Examining the Impact of Personality Traits on the Receipt of Financial Assistance Among Older Adults

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Many older adults remain financially vulnerable and may need to receive financial assistance. Using data from the 2006 and 2008 waves of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) of 12,895 older men and women, we investigated the effects of personality traits on receiving financial assistance at the individual, family, and public levels. The research question is: Are personality traits related to receiving financial assistance at older ages? Findings indicated that having higher levels of neuroticism and agreeableness increased the probability of receiving financial assistance while having higher levels of conscientiousness decreased the probability of receiving financial assistance regardless of level.

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