

Increasing social inequality in health expectancy in Denmark

REVES meeting
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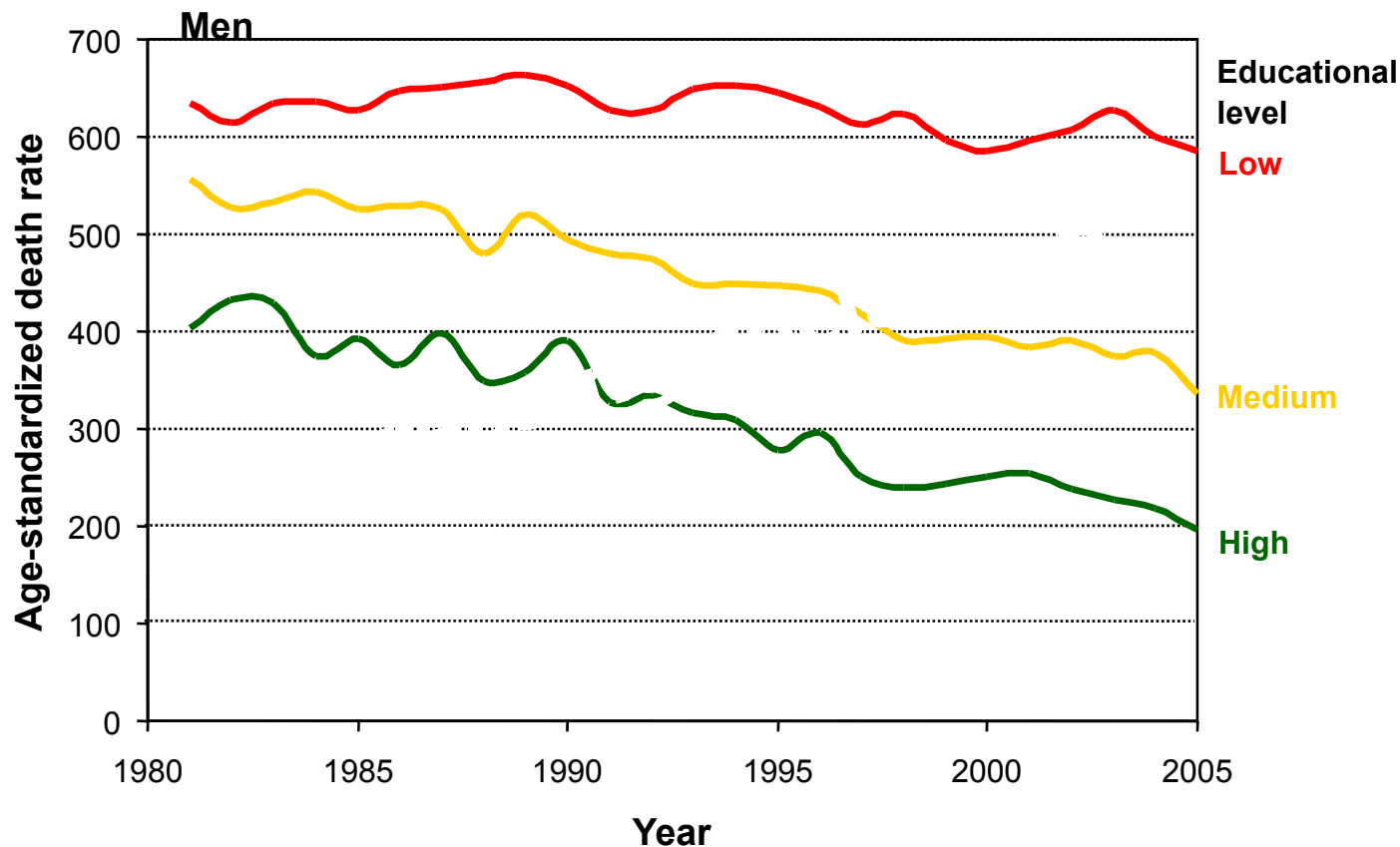
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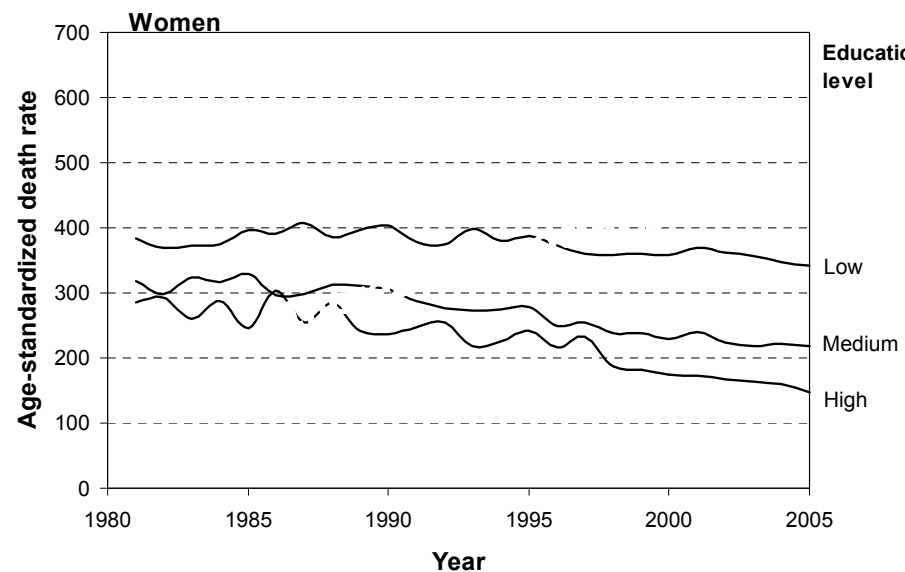
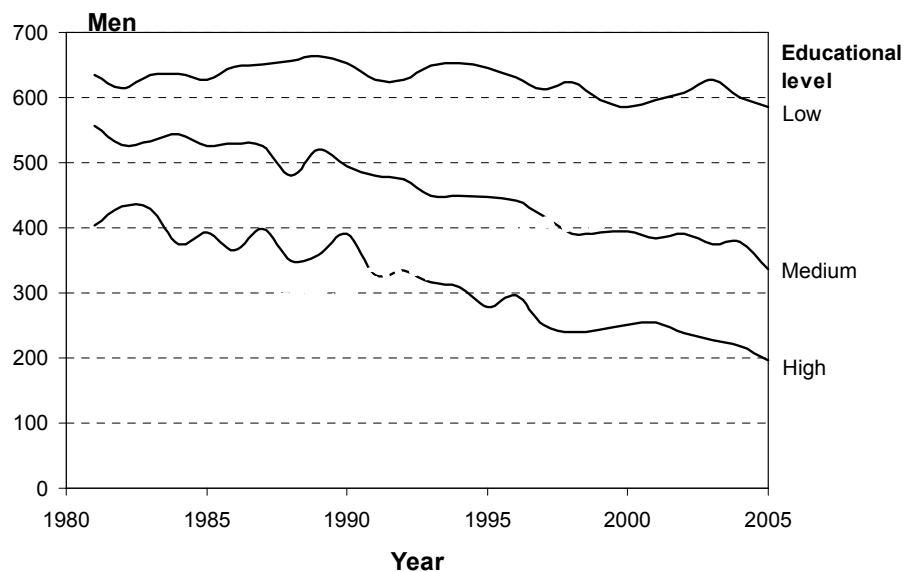
Introductory remarks

Increasing social inequality in **mortality** and **life expectancy** in Denmark

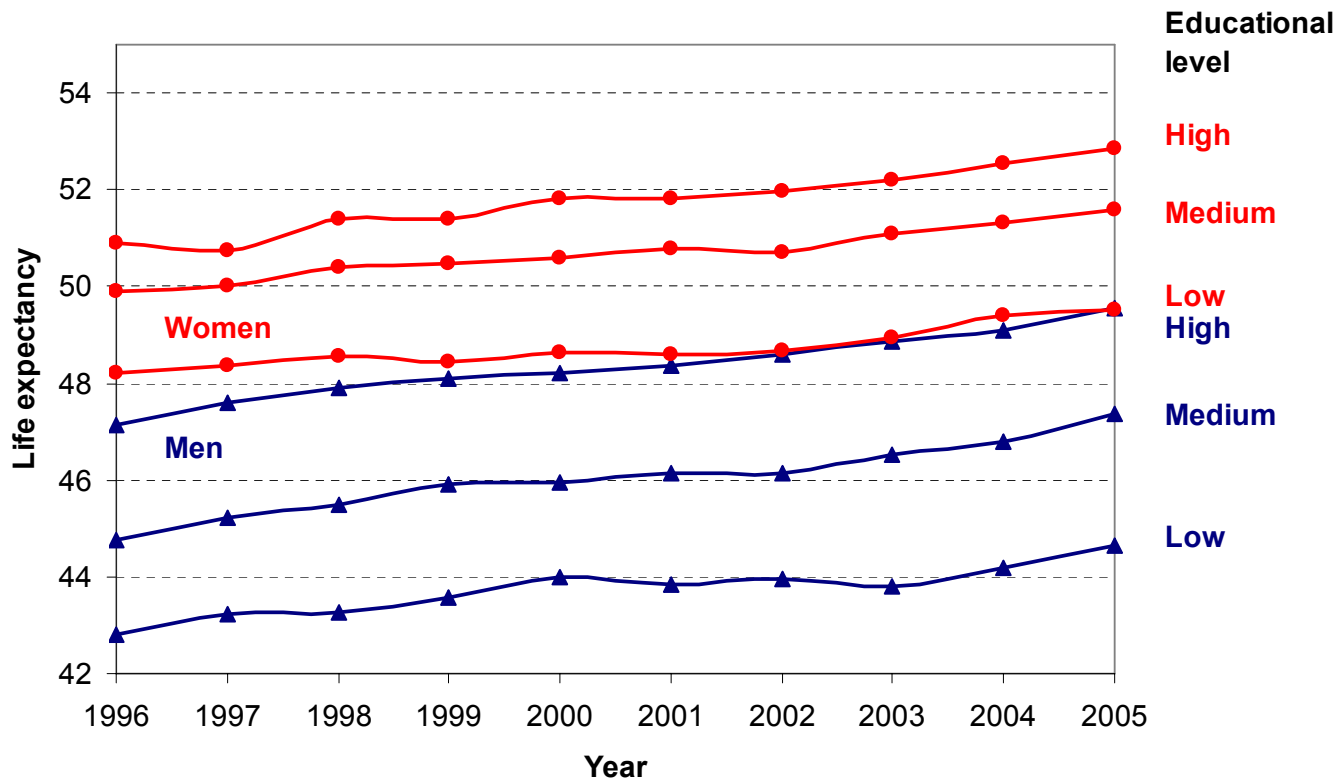
Age-standardized death rates for men aged 30-60. Number of deaths per 100 000 between 1981 and 2005 by educational level



Age-standardized death rates for the age group 30-60. Number of deaths per 100 000 between 1981 and 2005 by educational level



Life expectancy at age 30 between 1996 and 2005 by educational level



Questions

Has the social gradient in health expectancy changed?

Has the social gap in health status narrowed or widened?

Social classification

Educational level

Data sources

The Danish Health Interview Surveys

1994, 2000 and 2005, National Institute of Public Health

Sex-, age- and educational level-specific prevalence of health status

Number of invited and participants

	<u>1994</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>
Invited:	5983	22 486	21 832
Interviewed:	4668	16 690	14 566
	78.0%	74.2%	66.7%

Data sources

Mortality, register linkage, Statistics Denmark

Sex- and age-specific numbers of persons at risk and the numbers of deaths during the period 1993-2005 for each of three educational groups

Methods

Health expectancy by Sullivan's method

Expected lifetime in various health states

- Self-rated health
- Long-standing illness
- Long-lasting restrictions

Self-rated health

Interview question:

“How do you rate your present state of health in general?”

Answer categories:

Very good

Good

Fair

Poor

Very poor

}

}

Dichotomised

Long-standing illness

Interview question:

“Do you suffer from any long-standing illness, long-standing after-effect of injury, any handicap, or other long-standing condition?”

Long-lasting restrictions (if “yes” to the following questions)

First question:

“Within the past 2 weeks, has illness, injury or ailment made it difficult or impossible for you to carry out your usual activities?”

Second question:

“Have these difficulties/restrictions been of a more chronic nature? By chronic is meant that the difficulties/restrictions have lasted or are expected to last 6 months or more”

Educational level

Information about schooling, vocational training and further education

Register information (Statistics Denmark)

Questions in the health interview survey (National Institute of Public Health)

Three levels:

- Low
- Medium
- High

Educational level

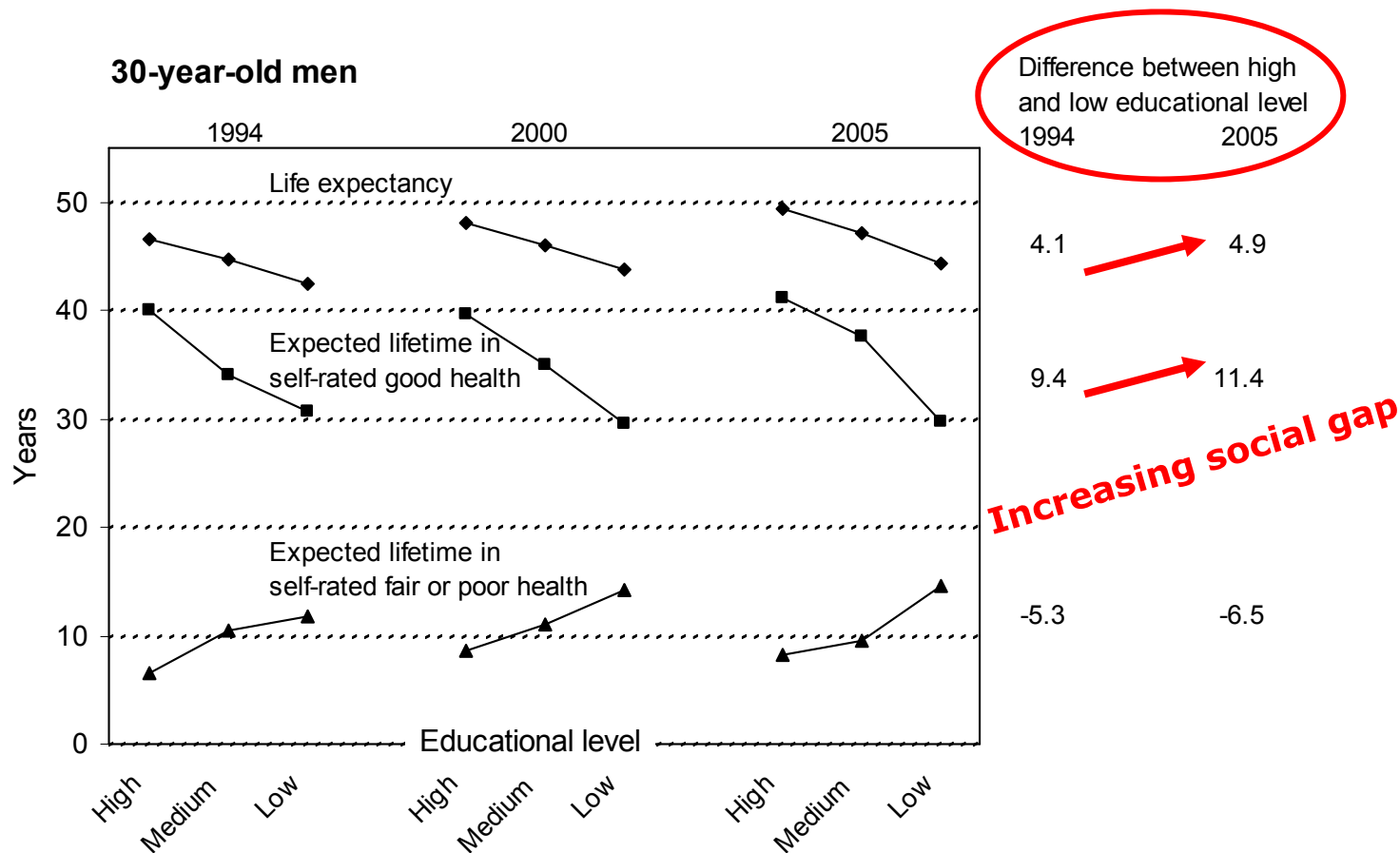
Low - persons with a max. of 10 years of schooling and no more than semi-skilled training, basic vocational training or business school (first year)

Medium - persons with either a max. of 10 years of schooling and further vocational or other training or with post-secondary schooling but no higher education

High - persons with any type of higher education

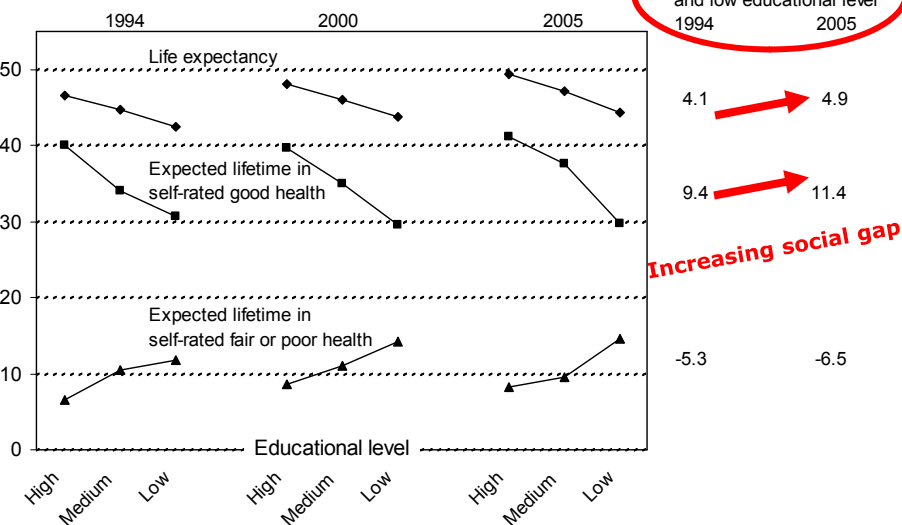
Results

Changes in the social gradient in life expectancy and expected lifetime in self-rated good and fair or poor health in Danish men

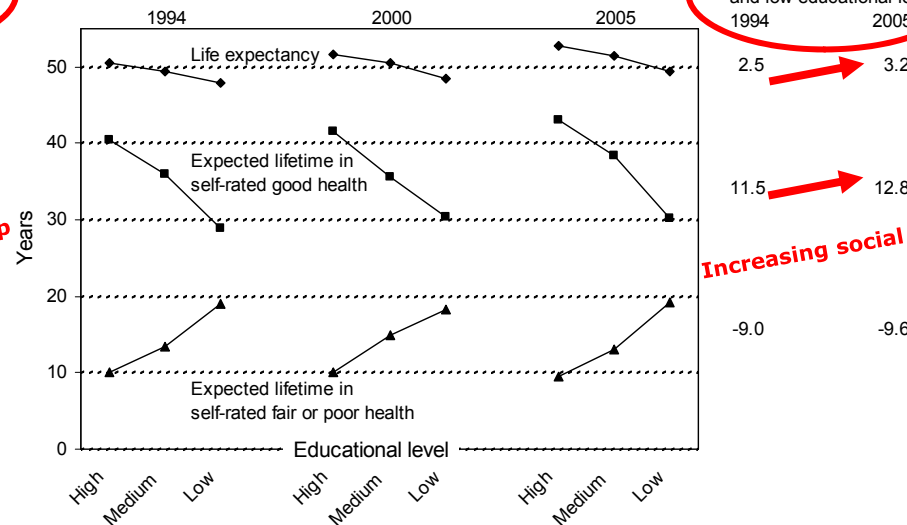


Changes in the social gradient in life expectancy and expected lifetime in self-rated good and fair or poor health in Denmark

30-year-old men



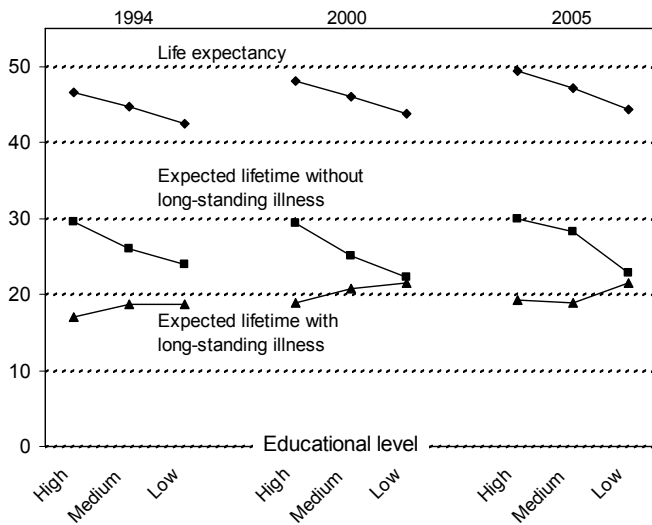
30-year-old women



Changes in the social gradient in life expectancy and expected lifetime without and with long-standing illness in Denmark

30-year-old men

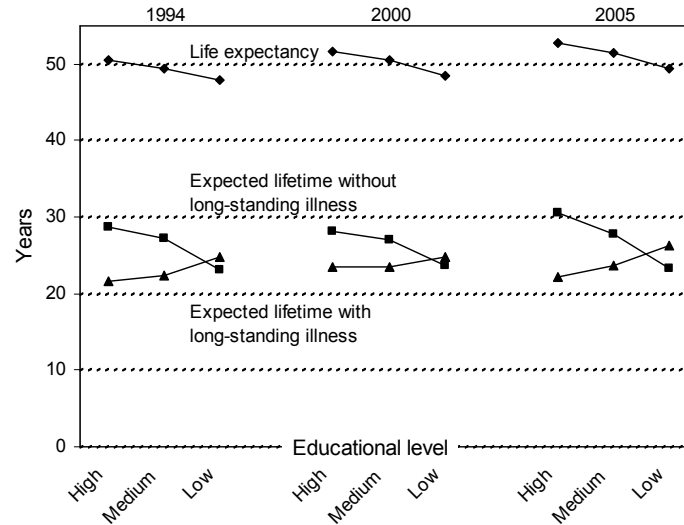
Difference between high and low educational level
1994 2005



4.1 4.9
5.7 7.1
-1.6 -2.2

30-year-old women

Difference between high and low educational level
1994 2005

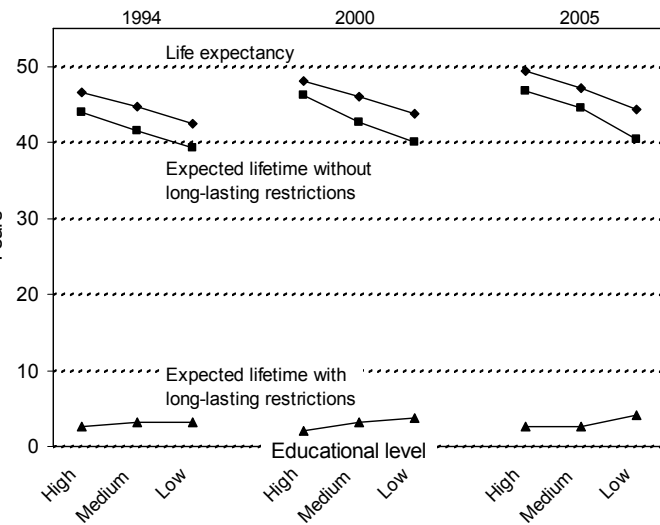


2.5 3.0
5.6 7.1
-3.1 -4.0

Changes in the social gradient in life expectancy and expected lifetime without and with long-lasting restrictions in Denmark

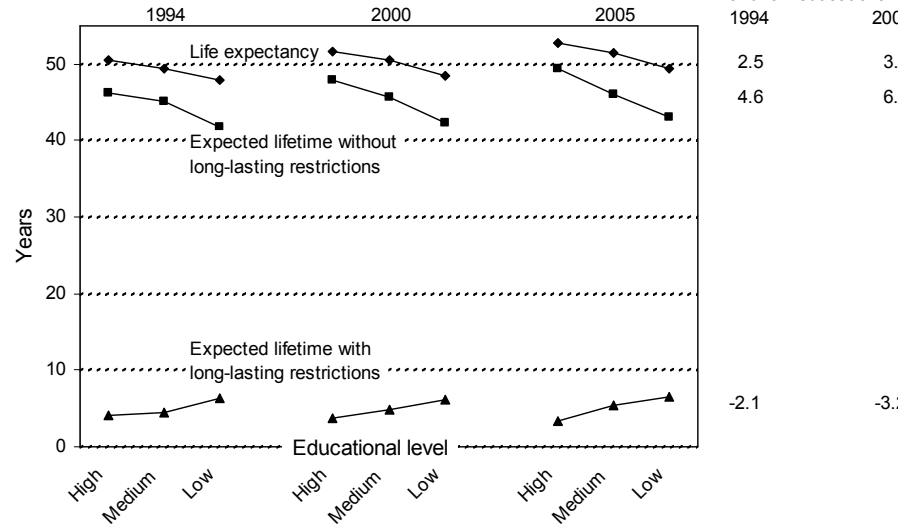
30-year-old men

Difference between high and low educational level
1994 2005



30-year-old women

Difference between high and low educational level
1994 2005



Numbers of interviewees aged 30 or over who participated in the Danish Health Interview Surveys 1994, 2000 and 2005 by sex and educational level

Year	Level of education	Number of participants			
		Men		Women	
		N	Percent	N	Percent
1994	High	375	22.8	406	22.0
	Medium	815	49.4	702	38.0
	Low	458	27.8	739	40.0
	All	1648	100.0	1847	100.0
2000	High	1700	26.8	1810	27.1
	Medium	3171	50.0	2769	41.5
	Low	1468	23.2	2089	31.3
	All	6339	100.0	6668	99.9
2005	High	1763	30.4	2044	32.5
	Medium	3017	52.0	2639	42.0
	Low	1020	17.6	1600	25.5
	All	5800	100.0	6283	100.0



Thank you!

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