

**Conclusion.** The prospects for using social network modeling are vast, some of which have already found practical application. However, the next step should be aimed at ensuring safety everywhere in the virtual society, since our future, in many respects, is in social networks.

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## **ELDERLY CITIZENS AS AN OBJECT OF SOCIAL WORK**

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Keywords: socio-demographic structure, old age, loneliness.

Currently, such a category of citizens as the elderly occupies an important place in a number of social and demographic strata and groups. Naturally, this community has its own structural components, which include the most diverse socio-demographic layers. And one of the main signs by which the strata of society can be distinguished is the age of a person. By examining this category of citizens in the present time, we will gain knowledge about how elderly people feel and identify the level of need for social work with elderly citizens [1].

To date, official statistical sources say that the number of retired people in the Republic has significantly decreased. The number of elderly citizens registered with the labor, employment and social protection authorities in August 2021 amounted to 2 million 425.3 thousand people. It is noted that this is the minimum value in the history of Belarus. But it is also noted that the percentage of pensioners in the total population of the Republic of Belarus has not become minimal – now it is 26.0 [2].

The purpose of this study is to study the problems and social well-being of elderly citizens living in the Pervomaisky district of the city of Vitebsk.

The decrease in the number of retired people can be explained by several reasons: 1) increasing the retirement age. Belarus, like many European countries, has faced the problem of population aging in recent decades. For this reason, in 2017 it was decided to gradually raise the retirement age of citizens. This process will be completed in 2022. By that time, the retirement age will be 63 years for men and 58 years for women. 2) general demographic deterioration in Belarus. According to the National Statistical Committee, 94.042 thousand were born in Belarus in 2018. a person, which is the lowest indicator since 2005 And, unfortunately, this indicator is decreasing. 3) The COVID-19 pandemic. In

elderly citizens, the risk of developing serious complications and death as a result of COVID-19 coronavirus infection is several times higher than in young and middle-aged people, with an equal probability of contact with the new virus. Mortality from coronavirus infection in people 80 years and older reaches 15%, while in people younger than 50 years it is less than 0.5% [3].

**Material and methods.** In order to study the problems and social well-being of elderly citizens living in the Pervomaisky district of the city of Vitebsk, I conducted a sociological study.

32 people took part in this survey, of which 71% were women, 29% were men. The predominant age of respondents is 66-75 years.

**Findings and their discussion.** One of the important problems of the elderly is the maintenance of an acceptable material standard of living. Based on the survey, out of the total number of respondents, 78% use social support measures based on some kind of preferential status, that is, they receive monthly social benefits in addition to pensions.

But the survey showed that older people are not satisfied with their financial situation, and therefore 28% of respondents continue their work.

The psychological well-being of elderly people also depends on their marital status. 27% of respondents are married, only 1% are in a civil marriage. It is in old age that a person needs a family most of all. This phenomenon is explained by the fact that the old energy and strength are disappearing. 38% are widows, which is a fairly high figure, while 97% of women and only 3% of men are in the group of respondents on this issue. This can be explained by the longevity of women, which is observed in many CIS countries.

One of the factors of well-being of elderly people is the factor of living conditions, that is, a single elderly person or living in a family. Most of the respondents (92%) have children, but quite a few people live together with children.

Naturally, it is much easier for elderly people to live in a family, both financially and psychosocially, which is much more appreciated in older age. Communication with children, upbringing of grandchildren, care during illness – all this has a positive effect on the elderly. However, based on the survey, care turns out to be, as well as children to their elderly parents, and vice versa.

42% of respondents are single citizens. These are elderly people who do not have immediate relatives, or who have children, but do not maintain relationships with them. Such citizens need special attention from state social protection institutions. The survey asked the question: “Whose opinion is most important to you?” The most important social group turned out to be family, 70% of respondents said so, followed by friends (16%). 12% of respondents chose the answer “No one”, which indicates typical personal manifestations of older people, namely self-interest, egocentricity.

As for the health of the elderly, the majority of respondents answered “satisfactory”, and no one chose the answer “very bad”. This phenomenon suggests that elderly people tend to assess their state of health from the best position.

Unfortunately, currently older people are faced with disrespectful attitude towards themselves. This is stated by 48% of respondents, almost half. Most often, elderly people meet such a negative attitude on public transport.

Checking the emotional state, the question was asked: “How do you look to the future?”. Here opinions were divided into “optimistic” and “I find it difficult to answer.” None of the respondents chose the third option “with pessimism”.

**Conclusion.** Thus, I conducted a survey to identify problems and sociopsychological well-being in old age. The study confirmed that retirement is a difficult period when work activity ceases, the circle of communication narrows to the closest relatives, neighbors and is limited to a few friends. A large number of social connections are being lost. The family and its values acquire the greatest importance [4].

Almost half of elderly citizens have experienced negative, disrespectful attitude towards themselves in public places.

Despite all the difficulties experienced by the elderly, they look with optimism at their lives, help their children and grandchildren.

Elderly people as an object of social work are not only numerous, but also very complex. The aging process is associated with changes occurring in the body, leading to a weakening of human social functions. Any aging person is characterized by changes in the central nervous system, which leads to depression, memory loss and loss of some skills. Modern work in the social sphere is multidisciplinary in nature, requiring social workers to perform a variety of tasks, have professional skills and the ability to scientifically substantiate social practices.

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## **PECULIARITIES OF NONVERBAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN THE COVID PANDEMIC**

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**Keywords:** nonverbal communication, pandemic aftereffects, facial expressions, distance, gestures, paralinguistics.

The use of nonverbal means of communication has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of the process of education, we unavoidably observe the change in majority of branched of nonverbal communication. While verbal communication has not suffered visible changes, gestures and facial ex-