



SINGAPORE PANEL STUDY ON SOCIAL DYNAMICS

FINDINGS FROM WAVE 1 TO 4
2015 TO 2018

Thank you for being part of the Singapore Panel Study on Social Dynamics (SPSSD). Your participation has been integral to our survey, which aims to understand challenges and strengths related to family cohesion and functioning.



Since 2015, we have completed five waves of data collection. While most studies only interview respondents once, we talk to you over several waves to understand how households in Singapore are doing over the years.

This story is important for policymakers to understand trends in society and plan for our future. Each household helps to contribute significant details and show the diverse mosaic of life in Singapore.





My team and I would like to thank you once again for your continued support. We hope that the findings in this booklet will give you a better idea of the insights gathered from your responses, and how your contribution helps to shape robust and relevant social policies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Pang'.

Dr Natalie Pang

Principal Investigator

Singapore Panel Study on Social Dynamics

October 2019

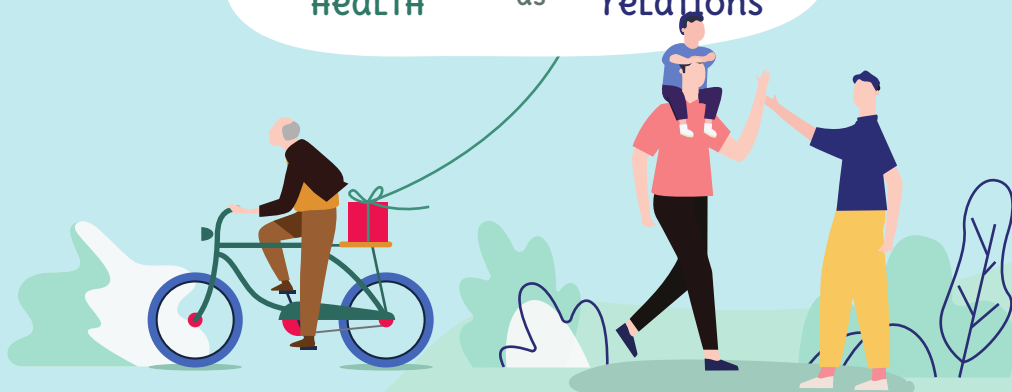
THE SINGAPORE PANEL STUDY ON SOCIAL DYNAMICS (SPSSD)

is a household panel study of family resilience in Singapore. To understand resilience in Singapore households, the SPSSD looks at factors such as

**PHYSICAL &
PSYCHOLOGICAL
HEALTH**

as
well
as

**FAMILIAL &
NEIGHBOURLY
RELATIONS**



**FAMILIES ARE ONE OF THE
BUILDING BLOCKS OF SOCIETY**

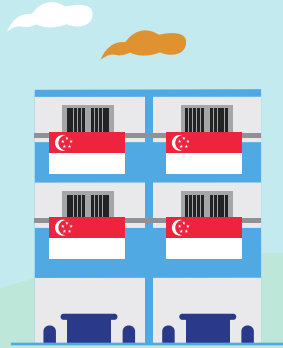


They play a significant role in
resource-sharing
and providing
MUTUAL SUPPORT
to their members



THE STUDY BEGAN
WITH A PANEL OF
RESPONDENTS FROM

5,002
HOUSEHOLDS
IN SINGAPORE
IN WAVE 1



WAVE 1 : 2015
WAVE 2 : 2016
WAVE 3 : 2017
WAVE 4 : 2018
WAVE 5 : 2019

For each household, we
interview one member who
is identified as

THE
HEAD OF
HOUSEHOLD
(HOH)



& IF
APPLICABLE,
A SECOND
RESPONDENT
(2R)

Information collected from
both respondents helps us
understand how different roles
in the household influence
certain outcomes.

With your contribution, researchers and policymakers
can better understand key issues...

CAREGIVING
WITHIN
FAMILIES



LIFE
SATISFACTION
& FINANCIAL
SATISFACTION



THE FINANCIAL
STATUS OF
HOUSEHOLDS



PHYSICAL
HEALTH &
WELL-BEING
OF HOUSEHOLD
MEMBERS



The insights generated from
your responses contribute to
inform policies on

**SOCIAL & FAMILY
RESILIENCE**

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES



Short-term financial adequacy

**DOES THE HOUSEHOLD HAVE ENOUGH
MONEY TO COVER BASIC NEEDS
FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS?**

**YOUNGER RESPONDENTS
MIGHT FACE MORE DIFFICULTY
MAKING A SUSTAINED
TRANSITION OUT OF
FINANCIAL INADEQUACY
than older respondents**



OF THE RESPONDENTS WHO SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL ADEQUACY IN wave 1...



THOSE WHO WERE OLDER WERE MORE LIKELY TO BECOME FINANCIALLY ADEQUATE AND REMAIN SO IN wave 2 TO 4...

MEANWHILE, YOUNGER RESPONDENTS WERE MORE LIKELY TO STAY FINANCIALLY INADEQUATE THROUGHOUT, OR FALL BACK INTO FINANCIAL INADEQUACY BY wave 4.

GROWING INTO ADULTHOOD BRINGS OPPORTUNITY, BUT ALSO UNCERTAINTY.

Financial inadequacy can be difficult to overcome at a young age, as young people face unique challenges and may have fewer resources to rely on.



For example, they may have less savings, less work experience, & fewer people who can help them out in times of trouble.

LIFE SATISFACTION & LIVING Arrangements



Personal life satisfaction
HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH LIFE AS AN INDIVIDUAL?

General household satisfaction
HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH LIFE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD, ALONGSIDE THE PEOPLE YOU LIVE WITH?



HOUSEHOLD HEADS LIVING ONLY WITH THEIR PARENTS REPORTED THE LOWEST LEVELS OF PERSONAL LIFE SATISFACTION (4.52) compared to those who were living with other family members (4.79).



However, their parents were more satisfied with their lives than all other respondents (5.29).

There was also a relatively large average difference in general household satisfaction between household heads and second respondents in these households (0.6), when compared to respondents with other living arrangements (0.2).



Household heads living with older household members (with an average age above 60) had lower household satisfaction than those living with younger members (average age of up to 29).



However, if the household heads were just as old as the other members, they were generally more satisfied than if they were younger.

Together, these findings may suggest that living with older relatives contributes to stress for household heads, especially if they belong to different generations.



This may be because of several reasons, including caregiving duties, changing expectations of responsibilities in the household as family members grow older.

MARRIAGE & CHILD-REARING MARRIAGE & KIDS = HAPPINESS?



Marriage was desirable to most respondents within the SPSSD sample.



76.2%

UNMARRIED SECOND RESPONDENTS

In Wave 3, 76.2 per cent of unmarried second respondents hoped to get married in the future.

BUT



SINGLE RESPONDENTS

did not strongly endorse the idea that marriage leads to happiness, scoring at approximately the midpoint on a 7-point scale for Marriage Happiness.

MARRIAGE COULD BE PERCEIVED AS A GREATER MATTER OF CONCERN BY WOMEN COMPARED TO MEN.



SINGLE WOMEN

Less likely than single men to believe that marriage leads to happiness.



SINGLE MEN

Top reason for postponing marriage was not having met a suitable partner.



WOMEN'S PERCEPTION

Marriage is a commitment that will cost them their freedom

MARRIAGE TIED TO RAISING CHILDREN

95.9% of married household heads under 50 had children or wanted to have children in future.

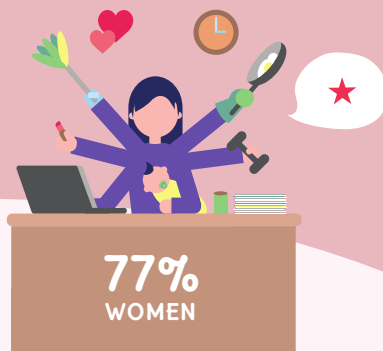


CHILD-RAISING WAS DISPROPORTIONATELY PLACED ON THE SHOULDERS OF WOMEN.

The more children a respondent had, the more likely they were to agree that women should prioritise homemaking.

HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT WOMEN WITH CHILDREN NO LONGER WORK.

In Wave 4, 77% of household heads working full-time who were the main caregivers of young children were women. These respondents were less satisfied with their households (4.54) than those whose spouses were the main caregivers (5.71)



IN OTHER WORDS, WOMEN ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BEAR "DUAL BURDENS", WHICH TRANSLATES INTO LOWER HOUSEHOLD SATISFACTION

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

How well one is doing in life.



In SPSSD, we focused on physical well-being, material well-being, standard of living & general satisfaction with life.

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING \neq PHYSICAL HEALTH

In Wave 4, even though they may not have been in worse health, older respondents were less satisfied with their physical health than younger respondents.

SATISFIED



VS

LESS SATISFIED



LIVING arrangement

HoHs who lived in couple-based households were significantly more satisfied with their physical health than HoHs who were single parents or living alone.



AGE and WELL-BEING

Despite their lower physical well-being, respondents aged 60 and above were more satisfied with their life in general than younger respondents of all other age groups.





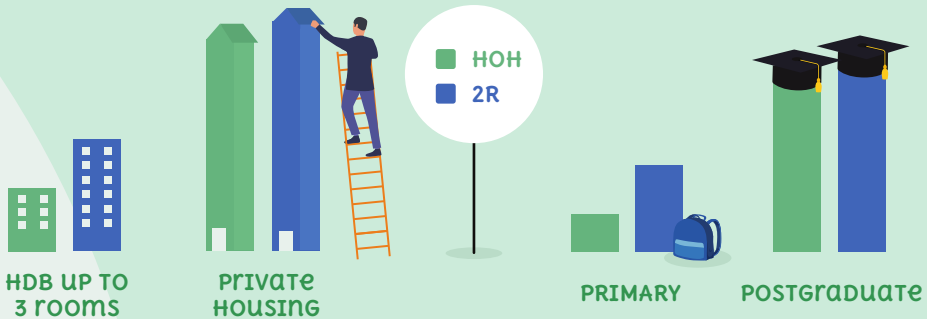
ROLES IN THE FAMILY

The responsibilities and stressors that come with managing a household may also affect perceptions of one's physical health. Compared to Second Respondents, household heads tended to be less satisfied with their physical health.



THE STRESS OF HEADING A HOUSEHOLD APPEARED TO BE GREATER AMONG THOSE LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING AND THOSE WITH LOWER EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOH AND 2R PHYSICAL WELL-BEING



1 Larger for families living in HDB studio apartments or 1 to 3-room flats than those living in private and landed housing.

2 Larger for families with primary-educated HoH than HoH with postgraduate qualifications.

Different aspects of well-being appeared to be independent of one another. Though physical well-being was highest for those who were working full-time, **THOSE WHO WERE NEITHER WORKING NOR LOOKING FOR A JOB ENJOYED THE HIGHEST PERSONAL LIFE SATISFACTION.**



Regardless of a respondent's evaluation of their standard of living in the present, **MOST EXPECTED THAT IN THE FUTURE, THEIR CHILDREN OR YOUNGER GENERATIONS WOULD HAVE A LOWER STANDARD OF LIVING THAN THEMSELVES.**

SOCIAL CAPITAL & NEIGHBOURHOOD RELATIONS

BONDING CAPITAL

Strong relationships, usually with people of similar backgrounds.



BRIDGING CAPITAL

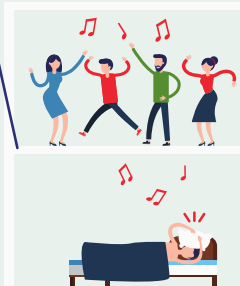
Weaker relationships, usually across more diverse groups.



WAVE 4

NEIGHBOURHOODS DID NOT seem to be a very important community for most.

Generally, respondents seldom interacted with their neighbours.



YOUNG RESPONDENTS

and those earning higher incomes tended to indicate greater social capital.

Overall, the sense of trust and security in the neighbourhood was moderate, with a mean of 4.64 on a scale of 1 to 7.

ROLES IN THE HOUSEHOLD AFFECT HOW MARITAL STATUS INFLUENCES SOCIAL CAPITAL.

HOHS reported lower levels of social capital than 2RS overall

but the difference was greater especially if they were divorced/separated, or had never married.



DIVORCED/SEPARATED HOHS reported significantly less bridging & bonding capital than those who had never been married or were currently married.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Your responses to the SPSSD survey are key to developing a better understanding of issues that Singaporean families face.

As respondents, you may have valuable ideas about the trends reported, why these are being observed and what can be done about them.

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS ON HOW TO ADDRESS ONE OF THE ISSUES RAISED HERE, LET US KNOW!



When thinking about possible plans and policies, you might want to consider these questions along with the rest of the information in this sheet:

What can be done to address the issues raised in the study, and who should take action?



What are the potential effects and limitations of these actions?

Submit your ideas to us at ips.soclab@nus.edu.sg by **31 Jan 2020** and stand a chance to win

PRIZES WORTH \$100!

You may choose **ONE** of the following:





**SOCIAL LAB, INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES,
LEE KUAN YEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY,
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE,
20 EVANS ROAD, SINGAPORE 259365**

Translated versions of this pamphlet can be found at
[https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/research/ips-social-lab/
singapore-panel-study-on-social-dynamics](https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/ips/research/ips-social-lab/singapore-panel-study-on-social-dynamics)



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