

Social Companionship and Isolation among Old-Age People in European Countries

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Ageing of the population has become a global phenomena, which projected to continue in the foreseeable future;

It raises **concern** for the **welfare** of the senior population.

... Concurrently

It has prompted many countries to introduce **structural reforms** in their public social-security systems.

Why?

- In order to mitigate the expected increase in public expenditure on social and health services.
- To expand sources of funding for these services.

Structural reforms

- Changing in pension systems.
- Changeover from DB (defined-benefit) pension plans to DC (defined-contribution) schemes.
- Raising of the retirement age.

- Changes in the physical nature of work.
- Improvements in healthcare and life expectancy.

Social Companionship

Economic

Social Companionship

Economic

Health

Social Companionship

Economic

Health

Social Companionship

Cultural differences

Economic

Health

Social Companionship

Cultural differences

Caring

Economic

Health

Social Companionship

Cultural differences

Caring

Main Goals

- First, to gauge the **extent** of social companionship and disengagement in old age.
- Second, to generate **a profile** of people aged 50+ who report feeling lack of social companionship.
- Third, to **identify** predictors of such situations.

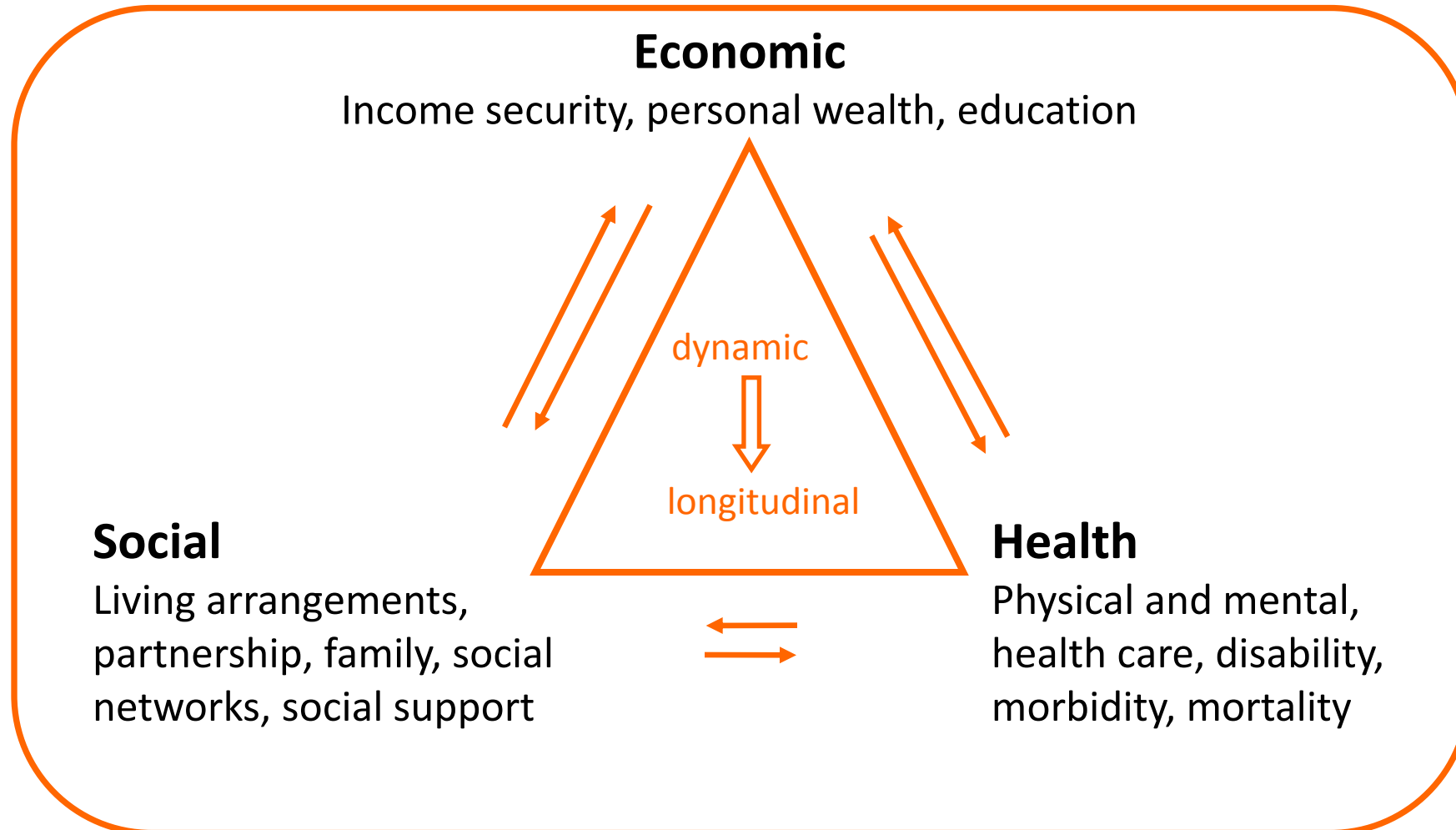
Social Companionship

the 5th wave of SHARE among respondents aged 50+, focuses on four questions that address the issue of *social companionship*:

- “How much of the time do you feel you lack companionship?” (MH034)
- “How much of the time do you feel left out?” (MH035)
- “How much of the time do you feel isolated from others?” (MH036)
- “How much of the time do you feel lonely?” (MH037)

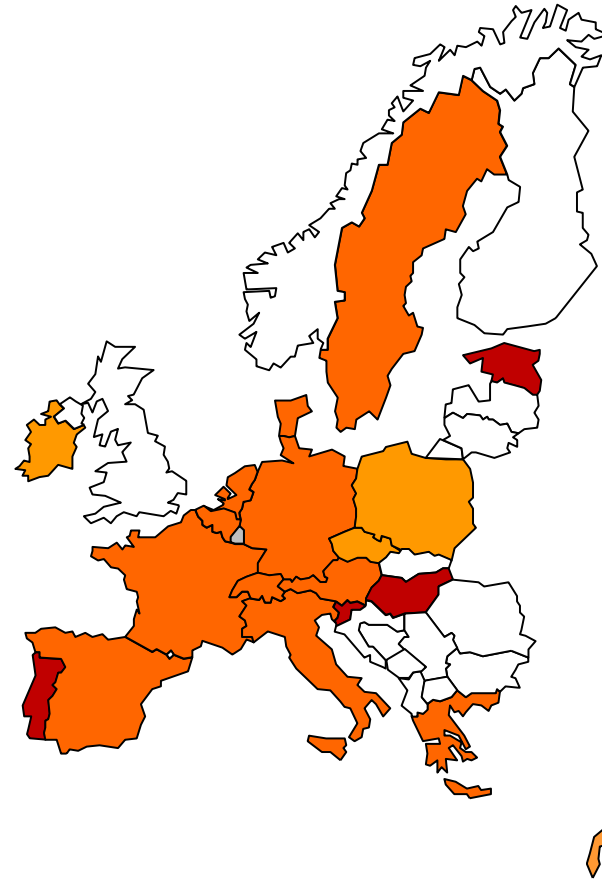
The Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

Context

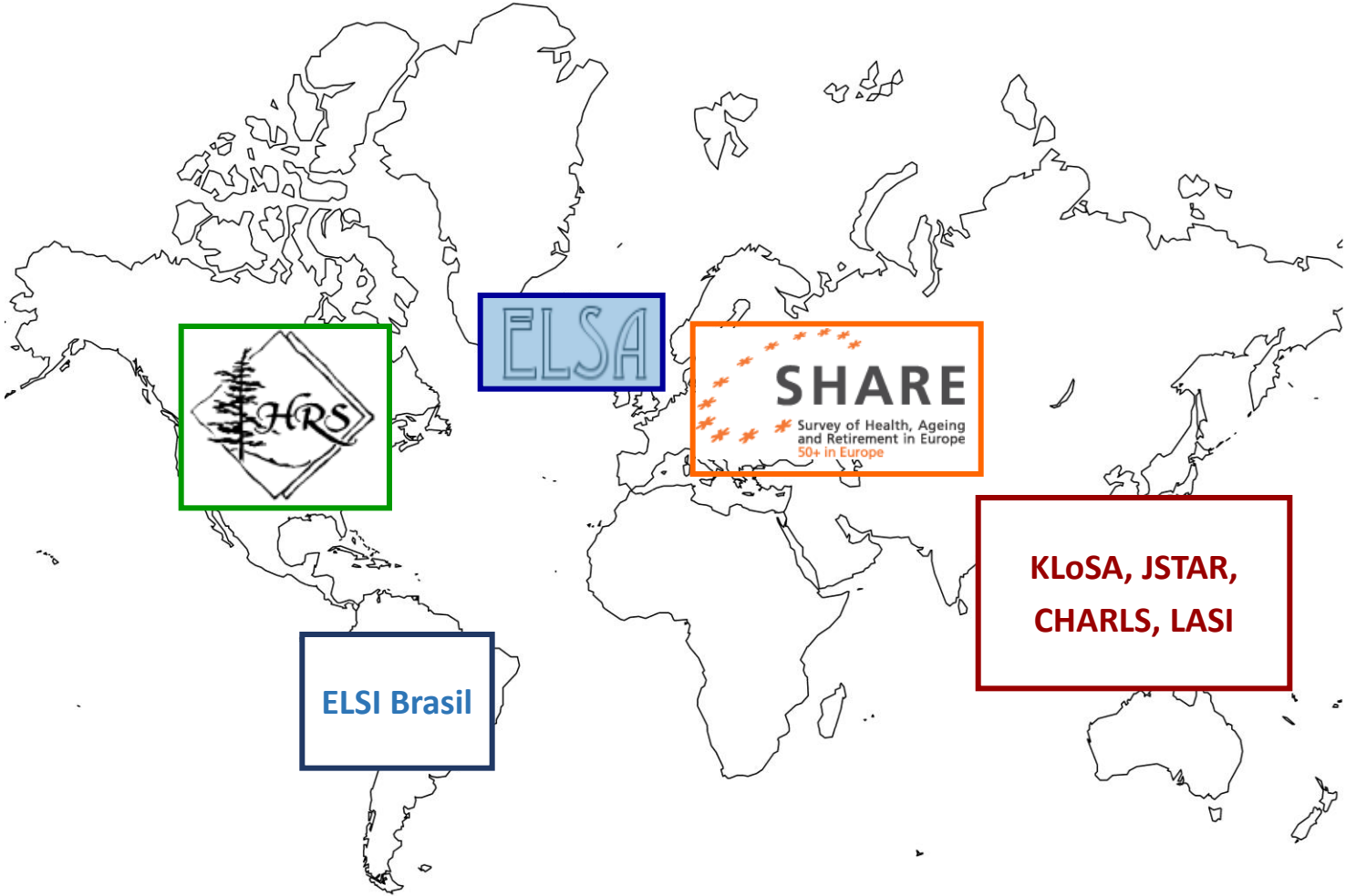


SHARE in the field

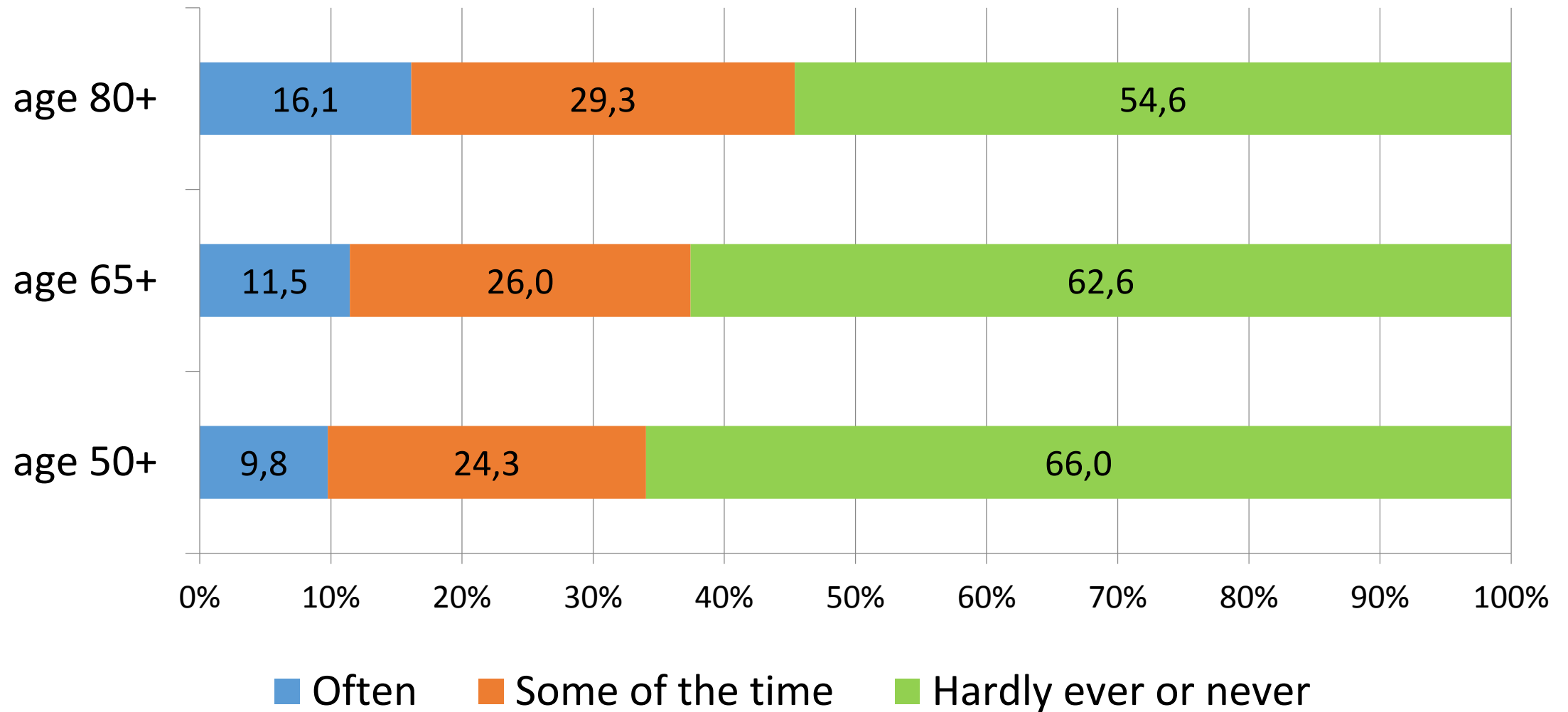
- ▶ **Wave 1, 2004-05**
SE, DK, NL, DE, BE, FR, CH, AT, ES, IT, GR
- ▶ **Wave 2, 2006-07**
+ IE, CZ, PL, IL
- ▶ **Wave 3, 2008-09**
Retrospective life histories
- ▶ **Wave 4, 2010-11**
+ PT, SI, HU, EE / - GR
- ▶ **Wave 5, 2013**
+ LU / - HU, PL, PT



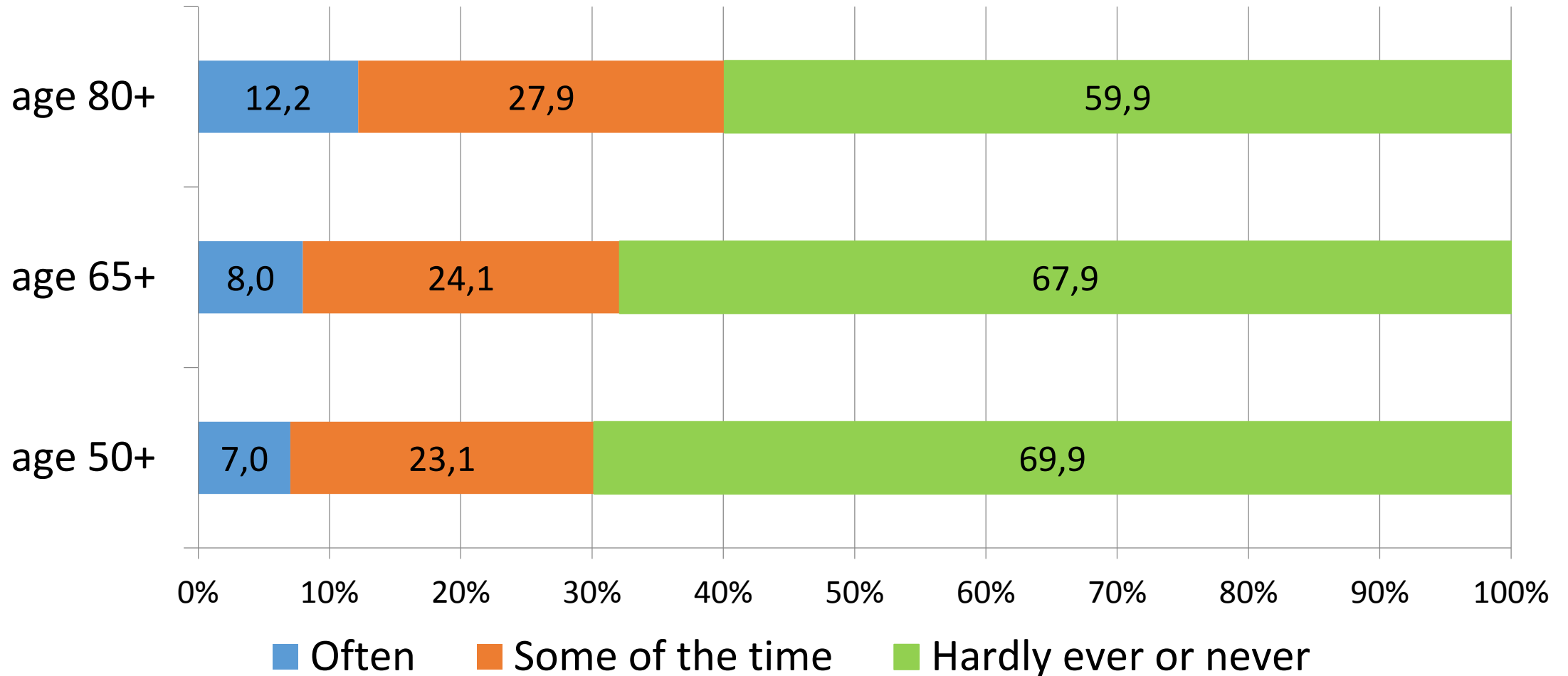
Co-operation: a global laboratory



Lack Companionship: **Non-Carers**

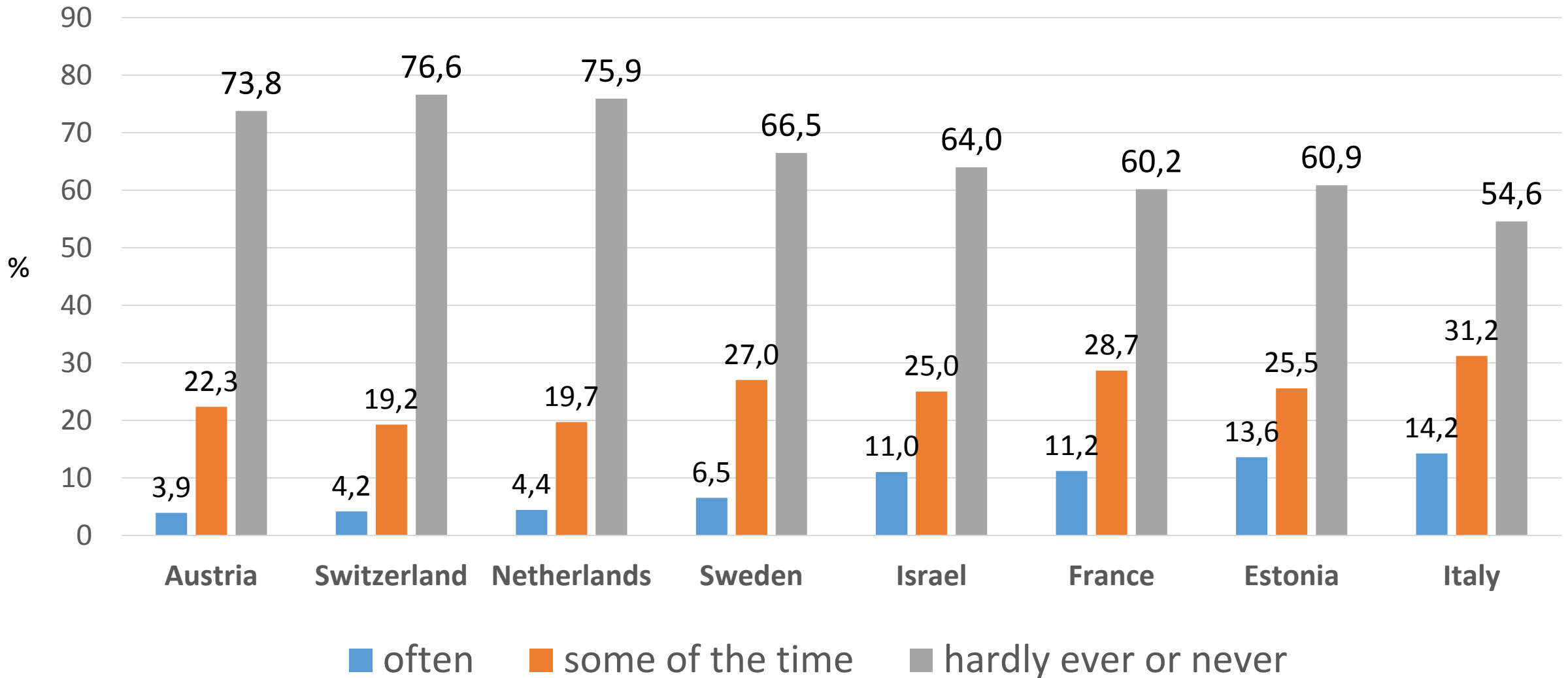


Lack Companionship: Carers

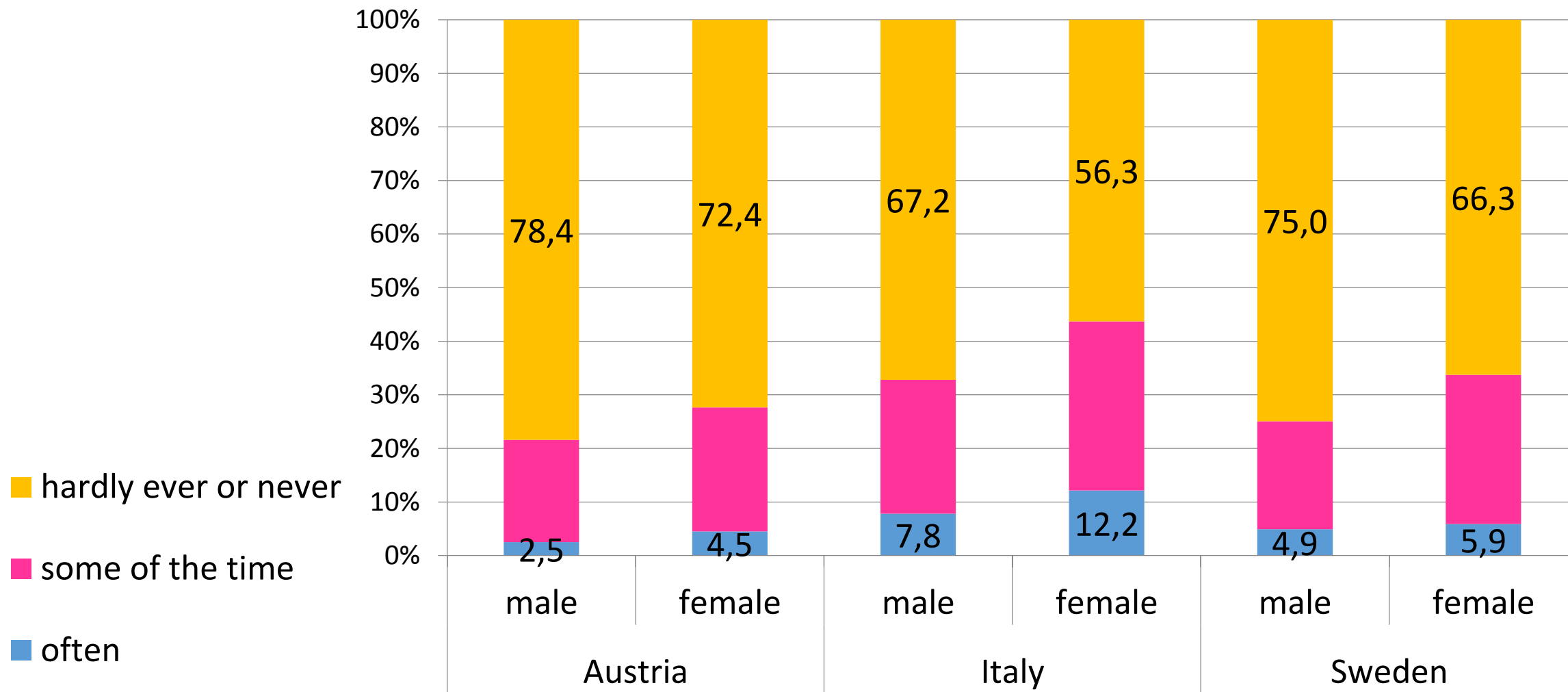


Feeling lack companionship
is significantly higher among
non-carers

LC: Carers & Cultural Differences, age 50+

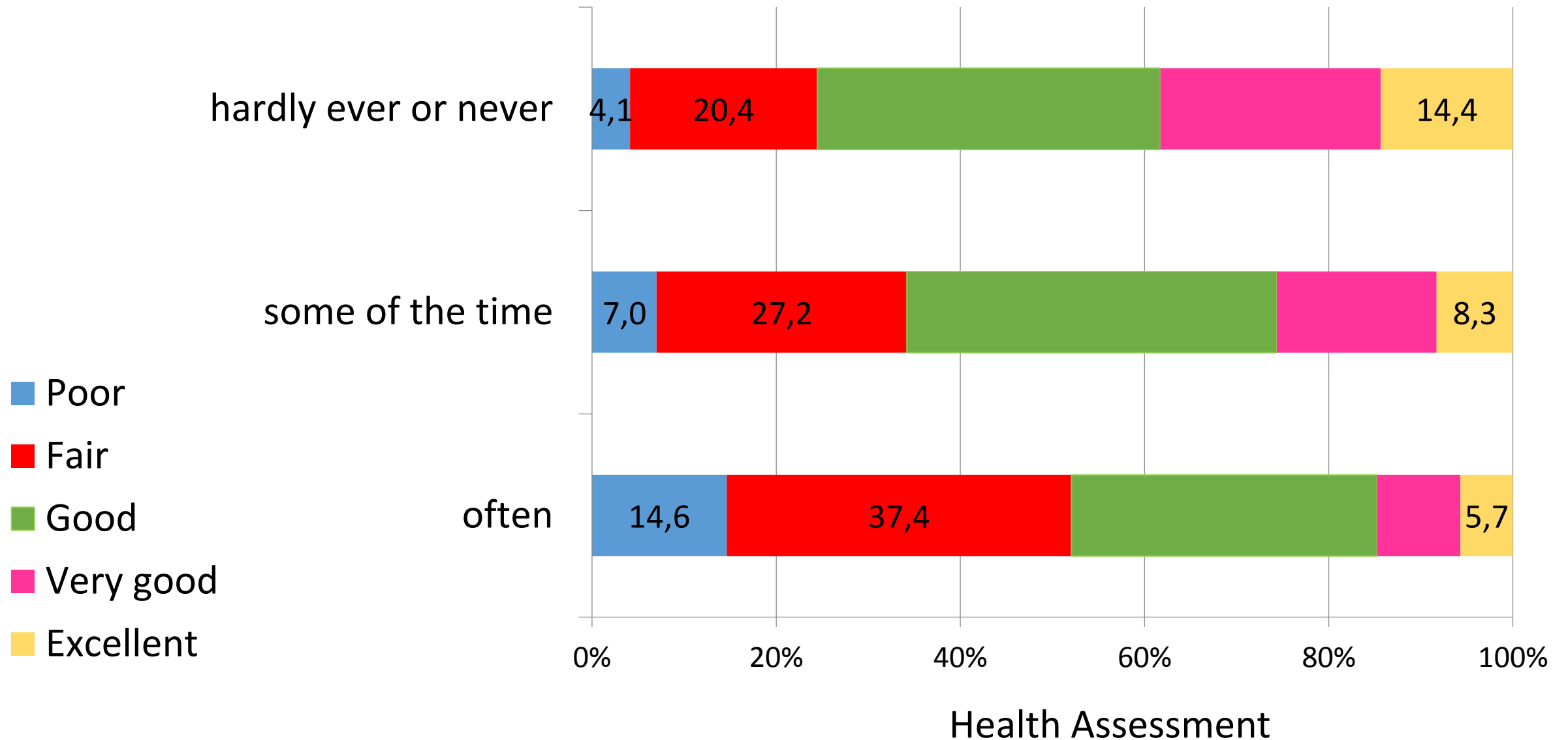


Lack companionship: Carers & Gender, age 50+



Feeling lack companionship
is significantly higher
among carers women

Lack Companionship, Carers: Health, age 50+



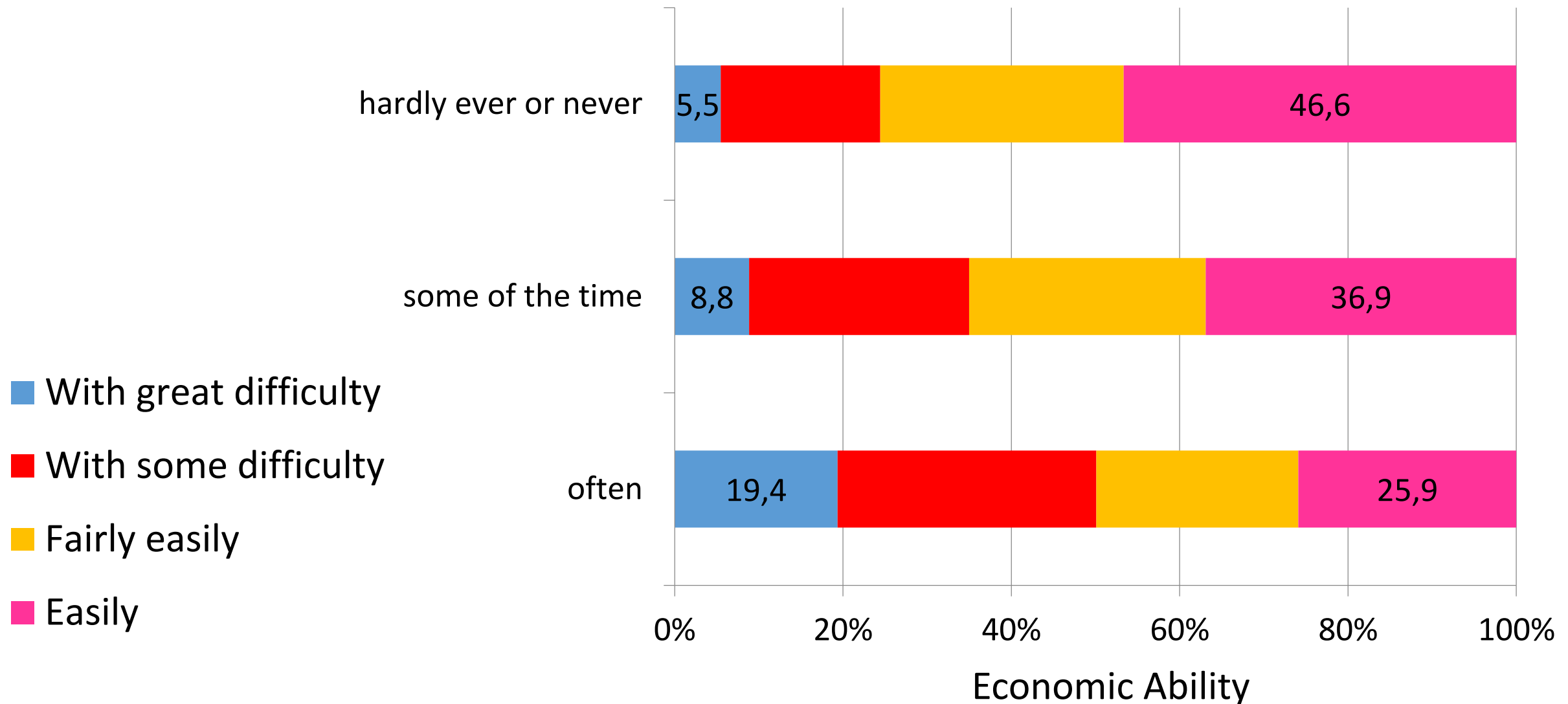
Feeling lack companionship
is significantly lower
among healthier carers

Economic Ability

Thinking of your household total monthly income, would you say your household is able to **make ends meet** ...

1. With great difficulty
2. With some difficulty
3. Fairly easily
4. Easily

Lack Companionship, Carers: Economic Ability, age 50+



Feeling lack companionship
is significantly positively
correlated with economic
ability among carers

“Take Home”

- **Social companionship has significant influence among carers as well as others.**
- **Feeling lack companionship is significantly higher among non-carers.**
- Feeling lack companionship is significantly higher among **carers** women.
- Feeling lack companionship is significantly lower among healthier **carers**.
- Feeling lack companionship is significantly positively correlated with economic ability among **carers**.