

SEACO Community Briefs

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Issue: 02

SEACO – South East Asia Community Observatory – is a community based research platform established by an international partnership of universities. located in the Segamat district of Johor, specifically in the mukim of Bekok, Chaah, Gemereh, Jabi, and Sungai Segamat. This second community briefing paper presents results from the household census.

Background

SEACO commenced a census in March 2012 and completed it in January 2013 in all five SEACO mukim: Bekok, Chaah, Gemereh, Jabi and Sungai Segamat.

The purpose of the census was to count the whole population in these mukim and to collect basic household information about the individual household members' age, sex, health, education, and work experience.

Method

In the census, only household heads, or a person who could speak on behalf of the household was interviewed.

Household Participation

By the end of the census, Data Collectors had visited around 14,000 houses. Approximately 10% of houses were vacant. Of the remaining houses, approximately 85% of households agreed to join SEACO.

Population

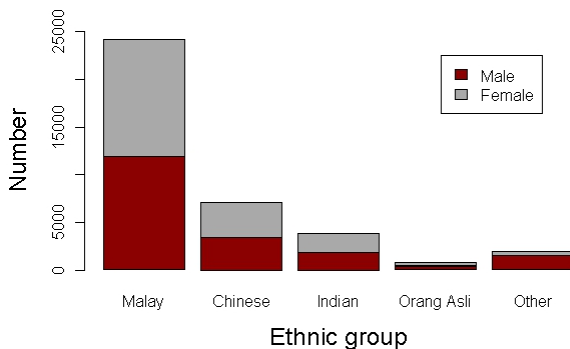


Figure 1
Ethnicity and Sex breakdown of the numbers of people who have joined SEACO

For most groups the numbers of males and females who joined SEACO were very similar. The exception

was the *Other* group, which mainly represents Indonesian plantation workers. This also explains the large discrepancy in the numbers of males and females in the *Other* group.

The age and sex profile (population pyramid) of the population enumerated by SEACO is shown in Fig 2.

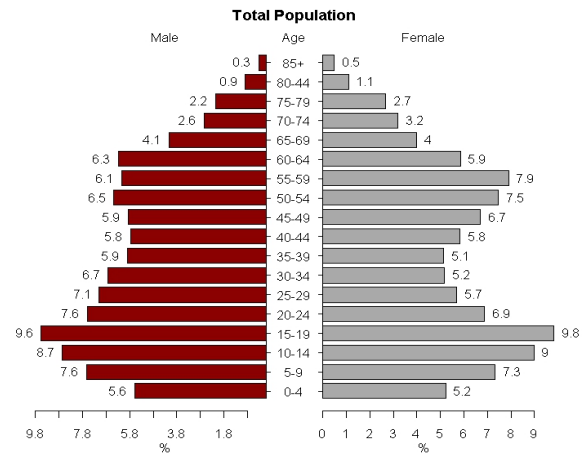


Figure 2
Age and sex population pyramid for SEACO.
(This only shows the data for the whole population)

The population pyramid excluding foreign workers is shown in Figure 3.

There are clear differences between the population of Segamat with or without foreign workers, and the population pyramid for Malaysian population from the 2010 census (Figure 4).

Segamat seems to have a “bite” out of the distributions in the 20-45 year age groups. This is potentially important because of what it might say for the provision of services for the whole of Malaysia – with a clear need for infant and child related services – and services for Segamat which may require greater attention to an ageing population. It also raises important questions about what is causing the “bite” out of the distribution. Why are people leaving, and who is left behind?

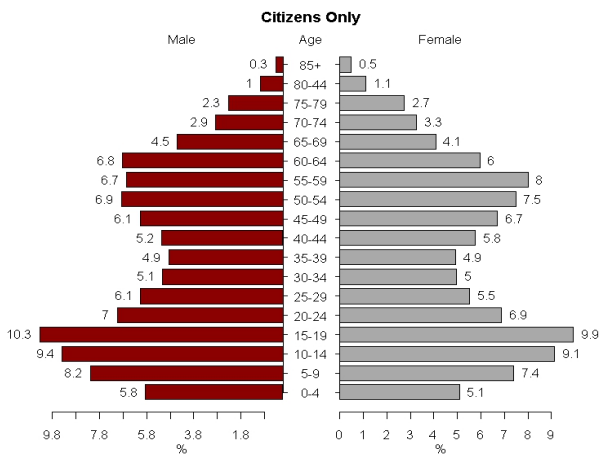


Figure 3
Age and Sex population pyramid for SEACO.
(Excluding foreign workers)

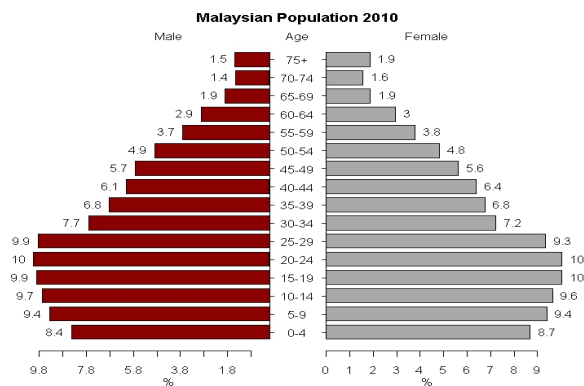


Figure 4
Age and Sex population pyramid for Malaysia.

Chronic Health Condition

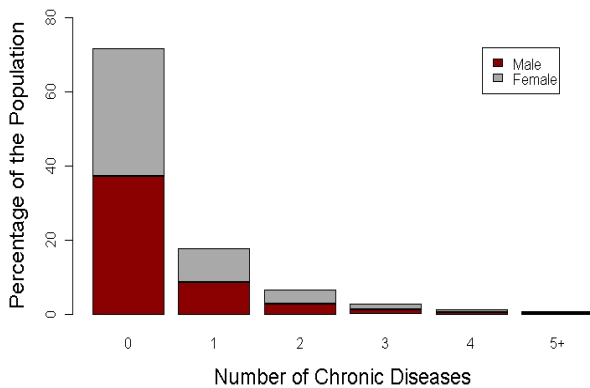


Figure 5
Number of chronic health conditions broken down by sex

Data Collectors asked about the occurrence of chronic health conditions such as heart disease, hypertension,

diabetes, etc. The majority (70%) of people had no reported chronic health conditions (Fig 5).

Conversely, it was reported that about 20% of the people had at least one chronic health condition. More than 50% of individuals over the age of 33 had no chronic condition. Among those aged 65 years and above, more than 50% had at least one chronic health conditions.

Work

The data collectors also asked about work status. Figure 6 shows the work status of 18-60 year old citizens.

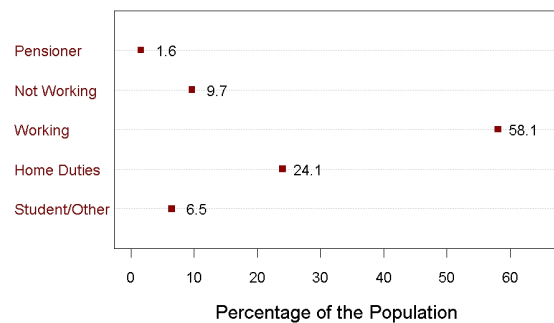


Figure 6
Work Status

The majority (58%) of people were in work. This included full-time, part-time, and casual work, as well as people who were self employed. About one quarter of the people within this age group (18-60) were engaged in home duties (which include a vast majority of housewives). Less than 2% were pensioners, 6.5% were students, and nearly 10% were not working.

Conclusion

These results remain preliminary, and provide a snapshot of the work that SEACO is doing to look at community health and well being.

Issues of an “hour-glass” shaped population pyramid raises important questions that will be a focus of future research in SEACO, as does the questions raised about chronic health conditions.

The major health round will commence shortly.

For further information, comments, or inquiries, on SEACO's work in Segamat, please email Ms. Choi Pek Koon (choi.pek.koon@monash.edu).

SEACO is an international research partnership managed by Monash University Sunway Campus Sdn Bhd (Co.No.458601-U).