



Older People and Access to Services

Social Inclusion Forum 2013

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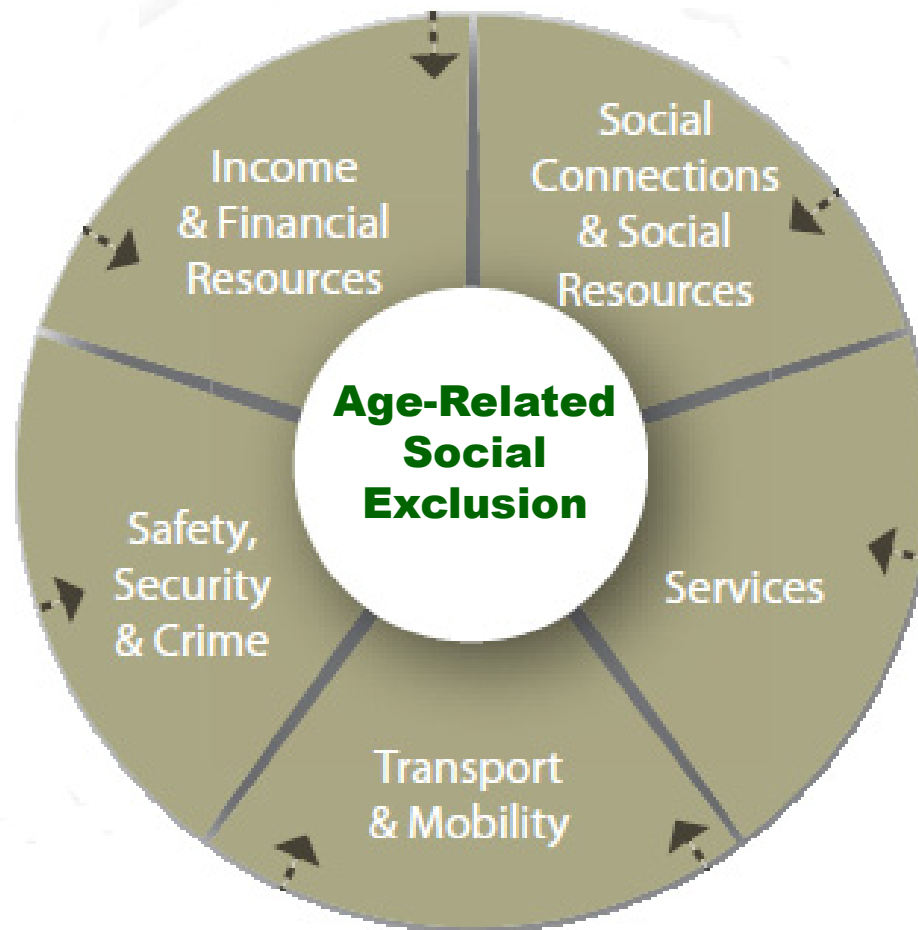


Individuals

Groups

Communities

Areas of Social Exclusion for Older People



Social Connections



1. Social participation
 - Lack of opportunities; changes in socialisation

2. Social relationships
 - Source of meaning; source of emotional and instrumental support
 - Death of peer-group; declining health; transport issues

3. Loneliness and isolation
 - Problem for some (TILDA: lacking companionship - 10%; feeling lonely - 8%)
 - Age; living alone; poor social networks and quality of relations

Services



1. General Services

- Activities of daily life – resources; rights; goods; services
- Social role of service outlets

2. Health and social care

- Long-stay care
- Community care (home care; home-help; public health nurses)
- Respite care; day care
- Austerity cuts

Transport & Mobility



- Service access
- Social connections
- Independence

- Access to car – 57% drive; rural 63% drive
 - Related to autonomy; self-worth; identity

- Public Transport
 - TILDA: 1/3 poor or very poor public transport
 - TILDA: 11% lack of transport affects life-style: increases with age

Safety, Security and Crime



- Fear of crime
 - Impacts on participation and a sense of inclusion
 - 44% feel unsafe walking home after dark (CSO, 2010)
 - 15% feel unsafe or very unsafe alone in home after dark (CSO, 2010)
 - Impact of actual break-ins/attacks significant
- Garda station closures
 - Seniors Alert Scheme

Income and Material Resources



- ‘At risk of poverty’ declined (CSO, 2012)
- At risk groups
 - Older women; carers; those with a disability and chronic ill-health;
- Life-course transitions
 - Bereavement; ill-health; unexpected costs
- Economic recession (Patsios et al. 2012; Walsh et al. 2012)
 - Direct: Christmas bonus; fuel allowance;
 - Indirect: state funded health and social care
- Appropriate measures

Place and Diversity



- Place matters
 - Urban, urban deprived
 - Rural; remote rural
 - Regional variation
- Individual diversity
 - Age; sex; disability and chronic ill-health; ethnic-minority; long-stay care residents
 - Risk factors
 - Differences in how exclusion is constructed

Key Messages



1. Individual, Institutional and Social
2. Full-model of participation
3. Diversity of people and places
4. Involve older people

