

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 😊**

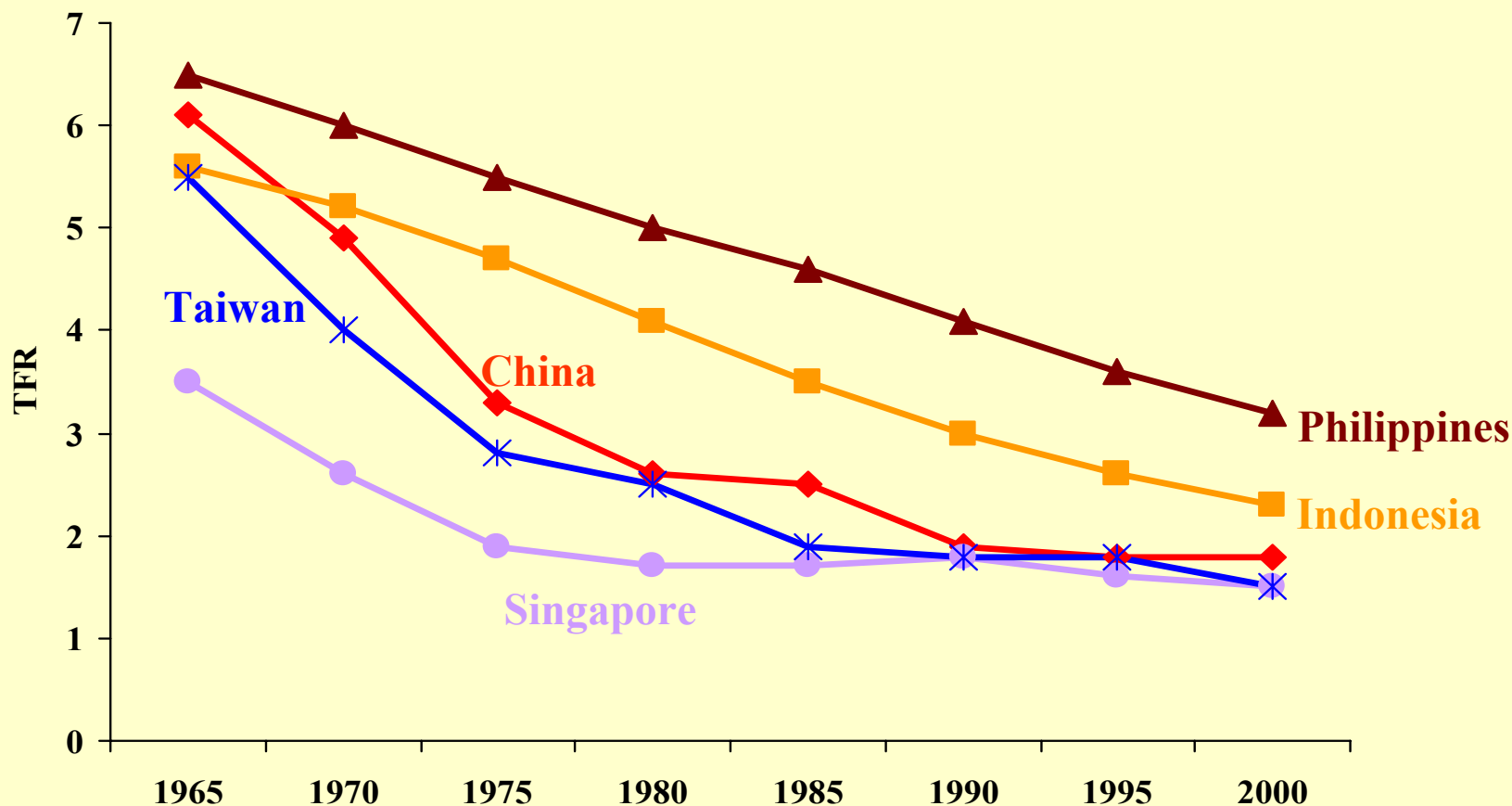
Impetus

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

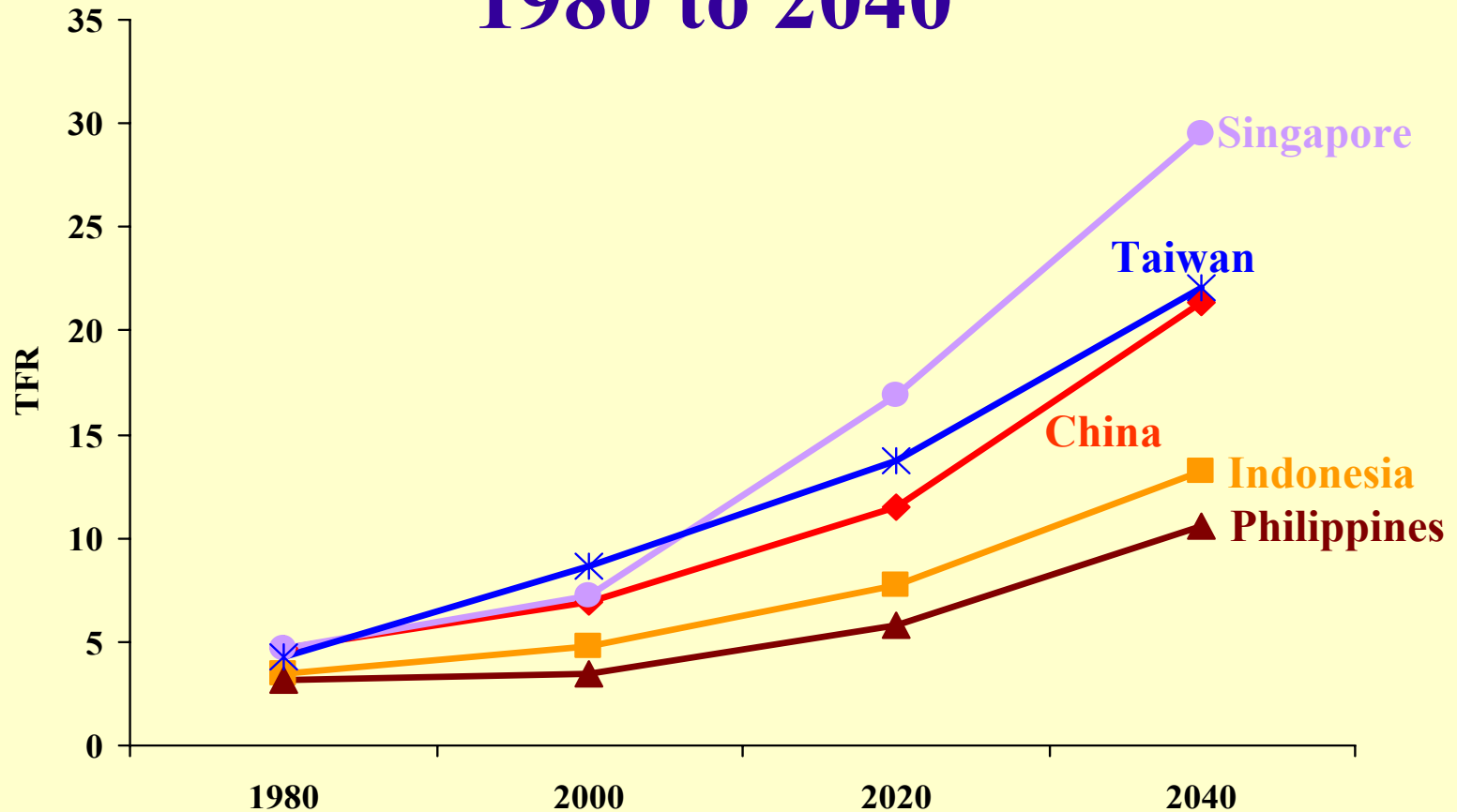
1. Population Aging in Asia

- 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**

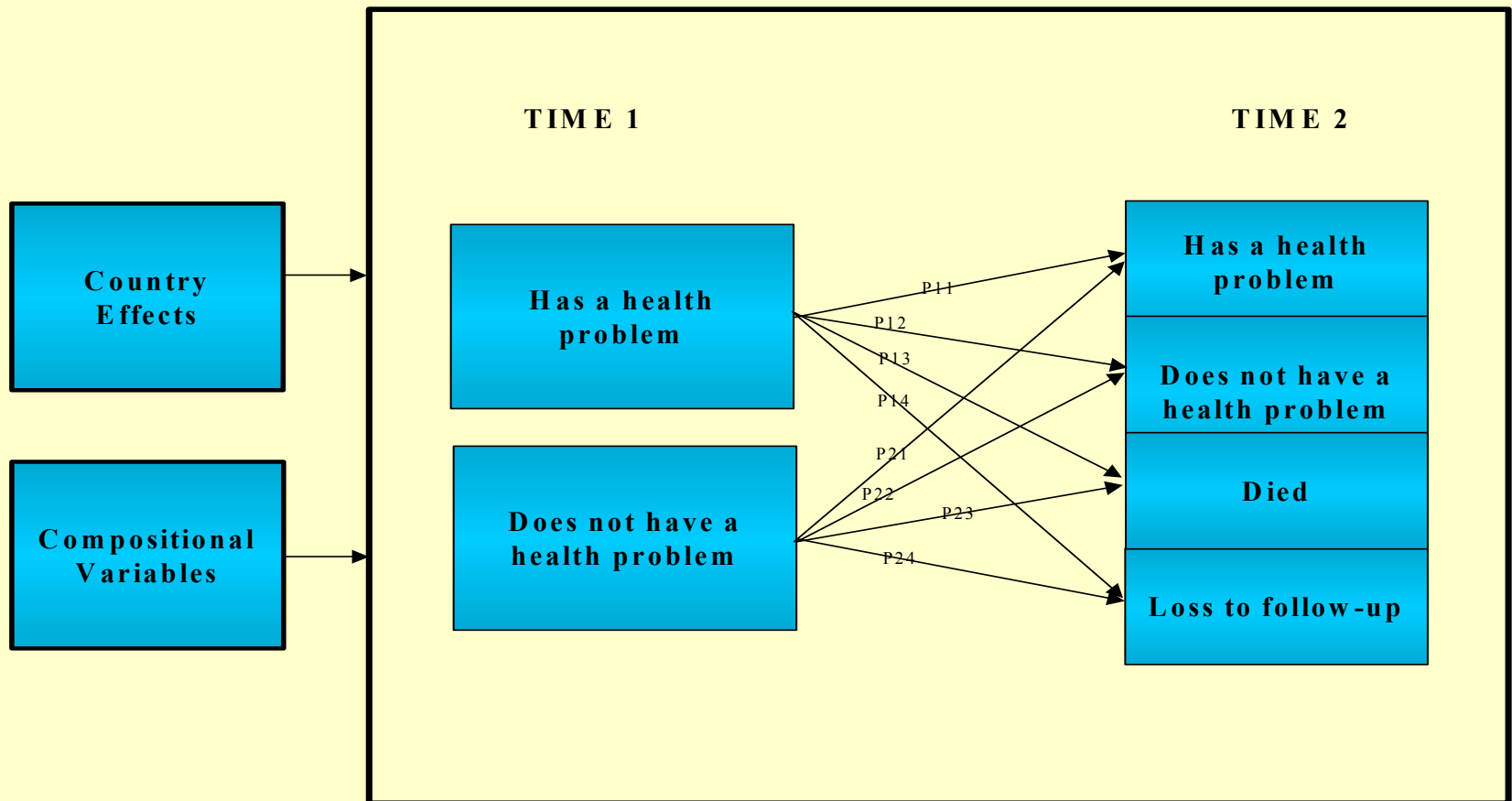
Is this true for Asia?

- **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

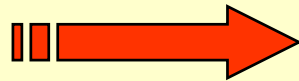
- **Research on patterns, trends and determinants of health in Asia is still rare**
- **Need to test universality of hypothesis, e.s.**
 - **Are functional health problems declining?**
 - **Does social support benefit health transitions?**
 - **Does SES associate with better health?**
 - **Does SES of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

Model of Transition



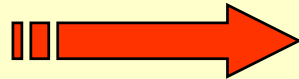
Measuring Health

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

Survey	Waves	Year	Age	Base-line sample size
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+ ^a	2,285
Singapore	2	1995, 1998	55+	4,750

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?

