Ageing differently in communities

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Centre for Ageing Better

Centre for Ageing Better

About us

The Centre for Ageing Better creates change in policy and practice informed by evidence and works with partners across England to improve employment, housing, health and communities.
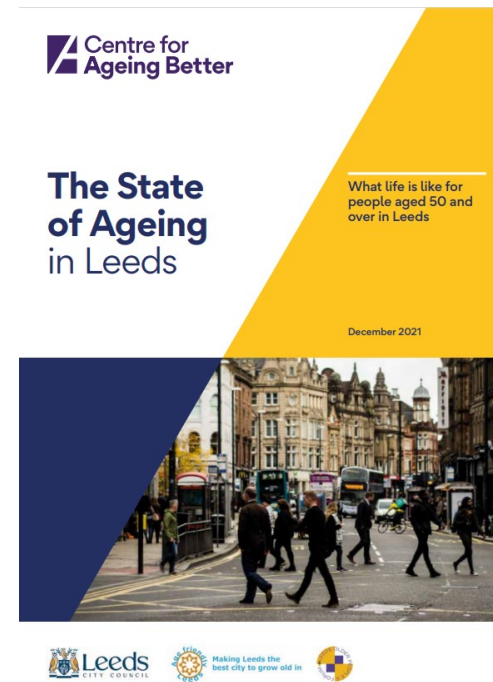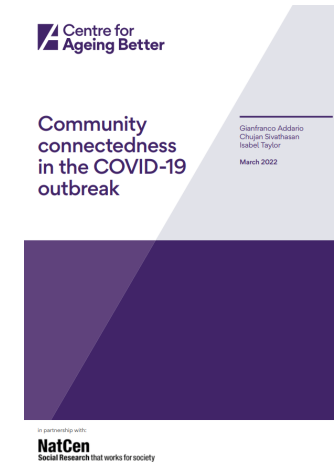
We are a charitable foundation, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, and part of the government's What Works Network.

Transforming later lives

Recent Ageing Better Reports

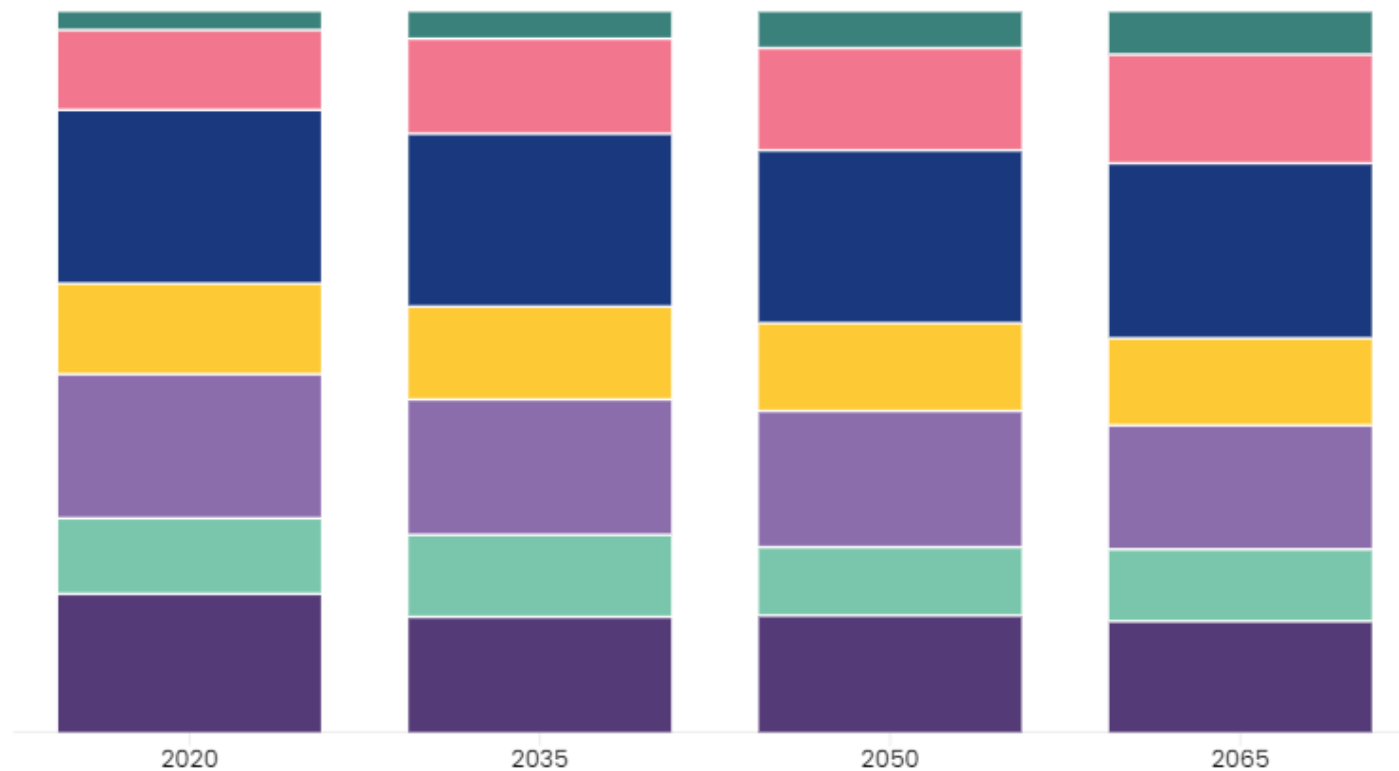**https://ageing-better.org.uk/publications**

Our Ageing Population

A girl born today has a one in five chance of living to 100

Proportion (%) of the population by age group and year, England
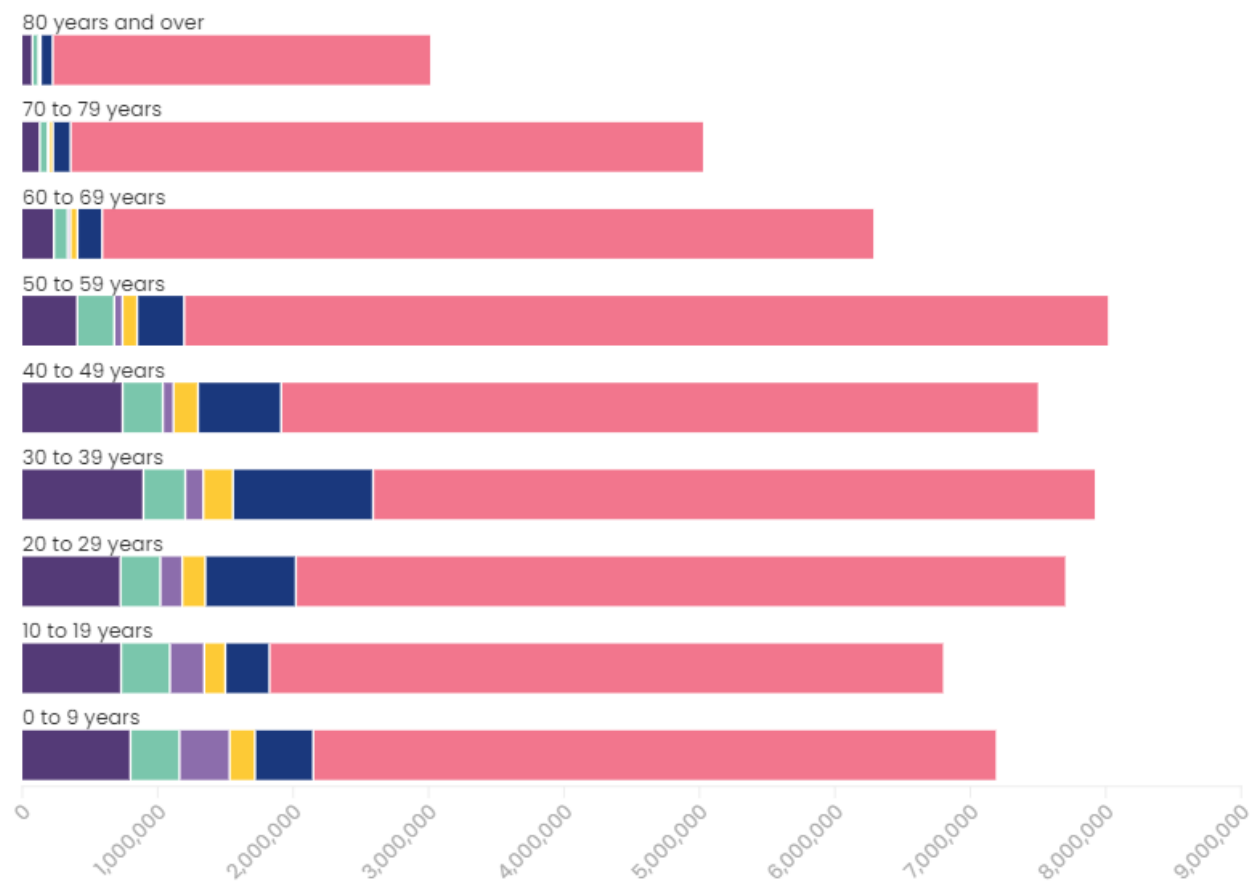
■ 0-15 ■ 16-24 ■ 25-39 ■ 40-49 ■ 50-69 ■ 70-84 ■ 85+

2020 2035 2050 2065

Source: ONS, National population projections: 2020-based interim

The State of Ageing 2022

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ageing-better.org.uk

Ethnic diversity in older age groups will increase with time

Population estimates by ethnic group and age, England and Wales, 2019

Legend:
- Asian or Asian British
- Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- Other ethnic group
- All White except White British
- White British

Age groups (top to bottom):
- 80 years and over
- 70 to 79 years
- 60 to 69 years
- 50 to 59 years
- 40 to 49 years
- 30 to 39 years
- 20 to 29 years
- 10 to 19 years
- 0 to 9 years
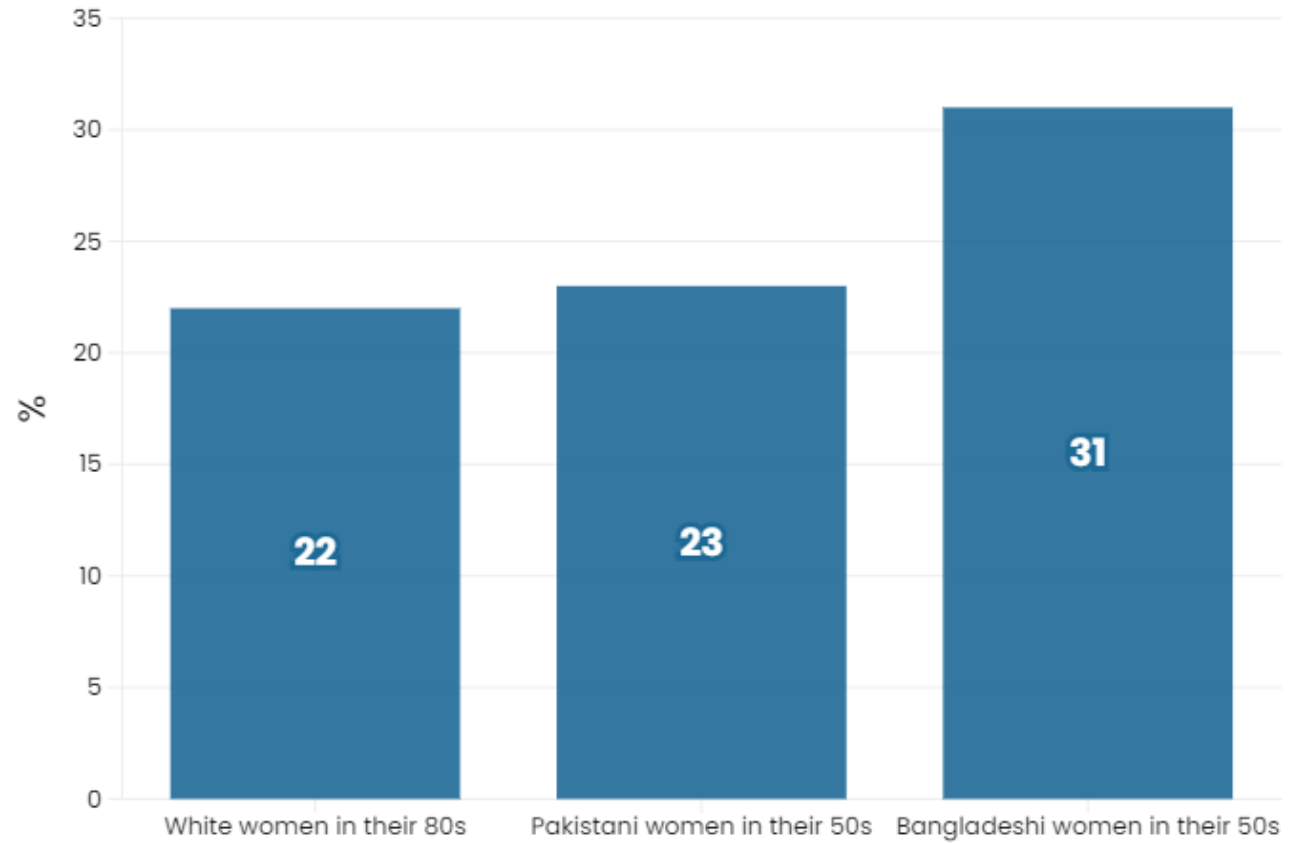
X-axis: 0 to 9,000,000

Source: Office for National Statistics (2021). Population estimates by ethnic group and religion, England and Wales Population estimates by ethnic group and religion, England and Wales: 2019

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Health inequalities increase with age

Proportion of women self-reporting poor health

Source: 2011 Census • Own calculations. Poor self-rated health aggregates 'bad' and 'very bad' health

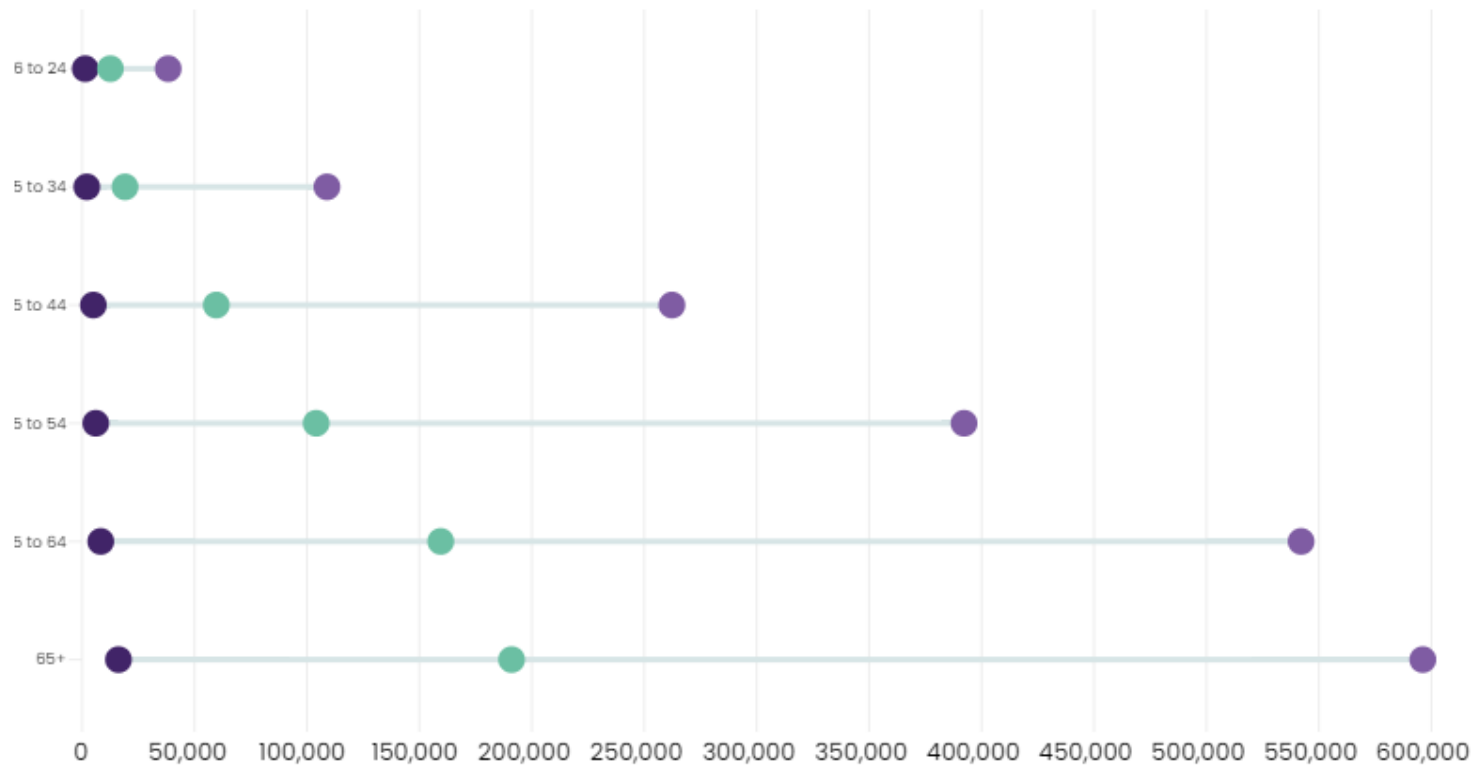Ethnic health inequalities in later life

Financial inequality increases with age

Individual wealth (excluding private pension wealth) by age band (£), Great Britain, April 2016 to March 2018
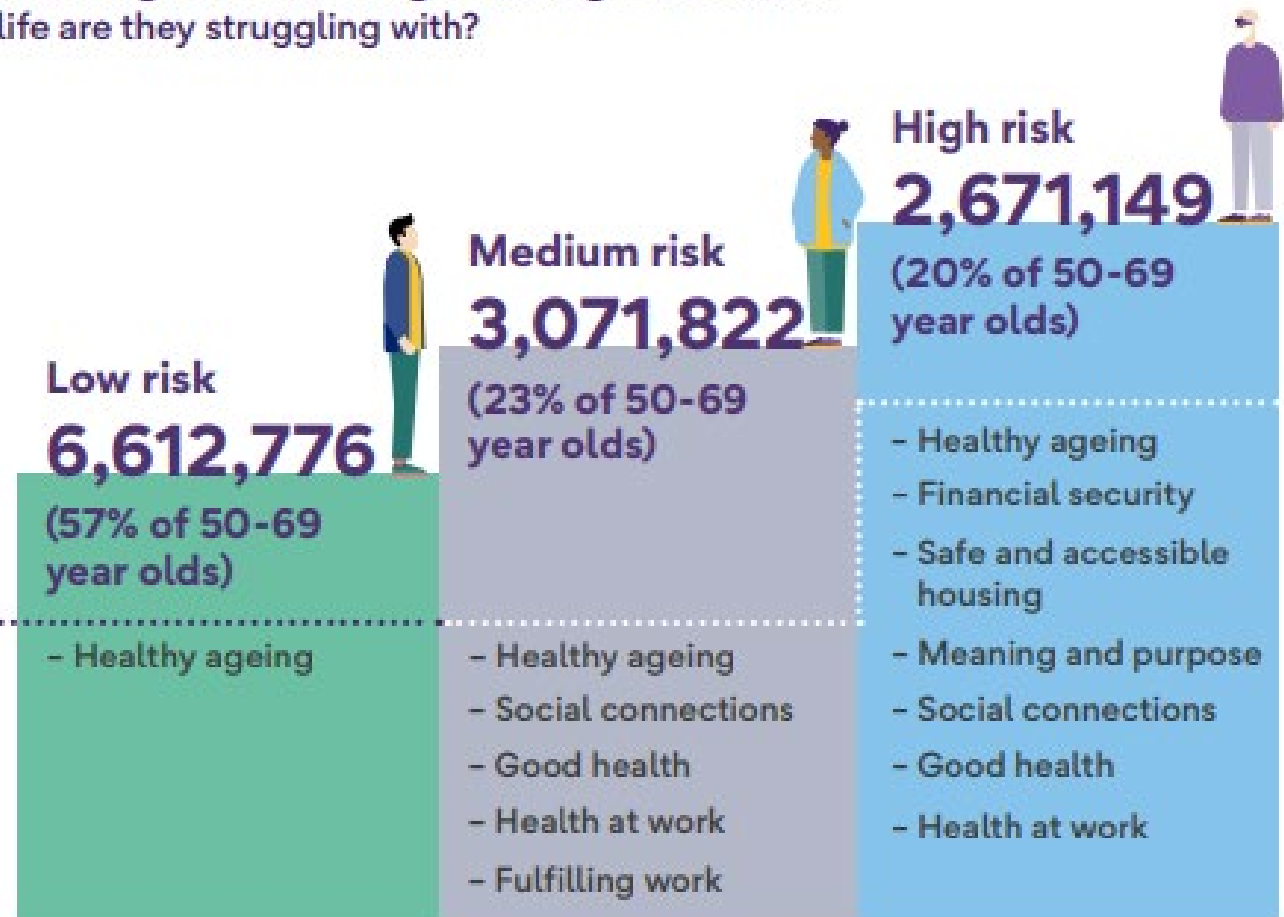
● Least wealthy 10% ● Median ● Wealthiest 10%

Source: Wealth and Assets Survey, Get the data •

Risks of missing out on a good later life are interconnected

Figure 7: Low, medium and high risk of missing out on a good later life: which dimensions of life are they struggling with?

Low risk
6,612,776
(57% of 50-69 year olds)
– Healthy ageing

Medium risk
3,071,822
(23% of 50-69 year olds)
– Healthy ageing
– Social connections
– Good health
– Health at work
– Fulfilling work

High risk
2,671,149
(20% of 50-69 year olds)
– Healthy ageing
– Financial security
– Safe and accessible housing
– Meaning and purpose
– Social connections
– Good health
– Health at work

Dimensions of life in which these groups were experiencing negative situations

Membership of "connectedness groups" by age

Figure 5: Membership of community connectedness groups by age, all adults 18+
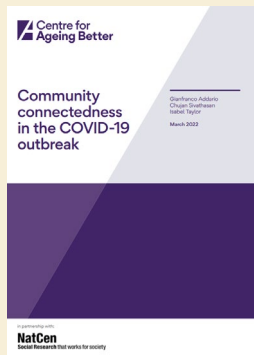
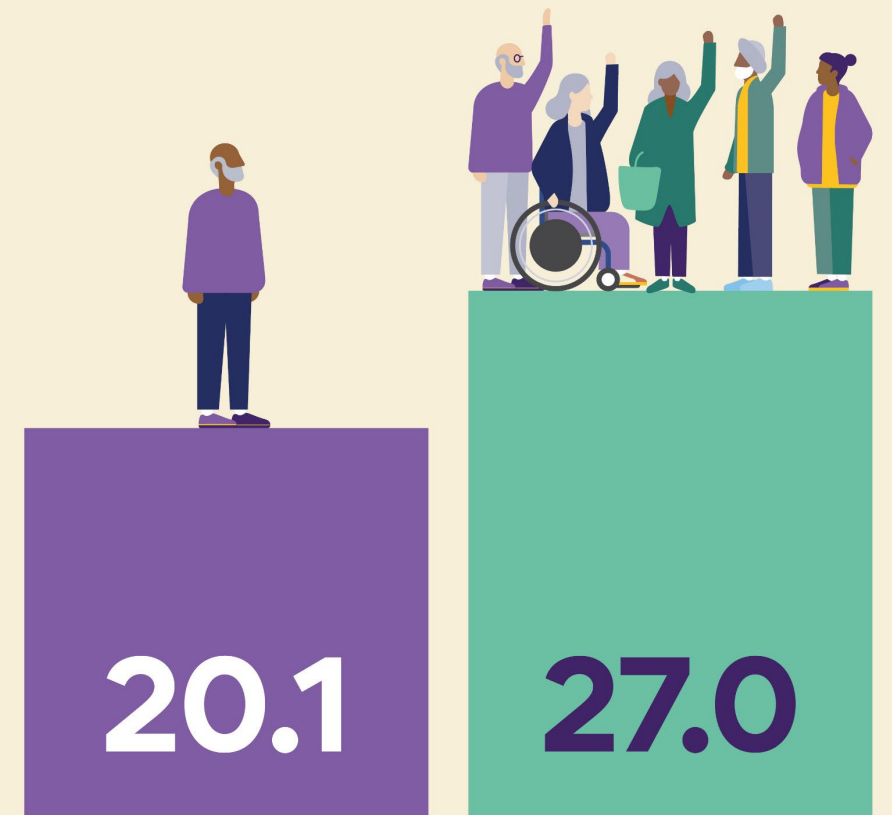| Age	Isolated	Disengaged	Wary helpers	Kindred helpers	Local helpers	Reciprocators
70 and above	5	18	4	31	22	21
50 to 69	10	23	8	28	26	5
Below 50	21	24	9	24	18	4
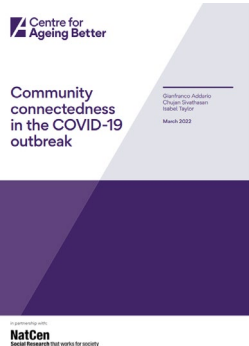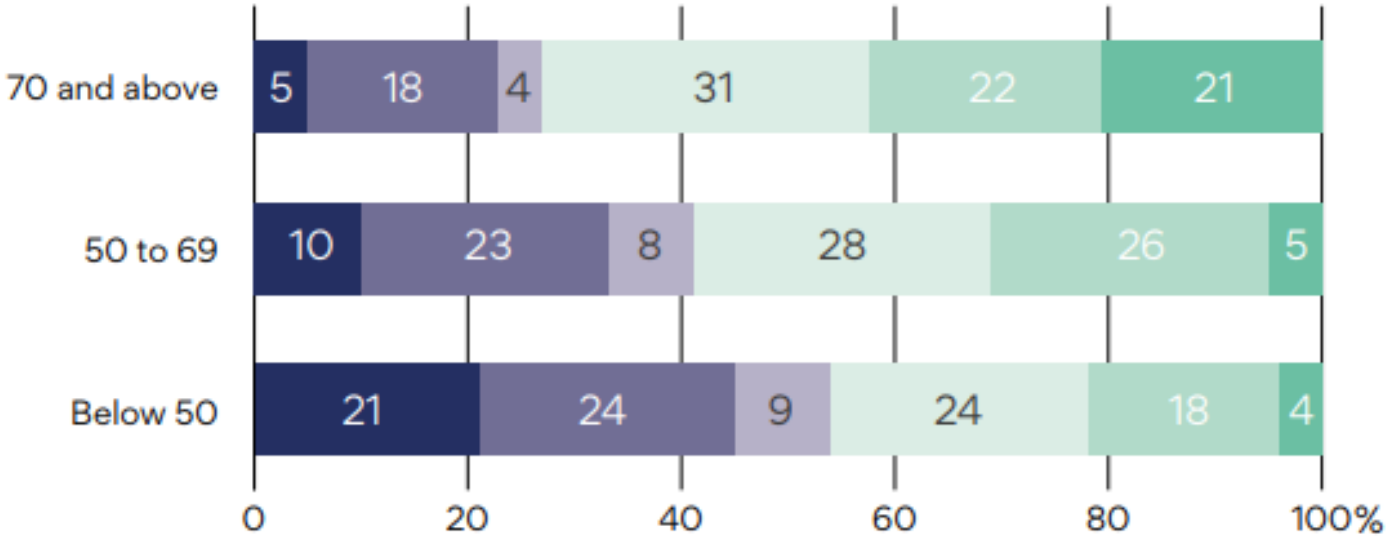
Legend:
- Isolated
- Disengaged
- Wary helpers
- Kindred helpers
- Local helpers
- Reciprocators

NatCen Opinion Panel Nov-2020. Base: population of England aged 18+. Unweighted count: Below 50, 809; 50 to 69, 1,969; 70 and above, 491.

During the pandemic well-connected people reported higher quality of life than less-connected people.

"Local helpers" trusted their neighbours and felt a sense of belonging to their local area. They helped family, friends and others locally but were unlikely to receive help themselves.

20.1

Isolated people (aged 50 and over)

27.0

Local helpers (aged 50 and over)

Quality of life is measured using CASP-12, where higher values reflect a better quality of life.

Community connectedness in the COVID-19 outbreak

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Gianfranco Addario
Chyan Svetharan
Isabel Taylor

March 2022

NatCen
Social Research that works for society

Source: NatCen Panel, November 2020

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Differences within places

– A ten mile journey from Harehills in the centre of Leeds to Wetherby on the north east outskirts adds 10 years to life expectancy
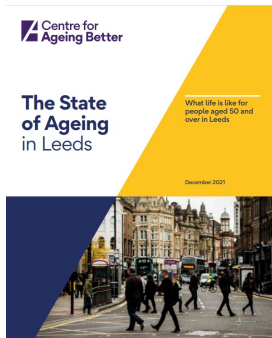
For more on local data read
https://www.lgcplus.com/services/health-and-care/joanne-volpe-better-local-data-is-needed-to-achieve-levelling-up-08-03-2022/

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Different experiences in the same place

"Those aged 50-70 years had better mental wellbeing than those aged less than 50 years when unemployment was relatively low. However, in areas with higher unemployment rates, these age differences fell away."

There are things we can do

- Understand the intersection of ageing with other forms of inequality
- Take a life course approach to age inequality – recognising the roots start in younger life
- Enable data to be disaggregated by age
- Close the ethnicity data gap
- Continue to develop our understanding of diverse ageing in communities
- Support the Age-friendly Community movement and amplify diverse older people's voices