

Health among very old Swedes

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Why Sweden?

% 80 +			
	1960	2000	2040
Sweden	1.9	5.0	7.9
Japan	0.7	3.8	14.1
Spain	1.1	3.8	8.5
Netherl.	1.4	3.2	7.6
Austral.	1.2	2.9	7.3
<i>OECD average</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>7.7</i>

- Leads in % 80+

- Nat'l health care since 1960s

Source: OECD 2005

Questions

- Health changes in the elderly population?
- Changes in relationships between pathology—limitation—disability?
- Frailty? Increase in the very vulnerable sector of the elderly population?
- Different trends during different periods?

The Swedish Panel Study of Health and Living Conditions of the Oldest Old

SWEOLD

*Parker et al 2005,
J of G:MS, 60A, 1351-55*

SWEOLD

Nationally representative interview survey,
institutions & community-based,
proxy interviews when necessary
Age 77+

1992

n=537

Non-response 4.6 %

Females 60.5 %

2002

n=561

Non-response 11.5 %

Females 59.4 %

Self-reported health problems

	% 2002			Change 92-02			02/92
	No	Mild	Severe	No	Mild	Severe	OR
Leg ulcers	92.8	5.2	2.0	-4.3**	+3.7***	+0.6	2.55**
Diabetes	90.0	6.8	3.2	0.0	-0.4	+0.4	1.00
Fatigue	50.6	37.0	12.4	-17.9***	+13.8***	+4.1*	1.98***
Myocardial infarction	93.5	4.1	2.3	-2.3	+0.9	+1.4	1.56
Hypertension	72.6	20.8	6.5	-4.7	+1.2	+3.5**	1.38*
Stroke	93.9	3.8	2.3	-2.5	+3.0***	-0.5	1.58
Back pain	47.2	28.7	24.1	-9.8**	+1.4	+8.4	1.59***
Joint pain	42.6	34.5	22.9	15.7***	+8.9**	+6.9**	1.84***

Mobility

- Walk 100 m
- Stairs
- Rise from a chair
- Stand without support

Hearing

- Hear a conversation between several persons w/o difficulty



ADL

- Eating
- Toileting
- Dressing
- Transfer
- Bathing

IADL

- Cleaning
- Shopping
- Preparing food



Self-reported function

	% 2002			Change 92-02			2002/ 1992
	No	Mild	Severe	No	Mild	Severe	OR
Hearing	55.1		44.9	-14.4***		+14.4***	1.76***
Mobility	39.4	18.4	42.2	-10.8***	+2.8	+8.0**	1.4***
IADL	58.6	19.5	21.8	-2.3	+5.2*	-2.8	0.93
ADL	66.8	15.9	17.3	-3.7	+0.8	+3.0	1.07

Tests of function



Peak Expiratory
Flow



Vision



Performance tests

Tests of function

	% 2002			Change 92-02			2002/ 1992
	No	Mild	Severe	No	Mild	Severe	OR
Performance	42.9	15.8	41.3	-8.2	+0.4	+7.8*	1.37**
Peak flow	41.2	37.4	21.4	-15.2***	+6.4	+8.8***	1.82***
Cognition	54.8	25.1	20.0	-10.0**	+3.5	+6.5**	1.48**
Vision	87.2	4.0	8.8	+1.8	-1.9	+0.1	0.81

Pathology—limitations—disability

- Differences between health indicators
- Signs of a weaker correlation, i e, at the same level of pathology/limitations fewer people in 2002 are disabled
- Explanations?
 - Environmental change
 - Gender roles
 - Assistive technology

Walking aids 1992-2002

Use of walking aids		
2002/1992	1.79	**
Male	.69	*
Age	1.18	***
Education	.95	
Phys function	1.51	***
Cognition	.94	

Increase in the very vulnerable sector of the elderly population?

- Complexity:

Serious problems in the following domains:

Cognition/communication

Mobility

Diseases/symptoms

Serious problems in the following domains:

Cognition/communication

Mobility

Diseases/symptoms

<i>Problems in:</i>	% in 2002	2002/1992 OR
No domain	42	0.6***
1 domain	31	1.3*
2-3 domains	26	1.4*

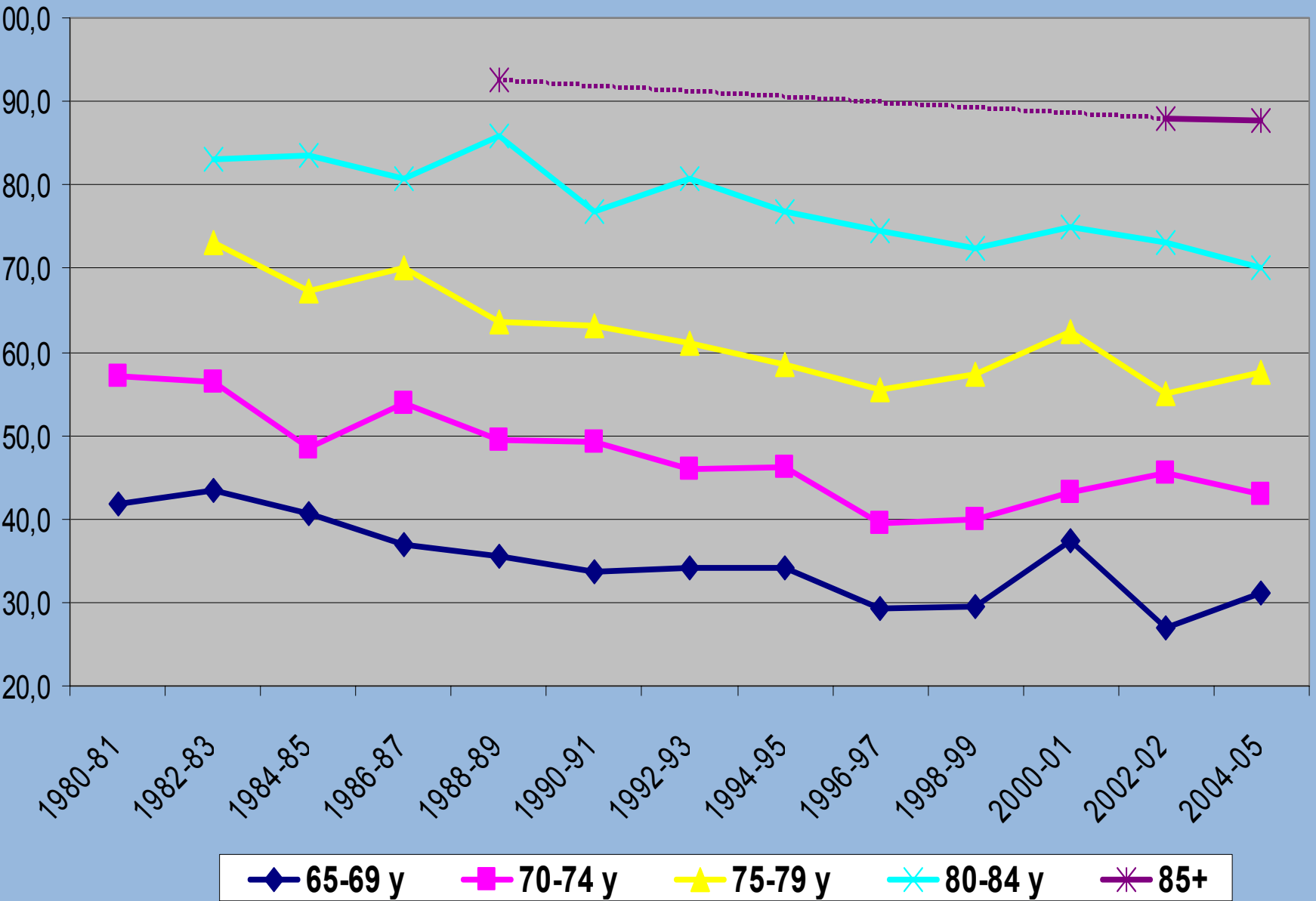
Questions

- Period changes in trends?

Living Conditions Survey ULF

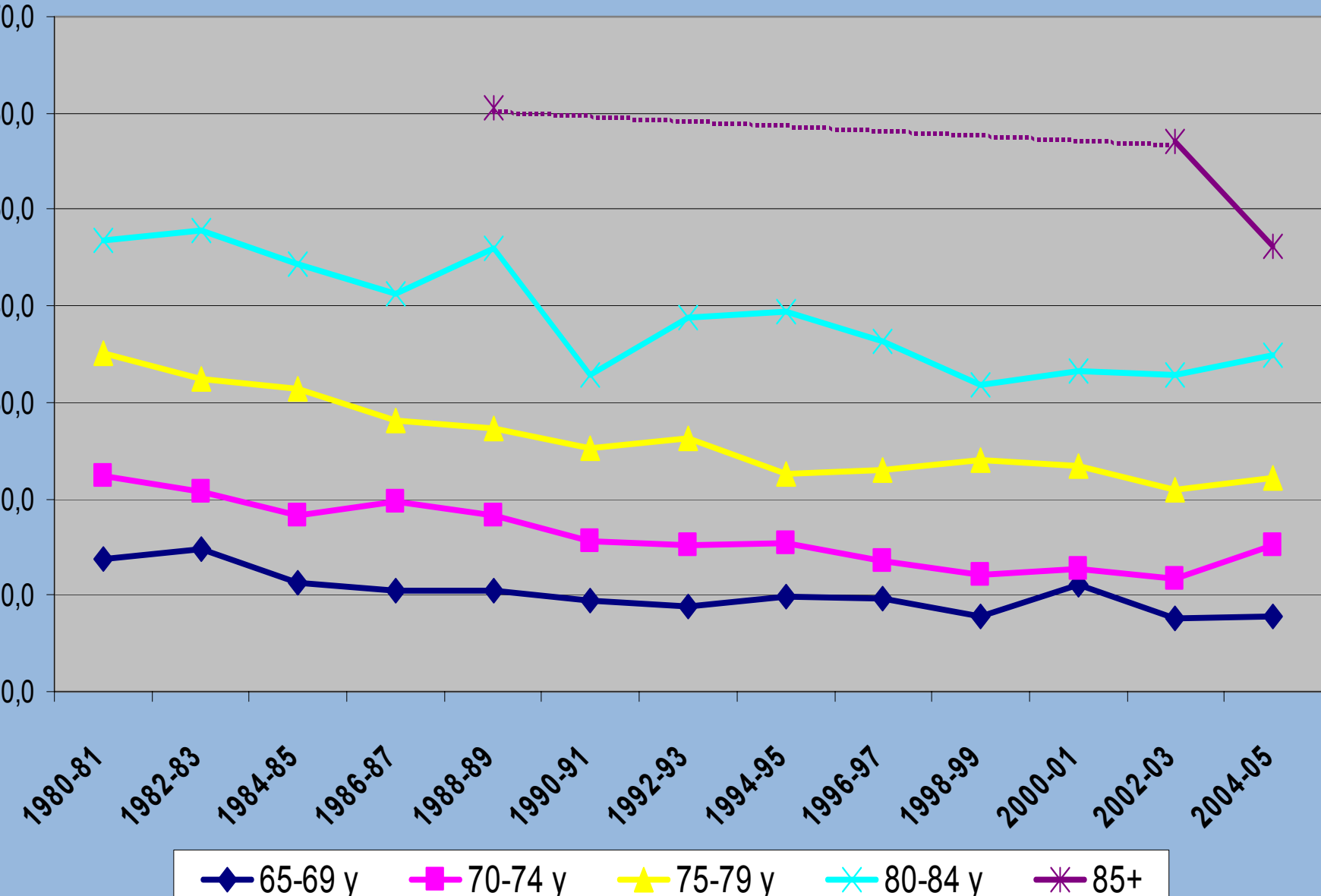
- Nationally representative
- Annual interviews
- $N \approx 3000$ >64 years
- Age ceiling 85 except 1988/89, 2002-05

Cannot run 100 m



Cannot take a walk

%



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Yes

- Changes in relationships between pathology—limitation—disability?

Good evidence

- Frailty? Increase in the very vulnerable sector of the elderly population?

Good evidence

- Different trends during different periods?

Some evidence