socioeconomic conditions related to addiction and assaults

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Conference on women, addiction, trauma and treatment

Reykjavik 1. and 2. september 2015

Presentation outline

Social problems – related to alcohol

Some main topics relating to gender

- Gender relations in a rapidly changing Arctic:
  - The demographic changes
  - The changing roles of both women and men and the consequences in the families, the labor market the education system and in politics:
    - Feminization of the education system
    - Feminization of the labor market

Perceived social problems
SLiCA (2004-2006)

SLiCA
Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

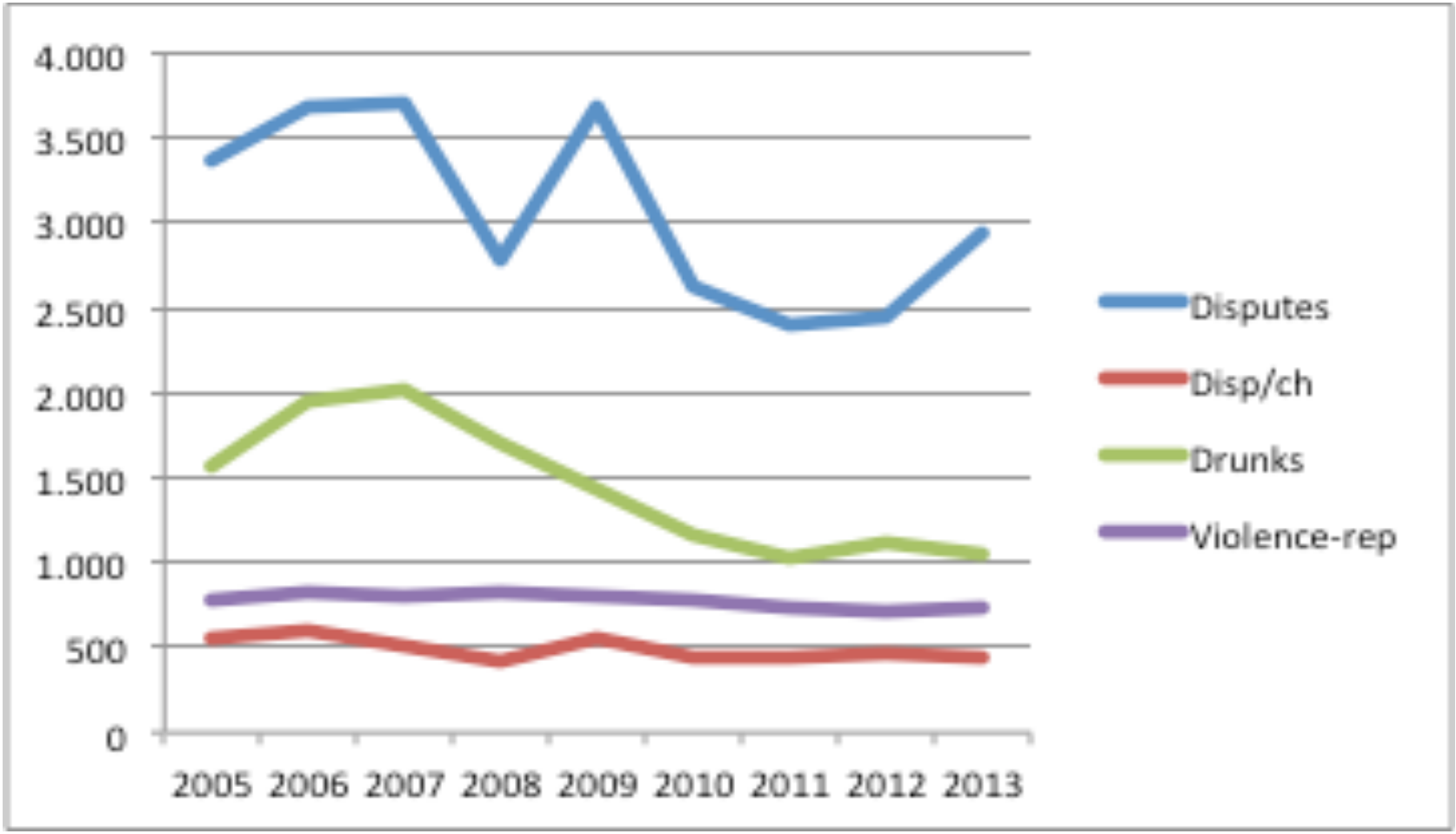
Question: Which of the following problems do you think are problems in your community? Share of population by towns and settlements			
	Towns	Settlements	Total
Unemployment	77 %	79 %	77 %
Alcohol abuse	84 %	48 %	77 %
Suicide	69 %	30 %	61 %
Drugabuse	71 %	19 %	60 %
Domestic violence	65 %	17 %	56 %
Sexual assaults	59 %	8 %	49 %

Social problems – related to alcohol

- Child neglect
- Child abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Violence
- Housing problems
- Rapid social change

(Film by Laila Hansen on 5 women migrated from Greenland to Denmark)

Annual Police reports on disputes, drunks and violence Greenland 2005 -2013



Source: Police annual reports 2005 - 2013

SLiCA findings (I)
2004-2006

Victim of other than sexual type of assault during past 12 months - per cent of total population (15+)

	Male	Female	Total
Greenland	10	7	9
Chukotka	16	15	15
Alaska	9	7	8
Total			10

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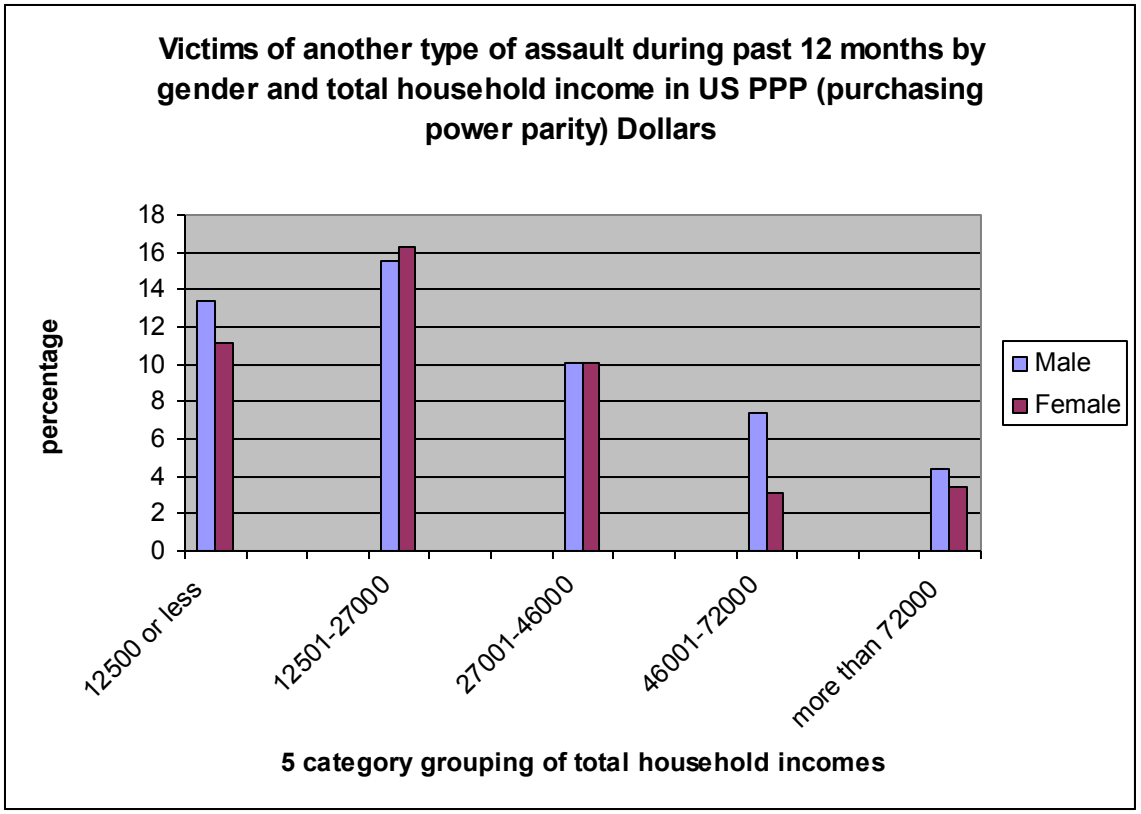
SLiCA findings (II)
2004-2006

Problems with alcohol or drugs in home today and victims of (other than sexual) assault during last 12 months – Inuit in Greenland and Alaska((15+)

		Problems with alcohol or drugs in home today		
	Victim of another type of assault during past 12 months	no	yes	Total
Greenland	yes	8	14	9
	no	92	86	91
		100	100	100
Chukotka	yes	10	21	15
	no	90	79	85
		100	100	100
Alaska	yes	3	16	8
	no	97	84	92
	Total	100	100	100

© SLiCA 2006 – preliminary results

SLiCA findings (III): victims of assault – gender – household income



Child neglect

44 per cent of the Children in Greenland has suffered neglect in the families with alcohol and drugs (hash) abuse.

(Health Department, Self Government)

Sexual assault

Young Greenlanders that have been sexually assaulted (by three different definitions). By gender . Per cent.

Sexual assault - definition:	Women	Men	Both Women and Men	Total
15 years or younger	53	29	41	61
The first time was enforced	33	33	33	49
15 years or younger & the first time was enforced	21	4	13	20

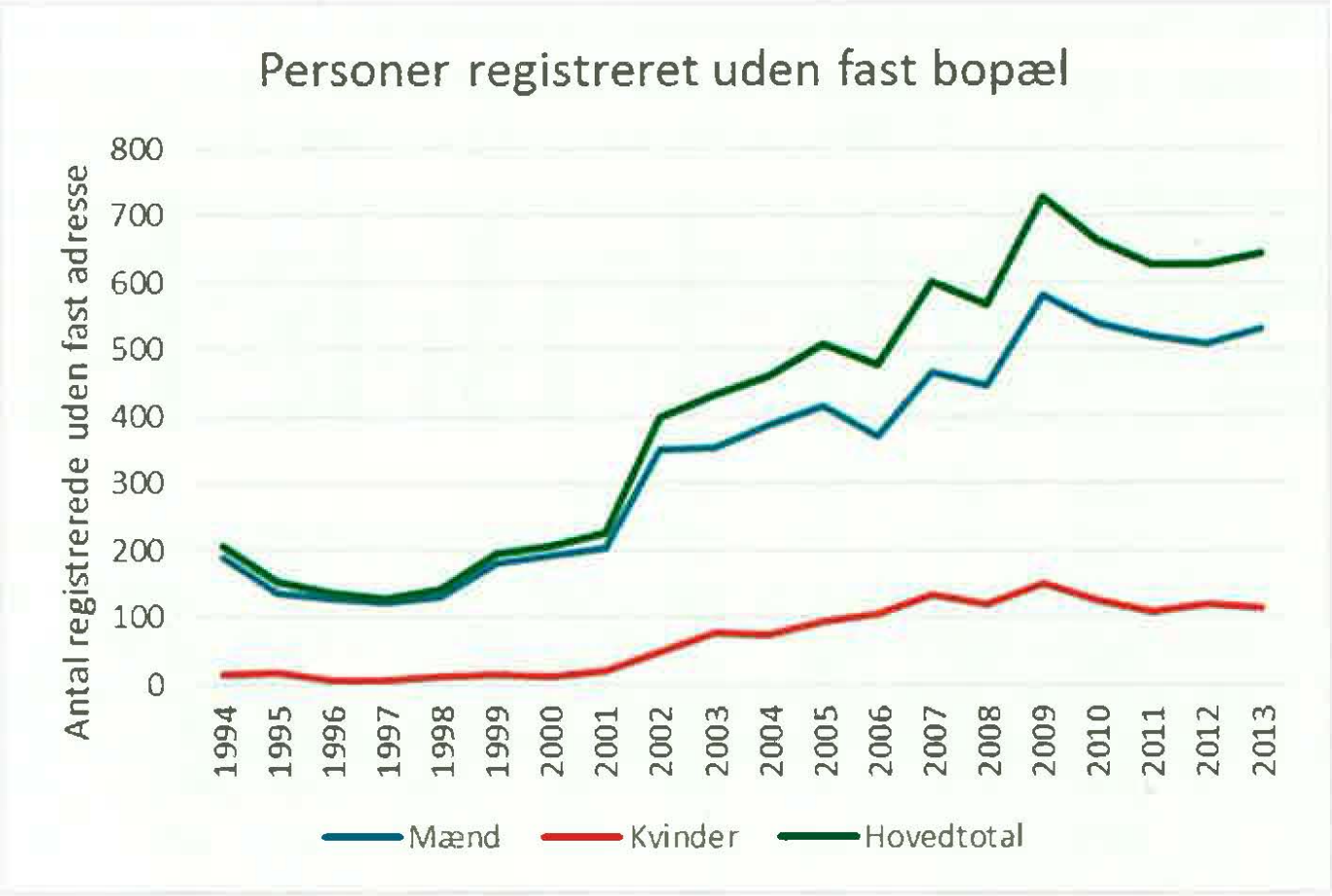
Note: Respondens answering 'Do not know' are included in the percentages.

Source: Danish National Institute of Welfare (2014): Survey on sexual assaults.

Risk factor: Housing - problems

- Housing problems is one of the risk factors for disputes/violence in families.
- In some households two generations live together – and“the child” in the flat is maybe an adult in 50`s.
- In some households teenagers/young persons live together with parents. The young have different needs and lifestyles compared to their parents.

Number of persons without a permanent residence. All registered and distributed by gender. Greenland 1994-2013



Figur 6. Antal registrerede uden fast adresse, fordelt på køn.

Conclusion: potential risk factors (for 'disputes' and violence)

- Extreme alcohol consumption is a risk factor
- Inequality in living conditions
- Housing problems (located in specific districts in town)
- Social problems, low education, financial problems
- Attitudes to the violence, so that it is looked upon as acceptable and only when it becomes really bad, help is finally sought. (Meyer in Poppel 2005: