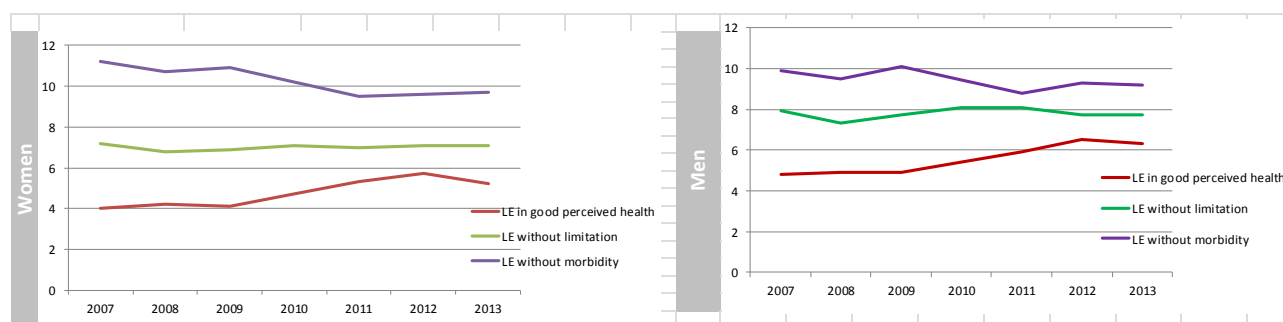


Health expectancies based on activity limitation (HLY), chronic morbidity and perceived health for Italy based on SILC 2007-2013



For all the indicators of 2010 estimated data were used calculated as the mean of 2009 and 2011 data.

Key points

There are as many health expectancies (HE) as concepts of health and each one describes a specific aspect of health, sometimes it could be difficult to use a specific measure only and it could be useful to analyze all HE in order to have a complete picture of the health status of a population.

The three dimensions of health investigated by MEHM show different levels and time trends of HE for Italy. As observed in the previous reports the trends of three different HE are converging in the whole period 2007-2012: HLY is stable, LE without chronic diseases decreases, while LE in good health increases (+1.7 both for women and men).

However in 2013 figures show a worsening of the perceived health status: from 2012 to 2013 the LE in good health decreased of 0.5 and 0.2 years respectively for women and men.

Over this period HLY values tend to be stable, in women a slight decrease of 0.1 year is observed. In men there is a slight increment until 2011, when a drop of 0.4 years from 2011 to 2012 is observed; 2013 data are similar to 2012 ones.

In the overall period the LE without chronic diseases decreases of 1.5 years for women and of 0.7 years for men.

From these apparently incoherent results some warnings are necessary:

- 1) The answers provided in SILC questionnaire are self-reported and may be affected by cultural and individual characteristics of respondents;
- 2) Different dimensions of health and corresponding measures may lead to different results: for example a person may declare of being in good health also if affected by a chronic disease or by a functional limitation;
- 3) To have an exhaustive picture of a population health status and to provide useful information to the stakeholders it is therefore necessary to analyze jointly all the available healthy expectancy indicators.

Therefore caution is needed in using these data and in drawing conclusions from figures and instruments of recent application that are still evolving.