

A Preliminary Analysis on Care-giving for the Elderly Parents of Married Women

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In aiming for an Integrated Community Care System, quantitative analysis of long-term care needs is required. The purpose of this study is to 1) to describe the recent situation of care-giving for the elderly parents of married women, and 2) to develop a quantitative index of the number of parents per married couple

Data from the 5th National Survey on Family in Japan conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in 2013 were used. Among 7,277 married women, including the divorced and widowed, 1-12% of them have a parent who needs care. In their 50s, many were facing the prospect of caregiving for their parents. Moreover 20-40% of young-old married women were caring for the oldest-old parents. At the same time, some provided care to both elderly parents and young child(ren).

As potential care-takers will be needed in the future, the number of elderly parents per married couple was estimated. It was suggested that a decrease in the number of siblings and an increase in the number of elderly parents will enlarge this index.