

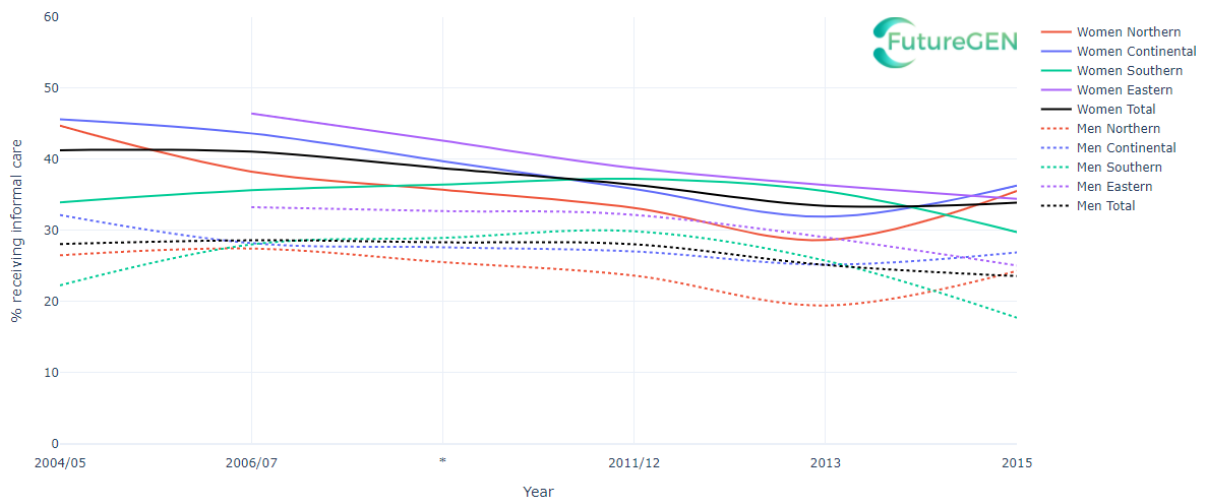
DATA NAVIGATOR: Trends in informal care receiving by gender and socio-economic status

Informal Caregiving is typically defined as unpaid care/help provided to older persons with a chronic illness, disability or other long-lasting health problem or care need by family, close relatives, friends or neighbours. Informal care captured by the Data Navigator includes providing personal care (i.e. washing, getting out of bed, or dressing) to someone living inside or outside of the household, and household help to someone living outside the household.

A larger proportion of women received informal care than their male counterparts in each region (Figure 1), reflecting the fact that the prevalence of ADL and IADL limitations is higher among older women (as seen through the Data Navigator ADL/IADL indicators). For most of the time period, the prevalence of informal care-receiving was highest for women and men in the Eastern region in comparison to the remaining regions, indicating the higher reliance on informal care in this region. For nearly all groups, informal care receiving decreased from 2004 until 2013. The exception to this general trend was in Northern and Continental Europe, where the prevalence of informal care receiving increased for both men and women at the very end of the period.

Figure 1: Prevalence of informal care receiving by gender and region (65+)

Own calculations based on SHARE data release 7.0.0



From a socioeconomic point of view, both lower income women and men were more likely to receive informal care than higher income individuals in their region (Figure 2 & 3). The exception to this was in the Eastern region, where higher income women received more care than lower income women for most of the time frame.

Figure 2: Prevalence of informal care receiving among women by income status and region (65+)

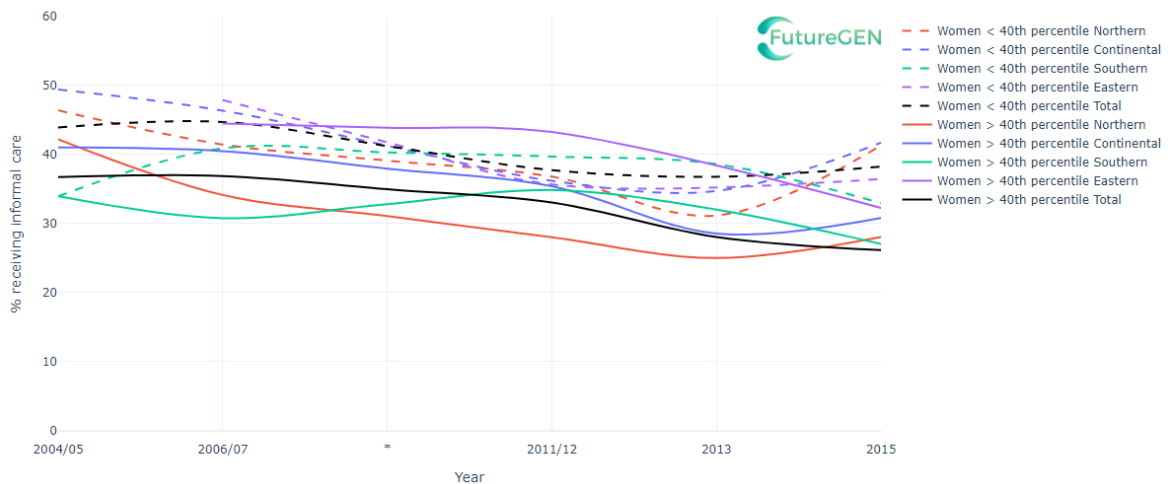
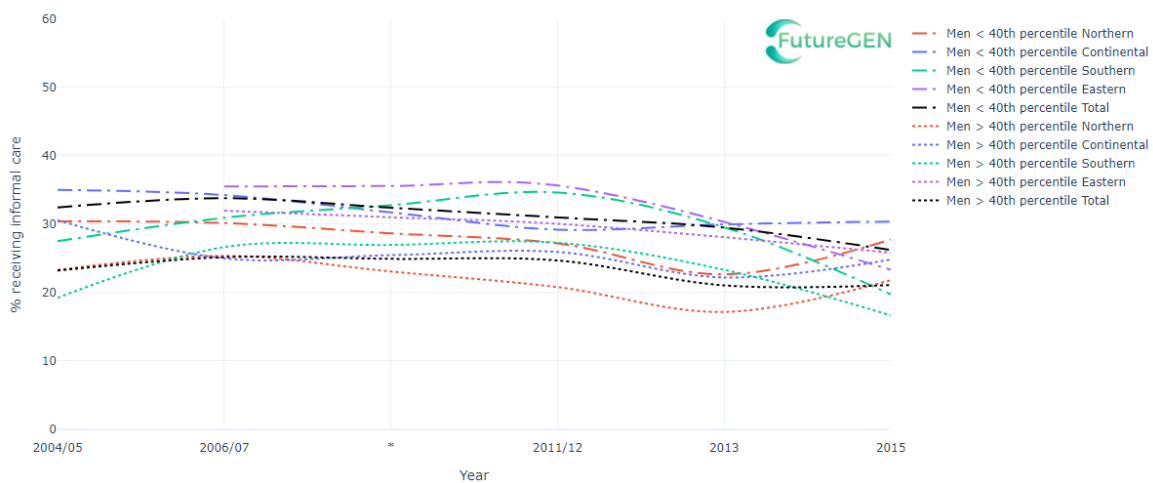


Figure 3: Prevalence of informal care receiving among men by income status and region (65+)
Own calculations based on SHARE data release 7.0.0



As informal care receipt has been decreasing over time, it is important that formal care services, particularly services at home and in the community, are readily available to compensate and cover care gaps. If not, older adults aged 65+ may not receive the long-term care help/services they require, resulting in unmet needs. Public policies should therefore be targeted to ensure adequate and high-quality formal care services are readily available for older adults, particularly women and lower income individuals, who receive the largest proportion of informal care and therefore may be at most risk if informal care receiving decreases without adequate care services.

For more details, visit the Data Navigator:

<https://futuregen.euro.centre.org/data-navigator/>