The Future Trends of Thai Family

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March 2019

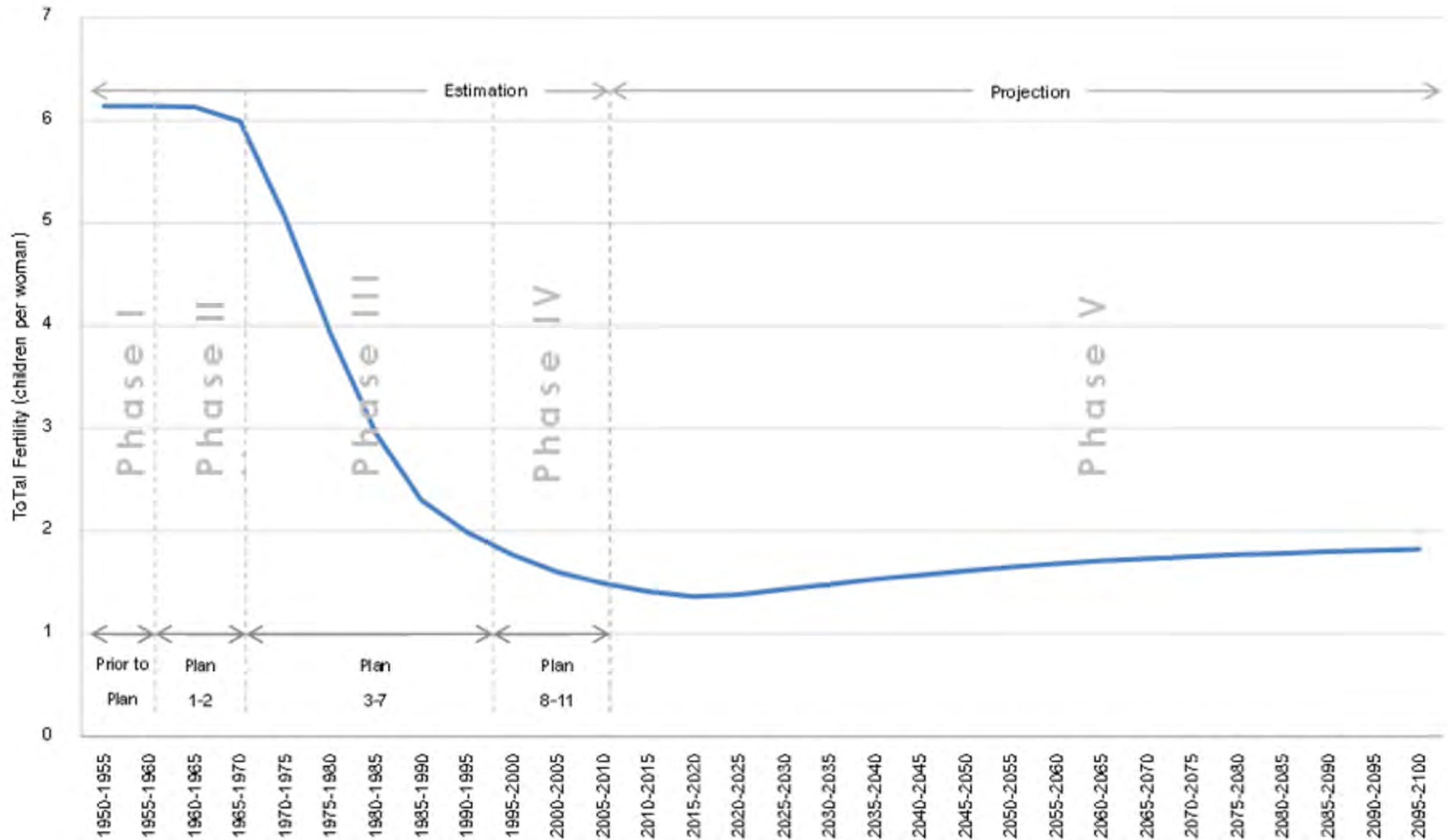# Current Situations:

Fewer Children & Adults

More Elderly People

Fewer Internal Migrants

TFR is now below the replacement level

Source: Wongboonsin, Keeratipongpaiboon, Wongboonsin (2018)
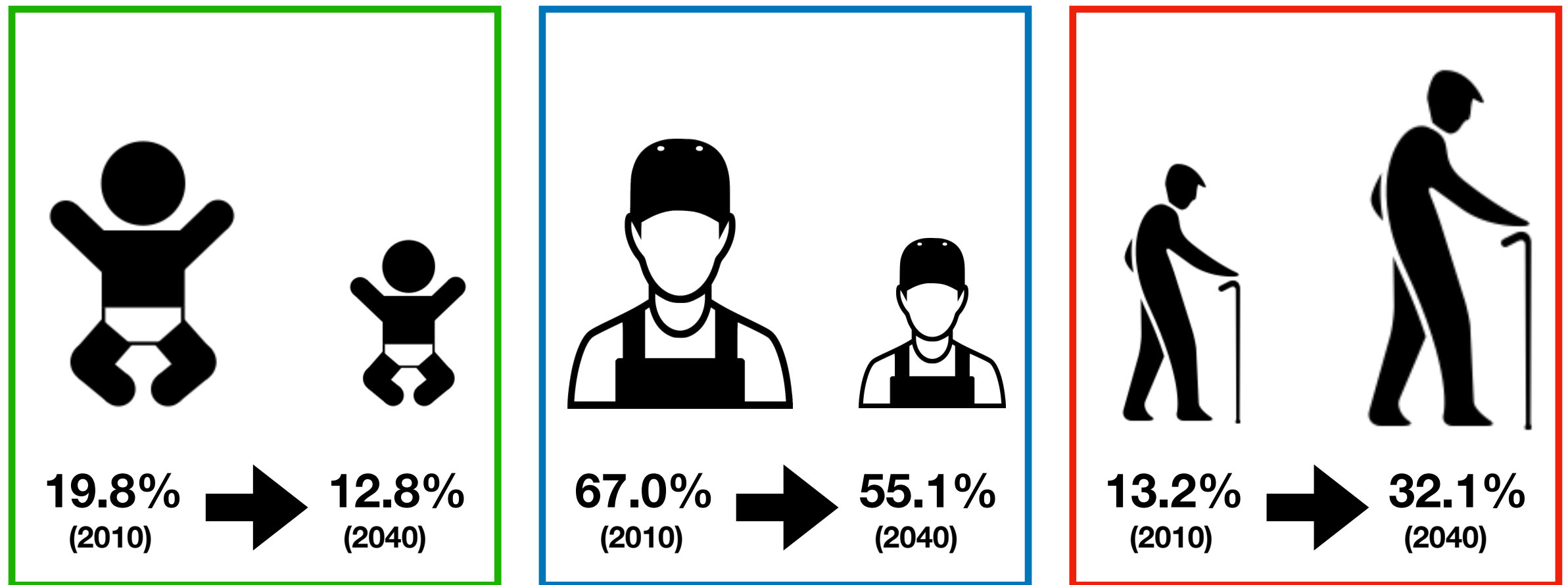
The country is getting older

2001: Ageing Society
65+ > 7%

2023: Aged Society
65+ > 14%

2035: Super-Aged Society
65+ > 20%

Children & working-age people are decreasing; meanwhile, elderly people are increasing

19.8% ➡ 12.8%
(2010)   (2040)

67.0% ➡ 55.1%
(2010)   (2040)

13.2% ➡ 32.1%
(2010)   (2040)

Thai family structure has changed as the country's demographic structure has changed dramatically

|	Average Household Size (persons)	Average Age of Heads (years)	Numbers of Children per Households (persons)	Numbers of Elderly per Households (persons)	Percentage of Male Heads (%)
1980[1]	5.20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988[2]	4.12	45.48	1.33	0.32	79.87
1990[2]	4.09	46.14	1.22	0.34	79.78
1992[2]	3.89	46.34	1.14	0.35	79.82
1994[2]	3.77	47.23	1.04	0.37	76.36
1996[2]	3.67	47.83	1.00	0.39	75.78
1998[2]	3.73	48.15	0.98	0.41	74.28
2000[2]	3.61	48.54	0.93	0.43	74.13
2002[2]	3.51	48.59	0.89	0.42	72.09
2004[2]	3.44	49.66	0.85	0.44	70.15
2006[2]	3.34	49.56	0.81	0.45	68.95
2007[2]	3.33	50.74	0.79	0.47	68.33

Remarks: [1]1980 Population and Housing Censuses by the NSO;

[2]Author's calculation from the 1988-2007 SES data.

Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012)

Changes in household living arrangements

Living Arrangements, Thailand, 1990 - 2007

Legend: 4-Gen HHs | 3-Gen HHs | 2-Gen HHs | Skipped-Gen HHs | 1-Gen HHs
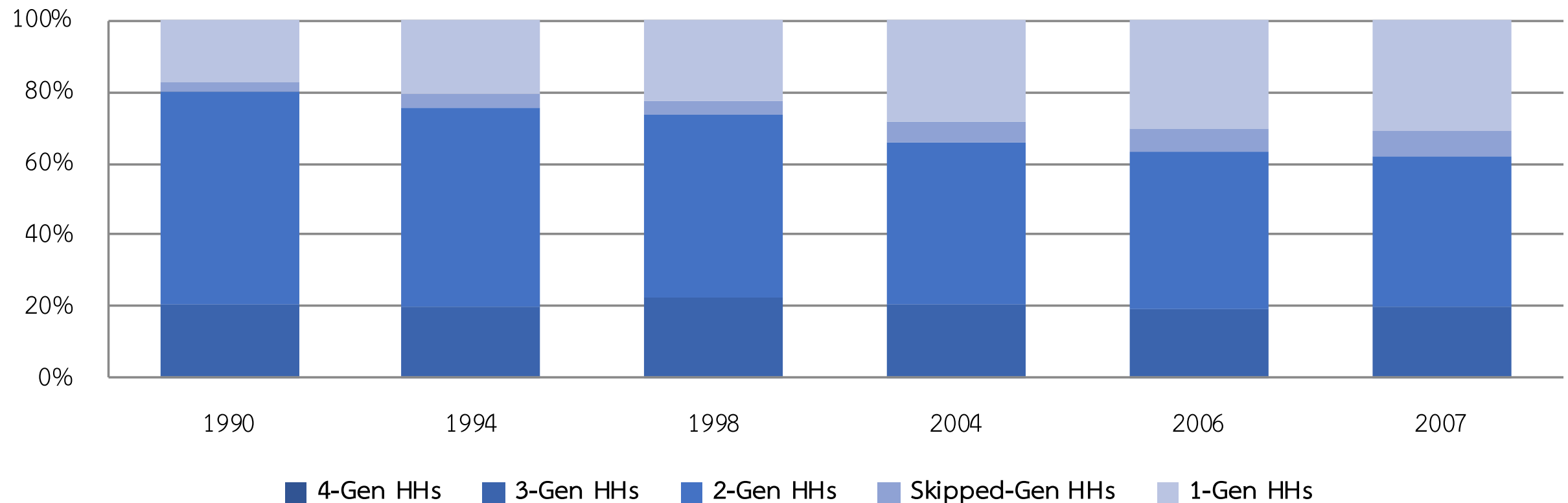
Changes in Living Arrangements

- Multi-generational households are commonly found in Thailand

- Ratios of one-generational and skipped-generational households have been increasing over time

- In 1990, the ratio of skipped-generational household was just 2.34%; it increased dramatically to 7.18 percent in 2007.

Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012) calculated from Socio-Economic Survey (SES) data (1990 – 2007)

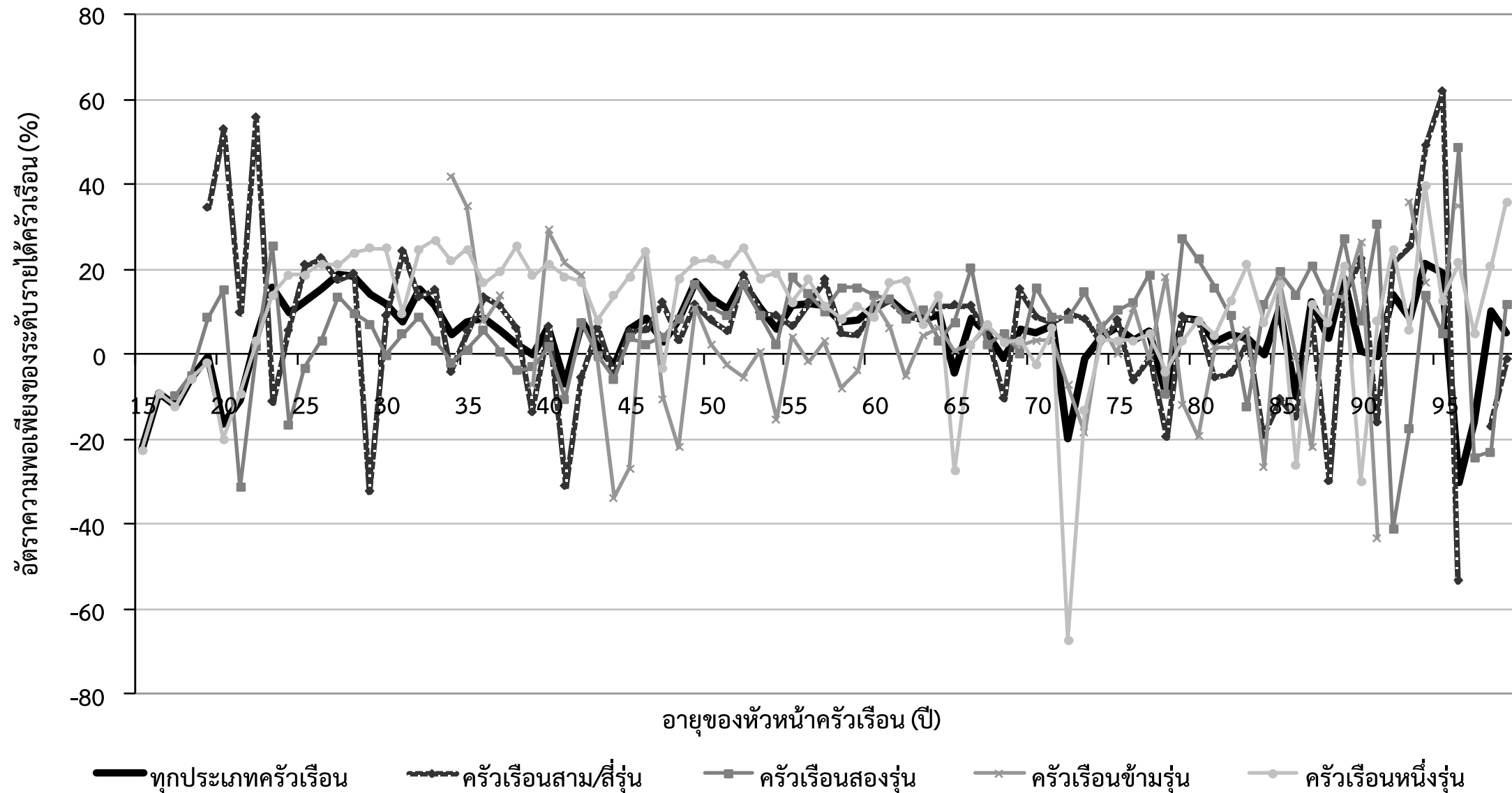# One- & skip-generational households are more prominent in these days

	1990	*1994*	*1998*	*2004*	*2006*	*2007*
All Households	*100.00*	*100.00*	*100.00*	*100.00*	*100.00*	*100.00*
4-Generational Household	*0.57*	*0.33*	*0.50*	*0.47*	*0.50*	*0.55*
3-Generational Household	*19.88*	*19.73*	*22.10*	*20.22*	*18.89*	*19.13*
Young 3-Gen Household	*16.05*	*16.37*	*17.96*	*16.03*	*14.78*	*15.28*
Old 3-Gen Household	*3.83*	*3.36*	*4.14*	*4.19*	*4.11*	*3.85*
2-Generational Household	*62.21*	*59.25*	*55.18*	*50.95*	*50.09*	*49.75*
Young Immediate Household (Head/Spouse & Children)	*58.88*	*54.39*	*49.54*	*43.29*	*41.71*	*40.51*
Old Immediate Household (Head/Spouse & Parents)	*0.99*	*1.02*	*1.53*	*2.04*	*1.99*	*2.06*
Skip-generation Household (Head/Spouse & Grandchild)	*2.34*	*3.84*	*4.11*	*5.66*	*6.39*	*7.18*
1-Generational Household	*17.34*	*20.69*	*22.22*	*28.36*	*30.52*	*30.57*
One-person Household	*6.61*	*7.79*	*8.27*	*10.26*	*11.06*	*11.24*
Household comprising of only a household head and his/her spouse	*10.73*	*12.90*	*13.95*	*18.10*	*19.46*	*19.33*

Source: Wongboonsin, Keeratipongpaiboon, Wongboonsin (2018)

One- & skip-generational households tend to have income inadequacy; they are quite vulnerable
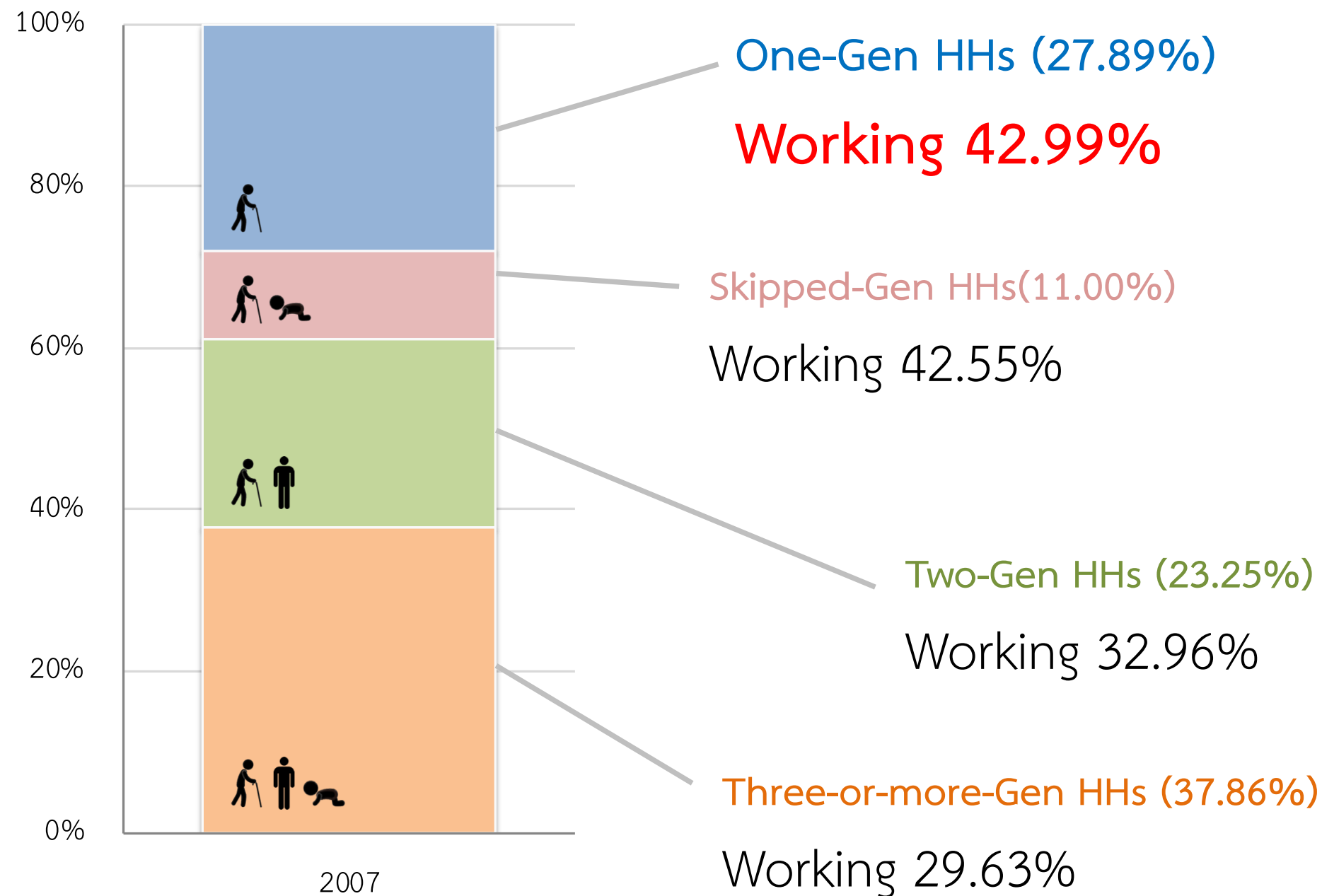
Household Income Adequacy, Thailand, 2007

$$household\ income\ adequacy\ ratio = \frac{household\ per\ capita\ income - household\ per\ capita\ consumption\ \exp enditure}{household\ per\ capita\ income}\ x\ 100$$

The elderly living apart from their adult children (i.e. living in one- & skip-generational households) are more prone to work compared to those in other living arrangements

Percentage of elderly people (60+), classified by living arrangement and employment status, 2007

One-Gen HHs (27.89%)

Working 42.99%

Skipped-Gen HHs(11.00%)

Working 42.55%

Two-Gen HHs (23.25%)

Working 32.96%

Three-or-more-Gen HHs (37.86%)

Working 29.63%

Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012) calculated the 2007 Survey on the Older Persons data

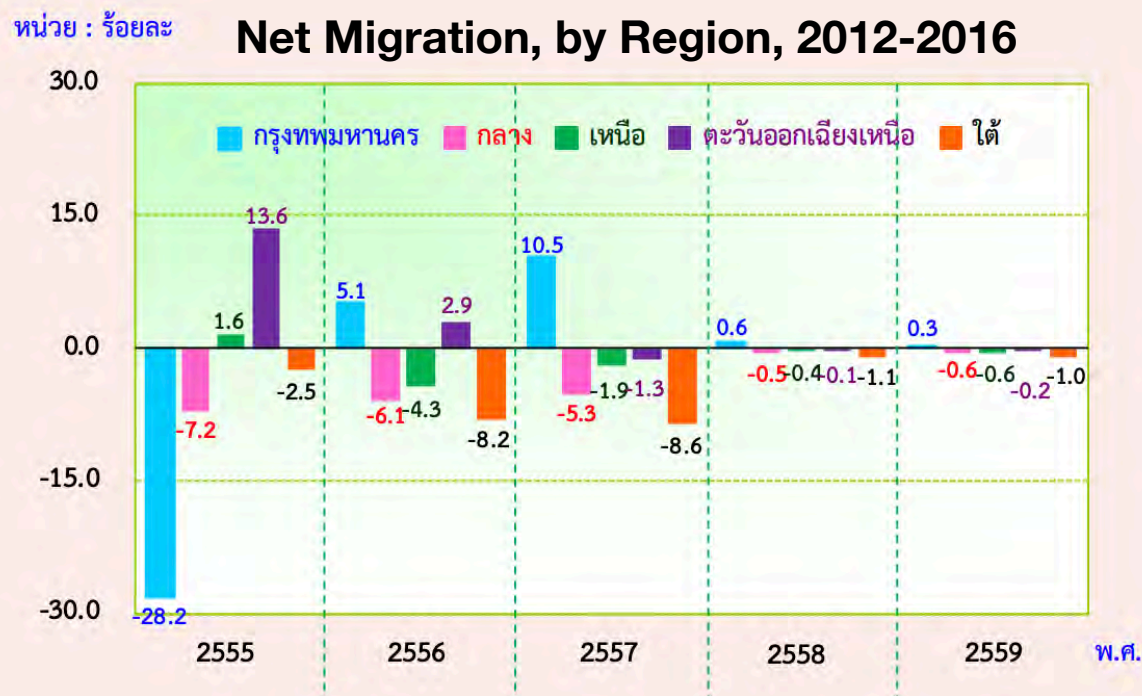# Internal migration might not be a trend anymore

Migration, by Age Groups, 2015-2016
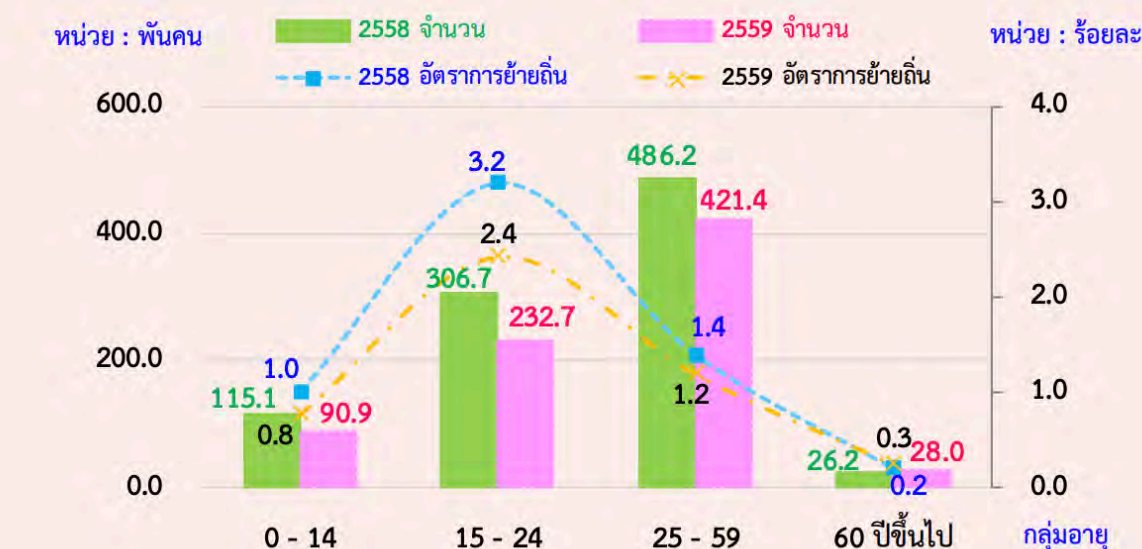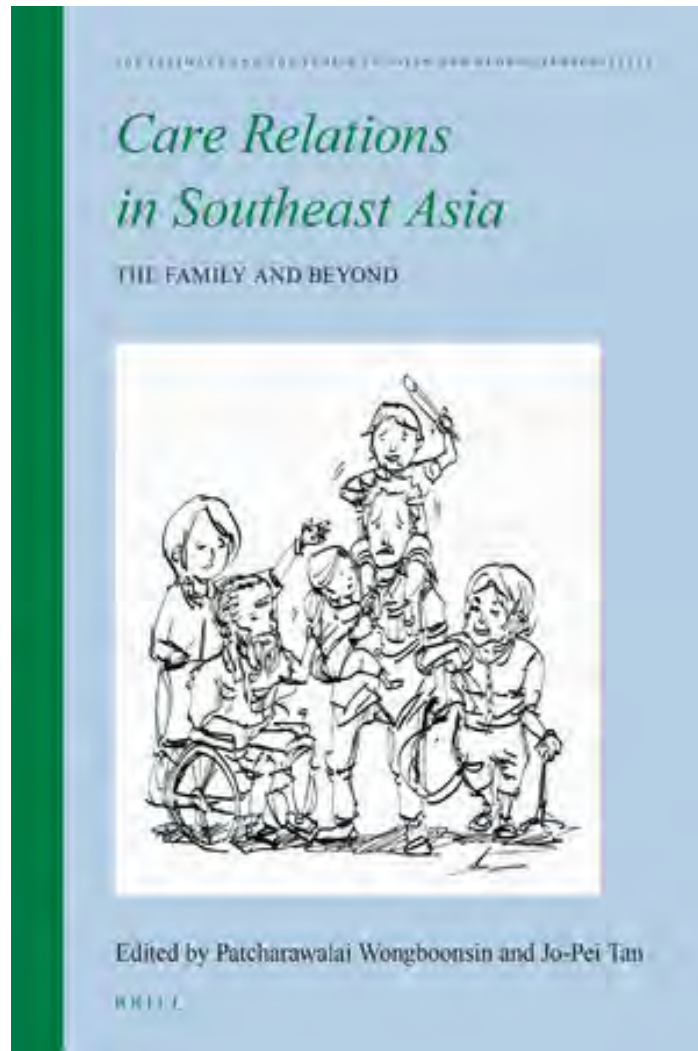

Migration, by Genders, 2015-2016

Net Migration, by Region, 2012-2016

- **Internal migration might not be a trend anymore; the rate has been decreasing in these recent years.**

- **Possibly, it might be due to the government attempts to promote more regionally balanced development (UNESCO).**

Key Characteristics of the Family in Thailand (2018)

The followings list the key characteristics of the families in Thailand:

1. **The changes are NOT that Thailand has transformed from extended to nuclear families, as one may have expected.** Up to 2010, nuclear families prevailed in both rural and urban areas, albeit in a decreasing proportion after 1980 when that of extended families remained significantly unchanged.

2. W**hile multi-generational households remain relatively constant in proportion, 1980 is identified as the turning point towards these new trends:**

   - Decreasing household size

   - Decreasing prevalence of male-headed household

   - Declining number of children per household on average

   - Increasing number of older persons per household on average

   - Increasing trend of skip-generation households

   - Increasing trend of one-generation households, including those with just the elderly and spouse

   - Declining trend of two-generation households

   - Thai elderly mainly living in an extended family household, but a declining trend of those in three-generation households

Care Relations in Southeast Asia

THE FAMILY AND BEYOND

Edited by Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Jo-Pei Tan

BRILL

Source: Wongboonsin, P., Keeratipongpaiboon and, T., & Wongboonsin, K. (2018). "Changes in Family Composition and Care Relations in the Kingdom of Thailand". In Care Relations in Southeast Asia. Leiden, The Netherlands: BRILL. doi: https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004384330_004
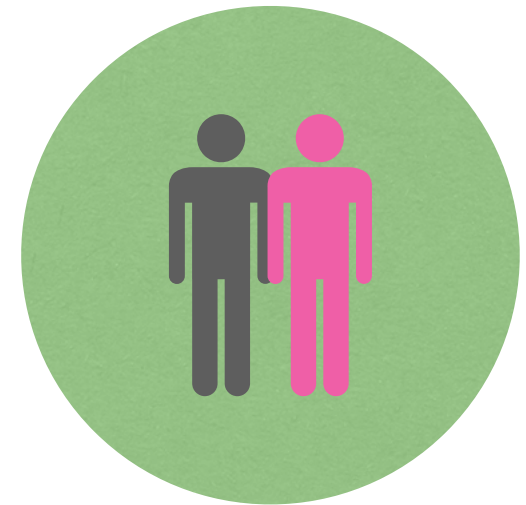
Future Trends:

Individual, Independent & Connected

Single, Divorced & Separated

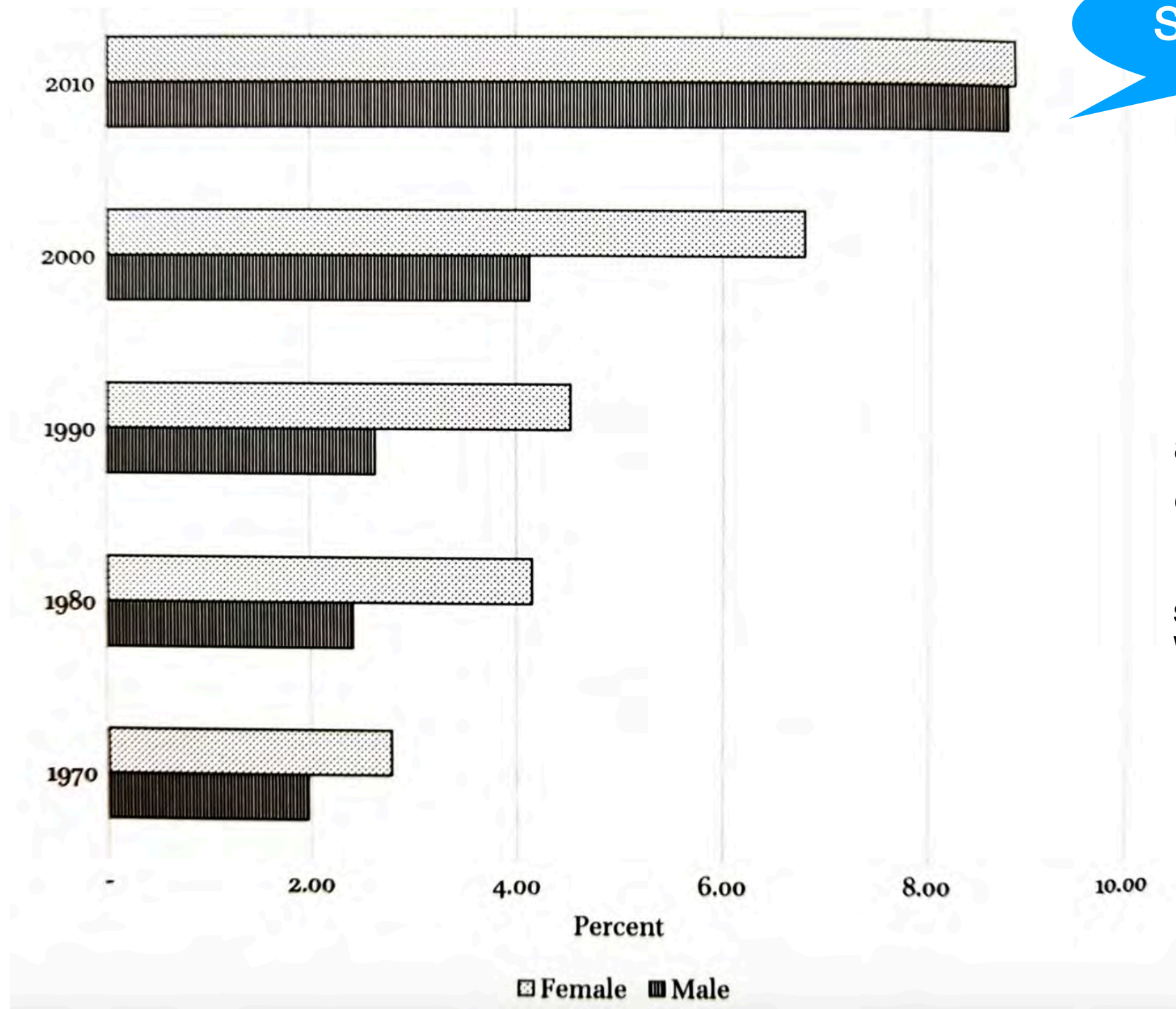**Diversified, Modern & Non-Traditional**

Singlehood is a trend!
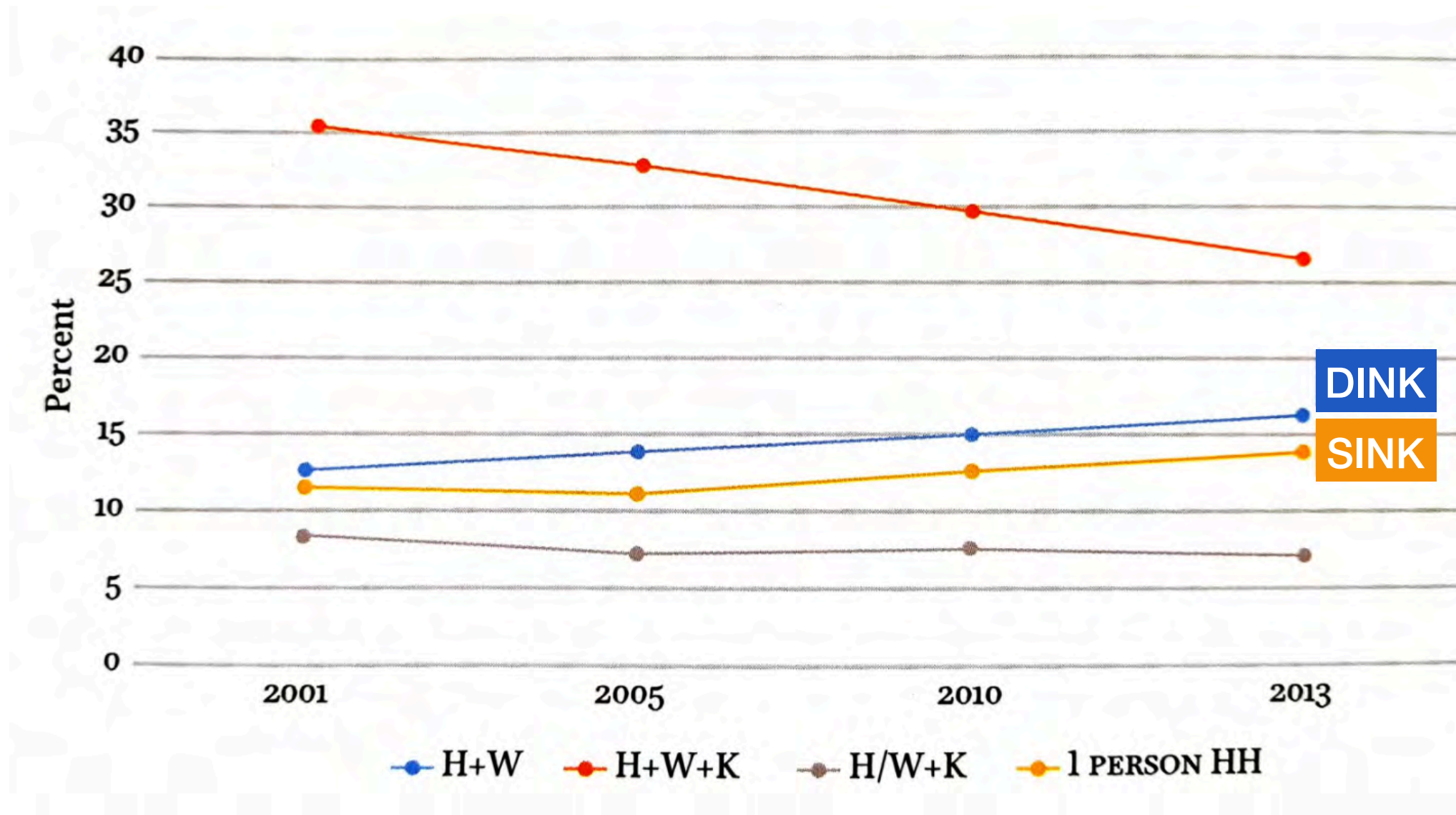

Single is trendy!

Single by Choice
Single by Chance

Percentage of singlehood at age 45-54, 1970-2010; calculate from NSO 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Source: Wongboonsin, Keeratipongpaiboon, Wongboonsin (2018)

☒ Female ▥ Male

SINK & DINK Family

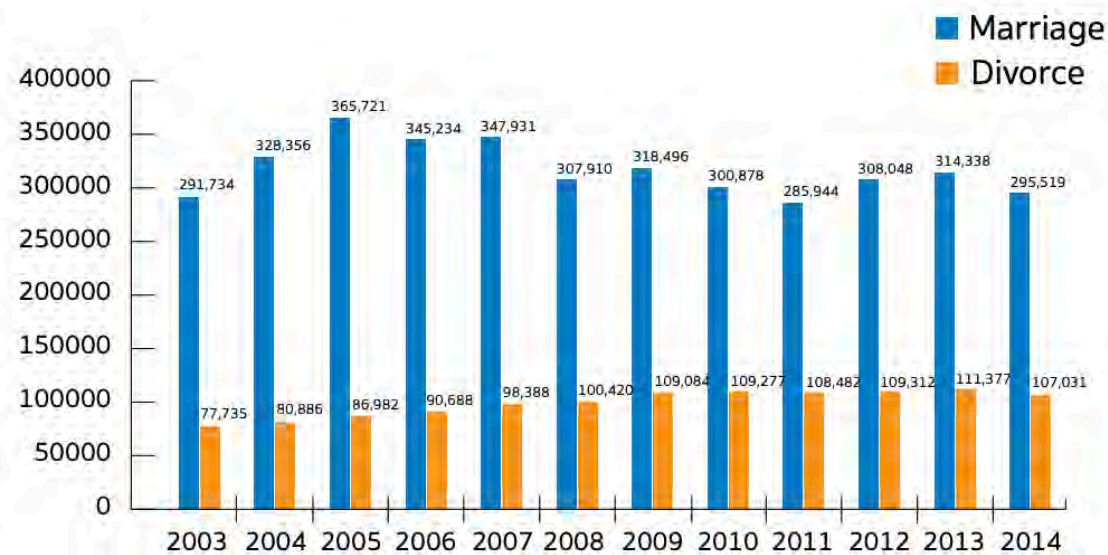

SINK : Single Income No Kid

DINK : Double Income No Kid

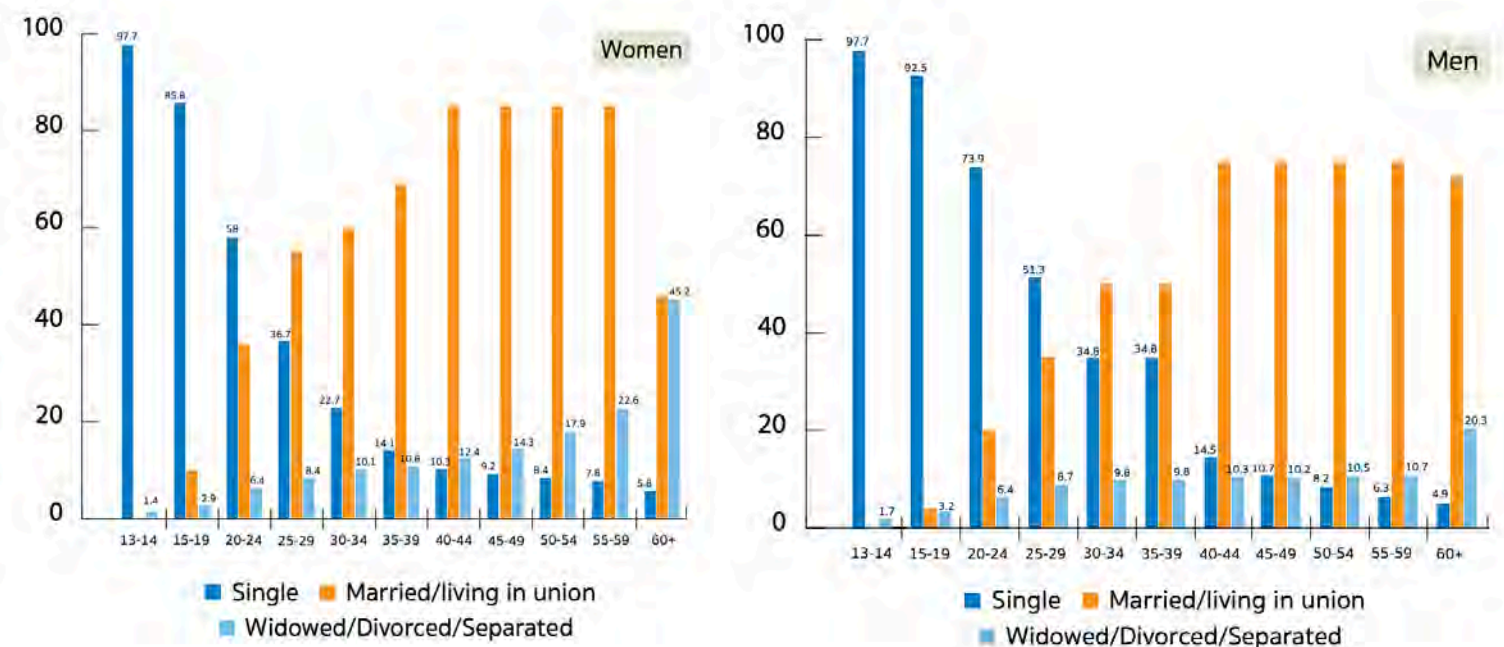Source: Wongboonsin, Keeratipongpaiboon, Wongboonsin (2018)

Divorce, separation and single parenthood are more common in the modern society
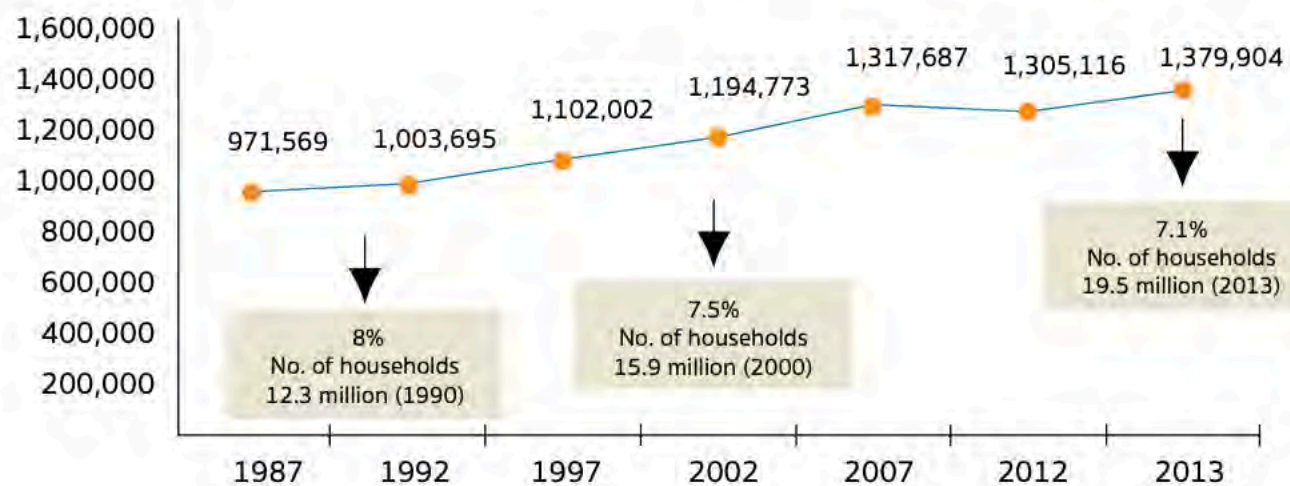
Numbers of marriage and divorce, 2002-2013

Percentage of marital status of Thai population by age and sex, 2010

Number and percentage of single-parent families with a child < 18 years, 1987-2013

Single-Parent Families

- Increasing in number but the family size is smaller.
- Increasing from 970,000 households in 1987 to 1.4 million households in 2013 but proportion to the total households had decreased from 8.6% to 7.1%
- Members of single-parent families have declined from 4.03 persons per family in 1987 to 2.76 persons in 2013.
- The majority of single-parent families are with single mothers (80%)

Source: UNFPA & NESDB (2016), The State of Thailand's Population 2015
"Features of Thai Families in the Era of Low Fertility and Longevity"

LGBT is another trend

U.S. Adults Identifying as LGBT, 2012-2017 (Gallup)
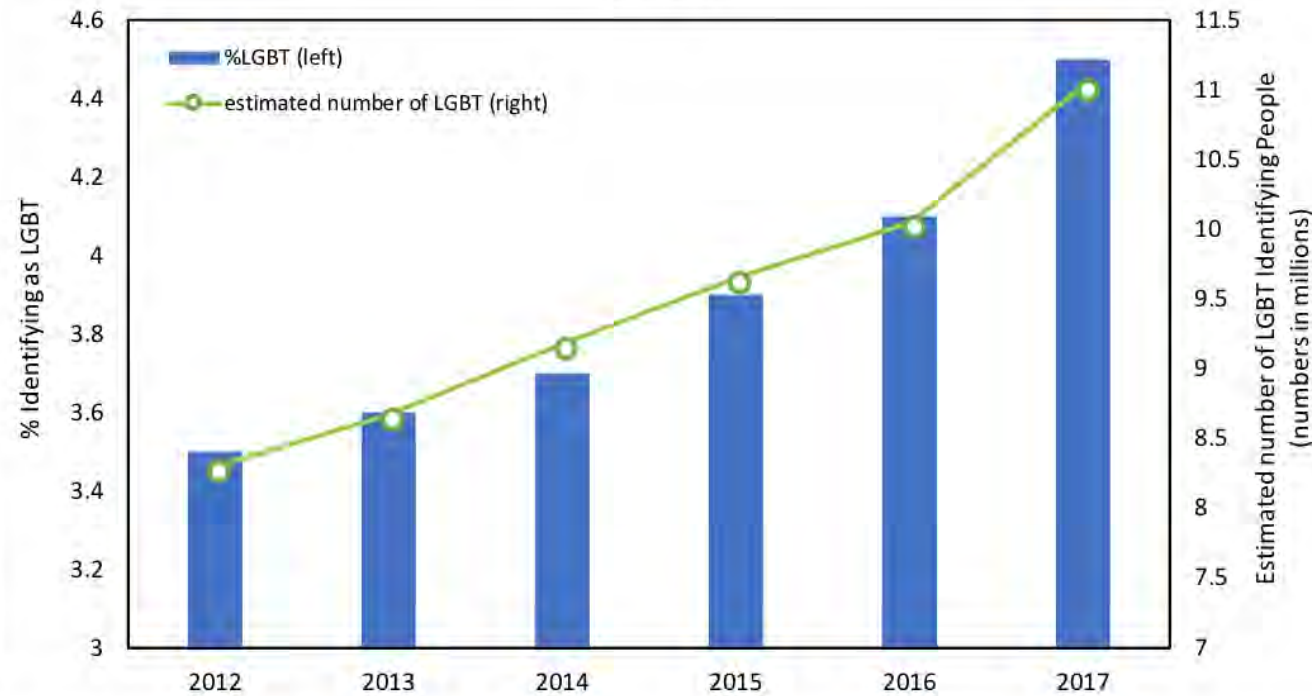
Source: Newport, Frank. "In US, Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%." Gallup.com. May 22, 2018

Percentage of U.S. Adults Identifying as LGBT by Birth Cohort, 2012-2017
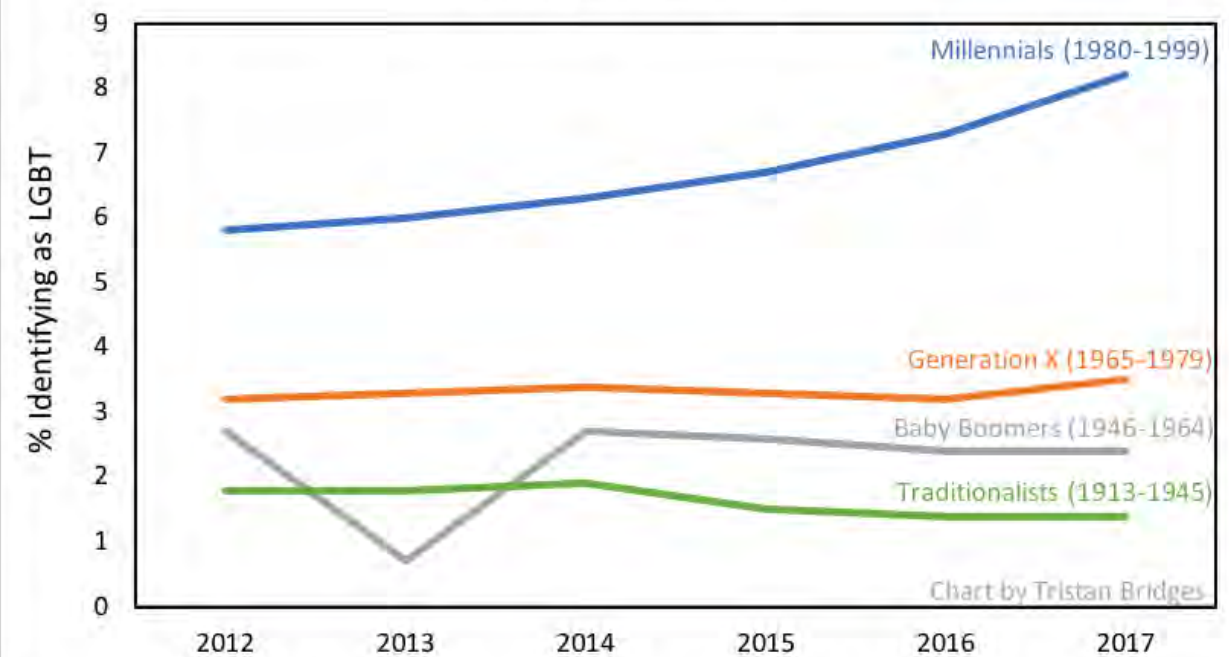
Source: Newport, Frank. "In US, Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%." Gallup.com. May 22, 2018

Percentage of U.S. Adults Identifying as LGBT by Gender, 2012-2017

Source: Newport, Frank. "In US, Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%." Gallup.com. May 22, 2018

Percentage of U.S. Adults Identifying as LGBT by Race, 2012-2017
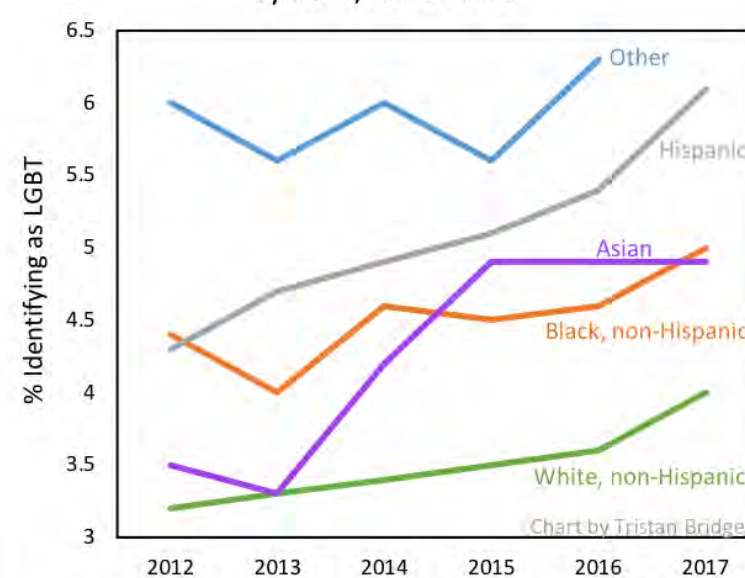
Source: Newport, Frank. "In US, Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%." Gallup.com. May 22, 2018
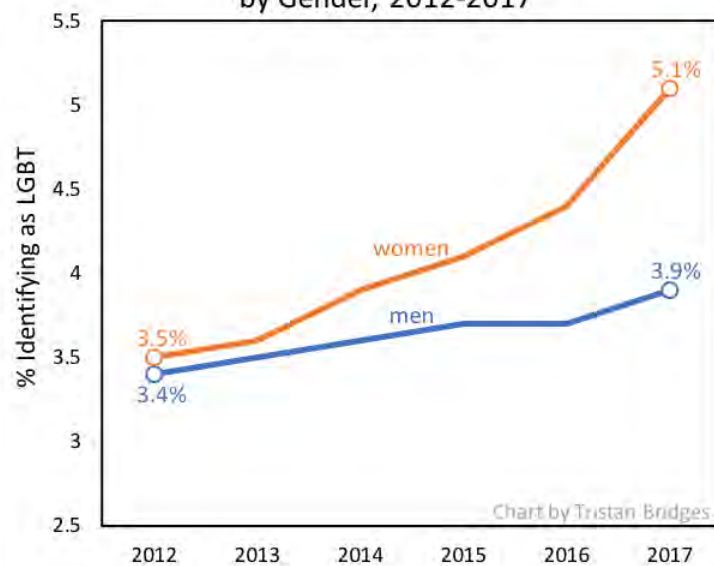

Percentage of Adults Identifying as LGBT by Education, 2012-2017
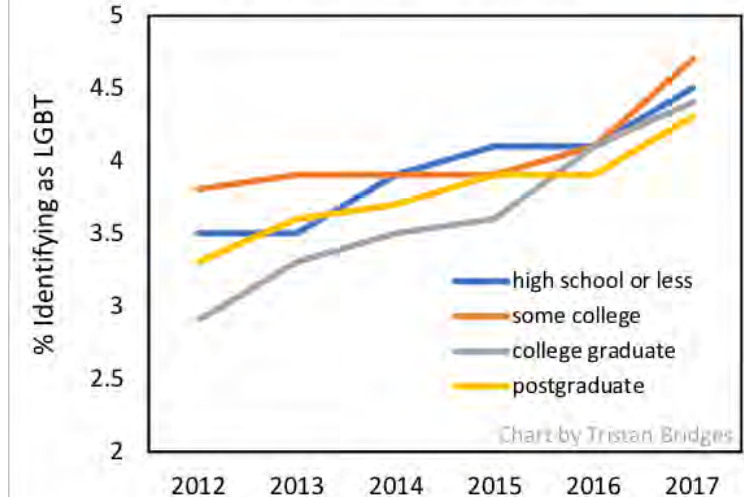
Source: Newport, Frank. "In US, Estimate of LGBT Population Rises to 4.5%." Gallup.com. May 22, 2018

Source: Tristan Bridges (2018), https://inequalitybyinteriordesign.wordpress.com/2018/05/23/2018-update-shifts-in-the-u-s-lgbt-population/

Remark: Literatures on Thailand's LGBT status are limited.

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More diversified family: modern & non-traditional

Because the future trend is not linear, it is more complicated

Now   *smaller, older, more female-headed family*   **Future**

PLUS *individualism, singlehood, divorced, single parental, LGBT*
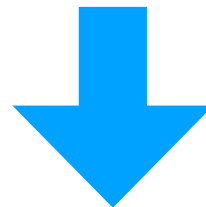
The world is quite disruptive

Life is Less Offline, But More Online 💬

JAN 2018

DIGITAL AROUND THE WORLD IN 2018

KEY STATISTICAL INDICATORS FOR THE WORLD'S INTERNET, MOBILE, AND SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

TOTAL POPULATION	INTERNET USERS	ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA USERS	UNIQUE MOBILE USERS	ACTIVE MOBILE SOCIAL USERS
7.593 BILLION	4.021 BILLION	3.196 BILLION	5.135 BILLION	2.958 BILLION
URBANISATION: 55%	PENETRATION: 53%	PENETRATION: 42%	PENETRATION: 68%	PENETRATION: 39%

Hootsuite™ we are social

Number of Social Network Users Worldwide, 2010-2021 (in billions)
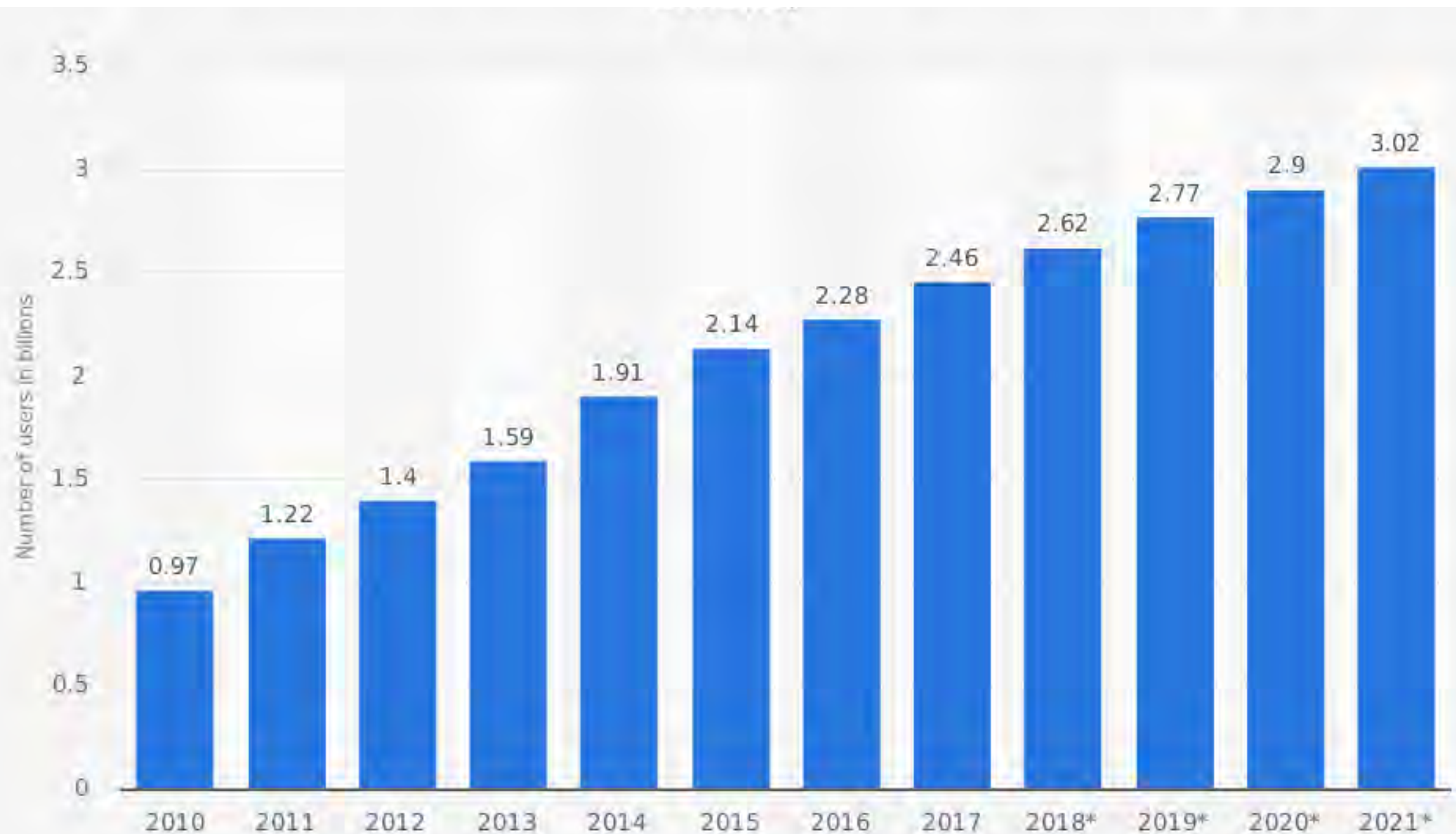
Number of Monthly Active Facebook Users Worldwide, as of 4th Quarter 2018 (in billions)

source: https://www.marketingoops.com/reports/behaviors/thailand-digital-in-2018/

JAN 2018

WEEKLY ONLINE ACTIVITIES BY DEVICE
PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION* ENGAGING IN EACH ACTIVITY AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK [SURVEY-BASED]

USE A SEARCH ENGINE	VISIT A SOCIAL NETWORK	PLAY GAMES	WATCH VIDEOS	LOOK FOR PRODUCT INFORMATION
SMARTPHONE: **37%**	SMARTPHONE: **73%**	SMARTPHONE: **22%**	SMARTPHONE: **63%**	SMARTPHONE: **15%**
COMPUTER: **15%**	COMPUTER: **23%**	COMPUTER: **12%**	COMPUTER: **22%**	COMPUTER: **7%**

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JAN 2018

MOBILE ACTIVITIES
SURVEY-BASED DATA: FIGURES REPRESENT RESPONDENTS' SELF-REPORTED ACTIVITY

PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION USING MOBILE MESSENGERS	PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION WATCHING VIDEOS ON MOBILE	PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION PLAYING GAMES ON MOBILE	PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION USING MOBILE BANKING	PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION USING MOBILE MAP SERVICES
77%	**75%**	**66%**	**56%**	**64%**

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MOST ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
JAN 2018
SURVEY-BASED DATA: FIGURES REPRESENT USERS' OWN CLAIMED / REPORTED ACTIVITY

Platform	%
FACEBOOK	75%
YOUTUBE	72%
LINE	68%
FB MESSENGER	55%
INSTAGRAM	50%
GOOGLE+	45%
TWITTER	38%
SKYPE	22%
LINKEDIN	18%
PINTEREST	17%
WHATSAPP	17%
WECHAT	17%

Legend:
- SOCIAL NETWORK
- MESSENGER / CHAT APP / VOIP

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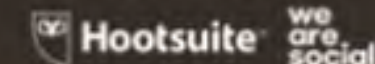
TOP APP RANKINGS
JAN 2018
RANKINGS OF TOP MOBILE APPS BY MONTHLY ACTIVE USERS AND BY NUMBER OF DOWNLOADS

RANKING OF MOBILE APPS BY MONTHLY ACTIVE USERS

#	APP NAME	DEVELOPER / COMPANY
01	LINE	LINE
02	FACEBOOK	FACEBOOK
03	FACEBOOK MESSENGER	FACEBOOK
04	INSTAGRAM	FACEBOOK
05	K-MOBILE BANKING	KASIKORNBANK
06	JOOX MUSIC	TENCENT
07	LAZADA	ALIBABA GROUP
08	TWITTER	TWITTER
09	WHOSCALL	NAVER
10	MY AIS	ADVANCED INFO SERVICE

RANKING OF MOBILE APPS BY NUMBER OF DOWNLOADS

#	APP NAME	DEVELOPER / COMPANY
01	FACEBOOK MESSENGER	FACEBOOK
02	FACEBOOK	FACEBOOK
03	LINE	LINE
04	JOOX MUSIC	TENCENT
05	CAMERA360	PINGUO
06	INSTAGRAM	FACEBOOK
07	4SHARED	NEW IT SOLUTIONS
08	LAZADA	ALIBABA GROUP
09	YOUTUBE	GOOGLE
10	SHOPEE	GARENA ONLINE

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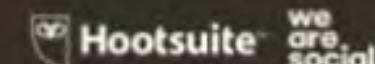
The Changing Family in the Disruptive World
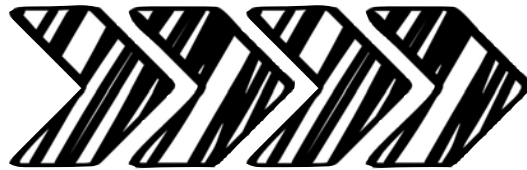
Smaller Household Size

Larger Virtual World

Policy Challenge: Singlehood

- **Being single might not mean about loneliness anymore, thanks to the 'Social Media' technology.**

- **The social media creates a virtual world, which tends to be bigger and easier to access.**

- **Being single in a real world but connected in a virtual world is fine for many people; the increasing trend of SINK.**

- **Being single, therefore, is not a problem anymore.**

- **Policy challenge: what should we do with the single people? Any policies should be targeted on them? (Singlehood Tax?)**

Policy Challenge: Ageing

- **Elderly people tend to live alone or just with their partners.**

- **In many developed countries, the elderly are the ones who choose to stay away from their adult children. (they have freedom to choose.)**

- **A number of previous studies mention about loneliness, mental failure, and depression of the elderly in the society.**

- **However, the elderly in these days have higher digital literacy. They can access to social media, advanced technologies and creative innovation.**

- **Hence, a number of the elderly in this modern society now enjoy living in a virtual world in parallel with a real world.**

- **Policy challenge: should we worry about the elders' mentality, depression or loneliness? What should policy makers/researchers do with the changing family in the larger virtual world?**

Thank you

Backup Slides

Living Arrangement of the Elderly in Thailand
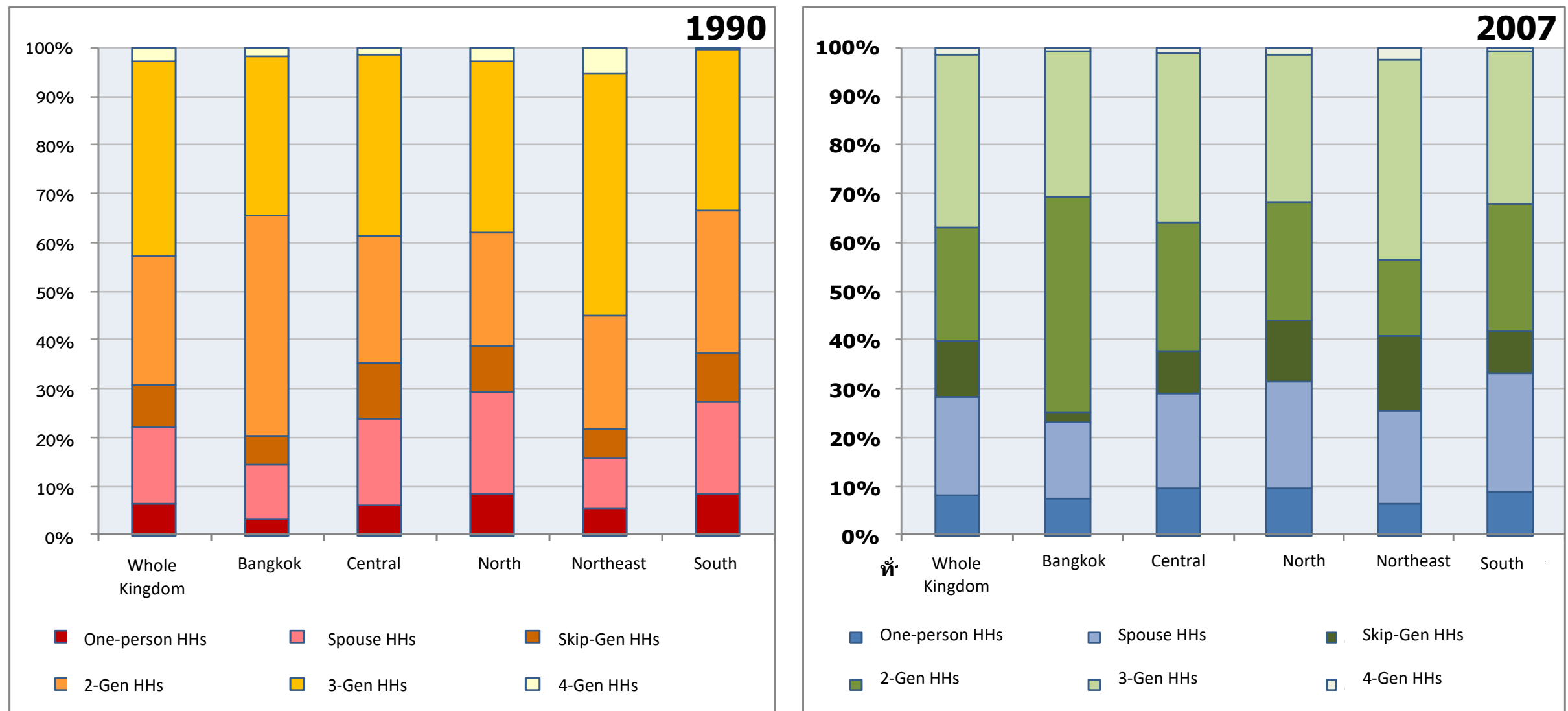
- Majority of elderly people in Bangkok live in two-generational households; while majority of elderly people in the Northeast and the Central live in three-generational households.
- Elderly people in every region tend to live in one-generational HH, either one-person or spouse HHs.
- Skipped-generational households are mostly found in the North and the Northeast. The ratio tend to increase.
- Household size has been decreasing over time due to delay of marriage and child-bearing.

Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012) calculated from Socio-Economic Survey (SES) data (1990 – 2007)

Factors determining old-age employment in Thailand (1990-2007)

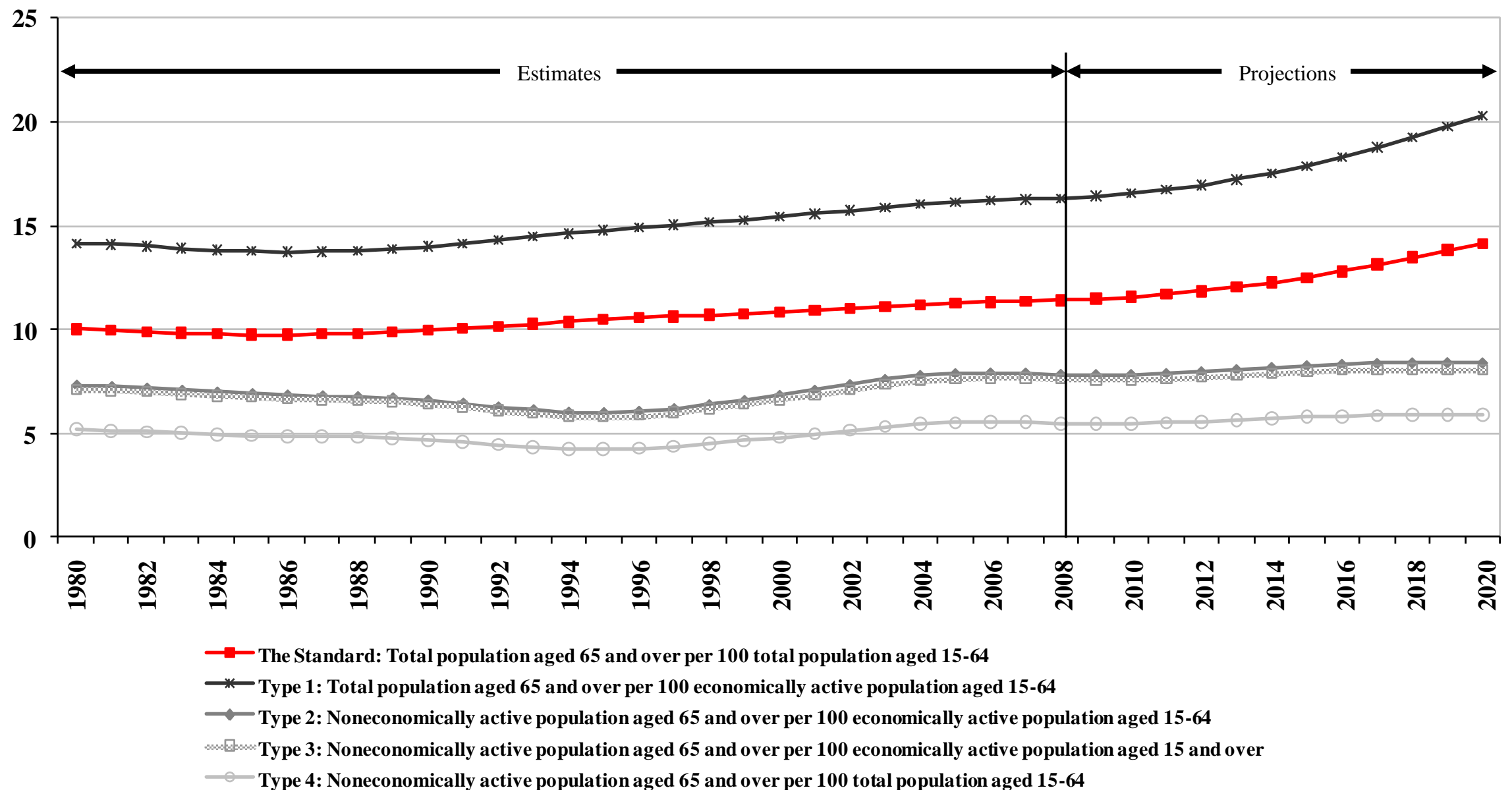| Variables	Year				
	1990	1994	1998	2004	2007
I. Demographic Factors					
- Age	-0.027***	-0.028***	-0.029***	-0.029***	-0.028***
	(-11.14)	(-14.41)	(-18.38)	(-17.17)	(-22.15)
- Secondary Education	-0.207***	-0.018	-0.012	-0.014	-0.037
	(-3.31)	(-0.30)	(-0.19)	(-0.35)	(-1.21)
- Bachelor's Degree	0.011	-0.107	0.050	-0.038	-0.117***
	(0.10)	(-1.16)	(0.43)	(-0.73)	(-2.64)
- Master's Degree or Higher			0.187	-0.024	-0.204**
			(1.40)	(-0.16)	(-2.45)
- Male	0.118***	0.056*	0.113***	0.075***	0.165***
	(2.67)	(1.72)	(4.19)	(3.32)	(8.83)
- Household Head	0.177***	0.262***	0.188***	0.273***	0.228***
	(3.37)	(6.90)	(7.11)	(12.40)	(12.23)
- Married	0.191***	0.220***	0.173***	0.177***	0.156***
	(4.81)	(6.87)	(7.13)	(7.73)	(8.42)
- Able to go out by Themselves without Assistance					0.269***
					(10.98)
- Access to Medical Welfare				-0.014	0.004
				(-0.40)	(0.11)
II. Economic Factors					
- Pensions (Yes)	-0.086	-0.145**	-0.066	-0.145***	-0.114***
	(-1.23)	(-1.99)	(-1.27)	(-3.05)	(-3.09)
- Transfer Payments (Yes)	0.024	-0.026	0.012	-0.026	
	(0.61)	(-0.88)	(0.58)	(-1.31)	
- Poverty (Yes)	0.055	0.093**	0.036	0.080***	0.024
	(1.27)	(2.50)	(1.01)	(2.67)	(0.90)
- Savings (Yes)	0.007	-0.017	0.014	-0.003	-0.012
	(0.22)	(-0.67)	(0.60)	(-0.21)	(-0.73)

Variables	Year				
	1990	1994	1998	2004	2007
III. Household Characteristics					
- Central	0.049	0.050	0.073	0.048	0.126***
	(0.61)	(0.84)	(1.19)	(1.40)	(3.78)
- North	0.032	-0.022	0.050	0.040	0.122***
	(0.39)	(-0.38)	(0.81)	(1.14)	(3.53)
- Northeast	-0.013	0.055	-0.020	0.058	0.112***
	(-0.16)	(0.90)	(-0.36)	(1.62)	(3.25)
- South	0.170*	0.081	0.125**	0.127***	0.187***
	(1.84)	(1.25)	(1.97)	(3.21)	(4.91)
- Rural	-0.073*	0.000	0.013	-0.060***	-0.035**
	(-1.65)	(0.02)	(0.39)	(-3.72)	(-2.46)
- Live in Three-or-More-Generational Household		-0.040	-0.017	-0.125***	-0.056*
		(-0.69)	(-0.41)	(-3.07)	(-1.84)
- Live in Two-Generational Household	-0.085	-0.208***	-0.154***	-0.230***	-0.198***
	(-1.65)	(-5.72)	(-5.51)	(-9.10)	(-9.35)
- Live in Skipped Generation Household	0.288***	0.280***	0.309***	0.254***	0.295***
	(4.39)	(5.92)	(7.46)	(7.63)	(10.00)
- Household Size	-0.210***	-0.205***	-0.186***	-0.213***	-0.256***
	(-10.76)	(-9.73)	(-13.61)	(-15.37)	(-22.38)
- Household In the Agricultural Sector	0.086**	0.114***	0.102***	0.430***	0.386***
	(2.25)	(3.57)	(4.15)	(20.47)	(20.59)
- Number of Recipients in Household	-0.119***	-0.133***	-0.129***	0.001	
	(-4.96)	(-7.05)	(-7.50)	(0.12)	
- Number of Earners in Household	0.431***	0.493***	0.465***	0.438***	0.494***
	(15.17)	(19.82)	(23.57)	(27.01)	(34.02)
Number of Observations	2,279	5,861	6,913	15,478	20,120
Wald Chi-Squared	474.66	894.06	1085.73	1883.94	2785.62
Probability > Chi-Squared	0.0000***	0.0000***	0.0000***	0.0000***	0.0000***
Pseudo R-Squared	0.4974	0.5670	0.5660	0.6041	0.6240
Log Pseudo-Likelihood	-796.59	-1724.72	-1986.62	-4175.35	-5144.71

Remark: Using probit model with the 1990-2007 SES data
Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012)

High dependency ratios might not be that 'severe'

Standard and Alternative Old-age Dependency Ratios, the World, 1980-2020

Estimates

Projections

The Standard: Total population aged 65 and over per 100 total population aged 15-64

Type 1: Total population aged 65 and over per 100 economically active population aged 15-64

Type 2: Noneconomically active population aged 65 and over per 100 economically active population aged 15-64

Type 3: Noneconomically active population aged 65 and over per 100 economically active population aged 15 and over

Type 4: Noneconomically active population aged 65 and over per 100 total population aged 15-64

Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012), using the data of the International Labour Organization, http://laborsta.ilo.org/, accessed on 1 March 2010.

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Alternative dependency ratios show that Thailand's ageing situation is not yet severe

Standard and Alternative Old-age Dependency Ratios, Thailand, 1980-2020

The Standard: Total population aged 60 and over per 100 total population aged 15-59

Type 1: Total population aged 60 and over per 100 economically active population aged 15-59

Type 2: Noneconomically active population aged 60 and over per 100 economically active population aged 15-59

Type 3: Noneconomically active population aged 60 and over per 100 economically active population aged 15 and over

Type 4: Noneconomically active population aged 60 and over per 100 total population aged 15-59

Source: Keeratipongpaiboon (2012), using the data of the International Labour Organization, http://laborsta.ilo.org/, accessed on 1 March 2010.