



Sustainability and transformation in European Social Policy

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Stream 14: Transformation of long-term care in ageing societies. Causes, patterns and consequences of policy development

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Preferences and Expectations of Long-Term Care in Ireland

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Comments greatly appreciated

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Abstract

This paper presents the results of a sample population survey issued to 1214 respondents in Ireland to identify population preferences and expectations of their own long-term care in a comparative context against their experiences of care provision, health status and socio-economic background. Understanding the experiences, preferences and expectations of community care of the general population provides an important contribution to the development of sustainable community care policy, particularly in a time of demographic and fiscal challenges. This paper offers a contextual background to long-term care and long-term care planning in Ireland and draws on survey based data to investigate preferences for different long-term care options, exploring comparisons between preferences for long-term care and expectations of long-term care method. A disparity in preference and expected method of care provision indicate some people have no expectation of family care. This may help explain why the development of home help supports was considered the most important area of service development for older people by this sample. Multinomial Logit (MNL) models are applied to assess the influence of individual characteristics on long-term care preference and expected care methods. Exogenously determined preference heterogeneity is explored by applying MNL models to sub-groups of the population split in terms of age. Overall, age, care experience, health insurance and location are significant in explaining long-term care preference choices and subsequently, expectations. In conclusion, these findings suggest that while the development of community care services may require funding, the preferences and more importantly, expectations of care of the general population lie with the further development of such services.

Keywords: Community care, preferences, older people care