

# Role of Nutrition in the Context of an Aging Population







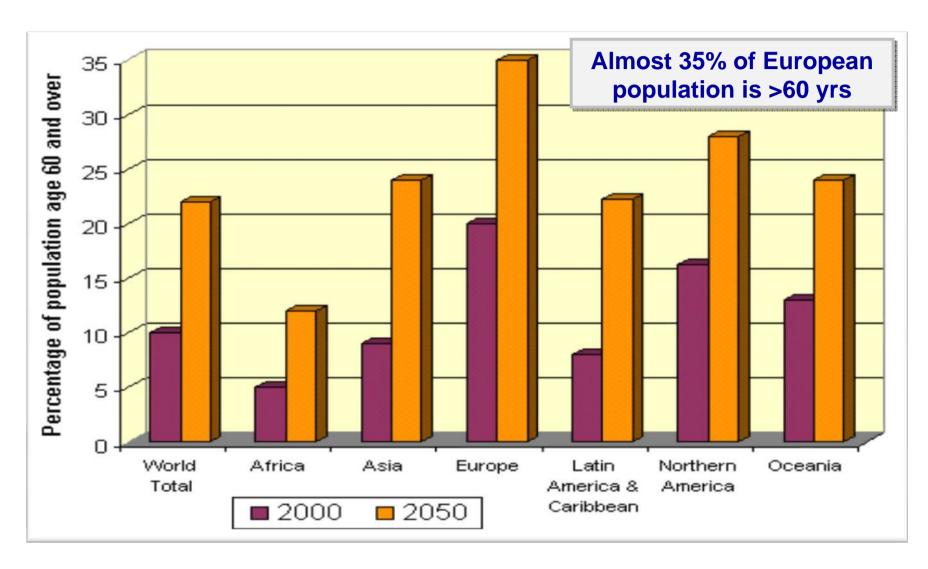


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Zurich, 18 January 2010

# The Ageing Population by Region

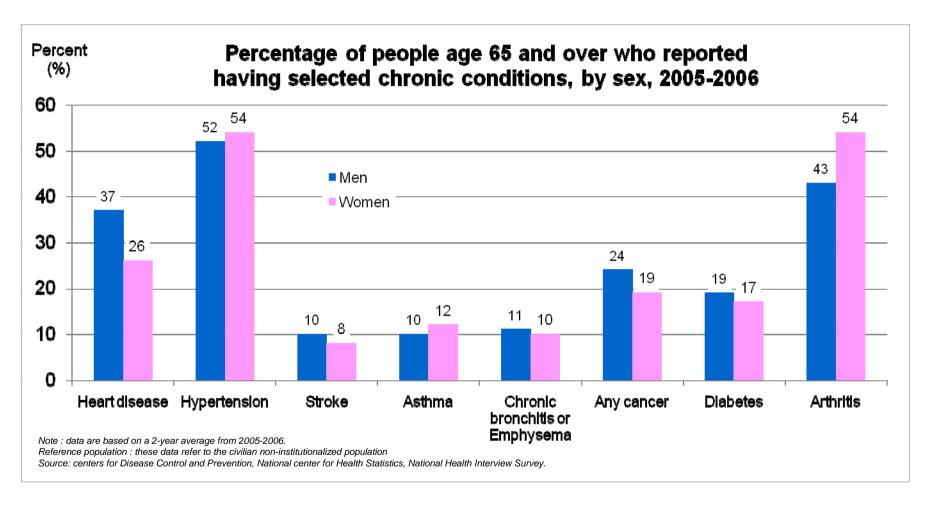




Source: World Population Prospects, The 1998 Revision, Volume II: Sex and Age. The Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat

#### **Chronic Disease and Malnutrition**





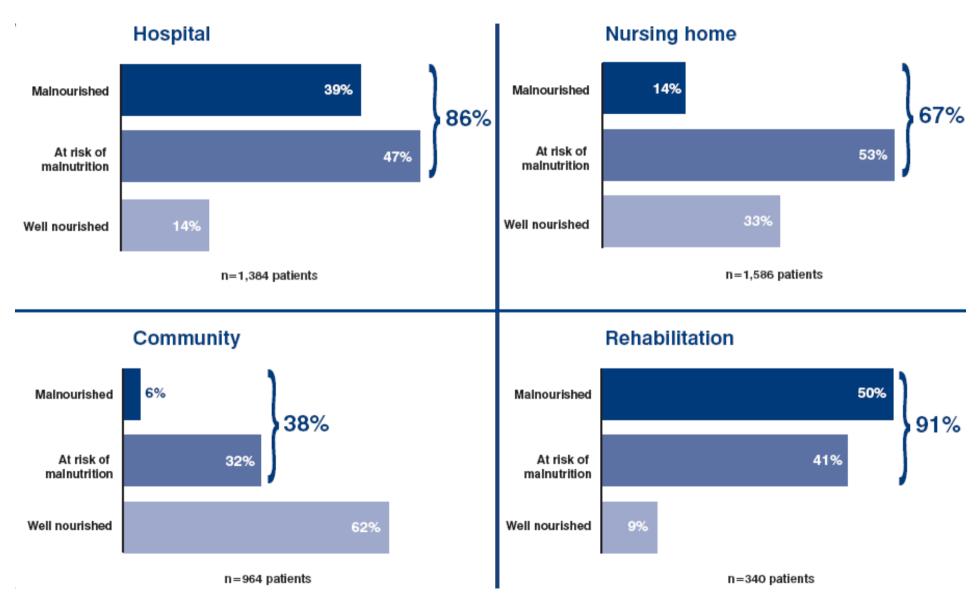
#### **Malnutrition:**

- A common consequence of chronic disease
- 38% of community dwelling elderly are at risk of malnutrition or malnourished

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### **Malnutrition in the Elderly**





# **Factors Impacting Nutrition Intake with Aging**



#### Altered taste and smell

Results in decreased appetite

#### Oral health problems (chewing, dry mouth)

Results in poor diet quality; avoidance of protein sources

#### Decreased physical activity and mobility

- Decreased appetite thus less food to retrieve needed nutrients
- Impaired ability to shop, carry groceries, prepare meals

#### Illness / Chronic Disease

- Decreased appetite
- Use of multiple medications
  - Impairs appetite
  - Interfere with nutrient absorption

#### Psychosocial Issues (depression, isolation)

- Decreased appetite and stimulation to eat
- Impaired ability to shop

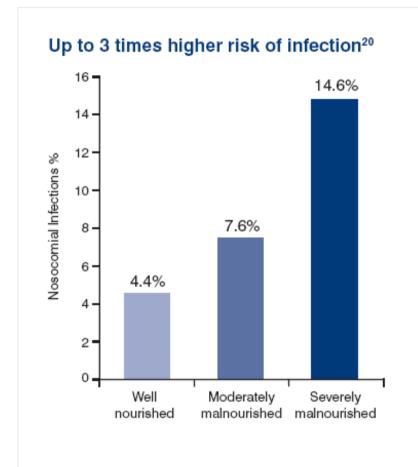
#### Financial Issues

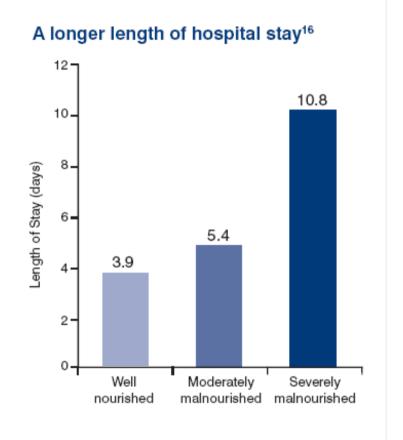
Fixed income restricts access to high quality foods

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## **Malnutrition Impacts Outcome**



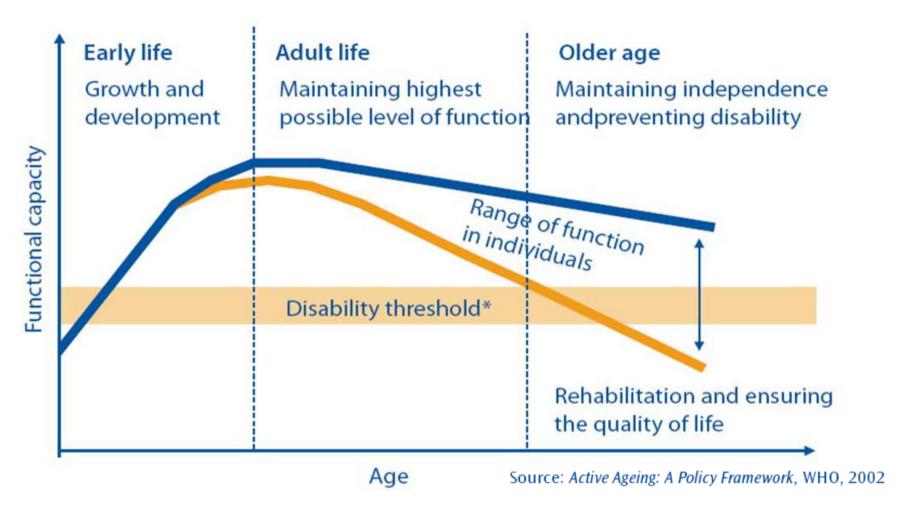




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# **Maintaining Functional Capacity Over the Life Course**



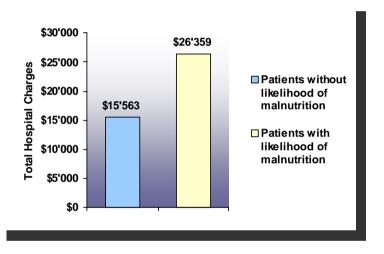


Maintaining functionality & independence in the elderly population is considered as a #1 priority to prevent decline & institutionalization

#### **Cost of Malnutrition**



- In Europe
  - 33 million people are at risk of malnutrition
  - Estimated cost: €170 billion
- With malnutrition there are higher costs of hospitalisation



- Disease related malnutrition costs in the UK are estimated at €15 billion / year
  - 10% health & social care expenditure
- Economic costs of obesity & overweight are only about ½ of the cost of disease related malnutrition

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"Nutritional intervention holds the promise of mitigating the growing burden of chronic disease and disability and improving the quality of life of the rapidly growing older population."

Geriatric Nutrition, ed. Morley, Thomas, 2007

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