

UNDERSTANDING THE OLDEST OLD

Using new data from the UK's largest ever social survey, Understanding Society, PFRC and ILC-UK have uncovered startling preliminary findings about the 'oldest old' (aged over 85) and their levels of participation, wellbeing and health.

This new analysis, published as part of ESRC SDAI funded initiative is part of a major project exploring the financial dimensions of wellbeing and wider quality of life measures in older age.

PFRC and ILC-UK plan to extend analysis of Understanding Society to look at the financial wellbeing of the oldest old.

GOING OUT

In the previous **12 months**,
within the oldest old group;

24%

had visited a
library

16%

went to the
theatre

13%

visited a
museum or gallery

10%

had been to
the cinema



HEALTH

AROUND

1/3

over 85s said they were at least **partly dissatisfied with their health**

OVER

3/4

of the oldest old felt that their **health limited even moderate activities**

ABOUT

1/2

felt that pain had interfered with **their activities over the past few weeks**

FAMILY TIES

8 OUT OF 10

felt they could rely **on family a lot**

1 IN 10

reported **not having any friends**



LIFE SATISFACTION

26%

over 85s reported being at **least somewhat dissatisfied with their life overall**

JUST UNDER

3/4

of the oldest old were at least **somewhat satisfied with their lives**

UK CENTENARIANS

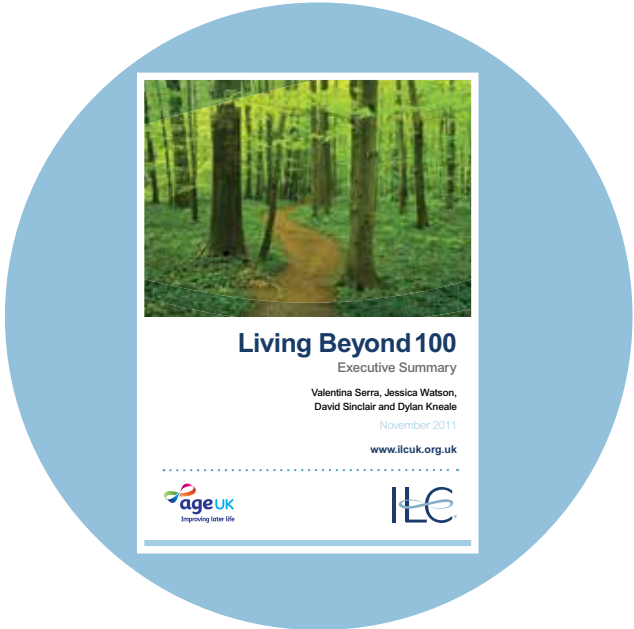
In 2011, ILC-UK published **‘Living Beyond 100’: A report on centenarians.**

Unless otherwise noted, the following data is taken from this report where it is fully referenced.

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DOWNLOAD HERE

http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/publications/publication_details/living_beyond_100_a_report_on_centenarians

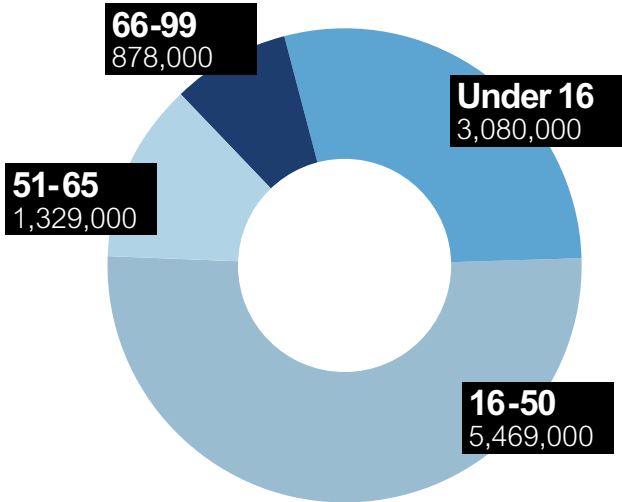


A GROWING POPULATION

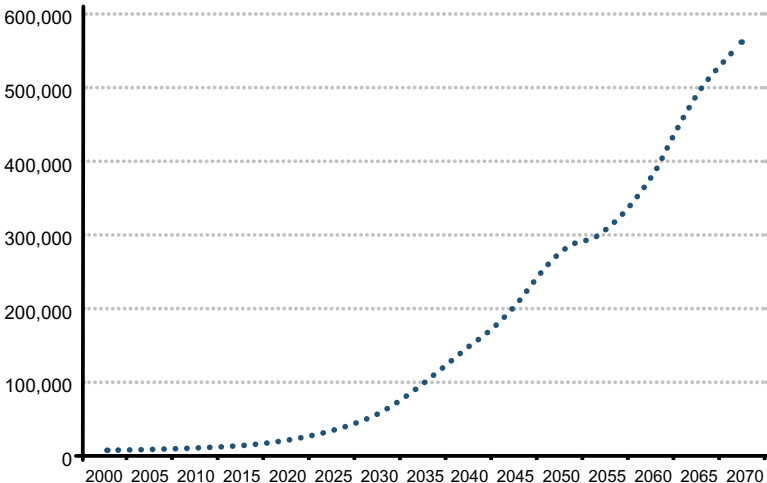
Number of people currently alive who can expect to see their 100th birthday, by age in 2010

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Source: Office of National Statistics, 2008-based Population Projections (UK)



PROJECTED NUMBER OF UK CENTENARIANS



Source: Office of National Statistics, 2008-based Population Projections (UK)

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WOMEN LIVE LONGER

The majority of the oldest old are female and a higher concentration live in Southern England. Lower proportions live in urban areas and Northern Ireland.



SOCIAL EXCLUSION

ALMOST

4 IN 10

85 year olds or older faced some kind of social exclusion - ILC-UK found in an analysis of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing in 2012.

Source: ILC-UK (2012) Is Social Exclusion still important for Older People?

POVERTY RISK?

Quality of life among the oldest old decreases on average with age and **the oldest old (aged 85 and over) are, as a group, at greater risk of poverty** than younger older people (aged 65-85).

PHYSICAL HEALTH

1 IN 3

Of the oldest old perceive themselves as being in poor health. A substantial number of centenarians remain physically healthy and cognitively intact into the last years of their lives.



INDEPENDENT LIVES

Substantial numbers of centenarians and nonagenarians continue to live independently in the community, either alone or with family members. **Four in ten very old men and seven out of ten very old women live alone.**

ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGES

Sixty percent of over 90s report difficulties shopping for groceries, almost a quarter report difficulties making telephone calls, and **35% report difficulties managing money.**

Source: ILC-UK (2010) The Golden Economy – the consumer marketplace in an ageing society.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Is Social Exclusion still important for Older People? (2012) and **'Living Beyond 100': A report on centenarians (2011)** are both available on the ILC-UK website at www.ilcuk.org.uk. Also see the presentations on the centenarians and the oldest old, as part of the Robert Butler Memorial Lecture and Debate: <http://goo.gl/s2QQ7>



The Personal Finance Research Centre is an independent research centre that specialises in social research across all areas of personal finance, mainly from the consumer's perspective



The International Longevity Centre-UK is the leading think tank on longevity and demographic change. It is an independent, non-partisan think tank dedicated to addressing issues of longevity, ageing and population change. We develop ideas, undertake research and create a forum for debate



The SDAI seeks to deliver high impact policy and practitioner relevant research through the deeper exploitation of the major data resources created by the ESRC and other agencies.
