

Ageing global and inevitable – no demographic solution

“A substantial degree of population ageing is expected over the next few decades in all regions of the world

[...] unlikely that policy interventions intended to encourage childbearing in low-fertility countries could substantially alter this expectation.

[...] no plausible assumption about international migration levels would have more than a moderate impact on the expected degree of population ageing that will be experienced in future decades by countries all over the world.”

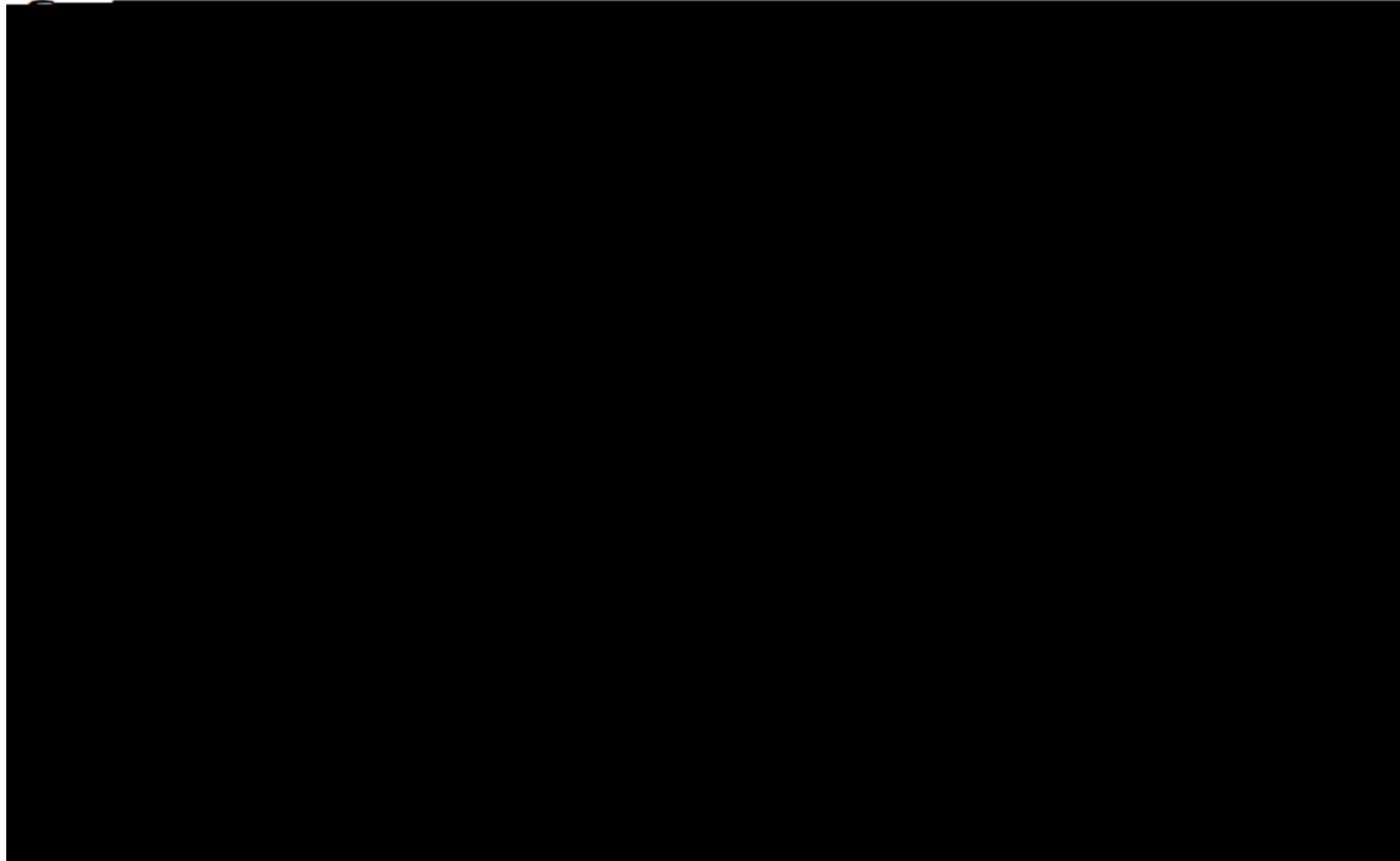
(UN 2007)

Fertility is likely to stay low



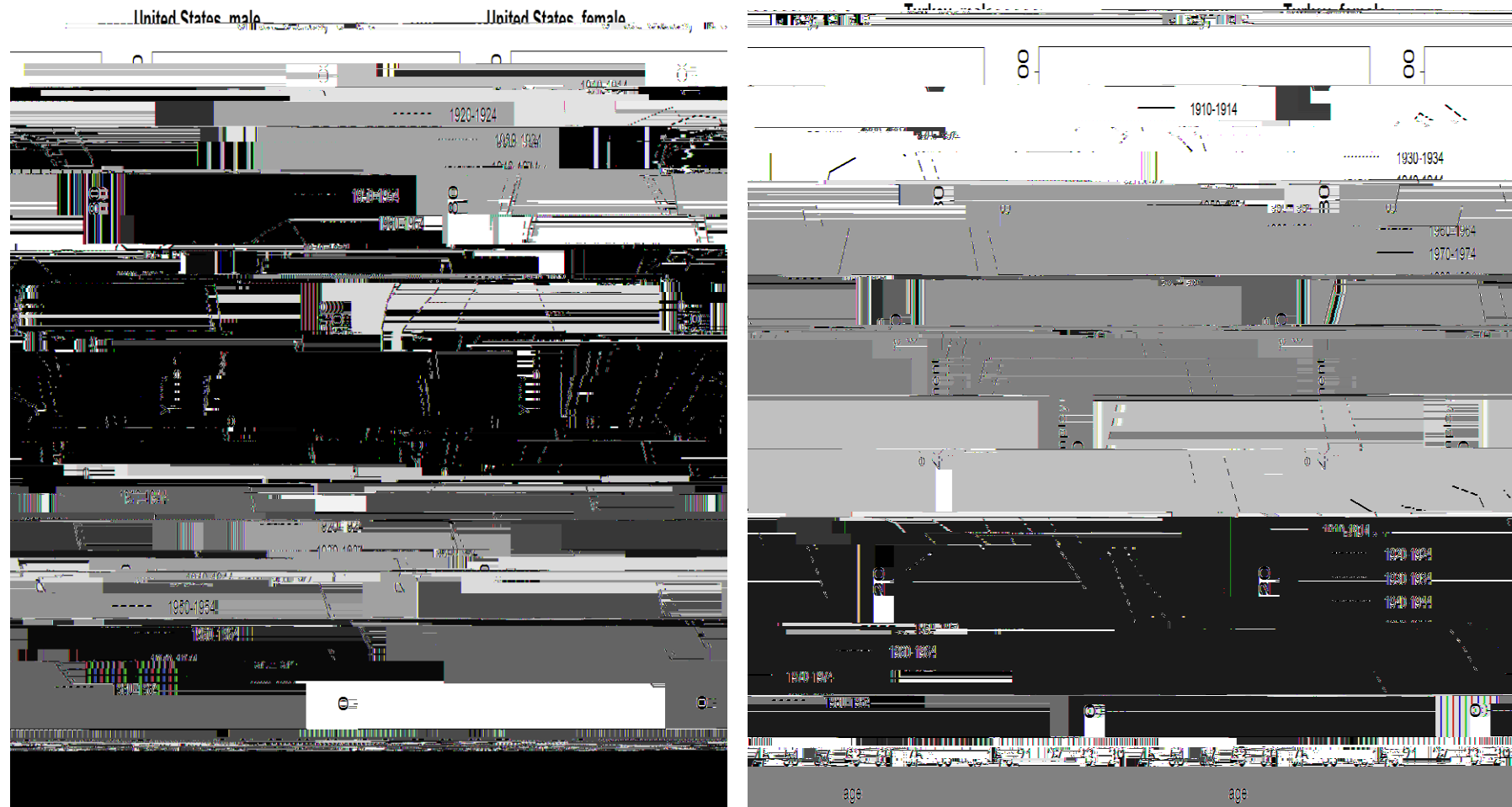
- *Fertility decline is likely to spread to more nations & this will contribute to population ageing*
- *My recent book (Decline and Prosperity) provides an overview of global fertility in the past, present and future from multiple perspectives including biological, economic, socio-cultural and evolutionary*

Education central - proportion with at least secondary school



Education causally improves old age health and cognition (e.g., Schneeweiss et al. 2014, Davies 2018)

Cultural factors important – female labour force participation varies



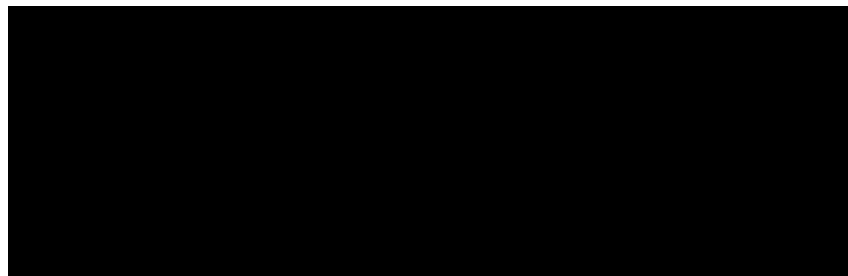
(Elke Loichinger and Vegard Skirbekk, 2017, CPS)

Health adjusted dependency ratios – a new understanding of aging

- The OADR (65+/20-64) rigidly assumes “being old” occurs at age 65 and everyone older than this age being “dependent”
- Yet,
- A new metric, the HADR, assumes
- We find that the HADR – contrasting the OADR



- Rather than using some arbitrary age limit such we look at the age one reaches a certain disease level (which can occur at different ages)
- The Health-Adjusted Dependency Ratio (HADR) the numerator consists of those in relatively ill-health (with worse health than the average global 65 year old), while the denominator population includes those in better health.



Health and ageing – the average health differs
by nation

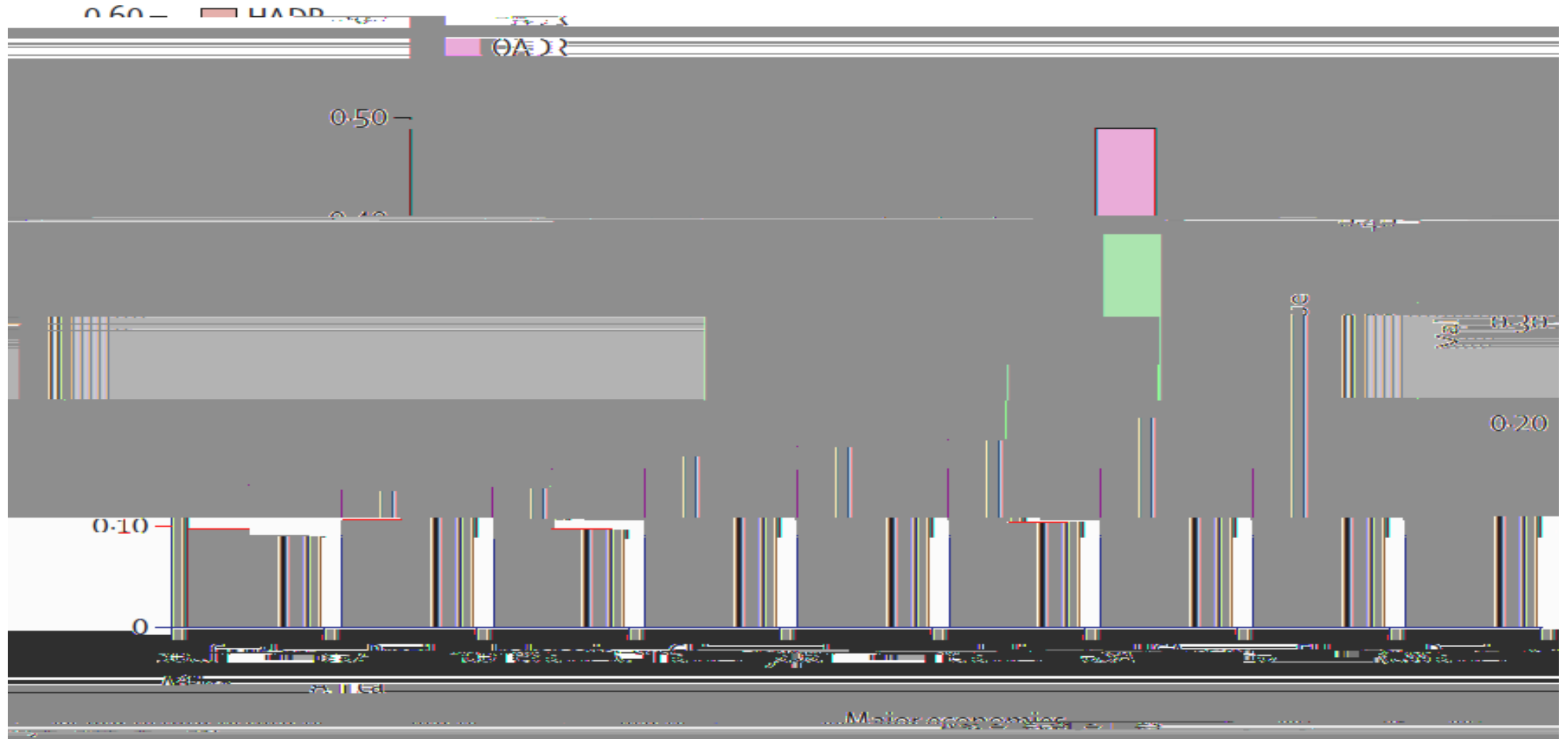
The Old Age Dependency Ratio



The Health Adjusted Dependency Ratio

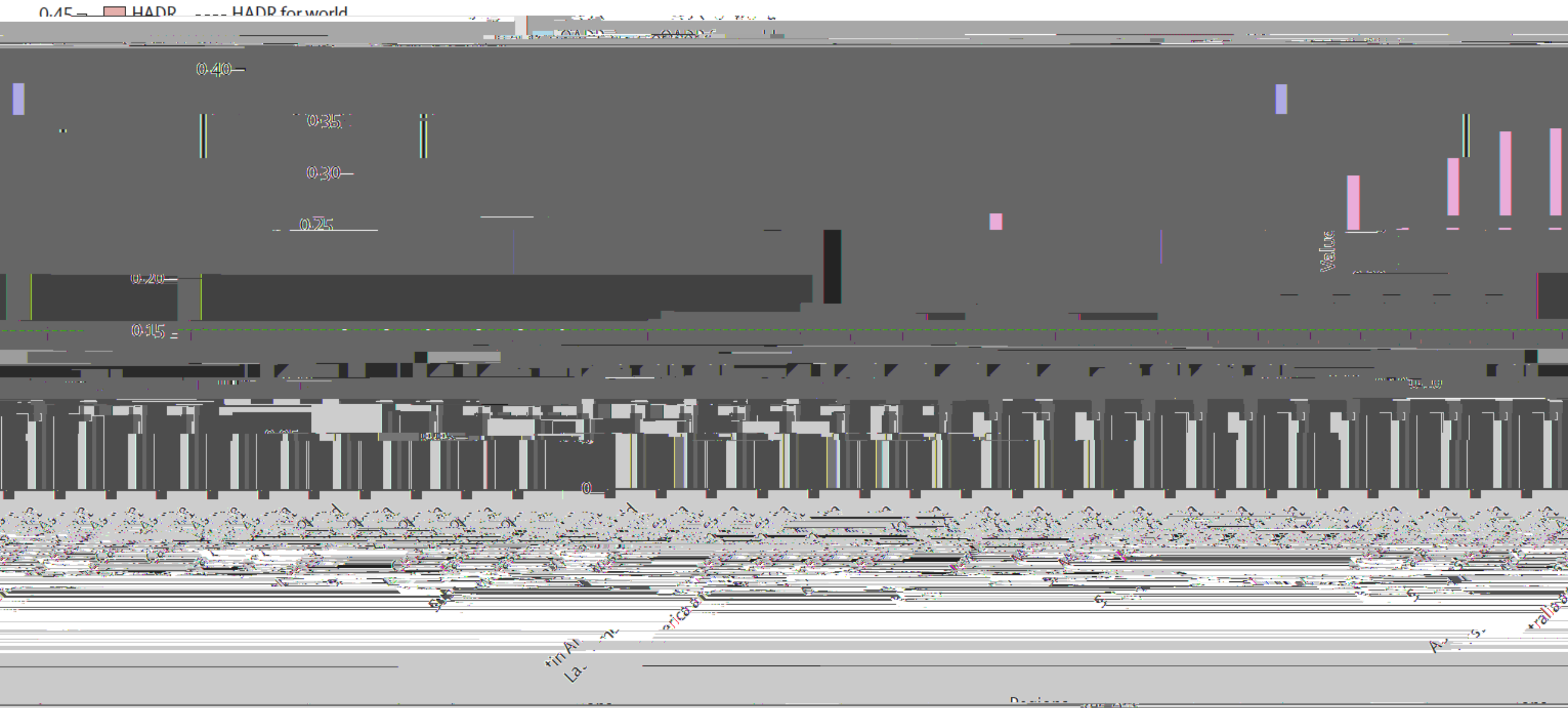


Health-adjusted dependency ratio (HADR) and old-age dependency ratio (OADR) for selected major economies. Higher values indicate higher ageing burden.



Health-adjusted dependency ratio (HADR) and old-age dependency ratio (OADR) by world region.

Higher values indicate higher ageing burden.



OADR VS HADR

Key points

- correspond to OADR the ageing burden are similar in most regions.
- However, the Middle East and North Africa somewhat lower burden based on HADR assessment, Eastern Europe greater HADR.
- Americas, Asia, Africa and Western Europe all have very similar HADR.
- Some demographically old nations age well due to low disease burden: Japan has a slightly lower burden than India, Spain a lower burden than Somalia
- Many demographically young (and several old) countries need to invest more in healthy ageing and healthier lifestyles education central