

Centre for Policy on Ageing

CPA

New attitudes to old age

Older people and the ageing society

Gillian Crosby, Director, Centre for Policy on Ageing

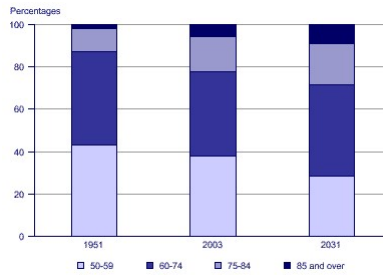
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Demographic change

- as significant as climate change and globalisation
- impact not yet fully understood
- period of reassessment and reappraisal
- recognition of diversity

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The age structure of the older population is changing



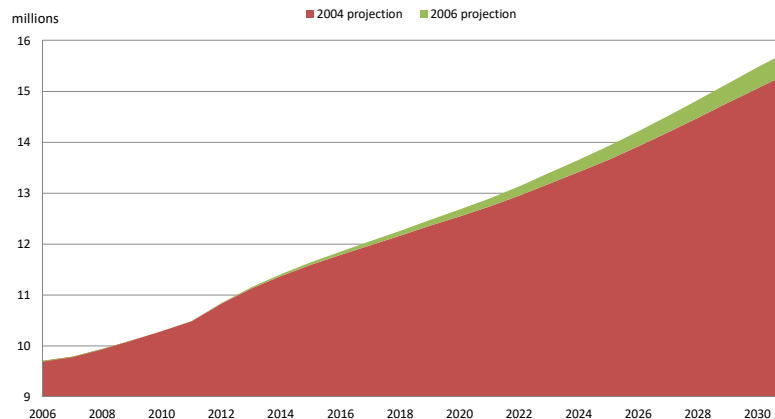
Over 50s in the UK – 13.8 million in 1951 – 20 million in 2003 – projected 27.2 million by 2031
 In 1951 only 1.6% of the over 50s were aged 85 or over.
 By 2031 nearly 8% of over 50s will be aged 85 or over.

Source: Office for National Statistics

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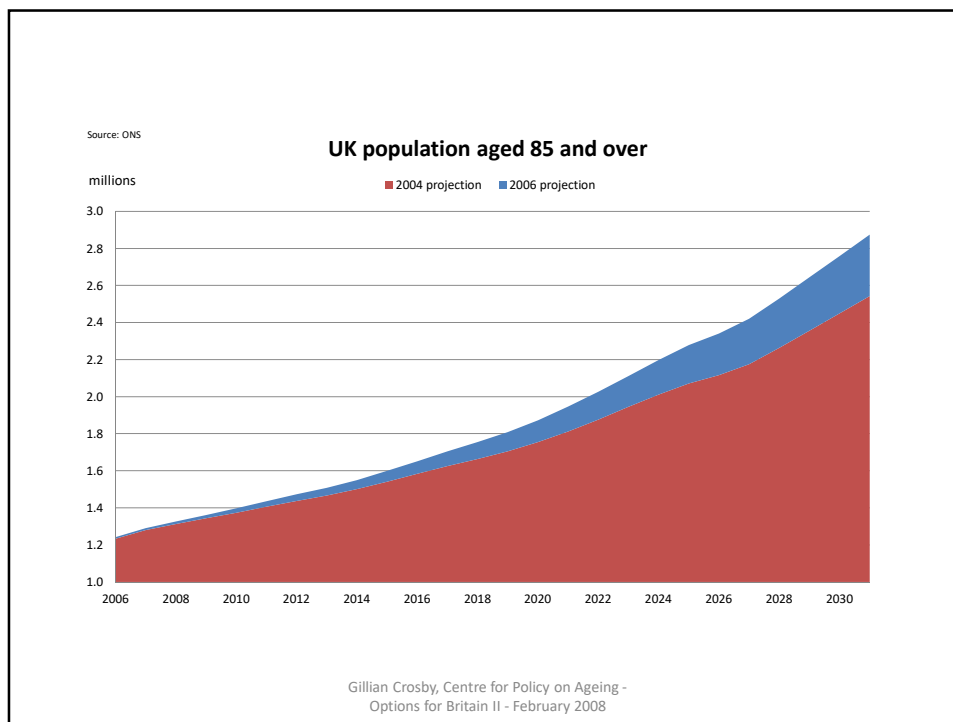
Source: ONS

UK population aged 65 and over



Estimates are being rapidly revised

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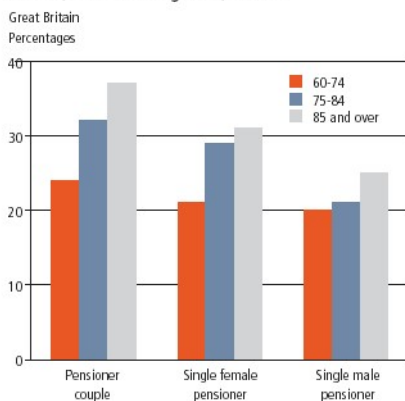


Diversity

- older people are not a single homogeneous group
- diversity of income and wealth
- diversity of ethnicity and culture
- diversity of health
- diversity of experience and expectations

Diversity of income

Percentage in bottom quintile of net income: by age of head, Before Housing Costs, 2002/03



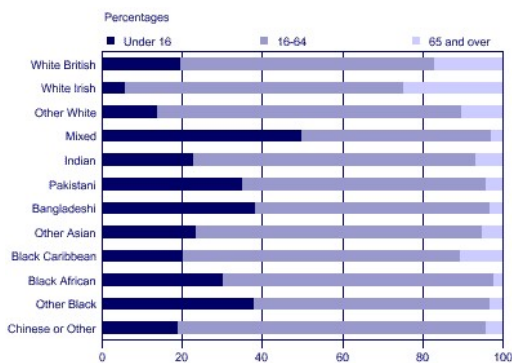
Source: ONS

While younger pensioners, with savings, investments and occupational pensions, may be relatively well off, others, particularly older pensioner couples, living only on state benefits, will be relatively poor.

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Ethnic and cultural diversity

Age distribution: by ethnic group, April 2001, Great Britain

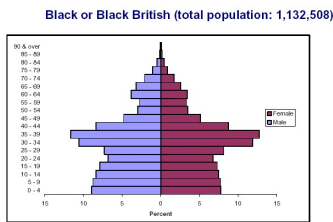
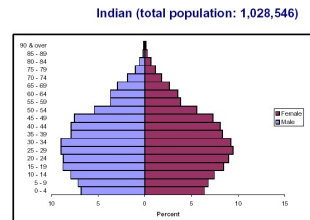
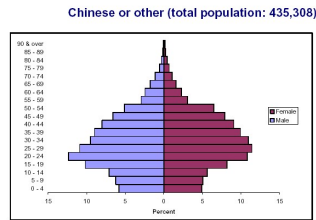


Source: ONS

In 2001 only 4% of older people in Great Britain were from non-white ethnic minority groups. But this is likely to change

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... the Indian, Black or Black British and Chinese or other, communities are likely to have much higher proportions of older people by 2030



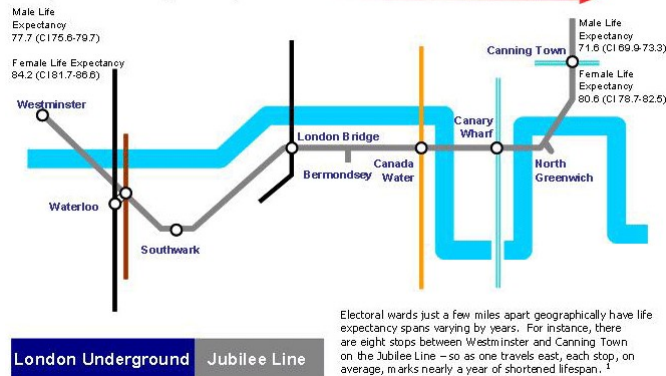
Population pyramids are for England and Wales, 2001

Source: Ageing and Ethnicity in England, Age Concern England, 2007

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Differences in Life Expectancy within a small area in London

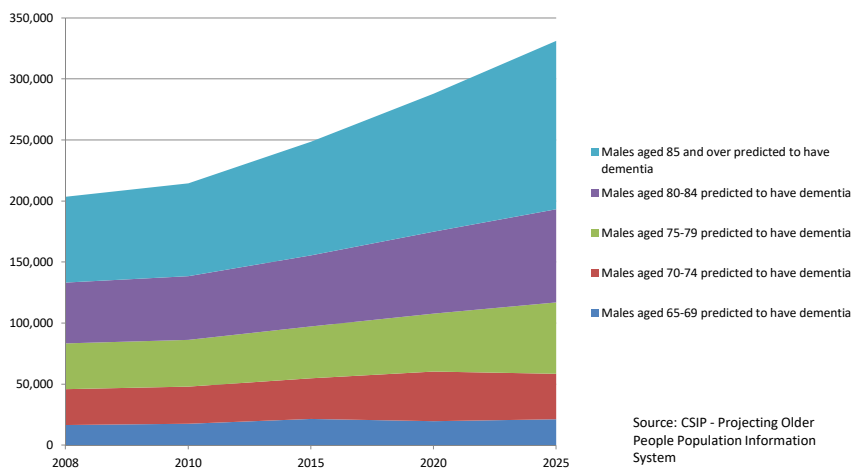
Travelling east from Westminster, each tube stop represents nearly one year of life expectancy lost



¹ Source: Analysis by London Health Observatory using Office for National Statistics data. Diagram produced by Department of Health

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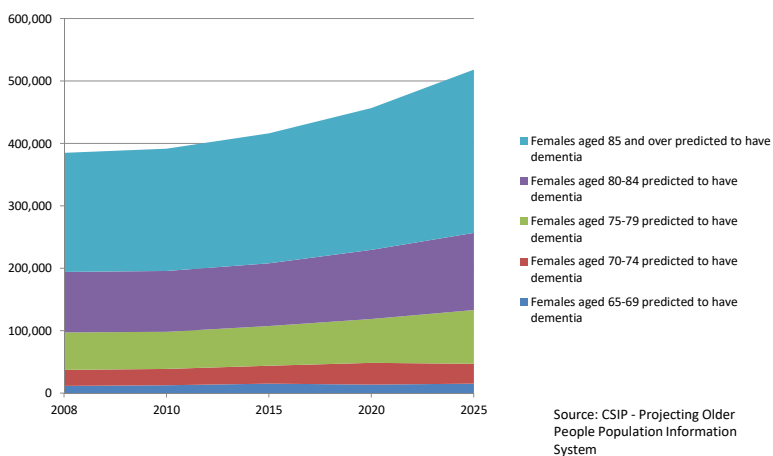
Predicted expansion in cases of Dementia – males - England



Source: CSIP - Projecting Older People Population Information System

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Predicted expansion in cases of Dementia – females - England



Source: CSIP - Projecting Older People Population Information System

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Mental health issues

- first national dementia strategy due 2008
- UK Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-being in Later Life (ACE, 2007)
 - age discrimination in mental health services
 - depression
 - suicide

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Requires a fundamental change in attitude

- a move away from seeing older people as them / they
- ageing seen as a part of life, a phase – everyone is involved {lifecourse perspective}
- older people seen as fully involved and contributing citizens rather than non-productive and dependent
- recognise the diversity of older people – older people are older **people**

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Effect of the baby boomer generation

- will baby boomers be different?
- [current older people are **not** “docile indications of the future...”]
- increased expectations
- consumerism
- but...
- inequality – ‘fat cats’ / ‘lucky generation’ but also pensioner poverty
- generational fairness

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The policy agenda – policy documents

- Opportunity Age (2005) – the first national strategy for ageing
- a plethora of other policy / strategy documents
 - A sure start to later life (2006)
 - Our health, our care, our say (2006)
 - A new ambition for older age (2006)
 - A recipe for care (2007)
 - Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods: a national strategy for housing in an ageing society (2008)
 - Independent living strategy (2008)
 - forthcoming – green paper on social care

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Independence, choice and control

- underlying theme in all policy documents
- reality or rhetoric?
- requires adequate funding
- requires older people to be given VOICE

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Adequate funding?

- 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review –
promised to develop a reform strategy for
funding social care
 - ‘reform of the public support and care system focusing
on older people, to ensure a sustainable system that
targets resources effectively, is affordable and
promotes independence, well-being and control for
those in need’
- Putting People First (2007) – a concordat
between government, health and social care
 - personalisation

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Ageism and age discrimination

- ageism – most commonly reported form of discrimination
- acceptable face of prejudice
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC 2007)
- Government Equalities Office

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Requirements for the vision of equality, participation and inclusion to become a reality

- understand people's needs rather than identifying what can be delivered and how
- hear the voice of older people (voice, choice and control)
- if older people feel they lack control they will become disconnected and disengaged...
- ... which feeds back into the loop and into the development of policy

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The way forward

- a rights based agenda to support self-determination and promote citizenship
 - the policy documents and strategies already mentioned are policy levers for a rights based framework
 - rights based approach also included in public service agreement frameworks (PSA 17 on later life – also, PSA 15, 16, 18, 19 and 21)
- an Age Equality Duty
- Human Rights - to help with practical ways of enhancing quality of life

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The personalisation agenda

- shift away from centralised decision making and influence
- focus on what local people need and want
- central role of information and advice, advocacy and flexible range of support
- person centred care – thinking and planning
- self managed / self directed services
- individual / personalised budgets

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Choice and control for / by older people with high support needs

- 'voice' is added to 'choice and control'
- need new conceptual and real life framework for increasing and ensuring 'voice'
- particularly for older people in residential and nursing care environments

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Whatever your background and circumstances, you should expect in older age to be able to:

- maintain your identity and self esteem
- live in a cohesive community which celebrates diversity and maximises opportunities

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