Household Changes in Contemporary Japan¹ Overview of the Results of the Sixth National Survey on Household Changes(2009)

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I. Introduction

1. Overview

Ever since the late 1970s, Japan's birth rate has remained firmly below the replacement level, and it now has one of the lowest birth rates among the advanced nations. Nonetheless, the Japanese population has continued to increase due to the momentum of the past population growth. However, this momentum is now almost exhausted and Japan is entering an era of long-term population decline. With such development, the rapid population aging will further accelerate in the 2010s when the baby boomers would reach the age of 65. Furthermore, changes in the traditional gender relationships have led to delays in marriage, an increase in the proportion of never-married adults and the highest divorce rate since World War II.

These changes have exerting impacts on the size and composition of households as well as on household formation and dissolution. The family relationship and change in household structure of the rising elderly population, the growth in the number of one-parent family households, and the growing propensities of young adults to stay longer in their parent's households are all issues of great concern in both academic and political circles. The National Surveys on Household Changes are conducted to measure the current situation of these demographic changes in households and to acquire basic data for projecting future trends.

The Sixth National Survey on Household Changes was conducted on July 1, 2009, succeeding the previous round conducted five years before, with the cooperation of the Statistics and Information Department, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, governments of prefectures and local municipalities, and public health centers. The questions of the survey were nearly identical with those from the previous survey. Respondents were asked about the current size and structure of their household in addition to household formation and dissolution behaviors, such as the experience of the head of the household over the past five years, leaving their parents' home, and changes in marital status.

2. Samples and Responses

This survey targets all of the households in census areas randomly selected for the 2009 *Comprehensive Survey of the Living Conditions of People on Health and Welfare*. Designated interviewers distributed and collected questionnaires, which were, in principle, requested to be filled out by household heads.

Out of a total of 15,678 target households, questionnaires were returned from 12,045 households. Among the questionnaires collected, those without any entries and those missing essential information were treated as invalid, yielding a final total of 11,355 valid responses, on which the analysis is based. Thus, the overall questionnaire return rate was 76.8% and the rate of valid response was 72.4%.

Table I-1 shows the age distribution of household heads. Compared to the result of the Population Census in 2005, there are less household heads of ages 60 years and under, while there are more heads aged 60 and over. Although this difference can be attributed in part to the population aging during the intervening 4-year period, it should also be noted that was likely impacted by the low response rate from persons living alone in their 20s and early 30s

This survey enumerated and analyzed data by household members aged 18 years old and up as well as by household units. Table I-2 shows the age composition of household members aged 18 years old and up. Since age distribution estimates of the population not limited to household heads can be obtained each year from the Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, this data was compared with the total population in 2009. Compared to Table I-1, the differences are small because they were taken for the same year, but still caution should be taken in interpreting the results, as the return rate was low mainly for respondents in their 20s.

	The 6th Nationa	l Survey (2009)	Population Ce	ensus (2005)*	Difference in
Age of household head	All households	Percentage (%)	Number of Households (in thousands)	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
Total	11,355	100.0	49,061	100.0	-
-19	188	1.7	447	0.9	0.7
20-24	224	2.0	2,019	4.1	-2.1
25-29	354	3.1	2,804	5.7	-2.6
30-34	599	5.3	3,874	7.9	-2.6
35-39	790	7.0	3,840	7.8	-0.9
40-44	829	7.3	3,788	7.7	-0.4
45-49	866	7.6	3,783	7.7	-0.1
50-54	961	8.5	4,556	9.3	-0.8
55-59	1,215	10.7	5,606	11.4	-0.7
60-64	1,390	12.2	4,798	9.8	2.5
65-69	1,291	11.4	4,236	8.6	2.7
70-74	1,032	9.1	3,770	7.7	1.4
75-79	791	7.0	2,888	5.9	1.1
80-84	512	4.5	1,664	3.4	1.1
85 years old and up	313	2.8	987	2.0	0.7

Table I-1 Number of household Heads by Age

Source: Population Census 2005 (Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)). *Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding. This applies hereafter as well.

	The 6th Nationa	al Survey (2009)	Population Es	timate (2009)	Difference in
Age of household head	Number of household members	Percentage (%)	Population (in thousands)	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
Total household members 18 years old and up	24,936	100.0	106,889	100.0	-
18-19	569	2.3	2,469	2.3	0.0
20-24	1,309	5.2	6,913	6.5	-1.2
25-29	1,478	5.9	7,502	7.0	-1.1
30-34	1,854	7.4	8,591	8.0	-0.6
35-39	2,175	8.7	9,715	9.1	-0.4
40-44	1,949	7.8	8,581	8.0	-0.2
45-49	1,840	7.4	7,826	7.3	0.1
50-54	1,915	7.7	7,740	7.2	0.4
55-59	2,353	9.4	9,133	8.5	0.9
60-64	2,496	10.0	9,413	8.8	1.2
65-69	2,235	9.0	8,385	7.8	1.1
70-74	1,761	7.1	6,911	6.5	0.6
75-79	1,348	5.4	5,813	5.4	0.0
80-84	930	3.7	4,236	4.0	-0.2
85 years old and up	724	2.9	3,661	3.4	-0.5

Table I-2 Number of Household Members Ages 18 Years Old and Up by Age

Source: Population Estimates (Statistics Bureau, MIC).

II Households in 2009

1. Individuals' Memberships in Different Types of Households

Looking at the size of households that household heads and members aged 18 years old and up belong (Table II-1, Section A), the percentage of respondents belonging to households comprised of two persons is the highest (26.6%), followed by households composed of three persons (25.1%), four persons (21.1%), and five persons (10.5%). This order is the same as on the previous survey. In terms of proportion, one to three-person households and households with eight or more people increased from the previous survey, while households with four to seven people decreased. Significant changes were seen in the 2.0-point increase in two-person households, the 1.7-point increase in three-person households, 1.4-point decrease in four-person households, and 1.2-point decrease in five and six-person households. The average size of households individuals belong to shrank from 3.3 people to 3.2 people on this study, a decline of 0.1 people.

Looking at the size of households with household basis (Table II-1, Section B), the largest number of households contained two persons, representing 30.3% of all households. The second most common class of households was those that contained three persons (21.3%), followed by one person (21.0%), and four persons (16.7%). This order is the same as on the previous survey. Just as with figures of the types of households being belong to, in terms of proportion, one to three-person households and households with eight or more people increased on the previous survey, while households with four to seven people decreased. Of those changes, the most notable were the 1.6-point increase in two-person households, 1.0-point increase in one-person households, and the 1.4-point decline in four-person households. The average household size declined by 0.1 persons, from 2.8 in the previous survey to 2.7 in the present survey.

Figure II-1 represents the size of households to which household heads and household members (aged 18 years old and up) in different age groups belong. The most common household size among male respondents are three persons for the 25-29 age group, four persons for respondents age 54 years old and under, three persons for the 55-59 age group, and two persons for respondents age 60 years old and under. Among the female respondents, the most common household size is three persons for the 25-34 age group, four persons among all respondents up to 49 years of age, three persons for the 50-54 age group, two persons for the 60-84 age group, and three persons for those aged 85 years old and up.

Three or four-person households account for high shares until around the 50s. Thereafter, the percentage of two-person households rapidly increases. The proportions of two-person households among the elderly generations are high as 53.2% for males (70 to 74 years old) and 48.7% for females (65-69 years old). Such a concentration of population into particular household sizes is not seen for either sex in any age groups under 60 years old. However, the percentage of households containing three or more persons increases again among respondents older than 80 years. The percentage of one-person households for elderly females is higher than the corresponding percentage for males.

											Average
		Total	One- person	Two- person	Three- person	Four- person	Five- person	Six- person	Seven- person	Eight- person or more	(per- sons)
	6th survey (persons)	24,936	2,364	6,628	6,258	5,268	2,628	1,111	470	209	2.2
^	(2009) (%)	100.0	9.5	26.6	25.1	21.1	10.5	4.5	1.9	0.8	3.2
A	5th survey (persons)	24,336	2,140	5,993	5,698	5,474	2,852	1,387	636	156	33
	(2004) (%)	100.0	8.8	24.6	23.4	22.5	11.7	5.7	2.6	0.6	3.3
	6th survey (house- holds)	11,239	2,364	3,401	2,397	1,872	779	276	105	45	2.7
Р	(2009) (%)	100.0	21.0	30.3	21.3	16.7	6.9	2.5	0.9	0.4	
Б	5th survey (house- holds)	10,711	2,140	3,069	2,202	1,936	841	350	142	31	2.8
	(2004) (%)	100.0	20.0	28.7	20.6	18.1	7.9	3.3	1.3	0.3	

Table II-1 Distribution of Household Sizes

Note: Excluding households where the head is younger than 18 years old



Figure II-1 Individual Membership in Different Household Sizes by Sex and Age Group

Figure II-2 examines the average size of households to which members of different age groups belong. Comparing the data by sex, the average sizes tends to be larger for females in age groups up to 59 years of age, and larger for males in the age groups of 60 and over. When data is compared by age for each sex, the average household size fluctuates for both sexes, starting with the 0-19 age group and decreasing as the respondents get older, then increasing, decreasing, and again increasing thereafter. In the case of males, the household size first decreases from 3.8 persons in the 19 years old and under age group to 3.3 persons for the 25-29 age group, and next increases to 3.7 persons in the 45-49 age group, declines to its lowest number at 2.7 persons in the 65-69 age group, and then increases to 3.1 persons

for 85 years old and up. In the case of females, the average household size decreases from 4.0 persons for the 19 years old and under age group to 3.4 persons in the 25-29 age group, increases to 3.9 in the 40-44 age group, decreases to its lowest at 2.6 persons in the 65-60 age group, continues around the same level in the 75-79 age group, and then increases to 3.0 persons for 85 years old and up. Compared to the previous surveys, the average sizes of households to which the respondents belong are smaller on the present survey, except for males between 30-34 and 60-64 and females between 55-64. In addition, the decreasing trend is most significant among males between 40 to 44 years old, 50 to 54 years old, and 80 years old and up, and females 65 years old and up, excluding between 70 and 74 years old.



Figure II-2 Average Household Size by Sex and Age Groups

Table II-2, Section A shows the family types to which household heads and other members aged 18 years old and up belong. It reveals that the "nuclear family" is the most common (67.4%), followed by "other households" (22.8%), and "one-person household" (9.5%). Although the order was the same as in the previous survey, in terms of proportions, "nuclear family" and "oneperson household" increased by 1.3 and 0.7 points, respectively, and "other households" decreased by 1.9 points. It can thus be said that the present survey shows a trend toward simpler family types compared to the previous survey.

When looking at household types in more detail, it is found that the largest percentage of the respondents lived in households consisting of "a married couple with their children" (39.4%), while households consisting of "a married couple only" (20.6%) and households consisting of "a married couple with their children and parent" (11.8%) were the second and third most common types of households, respectively. The order is the same as in the previous survey. Looking at the proportion of the four types of households classified as "nuclear family," the percentages of "a married couple only" (1.1 points), "father with his children" (0.1 points), and "mother with her children" (0.7 points) increased, while the proportion of households composed of "a married couple with their children" decreased by 0.6 points.

On the other hand, an analysis of the number of households by family type (Table II-2, Section B) shows that the majority of the households are composed of "a married couple with their children" (33.1%), followed by "a married couple only" (23.0%), and "one-person" (21.0%) as the second and third most common family types, respectively. This result differs from the result of analysis for individual family members. The order is the same as on the previous survey. In terms of the proportion of households consisting of "one-person" or a "nuclear family," increases on the previous survey were seen for "one-person" (1.1 points), "a married couple only" (0.6 points), "father with his children" (0.2 points), and "mother with her children" (0.6 points), while the proportion of "a married couple with their children" decreased by 1.2 points.

Figure II-3 shows family types to which household heads and household members aged 18 years old and up belong by age group and sex. For males 64 years old and under and females 59 years old and under, households containing "a married couple with their children" account for the highest proportions among the respondents. For age groups above those mentioned, the proportions of "a married couple only" and "other households" increased. Closer examination of the 60 and over age group by sex reveals that the most common family type for males is "father with his children" for males between 65 to 84 and "other households" for males age 85 years old and over. For females, the most common family type is "married couple only" for persons age 65 to 74 and "other households" for respondents age 75 and over. Moreover, the highest percentage of households of "a married couple only" found for males is 51.3% (70-74 age group) and 43.0% for females (65-69 age group). Finally, the proportion of "one-person" households is high among the young generations in the case of males, accounting for 18.6% of the 20-24 age group. The value for females is high among the elderly generation, reaching 23.5% for the 80-84 age group.

				Household type												
						Но	useholds v	vith child	ren			Other ho	useholds			
		Total	One- person	Nu- clear family	Married couples without children	Total	Married couple with children	Single father family	Single mother family	Total	House- holds with married children	House- holds with married and un- married children	House- holds with married children and grand- children	Other family house- holds	Non- family house- holds	Un- known
	6th survey (people)	24,936	2,364	16,809	5,129	11,680	9,831	284	1,564	5,680	909	38	2,934	1,587	212	83
۸	(2009) (%)	100.0	9.5	67.4	20.6	46.8	39.4	1.1	6.3	22.8	3.6	0.2	11.8	6.4	0.9	0.3
А	5th survey (people)	24,336	2,140	16,084	4,748	11,336	9,746	237	1,352	6,007	864	46	3,466	1,445	186	105
	(2004) (%)	100.0	8.8	66.1	19.5	46.6	40.0	1.0	5.6	24.7	3.6	0.2	14.2	5.9	0.8	0.4
	6th survey (households)	11,239	2,364	7,238	2,584	4,654	3,717	141	795	1,605	289	9	735	485	87	32
D	(2009) (%)	100.0	21.0	64.4	23.0	41.4	33.1	1.3	7.1	14.3	2.6	0.1	6.5	4.3	0.8	0.3
Б	5th survey (households)	10,711	2,140	6,881	2,395	4,486	3,675	115	695	1,647	276	12	868	419	72	43
	(2004) (%)	100.0	20.0	64.2	22.4	41.9	34.3	1.1	6.5	15.4	2.6	0.1	8.1	3.9	0.7	0.4

Table II-2 Distribution of Members and Households by Family Type

Note: Excluding households where the head is younger than 18 years old. The total percentage of households with children includes single-parent families with a parent of unknown sex.



Figure II-3 Distribution of Households by Sex, Age, and Family Type (Four Types)

2. Housing

Table II-3 shows different types of housing in which household heads and household members aged 18 years old and up live. As can be seen, the majority lives in owned detached houses (69.9%), while 12.9% live in rented apartment or houses, 8.2% in owned condominiums, and 4.2% in public housing. Although the proportions exhibit similar trends for both males and females, there is a larger percentage of females than males among those who live in owned detached houses, owned condominiums, and public housing. The order and trends of differences between males and females are the same as in the previous survey. Looking at the changes in proportion compared to the

previous survey, the percentages of those who live in owned detached houses and rented apartments and houses increased by 2.0 and 0.9 percentage points, respectively, while that for public housing decreased by 2.4 points.

30-34

35-39

40-44 45-49 55-59

60-64 35-69 70-74

50-54

Female

Other households

A married couple only

One-persor

75-79

30-84 85+

Figure II-4 shows the variation in housing in which household heads and members aged 18 years and up in different groups live by sex. In all age groups, the majority of both males and females live in owned detached houses. It should be noted that the proportion of those living in owned detached houses is lower among the younger generations for both sexes, with the lowest value for males in the 30-34 age group (55.2%) and females in the 25-29 age group (53.4%).

		То	tal	Owned detached houses	Owned condo- miniums	Public housing	Rented apart- ments or house	lssued houses	Others	Unknown
		(people)				("	%)			
	Both sexes	24,936	100.0	69.9	8.2	4.2	12.9	1.6	1.3	1.8
6th survey	Males	11,989	100.0	69.6	8.1	3.8	13.3	2.1	1.4	1.8
(2000)	Females	12,947	100.0	70.2	8.4	4.6	12.6	1.2	1.2	1.8
	Both sexes	24,336	100.0	67.9	8.3	6.6	12.0	2.5	1.2	1.4
5th survey	Males	11,586	100.0	67.7	8.2	6.0	12.6	3.0	1.1	1.4
(2004)	Females	12,750	100.0	68.1	8.4	7.2	11.5	2.1	1.3	1.4

Table II-3 Distribution of Respondents by Housing Type and Sex

Note: Excluding households where the head is younger than 18 years old

Meanwhile, the corresponding value exceeds 80% for both males and females in their late adulthood. Other types of housing accounting for high proportion among younger generations are rented apartments or houses as well as public housing. The percentage of rented apartments or houses is the highest among the 30-34 group for males (27.1%) and 25-29 group for females (28.2%), and the percentage of public housing is the highest among the 19 years old and below group for both males and females (6.9% and 6.5%, respectively).





III Kinship and Living Arrangements

1. Living Arrangements with Children

Figure III-1 shows the percentages of respondents with children that are 18 years or older. The percentage of the population having at least one child aged 18 years old or older is 54.6% (52.9% on the fifth survey) among people aged 20 years old and up, and 93.4% (92.6% on the fifth survey) if restricting the target group to people aged 65 years old and up.

The percentage of people living with their children after they turn 18 years old (co-residence rate) is 56.5% out of the entire adult respondents aged 20 years old and up, having dropped 4.0

points from the figure on the fifth survey (60.5%) (Table III-1). Looking at the data by sex, the percentage of respondents co-residing with their children is 54.5% for males (58.7% on the fifth survey) and 58.1% for females (61.9% on the fifth survey), revealing that females have a 3.6-point higher co-residence rate than males (3.2 points on the fifth survey). By age, the percentage of respondents aged 65 years and up co-residing with their children is 45.3% for males and 41.9% for females, indicating a more marked gender disparity in the older age groups. Compared to the fifth survey, the co-residence rate for respondents aged 65 years and older sank 1.8 points from 47.1% to 45.3% for males and 3.8 points from 55.7% to 51.9%

for females. In older age groups, the percentage of respondents co-residing with their children is higher for females, but females also showed a larger rate of decline. As this is the case, while gender disparity found in the elderly co-residence rate has shrunk from 8.6 points on the previous survey to 6.6 points on the present, more than half of elderly women with children live together with their children.

Table III-1 Proportions of Respondents with Children (18 Years Old and Over) and the Co-Residence by Sex

			Persons with ch	nildren age 18 y	ears old and up	
		Total		Of those w	vith children	No children
		(persons)		Live with children	Live apart from children	old and up
	Total age 20 years old and up	22,904	54.6	56.5	43.5	45.4
	Male	10,943	50.8	54.5	45.5	49.2
6th survey	Female	11,961	58.0	58.1	41.9	42.0
(2009)	65 years old and up (recount)	6,437	93.4	48.9	51.1	6.6
	Male	2,896	93.8	45.3	54.7	6.2
	Female	3,541	93.1	51.9	48.1	6.9
	Total age 20 years old and up	21,648	52.9	60.5	39.5	47.1
	Male	10,260	49.6	58.7	41.3	50.4
5th survey	Female	11,388	55.9	61.9	38.1	44.1
(2004)	65 years old and up (recount)	5,191	92.6	51.9	48.1	7.4
	Male	2,288	92.7	47.1	52.9	7.3
	Female	2,903	92.6	55.7	44.3	7.4

Note: Totals exclude respondents for which it was unclear whether had a child that was 18 years or older.

Figure III-1 shows the percentage of respondents with children that are aged 18 years and older and the percentage of respondents that live togheter with their children by sex and age. Looking at the presence of children we see that over 90% of males that are aged 65 years and older and females aged 60 and over have children that are aged 18 years and older.





Meanwhile, the percentage of respondents that live together with their children is 70.3% for males aged 49 and under (73.4% on the fifth survey) and 74.5% for females (76.5% on the fifth survey), dispalying a gradual decrease. These figures reach their lowest during the "empty nest period," between the lage 60s to the early 70s (42.0% for males aged 70-74 and 44.0% for females aged 65-69, which is a drop from 43.2% and 47.7%, respectively, on the fifth survey). From the latter half of the 70s the co-residence rate increases with age, reaching 54.5% for males (66.4% on the fifth survey) and 70.4% for females (79.3% on the fifth survey) for respondents aged 85 years and older. The elderly tend to avoid living together with their children and aspire to be independent while they are healthy, but there is also an apparently increasing number of people that chose to live with their children during their later years. In addition, males show a higher percentage of co-residence in the 55-59 age group as well as for the late 60s and older, while females present higher figures for the 70s and older. This is due to the phenomenon of widowed, elderly women living together with their children, showing that changes in marital status affects the co-residence with children.

Compared to the fifth survey, the co-residence rates have decreased for all age groups excluding females between 55 to 59 years old, and this decline is particularly marked for females aged 65

100% 29.8 80% 39.6 13 (39.7 18 7 46.4 9.4 60% B.0 12.2 6.7 8.8 9.7 8.2 9.2 40% 26 14.7 10.1 6.6 10.9 9.4 9.2 4.0 8.3 3.9 5.5 5.7 20% 33.8 0% and up 50-54 55-59 60-64 65-69 80-84 65 y and Total of those 20 years old and up 70-74 75-79 years d up ('s old (recount) e Age (years old) Respondents living with their eldest sons

Respondents living with their sons not including the eldest

- Respondents living with their eldest daughters
- Respondents living with their daughters, not including the eldest
- Respondents living with children, unknown relationship
- Respondents living apart from their children
- Respondents without children age 18 and up

and older. It can be inferred that there is an increasing trend where elderly persons are avoiding living together with their children (or conversely, children avoid living together with their parents).

Next, Figure III-2 shows the proportion of parents living together with their children by sex and birth order of the child. The proportion of respondents living with eldest sons is highest at 16.2% (17.6% on the fifth survey) (accounting for 46.3% of children living with respondents; 56.3% on the fifth survey), followed by eldest daughters at 7.1% (7.3% on the fifth survey) (representing 20.2% of children living together with respondents; 23.3% on the fifth survey). Looking at the data by age group, the proportion of respondents living together with their sons (including sons other than the eldest sons) becomes higher with advancing age starting from the 24.4% ratio of the 65-69 age group. The percentage of elderly people aged 65 years old and up co-residing with their sons is only 28.1% (33.1% on the fifth survey) and 13.1% for daughters (14.0% on the fifth survey). Thus, among all respondents aged 65 years and older living with their children, 56.1% live with their sons (68.7% on the fifth survey) and 26.2% live with their daughters (29.1% on the fifth survev).

Figure III-3 Co-residence with Children by Experience fo Home-Leaving



Figure III-3 examines the history of co-residence with children in terms of whether they have continuously co-resided without leaving home (co-residing continuously) or have lived apart at one point (live separately) before once again

Figure III-2 Proportion of Adults Living with Their Children (18 Years Old and Up): Distribution by Age and Relationship

co-residing (co-residing again). The percentage of "co-residing continuously" gradually declines from 32.4% for the 50-54 years age group (38.0%) on the fifth survey) to 15.5% for the 70-74 years age group (18.3% on the fifth survey), but then changes directions thereafter to reach 20.7% for respondents aged 85 years and older (26.7% on the fifth survey). Meanwhile, the percentage of respondents "co-residing again" increases with age, starting at 14.2% for the 50-54 age group and growing larger than "co-residing continuously" for the 65-69 age group. For respondents aged 85 and above, 31.2% were accounted for by "co-residing again" (40.0% on the fifth survey). The increase in the "co-residing again" ratio of people as they grow into the elderly years is due to such factors as changes in the health and marital status of the parent generation.

2. Living Arrangements with Parents

Among the respondents aged 20 years old and up, 62.0% have at least one parent alive (64.4% on the fifth survey) while 38.0% reported that none of their parents are alive (35.6% on the fifth survey) (Table III-2). Among those who have at least one parent alive, 40.3% have both of their parents alive, whereas the percentages of those who have only their mothers alive and that of those who have only their fathers alive are 18.2% and 3.5%, respectively (42.4%, 18.7%, and 3.3% on the fifth survey, respectively).

Figure III-4 shows the living status of parents of different age groups. Naturally, the percentage of those with surviving parents decreases with age, while the mortality rate increases. The percentage of respondents with both parents alive decreases rapidly: 94.0% of respondents in their 20s still have both parents alive (97.7% on the fifth survey), 68.8% of respondents in their early 40s (63.7% on the fifth survey), and 0.8% of respondents aged 65 years and older (1.3%) on the fifth survey). On the other hand, more than half of the respondents in their 50s and 34.7% of those in the 60-64 age group (31.2%) on the fifth survey) have at least one parent alive. Among the population aged 65 years and up, 7.9% have at least one parent alive (8.6% on the fifth survey).

Figure III-5 shows the distribution in terms of numbers of surviving parents (including parents-in-law) for different age groups. Among the population aged 20 years and up, 31.6% have no surviving parent, whereas 68.4% have at least one parent alive (29.1% and 70.9% on the fifth survey, respectively). The percentage with only one parent alive is 15.7%, 28.1% for two parents, 10.8% for three parents, and 13.8% for four (15.6%, 29.2%, 11.1%, and 14.9% on the fifth survey, respectively). Looking at this data by the respondents'

Table III-2 Living Status of Parents

						Dath naranta
	Total	Total	Both parents alive	Only father alive	Only mother alive	deceased
Total (persons)	19,877	12,325	8,017	699	3,609	7,552
Percentage (%)	100.0	62.0	40.3	3.5	18.2	38.0

Note: Totals exclude non-applicable and unavailable data.









age, among the population aged 65 years and up, the majority have no surviving parent, where as 13.6% (13.8% on the fifth survey) have at least one parent alive, with 11.4% (11.3% on the fifth survey) with one parent alive and 1.9% (1.7% on the fifth survey) with two parents alive. Almost one in seven respondents aged 65 and up have a parent of very old age.

Table III-3 shows the status of whether the respondents live together with their parents or not. The proportion of those who co-reside (namely, share the same residence and household budget) with at least one own parent (including the case where the other parent is deceased) is 24.9%, whereas 37.8% live away from their parents and 37.3% have no surviving parent (24.7%, 40.1%, 35.2% on the fifth survey, respectively). The percentage of respondents co-residing with their parents is 29.8% for males and 20.1% for females, while the percentage of those living separately from their parents is 35.0% for males and 40.5% for females (30.2%, 19.6%, 35.6%, and 44.0% on the fifth survey, respectively).

Figure III-6 shows the percentage of

respondents who co-reside with their parents. compared to that of those who maintain separate households from their parents, by age group and sex. Significant differences between males and females can be observed after age 30. While nearly 80% of both the male and female respondents in the 20-24 age group co-reside with their parents, the proportion drops rapidly among females in their 20s and 30s. This is considered to be caused by females leaving home for the reason of marriage. However, the proportion of the people living with their parents in the 30-34 age group actually shows an increase from the previous survey, with 47.9% of the male respondents (45.4% on the fifth survey) and 36.5% of females (33.1% on the fifth survey) living with their parents. This is consistent with other trends as well, such as the rise in the proportion of adults that never marry and the delay in the time of leaving home. Moreover, the proportion of the respondents living together with their parents decreases with age, where 3.4% of male and 1.0% of female respondents age 65 and older co-reside with their own parents (2.9% and 0.8% on the fifth survey, respectively).

	Total	Co rooido				Living opert	Poth poronto	
	(persons)	with parents	With both parents	With fathers	With mothers	from parents	deceased	
Total	20,244	24.9	15.7	1.6	7.7	37.8	37.3	
Male	10,031	29.8	17.9	1.9	9.9	35.0	35.2	
Female	10,213	20.1	13.5	1.2	5.5	40.5	39.4	

Table III-3 Living Status and Co-residence with Parents by Sex of Respondents

Note: Totals exclude non-applicable and unavailable data.



Figure III-6 Living Status and Co-residence with Parents by Age and Sex of Respondents

Table III-4 shows the co-residence with parents-in-law of currently married respondents of age 20 and up. Overall, 9.1% of respondents live together with at least one of their parents-in-law (9.7% on the fifth survey), while 49.6% live apart from their parents-in-law (51.3% on the fifth survey), and 41.3% have no surviving parent-in-law (39.0% on the fifth survey). In the case of married males, the percentage of respondents living together with their wives' parents is 5.1% (4.4%) on the fifth survey), and that of respondents living separately from them is 43.4% (59.4% on the fifth survey). The same proportions for females living together with and separately from their husbands' parents are 12.8% and 43.4% (14.7% and 43.4% on the fifth survey respectively), respectively. This reflects one of the most important characteristics of Japanese households, i.e., it is significantly more common for wives to live together with the parents of their husbands than the other way around. However, when compared to the previous survey, while the percentage of husbands that live together with their wives' parents is increasing, the ratio of wives that live together with their husbands' parents is decreasing. Looking at the data by age (Figure III-7), the percentage of respondents living together with the parents of their spouses shows a curve peaking at the 45-49 age group at 7.7% for males and 22.5% for females (this peaked at the 50-54 age group for males (7.7%) and 45-49 age group for females (25.4%) on the fifth survey).

	Total (persons)	Co-residing with parents- in-law	Co-residing with parents-	Co-reside with father-	Co-reside with mother-	Living apart from parents- in-law	Both parents- in-law deceased
			in-law	in-law	in-law		uccoucou
Total	12,860	9.1	3.4	0.9	4.9	49.6	41.3
Male	6,228	5.1	1.7	0.5	2.9	56.1	38.7
Female	6,632	12.8	4.9	1.3	6.6	43.4	43.8

Table III-4 Living Status and Co-residence with Parents-in-law by Sex of Respondents

Note: Totals exclude non-applicable and unavailable data.



Figure III-5 Number of Living Parents by Age of Respondents Respondentsrviving Parents

Table III-5 Average Number of Siblings by Birth Cohort

	Number of	Av	/erage number o	f siblings (person	s)
	(persons)	6th survey	5th survey	4th survey	3th survey
Total	24,474	2.96	3.10	3.21	3.44
-1929	2 157] 200	3.15	3.36	3.77
1930-34	∫ 3,157	<u>ک</u> 3.20	3.92	4.19	4.58
1935-39	1,779	3.89	4.09	4.31	4.59
1940-44	2,239	3.82	3.98	4.12	4.21
1945-49	2,614	3.50	3.61	3.70	3.80
1950-54	2,255	3.11	3.20	3.28	3.31
1955-59	1,864	2.73	2.81	2.77	2.88
1960-64	1,903	2.43	2.45	2.52	2.57
1965-69	1,936	2.43	2.40	2.44	2.46
1970-74	2,175	2.40	2.41	2.43	2.43
1975-79	1,828	2.44	2.42	2.38	
1980-84	1,415	2.42	2.46		
1985-89	1.309	2.43			

Note: Sibling numbers do not include unknown data.

3. Relationships with Other Relatives

This section examines the development of the number of siblings (including the respondents themselves) still living by birth cohort (Table III-5 and Figure III-8). The average number of living siblings peaks at 3.89 persons among the respondents born between 1935 and 1939 and decreases among younger generations down to around 2.40 in the 1970-1974 cohort. The overall average number of siblings per person, 2.96, in the present survey is lower than the 3.10 average on the fifth survey. This is primarily due to the aging of the cohorts born before World War II and the decrease in the number of their siblings. Among the birth cohorts born from the 1960s onward, the average number of siblings remains around 2.40 persons, presenting figures similar to those from the last survey.

As the number of siblings decreases, the number of people not having siblings of the opposite sex is increasing. The percentage of females who do not have any brothers is the lowest among those born between 1940-1944 at 26.4% (26.6% on the fifth survey), and increases gradually to 44.1% in the generation born between 1970 and 1974, and 38.4% in the generation born between 1985 and 1989 (Table III-6). In the case of males, the percentage of respondents that are the eldest sons bottomed out at 53.3% for those born between 1940 and 1944 (53.0% on the fifth survey) and gradually increased thereafter to around 70% for all generations after the 1955 to 1959 cohort.

Considering the availability of a network of relatives other than the married couple and their parents (siblings in particular), the number of relatives shrinks in number for generations born from the 1960s onward compared to those born before and directly after World War II.

Figure III-8 Average Number of Siblings by Birth Cohort



Table III-6 Distribution of Respondents by Birth Cohort and Relationship with Parents

		Males		Females					
Year of birth	Number of		Non-eldest	Number of	No br	others	With		
	respondents (persons)	Eldest sons	sons	respondents (persons)	Eldest daughters	Non-eldest daughters	brothers		
Total population to 1934	11,712	65.3	34.7	12,632	22.5	15.5	62.0		
-1934	1,272	77.8	22.2	1,869	35.2	13.7	51.2		
1935-39	854	60.3	39.7	915	17.3	12.2	70.5		
1940-44	1,116	53.3	46.7	1,114	14.6	11.8	73.6		
1945-49	1,259	54.1	45.9	1,341	17.5	10.4	72.1		
1950-54	1,082	58.4	41.6	1,162	18.0	16.0	66.0		
1955-59	924	67.0	33.0	932	20.1	17.1	62.9		
1960-64	951	73.4	26.6	941	28.5	15.3	56.2		
1965-69	932	69.2	30.8	995	22.8	18.7	58.5		
1970-74	1,084	69.6	30.4	1,075	25.2	18.9	55.9		
1975-79	898	67.5	32.5	917	20.0	20.6	59.4		
1980-84	663	68.6	31.4	746	20.5	19.3	60.2		
1985-89	677	67.5	32.5	625	21.8	16.6	61.6		

Note: Excluding cases where the household head is under 18 years old or when their relationship with their parents is unclear.

IV Changes and Survival of Households

1. History of Current Household Heads

The history of households involves various experiences and events, such as formation, merger, and extinction. The present survey does not investigate extinct households, but attempts to understand other changes by investigating history of the household heads (Table IV-1). This chapter analyzes households for which the household head is 18 years or older. First of all, the current household heads can be divided into those who were already household heads five years ago and those who newly became household heads within the last five years. The former category represented 87.6% of all the household heads (household heads without known history were excluded from the calculation; the same principle applies hereinafter) and the latter 12.4%. Furthermore, the heads of previously existing households could be divided into heads of "unchanged households" (84.5%), which were not merged with other households during the five vear period, and "merged households" (3.1%), which had absorbed at least one other household during the same period. In addition, in the case of the latter, the new household heads could be divided into heads of "replaced households," where the new household heads replaced the former heads of existing households (5.0% of all households) and heads of "new households" who created new households away from the original households (7.4% of all households). It should be noted that those households that are not classified as "new households" are sometimes collectively called "continued households," because they have existed for at least five years. These "continued households" account for 92.6% of all of the households.

Compared to the previous survey, heads of "unchanged households" and "replaced households" increased in number while the proportion of "new households" and "merged households" showed decreases. In terms of the change percentage points, change was overall minimal for all types except for "new households." In general, the number of households decreases due to merger and extinction of households, but increases due to formation. Although the specific number of extinct households is not known, the impact that new households have on the rise in household numbers is flagging. The decrease in the percentage of "new households" is related to the decline in the young population that is needed to form such households.

Country	Persons	%	5th survey
Total household heads	11,239		
(1) Already household heads 5 years ago	9,479	87.6	87.2
(1-1) Unchanged households	9,145	84.5	83.6
(1-2) Merged households	334	3.1	3.5
(2) Newly became household heads within the past 5 years	1.343	12.4	12.8
(2-1) Replaced households	546	5.0	4.4
(2-2) New households	797	7.4	8.4
Household heads with unknown history	417		
Heads of continued households* (recount)	10,025	92.6	91.6

Table 7. Public Expenditure on Family as % of GDP (2005)

*Total of (1) Already household heads 5 years ago and (2-1) Replaced households.

Note: This calculation is of date for household heads that are age 18 and up. Household heads with unknown history are not included in the calculation.

Figure IV-1 shows the proportion of household heads out of the overall number of survey subjects age 18 and over (household heads and members) by sex, age group, and history (excluding persons for which their head/non-head history is unknown). Here, the proportion of household heads (headship rate) is obtained by adding the proportion of four different types of heads, from unchanged to new. The proportion of household heads increases steadily with age for males from age 18 to 65-69. In the age groups from 25 to 34 years old, in particular, many males tend to form new households as they become independent from their parents due to marriage and so on, and the proportion of household heads increases rapidly in these generations. Among the respondents aged 70 years old and up, on the other hand, the proportion gradually decreases. Data on the history of household heads reveal that up until their late 20s, the most common type of headship is heads of new households. Thereafter, heads of "unchanged households" account for the majority in households where the head is in their late 30s and older. The percentage of heads of merged households and replaced households is relatively small overall, but the former accounts for a relatively high percentage among the 30-34 and 50-69 age groups, while the latter accounts for a relatively high percentage among period in the 25-29 and 45-54 age groups.

The percentage of household heads among the females is lower than that for males. After reaching 13.3% among respondents in their early 20s, the proportion temporarily drops until ages 35 to 39. Thereafter, the percentages generally show a steady increase up to the 80-84 age group (37.6%). Data on the history of household heads reveals that up until the 20-24 age group, the most common type of household head is that of new households, while older female household heads are mainly that of unchanged households. The percentage of female heads of merged households is less than 1% among all age groups. The percentage of those replacing previous household heads is small among females younger than 40, but increases to over 2% after age 50, and to over 8% for the 75-84 age group. The proportion of household heads replacing the previous household heads in fact exceeds the male counterpart among people aged 60 and up.

Compared to the previous survey, major changes in the headship rate were apparent for

males in the 35-39 age group (decline of 7.9 points) and for those age 85 and over (increase of 10.1 points). The 35-39 age group (those born between 1970 and 1974) is a birth cohort that presented notable drops during the last survey and even showed lower headship than one cohort above on

this survey as well. In regards to changes in the age group of persons age 85 and up, the increases in households of single elderly individuals and elderly couples are believed to be correlated with the decline in three-generation households.



In the case of females, the ratio of household heads is conventionally low, but the greatest change is the rise in headship occurring from the 85 age and older group, just as with males, where there was a 9.1-point increase. This change is mainly related to the rising number of individual elderly person households.

Looking at prominent changes by the type of household heads, in the case of males, the proportion of unchanged households decreased by 7.5 points for the 35-39 age group and increased by 10.5 points for the 85 and older age group. Even for females there was a 4.8-point increase in unchanged households for the 85 and older age group. The increase in the ratio of unchanged households for the oldest demographic suggests that the number of people that are residing as household heads for a longer term of time is increasing.

Looking at the relationship between the current household heads and previous household heads of replaced households, 53.4% of the new household heads replaced their spouses who were heads (52.2% on the fifth survey) while 33.8% replaced their parents (40.4% on the fifth survey.) Other types of relationships account for a small proportion: 4.3% took over from their parentsin-law, 3.7% from their children, 2.4% from their grandparents, etc. (Table IV-2). Looking at the data by sex, 68.7% of the male household heads took over the households from their parents (80.9% on



Figure IV-1 Distribution of Household Heads by Type

Table IV-2 Relationship with Prior Household Head (replaced households)

	Persons	%	5th survey (%)
Spouse	272	53.4	52.2
Child	19	3.7	1.7
Spouse of child	1	0.2	0.0
Parents of household head	172	33.8	40.4
Parents of spouse	22	4.3	1.7
Grandparent	12	2.4	2.5
Sibling	7	1.4	1.0
Other relative	1	0.2	0.0
Lover, friend, etc.	3	0.6	0.2
Other	0	0.0	0.2
Unknown	37		
Total	546		

Note: This calculation is of data for household heads that are age 18 and up. Household heads with unknown history are not included in the calculation.

the fifth survey) and 10.9% from their spouses (6.9% on the fifth survey). In contrast, 81.2% of female household heads took over the households from their spouses (85.5% on the fifth survey) and 11.0% from their parents (10.6% on the fifth survey). Compared to the previous survey, the overall percentage of household heads replacing their parents dropped significantly, however this

was mainly due to the decrease in males that take over for their parents. Moreover, the proportion of males taking over households from their spouses increased, but decreased for females.

The previous heads, upon their replacement, may either be deceased or living in the same household. Among replaced household heads, 38.1% live with the previous head (37.2% on the previous survey), while 61.9% became heads following the deaths of the former heads (62.8% on the fifth survey). By sex, 61.1% of male household heads replaced their previous heads with whom they live (58.5% on the fifth survey), while 78.5% of female heads took over for previous heads following the death of the previous head (79.1% on the fifth survey). Compared to the previous survey, there is little change between he combined numbers for both sexes and figures for women. There was an increase in the ratio of males that live together with the head that they replace, but the fluctuation was minor.

In the following, we define the proportion of household heads of replaced households out of all the survey subjects age 18 and older (excluding persons for which it was unclear whether or not the were the household head) as "replacement rate" and observe the status of previous householders by age of new household heads in Figure IV-2. In the case of males, the replacement rate for those living together with previous heads is high in the 25-34 age group. Moreover, while the replacement rate for those living together is relatively higher in the 45-54 age group, it was generally the same level as the replacement rate for those taking over after the death of the previous head. However, the replacement rate for those taking over after the death of the previous head was higher for the 55-59 age group. Among females, the replacement rate as a result of death is noticeably high for ages 50 and up. The value among those aged 70 to 84 is particularly high and exceeds 5%. Compared with the previous survey, the replacement rate resulting from death seen in female household heads decreased by 1.5 points in the 70 to 74 age group, but increased for females age 75 and older. For ages 75 and over, the 2.9point increase experienced in the 75-79 age group was the largest of all. Combined with the data on relationship with previous household heads, it can be understood that more and more elderly females take over the household of their spouses after their spouses' deaths.

2. Arrivals and Departures of Household Members

For this paper, "arrivals" shall be defined as

household members (including those under 18 years old) that did not live with the head of their current household five years ago but did at the time of survey (including births), and "departures" as those that lived with the household head five years ago but did not at the time of survey (including as a result of death). Among continued households, 17.0% had arrivals over the past five years while 25.6% had departures. Since the questionnaires treat arrivals and departures differently, it is not possible to compare them directly in a consistent manner, but the fact that more households had experienced departures of their members than arrival of new members is consistent with the trend of shrinking household size.

Figure IV-3 shows the distribution of various reasons for joining and leaving households. On this survey, reasons were not recorded for the arrival of children that were born over the past five years, so (1) of the Figure IV-3 shows the proportion of continued household members accounted for the overall arrivals of people that did not live with the household head five years ago and those that were not born yet (the total of the two). Part (2) of Figure IV-3 shows the proportion of each reason that account for the arrivals (the case where the survey subject did not live with the household head five years previous to the time of survey) and departures that reside in a continued household and were subject to this survey. According to the figure, 49.8% of those surveyed did not live together with the head of their current household five years ago, while 50.2% were not born yet. Figures depend on the proportion of those for which it is unclear whether they lived together with the household head five years ago, however, it can be said that birth has a great impact on arrivals to households. The most common reason for new members to join a household is marriage, followed by occupational changes, and other reasons. On the other hand, the main reasons for leaving households are marriage, death, and occupation. In terms of change from the fifth survey, the ratio of arrivals accounted for by new births as increased slightly on the previous survey. For the reasons behind arrivals, there was also a slight increase in "other reasons" and "admission to or graduation from schools." However, there was no significant change apparent besides the decline in percentage for "other reasons." In terms of departures, the increase in death and decline in marriage as reasons stood out. The changes in the reasons for departures can be attributed to recent trends, including the increase in deaths that accompany aging, as well as the rise in the number of people that get married later in life or not at all.



Figure IV-3 Numbers of Arrivals and Departures for Different Reasons (per 100 Continued Households)

(2) Proportion of arrivals/departures by reason

3. Changes in the Size of Households

It was found that the average size of continued households decreased by 2.8 to 2.6 during the past five years by comparing the current household size with that of five years ago. Figure IV-4 shows the distribution of different household sizes. By breaking down of the size of households from one person to six and above, we see that there was an increase in the number of households with one and two persons, but there was a decrease in those with four or more. There was little change in the proportion of households with three persons.

Table IV-3 presents detailed figures illustrating the change in household size. As can be seen there is a significant change in households with three or more persons five years ago. Between 70% to 80% of one-person and two-person households stayed at the same size, while the same was true for 56.7% of three-person households and 50.2% of five-person households. In terms of increases and decreases in the household size, among the households that had one person five years ago, there was naturally no decreases in household numbers as this analysis targeted continued households; however, for households with two or more members, there were more households that decreased in membership than increased. On the previous survey, among the households that had

Figure IV-4 Distribution of Households by Size (per 100 Continued Households)



Note: This calculation is of data for household heads that are age 18 and up. Household heads with unknown history are not included in the calculation.

two members, there were more for which size had increased compared to those that decreased. There is also a trend becoming apparent where smaller households are beginning to shrink as well. Furthermore, compared to the last survey, the proportion of households that showed increases in size declined. There was also a rise in the percentage of households that decreased in size, excluding fiveperson households.

Presel 5 years ago	nt Total number of households	One- person	Two- person	Three- person	Four- person	Five- person	Six-person or more	Total
One-person	1,639	83.8 (82.6)	9.9 (11.9)	5.1 (4.2)	1.2 (1.3)	0.1 (0.1)	0.0 (0.0)	100 (100)
Two-person	2,454	13.9 (12.5)	72.9 (72.0)	8.3 (9.6)	3.5 (5.1)	1.1 (0.7)	0.2 (0.2)	100 (100)
Three-person	1,689	3.5 (3.9)	24.8 (22.9)	56.7 (53.9)	12.6 (14.5)	1.7 (3.8)	0.7 (1.0)	100 (100)
Four-person	1,561	2.6 (1.8)	11.0 (12.1)	24.0 (22.1)	55.2 (55.7)	6.0 (6.3)	1.2 (2.0)	100 (100)
Five-person	619	1.9 (3.2)	3.4 (3.3)	11.8 (12.7)	26.3 (24.4)	50.2 (49.2)	6.3 (7.2)	100 (100)
Six-person or more	344	3.8 (1.6)	4.4 (1.4)	4.9 (5.4)	10.2 (15.5)	24.7 (20.7)	52.0 (55.3)	100 (100)
Total	8,306	22.2 (20.5)	31.0 (29.1)	20.6 (20.0)	16.6 (18.7)	6.6 (7.8)	3.0 (3.9)	100 (100)

 Table IV-3 Change in Household Size (per 100 Continued Households; figures in parentheses are from the previous year)

Note: This calculation is of date for household heads that are age 18 and up. Households of unknown size are not included in the calculation.

4. Changes in the Family Types of Households

Looking at the family types among continued households that have been in existence for the last five years, the largest family type accounted for at 41.6% is the married couple with their children, followed by husband and wife only at 23.6%, and one-person households at 22.1% (omitting households for which the family type is unknown).

Table IV-4 shows the changes in family types among continued households from five years ago and at the time of survey (omitting households for which the family type was unknown five years ago or at the time of survey). Figures show that the family type has not changed for most, accounting for 70% to 80% of the cases. Among the overall number of continued households that offered clear family types five years ago and at the time of survey, 79.4% of households showed no change in family type (79.3% on the fifth survey). In the case that the family type changed, 7.6% of one-person households became households with children, 13.2% of households with a married couple only became households of a married couple with their children, 10.4% of households consisting of a married couple and their children became a married couple only, and 12.0% of "other households" became households of a married couple with their children.

Table	IV-4	Change i	n Family	Types	(Continued	Households)
			•/		(-	,

Present 5 years ago	Number of households	One-person households	A married couple only	A married couple with their children	Other house- holds	Total
One-person households	1,639	83.8	6.5	7.6	2.1	100
A married couple only	1,873	10.9	74.1	13.2	1.8	100
A married couple with their children	3,625	5.7	10.4	81.1	2.8	100
Other households	1,159	4.4	7.2	12.0	76.4	100

Note: This excludes households for which the head is under 18 years old and where the family type is unknown.

5. Leaving Household Head Positions

The survey defines respondents who were the heads of households five years ago, but not household heads at the time of the present survey, as "former household heads." These "former household heads" can be classified into those who had left their position when merging with other households, upon which one household had absorbed the other (these will be called "absorption type" here), and those who have been replaced by another member in the same household ("replacement type"). The proportions of each type out of the total survey targets (aged 18 and up; excluding respondents for which it was unknown whether they were the head of the household or not) are, among males, 1.6% for absorption type (1.8% on the fifth survey) and 0.2% for replacement type (0.2% on the fifth survey). Among females, the corresponding proportions are 2.4% for absorption type (2.6% on the fifth survey) and 0.3%for replacement type (0.2%) on the fifth survey) (excluding respondents for which it was unknown whether they were the head of the household or not). The high proportion of absorption type former heads among females may be because females are more likely to give up their positions as heads of their one-person households when they get married and merge with their spouses' households, where they become non-household head members. Compared to the previous survey, the proportion of both male and female absorption type household heads decreased slightly. Meanwhile, as for replacement type former heads, no clear trends of changes could be identified, due to the insufficient number of samples.

When the proportions of absorption type and

replacement type of former household heads (aged 18 and up; excluding respondents for which it was unknown whether they were the head or not) are distributed by age group (Figure IV-5), the percentage of the absorption type is high among respondents aged 20 to 39 for both males and females, peaking in the 25-29 age group (7.1% for males and 12.6% for females). The percentage of replacement type former heads is high among the elderly generations, but they are under 1% in all age groups except for males in the 75-84 age group and females in the 70-79 age group and age 85 and above. Compared to the previous survey, the proportion of absorption type female former heads increased by 2.1 points, but actually decreased by 1.7 points for males at the same time. The absorption type cases in this age group include, in addition to the aforementioned marriage, cases where respondents go back to their parents' home after graduation from schools and due to U-turn migration. Changes in socioeconomic conditions are expected to have had an influence on the trend of going back to one's parents' home.



Figure IV-5 Distribution of Former Household Heads

Note: This calculation is of date for household heads that are age 18 and up. Household heads with unknown history are not included in the calculation.

V Household Formation and Expansion

1. Leaving Parental Households

Figure V-1 compares the proportion of males and females who lived with their parents at the time of the present survey with the data from the fifth survey five years ago. Young, unmarried people who do not live with their parents tend to live alone, in which case the response ratio to the questionnaires is quite low. For this reason, it is necessary to take into consideration that there is some response bias in the results, and thus the survey will show a higher percentage of respondents living with their parents than in reality. For instance, on this survey the proportion of respondents in the 30-34 age group that live together with their parents is 47.9% for males and 36.5% for females. However, these figures must be quite lower. Here, it is assumed that the response bias has not changed in the last five years. Among both males and females, the percentage of the respondents living together with their parents increased, indicating that the trend of delaying leaving home is dominant. Until the early 20s, the proportion of males that live together with their parents is lower, indicating that a higher proportion of males leave their parents' home before marriage than females. However, from the late 20s, when the proportion of people leaving their parents' home for marriage increases, the number of females leaving their parents' home surpasses that of the males, boosting the relative ratio of males that stay at their parents' homes.

Figure V-1 Distribution of Respondents Living Together with Their Parents by Age and Sex



Figure V-1 Distribution of Respondents Living Together with Their Parents by Age and Sex



Figure V-2 shows the average age at which respondents in different cohorts, which have experience leaving home, left their parental household for the first time by sex. There is a high possibility that the data obtained from the younger cohorts born after 1970 does not reflect the actual trend, as it does not include data for people that will leave home after the time of this survey. Taking this into consideration, it could be said that males who were born in 1945 to 1949 left their home at the youngest age on average, with the average age of leaving home becoming higher among younger cohorts. In the case of females as well, the cohort

born in 1950 to 1954 left their home at the youngest age and the average age of leaving home became higher thereafter. However, both males and females born between 1965 and 1969 left their homes earlier than preceding cohorts. This cohort was between 39 and 44 years old at the time of this survey, most of which had already finished leaving home, with little possibility for the further leaving. Thus, in terms of the average age that respondents leave home, there has been deceleration of a delay in home-leaving for persons born after 1965.

Figure V-3 shows the reasons for the first home-leaving by birth cohort and sex. There are

significant differences between males and females, in particular regarding whether they left their home before getting married. Among those who had already left their parents' home, over 60% of the males are considered to have left before marriage excluding those born before 1934, while over 40% of the females lived at home with their parents until marriage. Nonetheless, the proportion of females leaving their home before marriage has been on the rise over the long term, and the percentage of females who continued living at home with their parents until marriage has dropped from over 70% to below 50% for the 1970-1970 birth cohort. However, this cohort was in the 34-39 age group at the time of survey, so if they marry during their late 30s there is the possibility that the percentage

will surpass 50%.

In general, home-leaving for education or occupation is thought to be undergone before marriage. In the past, when only a relatively small portion of the population advanced to high school and college, those who left home for employment largely outnumbered those who left home to enter schools. However, in recent years, the gap between these two groups is becoming smaller and smaller, as obtaining higher education is grows increasingly more common. Although those who left home to attend schools increased significantly among both males and females born in 1945 and later, the growth has leveled off since around the 1960s.



Figure V-3 Reasons for Leaving Home

2. Cohabitation

Although no question on this survey directly inquires about cohabitation, we are able to make

presumptions about cohabitation indirectly from questions related to relationships and marital status (Resource V-1).

Resource V-1	Ouestions ab	out Relationshir	os and Marital	Status
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問4 あなた(世帯主)との続柄はどれですか。	 問6 この方の結婚の経験は、次のどれですか。
1 世帯主 2 配偶者 3 子 4 子の配偶者 5 孫 6 孫の配偶者 7 世帯主の父母	8 配偶者の父母 9 祖父母 10 兄弟姉妹 11 その他の親族 12 恋人・友人等 13 その他	 1 未 婚 2 有配偶(現在結婚している) 3 死 別(配偶者と死に別れた) 4 離 別(配偶者と離婚した)

In order for cohabiters to state their difference from normal marriage, household heads may choose "lover, friend, etc." as the relationship with the person they live together with or chose an alternative other than "married" as their marital status, or both. For this reason, Table V-1 lists the marital status and relationship with partners age 35 years old and less who have a "spouse" or a "lover, friend, etc." of the opposite sex living in the same household.

Table V-1 Marital Status of Household Heads Age 35 and Under and Relationship with their Partner

	I WI UNU		
	Lover, friend, etc.	Spouse	Total
Single	25	1	26
Widowed/divorced	0	1	1
Currently married	0	603	603
Total	25	605	630

According to this table, of the 630 household heads age 35 years old and less living together with partners of the opposite sex, 603 (95.7%) could be regarded as having a conventional marriage, while the remaining 27 (4.3%) responded differently from the responses expected from those who are married. Of these, it would be safe to regard 25 people who stated they were single or widowed/ divorced and the partner was lover, friend, etc. clearly as unmarried couples living together. In addition, there were two household heads who answered that their partners are spouses but they themselves are currently not married. These two heads are also considered to have stated relationships different from conventional marriage. Thus, we decided to regard all of these 27 couples as cohabiters.

Figure V-4 shows the proportion of cohabiters out of the total respondents for each 5-year age group. Note that the denominator of the calculation includes currently married respondents as well. The proportion of cohabiters among the total respondents from 18 to 34 years old in the present survey is 1.0% for males and females, falling from their previous survey findings of 1.4% and 1.3%, respectively. Looking at the data by age, the percentage of male cohabiters increased in the teens, decreased in the early 30s, and showed little change for the 20s. Females showed increases for the under 25 year old age group, but decreases for 25 and older. Nonetheless, the proportion of cohabiters never exceeds 2.5%, indicating that cohabitation in Japan is still a very rare behavior.

Figure V-4 Cohabitation Percentages



3. Marriage

Table V-2 shows the changes in the ratio of unmarried persons over the past five years. As can be seen, percentages have increased for both males and females for nearly all of the age groups, while there is a clear trend characterized by more people delaying getting married or not marrying at all. Moreover, the percentage of males that display this trend are increasing at a faster rate than women. This is due to the fact that the overpopulation of



males at the time of birth is now maintained until time of marriage due to the decline in mortality, as well as cohorts that shrink in size due to low fertility rates.

A decrease in the ratio of never-married respondents aged 25 years and under was observed between the fourth survey (1999) and fifth survey (2004). On this survey, however, the trend has now returned to that of decline in marriage.

Age	Males				Females			
	3rd survey	4th survey	5th survey	6th survey	3rd survey	4th survey	5th survey	6th survey
20-24 years old	93.3	93.4	92.4	95.9	88.6	88.4	87.9	92.1
25-29 years old	66.0	64.4	64.3	71.6	46.4	51.3	56.3	60.4
30-34 years old	33.2	34.2	39.4	41.5	16.6	20.7	28.1	30.2
35-39 years old	20.5	20.9	23.3	30.6	9.7	9.7	14.1	16.1
40-44 years old	13.8	16.3	15.5	20.2	5.0	6.1	8.8	11.8
45-49 years old	9.0	10.7	10.7	14.4	4.0	4.6	6.6	9.8

Table	V-2 I	Proportion	of the	Never	-married	by A	Age (Group	and S	Sex
						•/		-		-

4. Childbirth

Many married couples have babies within several years after getting married and their households thus start to expand. However, the recent demographic changes such as the aforementioned tendencies to marry later, not marrying at all, having children later, and having fewer children are expected to suppress this expansion of household sizes.

Table V-3 compares the proportion of the respondents living together with their children with the previous survey by age group. The overall

proportions of respondents aged 20 and older that live together with their children decreased from 49.2% to 46.5% for males and from 54.0% to 52.9% for females. The decline is observed consistently excluding males in the 60-64 age group and females in the 55-64 age group. Just as with figures for the first marriage, there was an increase in the percentage of respondents mainly in their 20s that lived together with their children between the fourth survey (1999) and fifth survey (2004), however figures are now beginning to decrease, and even for those in their 20s.

Table V-3 Proportion of Res	pondents Living Together w	vith their Children by Ag	ge Group and Sex
			7 1

Age		Ma	lles		Females			
	3rd survey	4th survey	5th survey	6th survey	3rd survey	4th survey	5th survey	6th survey
20-24 years old	4.0	3.6	4.5	2.5	6.2	6.0	7.0	5.4
25-29 years old	18.5	19.1	21.9	18.0	29.6	28.5	28.7	27.5
30-34 years old	47.8	43.8	44.4	42.5	58.3	60.9	57.1	53.4
35-39 years old	67.5	63.1	61.4	55.2	68.3	78.6	73.8	70.1
40-44 years old	74.8	72.1	70.4	63.7	79.2	82.7	82.2	76.3
45-49 years old	77.5	73.4	72.2	69.5	78.7	80.7	76.6	74.4
50-54 years old	76.1	74.6	67.6	58.3	71.1	70.0	68.4	66.9
55-59 years old	66.6	62.9	59.3	54.8	56.8	58.2	54.4	57.2
60-64 years old	57.8	50.0	48.3	49.0	52.6	46.3	43.6	45.4
65 years old and up	51.3	46.5	41.5	40.9	59.8	52.8	49.3	47.2

VI Household Dissolution and Reduction

1. Deaths of Spouses and Divorces

The respondents whose marital status was "currently married" five years ago but "widowed" in the present survey had experienced deaths of their spouses within the past five years. The proportion of those who became widowed within the past five years is 1.7% for males and 5.1% for females. These are the highest figures since the third round in 1994, where for women there was a 0.7-point increase on the previous survey (Table VI-1). Examining the percentage of the widowed population among different age groups, for males the percentage grows gradually from the 50s, shows a relatively major jump in the 80 years and older age group, and surpasses the 10% mark for the 85 years and older age group. Percentages for females grow at a faster pace than for males from the 50s, reach nearly 10% in the 70-74 age group, and then after that show significant growth to reach 43.1% in the 85 years and older age group. The percentage of widowed elderly respondents age 65 and older is 14.0% for females and 3.7% for males, displaying slight increases from the previous survey (13.3% and 3.1%, respectively). This

Table VI-1 Percentage of Respondents that Widowed Over the Past Five Years by Sex and Age

	Ма	lles	Fem	ales
	5th survey	6th survey	5th survey	6th survey
Total	1.7	1.4	5.1	4.4
29 years old and under	-	-	-	-
30-34	-	-	-	0.5
35-39	0.2	0.4	0.4	-
40-44	-	0.2	0.8	-
45-49	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.5
50-54	0.4	0.5	1.3	2.3
55-59	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.7
60-64	1.7	1.1	4.0	3.0
65-69	2.2	1.2	5.8	5.8
70-74	2.4	2.8	9.6	14.1
75-79	3.9	3.2	20.7	15.8
80-84	6.8	7.7	29.9	31.0
85 years old and up (recount)	11.3	8.0	43.1	37.1
65 years old and up	3.7	3.1	14.0	13.3

Note: The ratio of respondents that had a spouse five years ago but whose spouse had died by the time of the present survey. means that roughly one in seven elderly women that were married five years ago had their husband pass away in the past five years. The gender disparity seen in the percentage of widowed elderly persons is chiefly a result of the difference in average lifespan between men and women.

Table VI-2 shows the transition of these family types in more details by taking people that have been widowed over the past years and comparing their family type five years ago to the present one (at the time of survey). Among males, the most common change is a shift from household of a married couple only to one-person households (31.8%), accounting for approximately one-third of all cases. The second most common family type is those classified as "other households" both five years ago and at the present (27.1%), followed by a transition from households of a married couple with their children to single-parent households with children (14.0%). These three types of transition account for approximately three fourths of the total. As for females, just as with the males, this change from a married couple only to oneperson was also the most common type of change, representing 38.7%. This was followed by "other households" without changes in the family type (28.0%) and then households of married couples with their children that change into single-parent households with children (17.4%). However, in the case of females, these three cases accounted for a higher proportion than in the case of males, surpassing 80% (84.1%).

People that were married five years ago but already lived alone or with their children only are believed to have been living separately from their spouse for various reasons, such as those with spouses that were staying at welfare facilities or hospitals.

The respondents whose marital status was "currently married" five years ago but "divorced" in the present survey had experienced divorce from their spouses within the past five years. Table VI-3 compares the change in family type of divorcees five years ago and today. From the data we can see that for males the most common transition is from a married couple and children to a oneperson household (17.1%). The second most common type for males is a single-person household that was also a single-person household five years ago (13.4%), followed next by a transition from a married couple only to a one-person household (12.2%), and then "other household" that was the same five years ago and today (12.2%). Females differed from males, as the transition from a married couple and their children to one parent and children was accounted for an overwhelmingly

large percentage of female divorcees, at 35.9%, while other than that the case where a household of a married couple and their children transits to an "other household" was also somewhat common (10.6%).

People that were married five years ago but already living alone or with their children only are believed to have been living apart from their spouse before the divorce. In addition, figures for people that currently belong to a family type that is a household with a married couple and their children or a single parent and their children, include cases where they move back in with their parents after divorce as well.

Present Male (N=107)					Female (N=357)					
5 years ago	One- person house- holds	A married couple only	A married couple with their children	A single person with their children	Other house- holds	One- person house- holds	A married couple only	A married couple with their children	A single person with their children	Other house- holds
One-person households	6.5	-	-	-	0.9	3.1	-	-	0.3	-
A married couple only	31.8	-	-	-	38.7	38.7	-	-	2.2	1.4
A married couple with their children	3.7	-	-	14.0	0.9	3.9	-	-	17.4	2.5
A single person with their children	-	-	-	6.5	-	0.3	-	-	0.8	-
Other households	3.7	-	-	0.9	27.1	0.8	-	-	0.6	28.0

Table VI-2 Family Type Before and After Bereavement

Note: Percentage out of total number (N) excluding unidentified household types.

Present	Male (N=107)					Female (N=357)				
5 years ago	One- person house- holds	A married couple only	A married couple with their children	A single person with their children	Other house- holds	One- person house- holds	A married couple only	A married couple with their children	A single person with their children	Other house- holds
One-person households	13.4	-	-	4.9	1.2	5.6	-	-	2.8	0.7
A married couple only	12.2	-	6.1	-	1.2	7.7	-	0.7	1.4	2.8
A married couple with their children	17.1	-	7.3	8.5	3.7	4.2	-	1.4	35.9	10.6
A single person with their children	-	-	1.2	6.1	-	0.7	-	-	7.0	2.8
Other households	3.7	-	-	1.2	12.2	0.7	-	0.7	7.0	7.0

	Table	VI-3 Pro	portion of l	Respondents	Living'	Together	with their	Children b	v Age Grou	p and Sex
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Note: Percentage out of total number (N) excluding unidentified household types.

2. Departure of Children and Empty Nest

Households where children left home due to employment, marriage, etc., leaving behind married couples are called "empty nests." Empty nests are common targets of social interest, considering their roles in residential environments as well as in terms of morale of married couples, health and care of parents and the married couples themselves, and so on. Looking at continued households with a household head that is age 50 or older, 19.4% shifted from a household of a married couple with children five years ago to their present household of a married couple only. This was only a minor change from the 19.5% on the last survey (Figure VI-1).

Looking at the proportion of households that transited from a married couple with children to a household with a married couple only, and separating those statistics by the age of the household head (current age), we observe that the proportion increases greatly from 10% in the early 50s (12.3% on the fifth survey) to 20.7% in the late 50s (19.6% on the fifth survey), and peaks at 26.1% in the late 60s (25.8% on the fifth survey). The empty nest phenomenon occurs most commonly for household heads between their late 50s to 60s.



Figure VI-1 Transition from Married Couple with Children to Couple Only by Age of Heads

3. Health of the Elderly and their Households

In the following, we categorize respondents in need of help and special care into three categories: some help required, bedridden or in need of full support, or hospitalized based on the alternatives related to health conditions of household members. Looking at the proportion by sex and age (Figure IV-2), it is seen that the percentage begins to rise from the late 50s for both sexes and shows even more significant increases after entering the 70s, where 12.3% of males in the 75-79 age group and 15.2% for females require some form of support. Furthermore, in the 85 years old and up age group figures growth dramatically, reaching 41.1% for males and 55.4% for females. Among the entire respondents aged 65 years old and up, the proportion of the respondents requiring care is 10.8% for males (11.5% on the fifth survey) and 16.0% for females (16.2% on the fifth survey).



Figure VI-2 Proportion of People that Need Special Care by Sex and Age





One person A married couple only A married couple with their children Single parent and children Other

Figure VI-3 looks at the distribution of family types of households among the respondents aged 65 years old and up according to the need of special care. The figure shows that for males, most elderly males that are in need of special care are part of a household with a married couple only at 37.5% (35.9% on the fifth survey). The next most common family type is "other households" at 33.0% (38.8% on the fifth survey) and then a married couple and their children at 16.3% (13.0% on the fifth survey). Trends for females differed, as the most common family type for elderly females that require special care was "other households" at 41.6% (52.0% on the fifth survey), followed by single-person household at 22.0% (16.4% on the fifth survey), and household with a married couple only at 16.4% (14.6% on the fifth survey). Comparing these figures with the type of households that elderly respondents that do not require special care belong to, we see that while there were rises in the percentage of both males and females that belong to "other households," single-person households, and households with a single parent and their children, there was a decline in a married couple only and a married couple and their children. This survey is unable to compare the family types before and after when special care became necessary, but it is safe to say that these results indicate that there was some transition in family type as a result of special care becoming necessary.

Figure VI-4 shows a breakdown, by need of special care, of the results of asking respondents aged 65 and up living with children if their children have experience leaving home. The percentage of the respondents living with children with experience leaving home (i.e., who left the home at least once but came back) is 51.8% for males not requiring special care as opposed to 62.9% that do require special care. The corresponding values for females are 57.7% and 64.5%. In either case, the proportion that require special care is greater than those that do not. These results indicate that there is a trend where separately living children return home to live with their parents due to a change in their parents' health.

¹ This survey is based on materials publically released on 10 December 2010.