

**Changes in Family Solidarity in the Oldest Old**

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## Abstract

In this investigation, changes in family solidarity over time in the oldest old were examined. Participants consisted of 104 older adults in their nineties ( $n=50$ ,  $M=93.38$  years) and hundreds ( $n=54$ ,  $M=101.35$  years). Family support was assessed by the Family Solidarity Concept Frame (FSCF; Bengtson & Schrader, 1982). Three of the six FSCF subscales (Affectual Solidarity, Associational Solidarity, and Functional Solidarity) were selected for this study. Results suggested that centenarians living independently received significantly more help with errands and chores from relatives than centenarians residing in nursing homes. Moreover, centenarians also received more help than nonagenarians who lived independently and nonagenarians who resided in a care facility. Finally, even though centenarians residing in nursing homes received the least amount of assistance of all groups examined at Time 1, this group displayed the largest increase in assistance of all groups from Time 1 to Time 2. Future research needs to examine the relationship between those individuals with which the oldest old have regular contact and those with whom they have positive relationships.