

# Changes in Geographical Distances between Adult Children and Their Parents in Recent Japan

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Past studies consistently indicate that the intergenerational transfers are constrained by geographical distances between parents and adult children. In this paper, I examine geographical distances to parents from adult children's perspective (including coresidence), and how the distance has changed in the decade between 2001 and 2011. I also analyze factors that determine the intergenerational distance especially focusing on demographic characteristics of adult children and how the effects changed over the given decade.

Using the 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> National Survey on Migration, I found that the likelihood of adult children's coresidence with their parents lowered. In addition, the distance to parents narrowed for those living separately from their parents in 2011 relative to 2001. The size of siblings raises the possibilities of non-coresidence, and of living further from their parents. The effect of the size of siblings remains strong but its impact lowered in 2011. The sibling composition (gender and birth order) indicates that the eldest son is most likely to coreside with parents, implying that norm of patrilocal residence remains strong. However, among those who do not coreside, daughters without male siblings have the highest possibility of living close to parents. The impact of marital status reveals that the never-married are most likely to coreside with parents, while those married, divorced/widowed are more likely to live in close proximity. The effects of support needs imply that coresidence is likely to be selected when the support needs of parent(s) are strong, while living in close proximity is selected when the needs of adult children are strong.