Centre for Ageing Better

State of Ageing 2023-24
Technical Report

Contents

1. Introduction

This Technical Report accompanies State of Ageing 2023-24. This version covers the chapters published in November 2023. Further versions will be released as new chapters are published.

The aim of this Technical Report is to assist people in both referring to and using the data in the State of Ageing for their own purposes. Sometimes this may require referring back to the original data sources used in State of Ageing. All charts include a link in the footnote to the sources used, and there are further links in the text where needed. Not all the data used is publicly available as we have in some instances commissioned analysis by age and other characteristics of data securely deposited with UK Data Service.

If you have questions about any of the data contained in State of Ageing 2023-4, please email evidence@ageing-better.org.uk

2. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people and organisations for their contribution to State of Ageing 2023:

- Jabeer Butt from Race Equality Foundation for his advice and support in the production of our analysis and report

- Members of the Centre for Ageing Better's Experts by Experience network for sharing their insights and experiences

- Staff and community members at Third Age Partnership in Camden, and Wai Yin Society in Manchester for their support in organising, hosting and participating in community conversations

- The Manchester BME Network and University of Manchester (MUARG) for a joint workshop exploring the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on older Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in Greater Manchester, and to all attendees who shared their insights, experiences and ideas

- Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG), University of Manchester, for access to and use of qualitative data from their cost-of-living crisis research

- abrdn Financial Fairness Trust for permission to use data from the 8th wave of their Financial Fairness Tracker The Financial Fairness Tracker, commissioned by the abrdn Financial Fairness Trust and analysed by a team at the University of Bristol, has been monitoring the personal finances of households since the start of the pandemic via data collected from YouGov's panel. State of Ageing 2023 reports findings from secondary analysis of Tracker data undertaken by The National Centre for Social Research commissioned by Centre for Ageing Better

- Jamie Evans, Sharon Collard and David Collings at the University of Bristol, for sharing the abrdn data for further analysis and for their advice as to its presentation

- The National Centre for Social Research for their insight and direction related to additional data analyses that they conducted of publicly available data sets and data from the Financial Fairness Tracker

- Professor Matt Padley and Dr. Juliet Stone of Loughborough University who helped us understand Retirement Living Standards and provided us with unpublished data

- Phil Mawhinney and Michelle Ravenor of Independent Age who helped clarify some questions around Pension Credit

- Isabel Taylor at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation who provided us with unpublished data on pensioners in deep and very deep poverty

- Dr Paula Croal, Head of Household Income and Expenditure Analysis, Crime, Income and Wealth Division at the Office for National Statistics who directed us to the correct sources of income data over time

- John Adams at the Pensions Policy Institute who answered questions on their Underpensioned Index

3. Citing State of Ageing 2023

State of Ageing is intended as a resource for others to use. As such we welcome referenced inclusion of State of Ageing content in other publications. The following examples show how to cite State of Ageing using Harvard referencing style that may be adapted according to your own referencing style:

The State of Ageing report:

- Centre for Ageing Better (2023) *State of Ageing 2023-24.* [online] Available at: https://ageing-better.org.uk/state-of-ageing-2023 (Accessed: day/month/year)

Individual chapters (e.g. Homes):

- Centre for Ageing Better (2023) Homes. In: *State of Ageing 2023-24.* [online] Available at: https://ageing-better.org.uk/homes-state-ageing-2023 (Accessed: day/month/year)

Individual charts (e.g. chart 2.01)

- Centre for Ageing Better (2023) *2.01 Number of people (in millions), by age (50 and over) in each Census, England, 1981 to 2021* [online chart] Available at: https://ageing-better.org.uk/our-ageing-population-state-ageing-2023 (Accessed: day/month/year)

The PDF Summary report

- Centre for Ageing Better (2023) *State of Ageing Summary 2023.* London: Centre for Ageing Better. [online] Available at: https://ageing-better.org.uk/summary-state-ageing-2023-24 (Accessed: day/month/year)

This Technical report

- Centre for Ageing Better (2023) *State of Ageing 2023-24 Technical Report v2.* Centre for Ageing Better. Available at: https://ageing-better.org.uk/how-cite-state-ageing-2023-4 (Accessed: day/month/year)

4. Terminology

4.1. Ethnicity

- We acknowledge that using terms and categories to describe ethnicity is contentious, and that there are different views on how to do this. Using Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (abbreviated as BAME) as a category can demonstrate an overall difference in measures as compared to the majority White population and is therefore useful in highlighting structural racism. However, there is significant variation between minority ethnic groups, which means that the BAME category obscures an individual's or a specific community's experience. Where the data allows, we therefore include figures for individual ethnic groups, BAME and an "All" category. The "All category" enables us to compare individual ethnic groups' experience with the average, rather than using White British as the reference category.
- Not all surveys allow analysis at the level of individual ethnic group, because of inadequate samples sizes, so end up using different categories. We have noted where this occurs. One of our recommendations is to **close the ethnicity data gap** and develop data that improves our understanding of racism and inequality.
- These are the terms we use in the report
  - **minority ethnic communities / backgrounds** to describe all ethnic communities / backgrounds other than White British
  - **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities / backgrounds** to describe all communities / backgrounds excluding all White communities / backgrounds.
- Also see the note in the Census 2021 section on combining ethnic groups (from 19 into 11 categories)

4.2. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

We use terms that reflect those used in the 2021 Census
- LGB+ includes people who identify as Lesbian, gay, Bisexual pansexual, asexual, queer and other minority sexual orientations
- Trans includes all people who identify as a gender that is different from their registered sex at birth.

4.3. Disability

- Centre for Ageing Better uses a social model of disability. We use the term Disabled people with a capital D to signify a collective identity as a group that is marginalised in society.

5. Notes on Data Sources

5.1. Census 2021 Data

For many of the charts in State of Ageing custom datasets have been created to combine variables of interest. These can be identified by the hashtag #getdata at the end of the source url. Where this is the case the following points should be noted:

- The population type for datasets (unless otherwise specified in this report) is "Usual Residents" which includes people usually living in England and Wales and excludes non-UK born short-term residents and visitors. . Although this information is displayed on the initial custom dataset page it is not included in the metadata once spreadsheets are generated.
- Coverage will either be England, or England and Wales. Area types and coverage can easily be amended from the initial custom dataset page before downloading the data. This enables selection of different countries, or indeed smaller geographical areas of interest (although users need to be aware that some data in small geographical areas may not be available due to data disclosure rules).
- Once data has been downloaded, we generally inserted pivot tables to create tables on which to perform further analysis, such as combining categories and calculating proportions from the raw numbers generated. Where we created datasets that cover both England and Wales, we have filtered pivot tables to return data for England only.

5.1.1. Ethnicity

For custom datasets in which ethnicity is a variable, we have used 20 ethnic group categories (19 ethnic groups plus "Does Not Apply") to generate data at the most detailed level available. For ease of presentation in some charts, we have combined a number of ethnic groups, based on the size of the population aged 50 and over in each group as follows:

Chart category	Census ethnic groups (20) included
Indian	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian
Pakistani	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani
Bangladeshi	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi
Chinese	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese
Black Caribbean	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean
Black African	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African
Mixed	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean; Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African; Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian; Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
White British	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
White Irish	White: Irish
Other White	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller; White: Roma; White: Other White
Other	Black, Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian; Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black; Other ethnic group: Arab; Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group

Note: Does Not Apply excluded from data.

Where there are particularly important statistics relating to specific ethnic groups (e.g. the health of Gypsies and Irish Travellers) we have reported these in the bullet points under the charts. Data for all 19 of the Census 2021 ethnic groups can be retrieved by using the links to the custom dataset in the footer of each chart.

5.1.2. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

- Please note it is not possible to combine Census figures provided for LGB+ and trans identities to calculate totals for LGBT+ people because these categories are not discrete – i.e. combining these would result in double counting of individuals who identify as both LGB+ and trans.
- Due to data disclosure concerns sexual orientation and gender identity are not available as variables in the custom dataset table builder (see introduction to section 5.1 above). Centre for Ageing Better requested the following data from ONS, which is now published online: Sexual orientation of the older population by different characteristics. This covers sexual orientation, age (50 and over) and sex by general health, hours of care provided, tenure type and household size.
- Some questions have been raised about the accuracy of the Census results for gender identity, due to possible misinterpretation of the question. However, Census results are broadly in line with other estimates of gender identity prevalence. If guidance changes on this we will act accordingly.

5.2. The abrdn Financial Fairness Tracker
The Financial Fairness Tracker, commissioned by the abrdn Financial Fairness Trust and analysed by a team at the University of Bristol, has been monitoring the personal finances of households since the start of the pandemic via data collected from YouGov's panel.

The Centre for Ageing Better has undertaken secondary analysis of Tracker data. The data used is from the 8th wave of the survey, collected in April to May 2023. Information on the survey methodology can be found here: https://www.financialfairness.org.uk/en/our-work/publications/financial-fairness-tracker-housing-edition. This explains segmentation of households into four categories - In serious difficulty, struggling, exposed and secure - based on scores from a principal component analysis of seven survey questions that cover the extent to which households could meet their financial obligations and the resources they had for dealing with an economic shock.

6. Notes on Chapters

This section only includes notes on selected charts and bullet points where we felt further clarification was necessary. This section will be further developed in 2024 once all the full chapters have been published. As stated in the introduction all charts include a link in the footnote to the sources used, and there are further links in the text where needed.

If you require further details of the data sources used, or the calculations performed to produce charts and accompanying bullet points, please email: evidence@ageing-better.org.uk

6.1. Summary

Chart 1.03 uses the higher level (5) categories for ethnic groups to visualise overall trends in numbers of people over time for ease of presentation.

Chart 1.05 *Percentage of households headed by someone aged 50-69 who have taken the actions shown because of concerns about cost, by financial wellbeing category, UK, April to May 2023* omits the "exposed" financial wellbeing category for ease of presentation.

6.2. Our Ageing Population

Charts 2.04 and 2.05 use the higher level (5) categories for ethnic groups to visualise overall trends in numbers of people over time for ease of presentation.

Chart 2.14:

Calculation for this statement: *There are now 150,000 more people aged 50 and older providing 50 or more hours of care per week than ten years ago, and almost one third of these are aged 65 and older (see Technical Report)*:

Please note that "usual residents in households" is used for this calculation to match the data available in 2011.

2011 Census data from Nomis DC3301EW – *"Provision of unpaid care by general health by sex by age"* shows that there were 1,264,206 usual residents in households in England aged 50 and over who provide 50 or more hours care per week (806,989 aged 50-64 plus 457,217 aged 65 and over)
See " (https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/dc3301ew)

2021 Census data *"Age (c), sex and unpaid care"* shows that there were 1,4818,170 usual residents in households in England aged 50 and over who provide 50 or more hours care per week (911,928 aged 50-64 and 506,242 aged 65 and over)

 https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create/filter-outputs/c8091c22-7e79-4bfd-a155-1888048238fd#getdata

The difference in total numbers of people aged 50 and over who provide 50 or more hours of care per week is 153,964 (rounded to 150,000). Of these 104,939 are aged 50 to 64 and 49,025 (approximately a third of the total) are aged 65 and over.

6.3. Work

For **all charts** for which the data source is Labour Force Survey dataset *A05 SA: Employment, unemployment and economic inactivity by age group (seasonally adjusted)* the version used is that dated 11/07/2023.

6.4. Homes

In the *Quality of our Homes* subsection we state that:

"*Nearly 8 million people live in an unsafe home: approximately 2.6 million of these are aged 55 and over and 1.8 million are children.*

Where the home is non-decent and headed by someone aged 55 and over, there are:
- *547,000 people living in poverty*
- *1,395,000 living in a household in which someone is disabled or has a long-term condition*
- *109,000 living in a home where someone uses a wheelchair."*

These statistics have been generated by NatCen using English Housing Survey Housing Stock Data for 2020. The EHS 2020 Housing Stock data is a combination of 2 years' of survey fieldwork – 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Non-decent home criteria are based on the 26 hazard Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) model.

Please note that although English Housing Surveys usually completes full surveys during the Covid pandemic properties were only examined externally. Thus, where we observe changes in these numbers between fieldwork conducted before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot be confident that the changes reflect a "real" change in the condition or quality of housing stock and the findings need to be interpreted with caution.

There is an additional step to get the number of people aged 55 and over (2.6 million) living in a non-decent home:

Use Census table builder: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create/filter-outputs/661ed03e-9af0-41e4-b4b6-45cea678ebeb#get-data

Filter for England only and in "Lifestage of Household Reference Person" select all options for "Household reference person is aged 55 to 65" and "Household reference person is aged 66 or over".

Add all observations to get 16,344,652 people aged 55 and over in the population in England, living with a household reference person aged 55 and over.

We also know from analysis of English Housing Survey that:
- the total number of homes with a household reference person aged 55 and over = 11,120,001
- the number of non-decent homes with a household reference person aged 55 and over = 1,775,986
- Therefore, the percentage of homes with a household reference person aged 55 and over that is non-decent = 16.0%

16% of the 16,344,652 people aged 55 and over who are living with a household reference person aged 55 and over = 2,610,420

Therefore, we can calculate that 2.6 million people aged 55 and over in England live in a non-decent home.

Please note a household in poverty is defined as a household with an income that is less than 60% of the median income of all households.

6.5. Health and Wellbeing

Chart 6.05 *Percentage of households who have taken the actions shown because of concerns about cost, by financial wellbeing category and age, UK, April to May 2023* omits the "exposed" financial wellbeing category for ease of presentation.

6.6. Financial Security

Chart 6.01a *Percentage of pensioners in relative poverty after housing costs, UK, 2002/03 to 2021/22.* Data for 2020/21 is not available by age group due to data quality concerns affecting many of the HBAI estimates calculated below UK (headline) level for that year. There is a value of 14.7% for *all* pensioners for 2020/21 but for consistency with data by age group and due to the need for caution because of the pandemic, this data point is not shown here.

Chart 6.01b *Of pensioners in poverty, percentage who are in deep and very deep poverty, UK, 2021/22*: data on very deep poverty provided by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Chart 6.02 *Percentage of pensioners in relative poverty after housing costs, by region, England, 2019/20 to 2021/22* we state that:

Just 37% of people aged 50 and over in London own their homes outright (and therefore have no mortgage/rental costs) compared with 52% for England as a whole

This has been calculated using Census 2021 'Create a custom dataset' (https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create). Specifically, we used, All Household Reference Persons for population type; Regions for Area type; England and Wales for Coverage; and added age and tenure type as variables. See: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create/filter-outputs/5394f30c-564f-49fc-9cc7-8934f1a70ead#get-data

Chart 6.03 *Rates of poverty and deep poverty after housing costs (AHC), by ethnicity of head of household and age group, UK, 2021/22* uses an average estimate of 2021/22 and 2019/20 data.

In the population as a whole (as in the population aged 50 and under shown here), poverty and deep poverty levels are higher among the Bangladeshi community than the

Pakistani community. The reversal of this pattern among people aged 50 and over may be the result of small sample sizes, which persisted even using an average estimate for the 2021/22 and 2019/20 data.

Chart 6.04a *Breakdown of average gross income of retired households, UK, 2021/22* and Chart 6.04b *Average annual gross income of retired individuals, by source, over time, UK*: Working income in charts is calculated as wages and salaries + self-employment income (taken from tables); Other income = imputed income + investment income + other income; Other benefits = total cash benefits + state pension; Private and workplace pensions = Private pensions, annuities.

Chart 6.05 *Percentage of pensioners with no occupational or personal pension, by quintile of disposable household income (after housing costs), UK, 2021/22*. Data is taken from Table 6.2db (AHC): *Quintile distribution of income for pensioners by various family and household characteristics*. To convert data to the percentage with no pension by quintile, first the number of pensioners in each quintile with no pension was calculated using the number with no pension given in the "all pensioners" column. Secondly to calculate the percentage for each quintile this was divided by the total number of all pensioners divided by 5 (i.e. 11.7 million divided by 5 which equals the number of pensioners in each quintile).

Chart 6.06b *Percentage of pensioner units in receipt of selected sources of income and the average amounts by ethnic group, UK, 2019/20 to 2021/22*: pensioner units include both single pensioners and couples and are not broken down further due to small sample sizes. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results, as for couples the individual receiving occupational, personal, or private pension income and the individual receiving earnings income may not be the same person. Ethnicity is recorded based on the ethnicity of the head of the pensioner unit. It may therefore be that other members of the pensioner unit are not the same ethnicity.

Some notes on state pension:

The new state pension was introduced in 2016 and applies to people who reach state pension age (currently 66 years for both men and women but scheduled to increase from 6 May 2026) after 5 April 2016. The current new full state pension is £203.85 per week, or £10,600.20 per year. It will increase to £221.20 per week as of 6 April 2024.

The basic state pension applies to people who reached state pension age before 5 April 2016 and is currently £156.20 per week.

By comparison, 26% of people on the old state pension received less than the full amount. It is unclear why the proportion of people who are not receiving their full pension is higher for the new vs the basic state pension.

Chart 6.09 *Estimated number of single people and couples (in thousands) entitled to Pension Credit who do not receive it, Great Britain, 2010-22:* for years up to and

including 2019, couples included those in which just one person was above State Pension Age (SPA); from 2020 both partners in a couple were above SPA. This is because from this date both partners in a couple have to reach SPA to be able to claim Pension Credit.

Below **Chart 6.12** *Percentage of people who have no savings, by age group and tenure type, UK, April to May 2023* we state that:

Half of social renters (49%) and 43% of private renters aged 50-69 say that they feel they have no control over their financial situation, while this is the case for just one in five people in this age group who own their homes outright.

This comes from Ageing Better analysis of data from the 8th Financial Fairness Tracker survey (abrdn Financial Fairness Trust and University of Bristol).

Chart 6.16 *Percentage of people who say that thinking about their financial situation makes them anxious, by financial wellbeing category and age group, UK, April to May 2023* uses data from the abrdn Financial Fairness Tracker. People were asked 'How well do the following statements fit your current situation? Thinking about my financial situation makes me anxious' with responses 'Fits very well'; 'Fits fairly well'; 'Doesn't fit very well'; 'Doesn't fit at all' and 'Don't know'. The proportion 'Fits very well' and 'Fits fairly well' were added to provide the numbers shown in this chart.

6.7. Society

Please note that a full chapter to replace this summary chapter will be published in May 2024.

Below **Chart 7.03** we state that:

Ageing Better analysis of Community Life Survey data by ethnicity shows that older people with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds tend to be less satisfied with their local area than people with White backgrounds (see Technical Report). And further, the difference in satisfaction between younger and older people is smaller in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

NatCen undertook some analysis for us of the Community Life Survey for us by age and ethnicity. Because of the small sample size, it was only possible to use the categories "BAME" and "White" for this analysis. However, the sample size for older people with BAME backgrounds is still relatively small.

Chart B6 in the Community Life Survey (2021/22) was analysed by ethnicity, combining 'very' and 'fairly' satisfied percentages to get a percentage for people who are 'satisfied' with their local area as a place to live.

This analysis showed that at in all age categories (under 50, 50-64, and 65 and over) people with BAME backgrounds were less satisfied with their local area than people with White backgrounds. For people with white backgrounds satisfaction with their local area was eight percentage points higher for people aged 65 and over than for people aged under 50 (83% vs 75%). However for people with BAME backgrounds satisfaction was

only three percentage points higher for people aged 65 and over than for people aged under 50 (75% vs 72%). This also results in an increasing gap in local area satisfaction between people with White and BAME backgrounds by age: growing from three percentage points for people aged under 50 to eight percent points for people aged 65 and over.

However, these results need to be treated with some caution, not only because of sample sizes. The varying life circumstances highlighted elsewhere in this report mean it is likely that people with different minority ethnic backgrounds will experience the places where they live differently. The potential variation in local area satisfaction between ethnic groups that may result is likely obscured by using the broad category of BAME.