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AGE DIFFERENCES IN CONSUMER FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Jing Jian Xiao,¹ Cheng Chen, Lei Sun

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine age differences in financial capability. Financial capability is measured by five variables: objective financial literacy, subjective financial literacy, desirable financial behavior, perceived financial capability, and a financial capability index. Financial capability is expected to increase with age. Specifically, we expect older consumers to demonstrate higher levels of both objective and subjective financial literacy, more desirable financial behaviors, a higher level of perceived financial capability, and a higher score on the financial capability index. Data from the 2012 National Financial Capability Study in the U.S. was used to examine the associations between age groups and financial capability variables. One-way ANOVAs were used to examine age differences in financial capability variables. Then multiple regressions were used to examine age differences after controlling for socio-demographic and financial variables. The results indicated that age differences in four financial capability variables showed similar patterns. Young adults aged 18-24 had the lowest scores on objective financial literacy, subjective financial literacy, perceived financial capability, and the financial capability index. The results have implications for consumer educators to provide effective financial education for all age groups.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, a social movement promoting financial capability among consumers first emerged in developed countries and then in developing countries. In the U.S., the movement is actively promoted by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability (PACFC, 2013). Many governmental and nongovernmental organizations work together to promote financial literacy and capability among American consumers (Fox and Bartholomae, 2008). In Europe, many countries have national initiatives to measure and improve consumer financial capability (see a description in Taylor, 2011). In 2006, the UK launched the national survey on financial capability (Atkinson et al., 2006), which was the first of this type worldwide. Later, many countries such as Austria (Fessler et al., 2007), Ireland (O'Donnell and Keeney, 2009), the U.S. (FINRAIEF, 2009), and Canada (Arrowsmith and Pignal, 2010) followed suit and conducted similar surveys.

The financial capability movement is motivated by the current weakening of the government-managed economic safety net, which requires more individual responsibility for long-term economic security such as retirement security. For example, in the U.S., the traditional retirement income source is the Social Security system, but it will be underfunded in the coming years. Company-sponsored pension systems are also changing from mainly defined benefit retirement plans to mainly defined contribution retirement plans (Hanna and Chen, 2008; Campbell et al., 2011). These trends suggest that ordinary consumers should worry about their long-term economic security and start to manage their retirement savings in the early years of their working careers. Financial education may have limitations but still has potential to help change consumer financial behaviors to improve financial well-being

(Collins and O'Rourke, 2010). Financial education for youth may have profound impacts on individual and societal well-being (Tennyson and Nguyen, 2001; Hira, 2012; Lusardi and Mitchell, 2014).

Financial capability refers to people's ability to manage and take control of their finances (Taylor, 2011). Financial capability can be demonstrated by a certain level of financial literacy and performance of desirable financial behaviors. Therefore, financial literacy and financial behavior are closely related to financial capability. In the emerging literature on financial capability, researchers have used three types of measures for financial capability—a set of financial behavior measures (Atkinson et al., 2006), a mix of behavior and outcome measures (Taylor, 2011), and a set of comprehensive measures that include financial literacy, financial behavior, and perceived financial capability (Xiao et al., 2014b). The purpose of this study is to examine age differences in financial capability using a set of comprehensive measures. The approach used in this study is similar to that of Xiao et al. (2014b).

Research on financial literacy has been conducted extensively (Huston, 2010; Schmeiser and Seligman, 2013). Researchers have studied consumer behaviors from different perspectives (Mayer et al., 2011; Hira, 2012; Eccles et al., 2013). However, little research has examined consumer financial capability by using both financial literacy and financial behavior variables. Little research has focused on perceived financial capability. This study contributes to the literature on financial capability by exploring age differences in multiple measures of financial capability, including objective financial literacy, subjective financial literacy, desirable financial behavior, perceived financial capability, and an index of financial capability.

The findings will provide helpful information for consumer educators to develop and deliver effective financial education for all age groups of consumers.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND HYPOTHESES

The traditional life cycle hypothesis assumes that consumers are rational and strive to maximize the life cycle utility to smoothen their consumption over the lifespan (Modigliani, 1986; Hanna and Chen, 2008). Incorporating advances of modern psychological research, economists have developed behavioral life cycle models to more accurately describe consumer life cycle consumption and saving behaviors, such as the hyperbolic model (Angeletos et al., 2001; Laibson, 1997). According to this model, consumers have dual personalities, acting impatiently in the short term but patiently in the long term. Over the lifespan, finance becomes more complicated through consuming, borrowing, and saving as consumers age. During the same time, we assume that individuals' financial capability also increases through formal or informal financial education and learning from real world financial life by engaging in more financial activities.

Financial capability can be measured in a variety of ways (Atkinson et al., 2006; Taylor, 2011). In this study, we measure financial capability in three dimensions: financial literacy, financial behavior, and perceived financial capability (Xiao et al. 2014b).

Financial literacy is assumed to be closely related to financial capability (Lusardi 2011). A higher level of financial capability is related to not only knowing financial knowledge, but also applying financial knowledge (Huston 2010). Previous research focused on the determinants of financial literacy such as wealth (Monticone 2010), gender (Fonseca et al., 2012), early schooling (Herd et al., 2012) and technological intervention (Servon and Kaestner,

2008). Researchers also examined potential effects of financial literacy on borrowing behavior (Huston, 2012; Sevim et al., 2012), saving behavior (Huang et al., 2013), inflation expectations (Bruine de Bruin et al., 2010), and financial behavior (Xiao et al., 2014a). Some researchers examined measuring issues of financial literacy, such as its conceptual definition (Remund, 2010), validation of the measures (Knoll and Houts, 2012), its relevance to product design (West, 2012), and consumer ability to correctly answer financial quiz questions (Schmeiser and Seligman, 2013). Researchers also examined financial educators' teaching strategies (Taylor et al., 2012), discussed how to develop a financial literacy component in a liberal art curriculum (Crain and Ragan, 2012), and conducted international comparative studies on financial literacy (Nicolini et al., 2013).

Financial literacy can be categorized as objective or subjective. Objective financial literacy refers to consumers' actual financial knowledge, usually measured by scores of financial quizzes. Subjective financial literacy is the financial knowledge level self-evaluated by consumers themselves. Both objective and subjective financial literacy factors were used to predict financial behavior (Robb and Woodyard, 2011; Xiao et al., 2011; Allgood and Walstad, 2013).

Lusardi et al. (2010) developed a theoretical model of retirement saving behavior that considers the role of financial literacy. Their model predicts that financial knowledge increases with age until a person reaches 65 years and then declines. Empirical research showed that among three age groups (18-34, 35-54, 55 or older), the oldest group had the highest score on objective financial literacy (FINRAIEF 2013). No previous research was found to focus on subjective financial literacy among older consumers. However, a study focusing

on older consumers found that, among consumers older than 60 years, objective financial literacy may decline but financial confidence never does (Finke et al. 2011). If confidence increases with age, then we assume that subjective financial literacy should also increase with age. Because financial literacy can be learned and accumulated from both educational and real-world-life settings and this study examines financial capability over the lifespan instead of the later part of life, we expect both objective and subjective financial literacy levels to be positively associated with age and, therefore, propose the following hypotheses:

H1. The level of objective financial literacy increases with age.

H2. The level of subjective financial literacy increases with age.

Financial behavior refers to human behavior relevant to money management (Xiao 2008). In the context of financial capability, higher financial capability is associated with more desirable financial behaviors. As mentioned earlier, some researchers used desirable financial behaviors as proxy variables for financial capability (e.g., Atkinson et al., 2006). Higher financial capability should be associated with desirable or positive financial behaviors.

Consumers demonstrate diverse financial behaviors when their resource levels vary (Eccles et al., 2013) and they are responsive to the 2007-09 financial crisis by changing behaviors (Van Der Cruysen et al., 2012).

Desirable financial behavior may contribute to financial well-being. Previous research indicated desirable financial behaviors are associated with positive financial outcomes (Xiao et al., 2009; Dew and Xiao, 2011; Xiao et al., 2014b). For example, calculating retirement needs may result in higher retirement savings (Mayer et al. 2011). Additionally, a study of credit counseling clients found that age is positively associated with the number of desirable

financial behaviors (Xiao et al. 2006). We assume consumers are financially capable demonstrated by increasing desirable financial behaviors as they age. The following hypothesis is proposed:

H3. The number of desirable financial behaviors increases with age.

Perceived financial capability can be considered as financial self-efficacy. Self-efficacy is an important psychological factor that influences human behaviors. Albert Bandura, the originator of this important concept, explained, “perceived self-efficacy is concerned with judgments of how well one can execute courses of action required to deal with prospective situations” (Bandura, 1982, p122). Self-efficacy is incorporated into the theory of planned behavior as an important determinant of human behavior, perceived control (Ajzen, 1991). The concept is also used in the transtheoretical model of behavior change (TTM) as an indicator measuring behavior change progress (Prochaska et al., 1992). Self-efficacy is also called confidence in the research literature. In the domain of consumer finance, financial self-efficacy is an important indicator of financial capability. As consumers age, their actual financial capability should increase alongside their more complicated financial lives, resulting in an increase in their perceived financial self-efficacy or confidence. Previous research has showed that consumer financial confidence did not decline among consumers aged 60-85 years old (Finke et al. 2011). We then propose the following hypothesis:

H4. The level of perceived financial capability increases with age.

If objective financial literacy, subjective financial literacy, desirable financial behavior, and perceived financial capability contribute to true financial capability, then a composite measure that sums the scores of the aforementioned variables should be able to represent

true financial capability. Using a score to represent financial capability is also used in previous research (Atkinson et al. 2006; Taylor 2011). A financial capability index should have a positive association with age. Thus, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H5. The level of the financial capability index increases with age.

METHOD

Data

Data used in this study were from the U. S. 2012 National Financial Capability Study (FINRAIEF 2013). In consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, the FINRA Investor Education Foundation commissioned this national study of the financial capability of American adults in 2012. The study included 25,509 American adults (roughly 500 per state, plus the District of Columbia) and 1,000 military service members through online surveys. The data set is available for public use from the website of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. For the current study, observations with responses of "don't know" and "prefer not to say" for two perception variables, perceived financial capability and perceived financial knowledge, were excluded in the analyses. The sample size used in this study was 24,395.

Variables

The dependent variables were five financial capability related variables: objective financial literacy, subjective financial literacy, desirable financial behaviors, perceived financial capability, and the financial capability index (a sum of scores of the former four variables). Independent variables included the focal variable, age group, and a set of socio-demographic and financial variables. Six age groups were used in the analyses. In the

regression analyses, the youngest age group (aged 18-24) was used as the reference group.

See Table 1 for more details about the variable specifications.

Data Analyses

Correlation analyses were conducted between the five financial capability variables for preliminary examinations. One-way ANOVAs were then employed to examine age differences in financial capability variables. Finally, multiple OLS regressions were used to examine age differences after adding control variables. Both weighted and unweighted samples were used in bivariate and multivariate analyses and the results were similar. Both approaches were reasonable in data analyses (Lindamood et al., 2007). For reasons of space saving, unweighted results are presented here and weighted results are available upon request.

RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics

Table 2 presents descriptive statistics of variables used in this study based on the weighted sample. Among the five financial capability variables, the mean of objective financial literacy was 2.95 based on a range of 0-5. On the 1-7 scale, the mean for subjective financial literacy was 5.16 and the mean for perceived financial capability was 5.68. The mean number of desirable financial behaviors was 7.57 on a range of 0-20. The mean for the financial capability index was 2.78 on a range of -10.01-6.38.

Among the six age groups, the youngest group (aged 18-24) had the lowest percentage (12.0%) and a middle-aged group (aged 45-54) had the highest percentage. Among the respondents, 49% were male, 63% had college or higher educational level, 55% were married, and 39% had dependent children. In terms of resource levels, 54% were working, 63% had an

income of \$35,000 or higher, 30% experienced an income drop, and the mean of financial satisfaction was 5.19 based on a 10-point scale. Regarding financial situations, 90% had checking accounts; 74% had savings, money market accounts, and CDs; 52% had 401k plans; 34% had other investments; and 59% were home owners. In addition, 35% had mortgage loans, 73% had credit cards, and 20% received financial education.

Results of Correlation Analyses

The results of correlation analyses of the financial capability variables are presented in Table 3. All correlations of these variables were as expected. All correlations were statistically significant. Except for the financial capability index, the other four variables correlated with each other modestly, which suggests that all of these variables are needed to comprehensively measure true financial capability. Correlations of the financial capability index with the other four variables were high (.669 or higher), implying that this index variable may be the best to represent true financial capability.

Results of One-way ANOVA

Figures 1A-1E demonstrate associations of the five financial capability variables by age group. In Figure 1A and 1B, both objective and subjective financial literacy showed positive associations with age group. Results of the one-way ANOVA show some interesting patterns (the tables are not shown but are available upon request). Both objective and subjective financial literacy variables are positively associated with age group but the associations have different patterns. For objective financial literacy, the scores of all age groups are statistically different from each other. But for subjective financial literacy, the scores of three adult groups (ages 25-34, 35-44, 45-54) are not statistically different to each other.

Figure 1C shows age differences in the number of desirable financial behaviors. The youngest age group (age 18-24) has the fewest desirable financial behaviors. One-way ANOVA results indicate that age differences existed. Further Tukey tests indicate that scores for four age groups (18-24, 56-64 and 65 years plus) have differences from each other that are statistically significant. The other age groups (25-34, 35-44 and 45-54 years) were at variance with the other groups but were not significantly different from each other.

Figure 1D demonstrates the association between perceived financial capability and age. One-way ANOVA results show that scores of all age groups are significantly different from each other. The youngest age group has the lowest score and the oldest group has the highest score on perceived financial capability.

Figure 1E demonstrates the association between the financial capability index and age. Tukey tests indicate that scores from the five age groups (18-24, 25-34, 35-54, 55-64 and 65 years plus) were significantly different. Scores for those 35-44 and 45-54 years were at variance with the other groups but not significantly different from each other.

Results of Multiple OLS Regressions

Multiple OLS regressions were conducted to examine age differences in the five financial capability variables, controlling for socio-demographic and financial variables (Table 4). The five models fit well (see F and p values in the table) and no multicollinearity issues were found (all VIFs were under 3, much smaller than the recommended warning point of 10). The results for objective financial literacy show the same pattern as that of the one-way ANOVA; compared to the youngest group (age 18-24), all older age groups have higher scores on objective financial literacy (Table 4 column 2). After controlling for other variables,

compared to the youngest group, all older age groups show higher scores for subjective financial literacy (Table 4 column 3). This result is slightly different from the results of the one-way ANOVA, in which scores of several age groups are not statistically different from each other. These results support H1 and H2.

Age group showed interesting patterns in the number of desirable financial behaviors different from the one-way ANOVA results. The regression results indicate that compared to the reference category (age 18-24), the age group 25-34 has the highest number whereas the age group 45-54 has the lowest number of desirable financial behaviors (Table 4 column 4), other age groups are not statistically different from the reference category, which is inconsistent with the results of the one-way ANOVA and with H3. This result suggests that the relationship between age and the number of desirable financial behaviors is more complicated than we assumed.

Table 4 column 6 presents the regression results in terms of perceived financial capability. These results are consistent with the one-way ANOVA result that age is positively associated with perceived financial capability, supporting H4.

Table 4 column 6 presents the regression results concerning the financial capability index. The result is slightly different from the one-way ANOVA result. The ANOVA result showed that two age groups, age 35-44 and age 45-54, are not statistically different in terms of the financial capability index, but the regression result indicated that all older age groups were different from the reference group (age 18-24). After controlling for socio-demographic and financial variables, age showed a positive association with the financial capability index.

DISCUSSION

This study has examined age differences in five financial capability variables. One-way ANOVA and multiple OLS regression analyses were conducted on data from the 2012 U.S. National Financial Capability Study. Results show that both objective financial literacy and subjective financial literacy increase with age even after controlling for socio-demographic and financial factors. The same pattern is also found in perceived financial capability and the financial capability index. In contrast, the pattern of the number of desirable financial behaviors is more complicated. Bivariate analyses show that young adults (age 18-24) have the lowest number of desirable financial behaviors, whereas multiple regression results show that the age group 25-34 has the highest number and the age group 45-54 has the lowest number of desirable financial behaviors performed after entering control variables. These findings are inconsistent with our hypothesis that the number of desirable financial behaviors is positively associated with age.

The first and second hypotheses concerned the relationship between financial literacy in terms of both subjective and objective measures and age. According to the hypotheses, as consumers age, both their subjective and objective literacy levels should be improved. The result of the objective measure of financial literacy has been supported by both the one-way ANOVA and multiple regression analysis after controlling for relevant variables. The scores of objective financial literacy are statistically different among age groups and compared with the youngest group, age 18-24, older consumers show higher scores. These results support some findings from the literature that shows a general lack of knowledge among young people when dealing with financial situations (NCEE, 2005; Mandell, 2008; Lusardi et al., 2010; Lusardi, 2011), but are inconsistent with others. Although some of the literature (Korniotis and Kumar, 2011;

Lusardi et al., 2012; Lusardi and Mitchell, 2014) points out that objective financial literacy declines among age groups after 65 years old, our results suggest that consumers who are older than 65 as a whole have a higher level of objective financial literacy than others after controlling for socio-demographic and financial factors. To further explore this issue, we asked the data owner to provide data with a variable for age in years. We selected a subsample of respondents aged 60 years or older and divided them into five groups, ages 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, and 80 or older. We found that the score of the group aged 65-69 was significantly greater than that of the group aged 60-64. The score of the group aged 80 years or older was significantly lower than the younger groups. There were no statistical differences in scores among groups aged 65-69, 70-74, and 75-79. These findings suggest that financial capability may decrease after age 80 years and older.

Despite no significant differences according to the one-way ANOVA, the multiple regression results support the second hypothesis that the scores of subjective financial literacy increase as consumers age. This finding is in line with the previous literature. For example, Finke, Howe, and Huston (2011) concluded that confidence in financial decision-making ability increases with age in all domains. We speculate that their finding may imply older consumers are also more confident than their younger counterparts in assessing their own financial knowledge. Financial literacy can be seen as one of the important components of human capital (Huston 2010; Lusardi and Mitchell 2014) that can be accumulated by successful financial management practices. Therefore, as consumers age, more opportunities are obtained to improve the level of financial literacy by dealing with daily financial issues, for example credit

card behavior (Lusardi et al. 2010). Moreover, the desirability of acquiring financial literacy is increasing as consumers age as more salient financial issues, like retirement security, are faced.

The third hypothesis addressed the relationship between desirable financial behaviors and age. The one-way ANOVA indicated that three statistically different groups existed among all age groups; however, these results are inconsistent with the regression analysis, which showed a declining pattern as consumers age. One possible reason is that the number of financial behaviors may be an indicator of being financially active. For example, older consumers may have paid off mortgage and other debts and be less active in debt-related behaviors. Another possible reason may be the influence of control variables. As far as we know, age is always treated as an important demographic variable when consumer financial behaviors are analyzed; however, the results vary. To explore the reason of discrepancies between the ANOVA and regression results, we conducted a series of analyses by adding socio-demographic and financial variables to the model step-by-step. We found that before the 401k plan holding and home owner variables were added to the model, the age pattern was the same as the ANOVA results in which older age groups had higher numbers of desirable behaviors than the youngest group (the reference group). After adding the 401k holding and home owner variables, the age pattern changed. The mechanism regarding this change needs to be investigated in future research.

The fourth hypothesis is supported by both one-way ANOVA and multiple regression analyses, which confirmed that the level of consumer perceived financial capability increases as consumers age and reaches a peak in the 65+ age group. As far as we know, little previous literature has either mentioned the concept of perceived financial capability or used it as a

dimension for measuring overall financial capability. Different from subjective financial literacy, perceived financial capability emphasizes the self-efficacy of individual's general ability for managing financial issues. According to Maddux (2011), the level of self-efficacy can continuously develop throughout the lifespan as individuals continually integrate information from the following primary sources: performance experiences, imagined experiences, verbal persuasion, and physiological/emotional states. Perceived financial capability or self-efficacy could be improved by employing similar sources during the consumer lifespan.

The fifth hypothesis, that the financial capability index increases as consumers age, is supported by both the one-way ANOVA and multiple regression results. If the other four variables measure financial capability from different perspectives, this variable is a sum of scores of the former four variables that is assumed to best capture true financial capability. The results are inconsistent with previous research that suggests consumers' financial capability declines after age 65 (Lusardi and Mitchell, 2014). In contrast, our results show that the financial capability index score is positively associated with age; suggesting older consumers are more financially capable.

Conclusion

This study used a large national data set in the U.S. to examine age differences in consumer financial capability variables. The results suggest that older consumers demonstrate higher levels of both objective and subjective financial literacy, perceived financial capability and overall financial capability compared to their younger counterparts. The results of this study have important implications for consumer financial educators. The findings suggest that age is an important factor for financial capability. Four of the five

financial capability variables are positively associated with age. The results suggest that accumulation of financial capability occurs as consumers age. Consumer educators should be aware of this pattern and provide age specific financial education to different age groups. Research findings suggest that young consumers aged 18-24 have the lowest scores in four of the five financial capability variables and need special attention by financial educators. Providing effective financial education for young consumers has long-term benefits not only for these consumers but also for the welfare of society. Many of these young people are just entering job markets and need assistance to acquire financial knowledge and guidance to engage in desirable financial behaviors. They also need assistance to enhance their confidence in managing their finances to secure their own financial future.

To further the knowledgebase of consumer financial education, future research needs to further explore the role of financial behavior in explaining financial capability. Specifically, future research should examine age differences in specific financial behaviors and how these behaviors affect consumer financial capability. If possible, longitudinal data should be used to better examine the trajectories and interrelationships between financial behavior and capability over the lifespan. In addition, future research should also use advanced statistical analytic approaches, such as path analyses and structural equation modeling, to explore interrelationships of several key terms such as financial literacy, financial behavior, and financial capability.

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Table 1

Variable Specifications

Variable label	Attribute
<i>Financial Capability</i>	
Objective financial literacy	0-5, the sum of correct numbers for financial literacy questions. The five questions are about interest, inflation, mortgages, bonds, and stocks. The original financial literacy variables were recoded to binary variables in which 1=correct answer, 0=otherwise and then the new variables were summed to form the score.
Subjective financial literacy	The wording of the original question: “how would you assess your overall financial knowledge?”: 1-very low, 7-very high
Desirable financial behavior	The sum of 20 desirable financial behaviors. Each behavior is measured by a binary variable, 1=yes, 0=no. See the note for specific financial behaviors. The range of this composite variable is 0-20.
Perceived financial capability:	The wording of the original question: “I am good at dealing with day-to-day financial matters, such as checking accounts, credit and debit cards, and tracking expenses”: 1-strongly disagree, 7-strongly agree
Financial capability index	Sum of Z scores of objective financial literacy, subjective financial literacy, desirable financial behavior, and perceived financial capability
<i>Age</i>	
Age group	6 age groups (18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65 or older). In regression analyses, the reference category is age 18-24.
<i>Control Variables</i>	
Being male (vs. female)	1=male, 0=female
Some college or higher level	1=yes, 0=no
Being married	1=married, 0=not married
Having dependent children	1=yes, 0=no
Working	1=yes, 0=no
Income of \$35,000 or higher	1=yes, 0=no
Experiencing income drop	1=yes, 0=no
Financial satisfaction	1-not at all satisfied, 10-extremely satisfied
Having checking account	1=yes, 0=no
Having savings, MMA and CD.	1=yes, 0=no
Having a 401k plan	1=yes, 0=no
Having other investments	1=yes, 0=no
Owning a home	1=yes, 0=no
Having a mortgage	1=yes, 0=no
Having credit card	1=yes, 0=no
Received financial education	1=yes, 0=no

Note: 20 desirable financial behaviors are spending within income, saving for children’s college education, saving for emergency, checking credit reports, checking credit scores, using advice on financial services (debt counseling, investment, mortgage, insurance, and taxes), contributing to 401k plans, comparison shopping for credit card, calculating retirement needs, making mortgage payment on time, and desirable credit card behaviors (making full payment, not keeping balance, not making minimum payment, not paying late fees, not being over the limit, and not using cash advance).

Table 2 Descriptive Statistics of the Weighted Sample

Variable label	Mean
Objective financial literacy (0-5)	2.95
Subjective financial literacy (1-7)	5.16
Perceived financial capability (1-7)	5.68
Desirable financial behavior (0-20)	7.57
Financial capability index	2.78
Financial satisfaction (1-10)	5.19
	Percent
Age 18-24	12.0
Age 25-34	18.3
Age 35-44	16.3
Age 45-54	19.8
Age 55-65	17.9
Age 65 or older	15.7
Being male (vs. female)	49.0
Some college or higher level	63.1
Being married	54.5
Having dependent children	39.3
Income of \$35,000 or higher	63.0
Experiencing income drop	29.5
Working	53.5
Having checking account	90.1
Having savings, MMA and CD.	73.9
Having a 401k plan	52.3
Having other investments	33.5
Owning a home	58.8
Having a mortgage	35.3
Having credit card	72.8
Received financial education	19.9

Table 3

Correlations of Financial Capability Related Variables (N=24,395)

	Objective financial literacy	Subjective financial literacy	Desirable financial behavior	Perceived financial capability
Subjective financial literacy	.246			
Desirable financial behavior	.396	.348		
Perceived financial capability	.252	.421	.299	
Financial capability index	.669	.718	.724	.702

All results are at the significance level of 1% (2-tailed).

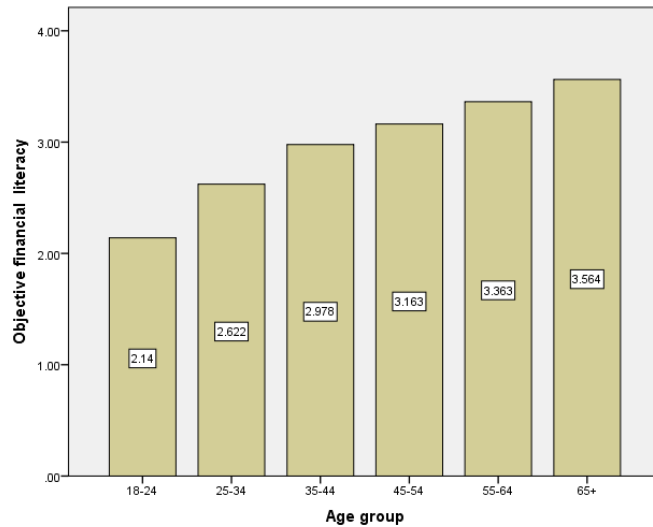
Table 4
Results of OLS Regression on Financial Capability Variables (N=24,395)

Variable	Objective Financial Literacy (2)	Subjective Financial Literacy (3)	Desirable Financial Behavior (4)	Perceived Financial Capability (5)	Financial Capability Index (6)
(1)					
(Constant)	1.270*** (.039)	3.614*** (.037)	-.459*** (.083)	4.070*** (.048)	-5.245*** (.064)
Age 25-34	.158*** (.032)	.130*** (.030)	.141* (.068)	.161*** (.039)	.343*** (.053)
Age 35-44	.407*** (.033)	.172*** (.031)	-.137 (.070)	.291*** (.040)	.568*** (.055)
Age 45-54	.567*** (.032)	.170*** (.030)	-.175** (.068)	.380*** (.039)	.725*** (.053)
Age 55-64	.677*** (.033)	.281*** (.031)	.086 (.069)	.521*** (.040)	1.035*** (.054)
Age 65 or older	.801*** (.035)	.409*** (.033)	.133 (.074)	.549*** (.043)	1.248*** (.058)
Male	.464*** (.016)	.136*** (.015)	.097** (.034)	-.049* (.019)	.416*** (.026)
Some college or higher level	.508*** (.018)	.109*** (.017)	.588*** (.038)	.148*** (.022)	.659*** (.030)
Married	.054** (.018)	.035* (.017)	.124*** (.039)	.003 (.022)	.094** (.030)
Have dependent children	-.105*** (.018)	.086*** (.017)	.302*** (.039)	-.049* (.022)	.031 (.030)
Income of \$35,000 or higher	.257*** (.021)	-.021 (.020)	.383*** (.044)	-.014 (.026)	.237*** (.035)
Working	.035* (.018)	.044*** (.017)	.232*** (.038)	-.006 (.022)	.106*** (.029)
Financial satisfaction	-.038*** (.003)	.125*** (.003)	.311*** (.007)	.077*** (.004)	.190*** (.005)
Experience income drop	-.099*** (.018)	.099*** (.017)	.146*** (.039)	-.123*** (.022)	-.036 (.030)
Have checking account	.199*** (.030)	.099*** (.029)	.005 (.065)	.529*** (.037)	.551*** (.051)
Have savings, MMA and CD	.143*** (.021)	.073*** (.020)	.685*** (.045)	.191*** (.026)	.429*** (.035)
Have investment	.368*** (.019)	.169*** (.018)	1.660*** (.040)	.076*** (.023)	.803*** (.032)
Have 401k account	.191*** (.019)	-.023 (.018)	.766*** (.040)	-.004 (.023)	.281*** (.031)
Own home	.060*** (.023)	.093*** (.022)	.385*** (.049)	.088** (.028)	.256*** (.039)
Have mortgage	.081*** (.021)	.035 (.020)	.856*** (.045)	.010 (.026)	.280*** (.035)
Have credit card	.194*** (.021)	.171*** (.020)	4.521*** (.045)	.193*** (.026)	1.396*** (.035)
Received financial education	.314*** (.019)	.421*** (.018)	.670*** (.041)	.238*** (.024)	.846*** (.032)
F	471.5	278.4	2364.0	154.9	1097.7
p	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
R ²	.289	.193	.671	.118	.486

Note: Reference category is age 18-24. * <.05. **<.01. ***<.001

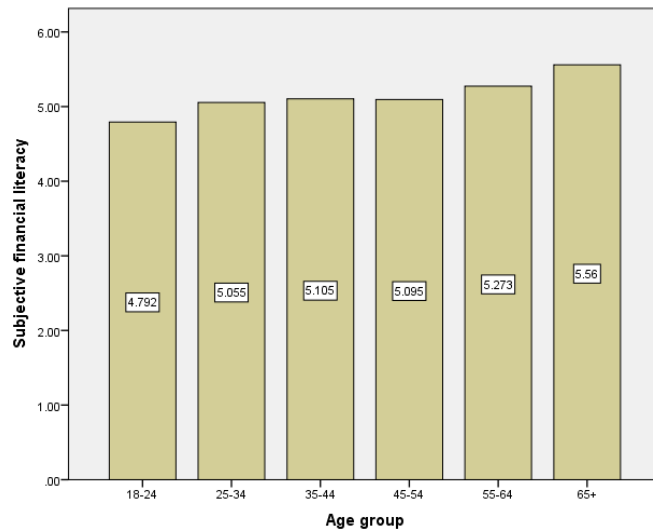
Figure 1
Financial Capability Variables by Age Based on Data from the 2012 National Financial Literacy Study

A) Objective Financial Literacy by Age, Mean Scores (Theoretical Range, 0-5)



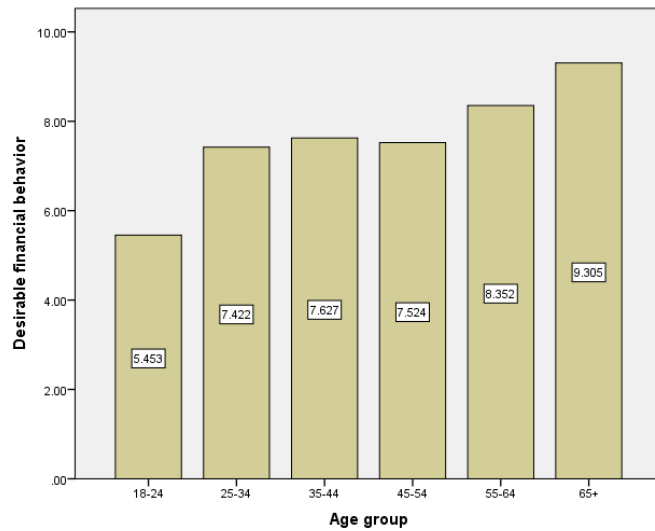
Note: Tukey tests indicate that scores of all age groups are statistically different from each other.

B) Subjective Financial Literacy by Age, Mean Scores (Theoretical Range, 1-7)



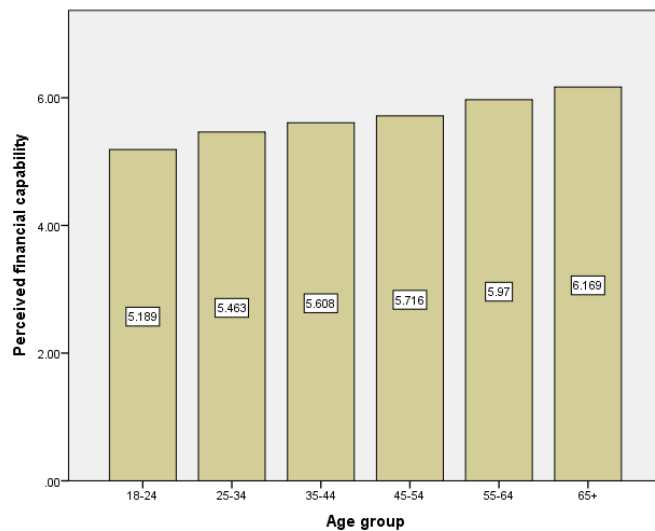
Note: Tukey tests indicate that scores of following age groups are different from each other, age 18-24, age 25-54, age 56-64, and age 65+.

C) Desirable Financial Behaviors by Age, Mean Scores (Theoretical Range, 0-20)



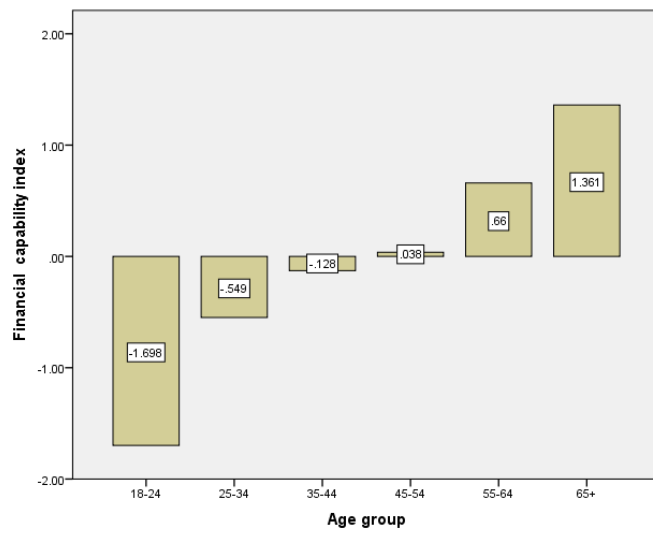
Note: Tukey tests indicate that scores of following age groups are different from each other, age 18-24, age 25-54, age 56-64, and age 65+.

D) Perceived Financial Capability by Age, Mean Scores (Theoretical Range, 1-7)



Note: Tukey tests indicate that scores of all age groups are statistically different from each other.

E) Financial Capability Index by Age, Mean Scores (Theoretical Range, -10.01-6.38)



Note: Tukey tests indicate that scores of following age groups are statistically different from each other, age 18-24, age 24-34, age 35-54, age 55-64, and age 65+.