

Predictors of Mortality in the Old-Old in Israel: The Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Aging Study

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ABSTRACT

Keywords: aging;old-old;mortality;predictors;CALAS

OBJECTIVES: To examine whether well-known predictors of mortality change their predictive power over time, being reduced or even reversed in the old-old.

DESIGN: A multidimensional survey of the Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Aging Study conducted from 1989 to 1992 with follow-up of mortality after 6, 8, 10, and 12 years since 1989.

SETTING: Israel.

PARTICIPANTS: Participants (N=1,369) were drawn from a national sample of the Jewish Israeli population aged 75 to 94.

MEASUREMENTS: Data included sociodemographic factors and measures of health, physical condition, cognitive performance, and depression.

RESULTS: The results showed that age, sex, disability, self-rated health, and marital status predicted mortality and that their predictive power changed over 9 years.

CONCLUSION: In the old-old, predictors of mortality changed over time, and their predictive effect eventually diminished. The predictors found to be most significant (age, sex, disability, and self-rated health) support the common cause theory.