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Informal and Formal Care of Older People Living at Home in Iceland.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to analyze the patterns of informal and formal IADL and PADL care of older people living at home in Iceland and to describe how help and care varies depending on the degree of limitations, the gender of the recipient and whether she/he is cohabitating or not. Marginalization of older people with needs of care will be discussed.

Method: A random nationally representative survey 'Icelandic Older People' (ICEOLD) among persons 65+ living in their homes in Iceland is used. A telephone interview was conducted with 782 individuals, 441 woman and 341 men, 65-98 years of age. The response rate was 66%. The participants were asked about their living standards, limitations and the help they received from formal and informal care givers. The study is based on descriptive analysis.

Results: The majority of the respondents with IADL or PADL limitations received *either* informal *or* formal help but not both, indicating substitution rather than complementation. The results show that cohabiting men are much likelier to receive informal IADL help and much less likely to receive formal help than men not cohabiting. More persons receive informal care than formal care, which shows the importance of the family. When the IADL limitations increase, the informal care increases for men but not for women.

Conclusion: The informal care provided by family and friends is an important factor in the total provision of care for older people. For men cohabitation is important for receiving informal care.