

**A study on long-term
housing needs of mid
to later life Focus
Ireland tenants**

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Growing Older at Home

**Investigating long-term
housing needs of mid to later
life Focus Ireland tenants**



Context and Background



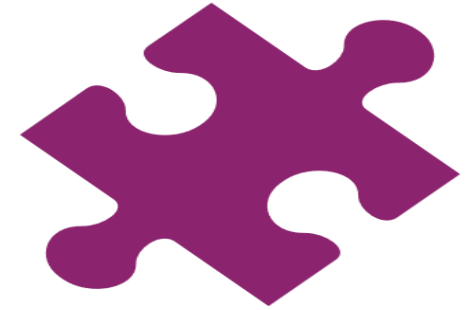
Contacted long-term
older tenants of
Focus Housing
Association



Wanted to
investigate how we
could provide
suitable housing and
supports for tenants
as they aged

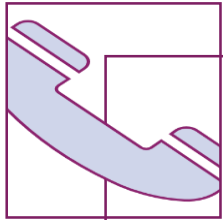


Aim of study to
assess and support
long-term housing
needs of tenants



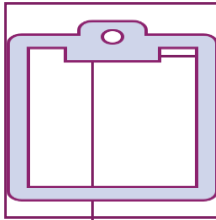
Starting point to
develop strategy to
help older tenants

Methodology



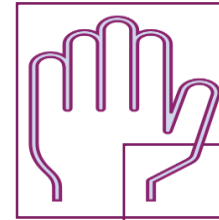
Sample and Recruitment

- Inclusion criteria based on evidence from literature review (45+)
- 190 potential participants identified who were tenants of Focus Ireland Housing Association
- 76 (40%) telephone surveys by peer researchers



Survey Design & Analysis

- Survey topics based on scoping literature review
- Topics: Housing, Community, Finances & Budgeting, Support & Well-being
- Final report recommendations based on collaboration with Peer Researchers

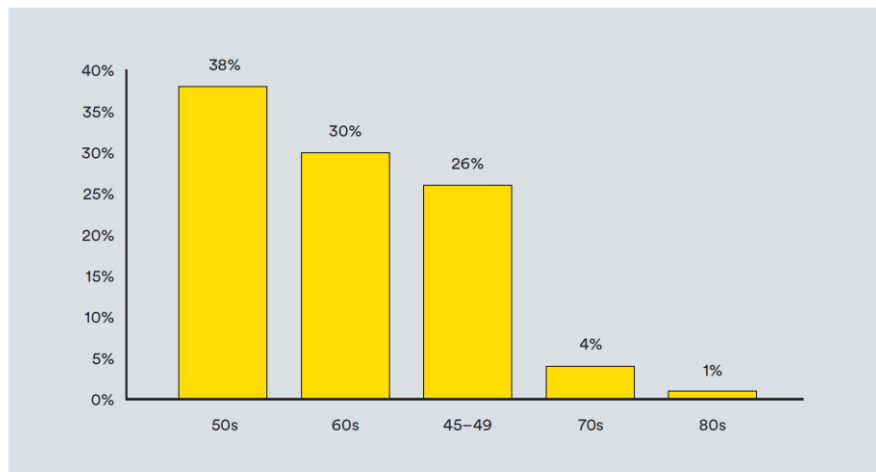


Limitations

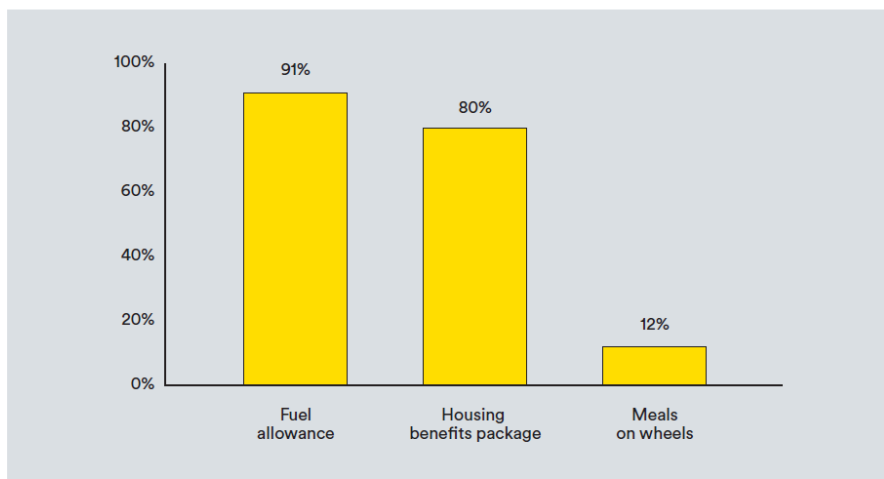
- Small sample size
- Inclusion criteria: lack of generalisability
- Language barriers

Demographic profile

Graph 1: Age group of survey participants

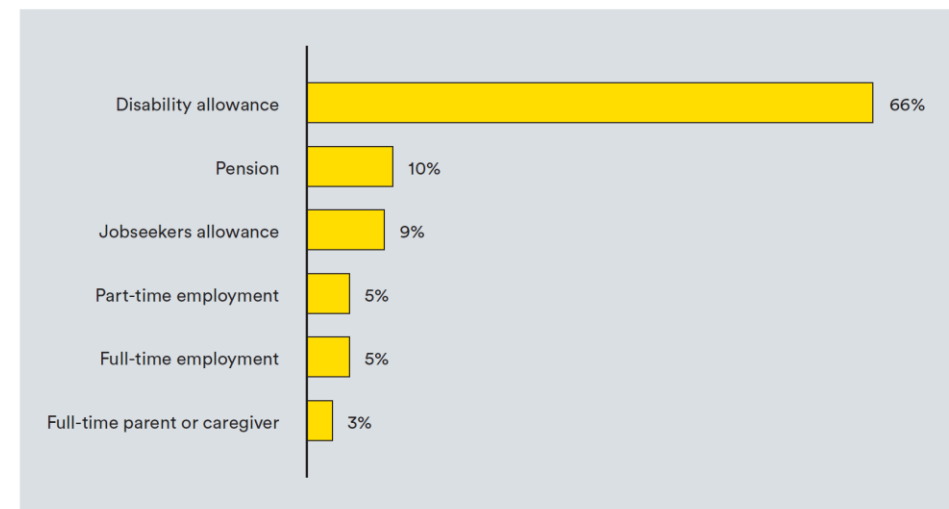


Graph 3: Grants and supports received

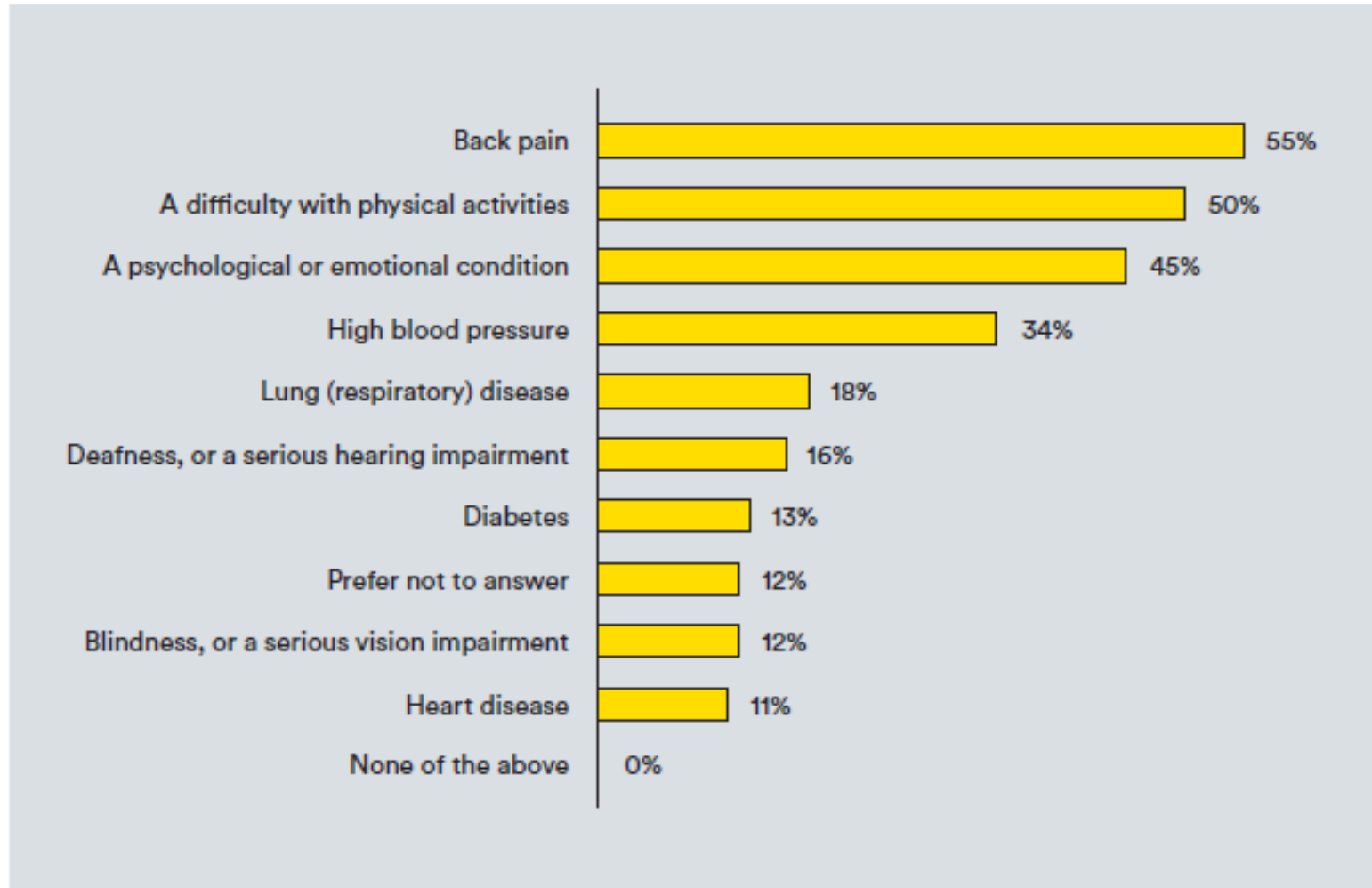


Region	(n)	%
Dublin	29	39%
Waterford	13	17%
Kilkenny	9	12%
Limerick	8	11%
Sligo	7	9%
Kildare	4	5%
Clare	2	3%
Cork	1	1%
Wexford	1	1%
Tipperary	1	1%
Total	75	100%

Graph 2: Survey participants main form of income



Health Demographic profile of participants



FINDINGS

Housing satisfaction

- 82% participants liked living in their community and 78% enjoyed living in their current home.
- **70% wanted to remain in their current house with appropriate changes made as they aged**
- The main issues for tenants who found their home unsuitable: **maintenance, lack of storage, insulation and bathroom facilities**
- Areas caused the most problems: **bathroom facilities (29%), damp/mould/or leaks (25%), heating and insulation (28%), and storage space (23%).**

Area and community

- Tenants found majority of services and support **easy or very easy to access from their current accommodation**
- Access to **health services (19%), friends and family (18%), local shops (14%), and GP/pharmacy (11%)** were seen as difficult or very difficult for some respondents to access.

Living conditions and community

- **A safe neighbourhood (95%), shops close by (93%), cleanliness of communal areas (92%), and accessibility to healthcare (91%)** were all rated as very important.
- Public transport options and green spaces were also viewed as important, with **over 95% of respondents considering them fairly or very important.**

FINDINGS

Finance and budgeting


- **62% never had enough to cover their weekly expenses** and 72% were unable to save some of their income regularly
- **92% tenants had to cut back on electricity and 84% go without heating** in the last twelve months either all of the time, most of the time or some of the time
- Despite this, 79% stated they **always** had enough money to pay their rent.

Mental Health and well-being


- 88% of survey respondents stated they received support from Focus Ireland.
- Over 90% of tenants stated they knew where to go if they needed help with their mental health
- 45% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed that they often felt lonely.

LEARNINGS

The majority of Focus Ireland tenants **wish to age-in-place**. Moving them out of their home or community should **be a last resort**.




People with experiences of homelessness possess unique needs that other adults their age in the community may not have, particularly around **chronic health conditions**



Despite majority of tenants being in receipt of some form of social support, tenants were still unable to have **their basic needs met**

LEARNINGS

Tenants admitting they went without heat or electricity emphasise the **real-world consequences of the cost-of-living crisis**



Any solutions to the problems identified must view them as all inherently tied together



Findings demonstrate the importance of on-going, continued support from services to support tenants and their mental health and well-being

THANK YOU