

ENHANCING NURSING STUDENTS ATTITUDES TOWARDS ELDERLY BY EDUCATION

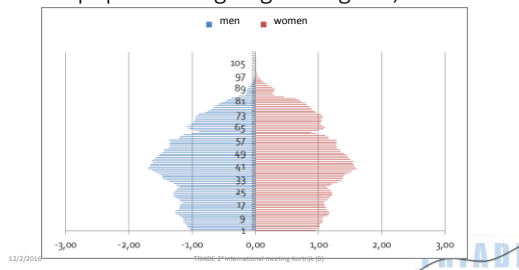
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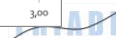


Facts: population ageing in Belgium, 2003

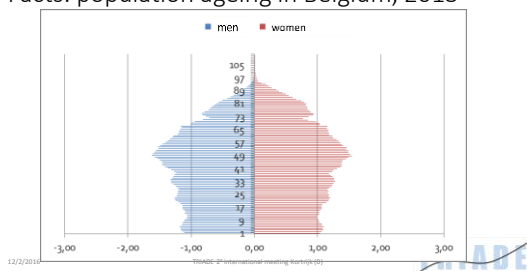


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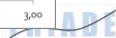


Facts: population ageing in Belgium, 2013

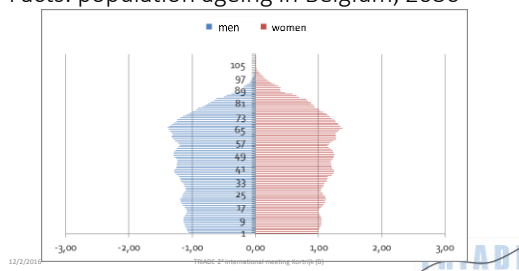


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Facts: population ageing in Belgium, 2030



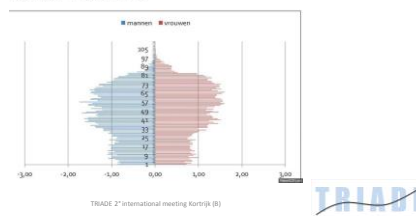
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Facts: population ageing is not universally distributed in Belgium

Knokke-Heist 2003



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Ageing in place

- Older people want to live in their own environment for as long as possible (De Witte et al., 2012)
- Residential care: only for those severely restricted



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Challenges



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Hospital wards

- Accelerated turnover => community care
- Hospitals ageing population
- Intensive care, Emergencies ageing population

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Conclusion

- Nurses specialised in care for older people are needed.
 - In community care
 - In hospitals
 - All wards, inc IC and emergencies
 - In residential care settings

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Nursing education in Flanders until 2012

- Bachelor level
- 3 year education
 - 2 years general studies
 - last year = specialisation with 5 options :
 - geriatric nursing
 - paediatric nursing
 - psychiatric nursing
 - hospital nursing
 - social healthcare

Nursing education in Flanders as from 2012

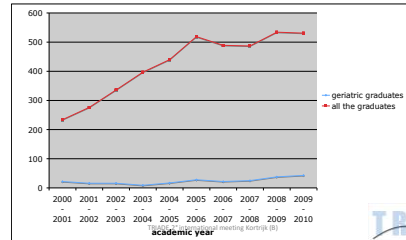
- Bachelor level
- 3 year education
 - 3 years general studies

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Students enrolled in the program



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First possible cause: ageism

Definition by Robert Butler, 1969:

“the process of systematic stereotyping and discrimination against older persons”.

- Ageism often results in the perception that older people are unproductive, sickly, depressed and that cognitive impairment is normal.

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- ageism manifests itself in healthcare for older adults:

- “healthcare professionals do **not receive enough training** in geriatrics to properly care for many older patients”

- “aged care has a **low status option** that is least preferred by those entering the health professions and gerontology is generally undervalued”

- “working with old people is **considered by the nursing profession to be uninteresting, plain and cognitively unchallenging**”

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Second possible cause: attitude

- Definition by Littlejohn (2002):

“is an accumulation of information about an object, person, situation or experience, ... a predisposition to act in a positive or negative way ...”.

- Attitude is essentially information we have obtained about someone or something that we form an opinion or predisposition about.

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MARRIED WITH AN OLD
PIECE OF FURNITURE?



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Important!

- Attitudes are difficult to change: perception of elderly has an important role.

- Following stereotypes are part of this perception, older people are:

- conservative
- rigid
- inactive
- weak
- dependent

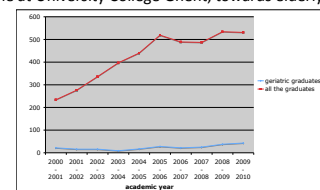
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Research question

- What is the attitude of nursing students, enrolled in the Bachelor programme at University College Ghent, towards elderly?



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ANSE project

Questionnaire

- Attitudes
- Nursing
- Students towards
- Elderly

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Methodology: development of the questionnaire

2006-2007:

26 propositions focussing on older men and women

253 questionnaires

→ Cronbach's α : 0,871

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2007: The ANSE project at full speed

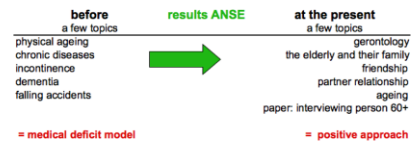
- Changing content of geriatric nursing
- Measuring attitudes

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ANSE used for adjusting contents of the first year course geriatrics



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- Since 2007: systematic survey: pre- and post survey
- first year: pre-survey before the geriatric course, post-survey after the course
 - second year: pre-survey before the geriatric course and training, post-survey after the course and training

– Total: 1390 questionnaires

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Design: quasi- experimental

- At the starting point of the nursing education (first year)
 - O1
 - Geriatric course
 - At the end of the geriatric course (first year)
 - O2
-
- At the start of the second year, after the summer holiday (second year)
 - O3
 - Geriatric course
 - At the end of the second year
 - O4

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Fine tuning the ANSE scale

- Purpose:
 - Reduction of the number of statements
 - Validation of the ANSE
 - Underlying structure of the ANSE

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Results from Exploratory Factor Analysis:

- ANSE TOTAL (18 statements men/women)
 - Cronbach's α : 0,915
- 3 dimensions
 - Older people's Social capacities (5 statements men/women)
 - Cronbach's α : 0,871
 - Older people in the Community (8 Statements men/women)
 - Cronbach's α : 0,827
 - Older people's Intellectual capacities (5 statements men/women)
 - Cronbach's α : 0,835

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Next: Two step cluster analysis

- Natural groups within
 - Total ANSE score
 - Older people's Social capacities scores
 - Older people in the Community scores
 - Older people's Intellectual capacities scores

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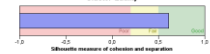
Results

- 3 groups in ANSE total, social
 - Silhouette Measure of cohesion and separation >0,5
- 4 groups in community and intellectual forced into 3 groups
 - Silhouette Measure of cohesion and separation >0,5

Model Summary

Algorithm:	TwoStep
Hyperm:	1
Clusters:	3

Cluster Quality



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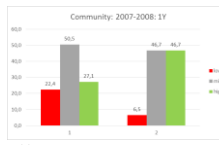
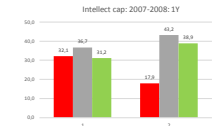
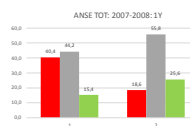


Thus

- Low
 - Mild
 - High
- For the ANSE TOTAL and 3 subdomains

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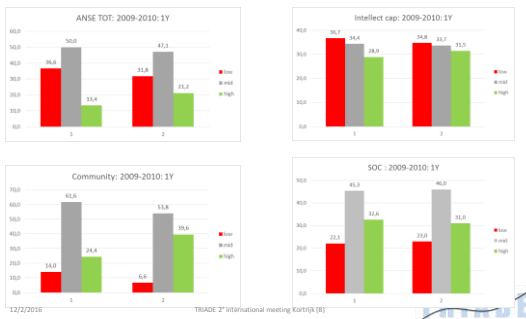
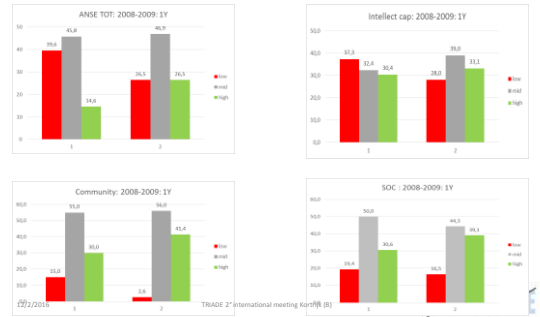
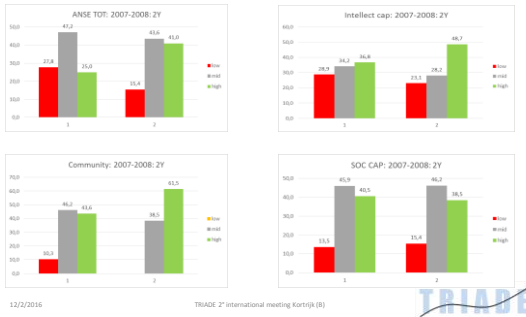
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1. Question: Which do you prefer?
Geriatric, paediatric, psychiatric, hospital nursing - social healthcare

Rating 1 to 5

For ex:	geriatrics	3
	paediatrics	5
	hospital	1
	psychiatrics	4
	social	2

Results:

- Pre survey (before course): geriatric nursing option is not popular.
- Post survey (after course and practice): improvement.

2. Question: Why do students choose geriatric nursing?

Geriatrics as number 1

- Interesting
- Good communication skills towards elderly
- Earlier work experiences (clinical learning, work in holidays)
- Like to work with older people
- Population ageing

Geriatrics as number 5

- Not interesting
- Bad communication with elderly
- Work stress
- Deterioration of patients, death
- Do not like to work with older people (filthy work,...)
- Do not want to do this my whole professional career

3. Question: Would you consider working with elderly, later on ?

Results:

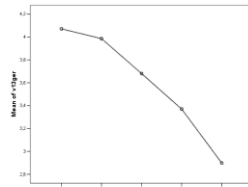
- Increased intention to work with older people, after the geriatric course.
- Increase with first year students.

4. Question: Do you have a friendly and personal relationship with an older person?

Result:

Positive relationship between

- having a friendship with an older person;
- and a preference for geriatric nursing.



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5. Statement: Geriatric nursing is less prestigious

Result :

The majority does not agree.

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6. Statement: caring for the elderly is relatively unattractive

Results:

- Students disagree.
- Student disagreement increases during training.

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Conclusions (1)

- ANSE is a scale for measuring nursing students attitudes towards elderly
- ANSE has three domains

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Conclusion (2)

Results:

- Attitude towards the elderly becomes more positive during the process of education and training.
- The effect is maintained during second year

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Conclusions (3)

A negative attitude is based upon information and requires a positive (counter) information campaign:

- The perception of elderly by nursing students can be influenced in a positive way at the start of the training.
- Intergenerational contacts against ageism.
- Selection nursing homes as clinical ward

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From 2012 on

- Generalistic programma
- Focus not on biomedical deficit
- Gerontological topics included in different courses
- Increasing number of students enrolled in geriatric courses
 - 2012-2013: 26
 - 2013-2014: 31
 - 2014-2015: 16
 - 2015-2016: 49

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From 2016 on

- New programme
- 4 years
- Geriatric topics in specialised courses and general courses

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Thank you



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