

Geographical Distances between Elderly Parents Living Alone or as a Married Couple and Their Non-Coresiding Adult Children

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Using the 9th National Survey on Migration data conducted in 2023, this study examines (1) the place of residence of an adult child who lives closest to the parent, and (2) the factors associated with an adult child living within a certain distance of their parents, by household structure and residential area of elderly parents. The analysis revealed that for elderly parents living as a married couple or living alone, approximately 50% of their adult children resided “within the same municipality,” while approximately 80% resided “within the same prefecture.” Among parents living as a married couple, the likelihood of an adult child living nearby was higher when the parents' length of residence was longer. Also, in metropolitan areas, adult sons tended to live “in the same building or on the same property.” In the case of a parent living alone, no correlation was found with the parent's length of residence. Also, adult daughters tended to live within a certain distance of their parent in metropolitan areas. Although the geographical distances to adult children are the same, the findings suggest that the process leading to this situation varies depending on the parent's household structure.

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