**Table 19.2: Estimated Populations of Defectors and their Children in China’s Three Northeastern Provinces**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year of Survey | Organization Conducting Survey | Target Population | Estimated North Korean Defector Population (number of individuals) |
| 1999 | Good Friends | Adult | ~ 200,000 |
| 2003 | NGO Refugee International | Adult | ~ 100,000 |
| 2006 | International Crisis Group | Adult | ~ 100,000 |
| 2009 | Johns Hopkins University | Adult | ~ 11,610 |
| Children | ~ 13,079 |
| 2012 | Korean Institute for National Unification and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health | Adult | ~ 8,533 |
| Children | ~ 22,321 |

**Table 19.1: Changes in Terminology Referring to Defectors[[1]](#footnote-1)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time Period | Term in Korean | English Translation |
| Pre-Korean War | *wollamja* | Person who came south |
| Post-Korean War | *wollam gwisunyongsa* | Brave warrior who came south |
| 1960s-1980s | *gwisunyongsa,*  *gwisunja,*  *wollamja,*  *talbukja* | Brave warrior who returned home  Person who returned home  Person who came south  Person who escaped from the north |
| 1990s | *gwisun bukandongpo,*  *talbuk gwisunja,*  *jayu bukanin,*  *gwisun dongpo* | North Korean brethren who returned home,  Person who escaped from the north and returned home  Free North Korean,  Brethren who returned home |
| 1999 | *bukan italjumin* | North Korean residents who left |
| 2004 | *saetomin* | Person who has moved to a new territory |

1. Strong opposition from defectors who argued that ‘saetomin’ was denouncing them as those who had come to South Korea simply to survive, led the Ministry of Unification to officially drop the term in 2008. However, the terms ‘North Korean refugee’ and ‘defector’ are currently in use in South Korea. There is now, however, a great deal of research arguing that the term ‘North Korean refugee’ (*pukhanitaljumin*) needs to be changed because it is too political in nature. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)