

# HEALTH, SUPPORT PROVIDED AND RECEIVED IN ADVANCED OLD AGE; A FOLLOW UP OF TWO COHORTS OF OCTOGENARIANS

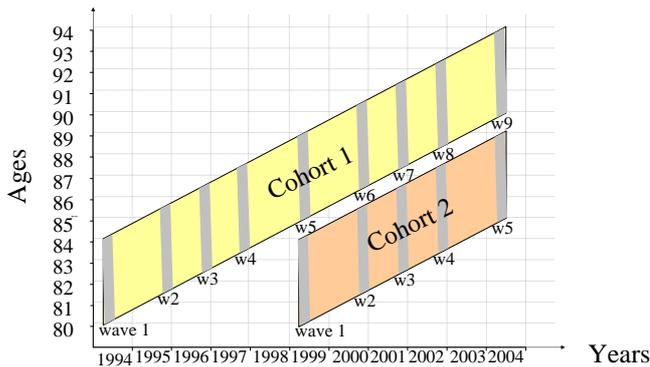


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## HYPOTHESIS

*To maintain a role within their family, elders with declining health will try to maintain the provision of services.*

## DESIGN OF SWILSOO



- SWILSOO (Swiss Interdisciplinary Longitudinal Study on the Oldest Old) is a two-cohort study of octogenarians (80-84 years old at baseline;  $n_1=340$ ,  $n_2=377$ )
- Sample was stratified by gender and geographical area (urban and semi-rural) and composed of community-dwelling participants at baseline
- The interviews (7%) from participants moved to a nursing home were excluded in this study.

## INDICATORS

### EXCHANGES OF SERVICES

Measured by the average frequency of instrumental services that the very old persons provided or received from non-household family members (varying between 1- *never* and 4 - *daily*)

### HEALTH STATUS

**Robust** = no ADL incapacities and not suffering more than one dimension of frailty (mobility, memory, energy, physical ailments, sensory capacities)

**ADL-independent frail** = no incapacities on the ADL, but two or more deficiencies on the dimensions of frailty

**ADL-Dependent** = frail persons with one or more ADL incapacities

## RESULTS

- At baseline 32% of the persons, notwithstanding their advanced ages, were providing at least one service to their family members and 33% were receiving at least one service from their family.

### SERVICES EXCHANGES ACCORDING TO HEALTH STATUS AND OTHER DETERMINANTS

Multilevel analysis

Characteristics	Services received	Services provided
Cohort (2)	-0.20***	-0.11***
Age (years)	0.02*	-0.02***
Gender (woman)	0.05	-0.00
Socio-economic status (middle/upper-class)	-0.22***	0.02
Geographical area (urban)	-0.26***	-0.08**
Robust vs ADL-independent frail	-0.13***	0.02
ADL-dependent vs ADL-independent frail	0.20***	-0.06**
Lives alone	0.18***	/
Has at least one descendent	0.26***	0.08***
Cohort x geographical area	0.16**	0.10**
Robust * Socio-economic status	0.10*	/

p<0.05; \*\*: p<0.01; \*\*\*: p<0.001; /: variables not included in multivariate modelling because of their non significant effects in univariate modelling

- Help goes to those who need it most
- The group of the ADL-dependent persons offer drastically fewer aids
- ADL-independent frail persons are caregiver with the same frequency as the robust

## CONCLUSION

*The fact that elders affected by frailty maintain the support they provide to their family at the same level as robust elders do, brings evidence to the importance, in old age, to preserve a positive and active role within their family.*

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