

Sickness & Health in Colton

By Sonia Jenkinson

Introduction

- Why this subject
- Availability of information - pre 1837
- Medieval
- Early Modern
- Victorian
- Information on Colton
- Statistics

Medieval (pre 1500)

- Disease - Sanitation
 - Thatched Roofs and Rats
 - Food Storage
 - Lack of medicine
 - Damp living conditions
- Killers : Typhus, Typhoid, leprosy, plague
- Black death killed 2/3 of population

Medieval

- Accidents : fires, animals
- Childbirth :-Haemorrhage and infection
-Brain damage, mental illness
- Survive past childhood and live to 70+
- Disease blamed on humours and planets
- Old remedies - Herbs
- Chicken broth
- Maggots and leeches
- Information limited in Colton

Early Modern (1500-1760)

- Life expectancy 32-40 yrs
- Women 25-35 4 times more likely to die
- Killers: cholera, typhus, smallpox, influenza
plague (not in Colton)
- Infant mortality increased in 1600, peaked in 1700, started to fall by end of 1700's
- Remedies mainly herbal (book)
- Burials in wool

Early Modern in Colton

- Parish records in Latin, damaged, illegible
- Extracts : 1652 Thomas son of Thomas Lees baptised, wife buried
- 1649 Alexander Topping died, two days later daughter baptised.
- Poor Relief given to sick
- Extracts: 1726 widow short given 1^s and 1797 4^s given to pay doctors bill for Massey's child and £1 for child's funeral

Victorian Health 1813-1899

- Life expectancy 41 yrs, variable
- Killers: cholera, typhus, diphtheria, T.B.
- Epidemics nearly every year
- More women died: childbirth, poorer diet, less exercise, nursing the sick
- Decline in mortality started around 1830
- Why: more doctors, hospital, awareness, medicines, vaccinations ?
- Probably due to improvements in sanitation

Life Expectancy

Based on Chadwicks survey of 1842

Class	Manchester	Rutland	London	Colton
Gentry Professional	38	52	45	
Tradesman Farmers	20	41	27	
Labourers Servants	25	43	22	
Average	25	43	30	41

Average = 41

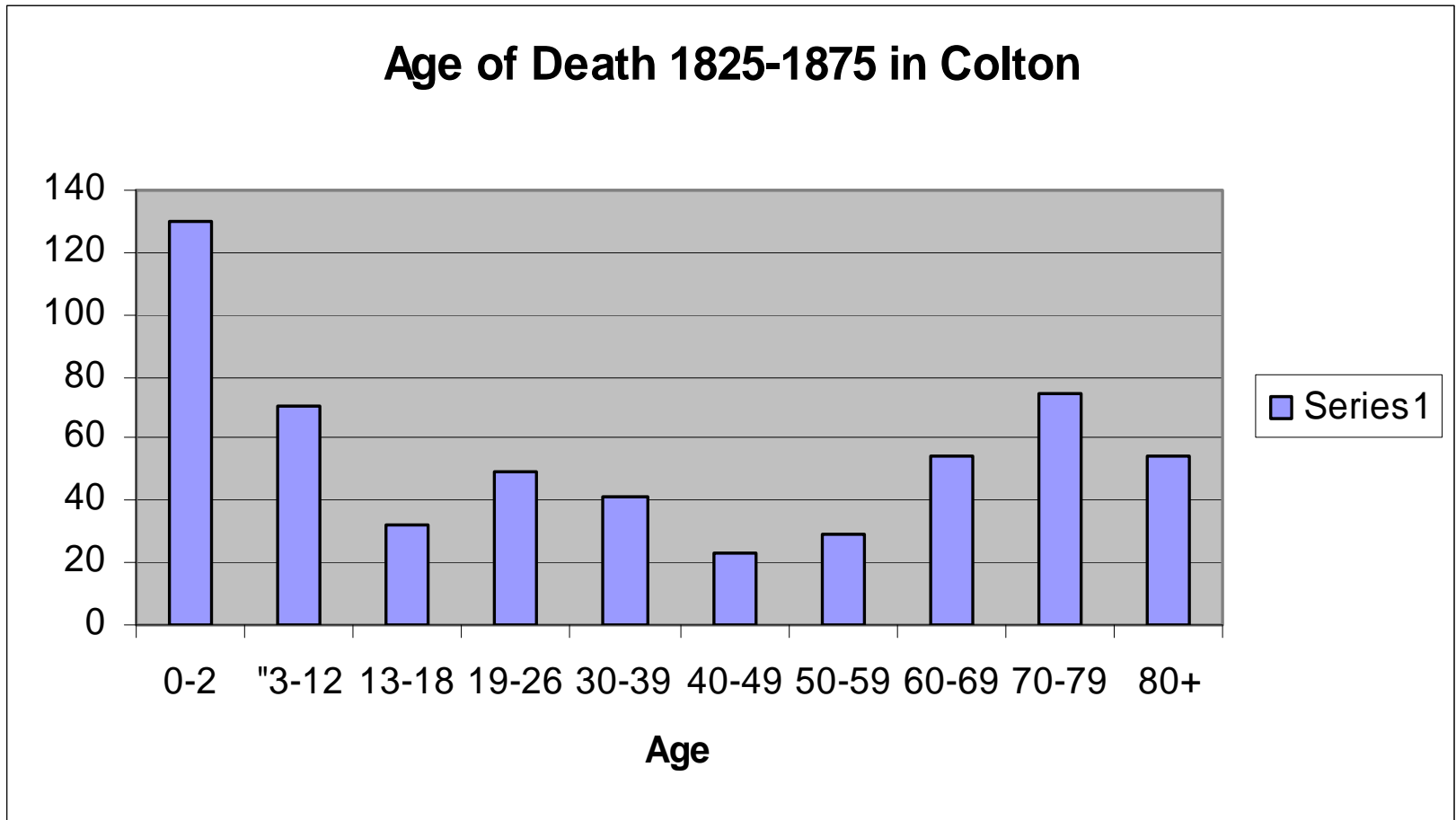
Male = 40

Female = 42

Influencing Factors

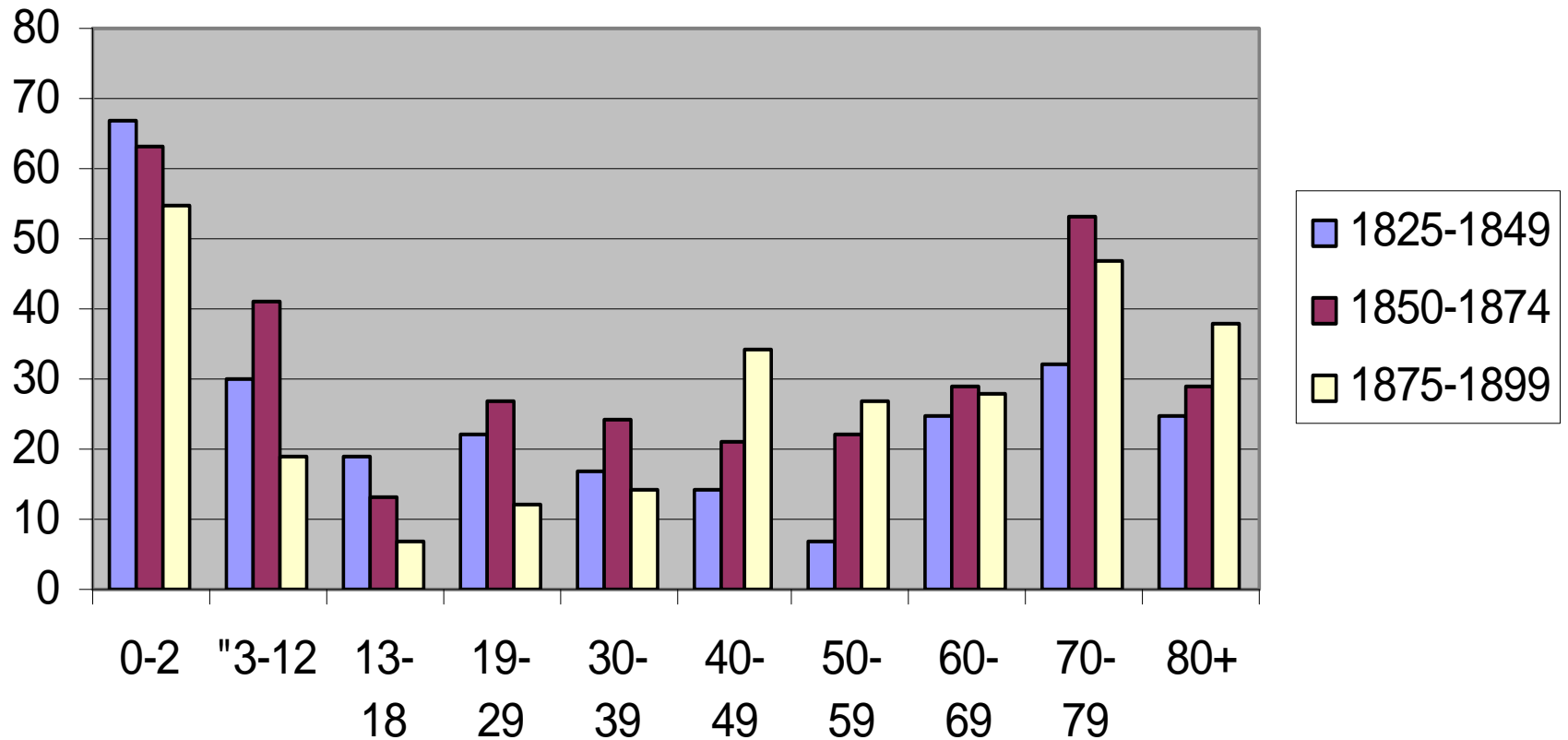
- Money: more in urban areas
- Environment: air, water, sanitation
- Diet: meat, fruit , vegetables
- Average life span 41 years, but many lived 70+

Age of Death (1)

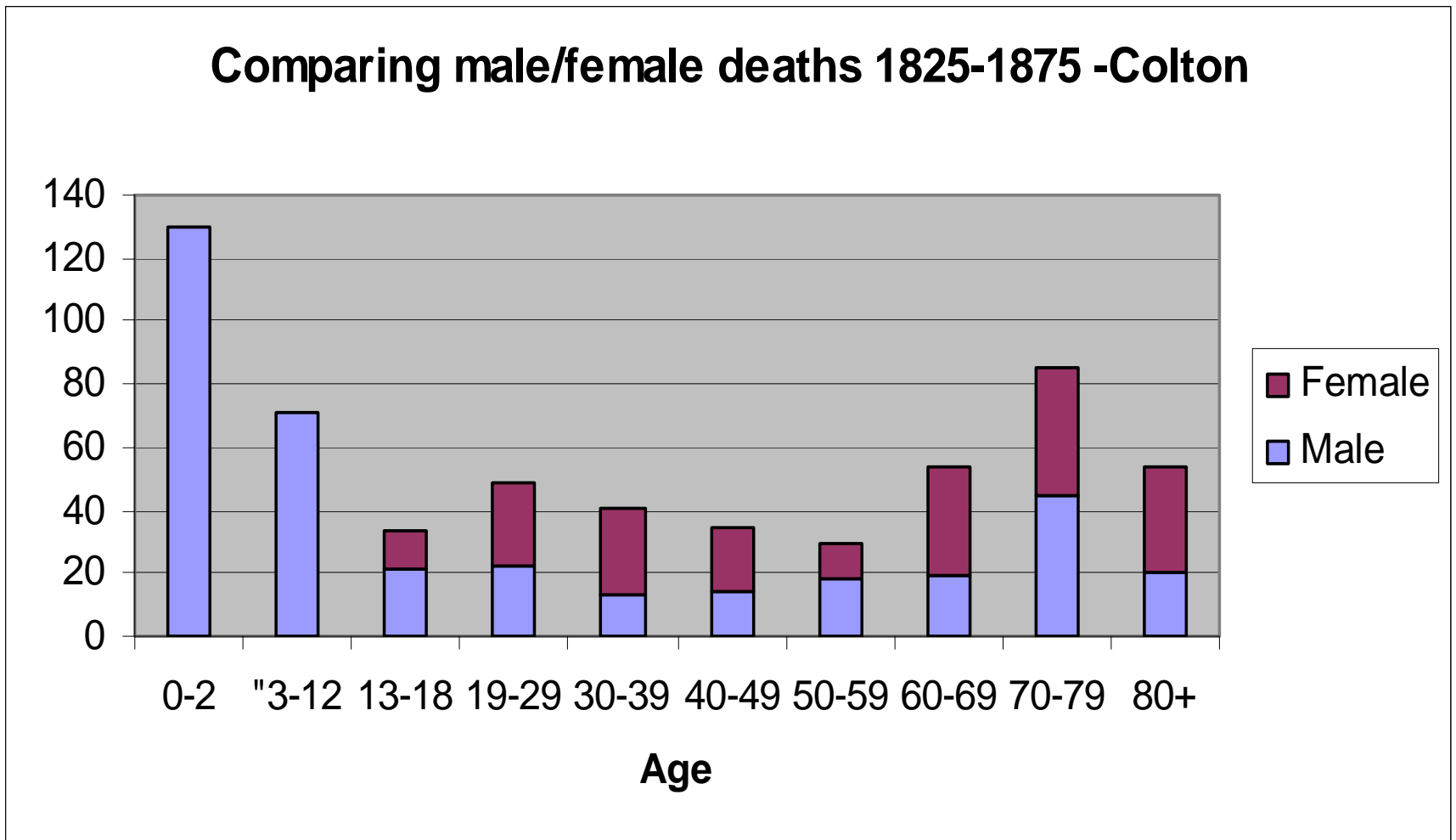


Age of Death (2)

Age of Death 1825-1899 in Colton

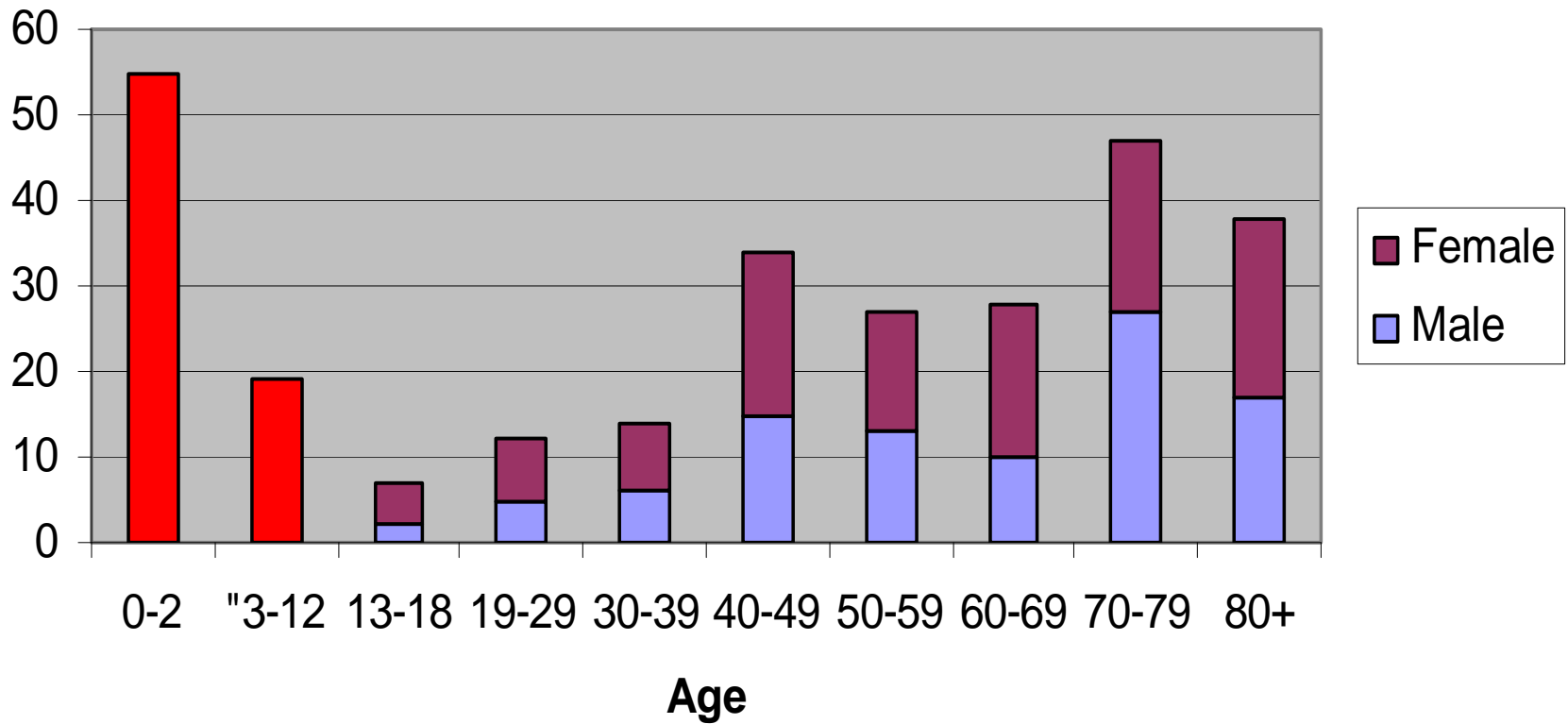


Male / Female Comparison (1)



Male/ Female Comparison (2)

Comparing male/female deaths 1875-1899 -Colton



Infant Mortality 0-5 years

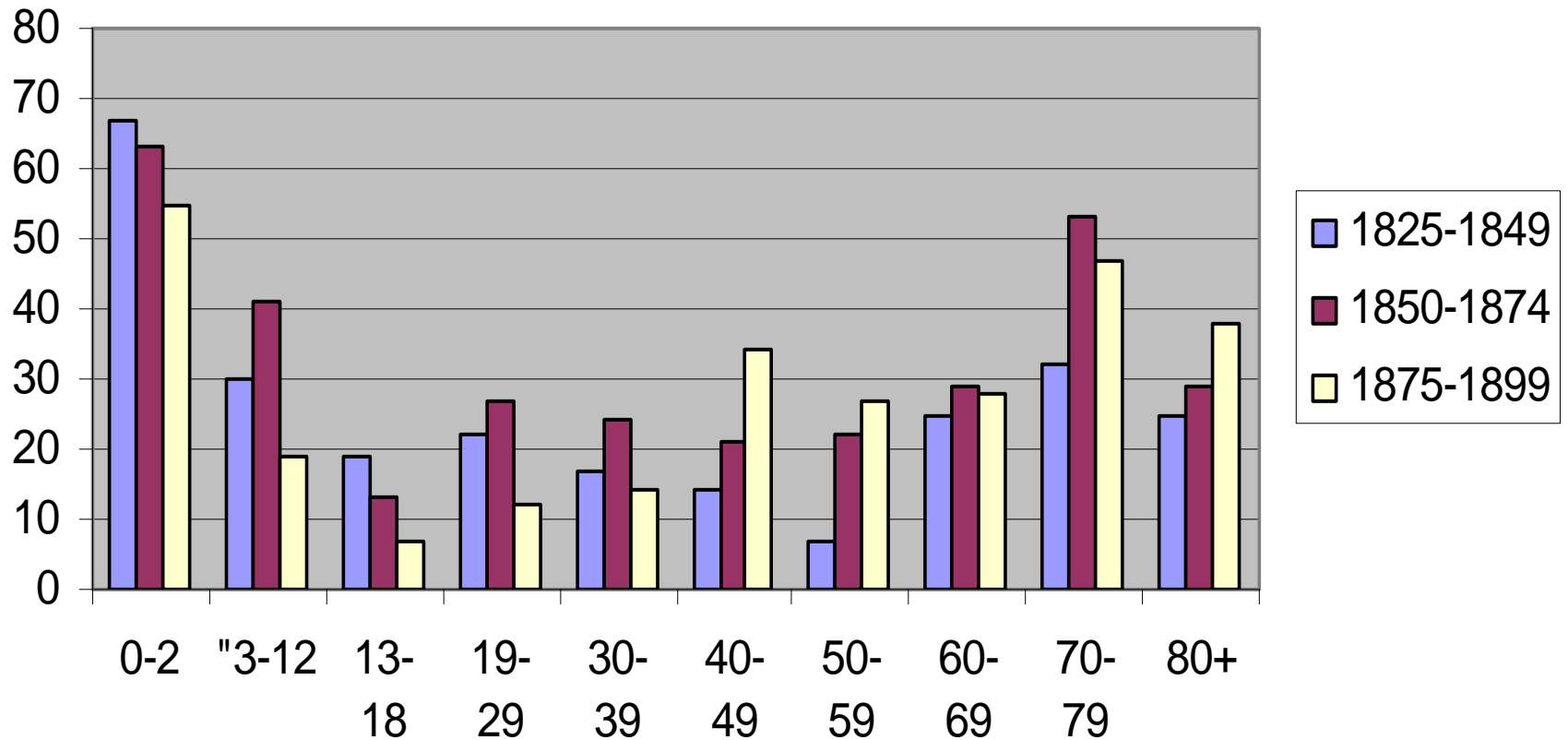
Class	Manchester	Rutland	Average
Gentry Professional	1:3	1:4	1:5
Tradesmen Farmers	1:2	1:3	1:2.5
Labourers Servants	1:2	1:3	1:2

Average = 1 in 3

Colton = 1 in 6

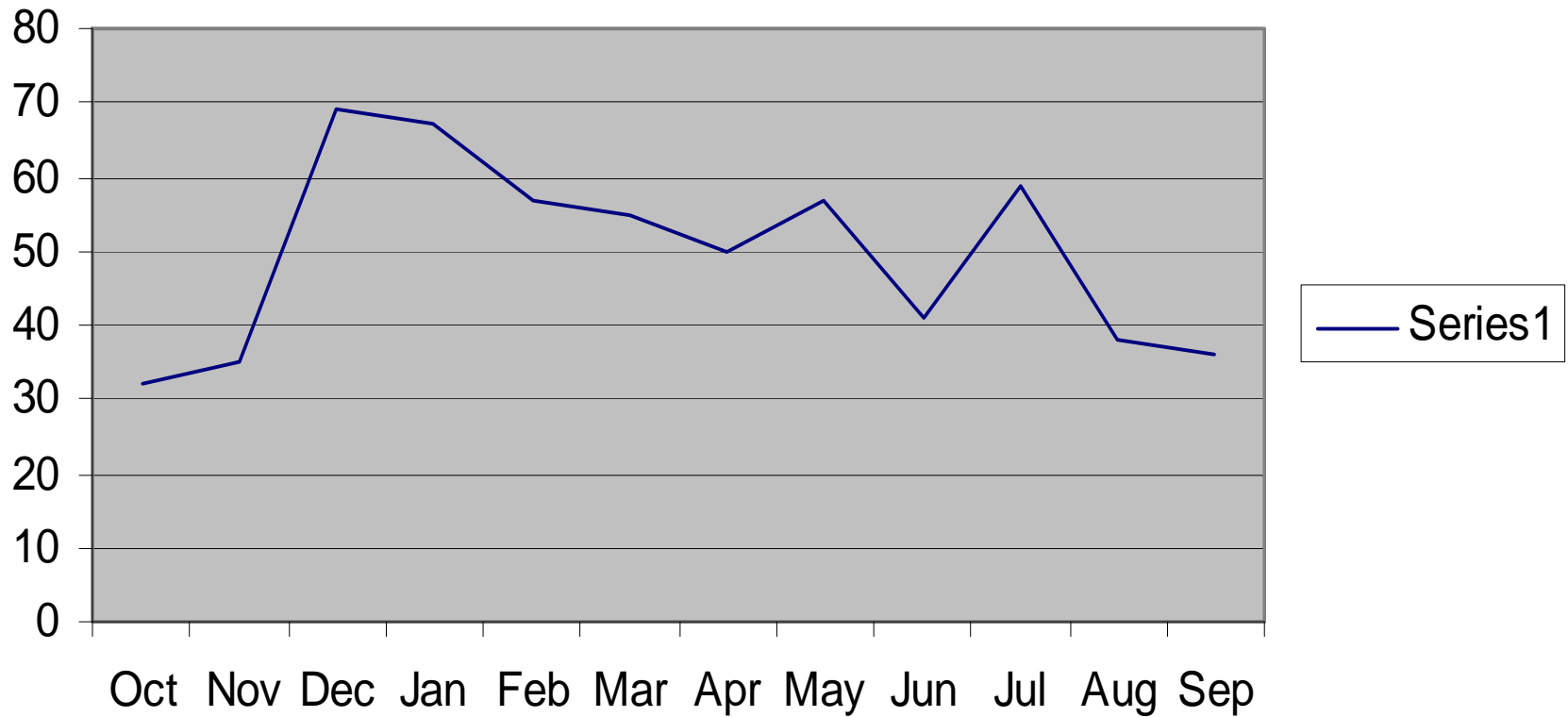
Age of Death (2)

Age of Death 1825-1899 in Colton



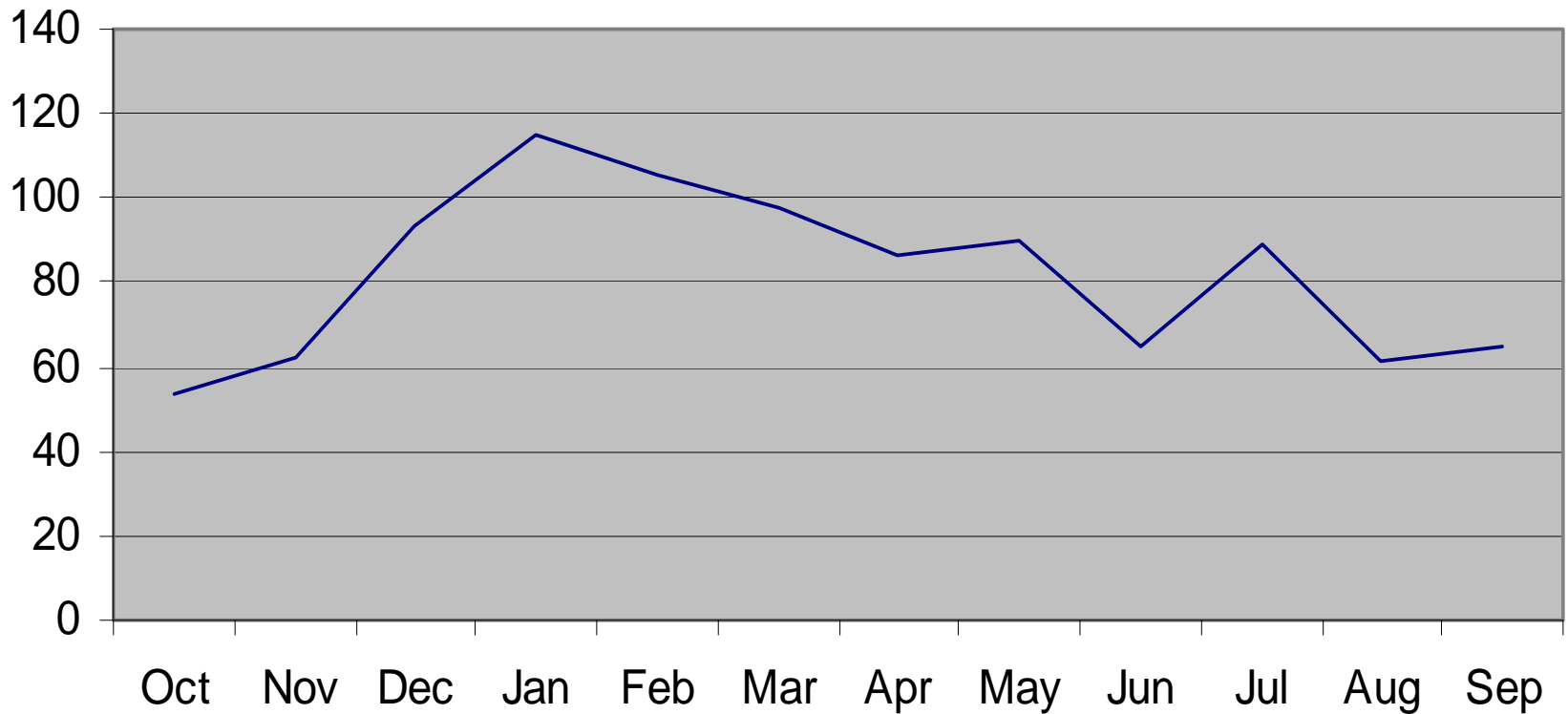
Month of Death (1)

Month of Death 1825-1875 in Colton



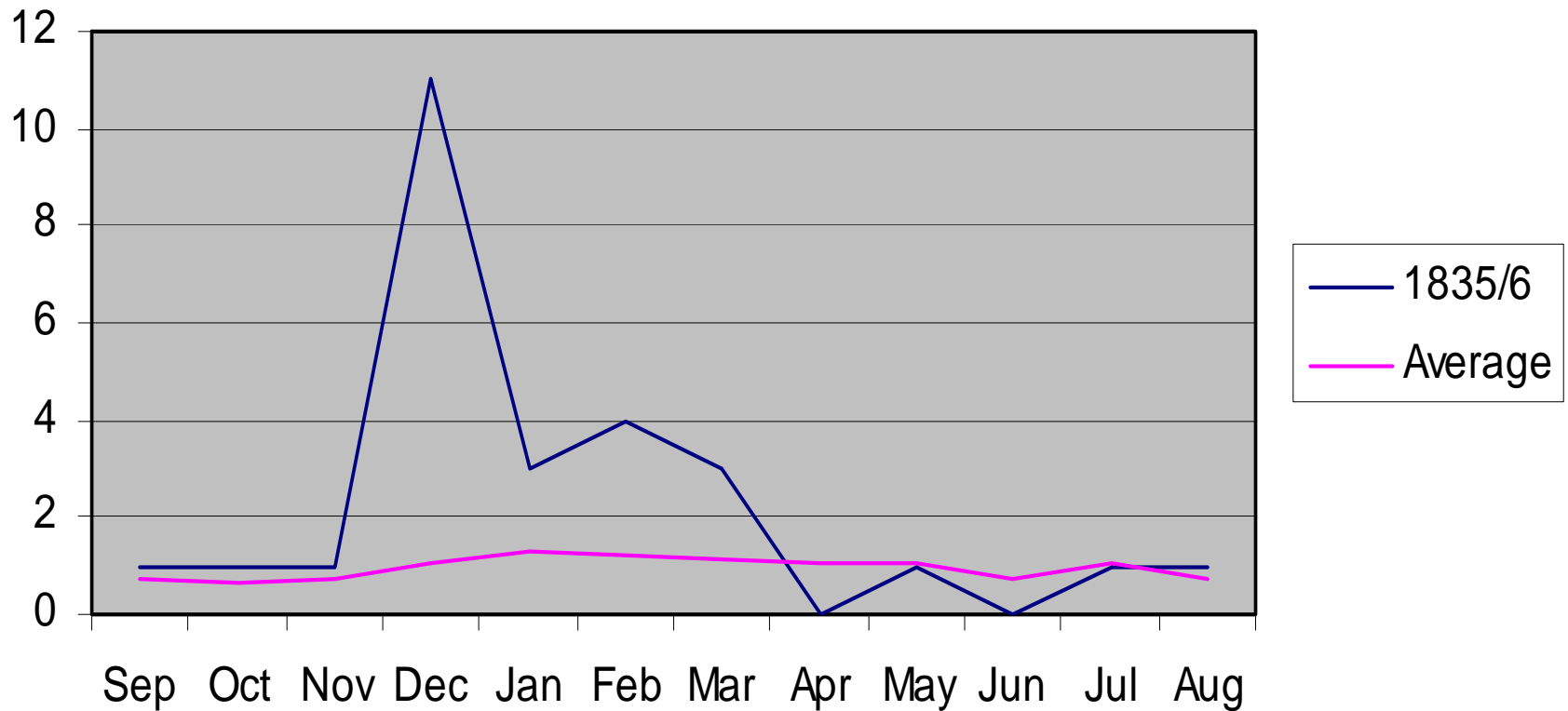
Month of Death (2)

Month of Death 1813-1899 in Colton

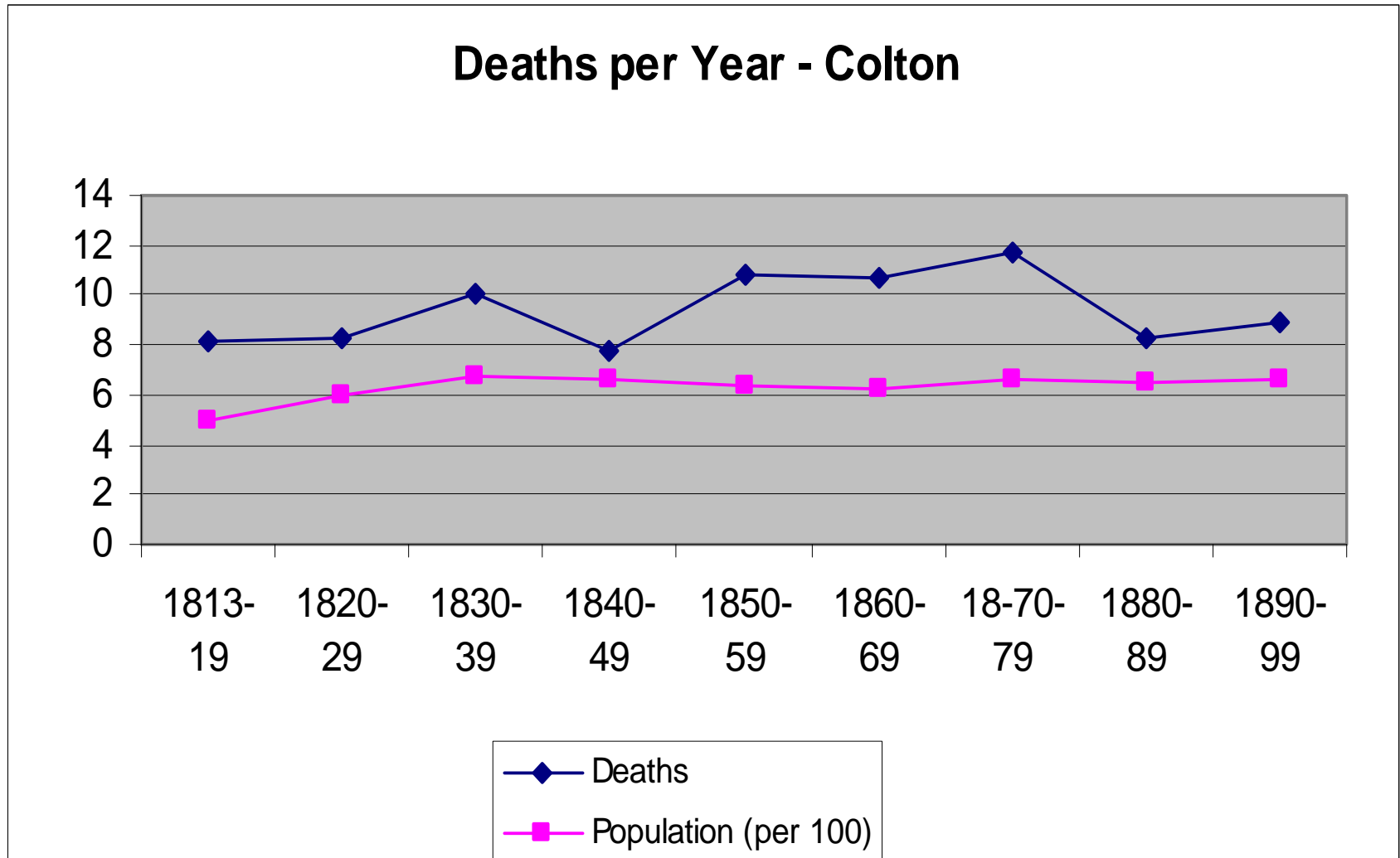


Winter 1835

Deaths - winter 1835/6



Deaths per Year



Conclusion

- Colton fairly healthy place to live, average rural area

- Infant mortality low

- Many living 80+

Catherine Deakin died age 94yrs “ Oldest person in the village and probably the best”

- Few comments by Rev. Parker

- Statistics – figures small

Future Research

- Look at morbidity (disease) in Colton
- Where did our sick go
- Expand - 1700-1800 (no ages)
 - post 1900

References

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