# Comparing health inequalities in Scotland to elsewhere in Europe

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## Background

European health inequalities comparisons

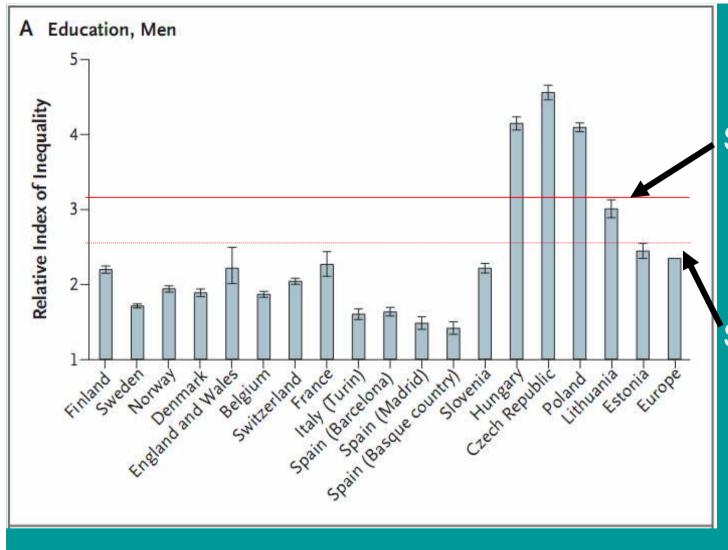
Scotland excluded

Replicate for Scotland

New methods

#### Data and methods

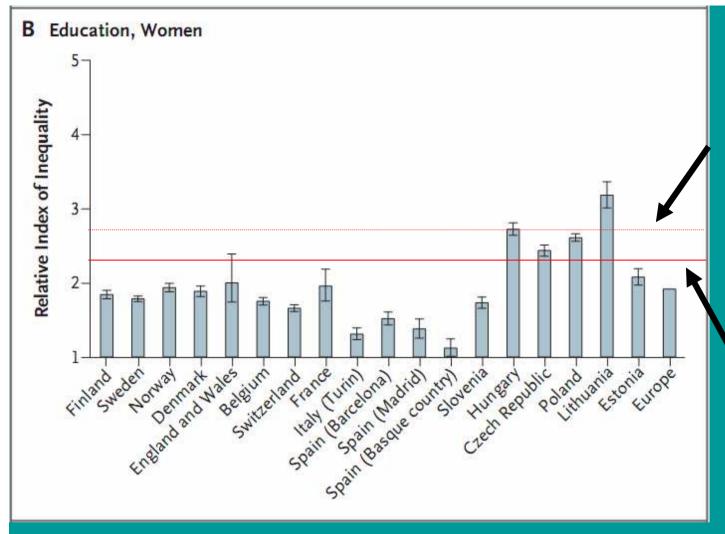
- Scottish Longitudinal Study & Scottish Health Survey 2003
  - SLS = 5.3% sample 1991 and 2001 census
  - SLS = Linked to vital events
  - Slope and Relative Index of Inequality
  - Replicate
- Human Mortality Database
  - Lost life expectancy



Scotland 1991 = 3.19

Scotland 2001 = 2.59

Source: Mackenback et al (2008) & Scottish Longitudinal Study



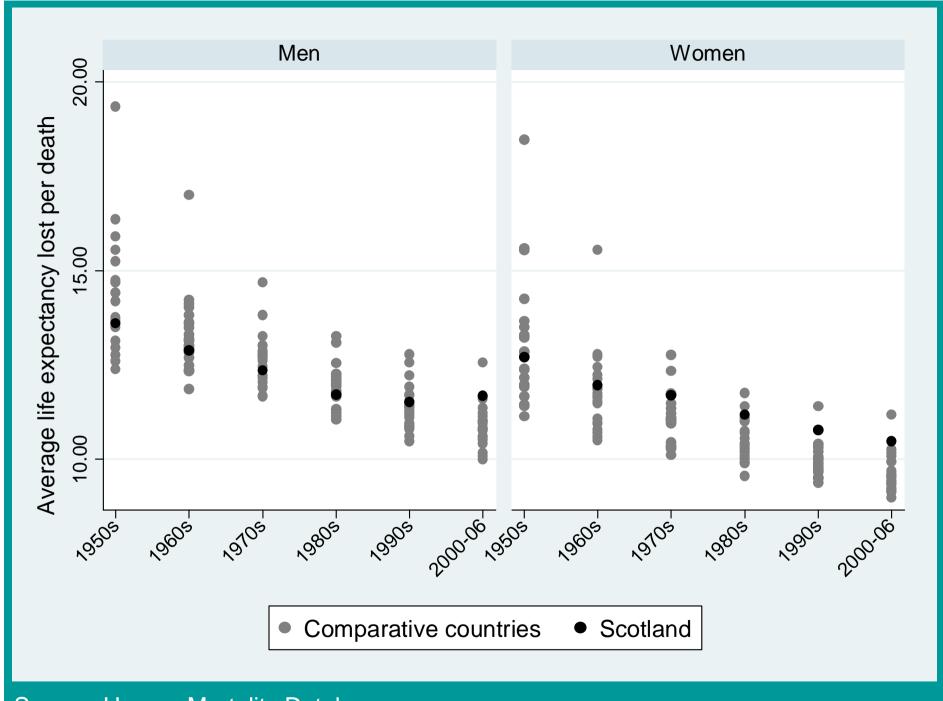
Scotland 2001 = 2.85

Scotland 1991 = 2.21

Source: Mackenback et al (2008) & Scottish Longitudinal Study

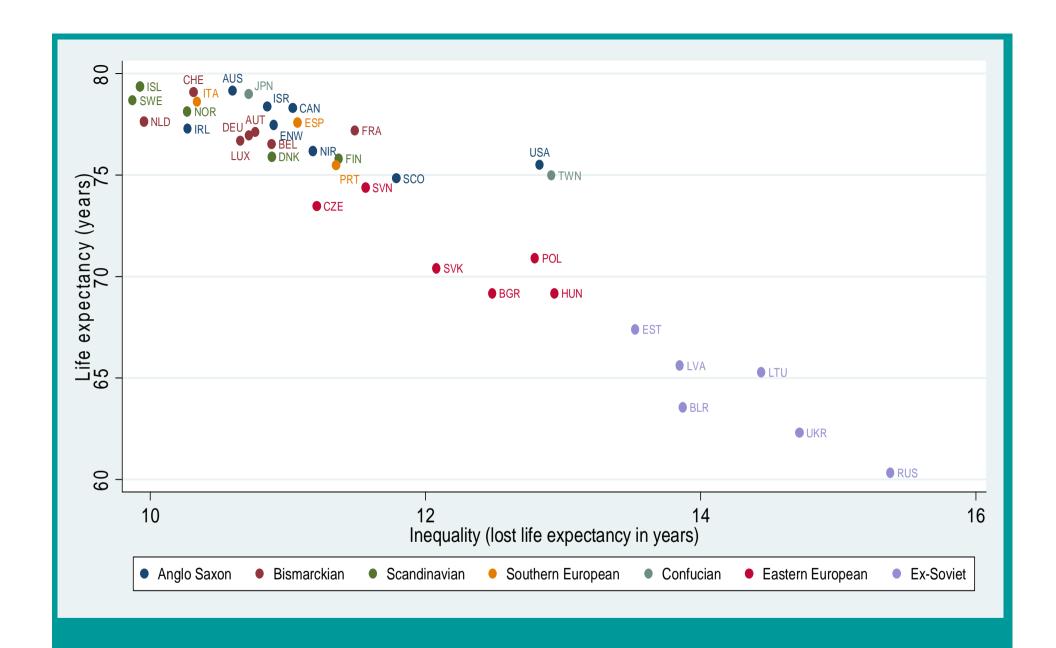
### Further results

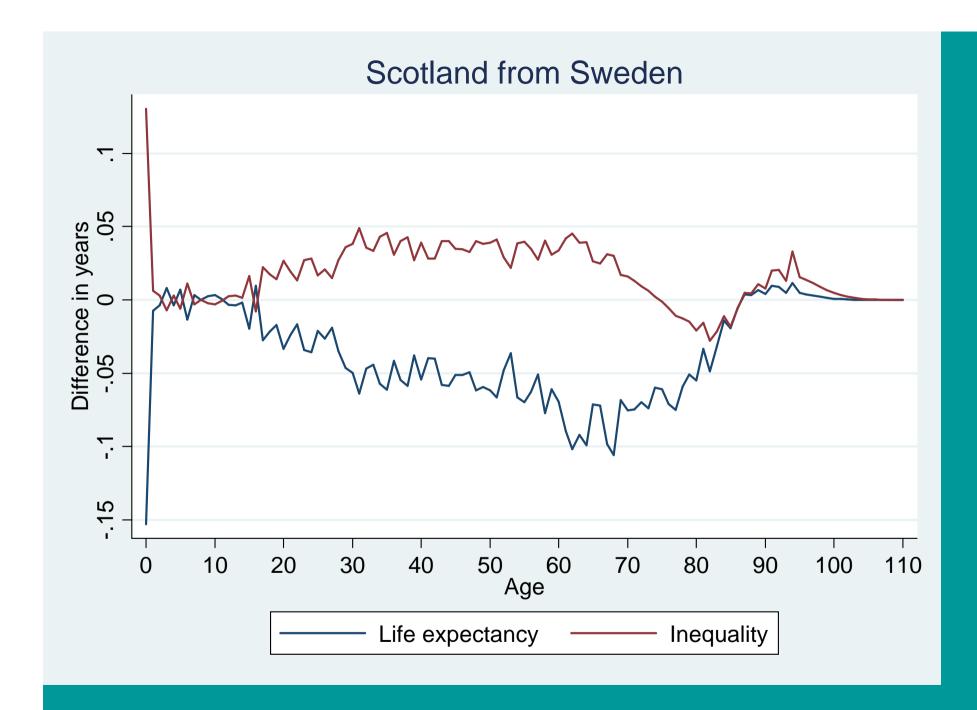
- Smoking related causes important for inequalities in mortality
- Highest inequalities in smoking comparatively
- Inequalities in self rated health comparatively very high in Scotland
- Obesity inequalities not comparatively high



Source: Human Mortality Database







#### Conclusion

- Large health inequalities in Scotland compared to many other countries
  - Evidence of widening overtime
- Need to include Scotland in future comparative projects
- Alternative measures exist
  - Capture social determinants? (Yes I would argue)

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