

# Elderly Trends & Challenges in Yogyakarta, the Most Ageing Region in Indonesia

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Photo Source: Geriatri.id



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# The 1st October is celebrated as the International Day of Older Persons

## Who is elderly?

Elderly is commonly defined as those aged 60 years and above (WHO, 2019; BPS, 2022).

## Do you know that...

Indonesia will soon face the ageing population era? It is projected that the proportion of elderly population aged 60+ will reach 23.33% by 2050 (BPS, 2023).



Photo Source: Inionline.id

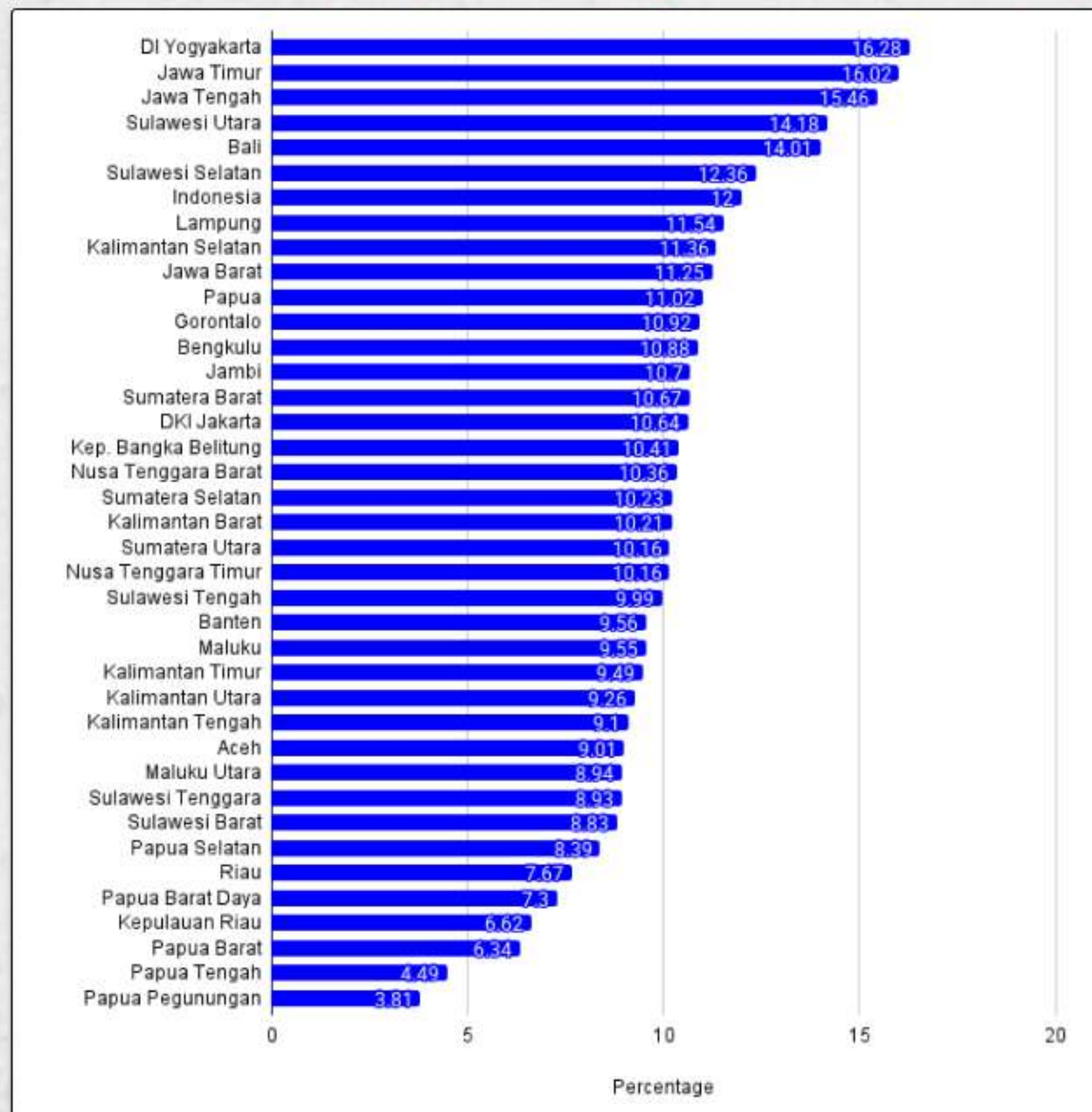


# Ageing Population in Yogyakarta

In the Special Region of Yogyakarta, the recent proportion of individuals aged 60+ has accounted for more than 10% (i.e., 16.28% to be exact), implying that the Yogyakarta province has entered the ageing population era.

Moreover, compared to other provinces in Indonesia, Yogyakarta has the highest proportion of elderly, placing it as the most ageing region in Indonesia.

**Figure 1. Proportion of Elderly Population (Aged 60 and Above) by Province, 2024**



Source: BPS 2024



# Why should we care for elderly?

## Declining Health & Productivity

The elderly experience a decline in physiological functions as they age, making them more vulnerable to various diseases and a decrease in work capacity (Preston & Biddell, 2021). This condition contributes to a decline in overall productivity when the proportion of elderly individuals in the labor force increases (Hernæs et al., 2023).

At the end, both condition could lead to a challenge of elderly poverty that remains difficult to be tackled (Kwan & Walsh, 2018).

## Increasing Health Costs & Fiscal Burden

Aging populations lead to increased health care and pension expenditures while reducing the relative need for education spending. This demographic shift imposes a fiscal burden, as governments must reassess public policy priorities and determine what can be afforded and who should receive support (Fitchner, 2018).



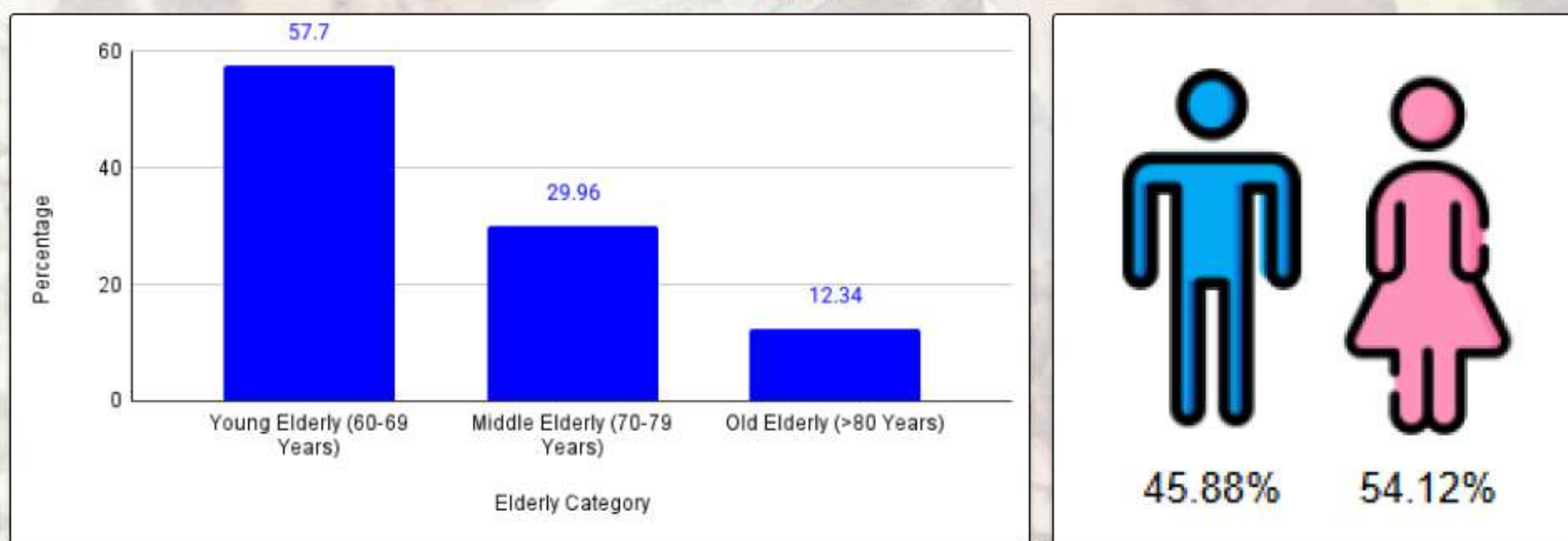
Photo Source: detikHealth



# Demographically,

In 2024, elderly in Yogyakarta is dominated by the **young-elderly** group (**aged 60–69 years**) and **females**.

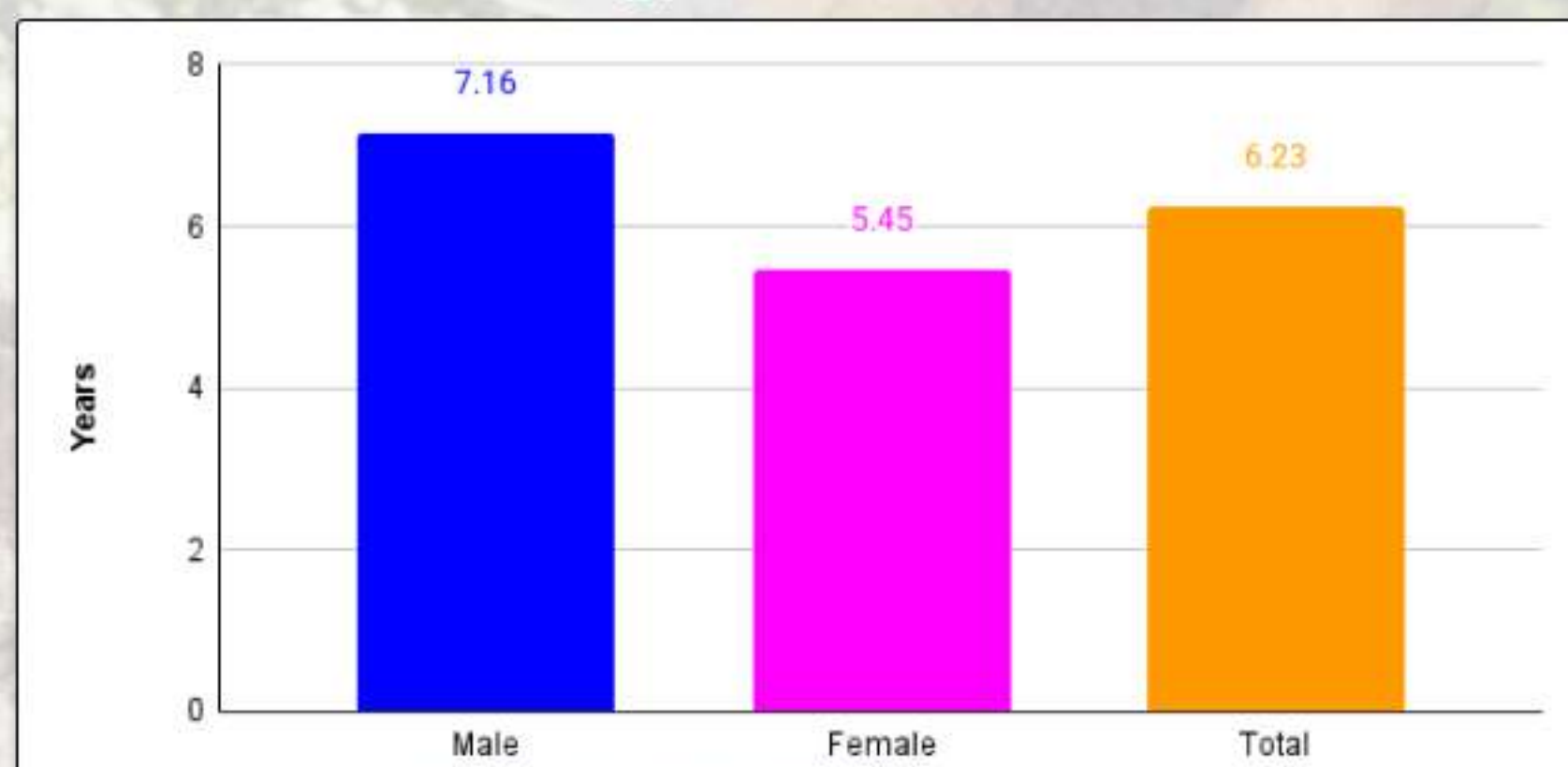
Figure 2. Age & Gender Composition of Elderly in Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, 2024



Source: BPS 2024

Furthermore, **female elderly** tend to have **lower education** than the male elderly.

Figure 3. Average Years of Schooling of the Elderly (Years) by Gender in Yogyakarta, 2024



Source: BPS 2024

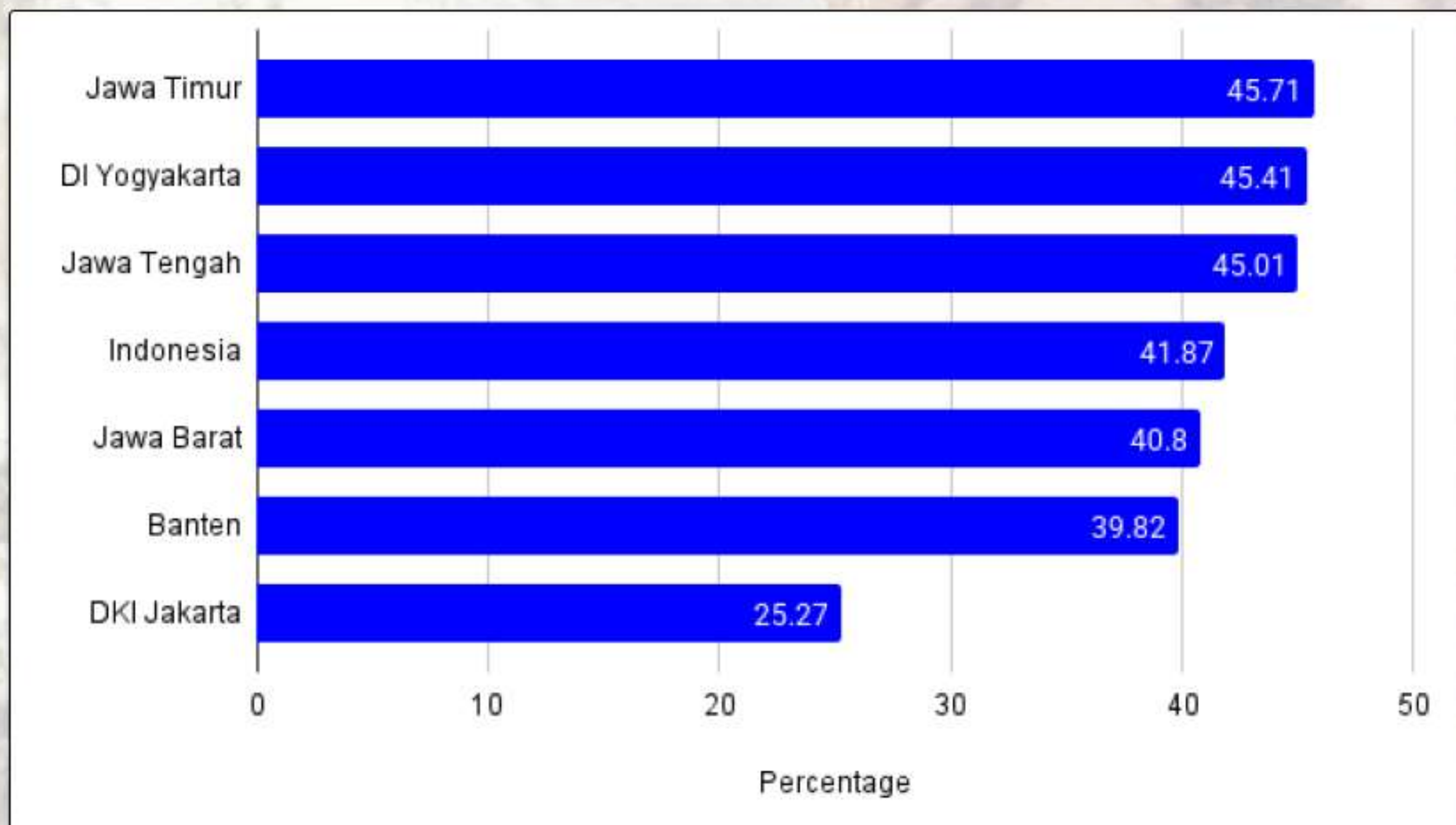


## However,

Despite the large elderly proportion in the region, **most elderly in Yogyakarta are poor**, hence economically vulnerable.

Compared to other regions in the Java Island and the national average, the share of elderly households in Yogyakarta who live in the poorest 40% ranks second amongst other provinces, ranking just below East Java.

**Figure 4. Percentage of Elderly Population by Province and Household Expenditure Distribution (Lowest 40%), 2024**



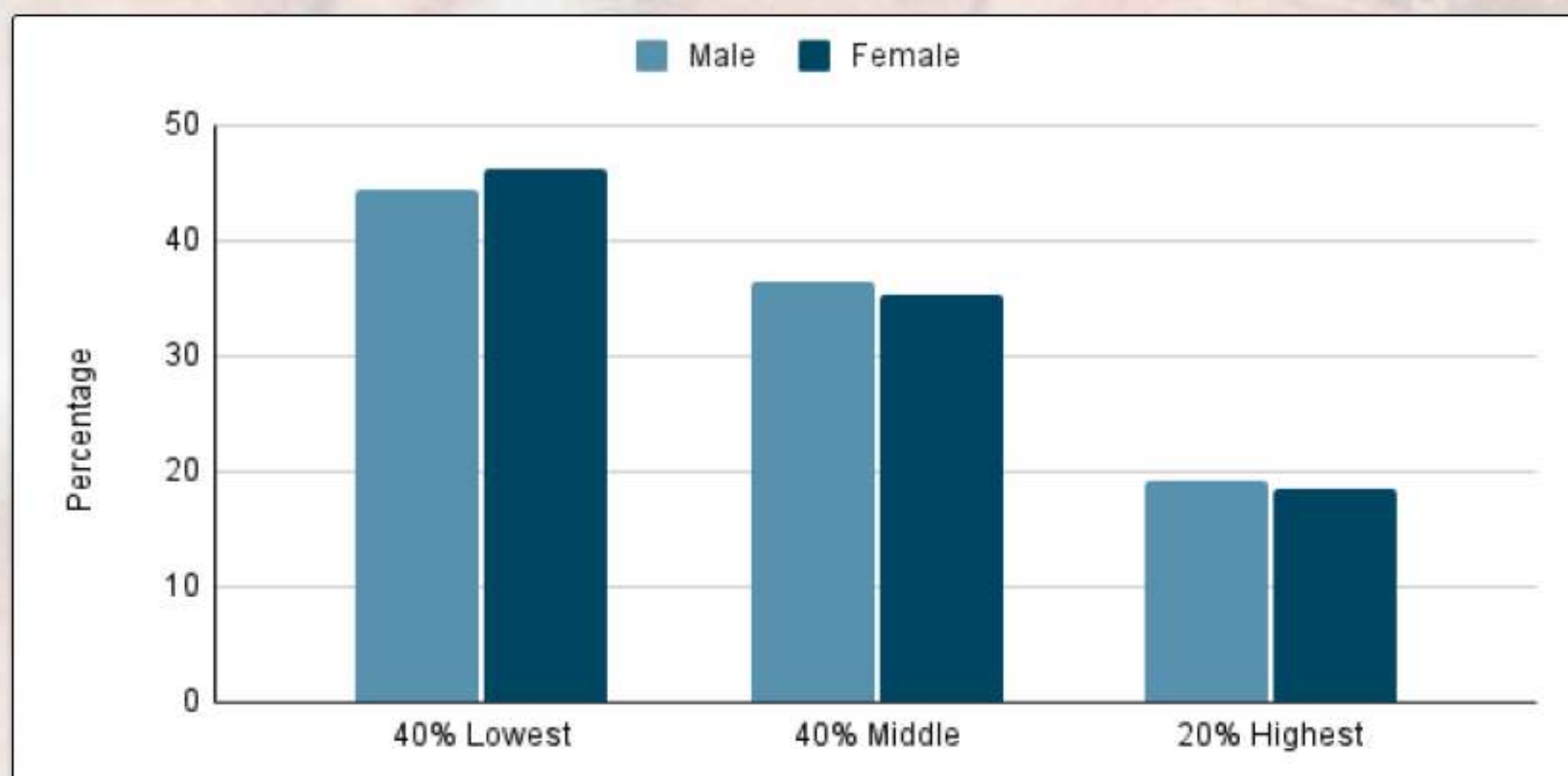
Source: BPS 2024



## In addition,

Amongst the poor elderly in Yogyakarta, a gender discrepancy slightly occurs, where **female elderly show a higher vulnerability compared to their male counterparts**. In this case, as nearly half of female elderly live in the poorest 40% of household, where this share is slightly higher than that of elderly male.

**Figure 5. Percentage of Elderly by Household Expenditure Distribution in Yogyakarta, 2024**



Source: BPS 2024

Photo Source: AppSkep



# This economic vulnerability further evident from the prevalence of social assistance ownership

The proportion of elderly households receiving the social assistance programs, such as the conditional cash transfer (*Program Keluarga Harapan*/PKH) and Welfare Family Card (*Kartu Keluarga Sejahtera*/KKS) is the highest amongst other regions in the Java Island.

**Figure 6. Percentage of Elderly Households Still Registered as PKH & KKS Beneficiaries in Java, 2024**



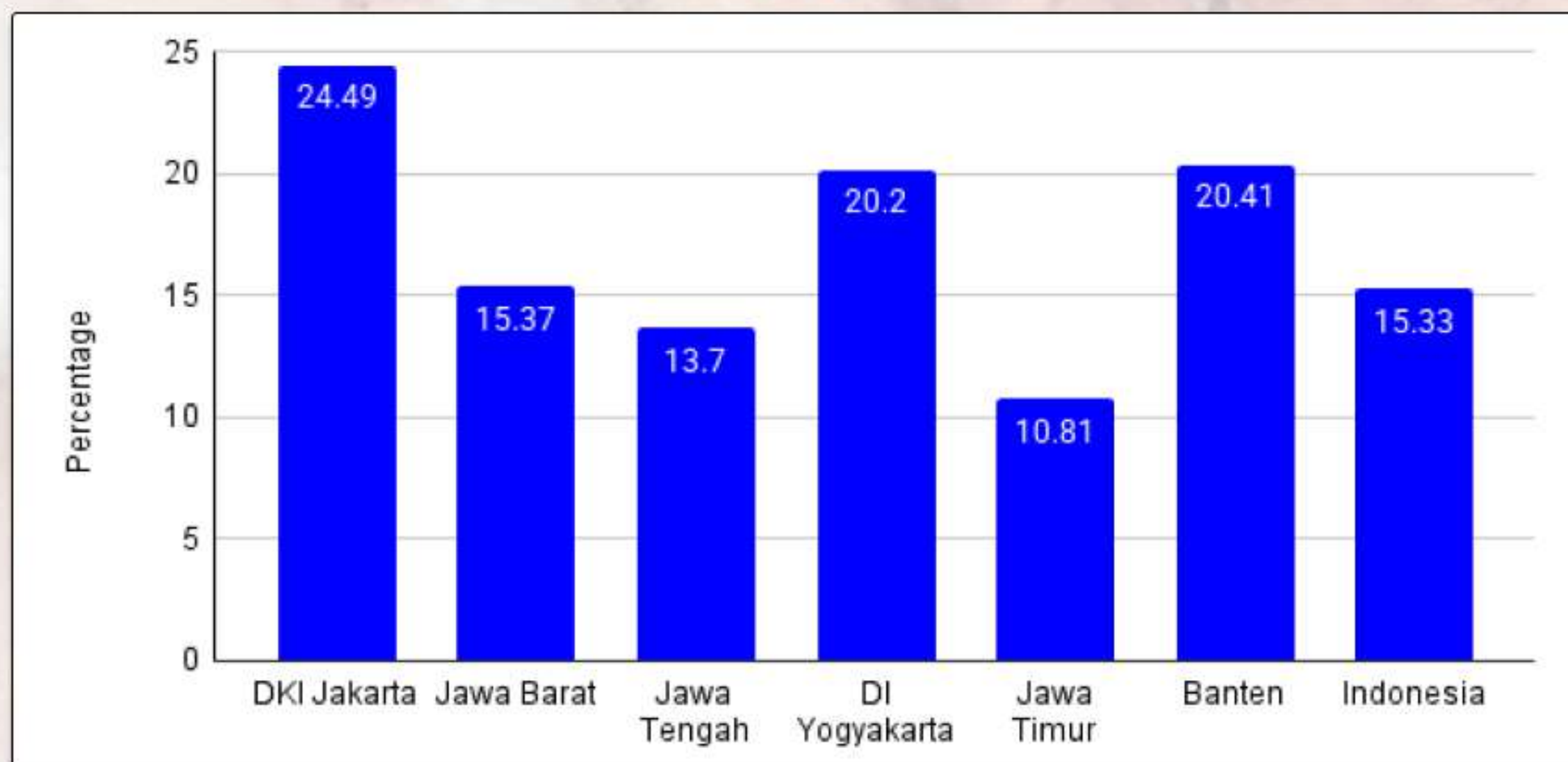
Source: BPS 2024



## In contrast,

The rate of social insurance (including both the health insurance and employment insurance schemes) ownership among elderly in Yogyakarta remains relatively low, at around 20%, despite being higher than several other provinces in the Java Island such as West Java, Central Java, and East Java. The low coverage indicates that many elderly individuals in the region remain vulnerable to financial and employment-related risks in the old age.

**Figure 7. Percentage of Elderly Households with Social Insurance by Province, 2024**



Source: BPS 2024

Photo Source: AppSkep







Photo Source: POLTEKKES KEMENKES

## Health Condition

In Yogyakarta, many elderly experience health issues that disrupt their daily activities. Although the morbidity level is moderate compared to other provinces in Java Island, this condition still reflects the ongoing health vulnerabilities that call for stronger access to healthcare and preventive long-term care measures for the aging population.

**Figure 8. Elderly with Health Complaints in the Past Month by Province, 2024**



Source: BPS 2024



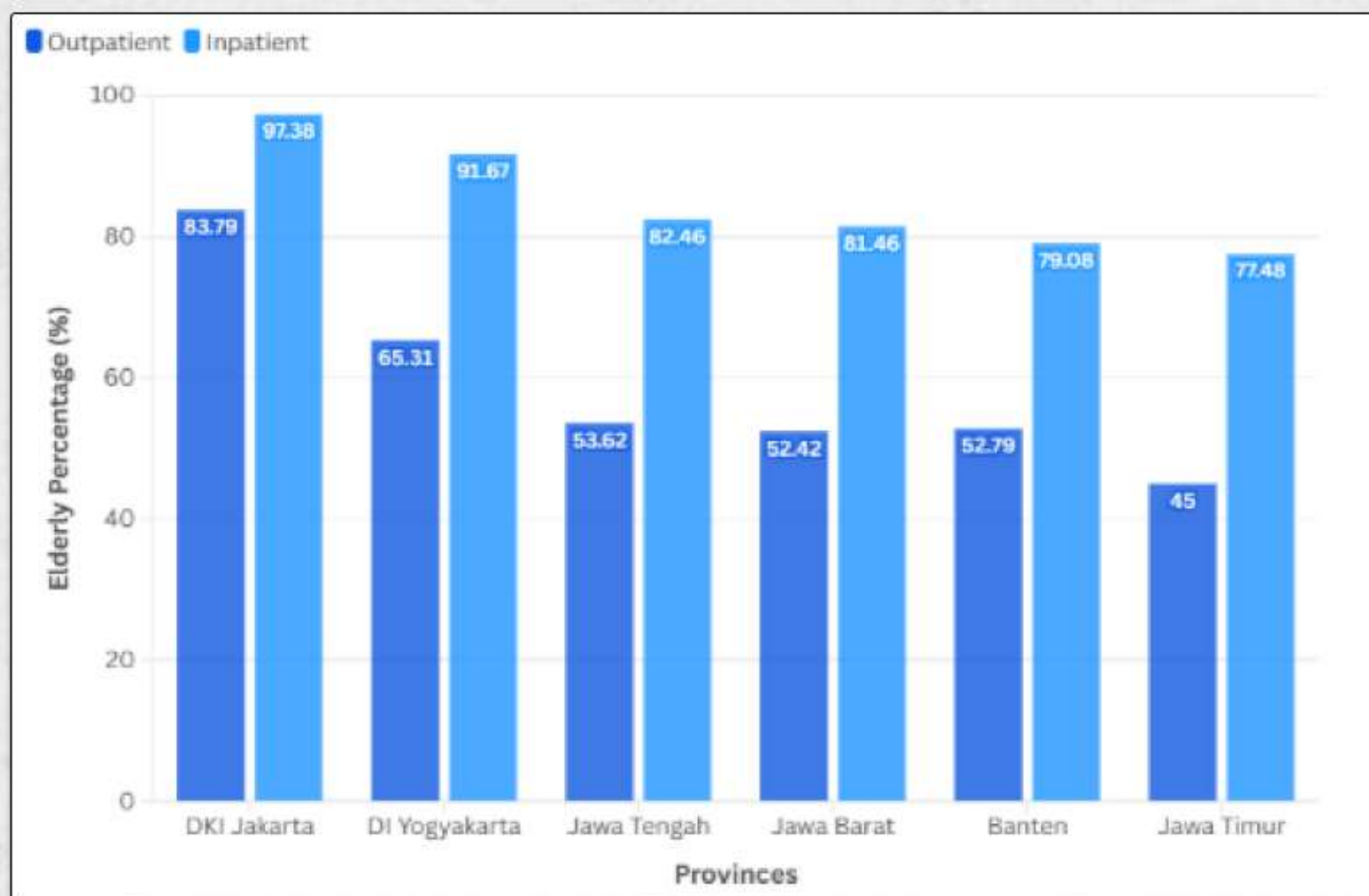


Photo Source: POLTEKKES KEMENKES

# Healthcare Utilization

Health insurance plays a crucial role in protecting the well-being of the elderly in Yogyakarta. Figure 9 shows that most elderly individuals receiving inpatient and outpatient care are covered by health insurance, highlighting its importance in supporting their access to healthcare services.

**Figure 9. BPJS Kesehatan Financing (Outpatient, Inpatient) for Elderly, 2024**



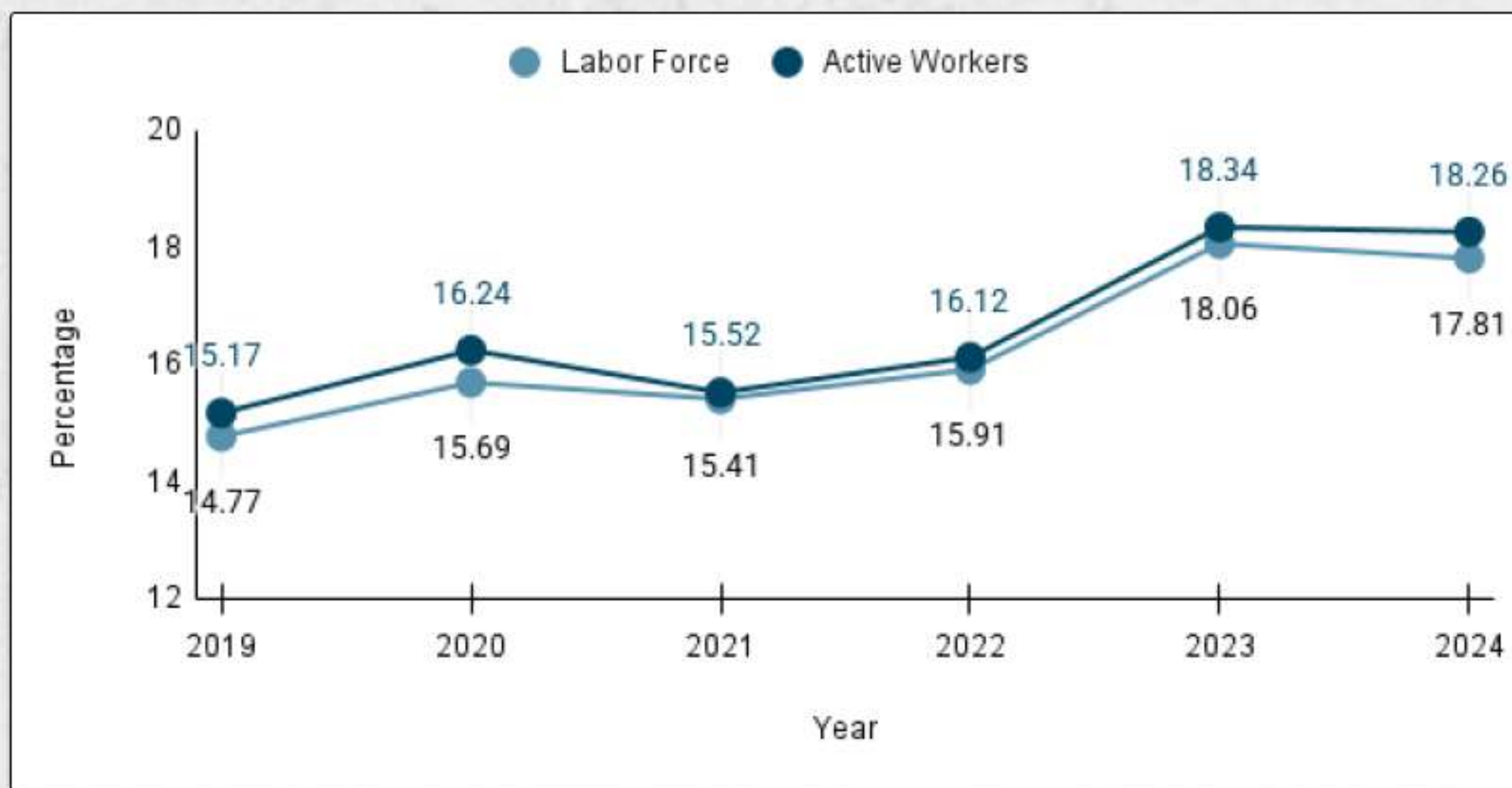
Source: BPS 2024



# Elderly in the Labor Force

Among the total labor force and working individuals in Yogyakarta, the proportion of elderly in the labor force and working elderly has been steadily increasing overtime.

**Figure 10. Proportion of Elderly Group to Total Labor Force and Active Workers in Yogyakarta (2019-2024)**



Source: BPS 2024, SAKERNAS, Processed by Author

Photo Source: detikHealth

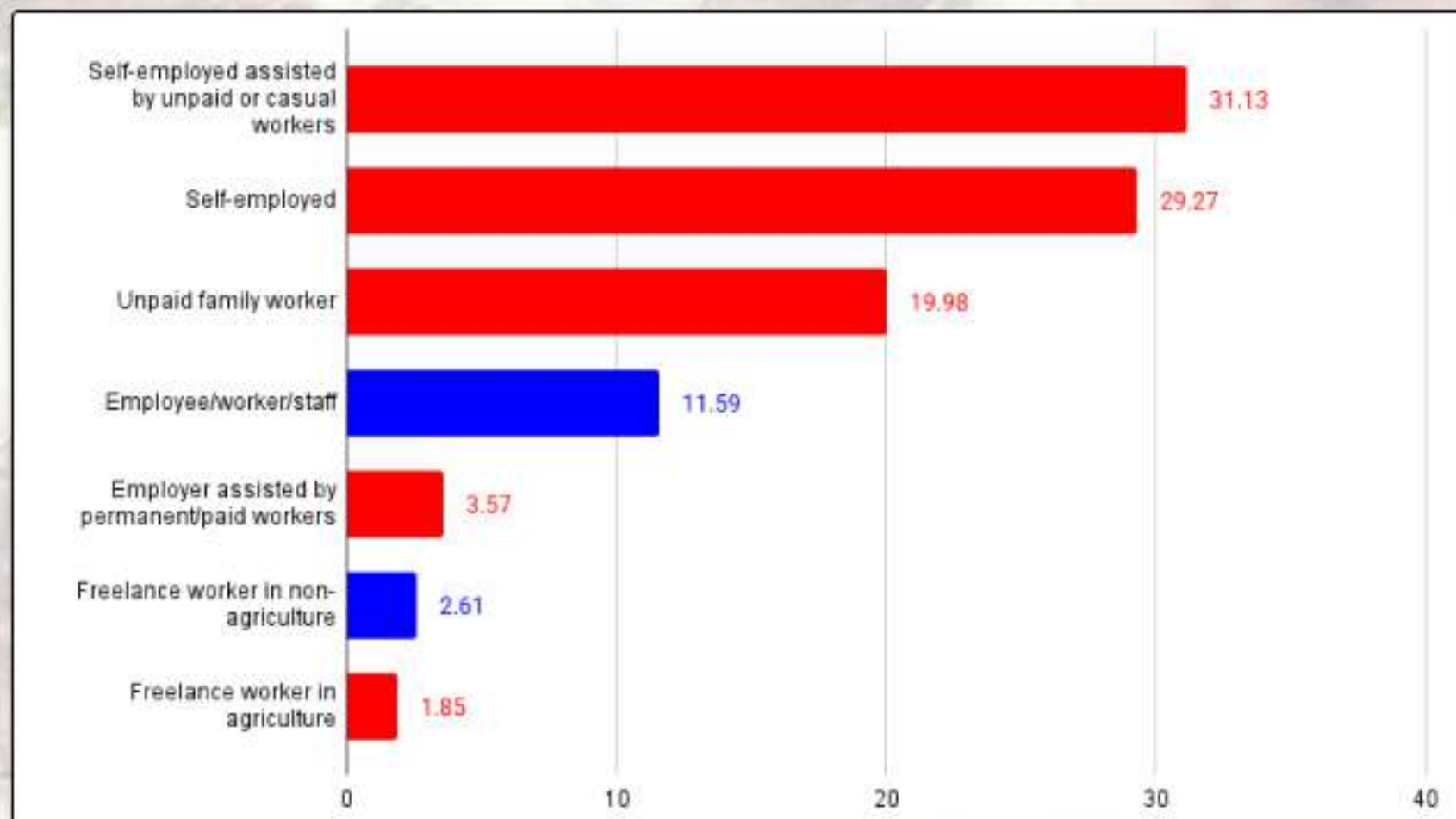




# Nevertheless,

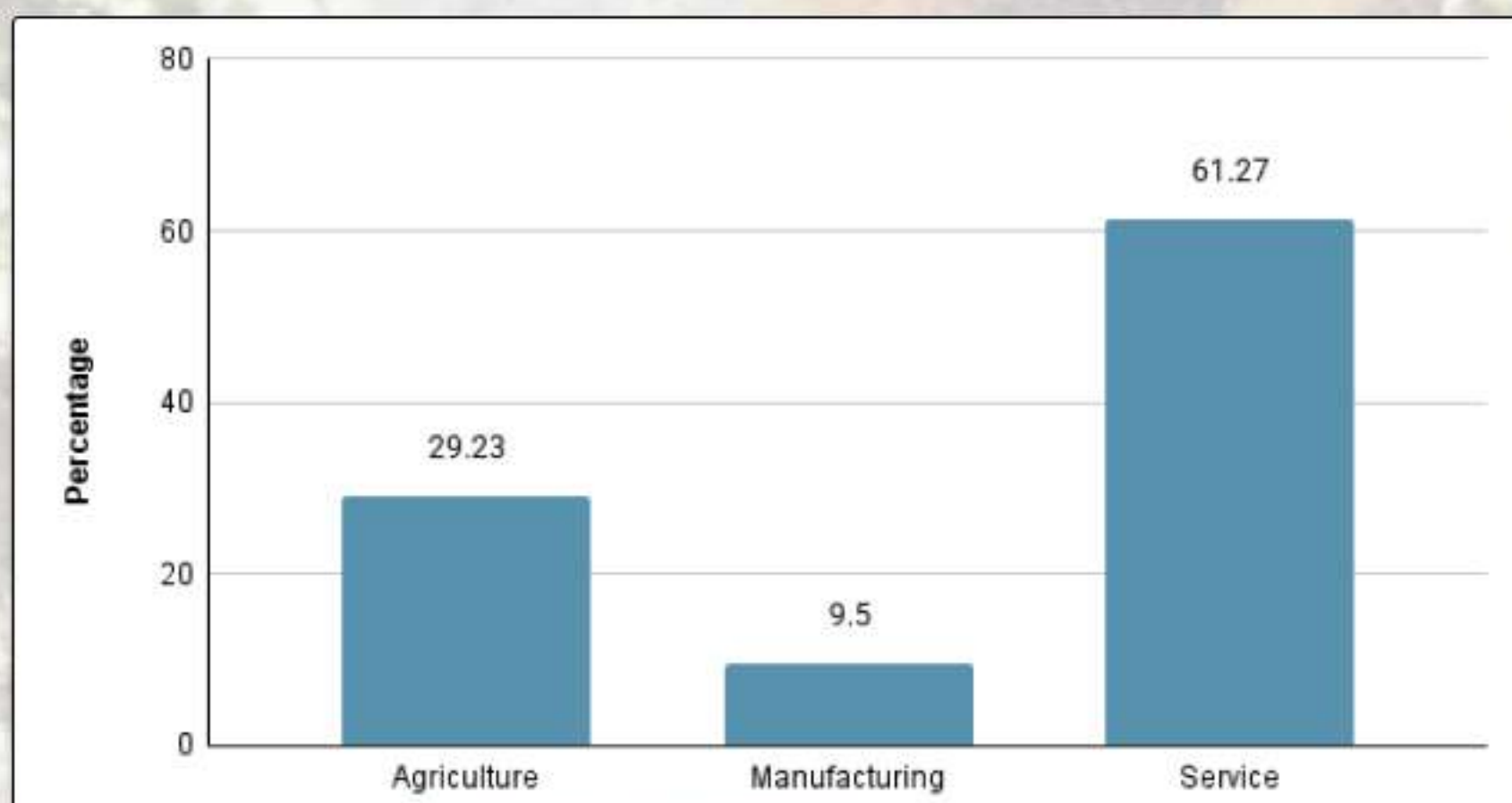
Most elderly workers in Yogyakarta are engaged in the informal status of jobs (mostly as self-employed workers), particularly in the service and agricultural sectors. This implies that most elderly workers in the region work in the low productive sectors.

**Figure 11. Elderly Workers in Yogyakarta by Job Status, 2024**



Source: SAKERNAS 2024, processed by Author

**Figure 12. Elderly Workers in Yogyakarta by Job Sector, 2024**



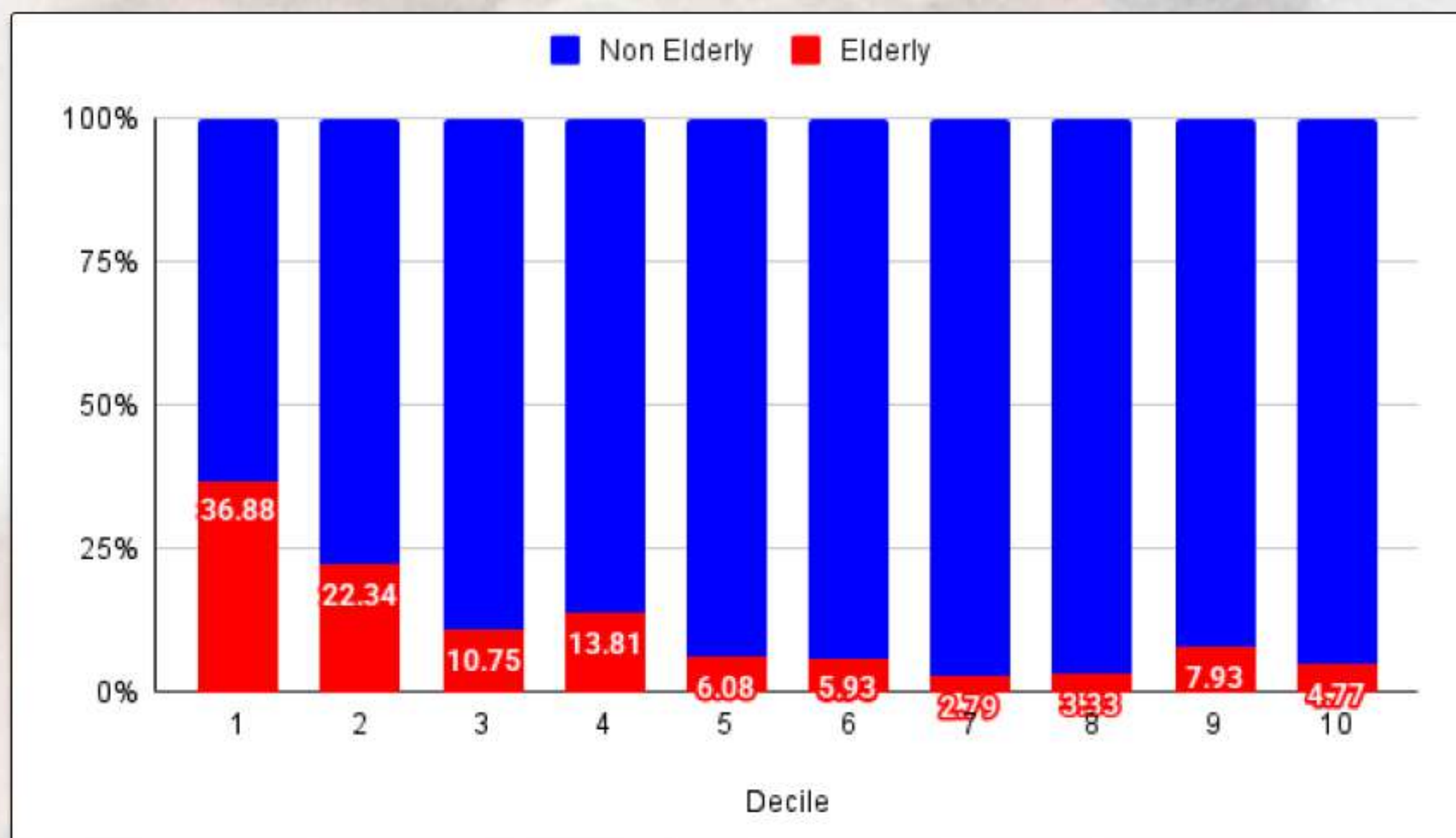
Source: SAKERNAS 2024, processed by Author



# Furthermore,

The vulnerability of elderly workers in Yogyakarta is further reflected in the low deciles of their labor income, where the majority of elderly workers in Yogyakarta are in the 1st and 2nd deciles of the income distribution.

**Figure 13. Distribution of Workers by Age Group and Income Decile in Yogyakarta, 2024**



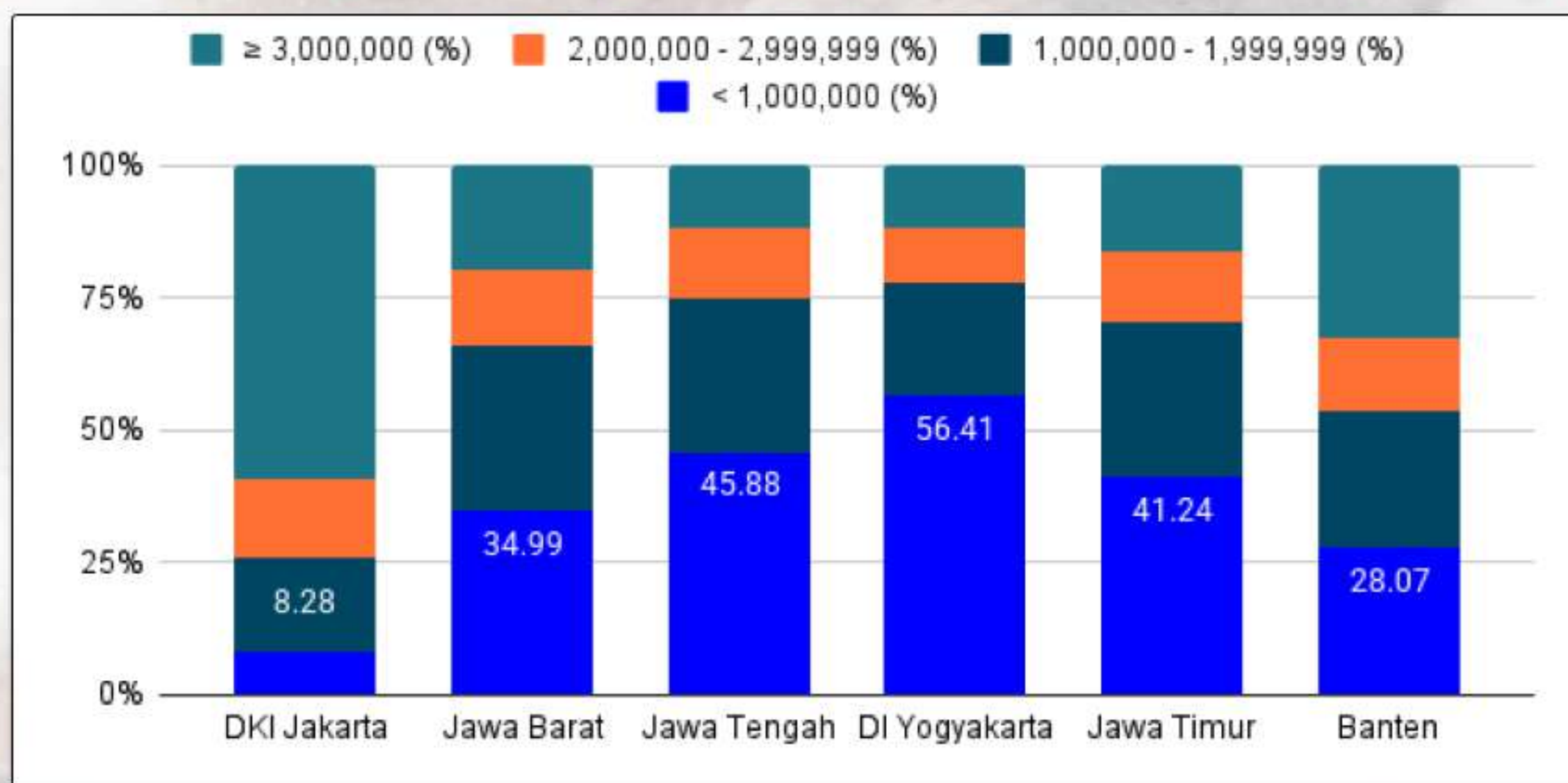
Source: BPS 2024, SAKERNAS, Processed by Author

Photo Source: The Borgen Project



Compared to other regions in Java Island, elderly workers in Yogyakarta have the highest share of income below Rp1,000,000. This indicates that many elderly remain in low-paying employment. Such condition reflect their economic vulnerability and continued reliance on work for basic subsistence.

**Figure 14. Percentage of Working Elderly by Province and Monthly Income, 2024**



Source: BPS 2024

Photo Source: The Jakarta Post

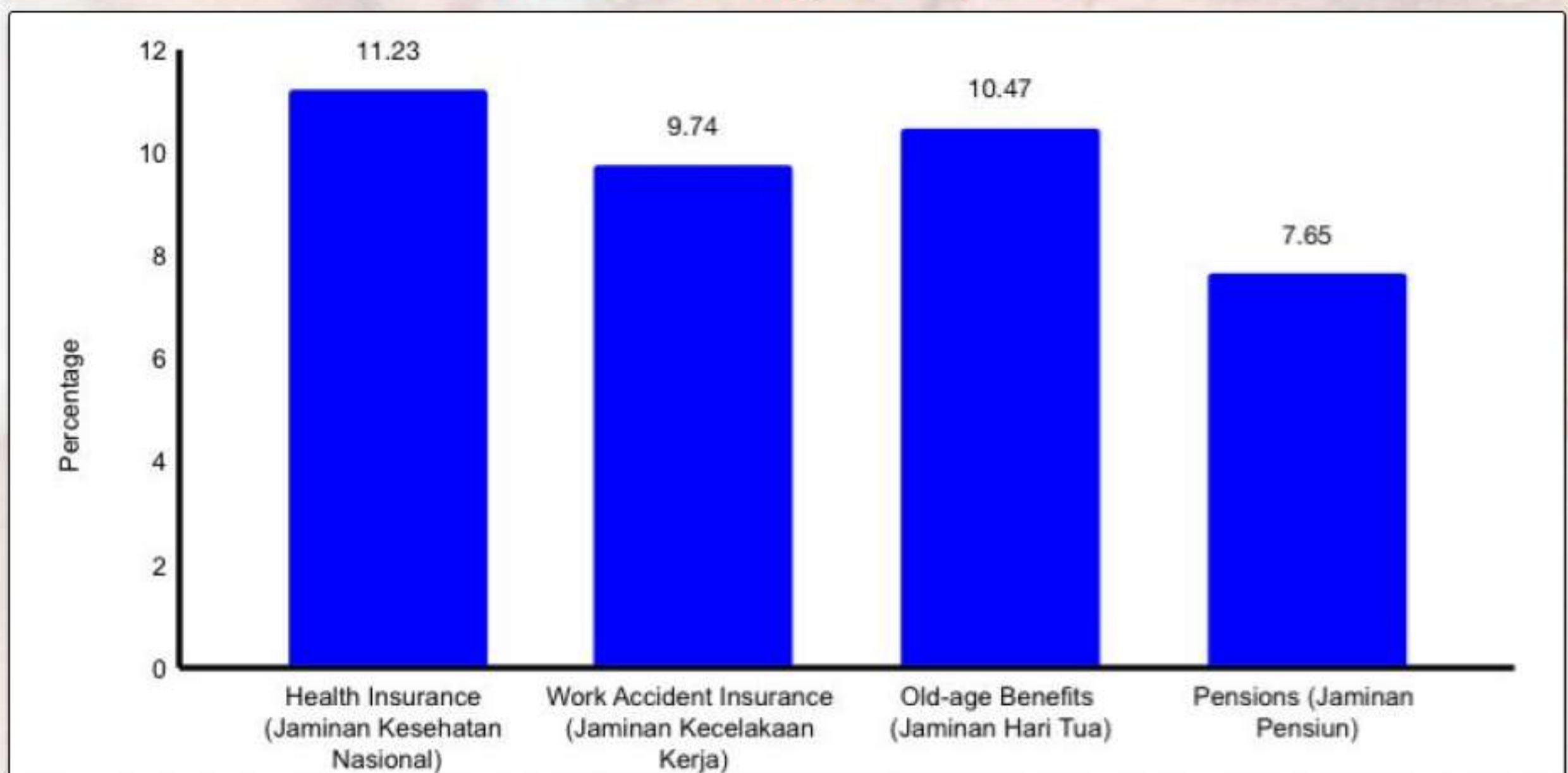




## Even Worse,

These elderly workers lack of social protections coverage. Such condition would put elderly workers at a higher financial risk if a shock was to occur to either their employment or health. Moreover, only a few elderly workers are covered by pension plans or pension guarantees, which puts them in a more precarious situation as they age.

**Figure 15. Distribution of Social Insurance Ownership by Type among Elderly Workers in Yogyakarta, 2024**



Source: BPS 2024, SAKERNAS, Processed by Author

Photo Source: World Bank Blogs



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