Overview of Singapore Families

Dr Mathew Mathews
Institute of Policy Studies, NUS

Assoc Prof Paulin Tay Straughan
Department of Sociology, NUS

Presentation Outline

- Overview of Singapore Household Family Structure
- Dimensions of Family Strength
- Accounting for Family Strength
- Emerging Family Trends

HOUSEHOLD FAMILY STRUCTURES

Definitions

Household	A household refers to a group of two or more persons living together in the same house and sharing common food or other arrangements for essential living. It also includes a person living alone or a person living with others but having his own food arrangements. Although persons may be living in the same house, they may not be members of the same household. A resident household refers to a household headed by a resident (i.e. Singapore citizen or permanent resident).
Generation	Generation is defined in this report as the number of unique levels of generation present in the household. For example, a household where the grandchildren and great-grandchildren live with the head of the household would be considered as a three-generation household.
Nuclear Families	Nuclear families are defined in this report as two-generation couple-based households (i.e. with a married head and spouse) either living with parents or with children, as well as other two-generation households where the head lives with the married parents. Numbers may include a small group of two-generation couple-based households where the married couple heading the household is living with neither their parents nor children but with extended family members from another generation.

Social Service Partners Conference **2015**

Supporting Families Together

|	
Married without Co-Residing Children	This refers to one-generation couple-based households with no children living in the household. Such couples may be childless or have children who are not residing with them.
3G Households	This refers to households comprising three or more generations. Examples include an elderly married couple living with their children and grandchildren, and a divorced/separated, widowed or never-married person living with his parents and children.
Single Parents with Children	This refers to two-generation households headed by divorced/separated, widowed and never-married parents living with at least one child in the same household.
One-Person Households	This refers to persons living alone. Such households may include a widowed person whose children have grown up and have moved out of the parental home, and a never-married person who has moved out from his/her parents' home.
Other Households	This refers to households that do not fall into any of the above categories. Examples include households comprising siblings only, households comprising grandparents and grandchildren only, as well as households composed of a divorced/separated, widowed or never-married aunt/uncle living with his/her nieces/nephews only.

Changes to Household Profiles

Resident Households by Household Structure, 2000 – 2014
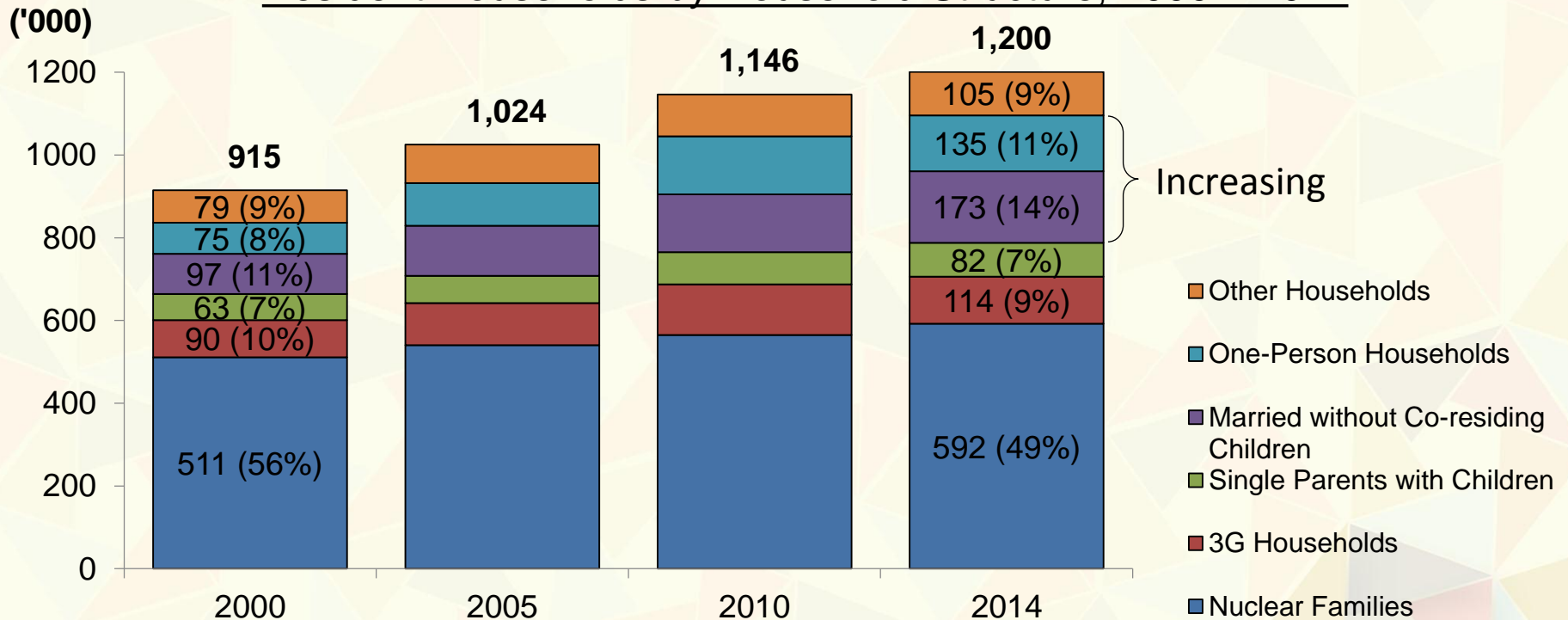
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

DIMENSIONS OF FAMILY STRENGTH

Satisfaction with Marriage and Family

Family Formation & Re-formation

Strong Family Values

Indicators of Family Strength

Close Family Ties

Intergenerational Contact

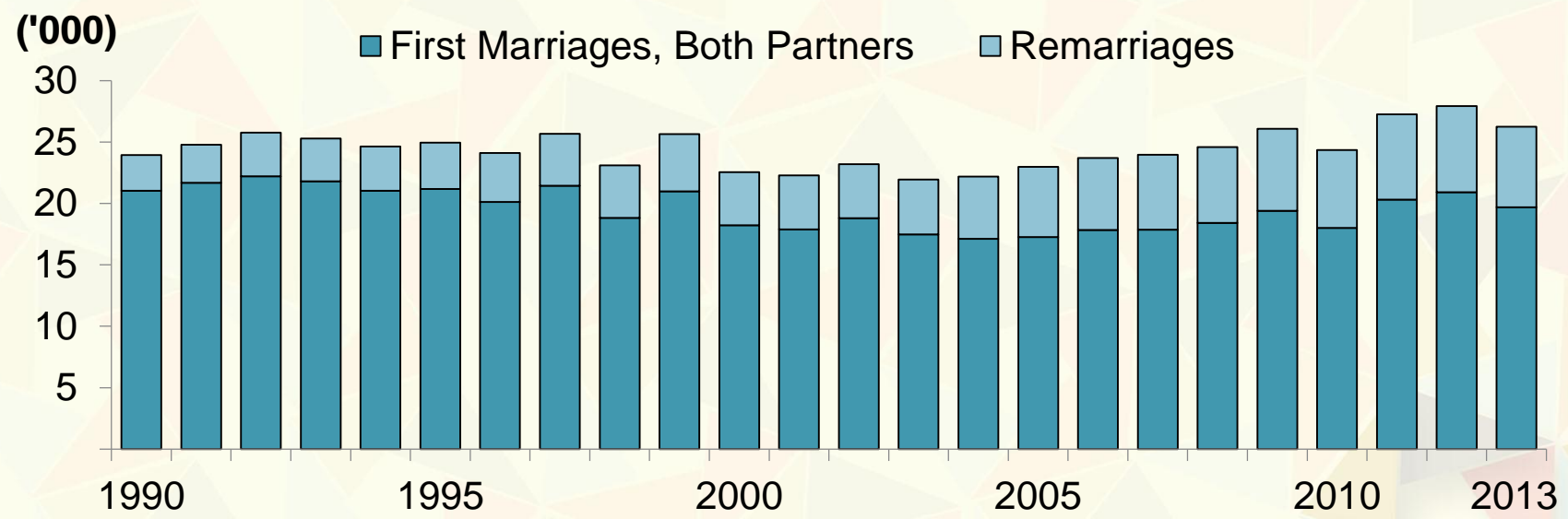Ability to Mobilise Family for Social Support

Family Formation through Marriage & Remarriages

Total Marriages Registered by Marriage Order, 1990 – 2013

Source: Department of Statistics

Family Formation through Birth

Resident Total Fertility Rate, 1970 – 2014

Per Female
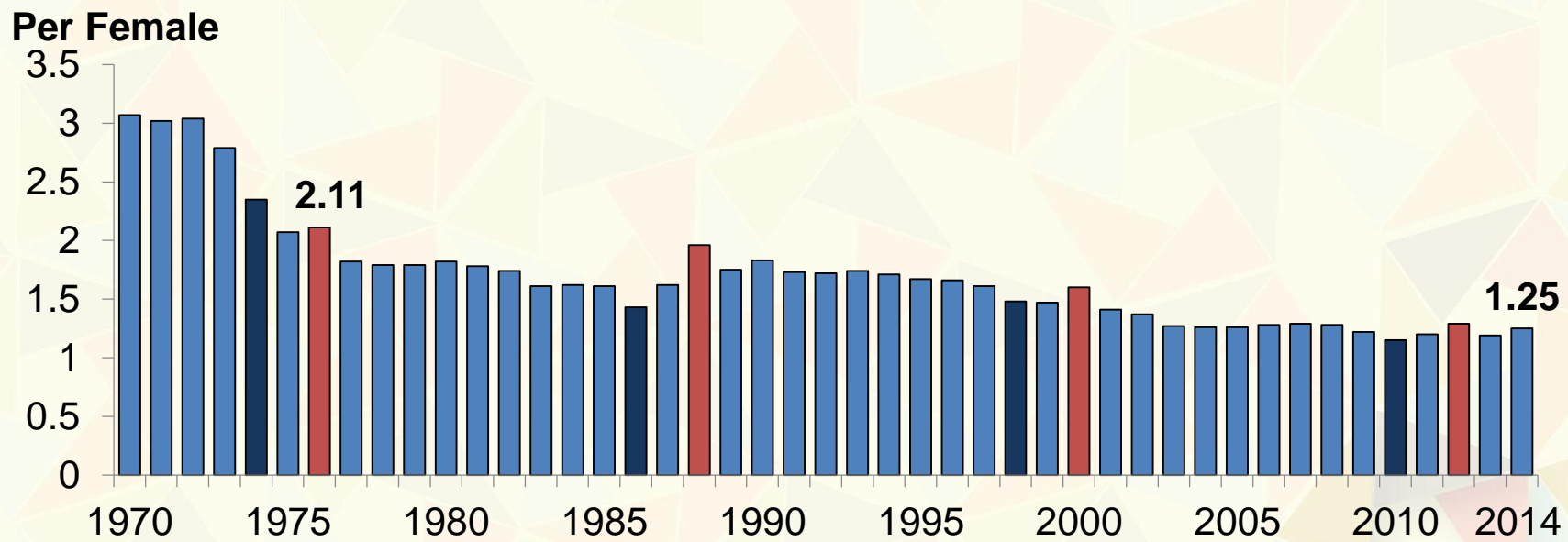
Note: Red bars indicate Dragon years; Dark blue bars indicate Tiger years.
Data prior to 1980 pertain to total population.
Source: Department of Statistics

Satisfaction with Family Life

<u>Respondents Agreeing with "I am satisfied with my family life", 2003 – 2013</u>
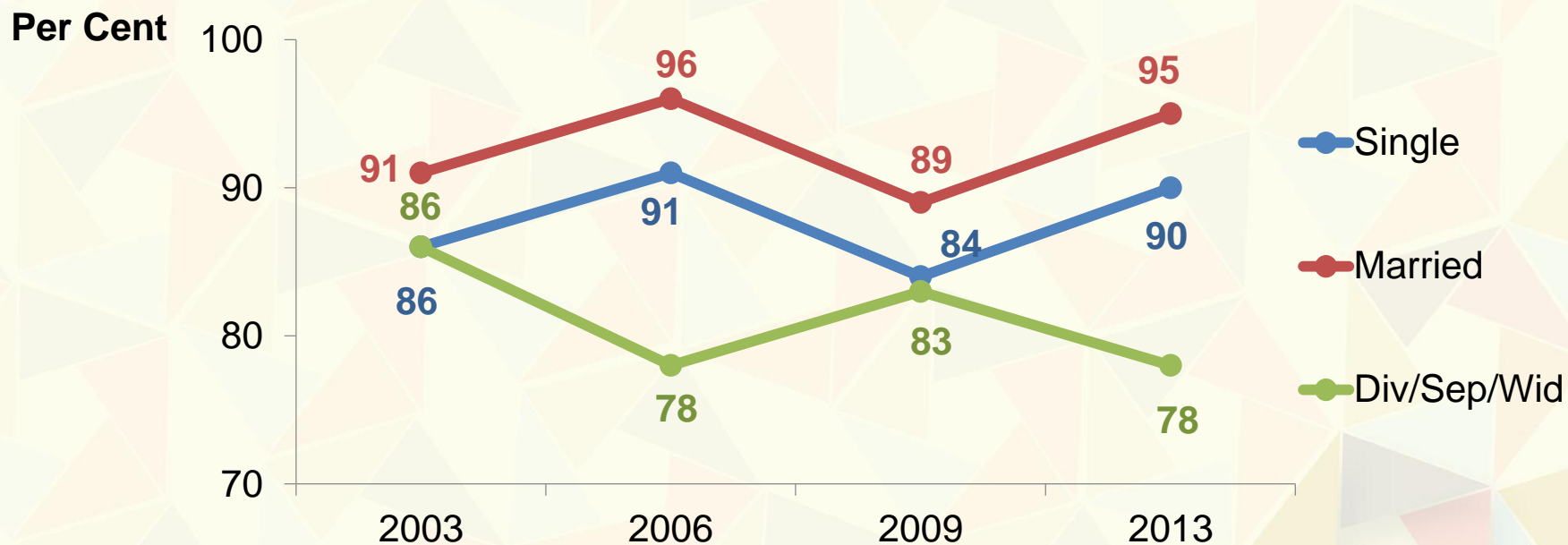
Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

11

Marital Satisfaction

Married Respondents Agreeing with "I am satisfied with my marriage", 2009, 2013
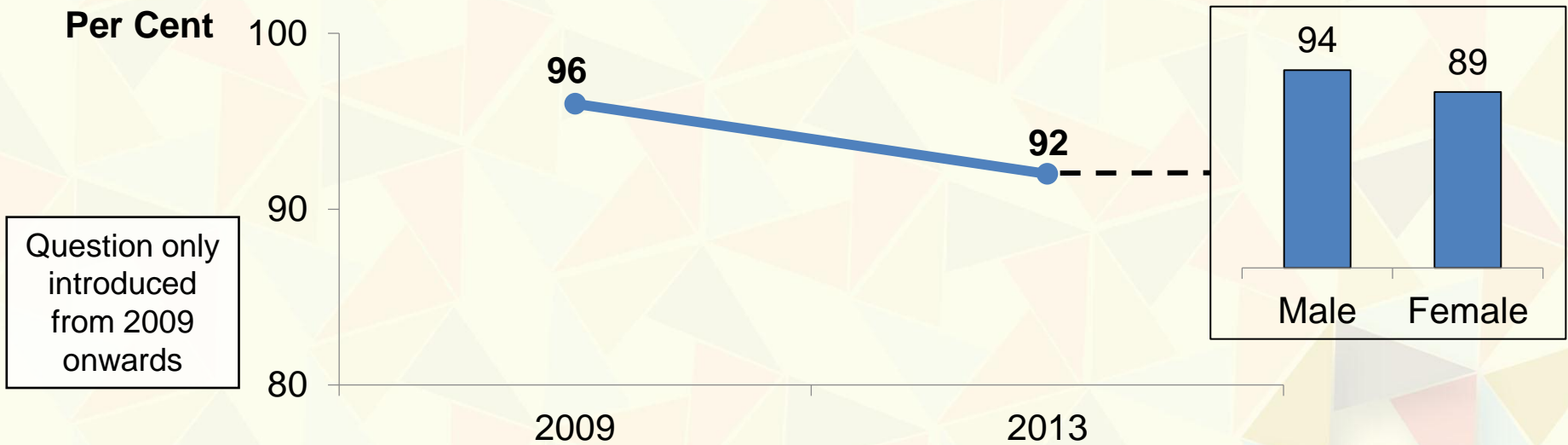
Per Cent

Question only introduced from 2009 onwards

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Gender Equity in the Private Sphere

Respondents who indicated 'Me' when asked:
"Between your spouse and yourself, who does more of the following…,2013"
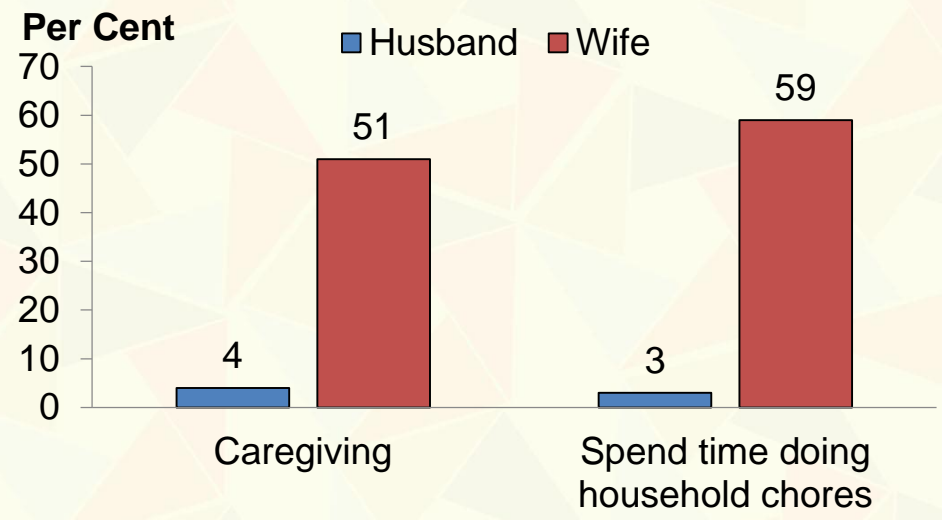
Per Cent

Husband ■ Wife

Caregiving — Husband 4, Wife 51

Spend time doing household chores — Husband 3, Wife 59

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Average No. of Hours Spent with Child During Weekend, 2009

Fathers ■ Mothers

Time spent with children with others present — Fathers 8.4, Mothers 10.5

Time spent with child alone — Fathers 2.8, Mothers 4.6
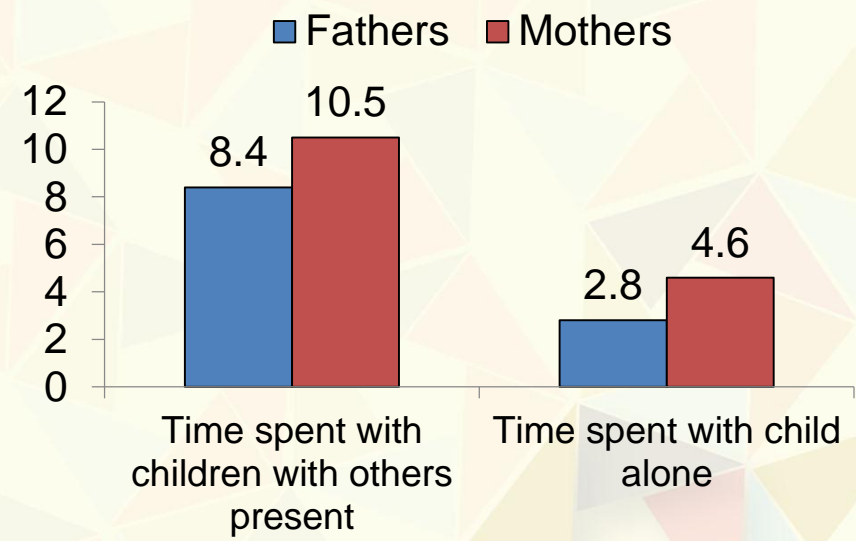
Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Fatherhood Perception Survey 2009)

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

13

Close Family Ties

Respondents Agreeing with "I have a close-knit family" by age, 2003 – 2013
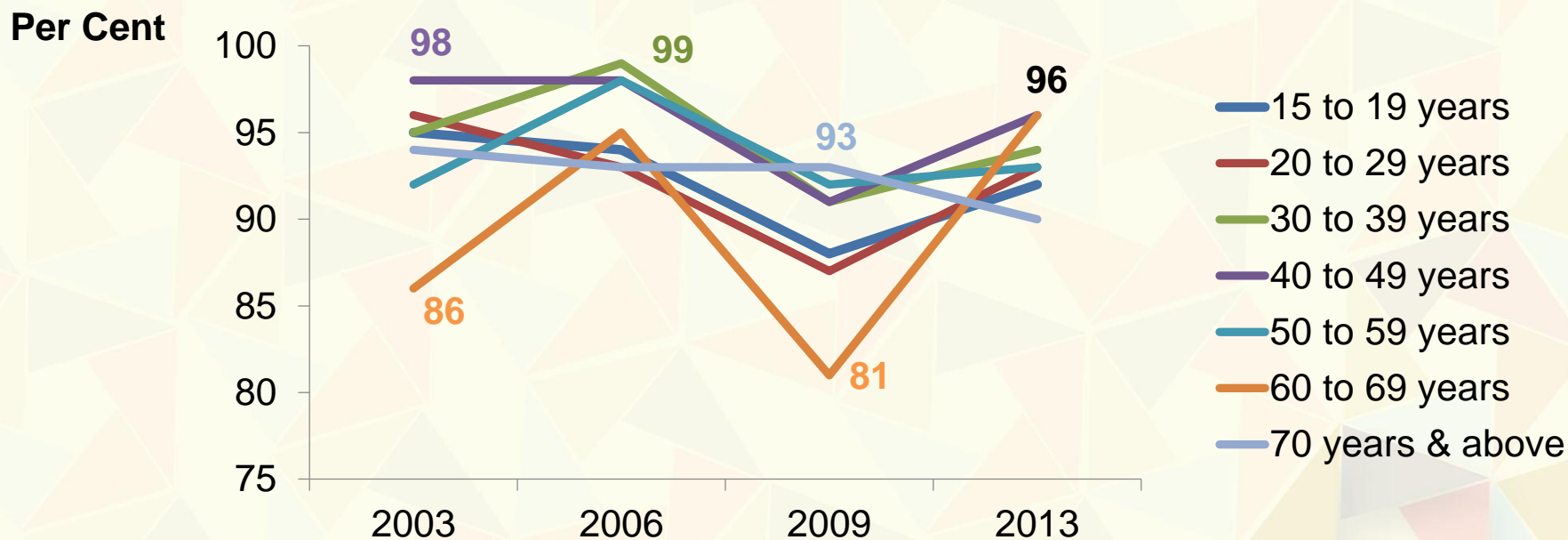
Per Cent

Legend:
- 15 to 19 years
- 20 to 29 years
- 30 to 39 years
- 40 to 49 years
- 50 to 59 years
- 60 to 69 years
- 70 years & above

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Time Spent with Family or Relatives

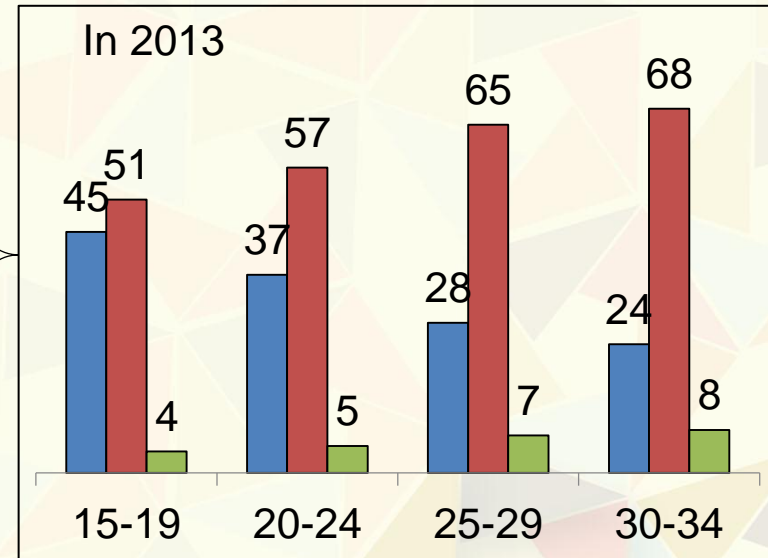## Youths' Hours Spent on Activities with Parents or Other Relatives in a Week

Per Cent ■ None ■ < 10 hours ■ >= 10 hours

15-29 years old

15-34 years old

In 2013

Source: National Youth Council (National Youth Survey 2013)

15

Intergenerational Contact & Support of Older Persons

Frequency of Visits between Elderly HDB Residents and their Married Children, 2003, 2013
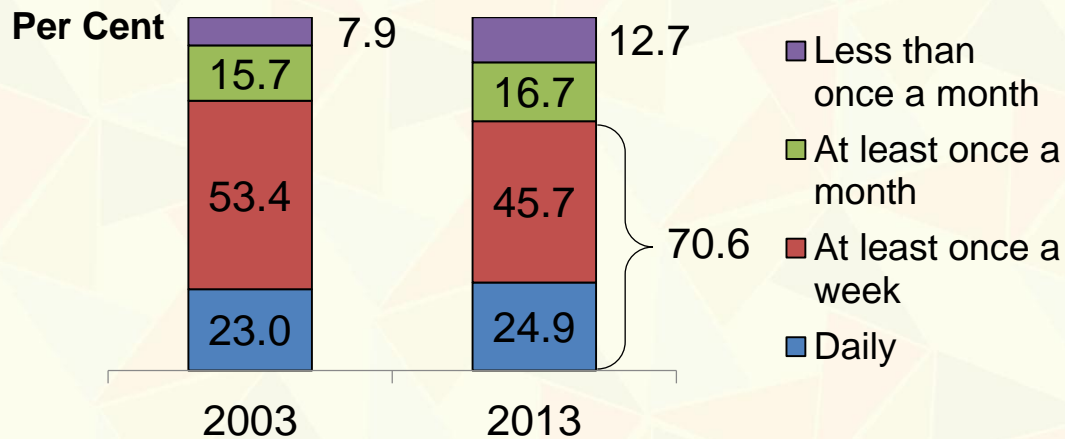
Keeping in Touch with Family Members whom Elderly HDB Resident Do Not Live With, 2013
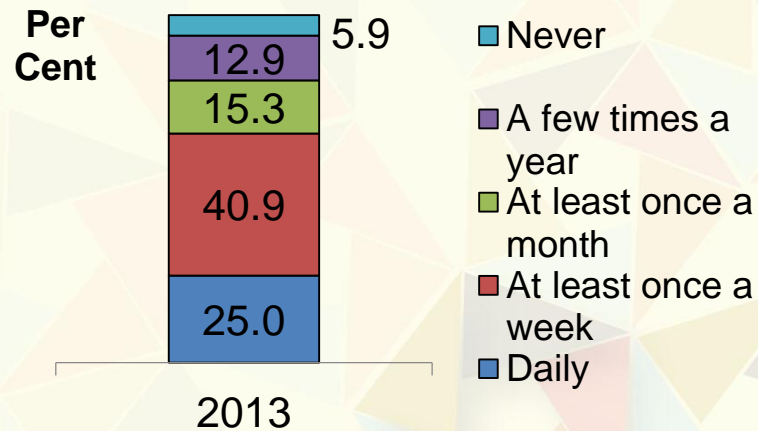
Per Cent

2003	2013
7.9	12.7
15.7	16.7
53.4	45.7
23.0	24.9

70.6

- Less than once a month
- At least once a month
- At least once a week
- Daily

Per Cent

2013
- 5.9
- 12.9
- 15.3
- 40.9
- 25.0

- Never
- A few times a year
- At least once a month
- At least once a week
- Daily

Source: Housing Development Board (Sample Household Survey 2013)

Social Service Partners Conference 2015

Supporting Families Together

Intergenerational Contact with Grandchildren

Respondents who Discussed their Personal Lives with Grandchildren, 2011

Per Cent

Age	No	Yes
65-74	71.4	28.6
75 and above	80.1	19.9

- ■ No
- ■ Yes
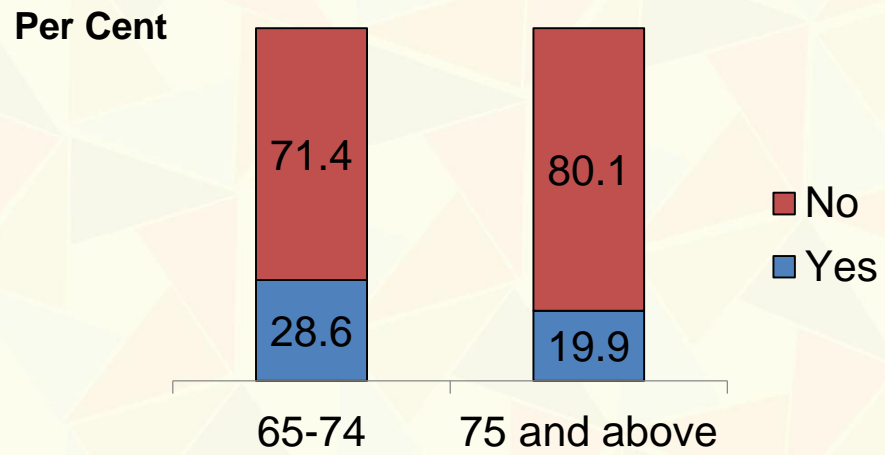
Respondents who Reported Looking after Grandchildren, 2011

Per Cent

Age	No	Yes
65-74	69.2	30.8
75 and above	86.5	13.5

- ■ No
- ■ Yes
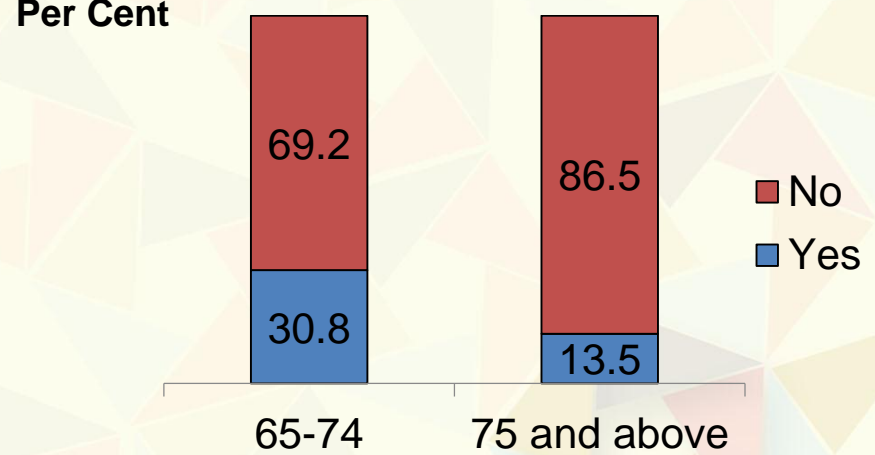
Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (National Survey of Senior Citizens 2011)

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

17

Family as source of Financial Support

Respondents Agreeing with "I will give money to my family members if they are in need of financial support", 2003 – 2013
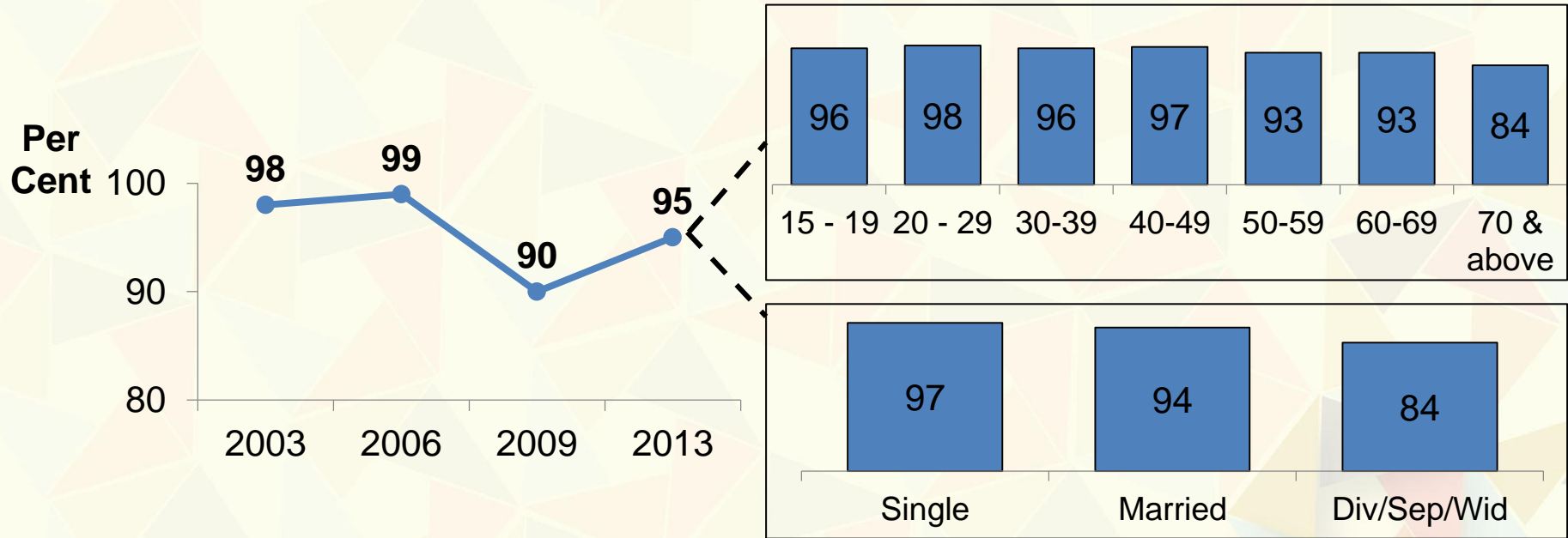
Per Cent

Line chart (Per Cent):
- 2003: 98
- 2006: 99
- 2009: 90
- 2013: 95

Bar chart (by age group):
15 - 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 & above
96	98	96	97	93	93	84

Bar chart (by marital status):
Single	Married	Div/Sep/Wid
97	94	84

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Ability of Older Persons to Rely on Children

Elderly Residents' Reliance on Children for Physical, Emotional and Financial Support, 2013

■ Able to rely ■ Not able to rely ■ Do not require support

Married Children

	Physical Support	Emotional Support	Financial Support in Times of Emergency
Do not require support	11.0	9.7	8.6
Not able to rely	12.6	3.2	4.6
Able to rely	76.4	87.1	86.8

Unmarried Children

	Physical Support	Emotional Support	Financial Support in Times of Emergency
Do not require support	7.1	5.7	5.2
Not able to rely	11.4	5.5	8.1
Able to rely	81.5	88.8	86.7

Source: Housing Development Board (Sample Household Survey 2013)

Marriage Aspirations

Single Respondents who Desired to Get Married, 2004 – 2012
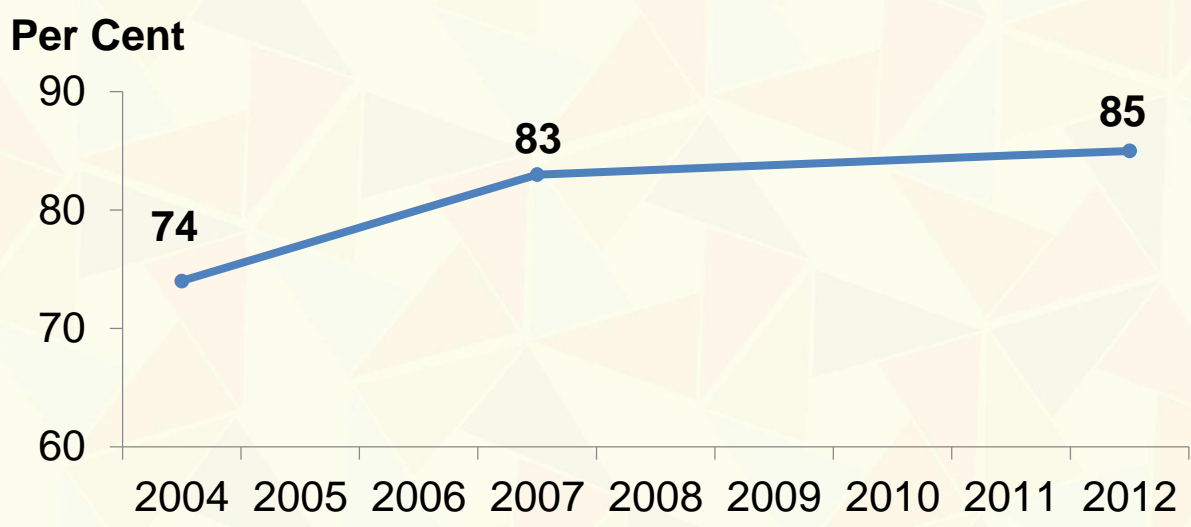
Per Cent

Source: National Population and Talent Division (Marriage and Parenthood Survey)

Parenthood Aspirations

Married Respondents' Intended Number of Children, 2004 – 2012

Per Cent

Legend: ■2004 ■2007 ■2012

Number of Children	2004	2007	2012
0	8	2	3
1	16	15	13
2	49	53	57
3	22	24	19
4 or more	5	7	8

Source: National Population and Talent Division (Marriage and Parenthood Survey 2012)

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
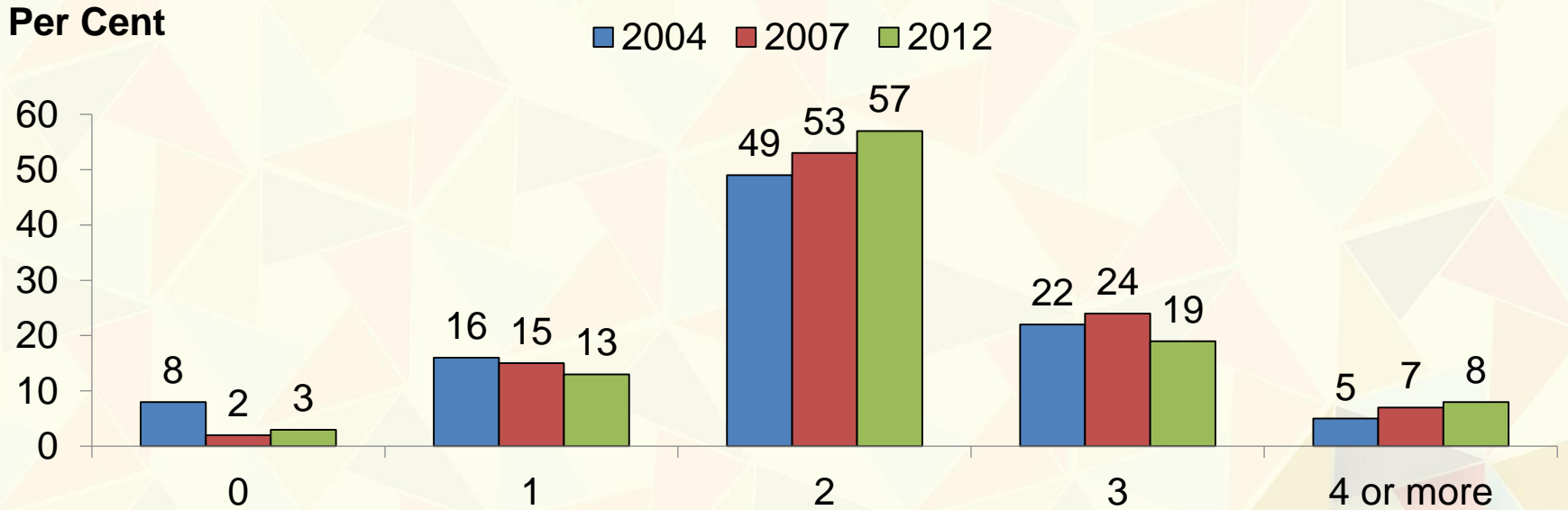Supporting Families Together

21

Filial Obligations

Respondents Agreeing with "Regardless of the qualities and faults of one's parents, one must always love and respect them" by Age, 2013
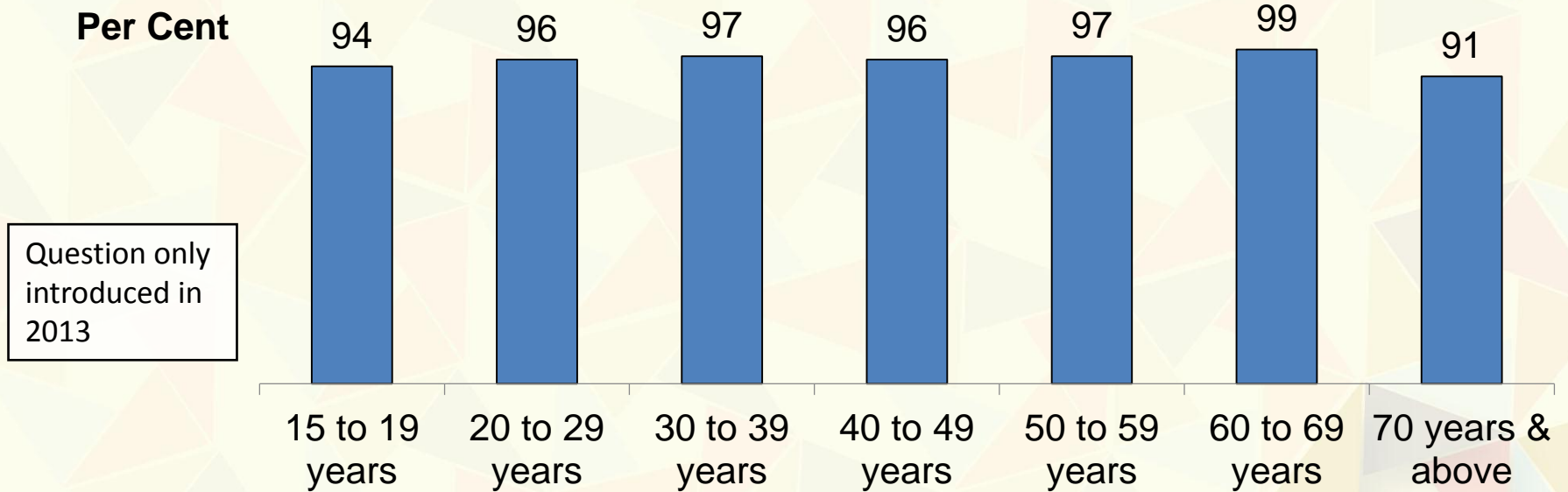
Per Cent

| | 94 | 96 | 97 | 96 | 97 | 99 | 91 |

Question only introduced in 2013

| 15 to 19 years | 20 to 29 years | 30 to 39 years | 40 to 49 years | 50 to 59 years | 60 to 69 years | 70 years & above |

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

Importance of Family Closeness

Youths' Responses to "How important are the following aspirations or life goals in your life?", 2010, 2013

Youths' "Very Important" Life Goals (selected) [Per Cent]	2010	2013
To maintain strong family relationships	**71**	**74**
To have a place of my own[1]	NA	70
To acquire new skills and knowledge	57	65
To have a successful career	66	61
To earn lots of money	48	46
To get married	**35**	**39**
To have children	**34**	**37**

Source: National Youth Council (National Youth Survey 2013); [1] Item added in NYS 2013.

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

Responsibility for children

Respondents Agreeing with "In general, mothers and fathers should share the responsibilities for bringing up children, by Parental Status, 2009

Per Cent
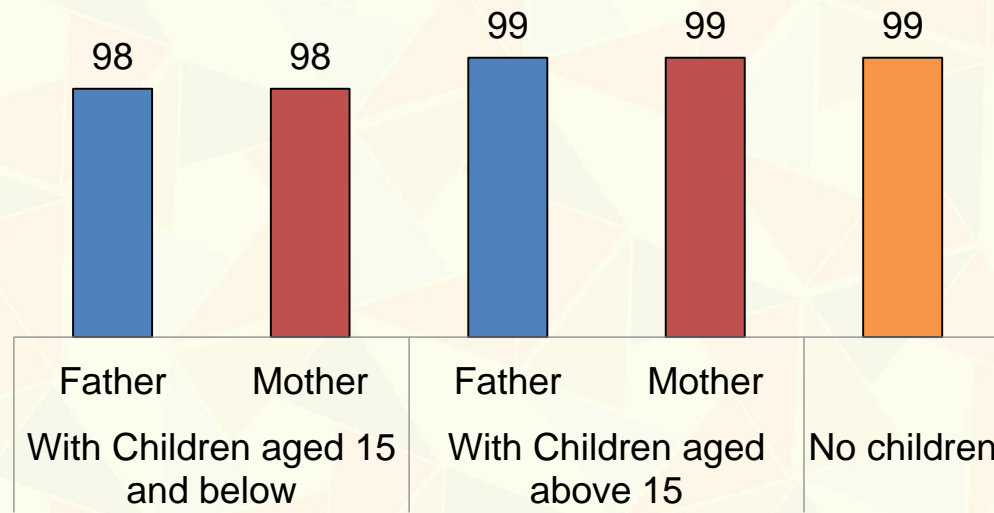
	With Children aged 15 and below		With Children aged above 15		No children
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	
	98	98	99	99	99

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Fatherhood Perception Survey 2009)

ACCOUNTING FOR FAMILY STRENGTH

Close Housing Arrangements

Present and Preferred Physical Living Arrangement of Younger Married Residents vis-à-vis their Parents, 2013

Per Cent
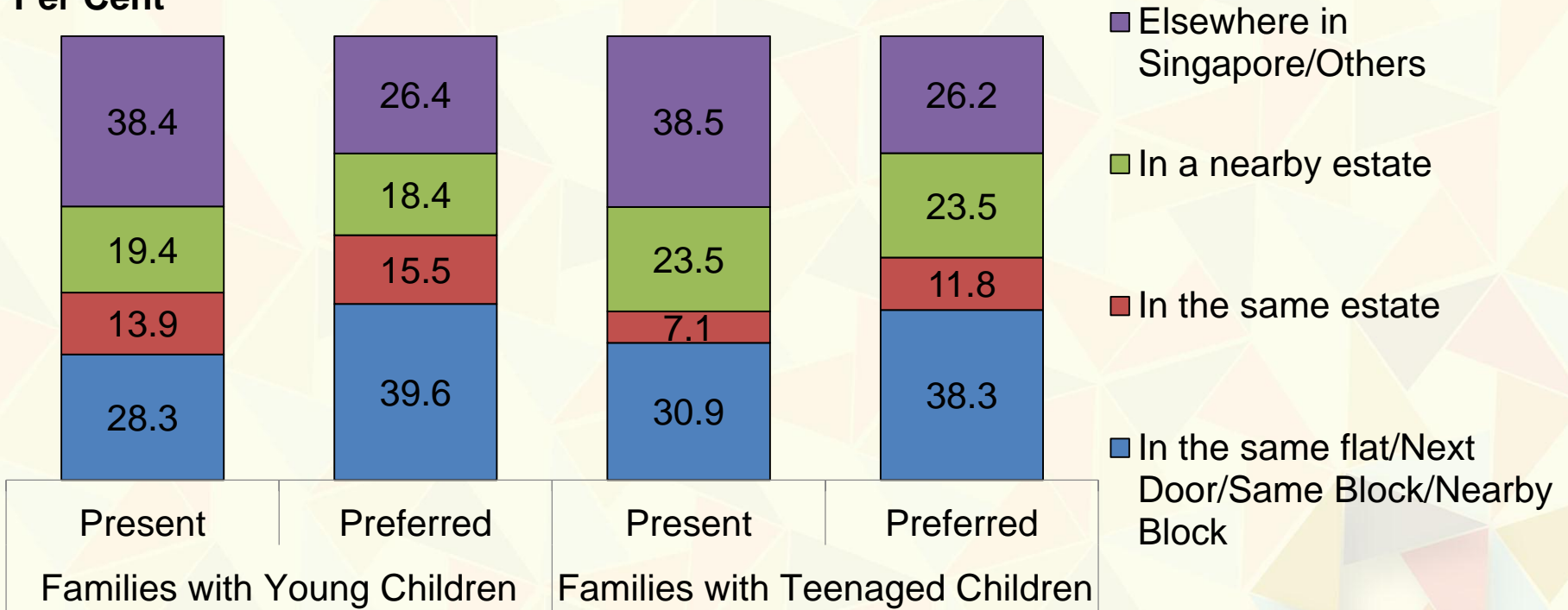
Legend:
- Elsewhere in Singapore/Others
- In a nearby estate
- In the same estate
- In the same flat/Next Door/Same Block/Nearby Block

Families with Young Children

Arrangement	Present	Preferred
Elsewhere in Singapore/Others	38.4	26.4
In a nearby estate	19.4	18.4
In the same estate	13.9	15.5
In the same flat/Next Door/Same Block/Nearby Block	28.3	39.6

Families with Teenaged Children

Arrangement	Present	Preferred
Elsewhere in Singapore/Others	38.5	26.2
In a nearby estate	23.5	23.5
In the same estate	7.1	11.8
In the same flat/Next Door/Same Block/Nearby Block	30.9	38.3

Source: Housing Development Board (Sample Household Survey 2013)

Increased Support at Work for Family Needs

Establishments Offering Flexible Work Arrangements, 2008 – 2014
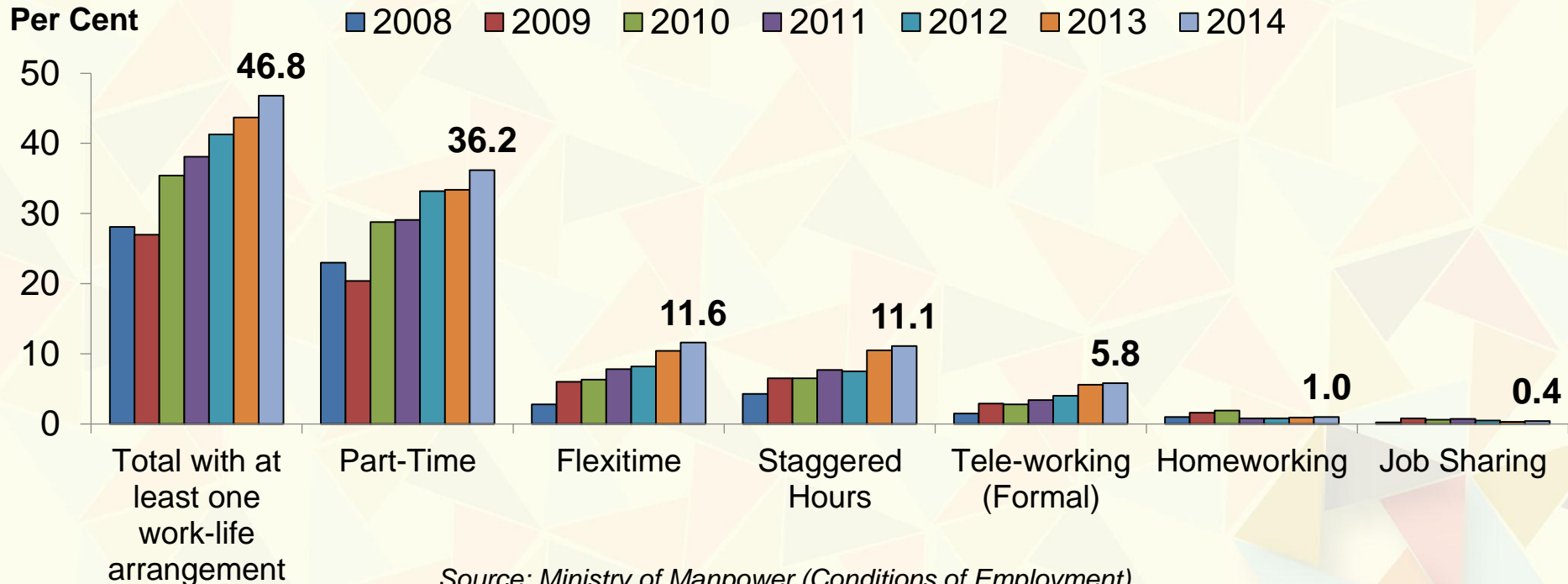
Per Cent

Legend: ■2008 ■2009 ■2010 ■2011 ■2012 ■2013 ■2014

- Total with at least one work-life arrangement: **46.8**
- Part-Time: **36.2**
- Flexitime: **11.6**
- Staggered Hours: **11.1**
- Tele-working (Formal): **5.8**
- Homeworking: **1.0**
- Job Sharing: **0.4**

Source: Ministry of Manpower (Conditions of Employment)

Increased Support at Work for Family Needs

Establishments that Provided Types of Non-Statutory Family-friendly Paid Leave, 2008 – 2014

Per Cent

Legend: ■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2012 ■ 2014

- Compassionate Leave: 88.8
- Marriage Leave: 71.2
- Unpaid Leave Of More Than 1 Month: 42.0
- Study / Examination Leave: 37.0
- Parent Care Leave: 17.3
- Child Sick Leave: 16.1
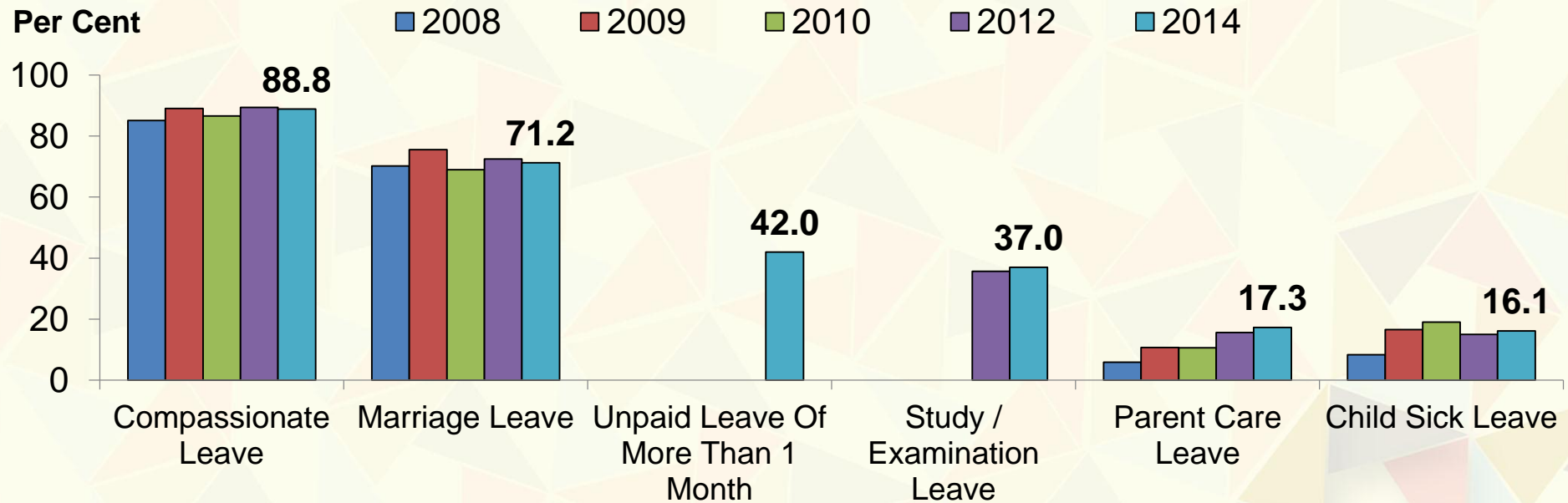
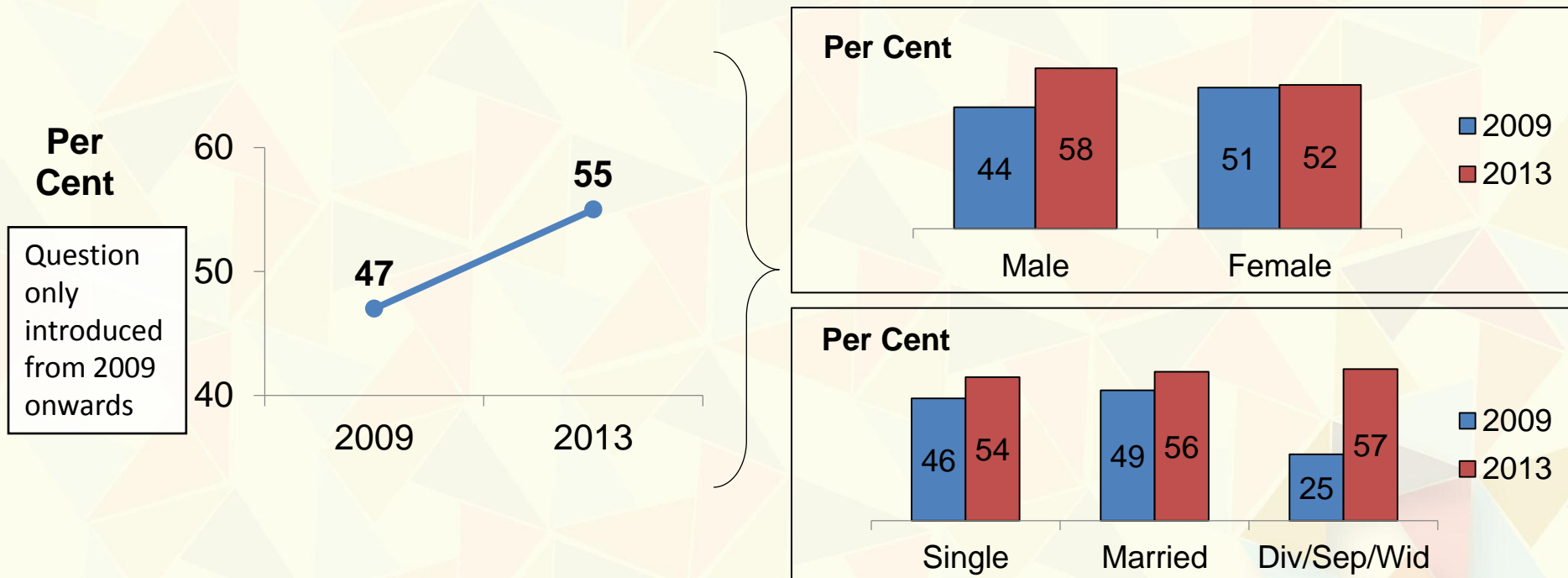*Source: Ministry of Manpower (Conditions of Employment)*

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

Work Demands may Interfere with Family Life for Some

Respondents Agreeing with "My job keeps me from spending the amount of time I would like to spend with my family", 2009, 2013

Question only introduced from 2009 onwards

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development (Survey on Social Attitudes of Singaporeans)

Availability of Services for Family Needs

Infant Care Services, 2011 – 2014

■ Total enrolment in infant care centres
── Total number of infant care places

('000)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total number of infant care places	4.0	4.7	5.3	5.6
Total enrolment in infant care centres	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.5

Child Care Services, 2011 – 2014

■ Total enrolment in child care centres
── Total number of child care centre places

('000)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total number of child care centre places	85.8	92.8	101.6	109.7
Total enrolment in child care centres	73.9	75.5	73.9	83.9

Source: Early Childhood Development Agency

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

Availability of Services for Family Needs

Number of Social Assistance Cases by Schemes, 2005 - 2013

ComCare Schemes	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
(I) ComCare Long Term Assistance					
No. of Public Assistance (PA) cases	2,965	2,928	2,920	3,034	3,164
(II) ComCare Short to Medium Term Assistance					
No. of Work Support Programme cases	NA	3,915	3,704	3,525	7,090
Number of ComCare Transitions cases	NA	NA	2,293	3,046	5,445
(III) ComCare Assistance for Children					
No. of Centre-based Financial Assistance Scheme for Childcare (CFAC) cases	4,720	3,111	3,657	5,708	6,879
No. of Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) cases	6,586	7,504	9,162	9,693	9,499
No. of Student Care Fee Assistance Scheme (SCFA) cases	3,877	4,071	5,295	2,549	5,030

Source: Ministry of Social and Family Development

EMERGING TRENDS

Divorces

Cumulative Proportion of Dissolved Resident Marriages before 5th Anniversary for Males by Age Group at Marriage and Type of Marriage

Legend: ● 20 - 24 years ● 25 - 29 years ● 30 - 34 years ● 35 - 39 years ● 40 years & over
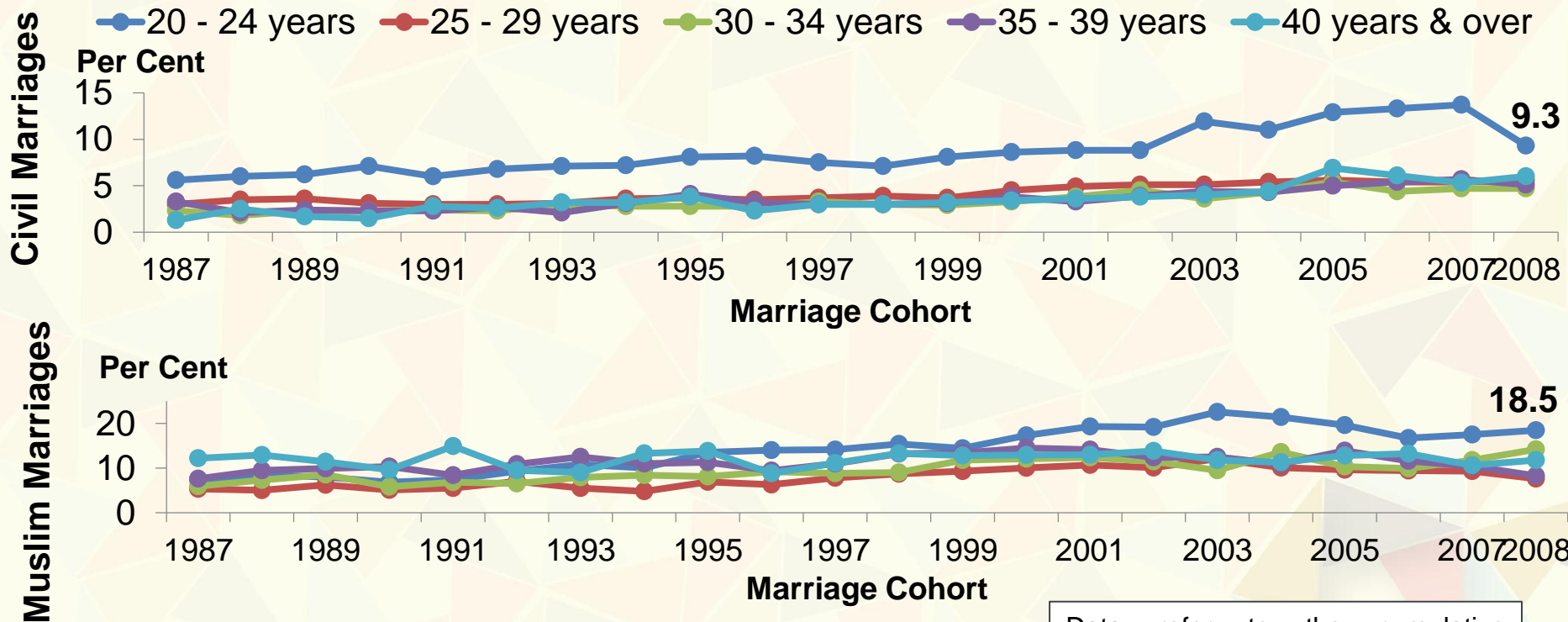
Source: Department of Statistics

Data refer to the cumulative proportion of divorces and annulments granted in Singapore by the Family Court, High Court and Syariah Court among resident marriages registered in Singapore with the Registry of Marriages (ROM) and Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM) before the 5th anniversary.

Transnational Families
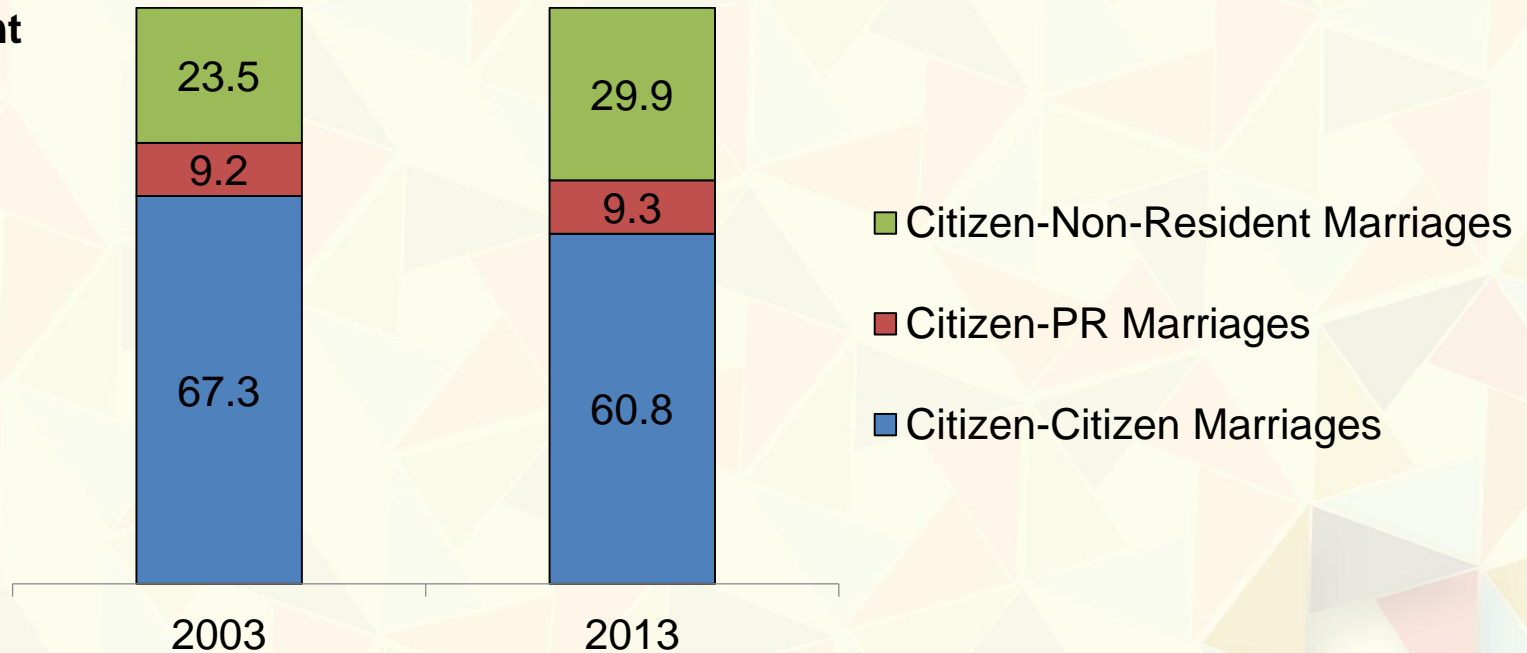
Citizen Marriages by Residency Status of Couple, 2003 and 2013

Per Cent

2003	2013
23.5	29.9
9.2	9.3
67.3	60.8

- Citizen-Non-Resident Marriages
- Citizen-PR Marriages
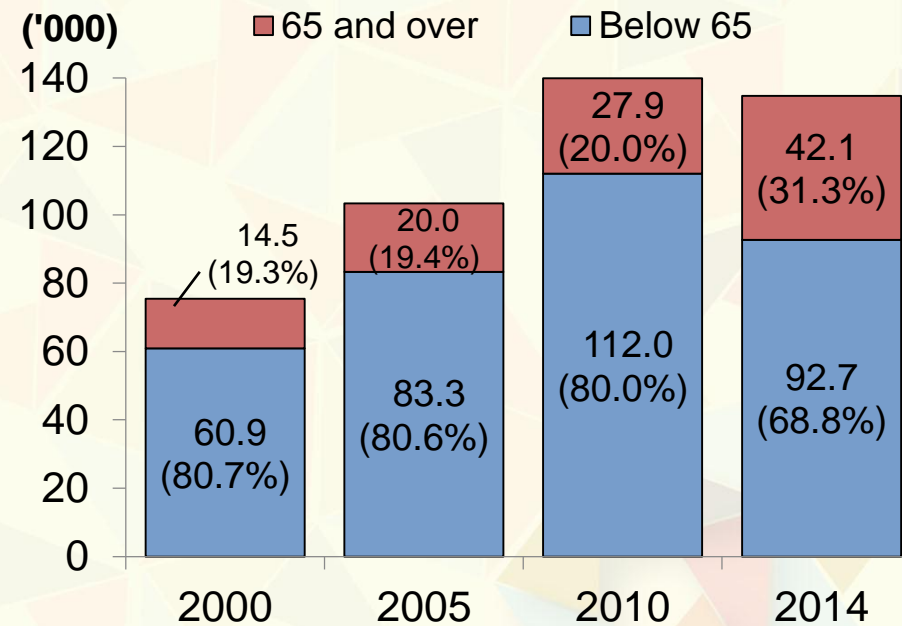- Citizen-Citizen Marriages

Source: Department of Statistics

Growing Non-Nuclear Forms of Households

Married without Co-Residing Children Households by Presence of Member Aged 65 Years and Over, 2000 – 2014

('000)
- ■ With at least 1 member aged 65 and above
- ■ With all members aged below 65

Year	With all members aged below 65	With at least 1 member aged 65 and above
2000	79.2 (81.7%)	17.7 (18.3%)
2005	94.6 (78.4%)	26.0 (21.6%)
2010	102.4 (73.1%)	37.6 (26.9%)
2014	110.0 (63.6%)	62.9 (36.4%)
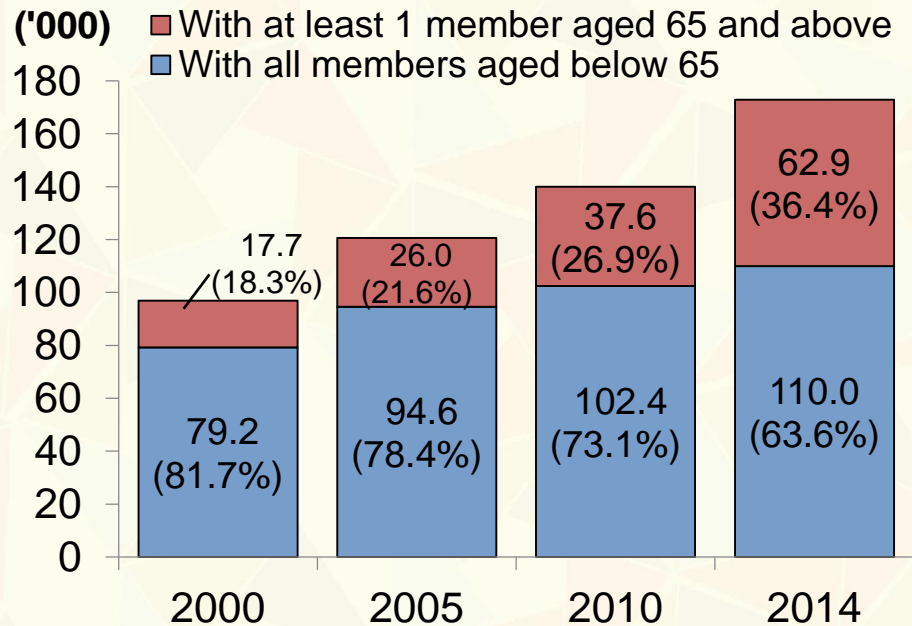
One-Person Households by Age of Head of Household, 2000 – 2014

('000)
- ■ 65 and over
- ■ Below 65

Year	Below 65	65 and over
2000	60.9 (80.7%)	14.5 (19.3%)
2005	83.3 (80.6%)	20.0 (19.4%)
2010	112.0 (80.0%)	27.9 (20.0%)
2014	92.7 (68.8%)	42.1 (31.3%)

Source: Department of Statistics

Social Service Partners Conference 2015
Supporting Families Together

THANK YOU

Social Service Partners Conference

Supporting Families Together

2015