

# Older adults aged 80+ are 2.5x more likely to experience discrimination because of a physical disability

## The dimensions of discrimination – exploring the intersections between age and disability

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**elsa** English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

### Introduction

- Age discrimination has been linked to poorer short and long-term physical and mental health outcomes.
- There is little research on how experiences of disability interacts with other protected characteristics e.g. age.
- The Intersectional Stigma of Place-based Ageing (ISPA) project explores how stigma attached to where people live can intersect with experiences of disability and ageing.

### Methods

- N=10,068 respondents.
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) wave 5.
- Binary logistic regression models predicting individuals' experiences of discrimination in relation to factors such as age and having a disability or sensory impairment.
- Preliminary findings from ELSA have been examined alongside qualitative findings from directives within the Mass Observation Project database.

### Results

- 78% reported experiencing some form of discrimination e.g. being treated with less courtesy (49%) or harassment (22%).
- Age discrimination was most common, 62% attributed their experiences of discrimination to age.
- Age, sex, disability, and education were significant in predicting experiences of physical disability discrimination, whereas only age and Government office region significantly predicted age discrimination.

Physical disability discrimination Odds Ratios	
Age 80+	2.5**
Sex: female	0.8*
Disability	10.5***
School level education	0.7**
Higher education	0.5***
Degree	0.5***

#### Reference groups:

age 50-54, male, non-disabled, no qualifications

#### NS control variables:

ages 55-79, foreign/other qualifications, Government office region

### Conclusion

- ELSA data shows patterns of intersectional stigma aligning with qualitative data on lived experience of older adults.
- Insights collected from a range of sources will help generate place-based practical solutions for tackling intersectional stigma and inequality via accessible homes and communities.

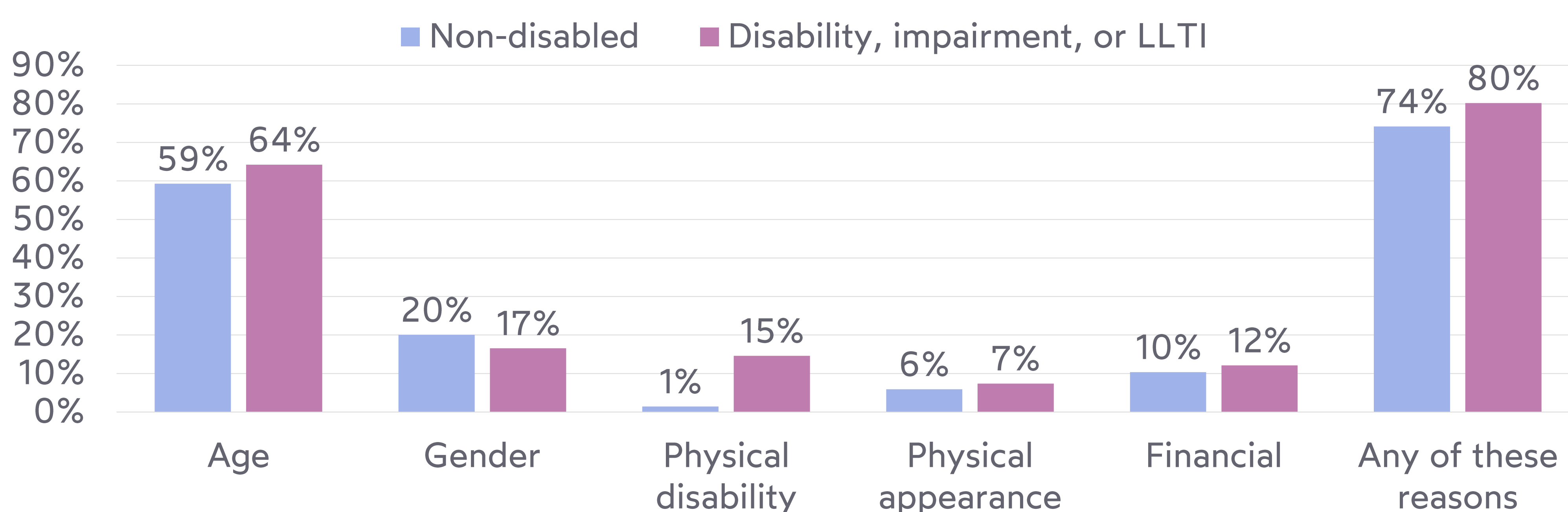
“One or two of the staff treated the older folk like children and spoke to them as such i.e. talked down to them – I found that one or two of the Sisters spoke this way to me until I more or less stood up for myself then they were very different.” (1984 Spring Directive)



“As someone with long-term health problems, I would say that most people seem to have very little understanding of what it is like to be chronically sick and disabled – even my GP seems to think I must be putting it on and seems to find it hard to believe that someone of my age can be so debilitated.” (1998 Autumn Directive, Part 2)



Types of discrimination experienced by disabled and non-disabled respondents



**sfha** Scottish Federation of Housing Associations

Housing LIN

**UKRI** Economic and Social Research Council

