

PP - (21405) - THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIAL STATUS OF OLDER PEOPLE PERCEIVED BY SOCIETY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SENIOR VOLUNTEERING AND HEALTH.

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Research or practical problem and objectives

This study examines how formal volunteering by people over 70 years of age in organizations impacts their health. In addition, it is analyzed whether the perceived social status of older people in society moderates the above relationship. As a hypothesis, it was expected that volunteering by the elderly would positively influence their health. Also, it was expected that high (vs. low) perceptions of older people's social status would moderate the relationship between volunteering and health.

Methods and process (for empirical research)

The data came from the fourth round of the European Social Survey. The sample analyzed included 8,331 individuals aged over 70 years residing in 29 countries in Europe. A multilevel model was used to test the hypotheses.

Main results preview and importance (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The results show that volunteering has a positive influence on the health of the elderly. The positive association between volunteering and health was stronger in countries where the elderly (aged 70 years or older) is perceived to have higher social status. The proportion of older people who do not engage in volunteer activities despite their positive effects may be related to perceptions of the social status of older people in societies. Individual and national implications for active aging are discussed.

Palavras-chave : volunteering, health, social position, older people