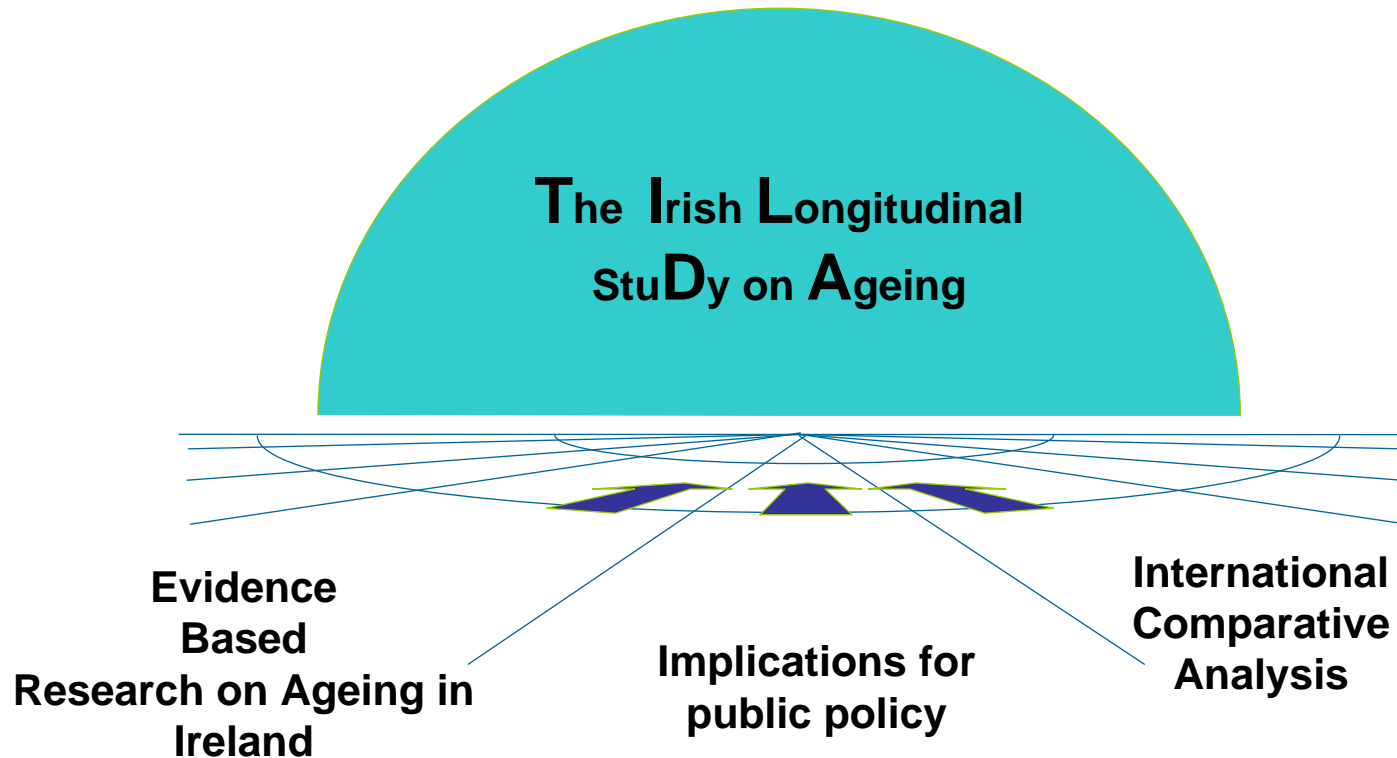
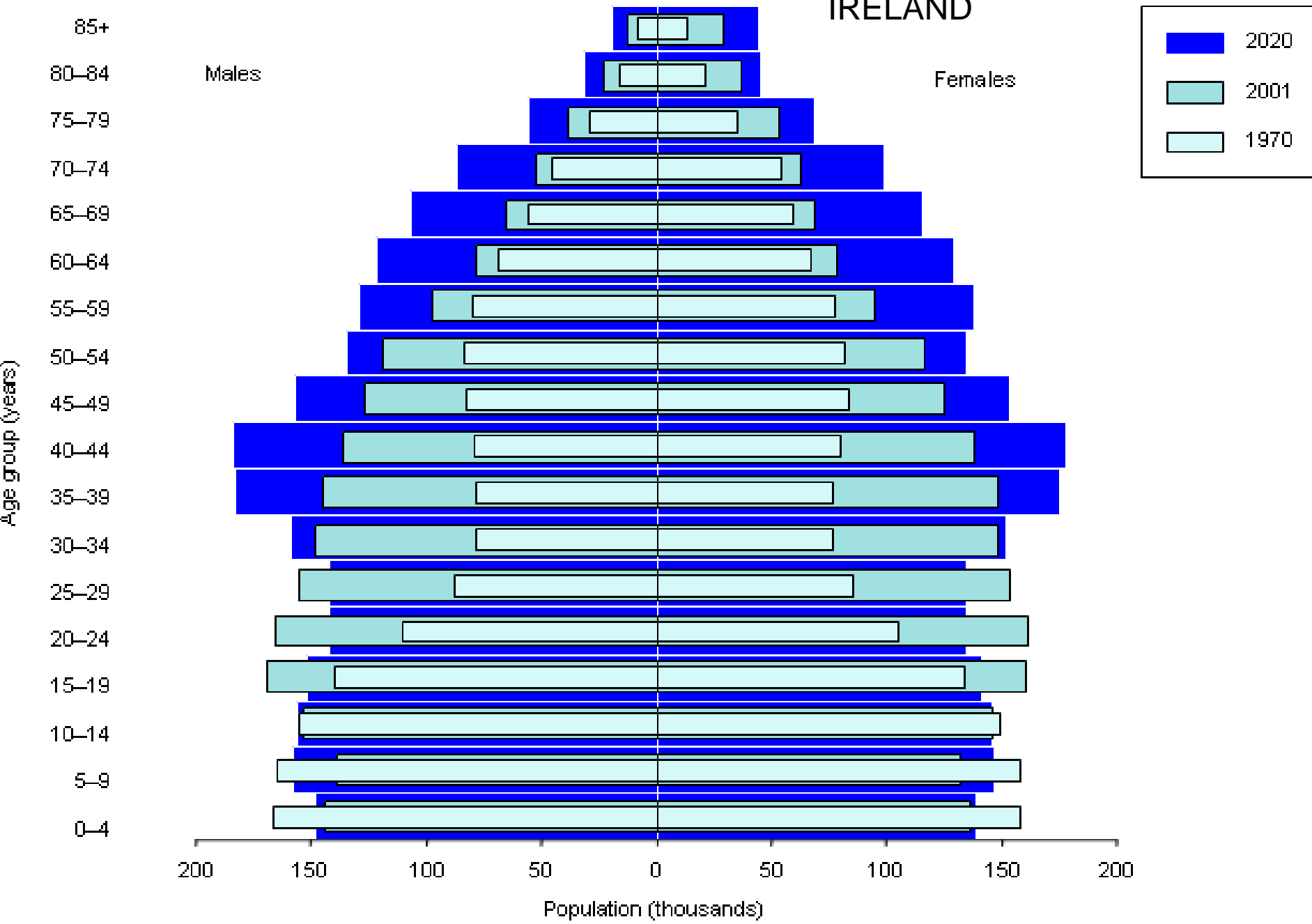


TILDA

A Critical Resource for Science and Policy in Ireland



IRELAND



Sources: WHO Regional Office for Europe (2004d) and United Nations (2002)

Huge Challenges for our Society and for Public Policy

- How to maintain the **living standards** and **quality of life** of our population?
 - *Pensions, Housing*
- How to provide appropriate **services and facilities**?
 - *Healthcare, Social Care, Social Contact*
- How to ensure **effectiveness** and **financial sustainability**?
 - *Level and mix of Public Expenditure, Role of the Public and Private sectors*

TILDA will provide a Research Base to meet these Challenges

- **Inter-institutional, inter-disciplinary research team** comprising some of the most eminent researchers in Ireland in the health, social and economic fields
- **Large, representative sample** of up to 10,000 persons aged 50 and over to allow accurate analysis and substantial disaggregation of results
- High quality **sampling, fieldwork and data processing**
- **Longitudinal** design focussed on *processes* as well as point-in-time estimates – follow-up at 2 yearly intervals
- Commitment to both **leading edge science** and in-depth **policy-relevant analysis**
- Focus on building genuine **international comparability** of methods and results

Environment

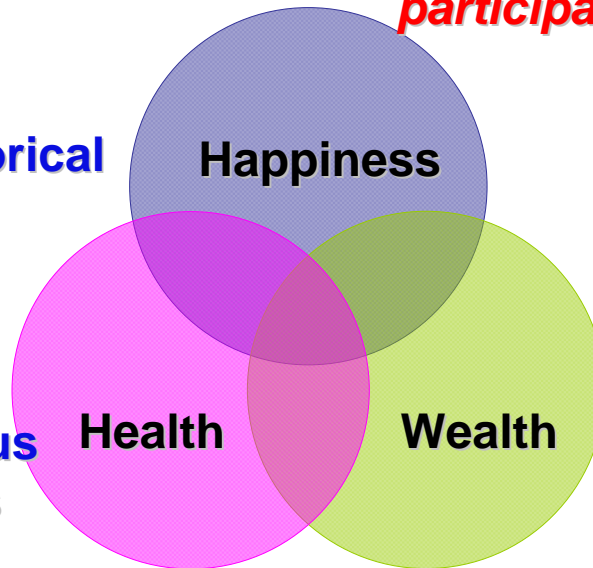
*income, care, housing,
families, morale, pensions,
social networks,
participation work force*

Quality of Life

social and historical

Genes -their
influence on disease
processes or
successful ageing?

physical status
mental status



Implications for the
economy and the
labour market

Expectations

Experience

scale and scope of
contributions made
by older people to life
in Ireland

International Comparability and Co-operation

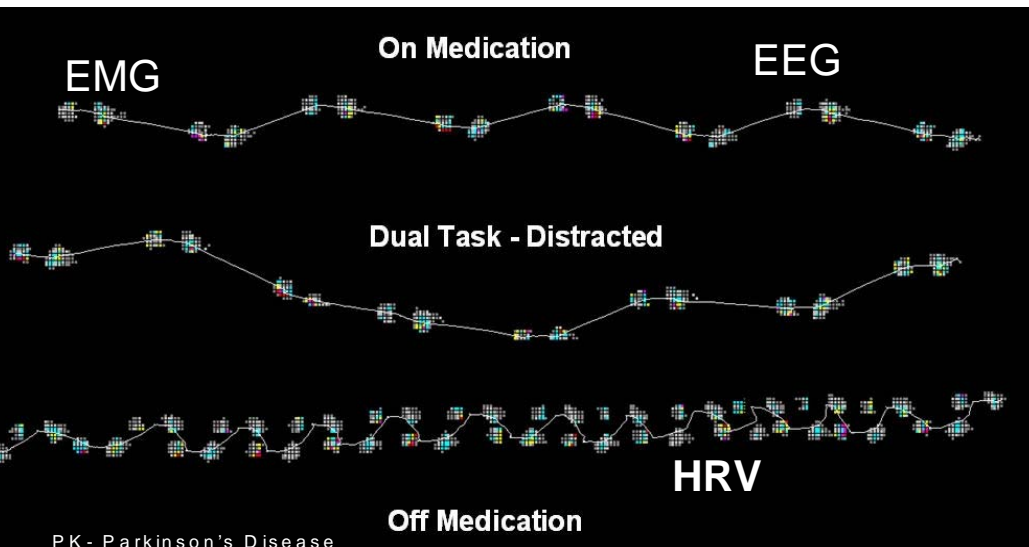
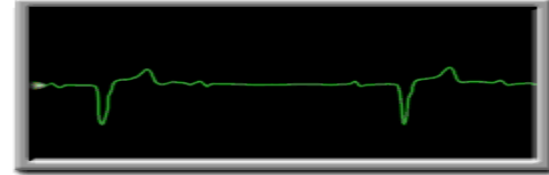
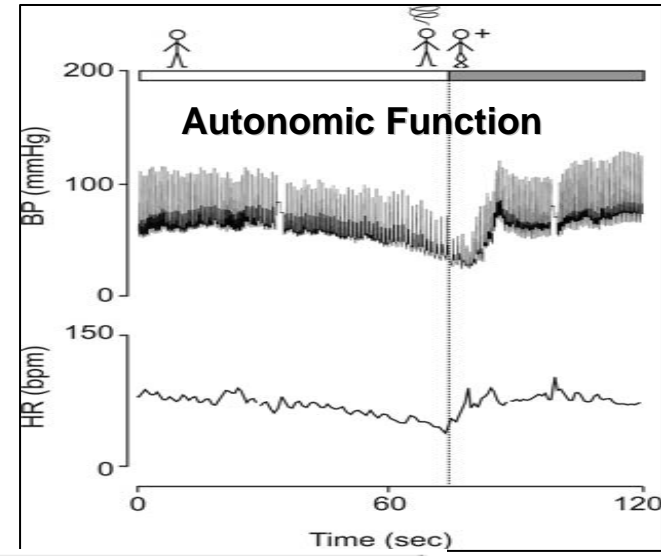
- Longitudinal studies of ageing are extensively used in many developed countries
 - **HRS (USA)**
 - **ELSA (UK)**
 - **SHARE (Europe)**
- These studies increasingly based on a marriage of physical, biological, health and social sciences
- TILDA team is already participating in conferences and co-operative work with the major international studies.
- In particular, TILDA is co-ordinating closely with SHARE, the Irish element of which is led by the Geary Institute in UCD

Main Health Variables

- Self assessed health
- Major illnesses and complaints
- Assessment of cognition and mood
- Medications
- Sensory functioning
- Comprehensive clinical assessment,
incl. bloods, lung function, bone density,
gait and balance, blood pressure etc.

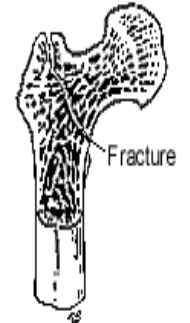
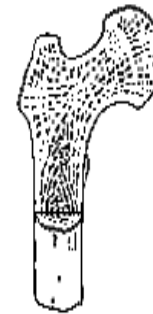


The Magic Carpet



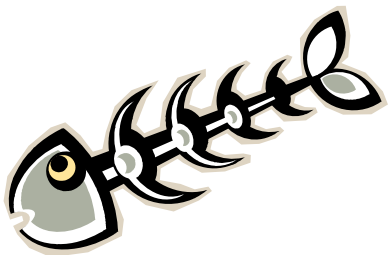
Normal bone

Bone with osteoporosis



Close-up view

Close-up view



Main Economic Variables

- Labour force participation, retirement – current and retrospective
- Factors influencing the retirement decision
- Detailed measures of Income from all sources – work, State pensions, private pensions, other Social Welfare, investments etc.
- Assets/Wealth, especially housing
- Human capital, training (past, present, future) – lifelong learning

Main Social Variables

- Family situation
- Nature and extent of contact
- ADLs, IADLs and levels of care/support, both formal and informal
- Intra family transfers – assets, income, time
- Social participation/ engagement

Key Inputs to Policy

- Pensions and living standards – current situation and patterns of change over time
- Usage of health and social services to assist planning for future needs
- Retirement decisions and implications for the labour market
- Interactions of health, economic and social factors to allow detailed tracking of change and innovation in older people's lifestyles (transport, housing, communications etc.)

Scale and Funding

- TILDA presents major logistic and organisational challenges
- Now at Pilot/Design Phase, to be completed by the end of 2008
- Pilot phase funded mainly by Atlantic Philanthropies – €1.3m.
- Generous funding of €4m. by Irish Life for 10 years of the main study – 4 waves at two yearly intervals
- Total cost will be in the region of €30m. AP have indicated they will co-fund, provided Government support is forthcoming to ensure long-term sustainability and coherence with policy.

TILDA Provisional Time Table			
<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Stage</i>	
Sep-06	Dec-08	Start-up, Preparation and Pilots	
Jan-09	Dec-09	Wave 1 Fieldwork + Health Assessments	
Jan-10	Dec-10	Analysis of Wave 1	
Jan-11	Dec-11	Wave 2 Fieldwork	
Jan-12	Dec-12	Analysis of Wave 1,2	
Jan-13	Dec-13	Wave 3 Fieldwork + Health Assessments	
Jan-14	Dec-14	Analysis of Wave 1,2,3	
Jan-15	Dec-15	Wave 4 Fieldwork	
Jan-16	Sep-16	Analysis of Wave 1,2,3,4	

Design Decisions to be taken

- Final sample size?
- Number of respondents in health checks?
- Any biomeasures in survey interview?
- Number of centres for health checks?
- Mobile centres?

Main Research Strengths for Life Cycle Analysis

- Longitudinal design, allowing insights into *processes* as well as point-in-time assessments
(e.g. the retirement decision)
- Comprehensive data across all the domains of older people's lives facilitating analysis of *inter-relationships between domains*
(e.g. socio-economic gradient in health)
- Detailed information on *inter-generational transfers* of money, time and support (in both directions)
(e.g. the sandwich generation)

Outcomes of The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing

