

What is happening with quality of life among the oldest people in Southern European countries? an empirical approach based on the SHARE data

David Cantarero-Prieto, Marta Pascual-Sáez and Carla Blázquez-Fernández,

Department of Economics, University of Cantabria. Avda. Los Castros, s/n, Santander CP 39005. Spain.

E-mails: david.cantarero@unican.es; marta.pascual@unican.es; carla.blazquez@unican.es

Corresponding author: E-mail: david.cantarero@unican.es. Tel. +34 942 201625.

ORCID code: 0000-0001-8082-0639

Abstract: Population aging in developed countries has created new challenges to improve the well-being of individuals at different age cohorts. This issue is especially significant for Southern European countries, where aging societies have worse health and less socio-economic resources. The aim of this study is to contribute to this body of literature and to estimate the effect of aging on quality of life of oldest people. This paper uses the latest available data (6th Wave) from the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Specifically, robust Ordinary Least Squares and multilevel regressions are employed to analyse the effects of socioeconomic, health, and community factors on quality of life among the oldest population for Southern European countries. Our findings confirm the significance of several factors on life satisfaction among the oldest population in this group of countries. Moreover, we show that the determinants which are correlated with quality of life include predisposing, health, geographic area and social isolation factors.

Keywords: Quality of life; oldest people; Southern European countries; SHARE; multilevel regressions.

Acknowledgements

This paper uses data from SHARE Wave 6 (<http://www.share-project.org/data-documentation/waves-overview/wave-6.html>), see Börsch-Supan et al. (2017) for methodological details. The SHARE data collection has been primarily funded by the European Commission through FP5 (QLK6-CT-2001-00360), FP6 (SHARE-I3: RII-CT-2006-062193, COMPARE: CIT5-CT-2005-028857, SHARELIFE: CIT4-CT-2006 028812) and FP7 (SHARE-PREP: N°211909, SHARE-LEAP: N°227822, SHARE M4: N°261982). Additional funding from the German Ministry of Education and Research, the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, the U.S. National Institute on Aging (U01_AG09740-13S2, P01_AG005842, P01_AG08291, P30_AG12815, R21_AG025169, Y1-AG-4553-01, IAG_BSR06-11, OGHA_04-064, HHSN271201300071C) and from various national funding sources is gratefully acknowledged (see www.share-project.org).

This paper uses data from the generated *easy*SHARE data set (DOI:10.6103/SHARE.easy.600), see Gruber et al. (2014) for methodological details. The *easy*SHARE release 6.0.0 is based on SHARE Waves 1, 2, 3 (SHARELIFE), 4, 5 and 6 (DOIs: 10.6103/SHARE.w1.600, 10.6103/SHARE.w2.600, 10.6103/SHARE.w3.600, 10.6103/SHARE.w4.600, 10.6103/SHARE.w5.600, 10.6103/SHARE.w6.600).

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Ethics approval is not required for this paper, since we did not collect data with personal information. The paper is the result of a research carried on independently by the authors. No plagiarism and no conflict of interest can be addressed to this research.

Availability of data and material ‘Not applicable’.

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Funding ‘Not applicable’.

Authors’ contribution All authors contributed to the writing of the manuscript and read and approved the final manuscript.

"DISCLOSURE STATEMENT"

PAPER (submitted to SOCIAL INDICATORS RESEARCH)

What is happening with quality of life among the oldest people in Southern European countries? an empirical approach based on the SHARE data

David Cantarero-Prieto, Marta Pascual-Sáez and Carla Blázquez-Fernández,

Department of Economics, University of Cantabria. Avda. Los Castros, s/n, Santander CP 39005. Spain.

E-mails: david.cantarero@unican.es; marta.pascual@unican.es; carla.blazquez@unican.es

Corresponding author: E-mail: david.cantarero@unican.es. Tel. +34 942 201625.

ORCID code: 0000-0001-8082-0639

A brief statement summarizing potential conflicts of interest that will be included in the "acknowledgements" footnote: *"The authors declares that they have no relevant or material financial interests that relate to the research described in this paper"*

Disclosure policy:

- (1) I have no sources of financial support for this particular research that describes the paper.
- (2) I have no sources of funds (financial support) related to this article.
- (3) I have no paid or unpaid positions as officer, director, or board member of relevant non-profit organizations or profit-making entities that are related to this article.
- (4) The same disclosures required above are applied to any close relative or partner in my case as one of the authors.
- (5) I state that no party had the right to review the paper prior to its publication.

Signed by:



Corresponding author: Professor David Cantarero-Prieto. Santander, december 2017