

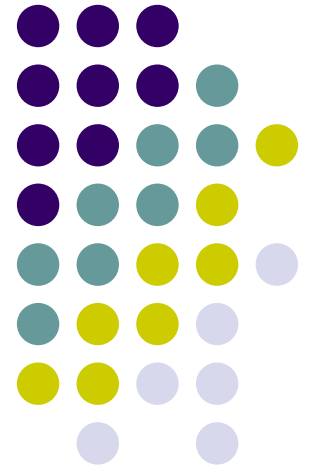


UCL
Université
catholique
de Louvain

Elderly care and work:

*a sustainable double commitment for
European women?*

Amandine Masuy



KATHOLIEKE
UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN



Outline

- European context
- Previous research on care-work relationship
- A life-stage and longitudinal approach
- The ECHP dataset
- Findings
- Discussion



European context

- Population ageing → increase in care needs
 - Deinstitutionalisation of health care
 - Emphasis on community care
 - Back to ‘family solidarities’

But

- Family structure and relationships have changed
 - Women remain first line’ **carers**
 - Most of them are **working**

*Is this **double commitment** sustainable?*



Previous research on care-work

- **Various approaches**
 - *Labour market studies*: effect of care on work aspects
 - *Psychologists*: 'strain' of the dual care-work career
 - *Econometricians*: opportunity cost of care
 - *Gerontologists*: effect of work on care decision
- **Does caring increase the probability of work exit for women?**
 - Often restrained to women near retirement/already carer
 - **No** significant *global effect* of care on work exit
 - Existence of a **threshold** (intensity of care)
 - Sign of the relationship: **income/respice effect** vs **substitution effect**



- **Income effect:** income from work allows paying for formal care (negative relationship)
- **Respite effect:** going to work allows taking a 'break' (negative relationship)
- **Substitution effect:** the opportunity cost of care is too high (very intensive care or no possibility to share the responsibility) and the double commitment is no longer possible (positive relationship)

A longitudinal & life stage approach



- **Why:** The nature of the caring activity
 - This status may **change** over time
 - Its effect on work is **not immediate**
 - Its effect on work may vary with the **life-stage**
- **How:** A discrete time event history analysis
 - Caring as a **time-varying** variable
 - Use of **lagged predictors**
 - Separated analyses by **age-groups**



Hypotheses

- H1: The **effect** of care on work exit depends is conditional to its intensity.
 - Being a carer *per se* does not affect work exit
 - But intensive care (2 hours+/week)
- H2: The **sign** of intensive care effect depends on the women's life stage.
 - A strong positive effect for 50+: less attached to work being close to retirement
 - A weaker effect/no effect among younger women: higher opportunity cost of care.

Data



European Community Household Panel

1994-2001 (ECHP) 8 waves

- **Representative samples:** Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom
- **Funded** by the European Union
- **Average response rate** (1994): 71%
- **Standard questionnaire** with information on individual and household characteristics: resources, social relations, education, health and work status, etc.

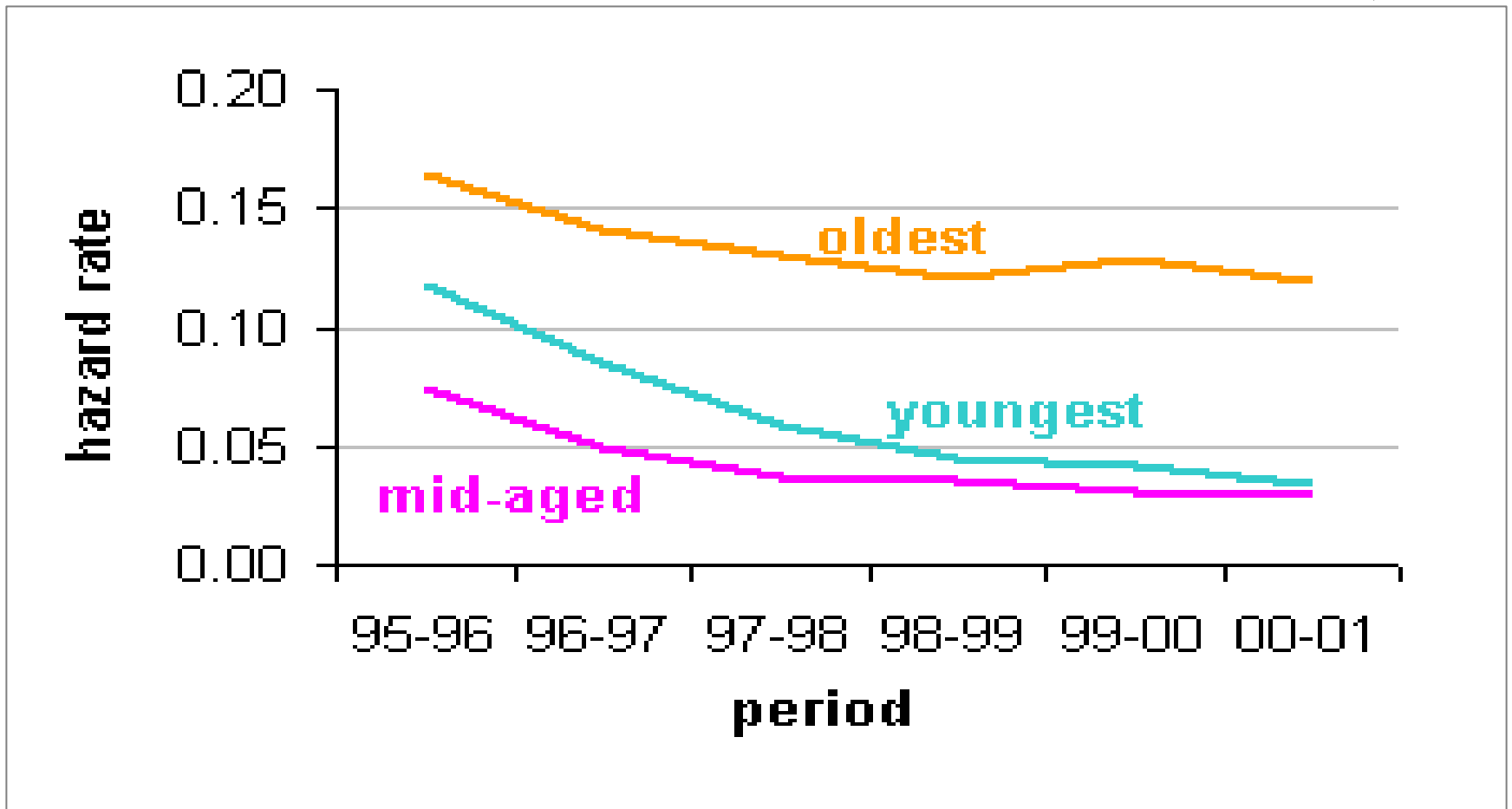


Model

- Discrete-time event history $\ln \frac{P_{it}}{1 - P_{it}} = \alpha_t + \sum_j \beta_j X_{ijt}$
- **Risk set:** 24,592 European women at work in 1994
(pooled sample)
- **Event:** 1st transition out of work from 1995 to 2001
(Odds Ratio: women ceasing work/women staying at work)
- **Life-stages** (age groups in 1994): <30 years, 30-49, 50+
- **Caring** (time-varying covariate):
 - *Do your present daily activities include, without pay, looking after persons who need help because of old age?*
 - *Number of weekly hours spent in care? (<2hours/2hours+)*
- **Controls:** education, health status, working-time, social class, activity sector, % contribution to household income, household size



Hazard rate of work exit





H1: No *global* effect of care but effect of care intensity

<i>Predictors</i>	Model		
	<i>Bivariate</i>	<i>Caring (global)</i>	<i>Caring intensity</i>
Cohort (rc: middle-aged)			
Youngest	1.66 ^{***}	1.60 ^{***}	
Oldest	3.38 ^{***}	2.60 ^{***}	
Level of care (rc: no care)			
2 hours+/week	1.49 ^{***}		1.11
<2 hours/week	0.88 [*]		0.83 ^{**}
any care	1.18 ^{***}	0.97	
Sample size		97,345	

Controls: time, time squared, health, education, support, occupational status, sector, working time, contribution to household income.

H2: The effect of care intensity varies across age-groups



Predictors	Age group					
	Youngest		Middle-aged		Oldest	
	Bivariate	Multivariate	Bivariate	Multivariate	Bivariate	Multivariate
	<i>Hazard rate</i>					
Heavy care	1.27	0.92	1.40 ^{***}	1.06	1.32 ^{***}	1.18 [*]
Light care	0.61 [*]	0.56 [*]	0.97	0.95	0.72 ^{***}	0.76 ^{**}
Sample size		25,151		56,172		16,022

Controls: time, time squared, health, education, support, occupational status, sector, working time, contribution to household income.



Key findings

- No global effect of caring on ceasing work
- Significant effect of care intensity
 - Lower risk when caring <2 hours/week (**young and old**)
 - ➔ Respite/income effect
 - Higher risk when caring 2 hours+/week (**old only**)
 - ➔ Anticipated retirement
 - No effect for the **middle-aged**
 - ➔ Higher attachment to work
- Effect of care duration and multiple roles were tested too but were not significant



Limitations

- **Data**

- Few information: on care recipient, relationship with carer, use of alternative care sources
- Short caring episodes might be ignored
- Absence of working retrospective history

- **Analyses**

- Pooled sample
- Age/ cohort effects are not distinguished
- Only the first exit during the observed period



Further research (PhD)

- Country specific situation (**Belgium**)
 - The 1992-02 *Panel Study of Belgian Households*
 - **Older adult cared-for** as analytic unit
 - Considering **all** the informal carers
 - Focus on changes in **informal care configuration** over time
 - Distinguishing **age** and **cohort effects** through comparison with the 2004-08 *Survey of Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe*
 - Investigation of the **institutional** context (and regional variations)
- *Maybe* **international comparisons**, afterwards

Thank you for your attention



- For further details
 - Paper accepted by *Ageing & Society* (2009)
 - amandine.masuy@uclouvain.be
- Any questions?
- Comments?

