

The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Health and Healthcare in Europe

Steve Thomas
Associate Professor
Centre for Health Policy and Management, TCD

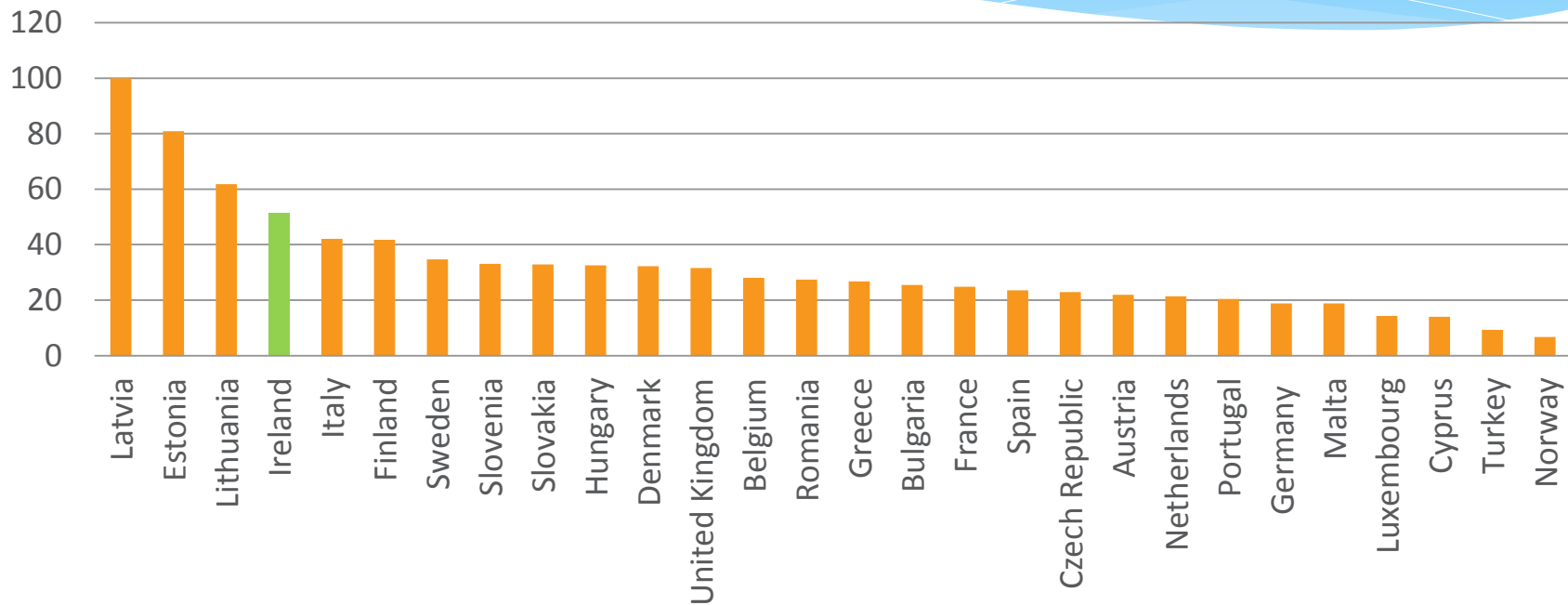
Scope

- * How bad was it?
- * How did the health care systems of different countries respond?
- * Have households been protected?
- * Have needs been met?
- * What has been the impact on health?
- * Where now?

Sources

- * The Resilience Project (2011-2014)
www.resilience4health.com
- * WHO Health Systems Strengthening Office, Barcelona
- * European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies

Recession Severity Index 2008-2009



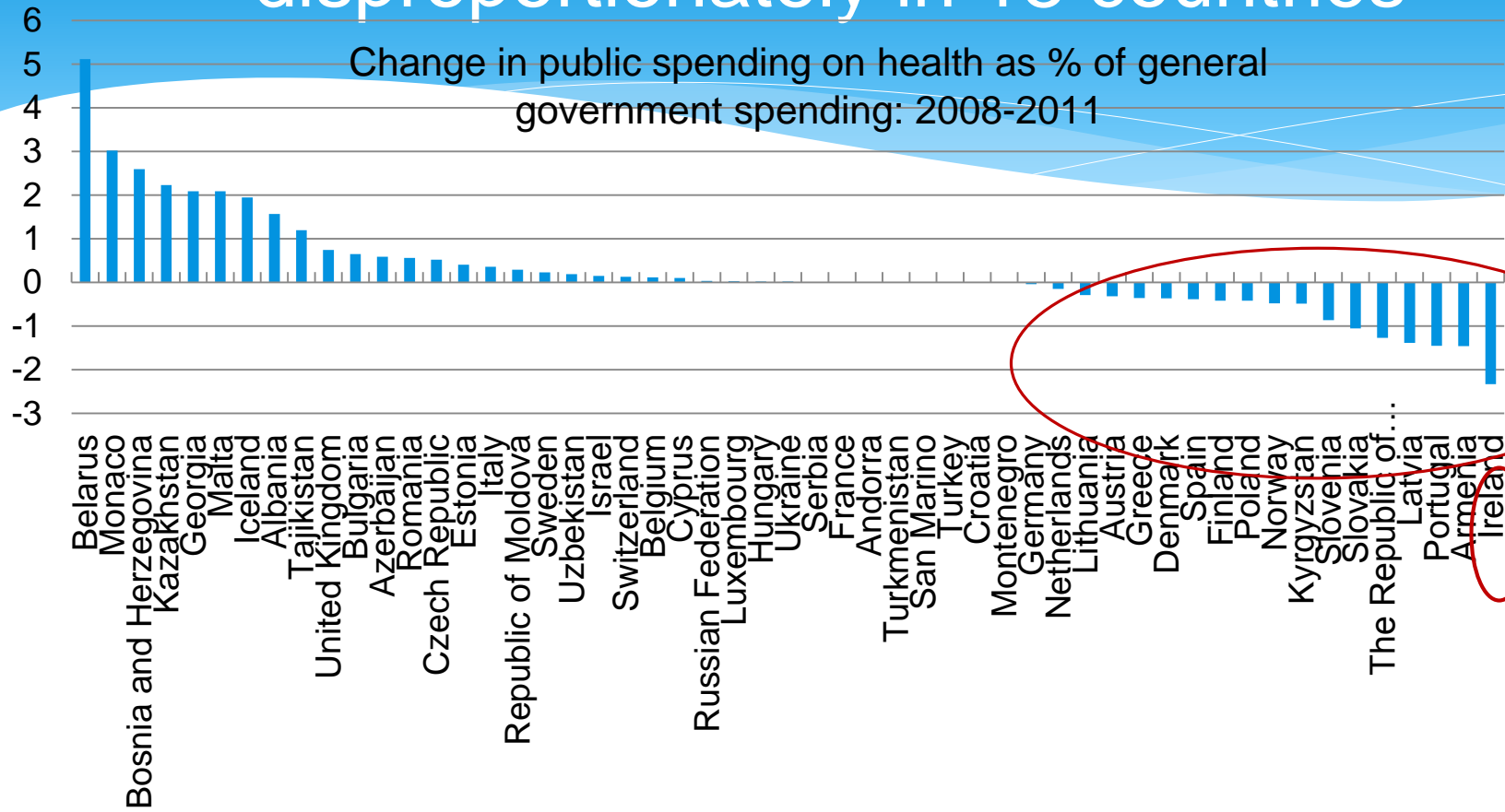
Oslo II study (2014)

WHO (47 European countries)

Coping strategies for Health Care:

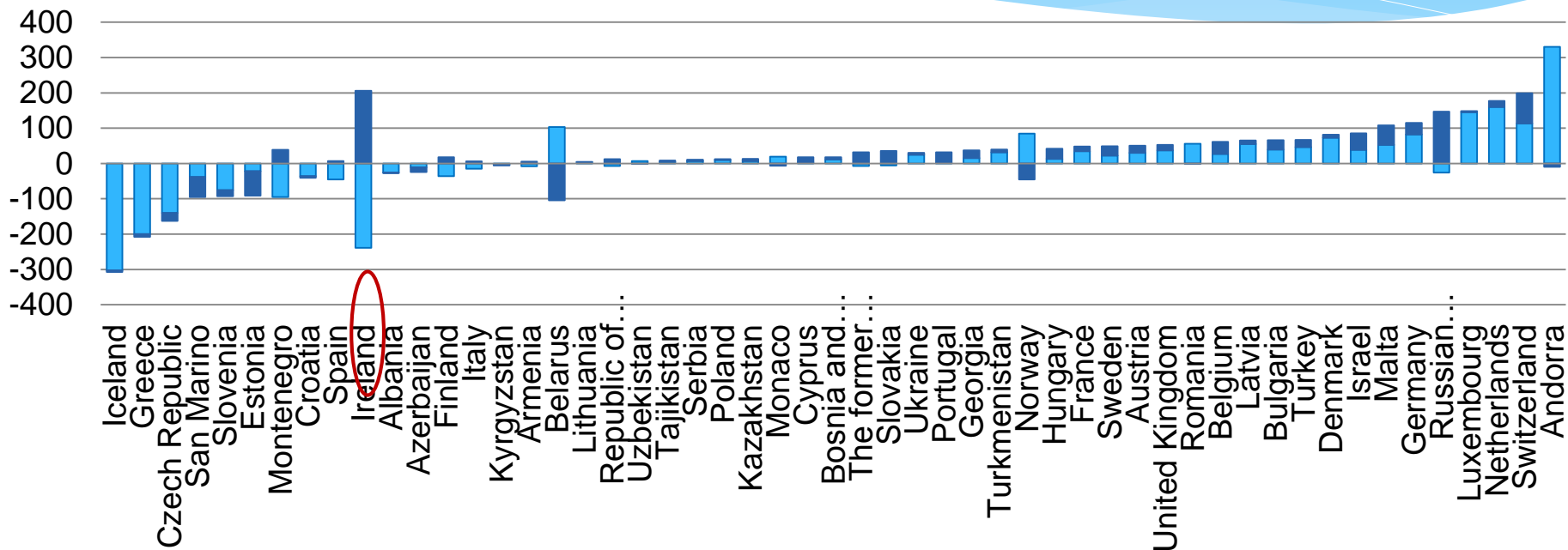
- * 25 countries increased user fees
- * 24 reduced public funded package of services
- * 80% pushed efficiencies
- * Only 5 countries reduced entitlements
- * Excuse for long-overdue change
- * Households under pressure

Public spending on health fell disproportionately in 18 countries

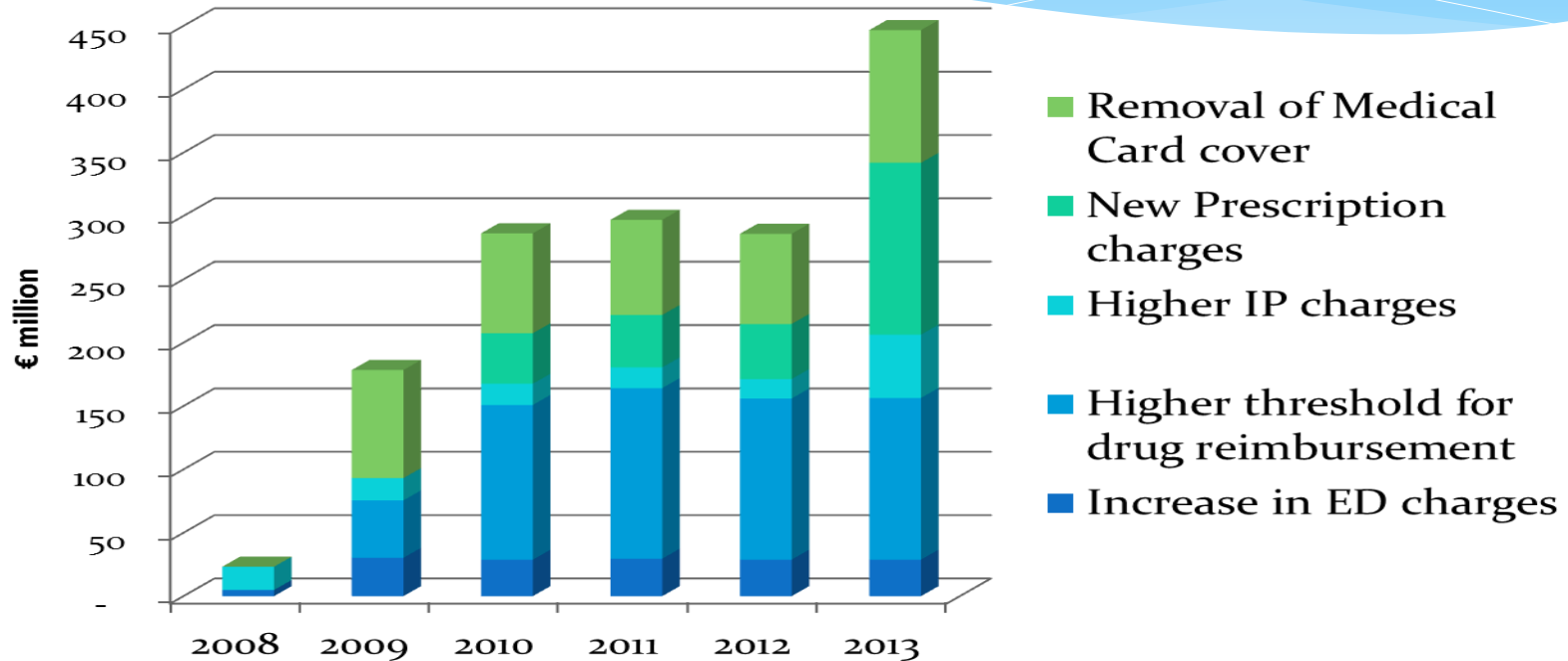


Private spending on health increased during the crisis, mainly due to higher OOPs (2009 – 2010)

■ Private expenditure on health / capita at Purchasing Power Parity (NCU per US\$)



Financial Protection?



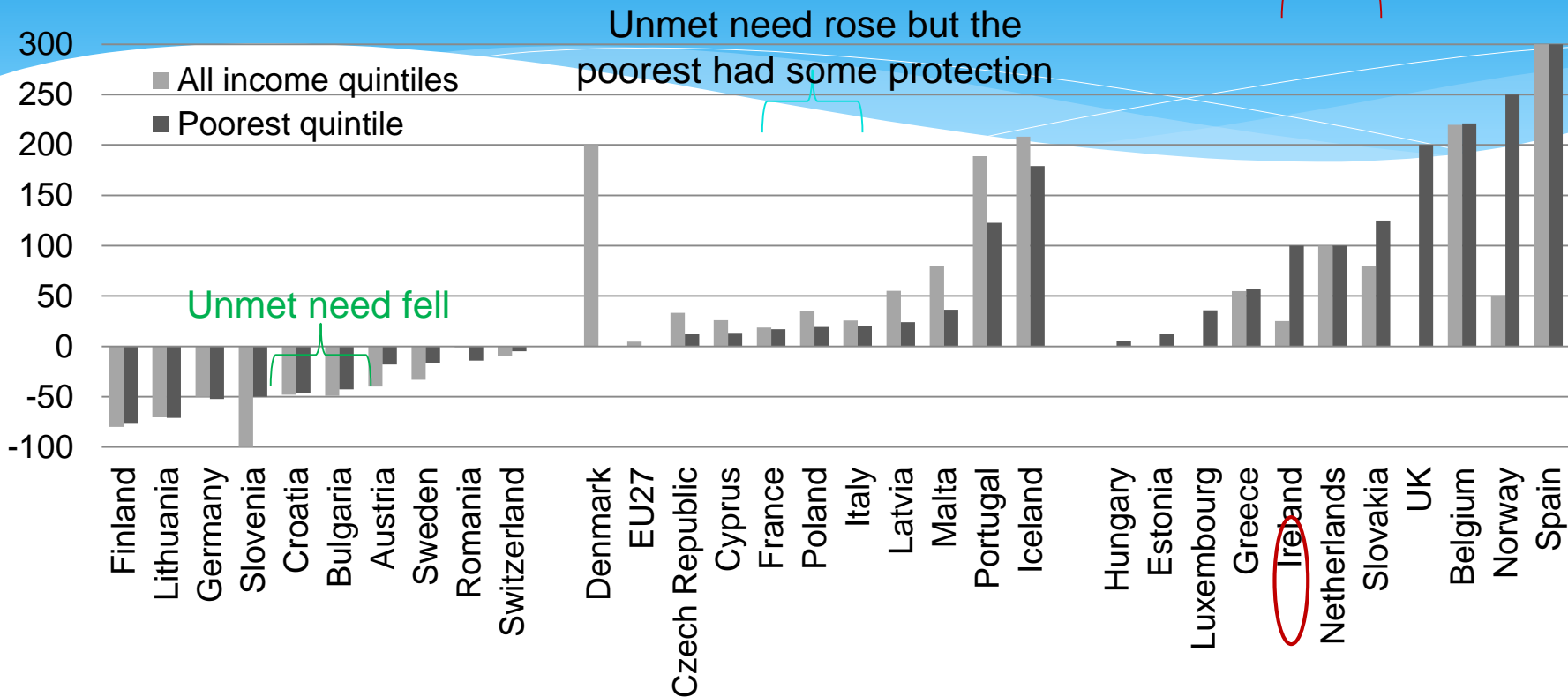
Households: on the edge



- * Increased access costs for public health care
Affordability
 - * Deprivation doubled 2008-2012 (CSO)
 - * Incomes down but mortgage payments not
 - * 1.1 m had less than €50 after all bills paid, Sep 2013
- * Private Insurance: premia up and cover down
 - * 200 000 fewer covered from

Change in self-reported unmet need for cost reasons, 2008-2012

Unmet need rose and the poorest were not sufficiently protected



Impacts on Health

Previous Crises:

- * Better health?

Better diet, less alcohol, less driving, more exercise

- * Vs worse health

Higher unemployment, higher binge drinking, higher suicide rates

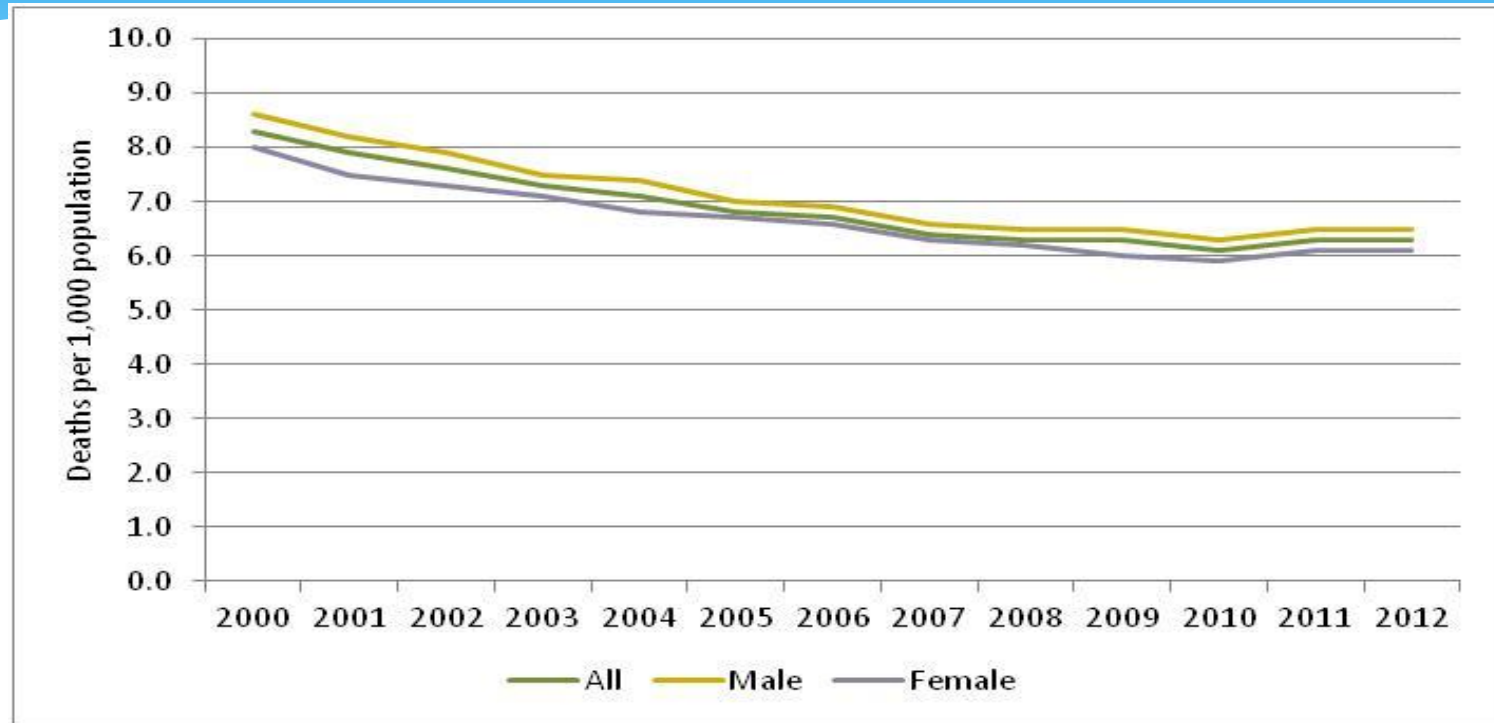
“Unemployment is associated with increased unhealthy behaviours and affects mental health, leading to increased psychosocial and behavioural disorders and increased risk of psychosomatic diseases and suicides.” (Karanikolos et al 2013)

Impacts on Health

Current crisis:

- * Incidence of mental disorders has increased in Greece and Spain
- * Number of suicides in EU for under 65s has grown since 2007 (reversing previous trend)
- * Increased incidence of suicides in England between 2008-10 significantly associated with increased unemployment
- * Shortage of data on outcomes and also on quality of health care.

Total, male and female death rates per 1,000 population, 2000-2012



Source: Nolan et al, 2014, CSO

Conclusions

- * Higher specific needs
- * High barriers to access
- * Less care available
- * Good governance is counter-cyclical
 - * Estonia and Lithuania
- * Health beyond healthcare

The End



Thank You