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

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

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
Risks of missing out on a good later life are interconnected
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**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isolated people (aged 50 and over)</th>
<th>Local helpers (aged 50 and over)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>27.0</td>
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Quality of life is measured using CASP-12, where higher values reflect a better quality of life.

Source: NatCen Panel, November 2020
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
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