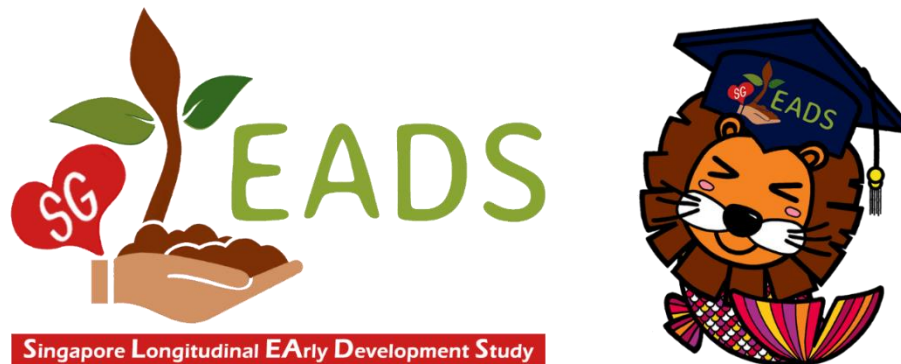


# Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS)



## **Panel Survey Wave 1** **Technical Report 8** **Cross-National Families in SG LEADS**

Wei-Jun Jean Yeung and Shuya Lu

Centre of Family and Population Research  
National University of Singapore

September 2020

## **Demographic and the socioeconomic profiles of cross-national families with young children in Singapore.**

This report presents the demographic and the socioeconomic profiles of cross-national families with young children in Singapore. The data were collected from the Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS), funded by the Ministry of Education and conducted in 2018/2019 by the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore (Yeung et al, 2020). The first wave of SG LEADS includes a nationally representative sample of 5,017 Singaporean children under the age of 7 and their primary caregivers in 3,481 households.

### **Defining Cross-national couples**

We define a cross-national couple in Singapore as a Singaporean-born individual marrying a spouse who was born outside of Singapore.

### **Types of cross-national families in Singapore**

Table 1 displays the types of family by the parent's birth countries. Among SG LEADS families, 56.5% of families are the native family with both parents were born in Singapore. One in four families (23.7%) is cross-national families that had one foreign-born parent who was born outside of Singapore. Families with foreign-born mothers accounted for 17.8% among all SG LEADS families. Specifically, 4.4% of SG LEADS families had a Malaysian-born mother, and 13.5% of families had a mother who was born outside of Singapore and Malaysia.

The cross-national family with foreign-born fathers accounted for 6% among all SG LEADS families. Specifically, 2.5% of SG LEADS families had a father who was born in Malaysia, and 3.4% of families had a father who was born outside of Singapore and Malaysia.

### **Parents' country of birth**

Table 2 presents the parents' country of birth. In the cross-national families with foreign-born mothers, Chinese-born mothers (25.1%), Malaysian-born mothers (24.4%), and Vietnamese-born mothers were three leading groups among other foreign-born mothers. Indonesia (11.4%), the Philippines (7.7%), and Thailand (5.2%) were the top-three birth countries among other birthplaces for foreign-born mothers.

In the cross-national families with foreign-born fathers, six countries lead among other birth countries: Malaysia (41.7%), India (15.9%), PRC (6.5%), Indonesia (6.4%), Switzerland (3.4%), the Philippines (3.2%).

## **Parental demographic characteristic in cross-national families**

### *Parental age and age differences between partners*

Table 3 presents a summary of cross-national couples' age and spousal age differences at the time of the interview. In the cross-national family with a foreign-born mother, the mean ages of the foreign-born mother and their Singaporean husbands were 35.6 and 42.7 respectively. In the cross-national family with a foreign-born father, the mean ages of foreign-born father and their Singaporean wives were 38.2 and 36 respectively.

The spousal age differences were measured by subtracting the wife's age from the husband's age. The positive value refers that a husband is older than his wife. The mean age differences between foreign-born mothers and their husbands are 7.2 years, which indicates that Singaporean husbands were seven years older than their foreign wives at the time of the interview. In the cross-national family with foreign-born fathers, the mean age differences between foreign-born father and their Singaporean wives are 2.2 years, and it indicates that foreign-born husbands were roughly two years older than their wives.

### *Parental race in cross-national families*

Table 4 displays the parents' racial distribution of cross-national families. In families with a foreign-born mother, the top-six racial groups for foreign-born mothers are Chinese (63.1%), Filipino (7.3%), Vietnamese (6.8%), Malay (6.3%), Indian (5.1%), and Thai (4.5%). The top-six racial groups for their SG-born husbands are Chinese (82.6%), Indian (6.9%), Malay (6.7%), Eurasian (0.8%), Javanese (0.3%), and Arab (0.3%).

In families with a foreign-born father, the top-six racial groups for foreign-born fathers are Chinese (48.8%), Indian (20.3%), Caucasian (5.0%), Malay (4.4%), Japanese (2.7%), and Thai (2.7%). The top-three racial groups for their SG-born wives are Chinese (72.4%), Indian (17.6%), and Malay (9.1%) (see table 4).

We also examine parental race at the couple-level. Table 5 shows the parents' racial distribution as a couple. Most Singaporeans married a foreign-born spouse who shared the same racial background. In families with a foreign-born mother, 61.8% of cross-national couples are both Chinese. Followed by Singaporean Chinese fathers married a Vietnamese wife (6.6%), Singaporean Indians fathers married a foreign-born Indian wife (4.6%), Singaporean Chinese married a Thai wife (4.4%), and Singaporean Malays married a foreign-born Malay wife (4.3%).

In families with a foreign-born father, 48.8% of cross-national couples are both Chinese. Followed by Singaporean Indians married a foreign-born Indian husband (15.9%), Singaporean Chinese married a Caucasian husband (5.0%), Singaporean Malays married a foreign-born

Malay husband (3.5%), and Singaporean Chinese married a foreign-born Indians husband (3.05%) (see Table 5).

*Parents' marriage duration – years of marriage at the time of the interview*

Table 6 presents the summary statistics of cross-national couples' marriage duration. On average, cross-national couples have been married for eight years (range from one-month to 25 years) at the time of the interview. The longest duration of cross-national marriages of foreign-born mothers and their husbands is 25 years. The longest duration of cross-national marriages for foreign-born fathers and their wives is 23 years.

*Parental marital status at the time of the interview*

Table 7 presents the cross-national couples' marital status. At the time of the interview, 98.1% of foreign-born mothers and 94.9% of foreign-born fathers were married.

*Marriage history of cross-national families at the time of the interview*

Figure 1 presents the composition of cross-national couples by their marital status and the number of marriages they had at the time of the interview. Among the 901 cross-national couples, 85.55% of them were married at the time of the interview. A small proportion of them was remarried families (10.9%), single-parent families (1.97%). Less than 1% of cross-national couples were cohabitating (0.78%) or married-but-living-apart (0.8%).

**Figure 1.** composition of cross-national couples by marital status and number of marriages at the time of the interview in SG LEADS, Wave I

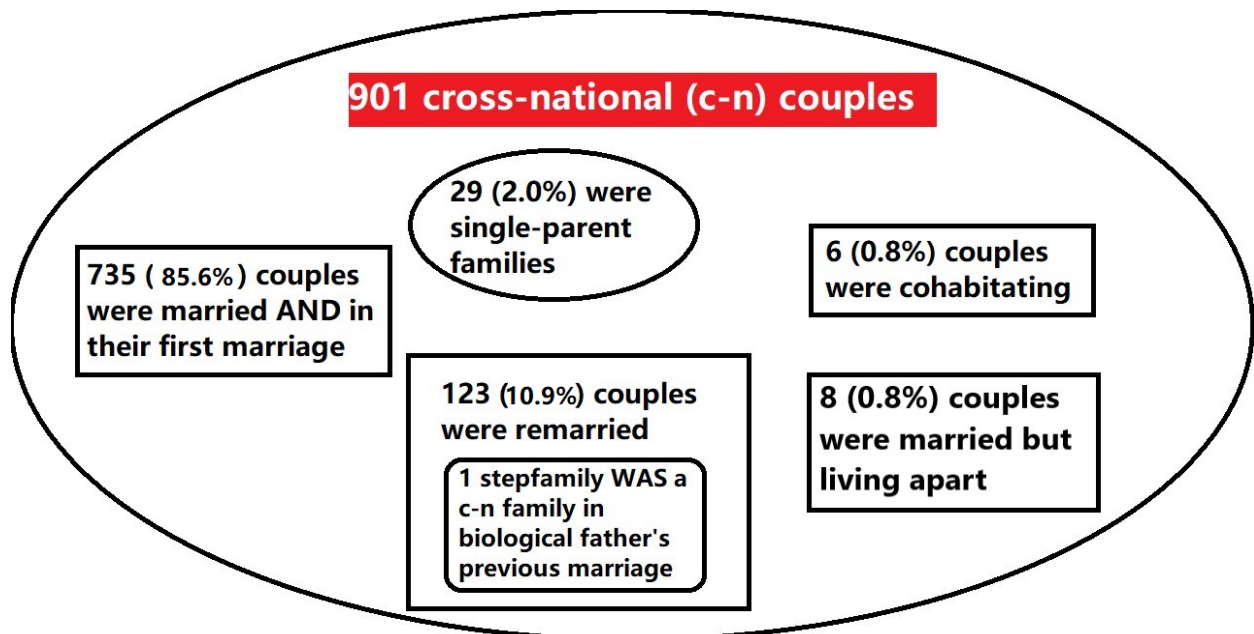


Table 8 presents the number of marriages by cross-national couples' marital status at the time of the interview. In the two types of cross-national families, around 97% were married when they participated in the first wave of SG LEADS. Among those married couples, 84.4% of foreign-born mothers and 89% of foreign-born fathers were in their first marriage with their native spouses. A small proportion of married individuals had two or more marriages at the time of the interview. Table 8 shows that 12.6% of families with foreign-born mothers and 5.9% of families of foreign-born fathers were remarried couples.

In the first wave of SG-LEADS, around 3% of parents from cross-national families were unmarried. One percent of foreign-born mothers or their spouses were never married, but they lived and raised their children together. In families with foreign-born fathers, 0.1% of cross-national couples were never married but living together with their children.

Among those unmarried families, 1.1% of foreign-born mothers were single-parent due to divorce (0.2%) or widowed (0.9%) from their Singaporean husbands; 0.5% of Singaporean fathers were single-parent due to divorce with their foreign-born wives. Cross-national families with foreign-born fathers had a higher proportion of single-parent rates than their counterparts. Around three percent of Singaporean mothers were single-parent due to divorce (2.8%) or separate (0.1%) with their foreign-born husbands.

### **Cross-national families' socioeconomic status at the time of the interview**

#### *Parental educational attainment at the time of the interview*

Table 9 presents cross-national couples' educational attainment at the time of the interview. Among the family with foreign-born mothers, 41.7% of foreign-born mothers and 33.5% of their native spouses received secondary or below education; 26.4% of foreign-born mothers and 34.4% of their native spouses had post-secondary education; 31.6% of foreign-born mothers and 32.1% of their native spouses obtained university-level or above education.

Among the family with foreign-born fathers, 20.6% of foreign-born fathers and 13.9% of their native wives received secondary or below education; 18.4% of foreign-born fathers and 44.1% of their native wives had post-secondary education; 60.6% of foreign-born fathers and 42% of their native wives obtained university-level or above education. The cross-national family with foreign-born fathers showed a higher level of educational attainment than the family with foreign-born mothers (see table 9).

In comparison with the native family with both Singaporean-born parents, foreign-born fathers from the cross-national family had a 17.2% higher proportion of completing university or above education than Singaporean-born fathers. Meanwhile, Singaporean-born mothers from the native family had the highest proportion (48%) of completing university or above education than mothers from the cross-national family (see table 9).

### *Parental employment status at the time of the interview*

Table 10 shows parental employment status in the cross-national family at the time of the interview. Comparing with native-born mothers married foreign-born fathers, foreign-born mothers had a lower proportion of being a working mother. At the time of the interview, 60% of foreign-born mothers and 80.9% of SG-born mothers were working. In the two types of cross-national families, more than 90% of fathers were working regardless of their country of origin. At the time of the interview, 96.7% of SG-born fathers and 97.3% of foreign-born fathers were working. In the native family, the proportion of working mothers is higher than foreign-born mothers but lower than Singaporean mothers in the cross-national family.

### *Cross-national families' income at the time of the interview*

Table 11 presents cross-national families' income at the time of the interview. In a family with foreign-born mothers, the mean of annual family income-per-capita was SGD\$73,496.6, and the median of that income was \$54,000. The median is less than the mean, which indicates the income distribution is skewed to the right. Around 50% of the family with foreign-born mothers earned family income-per-capita less than \$54,000 per year.

The right-skewed income distribution is also observed in the family of foreign-born fathers. The mean of annual family income per-capita for families with foreign-born fathers was SGD\$95,816.7. The median of family income per-capita for family of foreign-born fathers was \$69,000 per year. Despite that the mean family income is greater than the median, 50% of the family with foreign-born fathers earned less than \$69,000 per year.

We generated a monthly per capita income variable by dividing annual family income per capita by 12. We compared monthly income per-capita among cross-national families with foreign-born mothers, families with a foreign-born father, and native families with Singaporean-born parents. The family with a foreign-born mother had the lowest family income than other types of family, and the family with a foreign-born father had an income level higher than the average family income. The summary statistics in Table 11 showed that the mean income per-capita for families with foreign-born mothers was SGD\$1,483.3 per month. The median monthly income per-capita was SGD\$1,042. The mean monthly income per-capita for cross-national families with foreign-born fathers was SGD\$2,106.2 with a median at SGD\$1,223.1. The native family had the highest mean monthly per-capita income of \$2,043.1 with a median at \$1,376.7. Among the three types of family, the monthly income per-capita distribution is skewed to the right.

Based on the monthly per capita income variable, we created a categorical monthly income variable with three categories: low income (monthly per-capita income less than SGD\$700), middle income (SGD\$700-\$2,000), and high income (more than SGD\$2,000). The distribution of this monthly income variable from table 11 shows that 26.1% of foreign-born

mothers' cross-national families had a monthly income per-capita lower than SGD\$700. In comparison, 17.9% of foreign-born fathers' cross-national family were fallen into the low-income category. There were 45.9% of foreign-born mothers and 30.5% of foreign-born fathers living as middle-income families at the time of the interview. Lastly, 25.7% of foreign-born mothers and 49.2% of foreign-born fathers were from high-income families with monthly income of more than SGD\$2,000 per month.

### **Cross-national couples' citizenship and residency status in Singapore at the time of the interview**

#### *Parental nationality at the time of the interview*

Table 12 shows the distribution of parental nationality at the time of the interview. In cross-national families with a foreign-born mother, 27.7% of foreign-born mothers had converted their citizenship to Singaporean. In cross-national families with a foreign-born father, 31.9% of foreign-born fathers had converted their citizenship to Singaporean.

#### *Cross-national couples' residency in Singapore at the time of the interview*

Table 13 shows parents' residency in Singapore at the time of the interview. In cross-national families with a foreign-born mother, 26.1% of foreign-born mothers had converted their citizenship to Singaporean, and 55% of them had become Singapore permanent residents. Less than 1% of foreign-born mothers were holding the Dependent Pass (0.1%), and 15.7% of them were holding the Long-term Visit Pass.

In cross-national families with a foreign-born father, 28.3% of foreign-born fathers had converted their citizenship to Singaporean, and 56.1% of them became Singapore permanent residents at the time of the interview. There were 4.2% of foreign-born fathers holding the Long-term Visit Pass. As for the working-type visa, 0.8% of foreign-born fathers were holding Employment Pass or S Pass, and 2.1% of them were holding the Work Permit.

### **The living arrangement in cross-national families at the time of the interview**

#### *Cross-national families' housing type at the time of the interview*

Table 14 shows the frequency distribution of cross-national families' living environment by housing types. Among all types of families, families with foreign-born mothers had the least proportion of living in condominiums or landed properties. At the time of the interview, only 7.5% of families with foreign-born mothers lived in the condominiums and landed properties. The family with foreign-born fathers had the highest proportion of living in condominiums or landed properties with a rate of 24.2%.

Families with foreign-born mothers had the largest proportion of living in the 1-to-3 room HDB flats with a rate of 26.8%. The proportion of living in such housing types for families with foreign-born fathers is 18.5%.

#### *Household ownership at the time of the interview*

Table 14 also presents the frequency distribution of house ownership in the cross-national family. At the time of the interview, more than 90% of SG LEADS families own their houses. Among all types of families, the native family had the highest household ownership with a rate of 95.2%. In the cross-national family, 94.8% of families with foreign-born mothers own their houses, and 91.9% of families with foreign-born fathers own their houses.

#### *Household size*

Table 15 shows the household size of cross-national families at the time of the interview. Most cross-national families had four-people living in the household; 30.0% of foreign-born mothers and 29.7% of foreign-born fathers had four-people living together in one household. Less than 10% of cross-national families living with seven or more people in one household.

#### *Number of children (under aged 18) at the time of the interview*

Most cross-national families had two children under the aged of 18 living in the household. Specifically, 46.3% of families with foreign-born mothers and 51.5% of families with foreign-born fathers had two children under the age of 18. Less than one percent of cross-national families had five or more children in the household (see table 15).

#### *Number of adults (above aged 65) at the time of the interview*

Overall, more than 80% of families were not living with an adult who was aged above 65. However, comparing with the cross-national family with a foreign-born father, there was a larger proportion of living with an adult who was aged above 65 in families with a foreign-born mother. Specifically, 18.66% of families with foreign-born mothers and 12.3% of families with foreign-born fathers were living with at least one adult who was aged above 65.

#### *Number of helpers at the time of the interview*

Cross-national families with a foreign-born mother had a higher proportion of not living with a domestic helper than their counterparts; 73.9% of families with foreign-born mothers and 64.3% of families with foreign-born fathers were not living with a helper at the time of the interview.



In the sample of cross-national families that living with at least one helper, foreign-born mothers had a lower prevalence of living with helpers. 26.5% of families with foreign-born mothers and 35.7% of families with foreign-born fathers were living with helpers (see table 15).  
*Family composition at the time of the interview*

### **Comparison between Malaysia-born foreign parents and foreign-born spouses in other countries**

Table 16 presents the proportion of foreign-born parents by their birthplaces in Malaysia or other countries. Among the cross-national families ( $n=901$ ), 18.3% of foreign-born mothers and 10.4% of foreign-born fathers were born in Malaysia<sup>1</sup>.

Malaysia has cultures that are more similar to Singapore than in other countries. The cross-national families with a Malaysian spouse may be more similar to the native Singaporean families than families with a spouse who were born in other countries. So in this section, we compare their socioeconomic characteristics in parental educational attainment, family income, and foreign-born parents' residential status in Singapore.

#### *Parental educational attainment of Malaysian-born or other foreign-born parents in cross-national families*

Table 17 shows the educational levels by foreign-born parent birthplaces in Malaysia or other countries. Compare to Malaysian-born mothers, foreign-born mothers from other countries had a higher proportion of having secondary or below educational attainment, with a rate of 44.4%.

Compare with Malaysian-born fathers, foreign-born fathers from other countries had a higher proportion of completed university or above educational level, with a rate of 77.8%.  
*Cross-national families' income of Malay-born or other foreign-born parents*

Table 18 presents cross-national families' income by families with Malaysian-born parents and families with other foreign-born parents. At the time of the interview, in the family with Malaysian-born mothers, the mean of annual family income-per-capita was SGD\$84,162.3, and the median of that income was \$72,000. In families with foreign-born mothers from other countries, their income less than Malaysian-born mothers, with a mean at \$70,648.6 and a median at \$50,000. The median is less than the mean, which indicates the income distribution is skewed to the right. Around 50% of the cross-national family with foreign-born mothers earned family income-per-capita less than \$50,000 per year.

The right-skewed income distribution is also observed in the cross-national family with Malaysian-born fathers and foreign-born fathers from other countries. The mean annual family

---

<sup>1</sup> This weighted rate refers to children's biological parents, which includes absent foreign-born parents. If children have an adoptive parent, we used that adoptive parent's birthplace instead.

income-per-capita for the family with Malaysian-born fathers was SGD\$90,576.6, with a median of \$67,000. The mean family income-per-capita for the family with foreign-born fathers from other countries was \$100,768.9 per year, with a median of \$70,000. Therefore, families with foreign-born fathers from other countries received more income than families with Malaysian-born fathers.

In the monthly family income-per-capita, the pattern is similar to the findings in family income-per-capita. Overall, the family with Malaysian-born mothers had higher monthly family income-per-capita than the family with non-Malaysian-born mothers. Table 18 presents the mean and median monthly income per capita. The mean monthly income-per-capita for cross-national families with Malaysian-born mothers was SGD\$1,651.7 per month, with a median of \$1356.7. The mean monthly income-per-capita for families with non-Malaysian-born foreign mothers was SGD\$1,438.3 per month, with a median of \$1,000.

The families with Malaysian-born fathers had lower monthly income-per-capita than families with foreign-born fathers from other countries. The family with foreign-born fathers from other countries had the highest mean monthly per-capita income of \$1,933.7, with a median of \$1,166.7. Among all types of family, the mean is smaller than the median; thus, the monthly income-per-capita distribution is skewed to the right.

Table 18 also shows the proportional distribution of receiving monthly family income-per-capita at three levels: lower than \$700, \$700-2000, and more than \$2,000. Comparing with families had Malaysian-born mothers, families with other foreign-born mothers had less proportion of receiving more than \$2,000 a month per person. However, families with other foreign-born mothers had a slightly higher proportion of monthly income at the range of \$700-2,000 than families with Malaysian-born mothers, with rates at 47.2% and 41.7%, respectively.

Comparing with families had Malaysian-born fathers, families with other foreign-born fathers had less proportion of receiving income lower than \$700 a month per person. Moreover, families with other foreign-born fathers had a lower proportion of monthly income at the range of \$700-2,000 than families with Malaysian-born fathers, with rates at 26% and 36.7%, respectively.

Among the four types of cross-national families, the family with other foreign-born mothers is the most disadvantaged group. They had the highest proportion of receiving monthly income lower than \$700 per-capita, with the rate at 28.1%. Families with other foreign-born fathers had the highest proportion of receiving more than \$2,000 monthly income-per-capita, with the rate at 54.5%.

#### *Foreign-born parents residential status in Singapore at the time of the interview by their birthplaces*

At the time of the interview, more than 90% of Malaysian-born mothers had converted to Singaporean citizenship or became permanent residents. Even though foreign-born mothers from

other countries had a lower rate of converting to Singapore residents, 76.8% had become Singaporean citizens or permanent residents. Among non-residents, 2.5% of Malaysian-born mothers and 20% of other foreign-born mothers held a long-term visit pass (Table 19).

As for foreign-born fathers, the conversion rate to Singapore residents was similar between Malaysian-born fathers and non-Malaysian foreign-born fathers, at 85.4% and 83.6%. Among non-residents, 5.2% of Malaysian-born fathers had a long-term visit pass, and 6.3% of them held a type of employment pass at the time of the interview. In comparison, 3.6% of non-Malaysian-born fathers had a long-term visit pass, and only 0.3% of them held an employment pass (Table 19).

We examine in greater detail the low-income cross-national families, defined as those lived in 1-3 room HDB units. Table 20 compares parents who were both born in Singapore (native parents) to cross-national families with a foreign-born mother which we further divide the cross-national families into those with a Malaysia-born mother and those with a mother born in other countries. As shown, the Malaysian-born mothers on average have a smaller age gap with their husbands than the non-Malaysia-born mothers (5.5 years as opposed to 9.5 years) and a larger proportion of them were employed (66.4% vs. 52.8%). Families with a Malaysia-born mother have a higher family income than those with a non-Malaysia born mother. A larger proportion of the non-Malaysia-born mothers were still holding a LTVP than the Malaysia-born mothers (30%, as opposed to 11.5%)

## Summary

In the first wave of the SG LEADS, 23.7% of families are cross-national families that have one foreign-born parent. Specifically, 17.8% of cross-national families have a foreign-born mother, and 6% of cross-national families have a foreign-born father.

Most foreign-born mothers were born in developing countries or emerging economies – PRC (25.1%), Malaysia (24.4%), Vietnam (14.2%), Indonesia (11.4%), and the Philippines (7.7%), and Thai (5.2%). Most foreign-born fathers were born in the following countries – Malaysia (41.7%), India (15.9%), PRC (6.5%), Indonesia (6.4%), Switzerland (3.4%), Philippine (3.2%), and Japan (2.7%).

At the time of the interview, the couples were married on average for 8 years. More than 80% of foreign-born parents had converted their citizenship to Singaporean or had become Singaporean permanent residents. Among foreign-born parents who were non-resident<sup>2</sup> in Singapore, most foreign-born mothers held a long-term visit pass; most foreign-born fathers had an employment pass or work permit.

Comparing with families with foreign-born fathers, the age differences between cross-national couples were larger between foreign-born mothers and their Singaporean husbands. On

---

<sup>2</sup> Non-resident refer to non-citizen or non-permanent resident in Singapore.

average, Singaporean fathers are seven years older than their foreign-born wives; foreign-born fathers are two years older than their Singaporean wives.

In cross-national families with a foreign-born mother, the top-six racial groups for foreign-born mothers are Chinese (63.1%), Filipino (7.3%), Vietnamese (6.8%), Malay (6.3%), Indian (5.1%), and Thai (4.5%). The top-six racial groups for SG-born fathers who married a foreign-born spouse are Chinese (82.6%), Indian (6.9%), Malay (6.7%), Eurasian (0.8%), Javanese (0.3%), and Arab (0.3%).

In cross-national families with a foreign-born father, the top-six racial groups for foreign-born fathers are Chinese (48.8%), Indian (20.3%), Caucasian (5.0%), Malay (4.4%), Japanese (2.7%), and Thai (2.7%). The top-three racial groups for SG-born mothers who married a foreign-born spouse are Chinese (72.4%), Indian (17.6%), and Malay (9.1%).

Most Singaporean married a foreign-born spouse who shared the same racial background. In the cross-national family with a foreign-born mother, 61.8% of cross-national couples are both Chinese. Followed by Singaporean Chinese fathers married a Vietnamese wife (6.6%), Singaporean Indians fathers married a foreign-born Indian wife (4.6%), Singaporean Chinese married a Thai wife (4.4%), and Singaporean Malays married a foreign-born Malay wife (4.3%).

In the cross-national family with a foreign-born father, 48.8% of cross-national couples are both Chinese. Followed by Singaporean Indians married a foreign-born Indian husband (15.9%), Singaporean Chinese married a Caucasian husband (5.0%), Singaporean Malays married a foreign-born Malay husband (3.5%), and Singaporean Chinese married a foreign-born Indians husband (3.05%).

At the time of the interview, around 97% of foreign-born parents were married. On average, cross-national couples had been married for eight years. Meanwhile, around 3% of individuals were unmarried in each type of cross-national family due to divorce or widowed.

Foreign-born mothers had a lower educational level than their husbands. At the least education level, foreign-born mothers had 8.2% more proportion of having secondary or below education than their husbands. Among families with foreign-born fathers, the father's educational level is higher than their wives. Foreign-born fathers had an 18.6% higher proportion of completed a university or higher education than their wives. In comparison with the native family, foreign-born fathers had a 15.4% higher proportion of received university or above education than Singaporean-born fathers.

Furthermore, Malaysia has cultures similar to Singapore than other countries; thus, we further compared the socioeconomic resources between cross-national families with a spouse born in Malaysia and cross-national families with a spouse born in other countries.

At the time of the interview, 96.4% of Malaysian-born mothers had converted to Singaporean citizenship or became permanent residents. More than 85% of Malaysian-born fathers converted to Singaporean citizens or permanent residents.

In families with foreign-born mothers, families with Malaysian-born mothers had a higher educational level and had more family income than families with non-Malaysian foreign-born mothers. Compared to native Singaporean families, Malaysian-born mothers had a lower level of educational attainment. Specifically, they had a higher proportion of had secondary or below education than Singaporean mothers in the native family, with a rate of 18% and 33.4% respectively.

In families with foreign-born fathers, families with Malaysian-born fathers had a lower educational level and had less family income than families with other foreign-born fathers. Compared to native Singaporean families, Malaysian-born fathers had a lower level of educational attainment. Malaysian-born fathers had a larger proportion of completed education before post-secondary than Singaporean fathers in the native family, with a rate of 63.3 and 56.3%.

As for family income, families with Malaysian-born mothers had more family income per-capita than those with mothers born in other countries. However, such an advantage did not hold anymore when comparing to the native Singaporean family. Families with Malaysian-born fathers had less family income per-capita than those with fathers born in other countries. Comparing the two types of families with foreign-born fathers to the native family, foreign-born fathers from other countries had a similar level of family income as the native family.

In short, families of Malaysian-born mothers had more socioeconomic resources than mothers born in other countries. However, families of Malaysian-born mothers had less socioeconomic resources compared to native Singaporean families. The comparison between families with Malaysian-born fathers and non-Malaysian-born fathers showed that cross-national families with non-Malaysian-born fathers had more socioeconomic resources. Moreover, the family with a father born in other countries is the most socioeconomic advantaged family among the four types of cross-national families in the first wave of SG LEADS. The family with foreign-born mothers born in other countries is the most socioeconomically disadvantaged group among all types of cross-national families. They had the least proportion of obtained higher education and earned monthly income per-capita more than SGD2,000. Foreign-born mothers from other countries also had a lower proportion of converting their citizenship to Singaporean or to permanent residents than Malaysian-born mothers.

Overall, the family with foreign-born fathers is the most socioeconomically advantaged group among all three types of family. Families with foreign-born fathers had a higher socioeconomic status than families with foreign-born mothers. Comparing these two types of cross-national families, families with foreign-born fathers have higher educational attainment, earn a higher-than-average family income, and live in condominiums or land properties than

their counterparts. Comparing with the native family, the family with foreign-born fathers had a 5% more in receiving a monthly income (per-capita) higher-than SGDS2,000.

**Table 1.** summary statistics of types of families by parental birthplace in SG LEADS, Wave-I

Types of families	Household-level (Number of Households)	Child-level (Number of Children)
	N (Weighted%)	N (Weighted%)
<b>FB mother and SG-born father</b>	<b>722 (17.8 %)</b>	<b>1002 (17.6%)</b>
<i>Malaysian-born mother</i>	155 (4.4%)	234 (4.6%)
<i>Non-Malaysian-born mother</i>	567 (13.5%)	768 (12.9%)
<b>FB father and SG-born mother</b>	<b>179 (6.0%)</b>	<b>255 (5.7%)</b>
<i>Malaysian-born father</i>	86 (2.5%)	120 (2.4%)
<i>Non-Malaysian-born father</i>	93 (3.4%)	135 (3.3%)
<b>Both parents were born in Singapore</b>	<b>1973 (56.5%)</b>	<b>2955 (58.8%)</b>
<b>Both parents were foreign-born</b>	<b>553 (18.7%)</b>	<b>732 (17.0%)</b>
<a href="#">Missing<sup>3</sup></a>	58 (1.1%)	77 (1.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3485 (100%)</b>	<b>5021 (100%)</b>

<sup>3</sup> [Missing is due to at least one-parent's demographic information is missing; thus, we are unable to define the family-type.](#)

**Table 2.** Parental country of birth by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Country of birth</b>		
<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Foreign-born (FB) mother</b>	<b>SG-born father</b>
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
Singapore		707 (98.5%)
People's Republic of China	169 (25.1%)	
Malaysia	155 (24.4%)	
Vietnam	108 (14.2%)	
Indonesia	103 (11.4%)	
Philippines	71 (7.7%)	
Thailand	37 (5.2%)	
India	27 (4.3%)	
Myanmar	9 (1.1%)	
Japan	5 (1.1%)	
Hong Kong	6 (1.0%)	
South Korea	5 (0.9%)	
Cambodia	4 (0.7%)	
Taiwan	4 (0.5%)	
France	1 (0.3%)	
Kazakhstan	1 (0.3%)	
Kenya	1 (0.2%)	
United States	1 (0.2%)	
Cuba	1 (0.2%)	
Netherlands	1 (0.2%)	
Russia	2 (0.1%)	
Mongolia	1 (0.1%)	
Laos	1 (0.1%)	
Nepal	1 (0.1%)	
Pakistan	1 (0.04%)	
Absent parent* <sup>4</sup>	7 (0.6%)	15 (1.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>722 (100%)</b>	<b>722 (100%)</b>

---

\*Absent parents are due to the parent's country of birth is unknown.



**Families with foreign-born fathers**

	<b>SG-born mother</b>	<b>Foreign-born (FB) father</b>
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
Singapore	178 (99.33)	
Malaysia		86 (41.7%)
India		25 (15.9%)
People's Republic of China		11 (6.5%)
Indonesia		11 (6.4%)
Switzerland		2 (3.4%)
Philippines		4 (3.2%)
Japan		1 (2.7%)
Thailand		1 (2.7%)
France		2 (2.3%)
South Korea		2 (1.6%)
United States		2 (1.5%)
Turkey		1 (1.1%)
Taiwan		2 (1.0%)
Pakistan		3 (0.9%)
United Kingdom		1 (0.8%)
Canada		1 (0.8%)
Latvia		1 (0.8%)
Syria		1 (0.6%)
Nigeria		2 (0.5%)
Hong Kong		2 (0.5%)
Nepal		1 (0.3%)
Algeria		1 (0.1%)
Absent parent*	1 (0.7)	16 (5.0%)
Total	179 (100%)	179 (100%)

**Table 3.** summary statistic of parental age and mean age discrepancy between spouses at the time of the interview by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

	<b>Age</b>	
	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
Mother's age, mean (sd)	35.6 (5.1)	36.0 (5.4)
Mother's age, range (min, max)	(21.2, 55.4)	(22.8, 48.5)
Father's age, mean (sd)	42.7 (8.3)	38.2 (6.01)
Father's age, range (min,max)	(22.5, 77.2)	(26.5, 62.5)
Age difference, mean (sd)	7.2 (7.5)	2.2 (4.4)

**Table 4.** Parental race distribution by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Parental race</b>	
<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	
<b>FB mothers' race</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Chinese	406 (63.1%)
Filipino	67 (7.3%)
Vietnamese	57 (6.8%)
Malay	70 (6.3%)
Indian	33 (5.1%)
Thai	33 (4.5%)
Indonesian	12 (1.1%)
Korean	5 (0.9%)
Japanese	4 (0.7%)
Myanmarese	4 (0.5%)
Javanese	3 (0.5%)
Cambodian	1 (0.3%)
Kazakhstani	1 (0.3%)
Kinh	4 (0.3%)
Punjabi	2 (0.2%)
Burmese	1 (0.2%)
Cuban	1 (0.2%)
Arab	1 (0.2%)
Turkish	1 (0.2%)
Cambodia	1 (0.2%)
Khmer	1 (0.1%)
Mongolian	1 (0.1%)
Laos	1 (0.1%)
Nepalese	1 (0.1%)
Sundanese	1 (0.1%)
Kadazan	1 (0.04%)
Pakistani	1 (0.04%)
Russian	1 (0.04%)
Absent parent	7 (0.6%)
Total	722 (100%)
<b>SG-born fathers' race</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Chinese	556 (82.6%)
Indian	50 (6.9%)
Malay	86 (6.7%)

Eurasian	4 (0.8%)
Javanese	2 (0.3%)
Arab	2 (0.3%)
Punjabi	2 (0.2%)
Myanmarese	1 (0.2%)
Singh	1 (0.2%)
Filipino	1 (0.2%)
Pakistani	1 (0.1%)
Ceylonese	1 (0.04%)
Absent parent	15 (1.5%)
Total	722 (100%)

### Families with foreign-born fathers

<b>FB fathers' race</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Chinese	86 (48.8%)
Indian	33 (20.3%)
Caucasian	4 (5.0%)
Malay	19 (4.4%)
Japanese	1 (2.7%)
Thai	1 (2.7%)
French	2 (2.3%)
Filipino	3 (1.9%)
Korean	2 (1.6%)
Turkish	1 (1.1%)
Pakistani	2 (0.8%)
Canadian	1 (0.8%)
Latvian	1 (0.8%)
Swiss	1 (0.8%)
Arab	1 (0.6%)
Nepalese	1 (0.2%)
Nigerian	1 (0.1%)
Indonesian	1 (0.1%)
Punjabi	1 (0.1%)
Algerian	1 (0.1%)
Absent parent	16 (5.0%)
Total	179 (100%)

<b>SG-born mothers' race</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Chinese	111 (72.4%)
Indian	32 (17.6%)
Malay	33 (9.1%)
Pakistani	1 (0.1%)
Punjabi	1 (0.1%)

Absent parent	1 (0.7%)
Total	179 (100%)

**Table 5.** Parental race distribution at the couple-level by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Parental race for cross-national couples</b>		
<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>		
<b>SG-born fathers</b>	<b>FB mothers</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Chinese	Chinese	398 (61.78%)
Chinese	Vietnamese	55 (6.56%)
Indian	Indian	30 (4.57%)
Chinese	Thai	31 (4.44%)
Malay	Malay	55 (4.34%)
Chinese	Filipino	33 (4.24%)
Indian	Filipino	12 (1.46%)
Malay	Filipino	17 (1.2%)
Chinese	Malay	6 (1.07%)
Chinese	Korean	4 (0.83%)
Absent	Malay	5 (0.67%)
Chinese	Absent	7 (0.55%)
Chinese	Indonesian	4 (0.53%)
Eurasian	Chinese	2 (0.53%)
Chinese	Myanmarese	4 (0.52%)
Malay	Indonesian	7 (0.47%)
Chinese	Japanese	3 (0.44%)
Chinese	Javanese	2 (0.4%)
Absent	Indian	2 (0.35%)
Chinese	Cambodian	1 (0.28%)
Indian	Kazakhstani	1 (0.28%)
Indian	Chinese	2 (0.26%)
Eurasian	Japanese	1 (0.25%)
Chinese	Kinh	3 (0.23%)
Absent	Vietnamese	2 (0.23%)
Javanese	Cuban	1 (0.23%)
Myanmarese	Burmese	1 (0.23%)
Arab	Arab	1 (0.22%)
Singh	Filipino	1 (0.22%)
Chinese	Indian	1 (0.21%)
Malay	Chinese	1 (0.21%)
Malay	Turkish	1 (0.2%)
Filipino	Chinese	1 (0.19%)
Indian	Malay	3 (0.18%)
Chinese	Cambodia	1 (0.18%)
Punjabi	Punjabi	2 (0.17%)

Chinese	Khmer	1 (0.13%)
Chinese	Mongolian	1 (0.13%)
Absent	Chinese	2 (0.11%)
Chinese	Laos	1 (0.1%)
Indian	Nepalese	1 (0.1%)
Absent	Filipino	2 (0.09%)
Malay	Sundanese	1 (0.09%)
Malay	Thai	1 (0.06%)
Pakistani	Indonesian	1 (0.06%)
Arab	Malay	1 (0.05%)
Javanese	Javanese	1 (0.05%)
Absent	Kinh	1 (0.04%)
Absent	Pakistani	1 (0.04%)
Ceylonese	Filipino	1 (0.04%)
Eurasian	Filipino	1 (0.04%)
Indian	Thai	1 (0.04%)
Malay	Kadazan	1 (0.04%)
Malay	Korean	1 (0.04%)
Malay	Russian	1 (0.04%)
Total		722 (100%)

#### Families with foreign-born fathers

<b>FB fathers</b>	<b>SG-born mothers</b>	<b>N (Weighted%)</b>
Chinese	Chinese	86 (48.77%)
Indian	Indian	28 (15.87%)
Caucasian	Chinese	4 (4.95%)
Malay	Malay	18 (3.51%)
Indian	Chinese	2 (3.05%)
Absent	Chinese	6 (2.73%)
Japanese	Chinese	1 (2.66%)
Thai	Chinese	1 (2.66%)
Absent	Malay	7 (1.64%)
Korean	Chinese	2 (1.6%)
Indian	Malay	3 (1.35%)
Filipino	Chinese	2 (1.27%)
French	Chinese	1 (1.26%)
French	Indian	1 (1.07%)
Turkish	Malay	1 (1.07%)
Malay	Chinese	1 (0.91%)
Canadian	Chinese	1 (0.76%)
Latvian	Chinese	1 (0.76%)
Swiss	Chinese	1 (0.76%)
Filipino	Malay	1 (0.67%)

Pakistani	Absent	1 (0.67%)
Arab	Malay	1 (0.6%)
Absent	Indian	2 (0.48%)
Nepalese	Chinese	1 (0.15%)
Absent	Pakistani	1 (0.14%)
Nigerian	Indian	1 (0.14%)
Indonesian	Chinese	1 (0.13%)
Punjabi	Punjabi	1 (0.13%)
Algerian	Malay	1 (0.12%)
Pakistani	Malay	1 (0.12%)
Total		179 (100%)



**Table 6.** summary statistics of cross-national couples' years of marriage at the time of the interview by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Years of marriages</b>		
	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
Mother's years of marriage, mean (sd)	8.0 (4.0)	7.9 (4.0)
Mother's years of marriage, range (min, max)	(0.1, 25)	(1.9, 23)
Father's years of marriage, mean (sd)	8.0 (3.9)	8.0 (4.1)
Father's years of marriage, range (min, max)	(1, 25)	(1, 23)

**Table 7.** parental marital status at the time of the interview by the types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Marital Status</b>		
<b>Mother's marital status</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
Currently married	701 (98.1%)	166 (96.2%)
Never married	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)
Divorced	5 (0.2%)	10 (2.8%)
Separated		1 (0.1%)
Widowed	7 (0.9%)	
Absent mother	7 (0.6%)	1 (0.7%)
Total	722 (100%)	179 (100%)
<b>Father's marital status</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
Currently married	698 (97.2%)	162 (94.9%)
Never married	3 (0.8%)	1 (0.1%)
Divorced	6 (0.5%)	
Absent father	15 (1.5%)	16 (5.0%)
Total	722 (100%)	179 (100%)

**Table 8.** parents' marriage history by their marital status at the time of the interview in SG LEADS – Wave I

<b>Parents' marriage history by their marital status</b>	
<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	
<b>Parents' marriage history by their marital status</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Currently married	701 (97.4%)
<i>Both parents were in their first-time marriage</i>	586 (84.4%)
<i>At least one-parent had two or more marriages</i>	110 (12.6%)
<i>Parents were living apart</i>	3 (0.4%)
Unmarried	23 (2.6%)
<i>Cohabiting - at least one-parent was never married</i>	5 (1.0%)
<i>Single mother</i>	12 (1.1%)
<i>Divorced</i>	5 (0.2%)
<i>Widowed</i>	7 (0.9%)
<i>Single father</i>	6 (0.5%)
Total	722 (100%)
<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>	
<b>Parents' marriage history by their marital status</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Currently married	167 (96.9%)
<i>Both parents were in their first-time marriage</i>	149 (89.0%)
<i>At least one-parent had two or more marriages</i>	13 (5.9%)
<i>Parents were living apart</i>	5 (2.0%)
Unmarried	12 (3.0%)
<i>Cohabiting - at least one-parent was never married</i>	1 (0.1%)
<i>Single mother</i>	11 (2.9%)
<i>Divorced</i>	10 (2.8%)
<i>Separated</i>	1 (0.1%)
Total	179 (100%)

**Table 9.** Parental educational attainment at the time of the interview by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Educational attainment</b>			
	<b>Native families (n=1973)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=722)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=179)</b>
<b>Mother's education</b>	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Secondary or below	18%	41.7%	13.9%
Post-secondary	34%	26.4%	44.1%
University or above	48%	31.6%	42.0%
Missing*	0.02%	0.4%	
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Father's education</b>	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Secondary or below	22.4%	33.5%	20.6%
Post-secondary	33.9%	34.4%	18.4%
University or above	43.4%	32.1%	60.6%
Missing <sup>5*</sup>	0.2%		30.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

<sup>5</sup> \*Note: missing data are due to primary caregivers did not provide the information on that parent's education level at the time of the interview.

**Table 10.** parental employment status at the time of the interview by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

	<b>Employment Status</b>		
	<b>Native families (n=1973)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=722)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=179)</b>
<b>Mother's employment status</b>	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Working	75.9%	60%	80.9%
Homemaker\Housewife	23.4%	39.2%	18.0%
Others-not working	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%
Missing*	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Father's employment status</b>	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Working	95.4%	96.7%	97.3%
Homemaker\Housewife	0.6%	0.2%	
Others-not working	3.3%	3.0%	2.3%
Missing <sup>6*</sup>	0.8%	0.1%	0.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

<sup>6</sup> \*Note: missing data are due to primary caregivers did not provide the information on that parent's employment status at the time of the interview.

**Table 11.** family income at the time of the interview by types of cross-national family in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Family income by types of family</b>			
<b>Family income in SGD\$</b>	<b>Native families (n=1,945)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=707)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=177)</b>
Annual income, mean (sd)	\$101,001.9 (170,917.7)	\$73,496.6 (88,990.4)	\$95,816.7 (113,711.8)
Annual income, median	\$72,000	\$54,000	\$69,000
<b>Monthly income per capita in SGD\$</b>	<b>Native families (n=1,945)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=707)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=177)</b>
monthly income per capita, mean (sd)	\$2,043.1 (3271.8)	\$1,483.3 (1,584.3)	\$1,909.7 (2,106.2)
monthly income per capita, median	\$1,376.7	\$1,042	\$1,223.1
<b>Monthly income per capita in SGD\$, categorical</b>	<b>Native families (n=1,973)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=722)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=179)</b>
	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
lower than \$700	21.0%	26.1%	17.9%
\$700-2,000	33.3%	45.9%	30.5%
more than \$2000	44.2%	25.7%	49.2%
Missing data	1.6%	2.3%	2.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

**Table 12.** Parents' nationality at the time of the interview by types of families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Parental nationality</b>	
<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	
<b>FB mothers' nationality</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Singaporean	171 (27.7%)
Malaysian	109 (16.9%)
People's Republic of China	106 (14.8%)
Vietnamese	89 (11.3%)
Indonesian	86 (8.7%)
Filipino	67 (7.2%)
Thai	37 (5.2%)
Indian	13 (1.6%)
Japanese	5 (1.1%)
Myanmarese	7 (1.0%)
South Korea	5 (0.9%)
Cambodian	3 (1.0%)
Taiwan	4 (0.4%)
New Zealander	1 (0.3%)
French	1 (0.3%)
Kazakhstani	1 (0.3%)
Hong Kong	2 (0.2%)
American	1 (0.2%)
Kenyan	1 (0.2%)
Dutch	1 (0.2%)
British	1 (0.2%)
Mongolian	1 (0.1%)
Laotian	1 (0.1%)
Nepalese	1 (0.1%)
Russian	1 (0.04%)
Absent parent	7 (0.6%)
Total	722 (100%)
<b>SG-born fathers' nationality</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Singaporean	691 (96.0%)
Malaysian	9 (1.3%)
People's Republic of China	3 (0.5%)
Indonesian	2 (0.3%)
Myanmarese	1 (0.2%)
Indian	1 (0.1%)
Absent parent	15 (1.5%)
Total	722 (100%)

### Families with foreign-born fathers

<b>FB fathers' nationality</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Singaporean	48 (31.9%)
Malaysian	62 (27.5%)
Indian	14 (5.6%)
Indonesian	8 (4.8%)
Swiss	2 (3.4%)
Australian	3 (3.4%)
Japanese	1 (2.7%)
Thai	1 (2.7%)
French	2 (2.3%)
South Korean	2 (1.6%)
Filipino	2 (1.3%)
People's Republic of China	3 (1.2%)
Turkish	1 (1.1%)
Hong Kong	3 (0.9%)
Canadian	2 (0.9%)
Ivorian	1 (0.8%)
American	1 (0.8%)
Syria	1 (0.7%)
Nigerian	1 (0.6%)
Pakistani	2 (0.5%)
Dual/multiple citizenship	1 (0.2%)
Nepalese	1 (0.2%)
Algerian	1 (0.1%)
Absent parent	16 (5.0%)
Total	179 (100%)

### SG-born mothers'

<b>nationality</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Singaporean	163 (90.0%)
People's Republic of China	8 (5.2%)
Malaysian	5 (3.6%)
Indian	2 (0.6%)
Absent parent	1 (0.7%)
Total	179 (100%)

**Table 13.** Parents' residency in Singapore at the time of the interview by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Residency in Singapore</b>		
<b>Mothers' residency in S'pore</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
	<b>N (weighted%)</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Citizen by birth	10 (1.6%) *	161 (88.9%)
Citizen by conversion	161 (26.1%)	2 (1.1%)
Singapore permanent resident	386 (55%)	15 (9.4%)
Dependent pass	1 (0.1%)	
Long-term visit pass	151 (15.7%)	
Employment Pass or S pass	4 (0.5%)	
Work permit	2 (0.5%)	
Absent mother	7 (0.6%)	1 (0.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>722 (100%)</b>	<b>179 (100%)</b>
<b>Fathers' residency in S'pore</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
	<b>N (weighted%)</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Citizen by birth	677 (93.4%)	6 (3.6%)*
Citizen by conversion	14 (2.5%)	42 (28.3%)
Singapore permanent resident	15 (2.4%)	88 (56.1%)
Long-term visit pass	1 (0.1%)	18 (4.2%)
Employment Pass or S pass		2 (0.8%)
Work permit		7 (2.1%)
Absent father	15 (1.5%)	16 (5.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>722 (100%)</b>	<b>179 (100%)</b>

\* Note: This may be a data inputting error. We were separating the family type by parental birthplace.



**Table 14.** Housing types and house ownership at the time of the interview by types of family in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Housing types</b>			
<b>Housing types</b>	<b>Native families (n=1,973)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=722)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=179)</b>
	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
HDB 1- and 2-Room Flats	3.8%	5.3%	4.5%
HDB 3-Room Flats	8.4%	21.5%	14.0%
HDB 4-Room Flats	35.6%	42.3%	34.4%
HDB 5-Room and Executive Flats	28.9%	23.4%	22.9%
Condominiums	19.4%	5.4%	19.6%
Landed Properties	3.8%	2.1%	4.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

<b>House ownership</b>			
<b>House ownership</b>	<b>Native families (n=1,973)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers (n=722)</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers (n=179)</b>
	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Owned by you or your family	95.2%	94.8%	91.9%
Rented entire housing unit	4.3%	5.2%	8.0%
Rented part of other's housing or Sublet	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Other	0.2%	0.04%	
Total	100%	100%	100%

**Table 15.** Household size at the time of the interview by types of cross-national families in SG LEADS, Wave I

<b>Household size</b>		
	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
Household size, mean (sd)	4.6(1.2)	4.7(1.3)
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
2	4 (0.2%)	
3	138 (16.7%)	29 (14.1%)
4	238 (30.0%)	59 (29.7%)
5	186 (26.6%)	49 (28.7%)
6	109 (17.7%)	28 (18.4%)
7 and above	47 (8.9%)	14 (9.1%)
Total	722 (100%)	179 (100%)
<b>Number of children under 18 years old lived in the household</b>		
	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
Number of children mean (sd)	1.9(0.9)	1.9(0.9)
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
1	249 (32.0%)	57 (33.4%)
2	324 (46.3%)	87 (51.5%)
3	108 (16.6%)	28 (12.9%)
4	34 (4.7%)	3 (1.8%)
5 and above	7 (0.4%)	4 (0.6%)
Total	722 (100%)	179 (100%)
<b>Number of adults above 65</b>		
	<b>Families with foreign-born mothers</b>	<b>Families with foreign-born fathers</b>
Number of adults above 65, mean (sd)	0.2 (0.5)	0.2(0.5)
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
0	611 (81.3%)	157 (82.7%)
1	79 (13.3%)	14 (10.4%)
2	31 (5.2%)	8 (6.9%)

3	1 (0.1%)	
Total	722 (100%)	179 (100%)

---

**Number of helpers**

---

	Families with foreign-born mothers	Families with foreign-born fathers
Number of helpers, mean(sd)	0.2 (0.4)	0.3 (0.5)
	N (weighted%)	N (weighted%)
0	562 (73.9%)	128 (64.3%)
1	156 (25.4%)	50 (35.1%)
2	3 (0.7%)	1 (0.6%)
3	1 (0.1%)	
Total	722 (100%)	179 (100%)

**Table 16.** Frequency distribution of Malaysian-born parent and Non-Malaysian-born parent in cross-national families

<b>Cross-national families by foreign-born parent's birthplace</b>	<b>N (weighted%)</b>
Malaysian-born mothers	155 (18.3%)
Non-Malaysian-born mothers	567 (56.8%)
Malaysian-born fathers	86 (10.4%)
Non-Malaysian-born fathers	93 (14.5%)
Total	901 (100%)

**Table 17.** Parental educational attainment at the time of the interview by foreign-born parents' birthplaces in SG LEADS, Wave-I

<b>Parental Educational Attainment by Foreign-born Parent's Birthplace in the Cross-national Family</b>				
	<b>Malaysian-born mothers (n=155)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born mothers (n=567)</b>	<b>Malaysian-born fathers (n=86)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born fathers (n=93)</b>
<b>Mother's education</b>	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Secondary or below	33.4%	44.4%	15.3%	12.9%
Post-secondary	34.2%	23.9%	43.4%	44.6%
University or above	32.4%	31.3%	41.3%	42.5%
Missing*		0.5%		
Total	100%	100%	100%	
<b>Father's education</b>	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
Secondary or below	25.9%	36.0%	42.7%	4.7%
Post-secondary	38.0%	33.3%	20.6%	16.8%
University or above	36.2%	30.8%	36.7%	77.8%
Missing <sup>7*</sup>				0.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

<sup>7</sup> \*Note: missing data are due to primary caregivers did not provide the information on that parent's education level at the time of the interview.

**Table 18.** Family income at the time of the interview by foreign-born parents' birthplaces in SG LEADS, Wave-I

<b>Family income by types of family</b>				
<b>Family income in SGD\$</b>	<b>Malaysian-born mothers (n=149)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born mothers (n=558)</b>	<b>Malaysian -born fathers (n=86)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born fathers (n=91)</b>
Annual income, mean (sd)	\$84,162.3 (61987.6)	\$70,648.6 (94753.4)	\$90,576.6 (81080.6)	\$100,768.9 (137,935.4)
Annual income, median	\$72,000	\$50,000	\$67,000	\$70,000
<b>Monthly income per capita in SGD\$</b>	<b>Malaysian-born mothers (n=149)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born mothers (n=558)</b>	<b>Malaysian -born fathers (n=86)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born fathers (n=91)</b>
monthly income per capita, mean (sd)	\$1,651.7 (1275.8)	\$1,438.3 (1655.1)	\$1,884.4 (1,860.2)	\$1,933.7 (2,325.0)
monthly income per capita, median	\$1,356.7	\$1,000	\$1,278.2	\$1,166.7
<b>Monthly income per capita in SGD\$, categorical</b>	<b>Malaysian-born mothers (n=155)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born mothers (n=567)</b>	<b>Malaysian -born fathers (n=86)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born fathers (n=93)</b>
	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%	weighted%
lower than \$700	20.1%	28.1%	21.6%	15.4%
\$700-2,000	41.7%	47.2%	36.7%	26.0%
more than \$2000	34.3%	23.0%	41.8%	54.5%
Missing data	4.0%	1.7%		4.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 19.** Foreign-born parents residential status in Singapore at the time of the interview by foreign-born parents' birthplaces in SG LEADS, Wave-I

<b>Residency in Singapore</b>		
<b>Foreign-born mothers' residency in S'pore</b>	<b>Malaysian-born mothers (n=155)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born mothers (n=567)</b>
	weighted%	weighted%
Citizen by birth <sup>^</sup>	2.9%	1.2%
Citizen by conversion	28.0%	25.5%
Singapore permanent resident	66.6%	51.3%
Dependent pass		0.1%
Long-term visit pass	2.5%	20%
Employment Pass or S pass		0.7%
Work permit		0.6%
Absent mother*		0.7%
Total	100%	100%
<b>Foreign-born fathers' residency in S'pore</b>	<b>Malaysian-born fathers (n=86)</b>	<b>Other foreign-born fathers (n=93)</b>
	weighted%	weighted%
Citizen by birth <sup>^8</sup>	3.1%	4.0%
Citizen by conversion	24.7%	30.8%
Singapore permanent resident	60.7%	52.8%
Long-term visit pass	5.2%	3.6%
Employment Pass or S pass	1.4%	0.3%
Work permit	4.9%	
Absent father* <sup>9</sup>		8.6%
Total	100%	100%

<sup>8</sup> ^Note: This may be a potential reporting error while inputting the data. We were separating the family type by parental birthplace.

<sup>9</sup> Absent mother or father refers foreign-born parents who were not living in the household at the time of the interview. Most parents were absent due to marriage dissolved.

**Table 20. Families live in the 1-3 room HDB housing – comparison between native families and cross-national families with a foreign-born mother, further divided into families with a Malaysian-born mother and those with a mother born in other countries.**

<b>Families Live in the 1-3 Room HDB Housing</b>				
	<b>Native families (N=559)</b>	<b>C-N Families with a FB mothers (N=346)</b>	<b>Malaysian -born mothers (N=53)</b>	<b>Non-Malaysian foreign-born mothers (N=239)</b>
Mother's age, mean (sd)	33.06 (5.53)	35.39 (5.19)	34.72 (5.61)	35.50 (5.12)
Age difference between spouses, mean (sd)	3.27 (5.22)	8.90 (8.04)	5.51 (6.03)	9.48 (8.20)
Mother's years of marriage	7.76 (4.51)	7.82 (3.80)	7.75 (3.92)	7.82 (3.79)
Mother's years of staying in SG	31.71 (6.50)	10.21 (5.76)	13.75 (7.99)	9.60 (5.07)
Mother's educational attainment				
No formal schooling	9 (1.22%)	11 (3.01%)	1 (2.75%)	10 (3.05%)
Primary	72 (12.91%)	40 (10.88%)	5 (9.58%)	35 (11.1%)
Secondary (O/N Level)	215 (36.95%)	144 (41.46%)	24 (43.75%)	120 (41.07%)
Post-secondary	198 (35.18%)	74 (21.21%)	15 (26.32%)	59 (20.33%)
University or above	65 (13.74%)	77 (23.45%)	8 (17.61%)	69 (24.45%)
Father's educational attainment				
No formal schooling	5 (0.69%)	6 (1.76%)	1 (2.48%)	5 (1.64%)
Primary	69 (11.96%)	40 (11.67%)	4 (8.74%)	36 (12.17%)
Secondary (O/N Level)	217 (38.68%)	139 (41.62%)	17 (36.68%)	122 (42.46%)
Post-secondary	217 (36.55%)	116 (29.76%)	26 (41.27%)	90 (27.79%)

University or above	51 (12.13%)	45 (15.19%)	5 (10.83%)	40 (15.93%)
Monthly family income per capita (in SGD\$)	\$918.93 (956.65)	\$1,181.46 (1096.61)	\$1,234.80 (944.39)	\$1,172.83 (1120.44)
Mother's working status				
Working	287 (53.79%)	182 (54.84%)	35 (66.43%)	147 (52.86%)
Housewives	267 (45.53%)	162 (44.54%)	18 (33.57%)	144 (46.41%)
Others – not working	5 (0.68%)	2 (0.62%)		2 (0.73%)
Mother's country of birth				
Singapore	559 (100%)			
PRC		72 (23.63%)		72 (27.67%)
Malaysia		53 (14.61%)	53 (100%)	
Vietnam		61 (18.14%)		61 (21.24%)
Indonesia		62 (14.66%)		62 (17.17%)
Others		98 (28.96%)		98 (33.92%)
Mother's residency status				
Citizen by birth	544 (97%)			
Citizen by conversion	3 (0.63%)	58 (18.92%)	12 (24.85%)	46 (17.9%)
Singapore permanent resident	10 (2.09%)	177 (52.11%)	35 (63.63%)	142 (50.14%)
Dependent pass		1 (0.24%)		1 (0.29%)
Employment Pass or S pass		2 (0.5%)		2 (0.60%)
Long-term visit pass		105 (27.4%)	6 (11.52%)	99 (30.11%)
Work permit		1 (0.22%)		1 (0.26%)



Missing due to non-response	2 (0.29%)	2 (0.6%)		2 (0.71%)
Father's residency status				
Citizen by birth	548 (97.87%)	337 (96.92%)	47 (86.62%)	290 (98.69%)
Citizen by conversion	4 (0.75%)	3 (1.17%)	3 (8.04%)	
Singapore permanent resident	4 (0.88%)	6 (1.9%)	3 (5.34%)	3 (1.31%)
Missing due to data input error	3 (0.5%)			
Numbers of children under age 18 in the HH	2.45  (1.41)	1.85  (0.89)	1.80  (0.85)	1.86  (0.90)
Numbers of adults above age 65 in the HH	0.10  (0.33)	0.17  (0.46)	0.10  (0.40)	0.18  (0.47)

## Reference

Yeung, Wei-Jun Jean, Lori Jane M. Pasaraba, Chen Xuejiao, Luxi Chen, Lee Yan Song and Joyous Tan. 2020. "Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS): User Guide" *Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore.*