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Challanges to the Welfare state of Sweden Metropolis, Vancouver

EmmaHolmqvist, FD

Membership of the European union
High unemployment rates
Immigration

Sweden: known and classified as an social democratic welfare state

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- The Swedish welfare model as comprehensive and generous
- Housing is, together with pensions, schooling and health, one of four core elements in the welfare state
- Housing welfare through considerable housing subsidies, tenure neutrality, ´unitary´ rental system with public housing companies as an important actor.

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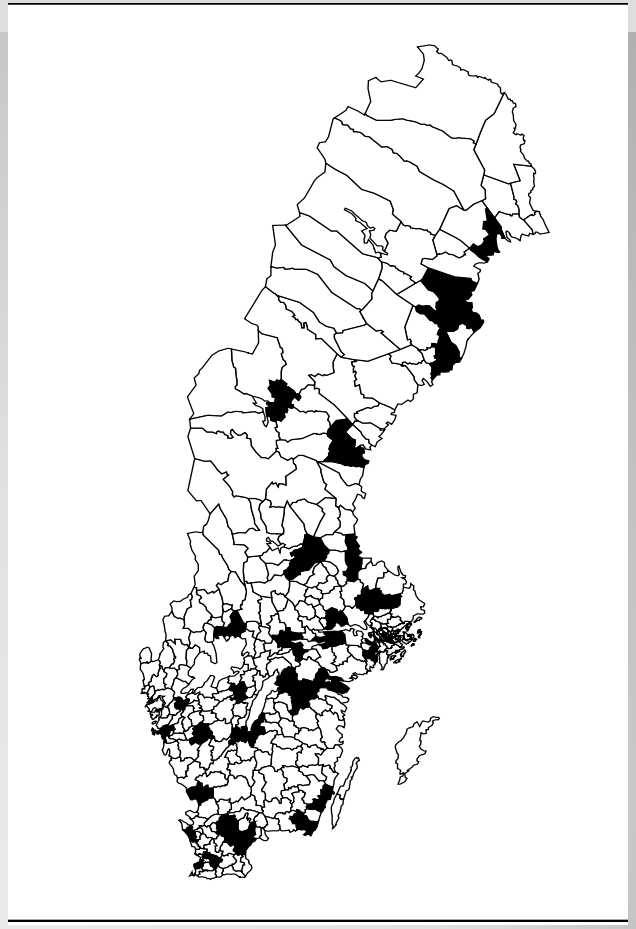
Cracks in the facade

- Challenges to the Swedish welfare state

Are the remaining welfare policies enough to give Sweden an outstanding position compared to other western countries?

How has the changes in housing policy affected different household types?



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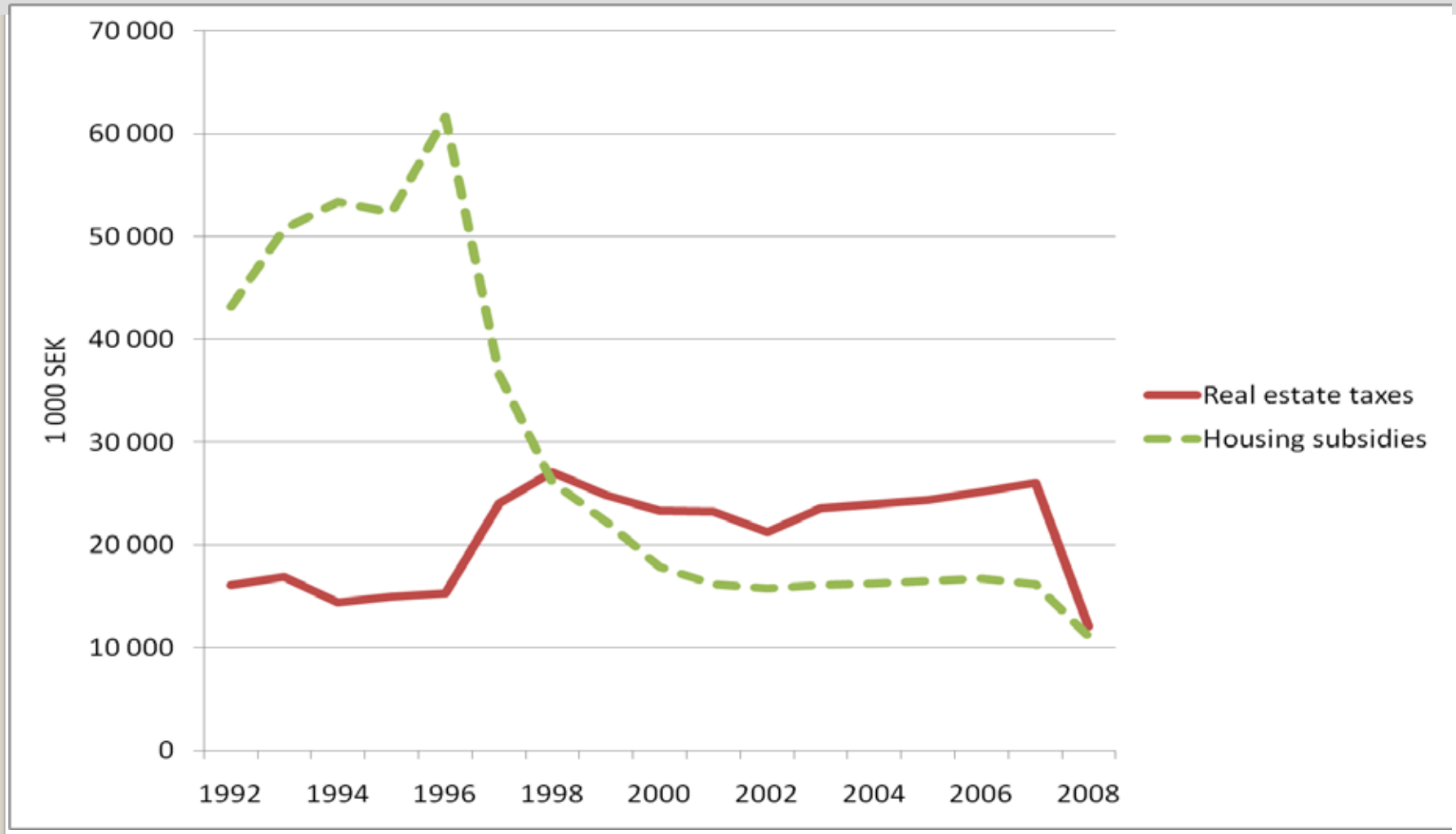
State real estate taxes and housing subsides, year 1992 - 2008



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New housing policy in Sweden - more in line with a liberal welfare state

- Subsidies phase-out
  - Subsidies limits competition

    - 50 % dropp in rental new building
- Right to sell public housing
  - Ownership as a mean to reduce social exclusion

    not in immigrant dense, poor and excluded residential areas
- New rent setting system
  - Towards market rent, as a mean to create balance at the housing market

    Preserved or increased segregation

Poor also have poor housing

Poor

- High burden rate: 41 %
- Overcrowding: 26 %

Not poor

- High burden rate: 3 %
- Overcrowding: 7 %

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Effects

- It is crusial to be two, single parents and single housholds have highest risk of poverty
- Young housholds have problems finding a home of there own, delaying family fomation and making fertility go down
- Homelessness is increasing, half of the homeless are immigrants

What can disrupt the link between poverty and housing?

- Housing subsidies
- Public rented sector
- Rent control
- Housing allowances
- ?
- ?