



**PELiCam**

 Palliative & End of Life  
Care in Cambridge

 **UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**



@simonnoahetkind

**The future is uncertain(ty):  
optimising palliative care  
for changing populations.**

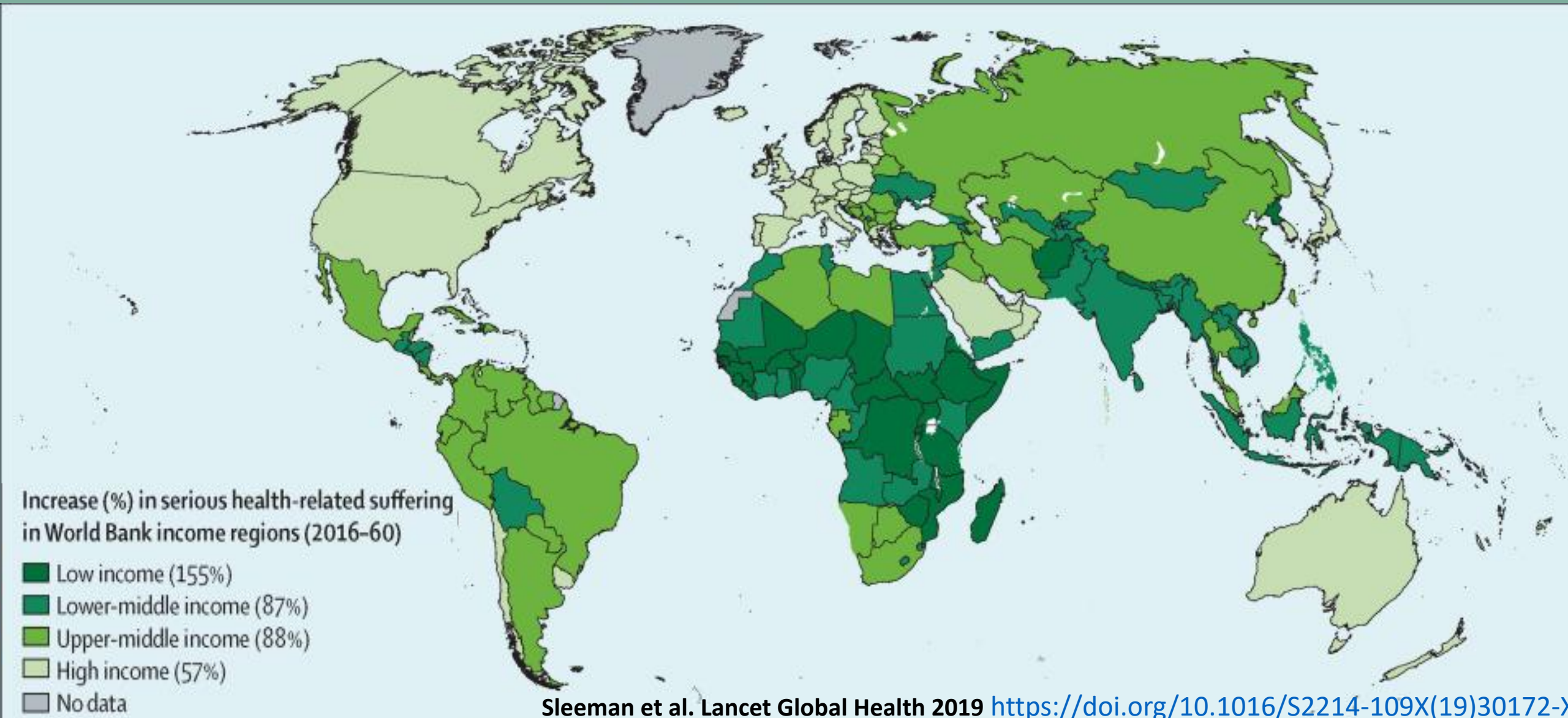
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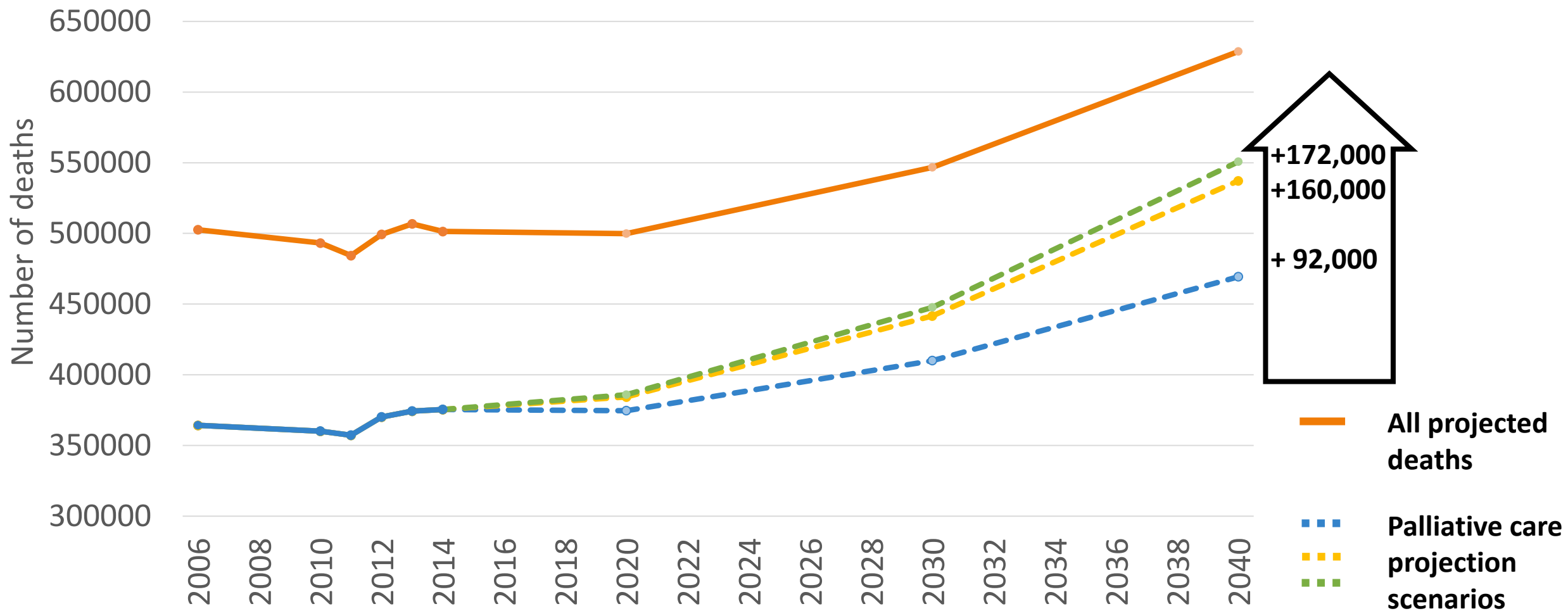
# The future: projections of palliative care need



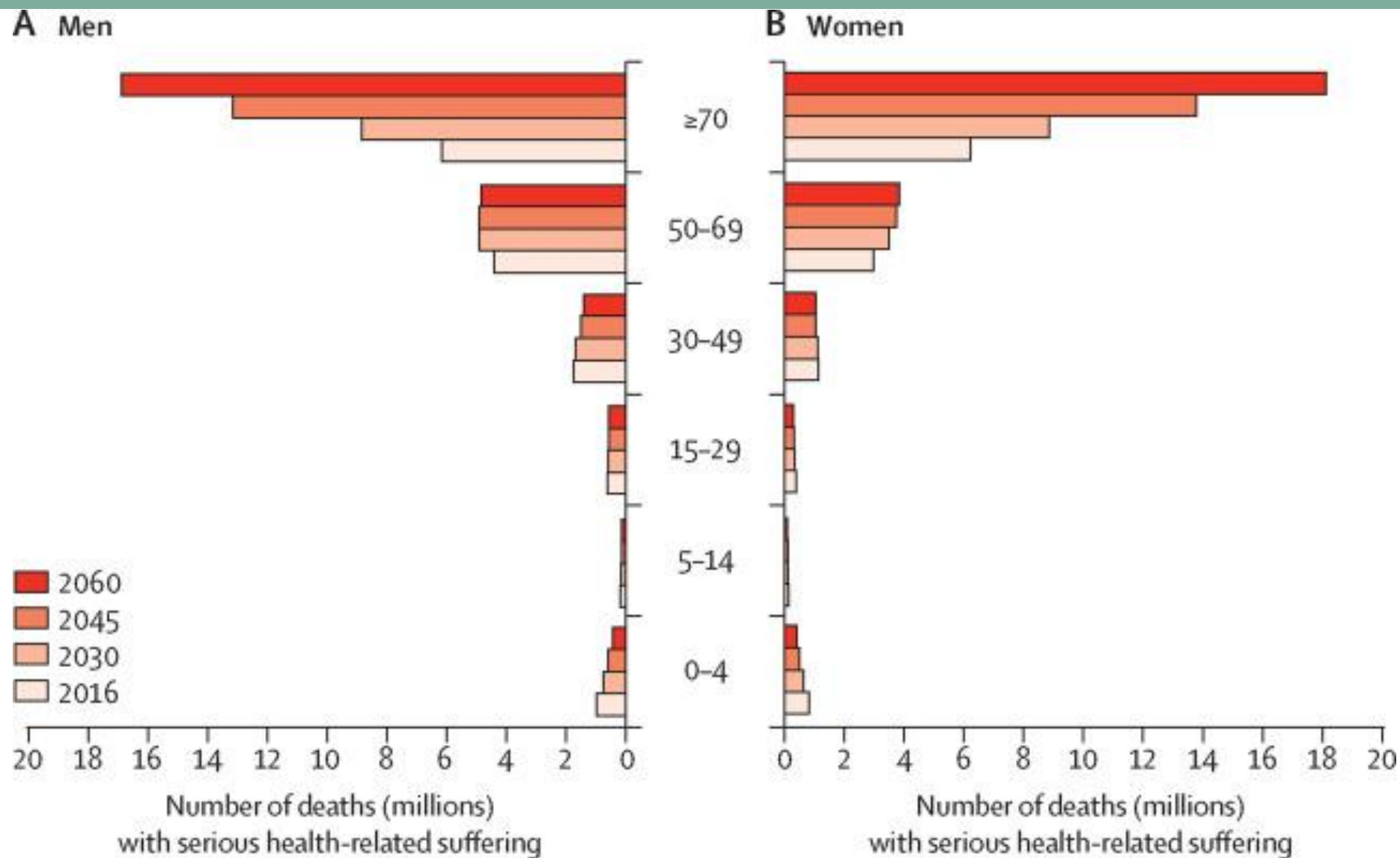
# Palliative care need will grow globally...



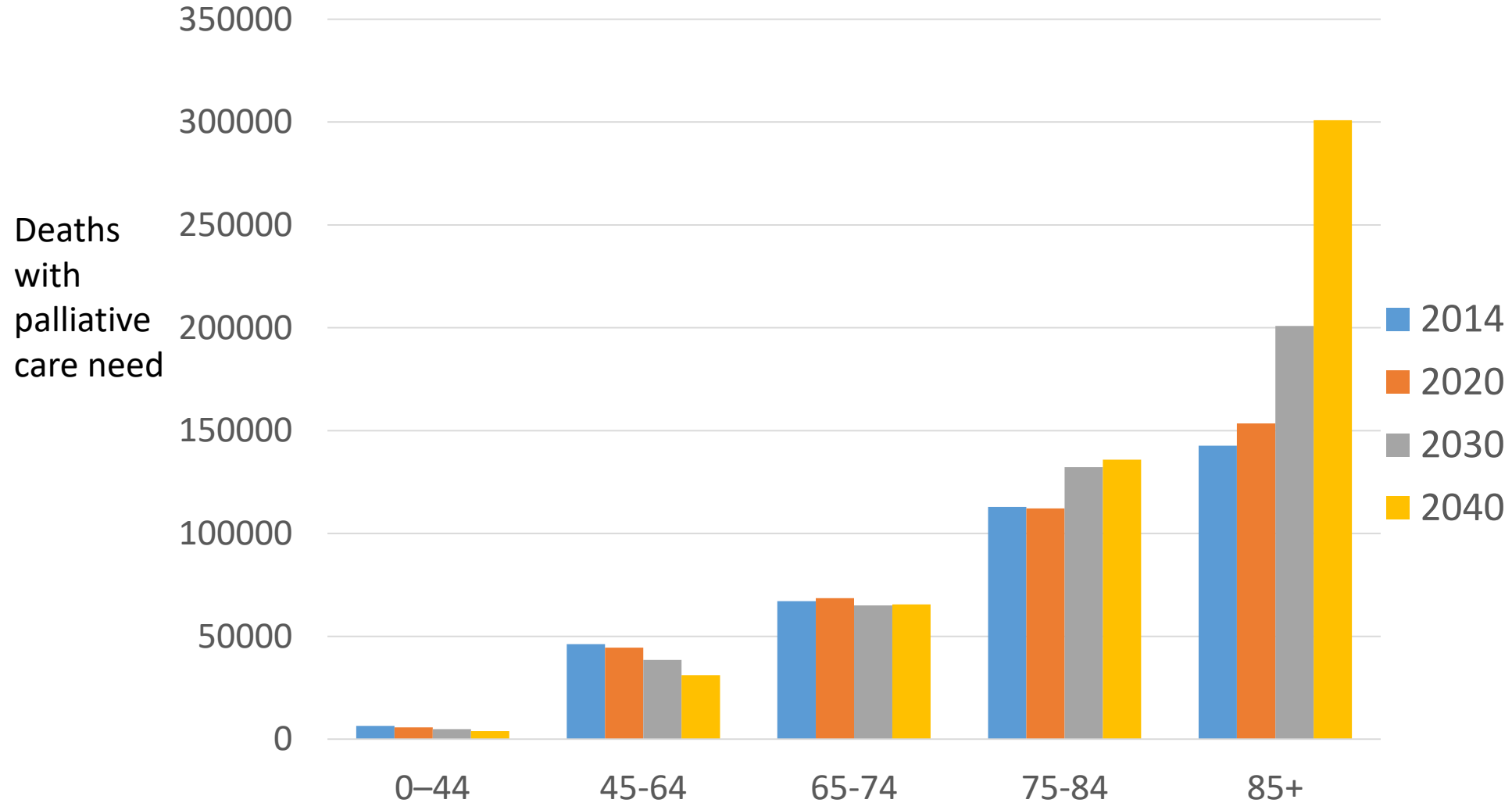
# ...And nationally



# Driven by increases in older age groups...

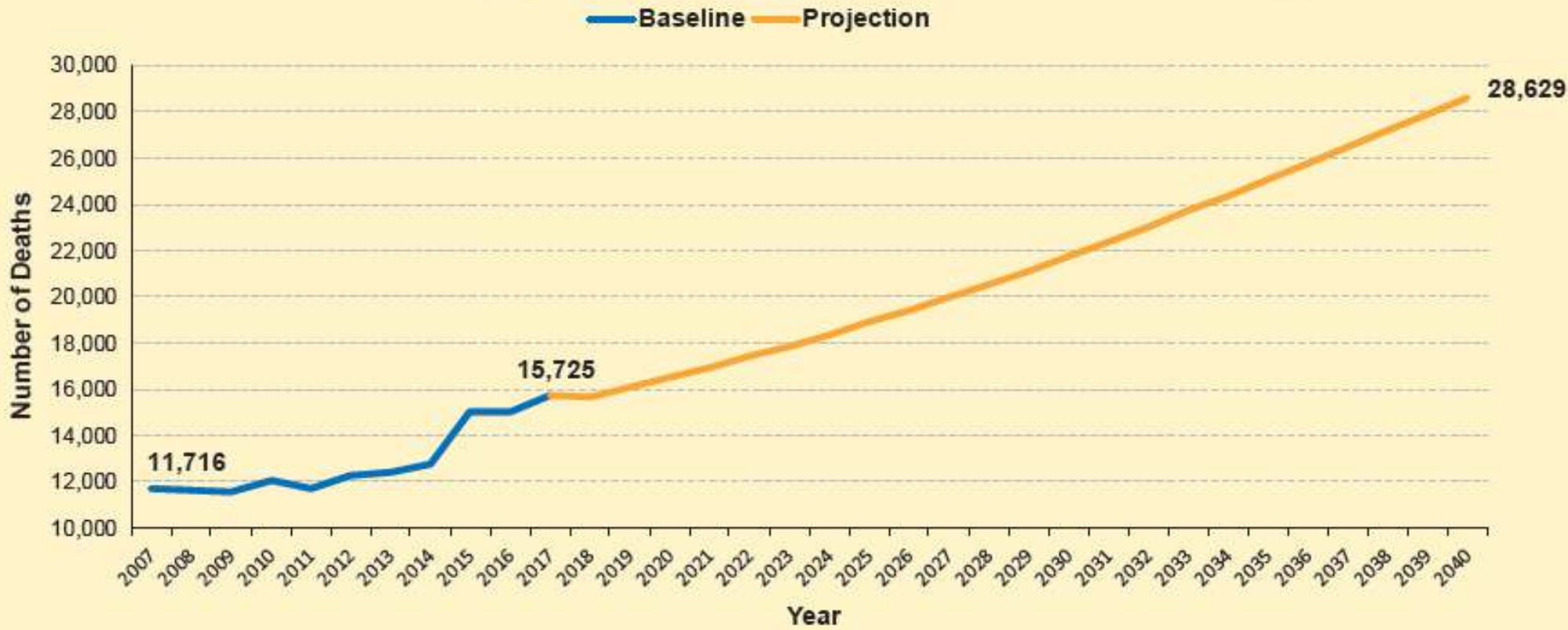


# Driven by increases in older age groups...



# ...and multimorbidity

Multi-mortality (based on 2007-2017 mean annual change)



43.5% of people who die in 2040 will die with 2 or more conditions that confer palliative care need (incr. from 27.2% in 2017)

So where  
are we  
heading?

**Palliative care need will grow  
globally to a greater extent than  
expected based on projected  
demographic changes**

**Rising multimorbidity and frailty  
mean complexity of need is also  
expected to increase**





# Uncertainty in multimorbidity

## Sources of uncertainty

- Complexity
- Unpredictability
- Ambiguity
- Lack of information

## Issues of uncertainty

- Current care
- Future care planning
- Social as well as health concerns

## Locus of uncertainty

- Health/Social care professional
- Patient
- Informal/family caregivers

# Research plans

- Explore existing evidence re experience of uncertainty through literature review (see [https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42021227480](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42021227480))
  - Who experiences uncertainty, about what, when.
  - How do patient/professional/caregiver uncertainties differ & interact?
- Identify key areas of uncertainty/differences between groups to explore in depth as potential intervention targets



# Questions & Discussion

1. What are your experiences of uncertainty in multimorbidity from a clinical or personal perspective?

- What is uncertain?
- Who is uncertain?
- What are the key issues and conflicts?

2. What strategies or approaches might be helpful to address uncertainty in this context?