

FAMILY TRENDS REPORT 2025

JULY 2025

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B. INTRODUCTION

Strong and stable families are the bedrock of our society. As a society, we strive to make Singapore a place where all families can grow and thrive at every stage of life – from getting married, having children, in their golden years, and even when facing challenges.

In 2022, the Government published “A Singapore Made For Families 2025”, a national roadmap to strengthen our whole-of-society commitment to building a family-friendly society. Through the plan, we established a collaborative approach, integrating Government support across every stage of family life. We will continue to build upon the progress made in the past three years to support and uplift our families.

This Family Trends Report provides key annual updates on Singapore’s family trends as we work towards achieving a Singapore Made For Families. The trends reinforce the need to press on with our whole-of-society efforts to strengthen and support families.

The key trends are:

Lower number of marriages.

The number of marriages registered in 2024 was 7.0% lower than in 2023. This was driven by fewer civil marriages of those aged 25 – 34 as well as fewer Muslim marriages of males aged 30 – 34 and 45 and over, and females aged 30 – 34 and 40 – 44.

Having two children remains most common for ever-married resident females.

Among ever-married resident females aged 40 – 49 years, those with two children continued to form the largest group of 41.8%.

Parental leave take-up rates are stable, and more employers and co-workers are also offering flexibility to help employees balance their caregiving needs with their career aspirations.

The take-up rates of Government-Paid Paternity and Maternity Leave have remained stable over recent years. More employees can access flexible work arrangements that they require, from 84.1% in 2022 to 87.0% in 2023.

Greater access to affordable and quality preschools, and support for young children with developmental needs.

The number of full-day infant care places nearly tripled and the number of full-day childcare places nearly doubled over the past ten years to cater to growing demand. With more dual-income families and greater recognition of the importance of early childhood care and education, the enrolment rate of children aged 3 – 4 years increased over the years from 76% in 2014 to 90% in 2024. With ongoing efforts to maintain parental awareness and ensure early detection through hospitals’ child development programmes, the number of referrals of children who require medium to high levels of Early Intervention (EI) support remained stable over recent years. The total number of children served in EI programmes was 10,186 in 2024.

Increased marriage stability in more recent cohorts of marriages.

Marriage dissolution rates before the 10th marriage anniversary fell among 2006 – 2013 marriage cohorts compared to the 2005 cohort, which signifies greater marriage stability among recent cohorts of married couples. The most significant improvement was seen in the fall in dissolution rates for Muslim marriages.

Families continue to be the key support for seniors.

Majority of survey respondents ranked family members among the top three choices in meeting the needs of the elderly. Majority of elderly respondents aged 65 years old were satisfied with the support they receive from their family.

Strong family ties were associated with higher quality of life

Findings also showed that strong family relationships and support were associated with higher quality of life.

Parents of children and youth are resilient and have the capacity to tide through challenges together.

9 in 10 parents reported moderate to high family resilience. Parents who reported higher family resilience also reported higher quality of life scores.

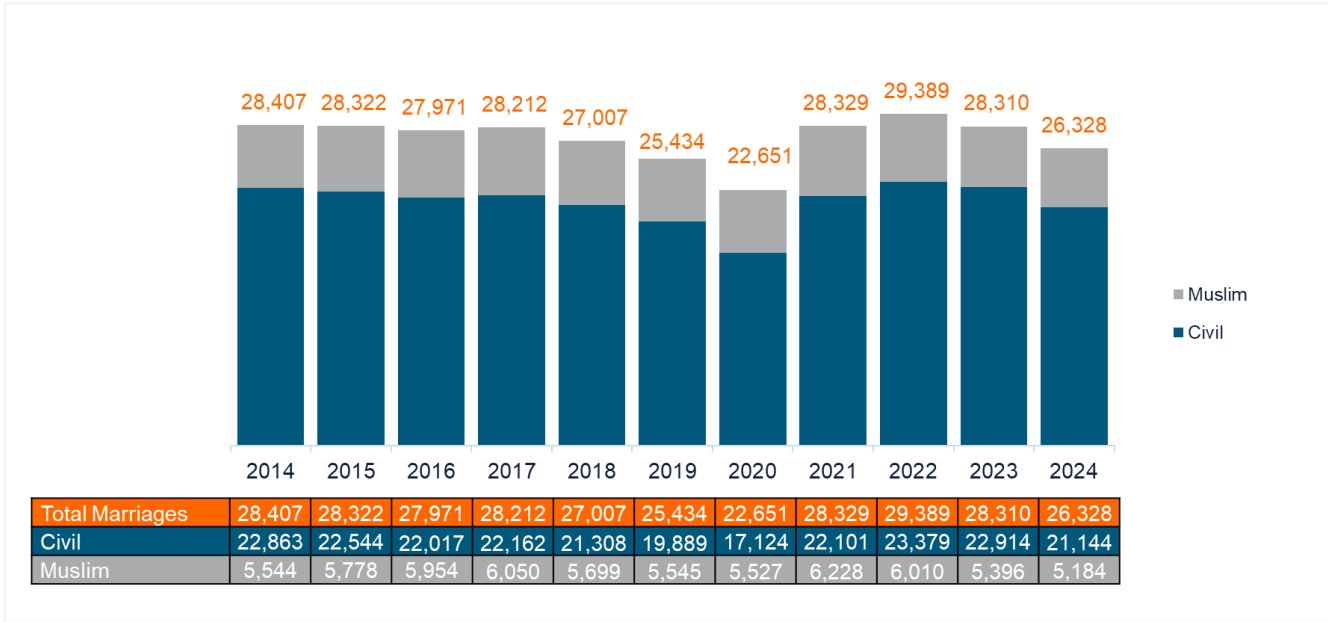
C. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY FORMATION

C1. MARRIAGES

Fewer marriages in 2024...

There were 26,328 marriages registered in 2024, 7.0% lower than the 28,310 marriages registered in 2023 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Total Marriages Registered

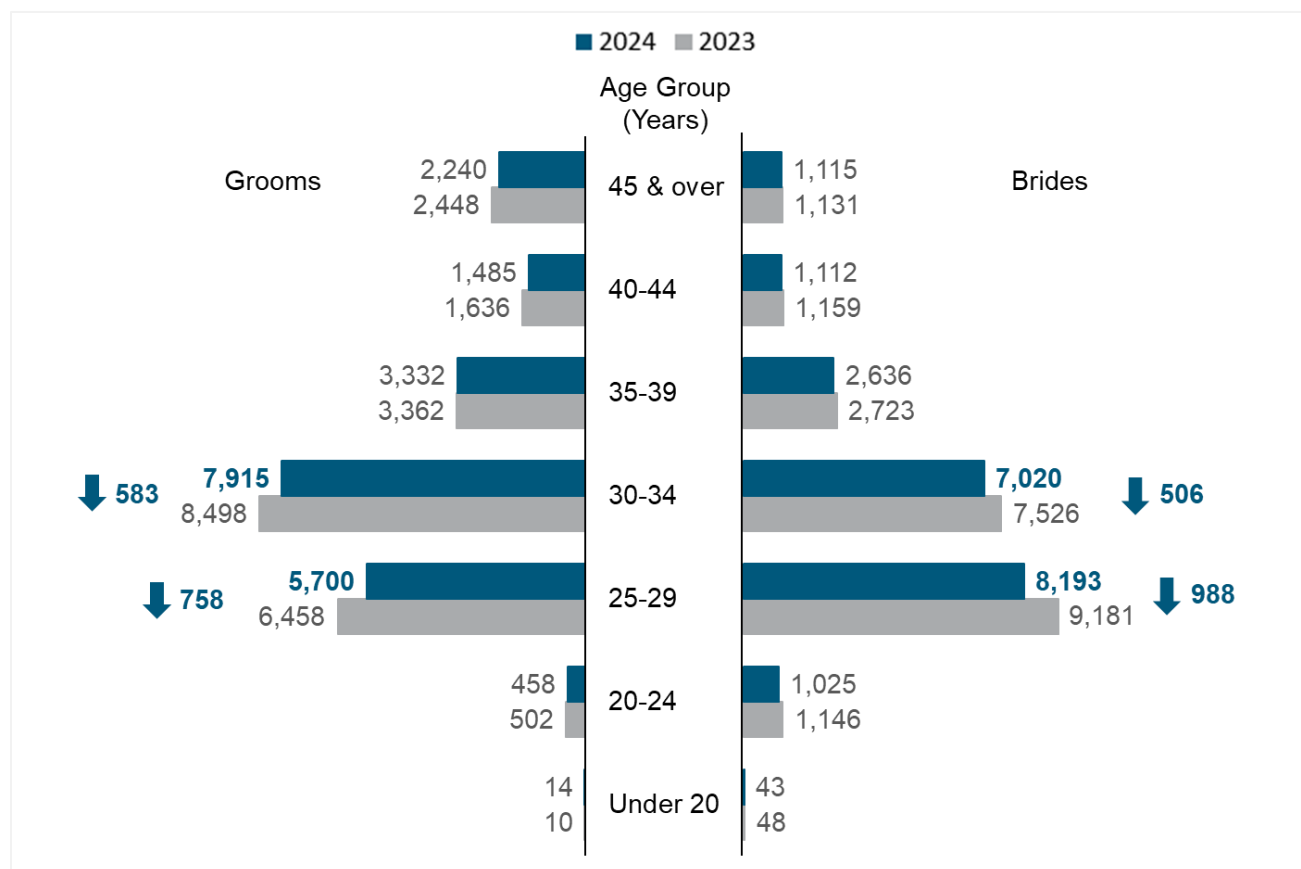


Source: Department of Statistics (DOS)

... driven by fewer civil marriages of those aged 25 – 34...

There was a decline in civil marriages¹ across almost all age groups in 2024 compared to 2023. The decline was mainly from the larger fall in the number of marriages involving grooms and brides aged 25 – 34, relative to other age groups (Chart 2). Compared to 2023, the number of civil marriages involving grooms aged 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 decreased by 758 and 583 respectively in 2024. The number of civil marriages involving brides aged 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 decreased by 988 and 506 respectively in 2024 as compared to 2023.

Chart 2: Civil Marriages by Age Group of Grooms and Brides



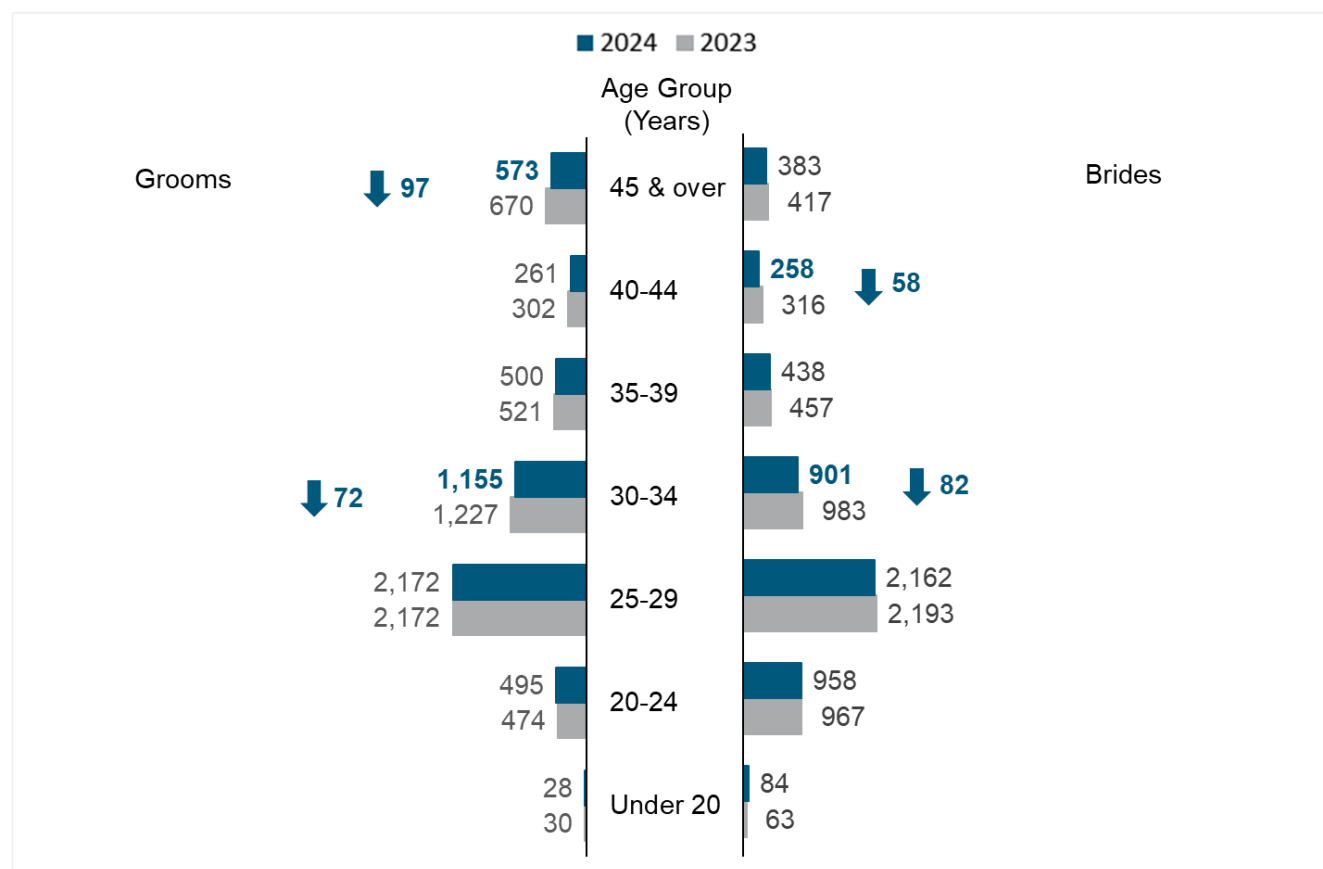
Source: DOS

¹ Civil marriages refer to marriages registered under the Women's Charter.

... and fewer Muslim marriages of males 30 – 34 and 45 & over, and females 30 – 34 and 40 – 44

The decline in Muslim marriages² was mainly from the fall in marriages involving grooms aged 30-34 and 45 & over and brides aged 30 – 34 and 40 – 44 (Chart 3). Compared to 2023, the number of Muslim marriages involving grooms aged 45 & over and 30 – 34 decreased by 97 and 72 respectively in 2024 while the number of Muslim marriages involving brides aged 30 – 34 and 40 – 44 decreased by 82 and 58 respectively in 2024.

Chart 3: Muslim Marriages by Age Group of Grooms and Brides



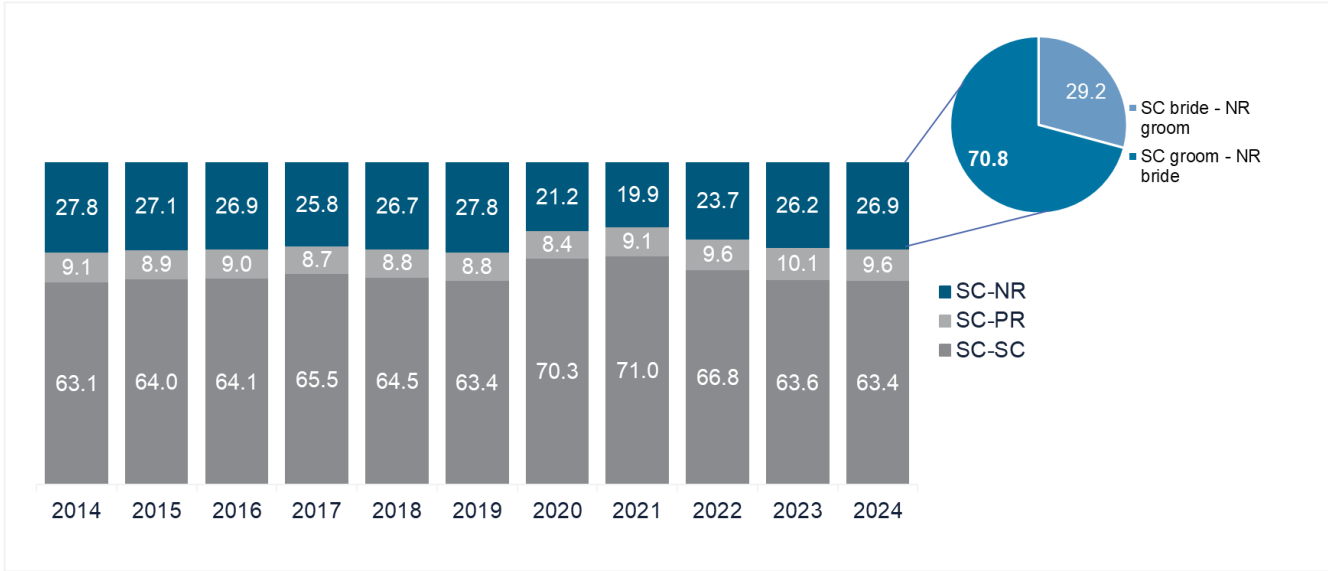
Source: DOS

² Muslim marriages refer to marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act.

About 1 in 4 citizen marriages were with a Non-Resident (NR)

Over the last ten years, about 1 in 4 citizen marriages³ were between a Singapore Citizen (SC) and a NR⁴ (Chart 4). Among SC-NR marriages in 2024, 70.8% were between a SC groom and NR bride.

Chart 4: Citizen Marriages by Residential Status of Couple (Per Cent)

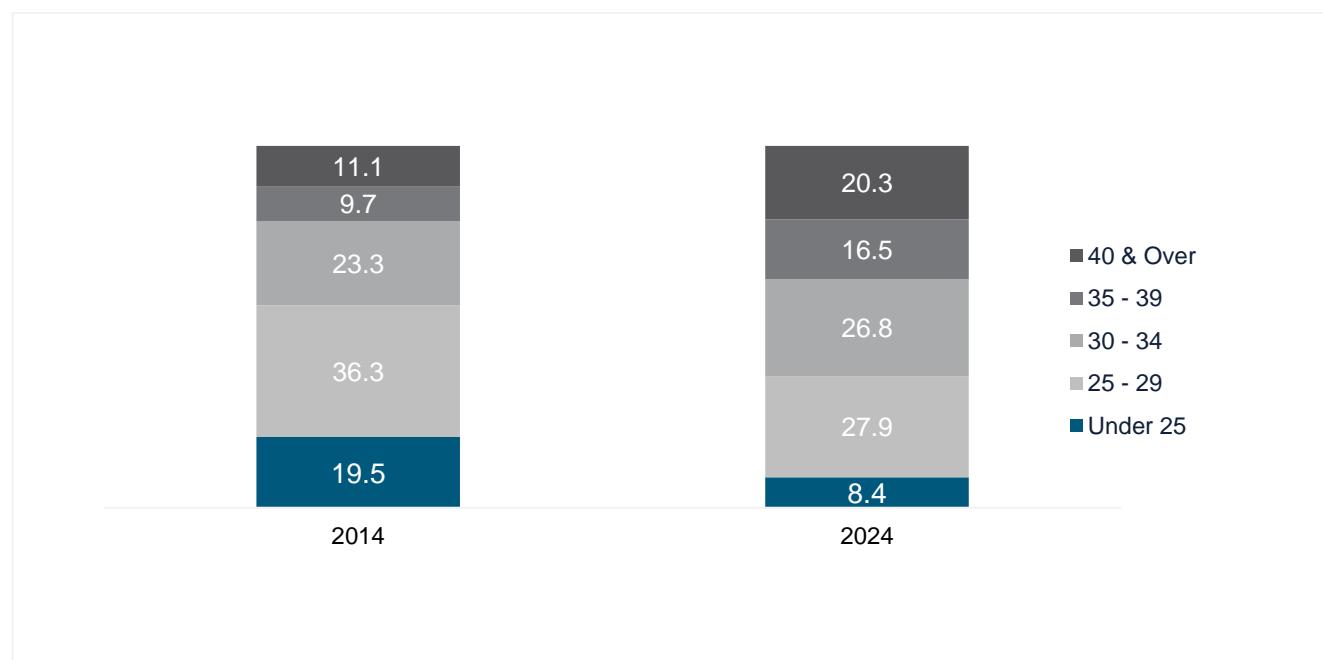


Source: DOS
Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

³ Citizen marriages refer to marriages involving at least one citizen.
⁴ Refers to non-Singapore Citizen and non-Permanent Resident.

NR brides were older and had higher educational qualifications in 2024 compared to 2014. The proportion of NR brides aged below 25 decreased from 19.5% in 2014 to 8.4% in 2024 (Chart 5). The proportion of NR brides with a degree increased from 33.1% in 2014 to 39.9% in 2024 (Chart 6).

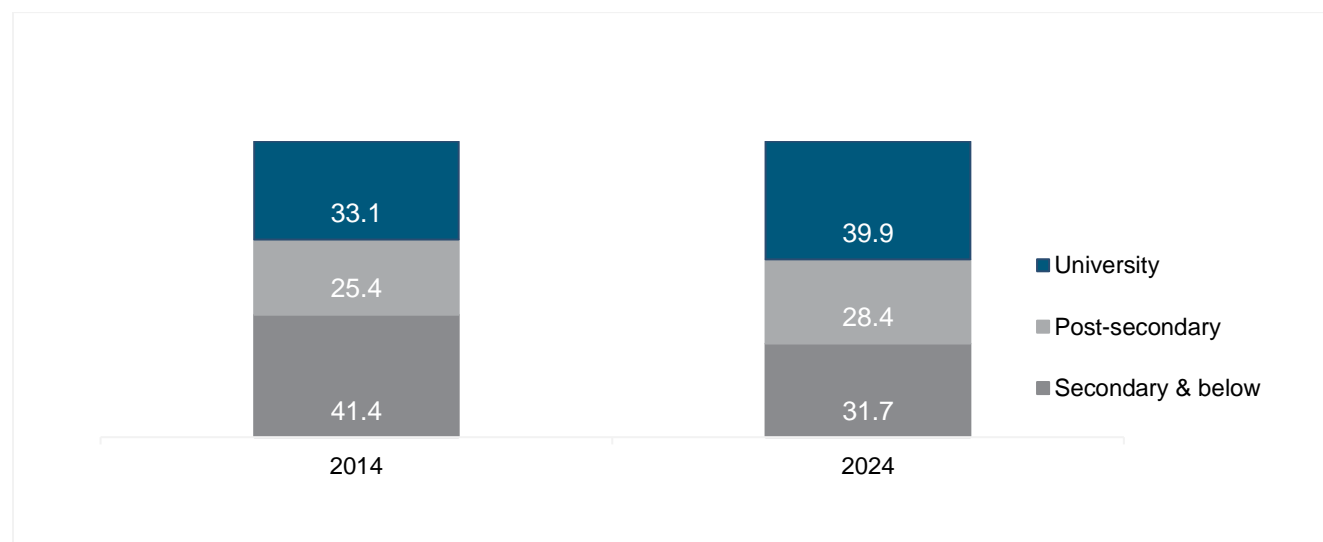
Chart 5: Age Group of NR Brides Married to SC Grooms (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Chart 6: Educational Qualification Attained of NR Brides Married to SC Grooms (Per Cent)

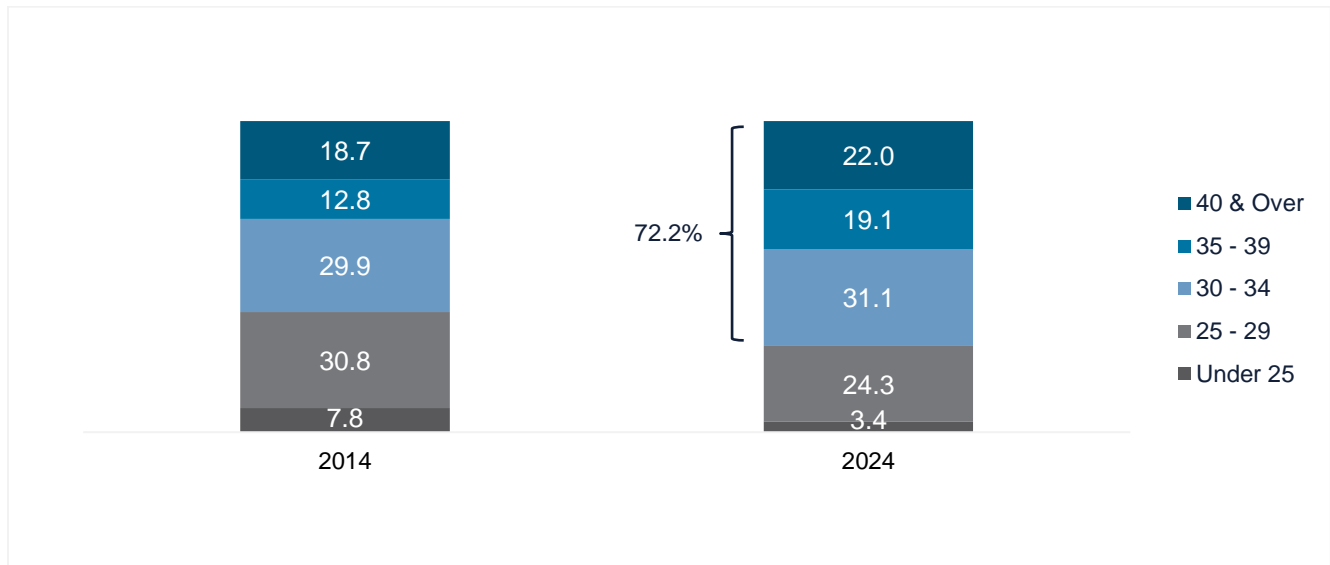


Source: DOS

Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

NR grooms are older in 2024 compared to 2014. The proportion of NR grooms aged 30 and above increased from 61.3% in 2014 to 72.2% in 2024 (Chart 7). Half of the NR grooms (52.8%) were also degree holders (Chart 8).

Chart 7: Age Group of NR Grooms Married to SC Brides (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding. Rounding differences may arise when summation is done based on proportions.

Chart 8: Educational Qualification Attained of NR Grooms Married to SC Brides (Per Cent)



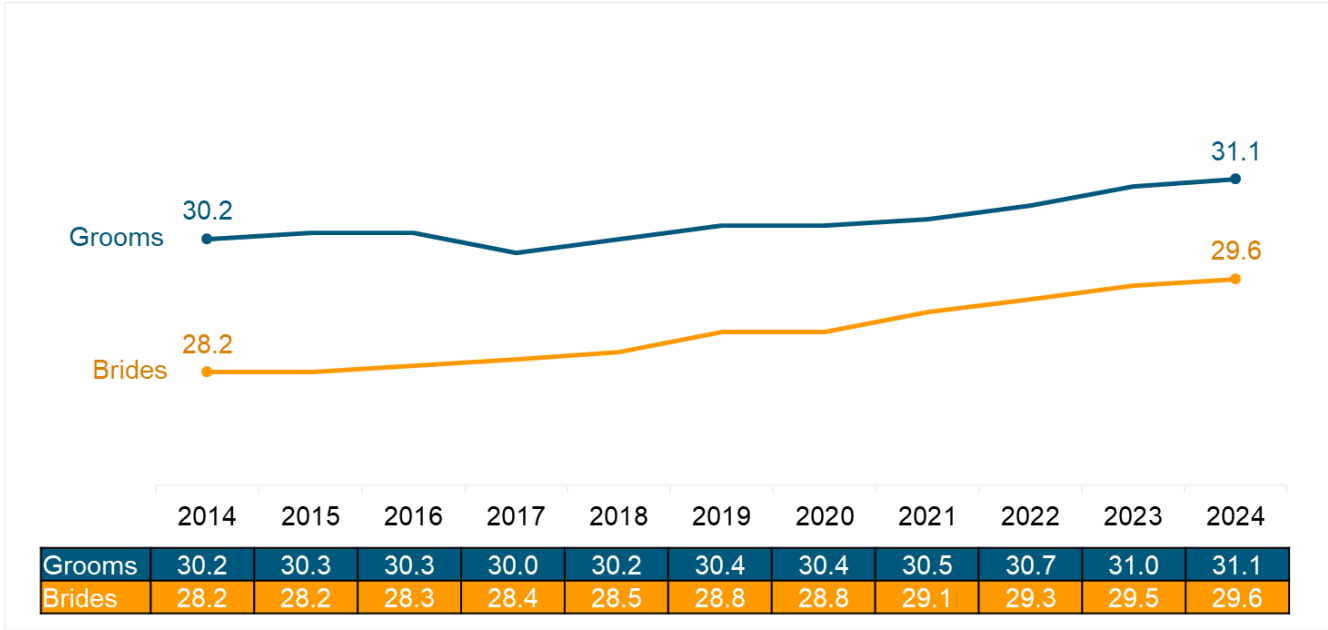
Source: DOS

Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Median age at first marriage continue to rise

The median age at first marriage for grooms increased from 30.2 years in 2014 to 31.1 years in 2024 (Chart 9). The median age at first marriage for brides also increased from 28.2 years in 2014 to 29.6 years in 2024.

Chart 9: Median Age at First Marriage (Years)



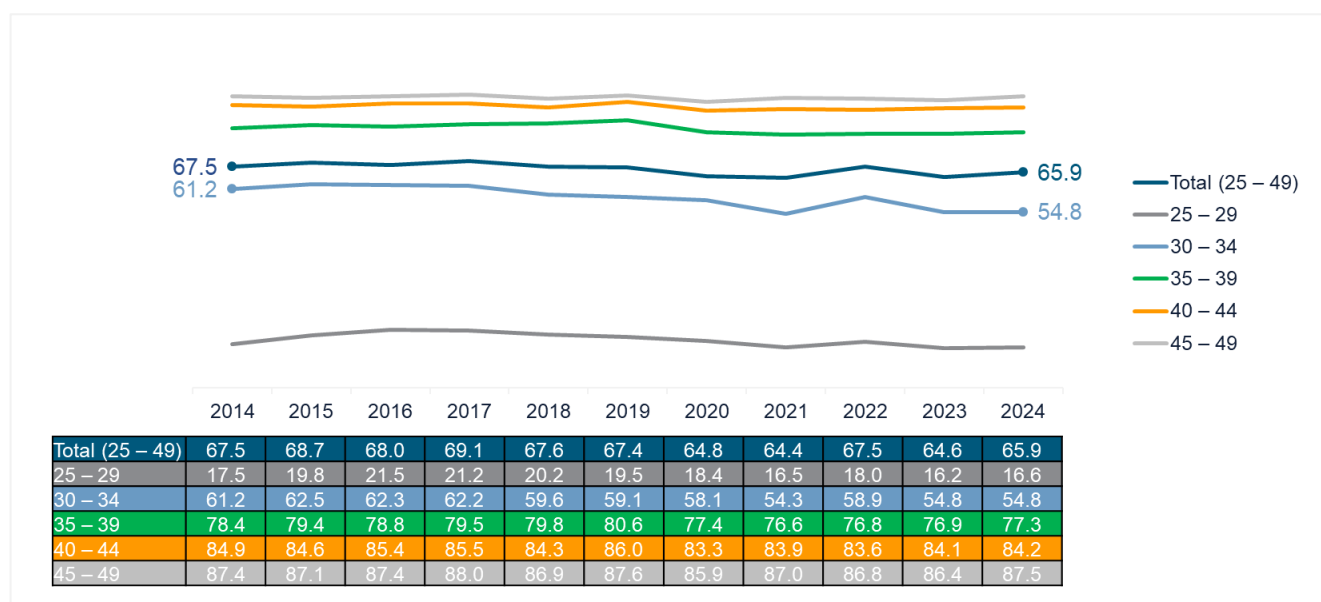
Source: DOS

Decrease in proportion of ever-married residents aged 25 – 49

The proportion of residents aged 25 – 49 who were ever-married⁵ generally decreased over the past decade from 67.5% in 2014 to 65.9% in 2024 for males (Chart 10a) and from 73.7% in 2014 to 71.1% in 2024 for females (Chart 10b).

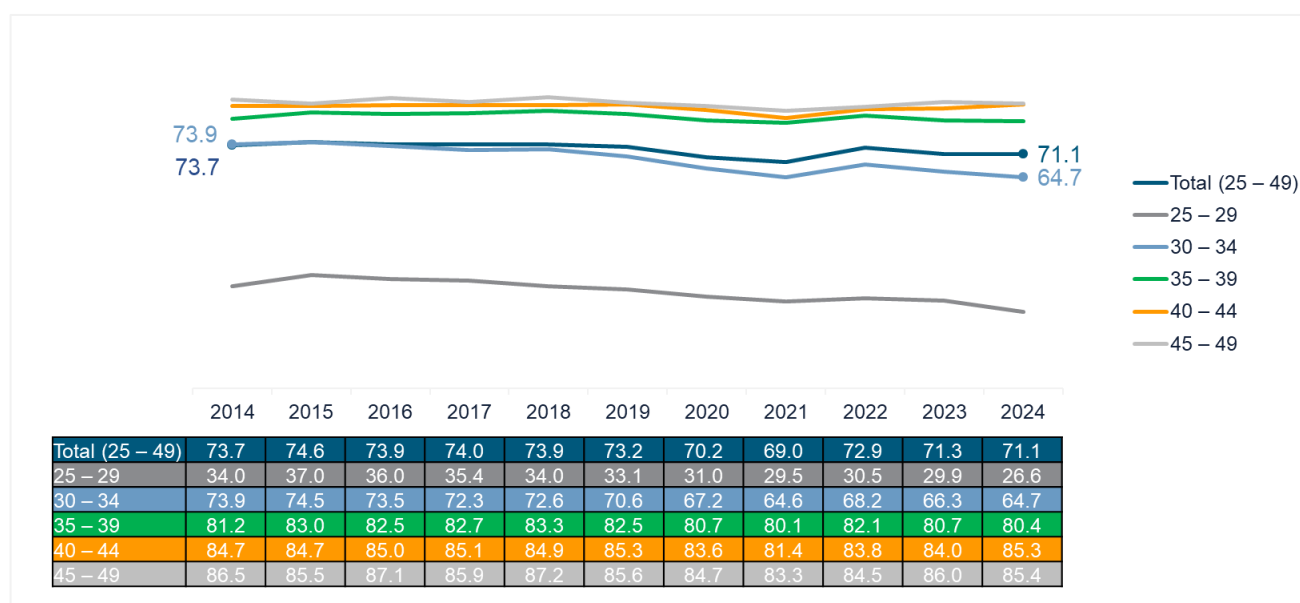
Over the past decade, ever-married resident males and females aged 30 – 34 registered the largest decline in proportion.

Chart 10a: Proportion of Ever-Married Among Male Residents by Age Group (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

Chart 10b: Proportion of Ever-Married Among Female Residents by Age Group (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

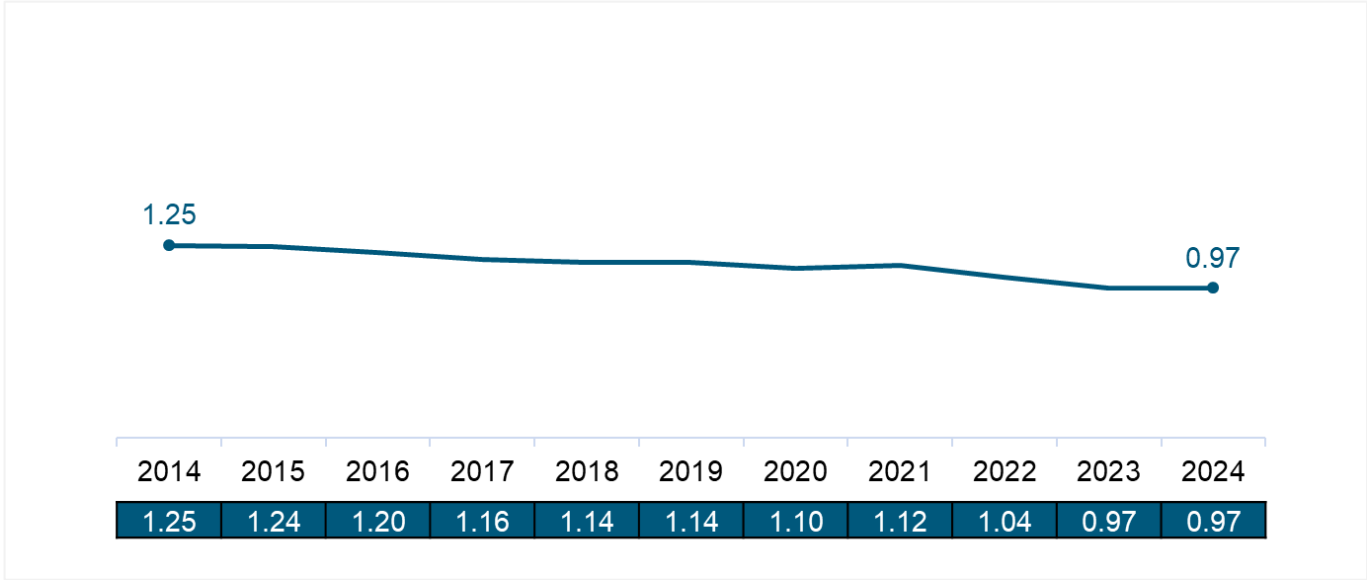
⁵ Ever-married refers to those who have been married before, i.e. includes those currently married, widowed, divorced or separated.

C2. BIRTHS

Total Fertility Rate remains unchanged in 2024 compared to 2023

The resident Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remains unchanged in 2024 compared to 2023. The TFR has decreased from 1.25 in 2014 to 0.97 in 2024 (Chart 11).

Chart 11: Total Fertility Rate (Per Female)

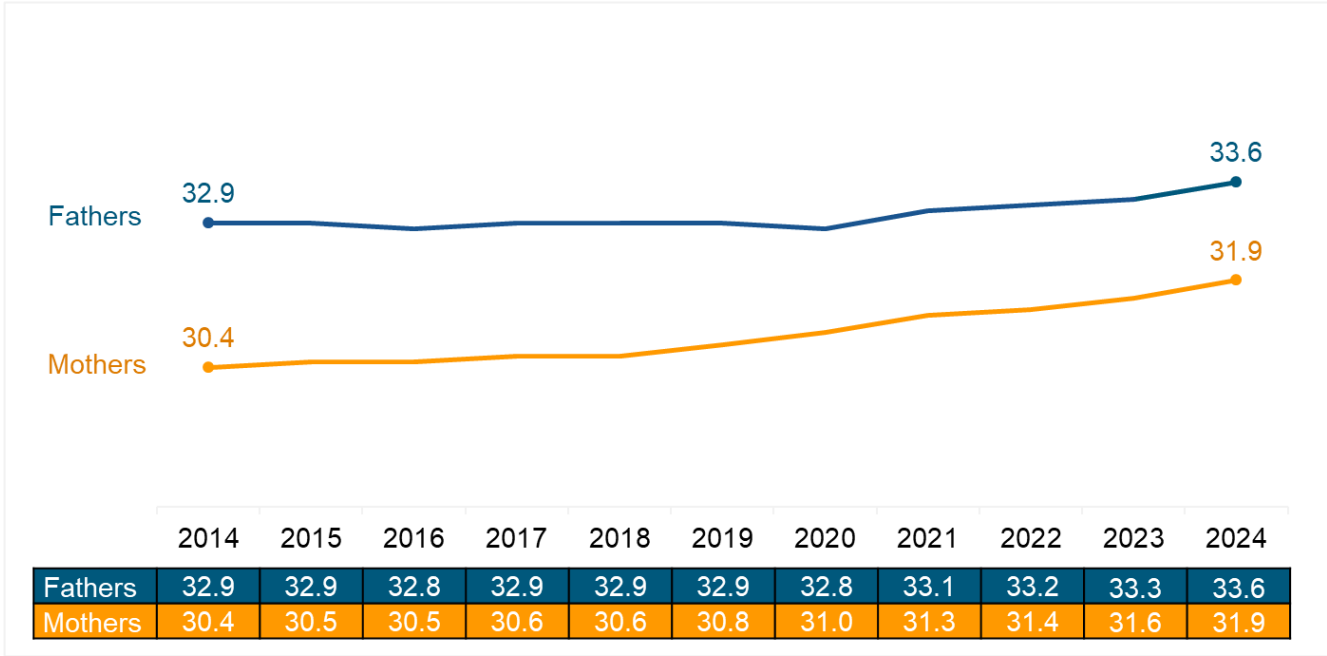


Source: DOS

Median age of first-time fathers and mothers continue to trend upward

The median age of first-time fathers⁶ increased from 32.9 years in 2014 to 33.6 years in 2024 (Chart 12). Similarly for first-time mothers, the median age increased from 30.4 years in 2014 to 31.9 years in 2024.

Chart 12: Median Age of First Time Fathers and Mothers to Resident Births⁷



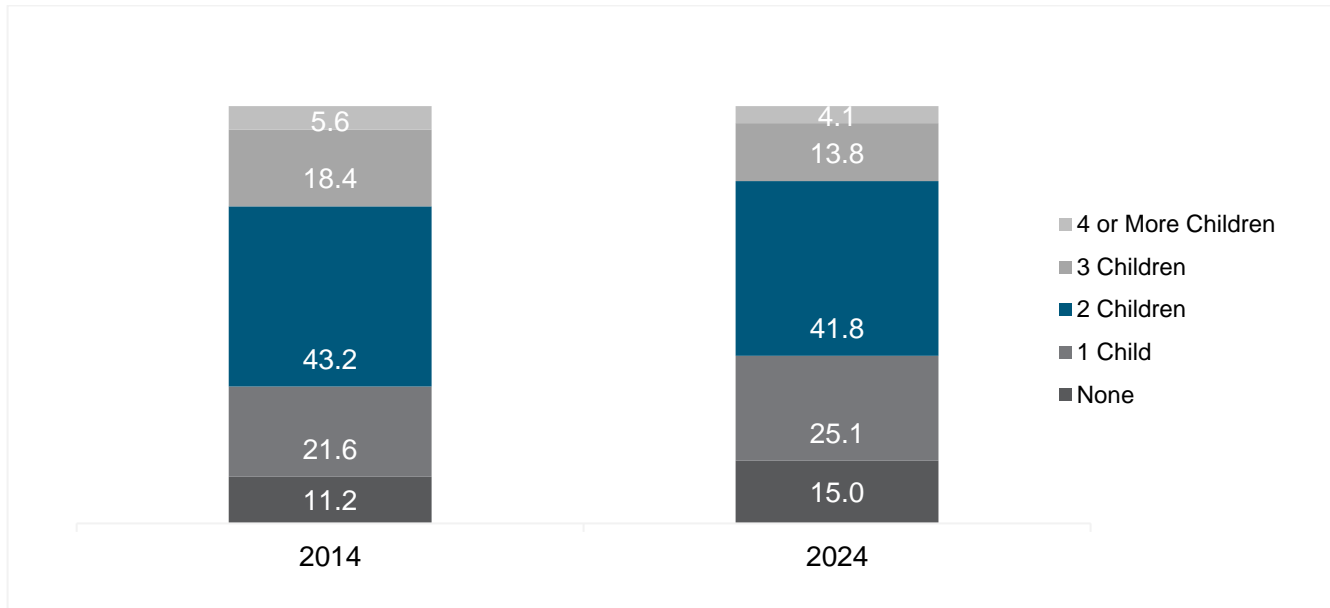
Source: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA)

⁶ As not all births are registered with father's particulars, the median age of father are computed for births registered with father's particulars at mother's first birth.
⁷ Resident births refer to births born to at least one resident (i.e. Singapore citizen or permanent resident) parent.

Having two children remain most common for ever-married resident females

Among ever-married resident females aged 40 – 49 years, those with two children formed the largest group (43.2% in 2014 and 41.8% in 2024) (Chart 13). The proportion of those who had no children rose from 11.2% in 2014 to 15.0% in 2024, and the proportion of those who had one child rose from 21.6% to 25.1%.

Chart 13: Ever-married Resident Females Aged 40 – 49 by Number of Children Born (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

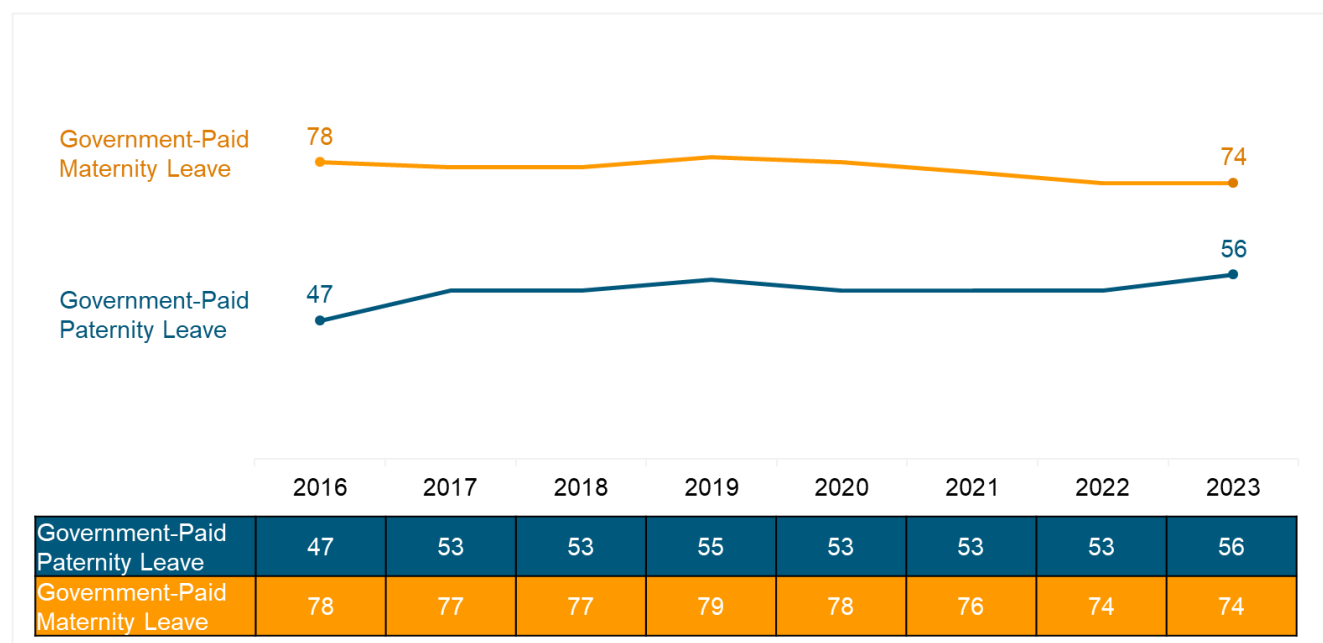
Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

C3. GOVERNMENT PAID LEAVE SCHEME AND FLEXIBLE WORK ARRANGEMENTS (FWAs)

More than half of fathers take up Government-Paid Paternity Leave...

The proportion of fathers who took Government-Paid Paternity Leave is 56% for children born in 2023. The take up rate of Government-Paid Paternity Leave has remained stable at over 50% in recent years. The take-up of Government-Paid Maternity Leave over the years continue to remain high, ranging from 74% to 79% (Chart 14).

Chart 14: Take-up Rate of Government-Paid Paternity and Maternity Leave Scheme⁸ (Per Cent)



Source: Ministry of Social & Family Development (MSF)

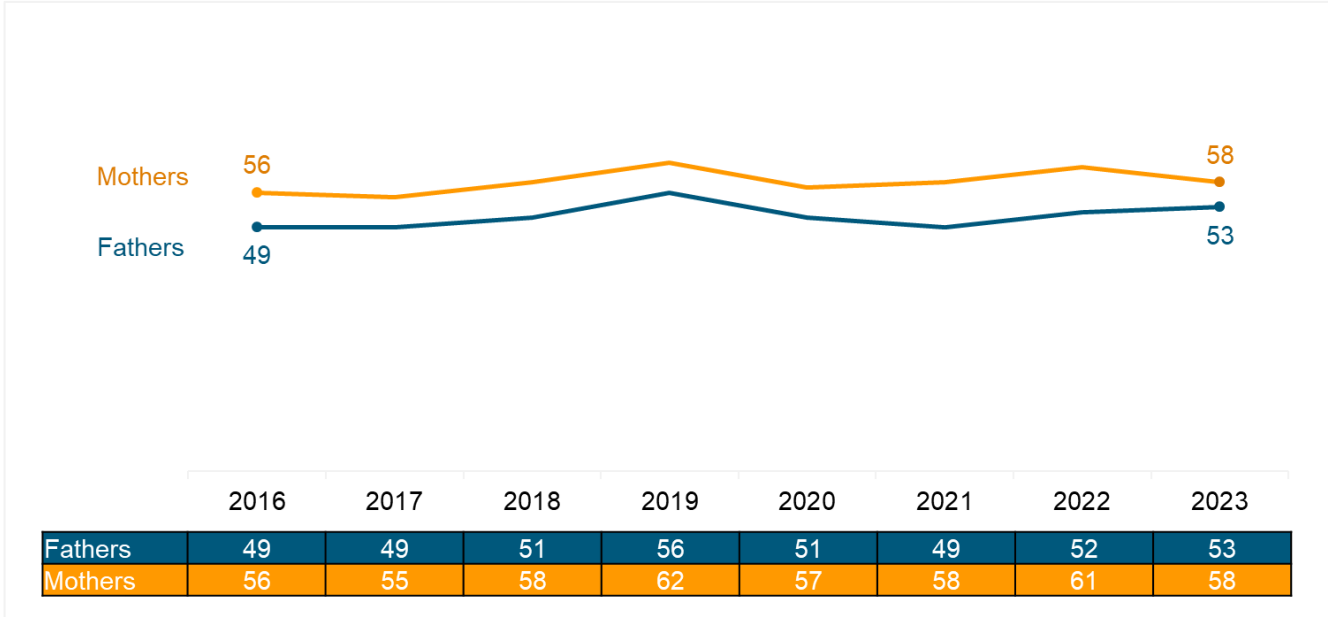
Note: Figures are rounded to nearest whole number.

⁸ Take-up rates are by child's year of birth for maternity leave and paternity leave. For paternity and maternity leave, 2023 was the latest available year as parents have up to one year after their Singaporean child's birth to consume the leave, and employers have three months after that to submit claims. The data excludes parents whose employers did not submit claims.

...and Childcare Leave

The take-up of childcare leave by fathers has remained stable from 49% in 2016 to 53% in 2023. The take-up of childcare leave by mothers was also relatively stable over the years, from 56% in 2016 to 58% in 2023. (Chart 15).

Chart 15: Take-up Rate of Childcare Leave Scheme⁹ (Per Cent)



Source: MSF

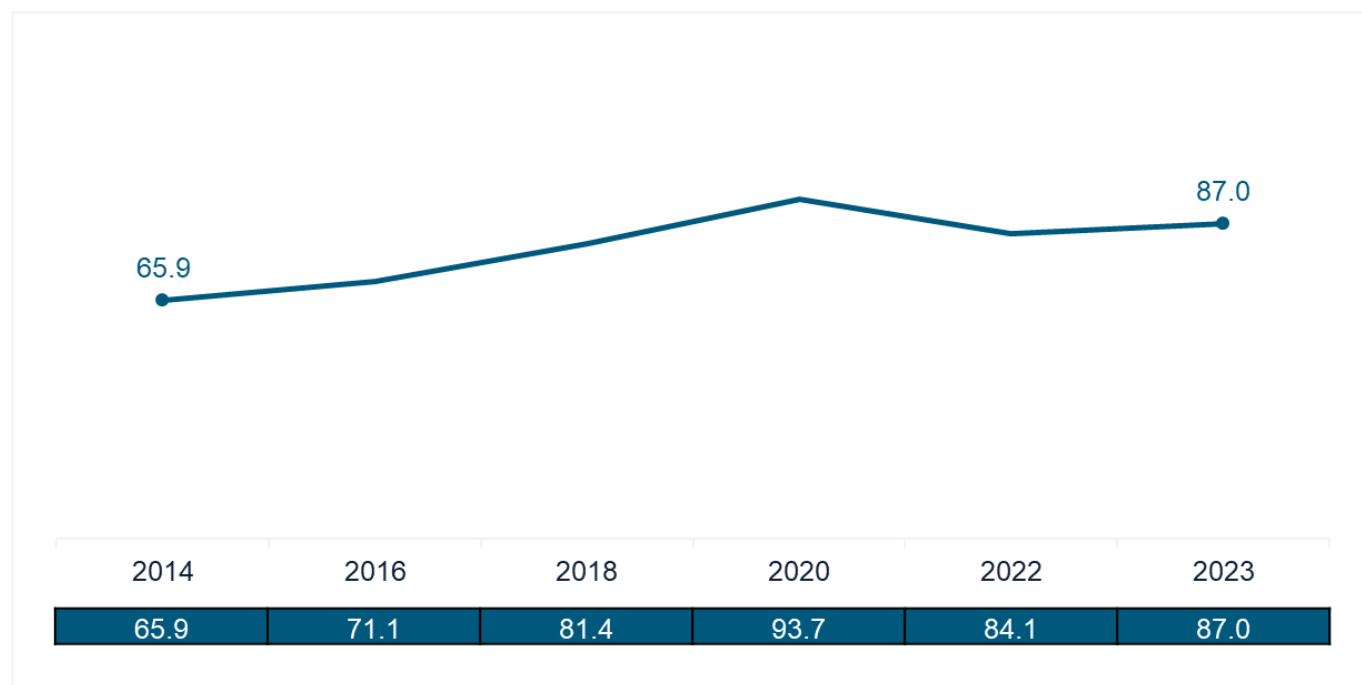
Note: Figures are rounded to nearest whole number.

⁹ Take-up rates are by year of taking leave for childcare leave. For childcare leave, 2023 was the latest available year as parents have the entire year to consume their entitled leave, and employers have three months after that to submit claims. The data excludes parents whose employers did not submit claims.

Most employees continue to have access to FWAs they require

In addition, among employees aged 25 – 64 who required Flexible Work Arrangements (FWAs), 87.0% had access to the FWA that they required in 2023, up from 84.1% in 2022 (Chart 16). The spike in 2020 was due to companies adopting the work-from-home arrangement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chart 16: Proportion of Full-time Resident Employees Aged 25 – 64 Who Were Provided with At Least 1 Scheduled FWA¹⁰ They Required (Per Cent)



Source: Survey on Employees' Working Conditions, Manpower Research & Statistics Department, Ministry of Manpower

¹⁰ 'At least 1 Scheduled FWA' covers part-time work, staggered hours, flexi-hours, scheduled tele-working, home-working, job sharing, and compressed work-week. There were newly collected forms of scheduled FWA in 2022. They include employees' choice of days off, shift swapping, time banking. The figures would be 88.2% in 2022 and 89.6% in 2023 if the newly collected types of scheduled FWA were included.

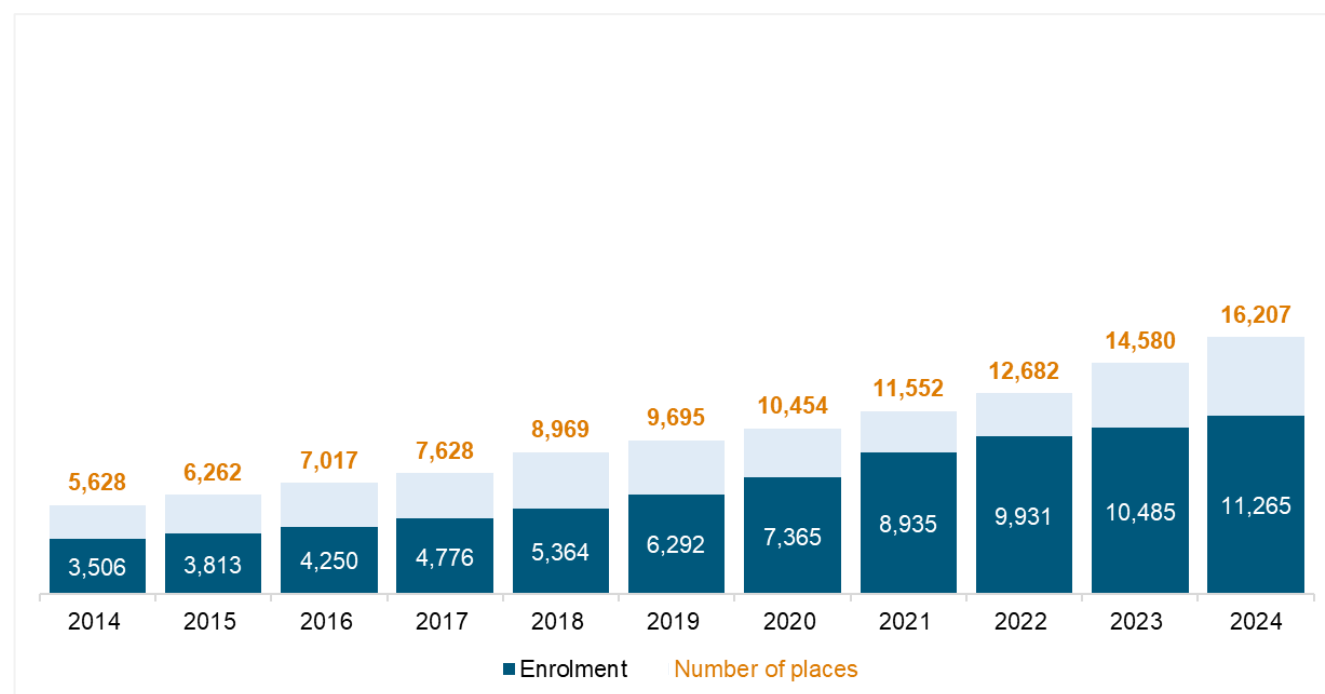
D. EARLY CHILDHOOD

D1. ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY PRESCHOOLS

Full-day infant care places increased nearly threefold over ten years, while median fees¹¹ decreased and out-of-pocket expenses¹² remained stable

The number of full-day infant care places increased nearly threefold from 5,628 in 2014 to 16,207 in 2024, to cater to growing demand (Chart 17).

Chart 17: Number of Places and Enrolment for Infant Care



Source: Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)

Note: Figures from 2014 to 2015 were extracted as at 31 December. Figures from 2016 onwards were extracted as at 31 October.

¹¹ Refers to median fee for full-day infant care programmes across the entire sector, before GST and excluding subsidies.

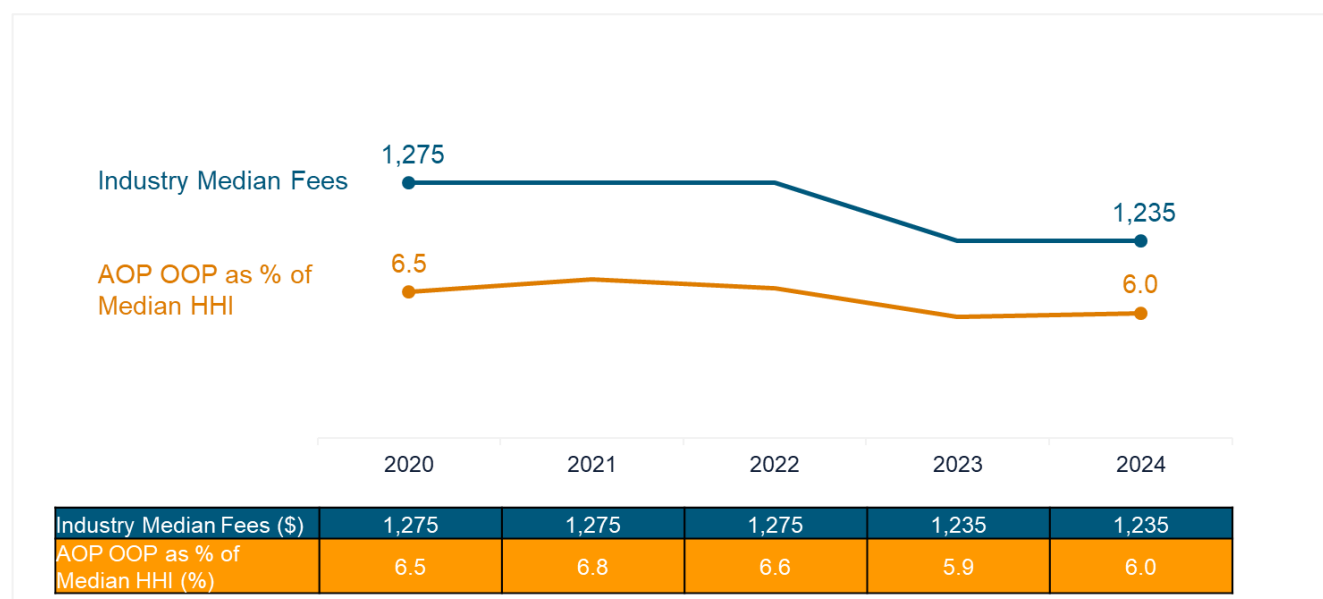
¹² Refers to amount dual-income families pay for full-day infant care after factoring in Basic Subsidy, and Additional Subsidy (if applicable).

The Government has also kept preschools affordable by providing subsidies to parents of Singapore Citizen (SC) children and imposing fee caps at Government-supported Anchor Operator (AOP) and Partner Operator (POP) preschools.

The income ceiling for Additional Subsidy was raised from \$7,500 to \$12,000 in 2020, and Additional Subsidy amounts were enhanced across all eligible income tiers. To further enhance affordability of preschools, AOPs and POPs are provided with funding to adhere to fee caps set by the Government. AOP and POP full-day infant care fee caps were lowered in 2023.

The industry median infant care fee for SC children decreased from \$1,275 in 2020 to \$1,235 in 2023, and remained unchanged in 2024 (Chart 18). The families' out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses were also kept stable in the past five years. A median-income household¹³ with a child attending full-day infant care in an AOP centre would spend 6.0% of their household income (HHI) on preschool in 2024.

Chart 18: Industry Median Fees and OOP Expenses for AOP as a Percentage of Median HHI, for Full Day Infant Care



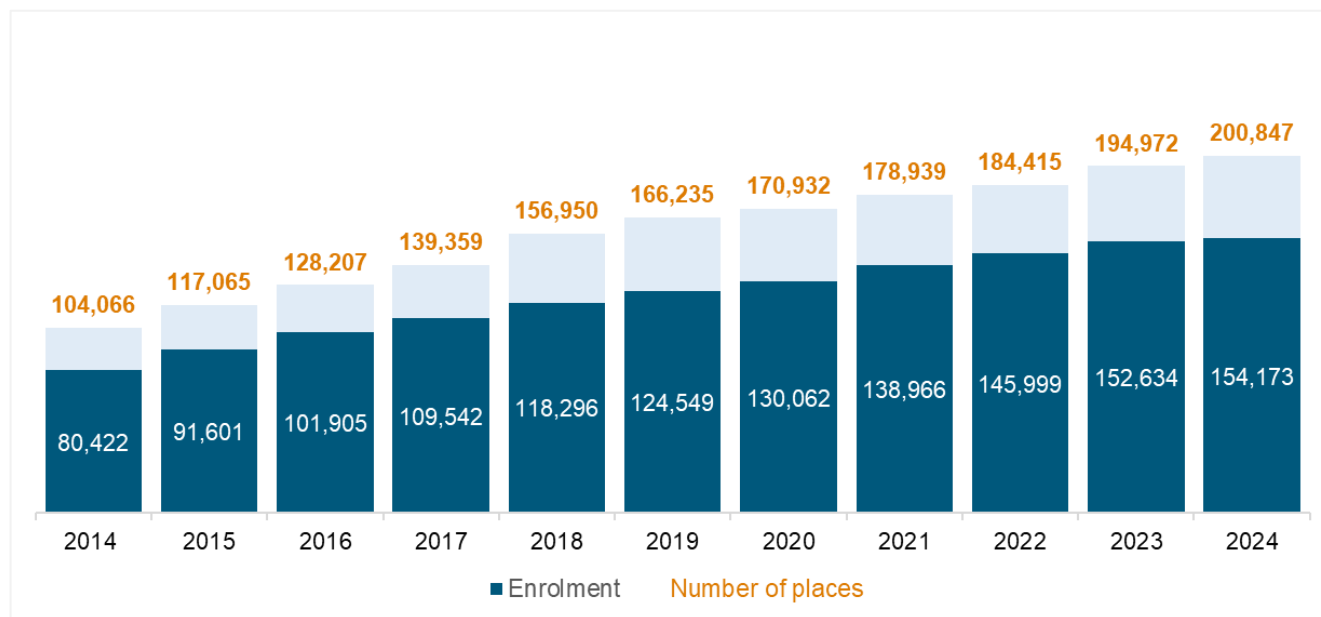
Source: ECDA, MSF

¹³ Income of the "median-income household" is derived based on ranking citizen households with at least one child aged 0-6, by their monthly household employment income, excluding employer CPF contributions.

Similarly, full-day childcare places nearly doubled, with decreases in median fees¹⁴ and stable out-of-pocket expenses¹⁵

The number of full-day childcare places increased from 104,066 in 2014 to 200,847 in 2024 (Chart 19).

Chart 19: Number of Places and Enrolment for Childcare



Source: ECDA

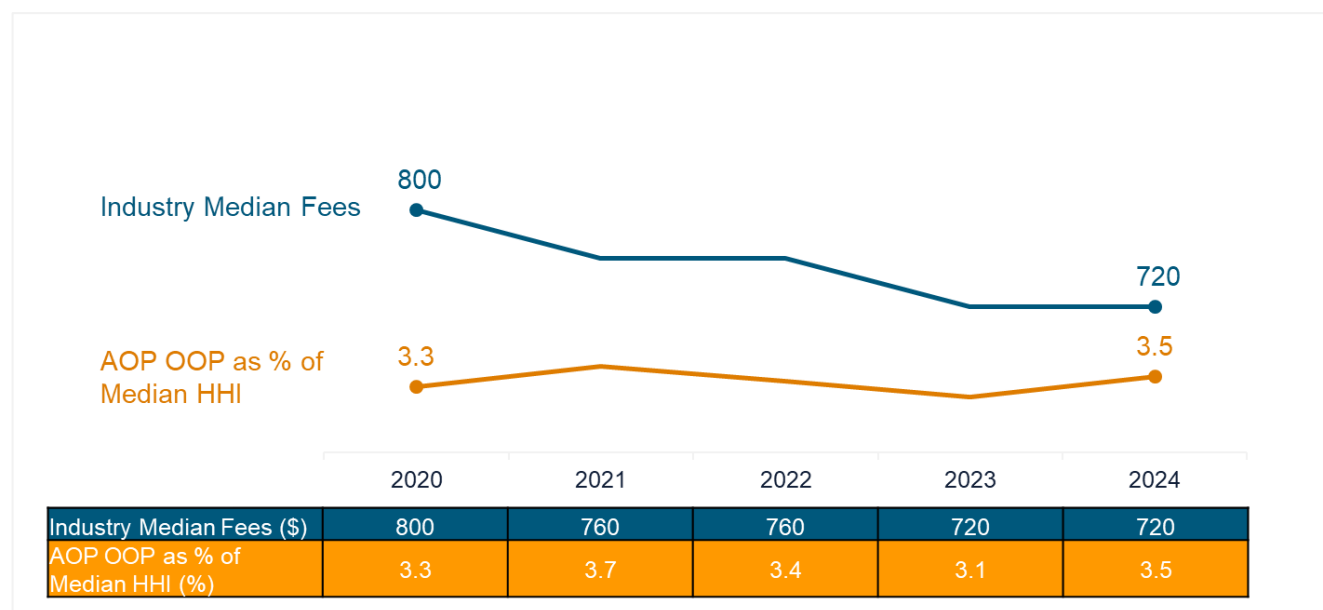
Note: Figures from 2014 to 2015 were extracted as at 31 December. Figures from 2016 onwards were extracted as at 31 October.

¹⁴ Refers to median fee for full-day childcare programmes across the entire sector, before GST and excluding subsidies.

¹⁵ Refers to amount dual-income families pay for full-day childcare after factoring in Basic Subsidy, and Additional Subsidy (if applicable).

AOP and POP full-day childcare fee caps were lowered in 2023 as well. The industry median childcare fee for SC children hence decreased from \$800 in 2020 to \$720 in 2023, and remained unchanged in 2024 (Chart 20). As a result, families' OOP expenses have been kept stable in the past five years. A median-income household¹⁶ with a child attending full-day childcare in an AOP centre would spend 3.5% of their HHI on preschool in 2024. Full-day childcare fee caps for AOP and POP centres have been reduced by \$40 in 2025, and will be further reduced by \$30 in 2026.

Chart 20: Industry Median Fees and OOP Expenses for AOP as a Percentage of Median HHI, for Full-day Childcare



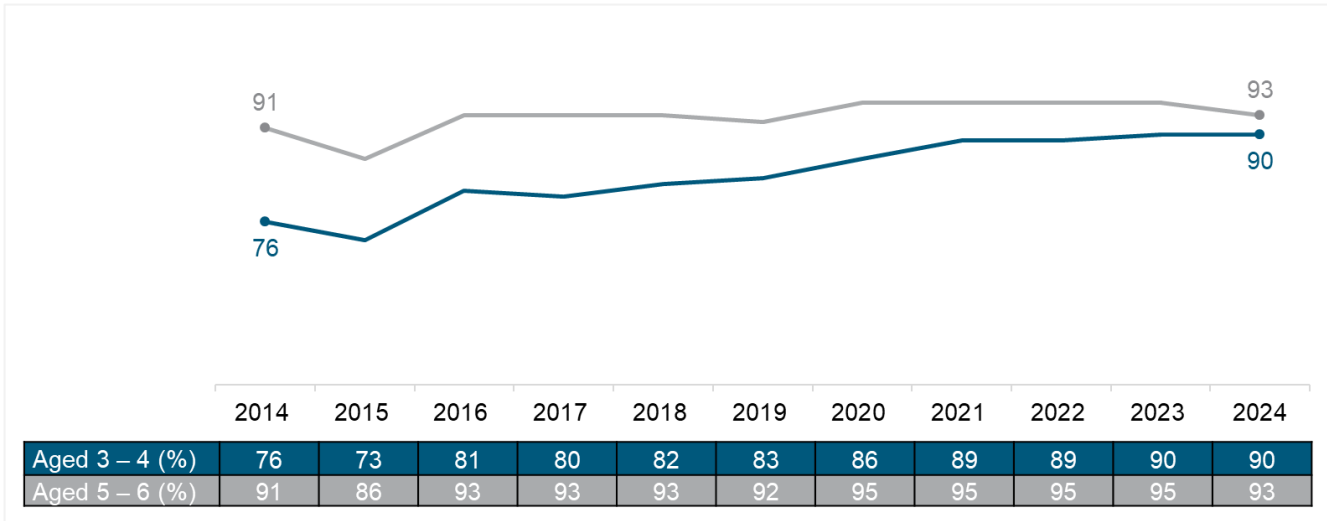
Source: ECDA, MSF

¹⁶ Income of the "median-income household" is derived based on ranking citizen households with at least one child aged 0-6, by their monthly household employment income, excluding employer CPF contributions.

Increase in Cohort Enrolment Rates

With more dual-income families and greater recognition of the importance of early childhood care and education, the enrolment rate¹⁷ of children aged 3 – 4 years increased from 76% in 2014 to 90% in 2024 (Chart 21). The enrolment rate of children aged 5 – 6 years also increased slightly over the last 10 years from 91% in 2014 to 93% in 2024.

Chart 21: Cohort Enrolment Rates of SC Children (Per Cent)



Source: MSF

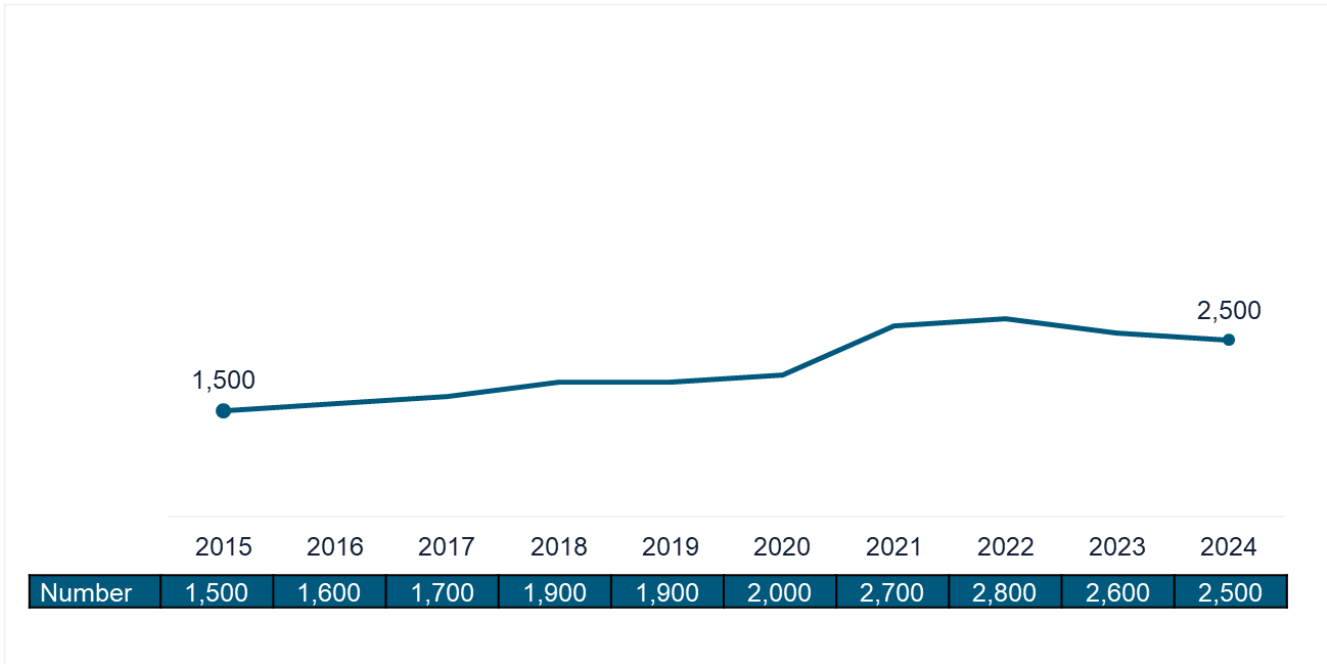
¹⁷ The Cohort Enrolment Rates for 2024 are based on MSF's preliminary estimates.

D2. YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Stable number of referrals for early intervention...

Early Intervention (EI) is the multidisciplinary support provided to children with developmental needs to maximise their development in the early years. With ongoing efforts to maintain parental awareness and ensure early detection through hospitals’ child development programmes, the number of referrals of children who require medium to high levels¹⁸ of EI support remained stable in recent years and was 2,500 in 2024 (Chart 22).

Chart 22: Number of Referrals for Medium to High Levels of EI Support



Source: ECDA
Note: Figures are based on data on the number of unique children referred to EI programmes providing medium to high levels of EI support (EIPIC, EIPIC-P, EIPIC-Care and/or InSP). Data prior to 2015 is not available. Figures are rounded to nearest 100.

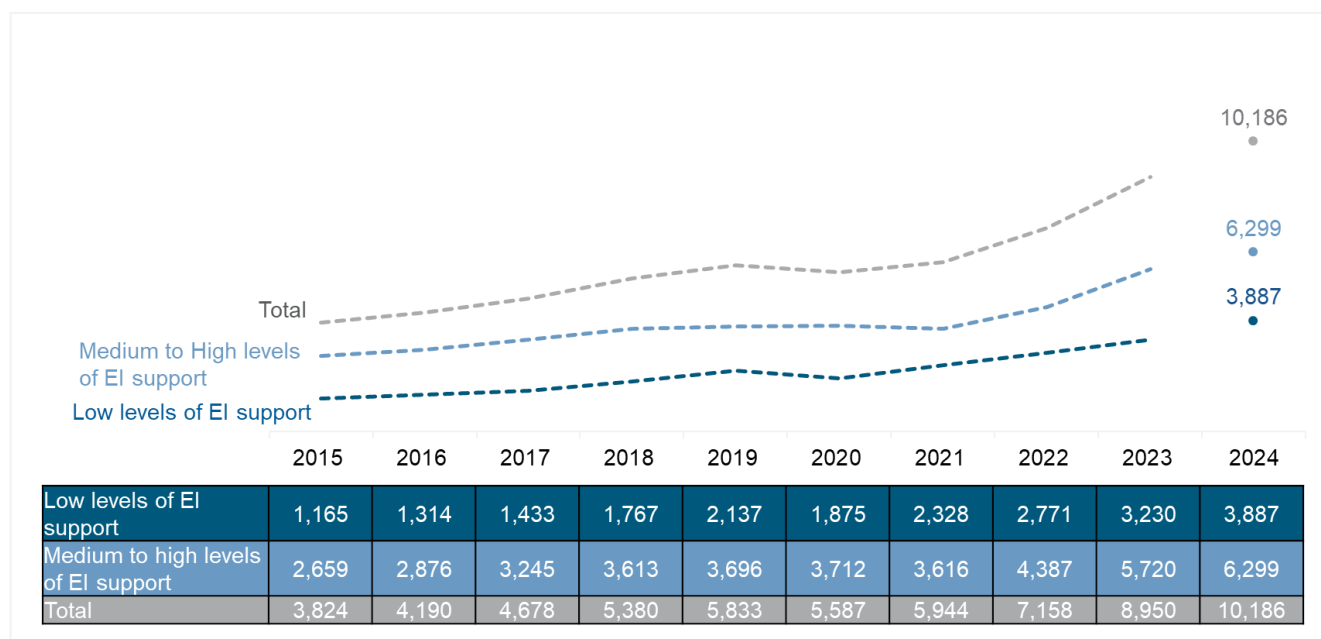
¹⁸Children requiring medium to high levels of EI support can enrol in Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) provided by Social Service Agencies (SSAs), EIPIC-P delivered by appointed private providers, and/or the Inclusive Support Programme (InSP) in a few preschools.

24

... and 10,186 children were served in EI programmes in 2024

The total number of children served in EI programmes was 10,186 in 2024 (Chart 23). The number of children requiring low levels¹⁹ of early intervention support served in EI programmes was 3,887 in 2024. The number of children requiring medium to high levels of EI support served in EI programmes was 6,299 in 2024.

Chart 23: Number of Children Aged 0 – 6 served in EI Programmes



Source: ECDA

Note: The 2024 figures may not be directly comparable to data prior to 2024 in dashed lines due to a change in data methodology to account for children who transit between programmes serving children requiring similar levels of EI support. Data prior to 2015 is not available.

¹⁹Children requiring low levels of EI support can enrol in their preschools via the Development Support-Learning Support (DS-LS) and Development Support-Plus (DS-Plus) programmes.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN REQUIRING MEDIUM TO HIGH LEVELS OF EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT

To ensure that children can enrol in EI programmes and receive timely intervention, ECDA has rapidly increased the supply of places by expanding capacity in current early intervention centres. In 2024, about 1,500 places were added, increasing capacity by 26% from 2023.

ECDA has also made early intervention services more affordable by lowering out-of-pocket expenses over the years and extending transport subsidies to children served in early intervention programmes.

ECDA has prioritised placement for older children (5 – 6-year-olds) to ensure that children receive at least one year of early intervention before they transit to primary school.

In 2024, ECDA launched the *EIPIC-Care* pilot, a training programme in which caregivers of 2 – 3-year-olds with development needs will learn how to support their child's development at home. As of December 2024, about 50 caregivers had been enrolled in the programme.

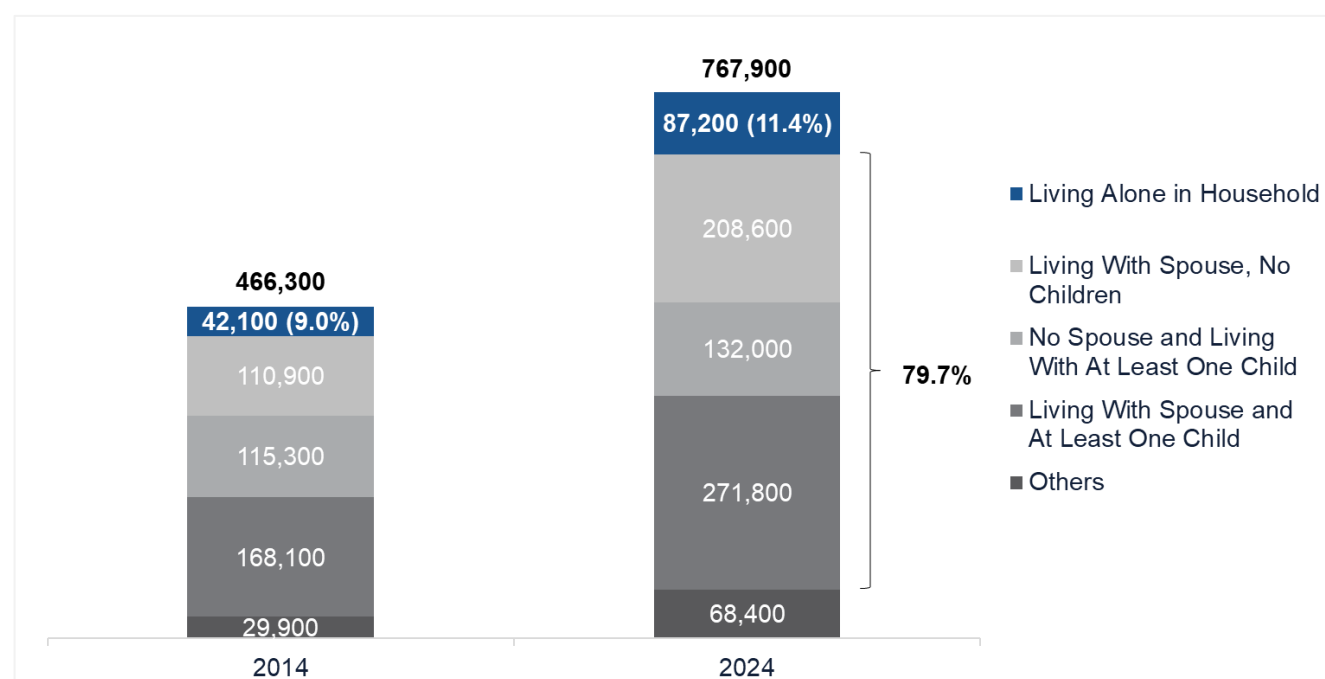
E. FAMILY TIES AND RESILIENCE

E1. FAMILY TIES

More elderly residents living alone

The number of residents aged 65 and above living in resident households increased from 466,300 as of 2014 to 767,900 as of 2024. About 80% of these elderly residents²⁰ continued to stay with their spouse and/or child(ren) in 2024 (Chart 24). The number of elderly residents living alone in households more than doubled from 42,100 in 2014 to 87,200 in 2024.

Chart 24: Living Arrangement of Elderly Residents in Resident Households²¹



Source: DOS

Note: Figures are rounded to nearest 100, and may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

²⁰ A married elderly couple aged 65 and above will be counted as 2 under the 'Living with Spouse and At Least One Child' and 'Living with Spouse, No Children' categories.

²¹ Data on living arrangement for 2014 and 2024 are as declared by survey respondents of the Comprehensive Labour Force Survey. The presence of spouse/children is based on those living in the same household. Resident households refer to households where the household reference person is a Singapore citizen or permanent resident.

Majority agreed that families are a key line of support for elderly and that maintaining intergenerational ties are important

The 2023 MSF survey on families found that majority of respondents (83.3%) ranked family members among the top three choices in meeting the needs of the elderly²². This shows that family members continue to be the key line of support for elderly. The same survey also found that majority of respondents (90.4%) agreed that it is important for grandparents and their grandchildren to maintain close ties with one another.

Elderly residents feel supported by their family

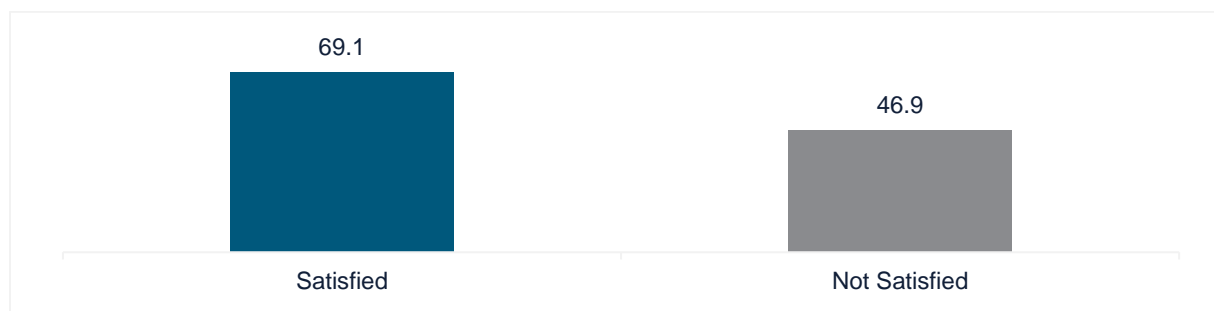
Based on the 2024 Quality of Life Study by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), the majority of respondents aged 65 and above were satisfied with the support they receive from their family (62.0%), and were happy with their relationship with their family members (62.3%).

Strong family support and relationships were associated with higher Quality of Life

The same study also found that overall, majority of respondents were satisfied with their family support (55.7%) and happy with their family relationships (60.6%).

In addition, those who were satisfied with family support (Chart 25a) and happy with their family relationships (Chart 25b) were more likely to have higher overall Quality of Life scores²³.

Chart 25a: Overall Quality of Life Scores by Satisfaction with Family Support



Source: NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life Study

Chart 25b: Overall Quality of Life Scores by Happiness with Family Relationships



Source: NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life Study

²² Other choices in meeting the elderly's needs are the elderly themselves, friends of elderly individuals, the community where they live (e.g., neighbours in the neighbourhood), community organisations (e.g., civic groups, social service agencies, grassroot organisations), business organisations and the government.

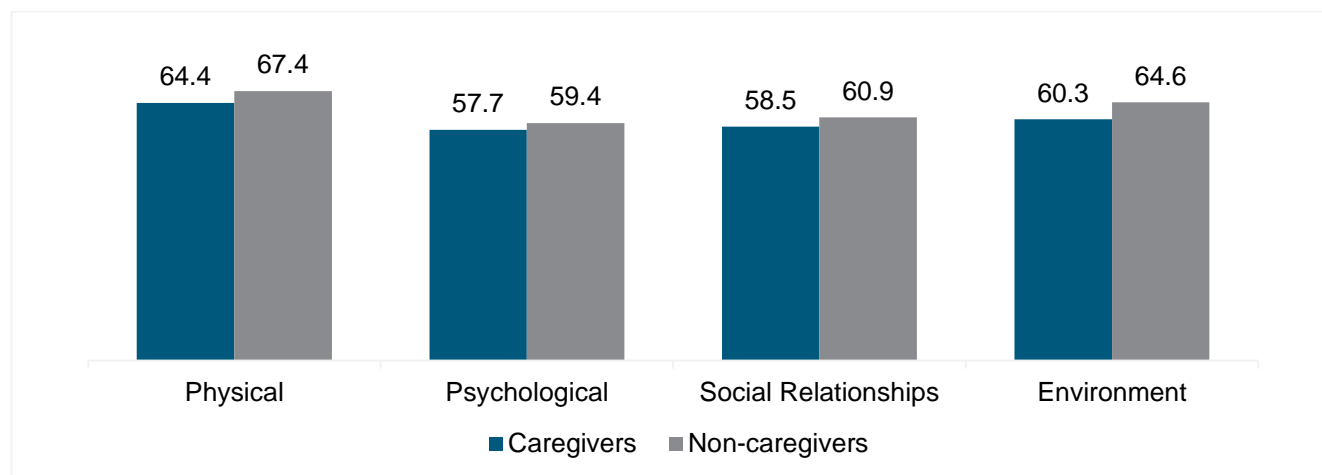
²³ The differences in mean scores are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ for both Charts 25a and 25b.

E2. CAREGIVING IN FAMILIES

Caregivers have lower Quality of Life scores...

Based on NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life Study, caregivers reported a lower overall quality of life²⁴ compared to non-caregivers. Caregivers scored lower across the physical, social relationships and environment domains²⁵ compared to non-caregivers (Chart 26).

Chart 26: Domain Scores of Caregivers vs Non-Caregivers

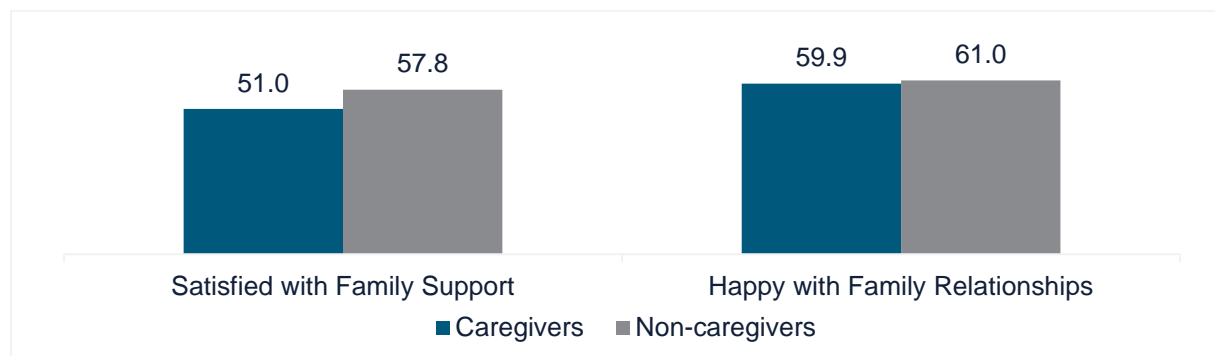


Source: NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life Study

... but are happy with their family relationships

The same study found that caregivers were less satisfied with their family support compared to non-caregivers. However, the proportion of caregivers and non-caregivers who reported being happy with their family relationships were similar (Chart 27)²⁶. This suggests that while caregivers would like to receive greater family support, they remain happy with their family relationships.

Chart 27: Proportion of Caregivers vs Non-Caregivers who were Satisfied with Family Support and Happy with Family Relationships (Per Cent)



Source: NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life Study

²⁴ For more information on the Quality of Life domains, please refer to NCSS' publication on Understanding the Quality of Life of Caregivers.

²⁵ The differences in mean scores of caregivers and non-caregivers are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ for the physical, social relationships and environment domains, but not for the psychological domain.

²⁶ There are no statistically significant differences between the proportions of caregivers and non-caregivers who reported feeling happy with their family relationships.

E3. FAMILY RESILIENCE



WHAT IS FAMILY RESILIENCE?

Resilience is the ability to cope with and adapt to challenges and adversity and bounce back from difficult life events. A resilient family makes for better individual well-being and stronger communities. It is important that we continue our efforts in nurturing resilient families.

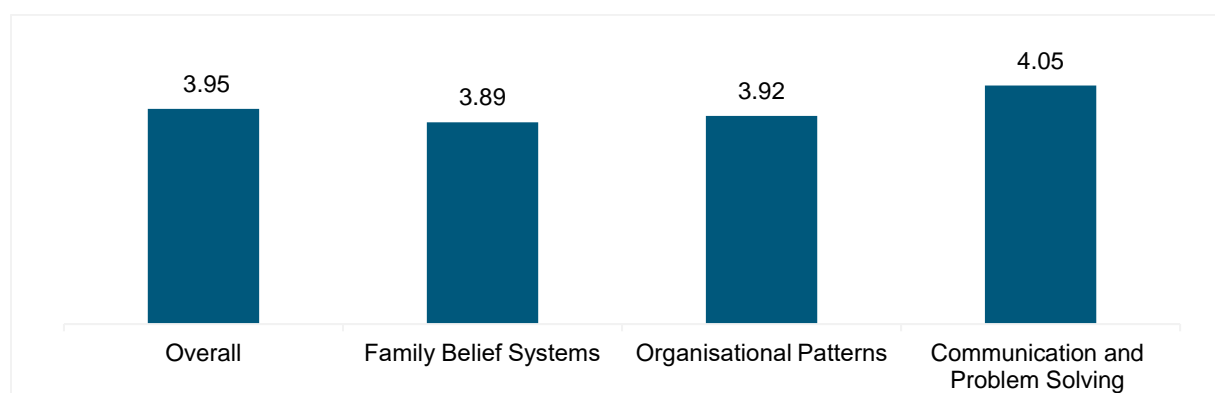
The 2023 MSF survey on families found that 85.9% of the families reported moderate to high family resilience scores²⁷. In particular, 25.1% of all families reported high family resilience scores.

9 in 10 parents reported moderate to high family resilience; parents with higher family resilience also had higher quality of life

The NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life of Children and Youth and Caregivers Study found that 93.9% of respondents who were parents of children and youth²⁸ reported moderate to high²⁹ family resilience scores, indicating that these parents are more likely to have the capacity to bounce back from challenges together. Additionally, 39.1% of all parents reported high³⁰ family resilience scores and were likely to be more adept at working together to recover from adversity. Parents who reported higher family resilience also reported higher quality of life scores³¹.

Of the three domains that underlie the overall resilience score, parents with moderate to high family resilience scored the highest in the communication and problem solving (mean score 4.05) domain, followed by the family organisational patterns (mean score 3.92) and belief systems (mean score 3.89) domains³² (Chart 28).

Chart 28: Mean Family Resilience Scores of Parents Who Scored Moderate to High Family Resilience, by Domains



Source: NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life of Children and Youth and Caregivers Study

²⁷ Family resilience is measured using the Walsh Family Resilience Framework. There are three key domains of family functioning under Walsh's framework: family belief systems, organisation patterns, and communication and problem solving. For more details on the family resilience scores of families, please refer to MSF's Family Trends Report 2024.

²⁸ Children and youth in the NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life of Children and Youth and Caregivers Study were defined as those aged 3 – 17 years.

²⁹ Families with moderate to high resilience scored 3 and above (out of 5) on the Walsh Family Resilience Questionnaire

³⁰ Families with high resilience scored 4 and above (out of 5) on the Walsh Family Resilience Questionnaire

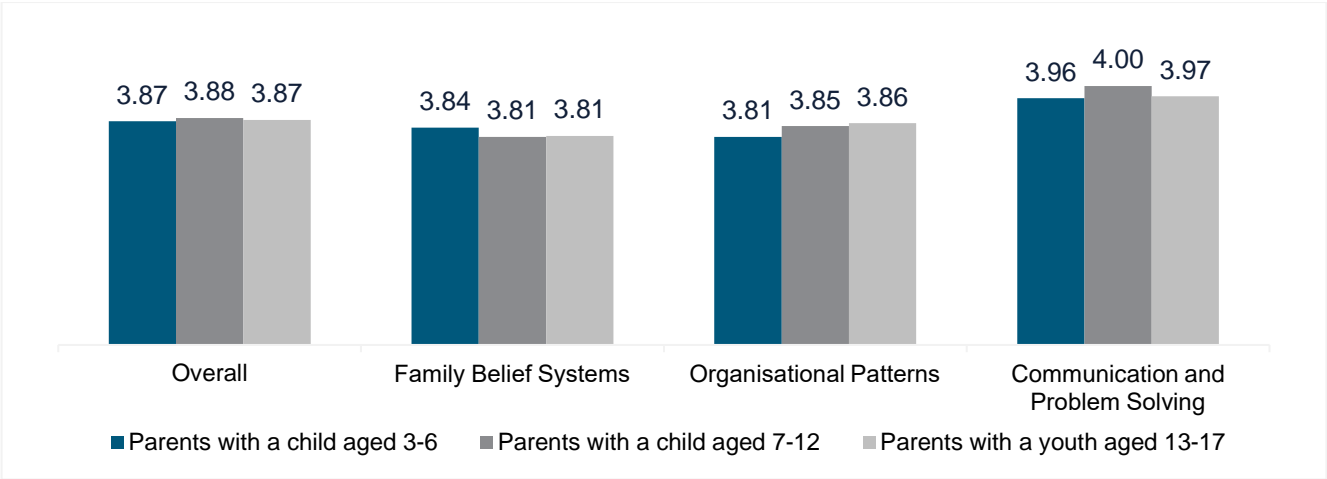
³¹ Family resilience score was positively associated with overall quality of life of the parent even after controlling for parents' age, sex and marital status (statistically significant at $p < 0.001$).

³² The differences in the mean scores are statistically significant at $p < 0.001$.

Mean family resilience scores are moderate to high, regardless of children’s age group

The same study also found that overall mean family resilience scores are moderate to high, regardless of children’s age groups³³ (Chart 29). The domain scores also showed similar trends across children’s age groups, where parents scored the highest in the communication and problem-solving domain.

Chart 29: Mean Family Resilience Score of Parents by Domains and Children’s Age Group



Source: NCSS' 2024 Quality of Life of Children and Youth and Caregivers Study

³³ Findings statistically significant at p<0.05, and are based on the age of the child who participated in the child survey.

F. MARITAL DISSOLUTION

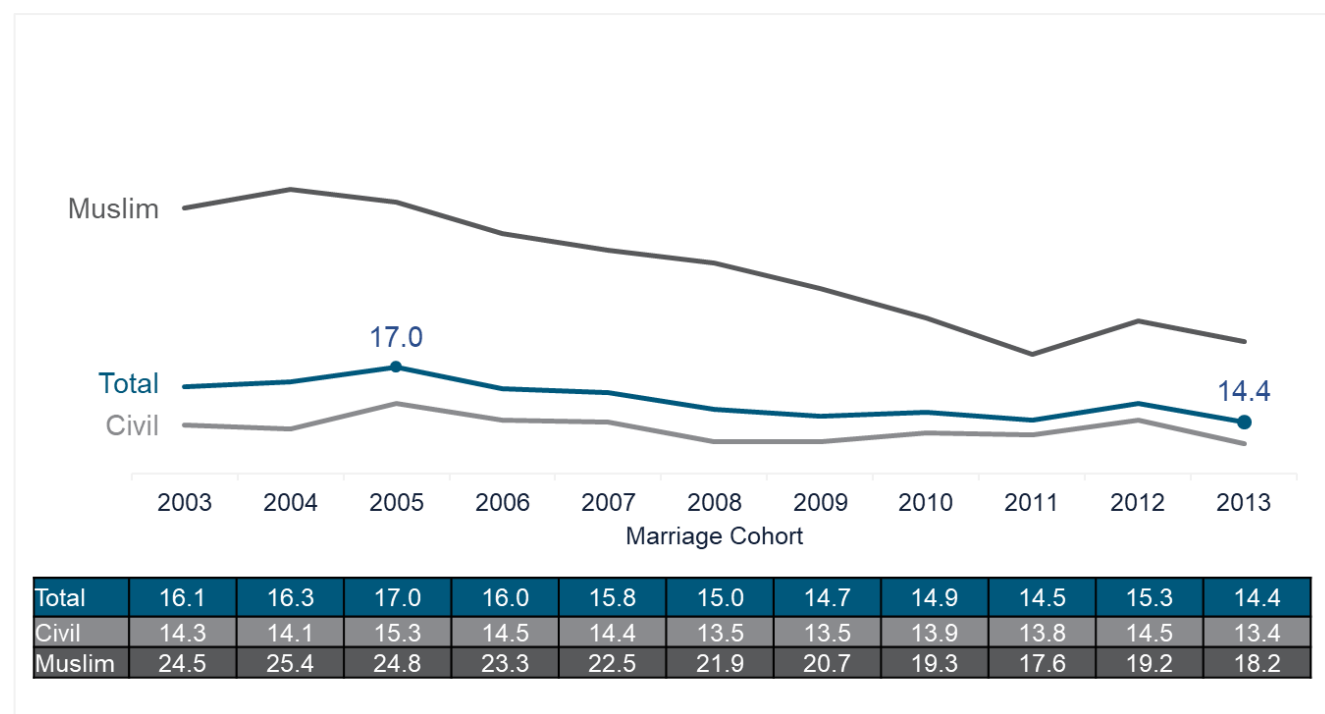
F1. MARRIAGE STABILITY

Marriage cohorts from 2006 have seen lower dissolution rates

Compared to the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2013 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10th anniversary (Chart 30). The cumulative proportion of marriages that dissolved before the 10th anniversary declined from 17.0% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 15.3% for the 2012 marriage cohort, and continued to decline to 14.4% for the 2013 marriage cohort.

The most significant improvement was seen in the fall in dissolution rates for Muslim marriages. While the rate for Muslim marriages remained higher than that of civil marriages across all cohorts, the gap has narrowed significantly for more recent marriage cohorts.

Chart 30: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages before 10th Anniversary (Per Cent)

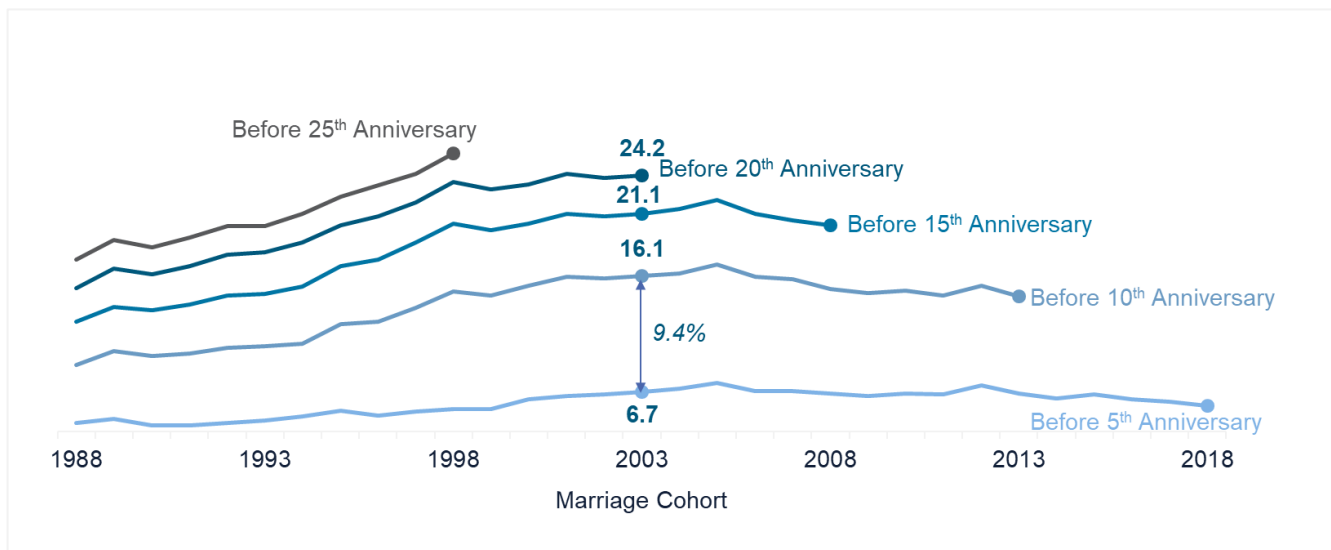


Source: DOS

Highest proportion of dissolved marriages from 5th to before 10th marriage anniversary

The proportion of marriages that dissolved was highest when marriages progressed from the 5th anniversary to before the 10th anniversary (Chart 31). As marriages progressed to the next marriage duration milestone, the increases in dissolution rates at each subsequent 5-yearly interval were smaller. For example, 6.7% of the 2003 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before the 5th anniversary. Another 9.4% of this marriage cohort ended their marriage before their 10th anniversary, bringing the total proportion dissolved by then to 16.1%. Subsequent increases were smaller, bringing the total proportion dissolved among the 2003 marriage cohort to 21.1% and 24.2% before the 15th and 20th anniversaries respectively. This suggests that it is crucial to support marriages in the early years to build a strong foundation to withstand future challenges.

Chart 31: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th Anniversary (Per Cent)



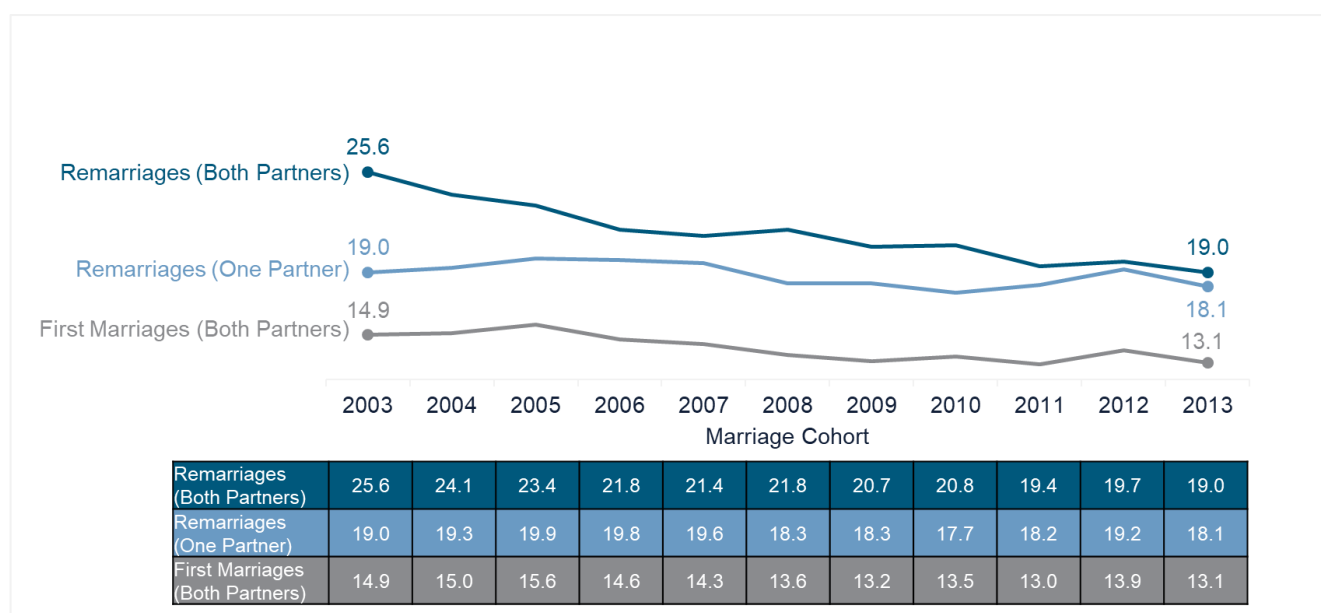
Source: DOS

F2. PROFILES WITH HIGHER DISSOLUTION RATES

Higher dissolution rates among remarriages and those who married at 20 – 24 years

Based on dissolution rates before the 10th anniversary, couples who had both been married previously had the highest proportion of dissolved marriages, followed by couples where one partner had previously been married (Chart 32). For example, 13.1% of first marriages in the 2013 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before their 10th anniversary compared to 18.1% of remarriages where one partner had previously been married and 19.0% of remarriages where both partners had been married previously. Similarly, 14.9% of the first marriages in the 2003 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before their 10th anniversary compared to 19.0% of remarriages where one partner had previously been married and 25.6% of remarriages where both partners had been married previously. Nevertheless, the difference in dissolution rates between first marriages and remarriages for both partners had narrowed gradually.

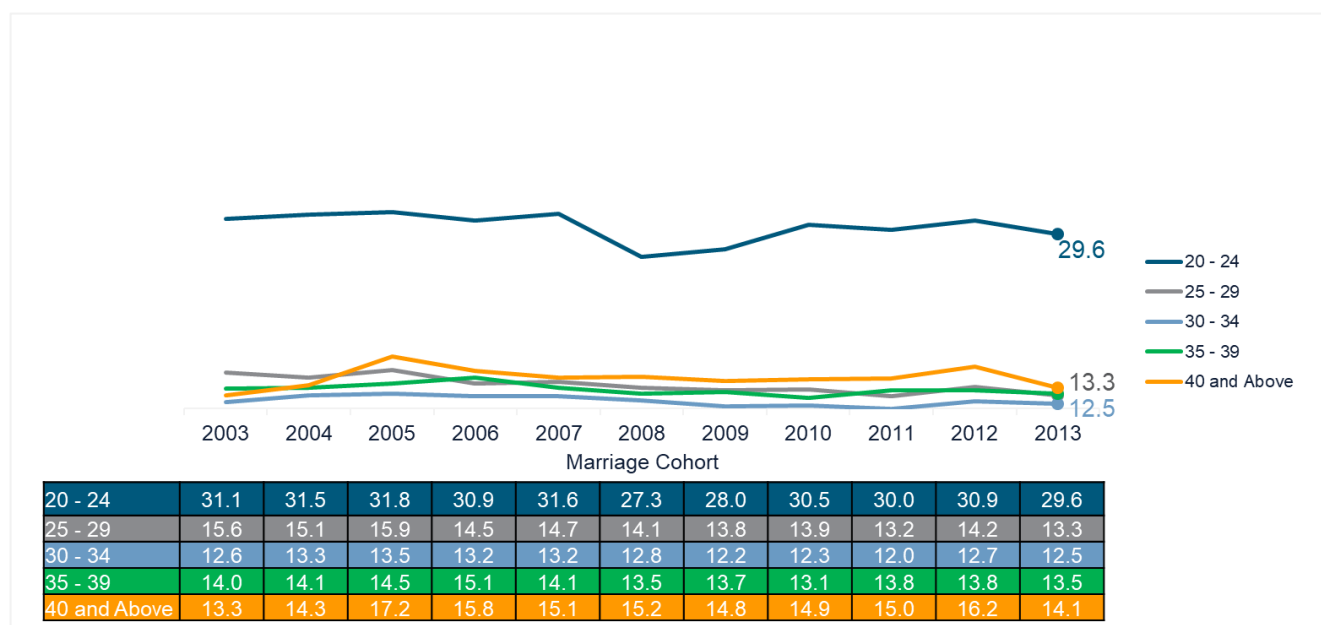
Chart 32: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10th Anniversary by Marriage Order of Couple (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

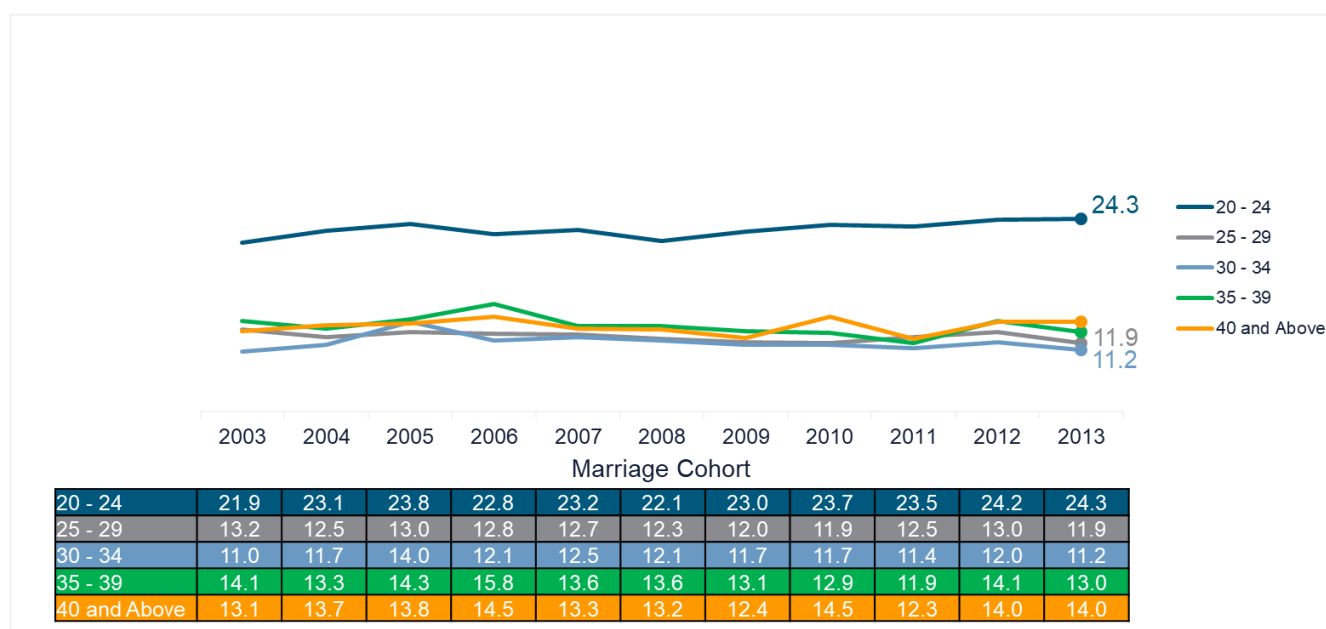
Based on dissolution rates before the 10th anniversary, dissolution rates for marriages involving males who married at ages 20 – 24 years are consistently the highest (Chart 33a). For example, 29.6% of the 2013 resident marriage cohort involving males who married at ages 20 – 24 years had dissolved before their 10th anniversary compared to 13.3% of marriages involving males who married at ages 25 – 29 years and 12.5% of marriages involving males who married at ages 30 – 34 years. A similar trend was observed for females (Chart 33b).

Chart 33a: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10th Anniversary for Males by Age Group at Marriage (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

Chart 33b: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10th Anniversary for Females by Age Group at Marriage (Per Cent)



Source: DOS

G. CONCLUSION

We recognise the importance of journeying with families across different life stages and circumstances. Families have greater access to affordable and quality preschools, parental leave take-up rates remain stable and more employees have the flexibility at work to balance their caregiving needs. Marriage stability has also increased, and most parents feel that their families are resilient.

At the same time, we need to step up efforts to enable Singaporeans to realise their marriage and parenthood aspirations, and provide a supportive environment for Singaporeans to start and raise families. We will continue to ensure access to affordable and quality preschools, strengthen our support for children with developmental needs, and care for our seniors and family caregivers. We encourage employers to continue supporting their employees to make full use of parental leave provisions and flexible work arrangements to manage their family commitments. With these efforts, families will become even stronger and more resilient.

The Government will continue to support:

- Community partners to celebrate and uplift families;
- Employers and co-workers doing their part in workplaces; and
- Individuals choosing to make family their priority.

Together, the Government, community, corporates and individuals will build a Singapore that is Made for Families.