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Global ageing trends and healthcare needs for elderly in Bangladesh

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Seminar on



Global Ageing Trends and Healthcare Needs in Bangladesh

Speaker

PROF. DR. HAFIZ TAREQ ABDULLAH KHAN

Professor of Public Health Statistics
University of West London, UK

Chief Guest

PROF. DR. MOHAMMAD ALI AZADI

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
International Islamic University Chittagong

22nd
DECEMBER
2025

TIME: 10. 30AM
VENUE
IIUC Seminar Hall

Organized by



Institutional Quality Assurance Cell – IQAC
International Islamic University Chittagong



Global Ageing Trends and Healthcare Needs for Elderly in Bangladesh

Professor Hafiz T.A. Khan, PhD

Professor of Public Health Statistics
University of West London, UK
&

Professorial Fellow, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing
University of Oxford, UK

IIUC, Chittagong, Bangladesh
22 December 2025

Outline of talk

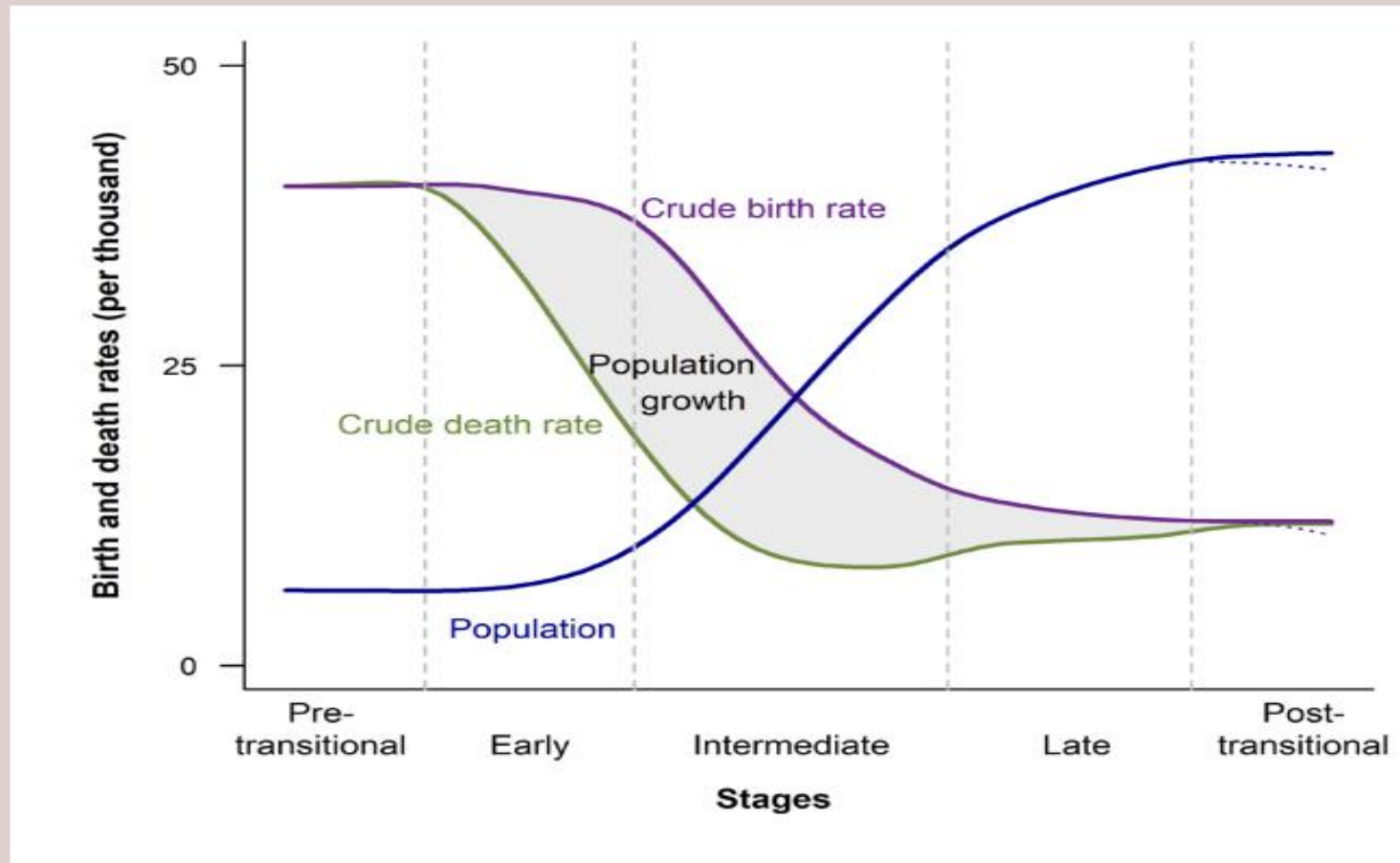
- Global ageing
- Unequal distribution of risks in later life
- Ageing populations in Bangladesh
- Geriatric care and support need for older adults in Bangladesh
- The role NGO like YPSA in understanding the situation of older adults
- Conclusion

World population trends

Year	Population (billions)	Absolute change
1950	2.5	-
2000	6.1	3.6
2050	9.7	3.6
2100	11.2	1.5

World population prospects 2024

Schematic representation of the demographic transition



Source: Calculations by the United Nations.

Notes: The crude birth (or death) rate is the annual number of live births (or deaths) divided by the mid-year population size. Both rates are expressed as the number of births or deaths per 1,000 population per year. The schematic representation of the demographic transition refers to a population that is closed to migration, in which growth is due entirely to the gap between numbers of births and deaths.

Top 10 Populous countries in the world 2024

#	Country	Population (2024)	Yearly Change	Migrants (net)	Fert. Rate	Med. Age	Urban Pop %
1	India	1,450,935,791	0.89 %	-630,830	2.0	28	37 %
2	China	1,419,321,278	-0.23 %	-318,992	1.0	40	66 %
3	USA	345,426,571	0.57 %	1,286,132	1.6	38	82 %
4	Indonesia	283,487,931	0.82 %	-38,469	2.1	30	59 %
5	Pakistan	251,269,164	1.52 %	-1,401,173	3.5	20	34 %
6	Nigeria	232,679,478	2.10 %	-35,202	4.4	18	54 %
7	Brazil	211,998,573	0.41 %	-225,510	1.6	34	91 %
8	Bangladesh	173,562,364	1.22 %	-473,362	2.1	26	42 %
9	Russia	144,820,423	-0.43 %	-178,042	1.5	40	75 %
10	Ethiopia	132,059,767	2.62 %	30,069	3.9	19	22 %

2050

India 1.7 billion

China 1.4 billion

Source: Worldometers (2024)

Population ageing

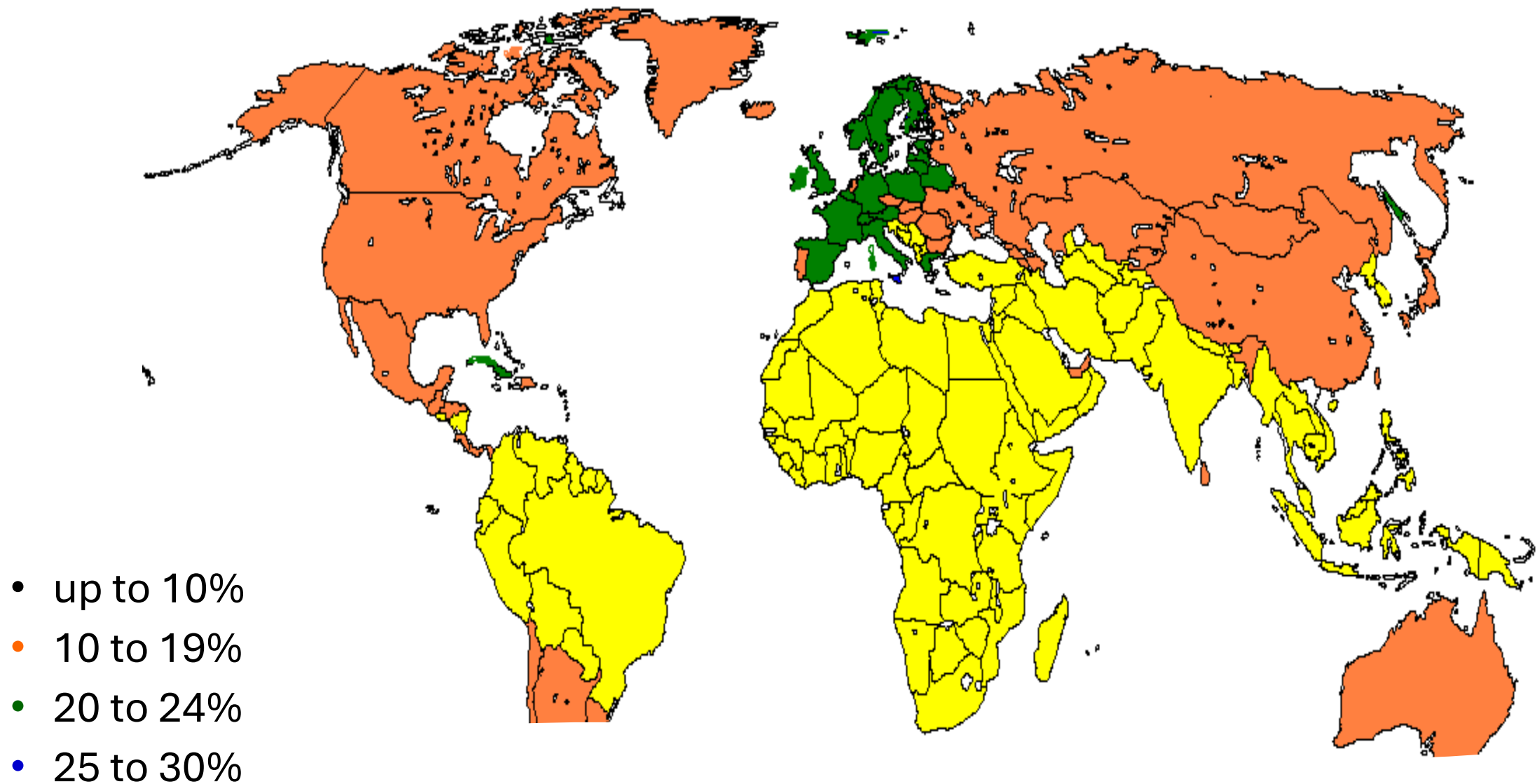
Population change is quite dramatic in many places of our planet.

The sheer number of older people is increasing faster than what we often thought.

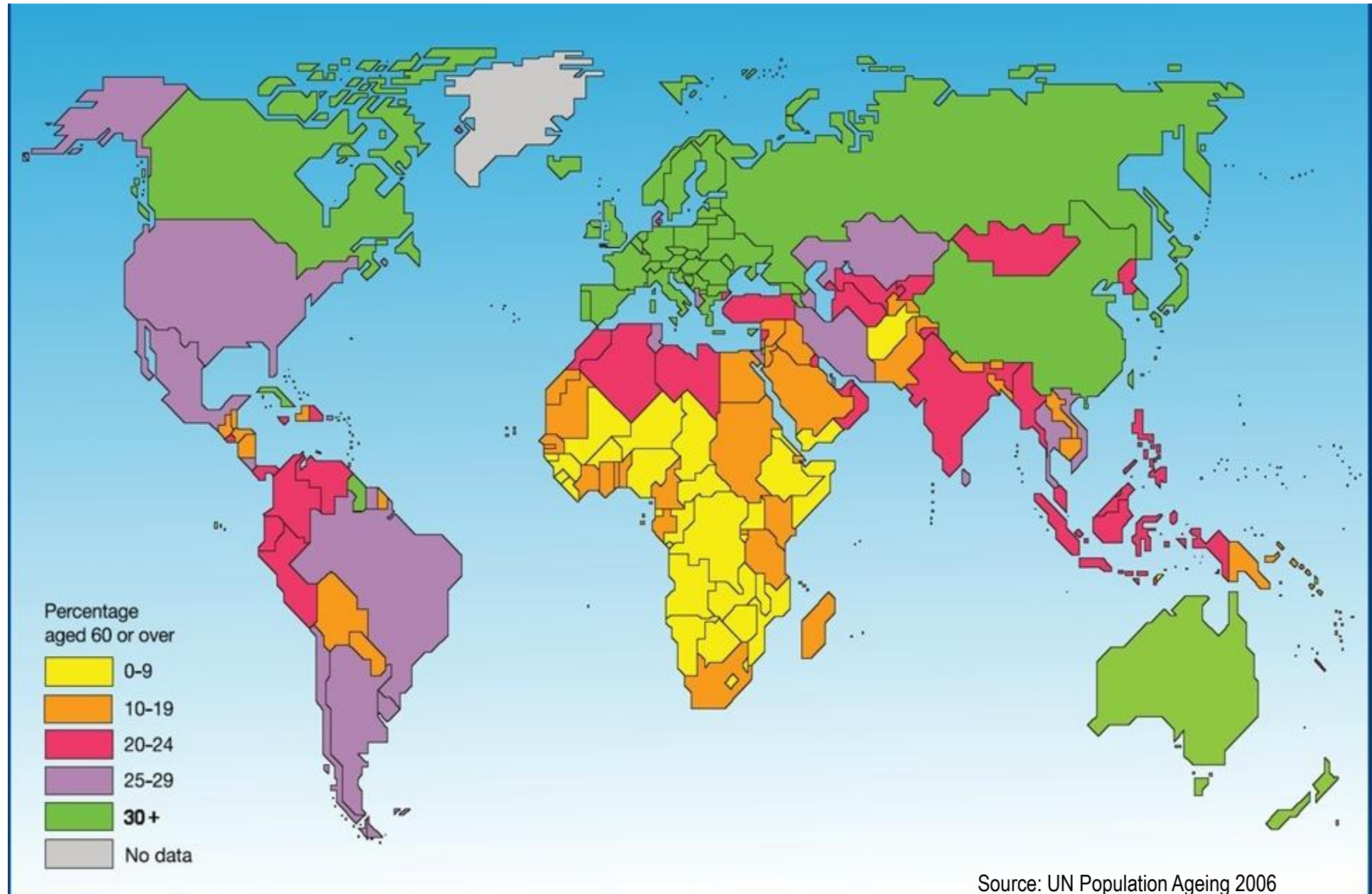
By 2030,

- A quarter of the population in Asia will be over 60 years.
- A quarter of the population of the developed world will be over 65 years.

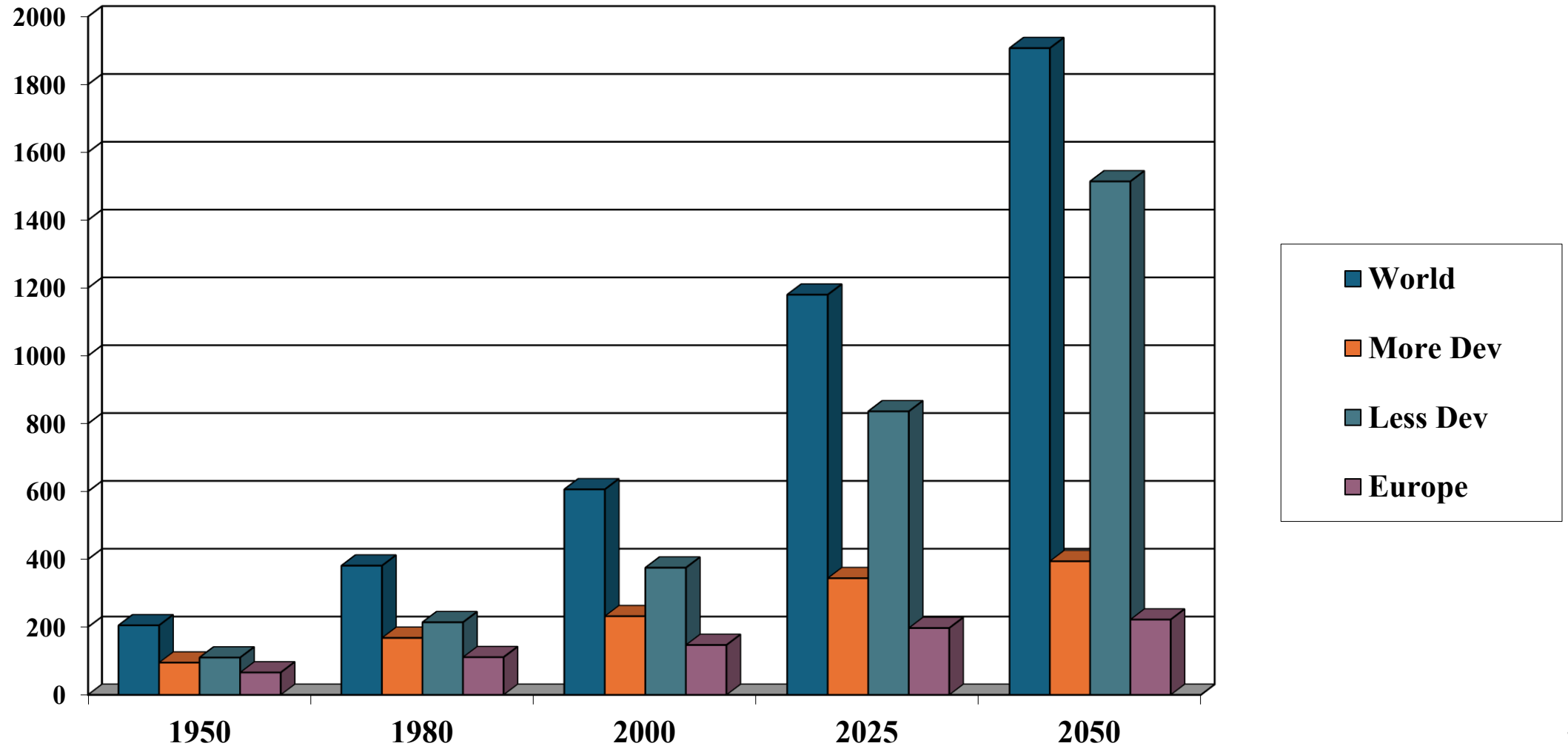
% of population aged 60+ years, 1996



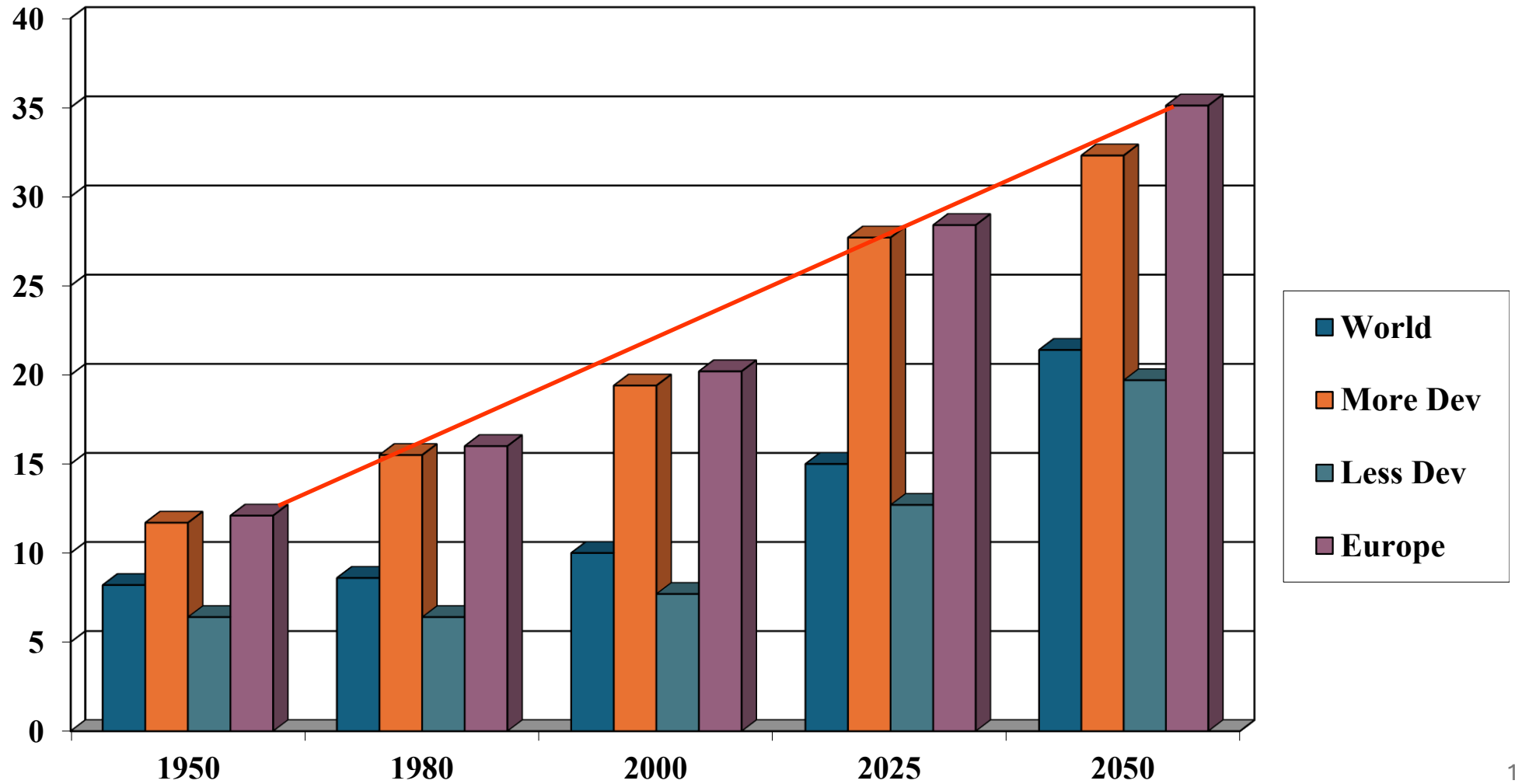
% of population aged 60+ years, 2050



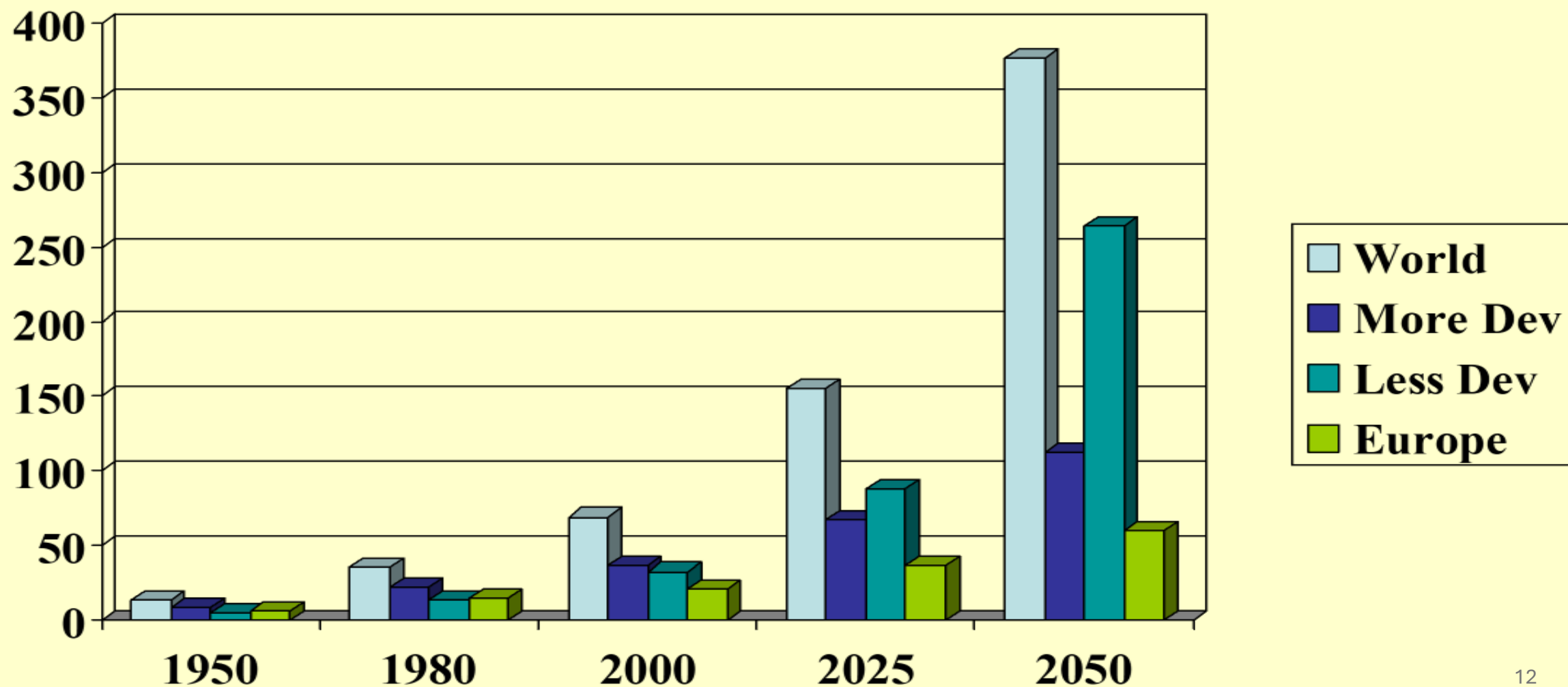
1950-2050 population 60+ (in millions)



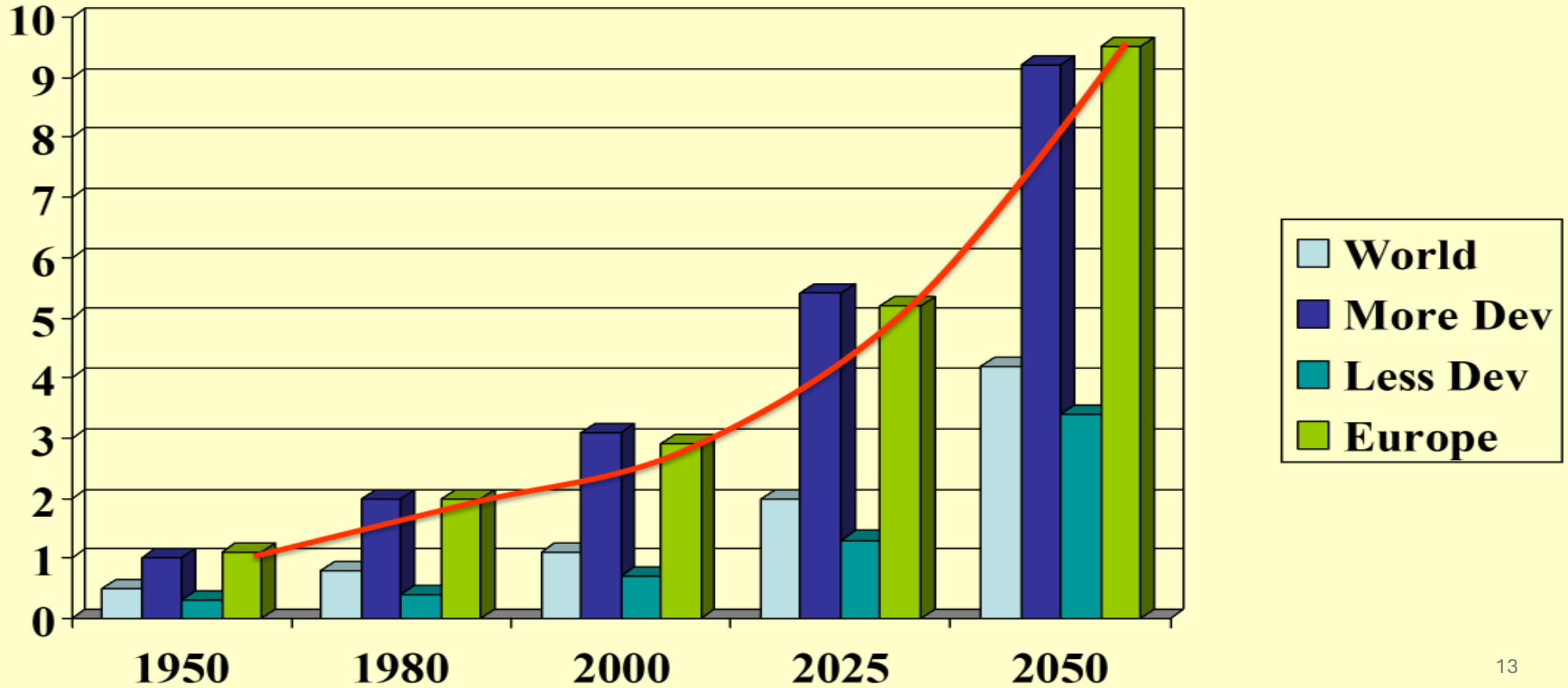
1950-2050 population 60+ %



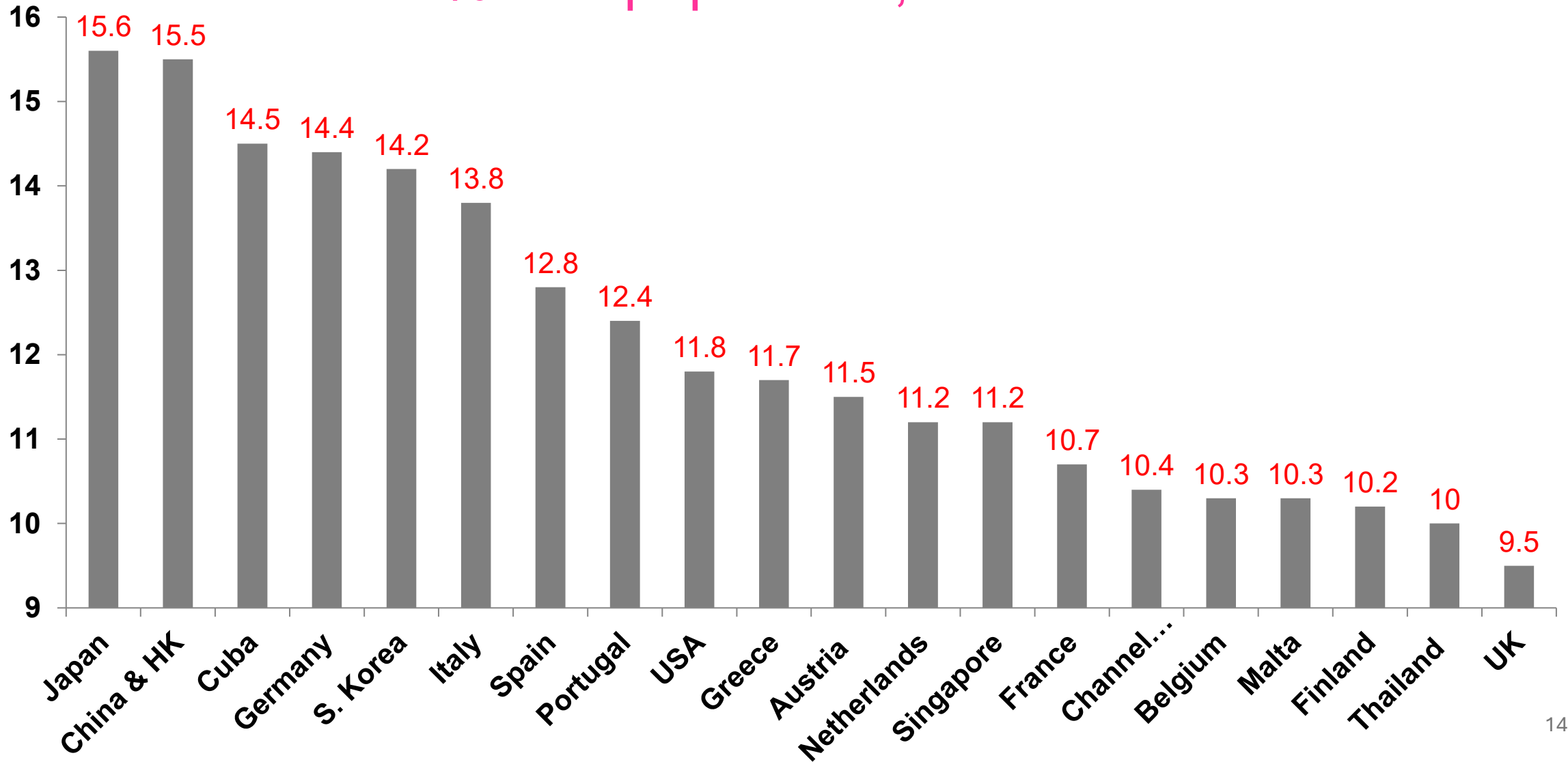
1950-2050 population 80+ (millions)



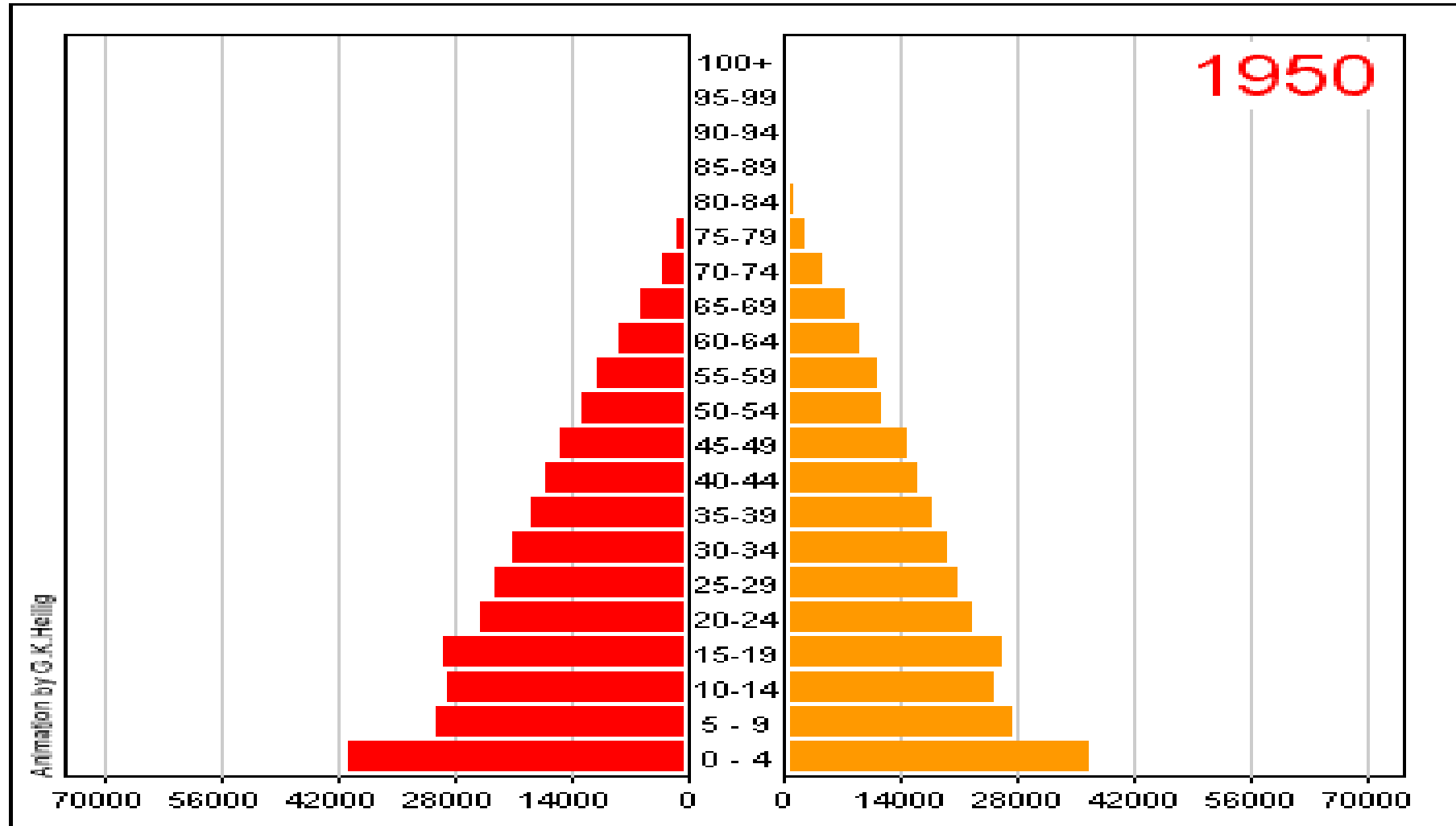
1950-2050 population 80+ %



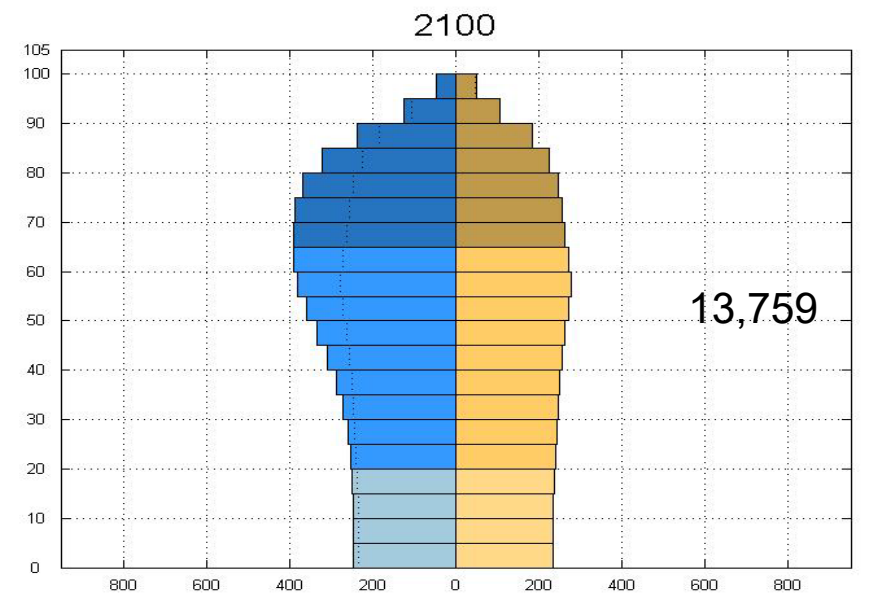
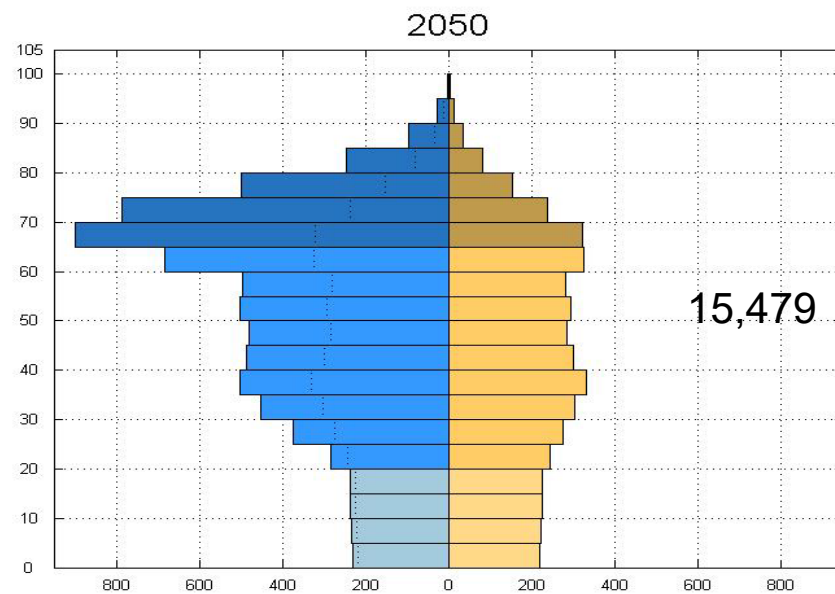
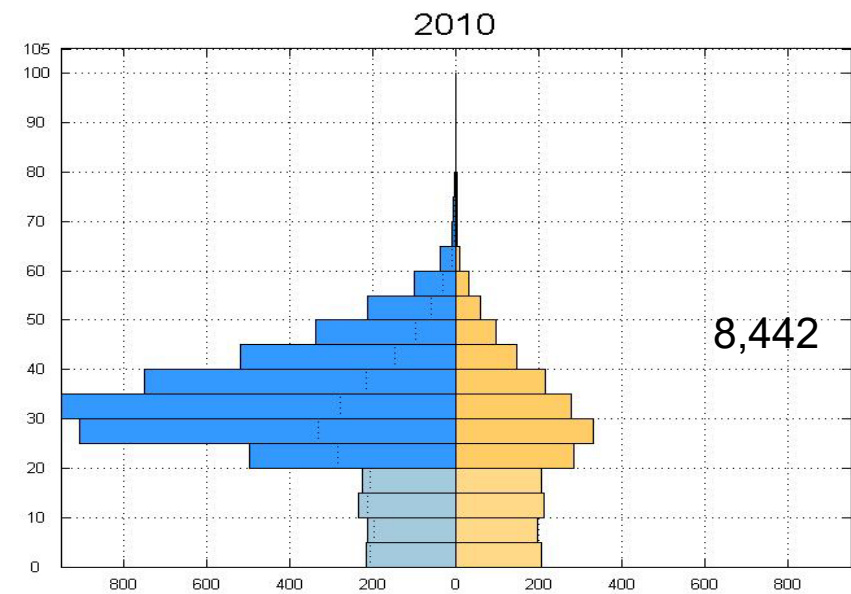
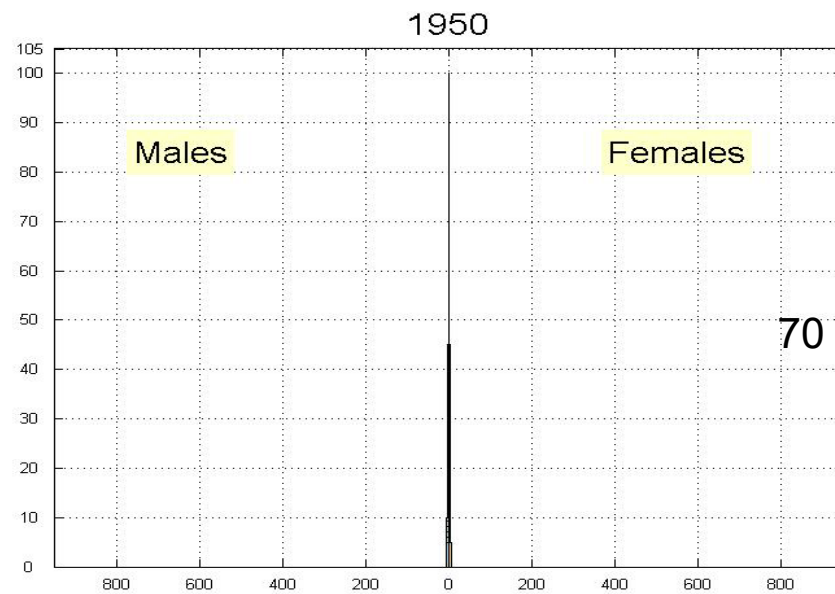
% 80+ population, 2050



Change of population structure (China 1950-2050)

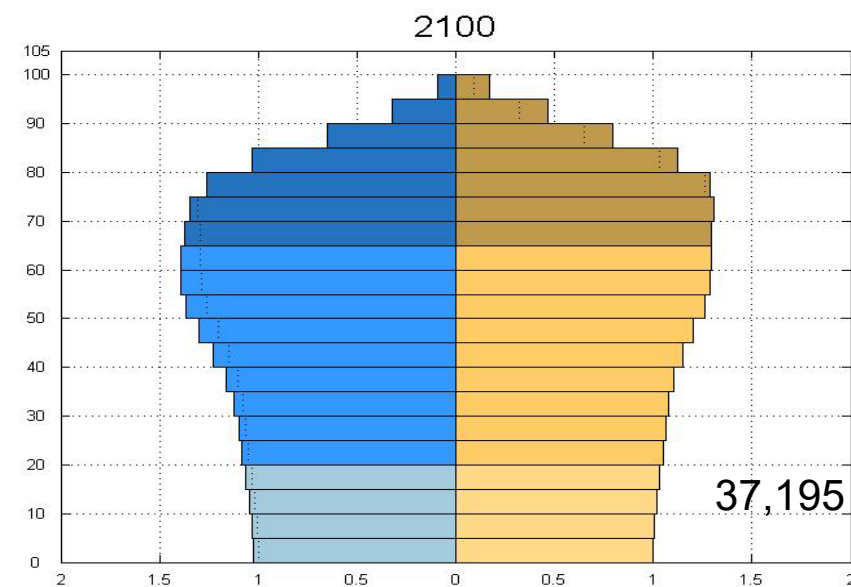
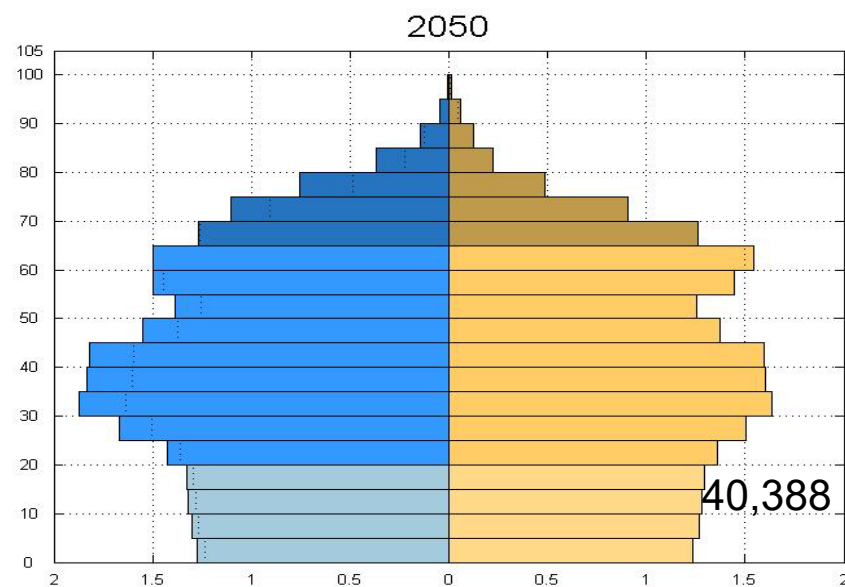
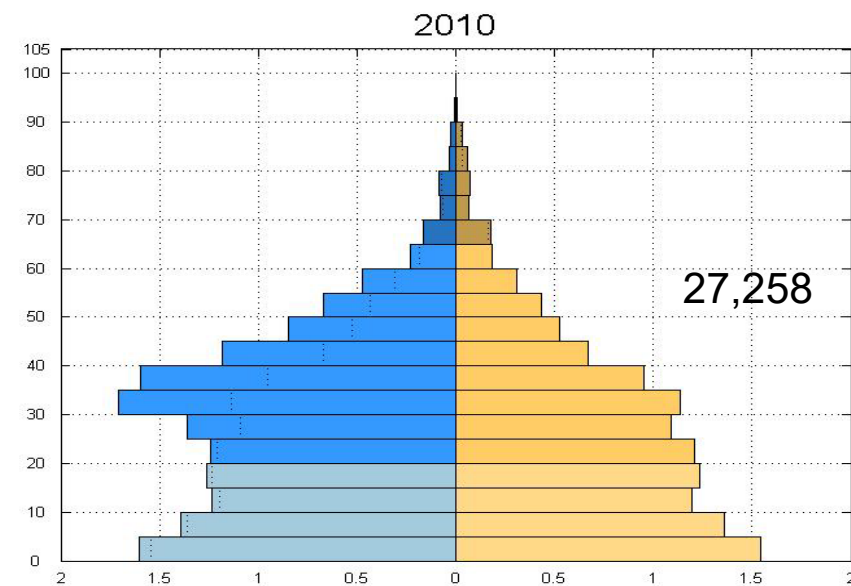
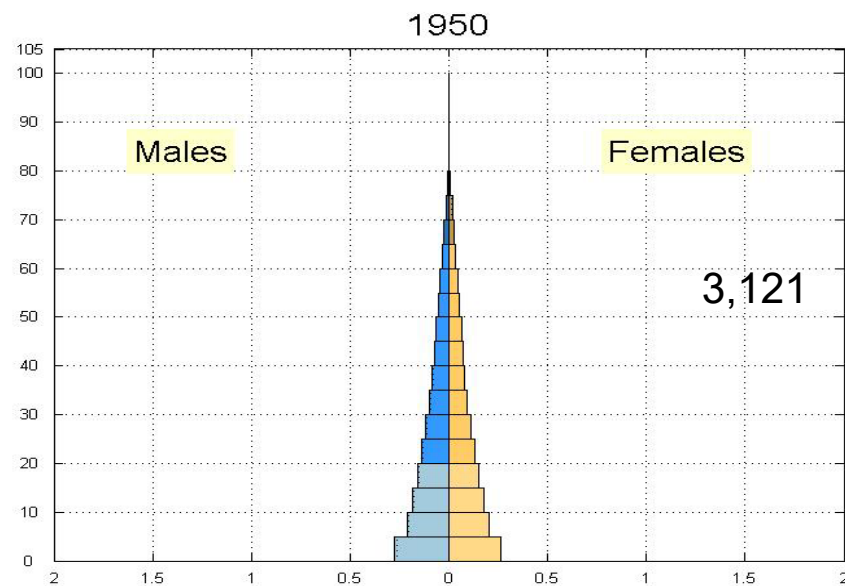


UAE: Population pyramids 1950-2100.



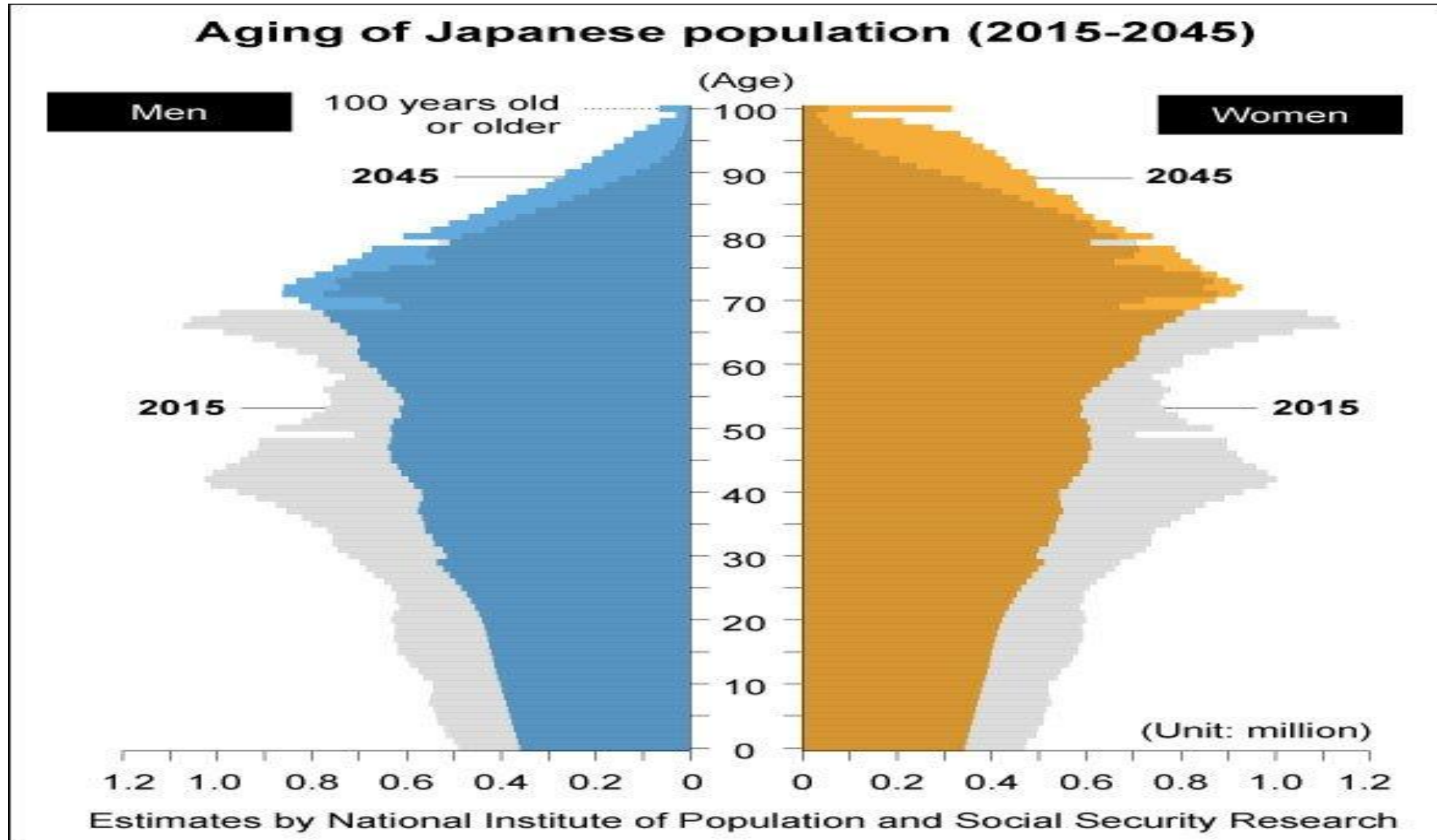
(thousands)

Saudi Arabia: Age-sex distribution of population



(millions)

Japan - The super ageing society



Drivers of population ageing

- Fertility
- Mortality
- Migration



Proportion of life spent in poor health at age 65, England (2013 - 2015)

	At birth Males	At birth Females	At age 65 Males	At age 65 Females
Life expectancy	79.5	83.1	18.7	21.1
Healthy Life expectancy	63.4	64.1	10.5	11.2
Number of years in poor health	16.1	19.0	8.2	9.9
% of life in poor health	20.3	22.9	43.9	46.9

Key unequal risks in later life

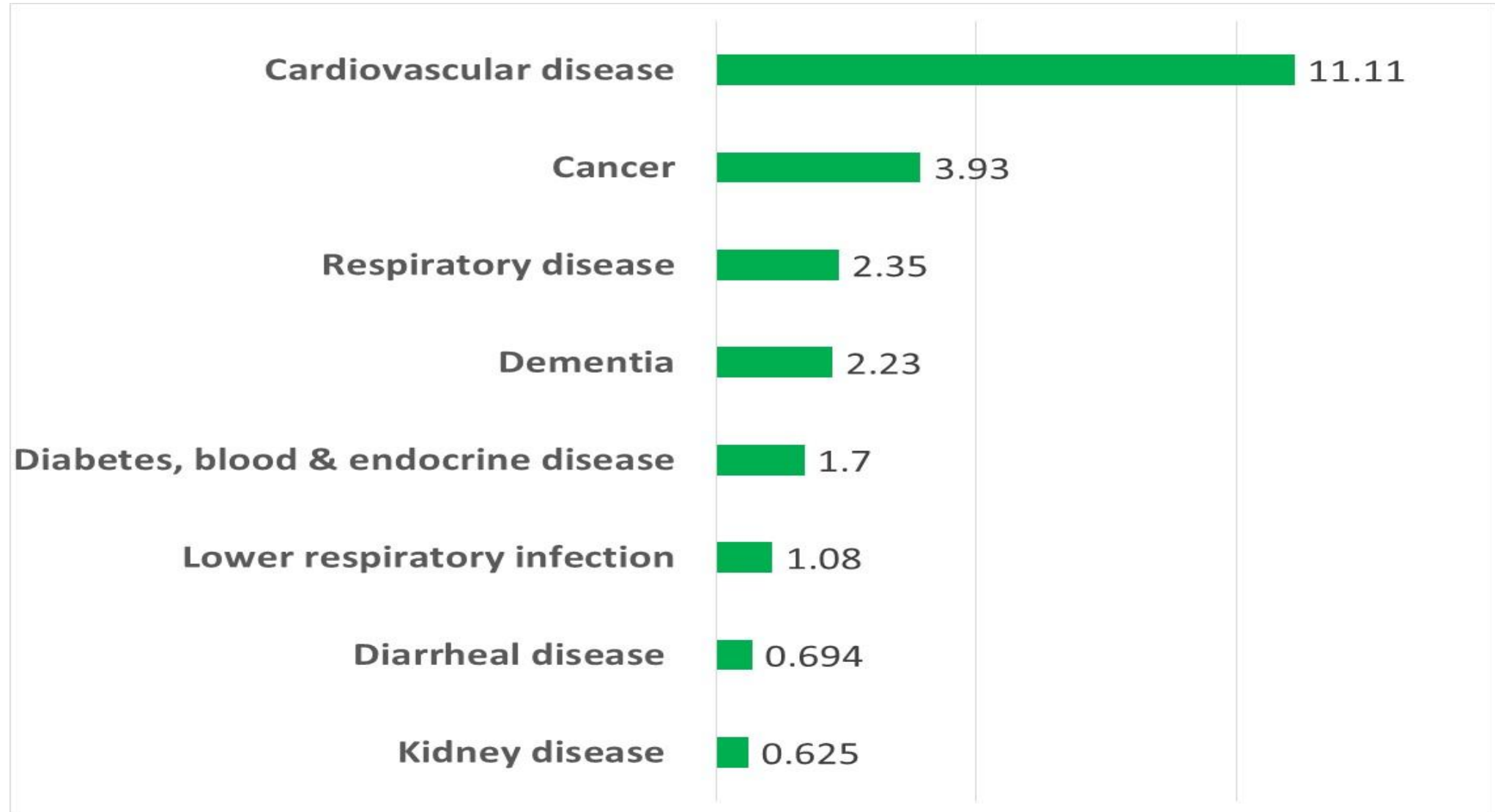
What are the key challenges of global ageing with regard to the way it shapes our lives?

- Burden of disease in old age
- Financial security in retirement
- Familial resources for elderly care
- Care workforce for elderly

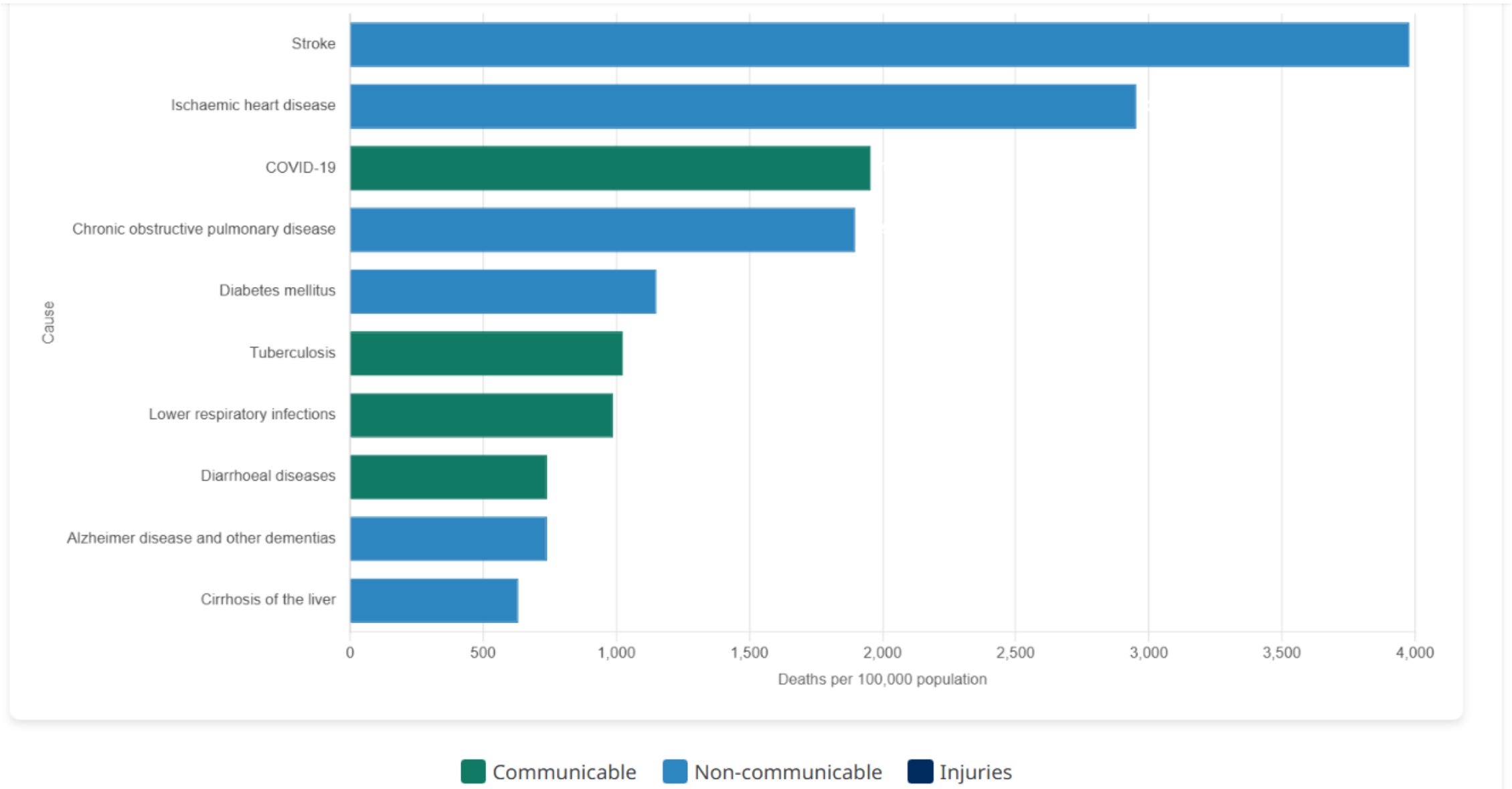
Burden of disease

- Epidemiological transition – changes in leading causes of deaths from acute and infectious diseases to chronic and non-communicable ones.
- Non-communicable diseases are big threats such as Heart disease, Stroke, Cancer, Diabetes and Dementia.
- These are also linked with disability, dependency & long-term care needs.
- Highly likely to suffer from multi-morbidities.

Main causes of deaths in adults 70+ years, World 2016 (millions)



Top 10 Causes of Death in Bangladesh, 2021, Male, 85+ years

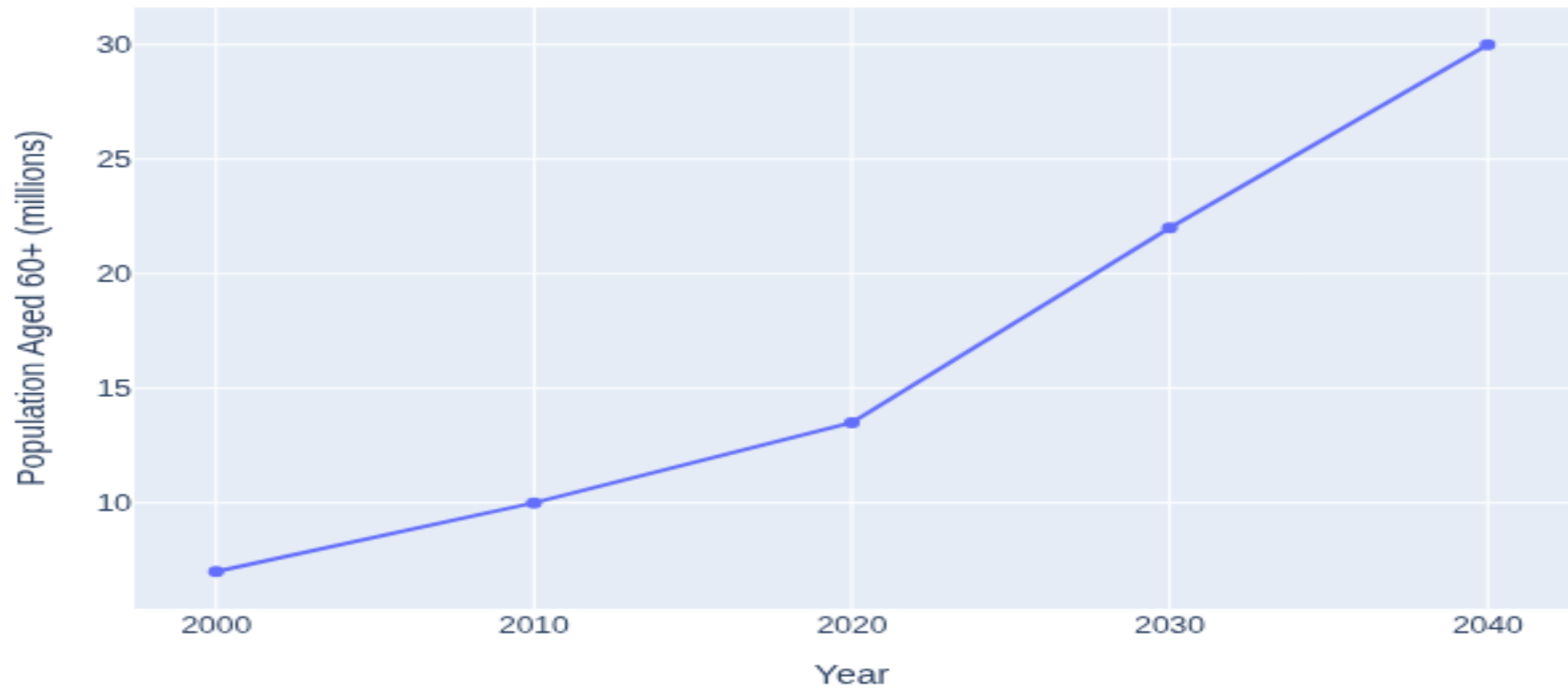


Ageing in Bangladesh

- According to the 2022 Population Census, more than 1.5 crore (15 million) individuals in Bangladesh are aged 60 years and older, constituting approximately 9.26% of the total population of which a majority of them live in rural areas (BBS, 2024).
- Population projections indicate that proportion of older adults in Bangladesh is expected to double by 2050.
- Despite this demographic shift, only 33.4% of the population currently receives any form of old-age pension, whether contributory, noncontributory, or both (HelpAge International, 2012).

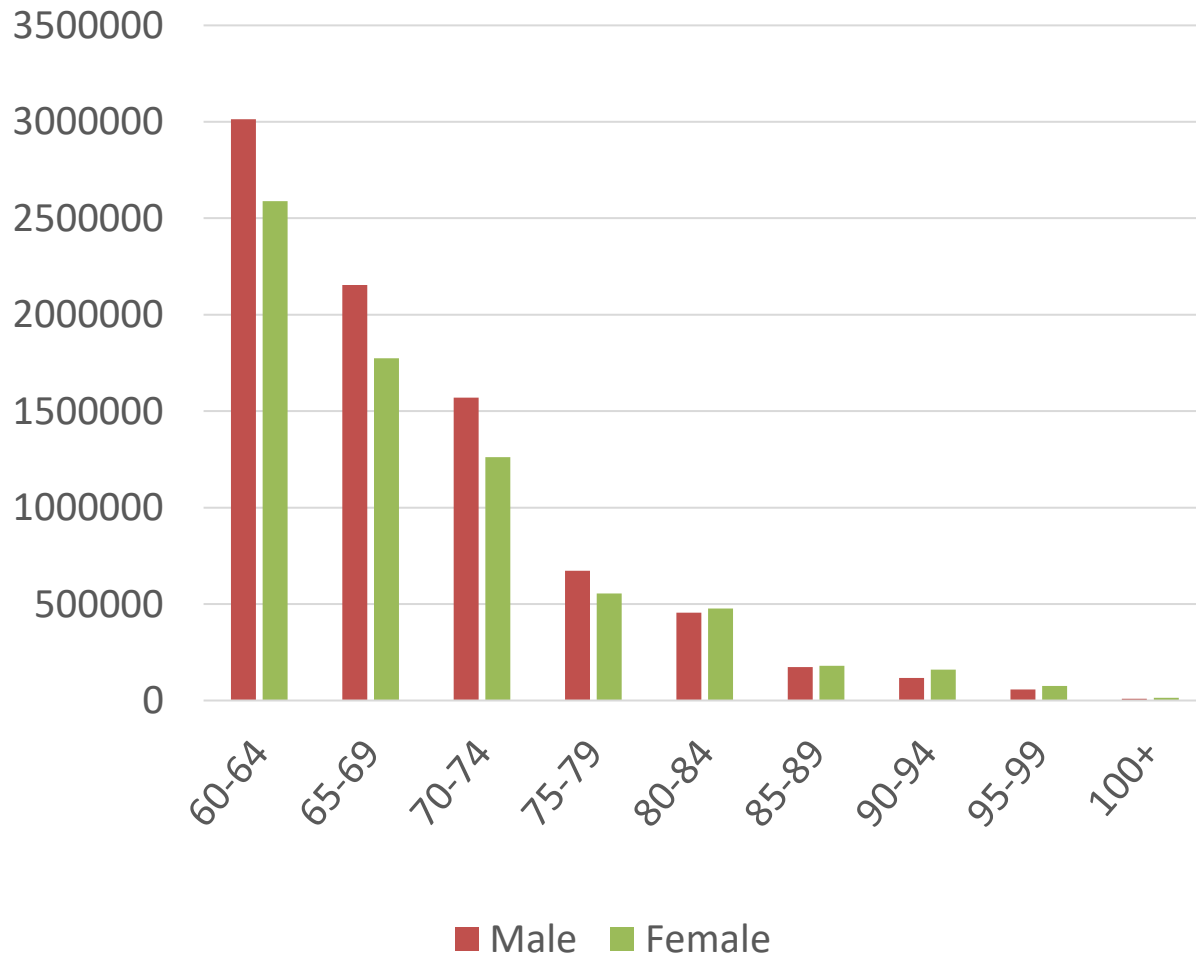
Aging Population Trends

Aging Population in Bangladesh (2000-2040)

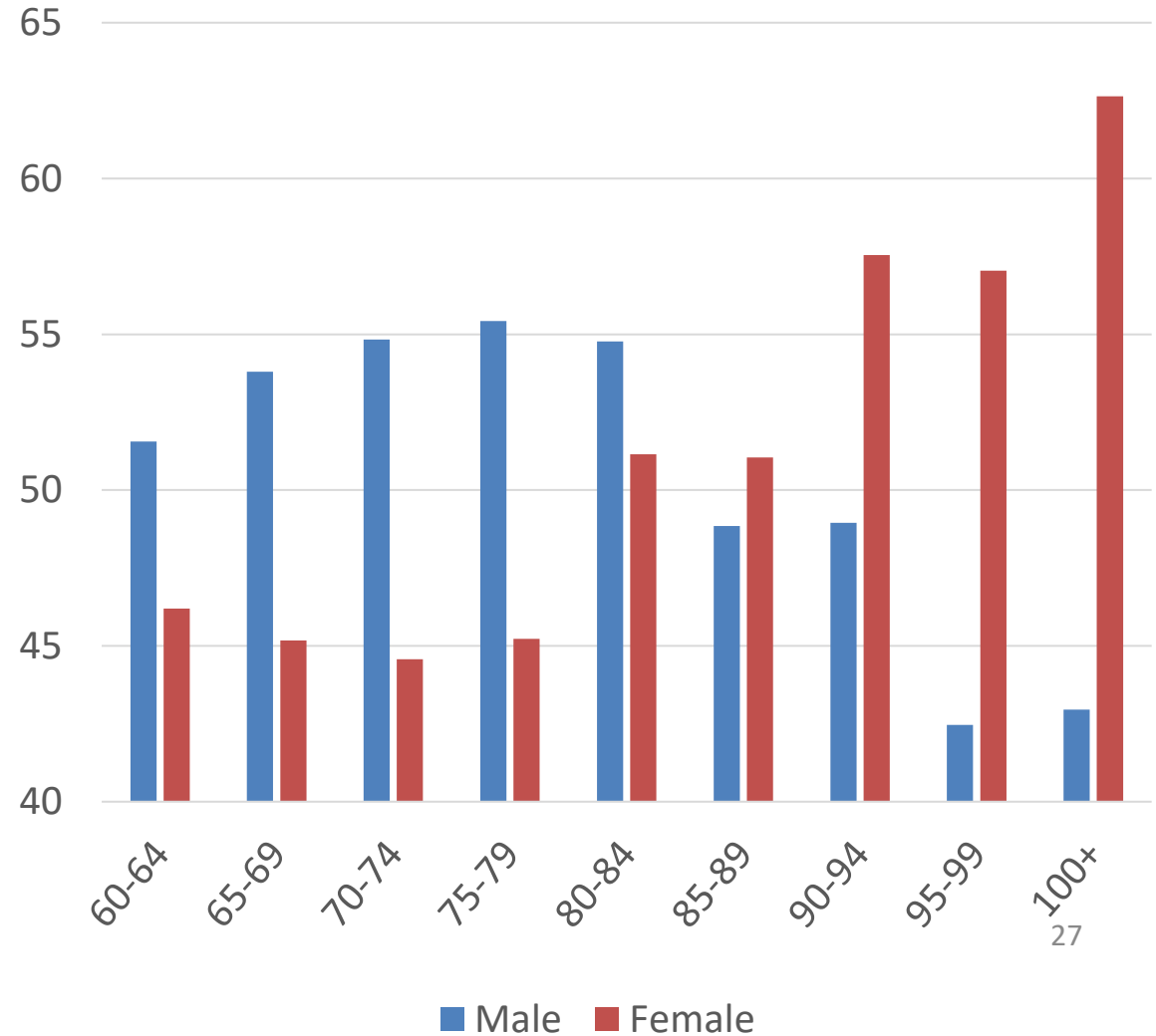


60+ years population in Bangladesh

Distribution of 60+ years populations in Bangladesh by sex (BBS, 2022)



% 60 population by Sex



Rural – Urban populations by age (BBS, 2022)

Age	Total	Rural	% Rural	Urban	% Urban
60-64	5601878	4074366	72.73	1527512	27.27
65-69	3927127	2900736	73.86	1026391	26.14
70-74	2831819	2113481	74.63	718338	25.37
75-79	1227241	922752	75.19	304489	24.81
80-84	933197	719244	77.07	213953	22.93
85-89	354063	272867	77.07	81196	22.93
90-94	277172	216820	78.23	60352	21.77
95-99	132905	103125	77.59	29780	22.41
100+	23542	19024	80.81	4518	19.19
Sum	15308944	11342415	74.09	3966529	25.91

Rural ageing populations

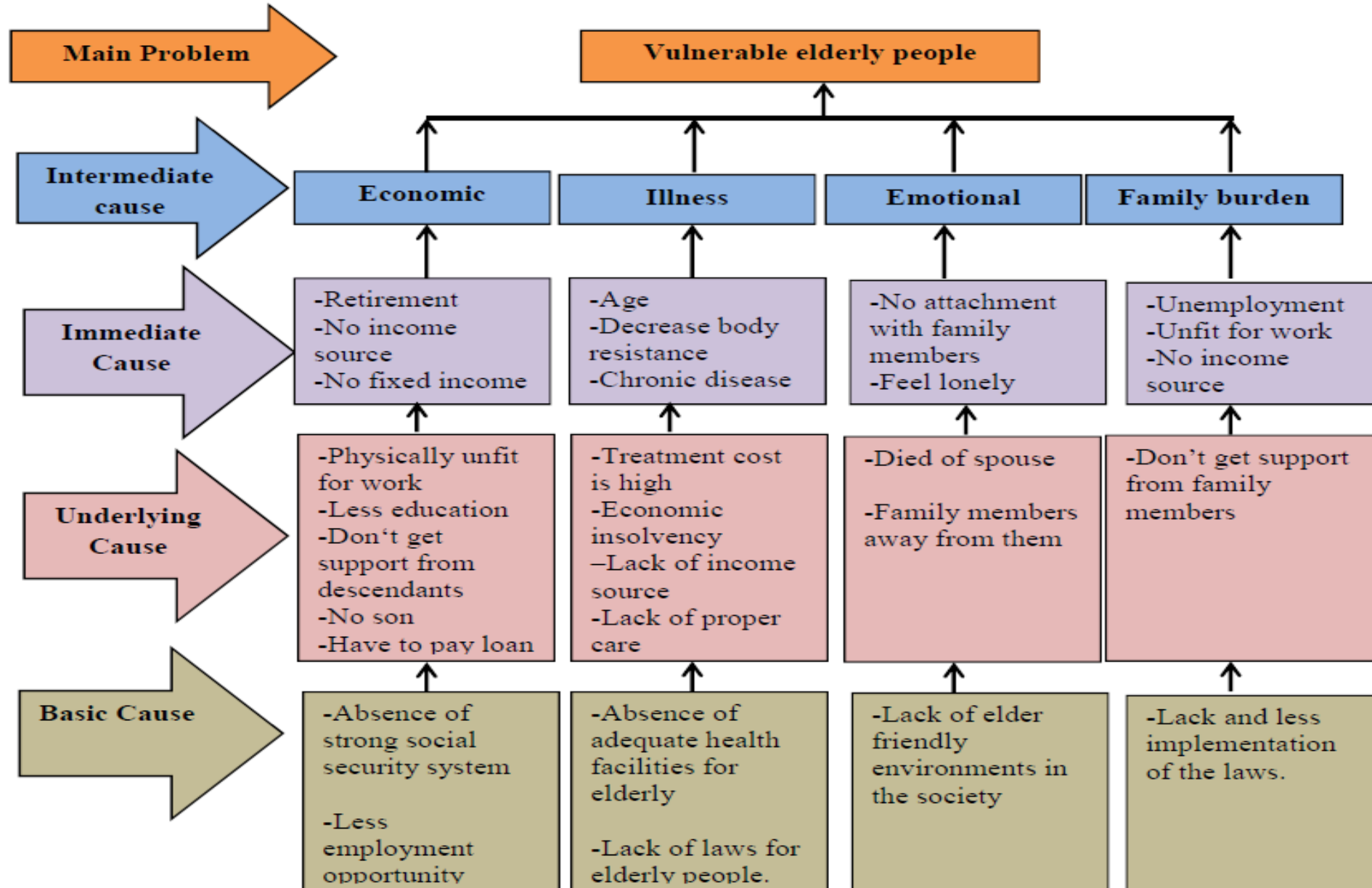
- Rural ageing research examines the lived experiences of older adults residing in rural settings, the implications of population ageing for rural communities, and the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, including service providers.
- In Bangladesh, increasing patterns of youth migration from rural to urban areas (nearly 66.2%) have resulted in many older adults being left behind, often living alone or separately from their family members in rural communities.

- Previously the family used to take care of elderly but now the situation has changed due to socio-economic development.
- Elderly are often faced neglect and abuse. Society sometimes fails to protect them.
- The Parent Care Act 2013 of Bangladesh was introduced that children should look after their parents and provide them with maintenance.
- Although the constitution of Bangladesh has given elderly all rights, but these are too little to meet the basic needs for their survival.

Reality in Bangladesh

- Majority of elderly live in the rural areas where there is a lack of proper healthcare services, and job opportunities.
- This is becoming a big concern regarding support and care for elderly.
- Family seems to be not able to safeguard the elderly in the community.
- Unaffordable cost of daily living.
- Lack of community-based initiatives to support wellbeing of older people.
- As a result, elderly people are becoming vulnerable.

Type of vulnerability faced by elderly



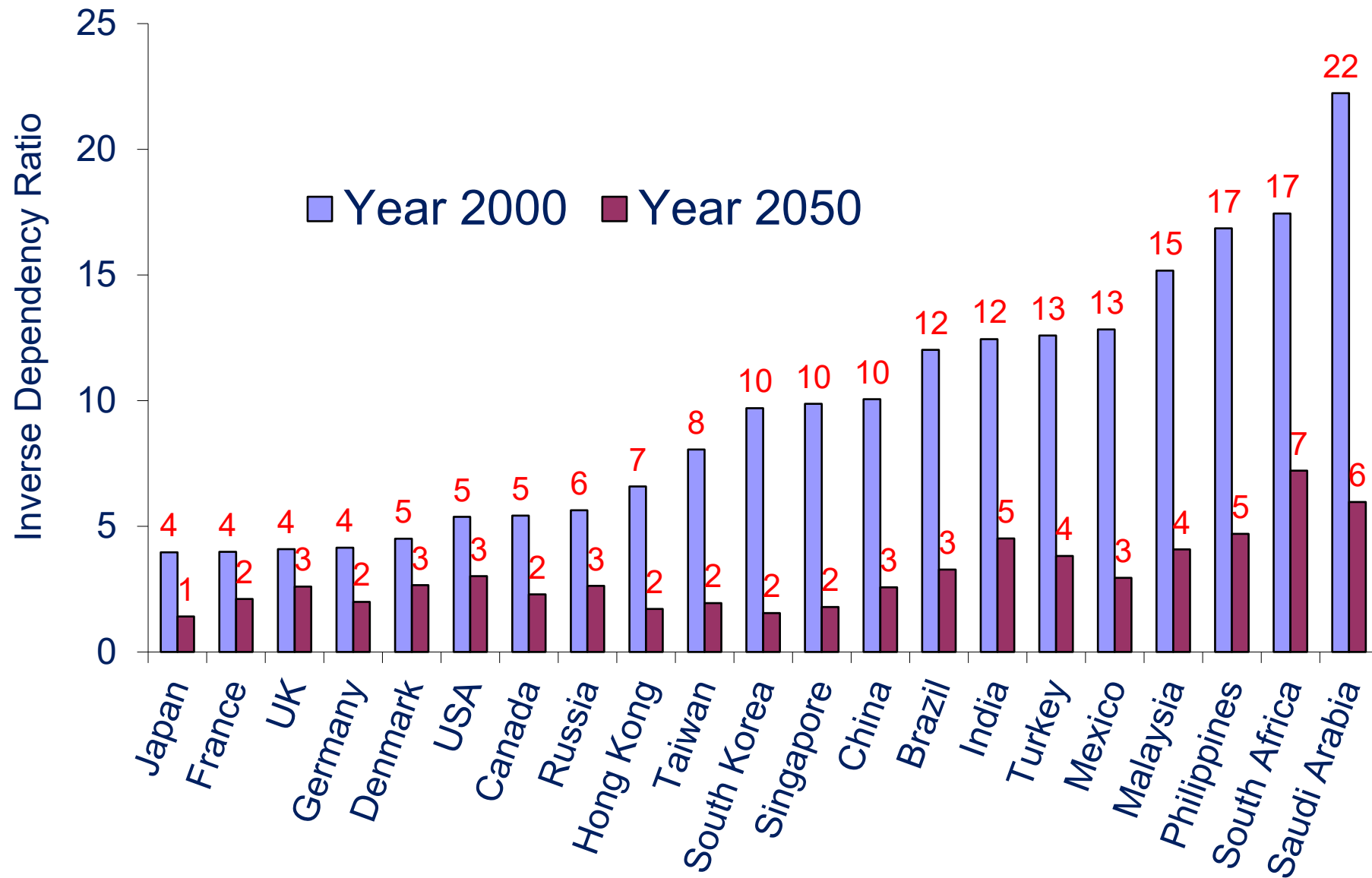
Source: After Barikdar et al, 2016

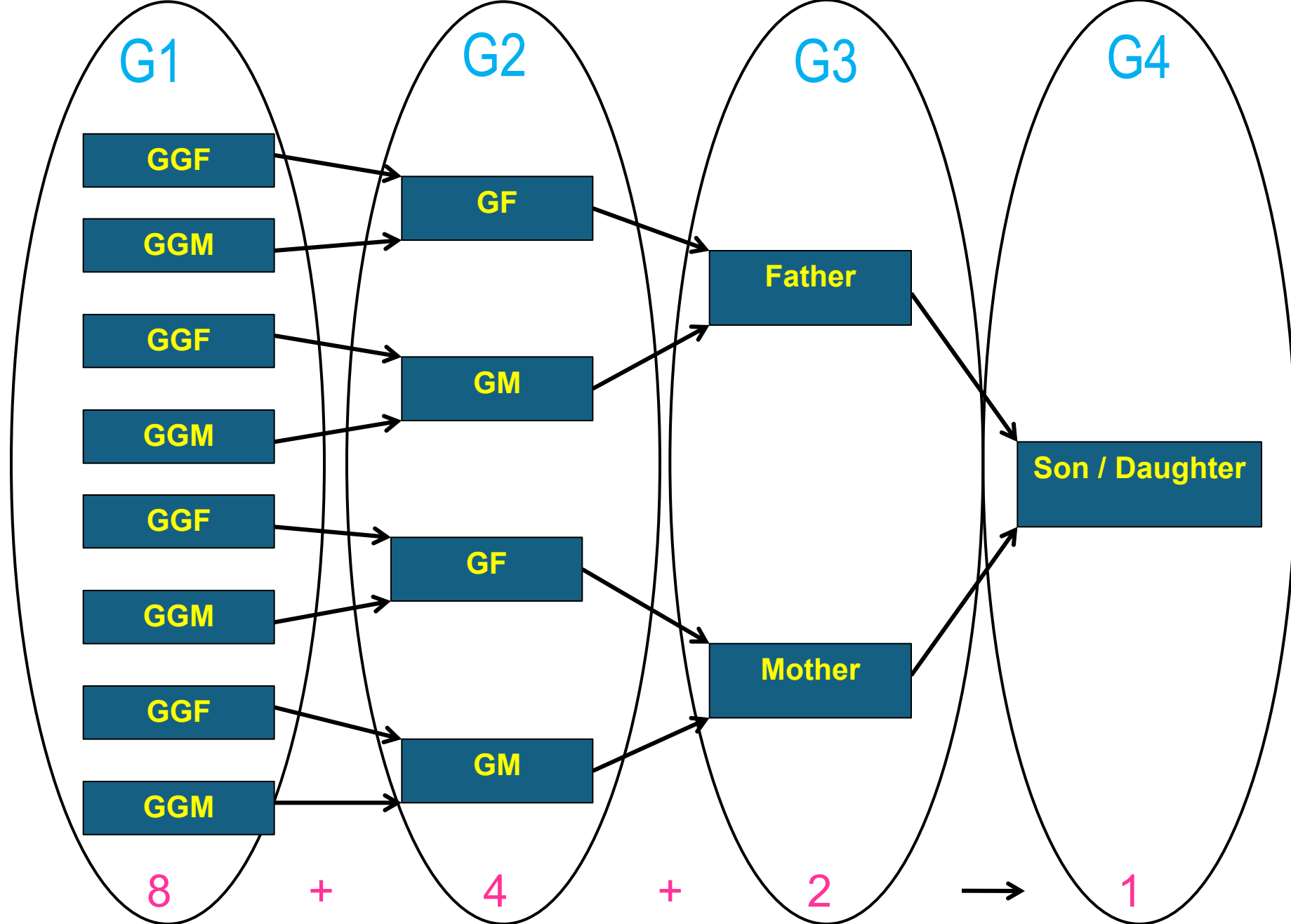


Traditionally, covering cost of elderly care was part of family responsibility.

- Is it sustainable anymore? If not,
 - Who is going to pay the cost of care in old age?
 - Is it the Individual, or the Family, or the Government?

Persons aged 15-64 years to support per 65+





The current generation (G4) may need to take care of max of 14 people

Care burden

- New generation has an increasing care responsibility.
- Care responsibility usually shared by siblings within families.
- The lower the number of sibling the higher degree of care responsibility goes to them.
- Childlessness in the household may be a big concern for future care provision.

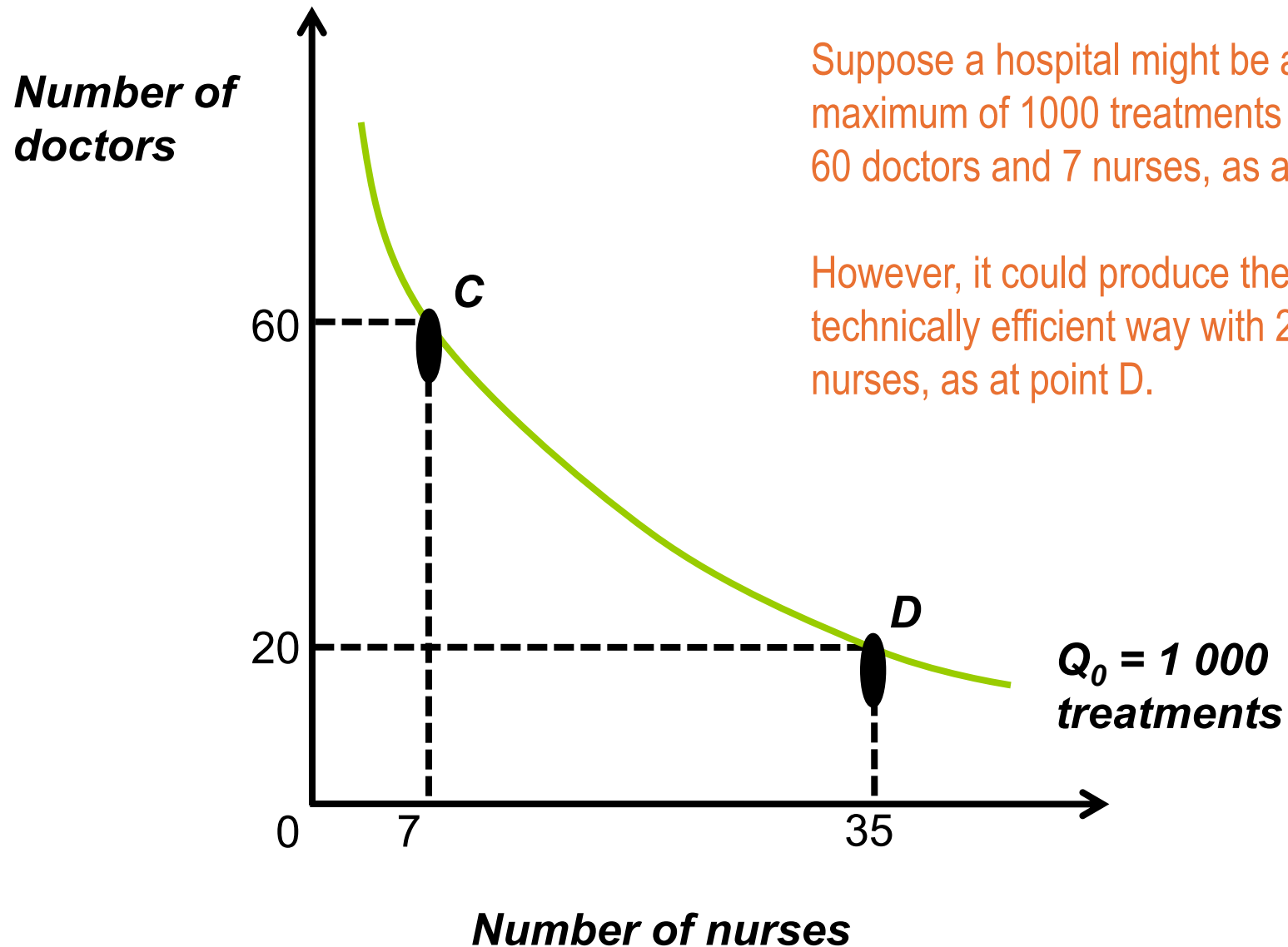
Healthcare workforce for elderly

Healthcare workforce include doctors, dentists, nurses as well as a host of allied health professionals involved in the healthcare.

Growing demand for adequate number of care workforce for ageing population.

Production of healthcare workforce for treatment.

Production Function for healthcare workforce



Why this matters?

Long-term chronic illness and the need for long-term care have major impacts on

- individuals and households
- psychological stress – for older people and caregivers
- economic burden – producers become consumers of care

Societies and economies

- loss of productivity and development

Public health challenges



Lack of financial support to bear the cost of care



Need an affordable care system in most part of the world



Engage various stakeholders in the geriatric care



Need political commitment and support



Appropriate regulatory approaches



Multiple morbidities; need for integrated action

YPSA activities for elderly people in Bangladesh

YPSA has been implementing various programmes since 1985 to improve the quality of life of rural elderly:

- Establishing social centres (Age Friendly Space-AFP) for the elderly in every Union.
- Providing old age allowances and assistive materials (walking sticks, commodes, blankets warm cloths, wheelchairs, umbrellas etc).
- Recognising their contribution for the society.
- Awarding children for looking after their parents.
- Offering physiotherapy services & geriatric nursing to the elderly by organizing training for the Physiotherapy Aide.
- Rehabilitation of poor and distress elderly in community.

YPSA works with elderly people



Awareness-on-Diabetes-control



Eye-Camp-Registration-Male



Glass-distributed-to-OP



Disability friendly device distribution



Recreation-Female



Recognition of Elderly people

Project activities



Monthly meeting of the old village committee



Leadership and communication training of senior leaders



Rally of International Day of the Year 2012



Deliverable aids to the elderly

YPSA activities



Distributing warm blankets and elderly people allowance to poor elderly people



Key elements for public policy

Effective public policy involves gathering and analysing a wide range of information about:

- Understanding the situation of rural elderly.
- Problem identification.
- Research and data analysis.
- Stakeholder consultation.
- Political and economic considerations.
- Environmental factors.

These elements contribute to the development of public policies that are evidence-based, inclusive, and effective in addressing complex societal challenges.

Concluding remarks

- The ageing population is obvious globally due to population changes.
- Health risks will dominate the later part of life.
- There will be a demand for healthcare facilities and its cost of care issues for older people.
- There should be an urgent need of geriatric care system in Bangladesh.
- Many challenges are coming ahead in relation to care and support to elderly and ignoring these could undermine the potential benefits of living longer.



Professor Hafiz T.A. Khan

Hafiz.Khan@uwl.ac.uk

Hafiz.Khan@ageing.ox.ac.uk

Question & Answer