

# The Comparative Study of Aging and Health in Asia: Why Are We Here?

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**Population Council**

# Goals of AHA

- Describe health of older persons in Asia
- Examine population trends in older adult health
- Look at individual health transitions
- Investigate determinants of trends and transitions
- Assess implications for policy
- Provide comparisons across Asia

# Requirements to Accomplish Goals

- **Quality longitudinal data from various places in Asia**
- **A committed research team from various places**
- **Original sites: Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan**
- **New addition: Mainland China 😊**

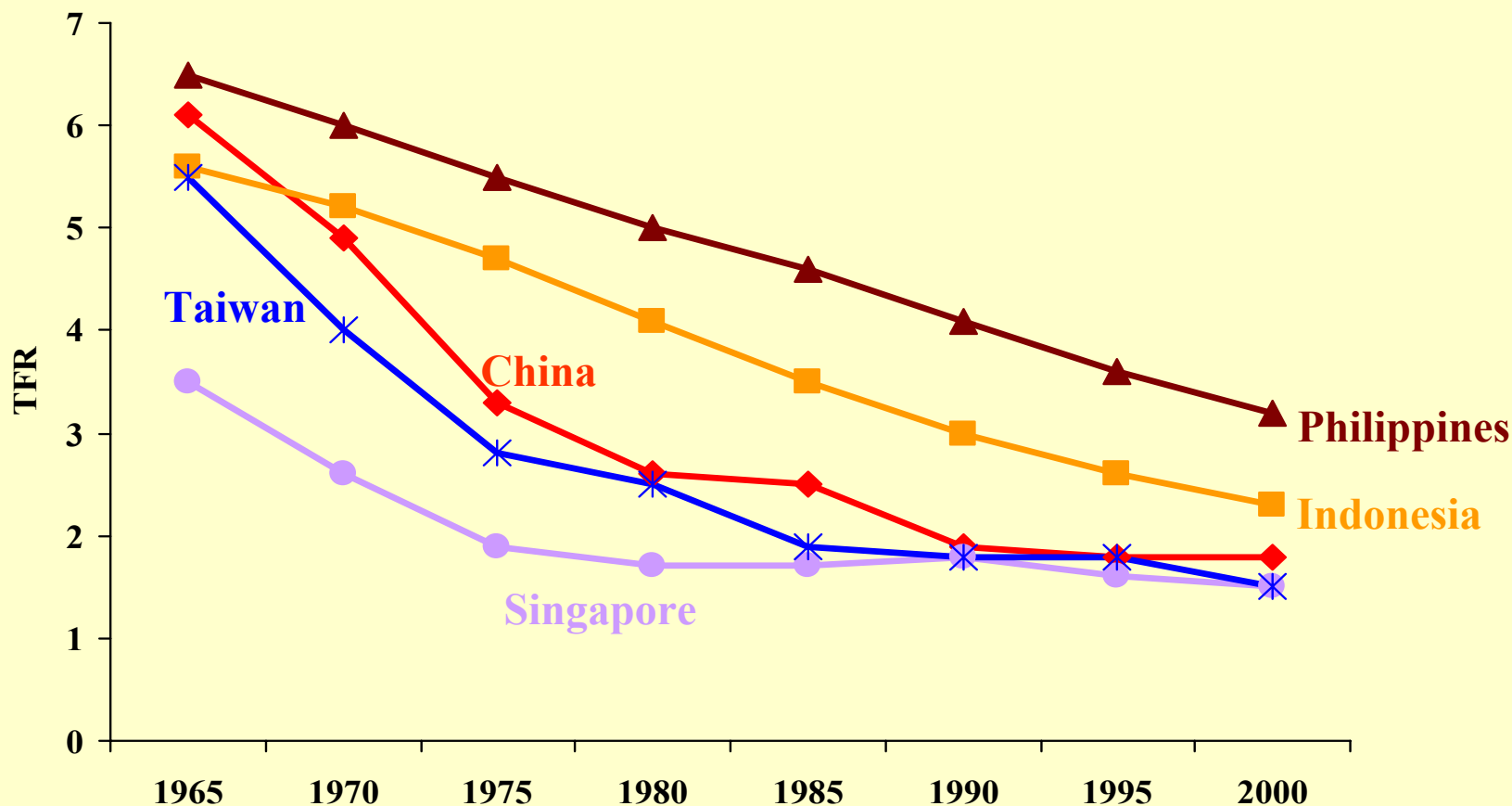
# Impetus

- 1. Population aging in Asia**
- 2. Associated challenges**
- 3. Need for research**
- 4. Existing data**
- 5. Good partners**

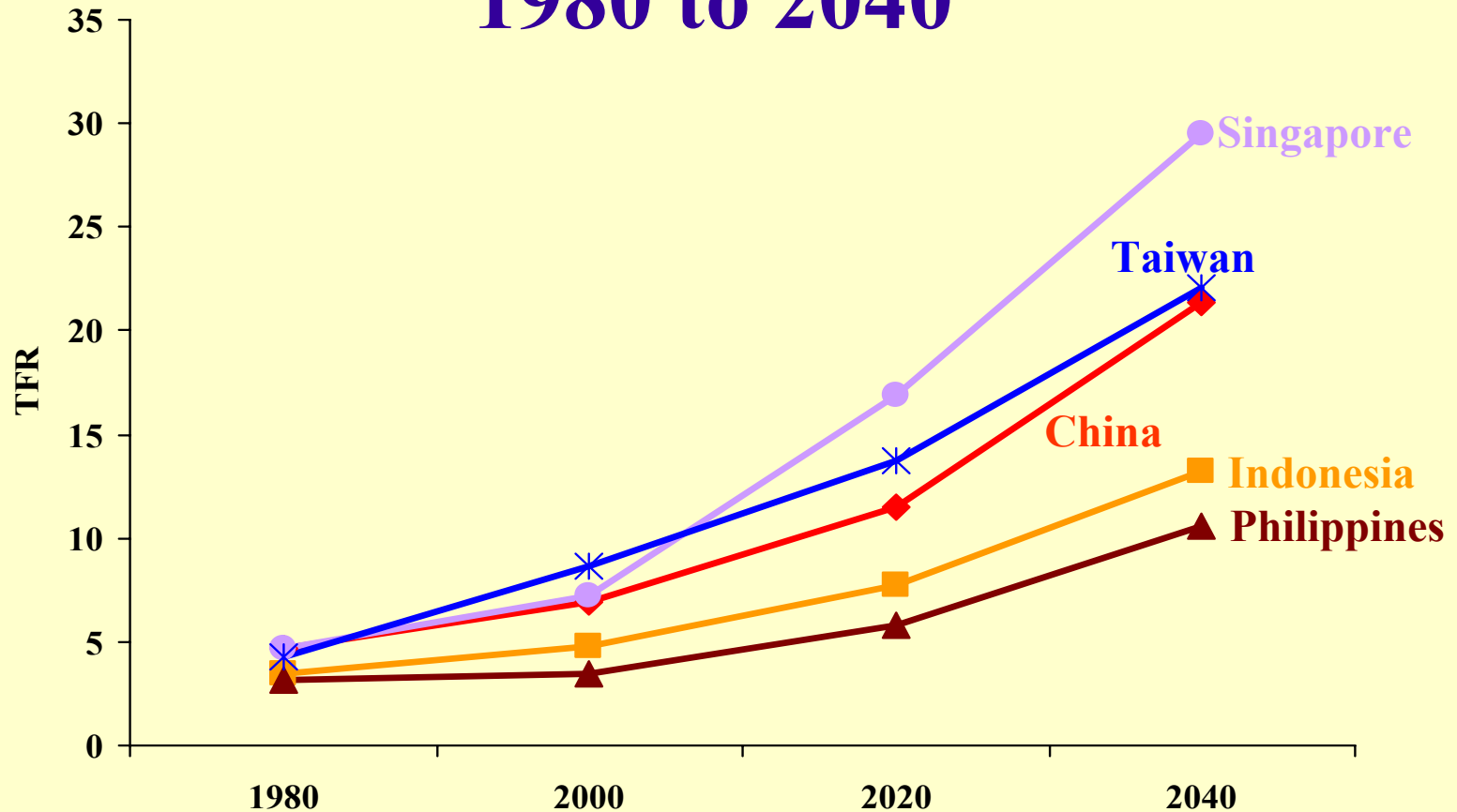
# 1. Population Aging in Asia

- East and southeast Asia is most rapidly aging region
- Effects of aging not yet felt

# Fertility in Study Sites: 1965 to 2000



# Percent of Population Aged 65 and Older: 1980 to 2040



## 2. Associated Challenges

**Mayhew, 1999:**

- **Number of disabled grows as societies age**
- **Aging is main factor pushing up health costs**
- **Health costs are higher where aging is more rapid**

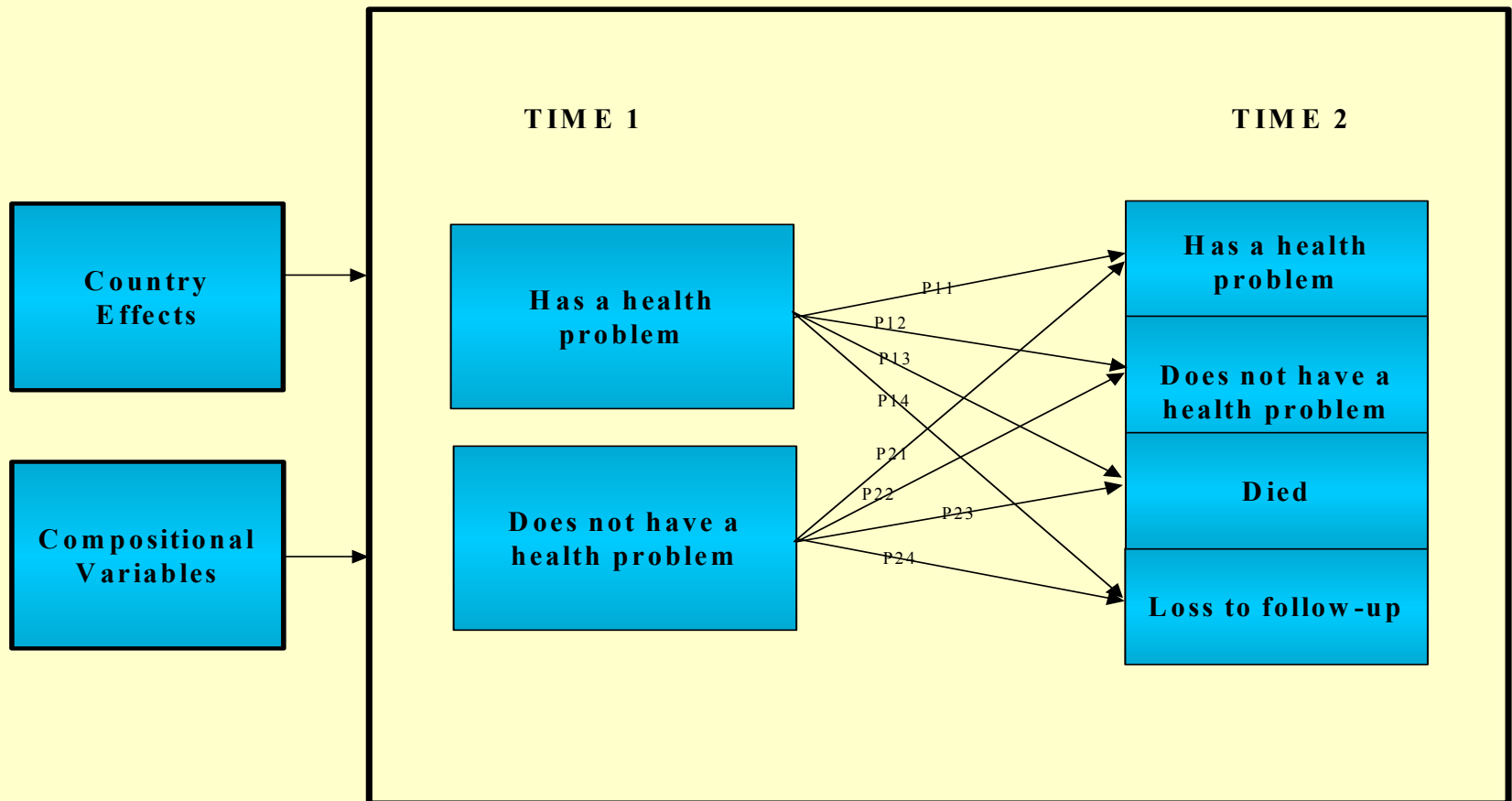
# Is this true for Asia?

- **How does family size reduction influence support?**
- **Are life expectancy increases leading to:**
  - **Expansion of morbidity or**
  - **Compression of morbidity**
- **What are the determinants of health in Asia?**
- **How are other changes (e.g. socioeconomic) influencing?**
- **ALE is important tool**

# 3. Need for Research

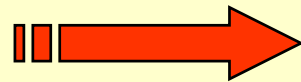
- **Research on patterns, trends and determinants of health in Asia is still rare**
- **Need to test universality of hypothesis, e.s.**
  - **Are functional health problems declining?**
  - **Does social support benefit health transitions?**
  - **Does SES associate with better health?**
  - **Does SES of family members matter?**

# Model of Transition



# Measuring Health

**Medical**



**Mortality, Chronic Disease**

**Social**



**ADL, IADL, Nagi**

**Subjective**



**How do you feel?**



# Issues in Health Measurement

- Reports of chronic disease may be inaccurate.
- Comparative research is hampered by differences in question wording and items:



**But, comparative research is important**

- How cultural, political and geographic factors shape health?
- How universal are hypotheses across settings?

# 4. Data

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<b>Survey</b>	<b>Waves</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Base-line sample size</b>
Taiwan	4	1989, 1993, 1996, 1999	60+ (1989 on) 50+ (1996 on)	4,049 2,462
Indonesia	3	1993, 1997, 1998	50+	4,958
Philippines	2	1996, 2000	50+ <sup>a</sup>	2,285
Singapore	2	1995, 1998	55+	4,750

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# Chinese Data

- **Beijing Multidimensional Longitudinal Study of Aging**
  - **Waves: 4**
  - **Years: 1992, 1994, 1997, 2000**
  - **Age Range: 55+**
  - **Baseline Sample Size: 3,257**

# Comparative Study of Aging and Health in Asia

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## About AHA

The Comparative Study of Aging and Health in Asia (AHA) is a multi-country collaborative study of health among older Asians. The project uses existing longitudinal survey data to study health transitions in four Asian countries: Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia.



The primary aims of the project are to:

(1) estimate population prevalence



<http://aha.psc.isr.umich.edu/>

Internet

# 5. Good Partners

I know why I'm here, why are you here?

