

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTORS OF WELL-BEING IN OLDER PEOPLE
OF RURAL AREAS

Caterina Laicardi, University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Relocation is one of the most important critical environmental transitions for individuals of all ages, but especially for individuals over the age of 65. The purpose of this study was to identify some indicators of well-being for older individuals living in two rural communities--similar in social but different in geographic and physical characteristics. Five hundred ninety participants were tested with a multiphasic social inventory. On the basis of this inventory, two groups of subjects, with high and low levels of well-being, were selected and their sociological conditions were studied.

Results revealed that indicators of well-being included: absence of recent relocation; centrality to the main community; and participation in informal, social activities. The variables of age, gender, civil status, and presence of a parent in the household, showed no significant relationship with well-being.