

Older people and urban design

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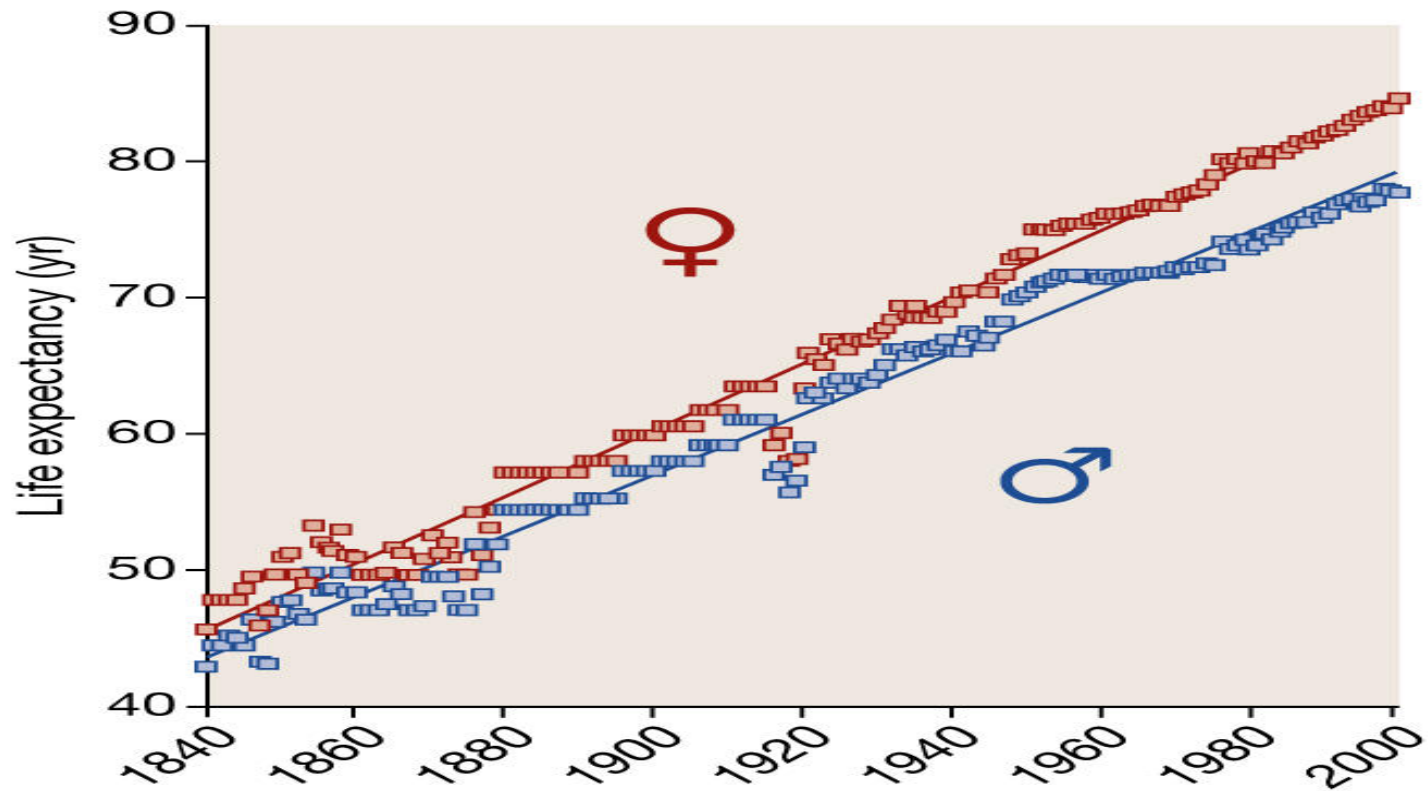
IARU Ageing, Longevity and Health Scientific and Graduate Conference, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore, October 17th – 19th 2018

Structure of the presentation:

1. We are getting older
2. The world is getting older
3. The world is urbanising
4. Growing old in urban settings
5. Can design help?

1. We are getting older

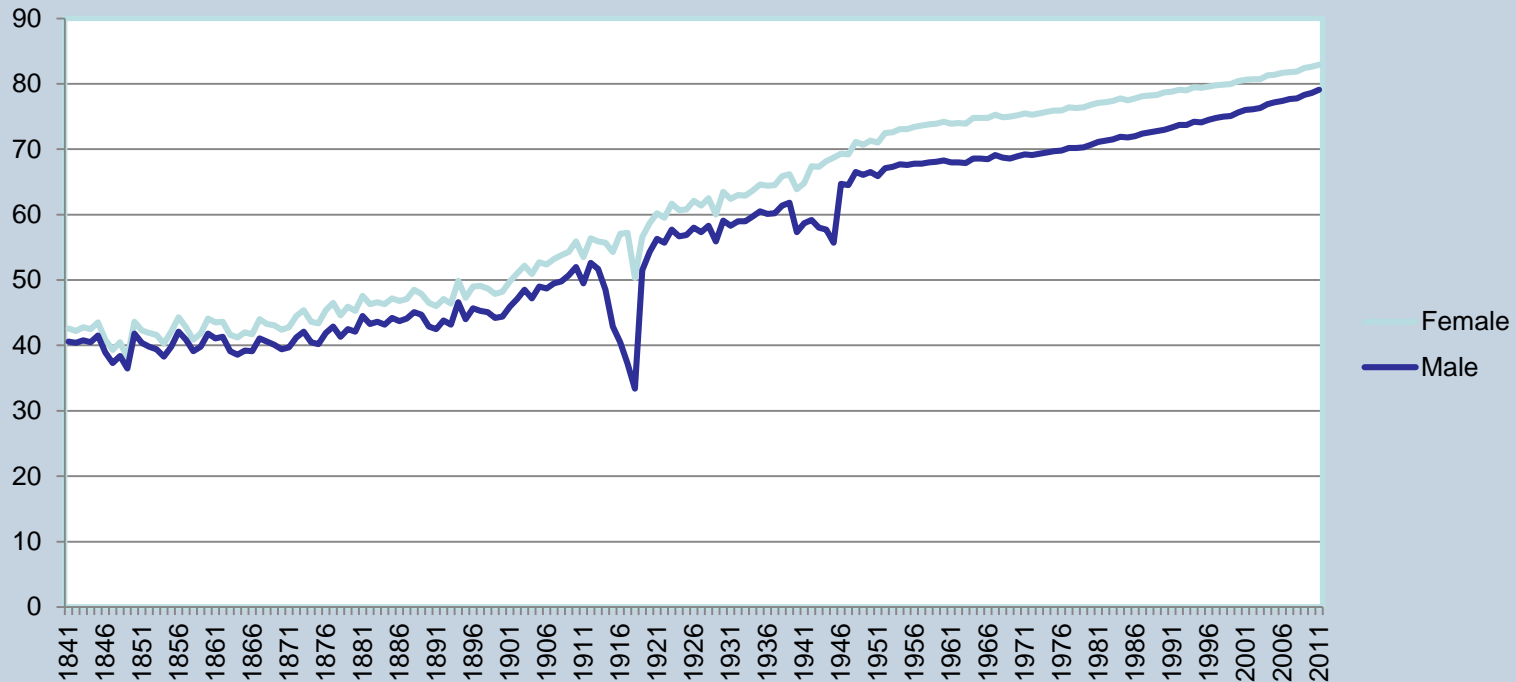




Record life expectancy at birth - Source: Westendorp 2004.

1. We are getting older

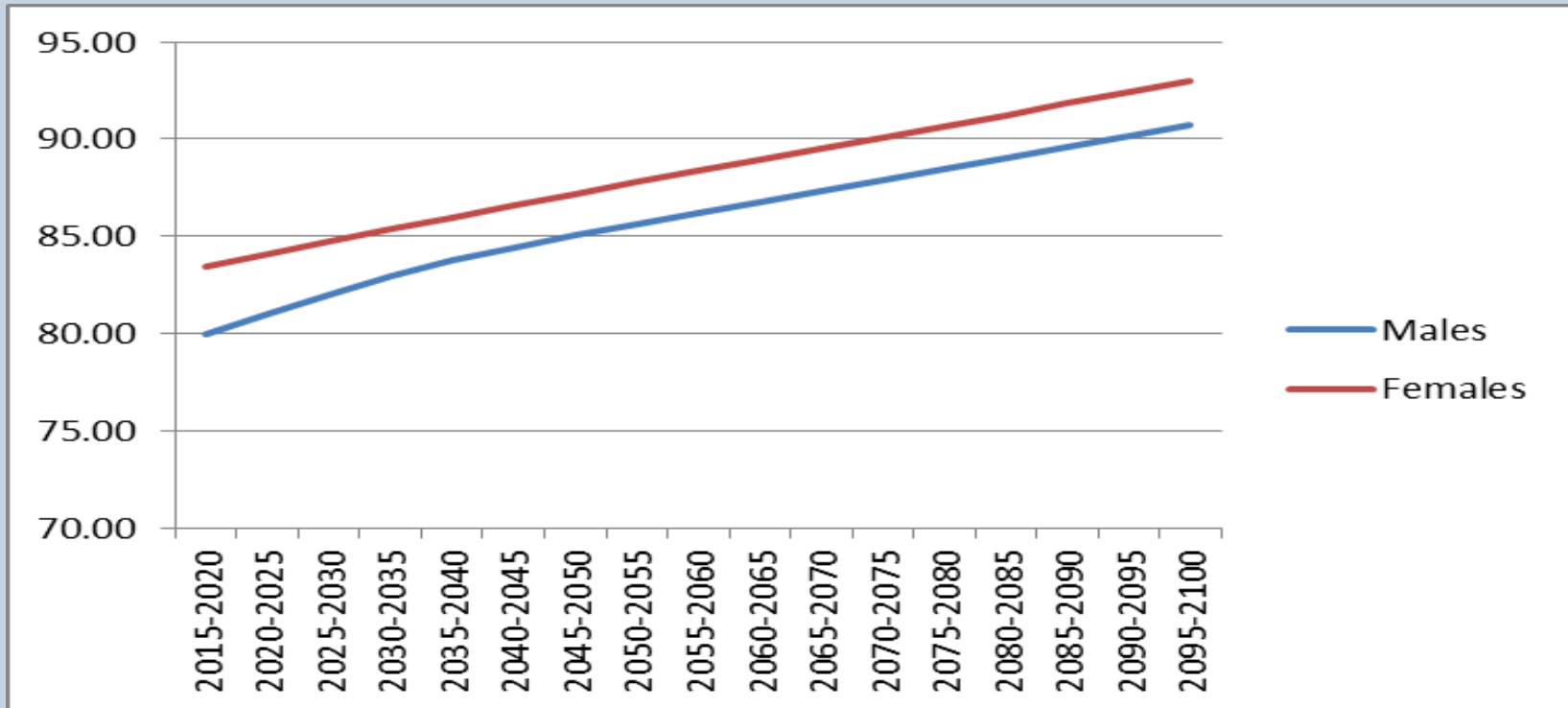
- Expectation of life at birth in England & Wales



Source: calculations from Human Mortality database

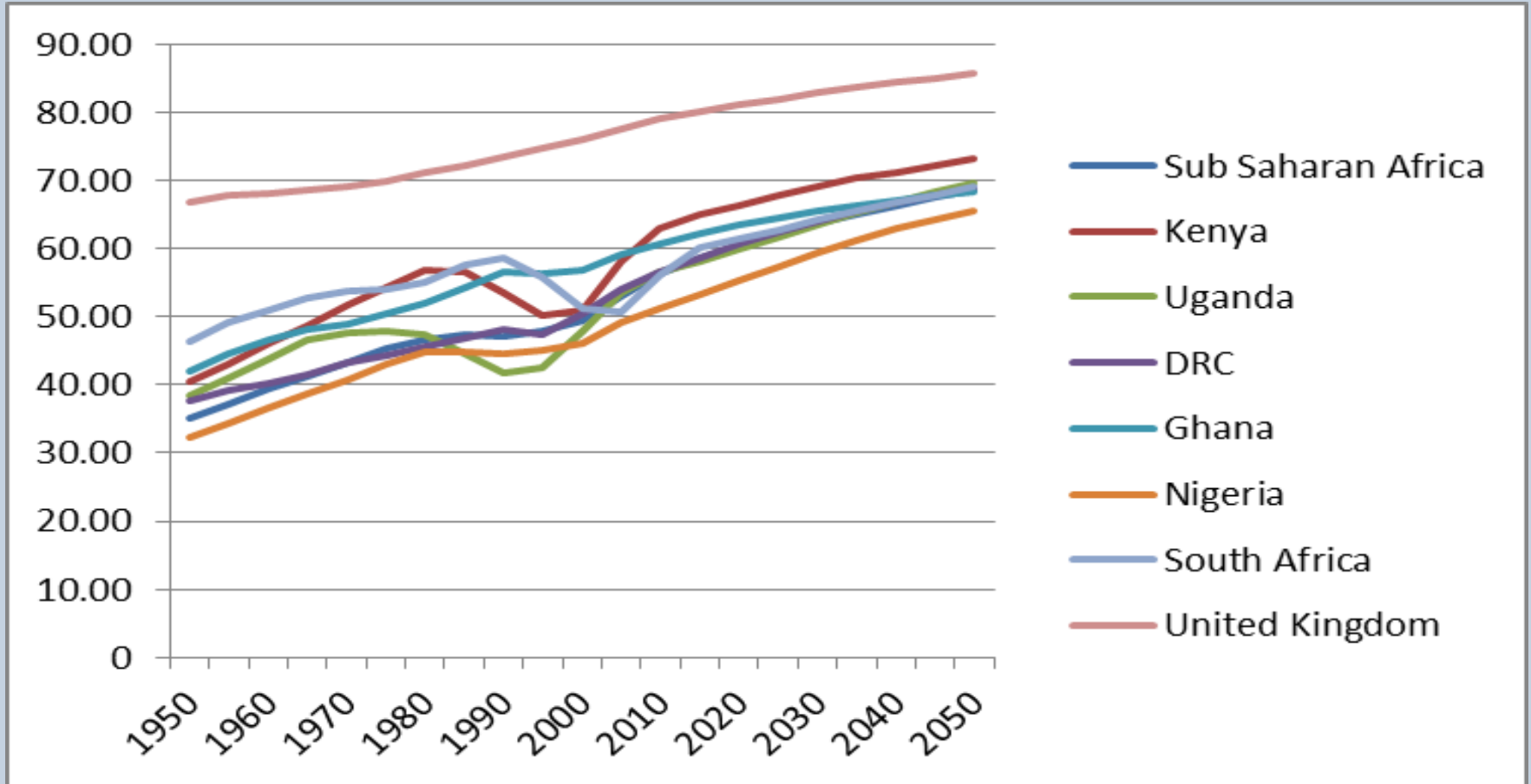
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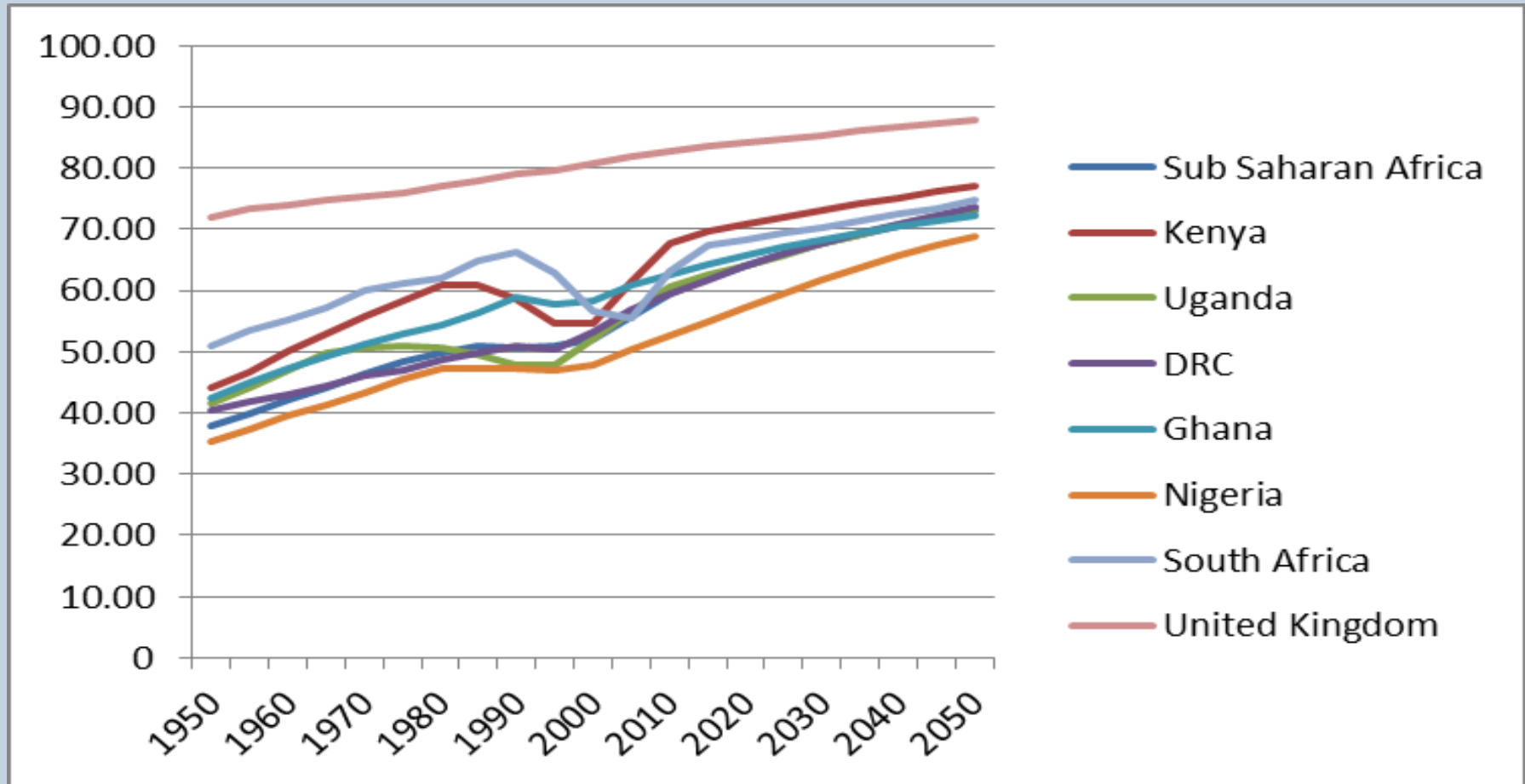


Source: UN World Population Prospects

1. We are getting older - life expectancy at birth for males – selected SSA Countries and the UK



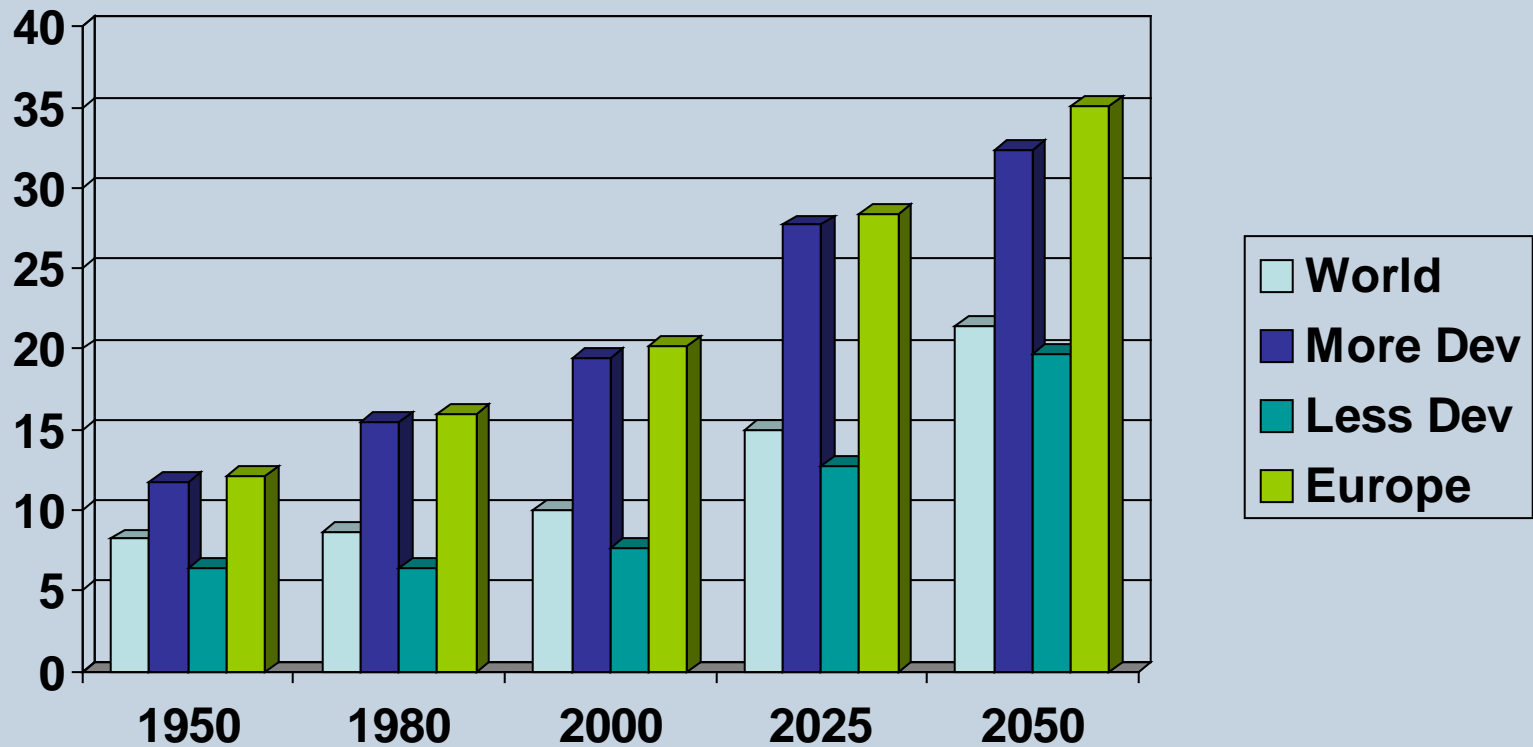
1. We are getting older - life expectancy at birth for females – selected SSA Countries and the UK



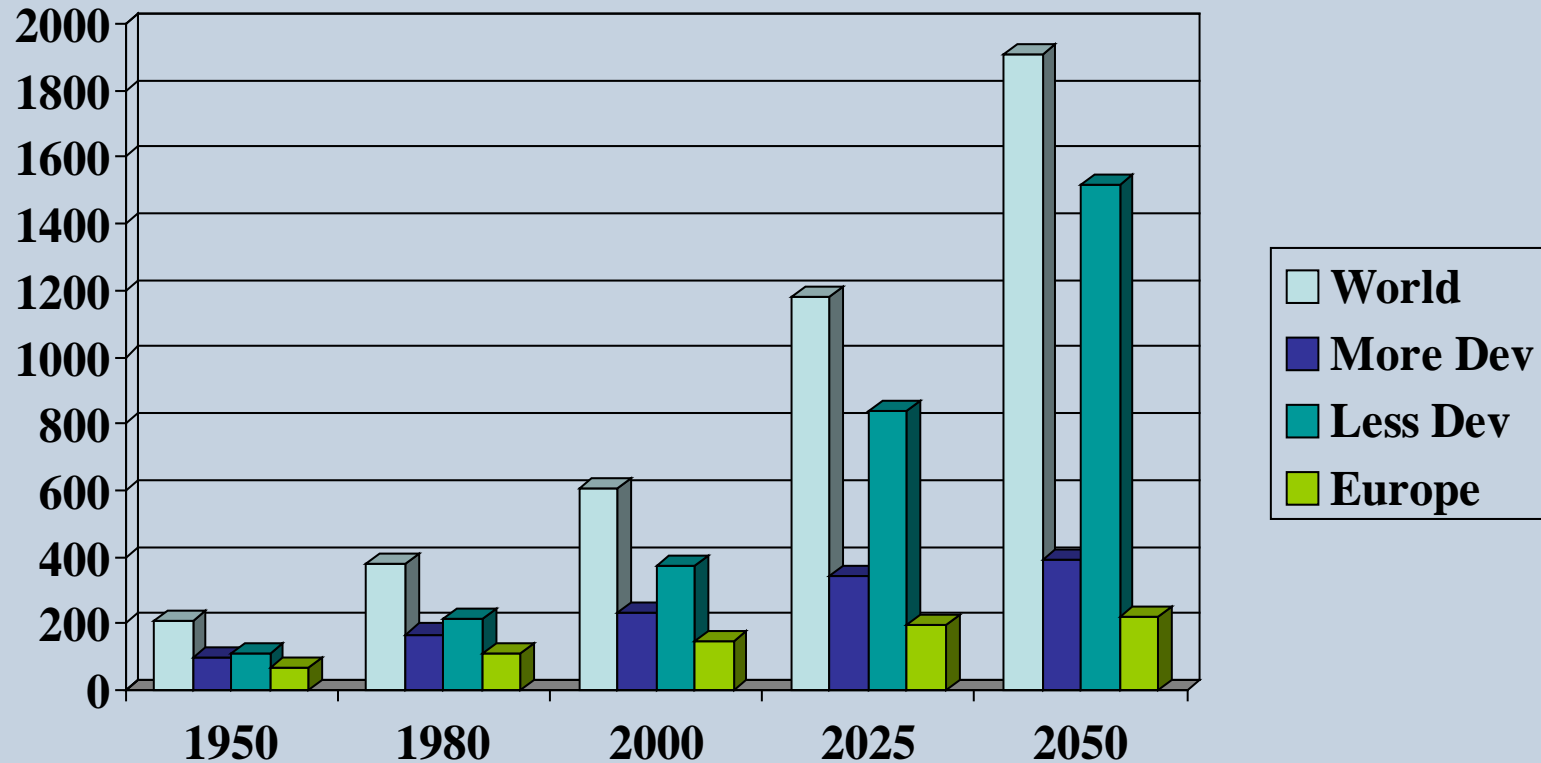
2. The world is getting older



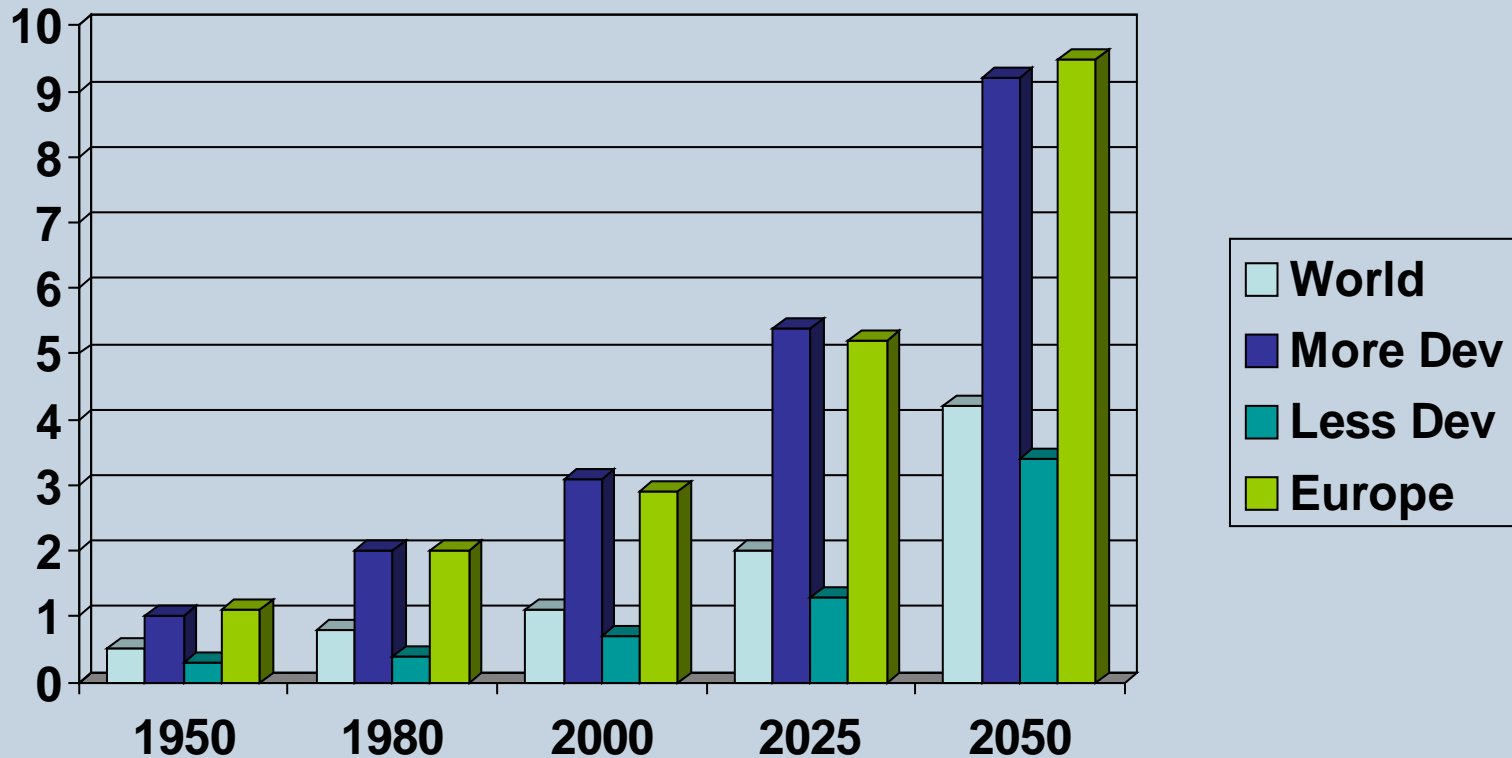
Global ageing: proportion aged 60+



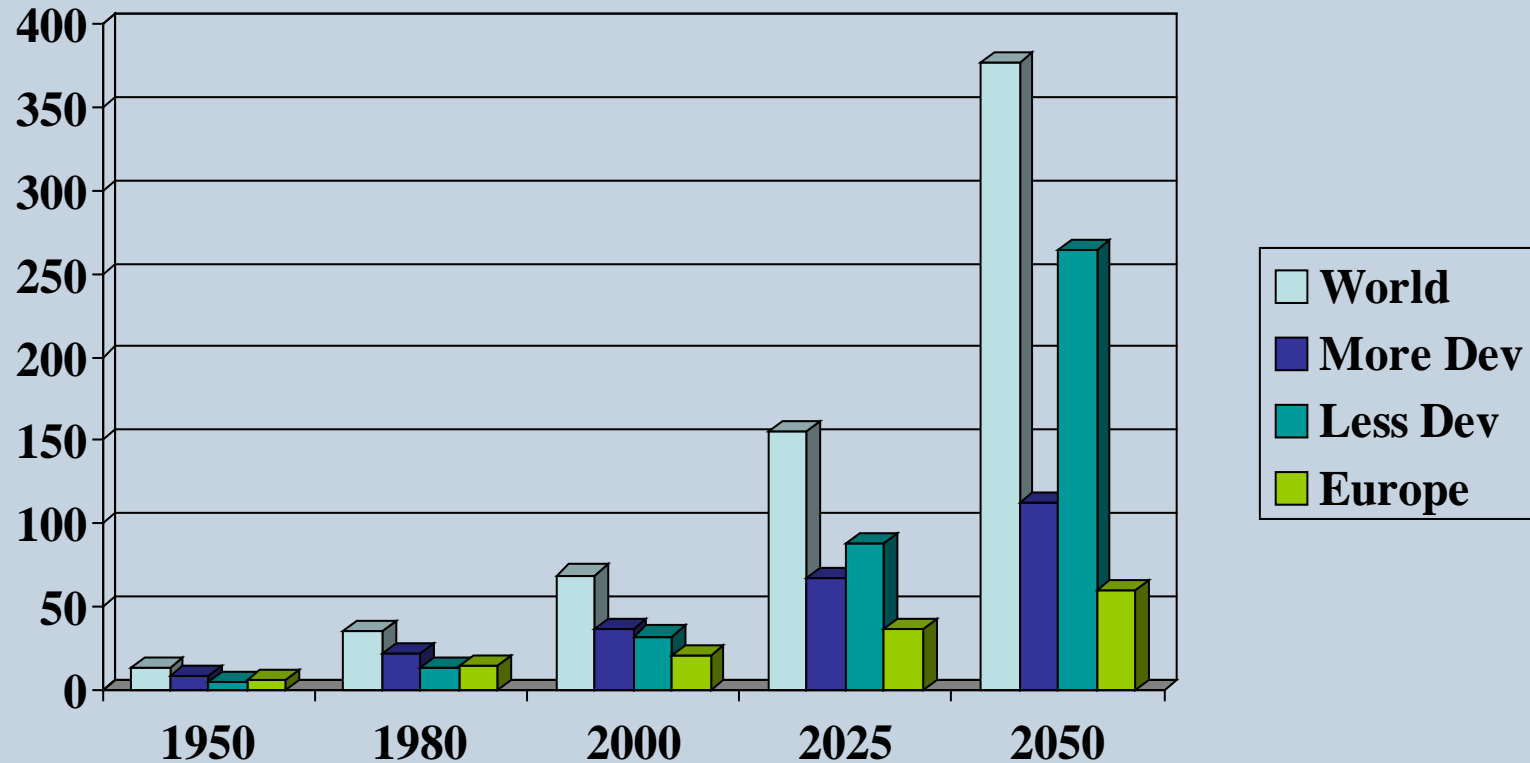
Global ageing: millions aged 60+



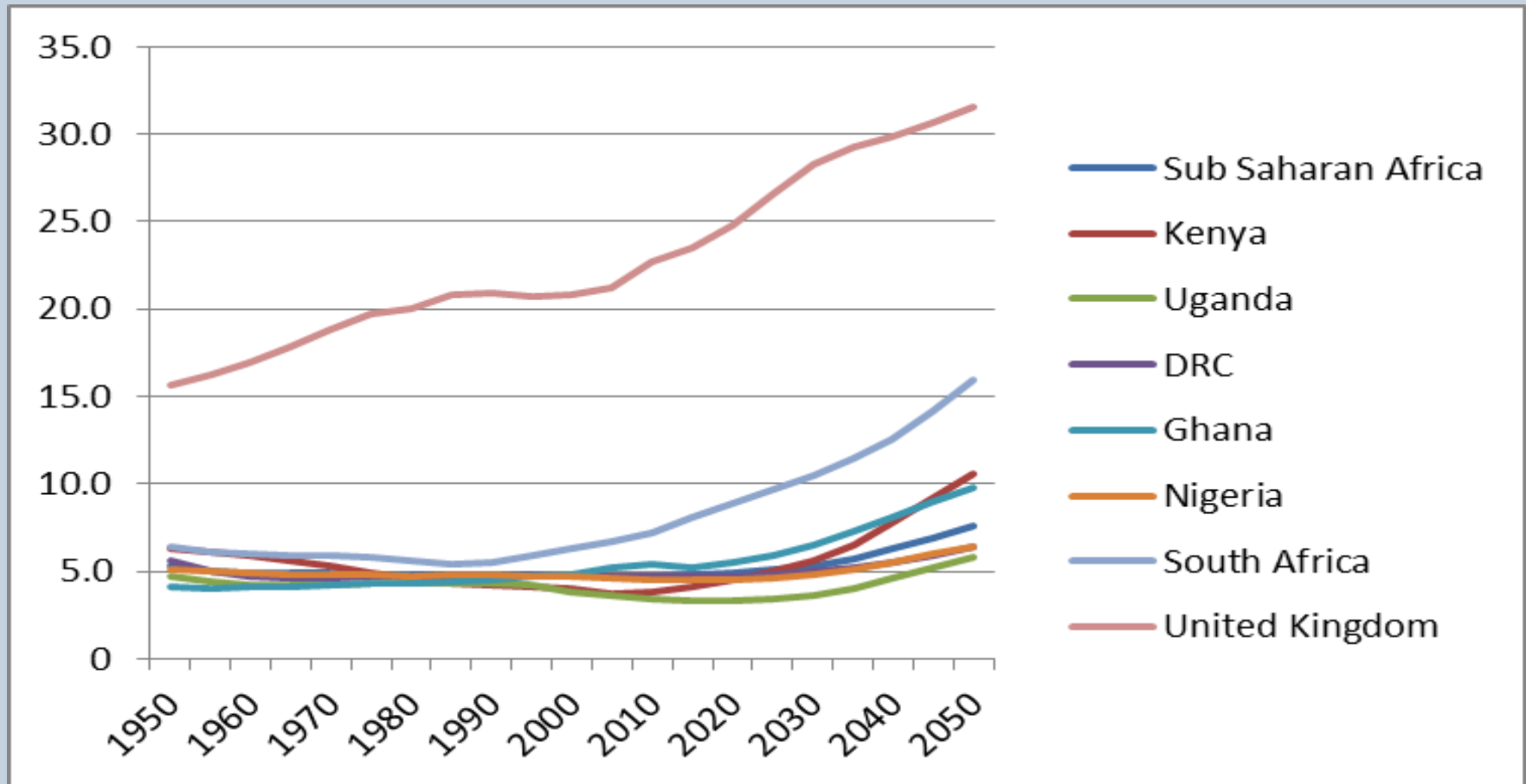
Global ageing: proportion aged 80+



Global ageing: millions aged 80+



Sub Saharan Africa and the UK - Percentage 60+, 1950-2050



3. The world is urbanising



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For the first time in (recorded) history, between 2005 and 2010 more than 50% of the world's population was living in urban settings

And urban areas of the world are expected to absorb ALL global population growth over the next four decades as well as drawing in some of the rural population

Over 50% of the world's urban population lives in Asia

Source: UN World Urbanisation Prospects

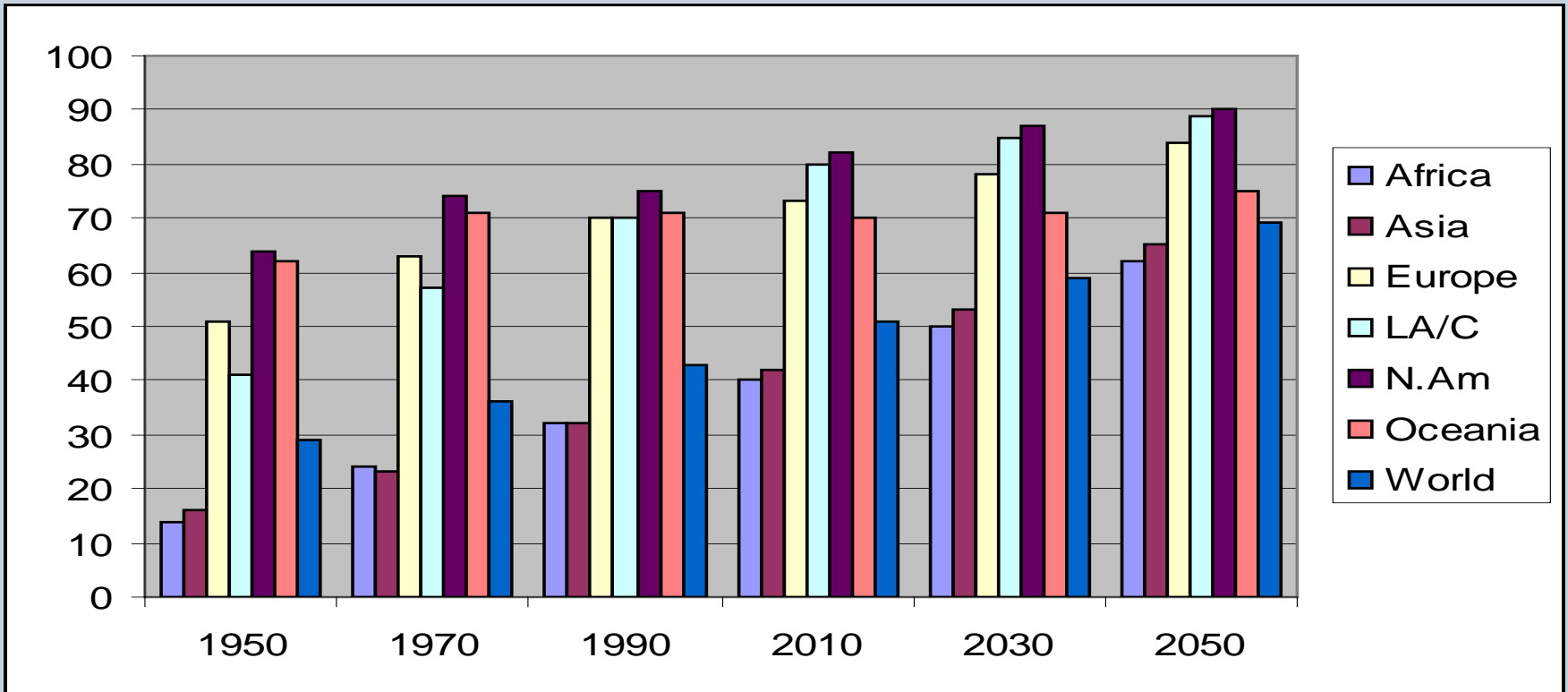
3. The world is urbanising

In 1950, 51.5% of the population in Europe lived in urban settings

This had increased to 73.6% by 2015 and is expected to reach 82% by 2050

Source: UN World Urbanisation Prospects, 2014 Revision

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Top 10 cities:

Tokyo	37.8 mill. /	4400 per sq. km
Jakarta	30.5 mill. /	9500 per sq. km
Delhi	24.9 mill. /	12100 per sq. km
Manila	24.1 mill. /	15300 per sq. km
Seoul	23.5 mill. /	10400 per sq. km.
Shanghai	23.4 mill. /	6100 per sq. km.
Karachi	22.1 mill. /	23400 per sq. km.
Beijing	21 mill. /	5500 per sq. km.
New York	20.6 mill. /	1800 per sq. km.
Guangzhou-Foshan	20.5 mill. /	6000 per sq. km.

3. The world is urbanising

Among a total of 450 urban areas with at least 1 million inhabitants today (and this group alone comprises almost 20 per cent of the world population), 60 per cent (equating to nearly 900 million people) are located in regions exposed to at least one major risk of natural disaster (United Nations 2012) – mainly outside Europe and Africa.

3. The world is urbanising

A recent report from the UK Government's Foresight programme (Foresight 2011) focuses on the impact of global climate change, and one of the key conclusions of that report is that “...*millions of people will be unable to move away from locations in which they are extremely vulnerable to environmental change...*”.

4. Growing old in urban settings



4. Growing old in urban settings – the issues

Mobility, accessibility, isolation, healthy living

In Manchester UK (the first UK city to be recognised as age-friendly) research revealed that for most older people age-friendliness is about human contact and NOT design and high-tech gizmos

4. Growing old in urban settings – the issues

Mobility, accessibility, isolation, healthy living

Adapting existing cities - Building new cities

4. Growing old in urban settings – the issues

Adapting existing cities:

Community resource mapping

On the one hand older people

On the other hand planners and service providers

OIA, Oxford, and RCA/HHC, London

4. Growing old in urban settings – the issues

Adapting existing cities:

Encourage older people to get out and about:

Reduce distance between transport stops, shops, benches, trees for shade, public toilets, improving and widening pavements, street lighting

Self-driving cars or golf buggies?

4. Growing old in urban settings – the issues

**Adapting existing cities:
Older people as a resource in the community:
Urban gardens, intergenerational activities,
inclusion in community development**

Leeson & Fonseca (2012) Evaluation of the Calouste-Gulbenkian IntergenerationAll programme in the UK and Portugal, Oxford.

4. Growing old in urban settings – the issues

Building new cities:

The Bicester Healthy New Town programme



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Building new cities:

The Bicester Healthy New Town programme

Built environment – cycling, walking, green spaces

**New models of care – predictive modelling,
integrated health and social care training**

**Community activation – Schools programme, Six
steps to a healthier you, health and wellbeing at
work, urban gardening**

Eco villages

5. Can design help?



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Design can address the practical elements of getting around as we get older, but also the opportunities for enhancing social connections and overall wellbeing.

New Old: Designing for Our Future Selves, New Design Museum, London 2017

5. Can design help?

Concepts such as assistive technology for walking and the world's first foldable wheelchair wheel and designs that “keep people on the move in older age”.

New Old: Designing for Our Future Selves, New Design Museum, London 2017

5. Can design help?

Scooter for Life – a partly power-assisted, standing scooter that can also be adapted to be used as a seated mobility scooter instead. It features a number of well-thought out features, such a “take me home” function, as well the ability to detect and learn about different surfaces, changing its direction and speed accordingly.

New Old: Designing for Our Future Selves, New Design Museum, London 2017

5. Can design help?

Social Robots and AI?

Thank you!

Images: Google Images, Wikipedia, GWL