International Lessons from Long-Term Care Reform
An Ageing Commons Webinar

Chile

An ambitious reform and implementation challenges

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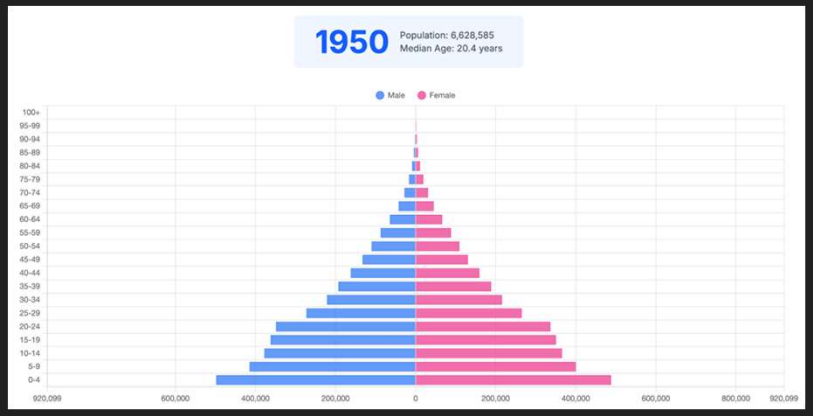
Chile in perspective: A long, thin land

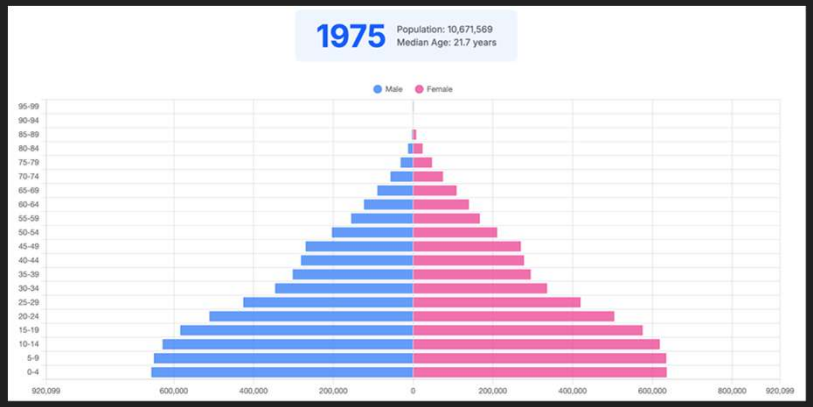


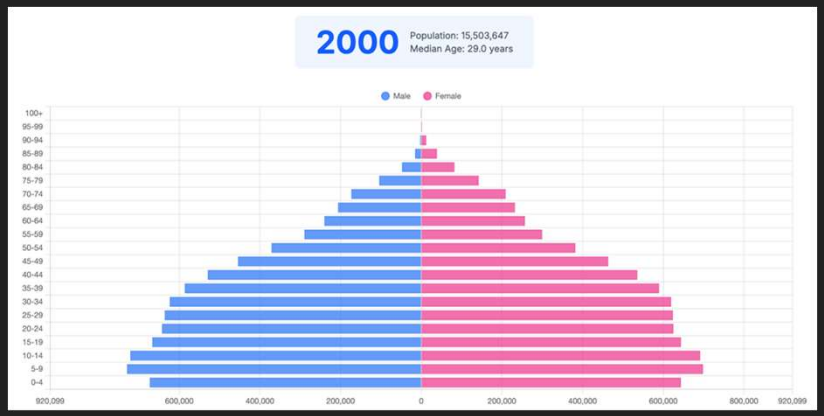




Chile in perspective: Time goes by









Source: https://populationpyramids.org/chile

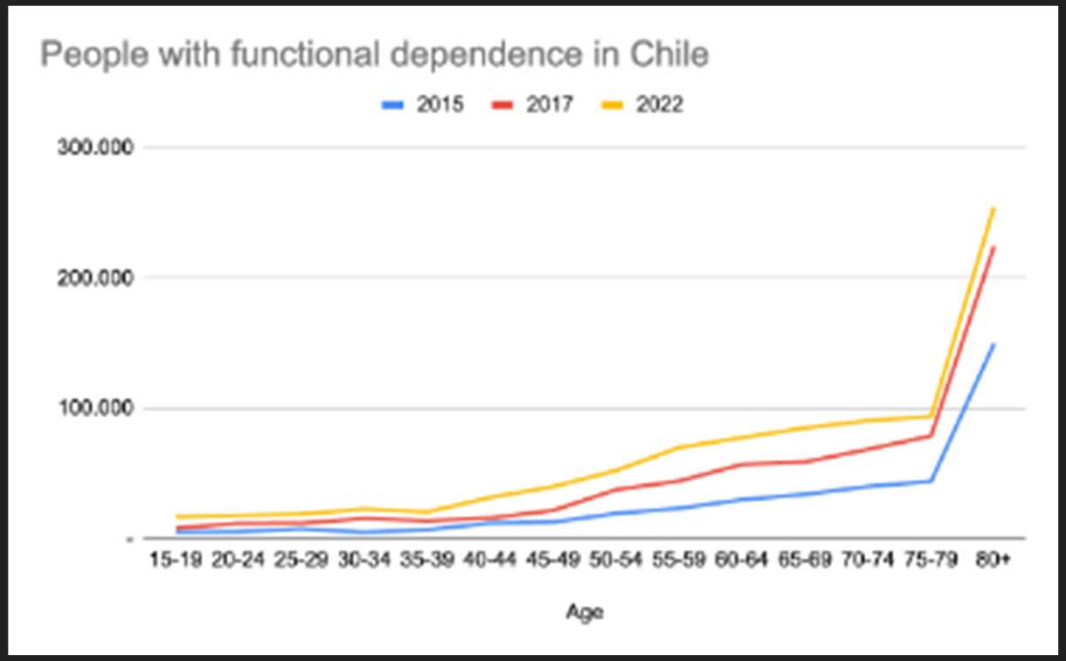
LTC in Chile: Help!

	2015	2025
Population (total)	17,955,000	18,480,432
% pop 65+	11.2%	14.0%
% pop with dependence (15+)	4.5%	4.9%
% pop with dependence (65+)	12.4%	20.8%
% severe dependence	1.2%	3.3%

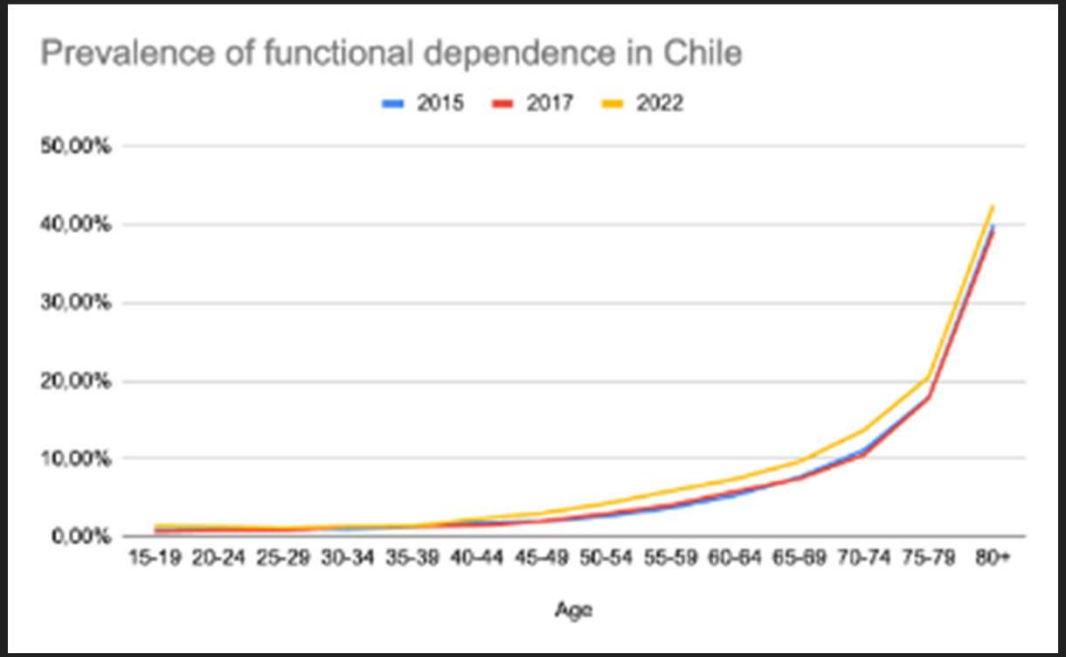
Source: INE and author's calculations

- Accelerated demographic change has driven the rise of LTC needs in the country
- More people with LTC needs and increase in its severity

Increasing LTC needs: Faster than the speed of light



- Increase in
  - Number of people with LTC needs
  - Prevalence
  - Severity



Chile’s policy responses: What’s new?

- On Feb 16, 2026 the country published the National Care Law (Law 21805) that creates the National Care System

- On 2024, the country launched the National Policy of Care and Supports

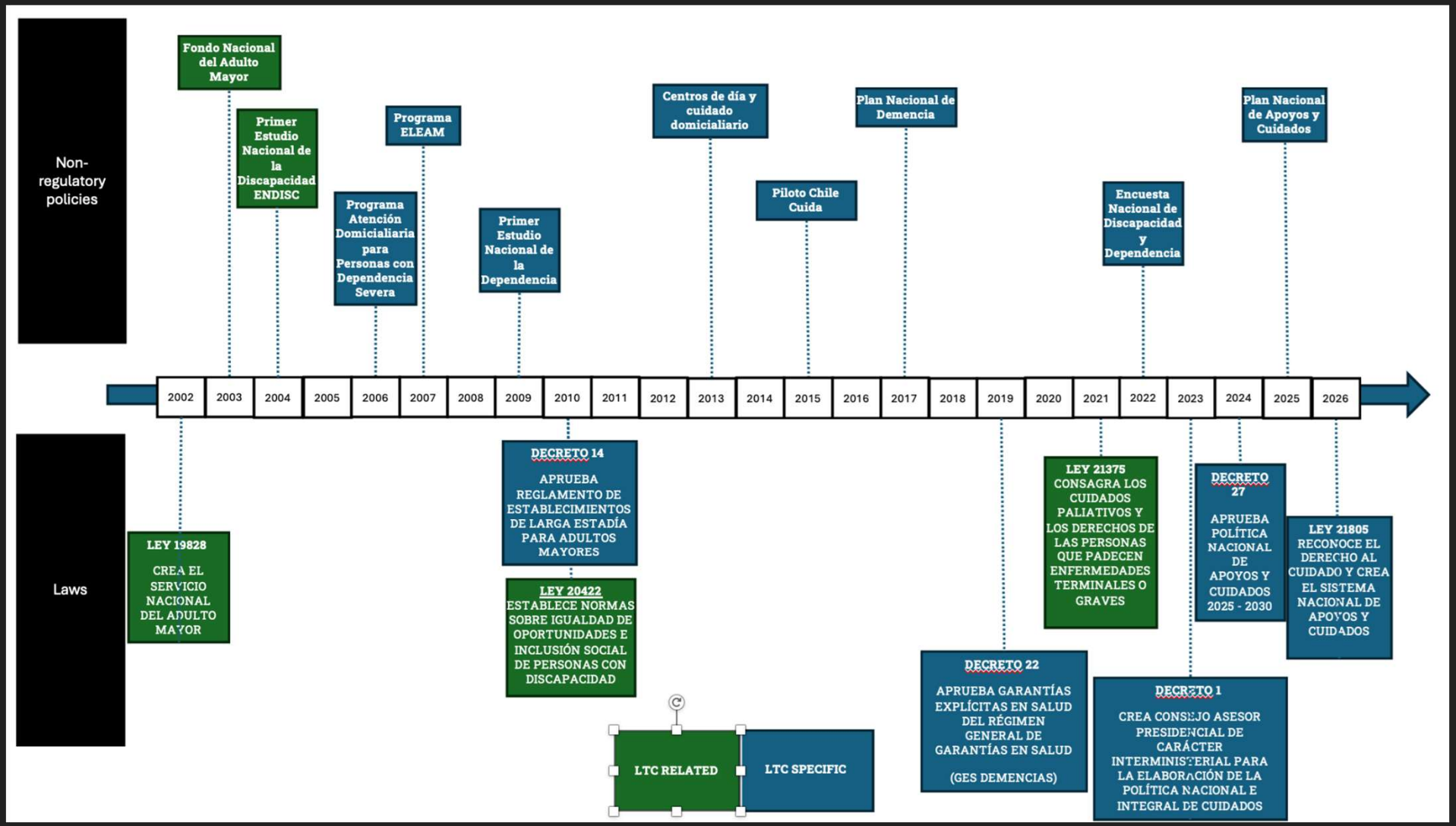




But Chile’s road didn’t start here… nor it finishes with this Halfway there

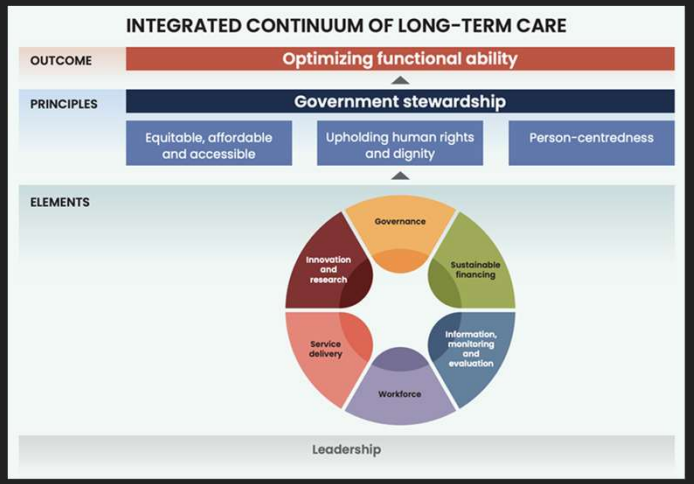


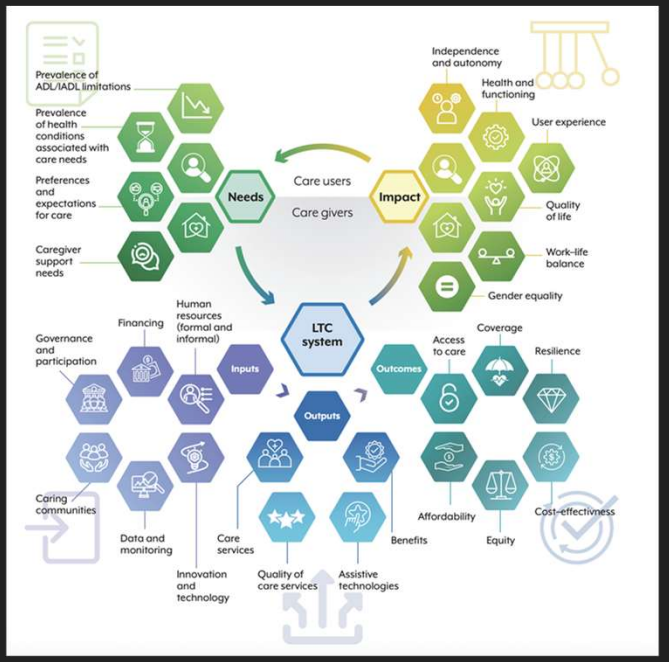
Chile's policy responses: The long and winding road

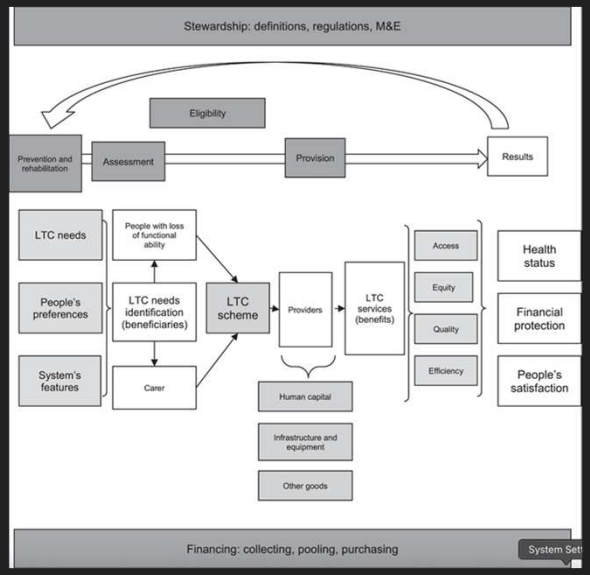


Challenges for the new law: The masquerade is over

- The law is just ink on paper but… enforceable
- The country has to generate a regulation to operationalize the law
- LTC frameworks can help guiding these decision (design and implementation)









Source: WHO (2021); WHO European Region (2024); World Bank (2025); Villalobos Dintrans (2026)

Moving from paper to action: We can work it out

- Governance
  - Define roles (including the source of financing)
  - Strategy for intersectoral work
  - Quality assurance strategy
- Beneficiaries
  - Universality vs real coverage (e.g. cases of Uruguay and Costa Rica)
  - What are LTC needs? standardize definitions and tools (system needs a single entry point)
- Benefits
  - Define concrete set of benefits (package) and link it to current AND future demands
  - Consider different LTC schemes taking into account people's needs AND preferences
- Providers
  - Align with beneficiaries (e.g. local supply) and benefits
  - Strengthen public private alliances
  - Work on human resources for care (training and certification)
- Financing
  - Costing a concrete set of design elements (beneficiaries, benefits, providers)
  - Exploring alternative sources to increase sustainability
    - today: what can be funded (political sustainability)
    - tomorrow: what should be funded (considering policy and demographic changes)



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