

Launch of the Family Research Network (FRN) and Forum on "Marriage and Fertility"

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IPS Conference Room

# A Closer Look at Fertility Trends in Singapore

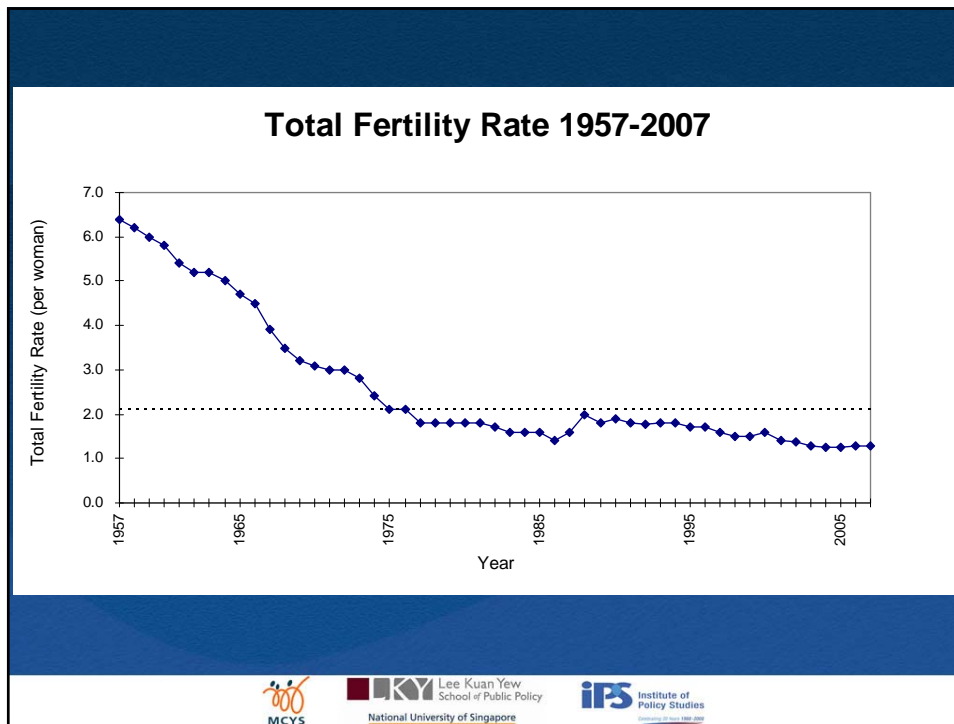
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## Singapore's TFR....

- Below 1.3 children per woman since 2003
- Among countries with “lowest-low” fertility (term coined by Kohler, Billari and Ortega [see Population and Development Review, 2002] to refer countries that have TFRs at or below 1.3 children per woman).
- “Ultra low” fertility is preferred by Gavin Jones et al. (2008, forthcoming).
  - Central, Southern and Eastern Europe (Kohler et al.);
  - East Asia, including Singapore (Jones et al.).





## Recap: What is the TFR?

Age Group	Females (000s)	Births*	ASFR (per 1000)
15-19	125.7	767	6.1
20-24	107.9	3,366	31.2
25-29	132.5	10,428	78.7
30-34	153.0	14,443	94.4
35-39	154.6	6,416	41.5
40-44	159.8	1,023	6.4
TFR (=sum ASFR*5)			1291.5
* Estimated			



### ■ Points to note:

- Denominator of ASFR is all females i.e. includes both married and unmarried – in Singapore context, higher proportion unmarried = fewer babies
- Period TFR based on data for a single year – affected by “tempo” change due to postponement or “catching up”



# Singlehood Rates

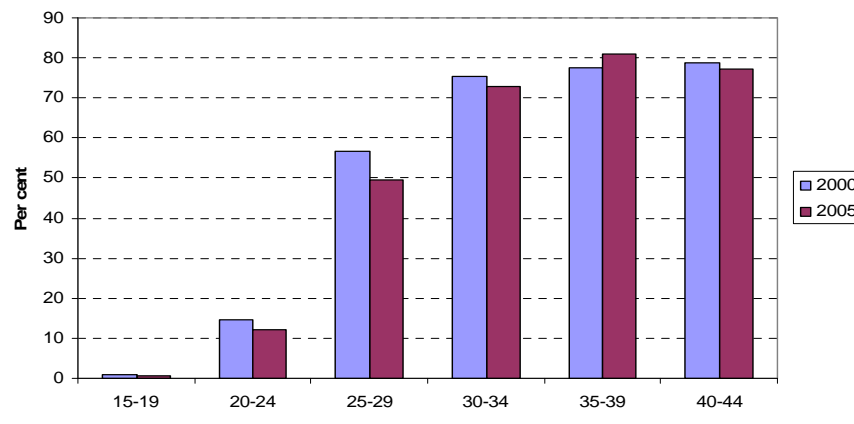
Proportion Single by Age and Gender (%)

Age group	1995		2000		2005	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
25-29	67	41	64	40	71	46
30-34	34	20	31	19	34	22
35-39	20	15	20	15	20	15
40-44	12	13	15	14	15	14



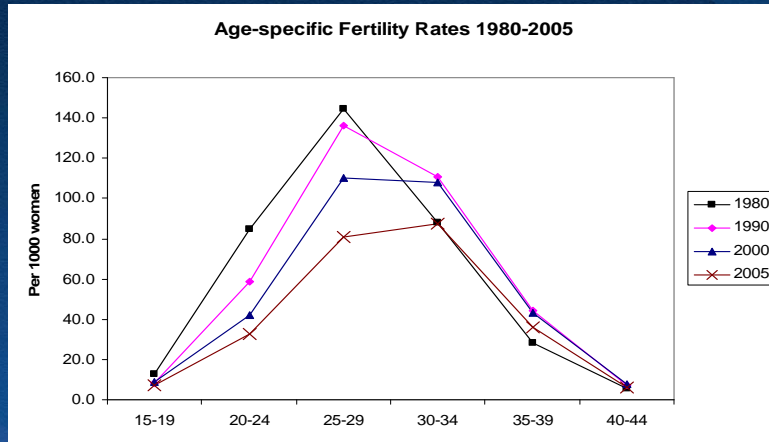
# Proportions Married

Proportion Married among Resident Females 2000-2005

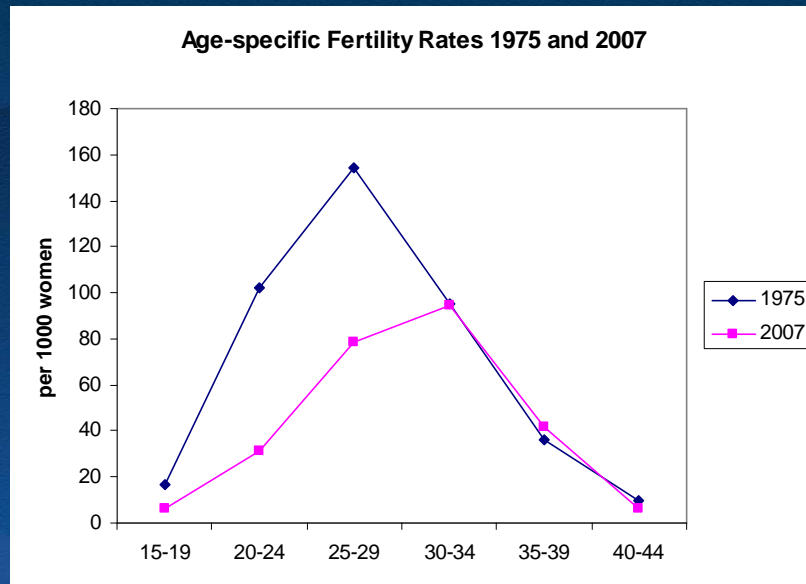




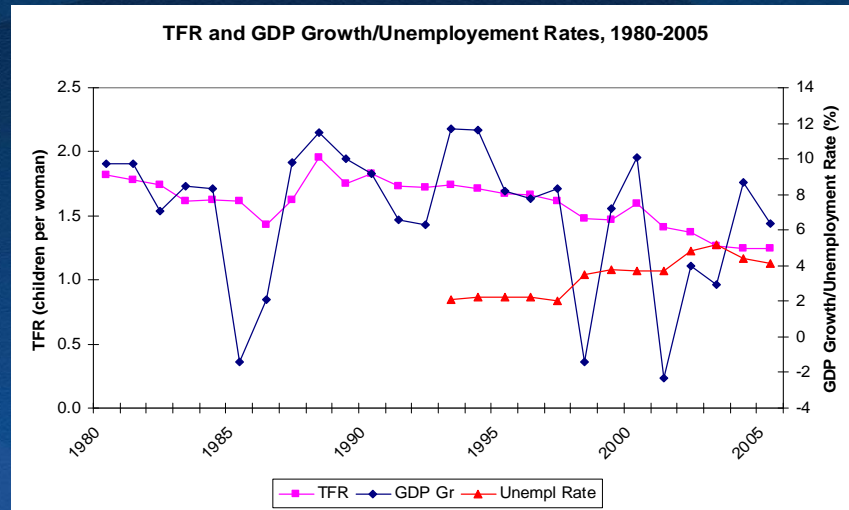
# Age-Pattern of Fertility



**Age-specific Fertility Rates 1975 and 2007**



# TFR and Economic Trends



- Economic uncertainty led young people to postpone childbearing?
  - (Kohler et al 2002): "The timing of fertility in lowest-low countries is ... likely to be sensitive to changes in socioeconomic conditions, especially at low parities".



# Number of Children Born

## Mean number of Children Born among Ever-married Women

Age Group (years)	Mean Number of Children Born (per ever-married resident female)		
	1990	2000	2005
Total	2.8	2.5	2.4
15-29	1.0	0.8	0.8
30-39	1.9	1.8	1.6
40-49	2.8	2.2	2.1
50 and over	4.7	3.9	3.3

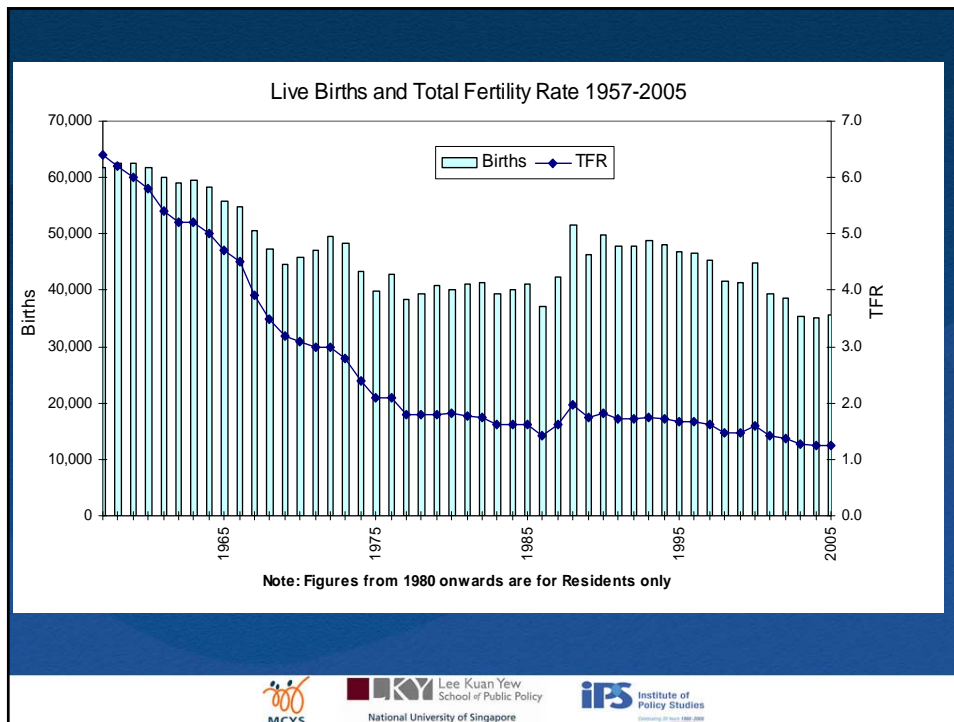
Source: Department of Statistics (2006), Population Trends 2006 Table 8, p 12



# Echo of the baby boom?

- Babies born post-1987 policy reversal reaching marriage age (those born in 1988 now 20 years old, will be 24 years old in 2012)





## Suggestions for Further Research

- Studies on Fertility Decision Making and Husband-Wife Communication on childbearing/childrearing issues
- Studies on the Value of Children (VOC)
- Studies on Social Networks and Fertility

