Population Trends
2021

DEPARTMENT OF
STATISTICS
SINGAPORE
Empowering You with Trusted Data

PREFACE

Population size, structure and changes have important implications for production, investment and consumption activities as well as community development, social networks and kinship ties. A good understanding of demographic forces and emerging trends is useful for policy makers, planners, businesses and the academia.

The Singapore Department of Statistics compiles, monitors and analyses Singapore's population statistics and indicators in detail. A report on ***Population Trends*** that puts together different aspects of demographic statistics is released annually. ***Population Trends, 2021*** is the seventeenth edition of the annual series.

The report comprises six chapters, namely, 'Population', 'Geographical Distribution', 'Households and Housing', 'Family Formation and Dissolution', 'Fertility' and 'Mortality'. Key definitions and concepts are explained in text boxes in each chapter. Users can also explore the data time series in our e-service SingStat Table Builder at http://www.singstat.gov.sg/tablebuilder.

I would like to thank various government agencies for providing the necessary data for the compilation of indicators released in this report. My sincere appreciation is also extended to all others who have contributed to the successful completion of this report.

Wong Wee Kim
Chief Statistician
Singapore

September 2021

Our Vision

National Statistical Service of Quality, Integrity and Expertise

Our Mission

We deliver Insightful Statistics and Trusted Statistical Services that Empower Decision Making

Our Guiding Principles

Professionalism & Expertise   *We adhere to professional ethics and develop statistical competency to produce quality statistics that comply with international concepts and best practices.*

Relevance & Reliability   *We produce statistics that users need and trust.*

Accessibility   *We facilitate ease of access to our statistics through user-friendly platforms.*

Confidentiality   *We protect the confidentiality of individual information collected by us.*

Timeliness   *We disseminate statistics at the earliest possible date while maintaining data quality.*

Innovation   *We constantly seek ways to improve our processes, leveraging on new technology, to deliver better products and services to users.*

Collaboration   *We engage users on data needs, data providers and respondents on supply of data, and undertake the role of national statistical coordination.*

Effectiveness   *We optimise resource utilisation, leveraging on administrative and alternative data sources to ease respondent burden.*

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All statistical tables can be downloaded here.

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NOTATIONS

n.a. not available

p   preliminary

-     nil or negligible

NOTES

The ***Population Trends, 2021*** contains statistics that are the most recently available at the time of its preparation.

Figures may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS, 1970 – 2021

Population	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2021
Total Population[1,2,3] ('000)	2,074.5	2,413.9	3,047.1	4,027.9	5,076.7	5,685.8	5,453.6
Resident Population[2,3] ('000)	2,013.6	2,282.1	2,735.9	3,273.4	3,771.7	4,044.2	3,986.8
Singapore Citizens ('000)	1,874.8	2,194.3	2,623.7	2,985.9	3,230.7	3,523.2	3,498.2
Permanent Residents ('000)	138.8	87.8	112.1	287.5	541.0	521.0	488.7
Population Density[4] (Per sq km)	3,538	3,907	4,814	5,900	7,146	7,810	7,485
Sex Ratio[5] (Males per 1,000 females)	1,049	1,032	1,027	998	974	957	960
Median Age[5] (Years)	19.5	24.4	29.8	34.0	37.4	41.5	41.8
Old-Age Support Ratio[5] (Per person aged 65 years & over)							
Persons aged 15 – 64 years	17.0	13.8	11.8	9.9	8.2	4.6	4.3
Persons aged 20 – 64 years	13.5	11.3	10.5	9.0	7.4	4.3	4.0
Proportion of Singles Among Residents Aged 30 – 34 Years[6] (%)							
Males	21.5	21.3	34.0	30.7	37.1	41.9	n.a.
Females	9.6	16.6	20.9	19.5	25.1	32.8	n.a.
Highest Qualification Attained of Residents Aged 25 Years & Over[7] (%)	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
Below Secondary	n.a.	83.1	63.3	45.3	34.5	25.5	n.a.
Secondary	n.a.	9.5	23.6	24.0	19.0	16.3	n.a.
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	n.a.	4.7*	4.7	8.9	9.5	10.0	n.a.
Diploma & Professional Qualification	n.a.		3.6	9.8	13.3	15.3	n.a.
University	n.a.	2.7	4.7	12.1	23.7	33.0	n.a.
Mean Years of Schooling Among Residents Aged 25 Years & Over[7] (Years)	n.a.	4.7	6.6	8.6	10.1	11.3	n.a.
Males	n.a.	5.6	7.3	9.2	10.6	11.7	n.a.
Females	n.a.	3.7	5.9	8.1	9.7	10.9	n.a.

Households & Housing	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2021
Resident Households[8] ('000)	380.5	472.7	661.7	915.1	1,145.9	1,372.6	n.a.
Average Household Size[8] (Persons)	5.35	4.87	4.25	3.70	3.50	3.22	n.a.
Owner-Occupied Households[8] (%)	29.4	58.8	87.5	92.0	87.2	87.9	n.a.
Type of Dwelling[8,9] (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.
HDB Flats[10]	30.9	67.8	85.0	88.0	82.4	78.7	n.a.
Condominiums & Other Apartments	4.8	3.9	4.7	6.5	11.5	16.0	n.a.
Landed Properties	14.1	8.5	7.0	5.1	5.7	5.0	n.a.

* Data refer to Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary) and Diploma & Professional Qualification.

Notes:

1) Total population comprises Singapore residents (i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents) and non-residents.

2) Data for 1970 and 1980 are based on *de facto* concept (i.e. the person is present in the country when enumerated at the reference period). Data from 1990 onwards are based on *de jure* concept (i.e. the person's place of usual residence).

3) Data from 2003 onwards exclude residents who have been away from Singapore for a continuous period of 12 months or longer as at the reference period.

4) Prior to 2003, data are based on Singapore's land area as at end-December. From 2003 onwards, data are based on Singapore's land area as at end-June.

5) Data refer to resident population.

6) Data refer to resident population, except for 1970 which refer to total population.

7) Data pertain to residents who are not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

8) Data refer to resident households (i.e. households where the household reference person is a Singapore citizen or permanent resident), except for 1970 which refer to private households.

9) Data include other types of dwelling (e.g. non-HDB shophouses).

10) Data for years prior 2018 include non-privatised Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC) flats.

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS, 1970 – 2020 *(cont'd)*

Family Formation and Dissolution[11]	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019	2020
Total Marriages[12]	14,572	22,444	23,953	22,561	24,363	25,434	22,651
General Marriage Rate[13]							
Males (Per 1,000 unmarried resident males aged 15-49 years)	51.3	54.9	52.2	47.4	39.3	40.7	35.7
Females (Per 1,000 unmarried resident females aged 15-49 years)	65.3	67.3	59.2	46.8	35.3	37.9	34.9
Median Age at First Marriage (Years)							
Grooms	26.9	26.7	28.0	28.7	30.0	30.4	30.4
Brides	23.1	23.6	25.3	26.2	27.7	28.8	28.8
Total Divorces & Annulments	n.a.	1,721	3,634	5,137	7,338	7,623	6,959
General Divorce Rate[14]							
Males (Per 1,000 married resident males aged 20 years & over)	n.a.	3.7	6.1	6.5	7.5	6.9	6.3
Females (Per 1,000 married resident females aged 20 years & over)	n.a.	3.8	6.1	6.5	7.2	6.5	6.1

Fertility[11]	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019	2020
Total Live-Births	45,934	41,217	51,142	46,997	37,967	39,279	38,590
Resident Live-Births	n.a.	40,100	49,787	44,765	35,129	35,330	34,233
Crude Birth Rate[6] (Per 1,000 residents)	22.1	17.6	18.2	13.7	9.3	8.8	8.5
Total Fertility Rate[6] (Per female)	3.07	1.82	1.83	1.60	1.15	1.14	1.10
Gross Reproduction Rate[6] (Per female)	1.49	0.88	0.88	0.77	0.56	0.56	0.53
Net Reproduction Rate[6] (Per female)	1.42	0.86	0.87	0.76	0.55	0.56	0.53

Mortality[11]	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019	2020
Total Deaths	10,717	12,505	13,891	15,693	17,610	21,446	22,054
Crude Death Rate[6] (Per 1,000 residents)	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4	5.0	5.2
Age-Standardised Death Rate[6,15] (Per 1,000 residents)	9.1	7.5	5.9	4.8	3.5	2.8	2.8
Infant Mortality Rate[6] (Per 1,000 resident live-births)	20.5	8.0	6.6	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.8
Life Expectancy at Birth[6] (Years)	65.8	72.1	75.3	78.0	81.7	83.7	83.9
Males	64.1	69.8	73.1	76.0	79.2	81.4	81.5
Females	67.8	74.7	77.6	80.0	84.0	85.9	86.1

Notes *(cont'd)*:

11) Data for 2021 are not available.

12) Total marriages comprise civil marriages registered under the Women's Charter and Muslim marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act. Data exclude civil marriages which were contracted overseas or under religious and customary rites, and were subsequently registered in Singapore in the reference year.

13) Data are based on resident grooms/brides and resident population, except for 1970 and 1980 which are based on total grooms/brides and total population.

14) Data are based on divorces and annulments. From 2004 onwards, data are based on divorces and annulments where the male/female spouses are residents (i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents).

15) The Singapore resident population as at June 2003 is used as the standard population to fix the age structure and eliminate its effect on mortality trends.

Population Trends

Chapter 1   Population

Population Size and Growth

Singapore's total population fell for the second consecutive year to 5.45 million as at end-Jun 2021, a decrease of 4.1 per cent from the previous year. This was largely due to the 10.7 per cent decrease in the non-resident population to 1.47 million as at end-Jun 2021 (Table 1.1).

Our resident population fell to 3.99 million as at end-June 2021, a decrease of 1.4 per cent from the previous year. The Singapore citizen population fell by 0.7 per cent over the previous year to 3.50 million, while the permanent resident population fell by 6.2 per cent to 0.49 million. The fall in the resident population was mainly due to travel restrictions in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in more residents staying overseas for 12 months or more. These persons are excluded from our resident population usually residing in Singapore.

Table 1.1 Singapore Population Size and Growth by Residential Status

| Year | Number ('000) | | | | | Average Annual Growth[1] (%) | | | | |
| | Total Population | Singapore Residents | | | Non-Residents | Total Population | Singapore Residents | | | Non-Residents |
		Total	Citizens	PRs			Total	Citizens	PRs	
2000	4,027.9	3,273.4	2,985.9	287.5	754.5	2.8	1.8	1.3	9.9	9.3
2010	5,076.7	3,771.7	3,230.7	541.0	1,305.0	1.8	1.0	0.9	1.5	4.1
2015	5,535.0	3,902.7	3,375.0	527.7	1,632.3	1.2	0.8	1.0	-	2.1
2016	5,607.3	3,933.6	3,408.9	524.6	1,673.7	1.3	0.8	1.0	-0.6	2.5
2017	5,612.3	3,965.8	3,439.2	526.6	1,646.5	0.1	0.8	0.9	0.4	-1.6
2018	5,638.7	3,994.3	3,471.9	522.3	1,644.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	-0.8	-0.1
2019	5,703.6	4,026.2	3,500.9	525.3	1,677.4	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.6	2.0
2020	5,685.8	4,044.2	3,523.2	521.0	1,641.6	-0.3	0.4	0.6	-0.8	-2.1
2021	5,453.6	3,986.8	3,498.2	488.7	1,466.7	-4.1	-1.4	-0.7	-6.2	-10.7

Notes: (a) '-' denotes nil or negligible.

(b) Data from 2003 onwards exclude residents who have been away from Singapore for a continuous period of 12 months or longer as at the reference period.

[1] For 2000, growth rate refers to the annualised change over the last ten years. From 2010 onwards, growth rate refers to the change over the previous year.

> *Population*
>
> Total population comprises Singapore residents and non-residents. Resident population comprises Singapore citizens and permanent residents. Non-resident population comprises foreigners who are working, studying or living in Singapore but not granted permanent residence, excluding tourists and short-term visitors.
>
> Singapore's population estimates are compiled using the register-based approach since the *Census of Population 2000*. The basic count and profile of the population are based on a person's place of usual residence i.e. *de jure* concept.

Age Structure

Singapore's resident population continued to age. The median age of the resident population rose to 41.8 years as at end-June 2021, from 41.5 years in 2020 (Chart 1.1). The proportion of residents aged 65 years and over also rose from 15.2 per cent to 16.0 per cent over the same period.

Chart 1.1 Age Distribution of Resident Population

Year	Median Age (Years)
2000	34.0
2010	37.4
2020	41.5
2021	41.8
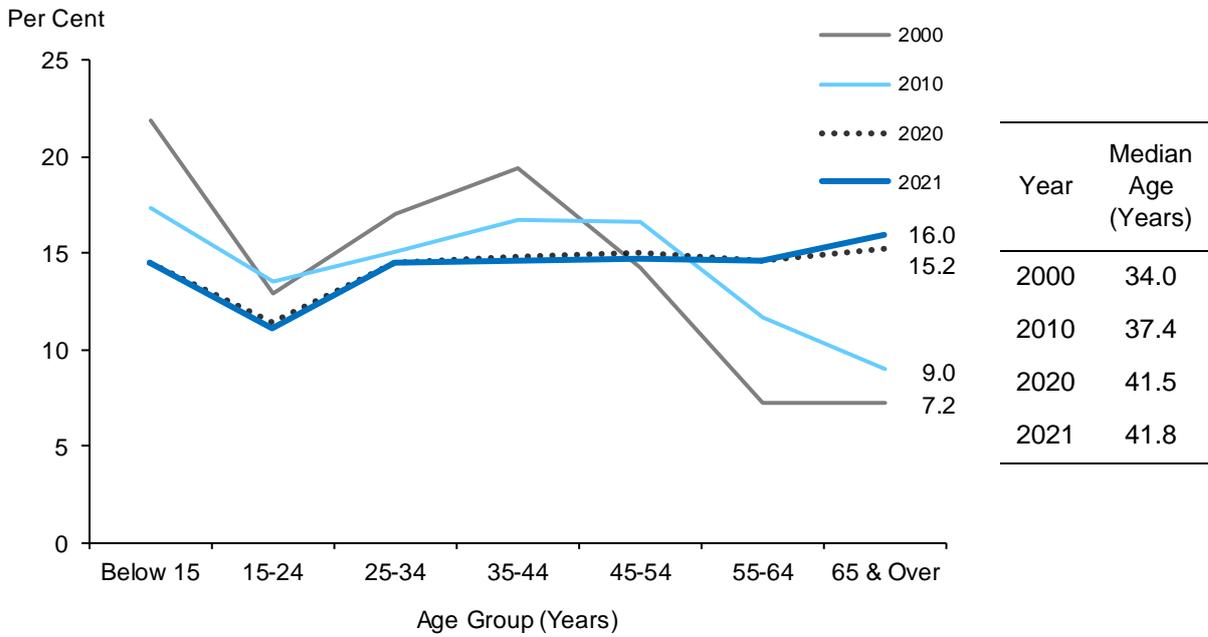
Chart 1.2 Age Pyramid of Resident Population
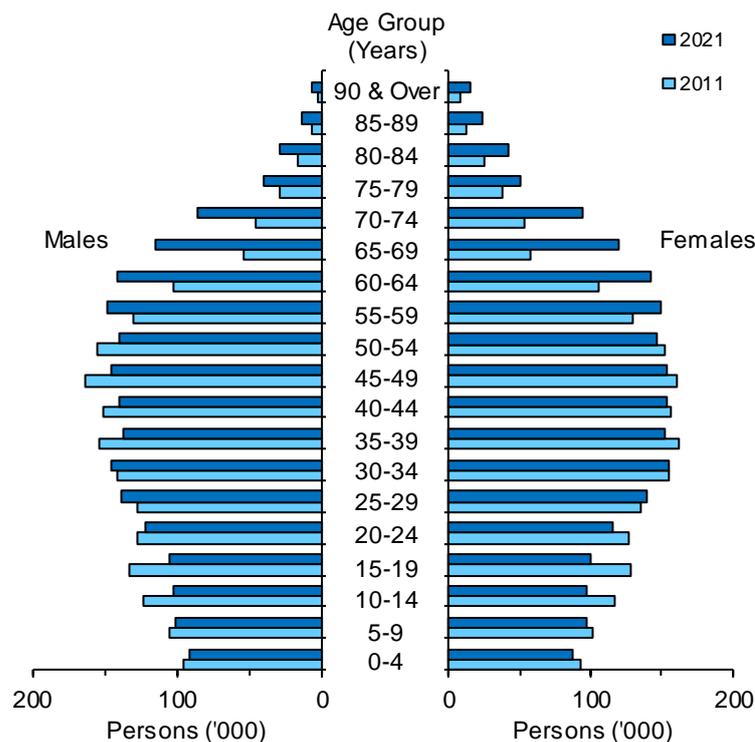
Old-Age Support Ratio

Reflecting the changes in the age profile of the resident population, the old-age support ratio of residents, computed as the ratio of residents aged 20-64 years for each resident aged 65 years and over, declined further to 4.0 as at end-Jun 2021 (Chart 1.3).

Chart 1.3 Resident Old-Age Support Ratio

No. of Residents Aged 20-64 Years
Per Resident Aged 65 Years & Over
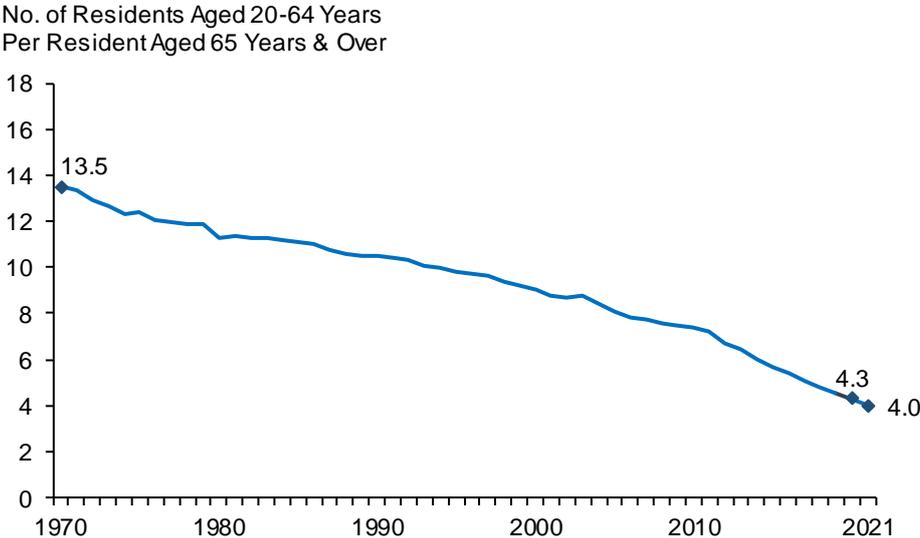
Note: For 1971-1979, data refer to total population.

Ethnic Composition

The ethnic composition of the resident population remained stable. As at end-June 2021, Chinese made up 74.2 per cent of the resident population (Chart 1.4). This was followed by Malays at 13.7 per cent, and Indians at 8.9 per cent.

Chart 1.4 Ethnic Composition of Resident Population

Per Cent
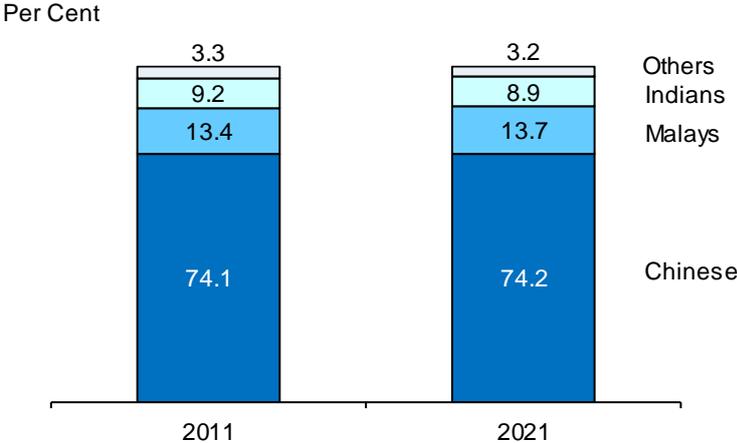
Sex Composition

Among the resident population, the number of females continued to be higher than males. The sex ratio was 960 males per 1,000 females as at end-June 2021 (Chart 1.5).

Chart 1.5 Sex Composition of Resident Population

	Per Cent	Sex Ratio (Males Per 1,000 Females)
2021	Males 49.0 / Females 51.0	960
2020	Males 48.9 / Females 51.1	957
2010	Males 49.3 / Females 50.7	974
2000	Males 49.9 / Females 50.1	998

☐ Males ■ Females

Marital Status

Among resident population aged 15 years and over, married persons constituted the largest group at 58.8 per cent followed by single (or never married) persons at 31.5 per cent in 2020 (Chart 1.6). Those who were widowed and divorced or separated formed 5.3 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively.

A larger proportion of females were widowed as compared to males, partially due to the longer life expectancy among females. Consequently, those who were married or single accounted for smaller shares in the female population compared to the male population.

Chart 1.6 Marital Status of Resident Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Sex

Per Cent

	Total 2010	Total 2020	Males 2010	Males 2020	Females 2010	Females 2020	
Divorced/Separated	3.3	4.3	2.4	3.3	4.2	5.3	
Widowed	5.1	5.3	1.6	1.9	8.4	8.4	
Married	59.4	58.8	61.2	61.5	57.7	56.4	
Single	32.2	31.5	34.7	33.3	29.8	29.9	
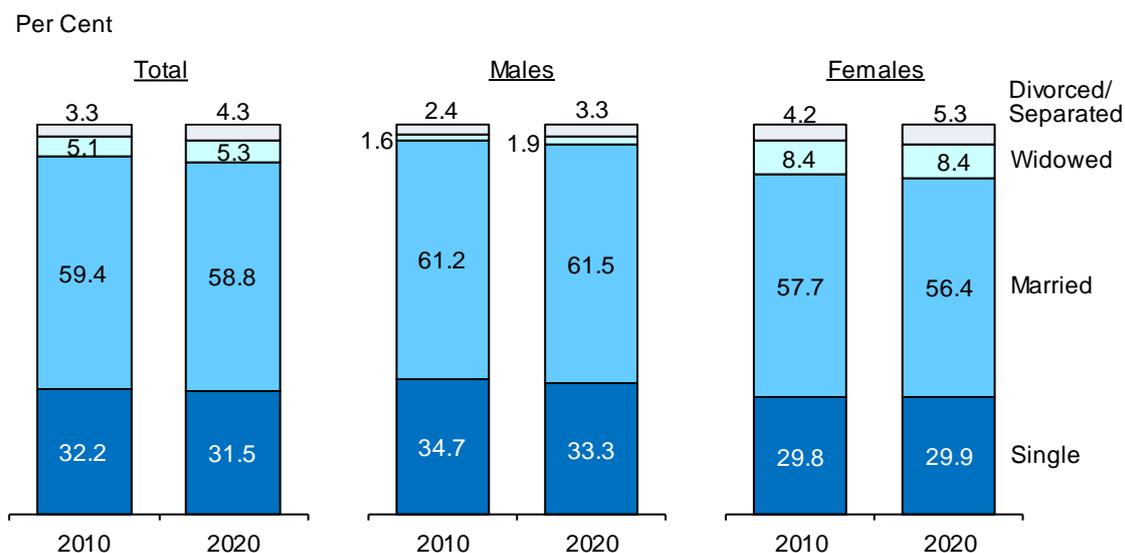
The marital distribution among the resident population varied across age groups. Those in the younger ages of 20-29 years were predominantly single. Conversely, those aged 30 years and over were predominantly married except for females aged 70 years and over where widowed persons formed the majority (Chart 1.7).

Chart 1.7 Distribution of Marital Status Among Resident Population by Selected Age Group and Sex

Males

Solid Line (————): 2020
Broken Line (········): 2010
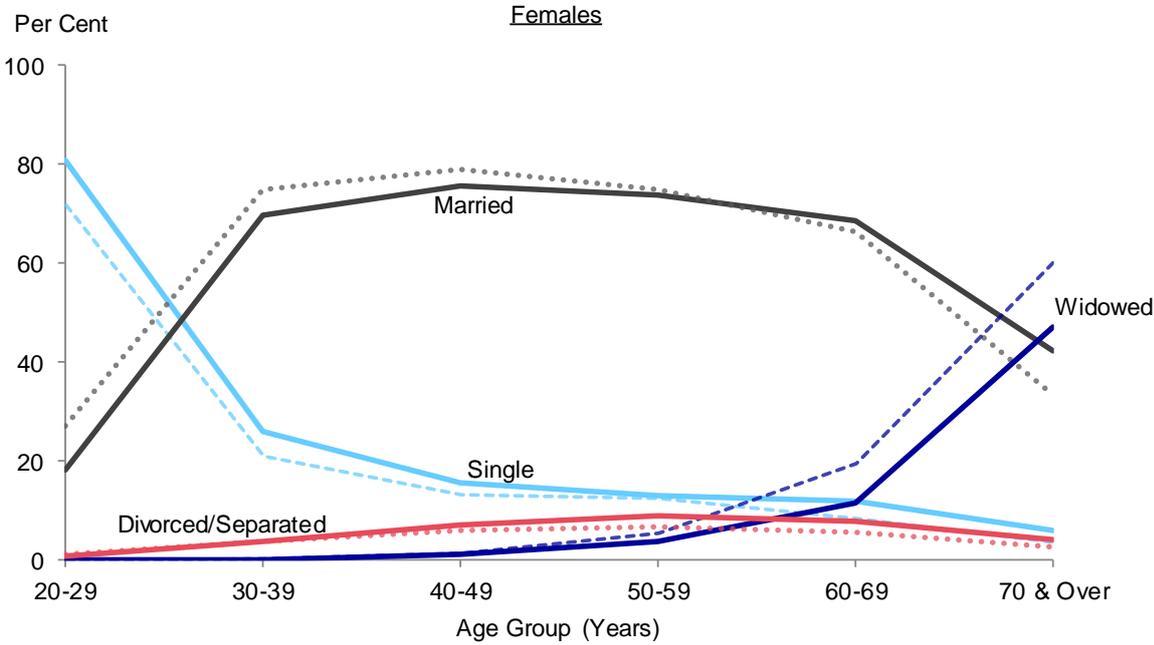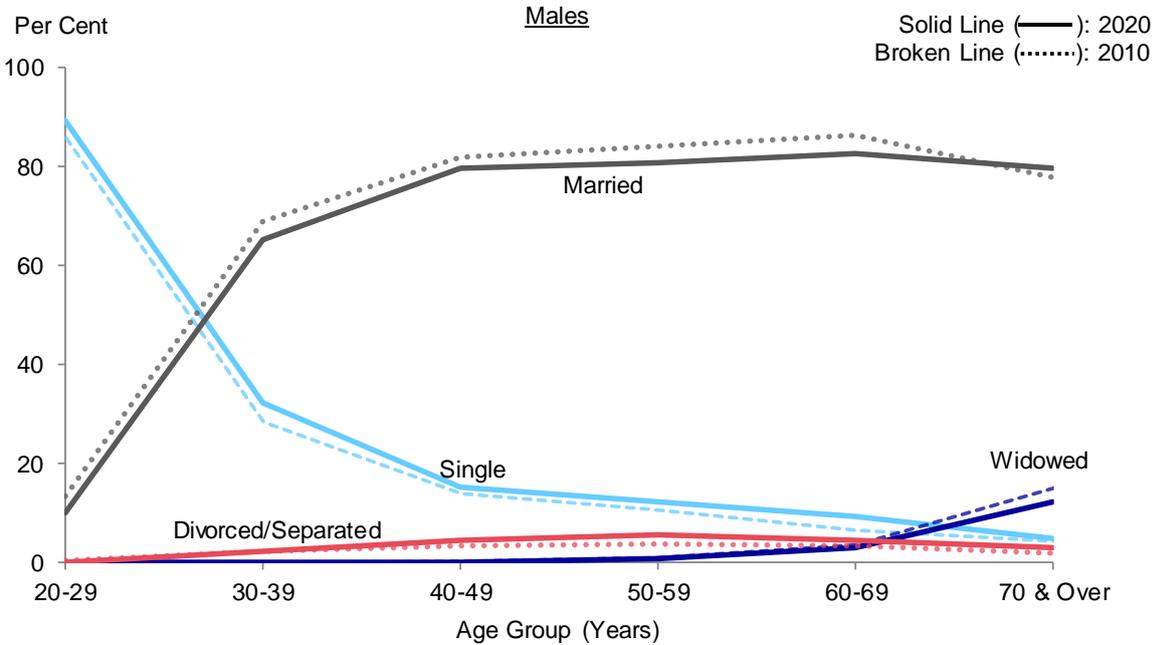
Females

Proportion of Singles

Between 2010 and 2020, the proportion of singles among males and females rose across all age groups below 50 years. In particular, the rise among those aged 25-29 years was the largest (Chart 1.8). In 2020, 81.6 per cent of males and 69.0 percent of females aged 25-29 years were single, up from 74.6 percent and 54.0 per cent a decade ago.

Similarly, the proportion of singles among those aged 30-34 years rose to 41.9 per cent for males and 32.8 per cent for females in 2020.

**Chart 1.8 Proportion of Singles Among Resident Population
by Selected Age Group and Sex**

Per Cent

Age Group
(Years)

■ 2020
□ 2010

Males

Females

Males 2020	Males 2010	Age Group	Females 2020	Females 2010
14.1	13.2	45-49	15.3	12.8
16.7	15.3	40-44	16.4	14.1
22.6	20.4	35-39	19.3	17.1
41.9	37.1	30-34	32.8	25.1
81.6	74.6	25-29	69.0	54.0
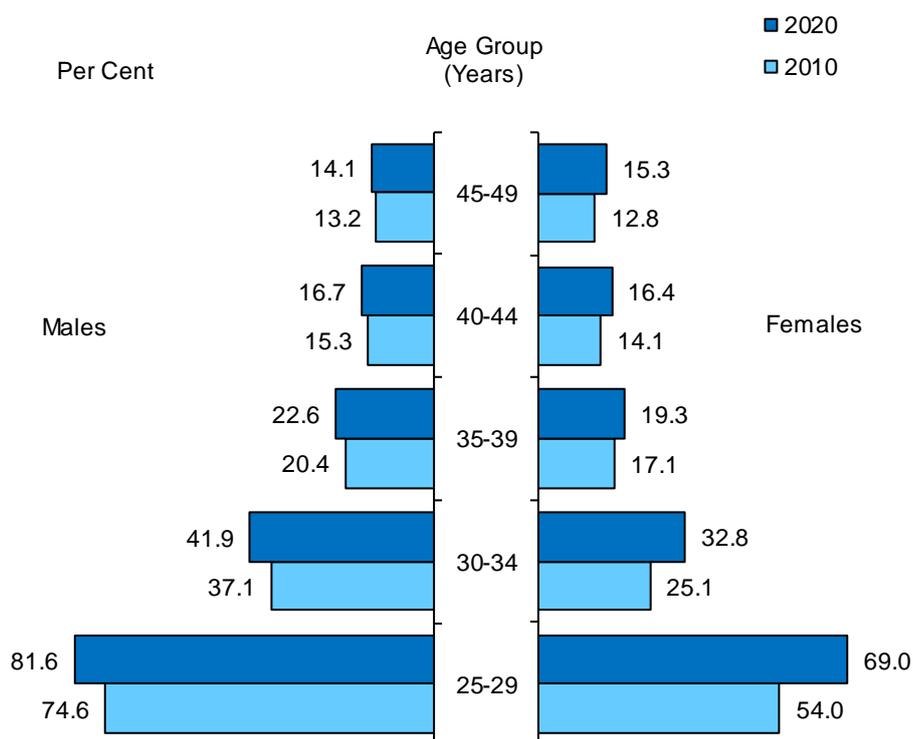
Males with lower educational qualification and females with higher educational qualifications were more likely to be single. In 2020, the proportion of singles among males aged 40-49 years with below secondary qualifications was 21.1 per cent, almost double the 12.3 per cent among those with university qualifications (Chart 1.9). On the contrary, the proportion of singles among females aged 40-49 years with below secondary qualifications was 8.7 per cent, less than half the 18.7 per cent among those with university qualifications.

Chart 1.9 Proportion of Singles Among Resident Population by Selected Age Group, Sex and Highest Qualification Attained
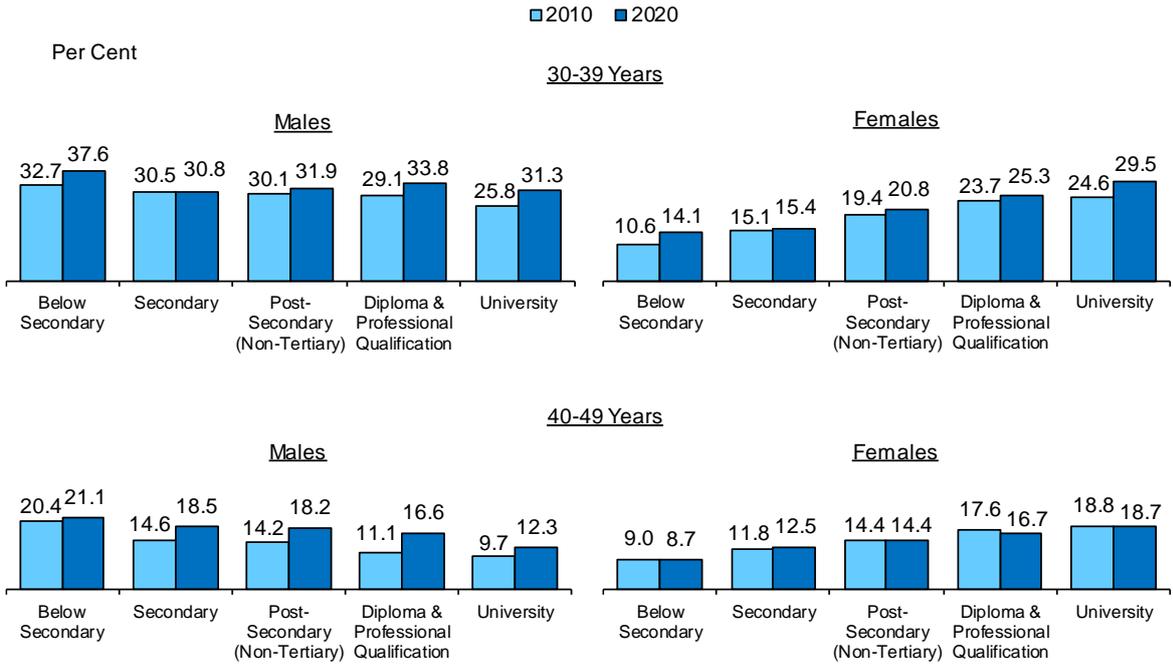
Note: Data pertain to residents who are not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Education Profile[1]

Among residents aged 25 years and over in 2020, 58.3 per cent attained post-secondary or higher qualifications, up from 46.5 per cent in 2010 (Chart 1.10).

This was mainly due the increase in the proportion of university graduates, which rose from 23.7 per cent to 33.0 per cent between 2010 and 2020.

**Chart 1.10 Highest Qualification Attained of Resident Population
Aged 25 Years and Over**

Per Cent

□ 2010   ■ 2020

| Qualification	2010	2020
Below Secondary	34.5	25.5
Secondary	19.0	16.3
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	9.5	10.0
Diploma & Professional Qualification	13.3	15.3
University	23.7	33.0

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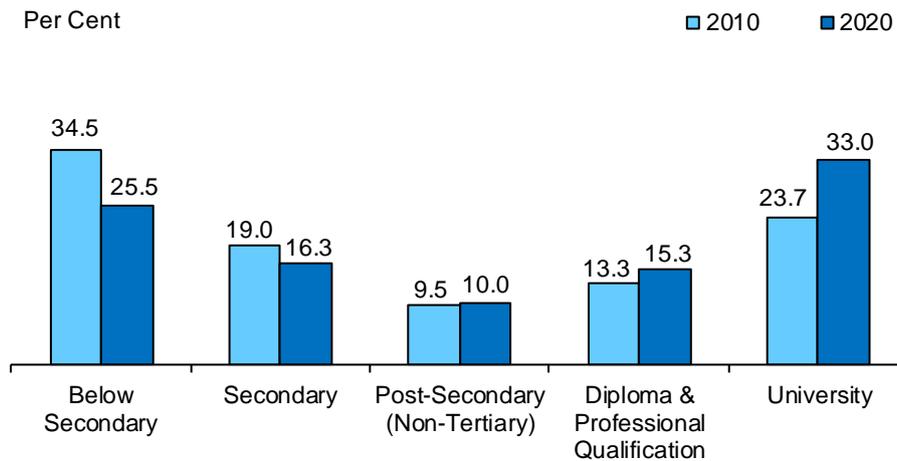
[1] Data pertain to residents who are not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

The proportion of residents with university qualification increased for all age groups over the decade (Chart 1.11).

In 2020, more than half of the residents aged 25-34 years (56.9 per cent) and aged 35-44 years (52.2 per cent) were university graduates. Residents aged 45-54 years showed the largest increase in the proportion of university graduates between 2010 to 2020, increasing by 20.1 percentage-points from 15.4 per cent to 35.5 per cent.

Chart 1.11 Highest Qualification Attained of Resident Population Aged 25 Years and Over by Age Group
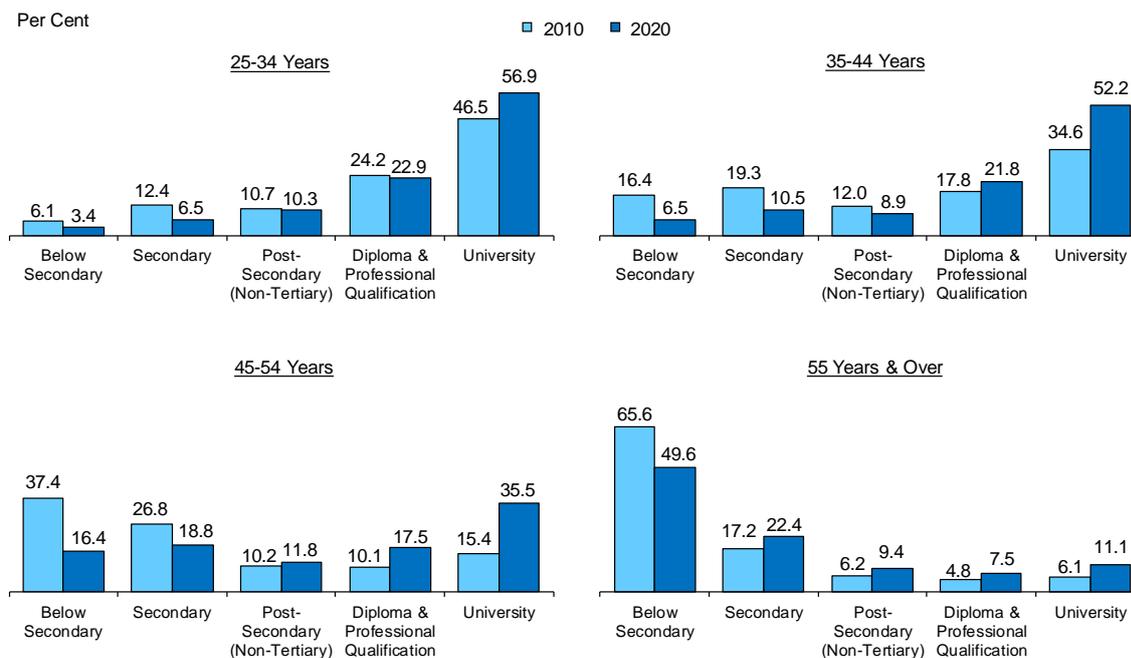
With a higher proportion of residents attaining higher levels of qualification, the average number of years of schooling among residents consequently rose over the decade from 10.1 years in 2010 to 11.3 years in 2020 (Chart 1.12).

**Chart 1.12 Mean Years of Schooling Among Resident Population
Aged 25 Years and Over by Sex**
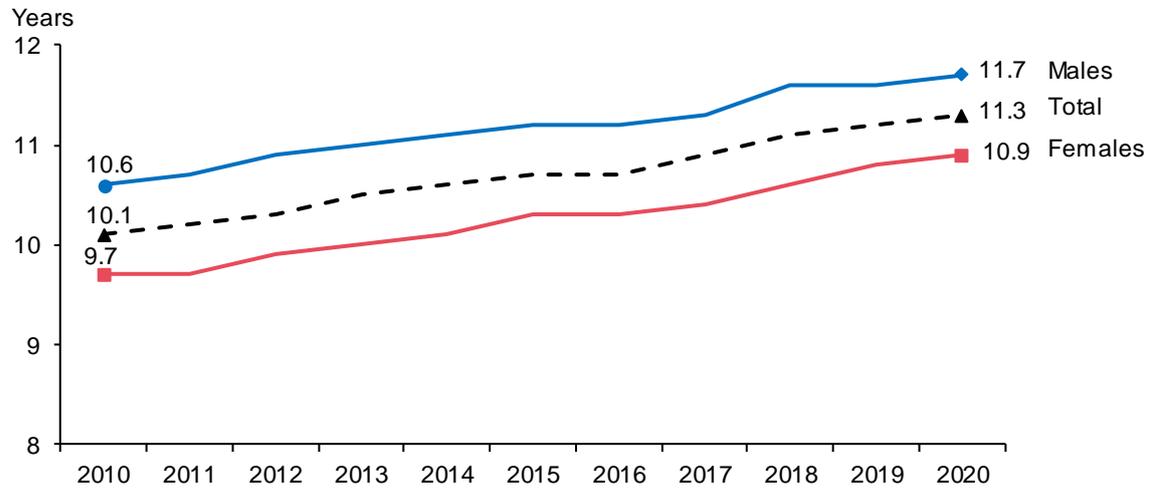
Chapter 2 Geographical Distribution

Resident Population

As as end-Jun 2021, among the 55 planning areas[2], more than half (52.5 per cent) of the 3.99 million residents in Singapore were concentrated in 9 planning areas. There were three planning areas with more than 250,000 residents each, namely Bedok, Tampines and Jurong West (Chart 2.1). Bedok was the most populated with 271,810 residents.

Chart 2.1 Resident Population by Planning Area, June 2021

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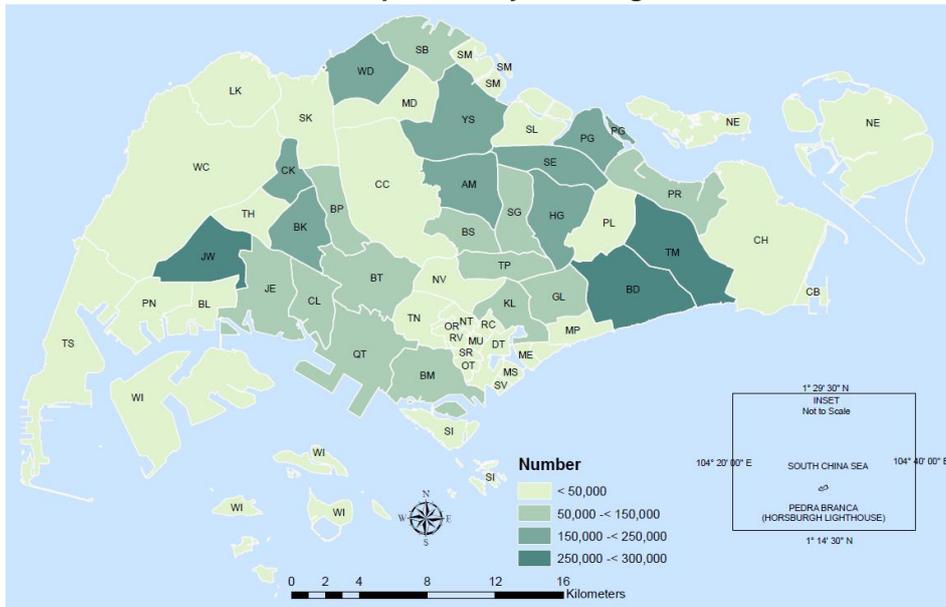
[2] Planning areas refer to areas demarcated in the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019.

Chart 2.2 Resident Population by Subzone, June 2021

Number

- < 5,000
- 5,000 -< 10,000
- 10,000 -< 20,000
- 20,000 -< 30,000
- 30,000 -< 40,000
- 40,000 -< 50,000
- >= 50,000

INSET
Not to Scale

1° 29' 30" N

104° 20' 00" E   SOUTH CHINA SEA   104° 40' 00" E

PEDRA BRANCA
(HORSBURGH LIGHTHOUSE)

1° 14' 30" N

| 0 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | Kilometers |
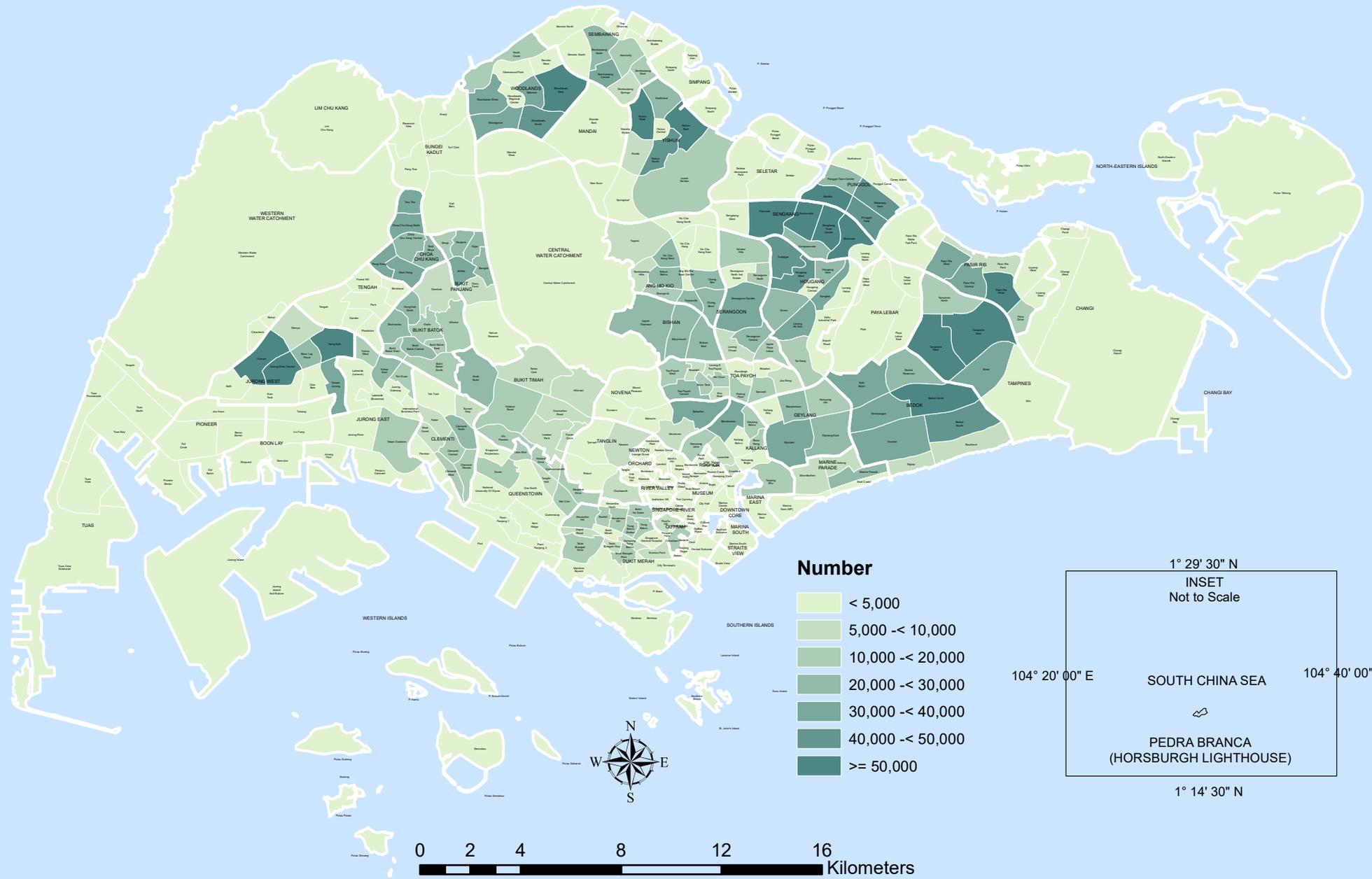
Age Profile

In 2021, Outram, Rochor, Ang Mo Kio, Bukit Merah and Kallang are some of the planning areas which had higher proportions of residents aged 65 years and over (Chart 2.3) than other planning areas. For each of these areas, at least one in five residents were aged 65 years and over.

In comparison, newer planning areas had a higher proportion of children aged below 5 years than older planning areas. In 2021, Punggol had the highest proportion of children aged below 5 years at 8.3 per cent of the resident population in the planning area (Chart 2.4).

Chart 2.3 Proportion of Resident Population Aged 65 Years and Over by Planning Area, June 2021
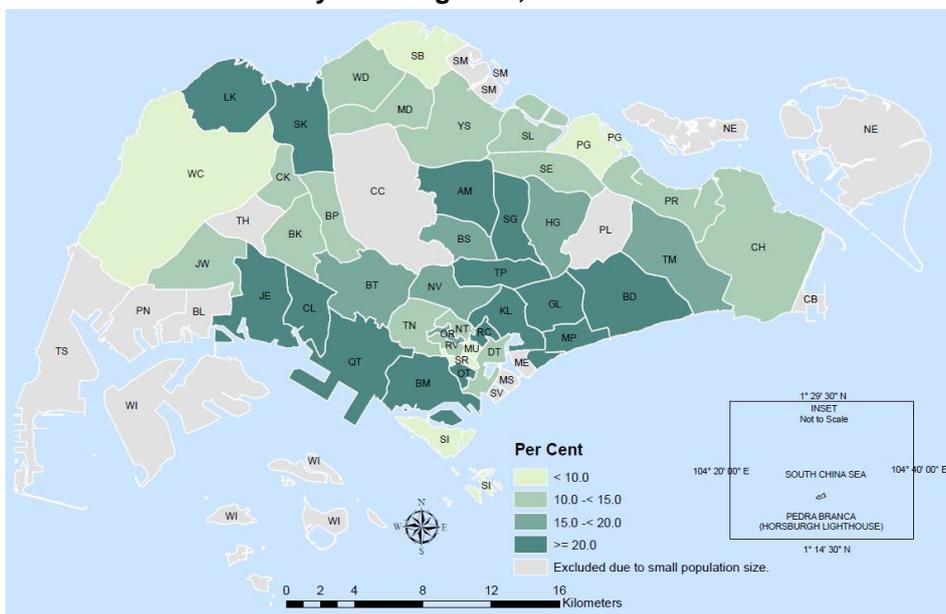
Chart 2.4 Proportion of Resident Population Aged Below 5 Years by Planning Area, June 2021
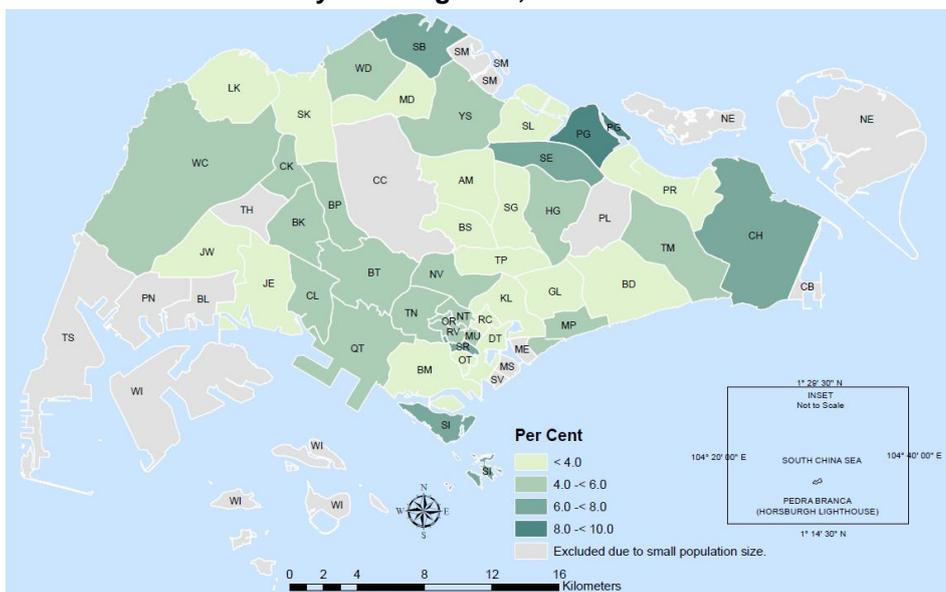
Type of Dwelling

An estimated 3.09 million residents, or approximately four in five residents, resided in HDB flats in 2021 (Chart 2.5). There were four planning areas where more than 90 per cent were staying in HDB flats. Outram ranked first amongst planning areas with the highest proportion of HDB dwellers, followed by Woodlands.

Chart 2.5 Proportion of Resident Population Staying in HDB Flats by Planning Area, June 2021
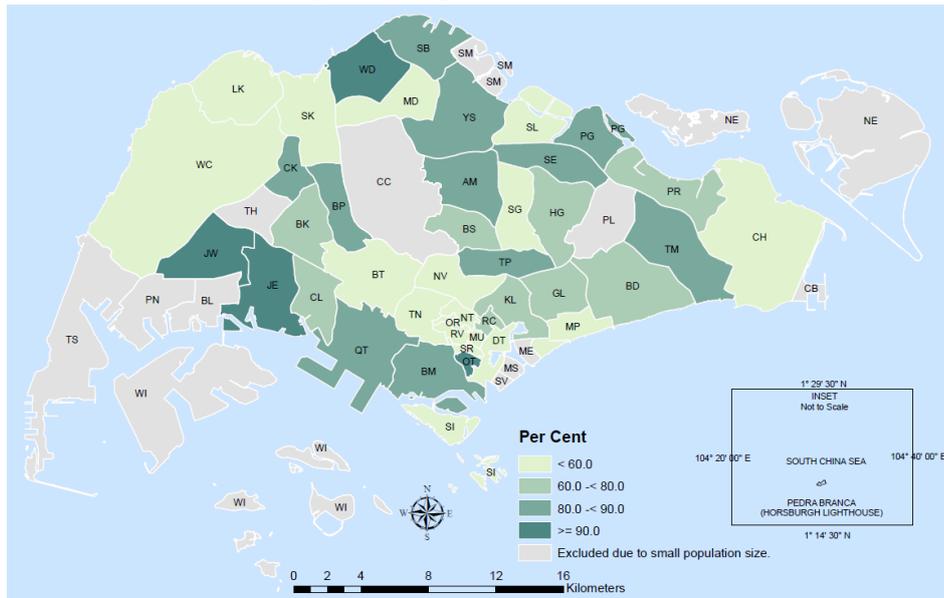
Floor Area

In 2021, more than half of the resident population lived in residential dwelling units with floor areas greater than 100 square metres (sq m) (Chart 2.6). Proportionately more seniors aged 65 years and over (27.6 per cent) lived in smaller residential dwelling units with floor areas of 80 sq m or less, compared to the overall resident population (19.5 per cent).

By planning area, Outram, Queenstown, Rochor and Kallang are some of the planning areas which had at least 50 per cent of residents aged 65 years and above staying in residential dwelling units with floor areas of 80 sq m or less (Chart 2.7).

Chart 2.6 Proportion of Resident Population by Floor Area of Residence (sq m), 2021
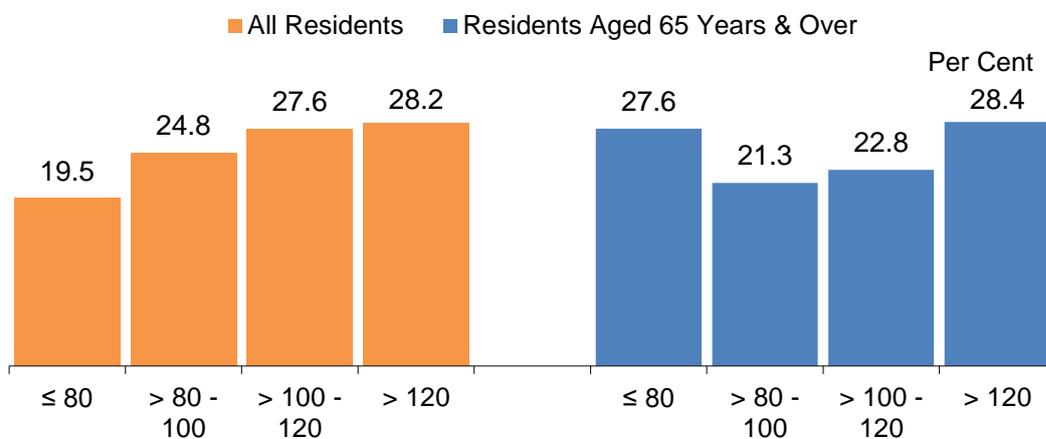
Chart 2.7 Proportion of Residents Aged 65 Years & Over Staying in Residential Dwelling Units of Floor Area ≤80 sq m by Planning Area, June 2021
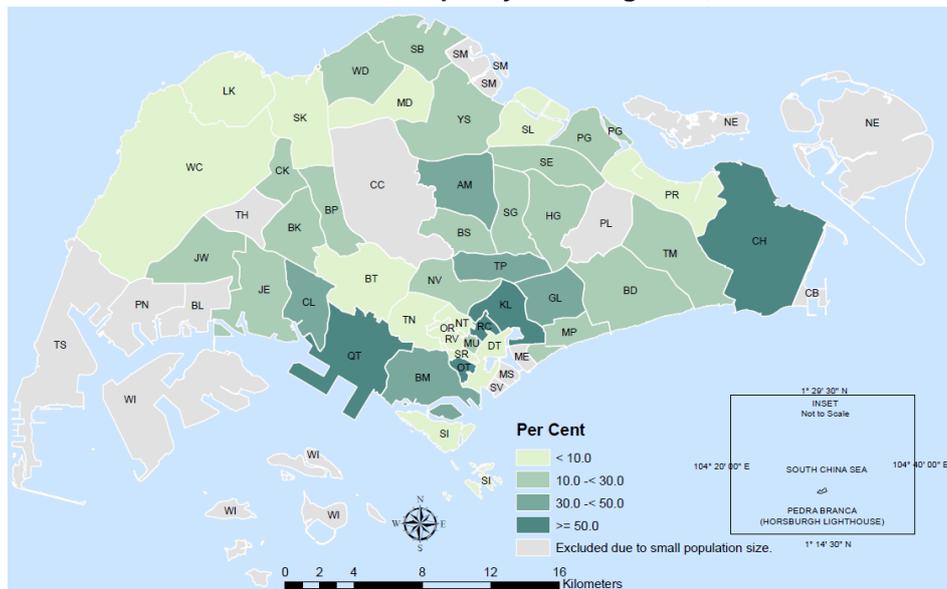
Note:

Published maps are based on Urban Redevelopment Authority's Master Plan 2019 planning area boundaries and Singapore Land Authority's 2021 Singapore island profile. The Master Plan 2019 is a forward looking guiding plan for Singapore's development in the medium term over the next 10 to 15 years and the planning boundaries may not coincide with existing developments for some areas.

Codes for Planning Area

AM	Ang Mo Kio	**GL**	Geylang	**OR**	Orchard	**SL**	Seletar
BD	Bedok	**HG**	Hougang	**OT**	Outram	**SM**	Simpang
BK	Bukit Batok	**JE**	Jurong East	**PG**	Punggol	**SR**	Singapore River
BL	Boon Lay	**JW**	Jurong West	**PL**	Paya Lebar	**SV**	Straits View
BM	Bukit Merah	**KL**	Kallang	**PN**	Pioneer	**TH**	Tengah
BP	Bukit Panjang	**LK**	Lim Chu Kang	**PR**	Pasir Ris	**TM**	Tampines
BS	Bishan	**MD**	Mandai	**QT**	Queenstown	**TN**	Tanglin
BT	Bukit Timah	**ME**	Marina East	**RC**	Rochor	**TP**	Toa Payoh
CB	Changi Bay	**MP**	Marine Parade	**RV**	River Valley	**TS**	Tuas
CC	Central Water Catchment	**MS**	Marina South	**SB**	Sembawang	**WC**	Western Water Catchment
CH	Changi	**MU**	Museum	**SE**	Sengkang	**WD**	Woodlands
CK	Choa Chu Kang	**NE**	North-Eastern Islands	**SG**	Serangoon	**WI**	Western Islands
CL	Clementi	**NT**	Newton	**SI**	Southern Islands	**YS**	Yishun
DT	Downtown Core	**NV**	Novena	**SK**	Sungei Kadut		

Chapter 3 Households and Housing

Resident Households

The number of resident households in 2020 was 1.37 million (Chart 3.1), similar to 2019. Factors arising from the COVID-19 pandemic such as persons moving in with family members to provide care or support as well as delays in renovation and construction works were likely to have contributed to the slower growth in 2020.

Chart 3.1 Resident Households

Year	Average Annual Growth* (%)
1990	3.4
2000	3.3
2010	2.4
2011	0.0
2012	0.5
2013	1.9
2014	2.2
2015	2.1
2016	3.1
2017	2.1
2018	2.7
2019	3.6
2020	0.0
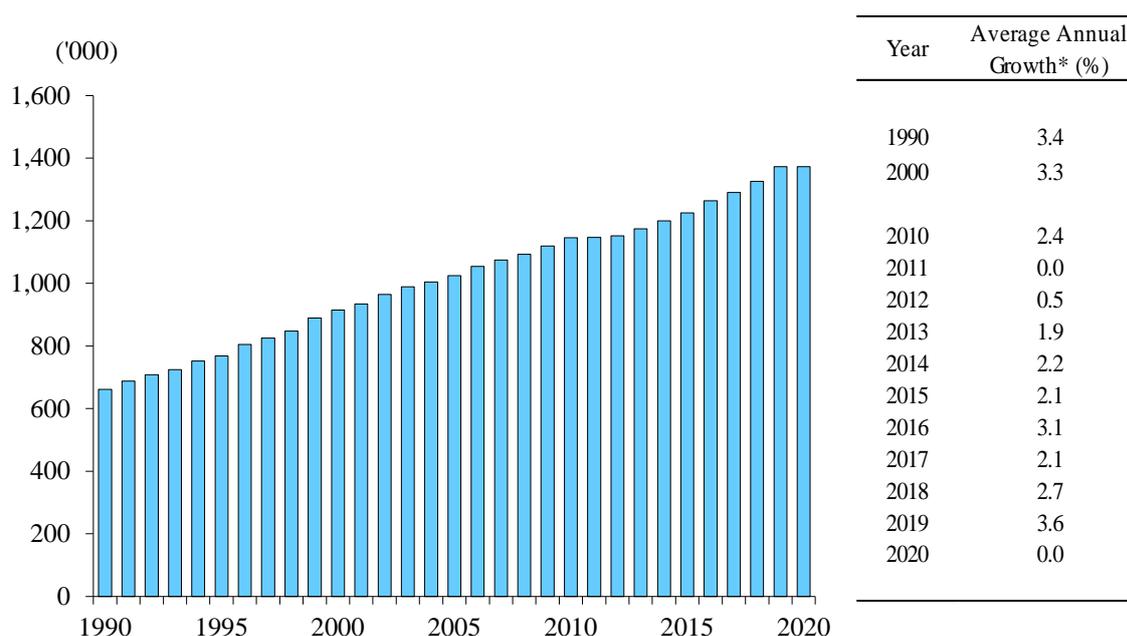
Note: '-' denotes nil or negligible.

* For 1990 and 2000, growth rates refer to the annualised change over the last ten years. From 2010 onwards, growth rate refers to the change over the previous year.

> *Household*
>
> A household refers to (i) a group of two or more persons living together in the same house and sharing <u>common</u> food or other essential arrangements for living; or (ii) a person living alone or a person living with others but having his own food or other essential arrangements for living. Although persons may be living in the same house, they may not be members of the same household.
>
> A resident household refers to a household where the household reference person is a Singapore citizen or permanent resident.
>
> The household reference person may refer to the oldest member, the main income earner, the owner-occupier of the house, the person who manages the affairs of the household, or the person who supplied the information pertaining to other members.
>
> Prior to Census of Population 2020, survey respondents were asked to identify the 'head of household'. The identified person is used as the reference person to determine relationships between household members. In Census of Population 2020, the term 'head of household' has been replaced with 'household reference person'.

Type of Dwelling

In 2020, 78.7 per cent of resident households lived in Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats. This is a decrease from the 82.4 per cent in 2010 (Chart 3.2). Correspondingly, the proportion of resident households living in condominiums & other apartments rose from 11.5 per cent in 2010 to 16.0 per cent in 2020. The proportion of those living in landed properties remained relatively stable at 5.0 per cent in 2020.

The fall in share of resident households in HDB dwellings can be attributed to lower proportions in HDB 3-room and 5-room & executive flats. The share of those in HDB 4-room flats remained stable, while those living in HDB 1- & 2-room flats rose slightly over the past decade.

Chart 3.2 Proportion of Resident Households by Selected Type of Dwelling
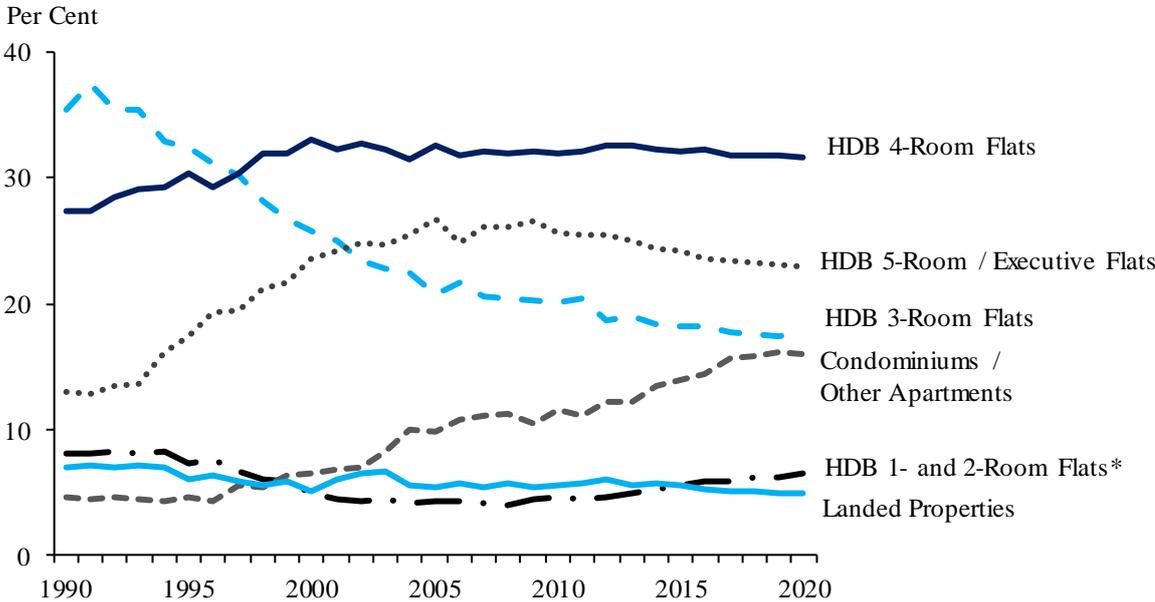
* Includes HDB studio apartments.

Tenancy of Households

In 2020, the proportion of owner-occupied resident households fell[3] to 87.9 per cent. Nevertheless, it remains higher than the 87.2 per cent from a decade ago.

Table 3.1 Resident Households by Tenancy of Household

Year	Tenancy ('000)			% in Owner-Occupied
	Total*	Owner-Occupied	Rented	
1990	661.7	578.9	78.6	87.5
2000	915.1	841.6	63.4	92.0
2010	1,145.9	998.9	132.5	87.2
2011	1,146.2	1,015.9	103.5	88.6
2012	1,152.0	1,038.2	106.8	90.1
2013	1,174.5	1,062.5	105.7	90.5
2014	1,200.0	1,083.4	109.8	90.3
2015	1,225.3	1,112.4	106.2	90.8
2016	1,263.6	1,149.1	107.6	90.9
2017	1,289.9	1,170.2	109.8	90.7
2018	1,325.3	1,205.8	112.4	91.0
2019	1,372.4	1,240.6	122.5	90.4
2020	1,372.6	1,206.0	152.1	87.9

* Includes resident households in "Others" tenancy.

> **Tenancy of Household**
>
> Tenancy refers to the survey-reported tenure status of the household with respect to the dwelling in which the household members live in.
>
> "Owner-Occupied" refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household owns the dwelling unit. This includes those which are fully paid-up as well as those with outstanding housing loans.
>
> "Rented" refers to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household rents whole or part of the dwelling unit.
>
> "Others" refer to a household where the household reference person and/or any other member(s) in the household occupies whole or part of the dwelling unit without charge (provided free by other persons (e.g., employers, relatives, friends, or any other persons)).

---

[3] This could be due to changes in living arrangements arising from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. For example, some individuals may have moved in with family members to provide care or support during the period of tightened COVID-19 measures, resident homeowners who left Singapore may have remained overseas, while some groups of residents who previously reside overseas and commute to Singapore regularly may have to extend their stay in Singapore and rent accommodation amid the travel restrictions.

Household Size

The average household size among resident households shrank from 3.53 persons in 2012 to 3.16 persons in 2019, before increasing slightly to 3.22 in 2020 (Chart 3.3). This trend was generally observed across all types of dwelling.

Resident households living in landed properties or HDB dwellings with more rooms tend to have larger family sizes. In 2020, the average household size was the largest at 4.38 persons among those staying in landed properties, followed by 3.67 persons for those staying in HDB 5-room & executive flats. Conversely, there were only 2.09 persons living in a HDB 1- & 2-room flat on average.

Chart 3.3 Average Household Size of Resident Households by Selected Type of Dwelling

Persons
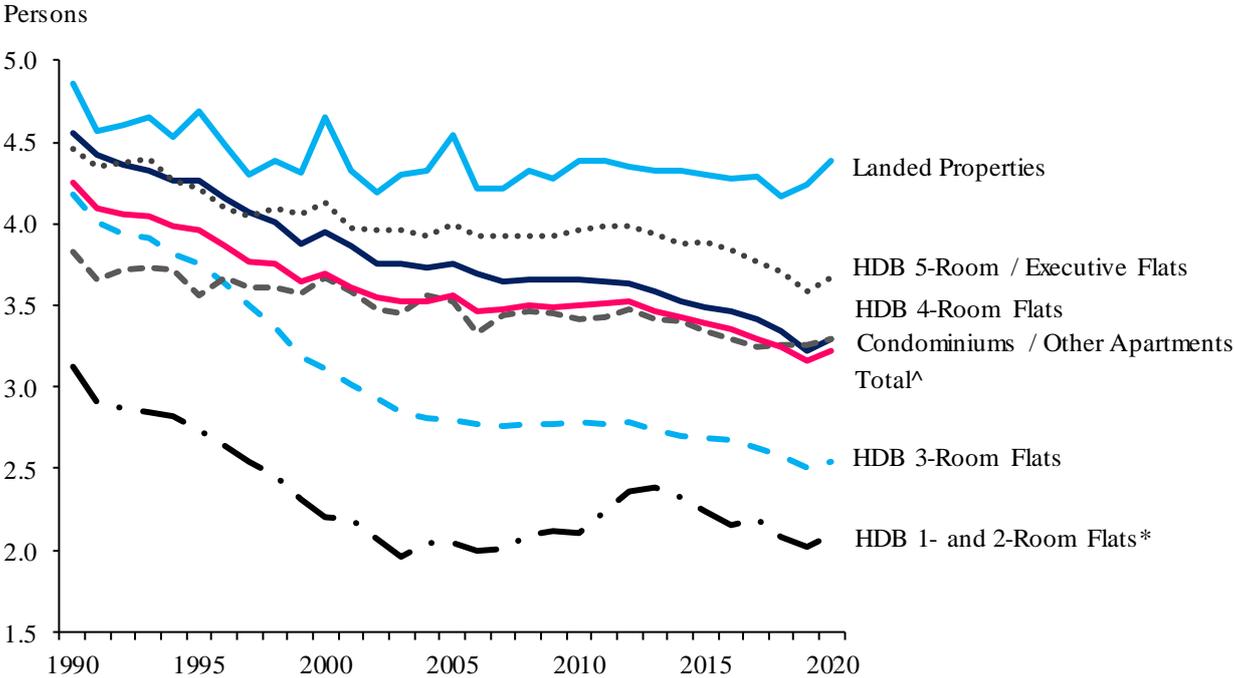
^ Includes other types of dwelling (e.g. non-HDB shophouses). Data for years prior to 2018 includes non-privatised Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC) flats.

* Includes HDB studio apartments.

Household Living Arrangement

Couple-based households with children continued to be the most prevalent living arrangement among resident households, although the share of such households declined from 56.0 per cent in 2010 to 47.7 per cent in 2020 (Chart 3.4).

Conversely, the proportions rose for couple-based households without children (from 13.7 per cent to 16.6 per cent) and one-person households (from 12.2 per cent to 16.0 per cent) over the past decade.

Chart 3.4 Resident Households by Household Living Arrangement

Per Cent   ☐ 2010   ■ 2020

|	Couple-Based with Children	Couple-Based without Children	Lone-Parent	Living Alone	Others
2010	56.0	13.7	7.3	12.2	10.8
2020	47.7	16.6	6.5	16.0	13.1
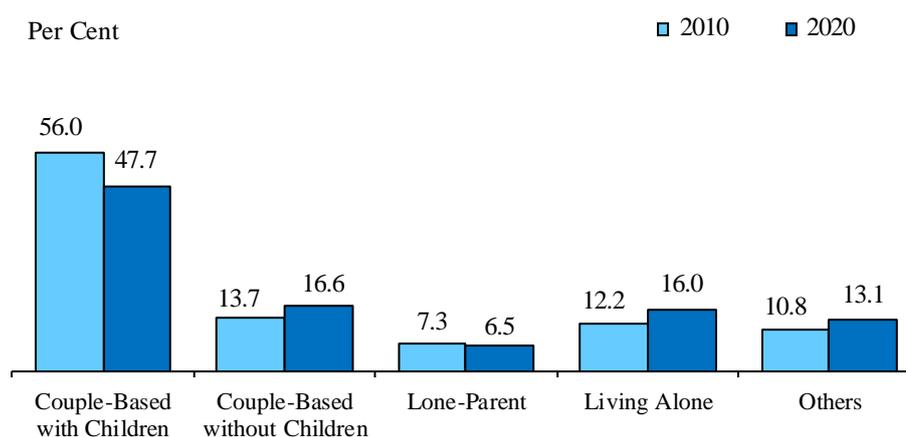
Household Living Arrangement

Couple-based households refer to households with a married household reference person and spouse. This category is further split into those living with children and without children.

Lone-parent households refer to households whose household reference person is never-married/widowed/divorced/separated and living with children aged below 16 years or never-married children.

Living alone households refer to one-person households. Examples include single persons living alone, or ever-married persons who are living alone as their children have grown up and moved out from the parental home.

Household living arrangements varied by age group of household reference person. Despite a decline in share over the past decade, couple-based households with children remained the most prevalent among households with reference persons aged below 65 years. In 2020, such households constituted 32.8 per cent among reference persons aged below 35 years and more than half of that among reference persons aged 35-49 years (56.4 per cent), and aged 50-64 years (54.7 per cent) (Chart 3.5). This represents the stages of the life cycle at which married couples set up families and have children.

Among households with reference persons aged 65 years and over, the majority were couple-based households without children (30.1 per cent) in 2020. The proportion of one-person households were higher compared to younger reference persons as well. This corresponds to the life cycle stage of grown-up children setting up their own homes or the passing of one spouse.

Chart 3.5 Resident Households by Age Group of Household Reference Person and Household Living Arrangement
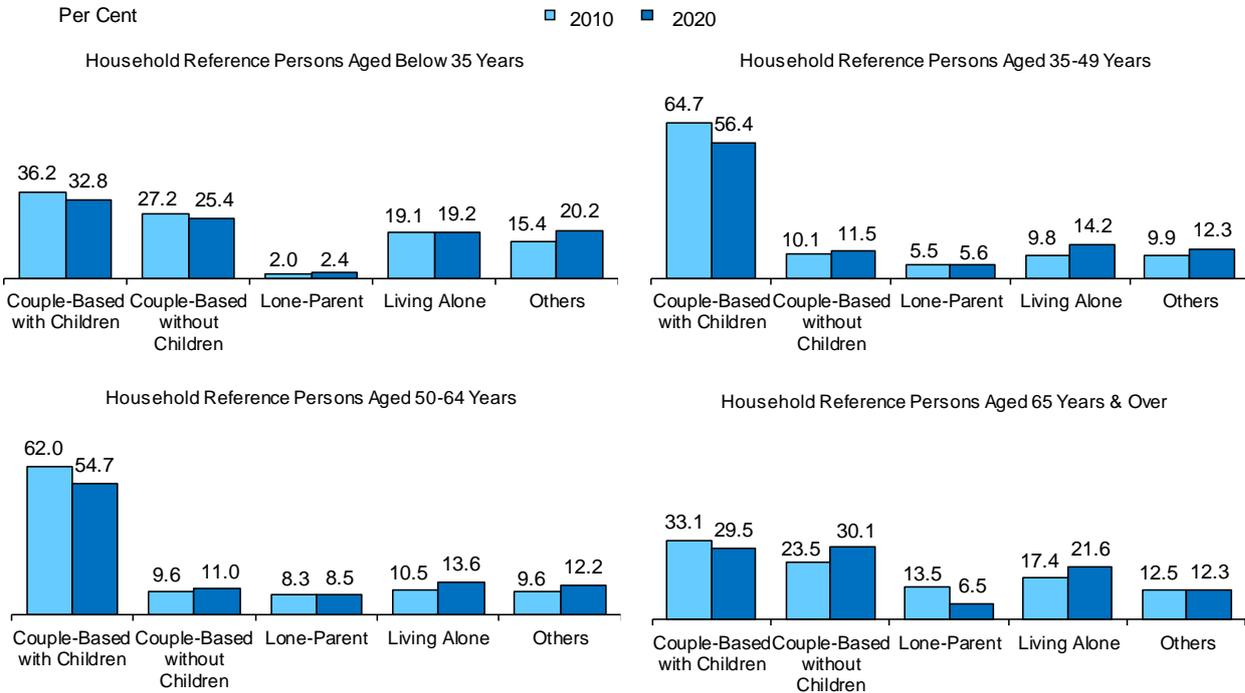
Chapter 4   Family Formation and Dissolution

Marriages

A total of 22,651 marriages were registered in 2020, 10.9 per cent lower than the 25,434 marriages registered in the year before (Chart 4.1). This may be due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including Circuit Breaker restrictions and safe management measures applied to wedding solemnisations and receptions from March 2020.

Among the marriages registered in 2020, more than three quarters or 17,789 were first marriages where neither party had previously been married.

Chart 4.1 Total Marriages and General Marriage Rate (GMR)
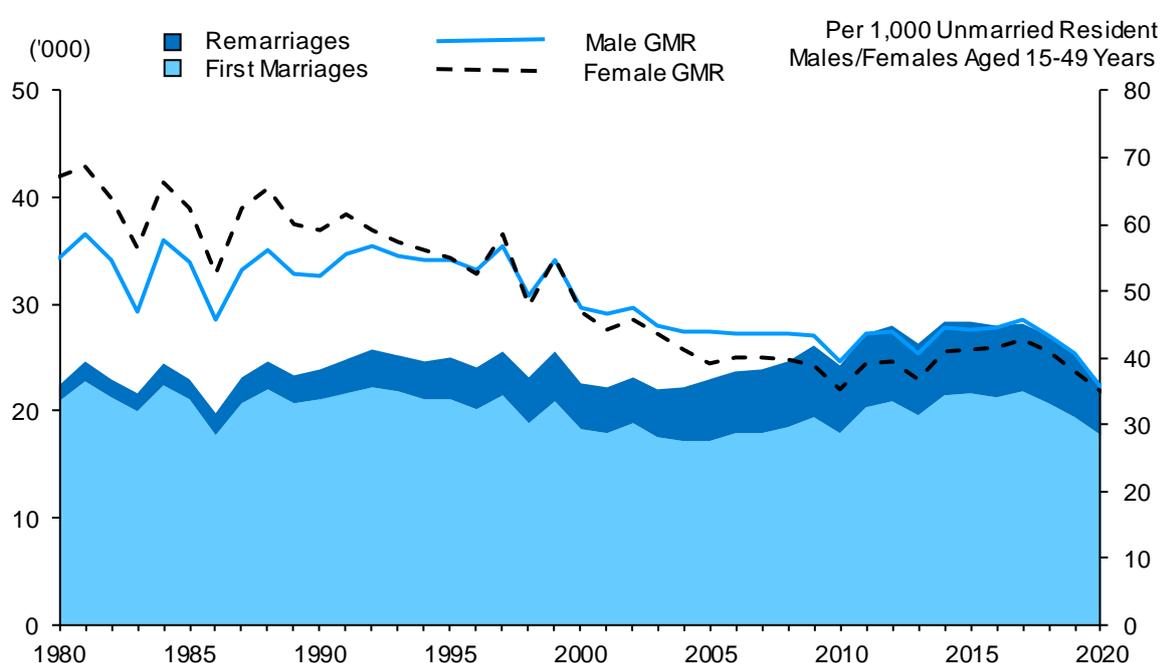
Note: Prior to 1984, data on GMR are based on total grooms/brides and total population comprising residents (i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents) and non-residents. Data from 1984 onwards are based on resident grooms/brides and resident population.

> *Total Marriages and Divorces*
>
> Statistics on marriages comprise civil marriages registered under the Women's Charter and Muslim marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act. They are obtained from records maintained by the Registry of Marriages and the Registry of Muslim Marriages.
>
> Statistics on divorces and annulments are obtained from records maintained by the Family Justice Courts and Syariah Court. The records on revocation of divorces are obtained from the Registry of Muslim Marriages. Separations that do not confer on the parties the right to remarry are not covered.
>
> More details on marriages and divorces are available in the publication "Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2020".

The general marriage rate declined between 2010 and 2020. For males, the rate was 35.7 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15-49 years in 2020, down from 39.3 in 2010. The rate for females in 2020 was 34.9 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15-49 years, slightly lower than 35.3 a decade ago.

> **General Marriage Rate**
>
> The rate is defined as the number of marriages registered among persons aged 15-49 years during the year, out of every thousand unmarried population in the same age group.

Age-Specific Marriage Rate

In 2020, marriage rates were the highest among males and females aged 30-34 years (Chart 4.2). This is a shift from the peak age group of 25-29 years for females marrying a decade ago.

Marriage rates for females aged 30 years & over in 2020 were comparable to a decade ago. However, the marriage rates for females aged below 30 years, as well as males across all age groups, fell over the same period.

Chart 4.2 Age-Sex Specific Marriage Rate
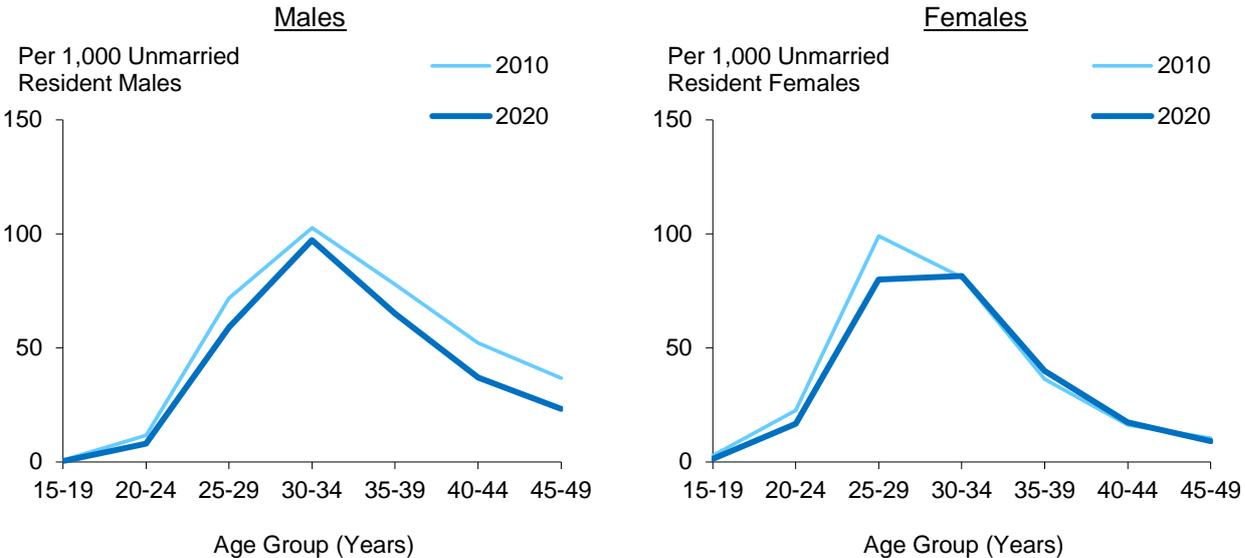
> **Age-Specific Marriage Rate**
>
> It is defined as the number of marriages registered within a specific age group during the year, out of every thousand unmarried population in the same age group.

Median Age at First Marriage

The median age at first marriage in 2020 was higher for brides across all educational groups (Chart 4.3) than in 2010. For grooms, apart from those with secondary and below qualification, the median age at first marriage in 2020 was higher for other educational groups than in 2010.

Comparing across educational groups, grooms and brides with university qualifications had the highest median age at first marriage at 31.0 years and 29.4 years respectively in 2020.

Chart 4.3 Median Age at First Marriage of Grooms and Brides by Educational Qualification
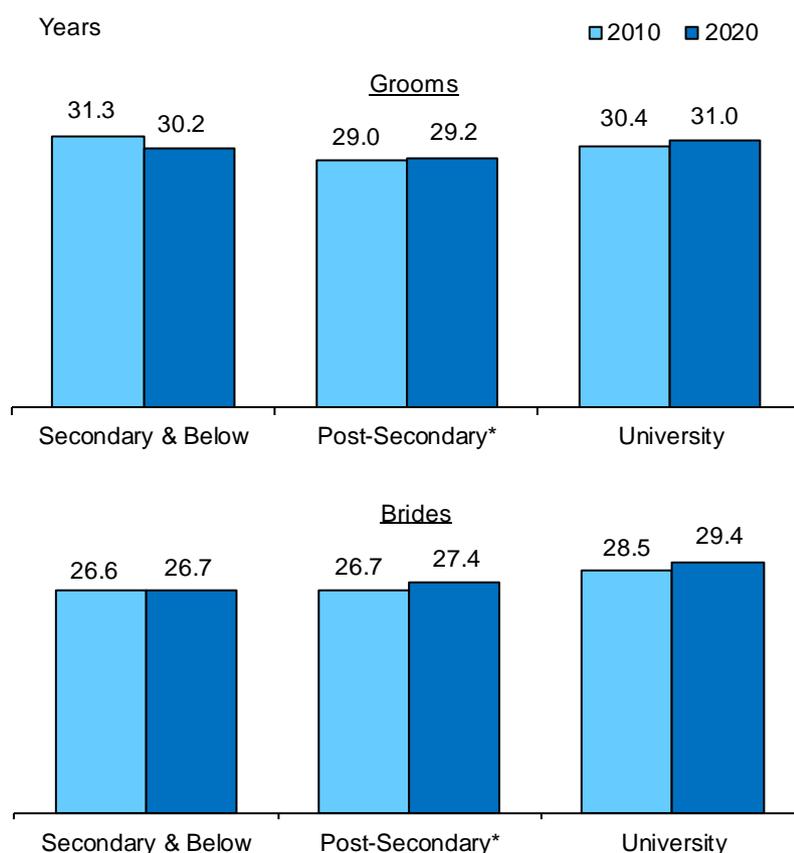
* Post-Secondary comprises Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary) and Diploma & Professional Qualification.

Marital Dissolutions

In 2020, 6,959 marriages ended in a divorce or annulment, a decline of 8.7 per cent as compared to the 7,623 marital dissolutions in the previous year (Chart 4.4). This was the lowest number of marital dissolutions since 2006. The COVID-19 pandemic, including measures taken during the Circuit Breaker period, may have contributed to this decline. Between 2016 and 2020, the annual average number of marital dissolutions was 7,424, slightly lower than the average of 7,439 in the previous five-year period.

The general divorce rate declined for both males and females over the past decade. There were 6.3 male divorcees for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2020, down from 7.5 in 2010. For females, the rate was 6.1 female divorcees for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2020, down from 7.2 in 2010.

Chart 4.4 Total Marital Dissolutions and General Divorce Rate (GDR)
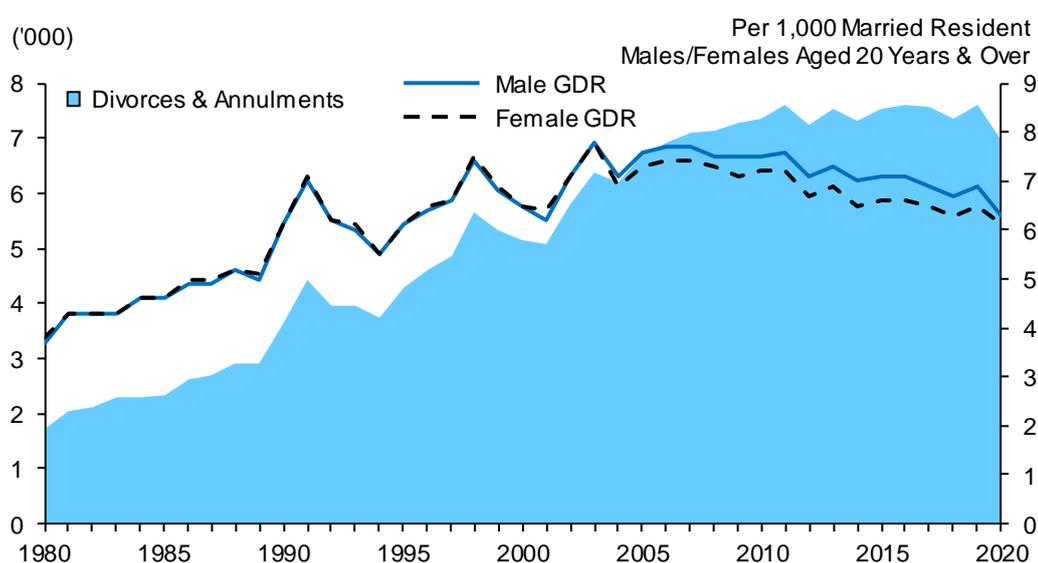
Note: Data on GDR include annulments. From 2004 onwards, data on GDR are based on divorces and annulments where either or both spouses are residents (i.e. Singapore citizens or permanent residents).

General Divorce Rate

The rate is defined as the number of divorces and annulments granted to married persons aged 20 years and over during the year, out of every thousand married population in the same age group.

Annulment

This refers to the invalidation of a marriage. Parties whose marriages have been annulled are conferred the status of never having been married to each other.

Age-Specific Divorce Rate

Marital dissolutions continued to be more prevalent among the younger age groups (Chart 4.5). Nevertheless, slight declines in divorce rates were observed for married persons aged 25-39 years between 2010 and 2020. For the older age groups, divorce rates in 2020 were largely comparable to a decade ago.

Chart 4.5 Age-Sex Specific Divorce Rate
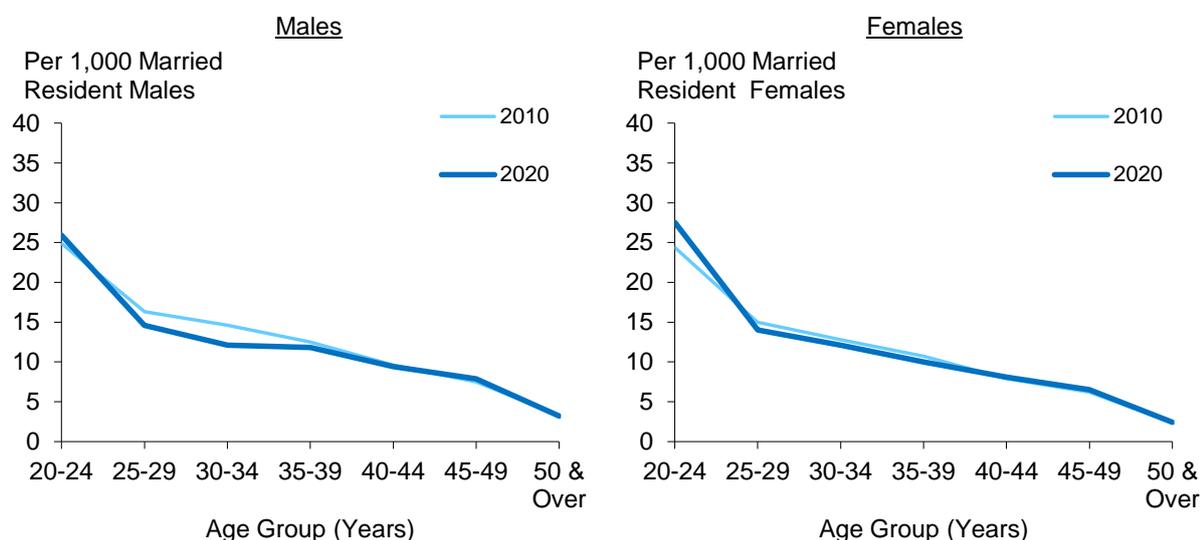
Age-Specific Divorce Rate

It is defined as the number of divorces and annulments granted to a specific age group during the year, out of every thousand married population in the same age group.

Marriage Duration of Divorcing Couples

The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2020 was 10.4 years, comparable to the median duration of 10.6 years in 2010. Couples with marriage duration of 5 to 9 years continued to account for the largest share of all divorces, although its share fell from 30.5 per cent in 2010 to 29.4 per cent in 2020 (Chart 4.6). In contrast, the share of divorces with marriage duration of under 5 years increased over the same period.

**Chart 4.6 Divorces by Duration of Marriage**
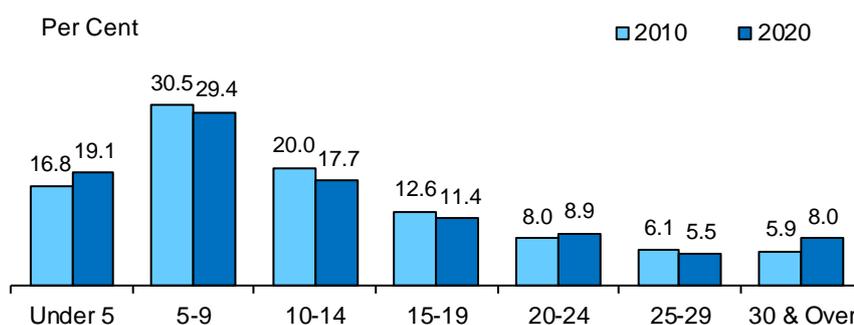
Note: Data exclude annulments.

Chapter 5 Fertility

Births and Fertility Rate

There were 38,590 live-births in 2020, a decrease of 1.8 per cent as compared to 39,279 live-births in 2019 (Chart 5.1). For resident births (i.e. births with at least one parent who is a Singapore citizen or permanent resident), the number fell 3.1 per cent from 35,330 in 2019 to 34,233 in 2020.

Singapore's resident total fertility rate (TFR) fell to a historic low at 1.10 births per female in 2020.

Chart 5.1 Total Live-Births and Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
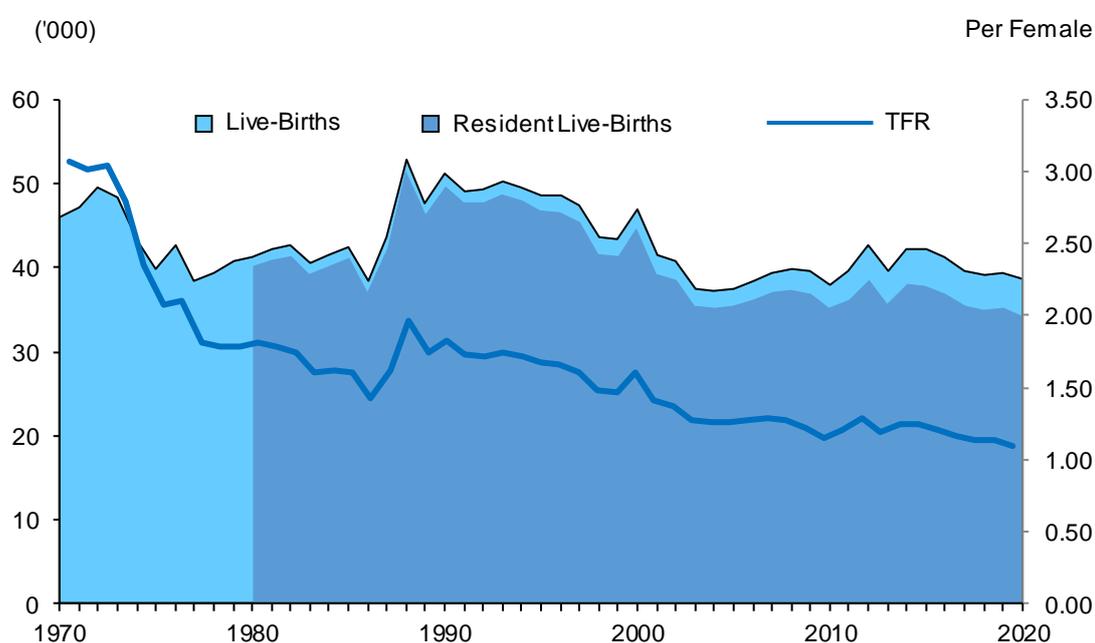
Note: Prior to 1980, data on TFR pertain to total population. From 1980 onwards, data on TFR pertain to resident population (i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents). Data on resident births for 1980-1985 are estimated.

Live-Births

Statistics on live-births are obtained from records maintained by the Registry of Births and Deaths. The statistics refer to all live-births occurring within Singapore and its territorial waters as registered under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Chapter 267), and are compiled based on date of occurrence.

Total Fertility Rate

The rate refers to the average number of live-births each female would have during her reproductive years if she were subject to the prevailing age-specific fertility rates in the population in a given year. More details are available in the infographic here.

Ethnic Differentials in Fertility

In 2020, the resident TFR fell for the Chinese and Indians, and rose for the Malays (Chart 5.2) as compared to 2019. The TFR remained the highest for the Malays at 1.82 births per female in 2020, followed by 0.96 for the Indians and 0.94 for the Chinese. The TFR of all ethnic groups remained below the replacement TFR of 2.1 births per female.

Chart 5.2 Total Fertility Rate by Ethnic Group

* Includes the ethnic group "Others".
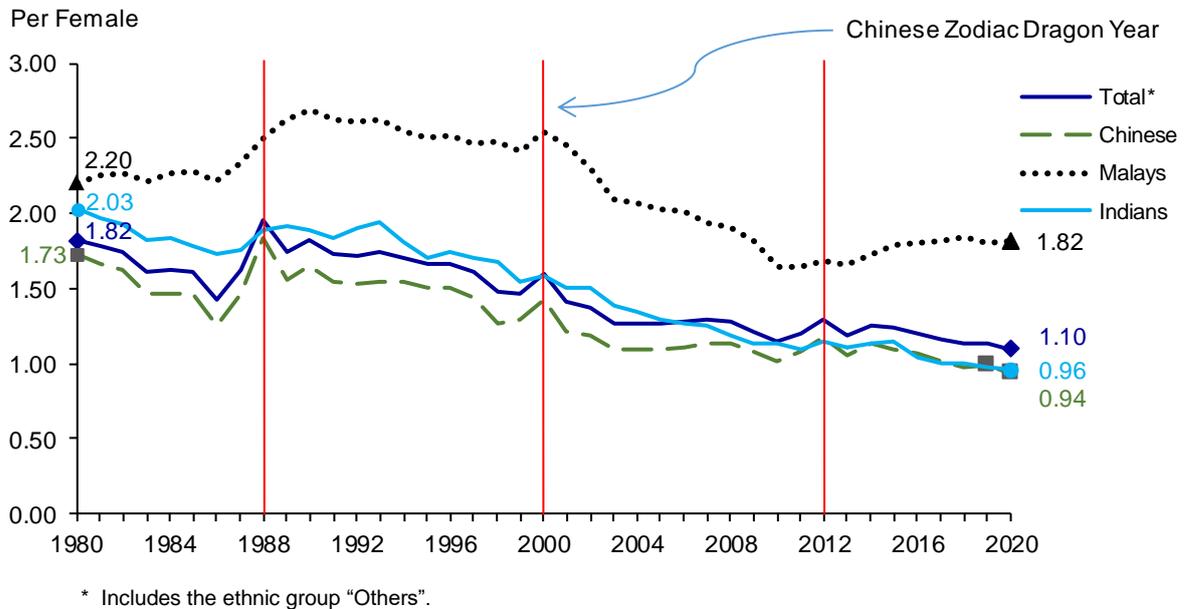
Age-Specific Fertility Rate

Compared to a decade ago, age-specific fertility rates fell for those aged below 30 years in 2020, and rose for those aged 30 years and over (Chart 5.3). Fertility rate has been the highest among females aged 30-34 years compared to the other age groups since 2002.

Chart 5.3 Age-Specific Fertility Rate
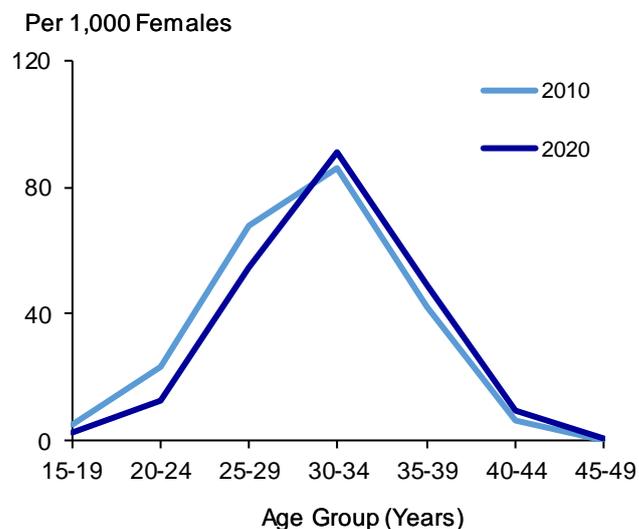
Births by Birth Order

The share of births by birth order remained stable over the past decade. First and second order births continued to make up the largest proportions of total live-births in 2020 at 47.7 per cent and 34.6 per cent respectively (Chart 5.4). Comparatively, third order births and fourth and higher order births constituted 12.0 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively in 2020.

Chart 5.4 Proportion of Births by Birth Order
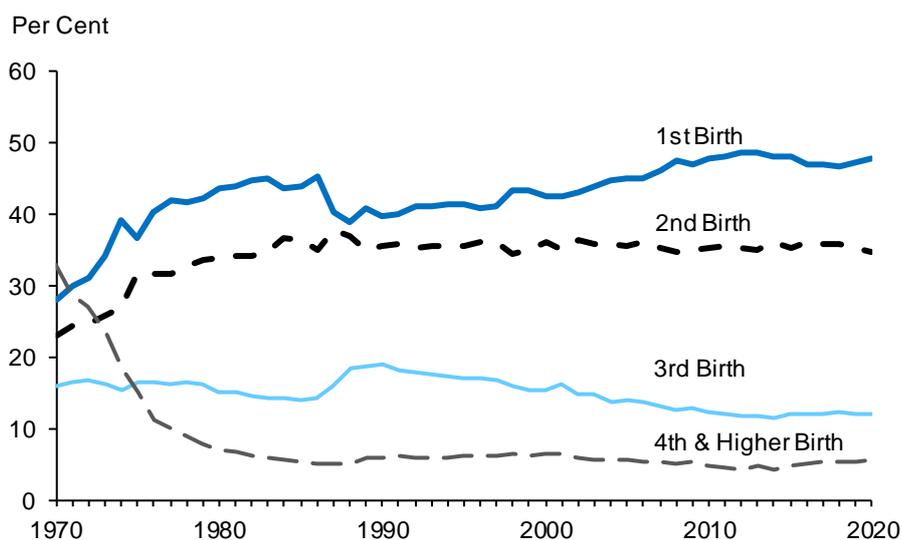
Number of Children Born

In general, females had fewer children compared to a decade ago. While those with two children continued to form the largest group among ever-married resident females aged 15 years and over, the proportion of those aged 40-49 years with three children fell from 22.3 per cent in 2010 to 15.5 per cent in 2020, and dropped from 7.3 per cent to 5.1 per cent for those with four or more children over the same period (Chart 5.5).

Correspondingly, the proportion of ever-married females aged 40-49 years who have never given birth increased from 9.3 per cent in 2010 to 13.5 per cent in 2020, while those with only one child increased from 19.0 per cent to 24.0 per cent.

Chart 5.5 Resident Ever-Married Females by Age Group and Number of Children Born
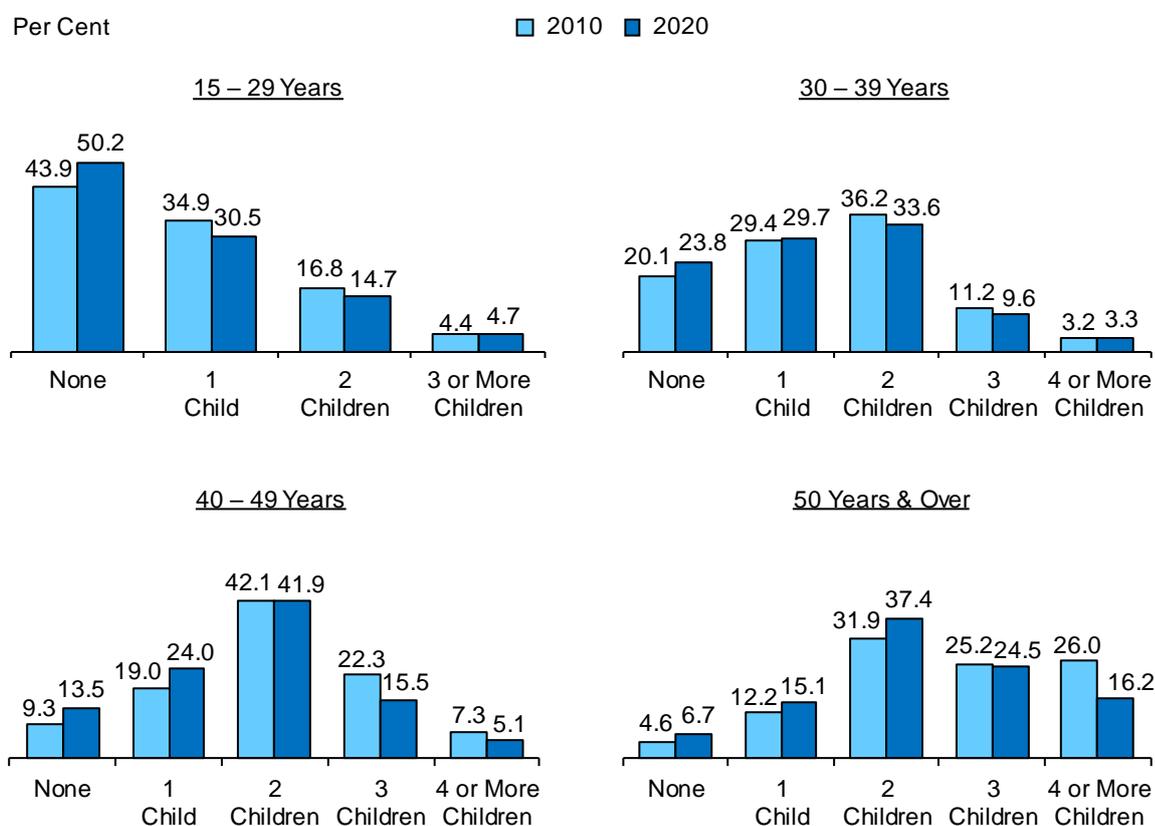
Average Number of Children Born by Age Group of Females

The average number of children born to resident females decreased between 2010 and 2020. Among resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years, the average number of children born decreased from 2.02 per female in 2010 to 1.76 in 2020 (Chart 5.6). A large decrease was also observed among those aged 50 years and over, from 2.93 in 2010 to 2.44 in 2020.

Chart 5.6 Average Number of Children Born by Age Group of Resident Ever-Married Females

Per Resident Ever-Married Female   ■ 2010   ■ 2020

Age Group (Years)
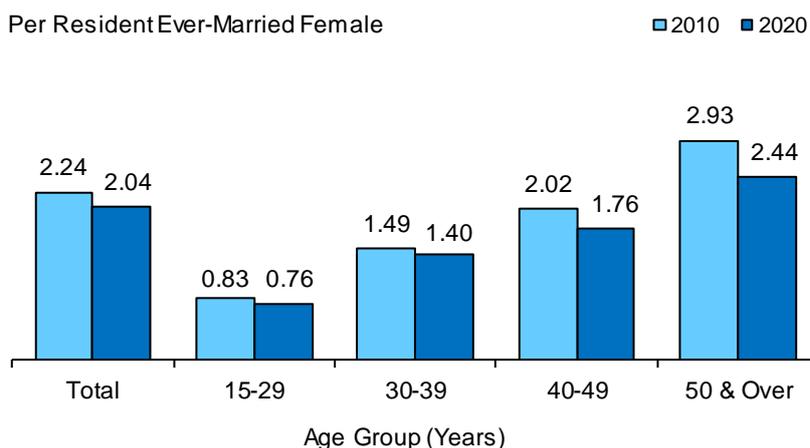
Average Number of Children Born by Educational Attainment of Females

Females who were more highly educated had fewer children on average than those with lower educational qualifications. Among resident ever-married females aged 40-49 years, university graduates had an average of 1.66 children in 2020, lower than the average of 2.01 children among those with below secondary qualifications (Chart 5.7).

Chart 5.7 Average Number of Children Born to Resident Ever-Married Females Aged 40-49 Years by Highest Qualification Attained
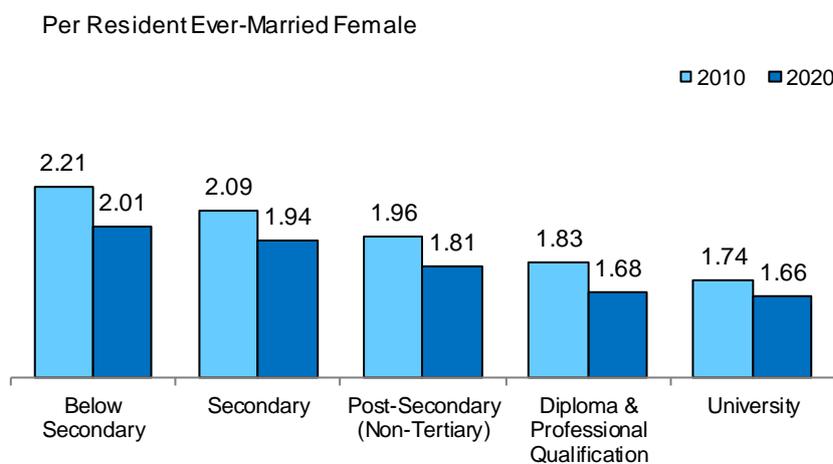
Per Resident Ever-Married Female

■ 2010   ■ 2020

Note: Data pertain to residents who are not attending educational institutions as full-time students and include those who are upgrading their qualifications through part-time courses.

Chapter 6 Mortality

Deaths and Death Rates

The number of total deaths rose from 21,446 in 2019 to 22,054 in 2020 (Chart 6.1) as our population continued to age. Over the same period, the resident crude death rate increased to 5.2 deaths per 1,000 residents.

Taking into account the population age structure, the resident age-standardised death rate[4] remained the same at 2.8 deaths per 1,000 residents in 2019 and 2020. In general, the age-standardised death rate has been on a downward trend since 1970, reflecting the improvements in health and mortality of the population.

Chart 6.1 Total Deaths, Crude Death Rate and Age-Standardised Death Rate
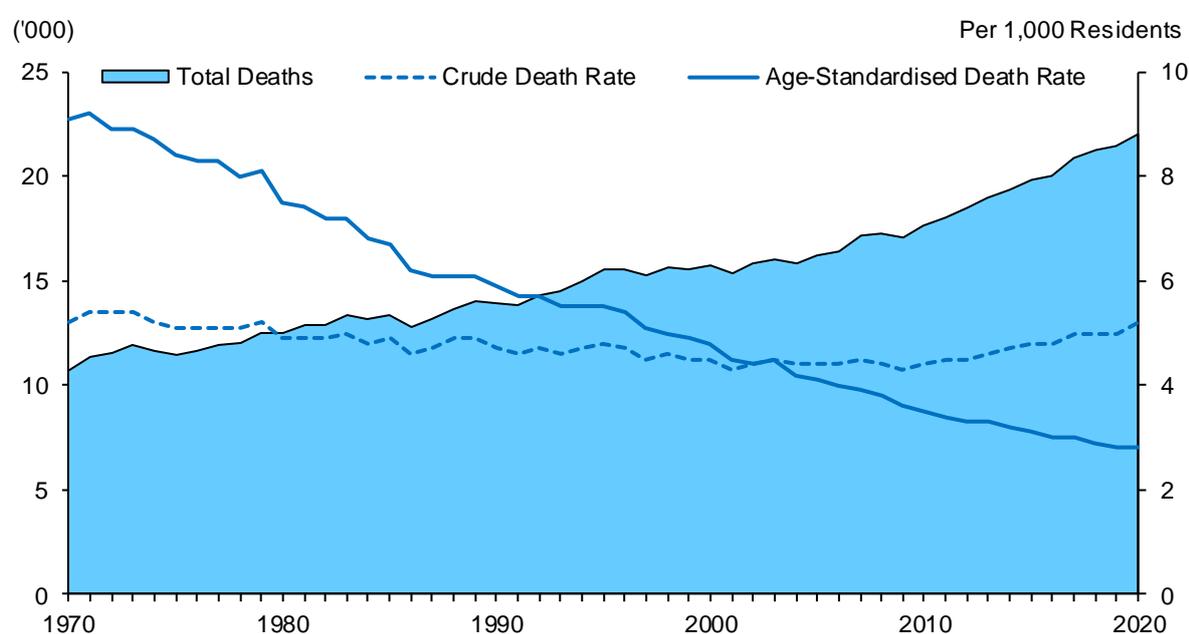
Note: From 1980 onwards, data on crude death rate and age-standardised death rate pertain to resident population (i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents).

Deaths and Death Rates

Statistics on deaths are obtained from records maintained by the Registry of Births and Deaths. The statistics refer to all deaths occurring within Singapore and its territorial waters as registered under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (Chapter 267), and are compiled based on date of registration.

Crude death rate refers to the number of deaths per thousand population. Age-standardised death rate is another summary indicator of mortality that removes effects of age structure variations in the population over time.

More details on death rates are available in the article "Age-Standardised Death Rate for Singapore" in the Statistics Singapore Newsletter, September 2015.

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[4] The Singapore resident population as at June 2003 is used as the standard population to fix the age structure and eliminate its effect on mortality trends.

Age-Specific Death Rate

Resident females had lower death rates than resident males (Chart 6.2). Compared to 2010, the age-specific death rates for resident males and females were lower for most age groups in 2020.

Chart 6.2 Age-Specific Death Rate
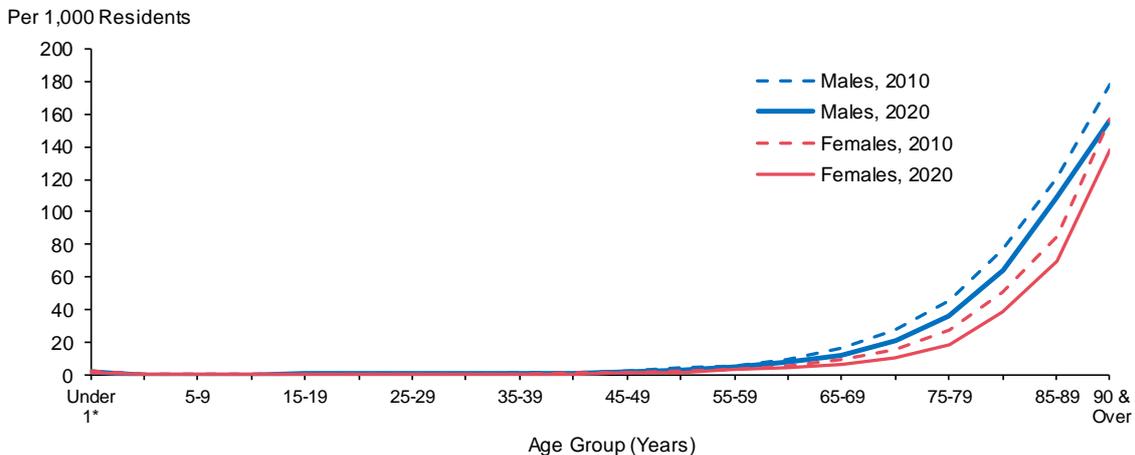
* Refers to infant mortality rate.

Infant Mortality Rate

The infant mortality rate remained stable over the last decade, at 2.0 infant deaths per 1,000 resident live-births in 2010 to 1.8 in 2020 (Chart 6.3).

Chart 6.3 Infant Mortality Rate
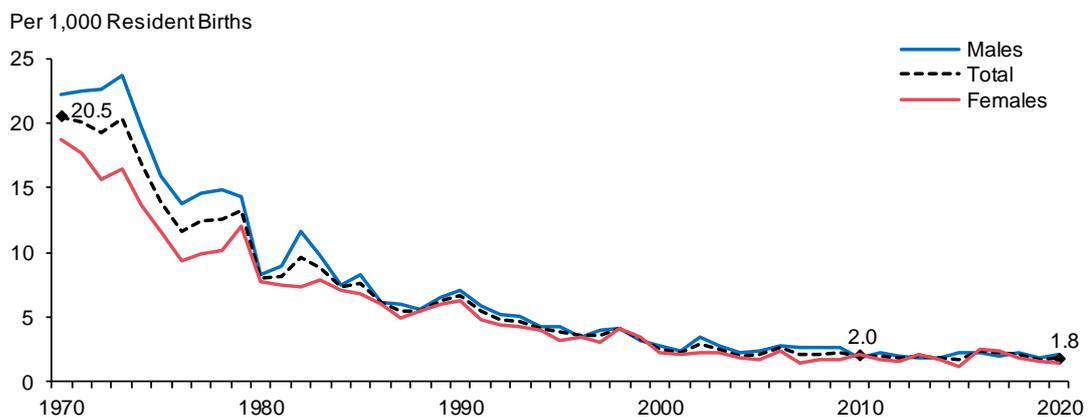
Note: From 1980 onwards, data on infant mortality rate pertain to resident population (i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents).

Infant Mortality Rate

The rate refers to the number of deaths of children under one year of age per thousand live-births. Along with life expectancy, it is one of the most widely used indicators of the population's health status.

More details on infant mortality rate are available in the article "Trends in Infant mortality Rate and Related Indicators for Singapore" published in the Statistics Singapore Newsletter Issue 1, 2019

Life Expectancy

Singapore residents can expect to live longer in 2020 as compared to a decade ago. Life expectancy at birth for residents continued to rise steadily over the past 10 years from 81.7 years in 2010 to 83.9 years in 2020 (Chart 6.4). Females continued to have longer life expectancy than males, with a gap of 4.6 years between both sexes in 2020.

Life expectancy at age 65 years also improved, from 19.8 years in 2010 to 21.5 years in 2020. Similar to the life expectancy at birth, the life expectancy at age 65 years for females was longer than males by 3.6 years.

Chart 6.4 Life Expectancy of Resident Population

p: Preliminary
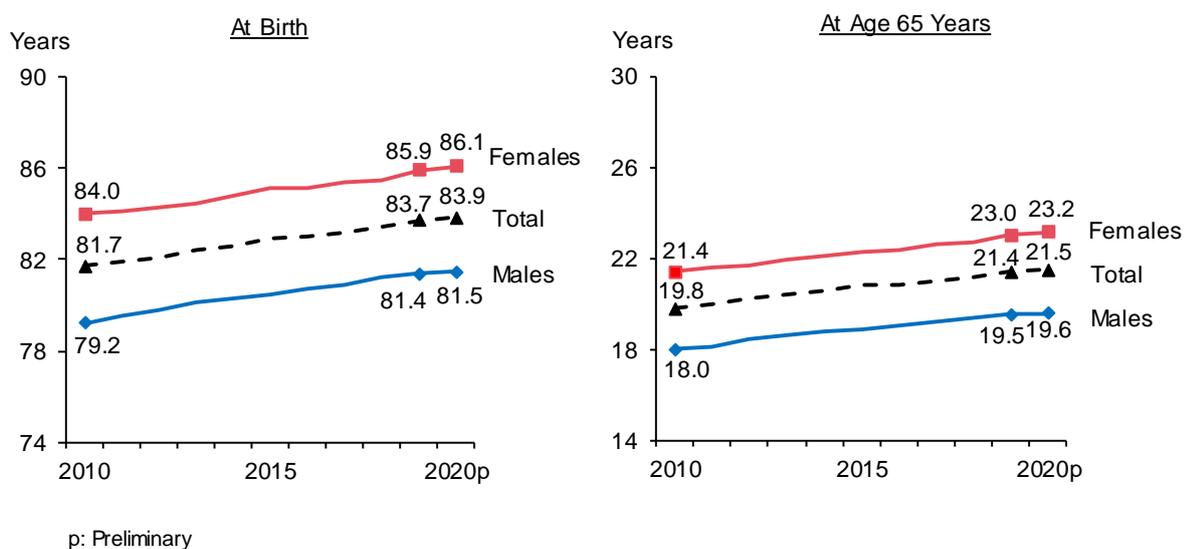
Life Expectancy

It refers to the average number of additional years which a person at a specific age (such as at birth or age 65 years) could expect to live, if he or she were to experience the age-specific mortality rates of the reference period throughout his/her life. It does not take into account future changes in mortality. The life expectancy gives an indication of the average longevity of the population, but does not necessarily reflect the longevity of an individual.

This single indicator is commonly used to sum up the mortality experience of a population, taking into account the population's age and sex structure.

More details on life expectancy are available in the publication "Complete Life Tables for Singapore Resident Population, 2019-2020".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
INFORMATION DISSEMINATION SERVICES

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