



# Statistics on Marriages and Divorces

Reference Year 2022

**STATISTICS ON MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES, 2022**  
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## PREFACE

Before 1980, data on marriages were analyzed and published in the annual *Report on Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages*. The Singapore Department of Statistics initiated the collection of divorce statistics in 1981, and consolidated the statistics on marriages and divorces into a single report in 1985. The marriage and divorce statistics provide important inputs for formulating population and related policies.

This report, ***Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2022***, is the thirty-ninth in a regular series of publications. Parts 1 and 2 analyse the marriage trends and characteristics of grooms and brides as well as the nature of divorces and characteristics of divorcees in the reference year. With effect from this year, we have added Part 3 to include cohort indicators on dissolution rate of marriages, to provide insights on the trends in the stability of marriages by marriage cohorts and their profiles. This complements the period indicators in Parts 1 and 2 to give a more comprehensive picture on marriages ending in divorce or annulment.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Registry of Marriages, Registry of Muslim Marriages, Family Justice Courts and Syariah Court for providing the data on marriages and divorces. I would also like to thank all others who have contributed towards this publication.

Koh Eng Chuan  
Chief Statistician  
Singapore

July 2023

# Our Vision

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| <b>Confidentiality</b>                 | <i>We protect the confidentiality of information collected by us.</i>  |
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| <b>Effectiveness</b>                   | <i>We optimise resource utilisation, leveraging on administrative and alternative data sources to ease respondent burden.</i>  |

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### Notation

- nil

na not applicable



## KEY INDICATORS ON MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

| <b>Total Marriages &amp; Divorces</b>  | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Marriages  | 28,212      | 27,007      | 25,434      | 22,651      | 28,329      | 29,389      |
| Number of Divorces & Annulments  | 7,578       | 7,344       | 7,623       | 6,959       | 7,890       | 7,107       |
| General Marriage Rate (Per 1,000 unmarried resident males/females aged 15-49 years)  |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Males  | 45.7        | 43.3        | 40.7        | 35.7        | 45.3        | 47.0        |
| Females  | 42.8        | 40.8        | 37.9        | 34.9        | 44.2        | 45.5        |
| General Divorce Rate (Per 1,000 married resident males/females aged 20 years & over) |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Males  | 6.9         | 6.7         | 6.9         | 6.3         | 7.2         | 6.2         |
| Females  | 6.5         | 6.3         | 6.5         | 6.1         | 6.9         | 5.9         |
| Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages* (%)  | 17.7        | 18.0        | 18.4        | 16.9        | 15.3        | 16.6        |
| Proportion of First Marriages (%)  | 77.3        | 77.1        | 76.1        | 78.5        | 80.5        | 78.6        |
| Median Age at First Marriage (Years)   |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Grooms   | 30.0        | 30.2        | 30.4        | 30.4        | 30.5        | 30.7        |
| Brides   | 28.4        | 28.5        | 28.8        | 28.8        | 29.1        | 29.3        |
| Median Age at Divorce (Years)  |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Male Divorcees   | 43.2        | 43.2        | 43.4        | 43.2        | 43.9        | 44.4        |
| Female Divorcees   | 39.1        | 38.9        | 39.3        | 39.5        | 40.0        | 40.5        |
| Median Duration of Marriage for Divorces (Years)                                     | 10.3        | 10.2        | 10.4        | 10.4        | 10.7        | 10.9        |

| <b>Marriages</b>                          | <b>Women's Charter</b> |             |             | <b>Administration of Muslim Law Act</b> |             |             |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2020</b>            | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2020</b>                             | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> |
| Number of Marriages                       | 17,124                 | 22,101      | 23,379      | 5,527                                   | 6,228       | 6,010       |
| Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages* (%) | 15.3                   | 13.3        | 15.0        | 22.0                                    | 22.4        | 22.8        |
| Proportion of First Marriages (%)         | 80.9                   | 82.8        | 81.0        | 71.1                                    | 72.4        | 69.5        |
| Median Age at First Marriage (Years)      |                        |             |             |   |             |             |
| Grooms                                    | 31.0                   | 31.0        | 31.2        | 28.3                                    | 28.4        | 28.5        |
| Brides                                    | 29.3                   | 29.5        | 29.8        | 26.7                                    | 26.9        | 26.8        |

| <b>Divorces &amp; Annulments</b>                 | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Divorces                               | 5,110       | 5,907       | 5,417       | 1,598       | 1,767       | 1,505       |
| Number of Annulments                             | 251         | 216         | 185         | na          | na          | na          |
| Proportion of Inter-ethnic Divorces* (%)         | 15.7        | 16.5        | 17.4        | 23.0        | 25.2        | 24.9        |
| Median Age at Divorce (Years)                    |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Male Divorcees                                   | 44.0        | 44.8        | 45.3        | 39.6        | 40.4        | 40.6        |
| Female Divorcees                                 | 40.2        | 40.7        | 41.1        | 37.0        | 37.5        | 38.0        |
| Median Duration of Marriage for Divorces (Years) | 11.0        | 11.6        | 11.8        | 8.1         | 8.1         | 8.1         |

| <b>Dissolution of Marriages among Marriage Cohorts<sup>^</sup></b>                    | <b>Marriage Cohort</b> |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2006</b>            | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> |
| Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary        | 16.0                   | 15.8        | 15.0        | 14.7        | 14.9        | 14.5        |
| Proportion of Dissolved Resident Civil Marriages Before 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary  | 14.5                   | 14.4        | 13.5        | 13.5        | 13.9        | 13.8        |
| Proportion of Dissolved Resident Muslim Marriages Before 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary | 23.3                   | 22.5        | 21.9        | 20.7        | 19.3        | 17.6        |

\* Data on inter-ethnic marriages/divorces have been updated in 2023 to include only marriages/divorces where both parties are of different CMIO group

<sup>^</sup> Data are based on local marriage and dissolution records up till 2021.

Note: Longer time series for the indicators can be downloaded [here](#).



# **Part 1**

## **Marriage Trends**



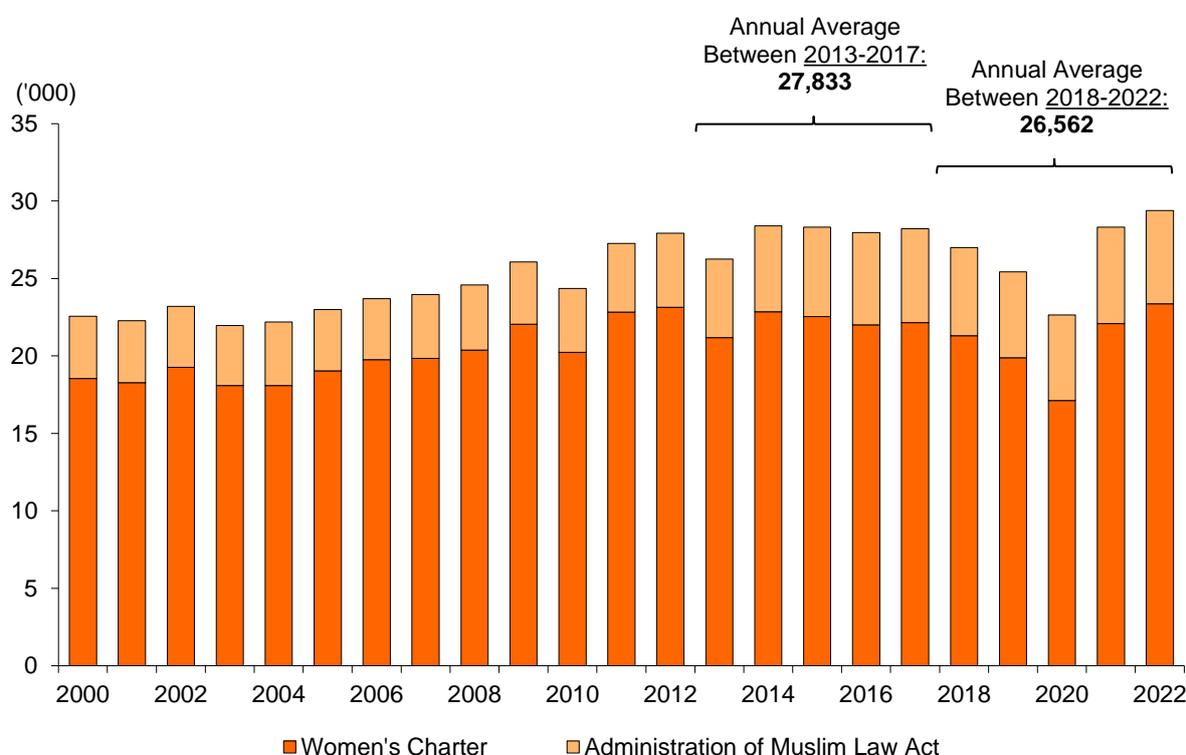
## PART 1 MARRIAGE TRENDS

### Record Number of Marriages Registered in 2022

The total number of civil and Muslim marriages<sup>1</sup> registered in 2022 rose to a record high of 29,389<sup>2</sup>, 3.7 per cent higher than the 28,329 marriages registered in the year before (Figure 1.1). This is the second consecutive increase since 2020 when the number dipped to 22,651 as marriage plans for some were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a rise in the number of civil marriages from 22,101 in 2021 to 23,379 in 2022, while Muslim marriages had fallen from 6,228 to 6,010 over the same period.

Partly contributed by the dip in the number of marriages in 2020 due to the pandemic, the annual average number of marriages registered in the last five years was 26,562, lower than the annual average of 27,833 for the preceding five years between 2013 and 2017.

Figure 1.1 Marriages Registered



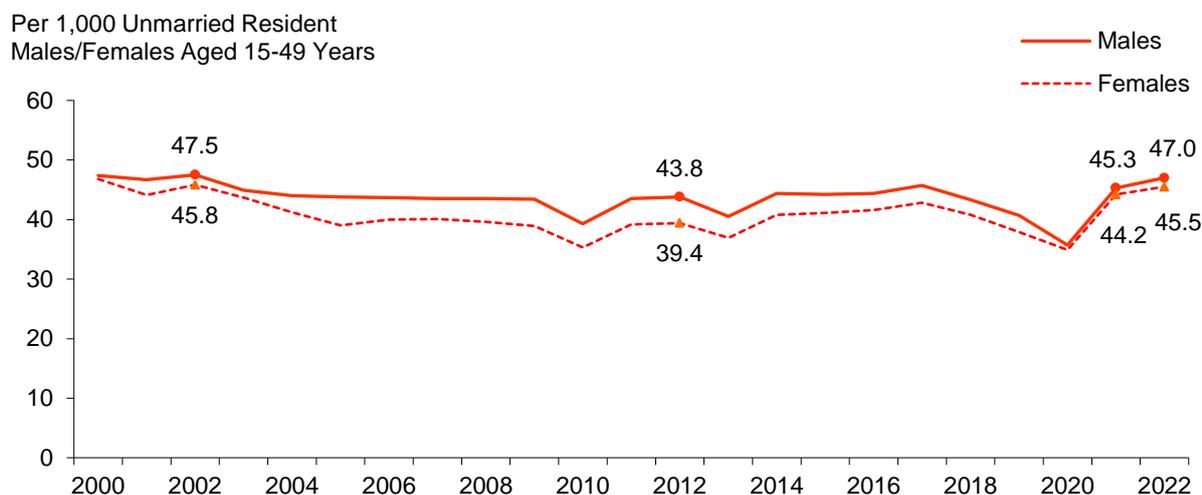
<sup>1</sup> Civil marriages refer to marriages registered under the Women's Charter while Muslim marriages refer to marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act. The analysis on marriages excludes re-registered marriages (i.e. civil marriages which were contracted overseas or under religious & customary rites and were subsequently registered in Singapore in the reference year). In 2022, there were 113 re-registered marriages.

<sup>2</sup> This is the highest since data on total marriages registered in Singapore (comprising civil and Muslim marriages) were first compiled and published in 1961. The previous record high was in 2014 with 28,407 marriage registrations.

## Higher General Marriage Rates for Males and Females

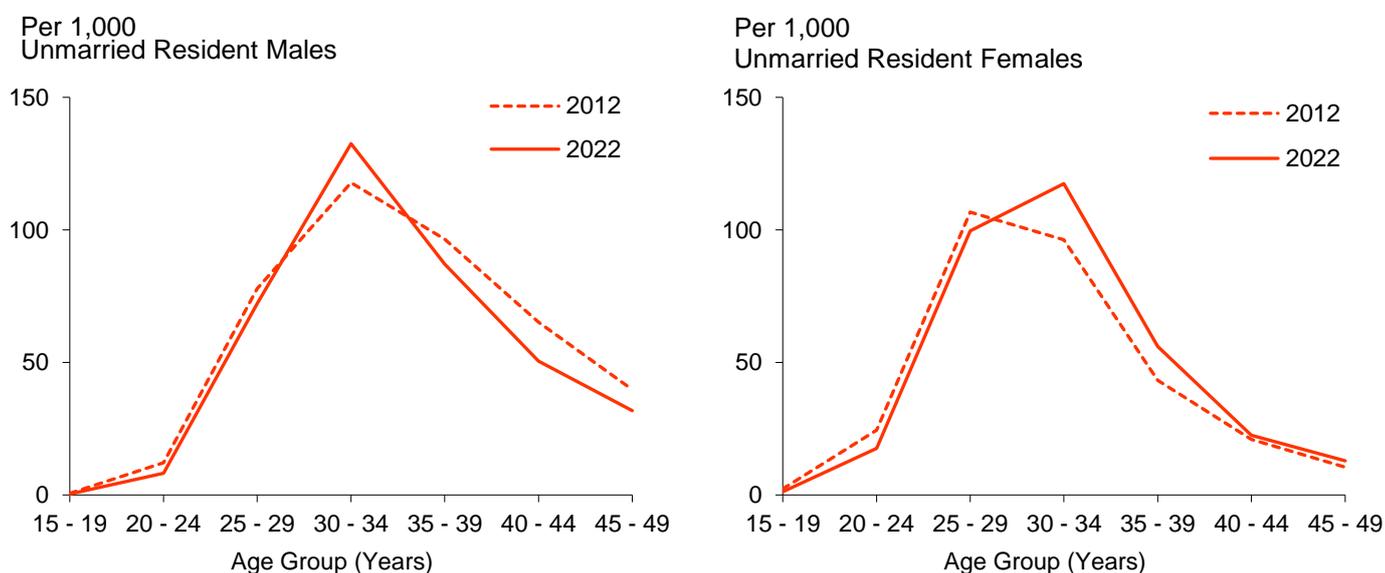
With the rise in number of marriages, the general marriage rates for both males and females increased in 2022 (Figure 1.2). There were 47.0 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15-49 years, up from 43.8 in 2012. Similarly, there were 45.5 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15-49 years, up from 39.4 a decade ago. The general marriage rates in 2022 for both males and females were among the highest in the recent two decades, second only to the highs of 47.5 for males and 45.8 for females recorded in 2002.

Figure 1.2 General Marriage Rate



Compared with a decade ago, marriage rates for males in the peak age group of 30-34 years rose in 2022 but fell for all other age groups (Figure 1.3). On the other hand, there was a shift towards later marriages for females compared to 2012. While marriage rates among females aged below 30 years declined, it rose for those aged 30 years and over. The peak marriage age group for females in 2022 (30-34 years) was also older than that in 2012 (25-29 years).

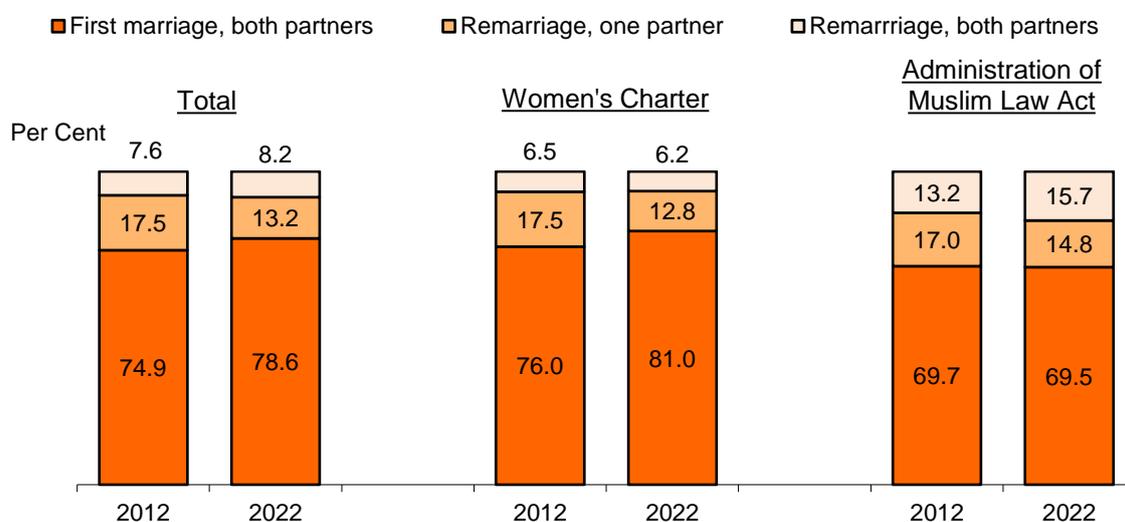
Figure 1.3 Age-Sex-Specific Marriage Rate



## Higher Proportion of First Marriages

78.6 per cent of all marriages in 2022 involved first-time grooms and first-time brides, an increase from 74.9 per cent a decade ago (Figure 1.4). The increase was observed among civil marriages, where the proportion of first marriages remained higher than Muslim marriages. The proportion of first marriages among Muslim marriages was similar compared to a decade ago.

Figure 1.4 Marriages by Marriage Order of Couple



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

Remarriages remained slightly more prevalent among grooms than brides. In 2022, 15.4 per cent of grooms and 14.2 per cent of brides were re-marrying, of which the majority were previously divorced (Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5 Marriages by Previous Marital Status of Grooms and Brides

| Previous Marital Status | Per Cent |      |                 |      |                                  |      |
|-------------------------|----------|------|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
|                         | Total    |      | Women's Charter |      | Administration of Muslim Law Act |      |
|                         | 2012     | 2022 | 2012            | 2022 | 2012                             | 2022 |
| <b>Grooms</b>           |          |      |                 |      |                                  |      |
| Single                  | 82.6     | 84.6 | 83.4            | 86.4 | 78.7                             | 78.0 |
| Divorced                | 16.3     | 14.3 | 15.6            | 12.9 | 19.6                             | 20.1 |
| Widowed                 | 1.1      | 1.0  | 1.0             | 0.8  | 1.5                              | 1.8  |
| Married                 | 0.0      | 0.0  | na              | na   | 0.2                              | 0.1  |
| <b>Brides</b>           |          |      |                 |      |                                  |      |
| Single                  | 84.7     | 85.8 | 86.2            | 88.4 | 77.8                             | 75.9 |
| Divorced                | 14.4     | 13.2 | 13.1            | 11.0 | 20.6                             | 22.1 |
| Widowed                 | 0.9      | 0.9  | 0.8             | 0.6  | 1.6                              | 2.0  |

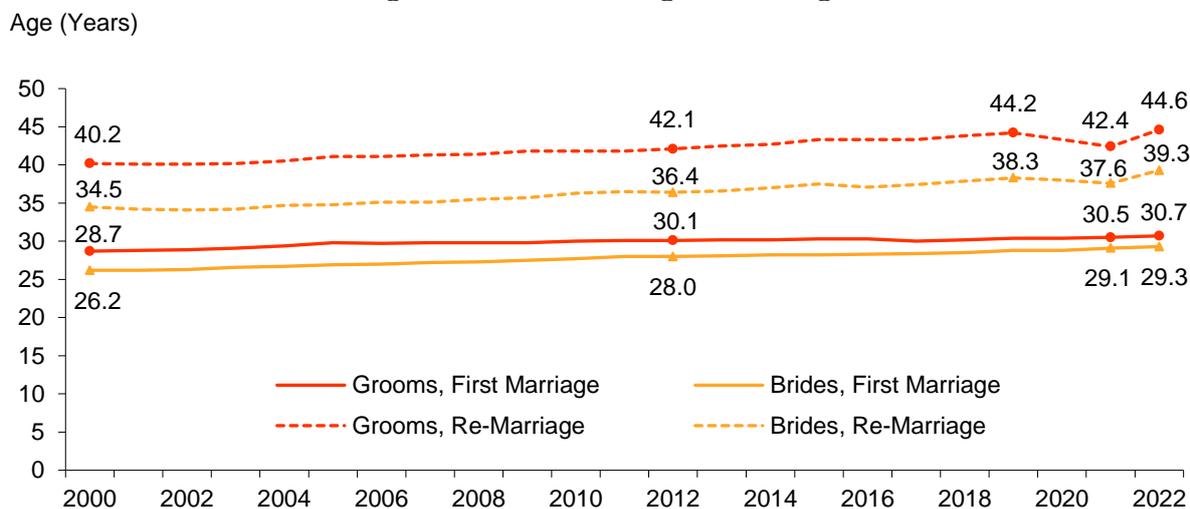
- Notes: 1) Previous marital status refers to a person's marital status prior to the current marriage.  
2) Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

## Median Age at First Marriage Continued to Rise

The median age at first marriage for grooms and brides were 30.7 years and 29.3 years respectively in 2022, up from 30.1 years for grooms and 28.0 years for brides a decade ago (Figure 1.6). This points to a continuing trend towards later marriages.

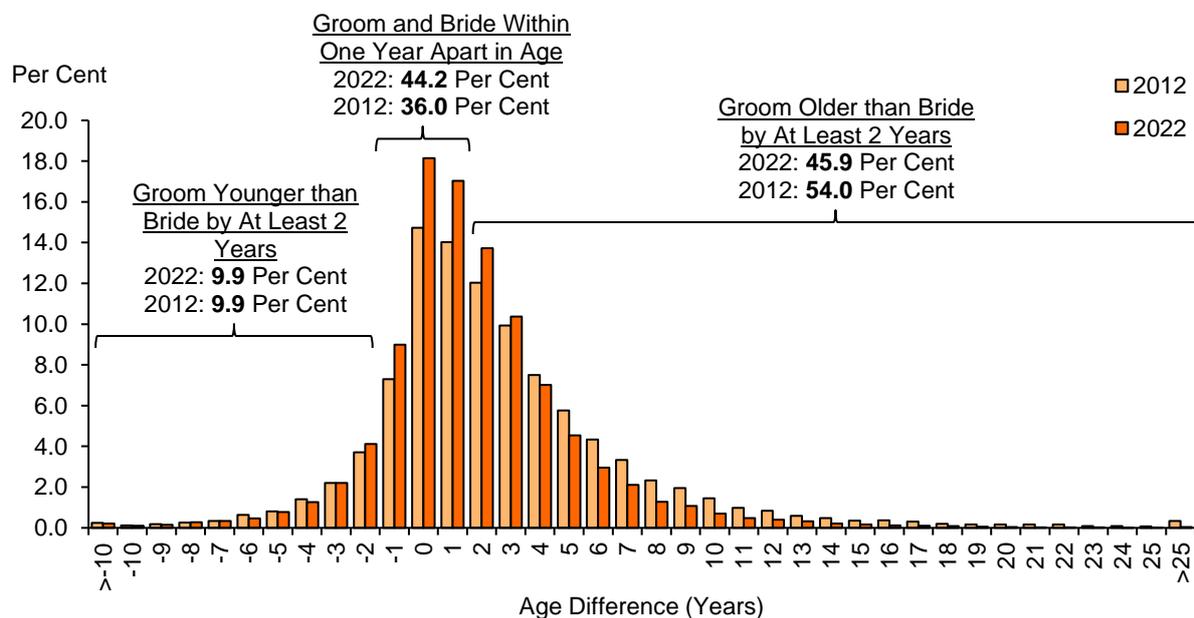
Following declines in 2020 and 2021, the median age at remarriage for both grooms and brides rose to 44.6 years and 39.3 years respectively in 2022. This was higher than the 42.1 years and 36.4 years for grooms and brides respectively in 2012.

Figure 1.6 Median Age at Marriage



Couples who were of the same age or aged one year apart accounted for 44.2 per cent of first marriages in 2022, higher than the 36.0 per cent a decade ago (Figure 1.7). Over the same period, the proportion of grooms who were at least two years older had decreased from 54.0 per cent to 45.9 per cent in 2022. The proportion of brides who were at least 2 years older remained stable at 9.9 per cent in 2022.

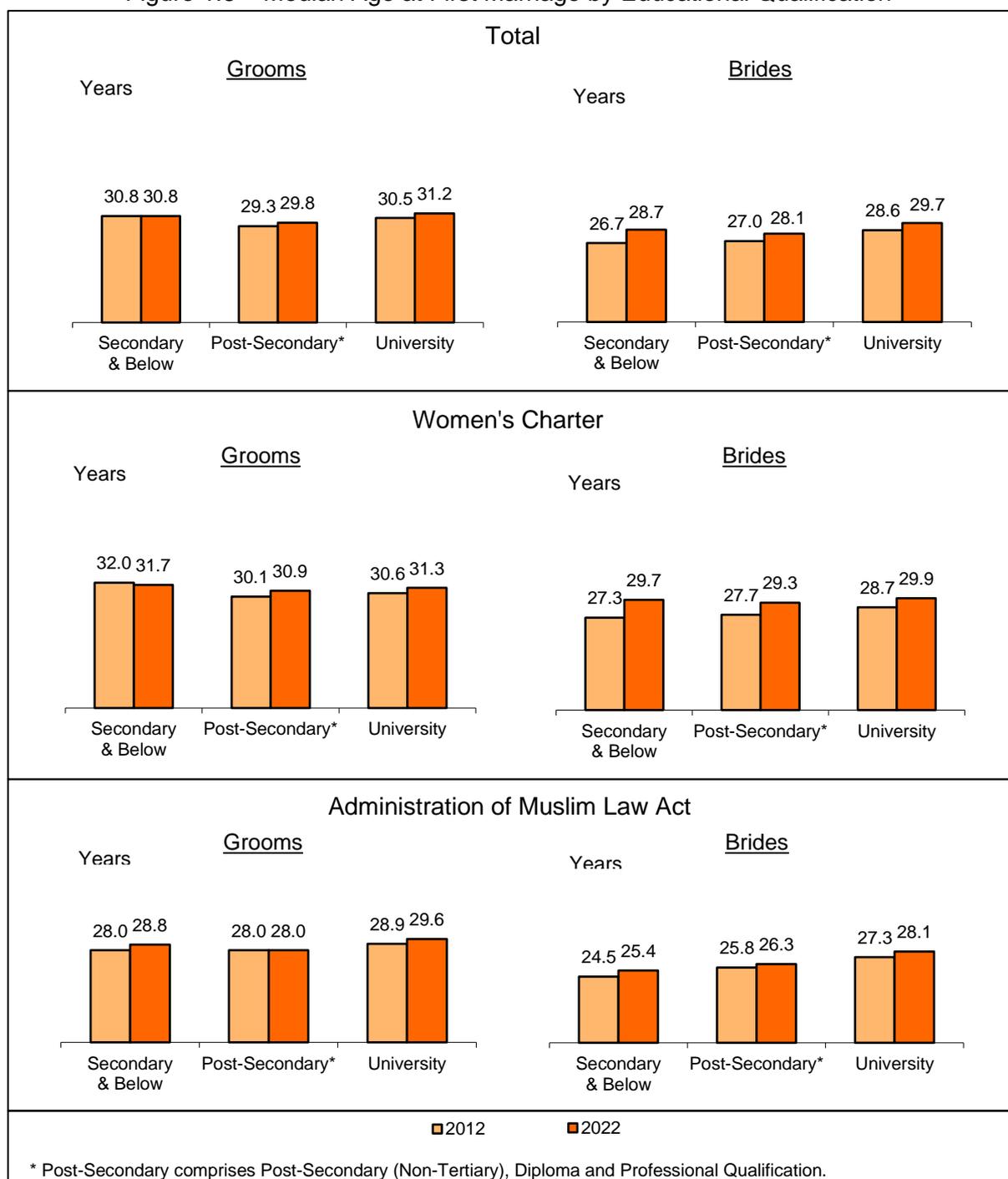
Figure 1.7 Age Differential at First Marriage for Couples



Among total marriages, median age at first marriage rose across all educational groups between 2012 and 2022 except for grooms with secondary and below qualification where it remained unchanged (Figure 1.8). Those with university qualification married the latest in 2022, with median ages of 31.2 years for first-time grooms and 29.7 years for first-time brides.

The median age at first marriage for Muslim grooms and brides were lower than their counterparts under the Women's Charter for all educational qualifications.

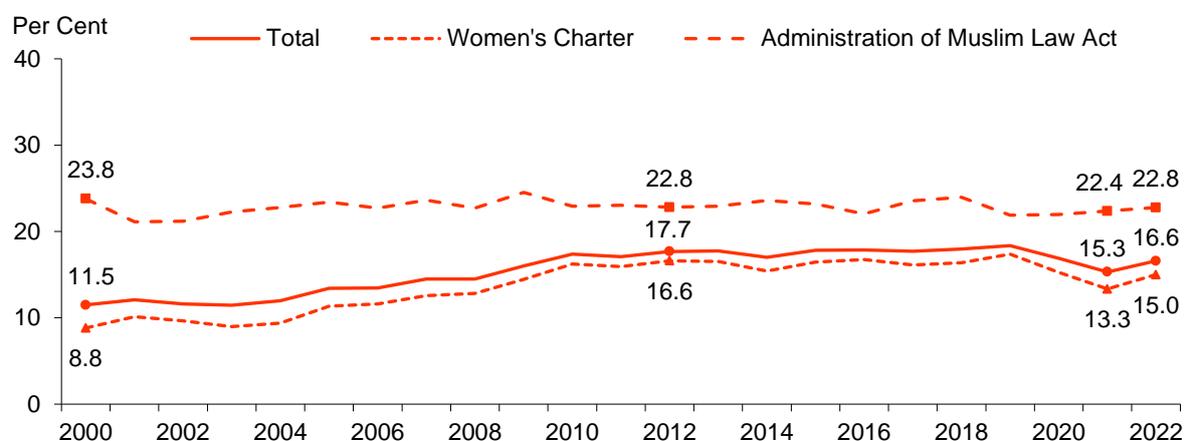
Figure 1.8 Median Age at First Marriage by Educational Qualification



## Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages Remained Stable

The proportion of inter-ethnic marriages in 2022 was 16.6 per cent. This proportion has remained largely stable in the last ten years, hovering between 15 – 18 per cent (Figure 1.9). The proportion of inter-ethnic marriages has also hovered between a narrow band for both civil (between 13 – 17 per cent) and Muslim marriages (between 22 – 24 per cent) in the last decade.

Figure 1.9 Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages



Note: Data on inter-ethnic marriages have been updated in 2023 to include only marriages where both parties are of different CMIO group.

Out of the 3,506 inter-ethnic civil marriages in 2022, marriages between Chinese grooms and brides of “Others” ethnic group accounted for 48.0 per cent, followed by marriages between “Others” grooms and Chinese brides at 23.6 per cent (Figure 1.10). As for the 1,368 inter-ethnic Muslim marriages, those between Indian grooms and Malay brides, as well as those between Malay grooms and Chinese brides accounted for the largest shares at 26.3 per cent and 16.4 per cent respectively in 2022.

Figure 1.10 Top 5 Ethnic Group Combinations among Inter-ethnic Marriages, 2022

| Women's Charter       |                       |          | Administration of Muslim Law Act |                       |          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Ethnic Group of Groom | Ethnic Group of Bride | Per Cent | Ethnic Group of Groom            | Ethnic Group of Bride | Per Cent |
| Chinese               | “Others”              | 48.0     | Indians                          | Malays                | 26.3     |
| “Others”              | Chinese               | 23.6     | Malays                           | Chinese               | 16.4     |
| Indians               | Chinese               | 7.9      | Malays                           | Indian                | 15.7     |
| Indians               | “Others”              | 6.5      | Malays                           | “Others”              | 11.2     |
| Chinese               | Malays                | 3.1      | Chinese                          | Malays                | 11.2     |

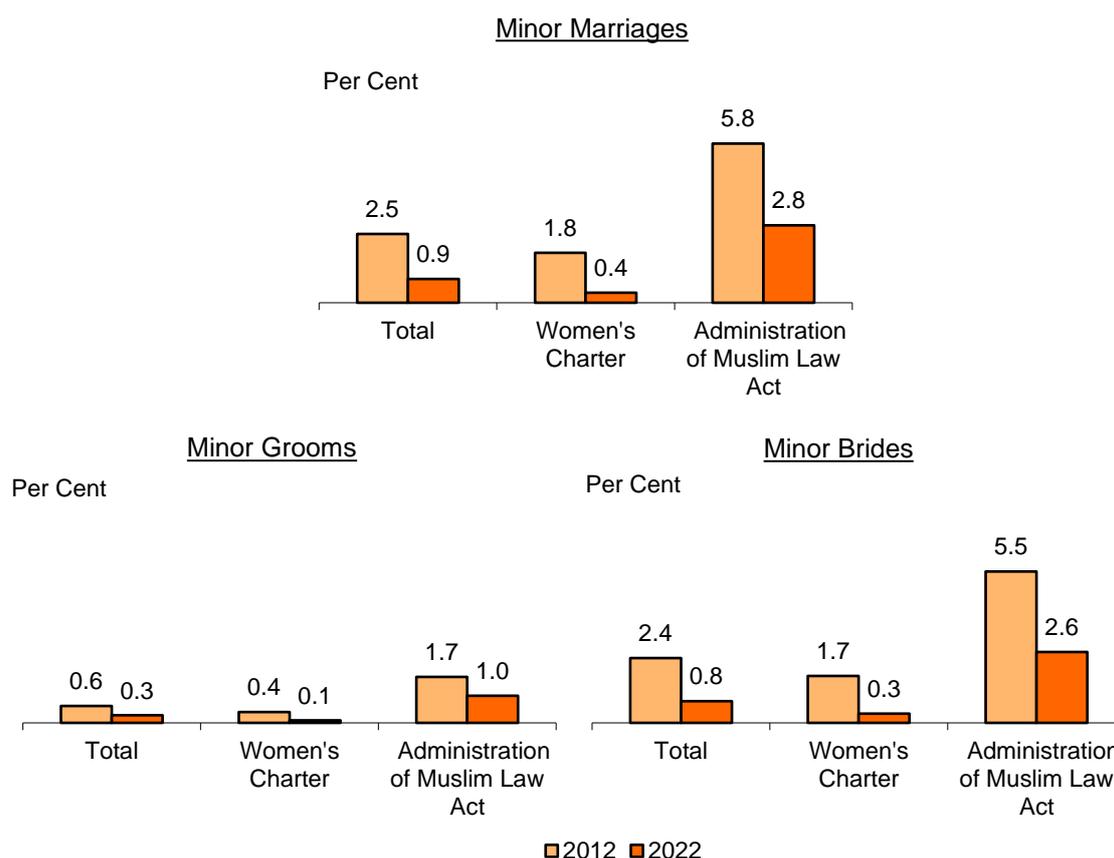
Note: “Others” refers to all ethnic groups besides Chinese, Malays and Indians.

## Proportion of Minor Marriages Remained Low

The proportion of minor marriages (i.e. marriages involving at least one minor aged below 21 years) remained low in 2022. It fell from 2.5 per cent to 0.9 per cent over the last decade (Figure 1.11). While the decline was observed among both civil and Muslim marriages, the proportion of minor marriages continued to be higher among Muslim marriages than civil marriages.

In 2022, 1.0 per cent of Muslim grooms and 2.6 per cent of Muslim brides were minors, compared to 0.1 per cent of grooms and 0.3 per cent of brides under the Women's Charter.

Figure 1.11 Marriages of Minors Aged Below 21 Years





**Part 2**  
**Divorce and Annulment**  
**Trends**



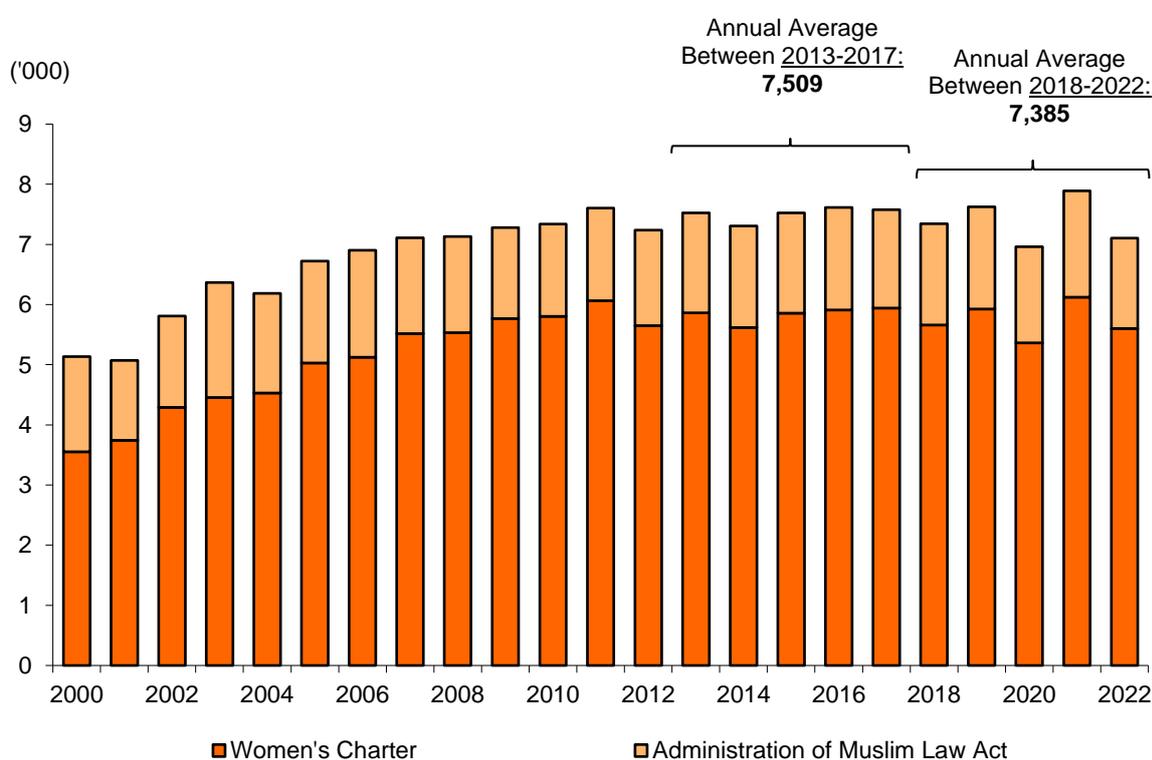
## PART 2 DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT TRENDS

### Number of Marital Dissolutions in 2022 Declined

A total of 7,107 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment in 2022, a decrease of 9.9 per cent from the 7,890 marital dissolutions in the previous year<sup>3</sup> (Figure 2.1). Between 2018 and 2022, the annual average number of marital dissolutions was 7,385, lower than the annual average of 7,509 in the preceding five-year period.

The number of civil marital dissolutions fell from 6,123 in 2021 to 5,602 in 2022. The number of Muslim divorces fell from 1,767 to 1,505 over the same period, partly due to the closure of court services from 18 November to 4 December 2022 at the Syariah Court, as they prepared for the implementation of new Divorce E-Services.

Figure 2.1 Marital Dissolutions

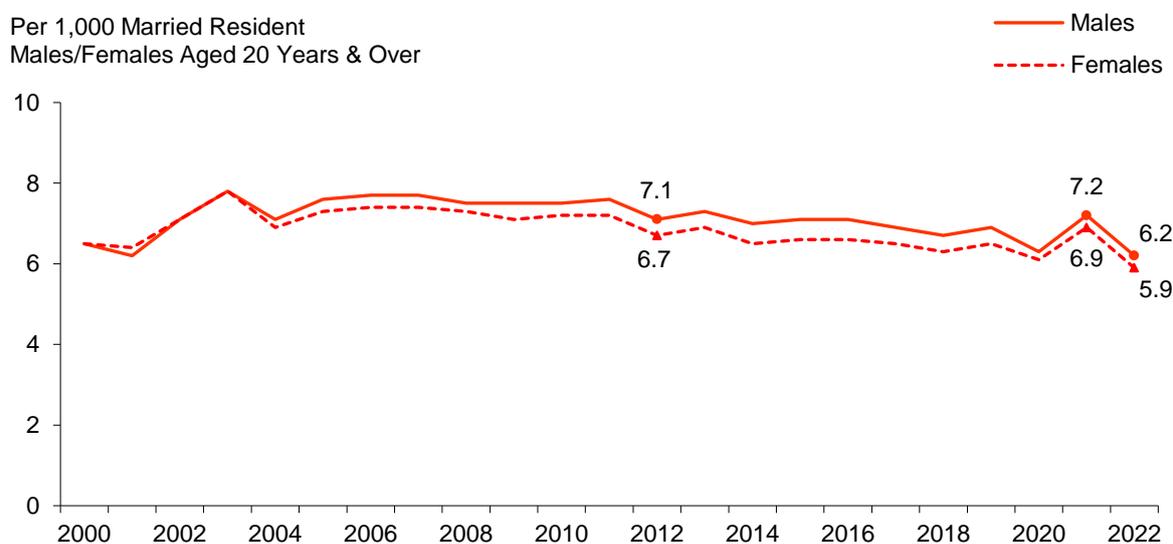


<sup>3</sup> The higher number of marital dissolutions in 2021 relative to other years arose due to more divorce applications filed as well as the resumption of divorce proceedings that were previously adjourned, following the easing of COVID-19 safe management measures.

## Lower General Divorce Rates for Males and Females

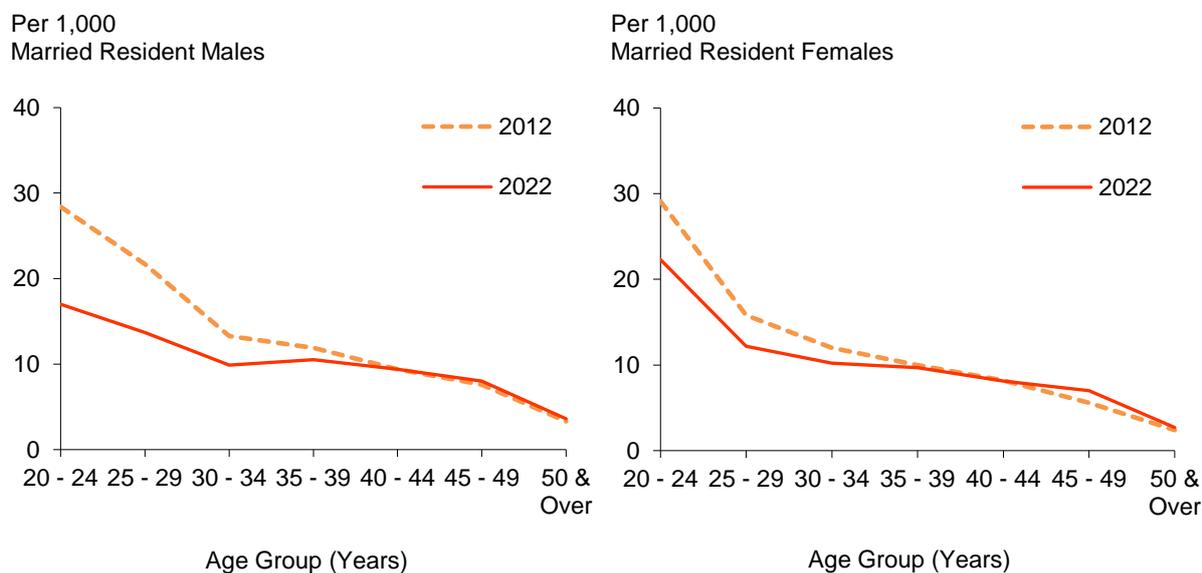
In tandem with the decline in number of marital dissolutions, the general divorce rates fell for both males and females in 2022. There were 6.2 marital dissolutions for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over, a decline from 7.1 in 2012 (Figure 2.2). Likewise, there were 5.9 marital dissolutions for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over, down from 6.7 a decade ago.

Figure 2.2 General Divorce Rate



Although marital dissolutions continued to be more prevalent among the younger age groups, the differences across age groups have noticeably narrowed over the past decade as divorce rates fell for married persons aged below 40 years and rose for those aged 45 years and over (Figure 2.3).

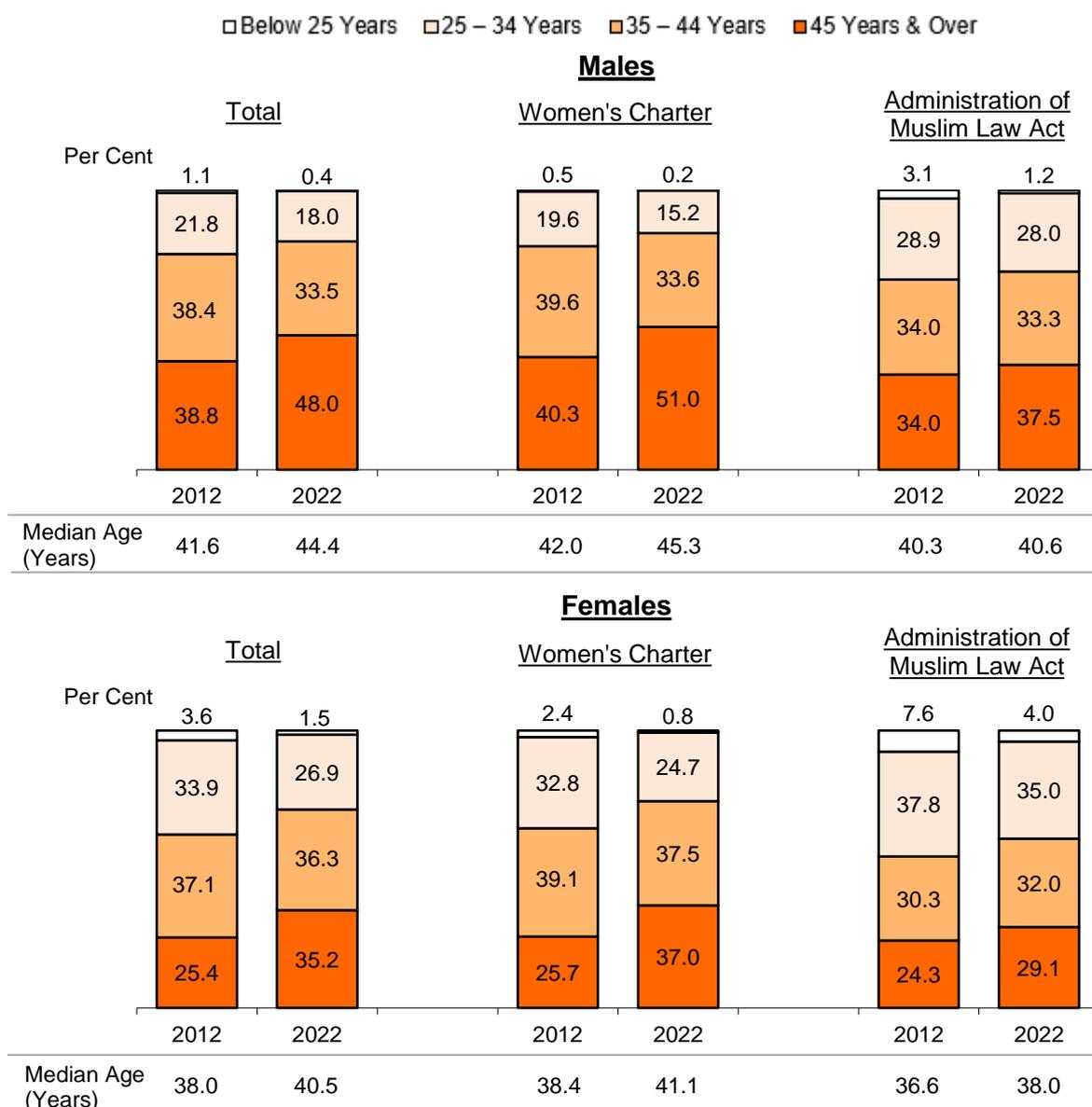
Figure 2.3 Age-Sex-Specific Divorce Rates



## Median Age at Divorce Rose Over the Last Ten Years

The median age at divorce rose over the last ten years, from 41.6 years in 2012 to 44.4 years in 2022 for male divorcees, and from 38.0 years to 40.5 years for female divorcees (Figure 2.4). This was due to an increase in the proportion of divorcees aged 45 years and over and a decrease in the proportion of divorcees aged below 35 years.

Figure 2.4 Divorces by Age Group and Sex

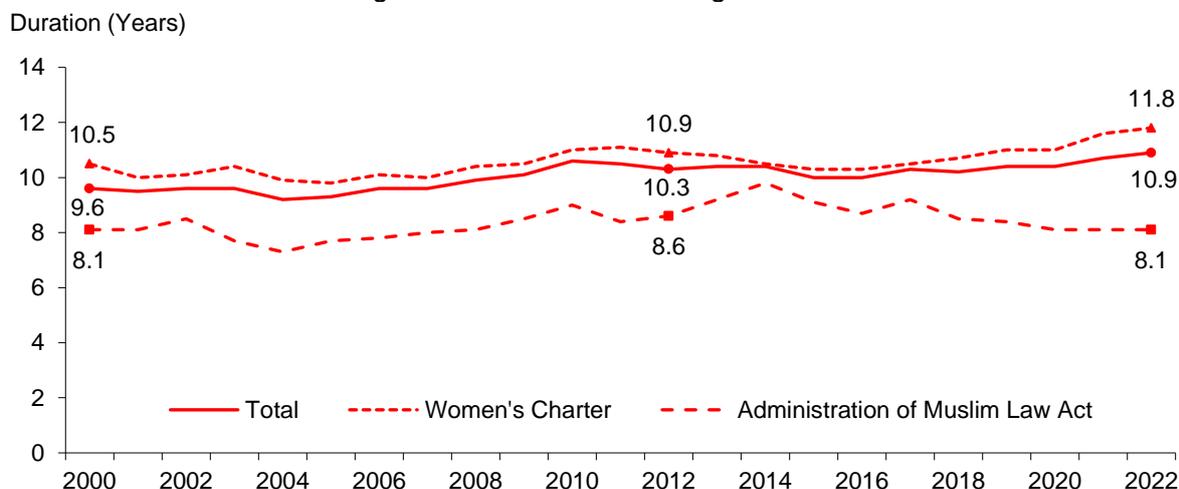


Notes: 1) Data exclude annulments.  
2) Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

## Longer Median Duration of Marriage in 2022

Among total divorces in 2022, the median duration of marriage was 10.9 years, longer than 10.3 years in 2012 (Figure 2.5). Marriage duration is generally longer for civil divorces as compared to Muslim divorces, and that gap has been growing since 2018. The median marriage duration was 11.8 years for civil divorces and 8.1 years for Muslim divorces in 2022.

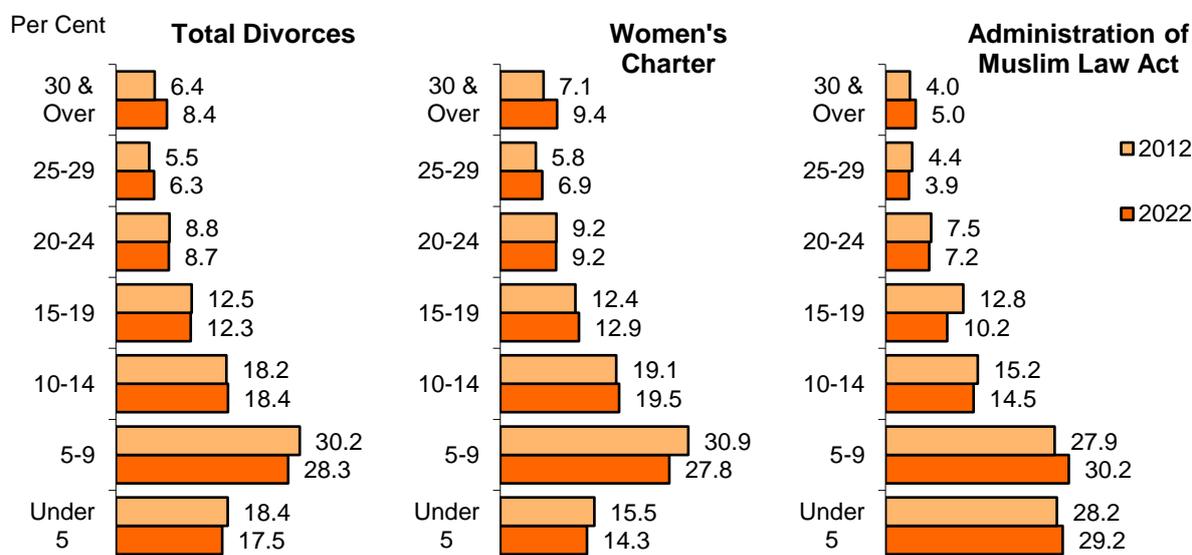
Figure 2.5 Median Marriage Duration



Note: Data exclude annulments.

Couples who were married for 5 to 9 years accounted for the largest share of both civil and Muslim divorces in 2022 at 27.8 per cent and 30.2 per cent respectively (Figure 2.6). This was followed by those with marriage duration of 10 – 14 years for civil divorces (19.5 per cent) and less than 5 years for Muslim divorces (29.2 per cent).

Figure 2.6 Divorces by Duration of Marriage



Notes: 1) Data exclude annulments.  
2) Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

## Top Main Reasons for Divorce Unchanged from a Decade Ago

Similar to a decade ago, majority of civil divorces in 2022 were filed by wives although the proportion had declined slightly to 63.1 per cent, from 64.4 per cent in 2012 (Figure 2.7).

The top main reasons for divorce cited by female and male plaintiffs also remained unchanged compared with 2012. For females, it was the “Unreasonable behaviour” of spouse (58.1 per cent in 2022), while for males, it was having “Lived apart or separated for three years or more” (52.9 per cent).

Figure 2.7 Top Two Main Reasons for Divorces under the Women’s Charter by Plaintiff

| Main Reason for Divorce                      | Total |       | Husband |       | Wife  |       |
|--|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2012  | 2022  | 2012    | 2022  | 2012  | 2022  |
| Total (Number)                               | 5,306 | 5,417 | 1,891   | 2,001 | 3,415 | 3,416 |
| Proportion of Civil Divorces (%)             |       |       |         |       |       |       |
| Unreasonable Behavior                        | 49.9  | 53.0  | 38.2    | 44.4  | 56.3  | 58.1  |
| Live Apart/Separated for Three Years or More | 46.5  | 45.2  | 56.5    | 52.9  | 41.0  | 40.6  |

Note: Data exclude annulments.

Likewise for Muslim divorces in 2022, majority were filed by wives at 71.8 per cent. This was higher than the 69.8 per cent in 2012 (Figure 2.8).

“Infidelity or extra-marital affair” was the top main cause of divorce cited by both male (18.6 per cent) and female plaintiffs (19.3 per cent) in 2022. This was followed by “Desertion” for husbands (9.9 per cent) and “Financial Problems” for wives (13.8 per cent).

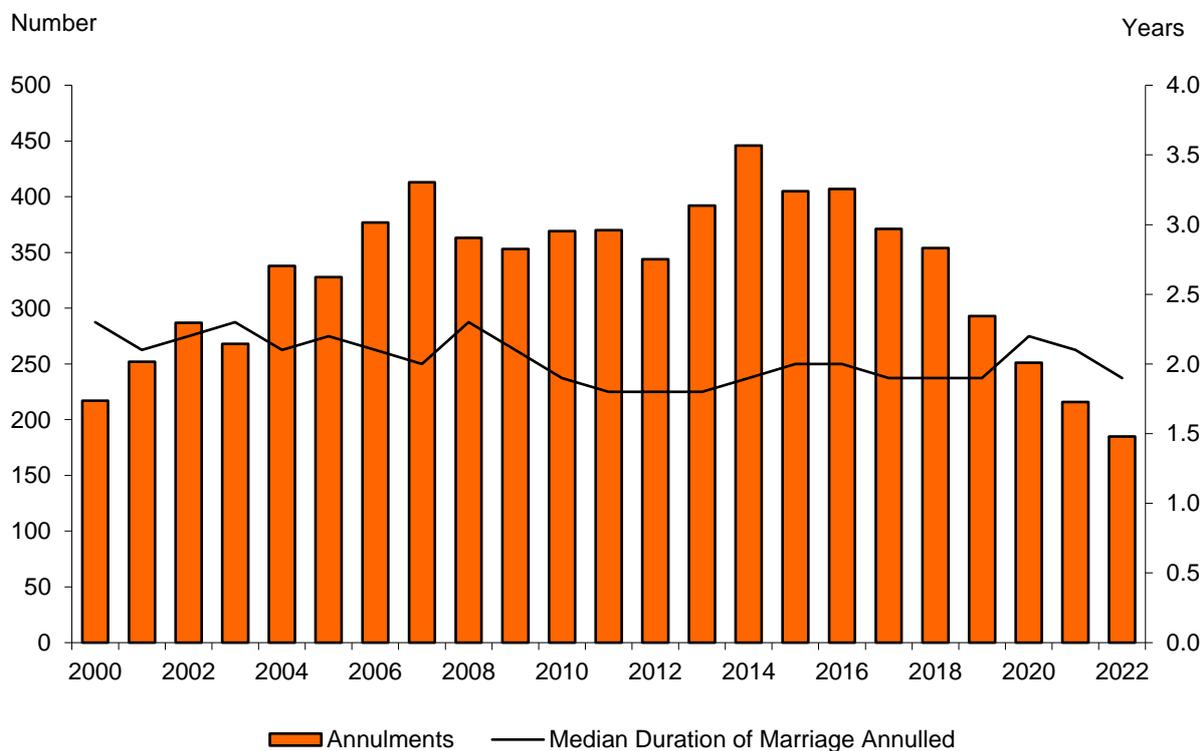
Figure 2.8 Top Four Main Reasons for Divorces under the Administration of Muslim Law Act by Plaintiff

| Main Reason for Divorce           | Total |       | Husband |      | Wife  |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|------|-------|-------|
|                                   | 2012  | 2022  | 2012    | 2022 | 2012  | 2022  |
| Total (Number)                    | 1,587 | 1,505 | 480     | 424  | 1,107 | 1,081 |
| Proportion of Muslim Divorces (%) |       |       |         |      |       |       |
| Infidelity/Extra-Marital Affair   | 24.8  | 19.1  | 27.3    | 18.6 | 23.8  | 19.3  |
| Financial Problems                | 19.5  | 11.7  | 14.6    | 6.4  | 21.7  | 13.8  |
| Domestic Violence and Abuses      | 12.1  | 11.1  | 6.0     | 5.2  | 14.7  | 13.4  |
| Desertion                         | 11.6  | 8.4   | 12.7    | 9.9  | 11.1  | 7.8   |

## Annulment of Marriages Continued to Decline

The number of annulments under the Women's Charter has been on a downward trend since 2016, with 185 couples annulling their marriages in 2022 (Figure 2.9). The median duration of marriages that ended in annulment in 2022 was 1.9 years, down from 2.1 years the year before.

Figure 2.9 Annulments and Median Duration of Marriage Annulled



**Part 3**  
**Dissolution of Marriages**  
**Among Marriage Cohorts**



## PART 3 DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGES AMONG MARRIAGE COHORTS

Parts 1 and 2 of this report presented period data that describe marriages and dissolutions that occurred between January and December each year. On the other hand, Part 3 of this report presents cohort data that reflect dissolutions that occur to each specific marriage cohort at various reference periods. An illustration is shown in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1 Differences between Period and Cohort Data for Dissolution of Marriages

| Period Data   | Cohort Data   |
|---|---|
| Divorces or annulments registered in 2021, regardless when the couples were married | Divorces or annulments which occurred by end-2021 among couples who had registered their marriage in 2011 |

By tapping on the rich administrative data sources in Singapore's vital statistics system, couples in each resident marriage cohort<sup>4</sup> are tracked longitudinally to derive their marriage cohort dissolution rates, i.e. the cumulative proportion of marriages that had dissolved locally for each marriage cohort.

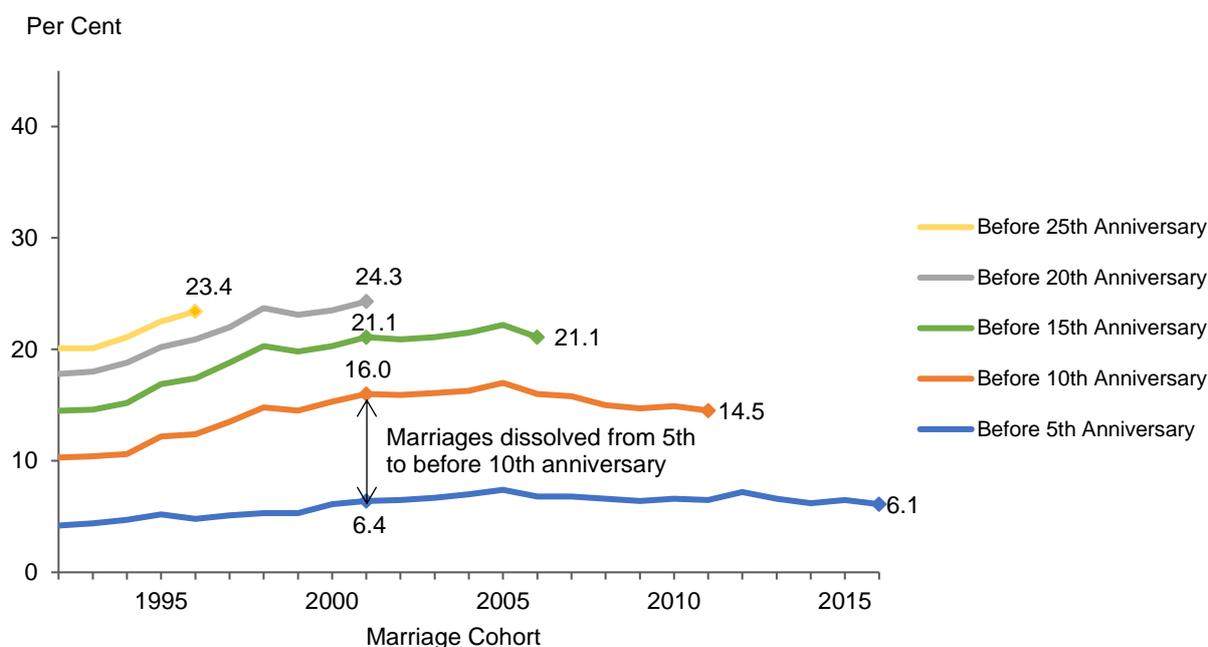
The cohort analysis provides insights on the trends in stability of marriages by marriage cohorts and their profiles. It complements the marriage and divorce period indicators in Parts 1 and 2 of this report, giving a more comprehensive picture on the proportion of marriages ending in divorce or annulment.

<sup>4</sup> Resident marriage cohorts refer to marriages contracted in a particular year between persons where either or both are Singapore citizens or permanent residents. Data on marriage cohort dissolution rates in this report are based on local marriage and dissolution records up till 2021.

## Highest Proportion of Dissolved Marriages From 5<sup>th</sup> To Before 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The proportion of marriages that dissolved was highest from the 5<sup>th</sup> to before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As marriages progressed to the next marriage duration milestone, the increases in dissolution rates at each subsequent 5-yearly interval were smaller (Figure 3.2). For example, 6.4 per cent of the 2001 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Another 9.6 per cent of this marriage cohort ended their marriage before their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, bringing the total proportion dissolved by then to 16.0 per cent. Subsequent increases were smaller, bringing the total proportion dissolved among the 2001 marriage cohort to 21.1 per cent and 24.3 per cent before the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries respectively.

Figure 3.2 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th Anniversary

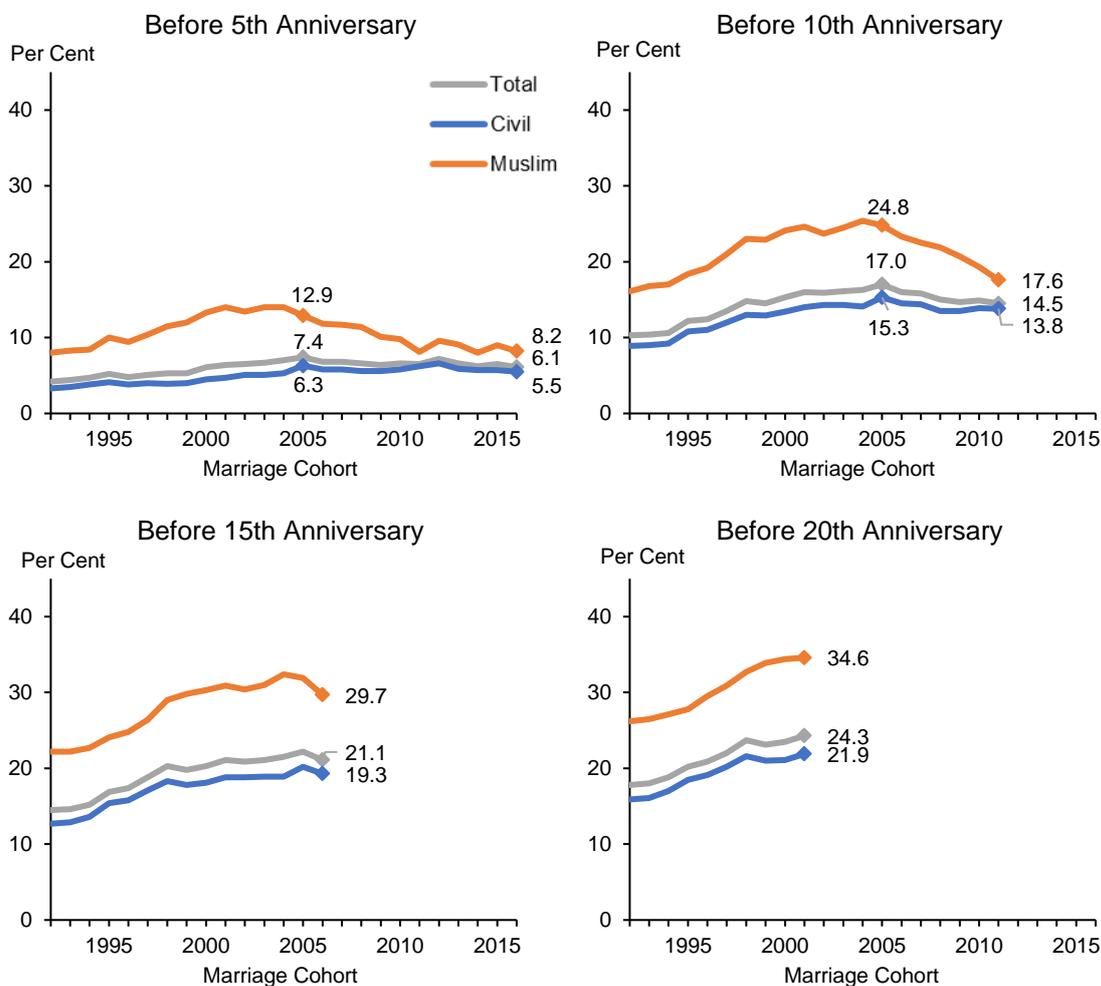


## Falling Dissolution Rates Before 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Among More Recent Marriage Cohorts

Dissolution rates before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary fell among resident marriage cohorts after 2005 (Figure 3.3). The cumulative proportion of marriages that dissolved before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary declined from 17.0 per cent for the 2005 marriage cohort to 14.5 per cent for the 2011 marriage cohort. Similarly, the proportion who dissolved their marriages before the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary declined from 7.4 per cent to 6.1 per cent for the 2005 and 2016 marriage cohorts respectively. Among the older marriage cohorts prior to 2005, dissolution rates were generally on an upward trend.

While dissolution rates for Muslim marriages remained higher than that of civil marriages across all cohorts, the proportion of dissolved Muslim marriages before the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversaries for cohorts from 2005 onwards saw larger declines compared to civil marriages, narrowing the gap between both groups for the recent marriage cohorts.

Figure 3.3 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages by Marriage Type



## Higher Dissolution Rates Among Those Who Married at 20 – 24 Years Old

Across marriage cohorts, those involving males who married at ages 20 – 24 years saw notably higher proportion of dissolved marriages than those who married at older ages (Figure 3.4). A similar trend was observed for females (Figure 3.5). Dissolution rates among males and females who married later were closer across the different age groups.

Figure 3.4 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Males by Age Group at Marriage

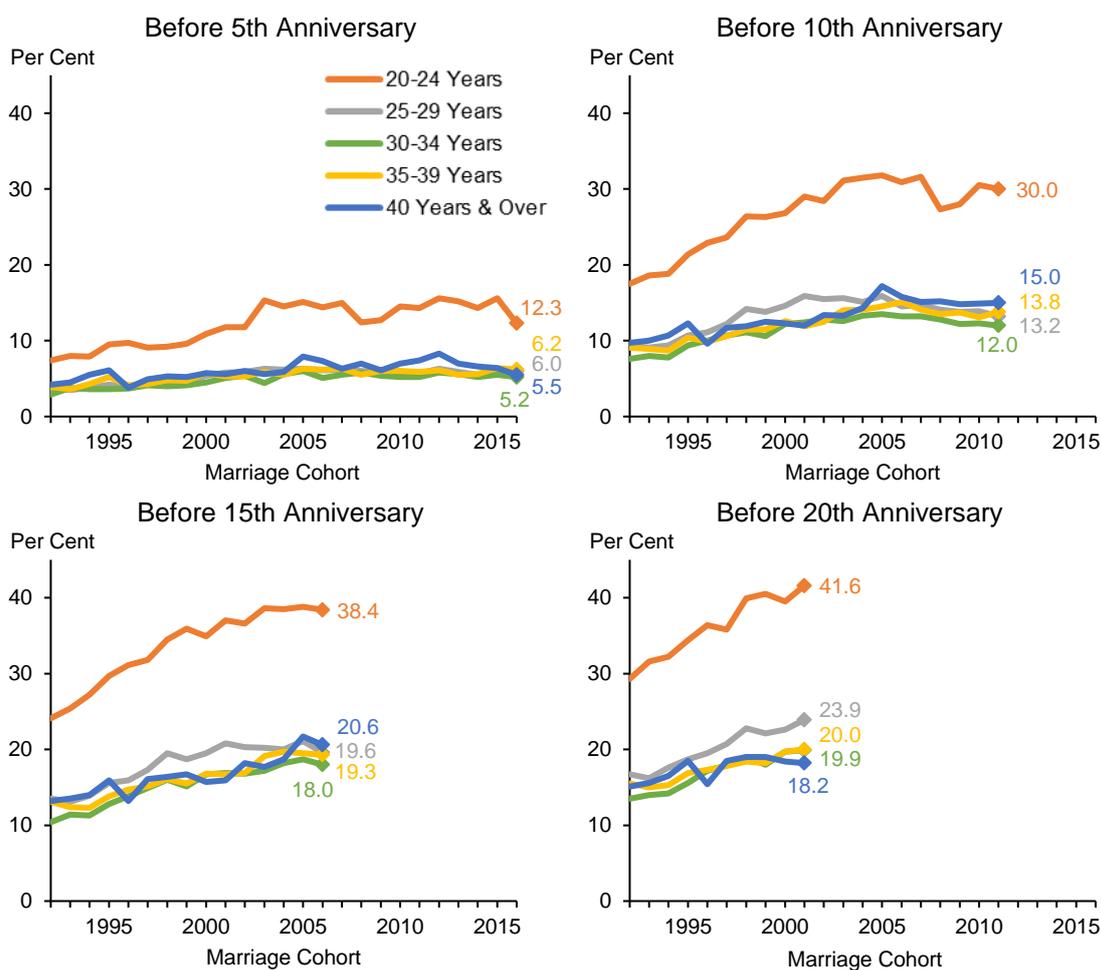
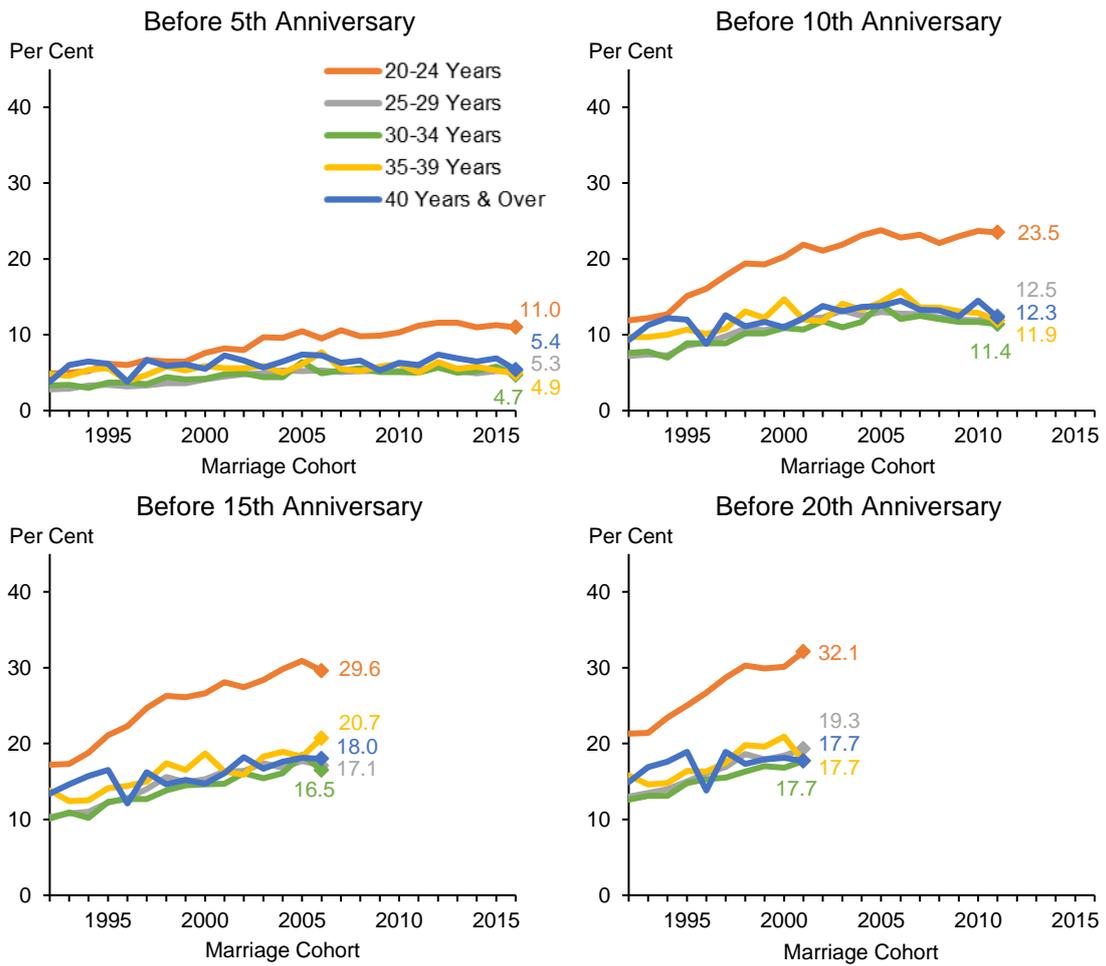


Figure 3.5 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Females by Age Group at Marriage



## Highest Dissolution Rates Among Those with Secondary and Below Qualification

Across marriage cohorts, dissolution rates were the highest among males and females with secondary and below qualification at point of marriage (Figures 3.6 and 3.7). Conversely, the proportion of dissolved resident marriages was the lowest among those with university qualification.

Figure 3.6 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Males by Educational Qualification at Marriage

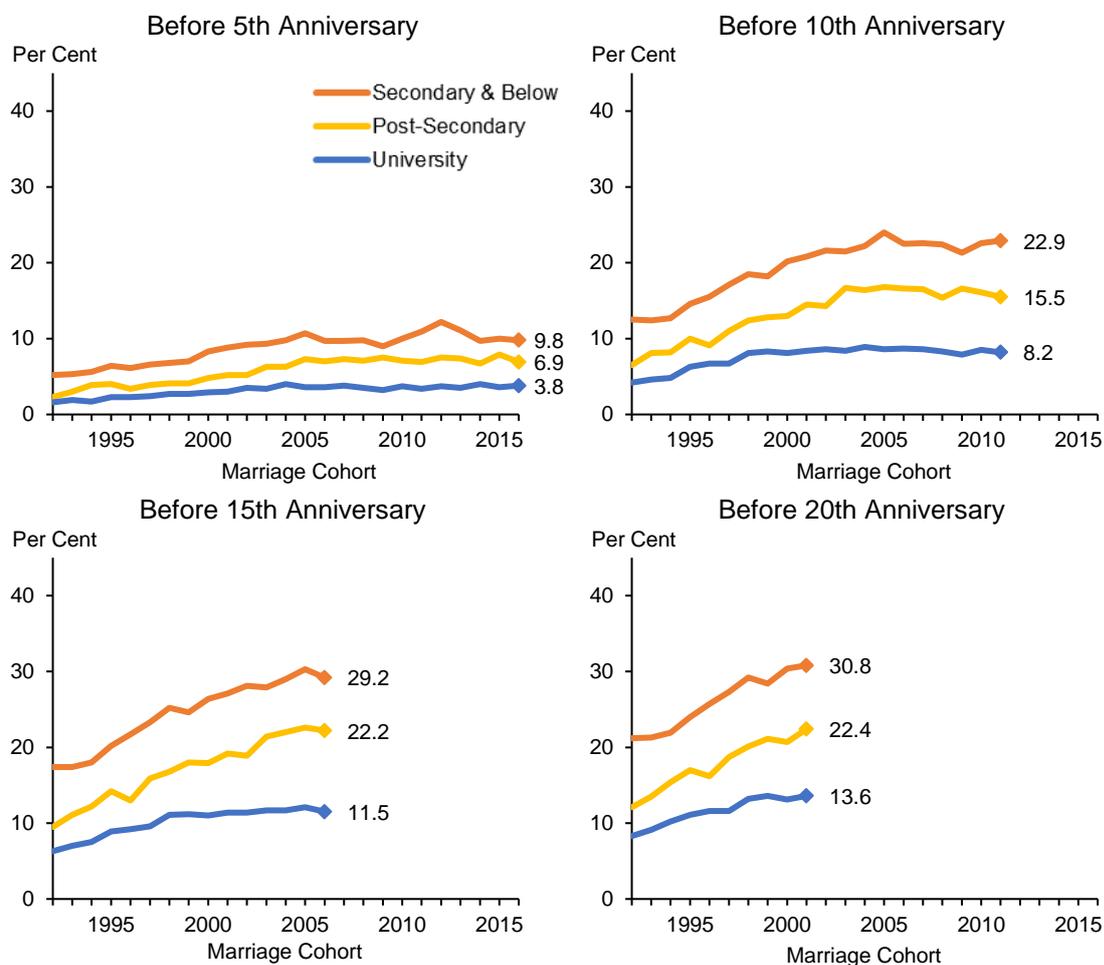
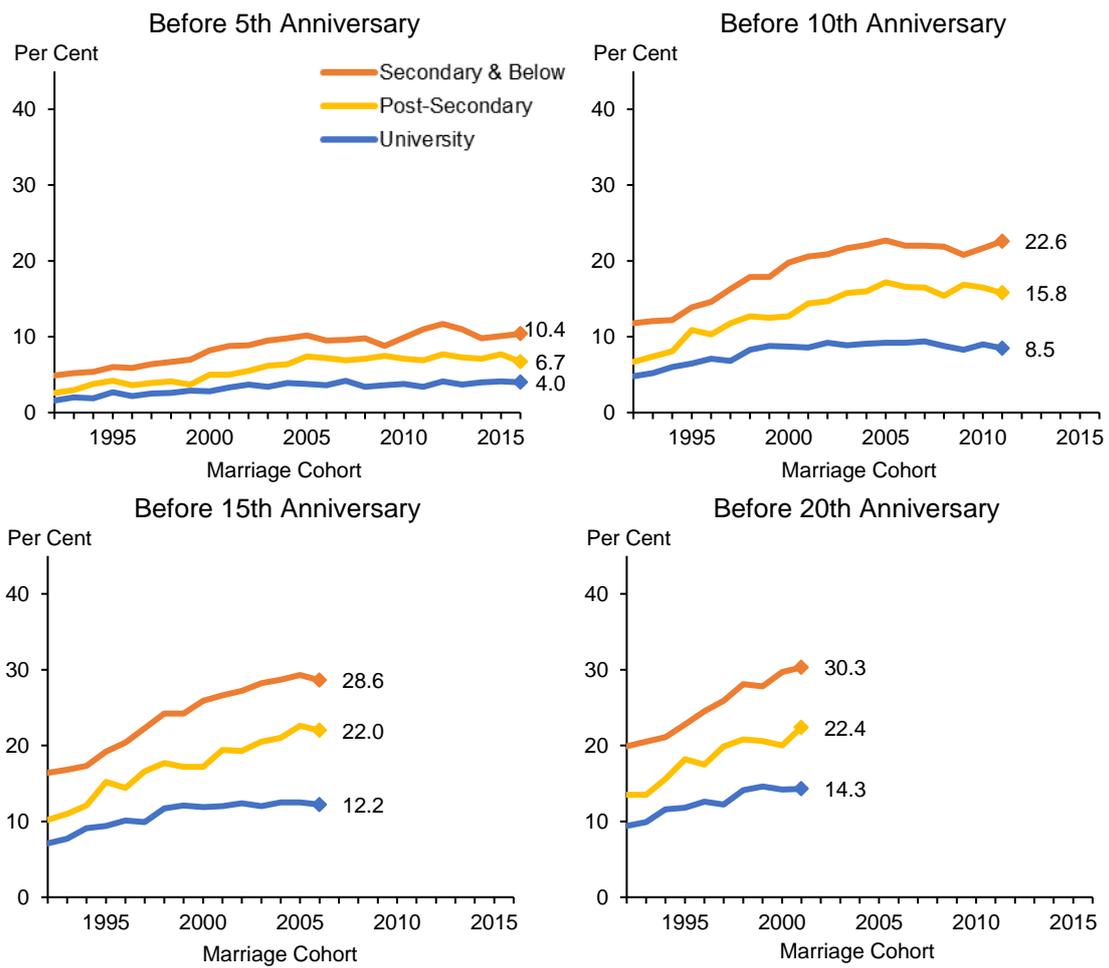


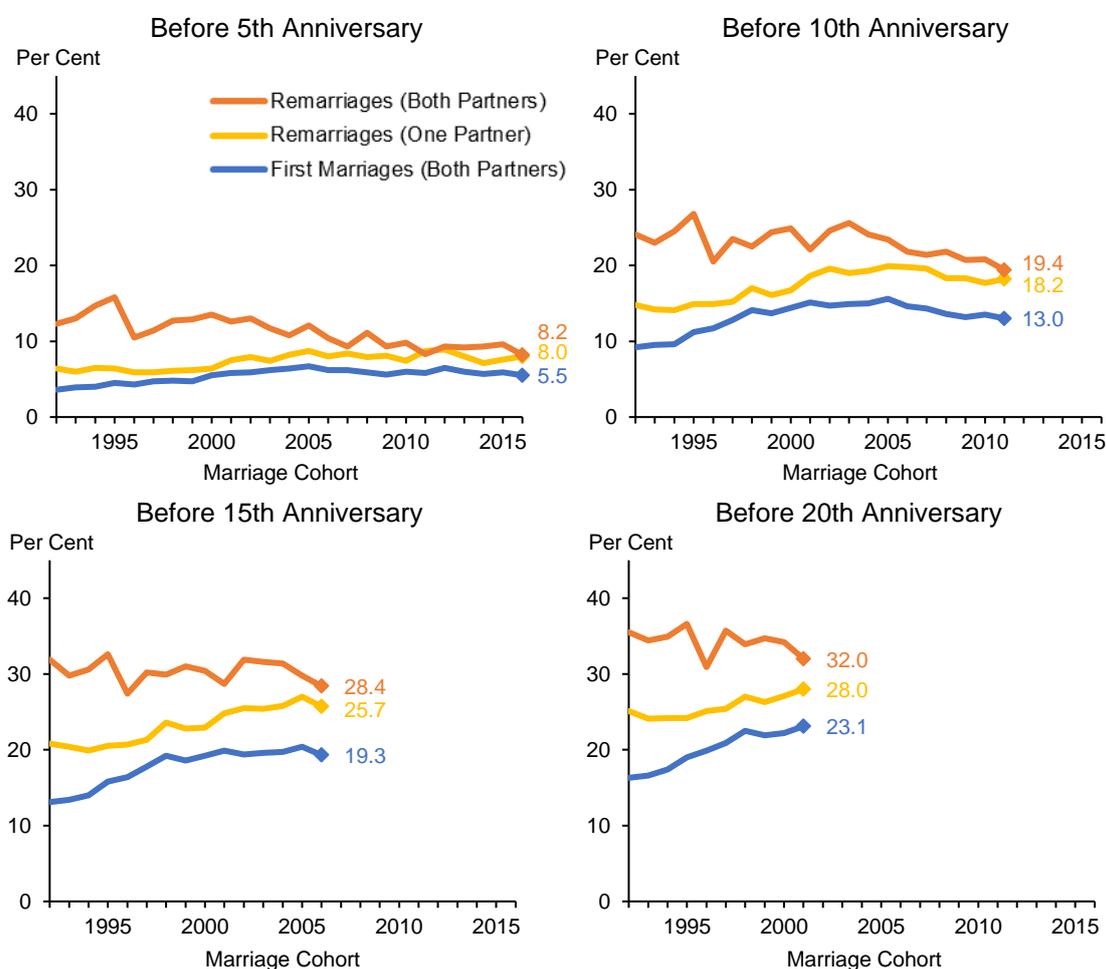
Figure 3.7 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Females by Educational Qualification at Marriage



## Higher Dissolution Rates Among Remarriages

Couples who had both been married previously had the highest proportion of dissolved marriages, followed by couples where one partner had previously been married (Figure 3.8). Those who were marrying for the first time had the lowest dissolution rates. Nevertheless, the difference in dissolution rates between first marriages and remarriages for both partners had narrowed gradually, particularly from the 2003 marriage cohort.

Figure 3.8 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages by Marriage Order of Couple



## SOURCE AND DATA COVERAGE

### ***Statistics on Marriages***

Statistics on marriages registered under the Women's Charter are obtained from records maintained by the Registry of Marriages. They include all civil marriages solemnized by the Registrar of Marriages, pastors of churches, priests of Hindu temples and other registered solemnizers. For Muslim marriages, statistics are obtained from records of marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act maintained by the Registry of Muslim Marriages.

### ***Statistics on Divorces and Annulments***

Statistics on divorces and annulments under the Women's Charter are obtained from records maintained by the Family Justice Courts.

For divorces under the Administration of Muslim Law Act, statistics are obtained from the register of divorces kept by the Syariah Court. The records on revocation of divorces are obtained from the Registry of Muslim Marriages.

In Part 2 of this report, with the exception of number of children under 18 and 21 years of divorcees which is based on the date of divorce filing (i.e. start of divorce proceedings), all other time-related variables such as duration of marriage and age of divorcees are based on the date when Interim Judgement was made final for civil divorces, and date of registration for Muslim divorces (i.e. end of divorce proceedings). Separations, whether by mutual agreements or otherwise and which do not confer on the parties the right to re-marry, are not covered.

## SOURCE AND DATA COVERAGE *(cont'd)*

### ***Dissolution of Marriages Among Marriage Cohorts***

Statistics on dissolution of marriages among marriage cohorts are compiled through statistical matching of marriage, divorce and annulment records.

The analysis on the cumulative proportion of dissolved marriages among marriage cohorts is confined to resident marriages, which refer to marriages contracted between persons where either or both are Singapore citizens or permanent residents. Marriages contracted between two non-residents are excluded from the analysis due to difficulty in tracking the marital outcome of these marriages over time. For example, the identification documents used by non-residents to register their marriages may not be unique. Non-resident couples may also leave Singapore to return to their home country, making it difficult to track their marriage outcomes.

Residents who contracted their marriages overseas would not be covered in the statistics due to the unavailability of data. Similarly, divorces or annulment of marriages that were granted outside of Singapore are excluded in the compilation. If a couple registers their marriage in Singapore but eventually divorces or annuls their marriage in another country, the couple's marriage will be considered intact in the cohort statistics.

As the purpose of the cohort analysis is to track the marital outcome of marriage cohorts over time, the size of each marriage cohort is kept constant throughout the period of analysis. Hence, couples will not be removed from the marriage cohorts even when they face circumstances such as death of spouse or migration.

# GLOSSARY

## **Age-Specific Marriage Rate**

The number of marriages registered within a specific age group during the year, out of every thousand unmarried population in the same age group.

## **Age-Specific Divorce Rate**

The number of divorces and annulments granted within a specific age group during the year, out of every thousand married population in the same age group.

## **Annulments**

Annulments granted under the Women's Charter refer to invalidation of a marriage. Parties whose marriages have been annulled are conferred the status of never having been married to each other.

## **General Marriage Rate**

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.

## **General Divorce Rate**

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.

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