

# Changing demographics of disability

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## Percentage of total population with a disability in Ireland, CSO figures

	2002	2006
Total.	8.3%	9.4%
Males	7.8%	9.1%
Females	8.8%	9.6%

# Incidence of traumatic SCI

World wide

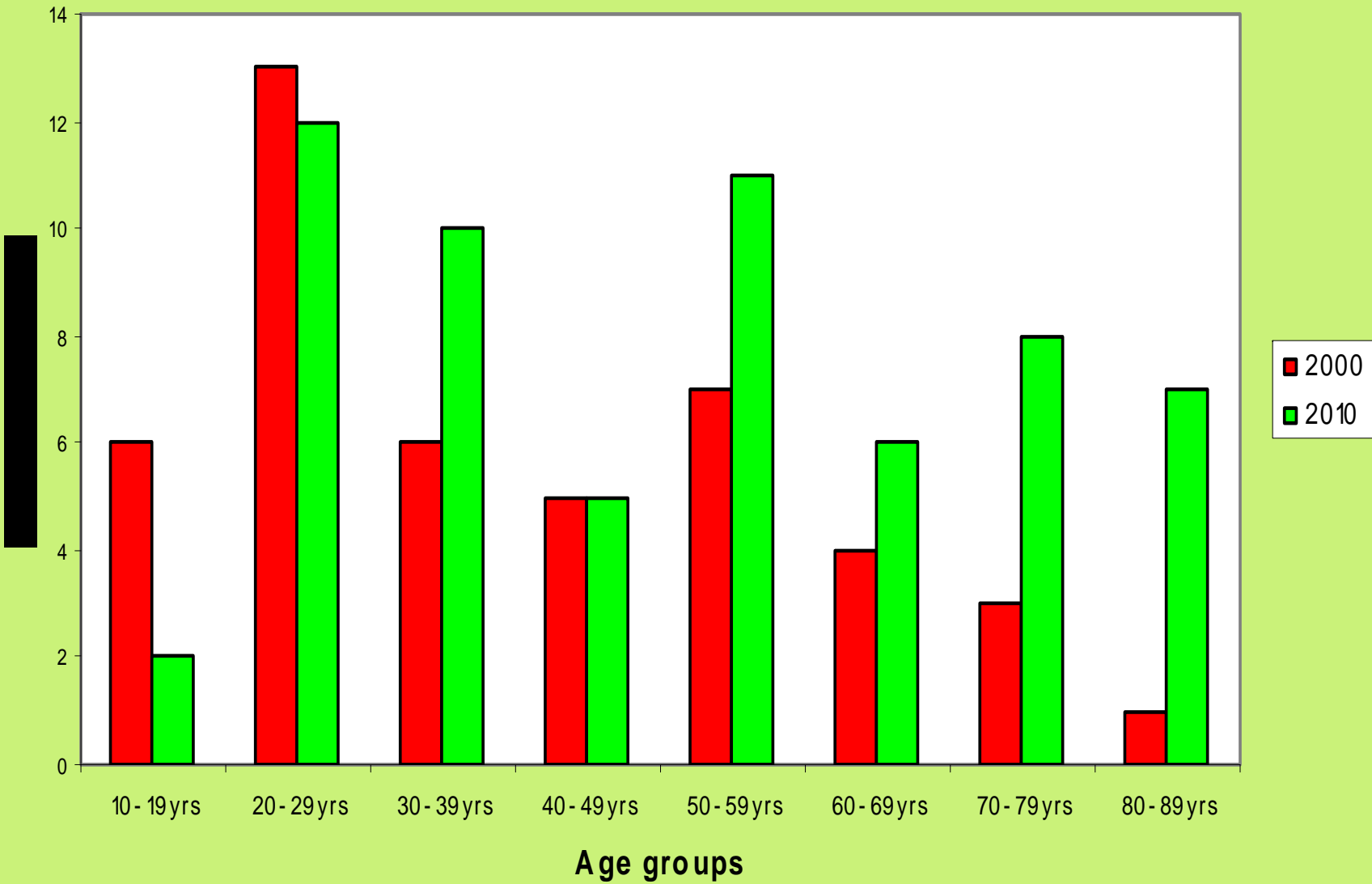
Ireland



# Changing epidemiology of SCI

- Mean age of population sustaining SCI
- Incomplete injuries
- Survival & ageing
- SCI of other aetiology
  - Degenerative disease
  - Metastases

# Nos. sustaining traumatic SCI per age group



# Changing epidemiology of SCI

- Mean age of population sustaining SCI
- Level & completeness of injuries
- Survival/life expectancy
- SCI of other aetiology:
  - Degenerative disease
  - Metastases

# Impact on acute care & post-acute rehabilitation

- Location of rehabilitation
- Pre-existing medical problems
- Medical complications prior to & during rehabilitation
- Management of systems affected by SCI

# Impact on discharge planning

- Younger patients with high level of need
- Emphasis on return close to home
- Poorer functional outcomes
- Higher likelihood of nursing home discharge
- Difficulties with nursing home discharges

# Ageing with disability

## What the patients report...

- Deterioration in strength & mobility
- Increased fatigue
- Increased spasticity
- More pain
- Change in continence/sphincter problems
- Loss of independence
- Psychological sequelae
- Lack of interested clinicians & facilities

# Why?

## Systems involved...

### Probable premature ageing

- Cardiovascular
- Endocrine
- Musculoskeletal

### Unclear

- Immune system
- Respiratory
- Skin & subcutaneous tissues
- Genitourinary
- Gastrointestinal
- Nervous system

# Drivers for change

- Rehabilitation strategy
- NSF Long-term conditions
- NSF Older people
- National Spinal Cord Injury Strategy Board
- MASCIP guidelines