

Health trends in Sweden

1992 – 2002

Gender & complex health problems

Marti G. Parker

Bettina Meinow

Pär Schön

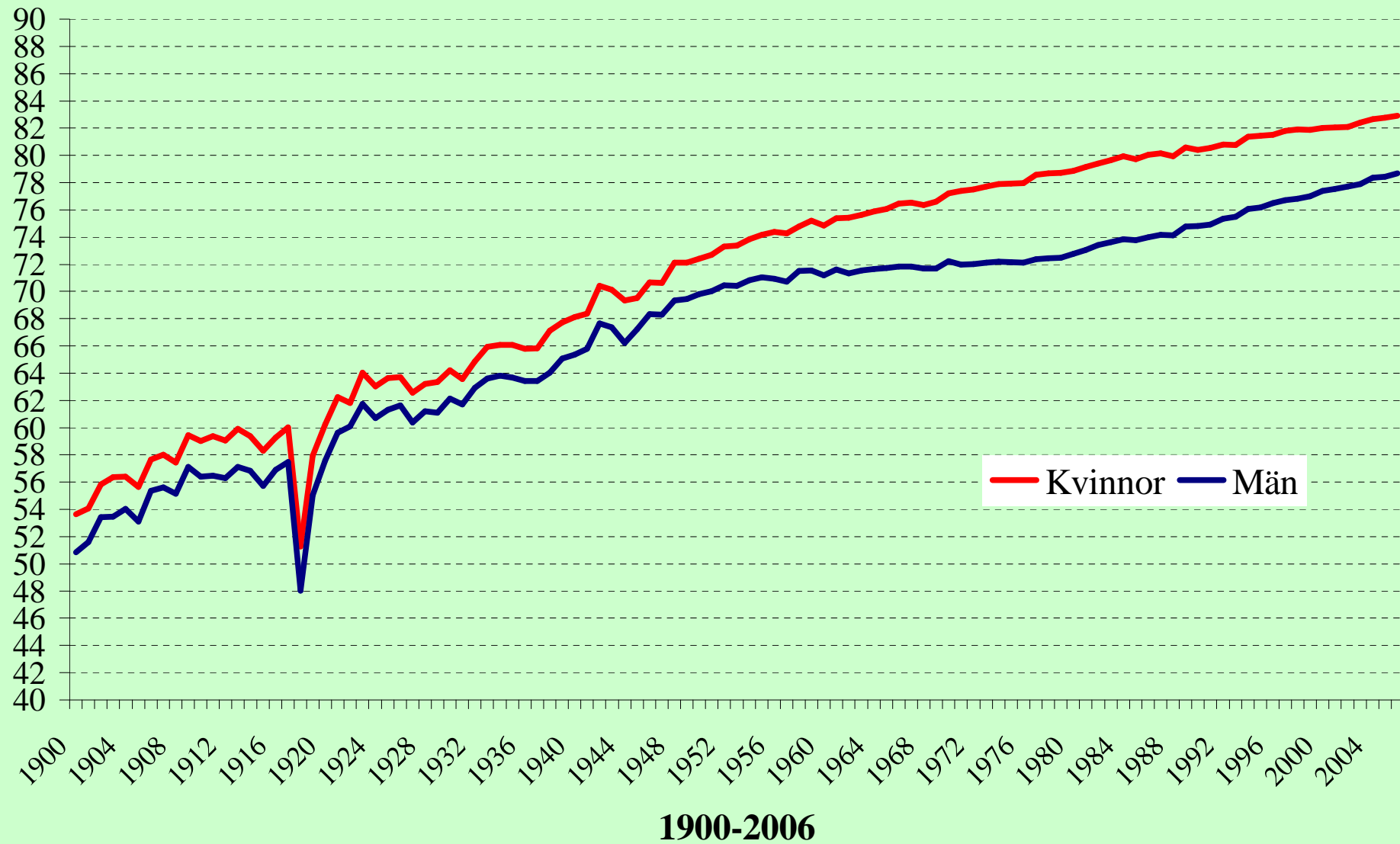
Mats Thorslund

Karolinska Institutet

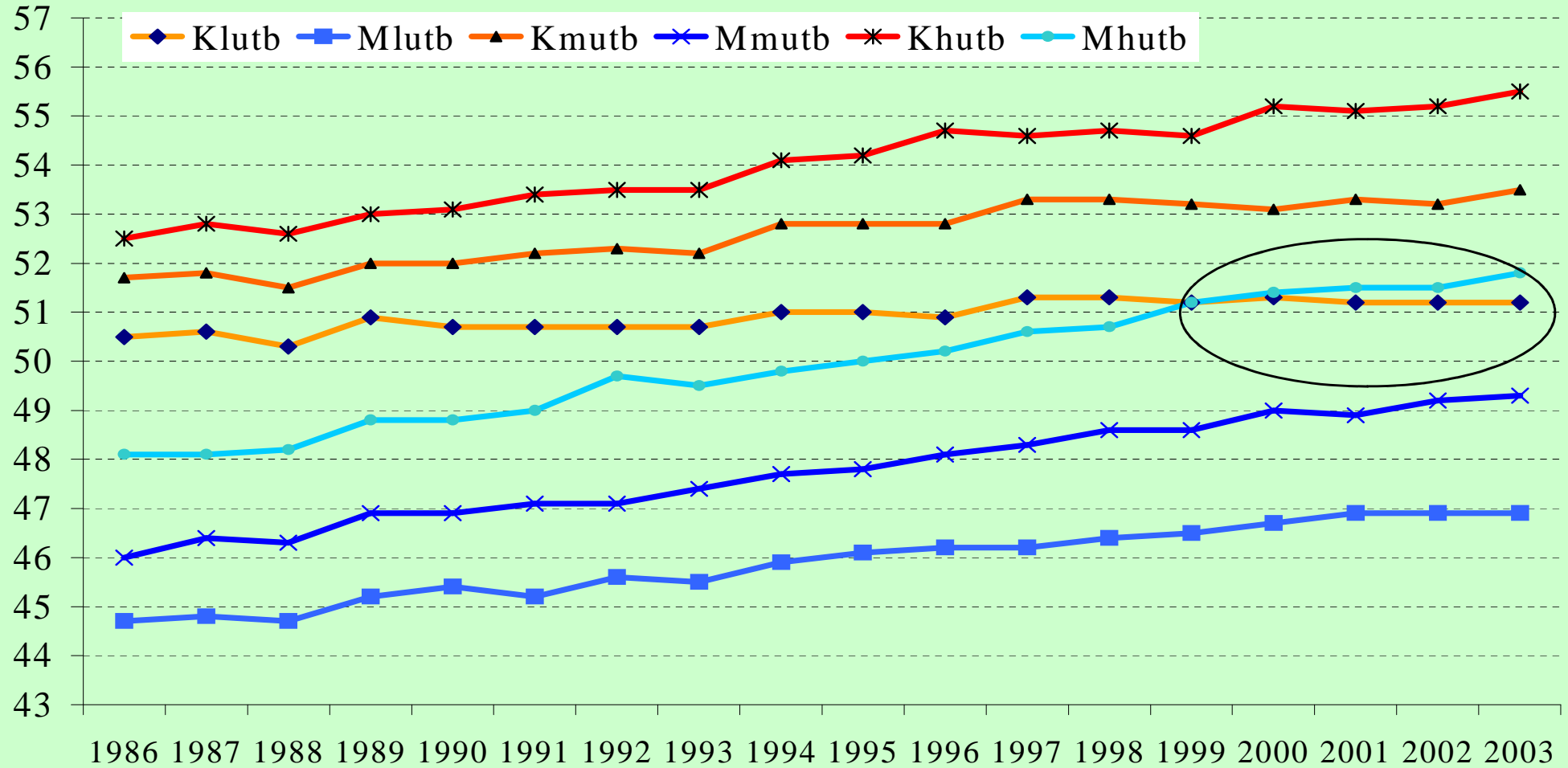
& Stockholm University



Average life expectancy at birth 1900-2006



Life expectancy at age 30 *by education 1986-2003*



SWEOLD

Nationally representative interview survey

Age 77+

1992

n=537

Non-response 4.6 %

Females 60.5 %

2002

n=561

Non-response 11.5 %

Females 59.4 %



Health items 1992-2002

- No significant change in prevalence of
 - S-R diabetes
 - S-R myocardial infarction
 - S-R stroke
 - S-R ADL
 - S-R IADL
 - Vision impairment test
- Significant increases in prevalence of
 - (OR controlled for sex & age)*
 - S-R fatigue (1.98)
 - S-R hypertension (1.38)
 - S-R joint pain (1.84)
 - S-R hearing (1.76)
 - S-R mobility (1.40)
 - Physical function test (1.37)
 - Lung function test (1.82)
 - Cognitive test (1.48)



Gender differences

adjustments for age and education

		1992	2002	1992/2002 Adj. OR	Sex X period
SRH	Men			1.89**	{0.085}
	Women	1.79**	1.18	1.19	
Myocardial infarction	Men			2.87*	{0.054}
	Women	1.38	0.43*	1.02	
Joint pain	Men			1.84***	n.s.
	Women	1.81***	1.87***	1.97***	
Mobility	Men			1.44*	n.s.
	Women	1.69**	1.69***	1.47**	
Lung function test	Men			1.43	n.s.
	Women	1.65**	2.54***	2.42***	
ADL	Men			1.14	n.s.
	Women	1.22	1.27	1.16	

Source: Schön & Parker, J of Population Ageing 2009

Complex health problems

- From the perspective of care provision
- 3 dimensions:
 - Mobility
 - Cognition/communication
 - Symptoms & disease



Severe problems

% prevalence

Domain	1992	2002	
Diseases/symptoms	20.7	31.7	***
Mobility	20.6	26.9	+
Cognition/communication	26.3	32.4	n.s.

2+ severe problems = Complex health problems

	Adjusted OR 1992/2002
No severe problem	0.60 ***
Severe problem in only one domain	1.34 *
Severe problems in 2 or 3 domains	1.37 *

Source: Meinow et al. 2006. Eur J Ageing

Mortality and Complex health problems 1992-2002

- Overall 4 yr mortality risk decreased 20 %
- No significant decrease among people with no severe problems or in only one domain
- Very old men with complex health problems accounted for most of the decrease
- *Source: Meinow PhD thesis 2008*



Conclusions

- Different health trends for men and women
- -"- for different indicators
- Increasing complexity of care needs



Questions

- Different trends for men and women
 - Why?
 - Gender roles?
 - Smoking?
 - Explaining the closing gender gap in mortality?
- Change in associations between health indicators?
- Increasing complexity of care needs
 - Why?
 - Implications?
- Continuous trend or temporal anomaly?