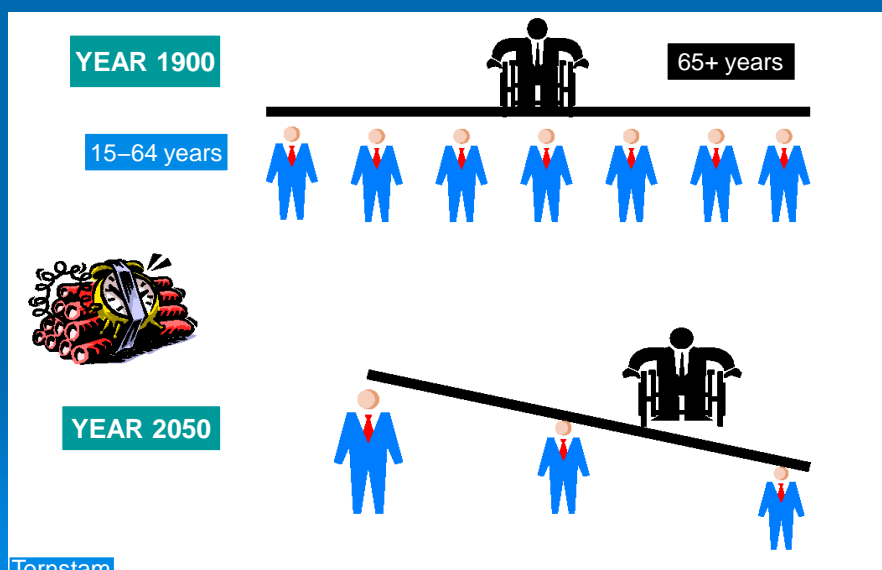


## The burden of dependency perspective

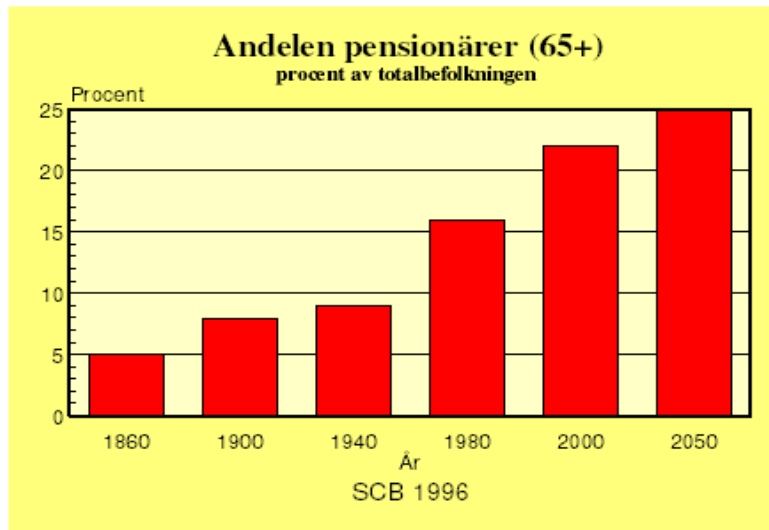
To the extent that the ... economic contexts will be clarified and generally understood, this displeasure with the all too many old people will seek for justification in a reproach which will not be able to reject: this heavily weighing generation of geriatrics has been a burdening generation already in its vital days.

(Myrdal & Myrdal 1935, 127-127; *The Population Crisis*, free translation)

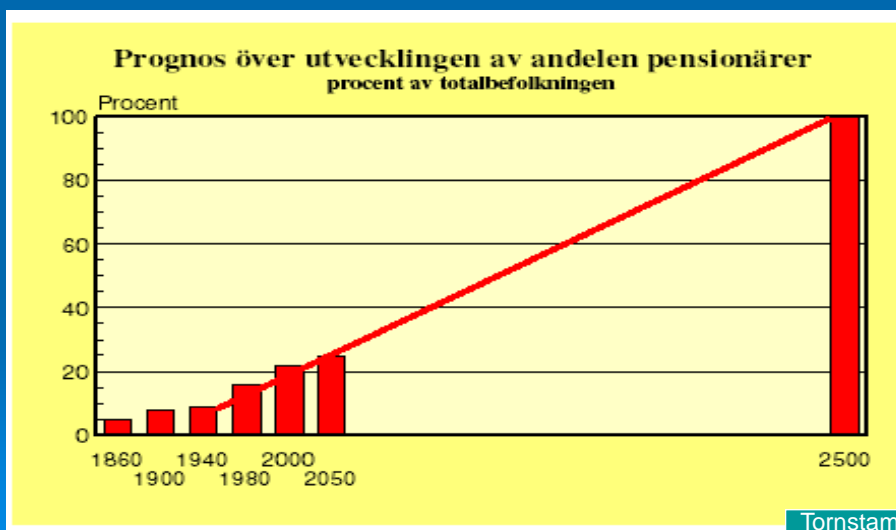
## Demographic bomb? (SE)



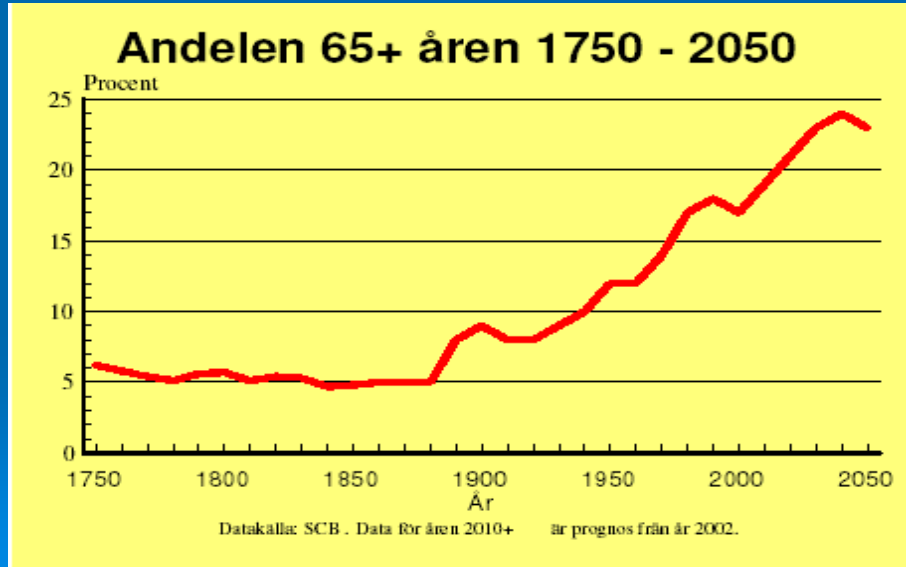
## Percentage of pensioners 65+ of the population



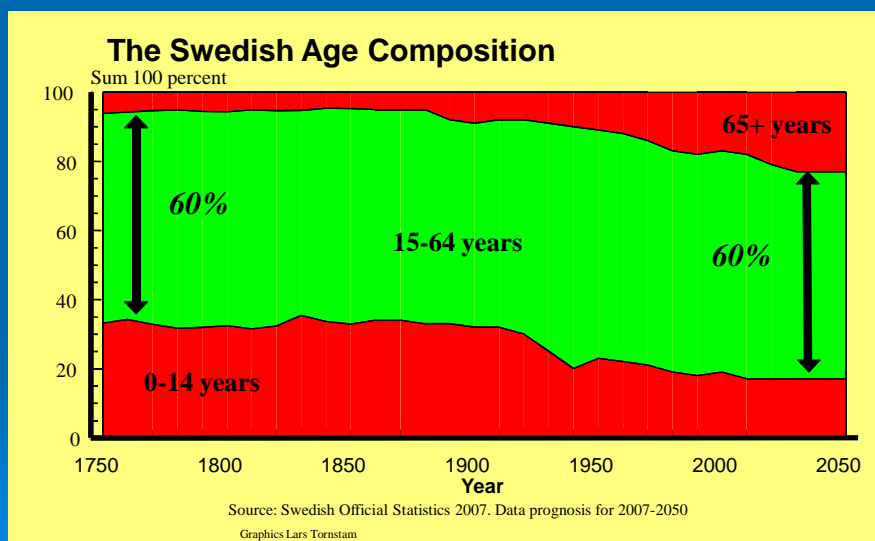
## Prognosis of the development of pensioners (% of total population)



## Percentage 65+, 1750-2050

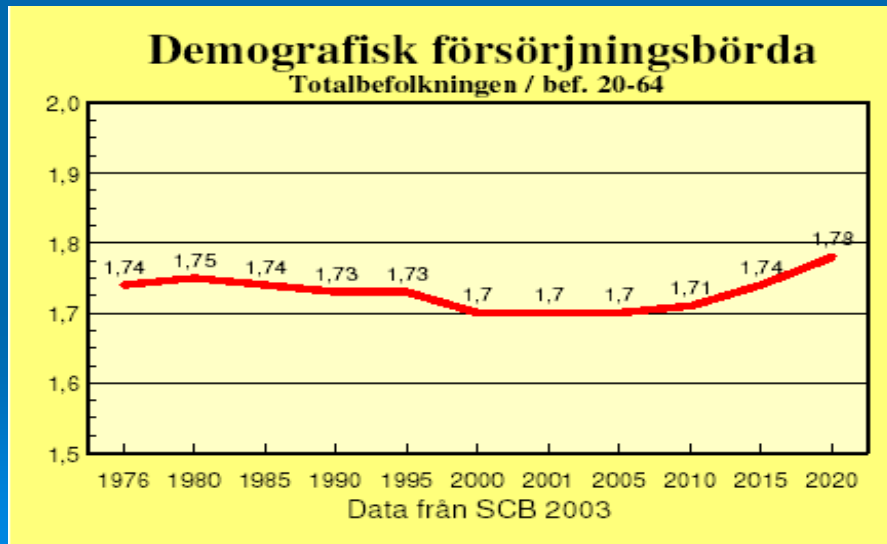


## The Swedish population 1750-2050 Age Groups 0-14, 15-64, 65+



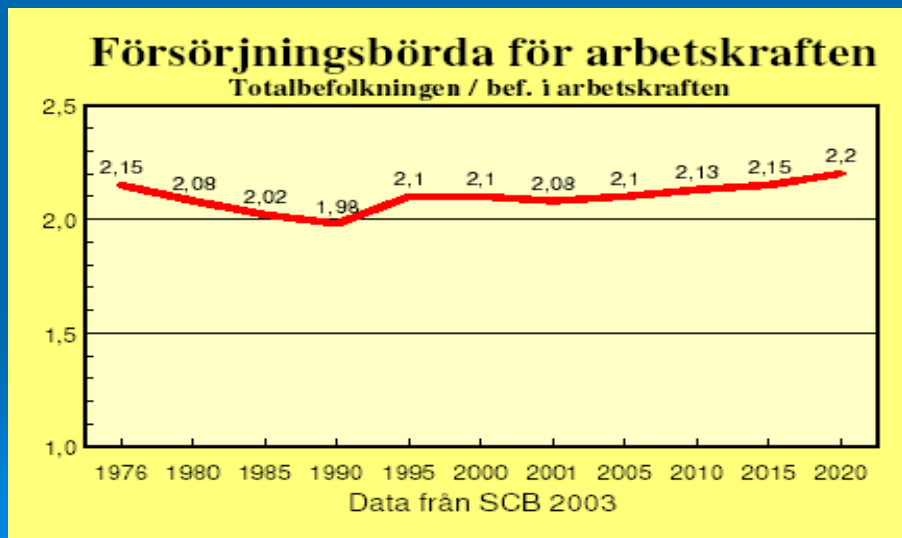
## Demographic dependency ratio

Total population / Population 20-64 (SCB 2003)



## Dependency ratio for the work force

Total population / Population in the work force (SCB 2003)



## “Will there be a helping hand?”

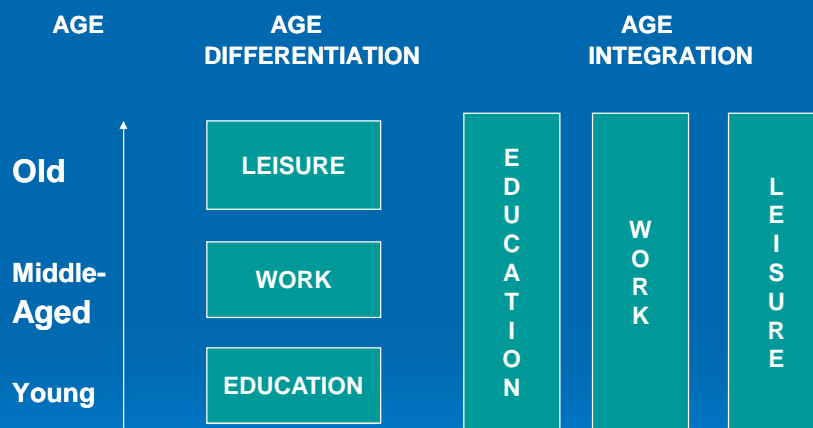
Swedish Long-term study 1999/2000

### POLICYRECOMMENDATIONS

- Increased childbirth
- Increased participation in the work force among immigrants
- Introduction of “Elderly care contracts”
- Influx of foreign labour
- Decrease of early exit from the labour market

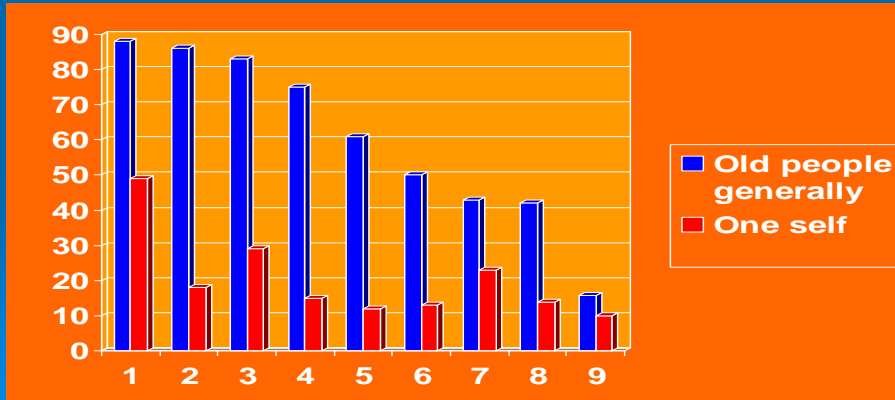
## Ideal types of social structures

(Riley & Riley 1994)



## Imagined and experienced problems among elderly (%) (Finns 60+, Old Age Barometer 1998)

- 1) Illness and functional incapacity
- 2) Social difficulties
- 3) Economical difficulties
- 4) Violence and criminality
- 5) Shortage of social services
- 6) Shortage of health services
- 7) Too much youth idealization
- 8) Shortage of activities
- 9) Something else



## Conflicts or solidarity between generations?

- "Young people get it harder – older people better and better" (*Metro 2005*)
- Integration at the micro level will prevent conflicts at the macro level

Uppsala Newspaper (UNT May 19th, 2005)

## “Brisk elderly make the housing shortage worse”

*(Pigga äldre förvärrar bostadsbristen)*

### Ageing of the population

- Reflecting long term decrease in both fertility and mortality
- More people live into old age
- How ageing of the population changes social relations
- Changes during the 20th century of both the experience of ageing and the meaning of ageing
- Changes in the life course and the relations between generations
- Cultural and life-style changes of old age

## Ageing and family life

- Increase of households with one and two persons
- The "verticalisation" of the family
  - More grandparents – less grandchildren
- Relations based on increased equality (emotional bonds, free choices instead of tradition and obligations)
- Decreased feminization of old age

## Ageing and family life

- Postponing of timing and "ageing" of family transitions
  - Increased time in marriage
- Increase of men in elderly care institutions
- Increase of divorced older people
  - Affects potentials for informal care
  - Divorced men have smaller social networks than widowed men and higher mortality
- Increase of new forms of intimacy
  - LAT and cohabitation
  - Homosexual relations more visible



## Percentage divorced people 60+ in Sweden 1970–2004 (SCB, Öberg)

AGE	1970	1990	2004
60–69 years	<b>4,4</b> (39.034)	<b>11,2</b> (97.136)	<b>19,2</b> (181.643)
70–79 years	<b>3,3</b> (17.190)	<b>7,3</b> (52.254)	<b>13,1</b> (86.922)
80+	<b>2,7</b> (5.099)	<b>4,6</b> (16.901)	<b>7,7</b> (37.052)

## Changes in Marital Status over Time for Men 65+ in England and Wales, 2001–2021 (%)

(Davidson 2006)

<b>MEN 65+</b>	2001	2021	Change 2001–2021
Married	71	66	– 5 %
Widowed	17	13	– 4 %
Divorced	5	13	+ 8 %
Never Married	7	8	+ 1 %
	100%	100%	

## Changes in Marital Status over Time for Women 65+ in England and Wales, 2001–2021 (Davidson 2006)

<b>WOMEN 65+</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Change 2001–2021</b>
<b>Married</b>	40	45	<b>+ 5 %</b>
<b>Widowed</b>	48	35	<b>– 13 %</b>
<b>Divorced</b>	6	14	<b>+ 8 %</b>
<b>Never Married</b>	6	5	<b>– 1 %</b>
	100%	100%	

## Theory of the Third Age

(Peter Laslett)

### 1) **FIRST AGE**

- Dependency, socialisation, immaturity, education

### 2) **SECOND AGE**

- Independency, maturity and responsibility, earnings and savings

### 3) **THIRD AGE**

- Personal self-fulfilment, “crown of life”

### 4) **FOURTH AGE**

- Dependency, decrepitude and death

## WILL OLD AGE BE HEALTHIER?

- **1) Compression of morbidity**
  - “Healthy life expectancy” increase more than life expectancy
- **2) Extension of morbidity**
  - “Healthy life expectancy” constant – increase of ill years of life
  - Medical paradox: the more people saved to life – the more health care problems (“Survival of the *unfittest*”)

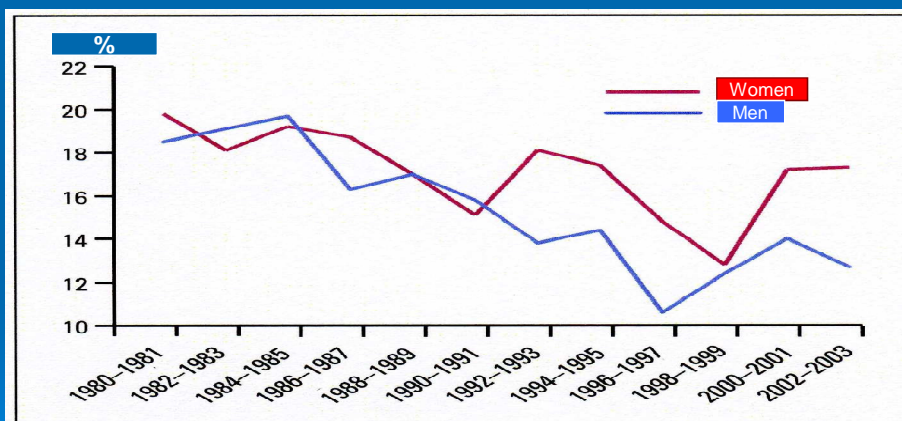
## WILL OLD AGE BE HEALTHIER?

- **3) Postponement of morbidity**
  - Increase in life expectancy corresponding to increase in “healthy life expectancy”
  - Decrease in mortality corresponding to decrease in morbidity
  - Support from studies in Norway, Sweden and Finland
  - Both ADL and IADL has improved for all age groups 65+ in Sweden 1988/89-2002/03
  - “Heroic medicine” not only saves lives – but also reduces the effects of the chronic disease on illness and functional capacity
- The important issue for health care costs is not how old one is – but how many years of life one has ahead

## Prognosis for the number of 80+ people in Sweden 2010 (National Statistics of Sweden)

Year of Prognosis	Number of people 80+ <b>2010</b>
<b>1978</b>	340.000
<b>1986</b>	430.000
<b>1997</b>	500.000

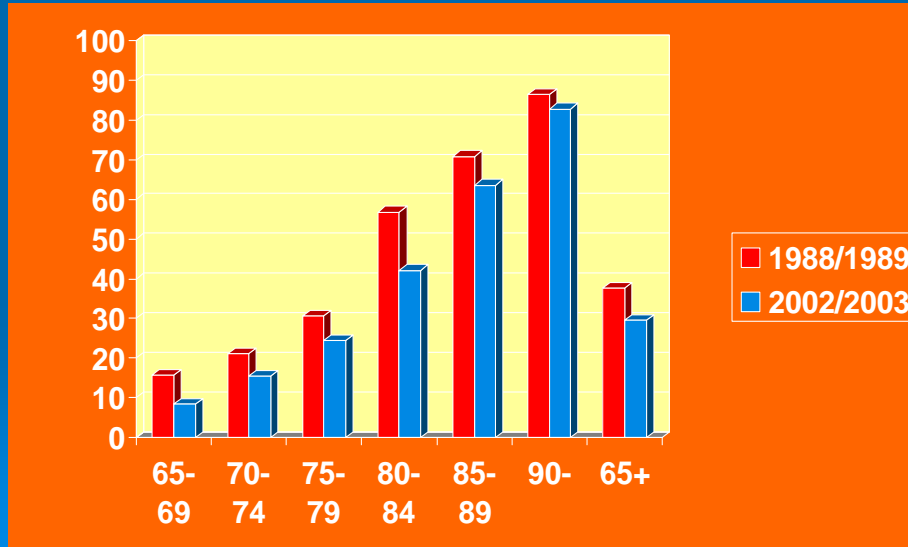
## Percentage of 75-84 year old men and women with "bad" or "very bad" health experience (1980-2003)



**Figur 1.** Andelen personer i åldersgruppen 75-84 år som bedömer sitt allmänna hälsotillstånd som »dåligt» eller »mycket dåligt», enligt Statistiska centralbyråns riksrepresentativa undersökningar av levnadsförhållanden (ULF) [13].

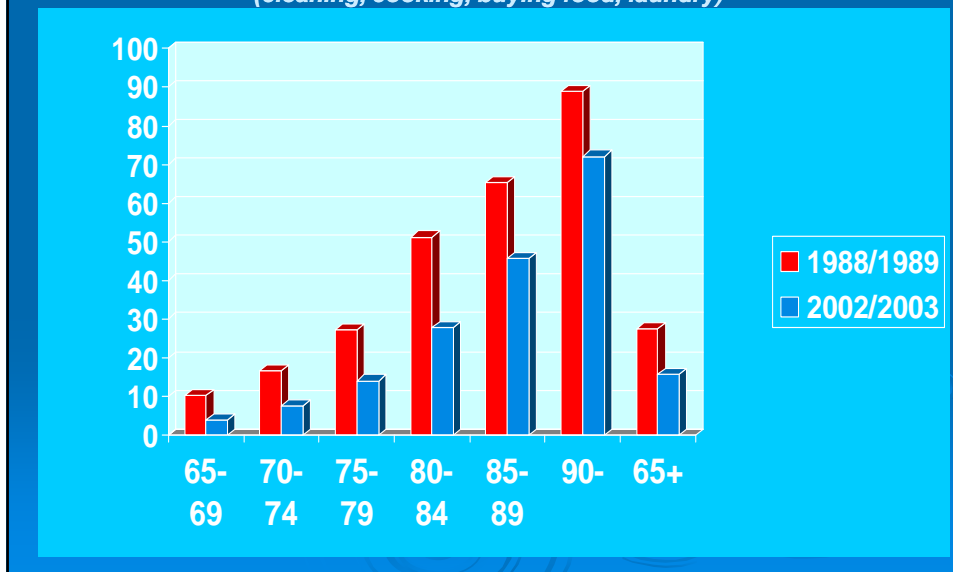
## Percentage with IADL-impairment among Swedish Women 65+ (1988/89-2002/03)

(cleaning, cooking, buying food, laundry)



## Percentage with IADL-impairment among Swedish Men 65+ (1988/89-2002/03)

(cleaning, cooking, buying food, laundry)

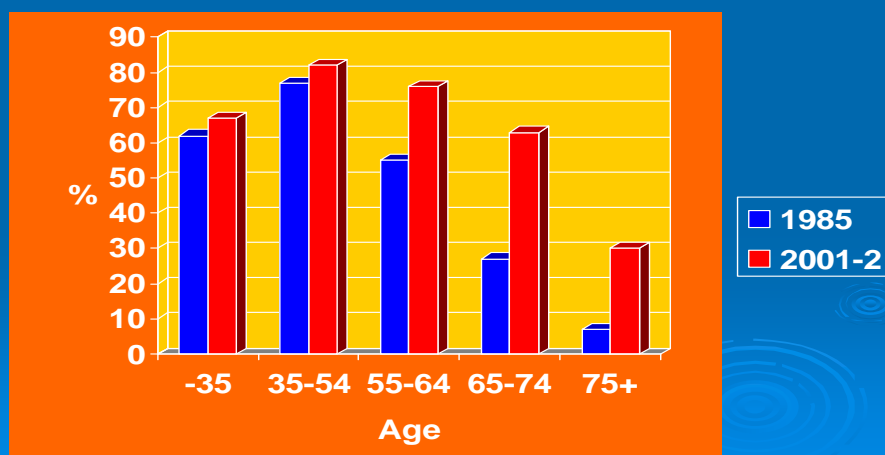


## Percentage with higher education (>3 years) among 60-74 year old Swedes 1985-2004 (SCB, Öberg)

AGE		1985	1995	2004
60-64 years	Men	5	8	13
	<b>Women</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
65-69 years	Men	5	7	10
	<b>Women</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
70-74 years	Men	4	6	9
	<b>Women</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

## Percentage of Finnish households having a car according to the age of the reference person 1985-2001/2002

(Reference person: the highest income in the household)



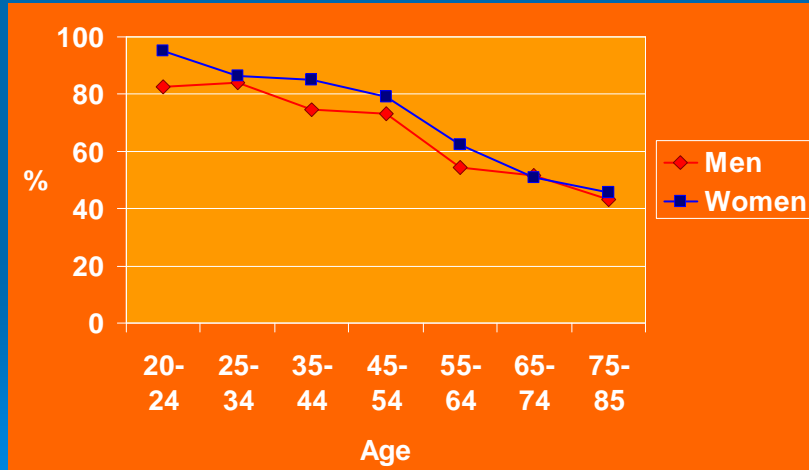
## Toothless 70 year old people (H70; Sweden)

Year	Percentage
1971	52 %
1976	38 %
1992	17 %
2001	8 %

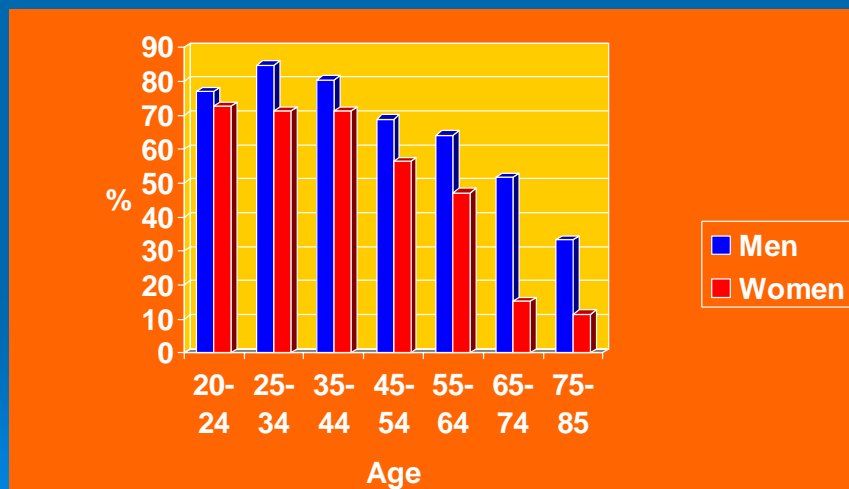
## Smoking among 70 year old Swedish men and women (%)

Year	Men %	Women %
1971	50	12
1981	35	15
1992	22	19

## “I consider myself a youthful person” (%) (Öberg & Tornstam 2003)



## “It is important for me to be sexually active” (Percentage in different ages who agree) (Öberg & Tornstam 2003)





## Image of Elderly i Nordic Countries

(Eurobarometer)

- Have a good economy
- Are active and participate in society
- Typical “Old age home” is the own apartment or house
- Are treated with respect
- Are not particularly religious

## Norwegian study on life course, ageing and generations

- 1) Will tomorrow’s elderly have other preferences, opinions or values than elderly today?
- 2) Will changes in family structure affect the potential for informal care and support?
  - 5.600 individuals in 30 municipalities
  - 40-79 years old

## Tomorrow's elderly (NO)

- Elderly care users will be less modest, more demanding, and expect more autonomy
- Have more individualistic values
  - personal achievement, pleasure, new experiences
  - More consuming instead of saving for children
- Less likely to hold traditional values
  - conformity and modesty
- Fourth age decrease possibilities for individualistic values

## Tomorrow's elderly (NO)

- More divorced elderly parents may receive less care from their children
  - Less children, more childless couples, more living alone, more co-habitation
- New gender roles
  - "Modern" elderly men partake more in household and care work (may lessen the demand on social service)
- Differences in health behaviour between men and women declining