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Occupational Engagement and Aging, Trends in Europe

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Introduction: Aging is a major public health issue. Eurostats estimates that in 2050 29% of the European population will be over 65 years old. This process is a complex notion that cannot be reduced to a simple organic description. It's in fact a singular trajectory that we have studied by developing the link between occupational engagement and health status.

Objectives: The main objective of this study was to describe and analyze the relationship between the occupational engagement of the elderly and the end-of-life. Furthermore, this study provides an additional theoretical foundation for occupancy-based practices.

Method: Based on the European survey "SHARE", we have studied the end of life of 13445 Europeans over 65 years of age, for 10 years. After a descriptive analysis of the population, we have developed a multivariate model in order to highlight the relevant variables for the understanding of the phenomenon.

Results / Practice Implications: The findings suggest that variables should be used for predictive models of the end of life, more specifically social network, caregivers and occupational engagement. This 10-year objectification help to better identify the gaps between the needs and reality of the elderly in order to adjust the action of public policies on primary prevention.

Conclusion: This longitudinal study allows a large extrapolation of the results. The health effects of occupational engagement are an important factor in maintaining healthy status, and is also necessary to address adequate access to care for vulnerable elderly population.