



# LIBERIA INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEO-INFORMATION SERVICES (LISGIS)



## Thematic Report on the Elderly 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census





## **Disclaimer** Thematic Report: The Elderly - 2022 LPHC

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present this document as a highlight summary of the upcoming Thematic Report on The Elderly from the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC). This summary offers a snapshot of the key findings and insights that will be detailed in the final report.

Please note that the full report is currently undergoing finalization, which includes comprehensive editing, formatting, graphic designing, and proofreading. The finalized version will replace this document once it is completed.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to sharing the complete report with you soon.

Best regards,

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Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)



# Outline

- ⇒ Introduction
- ⇒ Context of Analysis
- ⇒ Objective
- ⇒ Methodology
- ⇒ Key Findings
- ⇒ Policy Recommendations



# Background

- Population ageing is a demographic phenomenon
- It is the change in the age structure of the population caused by the transition from high to low births, deaths and improved standard of living resulting from advances in medicine, improved nutrition, sanitation and hygiene (DESA, 2007)
- The pace and magnitude of these decline determines the numbers and relative size of the older population now and in the future
- The World Population Prospect 2019, projected that the number of persons aged 65 years and above will increase from 9 percent in 2019 to 16 percent by 2050 (United Nations, 2019)
- The shift in the demographic transition due to aging is leaned now towards developed countries as two out of three older people lived in less developed regions in 2015 (United Nations, 2019)
- The share of the elderly persons in of the total population is expected to grow rapidly in the less developed countries, rising from only about 5.1 percent of population in 2000 to 14.0 percent in 2050 (UN DESA, 2015a)
- Families and nations celebrate longevity of life as a major milestone
- The increase in the population of the elderly has socio-economic implications
  - *social perspective, the housing and health sectors have to make provisions for the special needs of an increasing number of older persons.*
  - *economic point of view, ageing puts pressure on the budget for providing pensions and free health services and housing facilities while the availability of labour for production and economic activity is reduced.*
  - *dependence ratio consideration*
- Some elderly persons can make substantial social and economic contributions to national development (Bernard et al., 2014).



## Background

- Liberia like the rest of the world is experiencing changes in its population age structure
- Although this population is relatively small, compared to the rest of the population, the numbers are expected to increase
- Elderly persons are key actors in the development of the nation as they play crucial roles in their families, communities and political systems
- Hence, reaping the benefits of longevity for sustainable development demands the adoption of evidence-based policies, produced from census data that is nationally representative
- The elderly are referred to in Liberia as keepers of tradition and knowledge
- Aging continues to be a challenge as caring and social support mechanisms for older people is still primarily a family responsibility and supplemented in some cases by other informal mechanisms such as kinship networks



## Context of Analysis

- Liberia voluntary review of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2020 showed that households headed by the elderly had the highest level of poverty in the country (RoL, 2022)
- Myths of elderly people being witches or wizards can lead to neglect or abuse (Kelley, 2021)
- No national shelters or long-term care facilities in the country to accommodate elderly
- National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), established in 1975 a public trust to provide social protection for job related injuries, occupational illnesses, and old age retirement
- This scheme only serves individuals who contributed premium fees to its programs
- Large informal sector could potentially eliminate large number of the elderly from the scheme, especially rural folks
- The impact of the civil which destroyed potential for educational achievement and the productive capacity to prepare for their old age
- Article 11 (b) of the Liberian Constitution provides protection of the fundamental rights and freedom of everyone, including the elderly
- Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection formulated the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy (2013-18)
- ARREST Agenda outlines new development priorities for social protection for the vulnerable
- Local government Act (2016) recognizes elders as custodians of the Liberian culture and traditions
- Various non-governmental organizations such as:
  - National Old Folks of Liberia
  - National Senior Citizens Organization of Liberia (NASCOL),
  - Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment (CECAFE)
  - Coalition of Caregivers and Advocates for the Elderly in Liberia (COCAEL)



# Elderly and SDGs



**3.8:** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all



**4.4:** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship



**5.6:** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights



# Elderly and SDGs



**10.2:** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status



**11.7:** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for older persons and persons with disabilities



**16.10:** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements





# Objectives

The main aim of the thematic report is to draw on the 2022 Census data to provide current data on the elderly population in Liberia

Specifically the report will:

- Estimate the distribution of the elderly population nationally and by county
- Examine the demographic and socio-economic characteristics (profile) of the elderly population
- Examine household characteristics and the living arrangement of households headed by the elderly
- Examine the population of the elderly living with disability



# Methodology

## Sources of data

Main source of data - **2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC)**

Other complementary data sources- past census

## Analysis

The entire elderly population divided into three broad age groups which are defined as follows:

1. the young-old (those aged 65-74)
2. the middle-old (those aged 75-85)
3. the old-old (those aged above 85)

## Vital indicators

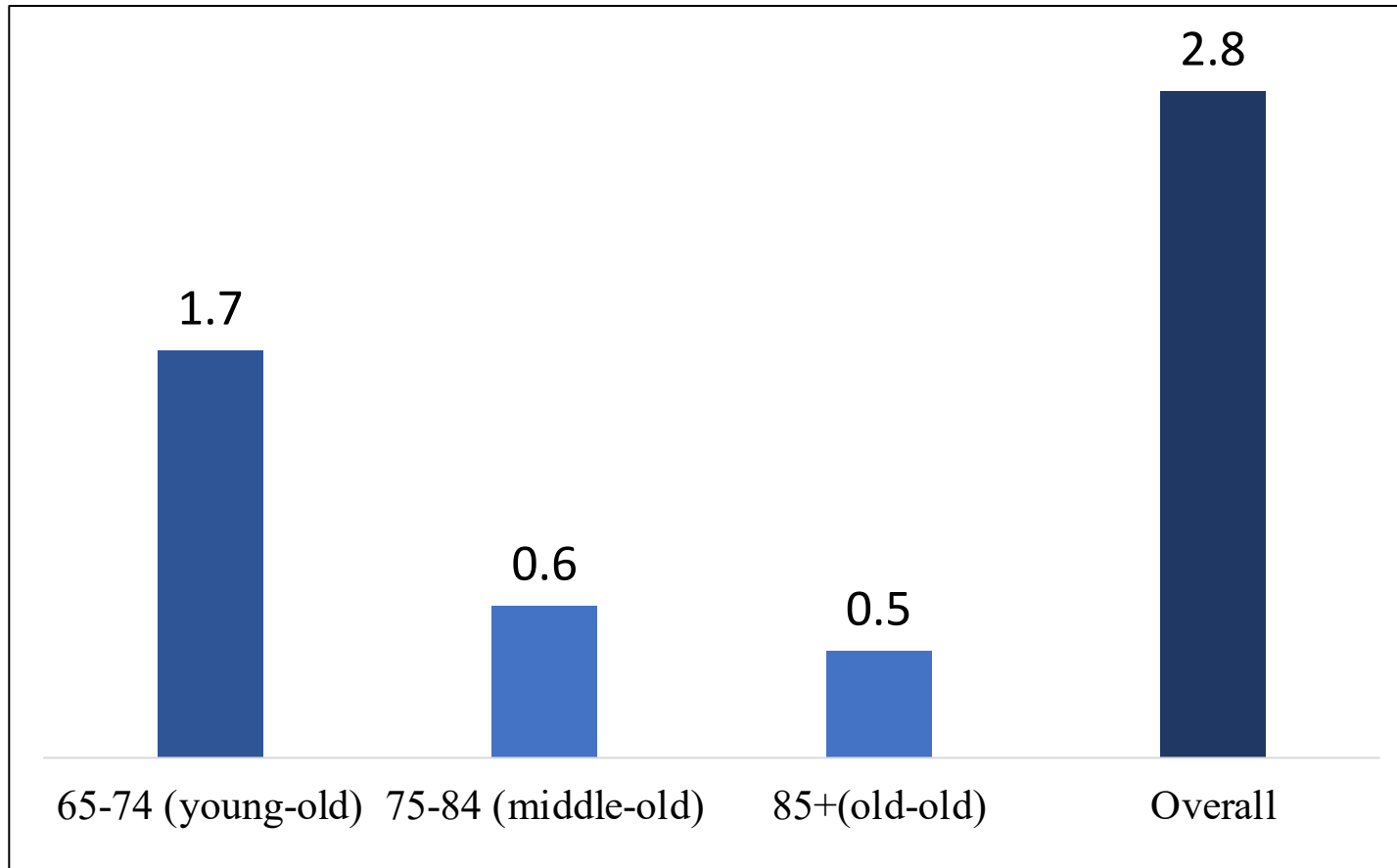
Age, sex, level, level of education, marital status,

Graphs and tables to present frequencies and cross tabulations

The analyses focus on trends, patterns and distributions



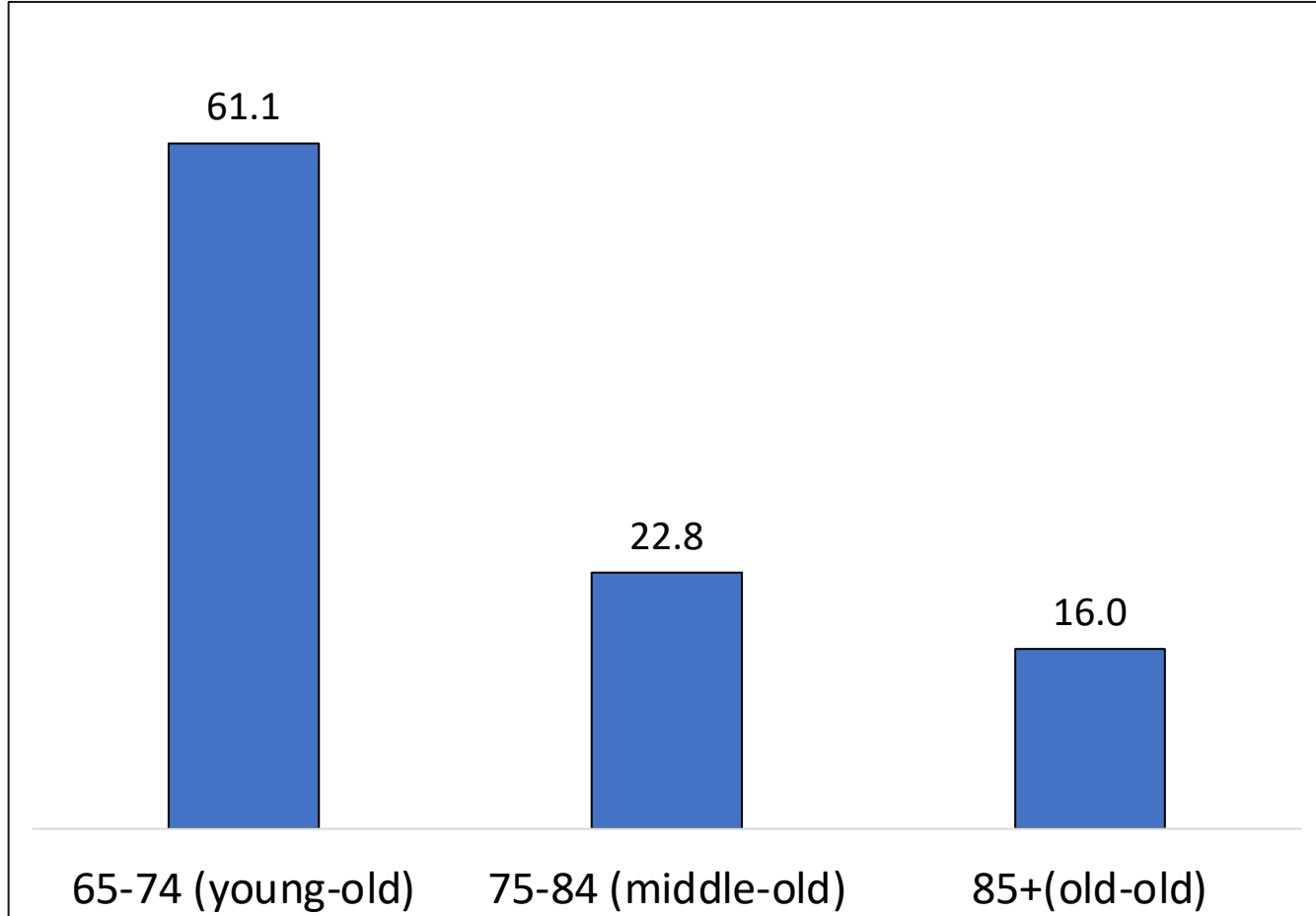
## Key Findings; Proportional Distribution of the Elderly in Liberia



2.8% (147,597 )  
of the population  
of Liberia 65  
years and above  
are elderly



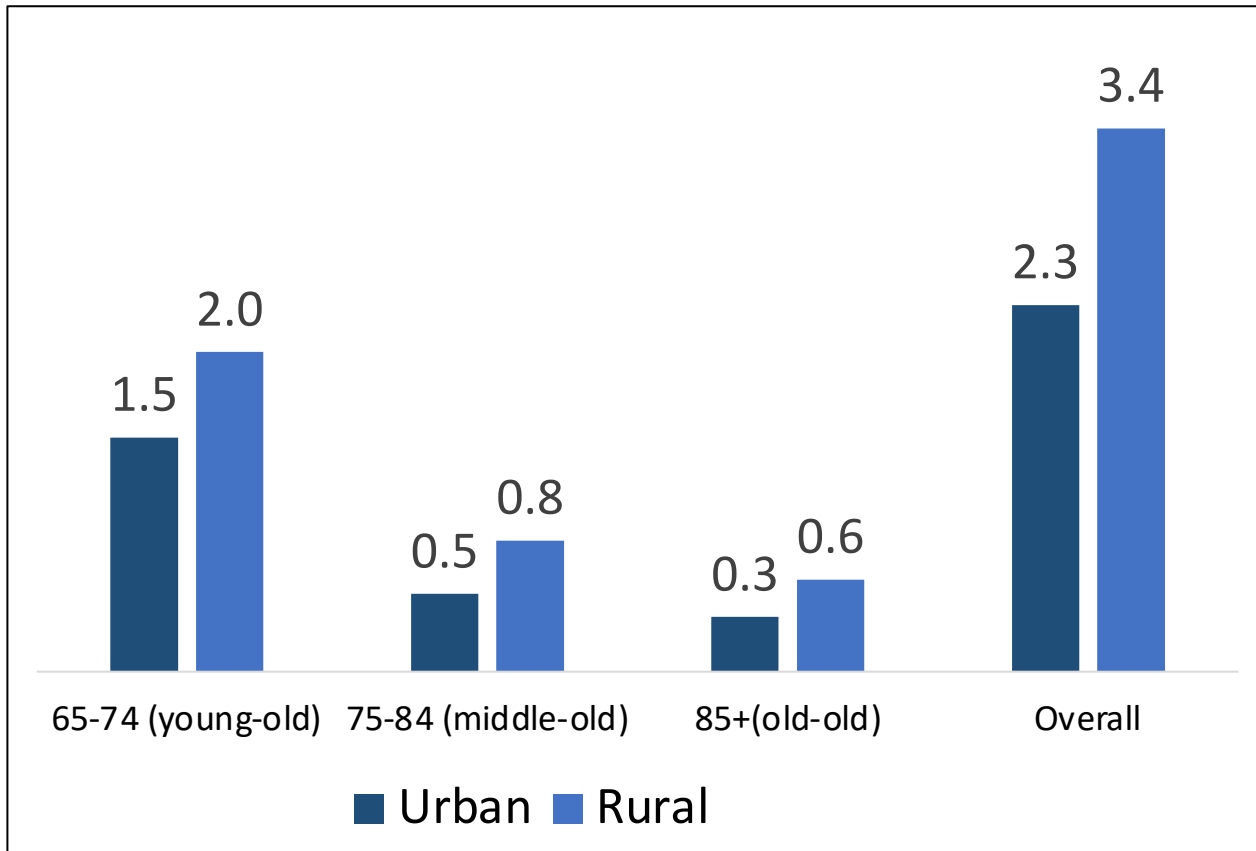
## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Functional Age Distribution



About 6 in 10 of the elderly population are considered as young old (65-74 years)



## Key Findings; Proportional Distribution of the Elderly in Liberia

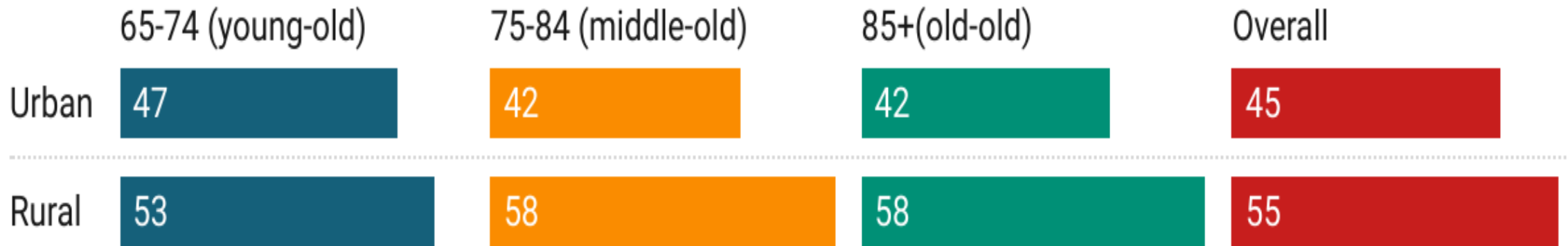


2.3% of the urban population are considered elderly

3.4% of the rural population



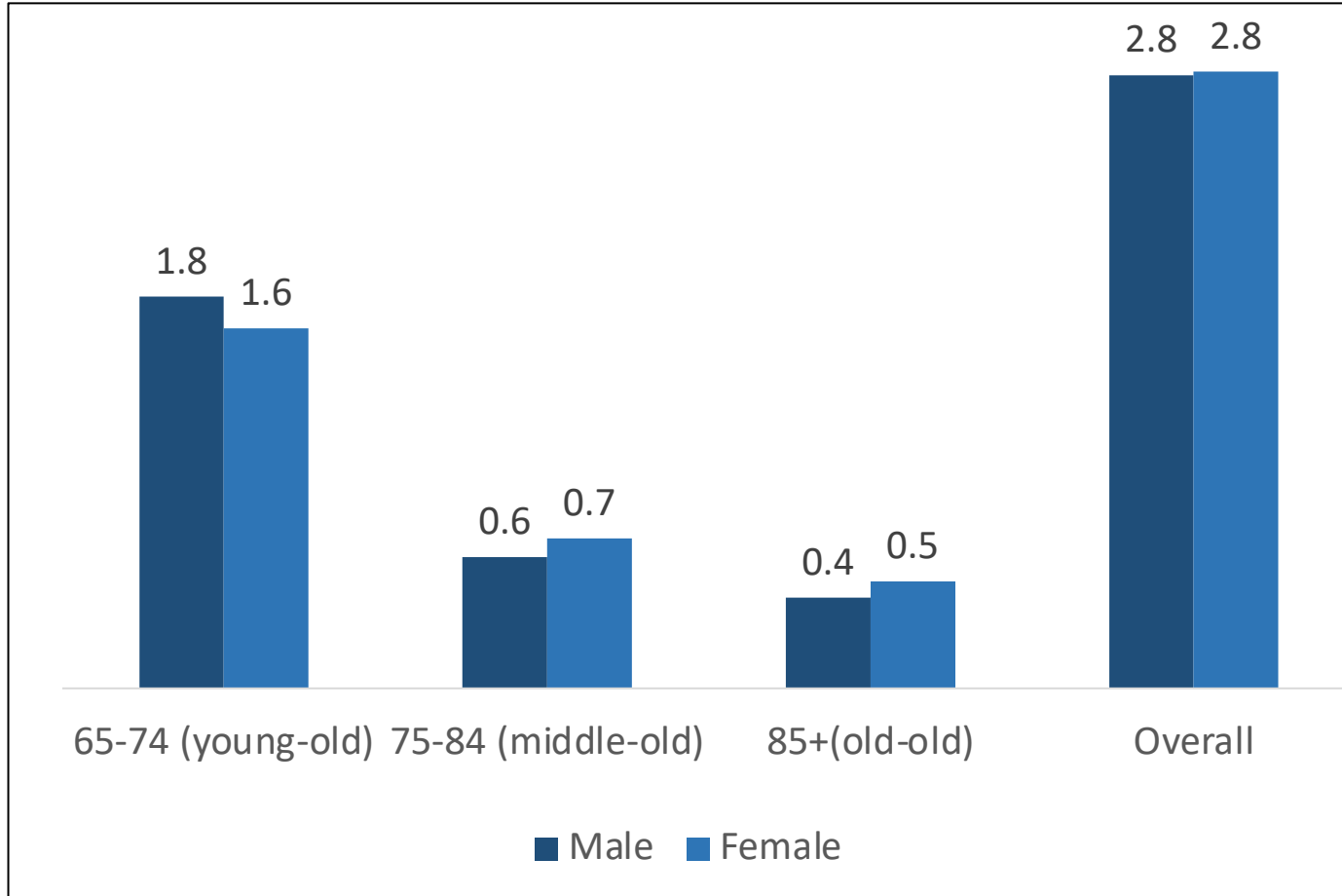
## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Place of Residence



More than half (55%) of elderly persons live in rural areas



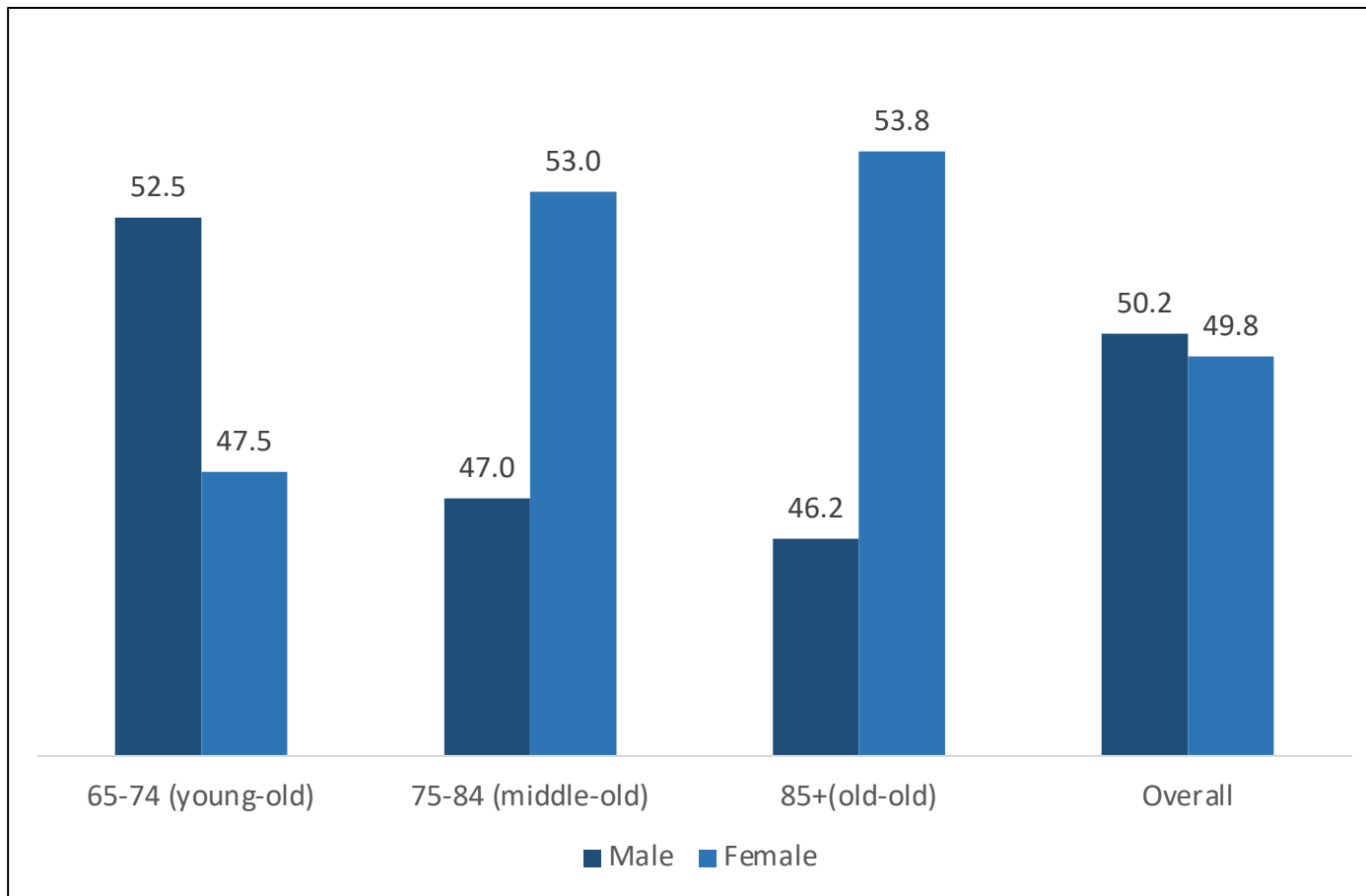
## Key Findings; Sex distribution of the elderly



No significant sex differences in proportion of the elderly



## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Sex

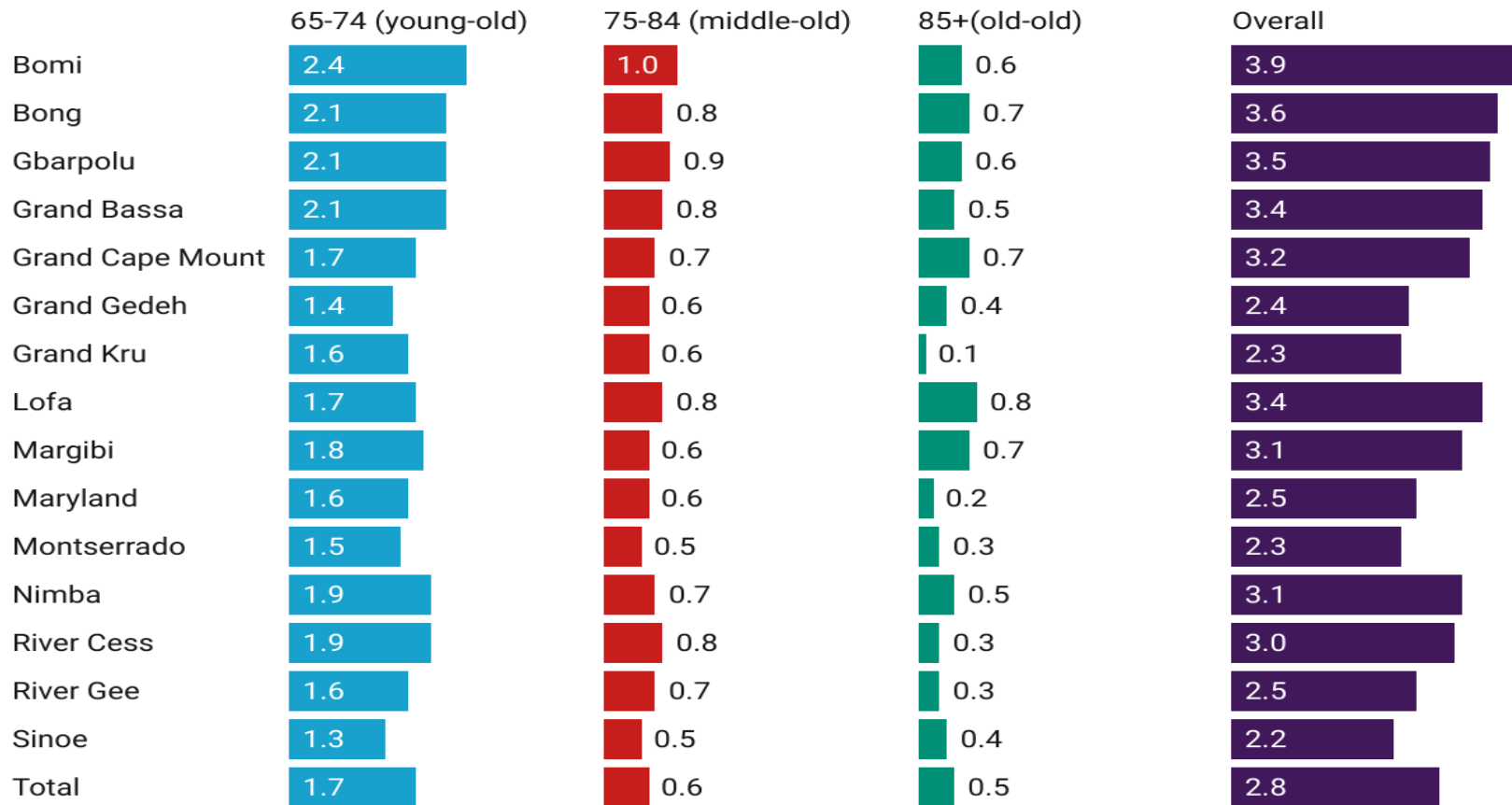


About equal proportions of elderly males and females





# Key Findings; Population of the Elderly across County

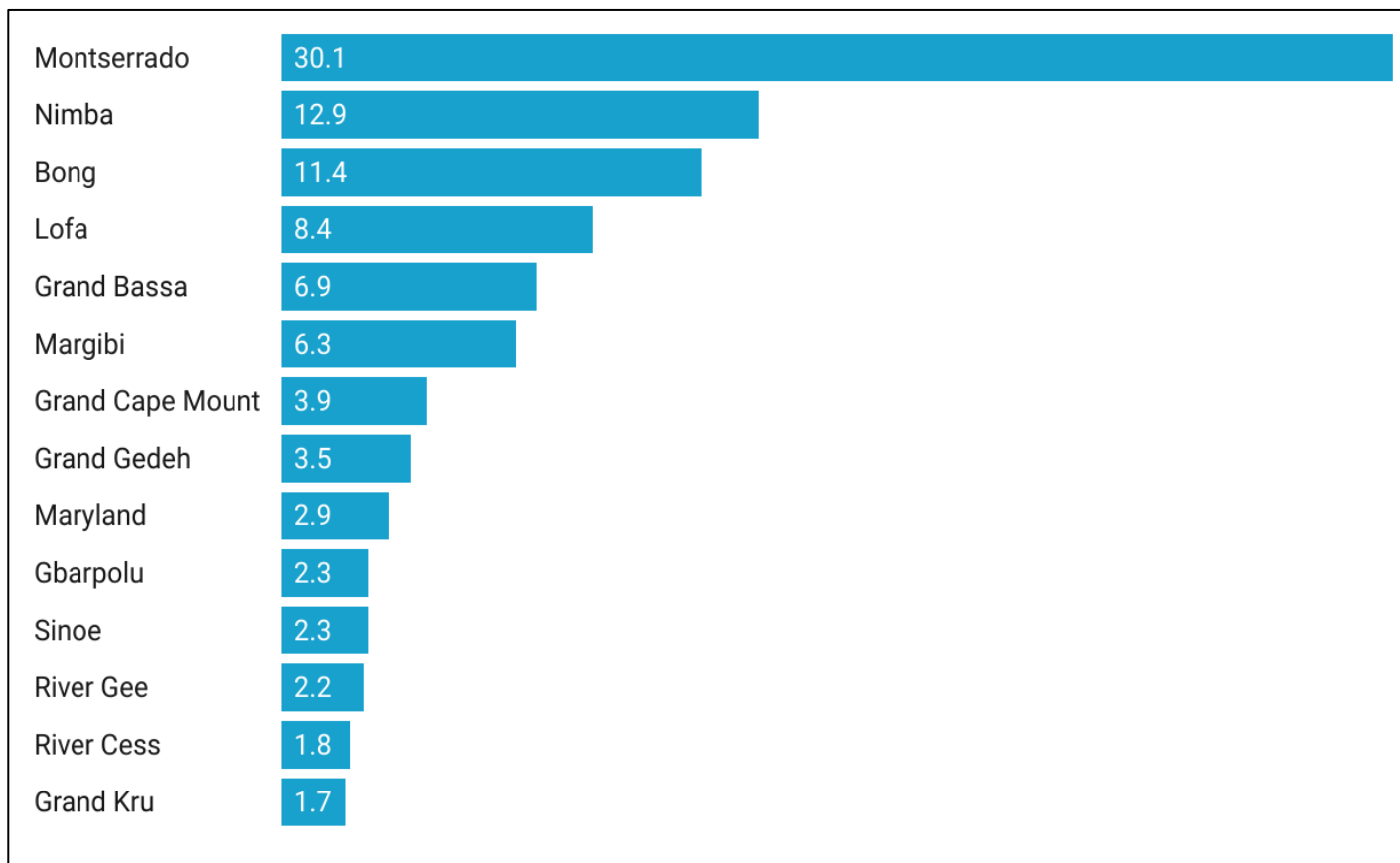


Bomi County (3.9%) has the highest proportion of its population who are elderly

Sinoe County (2.2%) has the lowest



## Key Findings; Overall Elderly Population by County

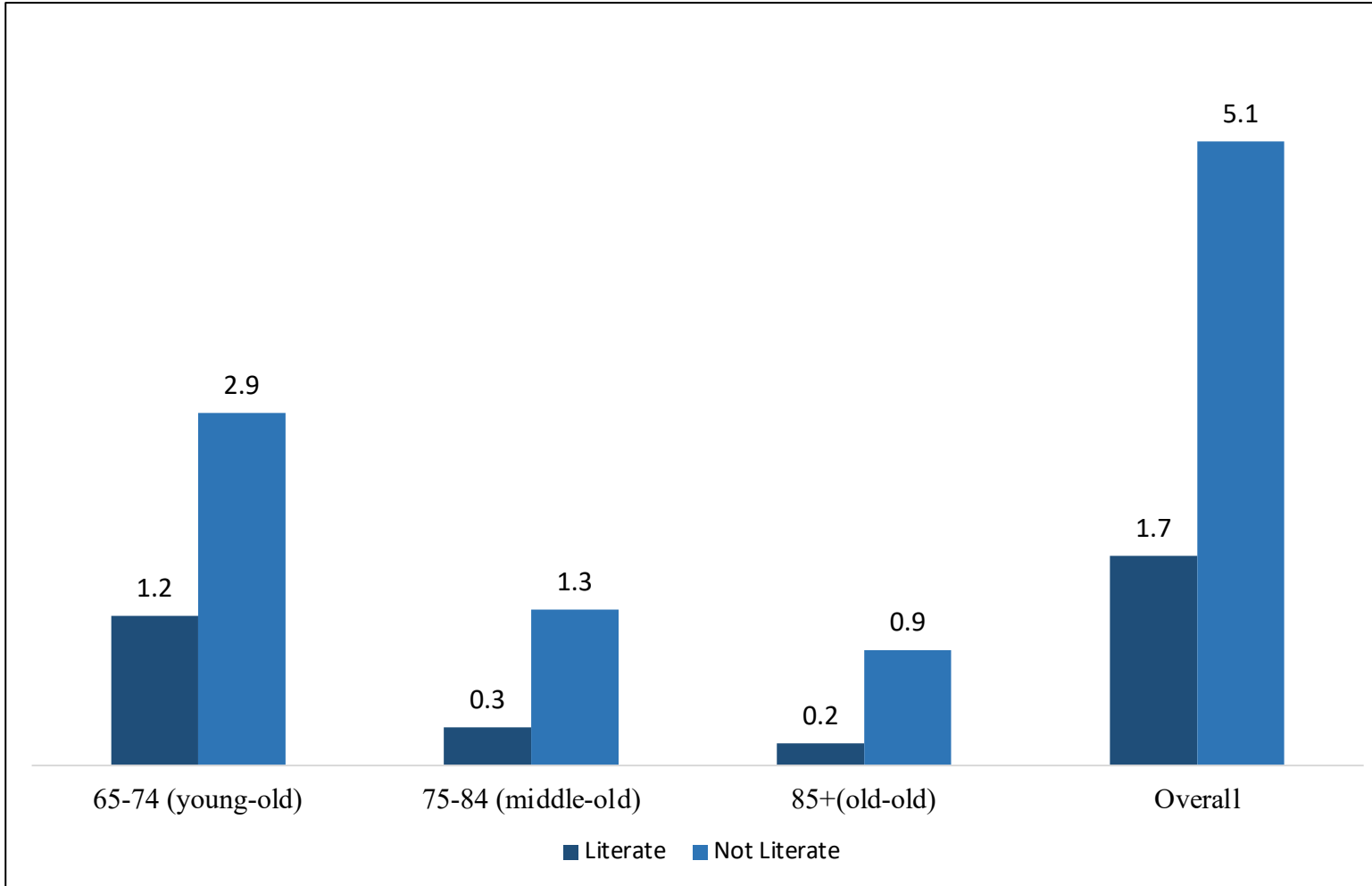


Three counties account for more than 50% of the population of the elderly:

Montserrado = 30.1%  
Nimba = 12.9%  
Bong = 11.4%



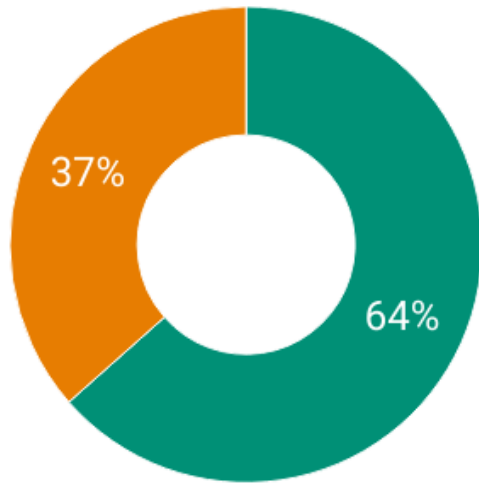
## Key Findings; Proportional Distribution of Elderly by Literacy



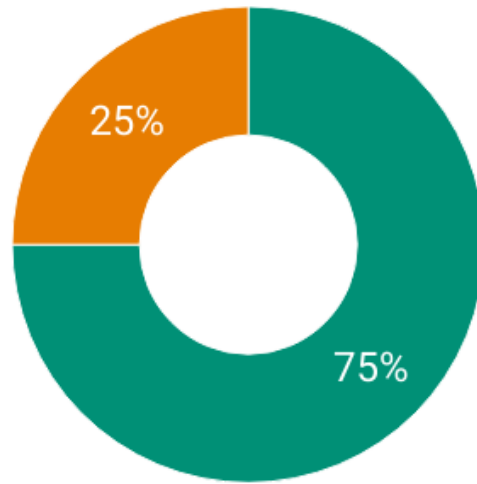
5.1% of the literate population is elderly



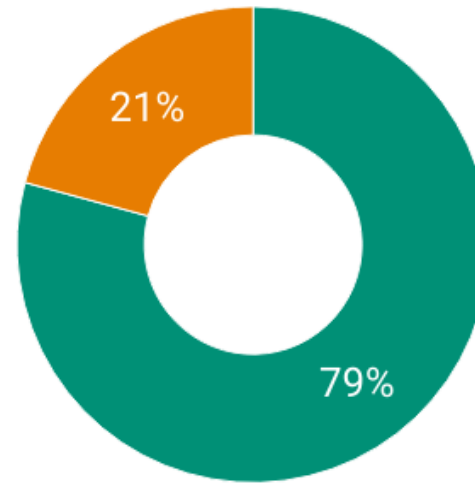
## Key Findings; Proportion of the Elderly Population by Literacy Status



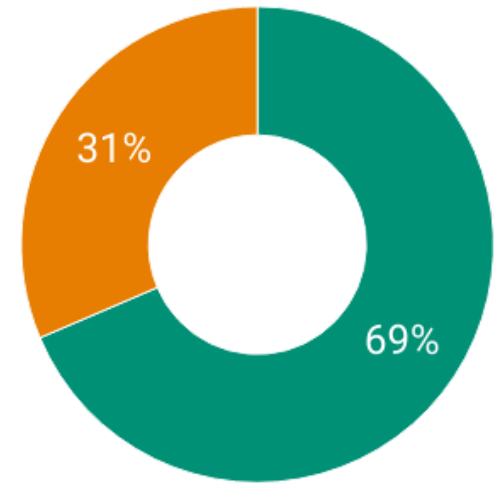
65-74 (young-old)



75-84 (middle-old)



85+(old-old)



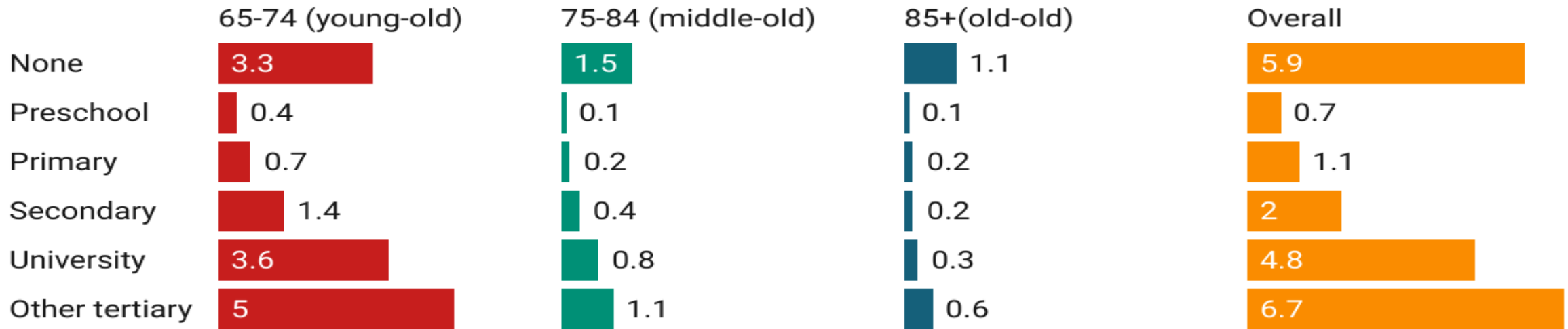
Overall

■ Not literate ■ Literate

31% of the elderly population is literate



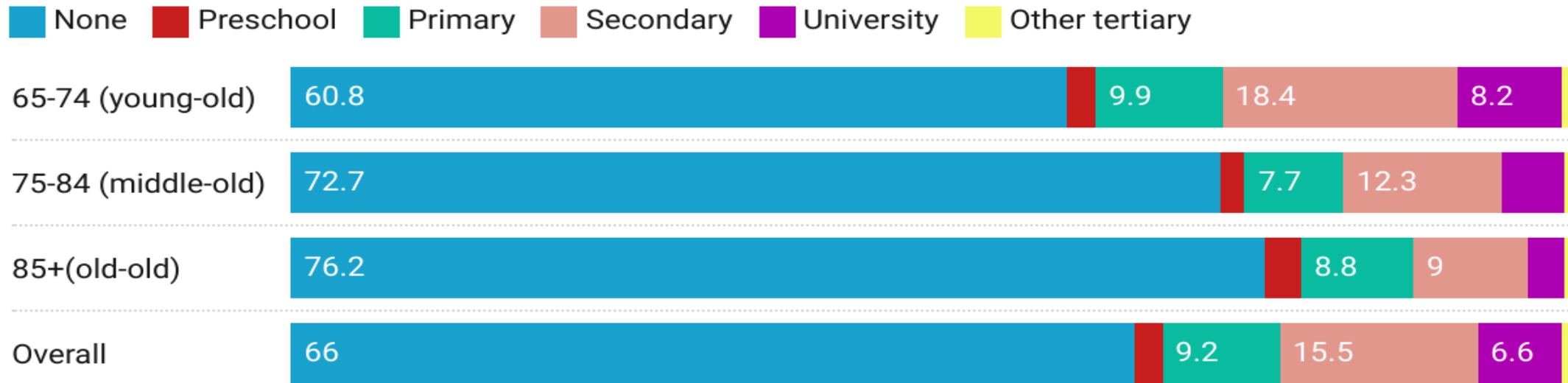
## Key Findings; Population of the Elderly Level of Education



Of all those who have never completed a level of education 5.9 percent are elderly



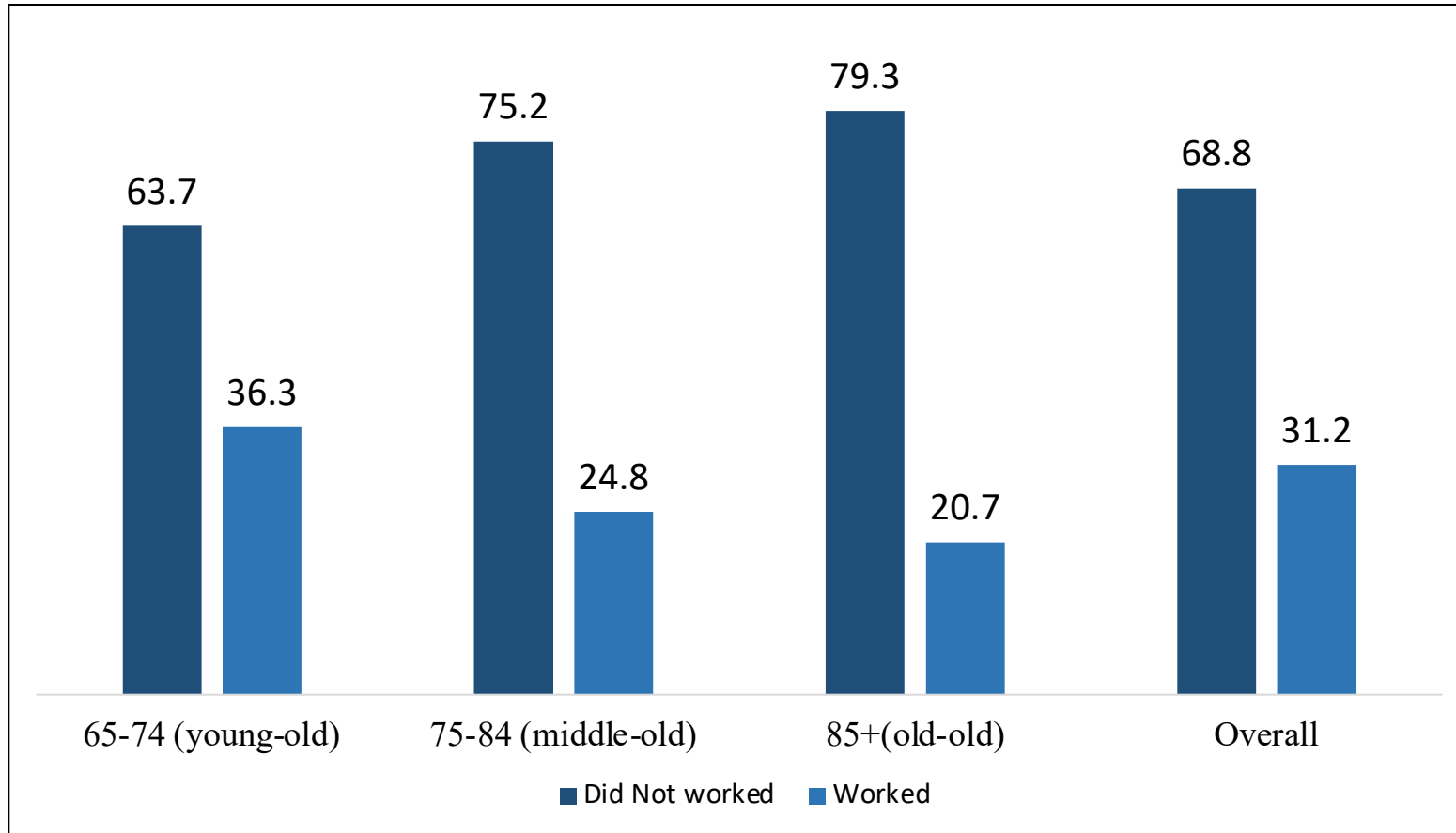
## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Level of Education



66% of the elderly population have not completed any level of education



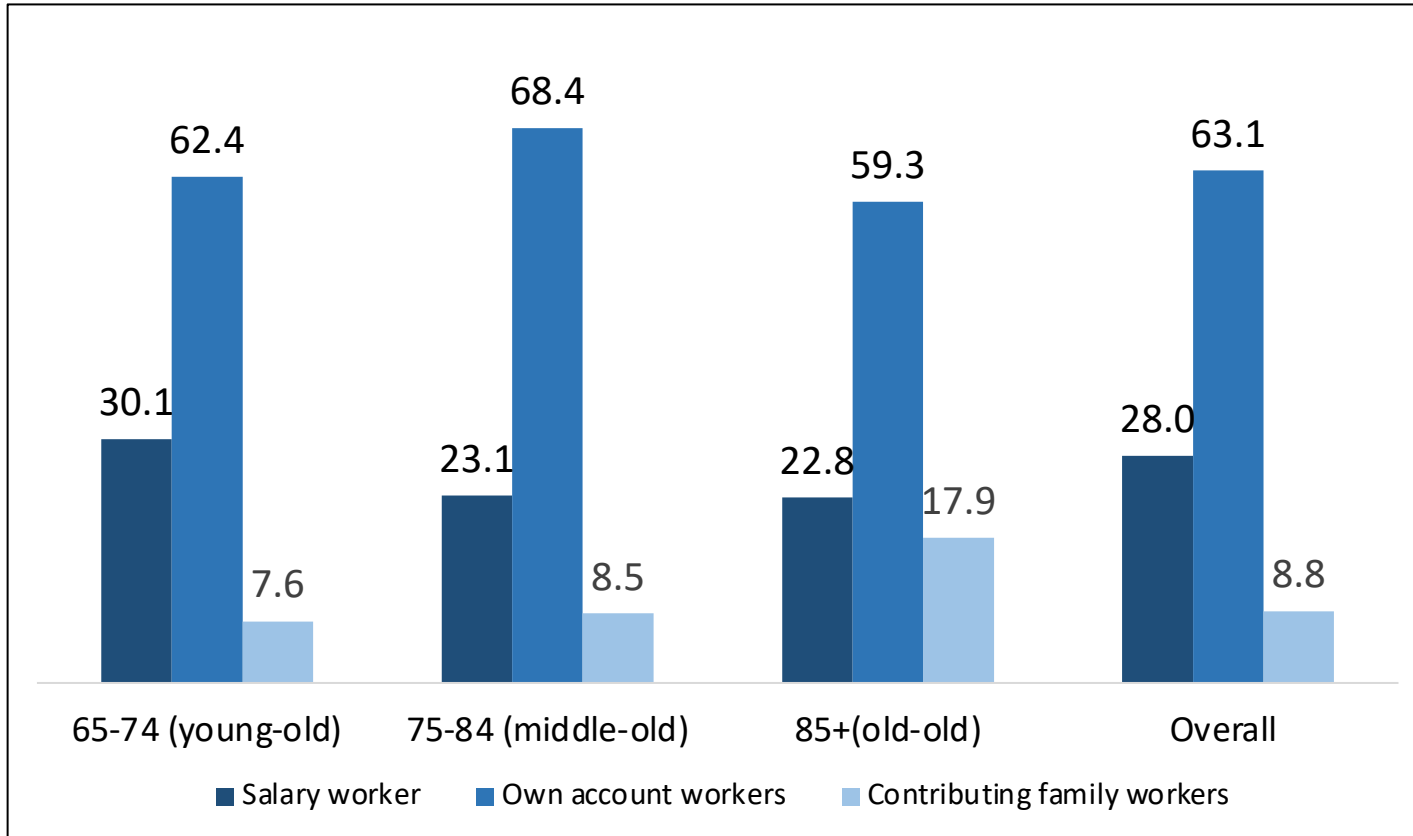
## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Activity Status



31% of the elderly population worked seven days preceding the census



## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Nature of work

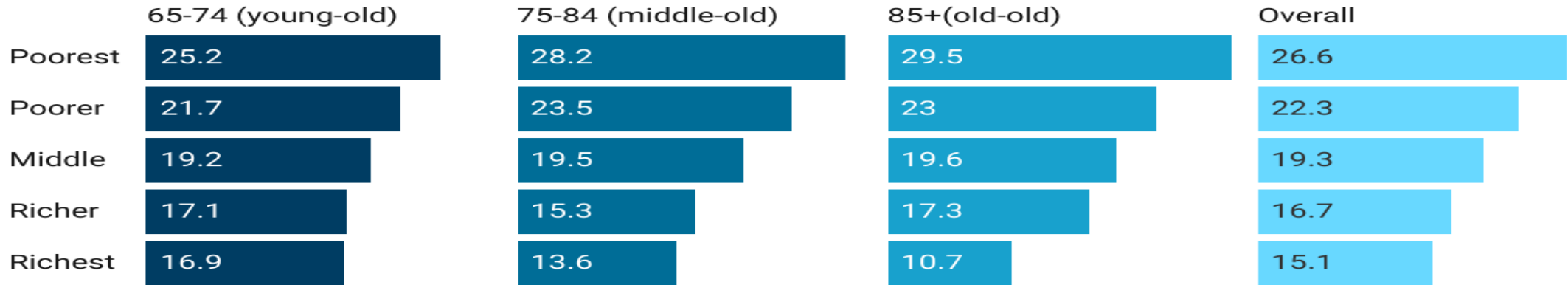


63.1% of the elderly are own account workers





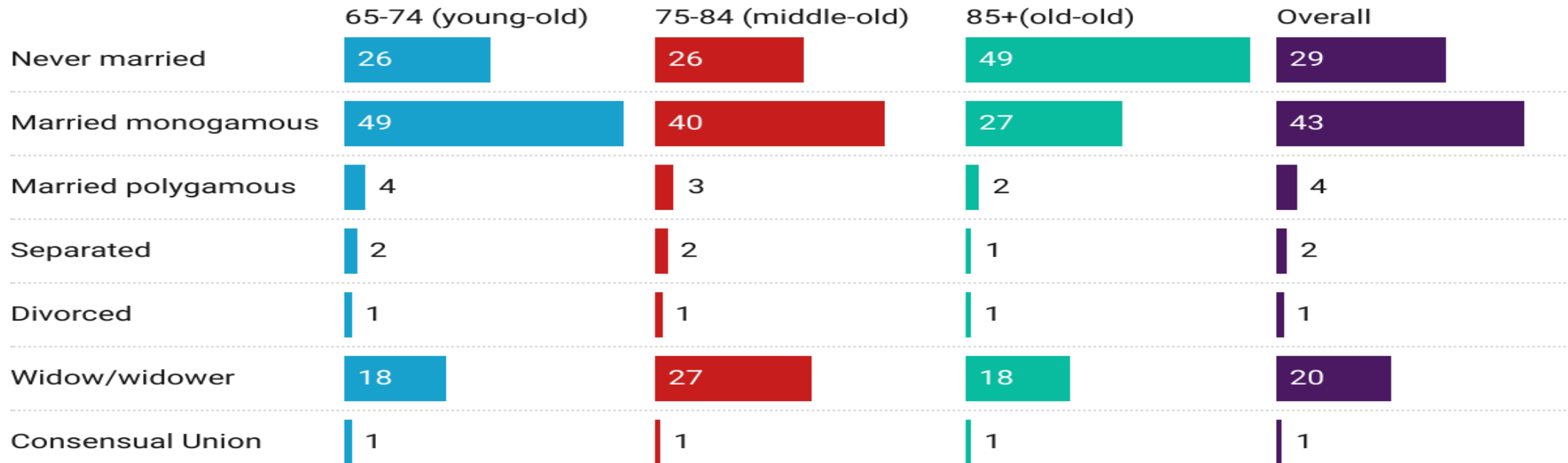
## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Household Wealth Distribution



26.6% of the elderly population are in the poorest wealth group



## Key Findings; Elderly Population by Marital Status



43% of all elderly persons are in monogamous unions  
29% of elderly are never married



## Policy Recommendations

- The National Social Security and Welfare Corporation should continue expand access to the national social security, encourage informal sector workers to join
- The government should continue to expand health coverage, focusing on rural areas, some focus on elderly healthcare
- Ministry of Education should consider adult literacy and numeracy programs increase literacy and numeracy skills among the elderly
- Advocacy programs should continue to highlight the importance of the elderly in our community. Discourage all forms of discrimination against elderly
- Local Government should consider the elderly in spatial planning with the aim of building safe and inclusive public spaces
- Also embark on rural development initiatives (expansion in agriculture, small scale industries etc)
- Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection should consider updating the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy (2013-18)
- ARREST Agenda should also prioritize social protection initiatives for the vulnerable including the elderly