

YOUTH.sg:

# The State of Youth in Singapore

*Youth and the Power of Communities*



NATIONAL  
YOUTH  
COUNCIL  
SINGAPORE

2021



© Copyright 2021, National Youth Council

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any material form (including photocopying or storing it in any medium by electronic means and whether or not transiently or incidentally to some other use of this publication), republished, uploaded, posted, transmitted or otherwise distributed in any way without the prior written permission of the copyright owner except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act (Cap. 63).

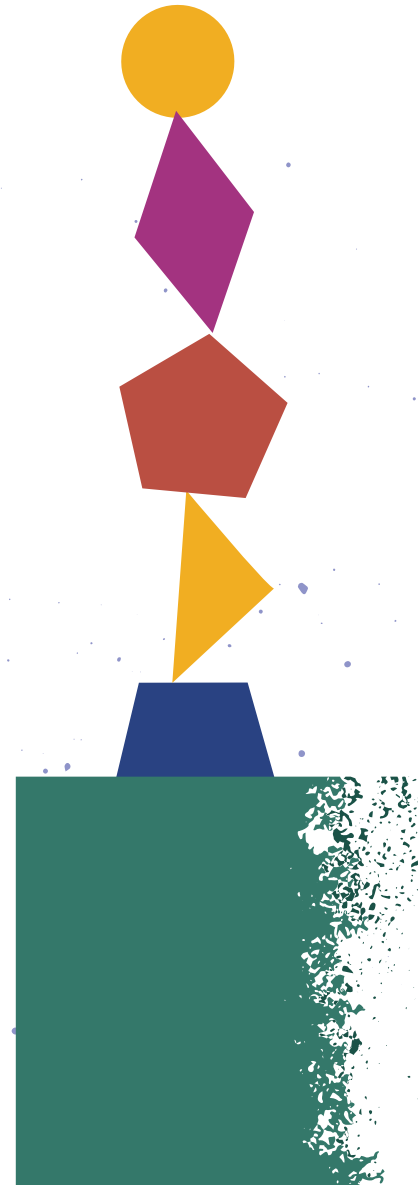
ISBN: 978-981-14-9547-2

### **Disclaimer**

The chapters compiled in this publication affirm the National Youth Council's (NYC) commitment to contribute towards building the nation's knowledge of youths in Singapore. NYC makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this publication, but makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information contained in or linked to the chapters.

The information and views set out in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NYC, and their publication here does not constitute an endorsement by the NYC. Neither the NYC nor any persons or agency acting on their behalf may be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. Individuals should respect the Intellectual Property Rights of the authors, and are advised to seek independent verification of such data should there be any concern with the accuracy of information published here.

**Published by the National Youth Council**





WE HEAR **Y**OUTH  
HERE FOR **Y**OUTH

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard, and have the ability to influence and make a difference to the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

## ■ Our Vision

Thriving youth who are **Future-Ready** and **Committed to Singapore**

## ▲ Our Mission

Create **Opportunities for All Youths in Singapore**

To be **heard**, to be **empowered** and to be **the change**

## ● Our Background

NYC was set up by the Singapore Government on 1 November 1989 as the national co-ordinating body for youth affairs in Singapore and the focal point of international youth affairs.

On 1 January 2015, NYC began its operations as an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and housed two key institutions: Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) and Youth Corps Singapore (YCS). Together, the agency drives youth development and broadens outreach to young Singaporeans and youth sector organisations.

Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law is the Chairperson of the 16th Council. The Council comprises members from diverse backgrounds such as the youth, media, arts, sports, corporate and government sectors.



## Preface

The National Youth Survey (NYS) studies the major concerns and issues of schooling and working youths in Singapore. It is a time-series survey that tracks and provides updated analyses of national youth statistics and outcomes to inform policy and practice. To date, NYS has been conducted in 2002, 2005, 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2019. Findings and analyses from each cycle of NYS are subsequently published as YOUTH.sg: The State of Youth in Singapore (YOUTH.sg).

**This edition of YOUTH.sg consists of six separate issues covering the topics of**



**Values & Attitudes**



**Education & Employment**



**Social Support**



**Social Cohesion**



**Wellbeing**



**COVID-19 (Special Edition)**

Each issue features youth statistics and insights from the NYS. Complementing the NYS insights are relevant studies and in-depth analyses by practitioners in youth research and development to provide readers with an overview of the state of youth in Singapore.

Contributors comprise NYS' academic collaborators (A/Ps Ho Kong Chong, Ho Kong Weng, and Irene Ng), NYC, Youth STEPS' academic collaborators (Dr Chew Han Ei, A/P Vincent Chua, and Dr Alex Tan) and other contributors (Ministry of Manpower, National Arts Council, National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, and Sport Singapore). Together, the YOUTH.sg intends to shed light on and explore specific emergent trends and issues of youths.

**This publication has been put together by the Research team at the National Youth Council.**

### Notation

NA Not Available

### Notes

Percentages may not total up to 100% due to rounding.  
Survey figures may vary slightly due to sample weighting.

# Social Cohesion

The extent of social connectedness and strength of social bonds within a society reflect the level of cohesiveness among its members and translates to the abundance of social capital available to encourage individual and collective action (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000). How youths perceive and engage with others in their communities offer insights to the degree of cohesion with the larger society and institutions (Fonseca et al., 2019). Together, these play an important role in developing societal harmony and progressing communal goals (Jenson, 2010).



# Social Cohesion

As the world around us grows in complexity, the rise of diverse views and emerging divides pose difficulties in maintaining social cohesion in societies everywhere, not least in our globalised city state (Heng, 2019).

The speed and ease of information dissemination have allowed young people to easily engage with the diverse and complex world they live in (Pathak-Shelat, 2018). While highly connected to the larger world, they remain deeply rooted to their immediate communities within our shores. Our youths are proud to be Singaporean and are committed to our country.

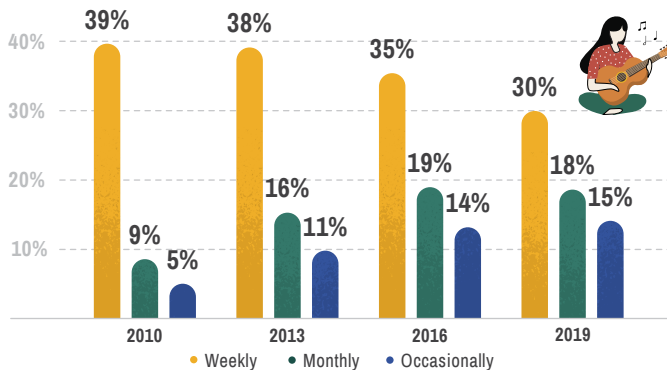
Growing up in a multicultural society, youths are comfortable interacting with individuals whose backgrounds are different and diverse. Beyond sustained acceptance of diversity over the years, youths are also actively engaged in their communities. Young people continue to be involved in a range of social groups, with 1 in 4 youths taking on leadership positions.

Calling Singapore home, it is important to recognise the commitment in which young people have towards our country. To harness the power of our communities, it is pertinent to recognise that youths form a vital thread in our social fabric and that their energies help our society to progress as one.

## Youths are proud and committed to Singapore.

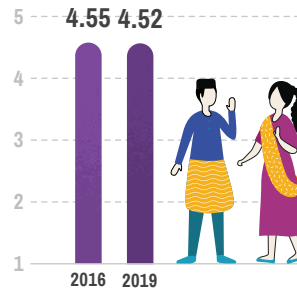


## Youths continue to have regular involvement in social groups.

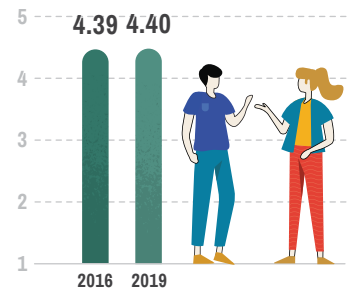


## Youths are comfortable living with and working alongside other races and nationalities.

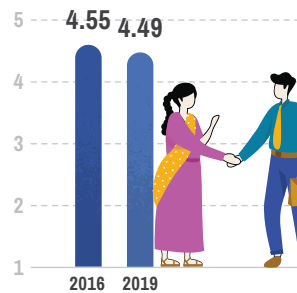
### Different race as neighbours



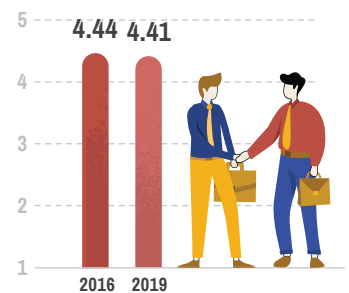
### Different nationality as neighbours



### Working with different races



### Working with different nationalities



## Part A: National Attitudes



**Section A1: National Pride** Youths in Singapore consistently report high levels of national pride over the years (**Table A1**). Pride is similarly high across all age bands and ethnicities in 2019 (**Tables A2 and A3**).

**Question: How proud are you to be a Singaporean?**  
(Based on a 4-pt scale, where 4="very proud" & 1="not proud at all".)

▪ **TABLE A1: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' NATIONAL PRIDE OVER TIME**  
(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	2010	2013	2016	2019
	(n=1,086)	(n=2,572)	(n=3,317)	(n=3,142)
Proud to be Singaporean	3.43 (0.58)	3.18 (0.71)	3.37 (0.65)	3.23 (0.67)

**Note**  
In NYS 2010 and 2013, the question was phrased as "How proud are you as a Singaporean?".

▪ **TABLE A2: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' NATIONAL PRIDE BY AGE**  
(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=661)	(n=768)	(n=875)	(n=839)	(n=3,142)
Proud to be Singaporean	3.25 (0.64)	3.19 (0.68)	3.21 (0.67)	3.26 (0.68)	3.23 (0.67)

▪ **TABLE A3: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' NATIONAL PRIDE BY RACE**  
(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	Chinese	Malay	Indian	Others	Overall
	(n=2,262)	(n=562)	(n=252)	(n=67)	(n=3,142)
Proud to be Singaporean	3.21 (0.66)	3.21 (0.67)	3.39 (0.73)	3.18 (0.75)	3.23 (0.67)

## Section A2: Commitment To Singapore

Together with high levels of national pride, youths continue to express rootedness to Singapore. Regardless of age and ethnicity, young people in Singapore recognise they have a part to play in times of crisis and in developing Singapore for the future (Tables A4 to A6).

**Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**  
(Based on a 4-pt scale, where 4="strongly agree" & 1="strongly disagree".)

### TABLE A4: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE OVER TIME

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	2016	2019
	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)
I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of national crisis	3.30 (0.60)	3.11 (0.60)
I feel a sense of belonging to Singapore	3.30 (0.65)	3.16 (0.62)
I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations	3.31 (0.62)	3.17 (0.60)

### TABLE A5: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE BY AGE

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=716)	(n=804)	(n=926)	(n=946)	(n=3,392)
I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of national crisis	3.12 (0.61)	3.08 (0.62)	3.10 (0.60)	3.15 (0.59)	3.11 (0.60)
I feel a sense of belonging to Singapore	3.18 (0.60)	3.14 (0.62)	3.13 (0.65)	3.18 (0.62)	3.16 (0.62)
I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations	3.19 (0.59)	3.16 (0.62)	3.14 (0.62)	3.18 (0.58)	3.17 (0.60)

### TABLE A6: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' COMMITMENT TO SINGAPORE BY RACE

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	Chinese	Malay	Indian	Others	Overall
	(n=2,429)	(n=566)	(n=305)	(n=92)	(n=3,392)
I will do whatever I can to support Singapore in times of national crisis	3.09 (0.59)	3.08 (0.60)	3.29 (0.67)	3.27 (0.71)	3.11 (0.60)
I feel a sense of belonging to Singapore	3.15 (0.61)	3.11 (0.61)	3.32 (0.68)	3.18 (0.73)	3.16 (0.62)
I have a part to play in developing Singapore for the benefit of current and future generations	3.16 (0.58)	3.10 (0.64)	3.30 (0.67)	3.28 (0.62)	3.17 (0.60)



**Section A3: Institutional Trust** Young people continue to hold greater confidence in government and government-related institutions compared to other institutions (**Table A7**). In line with concerns over the trustworthiness of news organisations among the general Singapore population (Edelman, 2021), social media and independent news websites rank lowest for youths across all age bands (**Table A8**).

**Question: To what extent do you have confidence in the following organisations or institutions? (Based on a 4-pt scale, where 4="completely confident" & 1="not confident at all".)**

▪ **TABLE A7: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS OVER TIME**

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	2016 (n=3,531)	2019 (n=3,392)
Religious institutions	2.65 (0.89)	2.43 (0.87)
Mainstream media	2.42 (0.79)	2.40 (0.80)
Independent online news websites/blogs	2.20 (0.75)	2.11 (0.76)
Social media	2.20 (0.76)	2.21 (0.82)
The courts	2.90 (0.78)	2.77 (0.80)
Government	2.92 (0.81)	2.75 (0.82)
Civil defence	3.08 (0.77)	2.96 (0.81)
Armed forces	3.06 (0.80)	2.91 (0.84)
Educational institutions	3.05 (0.73)	2.89 (0.74)
Financial institutions	2.82 (0.77)	2.77 (0.74)
Major companies	2.61 (0.72)	2.52 (0.74)
Non-profit organisations	2.63 (0.73)	2.49 (0.76)
Healthcare institutions	3.01 (0.72)	2.98 (0.74)
Parliament <sup>a</sup>	NA	2.62 (0.84)

**Note**

a. Item is new to NYS 2019.

▪ **TABLE A8: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS BY AGE**

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=716)	(n=804)	(n=926)	(n=946)	(n=3,392)
Religious institutions	2.54 (0.91)	2.41 (0.87)	2.32 (0.85)	2.48 (0.84)	2.43 (0.87)
Mainstream media	2.57 (0.80)	2.39 (0.81)	2.35 (0.80)	2.33 (0.80)	2.40 (0.80)
Independent online news websites/blogs	2.27 (0.76)	2.16 (0.75)	2.05 (0.75)	2.01 (0.75)	2.11 (0.76)
Social media	2.45 (0.86)	2.28 (0.82)	2.11 (0.78)	2.06 (0.77)	2.21 (0.82)
The courts	2.82 (0.82)	2.75 (0.81)	2.73 (0.79)	2.79 (0.79)	2.77 (0.80)
Government	2.84 (0.83)	2.73 (0.82)	2.67 (0.80)	2.78 (0.82)	2.75 (0.82)
Civil defence	3.04 (0.83)	2.98 (0.81)	2.90 (0.80)	2.93 (0.80)	2.96 (0.81)
Armed forces	3.05 (0.85)	2.88 (0.86)	2.85 (0.84)	2.89 (0.82)	2.91 (0.84)
Educational institutions	2.98 (0.77)	2.91 (0.74)	2.83 (0.73)	2.88 (0.72)	2.89 (0.74)
Financial institutions	2.82 (0.74)	2.80 (0.74)	2.68 (0.73)	2.79 (0.74)	2.77 (0.74)
Major companies	2.58 (0.77)	2.54 (0.76)	2.45 (0.73)	2.52 (0.72)	2.52 (0.74)
Non-profit organisations	2.66 (0.75)	2.55 (0.78)	2.41 (0.75)	2.39 (0.73)	2.49 (0.76)
Healthcare institutions	3.08 (0.76)	3.02 (0.73)	2.91 (0.74)	2.93 (0.72)	2.98 (0.74)
Parliament <sup>a</sup>	2.73 (0.86)	2.56 (0.83)	2.57 (0.82)	2.62 (0.83)	2.62 (0.84)

**Note**

a. Item is new to NYS 2019.

## Section A4: Sense Of Belonging

Youths across all age bands have the strongest bonds with their family and friends (Table A9).



**Question: Thinking of the first group of people that comes to mind, to what extent do you feel a sense of belonging to these social units?**

(Based on a 5-pt scale, where 5="to a very large extent", 3="to a moderate extent", & 1="not at all".)

▪ **TABLE A9: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' PERCEIVED SENSE OF BELONGING BY AGE**

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	15-19 (n=716)	20-24 (n=804)	25-29 (n=926)	30-34 (n=946)	Overall (n=3,392)
Your family	4.32 (0.86)	4.29 (0.87)	4.22 (0.90)	4.30 (0.84)	4.28 (0.87)
Your circle of friends	4.17 (0.85)	4.08 (0.86)	3.88 (0.88)	3.83 (0.88)	3.97 (0.88)
Singapore	3.69 (0.97)	3.58 (1.03)	3.58 (1.00)	3.68 (0.96)	3.63 (0.99)
Your racial/ethnic community	3.35 (1.06)	3.18 (1.06)	3.13 (1.03)	3.21 (0.99)	3.21 (1.04)
Your school/alma mater	3.53 (1.02)	3.15 (1.04)	2.96 (1.02)	2.96 (1.02)	3.13 (1.05)
Your neighbourhood	3.12 (1.06)	2.90 (1.06)	2.90 (1.04)	2.94 (1.00)	2.96 (1.04)
The world	3.08 (1.13)	2.89 (1.10)	2.95 (1.10)	2.94 (1.07)	2.96 (1.10)
ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	2.64 (1.10)	2.39 (1.06)	2.45 (1.08)	2.50 (1.08)	2.49 (1.08)

### Note

This is a new question introduced in NYS 2019.



## Part B: Social Attitudes



### Section B1: Attitudes Towards Other Races

Young people are highly open to diversity (**Table B1**). Over time, youths remain comfortable working and living alongside people from various backgrounds, with younger youths (**Table B2**) and minority races (**Table B3**) expressing higher levels of openness.

**Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**  
(Based on a 5-pt scale, where 5="strongly agree", 3="neither agree nor disagree", & 1="strongly disagree".)

#### TABLE B1: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS OTHER RACES OVER TIME

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	2010	2013	2016	2019
	(n=1,268)	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)
I am comfortable working together with someone of a different race	4.24 (0.58)	4.37 (0.65)	4.55 (0.62)	4.49 (0.66)
I am comfortable having someone of a different race as a neighbour	4.24 (0.60)	4.38 (0.67)	4.55 (0.63)	4.52 (0.65)

#### TABLE B2: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS OTHER RACES BY AGE

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=716)	(n=804)	(n=926)	(n=946)	(n=3,392)
I am comfortable working together with someone of a different race	4.56 (0.65)	4.55 (0.65)	4.48 (0.65)	4.40 (0.67)	4.49 (0.66)
I am comfortable having someone of a different race as a neighbour	4.64 (0.57)	4.60 (0.63)	4.47 (0.67)	4.40 (0.67)	4.52 (0.65)

#### TABLE B3: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS OTHER RACES BY RACE

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	Chinese	Malay	Indian	Others	Overall
	(n=2,429)	(n=566)	(n=305)	(n=92)	(n=3,392)
I am comfortable working together with someone of a different race	4.45 (0.66)	4.53 (0.66)	4.72 (0.56)	4.69 (0.65)	4.49 (0.66)
I am comfortable having someone of a different race as a neighbour	4.46 (0.66)	4.58 (0.60)	4.74 (0.57)	4.76 (0.47)	4.52 (0.65)

**Section B2:  
Attitudes Towards  
Other Nationalities**

Beyond people of a different race, youths are also open to working and living alongside people of a different nationality. Growing acceptance towards other nationalities working or studying in Singapore has steadily returned to 2010 levels (**Table B4**), with younger youths expressing higher levels of comfort (**Table B5**).

**Question: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?  
(Based on a 5-pt scale, where 5="strongly agree", 3="neither agree nor disagree", & 1="strongly disagree".)**

▪ **TABLE B4: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS OTHER NATIONALITIES OVER TIME**

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

	2010	2013	2016	2019
	(n=1,268)	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)
I am comfortable working together with someone of a different nationality (i.e., from a different country)	4.09 (0.71)	4.11 (0.87)	4.44 (0.71)	4.41 (0.71)
I am comfortable having someone of a different nationality as a neighbour	4.07 (0.68)	4.06 (0.92)	4.39 (0.78)	4.40 (0.72)
I think Singapore should encourage people of other nationalities to come to work or study in Singapore	3.80 (0.81)	3.28 (1.17)	3.63 (1.14)	3.72 (1.07)
I think Singapore should encourage people of other nationalities who are professionals or skilled workers to become Singapore citizens	3.73 (0.83)	3.25 (1.20)	3.46 (1.20)	3.51 (1.13)

▪ **TABLE B5: MEAN RATINGS OF YOUTHS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS OTHER NATIONALITIES BY AGE**

(with standard deviations in parentheses)

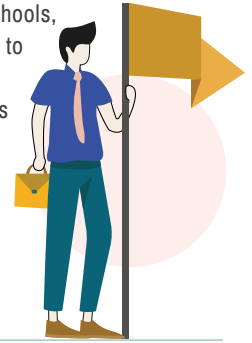
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Overall
	(n=716)	(n=804)	(n=926)	(n=946)	(n=3,392)
I am comfortable working together with someone of a different nationality (i.e., from a different country)	4.56 (0.60)	4.50 (0.69)	4.37 (0.71)	4.25 (0.76)	4.41 (0.71)
I am comfortable having someone of a different nationality as a neighbour	4.58 (0.61)	4.49 (0.70)	4.34 (0.74)	4.24 (0.77)	4.40 (0.72)
I think Singapore should encourage people of other nationalities to come to work or study in Singapore	4.00 (0.98)	3.76 (1.08)	3.66 (1.04)	3.55 (1.10)	3.72 (1.07)
I think Singapore should encourage people of other nationalities who are professionals or skilled workers to become Singapore citizens	3.83 (1.04)	3.60 (1.12)	3.42 (1.13)	3.30 (1.16)	3.51 (1.13)

## Part C: Social Group & Leadership Involvement

### Section C1: Overall Social Group & Leadership Involvement

Social participation refers to youths' online or offline involvement in groups within their schools, organisations, or local communities. Involvement in such social activities has been linked to a variety of positive outcomes. Interpersonal interactions in these settings build diverse social ties and strengthen trust. In addition, social participation confers important skillsets for further social and civic engagement (Flanagan et al., 2014).

2019 saw sustained involvement of youths in social groups and leadership positions (**Table C1**). With the exception of religious and workplace-related groups, levels of participation and leadership involvement generally decline with age – particularly as youths transition into the workforce (**Tables C2 to C4**).



**Question: Which of the following social groups have you been involved in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply.)**

**Question: In the past 12 months, have you led one of the following social groups (i.e., held an official title, such as chairman, treasurer, council member, etc.)?**

▪ **TABLE C1: SOCIAL GROUP & LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME**

	2010	2013	2016	2019
	(n=1,268)	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)
Group involvement	53%	65%	68%	64%
Leadership involvement	10%	25%	24%	25%

▪ **TABLE C2: SOCIAL GROUP & LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT BY SCHOOLING STATUS**

	Schooling	Non-schooling	Overall
	(n=1,116)	(n=2,276)	(n=3,392)
Group involvement	76%	58%	64%
Leadership involvement	36%	19%	25%

TABLE C3: SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT BY AGE

	15-19 (n=716)	20-24 (n=804)	25-29 (n=926)	30-34 (n=946)	Overall (n=3,392)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>64%</b>
Sports-related	39%	25%	22%	18%	25%
Arts & cultural	21%	12%	7%	5%	11%
Uniformed	14%	3%	2%	2%	5%
Community	17%	12%	7%	7%	10%
Welfare & self-help	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%
Religious	16%	15%	13%	14%	15%
Interest & hobby	19%	20%	13%	13%	16%
Discussion & forums	8%	9%	8%	7%	8%
Workplace-related	5%	16%	23%	24%	18%
Others	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%

**Note**  
The upper-bound survey population figures are reflected in this table.



▪ **TABLE C4: LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT BY AGE**

	15-19 (n=716)	20-24 (n=804)	25-29 (n=926)	30-34 (n=946)	Overall (n=3,392)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Sports-related	12%	7%	4%	4%	6%
Arts & cultural	11%	5%	2%	1%	4%
Uniformed	11%	2%	1%	1%	3%
Community	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%
Welfare & self-help	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Religious	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%
Interest & hobby	7%	6%	2%	2%	4%
Discussion & forums	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Workplace-related	1%	4%	7%	6%	5%
Others	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%

**Note**

The upper-bound survey population figures are reflected in this table.





**Section C2:  
Frequency Of Social  
Group Involvement**

Youths today continue to report membership in multiple social groups and most are active in their groups on a weekly basis (Tables C5 and C6). Youths involved in social groups on a weekly basis are more likely to be younger (Table C7) and members of sports-related and religious groups (Table C8).

Question: Which of the following social groups have you been involved in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply.)

Question: In the past 12 months, how often are you involved in the following social groups?

▪ **TABLE C5: YOUTHS' NUMBER OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME**

	2010	2013	2016	2019
	(n=1,268)	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)
3 or more	7%	14%	15%	12%
2	12%	19%	20%	19%
1	34%	33%	33%	33%
0	47%	35%	32%	36%

▪ **TABLE C6: FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME**

	2010	2013	2016	2019
	(n=1,268)	(n=2,843)	(n=3,531)	(n=3,392)
Weekly	39%	38%	35%	30%
Monthly	9%	16%	19%	18%
Occasionally	5%	11%	14%	15%
None	48%	35%	32%	36%

**Note**

Participation figures are based on the most frequent level of participation of each respondent.

▪ **TABLE C7: FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT BY AGE**

	15-19 (n=716)	20-24 (n=804)	25-29 (n=926)	30-34 (n=946)	Overall (n=3,392)
Weekly	53%	31%	23%	20%	30%
Monthly	16%	20%	18%	20%	18%
Occasionally	12%	15%	15%	18%	15%
None	20%	34%	44%	42%	36%

**Note**

Participation figures are based on the most frequent level of participation of each respondent.

▪ **TABLE C8: FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT**

	None	Occasionally	Monthly	Weekly
	(n=3,392)			
Sports-related	75%	6%	8%	11%
Arts & cultural	89%	3%	3%	5%
Uniformed	95%	1%	1%	3%
Community	90%	5%	4%	1%
Welfare & self-help	95%	2%	2%	1%
Religious	86%	2%	4%	9%
Interest & hobby	84%	6%	6%	4%
Discussion & forums	92%	3%	3%	2%
Workplace-related	82%	8%	7%	2%
Others	98%	0%	0%	1%

**Note**

Participation figures are based on the overall number of groups (i.e., a participant may be involved in more than one group).

**Section C3:  
Frequency Of  
Leadership Involvement**

Most youths holding leadership positions are likely to participate on a weekly basis in the groups they lead (**Table C9**). Regular involvement is more common for younger youths (**Table C10**) and youths leading religious, uniformed, and sports-related groups (**Table C11**).

**Question: In the past 12 months, have you led one of the following social groups (i.e., held an official title, such as chairman, treasurer, council member, etc.)?**

**Question: In the past 12 months, how often are you involved in the following social groups?**

▪ **TABLE C9: FREQUENCY OF LEADERS' INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME**

	2010 (n=132)	2013 (n=716)	2016 (n=859)	2019 (n=832)
Weekly	75%	63%	61%	56%
Monthly	15%	27%	27%	30%
Occasionally	10%	9%	12%	14%

**Note**

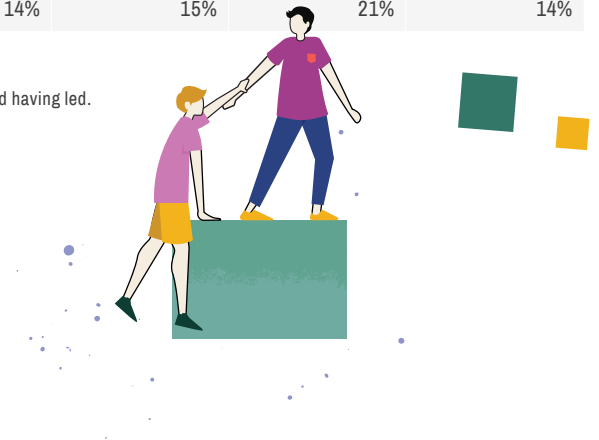
Leadership figures are based on the most frequent level of participation in groups that respondents reported having led.

▪ **TABLE C9: FREQUENCY OF LEADERS' INVOLVEMENT OVER TIME**

	15-19 (n=285)	20-24 (n=229)	25-29 (n=158)	30-34 (n=161)	Overall (n=833)
Weekly	72%	54%	45%	43%	56%
Monthly	19%	32%	40%	35%	30%
Occasionally	8%	14%	15%	21%	14%

**Note**

Leadership figures are based on the most frequent level of participation in groups that respondents reported having led.



▪ **TABLE C11: FREQUENCY OF LEADERS' INVOLVEMENT BY SOCIAL GROUP**

	Occasionally	Monthly	Weekly
Sports-related	9%	29%	61%
Arts & cultural	13%	28%	59%
Uniformed	13%	19%	68%
Community	24%	55%	20%
Welfare & self-help	17%	48%	35%
Religious	4%	18%	78%
Interest & hobby	18%	39%	42%
Discussion & forums	21%	40%	39%
Workplace-related	32%	50%	17%
Others	11%	30%	60%

## References

- Edelman. (2021). *Edelman Trust Barometer 2021, country report, trust in Singapore*. [http://edelman.com/sites/g/files/aatuss191/files/2021-03/2021%20Edelman%20Trust%20Barometer\\_Singapore%20Country%20Report\\_1.pdf](http://edelman.com/sites/g/files/aatuss191/files/2021-03/2021%20Edelman%20Trust%20Barometer_Singapore%20Country%20Report_1.pdf)
- Flanagan, C., Gill, S., & Gallay, L. (2014). Social participation and social trust in adolescence: The importance of heterogeneous encounters. In A. M. Omoto (Ed.), *Processes of community change and social action* (pp. 149–166). Psychology Press. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781410612984>
- Fonseca, X., Lukosch, S., & Brazier, F. (2019). Social cohesion revisited: A new definition and how to characterize it. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, 32(2), 231–253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2018.1497480>
- Heng, S. K. (2019, September 23). Confronting the 3 major challenges to social cohesion. In Ho K. P. (Chair), *Singapore Summit 2019* [Keynote address]. Singapore Summit 2019, Singapore.
- Jenson, J. (2010). *Defining and measuring social cohesion*. Commonwealth Secretariat.
- Kawachi, I., & Berkman, L. F. (2000). Social cohesion, social capital, and health. In L. F. Berkman & I. Kawachi (Eds.), *Social Epidemiology* (pp. 174–190). Oxford University Press.
- Pathak-Shelat, M. (2018). Social media and youth: Implications for global citizenship education. In I. Davies, L.-C. Ho, D. Kiwan, C. L. Peck, A. Peterson, E. Sant, & Y. Waghid (Eds.), *The Palgrave handbook of global citizenship and education* (pp. 539–555). Palgrave Macmillan.

# About the National Youth Survey

The NYS represents a milestone in Singapore’s youth research with its resource-based approach that focuses on the support youths require for societal engagement (social capital) and individual development (human capital).

The National Youth Indicators Framework (NYIF) (Ho & Yip, 2003) was formulated to provide a comprehensive, systematic, and theoretically-grounded assessment of youths in Singapore. The NYIF draws from the existing research literature, policy-relevant indicators, and youth development models. It spans six domains of social and human capital. **Table I** summarises the framework.

• **TABLE I: NATIONAL YOUTH INDICATORS FRAMEWORK**

	<b>Social Capital</b> (Grootaert & van Bastelaer, 2002; Putnam, 2000)	<b>Human Capital</b> (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2001; World Economic Forum, 2017)
<b>Definition</b>	Social capital refers to the relationships within and between groups, and the shared norms and trust that govern these interactions.	Human capital refers to the skills, competencies, and attitudes of individuals, which in turn create personal, social, and economic wellbeing.
<b>Domains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social support</li> <li>• Social participation</li> <li>• Values &amp; attitudes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Wellbeing</li> </ul>
<b>Focus</b>	The power of relationships	The human potential of young people

**NYS 2019 adopted a random (i.e., probability-based) sampling method to ensure responses are representative of the resident youth population aged 15 to 34 years old.**

The fieldwork period spanned September to November 2019. A total of 3,392 youths were successfully surveyed, of which 227 were surveyed at their households. Demographic proportions of NYS respondents adhered closely to the youth population.

**Table II** presents the profile of respondents from NYS 2002, 2005, 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2019. Figures referenced in all tables in the publication (with the exception of figures from NYS 2002<sup>a</sup>) were weighted according to interlocking matrices of age, gender, and race of the respective youth populations.



**Note**

a. Figures from NYS 2002 were not weighted due to the non-standard age bands used.

• **TABLE II: PROFILE OF NYS RESPONDENTS**

		NYS 2002 (n=1,504)	NYS 2005 (n=1,504)	NYS 2010 (n=1,268)	NYS 2013 (n=2,843)	NYS 2016 (n=3,531)	NYS 2019 (n=3,392)	Latest Youth Population <sup>a</sup>
Age	15-19	NYS 2002 utilised non-standard age bands	33%	24%	24%	23%	21%	21%
	20-24		31%	23%	25%	25%	24%	24%
	25-29		36%	25%	24%	25%	27%	27%
	30-34 <sup>b</sup>		NA	NA	28%	28%	27%	28%
Gender	Male	50%	50%	49%	49%	49%	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%	51%	51%	51%	50%	50%
Race	Chinese	77%	75%	72%	72%	72%	72%	72%
	Malay	15%	15%	15%	16%	16%	17%	17%
	Indian	7%	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%
	Others	1%	1%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Nationality	Singaporean	93%	90%	86%	91%	94%	93%	86%
	Permanent Resident	7%	10%	14%	10%	6%	7%	14%
Marital Status	Single	83%	85%	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%
	Married	17%	14%	25%	25%	26%	25%	25%
	Divorced/Separated/Widowed	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Religion	Buddhism	35%	32%	36%	25%	24%	22%	28%
	Islam	16%	17%	18%	19%	20%	21%	18%
	Christianity	16%	16%	15%	19%	19%	20%	18%
	Hinduism	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
	Taoism/Traditional Chinese Beliefs	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	5%	7%
	Other Religions	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	No Religion	21%	21%	15%	23%	25%	27%	23%
Dwelling	HDB 1-2 rooms	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%
	HDB 3 rooms	26%	24%	24%	14%	14%	14%	12%
	HDB 4 rooms	33%	43%	34%	37%	38%	35%	35%
	HDB 5 rooms, executive, & above	24%	19%	26%	31%	29%	30%	29%
	Private flat & condominium	12%	11%	3%	10%	9%	12%	13%
	Private house & bungalow			9%	6%	4%	4%	6%
	Others	0%	NA	NA	0%	0%	1%	0%

**Notes**

a. Latest youth population refers to the most recent available data from the Department of Statistics (DOS) at the time of fieldwork – age, gender, race, and dwelling (DOS, 2019a) as well as nationality (DOS, 2019b), marital status, and religion (DOS, 2016).

b. The 30-34 age band was included from NYS 2010.

## References

Department of Statistics. (2016). *General Household Survey 2015*. <https://www.singstat.gov.sg/-/media/files/publications/ghs/ghs2015/ghs2015.pdf>

Department of Statistics. (2019a). *Population Trends 2019*. <https://www.singstat.gov.sg/-/media/files/publications/population/population2019.pdf>

Department of Statistics. (2019b). *M810671 - Singapore citizens by age group, ethnic group and sex, end June, annual*. <https://www.tablebuilder.singstat.gov.sg/publicfacing/mainMenu.action>

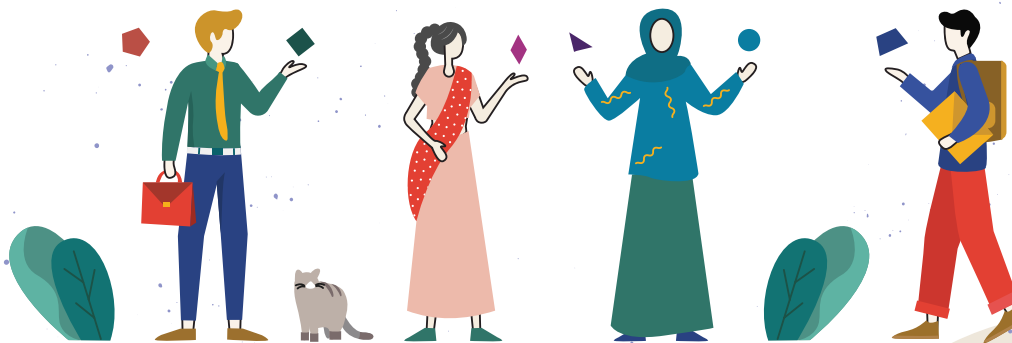
Grootaert, C., & van Bastelaer, T. (2002). Social capital: From definition to measurement. In C. Grootaert & T. van Bastelaer (Eds.), *Understanding and measuring social capital: A multidisciplinary tool for practitioners*. *Directions in Development* (pp. 1-16). World Bank.

Ho, K. C., & Yip, J. (2003). *YOUTH.sg: The State of Youth in Singapore*. National Youth Council.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2001). *The well-being of nations: The role of human and social capital*. OECD Publishing. <https://www.oecd.org/site/worldforum/33703702.pdf>

Putnam, R. D. (2000). *Bowling alone: The collapse and revival of American community*. Simon & Schuster.

World Economic Forum. (2017). *The Global Human Capital Report 2017*. [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Global\\_Human\\_Capital\\_Report\\_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Human_Capital_Report_2017.pdf)





NATIONAL  
YOUTH  
COUNCIL  
SINGAPORE

WE HEAR **Y**OUTH  
HERE FOR **Y**OUTH

**BLK 490 LORONG 6 TOA PAYOH**  
**HDB HUB BIZ THREE #04-10**  
**SINGAPORE 310490**

**E: NYC\_ENQUIRIES@NYC.GOV.SG**  
**WWW.NYC.GOV.SG**

Also part of NYC



**Outward Bound  
Singapore**



**YOUTH CORPS**  
SINGAPORE

