

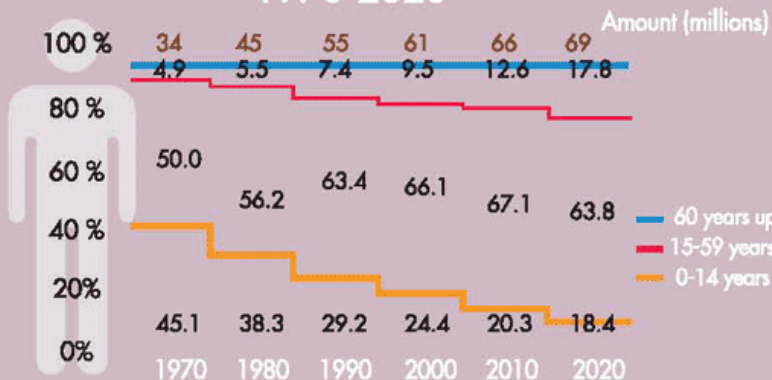
# Elderly People

## Elderly people who received or gave financial support

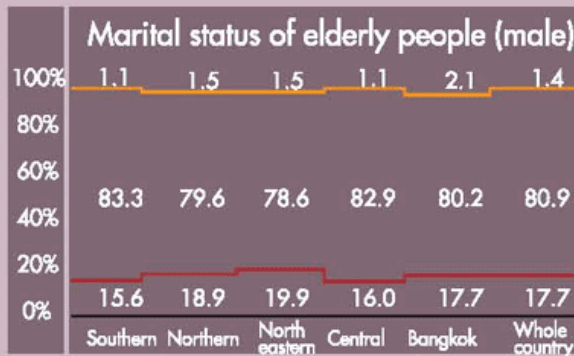


One Thai out of every ten is aged 60 and above. The proportion is set to increase. Rising life expectancy means that there are one million people aged 75 and over.

## Elderly population by age groups, 1970-2020



Source: The Population and Housing Census, 1970-2000  
Population Projection for Thailand, 2000-2025



Single Living together Divorced / separated

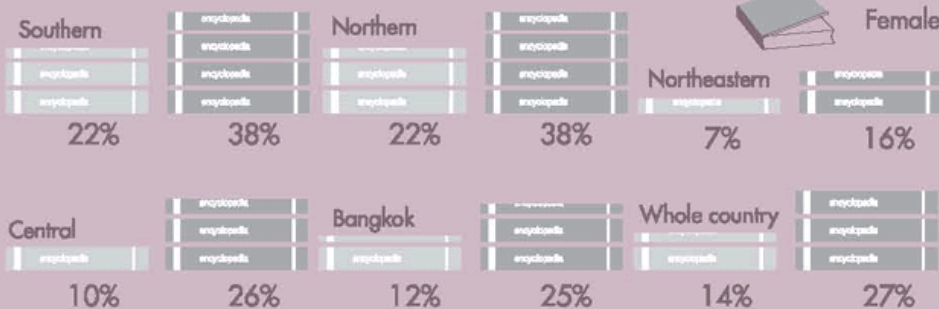
Source: Survey of the Elderly in Thailand, 2002

Total number of elderly population 5.97 millions or 9.4% of total population

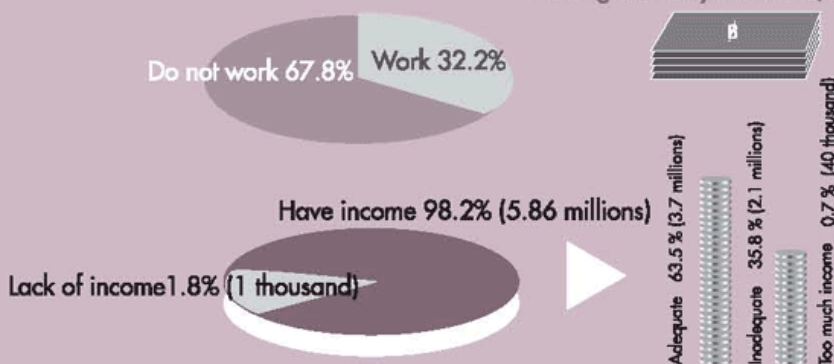
## Elderly people according to different age groups (2002)



## Elderly people who did not attain formal education, 2003



Average monthly income 3,431 baht



Source: Survey of The Elderly in Thailand, 2002

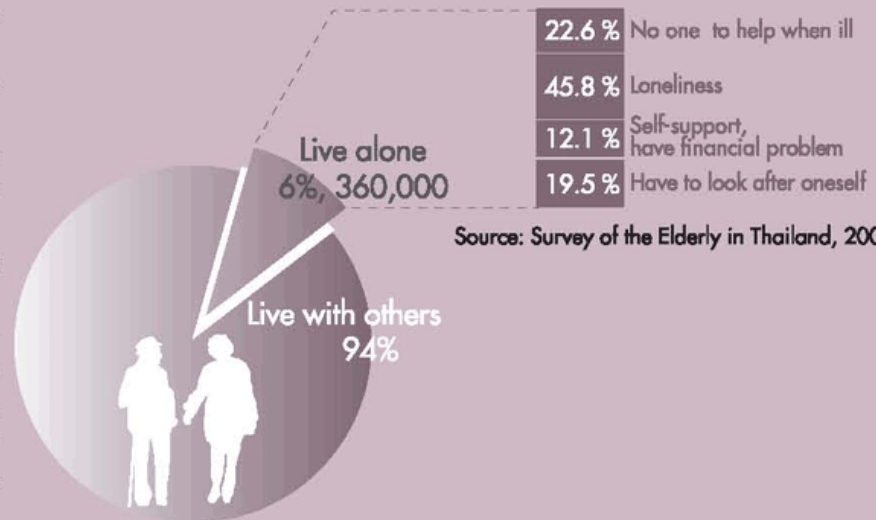
Source: Survey of the Elderly in Thailand, 2002

# Two million elderly people lack sufficient income for their daily expenses

It is well known that there are more elderly women than elderly men, since women have fewer risky behaviors than men. Activities for old people therefore usually have more women attending than men. The number of old people is increasing at the same time that the number of children is decreasing, which makes it more difficult for children to look after their parents, as they are expected to do. Some old people continue working, despite receiving low pay, in order to avoid loneliness and boredom. Others have no choice, because, even if they have a pension, it is not sufficient to live on. One worrying statistic is that one in three old people do not have enough money to live on. Children and grandchildren are giving older generations less financial help than the older generations gave them.

A group of old people that needs special attention from the government is those who have lost a child to HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that between 1984 and the present, 550,000 Thais have died from AIDS. Most of these people have been in the working ages. The parents of these people had hoped to depend on them when they were old. Instead, in many cases, the old people have to look after grandchildren whose parents have died from AIDS. The situation of old people is therefore something to which Thais need to pay attention. Old people need to have financial security, independence, a decent quality of life, and dignity.

## Living arrangement of elderly people



Source: Survey of the Elderly in Thailand, 2002

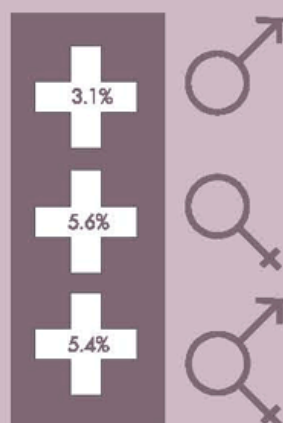
## Health risk behaviors of elderly people

	Male %	Female %	Total %
Regular smoking	27.4	2.9	14.1
Regular drinking (everyday or 3-4 times a week)	10.9	1.6	5.7
Lack of exercise	56.6	65.1	61.2
Lack of knowledge about breast examination	-	75.4	-
Never see physician for breast examination	-	80.8	-
Never have cervical cancer screening	-	78.6	-

## Health problems of elderly people

	Male %	Female %	Total %
Sick/ ill (within past month)	34.7	44	39.8
Badly sick/ ill (within past month)	5.4	7.1	6.3
Frequent sick (more than 8 times/ month)	6.4	7.6	7.0
Have chronic diseases	45.4	54.8	50.5
Hospitalized (within past year)	12.5	12.4	12.4
Difficult mobility	7.2	10.4	8.9
Difficult self-care	4.1	4.7	4.4
Poorer health than previous year	6.7	7.8	7.3
Poorer health than others in same age	5.8	6.1	6.0
Have diabetes	5.2	10.7	8.3
Have high blood pressure	17.1	24.4	21.2
Injured or had accident	5.2	5.6	5.4
Feeling sad, depressed or memory loss	3.0	4.9	4.1
Lack of concentration or memory loss	3.9	5.5	4.8
Have problem with socialization	4.2	5.3	4.8

## Elderly people without health welfare



Source: Report of 2003 Health and Welfare Survey, 2004