

Needs of older persons. Local variations and public service response: the case of Spain

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WHY?

-Earlier studies of regional variations in services for older persons in Spain have only considered aggregate service variations, not individual factors of need

-International studies about variations in services for older persons in the UK (Brand et al. 2011) and Sweden (Sundström et al. 2002; Davey et al. 2006) **suggest that local variations in services are due to local variations in need, especially solitary living and frailty**

OBJECTIVES

To find out if in Spain...

- 1) Social services respond to needs of older people, and to specify user profiles
- 2) If responses vary across regions and how regions target older persons in need

DATA

METHODOLOGY

- We use the nationally representative Survey of Living Conditions (IMSERSO) 2006 with a sample of 3,507 individuals aged 65 + years living in the community.

- Two different kinds of services are considered: direct personal care and household help; services of prevention and promotion of active ageing
- We use binary logistic regression analysis



The screenshot shows the 'PORTAL MAYORES' website interface. At the top, there are logos for the Spanish government, IMSERSO, CSIC, and other organizations. Below the navigation bar, the 'Microdatos' section is highlighted, listing various data files available for download, including technical sheets, questionnaires, and data files in different formats (sav, word, zip, etc.).

PORTAL MAYORES

Página de inicio | Estadísticas | Microdatos

Área Envejecimiento | Área Atención a la Dependencia

Estadísticas

Microdatos

Encuesta de condiciones de vida de los mayores. Estudio 2.647. IMSERSO-CIS, 2006

- Ficha técnica (versión word, 28 kb)
- Cuestionario (versión word, 209 kb)
- Fichero de datos (versión sav, 1.482 kb)
- a) Resultados marginales. (versión word, 879 kb) *
- b) Tabulación por variables sociodemográficas (versión word, 1.780 kb) *
- Formato ASCII (versión zip, 311 kb)
- Códigos (versión word, 142 kb). Tarjetas (versión word, 24 kb)

* Estos dos ficheros son actualizados a fecha 25/10/2007 a las 11:30 horas, por lo tanto, son distintos a los subidos el 24/10/2007.

METHODOLOGY

CATEGORIES USED:

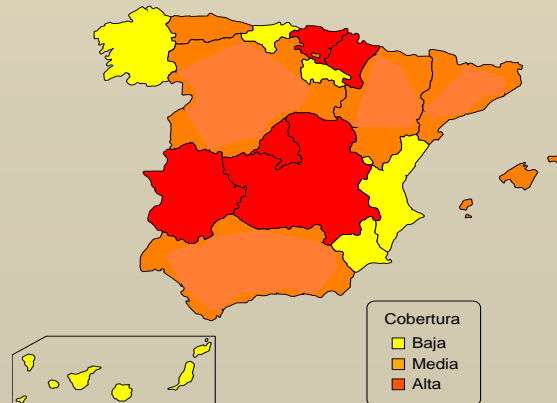
Services:

- *Community care*: Use of Home Help, day care, tele-alarm systems, meals-on-wheels and/or laundry services. Separately: home adaptation and technical aids
- *Preventative services (active ageing)*: subsidized courses, vacations, and spa sojourns

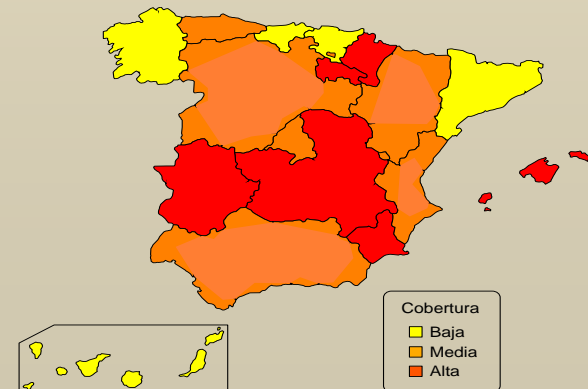
Needs: IADL (shopping, cooking, other domestic activities), PADL (bath/shower, get out of/into bed, dress/undress, eat), living arrangement (alone or not).

Regional analyses: 17 regions (Comunidades Autonomas) by coverage levels: Low, Medium or High providers

TYPES OF REGIONS BY COMMUNITY CARE COVERAGE



TYPES OF REGIONS BY PREVENTATIVE CARE COVERAGE



RESULTS: Coverage

Table 1. Coverage by community care and technical adaptations, by regional group and by need indicators (frailty, living alone). Spain 2006, per cent

	Community care				Technical adaptations			
	Spain	Low	Medium	High	Spain	Low	Medium	High
Total	9.0	4.5	8.2	14.9	3.8	3.1	3.7	4.8
<i>Frailty</i>								
Not disabled	6.6	2.9	5.4	11.9	3.2	3.1	2.6	4.5
IADL	10.6	5.3	10.3	17.1	3.6	2.7	3.6	4.6
PADL	15.6	8.2	15.7	24.6	6.7	4.1	8.5	6.5
<i>Lives</i>								
Not alone	6.5	2.8	6.0	11.0	4.1	3.3	3.6	5.7
Alone	18.1	11.5	15.4	29.9	2.9	2.3	4.1	1.1

* Community care: Home Help, day centers, tele-alarm services, meals-on-wheels

** *Low Regions*: low coverage in services: (Home Help, day centers, tele-alarm) (< 6,25% population 65+): Canarias, Cantabria, C. Valenciana, Galicia, La Rioja, Murcia.

Medium Regions: medium coverage in services: (Home Help, day centers, tele-alarm) (6,25%-8,79% population 65+): Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Baleares, Castilla-León, Cataluña.

High Regions: High coverage in services: (Home Help, day centers, tele-alarm) (> 8,79% population 65+): Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura, Navarra, P. Vasco, Madrid.

*** IADL: unable to do shopping, cooking and/or other domestic activities; PADL: unable to perform bath/shower, get up from/go to bed, dress/undress and/or eating.

Source: Our elaborations on Encuesta de condiciones de vida de los mayores 2006.

- Community care determined by social vulnerability (living alone) rather than by physical frailty.
- Variations in technical aids are much smaller, but tend to follow the same overall patterns

RESULTS: User profiles.

Community Services

Table 2: Odds ratios of community care, by need indicators. Spain 2006, logistic regressions, multivariate models

	Community care*			
	Bivariate		Multivariate	
	Exp (β)	Sig.	Exp (β)	Sig.
Age				
[65-74]				
75-84	2.7	0.000	1.9	0.000
85+	3.2	0.000	1.8	0.005
Frailty**				
[Not disabled]				
IADL	1.7	0.000	2.0	0.000
PADL	2.6	0.000	2.6	0.000
Household				
[Living with a partner only]				
Living with children	0.8	0.265	0.7	0.032
Living with other people (not partner, children)	2.1	0.002	1.7	0.025
Living alone with children near	3.2	0.000	2.6	0.000
Living alone, not children near	3.2	0.000	3.4	0.000
Education				
[secondary+]				
Primary	1.6	0.058	1.7	0.030
Less than primary	2.0	0.002	2.0	0.005
Urbanization				
[<400.000 population]				
Metropolitan (> 400.000 population)	2.2	0.000	2.4	0.000

- Use of community care is more common among the most vulnerable, among those who live alone, the less educated and who do not have children near.
- Use also increases with age and urbanization.

RESULTS: Regional variations.

Community Services

Table 3. Odds ratios of community care by regional group and by need indicators. Spain 2006, log regr., multiv. models

	Community care coverage					
	Low Region		Medium Region		High Region	
	Exp (β)	Sig.	Exp (β)	Sig.	Exp (β)	Sig.
Age						
[65-74]						
75-84	1.1	0.717	1.3	0.219	3.3	0.000
85+	0.9	0.787	1.6	0.129	2.5	0.019
Frailty						
[Not disabled]						
Some IADL	2.6	0.026	2.8	0.000	1.5	0.108
Some PADL	4.0	0.003	3.5	0.000	2.0	0.019
Household						
[Living with a partner only]						
Living with children	1.2	0.752	0.8	0.494	0.5	0.018
Living with other people	0.0	0.998	2.9	0.002	1.1	0.831
Living alone with children near	4.8	0.002	2.8	0.000	2.4	0.002
Living alone, not children near	6.6	0.000	3.6	0.000	2.7	0.003
Education						
[secondary+]						
Primary	1.9	0.524	1.8	0.155	2.0	0.050
Less than primary	2.2	0.396	1.8	0.134	2.4	0.011
Urbanization						
[<400.000 population]						
Metropolitan (> 400.000 pop.)	0.7	0.667	1.5	0.075	2.8	0.000

- Regions with low coverage rates tend to restrict their provision to persons with some physical frailty and to persons who live alone.
- Medium-High regions have higher user rates in each user profile.

RESULTS: Regional variations.

Preventative Services

Table 4. Coverage of preventative services* by regional group and needs indicators. Spain 2006.**
Per cent

	Preventative services			
	Spain	Low	Medium	High
Total	15.0	11.6	15.5	19.9
Frailty				
not disabled	17.1	14.9	16.5	21.0
IADL	15.3	8.3	17.8	25.2
PADL	5.7	6.5	5.7	4.4
Living				
arrangement	15.3	11.4	16.3	20.5
not alone	13.7	12.1	13.3	17.1
alone				

- There is considerable regional variation
- User patterns are inverse compared to use of community care
- Users tend to be less frail and married, but there are also many users who live alone
- Regions with lower coverage of preventative services tend to focus more on solitary persons

*Preventative services: vacations, spa and courses

** *Low Regions*: with low spending/person on social services for older people (< 283,3€/person 65+);

Medium Regions: with medium spending/person on social services for older people (283,3€-421€/person 65+);

High Region: with high spending/person on social services for older people (>421€/person 65+).

** IADL: unable to do shopping, cooking and/or other domestic activities; PADL: unable to perform bath/shower, get up from/go to bed, dress/undress and/or eating.

Source: Our elaborations on Encuesta de condiciones de vida de los mayores 2006.

CONCLUSIONS and POLICY IMPLICATIONS

❖ **Do social services respond to needs of older people?**

In Spain community care for older people is above all services for persons who live alone; it is social vulnerability rather than physical frailty that determines use

❖ **Do social services vary among regions?**

Yes, the lower the coverage of a region, the more the services target solitary older persons. With higher availability of services, the user profile is more balanced and comprehensive.

Low provider regions of community care tend to invest proportionally more in preventative services which appear to be less equitable than community care as they primarily reach out to socially and economically advantaged older persons in urbanized areas.

THANK YOU