

Longevity as a result of perseverance

Longevity represents a new and growing phenomenon. Population aging brings in addition to the overall aging of the population progressive increase mainly in oldest-old. According to some authors contemporary people have a real chance to live up to hundred years and lives ninety years long of a current thirty-year olds will be a rule, rather than an exception. The existing research on centenarians, hence longevity, centered on the question of quality of life or quality of care. This paper is dedicated to longevity as a result of perseverance and a positive self-image. It uses the data file SHARE for European countries that provides a sufficiently large number of respondents for the study of oldest-old. Given the significant feminisation of oldest-old, while with the female begins geriatric deterioration sooner than with men and occurs more rapidly, gender differences can be observed. We focus on issues of mental well being and coping with aging. It is also discussed the suitability of the index CASP, originally designed for young seniors, for a population of oldest-old. The longitudinal nature of the data SHARE also allows to monitor the relationship between these indicators due to the transformation of health (subjectively perceived and indicated as the strength of a handgrip and fragility (frailty), hence to death - part of the data and our analysis is the module completed in case of death by the bereaved, mapping major cognitive and physical problems in the past twelve months of life). To capture this evolution in time is used SHARE data from the second to fifth wave of research, ie. years 2006-2013.