

# Statistics on Marriages and Divorces

Reference Year 2023

**STATISTICS ON MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES, 2023**  
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## PREFACE

Before 1980, data on marriages were analysed 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, 2023***, is the fortieth 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. Part 3 includes cohort indicators on dissolution rate of marriages and provides 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 2024

# 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

<b>Professionalism &amp; Expertise</b>	<i>We adhere to professional ethics and develop statistical competency to produce quality statistics that comply with international concepts and best practices.</i>
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<b>Accessibility</b>	<i>We make our statistics readily available through user-friendly platforms.</i>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<i>We protect the confidentiality of information collected by us.</i>
<b>Timeliness</b>	<i>We disseminate statistics at the earliest possible date while maintaining data quality.</i>
<b>Innovation</b>	<i>We constantly seek ways to improve our processes, leveraging on new technology where feasible, to deliver better products and services to users.</i>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<i>We engage users on data needs, data providers and respondents on supply of data, and undertake the role of national statistical coordination.</i>
<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





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ***Fewer Marriages in 2023 Compared to 2022; Marriage Rates and Median Age at First Marriage Rose in 2023 Compared to 2013***

A total of 28,310 marriages were registered in 2023, a 3.7% decline from the record high of 29,389 marriages registered in 2022. Except for fluctuations in the number of marriages observed between 2020 and 2022 arising from disruptions in marriage plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of marriages between 2014 and 2023 was broadly stable overall.

The general marriage rates for both males and females increased in 2023 compared to a decade ago. There were 44.3 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15 to 49 years in 2023, up from 40.5 in 2013. Similarly, there were 43.1 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15 to 49 years in 2023, up from 36.9 in 2013.

The median age at first marriage for grooms and brides were 31.0 years and 29.5 years respectively in 2023, higher than 30.2 years for grooms and 28.1 years for brides in 2013, depicting the trend towards later marriages.

### ***Slight Increase in Marital Dissolutions in 2023 Compared to 2022; Lower Divorce Rates and Higher Median Age at Divorce in 2023 Compared to 2013***

In 2023, a total of 7,118 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment, a slight increase of 0.2% from the 7,107 marital dissolutions in 2022. Between 2014 and 2020, the number of marital dissolutions was broadly stable. Fluctuations were observed from 2020 arising from disruption in divorce proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary closure of court services at the Syariah Court in late 2022 to prepare for the launch of the new divorce e-services and the subsequent temporary reduction of mediation and hearing services in early 2023 as the Syariah Court started to implement the new divorce e-services.

The general divorce rates fell for both males and females in 2023 compared to 2013. There were 6.0 marital dissolutions for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2023, down from 7.3 in 2013. Similarly, there were 5.5 marital dissolutions for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2023, down from 6.9 in 2013.

The median age at divorce rose over the last ten years, from 42.4 years in 2013 to 44.5 years in 2023 for male divorcees, and from 38.2 years to 40.8 years for female divorcees.

The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2023 was 11.1 years, longer than the 10.4 years in 2013. Couples who stayed married for 5 to 9 years before divorcing accounted for the largest share, at 28.7% of divorces in 2023.

### ***Lower Dissolution Rates Before the 10<sup>th</sup> Marriage Anniversary Among the 2006-2012 Resident Marriage Cohorts than the 2005 Marriage Cohort***

Compared with the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2012 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10<sup>th</sup> marriage anniversary. The cumulative proportion of marriages that dissolved before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary declined from 17.0% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 15.3% for the 2012 marriage cohort.

The proportion of resident marriages that dissolved was the highest when marriages progressed from the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary to before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as compared to other 5-yearly intervals. From the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary onwards, the proportion of marriages that dissolved was smaller with each subsequent 5-yearly milestone.



## KEY INDICATORS ON MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

<b>Total Marriages &amp; Divorces</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Number of Marriages	27,007	25,434	22,651	28,329	29,389	28,310
Number of Divorces & Annulments	7,344	7,623	6,959	7,890	7,107	7,118
General Marriage Rate (Per 1,000 unmarried resident males/females aged 15-49 years)						
Males	43.3	40.7	35.7	45.3	47.0	44.3
Females	40.8	37.9	34.9	44.2	45.5	43.1
General Divorce Rate (Per 1,000 married resident males/females aged 20 years & over)						
Males	6.7	6.9	6.3	7.2	6.2	6.0
Females	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.9	5.9	5.5
Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages* (%)	18.0	18.4	16.9	15.3	16.6	18.1
Proportion of First Marriages (%)	77.1	76.1	78.5	80.5	78.6	77.3
Median Age at First Marriage (Years)						
Grooms	30.2	30.4	30.4	30.5	30.7	31.0
Brides	28.5	28.8	28.8	29.1	29.3	29.5
Median Age at Divorce (Years)						
Male Divorcees	43.2	43.4	43.2	43.9	44.4	44.5
Female Divorcees	38.9	39.3	39.5	40.0	40.5	40.8
Median Duration of Marriage for Divorces (Years)	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.7	10.9	11.1

	<b>Women's Charter</b>			<b>Administration of Muslim Law Act</b>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Marriages</b>						
Number of Marriages	22,101	23,379	22,914	6,228	6,010	5,396
Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages* (%)	13.3	15.0	16.4	22.4	22.8	25.3
Proportion of First Marriages (%)	82.8	81.0	79.4	72.4	69.5	68.6
Median Age at First Marriage (Years)						
Grooms	31.0	31.2	31.4	28.4	28.5	28.7
Brides	29.5	29.8	29.9	26.9	26.8	27.1
<b>Divorces &amp; Annulments</b>						
Number of Divorces	5,907	5,417	5,649	1,767	1,505	1,200
Number of Annulments	216	185	269	na	na	na
Proportion of Inter-ethnic Divorces* (%)	16.5	17.4	19.4	25.2	24.9	24.8
Median Age at Divorce (Years)						
Male Divorcees	44.8	45.3	45.3	40.4	40.6	39.9
Female Divorcees	40.7	41.1	41.3	37.5	38.0	37.8
Median Duration of Marriage for Divorces (Years)	11.6	11.8	11.7	8.1	8.1	8.2

	<b>Marriage Cohort</b>					
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Dissolution of Marriages among Marriage Cohorts<sup>^</sup></b>						
Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	15.8	15.0	14.7	14.9	14.5	15.3
Proportion of Dissolved Resident Civil Marriages Before 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	14.4	13.5	13.5	13.9	13.8	14.5
Proportion of Dissolved Resident Muslim Marriages Before 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	22.5	21.9	20.7	19.3	17.6	19.2

\* Data on inter-ethnic marriages/divorces include marriages/divorces where both parties are of different CMIO group

<sup>^</sup> Data are based on local marriage and dissolution records up till 2022.

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



# **Part 1**

## **Marriage Trends**





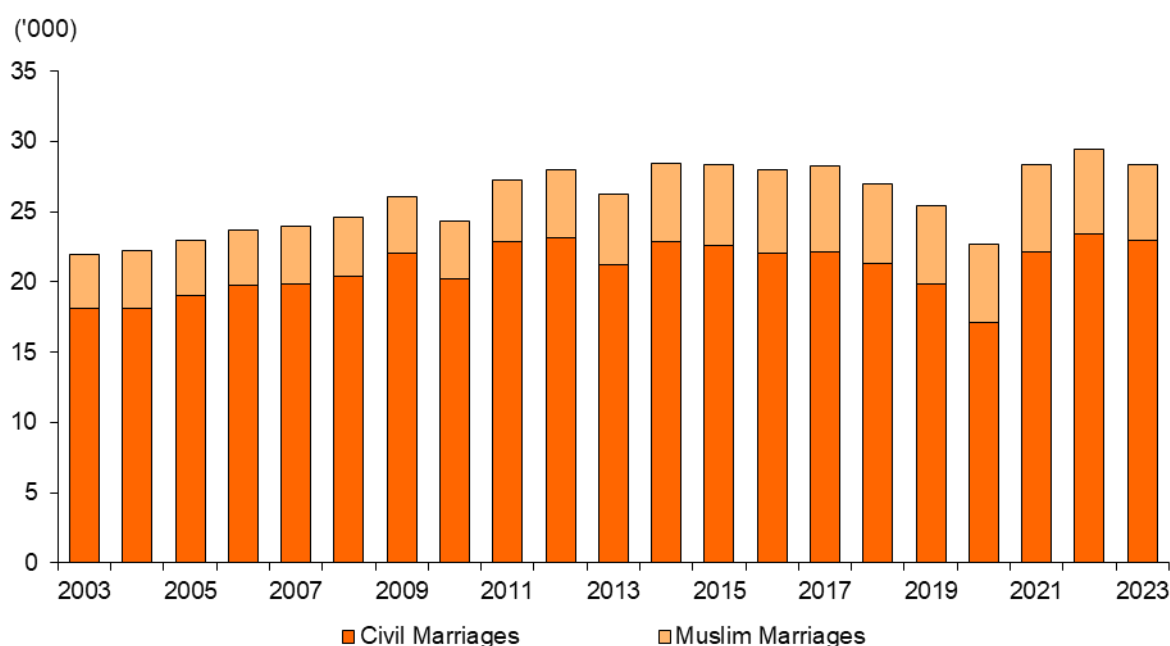
## PART 1 MARRIAGE TRENDS

### Fewer Marriages Registered in 2023

A total of 28,310 civil and Muslim marriages<sup>1</sup> were registered in 2023, a decrease of 3.7 per cent from the record high 29,389<sup>2</sup> marriages registered in 2022 (Figure 1.1). Civil marriages declined from 23,379 in 2022 to 22,914 in 2023, and Muslim marriages fell from 6,010 to 5,396 over the same period. Nevertheless, the number of civil and Muslim marriages in 2023 were similar to the levels before 2020.

Except for fluctuations in the number of marriages observed between 2020 and 2022 arising from disruptions in marriage plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of marriages between 2014 and 2023 was broadly stable overall.

Figure 1.1 Marriages Registered



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total</b>	26,254	28,407	28,322	27,971	28,212	27,007	25,434	22,651	28,329	29,389	28,310
<b>Civil</b>	21,180	22,863	22,544	22,017	22,162	21,308	19,889	17,124	22,101	23,379	22,914
<b>Muslim</b>	5,074	5,544	5,778	5,954	6,050	5,699	5,545	5,527	6,228	6,010	5,396

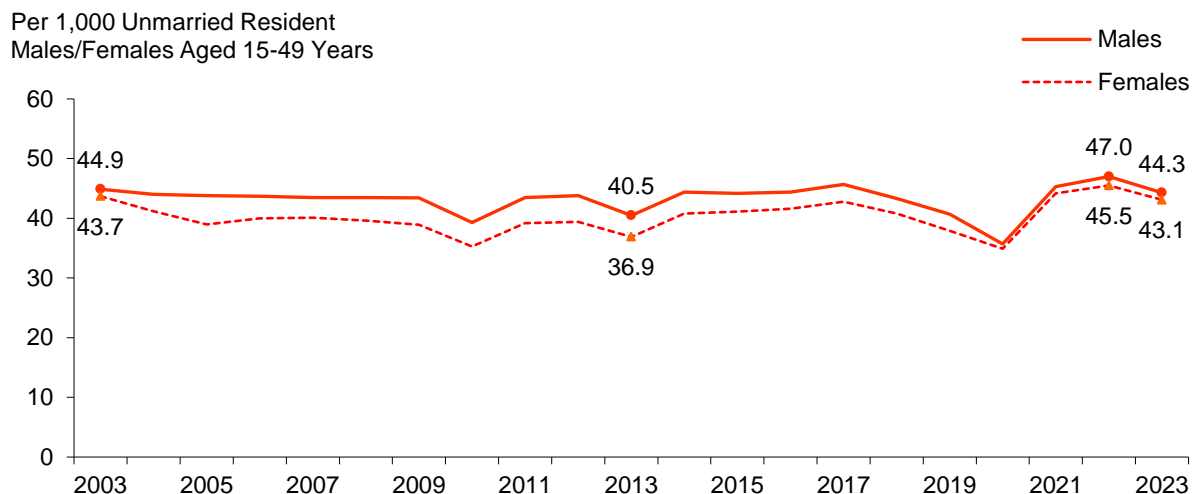
<sup>1</sup> Civil marriages refer to marriages registered under the Women's Charter while Muslim marriages refer to marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act. The analysis on marriages excludes re-registered marriages (i.e. civil marriages which were contracted overseas or under religious & customary rites and were subsequently registered in Singapore in the reference year). In 2023, there were 93 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.

## Rise in General Marriage Rates for Males and Females

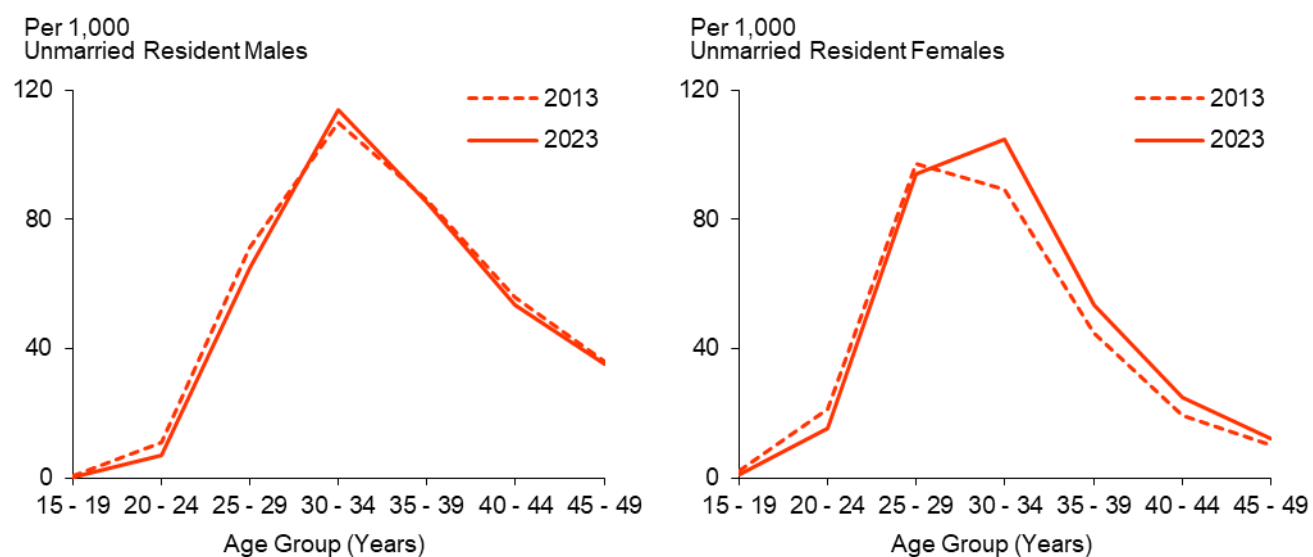
General marriage rates for both males and females in 2023 were higher than a decade ago (Figure 1.2). There were 44.3 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15 – 49 years in 2023, up from 40.5 in 2013. Similarly, there were 43.1 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15 – 49 years, up from 36.9 in 2013.

Figure 1.2 General Marriage Rate



Compared to a decade ago, marriage rates for males in 2023 fell across all age groups except those aged 30 – 34 years (Figure 1.3). For females, marriage rates declined for those aged below 30 years but rose for those aged 30 – 49 years. The peak marriage age group for females shifted from 25 – 29 years to 30 – 34 years over the last decade. This reflects the trend of females marrying at an older age.

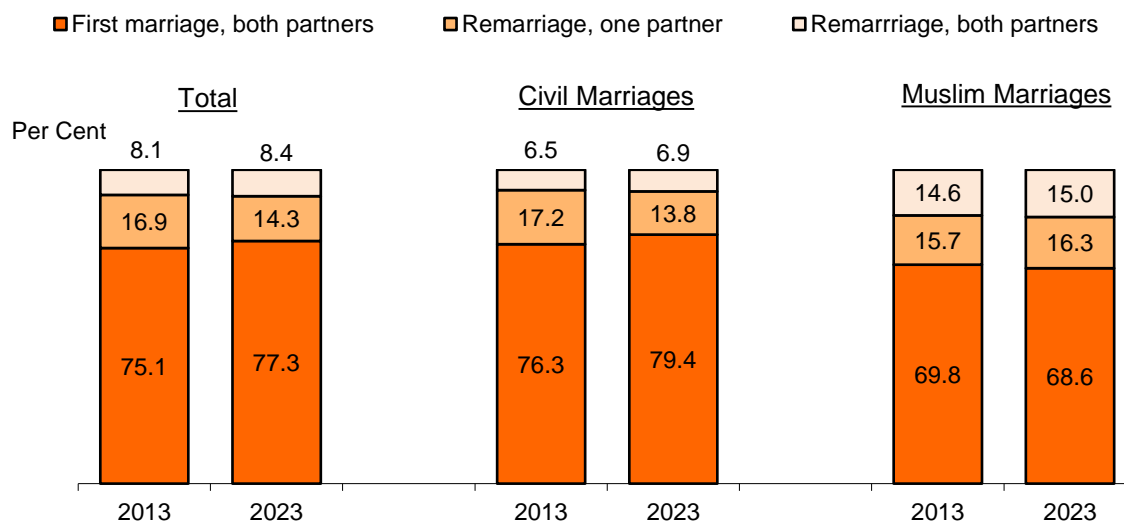
Figure 1.3 Age-Sex-Specific Marriage Rate



## Higher Proportion of First Marriages

In 2023, the proportion of all marriages that involved first-time grooms and first-time brides was 77.3 per cent, an increase from 75.1 per cent a decade ago (Figure 1.4). Compared to 2013, the proportion of first marriages in 2023 was higher among civil marriages and lower among Muslim marriages.

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 common among grooms than brides. 16.4 per cent of grooms and 14.7 per cent of brides re-married in 2023, 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		Civil Marriages		Muslim Marriages	
	2013	2023	2013	2023	2013	2023
<b>Grooms</b>						
Single	82.2	83.6	83.1	84.9	78.2	78.0
Divorced	16.7	15.3	16.0	14.2	20.0	20.0
Widowed	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.7	2.0
Married	0.0	0.0	na	na	0.2	0.1
<b>Brides</b>						
Single	84.8	85.3	86.7	87.5	77.0	75.6
Divorced	14.4	13.8	12.7	11.8	21.2	22.3
Widowed	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.7	2.1

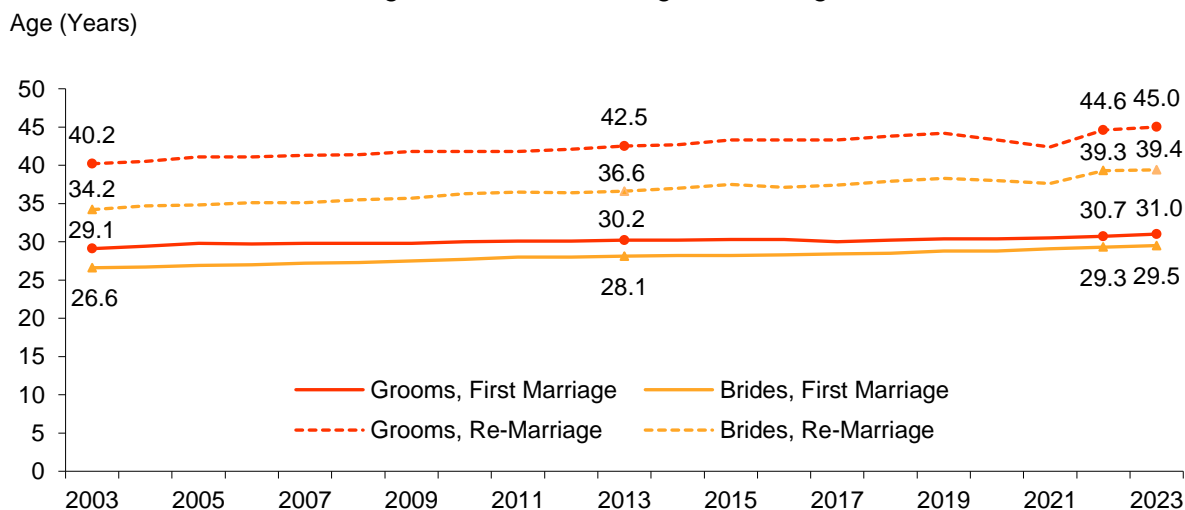
- Notes: 1) Previous marital status refers to a person's marital status prior to the current marriage.  
2) Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

## Median Age at First Marriage Continued to Rise

The median age at first marriage continued to increase in 2023. For grooms, it was 31.0 years, up from 30.2 years in 2013 (Figure 1.6). For brides, it was 29.5 years, up from 28.1 years in 2013. This points to the continuing trend towards later marriages.

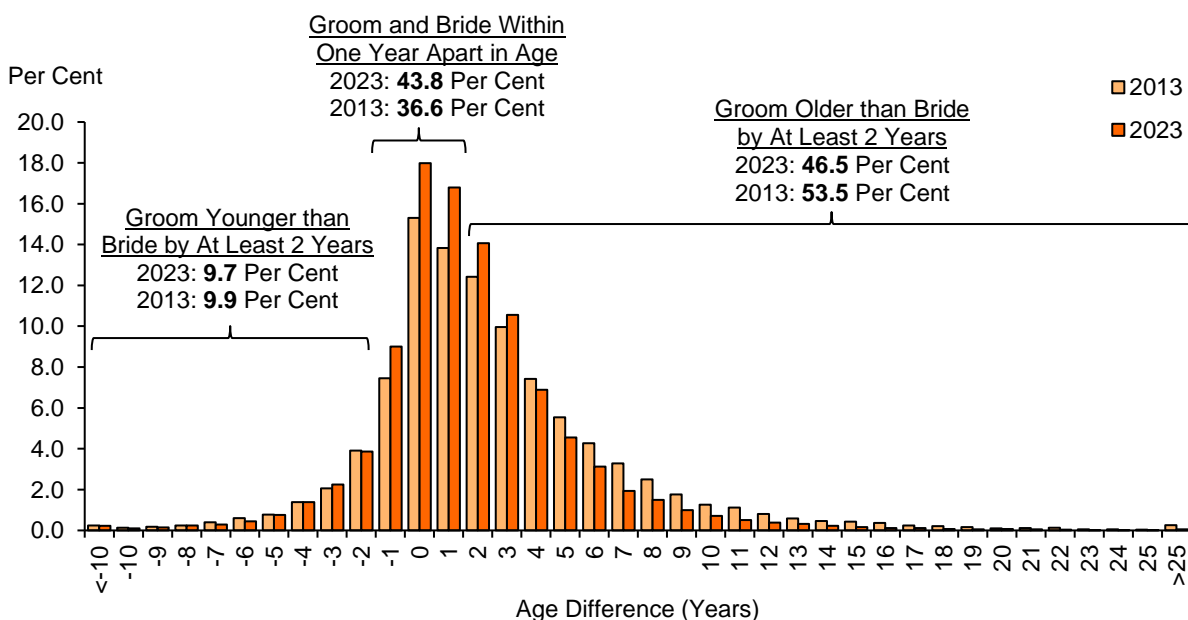
The median age at remarriage also rose for both grooms and brides to 45.0 years and 39.4 years respectively in 2023. This was higher than the 42.5 years and 36.6 years for grooms and brides respectively in 2013.

Figure 1.6 Median Age at Marriage



Couples who were of the same age or aged one year apart accounted for 43.8 per cent of first marriages in 2023, higher than the 36.6 per cent in 2013 (Figure 1.7). Over the same period, the proportion of grooms who were at least two years older fell from 53.5 per cent to 46.5 per cent in 2023. The proportion of brides who were at least two years older remained relatively stable at 9.7 per cent in 2023.

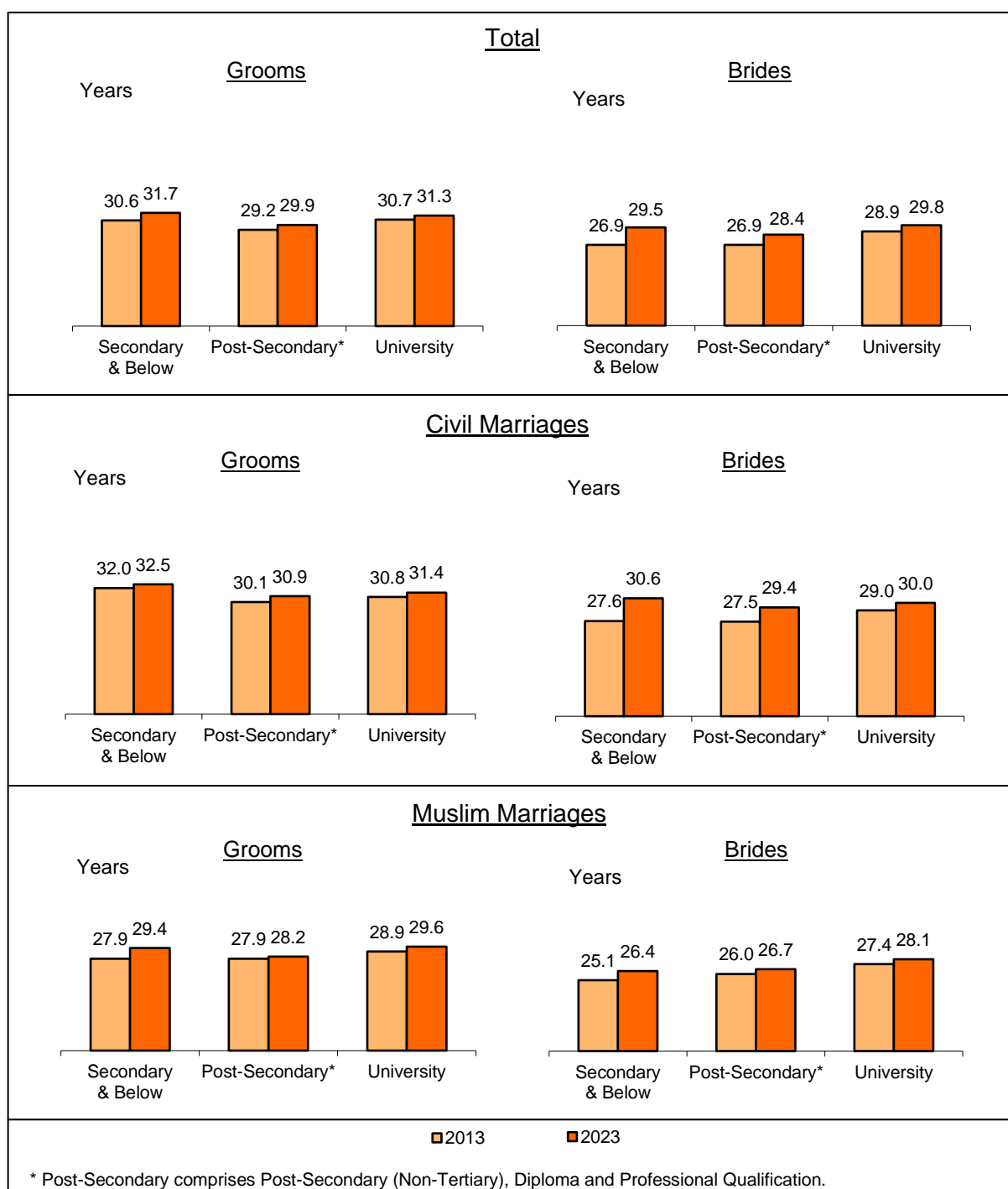
Figure 1.7 Age Differential at First Marriage for Couples



Between 2013 and 2023, the median age at first marriage increased across all educational groups for both grooms and brides (Figure 1.8). In particular, there was a relatively large increase in median age at first marriage among brides with secondary and below qualification, narrowing the gap with their university graduate counterparts.

The median age at first marriage for Muslim grooms and brides were lower than their counterparts under civil marriages for all educational qualification.

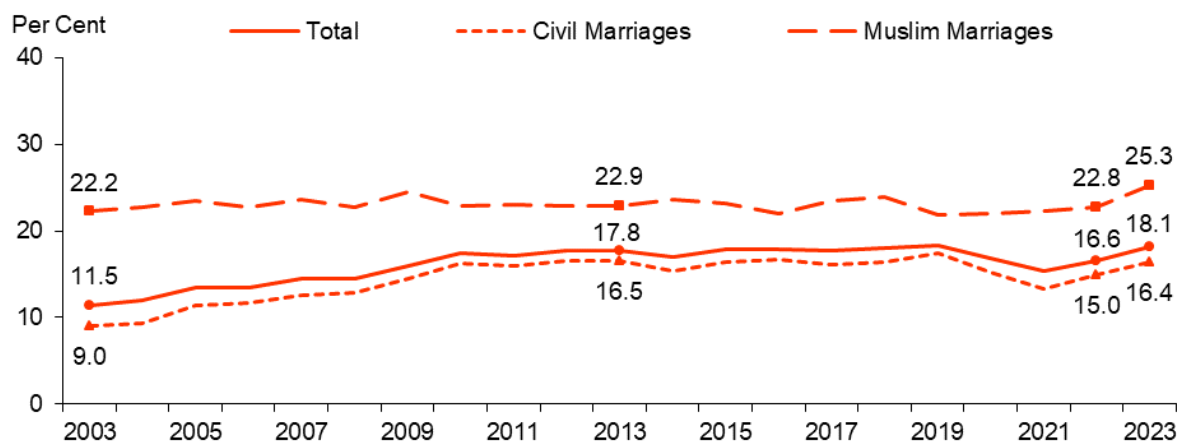
Figure 1.8 Median Age at First Marriage by Educational Qualification



## Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages Stable

The proportion of inter-ethnic marriages rose from 16.6 per cent in 2022 to 18.1 per cent in 2023, similar to 17.8 per cent a decade ago (Figure 1.9). The proportion of inter-ethnic marriages was 16.4 per cent among civil marriages and 25.3 per cent among Muslim marriages in 2023.

Figure 1.9 Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages



Note: Data on inter-ethnic marriages include marriages where both parties are of different CMIO group.

There were 3,762 inter-ethnic civil marriages in 2023, of which those between Chinese grooms and brides of “Others” ethnic group accounted for the largest proportion (48.5 per cent), followed by those between “Others” grooms and Chinese brides (22.8 per cent) (Figure 1.10). Among the 1,364 inter-ethnic Muslim marriages in 2023, those between Indian grooms and Malay brides (23.2 per cent) accounted for the largest share, followed by those between Malay grooms and Indian brides (17.7 per cent).

Figure 1.10 Top 5 Ethnic Group Combinations among Inter-ethnic Marriages, 2023

Civil Marriages			Muslim Marriages		
Ethnic Group of Groom	Ethnic Group of Bride	Per Cent	Ethnic Group of Groom	Ethnic Group of Bride	Per Cent
Chinese	“Others”	48.5	Indians	Malays	23.2
“Others”	Chinese	22.8	Malays	Indians	17.7
Indians	Chinese	6.9	Malays	Chinese	14.8
Indians	“Others”	6.8	Malays	“Others”	12.9
Chinese	Malays	3.5	“Others”	Malays	12.5

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 at 0.8 per cent in 2023, a decline from 2.4 per cent a decade ago (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 2023, 0.9 per cent of Muslim grooms and 2.2 per cent of Muslim brides were minors, compared to 0.1 per cent of grooms and 0.3 per cent of brides under civil marriages.

Figure 1.11 Marriages of Minors Aged Below 21 Years





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



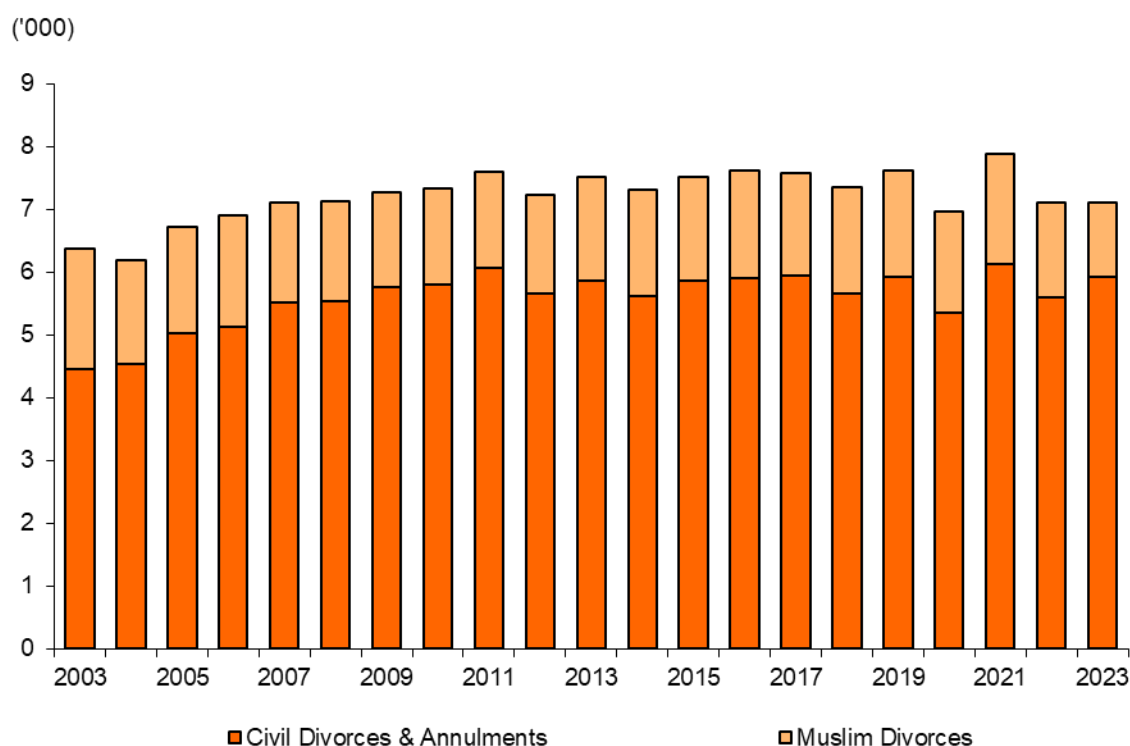
## PART 2 DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT TRENDS

### Slight Increase in Number of Marital Dissolutions in 2023

A total of 7,118 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment in 2023, a slight increase of 0.2 per cent from the 7,107 marital dissolutions in the previous year (Figure 2.1). The number of civil marital dissolutions increased from 5,602 in 2022 to 5,918 in 2023. Over the same period, the number of Muslim divorces fell from 1,505 in 2022 to 1,200 in 2023.

Between 2014 and 2020, the number of marital dissolutions was broadly stable. Fluctuations were observed from 2020 arising from disruption in divorce proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary closure of court services at the Syariah Court in late 2022 to prepare for the launch of the new divorce e-services and the subsequent temporary reduction of mediation and hearing services in early 2023 as the Syariah Court started to implement the new divorce e-services.

Figure 2.1 Marital Dissolutions

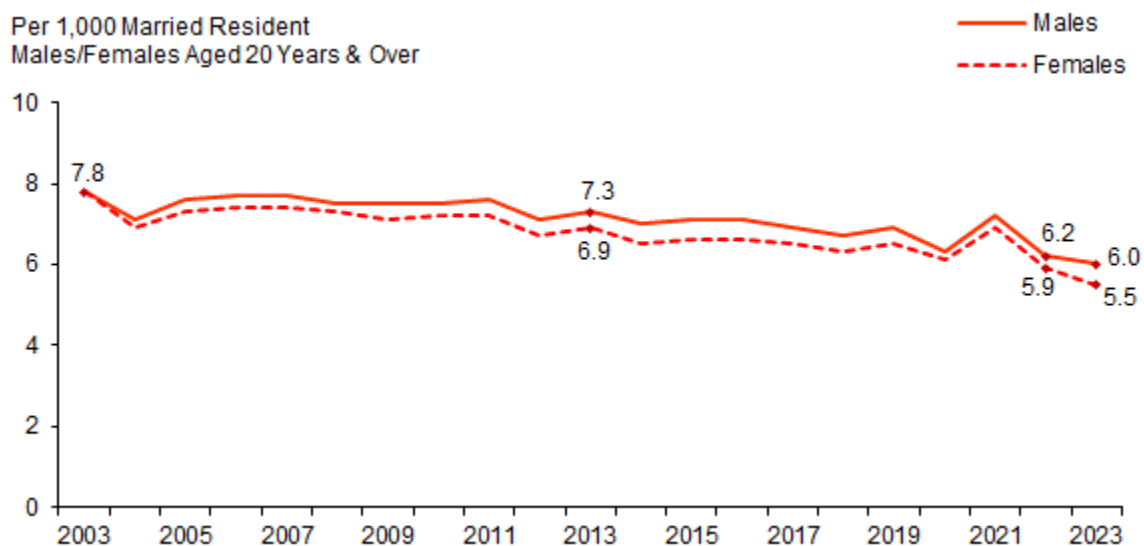


	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total</b>	7,525	7,307	7,522	7,614	7,578	7,344	7,623	6,959	7,890	7,107	7,118
<b>Civil</b>	5,863	5,618	5,855	5,912	5,941	5,662	5,926	5,361	6,123	5,602	5,918
<b>Muslim</b>	1,662	1,689	1,667	1,702	1,637	1,682	1,697	1,598	1,767	1,505	1,200

## Lower General Divorce Rates for Males and Females

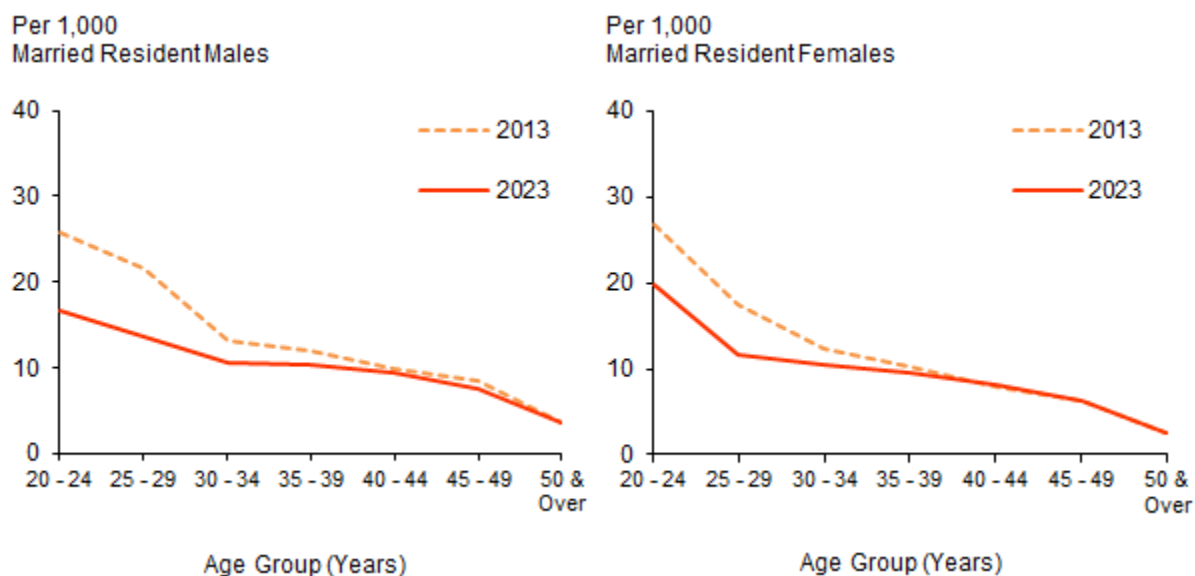
The general divorce rates fell for both males and females in 2023. There were 6.0 marital dissolutions for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2023, a decline from 7.3 in 2013 (Figure 2.2). Similarly, there were 5.5 marital dissolutions for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2023, down from 6.9 in 2013.

Figure 2.2 General Divorce Rate



For both married males and females across all age groups, the divorce rates either fell or remained similar to a decade ago. While marital dissolutions continued to be more prevalent among the younger age groups, declines in divorce rates were the largest among those aged below 30 years (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3 Age-Sex-Specific Divorce Rates

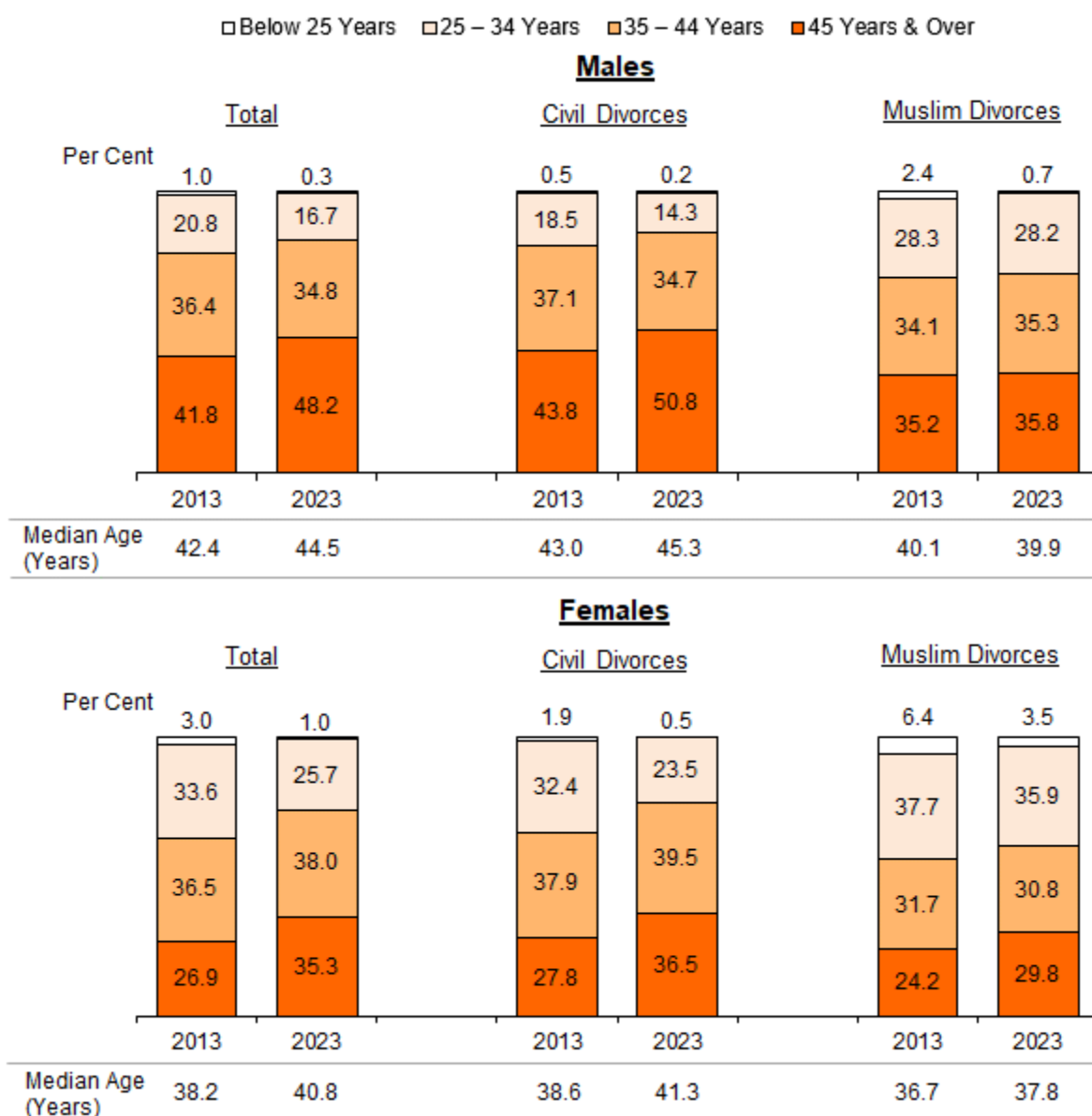




## Median Age at Divorce Rose Over the Last Ten Years

The median age at divorce rose over the last ten years, from 42.4 years in 2013 to 44.5 years in 2023 for male divorcees, and from 38.2 years in 2013 to 40.8 years in 2023 for female divorcees (Figure 2.4). This was mainly due to an increase in the proportion of divorcees aged 45 years and over and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of divorcees aged below 35 years.

Figure 2.4 Divorces by Age Group and Sex

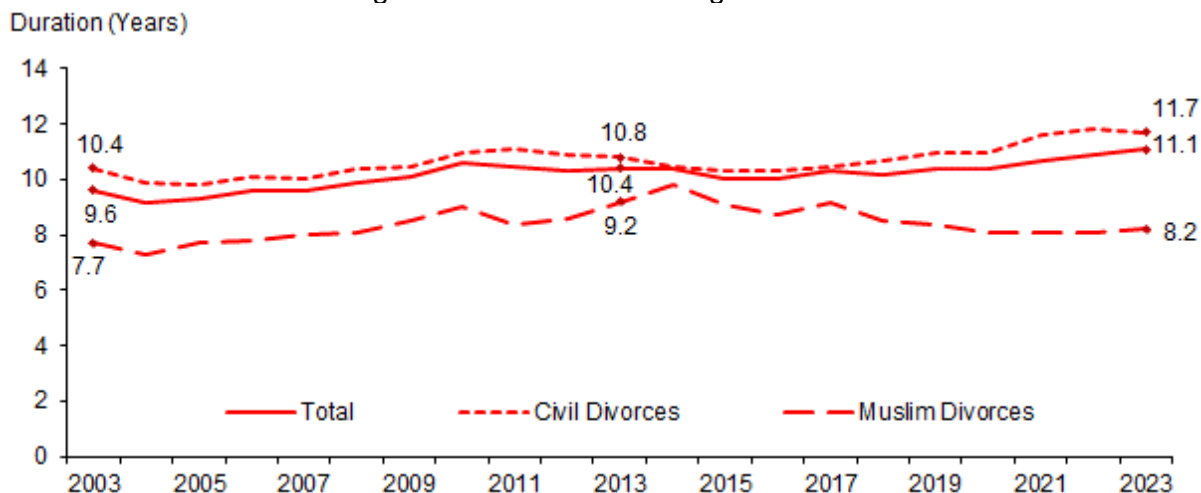


Notes: 1) Data exclude annulments.  
2) Proportions may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

## Longer Median Duration of Marriage in 2023

Among total divorces in 2023, the median duration of marriage was 11.1 years, longer than 10.4 years in 2013 (Figure 2.5). Marriage duration has generally been longer for civil divorces as compared to Muslim divorces, with the gap widening since 2018. The median marriage duration was 11.7 years for civil divorces and 8.2 years for Muslim divorces in 2023.

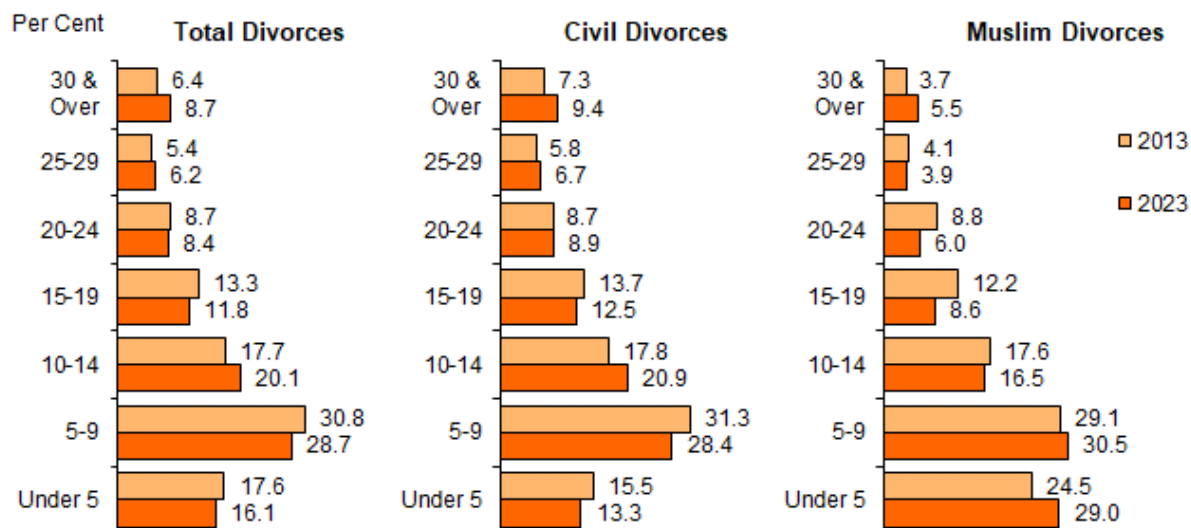
Figure 2.5 Median Marriage Duration



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 2023, at 28.4 per cent and 30.5 per cent respectively (Figure 2.6). This was followed by those with marriage duration of 10 to 14 years for civil divorces (20.9 per cent) and less than 5 years for Muslim divorces (29.0 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 2023 were filed by wives, although the proportion declined slightly to 62.1 per cent, from 62.7 per cent in 2013 (Figure 2.7).

The top main reasons for divorce cited by female and male plaintiffs also remained unchanged when compared to 2013. "Unreasonable behaviour" of spouse was the top reason cited by females (59.3 per cent in 2023), while for males, it was having "Lived apart or separated for three years or more" (52.2 per cent in 2023).

Figure 2.7 Top Two Main Reasons for Civil Divorces by Plaintiff

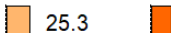























Main Reason for Divorce	Total		Husband		Wife	
	2013	2023	2013	2023	2013	2023
Total (Number)	5,471	5,649	2,040	2,141	3,431	3,508
Proportion of Civil Divorces (%)						
Unreasonable Behavior	 51.0	 54.0	 40.8	 45.4	 57.0	 59.3
Live Apart/Separated for Three Years or More	 45.8	 44.3	 55.0	 52.2	 40.4	 39.5

Note: Data exclude annulments.

69.0 per cent of Muslim divorces were filed by wives, slightly lower than the 70.3 per cent in 2013 (Figure 2.8).

In 2023, “Infidelity or extra-marital affair” was cited as the top main issue<sup>3</sup> in marriage among divorces filed by both husbands (19.6 per cent) and wives (22.9 per cent). This was followed by “Desertion” for those filed by husbands (8.6 per cent) and “Domestic violence and abuses” for those filed by wives (13.5 per cent).

Figure 2.8 Top Four Main Issues in Marriage for Muslim Divorces by Plaintiff

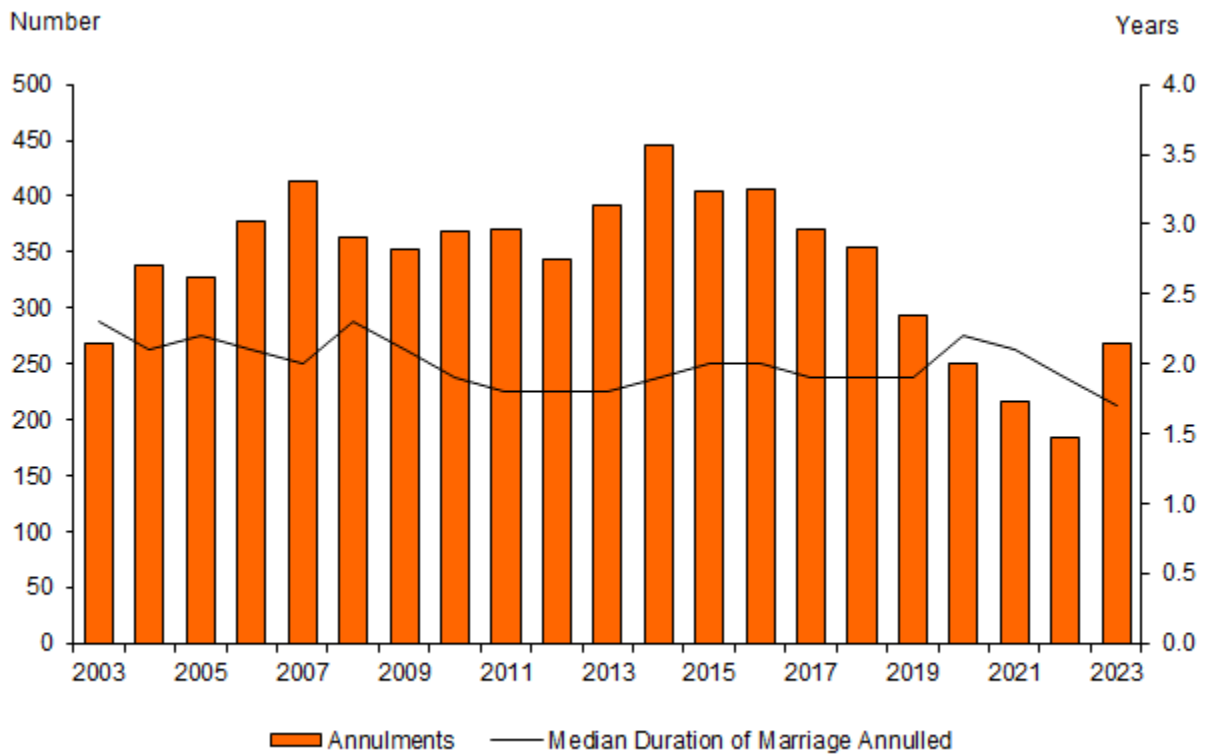
Main Issue In Marriage	Total		Husband		Wife	
	2013	2023	2013	2023	2013	2023
Total (Number)	1,662	1,200	494	372	1,168	828
Proportion of Muslim Divorces (%)						
Infidelity/Extra-Marital Affair	 25.3	 21.9	 27.3	 19.6	 24.4	 22.9
Domestic Violence and Abuses	 9.4	 11.3	 3.4	 6.5	 12.0	 13.5
Financial Problems	 15.9	 9.3	 10.7	 4.8	 18.1	 11.2
Desertion	 12.5	 7.9	 14.6	 8.6	 11.6	 7.6

<sup>3</sup> Refers to the issue in marriage for Muslim Divorces indicated during the registration for Marriage Counselling Programme that must be attended by a Muslim married person within a prescribed time before he/she may file for a divorce application.

## Annulment of Marriages Rose

The number of annulment of civil marriages increased, with 269 couples annulling their marriages in 2023, up from 185 in 2022 (Figure 2.9). The number of annulments had previously been on a downward trend since 2016. The median duration of marriages that ended in annulment in 2023 was 1.7 years, down from 1.9 years over the same period.

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 Illustration of 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> were tracked longitudinally to derive their marriage cohort dissolution rates, i.e. the cumulative proportion of marriages that had dissolved locally for each marriage cohort.

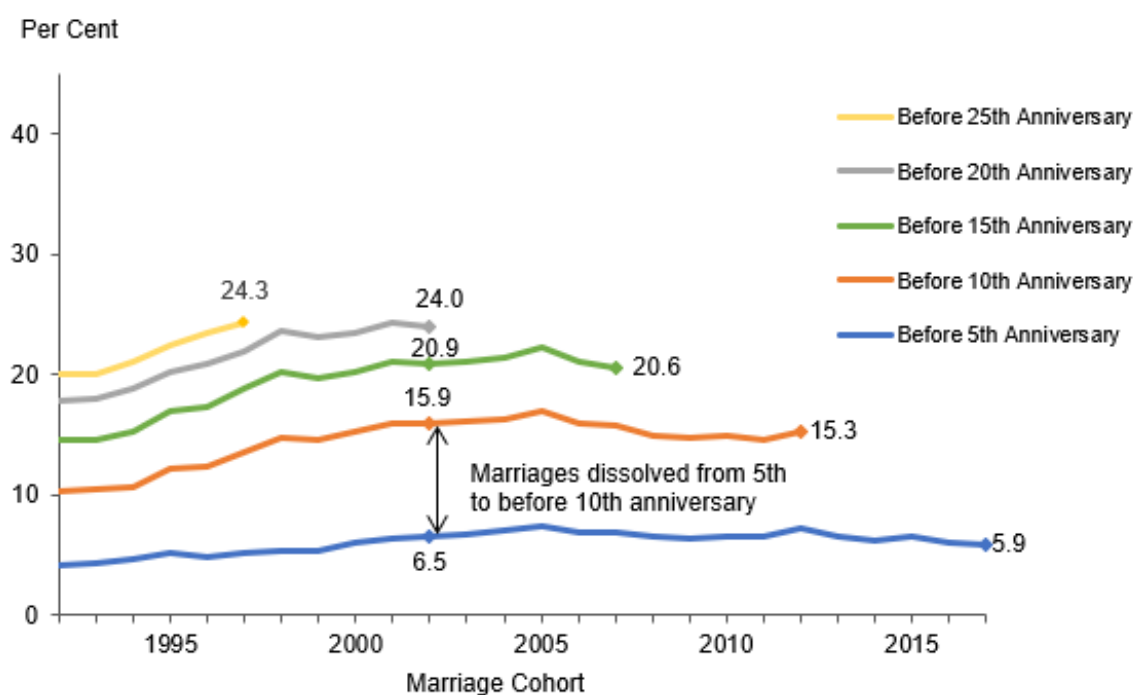
The cohort analysis provides insights on the trends in stability of marriages by marriage cohorts and their profiles. It complements the marriage and divorce period indicators in Parts 1 and 2 of this report, giving a more comprehensive picture on the proportion of marriages ending in divorce or annulment.

<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 2022.

## 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 when marriages progressed from the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary 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, 6.5 per cent of the 2002 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Another 9.4 per cent of this marriage cohort ended their marriage from their 5<sup>th</sup> to before their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, bringing the total proportion dissolved by then to 15.9 per cent. Subsequent increases were smaller, bringing the total proportion dissolved among the 2002 marriage cohort to 20.9 per cent and 24.0 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

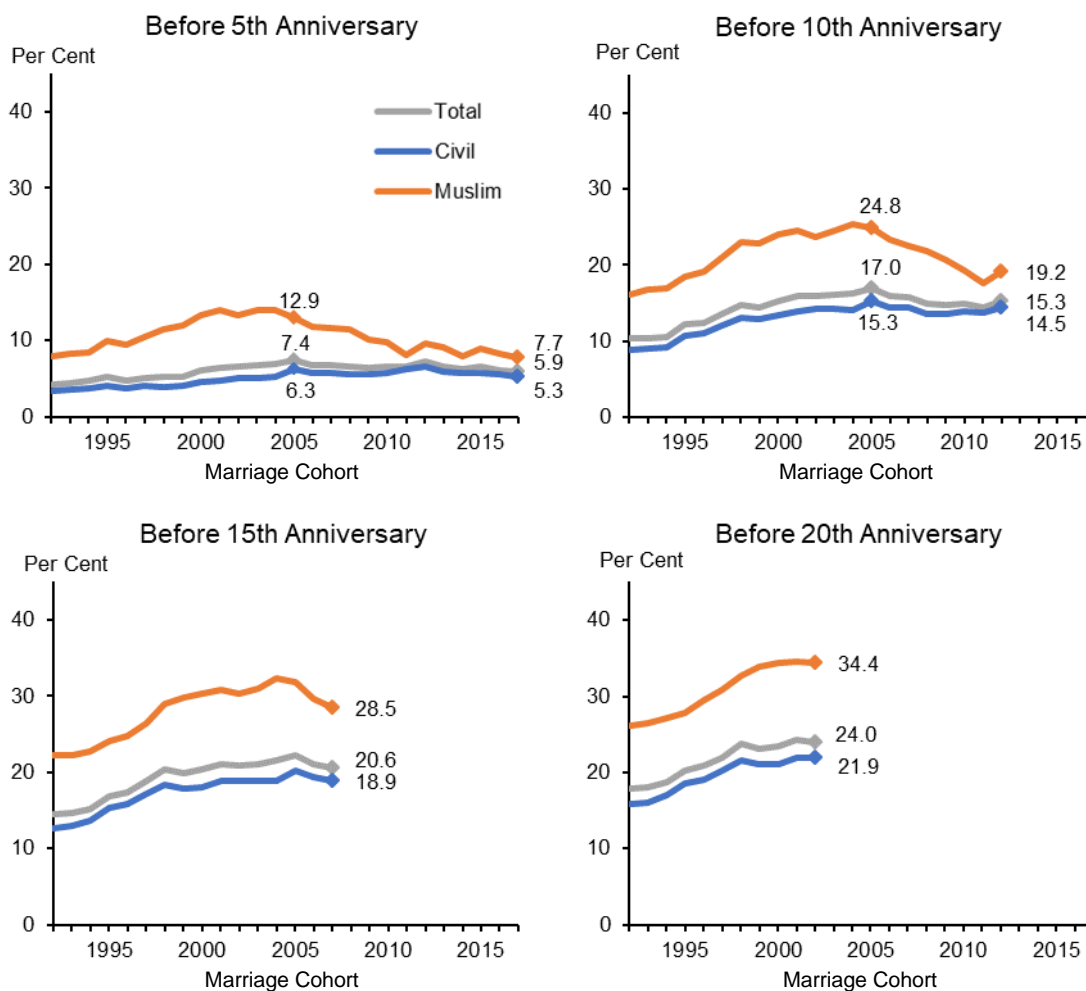


## Lower Dissolution Rates Before 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Among 2006 – 2012 Marriage Cohorts than the 2005 Marriage Cohort

Among marriage cohorts prior to 2005, dissolution rates were generally on an uptrend. However, compared with the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2012 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary (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 15.3 per cent for the 2012 marriage cohort. Similarly, the proportion who dissolved their marriages before the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary declined from 7.4 per cent for the 2005 marriage cohort to 5.9 per cent for the 2017 marriage cohort.

Dissolutions rates for Muslim marriages were higher than that of civil marriages across all cohorts, although they have generally been decreasing since the 2005 cohort. For cohorts from 2005 onwards, the proportion of dissolved Muslim marriages before the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversaries saw larger declines compared to civil marriages, narrowing the gap between both groups for 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 have a 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 those 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

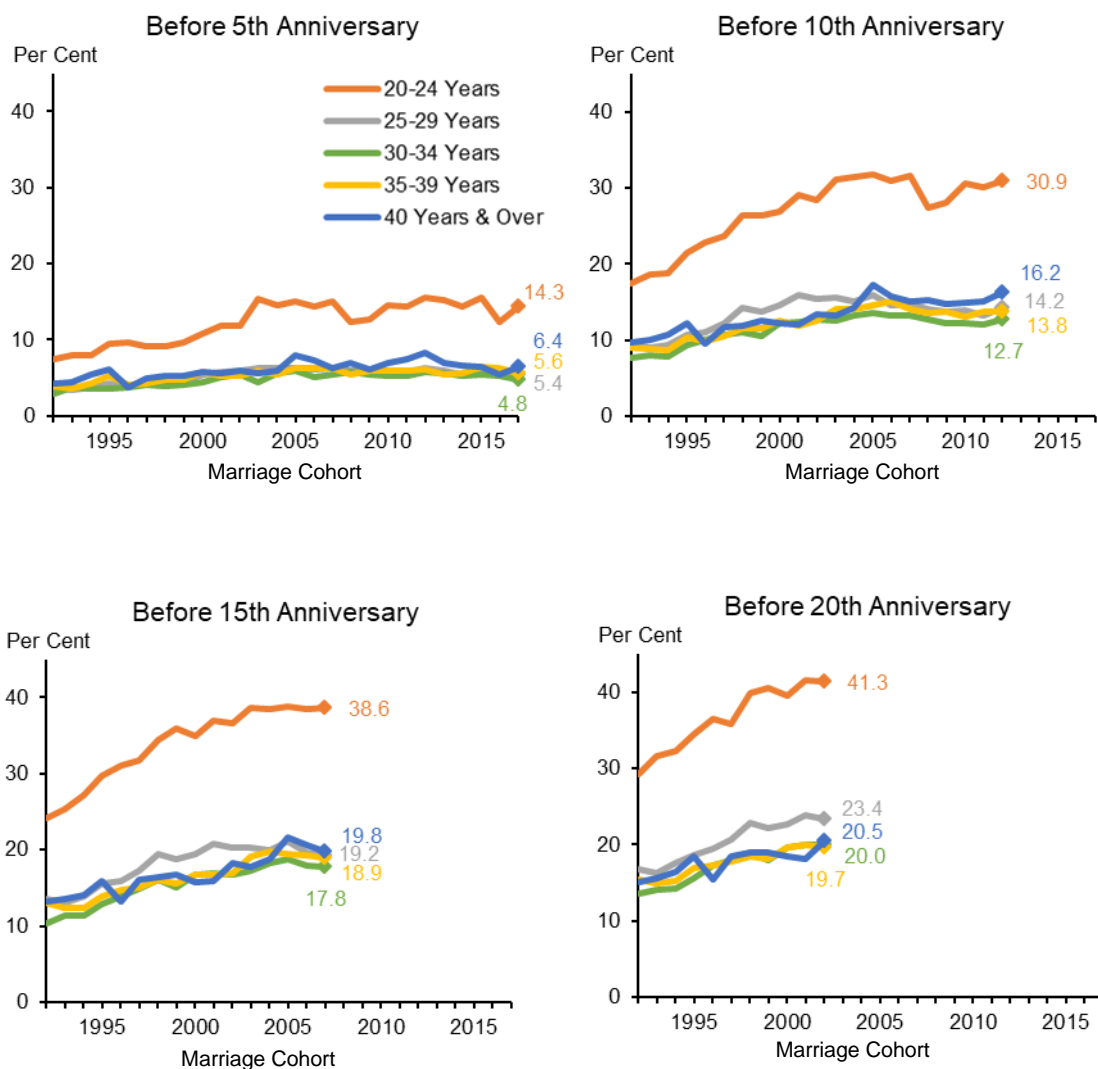
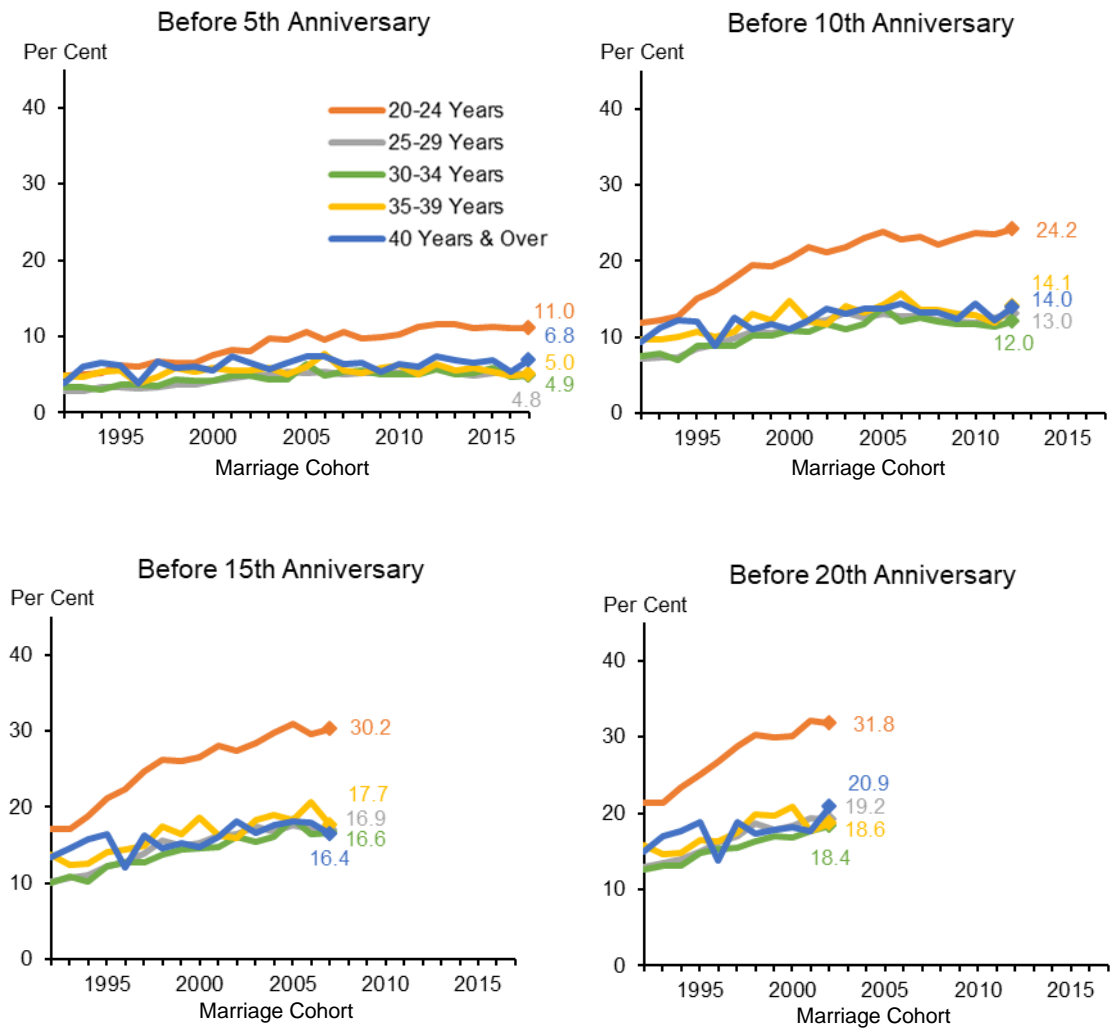


Figure 3.5 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Females by Age Group at Marriage



## 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

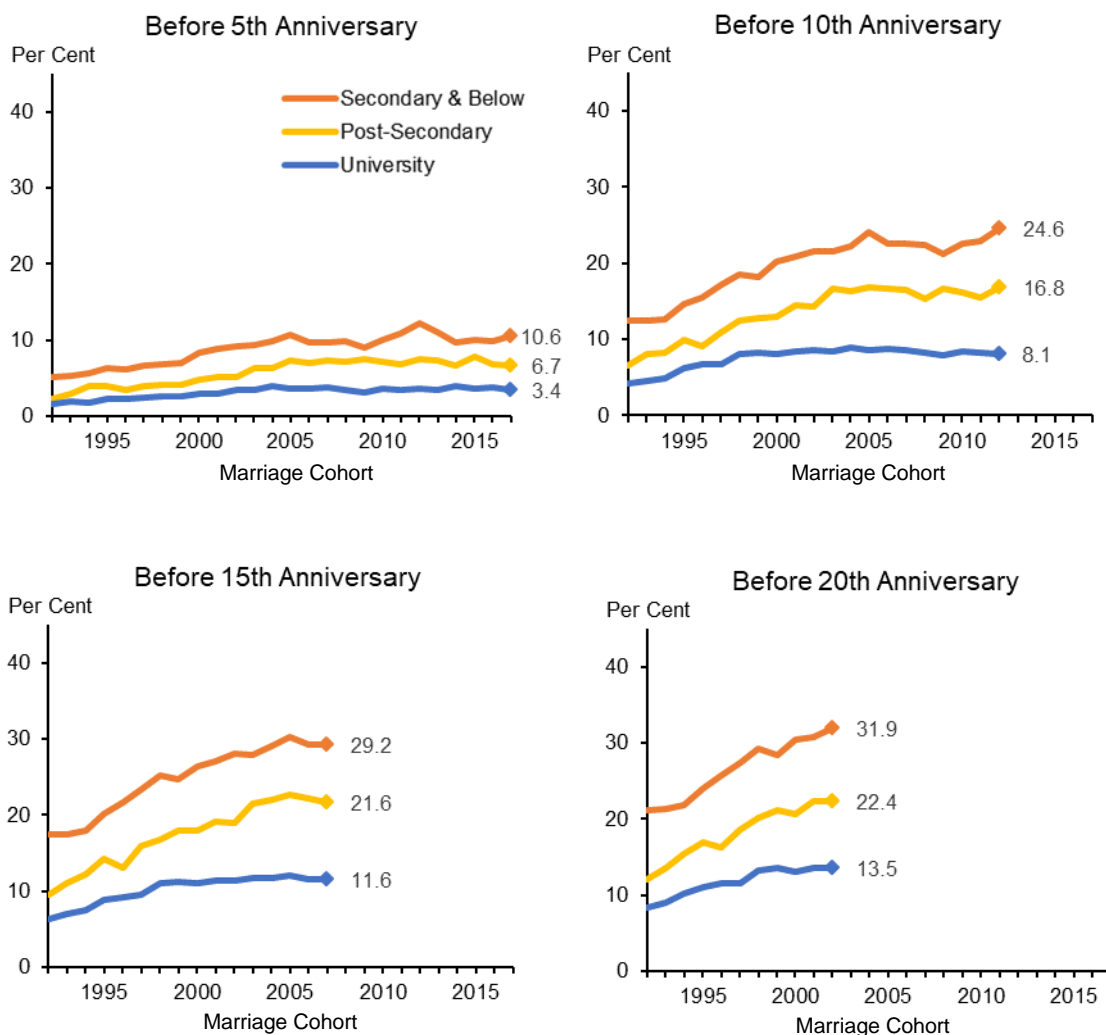
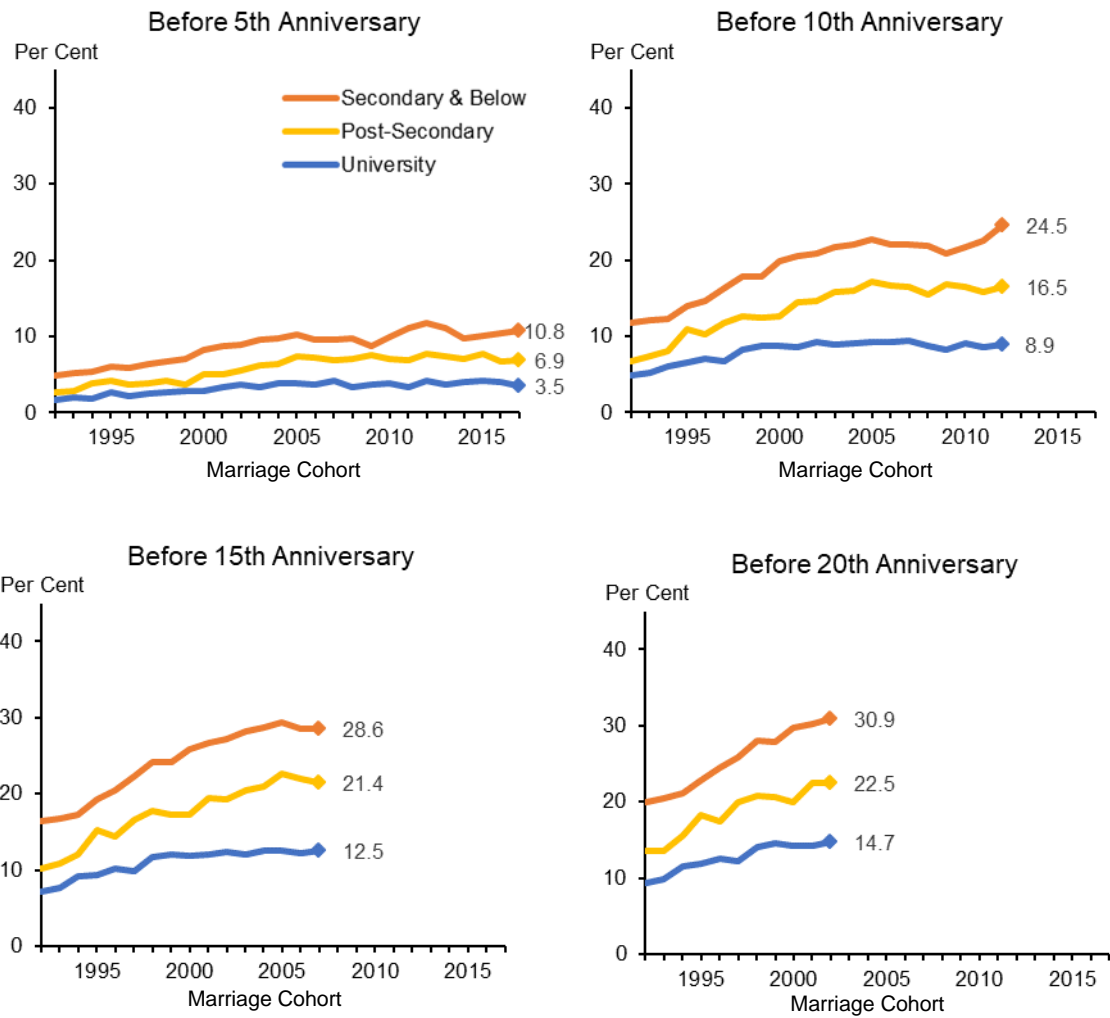


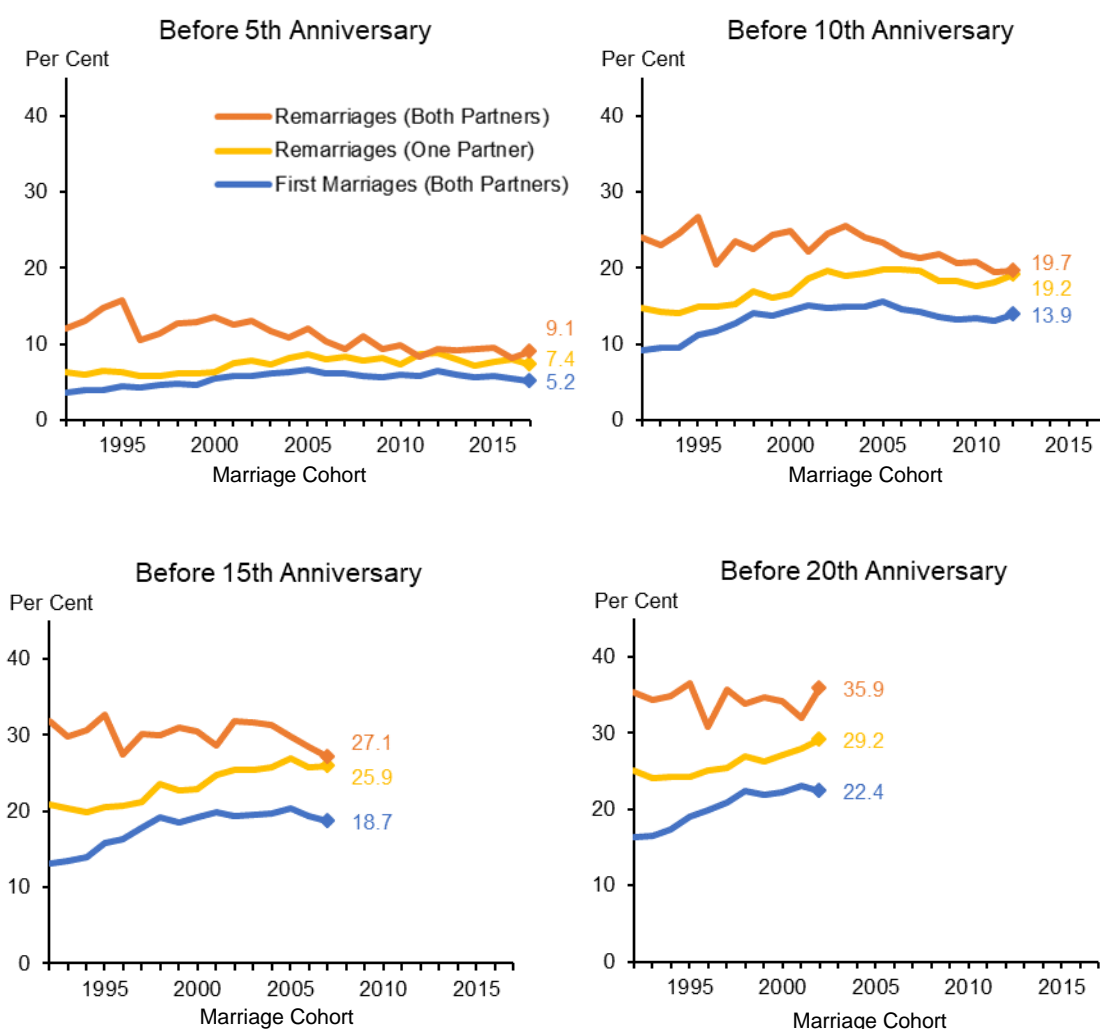
Figure 3.7 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Females by Educational Qualification at Marriage



## 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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