

Global Health Action >

Volume 3, 2010 - Issue s2: Special Issue: Growing older in Africa and Asia: Multicentre study on ageing, health and well-being. An INDEPTH WHO-SAGE collaboration (Supplement 2)

Open access

2,266 0

Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

8

Supplement 2, 2010

Health inequalities among older men and women in Africa and Asia: evidence from eight Health and Demographic Surveillance System sites in the INDEPTH WHO-SAGE Study

Nawi Ng , Paul Kowal, Kathleen Kahn, Nirmala Naidoo, Salim Abdullah, Ayaga Bawah, ... show all

Article: 5420 | Received 01 Jan 2010, Accepted 01 Jan 2010, Published online: 26 Sep 2010

Cite this article

We Care About Your Privacy

We and our 878 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting I Accept enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Show Purposes link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy. [Here](#)

We and our partners process data to provide:

Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device

I Accept

Reject All

Show Purpose

FREE access

Metrics

mic transition

ently

ted health

inants of

ies and

mic factors

examine sex

differences in health and further explain how these differences can be attributed to demographic and socio-economic determinants.

Methods : A total of 46,269 individuals aged 50 years and over in eight Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) sites within the INDEPTH Network were studied during 2006–2007 using an abbreviated version of the WHO Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE) Wave I instrument. The survey data were then linked to longitudinal HDSS background information. A health score was calculated based on self-reported health derived from eight health domains. Multivariable regression and post-regression decomposition provide ways of measuring and explaining the health score gap between men and women.

Results: Older men have better self-reported health than older women. Differences in household socio-economic levels, age, education levels, marital status and living arrangements explained from about 82% and 71% of the gaps in health score observed between men and women in South Africa and Kenya, respectively, to almost nothing in Bangladesh. Different health domains contributed differently to the overall health scores for men and women in each country.

Conclusion: This study confirmed the existence of sex differences in self-reported health in low- and middle-income countries even after adjustments for differences in demographic and socio-economic factors. A decomposition analysis suggested that sex

differences in self-reported health were found in all countries. Differences in socio-demographic factors explained most of the health differences. The overall health score gap between men and women was larger in South Africa and Kenya than in Bangladesh. Socio-demographic factors are important determinants to explain the health differences. The decomposition analysis showed that the correlation for a health score gap between men and women was higher in South Africa and Kenya than in Bangladesh.

Access to the questionnaire data and dataset for the study is available for the public. For more information, see the supplementary materials for the study.



dataset, please send a request with 'SAGE data' as its subject, detailing how you propose to use the data, to global.health@epiph.umu.se

[ageing](#) [survey methods](#) [public health](#) [burden of disease](#) [demographic transition](#) [disability](#) [well-being](#)
[health status](#) [INDEPTH WHO-SAGE](#)

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the help of Dr. Richard Gibson and Dr. Jenny Stewart Williams from the Research Center on Gender, Health, and Ageing, University of Newcastle, Australia for their statistical advice.

[Download PDF](#)

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
38



Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

 Sign me up

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books



Copyright

Accessib

Registered
5 Howick Pl

or & Francis Group
orma business

