



FINGAL / REPORT

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Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



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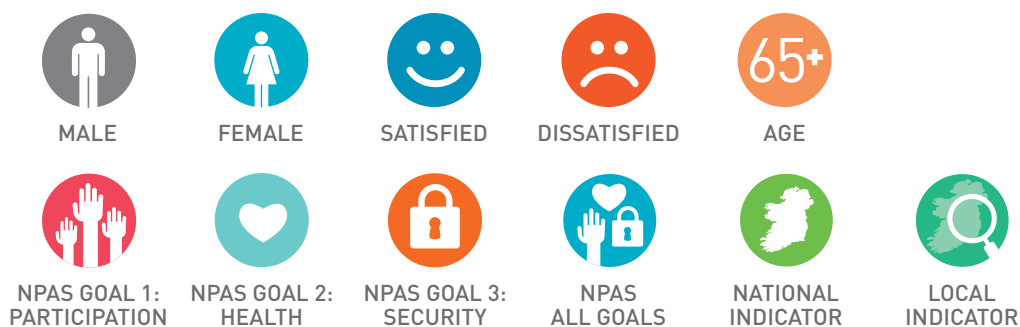
POSITIVE AGEING IN IRELAND

Headline findings of a survey carried out by the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme and the Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative

ABBREVIATIONS

AFI	Age Friendly Ireland
AFCC	Age Friendly Cities and Counties
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DOH	Department of Health
EQLS	European Quality of Life Survey
EU	European Union
HaPAI	Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative
HSE	Health Service Executive
NPAS	National Positive Ageing Strategy
TILDA	The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing
WHO	World Health Organisation

KEY



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FOREWORD

Fingal is Ireland's fastest growing county having seen its population grow by 8.1 % in the last five years (2011 to 2016). It has almost doubled in the past 25 years, rising from 152,766 in 1991 to 296,214 in 2016.

The preliminary results from the 2016 census shows, that Fingal has a population of 296,214 an increase of 22,223 since 2011. This 8.1 % increase is the highest of any county or city in the last five years and is over twice the national rate of increase.

While Fingal has the youngest population in the state this can sometimes obscure the fact that ageing is a long-term strategic challenge for the local population which will have consequences in the future. The Age Friendly Cities & Counties Programme has given Fingal County Council the opportunity to consider this trend and identify the challenges that will face our communities in the years ahead as an increased proportion of the local population are in the older and advanced age category.

Fingal County Council was the 1st Local Authority in Dublin to sign up to the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities & Communities. The newly established Fingal Age Friendly Alliance immediately embraced the World Health Organisation's 'Age Friendly' concept. The Alliance undertook to deliver a strategy for the county that was based on research and consultation with a diverse range of older people from all geographic areas of the county. In the years that followed, I am delighted to say our Age Friendly Alliance has delivered a plethora of highly successful actions including an innovative transport initiative 'Health Route' and an Age Friendly Town programme.

When the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance was invited to take part in the HaPAI study, members were eager to add to the research already undertaken to further develop their understanding of the needs of older people in Fingal. We are delighted to now have the results of this survey as they give us a picture of where we currently stand in relation to the inclusion of older people. Importantly, the findings will

also show us where we need to focus our energies and resources to be fully inclusive of everyone across the lifecycle.

The HaPAI findings are particularly timely for us in Fingal as we are about to embark on developing a new Age Friendly Framework for the county in 2016. We will use this data to support the development of actions that are appropriate in the local context.

Nora Owen Chair
Fingal Age Friendly Alliance

Margaret Geraghty
Director of Services,
Fingal County Council





SECTION 1 : INTRODUCTION

This section provides the background and rationale for the Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative (HaPAI) and summarises the approach that is being taken to develop national indicators of Healthy and Positive Ageing.

The conceptual framework, based on the goals and objectives of the National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS), is also outlined. The links between this strategy and the Age Friendly Cities and Counties programme is briefly discussed. Finally, some demographic data for Fingal is presented.

HEALTHY AND POSITIVE AGEING INITIATIVE

As we enter a period of rapid population ageing, it is becoming increasingly important to develop evidence about the health and wellbeing of older people in order to inform policy at national and local level. Such evidence can alert us to possible difficulties, facilitate greater long-term planning, and ensure that we maximise the potential of all older people in our communities.

The National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS) was developed following extensive consultation with older people and their representatives. Published in 2013, it sets out a vision for Ireland as:

“...a society for all ages that celebrates and prepares properly for individual and population ageing. It will enable and support all ages and older people to enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential. It will promote and respect older people’s engagement in economic, social, cultural, community and family life, and foster better solidarity between generations”.

The strategy takes the WHO’s Active Ageing – A Policy Framework (2002) as a ‘theoretical underpinning’ and calls for action on three fronts by defining active ageing as “a process of optimising opportunities for **participation, health** and **security**” (NPAS, 2013).

Arising from the publication of the National Positive Ageing Strategy and Healthy Ireland, the Department of Health (DOH) is leading a joint national programme with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) - the Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative (HaPAI).

ENSURING WE
MAXIMISE THE
POTENTIAL
OF ALL OLDER
PEOPLE IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

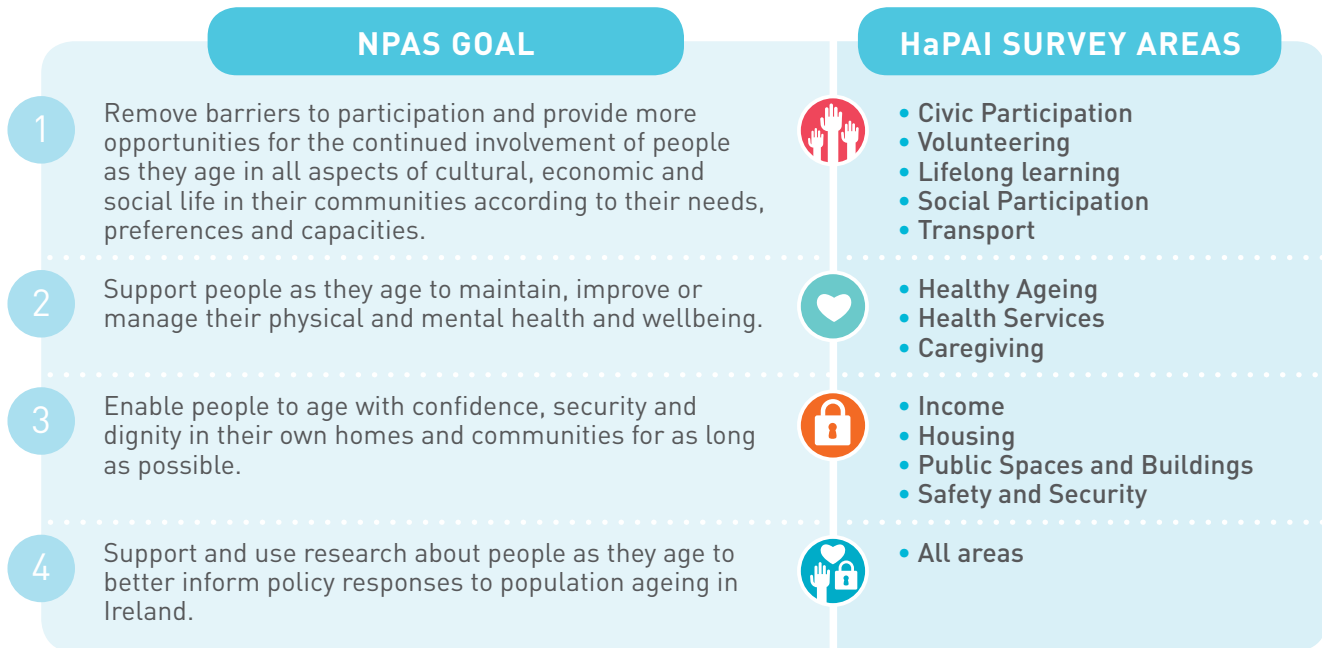
DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL INDICATORS

Indicators can play a vital role in the identification of trends and issues while contributing to the process of priority setting, policy formulation, and the evaluation and monitoring of progress. The Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative has developed an indicators framework structured around the three goal areas of Participation, Health, and Security. A number of objectives have been identified within each goal area, each of which will be associated with an indicator(s) where possible. The NPAS also identifies two cross-cutting objectives relating to ageism and information provision.

Healthy Ireland, the national framework to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, has identified four high level goals and 64 actions grouped under six broad themes. Implementation of the NPAS is an essential part of the vision for creating a society in which “every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland” (Healthy Ireland Goal 4).

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AFCC/HaPAI INDICATORS

Under the three pillars of the National Positive Ageing Strategy (NPAS), four goals have been identified (see below). The HaPAI/AFCC survey asks people for their views on many of the key action areas identified in the NPAS under each of the four goals.



Through the Age Friendly Cities and Counties (AFCC) programme, local authorities bring together diverse organisations such as An Garda Síochána, the HSE, Universities, key NGOs, transport and service providers to streamline their work, with the interests and needs of older people at their heart. The programme develops local multi-agency planning structures, which consult with older people to develop integrated city and county strategies to promote and advance older people's health and wellbeing across Ireland.

The AFCC programme has been identified by the NPAS as being an important approach to improving the lives of older people throughout the country. In order to integrate the AFCC programme with the National Indicators programme, the HaPAI project is developing indicators that are relevant to both the implementation of the NPAS and the AFCC programme.

Many of the national data sources do not provide any information on the lives of older people on a county by county basis. To address this gap, the HaPAI project has carried out local research using a single random sample survey in a number of local authority areas. The results of these surveys will be used to inform policy development and service provision in participating Age Friendly City and County programmes.

This report sets out the headline findings of the survey carried out in the Fingal local authority area. A random sample survey of over five hundred people aged 55 and over was carried out in the area between July and October 2015, and further details of the methodological approach can be found in Section 3.

When reviewing the findings of this report it is useful to bear in mind that each 1% difference reported, represents just over 500 older people.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The growth of the population age 65 and over affects many aspects of future planning for society, by health care providers, policymakers and others. In order to plan for and meet the needs of a larger older population it is important to have an accurate picture of recent trends and future predictions.

The 2011 Census found there was a total of 535,393 people aged 65 and over in Ireland, representing 11.7% of the population (CSO, 2011). This proportion is lower than the EU average of 18.2% (Eurostat 2013). In contrast, Italy and Germany have nearly a fifth of their population aged 65 and over.

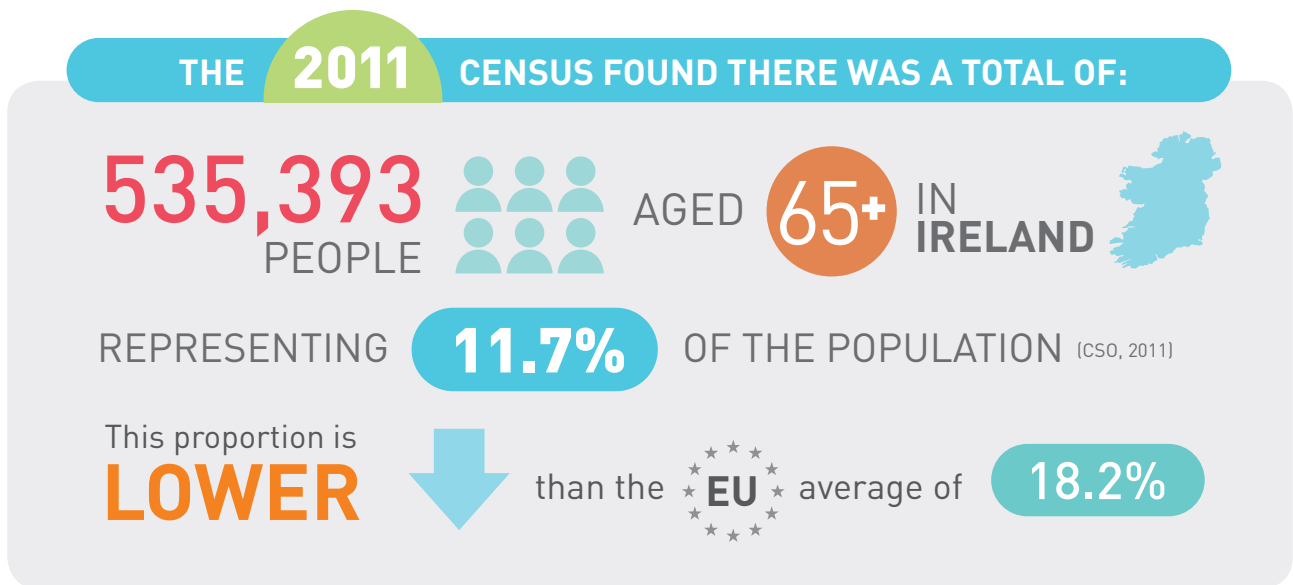
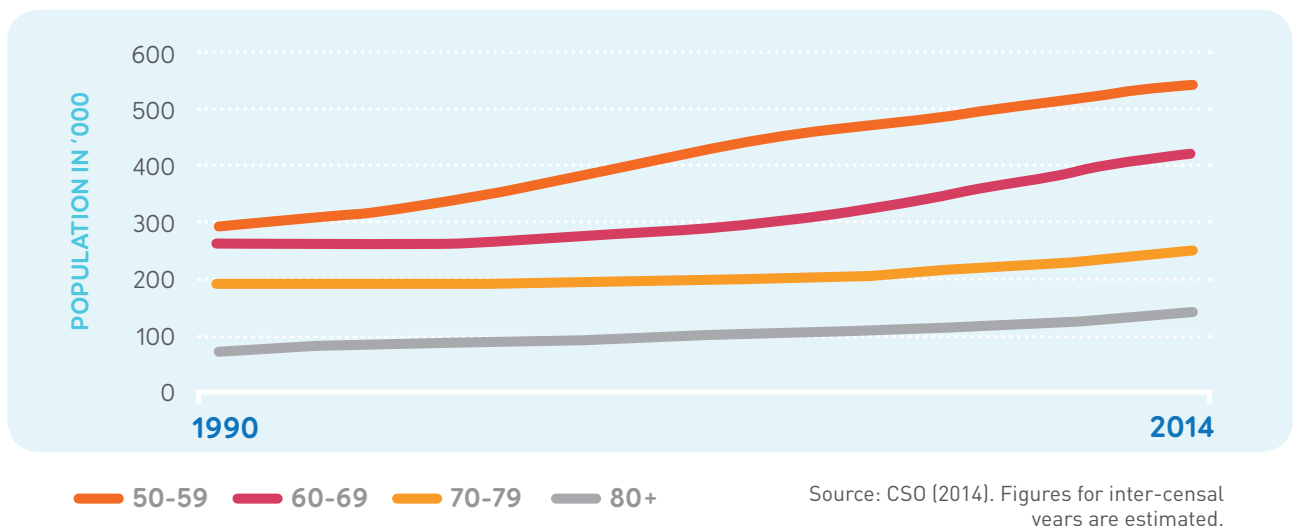
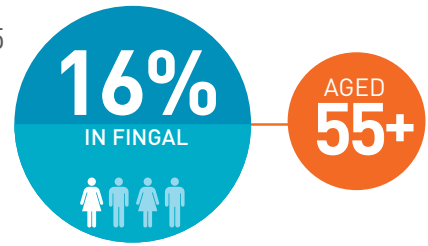


FIGURE 1.1 CURRENT POPULATION OF IRELAND AGED 50 AND OVER, BY AGE GROUP



By 2041, there will be 1.4 million in Ireland aged 65 and over - three times more than the older population now. This older group will make up 22% of the total population, compared to 11.6% of the population in 2011 (CSO, 2013). The total population aged 70 and over is set to treble from approximately 359,000 to just over 1,064,694 in 2046.

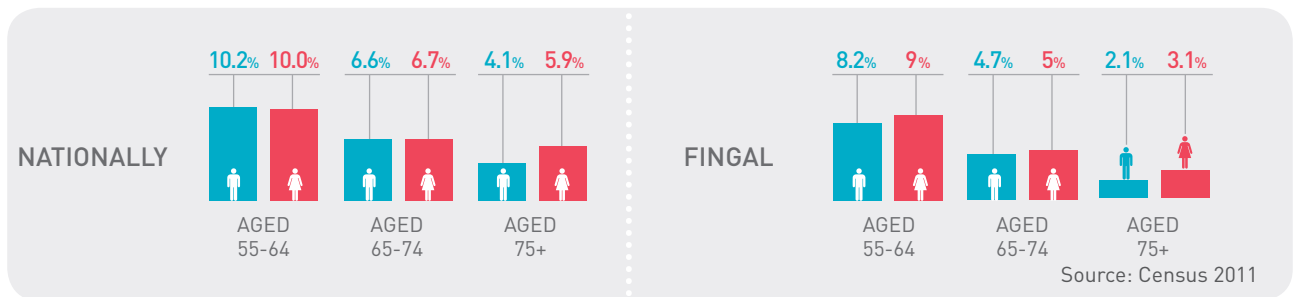
The old-age dependency ratio indicates the total population aged 65 and over as a percentage of the population aged 15-64 (the working age population). In 2002, the ratio was 16.4%; by 2011 it had risen to 17.3%; and it is projected to rise to 30.0% by 2031 (CSO, 2013).



Just like other areas in Ireland, Fingal is experiencing ageing in its population structure which will have effects into the future. According to the 2011 Census, there were 42,804 people aged 55 and older in Fingal, which was 15.6% of the local population, lower than the State average of 22%.

The age and gender profile of Fingal is different to the national average¹.

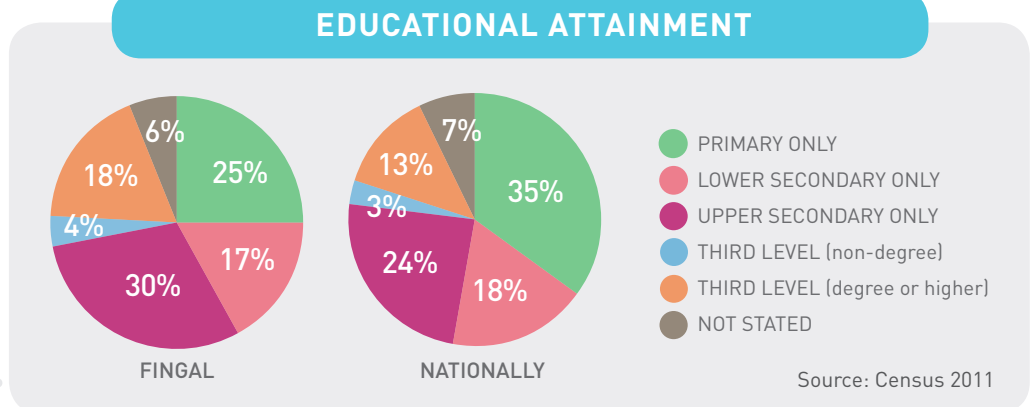
AGE & GENDER PROFILE OF PEOPLE AGED 55+ NATIONALLY v FINGAL



The proportion of people with primary school only in Fingal has fallen from 27.0 percent in 1991, to 10.8% in 2006 and 9.5% in 2011. This is a reduction of 17.5 %points (compared to -20.7 percentage points nationally), resulting in Fingal having the second lowest rate (after Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown with 8.3 percent) for any county.

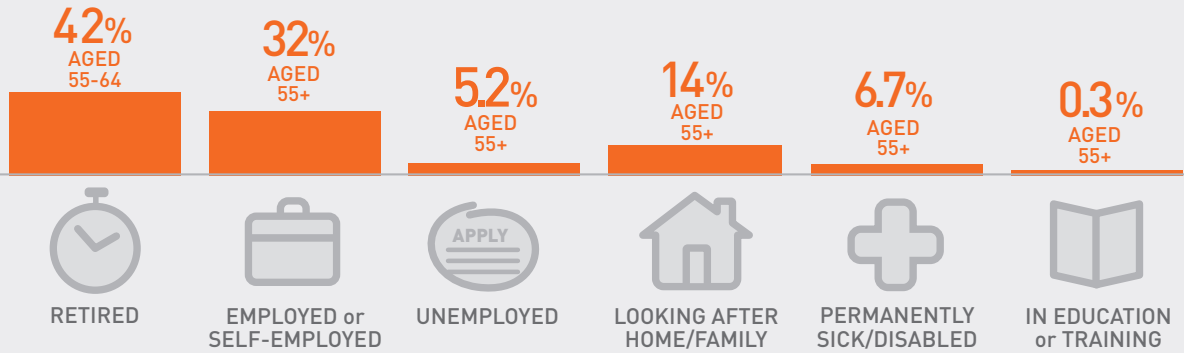
People in Fingal have a higher level of educational attainment to the national average. In Fingal 22% of people aged over 55 years had third-level education (or higher) compared to the national average of 16%. In the overall population, the proportion of Fingal's population with third-level education has grown from 17% in 1991, to 37.9 percent in 2011. This 20-year growth is slightly higher than that which has occurred nationally (21 percentage points compared to 17.6 percentage points nationally).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



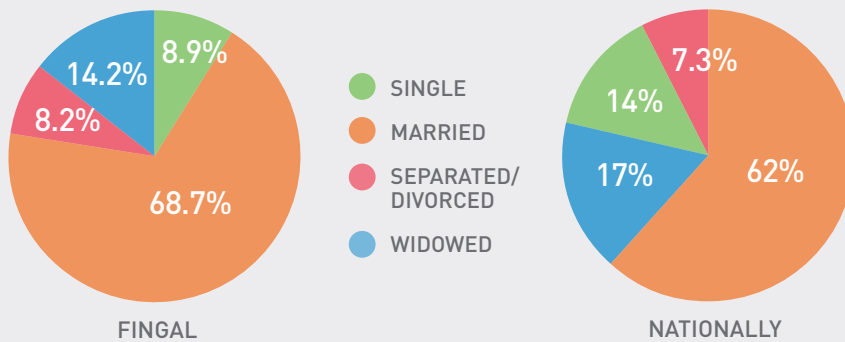
¹ When reviewing the findings of this report it is useful to bear in mind that each 1% difference reported, represents nearly 428 older people.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Source: AFCC 2015

MARITAL STATUS

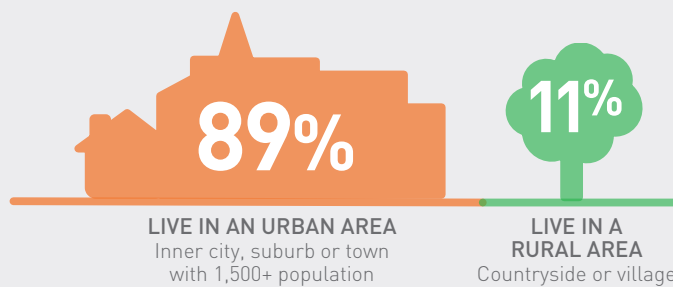


Source: Census 2011

Fingal is a largely urban area; Almost 9 out of 10 people aged 55+ in Fingal lives in an urban area.

LOCATION OF HOME

FINGAL IS LARGELY AN URBAN AREA



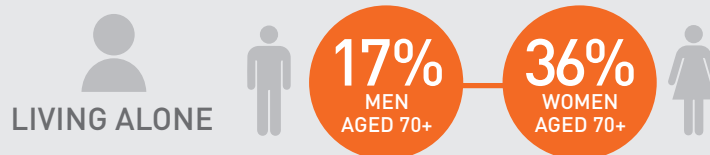
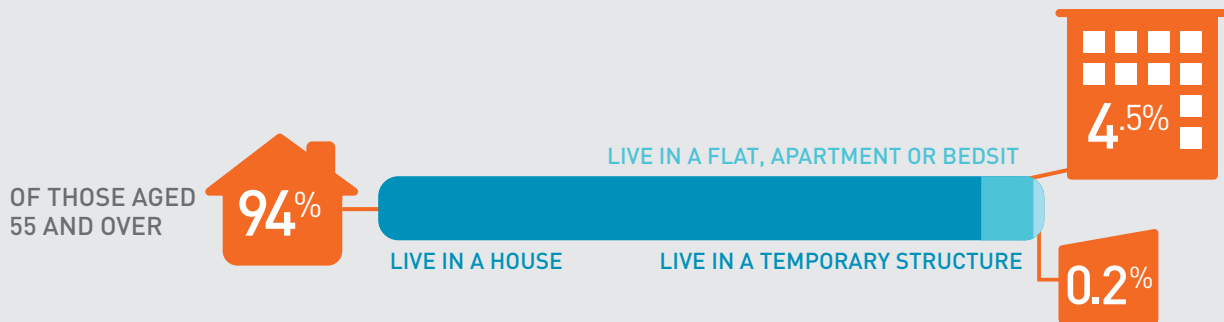
Source: AFCC 2015

Fingal County covers 450 square kilometres and stretches from the River Liffey and the Dublin City boundary in the south to the Meath boundary north of Balbriggan, and from the coast in the east to the Meath and Kildare boundaries in the west.

The area is defined by the diversity of its landscape, with rural, urban and suburban dimensions. There is 88km of coastline stretching from Howth to north of Balbriggan, three large protected estuaries and salt marsh habitats with 13 major beaches. Fingal has major economic assets, including Dublin Airport, proximity to Dublin City & the Dublin Port Tunnel, road and rail infrastructure and a prime location on the Dublin-Belfast Economic corridor. Dublin Airport provides a significant economic hub for the County.



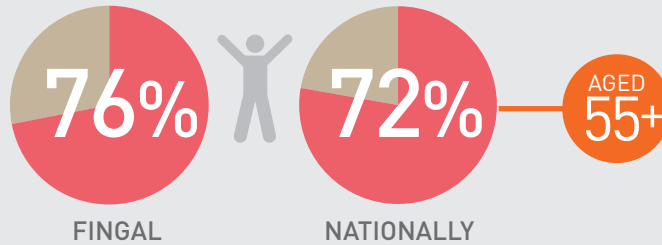
LIVING CIRCUMSTANCES



Source: (Census 2011)

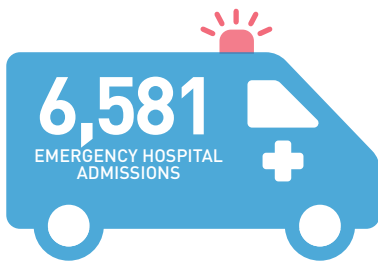
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

OLDER PEOPLE IN GOOD OR VERY GOOD HEALTH

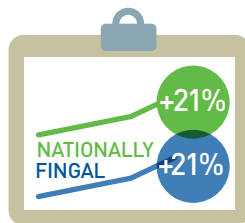


Source: (Census 2011)

In the 2011 census, 90.5% of all people in Fingal stated they were in very good or good health. This compares to 88.3 percent of total persons nationally. Only 1.1% stated that they were in bad or very bad health, compared with 1.5% of total persons nationally.



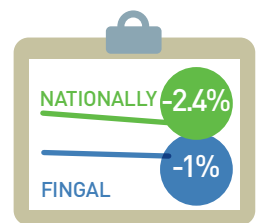
For over 55s living in Fingal in 2014



An increase of 21% in Fingal in 2011 is the same as the national increase.



For over 55s living in Fingal in 2014




A decrease of 1% in Fingal since 2011 versus a national decrease of 2.4%

Source: HIPE, Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO), August 2015

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SECTION 2 : SURVEY RESULTS


This section presents the headline findings from the survey of over five hundred people aged 55 and over living in Fingal. Key findings are presented on:

 Public Spaces and Buildings


 Transport

 Housing

 Safety and Security


 Healthy Ageing

 Social Participation

 Lifelong Learning

 Respect and Social Inclusion

 Civic Participation

 Information Access

 Caregiving



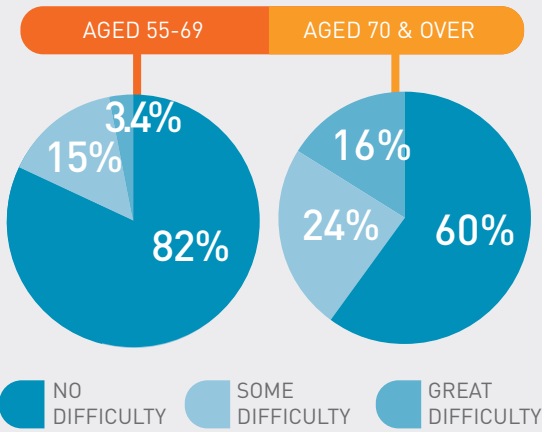
ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES



Difficulty accessing services increase with age

3.4% **AGED 55-69**
OF PEOPLE
have great difficulty accessing
ESSENTIAL SERVICES

THIS INCREASES TO **16%** OF THOSE AGED 70+



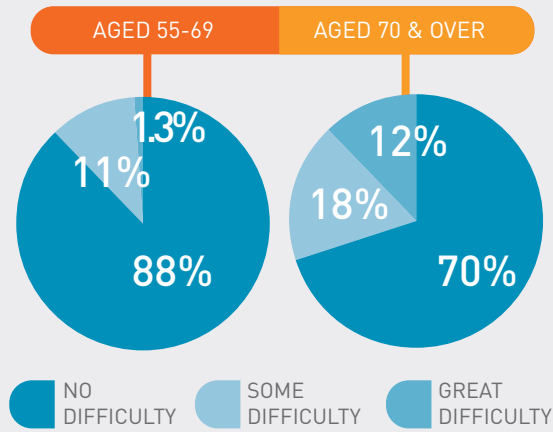
ESSENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE

- Postal services
- Banking
- Public transport
- Shops
- Local health services
- Garda station

ACCESS TO SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL SERVICES

1.3% **AGED 55-69**
OF PEOPLE
have great difficulty accessing
SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

THIS INCREASES TO **12%** OF THOSE AGED 70+



SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL SERVICES INCLUDE

- Cinema/Theatre/Entertainment
- Park/Green area
- Community centre/Social venues
- Café/Restaurants
- Public library

THE SERVICES THAT WERE MOST DIFFICULT TO ACCESS



GARDAÍ



CINEMA/
ENTERTAINMENT



PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Most difficult to access

Easiest to access



POSTAL SERVICES



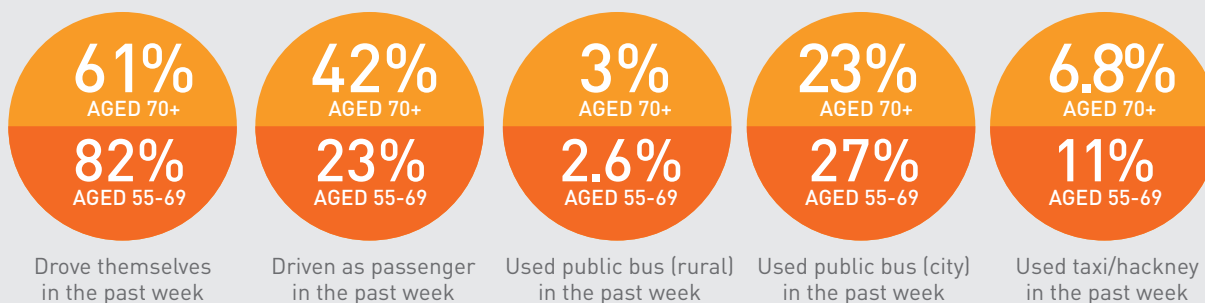
TRANSPORT USE IN THE PAST WEEK



THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS ARE CURRENT DRIVERS

82% OF PEOPLE **AGED 55-69** **AND** **61%** OF PEOPLE **AGED 70+**

DROVE THEMSELVES IN THE PAST WEEK



PUBLIC TRANSPORT



ALMOST 1 IN 5 PEOPLE AGED 55+ **19%** reported that a lack of transport causes difficulty for socialising or essential tasks

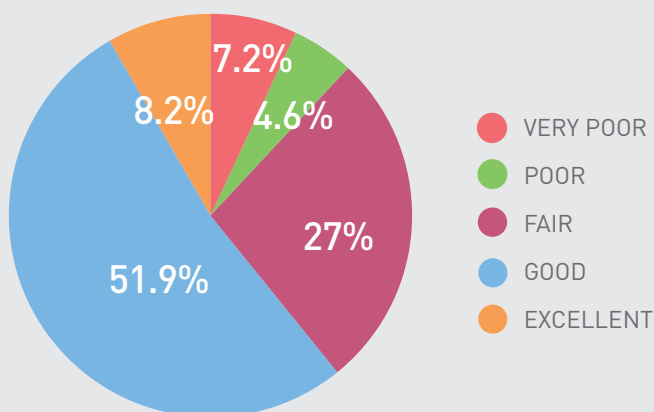
THIS RISES TO

1 IN 5 PEOPLE AGED 55+ **20%** for those who are not current drivers and **22%** for those with walking difficulties

60% OF PEOPLE **AGED 55+** RATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS AS 'GOOD' OR 'EXCELLENT'

ONLY 12% RATED IT AS AS 'POOR' OR 'VERY POOR'

By comparison, TILDA (2011) found that 50% of people rated public transport in the area as 'good' or 'excellent'



No participants (0%) reported that there was no public transport available within a 15 minute walk of their house, but 7.4% said that while it was available, it was difficult to access.



HOUSING CONDITIONS, FACILITIES AND UPKEEP



WE ASKED ABOUT HOUSING CONDITIONS, FACILITIES AND UPKEEP



in Fingal live in a house and have done so for 10 years or more



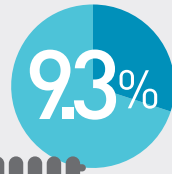
MOST HOMES ARE IN GOOD CONDITION **11%** OF PEOPLE REPORTED NO PROBLEMS



OF PEOPLE



have problems with the upkeep of their homes

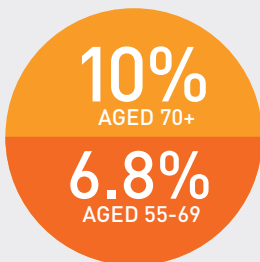


OF PEOPLE



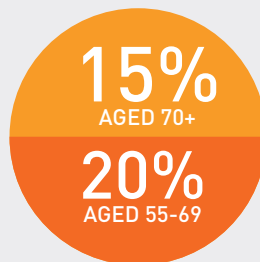
were unable to keep their houses adequately warm in the last 12 months

By comparison, the European Quality of Life survey (EQLS, 2012) found nationally that 5% of people were unable to afford to keep their house warm



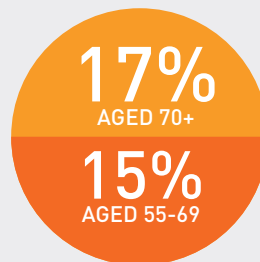
UNABLE TO KEEP HOUSE ADEQUATELY WARM

Includes:
Inability to keep house warm for financial reasons

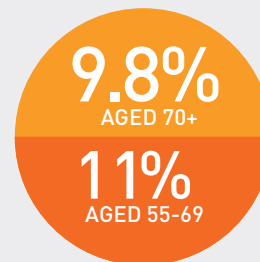


UPKEEP

Includes:
Difficulty carrying out the maintenance or upkeep yourself or with the cost of upkeep.



Includes:
Shortage of space, home too big for current need, lack of indoor or downstairs flushing toilet, bath or shower and lack of outside space.



CONDITIONS

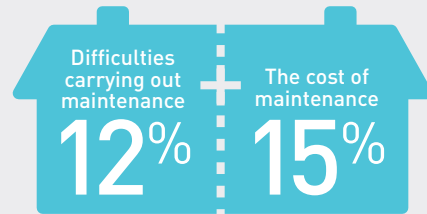
Includes:
Rot in windows, door or floors, and damp or leak in walls or roof.

The most frequent problem people had with conditions was rot in windows, doors or floors (8.2%).

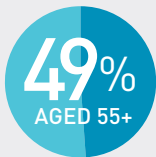


LIVING IN FINGAL REPORTED A LACK OF DOWNSTAIRS TOILET/BATHROOM FACILITIES

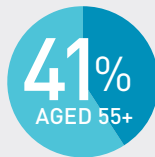
This was the most common problem people had with facilities



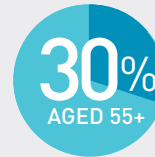
WERE REPORTED TO BE EQUALLY PROBLEMATIC



would like help with bills/upkeep for housing



would like help for adaptations or physical improvements to house



would like non-financial help with housing maintenance

HOUSING PREFERENCES



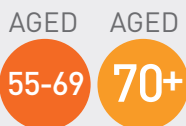
WE ASKED PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR PREFERENCES FOR HOUSING IF THEIR HOMES WERE NO LONGER SUITABLE FOR THEIR NEEDS



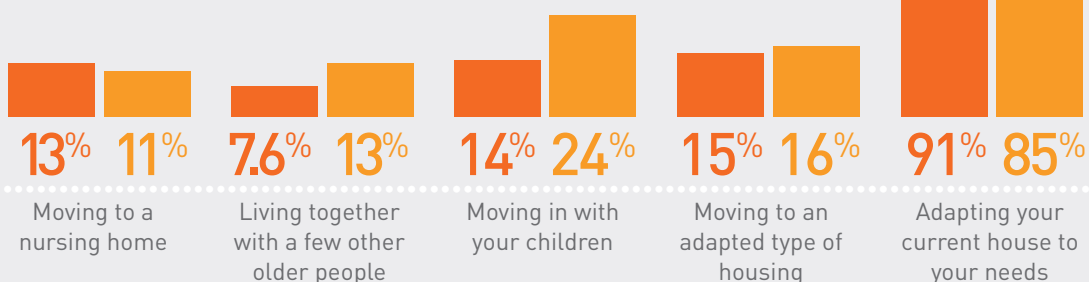
would consider moving to an **ADAPTED TYPE OF HOUSING**

ADULTS AGED 55 AND OVER

in Fingal were most positive about adapting their house to their needs and were least positive about moving in with a relative other than their children



How many adults aged 55+ in Fingal felt positive about each of the following housing options, if their home was no longer suitable to their needs?





HOW SAFE DO PEOPLE FEEL?



WE ASKED HOW SAFE PEOPLE FEEL IN VARIOUS SITUATIONS



HOW FREQUENTLY DID THIS EXPERIENCE OCCUR?



THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE FEEL VERY SAFE





STATE OF HEALTH



This is higher than the national average of 14% (TILDA, 2013).

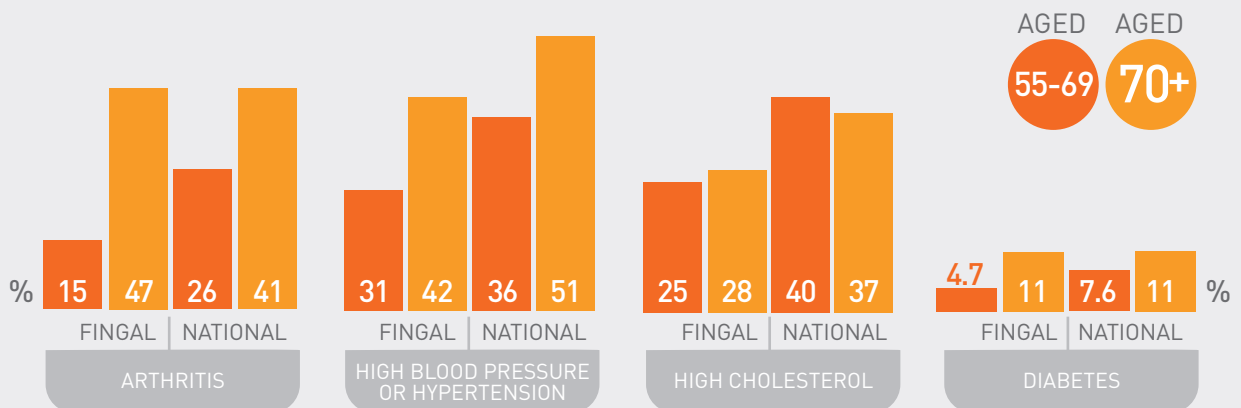
OLDER PEOPLE IN FINGAL HAVE FEWER PROBLEMS WITH ARTHRITIS OR DIABETES BUT THOSE AGED 70+ HAVE MORE PROBLEMS WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE OR HYPERTENSION.



MOST COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS



THE 4 MOST COMMON HEALTH CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY ADULTS IN FINGAL AND NATIONALLY



While the four main health conditions reported were common across both genders, **osteoporosis was very common among women only**. 23% reported a doctor diagnosis of osteoporosis in Fingal. This was lower than the national percentage for women of 18% (TILDA, 2011)



60% OF PEOPLE

AGED 70+

have 2 or more health conditions that have been diagnosed by a doctor

TILDA (2011) found that

67%

have 2 or more health conditions

58% OF ADULTS

AGED 55-69

AND

43% OF ADULTS

AGED 70+

DO AT LEAST

150

MINS

of moderate physical activity per week

TILDA (2013) found that 45% of people aged 55+ do at least **150 minutes** of moderate exercise every week.

ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES



ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES IN THOSE AGED 70+ IN FINGAL

PERSONAL CARE



19% of over 70s need assistance with personal care and **86%** receive this assistance

HOUSEKEEPING



24% of over 70s need assistance with housekeeping and **86%** receive this assistance

MOBILITY



17% of over 70s need assistance with their personal mobility and **91%** receive this assistance

AMONG THOSE

AGED 55-69

0.4%

need assistance with personal care

1.4%

need assistance with housekeeping

1.1%

need assistance with mobility

HEALTH SERVICES



AGED 55+

REASONS WHY THESE ADULTS IN FINGAL DID NOT RECEIVE SERVICES NEEDED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (eg medical, social or home care)

COST



1.2%

WAITING LIST



1.2%

DISTANCE/TRANSPORT PROBLEMS



0.2%

PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

73%

Flu vaccination (65+)

71%

Blood test for cholesterol

76%

Blood pressure check

44%

Mammogram or breast X-ray (women 55-64)

7% OF PEOPLE

AGED 70+

IN FINGAL ARE CURRENTLY ON A WAITING LIST

AMONG THESE

40%

have been on a waiting list for more than

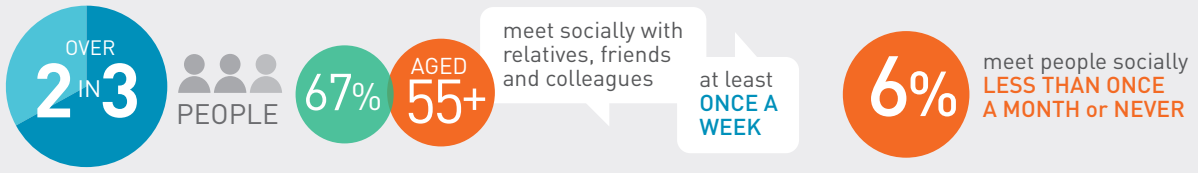
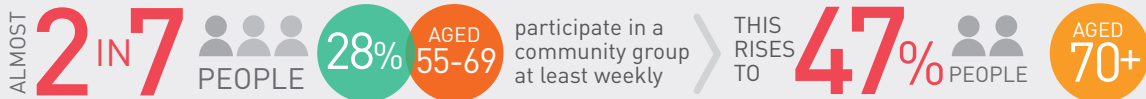
1 MONTH



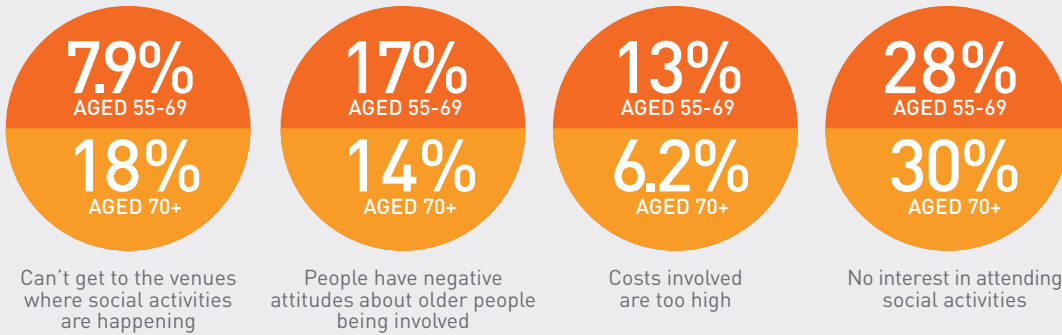
HOW OFTEN DO PEOPLE SOCIALISE



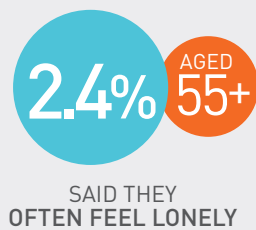
WE ASKED PEOPLE HOW OFTEN THEY SOCIALISE OR PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY GROUPS



MAIN BARRIERS TO SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

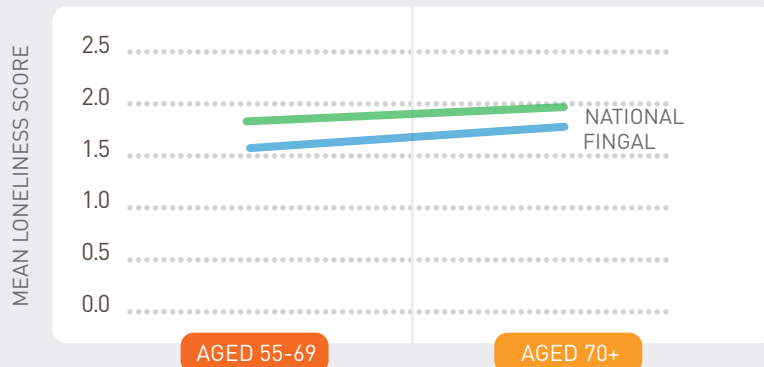


LONELINESS IN OLDER PEOPLE



MEAN LONELINESS SCORE BY AGE IN FINGAL COMPARED WITH TILDA NATIONAL AVERAGE

This is a modified version of the UCLA Loneliness scale. Scores range from 0 (not lonely) to 10 (extremely lonely). Source for National data: TILDA (2014)



PEOPLE IN FINGAL AGED 70+ ARE ON AVERAGE SLIGHTLY LESS LONELY THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

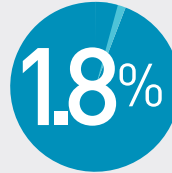


WE ASKED PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN LIFELONG LEARNING



3 OF PEOPLE

WERE IN **INFORMAL EDUCATION OR CLASSES**

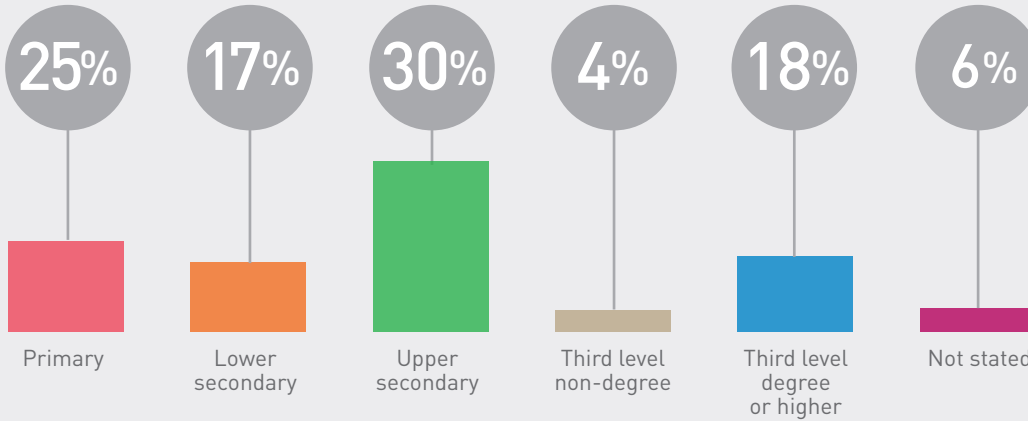


3 OF PEOPLE

PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING LEADING TO **A FORMAL EDUCATION**

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG PEOPLE IN FINGAL

AGED 55+



Source: Census 2011

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN LIFELONG LEARNING



ALMOST **1 IN 4** PEOPLE AGED 55+ IN FINGAL EXPERIENCED A BARRIER TO PARTICIPATION IN LIFELONG LEARNING IN THE PAST **12** MONTHS



2%

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TAKING THE COURSE



3%

LACK OF TRANSPORT/DISTANCE TO THE COURSE



2.2%

NO SUITABLE OR INTERESTING COURSES AVAILABLE



1.4%

RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE HOME



PUBLIC ATTITUDES



WE ASKED PEOPLE ABOUT ATTITUDES OR BEHAVIOURS TOWARDS THEM AS PEOPLE

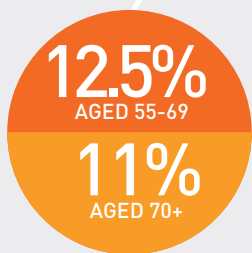


IN FINGAL SAID THEY EXPERIENCED NEGATIVE ATTITUDES OR BEHAVIOURS TOWARDS THEM AS A PERSON

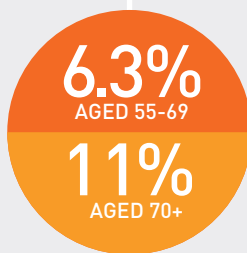


TOP 3

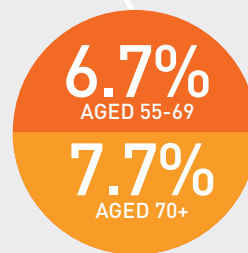
SOURCES OF NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS EXPERIENCED BY PEOPLE



Those providing services in the financial sector



Healthcare professionals providing a service



Younger People



VOLUNTEERING



1 IN 5 PEOPLE AGED 55-69 AND 1 IN 5 PEOPLE AGED 70+ VOLUNTEER AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH

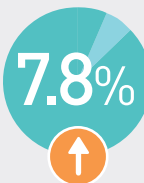
11% OF THESE VOLUNTEER AT LEAST WEEKLY



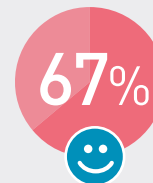
OF THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY



are satisfied with the amount of time they spend volunteering

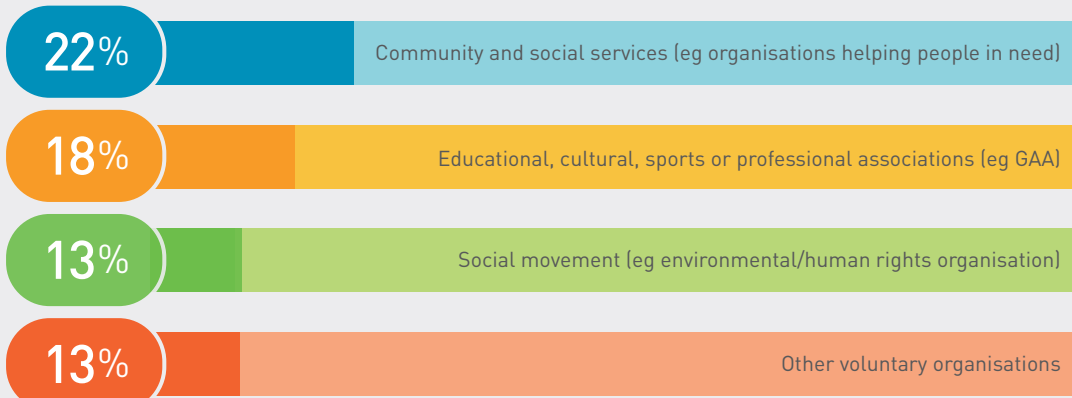


would like to increase the amount of time they spend volunteering



are satisfied with the range of volunteering options on offer

THE TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS THAT PEOPLE VOLUNTEER WITH ARE:

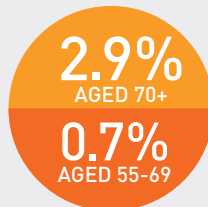


POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

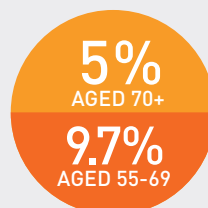
PEOPLE AGED 70+

were as likely to contact a public official compared with those aged 55-69 but were more likely to offer their views as an older person in an official capacity or attend a meeting of a trade union, etc.

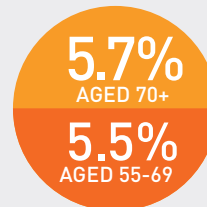
The EQLS (2012) found that 17% OF PEOPLE AGED 55-69 contacted a politician or public official and only 5% attended a protest



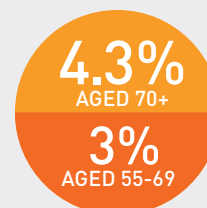
Offered their views as an older person in an official capacity



Attended a protest or demonstration



Contacted a politician or public official



Attended a meeting of a trade union, a political party or political action group



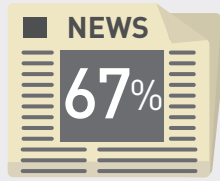
SOURCES OF INFORMATION



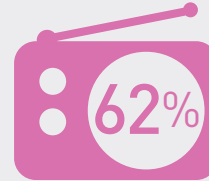
WE ASKED PEOPLE WHERE THEY GET THEIR INFORMATION FROM



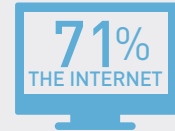
TELEVISION



NEWSPAPER



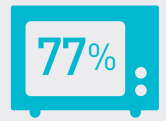
NATIONAL RADIO



More than half of people aged 55+ get information from the internet

FOR PEOPLE

AGED 55-69



NATIONAL TELEVISION



NEWSPAPER

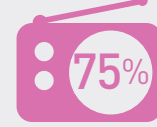
are frequently used sources of information

FOR PEOPLE

AGED 70+



NATIONAL TELEVISION



NATIONAL RADIO

are important sources of information

INTERNET USE

52%

FINGAL RESIDENTS

AGED 70+

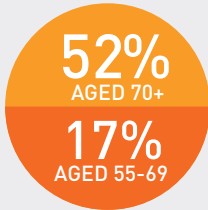
DID NOT USE the internet in the past 3 MONTHS

COMPARED TO

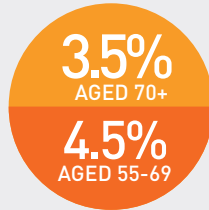
17%

PEOPLE

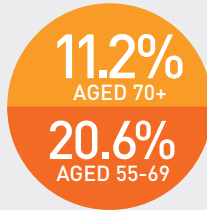
AGED 55-69



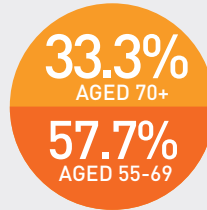
DO NOT USE



MONTHLY



WEEKLY



EVERY DAY OR ALMOST EVERY DAY



DO NOT USE



MONTHLY



WEEKLY



EVERY DAY OR ALMOST EVERY DAY

NOTE: 'DO NOT USE' defined as those who said 'NOT APPLICABLE' to question about internet use

DIFFICULTY ACCESSING INFORMATION



MORE THAN 1 IN 10



AGED 55+

HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH SERVICES AND LOCAL EVENTS

DIFFICULTY GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH OR SOCIAL CARE

17%

AGED 70+

10%

AGED 55-69

DIFFICULTY GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

12%

8.6%



CARING FOR OTHERS



WE ASKED PEOPLE ABOUT HOW OFTEN THEY PROVIDE CARE TO OTHERS



THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN FINGAL AGED 55 AND OLDER WHO ARE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, AND WHO ARE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR ELDERLY OR DISABLED RELATIVES IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN THE EQLS - 15% OF THE OVER 55S AND 7.2% OF THE OVER 70S ARE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN EVERY DAY.

CAREGIVER STRAIN



CAREGIVER STRAIN IS MEASURED USING THE QUESTION "HAS YOUR OWN LIFESTYLE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE CARING THAT YOU PROVIDE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS?" THERE ARE 12 DIFFERENT ITEMS SUCH AS "SLEEP DISTURBED" AND "IT IS A FINANCIAL STRAIN"



SECTION 3 : METHODOLOGY

The target population for this survey includes all community-dwelling members of the population aged 55 and older in Fingal. This sample did not include people aged 55 and older who were in long-term care or living in an institution at the time of survey. A multistage random-route sampling strategy was used to generate a sample of this population.

STUDY POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The sampling approach involved several steps.

Firstly, a random sample of 50 District Electoral Divisions (DED) in Fingal was selected as the primary sampling units (PSUs). Within each selected DED a starting address was selected at random. Beginning with this address a total of 10 interviews were to be completed in each of the 50 areas.

Detailed information on the approach that interviewers took to identify eligible households within each area for the survey is provided in Appendix 1. In summary, from their starting address, interviewers called to every fifth house. The interviewer asked to speak to a person aged 55 years or older in the household. One person aged 55 or older per household was invited to complete the interview. If there were two or more older people in the household then the interviewer applied the 'next birthday' rule to select one participant.

FIELDWORK AND RESPONSE RATE

A total of 502 interviews were conducted with participants aged 55 and older. Interviews were conducted in 2015.

The response rate is the proportion of selected households that included an eligible participant who completed an interview. Interviewers visited a total of 671 eligible households where a person aged 55 and older was resident. A further 254 households were visited but eligibility to participate in the survey was not determined. Based on the proportion of eligible households identified from the number of households visited, we calculated that 207 of these 254 would have contained a person who was eligible to participate. We included these households when calculating the response rate. A total of 502 interviews were completed from 878 households, with a response rate of 57%.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Each participant completed a structured Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) in their own home with a trained interviewer from Amárach Research. The interview contained questions on: age-friendly public spaces; experiences of discrimination; housing; safety and security; healthy ageing; health and social services utilisation; participation in education and lifelong learning; active citizenship and volunteering; social and cultural participation; transport; and access to information. Participants were also invited to complete an additional, separate, paper-based survey on potentially sensitive topics. This included emotional wellbeing and elder abuse. This data will be available at the end of 2016.

ANALYTIC STRATEGY

This report presents descriptive data from the survey, including percentages and average values. In general, the results focus on the percentage of people aged 55+ who can be classified into a certain group, for example, those who report difficulty accessing specific services, or who volunteer. In a small number of cases participants did not respond to a survey item. These participants are excluded from the results for that survey question. Across all survey questions, no more than 10% of participants were missing a response.

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS

Throughout the report results are reported for different age groups and gender in order to illustrate key differences between groups in the population aged 55 and older. Results are, in the main, reported for two different age groups: 55-69; and 70+. Other age groups are reported where relevant. For example, uptake of the flu vaccine is reported for the target age group (age 65+).

Appendix 2 provides further details on interpreting differences between groups in this report.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKS

There are a number of national studies which collect data that is similar to this study. These include the Census, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), the European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) and the Survey of Income and Living Conditions. Where applicable, we have reported this national data as a comparison or benchmark for the local data.

WEIGHTING

The response rate for the CAPI in Fingal was 57%. Response rates typically vary among different groups within a given population such as different age groups or levels of education. This variation can lead to biased estimates when reporting results. This analysis included the application of sample weights which corresponded to the number of people in the population of Fingal that were represented by each survey participant. Weights which were applied to the survey sample were estimated using the Census (2011). The characteristics compared were age, gender, educational attainment (primary/secondary/third level) and marital status (married/not married).

All analysis was conducted using Stata Version 13.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS REPORT AND FUTURE ANALYSIS

The results reported here are broadly descriptive and associations between responses to the different survey items are not explored in detail. Further work will be undertaken to explore complex associations between the different variables recorded in the survey. In addition, future publications will compare results across counties. It is also important to note that while the data is broadly representative of the population aged 55+ in the community in Fingal, it does not include, and is not representative of, individuals who live in institutional settings.

APPENDIX 1 : DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

The steps taken by interviewers were as follows:

1. Within each district electoral division (DED) interviewers were given a starting address on (for example) Road 1. The interviewer called at this house and asked to speak to somebody aged 55 years or older. If there is an eligible occupant or if there was no response from the house, they made a note of the address and called back, up to four times.
2. To locate the next house, interviewers stood with their back to the front door, turned to their left and counted five doors along the road, and called at this fifth house on E.g. Road 1.
3. Interviewers continued in this manner, calling at every fifth house until they reached the end of the road; assuming they successfully identified an eligible occupant to complete an interview or noted non-responses.
4. At the end of Road 1 they turned Left on to Road 2, counted five houses from the last house visited on Road 1 and continued calling to every fifth house on Road 2 until the end of the road.
5. At the end of Road 2 interviewers turned Right on to Road 3 (counted five houses from the last house visited on Road 2), continued calling at every fifth house on Road 3 until the end of the road.
6. At the end of Road 3, the interviewer turned Left on to Road 4, and alternate right and left turns at the end of each road while keeping within the DED.

If a household was ineligible due to age of more than 55 years or the household refused to participate, was vacant or derelict, interviewers used the following procedure to locate the next house:

1. Interviewers stood with their backs to the front door, turned left and went to the next house. If they again met with an ineligible household or a refusal they continued next door to the left until they identified an eligible occupant or noted a non-response.
2. Once they obtained an interview or non-response interviewers reverted to the fifth house on the left rule (steps 2-6). This procedure was followed until the quota of 10 interviews was reached, up to a maximum of 50 households, within each assigned DED.
3. The address and outcome of each house visited was recorded (including refusals, ineligible, vacant/derelict, non-responses and completed interviews) on the response sheet by each interviewer.

APARTMENTS:

Interviewers are given a sheet with the total number of residential addresses in the first column and the target apartment or flat in the second column. If apartments are not numbered, and there are doorbells, they count the bells from top left to bottom right. If apartments are not numbered and there are no separate doorbells, they count the apartments from top left to bottom right as you face the main door of the building from the street.

RANDOM ROUTE RURAL AREA:

In a rural area where houses are more spread-out interviewers are supplied with a map of each relevant DED and given the address to call at within each DED.



HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE RATE:

In order to calculate the response rate it is important to identify which houses are excluded because they are ineligible (nobody age 55 years or older), households that could not be contacted (non-response) and which households were eligible (person aged 55 years or older) but which either co-operated or refused to participate in the survey. Interviewers record each address called at and the outcome using codes for refusals, ineligibles, vacant/derelict and non-contacts. In relation to 'non-response' interviewers record the time called at, and the times at which they called back (up to 4 times on different days and times). They also record the final outcome after the 4 attempts i.e. not eligible due to age, refused, interview completed, or could not contact after 4 attempts. 10%-20% of interviews and adherence to random route are validated.

APPENDIX 2 : INTEPRETING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GROUPS

The data presented in this report is based on a random sample of individuals aged 55+ living in Fingal. Any differences that we see between groups within the county (e.g. between men and women or between different age groups), or between Dún Laoighaire-Rathdown and national figures, could reflect a real difference in the population as a whole, or could be due to random chance.

The size of a difference that is likely to be real rather than due to random chance depends on two issues:

1. The size of the groups we are comparing, and
2. How low or high the percentages that we are comparing are.

The Tables on the following pages provide a guide to how big the differences need to be for us to be confident that they are real differences. Table 1 should be referred to when comparing small groups, of about 250 individuals. In this report, this applies when we are comparing men versus women, and comparing age groups 55-69 versus age 70+. Table 2 should be referred to when comparing groups of 250-500 individuals (an age group in a county, or the whole county) to a national figure. In this report, this applies to comparisons between the county itself, and national data sources such as TILDA or EQLS.

TABLE 1: COMPARING SMALL GROUPS (of about 250 individuals)

INCLUDES: MEN COMPARED WITH WOMEN / AGE 55-69 COMPARED WITH 70+

HOW BIG IS THE DIFFERENCE?	How confident can we be that it is a “real” difference? (i.e., not due to chance)	
9% OR MORE (percentage points)	<p>Can be reasonably confident differences are real</p> <p>Example: 74% of those in the 70+ age group and 64% of the 55-69 group are dissatisfied with the availability of accessible toilets. We can be confident that this 10% difference is not due to chance.</p>	
5-8% (percentage points)	<p>We need to be cautious with these differences.</p> <p>We can only be confident that they represent real differences if the percentages being compared are above or below a certain value.</p>	
	Are both values being compared ...	Minimum difference needed
	Less than 30% or greater than 70%?	8%
	Less than 20% or greater than 80%?	7%
	Less than 15% or greater than 85%?	6%
Less than 10% or greater than 90%?	5%	<p>Example: 20% of the over 70s compared with 28% of those aged 55-69 felt positive about moving into an adapted type of housing. Both values are below 30%, therefore we can be confident that this 8% difference is a real difference between these two age groups.</p>
LESS THAN 5% (percentage points)		
Cannot be confident that these differences are real		
<p>Example: 21% of women had an experience that left them concerned for their personal safety, compared with 17% of men. We cannot be confident that this 4% difference is real. This difference could be due to chance.</p>		

**TABLE 2: COMPARING COUNTY DATA (250-500 people)
AND NATIONAL DATA (>=1000 people)**

INCLUDES: COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND NATIONAL DATA SOURCES
(e.g. TILDA and EQLS)

HOW BIG IS THE DIFFERENCE?	How confident can we be that it is a “real” difference? (i.e., not due to chance)									
7% OR MORE (percentage points)	<p>Can be reasonably confident differences are real</p> <p>Example: 60% of people rated public transport as good or excellent, compared with 50% nationally. We can be confident that this 10% difference is not due to chance.</p>									
4-6% (percentage points)	<p>We need to be cautious with these differences.</p> <p>We can only be confident that they represent real differences if the percentages being compared are above or below a certain value.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 1160 1161 1603"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="470 1160 997 1373">Are both values being compared ...</th> <th data-bbox="997 1160 1161 1373">Minimum difference we can be confident is real</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1373 997 1451">Less than 25% or greater than 75%?</td> <td data-bbox="997 1373 1161 1451">6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1451 997 1518">Less than 15% or greater than 85%?</td> <td data-bbox="997 1451 1161 1518">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 1518 997 1603">Less than 10% or greater than 90%?</td> <td data-bbox="997 1518 1161 1603">4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div data-bbox="1161 1200 1434 1570" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Example: 62% of over 70s have multiple chronic conditions, compared with 67% nationally. Both values are between 15% and 85%, and therefore we cannot be confident that this 5% difference is real.</p> </div>		Are both values being compared ...	Minimum difference we can be confident is real	Less than 25% or greater than 75%?	6%	Less than 15% or greater than 85%?	5%	Less than 10% or greater than 90%?	4%
Are both values being compared ...	Minimum difference we can be confident is real									
Less than 25% or greater than 75%?	6%									
Less than 15% or greater than 85%?	5%									
Less than 10% or greater than 90%?	4%									
LESS THAN 4% (percentage points)	<p>Cannot be confident that these differences are real</p> <p>Example: 14% of over 55s smoke, compared with 15% nationally. We cannot be confident that this 1% difference is real. This difference may to be due to chance.</p>									

REFERENCES & DATA SOURCES

Central Statistics Office (CSO) (2013) **Population and Labour Force Projections 2016-2046**. Government Publications.

Department of Health (2013) **Healthy Ireland. A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025**. Dublin: Department of Health.

Department of Health (2013) **The National Positive Ageing Strategy**. Dublin: Department of Health.

World Health Organisation (WHO) (2002) **Active Ageing: A Policy Framework**. Available at http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/67215/1/WHO_NMH_NPH_02.8.pdf

DATA SOURCE	CENSUS
Reference period	2011
Data collection frequency	Five year intervals
Coverage	De facto population i.e. the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of the Census, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday 11 April 2011, not having been enumerated elsewhere
Method of data collection	Self-completed form
Data content	Demography
Relevant policy areas	Healthcare, health, carers education, employment, transport, housing and living arrangements
References	http://www.cso.ie/en/census/ Barrett A, Sava G, Timonen V, Kenny R. (2011) <i>Fifty Plus in Ireland 2011. First results from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)</i> . Dublin: The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing. Nolan A, O' Regan C, Dooley C, Wallace D, Hever A, Cronin H, et al. (2014). <i>The Over 50s in a Changing Ireland</i> . Dublin: The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing.
Sample size	4,581,269 (total population)

DATA SOURCE	EUROPEAN QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY (EQLS)
Reference Period	2011
Data collection frequency	Every four years
Coverage	The target population is all residents aged 18 and older, and the target sample size ranges from 1,000 to 3,000. A multi-stage, stratified random sampling procedure is used.
Method of data collection	Face-to-face questionnaire
Data content	Employment, income, housing and environment, family, health, work-life balance, subjective wellbeing and social equality.
Relevant policy areas	Family life, housing, income, life satisfaction, subjective-wellbeing, trust and social solidarity, poverty and social inclusion.
References	http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/european-quality-of-life-surveys-eqls/european-quality-of-life-survey-2012
Sample size	1051

DATA SOURCE	THE IRISH LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF AGEING (TILDA)
Reference Period(s)	Wave 1 (2009-2011); Wave 2 (2012-2013)
Data collection frequency	Every two years, Wave 3 due to finish data collection in 2015
Coverage	Community-dwelling adults aged 50+ at Wave 1 and 52+ at Wave 2, living in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). A random, clustered, stratified sampling is used to ensure population representative sample.
Method of data collection	Face-to-face Interviews in participants homes; self-completion questionnaire; nurse-led health assessment
Data content	Health, economic and social data
Relevant policy areas	Employment, Education and Lifelong Learning, Active Citizenship, Engagement in Activities, Transport, Healthy Ageing, Support and Care Services, Income, Homes, Ageism
References	TILDA data available from http://www.ucd.ie/issda/data/tilda/
Sample size	Wave 1: 8,175; Wave 2: 7,010