



Trends in multi-generational family patterns

-growing numbers of "both end carers?"

Emma Lundholm

Gunnar Malmberg

Anna Pettersson

Ageing and Living Conditions

Centre for Population Studies

Umeå University



Multigenerational family structures

55-year-olds potentially:

Carers for elderly parents

Carers for grandchildren

- Family structure – “Both-end-carers”?
- Geographical distance

Research questions:

- To what extent do people have grandchildren and elderly parents at age 55?
- To what extent do grandchildren and parents live within daily reach?
- Has the multigenerational family patterns changed between 1990 and 2005?
- Is the pattern similar for people of high and low education?
- What role does intergenerational spacing and increased longevity have for changes in multigenerational family structures over time?

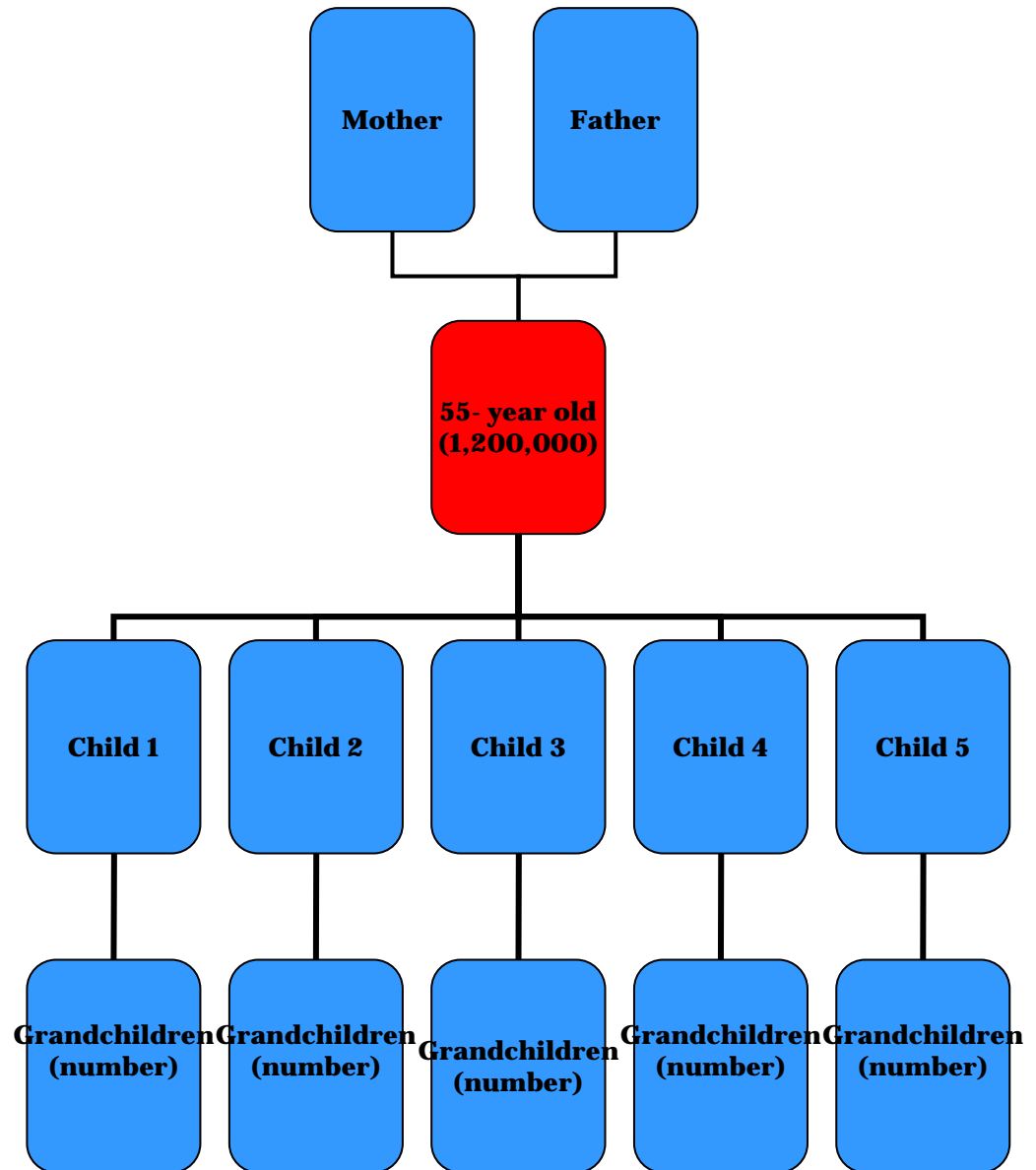


Year of birth
Age at first birth
Civil status
Geographical location

Civil status
Geographical location
Sex
Education level
Income

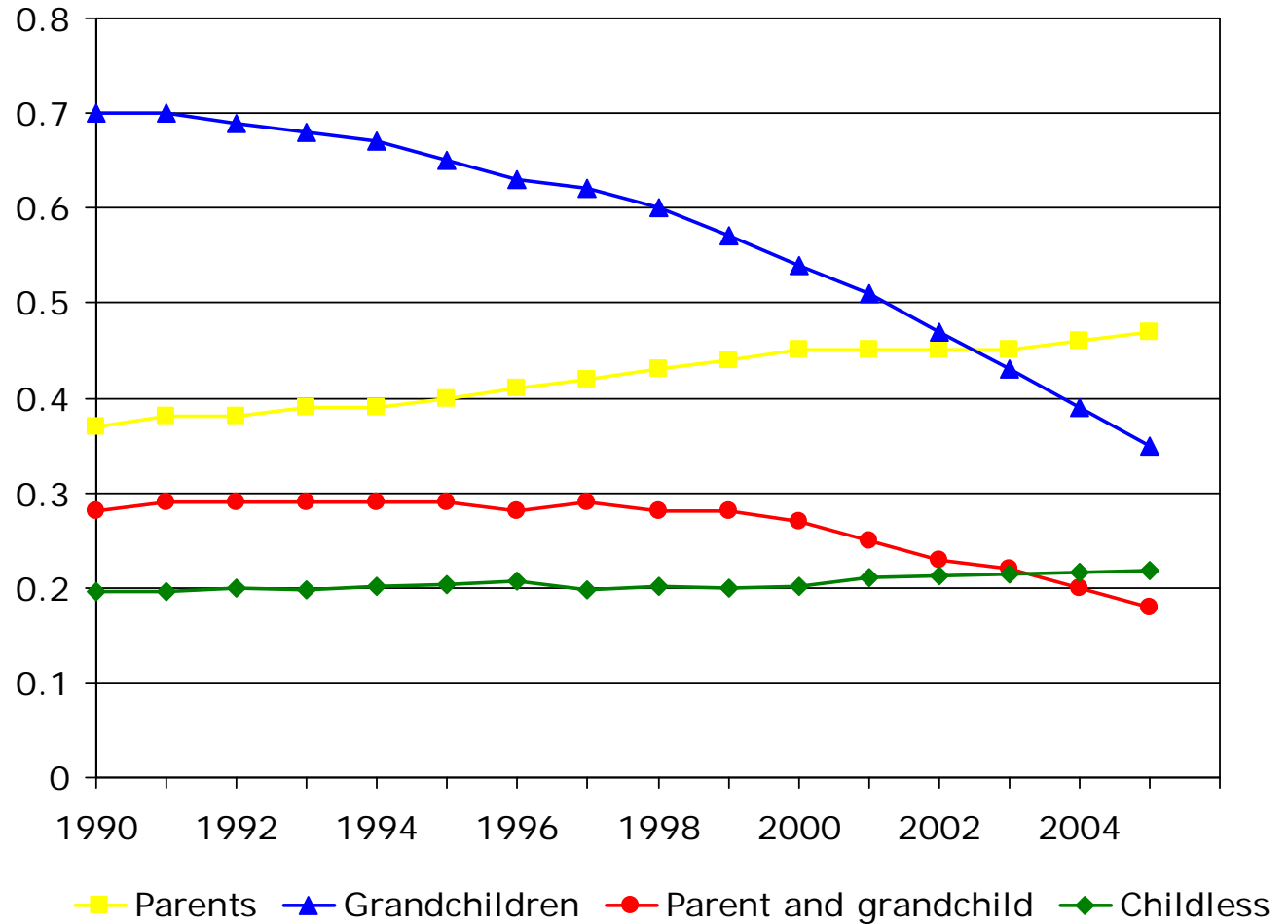
Year of birth
Civil status
Geographical location
Sex
Education level
Age at first birth

All 55-year-olds in Sweden 1990-2005

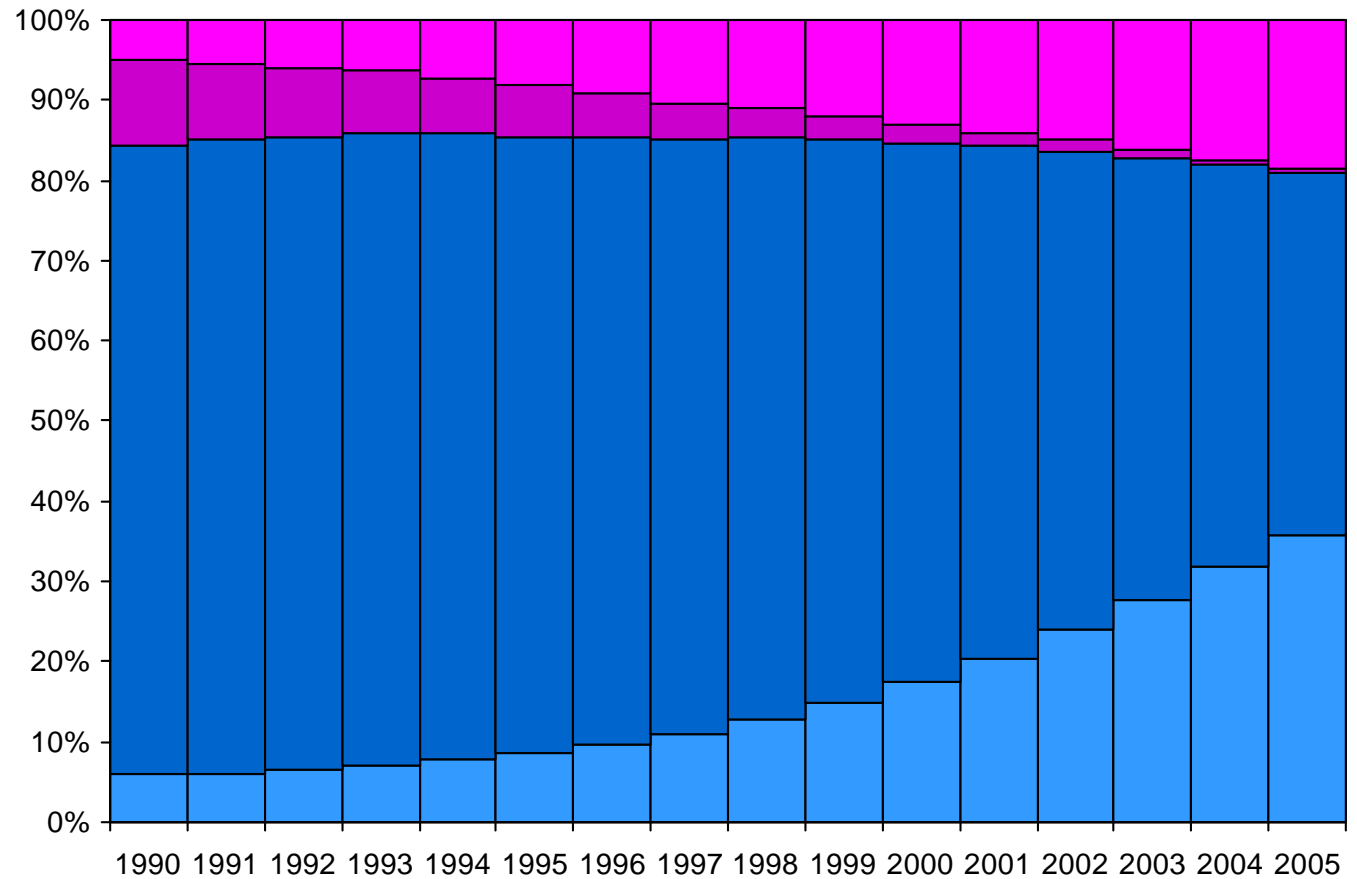




Percent of 55-year olds that have a living parent and/or grandchild 1990-2005



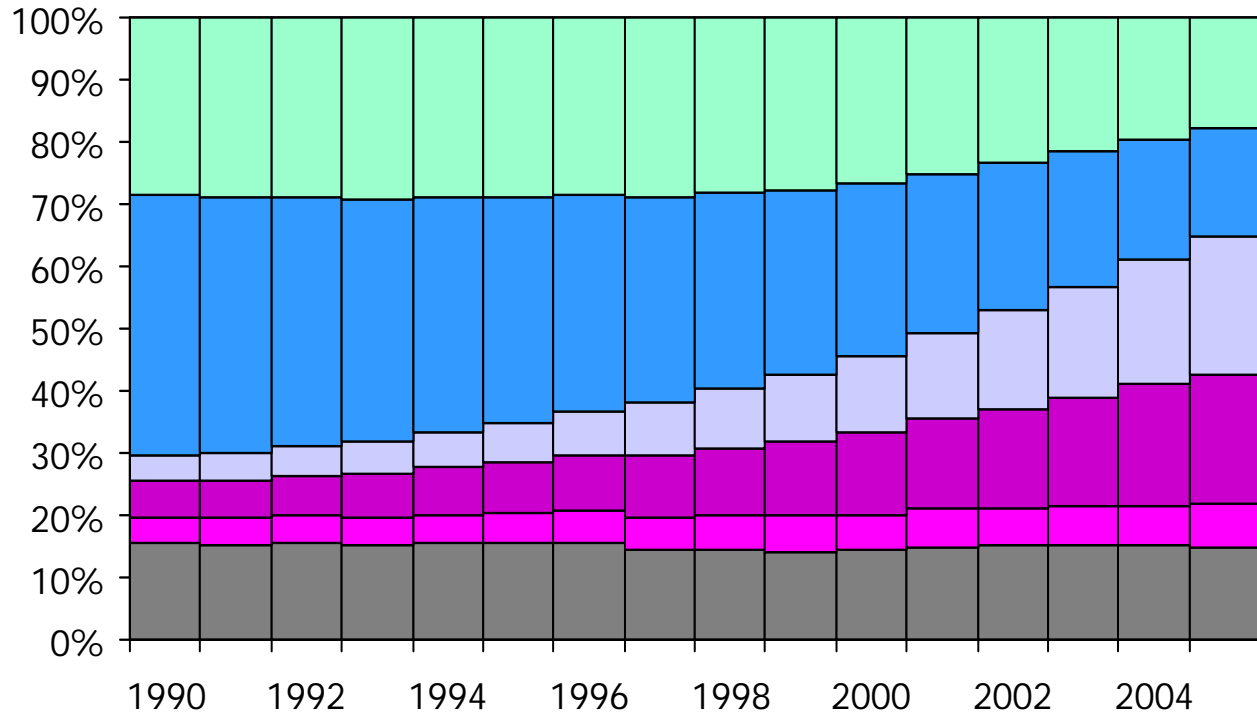
Share of 55 year olds having an adult child >age 25 and grandchildren



■ child >25/no grandchild
 ■ child >25/grandchild
 ■ no child >25/grandchild
 ■ no child >25/no grandchild



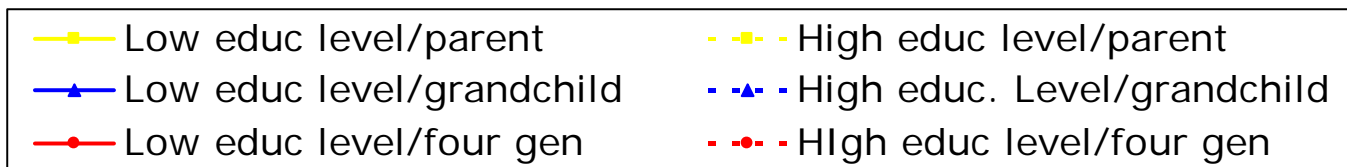
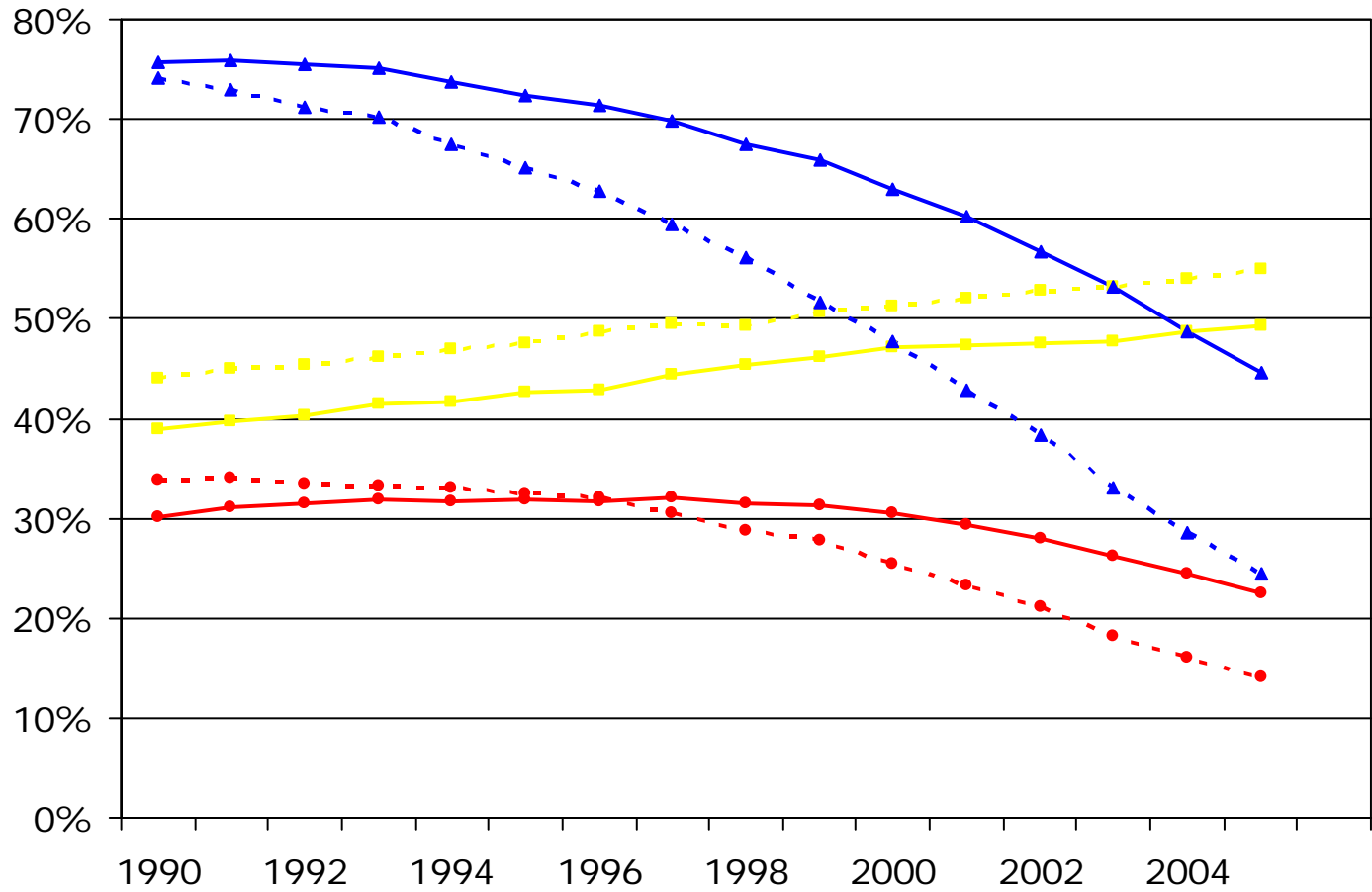
Family structures 1990-2005



- one generation
- two generations parent
- two generations child
- three generations parent+child
- three generations child+grandchild
- four generations

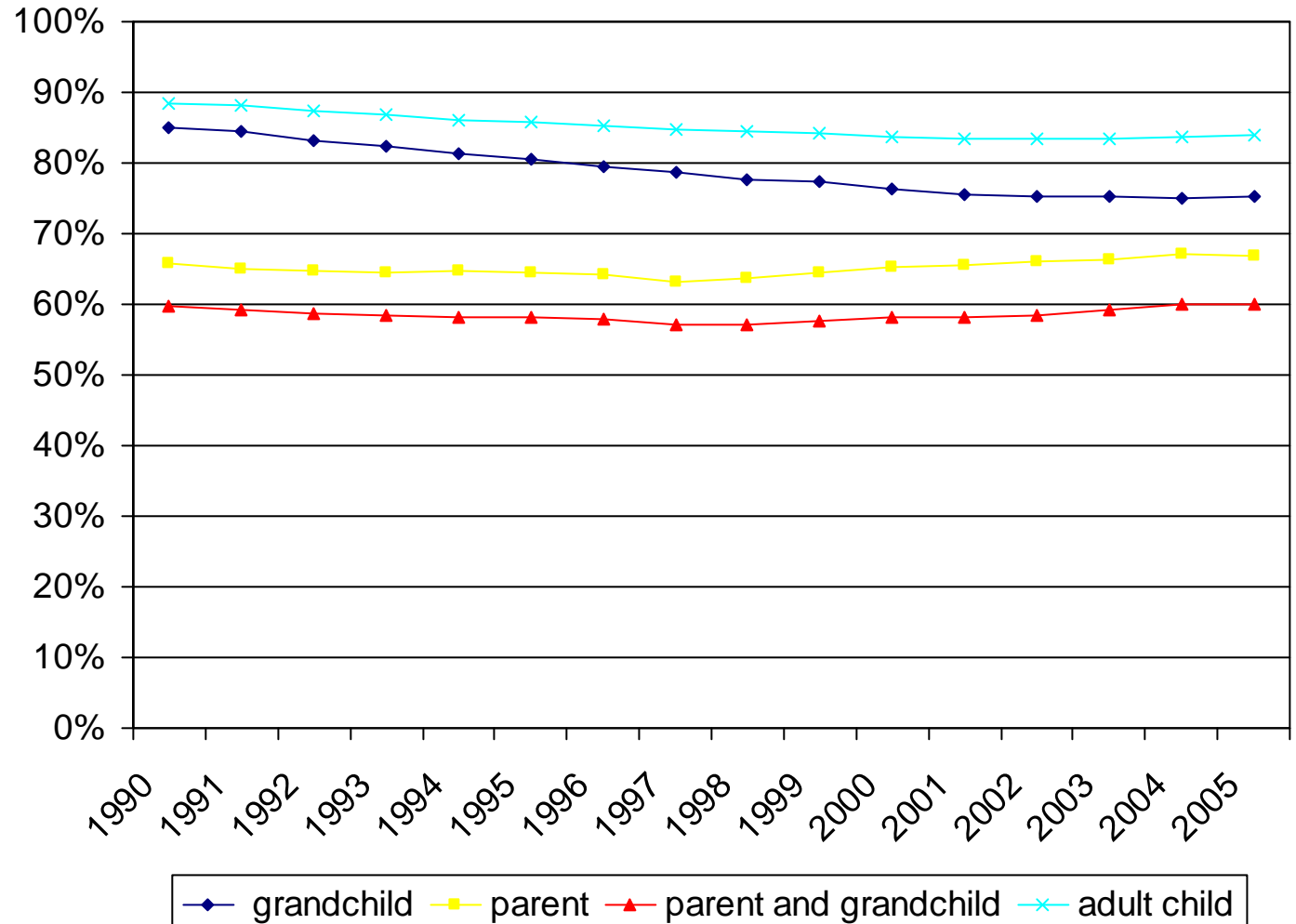


Percent of 55-year olds that have a living parent and/or grandchild 1990-2005 (education level)



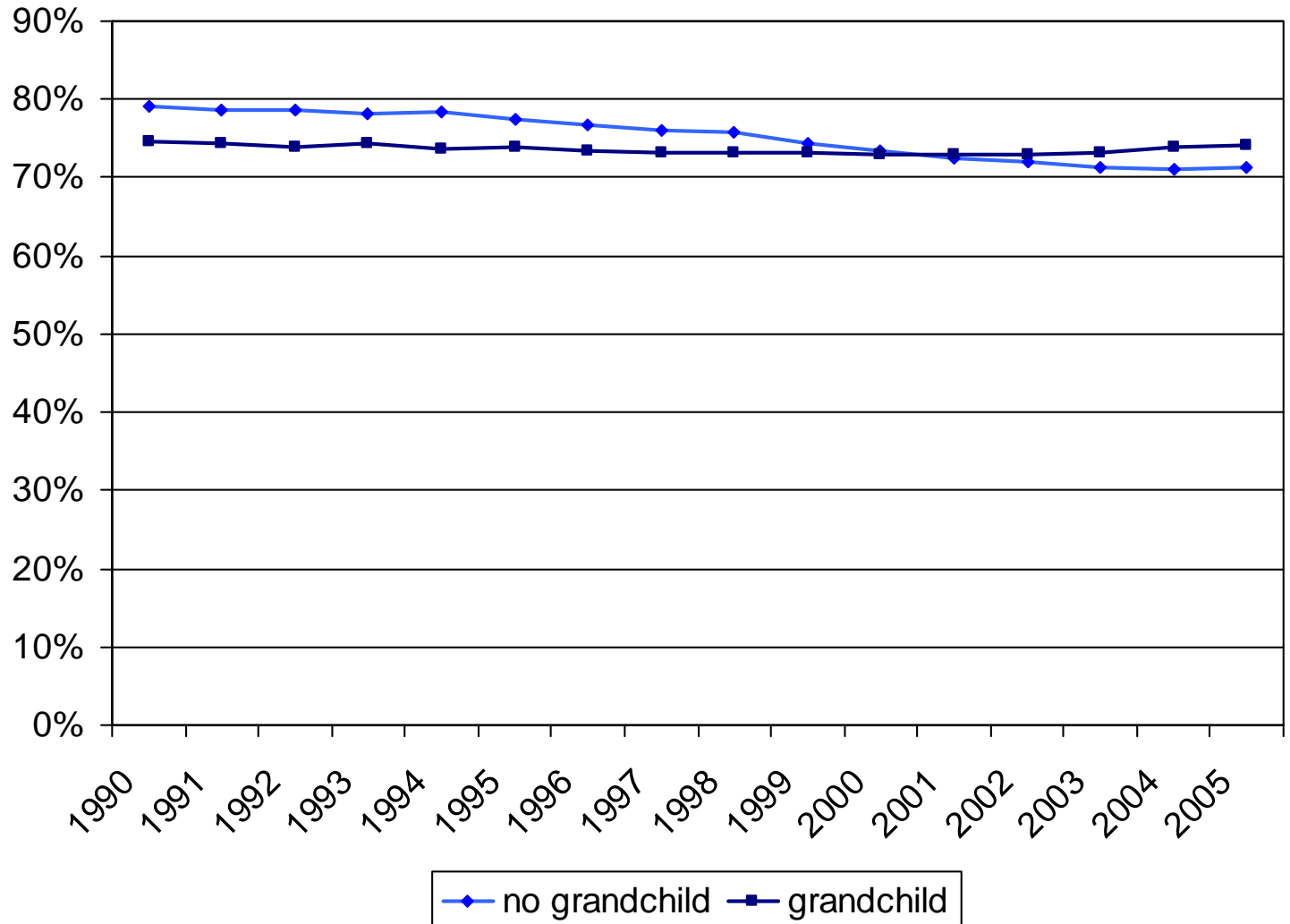


Percentage who have their family members within 50 km





Percentage who have their first born child within 50 km





**Results from logistic regression:
dependant variable: 1=living<50 kilometres from first born child**

	B	Std. Error
Mother (0=father)	0.303***	(0.004)
Married/cohabitant (0=single)	0.302***	(0.004)
High education (0=low education)	-0.362***	(0.005)
Daughter (0=son)	-0.158***	(0.004)
Only child (0=siblings)	0.044***	(0.005)
Childs age (continous)	-0.057***	(0.001)
Grandchild (0=no grandchild)	0.129***	(0.005)
Child single parent (0=child married/cohabitant)	0.181***	(0.013)
Child High education (0=child low education)	-0.960***	(0.004)
Year (continous)	0.002***	(0.000)
Constant	-1.145***	(0.915)



Conclusions:

- Grandparenthood has become increasingly rare among 55 year olds
- Both end carers are therefore less common, despite more 55 year olds having living parents
- The main explanation is longer intergenerational spacing between the 55 year olds children and grandchildren
 - no reason to assume that it will be an increasing phenomenon
- The incidence of grandparenthood is lower among high educated
- The majority lives within daily reach of their kin
- The geographical proximity is fairly stable over the time period studied