

A comparison of Healthy Life Years (HLY) in Sweden 1980 - 2006 using different health indicators

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Healthy Life Years (HLY),

- HLY, the expected length of life in health, has been denoted by the European Commission as the structural indicator of health to be used in comparisons between EU-countries.
- HLY can be calculated using prevalence of ill-health per age-group according to a representative population study (the Sullivan method).
- The result will depend on which indicator of ill-health that is used.

Aim of study

- To calculate HLE according to different measures of ill-health
- To calculate proportion of remaining years in health
- To investigate the variability of HLY over time when using different ill-health indicators.

Material and method

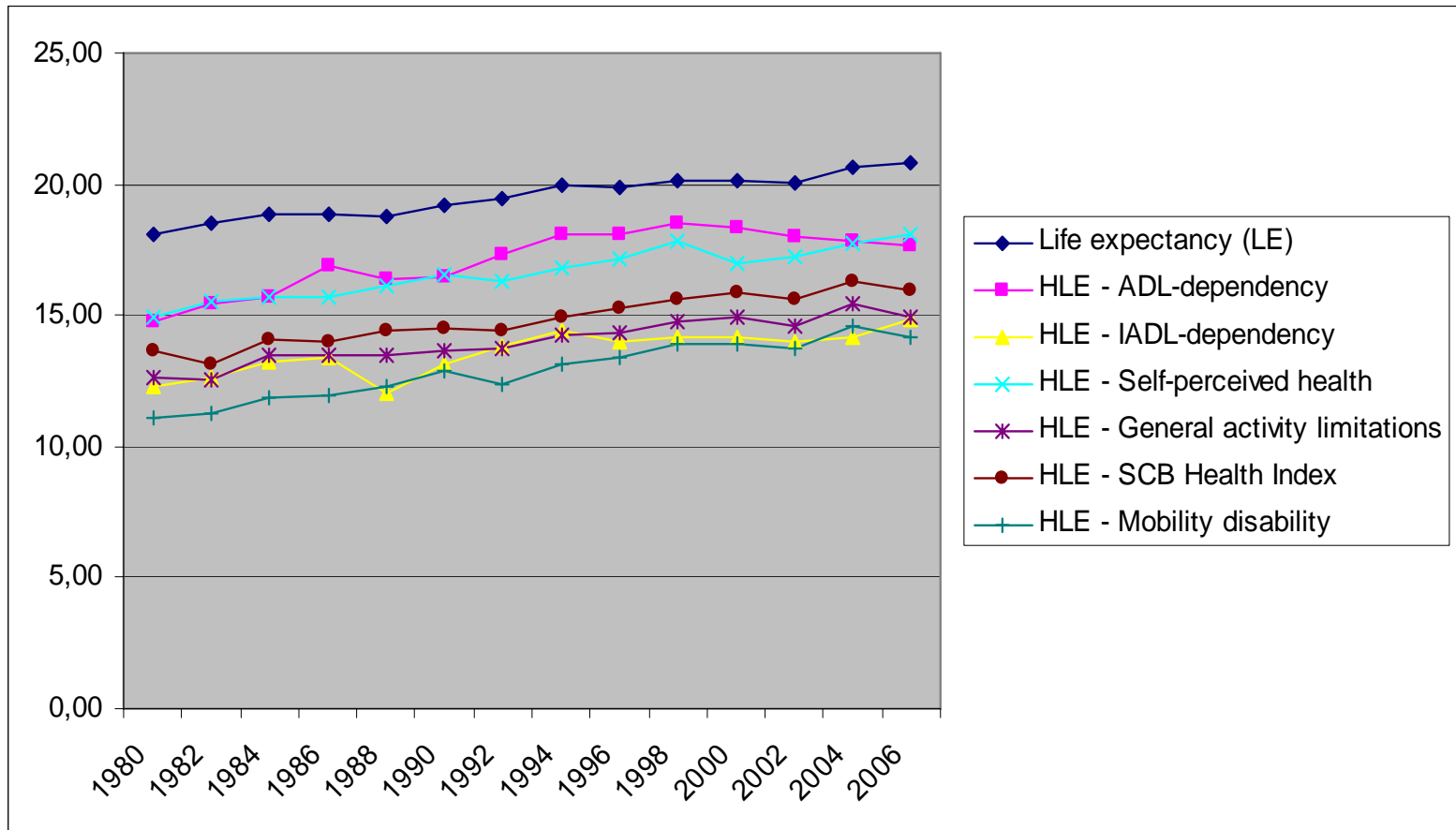
- HLY was calculated by the Sullivan method
- Data from the Swedish Survey of Living Conditions (ULF) collected bi-annually from 1980 - 2006.

Indicators of ill-health used

- ADL-dependency,
- IADL-dependency
- Self-reported overall health
- General activity limitations (GALI)
- Statistic Sweden (SCB) Health Index
- Mobility disability.

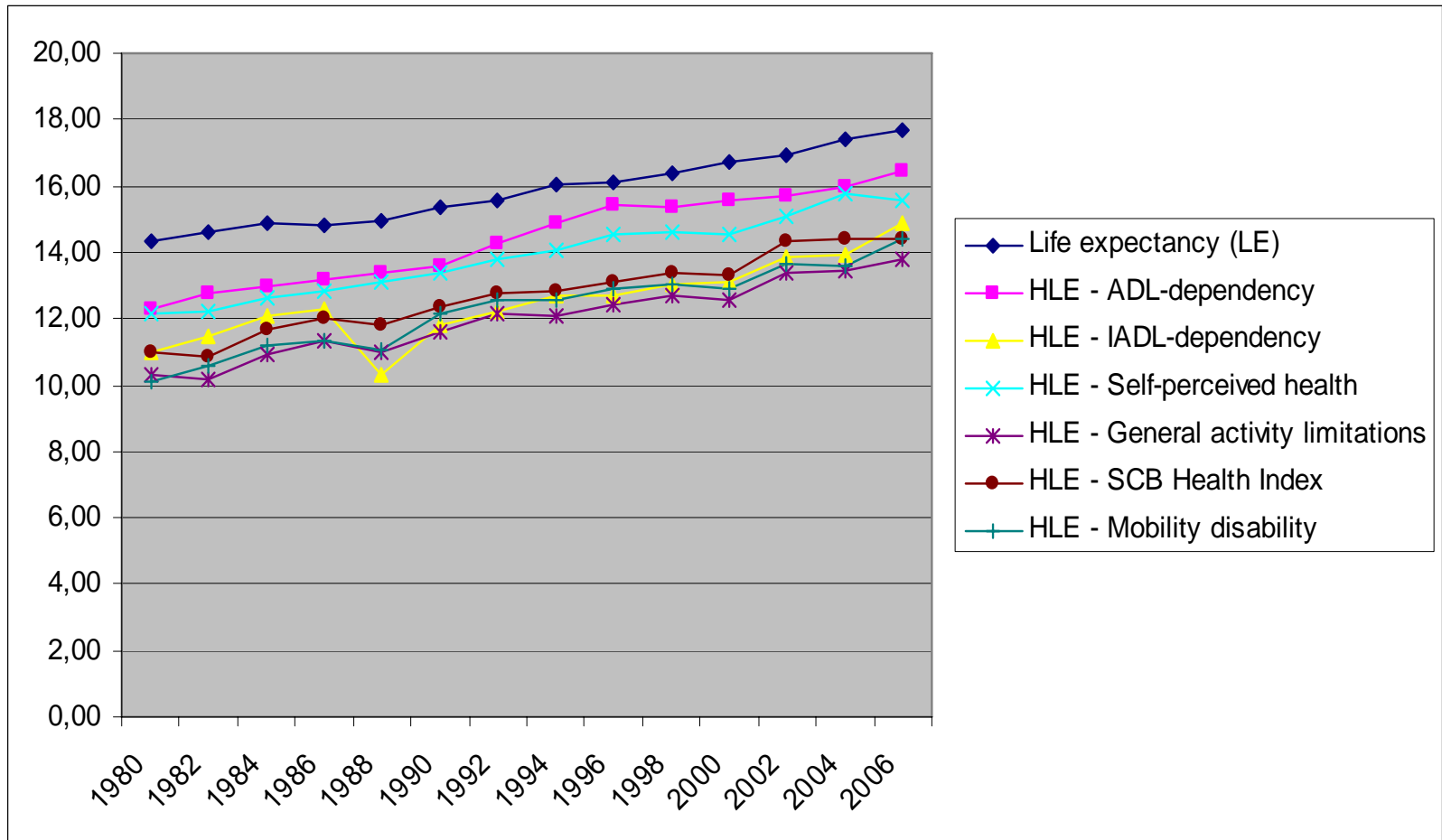
Health life expectancy (HLE) at 65 years according to different health indicators

Women



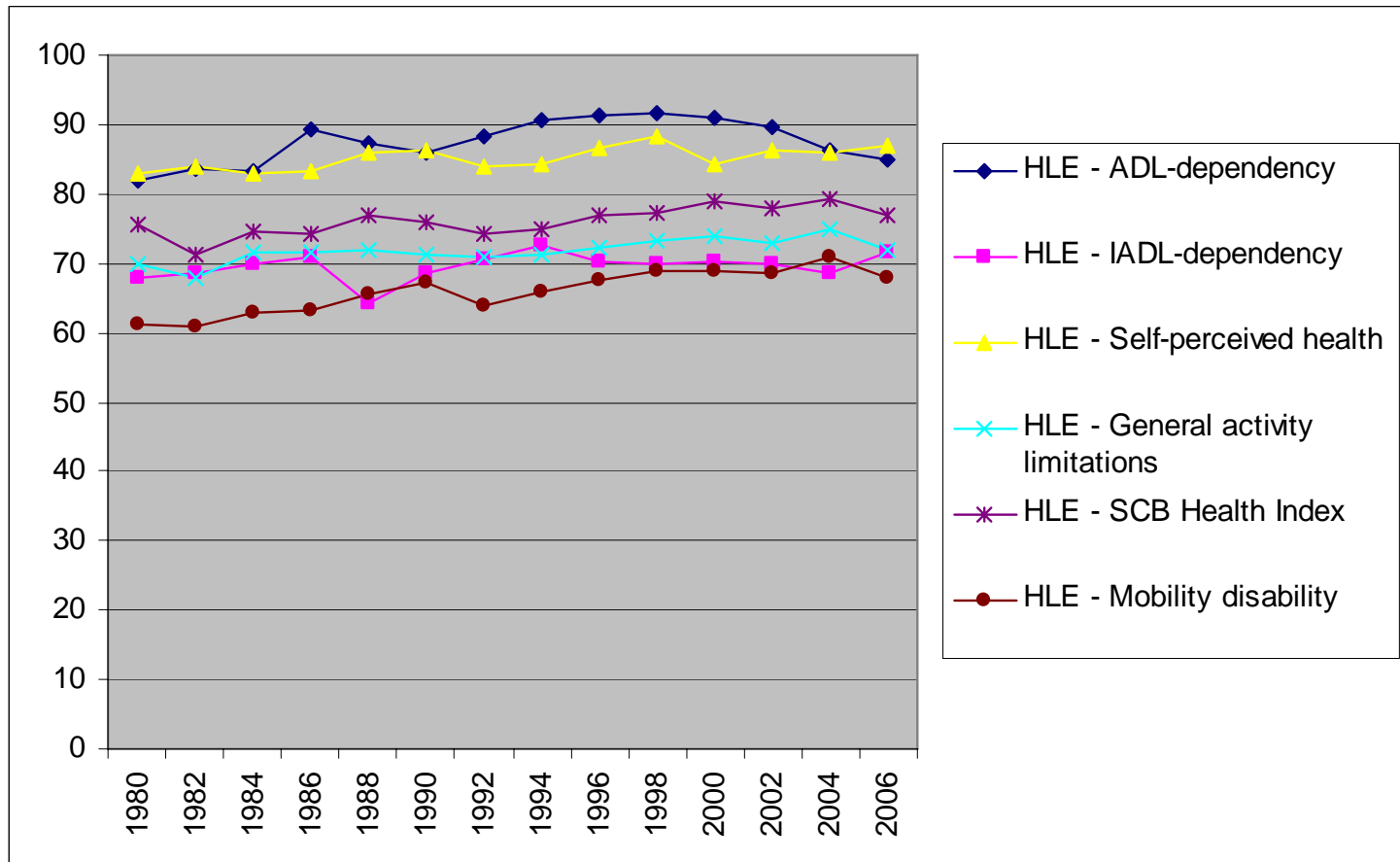
Health life expectancy (HLE) at 65 years according to different health indicators

Men



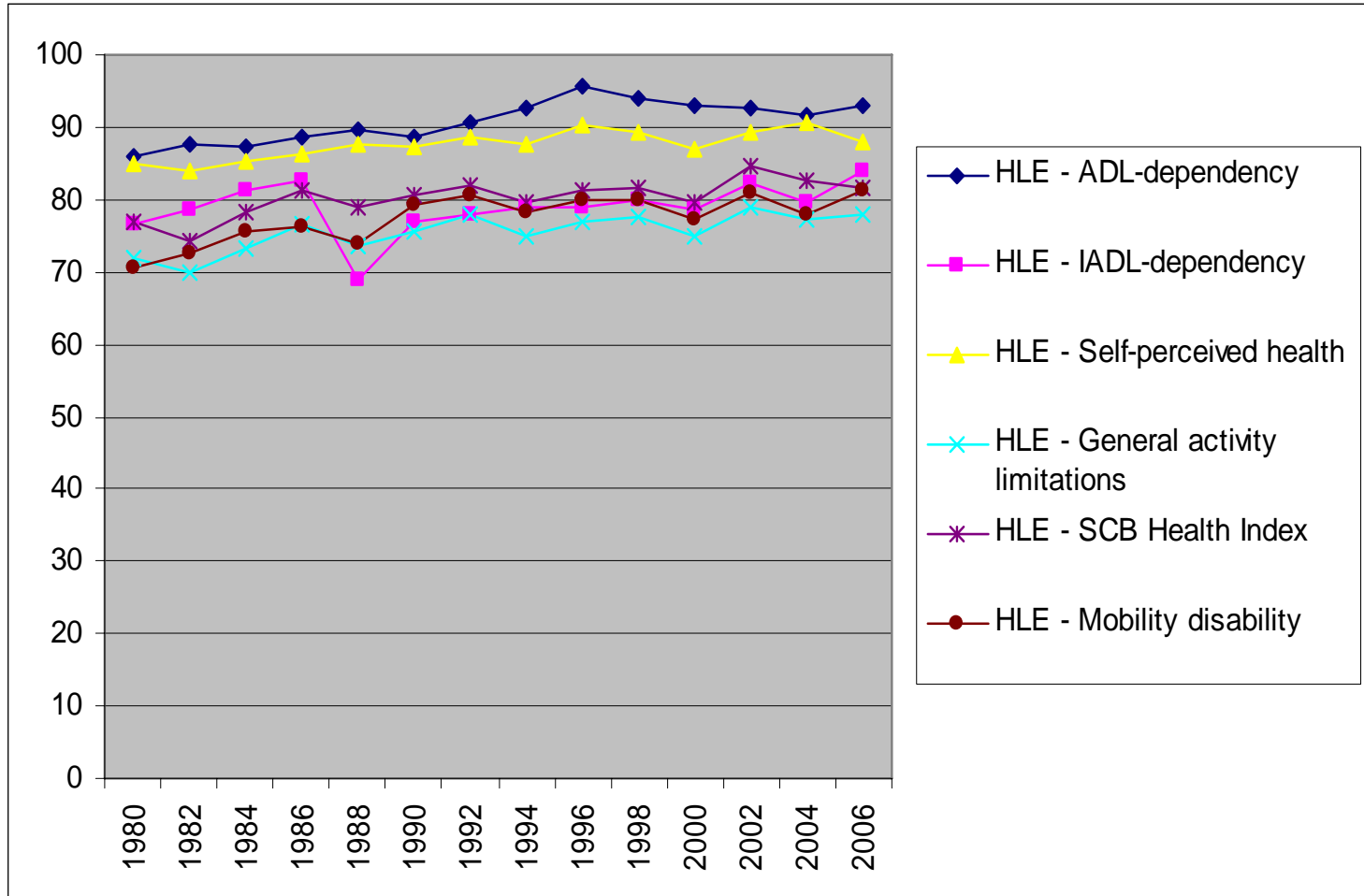
Proportion of remaining years from 65 in health according to different health indices

Women

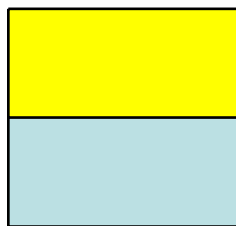
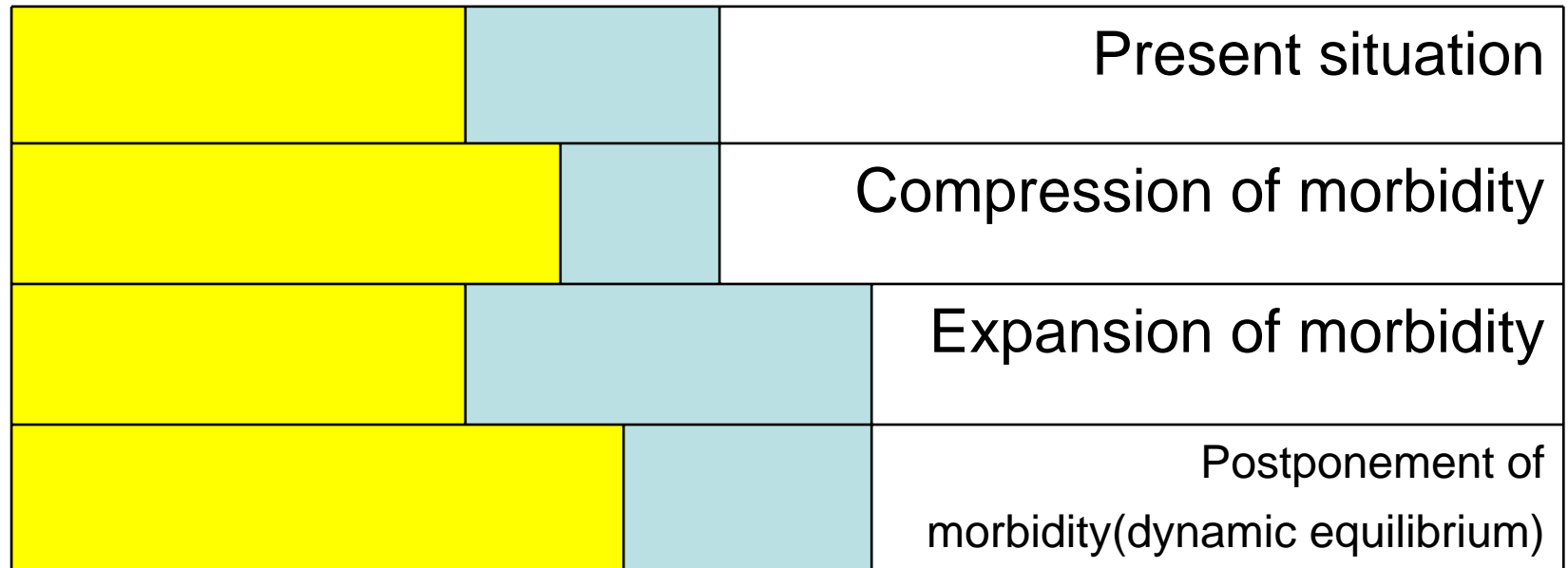


Proportion of remaining years from 65 in health according to different health indices

Men



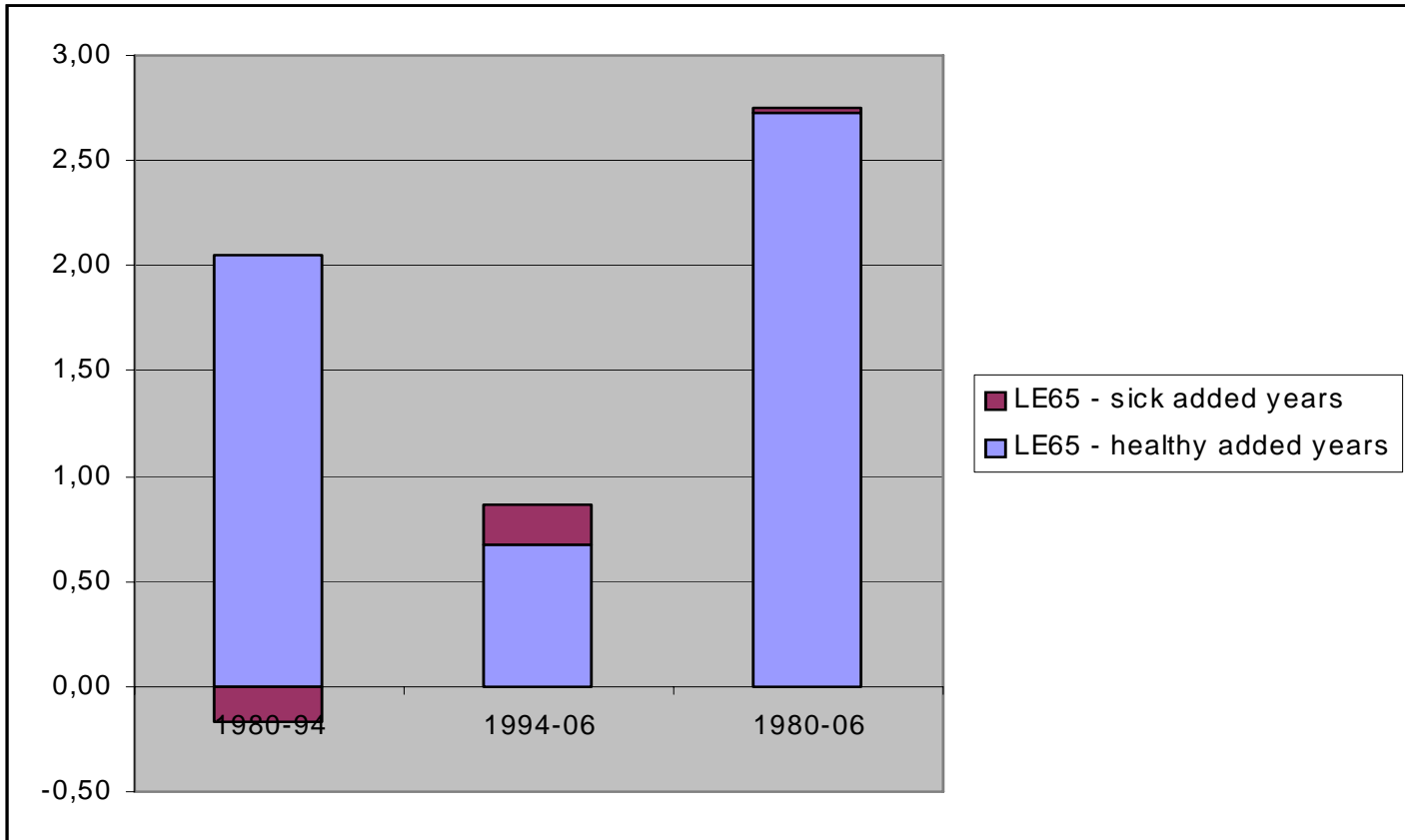
Three hypotheses regarding connection between future length of life and health among the elderly



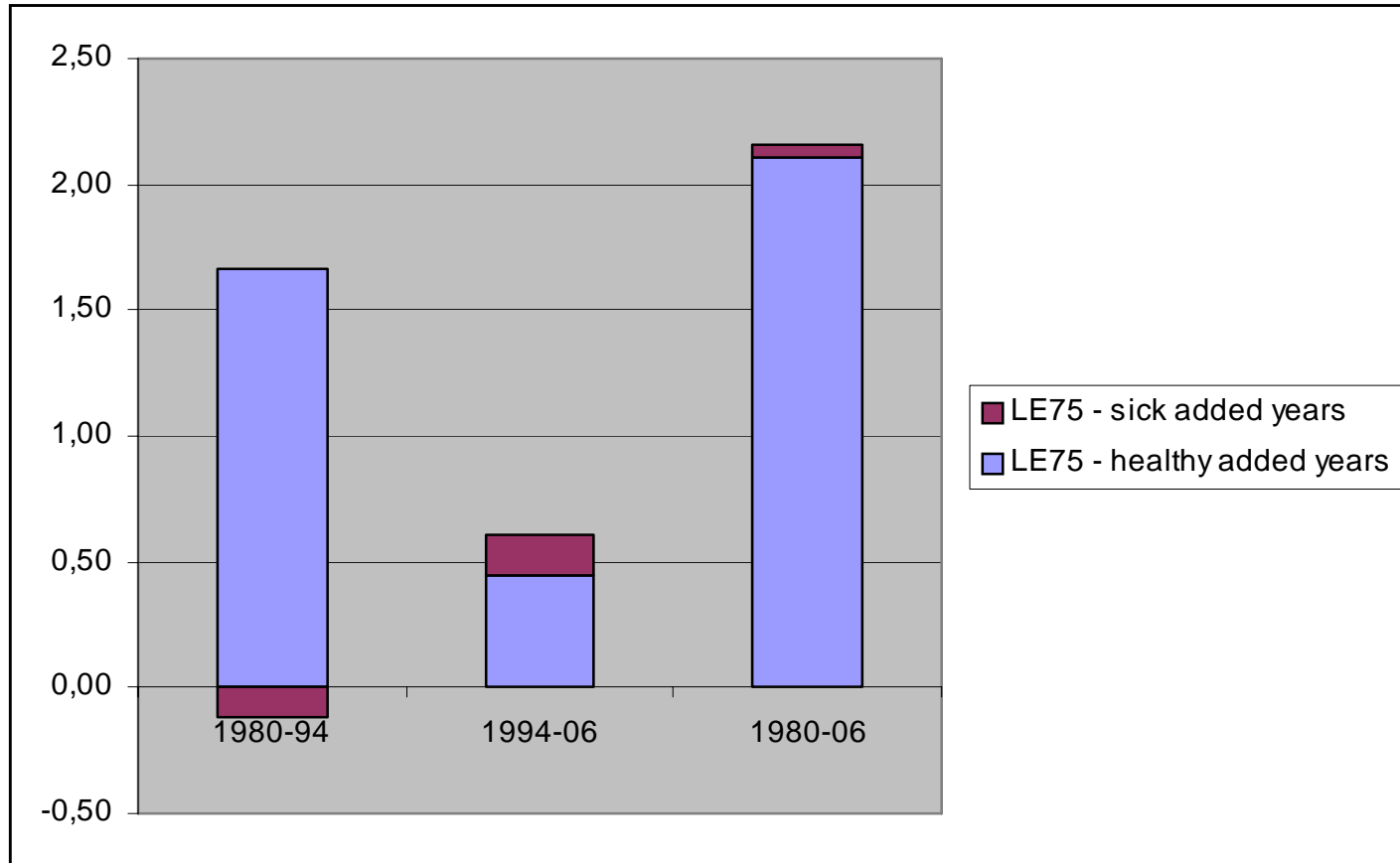
Healthy years

Years with ill-health

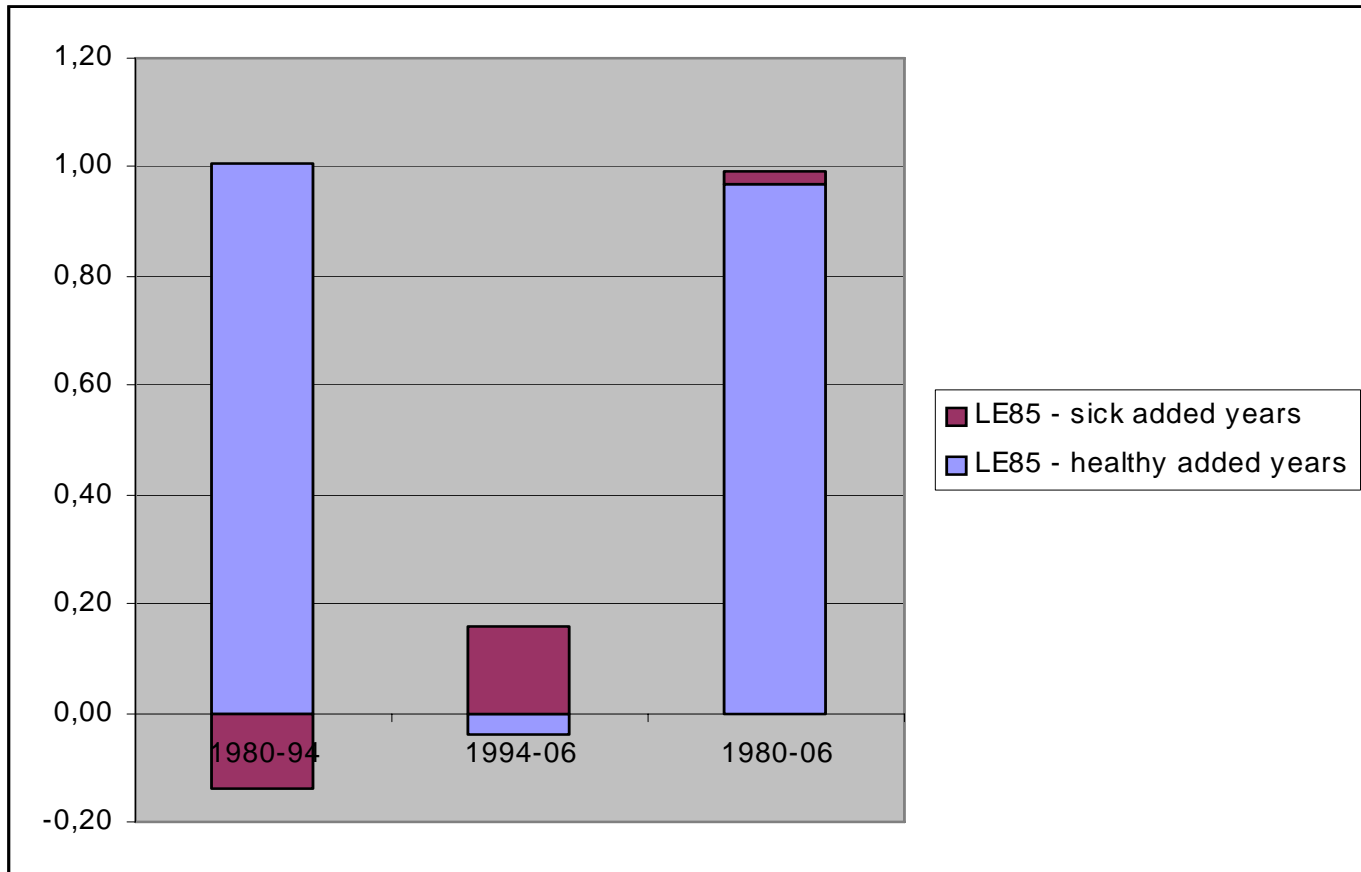
Healthy and "sick" added years of life - average all indicators, women, 65+ years



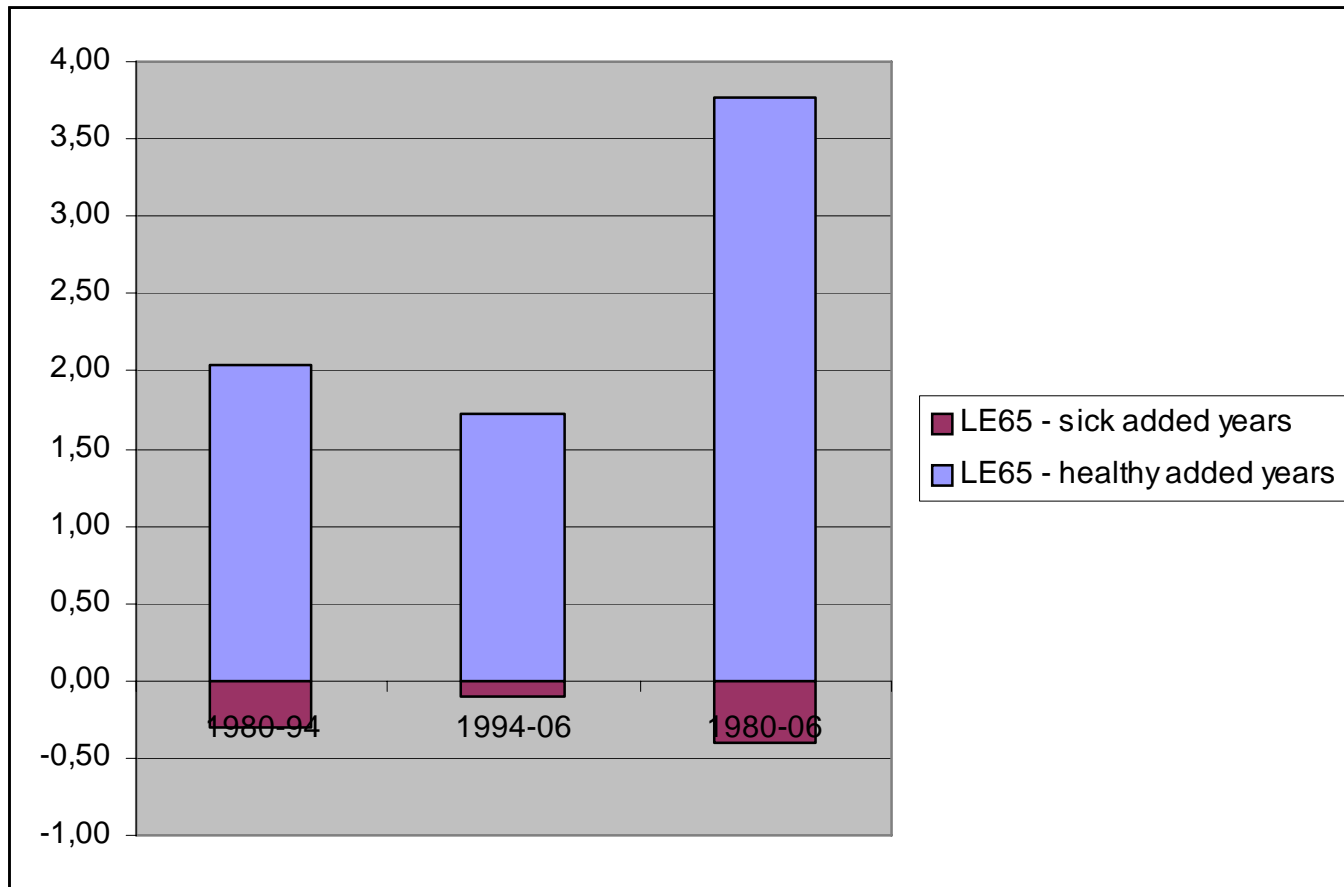
Healthy and "sick" added years of life - average all indicators, women, 75+ years



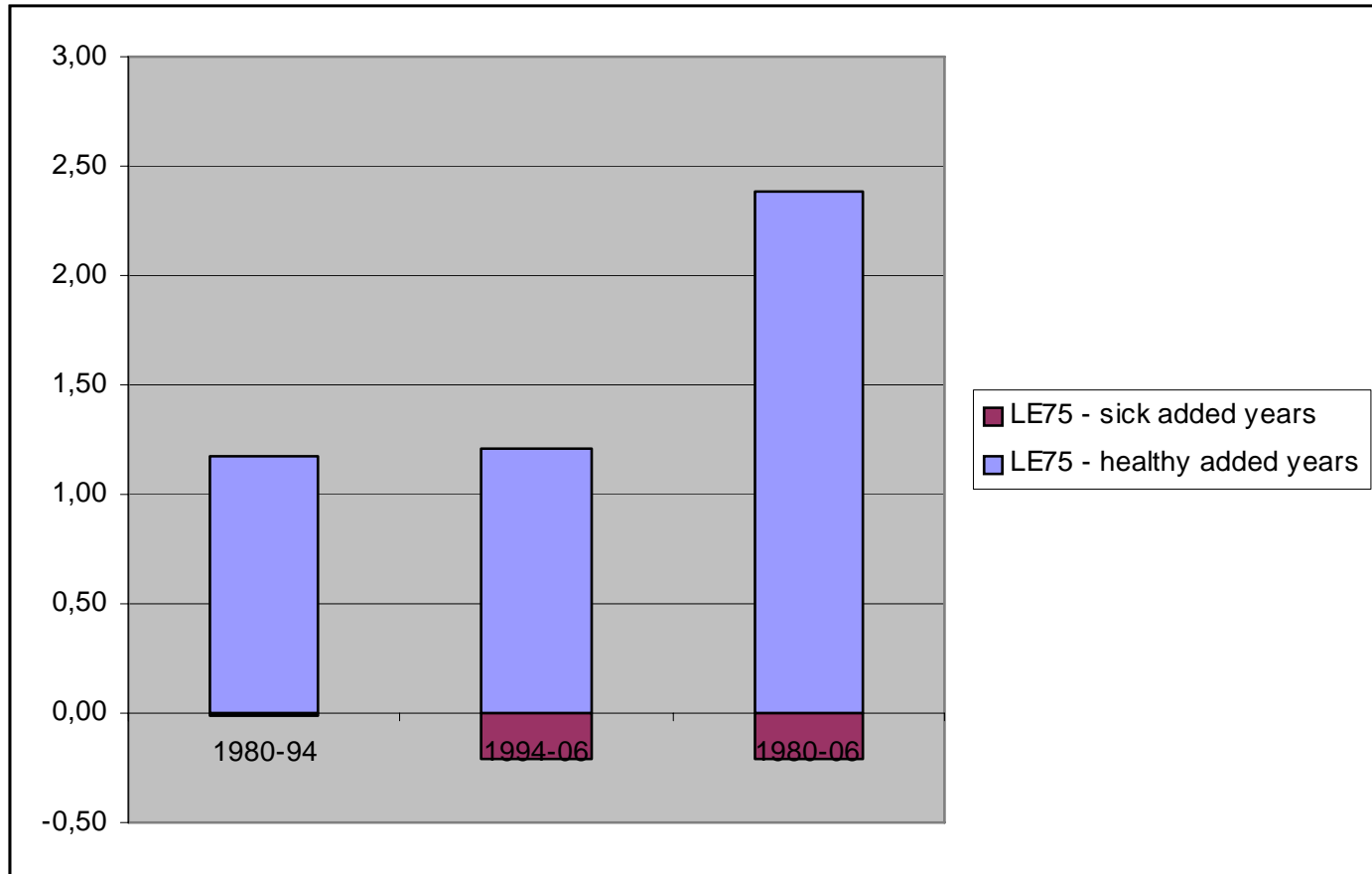
Healthy and "sick" added years of life - average all indicators, women, 85+ years



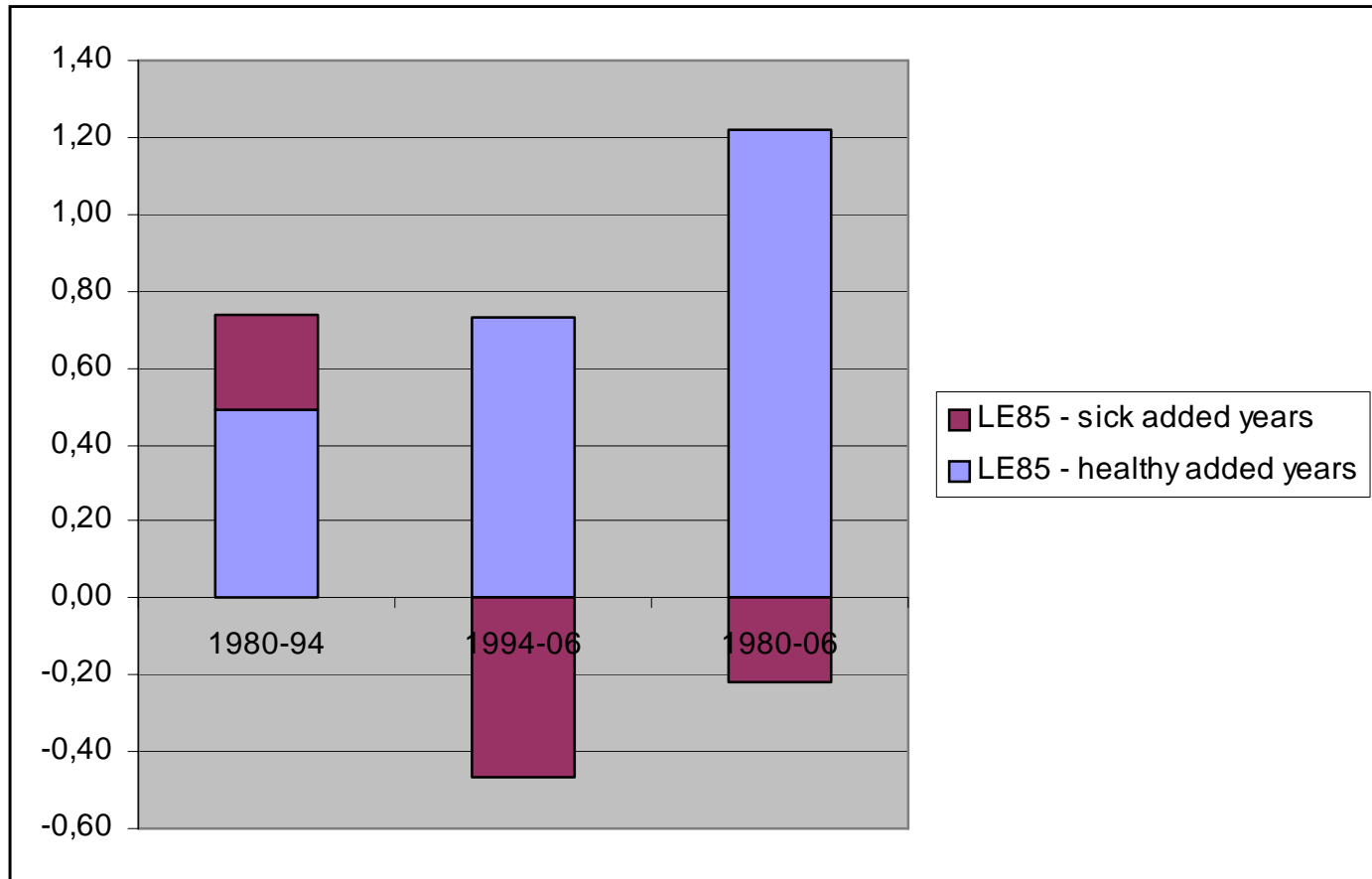
Healthy and "sick" added years of life - average all indicators, men, 65+ years



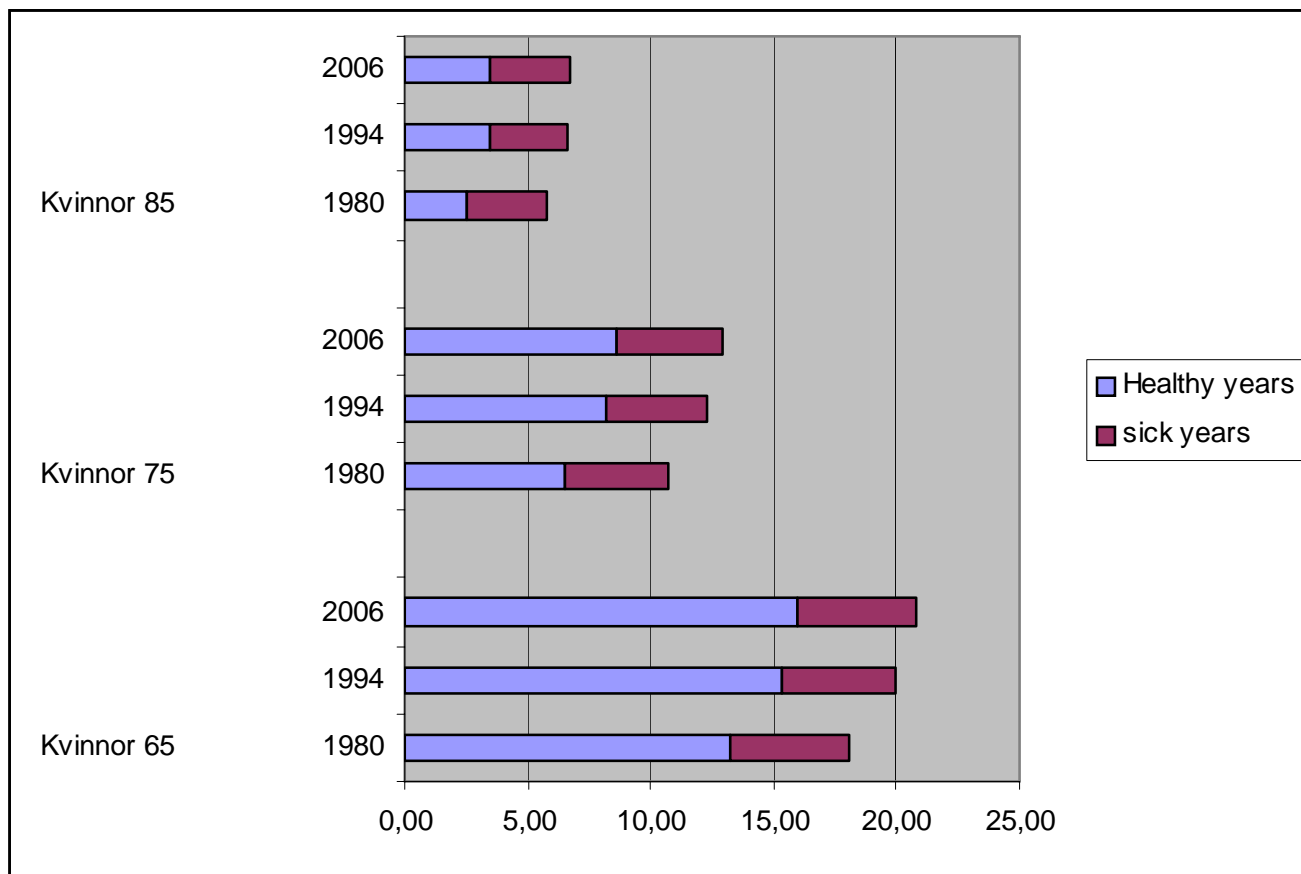
Healthy and "sick" added years of life - average all indicators, men, 75+ years



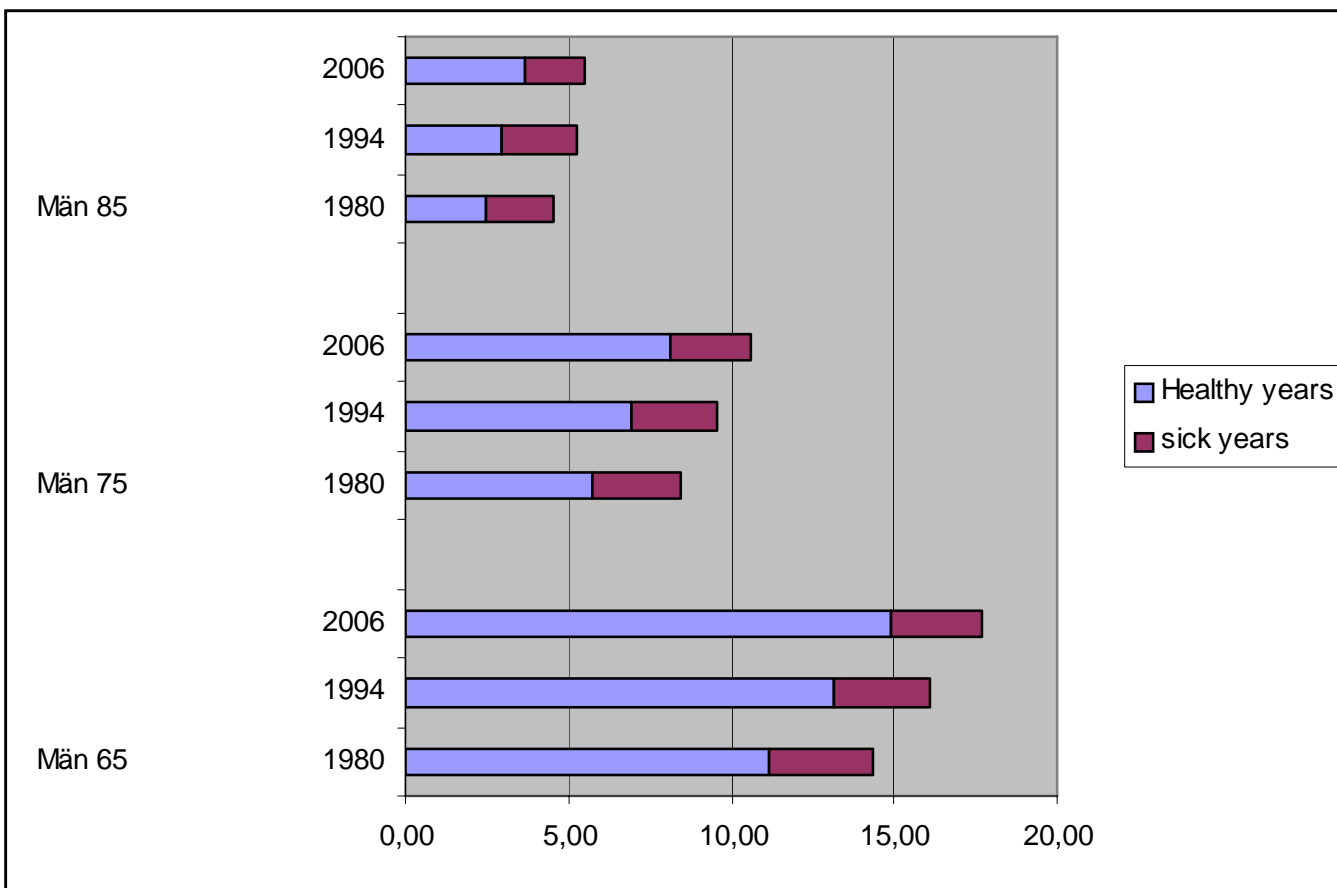
Healthy and "sick" added years of life - average all indicators, men, 85+ years



Healthy and "sick" years of life - average all indicators, women



Healthy and "sick" years of life - average all indicators, men



Conclusions

- All health indicators give the same general pattern of increasing healthy life years during the period
- Proportion of remaining life-years in health is increasing – verifying postponement hypothesis
- Variation over time seems to be approximately the same for all indicators – except ADL- and IADL-dependency, which show greater variability