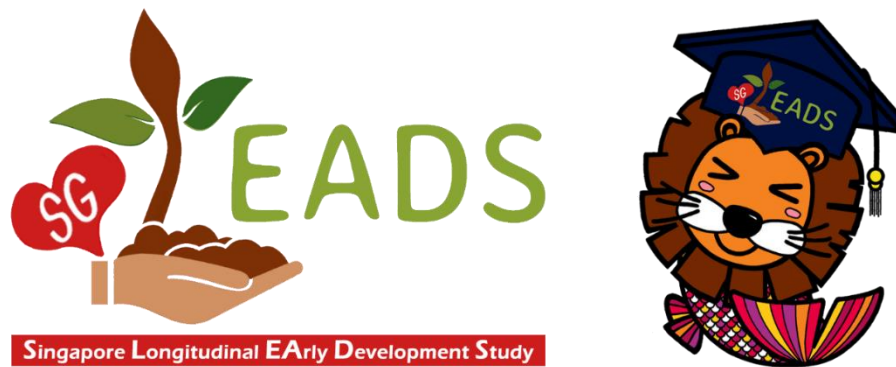# Singapore Longitudinal Early Development Study (SG LEADS)

Panel Survey Wave 2

Technical Report 3
SG LEADS Family Composition

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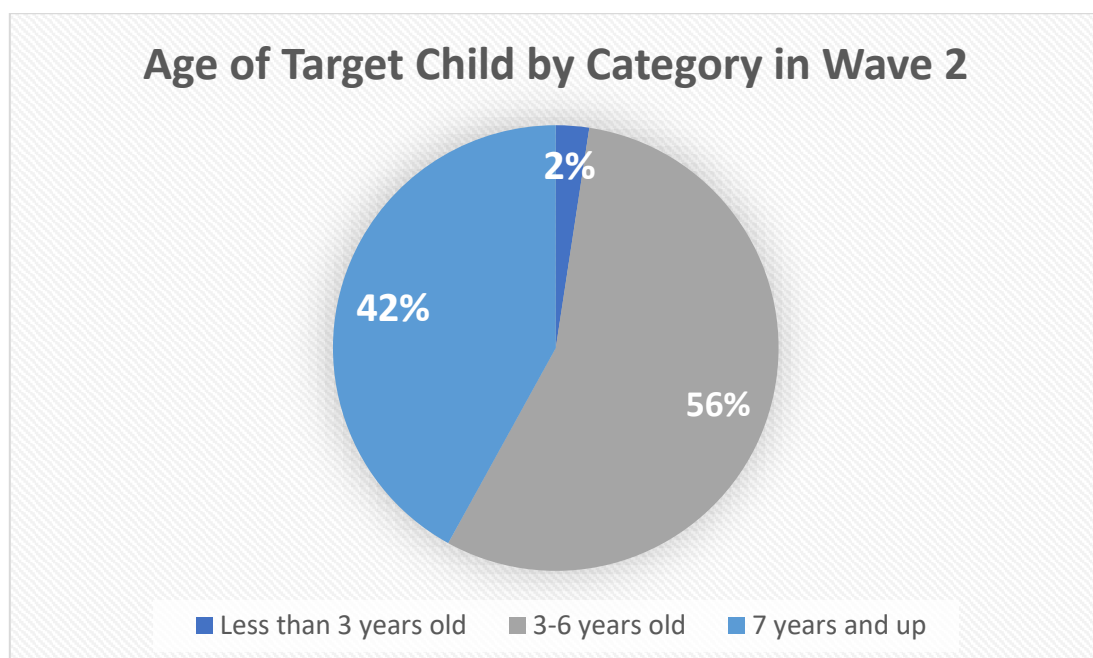
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(Updated on 10 May 2022)

Overview

This report focuses on the family composition of the 3,017 households—out of the original 3,475 households from SG LEADS Wave One (W1)—that participated in Wave Two (W2). All analyses in this report are weighted using household-level or chid-level weights depending on the level of analysis. Please refer to the W2 User Guide and Technical Report on sampling weights.

Target Children

Wave Two followed 4,352 target children and their primary caregivers (PCGs). 55.3% of households had only one child participate in the study and 44.6% of households had two children participate. In Wave One, the target children were 0-6 years old. In W2, the children range from   19 months to 118 months old. 42% of the children were7 years and older at the time of the Wave 2 interview (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Weighted Percent Distribution of Target Children's Age by Category in Wave Two

Note: Child-weights are used for this calculation.

Family Structure

About 95% of households had both parents present in the household. A small percentage of families had only one biological parent (4.65%). Only 0.30% of families had neither biological parent (0.30%).

Table 10. Weighted Percentages of Parent Structures by Household

Type of Parent Present in W2 Household	N	Weighted Percentage
Both parents	2,764	94.06%
Mother only	179	4.06%
Biological mother and stepfather	32	0.77%

Biological father and stepmother	27	0.75%
Neither parent	14	0.30%
Father only	1	0.07%
Total	*3,017*	*100%*

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Household Size

In W2, the mean household size was 5.1 members, which includes non-relatives like tenants and helpers. The smallest household comprised of two members whereas the largest household had 13 members (see table 1). The average size of a family, which excludes tenants and helpers was similar with a mean of 4.6 persons. Regarding non-relatives, one-third of the household had a domestic helper (32.7% of households had a helper and 1.1% had two helpers). The majority of households (98.4%) did not have non-relatives, which excludes helpers, residing in the household.

Table 1. Weighted Distribution of Household Size

Number of persons in the Household	Unweighted Observations	Weighted Proportion
2	16	0.3%
3	370	10.0%
4	888	26.8%
5	906	31.5%
6	491	18.5%
7	191	6.8%
8	107	4.2%
9	32	1.5%
10	8	0.2%
11	6	0.2%
13	2	0.1%
Total	*3,017*	*100%*

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

About 52 percent of the 3,017 households had only two children, including both target and non-target children. The number of children aged 17 years old and younger in a household ranged from 1 child to 9 children.

Table 2. Weighted Distribution of Children (target and non-target) in Households

Number of Children	Weighted %
1	19.9%
2	52.0%
3	20.9%
4	4.7%
5	1.3%
6 and above	1.2%
Total	100%

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Split Households

Starting in Wave Two, there were split households meaning a household with two target children in Wave 1 became two separate households with one target child in each household in Wave 2. During fieldwork, we identified three original households that had "split" for marital reasons and changes to PCG. However, only one original household or a pair of target children successfully completed the survey in W2. The other two original households had only one target child out of two partake in W2. Consequently, the count of households starting in W2 is different than the count of original and eligible households in W1.

Table 3. Count of Eligible Households based on W2

	Wave 1	Wave 2
Households	3,477	3,480
Target Children	5,006	5,006

Primary Caregiver of the Target Child

Like Wave One, the majority (95.7%) of W2 PCGs were the biological mother of the target child. Fathers made up 3.5% of W2 PCGs and 0.9% of W2 PCGs were other adults who acted as parent-figures and provided care to the target child(ren). Examples of other adult relationship types include child's grandparents, uncle, or foster parent. See below for a comparison of the PCG relationship types between waves.

Table 4. Weighted Percentage of PCG Relationship to Child in W1 and W2

Relationship Type	Weighted Percentage in Wave One	Weighted Percentage in Wave Two
Biological Mother	94.8%	95.7%
Biological Father	3.5%	3.5%
Other adult	1.7%	0.9%
Adoptive Mother	*0.2%*	*0.2%*
Stepmother	*0.0%*	*0.1%*
Grandmother	*1.3%*	*0.5%*
Grandfather	*0.0%*	*0.1%*
Other adult	*0.2%*	*0.0%*
Total	100%	100%

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Change in PCG

About 4.7% of households reported a change in primary caregiver of the target child between Wave One and Wave Two. The majority of the new PCGs (92.6%) were already residing in the W1 household meaning they were part of the original family interviewed in Wave One but had taken on the primary caregiving role after Wave One. Primary caregivers

who moved in after Wave One and became the Wave Two PCG reported reasons such as divorce, release from jail, or moving out of grandparents' home as their reason for moving in.

The most common type of change in PCG was between spouses. In Wave Two, 36.4% of mothers took on the role of the primary caregiver from their spouse, or the child's father. 32.4% of households saw a change in the opposite direction—fathers became the primary caregiver in W2 instead of the mother. Only 5.7% of households reported that the primary caregiver changed from a biological parent to another adult such as a grandparent.

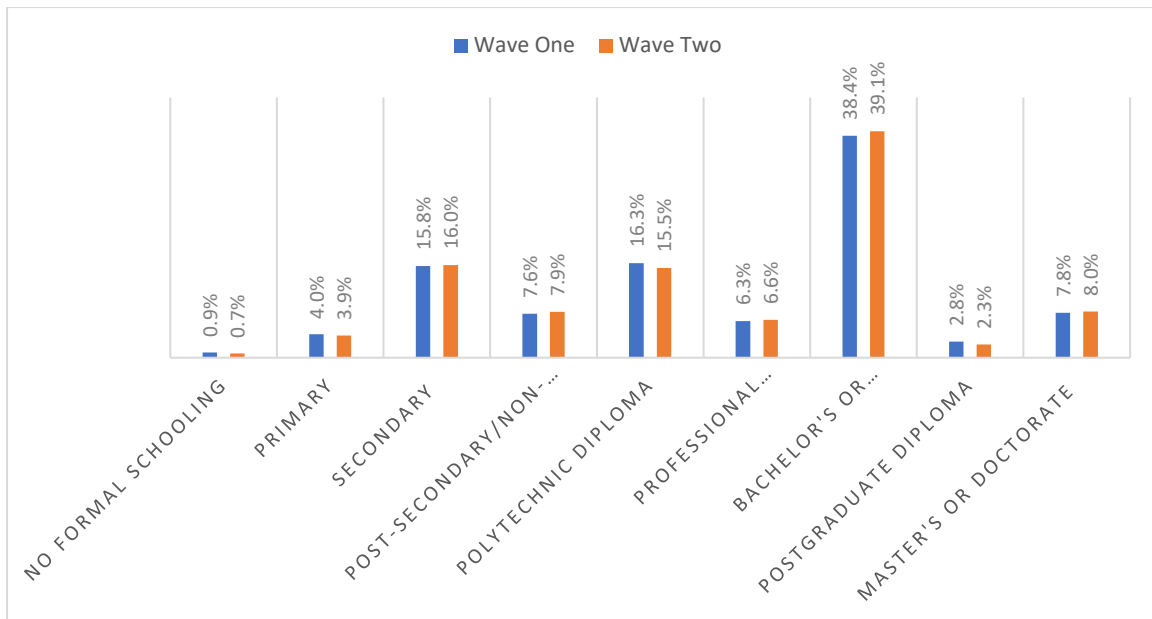Table 5. Breakdown of Changes in PCGs Between Waves

Type of Change	N	Weighted Percentage
Changed from father to mother		36.4%
Changed from mother to father		32.4%
Changed from other adult to mother		21.7%
Changed from another adult to father		3.8%
Changed from bio parent to other adult		5.7%
Total	184	100%

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Education of the PCG

The highest level of education completed for about 38% of PCGs in Wave One and 39% of PCGS in Wave Two was a bachelor's degree. The second highest level of education was Secondary (O/N Levels) for 16% of W2 PCGs followed by 15% of W2 PCGs with Polytechnic Diplomas.

Figure 2. Weighted Percentages of PCG's Highest Education in W1 and W2
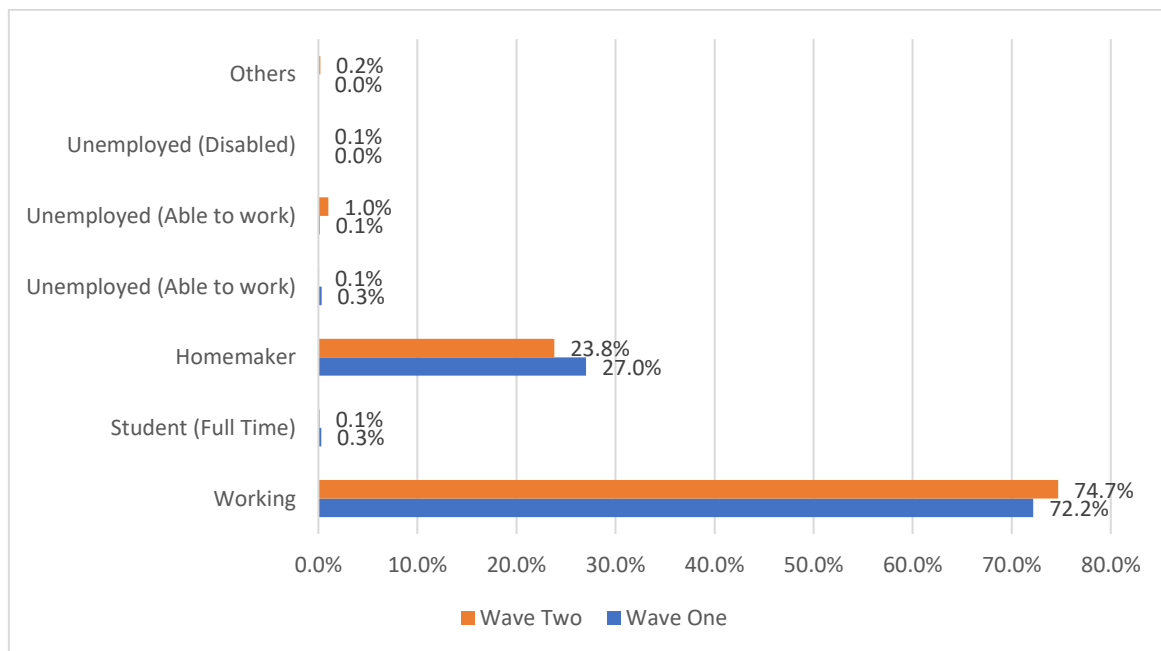
Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Employment

In Wave Two, 74.7% of PCGs were working which is a 2.5% increase of employed PCGs in Wave One. There were more homemakers in Wave One (27%) than in Wave Two (23.8%) possibly because children became older in W2, and some mothers returned to the workforce. There was also a significant change in the percentage of unemployed and able-to-work PCGS between waves. In Wave One, only 0.14% of PCGs were unemployed but in Wave Two this figure had increased to 1%.

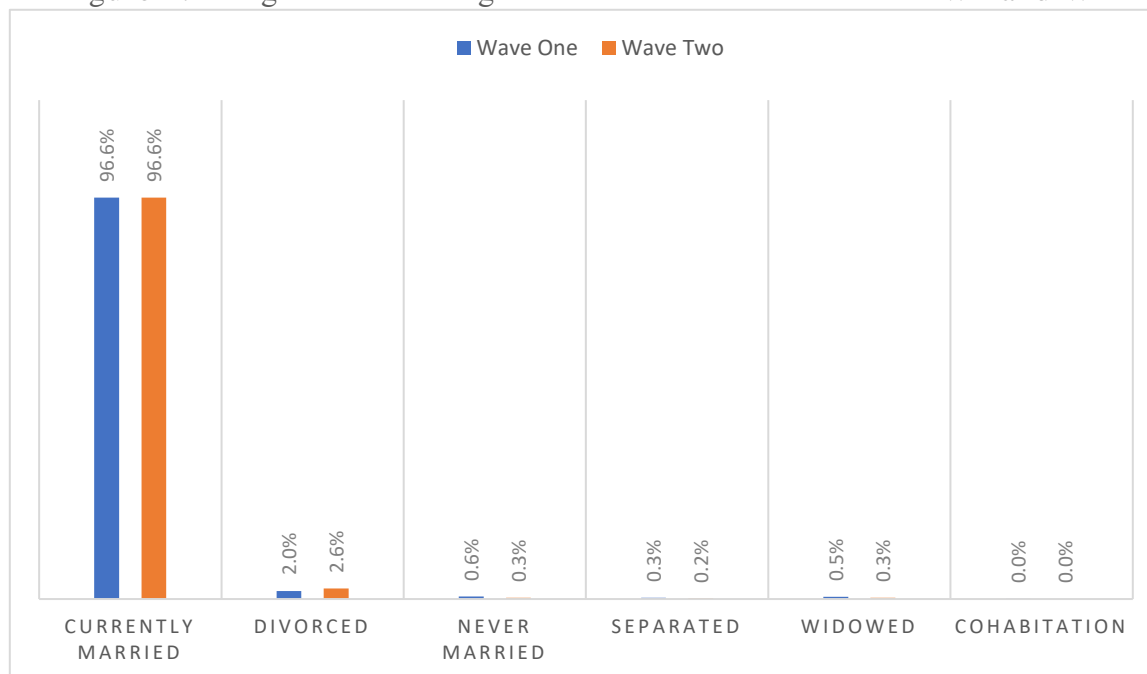Figure 3. Weighted Percentages of PCG's Highest Education in W1 and W2

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Marital Status

Majority of PCGs in both waves were currently married at the time of interview—96.6% in Wave One and 96.6% in Wave Two, respectively. There were more divorced PCGs in Wave Two (2.6%) than Wave One (2%). Please note that the cohabitation category was removed in Wave Two.

Figure 4. Weighted Percentages of PCG's Marital Status in W1 and W2

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Living Arrangements

Since Wave One, approximately 20% of households reported shifting house and some families moved more than once (n=16) between the two waves of interviews. Reasons for moving varied from change in marital status to temporary stay due to renovation works. 29.8% of respondents who had shifted house moved into a bigger house and 18% moved due to child's schooling.

Table 7. Weighted Percentages of Reasons for Moving House

REASON FOR MOVE	WEIGHTED PERCENTAGE
INTO A BIGGER HOME	29.8%
BECAUSE OF CHILD'S SCHOOLING	18.0%
BE NEARER TO PARENTS (CHILD'S GRANDPARENTS) OR OTHER REASON	8.8%
OUT OF A RENTAL FLAT AND INTO A HOUSE YOU HAVE BOUGHT	7.0%
OUT OF PARENTS' OR ANOTHER RELATIVE'S HOME AND INTO A HOUSE	6.6%
DUE TO A CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS	5.3%
TEMPORARY STAY FOR RENOVATION	4.7%
OTHER REASON	4.6%

INTO PARENTS' OR ANOTHER RELATIVE'S HOME	3.9%
TO A NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT HAS BETTER AMENITIES	3.8%
INTO A/ANOTHER RENTAL FLAT	3.6%
INTO A SMALLER PLACE	2.4%
TO BE CLOSER TO EITHER PARENT'S WORKPLACE	1.3%
TOTAL	100%

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Housing Type

In Wave Two, 35.9% of families resided in a HDB 4-room flat and 28.7% lived in HDB 5-room flats. 3 Gen flat, or Executive flats. Approximately 20% of families lived in private properties like condos (17%) and landed properties (3.3%). Only 3.73% of families lived in HDB 1- and 2-room flats which are marketed as affordable rental options for low-income households.

Table 8. Weighted Percentages of Housing Type in W1 and W2

Housing Type	**Wave One**	**Wave Two**
HDB 1- and 2-Two Room Flats	3.5%	3.7%
HDB 3-Room Flats	12.0%	11.4%
HDB 4-Room Flats	37.2%	35.9%
HDB 5-Room and Executive Flats	29.1%	28.7%
Condos	15.3%	17.0%
Landed Properties	3.0%	3.3%
Total	100%	100%

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

About 92% of families owned their homes and only 7.5% of families were renting. A very small percentage (0.08%) rented part of a housing unit, i.e., subletting one room in a flat.

Home Ownership

Table 9. Weighted Percentages of Home Ownership in Wave Two

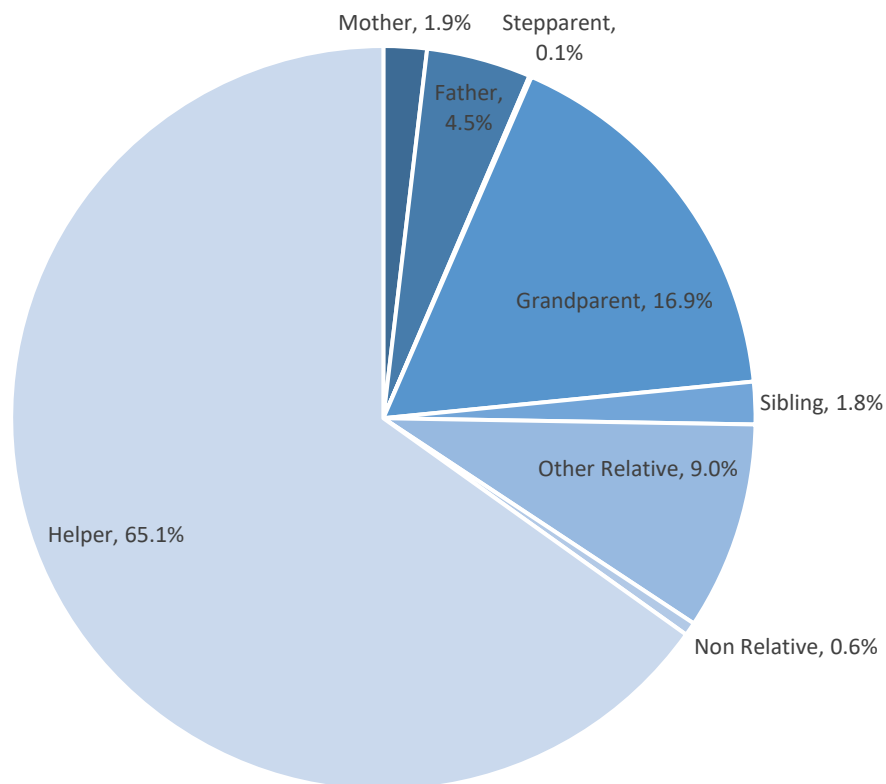|	**R Owns House**	**R Rents House**	**R Rents Part of House**
HDB 1- and 2-Room Flat	0.65 %	41.3%	49.15%
HDB 3-Room Flat	11.8%	5.6%	-
HDB 4-Room Flat	38.3%	6.3%	-
HDB 5-Room and Executive Flats	30.4%	7.8%	-
Condos	15.6%	33.7%	50.85%
Landed Properties	3.2%	5.2%	-
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

Mover Outs & Reasons for Moving Out

In W2, 23.6% of the households reported at least one household member moving out since Wave One. 18.5% had only 1 member who moved out. 2.8% reported having two members who moved out, and 2.2% of households have 3 or more members moved out.

The largest group of members who moved out were domestic helpers (65.1%) followed by grandparents (17%). Please note these counts include household members who passed away and were considered to have moved out of the household.

Figure 5. Weighted Percentages of HH Members Who Moved Out

Note: Household-weights are used for this calculation.

The reasons for moving out of the household varied from a change in marital status to health-related concerns. As the majority of members who moved out of the household were helpers, the most common reason (15.4%) was end of work contract. There were also 27 reported deaths (or about 0.62% of the entire households that participated) included in the count of members who had moved out of the household since Wave One. The majority of members who passed away were the target children's grandparents.

Mover-Ins & Reasons for Moving In

About 34.2% of households reported having at least one member moved into the household since Wave One's interview. 24.5% of households had only one person move in. About 8% of households had at least 2 or more members move into the household. The most

popular reason for members moving in were new-borns (39.7%) and to take care of children (35.1%).

There were about 469 households (14.4%) with at least one new-born since W1. 17 households had two new-borns since Wave One. The new-borns were born in the years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 with the most births in 2020.