Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement

Does the general public support lower pension ages for physically demanding jobs?

"Public support for lower public pension age in certain cases, but more measures needed in care and work to reduce the burden on older employees"

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In the future, older employees will face the double burden of working for longer and providing informal care. This study explored how Dutch citizens view lower public pension ages in certain cases and which factors play a role in that.

Principal Findings

- Dutch citizens generally support lower public pensions ages (on average 1.5 years sooner) for employees working in certain physically demanding jobs.
- Chronic health conditions are the most important reason to grant people a lower public pension age (one year earlier).
- Providing informal care for a partner or parents is also considered a burden and a reason for earlier retirement (11 months earlier).
- For some physically 'light' jobs, the public would support slightly higher public pension ages.

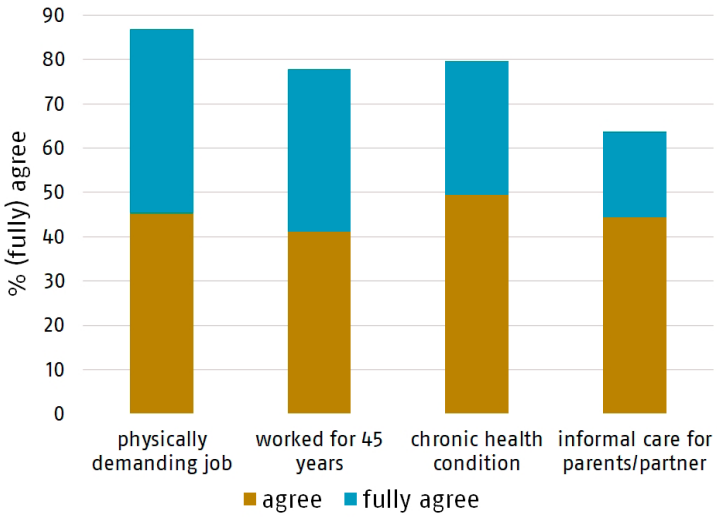

Figure: Level of agreement by general population on granting lower statutory retirement age for groups of people who have...
Source: NIDI (2018)

Key Takeaways for the Industry

- Decisions to award an early public pension should also consider non-work factors, such as intensive informal care responsibilities and chronic health issues.
- More measures are needed to reduce the burden on employees during the last phase of their career so they can continue to work for longer. Examples are investments in technology and personnel policy (part-time pension or demotion).

Want to know more? Read the paper
'De steun voor een 'zware-beroepenregeling ontleed'

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