Adults hold mixed views about ageing.

Less than half of adults express a positive view of ageing.

46% 35% 16% Negative view Neutral view Positive view

Over 70s are more positive about ageing than any other age group.



Centre for Ageing Better Source: Reframing ageing (2021)



41% 50-69 years

46% 435-49 years 18

44% 18-34 years

Over half of us think UK society is ageist.

13% think UK society is not ageist 55%

think UK society is ageist

Intergenerational conflict is seen frequently in the media and political discussions but does not reflect public opinion.

While a third of 18-34 year olds hold negative attitudes towards older generations, the majority do not.

54% of the public don't agree that older people today benefit at the expense of younger people.



80% of adults believe older people have a wealth of experience and perspectives to offer society today.



The majority of us think it is important for the government to respond to the UK's ageing population.

The public overwhelmingly agree it is important for the government to respond to the UK's ageing population (82% vs 3% who disagree).

Centre for Ageing Better Source: Reframing ageing (2021)



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50% of adults reject the idea that older people are an economic and social burden (with only 25% agreeing).



Twice as many think that society's structures determine how we age, rather than our life choices. Two thirds of the public agree that people's socio-economic circumstances affect their ability to age well.

Most people agree that ageing well is determined by your circumstances.

BAME adults are more likely than White adults to agree that older age is characterised by frailty, vulnerability, and dependency (45% vs 36%).

The alder you are the more likely

The older you are the more likely you are to view ageing as a process rather than a destination. However, overall, people often conflate ageing and older age without any real distinction between the two.

Ageing is living – a lifelong process of growth. Whatever our age, we all want good health, purpose and connection with others. We need to recognise the opportunities as well as the challenges of ageing and older age.