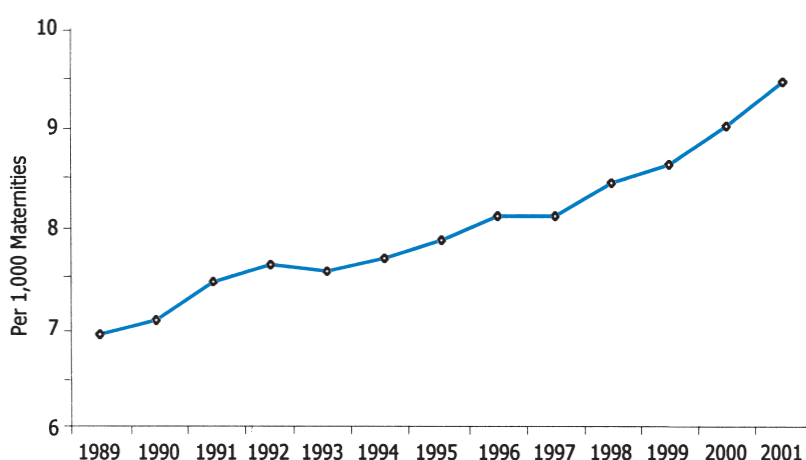# Twin Births in Singapore

The total number of twins born increased from 374 in 1989 to 389 in 2001*. We present the trend and type of twin births in Singapore.
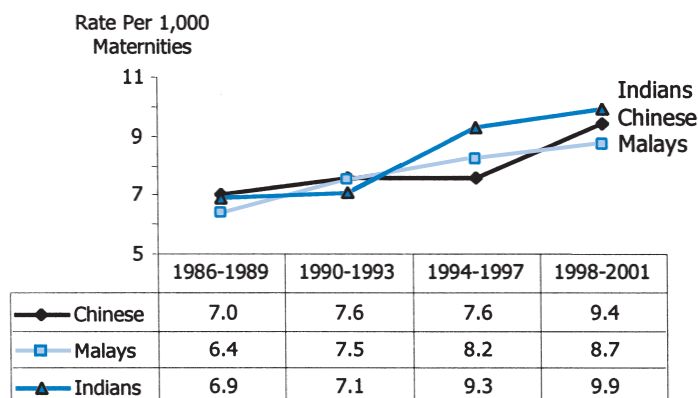
❖ The overall twin birth rate increased steadily from 7 per 1,000 maternities to over 9 per maternities between 1989 and 2001.

FIGURE 1   TWIN BIRTHS PER 1,000 MATERNITIES IN SINGAPORE

❖ All ethnic groups showed increases in twin birth rates. Twin births born to Indian fathers showed the largest increase. The Indian rate of twin births increased from 6.9 per 1,000 maternities during 1986–1989 to 9.9 per 1,000 maternities during 1998–2001.
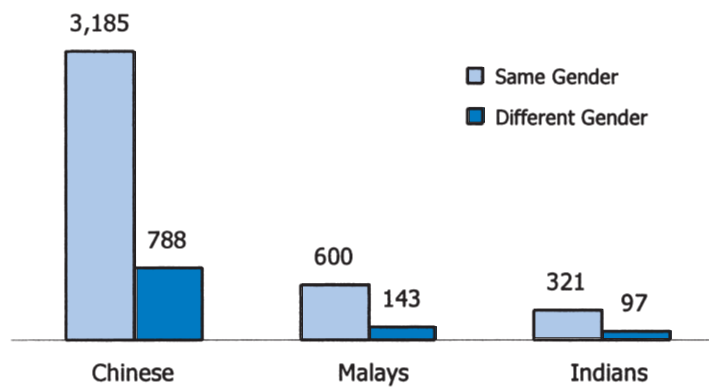
FIGURE 2   TWIN BIRTHS BY FATHER'S ETHNIC GROUP

	1986-1989	1990-1993	1994-1997	1998-2001
Chinese	7.0	7.6	7.6	9.4
Malays	6.4	7.5	8.2	8.7
Indians	6.9	7.1	9.3	9.9

* Source :   Annals of Academy of Medicine Singapore 2003 (in print)

❖ During 1986–2001, there were more twins of the same gender than twins of different gender, irrespective of the ethnic group of either parent. The ratio was 4:1 for Chinese and Malays and 3.3:1 for Indians.

FIGURE 3   TOTAL TWINS BY GENDER AND FATHER'S ETHNIC GROUP, 1986–2001

❖ For twins of the same gender, the proportion of female twins to male twins appeared to be slightly higher for Malays and Indians.

FIGURE 4   SAME-GENDER TWINS BY SEX AND FATHER'S ETHNIC GROUP, 1986–2001

Number	Chinese	Malays	Indians
■ Females	1,573	302	166
□ Males	1,612	298	155