

# Ageing differently in communities

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Centre for Ageing Better

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# 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.

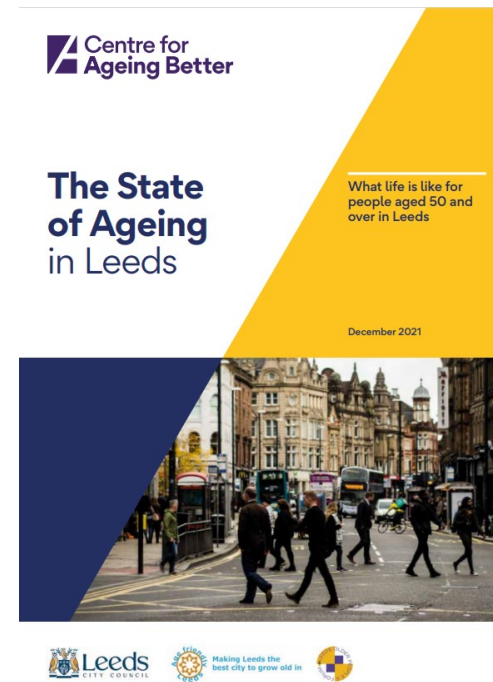
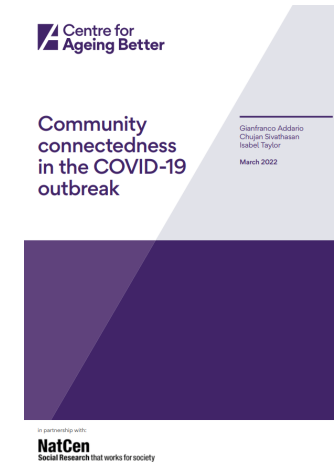
We are a charitable foundation, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, and part of the government's What Works Network.





# Recent Ageing Better Reports

<https://ageing-better.org.uk/publications>





# Our Ageing Population

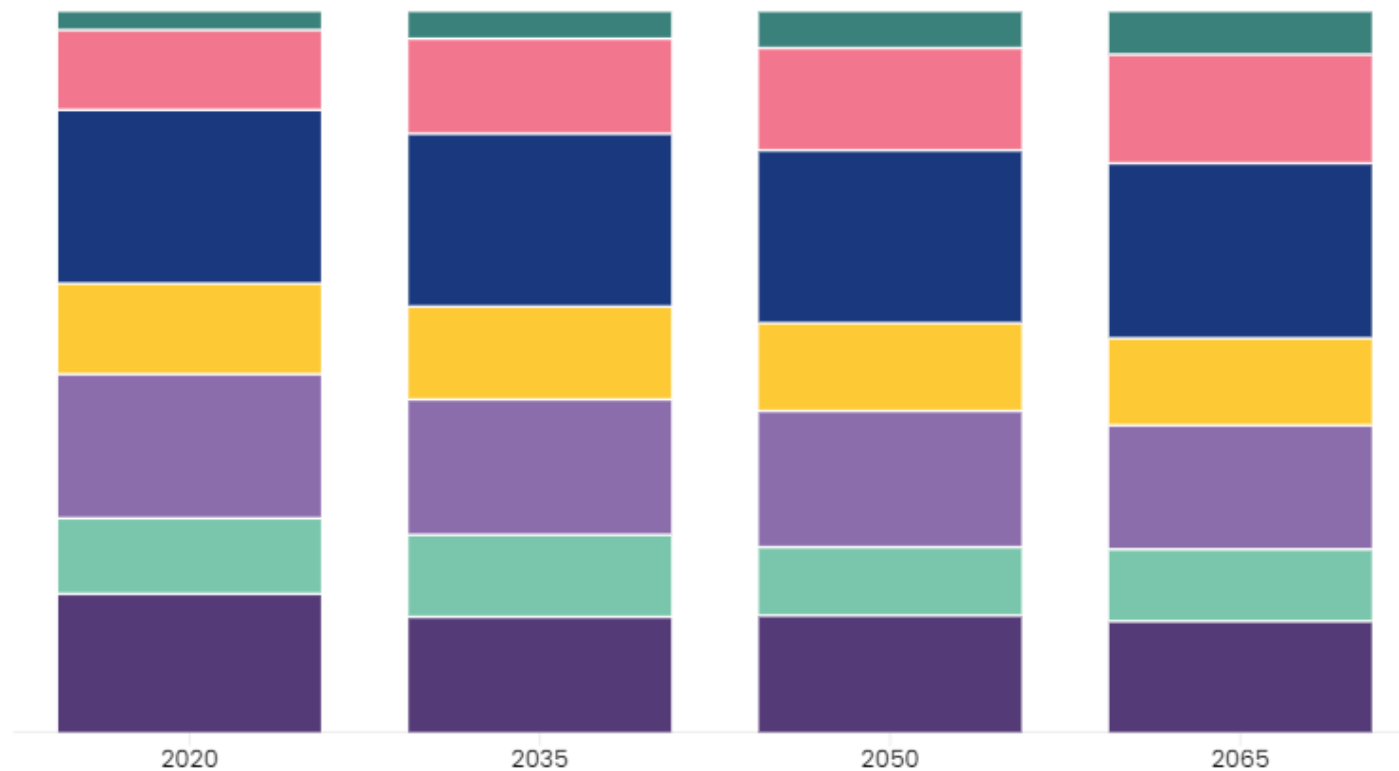


A girl born today has a one in five chance of living to 100



### Proportion (%) of the population by age group and year, England

0-15 16-24 25-39 40-49 50-69 70-84 85+



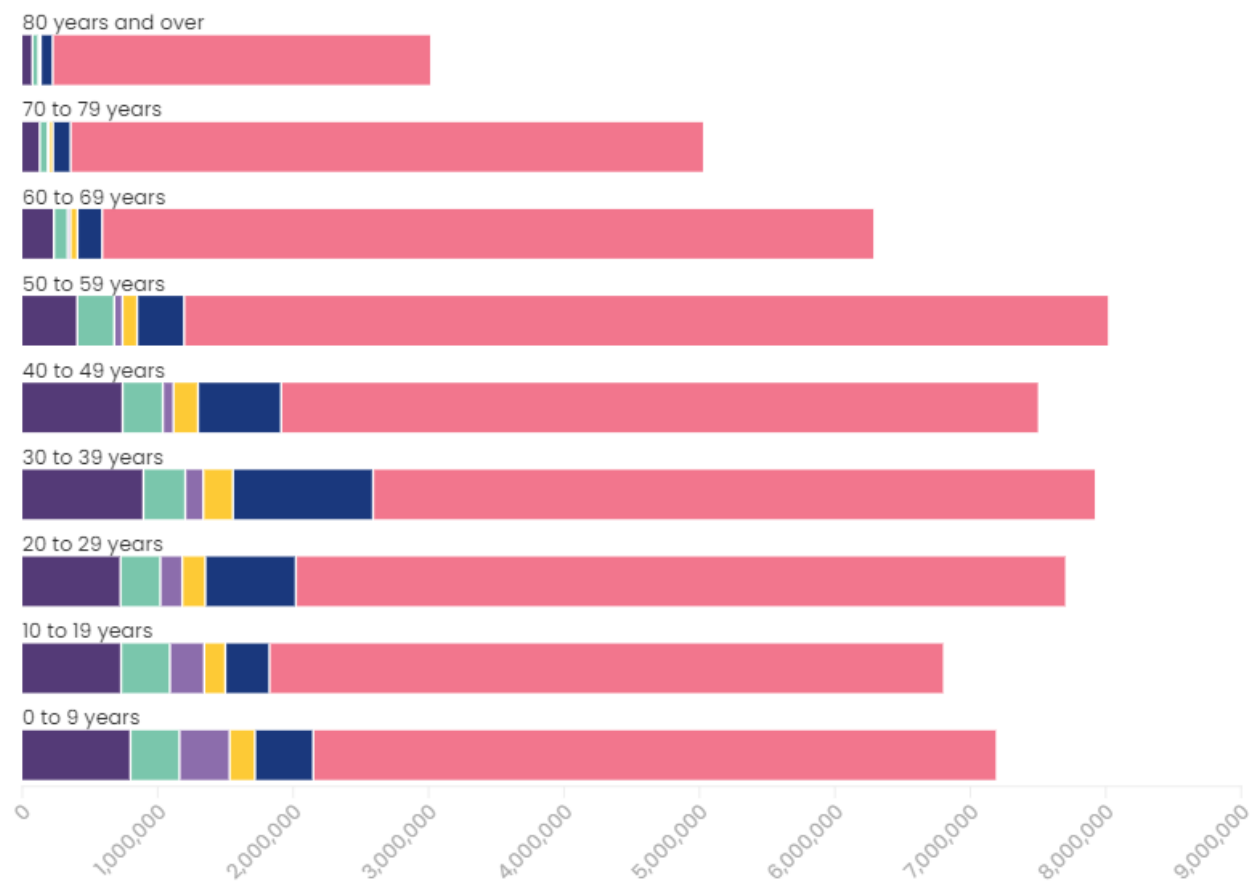
Source: ONS, National population projections: 2020-based interim

# Ethnic diversity in older age groups will increase with time



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

- 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

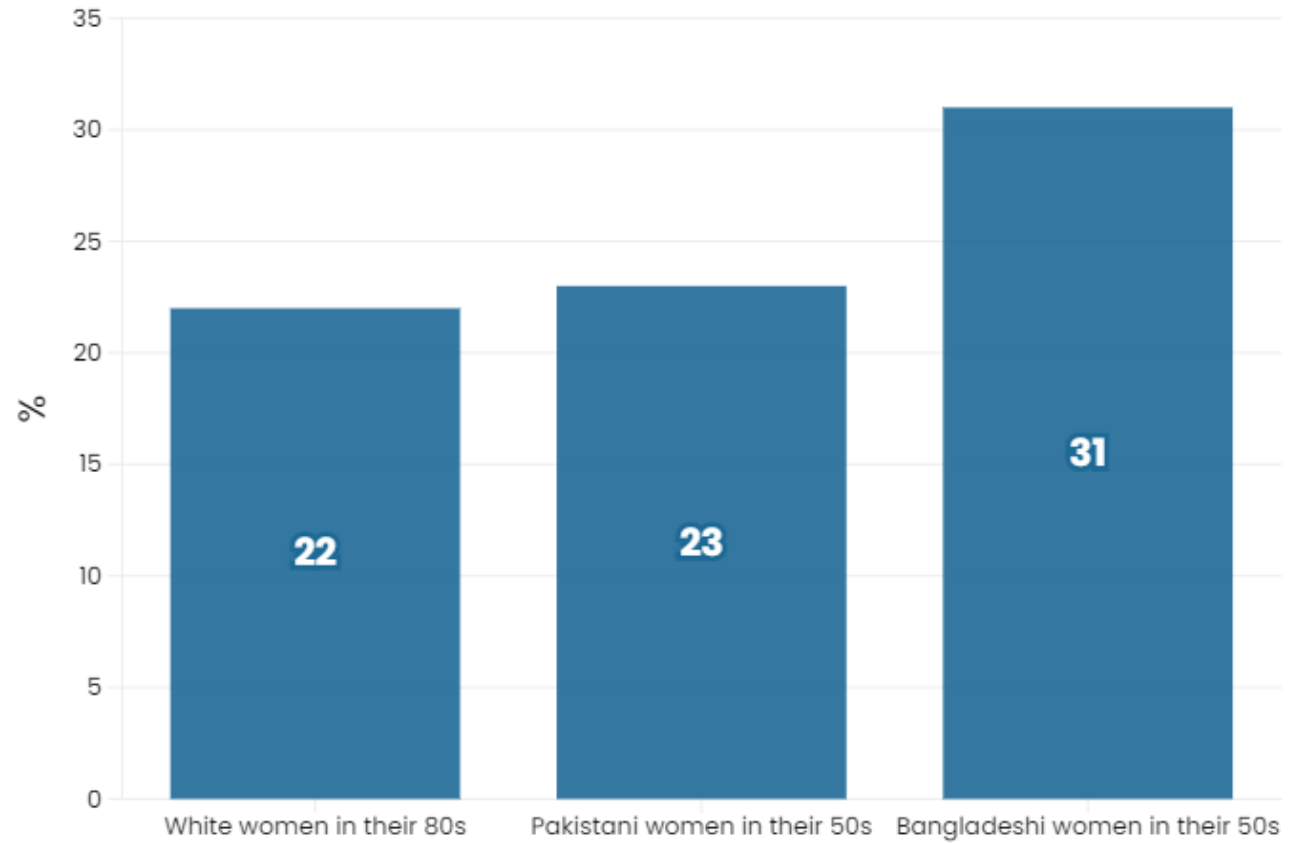


Source: Office for National Statistics (2021). Population estimates by ethnic group and religion, England and Wales Population estimates by ethnic group and religion. England and Wales: 2019



# 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

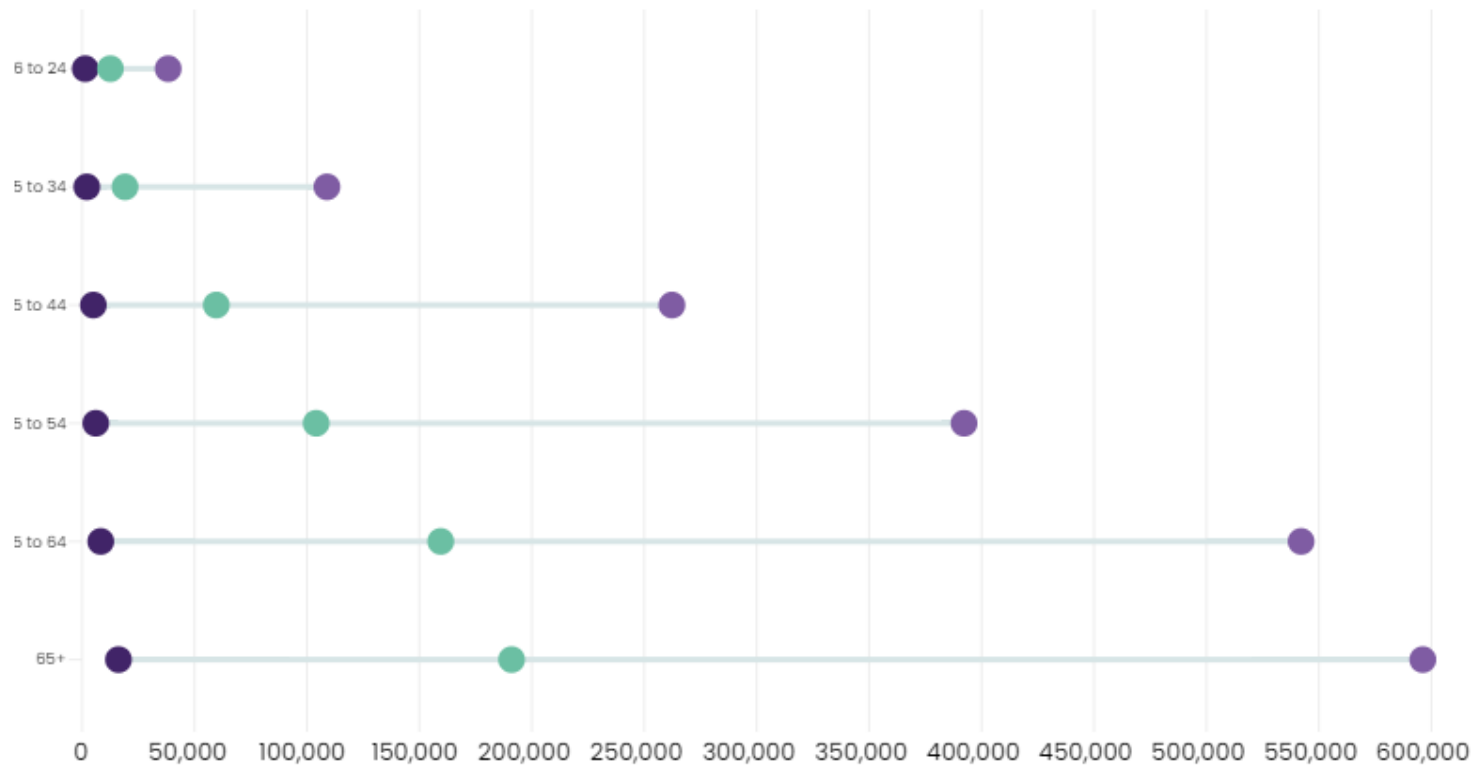


# Financial inequality increases with age



## Individual wealth (excluding private pension wealth) by age band (£), Great Britain, April 2016 to March 2018

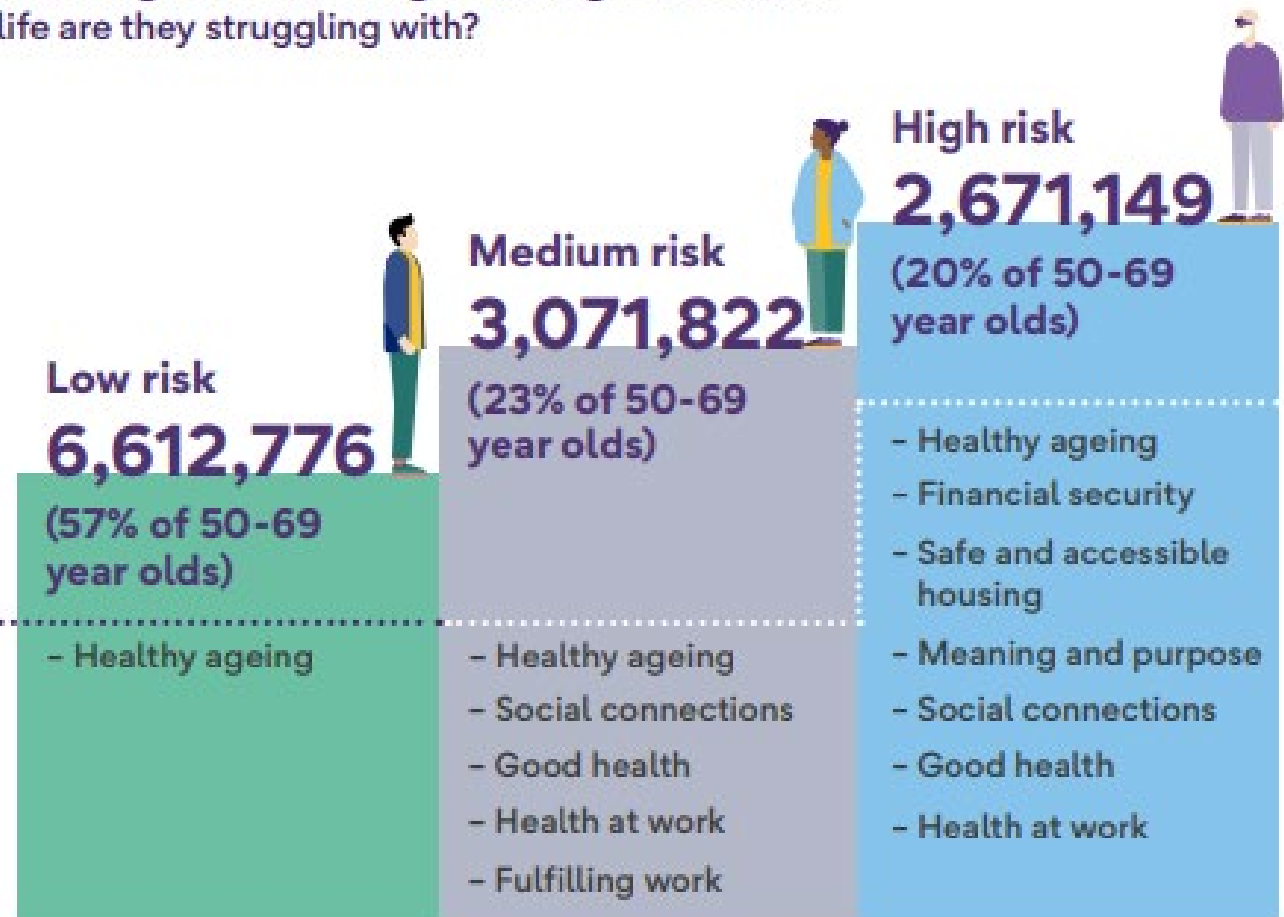
● Least wealthy 10% ● Median ● Wealthiest 10%



Source: Wealth and Assets Survey, Get the data • [Twitter](#)

# 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?



Dimensions of life in which these groups were experiencing negative situations

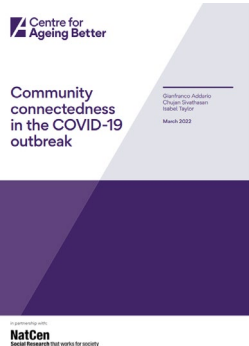
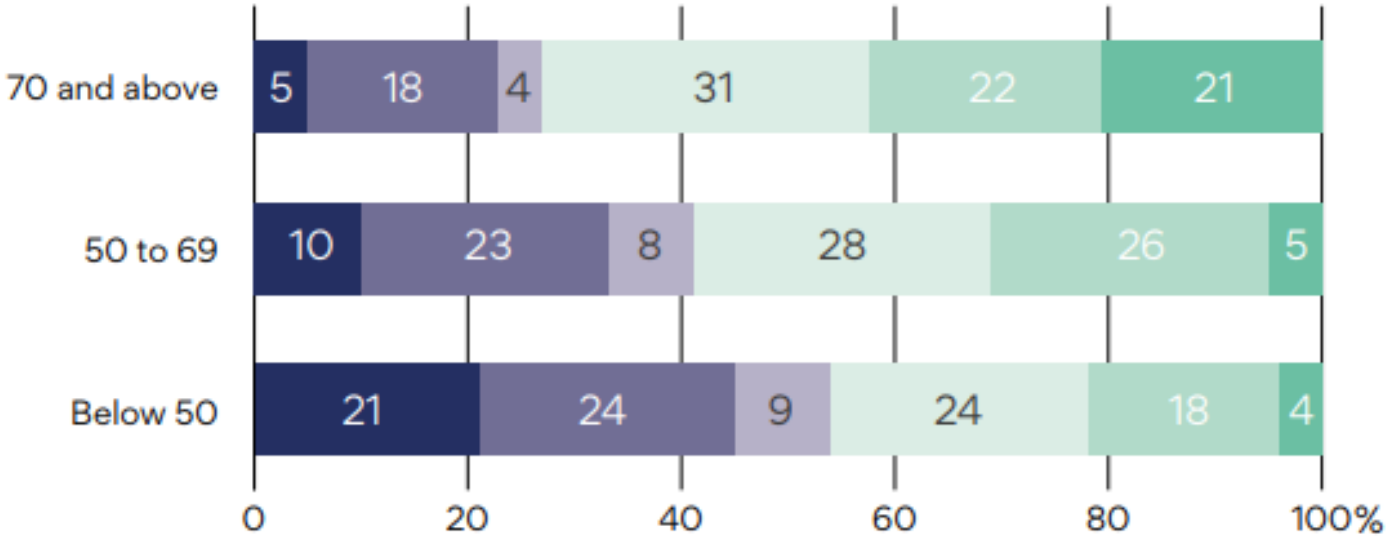






# Membership of “connectedness groups” by age

Figure 5: Membership of community connectedness groups by age, all adults 18+

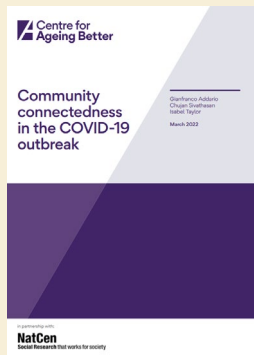


- Isolated
- Disengaged
- Wary helpers
- Kindred helpers
- Local helpers
- Reciprocators

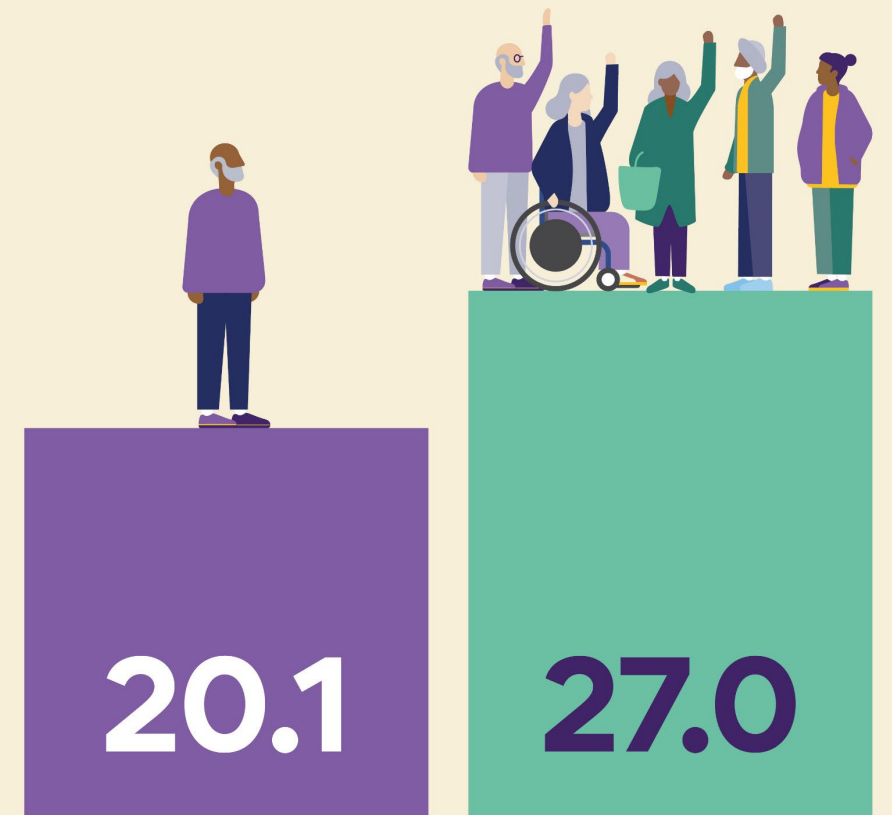
NatCen Opinion Panel Nov-2020. Base: population of England aged 18+. Unweighted count: Below 50, 809; 50 to 69, 1,969; 70 and above, 491.

# 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.



Source: NatCen Panel, November 2020



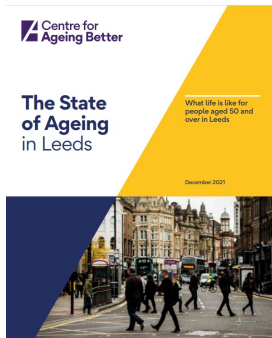
**Isolated people**  
(aged 50 and over)

**Local helpers**  
(aged 50 and over)

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

# 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/>



During the Covid-19 pandemic, many people relied on their communities for support more than ever before, and the impact of where we live and work on how we feel became more apparent. The pandemic brought into sharp focus the importance of our communities in how we are doing and a greater urgency to the levelling up agenda which was first proposed by the UK Government prior to the pandemic.

The UK Government's commitment to levelling up is now set out in a comprehensive White Paper at the heart of which is a recognition that not all places benefit from the same physical and social infrastructure, and people's sense of pride in and connection to their communities is not equally distributed<sup>1</sup>. These features of community are all understood to be aspects of overall "community wellbeing".

However, as the levelling up agenda brings focus to the differences between places, it is also important to understand the different experiences of people within the same place. While focusing on community wellbeing

can help us understand the differences between places, understanding individual wellbeing can bring focus to the different experiences of people within the same place, helping us to better understand the drivers of inequality and disadvantage. Unpacking how individual wellbeing and community wellbeing may be related and how changes in one may lead to changes in the other was at the heart of this project.

**This understanding can inform those designing and delivering community based interventions to address key priorities such as increasing wellbeing, supporting levelling up or building community cohesion.**

Definitions of wellbeing	
<b>Individual wellbeing</b>	Feeling good and functioning well. Affected by internal and external factors such as the physical and social context of the place where we live and personal relationships.
<b>Community wellbeing</b>	This is how we are doing as a community. It is about how a group of people are doing as a group and goes beyond just adding up the individual wellbeing of the people in that group, to include considerations of how wellbeing is distributed. In this study we defined community wellbeing by thinking about subjective and objective aspects of wellbeing that are of interest at the community level as opposed to at the individual, national or international levels.
<b>National wellbeing</b>	How we're doing as individuals, communities and as a nation, and how sustainable that is for the future <sup>2</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> See: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1052706/levelling\\_up\\_WP\\_HRES.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052706/levelling_up_WP_HRES.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> <https://whatworkswellbeing.org/about-wellbeing/what-is-wellbeing/>

# 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

