Beyond the Numbers: COVID-19, the Philippine Population, and Policy
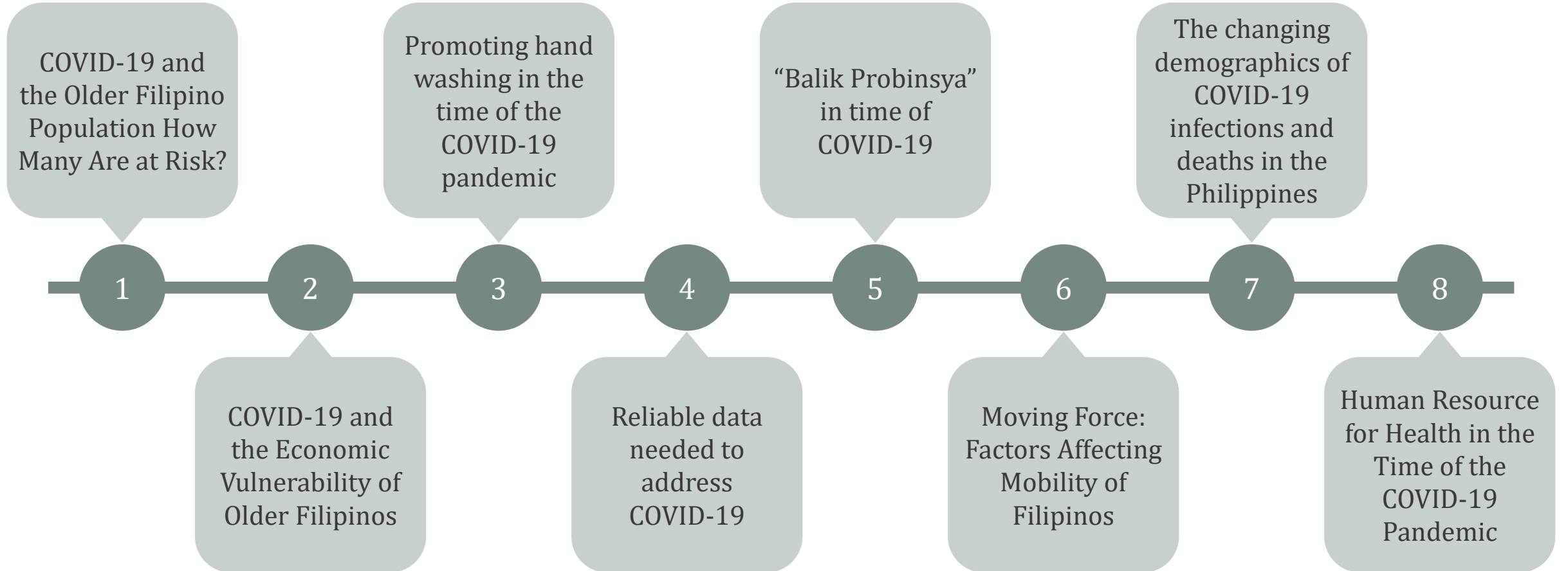
Presented by:

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Published UPPI-DRDF Research Briefs

1 — COVID-19 and the Older Filipino Population How Many Are at Risk?

2 — COVID-19 and the Economic Vulnerability of Older Filipinos

3 — Promoting hand washing in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic

4 — Reliable data needed to address COVID-19

5 — "Balik Probinsya" in time of COVID-19

6 — Moving Force: Factors Affecting Mobility of Filipinos

7 — The changing demographics of COVID-19 infections and deaths in the Philippines

8 — Human Resource for Health in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Main data sources of the UPPI-DRDF Research Briefs

Department of Health (DOH) COVID-19 tracker

https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/; DOH Data Drop

Surveys conducted by UPPI-DRDF

Longitudinal Study of Ageing and Health in the Philippines;

Longitudinal Cohort Study of Filipino Children

National Census and Surveys conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
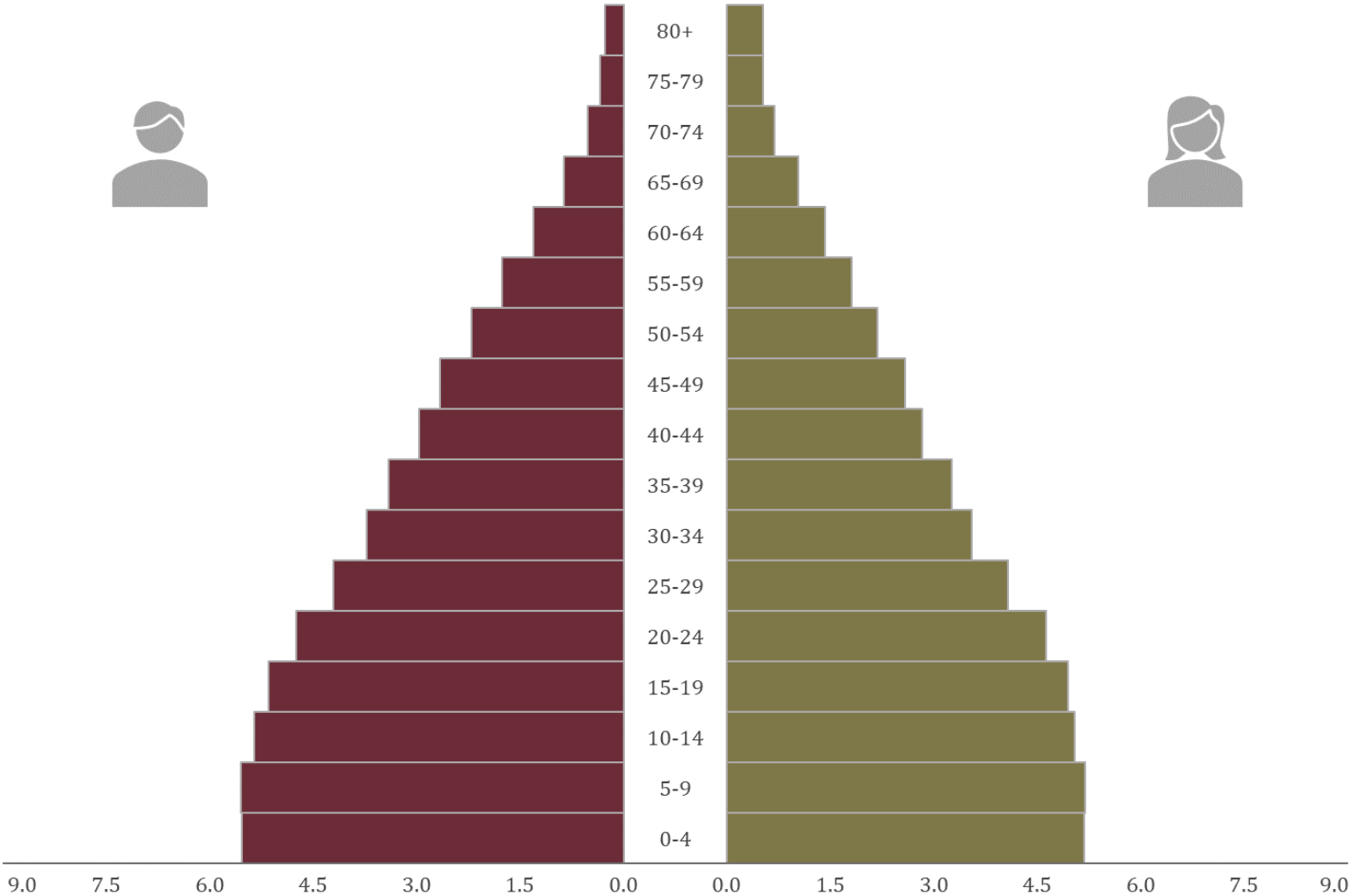
2015 Census of Population;

2017 National Demographic and Health Survey ;

2018 National Migration Survey (implemented by UPPI)

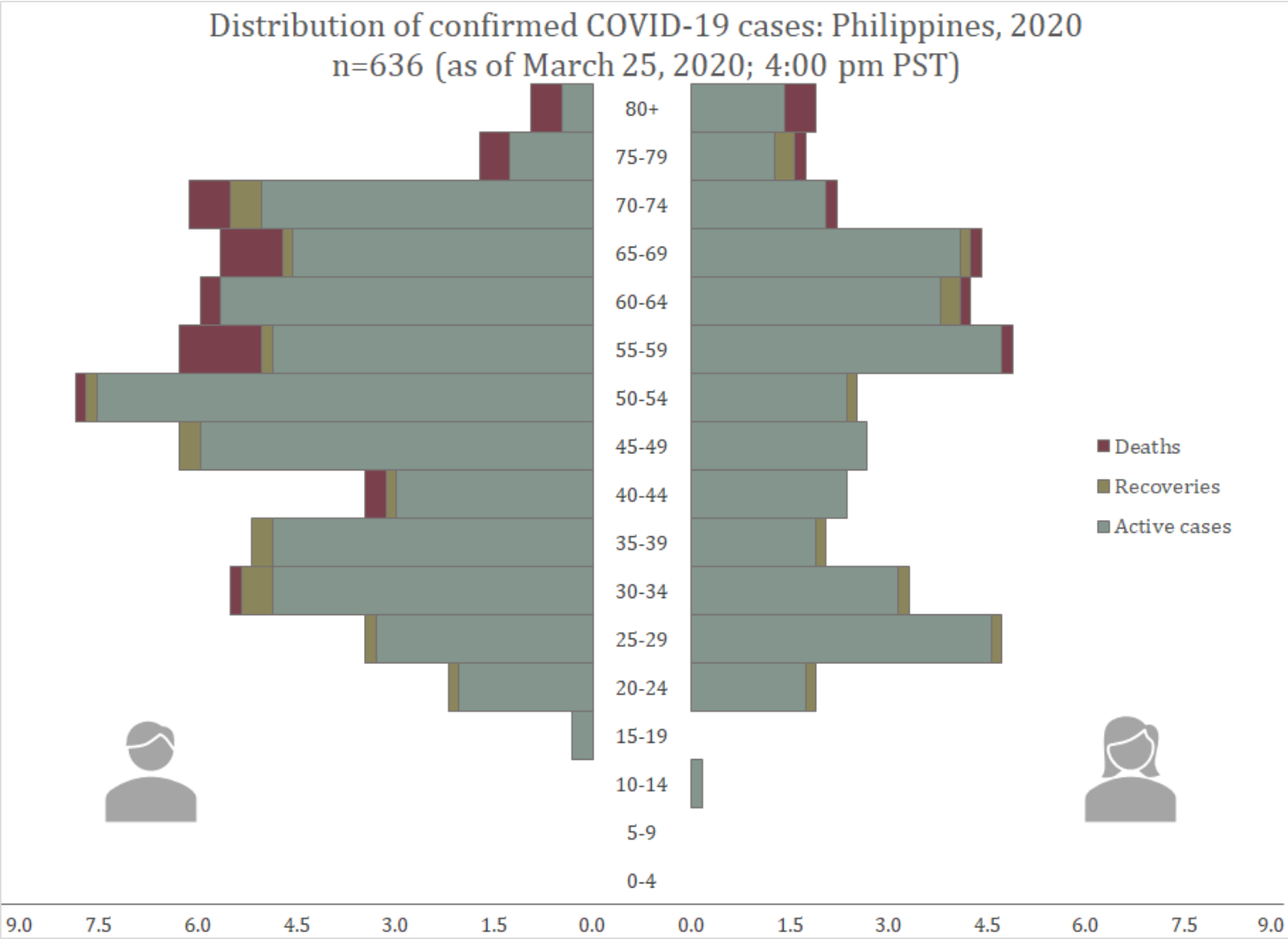Age-sex distribution of the household population: Philippines, 2020
N = 108.8 M

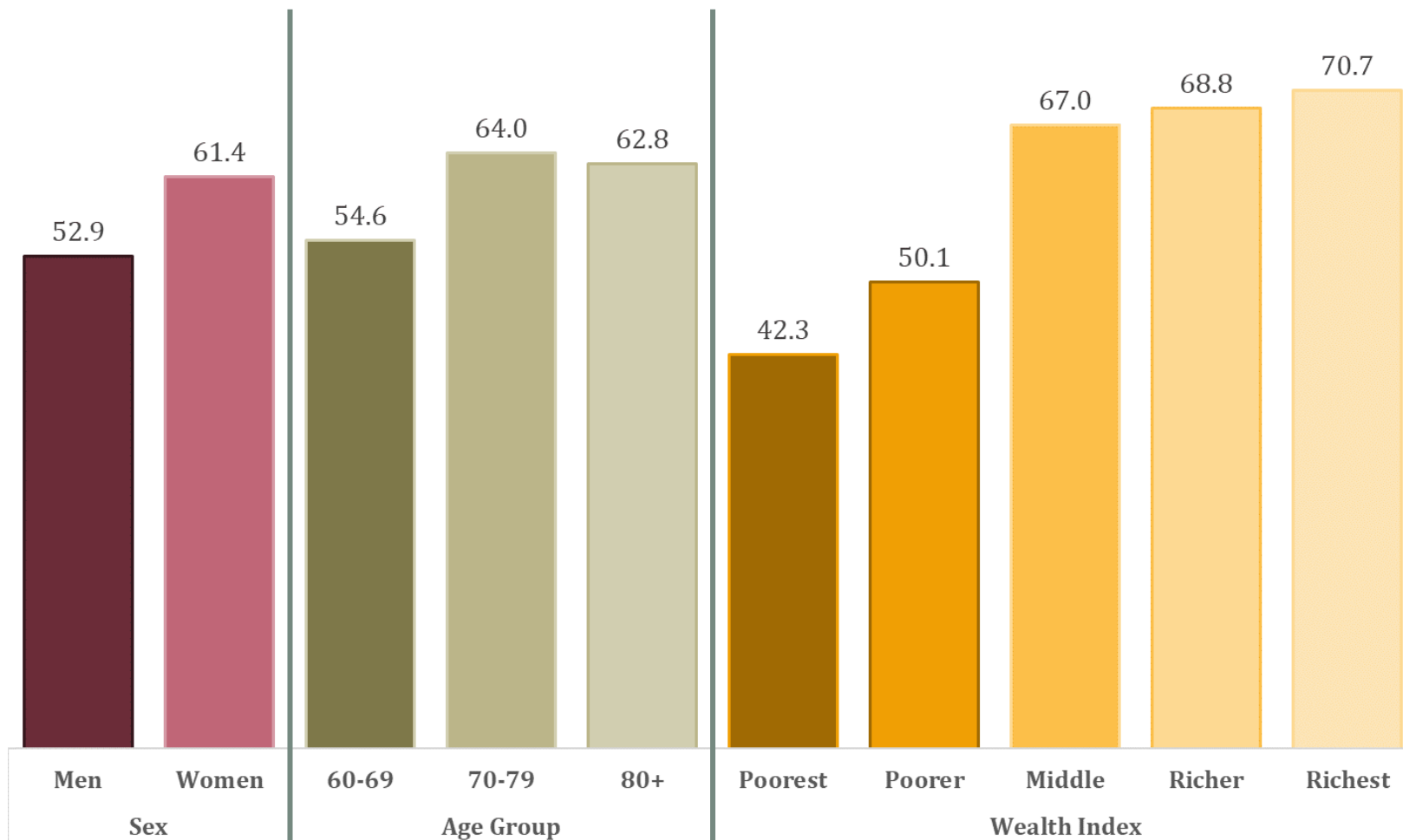The Philippines has a young population.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the infection mostly hit older persons

Distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases: Philippines, 2020
n=636 (as of March 25, 2020; 4:00 pm PST)

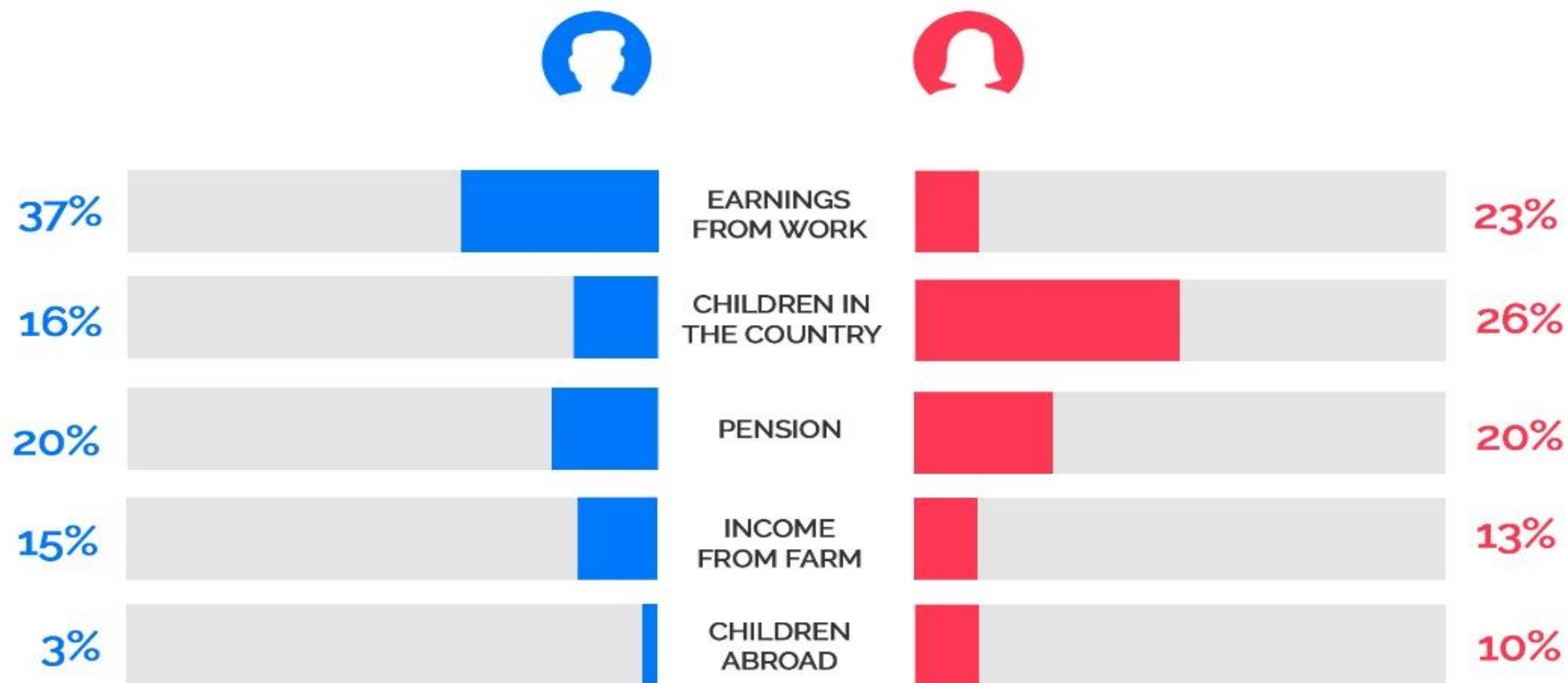Legend: Deaths, Recoveries, Active cases

58% of older Filipinos have at least one of the risky co-morbidities for COVID-19, more so among women than men

Percent of Older Filipinos with at least 1 diagnosed disease that are risk factors for severe illness in COVID-19 cases: 2018 LSAHP
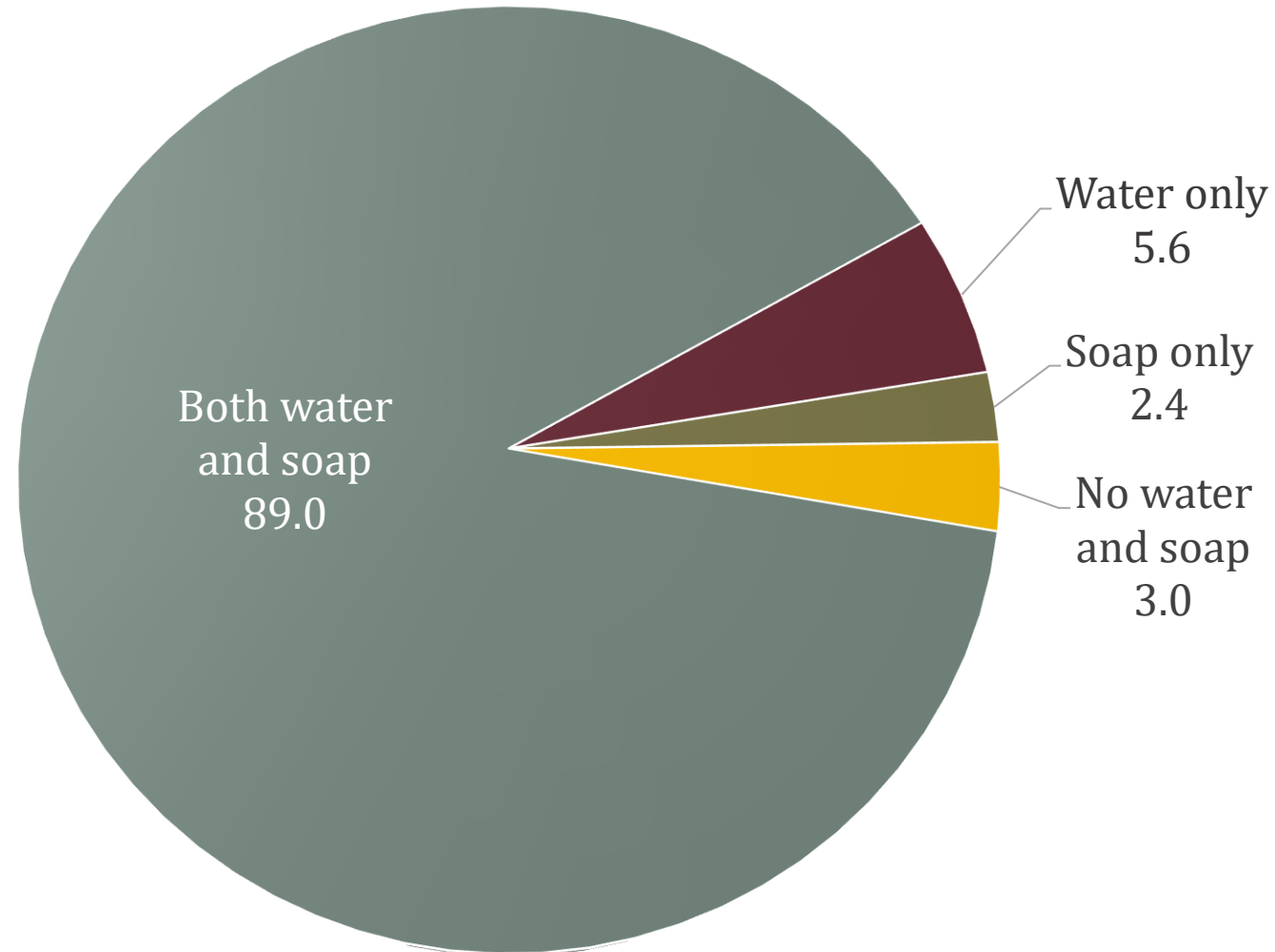

Men	Women	60-69	70-79	80+	Poorest	Poorer	Middle	Richer	Richest
52.9	61.4	54.6	64.0	62.8	42.3	50.1	67.0	68.8	70.7
Sex		Age Group			Wealth Index				

Many older people have fragile and informal sources of economic support

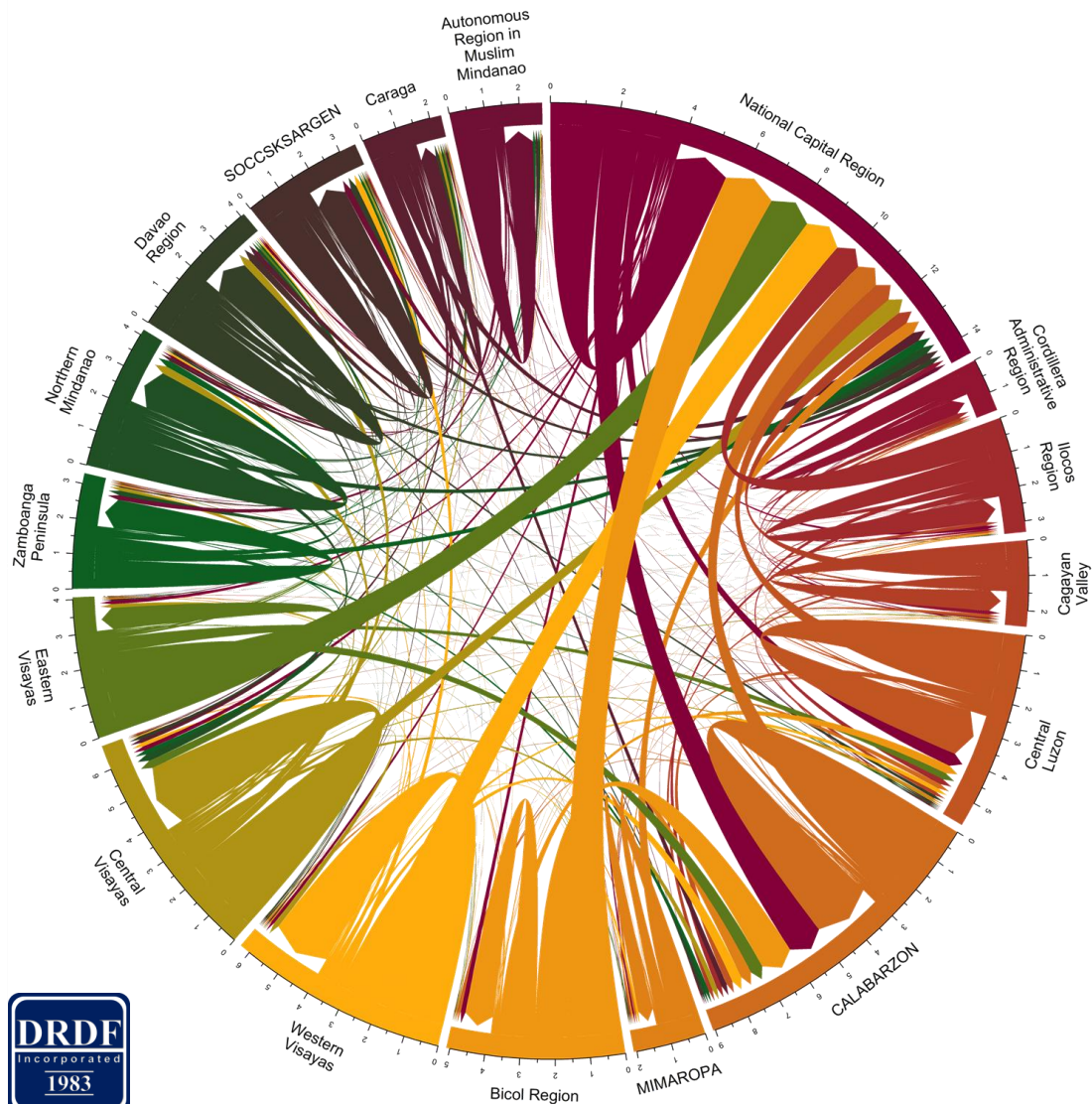|	Male		Female	
EARNINGS FROM WORK	37%		23%	
CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY	16%		26%	
PENSION	20%		20%	
INCOME FROM FARM	15%		13%	
CHILDREN ABROAD	3%		10%	

Not all households have both water and soap in the place for hand washing

Percent distribution of households with place for hand washing by presence of water and soap: 2017 NDHS

Both water and soap
89.0

Water only
5.6

Soap only
2.4

No water and soap
3.0

NCR is the most popular destination for first-time migrants

Top reasons for moving:

- Economic – employment
- Housing-related – e.g. rental issues
- Related to life events – for schooling, marriage

The Philippines trains more health professionals than it can employ, but where are they?
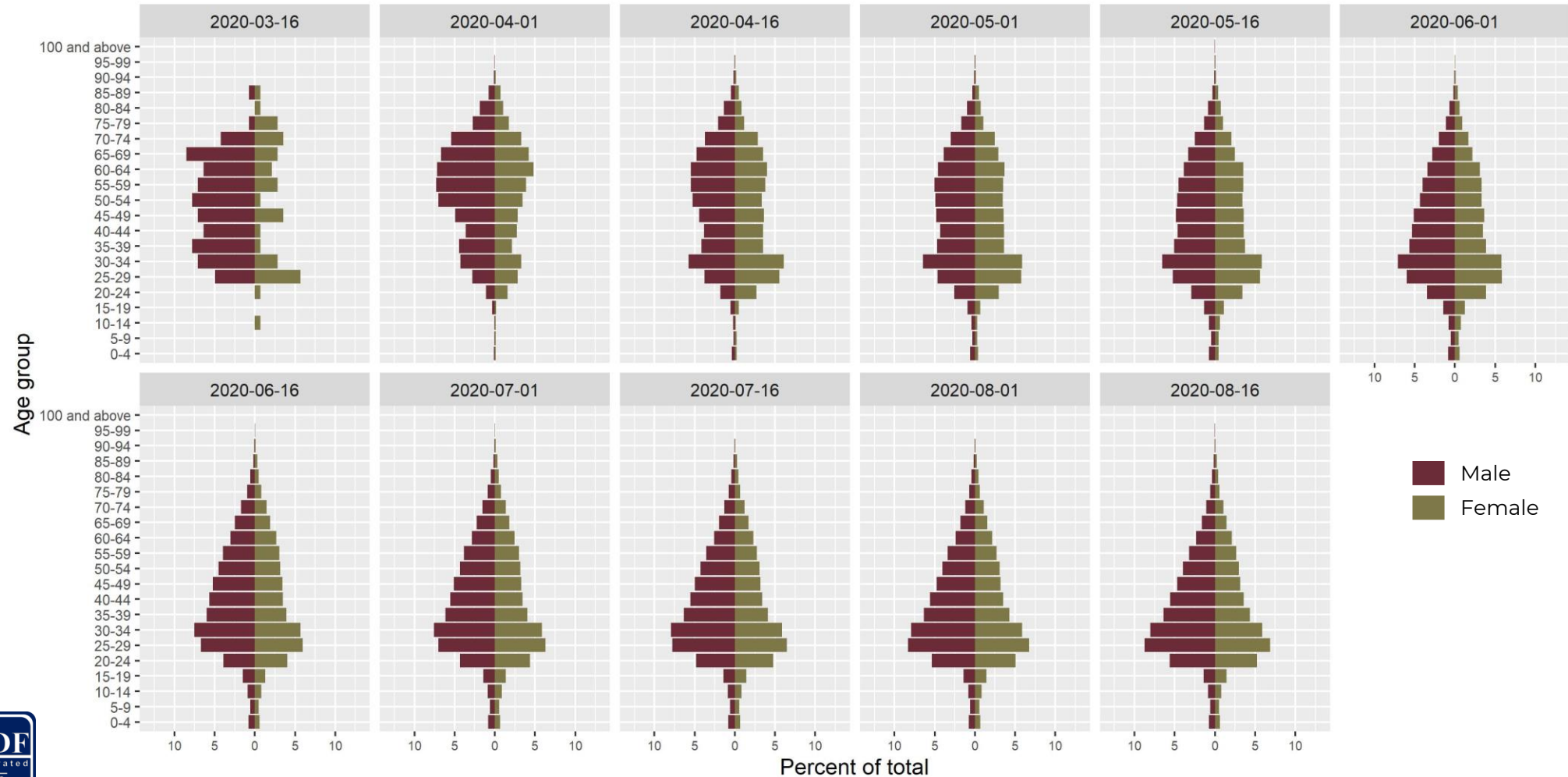
Among health professionals:

- 59% are nurses

- 75% are women

- 65% are below 35 years old

- 1/5th of health professionals in the Philippines are working overseas

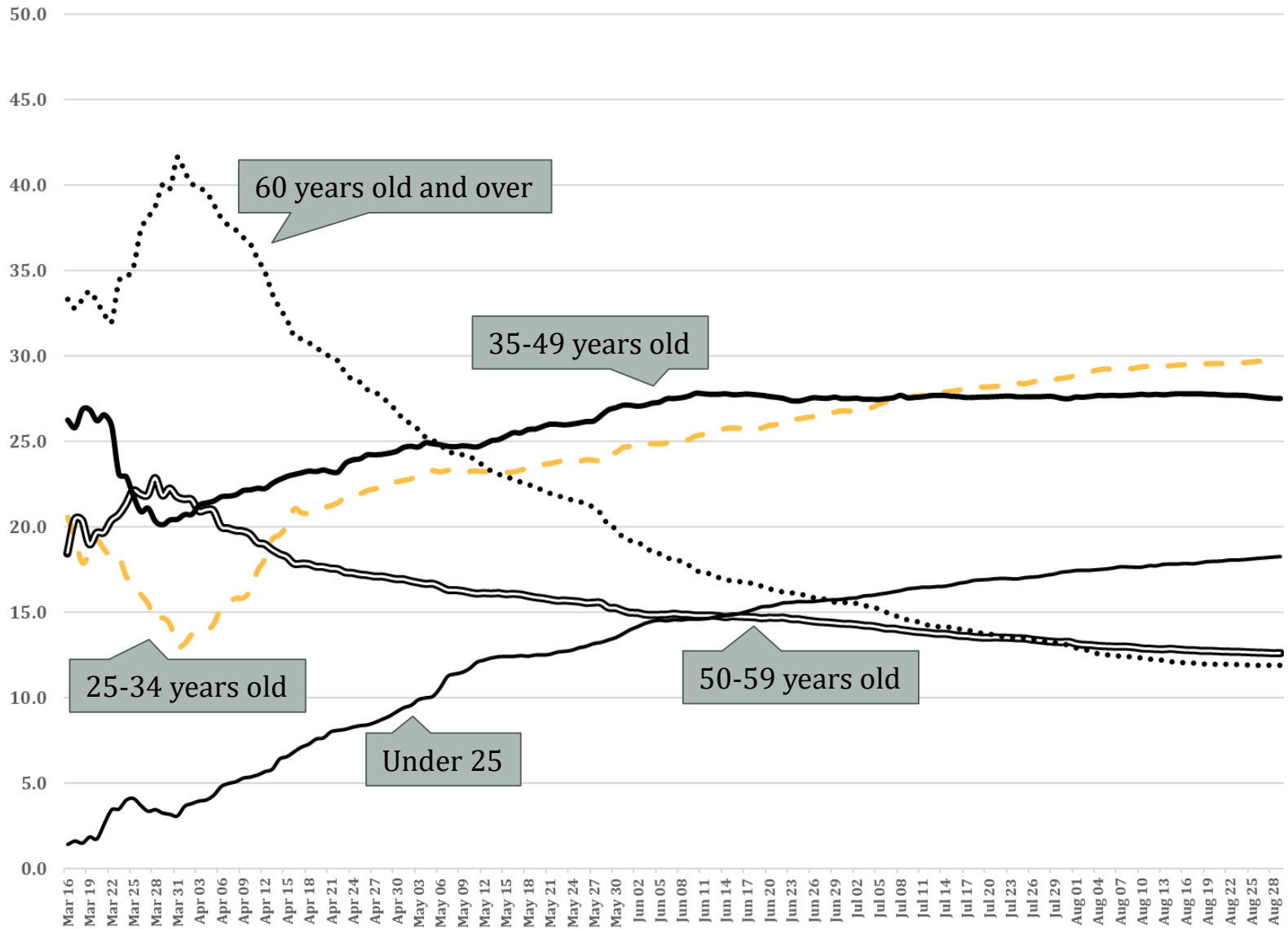# There was a shift in the COVID-19 infections from older to the younger individuals since March 2020.

Age-sex pyramid of COVID-19 positive individuals: March to August 2020

Note: These have been updated to reflect data from the Data Drop on 29 August.

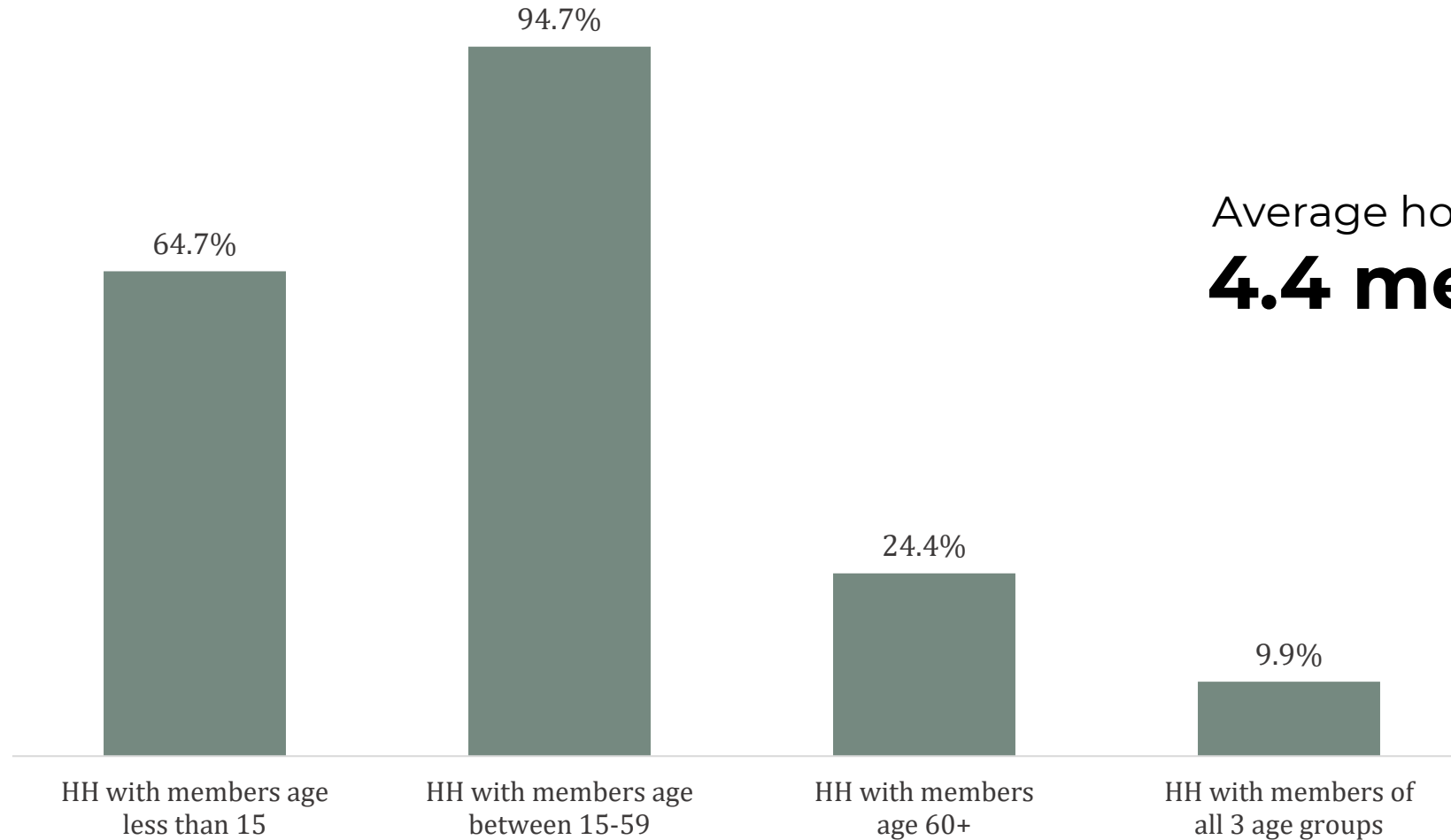Age-sex pyramid of COVID-19 positive individuals: March to August 2020

The percent share of individuals ages 25-34 increased from 20% in March to 30% in August

Note: These have been updated to reflect data from the Data Drop on 29 August.

Almost all (95%) of Filipino households have members in the working age group (15-59 years)

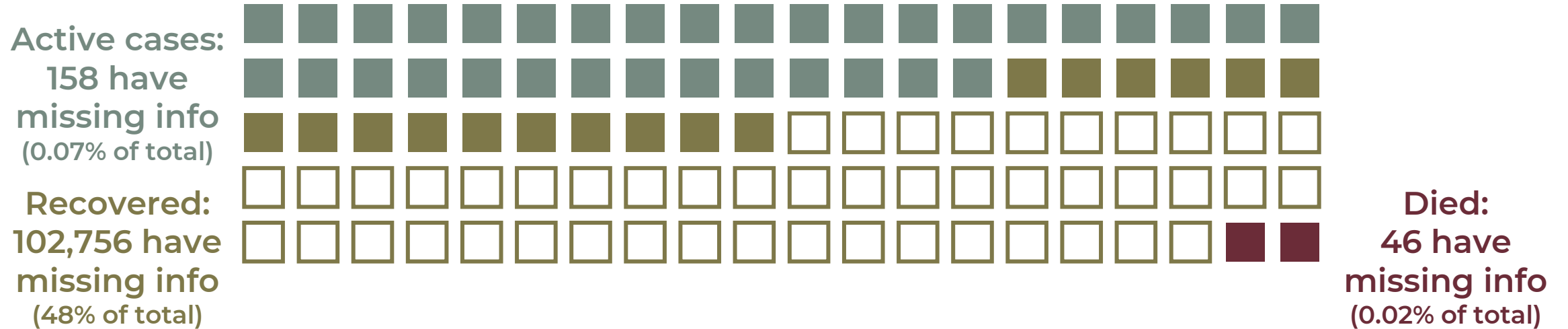Percentage of households (HH) by age composition of members: Philippines, 2015

Average household size:
4.4 members

94.7%

64.7%

24.4%

9.9%

HH with members age less than 15

HH with members age between 15-59

HH with members age 60+

HH with members of all 3 age groups

Notes on the DOH COVID-19 data used in this presentation

- Only those with information on age, sex, and dates (of reporting, of recovery, and of death, as applicable) were included in the analysis.

Total cases: 213,131

Active cases: 158 have missing info (0.07% of total)

Recovered: 102,756 have missing info (48% of total)

Died: 46 have missing info (0.02% of total)

102,960 (48.3%) of the 213,131 cases have missing information

Changes in median age of death shows the impact of incomplete data on demographic analysis

Data as of 17 July

Sex	March 16	July 16
Males	63	63
Females	73	66
Both Sexes	68	64
Number of individuals	24	1,619

Data as of 29 August

Sex	March 16	July 16
Males	62	63
Females	73	65
Both Sexes	65	64
Number of individuals	22	2,277

Changing availability of variables in the DOH COVID-19 Data

Data	https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/	Other official DOH channels	DOH Data Drop
Age	yes	various reports	yes
Sex	yes	various reports	yes
Nationality	yes	various reports	
Province of residence	yes	various reports	yes, region*+province+city/mun
Travel history	yes	various reports	
Exposure to known COVID-19 cases	yes	various reports	
Facility of admission/consultation	yes	various reports	
Epidemiologic link	yes	various reports	
Status of condition	yes		yes
Symptoms		various reports	
Date of onset of symptoms		various reports	yes
Date of admission		various reports	
Date swabbed for testing		various reports	yes
Date of lab confirmation	yes		yes
Date reported			yes
Date of discharge		various reports	yes, date recovered**
Date of death		various reports	yes**
Cause of death		various reports	
Comorbidities		various reports	
Admitted, quarantined, pregnant			yes

*Region=ROF if repatriate

**previously also included when the case was REPORTED closed (i.e., recovered/died)

Issues on the DOH COVID-19 Data Drop

- Some variables no longer available in the Drop
- Changing date formats
- Mismatched Case Codes
- Changes in the **Age** variable
- Changes in the **Sex** variable
- Changes in **RemovalType** variable
- Changes and inconsistencies in **place of residence** variables
- Reverting to no information
- Wrong categorization or wrong date entry

Data as Demography's tool amidst the health event

- Need to have quality data = GIGO principle

- Consistent reporting

- Timely reporting

- Details: age and sex are basic

- Looking ahead: investment in a (real-time) morbidity and mortality surveillance system

"As demographers, our analyses are only as good as the data we use."

- UPPI & DRDF Research Brief No. 4

Thank you!

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