**Title of Article:** Old-age security expectations and family size among the Isoko of Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This paper is based on a study carried out among the Isoko people of southern Nigeria. A sample of 2,045 women and men was selected for interview in two urban and four rural communities in which Focus Group Discussions were also conducted. The aim was to examine the old-age security value of children by socio-economic characteristics of respondents. The study shows that children remain the major source of old-age support. Rural respondents and women more readily mention children as a means of old-age support. An overwhelming majority of the respondents expect financial help from their children and they would still expect such help even after the children have become married. Expectation of financial help is inversely related to education, income and age at first marriage while it is positively related to ideal and desired family size. More of those who would have an additional child in the absence of sons or daughters, relative to those who would not, expect financial help from children. The paper concludes by advocating the introduction of appropriate population education and communication programmes which suggest that few but well-educated, successful children can provide a better guarantee of old-age support than many non-educated and poor children.

**Keywords:** Old-age security, expectation, value of children, fertility, Isoko, Nigeria.