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Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

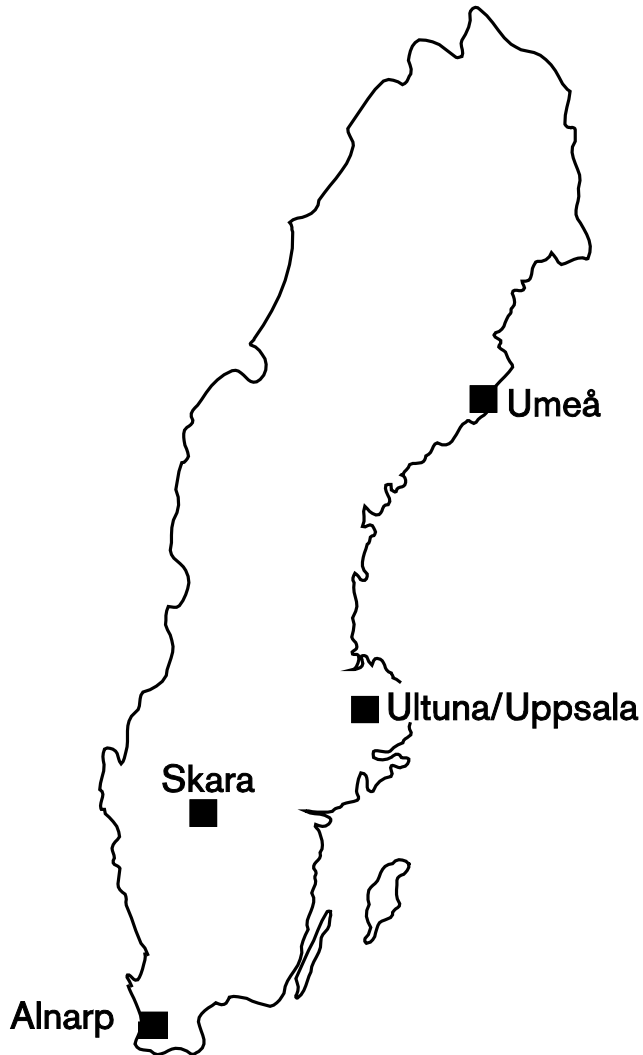
Impact of litter size in first parity on sow lifetime performance and health

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Sow longevity

- Length of productive lifetime
- Lifetime performance

Swedish piglet production



- 8% of the agricultural production 2015
- Approx. 420 herds (>50 sows)
- 145 000 sows

- Loose housed sows
- Large amount of straw
- Lactation min. 4w

Sweden	1994	2015	
Produced piglets/sow/year	19,0	25,1	↑
Litters/sow/year	2,1	2,2	→
Liveborn piglets/litter	10,9	13,7	↑
Piglets dead birth - weaning	15,1%	17,5%	↑
Litters/sow when culled	4,9	4,3 (2009)	↓

Objective

Material

Study population

Lifetime performance

- Landrace x Yorkshire
- 24 herds
- 48 707 sows

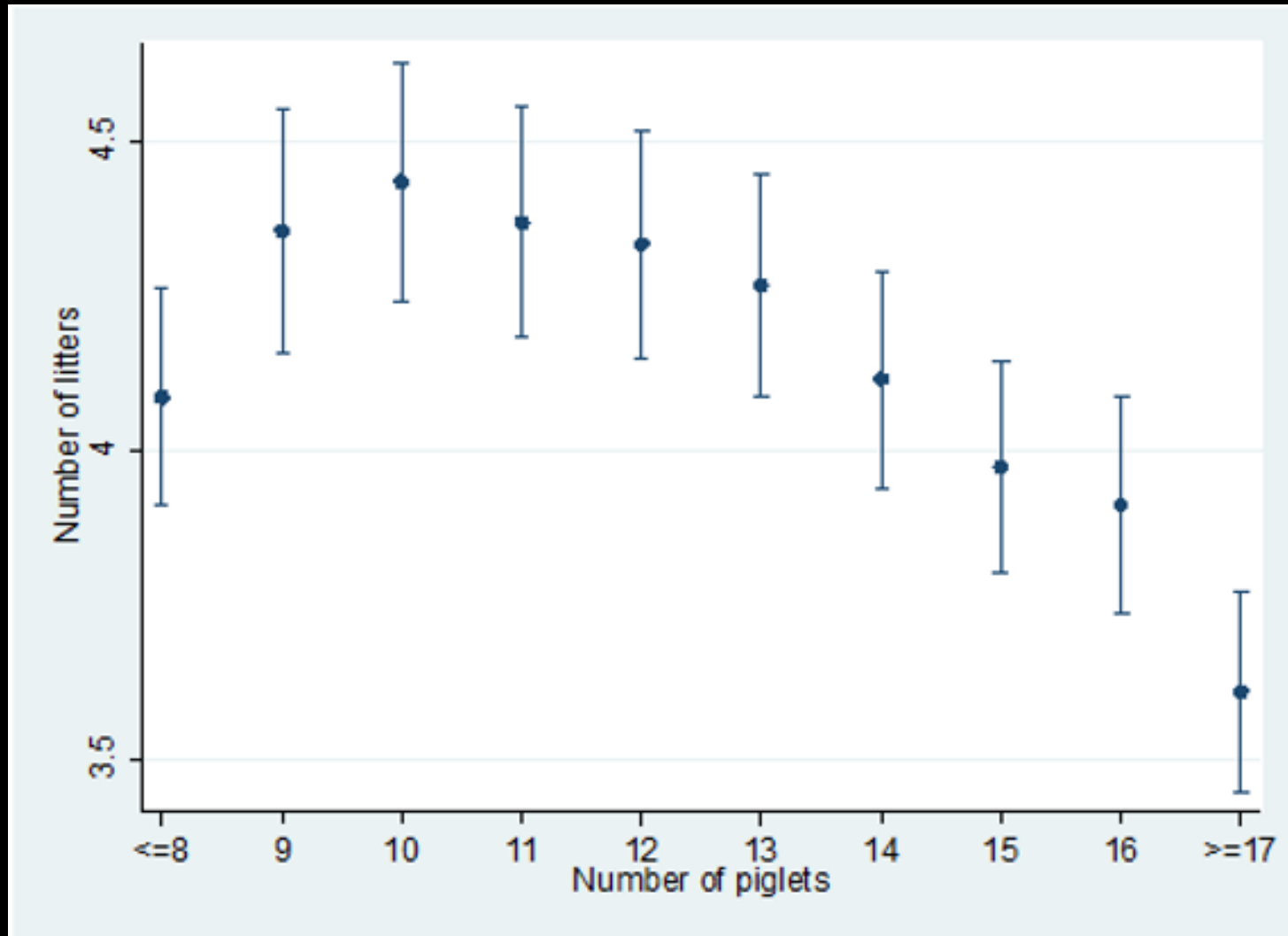
Health

- Yorkshire
- 1 herd
- 939 sows

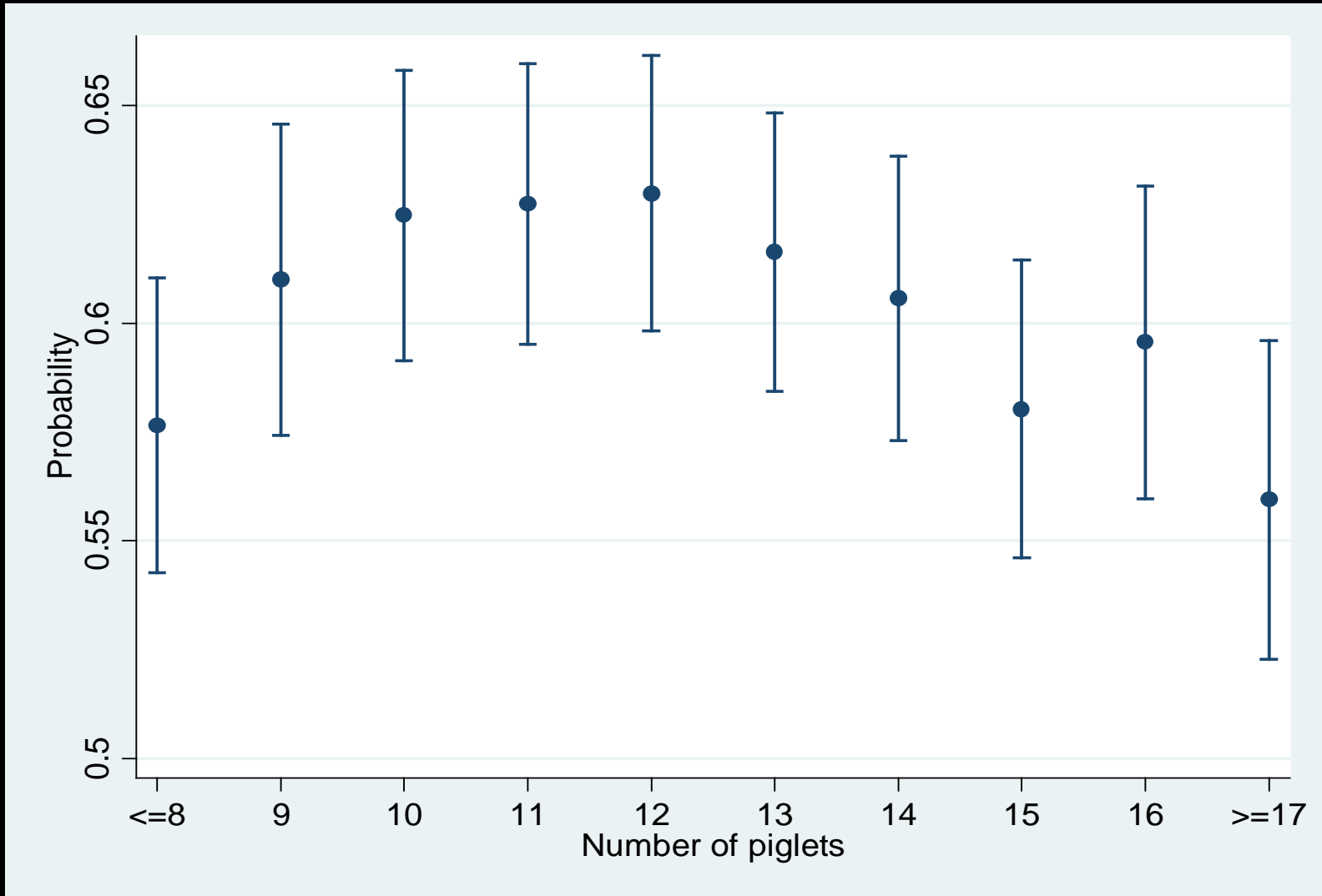
Method

Results – lifetime performance

Predicted lifetime production of litters and litter size in first parity

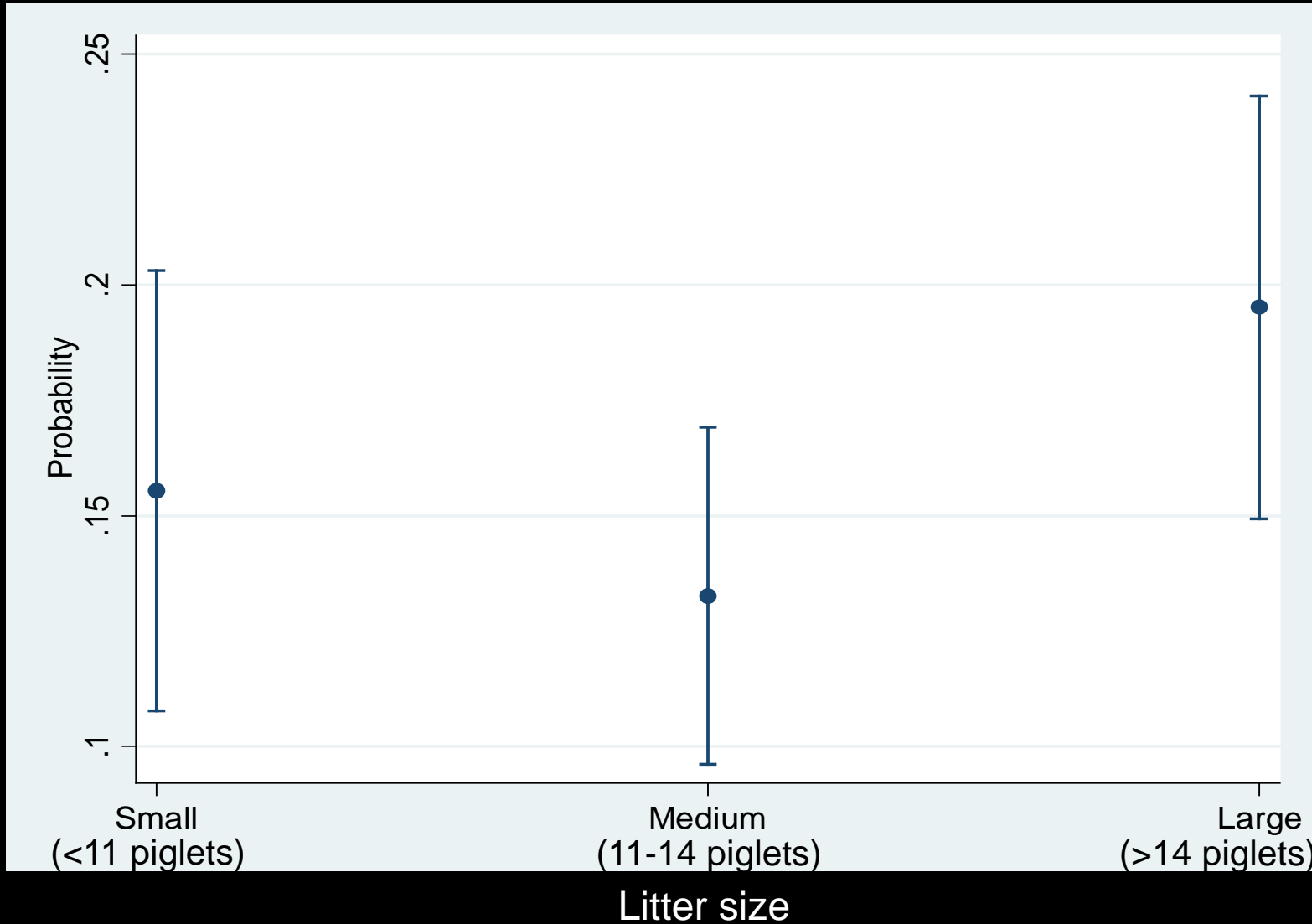


Predicted stayability (≥ 4 litters) and litter size in first parity



Results - health

Predicted probability to receive medical treatment during gestation and lactation and litter size in first parity



Discussion

Conclusion

Important to take first parity litter size into account when assessing sow productivity in commercial piglet producing herds

Conclusion

Aiming for keeping sows giving birth to a medium-sized litter, with approximately 11-14 piglets born in total, may improve sows lifetime production, stayability and health

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Further evaluation of impact of litter size on sow lifetime performance and health is needed

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Further evaluation of impact of litter size on sow lifetime performance and health is needed

Thank you for your attention!