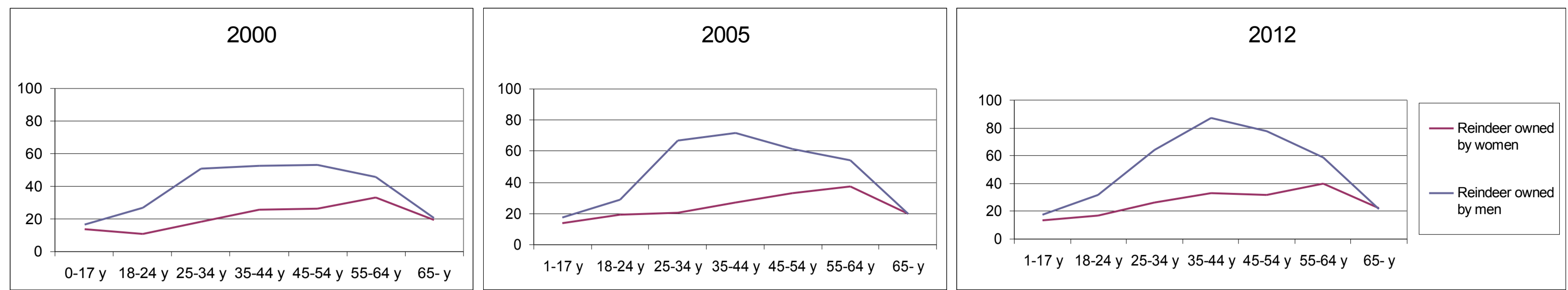
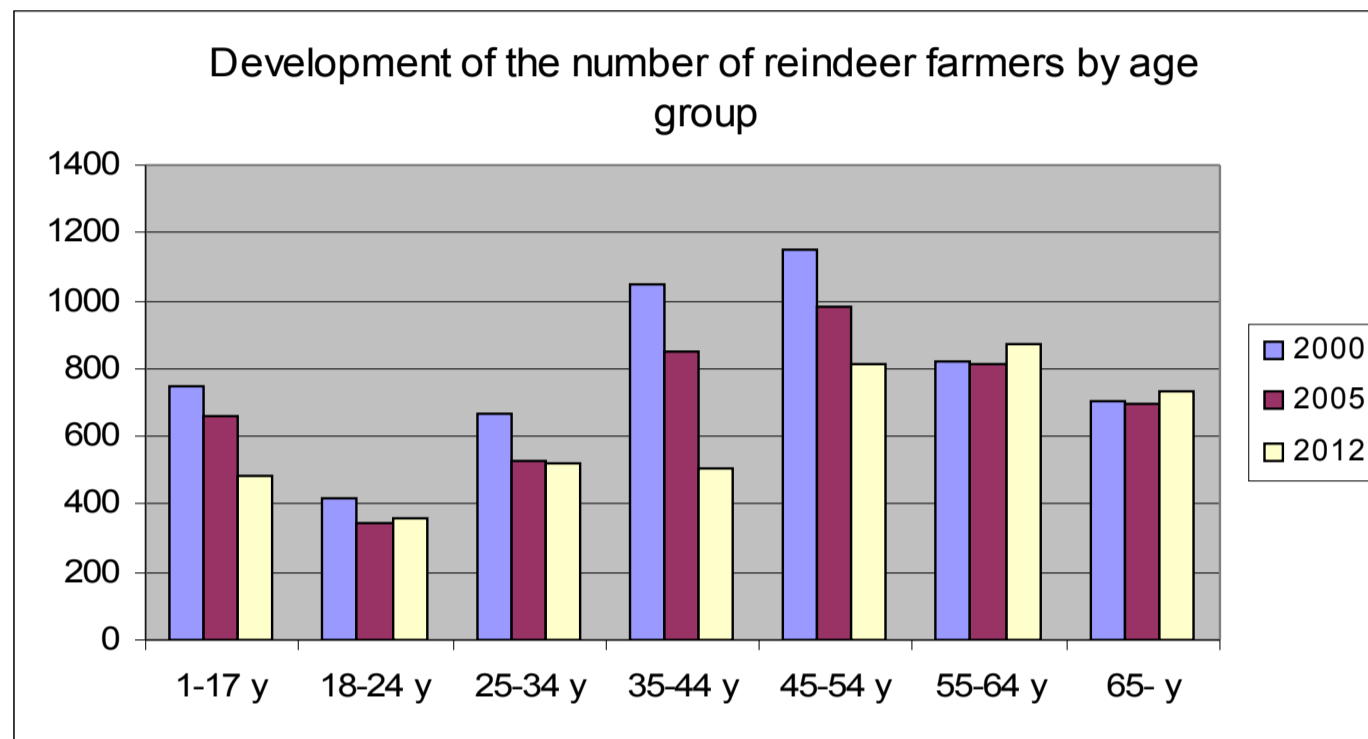


Development of reindeer farming in 2000-2012

Objectives	What we researched	Implementation
Our objective was to examine the development of reindeer farming in Finland in 2000-2012. We especially wanted to look at the social aspects of the industry.	<p>What are the age and gender distribution of reindeer owners like?</p> <p>How has the number of reindeer and the size of herds developed?</p> <p>How does Sámi descent affect reindeer farming?</p> <p>What does the future of reindeer farming look like?</p>	<p>Our main dataset was statistics received from the Reindeer Herders' Association on approximately 5,000 reindeer owners concerning three years.</p> <p>In addition, we carried out an inquiry about the family relationships, Sámi descent, and past and future plans concerning reindeer farming of reindeer owners. Sixty-one reindeer farmers responded to the inquiry.</p>



Herd size	1-49	50-79	80-159	160-239	240-319	320-399	400-
y. 2000	76,02%	10,64%	9,60%	2,49%	0,89%	0,33%	0,04%
y.2005	75,38%	4,87%	15,47%	2,84%	1,02%	0,37%	0,04%
y.2012	73,10%	4,58%	14,10%	5,18%	1,75%	0,72%	0,56%



The number of reindeer farmers has decreased in particular in active age groups (aged 25 to 54). By contrast, the number of reindeer farmers in the two oldest age groups has made a slight upturn.

Gender distribution of reindeer farmers

	2000	2005	2012
Women	24%	26%	29%
Men	76%	74%	71%

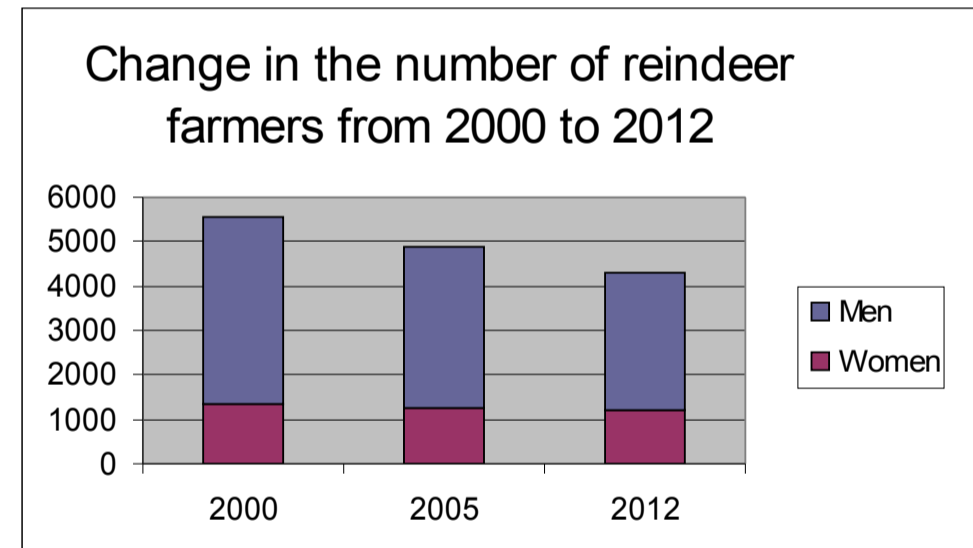
Reindeer farming has traditionally been, and still is, a male-dominated industry. The share of women is, however, growing clearly.

Of the reindeer farmers that responded to the inquiry, 88.5 per cent had a spouse and 59.0 per cent had at least one child. So, reindeer farming is a rather family-centred industry.

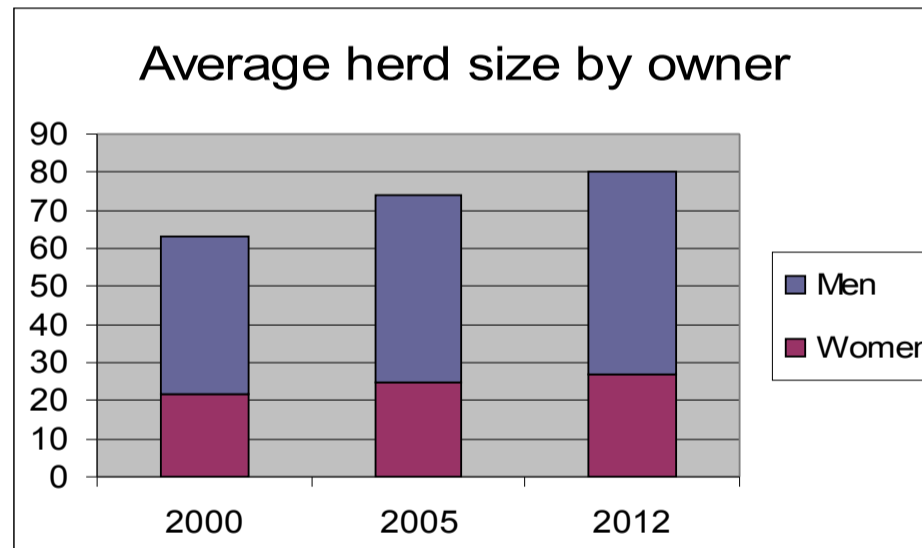
The size of herds has grown. The relative share of those that own less than 50 reindeer has decreased slightly, while the share of those that own 50 to 79 reindeer has decreased remarkably. The transition has been made to a herd size of 80 to 159 reindeer. This is explained by the fact that the grounds for granting reindeer farming subsidies have changed and since joining the EU, animal-specific subsidies have been paid in reindeer farming. In 1995, the precondition for receiving subsidies was that you owned 25 reindeer and the number has grown from then on. In 2000, the subsidy was granted for owning 50 reindeer and since 2004 for owning 80 reindeer. The farmers with 50 to 79 reindeer that received subsidies in 2000 had to acquire more reindeer to continue receiving subsidies from 2004 onwards.

Reindeer farming generations	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Sámi descent	0,0 %	2,9 %	28,6 %	20,0 %	8,6 %	40,0 %
No Sámi descent	19,2 %	15,4 %	15,4 %	34,6 %	7,7 %	7,7 %

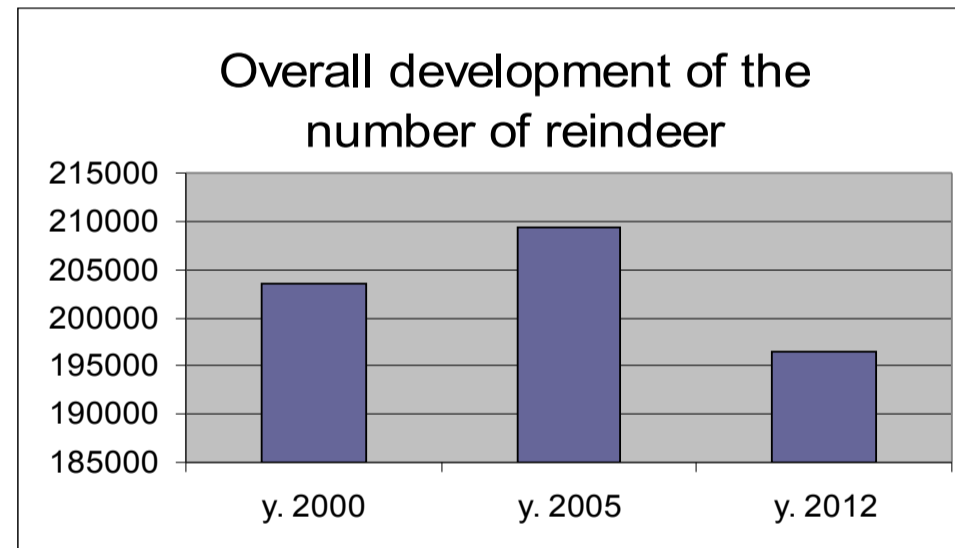
Sámi descent seems to have a clear connection with the high number of reindeer farming generations. The share of those with no Sámi descent is clearly higher than those with Sámi descent in the group of first generation reindeer farmers. For 40 per cent of those with Sámi descent, reindeer farming has been practised at least in six generations.



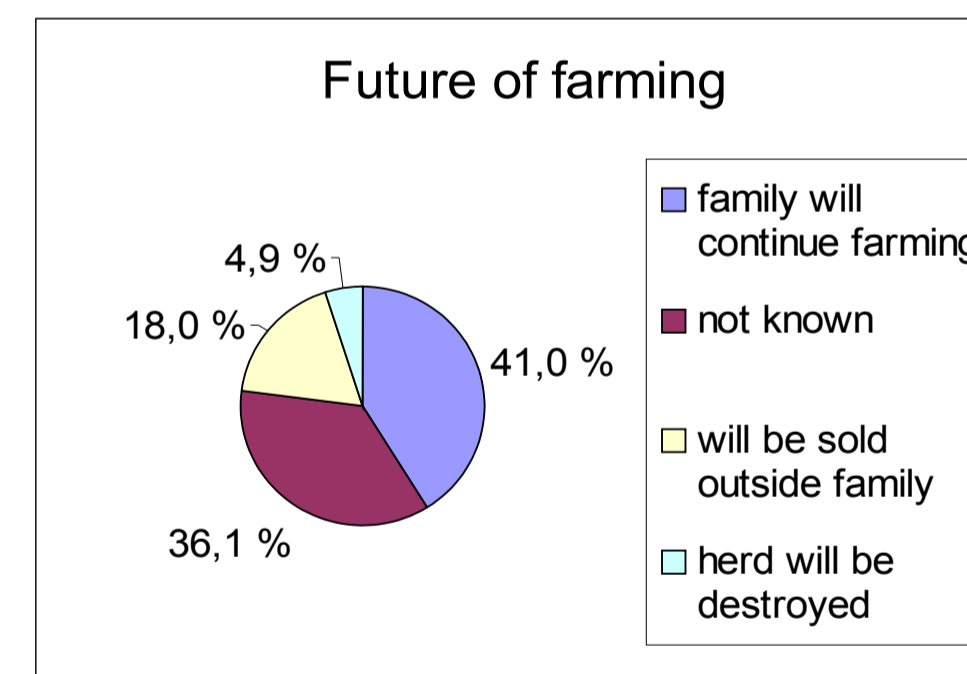
The overall number of reindeer farmers has decreased over the review period. The number of women has remained almost unchanged, which means that the relative share of women has increased.



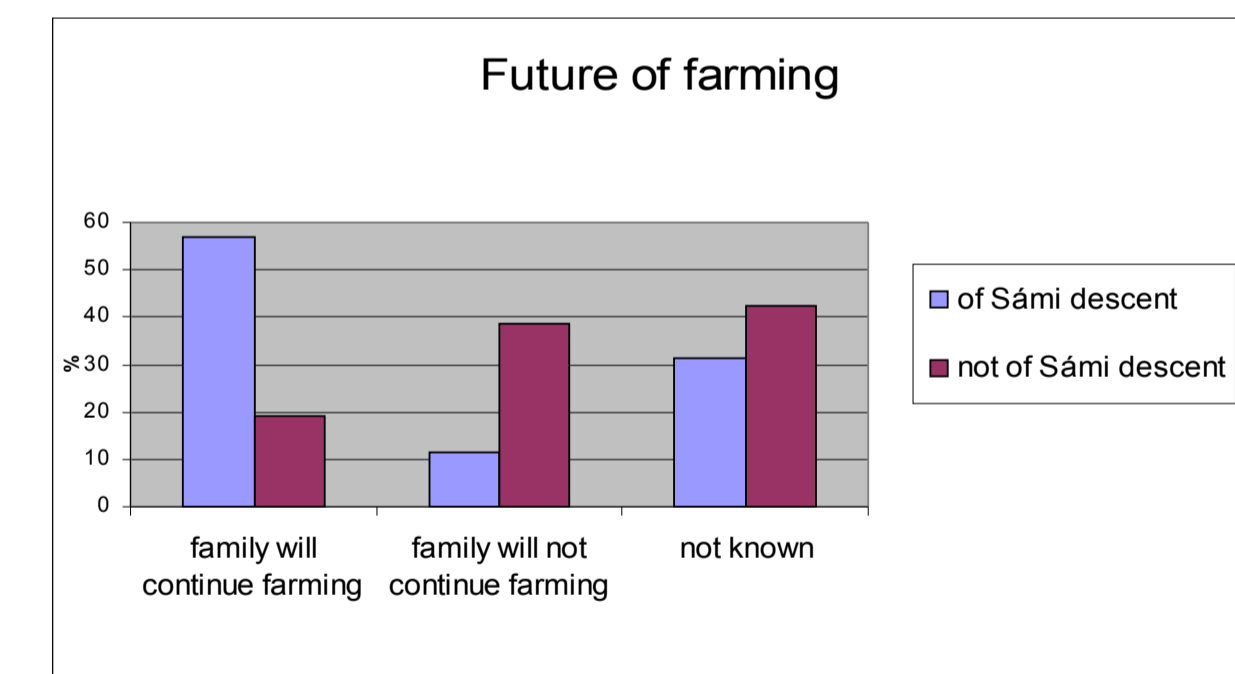
The average herd size has grown for both genders.



The number of reindeer has made a downturn since 2005. Several factors have affected this development, but the biggest effect measured in numbers has been the increase in damages caused by predators.



A majority of those that responded to the inquiry believes that the reindeer farming will continue in the family. The second largest group did not know what will happen in future. Of the remaining respondents, the majority will sell their reindeer outside the family and only a small percentage will destroy their herd.



Approximately one-third of the respondents do not know what will happen in future. Among those with Sámi descent it is in generally more common that the farming will continue in the family, while among those with no Sámi descent, some 40 per cent plan to sell or destroy the reindeer.

Summary

The overall number of reindeer farmers has decreased and the share of women among them has grown while reindeer farming has still remained a male-dominated industry. The overall number of reindeer has made a downturn, especially due to the increase in damages caused by predators, but at the same time, the size of the herds has grown as subsidies are granted for a larger number of reindeer than before.

Those with Sámi descent are clearly more likely to be reindeer farmers in many generations and in many families the tradition seems to remain strong in future as well. Reindeer farming seems to be a heritable industry also for those with no Sámi descent but there are far more beginners among them than among those with Sámi descent. Those with no Sámi descent are less likely to know what will happen with their farm, or they are not planning to continue farming.



Photo: Mikko Kiviranta