

## ABSTRACT

### 2009 National Report on Older People Conditions and Opinions: a different society INRCA Ageing Society Observatory and Federsanità Anci

This report draws a detailed picture of demographic ageing phenomena in Italy and worldwide, analysing also different issues on the relationships between older people, the state of caregiving inside and outside their family, ageing and work. As far as to the latter point current findings show that 30.6% of the population retires before 65.

In recent decades, average life expectancy had unusually prolonged: looking at last three or four generations, Italy witnessed a structural demographic change. **In 2050 34.6%** of the population is expected to **be older than 65 years** and estimated life to reach 86.6 and 88.8 years respectively for men and women.

These demographic changes occurred in a period of increasing distress of Italian welfare system, that alike other European systems requires an extensive review, both at its cultural and economic level.

**Expense for pension, social security and assistance represents 15.8% of GDP** (233 billions Euro) and the OECD average is 7%. This is a remarkable figure, considering that around 57% of the population aged 65 is in good health, despite declaring one (65.4%) or two (35.7%) chronic illnesses. Even if Local Authorities provide older disabled people with care services allowances or

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me household together, on the other a parallel reduction of horizon  
(between brothers, cousins, etc.). **48.7% of the Italian population aged between 50 and 59 has at least one parent alive** and 62.2% of this group is part of a family network of three or more generations. Due to this, care responsibilities considerably increase.

One Italian family out of ten has at least one older disabled member and more than one third of these families consists of people with disabilities. Usually is the family itself to care for the elderly or for the disabled person (16.5% of households have at least one component with problems). About 80% of them is not assisted by public services at home and more than 70% do not benefit from any organizational as well as on the emotional level. As a matter of fact, it is well known that **care lead falls more on women wives and daughters aged between 50 and 69 years**, weekly they work on average 30 hours, which tend to increase along with the worsening of the old person's conditions.

In Italy live approximately **23 millions families**, more than one third of them has at least an over 65 person and in 18.6% of such families there is at least one over 75. In 2005, **disabled people** were 2.6 millions; 2 millions of them were older people. People relegated in their homes were 1.3 million (2.1% of the population), the majority of them over 65 years old.

In addition to such health problems, they often face economic difficulties, with an incidence of poverty above average of the whole population.

In 2006 2,349 **residential settings** for older people were surveyed (213,000 users) together with 574 semi-residential (15,315 users) ones, mostly concentrated in the north (in the south, the family is considered the only possible support for older people). The low number of these structures is essentially linked to the growing home care services and to the widespread use of **migrant care workers (badanti)**. In Italy an increasing number of families rely on foreign persons (out of pocket), as caregivers. Figures confirm that in 2005, on 730,000 total caregivers, 82% were foreigners (especially from Eastern Europe, but also from Ecuador, Peru and Philippines). These workers are an almost invisible presence, increasing an "hidden welfare state" with no rules and a

## SOME FIGURES

### Ageing

- In 2050, 34.6% of the Italian population will be over 65
- In 2050 the 90+ population will increase from the actual 500.000 up to 1.800.000 people (of which about 1.200.000 women)
- 18,8% of over 65 people are disabled
- The number of elderly in Rome equals the inhabitants of Florence

### Poverty

- 15 millions of Italians are at risk of poverty
- Poor families are 23,083.
- In 17,668 families there is at least one senior
- In 15,414 families the breadwinner is over 65
- In families with at least one elderly, the incidence of poverty (13.2%) is higher by two points than the national average, and increases to 15.2% in case of families with at least two over 65 members
- 11,485 households are single person ones
- Poor elderly increase yearly by 10%
- 15% of Italian households with an elderly claim not to have enough money for medical expenses. One family out of three can not bear unforeseen expenses.

### Pensions

- 69.4% of retired people is over 65; among them over 80 are about 20%
- 22% of retired people receives less than 500 Euros per month; 28.8% 500-999 Euros per month; 36.7% 1,000 - 1,999 Euros per month. 12.7% of people receives a pension higher than 2,000 Euros per month

### Home

- 76% of over 65 owns their house while 12% lives in rented houses
- Most elderly live in old houses
- House crumbling increases due to lack of maintenance
- 11% of elderly lives in houses with inadequate heating