

Subjective Social Support in Older Male Italian-Born Immigrants in Australia

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Reference:

Key Words:

social support, older men, informal support, comparative study

Research aim:

This paper describes differences in subjective social support between older male Italian-born immigrants in Australia and their Australian-born counterparts. Data come from the Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project (CHAMP).

Results/Conclusion:

Italian-born men were about twice as likely to report low subjective social support compared to Australian-born men; this difference remained after adjustment for sociodemographic, socioeconomic, social network and health factors. Italian-born men were more likely to report that they had no non-family members in the local area to rely on. However, lack of non-family supports did not remain significantly associated with perceived social support after adjustment for social interactions and depressive symptoms. Italian-born men were more likely to report low subjective support despite the presence of several protective factors such as a greater number of local family supports and a high rate of home ownership.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Italian-born, Australia born

Location of study:

New South Wales (Sydney)

Age group:

70+

Number included in study:

335 Italian born, 849 Australia born

Type of participants:

Italian born and Australian born men aged 70+

Research approach:

Quantitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project (CHAMP)

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: