

How international comparisons help to understand population aging:

Lessons from SHARE and its sister studies

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Abstract

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a unique multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of ex ante harmonized micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks covering most of the European Union and Israel. SHARE covers 21 countries and is harmonized with similar data sets in the US (HRS), England (ELSA), Japan (JSTAR), China (CHARLS), Brazil (ELSI), South Korea (KLOSA), and India (LASI) which permits global international comparisons of health, economic and social outcomes. We show that data such as SHARE can be instrumental in shedding light on the many prejudices about aging.