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Discussion on Findings of

Myanmar migrant workers situation in Mae Sot, Thailand 2025 survey

Prepared and Presented by
Advocacy Team, Yaung Chi Oo Workers Association

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Agenda

- Background
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Demographic
- Findings
- Recommendation

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Background

To assess the living conditions, access to **services, social cohesion experiences, and challenges** faced by Myanmar migrant workers, especially those residing **in Mae Sot, and near areas.**

15 trained MRPWG enumerators conducted **about 1,200 surveys**



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photo courtesy of theviiacademy

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Objectives

- To highlight the realities faced by migrant communities as well as issues of social cohesion both between migrants and the local community, and among Myanmar migrants themselves especially newcomers.

- To support ongoing advocacy for enhanced protection, inclusion, and dignity.



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photo courtesy of Tak Immigration



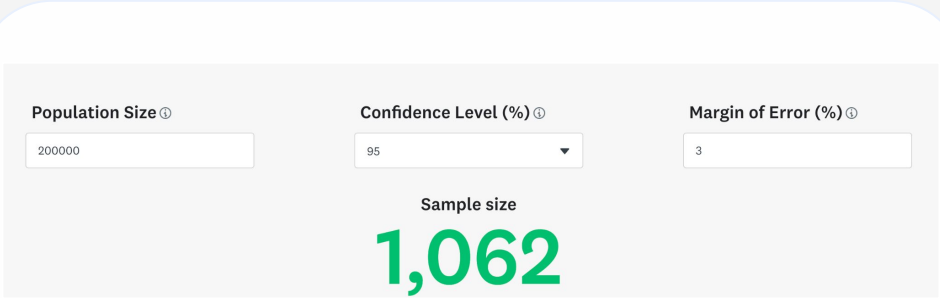
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Sample Size



According to IOM, there are about 80,000 non Thai individuals in 2023 in Maesot, Tak.

Survey 1,190 individuals from

Using both paper and mixed methods of online survey (KoboToolbox) and paper-based.

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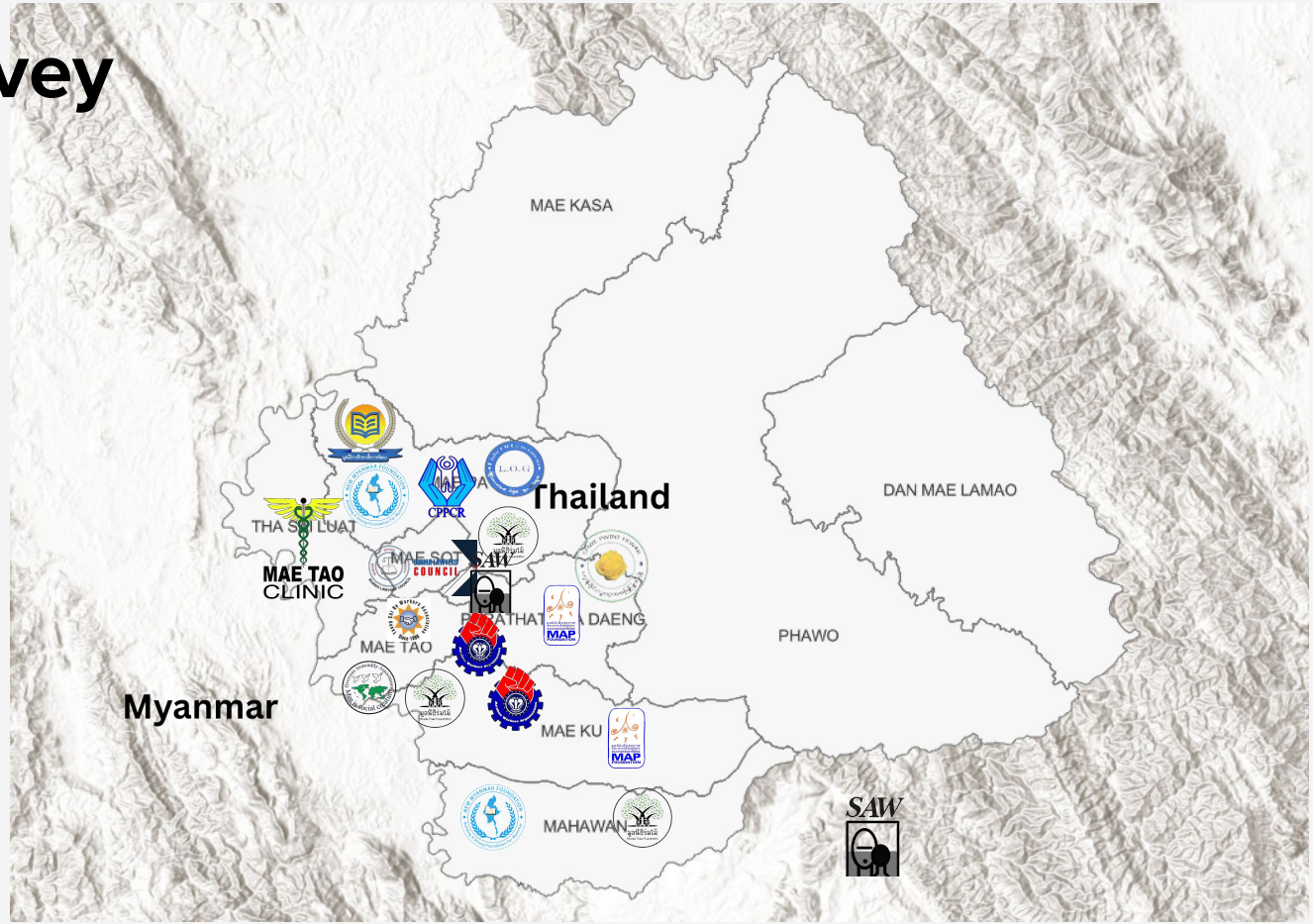
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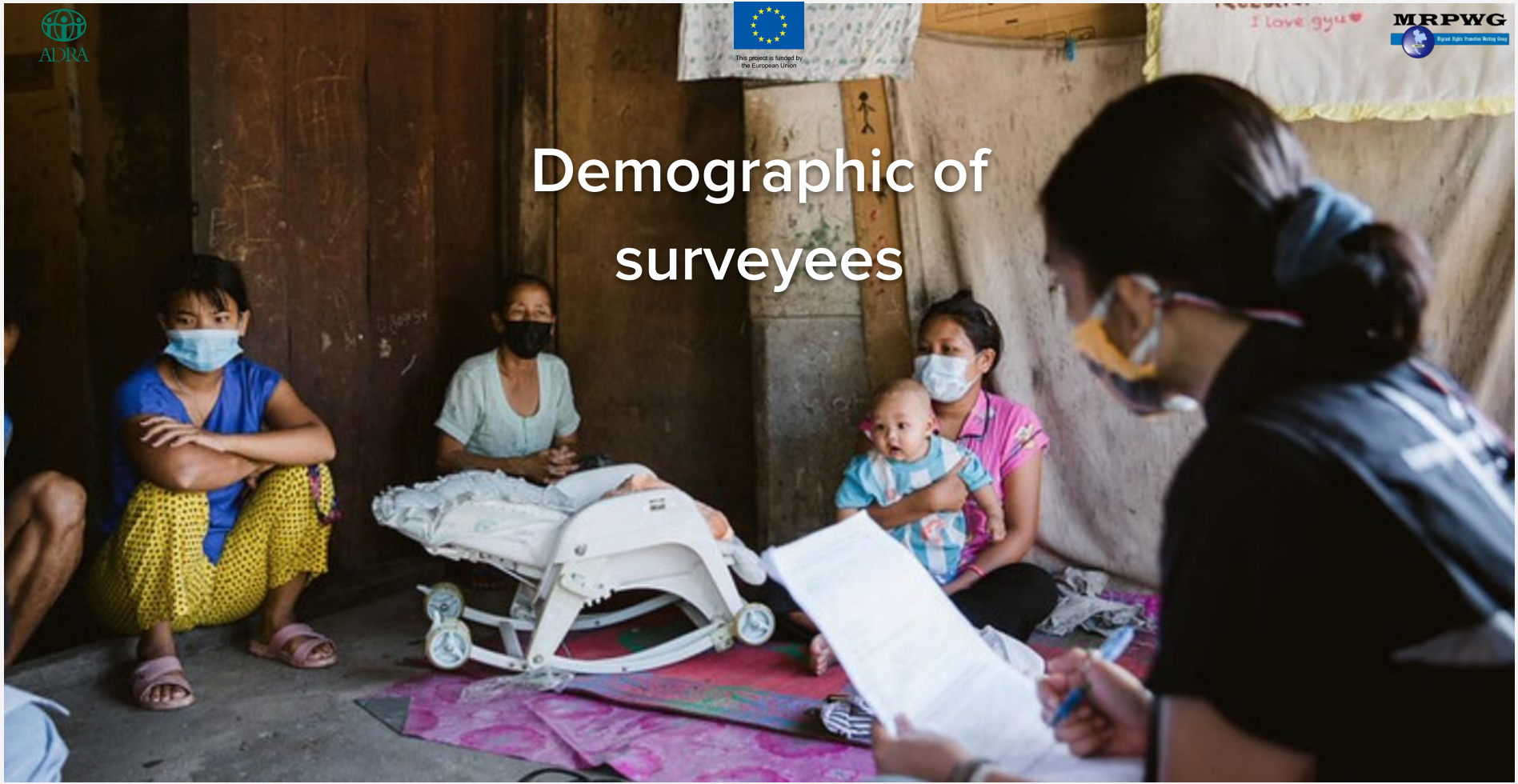
Areas of Survey

Survey **1,190** individuals from

7 different zones.



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Demographic of surveyees

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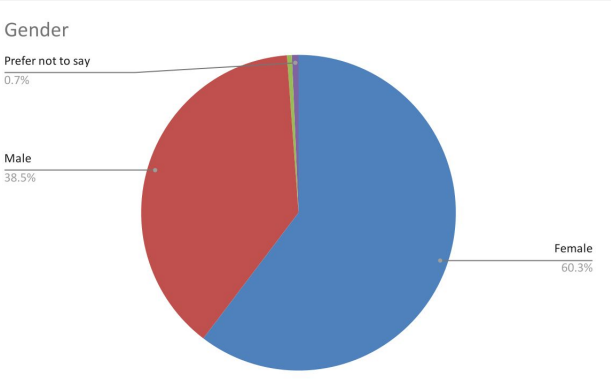
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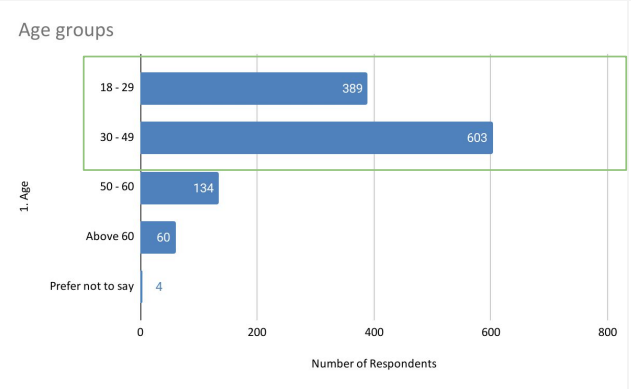
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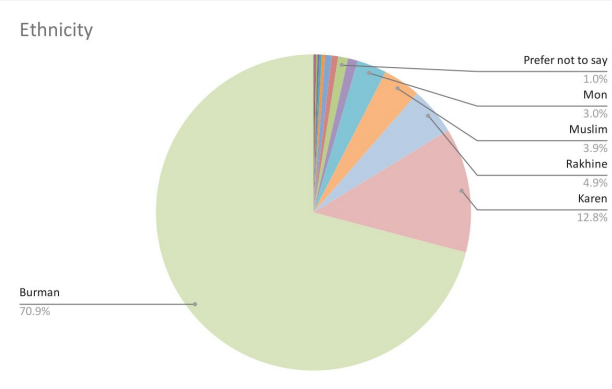
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80%







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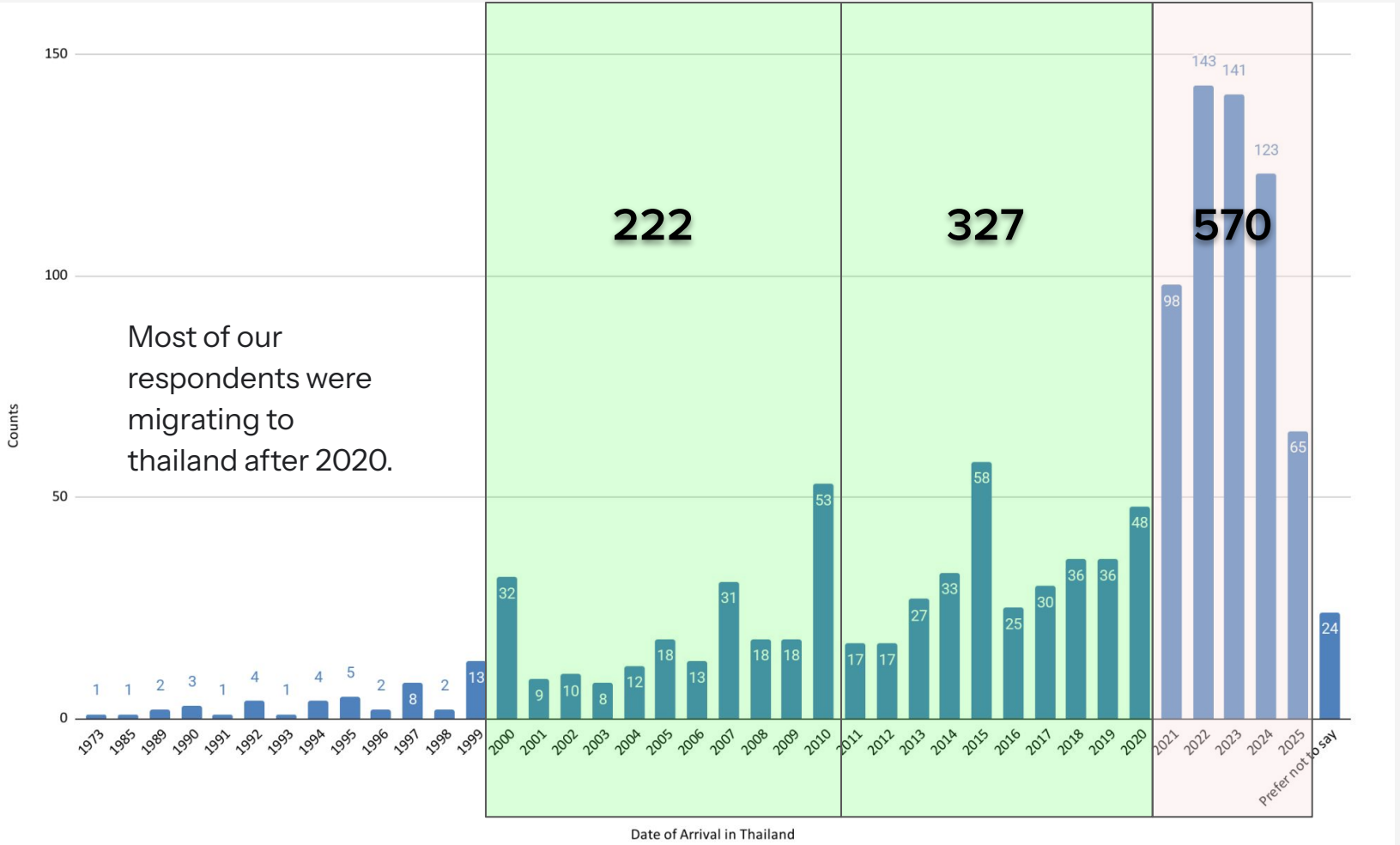
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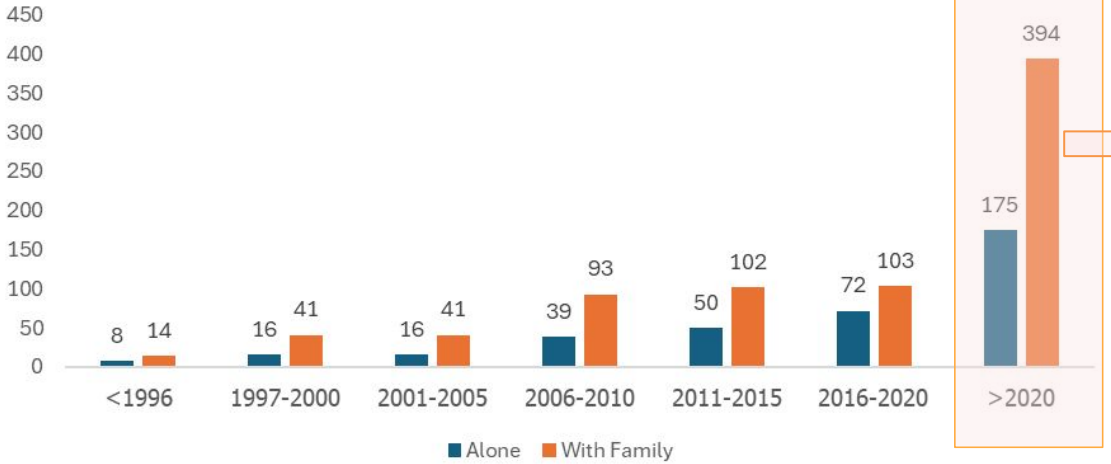
Interpretation:
Data Comparison Every 5 years

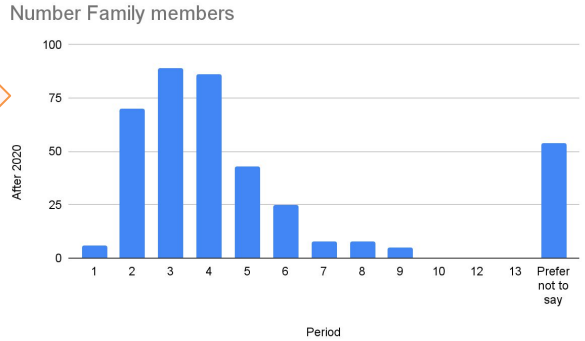
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Most of our respondents were migrating to thailand after 2020.
222
327
570
Counts
Date of Arrival in Thailand
150
100
50
0
1973 1985 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 Prefer not to say
1 1 2 3 1 4 1 4 5 2 8 2 13 32 9 10 8 12 18 13 31 18 18 53 17 17 27 33 58 25 30 36 36 48 98 143 141 123 65 24

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After 2020 respondents were migrating to Mae Sot with family.





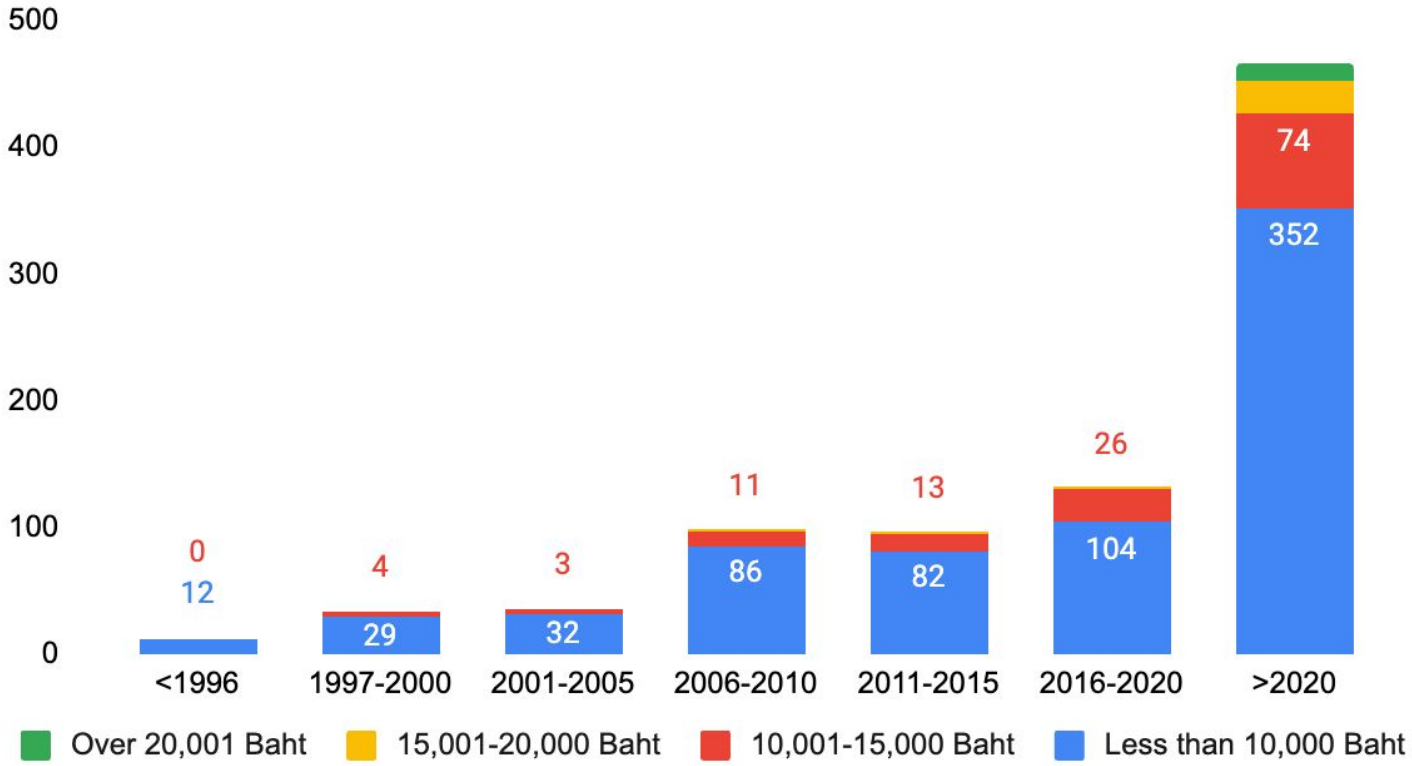
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Expenses for Coming to Thailand



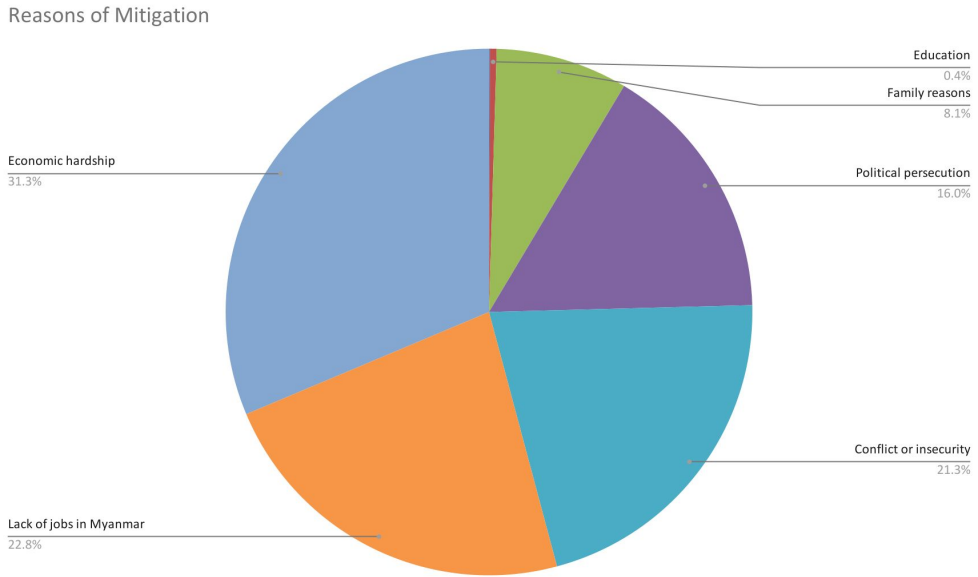
The cost of migration to Thailand has gradually increased.

74 respondents were spending more than 10,000 Thai Baht (THB).

15 respondents were spending more than 20,000 THB.

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The primary motivations for migration are

- **Economic hardship**
- **Conflict or insecurity**
- **Lack of jobs**

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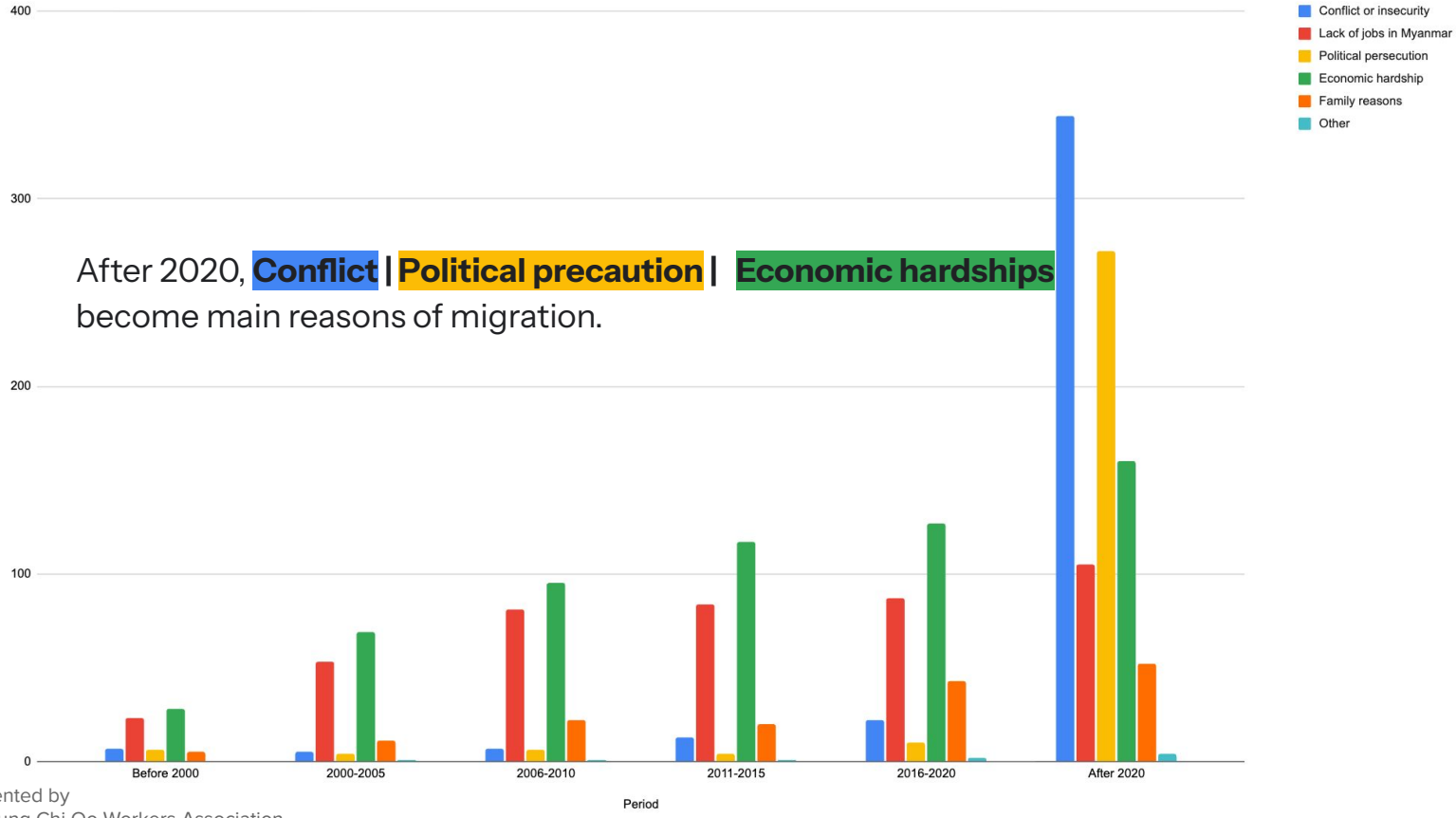
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Comparison every 5 years



After 2020, **Conflict** | **Political precaution** | **Economic hardships** become main reasons of migration.

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Working Condition Document Status





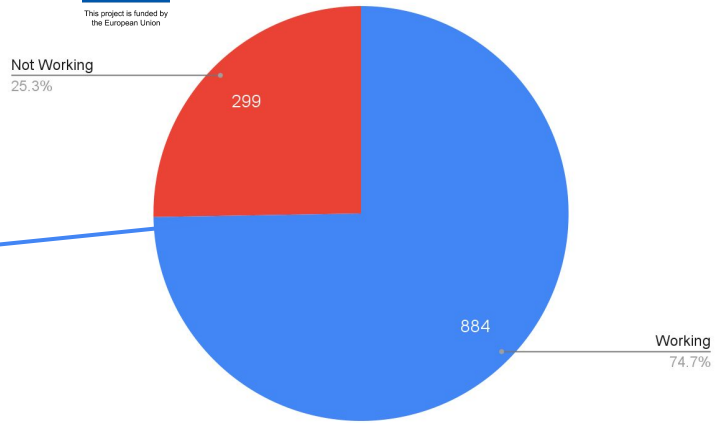
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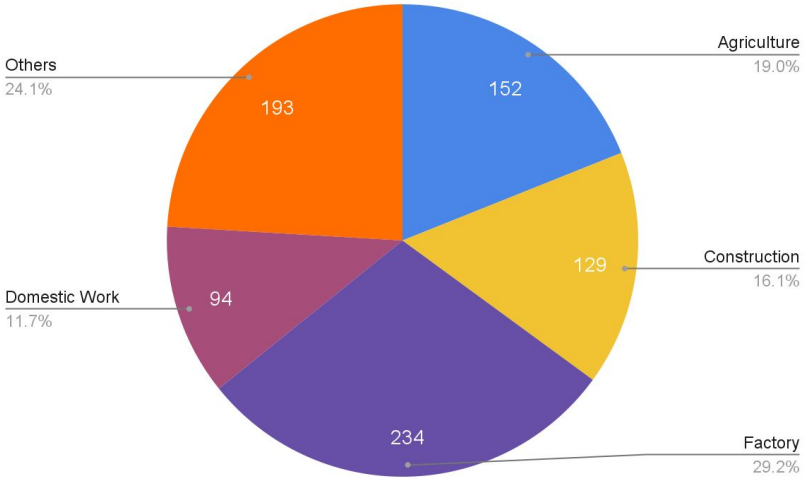
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Over 50% of respondents are casual workers.





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Migrants together with Thai build Mae Sot together!

Factory worker



Agriculture worker



Construction worker



Domestic worker



Others







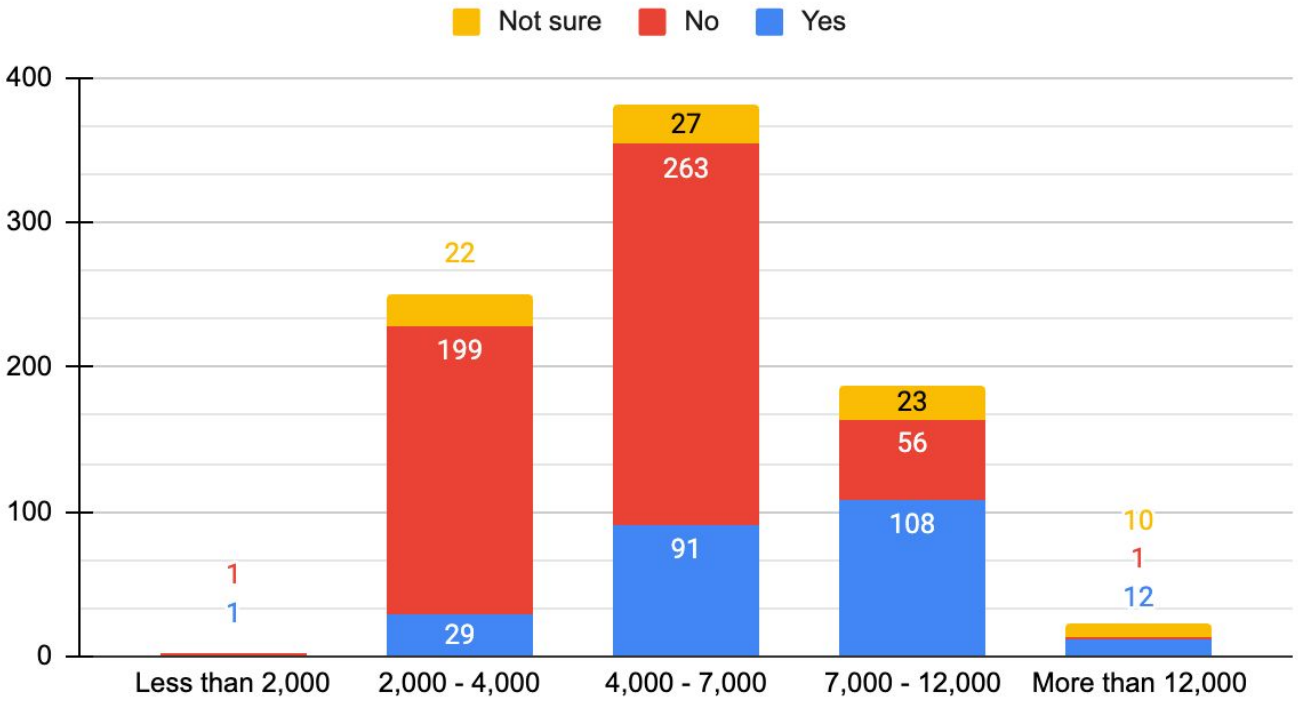
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Fair Wage or not ?



75% of working respondents are **not getting minimum wages**

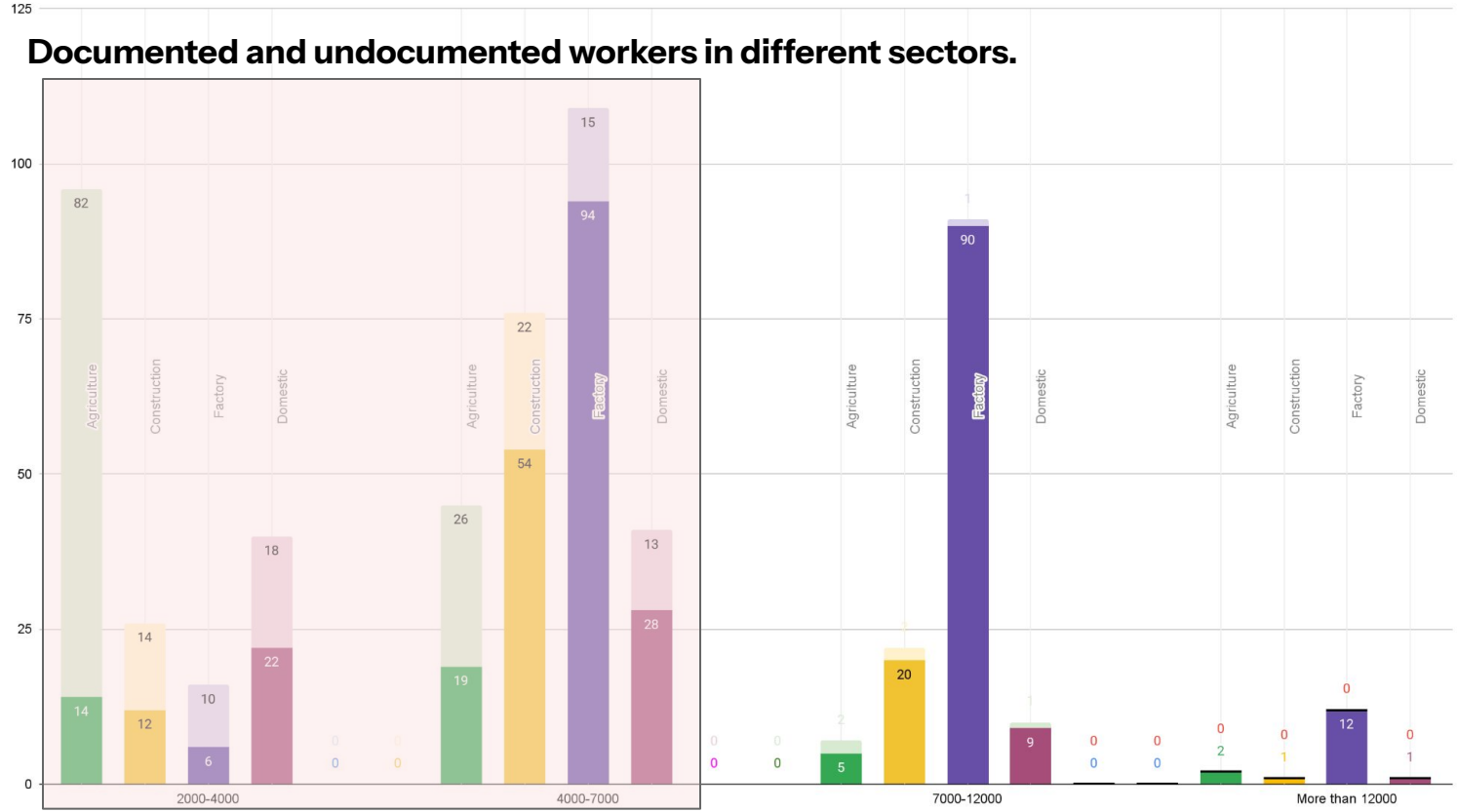
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Documented and undocumented workers in different sectors.



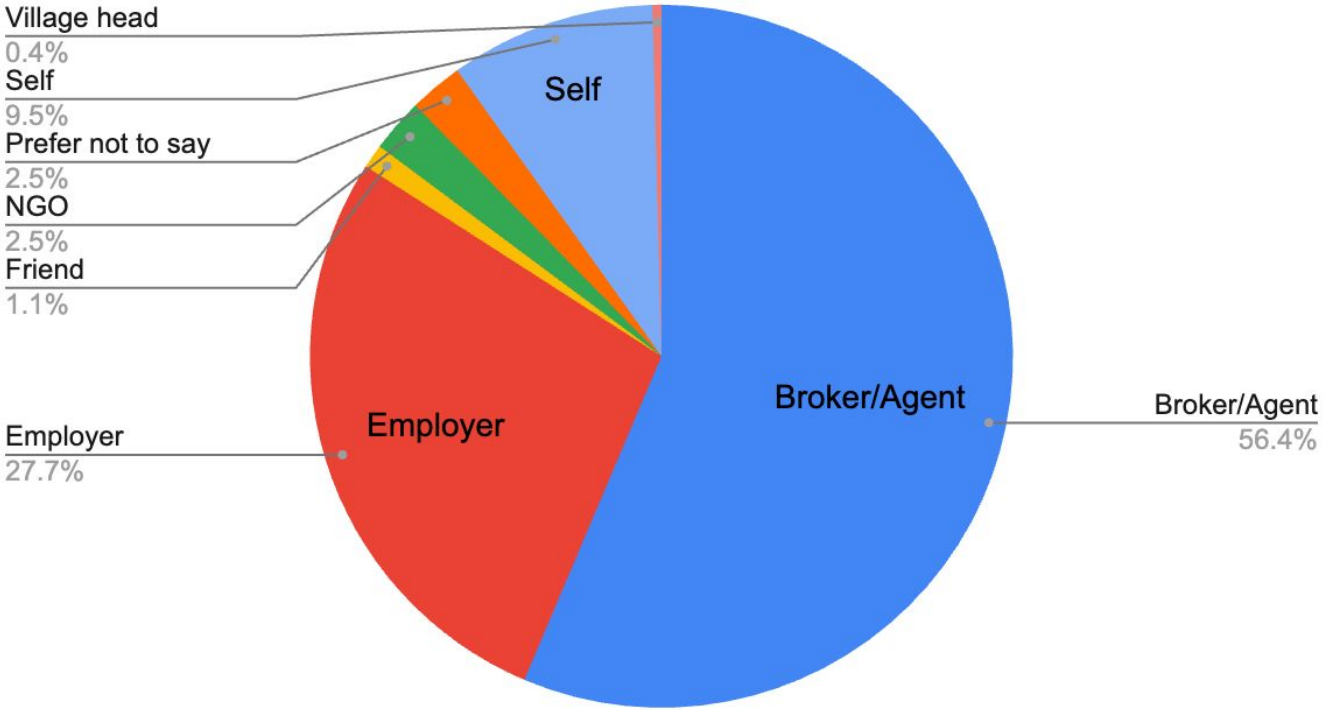
Respondent with regular job and income tend to have documented

The majority of respondents who are **earning minimum wages** are r**egularly documented.**

Although most respondents **without minimum wages** could **not provide documentation,** all respondents who are earning over minimum wages do have documentation.

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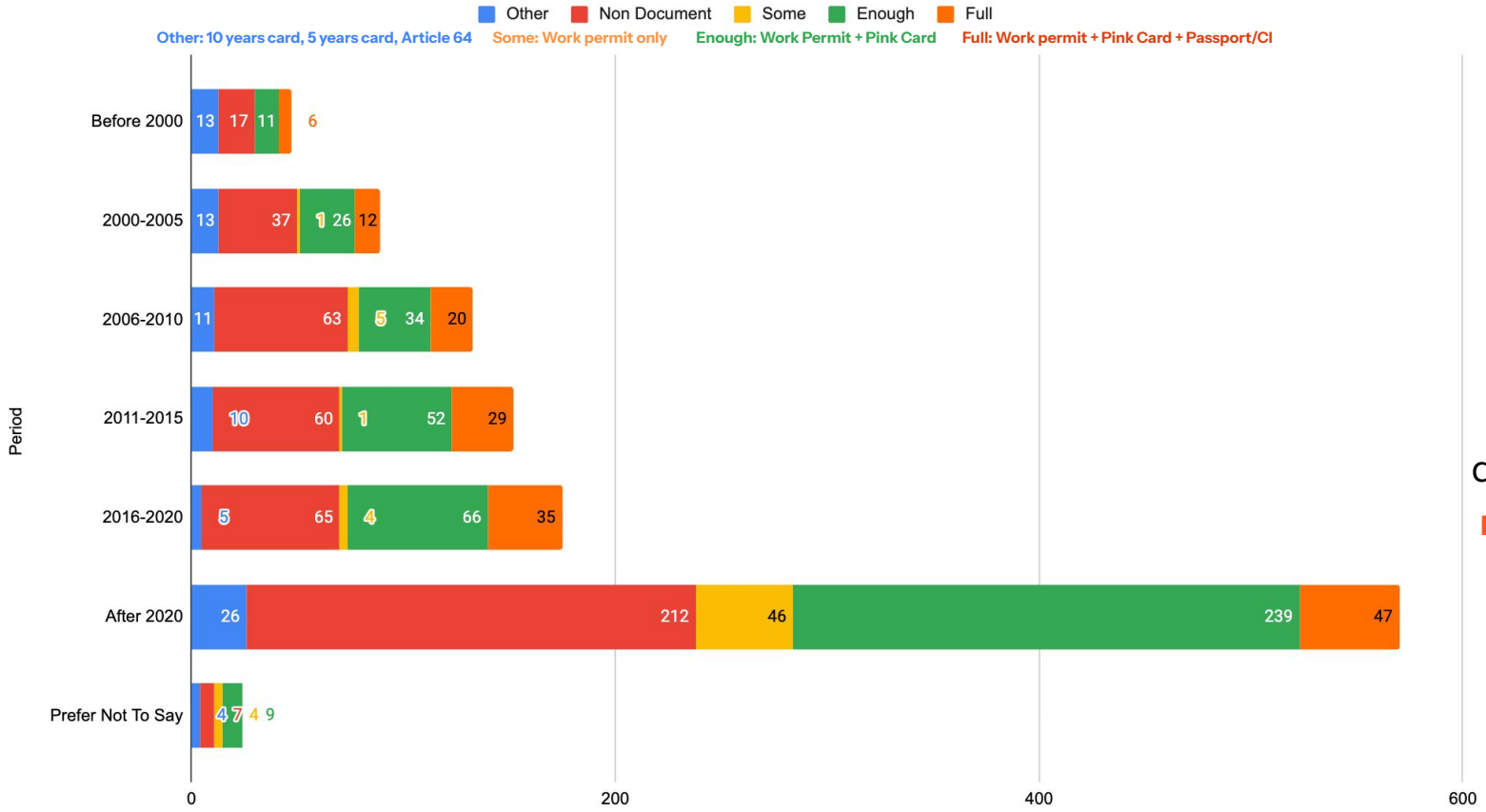
Over 50% of repondent are relying on broker to make document

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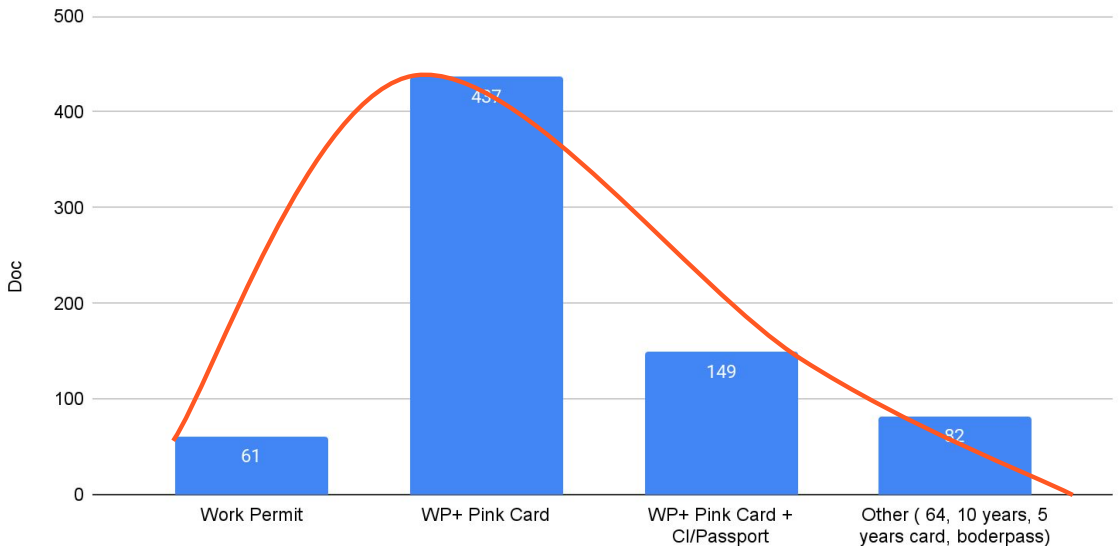


38% of respondent couldn't make document due to **many struggles.**

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Documented status



Most respondents are with WP and Pink Card and stuck in the stage of processing CI/passport.

Only 20% of total documented respondents are with fully documents.

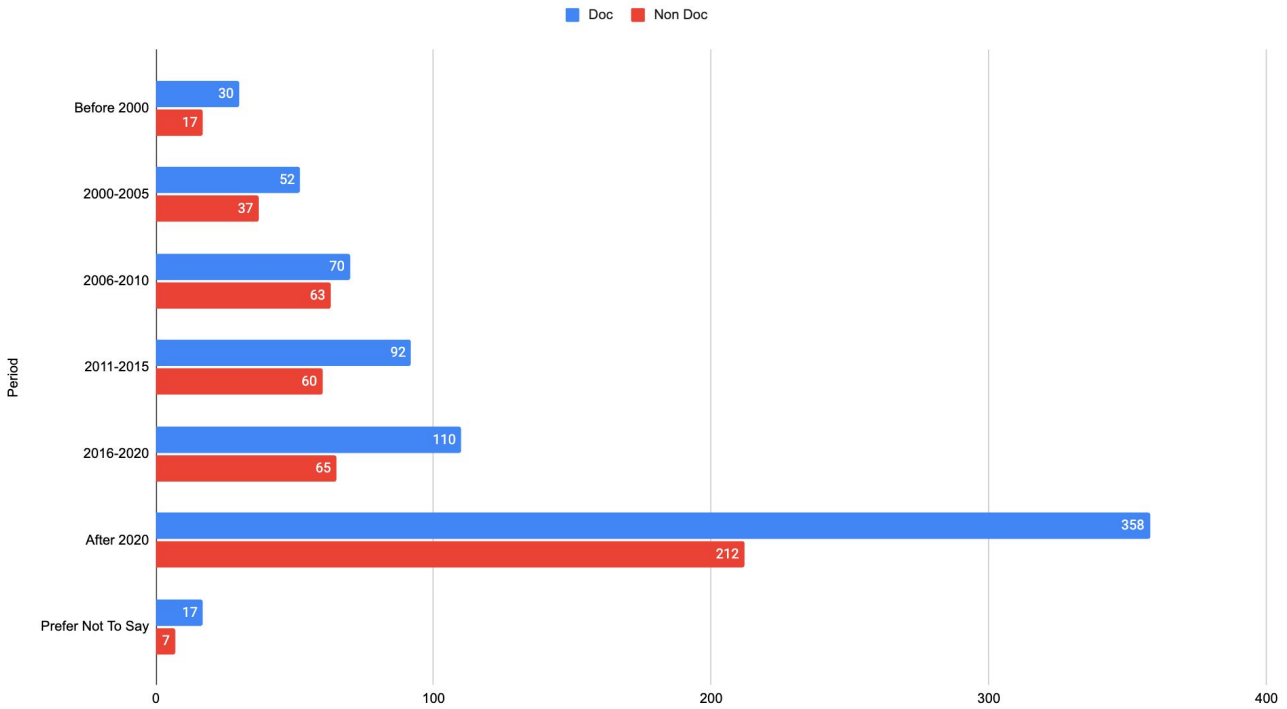
The rest has risk of being irregular migrants due to complexed and unstable migrants document system.

Such as employment status, extension of WP..etc

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Doc and Non Doc



38% of respondent couldn't make document due to **many struggles.**

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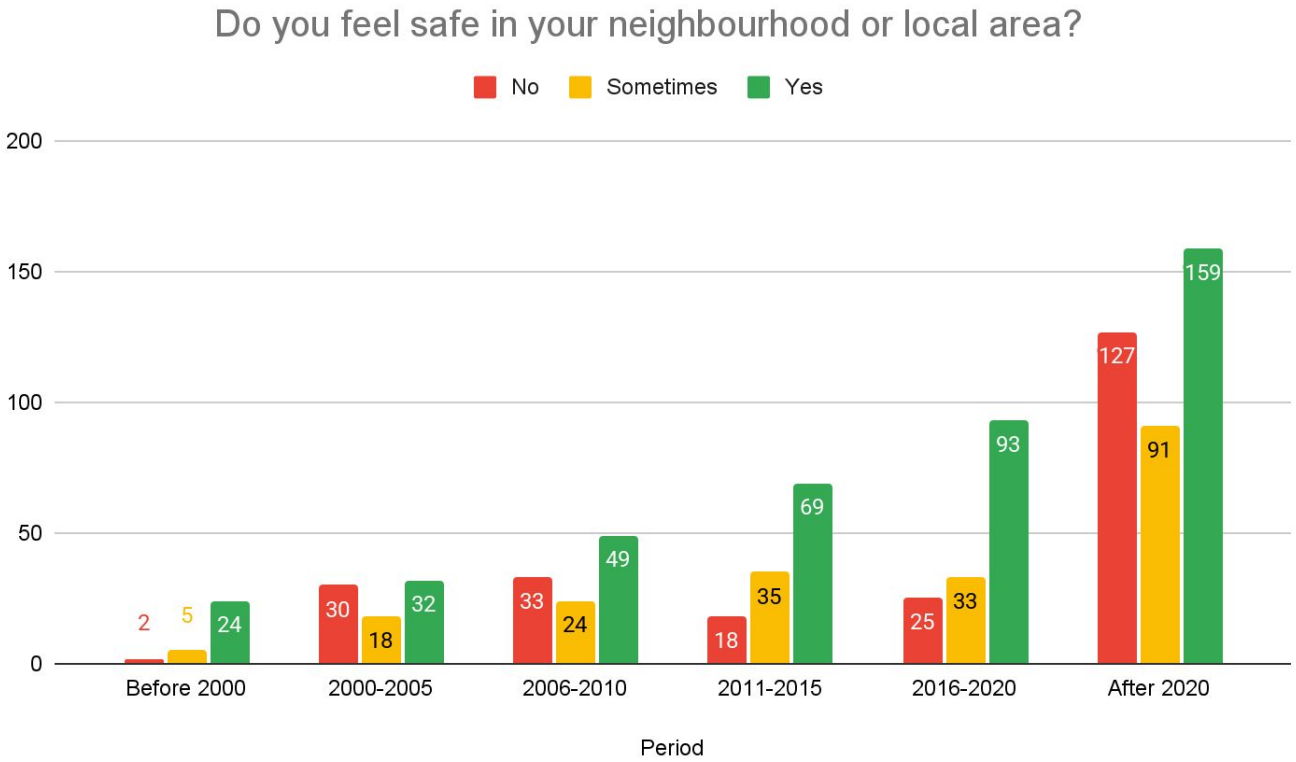
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Social Cohesion within Community

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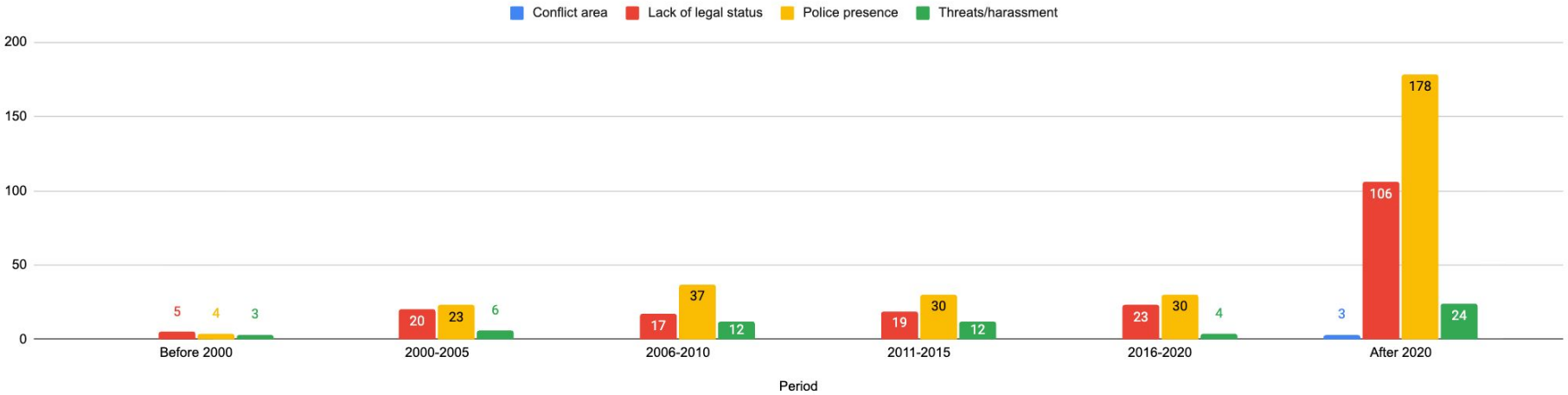


Most of Respondents feeling safe relatively

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What are your concerns?



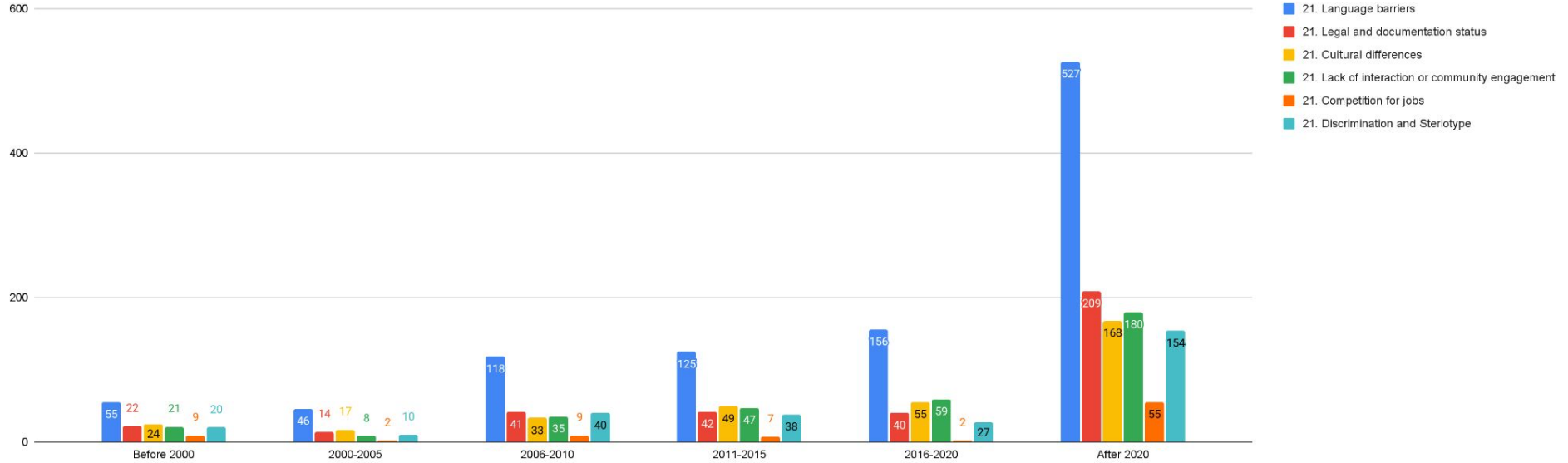
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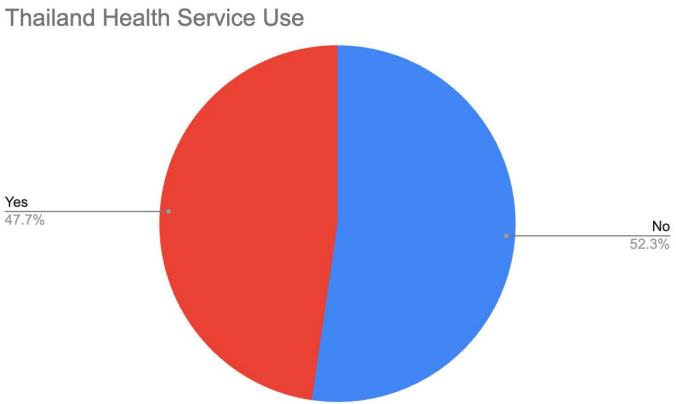
Barriers

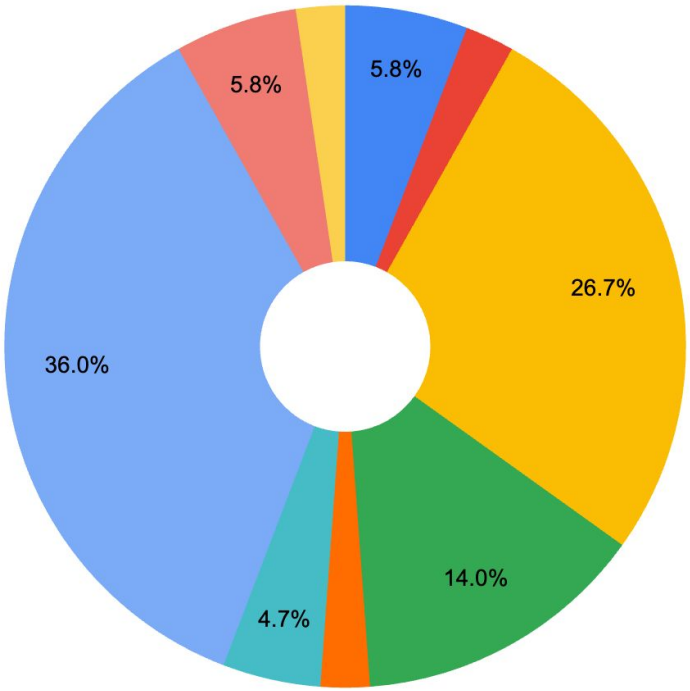


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Health Care





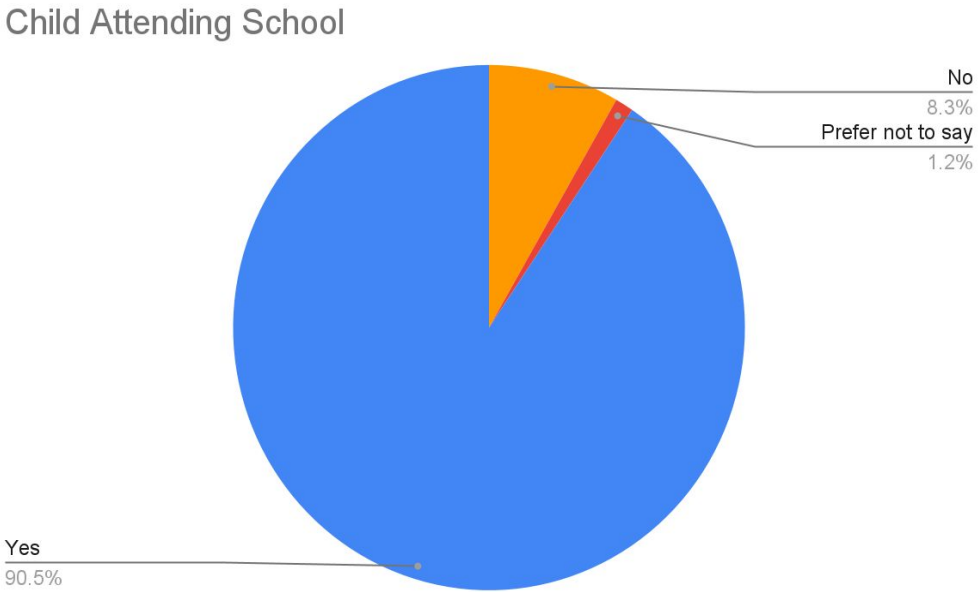
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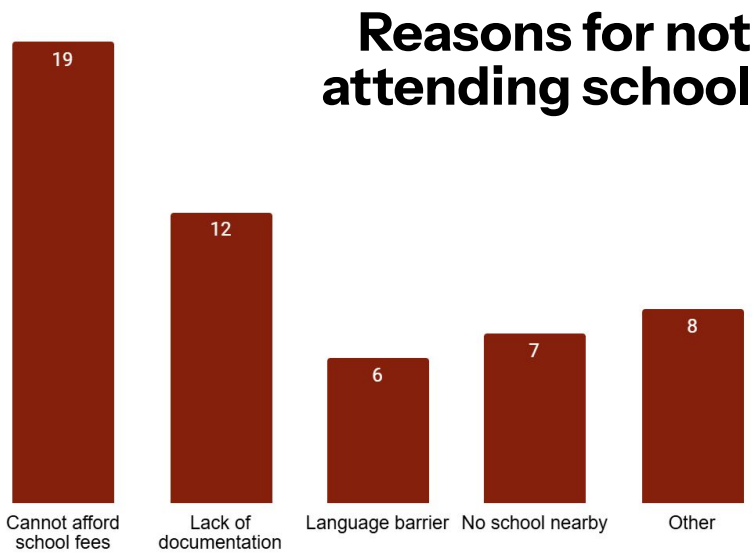
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Education





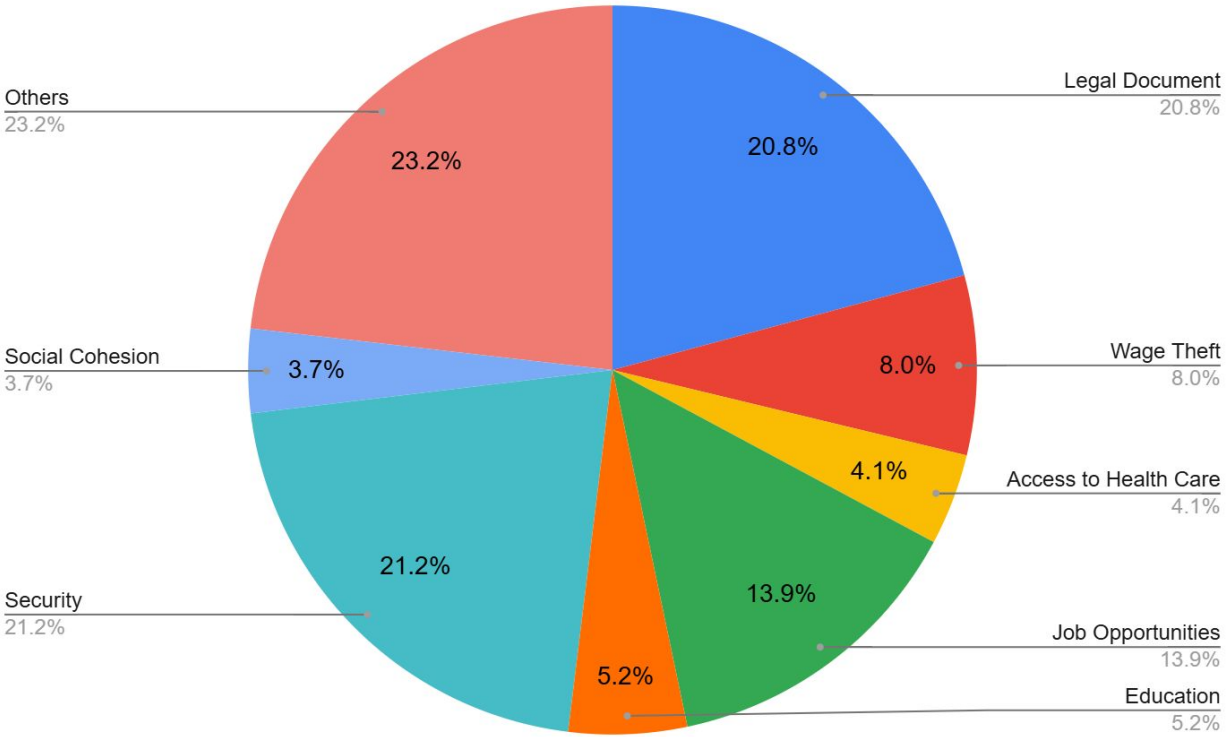
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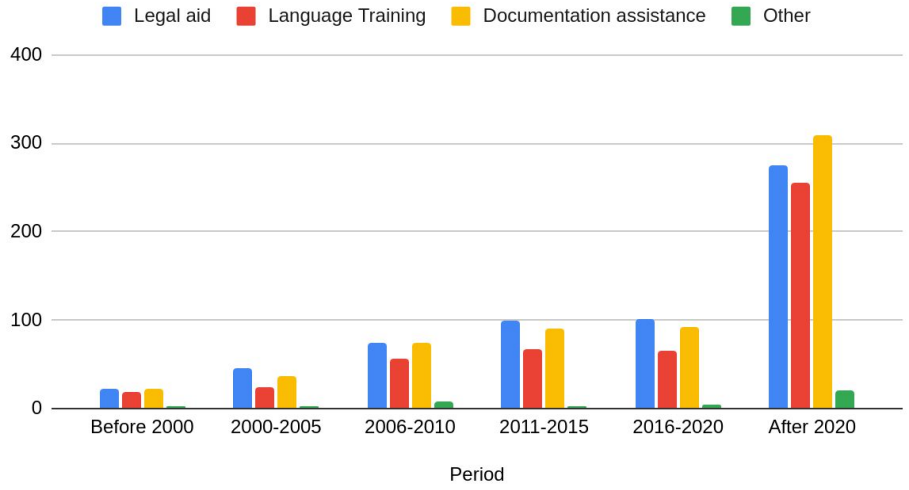
Concerns

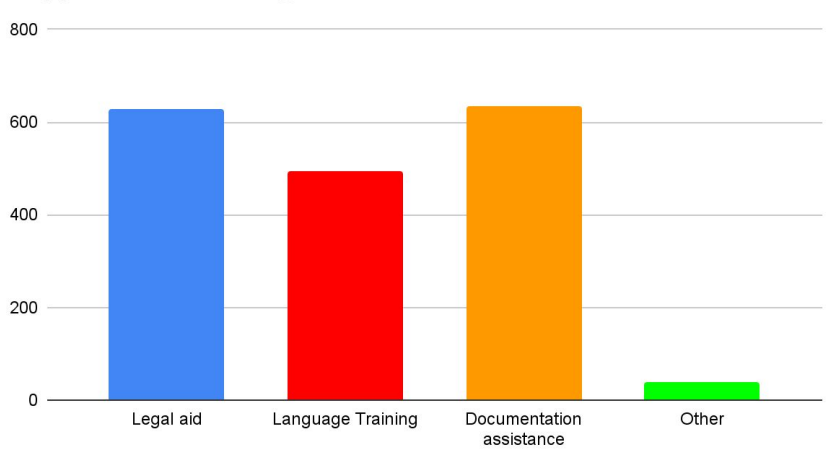


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Support Needs for Migrants in Mae Sot





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Key Recommendations and voices



Highest Needs:
Easier access to documentation and reliable job matching.

Common Complaints:
Costly document renewals, dependency on brokers, and unfair wages.

Safety Concerns:
Concerns about police presence and safety due to legal insecurity.

Calls To Action:
Implementation of more flexible policies, increased community support, and fair labor practices.

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Thank You

Q&A

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For better job opportunities	❖ Vocational Training Support ❖ To create better job opportunities ❖ Ease the rules and regulations for Myanmar workers regarding employment ❖ To provide with employment opportunities after completing university studies
Health and Welfare	❖ Health care support ❖ Health Education ❖ It would be beneficial if healthcare services were made available free of charge ❖ No discrimination at the healthcare centers ❖ I want interpreters to be available at hospitals and clinics

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Wage	❖ To get minimum basic wage
	❖ To increase basic wage
	❖ Fair wage
	❖ Equal wages
Education	❖ To provide educational support
	❖ To provide financial support for education
Arrest and Deport	❖ To reduce corruption (Thai police)
	❖ The government should refrain from arresting and deporting undocumented workers.
Social cohesion	❖ Want to live and work peacefully
Others	❖ To allow to use E Bike