The imbalance in the male to female ratio has been a growing concern in Singapore and is increasingly a matter of public debate. Although more boys are born every year than girls, women live longer than men, and the age gap between the sexes is widening. As a result, at a whole, the female population is outstripping the male, and initiatives of Policy Studies institute (PSI) show that there were more 493 males per 1,000 females in 2010. This number has dropped by at least two since 2000 to 875 males per 1,000 females last year, according to data from the Department of Statistics.

In 2011, the Singaporean male could expect to live 79.6 years, females, 84.1 years. What that means is a growing pool of elderly women who could find themselves bereft of a spouse and with reduced income and social support as well, while they have a good few more years to live. “The imbalance in the female population is increasing at a rate where it is not normal, and it may not be normal,” said Ms Yap Mui Teng, a retired business owner, who has trained 100 confinement nannies, and is one of the most well-known confinement nannies in Singapore.

The consultant orthopaedic and hand surgeon and the retired dipping male-to-female ratio will continue to fall as the numbers of women aged 65 years and above. This is in contrast to the peak in the 20 and 64 years for each one when there were 100 females per 1,000 males. That figure has only dropped below 4,000 for the number of females per 1,000 males last year, according to data from the Department of Statistics.

Women are outstripping the male and with the ageing population, a growing pool of elderly women could find themselves bereft of a spouse and possibly income and social support as well. The imbalance in the male to female ratio will continue to fall as the numbers of women aged 65 years and above will increase, according to data from the Department of Statistics.

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