

Gender Profile of Hualien County

2023



Prepared by Hualien Accounting and Statistics Department
August 2024

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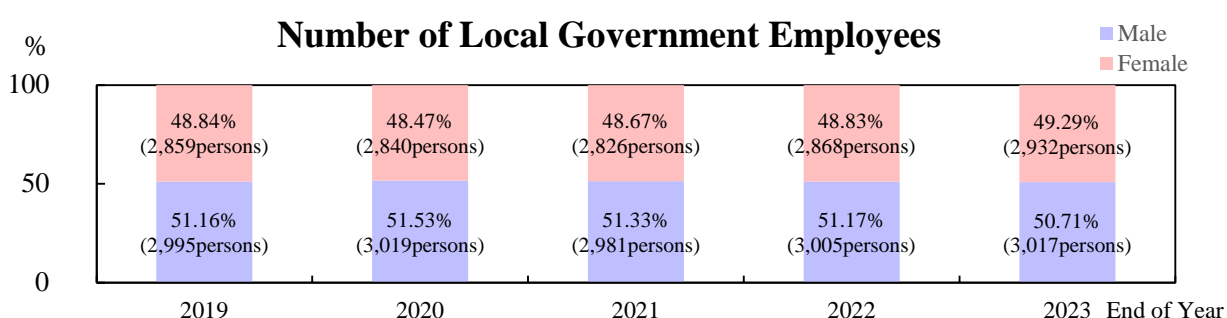
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I. Power, Decision-Making, and Influence

1. Local Government Employees

Gender balance among local government employees

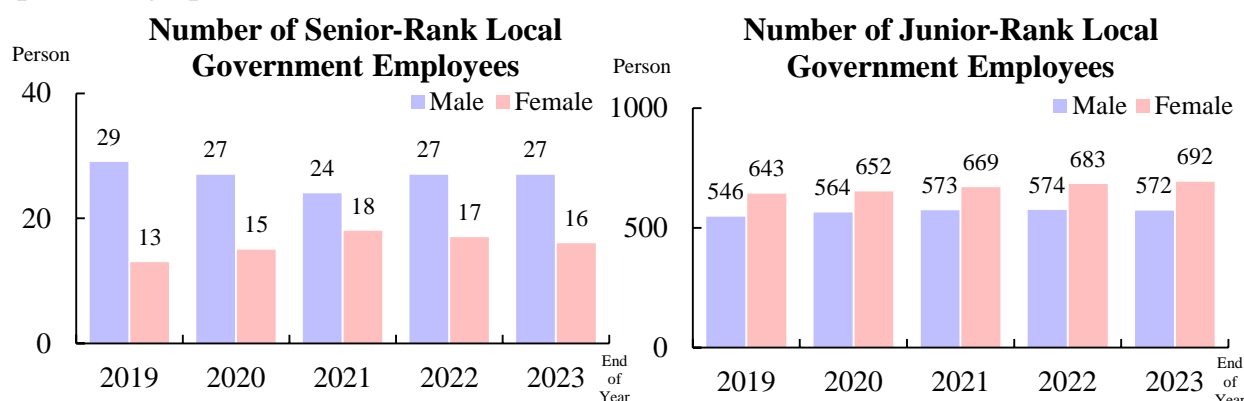
As of the end of 2023, Hualien County had a total of 5,949 local government employees. Among them, 2,932 were women (49.29%) and 3,017 were men (50.71%), with the proportion of men slightly higher by 1.42 percentage points. Compared to 2019, the share of female employees decreased slightly by 0.45 percentage points, indicating that the gender distribution has remained relatively stable over the past five years.



Source: Directorate-General of Personnel Administration, Executive Yuan – Statistics on Local Government Employees

Men dominate senior-rank positions, while junior-rank positions are female-majority

As of the end of 2023, there were 43 senior-rank government employees in Hualien County, with 27 men (62.79%) and 16 women (37.21%), showing a male majority by 25.58 percentage points. In contrast, among the 1,264 junior-rank (recommended rank) government employees, women made up the majority with 692 employees (54.75%), while men accounted for 572 (45.25%), reflecting a 9.5 percentage point lead for women.

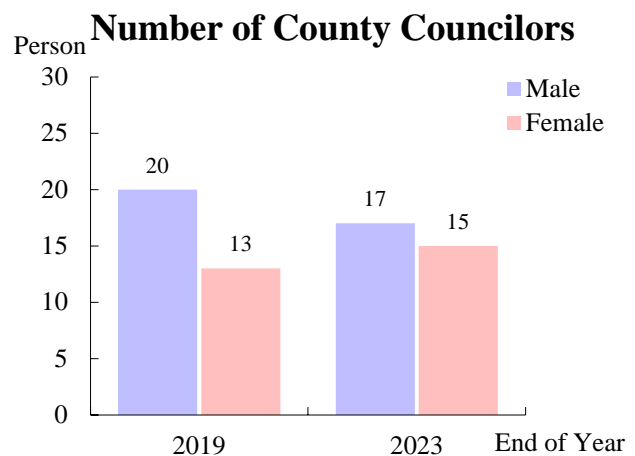


Source: Directorate-General of Personnel Administration, Executive Yuan – Statistics on Local Government Employees

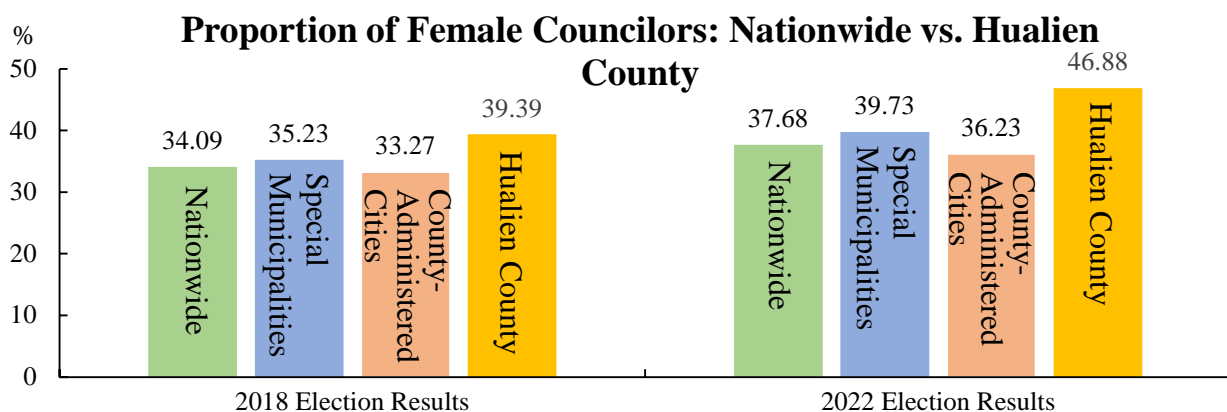
2. Elected Representatives

Nearly half of the county councilors are women, above the national average

As of the end of 2023, Hualien County had a total of 32 county councilors, including 15 women (46.88%) and 17 men (53.12%). Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female councilors increased by two, a 15.38% rise. According to the results of the 2022 national local elections, women accounted for 39.73% of city councilors in special municipalities and 36.23% in county-administered cities. In comparison, Hualien's proportion of female councilors stood at 46.88%, up 7.49 percentage points from 39.39% in the previous election, and has remained consistently above the national average in the past two election cycles.



Source: Local Public Officials Information Section, Ministry of the Interior

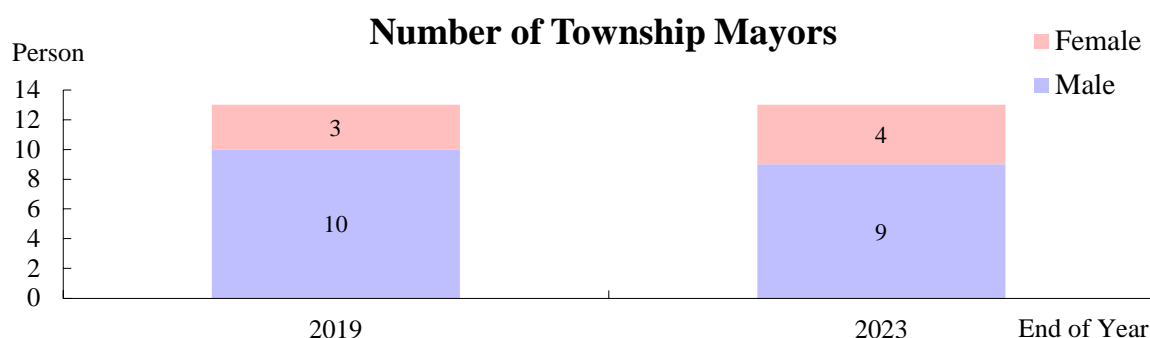


Source: Local Public Officials Information Section, Ministry of the Interior

3. Township Mayors

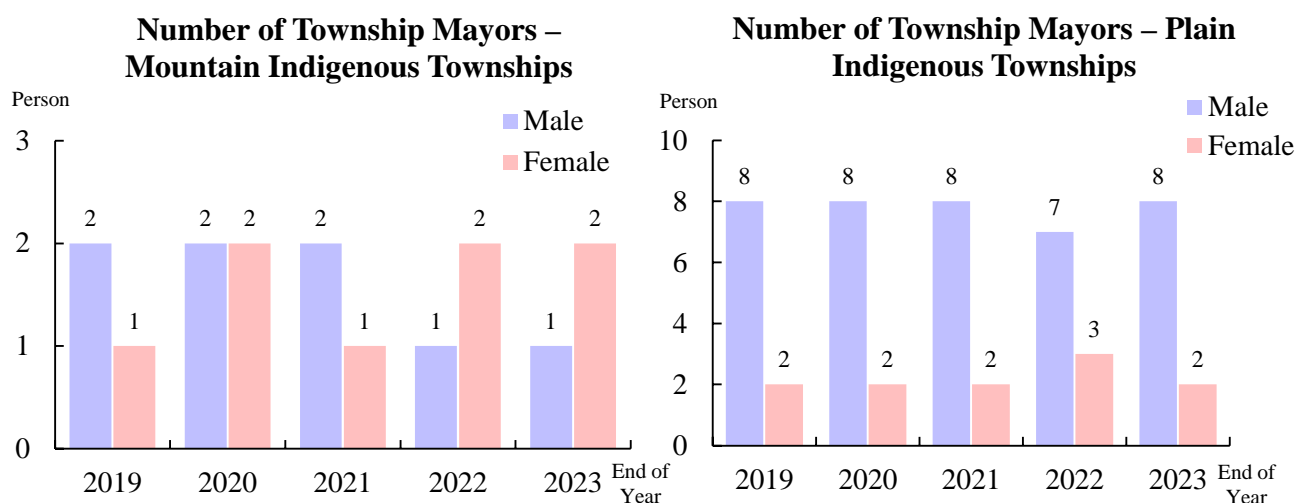
Women hold about one-third of township mayor positions — a higher representation in mountain indigenous townships

Among the 13 township mayors in Hualien County, 4 were women as of the end of 2023, accounting for 30.77%. This marks an increase of one female mayor compared to the end of 2019, a 33.33% rise.



Source: Local Public Officials Information Section, Ministry of the Interior

All 13 townships in the county are designated indigenous areas. Of the 3 mountain indigenous townships, 2 mayors were women (66.67%) and 1 was a man (33.33%). In contrast, among the 10 plain indigenous townships, 2 mayors were women (20.00%) and 8 were men (80.00%).

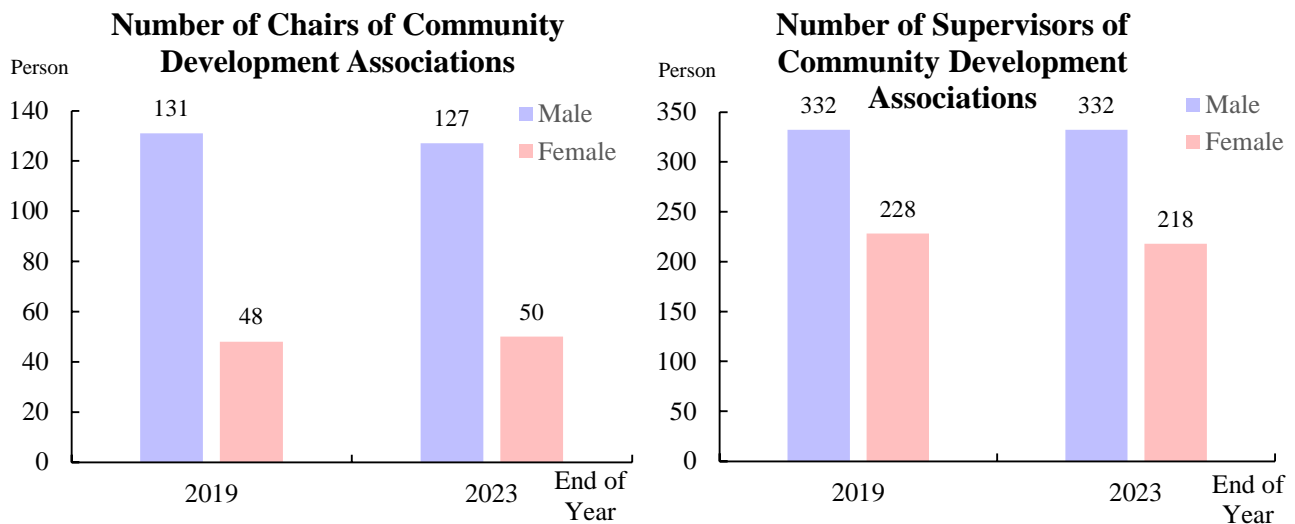


Source: Local Public Officials Information Section, Ministry of the Interior

4. Chairs and Supervisors of Community Development Associations

Men still dominate leadership roles, making up 70% of chairs and 60% of supervisors

As of the end of 2023, there were 177 chairs of community development associations in Hualien County. Among them, 50 were women (28.25%) and 127 were men (71.75%). Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female chairs increased by 2, while the number of male chairs decreased by 4. There were 550 supervisors at the same time, including 218 women (39.64%) and 332 men (60.36%). Compared to 2019, the number of female supervisors decreased by 10, while the number of male supervisors remained unchanged.

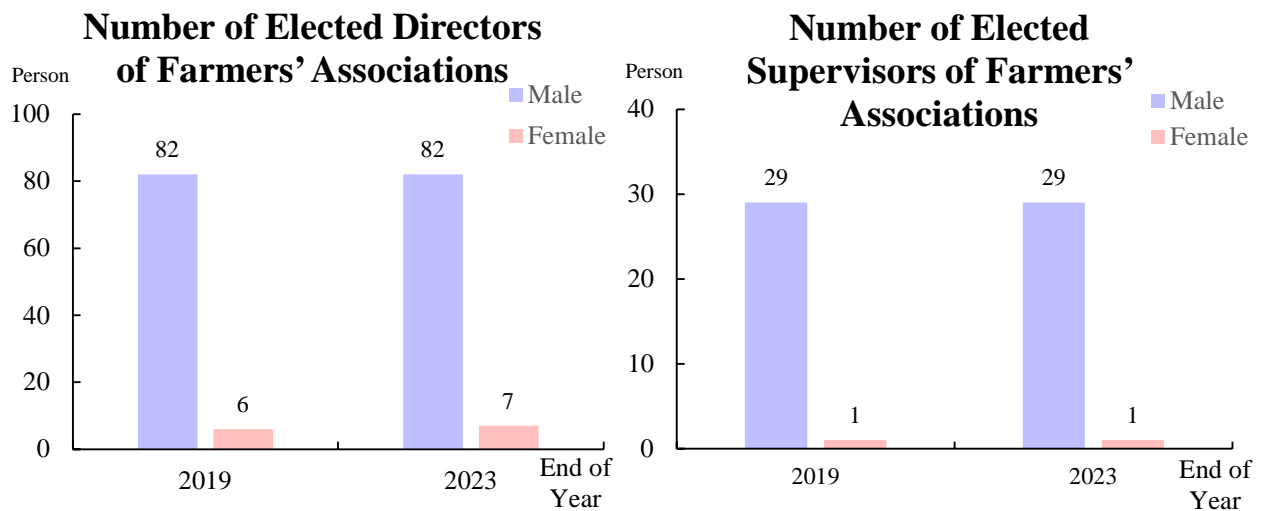


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

5. Board Directors and Supervisors of Farmers' Associations

Over 90% of directors and supervisors are men

As of the end of 2023, there were 89 board directors in Hualien County's farmers' associations, with 7 women (7.87%) and 82 men (92.13%). Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female directors increased by one, while the number of male directors remained the same. There were 30 supervisors, with only 1 woman (3.33%) and 29 men (96.67%). Compared to 2019, the numbers for both men and women remained unchanged.



Source: Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan

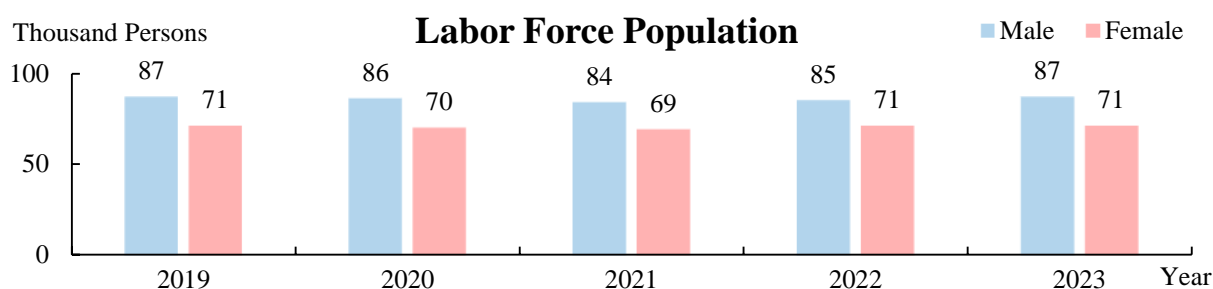
Note: The number of directors and supervisors includes both upper-level and grassroots farmers' associations.

II. Employment, Economy, and Welfare

1. Labor Force

The labor force population increased by 1.90% year-on-year, with women accounting for approximately 45% of the labor force

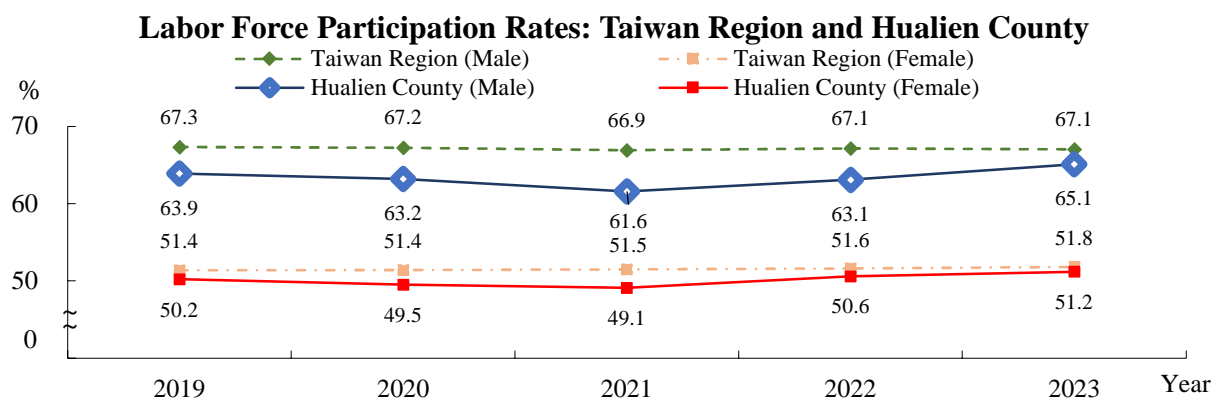
In 2023, the labor force population in the county reached approximately 158,000, comprising about 71,000 women (45.19%) and about 87,000 men (54.81%). Compared to 2022, the number of women in the labor force grew by 1.17%, while the number of men increased by 2.51%.



Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, Executive Yuan — Manpower Survey Report

The female labor force participation rate was 13.9 percentage points lower than that of males, and both rates were below the national average

In 2023, the female labor force participation rate in the county stood at 51.2%, and the male rate at 65.1%, 0.6 and 2.0 percentage points lower than the national averages, respectively. Over the past five years, both male and female labor force participation rates in the county have shown a slight upward trend, with the gender gap ranging between 12.5 and 13.9 percentage points, which is generally narrower than that observed nationwide.

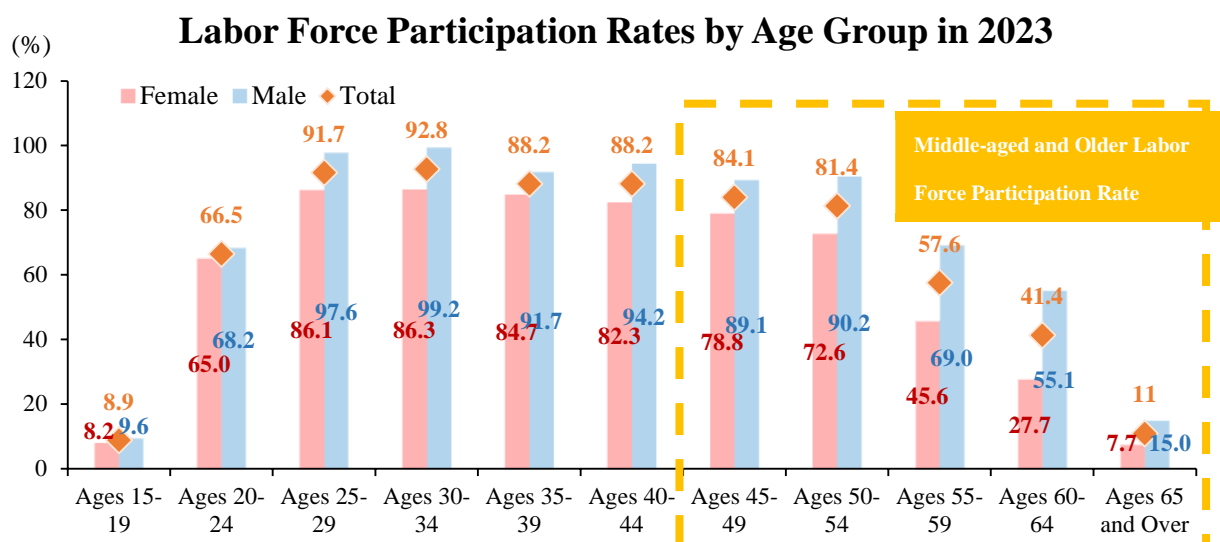


Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, Executive Yuan - Manpower Survey Report.

Note: The regional coverage of the Manpower Survey includes the Taiwan Region (excluding Kinmen County and Lienchiang County).

Gender gap in labor force participation widens with age, peaking in the 60–64 age group

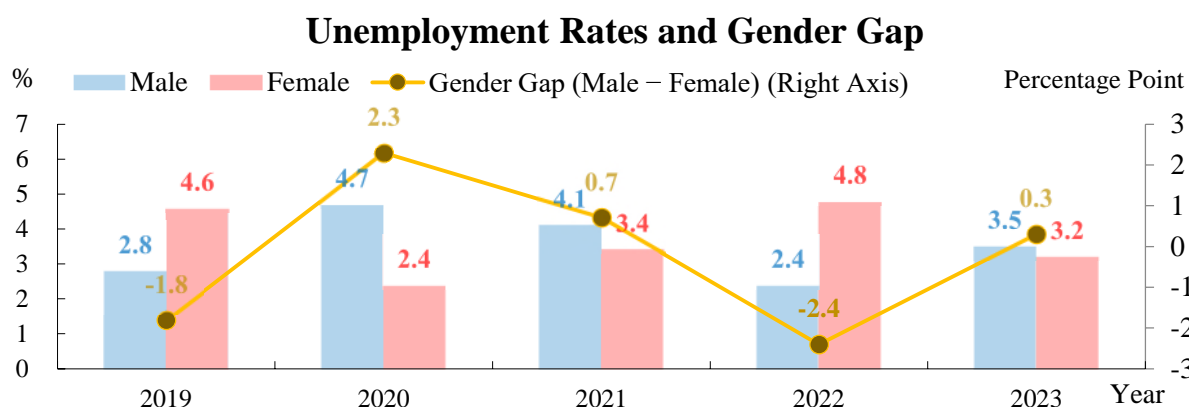
By age group analysis, in 2023, the labor force participation rate in the county declined with age among those aged 30 and above. Both male and female participation rates peaked in the 30-34 age group, then steadily declined after age 35. Among middle-aged and older males (ages 45-64), the participation rates for the 45-49 and 50-54 age groups remained around 90%. In contrast, female participation rates in these two age groups fell below 80%, approaching 70%. In the 55-59 and 60-64 age groups, the decline in female participation rates became more pronounced, dropping to 45.6% and 27.7%, respectively, compared to 69.0% and 55.1% for males in the same age groups. The gender gap in labor force participation widened progressively with age, with the largest gap of 27.4 percentage points observed in the 60-64 age group.



Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, Executive Yuan - Manpower Survey Report

The female unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage points lower than the male rate

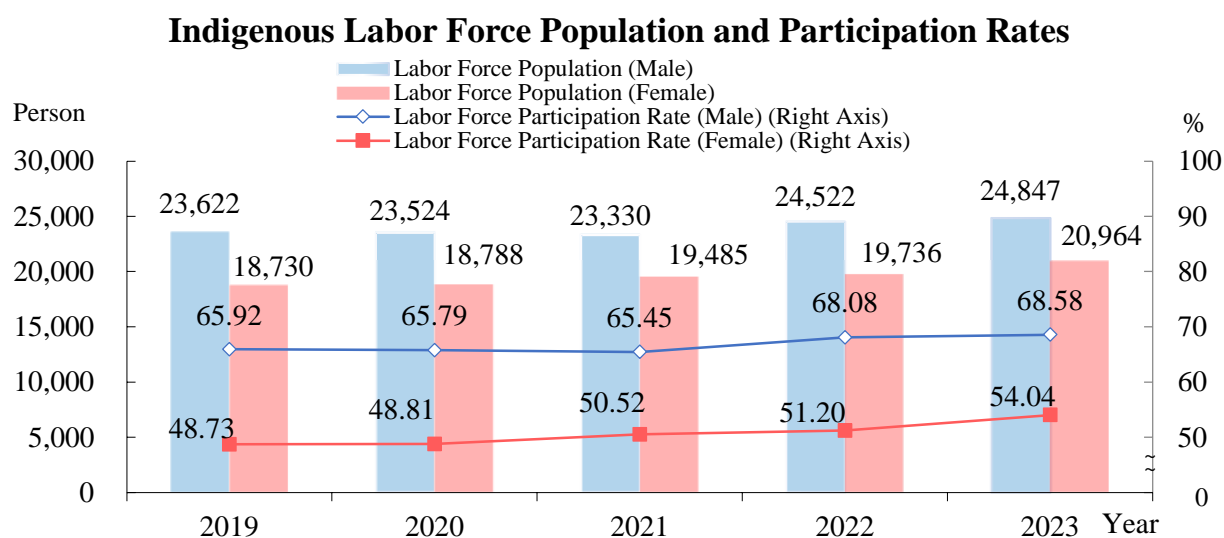
In 2023, the unemployment rate for women in the county was 3.2%, a decrease of 1.6 percentage points compared to 2022. The unemployment rate for men was 3.5%, an increase of 1.1 percentage points from the previous year. The gender gap in unemployment rates stood at 0.3 percentage points in 2023. Over the past five years, the average unemployment rate for women was 3.68%, while the average rate for men was 3.50%.



2. Labor Force of Indigenous Peoples

Growth in the indigenous labor force population and narrowing gender gap in participation rates

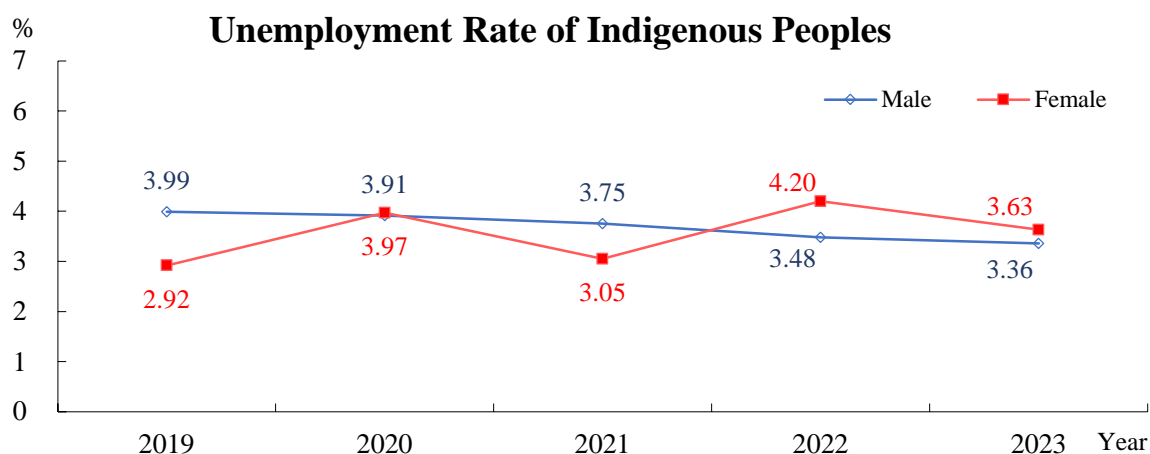
By the end of 2023, the indigenous labor force population in the county totaled 45,811, including 20,964 women (45.76%) and 24,847 men (54.24%). In terms of labor force participation rates, the rate for women was 54.04%, and for men, 68.58%. Over the past five years, the gender gap in participation rates has narrowed, decreasing from 17.19 percentage points to 14.54 percentage points.



Source: Council of Indigenous Peoples – Employment Status Survey Report of Indigenous Peoples

Over the past five years, the indigenous male unemployment rate decreased, while the female rate increased

An analysis of the indigenous unemployment rates in 2023 shows that the rate for women was 3.63% and for men 3.36%. Over the past five years, the unemployment rate for indigenous men has shown a downward trend. Although the female unemployment rate in 2023 decreased by 0.57 percentage points compared to 2022, it has increased by 0.71 percentage points over the past five years, indicating an upward trend.

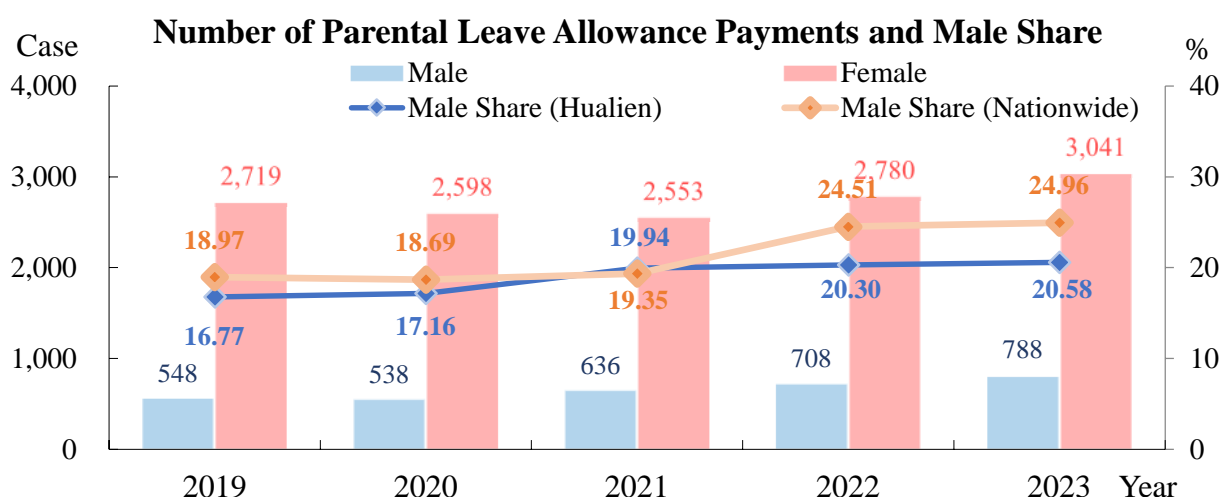


Source: Council of Indigenous Peoples – Employment Status Survey Report of Indigenous Peoples

3. Number of Parental Leave Allowance Payments

The number of parental leave allowance payments has shown an upward trend, with the number of payments to men increasing by 43.80% over the past five years, and men accounting for 20% of the total

In 2023, the number of parental leave allowance payments was 788 for men and 3,041 for women, representing increases of 240 and 322 cases, respectively, compared to 2019. The growth rates were 43.80% for men and 11.84% for women. The male share of payments reached 20.58%, which was 2.35 percentage points lower than the national average over the past five years.



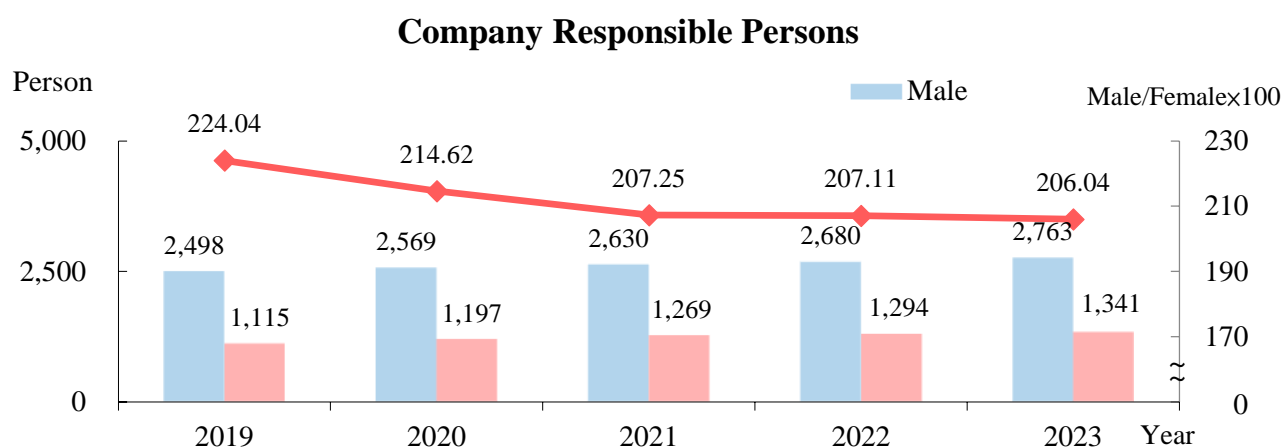
Source: Ministry of Labor

Note: Includes only data approved and paid by the Bureau of Labor Insurance.

4. Company Responsible Persons

Steady increase in the proportion of female responsible persons

By the end of 2023, there were 1,341 companies in the county with female responsible persons, accounting for 32.68%, and 2,763 companies with male responsible persons, accounting for 67.32%. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female responsible persons increased by 226, representing a growth of 20.27%, while the number of male responsible persons increased by 265, representing a growth of 10.61%. Over the past five years, the numbers of both male and female responsible persons have shown an upward trend. Although male responsible persons remain the majority, the number of female responsible persons has grown at a faster rate, leading to a gradual increase in their proportion.



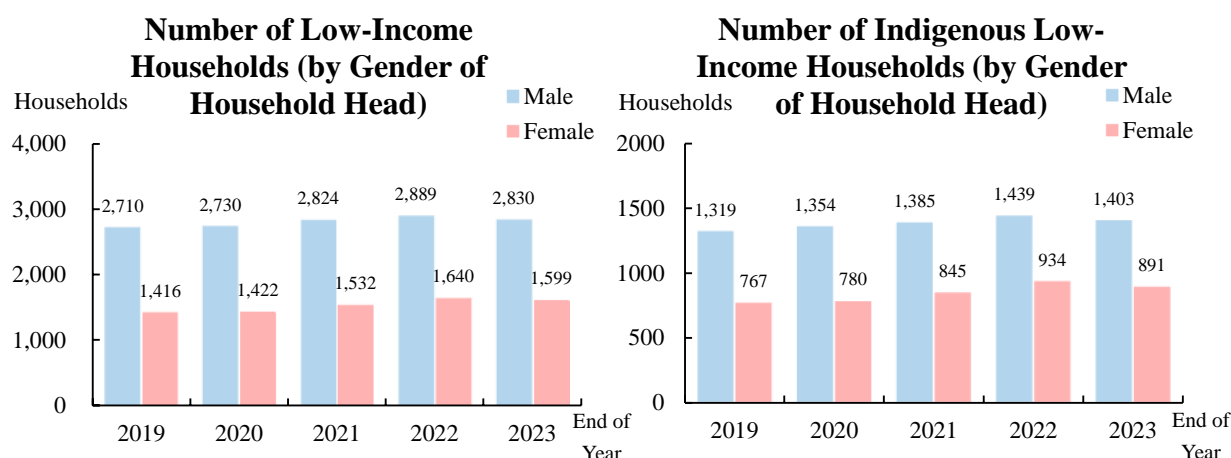
Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Economic Affairs

5. Number of Low-Income Households

Male household heads account for 60%, with overall household numbers showing an upward trend in recent years

By the end of 2023, there were 1,599 low-income households in the county with female household heads, accounting for 36.10%, and 2,830 with male household heads, accounting for 63.90%. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female household heads increased by 183 households (12.92%), while the number of male household heads increased by 120 households (4.43%).

By the end of 2023, among indigenous low-income households in the county, there were 891 female household heads (38.84%) and 1,403 male household heads (61.16%). Compared to the end of 2019, the number of indigenous female household heads increased by 124 households (16.17%), while the number of indigenous male household heads increased by 84 households (6.37%).



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

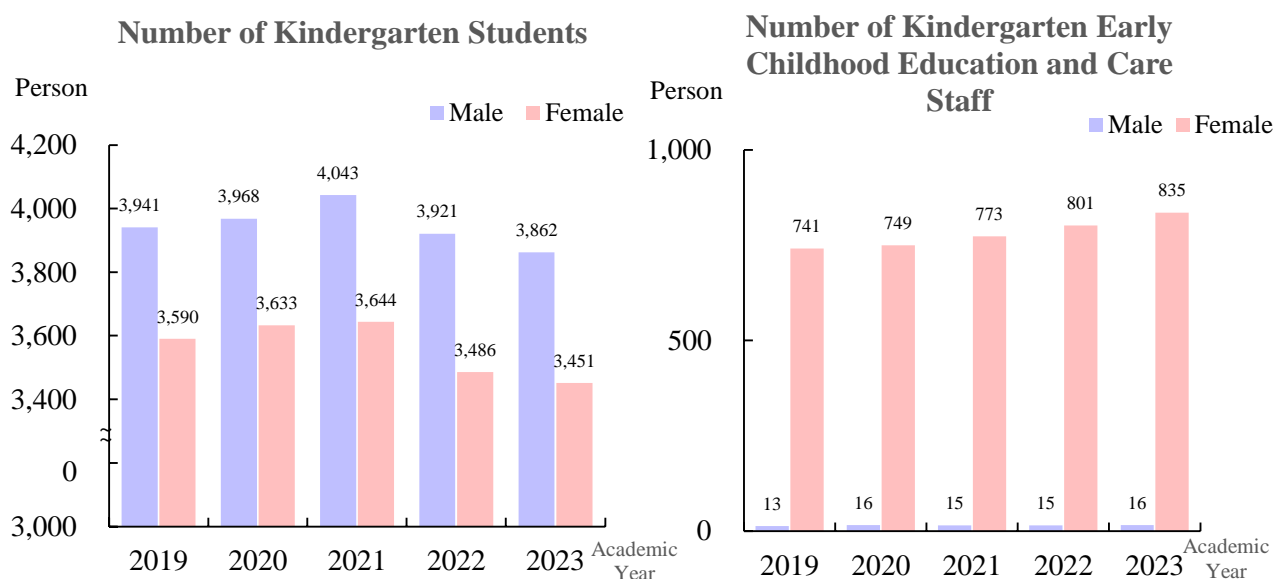
III. Education, Media, and Culture

1. Kindergartens

Male students account for over 50%, with a declining trend in enrollment; female staff members remain the majority and continue to increase

In the 2023 academic year, male students in kindergartens in the county numbered 3,862, accounting for 52.81%, while female students numbered 3,451, accounting for 47.19%. Over the past five years, the proportion of male students has consistently been higher than that of female students. Compared to the 2019 academic year, the number of female students decreased by 3.87%, while the number of male students decreased by 2.00%.

Additionally, in the 2023 academic year, there were 835 female early childhood education and care staff members (98.12%) and 16 male staff members (1.88%) in the county's kindergartens, with women consistently comprising the overwhelming majority over the years.



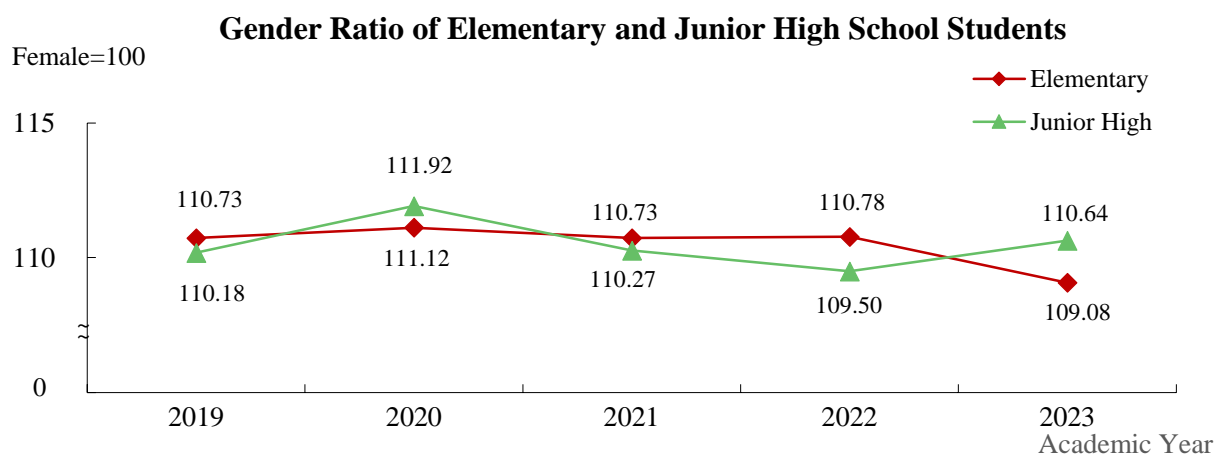
Source: Ministry of Education

2. Number of Elementary and Junior High School Students

In recent years, male students have outnumbered female students, with female students accounting for about 47%

In the 2023 academic year, there were 7,459 female students (47.83%) and 8,136 male students (52.17%) enrolled in elementary schools in the county, with

a gender ratio of 109.08. In junior high schools, there were 3,553 female students (47.47%) and 3,931 male students (52.53%), with a gender ratio of 110.64. The recent trend shows that, unlike in elementary schools, the gender ratio in junior high schools has been declining year by year since 2020, before starting to rise again from 2022 onward.

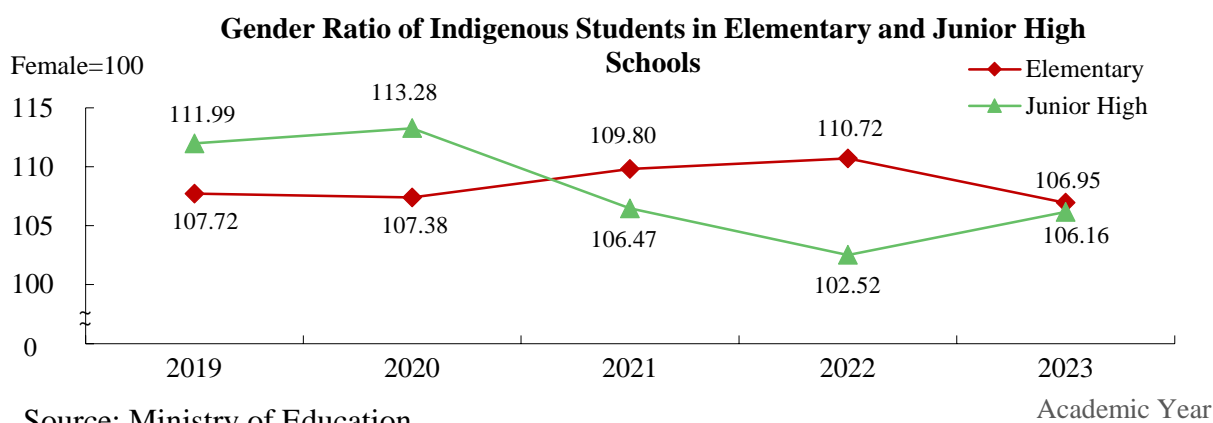


Source: Ministry of Education

3. Number of Indigenous Students in Elementary and Junior High Schools

Proportion of indigenous female students declining in elementary schools, but rising in junior high schools

In the 2023 academic year, there were 2,834 indigenous female students (48.32%) and 3,031 indigenous male students (51.68%) enrolled in elementary schools in the county, with a gender ratio of 106.95. In junior high schools, there were 1,315 indigenous female students (48.51%) and 1,396 indigenous male students (51.49%), with a gender ratio of 106.16. The recent trend in junior high schools differs from that in elementary schools: the gender ratio has been declining year by year since 2020, before starting to rise again in 2022.



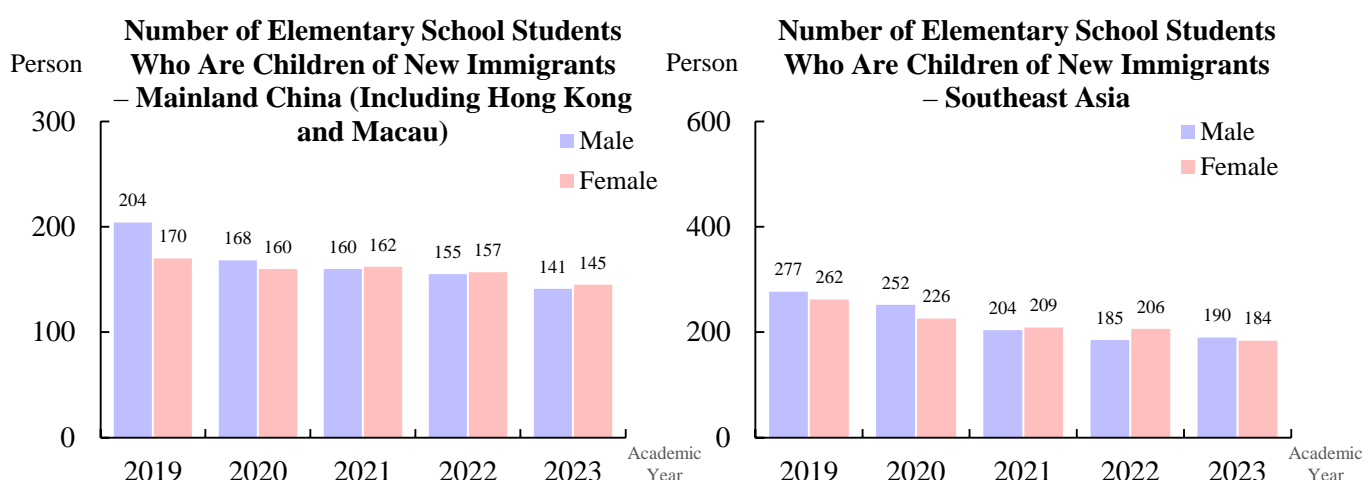
Source: Ministry of Education

4. Number of Elementary School Students Who Are Children of New Immigrants

Declining trend in the number of new immigrant children enrolled in elementary schools

In the 2023 academic year, there were 145 female students (50.70%) and 141 male students (49.30%) from Mainland China (including Hong Kong and Macau) enrolled in elementary schools in the county, showing a declining trend in recent years. Compared to the 2022 academic year, the number of female students decreased by 7.64%, while the number of male students decreased by 9.03%.

In addition, in the 2023 academic year, there were 184 female students (49.20%) and 190 male students (50.80%) from Southeast Asian countries enrolled in elementary schools, also showing a gradual decline over the past five years. Compared to the 2022 academic year, the number of female students decreased by 10.68%, while the number of male students increased by 2.72%.



Source: Ministry of Education

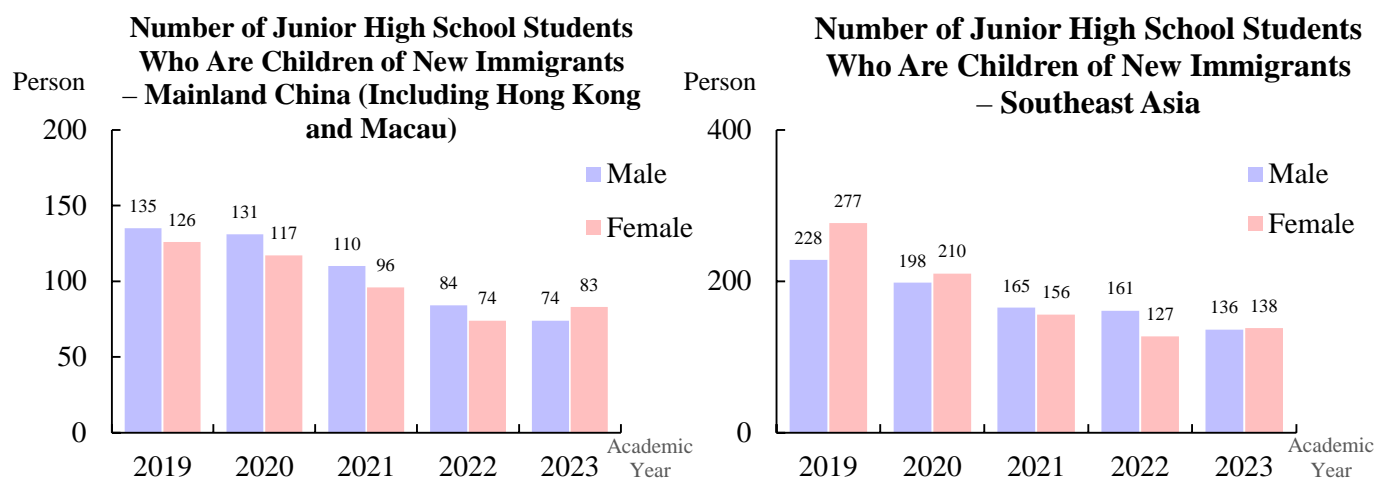
5. Number of Junior High School Students Who Are Children of New Immigrants

Declining trend in the number of new immigrant children enrolled in junior high schools

In the 2023 academic year, there were 83 female students (52.87%) and 74 male students (47.13%) from Mainland China (including Hong Kong and Macau) enrolled in junior high schools in the county. Compared to the 2022 academic year, the number of female students increased by 12.16%, while the number of male students decreased by 11.90%.

In addition, there were 138 female students (50.36%) and 136 male students

(49.64%) from Southeast Asian countries enrolled in junior high schools. Compared to the 2022 academic year, the number of female students increased by 8.66%, while the number of male students decreased by 18.38%.

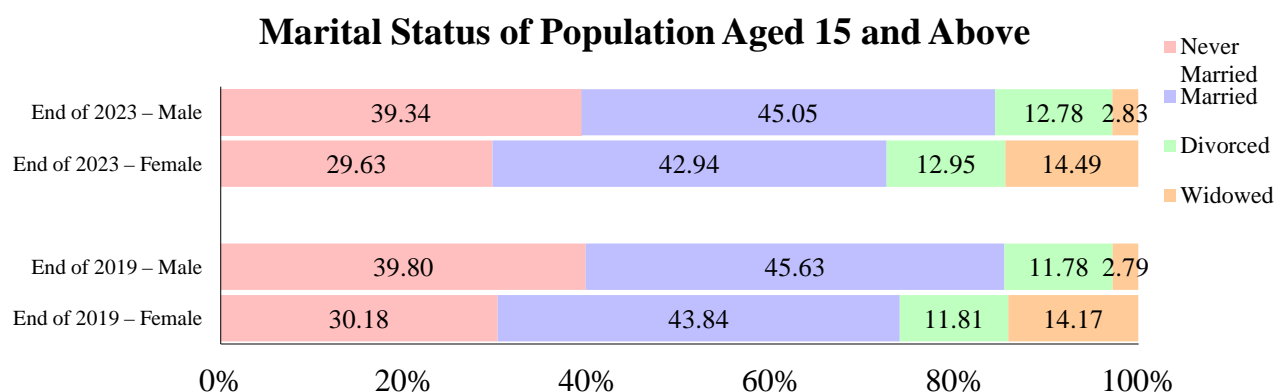


Source: Ministry of Education

6. Marital Status

Marriage rates for women and men in Hualien County are approximately 45% and 43%, respectively

As of the end of 2023, among the population aged 15 and above in Hualien County, the proportion of married individuals was the highest, with the married rate for women at 42.94% and for men at 45.05%. The marriage rate for women was 0.89 percentage points lower than that for men. Compared to the end of 2019, the marriage rates for both genders declined, with decreases of 0.71 and 0.90 percentage points for women and men, respectively. The gender gap in never-married rates remained, with the rate for men exceeding that for women by more than 9.6 percentage points.

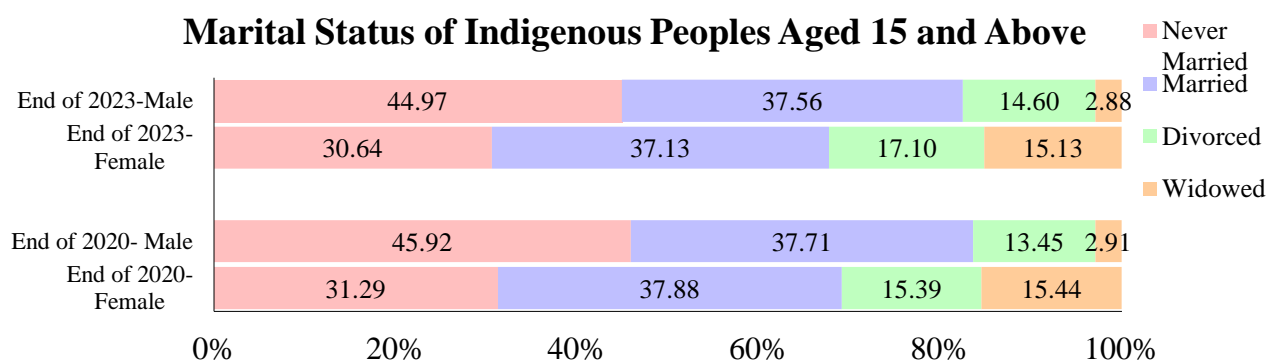


Source: Ministry of the Interior

7. Marital Status of Indigenous Peoples

Marriage rates for indigenous men and women aged 15 and above are both around 37%

As of the end of 2023, among indigenous people aged 15 and above in the county, the proportion of never-married men was the highest, with the male never-married rate exceeding that of females by 14.33 percentage points. For indigenous women aged 15 and above, the married rate was the highest, accounting for 37.13%. Compared to the end of 2020, the never-married rates for both men and women declined, decreasing by 0.95 and 0.65 percentage points, respectively. The gender gap in never-married rates remained, with the rate for men consistently exceeding that for women by more than 14.3 percentage points.

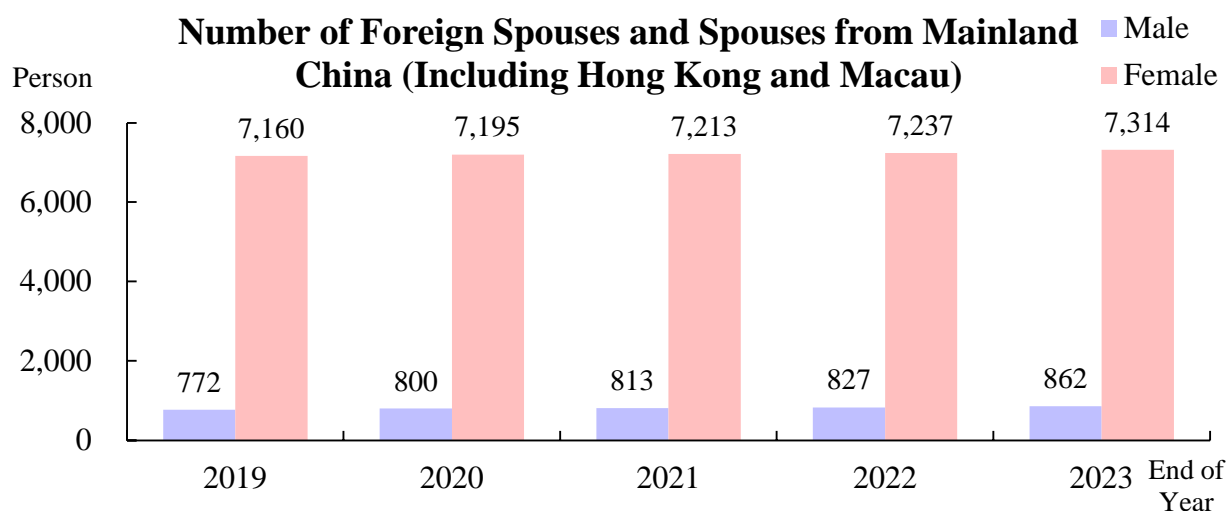


Source: Ministry of the Interior

8. Number of Foreign Spouses and Spouses from Mainland China (Including Hong Kong and Macau)

Nearly 90% of foreign and mainland Chinese spouses are women

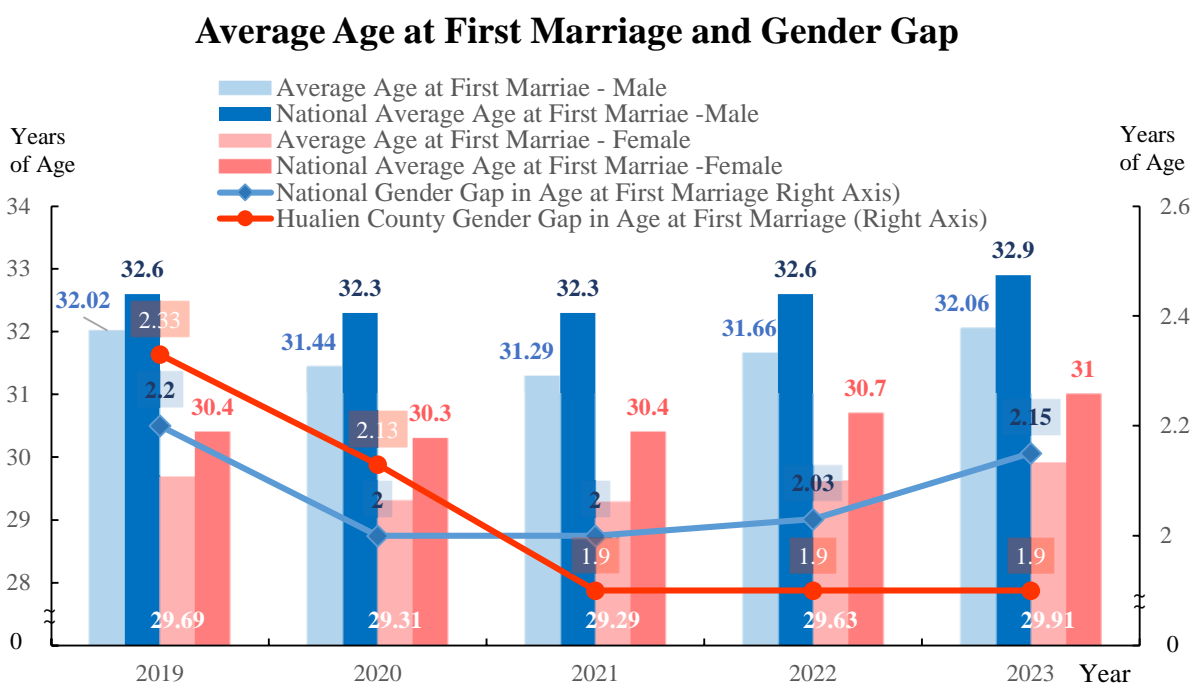
As of the end of 2023, there were 8,176 foreign spouses and spouses from Mainland China (including Hong Kong and Macau) in the county, including 7,314 women (89.46%) and 862 men (10.54%). Compared to the end of 2022, the number of female spouses increased by 1.06%, and the number of male spouses increased by 4.23%. Over the past five years, the number of both female and male spouses has grown steadily. Comparing the end of 2023 with the end of 2019, the number of female spouses increased by 2.15%, while the number of male spouses increased by 11.66%.



9. Average Age at First Marriage and Gender Gap

Men marry 2.15 years later than women, with the gender gap in first marriage age consistently higher than the national average over the past five years

In 2023, the average age at first marriage in the county was 32.06 years for men and 29.91 years for women, representing increases of 0.04 years and 0.22 years, respectively, compared to 2019. Over the past five years, the gender gap in the average age at first marriage has consistently exceeded 2 years, with the gap in 2023 reaching 2.15 years. Throughout this period, the gender gap in the county has remained higher than the national average, with the 2023 gap exceeding the national figure by 0.25 years.

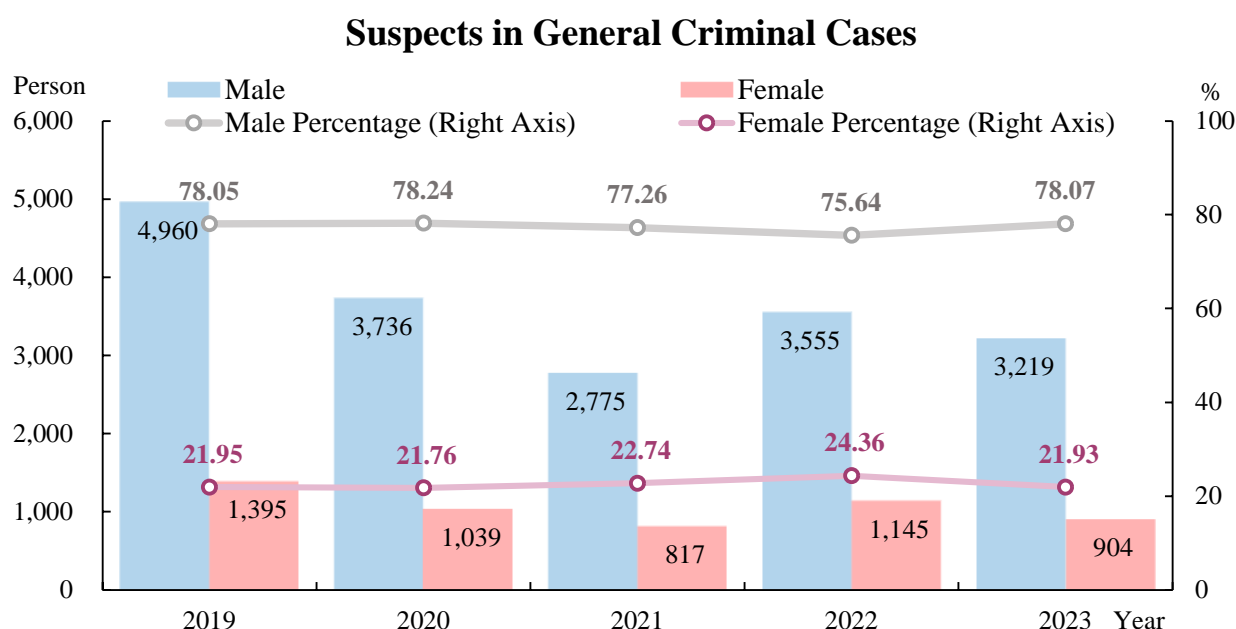


IV. Personal Safety and Justice

1.General Criminal Cases

Male suspects have continued to account for nearly 80% over the past five years

In 2023, there were a total of 4,123 suspects involved in general criminal cases in the county, including 3,219 males (78.07%) and 904 females (21.93%). Compared to the end of 2022, the number of male suspects (3,555 persons) decreased by 336 persons (-9.45%), and the number of female suspects (1,145 persons) decreased by 241 persons (-21.05%). Over the past five years, males consistently accounted for nearly 80% of all suspects, and the numbers of both male and female suspects have shown a downward trend.

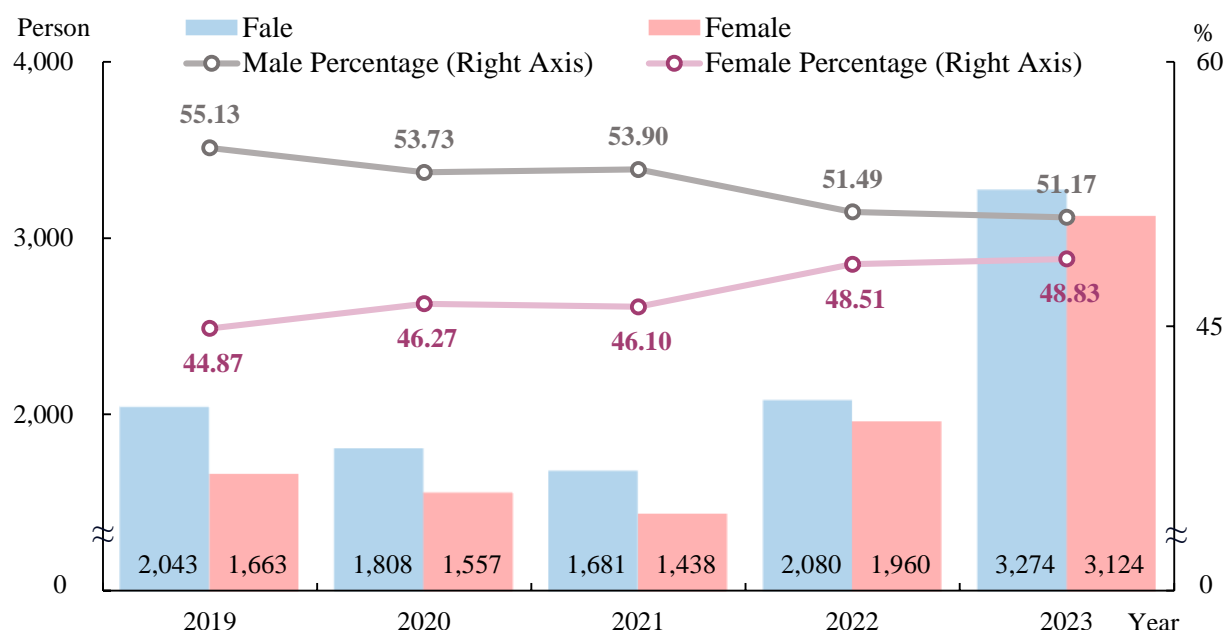


Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior

Increase of 3.96 percentage points in the proportion of female victims in general criminal cases over five years

In 2023, there were a total of 6,398 victims in general criminal cases in the county, including 3,274 males (51.17%) and 3,124 females (48.83%). Compared to the end of 2022, the number of male victims (2,080 persons) increased by 1,194 persons (+57.40%), and the number of female victims (1,960 persons) increased by 1,164 persons (+59.39%). Over the past five years, the proportion of female victims gradually increased from 44.87% to 48.83%, reflecting a rise of 3.96 percentage points during the period.

Victims in General Criminal Cases

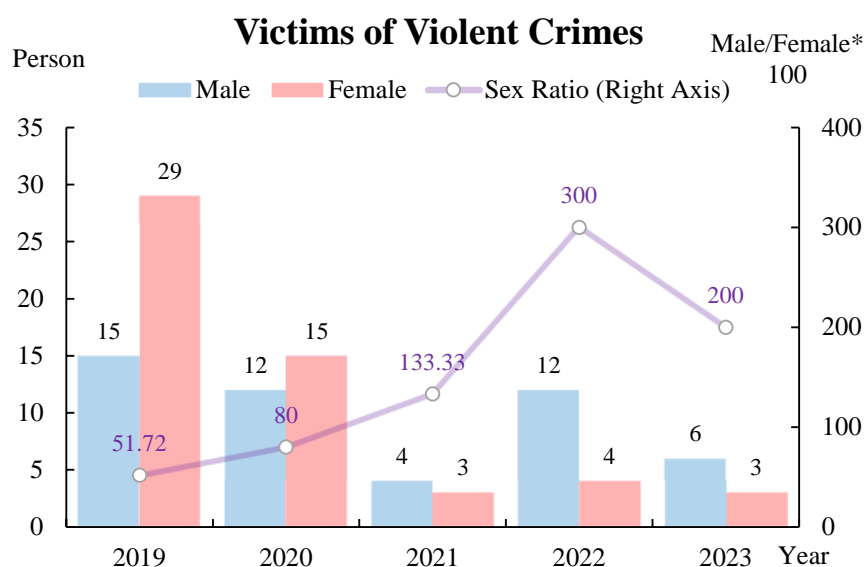


Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior

2. Violent Crimes

Significant decrease in the number of victims compared to five years ago, with male victims outnumbering female victims in the past three years

In 2023, there were a total of 9 victims of violent crimes in the county, including 3 females (33.33%) and 6 males (66.67%). Compared to 2022, the number of female victims decreased by 1 person (-25%), and the number of male



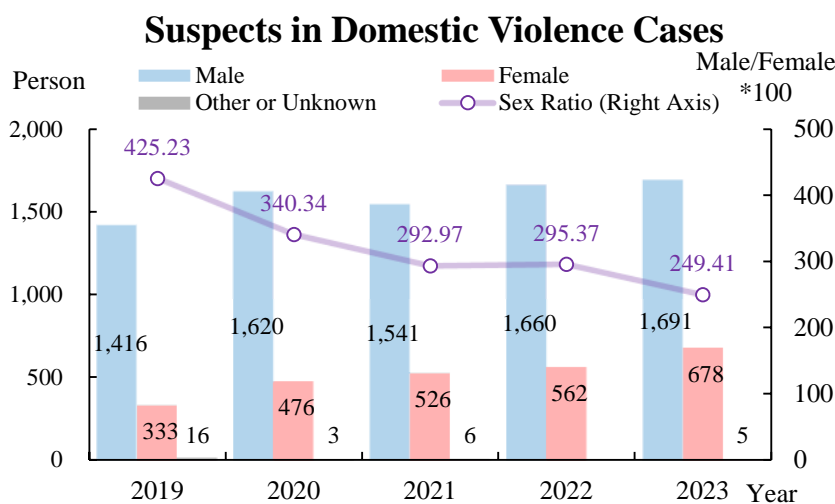
Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior

victims decreased by 6 persons (-50%). Over the past five years, the number of female victims has shown a sharp downward trend. The sex ratio rose steadily from 51.72 in 2019 to a peak of 300 in 2022, before falling to 200 in 2023. In the past three years, the sex ratio remained above 100, indicating that male victims have outnumbered female victims.

3. Domestic Violence

Male suspects remained the majority in domestic violence cases over the past five years, but the sex ratio has shown a gradual decrease

In 2023, there were 3,068 reported cases of domestic violence in the county, an increase of 202 cases (+7.05%) compared to 2,866 cases in 2022. There were a total of 2,374 suspects, including 678 females (28.56%), a 20.64%

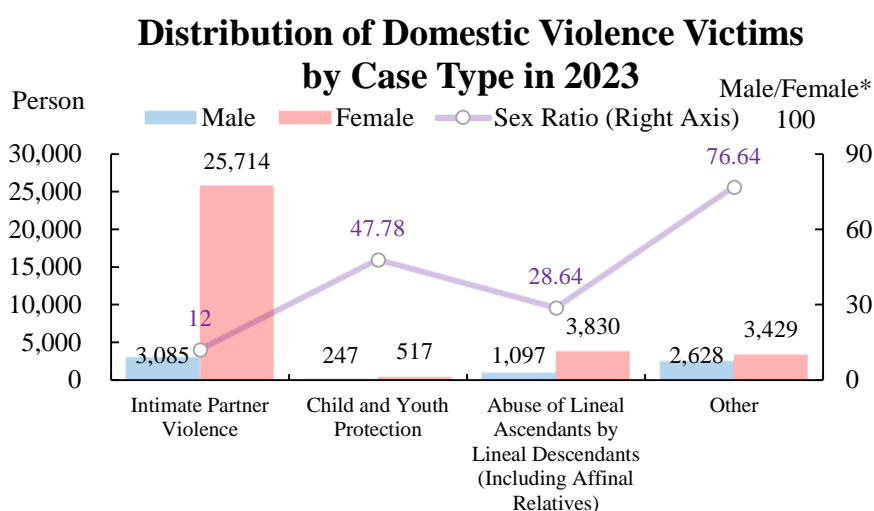


Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior

increase from the previous year, and 1,691 males (71.23%), a 1.87% increase. According to the sex ratio, the figure in 2023 was 249.41, meaning the number of male suspects was approximately 2.49 times that of female suspects. Although male suspects remained the majority, the sex ratio has shown a gradual downward trend over the years.

In 2023, most reported domestic violence cases involved intimate partner violence

In 2023, there were a total of 40,547 reported instances of domestic violence victims in the county, including 33,490 female victims (82.60%) and 7,057 male victims (17.40%). In terms of

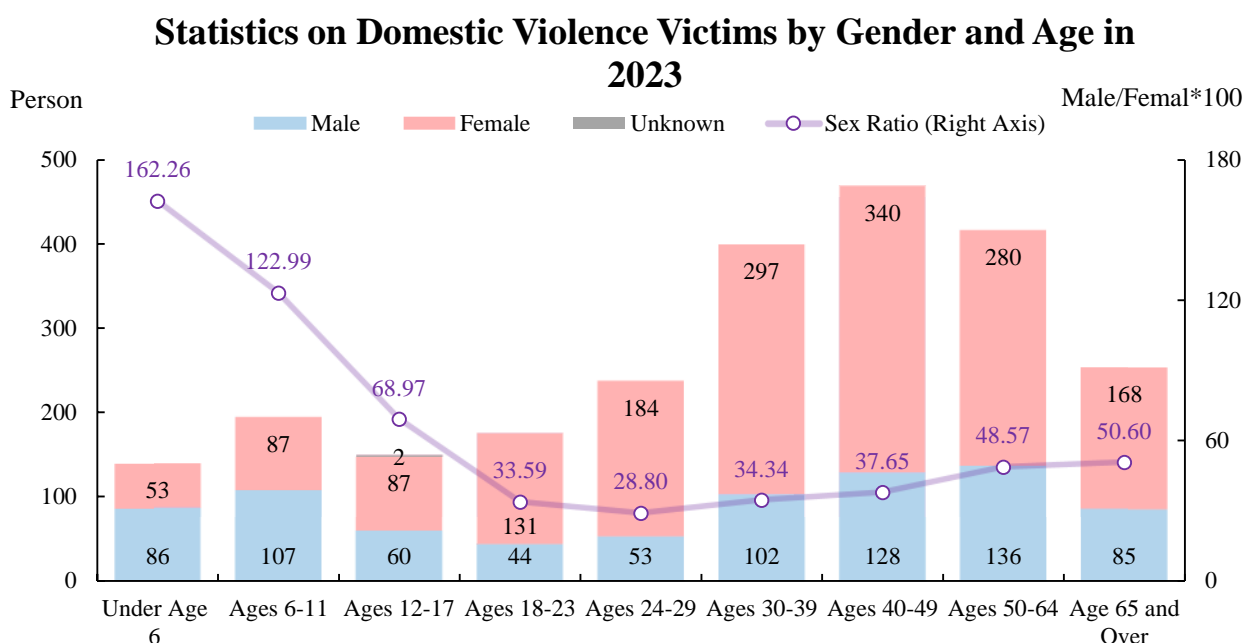


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

case types, both male and female victims were most frequently involved in intimate partner violence cases. Among them, there were 3,085 instances involving male victims and 25,714 instances involving female victims, with the number of female victims being 8.34 times that of male victims.

The proportion of child and youth victims in domestic violence cases has increased over the past three years

In 2023, based on the age distribution of reported domestic violence victims in the county, there were 333 victims under the age of 12 (classified as children and youth), accounting for 13.70% of the total. Among them, there were 193 male victims, outnumbering 140 female victims, making it the only age group where male victims exceeded female victims. In all other age groups, female victims outnumbered male victims. In recent years, the number of child and youth victims has shown an increasing trend, rising from 256 in 2021 to 288 in 2022, and 333 in 2023. Over the three years, the number of male victims increased by 49 persons (+34.03%, from 144 persons in 2021), while the number of female victims increased by 28 persons (+25%, from 112 persons in 2021). °

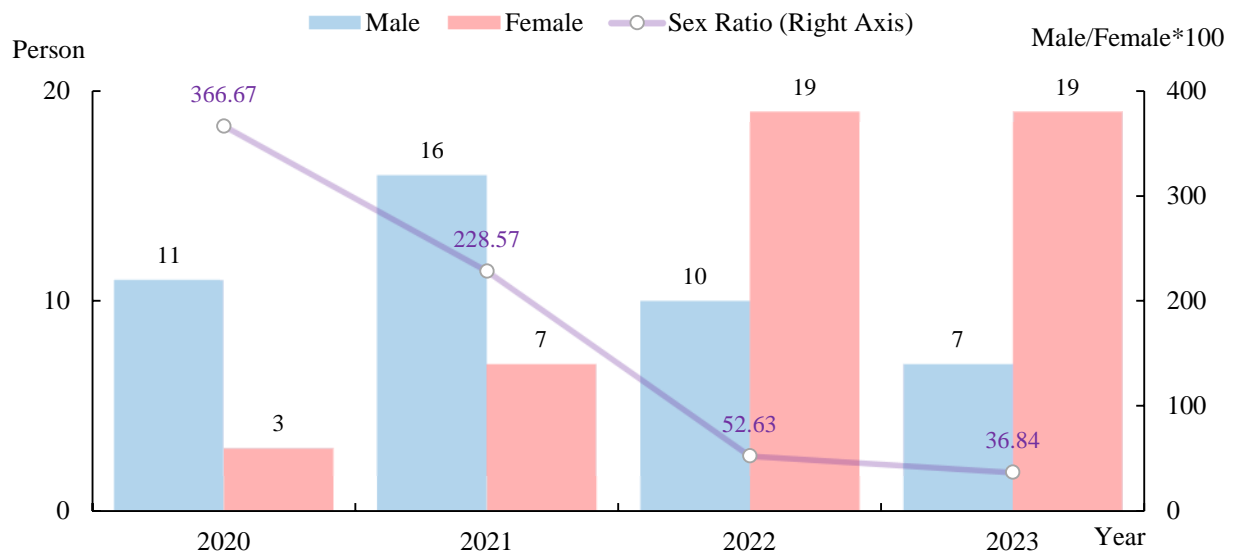


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Female victims are the majority in same-sex intimate partner violence cases, with an upward trend in recent years; most involve cohabiting partners

In 2023, among reported domestic violence cases, there were a total of 26 victims involving same-sex intimate partner violence in the county. Among them, 19 were female victims (73.08%) and 7 were male victims (26.92%). The number of female victims has shown a gradual increase in recent years.

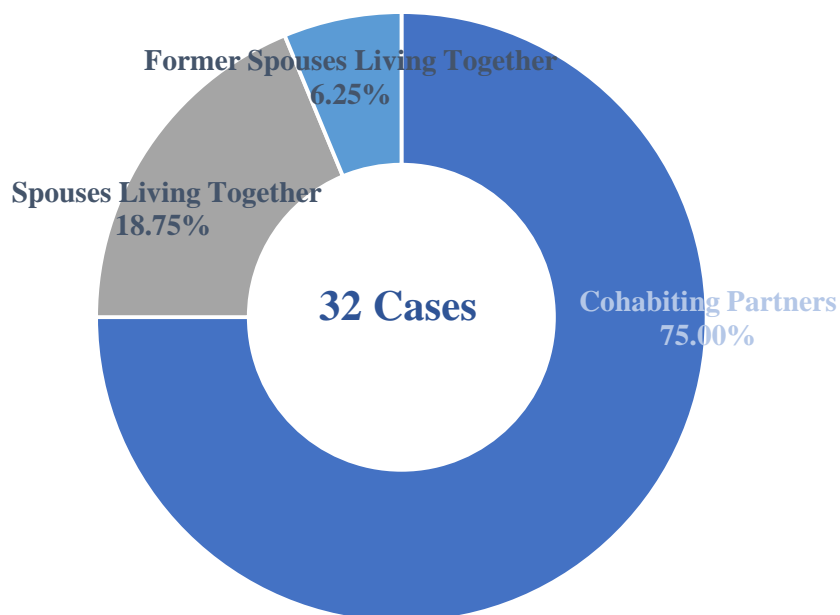
Victims of Reported Same-Sex Intimate Partner Violence Cases



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Based on the number of reported cases, in 2023, there were a total of 32 reported cases of domestic violence involving same-sex intimate partners in the county. Among them, 24 cases (75%) involved cohabiting partners (including 14 cases of current cohabitation and 10 cases of former cohabitation), 6 cases (18.75%) involved spouses living together, and 2 cases (6.25%) involved former spouses living together.

Relationship Between Victims and Respondents in Reported Same-Sex Intimate Partner Violence Cases in 2023



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

4. Sexual Harassment

In recent years, “kissing, hugging, or touching private parts opportunistically” was the most common behavior among substantiated sexual harassment cases, while “humiliating, derogatory, hostile, or harassing language” showed the largest increase

In 2023, among substantiated sexual harassment complaints in the county, based on behavioral patterns, “humiliating, derogatory, hostile, or harassing language” accounted for the highest proportion with 10 cases (32.26%), followed by “kissing, hugging, or touching the breasts, buttocks, or other private parts opportunistically” with 8 cases (25.81%). Reviewing data from recent years, the number of substantiated sexual harassment cases has shown an upward trend. Accumulated over the past four years, “kissing, hugging, or touching the breasts, buttocks, or other private parts opportunistically” remained the most common behavior, accounting for 33.70%, followed by “humiliating, derogatory, hostile, or harassing language” at 18.48%. Notably, the number of cases involving “humiliating, derogatory, hostile, or harassing language” increased by 9 cases, a 900% rise compared to 2020.

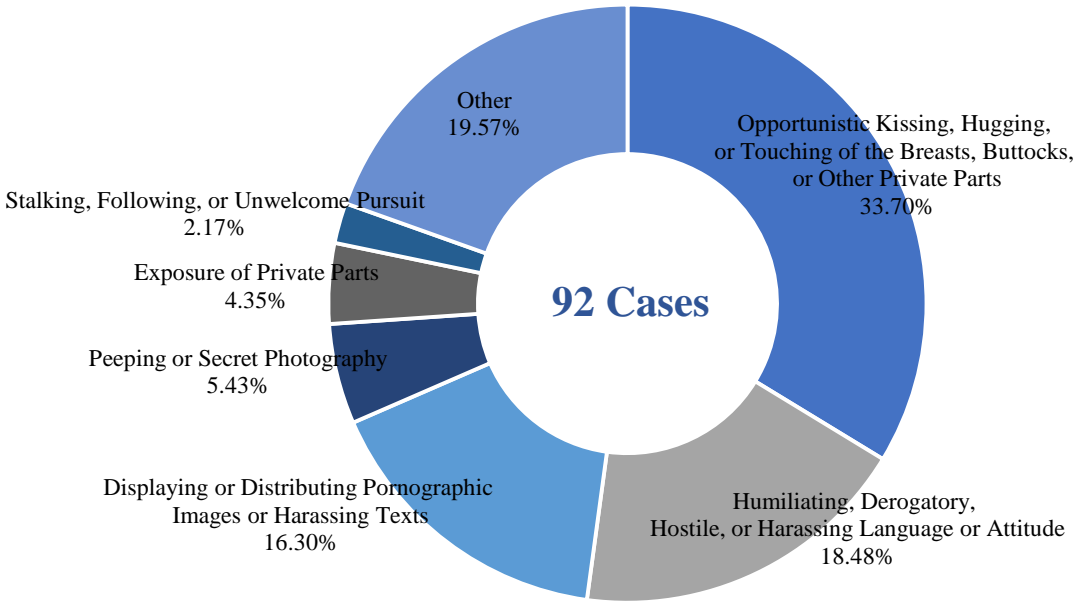
Behavioral Patterns and Victim Statistics of Sexual Harassment Cases in Hualien County

Unit: Case

Behavioral Pattern	Total		Humiliating, Derogatory, Hostile, or Harassing Language or Attitude		Stalking, Following, or Unwelcome Pursuit		Peeping or Secret Photography		Displaying or Distributing Pornographic Images or Harassing Texts		Exposure of Private Parts		Opportunistic Kissing, Hugging, or Touching of the Breasts, Buttocks, or Other Private Parts		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2020	4	16	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	3	-	-	2	7	-	3
2021	1	25	-	4	-	1	-	-	1	5	-	1	-	8	-	6
2022	1	14	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	6	1	3
2023	4	27	2	8	-	1	-	1	-	4	1	1	1	7	-	5

Source: Department of Social Affairs, Hualien County Government

Statistics on Behavioral Patterns of Sexual Harassment Cases in Hualien County from 2020 to 2023

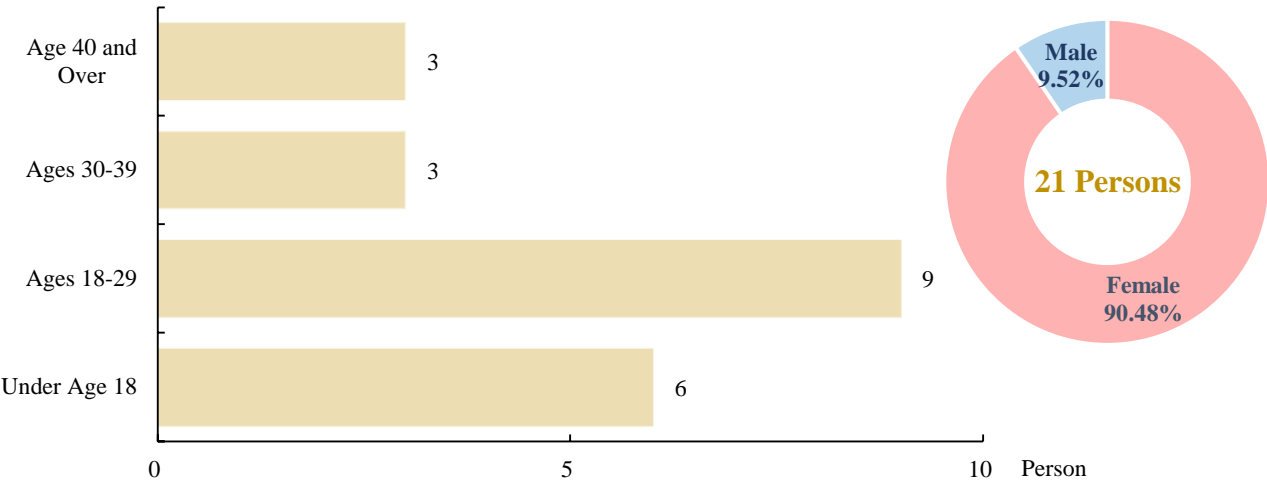


Source: Department of Social Affairs, Hualien County Government

Ninety percent of sexual harassment victims are female, with the highest proportion aged 18 to 29

In 2023, there were a total of 21 victims in substantiated sexual harassment cases in the county, including 19 females (90.48%) and 2 males (9.52%). Both male and female victim numbers increased compared to 2022, when there were no male victims and 11 female victims. By age group, the largest number of victims were aged 18 to 29, accounting for 9 persons (42.86%), followed by those under 18 years of age, accounting for 6 persons (28.57%).

Overview of Victims in Substantiated Sexual Harassment Cases in 2023

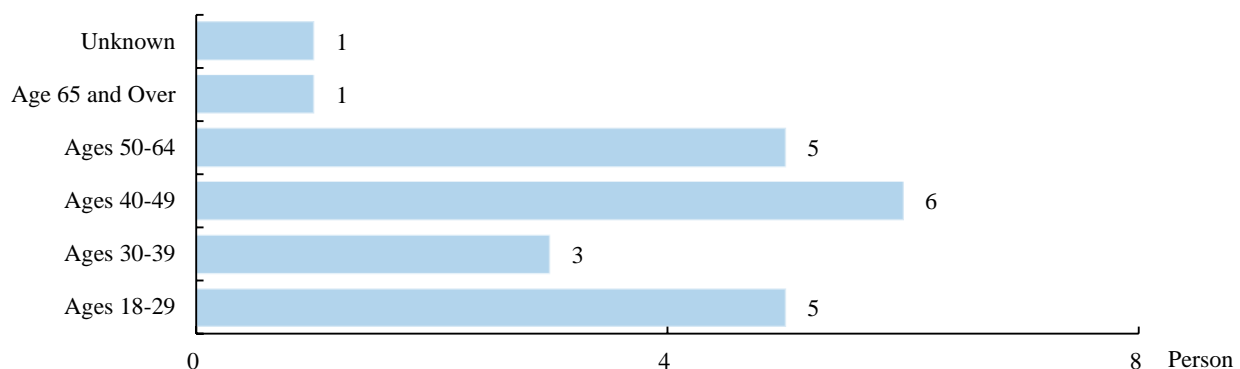


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

All sexual harassment suspects were male, with the highest proportion aged 40 to 49

In 2023, there were a total of 21 perpetrators in substantiated sexual harassment cases in the county, all of whom were male (100%). Over the past five years, all perpetrators were also male. By age group, the largest number of perpetrators in 2023 were aged 40 to 49, accounting for 6 persons (28.57%), followed by those aged 18 to 29 and 50 to 59, each accounting for 5 persons (23.81%).

Distribution of Perpetrators by Age in Substantiated Sexual Harassment Cases in 2023



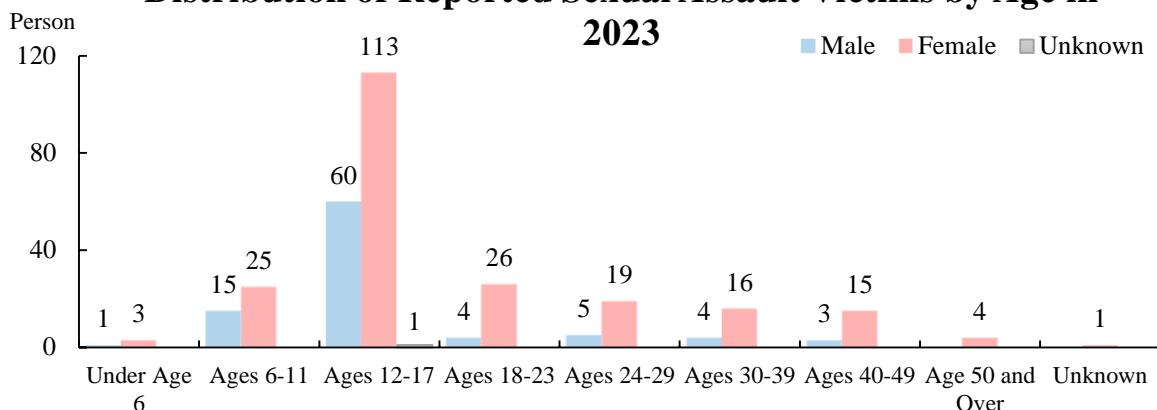
Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

5. Sexual Assault Cases

Seventy percent of sexual assault victims were female, and nearly 70% of all victims were minors

In 2023, there were a total of 315 reported sexual assault victims in the county, including 222 females (70.48%), 92 males (29.21%), and 1 unknown (0.31%). By age group, the largest number of both male and female victims was aged 12 to 17, with 113 females (accounting for 50.90% of female victims) and 60 males (accounting for 65.22% of male victims).

Distribution of Reported Sexual Assault Victims by Age in 2023

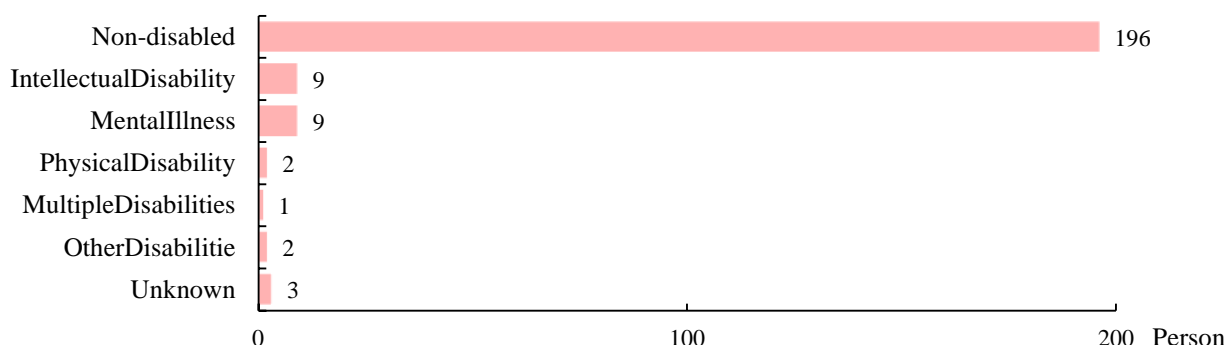


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Ten percent of female sexual assault victims were persons with disabilities

In 2023, among the female victims of reported sexual assault cases in the county, 196 (88.29%) were non-disabled, and 23 (10.36%) were persons with disabilities. The proportion of victims with disabilities increased by 0.73 percentage points compared to 2022.

Profile of Female Victims of Reported Sexual Assault Cases by Disability Status in 2023



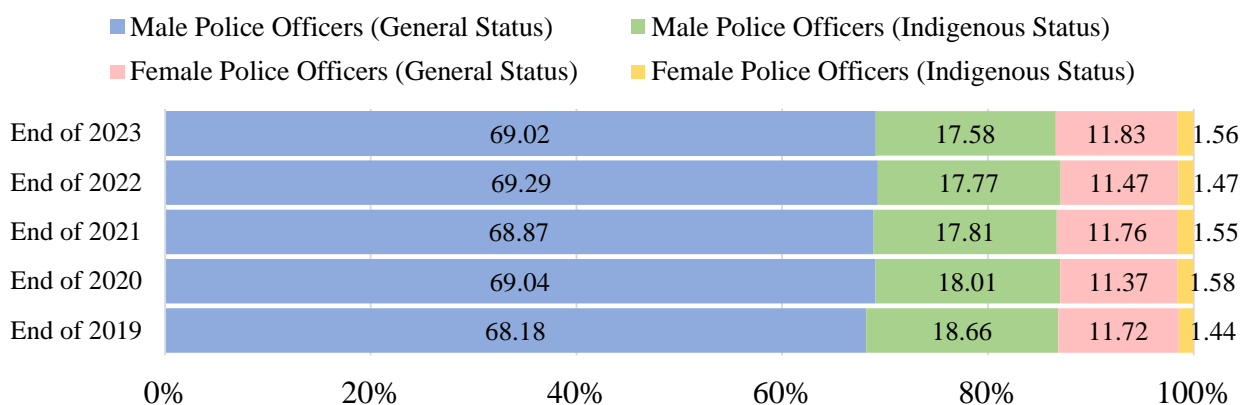
Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

6. Police Force Profile

The proportion of male indigenous police officers has shown a decreasing trend over the past five years

As of the end of 2023, among police officers in the county, 1.56% of female officers were of indigenous status, while 11.83% were of general status; 17.58% of male officers were of indigenous status, and 69.02% were of general status. The proportion of male indigenous police officers has shown a decreasing trend year by year. In contrast, the proportion of female officers, regardless of status, has slightly increased compared to the end of 2022, and rose by 0.23 percentage points compared to the end of 2019.

Status Composition of Police Officers in Police Agencies



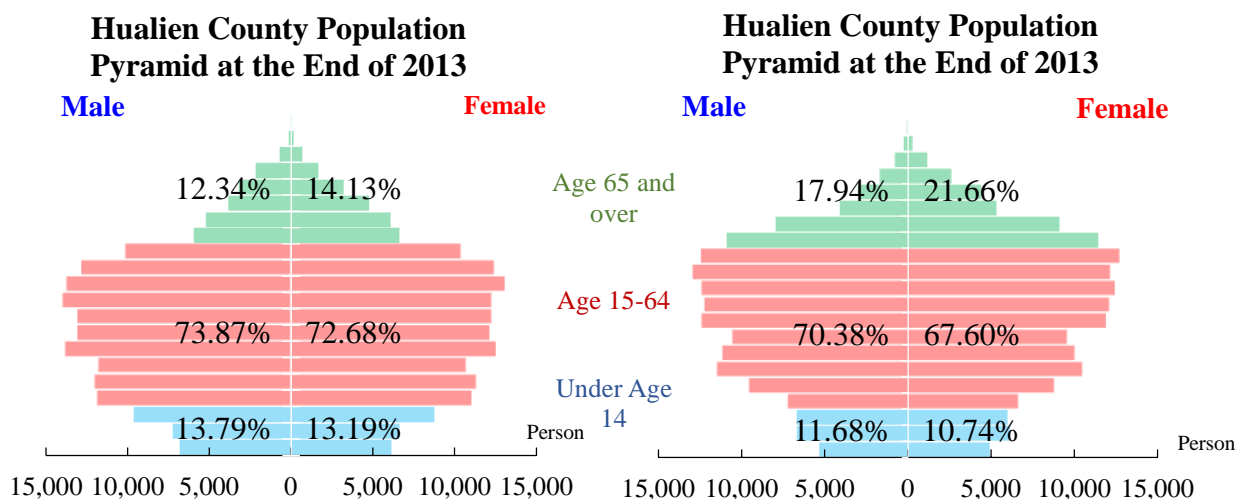
Source: National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior

V. Health, Medical Care, and Social Support

1. Population Age Structure

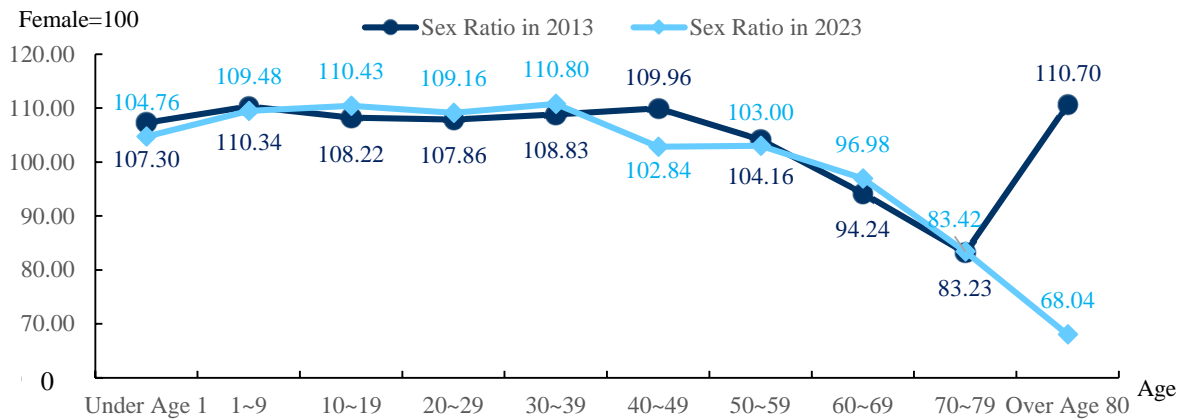
The proportion of the elderly population continues to rise, with the largest increase among women

Over ten years, observations of the county's population changes through the population pyramid show a relative decrease in the young population (ages 0 to 14) by the end of 2023, reflecting a decline in birth rates. Meanwhile, the proportion of the elderly population (ages 65 and above) has increased with age, with the percentage of men and women rising by 5.60 and 7.53 percentage points, respectively, highlighting concerns over population aging.



Observing the changes in sex ratio across different age groups over the past decade, the sex ratios for the 0–9 and 40–59 age groups showed a decline, while those for the 10–39 young and middle-aged groups slightly increased. Among the elderly population aged 60–69, the sex ratio rose by 2.74. The most significant change was seen in the population aged over 80, where the sex ratio dropped sharply by 42.66, indicating a substantial increase in the proportion of elderly women.

Sex Ratio by Age Group Over the Past 10 Years



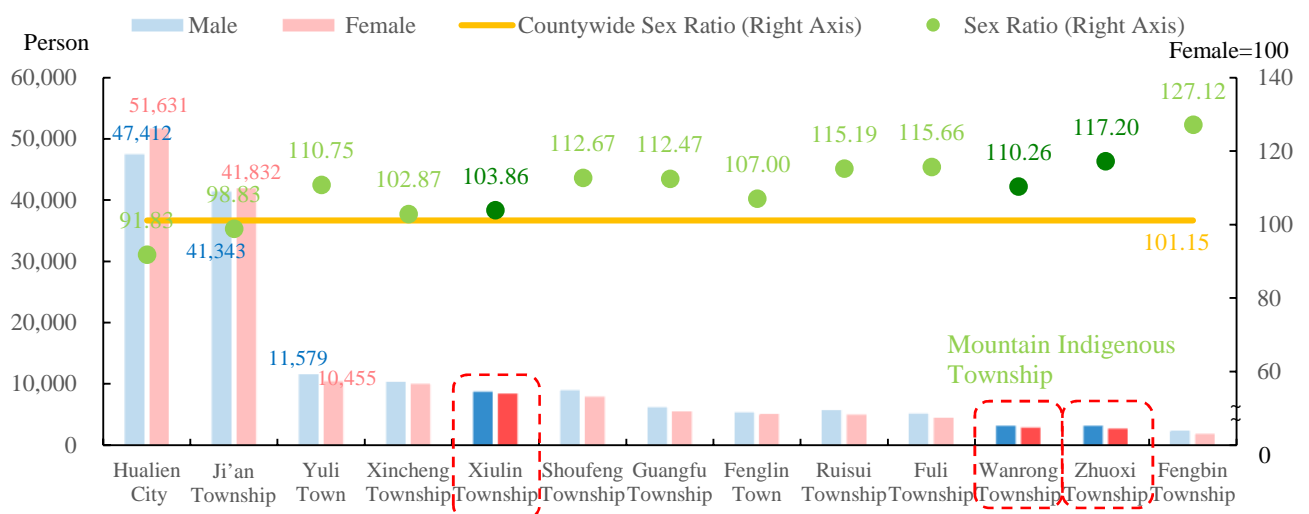
Source: Ministry of the Interior

2. Population of Each Township and City

Urban areas have more females than males, while rural areas have more males than females

At the end of 2023, among all townships and cities in the county, Hualien City had the largest population with 99,043 people (31.20%), followed by Ji'an Township with 83,175 people (26.20%) and Yuli Township with 22,034 people (6.94%). Except for Hualien City and Ji'an Township, where the female population exceeds the male population and the sex ratio is lower than that of the county overall, all other townships have more males than females, and their sex ratios are higher than the county average, with Fengbin Township having the highest sex ratio at 127.12.

Population of Each Township and City at the End of 2023

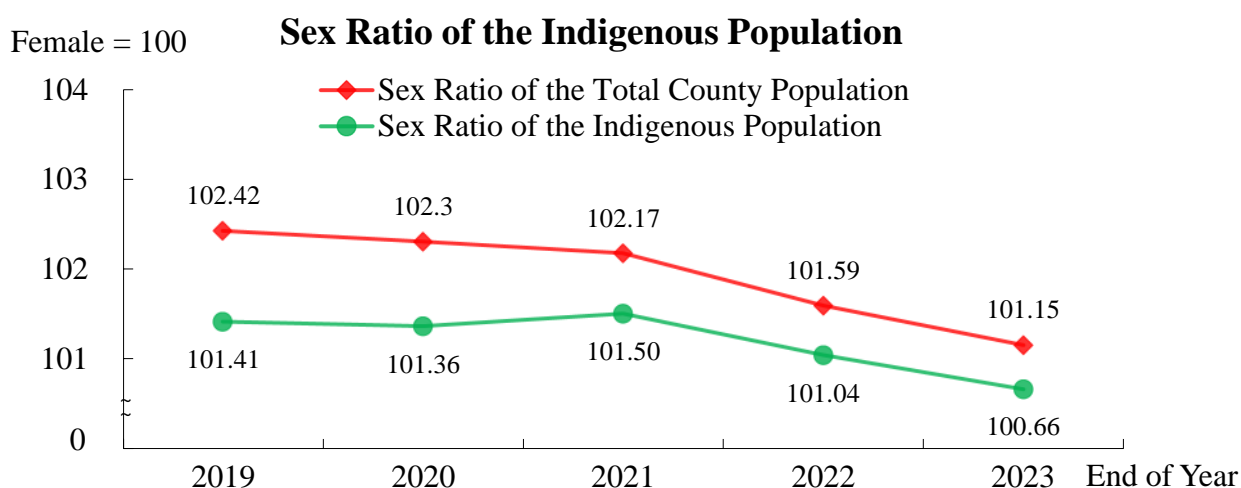


Source: Ministry of the Interior

3. Indigenous Population

The sex ratio of indigenous peoples is lower than that of the countywide population, but the gap has been narrowing year by year

At the end of 2023, Hualien County's indigenous population totaled 93,267, comprising 46,481 females (49.84%) and 46,786 males (50.16%), with a sex ratio of 100.66 (meaning there were 100.66 males for every 100 females), slightly lower than the 101.04 recorded at the end of 2022. Observing the sex ratio between the countywide population and the indigenous population over the past five years, the indigenous sex ratio has consistently been lower than that of the overall county population, though the gap has been narrowing year by year.

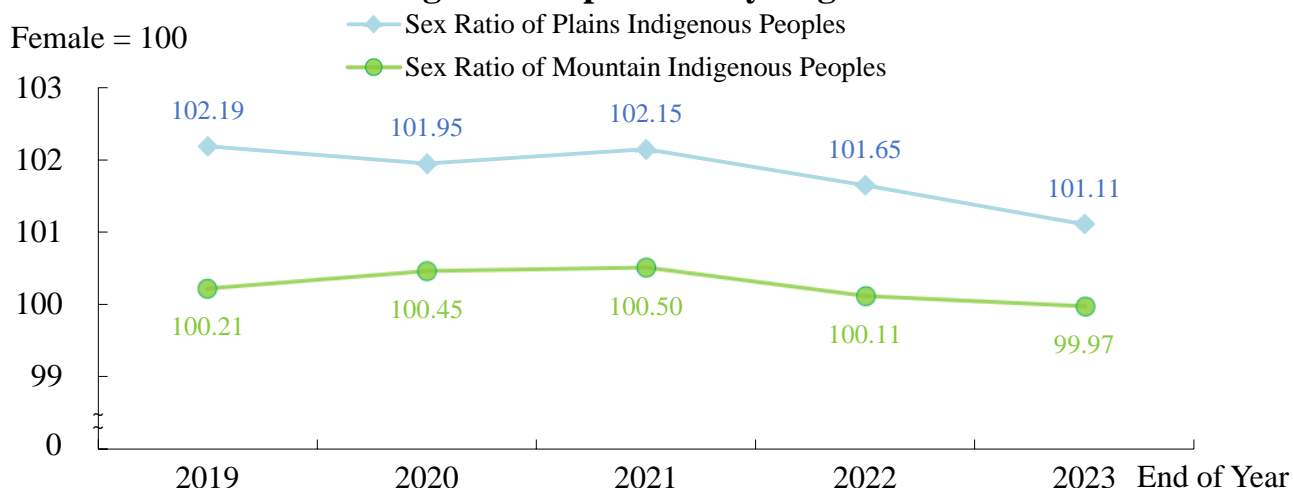


Source: Department of Household Registration, Ministry of the Interior

The sex ratio of mountain indigenous peoples is lower than that of plains indigenous peoples

Based on household registration status, by the end of 2023, the plains indigenous population of the county totaled 56,252, with 27,971 females (49.72%) and 28,281 males (50.28%), resulting in a sex ratio of 101.11, slightly lower than 101.65 at the end of 2022. The mountain indigenous population totaled 37,015, with 18,510 females (50.01%) and 18,505 males (49.99%), resulting in a sex ratio of 99.97, slightly lower than 100.11 at the end of 2022. Over the past five years, the sex ratio of mountain indigenous peoples has consistently been lower than that of plains indigenous peoples, although the gap has been gradually narrowing.

Sex Ratio of Indigenous Population by Registration Status

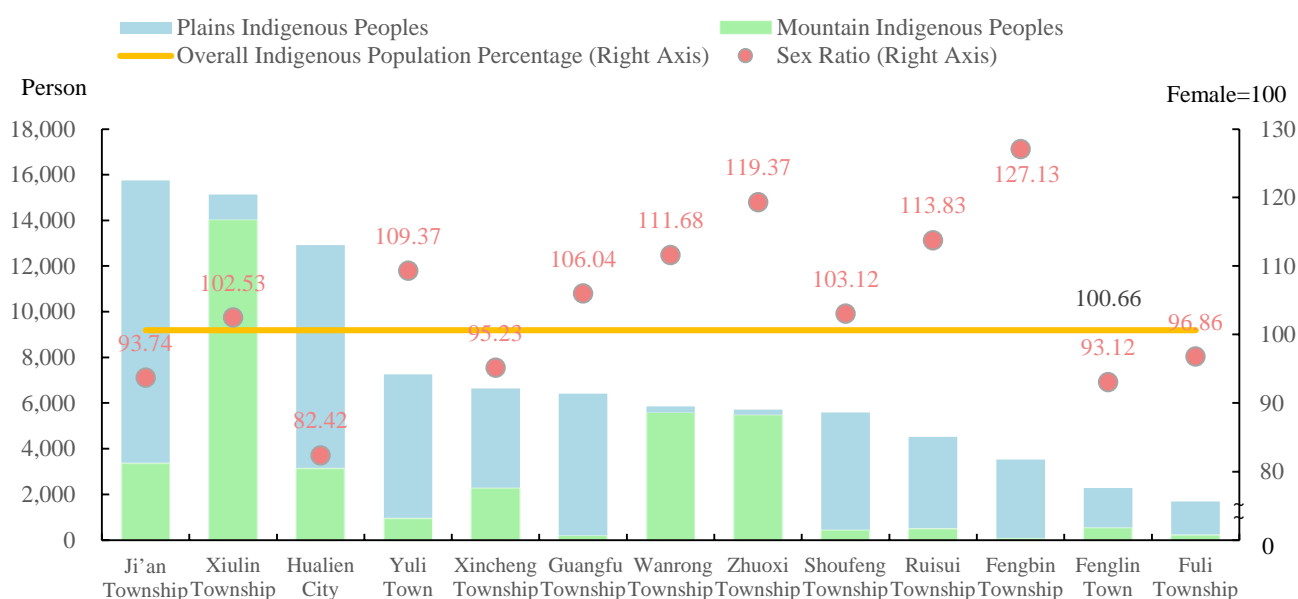


Source: Department of Household Registration, Ministry of the Interior

Sex ratio of indigenous peoples in mountain townships is higher than the overall indigenous sex ratio, but Fengbin Township (a plains indigenous township) has the highest sex ratio

Further examining the indigenous population across townships in the county, at the end of 2023, Ji'an Township had the largest number with 15,743 individuals (16.88%), followed by Xiulin Township with 15,133 individuals (16.23%), and Hualien City with 12,917 individuals (13.85%). Among all townships, Hualien City had the lowest indigenous sex ratio at 82.42, while Fengbin Township had the highest at 127.13.

Number and Sex Ratio of Indigenous Population by Township/City in the County at the End of 2023



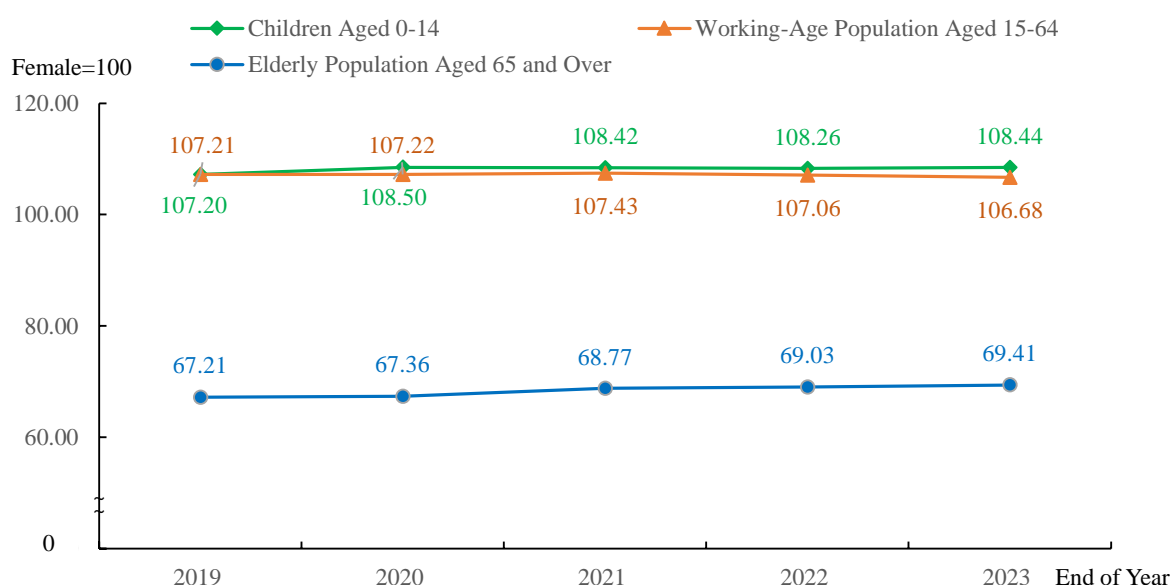
Source: Department of Civil Affairs, Hualien County Government

4. Age-Specific Sex Ratio of the Indigenous Population

Sex ratio among elderly indigenous people is lower, but has shown an upward trend in recent years

From 2019 to 2023, the sex ratio among the indigenous young and working-age populations in the county remained relatively stable, with the ratio for the young population ranging between 107.2 and 108.5, and that for the working-age population between 106.6 and 107.6. However, the sex ratio among those aged 65 and over increased from 67.21 at the end of 2019 to 69.41 at the end of 2023, showing a steady upward trend over the past five years.

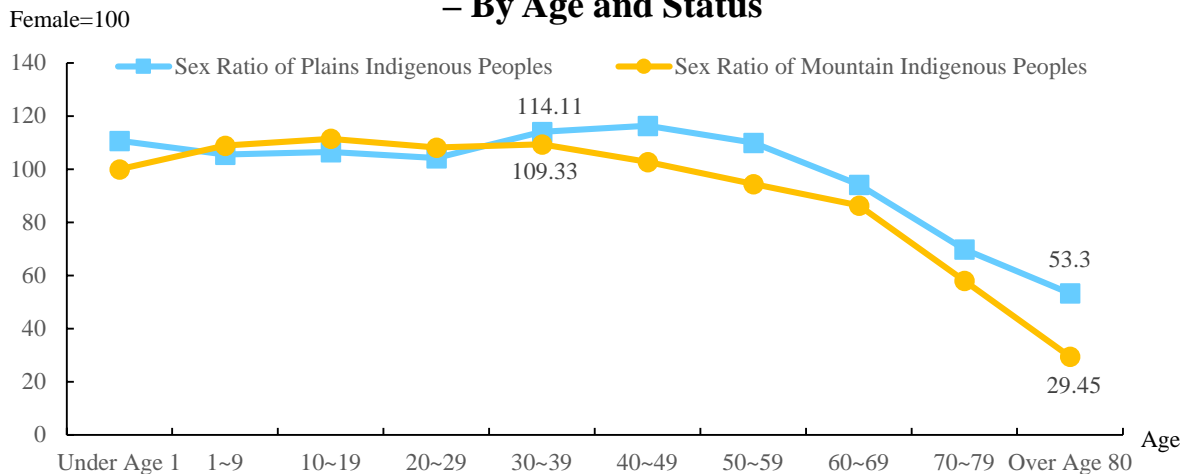
Sex Ratio by Age Structure of Indigenous Population



Source: Department of Household Registration, Ministry of the Interior

An analysis of the sex ratio among plains and mountain indigenous peoples in the county in 2023 reveals that for those aged 0–49, both groups exhibit a higher number of males than females, particularly among the 30–39 age group, where the sex ratio for plains indigenous peoples reaches 114.11. As age increases, the sex ratio shows a declining trend for both plains and mountain indigenous groups. Notably, among those aged 80 and over, the sex ratio drops significantly, with mountain indigenous peoples at only 29.45 and plains indigenous peoples at 53.3, indicating that elderly females greatly outnumber elderly males.

Sex Ratio of Indigenous Population in 2023 – By Age and Status



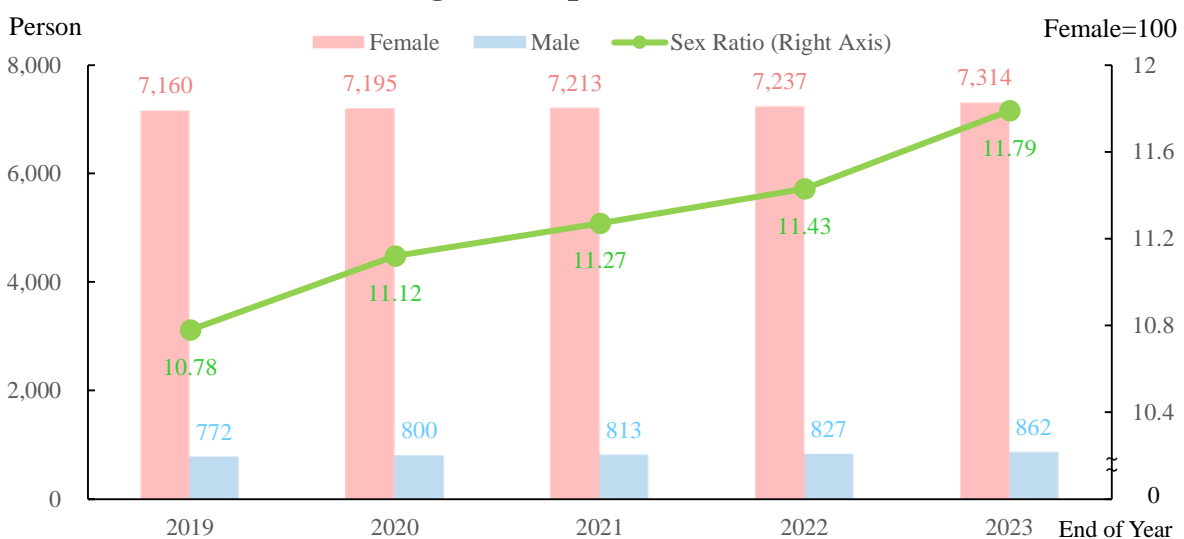
Source: Department of Household Registration, Ministry of the Interior

5. New Immigrant Population

New immigrant women remain the majority, but the proportion of men has continued to increase over the past five years

At the end of 2023, the new immigrant population in the county was 8,176, including 7,314 women (89.46%) and 862 men (10.54%), with a sex ratio of 11.79. Observing recent trends, both the male and female populations have increased, but the growth rate of the male population has been higher than that of the female population, resulting in a gradual rise in the sex ratio.

New Immigrant Population and Sex Ratio

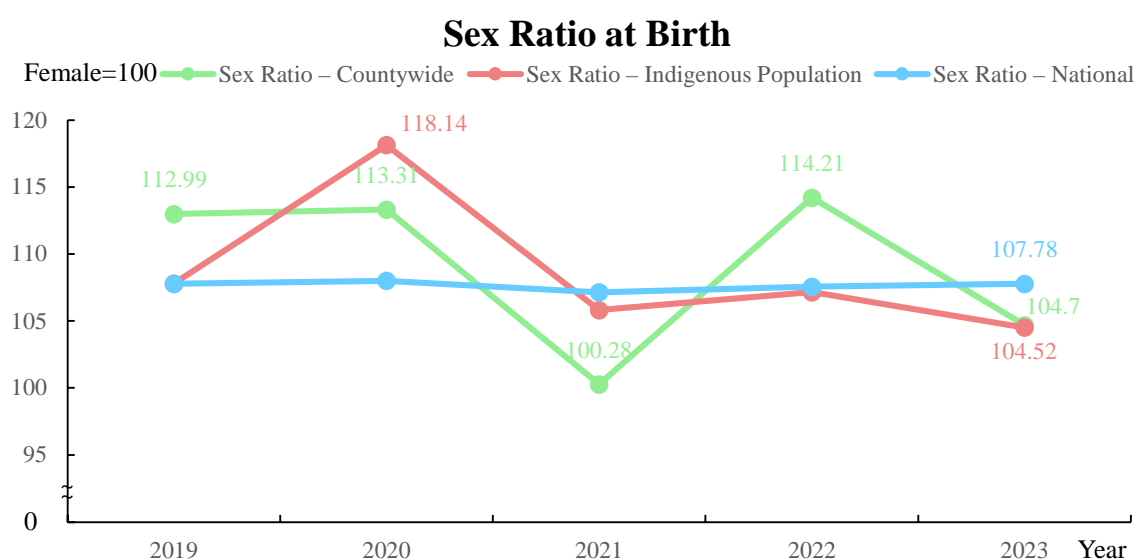


Source: National Immigration Agency and Department of Household Registration, Ministry of the Interior

6. Birth Statistics

Infant sex ratios in Hualien County, both overall and among Indigenous populations, were lower than the national figures in 2023.

Over the past five years, the infant sex ratio in Hualien County has shown greater fluctuations compared to the national level, peaking at 114.21 in 2022 and dropping to a low of 100.28 in 2021—a difference of 13.93 points. Among Indigenous populations in the county, the sex ratio reached a high of 118.14 in 2020 before decreasing to 104.52 in 2023, with a difference of 13.62 points. In contrast, the national sex ratio has remained stable at around 107.

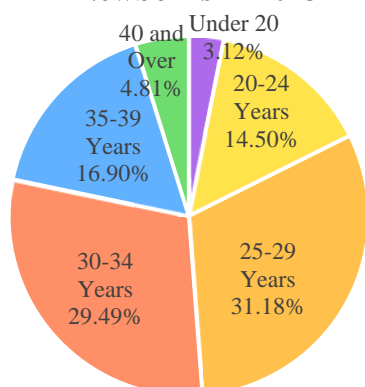


Source: Ministry of the Interior

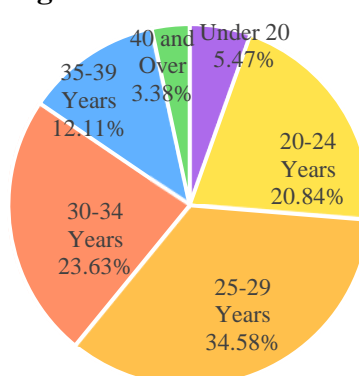
Proportion of young mothers among indigenous newborns is higher

At the end of 2023, mothers of newborns in the county were mostly aged between 25 and 34, accounting for 60.67% of all births. Mothers of indigenous newborns were also concentrated in this age group, though slightly lower at 58.21%. When comparing the maternal age distribution, indigenous mothers tended to be younger. Over 60% of indigenous newborns were born to mothers under the age of 30, which is 12 percentage points higher than the 48.80% for all newborns. Notably, 5.47% of indigenous newborns were born to underage mothers (under 20 years old), 2.35 percentage points higher than the 3.12% for all newborns.

Age Distribution of Mothers of Newborns in 2023



Age Distribution of Mothers of Indigenous Newborns in 2023

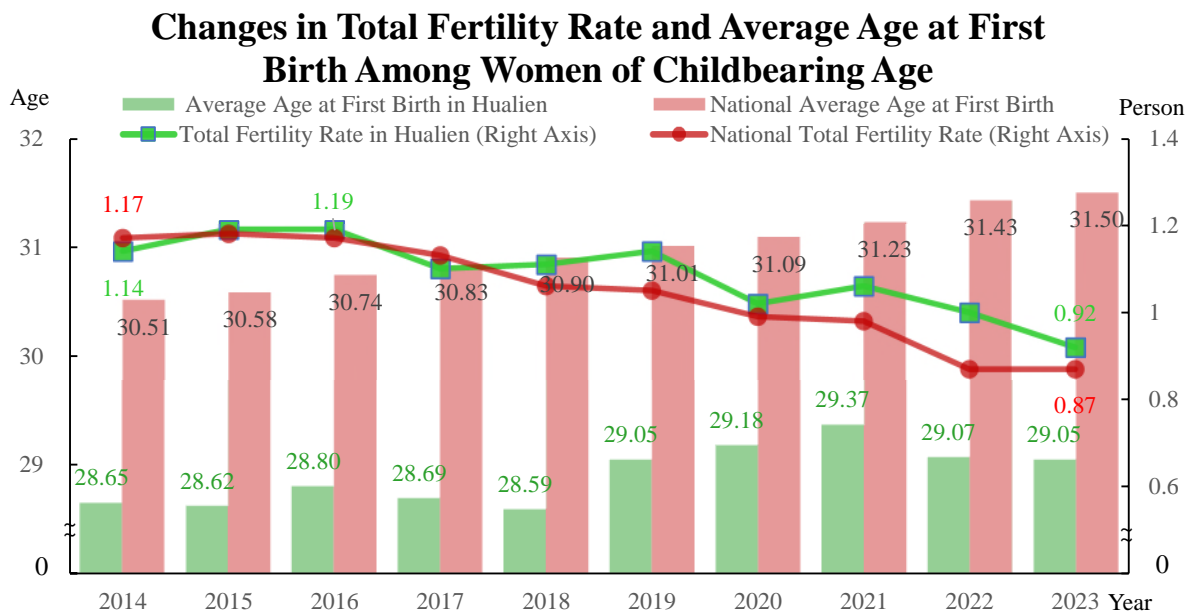


Source: Ministry of the Interior

Total fertility rate of women of childbearing age falls below one for the first time in a decade; age at first birth 2.45 years younger than the national average

From 2014 to 2023, the total fertility rate of women of childbearing age¹ in the county dropped from 1.14 to 0.92, falling below one for the first time in a decade, reflecting a steady decline in fertility rates. During the same period, the average age at first birth slightly increased from 28.65 years to 29.05 years. Despite the declining fertility rate, the county's fertility rate remains higher than the national average, while the average age at first birth is lower than the national average. In 2023, the average age at first birth was 29.05 years, 2.45 years younger than the national average of 31.50 years, and has remained around 29 years over the past five years. Overall, the county's fertility trends align with the national trend of declining fertility rates, but parents in the county tend to have their first child at a younger age, perhaps reflecting different social and cultural factors.

¹ Total Fertility Rate of Women of Childbearing Age: Refers to the number of children a hypothetical cohort of women would give birth to during their lifetime if they experienced the current age-specific fertility rates throughout their reproductive years, assuming no mortality.

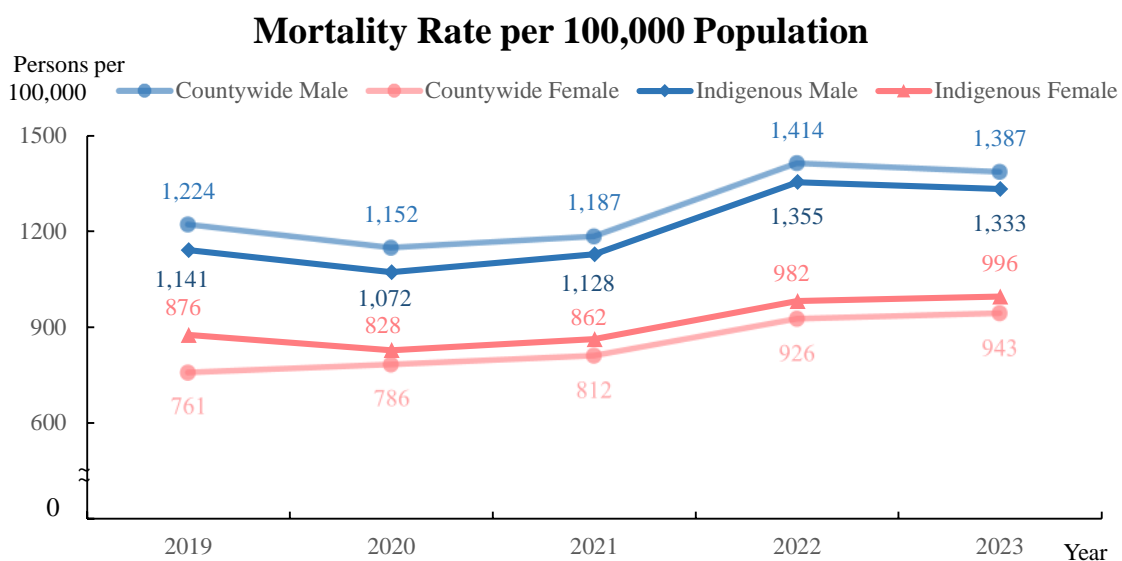


Source: Ministry of the Interior

7. Mortality Rate

Female mortality rate has increased

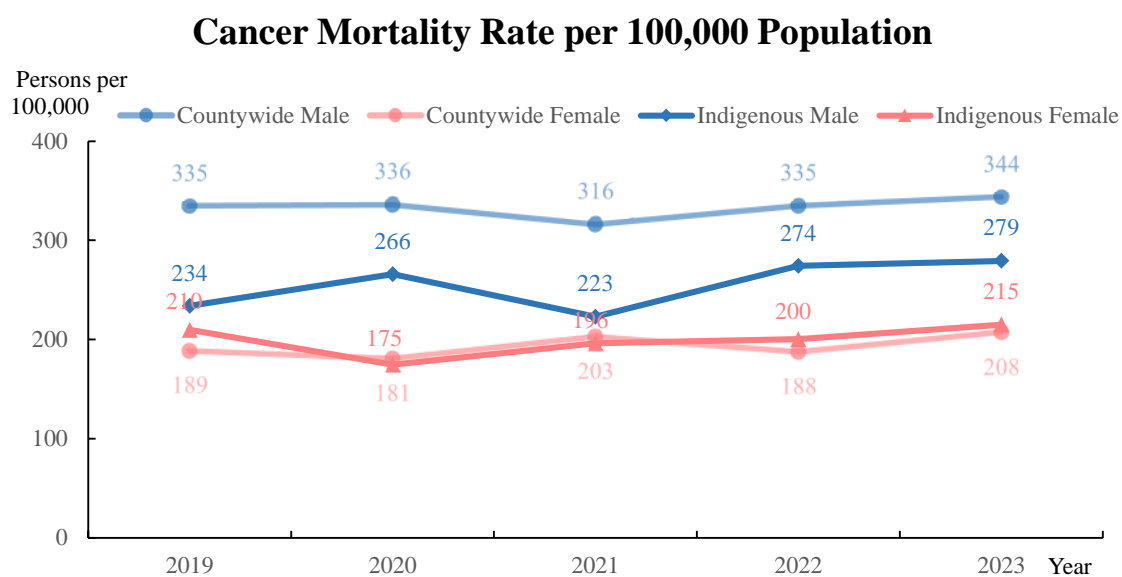
From 2019 to 2023, the overall mortality rates for both men and women increased significantly, with the male mortality rate rising from 1,224 to 1,387 per 100,000 population and the female mortality rate increasing from 761 to 943. Compared to 2022, this represents an increase of 163 for men and 182 for women. Similarly, the mortality rates among indigenous peoples showed the same upward trend; however, the mortality rate for indigenous men was lower than that of the overall male population in the county, while the mortality rate for indigenous women was higher than that of the overall female population.



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Cancer mortality rate increased the most among indigenous men over five years

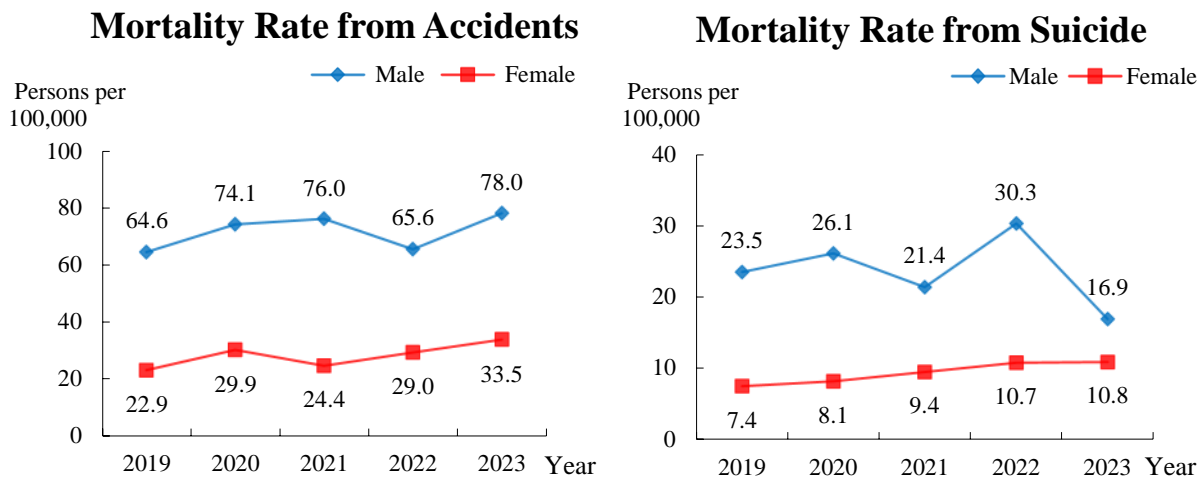
The cancer mortality rate per 100,000 population in the county, when ranked by identity, mirrors the overall mortality ranking, with men in the county having the highest rate and women the lowest. Over the past five years, cancer mortality rates have increased across all groups, with indigenous men experiencing the highest growth, rising from 234 to 279 deaths per 100,000 population, an increase of 19.23%. Women followed, with an increase from 189 to 208 deaths per 100,000 population, representing a 10.05% rise.



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Male mortality rate from accidents and female mortality rate from suicide have increased year by year

In recent years, data on mortality rates from accidents and suicide show that men have consistently had higher rates than women, particularly for accidents, which may reflect men's greater exposure to high-risk environments or engagement in hazardous occupations. In contrast, while the suicide mortality rate for women remains lower, it has shown an upward trend in recent years. Overall, men's mortality rates from both accidents and suicide have fluctuated more significantly than women's. In 2023, the male mortality rate from accidents increased by 12.4 deaths per 100,000 population compared to 2022, while the suicide mortality rate among men decreased by 13.4 deaths. In comparison, fluctuations among women have been relatively stable.

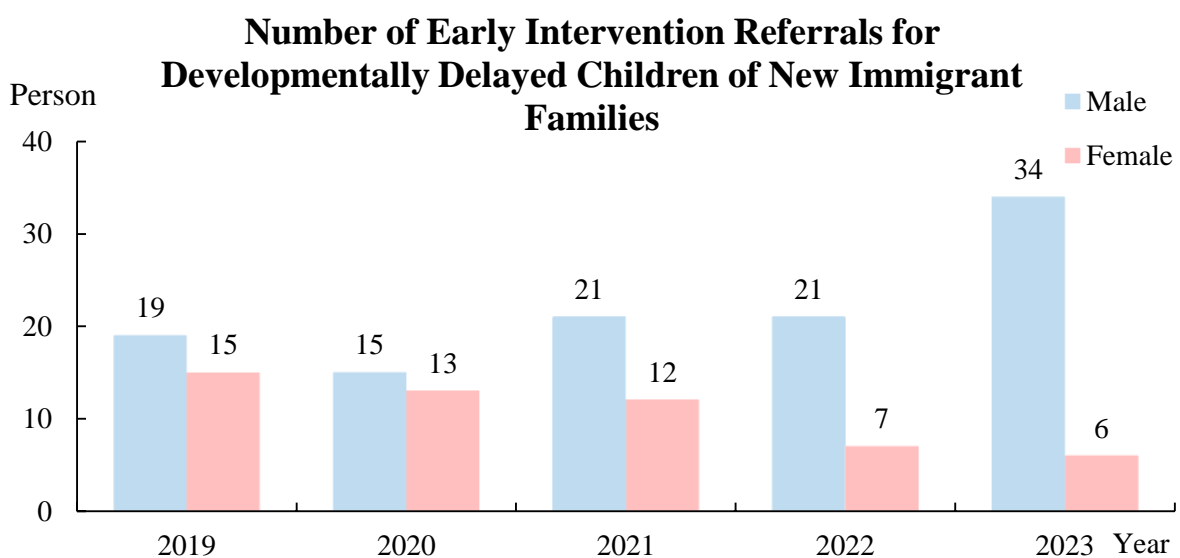


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

8. Number of Early Intervention Referrals for Developmentally Delayed Children of New Immigrant Families

More boys than girls among developmentally delayed children of new immigrant families

In 2023, there were 40 early intervention referrals for developmentally delayed children of new immigrant families in Hualien County, with 6 girls (15%) and 34 boys (85%). Over the past five years, boys have consistently accounted for the majority of cases. Compared to 2022, the number of boys increased by 13, reaching the highest number in five years, while the number of girls decreased by 1, the lowest in five years.

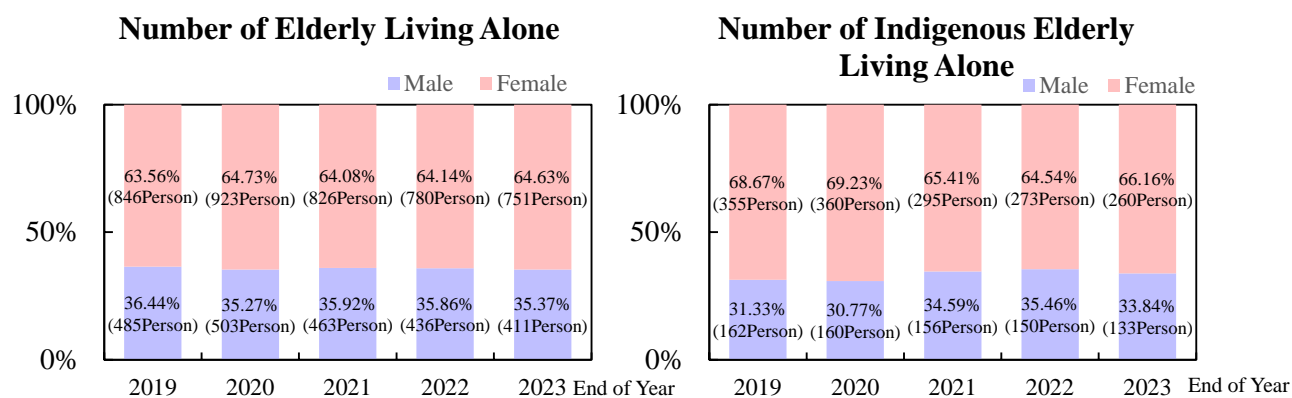


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

9. Elderly Living Alone

Over 60% of elderly living alone are women

At the end of 2023, there were 1,162 elderly individuals living alone in the county, with 751 women (64.63%) and 411 men (35.37%). Throughout the years, the proportion of women living alone has consistently been higher than that of men. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of women living alone decreased by 95, while the number of men decreased by 74. As for indigenous elderly living alone, there were 393 individuals at the end of 2023, with 260 women (66.16%) and 133 men (33.84%). Similarly, the proportion of indigenous women living alone was higher than that of indigenous men. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of indigenous women living alone decreased by 95, and the number of indigenous men decreased by 29.

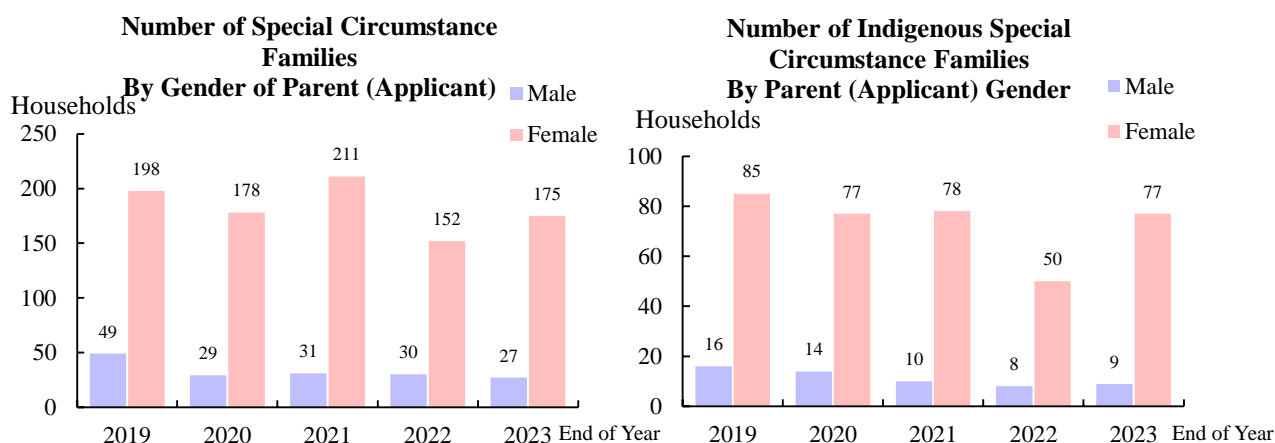


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

10. Special Circumstance Families

More than 80% of special circumstance family parents are women

At the end of 2023, there were 202 special circumstance families in the county. Among them, 175 were headed by women (86.63%) and 27 by men (13.37%), with the proportion of female-headed families consistently higher than that of male-headed families over the years. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female-headed households decreased by 23, and male-headed households decreased by 22. Among indigenous special circumstance families, there were 86 households at the end of 2023, with 77 headed by women (89.53%) and 9 by men (10.47%). Similarly, the proportion of indigenous female-headed special circumstance families remained higher than that of males. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of indigenous female-headed families decreased by 8, and male-headed families decreased by 7.

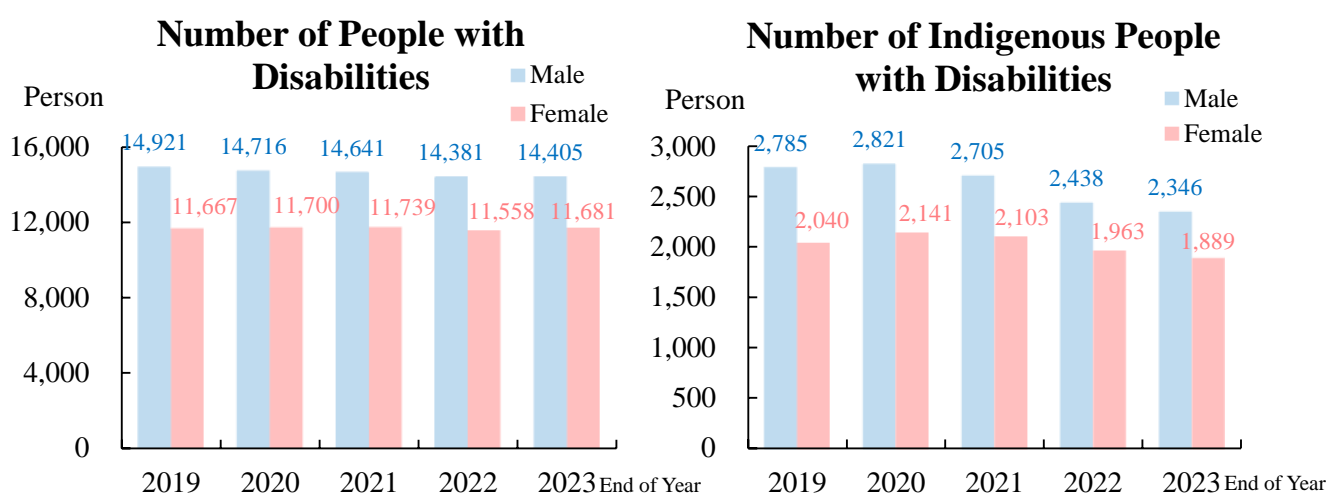


Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

11. Persons with Disabilities

The number of men with disabilities has decreased, but remains higher than that of women

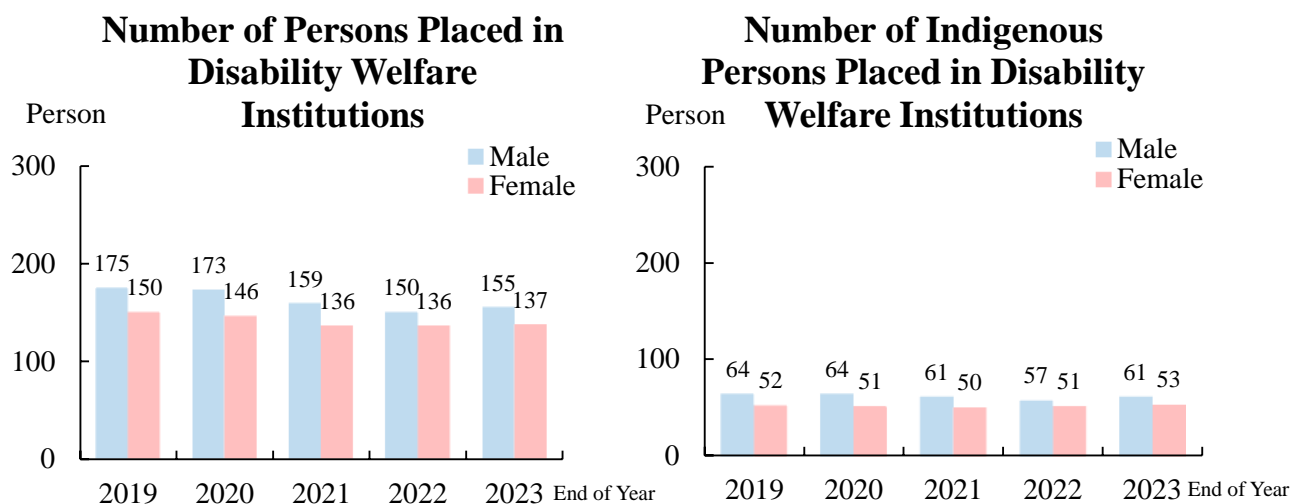
At the end of 2023, there were 14,405 men and 11,681 women with disabilities in Hualien County. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of men with disabilities decreased by 516, while the number of women increased by 14. Looking specifically at the Indigenous population, there were 2,346 men and 1,889 women with disabilities at the end of 2023. Compared to 2019, the number of Indigenous men with disabilities decreased by 439, and women by 151. In both the overall county population and the Indigenous group, the number of men with disabilities consistently exceeds that of women.



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

The number of men with disabilities placed in care facilities has exceeded that of women for five consecutive years

At the end of 2023, a total of 292 individuals with disabilities were receiving placement services in welfare institutions in the county, with 137 women (46.92%) and 155 men (53.08%). Over the past five years, men have consistently accounted for a larger proportion of placements. The overall number of placements has shown a downward trend: compared to the end of 2019, the number of men placed decreased by 20, and women by 13. Further observation of indigenous individuals with disabilities shows a similar pattern, with more men placed than women. By the end of 2023, 114 indigenous individuals were receiving placement services, including 53 women (46.49%) and 61 men (53.51%). The number of placements among indigenous individuals has remained relatively stable over the past five years.



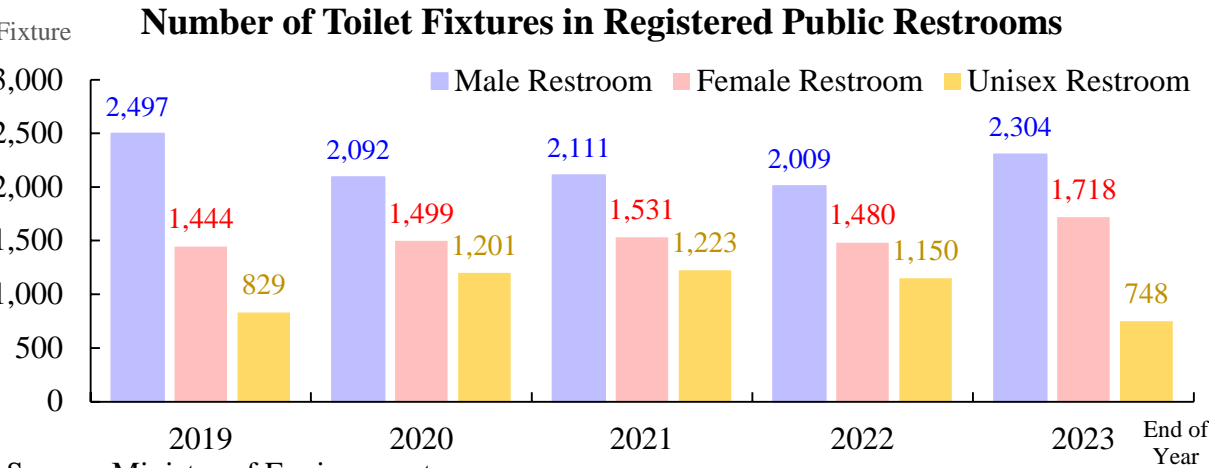
Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

VI. Environment, Energy, and Technology

1. Number of Toilet Fixtures in Registered Public Restrooms

Continued increase in the number of female toilet fixtures in registered public restrooms

At the end of 2023, there were a total of 4,770 toilet fixtures in registered public restrooms across the county. Of these, 1,718 were in women’s restrooms (36.02%), 2,304 in men’s restrooms (48.30%), and 748 were gender-neutral² (15.68%). Compared to the end of 2019, the number of women’s restroom fixtures increased by 274 (an 18.98% rise), while the number of men’s restroom fixtures decreased by 193 (a 7.73% drop), and gender-neutral fixtures declined by 81.

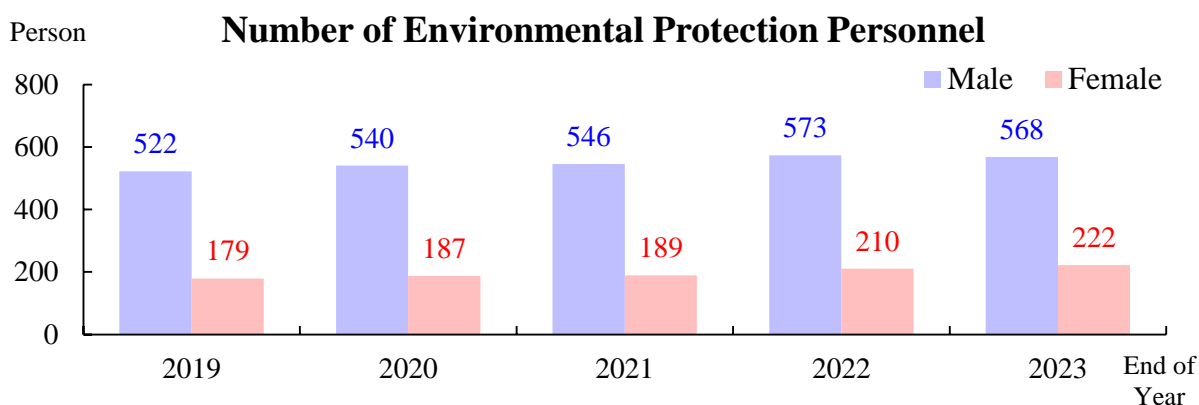


2. Number of Environmental Protection Personnel

Upward trend in environmental personnel, with males accounting for 72%

At the end of 2023, there were 790 environmental protection personnel in the county, including 222 women (28.10%) and 568 men (71.90%). The sex ratio stood at 255.86, meaning there were approximately 256 male personnel for every 100 female personnel. Compared to the end of 2022, the number of female personnel increased by 5.71%, while the number of male personnel decreased by 0.87%. Except for a slight decrease in male personnel in 2023, the number of both male and female personnel has shown steady growth over the past five years. From the end of 2019 to the end of 2022, the number of female personnel increased by 24.02%, and male personnel by 8.81%.

² A gender-neutral restroom may contain multiple toilet fixtures.

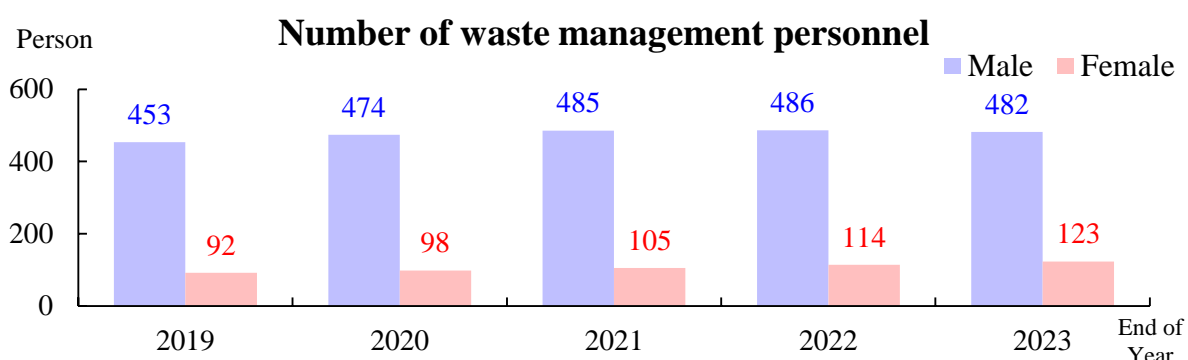


Source: Ministry of Environment

3. Number of waste management personnel

Waste management personnel are predominantly male, accounting for 80%.

At the end of 2023, there were 605 waste management personnel in the county, including 123 women (20.33%) and 482 men (79.67%), indicating that waste management remains a male-dominated field. In terms of growth, the number of female personnel increased by 33.70% compared to the end of 2019, while the number of male personnel rose by 6.40%.

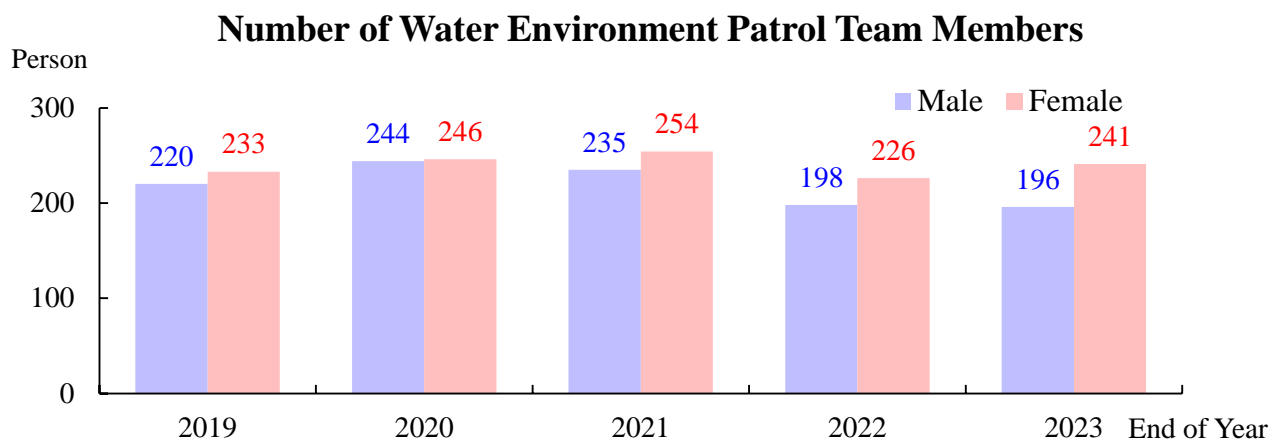


Source: Ministry of Environment

4. Number of Water Environment Patrol Team Members

Rising proportion of female members, reaching 55% at the end of 2023

At the end of 2023, there were 437 water environment patrol team members in the county, including 241 women (55.15%) and 196 men (44.85%). The sex ratio was 81.33, indicating approximately 81 male members for every 100 female members, with slightly fewer males overall. Compared to the end of 2022, the number of female members increased by 6.64%, while male members decreased by 1.01%. Compared to the end of 2019, however, female members declined by 10.91%, while male members increased by 3.43%.

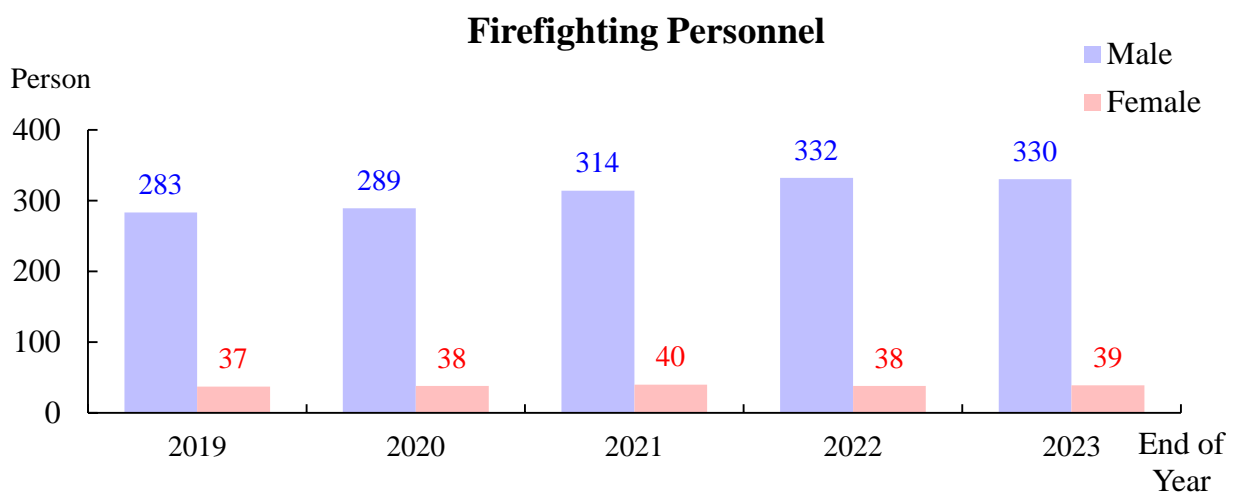


Source: Ministry of Environment

5. Firefighting Personnel

Nearly 90% of firefighting personnel are male, with the proportion increasing year by year

At the end of 2023, there were 369 firefighting personnel in the county, including 39 women (10.57%) and 330 men (89.43%), indicating that firefighting remains a male-dominated profession. Compared to the end of 2019, the number of female personnel increased by 2 (a 5.41% rise), while the number of male personnel grew by 47 (a 16.61% increase).



Source: National Fire Agency, Ministry of the Interior

