

Daily Life Limitations and Reception of Care in the Last Year of Life

There are many evidences that suggest improvement in health and healthcare in later life. But the last year of life substantially differs from the previous years of life. Health problems are more pronounced and functional limitations become more severe in the last year of life, resulting in an increasing need for care (Hank & Jürges, 2010). In this research we conduct an analysis of demand and supply of private transfers of care to individuals aged at least 50 years old in their last year of life as compared with the previous years of life. We operationalize the demand for care as a total number of limitations in daily life activities. In particular, we investigate the following research questions:

1. What are the determinants of the number of daily life limitations in the last year of life as compared with the previous years of life?
2. What are the changes in the private transfers of care in the last year of life as compared with the previous years of life?
3. Who provides private transfers of care to the elderly in the elderly's last year of life as compared with the previous years of life?

Our research uses data from the regular and exit interviews from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe. We apply multinomial logit in order to explain who provides transfers of care and ordered logit in order to explain the number of daily life limitations. We compare results obtained for the last year of life with previous years of life. We find a significant increase in the number of limitations in daily life activities between previous and last year of life, especially for people dying on cancer. Percentage of respondents receiving care increases from 50% in previous years to 95% in the last year of life. Care is provided most often by family members in South Europe and for married individuals.

Hank K., Jürges H., 2010 The last year of life in Europe: regional variations in functional status and sources of support, *Ageing and Society* 30(6), 1041-1054.