

Statistics on Marriages and Divorces

Reference Year 2024

STATISTICS ON MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES, 2024
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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 since 1985. The marriage and divorce statistics provide important inputs for formulating population and related policies.

This report, ***Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2024***, is the 41st 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 2025

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	<i>We adhere to professional ethics and develop statistical competency to produce quality statistics that comply with international concepts and best practices.</i>
Relevance & Reliability	<i>We produce statistics that users need and trust.</i>
Accessibility	<i>We facilitate ease of access to our statistics through user-friendly platforms.</i>
Confidentiality	<i>We protect the confidentiality of individual information collected by us.</i>
Timeliness	<i>We disseminate statistics at the earliest possible date while maintaining data quality.</i>
Innovation	<i>We constantly seek ways to improve our processes, leveraging on new technology, to deliver better products and services to users.</i>
Collaboration	<i>We engage users on data needs, data providers and respondents on supply of data, and undertake the role of national statistical coordination.</i>
Effectiveness	<i>We optimise resource utilisation, leveraging on administrative and alternative data sources to ease respondent burden.</i>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fewer Marriages in 2024 compared to 2023; Lower Marriage Rates and Higher Median Age at First Marriage in 2024 compared to 2014

A total of 26,328 marriages were registered in 2024, 7.0% lower than the 28,310 marriages registered in 2023. The average number of marriages registered per year in the last five years between 2020 and 2024 (27,001) was lower than the preceding five years between 2015 and 2019 (27,389).

General marriage rates for both males and females in 2024 were lower than a decade ago. There were 42.0 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15 to 49 years in 2024, down from 44.4 in 2014. Similarly, there were 40.1 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15 to 49 years in 2024, down from 40.8 in 2014.

The median ages at first marriage for grooms and brides were 31.1 years and 29.6 years respectively in 2024, up from 30.2 years for grooms and 28.2 years for brides a decade ago, reflecting the continuing trend towards later marriages.

More Marital Dissolutions in 2024 compared to 2023; Lower Divorce Rates and Higher Median Age at Divorce in 2024 compared to 2014

In 2024, a total of 7,382 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment, a 3.7% increase from the 7,118 marital dissolutions in 2023. The average number of marital dissolutions per year between 2020 and 2024 (7,291) was lower than the preceding five-year period between 2015 and 2019 (7,536).

The general divorce rates were lower for both males and females in 2024 compared to 2014. In 2024, there were 6.3 marital dissolutions for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over, down from 7.0 in 2014. Similarly, there were 5.7 marital dissolutions for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2024, down from 6.5 in 2014.

Over the last ten years, the median age at divorce rose from 42.6 years in 2014 to 44.4 years in 2024 for male divorcees, and from 38.4 years to 40.9 years for female divorcees.

The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2024 was 11.1 years, longer than the 10.4 years in 2014. Couples who were married for 5 to 9 years made up the largest share, accounting for 29.0% of divorces in 2024.

Lower Dissolution Rates Before the 10th Marriage Anniversary Among the 2006-2013 Resident Marriage Cohorts than the 2005 Marriage Cohort

Compared with the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2013 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10th marriage anniversary. The cumulative proportion of resident marriages that dissolved before the 10th anniversary declined from 17.0% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 14.4% for the 2013 marriage cohort.

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

KEY INDICATORS ON MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Total Marriages & Divorces	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Marriages	25,434	22,651	28,329	29,389	28,310	26,328
Number of Divorces & Annulments	7,623	6,959	7,890	7,107	7,118	7,382
General Marriage Rate (Per 1,000 unmarried resident males/females aged 15-49 years)						
Males	40.7	35.7	45.3	47.0	44.3	42.0
Females	37.9	34.9	44.2	45.5	43.1	40.1
General Divorce Rate (Per 1,000 married resident males/females aged 20 years & over)						
Males	6.9	6.3	7.2	6.2	6.0	6.3
Females	6.5	6.1	6.9	5.9	5.5	5.7
Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages* (%)	18.4	16.9	15.3	16.6	18.1	19.1
Proportion of First Marriages (%)	76.1	78.5	80.5	78.6	77.3	78.0
Median Age at First Marriage (Years)						
Grooms	30.4	30.4	30.5	30.7	31.0	31.1
Brides	28.8	28.8	29.1	29.3	29.5	29.6
Median Age at Divorce (Years)						
Male Divorcees	43.4	43.2	43.9	44.4	44.5	44.4
Female Divorcees	39.3	39.5	40.0	40.5	40.8	40.9
Median Duration of Marriage for Divorces (Years)	10.4	10.4	10.7	10.9	11.1	11.1

Marriages	Civil			Muslim		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Number of Marriages	23,379	22,914	21,144	6,010	5,396	5,184
Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages* (%)	15.0	16.4	17.5	22.8	25.3	25.6
Proportion of First Marriages (%)	81.0	79.4	79.8	69.5	68.6	70.7
Median Age at First Marriage (Years)						
Grooms	31.2	31.4	31.5	28.5	28.7	28.7
Brides	29.8	29.9	30.1	26.8	27.1	27.0

Divorces & Annulments	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Number of Divorces	5,417	5,649	5,638	1,505	1,200	1,440
Number of Annulments	185	269	304	na	na	na
Proportion of Inter-ethnic Divorces* (%)	17.4	19.4	17.4	24.9	24.8	22.2
Median Age at Divorce (Years)						
Male Divorcees	45.3	45.3	45.5	40.6	39.9	39.6
Female Divorcees	41.1	41.3	41.8	38.0	37.8	37.1
Median Duration of Marriage for Divorces (Years)	11.8	11.7	12.0	8.1	8.2	8.2

Dissolution of Marriages among Marriage Cohorts[^]	Marriage Cohort					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages Before 10 th Anniversary	15.0	14.7	14.9	14.5	15.3	14.4
Proportion of Dissolved Resident Civil Marriages Before 10 th Anniversary	13.5	13.5	13.9	13.8	14.5	13.4
Proportion of Dissolved Resident Muslim Marriages Before 10 th Anniversary	21.9	20.7	19.3	17.6	19.2	18.2

* Inter-ethnic marriages/divorces refer to marriages/divorces between persons of different ethnic groups, namely Chinese, Malay, Indian and Others.

[^] Data are based on local marriage and dissolution records up till 2023.

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

Part 1

Marriage Trends

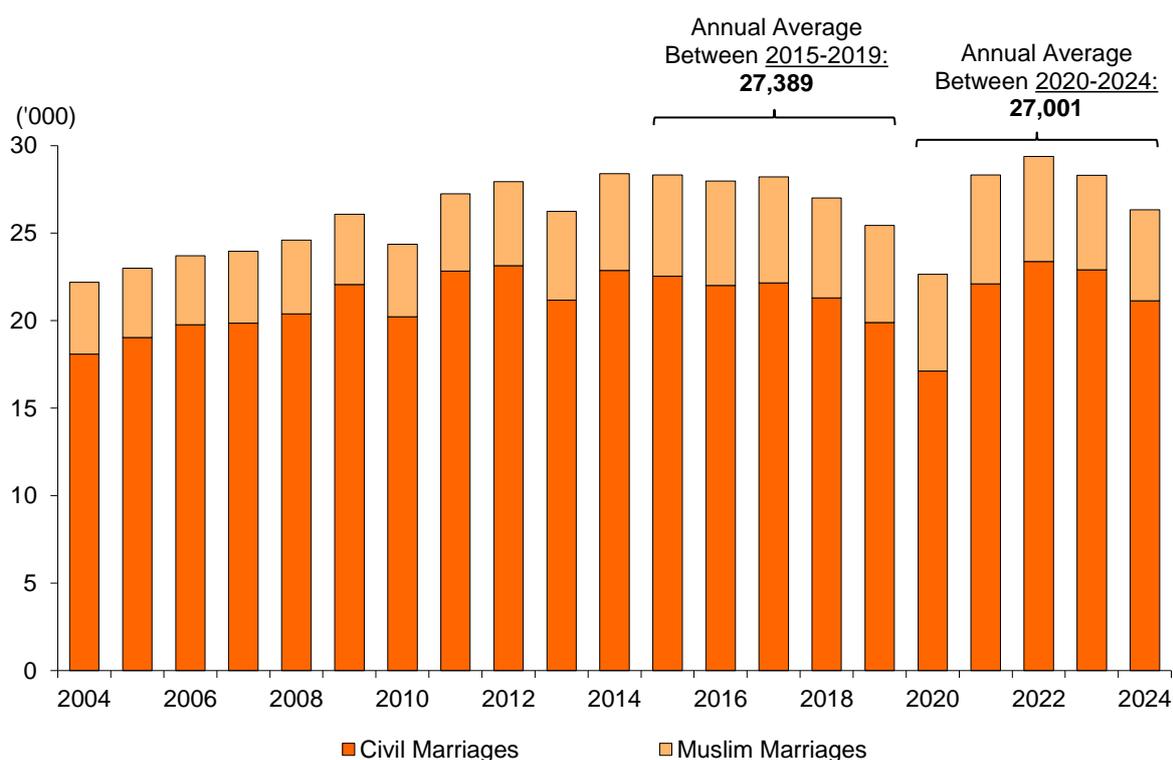
PART 1 MARRIAGE TRENDS

Fewer Marriages Registered in 2024 compared to 2023

A total of 26,328 civil and Muslim marriages¹ were registered in 2024, 7.0% lower than the 28,310 marriages registered in 2023 (Figure 1.1). Civil marriages declined from 22,914 in 2023 to 21,144 in 2024, and Muslim marriages fell from 5,396 to 5,184 over the same period.

The average number of marriages registered per year in the last five years between 2020 and 2024² (27,001) was lower than the preceding five years between 2015 and 2019 (27,389).

Figure 1.1 Marriages Registered



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

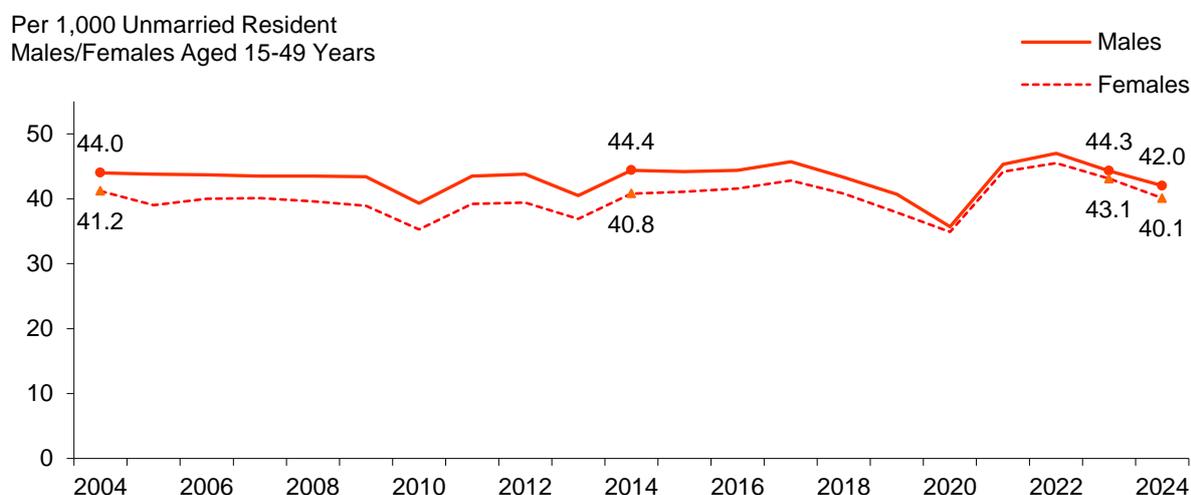
¹ Civil marriages refer to marriages registered under the Women's Charter while Muslim marriages refer to marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act. The analysis on marriages excludes re-registered marriages (i.e. civil marriages which were contracted overseas or under religious & customary rites and were subsequently registered in Singapore in the reference year). In 2024, there were 61 re-registered marriages.

² Fluctuations in the number of marriages observed between 2020 and 2022 were because of disruptions in marriage plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Marriage Rates for Males and Females Fell Over the Past Decade

General marriage rates for both males and females in 2024 were lower than a decade ago (Figure 1.2). There were 42.0 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15 – 49 years in 2024, down from 44.4 in 2014. Similarly, there were 40.1 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15 – 49 years, down from 40.8 in 2014.

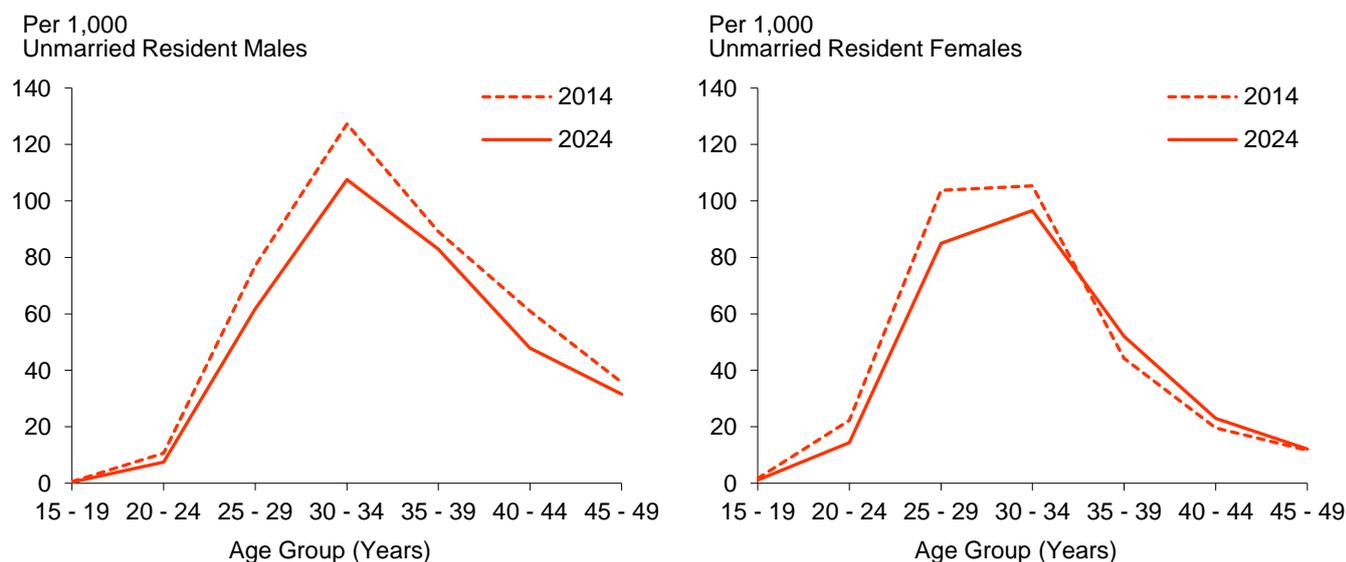
Figure 1.2 General Marriage Rate



Compared to a decade ago, marriage rates for males in 2024 fell across all age groups (Figure 1.3). For females, marriage rates declined for those aged below 35 years but rose for those aged 35 – 49 years.

The peak marriage age group for males was 30 – 34 years over the last decade. For females, the peak marriage age group shifted more distinctly to those aged 30 – 34 years, over the last decade. This reflects the trend of females marrying at an older age.

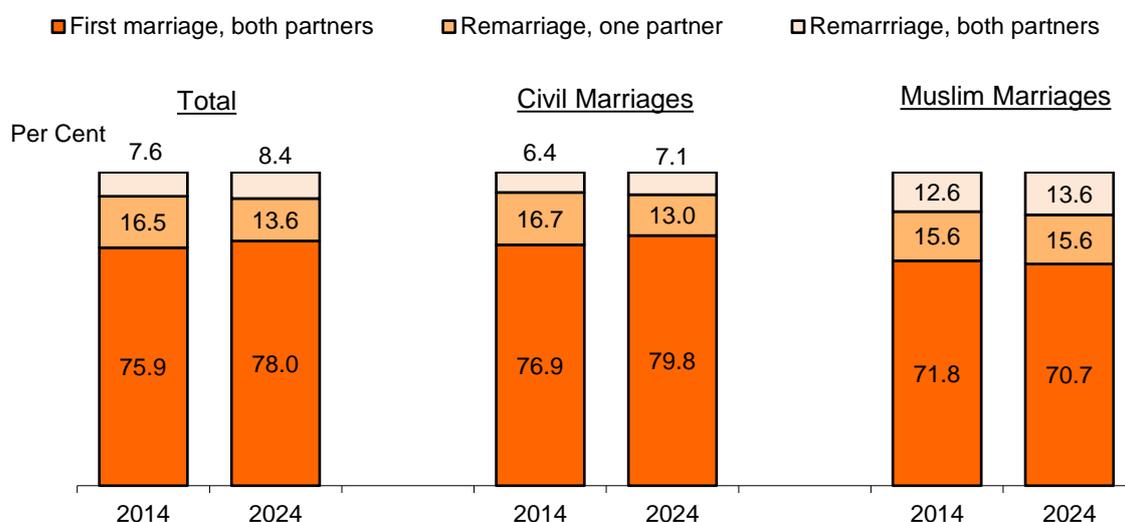
Figure 1.3 Age-Sex-Specific Marriage Rate



Higher Proportion of First Marriages Over the Last Ten Years

In 2024, 78.0% of all marriages involved first-time grooms and first-time brides, an increase from 75.9% in 2014 (Figure 1.4). Over the same period, the proportion of first marriages rose for civil marriages and fell for Muslim marriages.

Figure 1.4 Marriages by Marriage Order of Couple



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

Remarriages remained more prevalent among grooms than brides although the gap has narrowed over the past decade (Figure 1.5). In 2024, 15.6% of grooms and 14.8% of brides re-married, of which the majority were previously divorced.

Figure 1.5 Marriages by Previous Marital Status of Grooms and Brides

Previous Marital Status	Per Cent					
	Total		Civil Marriages		Muslim Marriages	
	2014	2024	2014	2024	2014	2024
Grooms						
Single	83.0	84.4	83.8	85.4	79.4	80.3
Divorced	16.1	14.8	15.4	14.0	19.0	18.1
Widowed	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.3	1.5
Married	0.0	0.0	na	na	0.2	0.0
Brides						
Single	85.3	85.2	86.6	87.3	79.8	76.8
Divorced	14.0	13.7	12.8	11.9	18.9	20.9
Widowed	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.3

Notes: 1) Previous marital status refers to a person's marital status prior to the current marriage.

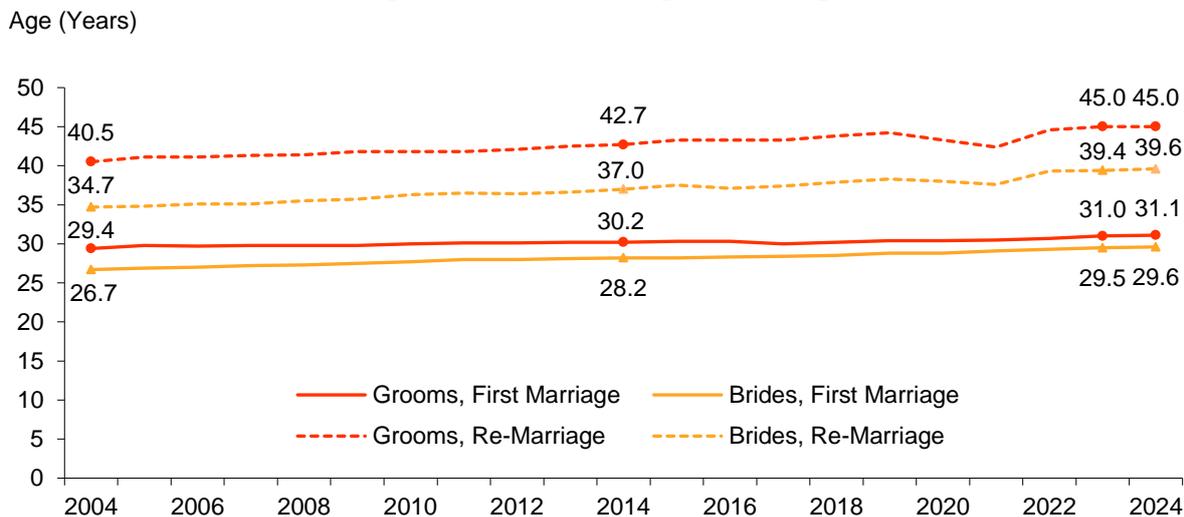
2) Proportions may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Median Age at First Marriage Continued to Rise

The median ages at first marriage for grooms and brides were 31.1 years and 29.6 years respectively in 2024, up from 30.2 years for grooms and 28.2 years for brides a decade ago (Figure 1.6). This reflects the continuing trend towards later marriages.

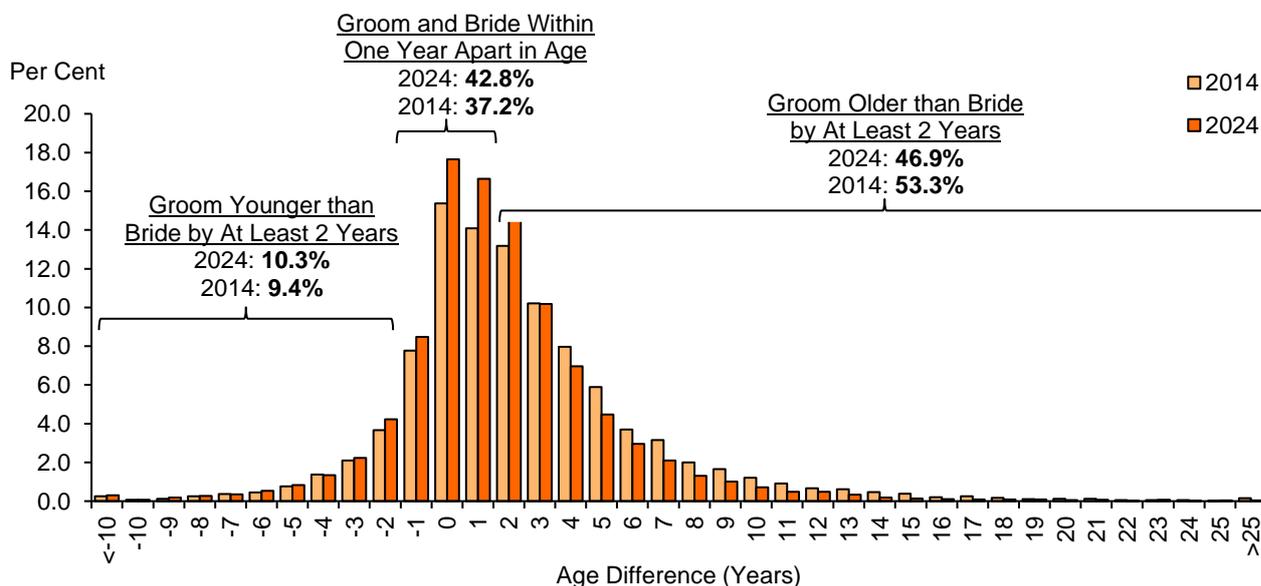
Similarly, the median age at remarriage for grooms rose from 42.7 years in 2014 to 45.0 years in 2024. For brides, it rose from 37.0 years in 2014 to 39.6 years in 2024.

Figure 1.6 Median Age at Marriage



Couples who were of the same age or aged one year apart accounted for 42.8% of first marriages in 2024, higher than the 37.2% a decade ago (Figure 1.7). Over the same period, the proportion of grooms who were at least two years older decreased from 53.3% to 46.9%. In contrast, the proportion of brides who were at least two years older rose from 9.4% to 10.3%.

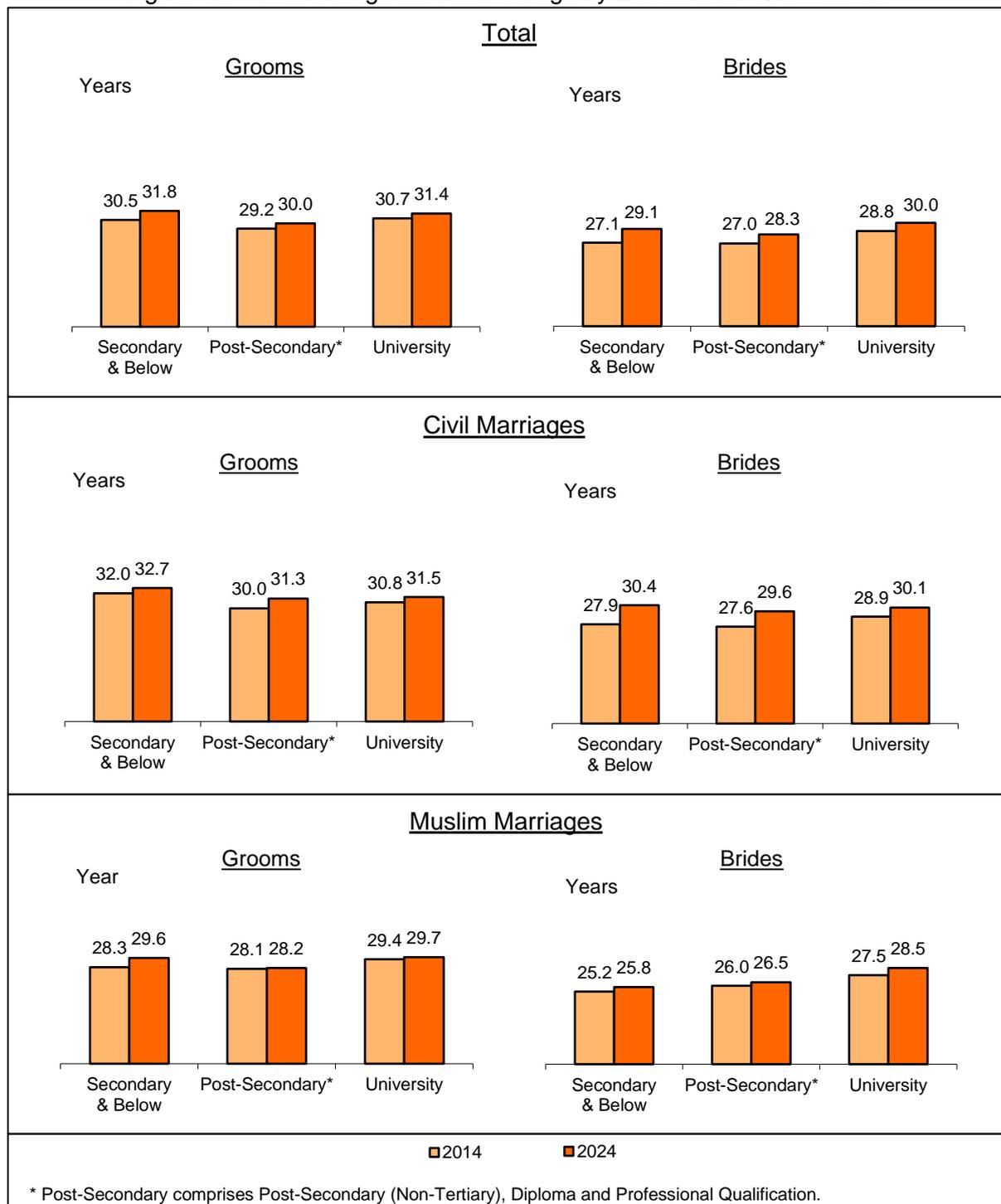
Figure 1.7 Age Differential at First Marriage for Couples



Between 2014 and 2024, the median age at first marriage increased across all educational qualifications for both grooms and brides (Figure 1.8). In particular, there was a larger 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 continued to be lower than their counterparts under civil marriages for all educational qualifications.

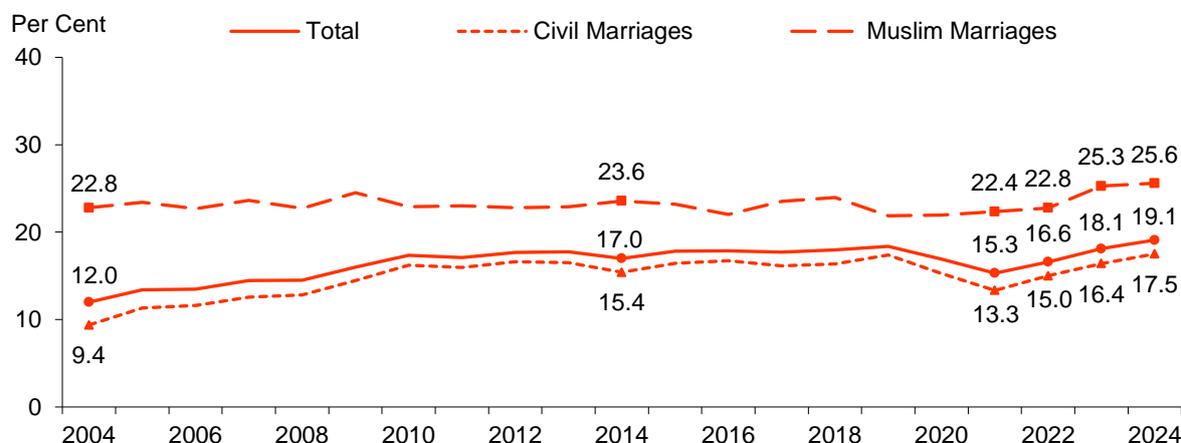
Figure 1.8 Median Age at First Marriage by Educational Qualification



Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages Rose

The proportion of inter-ethnic marriages increased from 18.1% in 2023 to 19.1% in 2024 (Figure 1.9). This was higher than the 17.0% a decade ago. The proportion of inter-ethnic marriages was 17.5% among civil marriages and 25.6% among Muslim marriages in 2024.

Figure 1.9 Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages



Note: Inter-ethnic marriages refer to marriages between persons of different ethnic groups, namely Chinese, Malay, Indian and Others.

There were 3,702 inter-ethnic civil marriages in 2024. Of these, marriages between Chinese grooms and brides of “Others” ethnic group accounted for the largest proportion (49.4%), followed by those between “Others” grooms and Chinese brides (22.4%) (Figure 1.10). Among the 1,327 inter-ethnic Muslim marriages in 2024, those between Indian grooms and Malay brides (23.7%) accounted for the largest share, followed by those between Malay grooms and “Others” brides (16.7%).

Figure 1.10 Top 5 Ethnic Group Combinations among Inter-ethnic Marriages, 2024

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	49.4	Indians	Malays	23.7
Others	Chinese	22.4	Malays	Others	16.7
Indians	Chinese	8.5	Malays	Indians	15.4
Indians	Others	5.9	Malays	Chinese	14.5
Chinese	Malays	3.5	Others	Malays	13.3

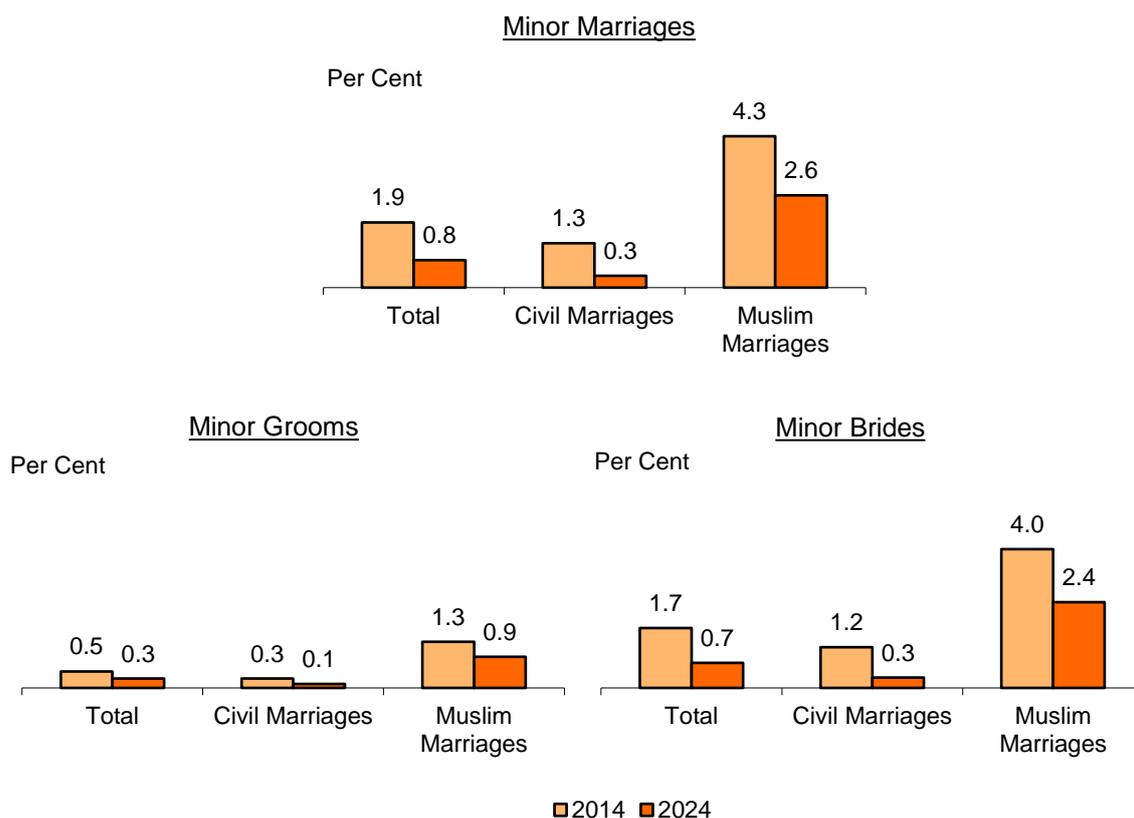
Note: “Others” refers to all ethnic groups besides Chinese, Malays and Indians.

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% in 2024, a decline from 1.9% a decade ago (Figure 1.11). This decline was observed for both civil and Muslim marriages.

However, the proportion of minor marriages remained higher among Muslim marriages (2.6%) than civil marriages (0.3%) in 2024. Among Muslim marriages, 0.9% of grooms and 2.4% of brides were minors, while among civil marriages, the proportions were lower at 0.1% of grooms and 0.3% of brides.

Figure 1.11 Marriages of Minors Aged Below 21 Years



Part 2
Divorce and Annulment
Trends

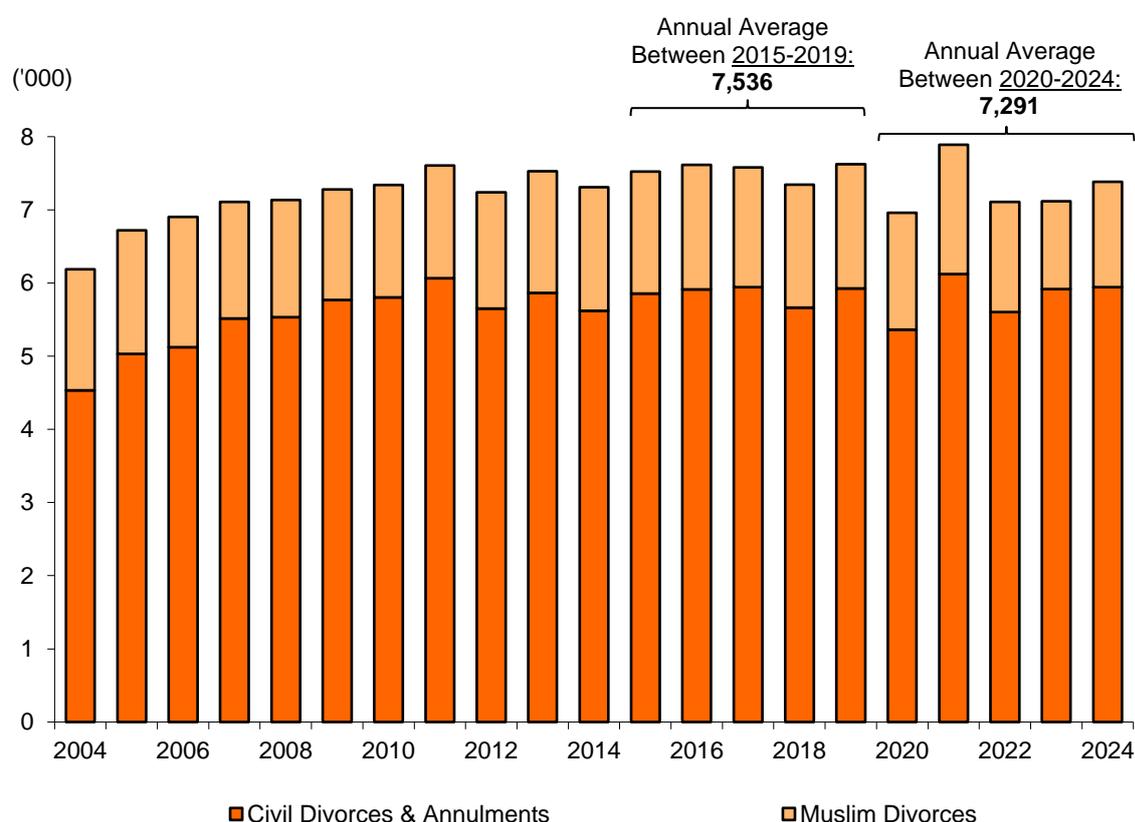
PART 2 DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT TRENDS

More Marital Dissolutions in 2024 compared to 2023

In 2024, a total of 7,382 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment, a 3.7% increase from the 7,118 marital dissolutions in the previous year (Figure 2.1). The number of civil marital dissolutions increased slightly from 5,918 in 2023 to 5,942 in 2024. Over the same period, the number of Muslim divorces increased from 1,200 to 1,440.

The average number of marital dissolutions per year between 2020 and 2024³ (7,291) was lower than the preceding five-year period between 2015 and 2019 (7,536).

Figure 2.1 Marital Dissolutions



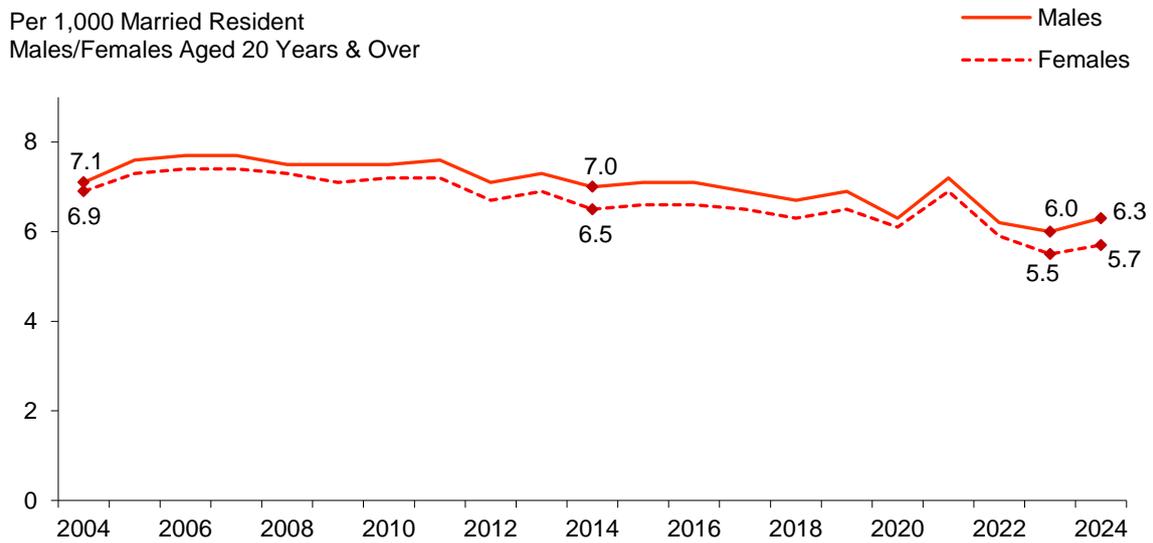
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	7,522	7,614	7,578	7,344	7,623	6,959	7,890	7,107	7,118	7,382
Civil	5,855	5,912	5,941	5,662	5,926	5,361	6,123	5,602	5,918	5,942
Muslim	1,667	1,702	1,637	1,682	1,697	1,598	1,767	1,505	1,200	1,440

³ Fluctuations were observed between 2020 and 2023 due to disruption in divorce proceedings from the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in Syariah Court operations. Court services were temporarily closed in late 2022 as the Syariah Court prepared for the launch of new divorce e-services. Mediation and hearing services were also temporarily reduced in early 2023 as the new e-services were being implemented.

Decline in General Divorce Rates Over the Past Decade

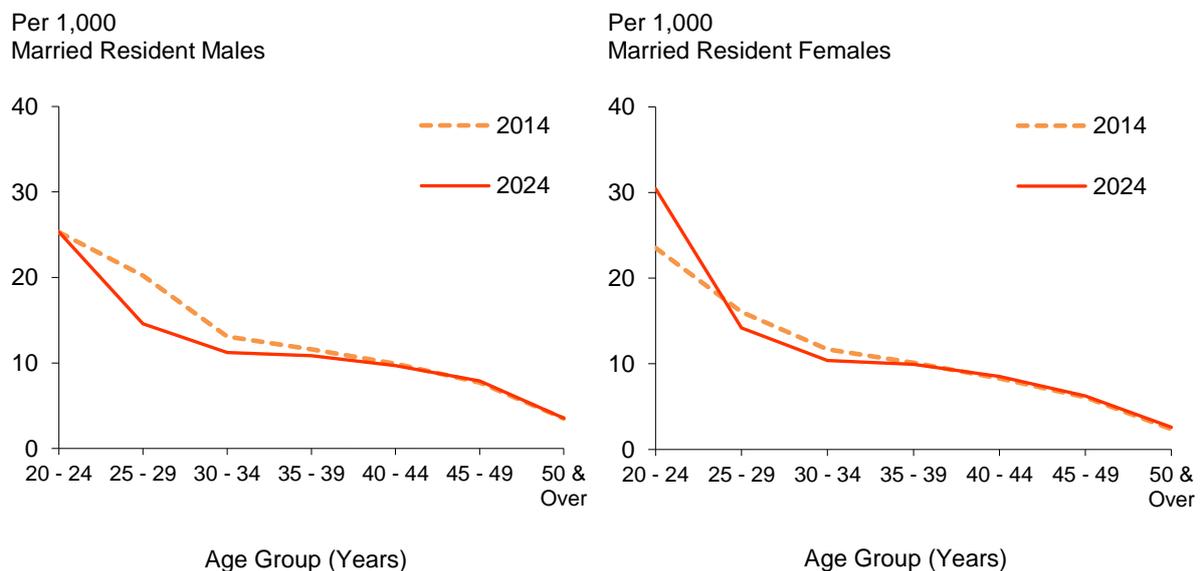
Despite the slight increase from 2023, the general divorce rates in 2024 were lower for both males and females compared to a decade ago (Figure 2.2). There were 6.3 marital dissolutions for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2024, a decline from 7.0 in 2014. Similarly, there were 5.7 marital dissolutions for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2024, down from 6.5 in 2014.

Figure 2.2 General Divorce Rate



Other than married females aged 20-24 who saw an increase in their divorce rate, divorce rates for males and females in all other age groups either fell or remained similar to those of a decade ago (Figure 2.3). Marital dissolutions continued to be more prevalent among the younger age groups.

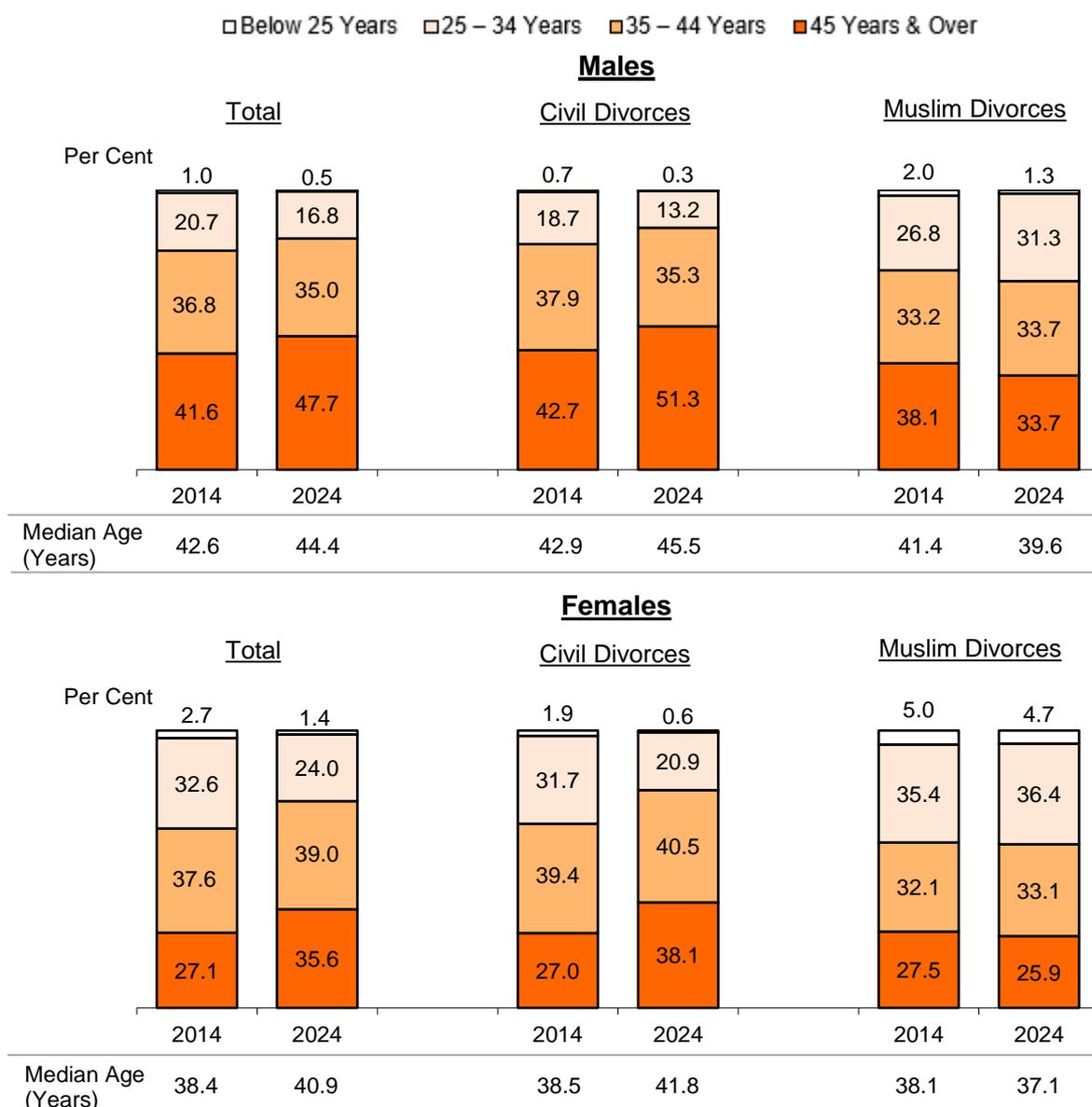
Figure 2.3 Age-Sex-Specific Divorce Rates



Median Age at Divorce Rose Over the Last Ten Years

The median age at divorce rose over the last ten years, from 42.6 years in 2014 to 44.4 years in 2024 for male divorcees, and from 38.4 years in 2014 to 40.9 years in 2024 for female divorcees (Figure 2.4). This was 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

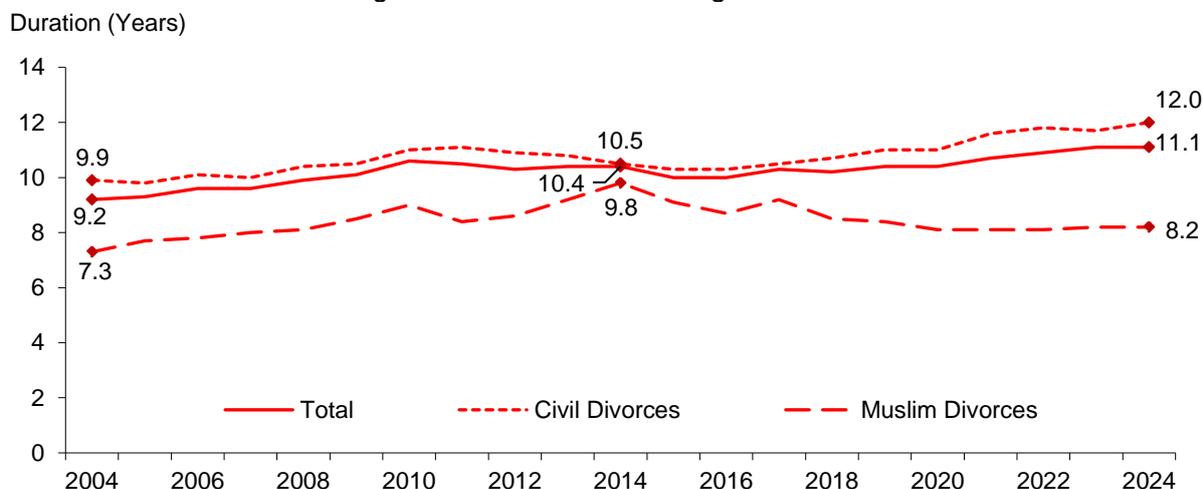


Notes: 1) Data exclude annulments.
2) Proportions may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Longer Median Duration of Marriage in 2024

Among total divorces in 2024, the median duration of marriage was 11.1 years, longer than the 10.4 years in 2014 (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 12.0 years for civil divorces and 8.2 years for Muslim divorces in 2024.

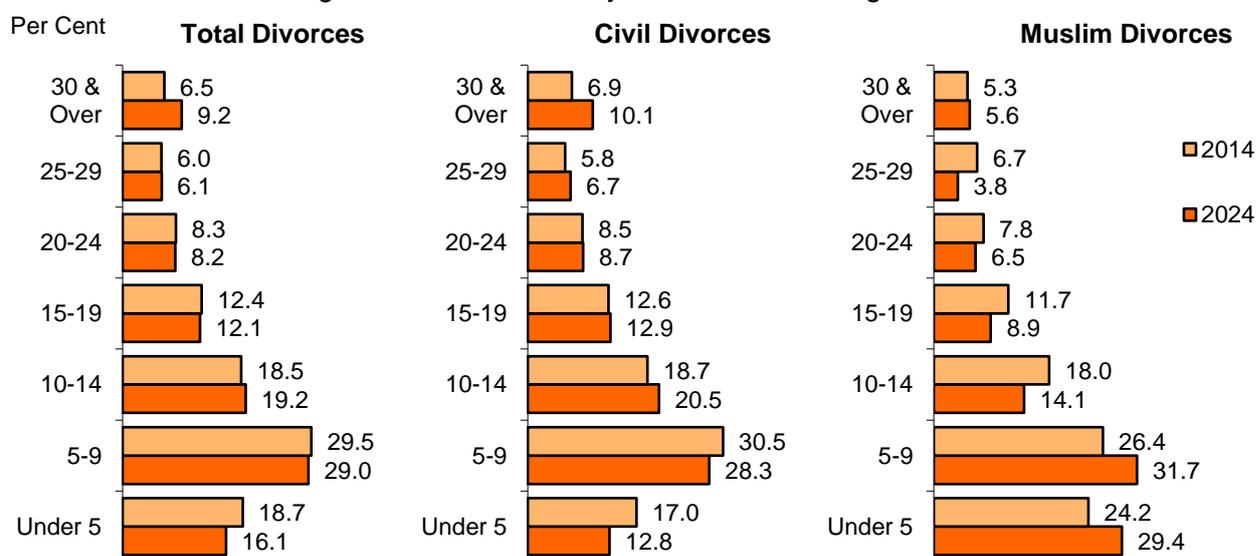
Figure 2.5 Median Marriage Duration



Note: Data exclude annulments.

Couples who were married for 5 to 9 years accounted for the largest share of total, civil and Muslim divorces in 2024, at 29.0%, 28.3% and 31.7% respectively (Figure 2.6). For civil divorces, the next largest group was those married for 10 to 14 years (20.5%), while for Muslim divorces, it was those married for less than 5 years (29.4%).

Figure 2.6 Divorces by Duration of Marriage



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

Top Main Reasons for Divorce Similar to Those a Decade Ago

The majority of civil divorces in 2024 were filed by wives. The proportion remained relatively unchanged since a decade ago, at 62.9% in 2014 and 63.0% in 2024 (Figure 2.7).

The main reasons cited for civil divorces also remained similar to a decade ago. “Unreasonable behaviour” of spouse was the top main reason cited for divorce by both male and female plaintiffs in 2024, accounting for 48.5% of males and 62.6% of females. The next most cited reason was having “Lived apart or separated for three years or more”, at 47.4% among males and 35.0% among females.

Figure 2.7 Civil Divorces and Top Main Reasons by Plaintiff

Main Reason for Divorce	Total		Husband		Wife	
	2014	2024	2014	2024	2014	2024
Total (Number)	5,172	5,638	1,917	2,086	3,255	3,552
Proportion of Civil Divorces (%)						
Unreasonable Behavior	 51.9	 57.4	 40.5	 48.5	 58.6	 62.6
Live Apart/Separated for Three Years or More	 44.8	 39.6	 54.5	 47.4	 39.2	 35.0

Note: Data exclude annulments.

In 2024, 71.0% of Muslim divorces were filed by wives, similar to the 71.4% in 2014 (Figure 2.8).

Similar to a decade ago, “Infidelity or extra-marital affair” was cited as the top main issue⁴ in marriage among Muslim divorces filed by both husbands (15.8%) and wives (19.9%) in 2024. The next most common issue was “Desertion” (8.4%) for those filed by husbands, and “Domestic violence and abuses” (9.2%) for those filed by wives.

Figure 2.8 Muslim Divorces and Top Main Issues in Marriage by Plaintiff

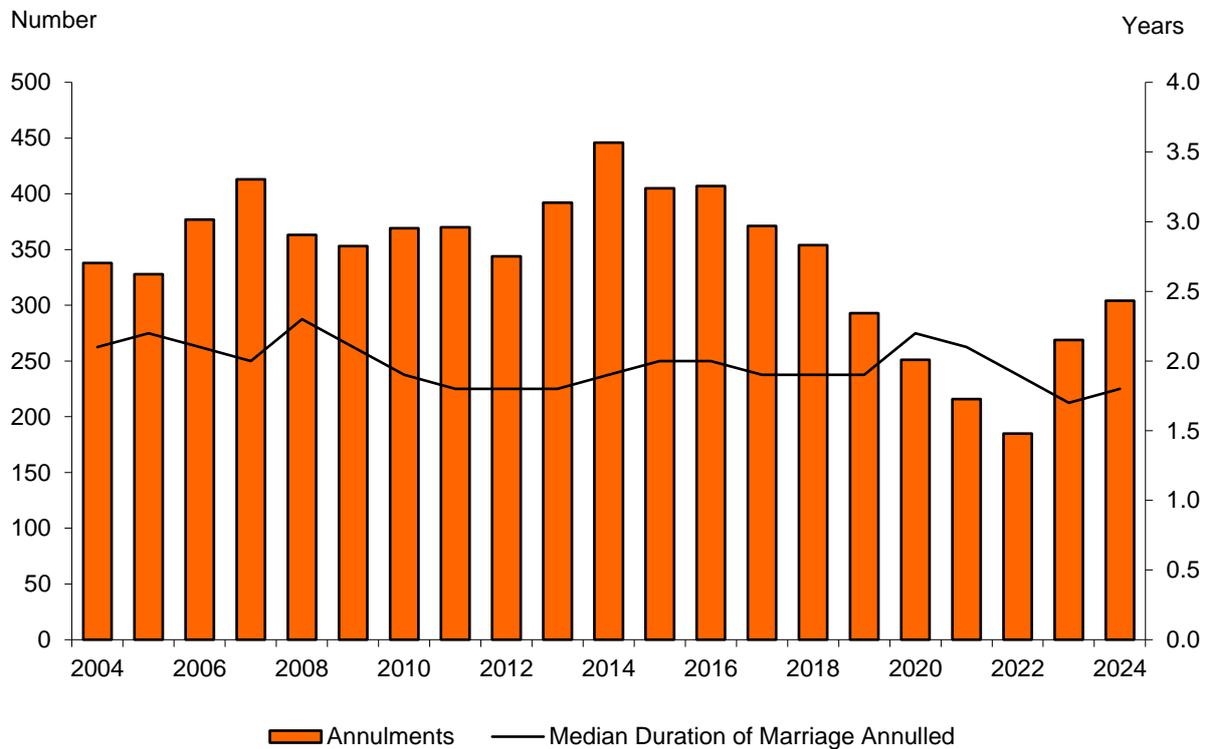
Main Issue in Marriage	Total		Husband		Wife	
	2014	2024	2014	2024	2014	2024
Total (Number)	1,689	1,440	483	417	1,206	1,023
Proportion of Muslim Divorces (%)						
Infidelity/Extra-Marital Affair	 21.9	 18.8	 21.3	 15.8	 22.1	 19.9
Domestic Violence and Abuses	 8.5	 7.4	 2.9	 2.9	 10.7	 9.2
Desertion	 11.8	 7.2	 13.5	 8.4	 11.2	 6.6
Financial Problems	 15.7	 5.8	 9.9	 3.8	 18.0	 6.6

⁴ 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 annulments of civil marriages increased, with 304 couples annulling their marriages in 2024, up from 269 in 2023 (Figure 2.9). The increase in annulments in the last two years reversed the earlier downward trend for annulments observed from 2016 to 2022. The median duration of marriages that ended in annulment in 2024 was 1.8 years, up slightly from 1.7 years in 2023.

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. In Part 3 of the report, we analyse 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 2023, regardless of when the couples were married	Divorces or annulments which occurred by end-2023 among couples who had registered their marriage in 2013

By tapping on the rich administrative data sources in Singapore's vital statistics system, couples in each resident marriage cohort⁵ 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.

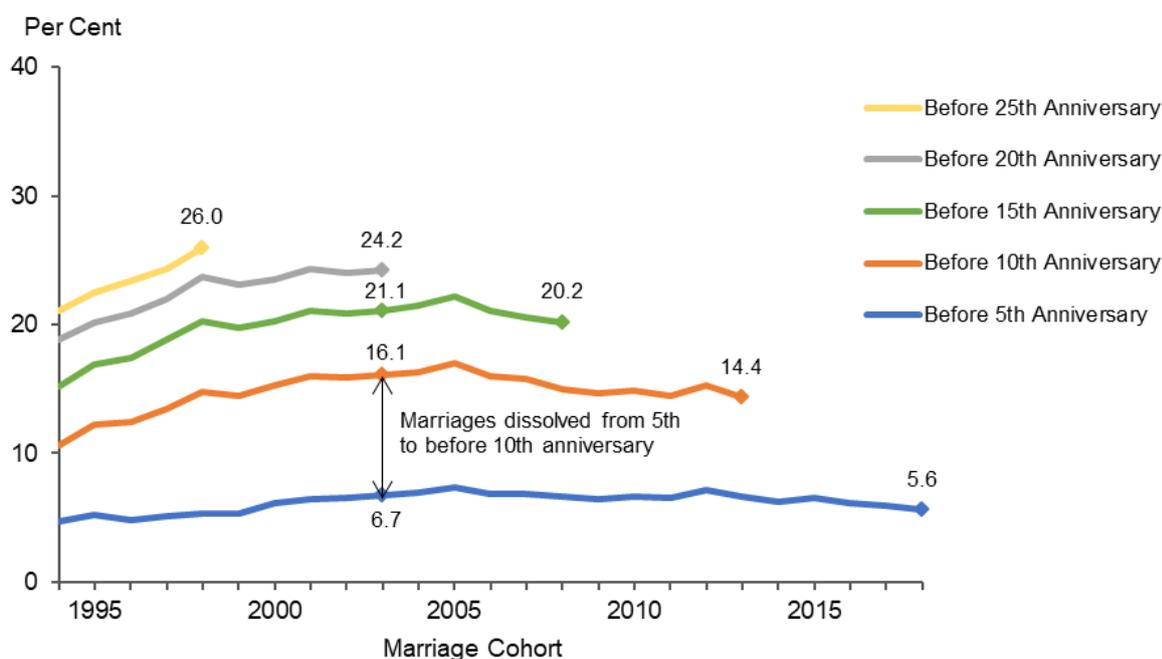
The cohort analysis provides insights on the trends in stability of marriages by marriage cohorts and their profiles. It complements the annual trend on marriage and divorce period indicators in Parts 1 and 2 of this report, giving a more comprehensive picture on the proportion of marriages ending in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

⁵ 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 2023.

Highest Proportion of Dissolved Marriages From 5th To Before 10th Anniversary

There were proportionately more marriages that dissolved from the 5th to before the 10th anniversary compared to marriages in other 5-yearly periods. As marriages progressed to the next marriage duration milestone beyond the 10th anniversary, the increases in dissolution rates at each subsequent 5-yearly interval were smaller (Figure 3.2). For example, 6.7% of the 2003 resident marriage cohort had dissolved before the 5th anniversary. Another 9.4% ended their marriage from their 5th to before their 10th anniversary, bringing the total proportion dissolved to 16.1%. Subsequent increases were smaller, with the total proportion dissolved among the 2003 marriage cohort at 21.1% and 24.2% before the 15th and 20th anniversaries respectively.

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

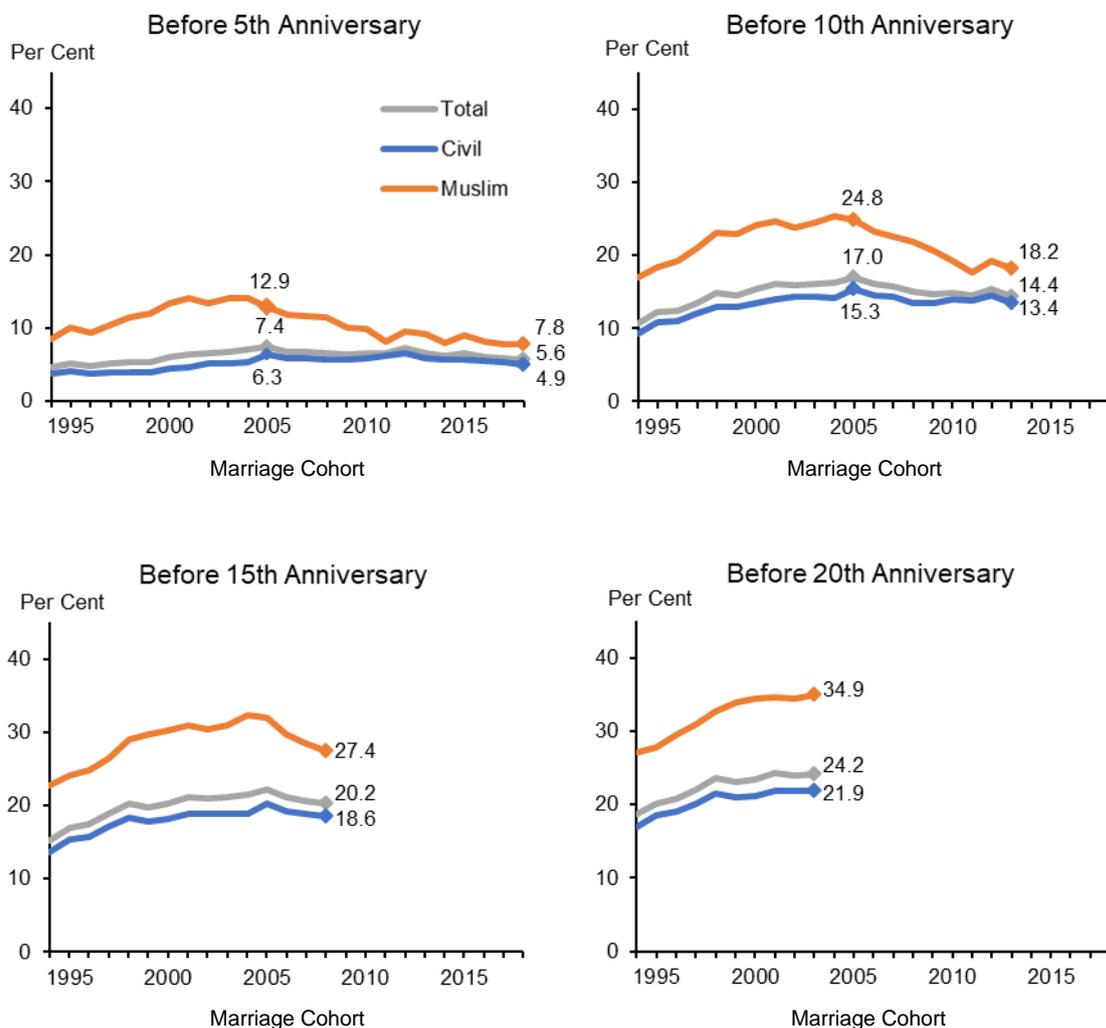


Lower Dissolution Rates Before 10th Anniversary Among 2006 – 2013 Marriage Cohorts than the 2005 Marriage Cohort

Among marriage cohorts prior to 2005, dissolution rates were generally on an uptrend. However, compared with the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2013 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10th anniversary (Figure 3.3). The cumulative proportion of marriages that dissolved before the 10th anniversary declined from 17.0% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 14.4% for the 2013 marriage cohort. Similarly, the proportion who dissolved their marriages before the 5th anniversary declined from 7.4% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 5.6% for the 2018 marriage cohort.

Although the dissolution rates for Muslim marriages were higher than civil marriages for all cohorts, the proportion of dissolved Muslim marriages before the 5th, 10th and 15th anniversaries for cohorts from 2005 onwards 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, the proportion of dissolved marriages was higher for males who married at ages 20-24 as compared to their older counterparts (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

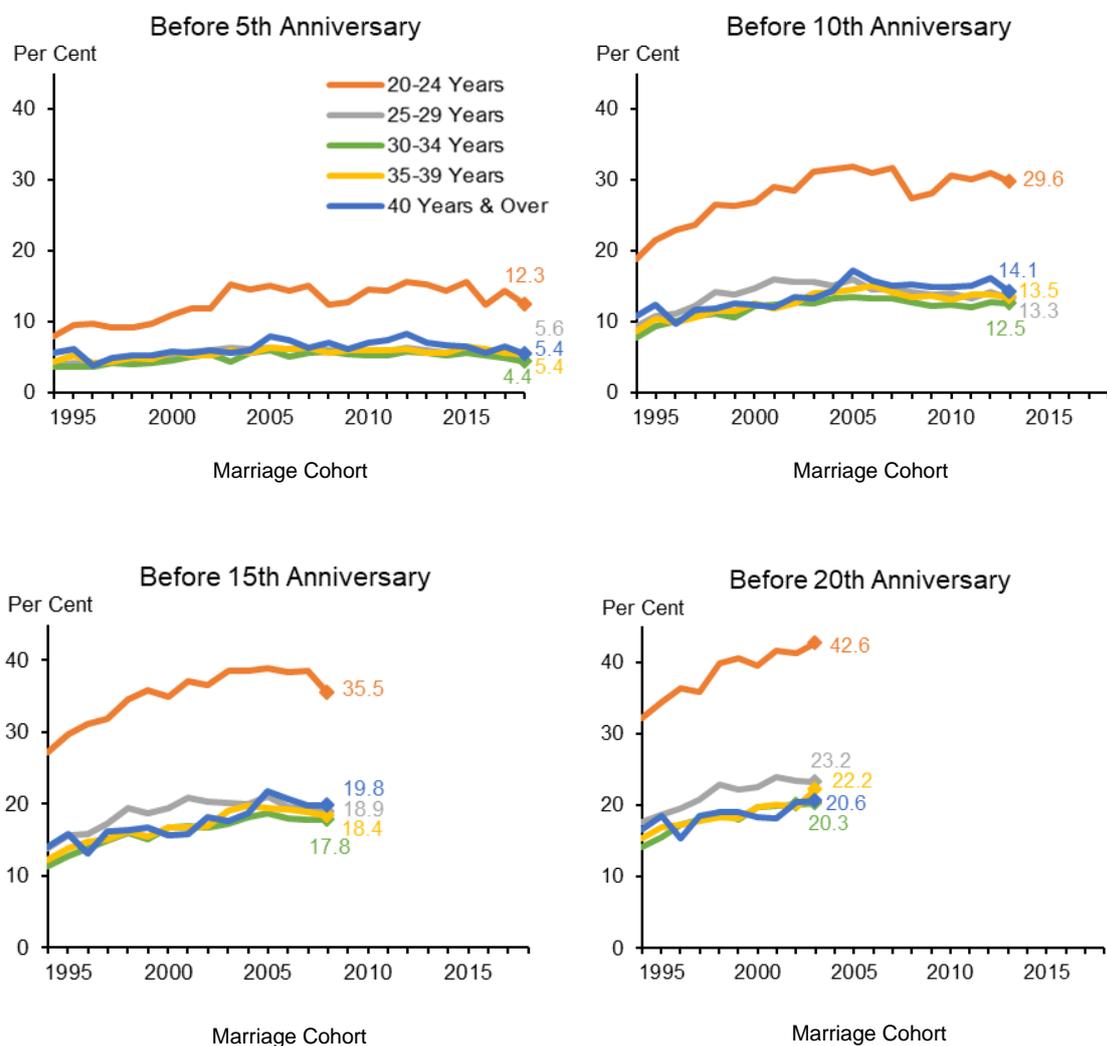
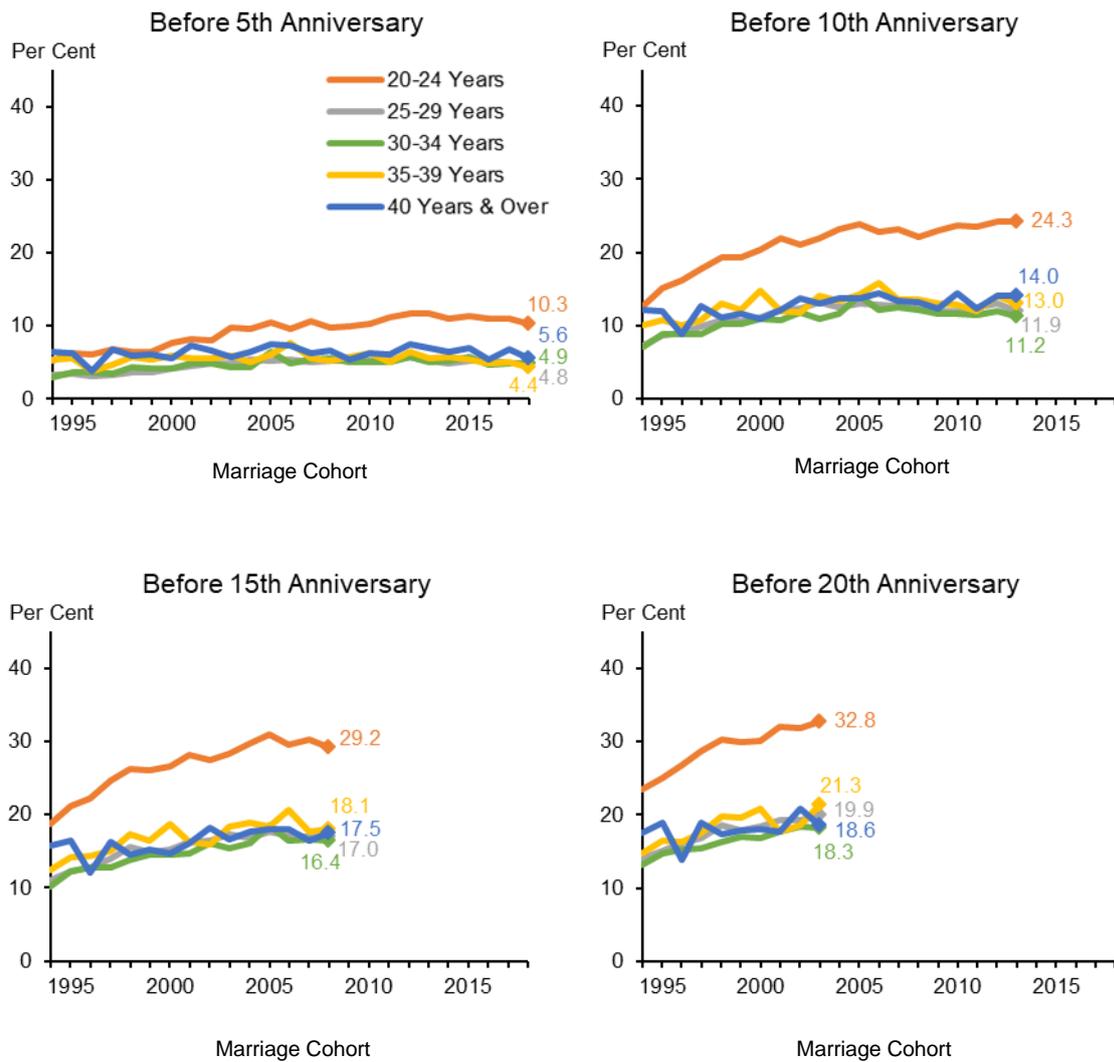


Figure 3.5 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Females by Age Group at Marriage



Highest Dissolution Rates Among Those with Secondary and Below Qualification

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

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

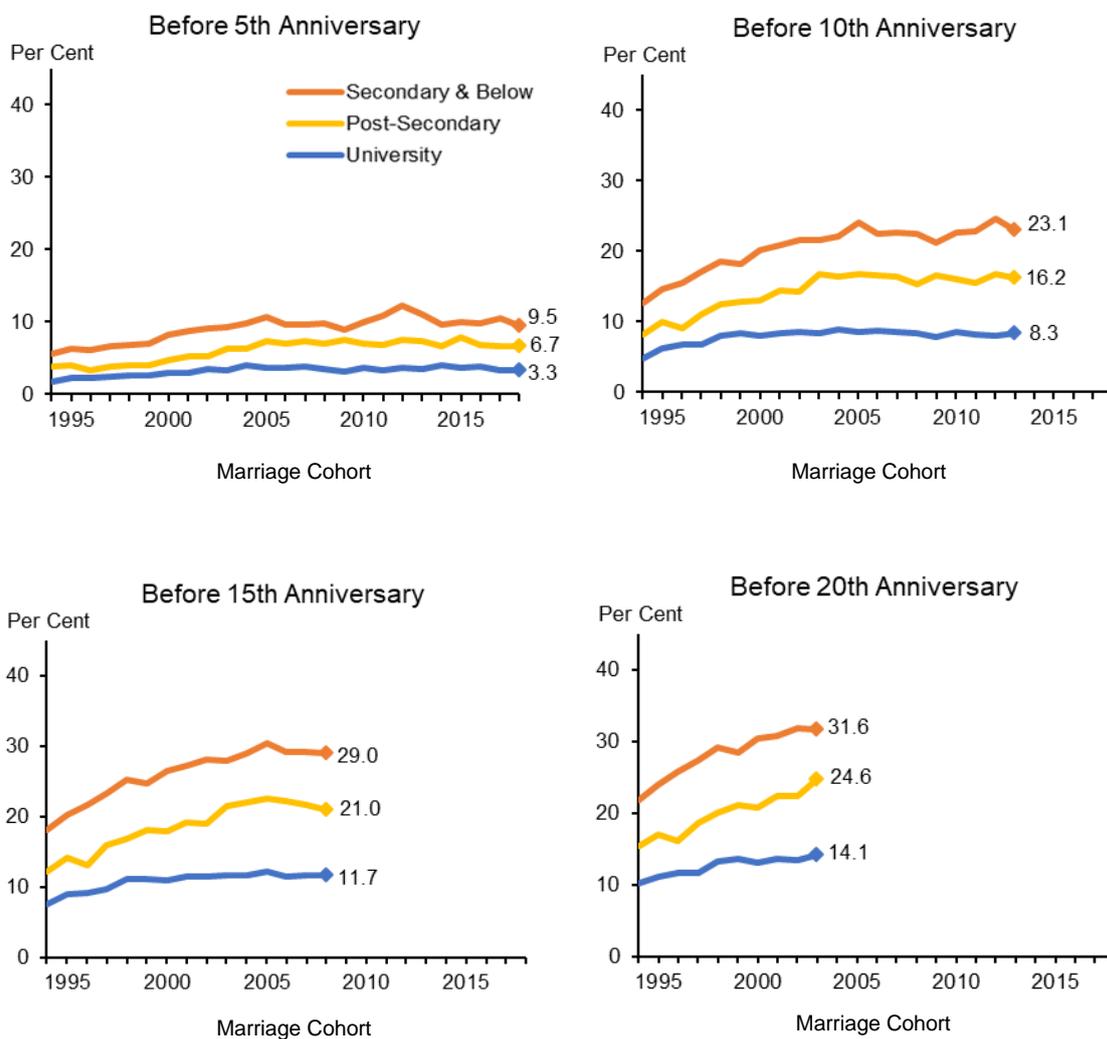
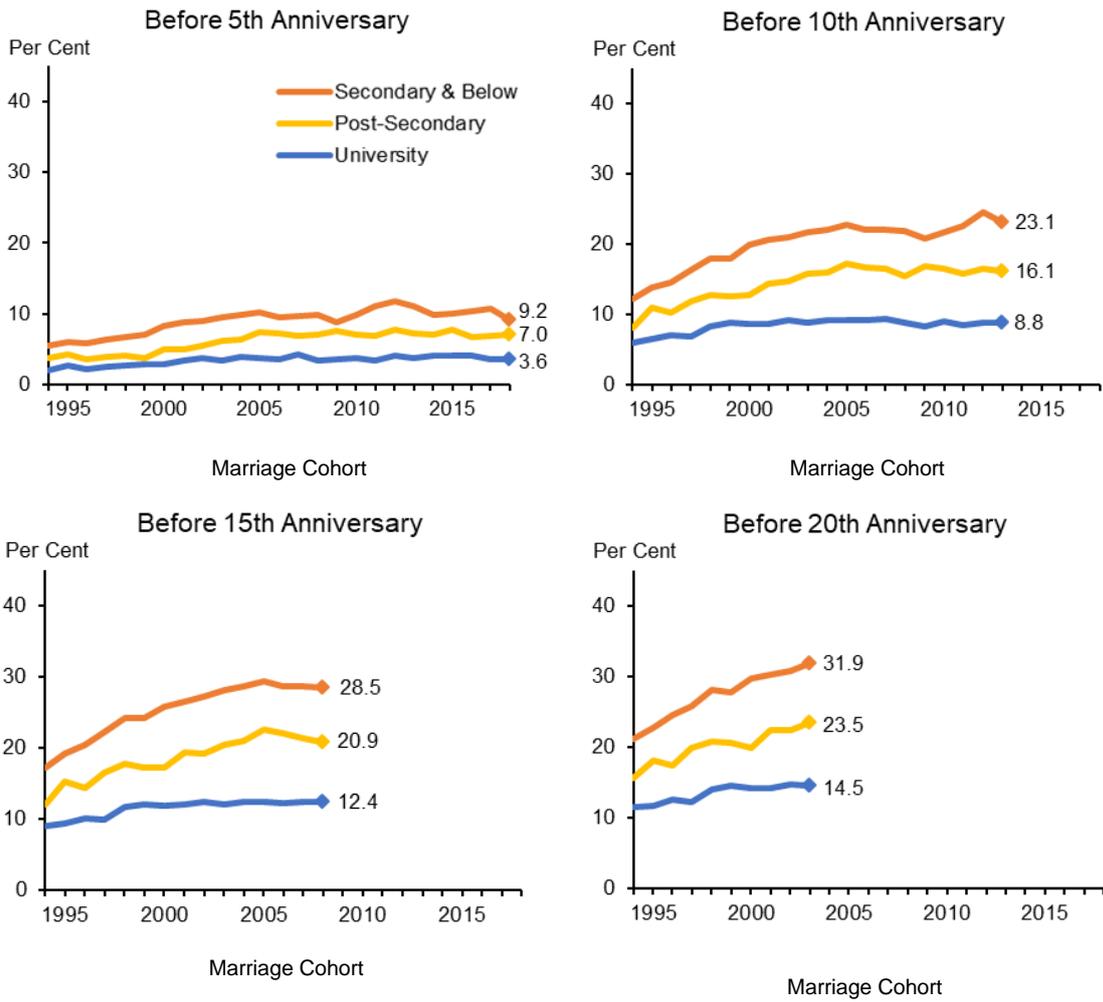


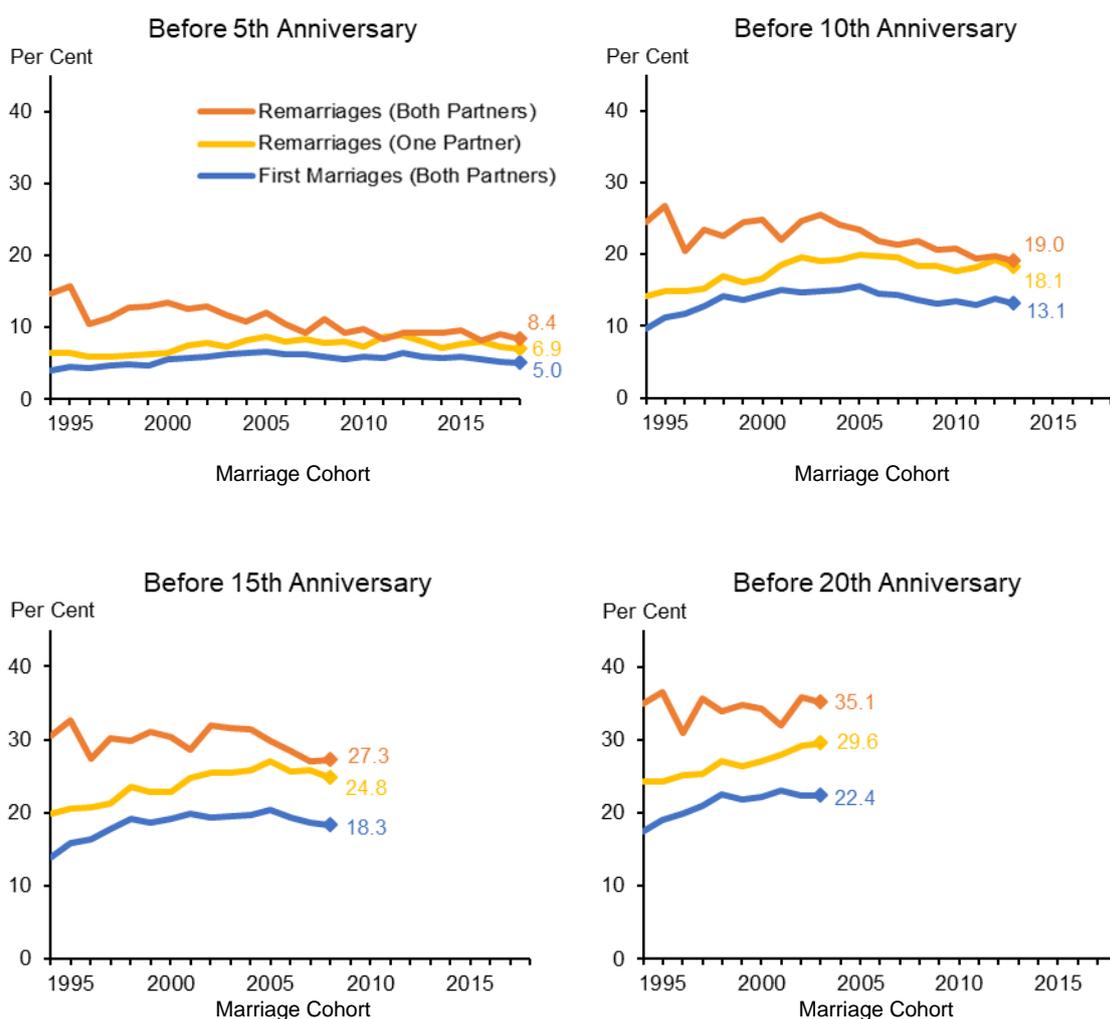
Figure 3.7 Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages for Females by Educational Qualification at Marriage



Higher Dissolution Rates Among Remarriages

The dissolution rate of couples who had both been married previously was the highest, followed by couples where one partner had previously been married (Figure 3.8). Couples 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, 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 civil marriages are obtained from records of marriages registered under the Women's Charter 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 civil divorces and annulments are obtained from records maintained by the Family Justice Courts.

For Muslim divorces, 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 refer to invalidation of marriages under the Women's Charter. Parties whose marriage has 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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