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BETWEEN 1990 AND 2013

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## DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITIES FOR SELF-RATED Highlights

### HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN ELDERLY: THE SITUATION FOR TURKEY REGARDING WORLD VALUES SURVEY BETWEEN 1990 AND 2013

#### Highlights

- World Values Survey data pooling 5 surveys in 23 years was used
- Data of Turkish elderly for self-rated health and happiness were evaluated
- Unhealthiness peaked for women, the poor, widows and at crisis times
- Poor and singles were at risk for unhappiness, happiness improved after crisis.
- Income, crisis and absence of the partner, are the main overlapping drivers.

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:**To define the socioeconomic and demographic determinants for self-rated health and happiness for Turkish elderly( $\geq 60$ ) using the World Values Survey(WVS) database. **Methods:** WVS data for Turkey covering 23 years (1990-2013) with five separate cross-sections(1990, 1996, 2001, 2007, 2013) were pooled for analysis( $n=870$ ). Dependent variables were self-rated health and perception of happiness.Their relation with age, sex, number of children, marital status, income, education, employment status and class perception were evaluated. Chi-square and logistic regression analysis were used. Regression coefficients and their standard errors were derived to calculate odds ratios. **Results:** Mean age was  $66.96 \pm 5.78$ (60-91), 58.16% were male and 76.32% were married. The majority (61.10%) was at lowest income level and 80.60% had education attainment at primary level or below. Very happy/quite happy were 81.77% while only 46.59% perceived their health as very good/good. The crisis year(2001) increased the risk of bad self-rated health 4.4 times, being a women 2.0 times, while being a widow had a 2.3-fold, low-income 3.0-fold effect. The odds for unhappy status was increased 4.3 times at low-income levels and 8.4 times for the divorced/separate living partners. Happiness state improved after crisis period. **Conclusion:** SRH and happiness of Turkish elderly bare demographic and socioeconomic inequalities. The inexistence of a partner, being a women, low-income level and major threats for it, like economic crisis, are important drivers for

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