

Cohort comparisons: emotional well-being among adolescents and older adults

ABSTRACT

Background: There are several negative stereotypes about older adults that have negatively influenced people's attitude about aging. The present study compared emotional well-being between older adults and adolescents. Methods: Data for this study came from 1,403 community-dwelling elderly persons and 1,190 secondary school students and were obtained from two national cross-sectional surveys. Emotional well-being was measured using the World Health Organization-Five Well-Being Index. Data analysis was conducted using a multivariate analysis of covariance with SPSS software version 20 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). Results: Elderly people significantly scored higher levels of emotional well-being (mean, 62.3; standard deviation, 22.55) than younger people (mean, 57.9; standard deviation, 18.46; $t, 5.32; P \leq 0.001$). The findings from the multivariate analysis of covariance revealed a significant difference between older adults and younger people in emotional well-being [$F(3, 2587)=120.21; P \leq 0.001; \eta^2=0.122$] after controlling for sex. Conclusion: Contrary to negative stereotypes about aging, our findings show a higher level of emotional well-being among older adults compared with younger people.

Keyword: Aged; Ageism; Emotional well-being; Positive aging