International Health Transitions

Technical notes for unmet social care need

Contents

Appendix 1. Background characteristics of the studies

No	Study	Countries	Wave (Year)	N (age)
1	Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSI-Brazil)	Brazil	Wave 1 (2015/16)	9,412 (50+ years)
2	Commonwealth Fund survey (CMWF)	1. Australia 2. Canada 3. France 4. Germany 5. Netherlands 6. New Zealand 7. Norway 8. Sweden 9. Switzerland 10. United Kingdom 11. United States	Wave 7 (2017)	22,933 (65+ years)
3	Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)	India	2017/18	72,250 (45+ years and their spouse 18+ years)
4	Myanmar Survey on Accessing Healthcare to Older Persons in Myanmar	Myanmar	2016	1,000 (60+ years)
5	Tunisian Health Examination Survey (THES)	Tunisia	Wave 1 (2016)	10,158 (15+ years) 8,908 (18+ years)
6	Study of global AGEing and adult health (SAGE)	1. Ghana 2. India 3. China 4. Mexico 5. Russia 6. South Africa	Wave 1 (2007/10)	42,487 Wave 1 (18+ years)

Appendix 2. Variable definition

1. Did not need social care

Definition

The proportion of respondents who reported that they did not need social care.

Numerator	:	Number of respondents who reported that they did not a have physical difficulty or did not need assistance in daily activities
Denominator	:	All respondents

2. Met social care need

Definition

The proportion of respondents who reported that their need for social care was met.

Numerator	:	Number of respondents who reported that their demand for assistance or supportive device in the activities of daily living was met.
Denominator	:	Number of respondents with social care needs

3. Unmet social care need

Definition

The proportion of respondents who reported that they needed social care but did not receive it.

Numerator	:	Number of respondents who reported that they needed assistance or supportive device in the activities of daily living, but did not receive it.
Denominator	:	Number of respondents with social care needs.

Appendix 2 Figure 1. Decision tree of met and unmet social care need
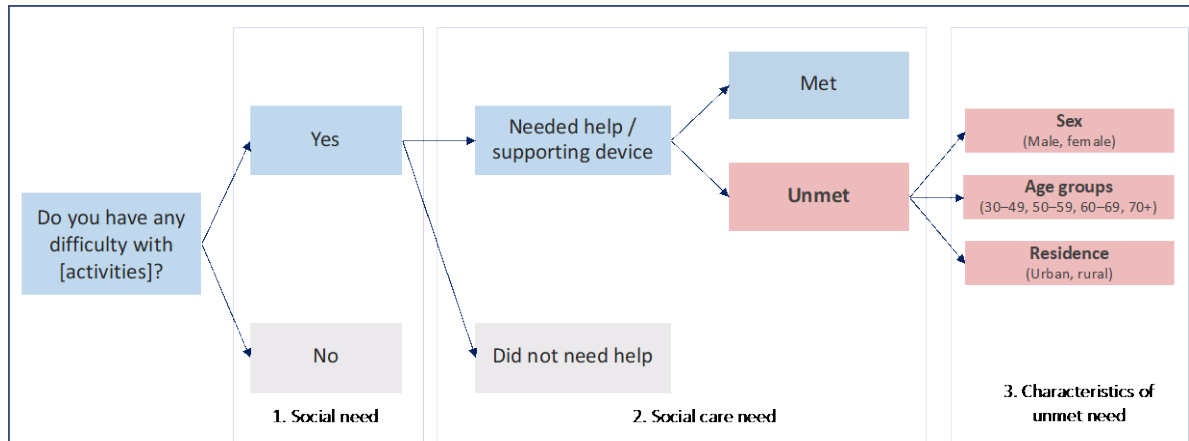
Notes: In most surveys, we included preparing meals, shopping, and housekeeping in the list of activities.

Appendix 3. Variable generation for unmet social care need

A. Met, unmet need, and types of unmet social care need
(Original variables names are referring to variables name in Stata file (.dta). The name can be different in the questionnaire)

1. **Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSI-Brazil)**

Questions	Original response categories
Do you have any difficulty with [activities]: **p20**. preparing a hot meal **p27**. doing shopping **p33**. performing light housekeeping **p35**. performing heavy housekeeping	1=Has no difficulty (does the activity effortless) 2=Has little difficulty (only does the activity with some effort) 3=Has great difficulty (only does the activity with great effort, but manages to do it alone) 4=Can't do it (only does the activity with the help of somebody else) 9=Didn't know/didn't answer
Do you receive help with [activities]: **p21**. preparing a hot meal **p28**. doing shopping **p34**. performing light housekeeping **p36**. performing heavy housekeeping	0=No, doesn't need it 1=No, doesn't have anyone to help 2=Yes 3=Didn't know/didn't answer

Social care need (derived variable name: unmet_social)
1 = Met need ([$p20 \geq 2$ *and* p 21=2] *and* [p 27$\geq$2 *and* p 28=2] *and* [p 33$\geq$2 *and* p34=2] *and* [p 35$\geq$2 *and* p36=2])
2 = Met need ([$p20 \geq 2$ *and* p21=1] *or* [p27$\geq$2 *and* p28=1] *or* [p33$\geq$2 *and* p34=2] *or* [p35$\geq$2 *and* p36=1])
3 = Did not need care ([p20=1 *and* p27=1 *and* p33=1 *and* p35=1] *or* [[p20$\geq$2 *and* p21=0] *and* [p27$\geq$2 *and* p28=0] *and* [p33$\geq$2 *and* p34=0] *and* [p35$\geq$2 *and* p36=0]])

2. **Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey (CMWF)**

Questions	Original response categories
qn1403. Because of a health problem, do you need someone to help you with housework, preparing meals, managing daily medications, or shopping?	1=Yes 2=No 8=Not sure 9=Decline to answer
qn1406: How often does someone help you with any of these activities? Please think of both professional care and care from family or friends.	1=Always 2=Often 3=Sometimes 4=Rarely 5=Never 8=Not sure 9=Decline to answer

Social care need (derived variable name: unmet_social)
1 = Met need (qn1403=1 and qn1406$\leq$2)
2 = Unmet need (qn1403=1 and qn1403=3,4,5)
3 = Did not need care (qn1403=2)

3. Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) (2017/2018)

Questions	Original response categories
Please tell me if you have any difficulty with these because of a physical, mental, emotional, or memory problem. Please exclude any difficulties you expect to last less than three months. **ht407.** preparing a hot meal **ht408**. shopping for groceries **ht411**. doing work around the house or garden	1=Yes 2=No
ht424. Does anyone help you with these difficulties you mentioned above?	1=Yes 2=No

Social care need (derived variable name: unmet_social)
1 = Met need ([ht407=1 *or* ht408=1 *or* ht411=1] *and* ht424=1)
2 = Unmet need ([ht407=1 *or* ht408=1 *or* ht411=1] *and* ht424=2)
3 = Didn't need (ht407=2 *and* ht408=2 *and* ht411=2)

4. Myanmar Survey on Accessing Healthcare to Older Persons (2016)

Questions	Original response categories
C1. During the past 12 months, were there any times that you were sick or injured that prevented you from performing your usual activities?	1=Yes 2=No (→ stop)
C5. During your illnesses or injuries, did anyone help take care of you?	1=Yes (→ stop) 2=No
C7. Do you think you needed help even though you did not receive any?	1=Yes 2=No

Social care need (derived variable name: unmet_social)
1. Met need (C1=1 *and* C5=1)
2. Unmet need (C1=1 *and* C5=2 *and* C7=1)
3. Did not need care (C1=2 or [C1=1 *and* C5=2 *and* C7=2])

5. Tunisian Health Examination Survey (THES) (2016)

Questions	Original response categories
A2040. In the last 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in your day to day work?	1=None 2=Mild 3=Moderate 4=Severe 5=Extreme/Cannot do 9=NA
a2046. In the last 30 days, how much difficulty did you have with getting where you want to go, using private or public transport if needed?	1=None 2=Mild 3=Moderate 4=Severe

Questions	Original response categories
	5=Extreme/Cannot do
	9=NA
A2050. Besides any vision aids (eyeglasses or contact lenses) do you use any other assistive devices (cane, walker or other) for any difficulties you experience?	1=Yes 2=No

Social care need (derived variable name: unmet_social)
1 = Met need ([A2040=4,5 *or* A2046=4,5] *and* A2050=1)
2 = Unmet need ([A2040=4,5 *or* A2046=4,5] *and* A2050=2)
3 = Did not need care (A2040=1,2,3 *and* A2046=1,2,3)

6. **Study of global AGEing and adult health (SAGE) (Wave 1)**

Questions	Original response categories
q2039. In the last 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in your day to day work?	1=None 2=Mild 3=Moderate 4=Severe 5=Extreme/Cannot do 9=NA
q2045. In the last 30 days, how much difficulty did you have with getting where you want to go, using private or public transport if needed?	1=None 2=Mild 3=Moderate 4=Severe 5=Extreme/Cannot do 9=NA
q2049. Besides any vision aids (eyeglasses or contact lenses) do you use any other assistive devices (cane, walker or other) for any difficulties you experience?	1=Yes 2=No

Social care need (derived variable name: unmet_social)
1 = Met need ([q2039=4,5 *or* q2045=4,5] *and* q2049=1)
2 = Unmet need ([q2039=4,5 *or* q2045=4,5] *and* q2049=2)
3 = Did not need care (q2039=1,2,3 *and* q2045=1,2,3)

B. Sex, age, and residency

1. **Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSI-Brazil)**

Questions	Original response categories	Derived variable	
		Name	Categories
sex. Sex	0=Female 1=Male	sex	1=Male (sex=1) 2=Female (sex=0)
age. Age at interview	age in years (50 to 101 years)	age_recoded	3=50–59 years* 4=60–69 years 5=70+
area. Area	1=Urban 2=Rural	urbanrural	0=Urban (area=1) 1=Rural (area=2)
* ELSI-Brazil study sample included adults aged 50 years and older			

2. **Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Study (CMWF)**

Questions	Original response categories	Derived variable	
		Name	**Categories**
qn725. Respondent sex	1=Male 2=Female 3=Something else 4=Decline to answer	sex	1=Male (qn725=1) 2=Female (qn725=2) 9=Others/don't know/decline (qn725=3,4)
qn720. Age categories	age in years (65 to 101 years)	age_recoded	4=60–69 years* 5=70+
qn2200. Which of the following describes where you live? (Norway, Germany, UK)	**qn220** 1=City/large town 2=Suburbs of a city 3=Small town 4=Village or rural location 8=Not sure 9=Decline to answer	urbanrural	0=Urban/intermediate (qn2200=1,2,3 *or* qn615a=1,2) 1=Rural (qn2200=4 *or* qn615a=3)
q615a. urban/rural (France)	**qn615a** 1=Predominant urban 2=Intermediate 3=Predominant rural		

*CMWF sample included adults aged 65 years and older

3. **Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) (2017/2018)**

Questions	Original response categories	Derived variable	
		Name	**Categories**
dm003. Sex of respondent	1=Male 2=Female	sex	1=Male (dm003=1) 2=Female (dm003=2)
dm005. How old were you at your last birthday?	age in years (18 to 116 years)	age_recoded	1=18–29 years 2=30–49 years 3=50–59 years 4=60–69 years 5=70+
residence. Area of residence	1=Rural 2=Urban	urbanrural	0=Urban (residence=1) 1=Rural (residence =2)

4. **Myanmar Survey on Accessing Healthcare to Older Persons (2016)**

Questions	Original response categories	Derived variable	
		Name	**Categories**
S23. Sex	1=Men 2=Women	sex	1=Male (S23=1) 2=Female (S24=2)
S24. Age of respondent in single years	age in years (60 to 106 years)	age_recoded	4=60–69 years* 5=70+
ID2. Urban rural	1=Urban 2=Rural	urbanrural	0=Urban (ID2=1) 1=Rural (ID2=2)

*Myanmar 2016 sample included adults aged 60 years and older

5. Tunisian Health Examination Survey (THES) (2016)

Questions	Original response categories	Derived variable	
		Name	**Categories**
A1001. Sex	1=Male 2=Female	sex	1=Male (A1001=1) 2=Female (A1001=2)
A1003. Age at interview	age in years (18 to 114 years)	age_recoded	1=18–29 years 2=30–49 years 3=50–59 years 4=60–69 years 5=70+
QIAREA. Location	1=Urban 2=Rural	urbanrural	0=Urban (QIAREA=1) 1=Rural (QIAREA=2)

6. Study of global AGEing and adult health (SAGE) (Wave 1)

Questions	Original response categories	Derived variable	
		Name	**Categories**
q1009. Sex	1=Male 2=Female	sex	1=Male (q1009=1) 2=Female (q1009=2)
q1011. Age at interview	age in years (18 to 114 years)	age_recoded	1=18–29 years 2=30–49 years 3=50–59 years 4=60–69 years 5=70+
q0104. Location	1=Urban 2=Rural	urbanrural	0=Urban (q0104=1) 1=Rural (q0104=2)

C. Survey weighting

No	Study	Weighting
1	Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSI-Brazil)	weight=peso_calibrado_n, strata=estrato, cluster=UPA
2	Commonwealth Fund survey (CMWF)	weight=weight
3	Longitudinal Ageing Study in India	weight=indiaindividualweight
4	Myanmar Survey on Accessing Healthcare to Older Persons (2016)	No weighting
5	Tunisian Health Examination Survey (THES)	weight= weight_final, cluster= QICLUSTER
6	Study of global AGEing and adult health (SAGE)	weight=pweight, strata=strata, cluster=q0101b

Handling missing values

We only consider affirmative answers. "Don't know", "not sure", "decline to answer" are assigned to 9 or 88 or 99. Respondents with missing value must be excluded/ignored from the analysis.

Notes and considerations

Respondents who fall under "didn't need care" (coded 2) category are excluded from the denominator when estimating the percentage of met/unmet social care need.

Appendix 4. Construction of Table A and Table B in the report

Table A: No need, met and unmet need, by country/study.

Coverage: All respondents (irrespective of age – 18+)

- Prevalence (%) who **did not need** social care represents respondents who indicated they **did not need** assistance or supportive device in daily activities

Coverage: Respondents with social care need (irrespective of age – 18+)

- Prevalence (%) of **met** social care needs refers to respondents who reported that their demand for assistance or supportive device in the activities of daily living was **met**.
- Prevalence (%) of **unmet** social care needs refers those who indicated they need assistance or supportive device in the activities of daily living, but **did not receive** it.

Table B: Unmet need by selected respondent characteristics, by country.

Coverage: Respondents aged ≥ 30 years with social care need.

- Prevalence (%) of unmet social care need among respondents with specific characteristics (sex (male, female); age groups (30–49 years, 50–59 years, 60–69 years, 70+ years); residence (urban, rural)).