8	21.6	16.3
2+	2.2	3.4	4.6	2.9
Intermediate				
0	84.3	78.1	64.6	78.8
1	13.3	18.3	26.0	17.2
2+	2.4	3.7	9.4	4.0
No qualifications				
0	72.9	68.7	60.6	67.7
1	21.9	25.3	25.9	24.6
2+	5.2	5.9	13.5	7.7
N	*2074*	*2163*	*947*	*5184*
Women				
Degree/higher				
0	90.6	83.7	75.5	85.8
1	8.4	13.9	18.2	11.8
2+	1.0	2.4	6.3	2.3
Intermediate				
0	87.0	82.1	74.5	83.2
1	12.4	15.6	18.8	14.6
2+	0.6	2.3	6.7	2.2
No qualifications				
0	79.5	74.8	64.4	72.4
1	17.7	21.2	25.4	21.8
2+	2.7	4.0	10.2	5.8
N	*2126*	*2399*	*1474*	*5999*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (1.9%).

Table 7A.21. Time orientation: errors in combined score on day, month, year and day of week, by occupational class, age group and sex (%)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial/professional				
0	87.8	80.1	68.2	81.4
1	10.6	17.5	22.4	15.3
2+	1.6	2.4	9.4	3.3
Intermediate				
0	74.5	69.8	62.3	70.6
1	21.0	25.7	25.2	23.6
2+	4.4	4.5	12.6	5.8
Routine/manual				
0	79.3	71.7	61.6	72.3
1	17.0	22.3	27.3	21.4
2+	3.7	6.1	11.1	6.2
N	*2074*	*2163*	*947*	*5184*
Women				
Managerial/professional				
0	90.6	83.1	74.0	84.9
1	8.9	13.7	18.1	12.3
2+	0.5	3.2	7.9	2.8
Intermediate				
0	87.1	83.9	72.6	82.3
1	11.2	14.8	21.0	15.0
2+	1.8	1.4	6.4	2.7
Routine/manual				
0	81.7	74.0	64.5	74.1
1	16.8	21.9	24.3	20.8
2+	1.5	4.1	11.2	5.1
N	*2126*	*2399*	*1474*	*5999*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (4.0%).

Table 7A.22. Memory score: mean number of words recalled, by age group and sex

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Immediate recall								
Men								
Mean	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.4	3.8	5.3
N	*1075*	*974*	*800*	*721*	*616*	*484*	*445*	*5116*
Women								
Mean	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.1	4.7	3.9	5.4
N	*1108*	*1006*	*841*	*783*	*738*	*642*	*802*	*5919*
All								
Mean	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.5	3.9	5.4
N	*2183*	*1980*	*1641*	*1505*	*1354*	*1126*	*1247*	*11035*
Delayed recall								
Men								
Mean	4.9	4.5	4.1	3.6	3.3	2.7	2.0	3.8
N	*1073*	*973*	*799*	*720*	*615*	*483*	*445*	*5109*
Women								
Mean	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.1	3.6	3.0	2.1	4.0
N	*1107*	*1006*	*839*	*782*	*738*	*642*	*799*	*5914*
All								
Mean	4.9	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.4	2.8	2.1	3.9
N	*2180*	*1979*	*1638*	*1503*	*1353*	*1125*	*1244*	*11023*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Immediate recall – People with information not available are excluded (340 people (3.0%): 2.4% not applicable, 0.6% refused); don't know recoded to 0.
Delayed recall – People with information not available are excluded (351 people (3.1%): 2.4% not applicable, 0.7% refused); don't know recoded to 0.

Table 7A.23. Memory score: mean number of words recalled, by education, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Immediate recall				
Men				
Degree/higher	6.4	6.0	5.1	6.1
Intermediate	5.9	5.3	4.1	5.4
No qualifications	5.4	4.7	3.8	4.6
N	*2049*	*2135*	*929*	*5113*
Women				
Degree/higher	6.8	6.3	5.1	6.3
Intermediate	6.3	5.9	4.7	5.9
No qualifications	5.5	5.1	3.9	4.8
N	*2113*	*2360*	*1444*	*5917*
Delayed recall				
Men				
Degree/higher	5.1	4.6	3.1	4.7
Intermediate	4.7	3.8	2.5	4.0
No qualifications	3.9	3.0	2.1	3.0
N	*2047*	*2133*	*928*	*5107*
Women				
Degree/higher	5.6	4.8	3.4	5.0
Intermediate	5.1	4.5	3.0	4.5
No qualifications	4.3	3.6	2.2	3.3
N	*2112*	*2358*	*1441*	*5912*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Immediate recall – People with information not available are excluded (340 people (3.0%): 2.4% not applicable, 0.6% refused); don't know recoded to 0.
Delayed recall – People with information not available are excluded (3.3%).

Table 7A.24. Memory score, by occupational class, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Immediate recall				
Men				
Managerial/professional	6.4	5.9	4.6	5.9
Intermediate	5.9	5.2	4.2	5.3
Routine/manual	5.6	4.8	3.7	4.9
N	*2037*	*2127*	*929*	*5093*
Women				
Managerial/professional	6.6	6.0	4.9	6.1
Intermediate	6.4	5.8	4.6	5.7
Routine/manual	5.7	5.2	3.9	5.0
N	*2079*	*2302*	*1318*	*5699*
Delayed recall				
Men				
Managerial/professional	5.1	4.4	2.8	4.5
Intermediate	4.5	3.7	2.4	3.9
Routine/manual	4.3	3.2	2.1	3.4
N	*2034*	*2124*	*928*	*5086*
Women				
Managerial/professional	5.5	4.6	3.3	4.8
Intermediates	5.2	4.3	2.9	4.3
Routine/manual	4.4	3.7	2.1	3.5
N	*2078*	*2300*	*1317*	*5695*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Immediate recall – People with information not available are excluded (5.3%).
Delayed recall – People with information not available are excluded (5.4%).

Table 7A.25. Prospective memory: percentage failing to make correct response without prompt, by age group and sex

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Writing initials								
Men								
% failing to make correct response	37.4	40.7	40.9	48.2	50.1	59.1	67.8	46.3
N	*1073*	*974*	*799*	*722*	*615*	*482*	*444*	*5109*
Women								
% failing to make correct response	39.7	42.6	45.3	50.4	55.5	62.3	70.9	51.0
N	*1108*	*1006*	*839*	*782*	*739*	*644*	*797*	*5915*
All								
% failing to make correct response	38.6	41.7	43.2	49.3	53.0	60.9	69.8	48.8
N	*2181*	*1980*	*1638*	*1504*	*1355*	*1125*	*1241*	*11024*
Reminding to record time								
Men								
% failing to make correct response	34.3	35.8	39.4	48.5	58.2	65.8	73.3	46.6
N	*1073*	*974*	*799*	*722*	*615*	*483*	*445*	*5111*
Women								
% failing to make correct response	34.9	39.0	43.1	50.1	59.0	72.9	81.1	52.2
N	*1105*	*1007*	*840*	*783*	*739*	*643*	*799*	*5916*
All								
% failing to make correct response	34.6	37.4	41.3	49.3	58.6	69.9	78.3	49.6
N	*2179*	*1980*	*1639*	*1505*	*1355*	*1127*	*1243*	*11028*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Writing initials – People with information not available are excluded (350 people (3.1%): 2.4% not applicable, 0.7% refused); don't know recoded to failure.
Reminding to record time – People with information not available are excluded (347 people (3.0%): 2.4% not applicable, 0.6% refused); don't know recoded to failure.

Table 7A.26. Prospective memory: percentage failing to make correct response without prompt, by education, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Writing initials				
Men				
Degree/higher	32.2	35.0	49.7	35.1
Intermediate	38.4	44.5	58.5	43.9
No qualifications	50.0	53.7	69.9	57.0
N	*2048*	*2135*	*927*	*5110*
Women				
Degree/higher	34.8	40.3	48.9	38.9
Intermediate	36.3	44.1	62.5	43.4
No qualifications	52.1	57.2	71.2	60.7
N	*2113*	*2361*	*1441*	*5915*
Reminding to record time				
Men				
Degree/higher	29.2	29.3	52.7	31.7
Intermediate	35.9	45.1	67.6	44.5
No qualifications	42.4	61.1	75.6	60.1
N	*2047*	*2137*	*928*	*5112*
Women				
Degree/higher	29.0	39.1	57.1	36.9
Intermediate	33.7	43.8	68.8	43.1
No qualifications	46.6	57.9	83.2	63.8
N	*2113*	*2362*	*1443*	*5918*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Writing initials – People with information not available are excluded (3.2%).
Reminding to record time – People with information not available are excluded (3.3%).

Table 7A.27. Prospective memory: percentage failing to make correct response without prompt, by occupational class, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Writing initials				
Men				
Managerial/professional	31.3	34.6	55.9	36.9
Intermediate	38.0	46.6	62.8	45.4
Routine/manual	46.7	52.8	68.7	53.8
N	*2048*	*2135*	*927*	*5110*
Women				
Managerial/professional	33.6	42.0	50.9	39.7
Intermediate	37.3	47.9	66.1	48.5
Routine/manual	47.1	54.3	71.8	56.3
N	*2113*	*2361*	*1441*	*5915*
Reminding to record time				
Men				
Managerial/professional	28.5	33.5	57.4	35.5
Intermediate	36.1	47.1	67.9	45.6
Routine/manual	40.4	57.2	78.6	55.6
N	*2047*	*2137*	*928*	*5112*
Women				
Managerial/professional	29.5	44.1	63.5	40.8
Intermediate	34.3	45.9	77.6	49.4
Routine/manual	42.1	55.2	81.4	57.5
N	*2113*	*2362*	*1443*	*5918*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Writing initials – People with information not available are excluded (5.3%)
Reminding to record time – People with information not available are excluded (5.3%)

Table 7A.28. Verbal fluency: mean number of animal names produced, by age group and sex

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
Mean	22.4	21.3	19.9	19.3	18.3	16.7	15.1	19.7
N	*1075*	*973*	*800*	*721*	*615*	*483*	*445*	*5113*
Women								
Mean	21.4	20.6	19.8	18.9	17.3	15.8	14.3	18.6
N	*1108*	*1006*	*841*	*782*	*739*	*641*	*804*	*5920*
All								
Mean	21.9	20.9	19.9	19.1	17.7	16.2	14.6	19.1
N	*2183*	*1979*	*1641*	*1504*	*1354*	*1124*	*1249*	*11033*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (342 people (3.0%): 2.4% not applicable, 0.6% refused); don't know recoded to 0.

Table 7A.29. Verbal fluency: mean number of animal names produced, by education, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Degree/higher	23.7	21.7	18.4	22.4
Intermediate	21.7	19.7	16.4	20.1
No qualifications	19.7	17.4	14.9	17.3
N	*2048*	*2134*	*928*	*5110*
Women				
Degree/higher	24.2	21.8	18.0	22.4
Intermediate	21.2	19.6	16.4	19.9
No qualifications	18.4	17.2	14.1	16.4
N	*2113*	*2360*	*1445*	*5918*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (3.2%).

Table 7A.30. Verbal fluency: mean number of animal names produced, by occupational class, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial/professional	23.4	21.4	17.7	21.7
Intermediate	22.1	19.4	15.3	19.9
Routine/manual	20.4	17.8	14.8	18.1
N	*2036*	*2126*	*929*	*5090*
Women				
Managerial/professional	23.3	21.0	17.0	21.3
Intermediate	21.8	19.2	15.8	19.3
Routine/manual	19.3	17.6	14.1	17.3
N	*2079*	*2303*	*1319*	*5700*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (5.3%).

Table 7A.31. Attention/visual search, by age group and sex (search speed is mean number of letters searched; search accuracy is mean number of target letters missed up to point reached)

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Search speed								
Men								
Mean	318	303	294	291	282	274	242	293
N	*1045*	*961*	*782*	*697*	*594*	*461*	*405*	*4946*
Women								
Mean	338	328	327	318	315	295	265	315
N	*1078*	*980*	*824*	*761*	*709*	*596*	*707*	*5656*
All								
Mean	328	316	311	305	300	286	257	305
N	*2123*	*1941*	*1607*	*1458*	*1304*	*1058*	*1112*	*10602*
Search accuracy								
Men								
Mean	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.3
N	*1045*	*961*	*782*	*697*	*594*	*461*	*405*	*4946*
Women								
Mean	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.8	6.4	6.2	6.4	5.7
N	*1078*	*980*	*824*	*761*	*709*	*596*	*707*	*5656*
All								
Mean	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.5
N	*2123*	*1941*	*1607*	*1458*	*1304*	*1058*	*1112*	*10602*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Search speed – People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (753 people (6.6%)).
Search accuracy – People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (753 people (6.6%)).

Table 7A.32. Attention/visual search, by education, age group and sex (search speed is mean number of letters searched; search accuracy is mean number of target letters missed up to point reached)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Search speed				
Men				
Degree/higher	329	310	281	317
Intermediate	304	287	264	291
No qualifications	295	279	249	276
N	*2006*	*2071*	*866*	*4943*
Women				
Degree/higher	347	337	287	335
Intermediate	331	325	291	323
No qualifications	327	312	273	303
N	*2058*	*2293*	*1303*	*5654*
Search accuracy				
Men				
Degree/higher	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.0
Intermediate	4.5	5.1	5.6	4.9
No qualifications	5.2	6.2	6.0	5.9
N	*2006*	*2071*	*866*	*4943*
Women				
Degree/higher	4.9	5.7	5.9	5.4
Intermediate	4.7	5.2	6.0	5.1
No qualifications	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.2
N	*2058*	*2293*	*1303*	*5654*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.

Search speed – People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (7.0%).

Search accuracy – People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (7.0%).

Table 7A.33 Attention/visual search, by occupational class, age group and sex (search speed is mean number of letters searched; search accuracy is mean number of target letters missed up to point reached)

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Search speed				
Men				
Managerial/professional	324	308	273	310
Intermediate	306	289	269	293
Routine/manual	298	278	245	279
N	*1993*	*2064*	*866*	*4924*
Women				
Managerial/professional	339	333	291	329
Intermediate	331	315	278	312
Routine/manual	331	318	280	313
N	*2029*	*2239*	*1190*	*5458*
Search accuracy				
Men				
Managerial/professional	4.5	5.3	5.5	5.0
Intermediate	4.9	5.6	6.4	5.4
Routine/manual	4.8	5.8	5.8	5.5
N	*1993*	*2064*	*866*	*4924*
Women				
Managerial/professional	4.7	5.6	6.3	5.3
Intermediate	4.5	5.2	5.6	5.0
Routine/manual	5.7	6.2	6.9	6.2
N	*2029*	*2239*	*1190*	*5458*

Notes: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data.
Search speed – People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (8.9%).
Search accuracy – People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (8.9%).

Table 7A.34. Numeracy: mean score on calculations (range 0–7), by age group and sex

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	All
Men								
Mean	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.8
N	*1081*	*992*	*808*	*730*	*625*	*493*	*454*	*5184*
Women								
Mean	4.6	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.2	4.0
N	*1110*	*1016*	*850*	*799*	*751*	*650*	*823*	*5999*
All								
Mean	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.5	4.4
N	*2191*	*2008*	*1658*	*1528*	*1377*	*1143*	*1277*	*11183*

Note: Sample members only; weighted data. People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (197 people (1.7%) not applicable).

Table 7A.35. Numeracy: mean score on calculations (range 0–7), by education, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Degree/higher	5.9	5.5	5.1	5.7
Intermediate	5.3	4.9	4.5	5.0
No qualifications	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.0
N	*2073*	*2160*	*946*	*5180*
Women				
Degree/higher	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.9
Intermediate	4.7	4.5	4.0	4.5
No qualifications	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.3
N	*2126*	*2396*	*1472*	*5994*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (1.9%).

Table 7A.36. Numeracy: mean score on calculations (range 0–7), by occupational class, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
Managerial/professional	5.9	5.6	4.9	5.6
Intermediate	5.2	4.7	4.3	4.9
Routine/manual	4.6	4.1	3.7	4.2
N	*2061*	*2153*	*947*	*5161*
Women				
Managerial/professional	5.2	4.6	4.1	4.8
Intermediate	4.9	4.4	3.9	4.4
Routine/manual	3.9	3.4	2.8	3.4
N	*2091*	*2336*	*1347*	*5774*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (4.0%).

Table 7A.37. Mean score on global cognitive index, by education, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men	**37.9**	**33.2**	**27.1**	**34.0**
Degree/higher	40.7	37.9	31.9	38.7
Intermediate	37.9	34.0	28.0	34.8
No qualifications	33.5	29.6	25.0	29.5
N	*2002*	*2070*	*866*	*4938*
Women	**37.6**	**33.4**	**26.2**	**33.3**
Degree/higher	41.4	37.8	31.1	38.6
Intermediate	38.5	35.7	29.2	36.0
No qualifications	33.6	30.6	24.5	29.4
N	*2055*	*2292*	*1300*	*5648*
All	**37.7**	**33.3**	**26.6**	**33.6**
Degree/higher	41.0	37.9	31.5	38.7
Intermediate	38.2	34.9	28.6	35.5
No qualifications	33.6	30.18	24.65	29.42
N	*4057*	*4362*	*2165*	*10585*

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding of weighted data. People with information not available are excluded (7.1%).

Table 7A.38. Mean score on global cognitive index, by number of IADL problems, age group and sex

	50–59	60–74	75+	All
Men				
0 IADL problems	38.3	33.9	28.0	34.9
1–2 IADL problems	35.1	30.2	25.9	30.2
3+ IADL problems	31.3	27.0	21.0	26.4
N	*2002*	*2071*	*866*	*4940*
Women				
0 IADL problems	38.0	34.1	27.5	34.5
1–2 IADL problems	36.1	31.5	25.4	30.3
3+ IADL problems	32.1	28.8	20.9	25.9
N	*2055*	*2294*	*1300*	*5649*
All				
0 IADL problems	38.2	34.0	27.7	34.7
1–2 IADL problems	35.7	31.0	25.6	30.1
3+ IADL problems	31.7	28.0	20.9	26.1
N	*4057*	*4365*	*2166*	*10588*

Note: Sample members only; weighted data. People with information not available or miscoded are excluded (7.1%).

8. Physical and social environment

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The analysis presented in this chapter shows that:

- Density of accommodation (number of people per room) decreases with age and is lower for women than for men, suggesting that undercrowding or isolation, rather than overcrowding, may be an issue for women in the oldest age groups.

- Whereas certain durable goods, such as televisions and landline phones, are almost universally owned by members of today's older population, men and people in higher occupational classes are more likely than women and those in other occupational classes to own other goods, such as computers and CD players.

- Men and people of higher occupational status are more likely to perceive good social capital in their communities. Notably, perceived social capital deteriorates with age.

- While, in general, few people report difficulties accessing local amenities, such as a post office or supermarket, women, older people, those in poor health and those in lower occupational groups are all more likely to have difficulty accessing these services. In contrast, a far greater proportion of individuals indicate that they do not take public transport because of lack of availability.

- Adult children appear to play a central role in the social networks of the ELSA population, with more than half the sample seeing their children at least once a week.

- The disadvantage experienced by women in such areas as perceived social capital and access to local amenities is generally not found in measures of personal social networks. For example, women have more face-to-face, phone and written contact with others than men do, and these gender differences in frequency of contact are more pronounced than age differences.

- Younger people and those of higher occupational class are more likely to have frequent written contact with network members, possibly reflecting disparities in access to email.

- There is some evidence that the quality of social relationships improves with age, as reflected in measures of positive and negative social support from network members.

Environmental factors, broadly defined, are critical to understanding the health and well-being of the older population. Such factors include the resources that individuals have in their physical surroundings, their perceptions of the quality of their neighbourhoods and communities, and the nature and extent of their personal social networks. A detailed look at how environmental resources and conditions are distributed according to variables such as gender, age and occupational class is a necessary first step in understanding variations in the health and economic status of population subgroups. Such factors may affect health and economic outcomes directly and, also, indirectly – for example, through their effect on psychological states. This chapter is divided into three sections representing distinct facets of the environments of ELSA respondents: housing conditions, area characteristics and social capital, and social networks and support.

Housing conditions are an important aspect of quality of life. Housing ownership is part of the wealth of the individual or of the individual's household, and as such has been the focus of research examining the impact of economic factors on health and mortality. Housing ownership, material housing conditions and housing quality have been found to be associated with mortality and health. For example, a number of studies have shown that housing tenure and accommodation size are strongly associated to health and mortality. Smith and Kington (1997) found that house ownership was positively correlated to better functioning ability in old age. Overcrowded accommodation has also been found to be associated with mortality, even at older ages (Fox and Goldblatt, 1982). While overcrowding has to do directly with the space availability and material circumstances, undercrowding may be an issue for older people and may relate to isolation and loneliness. Ownership of durables, such as television set, fridge or washing machine, has also been found, alongside housing tenure and housing quality, to be related to health among older people (Evandrou and Victor, 1989; Arber and Ginn, 1993; Martelin, 1994).

The area in which people live and the amenities to which they have access can have important effects for their health and well-being (Macintyre, Maciver and Sootman, 1993; Lloyd and Auld, 2002; Siegrist, 2002). Local amenities obviously provide a range of crucial functions, such as a General Practice. They also offer opportunities for socialising and meeting people. Going to the shops remains the main way in which people buy food and goods. However, there are differences in the accessibility of different types of shopping outlets. The growth of 'out-of-town' shopping malls has created a new way of shopping. Older people who have access to good transport, public or private, can take advantage of these outlets, which are often cheaper than local shops (Midwinter, 1992). In rural areas in particular, many local amenities on which older people might depend are being closed down. In 2000, around 600 rural post offices were expected to close (*Guardian*, 'Post office closures at a record high', 6 November 2000). Many older people rely on the post office for banking and claiming their benefits as well as it being a focus of the community in many rural towns (*Guardian*, 'Countryside in crisis: special report', 14 April 2000).

The way in which people feel about the place in which they live may also have an effect on their health and quality of life. Many researchers and policy-

makers are interested in the 'social capital' of areas. Although there are many different definitions of social capital, it is generally taken to mean the sense of community or trust within an area (Lochner, Kawachi and Kennedy, 1999; Harpham, Grant and Thomas, 2002). Older people who live in areas with high social capital are likely to benefit from this increased sense of trust and be more likely to get out and about if they are able.

Finally, relationships with others represent a key resource for older people, and a sizeable body of research suggests that social relationships have a measurable impact on physical and psychological health (House, Landis and Umberson, 1988). Social relationships are important for health and well-being throughout the life course, and may protect against the health declines that often accompany ageing. Two primary aspects of social relationships are of interest: the quantity and extent of social ties (that is, the objective features of one's social network), and perceptions of the quality or function of these ties (often referred to as 'social support'). In general, older people who have more social ties and who have more support available to them are in better health than their more isolated counterparts. Exploring the extent to which factors such as gender, age, employment status and socio-economic position influence the size and quality of an individual's social network may help in the identification of more vulnerable or isolated subgroups in the population. Past research has yielded equivocal findings about the association between such factors and social relationships; ELSA provides the opportunity to explore these links in a large, population-based sample of older people.

8.1 Measures

Details regarding housing and area were collected in the main ELSA interview. Other variables reported on here – that is, those to do with social capital, transport, local amenities and social relationships – were part of the written ELSA ('self-completion') questionnaire.

Housing

In terms of housing conditions, ELSA respondents were asked about housing tenure, number of rooms and problems with size, noise and damp. Other housing characteristics, such as form of heating, modifications to the accommodation and the ownership of consumer durables, were covered as well.

Housing tenure was recorded as follows: own it outright, buying with the help of a mortgage or loan, paying part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership), renting, living rent free and, lastly, squatting. Respondents were asked about the number of rooms in the household. This number included bedrooms, but not kitchens, bathrooms or any rooms that they might let or sub-let. The 'accommodation density indicator' was calculated by dividing the number of rooms by the total number of people in the household.

Respondents were asked whether they had central heating in the accommodation, as well as if they used any other forms of heating such as gas fires, electric fires and paraffin heaters. In terms of problems with their

accommodation, respondents were asked about: shortage of space; noise from neighbours; other street noise (such as traffic, businesses, factories); too dark, not enough light; pollution, grime or other environmental problems caused by traffic or industry; rising damp in floors and walls; water getting in from roof, gutters or windows; bad condensation problem; problems with electrical wiring or plumbing; general rot and decay; problems with insects, mice or rats; too cold in winter.

Respondents were also asked whether their homes had any of the following special features to assist people who had physical impairments or health problems: widened doorways or hallways; ramps or street-level entrances; handrails; automatic or easy-open doors; accessible parking or drop-off site; bathroom modifications; kitchen modifications; lift, chairlift or stair glide; alerting devices such as button alarms; any other special features; none of these.

Data on ownership of a predetermined list of housing durables were also collected. The list included: television; video recorder; CD player; deep freeze or fridge-freezer (exclude fridge only); washing machine; tumble-dryer or washer-dryer; dishwasher; microwave oven; computer; on-line digital/satellite/cable television; phone (landline).

Area variables and social capital

Region was assigned from the postcode of the interviewee's address. The type of area (urban; suburban residential; rural residential or village; rural) where the respondent lives was coded by the interviewers based on National Centre guidelines.

The level of deprivation of the area was measured using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). IMD scores are created for each area based on six indicators of deprivation: income; employment; health deprivation and disability; education, skills and training; housing; and geographical access to services (www.odpm.gov.uk). These scores were then transformed into quintiles. Social capital was measured using nine questions that were derived from the Local Area Study (Stafford et al., 2001). Respondents were asked questions about how they felt about the area in which they lived, such as whether they thought vandalism and graffiti were a big problem or whether they were lonely in the area, and questions about the people who lived in that area, such as whether they were trustworthy or friendly. These were summed to produce a continuous scale which was then dichotomised at the second tertile to produce a group with poor social capital (in the bottom two tertiles) and a group with good social capital (in the top tertile).

Respondents were asked how frequently they made use of public transport. Five response options were available – a lot, quite often, sometimes, rarely and never. Those who said that they rarely or never used public transport were asked to give their reasons why. They were able to nominate one or more of the following options: that it was too expensive, too infrequent, too unreliable, because their health prevented them, because they did not need to, because there was none available or for some other reason.

Respondents were asked whether they had any difficulty in accessing a range of local amenities using their usual form of transport. The list included a bank, chiropodist, dentist, GP, hospital, local shops, optician, post office, shopping centre and supermarket.

Social networks and support

The ELSA self-completion questionnaire included a series of detailed items on respondents' social relationships. The first set consisted of 'social network' questions, which addressed the frequency with which the respondent has contact (face to face, phone or written/email) with each of the following: children, other relatives and friends. Response options ranged from multiple times per week to less than once a year / never. The second set consisted of 'social support' questions, which were concerned with the quality of the respondent's social relationships. Specifically, respondents were asked about the closeness of their marital relationship on a scale from 'very close'=4 to 'not at all close'=1; about the presence of positive support from their spouse, children, other relatives and friends (how much they understand the way the respondent feels about things, how much they can be relied on if the respondent has a serious problem and how much the respondent can open up to them to talk about worries); and about negative relations with these same people (how much others criticise the respondent, how much they let the respondent down and how much they get on the respondent's nerves). Positive and negative support items were scored as 1='not at all' and 4='a lot', such that higher numbers indicate more of each type of support. Respondents were also asked to indicate the number of family members and friends with whom they have a close relationship.

8.2 Housing

This section reports on housing tenure, accommodation density and characteristics of accommodation (problems with the accommodation, heating, adaptations made to the accommodation and ownership of durables).

Housing tenure

More than half (55.1%) of ELSA respondents own their accommodation outright, 25.3% are still buying it with the help of a mortgage or loan and 19.6% are renting it. However, the results vary by age and gender. Older rather than younger people tend to own their accommodation outright, while the younger elderly are most likely to be still buying their accommodation. More men (59.1%) than women (50.7%) in the youngest age group (50–54) are still buying with the help of a loan or mortgage, while 32.5% of 50- to 54-year-old women and 47.5% of women aged 55–59 own their accommodation outright, compared with 27.5% and 37.8% of men respectively. This pattern remains similar for the age groups 60–64 and 65–69, but the difference becomes gradually smaller and is then reversed for people in the age groups older than 70. Here, more men than women own their accommodation outright (72.9% versus 67.8% in the 70–74 age group, and 66.9% versus 59.1% in the 80-and-

over group). A relatively small proportion of the ELSA population rent their accommodation. There are more women than men overall who rent (21.0% versus 18.1%); however, this varies with age group. (Table 8A.1, Figure 8.1)

Figure 8.1. Housing tenure, by age and sex
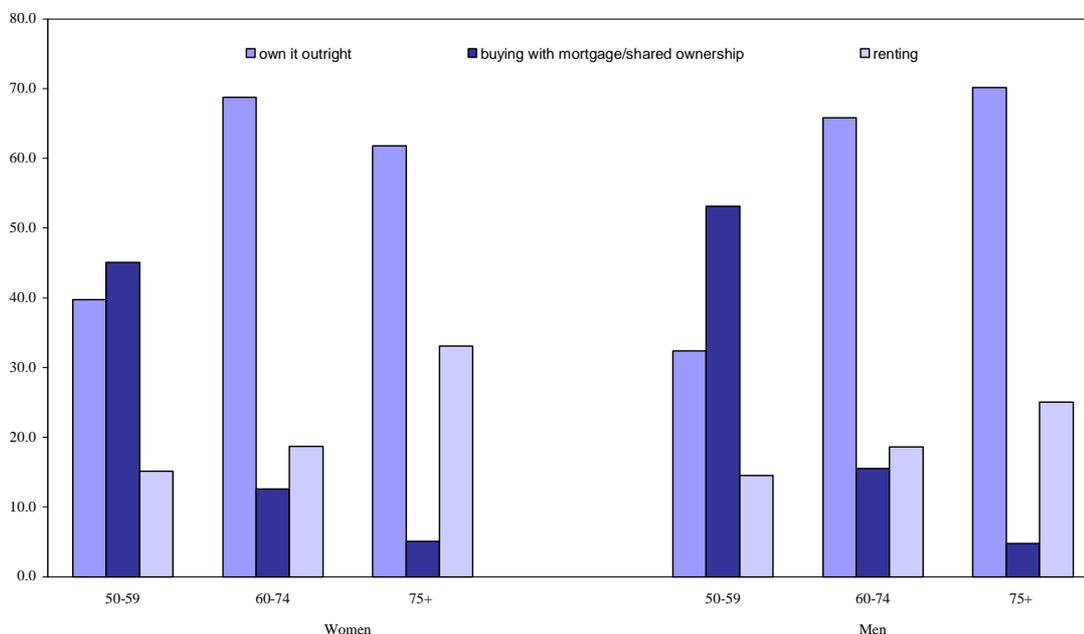
In order to gain further insight into the reasons why there are age and gender differences in tenure, the analysis has been performed also by marital status (single; married; divorced or separated; widowed) and by economic activity (working; retired; non-active or other).

Single women are more likely than single men to own their accommodation outright in all age groups, although by the oldest group, the difference is small (49.5% versus 51.2%). (Table 8A.9)

Widows aged 50–59 are slightly more likely than widowers of the same age to own their accommodation outright (58.4% versus 55.2%). This could be because after the spouse's death, people tend to inherit the accommodation and, because of women's higher survival and the male–female age gap in marriage, more widows inherit accommodation than widowers. The percentage of widowers who are renting is also smaller than that of widows in this age group (16.6% versus 25.1%). This could mean that they are more likely to be buying or to have bought the accommodation. There is almost no gender difference for the 'widowed' category in housing tenure for the 60–74 age group. This reduction in the differences could be because most people pay off their mortgage while they are still in employment. For the oldest age group (75 years or over), there is only a slight gender difference in housing tenure, with more widows (35.9%) than widowers (34.6%) renting, and more widowers (61.9%) than widows (58.3%) owning their accommodation outright. Indeed, for all age groups and for all housing tenure and marital status categories, the differences are not very large. (Table 8A.9)

Housing tenure is clearly related to economic activity. Working men aged 50–59 are more likely to be buying with the help of a mortgage or loan than working women of the same age (60.5% versus 53.3%). The opposite can be said for the 'owning outright' category, where the percentage for working men is 30.7% and that for working women is 36.8%. Similarly, a higher percentage of retired women own their accommodation outright (68.5% of retired women versus 62.9% of retired men), while a higher percentage of retired men than retired women are still buying with the help of a mortgage. However, as expected, the pattern is different for people aged 75 or over. Here, the percentage of retired women who own their accommodation outright is smaller than that of men (70.5% for men versus 58.6% for women). More interestingly, the percentage of retired women who are renting their accommodation is 11.2 percentage points higher than that of men. These results could be showing a cohort effect. As Chapter 2 showed, there are slightly more non-married women than non-married men in the older cohorts and it is likely that they had less chance to inherit property. These results might also reflect gender differences in ageing and social care – ill men remain at home, cared for by spouse or children, while women move into sheltered accommodation and have to sell their homes. (Table 8A.10)

Accommodation density

A more detailed description of the living arrangements of the ELSA population is given in Chapter 2. Most respondents live in a household of one or two people. A quarter of the ELSA population live alone, while 59% live in a two-person household, 11.5% live in a three-person household and 6% live in a four- or five-person household. A very small number of people live in households with more than five people.

Women in general are more likely to live in a single-person household than men (difference of over 12 percentage points). These figures are very distinct if one looks at the analysis by age, when it becomes apparent that this is a consequence of older women being more likely to live alone. While 32.5% of men aged 75 or over live alone, the proportion of women in the same age group living alone is 59.5%. This can mainly be explained by the fact that women are more likely to survive at old ages than men. As Chapter 2 showed, most women living alone at old age are widowed.

An 'accommodation density indicator' was calculated by dividing the number of rooms by the total number of people in the household. What this indicator shows is that there is no overcrowding in this population and that most people live in accommodation with more than one room per person. In fact, isolation may be a more salient issue than overcrowding, especially for those in the oldest age groups. The results differ by age and gender. Generally, as people get older, the number of rooms per person increases. This could be a result of the fact that as people get older, they become widowed and their children move out of the household. For the oldest age groups (those aged 75 and over), more women than men live in low-density accommodation. For example, 15.2% of men aged 75–79 and 26.6% of women aged 75–79 live in accommodation with more than three rooms per person. This could be

explained by widowhood – the fact that women tend to survive longer than men. (Table 8A.3)

The results by marital status show clearly that more widows live in accommodation with more than three rooms per person than widowers in the same age categories. For example the proportion of widows aged 60–74 living in accommodation with more than three rooms per person is 53.3%, while the proportion of widowers of the same age group living in the same-density accommodation is 50.2%. This could possibly be explained by the fact that, while older widows might live alone, older widowers are more likely to move in with someone. (Table 8A.11)

Characteristics of accommodation

The number of people reporting problems with their accommodation is generally very small and varies only slightly by age. The most common problems that people report are shortage of space, noise from neighbours and noise from the street. Generally, younger people report more problems than older people. For example, 22.1% of men and 25.1% of women aged 50–54 report problems with noise from neighbours, while amongst people aged 80 or over, 11.7% of men and 19.5% of women report such problems. (Table 8A.4)

Almost 93% of respondents' households have central heating, with slight age and gender variations in the prevalence of this type of heating. Older people and men in general are slightly less likely to report having central heating in their accommodation. (Table 8A.5)

Regarding adaptations made to the accommodation, the most popular adaptation was reported to be handrails, followed by adaptations to the bathroom. 59.3% of men and 58.3% of women report having handrails installed in their accommodation, while 45.4% of men and 48.7% of women report having adaptations made to their bathrooms. The results of the analyses by age and gender show that people in older age groups tend to have more adaptations to their accommodation. Taking the example of handrails, 44.3% of men and 40.8% of women aged 50–54 report having handrails installed in their accommodation, compared with 62.6% of men and 60.5% of women aged 80 or over. This is likely to reflect the decrease in physical ability as people grow older. There are also small gender differences in the adaptations made to accommodation. In general, the proportion of men who report adaptations having been made to their accommodation is higher for most age groups and for most types of adaptations. (Table 8A.7)

Respondents were asked about their ownership of selected durable goods. Almost everyone owns certain of the durables in the list, such as a television set, washing machine and freezer. For example, 99.0% of the men and 99.4% of the women own a television set. There are similarly high rates of having a landline phone at home (96.5% of the men and 97.7% of the women). There is a small gender difference in durable ownership, but the difference is especially noticeable in the ownership of goods such as a computer or CD player. For example, 71.8% of men aged 50–54 own a computer, while the proportion for women is 66.7%. The gender difference remains even at old ages. While 12.2% of men aged 80 or over own a computer, the proportion for women of

the same age is 6.0%. The differences by age are more pronounced than those by gender, with older people owning fewer durables than younger ones. For example, while 97.1% of men and 97.0% of women aged 50–54 own a video recorder, the proportions of people aged 80 or over who have a video recorder are 66.6% for men and 50.6% for women. (Table 8A.8, Figure 8.2)

Figure 8.2. Durable ownership, by age
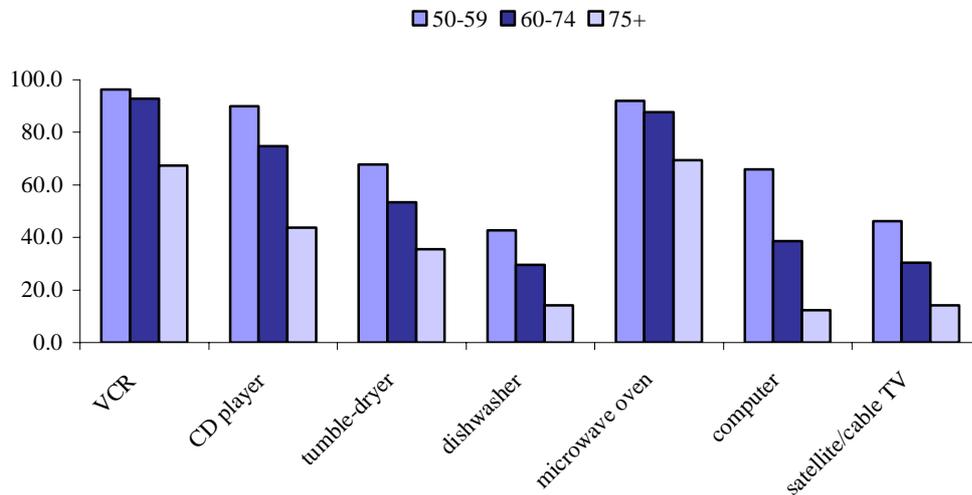
A similar pattern is found if ownership is compared across NS-SEC occupational category (managerial and professional occupations; intermediate occupations; routine and manual occupations). For commonly owned durables, such as television sets or washing machines, there is almost no difference by occupation. However, when looking at computer ownership, there are large differences by occupational category. The proportions of people who own a computer, for example, are highest for people in managerial and professional occupations (67.9% for men and 60.5% for women) and lowest for people in routine and manual occupations (31.7% for men and 26.3% for women). (Table 8A.13)

8.3 Area variables and social capital

Region and area

Although there are no clear patterns of regional variation amongst those aged over 50 living in England, there are some general trends that are worth noting. The North East had the lowest percentages of both men and women in all age groups, and the South East had the highest percentages. For both sexes, there is a slight tendency for higher percentages of those in the older age groups to live in the South East. (Table 8A.14)

There are, however, some occupational class differences by region. For men and women in the professional and managerial classes, the highest percentages, in all age groups, live in the South East. 19.2% of men and 18.1% of women in this occupational group live in the South East. The South East also has the highest percentage of women from the intermediate occupations

(20.3%). Yet men in the intermediate occupations are a little more geographically dispersed. About equal percentages live in the North West (15.3%) and the South East (15.8%) The North West has the highest concentration of both men and women from the routine and manual occupations, (14.9% for both sexes). (Table 8A.15)

Almost equal percentages of men (24.6%) and women (24.2%) live in areas in the most deprived quintile of area deprivation. However, there is little variation between the different age groups for either sex. (Table 8A.16)

Social capital

Overall, higher rates of men (37.1%) than women (26.7%) report having good social capital. For both men and women, there is a clear age-related gradient in social capital, with those in the younger age groups having the higher rates of social capital. 45.6% of men aged between 50 and 54 report good social capital, compared with 24.0% of men aged over 80. 35.8% of women aged between 50 and 54 report good social capital, compared with 16.7% of those aged over 80. (Table 8A.17)

For both men and women, there is an occupational class gradient in the proportions that report good social capital. This is slighter for women than it is for men. 48.3% of men in the professional and managerial occupations report good social capital, compared with 28.1% in the routine and manual occupations. 35.8% of women in the professional and managerial occupations report good social capital, compared with 20.9% in the routine and manual occupations. (Table 8A.18)

Public transport

In general, those aged over 50 in England do not tend to use public transport, or if they do, they only use it rarely. A third of men and a quarter of women say that they never use public transport, whilst 30.4% of men and 25.1% of women say that they only rarely use it. For both men and women, those in the older age groups are more likely to say that they never use public transport than those in the younger age groups. 33.1% of men and 20.0% of women aged 50–54 say that they never take public transport, compared with 40.2% of men and 43.0% of women aged over 80. However, those in the older age groups are also more likely to use public transport a lot. 23.0% of women aged between 70 and 74 say they use public transport a lot, compared with 14.3% of women aged between 50 and 54. (Table 8A.19, Figure 8.3)

Those who said that they never or only rarely use public transport were asked to give their reasons why. Most people gave several reasons, the most common one being lack of availability. 84.8% of men and 83.1% of women say that they do not take public transport because it is not available. For both sexes and for most of the reasons given, there is an age-related pattern which reflects the lower use of public transport amongst older age groups. Those in the older age groups, and especially amongst the over-80s, report higher rates for all reasons for not using public transport. (Table 8A.20)

Figure 8.3. Frequency of using public transport, by age and sex

Women

Men
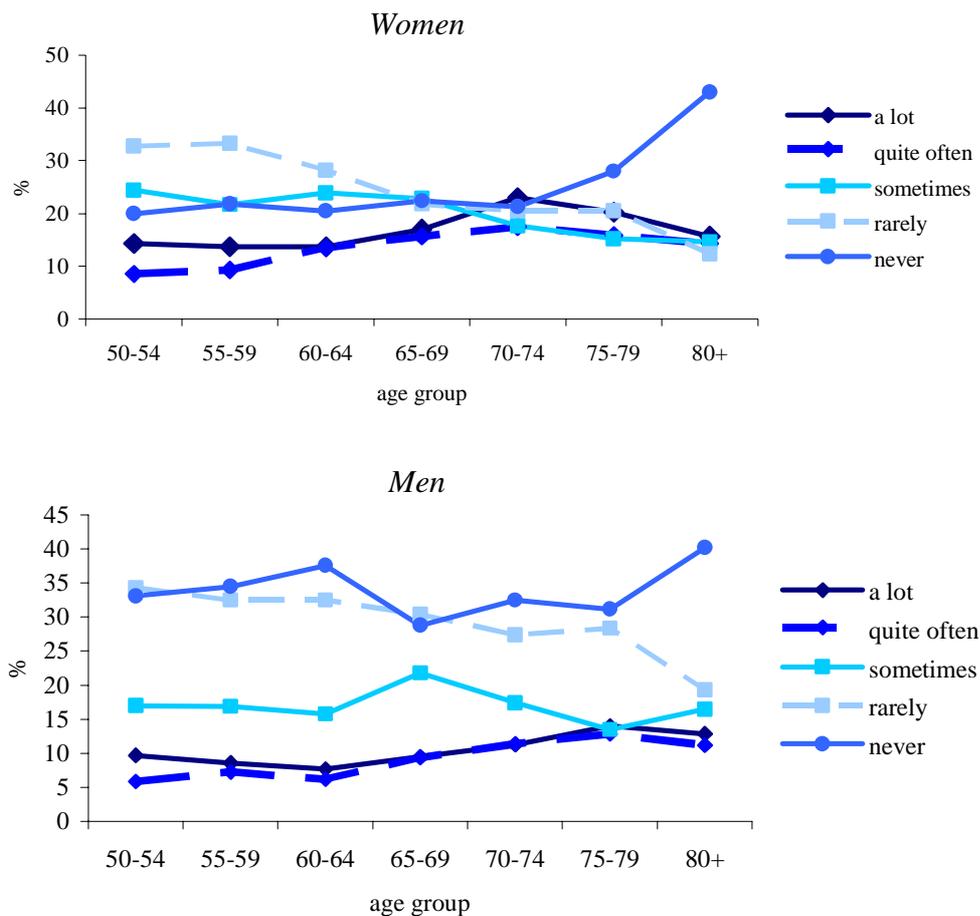
Local amenities

Although, overall, few people report difficulty in accessing their local amenities, there are obvious age and sex differences. In general, those in the older age groups report greater difficulty in accessing local amenities. This becomes especially so amongst those aged over 80, who report the greatest rates of difficulty. 27.1% of men and 35.2% of women aged over 80 have difficulty in getting to a hospital, compared with 4.4% of men and 7.4% of women aged between 50 and 54. For all amenities, women, overall, report greater rates of difficulty of access than men. (Table 8A.21)

For both sexes and for all age groups, those in poorer health have greater difficulty in accessing their local amenities than those in good health. 1.8% of men who say that they are in excellent or very good health have some difficulty getting to a bank, compared with 15.2% of those who say that their health is fair or poor. 2.5% of women who are in excellent or very good health say that they find it difficult to get to a GP compared with 15.8% of those in fair or poor health. Even in the oldest age groups, there is still a difference between those in better and worse health. 4.6% of men and 10.0% of women aged over 75 years in excellent or very good health report difficulty in getting to their local shops, compared with 21.3% and 32.5% respectively of those in fair or poor health. (Table 8A.22)

For both sexes and for all age groups, those in the lower occupational groups have higher rates of reporting difficulties in accessing their local amenities. There is a clear gradient for most amenities, so that those in the professional and managerial occupations have the lowest percentages reporting difficulty in accessing amenities, those in the intermediate occupations have the second lowest and those in the routine and manual occupations with the highest rates. For example, amongst women, 5.3% of those in the professional and managerial occupations have difficulty getting to a dentist, compared with 7.1% in the intermediate group and 9.9% in the routine and manual occupations. (Table 8A.23)

8.4 Social networks and support

This section focuses on the quantity and quality of ELSA respondents' social ties, as reported in the self-completion questionnaire.

Frequency of contact with social networks

ELSA respondents, especially women, report frequent contact with their children: across age groups, more than half of all respondents see their children at least once a week and more than 80% of men and more than 90% of women speak on the phone with their children this often. Fewer than 10% of men and women meet or speak on the phone with their children as infrequently as only once or twice a year or less frequently. (Table 8A.25)

Friends also appear to be an important part of ELSA respondents' networks: for both men and women, and across age groups, more than half of respondents report meeting up with friends at least once a week, though again the proportion of respondents falling into this category is higher for women (61.5% overall) than for men (56.9% overall). (Table 8A.26)

Compared with children and friends, other family members are seen less frequently, but there is still frequent phone contact with this group. For example, 60.5% of women and 44.5% of men in the sample as a whole have phone contact with relatives at least once a week. (Table 8A.27)

In general, gender differences in frequency of contact with social networks, with women having more contact of all modes with their children, other relatives and friends, are more pronounced than age differences. However, there is a clear pattern whereby written contact (letter or email) with network members decreases with age, possibly due to the greater likelihood of younger individuals communicating by email.

Looking at the effect of employment status on frequent contact (that is, at least once a week) in the 50–59 and 60–74 age groups, men and women who are economically inactive are more likely than their working counterparts to have face-to-face contact at least once a week with children, friends and family members. This may reflect a greater amount of free time among the non-working. The same pattern is found with phone contact with friends and family members other than children. Economically active men and women aged 50–59 and economically active women aged 60–74 are more likely to have written contact at least once a week with all types of network members,

again possibly reflecting greater access to email, perhaps through one's employer. (Tables 8A.28–8A.30)

There are several interesting variations in frequent social contact (that is, at least once a week) by NS-SEC occupational category. For example, in the sample as a whole, the proportion of individuals having face-to-face contact at least once a week with children and other relatives increases with decreasing occupational class. This is true for both men and women. These findings may be due, in part, to a greater tendency for people of higher occupational status to migrate away from family and friends. However, phone contact with network members appears to be less strongly related to occupational classification and a consistent pattern cannot be found. Frequency of written contact (letter or email) with children, friends and other relatives is highest among those with managerial and professional occupations. This may be because individuals with higher occupational status are more likely to use email or to be more geographically distant from children, friends and other relatives. (Tables 8A.31–8A.33)

Number of close ties

The total number of friends and other relatives (not counting children or spouses) that ELSA respondents report feeling close to peaks in the 60–74 age group for both sexes, though, notably, this number is higher in the 75-and-older age group for both sexes than it is in the 50–59 group. Across age groups, men report an average of 5.2 close relationships with friends and other relatives and women 5.5. (Table 8A.34, Figure 8.4)

Figure 8.4. Number of close ties (family and friends), by age and sex
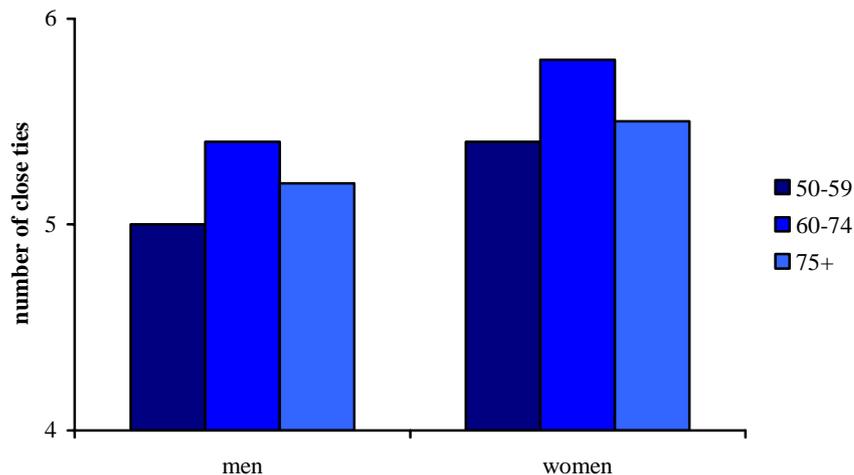
Positive and negative social support

Items about the quality of ELSA respondents' social ties – that is, their closeness to others and the amount of positive and negative social support available to them – revealed consistent gender differences and, to a lesser extent, differences by age and occupational status.

Men across age groups report feeling closer to their spouse/partner than do women. In addition, there appears to be a slight increase with age in feelings of closeness to spouse for both men and women. Across age groups, men report more positive support from their spouse than women do, while women report more positive support from children, other relatives and friends than do men. Positive support from children and other relatives appears to increase linearly with age for both sexes. For women, positive support from friends decreases linearly with age. Women report more negative support from their spouse. Negative support from every kind of relationship – with spouse, children, other family and friends – decreases with advancing age, for both genders. These age differences suggest that people tend to view their relationships more positively as they get older, that older birth cohorts view their relationships more positively and/or that there is an actual – and positive – difference in how network members relate to an older person as he or she ages (Tables 8A.35–8A.38, Figure 8.5)

Figure 8.5. Positive support from children, by age and sex
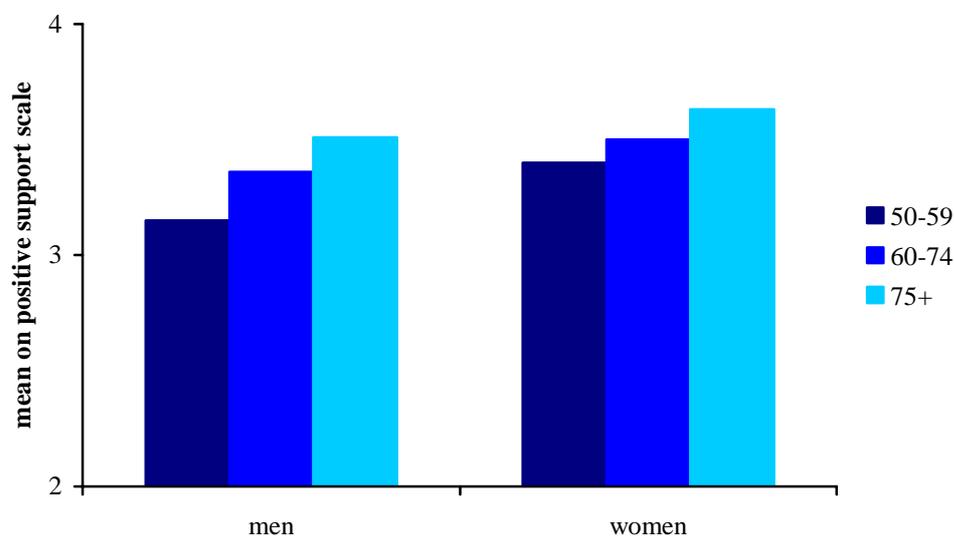
Employment status was examined in relationship to overall measures of positive and negative support, summed across relationships. In the 50–59 age group, economically active men and women tended to report more positive support and less negative support than their non-working counterparts. This pattern is not evident in the 60–74 group, and indeed working men and women of this age report more negative support than their economically inactive counterparts. (Table 8A.39)

The associations between NS-SEC occupational classification and positive and negative support depend on age and gender. For example, professional and managerial men in the 50–59 and 60–74 age groups have more positive support and less negative support than their age peers in the intermediate and routine/manual groups. This pattern is not, however, as clear among women. (Table 8A.40)

8.5 Conclusion

Researchers and policy-makers are becoming increasingly aware that one's environment – that is, one's home, neighbourhood and community, as well as the network of people one interacts with – can have important effects on health and well-being. Government-funded neighbourhood renewal projects are one example of policy recognition of the critical role played by the quality of one's surroundings. As people age, they may become less mobile and therefore may depend to an even greater extent than younger people on what their local environment and personal social networks have to offer. The age-related patterns found in this chapter – for example, that each successive age group reports worse social capital – are thus of special interest, though only future waves of ELSA data can permit age-related effects to be disentangled from cohort ones.

The intersection of gender and age is a recurrent theme throughout sections of this chapter, with many of the analyses pointing to a potentially vulnerable position of women in the oldest groups. Such women have the lowest 'accommodation density', suggesting that they may be more prone to isolation than any other group. Women overall are less likely than men to have ease of access to local amenities, and there is an interaction between age and sex in the dramatically increasing rates of people in their 80s who cannot get to many local amenities. Women of all ages report worse social capital than men, and the highest prevalence of poor social capital in the older population is found among women over 80. Women are also less likely to have adaptations to their accommodation, in spite of having higher rates of disability (see Chapter 7). In contrast, women appear to have stronger personal relationships than men in terms of number of close ties, frequency of social contact and perceived support from family and friends. Future work with ELSA data may help determine the extent to which these richer personal resources help to offset some of the disadvantage experienced by older women in interacting with their local environments. Future waves of ELSA data will also reveal whether gender differences in social relations are cohort-driven – that is, whether evolving gender norms over time (such as less strictly defined roles at work and at home) help to reduce these differences.

Another important finding is that the social networks of older people do not seem to be adversely affected by age. For example, close social networks made up of friends and relatives outside the nuclear family do not seem to constrict with age. Moreover, the positive aspects of many relationships appear to increase and the negative diminish with age. Future waves of data will tell us if this is indeed an age-related phenomenon – that is, whether today's 'young old' tend to view their social relationships more positively as they get older, and, if so, what factors can explain this shift in perception.

Future work with data on the physical and social environment of the ELSA population will proceed in two important directions. The first is taking a more detailed look at how different aspects of the environment are associated with one another: for example, how do area-level variables, such as deprivation, affect individual-level variables, such as social support? The second involves research questions that can only be addressed with longitudinal data. Some of

these have been noted above. Others include such questions as whether decreases in housing density are associated with increased perceptions of loneliness, and whether gender and class differences in ownership of a computer – which is assuming a central role in communication and access to information – will diminish over time.

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Annex 8.1
Tables on physical and social environment

Table 8A.1. Housing tenure, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Own outright	27.5	37.8	55.9	70.8	72.9	73.1	66.9	53.2
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	59.1	46.6	27.3	10.1	6.8	5.4	4.0	28.7
Renting	13.4	15.6	16.8	19.1	20.3	21.5	29.0	18.1
Women								
Own outright	32.5	47.5	65.1	73.6	67.8	65.2	59.1	56.7
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	50.7	39.1	20.7	9.6	6.6	5.6	4.6	22.3
Renting	16.8	13.4	14.2	16.8	25.6	29.1	36.3	21.0
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1071*	*981*	*799*	*723*	*616*	*485*	*445*	*5120*
Women	*1098*	*1002*	*838*	*792*	*744*	*638*	*804*	*5916*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*874*	*994*	*781*	*788*	*651*	*485*	*458*	*5031*
Women	*1069*	*1137*	*859*	*887*	*780*	*571*	*721*	*6024*

Table 8A.2. Landlord, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Local authority / housing association	76.4	81.2	81.7	84.1	85.2	85.9	91.5	83.5
Private landlord	19.0	17.0	14.7	13.1	11.8	9.5	7.2	13.5
Employer, relative or other	4.6	1.8	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.7	1.3	3.1
Women								
Local authority / housing association	82.9	81.9	88.5	86.6	97.2	84.1	90.1	87.8
Private landlord	16.7	15.7	8.9	8.7	2.8	9.6	6.1	9.3
Employer, relative or other	0.5	2.4	2.6	4.7	0.0	6.2	3.8	2.9
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*142*	*152*	*134*	*135*	*125*	*106*	*129*	*923*
Women	*187*	*135*	*116*	*133*	*190*	*185*	*290*	*1235*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*112*	*147*	*126*	*145*	*127*	*104*	*132*	*893*
Women	*185*	*154*	*120*	*147*	*199*	*162*	*256*	*1223*

Table 8A.3. Accommodation density, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Up to 1 room per person	9.0	7.1	6.7	5.2	4.6	6.6	5.9	6.7
1–2 rooms per person	52.3	45.0	41.0	40.4	41.0	40.1	42.6	44.1
2–3 rooms per person	26.0	31.5	33.8	37.6	36.1	38.1	27.1	32.4
More than 3 rooms per person	12.8	16.4	18.4	16.9	18.4	15.2	24.4	16.9
Women								
Up to 1 room per person	7.3	5.0	3.6	3.1	3.7	5.6	4.7	4.8
1–2 rooms per person	49.7	39.1	38.0	33.7	39.0	32.9	35.1	38.9
2–3 rooms per person	28.7	36.0	37.7	37.6	30.9	34.9	25.4	32.9
More than 3 rooms per person	14.2	19.9	20.6	25.6	26.4	26.6	34.7	23.3
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*995*	*815*	*731*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5204*
Women	*1111*	*1020*	*851*	*806*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1008*	*796*	*794*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5111*
Women	*1081*	*1157*	*873*	*901*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6123*

Table 8A.4. Problems with accommodation, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Shortage of space	33.4	25.7	22.9	25.9	23.7	27.3	26.8	26.9
Noise from neighbours	22.1	24.7	23.8	21.0	19.2	15.4	11.7	21.3
Other street noise	33.1	34.4	39.1	35.2	37.3	30.6	25.5	34.5
Too dark / not enough light	10.7	9.1	10.3	9.3	7.3	6.8	15.2	9.6
Pollution, grime or other environmental problems	12.1	14.4	13.0	13.2	16.2	14.7	8.7	13.4
Rising damp in floors and walls	13.9	9.7	10.6	8.4	12.1	9.5	8.0	10.8
Water getting in from the roof, gutters or windows	11.1	13.9	10.8	11.3	10.8	12.3	10.4	11.7
Bad condensation problem	10.0	11.7	11.3	12.4	8.2	12.9	8.0	10.8
Problems with electrical wiring or plumbing	5.4	5.5	5.5	1.5	2.8	2.0	2.8	4.2
General rot and decay	4.2	4.8	3.7	5.4	3.6	4.1	3.7	4.3
Problems with insects, mice or rats	11.9	9.5	11.3	11.4	8.5	12.7	8.4	10.7
Too cold in winter	12.3	11.0	14.1	12.0	11.7	15.2	12.5	12.4
Women								
Shortage of space	26.4	22.0	20.9	21.0	21.3	24.5	32.2	23.9
Noise from neighbours	25.1	23.6	16.6	23.2	18.8	13.0	19.5	20.7
Other street noise	34.3	36.6	43.8	35.2	27.4	32.6	28.8	34.6
Too dark / not enough light	10.4	12.0	9.4	10.7	5.2	11.3	14.0	10.4
Pollution, grime or other environmental problems	13.2	14.4	15.6	14.9	14.9	10.9	6.9	13.3
Rising damp in floors and walls	12.8	8.7	11.2	9.3	10.8	8.8	9.0	10.4
Water getting in from the roof, gutters or windows	11.8	11.4	10.0	8.3	7.7	15.7	7.9	10.5
Bad condensation problem	12.0	9.6	10.6	7.8	9.6	13.8	7.7	10.2
Problems with electrical wiring or plumbing	4.5	5.6	4.0	2.9	3.6	4.8	3.3	4.2
General rot and decay	3.7	3.1	1.7	4.3	2.5	2.5	3.4	3.1
Problems with insects, mice or rats	12.7	12.9	10.3	12.0	12.2	8.1	8.1	11.3
Too cold in winter	13.6	12.6	12.6	8.2	10.8	14.2	10.3	11.9
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*391*	*379*	*284*	*238*	*211*	*144*	*103*	*1749*
Women	*442*	*368*	*298*	*254*	*261*	*198*	*211*	*2033*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*321*	*379*	*274*	*258*	*225*	*143*	*107*	*1707*
Women	*435*	*419*	*306*	*283*	*274*	*178*	*194*	*2089*

Table 8A.5. Central heating in accommodation, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Yes	93.9	93.9	93.9	92.5	90.4	89.9	88.8	92.5
No	6.1	6.1	6.1	7.5	9.6	10.1	11.2	7.5
Women								
Yes	95.5	94.4	94.5	94.6	91.4	91.4	92.3	93.7
No	4.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	8.6	8.6	7.7	6.3
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1080*	*989*	*807*	*729*	*625*	*492*	*455*	*5177*
Women	*1106*	*1010*	*847*	*802*	*750*	*652*	*820*	*5987*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*882*	*1002*	*789*	*792*	*661*	*492*	*468*	*5086*
Women	*1077*	*1146*	*869*	*898*	*787*	*584*	*734*	*6095*

Table 8A.6. Other forms of heating in accommodation, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Gas fire	71.7	72.3	70.3	70.1	69.5	67.1	66.1	70.1
Electric fire	19.2	22.3	26.8	30.6	29.1	37.1	42.3	27.8
Paraffin heaters	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.7
Open fire	15.9	15.9	11.9	11.9	10.9	8.9	6.4	12.5
Women								
Gas fire	72.4	72.4	70.6	70.0	67.4	68.3	59.0	68.9
Electric fire	22.5	22.9	27.6	30.5	32.7	36.9	45.2	30.4
Paraffin heaters	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7
Open fire	14.1	14.5	12.4	11.1	9.5	7.4	6.2	11.1
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*785*	*738*	*601*	*562*	*488*	*401*	*364*	*3939*
Women	*825*	*765*	*652*	*609*	*578*	*534*	*629*	*4592*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*644*	*748*	*587*	*611*	*516*	*401*	*373*	*3880*
Women	*799*	*870*	*670*	*682*	*610*	*479*	*566*	*4676*

Table 8A.7. Adaptations to accommodation, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Widened doorways or hallways	14.1	15.4	14.1	9.8	12.8	5.1	7.0	10.9
Ramps or street-level entrance	15.4	13.5	14.5	14.4	13.4	10.4	6.6	12.3
Handrails	44.3	57.6	61.4	59.3	64.6	62.1	62.6	59.3
Automatic or easy-open doors	2.4	1.4	2.4	3.1	5.7	3.3	0.9	2.7
Accessible parking or drop-off site	30.0	23.9	18.5	15.4	14.3	10.0	9.2	16.6
Bathroom modifications	37.4	41.5	37.4	45.9	44.6	54.0	53.9	45.4
Kitchen modifications	6.2	8.4	6.2	1.6	4.9	2.1	0.8	4.1
Lift	1.0	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.4	5.5	5.3	4.0
Chairlift or stair glide	3.2	8.0	6.3	7.1	4.7	7.1	9.9	6.8
Alerting devices	8.0	12.0	20.2	15.2	21.2	23.3	26.3	18.7
Women								
Widened doorways or hallways	18.0	11.7	12.7	11.8	9.2	9.8	5.7	10.0
Ramps or street-level entrance	8.8	16.5	11.4	13.1	17.1	10.1	10.0	12.2
Handrails	40.8	64.4	51.3	60.5	61.0	60.6	60.5	58.3
Automatic or easy-open doors	0.6	3.7	2.9	4.5	2.8	3.7	3.4	3.2
Accessible parking or drop-off site	24.8	21.0	19.4	15.2	10.4	13.7	11.6	15.0
Bathroom modifications	41.8	43.7	43.0	50.9	48.2	52.4	52.2	48.7
Kitchen modifications	7.1	3.1	5.6	4.5	5.4	2.3	3.3	4.2
Lift	3.4	1.7	3.6	2.4	3.5	6.1	9.0	5.1
Chairlift or stair glide	4.3	7.9	4.9	5.5	7.9	11.0	11.8	8.6
Alerting devices	12.7	13.6	18.2	18.1	25.5	32.4	41.8	27.3
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*138*	*142*	*168*	*172*	*166*	*144*	*219*	*1148*
Women	*140*	*163*	*180*	*195*	*249*	*242*	*479*	*1646*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*115*	*144*	*162*	*185*	*174*	*143*	*222*	*1145*
Women	*137*	*183*	*182*	*218*	*261*	*218*	*419*	*1618*

Table 8A.8. Durable ownership, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Television	99.2	98.4	99.4	99.3	98.8	98.6	99.2	99.0
Video recorder	97.1	95.1	95.0	93.0	90.8	85.9	66.6	91.3
CD player	91.6	88.8	83.7	74.9	69.7	61.7	45.3	77.9
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	96.2	97.0	96.2	96.6	95.1	93.3	89.3	95.4
Washing machine	94.5	93.9	93.5	91.2	90.1	90.0	80.3	91.6
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	69.5	66.0	59.9	53.1	51.7	44.7	39.2	57.8
Dishwasher	44.2	41.9	36.8	31.7	24.1	19.3	16.0	33.6
Microwave oven	92.8	90.5	89.3	88.0	84.7	78.4	65.3	86.4
Computer	71.8	64.7	54.2	43.5	29.1	19.7	12.2	48.4
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	49.1	45.9	38.6	35.0	27.4	23.9	13.6	36.7
Phone (landline)	95.5	96.3	95.9	96.5	97.2	97.8	97.8	96.5
Women								
Television	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.7	99.3	99.5	98.9	99.4
Video recorder	97.0	96.1	96.0	93.2	87.1	74.5	50.6	86.1
CD player	90.3	88.6	83.8	73.2	60.8	49.2	27.7	70.0
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	97.3	97.2	98.0	98.1	95.1	92.1	86.0	95.1
Washing machine	96.4	96.4	93.8	92.6	89.5	85.1	72.1	90.1
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	67.4	67.8	57.9	54.0	42.9	37.1	27.0	52.4
Dishwasher	42.1	42.1	35.3	29.4	18.9	13.5	10.7	29.1
Microwave oven	92.4	91.7	91.3	89.2	82.6	72.8	63.3	84.3
Computer	66.7	60.0	46.4	33.0	21.5	14.9	6.0	38.6
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	48.7	40.7	32.8	27.1	20.9	15.3	8.0	29.5
Phone (landline)	96.1	98.2	97.5	98.9	97.9	97.6	97.8	97.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1079*	*986*	*804*	*727*	*624*	*492*	*453*	*5165*
Women	*1101*	*1008*	*844*	*801*	*749*	*652*	*818*	*5974*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*881*	*999*	*786*	*790*	*659*	*492*	*467*	*5074*
Women	*1072*	*1144*	*866*	*897*	*786*	*584*	*733*	*6082*

Table 8A.9. Housing tenure, by marital status, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Single				
Own outright	38.9	57.1	49.5	47.4
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	32.6	3.5	2.7	17.7
Renting	28.5	39.4	47.8	34.9
Married				
Own outright	33.5	69.4	76.3	55.9
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	57.1	17.2	5.2	31.5
Renting	9.5	13.4	18.6	12.6
Separated or divorced				
Own outright	19.2	40.7	32.4	27.9
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	47.0	16.5	10.4	33.7
Renting	33.8	42.8	57.1	38.4
Widowed				
Own outright	55.2	64.2	61.9	62.1
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	28.2	8.1	3.5	7.5
Renting	16.6	27.6	34.6	30.4
Women				
Single				
Own outright	46.3	68.5	51.2	54.8
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	32.0	8.8	1.1	13.3
Renting	21.6	22.7	47.7	31.9
Married				
Own outright	42.0	73.4	74.8	59.6
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	48.3	13.8	4.0	28.0
Renting	9.7	12.7	21.2	12.4
Separated or divorced				
Own outright	22.4	46.8	39.2	33.0
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	43.2	15.4	9.4	30.1
Renting	34.3	37.9	51.4	36.9
Widowed				
Own outright	58.4	66.0	58.3	61.0
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	16.5	8.1	5.8	7.3
Renting	25.1	25.9	35.9	31.7
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2052*	*2139*	*930*	*5120*
Women	*2101*	*2373*	*1442*	*5916*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1868*	*2220*	*943*	*5031*
Women	*2206*	*2526*	*1292*	*6024*

Table 8A.10. Housing tenure, by economic activity, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	**Total**
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Working				
Own outright	30.7	54.2	–	36.2
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	60.5	33.7	–	54.3
Renting	8.7	12.1	–	9.5
Retired				
Own outright	62.9	72.2	70.5	71.0
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	32.6	9.9	4.5	9.5
Renting	4.5	17.9	25.0	19.6
Non-active / other				
Own outright	25.0	47.6	–	34.9
Buying with mortgage// shared ownership	29.2	17.3	–	23.8
Renting	45.8	35.1	–	41.3
Women				
Working				
Own outright	36.8	60.2	–	40.7
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	53.3	26.8	–	48.8
Renting	10.0	13.0		10.5
Retired				
Own outright	68.5	71.0	58.6	66.1
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	24.4	10.1	5.1	8.9
Renting	7.2	19.0	36.2	25.0
Non-active / other				
Own outright	39.4	65.9	72.4	56.0
Buying with mortgage / shared ownership	32.2	13.2	4.9	19.5
Renting	28.4	20.8	22.7	24.5
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2052*	*2139*	*930*	*5120*
Women	*2101*	*2373*	*1442*	*5916*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1868*	*2220*	*943*	*5031*
Women	*2206*	*2526*	*1292*	*6024*

Table 8A.11. Accommodation density, by marital status, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Single				
Up to 1 room per person	8.1	9.1	5.8	8.3
1–2 rooms per person	42.0	30.2	26.8	35.7
2–3 rooms per person	20.5	19.9	30.7	21.2
More than 3 rooms per person	29.4	40.8	36.7	34.8
Married				
Up to 1 room per person	8.4	5.6	8.3	7.2
1–2 rooms per person	52.1	43.9	48.4	48.0
2–3 rooms per person	29.8	39.1	36.3	34.9
More than 3 rooms per person	9.6	11.4	7.1	10.0
Separated or divorced				
Up to 1 room per person	6.4	3.5	4.7	5.2
1–2 rooms per person	36.8	37.6	57.0	38.2
2–3 rooms per person	27.4	26.3	19.9	26.6
More than 3 rooms per person	29.4	32.6	18.3	30.0
Widowed				
Up to 1 room per person	5.1	4.9	1.8	3.1
1–2 rooms per person	33.0	20.5	25.0	24.2
2–3 rooms per person	24.1	24.5	26.3	25.5
More than 3 rooms per person	37.8	50.2	46.9	47.1
Women				
Single				
Up to 1 room per person	4.1	1.9	6.9	4.5
1–2 rooms per person	29.7	22.2	29.3	27.3
2–3 rooms per person	28.7	31.4	29.4	29.8
More than 3 rooms per person	37.5	44.5	34.4	38.4
Married				
Up to 1 room per person	6.7	4.1	9.7	5.9
1–2 rooms per person	47.9	44.1	47.8	46.2
2–3 rooms per person	33.7	41.0	35.3	37.1
More than 3 rooms per person	11.7	10.8	7.2	10.8
Separated or divorced				
Up to 1 room per person	4.6	1.8	7.0	3.7
1–2 rooms per person	40.4	34.7	43.7	38.4
2–3 rooms per person	27.9	27.2	22.9	27.3
More than 3 rooms per person	27.0	36.3	26.4	30.6
Widowed				
Up to 1 room per person	5.3	2.8	2.7	2.9
1–2 rooms per person	23.9	19.2	28.0	24.7
2–3 rooms per person	28.1	24.6	27.4	26.5
More than 3 rooms per person	42.8	53.3	42.0	45.9

Bases on next page

Bases for Table 8A.11

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2081*	*2173*	*950*	*5204*
Women	*2131*	*2409*	*1478*	*6018*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1895*	*2253*	*963*	*5111*
Women	*2238*	*2563*	*1322*	*6123*

Table 8A.12. Durable ownership, by economic activity, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Working				
Television	98.8	99.3	–	98.9
Video recorder	97.3	94.0	–	96.5
CD player	93.5	83.2	–	91.0
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	97.9	96.3	–	97.5
Washing machine	95.5	93.7	–	95.0
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	71.1	60.2	–	68.7
Dishwasher	47.7	41.0	–	46.2
Microwave oven	92.9	91.0	–	92.3
Computer	72.3	55.5	–	68.2
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	48.3	35.6	–	45.4
Phone (landline)	97.5	97.1	–	97.4
Retired				
Television	99.4	99.1	99.0	99.1
Video recorder	98.8	92.8	76.6	87.4
CD player	93.3	75.1	53.2	68.5
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	98.0	95.9	91.4	94.4
Washing machine	96.9	91.6	85.1	89.6
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	74.0	54.6	41.6	51.2
Dishwasher	48.9	30.5	17.2	27.0
Microwave oven	92.0	86.3	72.2	81.7
Computer	76.6	40.7	16.1	34.3
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	50.0	32.0	18.7	28.5
Phone (landline)	98.1	96.4	97.8	97.0
Non-active / other				
Television	98.5	99.5	–	98.9
Video recorder	89.3	93.5	–	90.4
CD player	73.8	74.0	–	73.7
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	90.0	96.0	–	92.3
Washing machine	87.0	89.1	–	88.2
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	49.3	50.0	–	49.5
Dishwasher	19.1	18.5	–	19.0
Microwave oven	86.4	88.8	–	86.6
Computer	46.2	36.9	–	41.1
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	42.7	44.7	–	42.9
Phone (landline)	87.5	96.1	–	91.2
Women				
Working				
Television	99.5	99.4	–	99.5
Video recorder	97.3	94.6	–	96.8
CD player	90.8	81.2	–	89.1
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	97.9	96.4	–	97.7
Washing machine	96.5	93.0	–	95.9
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	68.5	52.0	–	65.6
Dishwasher	44.3	35.5	–	42.9

Continues

Table 8A.12 contd. Durable ownership, by economic activity, age and sex

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Microwave oven	92.5	91.5	–	92.2
Computer	67.5	48.0	–	64.1
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	47.0	31.6	–	44.3
Phone (landline)	97.7	97.4	–	97.7
Retired				
Television	98.8	99.6	99.1	99.4
Video recorder	93.9	91.5	60.9	79.7
CD player	92.2	72.0	37.0	59.4
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	96.3	97.1	88.6	93.8
Washing machine	98.8	91.9	76.7	86.3
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	70.2	50.6	30.5	43.7
Dishwasher	51.9	26.1	10.7	21.4
Microwave oven	92.0	87.7	68.2	80.4
Computer	65.5	30.7	9.5	24.2
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	37.7	25.3	10.9	20.3
Phone (landline)	99.3	98.2	97.6	98.0
Non-active / other				
Television	99.4	99.0	99.3	99.2
Video recorder	95.5	93.7	62.2	87.1
CD player	85.9	71.9	38.1	70.0
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	96.0	97.3	88.8	94.8
Washing machine	95.5	92.2	81.4	91.1
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	65.0	56.2	35.1	55.0
Dishwasher	34.9	31.0	15.8	29.1
Microwave oven	90.9	86.3	65.8	83.4
Computer	54.4	37.8	11.2	38.7
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	42.1	31.3	11.9	31.4
Phone (landline)	95.3	98.0	97.9	96.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2065*	*2155*	*946*	*5165*
Women	*2110*	*2394*	*1470*	*5974*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1880*	*2235*	*959*	*5074*
Women	*2216*	*2549*	*1317*	*6082*

Table 8A.13. Durable ownership, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members Wave 1

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Managerial and professional				
Television	99.1	99.0	99.4	99.1
Video recorder	97.0	96.3	85.7	94.7
CD player	94.5	88.0	69.7	87.6
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	98.2	98.0	95.8	97.7
Washing machine	95.3	94.3	88.9	93.8
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	72.2	62.9	56.8	65.9
Dishwasher	59.0	49.4	32.0	50.6
Microwave oven	91.0	89.5	77.4	88.0
Computer	85.8	65.3	28.7	67.9
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	45.6	34.3	21.3	37.0
Phone (landline)	98.1	99.0	99.7	98.7
Intermediate				
Television	98.2	99.0	95.9	98.2
Video recorder	96.9	91.5	74.4	91.1
CD player	91.8	75.1	48.7	78.1
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	96.5	96.6	89.2	95.3
Washing machine	94.8	92.4	85.3	92.3
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	70.5	56.5	40.5	60.0
Dishwasher	45.4	35.7	20.7	37.5
Microwave oven	91.7	87.5	70.7	86.6
Computer	71.8	47.0	14.6	52.5
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	44.1	35.1	16.8	36.1
Phone (landline)	94.9	98.4	97.5	96.8
Routine and manual				
Television	98.7	99.4	99.6	99.2
Video recorder	95.3	91.7	70.9	88.9
CD player	85.8	70.5	44.1	70.6
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	95.4	94.5	89.0	93.7
Washing machine	93.1	89.9	82.7	89.6
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	62.5	49.6	32.0	50.6
Dishwasher	26.1	18.4	6.3	18.7
Microwave oven	92.6	86.5	68.8	85.2
Computer	49.6	28.4	7.5	31.7
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	51.6	33.6	18.1	36.8
Phone (landline)	94.3	94.2	96.6	94.7
Women				
Managerial and professional				
Television	98.9	99.7	97.7	99.0
Video recorder	96.6	93.5	68.6	90.6
CD player	94.0	82.4	48.1	81.6
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	97.8	98.2	88.9	96.4
Washing machine	95.5	93.7	78.0	91.8
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	69.2	58.6	35.8	59.4
Dishwasher	58.6	43.9	18.4	46.0

Continues

Table 8A.13 contd. Durable ownership, by occupational class, age and sex

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Microwave oven	89.2	87.4	69.8	85.2
Computer	81.1	55.0	19.3	60.5
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	40.6	25.1	8.9	29.2
Phone (landline)	98.5	99.3	98.3	98.8
Intermediate				
Television	99.5	99.6	99.0	99.4
Video recorder	96.6	93.1	65.3	87.6
CD player	90.8	75.8	42.1	72.8
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	98.1	97.7	88.4	95.6
Washing machine	96.4	93.2	78.5	90.7
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	68.8	53.0	33.1	53.6
Dishwasher	46.5	37.6	16.3	35.5
Microwave oven	92.2	87.6	69.1	84.7
Computer	71.5	41.9	12.0	44.9
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	43.0	27.3	13.0	29.3
Phone (landline)	98.0	98.9	98.3	98.4
Routine and manual				
Television	99.7	99.4	99.7	99.6
Video recorder	96.6	91.2	56.9	84.2
CD player	86.4	67.8	33.3	65.1
Deep freeze or fridge-freezer	96.7	96.3	88.3	94.4
Washing machine	97.2	90.6	77.8	89.5
Tumble-dryer or washer-dryer	67.2	48.4	27.6	49.2
Dishwasher	29.9	16.3	7.0	18.4
Microwave oven	93.7	88.3	66.5	84.5
Computer	48.5	21.2	5.8	26.3
On-line digital/satellite/cable television	48.6	28.1	11.3	30.6
Phone (landline)	96.0	97.3	96.9	96.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2053*	*2142*	*946*	*5141*
Women	*2073*	*2331*	*1344*	*5749*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1872*	*2224*	*959*	*5055*
Women	*2183*	*2489*	*1228*	*5900*

Table 8A.14. Geographic location, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
North East	5.6	6.2	6.2	6.8	6.3	5.2	3.0	5.8
North West	14.7	13.8	13.2	13.1	13.7	15.3	10.9	13.7
Yorkshire and Humberside	11.6	10.7	10.6	11.7	10.9	9.6	9.6	10.9
East Midlands	11.7	9.4	10.4	7.9	9.3	9.1	10.0	9.8
West Midlands	10.4	10.5	10.4	11.0	12.1	11.9	11.2	10.9
East of England	11.5	10.9	11.6	13.0	11.1	11.8	11.8	11.6
London	9.0	10.8	11.3	9.9	8.1	7.5	11.8	9.8
South East	13.8	16.8	16.4	13.8	17.2	15.2	18.0	15.7
South West	11.7	10.8	9.8	12.8	11.3	14.4	13.7	11.8
Women								
North East	6.5	5.8	6.1	7.1	8.6	5.9	6.7	6.6
North West	13.7	13.4	14.4	12.4	14.1	13.8	14.0	13.7
Yorkshire and Humberside	11.3	10.0	11.1	9.5	11.3	9.7	9.2	10.4
East Midlands	10.0	9.7	8.8	9.8	8.9	8.2	5.9	8.8
West Midlands	10.5	11.4	9.7	12.7	10.8	9.4	10.9	10.8
East of England	12.9	10.1	14.0	11.6	11.7	9.0	13.3	11.9
London	9.8	10.9	10.2	8.7	9.8	10.6	13.1	10.4
South East	15.2	17.6	15.9	17.2	13.2	18.5	15.1	16.1
South West	10.2	11.2	10.0	11.0	11.6	14.8	11.8	11.3
Bases (weighted):	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Men	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*804*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6013*
Women								
Bases (unweighted):	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Men	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*899*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6118*
Women								

Table 8A.15. Geographic location, by occupational class of head of household, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
North East	5.0	5.2	3.6	4.8
North West	12.3	11.0	9.5	11.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	9.3	9.4	7.0	8.9
East Midlands	10.1	9.1	7.1	9.2
West Midlands	9.5	10.7	11.7	10.3
East of England	13.8	11.9	14.6	13.2
London	10.7	9.9	11.0	10.5
South East	17.5	19.8	22.1	19.2
South West	11.9	13.1	13.6	12.6
Intermediate				
North East	3.9	5.9	1.2	4.3
North West	15.9	15.0	14.3	15.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	9.2	9.7	9.1	9.4
East Midlands	12.2	10.4	11.3	11.3
West Midlands	11.3	7.9	10.3	9.7
East of England	10.7	15.0	5.3	11.6
London	8.8	8.2	12.0	9.1
South East	15.5	15.3	17.7	15.8
South West	12.5	12.6	18.9	13.6
Routine and manual				
North East	8.0	7.5	5.6	7.3
North West	15.5	14.2	15.5	14.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	14.3	12.6	11.7	13.0
East Midlands	10.3	8.9	10.7	9.7
West Midlands	11.1	12.5	11.9	11.9
East of England	9.1	10.9	12.1	10.5
London	9.0	10.3	7.8	9.3
South East	12.9	13.4	12.1	13.0
South West	9.9	9.8	12.7	10.4
Women				
Professional and managerial				
North East	4.2	6.3	6.0	5.3
North West	14.3	11.0	10.5	12.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	7.7	11.1	10.3	9.4
East Midlands	8.6	9.9	5.1	8.5
West Midlands	10.3	10.3	11.8	10.6
East of England	11.6	13.8	11.8	12.5
London	13.3	8.5	10.2	10.9
South East	17.7	17.8	20.1	18.1
South West	12.4	11.5	14.1	12.3
Intermediate				
North East	5.7	6.3	4.1	5.6
North West	12.9	13.6	12.2	13.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	9.7	8.3	6.6	8.4
East Midlands	11.1	7.4	7.6	8.8
West Midlands	8.2	10.4	8.7	9.2
East of England	13.4	11.5	10.4	11.9
London	9.0	11.1	12.3	10.6
South East	19.4	18.6	24.3	20.3
South West	10.7	12.8	13.8	12.3

Continues

Table 8A.15 contd. Geographic location, by occupational class of head of household, age and sex

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Routine and manual				
North East	7.8	8.2	7.5	7.9
North West	12.8	15.1	17.3	14.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	13.1	11.7	10.8	11.9
East Midlands	10.2	9.9	7.9	9.5
West Midlands	13.1	12.0	10.1	11.9
East of England	10.5	12.7	11.9	11.7
London	8.8	8.1	11.6	9.2
South East	14.1	13.2	11.5	13.0
South West	9.6	9.3	11.3	9.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*2078*	*2169*	*950*	*5196*
Women	*2130*	*2404*	*1478*	*6012*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1892*	*2249*	*963*	*5104*
Women	*2237*	*2558*	*1322*	*6117*

Table 8A.16. Deprivation level, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Lowest deprivation quintile	19.0	17.8	17.4	17.3	18.3	17.9	16.7	17.9
2	17.5	17.0	17.9	15.6	16.9	18.9	15.6	17.1
3	18.1	19.7	18.1	21.1	17.1	15.9	22.7	18.9
4	21.2	21.3	21.6	20.1	21.3	25.1	21.7	21.6
Highest deprivation quintile	24.2	24.2	25.0	26.0	26.4	22.2	23.3	24.6
Women								
Lowest deprivation quintile	17.5	18.6	17.9	19.5	18.9	16.5	17.5	18.1
2	16.8	18.0	16.8	17.0	15.7	18.1	17.9	17.2
3	18.6	18.2	20.2	20.4	17.5	21.1	18.9	19.2
4	21.3	21.6	22.2	20.8	20.4	21.6	21.9	21.4
Highest deprivation quintile	25.8	23.7	22.9	22.3	27.5	22.8	23.8	24.2
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*804*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*899*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6118*

Table 8A.17. Social capital, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Poor social capital	54.5	58.9	60.2	64.5	69.3	75.7	76.0	63.0
Good social capital	45.6	41.1	39.8	35.6	30.7	24.4	24.0	37.1
Women								
Poor social capital	64.2	65.3	75.0	74.6	81.1	82.1	83.3	73.3
Good social capital	35.8	34.7	25.0	25.4	18.9	17.9	16.7	26.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*980*	*881*	*725*	*636*	*527*	*406*	*344*	*4499*
Women	*1010*	*904*	*750*	*683*	*592*	*501*	*532*	*4972*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*802*	*896*	*712*	*693*	*558*	*407*	*355*	*4423*
Women	*982*	*1027*	*770*	*768*	*624*	*448*	*486*	*5105*

Table 8A.18. Social capital, by occupational class of head of household, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Poor social capital	45.6	53.3	65.3	51.7
Good social capital	54.4	46.7	34.8	48.3
Intermediate				
Poor social capital	59.7	64.0	82.5	65.0
Good social capital	40.3	36.0	17.5	35.0
Routine and manual				
Poor social capital	67.2	71.7	81.9	71.9
Good social capital	32.8	28.3	18.1	28.1
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Poor social capital	55.0	69.4	78.7	64.2
Good social capital	45.0	30.6	21.3	35.8
Intermediate				
Poor social capital	62.8	72.5	83.8	71.2
Good social capital	37.2	27.5	16.2	28.8
Routine and manual				
Poor social capital	71.8	82.6	84.6	79.1
Good social capital	28.2	17.4	15.4	20.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1862*	*1888*	*750*	*4499*
Women	*1914*	*2025*	*1033*	*4972*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1698*	*1963*	*762*	*4423*
Women	*2009*	*2162*	*934*	*5105*

Table 8A.19. Frequency of use of public transport, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
A lot	9.7	8.6	7.7	9.5	11.3	14.0	12.9	10.0
Quite often	5.9	7.3	6.2	9.4	11.4	12.9	11.2	8.5
Sometimes	17.0	16.9	15.8	21.8	17.4	13.5	16.5	17.1
Rarely	34.3	32.5	32.5	30.4	27.4	28.4	19.3	30.4
Never	33.1	34.5	37.6	28.8	32.5	31.2	40.2	33.8
Women								
A lot	14.3	13.7	13.7	17.1	23.0	20.2	15.7	16.4
Quite often	8.6	9.3	13.5	15.7	17.5	15.9	14.3	13.0
Sometimes	24.4	21.7	23.9	22.9	17.7	15.2	14.6	20.5
Rarely	32.8	33.3	28.2	21.9	20.5	20.5	12.3	25.1
Never	20.0	21.8	20.5	22.5	21.3	28.0	43.0	24.9
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*804*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*899*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6118*

Table 8A.20. Reasons for not using public transport, by age and sex

Those who do not use public transport	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Too expensive	52.9	54.8	56.7	52.3	56.4	55.6	68.2	55.7
Too unreliable	55.7	58.3	57.6	53.4	57.1	57.3	68.7	57.6
Too infrequent	55.4	55.4	58.1	52.9	56.9	58.7	69.1	57.1
Health prevents them	50.5	52.6	54.8	50.5	56.2	57.2	73.4	54.7
Do not need to use it	50.5	52.6	54.8	50.5	56.2	57.2	73.4	54.7
There is none available	80.8	85.0	86.4	84.9	90.4	80.8	88.4	84.8
Other reason	58.6	59.7	59.9	55.8	59.1	56.8	71.7	59.6
Women								
Too expensive	44.0	44.9	45.2	52.8	54.3	59.8	77.7	53.2
Too unreliable	44.9	47.2	48.3	54.4	52.1	60.5	78.7	54.5
Too infrequent	45.0	46.0	51.0	56.9	55.3	59.8	80.0	55.4
Health prevents them	39.6	42.6	45.9	54.2	55.0	66.7	82.7	53.8
Do not need to use it	39.6	42.6	45.9	54.2	55.0	66.7	82.7	53.8
There is none available	80.1	77.2	83.0	84.1	85.1	83.4	92.0	83.1
Other reason	47.5	49.3	48.8	55.1	57.3	62.7	79.4	56.4
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*804*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*899*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6118*

Table 8A.21. Difficulty accessing selected local amenities, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	Age 80+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Bank or cashpoint	2.2	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.4	7.4	23.1	5.6
Chiropodist	5.4	7.9	6.8	7.3	8.7	12.7	23.9	8.9
Dentist	4.6	5.9	7.1	5.7	5.6	8.3	21.3	7.1
General Practitioner	2.1	3.4	4.0	2.8	4.0	4.8	15.1	4.3
Hospital	4.4	8.7	9.1	8.5	9.7	13.2	27.1	9.8
Local shops	1.6	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.1	5.3	16.9	4.3
Optician	2.7	4.8	5.1	3.5	4.5	7.2	21.9	5.8
Post office	1.6	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.5	4.6	14.4	3.5
Shopping centre	2.8	5.8	5.6	5.0	4.7	7.6	22.1	6.3
Supermarket	2.2	3.8	4.7	3.6	4.0	6.3	21.5	5.3
Women								
Bank or cashpoint	3.1	4.6	4.2	4.3	9.0	14.6	28.5	8.5
Chiropodist	5.8	6.1	5.3	6.4	11.2	17.5	27.6	10.2
Dentist	4.0	5.0	3.7	5.0	8.5	14.9	28.5	8.4
General Practitioner	2.6	2.5	3.3	3.3	6.0	11.1	21.7	6.3
Hospital	7.4	9.4	9.6	12.6	17.3	21.7	35.2	14.6
Local shops	2.1	2.9	2.8	3.4	7.1	11.4	23.8	6.6
Optician	3.0	4.4	3.8	4.7	7.2	13.9	25.1	7.8
Post office	2.3	2.3	2.8	3.1	5.8	10.3	21.5	6.0
Shopping centre	4.8	5.2	6.0	6.6	11.0	13.6	29.7	9.9
Supermarket	3.2	4.0	3.9	5.4	9.2	13.7	29.8	8.7
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1001*	*901*	*742*	*657*	*558*	*418*	*363*	*4641*
Women	*1039*	*940*	*787*	*725*	*653*	*547*	*614*	*5305*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*818*	*914*	*729*	*715*	*591*	*418*	*374*	*4559*
Women	*1010*	*1068*	*808*	*813*	*687*	*490*	*562*	*5437*

Table 8A.22. Difficulty accessing selected local amenities, by self-rated health, age and sex

ELSA sample members *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Excellent / very good health				
Bank or cashpoint	1.0	1.1	6.8	1.8
Chiropodist	4.5	3.3	8.8	4.6
Dentist	3.0	2.2	6.9	3.2
General Practitioner	0.9	0.6	4.4	1.2
Hospital	4.3	4.8	13.4	5.7
Local shops	0.6	0.4	4.6	1.0
Optician	1.8	1.6	6.2	2.3
Post office	0.4	0.2	2.6	0.6
Shopping centre	2.0	1.2	6.4	2.3
Supermarket	1.1	1.0	4.9	1.6
Good health				
Bank or cashpoint	1.4	1.5	11.6	3.2
Chiropodist	4.1	6.0	15.2	6.8
Dentist	3.6	4.7	13.2	5.7
General Practitioner	2.3	1.7	5.4	2.6
Hospital	5.1	6.7	18.6	8.2
Local shops	0.7	1.4	5.8	1.9
Optician	2.1	1.9	11.3	3.7
Post office	1.1	1.1	5.4	1.8
Shopping centre	2.8	3.3	9.1	4.1
Supermarket	1.0	1.6	9.9	2.8
Fair/poor health				
Bank or cashpoint	11.2	12.6	26.0	15.2
Chiropodist	16.0	16.4	29.2	19.4
Dentist	13.3	14.5	23.6	16.1
General Practitioner	8.1	10.4	18.6	11.6
Hospital	14.0	18.1	26.8	18.9
Local shops	9.5	10.8	21.3	12.8
Optician	11.1	11.6	24.7	14.5
Post office	8.4	7.0	19.3	10.3
Shopping centre	12.0	13.4	27.1	16.1
Supermarket	10.8	11.6	25.1	14.5
Women				
Excellent / very good health				
Bank or cashpoint	1.1	1.1	13.0	3.2
Chiropodist	3.0	2.6	13.5	4.6
Dentist	2.1	1.5	13.0	3.6
General Practitioner	0.6	1.1	10.5	2.5
Hospital	4.8	8.9	20.5	9.1
Local shops	0.3	0.7	10.0	2.2
Optician	1.5	1.7	11.3	3.3
Post office	0.5	0.6	7.9	1.9
Shopping centre	1.5	3.5	11.3	4.0
Supermarket	1.0	1.6	12.0	3.2
Good health				
Bank or cashpoint	2.2	2.8	17.6	5.9
Chiropodist	4.1	6.1	17.5	8.0
Dentist	3.0	4.2	16.1	6.3
General Practitioner	0.8	2.7	11.6	4.1
Hospital	6.6	9.5	22.4	11.5

Continues

Table 8A.22 contd. Difficulty accessing selected local amenities, by self-rated health, age and sex

	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Local shops	1.2	2.1	11.6	4.0
Optician	1.7	2.7	14.3	5.0
Post office	1.1	2.0	11.5	3.9
Shopping centre	4.5	4.7	16.5	7.3
Supermarket	2.3	3.8	16.9	6.3
Fair/poor health				
Bank or cashpoint	13.0	17.6	36.2	21.5
Chiropodist	17.6	18.2	38.0	24.0
Dentist	12.6	15.2	36.9	20.3
General Practitioner	10.0	11.1	28.3	15.8
Hospital	19.5	24.1	43.5	28.3
Local shops	9.6	13.4	32.5	17.8
Optician	11.8	14.3	33.7	19.2
Post office	8.6	11.8	29.5	16.0
Shopping centre	14.3	19.3	39.4	23.6
Supermarket	11.5	16.3	38.2	21.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1904*	*1974*	*792*	*4670*
Women	*1983*	*2167*	*1184*	*5334*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1735*	*2051*	*804*	*4590*
Women	*2082*	*2310*	*1072*	*5464*

Table 8A.23. Difficulty accessing selected local amenities, by occupational class of head of household, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Bank or cashpoint	1.9	1.7	10.4	3.3
Chiropodist	4.4	3.9	11.2	5.3
Dentist	3.6	3.2	9.4	4.4
General Practitioner	1.8	1.3	6.4	2.4
Hospital	4.6	5.5	15.1	6.8
Local shops	1.1	1.4	6.1	2.1
Optician	2.1	2.0	8.1	3.1
Post office	1.0	0.8	5.6	1.8
Shopping centre	3.1	2.3	10.2	4.0
Supermarket	1.9	1.6	7.6	2.8
Intermediate				
Bank or cashpoint	2.8	5.9	13.1	5.6
Chiropodist	5.5	7.4	16.2	7.8
Dentist	5.1	7.0	12.0	6.9
General Practitioner	2.0	4.4	5.1	3.5
Hospital	6.3	10.6	14.4	9.3
Local shops	2.4	4.1	10.5	4.3
Optician	3.4	5.9	13.3	5.9
Post office	2.7	2.8	7.4	3.4
Shopping centre	4.5	6.2	12.5	6.4
Supermarket	3.2	4.5	10.9	4.9
Routine and manual				
Bank or cashpoint	4.6	5.5	19.2	7.5
Chiropodist	9.5	10.1	24.0	12.4
Dentist	6.9	8.0	19.6	9.5
General Practitioner	4.1	4.9	14.0	6.2
Hospital	8.6	11.0	25.5	12.7
Local shops	3.7	4.9	14.6	6.2
Optician	5.7	5.5	19.4	8.0
Post office	3.2	3.2	12.8	4.9
Shopping centre	5.3	6.7	18.4	8.3
Supermarket	4.1	5.7	19.1	7.5
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Bank or cashpoint	1.8	3.1	15.2	4.4
Chiropodist	3.9	3.6	16.4	5.7
Dentist	2.9	4.5	14.6	5.3
General Practitioner	0.6	3.3	10.2	3.2
Hospital	4.9	8.9	23.2	9.3
Local shops	0.7	2.9	11.8	3.3
Optician	1.5	3.6	17.1	4.8
Post office	0.7	2.6	13.1	3.4
Shopping centre	2.9	4.0	18.9	5.9
Supermarket	1.8	3.2	16.7	4.8
Intermediate				
Bank or cashpoint	4.7	7.6	23.0	9.9
Chiropodist	4.6	5.5	25.1	9.3
Dentist	3.9	3.6	20.4	7.1
General Practitioner	2.0	2.6	16.3	5.4
Hospital	7.4	10.4	27.8	13.1

Continues

Table 8A.23 contd. Difficulty accessing selected local amenities, by occupational class of head of household, age and sex

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Local shops	3.1	2.4	18.7	6.2
Optician	3.8	4.1	18.3	7.1
Post office	3.0	2.2	18.0	5.9
Shopping centre	4.6	5.4	22.8	8.8
Supermarket	4.1	4.3	22.9	8.3
Routine and manual				
Bank or cashpoint	8.1	14.2	27.3	20.9
Chiropodist	7.9	10.3	22.2	12.2
Dentist	5.8	6.8	24.0	9.9
General Practitioner	3.9	5.2	18.2	7.7
Hospital	11.1	15.3	30.6	17.3
Local shops	3.1	5.7	18.1	7.6
Optician	4.7	6.0	20.4	8.8
Post office	2.7	5.1	14.7	6.5
Shopping centre	6.3	10.3	22.0	11.5
Supermarket	4.2	7.8	22.8	10.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1902*	*1958*	*781*	*4641*
Women	*1979*	*2165*	*1161*	*5305*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1732*	*2035*	*792*	*4559*
Women	*2078*	*2307*	*1052*	*5437*

Table 8A.24. Area type, by age and sex

All ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

							Age	Total
	50–54	55–59	60–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80+	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men								
Inner city	1.9	3.4	4.4	4.5	2.9	2.2	3.0	3.2
Other urban	10.2	10.0	9.1	8.7	10.1	9.3	10.3	9.7
Suburban	61.0	59.0	55.7	58.7	56.5	60.4	58.2	58.6
Rural residential	22.7	22.5	25.7	22.7	26.1	23.6	23.9	23.7
Rural	4.3	5.0	5.2	5.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.8
Women								
Inner city	2.9	2.3	4.1	2.9	4.0	3.6	5.4	3.5
Other urban	9.6	10.9	7.8	9.5	11.7	9.7	13.0	10.3
Suburban	59.8	57.2	58.0	56.1	58.1	60.0	58.4	58.2
Rural residential	23.5	24.4	25.4	26.0	22.8	23.3	20.3	23.7
Rural	4.2	5.2	4.8	5.5	3.5	3.4	2.8	4.3
Bases (weighted):								
Men	*1086*	*993*	*813*	*729*	*627*	*493*	*457*	*5198*
Women	*1111*	*1019*	*849*	*804*	*752*	*653*	*825*	*6013*
Bases (unweighted):								
Men	*887*	*1006*	*794*	*792*	*663*	*493*	*470*	*5105*
Women	*1081*	*1156*	*871*	*899*	*789*	*585*	*737*	*6118*

Table 8A.25. Frequency of contact with children, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Meet up with children				
At least once a week	56.8	59.2	55.4	57.6
At least every few months	34.1	33.6	36.1	34.2
Once or twice a year or less	9.2	7.3	8.6	8.2
Speak on phone with children				
At least once a week	79.6	83.6	82.6	81.9
At least every few months	15.4	13.4	14.9	14.4
Once or twice a year or less	5.0	3.1	2.5	3.7
Written contact with children				
At least once a week	12.0	8.3	4.9	9.2
At least every few months	24.2	21.9	24.4	23.2
Once or twice a year or less	63.7	69.8	70.7	67.6
Women				
Meet up with children				
At least once a week	65.1	63.5	63.3	64.1
At least every few months	31.3	31.4	30.7	31.2
Once or twice a year or less	3.5	5.1	6.0	4.7
Speak on phone with children				
At least once a week	92.1	90.6	90.0	91.0
At least every few months	6.5	8.1	8.5	7.6
Once or twice a year or less	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.4
Written contact with children				
At least once a week	16.4	9.7	8.0	11.9
At least every few months	22.0	22.8	20.5	22.0
Once or twice a year or less	61.5	67.5	71.6	66.0
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1372*	*1683*	*649*	*3704*
Women	*1595*	*1900*	*936*	*4432*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1264*	*1759*	*661*	*3684*
Women	*1675*	*2024*	*844*	*4543*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with children.

Table 8A.26. Frequency of contact with friends, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Meet up with friends				
At least once a week	55.9	58.5	55.4	56.9
At least every few months	39.1	35.2	34.5	36.8
Once or twice a year or less	5.1	6.2	10.1	6.3
Speak on phone with friends				
At least once a week	51.8	51.8	50.4	51.6
At least every few months	40.7	38.6	38.2	39.4
Once or twice a year or less	7.5	9.6	11.4	9.0
Written contact with friends				
At least once a week	10.7	4.8	3.3	7.3
At least every few months	26.3	19.1	16.5	22.0
Once or twice a year or less	63.1	76.1	80.2	70.8
Women				
Meet up with friends				
At least once a week	58.6	62.0	65.9	61.5
At least every few months	37.7	33.5	26.6	33.6
Once or twice a year or less	3.7	4.5	7.5	4.8
Speak on phone with friends				
At least once a week	63.4	65.4	65.6	64.7
At least every few months	33.3	31.2	27.6	31.2
Once or twice a year or less	3.3	3.4	6.7	4.1
Written contact with friends				
At least once a week	13.4	6.4	6.1	9.2
At least every few months	24.9	22.7	19.3	22.9
Once or twice a year or less	61.7	70.9	74.6	67.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1793*	*1771*	*652*	*4216*
Women	*1881*	*2017*	*1048*	*4946*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1635*	*1840*	*665*	*4140*
Women	*1977*	*2152*	*951*	*5080*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with friends.

Table 8A.27. Frequency of contact with family members,[a] by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Meet up with family members				
At least once a week	30.1	32.5	34.8	31.8
At least every few months	40.5	38.4	37.8	39.2
Once or twice a year or less	29.4	29.1	27.5	29.0
Speak on phone with family members				
At least once a week	43.5	43.3	50.9	44.5
At least every few months	41.8	40.3	37.0	40.4
Once or twice a year or less	14.7	16.5	12.2	15.1
Written contact with family members				
At least once a week	3.7	2.7	3.0	3.2
At least every few months	17.2	16.4	17.8	16.9
Once or twice a year or less	79.1	80.9	79.2	79.9
Women				
Meet up with family members				
At least once a week	38.3	39.0	38.9	38.7
At least every few months	43.2	39.5	36.7	40.4
Once or twice a year or less	18.5	21.5	24.4	20.9
Speak on phone with family members				
At least once a week	62.1	57.4	63.7	60.5
At least every few months	30.4	34.3	29.3	31.8
Once or twice a year or less	7.5	8.3	7.0	7.7
Written contact with family members				
At least once a week	5.8	4.6	3.5	4.9
At least every few months	21.6	20.9	21.7	21.3
Once or twice a year or less	72.7	74.4	74.8	73.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1778*	*1687*	*610*	*4076*
Women	*1844*	*1938*	*948*	*4730*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1621*	*1752*	*620*	*3993*
Women	*1936*	*2068*	*864*	*4868*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with family members.

[a]Defined as non-children, non-spouse.

Table 8A.28. Face-to-face, phone and written contact at least once a week with children, by economic activity, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% with contact at least once a week	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Economically active				
Meet up with children	55.4	56.4	–	55.8
Speak on phone with children	80.6	78.3	–	80.0
Written contact with children	13.0	8.4	–	11.6
Economically inactive				
Meet up with children	62.5	60.2	55.1	59.0
Speak on phone with children	75.1	85.7	82.6	83.4
Written contact with children	7.8	8.3	4.8	7.2
Women				
Economically active				
Meet up with children	63.4	59.1	–	62.4
Speak on phone with children	93.0	89.9	–	92.3
Written contact with children	17.4	11.7	–	16.0
Economically inactive				
Meet up with children	68.9	64.5	63.4	64.9
Speak on phone with children	90.2	90.7	89.9	90.4
Written contact with children	14.1	9.2	8.0	9.7
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1372*	*1683*	*649*	*3704*
Women	*1595*	*1900*	*936*	*4432*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1264*	*1759*	*661*	*3684*
Women	*1675*	*2024*	*844*	*4543*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with children.

Table 8A.29. Face-to-face, phone and written contact at least once a week with friends, by economic activity, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% with contact at least once a week	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Economically active				
Meet up with friends	53.5	51.0	–	52.9
Speak on phone with friends	50.6	49.7	–	50.4
Written contact with friends	10.8	4.5	–	9.2
Economically inactive				
Meet up with friends	65.1	61.4	55.3	60.3
Speak on phone with friends	56.4	52.6	50.2	52.5
Written contact with friends	10.4	4.9	3.4	5.5
Women				
Economically active				
Meet up with friends	57.3	55.4	–	57.0
Speak on phone with friends	62.2	63.2	–	62.6
Written contact with friends	14.7	9.0	–	13.6
Economically inactive				
Meet up with friends	61.7	63.4	65.9	63.9
Speak on phone with friends	66.4	65.9	65.4	65.8
Written contact with friends	10.3	5.8	6.0	6.7
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1793*	*1771*	*652*	*4216*
Women	*1881*	*2017*	*1048*	*4946*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1635*	*1840*	*665*	*4140*
Women	*1977*	*2152*	*951*	*5080*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with friends.

Table 8A.30. Face-to-face, phone and written contact at least once a week with family members,[a] by economic activity, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
% with contact at least once a week	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Economically active				
Meet up with family members	27.9	26.1	–	27.5
Speak on phone with family members	43.0	39.3	–	42.0
Written contact with family members	3.8	2.5	–	3.5
Economically inactive				
Meet up with family members	38.6	34.9	35.0	35.5
Speak on phone with family members	45.7	44.7	51.4	46.7
Written contact with family members	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.0
Women				
Economically active				
Meet up with family members	37.1	34.3	–	36.4
Speak on phone with family members	61.8	50.4	–	59.5
Written contact with family members	6.2	5.5	–	6.1
Economically inactive				
Meet up with family members	41.1	39.9	39.2	39.9
Speak on phone with family members	62.8	58.8	63.7	61.0
Written contact with family members	4.9	4.5	3.4	4.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1778*	*1687*	*610*	*4076*
Women	*1844*	*1938*	*948*	*4730*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1621*	*1752*	*620*	*3993*
Women	*1936*	*2068*	*864*	*4868*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with family members.
[a]Defined as non-children, non-spouse.

Table 8A.31. Face-to-face, phone and written contact at least once a week with children, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% with contact at least once a week		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Meet up with children	47.1	50.9	40.4	47.5
Speak on phone with children	79.4	87.0	83.0	83.2
Written contact with children	18.4	11.0	8.0	13.7
Intermediate				
Meet up with children	63.6	59.4	60.2	61.1
Speak on phone with children	83.2	80.4	83.7	82.0
Written contact with children	7.0	7.0	1.3	6.2
Routine and manual				
Meet up with children	63.8	64.9	65.7	64.7
Speak on phone with children	78.0	82.6	81.9	81.0
Written contact with children	7.5	6.6	3.2	6.4
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Meet up with children	52.6	52.2	52.2	52.4
Speak on phone with children	93.3	90.4	89.2	91.5
Written contact with children	24.8	11.6	11.8	17.8
Intermediate				
Meet up with children	62.4	59.8	61.3	61.0
Speak on phone with children	92.6	91.4	90.5	91.6
Written contact with children	16.3	9.6	4.3	11.1
Routine and manual				
Meet up with children	73.3	70.7	68.8	71.1
Speak on phone with children	91.4	90.5	90.8	90.9
Written contact with children	10.8	8.9	7.3	9.2
Other				
Meet up with children	–	[55.5]	56.5	60.0
Speak on phone with children	–	[83.9]	85.7	84.9
Written contact with children	–	–	[15.4]	14.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1372*	*1683*	*649*	*3704*
Women	*1595*	*1900*	*936*	*4432*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1264*	*1759*	*661*	*3684*
Women	*1675*	*2024*	*844*	*4543*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with children.

Table 8A.32. Face-to-face, phone and written contact at least once a week with friends, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

% with contact at least once a week		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Meet up with friends	53.5	55.0	54.1	54.2
Speak on phone with friends	49.3	51.4	51.6	50.4
Written contact with friends	15.5	6.9	4.9	10.9
Intermediate				
Meet up with friends	58.6	55.8	52.5	56.6
Speak on phone with friends	56.6	52.7	46.5	53.6
Written contact with friends	8.8	4.6	2.7	6.5
Routine and manual				
Meet up with friends	57.4	62.1	57.6	59.6
Speak on phone with friends	52.1	51.3	51.1	51.6
Written contact with friends	5.8	3.0	1.9	3.9
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Meet up with friends	57.1	65.3	64.8	61.4
Speak on phone with friends	64.1	70.7	66.9	67.0
Written contact with friends	20.1	9.0	4.0	13.7
Intermediate				
Meet up with friends	53.9	57.4	61.4	56.9
Speak on phone with friends	59.7	62.4	61.5	61.2
Written contact with friends	15.2	6.9	5.1	9.8
Routine and manual				
Meet up with friends	62.9	63.4	67.8	64.2
Speak on phone with friends	65.1	64.7	66.2	65.2
Written contact with friends	6.5	4.5	6.6	5.7
Other				
Meet up with friends	–	[62.5]	72.2	66.0
Speak on phone with friends	–	[67.2]	74.2	71.8
Written contact with friends	–	–	[12.2]	8.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1793*	*1771*	*652*	*4216*
Women	*1881*	*2017*	*1048*	*4946*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1635*	*1840*	*665*	*4140*
Women	*1977*	*2152*	*951*	*5080*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with friends.

Table 8A.33. Face-to-face, phone and written contact at least once a week with family members,[a] by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
% with contact at least once a week	50–59	60–74	75+	
	%	%	%	%
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Meet up with family members	24.7	24.5	21.0	24.1
Speak on phone with family members	44.8	40.1	43.2	42.8
Written contact with family members	4.4	2.7	2.2	3.5
Intermediate				
Meet up with family members	29.3	31.4	37.3	31.2
Speak on phone with family members	39.4	43.9	48.2	42.3
Written contact with family members	2.0	2.8	4.4	2.6
Routine and manual				
Meet up with family members	36.5	38.2	43.6	38.4
Speak on phone with family members	44.9	45.2	57.3	47.1
Written contact with family members	3.9	2.8	3.2	3.3
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Meet up with family members	28.3	32.4	30.3	30.2
Speak on phone with family members	62.4	54.0	61.0	59.0
Written contact with family members	7.5	4.5	4.5	6.0
Intermediate				
Meet up with family members	38.7	33.9	36.5	36.2
Speak on phone with family members	61.5	53.5	64.1	58.6
Written contact with family members	5.2	4.9	3.6	4.8
Routine and manual				
Meet up with family members	44.3	45.1	45.0	44.8
Speak on phone with family members	62.7	61.0	64.5	62.4
Written contact with family members	5.1	4.5	3.7	4.6
Other				
Meet up with family members	–	[38.7]	30.2	34.5
Speak on phone with family members	–	[64.4]	63.1	61.1
Written contact with family members	–	–	[0.0]	1.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1778*	*1687*	*610*	*4076*
Women	*1844*	*1938*	*948*	*4730*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1621*	*1752*	*620*	*3993*
Women	*1936*	*2068*	*864*	*4868*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid responses to item about meeting up with family members.
[a]Defined as non-children, non-spouse.

Table 8A.34. Number of close ties,[a] by age and sex

Wave 1

		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.2
Women	5.4	5.8	5.5	5.5
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1760*	*1706*	*652*	*4118*
Women	*1840*	*1913*	*973*	*4725*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1601*	*1771*	*665*	*4037*
Women	*1935*	*2044*	*881*	*4860*

[a]Defined as total number of friends and other family members (excluding children and spouses) respondents have identified as close.

Table 8A.35. Positive and negative support from spouse and closeness to spouse, by age and sex

Wave 1

Mean on social support scale		Age		Total
	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men				
Positive support from spouse	37.0	37.4	37.3	37.2
Negative support from spouse	18.2	17.7	17.5	17.9
Closeness to spouse	37.5	37.8	38.1	37.7
Women				
Positive support from spouse	35.4	35.6	35.4	35.5
Negative support from spouse	18.6	18.5	17.8	18.5
Closeness to spouse	36.7	36.8	37.1	36.8
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1600*	*1614*	*549*	*3763*
Women	*1591*	*1470*	*368*	*3429*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1470*	*1694*	*549*	*3713*
Women	*1638*	*1542*	*351*	*3531*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid score for positive support scale.
All scales are scored 1 to 4, such that higher numbers indicate more positive support, negative support and closeness. Results in this table are multiplied by 10 to better show between-group differences.

Table 8A.36. Positive and negative support from children, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

Mean on social support scale	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Men				
Positive support from children	31.5	33.6	35.1	33.0
Negative support from children	17.9	16.6	15.3	16.9
Women				
Positive support from children	34.0	35.0	36.3	34.9
Negative support from children	17.5	15.8	14.7	16.2
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1585*	*1740*	*683*	*4009*
Women	*1780*	*1980*	*998*	*4759*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1446*	*1819*	*694*	*3959*
Women	*1859*	*2108*	*901*	*4868*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid score for positive support scale.
Scales are scored 1 to 4, such that higher numbers indicate more positive support or negative support. Results in this table are multiplied by 10 to better show between-group differences.

Table 8A.37. Positive and negative support from friends, by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

Mean on social support scale	50–59	60–74	Age 75+	Total
Men				
Positive support from friends	29.5	29.7	29.3	29.6
Negative support from friends	16.9	15.9	14.5	16.1
Women				
Positive support from friends	33.5	32.7	31.7	32.8
Negative support from friends	15.9	15.0	14.0	15.1
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1795*	*1787*	*670*	*4252*
Women	*1897*	*2058*	*1079*	*5034*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1637*	*1855*	*684*	*4176*
Women	*1994*	*2196*	*978*	*5168*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid score for positive support scale.
Scales are scored 1 to 4, such that higher numbers indicate more positive support or negative support. Results in this table are multiplied by 10 to better show between-group differences.

Table 8A.38. Positive and negative support from family members,[a] by age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

Mean on social support scale	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
Men				
Positive support from family members	27.1	27.5	28.4	27.5
Negative support from family members	17.3	16.0	14.9	16.4
Women				
Positive support from family members	29.0	29.3	30.5	29.4
Negative support from family members	17.7	16.0	14.4	16.3
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1791*	*1700*	*621*	*4112*
Women	*1864*	*1974*	*990*	*4829*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1630*	*1765*	*632*	*4027*
Women	*1957*	*2103*	*903*	*4963*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid score for positive support scale.
Scales are scored 1 to 4, such that higher numbers indicate more positive support or negative support. Results in this table are multiplied by 10 to better show between-group differences.
[a]Defined as non-children, non-spouse.

Table 8A.39. Overall positive and negative support, by economic activity, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

Mean on social support scale	50–59	60–74	75+	Total
			Age	**Total**
Men				
Economically active				
Overall positive support	31.2	31.9	–	31.4
Overall negative support	17.4	16.8	–	17.2
Economically inactive				
Overall positive support	30.4	31.9	32.5	31.9
Overall negative support	18.2	16.5	15.5	16.4
Women				
Economically active				
Overall positive support	33.1	33.1	–	33.1
Overall negative support	17.3	16.4	–	17.1
Economically inactive				
Overall positive support	32.1	33.0	33.2	32.9
Overall negative support	17.7	16.1	14.8	15.9
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1749*	*2081*	*832*	*4662*
Women	*2097*	*2371*	*1115*	*5583*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1641*	*2199*	*860*	*4700*
Women	*2258*	*2563*	*1046*	*5866*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid score for positive support scale.
Scales are scored 1 to 4, such that higher numbers indicate more positive support or negative support. Results in this table are multiplied by 10 to better show between-group differences.

Table 8A.40. Overall positive and negative support, by occupational class, age and sex

ELSA sample members   *Wave 1*

			Age	Total
Mean on social support scale	50–59	60–74	75+	
Men				
Professional and managerial				
Overall positive support	31.1	32.2	32.4	31.8
Overall negative support	17.2	16.3	15.5	16.6
Intermediate				
Overall positive support	31.0	31.8	33.3	31.7
Overall negative support	17.8	16.6	15.4	16.9
Routine and manual				
Overall positive support	31.0	31.8	32.2	31.6
Overall negative support	17.8	16.8	15.6	16.9
Women				
Professional and managerial				
Overall positive support	33.1	33.2	33.1	33.1
Overall negative support	17.2	16.3	14.9	16.2
Intermediate				
Overall positive support	32.6	32.8	33.4	32.9
Overall negative support	17.6	15.8	14.7	16.2
Routine and manual				
Overall positive support	32.8	33.0	33.0	33.0
Overall negative support	17.4	16.3	14.8	16.4
Other				
Overall positive support	–	[33.4]	33.6	33.1
Overall negative support	–	[15.6]	14.6	15.5
Bases (weighted):				
Men	*1920*	*2002*	*819*	*4741*
Women	*1996*	*2224*	*1231*	*5451*
Bases (unweighted):				
Men	*1749*	*2081*	*832*	*4662*
Women	*2097*	*2371*	*1115*	*5583*

Bases vary; those shown are based on respondents with valid score for positive support scale.
Scales are scored 1 to 4, such that higher numbers indicate more positive support or negative support. Results in this table are multiplied by 10 to better show between-group differences.

9. Methodology

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This chapter provides a summary of the survey methodology for the first wave of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing. It includes a brief account of the sample design, the development and content of the interview and the approach to fieldwork. It presents basic information about response rates and the weighting strategy used in this report. Further detail will be available in a technical report, which will be published in 2004 and will include the key survey documents, including the wave 1 questionnaire (Taylor et al., forthcoming). In time, we plan to provide all the methodological information that data users will require on the ELSA website, at http://www.ifs.org.uk/elsa/index.htm. The data will be available from the UK Data Archive in 2004.

9.1 Sample design

The ELSA sample is representative of people aged 50 and over, living in private households in England. It was drawn from households that had previously responded to the Health Survey for England (HSE) so that the study could benefit from data that had already been collected. The HSE is an annual cross-sectional household survey that collects a wide range of health data and biometric measures. It is conducted by the Joint Health Surveys Unit of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London, and the National Centre for Social Research, on behalf of the Department of Health.

Initially, the ELSA sample was selected from two survey years of the HSE (1998 and 2001) and it was then increased when a further sample was drawn from the HSE 1999 core sample (the booster sample of ethnic-minority households was set to one side). Each of the main HSE samples was designed to be representative of the English population living in private households and each was drawn in two stages. Firstly, postcode sectors were selected from the Postcode Address File, stratified by health authority and proportion of households in the non-manual socio-economic groups. Addresses were then selected systematically from each sector and a specified number of adults and children in each household were deemed eligible for interview. Eligible individuals were asked to participate in a personal interview followed by a nurse visit.

Interviewing for HSE is continuous and the sample is issued to interviewers evenly throughout the year. Although the HSE household response rate is

relatively constant from year to year (74% in 1998 and 2001, 76% in 1999), the adult individual response rate varies; it was 69% in 1998, 70% in 1999 and 67% in 2001. Further details about the HSE are available from the Technical Reports (Erens and Primatesta, 1999; Erens, Primatesta and Prior, 2001; Prior et al., 2003).

In order to select the ELSA sample, we constructed a listing of all HSE households for whom full household information was available. Households were removed from the sampling frame if there was no adult of 50 years or older in the household who had agreed to be recontacted at some time in the future. The remaining households provided the basis for the ELSA sample. Within households, there were three types of individual who were eligible to take part in the study, as illustrated in Box 9.1.

Box 9.1. Eligibility for the ELSA interview

Eligible sample members were individuals who were living within the household at the time of the HSE interview and were born on or before 29 February 1952. This date was chosen to ensure all sample members were aged 50 or over at the beginning of March 2002, i.e. in time for the start of ELSA fieldwork. In order for the individual to be eligible, the interviewer had to ascertain that the individual was living in a private residential address in England at the time of the ELSA interview. Eligible sample members who responded to the survey form the basis of the analysis in this report.

Young partners were the cohabiting spouses or partners of eligible sample members, who were living within the household at the time of the HSE interview and were born *after* 29 February 1952. In order for the individual to be eligible, the interviewer had to ascertain that he or she was still living with an eligible sample member. Young partners were given a full interview and were treated in the same way as eligible sample members. Although they are not included in the analysis presented in this report, in time their presence will make it possible to carry out an analysis of a representative sample of couples where at least one spouse is 50 or older.

New partners were the cohabiting spouses or partners of eligible sample members at the time of the first ELSA interview who had joined the household *since* the HSE interview. New partners were given a full interview and were treated in the same way as eligible sample members. Like young partners, they are not included in the analyses in this report.

For all three sample types, interviews were only conducted at households in England, and only within residential addresses. So, if an individual had moved out of England or into an institution since their HSE interview, they were treated as ineligible.

9.2 Development of the questionnaire and survey approach

ELSA benefited from a relatively long development period, with initial questionnaire design meetings taking place in late 2000. A period of wide consultation took place and involved a diverse range of academics, sponsors, members of the advisory group to the study and collaborators from ELSA's US counterpart, the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), and the Survey of Health and Retirement in Europe (SHARE).

In its formative stages, a number of 'expert panels' were convened to debate specific elements of the survey, and new modules of questions underwent cognitive testing. Two extensive pilots were conducted in August and November 2001. These tested the survey instruments and fieldwork approach. Some of the measures and approaches used in the study were innovative or new to the UK. Examples mentioned elsewhere in this report are the use of unfolding bracket methods to mitigate non-response problems on financial variables (see Annex 9.1) and the use of 'percentage chance' questions to understand people's expectations of the future (see Chapters 3 and 4).

9.3 Structure and content of the wave 1 interview

In its final form, the wave 1 survey comprised a personal face-to-face interview and a self-completion questionnaire. A brief outline of the content of the interview is given in Box 9.2.

In households with one respondent, or where two respondents in a household were interviewed separately, each interview followed the course set out in Box 9.2. Some flexibility in the order of modules was allowed (for example, the walking-speed test could be administered at any convenient time after the health module had been completed). In households where more than one eligible respondent agreed to take part in the survey, 'concurrent interviewing' (where two individuals are interviewed in a single interview session) was usually allowed.[1] The concurrent interview initially followed the same linear pattern shown in Box 9.2 and offered the same degree of flexibility. However, when the start of the cognitive function module had been reached, interviewers ensured that a period of time was spent with each respondent in turn, so that this, and the remaining sections of the interview, could be completed in private.

In cases where respondents completed the full interview in a session with the interviewer alone, the self-completion questionnaire was usually left with the respondent, to be returned by post. However, in instances where two respondents completed the interview in a concurrent session, the self-completion questionnaire was completed by one respondent while the other carried out the 'private' section of the personal interview. The two respondents then swapped over so that the individual who had completed the private session could turn their attention to the self-completion questionnaire, and vice versa.

Where there was more than one eligible individual in the household, the interviewer asked the respondents to nominate a key informant to report on

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[1]Concurrent interviewing was not allowed in some instances – for example, if respondents kept their finances separate from each other and did not share information about them.

housing and to nominate a key informant within each benefit unit to report on income and assets.[2] These were often, but not always, the same individual.

Box 9.2. Content of the ELSA interview

Household demographics – collected basic demographic information about everyone living in the household, including sex, age and relationships to each other. It identified any individuals who had entered the household since the HSE interview, established their eligibility for interview and collected information about eligible respondents' children living outside the household.

Individual demographics – details from the respondents about their legal marital status, whether their parents were alive or dead (and, if dead, their age at and cause of death), number of living children including adopted, foster and stepchildren, number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, number of siblings and the respondent's circumstances in childhood.

Health – covered many different dimensions: self-reported general health, long-standing illness or disability; eyesight and hearing; specific diagnoses and symptoms; pain; difficulties with activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs); and health behaviours. Respondents aged 60 and over were asked about falls and fractures.

Social participation – covered the frequency with which respondents participated in certain social activities, whether they were limited from participating, and questions about care-giving and use of public transport.

Work and pensions – respondents' current work activities and any current or past pensions that they had. If retired and receiving a pension, details were collected about pensions and amount received.

Income and assets – collected the income that respondents received from a variety of sources over the last 12 months: wages, state pensions, private pensions, other annuity income and state benefits. It also collected the amount of financial and non-financial assets held, any income from these assets, regular transfers from non-household members and one-off payments in the last year.

Housing – information about current housing situation (including size and quality), housing-related expenses, ownership of durable goods and cars, and expenditure on food. Owners and mortgagers were asked about the value of their property, and questions were asked about mortgages, rent, etc.

Cognitive function – measured different aspects of the respondent's cognitive function, including memory, speed, mental flexibility and numeracy.

Expectations – measured people's expectations in a number of dimensions, the level of certainty respondents felt about the future, financial decision-making within households and optimal planning horizons.

Psychosocial health – measured how the respondent viewed his or her life across a variety of dimensions.

Final questions – demographic information, a stable contact address and consent to obtain health and economic data from administrative sources.

Walking speed – measured a 'timed walk'. This involved recording the time taken by the respondent to walk a distance of 8 feet (244cm) at their usual walking pace. It was completed for all individuals aged 60 and over who responded to the survey in person, where it was judged to be safe to do so.

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[2]Where two individuals within the same benefit unit kept their finances separately, we defined two financial units within this benefit unit and data on each financial unit was collected separately.

9.4 Fieldwork

As explained earlier, the ELSA sample was drawn from households responding to the Health Survey for England. The sample was issued at a household level, and each eligible individual within the household was sent an advance letter inviting them to take part. Interviewers then visited the households and were able to explain the study and to interview willing individuals straight away, or to make appointments to call at a convenient time. Exhaustive attempts were made to encourage participation among the sample, including the measures in Box 9.3.

Box 9.3. Methods of encouraging response

- Each respondent was sent an advance letter, offered an incentive payment in the form of a £10 gift voucher and given an information leaflet.

- In cases where households had split, interviews were sought at the new households to ensure that all eligible individuals had a chance to respond.

- In cases where an eligible sample member had moved and the new occupant was reluctant to provide the address of their predecessor, interviewers provided a 'mover letter', which could be forwarded by the new occupant to the individual, asking them to make contact.

- A thorough strategy for tracing and contacting eligible individuals who had moved since their last interview was developed. This involved cooperation from respondents' family doctors, health authorities, the Office for National Statistics and the Department for Work and Pensions.

- In cases where an eligible individual was unable to participate in the interview due to a physical or mental impairment, an interview with a proxy informant was attempted.

- Many households where the first interview attempt had not been successful were reissued to another interviewer. The second approach was preceded by a new letter, explaining the importance of interviewing respondents in his or her age bracket. The letter offered a £20 gift voucher.

- Self-completion questionnaires that had not been returned by respondents were also chased, first by a reminder letter with a new questionnaire and then by a call from the Telephone Unit offering to complete the questionnaire with the respondent by telephone.

In some instances, individuals were found to be ineligible because of an error in recording their age at the previous contact. In addition, households that had moved out of England since their HSE interview were treated as ineligible, as were households where all potentially eligible individuals had moved into an institution or died. These eligibility rules will change in subsequent waves, as we hope to interview respondents who move into institutions and to conduct interviews with surviving spouses, partners or other relatives after members of our sample have died.

9.5 Survey response

Fieldwork for the first wave of ELSA began in March 2002 and spanned 12 months, completing in March 2003. Survey response and quality of fieldwork were carefully monitored throughout. Ultimately, the ELSA wave 1 fieldwork produced 12100 productive interviews, which can be broken down as shown in Box 9.4.

Box 9.4. Number of ELSA productive interviews

- ELSA wave 1 achieved 11392 productive interviews with eligible sample members, including 204 partial and 158 proxy responses.
- In addition, productive interviews were completed with 636 partners under 50 and with 72 new partners.
- This equates to a total sample of 12100.

In this section, we present summary information about survey response. Firstly, we describe the age–sex distribution of the issued and achieved sample. Then we isolate the primary ELSA group – eligible sample members – and set out their household response rates and the individual response rates within responding households, and the equivalent individual response rate for this group. We then consider the response rates for new and younger partners. Finally, the section considers other aspects of non-response. Box 9.5 provides the main summary points.

Box 9.5. Summary of response information

Response among eligible sample members

- The survey achieved a household response rate of 70%; approximately 96% of individuals responded within households.
- This equates to an overall individual response rate of 67%.

Response among new partners and younger partners

- The individual response rate for younger partners was 63%.
- The individual response rate for new partners was 68%.

For all groups, the main reason for non-response was refusal.

The age–sex distribution of the issued and achieved samples

The age and sex distribution of the sample that was *issued* at ELSA wave 1 is shown in Table 9.1. This combines households drawn from all three HSE years – 1998, 1999 and 2001. The table is comprised mainly of sample members (94%). The remaining 1042 individuals were issued younger partners and are shown in the first row as 'under 50'. New partners are not shown in Table 9.1, as their presence in the household only became known *after* the sample was issued.

Table 9.1. Issued sample, by age and sex

Age band (years) at wave 1	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %	Total %
Under 50	220	822	1042	3	8	6
50–54	1645	1838	3483	19	18	19
55–59	1579	1690	3269	19	16	17
60–64	1255	1301	2556	15	13	14
65–69	1195	1255	2450	14	12	13
70–74	1013	1154	2167	12	11	12
75–79	779	923	1702	9	9	9
80+	802	1329	2131	9	13	11
Unknown	9	4	13	0	0	0
Total	*8497*	*10316*	*18813*	*100*	*100*	*100*

Table 9.2. Achieved sample, including new and younger partners, by age and sex

Age band (years) at wave 1	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %	Total %
Under 50	104	472	576	2	7	5
50–54	920	1156	2076	17	17	17
55–59	1030	1171	2201	19	17	18
60–64	813	883	1696	15	13	14
65–69	806	912	1718	15	13	14
70–74	680	797	1477	13	12	12
75–79	498	596	1094	9	9	9
80+	485	777	1262	9	11	10
Total	*5336*	*6764*	*12100*	*100*	*100*	*100*

It should be noted that the table does not include households where all potentially eligible individuals were known to have died before the fieldwork period began. This is because in instances where consent had been given at HSE, the 1998 and 1999 surveys were checked against the Office for National Statistics (ONS) register so that the ELSA survey team was given early notification of some deaths.

Respondents to the wave 1 interview were defined as individuals who gave a full or partial interview either in person or by proxy. The age–sex distribution of the *achieved* sample is shown in Table 9.2. As well as eligible sample members and younger partners, this table also includes new partners (unlike

Table 9.1). Because of this, and because the information provided here is based on respondents' age at the time of the ELSA interview, rather than at a fixed date (as in Table 9.1), these two tables are not directly comparable.

Household response and individual response within households

This section considers response for all productive respondents – regardless of whether they are recorded as having a full, partial or proxy response. However, it only considers the core group – the eligible sample members. Response rates for new partners and younger partners are reported later.

There are two ways of looking at response rates for the ELSA sample. Firstly, because the sample is derived from a sample of households, response can be considered to take place in two stages; the household response rate can be calculated and subsequently the individual response rate within responding households can be. This approach is reported in this section. Secondly, as ELSA is ultimately treated as a sample of individuals for the purpose of most analyses, the individual response rate can be calculated. This second approach is presented in the next section.

Table 9.3. Household response rate: sample members

	Frequency	**% of issued**	**% of eligible**
Total issued (households)	11642	100	
Ineligible	282	2	
Total eligible	11360	98	100
Respond	7935		70
Non-respond	3425		30
Non-respondents	3425		30
No contact	138		1
Refuse	2498		22
Moved – unable to trace	419		4
Other	370		3

A responding household is defined as one where at least one eligible person was interviewed. Table 9.3 shows that a small percentage of households in the issued sample were reclassified as not containing any eligible individuals (2%). A household response rate of 70% was achieved. The majority of non-responding households refused to participate (22% of the eligible sample of households), while a smaller proportion could not be traced (4%) or were not interviewed for other reasons, such as being too sick during the interview period and there being no suitable proxy informant (3%).

Table 9.4 shows that only a small percentage of individuals within the 7935 responding households were reclassified as ineligible (3%). Of the remaining sample of individuals within responding households, a response rate of 96% was achieved. Non-response within households was almost always because of

refusal to take part (rather than, for instance, because of being too sick or disabled).

Tables 9.3 and 9.4 show that most of the non-response is occurring at the household level. The individual response rate within responding households is very high. This shows that where there were at least two eligible sample members in the household, their response was strongly dependent on each other. Around two-fifths of the issued sample were in households containing one sample member only. The remaining three-fifths were in households containing two eligible respondents (either two eligible sample members or an eligible sample member plus a new or younger partner). In a small proportion of households, there were more than two eligible respondents.

Table 9.4. Individual response rate within responding households: sample members

	Frequency	% of issued in responding households	% of eligible in responding households
Total issued (individuals)	12121	100	
Ineligible	312	3	
Total eligible	11809	97	100
Respond	11392		96
Non-respond	417		4
Non-respondents	417		4
No contact	34		0
Refuse	340		3
Moved – unable to trace	0		0
Other	43		0

The level of non-response is just over 30%. The small numbers of movers who were not traced and of non-contacts hint at the thorough procedures implemented during fieldwork to cover all of the sample, which were mentioned earlier.

Further components of the non-response include language difficulties, respondents being ill or away during the survey period, and respondents being physically or mentally incapable or incompetent. However, the main component of the non-response is refusals. It is widely accepted that this suggests that there is potential for the responding sample to be a biased subgroup. Non-response weights were produced to account for this potential bias, and are described in Section 9.7.

Individual response rate

As explained in the previous section, an alternative way of looking at the ELSA response rate is to calculate response for individuals, regardless of the behaviour of the households within which they live. Since most analysts will

treat ELSA as a sample of individuals, the overall individual response rate is one of the key measures that will be reported in future analysis.

Table 9.5 shows that a small percentage of the issued sample (4%) were reclassified as ineligible, mainly because they had moved into an institution, had moved outside of England or had died. These cases were set aside *before* the individual response rates were calculated. In total, a response rate of 67% was achieved.[3]

Table 9.5. Individual response rate: sample members

	Frequency	**% of issued**	**% of eligible**
Total issued (individuals)	17744	100	
Ineligible	648	4	
Total eligible	17096	96	100
Respond	11392		67
Non-respond	5704		33
Non-respondents	5704		33
No contact	221		1
Refuse	4359		25
Moved – unable to trace	537		3
Other	587		3

A small proportion of non-productive interviews were the result of movers remaining untraced (3% of the eligible sample of individuals). However, the majority of the non-respondents were refusers (25%).

Response rates for new and younger partners

In the previous two sections, response rates were calculated for the overall sample, excluding younger partners and new partners. In this section, we consider the response rates of these two small but important groups. Since all households at which interviews were conducted contained a responding sample member by virtue of the eligibility rules, only the individual response rates are given here.

Whilst the younger partners are not considered to be part of the main sample, their response rate as a separate subgroup is of interest. We found that the percentage of younger partners reclassified as ineligible was similar to that of sample members. However, a slightly lower response rate, of 63%, was achieved. This could be because although younger partners were treated in the same way as sample members, they may have felt that they were not the focus of the study about 'ageing'. The components of non-response among younger

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[3]The response rate for the issued sample (that is the sample members and younger partners presented in Table 9.1) was 66%. This is very similar to the 67% response rate for sample members only.

partners were similar to those for sample members; however, the sample size is too small to compare their distributions of reasons for non-response.

Although at this stage our understanding of the response rate among new partners is conjecture, it is possible that this is an older population who find the survey has greater salience for them and are more enthusiastic about supporting the sample member in taking part in the survey.

New partners were just as likely to respond to the survey as eligible sample members (with a response rate of 68% compared with 67% for eligible sample members) but younger partners had a slightly lower response rate (63%).

Other aspects of non-response

In the ELSA interview, not all modules required responses at an individual level. The household demographics and housing modules were asked at a household level, whilst the income & assets module was asked at a financial-unit level. The modules asked at an individual level were split into those that could be asked concurrently (individual demographics, health, work & pensions, social participation) and those that were private blocks (cognitive functioning, psychosocial health, expectations, final questions).

In addition to the overall level of response, an analysis of the level of response to key sections within the survey questionnaire was conducted. Table 9.6 gives the response rates at the appropriate level (household, financial unit or individual) for the three key sections. It shows that the levels of response for the housing and income & assets sections were very high (99.7% and 99.0% respectively). The level of response for the self-completion (at 92.0%[4]) was very good in survey terms, but for the purpose of analysis was sufficiently low to warrant further investigation. The conclusion was, however, that it was not necessary to include any weighting to account for non-response for the purpose of this report. This matter is discussed further in Section 9.7.

In addition to non-response to sections of the interview, item non-response is also important. Whilst full analysis of this is necessary, it is worth highlighting that a strategy was implemented to overcome non-response to items within the economic sections of the questionnaire, involving the use of unfolding brackets. This strategy is described fully in Annex 9.1.

Table 9.6. Response rates to key sections

Section	Total eligible	Level	Respond (%)	Non-respond (%)
Housing	6256	Household	99.7	0.3
Income & assets	6952	Financial unit	99.0	1.0
Self-completion	11234	Individual	92.0	8.0

[4]Proxy respondents were excluded from the calculation of the self-completion response rate because they were not invited to respond to this section.

9.6 The treatment of proxy and partial interviews

As mentioned earlier, proxy interviews were conducted in certain circumstances, and future analyses are likely to make good use of the data obtained in this way. However, information from 158 proxy interviews with eligible sample members has been excluded from this report (in addition to the 17 proxies already excluded because they were new or younger partners). This is because many of the questions asked of individual respondents should not be asked of proxy informants. Although only a small group of cases have been dropped, it is important to be aware of the characteristics of these respondents and to check for any issues that might arise from this decision.

At this stage in the study, the proxy group is very small, though it is expected to grow in future waves as our sample ages. Nevertheless, comparison of the characteristics of proxies with those of individual respondents shows that there are considerable differences between the two, as would be expected due to the rules employed to qualify for a proxy interview. Relative to those completing a full interview in person, proxy respondents are more likely to be old, more likely to have a long-standing illness and less likely to be in paid work or to be self-employed.

Table 9.7. Proxy respondent sample, including new and younger partners, by age and sex

Age band (years) at wave 1	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %	Total %
Under 50	5	6	11	6	7	6
50–54	11	6	17	13	7	10
55–59	13	7	20	15	8	11
60–64	13	8	21	15	9	12
65–69	10	6	16	12	7	9
70–74	13	6	19	15	7	11
75–79	5	11	16	6	12	9
80+	15	40	55	18	44	31
Total	*85*	*90*	*175*	*100*	*100*	*100*

Because there are so few proxy interviews at this stage in the life of the study, there is very little potential for their exclusion to affect the estimates provided in this report. A tabulation of several health and economics variables, with and without proxies, confirmed that the effects were small, even amongst the oldest old where proxies form a larger proportion of the population.

A further subgroup of individuals only responded partially. The implication of this for the tables included in this report is that there are varying base figures,

indicative of the positioning of the items in the questionnaire as a whole and the number of partial interviews accrued at that point.

9.7 Weighting strategy

The main aim of the weighting is to try to reduce any bias from non-response and to be confident that the respondent sample is representative of the population. In this case, the equal probability sample design of the HSE samples, and the fact that the ELSA sample selected all eligible adults from the HSE, eliminate any need for weights to account for selection probabilities. However, non-response at HSE, refusals to be reinterviewed post-HSE and non-response at ELSA wave 1 all have the potential to make the ELSA respondent sample unrepresentative of the population.

A thorough analysis of non-response was conducted to examine the different stages of drop-out and the extent of the drop-out at each stage. Two stages were identified where this was found to be significant enough to justify calculating a non-response weight to account for differences between respondents and non-respondents. These were:

- in households that did not contain an age-eligible individual who agreed to be reinterviewed beyond HSE; and

- household-level non-response at ELSA wave 1.

Previous analysis of non-response at HSE provided clear guidance about how to model response using logistic regression. Factors influencing response were derived from information collected at HSE to use in the model.

A further round of weighting was needed to post-stratify the responding sample to the population of interest. The population has been defined as adults of 50 years and over in England, living in private households in 2001, as represented by the Census 2001. This weighting attempts to account for any bias caused by households non-responding to HSE (because ELSA is sampled from the responding HSE households only). A technique called 'calibration weighting' was used to adjust the non-response-weighted respondent age–sex distribution to the Census 2001 non-institutionalised distribution and was carried out by the Office for National Statistics using CALMAR. The technique derives a household-level and an individual-level weight. The individual-level weight is identical for all individuals living in the same household. The rationale behind calibration weighting is that it attaches an estimated probability of response to each household that 'explains' the discrepancy between the survey age–sex distribution and the population age–sex distribution.[5] A key advantage of the approach is that, because the household and individual-within-household weights are identical, in the

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[5]In principle, if we had population estimates for age and sex by household composition (for example, the number of households with two adults – one man aged 70 and one woman aged 68), then we could calculate a *direct* estimate of the probability of a household responding in terms of its age–sex composition. However, because we do not have data to this level of detail, calibration weighting is a means of modelling the probabilities across household compositions whilst controlling for the marginal age–sex distribution.

absence of substantial within-household non-response, estimates about individuals derived from the household-level dataset will match estimates derived from the individual-level dataset.

The application of the weights has very little impact on the estimates. Nevertheless, they are of value and it is hoped that this approach has laid the foundations of a long-term strategy for longitudinal weights.

As mentioned earlier, non-response within the self-completion section was also modelled to establish whether extra weighting was needed. Initial analyses suggested that no further weighting was necessary for general data use. Users concentrating on analysis of data from this section might benefit from investigating this further.

Weights have been calculated for sample members only, because they are the sample of interest. All other individuals that were interviewed (younger partners and new partners) have a weight of zero.

9.8 Next steps

Longitudinal studies are cumulative; work on early waves continues as the next survey is being developed and plans for future waves are being discussed.

The wave 1 technical report will be published in 2004 (Taylor et al., forthcoming) and data will be deposited in the UK Data Archive, with further information available on the ELSA website (http://www.ifs.org.uk/elsa/index.htm). We intend to carry out further methodological work – for example, assessing the effectiveness of concurrent interviewing and the use of dependent interviewing.

We plan to interview respondents at two-yearly intervals so are now preparing to start wave 2 fieldwork in Spring 2004. This second survey will involve the addition of a nurse interview and changes to the interview content so that new topics can be covered and change since wave 1 can be measured. During this period, we also hope to introduce strategies to follow individuals into institutions and to interview relatives or carers of ELSA respondents who have died since the wave 1 interview. The same rigorous approach to methodology is being applied.

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Annex 9.1
Imputation of missing financial information

Each financial variable in ELSA is collected by initially requesting an exact answer and then following up with a series of what are commonly referred to as 'unfolding brackets'. Unfolding brackets operate by asking respondents who are unable or refuse to give an exact answer a series of follow-up questions designed to elicit a minimum and a maximum number defining a range or 'closed band' within which the value lies. In a small number of cases, individuals are able to provide a minimum value but not a maximum, and these individuals, along with those who are in the highest bracket, end up in a band that does not have a maximum, which we refer to as an 'open band'. The unfolding bracket questions are randomly ordered for each respondent such that any possible anchoring effects from the procedure are averaged across the distribution, and the bracket values are selected on the basis of the density of the underlying financial variable.

Unfolding brackets significantly reduce the number of observations for which we have no information on any one source of income or wealth. Nevertheless, some cases remain, which means that for each financial variable we have a varying quality of data: continuous, closed-band, open-band or missing.[6] We impute a value for each variable in all cases where we have banded or missing information.

The imputation procedure that we use is the conditional hot-deck, and we use broad age band (50 to state pension age, state pension age to 75 and 75+), benefit-unit type (couple or single) and (for singles only) gender as conditioning variables. For each missing or banded case, imputation involves choosing a random observation from all observations with matching characteristics in each of these dimensions and, where we have banded information, with income or wealth within the same range. The level of wealth or income from the observation that is picked at random is then assigned to the missing or banded case.[7]

Tables 9A.1 and 9A.2 report the percentages of cases that fall into each of the categories of data quality. The missing cases are split into cases where there is no information at all on that variable ('missing completely') and cases where

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[6]Banded information can also arise when only one member of a couple responds to the survey. The wealth and income data are imputed at the benefit-unit level (a single person or a couple, plus any dependent children that they have), so we need to know information on income and wealth of both members of the couple. We deal with this by generating banded information for the couple, using the wealth of the responding member as the minimum of an open-band classification for the couple.

[7]Benefit units are defined from individuals within the same household using their age and marital status. A benefit unit is a single adult or couple plus any dependent children. A couple is defined as two adults that are married or living as married. An adult is defined as an individual who is aged 19+ or aged 16–18 and married. Any children are included in the benefit unit with the appropriate adult parent. (Note that financial units in ELSA are equivalent to benefit units with the exception that couples with separate finances are classified as two financial units.)

we know that the individual has some income or wealth of the relevant type but where there is no information on how much they have ('missing, >0'). Most variables require imputation in less than 5% of cases. Noticeable exceptions are income from savings and money held in savings or current accounts. The importance of the unfolding bracket follow-ups is apparent from the low numbers of observations that are 'missing completely' in the wealth variables and the income from investment variables.

Table 9A.1. Income variable data types

Income type	Continuous	Closed band	Open band	Missing, > 0	Missing completely
Take-home pay	93.8	1.0	1.9	1.2	2.0
Net profit	94.0	1.7	0.5	0.7	3.0
Self-employment	96.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.2
Odd jobs	95.9	0.5	0.2	0.2	3.2
Private pension	93.6	2.8	0.3	2.9	0.4
Savings income	64.2	20.7	1.6	10.9	2.5
ISA income	86.5	3.6	0.4	6.8	2.7
TESSA income	90.4	3.3	0.1	3.5	2.7
Premium bonds income	96.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	2.7
National Savings income	94.1	1.4	0.2	1.6	2.6
PEP income	92.4	1.6	0.2	3.1	2.7
Shares income	87.4	4.4	0.5	5.0	2.6
Trusts income	94.1	0.9	0.1	2.2	2.7
Bonds income	94.3	0.9	0.1	2.0	2.7
Other savings income	95.4	0.7	0.1	1.2	2.7
Rental income	97.9	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.6
Farm income	98.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.6
State pension income (h)	96.6	0.8	0.2	1.4	1.1
State pension income (s)	97.5	0.4	0.0	0.9	1.1
Annuity income (h)	98.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.5
Annuity income (s)	98.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.4
Incapacity benefit (h)	98.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1
Incapacity benefit (s)	99.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8
Severe disablement allowance (h)	98.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1
Severe disablement allowance (s)	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8

Continues

Table 9A.1 contd. Income variable data types

Income type	Continuous	Closed band	Open band	Missing, > 0	Missing completely
Statutory sick pay (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Statutory sick pay (s)	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8
Attendance allowance (h)	98.5	0.1	0.0	0.3	1.1
Attendance allowance (s)	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8
Disability living allowance (h)	98.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	1.1
Disability living allowance (s)	99.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8
Industrial injuries allowance (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Industrial injuries allowance (s)	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
War pension (h)	98.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1
War pension (s)	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Invalid care allowance (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Invalid care allowance (s)	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Disabled person's tax credit (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Disabled person's tax credit (s)	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Income support (h)	98.2	0.2	0.0	0.5	1.1
Income support (s)	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7
Working families' tax credit (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Working families' tax credit (s)	99.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Jobseeker's allowance (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Jobseeker's allowance (s)	99.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Guardian's allowance (h)	98.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Guardian's allowance (s)	99.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Widow's pension (h)	98.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.1
Widow's pension (s)	99.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Child benefit (h)	98.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Child benefit (s)	99.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7
Other income (h)	98.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Other income (s)	98.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3

Note: h = household; s = spouse.

Table 9A.2. Wealth variable data types

Income type	Continuous	Closed band	Open band	Missing, > 0	Missing completely
Savings or current accounts	79.4	9.6	1.6	7.0	2.5
ISAs	86.9	4.5	0.7	3.1	4.9
TESSAs	94.2	1.1	0.1	1.9	2.7
Premium bonds	94.7	0.7	0.3	1.7	2.6
National Savings	95.7	0.6	0.2	0.9	2.6
PEPs	91.8	2.8	0.2	2.6	2.6
Shares	87.7	5.1	0.7	3.9	2.6
Trusts	93.6	1.7	0.2	1.8	2.7
Bonds	94.2	1.3	0.2	1.6	2.7
Other savings	95.9	0.5	0.1	0.8	2.7
Life insurance (savings component)	91.9	2.7	0.2	1.2	4.1
Joint assets	98.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Property	96.7	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.6
Farms etc.	97.9	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.6
Other physical assets	96.2	1.1	0.3	0.7	1.6
Primary business wealth	95.1	0.9	0.3	0.6	3.0
Other business wealth	93.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	5.6
Credit-card debt	97.1	0.7	0.1	0.4	1.7
Private debt	98.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
Other debt	97.1	0.7	0.2	0.4	1.6
House value	94.5	3.5	0.5	1.4	0.0
Housing debt	94.9	3.1	1.5	0.3	0.2