

Older Adults' Household Changes: An Analysis of Their Association with Local Care Services and Residential Relocation

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Due to a decline in the number of adult children per parent and the introduction of the "Long-Term Care Insurance System" in 2000, older adults in Japan are now experiencing a situation in which demographic and societal conditions substantially differ from those in the past. This paper focuses on the household changes of older adults who formerly lived in one-person or married-couple-only households and examines their association with the local provision of care services and residential relocation of older adults. Our analysis of data from the National Survey on Household Changes (conducted in 2004–2019) and the Survey of Institutions and Establishments for Long-Term Care (2000–2018) revealed the following points. First, older women are more likely to switch their family type to "other household" (a household that mainly involves living with one's adult children) when they live in a prefecture with a larger provision of home care services in total. In the case of men, the same household transition tends to occur in prefectures with larger capacities of "special nursing homes." Second, according to a comparison between the 1999–2009 and 2009–2019 periods, the proportion of the older adults undergoing a transition to "other household" who also relocated declined significantly for older women over time, particularly for those who formerly lived in one-person households. These findings suggest that the geographical distribution of certain long-term care services and the relocation behavior of older women have played a role in the recent decline in parent–adult child coresidence among older adults.

keywords: older adults, household change, residential relocation, local care services, coresidence with children