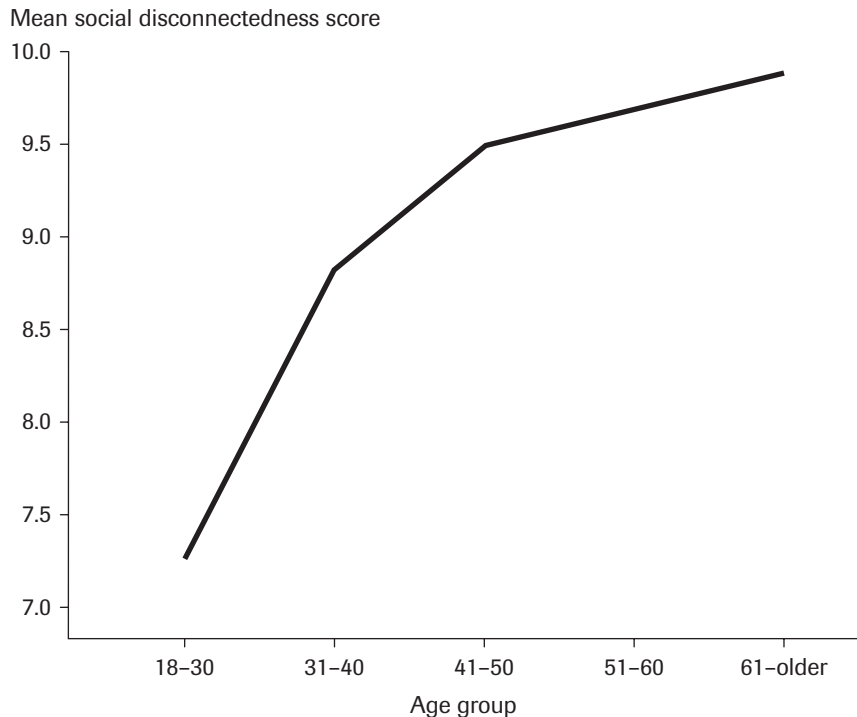


Figure 3-4 Relationship between Social Disconnectedness and Age



Source: 2008 General Social Survey.

Note: The social disconnectedness scale, which ranges from 3 (low disconnectedness) to 21 (high disconnectedness), was created by summing three 7-point scales measuring the extent to which the respondent spends time with relatives (GSS variable, SOCREL), neighbors (SOCOMM), and friends (SOCFRIEND). Codes on SOCREL, SOCOMM, and SOCFRIEND range from “almost daily” (code 1) to “never” (code 7). Based on the following means (numbers of cases): ages 18-30, 7.3 (289); ages 31-40, 8.8 (251); ages 41-50, 9.5 (285); ages 51-60, 9.7 (233); ages 61-older, 9.9 (270). Mean social disconnectedness for the entire sample of 1,328 respondents was 9.0.