



# Population Ageing in Malaysia: Trends, Characteristics and Impact

A 2024 Wall Chart by the Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing (MyAgeing®), Universiti Putra Malaysia



## Background

In Malaysia, an 'older person' or *warga emas* is defined as an individual aged 60 years old or over. Due to falling fertility and increasing life expectancy, the population age-sex structure is changing with a rising number and proportion of older persons. Population ageing is a global phenomenon and megatrend - an unprecedented demographic shift that is pervasive, irreversible and with profound consequences. Malaysia is ageing rapidly with significant gender, ethnic and geographical differences.

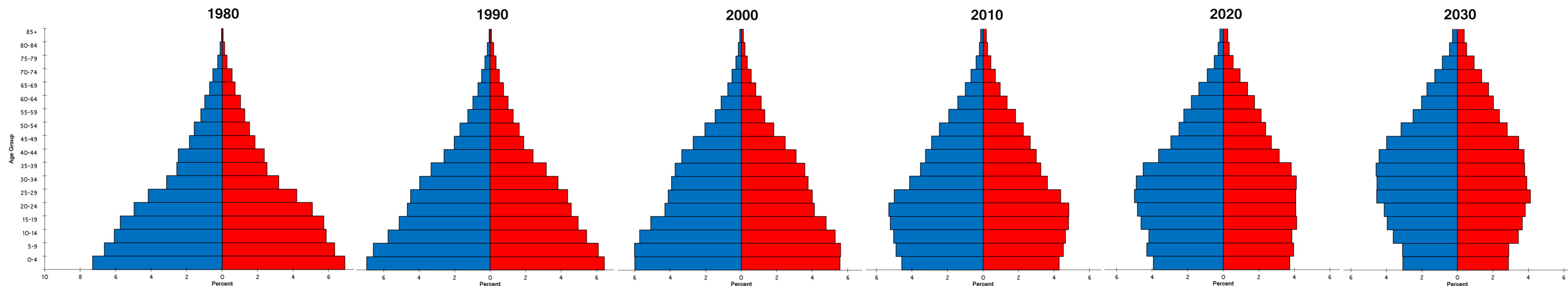


Figure 1. Age-sex Pyramid, Malaysia, 1980 - 2030

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision (UNDESA, 2024)

Table 1. Median Age, Percent and Number of Older Persons (60+) by State / Region / Federal Territory, Malaysia, 1970 - 2020

| State / Region / F. Territory | 1970                  |                  |                   | 1980                  |                  |                   | 1991                  |                  |                   | 2000                  |                  |                   | 2010                  |                  |                   | 2020                  |                  |                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                               | N <sub>60+</sub> '000 | % <sub>60+</sub> | Age <sub>md</sub> | N <sub>60+</sub> '000 | % <sub>60+</sub> | Age <sub>md</sub> | N <sub>60+</sub> '000 | % <sub>60+</sub> | Age <sub>md</sub> | N <sub>60+</sub> '000 | % <sub>60+</sub> | Age <sub>md</sub> | N <sub>60+</sub> '000 | % <sub>60+</sub> | Age <sub>md</sub> | N <sub>60+</sub> '000 | % <sub>60+</sub> | Age <sub>md</sub> |
| Johor                         | 71.1                  | 5.4              | 16.3              | 89.6                  | 5.4              | 19.0              | 122.8                 | 5.6              | 22.3              | 172.4                 | 6.3              | 24.5              | 278.0                 | 8.3              | 27.0              | 401.8                 | 10.0             | 29.3              |
| Kedah                         | 54.9                  | 5.5              | 17.6              | 68.4                  | 6.1              | 19.5              | 96.9                  | 7.1              | 21.8              | 130.9                 | 7.9              | 23.1              | 184.1                 | 9.5              | 26.2              | 257.3                 | 12.1             | 28.0              |
| Kelantan                      | 47.0                  | 6.6              | 18.1              | 55.2                  | 6.2              | 18.4              | 76.9                  | 6.3              | 18.4              | 94.1                  | 7.3              | 18.8              | 135.9                 | 8.8              | 23.1              | 180.5                 | 10.1             | 24.4              |
| Melaka                        | 25.4                  | 6.1              | 16.5              | 30.7                  | 6.6              | 19.4              | 40.0                  | 7.4              | 22.6              | 51.1                  | 8.0              | 24.3              | 79.4                  | 9.7              | 26.5              | 97.2                  | 9.7              | 29.2              |
| N. Sembilan                   | 29.7                  | 5.9              | 16.3              | 37.0                  | 6.4              | 19.1              | 46.9                  | 6.5              | 21.5              | 63.4                  | 7.4              | 23.9              | 91.9                  | 9.0              | 26.7              | 127.1                 | 10.6             | 29.8              |
| Pahang                        | 27.7                  | 5.3              | 17.1              | 37.5                  | 4.7              | 18.6              | 45.8                  | 4.2              | 19.5              | 69.8                  | 5.7              | 22.2              | 122.7                 | 8.2              | 24.9              | 149.9                 | 9.4              | 28.8              |
| Perak                         | 95.0                  | 5.8              | 17.2              | 111.1                 | 6.1              | 19.3              | 150.7                 | 7.6              | 22.5              | 189.8                 | 9.3              | 25.1              | 280.1                 | 11.9             | 27.9              | 335.0                 | 13.4             | 31.0              |
| Perlis                        | 8.9                   | 7.1              | 19.5              | 10.7                  | 7.2              | 21.9              | 14.0                  | 7.3              | 23.0              | 18.8                  | 9.2              | 23.9              | 25.5                  | 11.0             | 25.7              | 32.9                  | 11.5             | 28.5              |
| Pulau Pinang                  | 50.1                  | 6.2              | 18.9              | 63.1                  | 6.6              | 22.0              | 81.7                  | 7.2              | 25.3              | 103.6                 | 7.9              | 27.0              | 159.3                 | 10.2             | 29.6              | 194.9                 | 11.2             | 31.8              |
| Sabah                         | 24.0                  | 3.4              | 16.5              | 33.4                  | 3.2              | 18.3              | 60.5                  | 3.3              | 19.8              | 100.2                 | 3.9              | 20.1              | 138.4                 | 4.3              | 22.8              | 276.7                 | 8.1              | 26.4              |
| Sarawak                       | 50.6                  | 4.9              | 16.9              | 74.1                  | 5.5              | 18.8              | 101.8                 | 5.9              | 21.6              | 133.5                 | 6.5              | 23.6              | 211.2                 | 8.6              | 26.0              | 282.8                 | 11.5             | 30.9              |
| Selangor                      | 81.9                  | 4.8              | 17.1              | 73.0                  | 4.8              | 20.4              | 108.0                 | 4.4              | 23.1              | 189.6                 | 4.5              | 24.5              | 334.3                 | 6.1              | 27.0              | 714.4                 | 10.2             | 31.6              |
| Terengganu                    | 25.3                  | 6.0              | 17.3              | 31.4                  | 5.8              | 18.4              | 43.1                  | 5.3              | 18.6              | 54.9                  | 6.1              | 19.3              | 78.1                  | 7.5              | 22.9              | 102.4                 | 8.9              | 26.4              |
| W.P. K. Lumpur                |                       |                  |                   | 44.4                  | 4.5              | 22.1              | 56.0                  | 4.4              | 25.1              | 75.0                  | 5.4              | 26.6              | 127.8                 | 7.6              | 28.6              | 181.2                 | 9.1              | 33.6              |
| W.P. Labuan                   |                       |                  |                   |                       |                  |                   | 2.0                   | 3.8              | 21.9              | 2.3                   | 3.1              | 21.7              | 3.5                   | 4.0              | 25.2              | 6.7                   | 7.0              | 27.7              |
| W.P. Putrajaya                |                       |                  |                   |                       |                  |                   |                       |                  |                   |                       |                  |                   | 1.0                   | 1.4              | 25.9              | 3.0                   | 2.7              | 27.3              |
| <b>MALAYSIA</b>               | <b>591.6</b>          | <b>5.4</b>       | <b>17.4</b>       | <b>759.6</b>          | <b>5.5</b>       | <b>19.6</b>       | <b>1,046.7</b>        | <b>5.6</b>       | <b>21.9</b>       | <b>1,451.7</b>        | <b>6.2</b>       | <b>23.6</b>       | <b>2,251.2</b>        | <b>8.0</b>       | <b>26.2</b>       | <b>3,343.8</b>        | <b>10.3</b>      | <b>29.7</b>       |

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia (various years)

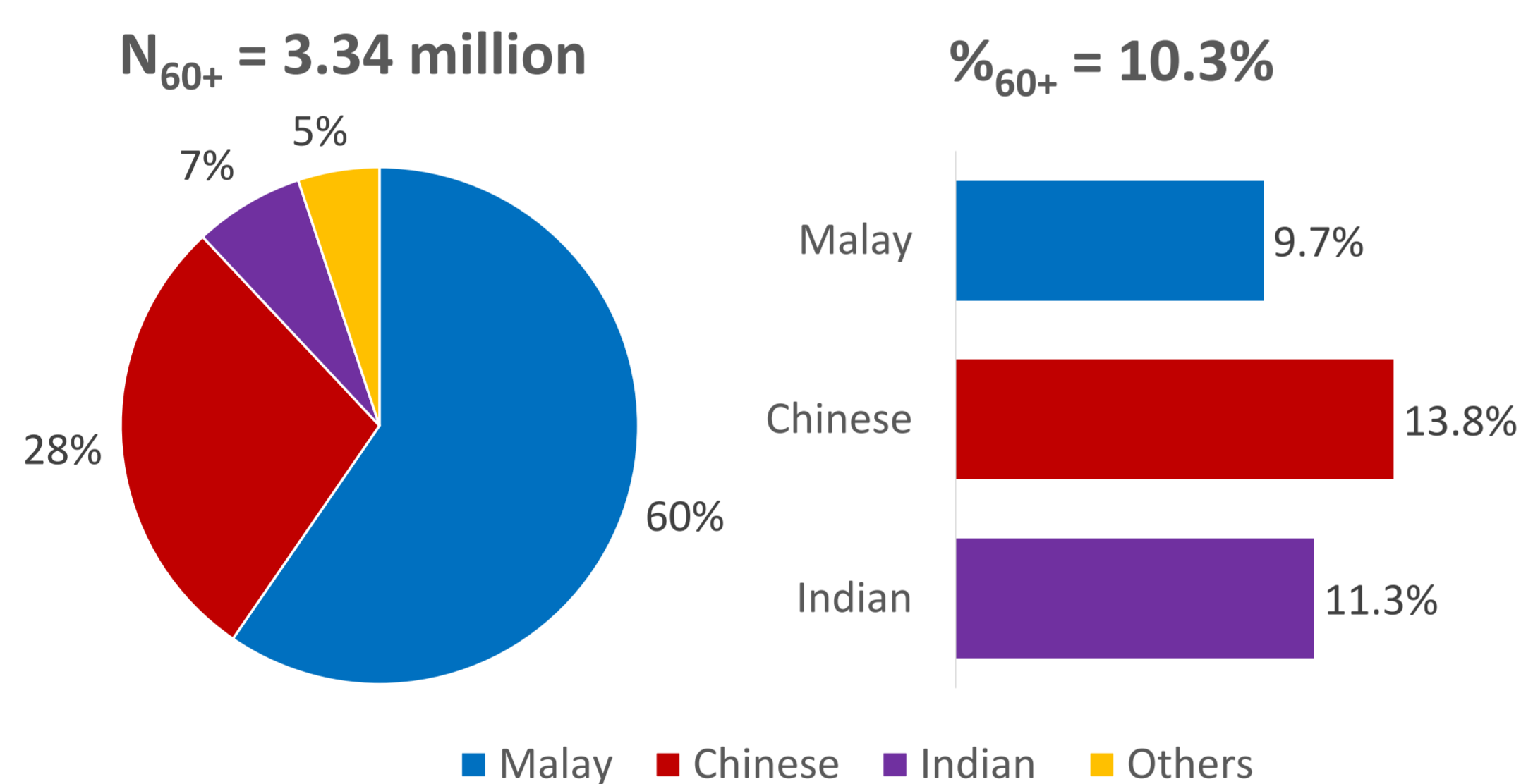


Figure 2. Older Persons (60+) and Rate of Ageing by Ethnicity, 2020

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia (2022)



Figure 3. Urban and Rural Distribution of Older Persons (65+), 2020

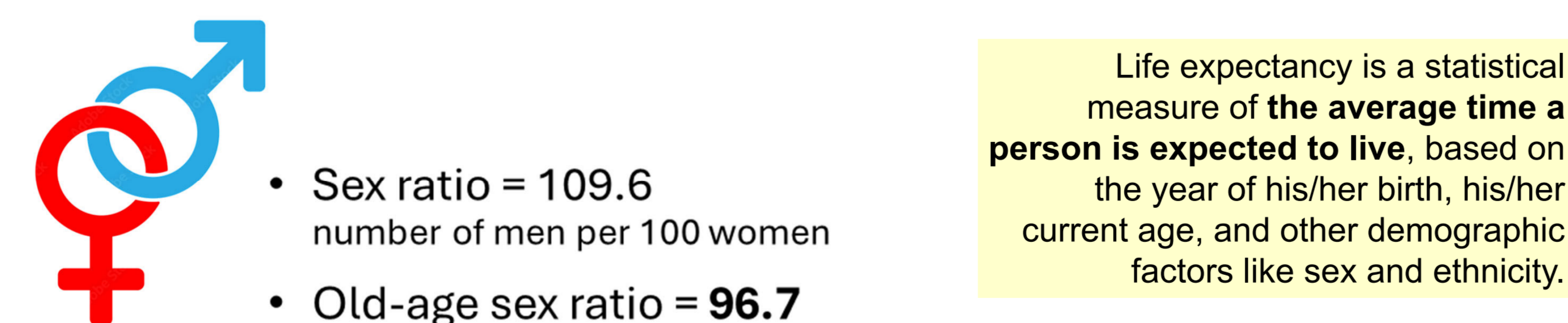


Figure 4. Old-age Sex Ratio (60+), 2020

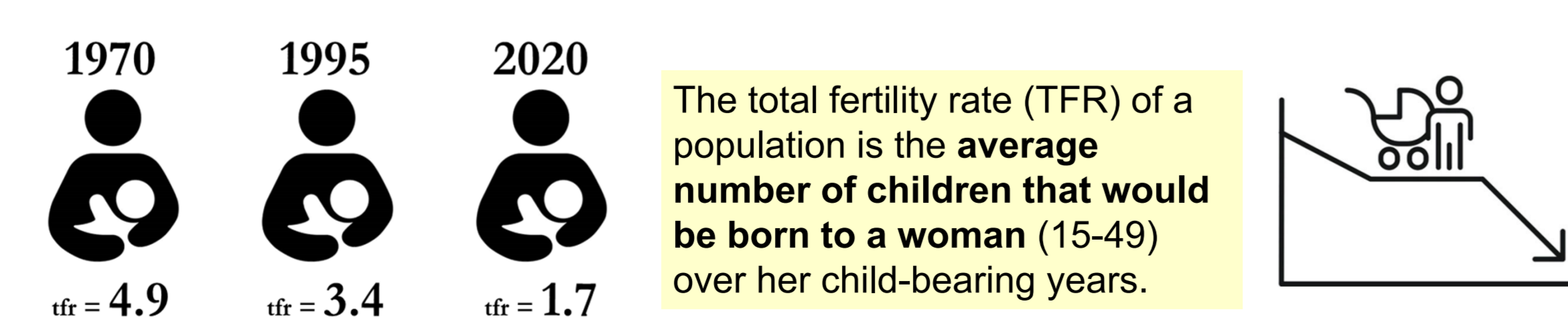


Figure 5. Total Fertility Rate, Malaysia, 1970, 1995 & 2020

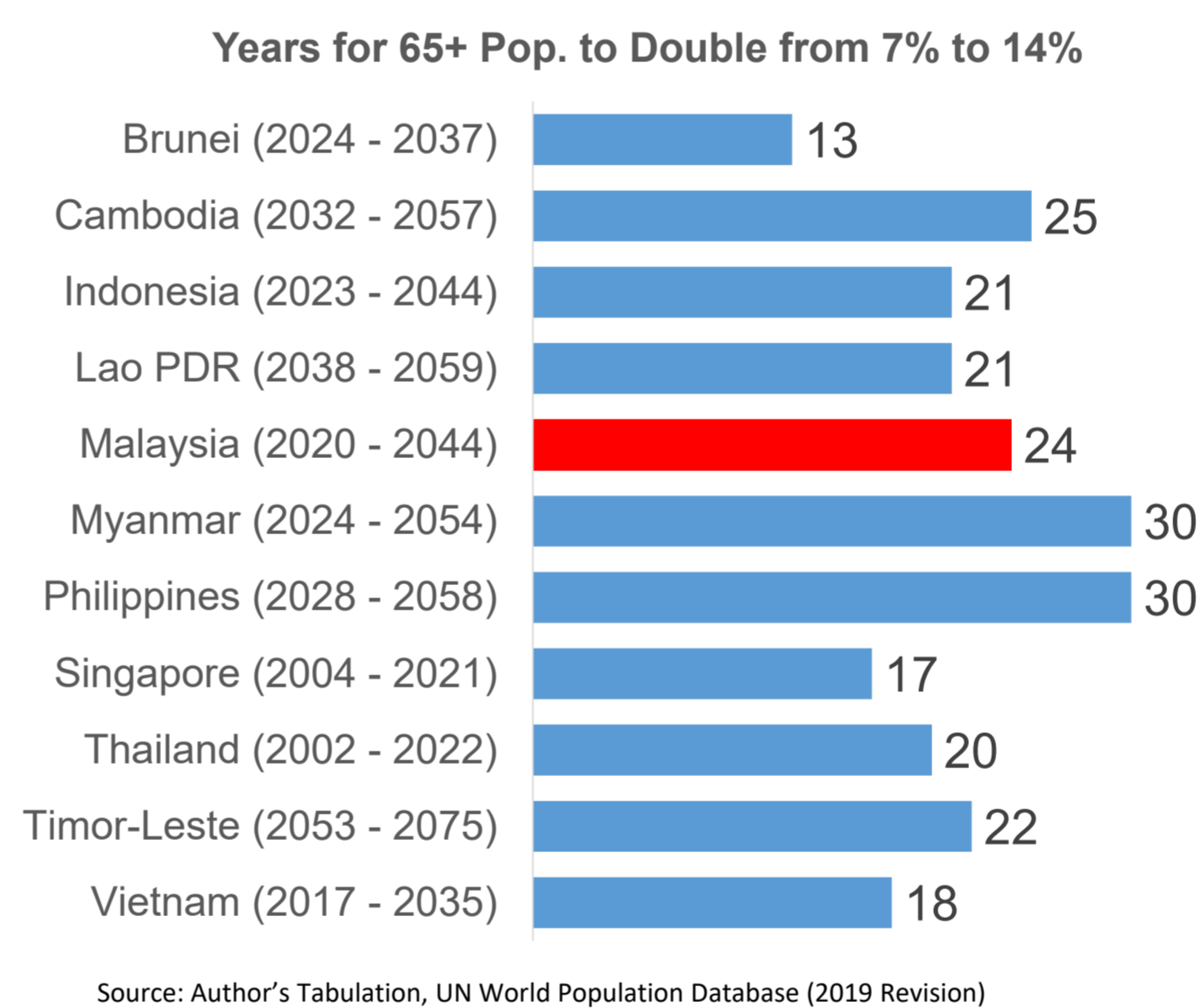
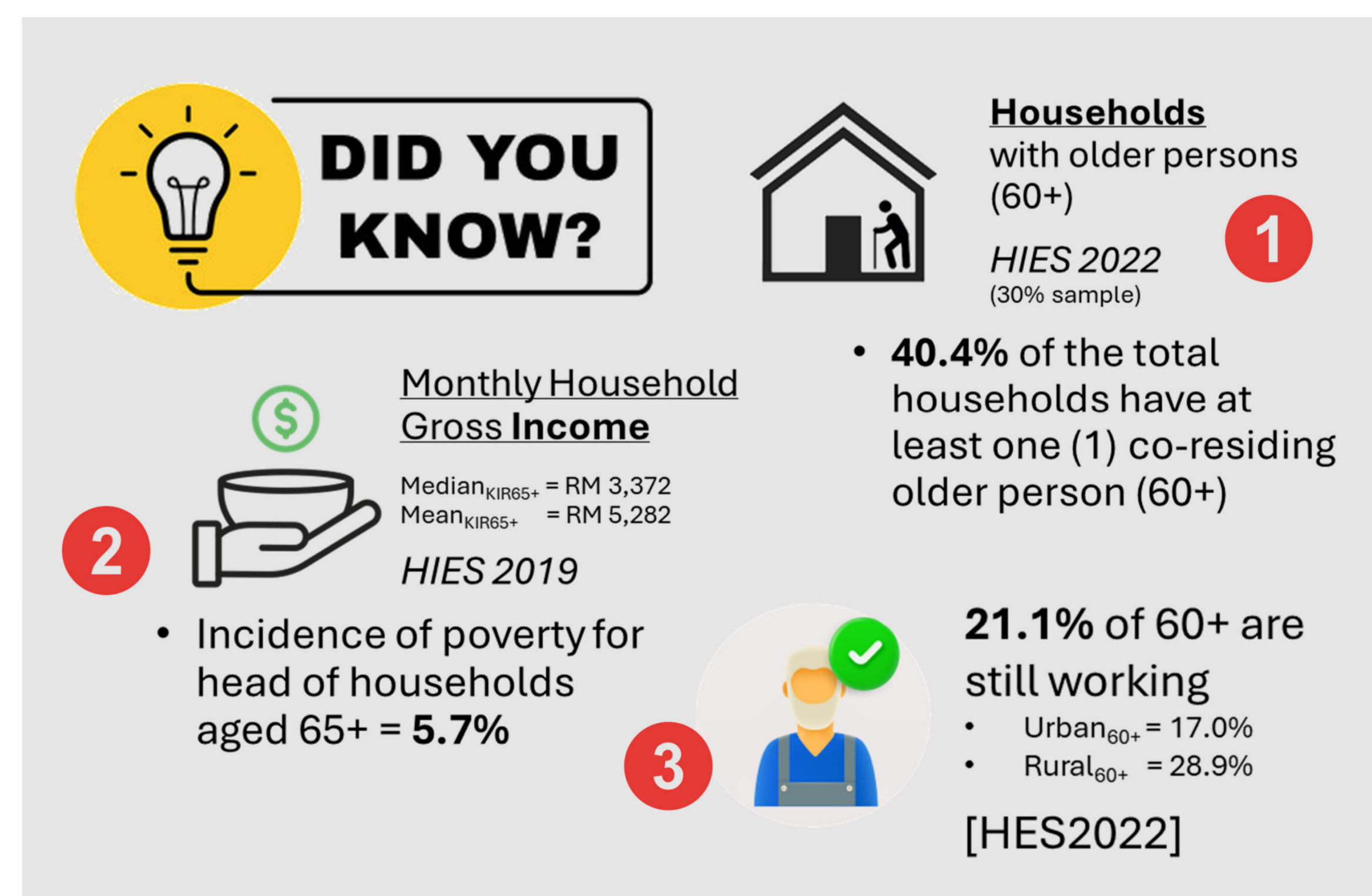
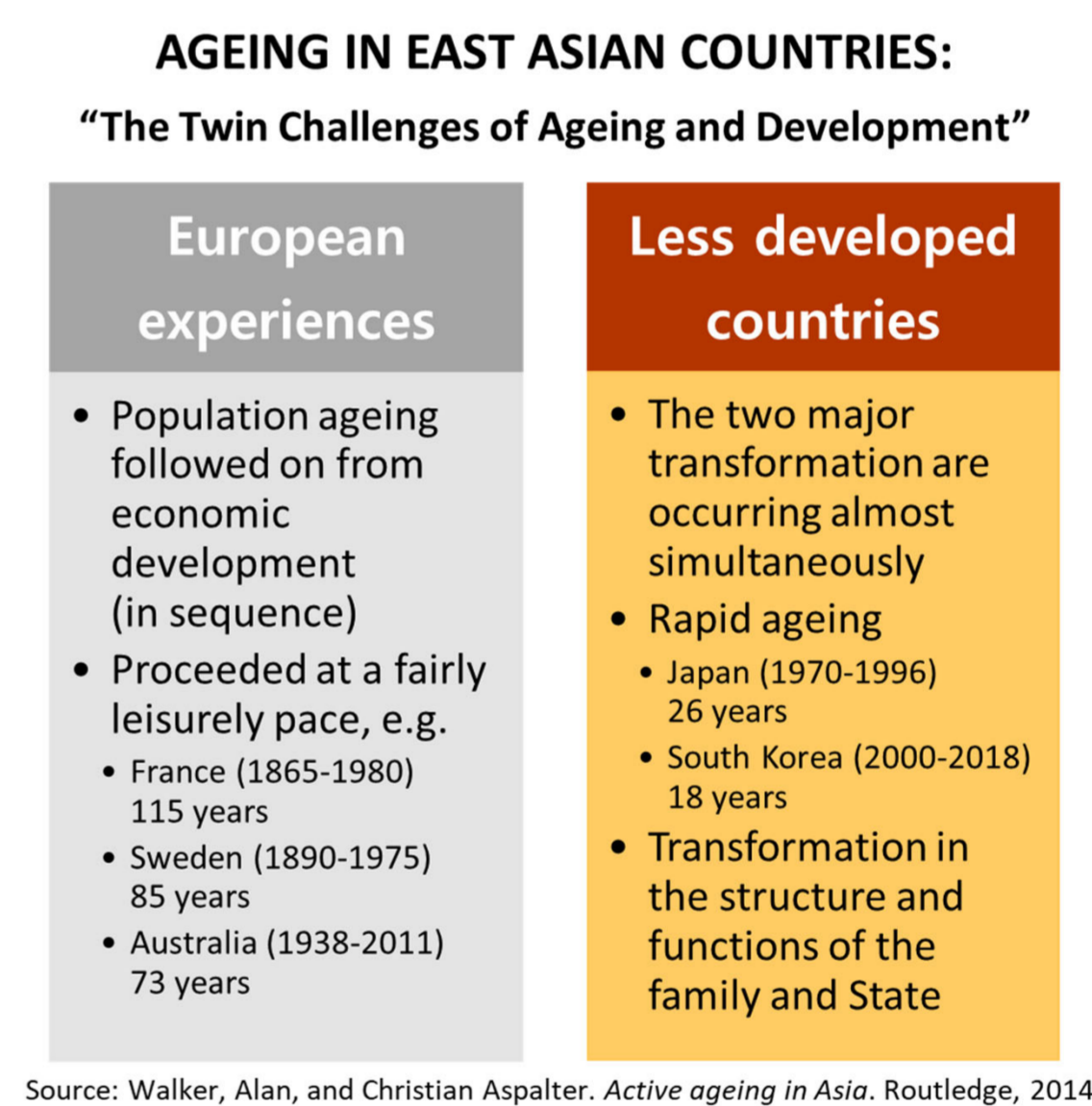


Figure 6. Life Expectancy at Birth and at 60 by Ethnicity, Malaysia, 2020



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