

YOUTH.sg:

The State of Youth in Singapore 2024

Youth & The Power of Communities



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WE HEAR **Y**OUTH HERE FOR **Y**OUTH

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference in the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.



Our Vision

Thriving youth who are **future-ready** and **committed to Singapore**



Our Mission

Create **opportunities for all Singaporean youth** to be **heard**, to be **empowered** and **be the change**



Our Background

NYC was set up by the Singapore Government on 1 November 1989 as the national co-ordinating body for youth affairs in Singapore and the focal point of international youth affairs.

On 1 January 2015, NYC began its operations as an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and housed two key institutions: Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) and Youth Corps Singapore (YCS).

Together, the agency drives youth development and broadens outreach to young Singaporeans and youth sector organisations.

Visit www.nyc.gov.sg for more information.



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Preface

The National Youth Survey (NYS) studies the major concerns and issues of schooling and working youths in Singapore. It is a time-series survey that tracks and provides updated analyses of national youth statistics and outcomes to inform policy and practice. To date, NYS has been conducted in 2002, 2005, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022. Findings and analyses from each cycle of NYS are subsequently published as YOUTH.sg: The State of Youth in Singapore (YOUTH.sg).

This edition of YOUTH.sg consists of five separate issues covering topics concerning the state of youth today:



Youth & Their Diverse Priorities

shed light on the aspirations, values & attitudes driving youths



Youth & the Future of Work

focuses on youths' education & employment related attitudes and future readiness



Youth & Their Enduring Bonds

provides insights into the strength and quality of youths' social support



Youth & the Power of Communities

delves into youths' sense of social cohesion and civic engagement



Youth & Their Strides Towards Flourishing

highlights multiple aspects of youths' wellbeing and ability to thrive

Each issue features youth statistics and insights from the NYS. Together, the five issues of YOUTH.sg intend to shed light on and explore specific emergent trends and issues of youths.

This publication has been put together by the Research team at the National Youth Council.

Notation

NA Not Available

Notes

Percentages may not total up to 100% due to rounding.
Survey figures may vary slightly due to sample weighting.

Social Cohesion

The extent of social connectedness and strength of social bonds within a society reflect the level of cohesiveness among its members and translates to the abundance of social capital available to encourage individual and collective action (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000). How youths perceive and engage with others in their communities offer insights to the degree of cohesion with the larger society and institutions (Fonseca et al., 2019). Together, social capital and community engagement play an important role in developing societal harmony especially in the context of global uncertainties or crises (Jewett et al., 2021).



Social Cohesion

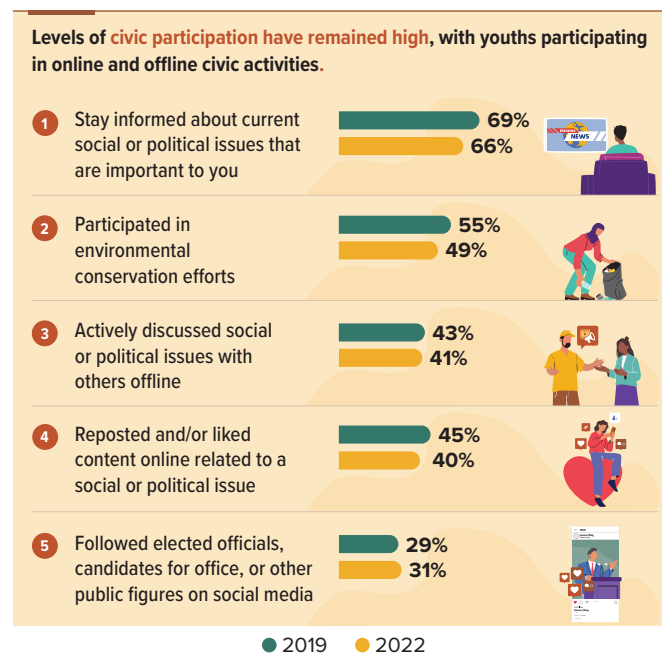
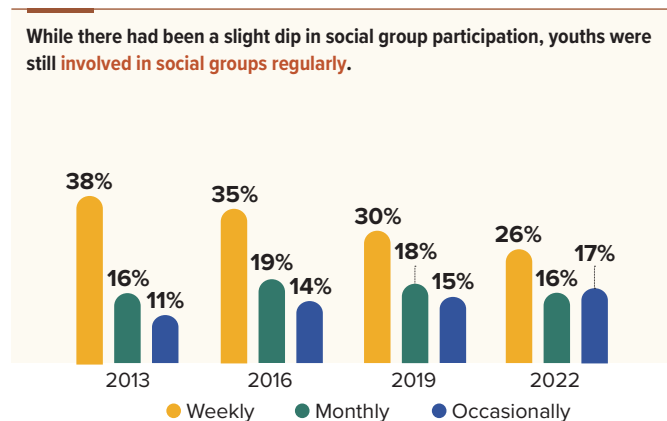
With challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and growing geo-political uncertainty across the globe, maintaining social cohesion and active citizenry are of utmost importance to ensure that we can rise above these challenges as a nation (Yacob, 2022).

National pride and affiliation among our youths remained high over time, demonstrating their strength and resilience to endure and overcome obstacles and national crises. Correspondingly, youths in Singapore continued to be highly civically active and socially conscious via both online and offline modalities. They keep abreast of current affairs, support social and environmental causes, and take the initiative to engage in online and offline discussions. Despite a greater shift towards online civic engagement due to COVID-19 restrictions (Kwan, 2022), youths still believed that online engagement acts as an enhancer rather

than a substitute for offline engagement (United Nations Development Programme, 2021).

However, with work and school commitments taking up an average of 45-50 hours per week (Seah, 2022), these competing demands may be one reason why social group participation among youths in Singapore has been declining over time. This decline is concerning as participation in social activities is important for building relationships and trust (Flanagan et al., 2014). Furthermore, with hybrid learning and working arrangements becoming the norm, it remains to be seen whether and how the face of civic and social group participation will continue to evolve. Digital platforms may make it easier for young people to connect with like-minded individuals and participate remotely, potentially overcoming time constraints. On the other hand, the lack of face-to-face interaction could potentially diminish the depth of connections which are critical for fostering a sense of community.

To harness the power of our communities, it is pertinent to continuously lend support for youths to remain active and committed citizens, and to improve their social group participation. These efforts can then come together to help our society progress as one even amidst future disruptions.



PART A: NATIONAL ATTITUDES

Section A1:

NATIONAL PRIDE

National pride was consistently high among youths in Singapore (Table A1). Youths across all age groups and ethnicities shared similarly high levels of pride in 2022 (Tables A2 and A3).

Q How proud are you to be a Singaporean?
(Based on a 4-pt scale, where 4=“very proud” & 1=“not proud at all”.)

Table A1:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS’ NATIONAL PRIDE OVER TIME (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	2013	2016	2019	2022
	(n=2,572)	(n=3,316)	(n=3,142)	(n=3,333)
Proud to be Singaporean	3.18 (0.71)	3.37 (0.65)	3.23 (0.67)	3.24 (0.64)

Note
In NYS 2013, the question was phrased as “How proud are you as a Singaporean?”.

Table A2:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS’ NATIONAL PRIDE BY AGE (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=655)	(n=768)	(n=915)	(n=995)	(n=3,333)
Proud to be Singaporean	3.28 (0.61)	3.21 (0.64)	3.18 (0.65)	3.31 (0.63)	3.24 (0.64)

Table A3:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS’ NATIONAL PRIDE BY RACE (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	Chinese	Malay	Indian	Others	Overall
	(n=2,396)	(n=583)	(n=271)	(n=83)	(n=3,333)
Proud to be Singaporean	3.23 (0.64)	3.28 (0.62)	3.32 (0.65)	3.19 (0.66)	3.24 (0.64)



Section A2:

COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE

Youths continued to express a strong sense of rootedness and willingness to take action for Singapore. They were committed to supporting Singapore in times of crisis and developing Singapore for the future (Tables A4 to A6).

Q To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
(Based on a 4-pt scale, where 4=“strongly agree” & 1=“strongly disagree”.)

Table A4:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE OVER TIME (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	2016	2019	2022
	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of national crisis	3.30 (0.60)	3.11 (0.60)	3.08 (0.60)
I feel a sense of belonging to Singapore	3.30 (0.65)	3.16 (0.62)	3.16 (0.60)
I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations	3.31 (0.62)	3.17 (0.60)	3.13 (0.60)

Table A5:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE BY AGE (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of national crisis	3.07 (0.61)	3.05 (0.61)	3.04 (0.60)	3.15 (0.58)	3.08 (0.60)
I feel a sense of belonging to Singapore	3.20 (0.58)	3.15 (0.60)	3.11 (0.60)	3.20 (0.60)	3.16 (0.60)
I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations	3.17 (0.59)	3.12 (0.59)	3.08 (0.63)	3.17 (0.59)	3.13 (0.60)

Table A6:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE BY RACE (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	Chinese	Malay	Indian	Others	Overall
	(n=2,538)	(n=589)	(n=328)	(n=110)	(n=3,565)
I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of national crisis	3.06 (0.60)	3.11 (0.56)	3.22 (0.66)	3.06 (0.53)	3.08 (0.60)
I feel a sense of belonging to Singapore	3.15 (0.59)	3.17 (0.58)	3.25 (0.68)	3.15 (0.54)	3.16 (0.60)
I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations	3.12 (0.60)	3.13 (0.58)	3.26 (0.66)	3.18 (0.54)	3.13 (0.60)

Section A3:

INSTITUTIONAL TRUST

In line with the wider Singapore population (Edelman, 2023), youths possessed greater confidence in government and government-related bodies as compared to other institutions (Table A7). Conversely, independent news websites and social media were least trusted among all age groups (Table A8).

Q

To what extent do you have confidence in the following organisations or institutions?
(Based on a 4-pt scale, where 4=“completely confident” & 1=“not confident at all”.)

Table A7:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS OVER TIME (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	2016	2019	2022
	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
Healthcare institutions	3.01 (0.72)	2.98 (0.74)	3.05 (0.76)
Civil defence	3.08 (0.77)	2.96 (0.81)	2.95 (0.81)
Armed forces	3.06 (0.80)	2.91 (0.84)	2.91 (0.83)
Educational institutions	3.05 (0.73)	2.89 (0.74)	2.86 (0.77)
Government	2.92 (0.81)	2.75 (0.82)	2.83 (0.81)
The courts	2.90 (0.78)	2.77 (0.80)	2.80 (0.80)
Financial institutions	2.82 (0.77)	2.77 (0.74)	2.77 (0.77)
Parliament ^a	NA	2.62 (0.84)	2.70 (0.82)
Non-profit organisations	2.63 (0.73)	2.49 (0.76)	2.49 (0.75)
Major companies	2.61 (0.72)	2.52 (0.74)	2.47 (0.78)
Religious institutions	2.65 (0.89)	2.43 (0.87)	2.43 (0.88)
Mainstream media	2.42 (0.79)	2.40 (0.80)	2.42 (0.80)
Independent online news websites/blogs	2.20 (0.75)	2.11 (0.76)	2.17 (0.78)
Social media	2.20 (0.76)	2.21 (0.82)	2.17 (0.81)

Note
a. Item is new to NYS 2019.

Table A8:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS BY AGE (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
Healthcare institutions	3.19 (0.77)	3.12 (0.76)	2.96 (0.74)	3.00 (0.75)	3.05 (0.76)
Civil defence	3.00 (0.84)	2.97 (0.81)	2.92 (0.80)	2.95 (0.80)	2.95 (0.81)
Armed forces	3.03 (0.83)	2.93 (0.85)	2.82 (0.82)	2.88 (0.82)	2.91 (0.83)
Educational institutions	2.92 (0.79)	2.92 (0.78)	2.74 (0.75)	2.87 (0.75)	2.86 (0.77)
Government	2.91 (0.83)	2.82 (0.81)	2.74 (0.81)	2.87 (0.78)	2.83 (0.81)
The courts	2.84 (0.78)	2.81 (0.82)	2.74 (0.80)	2.83 (0.80)	2.80 (0.80)
Financial institutions	2.82 (0.77)	2.82 (0.79)	2.68 (0.76)	2.77 (0.76)	2.77 (0.77)
Parliament	2.80 (0.83)	2.73 (0.83)	2.60 (0.80)	2.70 (0.83)	2.70 (0.82)
Non-profit organisations	2.64 (0.75)	2.57 (0.77)	2.42 (0.74)	2.40 (0.74)	2.49 (0.75)
Major companies	2.53 (0.79)	2.53 (0.81)	2.39 (0.78)	2.47 (0.76)	2.47 (0.78)
Religious institutions	2.54 (0.87)	2.45 (0.89)	2.33 (0.87)	2.42 (0.87)	2.43 (0.88)
Mainstream media	2.58 (0.80)	2.51 (0.77)	2.28 (0.79)	2.38 (0.80)	2.42 (0.80)
Independent online news websites/blogs	2.29 (0.76)	2.27 (0.78)	2.12 (0.77)	2.06 (0.78)	2.17 (0.78)
Social media	2.34 (0.83)	2.27 (0.80)	2.07 (0.79)	2.06 (0.79)	2.17 (0.81)



Section A4:

SENSE OF BELONGING

Over the years and consistent across all age groups, youths’ strongest bonds were with their family, friends, and Singapore (Tables A9 and A10).

Q Thinking of the first group of people that comes to mind, to what extent do you feel a sense of belonging to these social units? (Based on a 5-pt scale, where 5=“to a very large extent”, 3=“to a moderate extent”, & 1=“not at all”.)

Table A9: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS’ PERCEIVED SENSE OF BELONGING OVER TIME (WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	2019	2022
	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
Your family	4.28 (0.87)	4.16 (0.94)
Your circle of friends	3.97 (0.88)	3.92 (0.93)
Singapore	3.63 (0.99)	3.62 (0.97)
Your racial/ethnic community	3.21 (1.04)	3.18 (1.04)
Your school/alma mater	3.13 (1.05)	3.00 (1.08)
Your neighbourhood	2.96 (1.04)	2.93 (1.04)
The world	2.96 (1.10)	2.86 (1.09)
ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	2.49 (1.08)	2.47 (1.08)

Note
This is a new question introduced in NYS 2019.

Table A10:
MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' PERCEIVED SENSE OF BELONGING BY AGE *(WITH STANDARD DEVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES)*

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
Your family	4.22 (0.94)	4.16 (0.94)	4.07 (0.98)	4.18 (0.88)	4.16 (0.94)
Your circle of friends	4.03 (0.95)	4.02 (0.92)	3.91 (0.91)	3.79 (0.93)	3.92 (0.93)
Singapore	3.68 (0.97)	3.61 (0.98)	3.53 (0.98)	3.67 (0.94)	3.62 (0.97)
Your racial/ethnic community	3.36 (1.04)	3.22 (1.05)	3.03 (1.03)	3.17 (1.01)	3.18 (1.04)
Your school/alma mater	3.40 (1.01)	3.11 (1.06)	2.80 (1.10)	2.84 (1.05)	3.00 (1.08)
Your neighbourhood	3.09 (1.02)	2.93 (1.06)	2.80 (1.03)	2.94 (1.02)	2.93 (1.04)
The world	2.90 (1.11)	2.85 (1.07)	2.79 (1.11)	2.90 (1.07)	2.86 (1.09)
ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	2.68 (1.06)	2.44 (1.08)	2.35 (1.07)	2.46 (1.08)	2.47 (1.08)



PART B: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Section B1:

CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

Majority of Singapore youths were civically active, with over 8 in 10 participating in at least one form of civic action (Table B1). Staying updated on current affairs, participating in environmental efforts, actively discussing issues offline, and reposting or liking online content concerning social and political issues were top forms of civic engagement. Social media may play a pivotal role in fostering civic consciousness through facilitating information dissemination and championing of causes (Pew Research Centre, 2018), and encouraging offline action among youths (Kahne & Bowyer, 2018).

Q Have you done any of the following civic activities in the past 12 months?

Table B1:
PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ACTIVITIES OVER TIME

	2016	2019	2022
	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
At least one civic activity ^a	65%	88%	84%
Stay informed about current social or political issues that are important to you ^b	NA	69%	66%
Participated in environmental conservation efforts (e.g., recycled)	25%	55%	49%
Actively discussed social or political issues with others offline ^b	NA	43%	41%
Reposted and/or liked content online related to a social or political issue	34%	45%	40%
Followed elected officials, candidates for office, or other public figures on social media	20%	29%	31%
Supported a social cause through monetary donations (e.g., donated to a crowdfunding campaign)	33%	35%	30%
Deliberately avoided or bought products for ethical, environmental or political reasons	18%	37%	29%
Signed a petition	11%	27%	21%
Joined an online group (e.g., Facebook groups, Telegram channel) dealing with social or political issues ^b	NA	17%	16%
Attended an event in support of a social or political issue (e.g., Earth Hour) ^b	NA	20%	13%
Commented on an online news story or blog post to express an opinion about a social or political issue	13%	15%	12%
Attended a discussion on social affairs (e.g., Youth Conversations) ^b	7%	10%	10%
Worked with fellow citizens to solve a problem in your community (e.g., organising a fundraising event, an awareness campaign) ^b	4%	12%	9%
Contacted a government official about a social issue that is important to you (e.g., Meet-the-People Session, email, etc.) ^b	3%	9%	9%
Created and posted original content online related to a social or political issue	6%	10%	8%
Attended a political rally or speech (e.g., election speech)	4%	4%	4%
Sent a “letter to the editor” to a newspaper or magazine	1%	3%	2%

Notes

- The upper-bound survey population figures are reflected in this table.
- a. Percentages of overall level of civic participation are calculated based on all 13 items in NYS 2016 and 17 items in NYS 2019 and 2022.
- b. Items are new/refined in NYS 2019.

Table B2:
PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ACTIVITIES BY AGE

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
At least one civic activity^a	87%	82%	85%	84%	84%
Stay informed about current social or political issues that are important to you	68%	62%	66%	67%	66%
Participated in environmental conservation efforts (e.g., recycled)	52%	43%	49%	51%	49%
Actively discussed social or political issues with others offline	43%	40%	41%	39%	41%
Reposted and/or liked content online related to a social or political issue	50%	41%	40%	33%	40%
Followed elected officials, candidates for office, or other public figures on social media	27%	27%	30%	37%	31%
Supported a social cause through monetary donations (e.g., donated to a crowdfunding campaign)	25%	26%	34%	34%	30%
Deliberately avoided or bought products for ethical, environmental or political reasons	30%	28%	31%	28%	29%
Signed a petition	25%	23%	20%	16%	21%
Joined an online group (e.g., Facebook groups, Telegram channel) dealing with social or political issues	17%	12%	18%	16%	16%
Attended an event in support of a social or political issue (e.g., Earth Hour)	16%	10%	13%	13%	13%
Commented on an online news story or blog post to express an opinion about a social or political issue	13%	11%	10%	13%	12%
Attended a discussion on social affairs (e.g., Youth Conversations)	14%	10%	9%	8%	10%
Contacted a government official about a social issue that is important to you (e.g., Meet-the-People Session, email, etc.)	5%	7%	10%	12%	9%
Worked with fellow citizens to solve a problem in your community (e.g., organising a fundraising event, an awareness campaign)	11%	10%	9%	8%	9%
Created and posted original content online related to a social or political issue	10%	8%	7%	7%	8%
Attended a political rally or speech (e.g., election speech)	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Sent a "letter to the editor" to a newspaper or magazine	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Notes

The upper-bound survey population figures are reflected in this table.

a. Percentages of overall level of civic participation are calculated based on all 17 items shown in the table.



PART C: SOCIAL GROUP & LEADERSHIP INVOLVMENT

Section C1:

OVERALL
SOCIAL GROUP
& LEADERSHIP
INVOLVEMENT

Social participation refers to youths’ online or offline involvement in groups within their schools, organisations, or local communities. Involvement in social activities and the ensuing interpersonal interactions contribute towards a variety of positive outcomes both for individuals and society. Benefits include building diversity in social networks and strengthening social trust. Moreover, social participation equips individuals with essential skills for further social and civic engagement (Flanagan et al., 2014).

Restrictions on social activities during the COVID-19 pandemic affected youths’ ability to pursue activities and hobbies (Ministry of Digital Development and Information, 2023), which may have contributed to the slight decline in social group and leadership involvement in 2022 compared to previous years (Table C1).

Participation in social groups varies with life stage. Younger youths were observed to be more active in sports, arts and hobby groups while older youths were more likely to be engaged in workplace-related groups (Tables C2 to C4).

Q

Which of the following social groups have you been involved in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply.)

In the past 12 months, have you led one of the following social groups (i.e., held an official title, such as chairman, treasurer, council member, etc.)?

Table C1:
SOCIAL GROUP & LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME

	2013	2016	2019	2022
	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
Group involvement	65%	68%	64%	59%
Leadership involvement	25%	24%	25%	21%

Table C2:
SOCIAL GROUP & LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT BY SCHOOLING STATUS

	Schooling	Non-schooling	Overall
	(n=1,109)	(n=2,456)	(n=3,565)
Group involvement	73%	52%	59%
Leadership involvement	31%	16%	21%

Table C3:
SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT BY AGE

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
Overall	80%	58%	52%	52%	59%
Sports-related	35%	21%	19%	18%	22%
Arts & cultural	21%	10%	6%	4%	9%
Uniformed	10%	3%	1%	2%	3%
Community	11%	7%	5%	5%	7%
Welfare & self-help	4%	5%	2%	4%	3%
Religious	14%	10%	12%	11%	11%
Interest & hobby	24%	19%	15%	13%	17%
Discussion & forums	9%	5%	7%	7%	7%
Workplace-related	6%	11%	19%	19%	15%
Others	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Note
The upper-bound survey population figures are reflected in this table.



Table C4:
LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT BY AGE

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
Overall	36%	21%	15%	15%	21%
Sports-related	12%	6%	4%	3%	6%
Arts & cultural	8%	3%	2%	1%	3%
Uniformed	5%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Community	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Welfare & self-help	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Religious	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Interest & hobby	8%	6%	3%	3%	4%
Discussion & forums	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Workplace-related	2%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Others	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%


Note
The upper-bound survey population figures are reflected in this table.



Section C2:

FREQUENCY OF
SOCIAL GROUP
INVOLVEMENT

Despite high school/work commitments taking up one’s time (Seah, 2022), around 1 in 4 youths remained active in multiple social groups and participated on a weekly basis (Tables C5 and C6). Youths involved in social groups on a weekly basis were more likely to be younger (Table C7) and members of sports-related, religious or hobby groups (Table C8).



Which of the following social groups have you been involved in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply.)

In the past 12 months, how often are you involved in the following social groups?

Table C5:
YOUTHS’ NUMBER OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME

	2013	2016	2019	2022
	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
3 or more	14%	15%	12%	9%
2	19%	20%	19%	15%
1	33%	33%	33%	35%
0	35%	32%	36%	41%

Table C6:
FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME

	2013	2016	2019	2022
	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)	(n=3,565)
Weekly	38%	35%	30%	26%
Monthly	16%	19%	18%	16%
Occasionally	11%	14%	15%	17%
None	35%	32%	36%	41%

Note
Participation figures are based on the most frequent level of participation of each respondent.

Table C7:
FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT BY AGE

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=711)	(n=802)	(n=963)	(n=1,090)	(n=3,565)
Weekly	50%	23%	22%	16%	26%
Monthly	16%	17%	16%	17%	16%
Occasionally	14%	18%	15%	20%	17%
None	19%	42%	47%	48%	41%

Note

Participation figures are based on the most frequent level of participation of each respondent.

Table C8:
FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT

	None	Occasionally	Monthly	Weekly
	(n=3,565)			
Sports-related	77%	6%	7%	10%
Arts & cultural	90%	3%	2%	4%
Uniformed	97%	1%	1%	2%
Community	93%	4%	2%	1%
Welfare & self-help	97%	2%	1%	0%
Religious	89%	2%	3%	6%
Interest & hobby	83%	6%	6%	5%
Discussion & forums	93%	3%	2%	2%
Workplace-related	85%	7%	6%	2%
Others	100%	0%	0%	0%

Note

Participation figures are based on the overall number of groups (i.e., a participant may be involved in more than one group).

Section C3:

FREQUENCY OF LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Youths who held leadership positions in social groups were more likely to participate in these groups on a weekly basis (Table C9), and were predominantly younger (Table C10).



In the past 12 months, have you led one of the following social groups (i.e., held an official title, such as chairman, treasurer, council member, etc.)?

In the past 12 months, how often are you involved in the following social groups?

Table C9:
FREQUENCY OF LEADERS' INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME

	2013	2016	2019	2022
	(n=716)	(n=858)	(n=832)	(n=736)
Weekly	63%	61%	56%	51%
Monthly	27%	27%	30%	30%
Occasionally	9%	12%	14%	19%

Note

Leadership figures are based on the most frequent level of participation in groups that respondents reported having led.

Table C10:
FREQUENCY OF LEADERS' INVOLVEMENT BY AGE

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=259)	(n=167)	(n=148)	(n=162)	(n=736)
Weekly	62%	51%	47%	35%	51%
Monthly	24%	31%	31%	40%	30%
Occasionally	14%	19%	22%	25%	19%

Note

Leadership figures are based on the most frequent level of participation in groups that respondents reported having led.

Table C11:
FREQUENCY OF LEADERS' INVOLVEMENT BY SOCIAL GROUP

	Occasionally	Monthly	Weekly
Sports-related	18%	26%	56%
Arts & cultural	17%	32%	52%
Uniformed	29%	22%	49%
Community	27%	52%	21%
Welfare & self-help	28%	50%	22%
Religious	9%	20%	71%
Interest & hobby	24%	33%	43%
Discussion & forums	22%	29%	48%
Workplace-related	35%	43%	22%
Others	0%	17%	83%



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About the National Youth Survey

The NYS represents a milestone in Singapore’s youth research with its resource-based approach that focuses on the support youths require for societal engagement (social capital) and individual development (human capital).

The National Youth Indicators Framework (NYIF) (Ho & Yip, 2003) was formulated to provide a comprehensive, systematic, and theoretically-grounded assessment of youths in Singapore. The NYIF draws from the existing research literature, policy-relevant indicators, and youth development models. It spans six domains of social and human capital. Table I summarises the framework.

TABLE I :
NATIONAL YOUTH INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

	Social Capital (Grootaert & van Bastelaer, 2002; Putnam, 2000)	Human Capital (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2020; World Economic Forum, 2017)
Definition	Social capital refers to the relationships within and between groups, and the shared norms and trust that govern these interactions.	Human capital refers to the skills, competencies, and attitudes of individuals, which in turn create personal, social, and economic wellbeing.
Domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social support• Social participation• Values & attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Employment• Wellbeing
Focus	The power of relationships	The human potential of young people

NYS 2022 adopted a random (i.e., probability-based) sampling method to ensure responses are representative of the resident youth population aged 15 to 34 years old.

The fieldwork period spanned November 2022 to February 2023. A total of 3,565 youths were successfully surveyed, of which 150 were surveyed at their households. Demographic proportions of NYS respondents adhered closely to the youth population.

Table II presents the profile of respondents from NYS 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022. Figures referenced in all tables in the publication were weighted according to interlocking matrices of age, gender, and race of the respective youth populations.

TABLE II :
PROFILE OF NYS RESPONDENTS

		NYS 2013 (n=2,843)	NYS 2016 (n=3,531)	NYS 2019 (n=3,392)	NYS 2022 (n= 3,565)	Latest Youth Population ^a
Age	15-19	24%	23%	21%	20%	20%
	20-24	25%	25%	24%	22%	22%
	25-29	24%	25%	27%	27%	27%
	30-34	28%	27%	28%	31%	31%
Gender	Male	49%	49%	50%	50%	50%
	Female	51%	51%	50%	50%	50%
Race	Chinese	72%	72%	72%	71%	71%
	Malay	16%	16%	17%	17%	17%
	Indian	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%
	Others	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Nationality	Singaporean	90%	94%	93%	93%	86%
	Permanent Resident	10%	6%	7%	7%	14%
Marital Status	Single	74%	73%	74%	74%	75%
	Married	25%	26%	25%	25%	25%
	Divorced/Separated/Widowed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Religion	Buddhism	25%	24%	22%	21%	26%
	Islam	19%	20%	21%	20%	20%
	Christianity	19%	19%	20%	20%	18%
	Hinduism	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Taoism/Traditional Chinese Beliefs	7%	6%	5%	4%	6%
	Other Religions	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
	No Religion	23%	25%	27%	29%	25%
Dwelling	HDB 1-2 rooms	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%
	HDB 3 rooms	14%	14%	14%	13%	11%
	HDB 4 rooms	37%	38%	35%	30%	34%
	HDB 5 rooms, executive, & above	32%	29%	30%	33%	29%
	Private flat & condominium	9%	9%	12%	13%	15%
	Private house & bungalow	6%	4%	4%	4%	6%
	Others	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Note

a. Latest youth population refers to the most recent available data from the Department of Statistics (DOS) at the time of fieldwork – age, gender, race, nationality and dwelling (DOS, 2022a, 2022b and 2022c) as well as marital status, and religion (DOS, 2020a and 2020b).

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YOUTH IN SINGAPORE: A BRIEF DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Takeaways

Young people form a cornerstone of Singapore's social and economic landscape, representing a sizeable segment of the population. In 2023, Singapore's resident youth population (aged 15 to 34 years old) accounted for one-quarter of the resident population. The gender ratio has held steady with an even split. The ethnic background of our resident youth population remains diverse, and there is a sizeable proportion of youths who are holding Permanent Residency.



Beyond a diverse demographic composition, the changes in attainment of milestones reflect the shifting landscape of Singapore's youth. In the YOUTH.sg publication, the National Youth Council explores time trends across both administrative data and perception data from the National Youth Survey to offer a holistic understanding of young people. These deeper insights serve to provide a comprehensive overview to inform youth development, policy, and practice.



The demographic trends of our youths not only reflect the progress of our nation, but also the amalgamation of decisions they have made at each point of transition. Over the past 40 years, young people have been pursuing higher educational attainment and delaying marriage. In 2023, 58% of youths aged 25 to 29 years old in the workforce had attained at least a university degree and 87% of youths aged 20 to 29 years old were single.

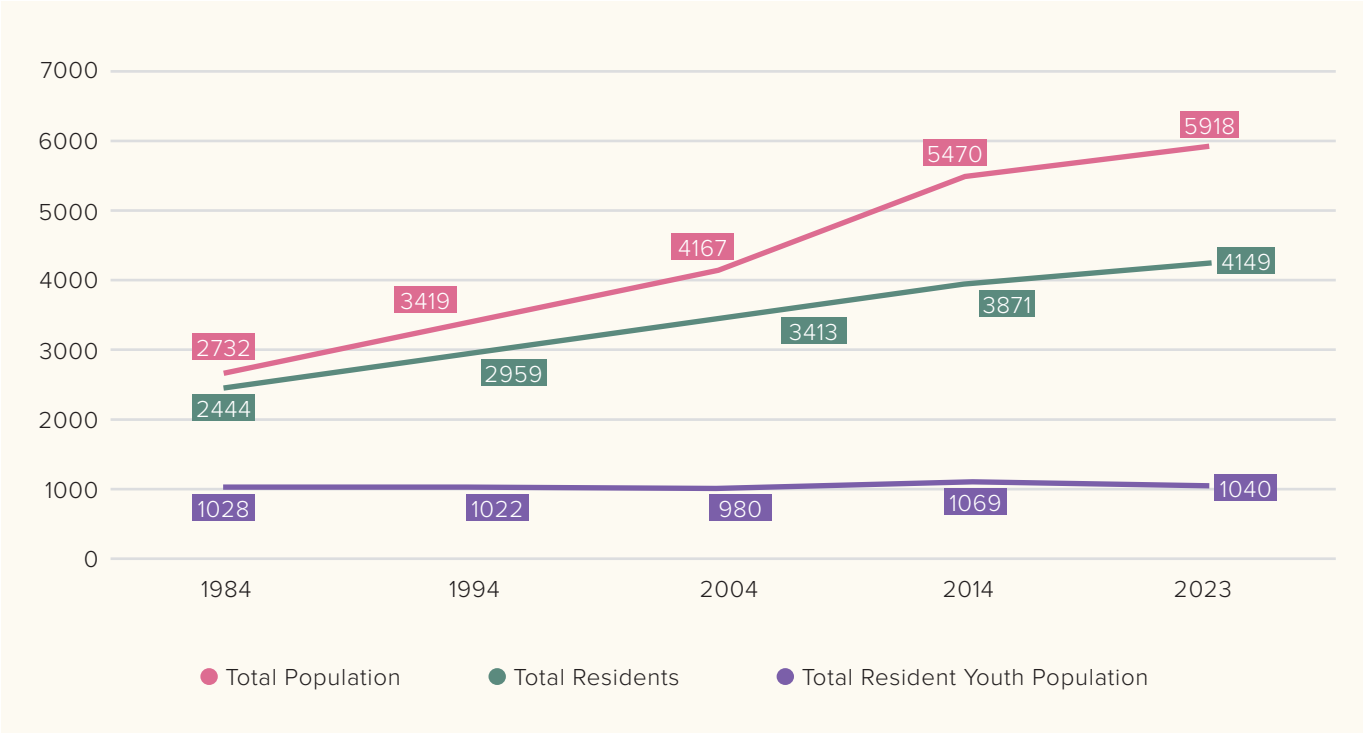


Youth Population

As of 2023, Singapore’s total population stood at 5.9 million, with a resident population of 4.1 million (Department of Statistics (DOS), 2023a). Within this, the resident youth population (aged 15 to 34 years old) comprised a sizeable proportion at approximately 1 million people (see Chart I). However, this youth demographic is shrinking relative to the overall population, as evidenced by

the rise in the median age of residents from 27 years in 1984 to 42 years in 2023. This demographic shift signalled significant societal changes, with the dwindling youth population and growing elderly cohort suggesting increased pressures on younger generations, as more face greater responsibilities in supporting an ageing society in the years to come.

Chart I.
OVERALL POPULATION AND YOUTH POPULATION IN SINGAPORE IN `000 (1984–2023)



Source: Department of Statistics (2023a & 2023b)

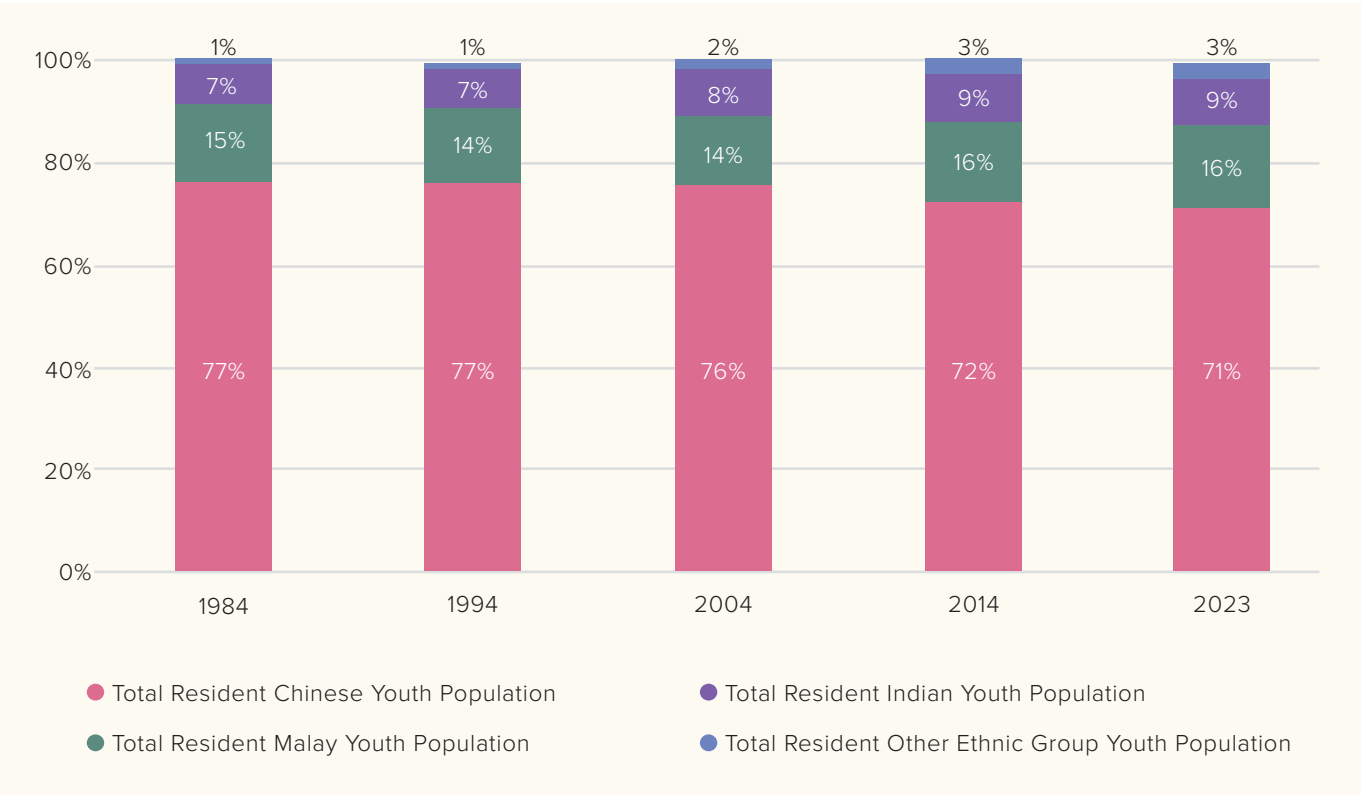
Gender Profile

The gender ratio of the resident youth population remained relatively even across the past 40 years, mirroring the overall trends of Singapore’s resident population. In 2023, there was an even proportion of 50% males and 50% females (DOS, 2023b).

Ethnicity and Permanent Residency Profile

Our resident youth population steadily became more diverse over the years. While Chinese remained as the majority ethnic group of youths in Singapore, there was an increase in the proportion of youths from other ethnic groups, from 23% in 1984 to 29% in 2023 (see Chart II). Contributing to our social diversity were our Permanent Resident youths, who formed a sizeable proportion (14% in 2023; DOS, 2023b & 2023c) of the youth population.

Chart II.
ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN OF THE RESIDENT YOUTH POPULATION IN SINGAPORE (1984–2023)



Source: DOS (2023b)

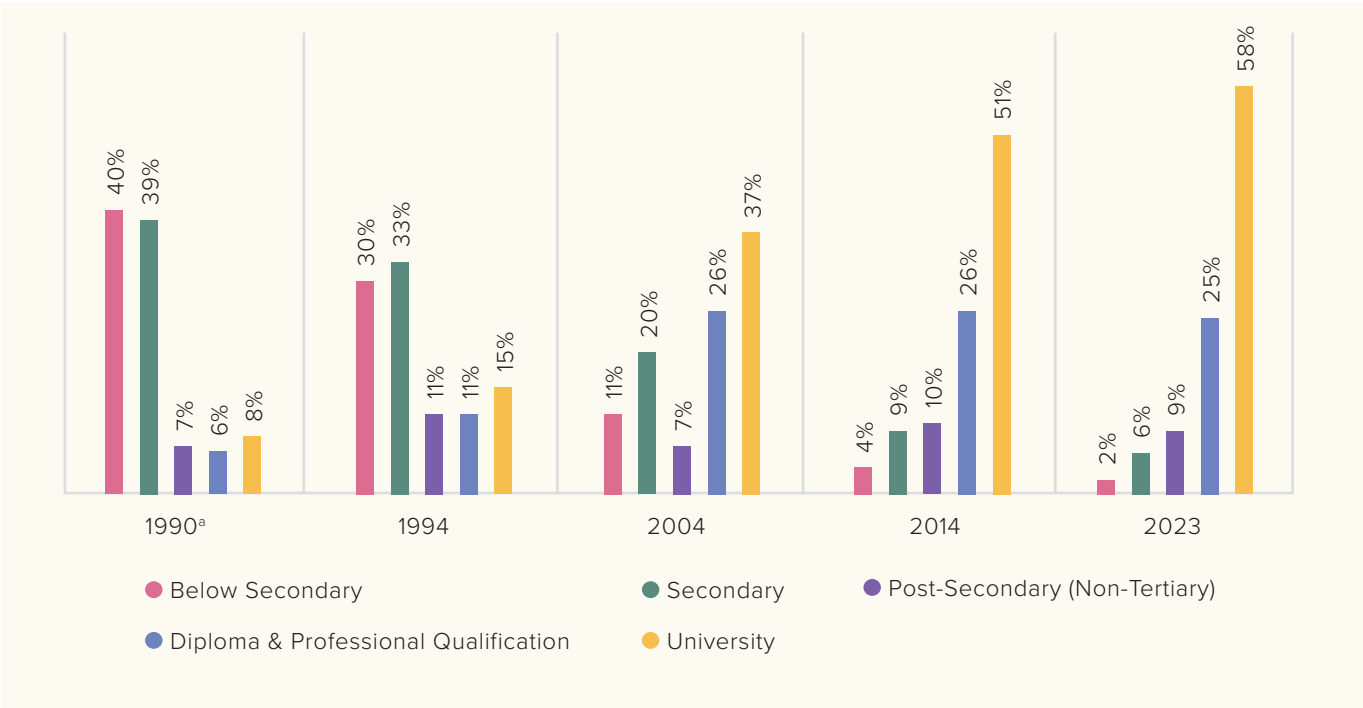
Educational Profile

On the whole, Singapore youths had become more educated, with a majority now pursuing higher education beyond secondary-level schooling. The gross proportion of students enrolled in post-secondary (non-tertiary) institutions and above had steadily risen from 21% in 1990 to 92% in 2023 (DOS, 2023d). The majority of those aged 25 to 29 years old in the workforce now have at least a university degree, compared to 30 years ago where having a secondary or below educational attainment was more common (see Chart III).

Marital Profile

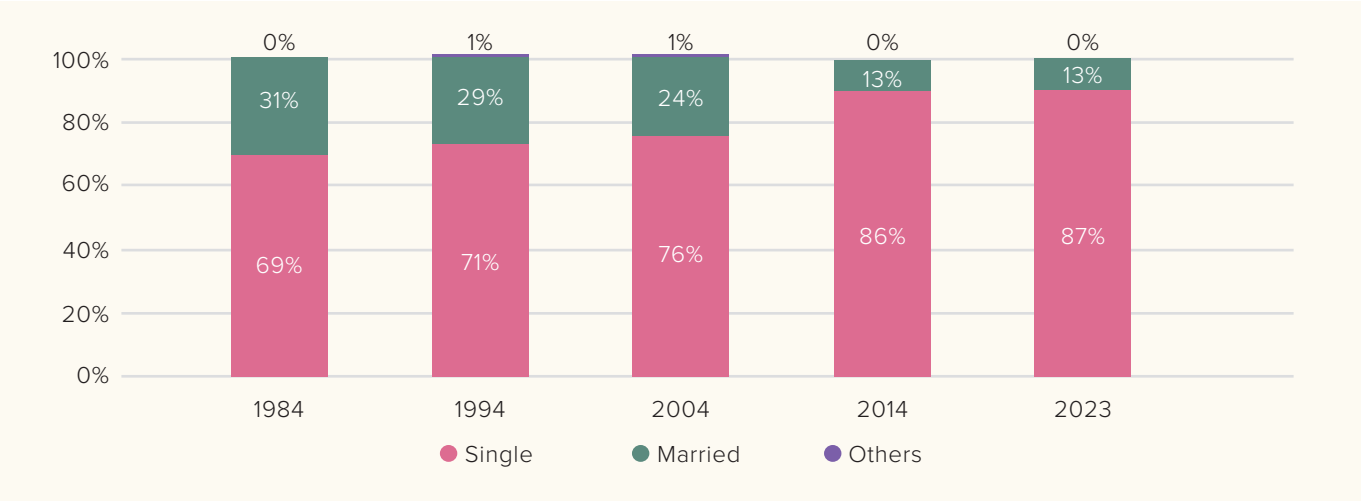
The pursuit of diverse life goals, including attaining higher educational qualifications, alongside youths’ evolving attitudes and concept of marriage may have contributed to the decision to delay or reconsider marriage plans. Over the last 40 years, the median age of first marriages has risen from 26.9 to 30.8 for grooms, and from 24.1 to 29.2 for brides (DOS, 2023f). Correspondingly, the prevalence of singlehood amongst youths aged 20-29 remained high, having risen from 69% in 1984 to 87% in 2023 (see Chart IV). The proportion of single youths aged 30-39 progressively increased from 17% in 1984 to 30% in 2023 (see Chart V).

Chart III.
HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ATTAINED OF YOUTHS AGED 25-29 IN THE LABOUR FORCE (1990–2023)



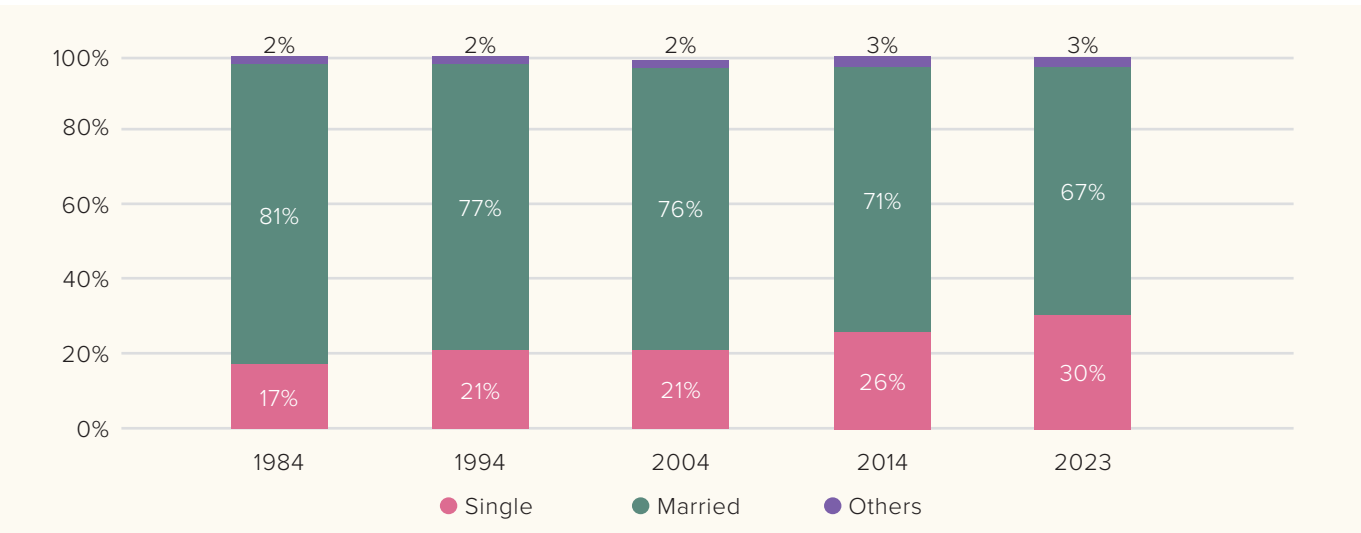
Note
a. 1984 data is not available
Source: DOS (2023d)

Chart IV.
RESIDENT YOUTH AGED 20-29 YEARS OLD IN SINGAPORE BY MARITAL STATUS (1984–2023)



Source: DOS (2023e)

Chart V.
RESIDENT YOUTH AGED 30-39 YEARS OLD IN SINGAPORE BY MARITAL STATUS (1984-2023)



Source: DOS (2023e)

Conclusion

Accounting for one-quarter of Singapore's resident population, our youth are an integral part of our nation. Amidst the backdrop of an increasingly aged and diverse population, youths themselves are driving broader societal trends shaping our demographic composition. In particular, the choices youths make in pursuing higher education and reconsidering marriage have shifted the landscape of Singapore's youth over time. These trends have bearing on our nation's happiness, prosperity and progress.

Efforts to understand and provide appropriate developmental opportunities for youths will require greater understanding of the context in which they live and work. Youths are navigating a world around them which is unprecedentedly complex, uncertain and rapidly evolving. For them to be able to seize opportunities, stay resilient

and adaptable in the face of unanticipated change and make informed decisions to guide their transitions into adulthood and beyond, the stakeholders around them should develop informed, timely and appropriate support.

The National Youth Council (NYC) seeks to provide a holistic and comprehensive understanding of young people, by bringing together administrative and perception data from the National Youth Survey (NYS). The NYS offers deeper insights into social and human capital indicators, which can inform youth development, policy, and practice. With this goal in mind, the YOUTH.sg publications will take on a topical approach to address youth trends and concerns in the areas of Values and Attitudes, Education and Employment, Social Support, Social Cohesion and Participation, and Wellbeing.

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