



Who are the youth NEET in the Philippines?

Dr. Aniceto C. Orbeta, Jr. and John Paul P. Corpus

February 10, 2022



Philippine Institute for Development Studies
Surian sa mga Pag-aaral Pangkaunlaran ng Pilipinas

Background

- TESDA and PBE (Philippine Business for Education) partnered for YouthWorks PH – a workforce development program providing skills training to youth NEET (not in employment, education, or training).
- Through this partnership, PIDS was commissioned to conduct two studies:
 1. Profile of youth NEET in the Philippines
 2. Profile of training and skilling programs in the Philippines

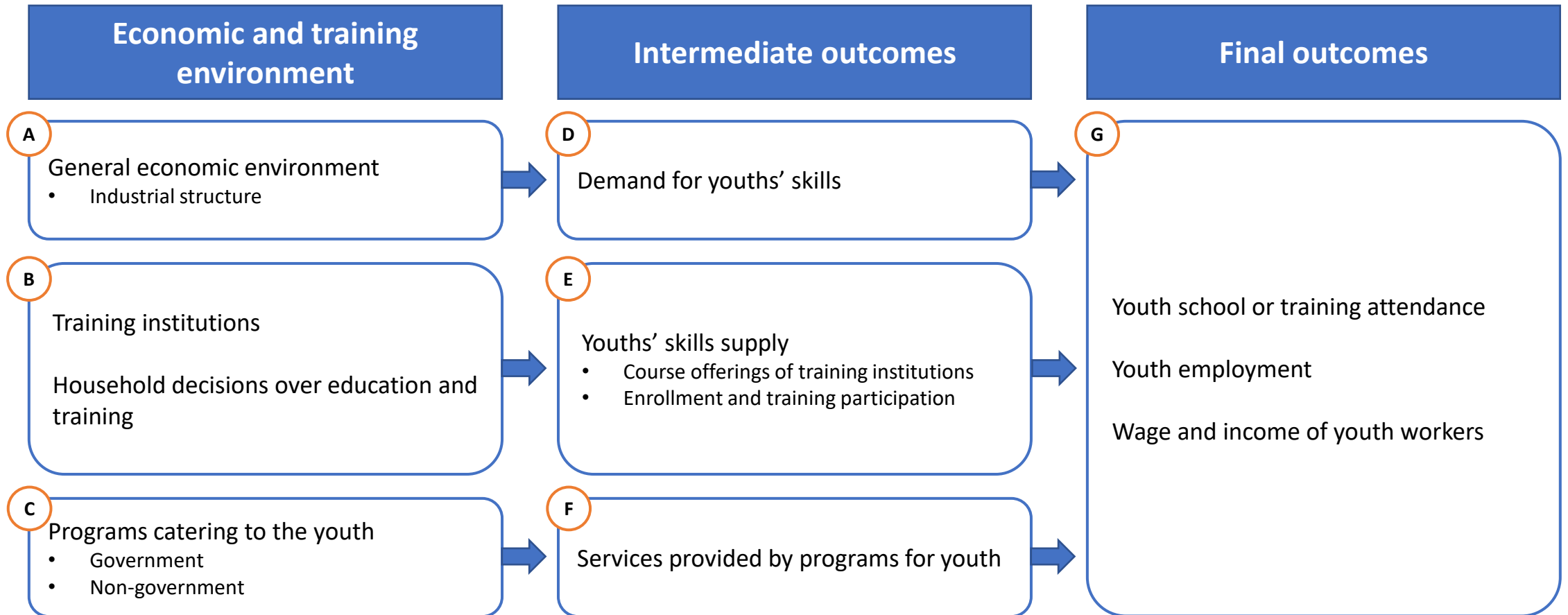
Significance

- Youth NEET (not in employment, education, or training) are not accumulating human capital as they transition to adulthood
- Being NEET can undermine the youth's future employment and earning prospects, and can lead to adverse social consequences
- Training programs can engage the NEET in employment, but these programs need to be responsive to labor market demand

Research questions

1. Who are the NEET in the Philippines?
2. What are the dropout points of the youth from education?
3. How do government agencies measure and monitor NEET?
4. How many NEET are potential TVET learners?
5. What barriers keep NEET from pursuing TVET?

Conceptual framework



Methodology

Research questions

Who are the NEET?

What are the dropout points from education?

How many NEET are potential TVET learners?

How do government agencies measure and monitor NEET?

What barriers keep NEET from pursuing TVET?

Research methods

Analysis of PSA survey data

Labor Force Survey (LFS)
Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES)
Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS)

Review of PSA documents
Interview of government offices

Online survey of TESDA and YWPH trainees

Who are the youth NEET in the Philippines?

1. Profile of Filipino NEET

3.88 million

Filipino NEET as of January 2021

19.4%

of youth population

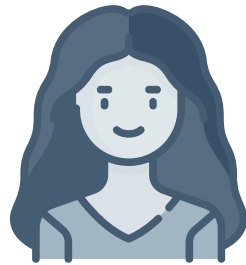
NEET incidence among Filipino youth



27%

BARMM

20% Davao Region, Mimaropa
19% Zamboanga Peninsula,
Central Luzon



24%

Female

14% among males
40% among females aged 20-
24
67% among married females



17%

Lower secondary

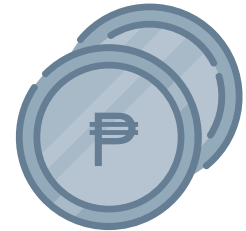
9% upper secondary
75% no grade completed



19%

Rural areas

18% urban areas



23%

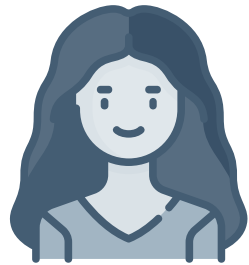
Poorest 50%
of families

11% top 20%

Profile of Filipino NEET

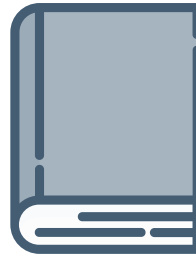
20-24
years

69%



63%

Female



43%

Lower secondary



56%

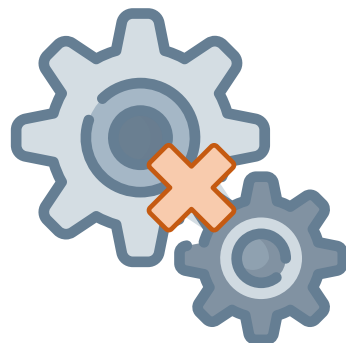
Rural areas



56%

Poorest 40%
of families

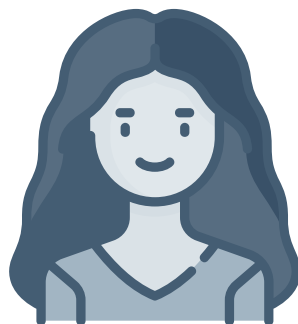
Most NEET are economically inactive



74%

NEET who are out of the
labor force

Neither employed nor unemployed
(i.e., looking for work)



52%

NEET who are
economically inactive
females



45%

NEET who are
economically inactive
because of home care



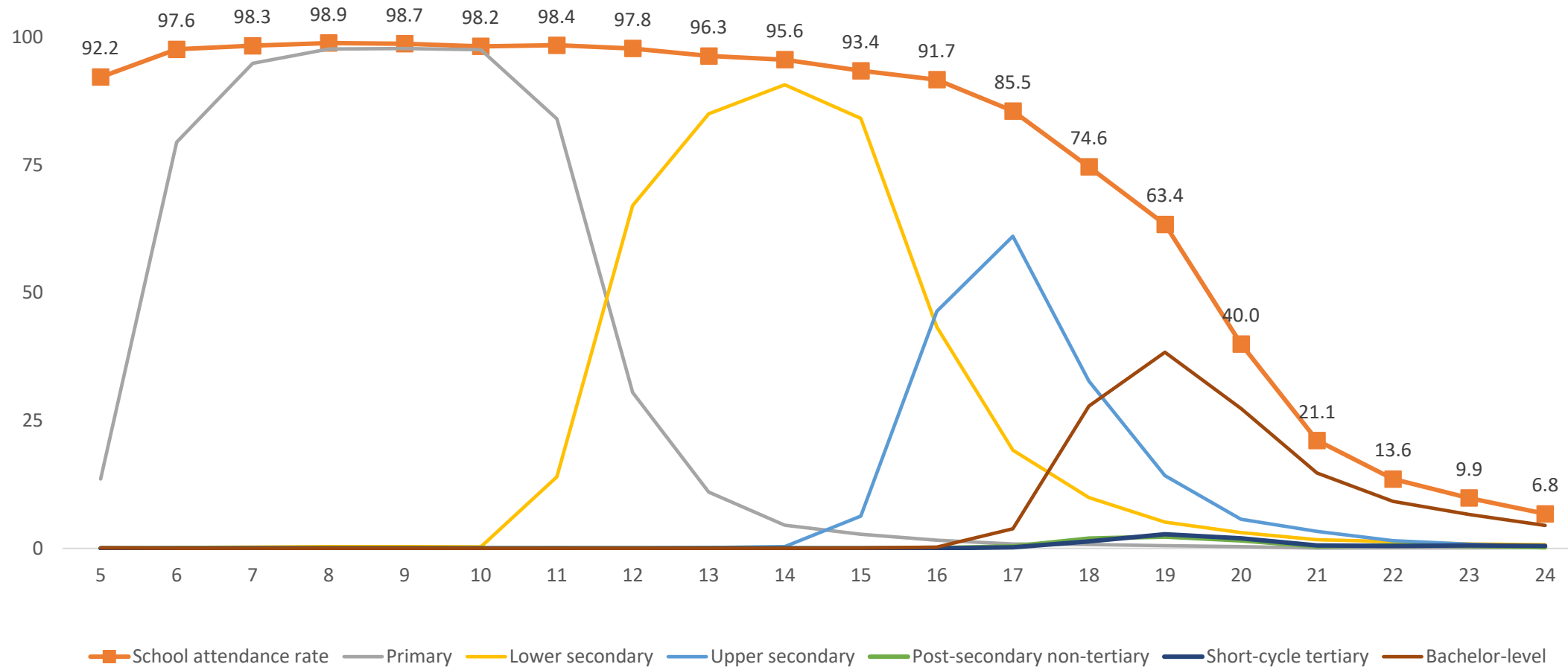
62%

Economically inactive
female NEET who are
married

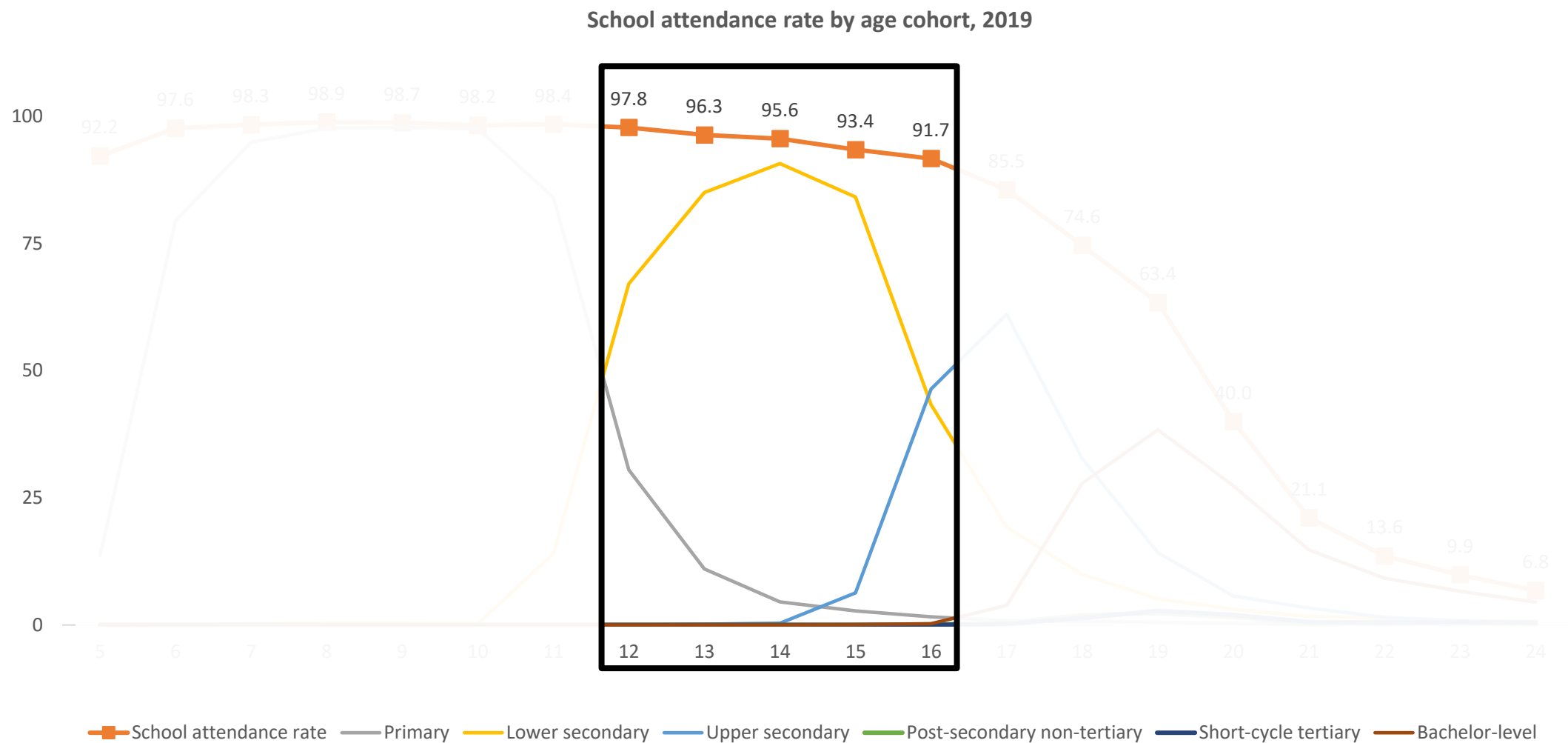
Who are the youth NEET in the Philippines?

2. What are the youth's drop-out points in the education continuum?

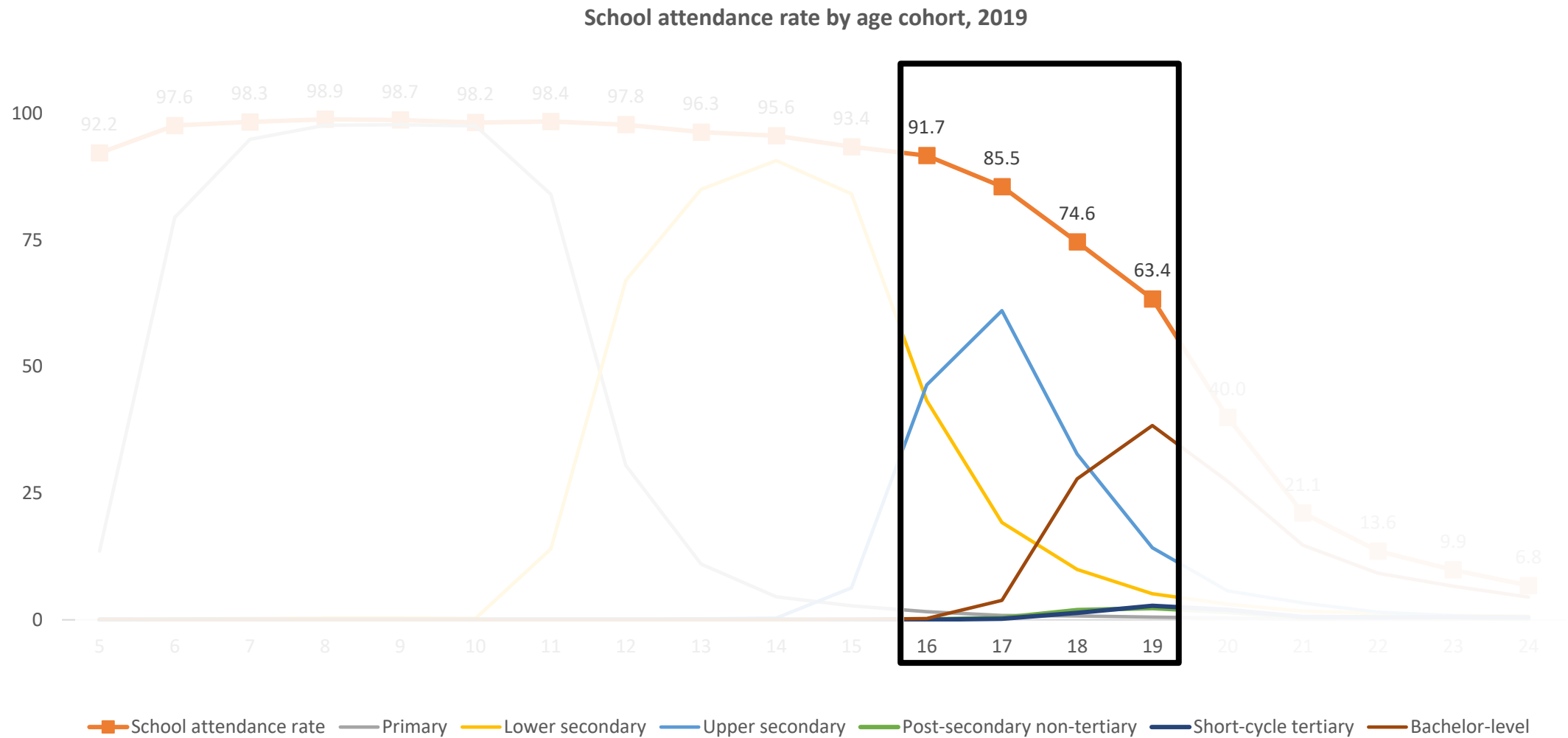
School attendance rate by age cohort, 2019



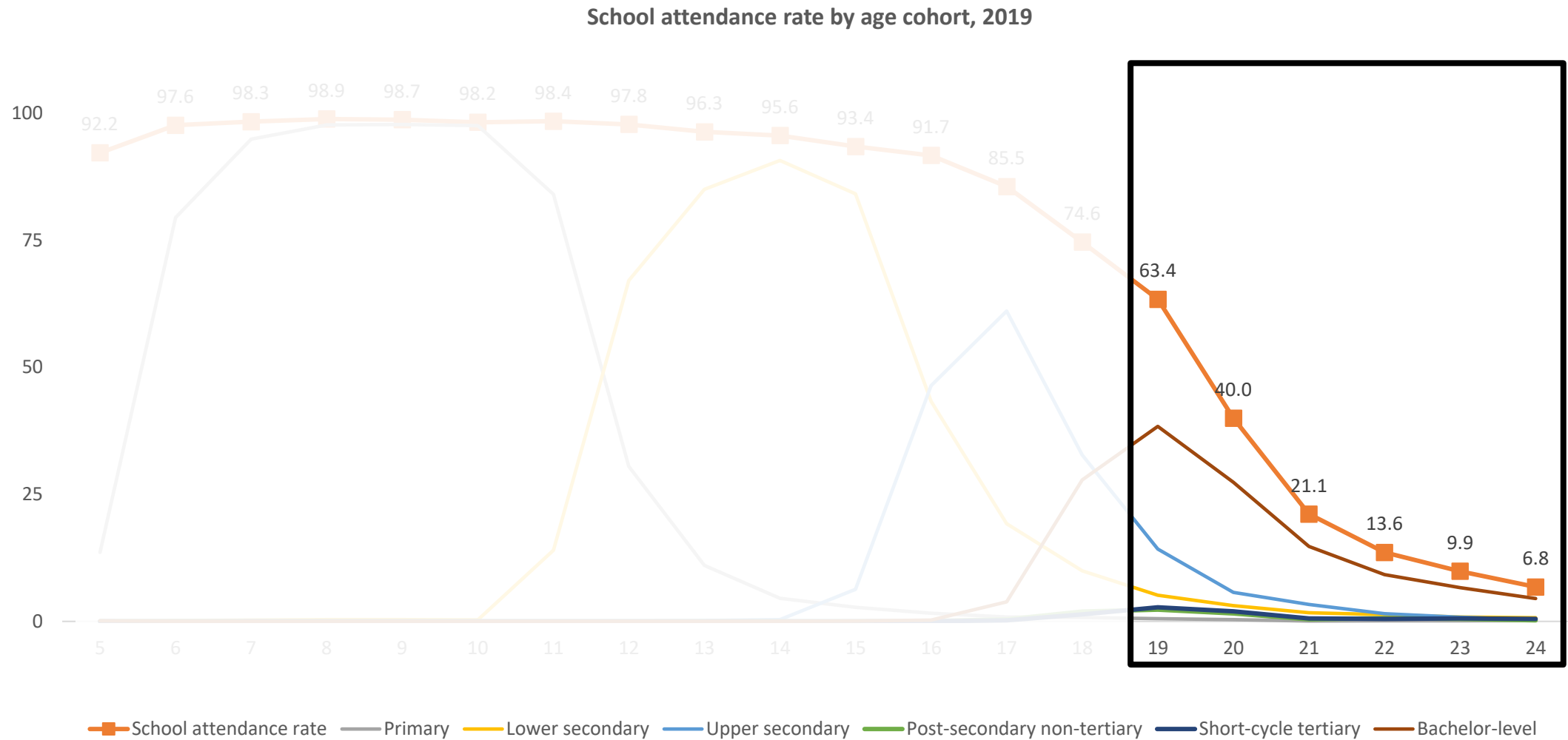
School attendance falls gradually from ages 12 to 16 (~junior HS)...



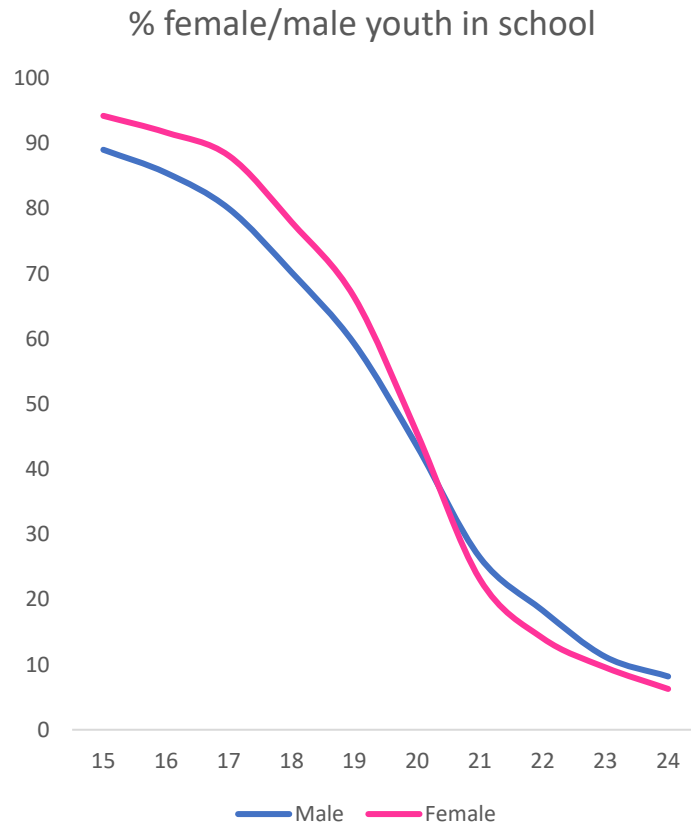
...falling faster at ages 17-19 (senior HS and transition to college)...



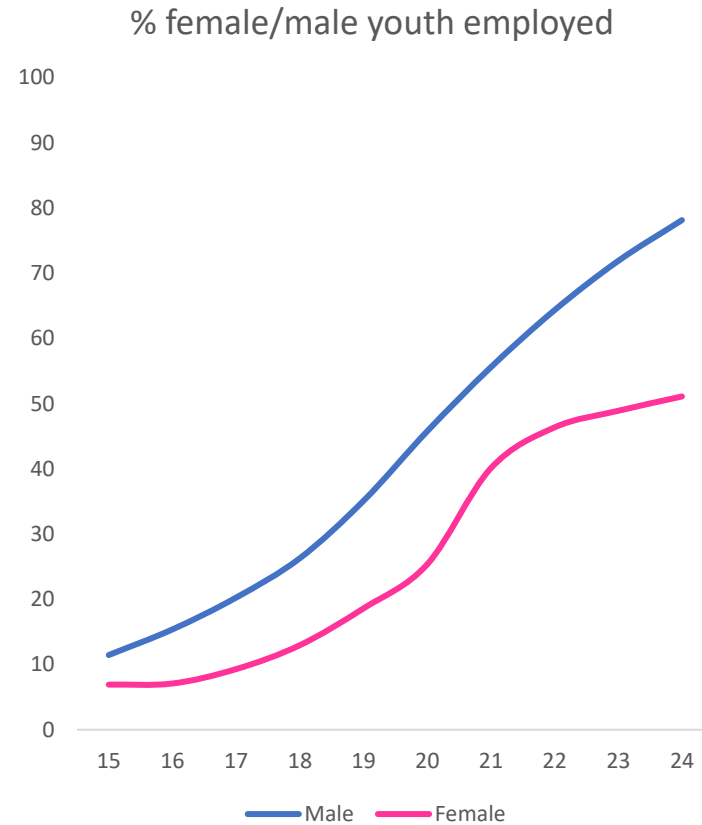
...and fastest at ages 20-21 (~2nd-4th year college).



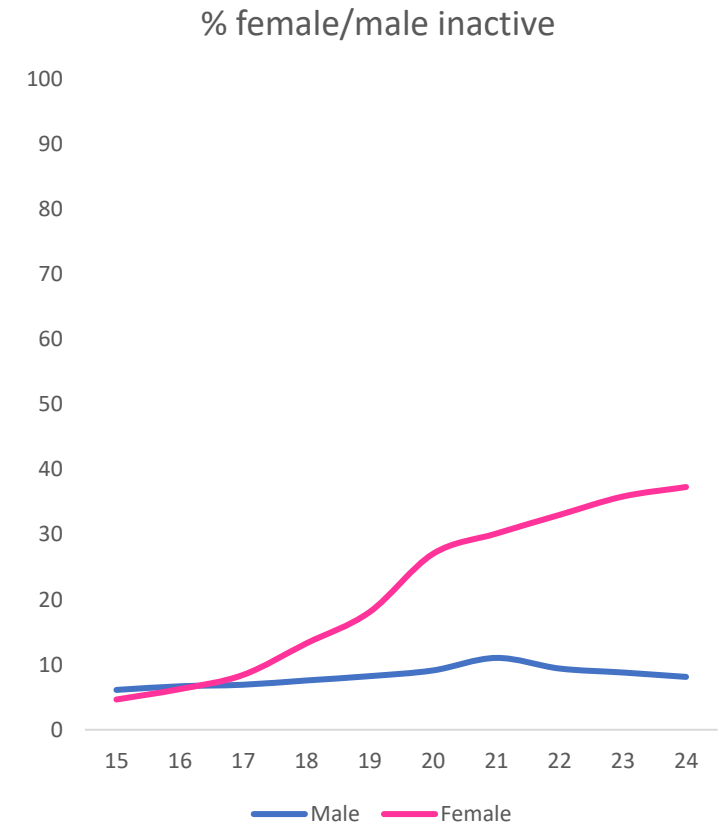
Males leave school earlier than females.



Males transition to work earlier, and in a larger proportion, than females.



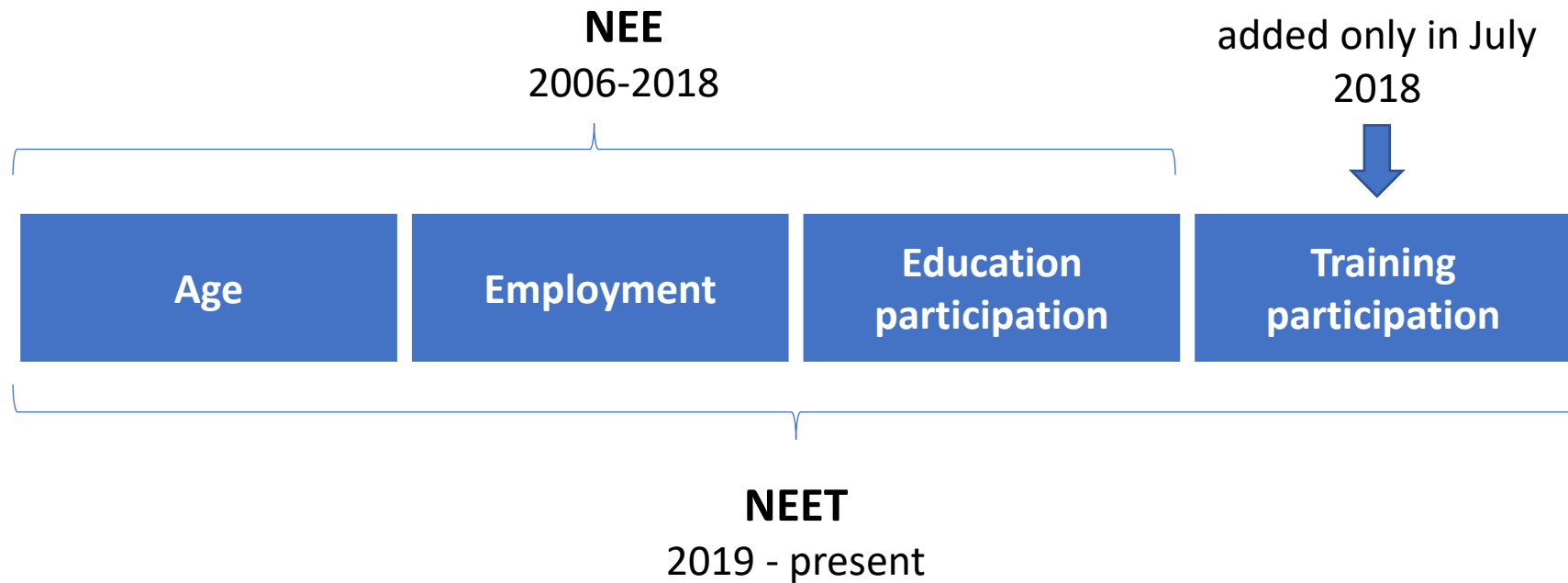
Females transition to inactivity in a larger proportion than males.



Who are the youth NEET in the Philippines?

3. How do government agencies measure and monitor NEET?

PSA measures NEET via the Labor Force Survey



PSA's definition of training participation is more restrictive than TESDA's

PSA

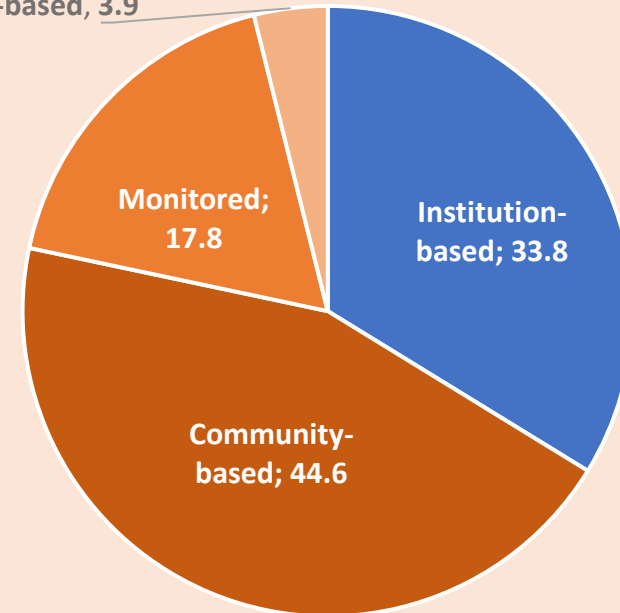
Includes only school-based TVET programs

TESDA

Different modes of TVET delivery:

- Institution-based
- Enterprise-based
- Community-based
- "Monitored" programs

Enterprise-based, 3.9



TVET enrollment by delivery mode 2019 (percent)

Source: TESDA Note: N=2,488,922

Few government offices measure and monitor NEET

Interviews with



Few government offices measure and monitor NEET

Only DOLE and TESDA use the NEET concept

Special Program for the
Employment of Students (SPES)



Seek-Find-Train-Assess-Certify-
Employ Framework

With programs that explicitly target NEET

Few government offices measure and monitor NEET

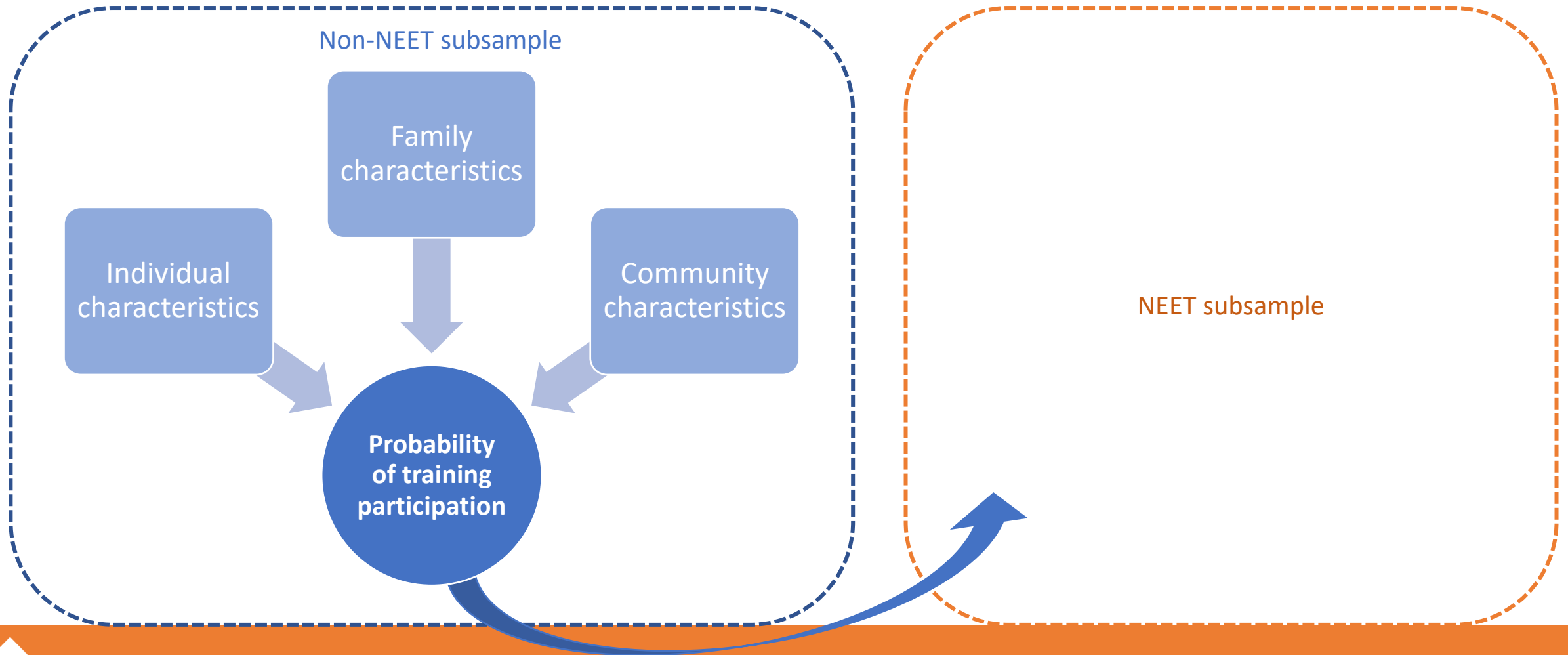
Only DOLE monitors NEET statistics



Who are the youth NEET in the Philippines?

4. How many NEET are potential TVET learners?

Logit regression model predicting training participation using LFS-APIS data



Model performance and prediction

Performance

The model correctly predicts only **32%** of actual training participants as training participants among non-NEET.

Prediction

The model predicts about **25%** of NEET (close to one million youth) as training participants.

Who are the youth NEET in the Philippines?

5. What are the barriers that keep NEET from pursuing TVET?

Online survey

Target respondents

- Current trainees and applicants in TESDA Technology Institutes (TTIs)
- Current trainees and applicants in YouthWorks PH

Sampling

- Self-selected survey
- Non-random, non-probability
 - Not representative

Eligibility

NEET at the time of application to their program

Survey period

March 2021

Realized sample size

1,688

61% - trainees in TTIs

22% - TTI applicants

17% – YouthWorks PH trainees or applicants

Barriers to pursuing TVET

What factors kept you from pursuing TVET before applying for training?



48%

No funds for tuition
of allowance



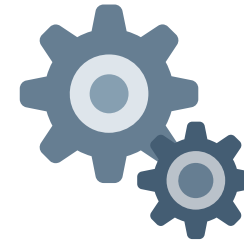
13%

No information



11%

Housework or
caring duties



10%

Working or seeking
work

36%

No hindrance

Support to encourage youth participation in TVET

What assistance do you think youth need to encourage them to pursue training?



58%

Allowance support



56%

Information on jobs



48%

Tuition support



47%

Job search support



39%

Information on TVET
programs

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

NEET incidence and composition

- NEET incidence is highest in BARMM, followed by Davao Region, Mimaropa, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Central Luzon.
- NEET are mostly female and tend to come from poorer families.
- NEET are mostly economically inactive, with home care being the principal reason for inactivity.

Conclusions

Drop-out points and school-to-work transition

- School attendance drops significantly during ages 17 to 21.
- Males tend to leave school earlier and start work earlier than females.
- A large share of females leaving school become economically inactive.

Conclusions

Government measurement and monitoring of NEET

- Few government agencies currently use the NEET concept.
- PSA's definition of training participation excludes non-school based modes of delivery, likely undercounting training participants.

Conclusions

Potential TVET learners among NEET

- Our model predicts 25% of NEET (~1 million youth) are potential TVET learners.
- However, model has low in-sample predictive power.

Conclusions

Barriers to pursuing TVET among NEET

- Survey found financial constraints to be the main barriers to pursuing TVET, followed by lack of information and housework.
- Financial support (tuition and allowance) and information on jobs and TVET programs can help encourage training participation among youth.
- Survey findings are not generalizable but provide useful information.

Recommendations

1. Conduct more in-depth studies on determinants of being NEET, including the high level of inactivity among female NEET, to identify policies to draw them into training or employment.
2. PSA and TESDA should resolve differences in definition of training participation.
3. Promote the use of the NEET concept among relevant government agencies.
4. Encourage TVET participation among NEET through financial support, information dissemination, and employment facilitation assistance.

Thank you!



Philippine Institute for Development Studies