

**First London Older People's Assembly**  
Older People in London - facts and figures



November 2002

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## foreword by the Mayor of London

I am very pleased to be hosting the First London Older People's Assembly. I want to hear directly from older people their views of the policy issues facing us in London as I continue to take forward the agenda I was elected to deliver.

I believe I have made considerable headway in addressing issues that affect older people, for instance in increasing accessibility on London's buses, but I know there is more to do. The London Older People's Assembly will help to identify the ways in which the quality of life of older Londoners can be improved.

Our society too often ignores the contribution made by older people, with their experience and knowledge. Ageist attitudes continue to dominate the way we regard older people and can result in unequal treatment. We lose the talents of older workers too readily, while at the same time bemoaning skills shortages.

This booklet brings together some of the key facts and figures about older people in London and the varied lives they lead. It shows the contribution they make to many areas of London life, as well as drawing attention to some of the inequalities they face.

After the conference I will publish a report of the issues raised, with my response on how I am proposing to address them, either directly through the implementation of my strategies, or by using my influence on others.

It is of great importance to me that this proves to be a positive event for older Londoners; one that will further my commitment to making London a fairer city for all. I want the Greater London Authority to continue to set an example in supporting and delivering services to older people in London.



**Ken Livingstone**  
Mayor of London



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## summary

- There are currently nearly two million people aged 50 and over in London. There are 1.2 million that are aged 60 or over. Women make up 56 per cent of over 60s and 44 per cent are men.
- The 60 or over population represents 15.4 per cent of the total population in London, a smaller proportion than in England.
- In 2001, nearly 165,000 people aged 60 or over in London came from black and minority ethnic groups, not including Irish people and other white groups from outside the UK. This represents 13.5 per cent of the total population aged 60 or over in London. This proportion is expected to increase to 17.5 per cent over the next decade.
- There are over 530,000 disabled people aged 60 or over in London. The prevalence rate in London is lower than the average in Great Britain, after allowing for differences in the age structure.
- Over a third of London's population of retirement age and over are living alone. This goes up to over 60 per cent amongst women aged 75 or over.
- Over 60 per cent of households headed by someone aged 60 or over in London own their own home, 32 per cent are local authority or housing association tenants and seven per cent are renting privately.
- The proportion of local authority and housing association renters receiving housing benefit increases from 57 per cent of those aged 60 to 69 to 76 per cent of those aged 80 and over.
- In 2000/01, over a quarter of pensioners in London were living in low income households, defined by the government as those with incomes below 60 per cent of median incomes, after housing costs. The risk of being on a low income is higher for women living alone, for black and minority ethnic people and for those without an occupational or personal pension.
- Around 11 per cent of men and women in London are in employment after the state pension age. The proportion is higher than in England as a whole, in contrast to other age groups, who have lower employment rates in London. There is a big drop in employment rates for men after 50, both in London and nationally, while for women the drop is much smaller.

- A quarter of 45 to 64 year olds and 16 per cent of those aged 65 or over are carers of sick or disabled relatives or friends, in addition to those caring for children.
- 22 per cent of adult education students and ten per cent of further education students in London are aged 60 or over.
- Pedestrians aged 60 or over have a higher accident rate than other adults, but are less likely to be killed or seriously injured as car drivers or passengers.
- Older people in London are more likely to report themselves to be in a good state of health than those in England as a whole. However, older people from minority ethnic groups, particularly Pakistani and Bangladeshi people, are more likely to report higher levels of ill health than white people. Older Irish people also report higher rates of ill-health than other white older people.
- Within London, there is a great variation in health, as illustrated by life expectancy figures. Male life expectancy at birth is under 72 years in Newham, compared with over 77 in boroughs like Westminster. The gap for female life expectancy is smaller, but is still four years, ranging from 78 in Newham to 82 in Westminster.
- Provision of home care is generally higher than the England average in Inner London, and lower in Outer London, but there is considerable variation between boroughs.
- Older people are generally less likely to be victims of crime than other age groups, but they may be targeted for particular types of crime, such as distraction burglary and abuse in domestic or institutional settings.

The term older people is used for a wide age range, which is expanding all the time, as people's life expectancy increases. In some cases, it is taken to mean 50 and over, which could possibly encompass three generations in a family – for instance a 50-year-old daughter, a 70-year-old mother and a 90-year-old grandmother.

In some cases the term 'elderly' is used to apply to people aged perhaps 70 and over or 75 and over.

Whatever the age range used, older people cannot be regarded as a homogeneous group, with one set of views, needs and roles. What they do share is the way they are often regarded in society. Ageist attitudes can mean that older people are dismissed as merely being dependent on society, rather than being respected for their experience and the contribution they continue to make to life.



# 1 population

There are currently nearly two million people aged 50 or over in London. There are 1.2 million that are aged 60 or over. The 60 or over population represents 15.4 per cent of the total population in London.

London has a smaller proportion of its population in the older age groups than in England as a whole, where those aged 60 or over make up over 20 per cent of the total population<sup>1</sup>.

Of those aged 60 or over, 56 per cent are women and 44 per cent are men. Women increasingly predominate in each successive age group. Amongst those aged 90 and over, women outnumber men by more than three to one.

**table 1 London older people population 2001**

Age group	Women	Men	Both
50-54	216,700	206,200	422,800
55-59	174,900	164,800	339,700
60-64	144,100	139,300	283,400
65-69	124,700	116,200	240,900
70-74	116,200	95,300	211,500
75-79	104,800	74,100	179,000
80-84	78,500	44,700	123,300
85-89	52,700	22,500	75,200
90 and over	32,600	9,100	41,700
50 and over	1,045,200	872,200	1,917,600
60 or over	653,600	501,200	1,155,100
75 and over	268,600	150,400	419,300
Retirement age and over	653,600	361,900	1,015,500

source GLA 2001 round of population projections

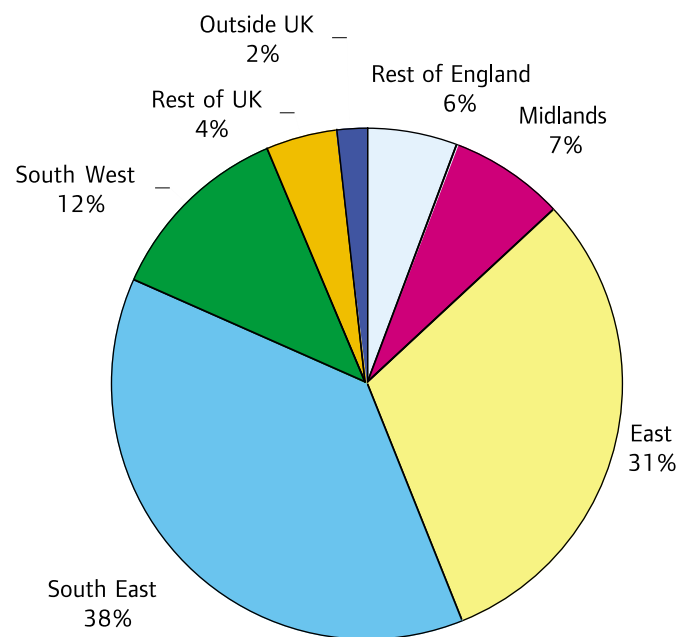
The number of people aged 60 or over is expected to increase by ten per cent by 2016, but will decline slightly as a proportion of the total population, from 15.4 per cent in 2001 to 14.7 per cent in 2016.

## 1A Migration

Throughout the last decade London has on average lost around 50,000 of its population of all ages every year to the rest of the UK, although in the year ending June 2001, the net loss was at an all time high of 69,000<sup>2</sup>. In that year, nearly 15,000 people aged 65 or over left London to move elsewhere in the UK, and 300 of retirement age or over moved

somewhere outside the UK. The most popular destinations were the south-east and eastern regions of England, together accounting for two-thirds of all moves.

**figure 1 Destination of people aged 60 or over who left London, year ending June 2001**

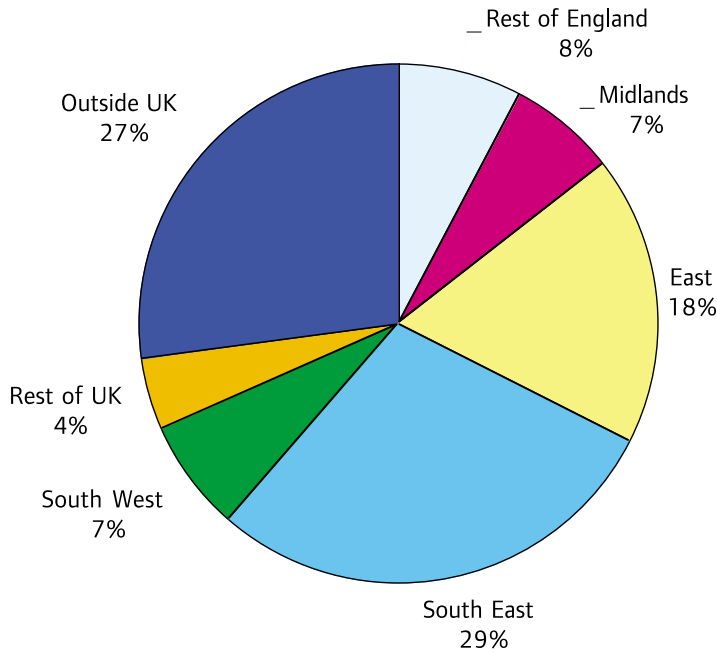


In the same year, nearly 4,300 people aged 65 or over moved into London, nearly half of whom came from the south-east and eastern regions.

Internationally there has recently been a turnaround for older migrants. There used to be a small net loss but with increasing inflows generally this is now a small net inflow. This excludes asylum seekers, very few of whom are over 50<sup>3</sup>. Applicants for asylum are primarily young. In 2001, only three per cent of asylum applicants to the UK were aged 50 or over. There will be a larger proportion amongst refugees, who have been in the UK for up to 15 years.

Overall the net loss of population aged 65 or over in the year ending June 2002 was just over 10,600, representing 1.2 per cent of that age group.

**figure 2 Origin of people ages 65 or over who moved to London, year ending June 2001**



**1B Population by ethnic group**

London contains a half of Britain's total black and minority ethnic population.

In 2001, nearly 165,000 people aged 60 or over came from black and minority ethnic groups as defined in the 1991 Census. This represents 13.5 per cent of the total population aged 60 or over in London. This is expected to increase to 17.5 per cent over the next decade. The numbers in each group are shown in table 2.

In addition, there are large numbers of older white people in London who originated from other countries. In the 1991 Census, one in 20 people of pensionable age in London was born in Ireland. There are also substantial numbers of older people who were born in Eastern Europe, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

**table 2 Population of London aged 60 or over, by ethnic group, 2001 and 2011**

Ethnic group	2001		2011	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of total</i>
White	990,400	86.5	995,300	82.5
Black Caribbean	53,600	4.6	57,300	4.8
Black African	10,000	0.9	19,000	1.6
Black Other	3,000	0.3	4,400	0.4
Indian	45,800	4.0	61,800	5.1
Pakistani	9,000	0.8	13,500	1.1
Bangladeshi	7,800	0.7	9,400	0.8
Chinese	5,200	0.4	8,400	0.7
Other Asian	10,200	0.9	18,900	1.6
Other	11,100	1.0	17,900	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,155,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,205,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*source* GLA 2000 Round of GLA Demographic Projections Projection 2

### **1C Disabled people**

There are 861,000 disabled people aged 16 or over in London, according to the most recent estimate<sup>4</sup>. Over 530,000 are aged 60 or over. The prevalence rate in London is lower than the average in Great Britain, after allowing for differences in the age structure.

The proportion of the older population who are estimated to be disabled in Great Britain is shown in table 3. The estimated proportion increases from 19 per cent of those aged between 50 and 54 to 84 per cent of those aged 85 and over.

**table 3 Proportion of older disabled people in Great Britain, by age group**

Age group	Percentage of population estimated to be disabled		
	Men %	Women %	Total %
50-54	18.7	19.6	19.2
55-59	30.1	28.0	29.1
60-64	32.4	19.5	26.1
65-69	31.6	27.8	29.6
70-74	33.7	33.9	33.8
75-79	65.2	64.8	65.0
80-84	69.1	71.9	70.9
85 and over	83.0	84.1	83.8

*source* Disability in Great Britain: results from the 1996/97 Disability Follow-up to The Family Resources Survey, Department of Social Security, 1999

### **1D Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population**

London has the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population in the country. Some estimates state that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people make up ten per cent of the capital's population. A report by Age Concern showed that the needs of older people who are lesbian or gay have remained invisible because many organisations have failed to investigate their needs<sup>5</sup>. After spending many years together, same sex partners may also be denied succession rights to tenancies, pensions and next of kin rights.

### **1E Faith groups**

Until the 2001 Census results are available, there are no figures on the numbers of people in London who follow particular religions. Nationally it was estimated in 1998 that 28 per cent of the population were Anglican, nine per cent Roman Catholic, five per cent Protestant and eleven per cent 'other'. Because of the ethnic origins of London's population, a wide variety of religions are represented in the capital and the 'other' category is likely to be larger. The largest religions nationally, apart from the Christian groups, are Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh.

### **1F Living alone**

Over a third of London's population of retirement age or over are living alone. This goes up to over 60 per cent amongst women aged 75 or over. Men are less likely to live alone currently, but the proportion is likely to increase over the coming years.

**table 4 Percentage of older people living alone**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2016</b>
	%	%
<b>Women</b>		
45-59	13.2	19.2
60-74	28.4	28.6
75 and over	60.7	58.8
60 and over	41.1	38.4
<b>Men</b>		
45-64	18.9	26.4
65-74	21.2	25.8
75 and over	34.5	36.8
65 and over	26.6	30.0
<b>Both</b>		
45-RA	16.3	23.1
RA-74	25.8	27.6
75 and over	51.0	50.0
RA and over	35.9	35.4

RA retirement age (ie age at which women (60) and men (65) currently become eligible for a state pension)

source GLA household projections

## 2 housing

### 2A Households and tenure

In London there are around 821,000 households where the head of household is aged 60 or over, which represents about 27 per cent of all households<sup>6</sup>.

**table 5 Tenure and age of households headed by person aged 60 or over, London, 1999/2000**

Age group	Owners %	Social sector %	Private renters %	Total <i>number</i>
60-69	66	28	5	334,000
70-79	63	32	5	304,000
80-89	51	37	12	170,000
90+	50	29	21	14,000
All 60+	61	32	7	821,000

*source* Survey of English Housing 1999-2000, London dataset

#### Owner occupation

Over 60 per cent of these households in London own their own home, a lower percentage than in England as a whole, where the owner-occupier rate is in excess of 70 per cent. An Anchor study estimated that there would be a 37 per cent increase in owner occupation amongst the over 60s between 1997/98 and 2011<sup>7</sup>. Eighty-three per cent of owner-occupiers in London aged 60 or over own their property outright, compared to 36 per cent of owners of all ages.

According to data from the Survey of English Housing, over a half of households who bought their home under the Right to Buy scheme in London are headed by a person who is now aged over 60.

The 1996 English House Condition Survey found that the amount of repair and maintenance work carried out by older homeowners was lower than among other homeowners. Income constraints, mobility problems, loss of personal contacts within the community and unwillingness to face the disruption of major works were all cited as causes for lower expenditure on maintenance.

#### Renting

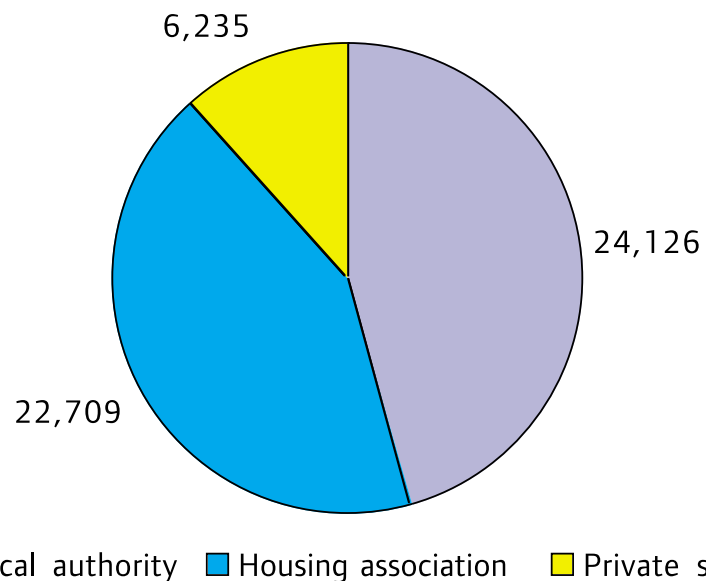
Older person headed households are more likely to rent from a social landlord in London than in the rest of the country – 32 per cent in London, compared to 25 per cent nationally<sup>8</sup>. Around six to seven per cent rent privately both in London and nationally. A study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that lower income older households may find

renting less costly than home ownership, with eligibility for Housing Benefit closing the gap between the cost of owning and the cost of renting<sup>9</sup>.

### Sheltered housing

In 2000, there were around 500,000 sheltered dwellings in England, of which 11 per cent, 53,245 were in London. As figure 3 shows, most of this was local authority or housing association stock, with under 12 per cent in the private sector. Also included in the total were 175 other public sector units. In 1998 the Audit Commission reported that 87 per cent of local authorities had difficulty letting sheltered housing<sup>10</sup>.

**figure 3 Sheltered housing in London, by tenure, 2000**



source Housing Investment Programme

### Very sheltered housing or extra care housing

In 2000 there were around 3,000 very sheltered housing units in London, providing meals or extra support services, with some level of commitment to independent living<sup>11</sup>. Just over 1,000 of these places were provided by local authorities, and over 1,900 by housing associations, with other public sector schemes making up the remainder.

## 2B Housing Benefit

In general the proportion of social renting households who claim housing benefit increases with age. In London 57 per cent of households renting from local authorities or housing associations with heads aged between 60 and 69 were claiming Housing Benefit. For households with heads aged 70-79 the rate was 70 per cent, rising to 76 per cent amongst household heads aged 80 or over.

## 2C Housing conditions

According to the 1996 English House Condition Survey, 22 per cent of households containing people aged 75 or over in London, across all tenures, were living in poor housing compared to 20 per cent in England overall<sup>12</sup>. Almost a fifth of older owner occupiers in England lived in housing built before 1919, which is more likely to be in poor condition and have poor amenities than newer stock.

Households living in the least energy-efficient homes tend to be older and vulnerable to illness (15 per cent are aged over 75). Over one third of households living in the least energy efficient homes are older people<sup>13</sup>.

Fuel poverty is particularly likely to affect older people. Fuel poverty is defined as needing to spend at least ten per cent of basic household income on fuel. This was found to affect 27 per cent of all households in England in 1996. Over half of these households consisted of older people. 60 per cent of people aged over 60 living alone were in fuel poverty<sup>14</sup>.

## 2D Homelessness

During 2001/02, over 31,000 households were accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need by the London boroughs, accounting for over a quarter of the national total. Four per cent of the total in London were found to be in priority need on the grounds of vulnerability due to old age. This does not represent all older households accepted as homeless as they may be found to be vulnerable for a reason other than age.

In addition to those accepted as statutorily homeless, nearly 8,000 people aged 50 and over were living in inappropriate hostel accommodation in London and a further 5,000 older people placed themselves in bed and breakfast accommodation in London in 1997, according to research into older people's homelessness<sup>15</sup>.

Over 800 people aged 50 and over slept rough in London for at least one night between April 1999 and March 2000, accounting for around a quarter of all rough sleepers. A one-night survey of hostels in London found 700 people aged 50 and over accounting for over one third of all hostel residents on that particular night<sup>16</sup>.

There is some concern that older men in particular have lost out in the move away from large hostels towards smaller, highly supportive hostels for other client groups<sup>17</sup>. Research has found that older people are particularly vulnerable when sleeping rough both to mental and physical health problems and to physical assault<sup>18</sup>.

## 3 activity

### 3A Employment

Around 11 per cent of men and women in London are in employment after the state pension age. The proportion is higher than in England as a whole, especially for men. This is in contrast to other age groups, who have lower employment rates in London than in England. There is a big drop in employment rates for men after 50, both in London and nationally, while for women the drop is much smaller.

In the UK, over a half of men who were not in employment cited long term sickness as the reason, while 29 per cent were retired.

**table 6 Employment rates by age and gender, 2000/01**

Age group	Great Britain %	London %
<b>Men</b>		
16-19	52.3	33.5
20-24	73.5	67.2
25-34	88.3	85.3
35-49	88.3	85.2
50-64	69.3	68.5
65 & over	9.5	11.3
<b>Women</b>		
16-19	52.7	38.3
20-24	65.1	61.9
25-34	71.2	67.4
35-49	75.1	66.7
50-59	64.3	62.1
60 & over	10.0	10.7

*source* Labour Force Survey LADB incorporating the local LFS for England 2000-2001

### 3B Unemployment

London has one of the highest unemployment rates of all regions in Great Britain - second only to that of the north-east. While young people in London are more likely to be unemployed than older age groups, men aged 50 or over are more likely to be unemployed than those aged 35 to 49. In 2000/01, 6.4 per cent of men aged 50 or over were unemployed, compared with 5.3 per cent of men aged 35 to 49. For women, the reverse was the case: 3.7 per cent of women aged 50 or over were unemployed, compared with 5.2 per cent aged 35 to 49. For all age groups black and minority ethnic people are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as white people.

### 3C Carers

Sixteen per cent of people aged over 65 are caring for one or more relatives or friends who are sick or disabled, either in their own household or outside it<sup>19</sup>. The peak age for caring is amongst those aged 45 to 64, 24 per cent of whom are carers. Twenty-eight per cent of those aged 65 or over and 40 per cent of those aged 45 to 64 spend at least 20 hours each week caring for others.

This does not include the number of older people looking after grandchildren, or other young relatives. The shortage of affordable childcare, particularly acute in London, means that older relatives often fill the gaps in a complex juggling act by parents.

### 3D Citizenship

Older people are more likely to vote than any other age group. In the 2001 General Election, 70 per cent of the electorate aged 65 or over voted, compared with 59 per cent overall and 39 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds<sup>20</sup>.

Over a third of London's borough councillors are aged 60 or over<sup>21</sup>. In 2001, out of a total of 1,989 councillors, there were nearly 26 per cent aged 60 to 69 and 9.5 per cent aged 70 and over.

### 3E Voluntary work

Forty-five per cent of people aged 65 to 74 and 35 per cent of people aged 75 or over undertook voluntary work in the UK in 1997<sup>22</sup>. This represented an increase on the 1991 levels, which were 34 per cent for 65 to 74 year olds and 25 per cent of those aged 75 or over.

### 3F Education

Women and men aged over 60 years made up 22 per cent of the 190,600 enrolments in adult education classes in Greater London in November 2001. Women over 60 made up the greater proportion of students over 60 and were more likely to enrol in daytime classes than any other type. Twenty-one per cent of daytime enrolments were women over 60, while seven per cent were men aged over 60.

Ten per cent of London's 519,000 further education students in 1999/00 were aged 60 or over<sup>23</sup>. This represents 4.5 per cent of the age group. Only two per cent of students accepted to higher education institutions in London were aged 40 or over.

Older people also undertake study through the University of the Third Age, which has 24 groups in London, the Workers Educational Association and the Open University.



## 4 incomes

There were 965,000 people in London receiving a state pension in March 2002<sup>24</sup>. Of these people 614,000 were women, representing 94 per cent of the population aged 60 or over, and 351,000 men (97 per cent of those aged 65 or over). The vast majority of these were contributory pensions, but 3,000 women and 1,600 men were receiving a non-contributory category D pension<sup>25</sup>. Half of women state pensioners in London have pensions based on their own contributions, while the rest are based on their spouse's contributions, or a combination of their own and their spouse's contributions.

In 2000/01, over a quarter of 'pensioners' in London were living in low income households, defined by the government as those with incomes below 60 per cent of median incomes, after housing costs. The risk of being on a low income is higher for women living alone, for black and minority ethnic people and for those without an occupational or personal pension.

### 4A Pensions

In Great Britain as a whole, 67 per cent of male employees and 66 per cent of women full-time employees have an occupational or personal pension, or both. Only 37 per cent of women part-time employees have either<sup>26</sup>. Amongst employees aged 55 and over, 65 per cent of men, 68 per cent of women full-time employees and 29 per cent of women part-time employees have an occupational or personal pension.

Since 1975, membership of the present employer's pension scheme has decreased amongst men, from 63 per cent to 54 per cent in 2000, but increased amongst women, from 47 per cent for full-timers in 1975 to 58 per cent in 2000. Membership amongst women working part-time has increased from 13 per cent in 1983 to 31 per cent in 2000. Women in part-time jobs are much more likely to be working for an employer without an occupational pension scheme – 42 per cent in 2000, compared with 25 per cent of those working full-time. Public sector workers are the most likely to have an occupational pension, whilst the least likely are those employed in the hotel and catering industry<sup>27</sup>.

### 4B Benefits

Table 7 shows the number of claimants of state retirement pensions and one or more key benefits in November 2001. Sixty-seven per cent of Londoners over state retirement age were receiving the state pension with no additional benefits, a lower proportion than in Great Britain as a whole. Nineteen per cent of Londoners were receiving one or more of the disability and ill health benefits, namely Attendance Allowance, Disability

Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or on Income Support with disability premiums or in hospital/care. Again this was a lower proportion than in Great Britain (24 per cent). However a higher proportion of older people in London were receiving Income Support not related to sickness or disability, to bring their income up to Minimum Income Guarantee levels.

**table 7 Claimants of key state pensions and benefits among men aged 65 or over and women aged 60 or over, November 2001**

	London		Great Britain
	<i>Number of claimants</i>	%	%
Retirement pension only	712,000	67	69
Disability/ill health benefits	204,000	19	24
Non-disabled income support	100,000	9	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,016,000</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>99</b>

*source* Department of Social Security, Analytical Services Division,  
© Crown copyright<sup>28</sup>.

#### **4C Earnings**

Average hourly earnings for Londoners are highest among the 30 to 39 year age group, and decline after age 40<sup>29</sup>. Median hourly earnings for those aged 50 to 54 and older age groups are lower than for those aged 25 to 29. In 2000/01, 3.7 per cent of Londoners aged 45 or over were earning the then minimum wage of £3.70 per hour; and 12.7 per cent were receiving £5.00 or less.

For all age groups, women's median hourly earnings in 2000/01 were 14 per cent lower than men's. Median earnings were also lower for all black and minority ethnic groups than for white Londoners. The lowest earning group are Bangladeshis, with a median rate well under half the white rate and black Africans, with a rate 36 per cent lower.

## 5 transport and travel

People in London in all age groups make fewer journeys and travel shorter distances than people elsewhere in Britain<sup>30</sup>. By the age of 70 or over, however, there is much less difference in the number of journeys. Men in all age groups and areas travel longer distances than women.

**table 8 Travel characteristics by age and area type, 1996/98**

Age group	Journeys per person per year		Distance per person per year (miles)	
	London	Great Britain	London	Great Britain
<b>Men</b>				
25-49	1,153	1,199	8,795	11,378
50-59	1,124	1,216	8,087	10,604
60-69	993	1,086	5,532	6,758
70 and over	802	805	2,426	3,643
<b>Women</b>				
25-49	1,148	1,270	5,751	7,303
50-59	859	1,053	5,143	6,490
60-69	764	850	3,772	4,882
70 and over	562	599	1,841	2,679

source DETR Transport Statistics

### 5A Travel insurance

Older people often face much higher insurance premiums when they travel abroad and Help the Aged have cited this as an example of unfair age discrimination<sup>31</sup>. Research by Abbey National found that four out of ten travel insurers did not offer standard annual worldwide cover to anyone over 65 and that those that did often substantially increased the premiums<sup>32</sup>.

### 5B Car ownership

Car ownership is lower in London overall but generally, the likelihood of living in a household without a car increases with age. For those aged 60 to 64, 18 per cent of men and 27 per cent of women in Great Britain lived in households without a car in 1996/98. By the age of 80, 57 per cent of men and 76 per cent of women live in households without a car. In 1999, nearly a half of households without a car nationally were all-pensioner households<sup>33</sup>.

**5C Accessibility**

Older people in London benefit from free travel on London's buses and underground but the use they can make of it depends on its accessibility. Nationally, 62 per cent of older women and 54 per cent of men needed help to use public transport<sup>34</sup>.

An Age Concern London report illustrated the difficulties some older people can experience in accessing hospitals, for instance in making cross-London journeys<sup>35</sup>.

**5D Accidents**

Amongst pedestrians, children are the most likely to be killed or seriously injured on London's streets, but those aged 60 or over have a higher rate than other adults<sup>36</sup>. In 1999, the pedestrian accident rate was 29.1 per 100,000 population aged 60 or over, compared with 18.2 per 100,000 of those aged 25 to 59. Amongst car drivers and passengers, however, older people were much less likely to be killed or seriously injured. This is at least partly a reflection of older people's travel patterns.



## 6 health

Older people in London, especially men, are more likely to report themselves to be in a good state of health than those in England as a whole. In the 1998-99 General Household Survey, 52 per cent of men aged 65 or over and 41 per cent of women aged 65 or over in London reported they were in good health<sup>37</sup>. This compares with 43 per cent of men and 38 per cent of women in the same age group in England as a whole.

Older people from minority ethnic groups, particularly Pakistani and Bangladeshi people, are more likely to report higher levels of ill health than white people<sup>38</sup>. Older Irish people also report higher rates of ill-health than other white older people.

Overall, London has a lower than average death rate, once differences in the age composition are taken into account. However, for respiratory diseases, death rates are higher in London than in England as a whole. In 1999, the death rate for respiratory diseases was 200 per 100,000 population for women in London, compared with 185 per 100,000 in England<sup>39</sup>. For men, the rate in London was 164 per 100,000 compared with 147 in England.

Within London, there is a great variation in health, as illustrated by life expectancy figures. Male life expectancy at birth is under 72 years in Newham, compared with over 77 in boroughs like Westminster<sup>40</sup>. The gap for female life expectancy is smaller, but is still four years, ranging from 78 in Newham to 82 in Westminster.

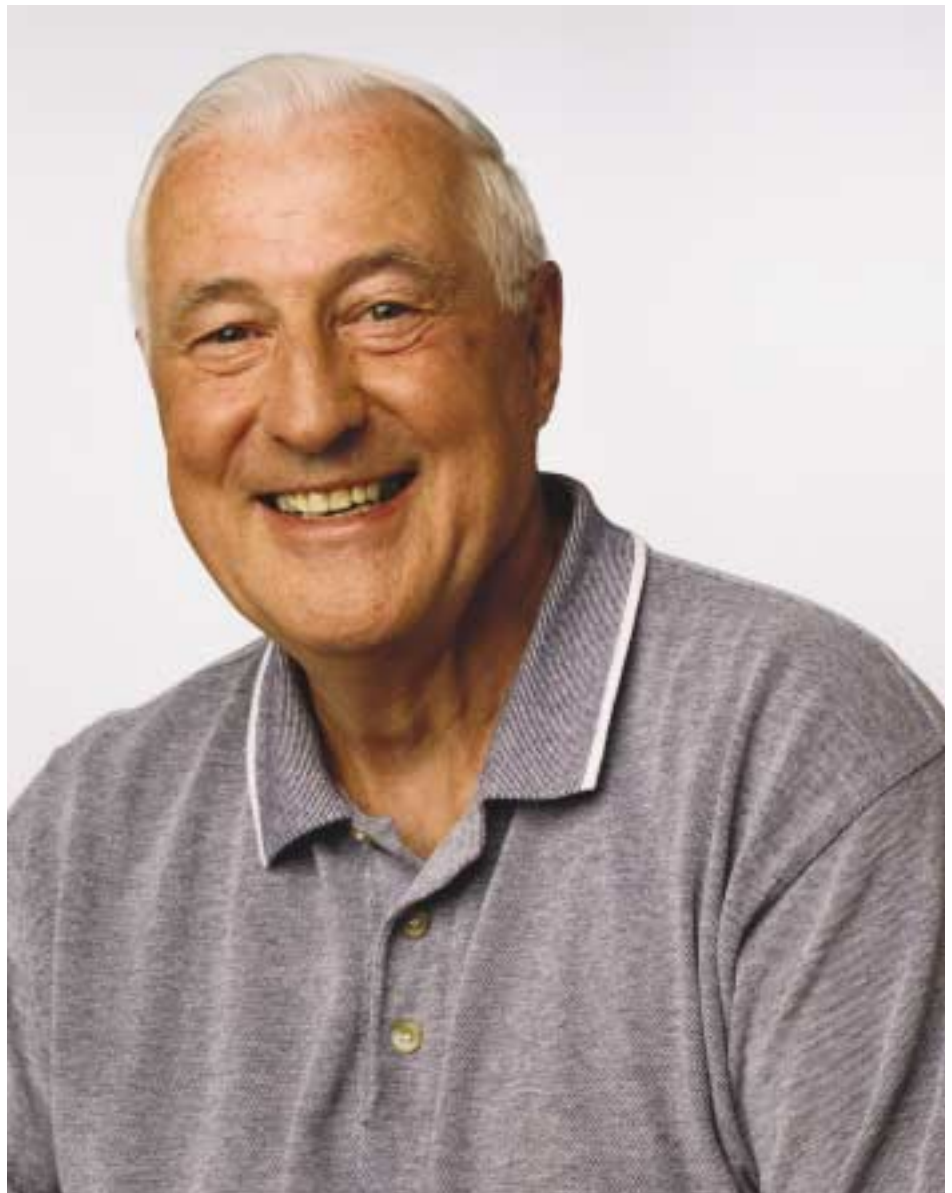
Dementia is estimated to affect one per cent of those aged 65, five per cent at 75, 20 per cent at 85 and 33 per cent of those in their 90s<sup>41</sup>. Estimates of the prevalence of depression among people aged 65 or over range from between five and 13 per cent for men and between eight and 25 per cent for women<sup>42</sup>. Anxiety is very common among older people, but the reported prevalence of those classified as needing specialist psychiatric treatment is only two to four per cent.

### 6A Residential and home care

There are around 400,000 places in residential care and nursing homes for older people in England<sup>43</sup>. This potentially represents five per cent of the population aged 65 or over, but places are often used for temporary respite, so the proportion who are long-term residents is smaller. In 2001, London local authorities were supporting nearly 22,300 people aged 65 or over in residential and nursing homes. This represents 2.6 per cent of the population aged 65 or over. Others pay privately for their places. London

has fewer places in residential and nursing homes per capita than the England average, so older people are often accommodated in homes outside the capital, particularly in southern counties.

In 2001, London boroughs were providing home care (home help) to 59,000 households<sup>44</sup>. On average, provision in Inner London (285 households in every 10,000) is above the England average (203 per 10,000 households) and in Outer London it is lower (171 per 10,000), but there is considerable variation between boroughs. In recent years the trend has been for fewer households to receive help, but for more intensive support to be provided to those households.



## 7 crime

In general, older people are less likely to be the direct victims of crime than younger people, but overall crime and disorder affect people's views about the safety of their environment. Rates of reported crime are higher in London than in any other region. Racial and homophobic harassment and attacks increase the risk for groups of older Londoners.

The British Crime Survey asks people about crimes they have experienced<sup>45</sup>. In the 2001/02 Survey, just over two per cent of households headed by someone aged 60 or over had experienced a burglary in the preceding year, compared with 3.5 per cent of all households. However, rates of burglary are higher in urban areas, particularly the inner city, on council estates and amongst households who are renting privately.

Distraction burglary by bogus callers is particularly likely to be targeted on older people. There were around 16,000 reported instances of this in the UK in 2000/01 and just under 4,500 reported incidents in London in 1999, but this kind of crime is likely to be under-reported because of people's embarrassment about being deceived.

Under one per cent of people aged 65 or over had experienced any kind of violent crime in 2001/02, according to the British Crime Survey. This compares with two per cent of women and 2.5 per cent of men aged 45 to 64. The highest rates were amongst those aged 16 to 24: 16.2 per cent of men and 7.5 per cent of women in this age group had experienced some kind of violent crime at least once in the year.

The extent of domestic violence amongst older people is likely to be under-estimated. International studies suggest that one in ten people aged 65 or over may be subject to elder abuse, which can be defined as the physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse of older people taking place in domestic or institutional settings<sup>46</sup>.

On the whole, fear of crime is no higher among older people than other age groups. However, older people are more likely to feel very unsafe walking alone after dark. Thirty-four per cent of women and ten per cent of men aged 60 or over felt very unsafe, compared with 16 per cent of women and three per cent of men aged 30 to 59.

table 9 Some key facts by borough

	Population aged 60 or over 2001				Life expectancy	
	Total aged 60 or over	60 and over as a percentage of all ages population	Black and minority ethnic population aged 60 or over as a percentage of all 60 or over	% of people of pensionable age on income support	Male	Female
City of London	1,300	19.7	4.8	10.0	78.6	82.5
Barking and Dagenham	30,200	19.1	3.5	20.6	73	79.0
Barnet	54,300	15.4	12.0	14.9	77.5	80.8
Bexley	41,900	18.9	3.5	10.9	76.2	80.6
Brent	38,900	15.2	35.7	24.7	74.9	80.0
Bromley	58,800	19.2	2.8	9.6	77	81.5
Camden	29,100	13.9	11.9	24.5	74	81.2
Croydon	56,600	16.6	12.9	14.1	76	80.4
Ealing	46,300	14.6	23.9	20.0	75.3	80.0
Enfield	46,600	17.2	9.4	17.3	75.7	81.2
Greenwich	36,100	16.4	6.9	18.7	73.8	79.0
Hackney	27,000	13.0	25.5	37.5	73.2	79.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	21,300	12.5	15.1	23.0	73.5	80.1
Haringey	30,400	13.3	23.8	28.5	74.6	80.6
Harrow	36,000	16.7	19.4	15.1	76.4	82.0
Havering	47,600	20.6	1.8	11.5	76	80.8
Hillingdon	42,700	16.5	6.8	11.7	76.2	80.7
Hounslow	32,200	15.1	19.2	18.2	75.3	80.3
Islington	24,800	13.9	13.6	30.1	73.9	80.1
Kensington and Chelsea	25,300	12.6	9.9	16.7	77.3	82.3
Kingston upon Thames	23,300	15.1	5.5	10.3	76.8	80.6
Lambeth	36,500	13.0	24.2	24.4	73.3	80.2
Lewisham	36,300	14.7	15.9	21.4	73	78.6
Merton	30,700	16.0	11.6	13.2	75.8	80.6
Newham	30,800	12.6	27.1	33.9	71.9	78.5
Redbridge	41,000	17.6	13.3	16.0	76.3	80.9
Richmond upon Thames	30,900	15.5	3.5	9.2	77.5	82.4
Southwark	35,400	14.6	14.5	25.1	73.6	79.1
Sutton	30,600	17.1	3.7	11.1	75.6	80.3
Tower Hamlets	26,000	13.7	20.1	40.5	72.7	79.6
Waltham Forest	34,700	15.9	15.2	22.8	74.3	79.5
Wandsworth	36,100	13.2	17.4	21.2	74.7	79.8
Westminster, City of	34,800	13.5	13.5	17.7	77.6	82.5
<b>Greater London</b>	<b>1,153,600</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>80.8</b>

*sources* GLA 2000 round of demographic projections, projection 2; Income Support figures for 1999, based on numbers over state pension age from Department of Work and Pensions; life expectancy for 1997-1999 from London Health Observatory analysis of ONS figures

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