

“Does country context matter? Informal care and health in Europe”

5th SHARE user conference

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Theoretical background & hypotheses

- Expected increase in people in need of care all over Europe, however different care arrangements

Countries	Haberkern & Szydlik 2008	Esping-Andersen 1990 / Ferrera 1998
Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, Italy, and Spain	family-based	conservative, southern / familialistic
the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland	service-based	social-democratic / scandinavian, liberal
England	mixed	liberal

We expect informal care to be a higher burden in family-based welfare states because caregiving in these countries is associated with higher responsibility and less public support

Data

- SHARE wave 1, 2, 4 & 5 and ELSA wave 1 - 5
- 187,627 observations of 87,521 individuals

Variables	SHARE	ELSA
Informal care outside the household	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Help given to others outside the household in the last 12 months (<u>yes</u>/no) (sp008_)- frequency of help in the last twelve months (<u>almost daily</u>, <u>almost every week</u>, almost every month, less often) (sp011_)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Helped someone in the past week (<u>yes</u>/no) (ercaa)- Living together with person cared for (<u>yes</u>/<u>no</u>) (ercalive)
Informal care inside the household	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Help given regularly (that is almost daily or daily) inside the household in the last 12 months (<u>yes</u>/no) (sp018_)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Helped someone in the past week (<u>yes</u>/no) (ercaa)- Living together with person cared for (<u>yes</u>/no) (ercalive)

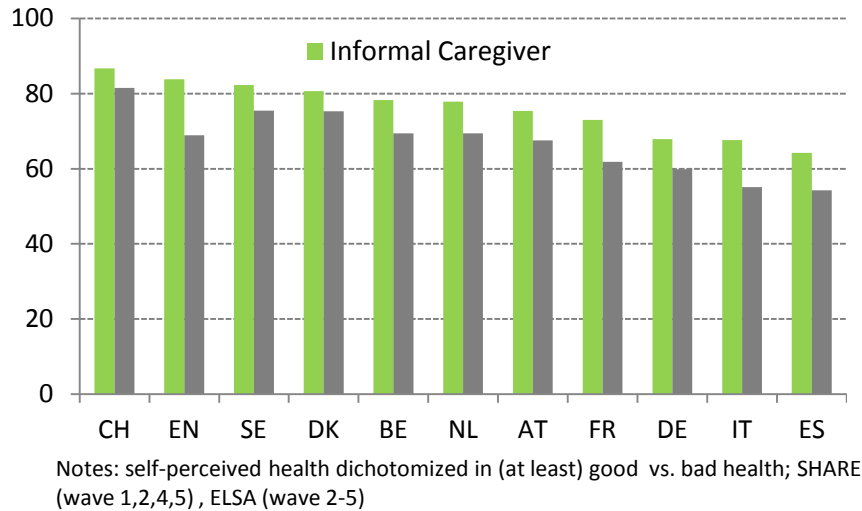
Variables & method

- Self reported health measures:
 - Self-perceived health (poor – excellent; rather good vs. rather bad)
 - Depression scale (not depressed – depressed)
- Informal caregiving variables:
 - Informal care inside the household (yes / no), daily
 - Informal care outside the household (yes / no), at least almost weekly
- Further socio-demographic control variables: age, sex, education, employment status, income position, household size, number of children, spouse/partner in household
- Multivariate analysis: pooled ordinary least squares (OLS) with clustered standard errors and fixed-effects regression (FEM)

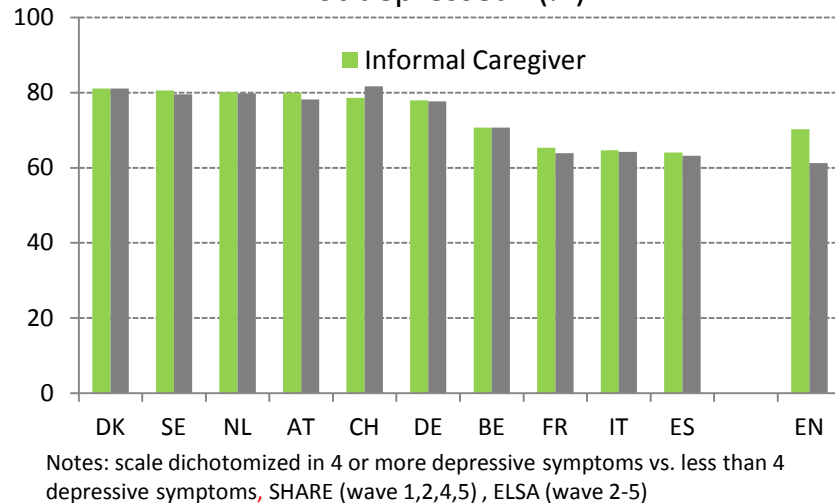
Results: Informal care, self-perceived health & depressive symptoms

outside the household

"good health" (%)

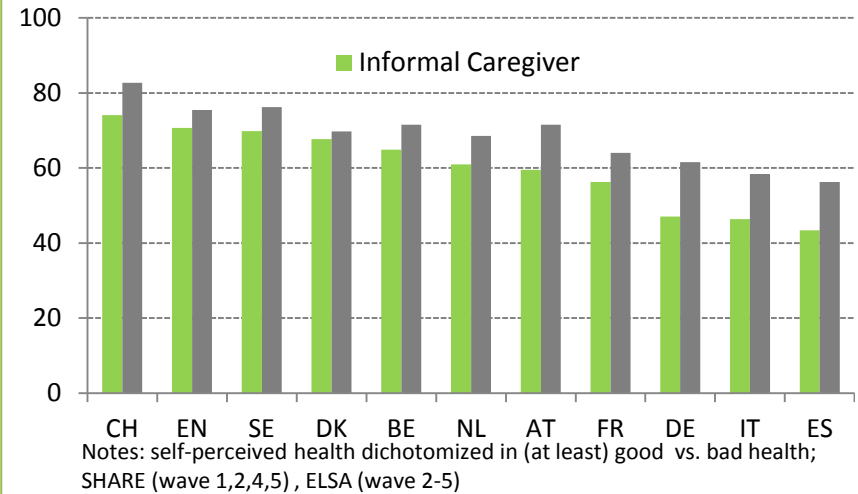


"not depressed" (%)

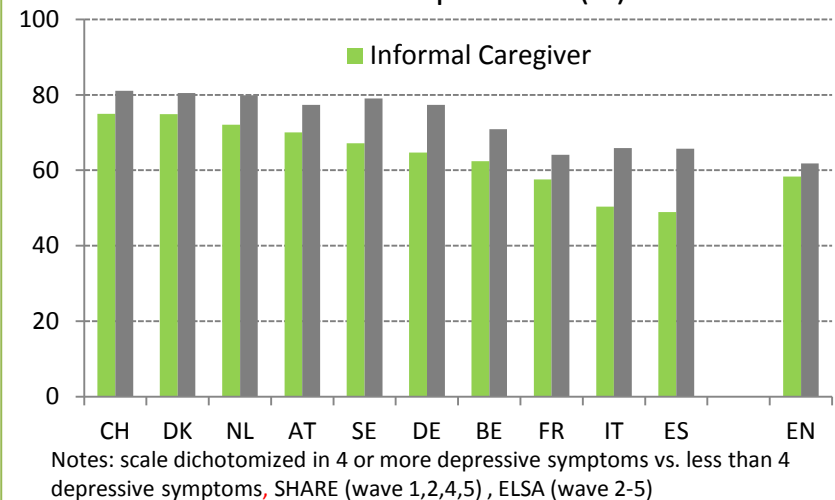


inside the household

"good health" (%)



"not depressed" (%)



Results: self-perceived health

interaction term care / country		informal care outside the household				informal care inside the household			
		OLS		FEM		OLS		FEM	
		coeff.	s.e.	coeff.	s.e.	coeff.	s.e.	coeff.	s.e.
family - based	ES	0.093**	0.034	-0.030	0.040	-0.224***	0.029	-0.049	0.034
	IT	0.159***	0.028	0.053	0.031	-0.237***	0.033	-0.035	0.033
	AT	0.134***	0.032	-0.056	0.035	-0.192***	0.044	-0.065	0.047
	DE	0.112***	0.025	0.045	0.035	-0.257***	0.035	-0.112*	0.051
	FR	0.145***	0.026	0.063*	0.028	-0.161***	0.034	-0.094*	0.037
	BE	0.097***	0.020	0.003	0.022	-0.143***	0.033	-0.06	0.034
service - based	NL	0.119***	0.026	0.049	0.029	-0.237***	0.045	-0.035	0.046
	CH	0.127***	0.034	-0.006	0.036	-0.178**	0.058	-0.051	0.059
	SE	0.129***	0.030	0.036	0.031	-0.106	0.063	-0.048	0.057
	DK	0.112***	0.032	0.088**	0.032	-0.198***	0.058	-0.021	0.056
	EN	0.220***	0.029	0.056*	0.026	-0.087*	0.037	-0.001	0.033
Obs.		128, 910		132,135		153,902		157,211	
Persons		70,742		71,932		81,295		82,526	
Average person-years		1.82		1.84		1.89		1.90	

Note: SHARE (W 1, 2 , 4 & 5), ELSA (W2-W5); significance ** 0,05; *** 0,01; self-perceived health: poor (0) - excellent (5), OLS: clustered standard errors at individual level; control variables: age, sex (male/female), education (primary or less/secondary/tertiary), employment status (not employed/employed), income position (1-10 deciles), household size, number of children, spouse/partner in household (yes/no)

Results: depression scale

interaction term care / country		informal care outside the household				informal care inside the household			
		OLS		FEM		OLS		FEM	
		coeff.	s.e.	coeff.	s.e.	coeff.	s.e.	coeff.	s.e.
family - based	ES	-0.127	0.092	-0.269**	0.093	-1.106***	0.088	-0.386***	0.080
	IT	0.048	0.065	-0.229***	0.070	-0.975***	0.088	-0.598***	0.075
	AT	-0.004	0.062	-0.054	0.079	-0.572***	0.099	-0.248*	0.109
	DE	-0.056	0.053	-0.043	0.080	-0.727***	0.087	-0.645***	0.115
	FR	-0.069	0.061	0.027	0.065	-0.501***	0.083	-0.177*	0.085
	BE	-0.114*	0.047	-0.063	0.050	-0.665***	0.076	-0.330***	0.078
service - based	NL	-0.059	0.050	-0.142*	0.065	-0.508***	0.098	-0.096	0.105
	CH	-0.142*	0.065	-0.112	0.081	-0.391***	0.108	-0.216	0.133
	SE	-0.047	0.054	-0.135	0.070	-0.816***	0.117	-0.587***	0.129
	DK	-0.059	0.058	-0.025	0.073	-0.645***	0.113	-0.416**	0.127
EN		-0.188***	0.031	-0.060	0.033	0.192***	0.045	0.027	0.043
Obs.		101,236 / 34,335		101,481 / 37,927		125,428 / 34,342		125,743 / 37,936	
Persons		57,390 / 13,110		57,534 / 14,047		67,704 / 13,112		67,883 / 14,048	
Average person-years		1.76 / 2.62		1.76 / 2.7		1.85 / 2.62		1.85 / 2.7	

Note: SHARE (W 1, 2 & 4), ELSA (W2-W5); significance ** 0,05; *** 0,01; depression scale: very depressed (0) - not depressed (12), OLS: clustered standard errors individual level; control variables: age, sex (male/female), education (primary or less/secondary/tertiary), employment status (not employed/employed), income position (1-10 deciles), household size, number of children, spouse/partner in household (yes/no); model "depression scale" analyzed separately for SHARE and ELSA due to different depression scales

Summary

Inside the household

- People in worse health select into caregiving
- Suggestive evidence for adverse effects on mental health

Outside the household

- People in relatively good health select into caregiving
- Suggestive evidence for negative (Italy, Spain, Netherlands) and positive (France, Denmark, England) health effects

Further investigations in

- Caregiver characteristics
- “Mediators”

Limitations

- Comparability between ELSA and SHARE
- Outcome measures and estimated models

Thank you for your attention!

Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome to
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