

# Assessment of the abbreviated Duke Social Support Index in a cohort of older Australian women

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**Reference:**

**Key Words:**

social support, reliability of measures, Duke Social Support Index, women

**Research aim:**

To assess the acceptability, reliability and validity of the 11-item Duke Social Support Index (DSSI) in community-dwelling older Australian women, and to describe its relationship with the women's sociodemographic and health characteristics.

**Results/Conclusion:**

Internal reliability was reasonable for most items. Higher social support was associated with better physical and mental health, being Australian born, more educated and better able to manage on income.

**Implications:**

Ten of the 11 DSSI items provided an acceptable, brief and valid measure of social support for use in mailed surveys to community-dwelling older women.

**Cultural Group(s):**

Not specific to CALD

**Location of study:**

Australia (national)

**Age group:**

70-75

**Number included in study:**

12,939

**Type of participants:**

women aged 70-75 selected through Medicare database

**Research approach:**

Quantitative

**Type of data:**

Primary

**Secondary data sources used:**

Medicare database

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

Duke Social Support Index, SF-36

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**

Not specific to CALD, mainly about using the methodology and reliability of measures