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Living longer, living healthier and working longer

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Background and context

- Canadians are living longer.
- Workforce is aging.
- Does living longer imply working longer?
- Does living longer imply living healthier?
- Do older workers have less than full health at work?
- This article explores these questions using a set of health and labour indicators for individuals nearing or in the age range for retirement and examines them between 2001 and 2011.

What is already known?

- Framework to compute life expectancy (LE), health-adjusted life expectancy (HALE) and loss of healthy life years (LHLY)
- Framework to compute working life expectancy (WLE) and nonworking life expectancy (NWLE)

What does this study add?

- Combines the two frameworks to derive health-adjusted working life expectancy (HAWLE) and loss of healthy working life years (LHWLY) because of illness
- Gives rise, with these new estimates, to a comprehensive family of health expectancies



Methods and data

Prevalence-based method

- Combine complete period life tables with the global health utilities index (HUI) scores.
- Combine complete period life tables with labour force participation rates.
- Derive two sets of working life expectancies (WLE): one for the population as a whole, and the other, for individuals who are in the labour force.
- Use Health Utility Index scores for individuals who are in the labour force to estimate health-adjusted working life expectancy (HAWLE).
- Other work and health expectancies were produced by combining health status (full or poor health) and labour market status (working or not working).



Data sources

- The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), cycle 1.1, 2010 and 2012
- The Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Life table estimates for 2001 and 2011
- The 2001 Census
- The 2011 Census
- The National Population Health Survey (NPHS)
- The Vital Statistics–Death Database

A coherent set of health indicators

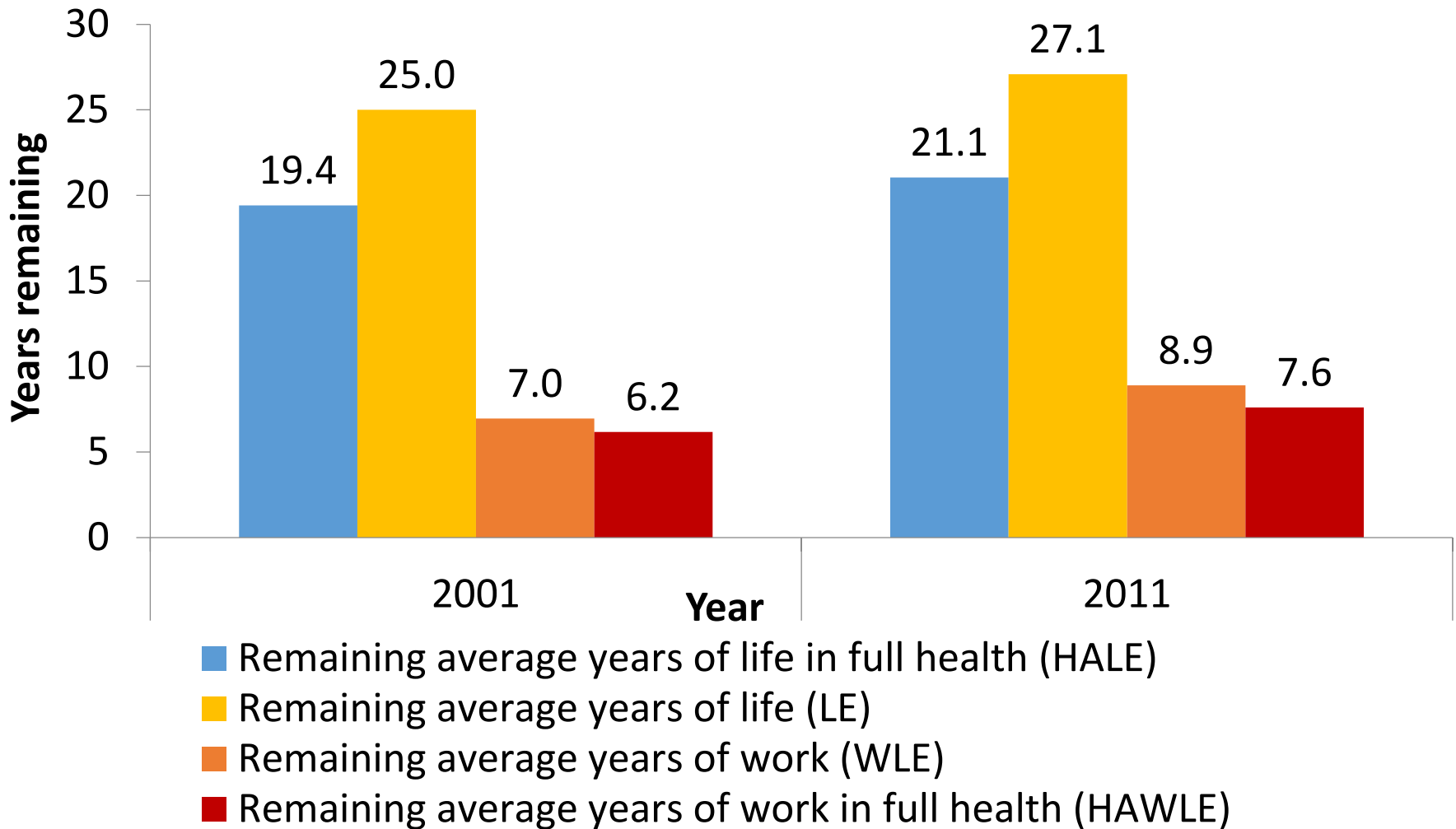
Labour market status	Health status		
	Full health	Poor health	All
Working	Health-adjusted working life expectancy (HAWLE)	Loss of healthy working life years (LHWLY)	Working life expectancy (WLE)
Nonworking	Health-adjusted nonworking life expectancy (HANWLE)	Loss of healthy nonworking life years (LHNWLY)	Nonworking life expectancy (NWLE)
All	Health-adjusted life expectancy (HALE)	Loss of healthy life years (LHLY)	Life expectancy (LE)



Results for the population as a whole

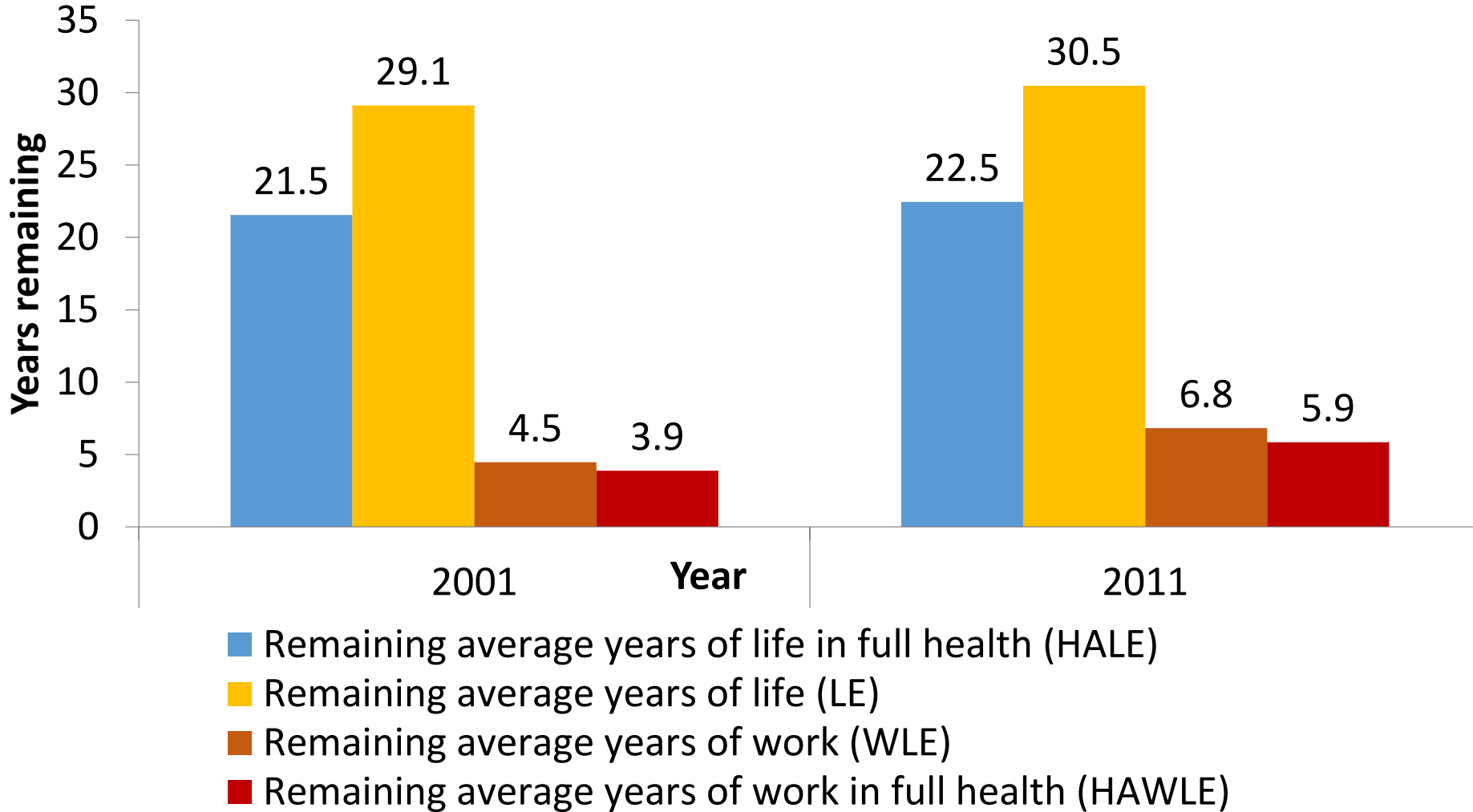


What is the remaining average years of work in full health for men at age 55?





What is the remaining average years of work in full health for women at age 55?





Distribution of remaining average years of life at age 55 according to labour market and health status, by sex, 2011

	Men		Total
	Full health	Poor health	
Working	7.6	1.3	8.9
Nonworking	13.5	4.7	18.2
Total	21.1	6.0	27.1
Women			
Working	5.9	0.9	6.8
Nonworking	16.6	7.1	23.7
Total	22.5	8.0	30.5



Summary



The story we have told

- Canadian males and females are living and working longer.
- There is an improvement in quality of life for both men and women.
- There is an improvement in the quality of working life for both men and women.
- Working life is generally spent healthy.
- There is a number of healthy nonworking life years that could potentially be used to increase working life.



Some questions that are worth pondering

- Are there any income disparities in working life expectancy and health-adjusted working life expectancy?
- Are there any regional disparities in working life expectancy and health-adjusted working life expectancy?
- As life expectancy increases, do people invest the additional years of life gained in the workplaces?
- Do people decrease their participation in the labour market by choosing additional years of education?
- What is the contribution of various age groups to the total number of years of work in full health?