

The (recent) History of Social Indicators, (should we be) Measuring Social Class, and Health Inequalities

- OECD and the Social Indicators “movement”
- (Not) Measuring Social Class
- Indicators Pre- and Post-PowerPoint
- Health Inequalities : WHO vs Everyone Else



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OECD Social Indicator Consensus

- health (LE and HLE)
- education and learning
- employment and quality of working life
- time and leisure
- command over goods and services (income and wealth)
- physical environment (housing, access to services, environment)
- social environment
- personal safety

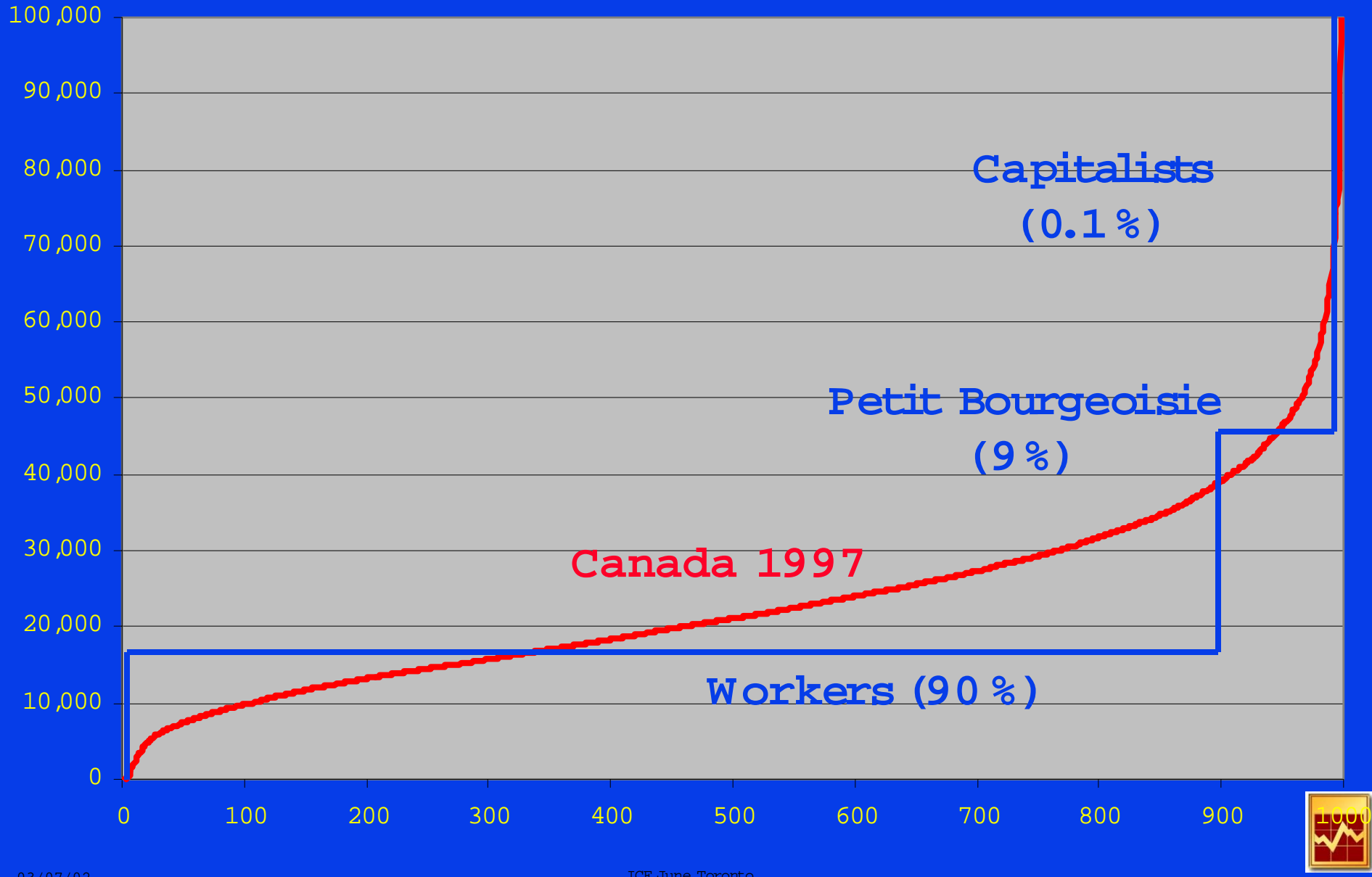


Recent Efforts for Social Indicators

- "Green GDP"
- Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)
- SSDS - Stone's System of Social and Demographic Statistics
- "Sex, Lies and Global Economics" — CFB and Marilyn Waring
- UNDP's Human Development Index
- WHO's DALYs and HSPA measures
- myriad indicator sets, e.g.
Sustainable Seattle, Federation of Canadian Municipalities



Pen's Parade — Classes and Actual

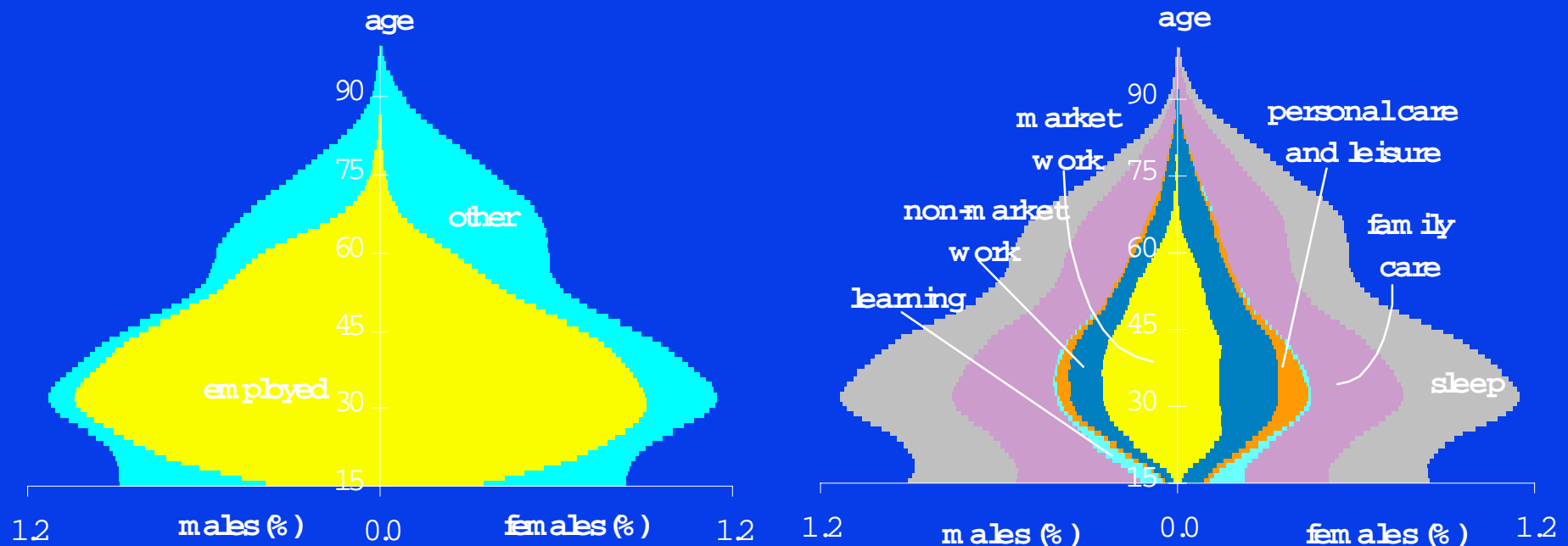


Standard Multi-State and Increment- Decrement Working Life Tables

Year	Average age at			Number of Years	
	LF Entry	Retirement	Death	Working	Retired
1921	17.5	62.7	67.6	45.2	4.9
1931	18.0	63.0	68.4	45.0	5.4
1941	18.2	63.1	69.1	44.9	6.0
1951	18.5	62.9	70.4	44.4	7.5
1961	19.2	63.0	71.2	43.8	8.2
1971	19.8	62.3	71.3	42.5	9.0
1986a	20.0	65.5	73.8	44.6	8.3
1986b	20.0	60.3	73.8	39.4	13.5

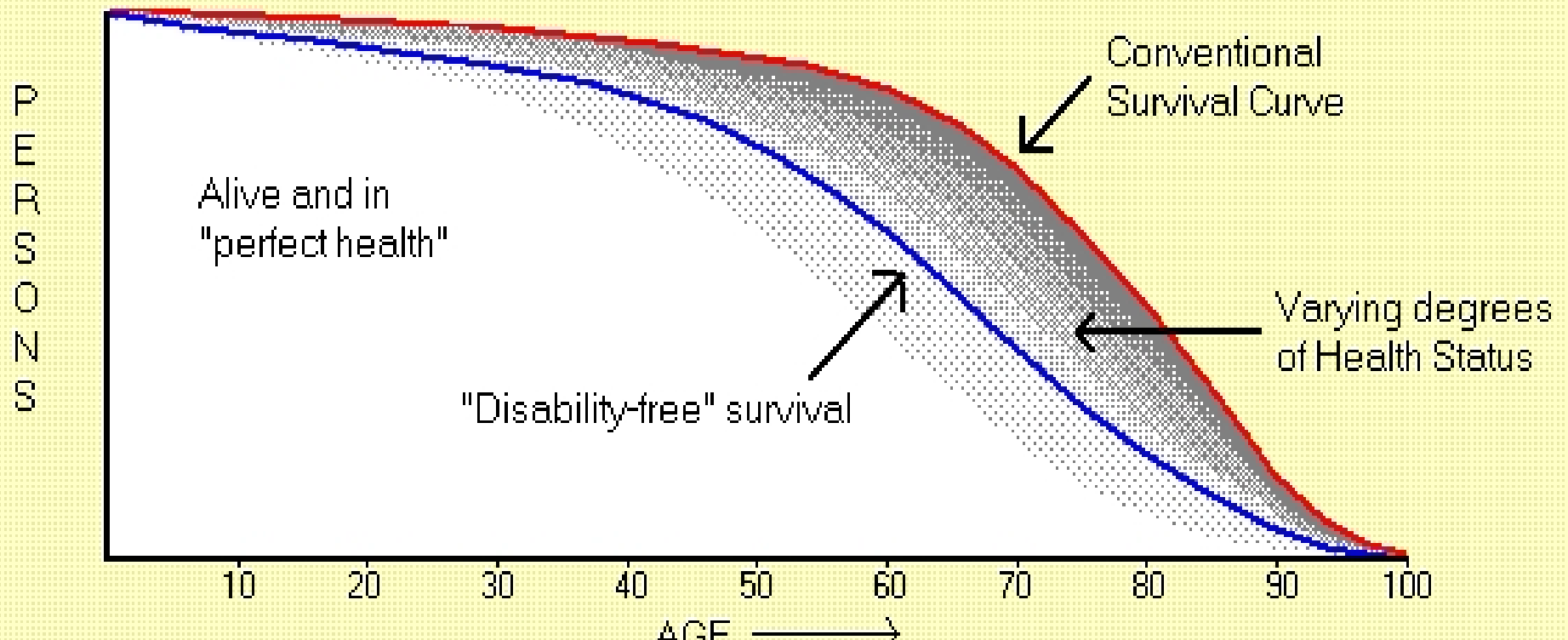


Population (%) Age 15+ by Age, Sex and Activity for Two Levels of Time "Granularity", 1991



Basic Concepts — LE and HALE

- life expectancy (LE) \leftrightarrow morbidity \leftrightarrow both, e.g. Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy (HALE)
- LE = area under survival curve
- HALE = "weighted" area under survival curve

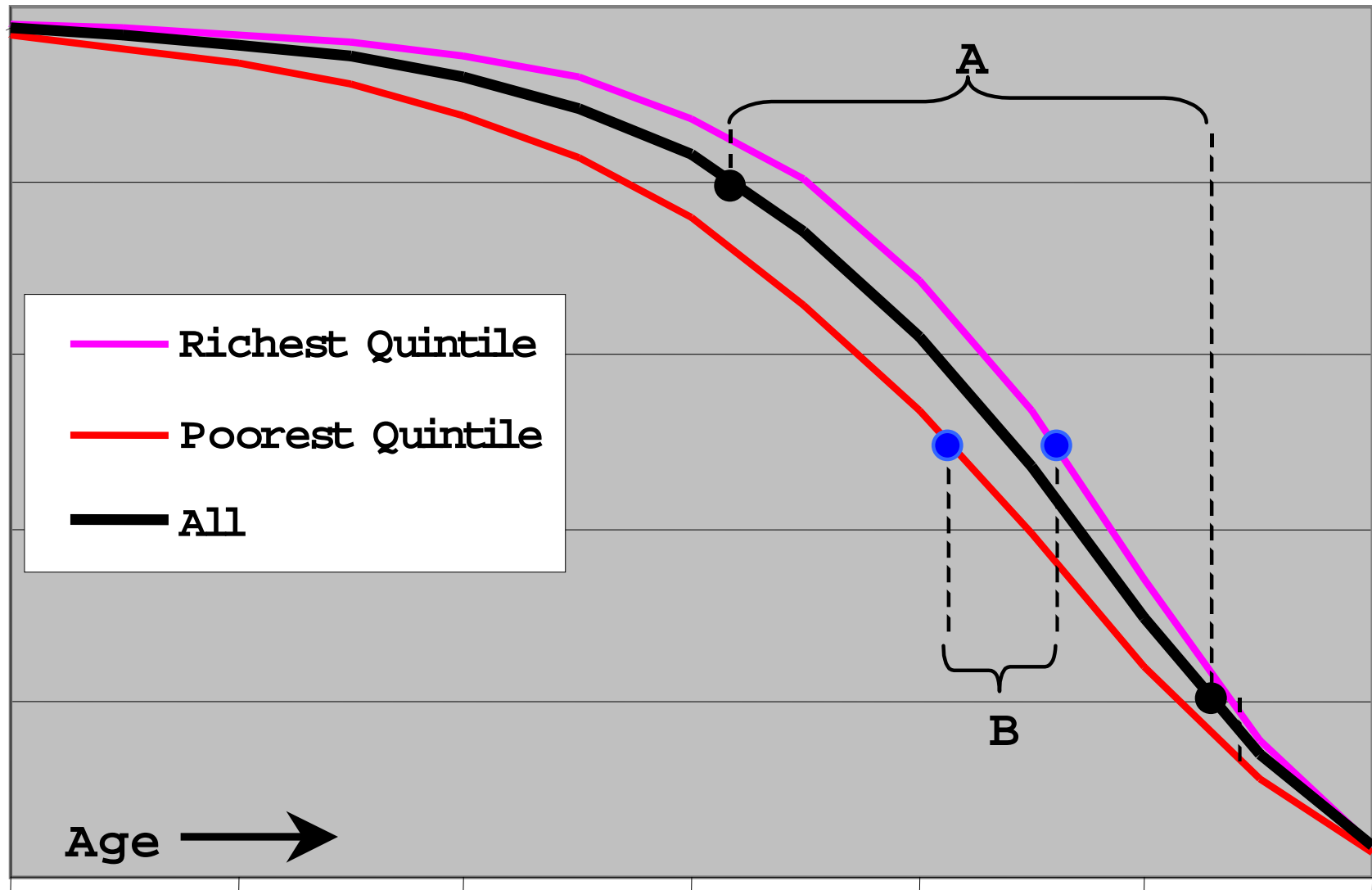


Two Kinds of Health Inequality

- overall inequality = (technically, from economics or statistics)
 - ranking of univariate or marginal distributions in terms of dispersion or variance
 - based on Lorenz curves, e.g. Gini coefficient
 - does not work for multivariate distributions
- social inequality = relationship between health and socio-economic status
 - essentially a bivariate or conditional relationship



Inequality and Survival Curves, Canada, 1996 (Urban) Males



Health Inequality — Ideal versus Practical

- WHO ideal —
 - focus on health-adjusted life lengths
 - prospective expectations
 - ⇒ complex, data intensive, projections
 - ⇒ should be focus of a research program
- Practical for international comparisons
 - overall — based on survival curve
 - social — small area census, mortality rates



Concluding Comments

- social class — not useful statistically
- social indicators — (re) nascent
- post-PowerPoint — statistical graphics + richly multi-multi-mi-lo data + modern micro-simulation methods ⇒ new generation of social indicators
- health inequalities: both overall and social are important; can be integrated

