

The ageing society



**Organisational, financing and policy issues
Home care for elderly in Sweden**

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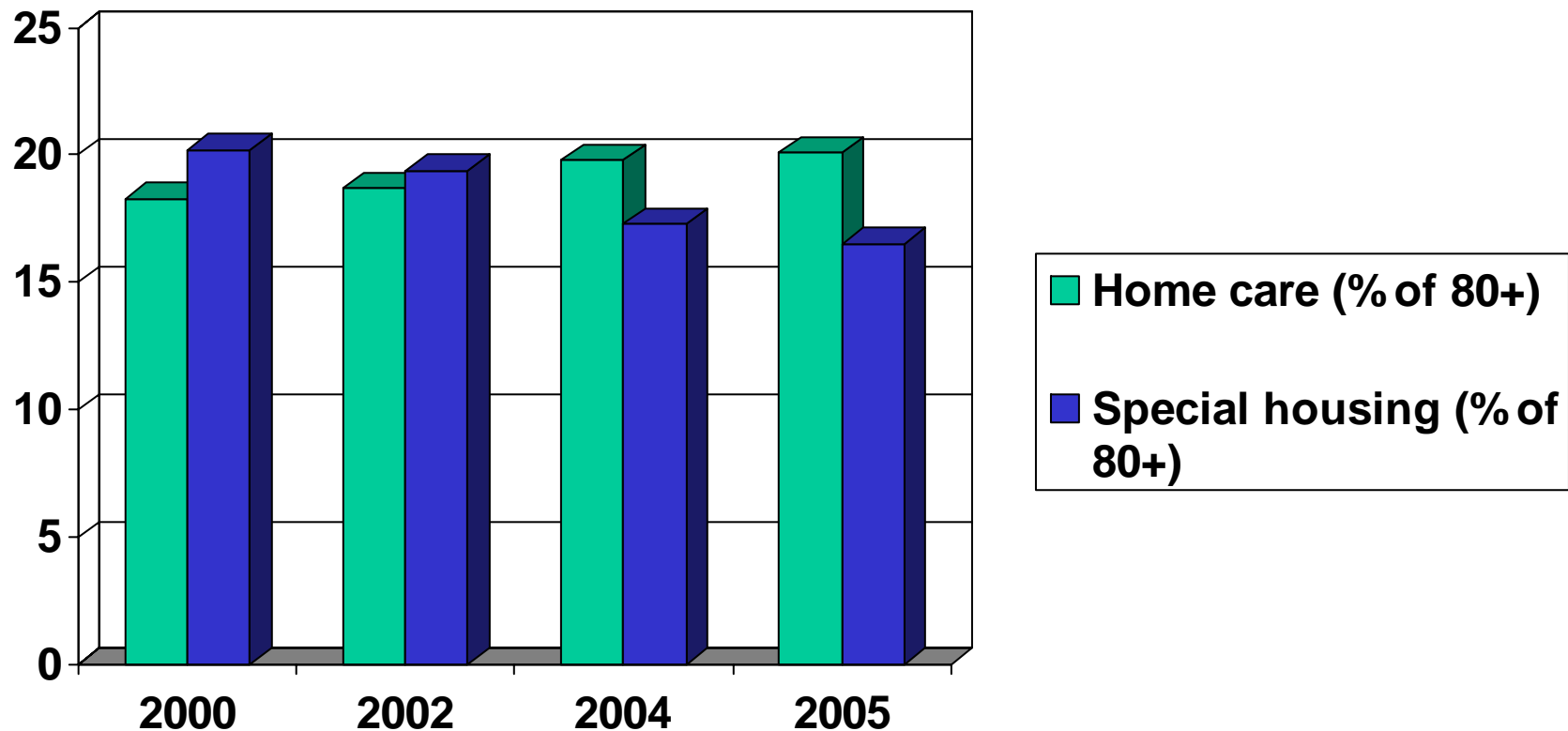
**Christer Neleryd
Director
National Board of Health and Welfare
Stockholm, Sweden**

Home care in Sweden

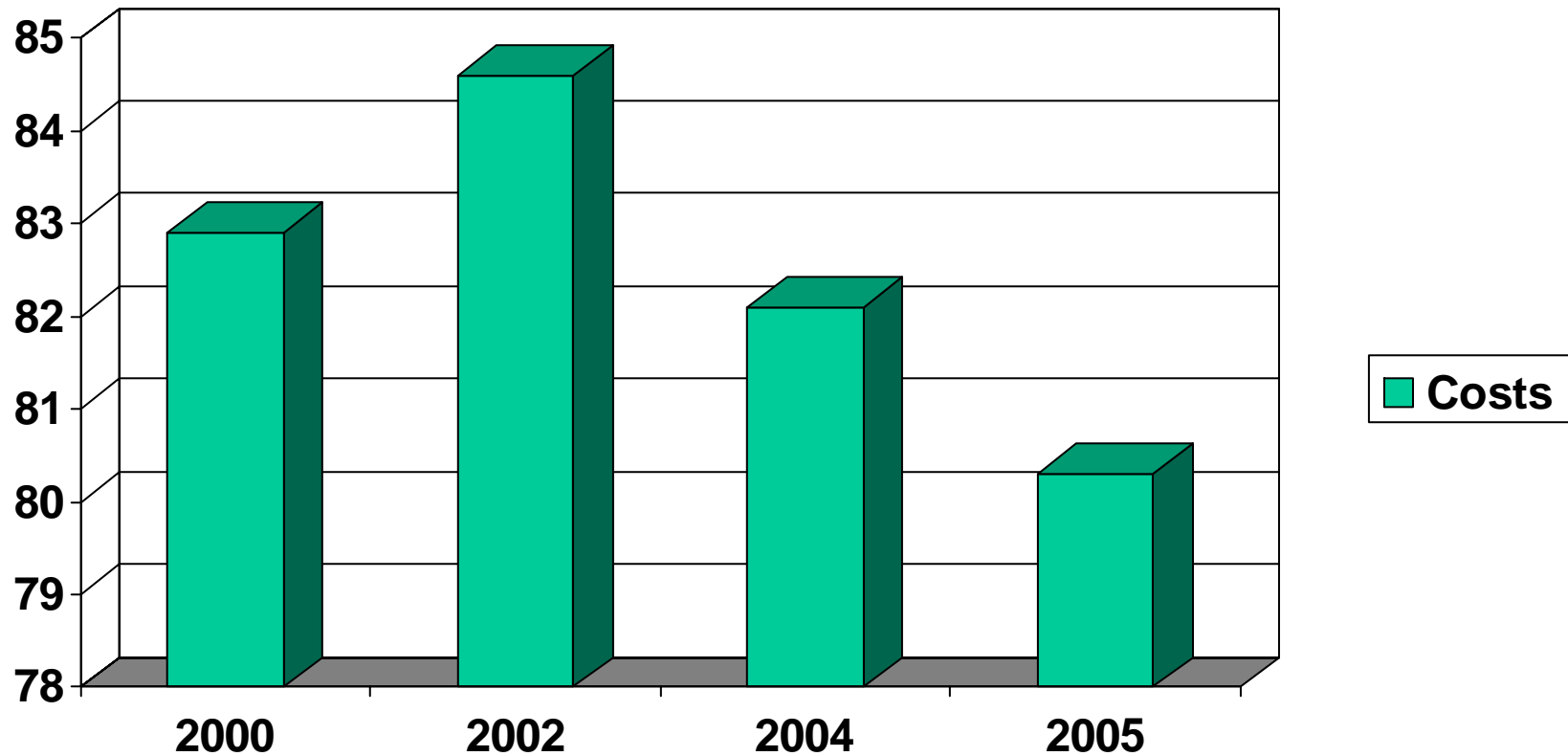


- 135.000 persons (60% of the care of elderly) receive home care in ordinary housing
- 4000 of them need help at least 120 hours/month
- They receive help from doctors, nurses, home help staff and physiotherapists
- The social and health policy supports home care from the 1950s

Home care or special housing care for people 80 years and older



Costs for care of elderly 2000-2005 (billion SEK)



Requirements for good home care



Public service

- Personal help, cleaning, meals
- Home nursing care
- Qualified staff

Voluntary activities

- Informal carers
- Meeting points

Market-oriented service

- Commercial service near by
- Functional dwellings

Public and private activities

- Systems for documentation and communication
- Security alarms
- Environment suitable for disabled persons
- Transportation services

Strength



- **A legal right for elderly to receive public service and help**
- **Help for independant living**
- **A decentralized system**
- **Social care and health care are mostly organized by the local authority**
- **The public opinion supports a public financing and a strong care of elderly**
- **2,9% of GDP - 17 billion Euros/year**

Weaknesses

- *"They don't find out what I want"*
- *"So many strange persons every day"*
- Unclear assignment of responsibility
- Lack of education in parts of the staff
- Little use of data
- Little use of experience from research
- Focus on economics, not on quality
- The support from the family is necessary

Opportunities for action



- Strong consumers
- Comparative information about results and quality
- Consumer-choice systems
- Market-oriented service as a complement
- Great differences in costs – an area for benchmarking
- A mixture of public, private and voluntary activities
- Home care – an area for technical development

Threats

- The problems of tax financing
- Can elderly with low incomes be protected in a system with a growing market-oriented sector?
- Reduced confidence in the home care
- Increasing demand for special housing
- The demographic challenge – increasing or reduced demand for care of elderly?
- Can the care of elderly be attractive for youth?

Summary



- Home care – the predominant form for care of elderly in Sweden
- A social policy issue *and* a way to reduce the costs
- Focus on quality *and* economics
- Consumers´ choice – a way to an increased quality?
- The co-operation between private, voluntary and public actors must be developed
- New role for the municipality: the conductor

Thank you for listening!



Christer Neleryd