

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Barcelona Societat originated in 1993 as a platform to systematically disseminate the results of many studies, to use statistics and research to comprehend the reality of Barcelona, and to put them at the disposal of specialists, organisations and researchers. From that time on, information, commentaries, criticism, and analyses have been appearing which have contributed to knowledge about developing social projects in the city and have allowed for the understanding and sharing of a complex comprehensive reality.

Barcelona Societat has made good inroads in this regard and desires to go on being as determined as ever because an attentive look at our surroundings is a commitment of municipal government and characterizes the way municipal policy, and more specifically, social policy, operates. This is the reason that the 11th issue of Barcelona Societat has become one of the main elements in disseminating the information of Barcelona Observatory, a new working tool which will help development and decision-making in local social policy-making.

Today we present the 11th issue of Barcelona Societat, which contains a monograph devoted to the elderly. The first dossier was devoted to this sector of the population, which is undoubtedly one of the most strategic in the city, for everything that affects both the people in this age group and their potential. It has been years since the first issue came out and the reality of the lives of the elderly has been improving. Coinciding with the World Assembly on Ageing that is being held this year in Madrid, it is a good time to reconsider the question, and to do so by using the present situation as a point of departure to plan for the future, with plans that will be more far-reaching. Barcelona Societat aims to make more in-depth analyses of the reality that people experience in different sectors of the city's population, and to do this with the participation of all the experts whose contribution to knowledge allows us to administer the results and pass the best instruments for reflection and planning on to the appropriate bodies and local public policy authorities.

LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE ELDERLY IN BARCELONA

Ana Collado and Elena Sintes

The article sets out the results of the year 2000 study "Living Conditions for the Elderly in the City of Barcelona", which was prepared by the Barcelona Institute of Metropolitan and Regional Studies. The socio-demographic characteristics of this population group, its position within the social structure, the main features of family environment, its relationship with the labour market, and income are analysed. It also studies the distribution of

time on a daily basis: domestic chores, leisure-time activities, types of social relationships, and participation in associations. The present situation of the group and changes in the period between the last two surveys (1995 y 2000) were analysed.

The data clearly demonstrates that the elderly show great heterogeneity and their living conditions and habits are related more to social factors than with biological ageing. Gender, age, educational level, social status and the type of family organisation or living situation mark the diversity of the group. Women live longer but have poorer health and sense of well being. The lowest categories show greater ageing from the sociological point of view than at higher socio-economic levels, where women are more independent and active. Age, both in its chronological and social aspects mark differences: the group from 65 to 74 years of age shows a better position in the social structure (higher educational level, income and social status), consumption patterns and more extensive and active relationship networks.

The integration of new generations to this age group begins to mark a significant transformation in living conditions and social habits.

FAMILY ECONOMIC CAPACITY IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA, 1988-1996

Àngels Santigosa

The Statistics Department of the Barcelona City Council, in collaboration with the Statistics and Operational Research Department of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, has calculated a composite index to measure the economic capacity of families in the city.

The article presents the results of the research that compares the changes in the index of family economic capacity (ICEF in Catalan) for 1988, 1991 and 1996.

The objectives of the study are twofold: to analyse in detail what the distribution of economic capacity in the city of Barcelona has been for each one of the years under consideration and to study the changes in family economic capacity in diverse territorial divisions of the city (census tract, small statistical areas, large statistical areas and districts).

In order to set up the index, six variables were used: socio-professional category, automobile horsepower, average age of automobile, average rateable value of the construction, services inside the dwelling, average rateable land value of the dwelling, and the family telephone bill.

With these variables, the index of family economic capacity was estimated by the application of one of the best-known methods of multivariate analysis: the analysis of main components, which consists of finding a common factor that has the maximum correlation to the original variables, and therefore, synthesizes the information they provide.

THE ELDERLY IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Pep Gómez

In this issue, a brief demographic analysis appears on the population over 65 years old in the city of Barcelona. Data are presented that refer to the city of Barcelona and its districts as well as comparative data belonging to other European cities.

Changes in this sector of the population in the last nineteen years are analysed, and changes in the major population groups are studied, presenting the indexes of ageing and overageing as well as the index of the elderly living alone in this group. Whenever it has been possible, the information has been treated by gender. Lastly, a chart is presented with the major statistical areas (neighbourhoods), containing the main indicators of this sector of the population.

The article clearly shows the important changes in the population structure of Barcelona. The number of elderly people has increased and so has its relative importance, whereas the 0 to 4 year-old group has declined. In 1991, elderly people made up 17.4% of the population and in 2000, they rose to 21.9%. The rise in life expectancy contributed to the growth of the specific importance of elderly people, but so has the number of people of advanced age: people of 75 or more made up 46.9% of the elderly in the year 2000, and more than half are women.

NEW TRENDS IN CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING INTO PRACTICE SOCIAL POLICIES FOR THE ELDERLY IN EUROPE

Ricard Gomà and Joan Subirats

The article starts with an analysis of changes, the current situation, the symptoms caused by the restructuring of the welfare state in Europe in order to define the role of local governments in the development of social policies focussing specifically on the sphere of the elderly. After analysing various welfare models in Europe, the authors maintain that welfare has stopped being a global demand and has instead become a personal and community demand that is organised around everyday life, and new trends in social policy for elderly must be situated in this global framework of restructuring welfare policies. In this regard, the article also defends heterogeneity, and the dissimilar prospects of the elderly, as premises to be used before drawing up social policies for them.

According to the authors, this strategic outlook should take into account differences and the diversity of needs, and to do this, they set out a segmentation of basic and intermediary needs and point out the social conditions that may favour the satisfaction of these needs. Basically, they refer to the existence of sufficient resources; attitudes and values that make develop-

ment possible; the existence of a recognised legitimate political authority to make it possible; the recognition of the right to access resources, and to satisfy political and civil rights.

The authors conclude that policies for the elderly must have components of promotion, anticipation, and care in a framework of participation that allows for connecting people to their immediate surroundings in the community, which is a place where decision-making should take into account the heterogeneity of the group within its local habitat.

THE ELDERLY, FAMILIES, AND SOCIAL CARE IN POST-MODERN SOCIETIES

Astrid Lindström

The article analyses and reflects upon the relationship between demographic changes and models of society, and on the impact of certain social policies.

It clearly shows the need to take into account the fact—which tends to be forgotten—that the ageing of the population is a social phenomenon in which life expectancy and low birth rates are combined. It also demonstrates the little interest that is shown in the transformation taking place within families. The low birth rate and the demand for old people's homes indicate the difficulty that families have to care for their children, parents and other dependants, and to make these responsibilities compatible with the obligations that the labour market imposes.

The sustainability of a certain Mediterranean model of society is analysed. The changes in family policies and policies for the elderly in Scandinavian countries are described. If it is thought that the best thing for the elderly is to be able to live the most time possible in their usual surroundings and to be able to support themselves, adapted housing and community services are necessary. The analysis clearly shows the need to combine "life-cycle policies" with "active labour market policies" by means of the so-called new sources of jobs and new alternatives in the sphere of nearby services and community programmes, in order to improve quality of life.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES WITH THE ELDERLY

Alan Walker

Participation of the elderly poses a challenge in European Union countries, which will have to analyse and adapt their strategies to the new reality: the ageing of society.

During the first half of the twentieth century, the situation of the elderly was social exclusion since they stopped taking part in the social and political process when they retired from their jobs. However, after the Second World War, pressure groups defending the interests of the elderly

began to spring up. At present, work is being done on the basis of a new policy for old age, which is being considered with two different perspectives: the active participation of the elderly and governmental intervention to favour a policy that increases their participation.

The increase in participation by the elderly is being favoured by the fact that many adults are retiring early and enjoy better health and higher cultural levels, but also because of negative developments in economic policy.

Nevertheless, there are obstacles that compromise the participation of the elderly. These are the heterogeneity of this group, the lack of political influence, the lack of formal channels of political representation, physical limitations and conservatism.

Unitary movements of the elderly still have an uncertain future, but their desire to participate more actively in society is a challenge for present systems of political representation.

Lastly, the role of specialists must be reconsidered so they join the decision-making process along with the people affected: patients, family members and people who take care of them.

THE HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY. RESULTS OF THE 2000 BARCELONA HEALTH SURVEY

Antoni Plasencia and Carme Borrell

The 2000 Barcelona Health Survey is the fourth health survey backed by the Barcelona City Council. The 10,000 interviews that were carried out among the 1,508,805 inhabitants registered in Barcelona and the possibility of having data from previous surveys (1983, 1986 and 1992) allowed for obtaining significant data on health and its determining factors.

In this article, data from the survey of people who are 65 and over are analysed, hence making it possible to know the state of perceived health, the level of social support, the rate of chronic disorders, and the restrictions and limitations of daily activities in this population group.

According to the results, 54.4% of men and 40.9% of women who are 65 years of age or more declare that their state of health is very good or good; this rate diminishes as they age. Women declare a poorer state of health than men, taking into account both perceived health and the number of chronic disorders, restrictions and limitations of activity, and mental health disorders.

The most disadvantaged social classes show a poorer state of health. There are also significant differences between different districts of the city.

Of the people who declare they need help for daily activities, 13.6% say they do not receive help of kind. The people who look after them are women in 70.3% of the cases and 68.9% of carers are family members.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IN BARCELONA

Carme Borrell, Josep Gómez, Cristina Minguell, Antoni Plasència, Aina Plaza, Elisabeth Vallès and Jordi Vizcaíno

This article is a synthesis of the document, "Public Health Care for the Elderly. Diagnosis of Needs", prepared by a multidisciplinary team during the year 2000 and backed by the Barcelona Health Care Consortium.

The aim of the work is an analysis of the current needs of the elderly in Barcelona. This analysis takes into account the supply and demand of social and health care services.

The article begins with a description of the most general aspects of health and the demography of the elderly in Barcelona. It then forms population groups according to needs, considering the degree of dependence in global cross-sections or categories, and the volume of potential users for each one of the typologies is estimated. A brief description of the existing offer of public health services is also presented as well as an analysis of their use. A synthesis of aspects related to co-ordinated care is included, in addition to the overlapping between services. The description ends with the valuation of the relation existing between identified needs and the coverage of present services.

HEALTH AND MOBILITY OF THE ELDERLY IN BARCELONA

Antoni Plasencia and Anna Ferrer

This article compiles the principal results of a study on mobility related to health and the frequency of traffic accidents among the elderly. The recommendations of the Barcelona Advisory Board for the Elderly gave rise to the need to study the subject of mobility and street use by the elderly, one of the groups with the highest priority in the Road Safety Plan. The Barcelona City Council receives an annual mobility survey for Barcelona and the metropolitan area which is carried out by the Institute of Metropolitan Research of Barcelona. The survey gathers information on the behaviour and opinions of the inhabitants regarding traffic and urban mobility. Therefore, it contributes data on passenger trips and the means of transport most used by the elderly.

The results show a differentiated pattern of mobility among the elderly: 81.5% travel on foot and 15% use public transport; only 5% use private vehicles. Many of the elderly think of themselves as pedestrians; however, women are the ones who define themselves in this way (91%), thus conforming to the gender pattern shown in other age groups. It was also observed that age conditions trips made outdoors, limiting urban mobility. Health problems and certain functional disorders determine the reduced capacity that is linked to mobility. The article approaches the reality, in this age

group, of being accident-prone and it makes recommendations on prevention and on promoting a safer and more accessible city.

THE BARCELONA ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE ELDERLY

Montserrat Borràs

The city of Barcelona has a great associational tradition, and the government of the city has always counted on the participation of the social forces in the community since it understands that civic-minded and socially aware participation is a key factor in helping the city to face its challenges and to carry out effective social policies.

In this article, the experience of the Barcelona Advisory Board is summarised. This Board is a consulting participatory organ of the Barcelona City Council which focusses on questions regarding social problems of the elderly in the city, and more specifically for those spheres and functions that mean an improvement in welfare and quality of life for this sector of the population.

For the Barcelona City Council, the participatory boards are instruments that act as a vehicle for the participation of the population in the municipal sphere. These organisms are officially recognised, and are made up of representatives of citizens' associations, of people of recognised experience, political representatives and technical personnel from municipal services. They analyse, orientate, and carry out proposals for improving policies and social programmes.

The article describes the objectives, the organisational structure, and the development of the Advisory Board for the Elderly from the time their regulatory norms were approved in 1990 as well as their working plans and proposals for the future.

THE 2001-2003 MUNICIPAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ELDERLY

Jordi Vizcaíno

In this section, the main elements of the 2001-2003 Municipal Programme for the Elderly are summarised. This is one of the plans in the Personal Services programme of the Barcelona City Council. These programmes order and structure the central issues that must be acted upon, as well as the procedural guidelines used for different sectors of the population for the key thematic sectors in municipal policy, thus constituting a strategic planning resource. It includes the analysis of the framework and the present situation as they refer to the characteristics and needs of this population group and the operative development of the central issues of performance, strategic guidelines and actions. Three levels of key actions are taken into account in social policy: attending to the social needs and problems, preventing exclu-

sionary situations and processes, and promoting participation in the community. The prioritised guidelines with a view to developing programmes and services for the elderly in Barcelona that stand out are: information and improvement of accessibility, the promotion of resources for social cohesion and participation, encouraging the use of the city, the consolidation of nearby services, and increasing the network of facilities. Developing strategies for comprehensive planning of municipal services must be co-ordinated and be of high quality.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH: SOCIAL POLICIES FOR THE ELDERLY; SOCIAL WELFARE MODELS, PROGRAMMES, SOCIAL SERVICES PLANS...

The Barcelona City Council General Library

In this section, the documentary research on the subject of living conditions of the elderly is set out, as well as the policies addressed to this sector of the population. This is the continuation of the work already carried out by the General Library of the Barcelona City Council in 1993 on the quality of life of the elderly, which was published in the first issue of *Barcelona Societat*. For this reason, the information from 1994 to today as regards books, monographs, magazine articles, reports and web pages on the subject is being considered. To carry out this work, several databases and library catalogues, such as the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), the catalogue of the Barcelona City Council General Library, the unified catalogue of Barcelona Provincial Council network, the unified catalogue of Catalan universities, and others. Documentary databases on the Internet, through Iberpac and on CD-ROMs have also been examined.

SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA

Maribel García

The article presents the main results and considerations derived from a study on school absenteeism carried out in 1999 by GRET (an educational research group)

of the ICE (Institute of Educational Sciences) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona through the initiative of the Barcelona Municipal Institute of Education.

The study analyses the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of school absenteeism as well as the practice of intervention of school officers and the administration in socially disadvantaged areas in the city. To do this, the researcher proceeded to gather information by means of a semi-structured interview, which was carried out at a total of nineteen public primary schools and nine secondary schools in five areas previously selected by means of indicators of social inequalities.

The results of the study clearly show, among other things: 1) The difficulty of having a shared definition among schools for the quantification and control of absenteeism, particularly in secondary schools, which then contributes to its going unnoticed. 2) The dispersion and the unequal concentration of absenteeism in public schools, even in the heart of the same zone. 3) The specificity of absenteeism in secondary schools, which duplicates the number of cases in primary education, and is characterised by the appearance of new forms of absenteeism and more situations of chronic absenteeism linked to the process of applying the educational reform and raising the school-leaving age to 16. 4) The practice of joint operations by elementary schools or secondary schools with the social services in some areas by the creation of commissions in which some services and programmes of educational support also participate.

The article ends by presenting a summary of some elements that constitute the minimum requisites to consider for the prevention of, and operations against, school absenteeism in socially disadvantaged areas.

URBAN SPACE AND SAFETY. AN APPROXIMATION FROM THE BARCELONA VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Josep M. Lahosa

In this study, the relationship between urban space and safety is analysed by using the data of the Barcelona Victimization Survey as a basis. From 1984 onwards, an annual measurement on victimization and public opinion on urban safety has been taken. Throughout the years, the methodological model has been perfected and advances have been made in research procedures after incorporating new objectives. In the last four years, the Survey has deepened knowledge of the perception that inhabitants have about their nearest public space: their neighbourhood, and has attempted to identify what the elements are that produce safety, whether of a social type (the people, the activities, the use of space...) or physical and morphological characteristics of public space (lighting, street furniture, state of conservation, size...).

Among the conclusions that stand out is that it is the people who use the space that are one of main elements that generate safety. People feel safer in their own neighbourhood and it is difficult for them to identify unsafe places.

Open, well-lighted space provides more safety. The emblematic places in the city that are characterized by a profusion of people and by their central location are perceived as safe. Furthermore, it has been seen that changes in the urban structure and in public space have increased the feeling of safety.

1999 SURVEY OF SPORTS HABITS IN BARCELONA

María Teresa Fontán

This monograph describes the results of a survey carried out by the Barcelona City Council in 1999 that studied the habits and practice of sports among the Barcelona population. It enables the observation of changes by comparing data from the 1989 and 1995 surveys.

The aim was to obtain information on the practice of sports and find out about the habits, motivations and the determining factors in the practice of sports, and at the same time, to determine the variables that have an effect on the interest taken in certain sports.

Knowledge about the population's habits, opinions and attitudes towards sports are of great interest in order to improve programmes and the management of aspects related to sports activities in Barcelona. The fact of having previous studies available has helped to carry out a developmental analysis that covers the period from before the Olympic Games to the present.

General data on the practice of sports, the level of regularity and the way of doing physical exercise are analysed as well as the attitudes and opinions on sport and the facilities to practice it.

Men, to a greater degree than women, define themselves as people who practice sport and they practice sport more than women do. However, the differences are fewer in last few years. The majority of people practice a sport or a physical activity occasionally or with regularity; 31% state that they do not practice a sport. The most common sports or physical activities are walking, swimming, keep-fit exercises and bicycle riding, followed by football, basketball, tennis, hiking and winter sports. The practice of sports is highly diversified. Differences, depending on gender or age group, were observed.