

# Household Family-Type among the Elderly and Regional Differences in Nursing Care Services

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This paper examined the geographical distribution of the elderly by family type and the provision of nursing care services. First, the data of the Population Census from 2000 to 2020 indicate that the proportion of elderly women (aged 75-79 years) belonging to the “other” family-type household (that is, neither one-person, married-couple-only, nor institutional household) has steadily decreased in most prefectures. However, traditional regional patterns, characterized by higher levels in the eastern regions (excluding Hokkaido) than in the west, were intact as of 2020. The analysis also showed that cohort-level change in the proportions of elderly women in the “other” family-type households (aged 70-74 to 80-84 years) weakened its correlation with initial levels at ages 70-74. Second, elderly women's proportion belonging to the “other” family-type household by prefecture exhibited relatively high positive correlations with the capacities of special nursing homes and health care facilities but relatively high negative correlations with the number of workers at home-visit care service. The cohort change in proportions of elderly women belonging to the “other” family-type household also showed weak negative correlations with the capacities of health care facilities. Third, according to the data provided by the National Survey on Household Changes, around 2%-3% of household heads aged 75+ years began coresidence with at least one of their children in the 5 years preceding the survey. About 4%-6% of the elderly household heads had ceased to live with at least one of their children during the same period.

keywords: elderly population, household family type, long-term care insurance service, regional difference