

The following slides are the property of the authors and are provided on this website as a public service.

Please do not copy or redistribute these slides without the written permission of the listed authors.

For more information please contact familyresearch@qf.org.qa

الشرائح التقديمية التالية هي ملكية خاصة بالمؤلفين ، ويتم توفيرها في هذا الموقع كخدمة عامة . يرجى عدم نسخ أو توزيع و إعادة نشر هذه الشرائح دون الحصول على إذن كتابي من المؤلفين المدرجين .

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الإتصال بـ : familyresearch@qf.org.qa

Changing family structures, living arrangements and care support for the elderly in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries: Some policy implications

Dr. Hafiz T. A. Khan

Middlesex University, London, UK

The Arab Family in an Age of Transition: Challenges and Resilience

Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

3-4 May, 2015, Qatar

Aims of the research

- 1. *To understand the socio-demographic changes in the GCC countries***
- 2. *To examine the effect of changes in family structure, living conditions on the care support for the elderly in the region***
- 3. *To suggest policy recommendations***

- **Demographic change across the Arab world**
- **Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) *consists of six neighboring countries - UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait***
- **Drivers mainly responsible for the changes scenarios in the GCC regions?**
- **Emerging trend population ageing in the region?**
- **Need support for elderly care in the GCC countries**

Demographic transition takes place in almost all parts of the world and fertility decline has certainly played an important role in it.

Socio-economic factors combined with family planning programs have influenced people to opt for smaller family size in order to maintain a reasonable quality of life.

People move frequently from one place to another in search of jobs or education, for instance and then settle somewhere in a new place even within the same country. This is an increasing phenomena influenced by urbanization and globalization as well as individual aspirations.

People are moving away from their family members, threatening the traditional family-based aged care model operating in the majority of the region. Moreover, modernisation has encouraged many people to live on their own and away from family responsibilities that can further erode traditional beliefs and family structures.

As more and more people prefer, or are left with no choice but, to live as part of a nuclear family , traditional close proximity of living or co-residing within extended family arrangements is declining and expected to decline further.

Studies show that co-residence households play important roles in the lives of family members particularly the older generations.

Informal (Familial) resources for elderly care

- **Family has been known as the main sources of informal care in many countries particularly in Asia**
- **Changes family size and structure**
- **This has reshaped living arrangements in the household**
- **Older people quickly became vulnerable within the household**
- **Traditional support systems are being challenged by increasing numbers of older people**
- ***Who is going to pay the cost of care in old age? Is it the Individual, the Family or the Government?***

Conceptual Framework

Family structure → **Living Arrangement** → **Elderly care**

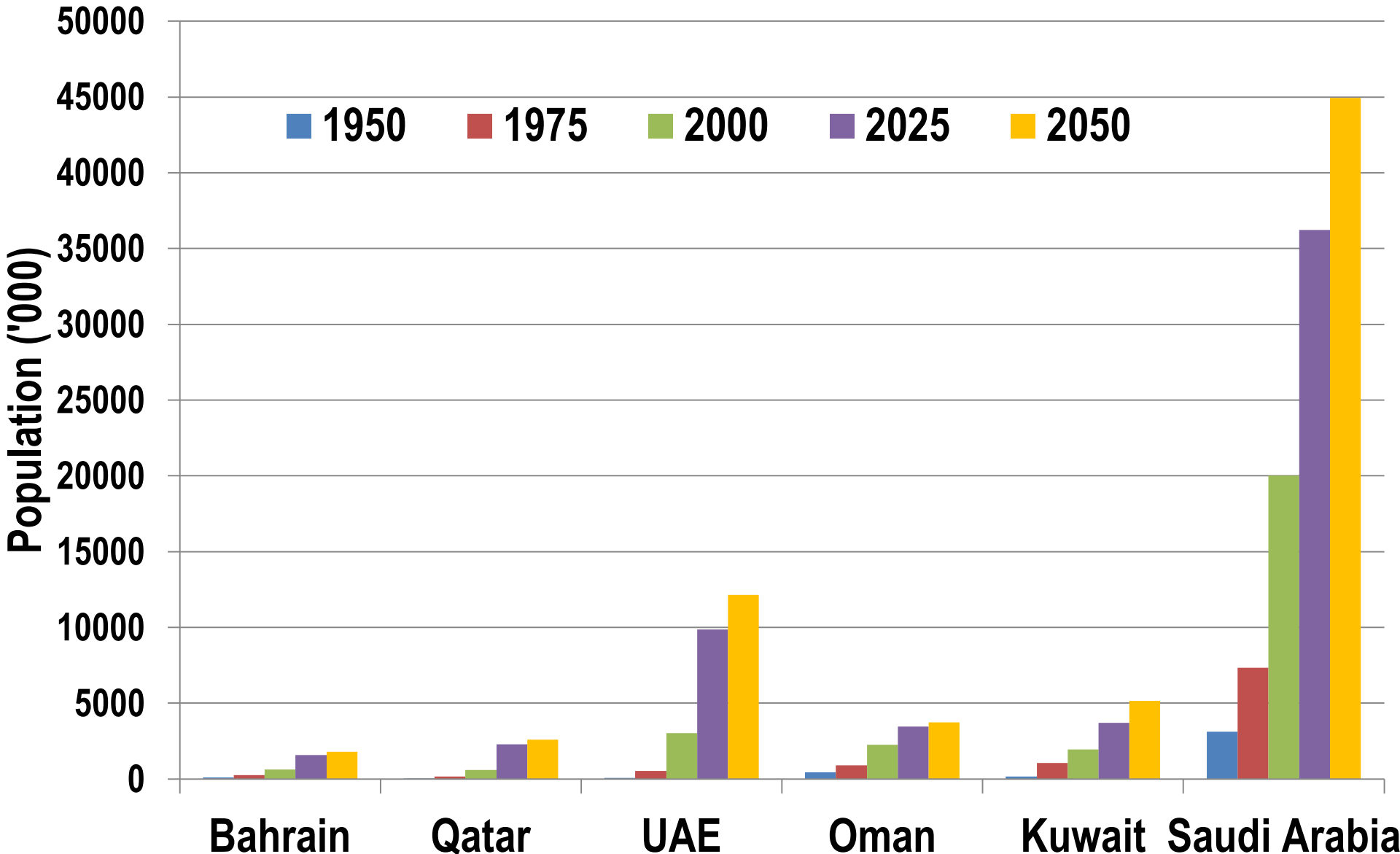
The GCC Region



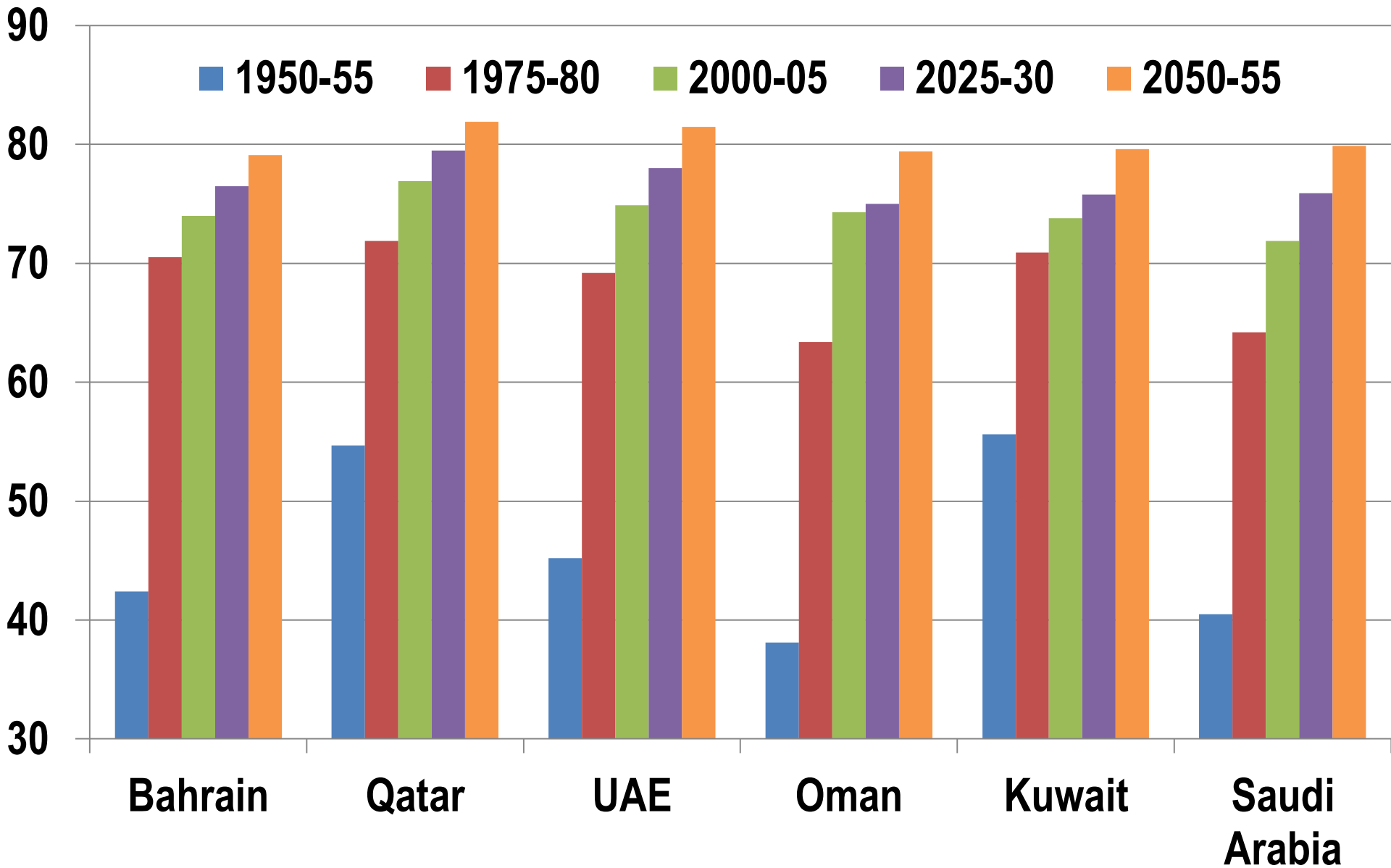
Data from secondary sources:

- **Country statistics office / GCC sites**
- **UN: World Population Perspectives
2012 Revisions**
- **World Bank**
- **WHO**

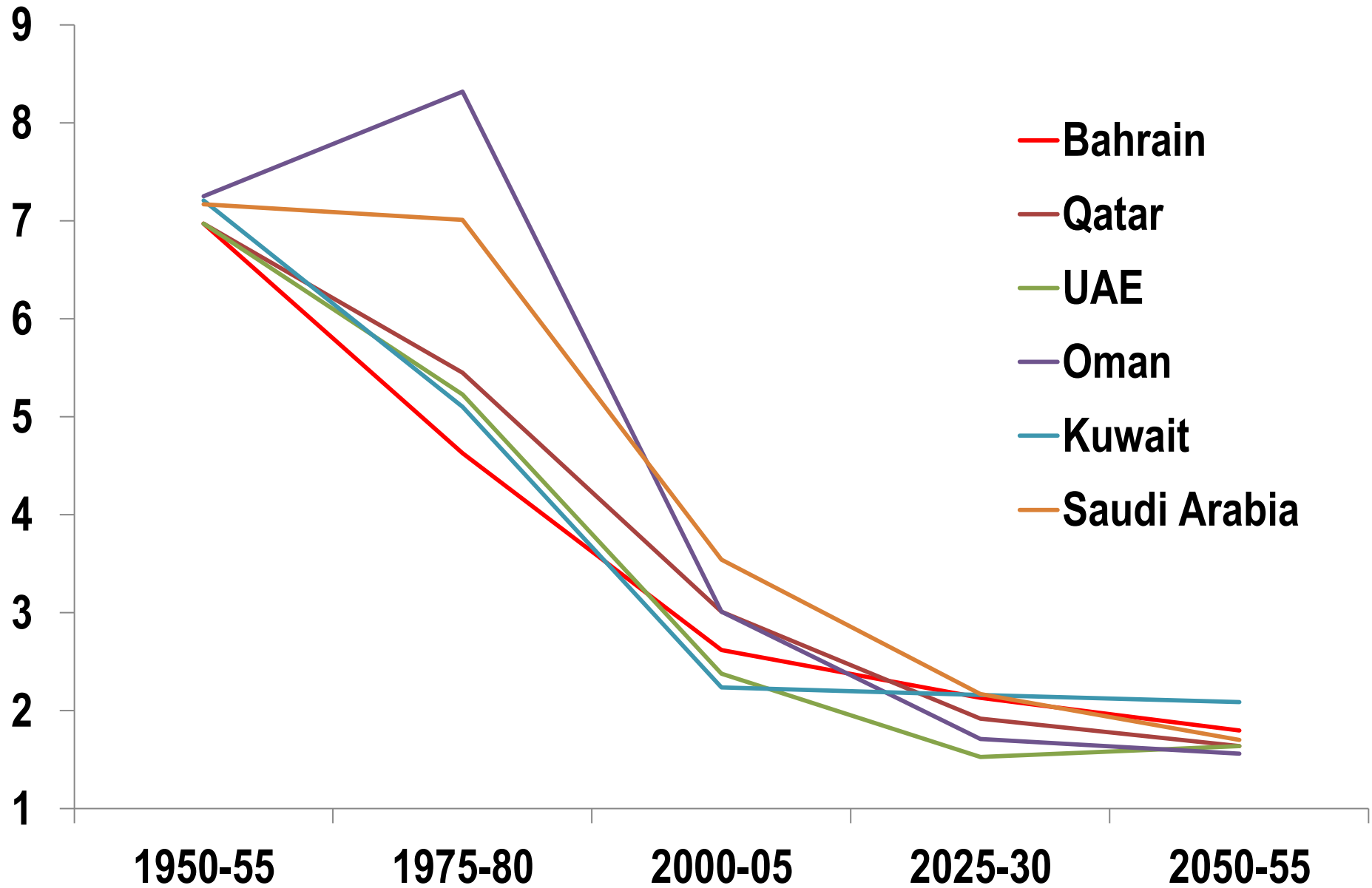
Population Trends



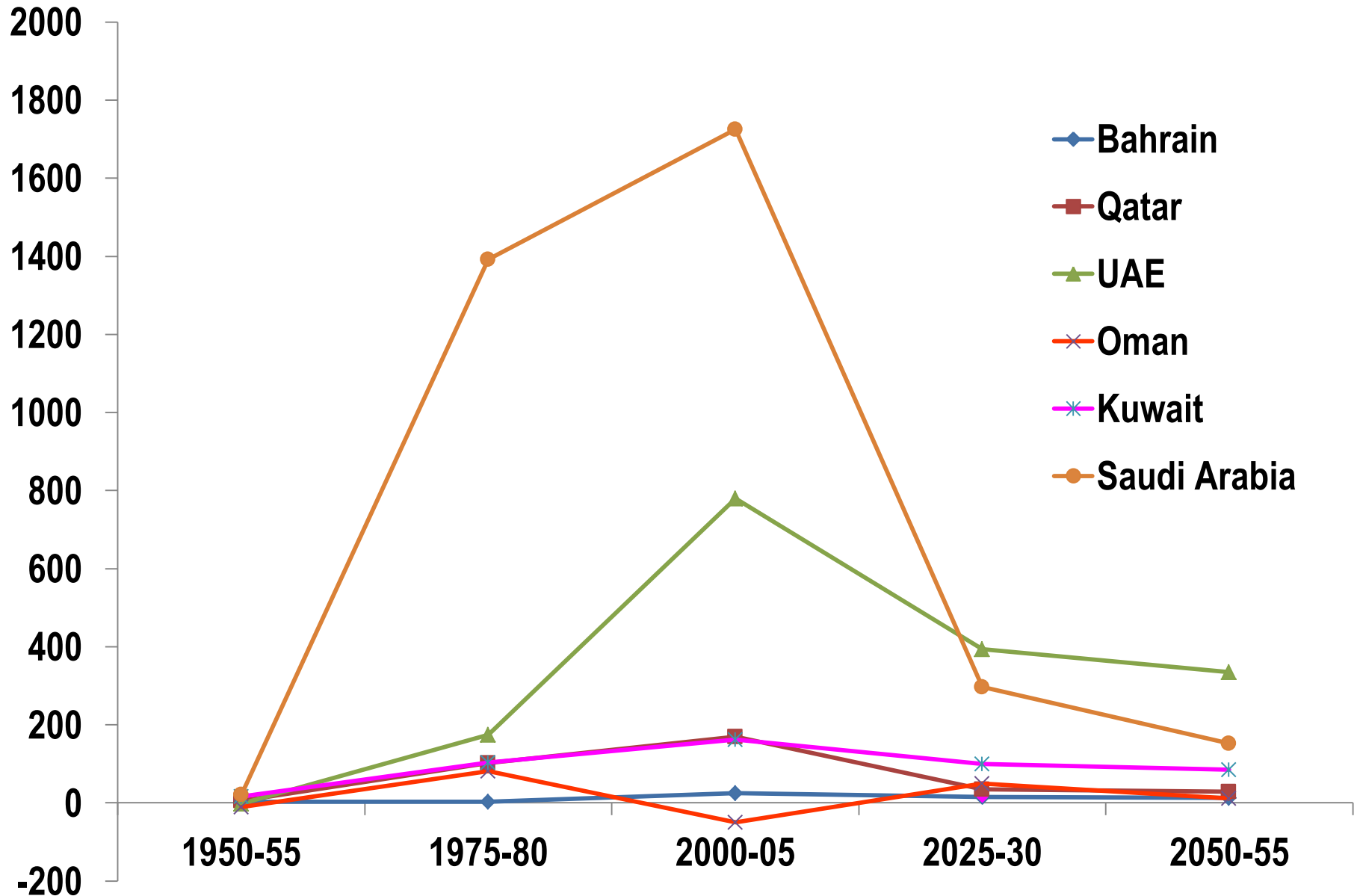
Life Expectancy: 1950-2050



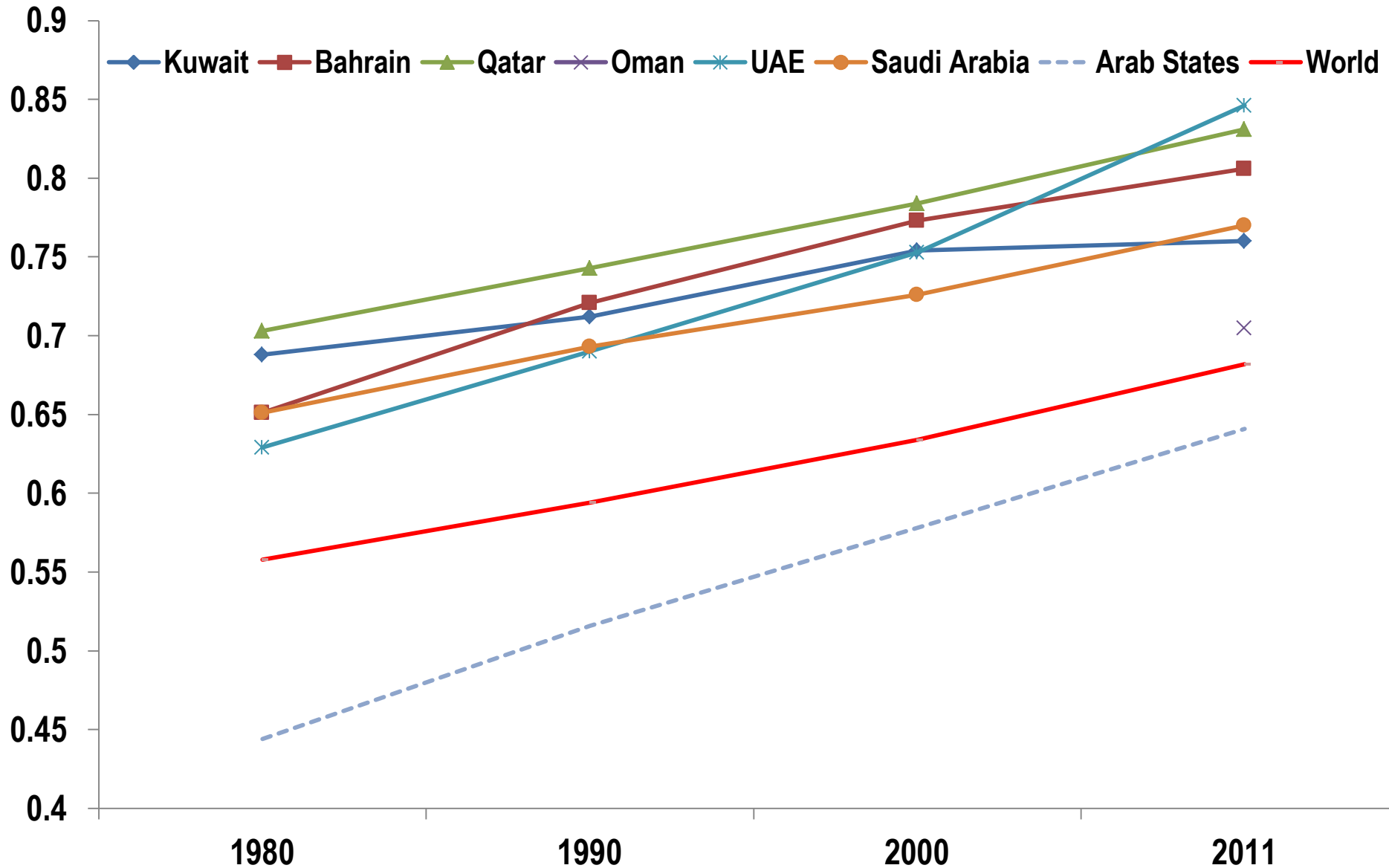
Fertility Decline: 1950-2055



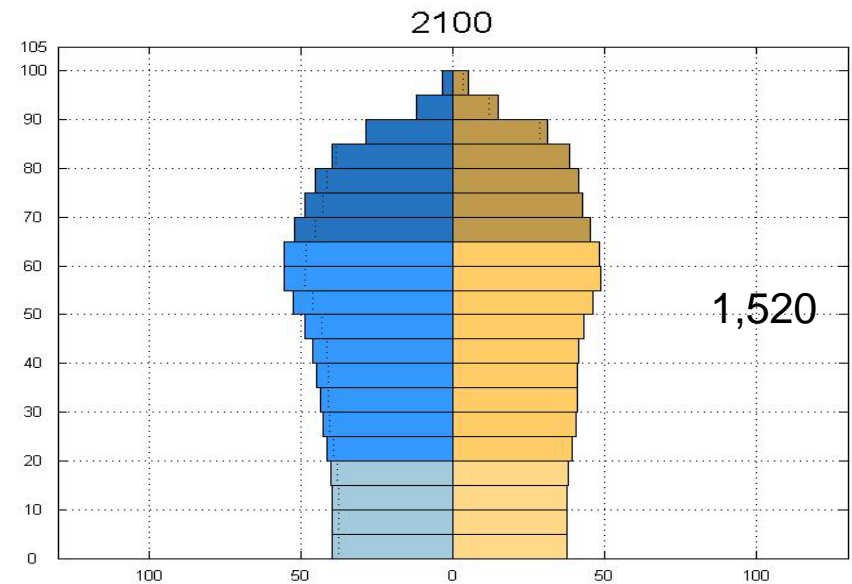
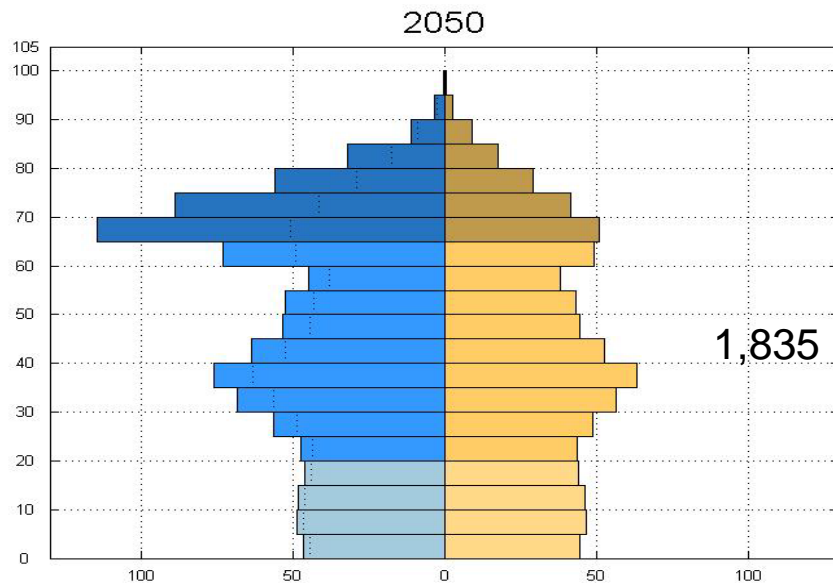
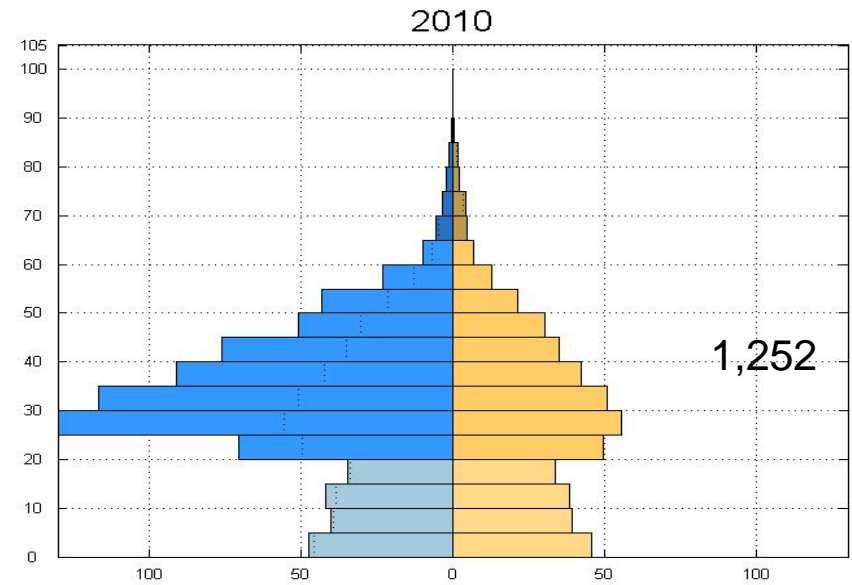
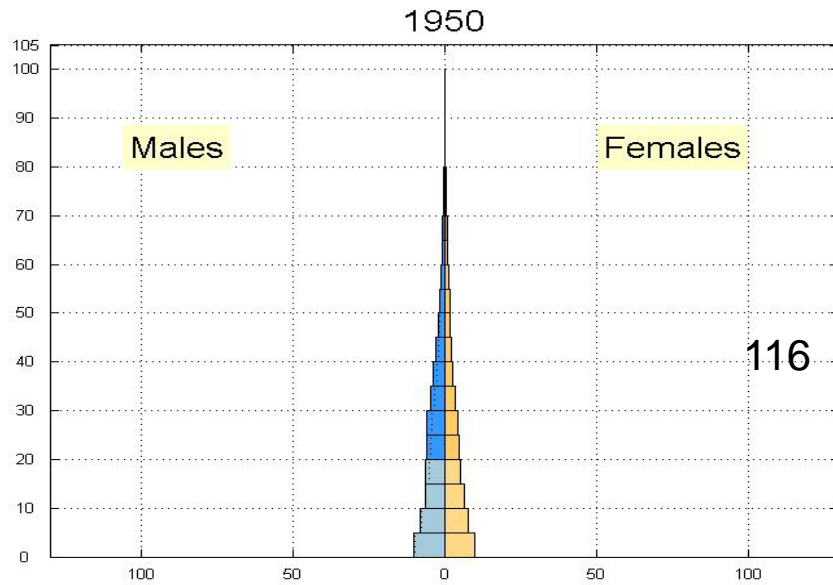
International Migration



Human Development Index

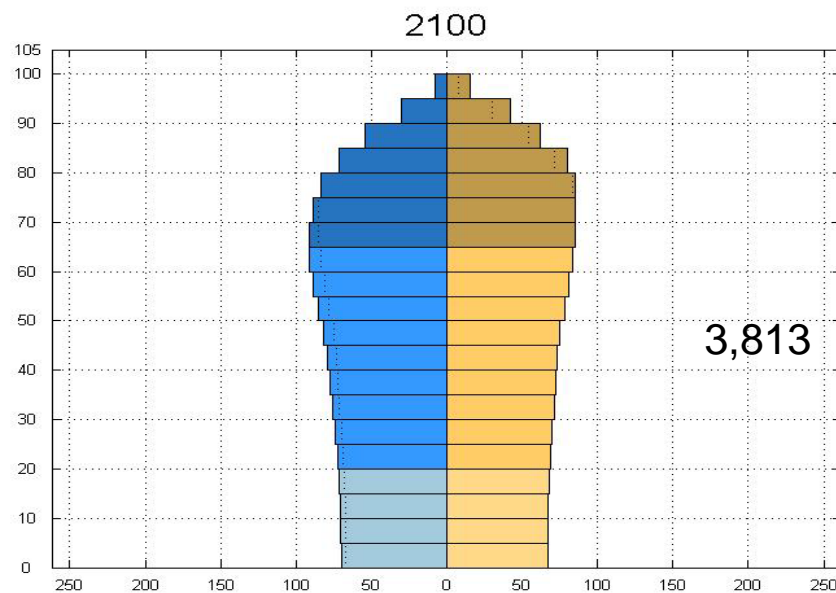
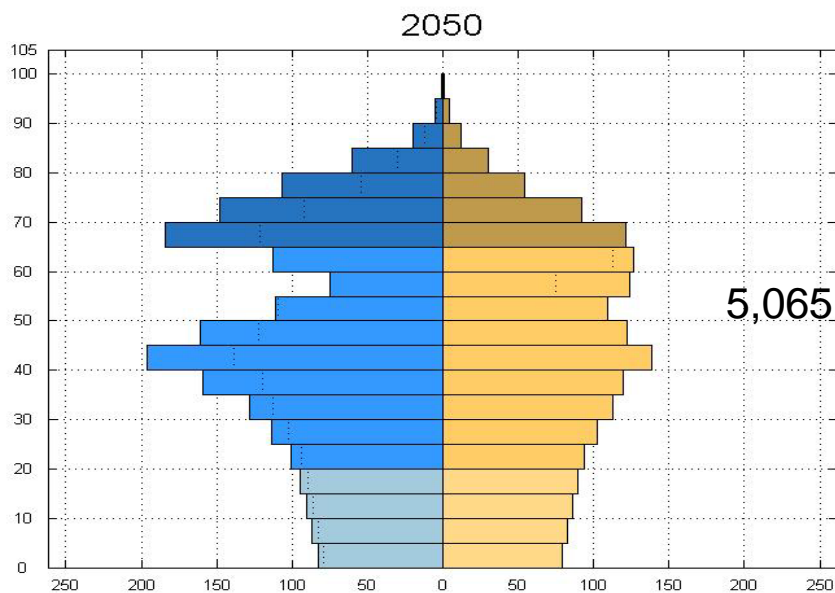
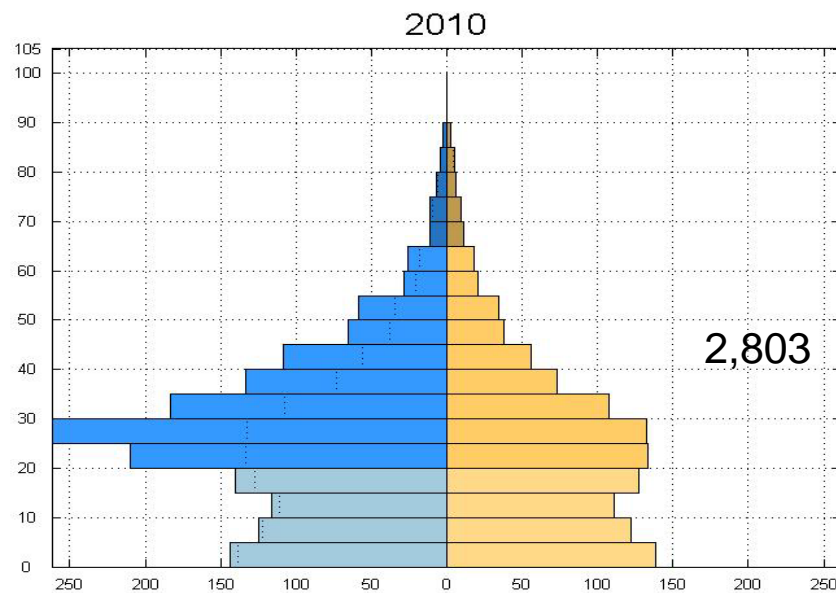
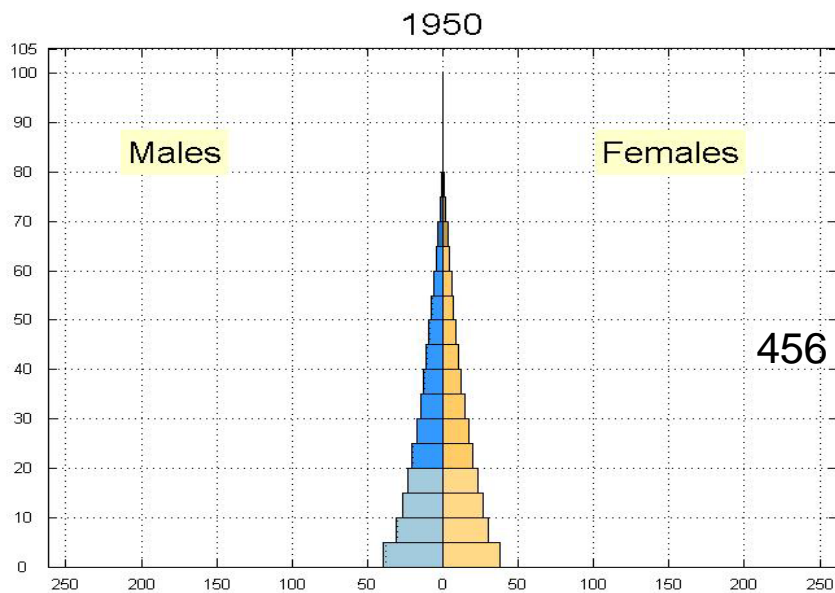


Bahrain: Population distribution



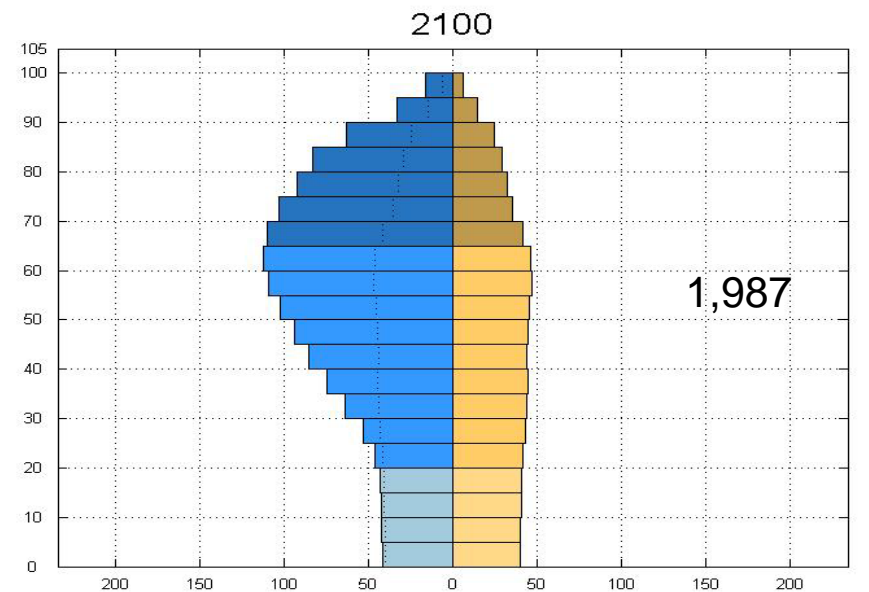
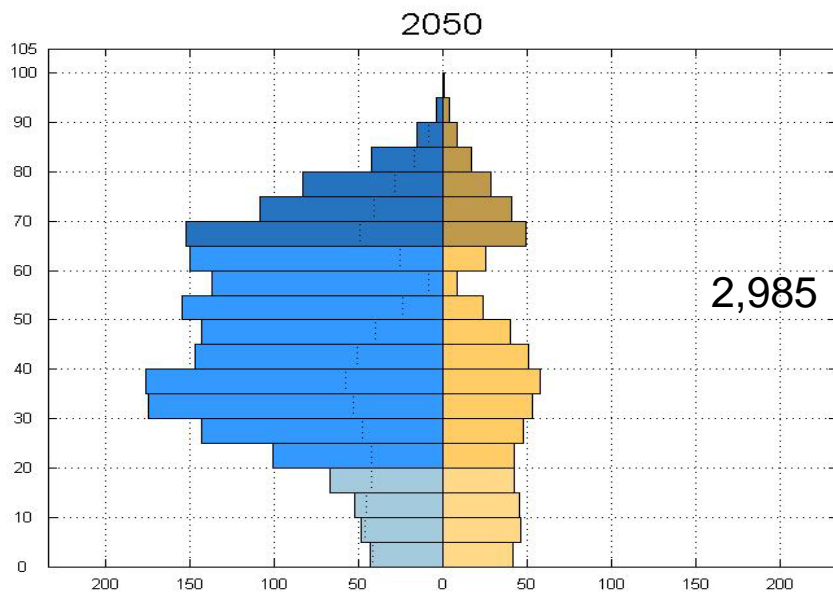
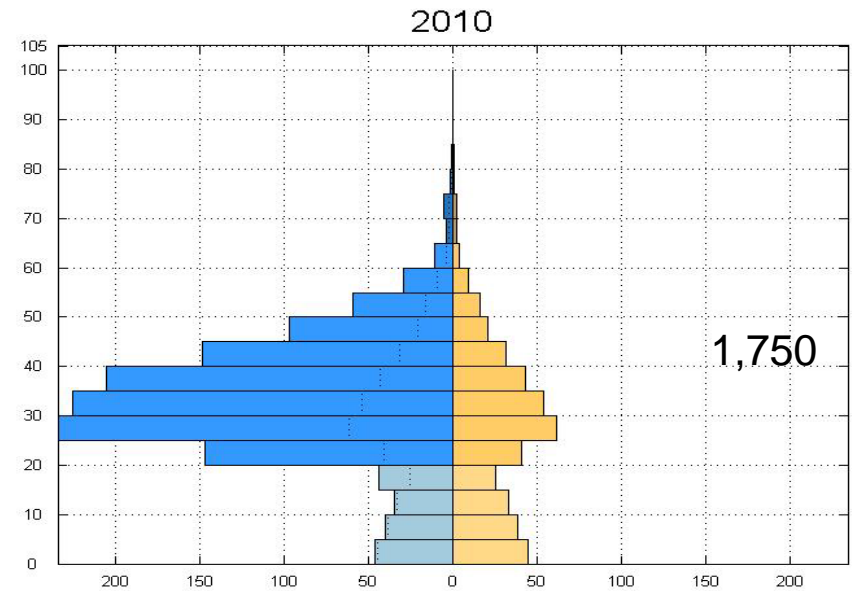
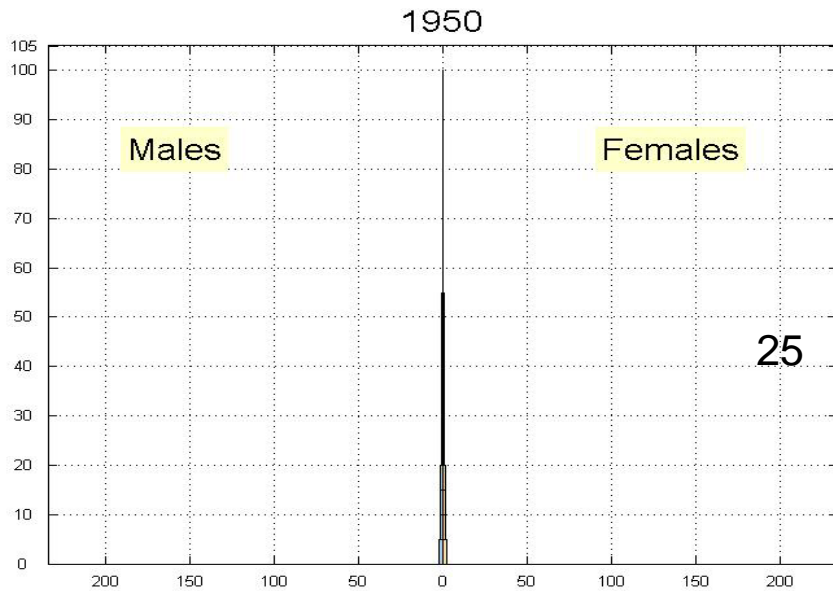
(thousands)

Oman: Population Pyramid



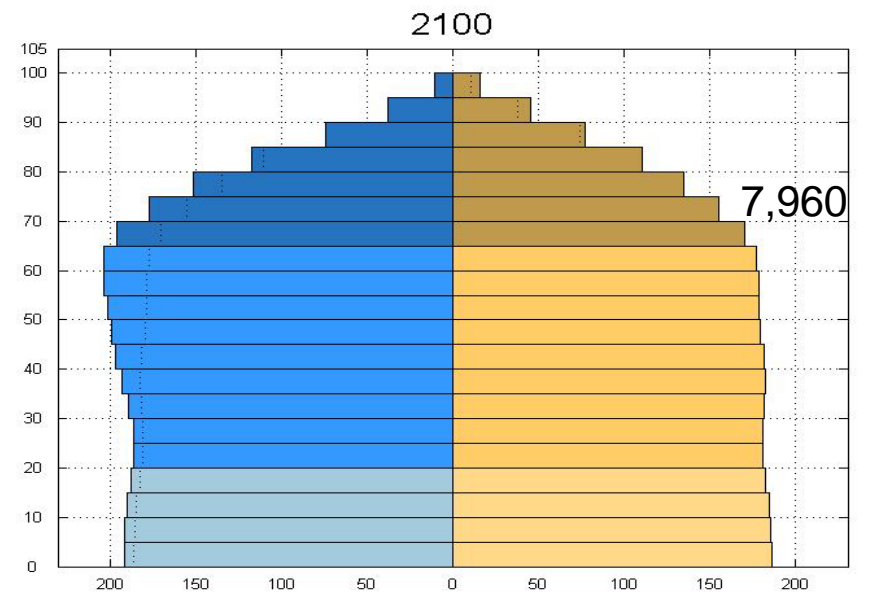
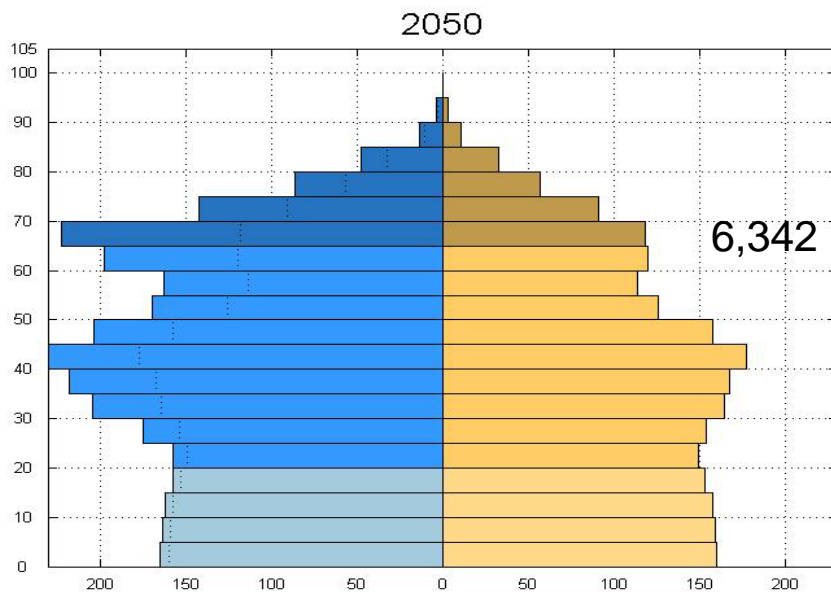
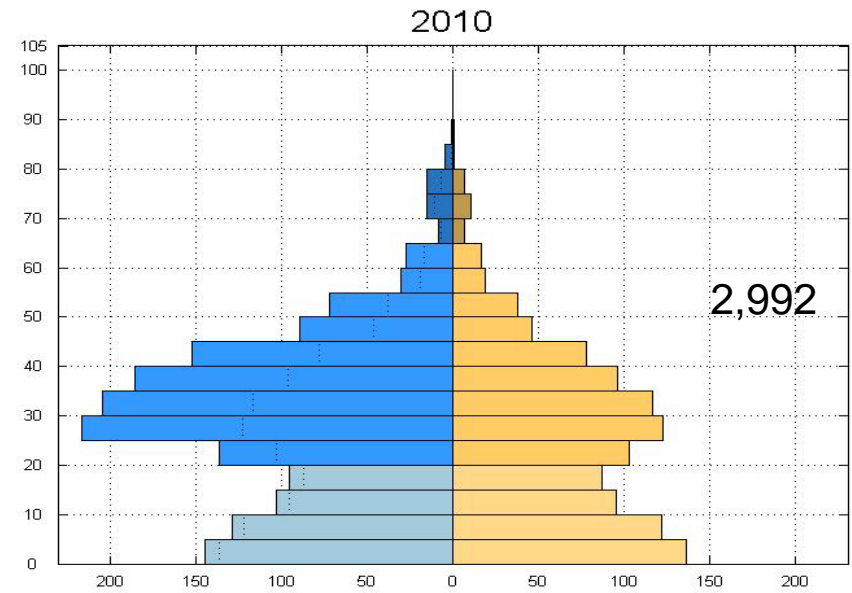
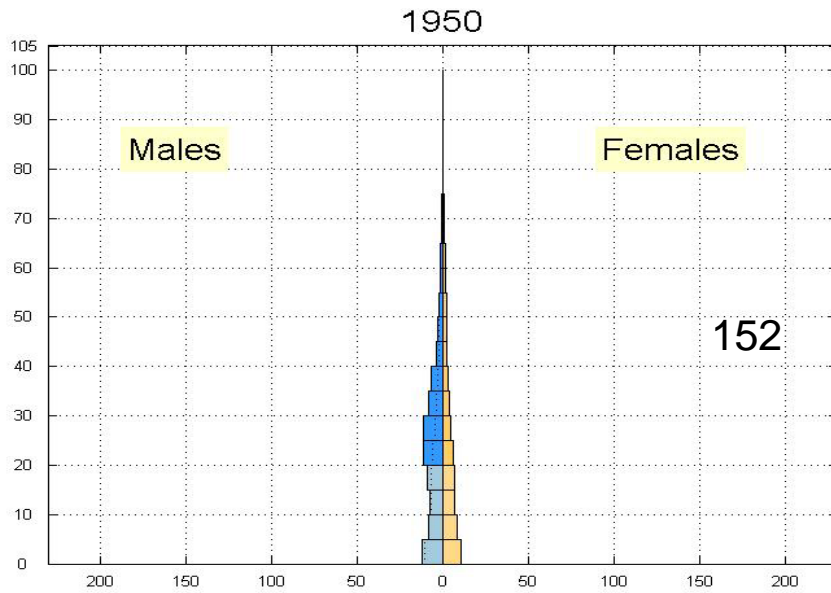
(thousands)

Qatar: Population Structure



(thousands)

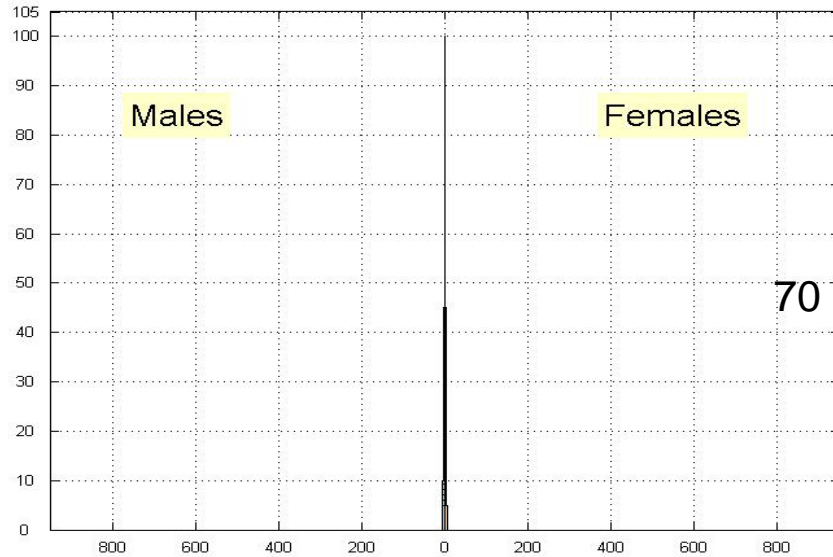
Kuwait: Population 1950-2100



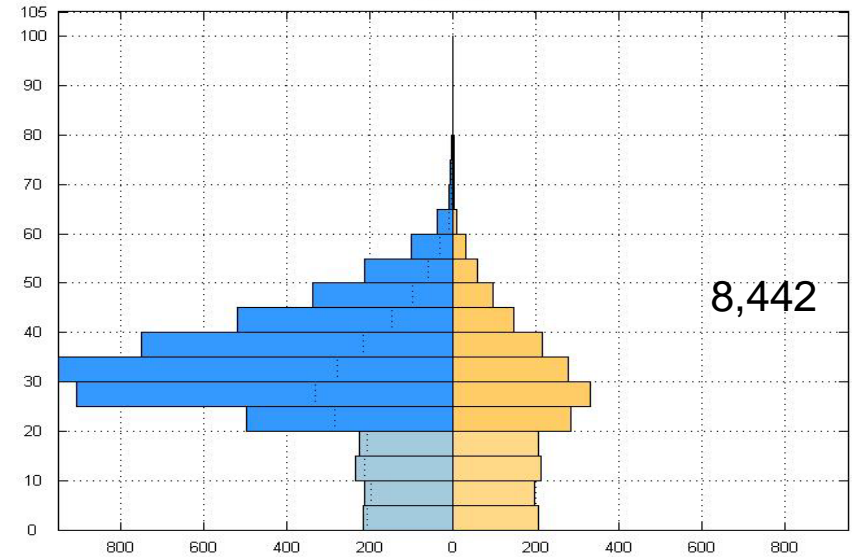
(thousands)

UAE: Population Distribution

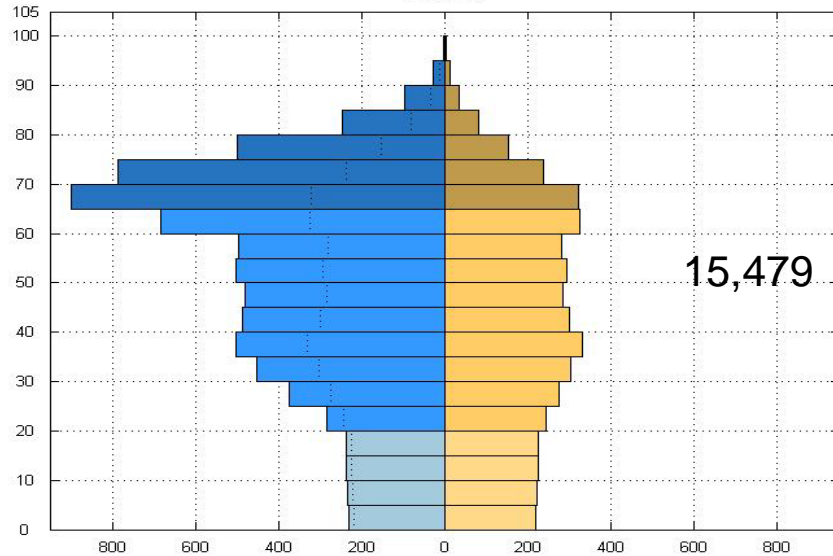
1950



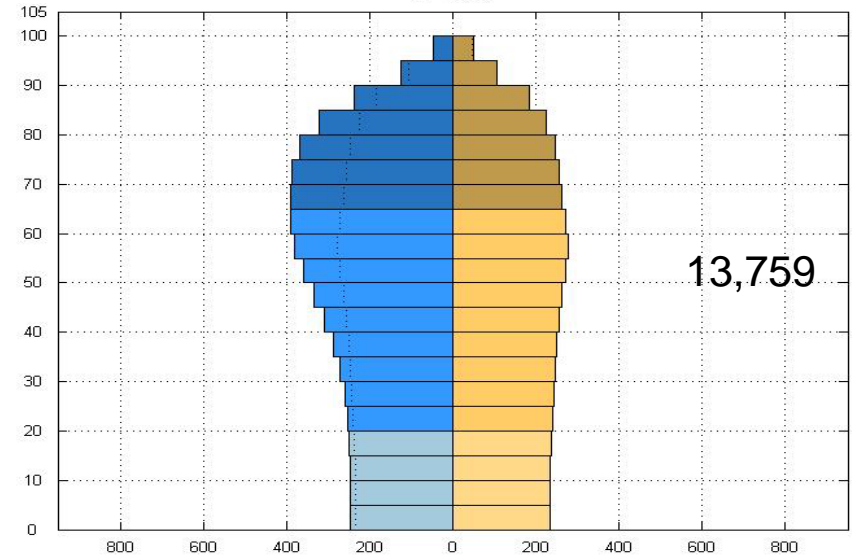
2010



2050

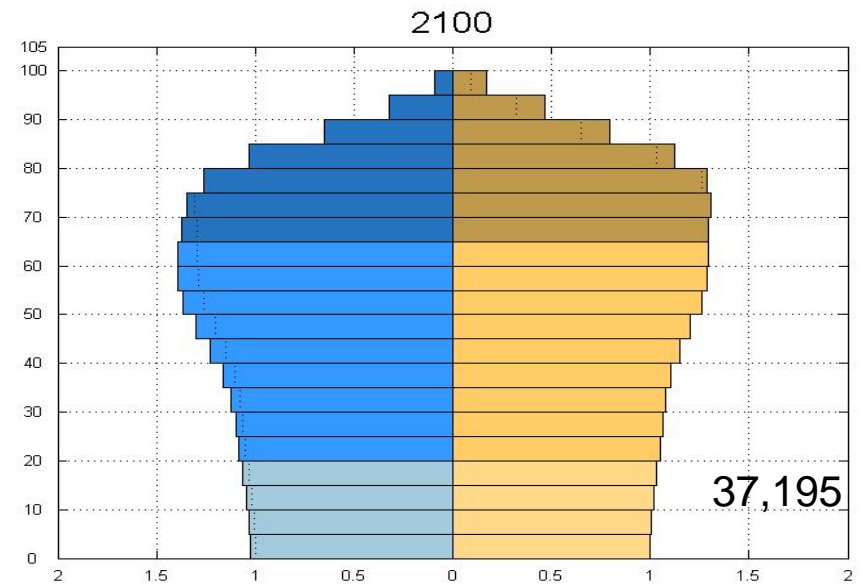
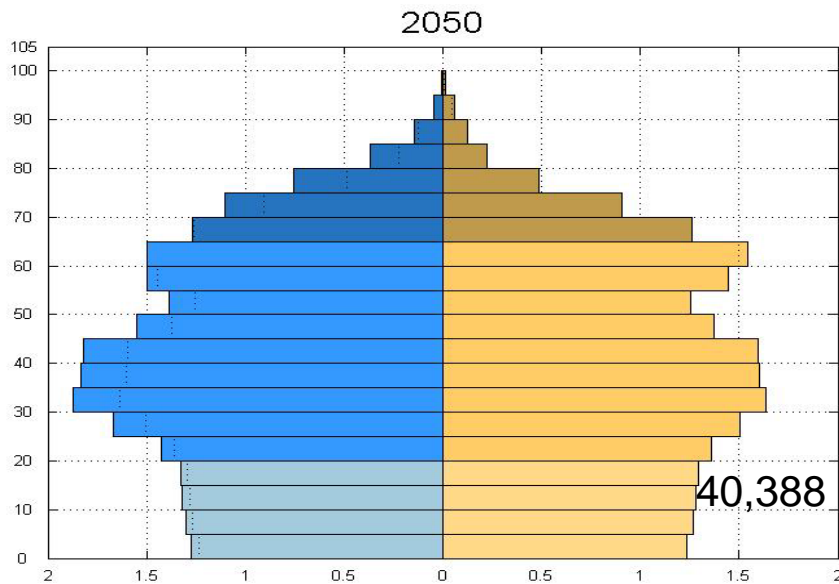
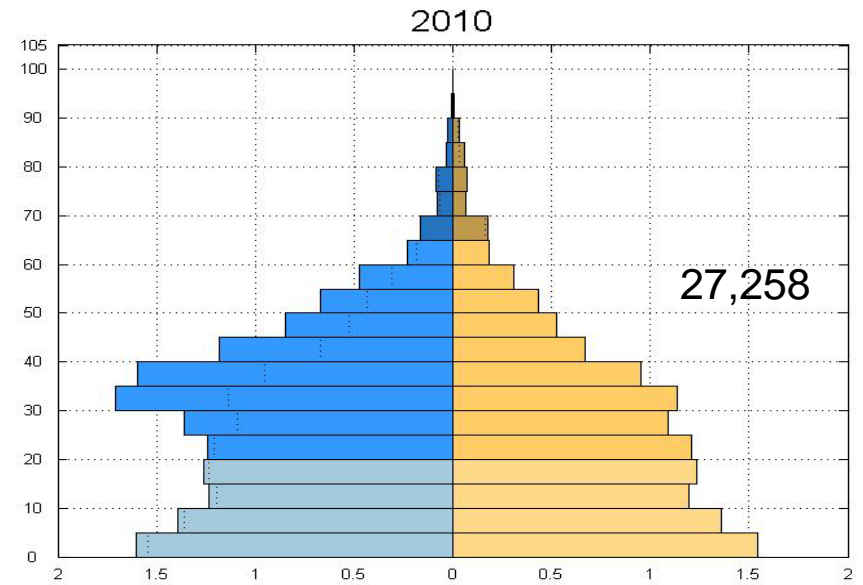
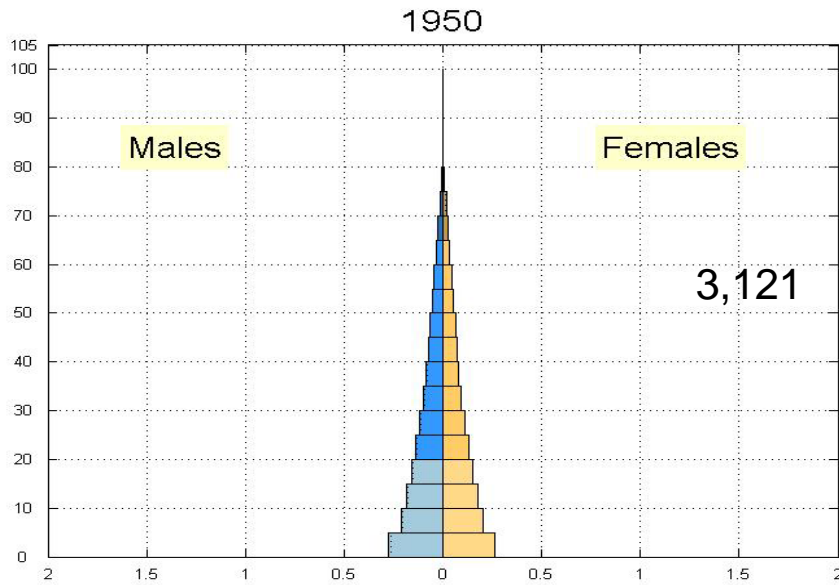


2100



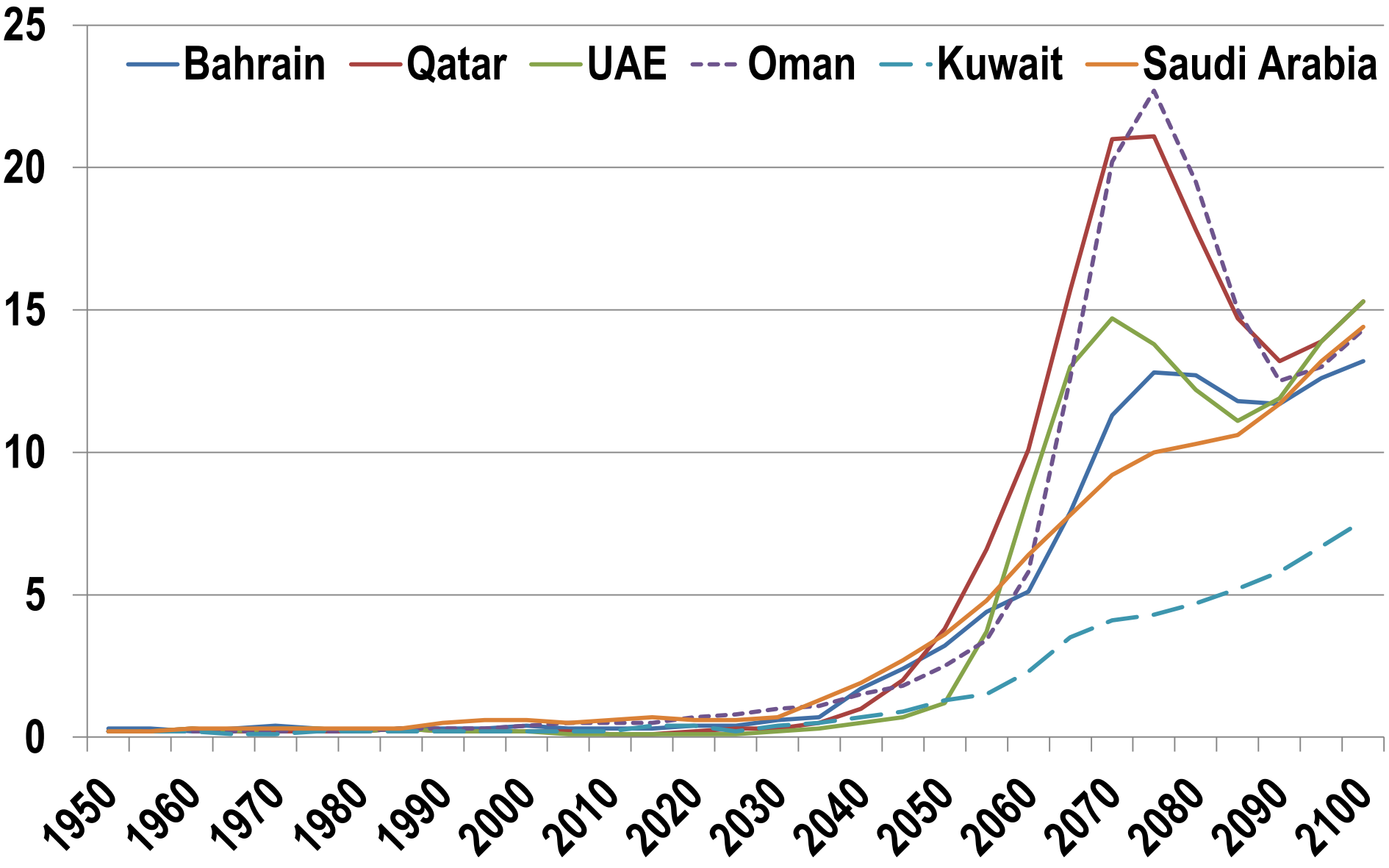
(thousands)

Saudi Arabia: Age-Sex Distribution

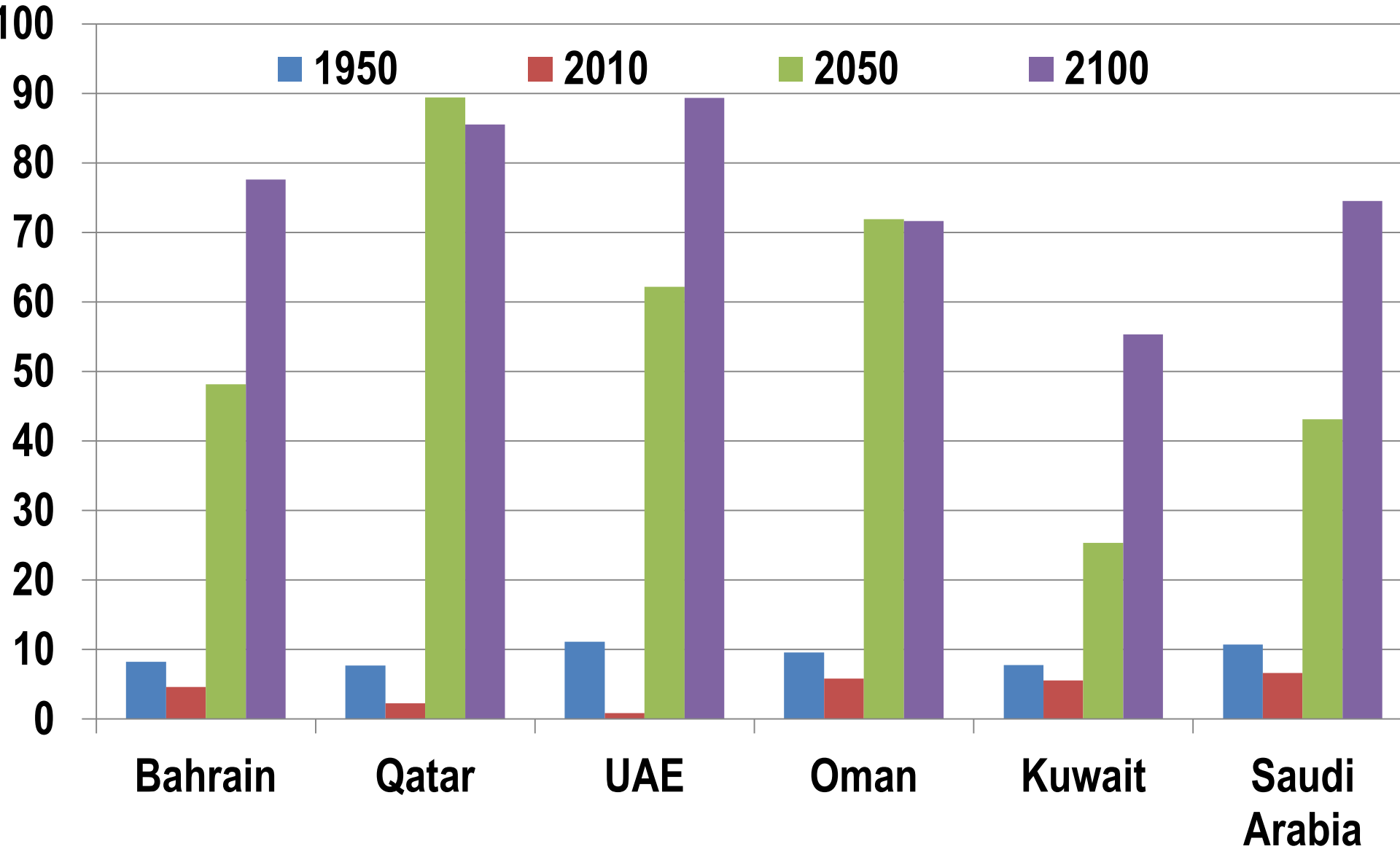


(millions)

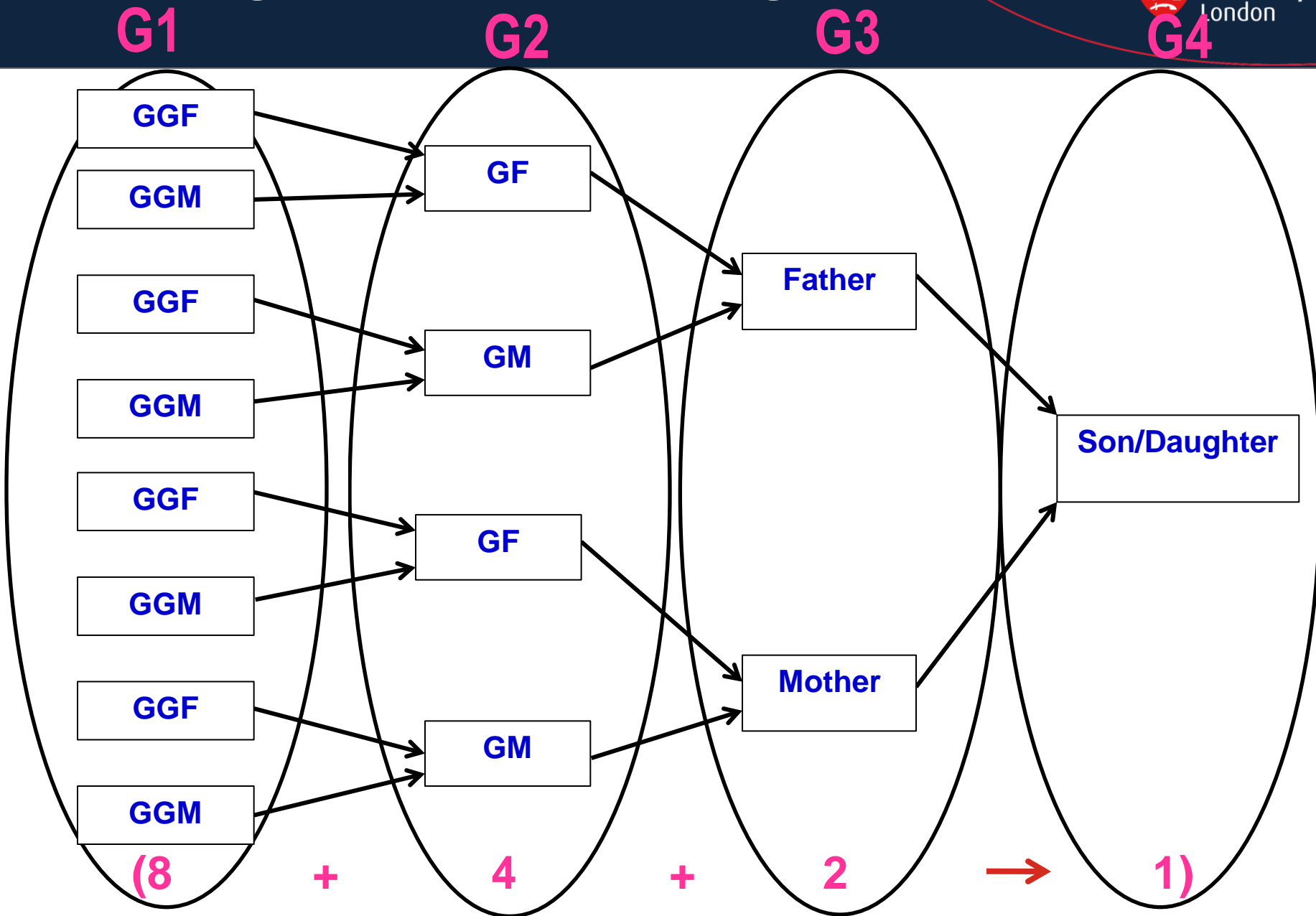
% Population Aged 80+ Years



Old Age Dependency Ratio



Multigenerational living



The present generation may have taken care of at most 14 people

- **Today's generation has care responsibility of as many as a maximum of 14 people (if they wish to)**
- **Care responsibility goes to siblings and they share it**
- **The lower the number of sibling the higher responsibility of care goes to them**
- **Childlessness in the household may be a big issue for future care provision**

- **Health care labour market**
- **Huge demand for the production of health care**
- **Health care workers include doctors, dentists, nurses as well as a host of allied health professionals involved in the health care that patients receive**
- **The supply of health care**

- **Fertility will fall dramatically**
- **Life expectancy is expected to increase**
- **Population will continue to increase**
- **Huge change is noticeable for age and gender distribution**
- **Older population number will steadily grow**
- **Huge uncertainty involves in projecting future population**
- **A new population scenario will emerge in future i.e., ageing society**

Challenges Ahead

- **Lack of data for studying family demography**
- **Ensuing reliable data for population projection**
- **Facing huge health burden such as disability and dementia**
- **Providing treatment for co-morbidities**
- **Building awareness for a sustainable ageing society**
- **Providing elderly care generally (formal +informal)**
- **Launching programmes to educate people about self management of health**

Questions!