



## ***Older People and Housing Related Facts and Figures***

### **Older People**

People over 60 head 30% of households (ONS).

11 million people were over retirement age in 2003 - 18.5% of the population (Shaw)

Life expectancy at retirement has reached an all time high, with a significant reduction in the gender gap. At 65 men could expect to live for a further 16.6 years, women for 19.4 years.

Because of rising life expectancy the largest increase in the older population is (and will continue to be) amongst people who are over 85 years. In 2004-5 the number of people over 85 reached a record 1.2m. By 2025 the number of people in the UK aged over 85 will have increased by two thirds (ONS/ DH)

The number of people over pensionable age is projected to increase from 11.4 million in 2006 to 12.2 million in 2011; 13.9 million by 2026 and peaking at 15.3 million in 2031 (Shaw).

1.9% of the UK's population were aged 85 and over; this is projected to rise to 3.8% of the population by 2031 (GAD).

### **Data Sources**

ONS (2002) *Results from the 2001 Census data*: London: Office for National Statistics

Shaw, C. (2004). *Population Trends 118*. Winter 2004. Interim 2003-based national population projections for the UK and constituent countries. London: National Statistics.

Department of Health (2007) *A Recipe for Care – Not a Single Ingredient* London: DH

GAD (2004). 2003 principle projections. [www.gad.gov.uk](http://www.gad.gov.uk) Government Actuary Department

### **Housing**

Around 90% of older people live in ordinary housing, whether rented or owned. The remainder live in sheltered housing (5%) and care homes/ other (5%) (ONS/ GHS)

The 2001 Census revealed a 30% increase in single person households over a decade. Nearly half of all such householders (3.1 million) are pensioners, nearly three quarters of whom are older women (2.4m). (ONS)

Owner occupation is by now the primary form of tenure, accounting for just over 70% of all households compared with only 51% in 1971. Amongst 'younger' retired people that figure is closer to 80%, rising to 84% in rural areas. (CLG/ ONS)

Half of all low income households are now owner occupied (CIH/CML)

In 2003-4, 1.4 million individuals reported having a medical condition or disability that requires specially adapted accommodation. Eighty-five per cent were over 45 and about half lived in owner-occupied accommodation. (CLG 1).

Older people are over-represented in non-decent housing. In 2005 there were 1.1m non decent homes in total in the social rented sector and 4.8m non-decent private sector homes. 'Vulnerable people' (defined by receipt of benefits) are the occupants of 1.1m non decent private homes. People over 75 yrs are the most likely to be living in non decent homes. (CLG 2)

People over 65 yrs spend over 80% of their time at home, for those over 85 yrs this rises to 90% (CLG 2)

### **Data Sources**

Communities and Local Government (annual), *Survey of English Housing* London: CLG (1)

Communities and Local Government (2007), *English House Conditions Survey* London: CLG (2)

National Statistics (2004). *General Household Survey 2002*, London: Stationery Office

Chartered Institute of Housing and Council for Mortgage Lenders (2004): *UK Housing Review*. London: CIH/ CML

### **Income**

In 2002-2003, 69% of pensioners depended on state benefits for at least 50% of their income (DWP).

People over 75 are likely to have lower incomes than younger older people. Lone women have much lower incomes than couples (Help the Aged).

### **Data Sources**

DWP *Pensioners incomes series 2002/3*. (2004) London: Department for Work and Pensions

DWP *Press release 8 November 2004*. (2004) London: Department for Work and Pensions

Help the Aged *Older people count* (2003) London: Help the Aged

### **Health**

Older people are the main users of health and social care services and are three times more likely to be admitted to hospital after coming into Accident and Emergency (DH).

40% of the NHS's budget is spent on caring for people over 65 yrs. On any given day 65% of hospital beds are occupied by the over 65s (DH).

A number of studies published as part of the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing* quantify the links between health and inequality. They demonstrate a 'social gradient' in health – the lower a person's social position, the greater the level of ill health and loss of physical function (IFS).

One in five of those aged 50 and over, and 2 in 5 of those aged 80 and over, reported difficulties with one or more aspects of basic self care – such as washing and dressing (IFS).

There is a particularly large geographical variation for disability free life expectancy. For men there is an 18 year difference between the worst area (Easington) and the best (Hart), and 16.4 yrs for women (Merthyr Tydfil vs Elmbridge) (ONS)

Older people are the main group needing adaptations to their homes in order to live independently (ODPM).

The government budget for Disabled Facilities Grants in 07-08 is £126.8 million (average number of grant recipients is 37,000 p.a.)

### **Data Sources**

Department of Health (2007) *A Recipe for Care – Not a Single Ingredient* London: DH

Institute for Fiscal Studies (2002). *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. London: IFS

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) *Reviewing the Disabled Facilities Grant* London: ODPM

### **Falls**

In the UK an older person dies approximately every 5 hours as a result of a fall and many more are injured and hospitalized (DTI, RoSPA)

In the UK in 2000 hip fractures alone cost the NHS £726 million (Parrott). The vast majority of falls take place in the older person's home. Housing adaptations, repairs and other modifications such as improved lighting have a proven impact on reducing falls (Heywood).

There is a strong connection between the falls and depression, with a 30% increased risk of hip fracture for older women if they are suffering from depression (Heywood).

### **Data Sources**

Department for Trade and Industry (2002) *Home Accident Surveillance System including Leisure Activities 24th (final) Annual Report*. London: DTI

RoSPA - various: <http://www.rospa.com/homesafety/advice/index.htm#old>

Parrott, S. (2000) *The Economic Cost of Hip Fracture in the UK*. York: University of York

Heywood, F (2006) *Better Outcomes, lower costs: Implications for health and social care budgets of investment in housing adaptation, improvements and equipment: A review of evidence* London: Department of Work and Pensions (Commissioned by The Office for Disability Issues)

## Social Care

In September 2004 92,300 older households received intensive home care, an increase of 6% from the previous year. This is 32% of all older households who are either living in residential care or receiving intensive home care. (NHS)

In 2005-6 the number of people in council funded residential care fell by 3%.

### **Data Sources**

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre (2006) *Summary of the PSA Target on Home Care* Leeds: NHS

NHS Information Centre (2007) *Community Care Statistics 2006: Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care for Adults, England - National Report and CSSR Tables* Leeds: NHS

## Fuel Poverty

In the winter of 2005/06 there were an estimated 25,700 more deaths in England and Wales compared to levels in the preceding non-winter period. Older people experience the greatest increase in winter deaths - 20,200 among those 75 yrs+ compared with 5,500 among those under 75. (ONS)

Older people are more likely to experience fuel poverty (ie. spend more than 10% of income on fuel) than other age groups with those over 75 the most likely (Help the Aged).

### **Data Sources**

National Statistics (2006) *Annual winter mortality data* [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Help the Aged (2006) *Decent Homes and Fuel Poverty: An analysis based on the English House Conditions Survey*: London: Help the Aged

### **Produced by**

Care & Repair England [www.careandrepair-england.org.uk](http://www.careandrepair-england.org.uk)  
Industrial and Provident Society with Charitable Status No.25121

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*Produced April 07*