

Demographic Factors Influencing Elderly Population Change by Prefecture

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Although population aging by region often becomes a subject for discussion in contexts such as medical treatment, care and welfare, there are few studies that deal with the demographic mechanism of elderly population change. In this paper, demographic analysis is applied to elderly population change by prefecture in the actual period (1980 to 2010) and in the future period (2010 to 2040). In this analysis, the demographic factors influencing elderly population change are categorized into national factors, which indicate a nationwide trend of Japan, and regional factors, which indicate the difference between Japan and each prefecture. Although the elderly population change by prefecture is more or less linked to national factors, the regional factors, mainly relating to population structure, have a significant impact. Moreover, their impact is predicted to expand in the future. This study makes it clear, in terms of quantities, that past inter-prefectural migration has a great effect on regional elderly population change, through the aging of the population structure.