

Current status of the use of technology in Swedish elderly care

Michaela Prochazka, Onc RN, MPH, PhD

The National Board of Health and Welfare Sweden



Levels of government

The Parliament

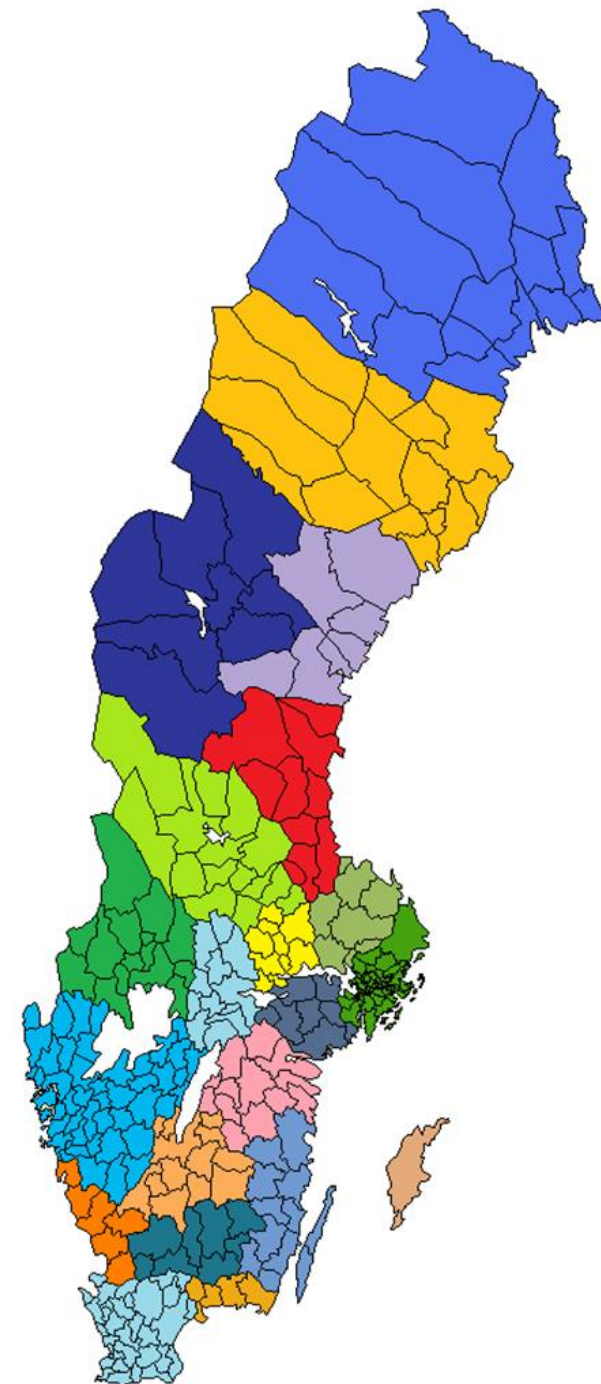
- legislation
- economic steering measures

The County (Regional) Councils (n=21)

- health and medical care

The Municipalities (n=290)

- social service and medical care
- in ordinary and special housing,
Medical doctors omitted



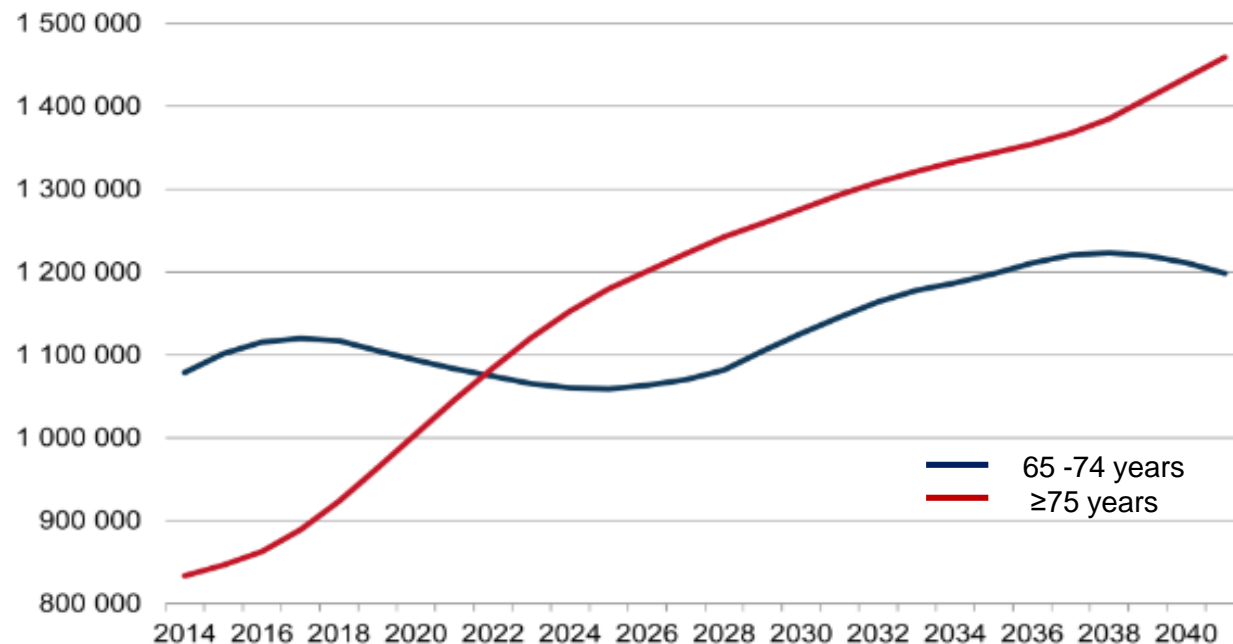
Demographic factors in Sweden 2019

Population size (thousands) 10 128

Share of population over age 65 (%) 20

Population projections for people 65 years and older

Per 100 000 inhabitants



The National Board of Health and Welfare ...

- is a government agency under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
- works with both healthcare and social services
- works with many tools, from regulations to guidelines, government grants, monitoring, evaluation and nationwide data bases
- main focus is on staff, managers and decision makers.



Senior housing system and services available in Sweden



Senior housing system in Sweden

Ordinary housing – the far most common.

Special housing/nursing homes are with care-staff 24 hours. In order to get a place in a special housing, a person has to have major medical and social needs and require around-the-clock care. Seniors can live there for a very long period (if they are seriously ill) or only for a couple of days (if, for example, care at home is temporarily impossible).

In order to arrange this kind of living, residents are obliged to pay a special fee to their municipality.

What services are provided?

High-quality services are available to all citizens according to need rather than ability to pay.

In ***Basic medical tasks*** (home care services) can be included, for example insulin injections and treatment of wounds. The amount of home care can vary from help once a month to six or more visits per day (over 24 h).

Home help services imply service and personal care in the home provided by the municipality under the Social Services Act. Service tasks include for example cleaning, doing laundry, help with shopping or help with showering.

The use of different technologies and innovations



Assistance technology

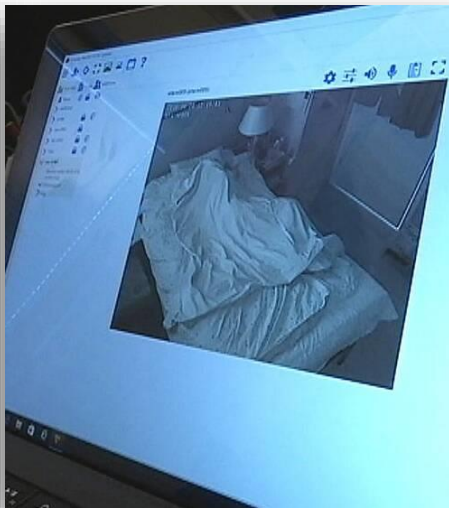
Individually fitted products aiming to maintain or increase activity, participation or autonomy by compensating a disability.

- A majority of all assistance technology is given to persons 65 years or older.
- 10 % of the population is using one or more assistance technologies
- Most common assistance technology is within the area of moving (for example wheel chairs and walkers)

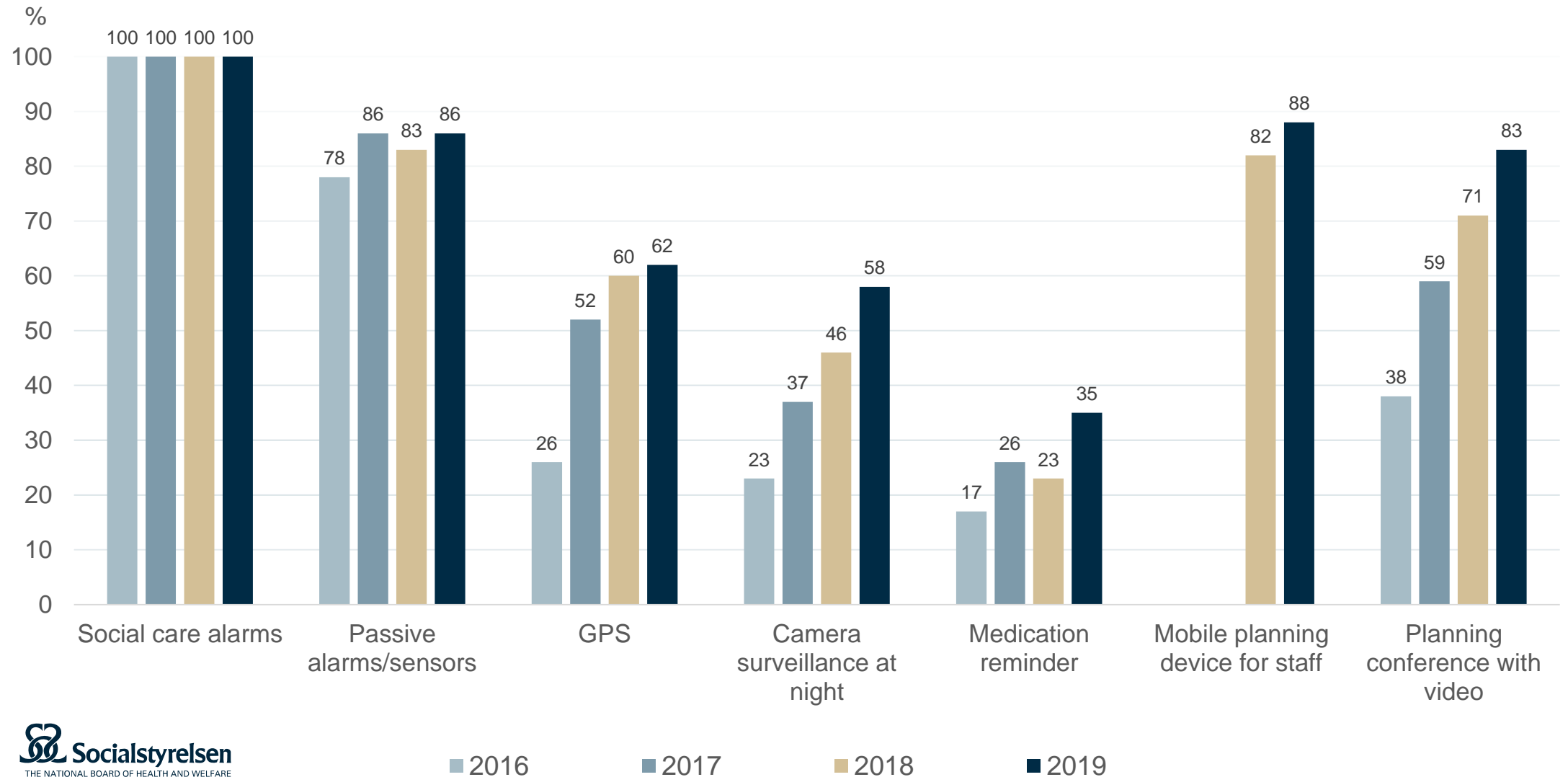
Definition of Welfare Technology

Welfare Technology is digital technology that aims to maintain or increase safety, activity, participation and independence for a person who has or is at increased risk of having a disability.

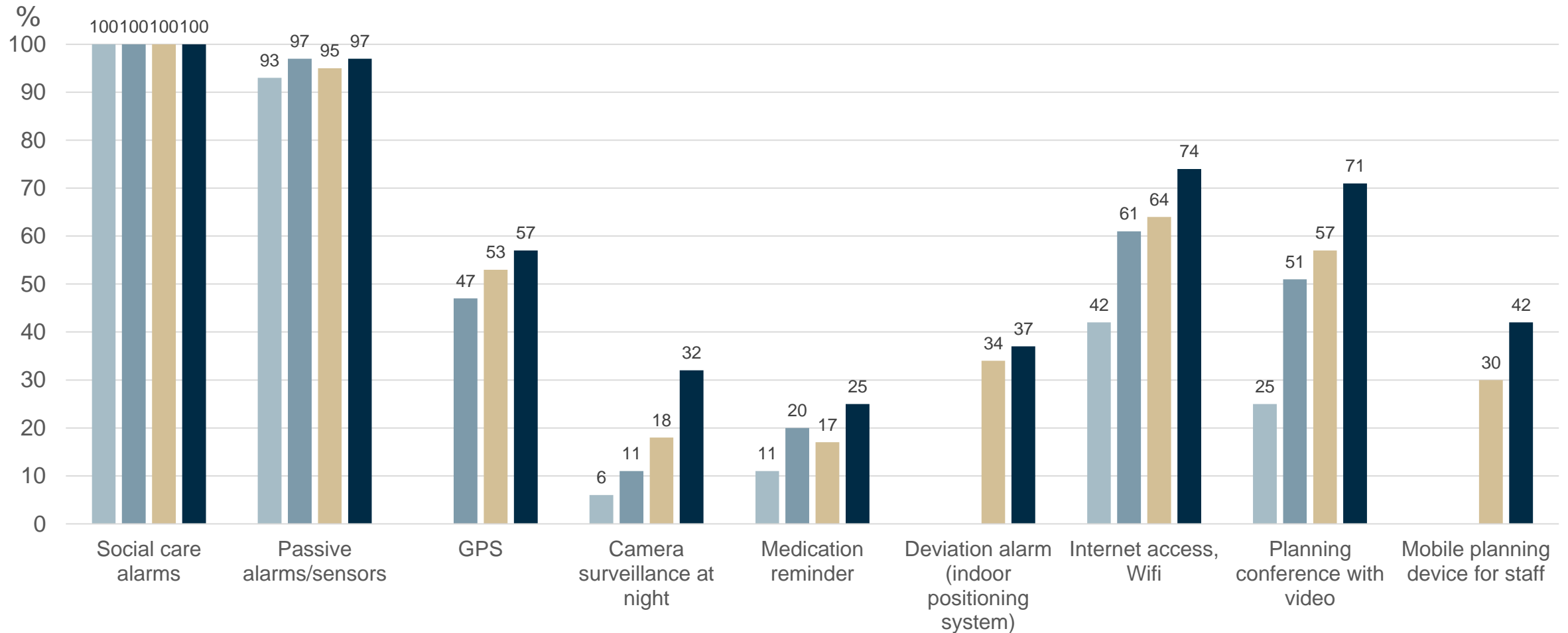
Welfare Technologies



Welfare technologies in the social services, in the older persons' own home



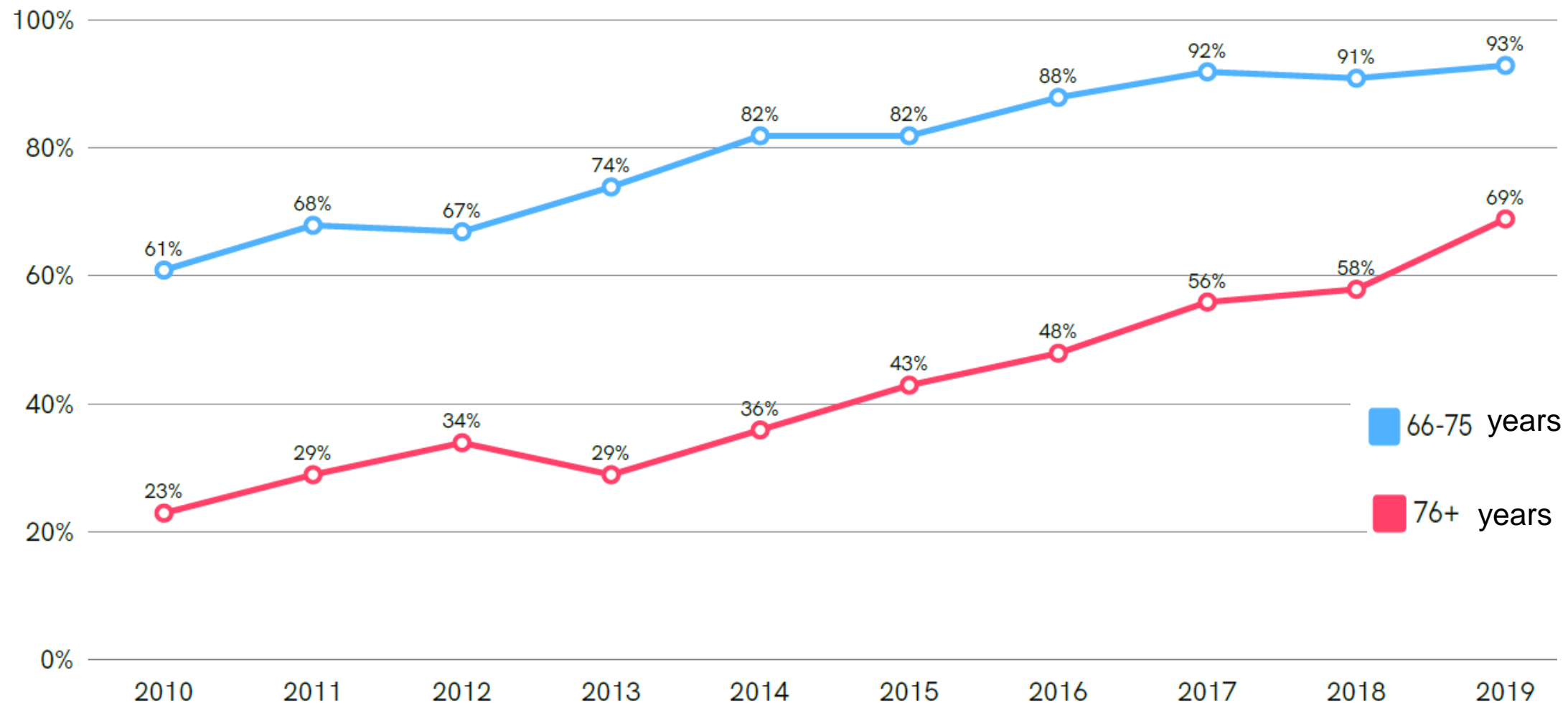
Welfare technologies in the social services, in Special housing /nursing homes



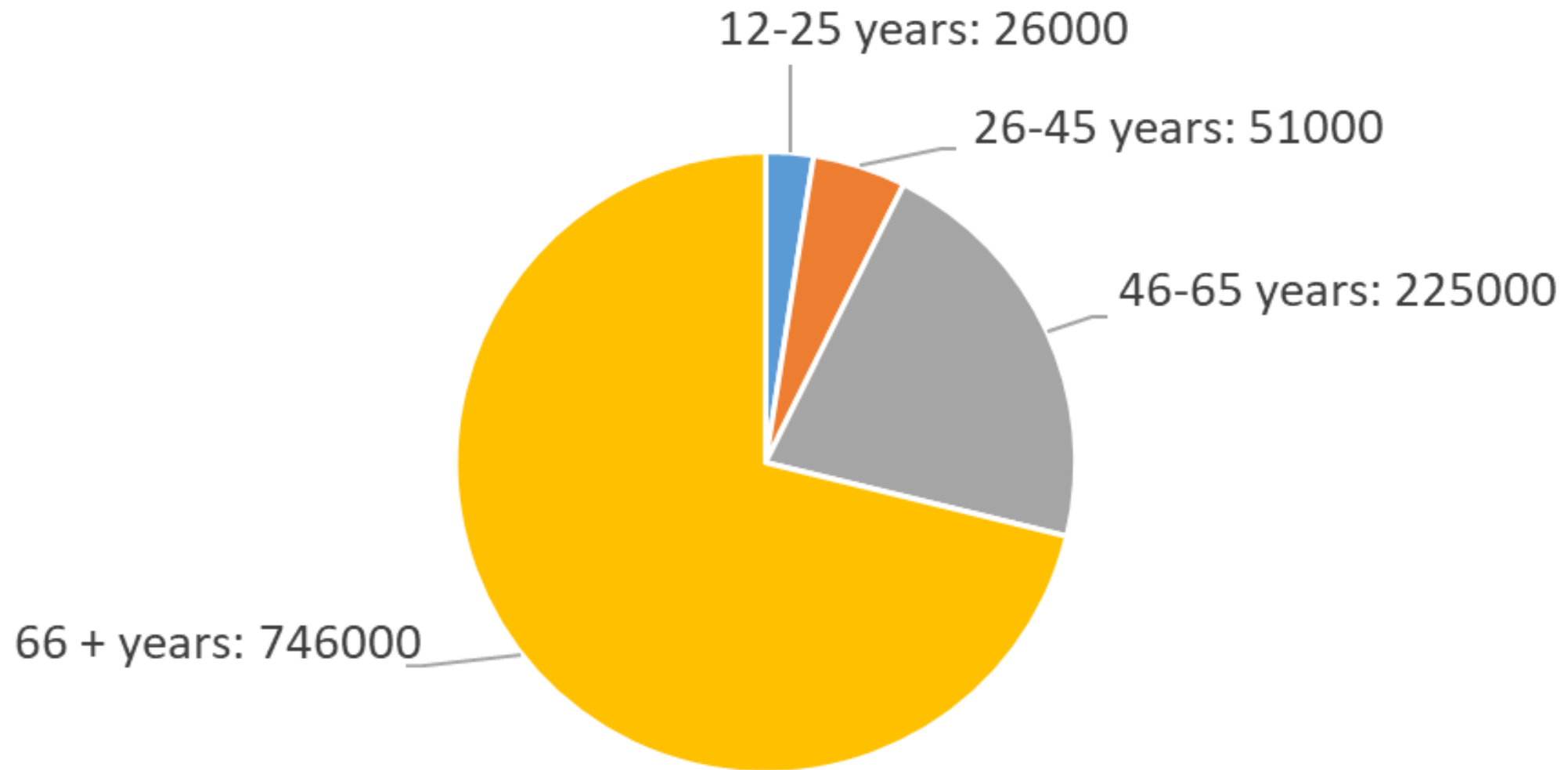
Digital competence among older people



The proportion of people 66 years and older using the internet



About one million people do not use internet on a daily basis, 2019



Effects of the use of welfare technology



Education and further training

Employees in elderly care need an overall knowledge of new technologies which puts a pressure on the education system and the life-long learning.

Some municipalities have started **courses for older people** in order to reduce the digital alienation.

Arguments against Welfare Technology

- Health robots and surveillance can mean a worsening of older people's quality of life and a disproportionate intrusion into his or her integrity
- Replacing professionals with camera and GPS transmitters may contribute to reduced social stimulus
- Can have entail great financial costs at the expense of other priorities

Arguments for Welfare Technology

- Promote the individual's quality of life, integrity and selfdetermination.
- Lead to an increased quality of care in the health and medical care and social services
- Streamline the healthcare activities and social services' care so that resources can be used more effectively
- Improve the staff's working environment by, for example, avoiding tough and heavy work tasks.
- Monitoring with GPS can prevent older people from getting hurt in case he or she gets lost and monitoring can mean security for relatives.

Michaela Prochazka
michaela.prochazka@socialstyrelsen.se

More information:
www.socialstyrelsen.se