Is Northern Ireland a good place to be old?

Launch of the 2014 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

#arkageing
Welcome and introduction

Gillian Robinson

#arkageing
About the survey

- Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey
  - Annual survey, began in 1998 – gap in 2011
  - Monitor the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland
  - Time-series and public record of attitudes and behaviour
  - Descendent of Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey 1989-1996
  - Modular format
• Attitudes of a random sample of 1211 adults aged 18 years or over to:
  – Attitudes to ageing and ageism
  – Attitudes and experiences of dementia
  – Community Relations
  – Political Attitudes
NILT 2014

• Available from today:
  – Questionnaires
  – Technical reports
  – Tables of results – by age, gender, religion
  – Data to download
  – Technical helpline
Is Northern Ireland a good place to grow old?

by Paula Devine and Gemma M Carney

(Research Update 100)
Thank you to ...

• Our funders, especially
  – Atlantic Philanthropies (ageing and ageism; dementia)
  – Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

• Our respondents
Animated infographic

Eoin Kelly

#arkageing
Is Northern Ireland a good place to grow old?

Paula Devine and Gemma M Carney
The world’s population is ageing …
Population ageing refers to the increase in the number and proportion of older people in the population.

The change arises during the move from a regime of *high fertility and high mortality* to one of *low fertility and relatively low mortality*.  
(Phillipson, 2013: 12)
## Population change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-15 years</td>
<td>382,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-64 years</td>
<td>1,168,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>279,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84+</td>
<td>33,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,839,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: A Profile of Older People in Northern Ireland – 2014 update (OFMDFM, 2014, p. 19)*
## Population change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2033</th>
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<td>1,168,000</td>
<td>1,156,900</td>
</tr>
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<td>279,100</td>
<td>455,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84+</td>
<td>33,330</td>
<td>79,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,839,700</td>
<td>1,989,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: A Profile of Older People in Northern Ireland – 2014 update (OFMDFM, 2014, p. 19)*
### Population change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2033</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-15 years</td>
<td>382,600</td>
<td>376,500</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
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<td>16-64 years</td>
<td>1,168,000</td>
<td>1,156,900</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>279,100</td>
<td>455,700</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84+</td>
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<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,839,700</td>
<td>1,989,100</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• NILT questions on ageing and ageism asked in 2003, 2008 and 2014
Since 2008 ...
Active Ageing Strategy 2014-2010

• Based on UN Principles for Older Persons:
  • 18 principles grouped into 5 domains:
    – Independence
    – Participation
    – Care
    – Self-fulfilment
    – Dignity
Since 2008 …

Being *age-friendly* enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities.
How old is old?

At what age do you start to think of someone as an ‘older person’?

KEEP CALM AND Age is just A number
How old is old?
Respect for elders?

Do you think that older people are, on the whole, treated better or worse than people in the general population in this country because of their age?
As you get older, do you find that people treat you with more respect or less respect?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More respect</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less respect</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(About the same)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don’t know)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Solidarity?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of agreement with statements about older people's respect by young people, older people stuck in their ways, and older people willing to listen to views of young people. The chart includes data for 'Agree strongly', 'Agree slightly', 'Disagree slightly', and 'Disagree strongly'.]
An ageing population – Crisis or opportunity?
‘Suddenly, ‘population ageing’ – often viewed as a mixed blessing by western governments has assumed every more negative connotations.’

(Phillipson, 2013, p. 1)
‘Older people are being transferred from the safe political haven of the deserving to the radically more exposed position of being one of the major threats to Britain’s economic future.’

(Walker, 2012, p. 812)
Opportunity knocks?

Contributions of people aged 60+, 2012-2062

£49.9 Billion Financial Contributions + £67 Billion Other Contributions − £92.2 Billion Costs = £24.7 Billion Total Net Contribution

Source: COPNI (2014) Appreciating Age: Valuing the positive contributions made by older people in Northern Ireland
Society doesn’t recognise the contribution that many older people are still able to make

– 2014: 75%
– 2008: 92%
– 2003: 86%
Pensions crisis?

• Legislative changes:
  – Abolition of statutory retirement age, 2011
  – Rising age of eligibility for state pension

• 81% think people should be allowed to work as long as they want and are able to
• 38% think people in their 60s should give up work to make way for younger people
Is Northern Ireland a good place to grow old?
## Health and social care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree/ strongly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree/ strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older people have equal access to health care</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older people have good access to social care if needed</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Value, rights and dignity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree/ strongly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree/ strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Older people are valued</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rights of older people are upheld</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dignity of older people is upheld</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Most likely to agree: 75+**

**Least like to agree: 45-54**
Policy: COPNI, Age-friendly

But …

• Only 28% heard of the Commissioner for Older People
  • 16% of those aged 18-24
  • 41% of those aged 55-64
  • 26% of those aged 65+
A good place to grow old?

☑ **Attitudes:** Perception of appropriate access to health or social care

But …

☑ **Main issues for Commissioner to address:**
  - Increase pension rate/better financial support
  - Provide better care for older people in their homes/care homes
  - Improve healthcare/access to healthcare
NI report card

- Some steps taken, but still a way to go
- Why is there dissatisfaction in middle age?

- Policy change must keep up with demographic change