

Sarah Schuld

Monmouth University - Long Branch, NJ

Abstract:

By the year 2030, older adults are predicted to outnumber the youth of the world, meaning that specific practices must be implemented to prevent the human rights issues that are anticipated to arise. With the already frightening statistics on elder abuse, ageism, financial instability, and poverty rates in older adults, global governments and societies are wildly unprepared for the actions necessary to prevent the exacerbation of these issues.

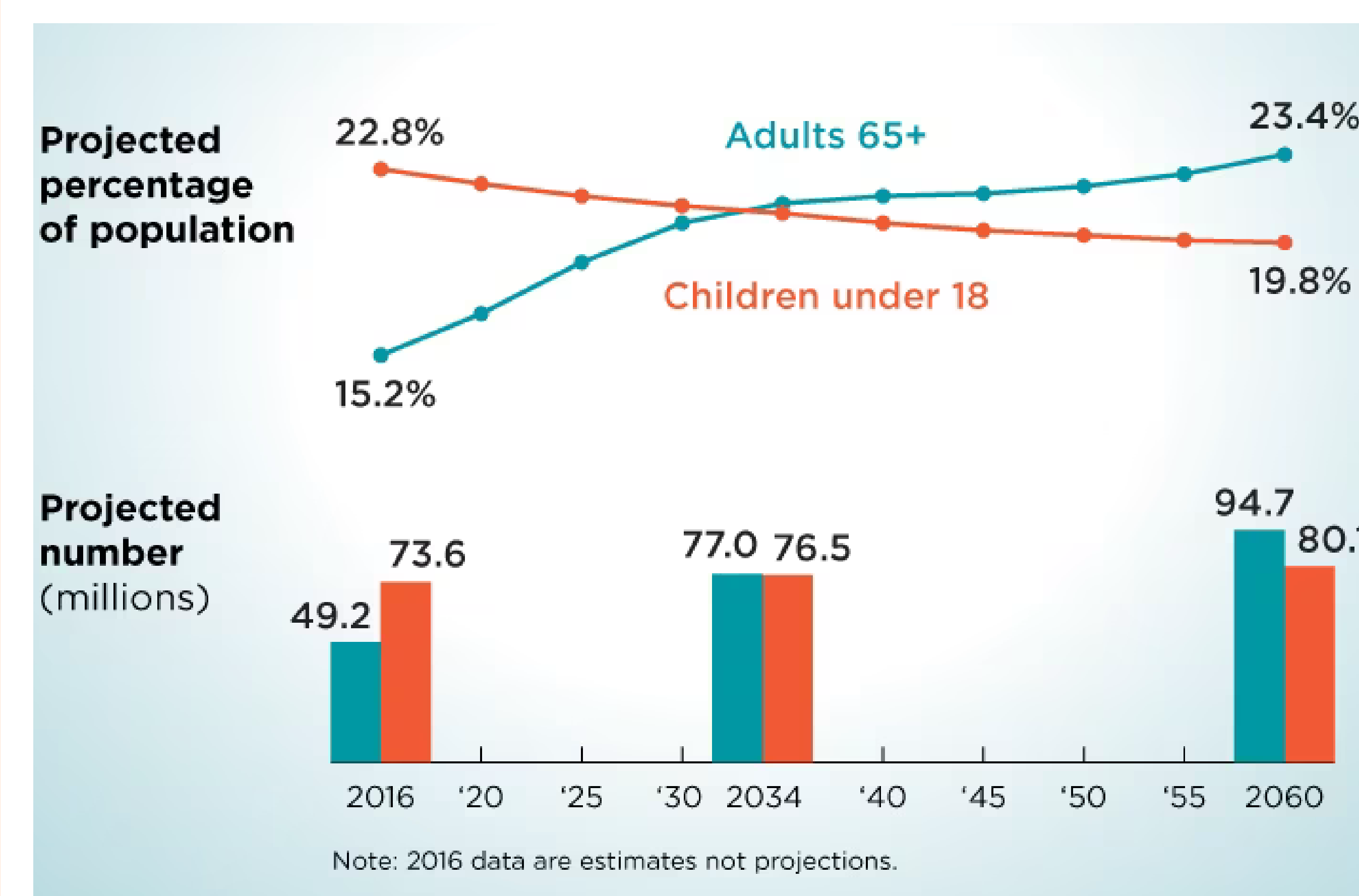
These next few years can be an opportunity to not only improve, but enhance the well-being of older adults. Social workers can play a pivotal role in helping us move towards the transformations needed by working at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels with older adults, globally and locally. With hope for the future, this rising generation can take advantage of a true opportunity to adapt to the modern world and age with dignity.

Introduction: Getting the Facts:

- "Social Security's combined trust fund reserves are projected to become depleted around 2034, at which time its income would be able to pay only 80% of the benefits scheduled for its 80 million beneficiaries" (American Academy of Actuaries).
 - Will result in either raised taxes, benefit cuts, or both.
- "20% of older households (approximately 11 million) have no assets to draw upon to withstand a financial shock" (National Council on Aging)
- "Around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year" (World Health Organization).
 - Results in a ripple effect on the global economy.
- "Estimates of elder financial abuse and fraud costs to older Americans range from \$2.6 billion to \$36.5 billion annually" (National Council on Aging).

Global Challenges:

- Poverty:
 - Afghanistan statistically presents dementia as a major risk factor for living in poverty (eClinicalMedicine).
- Ageism
 - Age based discrimination by employers is common practice in Ireland (AgeDiscrimination.Info).
- Elder Abuse
 - Half of India's older adult population experience abuse. 77% is interfamilial (Dignity Foundation).
- Financial Instability
 - The pension system and education inequities makes Mexico the worst country for economic inequalities for older adults (OECD).



Conclusions:

- Problems and solutions for older adults can be found and solved through the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of Social Work.
- Elder human rights abuses often go unnoticed.
- Every individual can play their own part in advocating for older adults in their life by spreading awareness about these invisible human rights abuses.

Solutions with a Social Work Perspective:

Micro - Level

- Fostering Intergenerational Relationships
- Promoting Mental and Physical Health

Mezzo - Level

- Livable Communities with Accessible Resources for Older Adults to Thrive

Macro - Level

- Legislative Aid - (Increased Funding and Policy Reform)
- Increased Education



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