

# A Decomposition of the Decrease in Average Household Size in Japan

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Since the 1970s, the average household size has consistently declined, owing to an increasing number of households with a smaller number of members and a decreasing number of households with a larger number of members. Conversely, regarding family type, it can be inferred that this is due to an increasing number of single households and a decreasing number of multi-generation households, which tend to contain many members.

This study used a decomposition method to measure the extent to which household size and family type reduce the average household size. A decomposition method of average household size by family type has specifically been developed.

As a result of the decomposition, the kinds of changes that reduced the average household size for each household size and family type became apparent. Additionally, regional differences were identified. As an indicator of changes in family formation and its regional differences, new possibilities have been examined for using the average household size.

Keywords: average household size, number of household members, family type, decomposition