
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET & CONSENT FORM



NUS-IRB Reference Code: NUS-IRB-2022-193

- 1. Protocol title**
Pathways and Trajectories of Households in Singapore (PATHS)
- 2. Principal Investigator and co-investigator(s), if any, with the contact number and organization:**

Principal Investigator:
Dr Mathew Mathews
Head, Social Lab and Principal Research Fellow

Co-Investigators:
Dr Hou Minzheng
Associate Director, Social Lab

Dr Teo Kay Key
Research Fellow, Social Lab

Dr Wong Chin Yi
Postdoctoral Fellow, Social Lab

Contact Details:
Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore (NUS)
20 Evans Road Singapore 259365
Tel: 6601 3836, Email: ips.soclab.ops@nus.edu.sg

- 3. What is the purpose of this research?**

You are invited to participate in a research study. This information sheet provides you with information about the research study. The Principal Investigator (the person in charge of this research) or his representative will also describe this research to you and answer all of your questions. Read the information below and ask questions about anything you don't understand before deciding whether or not to take part.

This study aims to investigate the long-term developmental experiences and outcomes of families in Singapore, such as their challenges, priorities and aspirations. This involves a range of focus areas, for instance, employment and finance, family support, and other personal indicators of personal well-being. This research will help build up an understanding of how better to support the social and economic needs of families in Singapore. The findings may also lead to benefits at a societal level by promoting greater awareness of these needs and generating wider discussions among members of the public.

As a long-term study, PATHS will track changes in the same group of respondents over a period of three years, with potential extension in the future. Data will be

collected over six waves (six times in total) from 2022 to 2025. The current wave is the first phase of the study (Wave 1), and will be conducted between December 2022 to July 2023.

4. Who can participate in the research? What is the expected duration of my participation? What is the duration of this research?

All respondents must be between 21 to 85 years old as of Wave 1 of the study. Households living in private properties (i.e., private flats/condominium and landed property) are not eligible for the study.

At least one respondent from each household should be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident. In addition, at least one respondent from each household should not be a retiree, i.e., 65 years and above and not working.

For each household, two respondents will be selected whenever possible. There will be no Second Respondent selected for single-member households. For single-respondent households, the respondent must therefore be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident, as well as a non-retiree.

To ensure that the study captures responses from a representative mix of households, it also takes into consideration a number of factors in deciding the eligibility. This includes household size, composition, age, and income.

As the interview will be conducted in English, Mandarin, Malay, or Tamil, respondents must be able to speak at least one of these languages.

As a long-term study, PATHS will track changes in the same group of respondents over a period of three years. Data will be collected over six waves (six times in total) from 2022 to 2025. Thus, the expected duration for both your participation and the research study is three years, although we will request for your consent for participation again at each subsequent phase.

5. What is the approximate number of research participants involved?

Approximately 5,000 households will be involved in the study, with a target of two respondents per household for any applicable households. As mentioned, two respondents will be selected for each household if the requirements are met.

6. What will be done if I take part in this research study?

If you take part in this study, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire on the demographic details of your family, as well as other aspects relating to your family's experiences and challenges in different focal areas. The questionnaire is available in four languages: English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil.

Trained interviewers from the National University of Singapore will conduct the face-to-face interview. Each interview will take around 60 minutes and will vary according to household size. The interview will be audio-recorded with your consent, for the purpose of data verification. If you do not agree for your interview to be audio-recorded, we can proceed without audio-recording. If recorded, the audio-recording will be deleted, and no copies will be made, once the data has been verified and checked against the interview responses.

7. How will my privacy and the confidentiality of my research records be protected?

Information collected for this study will be kept confidential and stored under locked conditions. Your data and responses, to the extent of applicable laws and regulations, will not be made publicly available.

Your personal information, such as name, contact number and address, will be separated from your answers to the questionnaire and coded (i.e., identified with a numerical ID). Your responses to the questionnaire will be linked only to this numerical ID. The data collected from you and other respondents will be totalled in the computer system for analysis.

Only the Principal Investigator, Data Administrator and the Study Sponsor (the Ministry of Social and Family Development's Strategic Planning, Research and Development Group) will have full access to the data with personal identifiers. Key members from the IPS Social Lab PATHS Project Team will have full access to the data for quality control purposes.

Only Fieldwork Supervisors and Quality Controllers will have access to the interview audio recordings for data verification purposes. Other research analysts and other MSF personnel will only have access to coded data without personal identifiers. The overall research findings (without personal information) will be shared with other government agencies for policy-making purposes. By signing the Consent Form, you agree to the above arrangement and access to your records.

If you agree to participate, the interviewer will ask you for your name and contact number. This is for the purpose of allowing the IPS Social Lab PATHS Project Team to clarify any information with you, if necessary. This would also help us to contact you again for future waves of the survey. Please be assured that your contact details will be kept strictly confidential.

All data collected will be kept in accordance to the University's Research Data Management Policy.

8. What are the possible discomforts and risks for participants?

As this is a household survey, some of the questions asked may require personal information about you and your family members, such as your health, finances and life events. If you find any question distressing, you may choose not to answer. If you do not wish to continue the survey at any point, for any reason, you may ask to stop for a break or withdraw from the study altogether. Your collected data will be destroyed and discarded if you decide to withdraw from the study.

9. What is the compensation for any injury?

No research-related injury is expected for any research participants, as this research involves minimal risk with only the administration of a survey questionnaire. Thus, no compensation is expected as well.

10. Will there be reimbursement for participation?

Upon successful completion of the interview for Wave 1, respondents who are selected will each be given S\$40 in vouchers or cash to reimburse you for your time. You will not be reimbursed on a pro-rated basis if you do not complete the survey or withdraw from the research before completing the survey.

As this is a multi-wave study, respondents will receive an equivalent or greater reimbursement amount for every wave of the study they participate in. For the current wave, the reimbursement amount is S\$40.

11. What are the possible benefits to me and to others?

Your participation will help the researchers and the Study Sponsor (the Ministry of Social and Family Development) to better understand the long-term developmental experiences and outcomes of families in Singapore. The knowledge gained may benefit the public in the future, through its impact on social or public policies.

12. Can I refuse to participate in this research?

Yes, you can. Your decision to participate in this research study is voluntary and completely up to you. You can also withdraw from the research at any time without giving any reasons, by informing the principal investigator and all your data collected will be discarded.

13. Whom should I call if I have any questions or problems?

If you have any questions about this study, you may contact any of the following persons:

- 1) Dr Mathew Mathews, Principal Investigator, Tel: 6601 3836; Email: ips.soclab.ops@nus.edu.sg
- 2) Mr Royston Toh, Manager & Senior Economist, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Tel: 6354 9544; Email: royston_toh@msf.gov.sg

For an independent opinion specifically regarding the rights and welfare of research participants, you may contact a staff member of the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board at telephone (+65) 6516 1234 [Mondays to Thursdays from 8.30am to 6pm, and Fridays from 8.30am to 5.30pm, except public holidays] or email at irb@nus.edu.sg.

CONSENT FORM**Project Title: Pathways and Trajectories of Households in Singapore (PATHS)
(Wave 1)**

Principal Investigator:
Dr Mathew Mathews
 Head, Social Lab and Principal Research Fellow

Contact Details:
 Tel: 6601 3836,
 Email: ips.soclab.ops@nus.edu.sg

Co-Investigator: Dr Hou Minzheng
 Associate Director, Social Lab

Co-Investigator: Dr Teo Kay Key
 Research Fellow, Social Lab

Co-Investigator: Dr Wong Chin Yi
 Postdoctoral Fellow, Social Lab

I have been briefed by the interviewer regarding my participation for this research. I have also been given a chance to ask questions and feel that all of my questions have been answered. I know that participation in this study is my choice and that refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which I am otherwise entitled. I may also discontinue participation at any time without any penalty. I have been given a copy of the Participant Information Sheet that explains the use of my information in this research, and Consent Form to keep.

I have been informed that any questions pertaining to this research can be directed to the Principal Investigator (Tel: 6601 3836), Study Sponsor (Representative: Mr Royston Toh; Tel: 6354 9544) or IPS Social Lab (Tel: 6601 3836). Any questions I have regarding my rights as a research subject can be directed to the Institutional Review Board at National University of Singapore.

1. I agree to take part in the current survey on the Pathways and Trajectories of Households in Singapore (2022/2023).	
2. I agree to be re-contacted for the participation in the Wave 2 (2023) survey. I understand that I can still change my mind after agreeing to be re-contacted.	
3. I agree to be contacted by Social Lab, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore for the purpose of verifying any information that I have provided.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. I agree to the interview being audio-recorded, for the sole purpose of data verification.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

*Please tick as appropriate

I understand that the Principal Investigator, Data Administrator and the Study Sponsor (the Ministry of Social and Family Development's Strategic Planning, Research and Development Group) will have full access to all the data collected, including my personal information. I also understand that my de-identified data may be shared with government agencies to inform public policies or improve public service delivery, and that the overall research findings (without personal information) will be shared with other government agencies for policy making purposes.

Participant (Name/Signature)

Date

Contact Number

Interviewer (Name/Signature)

Date