WP1: understanding the evolution of sex differences in late life health

The work in WP1 is progressing along two lines. In our first study, we have reviewed the literature to find studies that can give insights into the role played by socioeconomic conditions in shaping sex differences in functional health among older adults. We have now identified a set of interesting studies, and have started to extract the quantitative data from them. The preliminary findings show that there are substantial differences across the studies, both in terms of the magnitude of the observed sex differences in health and in the proportion of the sex differences that can be attributed to socioeconomic factors.

For our second study, we have started to analyze gender differences in disabilities across cohorts in Europe, using data from SHARE. The figure below shows some preliminary findings based on pooled data from 12 European countries. In short, the results show that, at a given age, later born cohorts tend to have fewer disabilities overall and smaller gender differences in the likelihood of disabilities. The gender differences in health increased substantially with age in the two oldest cohorts. The next step is to disaggregate the analyses by country and try to replicate them with comparable data from Canada.

