

Reported Changes in Functioning Among Older Singaporeans

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Demographic Characteristics of Singapore

	1970	2000	2030
Population	2,075,000	4,018,000	5,239,000
TFR	3.0	1.5	2.0
e0	68	77.9	81.5
% 65+	3.3	7.2	22.5

SOURCE : <http://devdata.worldbank.org/hnpstats/>

Data Sources

- 1995 National Survey of Senior Citizens
(N=4750, Sample = 55+)
- 1999 Transitions in Health, Wealth, and Welfare of Singaporean Elderly: 1995-1999
(N=1980, Sample = 59+)

Composition of Baseline and Follow-Up Samples

	<u>1995</u> (n=4750) 55+	<u>1999</u> (n=1977) 59+
Average age	70.9	73.2
Percent female	53.8	53.5
Percent married	50.9	56.2
Percent no education	66.9	60.9

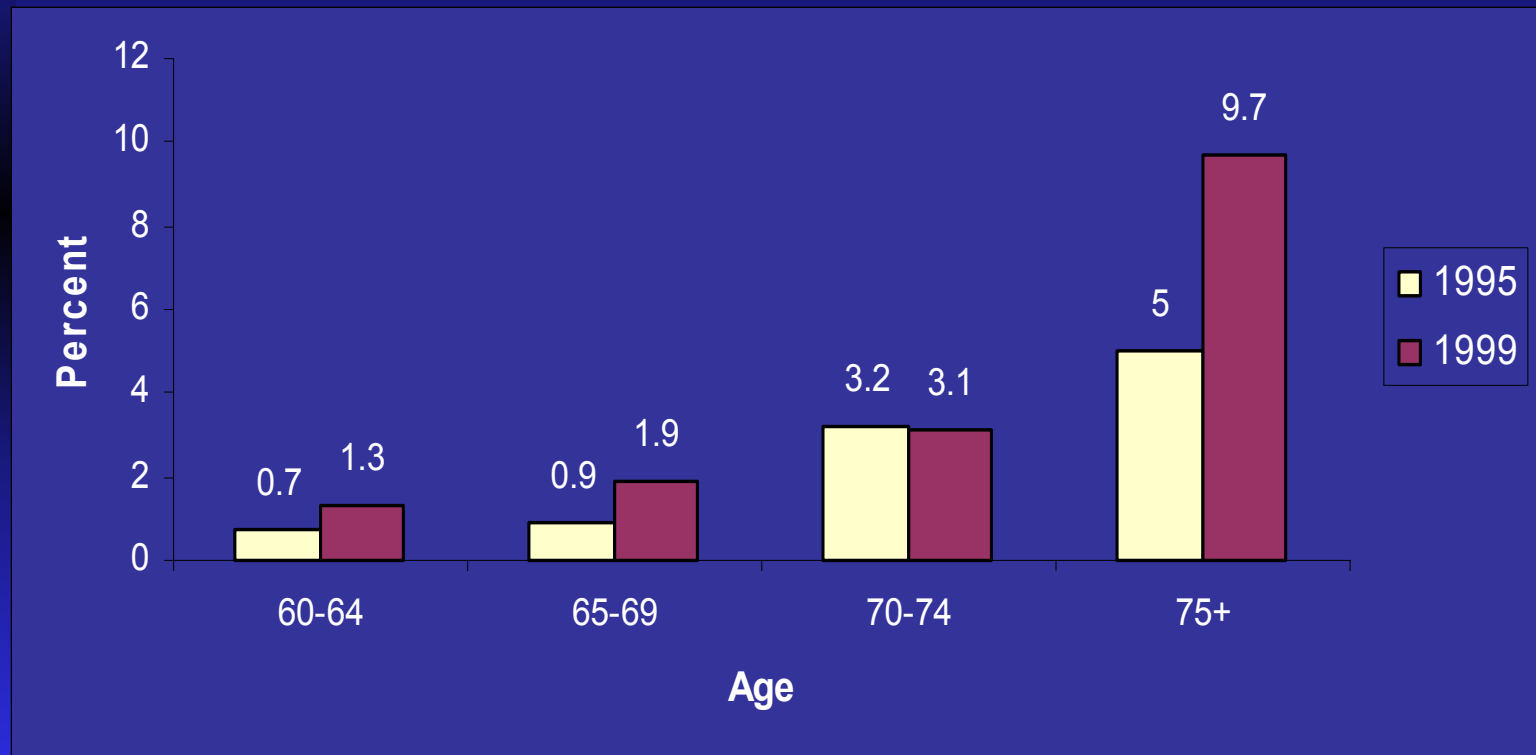
Analytical Strategy

- Calculate prevalence rates of ADLs and IADLs for panel sample.
- Estimate probability of an increase in reports of at least one ADL and IADL between 1995-1999 using logistic regression.

Percent with ADL Difficulties : Panel Sample (n=1977)

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1999</u>
Bathing/dressing	1.8	-
Toileting	1.3	-
Eating	0.3	-
Any one	2.0	3.7

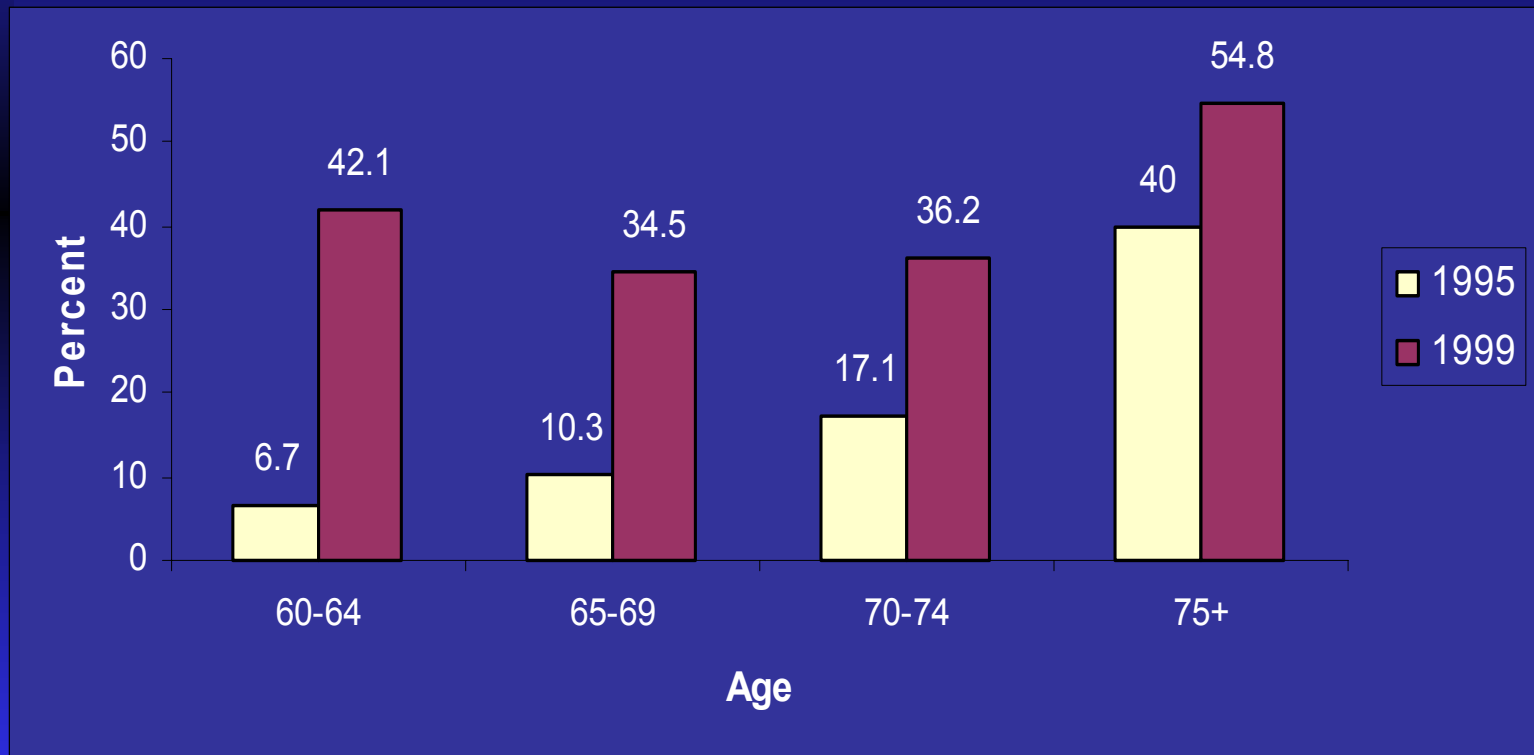
Percent having at least one ADL difficulty by age and year



Percent with IADL Difficulties : Panel Sample (n=1977)

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1999</u>
Using transportation	7.3	16.8
Shopping	7.3	11.9
Preparing meals	8.4	12.2
Light housework	6.5	8.9
Any one	14.3	42.3

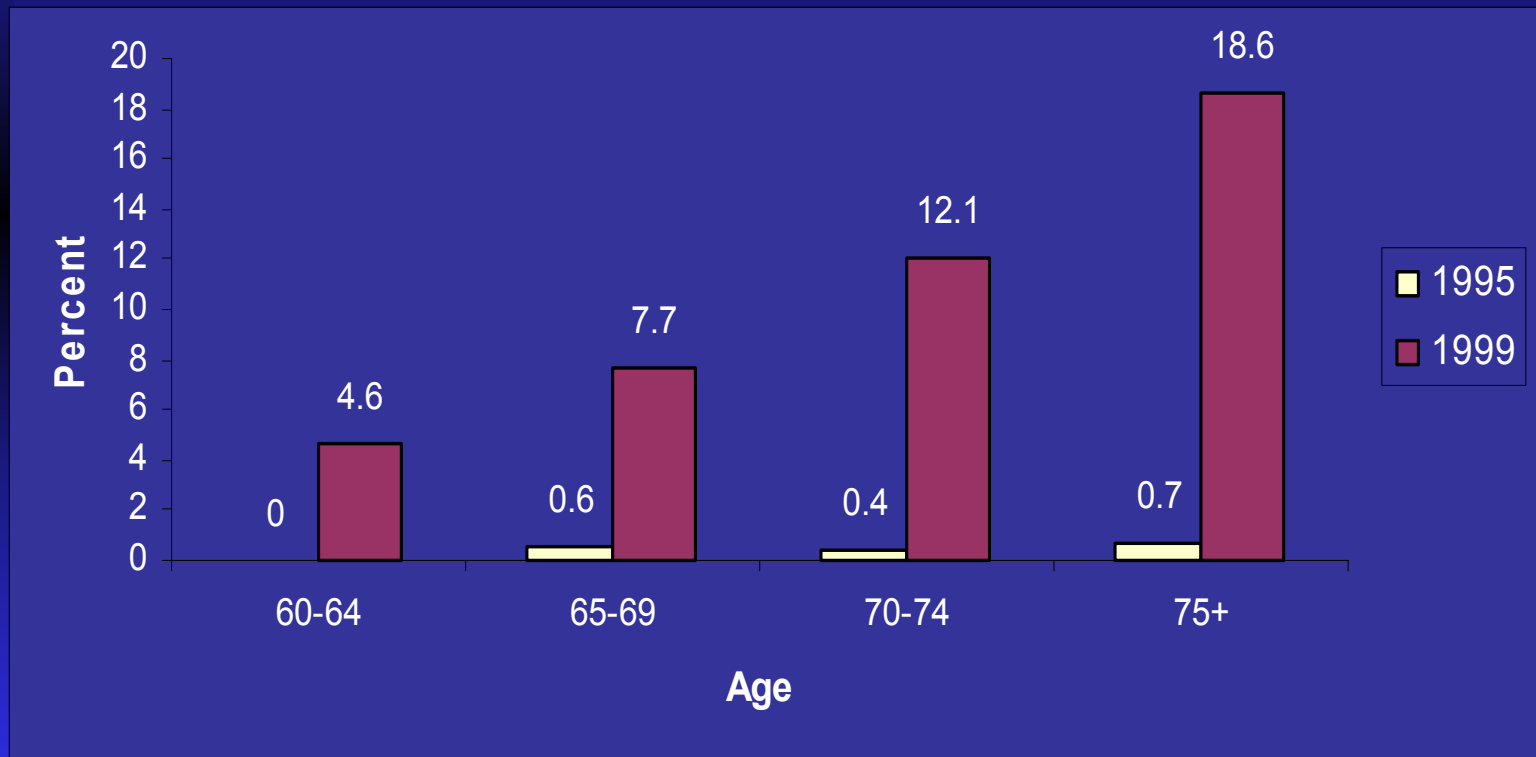
Percent having at least one IADL difficulty by age and year



Reports of Self-Assessed Health : Panel Sample (n=1977)

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1999</u>
Very good	17.1	7.6
Good	68.5	46.4
Fair	14.0	36.1
Poor	0.4	9.9

Percent reporting poor self-assessed health by age and year



Logistic Regression Odds Ratios

	ADL	IADL
Year 1999	n.s.	3.25
Male	0.69	n.s.
Ethnicity		
Chinese	---	---
Malay	1.54	1.62
Indian	n.s.	n.s.
Age		
55-59	---	---
60-64	n.s.	1.54
65-69	2.36	1.58
70-74	4.41	2.26
75+	10.87	5.89
Not Married	n.s.	1.16
Some Education	n.s.	n.s.

Conclusion

- Using panel data for Singapore we show an increase in the percentage of respondents reporting at least one ADL or IADL between 1995 and 1999, controlling for background characteristics.
- Findings suggest an increase in functional limitations over time among older Singaporeans.