

The main goal of this study is to discover whether there is a significant difference between childless individuals and parents based on their social contact and support received in old age. Firstly, the theoretical background is introduced. The demographical development of childlessness in the Czech Republic is then analyzed while also mentioning the limitations of the data sources that we face. Childlessness is then put into the context of possible social isolation, a lack of support in the household or in receiving personal care in old age. It was proven that with increasing age the frequency of social contact with friends decreases, however, this does not apply to contact with family members. Using data from SHARE research we have proved that the childless elderly are more intensively socially active than parents. However, in financial transfers parents give more and especially to their children, whereas the childless invest in a broader range of family and nonfamily circles. There was no significant difference in receiving personal care or practical help in the household between parents and the childless, although differences were shown based on age, health, gender, education and the marital status of respondents. The most common people who provide personal care or practical help in the household (even though they do not live in the same household,) are for parents, their children and for the childless this role is fulfilled by neighbors, siblings or nieces and nephews. Childless reported on average lower satisfaction with life and life happiness when compared to those with children.