



**15TH NATIONAL
CONVENTION
ON STATISTICS**

03-05 OCTOBER 2022

*Organized by the Philippine Statistical System
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The real magnitude of child labor in the Philippines: The need to address the undercount in official statistics

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Deficient definition of child labor hampers attainment of child labor-free Philippines

- SDG 8.7: Eliminating child labor in all its forms by 2025
- PSA definition equates child labor with hazardous work
 - left out many children engaged in economic activities that are considered by Philippine law and international standards to be harmful to a child's development
- Undercount lower trajectories on the required level of decline to achieve SDG 8.7
 - affect national and local budgets for child labor
 - undermine efforts to reach every child engaged in child labor for proper intervention

Child labor violates the rights of Filipino children

- Section 3(2) of Article XV of the Philippine Constitution
- Section 2 of Republic Act 9231, otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act
- Child labor reinforces the intergenerational transfer of poverty which is a violation of several human rights

Philippines ratified international legal instruments against child labor

- a) ILO Convention No. 138 (C138) which sets the minimum age for admission to employment;
- (b) ILO Convention No. 182 (C182) which defines the worst forms of child labor; and
- (c) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Objectives of the paper

- Provides estimates of the magnitude of child labor undercount based on the child labor definition from:
 - ILO C138: Minimum Age Convention 1973
 - RA 9231: Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act
- Examine differential incidence rates of child labor and undercount rates by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics

PSA definition of child labor

- PSA definition limits child labor to **hazardous work**.
- Two types:
 - **Work in hazardous conditions** (e.g., work that exposes children to hazardous substances, agents, or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health)
 - **Work under difficult conditions** (e.g., work for excessively long hours or during the night)

ILO C138 definition of child labor

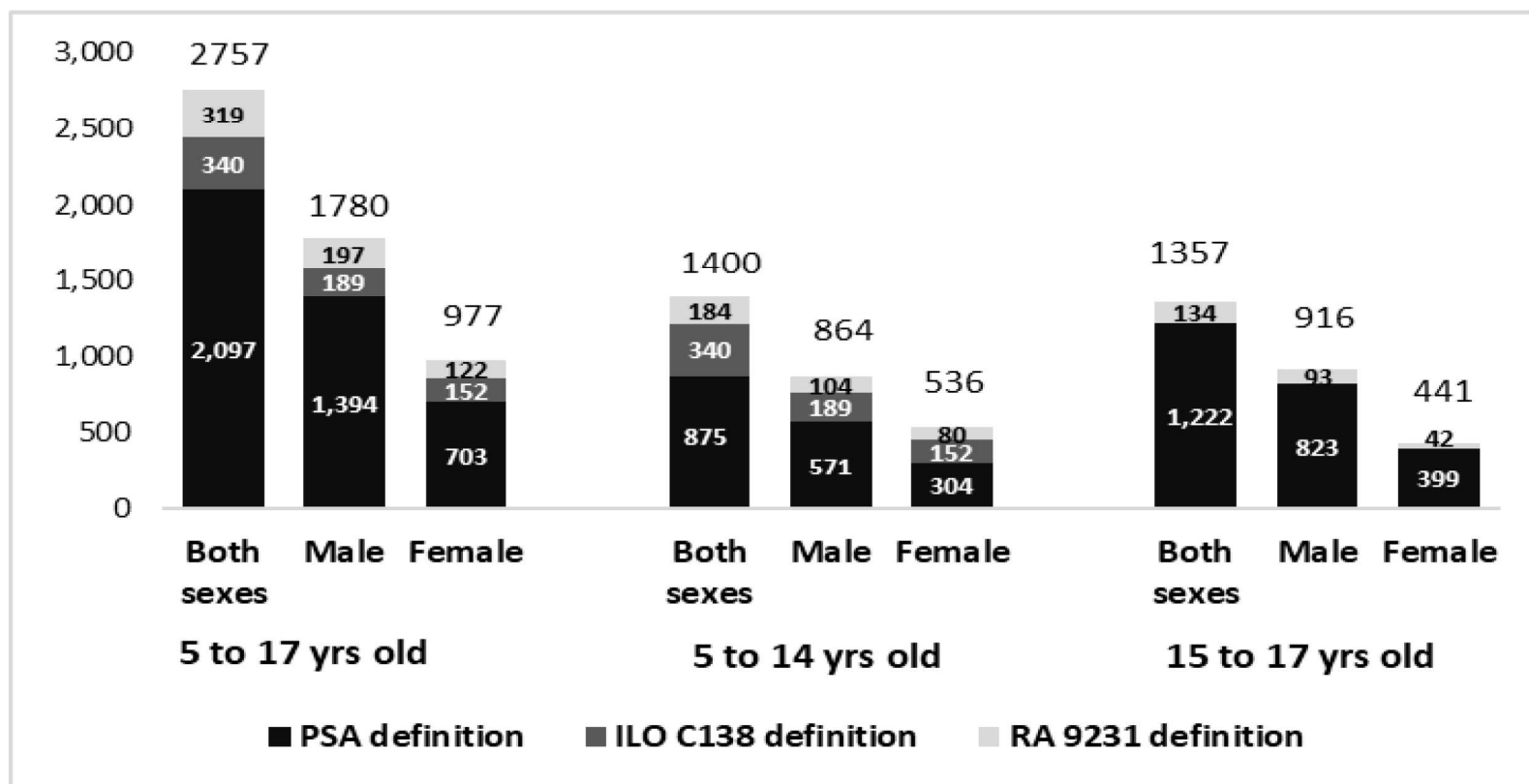
- ILO C138 definition considers as child labor the following:
- Work done by children below 12 years old
- Work by children between 12 and 14 years old that is beyond the permissible work hours of 14 hours a week

RA 9231 definition of child labor

- RA 9231 defines child labor as including:
- Work that interferes with a child's schooling
- Work by children below 15 years old that is unsupervised by a parent or guardian

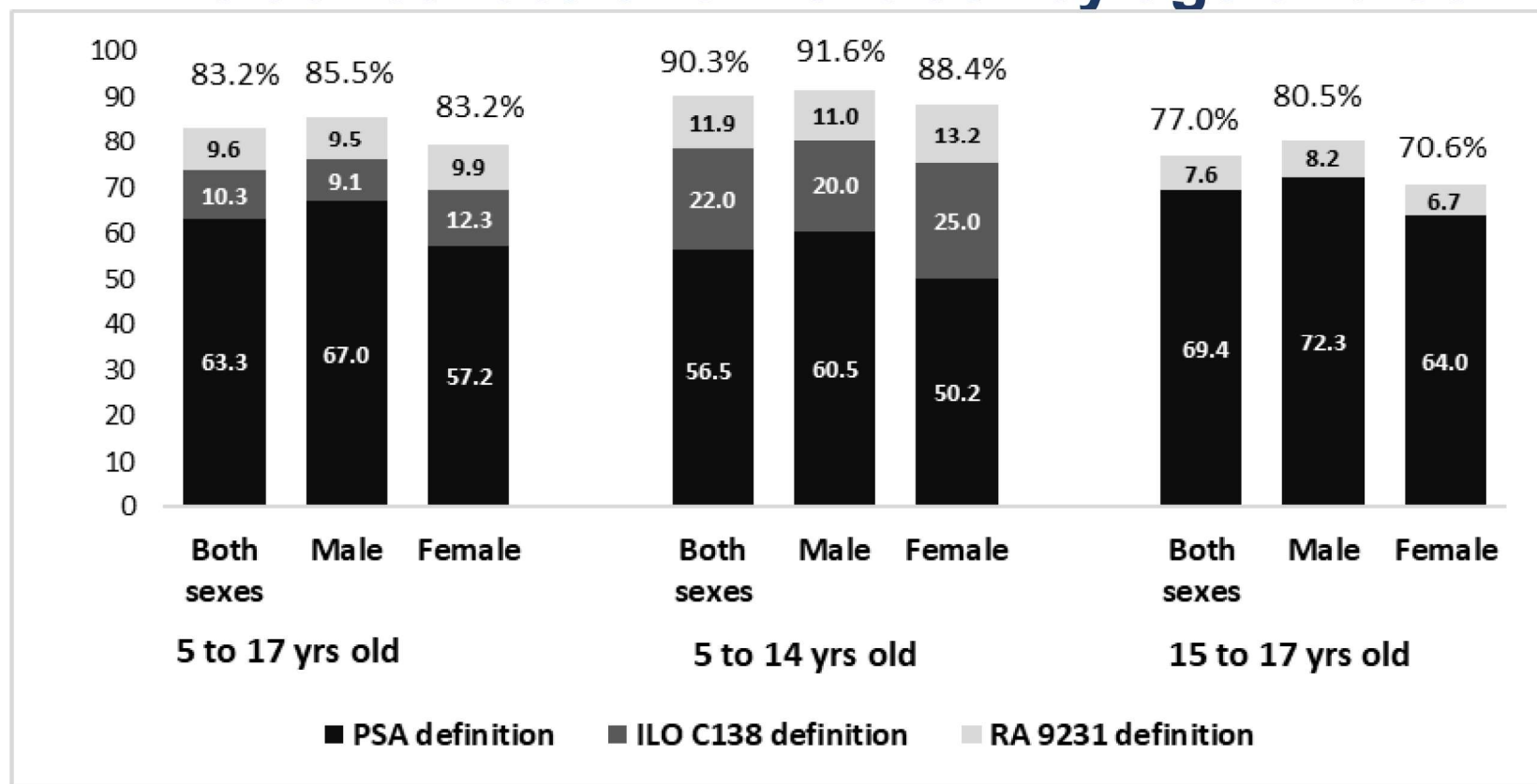


Number (in 000) of children in child labor by age and sex





Incidence rate of child labor by age and sex





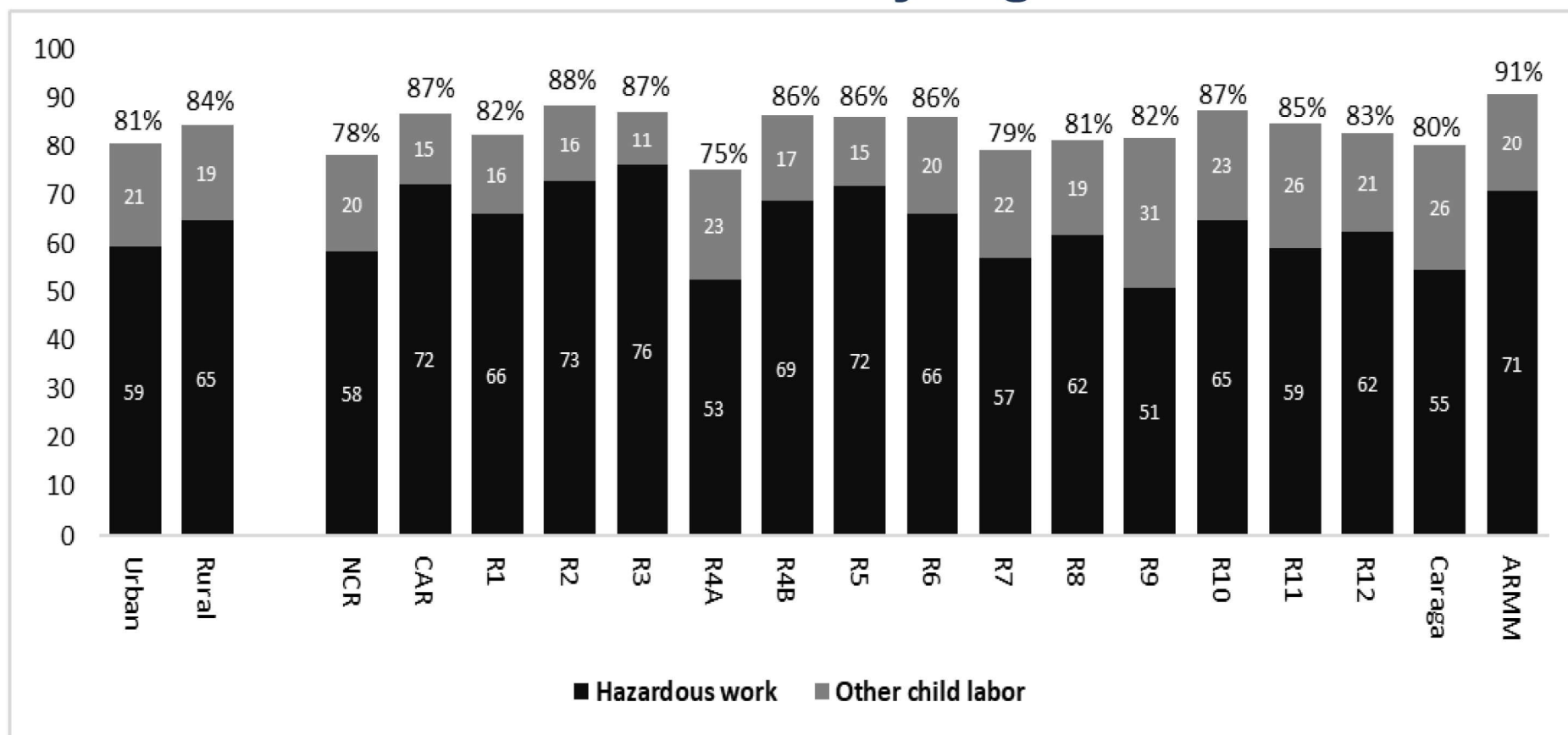
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Incidence rate of child labor by region and residence



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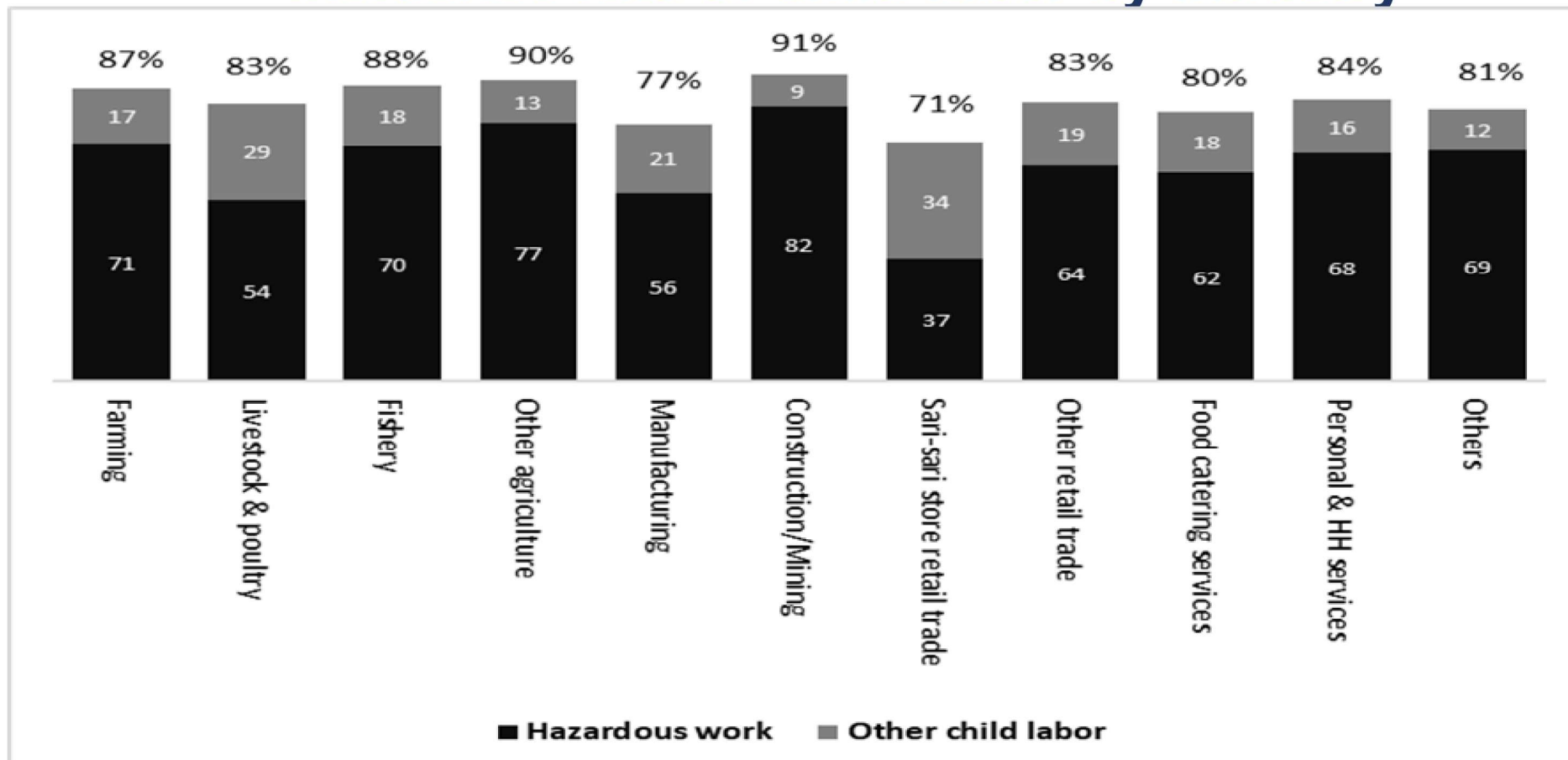
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Incidence rate of child labor by industry



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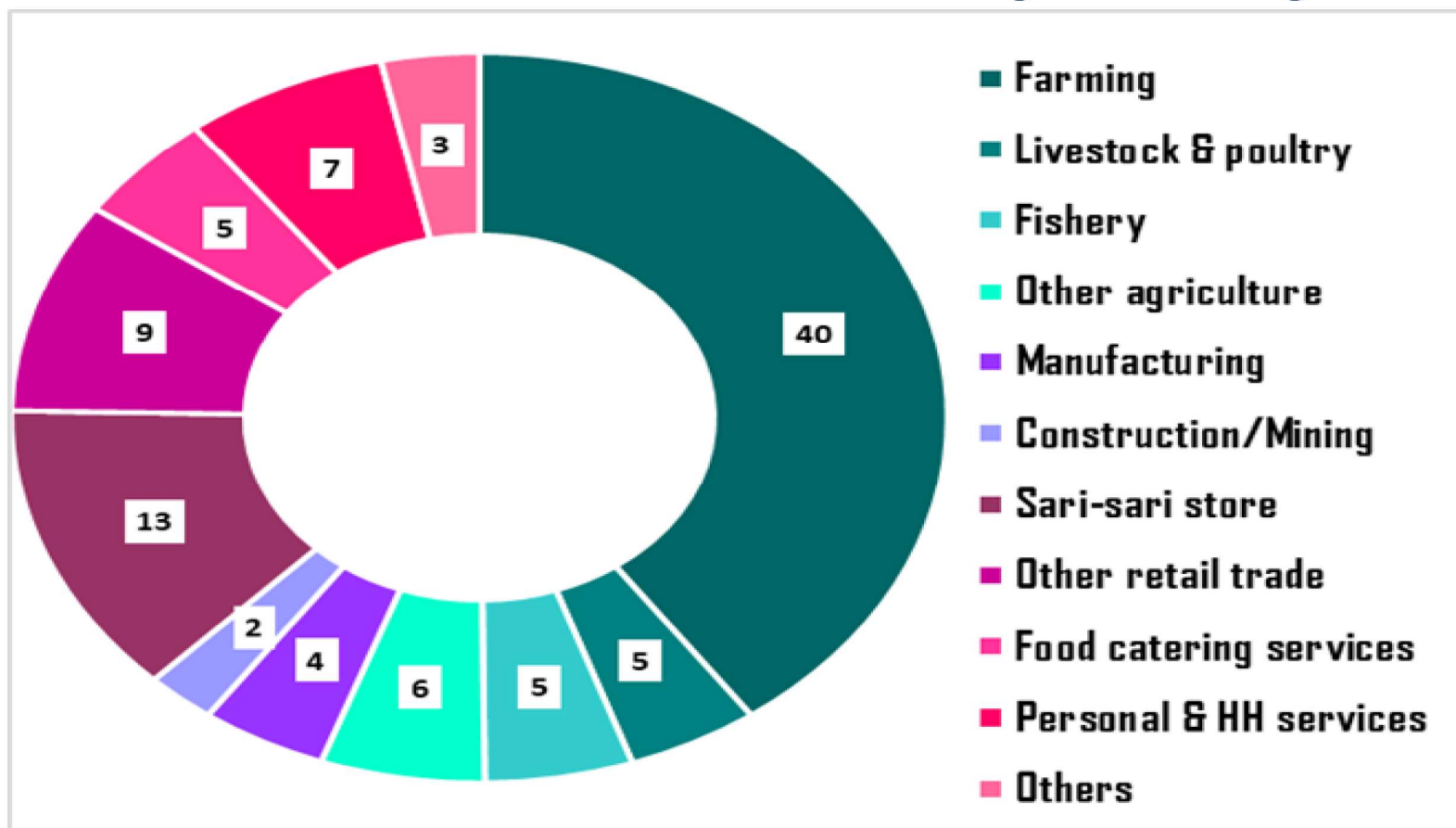
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% share of total child labor by industry



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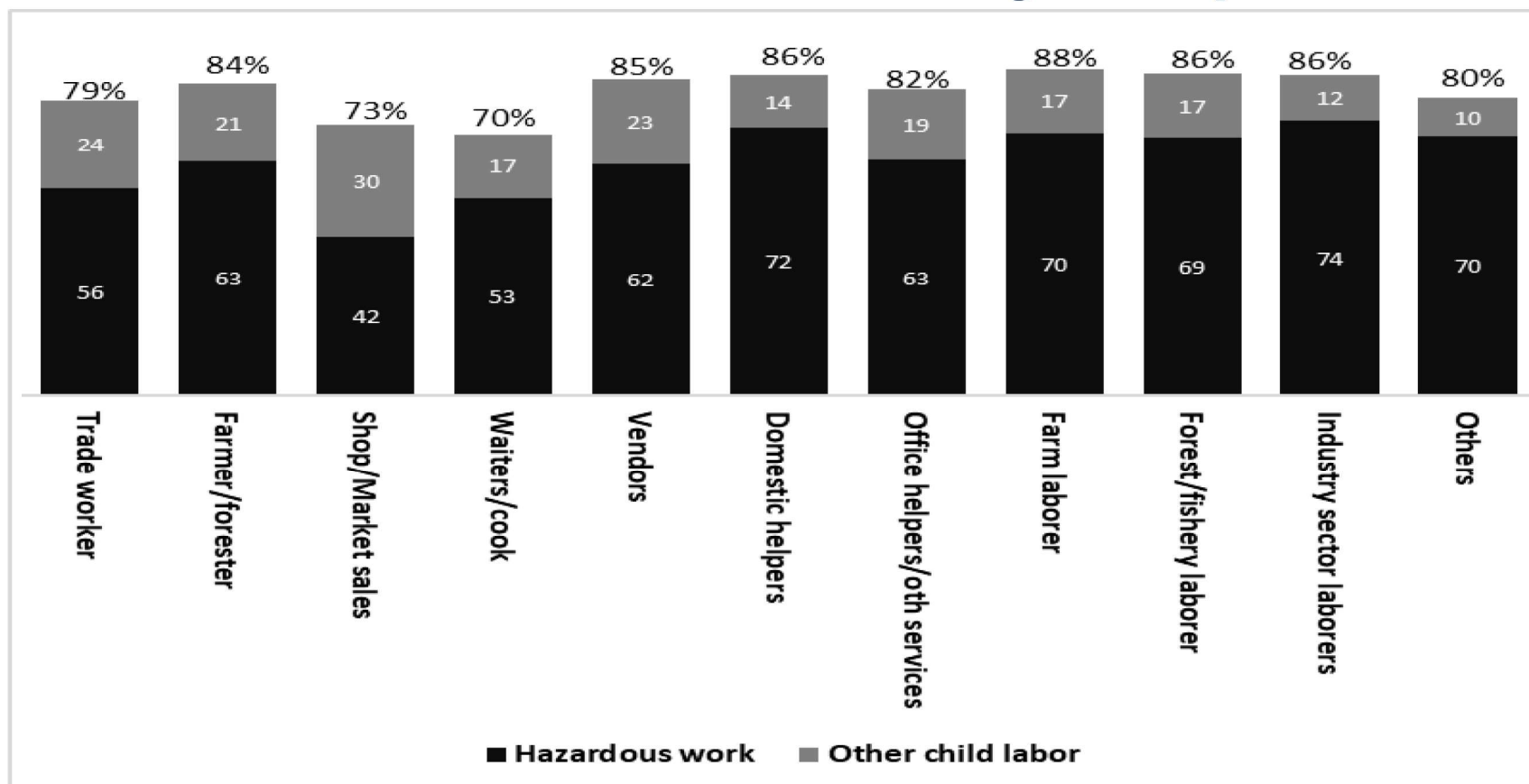
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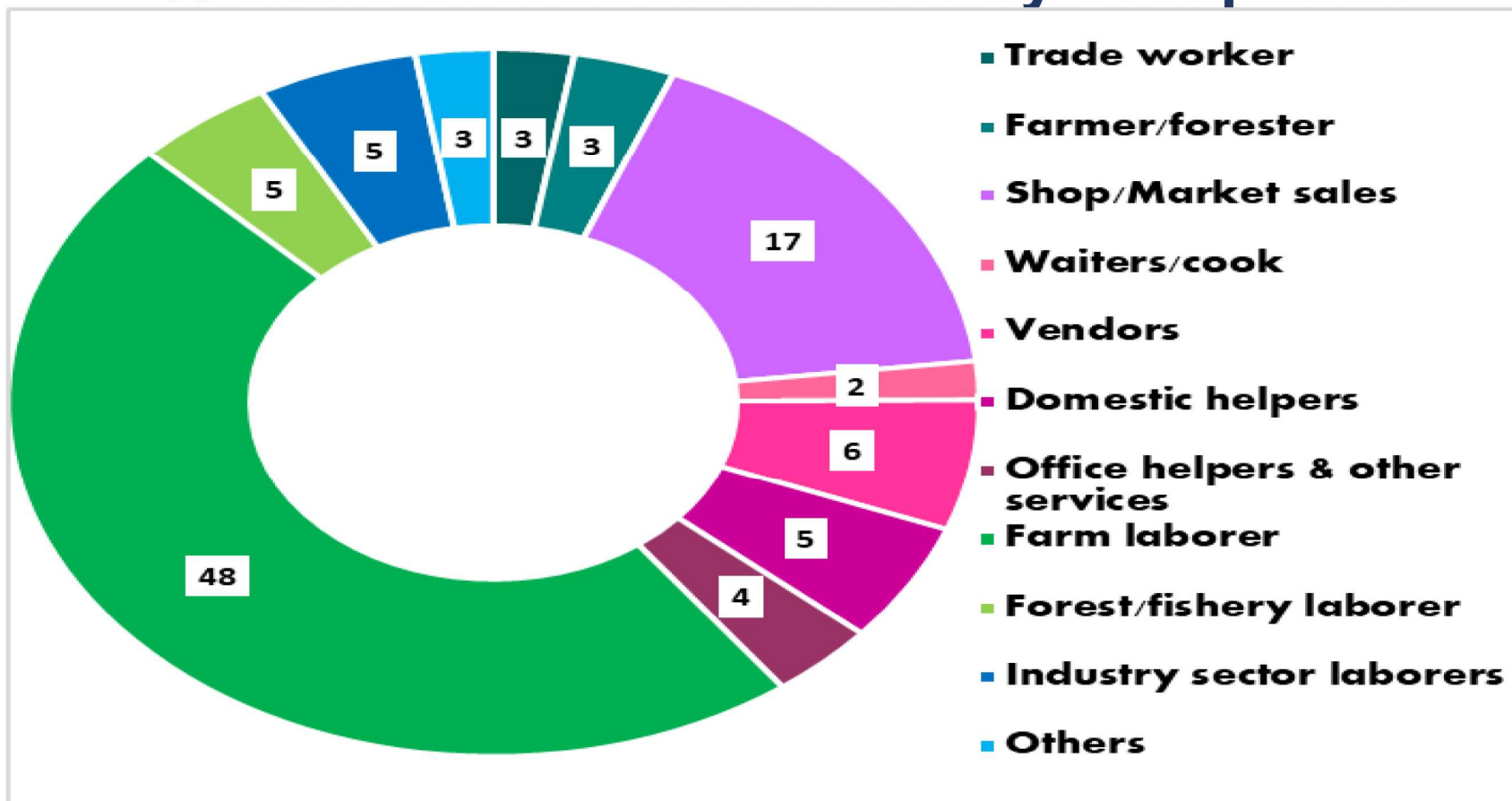
Incidence rate of child labor by occupation



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% share of total child labor by occupation





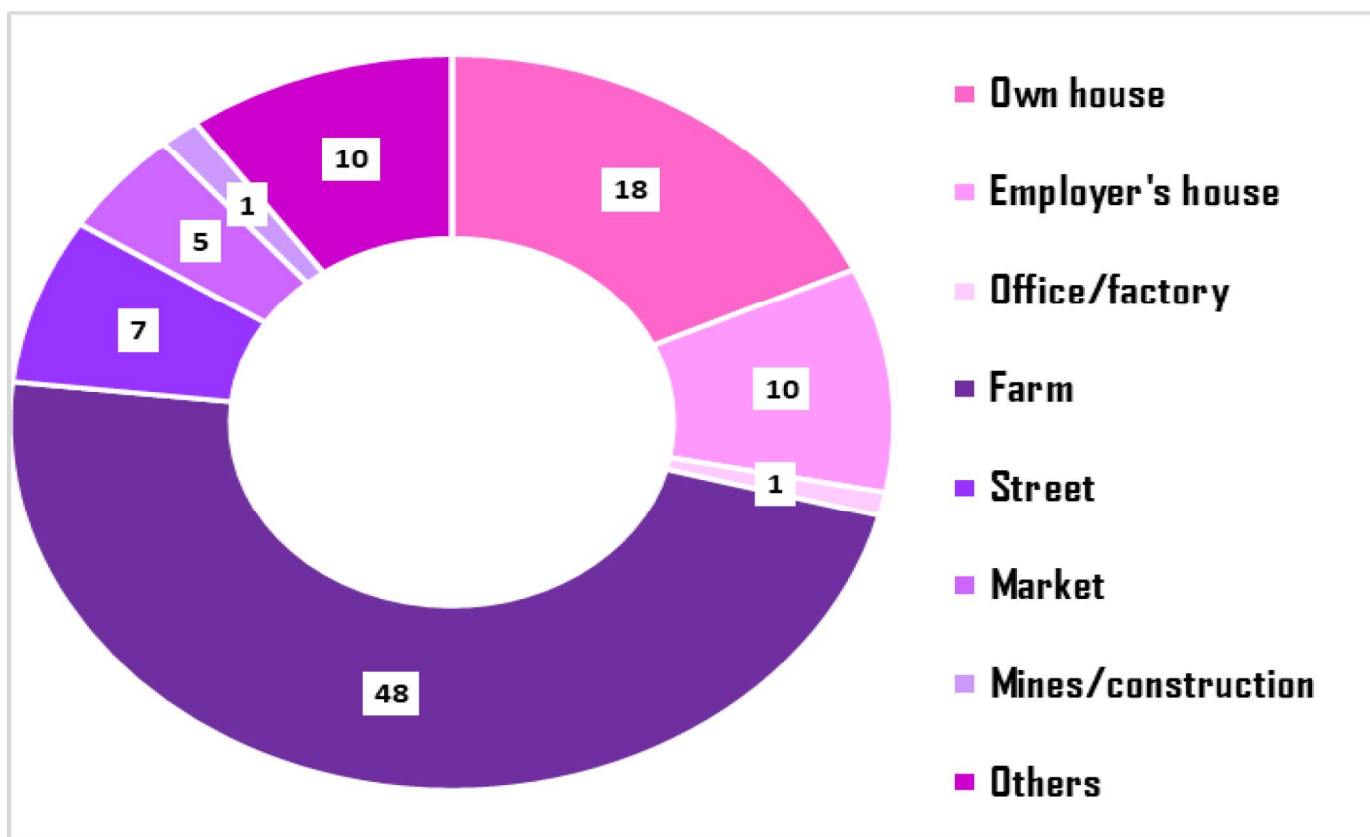
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% share of total child labor by place of work





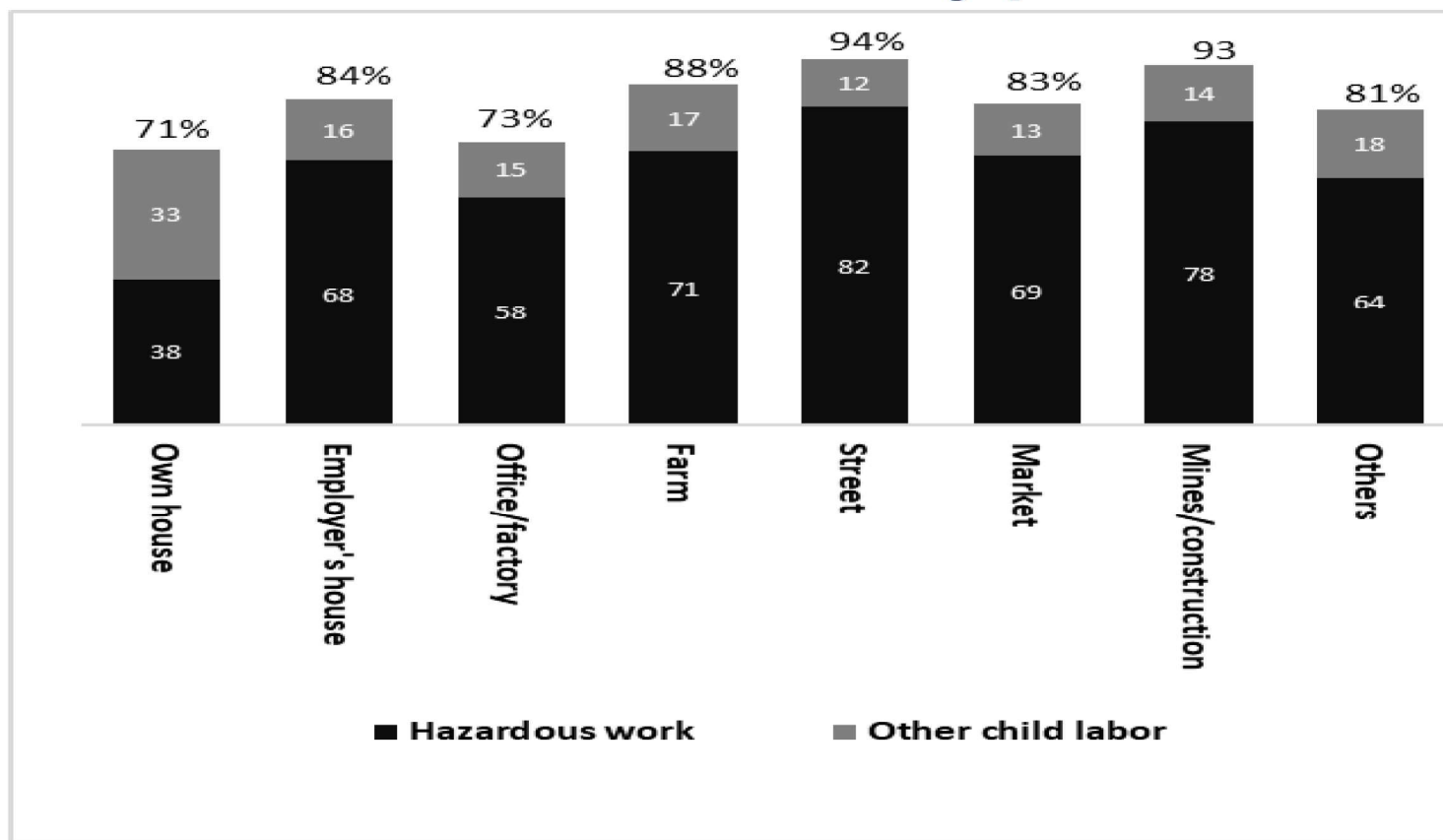
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Incidence rate of child labor by place of work



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Need to collect child labor data for monitoring

- Propose the inclusion in the LFS (at least every after five years) of question D9 in Section D. Working Condition and Working Environment of the 2011 SOC.
 - Does your work often involve exposure to the following:
 - Chemicals (dust, liquid, mist, gas, etc.)
 - Physical environment (noise, humidity, pressure, radiation, fall hazards)
 - Biological (viral, bacterial, fungal, parasitic)

Need to collect child labor data for monitoring

- Difficult to estimate child labor in hazardous conditions with current LFS questions.
- DO 149 Series of 2019 list of hazardous activities not in one-to-one correspondence with the 4-digit PSOC
 - e.g., personal care of persons with communicable diseases
 - Services that require dangerous power tools and similar implements except regular household tools and kitchen utensils
- Technological advancement & digitalization has changed the way we accomplish tasks
 - (e.g. more occupations/tasks are at risk to exposure to more radiation now than pre-COVID)

Conclusion

- The Philippines has excluded nearly 660 thousand children from the official count of children engaged in child labor estimated at 2.1 million children in 2011.
- This translates to an increase by 20-percentage points in the incidence rate of child labor from 63% of working children to 83%, and rendering as child labor majority of the work undertaken by Filipino children

Conclusion

- The following characteristics of children are likely to be missed out from the PSA count of child labor:
 - Younger children below 15 years old
 - Girls
 - Urban residents
 - Sari-sari store retail trade workers
 - Poultry and livestock workers
 - Shops and market sales workers
 - Vendors
 - Trade workers
- Need to correct the undercount for better planning and program intervention



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Thank you!



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