

Life's defining moments postponed

Danes live longer now, but we also get children later and marry later than we used to. Great events are postponed until later in life.

Danes live on average more than four years longer today than in 1970. Today's average life expectancy is almost 80 years for women and 75 years for men. At the beginning of the 1900s, average life expectancy was almost 53 years for men and 56 years for women.

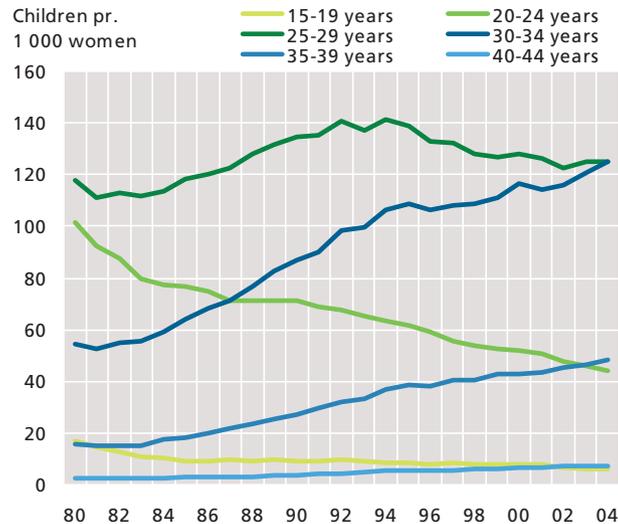
While the Danes live longer, they also get children at a later age. Today Danish women are on average almost 29 years old when they give birth to their first child, which is an increase of 5 years since 1970 when women were almost 24 years old. During the same period Danish women's fertility has decreased from 2 children in 1970 to 1.8 children today. Every woman of fertile age is to give birth to 2.1 children for the population to reproduce itself.

••• DID YOU KNOW THAT

Age is no barrier to love. The three oldest brides in 2004 were 86 years old. The oldest groom was 92 years old. The youngest brides and grooms were only 15 years. •••

Danish men and women are also older before they marry. In 1970, 87 per cent of all 30-year-old women were married, while this is true of only 44 per cent of the women at that age today. Men are on average almost 34 years old and women a little older than 31 years when they marry for the first time. Though Danes marry at a more mature age, marriages have not become more permanent. On the contrary, 2004 set a new record of divorces with 15,774 divorced couples.

AGE RELATED FERTILITY



TOTAL FERTILITY

The number of children that a woman gives birth to, on average, during the fertile age between 15 and 49 years.



AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average length of life based on mortality rates in a given period.

KEY INDICATORS ON THE DANISH POPULATION

	Unit	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004
Av. life expectancy						
Men	years	70.8	71.2	72.0	74.3	75.2
Women		75.7	77.3	77.7	79.0	79.9
Total fertility	per woman	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8
Mother's av. age at 1st child	years	23.7	24.6	26.4	28.1	28.9
Marriages	per	7.4	5.2	6.1	7.2	7.0
Divorces	1 000	1.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9
Most common name						
Girls	first name	Marianne	Mette	Camilla	Julie	Emma
Boys	(new-born)	Henrik	Martin	Christian	Mathias	Mathias