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Disability-free life expectancy in France, 2002

New results and methodological aspects

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Disability-free life expectancy in France

- Two estimations based on the national household health surveys (1980 & 1991)
- Favorable trends over the 80's

Disability free life expectancy in France at birth, 1981 and 1991

	Men			Women		
	1981	1991	<i>Trends</i>	1981	1991	<i>Trends</i>
Total Life Expectancy	70,4	72,9	+ 2,5	78,6	81,1	+ 2,5
DFLE (any severity)	60,8	63,8	+ 3,0	65,9	68,5	+ 2,5
LE with Severe disab	1,5	1,2	- 0,3	2,3	2,3	--
LE with Moderate disab	8,1	7,9	-0,2	10,4	10,3	-0,1

Disability-free life expectancy in France in 2002

- New opportunity with the 2002 survey !

Does someone in the household being **disabled** or simply having **some difficulties** or **being hampered** in daily life ?

(do not consider accute handicaps or difficulties...)

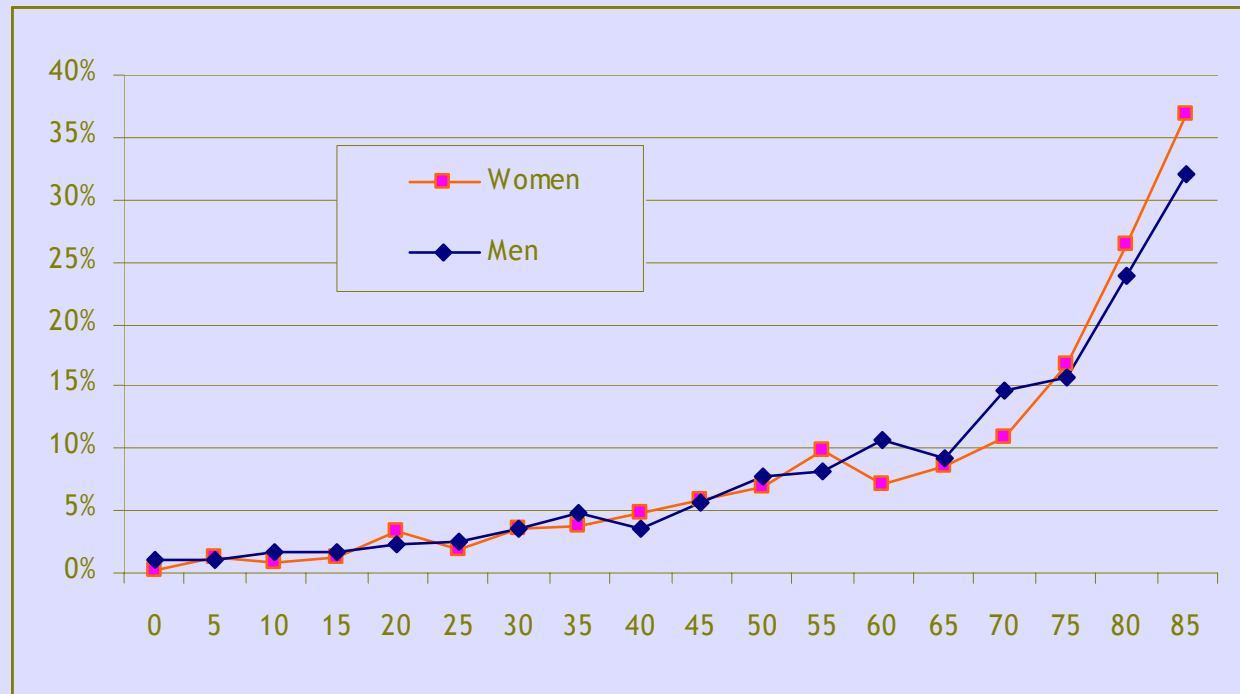
1 Yes 2 No

- New calculations and analysis of the 2002 disability question
- but new survey design...
 - Most questions: household based interview to individual interview
 - Disability question **moved** just after the household description

Disability prevalence in 2002 in the household population

	All ages	20 +	65 +
Men	5,6%	7,2%	15,5%
Women	6,1%	8,0%	16,5%
All	5,9%	7,6%	16,1%

Increasing prevalence with age
Small gender differences



Disability free life expectancy in France, 2002

At birth	LE	DFLE	DLE	%DFLE/LE
Men	75,9	69,7	6,2	92%
Women	83,2	75,0	8,1	90%

At 65	LE	DFLE	DLE	%DFLE/LE
Men	17,1	13,7	3,4	80%
Women	21,5	16,2	5,3	75%

Same usual pattern:

- Women live longer than men but
 - they both spend more time without and with disability
 - men has a larger % of their life free of disability
- This is true at birth and at age 65
- The % of life without disability decreases with age

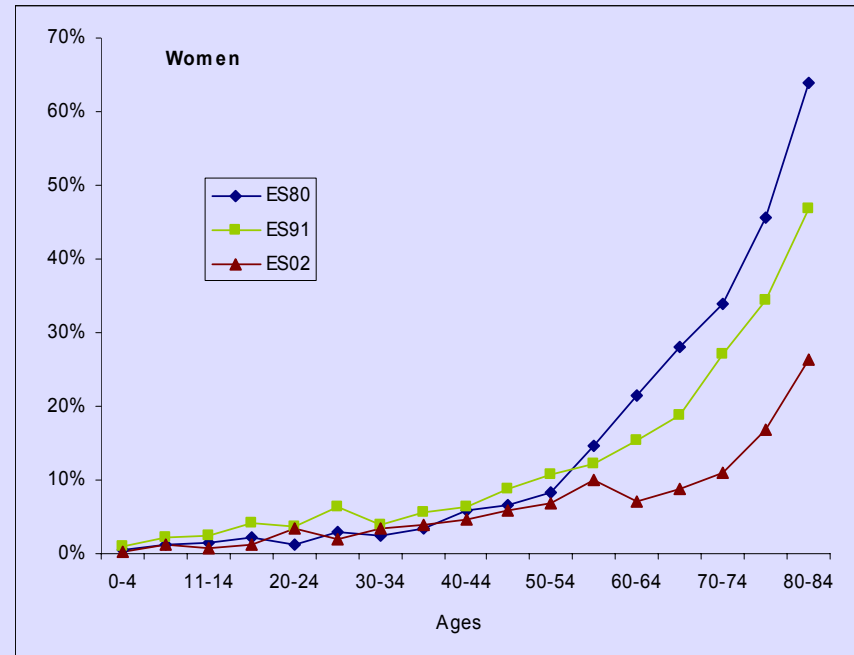
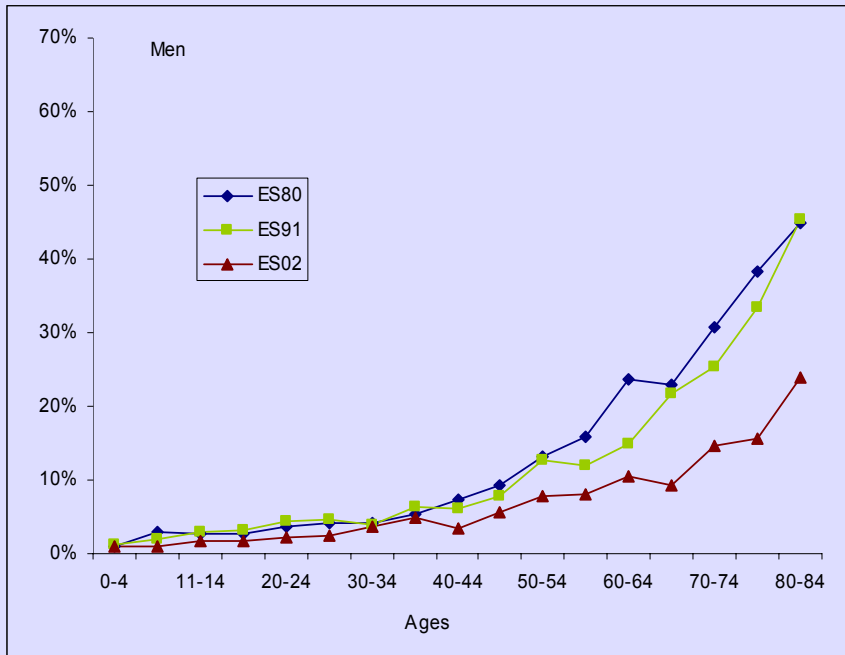
Disability free life expectancy over the 1980's and 1990's

% DFLE/LE in 1980, 1991 and 2002

At birth	1980	1991	2002
Men	86%	87%	92%
Women	84%	84%	90%
At 65	1980	1991	2002
Men	62%	64%	80%
Women	53%	59%	75%

- Massive increase in DFLE and % at birth and at age 65
- Corresponding to a 6 year gain for men and 7 year gain for women

Massive decline in old age disability



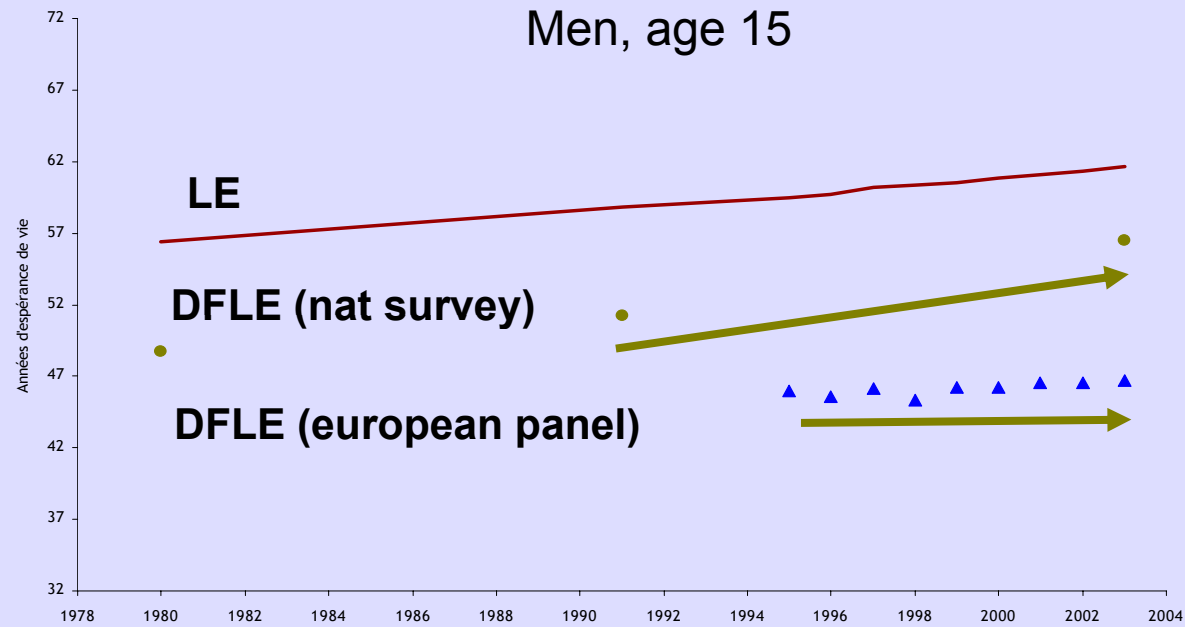
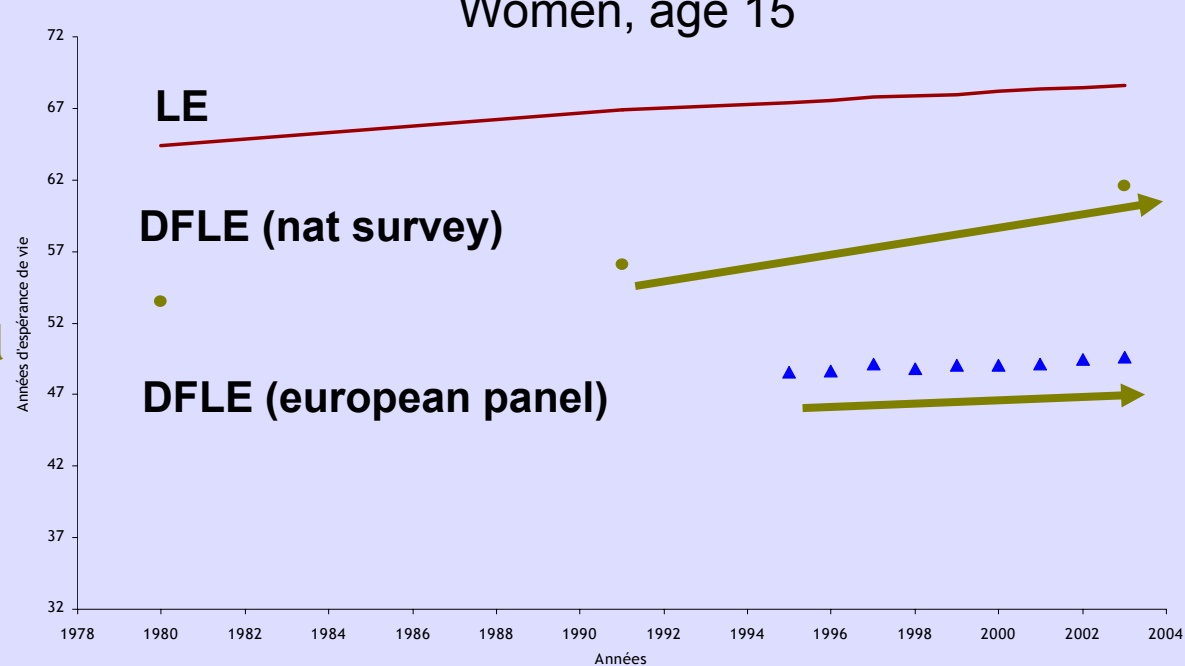
- This trends corresponds to an annual decrease in age specific disability prevalence ranging from **4%** to **7%** over the 1990's
- **Real change or artifact ?**
 - Change in the survey design
 - Fairly low prevalence in 2002
 - Small gender differences in 2002

... in the light
of other data
sources for France:

European household panel

... in the light
of trends in other
countries

Variations of 2% to 4%
in most countries



Why such a low reported disability in 2002 ?

- Reliability of this general disability question?
- Impact of the new survey design on this indicator ?

Analysis of internal consistency of the responses:

- Other general questions on disability:

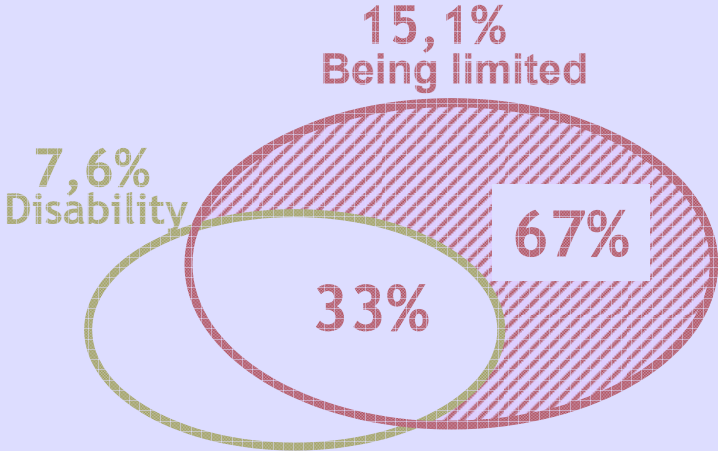
Being limited:

asked to the person for him/herself just after the disability question

Being disabled:

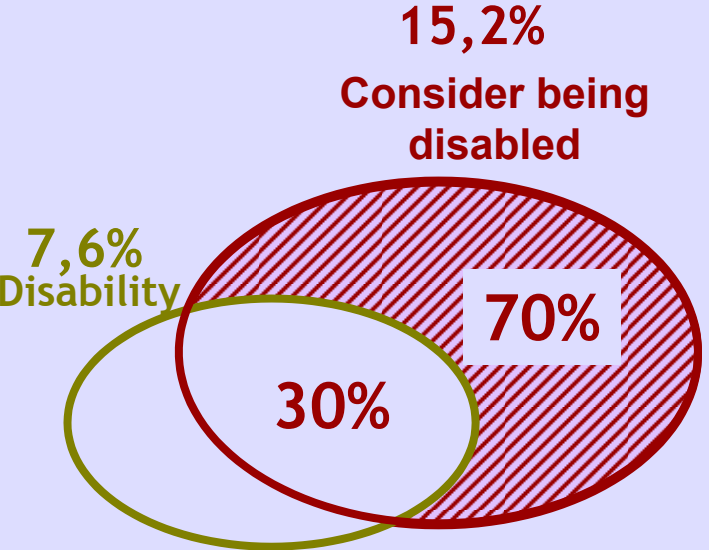
asked to the person for him/herself at the very end of the survey

Other general disability questions



2/3 of the persons reporting limitations did not report « disability »

Using « disabled » may refrain from reporting problems, especially for proxies ... unless the most evident ones



70% of the persons considering being disabled did not report « disability »

Greater % refrains reporting problems in 2002 due to the position in the questionnaire

Why such a low reported disability in 2002 ?

- Reliability of this general disability question?
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- Other general questions on disability:

Being limited:

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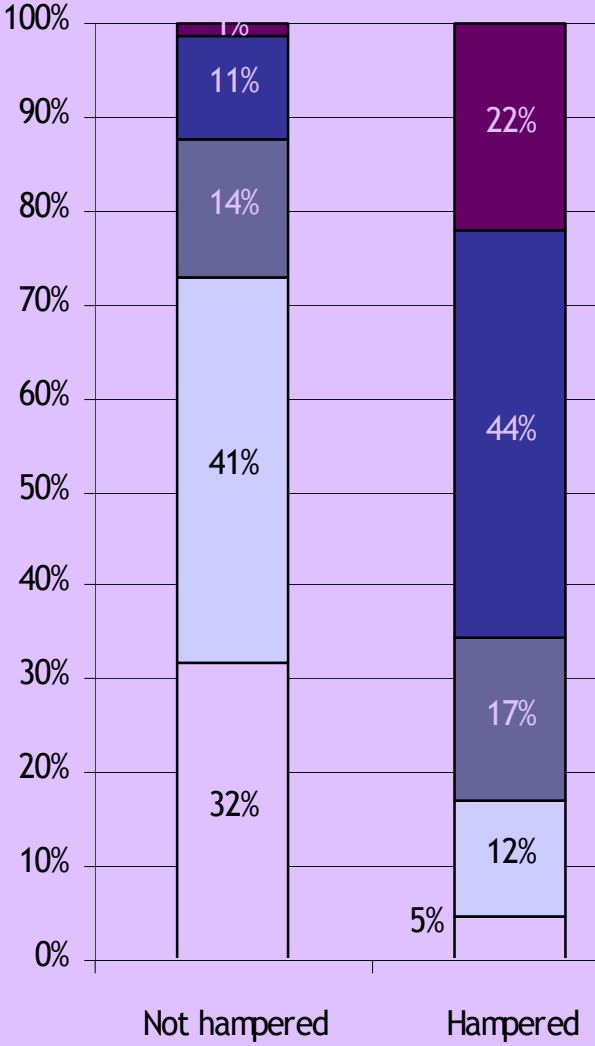
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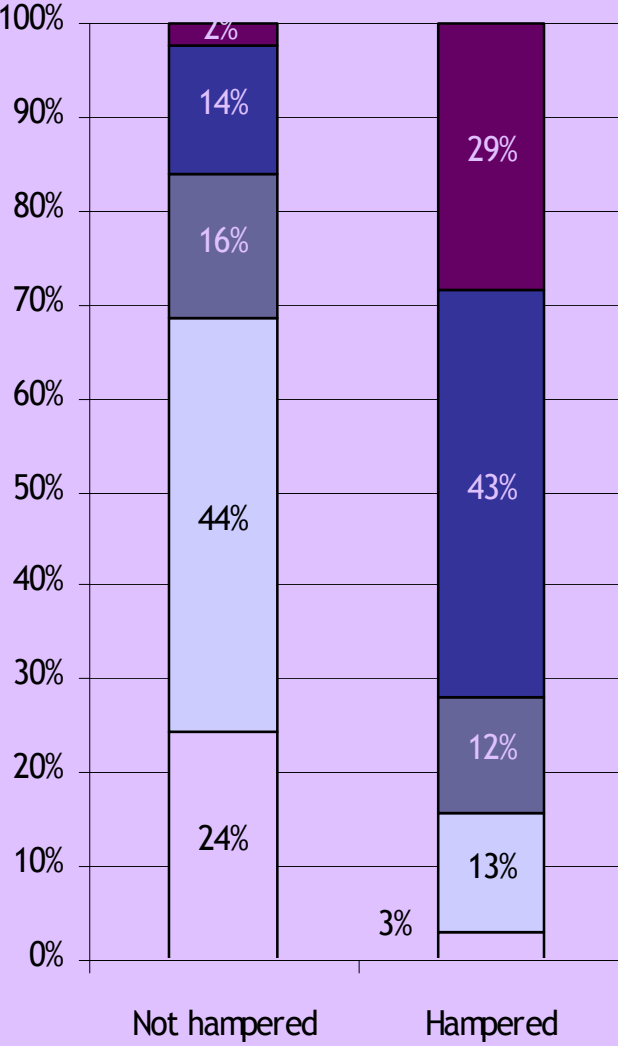
- Detailed data on **activity restrictions (ADL, IADL, work)** and **intrinsic & residual functional limitations (physical and sensory)**

Disability and functional health status

Men, 20 and over

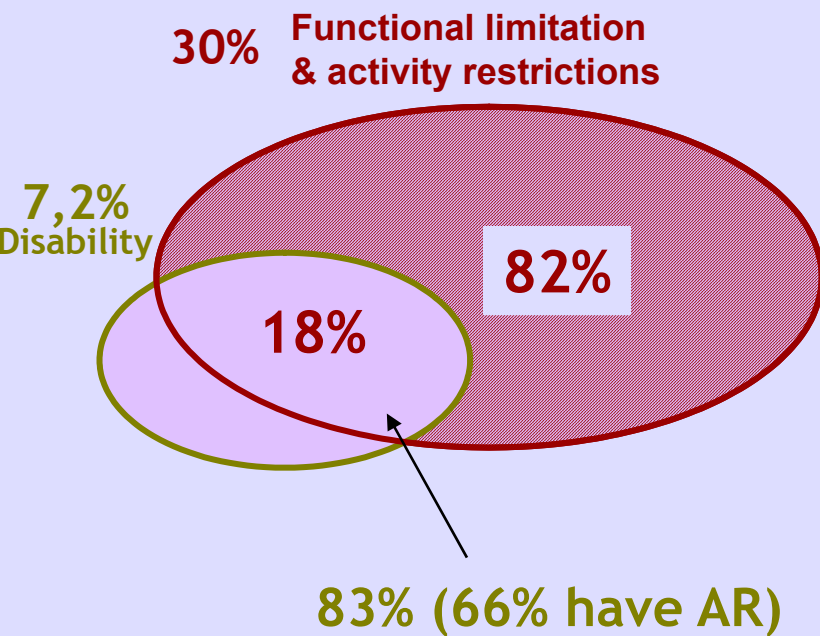


Women, 20 and over



- ADL restrictions
- Activity restrictions
- Residual fonct. limitations
- Chronic or functional problem
- No problem

Activity restrictions, functional limitations and the general disability question



More than 80% of people with AR&FL were not « screened » by the question

More than 80% of people reporting disability have AR&FL

- The question has a **poor sensibility** but a **good specificity**
- Variations in consistency with age, sex, SES?

Relative risk of “being disabled” (30 years old +) (Adjusted on health status)

	30 year and older with functional problems (adj on the problem)
An addition year of age	1,02
Men	1
Women	0,72
Managerial staff	1
Interm. occupations	0,99
Farmers	0,94
Craft and trade business	0,96
Clerks and employees	1,29
Skilled manual workers	1,08
Unsk. manual workers	1,71
House keepers	1,98
Other inactive	5,02
Not known	12,83

Relative risk of “being disabled” (30 years old +)

(Adjusted on health status)

	30 year and older with functional problems (adj on the problem)	30 year and older with ADL restr.
An addition year of age	1,02	1,00
Men	1	1
Women	0,72	0,84
Managerial staff	1	1
Interm. occupations	0,99	0,78
Farmers	0,94	0,75
Craft and trade business	0,96	0,88
Clerks and employees	1,29	0,87
Skilled manual workers	1,08	1,04
Unsk. manual workers	1,71	1,28
House keepers	1,98	0,53
Other inactive	5,02	3,42
Not known	12,83	-

Evidence of differences in reported disability compared to other measures and sociodemog difference in mismatch

- due to general variations in people's propensity to identify and report their functional problems as disability within a general question
- due to the use of the term “disabled”
- due to household based interview vs individual interview
- due to the position of the question in the survey

Discussion

- This indicator “screens” severe functional problems, more specifically activity restrictions...
 - ... focuses on most “evident” deteriorated status, modifying the usual findings for gender differences
- The gold-standard is also sensible to sex, age, SES... compared to more clinical assessment of functional status
 - *Women seems to report “earlier” some functional problems*
 - *Most socially advantaged groups and younger age groups seems to report only the most severe problems*

No clear evidence for “misreport” compared to a more clinical approach

Implications

Disability 2002 to monitor trends in DFLE ? **NO**

- Disability question is more restrictive in 2002

Disability as predictor of functional problems? **YES**

- Disability question is an indicator not a measure
- Disability question is highly predictive of activity restrictions
- Disability question may reflect more “recognizable” status

Disability question as a predictor of need for aids and assistance
or predictor of social acknowledgement of disability

?

