



*cutting through complexity™*

# Longevity Risk 101:

## A review of mortality and improvements through time

Momentum Conference, Bristol,  
11:30am, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Joshua Waters and David Alison, KPMG



# A review of mortality and improvements through time

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**Longevity experience around the world**

2

**Modelling longevity rates and improvements**

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**The future of longevity**

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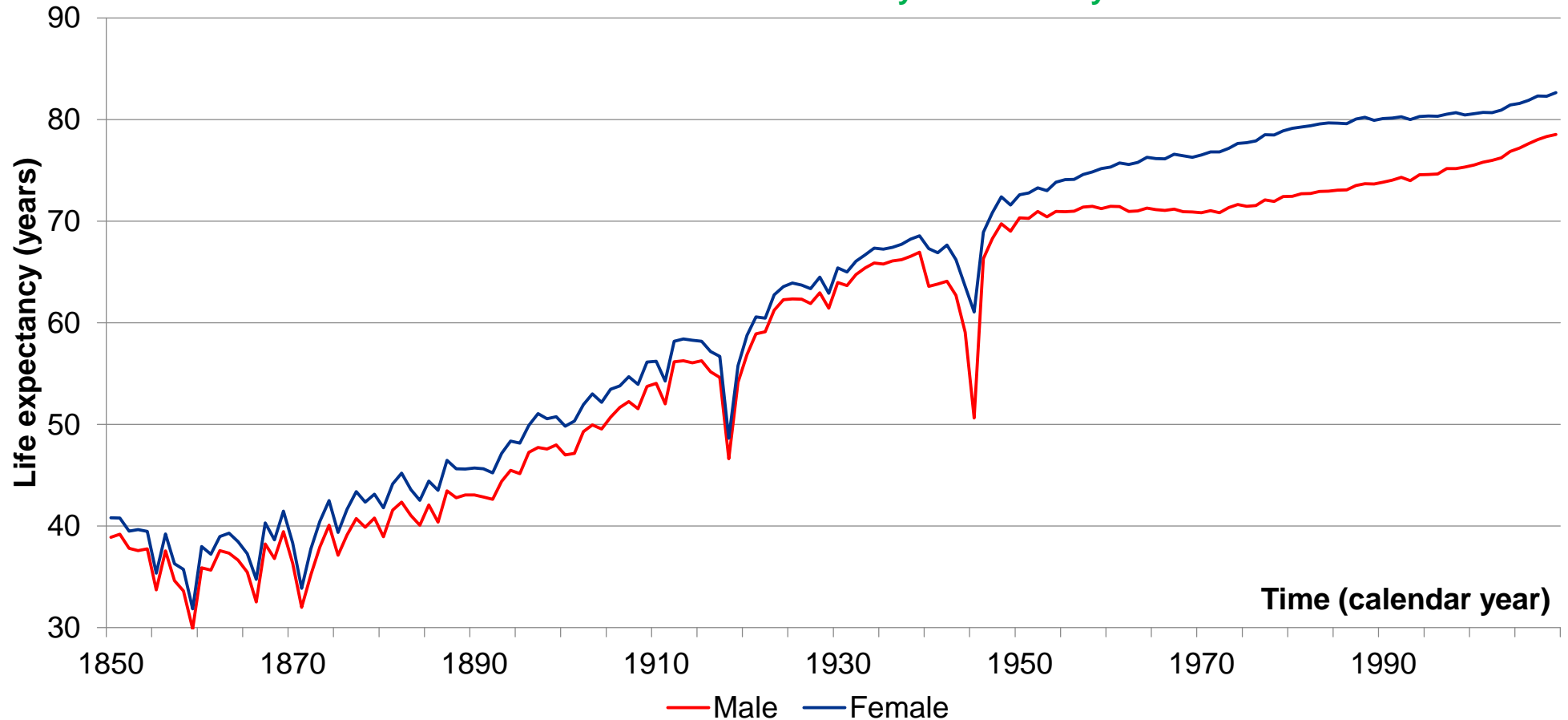
**The regulatory view**

# Longevity experience around the world



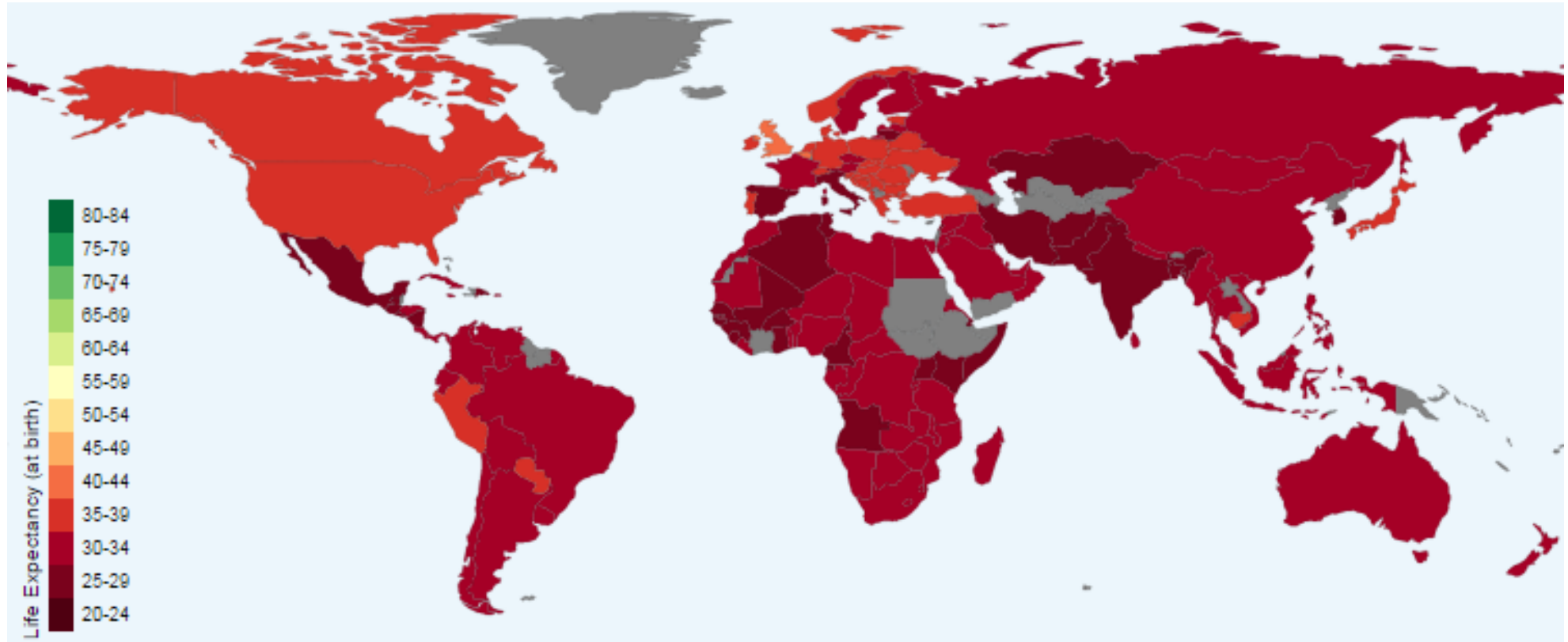
# How has longevity changed over time?

**Life expectancy**  
At birth in the Netherlands. From Leyden Academy data.



# How has longevity changed around the world?

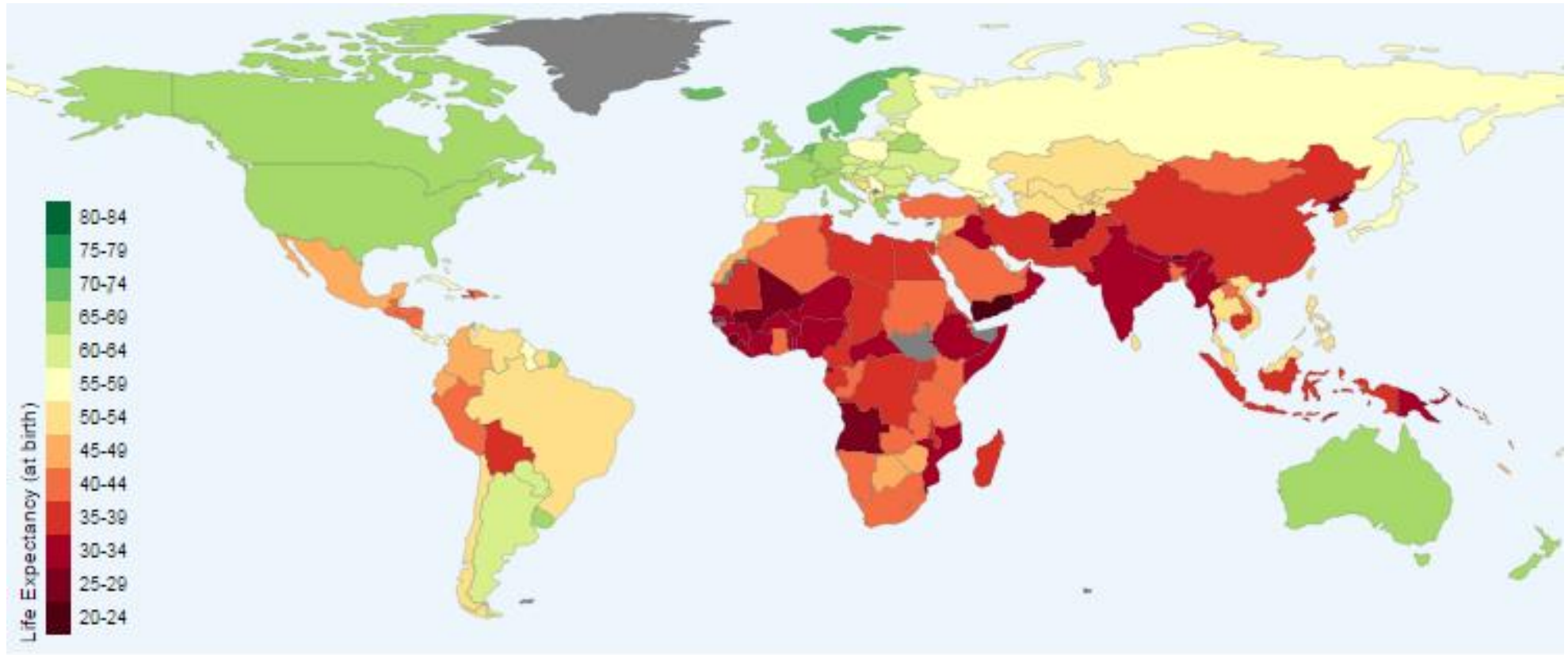
1800





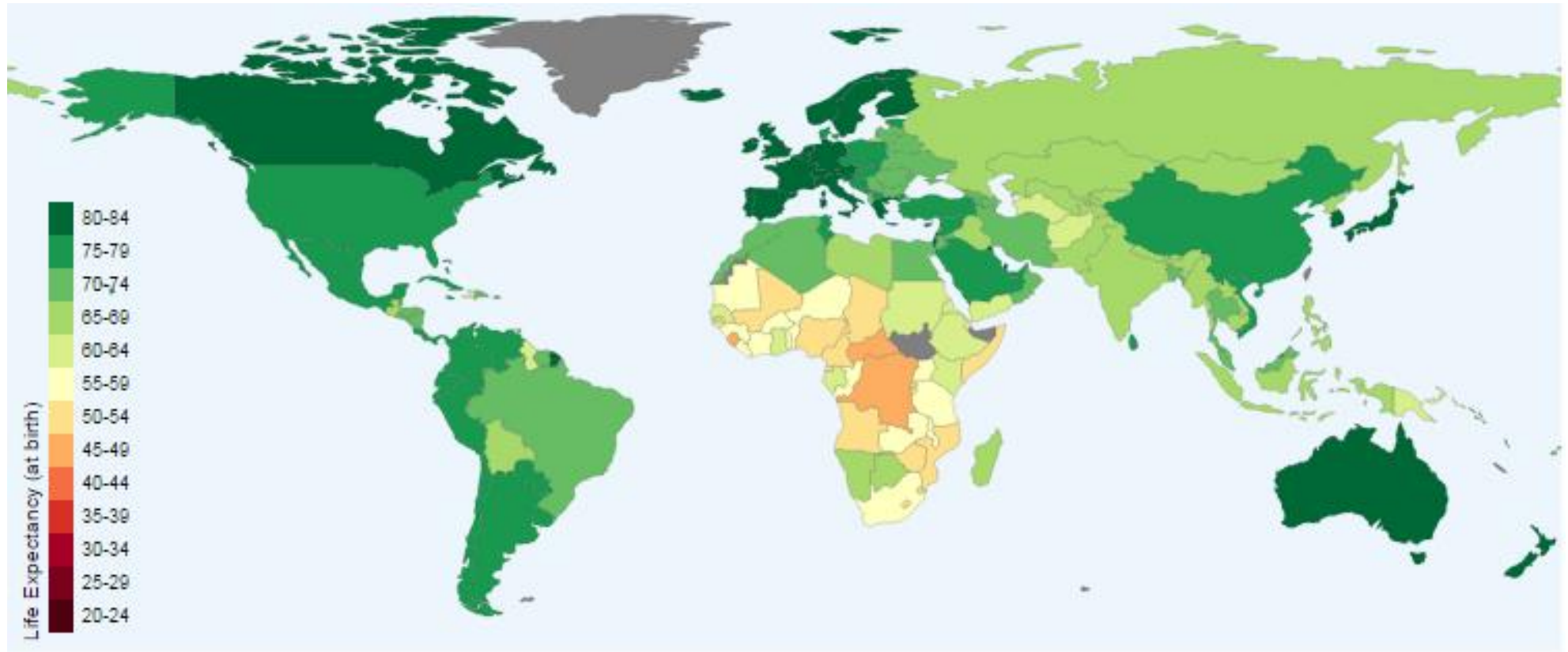
# How has longevity changed around the world?

1950

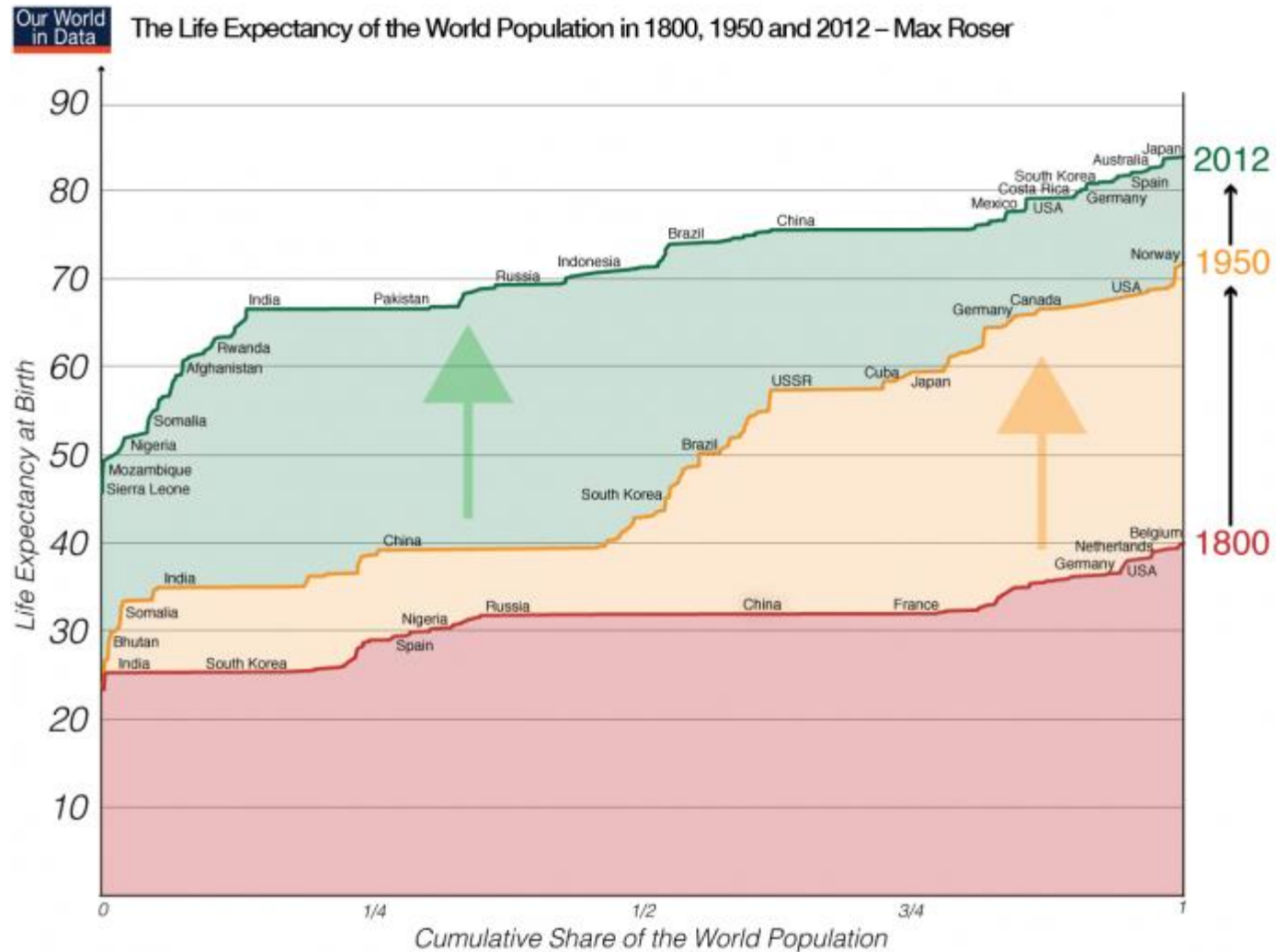


# How has longevity changed around the world?

2011

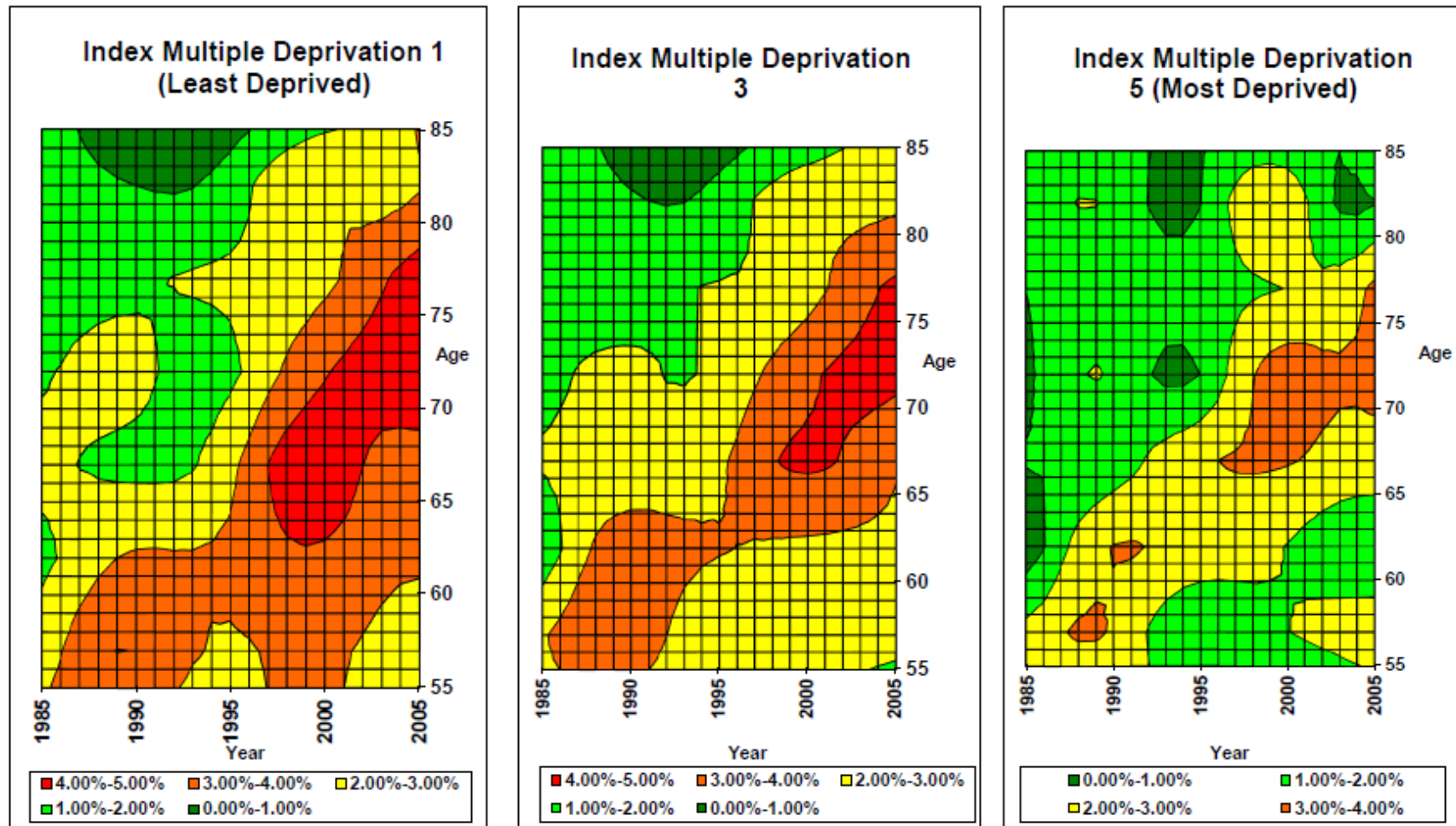


# How has longevity changed around the world?





# How has longevity changed by age and income level?



## Mortality improvement of people in IMD quintiles in England & Wales

# Demographic changes affecting mortality

## Environmental

- Access to clean drinking water
- Improved sanitation
- National Health Service
- Changes in pollution
- Decrease in crime rate
- Improved efficiency in using natural resources

## Medical

- Vaccines
- Surgical anaesthetic
- Antibiotics
- Changes in heart surgery
- Radiological imaging
- Organ transplants
- Increased ability to identify symptoms

## Lifestyle

- Smoking habits
- Drinking
- Physical exercise
- Improvement to diets

# Individual factors affecting mortality

## 1<sup>st</sup> tier factors

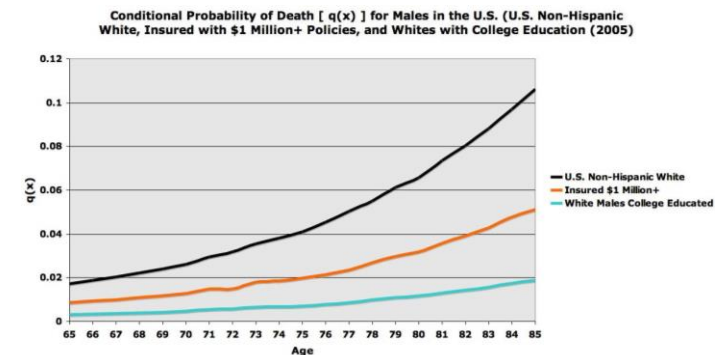
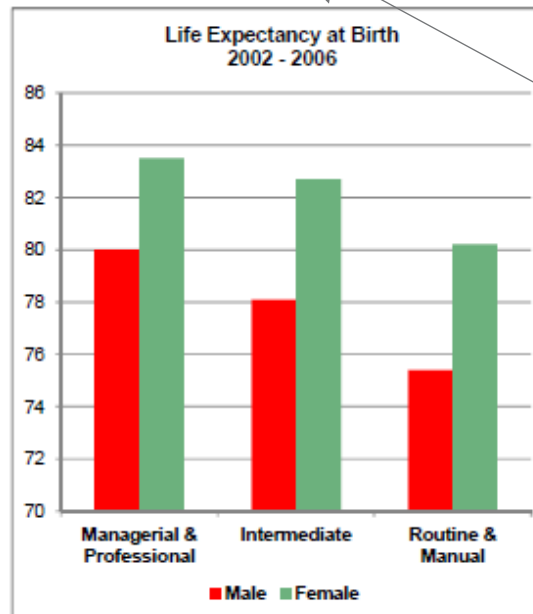
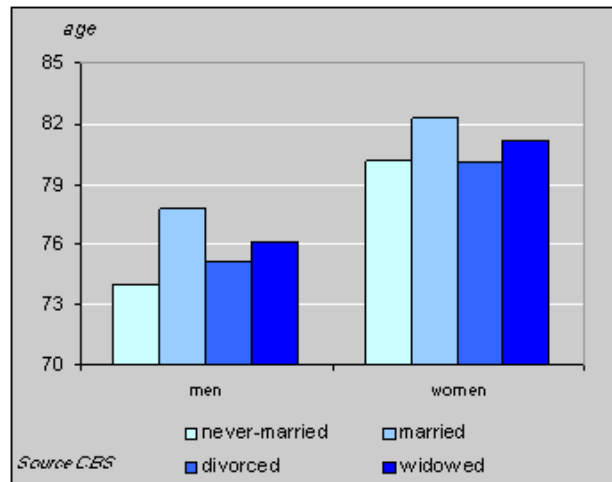
- Age
- Gender
- Medical condition
- Genetic factors

## Socio-economic

- Marital status
- Occupation
- Income
- Education

## Lifestyle

- Smoking
- Drinking
- Physical exercise
- Diet



# Modelling longevity rates and improvements



# How can we model historic mortality improvements?

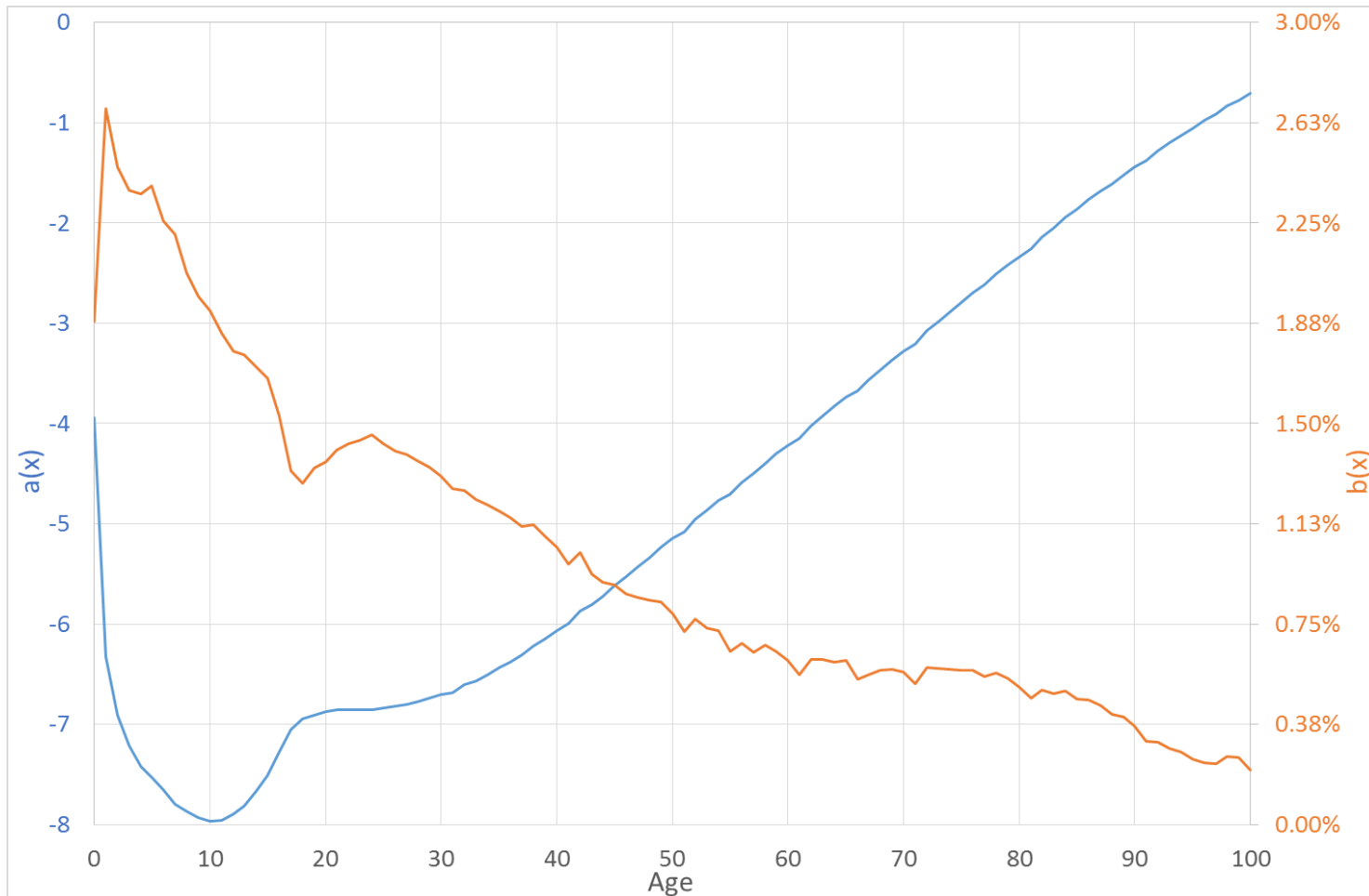
Too many dimensions for ages 60 to 100. Need a dimension reduction technique that fits the historic data. Then we can project forward.

	Lee Carter	Cairns Blake Dowd
<i>Year</i>	1992	2006
<i>Focus</i>	Whole lifetime	Retirement
<i>Formula</i>	$\log q_{x,t} = \alpha_x + \beta_x \kappa_t + error$	$\text{logit } q_{x,t} = A_t + (x - \bar{x})B_t + error$



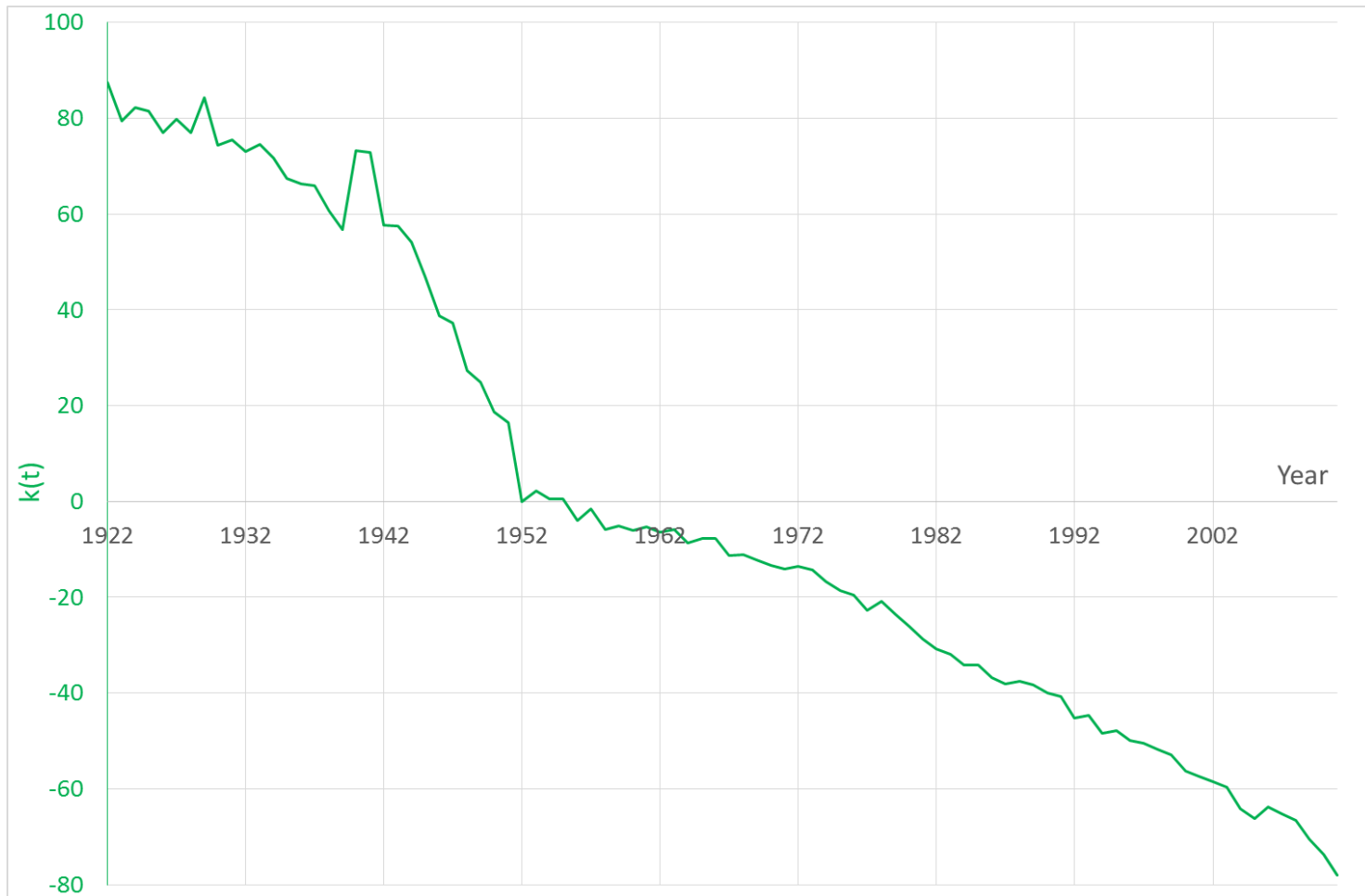
# Lee Carter (1992)

$$\log q_{x,t} = \alpha_x + \beta_x \kappa_t + \text{error}$$



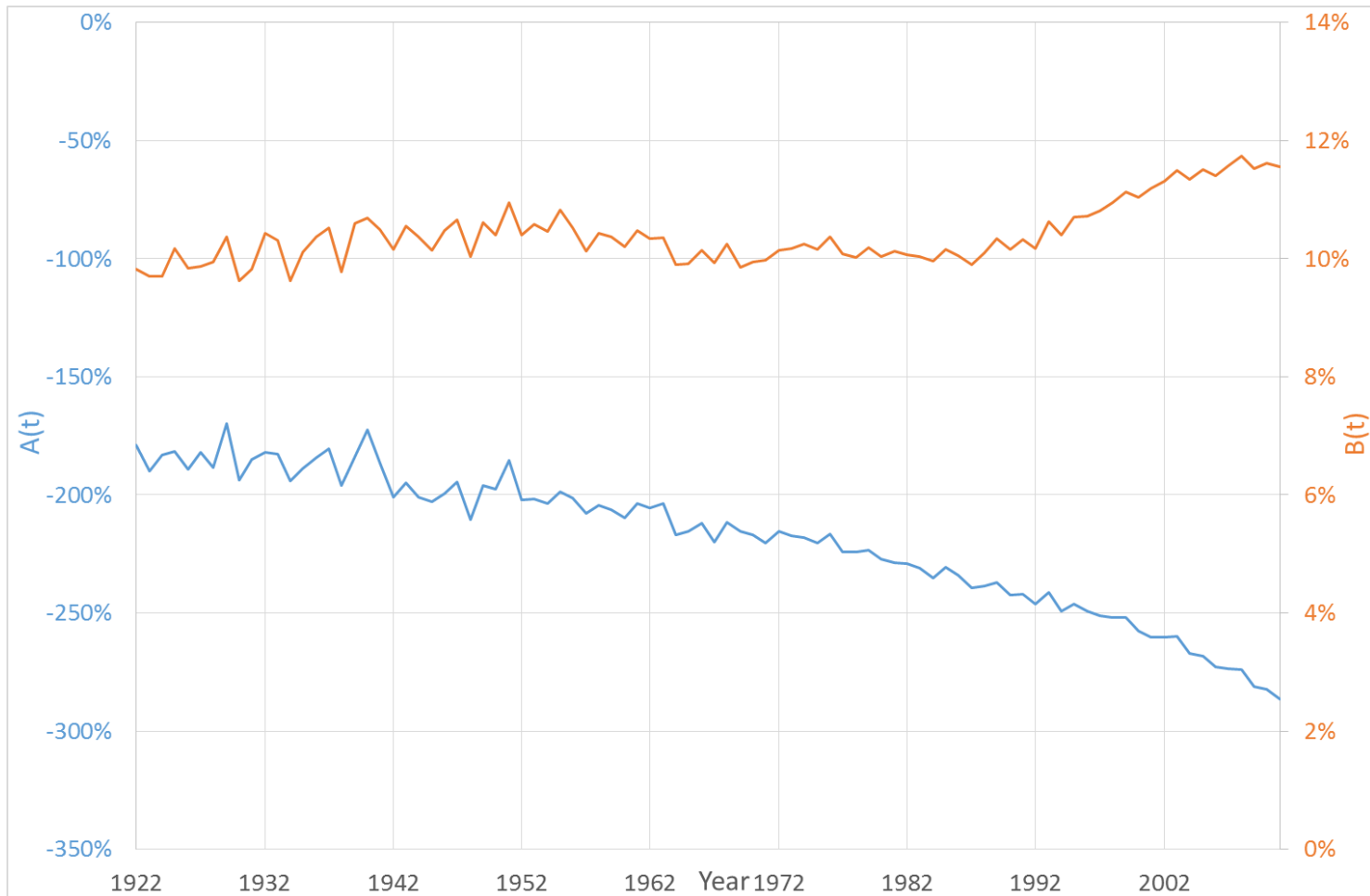
# Lee Carter (1992)

$$\log q_{x,t} = \alpha_x + \beta_x \kappa_t + \text{error}$$



# Cairns Blake Dowd (2006)

$$\text{logit } q_{x,t} = A_t + (x - \bar{x})B_t + \text{error}$$



# How can we model historic mortality improvements?

Too many dimensions for ages 60 to 100. Need a dimension reduction technique that fits the historic data. Then we can project forward.

	<b>Lee Carter</b>	<b>Cairns Blake Dowd</b>
<i>Year</i>	1992	2006
<i>Focus</i>	Whole lifetime	Retirement
<i>Additive term</i>	Base mortality curve	Level of mortality through time
<i>Time dependent term</i>	Fully parameterised	Intuitive form
<i>Parameters</i>	$\approx 300$	$\approx 200$
<i>Strengths</i>	Captures infant mortality	Better fit in retirement
<i>Weaknesses</i>	Doesn't tell you how to project forwards	
<i>Transformation</i>	Logarithm, $\log q$	$\text{logit } q := \log(q) - \log(1 - q)$
<i>Formula</i>	$\log q_{x,t} = \alpha_x + \beta_x \kappa_t + \text{error}$	$\text{logit } q_{x,t} = A_t + (x - \bar{x})B_t + \text{error}$

# How can we project forward future mortality improvements?

The past is no guide to the future. We need a way of informing expert judgement.

	<b>CMI Model</b>	<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>Cause of Improvements</b>
<i>Approach</i>	Overall improvements	Split by disease e.g. cancer	Split by driver e.g. exercise



Current improvement rates



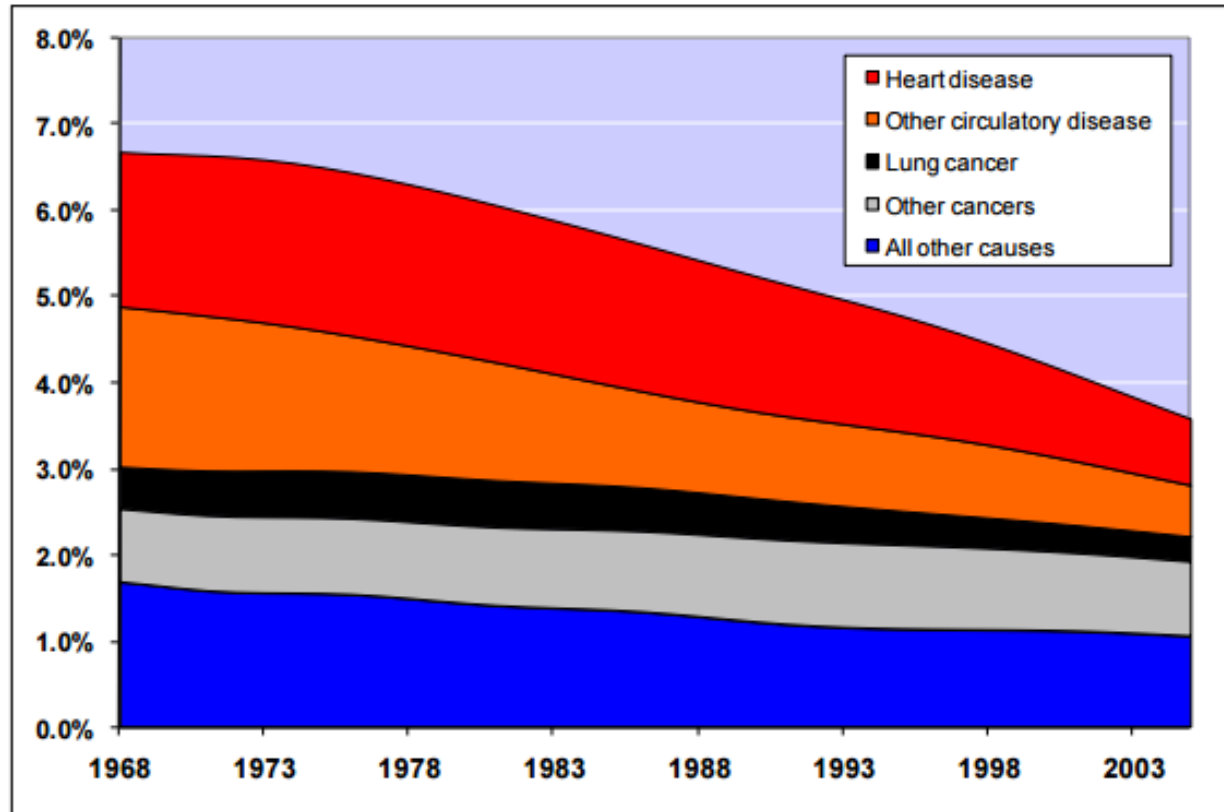
*Convergence path*

Long term improvement assumption

e.g. 2.00%pa males  
and 1.75%pa females







# Cause of Death Model

Reduce dimensions using Principal components analysis, Lee Carter model or age standardised mortality rates

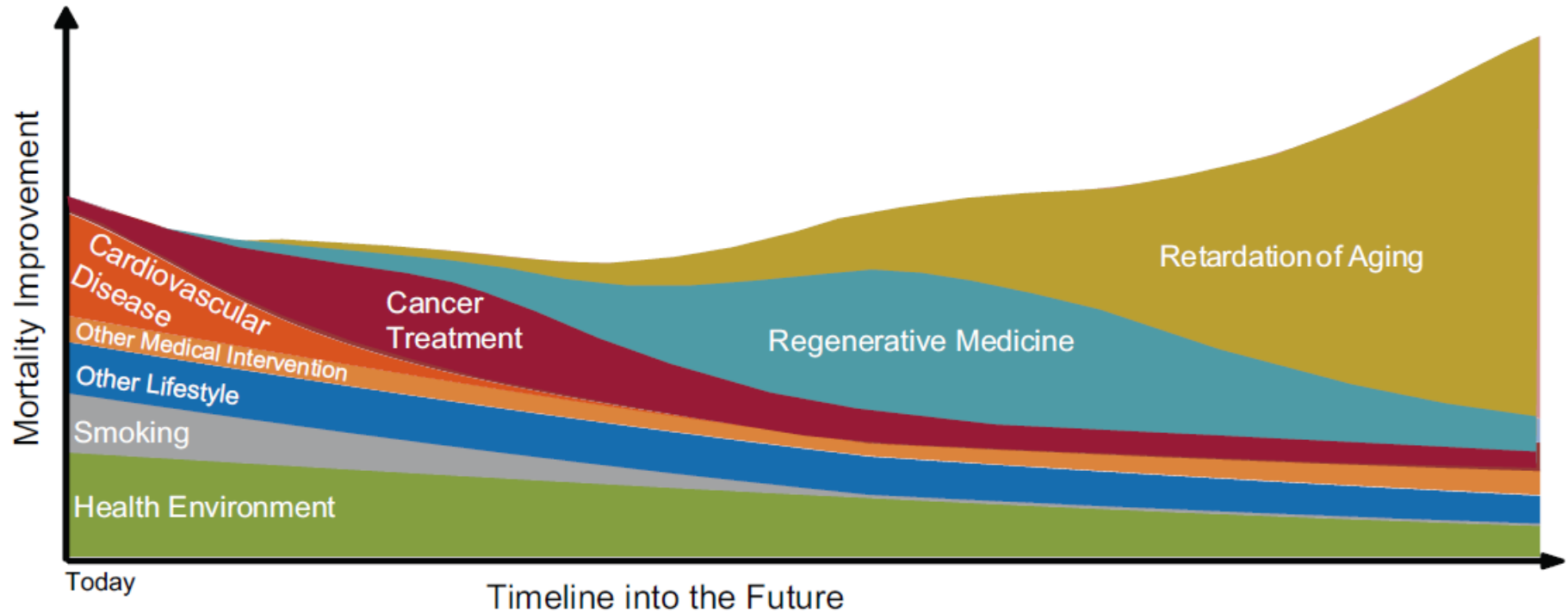


**Figure A1: Age-standardised mortality rates for males in England & Wales aged 60-89, 1968-2005, by constituent cause**

# Cause of Improvements Model

	Children	Working age population	Retired population
Developing countries			
More developed countries			

# Cause of Improvements Model



Source: [http://riskinc.com/Publications/Longevity\\_Risk\\_brochure.pdf](http://riskinc.com/Publications/Longevity_Risk_brochure.pdf)

# How can we project forward future mortality improvements?

The past is no guide to the future. We need a way of informing expert judgement.

	<b>CMI Model</b>	<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>Cause of Improvements</b>
<i>Approach</i>	Overall improvements	Split by disease e.g. cancer	Split by driver e.g. exercise
<i>Assumptions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long term improvements rate</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Future improvements in each cause</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Future path of drivers</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Convergence path</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interdependency between causes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impact of drivers on mortality</li></ul>
<i>Strengths</i>	Low data requirements Quicker to build	Easier to justify expert judgements	Allows for interdependency
<i>Weaknesses</i>	Difficult to validate expert judgements	Higher number of expert judgements	Difficult to validate expert judgements



# How can we underwrite annuities?

## Historical data

- Public, own data, reinsurer
- Curve fitting, generalised linear model

## Underwriting

- Smoker status, postcode, BMI, medical conditions, education
- Medical exam, questionnaire

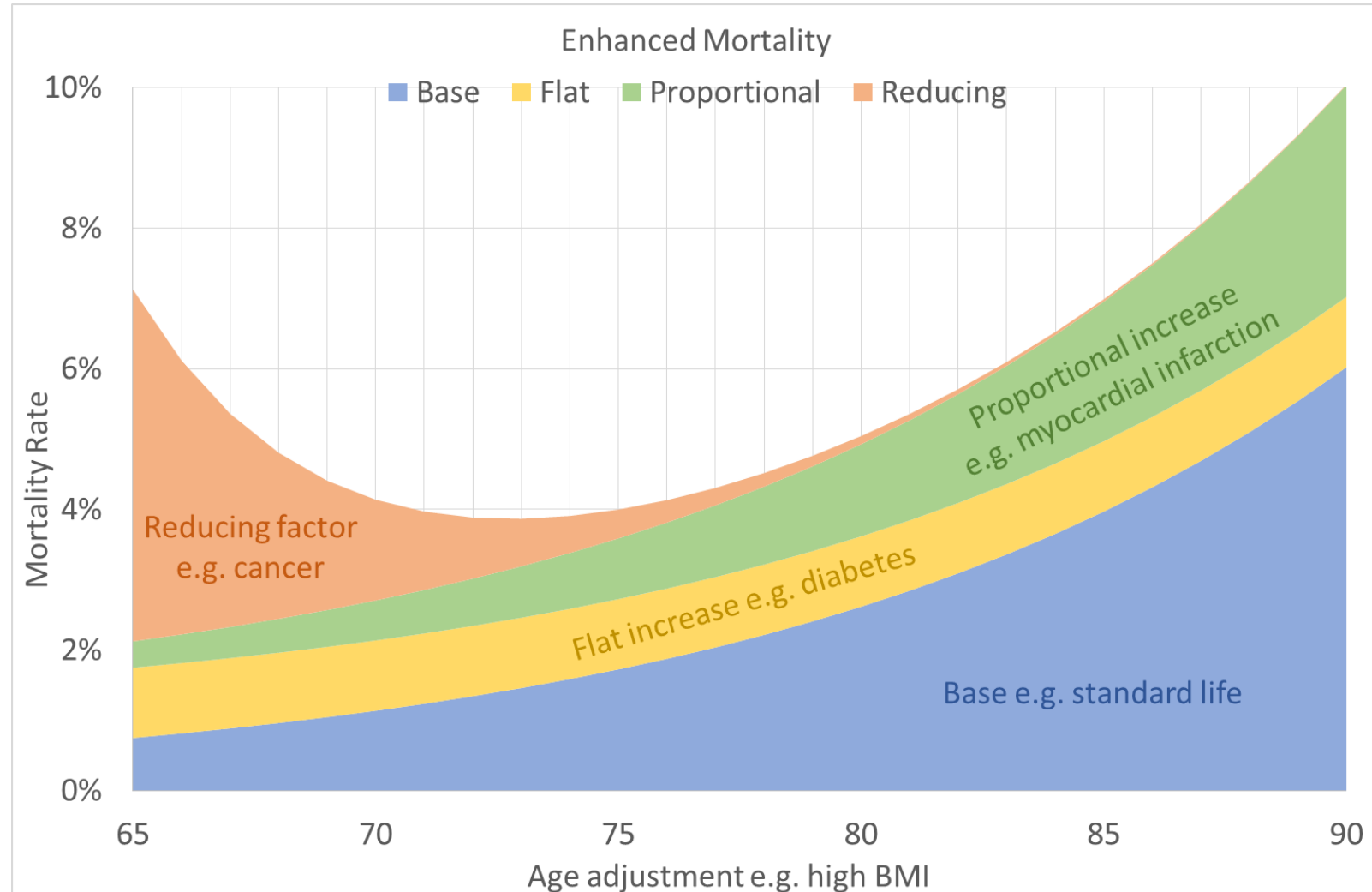
## Other considerations

- Anti-selection from enhanced annuities
- Seasonality effects



The image shows a sample of an 'Enhanced Pension Annuity Quotation Request Form'. At the top, there is a section for 'Important notes' in a small box. Below this, the title 'Enhanced Pension Annuity Quotation Request Form' is displayed. The form is divided into two main sections: 'You/Dependant to complete sections 1+2' and 'Financial Adviser to complete sections 3+4'. A grid of logos for various insurance and financial services providers is shown, including AVIVA, Canada Life, FriendsLife, justretirement, Legal & General, LV=, mgmadvantage, partnership, and PRUDENTIAL. At the bottom, there is a small note about where to find more information.

# How can we model enhanced mortality?

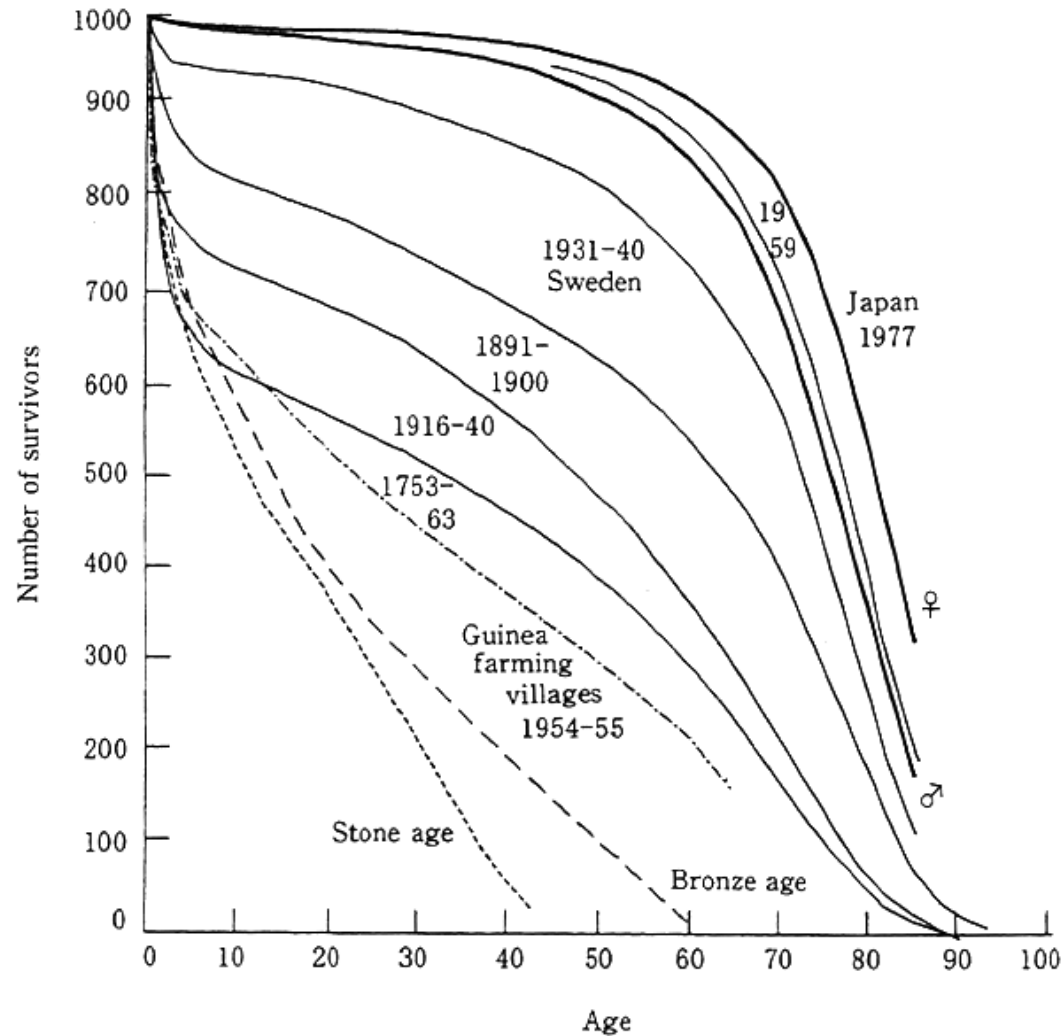


# The future of longevity



# History of survival

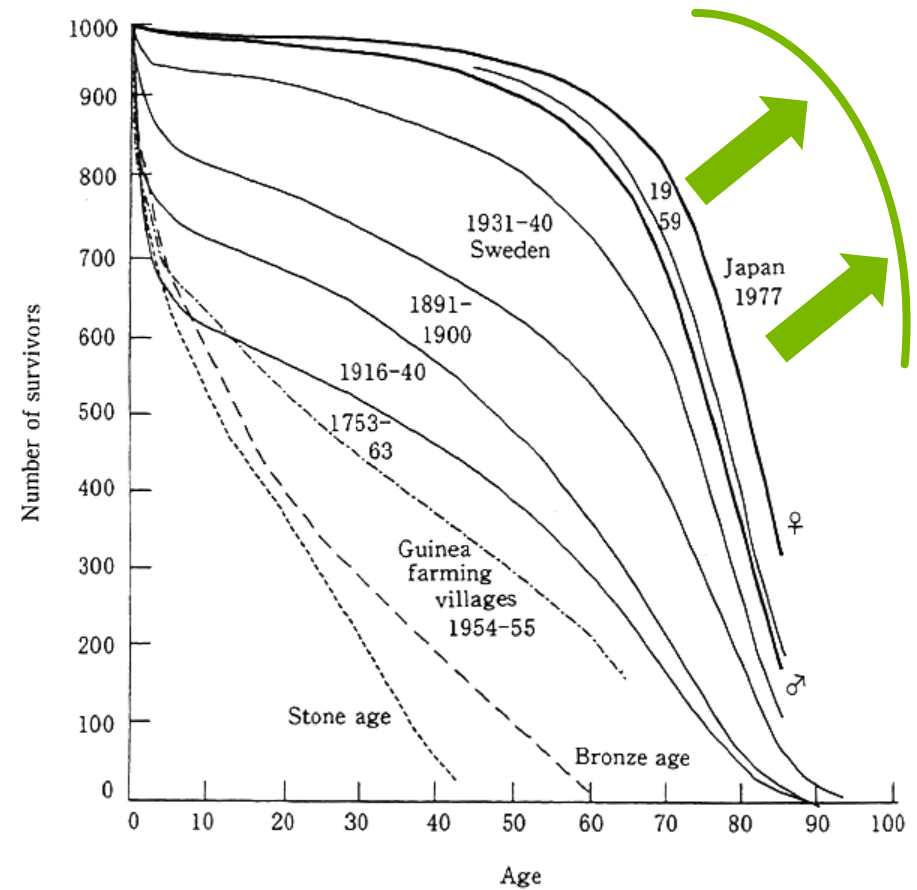
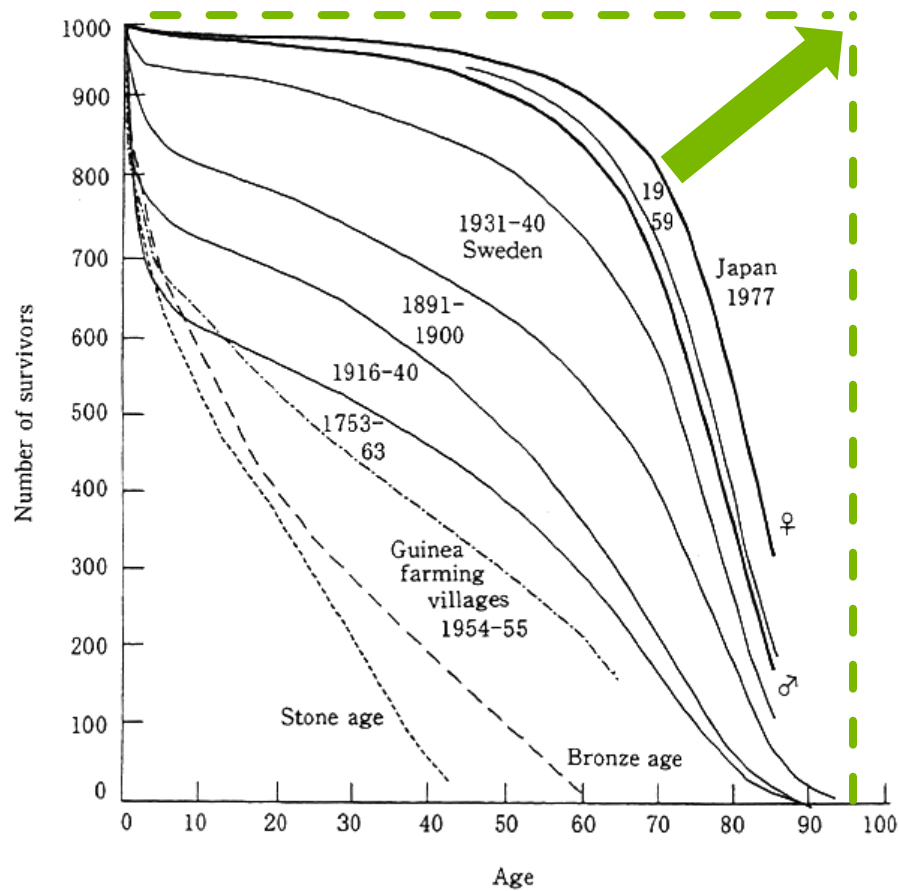
Survival Curve for Number of Survivors Per 1,000 Births



What next?

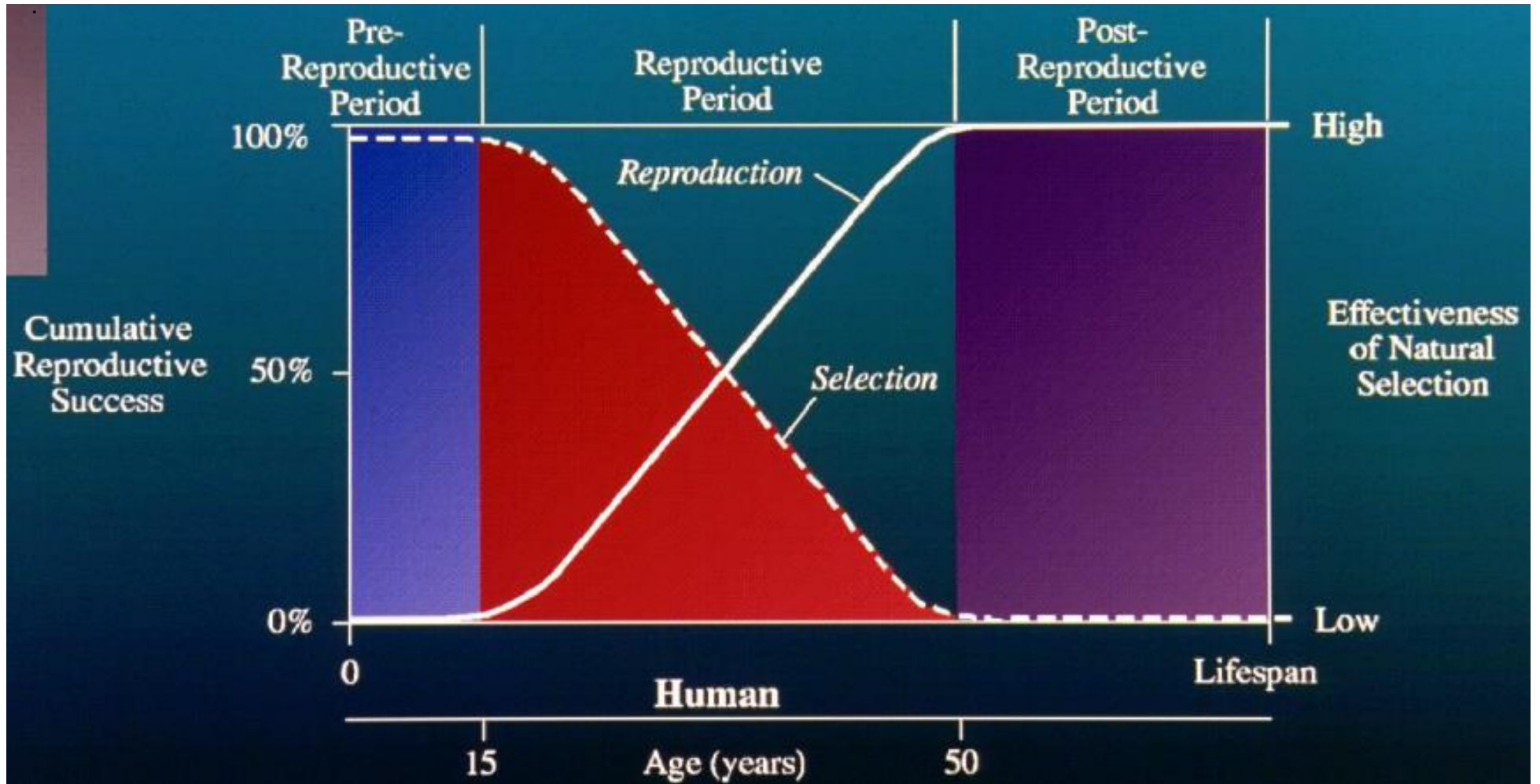
Source:  
<https://www.env.go.jp/en/wpaper/1995/ea240000000000.html>

# Rectangularisation or Methuselah?





## Rectangularisation – Life expectancy is reaching a limit



Source: Theories of Longevity –  
Robert L. Brown, PhD

# Rectangularisation – Life expectancy is reaching a limit



Improvements have focussed mainly on the heart



Largest progress in raising life expectancy relates to infants.

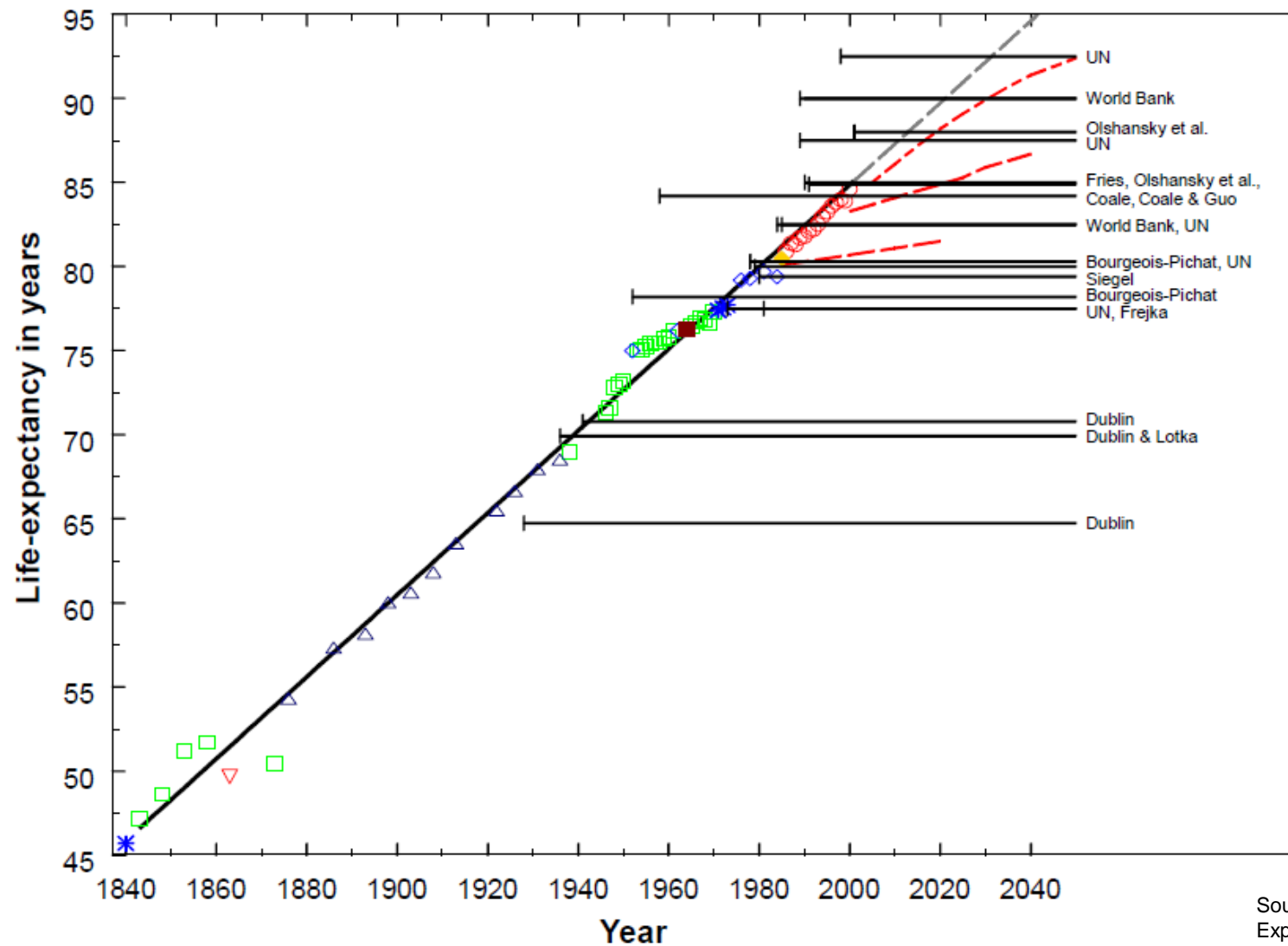


No strong evidence that max age is increasing



Current causes of death only impact so much

# Methuselah – Life expectancy and maximum life span will continue to grow



Source: Broken Limits to Life Expectancy – Oeppen and Vaupel

# Methuselah – Life expectancy and maximum life span will continue to grow



Even experts can be wrong



Not just life span, but health can also be preserved



Natural selection can conquer senescence



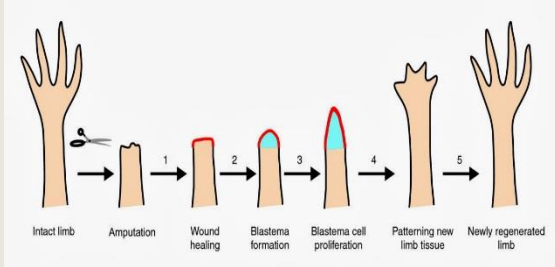
Genetic engineering, nano-technologies have all contributed to significant successes



Studies reveal aging can be surprisingly elastic

# The Future Will Be Different from the Past

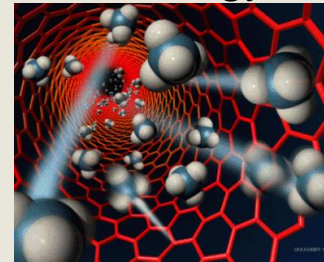
## Advancements in Medical Technology



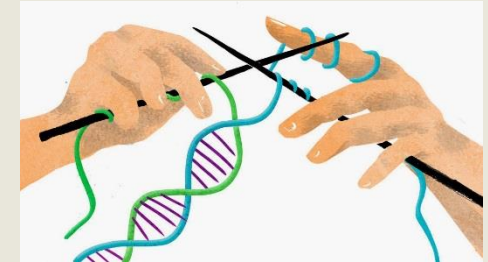
Regenerating and rejuvenating tissue



Slowing the rate of aging



Nanotechnologies



Replacing deleterious genes

## Shifting focus from the past



Country

Causes

Ages





# PRA treatment of mortality



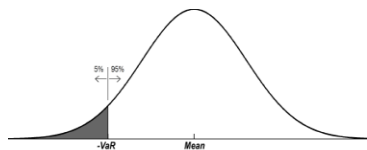
# Quantitative Indicators

The PRA has split longevity risk into two sub-risks: base mis-estimation risk and future improvement risk:

## Base mis-estimation

Actual mortality experience differs from the best estimate mortality assumption

No QI as each firm's exposure is unique



## Future improvement

Actual future improvements differ from best estimate future improvements assumption

Less heterogeneous and therefore the PRA have derived a QI for future improvement risk

How much could the best estimate future improvement assumption change over one-year?

### Data Risk

Simulating an additional year of data and recalibrating the trend risk model accordingly.

### Event Risk

The impact of new information emerging which is not captured by historical data. The PRA has equated this with changing a trend risk model



# Comments from the PRA approach

## 1-year VaR

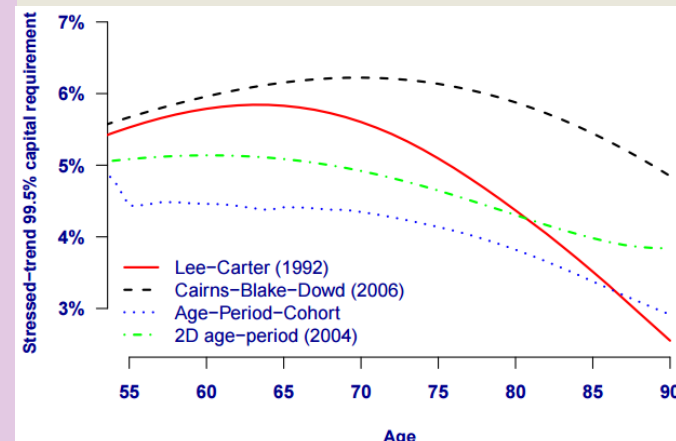
- PRA is focussed on a 1-year VaR
- Whereas a catastrophe can occur in an instant, longevity risk takes decades to unfold
- Mortality shocks are easy to spot. Longevity shocks much less so, since you can only detect a trend change several years after it has already started.
- Longevity risk not a natural fit to “1:200 over one year” approach and a run-off may be a more appropriate way to view this risk.
- How do you find a multi-year run-off scenario equivalent to a 1:200 event over one year?

## No Cause-of-Death

- PRA does not consider cause-of-death modelling a robust model
- None of the models are “cause of death” models due to their greater complexity, data requirements and the need for a greater level of expert judgement to be exercised.
- Concerned that the correlations between causes of death were not easily measured and would not be stable over time

## Model Risk

- The PRA itself works with: “four commonly used families of stochastic longevity risk models”
- The best way to deal with model risk is to not rely on a single model.
- Different models produce different capital requirements



Source: A Value-at-risk framework for longevity trend risk - S. J. Richards, I. D. Currie and G. P. Ritchie

*This doesn't stop firms from using these approaches, but the challenge then is to demonstrate consistency with the one-year calibration standard.*

## How does this compare to the true nature of longevity risk?

Richards Risk Behaviours*	Comments	Assessment against QIs
Basis risk	Uncertainty in the assumptions drawn from “external” experience	Portfolio specific – no QIs proposed
Idiosyncratic risk	Case of unusually light mortality experience from random individual variation.	
Mis-estimation risk	Statistical error in the calibration of the mortality basis to past experience	
Model risk	It is impossible to know if the selected projection model is correct.	Covered by PRA “event risk”
Volatility	Case of unusually light mortality experience from seasonal or environmental variation	Covered by PRA “data risk”, but question is whether this is a <u>permanent</u> or <u>temporary</u> increase to life expectancy
Trend risk	Even if the model is correct and there is no basis risk, an adverse trend may result by chance which is nevertheless fully consistent with the chosen model.	<b>Has this truly been covered by PRA’s VaR approach?</b>

\*A VALUE-AT-RISK FRAMEWORK FOR LONGEVITY TREND RISK – S. J. Richards et al.

### Other risks potentially not considered

- Underwriting risk – uncertainty in the assumptions from the specific information by the individual
- Catastrophe risk – a “catastrophic shift” in mortality rates

# Summary and questions...



Experience around the world



Modelling longevity



The future of mortality



View of the regulator



**Thank you!**

