

On the misinterpretation of health statistics in Sweden by Olle Johansson. Official health statistics show declining public health in Sweden. November 12, 2022

In an email dated November 9, 2022 Olle Johansson states that:

As a matter of fact, the official Swedish health statistics point to a very good situation, and increasingly better, the only exception being the mental health among young, especially girls and young women; a lot of work, right now, goes into bettering the latter as well.

(It is interesting to see how people use statistics and health registries to push various political ideas onto the general public. The risk is that we all are led by false prophets, including Big Pharma, and such. --- What we always need to do is to continue asking questions, bearing in mind the Eugene Ionesco quote "It is not the answer that enlightens, but the question", or Albert Einstein's "The important thing is not to stop questioning".)

Are these claims that *health statistics point to a very good situation, and increasingly better*, correct? Unfortunately not. It is easy to check by using the Swedish Inpatient Register and the Swedish Cancer Register (https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_par/val.aspx and https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_can/val.aspx).

In the following we show statistics for trends in the rates of some selected groups of diseases. The results are available for numbers per 100 000 subjects in the Inpatient Register. Age standardized incidence is available in the Cancer Register. The statistics can be used for evaluation of trends. A short summary is given in the following. Among these selected groups of diseases, mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders (F00-F99) and diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99) are most prevalent.

Figure 1. For the time period 1990–2020 there is a clear trend in increasing age standardized incidence of all cancer, both in men and women, all ages. Due to some lag time in reporting the rate for 2020 is not correct.

Figure 2. The rate of testicular diseases and dysfunction E29 has increased dramatically during 2001-2021.

Figure 3. Number of patients per 100 000 aged 0-85+ years with mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders, all ages F00-F99, for the time period 2001-2021. A huge increase is documented for both sexes, thus not only for women.

Figure 4. Age standardized rate of thyroid cancer in women during 1970-2017. A sharp increasing incidence during 2010-2017 is shown. See: Carlberg M, Koppel T, Hedendahl LK, Hardell L. Is the Increasing Incidence of Thyroid Cancer in the Nordic Countries Caused by Use of Mobile Phones? *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2020, 17, 9129;

Figure 5. Number of patients per 100 000 aged 0-85+ years in Sweden during 2001-2021 with diseases of the nervous system G00-G99. The number per 100 000 has more than doubled during the time period in both genders.

Figure 6. Number of patients per 100 000 aged 0-85+ years with diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism D50-D89 for the time period 2001-2021. A large increase is seen for the time period.

Conclusion: The statement by Olle Johansson that “*the official Swedish health statistics point to a very good situation, and increasingly better*” is false. A scientific debate must be based on facts and not fiction that seems to be the case for Olle Johansson.

Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, Professor
Department of Oncology, Örebro University Hospital, Sweden (retired)
The Environment and Cancer Research Foundation, Studievägen 35, SE-702 17, Örebro, Sweden
E-mail: lennart.hardell@environmentandcancer.com

Mona Nilsson, BSc
Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation, Gredby 14, SE-178 92 Adelsö, Sweden
E-mail: mona@stralskyddsstiftelsen.se

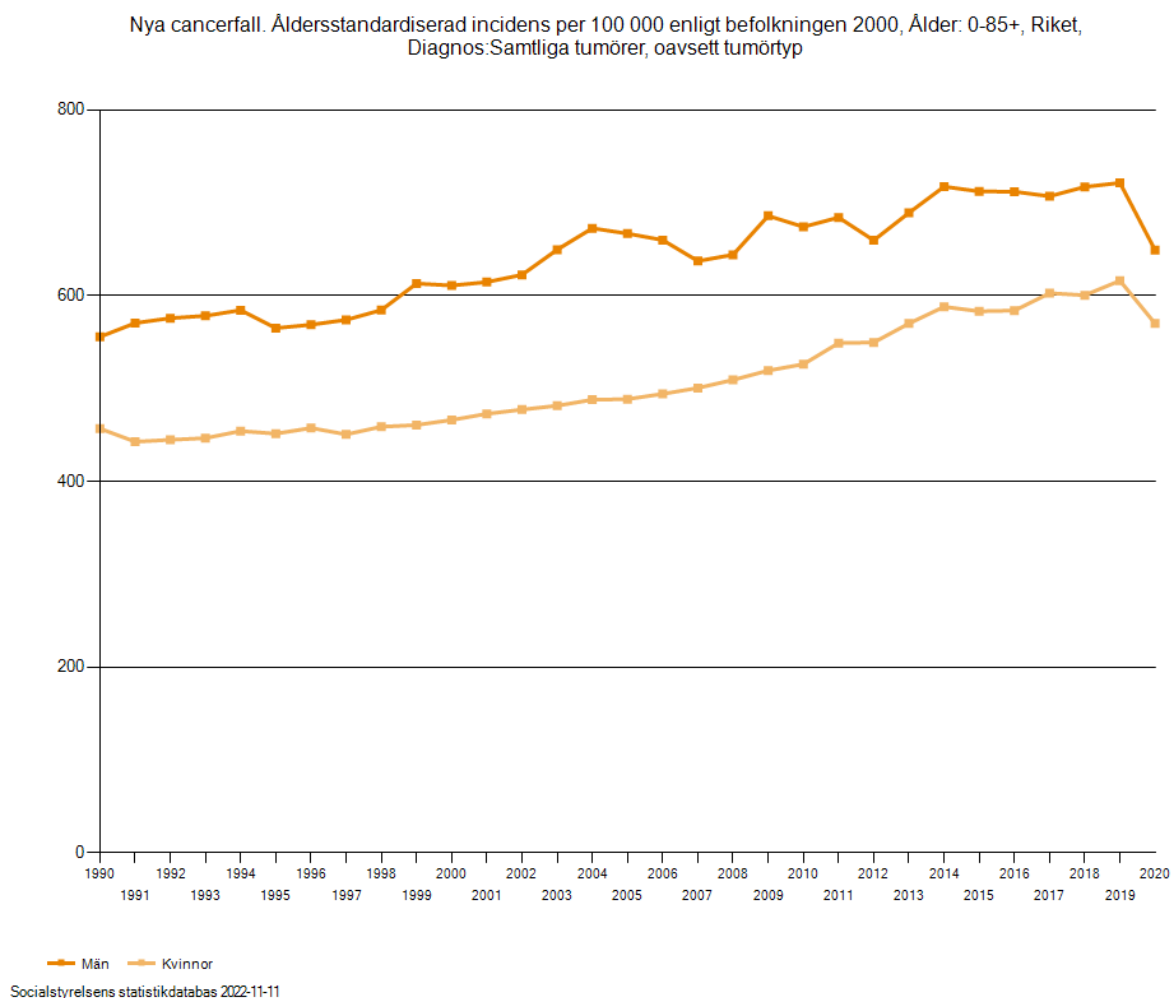
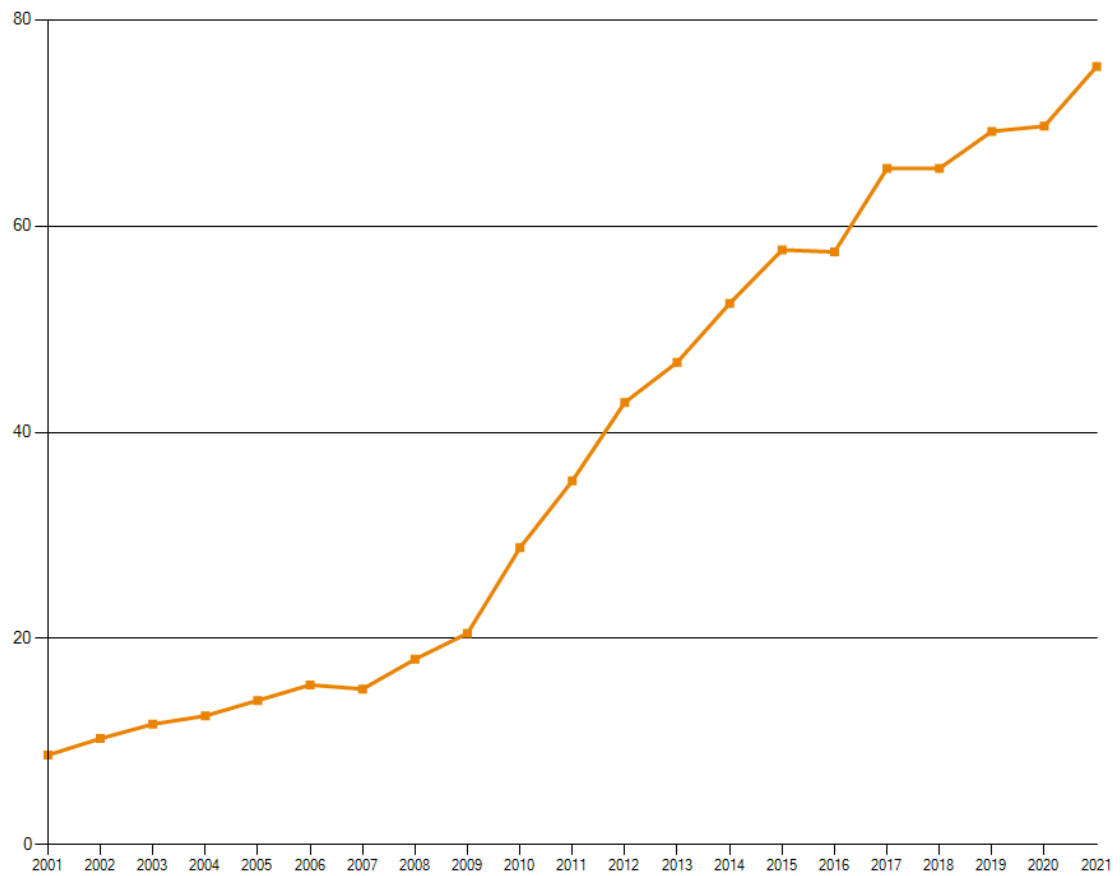


Figure 1. Age standardized incidence of new cancer cases in Sweden during 1990-2020. Män = men; kvinnor = women.

Diagnoser, Endast specialiserad öppen vård, Antal patienter/100 000 inv, E29 Rubbningar i testiklarnas funktion, Riket, Ålder: 0-85+, Män



Socialstyrelsens statistikdatabas 2022-11-11

Figure 2: Rate of testicular diseases E29 during 2001 - 2021

Diagnoser, Endast specialiserad öppen vård, Antal patienter/100 000 inv, F00-F99 Psykiska sjukdomar och syndrom samt beteendestörningar, Riket, Ålder: 0-85+

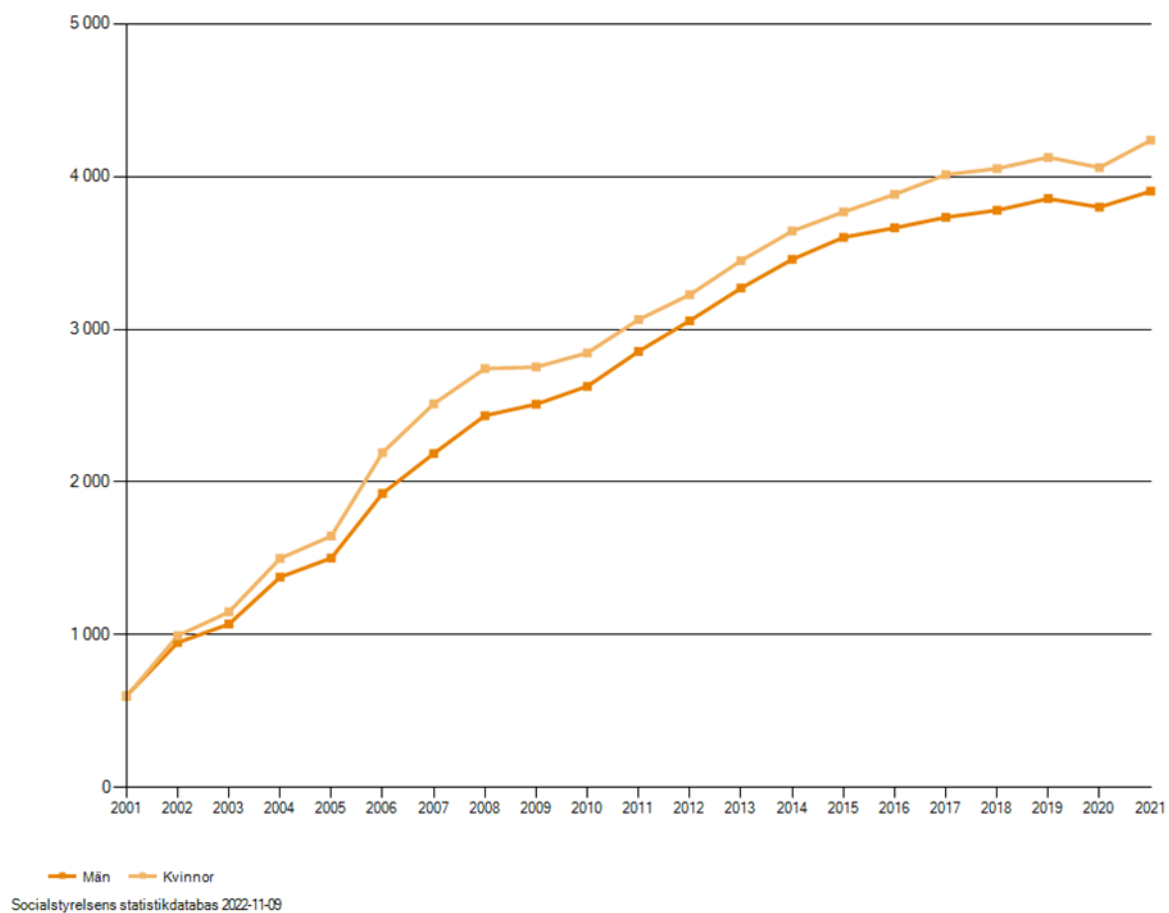


Figure 3. Number of patients per 100 000 aged 0-85+ years with mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders F01-F99 for the years 2001 – 2021.

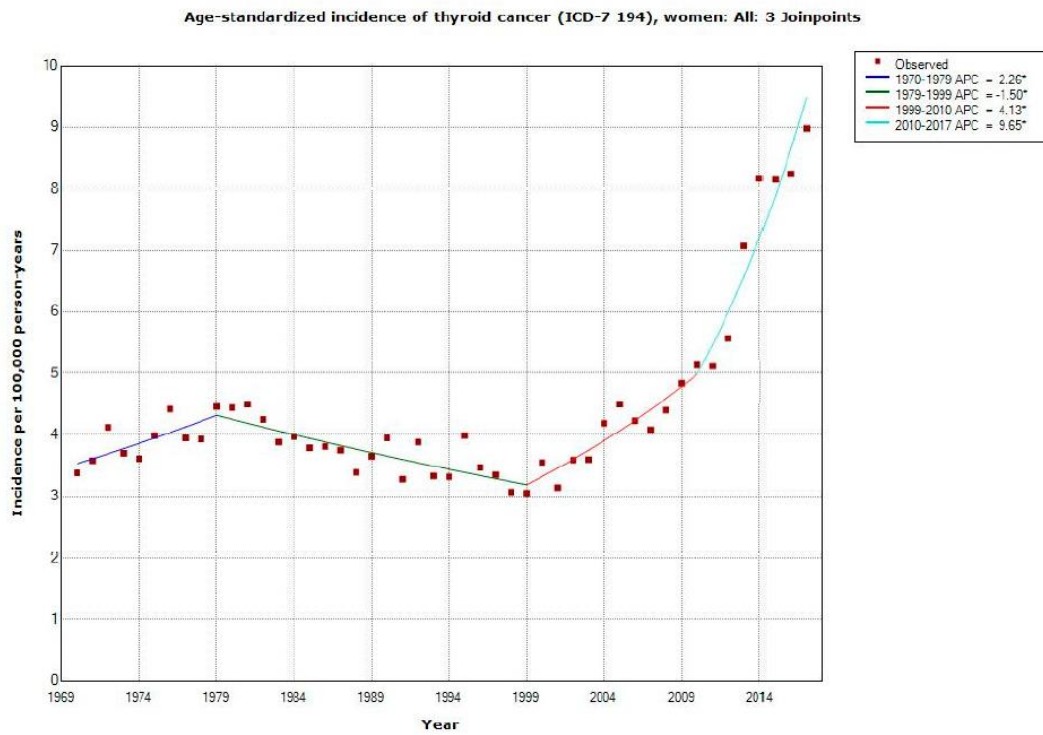


Figure 4. Age standardized rate of thyroid cancer in women in Sweden during 1970-2017.

Diagnoser, Endast specialiserad öppen vård, Antal patienter/100 000 inv, G00-G99 Sjukdomar i nervsystemet, Riket, Ålder: 0-85+

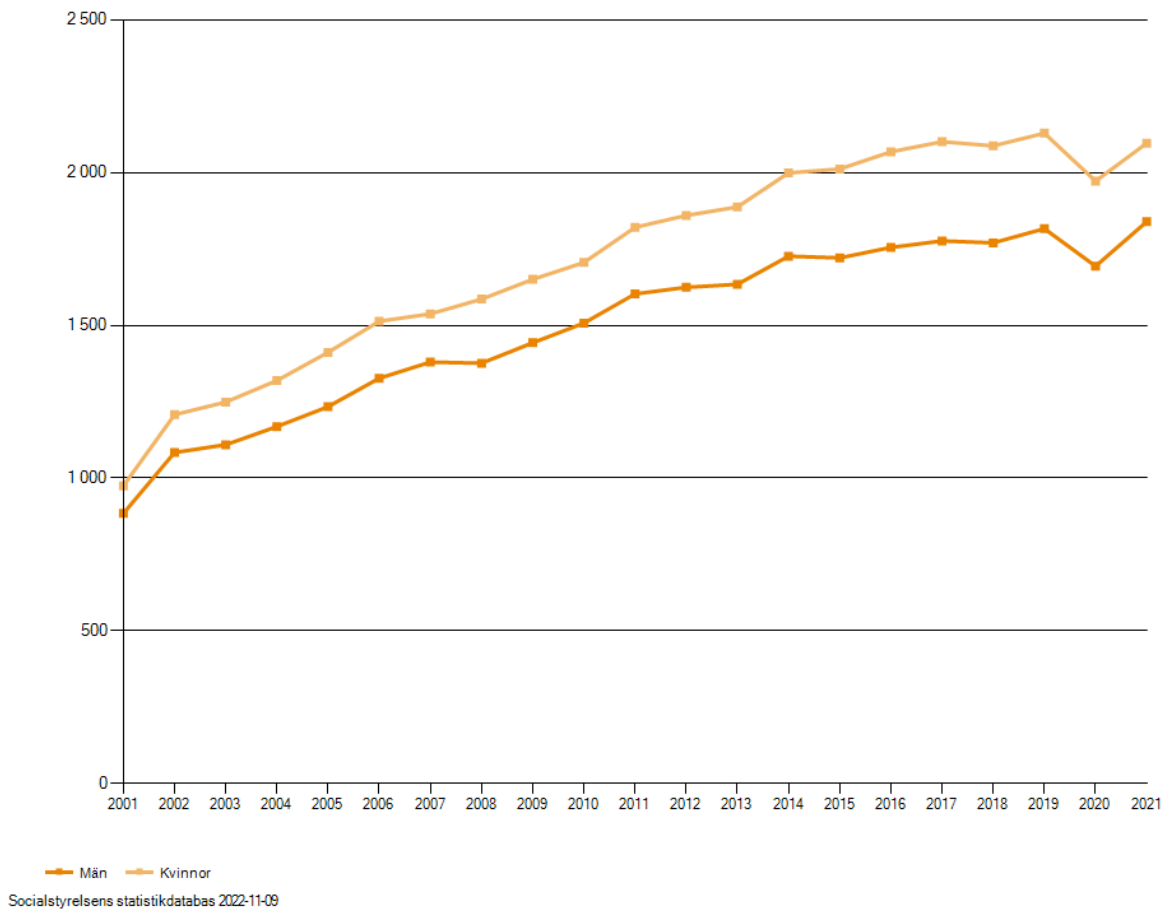


Figure 5. Number of patients per 100 000 aged 0-85+ years in Sweden during 2001-2021 with diseases of the nervous system G00-G99. Män = men, kvinnor = women.

Diagnoser, Endast specialiserad öppen vård, Antal patienter/100 000 inv, D50-D89 Sjukdomar i blod och blodbildande organ samt vissa rubbningar i immunsystemet, Riket, Ålder: 0-85+

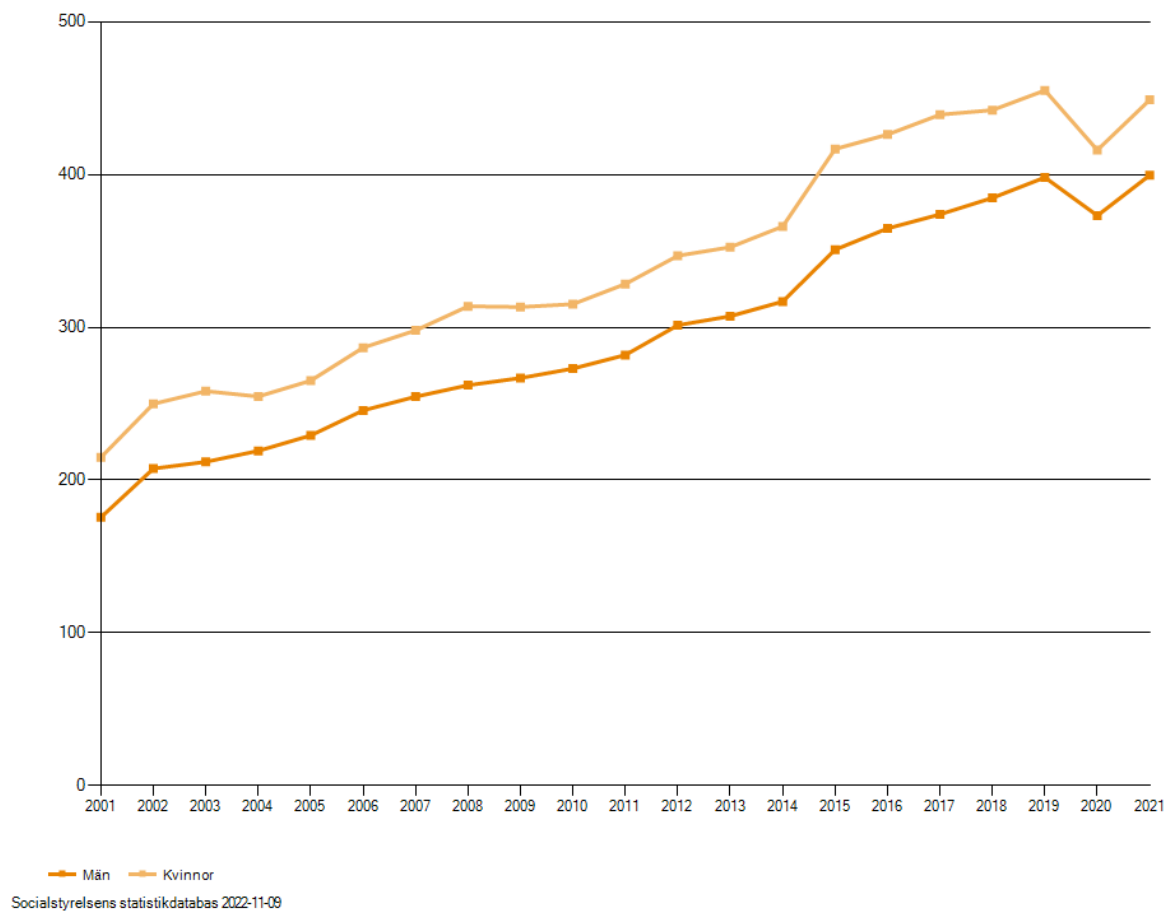


Figure 6. Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism D50-D89. Rates are shown per 100 000 for the time period 2001-2021. Män = men, kvinnor = women.