

# Trends in the Arab-Jewish e0 gap, Israel 1975-08

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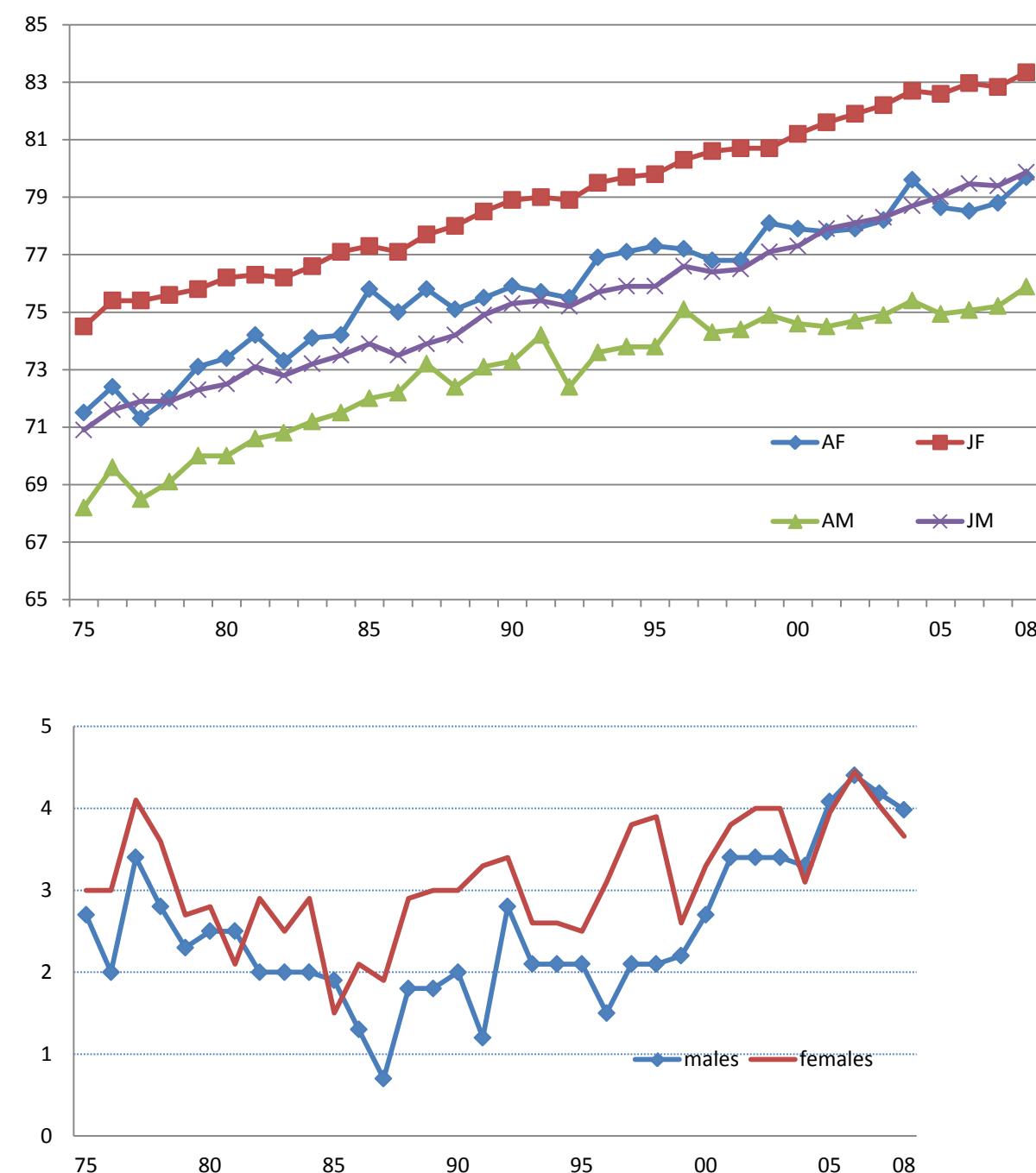
## Introduction

Over the last 40 years, both Arabs and Jews in Israel have experienced significant gains in life expectancy at birth (e0)

A gap ranging between 3 to 4 years has persisted between the two groups

The A-J gap in e0 decreased during the 1970s and 1980s, but, starting from the early 1990s, it has been gradually increasing

Life expectancy at birth (top) and gap in life expectancy (bottom), by sex and ethnic group



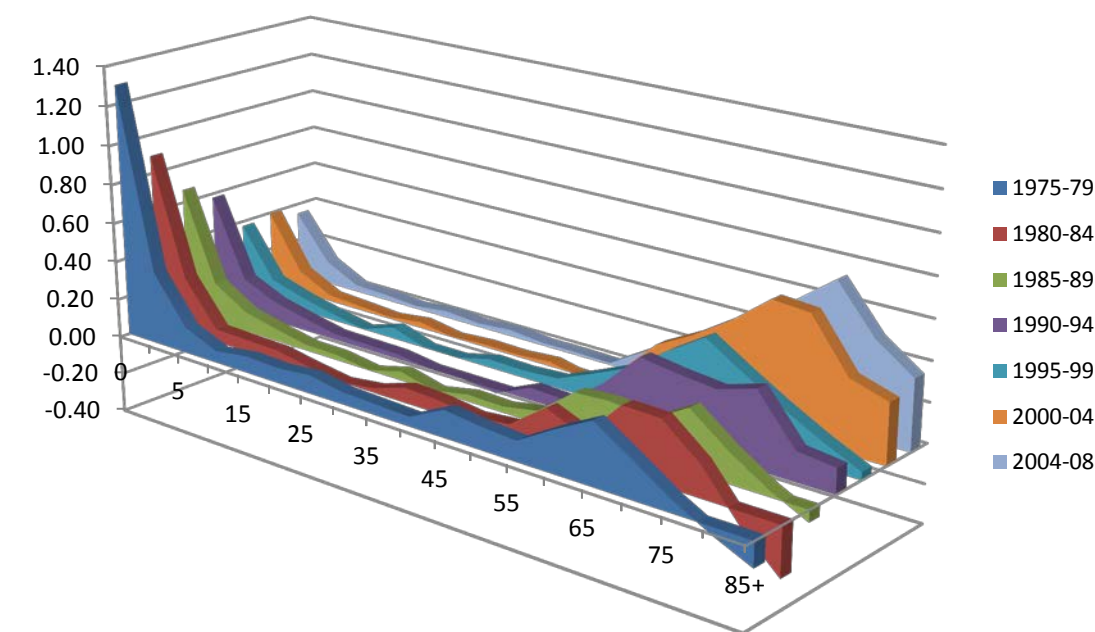
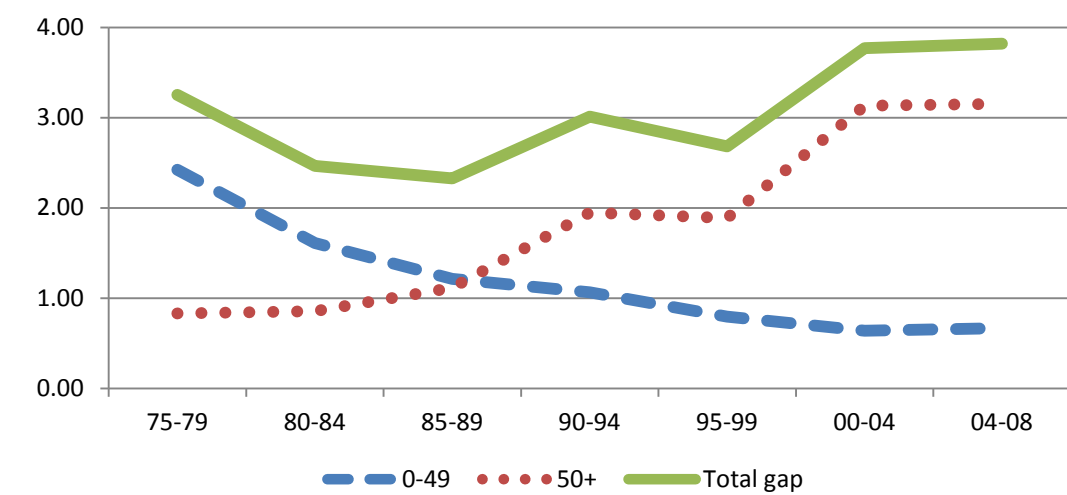
## Data & Methods

Data consists of annual death rates by age, sex, cause and ethnicity over the years 1980-2008.

I use the decomposition methods suggested by Arriaga (1984, 1989), which estimates (a) the relative and absolute contribution of specific ages to the total gap, and (b) the contribution of specific causes of death to the total gap in e0.

## Results

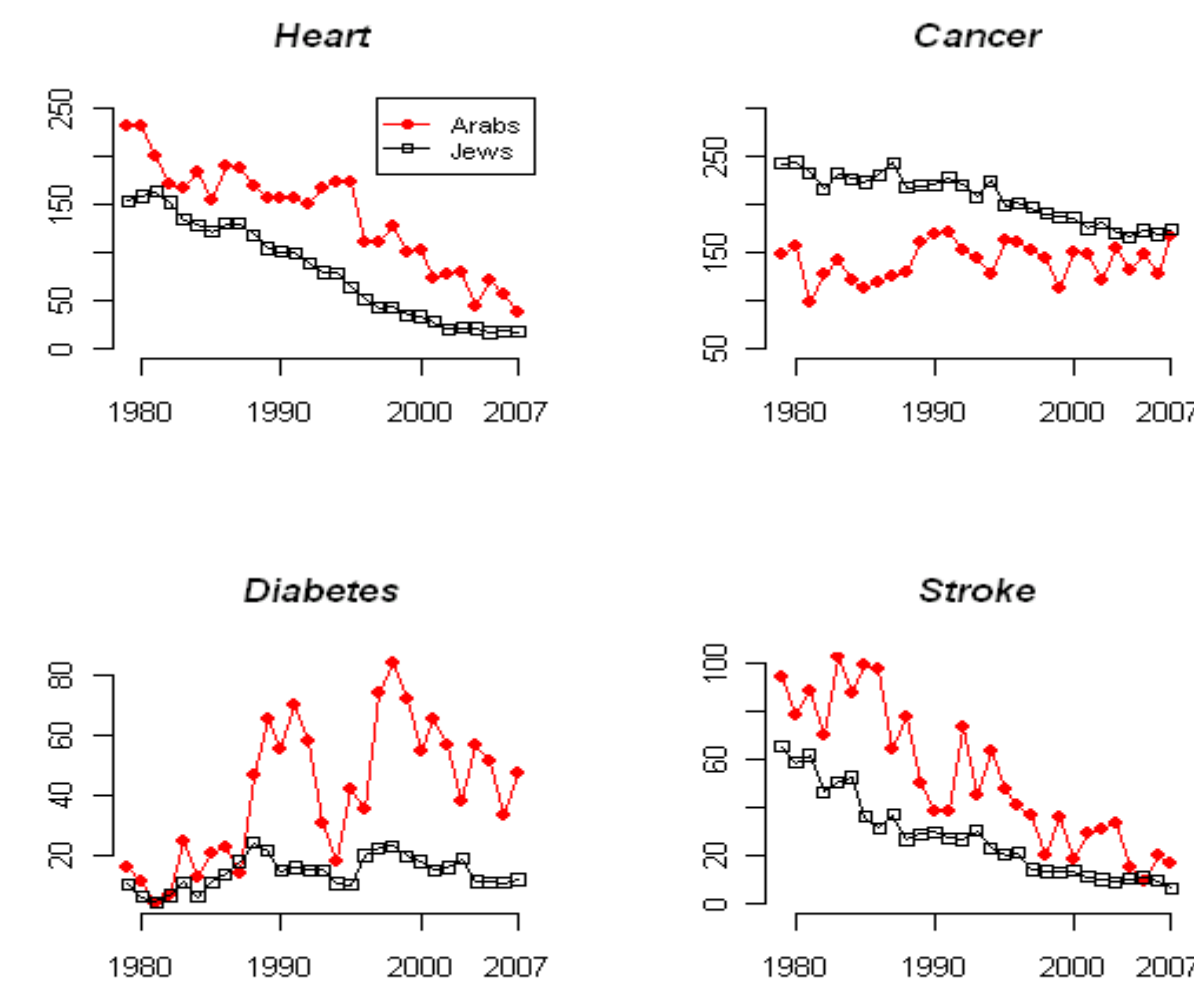
Contribution of specific age groups to the total gap in life expectancy, in years



Female e0 gap in years, by cause of death

Cause of death	85-89	90-94	95-99	00-04	04-08
Cancer	-1.1	-0.85	-0.94	-0.52	-0.30
Diabetes	0.25	0.41	0.69	1.05	0.99
Heart diseases	1.01	1.27	1.09	1.07	0.84
Stroke	0.80	0.63	0.48	0.48	0.45
Other causes	1.37	1.55	1.36	1.69	1.84
Total gap in LE	2.33	3.01	2.68	3.77	3.82

Cause-specific death rates (per 10,000 PY), females 45-64



## Conclusions

- Arab minority has been persistently disadvantaged in mortality
- The contribution of infant and child to the mortality gap has substantially declined, while the contribution of older ages has been gradually increasing
- Today, mortality inequalities among the elderly constitute the main contributor to the total gap in LE
- Cancer and diabetes are the new major contributors for the increase in the gap.
- The Arab minority has been losing its advantage in cancer mortality due to declining rates among the Jewish population and increasing rates among the Arab minority
- Diabetes mortality has drastically increased in both populations yet with faster increases among the Arab population