



Attitudes to older people in Ireland, 2008

Questionnaire

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Joint project between
Queen's University Belfast
and the University of Ulster

This survey is about older people in Ireland. Can I just check, what age were you last birthday?

RAGE

Age

Thinking about older people in Ireland, that is people in their 50's and over...

OTREAT

Q1 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?

Better	1
Worse	2
(The same)	3
(Don't know)	8

ORESPECT

Q2 As you get older, do you find that people treat you with more respect or less respect?

More respect	1
Less respect	2
(About the same)	3
(Don't know)	8

AUTHOLD

Q3 Do you think that the authorities in Ireland do all they should for older people, do too much, or do not do enough?

Do all they should	1
Do too much	2
Do not do enough	3
(Don't know)	8

Q3a How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements.

SHOWCARD 1

	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	(Don't know)
<i>OPPOLNI</i> On the whole older people are adequately represented by politicians in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>OPCHAMP</i> What older people need is an independent body outside government that champions their needs and rights	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>OPNATORG</i> There are good national organizations in Ireland that represent older people	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>OPORG</i> Older people need to organize themselves to campaign and change issues which matter to them	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>CONSULT</i> The government does not consult older people adequately about issues that affect them	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MCARD70</i> Everyone over 70 should automatically be entitled to a medical card	1	2	3	4	5	8
<i>MCARD70</i> It is fair enough that people over 70 should be means-tested in order to get a medical card.	1	2	3	4	5	8

Q4 What do you think are the main problems facing older people in Ireland today?
SHOWCARD 2 CODE YES TO ALL THAT APPLY

		Yes	No
<i>OPROB1</i>	Making ends meet	1	2
<i>OPROB2</i>	Fear of crime	1	2
<i>OPROB3</i>	Loneliness	1	2
<i>OPROB3a</i>	Isolation	1	2
<i>OPROB4</i>	Transport	1	2
<i>OPROB5</i>	Lack of respect	1	2
<i>OPROB6</i>	Keeping warm in winter	1	2
<i>OPROB7</i>	Getting employment	1	2
<i>OPROB8</i>	Access to healthcare	1	2
<i>OPROB9</i>	Access to suitable housing	1	2
<i>OPROB10</i>	Boredom	1	2
<i>OPROB11</i>	Elder abuse	1	2
<i>OPROBALL</i>	All of these	1	2
	(Other – Write in)	1	2
	(Don't know)	1	2

Q5 For each of these statements about older people, I would like you to tell me if you agree strongly, agree slightly, disagree slightly, or disagree strongly.

SHOWCARD 3

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	(Don't know)
<i>OPADMIRE</i> Older people are admired and respected by young people	1	2	3	4	8
<i>GIVUPWRK</i> People in their 50s should give up work to make way for younger people	1	2	3	4	8
<i>GIVUPW60</i> People in their 60s should give up work to make way for younger people	1	2	3	4	8
<i>OPSETWAY</i> Older people are too set in their ways and ideas	1	2	3	4	8
<i>OPLSTNYP</i> Older people are not willing to listen to young people's views	1	2	3	4	8
<i>OPRIGHTS</i> Older people should stand up more actively for their own rights	1	2	3	4	8
<i>OPYPMIX</i> Older people and young people should mix together more often socially	1	2	3	4	8
<i>OPPRICES</i> All older people should be given reduced prices for things like gas, electricity, telephone and transport	1	2	3	4	8
<i>OPYOUNG</i> These days older people are much younger in their ways	1	2	3	4	8
<i>NOTRECOP</i> Society doesn't recognise the contribution that many older people are still able to make	1	2	3	4	8

Q6 Do you think that health and social care workers treat older people differently with regard to...**READ OUT...**

	Yes	No	Don't know
<i>HSCWOP1</i> ...their attitudes to them?	1	2	8
<i>HSCWOP2</i> ...the treatment of their illnesses?	1	2	8
<i>HSCWOP3</i> ...when placing them on waiting lists for tests and operations	1	2	8

[INTERVIEWER:Check back to beginning of section for age of respondent. If respondent is 50 or over ask Q7 and Q8. If respondent is under 50 go to Q9].
ULESSDIG

Q7 Have you ever felt that you were treated with less dignity and respect by people in the health and social care professions because of your age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

UNOTMED

Q8 And have you ever felt that you were not offered medical treatment that might have helped you because of your age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

ASK ALL

FLESSDIG

Q9 Have you ever felt that a friend or family member was treated with less dignity and respect by people in the health and social care professions because of their age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

FNOTMED

Q10 And have you ever felt that a friend or family member was not offered medical treatment that might have helped them because of their age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

OPLKWORK

Q11 Do you think that people in their 50's and 60's who are looking for work are generally treated better or worse than younger people by prospective employers?

Better	1
Worse	2
The same	3
(Don't know)	8

FS50PEN

Q12 Financial services play an important part in all our lives – credit, hire purchase, loans, mortgages, insurance and so on. Thinking first of people in their fifties and up to 65 years old, which of these two statements comes closest to your own view?

SHOWCARD 4

Older people get as good a deal from this sector as anyone else	1
Older people are treated less favourably by the financial sector because of their age	2
(Don't know)	8

FSOVPEN

Q13 And now thinking of people over 65 which of these two statements comes closest to your own view? **SHOWCARD 5**

Older people get as good a deal from this sector as anyone else	1
Older people are treated less favourably by the financial sector because of their age	2
(Don't know)	8

[INTERVIEWER: Check back to beginning of section for age of respondent. If respondent is 50 or over ask Q14. If respondent is under 50 go to Q15].

UDISCFS

Q14 Have you ever felt that you were not treated as well as you might have been by people in the financial sector because of your age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

FDISCFS

Q15 Have you ever felt that a friend or family member was not treated as well as they might have been by people in the financial sector because of their age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

RETPDEMP

- Q16 Do you think that people over 65 should be encouraged to stay in paid employment, discouraged from staying in paid employment, or neither?

Encouraged	1
Discouraged	2
Neither	3
(Don't know)	8

- Q17 Let's talk about older people who are working. Do you think that older workers are discriminated against with regard to...**READ OUT...**

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
<i>OWJBREC</i> Job recruitment	1	2	8
<i>OWJBPROM</i> Job promotion	1	2	8
<i>OWJBTRAN</i> Job training	1	2	8
<i>OWJBSTAT</i> Status or position in their organisation	1	2	8

[INTERVIEWER: Check back to beginning of section for age of respondent. If respondent is 50 or over ask Q18. If respondent is under 50 go to Q19]

UDISCEMP

- Q18 Have you ever felt that you were not treated as well as you might have been by an employer because of your age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

FDISCEMP

- Q19 Have you ever felt that a friend or family member was not treated as well as they might have been by an employer because of their age?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

[INTERVIEWER: Check back to beginning of section for age of respondent. If respondent is 50 or over ask Q20. If respondent is under 50 go to Q21].

RETGRAD

- Q20 Some people say they would prefer to retire gradually, either working part-time up to retirement or part-time after retirement. Would you yourself be interested in either or both of these options?

Yes - part-time <u>up to</u> retirement age	1
Yes – part-time after retirement age	2
Yes - both	3
No	4
(Don't know)	8

TRNPLUMB

- Q21 Suppose there was just one place left on an apprenticeship course to train plumbers. One applicant is a 16 year old boy who has just left school and the other is a 50 year old man who has just been made redundant and wants to retrain. If you were in charge of the course, which one would you prefer to offer the place to?

Younger man	1
Older man	2
(It depends)	3
(Other, write in)	4
Don't know	8

HEARTOP

- Q22 Suppose a young man with three children and an older man of 70 are both on the waiting list for a heart by-pass operation. They are both equally in need and have been on the waiting list for exactly the same time. If you were the surgeon and had a choice, which man would you prefer to treat first?

Younger man first	1
Older man first	2
(It depends)	3
(Other, write in)	4
Don't know	8

PENROI

- Q23 In general, do you think that a pension of €223.30 per week for someone with a full contribution record is a good deal, a reasonable deal or a poor deal?

A good deal	1
A reasonable deal	2
A poor deal	3
(Other – write in)	4
Don't know	8

OPMEDIA

Q27 Have you been aware of any campaigns on behalf of older people that have appeared in the media during the last 12 months?

Yes	1	Ask Q27a
No	2	Go to Q28
Don't know/not sure	8	

Q27a Which ones?

OPPROGMS

Q28 Are you aware of any programs aimed at encouraging older people to take part in activities that might usually be thought of as activities for younger people?

Yes	1	Ask Q28a
No	2	Go to Q29
Don't know/not sure	8	

Q28a Which ones?

NOAGEISM

Q29 Have you heard of "Say No to Ageism Week"?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know/not sure	8

OLDBOLD

Q30 Have you ever heard of the "Older and Bolder" campaign?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know/not sure	8

Q31 ASK IF AGED 50 OR OVER

Our colleagues at Queen's University and the University of Ulster may be doing some more research in this area over the next few years. Would you be willing for them to contact you again to ask for your help? This would not commit you to actually taking part.

Yes	1	Take name and telephone number
No	2	Go to D.1

Demographics

INTERVIEWER READ OUT....Now I would like to record some general information about yourself. This will be used only in order to see if there are important differences between the opinions of men and women, young and old etc.

RSEX

D.1 Are you male or female?

Male	1
Female	2

D.2 What is your date of birth?

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Month:</i>	<i>Year:</i>
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RMARST

D.3a What is your present legal marital status?

[INTERVIEWER: READ LIST. PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER ONLY]

Married and living with husband/wife	1	Separated (including married and living apart)	4
Widowed	2	Single (never married)	5
Divorced	3	Other (please specify)	6

RLIVTOG

D.3b Are you presently living with a partner?

Yes	1
No	2
NA (Married and living with spouse	3

D.4 How many years of full-time education did you receive?

[Int: If respondent did not return to full-time education as an adult calculate as (age when left full-time education minus 5)] Int: please write in number of years in space provided, or circle appropriate code

Years of full time education	
Still at school	95
Still at college/university	96
No answer	98
Don't know	99
No formal education	00

D.5a What is the highest level of education that you attained?
[INT: Single response only]

	D5a Respondent
None	01
Incomplete Primary	02
Complete Primary	03
Some Second Level	04
Group Cert or equivalent	05
Junior/Intermediate Cert or equivalent	06
Leaving Cert or equivalent	07
Third Level incomplete	08
Certificate or diploma	09
University primary degree or equivalent	10
University higher degree or equivalent	11
Don't know	12

D.6 Which of the following best describes your present situation with regard to employment?
[Single response only]

At work full-time (30+ hours weekly)	01
At work part-time (10-29) hours weekly	02
At work less than 10 hours weekly	03
At work as relative assisting	04
Unemployed (incl. Seeking first job)	05
Student	06
Retired	07
Engaged in home duties	08
Permanently disabled	09
Other, not in labour force	10

[INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT IS CURRENTLY AT WORK, QUESTIONS REFER TO PRESENT JOB. IF RESPONDENT IS NOT CURRENTLY WORKING FOR PAY, QUESTIONS REFER TO MOST RECENT JOB]

D.7 How many hours do [did] you normally work per week, including any regular overtime work? If you work at more than one job, please include the hours in all jobs.

D.8 What is/was your occupation? Please describe fully. If farmer please record number of acres farmed and type of farm.

[INTERVIEWER: record occupation in space provided, or circle appropriate code number]

Occupation		
Refused	99997	
Don't know	99998	
No Answer	99999	
INAP (never had a job)	00000	

D.9 Please describe as fully as possible the nature of the business activity of your employer.
PROBE FULLY

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D.10 Do [did] you supervise, or are [were] you responsible for the work of any other people?

Yes	1
No	2

D.11 Do/did you work in the public or private sector or are/were you self-employed? *[Single Response Only]*

Public Sector		Private Sector	
Gardai and defence forces	1	Private sector (employee or relative assisting)	6
Education or Health	2	Self-employed (incl. Farmer)	7
Non-commercial semi-state body	3	Other (please specify _____)	8
Commercial semi-state body	4	Never worked	0
Other public sector (civil service, local authority, etc.)	5		

[INTERVIEWER: If self employed (code 7 in D.11 above) ask D.12, otherwise go to D.14].

D.12 How many people do [did] you employ, including yourself if self employed? Please write in space provided below

No. Of People:

D.14 Which of the following best describes your spouse's/partner's present situation with regard to employment? *{Single Response Only}*

At work full-time (30+ hours weekly)	01
At work part-time (10-29) hours weekly	02
At work less than 10 hours weekly	03
At work as relative assisting	04
Unemployed (incl. Seeking first job)	05
Student	06
Retired	07
Engaged in home duties	08
Permanently disabled	09
Other, not in labour force	10
No spouse/partner	11

[INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT’S SPOUSE/PARTNER IS CURRENTLY AT WORK, QUESTIONS REFER TO PRESENT JOB OF SPOUSE/PARTNER. IF RESPONDENT’S SPOUSE/PARTNER IS NOT CURRENTLY WORKING FOR PAY, QUESTIONS REFER TO MOST RECENT JOB]

D.15 What is [was] your spouse’s (or partner’s) occupation? Please describe as fully as possible. If farmer please record number of acres farmed and type of farm. Int: Please write in occupation or circle appropriate code.

Occupation		
Refused	99997	
Don’t know	99998	
No Answer	99999	
INAP (never had a job)	00000	

D.16 Does/did your spouse/partner work in the public or private sector or are/were they self-employed? **[PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER ONLY]**

Public Sector		Private Sector	
Gardai and defence forces	1	Private sector (employee or relative assisting)	6
Education or Health	2	Self-employed (incl. Farmer)	7
Non-commercial semi-state body	3	Other (please specify)_____)	8
Commercial semi-state body	4	Never worked	9
Other public sector (civil service, local authority, etc.)	5		

Showcard 7

D.17 Here is a scale of incomes, and we would like to know in what group your household lies in terms of its gross income, counting all wages, salaries, pensions and other income that come in, *before taxes and other deductions*. [Show Card 7, Circle in column (1) the letter of the group the household falls into, before taxes and other deductions]

And which group does your own gross income fall into, again *before taxes and other deductions*? Circle in column (2) the letter of the group the personal income falls into]

CATE-GORY	Per week	Per month	Per year	Own income	Household Income
A	Under €120	Under €500	Under €6,000	1	1
B	€120 to under €180	€500 to under €750	€6,000 to under €9,500	2	2
C	€180 to under €230	€780 to under €1,000	€9,500 to under €12,000	3	3
D	€230 to under €350	€1,000 to under €1,500	€12,000 to under €18,000	4	4
E	€350 to under €460	€1,500 to under €2,000	€18,000 to under €24,000	5	5
F	€460 to under €580	€2,000 to under €2,500	€24,000 to under €30,000	6	6
G	€580 to under €690	€2,500 to under €3,000	€30,000 to under €36,000	7	7
H	€690 to under €1150	€3,000 to under €5,000	€36,000 to under €60,000	8	8
J	€1,150 to under €1,730	€5,000 to under €7,500	€60,000 to under €90,000	9	9
K	€1,730 to under €2,310	€7,500 to under €10,000	€90,000 to under €120,000	10	10
L	€2,310 to under €3,000	€10,000 to under €13,500	€120,000 to under €160,000	11	11
M	€3,000 or more	€13,500 or more	€160,000 or more	12	12
Refused				77	77
Don't know				88	88

HOUSEHLD

D.18a How many people live in your household, including yourself?

Person/People
altogether

NADULT

D.18b And how many people living in your household are aged 18 or over?

Person/people
aged 18 or
over

D.25 What is your current religious denomination? Please describe as fully as possible.

[Int: If none, please write NONE, do not leave blank]

D.26 In what religion, if any, were you brought up?

PROBE IF NECESSARY: What was your family's religion?

[Int: If none, please write NONE, do not leave blank]

PLACELIV

D.27 Would you say you live in: *[Single Response Only]*

A big city	1	A country village	4
A suburb or outskirts of a big city	2	A farm or home in the country	5
A town or small city	3	No answer	9

CAREHOME

D.28 Some people have extra family responsibilities because they look after someone who is sick disabled or elderly. May I check, is there anyone **living with you** who is sick, disabled or elderly whom you look after or give special help to (for example, a sick, disabled or elderly relative, wife, husband, partner, child, friend)?

Yes	1	Ask Q D.29
No	2	Go to Q30
(Don't know)	8	

CAREHELD

D.29 Can I just check, is this person an elderly relative?

Yes	1
No	2

CARESEP

D.30 What about people **not living with you**, do you provide some regular service or help for any sick, disabled or elderly relative, friend or neighbour **not living with you**?

Yes	1	Ask D.31
No	2	Go to D32
(Don't know)	8	

CARESELD

D.31 Can I just check, is this person an elderly relative?

Yes	1
No	2

DISABI

D.32 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?

Yes	1	Ask D33
No	2	Go to D34

LIMDISAB

D.33 Does this illness or disability limit your activities in any way?

Yes	1	Now ask D.35
No	2	

LIMILL

D.34 Have you ever had a long-term illness that affected your activities?
LONG-TERM MEANS A YEAR OR MORE

Yes	1	Ask D.35
No	2	Thank respondent and close interview

D.35 What was the illness or disability?

[Int: SHOW CARD 8 and CIRCLE EACH YES THAT APPLIES]

	Yes	No
Bone or joint condition	1	2
Hypertension	1	2
Eye or vision problem	1	2
Heart condition	1	2
Memory/concentration problem	1	2
Ear or hearing problem	1	2
Sleep problems	1	2
Back problems or slipped disk	1	2
Respiratory/breathing condition	1	2
Foot problems	1	2
Depression	1	2
Prostate/bladder problem	1	2
Other [WRITE IN]	1	2

THANK RESPONDENT & CLOSE INTERVIEW

Interviewer's Declaration I certify that this is an eligible interview which has been carried out strictly in accordance with your specifications and has been conducted within the MRS code of conduct.

Interviewers Signature: _____ Date: _____

Interview Start Time	
Interview end time	
Interview length (mins)	
Editor:	
Validator:	
Coder:	