FAMILY TRENDS REPORT 2026

JULY 2026

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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A. CONTENTS

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, to their golden years.

This Family Trends Report provides key annual updates on Singapore's family trends as we collectively work towards stronger and more resilient 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 2025 was 6.2% lower than in 2024. This was driven by fewer civil and Muslim marriages of those aged 25 – 34.

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 at 40.5% in 2025. The proportion of those who had no children rose from 11.6% in 2015 to 16.1% in 2025, and the proportion of those who had one child rose from 22.3% to 25.5%.

More fathers are involved in caring for their children and employees continue to have access to flexible work arrangement.
The proportion of fathers who took Government-Paid Paternity Leave increased from 47% for children born in 2016 to 61% for children born in 2024. Over 80% of employees could access flexible work arrangements that they require.

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 73% in 2015 to 91% in 2025. In recent years, fewer children have been referred to medium to high levels of Early Intervention (EI) support. The total number of children served in EI programmes increased from 10,186 in 2024 to 10,503 in 2025.

Increased marriage stability in more recent cohorts of marriages.
Marriage dissolution rates before the 10th marriage anniversary fell among the 2006 – 2014 marriage cohorts compared to the 2005 cohort, which signifies greater marriage stability among more 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.

The proportion of respondents aged 15 – 64 years old who agreed that it is their responsibility to take care of their parents increased from 93.1% in 2023 to 95.2% in 2025.

Families are resilient and have the capacity to tide through challenges together.
9 in 10 families reported moderate to high family resilience scores. The majority of survey respondents also reported having a close-knit family and that they maintained close ties with family members outside of their immediate family.

Couples are happily married.
For married respondents, 94.9% reported being happily married. Married couples who scored higher marital quality also tended to report higher family resilience.

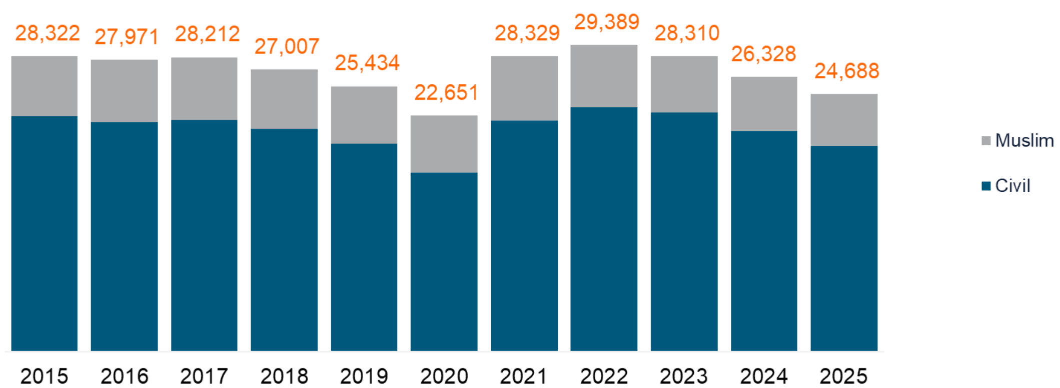
C. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY FORMATION

C1. MARRIAGES

Fewer marriages in 2025…

There were 24,688 marriages registered in 2025, 6.2% lower than the 26,328 marriages registered in 2024 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Total Marriages Registered



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Marriages	28,322	27,971	28,212	27,007	25,434	22,651	28,329	29,389	28,310	26,328	24,688
Civil	22,544	22,017	22,162	21,308	19,889	17,124	22,101	23,379	22,914	21,144	19,682
Muslim	5,778	5,954	6,050	5,699	5,545	5,527	6,228	6,010	5,396	5,184	5,006

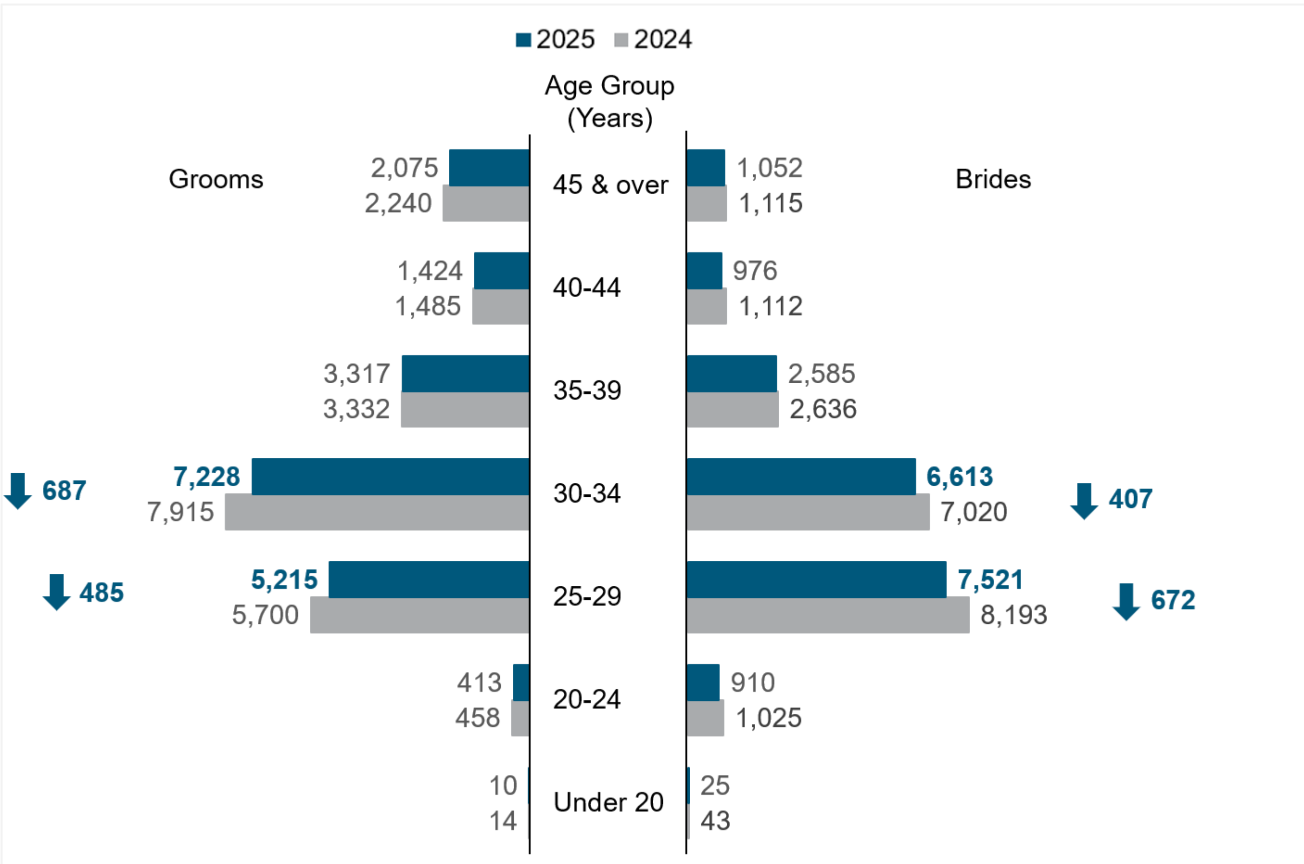
Source: Department of Statistics (DOS)

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

The total number of civil marriages[1] declined from 21,144 in 2024 to 19,682 in 2025 (decrease of 6.9%).

The number of civil marriages declined across all age groups in 2025 compared to 2024, with a larger fall in the number of marriages involving grooms and brides aged 25 – 34, relative to other age groups (Chart 2). Compared to 2024, the number of civil marriages involving grooms aged 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 decreased by 485 and 687 respectively in 2025, while the number of civil marriages involving brides aged 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 decreased by 672 and 407 respectively in 2025.

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



Source: DOS

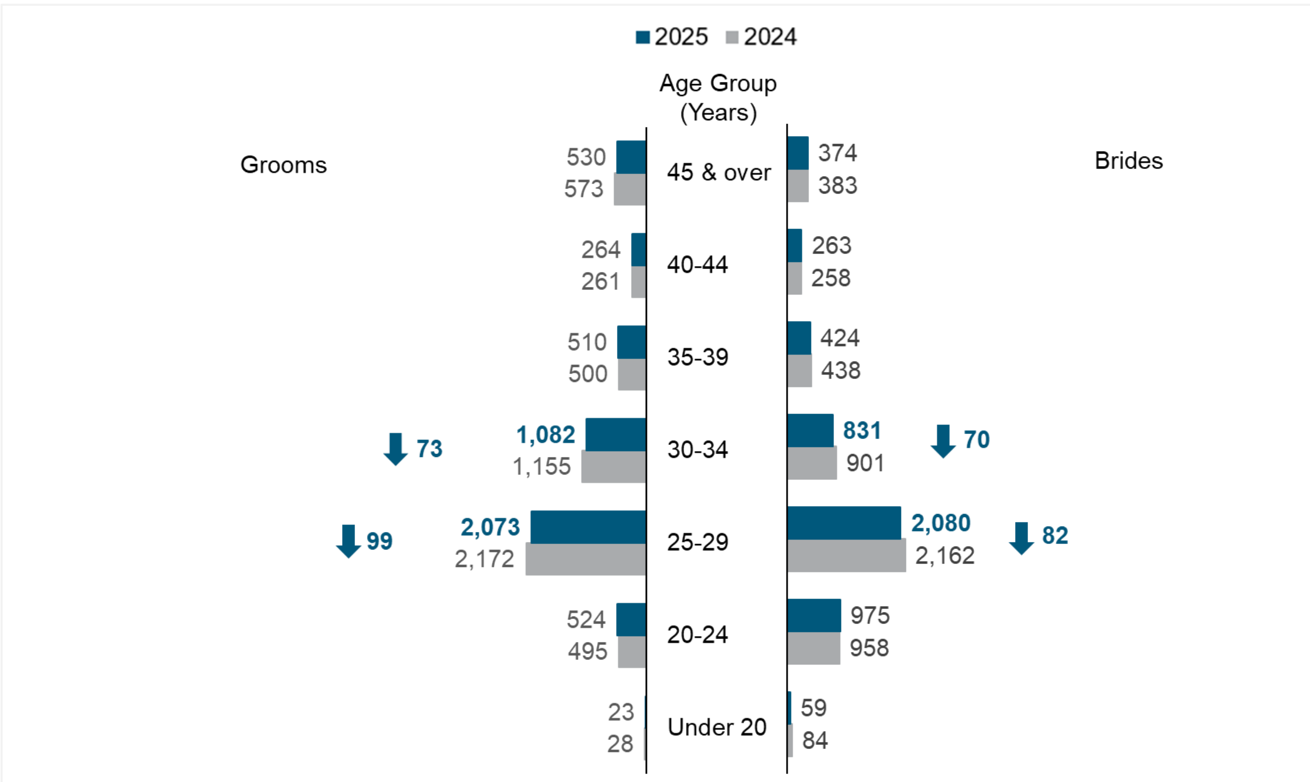
[1] Civil marriages refer to marriages registered under the Women's Charter.

… and fewer Muslim marriages of those aged 25 – 34

The total number of Muslim marriages[2] declined from 5,184 in 2024 to 5,006 in 2025 (decrease of 3.4%).

This decline was mainly from the fall in marriages involving grooms and brides aged 25 – 34, relative to other age groups (Chart 3). Compared to 2024, the number of Muslim marriages involving grooms aged 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 decreased by 99 and 73 respectively in 2025 while the number of Muslim marriages involving brides aged 25 – 29 and 30 – 34 decreased by 82 and 70 respectively in 2025.

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



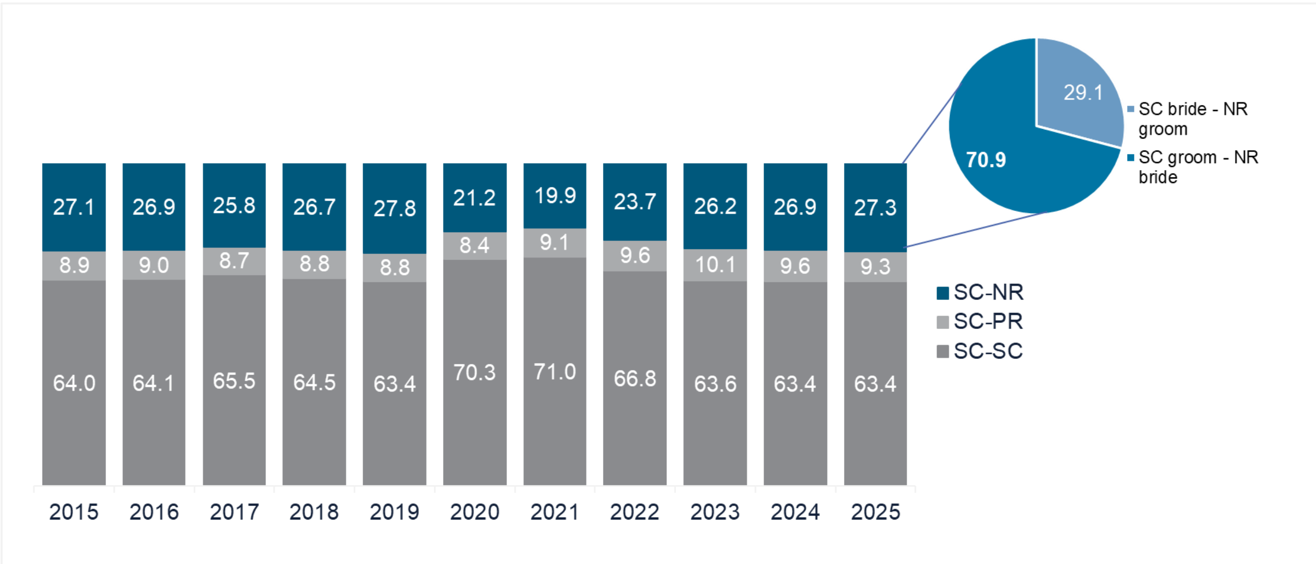
Source: DOS

[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 marriages[3] were between a Singapore Citizen (SC) and a NR[4] (Chart 4). Among SC-NR marriages in 2025, 70.9% were between an SC groom and NR bride.

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

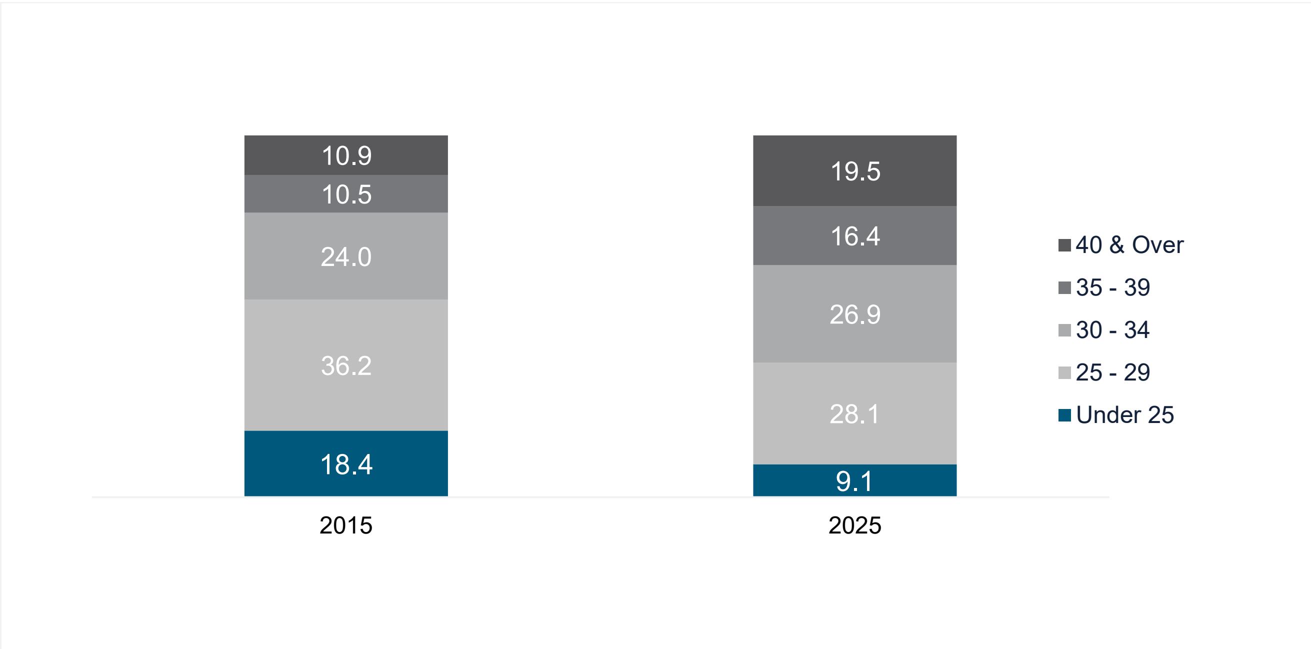


Source: DOS
Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

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

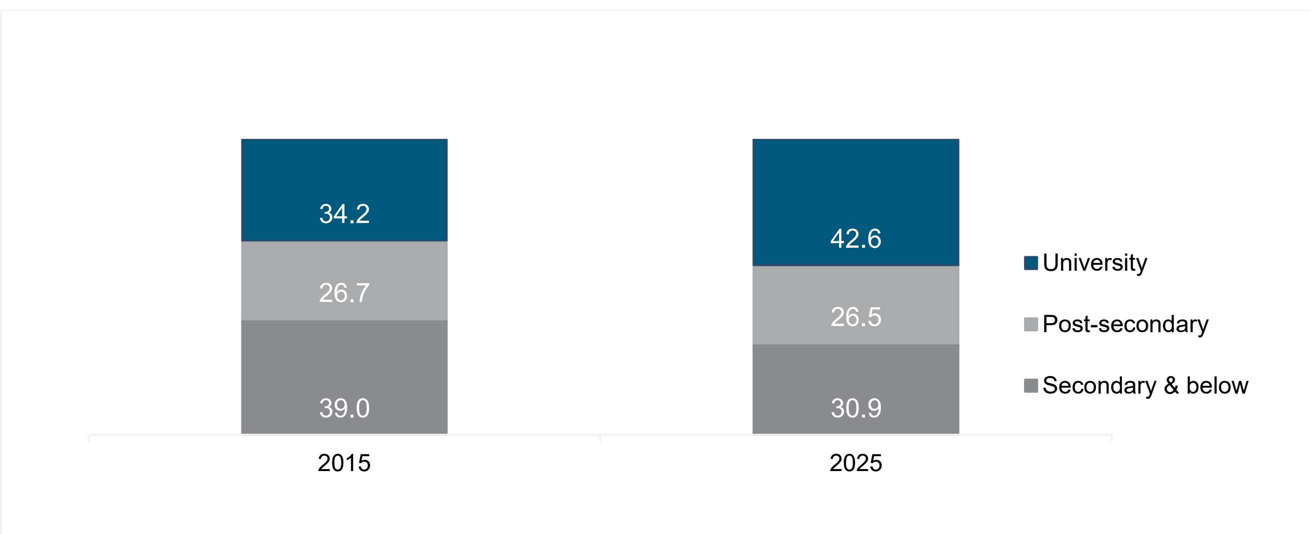
NR brides were older and had higher educational qualifications in 2025 compared to 2015. The proportion of NR brides aged below 25 decreased from 18.4% in 2015 to 9.1% in 2025 (Chart 5). The proportion of NR brides with a degree increased from 34.2% in 2015 to 42.6% in 2025 (Chart 6).

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.

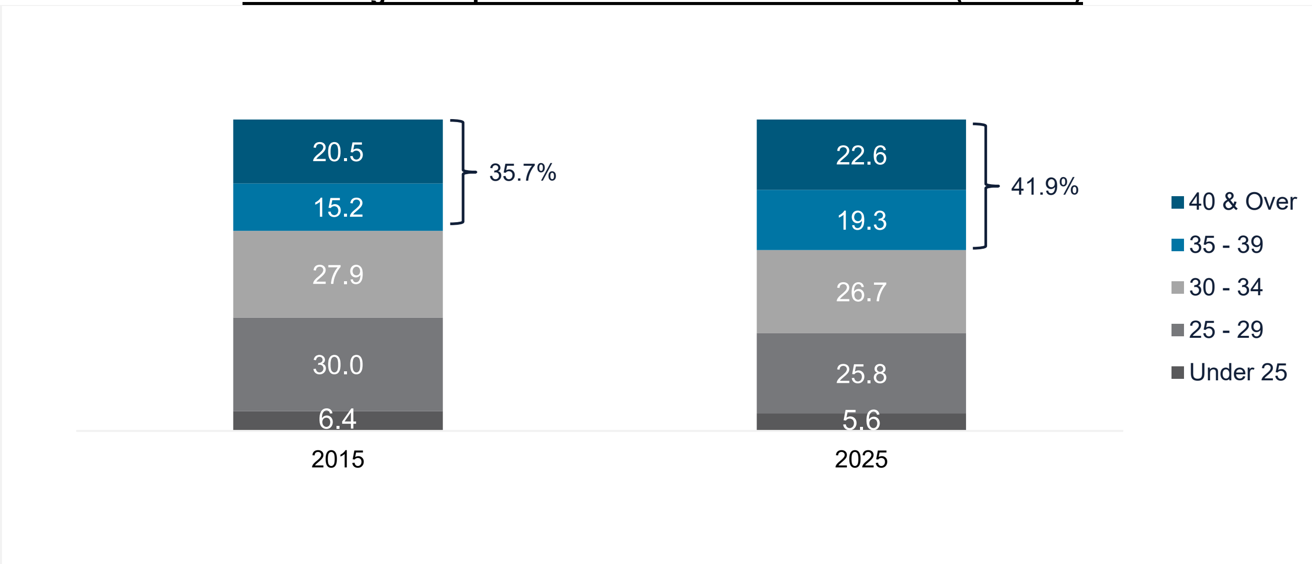
Chart 6: Educational Qualification Attained of NR Brides Married to SC Grooms (Per Cent)



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

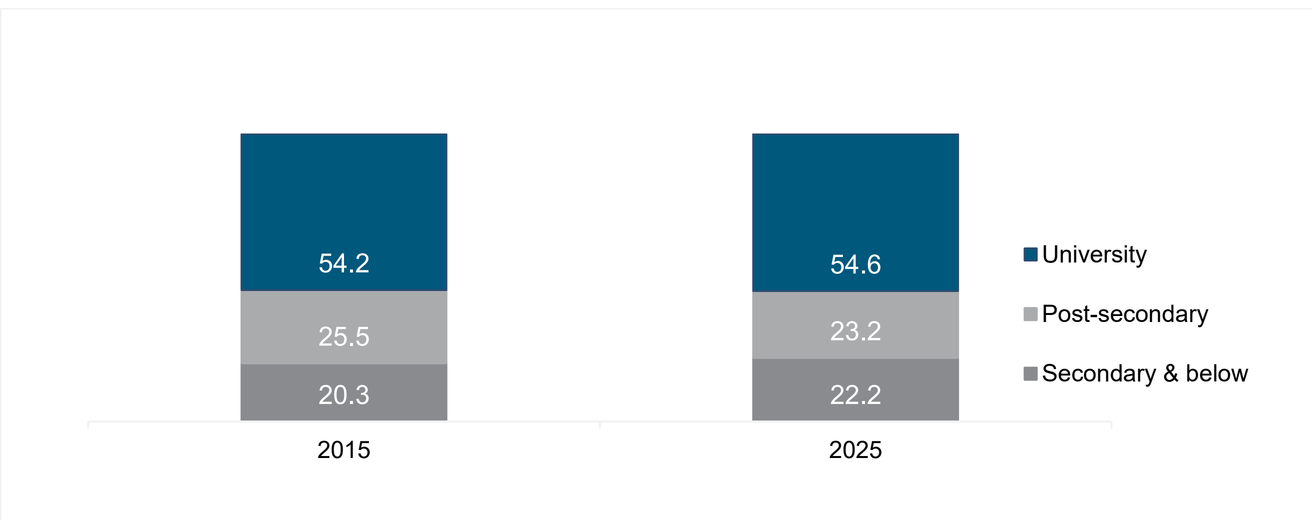
NR grooms were older in 2025 compared to 2015. The proportion of NR grooms aged 35 and above increased from 35.7% in 2015 to 41.9% in 2025 (Chart 7). Half of the NR grooms (54.6%) were degree holders (Chart 8).

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)

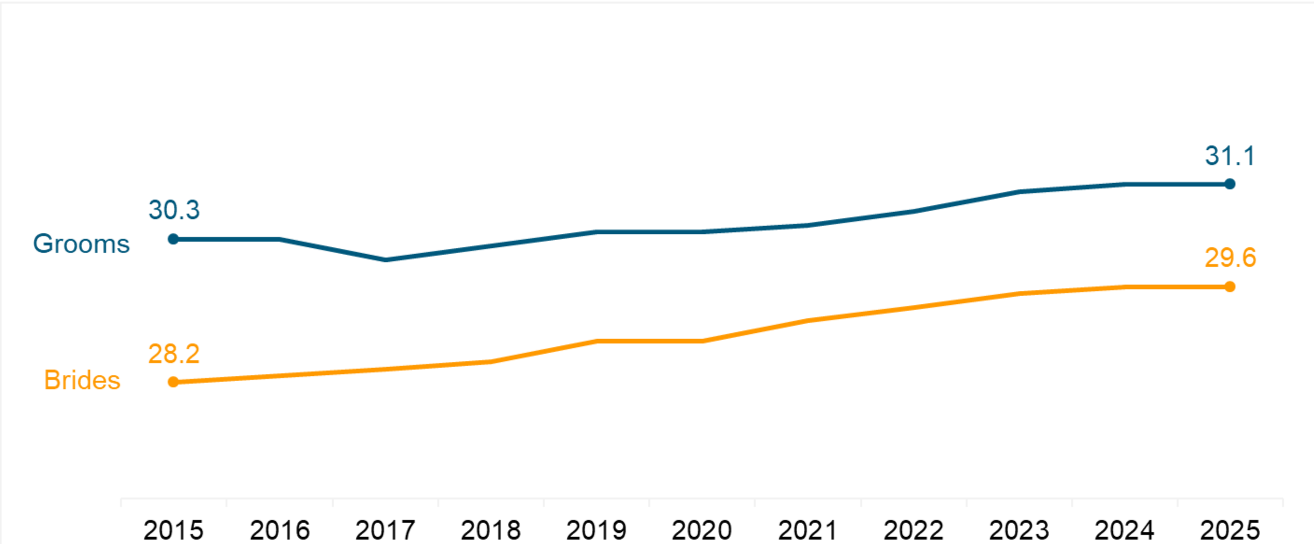


Source: DOS
Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Median age at first marriage rose over the past decade

The median age at first marriage for grooms increased from 30.3 years in 2015 to 31.1 years in 2025 (Chart 9). The median age at first marriage for brides increased from 28.2 years in 2015 to 29.6 years in 2025.

Chart 9: Median Age at First Marriage (Years)



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Grooms	30.3	30.3	30.0	30.2	30.4	30.4	30.5	30.7	31.0	31.1	31.1
Brides	28.2	28.3	28.4	28.5	28.8	28.8	29.1	29.3	29.5	29.6	29.6

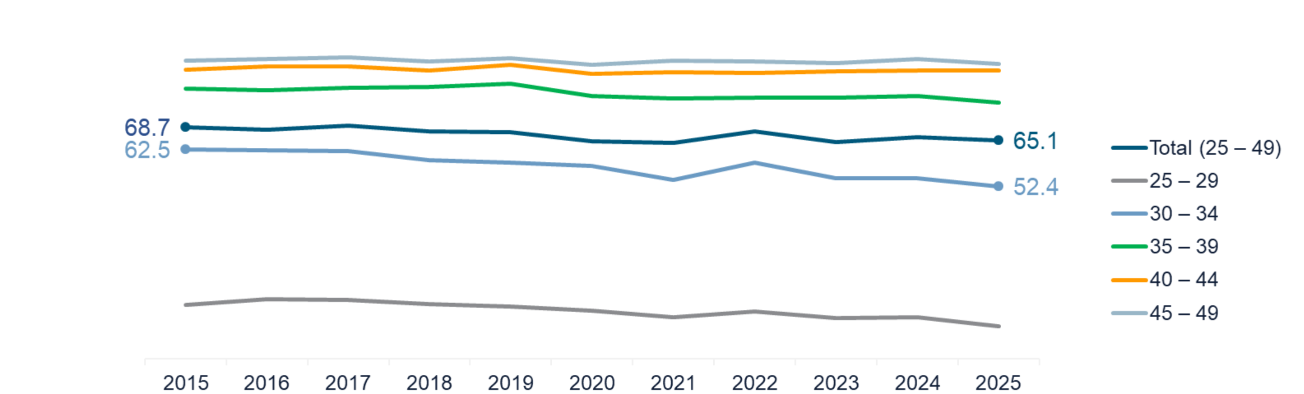
Source: DOS

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

The proportion of residents aged 25 – 49 who were ever-married[5] generally decreased over the past decade from 68.7% in 2015 to 65.1% in 2025 for males (Chart 10a) and from 74.6% in 2015 to 71.5% in 2025 for females (Chart 10b).

Over the past decade, ever-married resident males aged 30 – 34 and females aged 25 – 29 registered the largest declines in proportion.

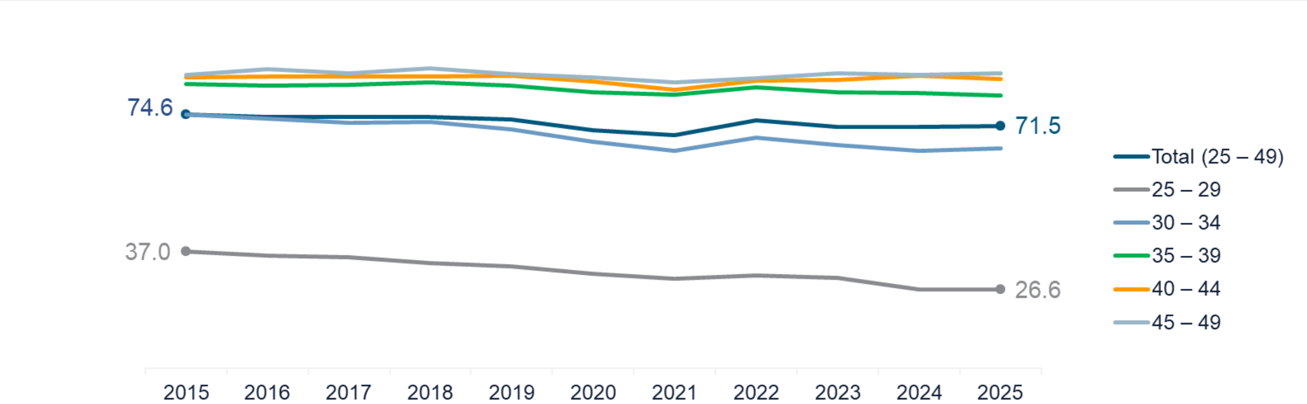
Chart 10a: Proportion of Ever-Married Among Male Residents by Age Group (Per Cent)



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total (25 – 49)	68.7	68.0	69.1	67.6	67.4	64.8	64.4	67.5	64.6	65.9	65.1
25 – 29	19.8	21.5	21.2	20.2	19.5	18.4	16.5	18.0	16.2	16.6	14.1
30 – 34	62.5	62.3	62.2	59.6	59.1	58.1	54.3	58.9	54.8	54.8	52.4
35 – 39	79.4	78.8	79.5	79.8	80.6	77.4	76.6	76.8	76.9	77.3	75.6
40 – 44	84.6	85.4	85.5	84.3	86.0	83.3	83.9	83.6	84.1	84.2	84.2
45 – 49	87.1	87.4	88.0	86.9	87.6	85.9	87.0	86.8	86.4	87.5	86.1

Source: DOS

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



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total (25 – 49)	74.6	73.9	74.0	73.9	73.2	70.2	69.0	72.9	71.3	71.1	71.5
25 – 29	37.0	36.0	35.4	34.0	33.1	31.0	29.5	30.5	29.9	26.6	26.6
30 – 34	74.5	73.5	72.3	72.6	70.6	67.2	64.6	68.2	66.3	64.7	65.3
35 – 39	83.0	82.5	82.7	83.3	82.5	80.7	80.1	82.1	80.7	80.4	79.7
40 – 44	84.7	85.0	85.1	84.9	85.3	83.6	81.4	83.8	84.0	85.3	84.4
45 – 49	85.5	87.1	85.9	87.2	85.6	84.7	83.3	84.5	86.0	85.4	85.9

Source: DOS

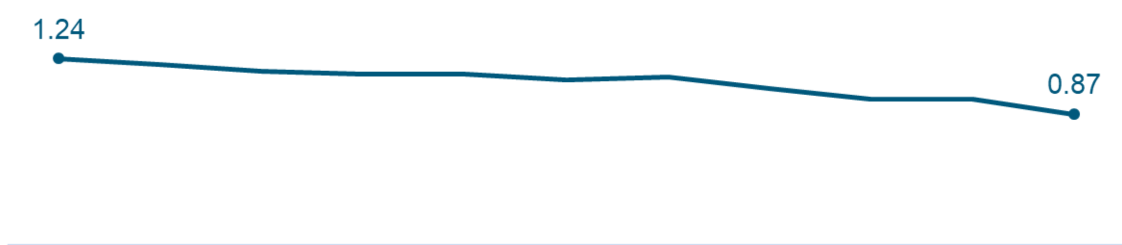
[5] Ever-married refers to those who have been married before, i.e. includes those currently married, widowed, divorced or separated.

C2. BIRTHS

Total Fertility Rate reached a historic low in 2025

The resident Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreased from 1.24 in 2015 to 0.87 in 2025 (Chart 11).

Chart 11: Total Fertility Rate (Per Female)



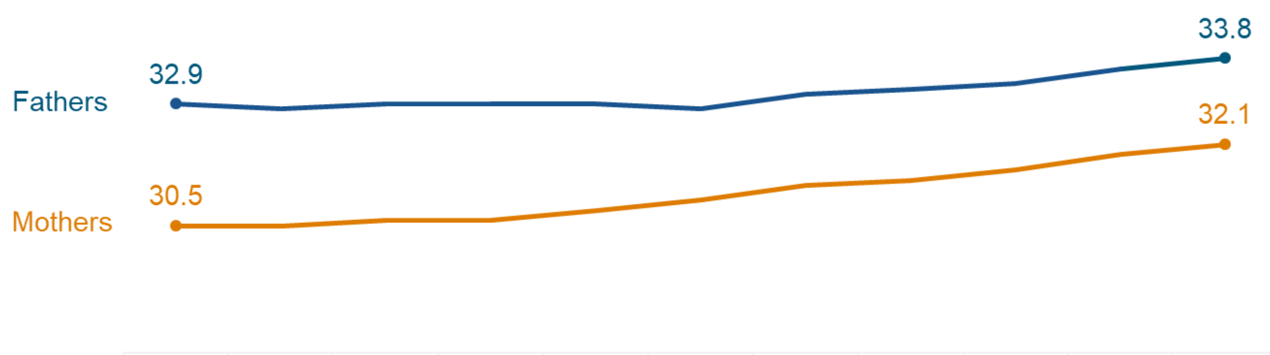
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1.24	1.20	1.16	1.14	1.14	1.10	1.12	1.04	0.97	0.97	0.87

Source: DOS

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

The median age of first-time fathers[6] increased from 32.9 years in 2015 to 33.8 years in 2025 (Chart 12). The median age of first-time mothers increased from 30.5 years in 2015 to 32.1 years in 2025.

<u>Chart 12: Median Age of First Time Fathers and Mothers to Resident Births[7]</u>



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Father	32.9	32.8	32.9	32.9	32.9	32.8	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.6	33.8
Mother	30.5	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	31.0	31.3	31.4	31.6	31.9	32.1

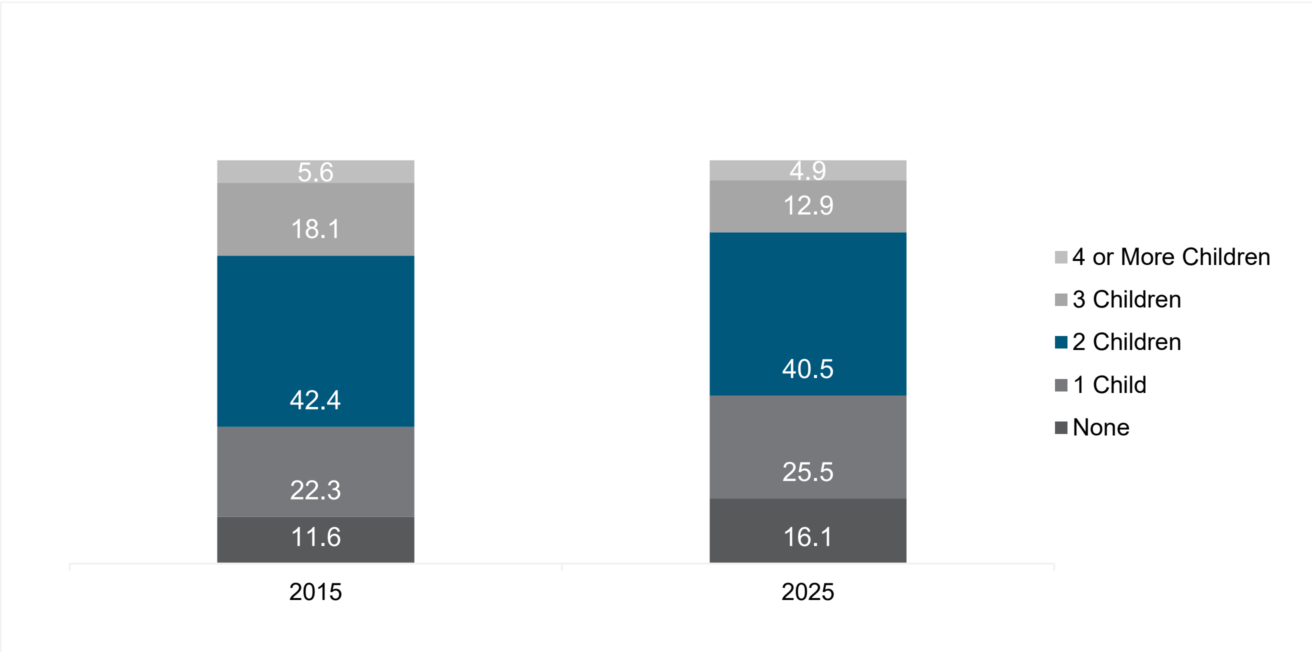
Source: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA)

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

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

Among ever-married resident females aged 40 – 49 years, those with two children formed the largest group (42.4% in 2015 and 40.5% in 2025) (Chart 13). The proportion of those who had no children rose from 11.6% in 2015 to 16.1% in 2025, and the proportion of those who had one child rose from 22.3% to 25.5%.

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



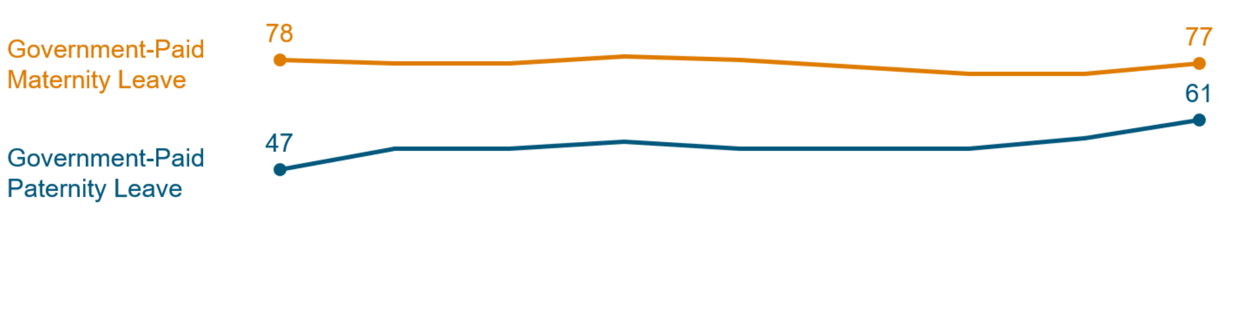
Source: DOS
Note: Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

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

More fathers take up Government-Paid Paternity Leave…

The proportion of fathers who took Government-Paid Paternity Leave increased from 47% for children born in 2016 to 61% for children born in 2024. The take-up of Government-Paid Maternity Leave over the years remained high, ranging from 74% to 79% (Chart 14).

Chart 14: Take-up Rate of Government-Paid Paternity and Maternity Leave Scheme[8] (Per Cent)



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Government-Paid Paternity Leave	47	53	53	55	53	53	53	56	61
Government-Paid Maternity Leave	78	77	77	79	78	76	74	74	77

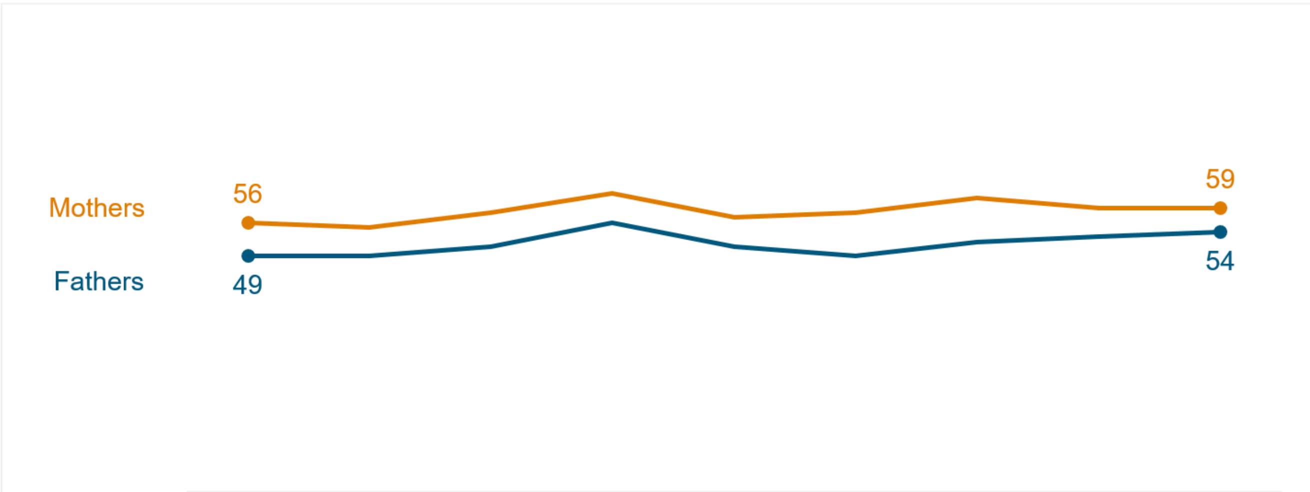
Source: Ministry of Social & Family Development (MSF)
Note: Figures are rounded to nearest whole number.

[8] Take-up rates refer to the proportion of parents who used at least 1 day of the Government-paid portion of the respective leave schemes. Take-up rates are by child's year of birth for maternity leave and paternity leave. 2024 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 increased from 49% in 2016 to 54% in 2024. The take-up of childcare leave by mothers increased from 56% in 2016 to 59% in 2024 (Chart 15).

Chart 15: Take-up Rate of Childcare Leave Scheme[9] (Per Cent)



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fathers	49	49	51	56	51	49	52	53	54
Mothers	56	55	58	62	57	58	61	59	59

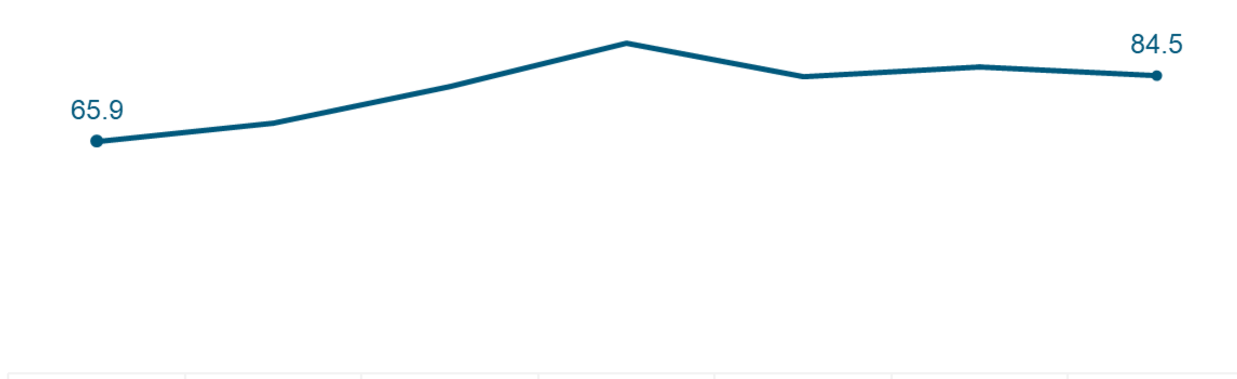
Source: MSF
Note: Figures are rounded to nearest whole number. Figure for mother's take-up rate of the childcare leave scheme for 2023 has been corrected.

[9] Take-up rates refer to the proportion of parents who used at least 1 day of the Government-paid portion of the childcare leave. Take-up rates are by year of taking leave for childcare leave. 2024 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

Access to FWAs remains high with post pandemic levels higher than pre-pandemic levels. Among employees aged 25 – 64 who required FWAs, 84.5% had access to at least one of the FWAs in 2024, compared to 65.9% in 2014 (Chart 16).

Chart 16: Proportion of Full-time Resident Employees Aged 25 – 64 Who Were Provided with At Least 1 Scheduled FWA[10] They Required (Per Cent)



2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2023	2024
65.9	71.1	81.4	93.7	84.1	87.0	84.5

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, 89.6% in 2023 and 89.5% in 2024 if the newly collected types of scheduled FWA were included.

SUPPORTING MARRIAGE AND PARENTHOOD ASPIRATIONS

Although marriage and parenthood are deeply personal decisions, the Government is committed to supporting Singaporeans in family formation. Our efforts include marriage and parenthood policies, and caregiving support systems. Most recently, the Government enhanced Shared Parental Leave (SPL) provisions from 6 weeks in 2025 to 10 weeks, starting from 1 April 2026, giving working parents greater flexibility to care for their children.

Marriage and parenthood aspirations and outcomes are shaped by social attitudes that influence life priorities and choices, as well as enabling conditions such as Government policies, workplace practices, and family and community support. Addressing Singapore's declining fertility will require a multi-faceted, whole-of-society reset.

To drive this effort, a new interagency Workgroup has been set up. It is chaired by Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development, Ms Indranee Rajah. Its members comprise Political Office Holders from relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Workgroup will examine key factors that influence marriage and parenthood decisions including financial costs, work-life support, caregiving, housing, healthcare, preschool and education. It will also work with stakeholders to promote societal norms and workplace practices that better support marriage and parenthood aspirations.

The Workgroup will engage widely with stakeholders including employers, businesses, community organisations and individual Singaporeans to gather ideas, build consensus, and secure collective commitment to this national effort. The Workgroup will report on the consolidated findings in early 2027.

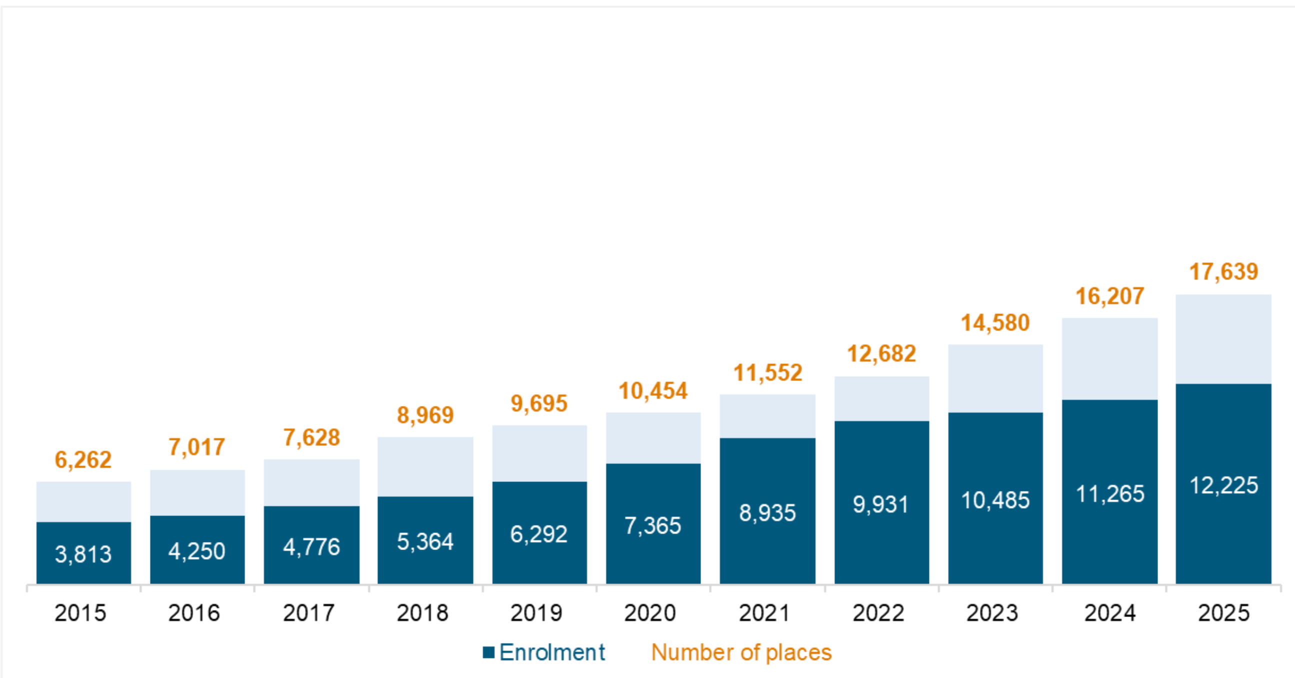
D. EARLY CHILDHOOD

D1. ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY PRESCHOOLS

Full-day infant care places increased nearly threefold over ten years, while median fees[11] and out-of-pocket expenses[12] decreased

The number of full-day infant care places increased nearly threefold from 6,262 in 2015 to 17,639 in 2025, to cater to growing demand (Chart 17).

Chart 17: Number of Places and Enrolment for Infant Care



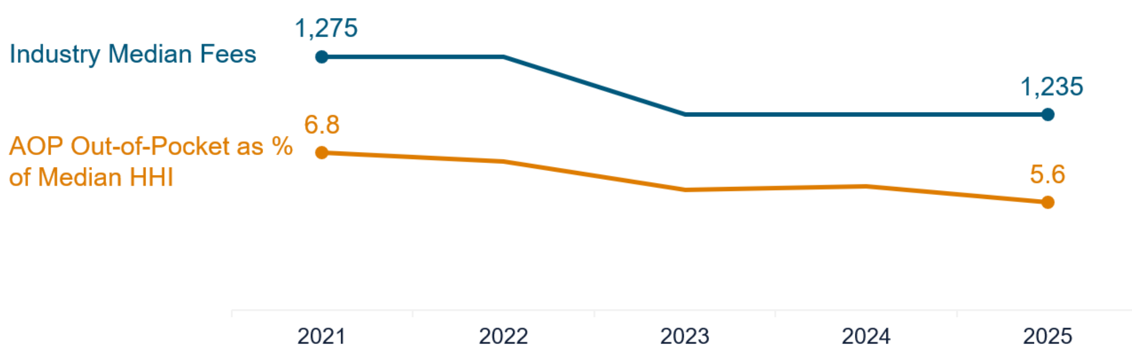
Source: Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)
Note: Figures from 2015 were extracted as at 31 December. Figures from 2016 to 2024 were extracted as at 31 October. Figures from 2025 were extracted as at 30 November.

[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 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. To make preschools more affordable, AOPs and POPs are funded and required to adhere to fee caps set by the Government.

AOP and POP full-day infant care fee caps were reduced by $40 in 2023. This brought the industry median infant care fee for SC children down from $1,275 in 2022 to $1,235 since 2023 (Chart 18). Families' out-of-pocket expenses as a proportion of household income have also decreased. A median-income household[13] with a child attending full-day infant care in an AOP centre spent 5.6% of their household income (HHI) on preschool in 2025, compared to 6.8% in 2021.

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



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Median Fees ($)	1,275	1,275	1,235	1,235	1,235
AOP Out-of-Pocket as % of Median HHI (%)	6.8	6.6	5.9	6.0	5.6

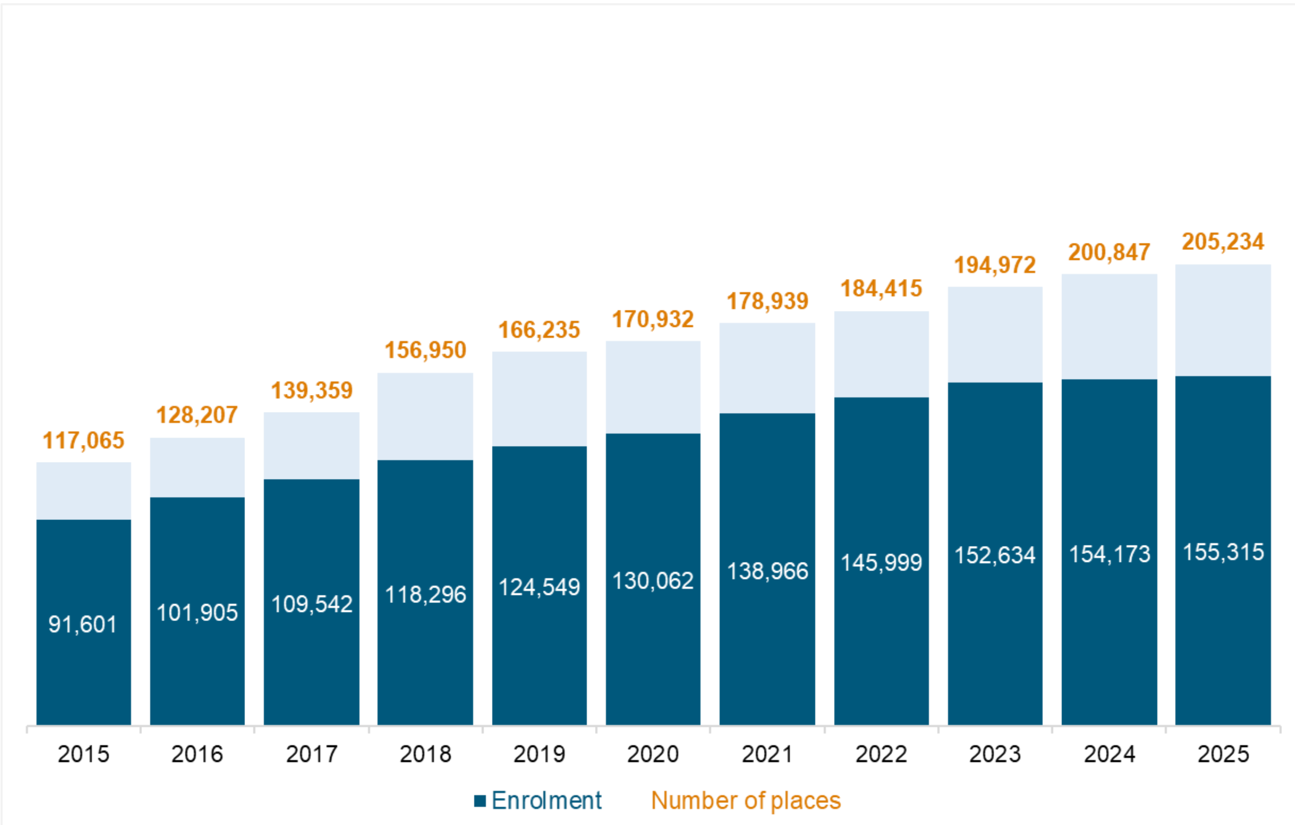
Source: ECDA, MSF

[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 fees[14] and out-of-pocket expenses[15]

The number of full-day childcare places increased from 117,065 in 2015 to 205,234 in 2025 (Chart 19).

Chart 19: Number of Places and Enrolment for Childcare



Source: ECDA

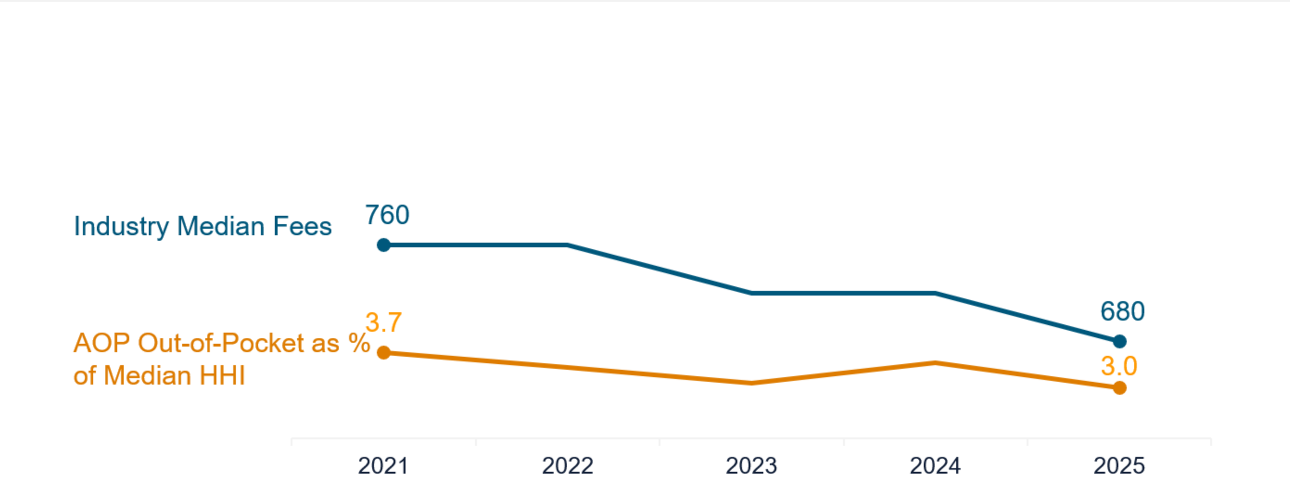
Note: Figures from 2015 were extracted as at 31 December. Figures from 2016 to 2024 were extracted as at 31 October. Figures from 2025 were extracted as at 30 November.

[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 also lowered in 2025 by $40, following the recent reduction in 2023. The industry median childcare fee for SC children hence decreased from $760 in 2021 to $720 in 2023, and further decreased to $680 in 2025 (Chart 20). Families' out-of-pocket expenses as a proportion of household income have also decreased in the past five years. A median-income household[16] with a child attending full-day childcare in an AOP centre spent 3.0% of their HHI on preschool in 2025, compared to 3.7% in 2021.

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



Median Fees ($)	760	760	720	720	680
AOP Out-of-Pocket as % of Median HHI (%)	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.5	3.0

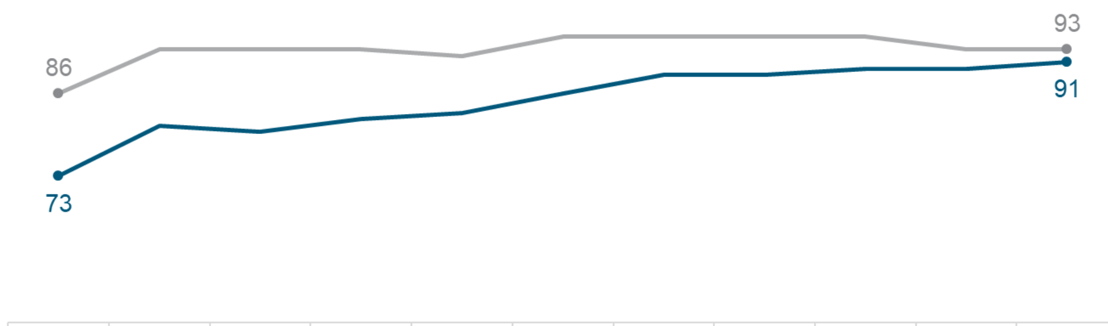
Source: ECDA, MSF

[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 rate of children aged 3 – 4 years increased from 73% in 2015 to 91% in 2025 (Chart 21). The enrolment rate of children aged 5 – 6 years also increased over the last 10 years from 86% in 2015 to 93% in 2025.

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



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aged 3 – 4 (%)	73	81	80	82	83	86	89	89	90	90	91
Aged 5 – 6 (%)	86	93	93	93	92	95	95	95	95	93	93

Source: MSF
Note: The Cohort Enrolment Rates for 2025 are based on MSF's preliminary estimates.

RAISING THE QUALITY OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SECTOR

Alongside efforts to make preschools more affordable and accessible, ECDA has been working closely with the early childhood sector to raise standards across three key areas: the quality of preschool providers, programmes, and professionals.

Stronger standards for preschool providers

The Early Childhood Development Centres Act, which was enacted in 2017, brought childcare centres and kindergartens under a single regulatory framework for the first time, ensuring more consistent and higher standards across all licensed preschools. Building on this foundation, the Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK) provides an additional layer of quality assurance for preschools that go beyond baseline requirements. SPARK was refreshed as SPARK 2.0 in 2025 to better support preschools on their continuous quality improvement journey.

Developmentally appropriate and effective curricula

To ensure that children receive developmentally appropriate and effective learning experiences, all licensed preschools are required to reference the Early Years Development Framework and the Nurturing Early Learners Framework. Both frameworks were updated in 2023 and 2022 respectively, incorporating the latest developments in early childhood education policy, practice, and research.

Investing in early childhood educators

Preschool educators are at the heart of quality early childhood education, and ECDA remains committed to attracting, developing and supporting the over 28,000 preschool educators today. As part of raising professional quality, ECDA introduced the Quality Teaching Tool in 2025 to establish a common standard for quality teaching across the sector, and the Leadership Development Framework in 2022 to support sector leaders in their holistic professional development.

Looking Ahead: Quality Preschools 2030

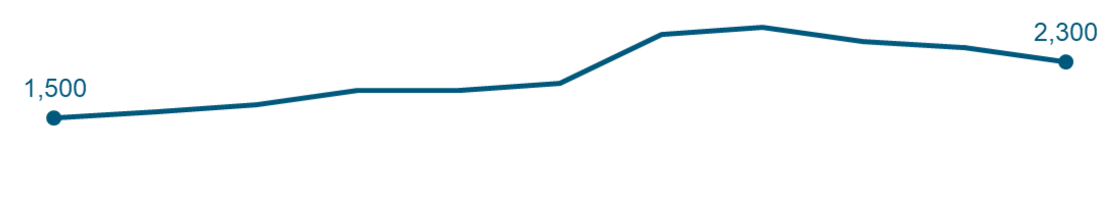
At the MSF Committee of Supply 2026, we announced our vision for Quality Preschools 2030 – where children play, learn, and grow alongside their peers, and develop holistically with strong foundations for life. We will continue to work closely with the sector to raise the bar on provider, programme, and professional quality, foster stronger partnerships between preschools and families, and encourage research and innovation in early childhood education.

D2. YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Number of referrals for early intervention decreased…

Early Intervention (EI) is the multidisciplinary support provided to children with developmental needs to maximise their development in the early years. The number of referrals of children to medium to high levels[17] of EI support had increased between 2015 and 2022, but has since decreased in recent years, from 2,800 in 2022 to 2,300 in 2025 (Chart 22).

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



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,700	2,800	2,600	2,500	2,300

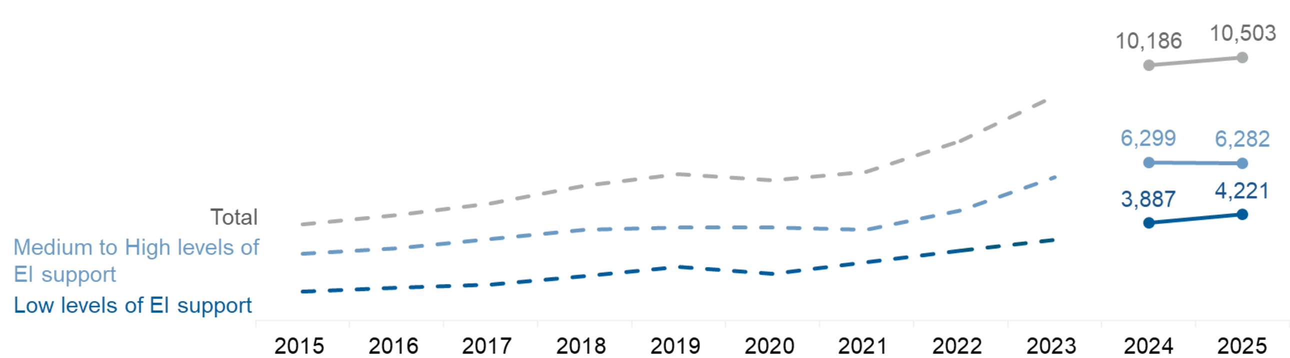
Source: ECDA
Note: Figures are based on data on the number of unique children referred to EI programmes providing medium to high levels of EI support (EIPIC, EIPIC-P, EIPIC-Care and/or InSP). Figures are rounded to nearest 100.

[17] Children 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 selected preschools.

… and 10,503 children were served in EI programmes in 2025

The total number of children served in EI programmes was 10,503 in 2025, up from 10,186 in 2024 (Chart 23). The number of children requiring low levels[18] of early intervention support served in EI programmes was 4,221 in 2025. The number of children requiring medium to high levels of EI support served in EI programmes was 6,282 in 2025.

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



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Low levels of EI support	1,165	1,314	1,433	1,767	2,137	1,875	2,328	2,771	3,230	3,887	4,221
Medium to high levels of EI support	2,659	2,876	3,245	3,613	3,696	3,712	3,616	4,387	5,720	6,299	6,282
Total	3,824	4,190	4,678	5,380	5,833	5,587	5,944	7,158	8,950	10,186	10,503

Source: ECDA

Note: Figures from 2024 onwards 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.

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

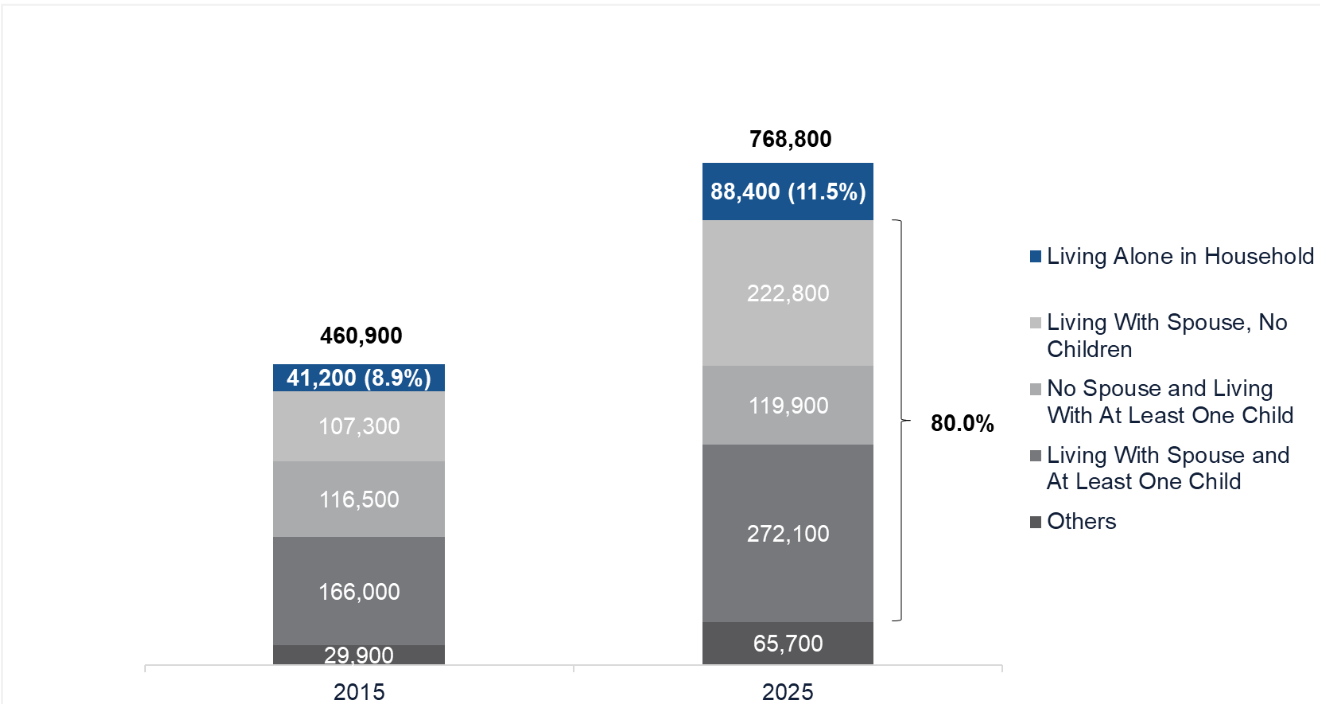
E. FAMILY TIES AND RESILIENCE

E1. FAMILY TIES

More elderly residents living alone

The number of residents aged 65 and above living in resident households increased from 460,900 as of 2015 to 768,800 as of 2025. 80.0% of these elderly residents stayed with their spouse and/or child(ren) in 2025 (Chart 24). The number of elderly residents living alone in households more than doubled from 41,200 in 2015 to 88,400 in 2025.

Chart 24: Living Arrangement of Elderly Residents in Resident Households



Source: DOS

Note: 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. Data on living arrangement for 2015 and 2025 are as declared by survey respondents of the General Household Survey. The presence of spouse/children is based on those living in the same household and is regardless of age. Children include in-laws. 'Living Alone in Household' includes elderly who may have support from family members living elsewhere. Resident households refer to households where the household reference person is a Singapore citizen or permanent resident. Figures are rounded to nearest 100 and may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

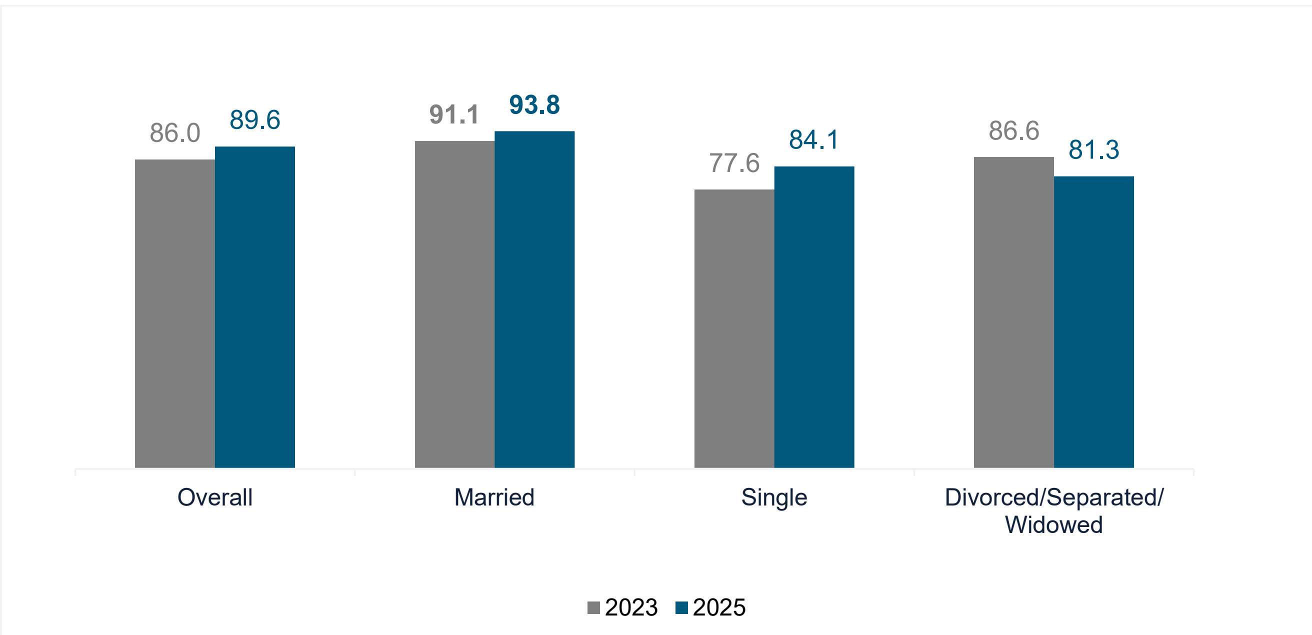
Families are a key line of support for elderly

Based on an MSF survey on families, respondents aged 15 – 64 years old who agreed that it is their responsibility to take care of their parents increased from 93.1% in 2023 to 95.2% in 2025. This shows that families' commitment to care for their elderly parents remains strong.

Families have close ties

The same survey found that the proportion of respondents who reported that they have a close-knit family increased from 86.0% in 2023 to 89.6% in 2025. Similar to 2023, the proportion of respondents who reported having a close-knit family was higher among the married (93.8%) compared to those who were single (84.1%) and divorced/separated/widowed (81.3%) in 2025 (Chart 25).

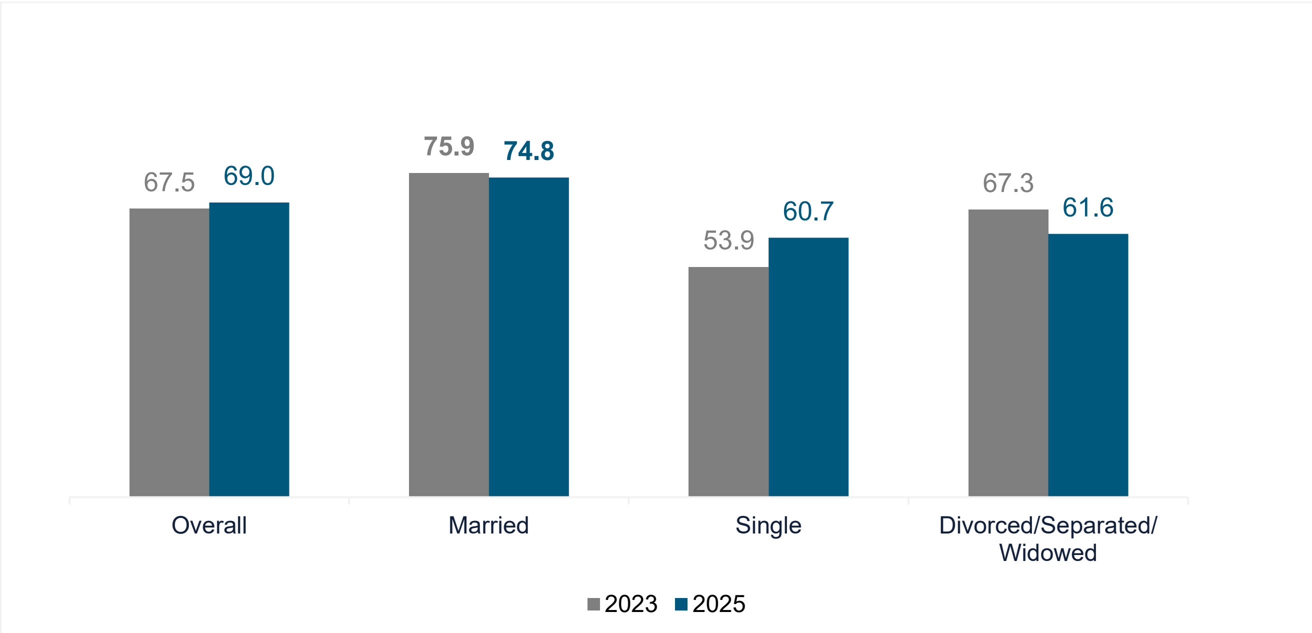
Chart 25: Proportion of Respondents Who Reported They Have a Close-knit Family (Per Cent)



Source: MSF

The proportion of respondents who reported maintaining close ties with family members outside of their immediate family remained stable[19], from 67.5% in 2023 to 69.0% in 2025. Similar to 2023, a higher proportion of married (74.8%) respondents reported maintaining close ties with family members outside of their immediate family as compared to single (60.7%) and divorced/separated/widowed (61.6%) respondents in 2025 (Chart 26).

Chart 26: Proportion of Respondents Who Reported They Maintain Close Ties with Family Members Outside of Immediate Family (Per Cent)



Source: MSF

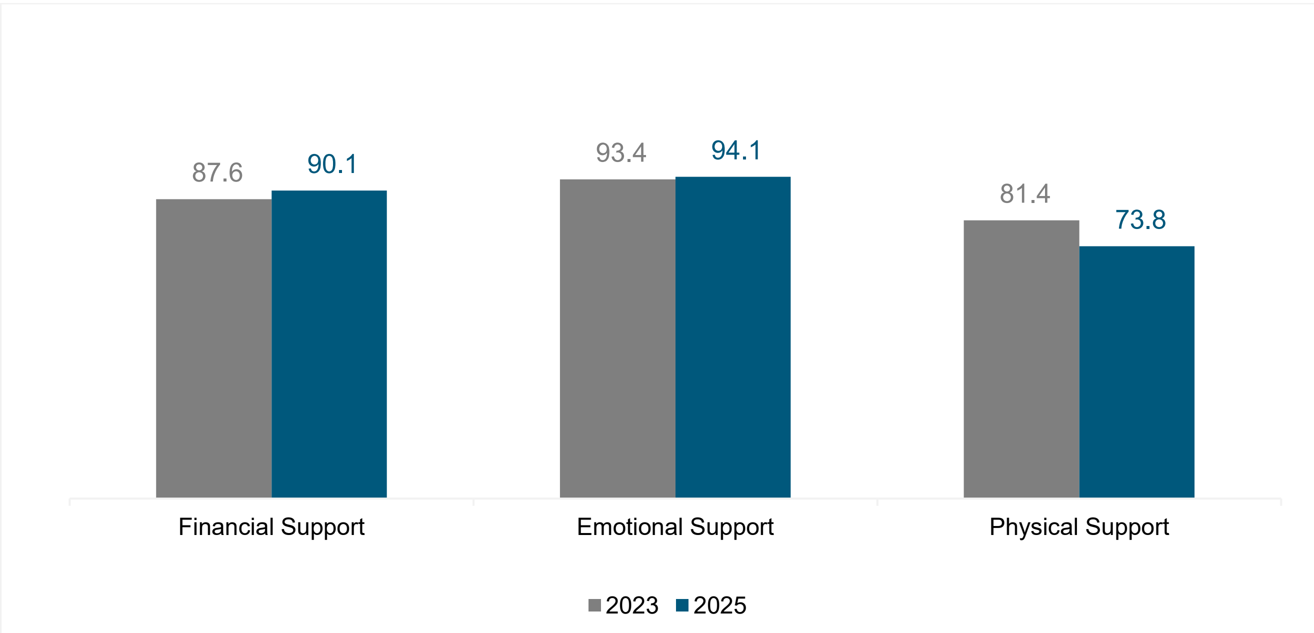
[19] The differences in the proportions between 2023 and 2025 are not statistically significant.

E2. CAREGIVING IN FAMILIES

Families continue to be the key support for caregiving needs

Families play a pivotal role in providing caregiving and emotional support. Similar to 2023, the 2025 MSF survey on families found a majority of respondents reporting that they would provide financial (90.1%) and emotional (94.1%) support if their family members needed it. Findings also showed that 73.8% of respondents would provide regular physical support to family members should they need help with Activities of Daily Living[20] (Chart 27).

Chart 27: Proportion of Respondents Who Will Provide Financial, Emotional and Physical Support (Per Cent)



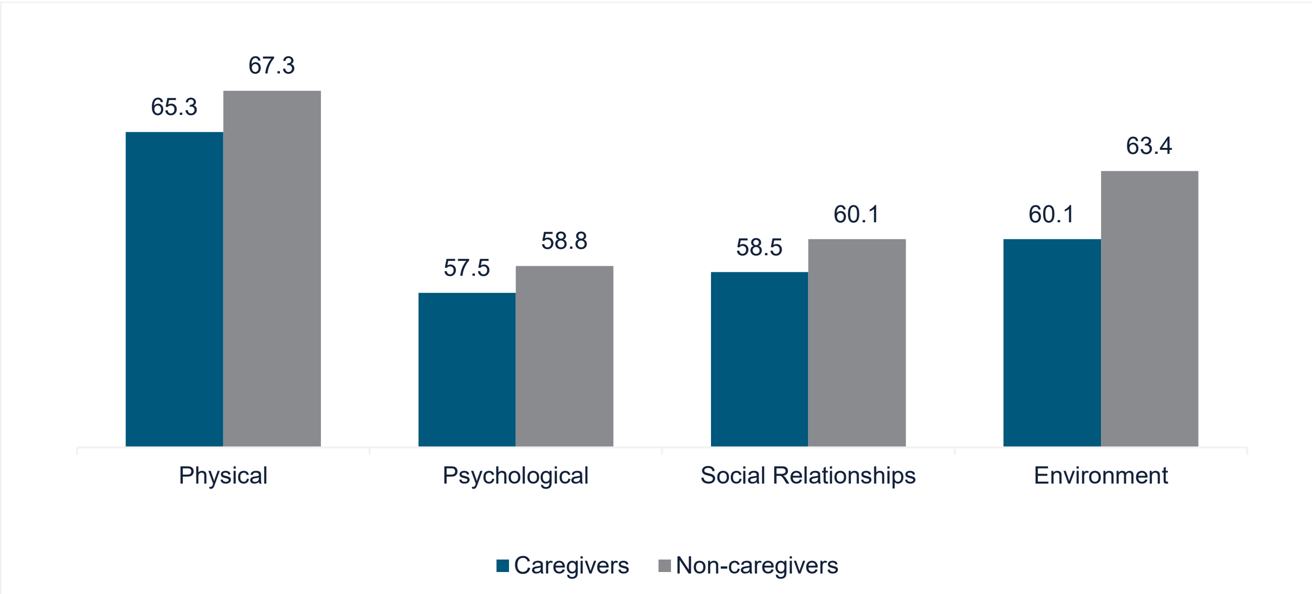
Source: MSF

[20] There is no statistically significant difference in the proportions between 2023 and 2025 for emotional support.

Caregivers have lower Quality of Life scores…

Based on the 2025 Quality of Life Study by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), caregivers reported a lower overall quality of life[21] compared to non-caregivers. Caregivers scored lower across the physical, psychological, social relationships and environment domains compared to non-caregivers (Chart 28).

Chart 28: Domain Scores of Caregivers vs Non-Caregivers



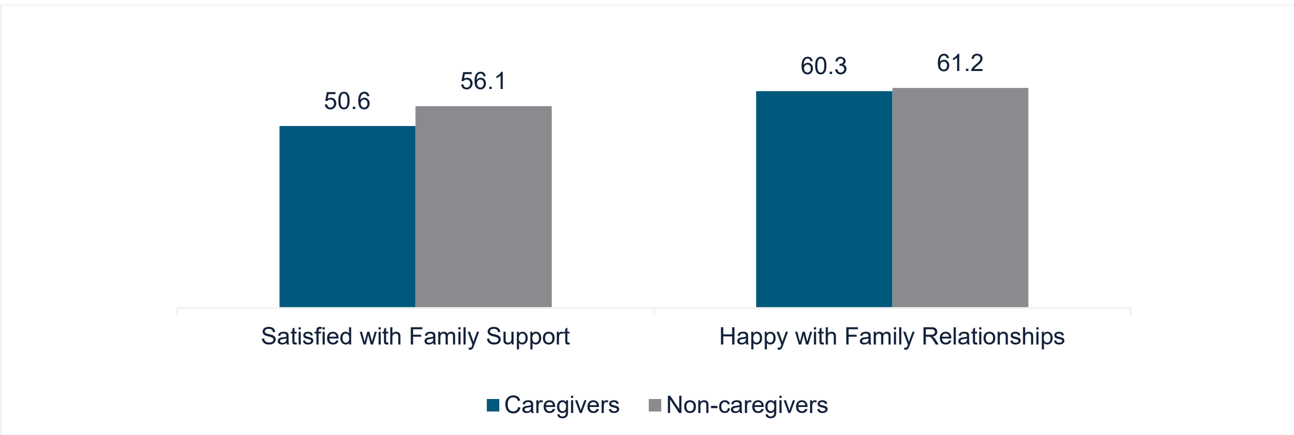
Source: NCSS' 2025 Quality of Life Study

[21] For more information on the Quality of Life domains, please refer to NCSS webpage on Quality of Life (https://www.ncss.gov.sg/research-and-insights/research-and-evaluation/quality-of-life/).

… but are as happy with their family relationships as non-caregivers

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 29)[22]. This suggests that while caregivers would like to receive more support, they remain as happy with their family relationships as non-caregivers. In a separate 2025 MSF survey on families, the majority of caregivers also reported that they were able to manage their caregiving responsibilities for their family members (92.2%).

Chart 29: Proportion of Caregivers vs Non-Caregivers who were Satisfied with Family Support and Happy with Family Relationships (Per Cent)



Source: NCSS' 2025 Quality of Life Study

[22] There is no statistically significant difference between the proportions of caregivers and non-caregivers who reported feeling happy with their family relationships.

E3. FAMILY RESILIENCE

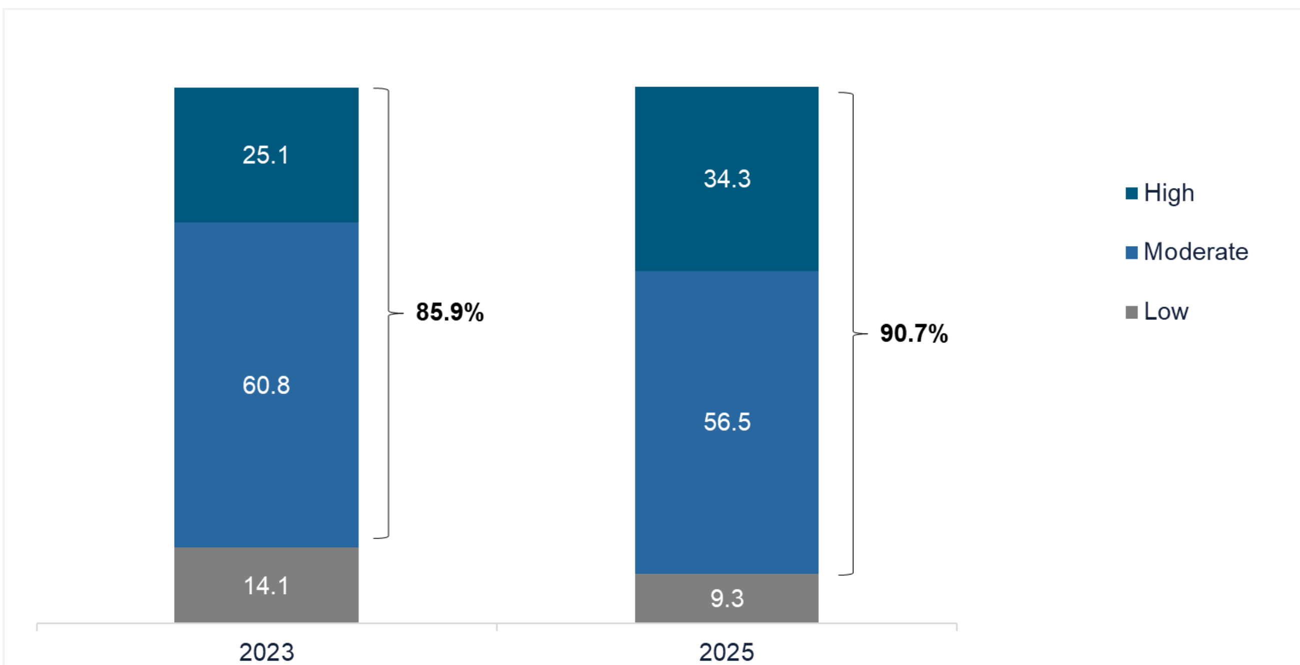
WHAT IS FAMILY RESILIENCE?

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.

9 in 10 families reported moderate to high family resilience scores

The 2025 MSF survey on families found that 90.7% of the families reported moderate to high[23] family resilience scores, an increase from 85.9% in 2023 (Chart 30)[24]. In particular, the proportion of families reporting high[25] family resilience scores increased, from 25.1% in 2023 to 34.3% in 2025.

Chart 30: Proportion of Families with Low, Moderate and High Family Resilience Scores



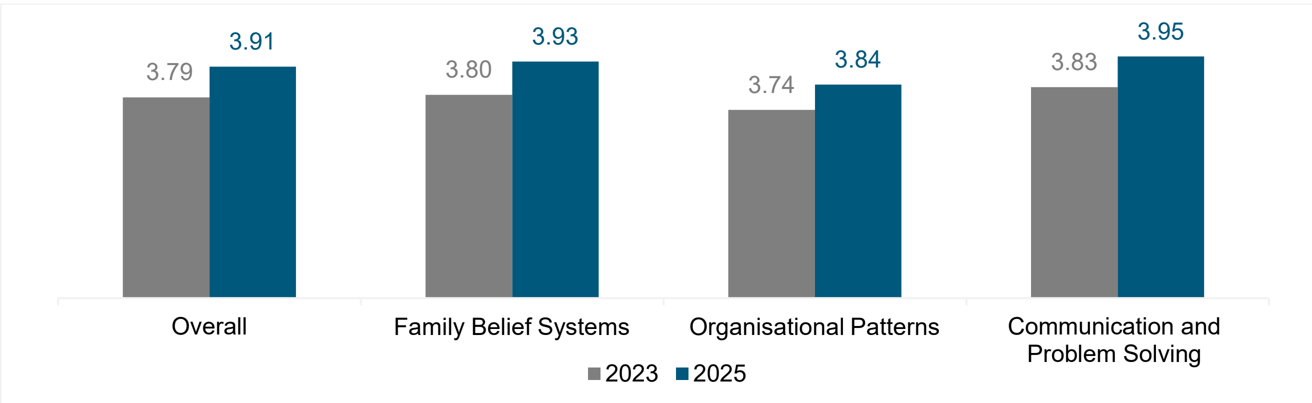
Source: MSF
Note: Proportions for moderate and high may not add up to due to rounding.

[23] Families with moderate to high resilience scored 3 and above (out of 5) on the Walsh Family Resilience Questionnaire.
[24] 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. Family belief systems refer to the ability to make meaning of adversity and keeping a positive outlook, organisation patterns refer to the to maintain flexibility, maintain connectedness and draw from social and economic resources, and communication and problem solving refers to the ability to approach adversity with clarity, support each other and openly express emotions.
[25] Families with high resilience scored 4 and above (out of 5) on the Walsh Family Resilience Questionnaire.

By domain, families with moderate to high family resilience scored the highest in the communication and problem solving (mean score 3.95) domain, followed by the family belief systems (mean score 3.93) and organisational patterns (mean score 3.84) domains (Chart 31). These domains also saw an increase from 2023.

Respondents who reported having close-knit families had higher family resilience scores. Respondents who were willing to provide financial, emotional and physical support to their family members also tended to report higher family resilience. These findings suggest that cohesive and supportive families tend to be more resilient and better equipped to weather life's challenges together.

Chart 31: Mean Family Resilience Scores of Families Who Scored Moderate to High Family Resilience, by Domains



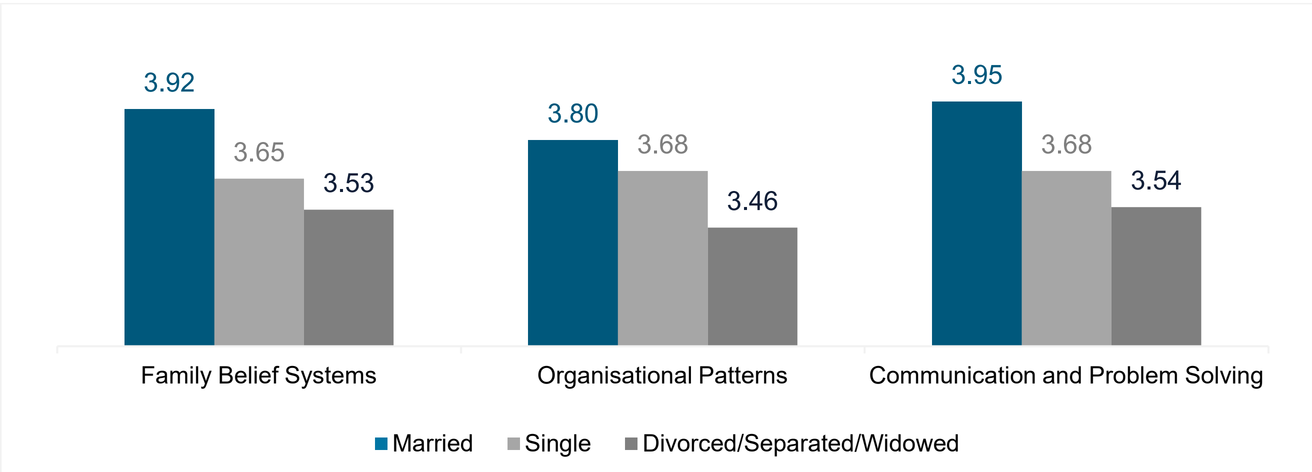
Source: MSF

Married respondents reported higher family resilience scores

The same survey on families also found that, by marital status, a lower proportion of married respondents (4.4%) reported low[26] family resilience scores compared to divorced/separated/widowed (19.6%) and single (15.0%) respondents.

Similarly, by domains, married respondents scored higher across all domains compared to single and divorced/widowed/separated[27] respondents (Chart 32).

Chart 32: Mean Family Resilience Score by Domains and Marital Status



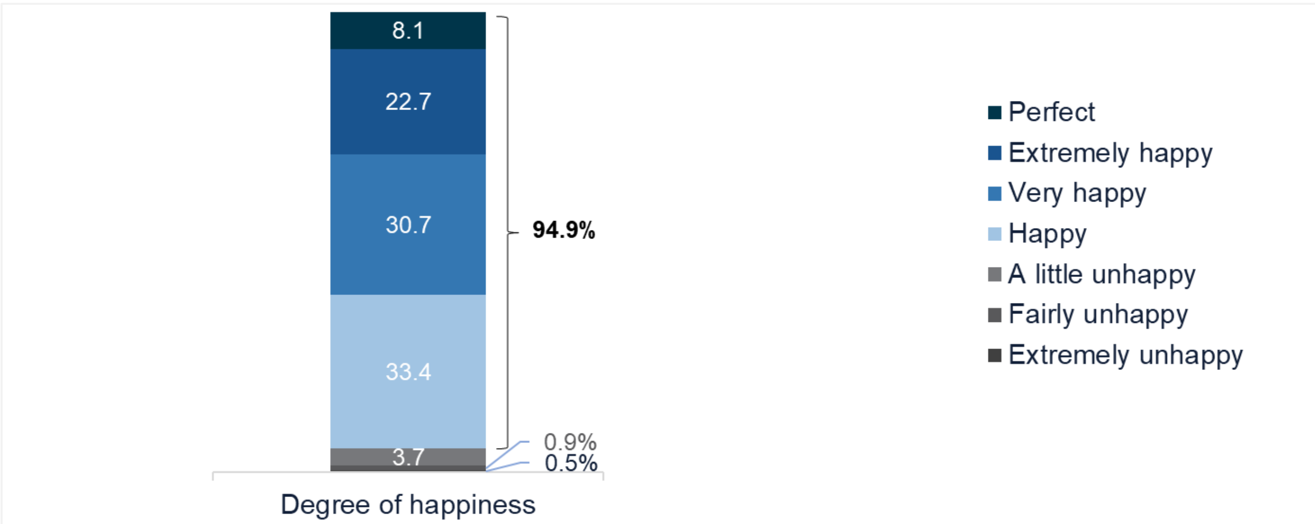
Source: MSF

[26] Families with low resilience scored below 3 (out of 5) on the Walsh Family Resilience Questionnaire.
[27] The difference in the mean scores between divorced/separated/widowed and single is statistically significant at $p<0.05$ for organisational patterns, but not for family belief systems and problem solving.

Most married respondents are happy with their marriage

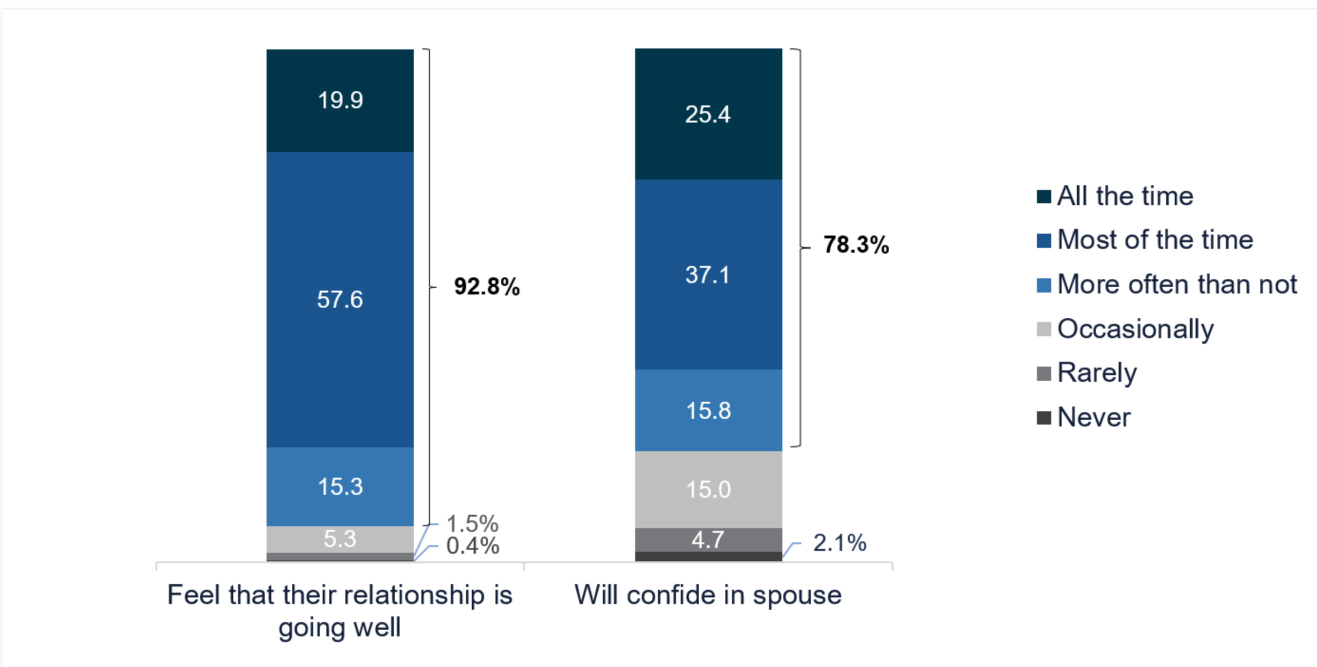
In addition, the 2025 MSF survey on families found that a majority of married respondents reported that they were happy with their marriage (94.9%), felt that their relationship was going well (92.8%), would frequently confide in their spouse (78.3%), and rarely or never considered ending their marriage (88.3%). Married respondents who reported higher overall marital quality[28] also tended to report higher family resilience.

Chart 33a: Degree of Happiness in Spousal Relationships



Source: MSF

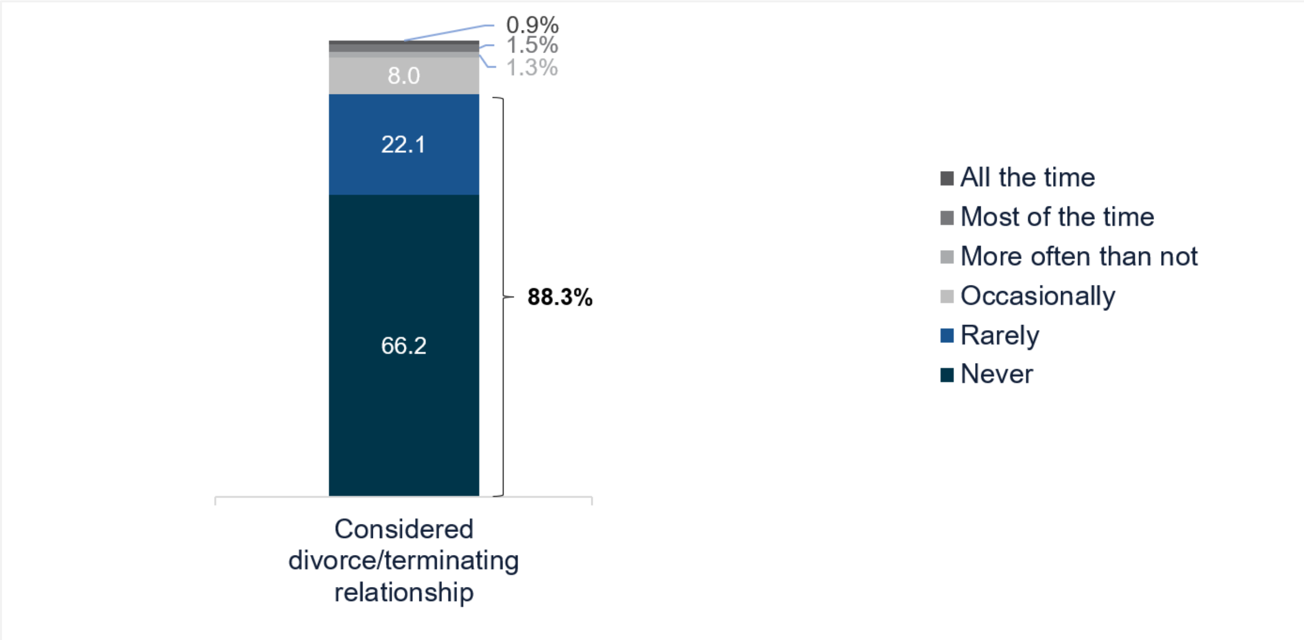
Chart 33b: Degree of Adjustment or Distress in Spousal Relationships



Source: MSF

[28] Marital quality is measured using a shortened Dyadic Adjustment Scale. The overall marital quality score was computed as the sum of the four items in Charts 33a, b and c (with the item on "Considered divorce/terminating relationship" reverse coded).

Chart 33c: Degree of Adjustment or Distress in Spousal Relationships



Source: MSF

F. MARITAL DISSOLUTION

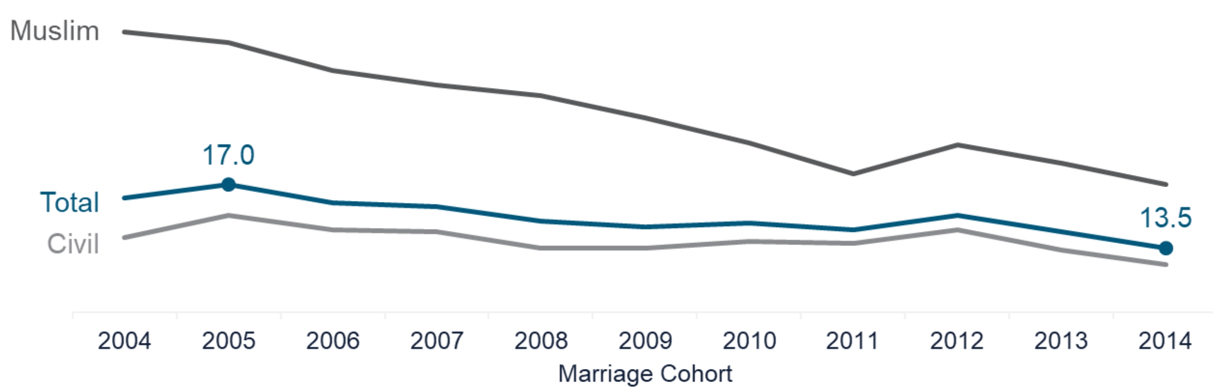
F1. MARRIAGE STABILITY

Marriage cohorts from 2006 have seen lower dissolution rates

Compared to the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2014 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10th anniversary (Chart 34). The cumulative proportion of marriages that dissolved before the 10th anniversary declined from 17.0% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 13.5% for the 2014 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 34: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages before 10th Anniversary (Per Cent)



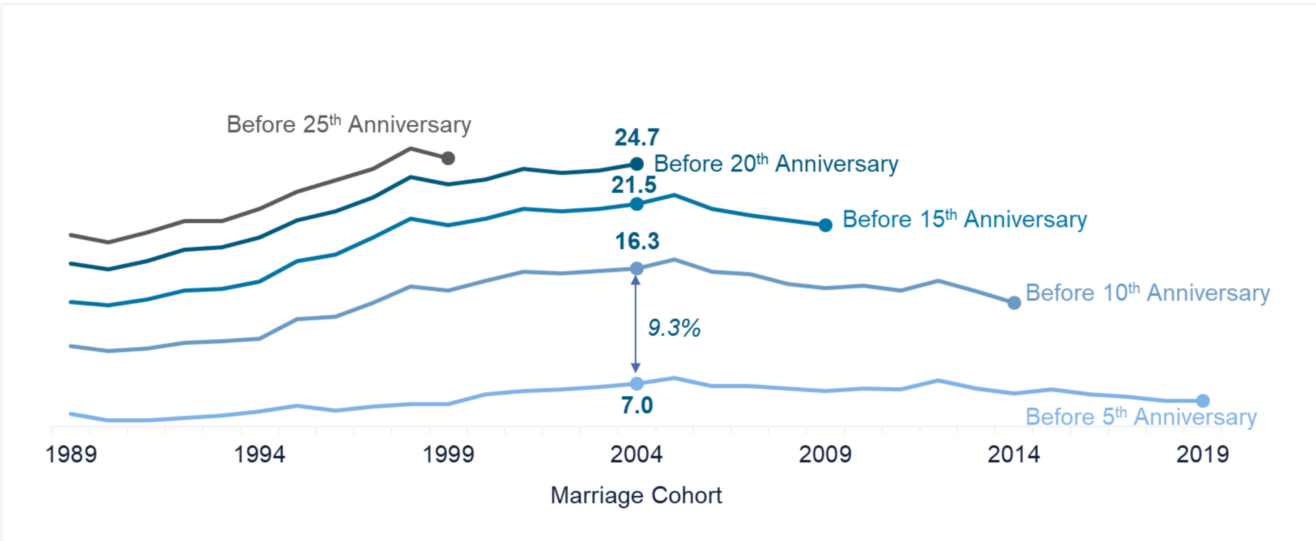
Total	16.3	17.0	16.0	15.8	15.0	14.7	14.9	14.5	15.3	14.4	13.5
Civil	14.1	15.3	14.5	14.4	13.5	13.5	13.9	13.8	14.5	13.4	12.6
Muslim	25.4	24.8	23.3	22.5	21.9	20.7	19.3	17.6	19.2	18.2	17.0

Source: DOS

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

For dissolved marriages, the highest proportion occurred between the 5th and before the 10th anniversary (Chart 35). The increases in dissolution rates at each subsequent 5-yearly interval were smaller after the 10th anniversary. For example, 7.0% of the 2004 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before the 5th anniversary. Another 9.3% of this marriage cohort ended their marriage before their 10th anniversary, bringing the total proportion dissolved by then to 16.3%. Subsequent increases were smaller, bringing the total proportion dissolved among the 2004 marriage cohort to 21.5% and 24.7% 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 35: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th Anniversary (Per Cent)



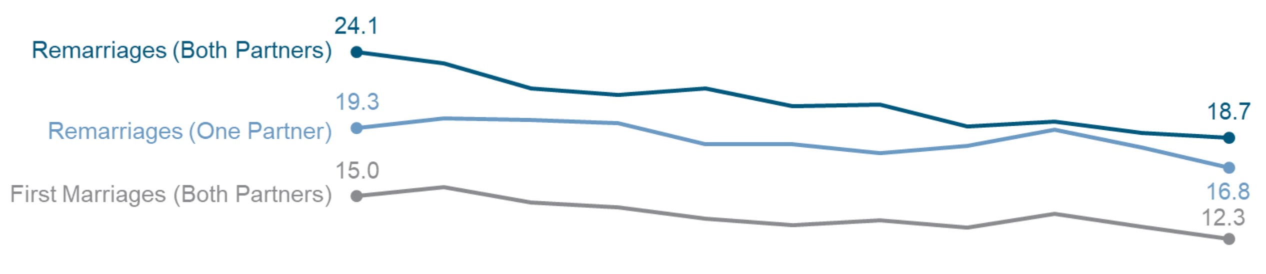
Source: DOS

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 where both partners had been married previously had the highest proportion of dissolved marriages, followed by couples where one partner had previously been married (Chart 36). For example, 12.3% of first marriages in the 2014 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before their 10th anniversary compared to 16.8% of remarriages where one partner had previously been married and 18.7% of remarriages where both partners had been married previously. Similarly, 15.0% of the first marriages in the 2004 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before their 10th anniversary compared to 19.3% of remarriages where one partner had previously been married and 24.1% 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 36: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10th Anniversary by Marriage Order of Couple (Per Cent)

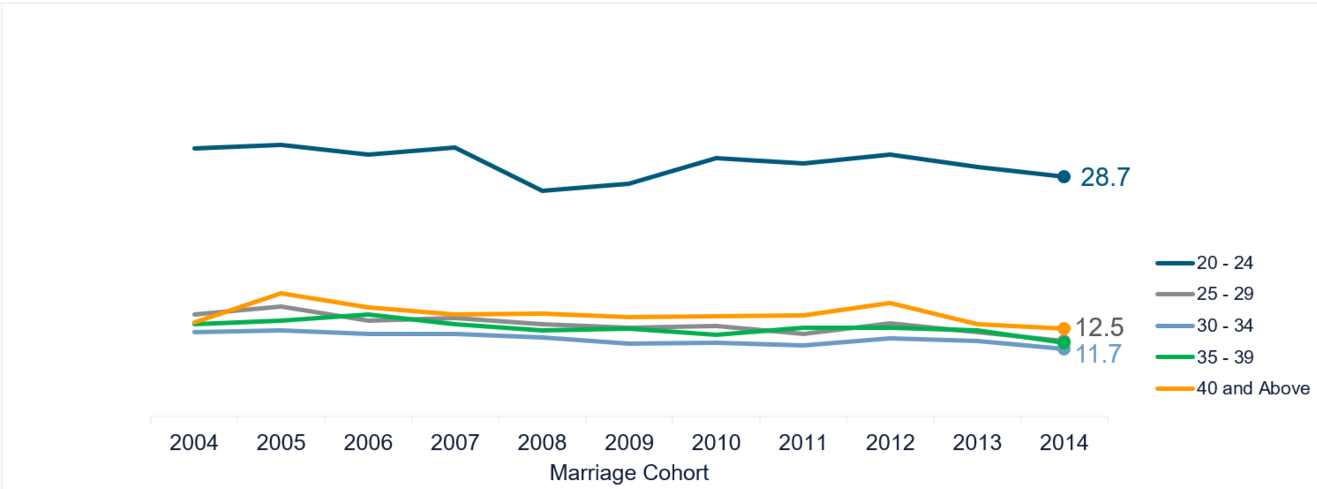


	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Remarriages (Both Partners)	24.1	23.4	21.8	21.4	21.8	20.7	20.8	19.4	19.7	19.0	18.7
Remarriages (One Partner)	19.3	19.9	19.8	19.6	18.3	18.3	17.7	18.2	19.2	18.1	16.8
First Marriages (Both Partners)	15.0	15.6	14.6	14.3	13.6	13.2	13.5	13.0	13.9	13.1	12.3

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 37a). For example, 28.7% of the 2014 resident marriage cohort involving males who married at ages 20 – 24 years had dissolved before their 10th anniversary compared to 12.5% of marriages involving males who married at ages 25 – 29 years and 11.7% of marriages involving males who married at ages 30 – 34 years. A similar trend was observed for females (Chart 37b).

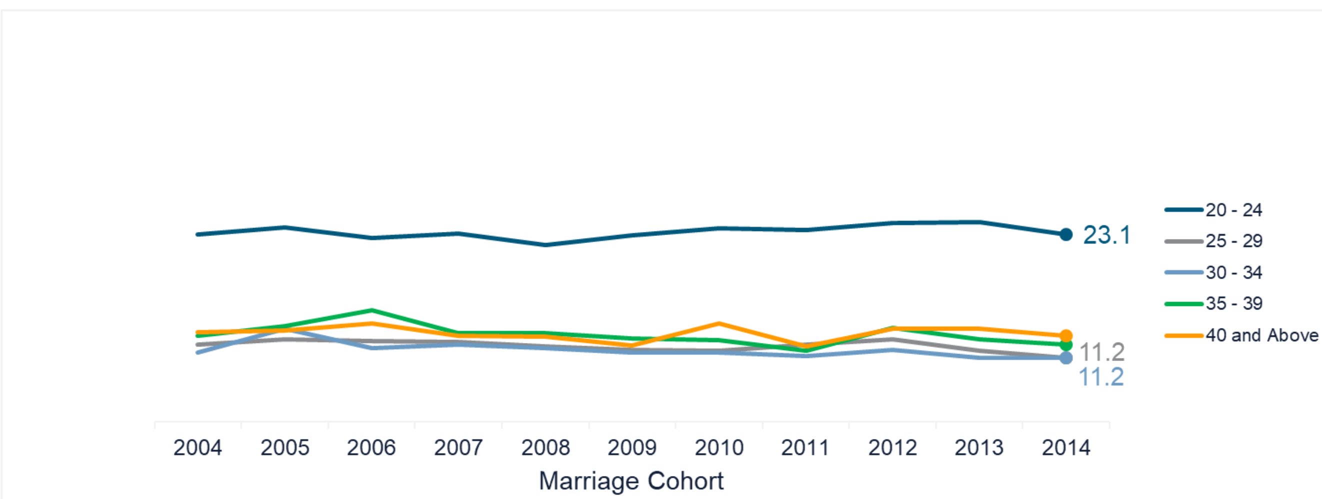
Chart 37a: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10th Anniversary for Males by Age Group at Marriage (Per Cent)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
20 - 24	31.5	31.8	30.9	31.6	27.3	28.0	30.5	30.0	30.9	29.6	28.7
25 - 29	15.1	15.9	14.5	14.7	14.1	13.8	13.9	13.2	14.2	13.3	12.5
30 - 34	13.3	13.5	13.2	13.2	12.8	12.2	12.3	12.0	12.7	12.5	11.7
35 - 39	14.1	14.5	15.1	14.1	13.5	13.7	13.1	13.8	13.8	13.5	12.3
40 and Above	14.3	17.2	15.8	15.1	15.2	14.8	14.9	15.0	16.2	14.1	13.7

Source: DOS

Chart 37b: Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10th Anniversary for Females by Age Group at Marriage (Per Cent)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
20 - 24	23.1	23.8	22.8	23.2	22.1	23.0	23.7	23.5	24.2	24.3	23.1
25 - 29	12.5	13.0	12.8	12.7	12.3	12.0	11.9	12.5	13.0	11.9	11.2
30 - 34	11.7	14.0	12.1	12.5	12.1	11.7	11.7	11.4	12.0	11.2	11.2
35 - 39	13.3	14.3	15.8	13.6	13.6	13.1	12.9	11.9	14.1	13.0	12.5
40 and Above	13.7	13.8	14.5	13.3	13.2	12.4	14.5	12.3	14.0	14.0	13.3

Source: DOS

G. CONCLUSION

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

At the same time, we are committed to supporting Singaporeans to realise their marriage and parenthood aspirations and 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 enhance 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. Ultimately, families thrive when the whole of society plays its part — and each of us has a role to play, whether as employers, colleagues, neighbours, or friends. With these efforts, our 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 supports families at every stage of life.