**Appendix: Further detail on methods**

Population count and death count data from the Human Mortality Database (HMD) The HMD contains these data for 37 separate countries, separately for males and females. HMD data are available at a 1 year by 1 year resolution, i.e. population count data and death count data are available for each year of age from newborns up to the age of 110 years, and for largely continuous ranges of years. The focus within this paper will, however, be on changes that have occurred within the previous fifty years, around two generations, as records from more countries are available over this period (16).

To see how sex mortality inequalities have changed over time, the ratios of male to female crude mortality rates were calculated for each country, age and year combination, i.e.

Where the superscripts, m or f, indicate male or female, D indicates death count, P indicates population count, and the subscripts indicate a particular combination of country, age, and year respectively.