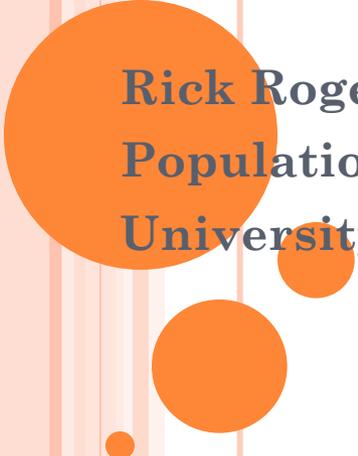




IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING MORTALITY TRENDS



**Rick Rogers, Director
Population Program
University of Colorado**

National Conference on Health Statistics
Washington, DC
August 16-18, 2010

THEORETICAL QUESTIONS

- Education is a fundamental cause of health and longevity (Link and Phelan)
- Cumulative disadvantage (Pampel and Rogers)
- Mexican American epidemiologic paradox (Markides)
- Rectangularization of survival
- Sex gap in life expectancy





INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

“Americans are much sicker than the English.”

The SES-health gradient is real.

Disease and Disadvantage in the United States and in England

James Banks, PhD

Michael Marmot, MD

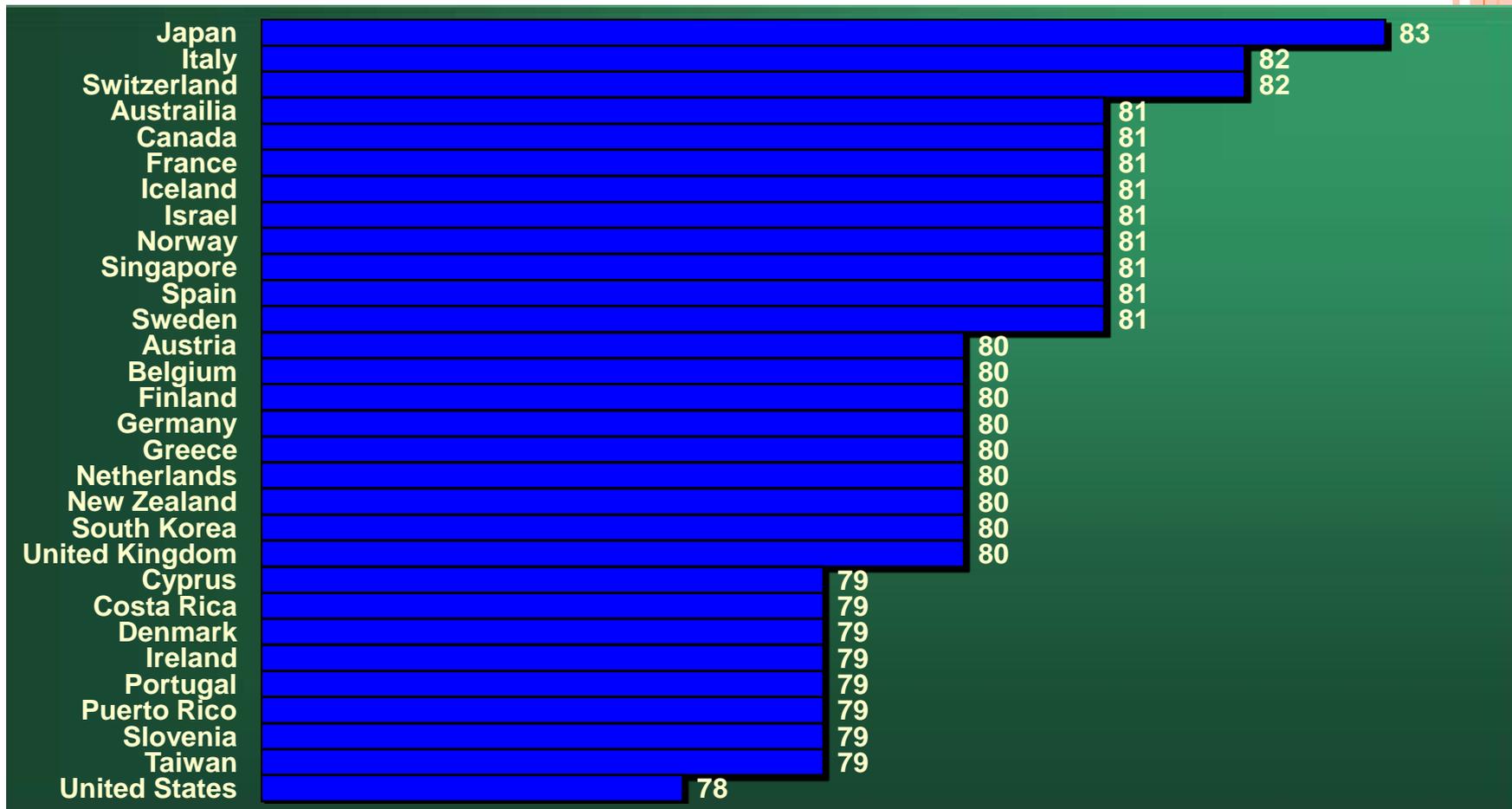
Zoe Oldfield, MSc

James P. Smith, PhD

Context The United States spends considerably more money on health care than the United Kingdom, but whether that translates to better health outcomes is unknown.

Objective To assess the relative health status of older individuals in England and the United States, especially how their health status varies by important indicators of socioeconomic position.

LIFE EXPECTANCIES CIRCA 2010



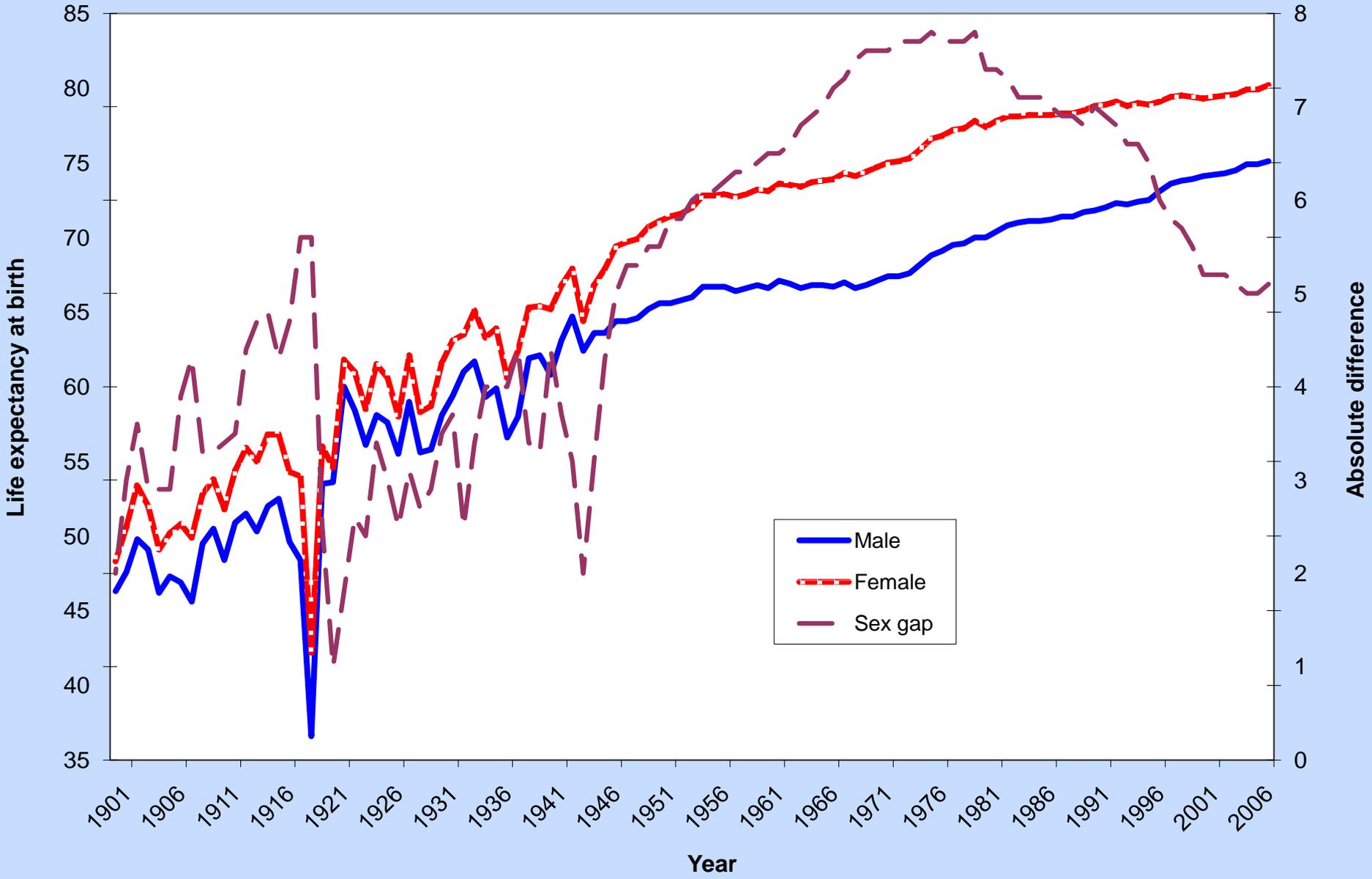
Source: PRB 2010; countries with population of over one million.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS DATA

- U.S. Vital Statistics Mortality Data
 - National Health Interview Survey Linked Mortality Files
 - National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Linked Mortality File
 - National Mortality Follow-back Survey
 - Links to other administrative data

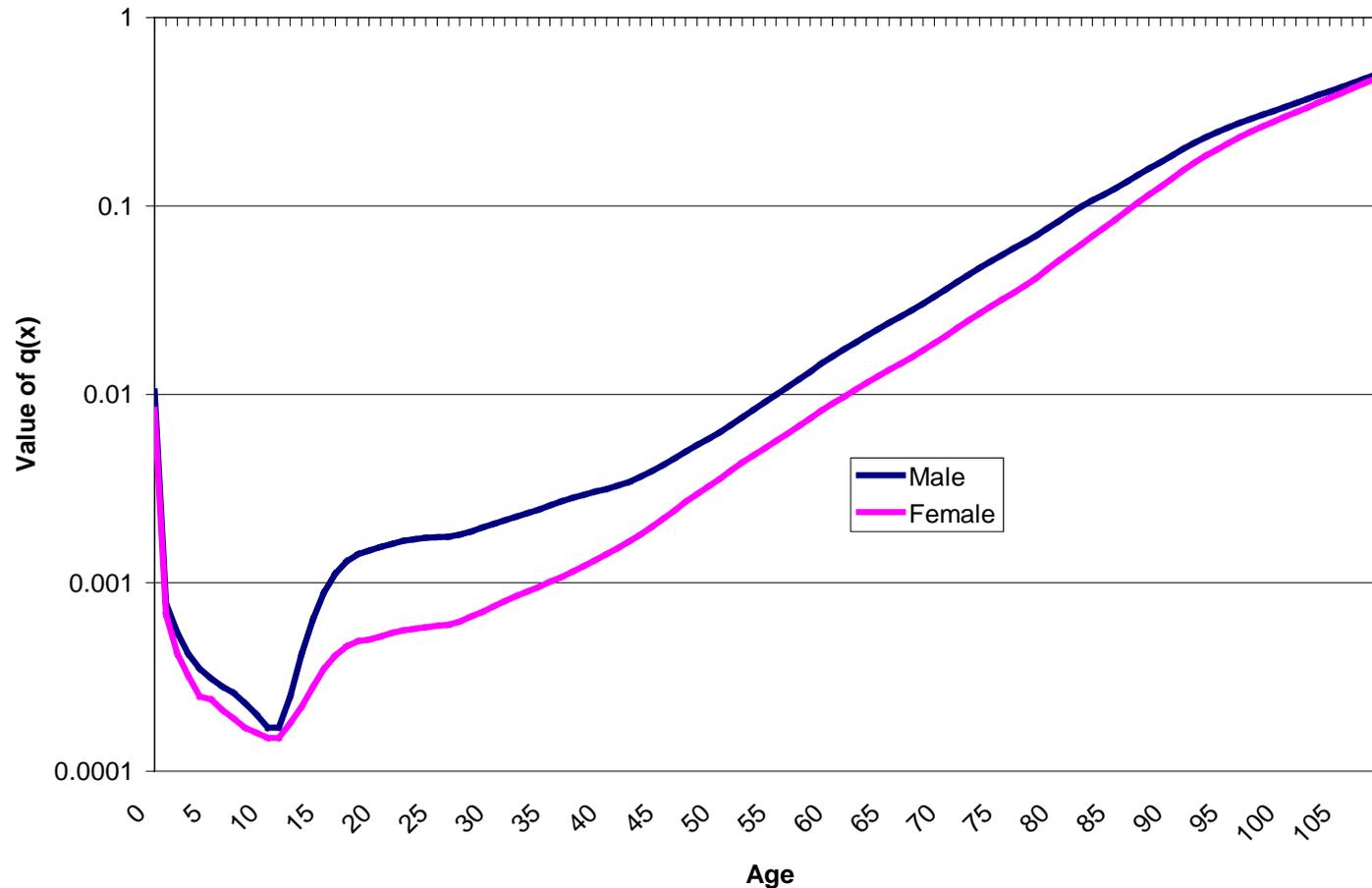


U.S. Life Expectancies by Sex, 1900-2006

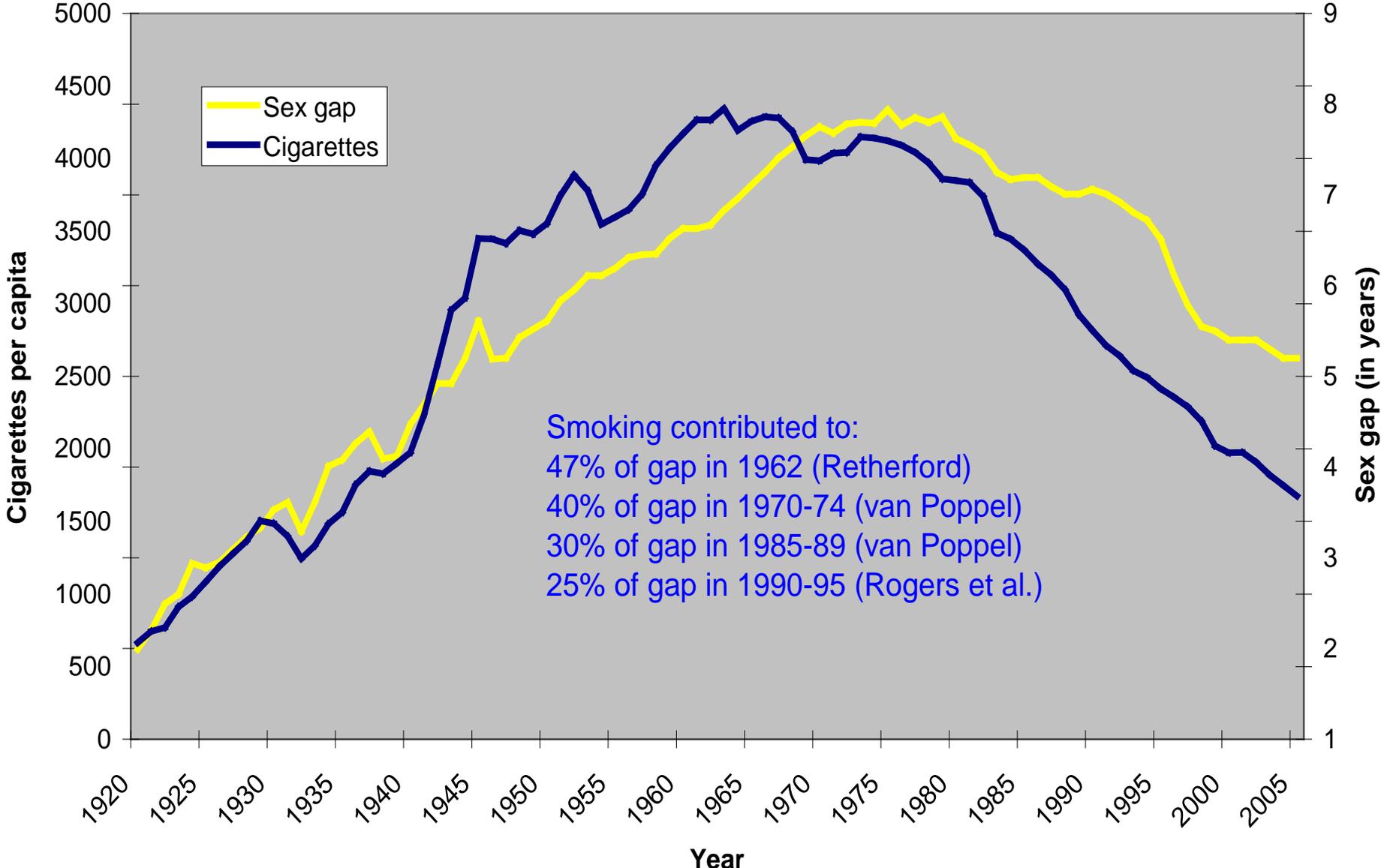


Source: Derived from Arias, 2010, *NVSR*, 58(21).

AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY RATES BY SEX, U.S., 1989-91, LOGGED SCALE.



Cigarettes Per Capita and Sex Gap in Life Expectancy, U.S. Adults, 1920-2005



Sources: Derived from Arias (2007), Kung et al. (2008), Smith and Bradshaw (2006), CDC 1994, and US Dept. of Agriculture (2007).

RISKY BEHAVIOR: MEN MORE LIKELY TO

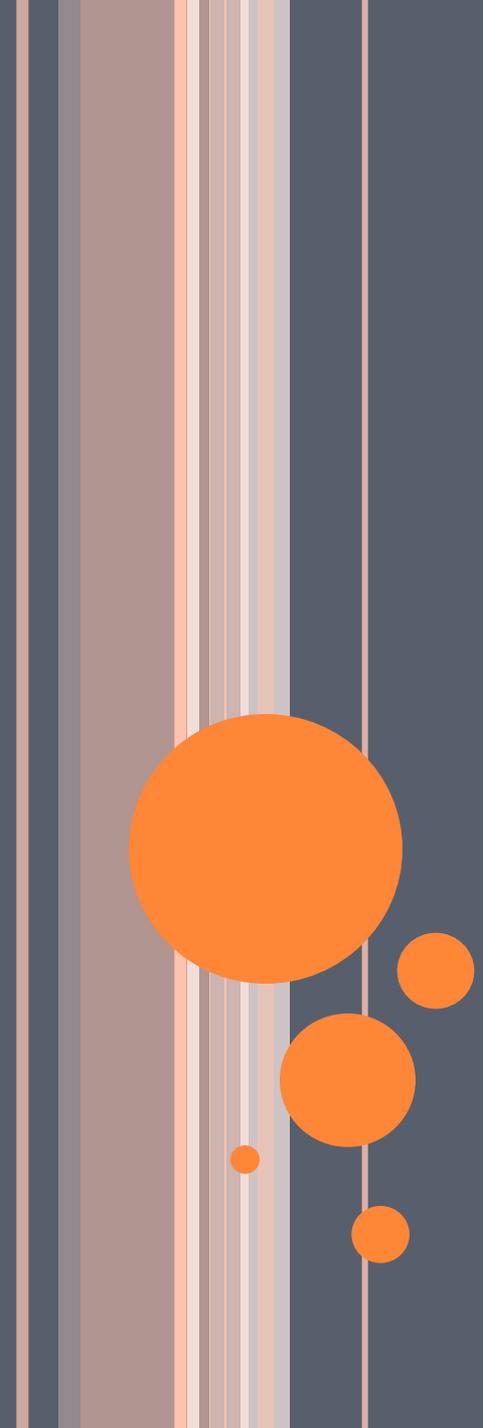
- Engage in violence
- Take occupational risks
- Drive recklessly
- Abuse alcohol
- Use illicit drugs
- Consume tobacco



DATA CONSIDERATIONS

- Age at death for oldest ages
- Other important covariates
 - Smoking, drug use, drinking, firearms
- Selected causes of death
 - Detailed causes of death
 - Emerging causes of death
 - Underlying and contributing causes
 - Potential indexes
- Innovative data sets and data linkages



The left side of the slide features a series of vertical stripes in shades of brown, tan, and white. To the right of these stripes are five orange circles of varying sizes, arranged in a cluster that tapers towards the bottom.

THANK YOU!



SIGNIFICANCE

- Mortality affects
 - Health disparities
 - Social relationships
 - Social institutions
 - Age composition
 - Social policy
 - Social Security
 - Medicare



SEX GAP IN MORTALITY

- Historical trends
- Contributing factors
- Cause of death
- Future trends

