

The 1999 Population and Social Security Research
**The Fourth Survey of Japanese Households
Report**

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Department of Population Structure Research

I Introduction

1 Overview

Since 1990, demographic characteristics in Japan have experienced marked changes. Although life expectancy has improved thanks to a decrease in the mortality rate, the rapid decline in the birth rate since the 1970s, which has dropped below the death rate, is expected to usher in a new era of decreasing population in Japan. The aging of the population is expected to continue, and the trend will be escalated in the 2010s when baby boomers reach age 65. Changes in gender relations have led to delays in marriage, an increase in the percentage of never-married adults and a rise in the divorce rate.

The cumulative effects of these trends have produced changes in the size and the composition of households, as well as changes in the process by which households are created and separated. Changes in kinship and household composition in the face of the ever-increasing elderly population, the growth in the number of one-parent family households, as well as the increasing number of children who continue living with their parents into their young and mature adulthood, all present important academic and political cases. The Surveys of Japanese Households are conducted to measure these demographic changes in households, and to obtain sufficient data with which to make projections of future demographic trends in households.

The Fourth Survey of Japanese Households was carried out on July 1, 1999, five years after the previous survey in 1994, with cooperation from the then Statistics and Information Department, Minister's Secretariat, Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare, metropolitan and prefectural governments, municipal governments in major cities, as well as health centers all over the country. The survey in 1999 covered a similar set of topics as in the previous survey in 1994, which included the size and the composition of households, the heads of the houses' experience in the period between the two surveys, children starting out on their own, and changes in marital relationships which produce and separate more and more households.

2 Methodology and the rate of collection

The survey used the sample from the Population Profile Survey in 1999, which selected 1,048 localities as a random, non-stratified sample, as the sampling frame. The estimates in this report are based on responses from all households in 300 localities randomly selected from 1,048 localities. Designated interviewers distributed and collected questionnaires, which were, in principle, requested to be filled out by the heads of the houses.

Out of a total sample of 16,267 households, completed questionnaires were collected from 13,385 households. After excluding questionnaires which were not filled out at all, as well as those who did not answer important questions on the form, data obtained from 12,434 households were processed for analysis and estimation. The collection rate was 82.3 percent, while the proportion of valid responses was 76.4 percent.

As shown in Table I-1, the proportion of the heads of the houses 50 years of age and over increased, compared with the estimates from the Population Census in 1995, while the proportion of the heads of the houses under age 50 decreased. These trends can be attributed partly to changes in population composition that happened during the 4-year period, although it should also be noted that there are a sizeable number of the heads of the houses in their twenties who did

not return their questionnaires.

Table I -1 Households by age

Age of householder	The 4th Survey of Japanese Households(1999)		The 1995 Population Census		Difference in percentage
	Number of households	Percentage (%)	Number of households (in thousands)	Percentage (%)	
All households	12,434	100.0	43,900	100.0	-
Under 19 years old	123	1.0	585	1.3	-0.3
20 to 24 years old	391	3.1	2,537	5.8	-2.6
25 to 29 years old	613	4.9	2,879	6.6	-1.6
30 to 34 years old	870	7.0	3,141	7.2	-0.2
35 to 39 years old	905	7.3	3,260	7.4	-0.1
40 to 44 years old	1,016	8.2	4,140	9.4	-1.3
45 to 49 years old	1,345	10.8	5,383	12.3	-1.4
50 to 54 years old	1,503	12.1	4,802	10.9	1.1
55 to 59 years old	1,387	11.2	4,376	10.0	1.2
60 to 64 years old	1,263	10.2	4,130	9.4	0.7
65 to 69 years old	1,116	9.0	3,466	7.9	1.1
70 to 74 years old	913	7.3	2,355	5.4	2.0
75 to 79 years old	505	4.1	1,524	3.5	0.6
80 to 84 years old	312	2.5	907	2.1	0.4
85 years old and over	172	1.4	415	0.9	0.4

Souse: Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency(1995) *The Population Census*

The survey enumerated not only households as units, but also household members 18 years old and over. Table I-2 compares household components in different age groups to population components in the same age groups. The proportions almost coincided because the two surveys were conducted in the same year, and because people in their twenties who were not the heads of the houses returned their questionnaires as well as their counterparts in other age groups.

Table I -2 Household components by age

Age	The 4th Survey of Japanese Households(1999)		The Population Estimate(1999)		Difference in percentage
	Number of people	Percentage (%)	Number of population (in thousands)	Percentage (%)	
18 years old and over	28,767	100.0	103,424	100.0	-
18 to 19 years old	829	2.9	3,135	3.0	-0.1
20 to 24 years old	2,265	7.9	8,890	8.6	-0.7
25 to 29 years old	2,515	8.7	9,895	9.6	-0.8
30 to 34 years old	2,371	8.2	8,678	8.4	-0.1
35 to 39 years old	2,195	7.6	7,916	7.7	0.0
40 to 44 years old	2,336	8.1	7,897	7.6	0.5
45 to 49 years old	2,799	9.7	9,444	9.1	0.6
50 to 54 years old	2,822	9.8	9,856	9.5	0.3
55 to 59 years old	2,559	8.9	8,897	8.6	0.3
60 to 64 years old	2,271	7.9	7,630	7.4	0.5
65 to 69 years old	1,996	6.9	6,951	6.7	0.2
70 to 74 years old	1,618	5.6	5,737	5.5	0.1
75 to 79 years old	1,042	3.6	3,926	3.8	-0.2
80 to 84 years old	639	2.2	2,468	2.4	-0.2
85 years old and over	510	1.8	2,104	2.0	-0.3

Souse: Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency(1999) *The Population Estimates*

II Households in 1999

1 Individuals' membership in different types of households

Overall, households are becoming smaller and smaller. One out of every four people belonged to households comprised of four people.

Among the population 18 years and over, 24.9 percent belonged to households comprised of four people, while the proportion of those belonging to three-people, two-people or five-people households represented 22.7 percent, 21.7 percent and 12.0 percent, respectively. The order was the same as in the previous survey. The proportion of those who belonged to two-people households grew the most during the period 1994-1999 by 2.9 percentage points, compared with 1.6 percentage points for three-people households and 0.4 percentage points for four-people households. In contrast, the proportion of people who belonged to households containing five people or more decreased during the same period. The average size of households to which the population 18 years and over belonged declined by 0.1 people, from 3.6 percent in 1994 to 3.5 percent in 1999.

In looking at the distribution of household types, the largest proportion of households contained only two people, representing 25.6 percent of all households. The second most common type of households were those that contained three people (20.5 percent), compared with four-people households and one-person households representing 20.1 percent and 19.8 percent, respectively. The most noticeable trend is a growth in the proportion of three-people households that had surpassed the share of four-people households during the five-year period. Overall, the proportion of households containing two people increased the most by 2.4 percentage points, compared with an increase of 1.1 percentage points for three-people households. Households comprised of four people or more decreased in proportion and it should be noted that the proportion of five-people households declined the most by 1.9 percentage points. The average size of households also decreased by 0.2 people, from 3.1 people in 1994 to 2.9 people in 1999.

Table II-1 Size of households

	Total	One person	Two people	Three people	Four people	Five people	Six people	Seven people	8 people or more	Average size (people)
The population 18 years old and over										
The 4th Survey of (people)	28,767	2,456	6,229	6,525	7,149	3,446	1,856	813	293	3.5
Japanese Households in 1999 (%)	100.0	8.5	21.7	22.7	24.9	12.0	6.5	2.8	1.0	
The 3rd Survey of (people)	20,788	1,621	3,914	4,380	5,098	2,884	1,786	795	310	3.6
Japanese Households in 1994 (%)	100.0	7.8	18.8	21.1	24.5	13.9	8.6	3.8	1.5	
Number of households										
The 4th Survey of (households)	12,434	2,456	3,184	2,543	2,501	1,053	464	179	54	2.9
Japanese Households in 1999 (%)	100.0	19.8	25.6	20.5	20.1	8.5	3.7	1.4	0.40	
The 3rd Survey of (households)	8,578	1,621	1,993	1,660	1,764	853	445	181	61	3.1
Japanese Households in 1994 (%)	100.0	18.9	23.2	19.4	20.6	9.9	5.2	2.1	0.7	

The average size of households to which individuals belong peaked among 40- to 44-year olds.

Figure II-1 represents the size of households to which individuals in different age groups belonged. Among the population 24 years and under, one out of every three belonged to four-people households, representing the largest proportion of the age group. On the other hand, the largest proportion of men 25 to 34 years old (slightly smaller than 30 percent) belonged to

households containing three people. Among men 35 to 54 years old, those who lived in four-people households represented the largest proportion (30 to 35 percent), whereas the majority of men 55 to 59 years old belonged to three-people households. Men 65 years old and over were most likely to live in two-people households, and about half of men 65 to 84 years old were found in households consisting of two people. Women 25 to 29 years old were most likely to live in households containing three people (32 percent), while the largest proportion of women 30 to 39 years old belonged to four-people households. The largest share of women 50 to 54 years old (30 percent) lived in three-people households, while the majority of women 55 to 79 years old were found in two-people households. Women 80 to 84 years old were most likely to live alone (21 percent), while the largest proportion of women 85 years and over (27 percent) lived in three-people households. Among older adults, 20 percent of women lived alone whereas only 5 percent of men were found in households consisting of people living alone. The reason why such a large proportion of the elderly are found in two-person households is that more and more of their children start out on their own as they age.

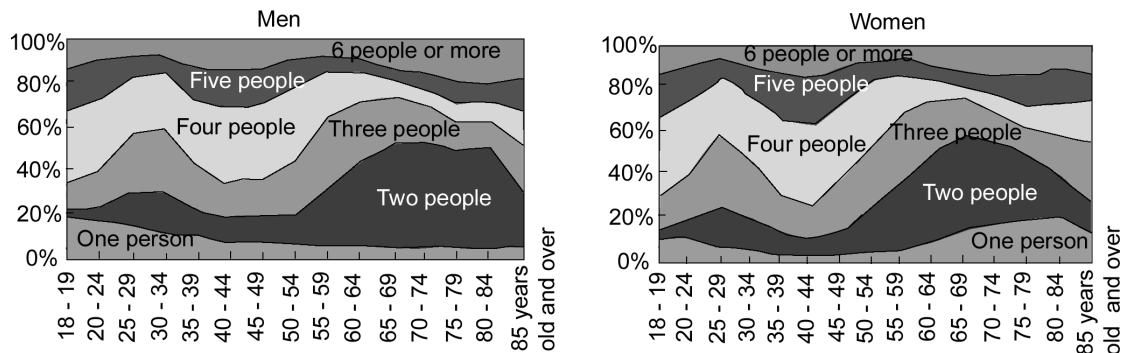


Figure II-1 Individuals' membership in different types of households

The average size of households to which different age groups belonged was larger for women than for men among the population 10 to 49 years old, whereas men were more likely than women to live in bigger households among the population 50 years and over. In the age group under 19 years, the average size was 3.8 people for men and 4.0 people for women. The numbers dropped both for men and for women with age until they leveled out among women 25- to 29-year old and among men 30- to 34-years old, at 3.4 people and 3.2 people, respectively. The figures peaked among the population 40 to 44 years old (4.0 people for men and 4.2 people for women) followed by a steady decline bottoming out at 3.0 people for men 60 to 64 years old and at 2.9 people for women 65 to 69 years old. The size of households becomes larger again as people age into their late adulthood. Among the

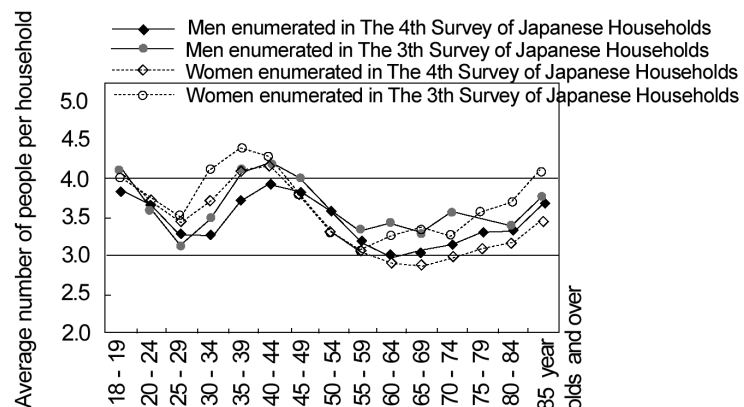


Figure II-2 Average number of people per household for different age groups

population 85 years and over, the average size of households was 3.7 people for men and 3.5 people for women. Compared to the estimation from the previous survey, people lived in smaller households in 1999, with the exception of men 25 to 29 years old. The trend was most noticeable among women 60 years and over. For example, the figure for women 85 years and over decreased by 0.6 people, from 4.1 people in 1994 to 3.5 people in 1999.

Two thirds of the population belonged to nuclear families. The majority were found in households consisting of married couples with children.

Table II-2 divides households to which individuals belong into various categories. Among the population 18 years old and over, the vast majority belonged to nuclear households, compared with those belonging to 'other households' (25.3 percent) or to households consisting of people living alone (8.5 percent). Although the order was the same as in the previous survey, the proportion of those who belonged either to nuclear families or to one-person households increased slightly while the proportion of those who lived in 'other households' decreased by 5.8 percentage points. Less diversity of household types was evident in 1999 than in 1994.

In looking at variation in household types in more detail, the largest proportion of 18-year olds and over (42.2 percent) lived in households containing married couples with children, while those who belonged to households consisting of married couples without children (16.6 percent) and those in multigenerational households consisting of, for example, a householder living with his/her children and grandchildren (15.5 percent) were the second and third largest. Although the vast majority of the same age group (41.2 percent) had belonged to households containing married couples with children also in the previous survey, those who had belonged to multigenerational households had had the second largest share (19.4 percent) whereas those in households containing married couples without children had represented only 14.6 percent in 1994.

Apart from different types of households to which individuals belonged, among all households enumerated in 1999, the majority (36.7 percent) were maintained by married couples with children, while households consisting of people living alone (19.8 percent) and those containing married couples without children (19.4 percent) were the second and third most common type of household. Although the order was the same as in the previous survey, the proportion of one-person households, as well as the percentage share of households that are made up of married couples without children, increased slightly.

Table II-2 Households by type

	Total	Household by type											Unknown				
		One person	Nuclear family	Married couples without children	Householders with children				Other households								
					Total	Married couples with children	Single-father families	Single-mother families	Total	Householders with married children	Householders with married and unmarried children	Householders with married children and grandchildren		Other family households	Non-family households		
Population 18 years of age and over																	
The 4th Survey of (people)	28,767	2,456	18,509	4,771	13,738	12,140	262	1,336	7,280	925	54	4,459	1,657	185	522		
Japanese Households in 1999 (%)	100.0	8.5	64.4	16.6	47.8	42.2	0.9	4.6	25.3	3.2	0.2	15.5	5.8	0.6	1.8		
The 3rd Survey of (people)	20,788	1,621	12,687	3,031	9,656	8,556	196	904	6,457	591	81	4,041	1,698	46	23		
Japanese Households in 1994 (%)	100.0	7.8	61.0	14.6	46.4	41.2	0.9	4.3	31.1	2.8	0.4	19.4	8.2	0.2	0.1		
Number of households																	
The 4th Survey of (households)	12,434	2,456	7,769	2,406	5,363	4,568	128	667	1,966	293	13	1,124	462	74	243		
Japanese Households in 1999 (%)	100.0	19.8	62.5	19.4	43.1	36.7	1.0	5.4	15.8	2.4	0.1	9.0	3.7	0.6	2.0		
The 3rd Survey of (households)	8,578	1,621	5,215	1,518	3,697	3,155	94	448	1,721	186	18	1,013	482	22	21		
Japanese Households in 1994 (%)	100.0	18.9	60.8	17.7	43.1	36.8	1.1	5.2	20.1	2.2	0.2	11.8	5.6	0.3	0.2		

Note: Non-family households are included in other households as same as the 3rd survey of Japanese Households in 1994.

Among the elderly population, men were most likely to belong either to ‘other households’ or to households maintained by married couples without children. The majority of women the same age lived in households consisting of people living alone.

Figure II-3 shows variations in household types to which individuals in different age groups belonged. Both men and women 59 years and under were most likely to live in households containing married couples with children, while the second largest proportion of people the same age belonged to ‘other households’. The vast majority of men 60 to 84 years old lived either in households consisting of married couples without children or in ‘other households’. On the other hand, while women 60 to 69 years old were most likely to be found either in households consisting of married couples without children or in ‘other households’, women 70 years and over were found most either in ‘other households’ or in one-person households. The proportion of men living alone was the highest among those 19 years and under, and the proportion dropped steadily with age. Among men 85 years and over, only 5.3 percent lived alone, while older women were much more likely to live alone. Among women 80 to 84 years old, the proportion of those living alone accounted for 21.8 percent, which is twice as large as the proportion of younger adults living alone.

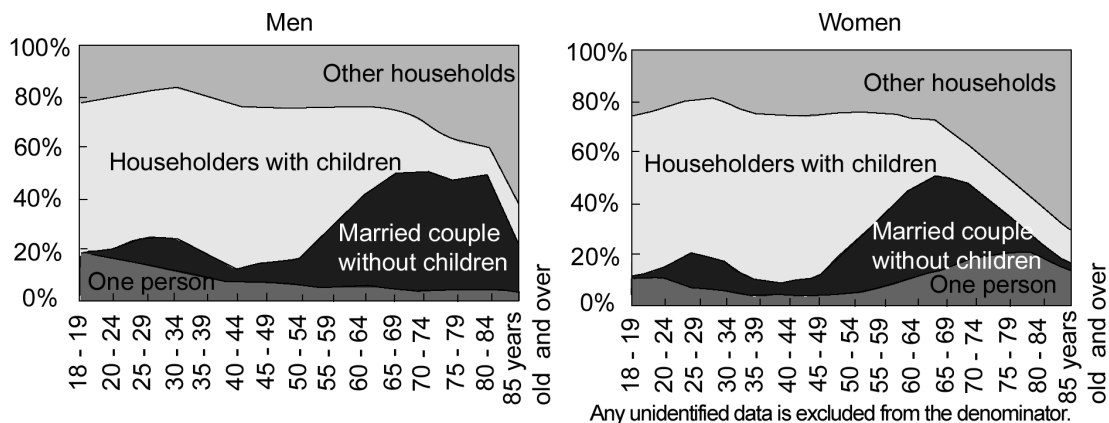


Figure II-3 Size of households by sex, age and type (four types)

2 Housing

The proportion of those who lived in homeowner housing was the lowest among the population 30 to 34 years old, while 80 to 90 percent of older adults were found in homeowner housing.

Table II-3 shows different types of housing in which individuals lived in 1999. The majority (66.2 percent) lived in owned houses, while 15.7 percent rented apartments or houses. Those who owned and lived in condominiums accounted for 7.0 percent, whereas 4.4 percent lived in public housing. Although there was not much difference in the proportions between men and women, there was a larger percentage share of women than men among those who lived in owned housing, as well as among those who lived in public housing. In 1994, the proportion of those who owned and lived in condominiums was larger than the proportion those who rented apartments or houses.

Table II-3 Housing by type

		Total	Owned houses	Owned and lived in condominiums	Lived in Public housing	Rented apartments or houses	Housing was provided as part of salary	Others	Unknown	
		(people)	(%)							
The 4th Survey of Japanese Households in 1999	All population	28,767	100.0	66.2	7.0	4.4	15.3	2.5	1.3	3.4
	Men	13,853	100.0	65.4	6.8	4.2	16.1	2.8	1.3	3.4
	Women	14,914	100.0	66.9	7.2	4.6	14.5	2.3	1.2	3.4
The 3rd Survey of Japanese Households in 1994	All population	26,100	100.0	66.5	5.0	6.5	14.1	4.0	1.1	2.9
	Men	12,647	100.0	65.8	5.0	6.4	14.2	4.5	1.1	3.0
	Women	13,372	100.0	67.1	5.0	6.4	14.0	3.5	1.1	2.8

Figure II-4 represents variation in housing in which men and women in different age groups lived in 1999. The proportion of people who lived in owned houses was the lowest among men and women 30 to 34 years old, representing 44.4 percent for men and 46.9 percent for women. People around the age of 30 were likely to rent apartments and houses, or live in public housing. 32.8 percent of men 30 to 34 years old rented apartments or houses, while 6.9 percent of the same population lived in public housing. On the other hand, 30.6 percent of women 25 to 29 years old rented apartments or houses, whereas 6.6 percent lived in public housing. The percentage of those who could afford a house was the lowest among the population around the age 30, as people in this age group are most likely to start out in new family households. The proportion of those who lived in owned housing increased with age, representing 80 to 90 percent of those in their late adulthood. Relatively high proportions of older adults lived in owned housing, compared to their counterparts in young adulthood.

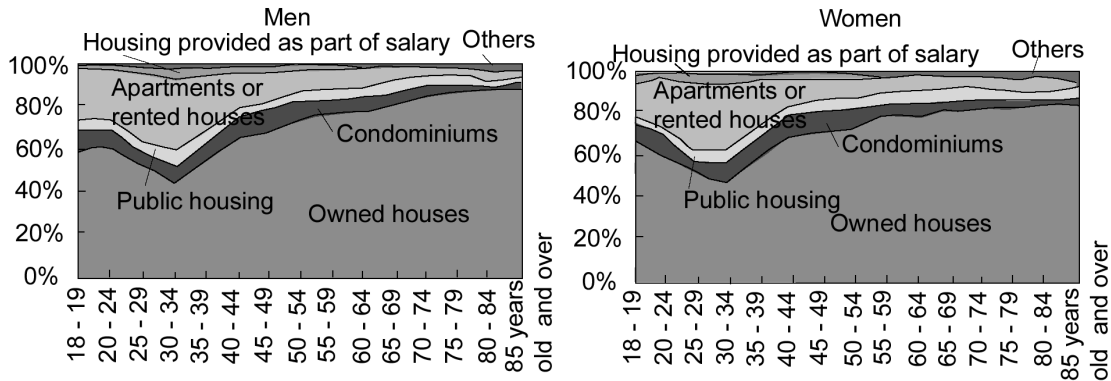


Figure II-4 Different types of households by sex and age

III Kinship and living arrangements

1 Living arrangements of older adults

82.7 percent of the population 50 years and over had children over the age of 18 in 1999, representing a smaller percentage share than in 1994.

Figure III-1 shows variation in the proportion of those who lived with children, as well as the share of those who lived apart from their children, by different age groups. Among the population 18 years and over, 49.8 percent had children over the age of 18, compared with 52.3 percent in 1994. 92.6 percent of those 65 years and over had children over the age of 18, compared with 94.1 percent in 1994. The proportion of those who had children over the age of 18 increased with age, reaching 82.7 percent, compared with 89.7 percent in 1994, among those who were 50.

Overall, the proportion of people who lived with their children declined. The rate bottomed out at 46.0 percent among the population 65 to 69 years old, but was relatively higher among those in their late adulthood.

The proportion of people who lived with their children over the age of 18 was 32.0 percent, compared with 37.6 percent in 1994, among the population 18 years and over, and 52.1 percent, compared with 58.3 percent in 1994, among the population 65 years and older. Among the population 50 to 54 years old, 64.4 percent, compared with 74.0 percent, lived with their children, while 18.2 percent, compared with 15.6 percent, lived apart from their parents. The proportion of those who lived with their children decreased with aging to 45.6 percent, compared with 52.3 percent, and this was the lowest among the population 65 to 69 years old. On the other hand, the percentage share of those who lived apart from their children increased to 46.0 percent, compared with 40.6 percent, and this was the highest among the same population. The share of those who lived with their children increased as people age into their late adulthood, representing 76.0 percent, compared with 78.2 percent in 1994, among the population 85 years and older.

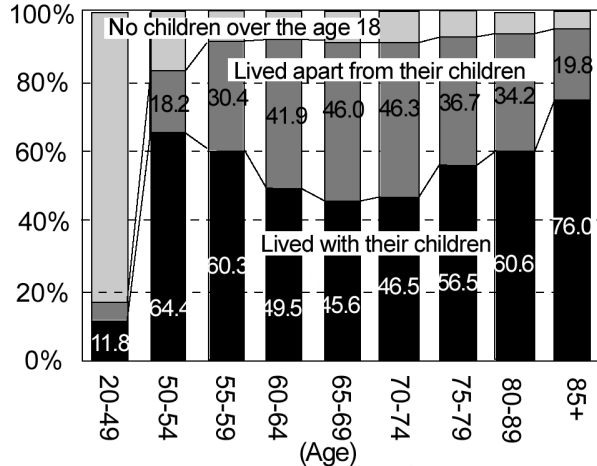


Figure III-1 The proportion of those who lived with children, compared with those who lived apart from their children, by age

Among the population 64 years and under, more men than women lived with their children. On the contrary, among the population 65 years and over, more women than men lived with their children.

Figure III-2 would help you look at the proportion of those with children, as well as the proportion of those who lived with their children, in more detail. Over 90 percent of the population 50 years and over had children. The proportion of those who lived with their children was higher among younger adults, decreasing among those in their forties, as their

children reached the age to start out on their own. Although there is a subtle difference between men and women, the percentage share bottomed out among the population 65 to 74 years old, among those in the ‘empty nest’ period. Compared to the estimates from the previous survey, the proportion of those who lived with their children decreased in almost every age group. It should especially be noted that the share of 65- to 69-year olds who lived with their children dropped to less than 50 percent, although more than half of the same population had lived with their children in 1994. Looking at differences between men and women, more men than women lived with their children among the population 64 years and under. On the contrary, more women than men lived with their children among the population 65 years and over, as a majority of widowed women lived with their children. It could be said that the marital status of older adults has important implications for their living arrangements and consequently affects the overall proportion of people who live with their children. More older adults than ever avoided living with their children in 1999, reflecting the trend in recent years. The trend was most obvious among women 65 to 74 years old, as shown in the rapid decline in the proportion of those who lived with their children. However, the differences between the estimates from the two surveys were relatively smaller among those in their late adulthood. Though people tend to avoid living with their children while they are healthy, they prefer living with their children as they age into late adulthood. Living with grown-up children is still an important component of Japanese living arrangements.

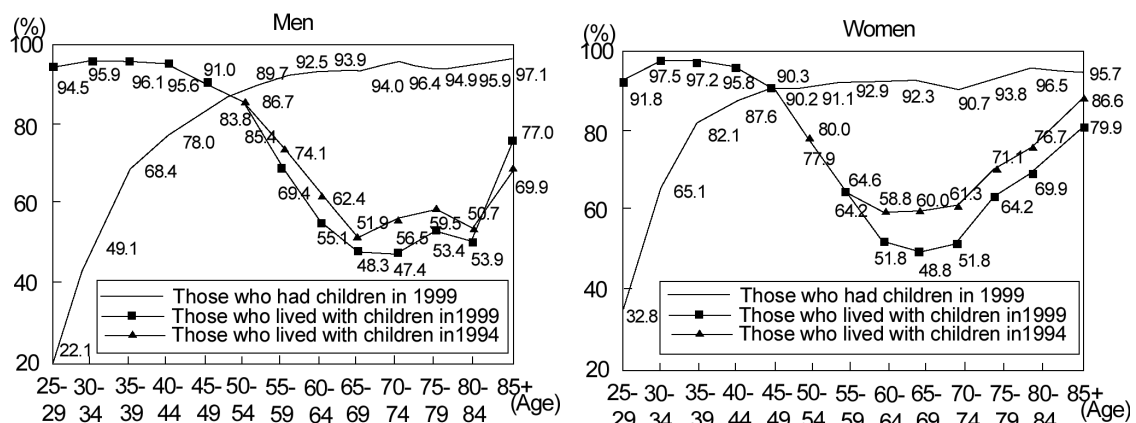
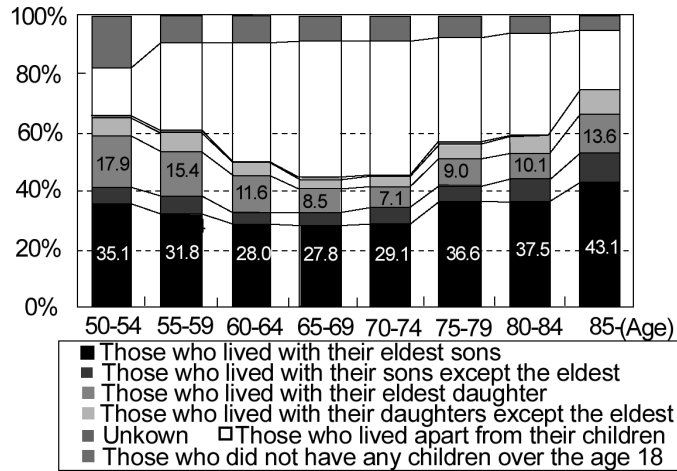


Figure III-2 Presence of children in households, by age

The percentage of older adults who lived with their grown-up daughters increased.

The figure III-3 would be helpful in the discussion about how the sex and seniority of siblings affected their parents’ decision making process by which they choose the one to live with. Among the population 18 years and over, 18.8 percent, compared with 19.7 percent in 1994, lived with their older sons, representing the largest share of the population. Among grown-up children who lived with their parents, those who were the eldest sons accounted for 58.8 percent, compared with 56.2 percent in 1994. 7.3 percent of 18-year olds and over, compared with 7.1 percent in 1994, lived with their eldest daughters in 1999, representing 22.6 percent, compared with 20.1 percent in 1994, among those who lived with grown-up children. A rise in the proportion of those who lived with their eldest children, despite the fact that the overall proportion of those who lived with their children had decreased, could be explained by a decline in the number of children. The proportion of those who lived with their eldest sons increased almost in accordance with every increase in the overall proportion of those who lived with their

children. The proportion of those who lived with their daughters bottomed out among the population 70 to 74 years old, but the proportion increased as parents aged into their late adulthood. Among the population 65 years and over, 38.0 percent, compared with 41.2 percent in 1994, lived with their sons, whereas 13.2 percent, compared with 10.6 percent in 1994, lived with their daughters in 1999. Among those who lived with their children, 25.4 percent, compared with 18.8 percent in 1994, lived with their children. It could be noted that more and more parents are choosing to live with their daughters.



Note: Those who lived with both their sons and daughters were included in those who lived with their sons.
 Figure III-3 Living arrangements of older adults and their relationships with their children over the age 18

Among the population 65 years old and over, the percentage was larger for those who had moved in with their children after living apart for a period of time, than those who had lived with their children all the time.

The figure III-4 shows whether or not individuals in older adulthood had experienced living apart from their children. 42.9 percent of the population 50 to 54 years had never experienced living apart from their children, whereas only 20.2 percent of 70- to 74-year olds had never lived apart from their children. However, among the population 85 years and over, 33.4 percent had never lived apart from their children. 20.5 percent of 60-to 64-year olds lived with their children after living apart from them for a period of time, and the percentage share increased as they age. Among the population 65 years and over, more of those who lived with their children in 1999 had experienced living apart from their children in the past. Among the population 85 years and over, 37.1 percent had moved in with their children after having separate households. The relatively higher percentage of those who had resumed living with their children among the population 75 years and over is thought to be caused by health problems that require help from caretakers.

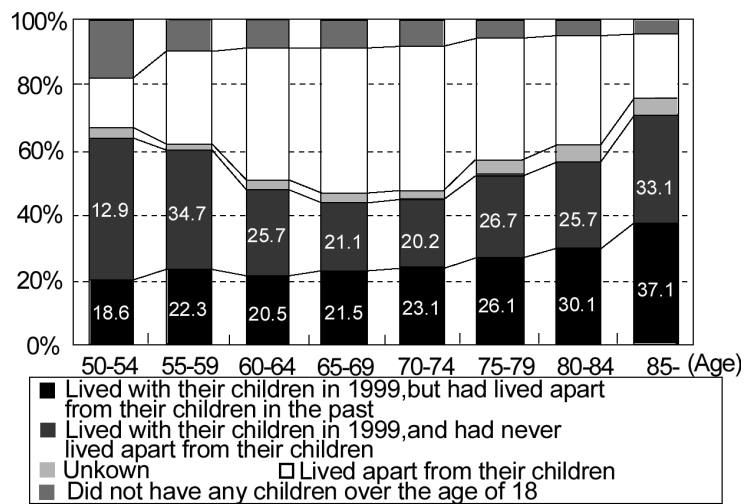


Figure III-4 Older adults' past experience of living apart from their children

2 Living arrangement of younger adults

Among the population 18 years and over, one third did not have any parents alive. The proportion of those who had one or both parents alive slightly increased.

Among the population 18 years and over, 68.1 percent, compared with 64.1 percent in 1994, had one or both parents alive in 1999, while 31.9 percent, compared with 35.9 percent, of the same population did not have any parents alive in the same year (Table III-1). Among those who had any of their parents alive, 45.9 percent, compared with 42.0 percent in 1994, had both of their parents alive, whereas the proportion of those who had only their mothers alive and that of those who had only their fathers alive were 18.8 percent and 3.4 percent in 1999, respectively, compared with 18.5 percent and 3.6 percent in 1994. The percentage share of those who had either of their parents alive increased during the five-year period, thanks to improvements in life expectancy

Table III-1 Parents' life status of the population 18 years and over

	Total population	At least one parent alive				Both parents deceased
		Both parents alive	Only fathers alive	Only mothers alive		
Total population	24,396	16,615	11,194	824	4,597	7,781
Percentage(%)	100.0	68.1	45.9	3.4	18.8	31.9

Figure III-5 shows the parents' life status of different age groups. Naturally, the proportion of those who had lost both parents increased with age, decreasing the percentage share of those who had either of their parents alive. Among the population 21 to 29 years old, the proportion of those who had both parents alive was 92.7 percent in 1999, compared with 91.4 percent in 1994. The percentage share was 59.8 percent, compared with 52.7 percent in 1994, for those 45 to 49 years old, and 1.2 percent, compared with 0.4 percent in 1994, for those 65 years and over. However, half of those 50 to 59 years old, as well as 28.5 percent of 60- to 64 years old, had at least one parent alive. Among the population 65 years and over, 8.2 percent, compared with 4.9 percent in 1994, had their parents alive in 1999, reflecting the upward trend over the five-year period.

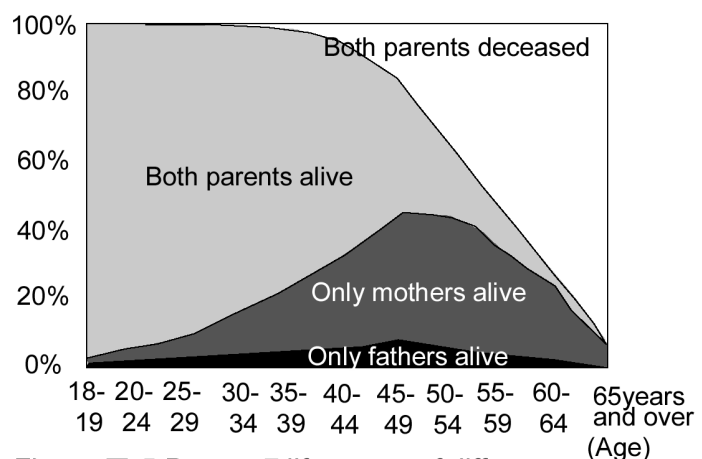


Figure III-5 Parents' life status of different age groups

Among the population 18 years and over, three fourths had at least one of their parents alive, when parents-in-law were included.

Figure III-6 shows distribution in numbers of parents and parents-in-law alive for different age groups. Among the population 18 years and over, 24.8 percent, compared with 27.9 percent in 1994, did not have any parents or parents-in-law alive in 1999. On the contrary, 75.2 percent of the same population, compared with 72.1 percent in 1994, had at least one of their parents alive in the same year. 16.5 percent, compared with 15.8 percent in 1994, had one parent or parent-in-law alive, whereas 37.4 percent, compared with 31.2 percent in 1994, had two parents or parents-in-law alive. Those who had three parents and parents-in-law and those who had four parents and parents-in-law alive accounted for 13.3 percent and 17.3 percent in 1999, respectively, compared with 11.2 percent and 13.9 percent in 1994. In every category and group the percentage share of those who had their parents alive increased. Among the population 65

years and over, 10.9 percent, compared with 7.9 percent in 1994, had at least one of their parents and parents-in-law alive. Among the same population, those who had two of their parents and parents-in-law alive accounted for 1.7 percent in 1999, compared with 1.1 percent in 1994. Overall, among those 65 years and over, one out of eight people had at least one of their parents or parents-in-law alive.

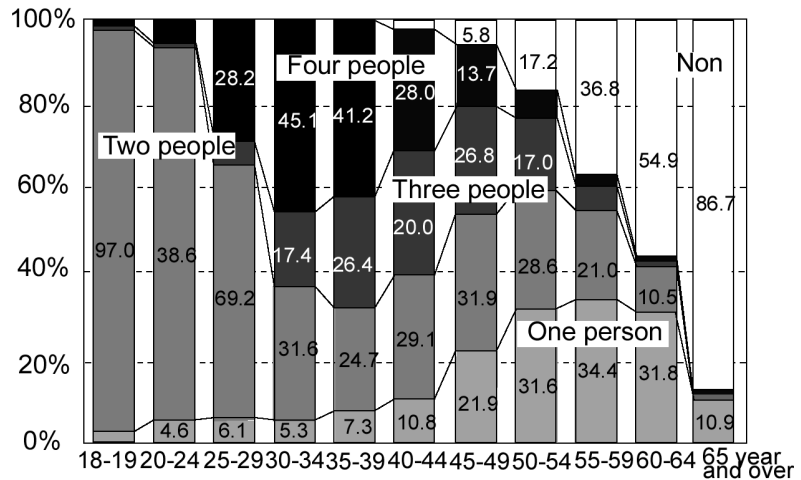


Figure III-6 Distribution in the number of parents and parents-in-law alive for different age groups

Among the population 18 years and over, 32.8 percent of men lived with their own parents while 22.0 percent of women the same age lived with their own parents. The proportion of those who lived with their own parents increased slightly among women 18 years and over.

Table III-2 shows proportions of 18-year-olds and over who lived with their parents, along with the proportion of the same population who lived apart from their parents. Among the population 18 years and over, 27.3 percent, compared with 26.3 percent in 1994, shared the same households with their parents, whereas 41.3 percent, compared with 37.8 percent in 1994, lived apart from their parents. Those who did not have any of their parents alive accounted for 31.5 percent of the same population, compared with 35.9 percent in 1994. 32.8 percent of men 18 years and over, compared with 33.2 percent in 1994, lived with their parents in 1999, while 22.0 percent of women the same age, compared with 19.7 percent in 1994, shared their homes with their parents in 1999. Those who did not live with their parents represented 38.2 percent of men and 44.1 percent of women in 1999, compared with 33.6 percent for men and 42.0 percent for women in 1994. Although the proportion of those who lived with their parents was still larger for men than for women in 1999, the proportion of women who lived with their children increased slightly during the period since the previous survey.

Table III-2 Presence of parents in households of the population 18 years old and over by sex

Sex	Total population		Those who lived with their parents	With both parents	With fathers	With mothers	In separate households	Both parents deceased
	People	Percentage (%)						
Total population	24,703	100.0	27.3	18.8	1.4	7.0	41.3	31.5
Men	12,026	100.0	32.8	21.7	1.9	9.3	38.2	28.9
Women	12,677	100.0	22.0	16.1	1.0	4.8	44.1	33.9

People with insufficient information are not included.

Figure III-1 shows the proportion of those who shared households with their parents, compared with that of those who had separate households from their parents, of different age groups. It can be observed that the age 30 represents an important turning point both for men and for women. While a little less than 80 percent of the population 20 to 24 years old lived at home with their parents, the proportion of women in their twenties and thirties who lived with their parents decreased with age, compared to that of men the same age, as the proportion of those who are married increase as they age. However, among the population 30 to 34 years old, the proportion of women who lived with their parents increased slightly from 21.5 percent in 1994 to 22.9 percent in 1999, whereas the rate dropped among the men the same age from 41.2 percent in 1994 to 39.0 percent in 1999. This trend shows consistency with a rise in the proportion of never-married adults, along with the increasing proportion of people who continue living at home with their parents into mature adulthood. Although the proportion of men and women who lived with their parents steadily declined with age, 4.3 percent of men 65 years and over, compared with 3.3 percent in 1994, as well as 1.1 percent of women the same age, compared with 0.8 percent in 1994, lived with their parents in 1999.

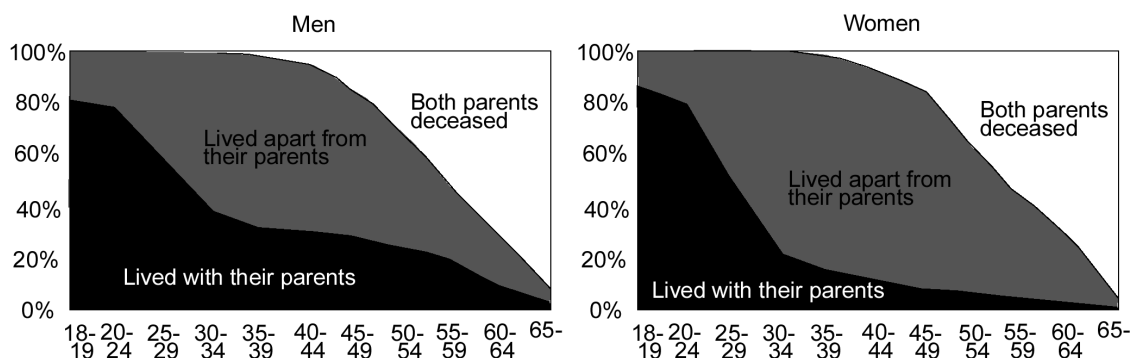


Figure III-7 Proportions of those who lived with their parents compared to those who did not: Distribution by age and sex

4.8 percent of married women lived with their own parents in 1999, when 16.3 percent of the same population lived with their parents-in-law. The proportion of married women who lived with their parents-in-law decreased slightly.

Figure III-8 shows the proportion of those who lived with their parents-in-law compared with those who did not live with their parents-in-law in 1999. Overall, 10.6 percent of all the married population, compared with 11.3 percent in 1994, lived with at least one of their parents-in-law in 1999, while 53.4 percent of the same population, compared with 49.0 percent in 1994, lived apart from their parents-in-law in the same year. Those who did not have any of their parents-in-law alive accounted for 36.0 percent of all of the married population, compared with 39.7 percent in

1994. 4.8 percent of married men, compared with 4.0 percent in 1994, lived with their parents-in-law, whereas 60.8 percent of the same population, compared with 58.6 percent in 1994, did not live with their parents-in-law in 1999. On the other hand, 16.3 (18.0 in 1994) percent of married women lived with their parents-in-law in 1999, when 46.0 (40.0 in 1994) percent of the same population did not live with their parents-in-law, reflecting one of the most important characteristics of Japanese households. However, compared with the estimation from the previous survey, changes in the proportion of married men who lived with their parents-in-law had been negligible, while the proportion of married women who lived with their parents-in-law decreased. The proportion of married men who lived with their parents-in-law peaked at 7.3 percent among 45- to 49-year olds, followed by a steady decline with age. On the other hand, the proportion of married women who lived with their parents-in-law peaked at 23.7 percent among 45- to 49-year olds, also followed by a steady decline with age. The reason why relatively larger proportions of 45- to 49-year olds were found to live with their parents is thought to be that, while a majority of their parents must have been still alive, they would have been most likely to be in their late adulthood.

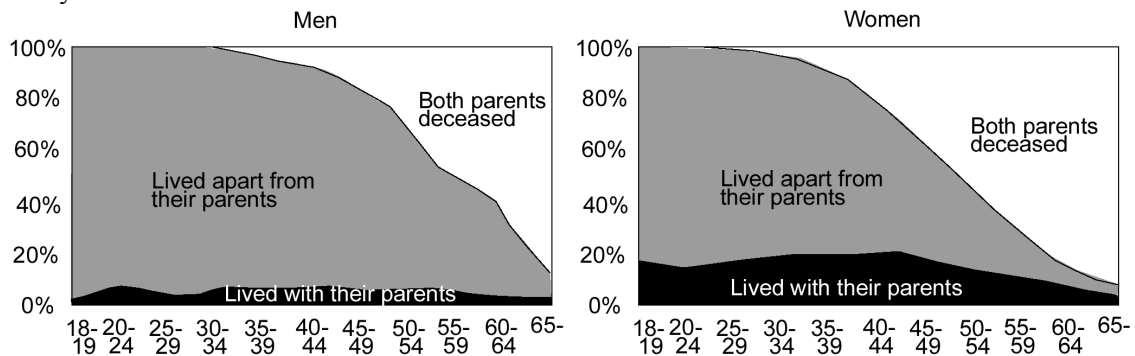


Figure III-8 Proportions of those who lived with their parents-in-law compared with those who did not in 1999: Distribution by age and sex.

3 Relationships with other relatives

The average number of siblings per person declined slightly

Table III-3, Figure III-9 and Table III-4 show the average number of siblings for different age groups (only those who were alive in 1999 are included). The average number of siblings per person (including the person who was enumerated) peaked at 4.31 people among the population born between 1935-39. The figures were smaller among younger populations, and the average number of siblings per person among the population born between 1975-79 was only 2.38 people. Overall, the average number of siblings per person for the total population enumerated in 1999 was 3.21 people. The number declined slightly from 3.44 people in 1994, as a sizable proportion of Baby Boomers had lost their siblings during the five-year period. Among generations born in 1960 and later, the average number of siblings almost coincided at 2.5 people.

Table III-3 The average number of siblings per person, for different age groups

Year of birth	Total population	Average number of siblings(people)	
		The 4th Survey of Japanese Households in 1999	The 3rd Survey of Japanese Households in 1994
Total population	28,767	3.21	3.44
-1924	2,305	2.94	3.31
1925 - 29	1,677	3.77	4.22
1930 - 34	2,026	4.19	4.58
1935 - 39	2,268	4.31	4.59
1940 - 44	2,596	4.12	4.21
1945 - 49	2,939	3.70	3.80
1950 - 54	2,685	3.28	3.31
1955 - 59	2,311	2.77	2.88
1960 - 64	2,212	2.52	2.57
1965 - 69	2,366	2.44	2.46
1970 - 74	2,526	2.43	2.43
1975 - 79	2,242	2.38	-

Unknown sample are not included

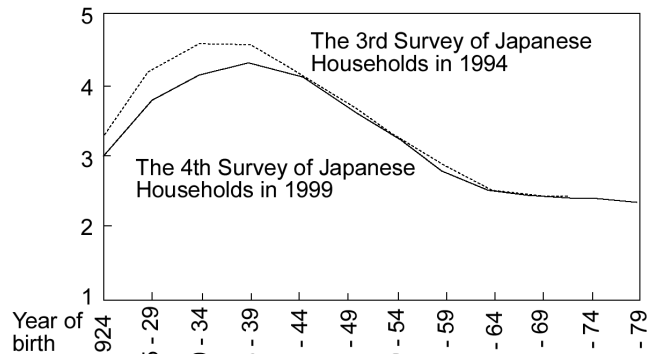


Figure III-9 The average number of siblings per person, for different age groups

Among younger generations, half of women did not have any brothers. About 70 percent of men were the eldest sons.

As the number of siblings decreased, a larger proportion of people did not have siblings of a different sex. The proportion of women who did not have any brothers increased from 23.7 percent among the population born between 1935-39 to 44.9 percent among 1975-79 (Table III-4). Furthermore, the proportion of those who were the eldest child increased as well. Among the population born between 1975 and 1979, 71.7 percent were the eldest sons.

Table III-4 Proportions of those who are the eldest child compared to those who are not; by sex and age(only those who were alive in 1999 are included.)

Year of birth	Men			Women			
	Total population	The eldest sons(%)	Those who were not the eldest	Total population	The eldest daughter	Those who had no brothers (those who were not the eldest)	Those who had brothers
Total population	13,470	63.0	37.0	14,478	22.3	14.1	63.6
-1924	834	84.7	15.3	1,452	43.7	11.7	44.6
1925 - 29	779	70.9	29.1	891	23.1	12.9	64.0
1930 - 34	964	60.1	39.9	1,045	17.8	11.8	70.4
1935 - 39	1,103	52.2	47.8	1,155	13.7	10.0	76.3
1940 - 44	1,258	49.0	51.0	1,320	17.0	10.3	72.7
1945 - 49	1,473	51.5	48.5	1,453	15.1	10.1	74.7
1950 - 54	1,349	54.8	45.2	1,316	15.5	13.7	70.8
1955 - 59	1,158	63.2	36.8	1,140	21.7	16.8	61.5
1960 - 64	1,110	68.8	31.2	1,086	25.9	15.3	58.8
1965 - 69	1,187	72.3	27.7	1,167	24.9	17.0	58.2
1970 - 74	1,176	69.5	30.5	1,324	23.6	18.8	57.6
1975 - 79	1,079	71.7	28.3	1,129	23.3	21.6	55.1

Unknown sample are not included

IV Changes in households: Households survived and households newly created

1 The heads of the houses in 1999

Among all the heads of the houses enumerated in 1999, 14.6 percent had newly become the heads of the houses during the period 1994-1999.

Among all the heads of the houses 18 years old and over, 75.8 percent were men, while women accounted for 14.0 percent. The heads of the houses in 1999 can be divided into those who had been the heads of the houses in 1994 as well and those who had newly become the heads of the houses during the period 1994-1999. The former numbered 9,863 people, representing 85.4 percent of all the heads of the houses (Table IV-1). On the other hand, the latter numbered 1,691 people, accounting for 14.6 percent of all. The heads of 'the households containing the identical heads of the houses as in 1994' could be divided into those in 'un-changed households' (82.1 percent of all the heads of the houses in 1999), which were not merged with other households during the period, and those in 'merged households' (3.3 percent of all the head of the houses in 1999), which had absorbed other households during the same period. The new heads of the houses found in 1999 can be divided into those who replaced the former heads of the houses in the same households (5.1 percent of all) and those who had created new households (9.5 percent of all). As 'Un-changed households' and 'merged households' had existed in 1994 as well, they are sometimes referred to as 'continued households'. Those who headed 'continued households' accounted for 90.5 percent of all the heads of the houses. In general, merging of households decreases the overall number of households, whereas the number increases when new households are created. During the period 1994-1999, about three new households had been created for every merger of households. This explains an increase in the number of households during the five-year period.

Table IV-1 Householders by type

	People	(%)		People	(%)
Total householders in 1999	12,434				
(1)Those headed 'households containing the identical householders'	9,863	85.4	(1-1) Those in 'unchanged households'	9,483	82.1
(2)New householders	1,691	14.6	(1-2) Those in 'merged households'	380	3.3
Householders whose experiences are unknown	880		(2-1) Householders who had replaced the former	590	5.1
			(2-2) Householders in new households	1,101	9.5
(1)+(2-1)Those in "continued households"	10,453	90.5			

Householders whose experiences are unknown are not included in percentages in brackets.

Among the people who had newly become the heads of the houses during 1994-1999, children starting out on their own, as well as widowed women, represented a sizeable proportion.

Looking at the experiences of the heads of the houses in detail, especially paying attention to the sex of the heads of the houses, Figure IV-1 shows the distribution of different types of the heads of the houses for different age groups. Among the heads of the houses in teens and twenties, the largest proportion had created new households, whereas those in 'unchanged households' accounted for the largest proportion among the older male heads of the houses. Those who had created new households were found most among men 25 to 29 years old, representing 20.1

percent of the population. Those in ‘unchanged households’ were found most among men 65 to 69 years old, representing 91.7 percent. The proportions of those who had absorbed other households and those who had replaced the former heads of the houses were relatively small, but 3.2 percent of men 30 to 34 years old, as well as 6.4 percent of men 55 to 59 years old, had absorbed other households. Men in their early thirties are thought to have absorbed one-person households when they got married, whereas men in their fifties and sixties are thought to have absorbed their children’s households when their children moved in with them. A sizeable proportion of those who had replaced the former heads of the houses took the place of their parents, representing 3 percent of the population 20 to 59 years old. Among men 30 to 34 years old, the proportion of the heads of the houses who had replaced their parents accounted for 4.0 percent of all.

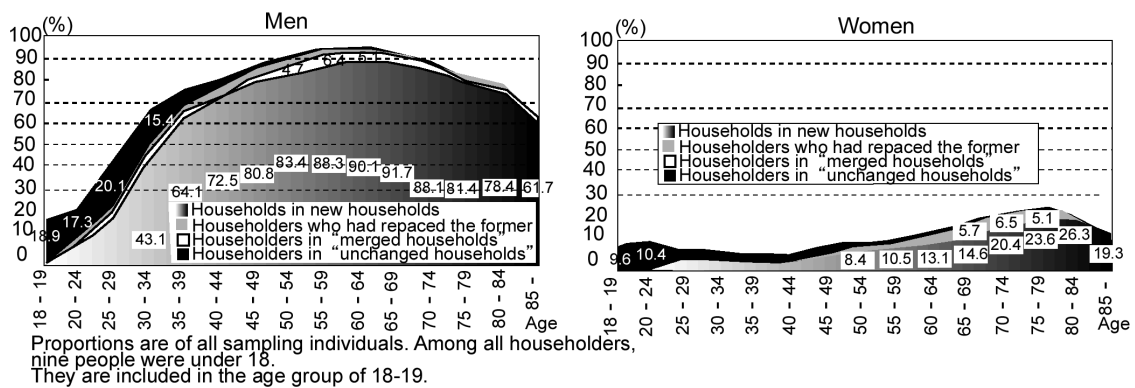


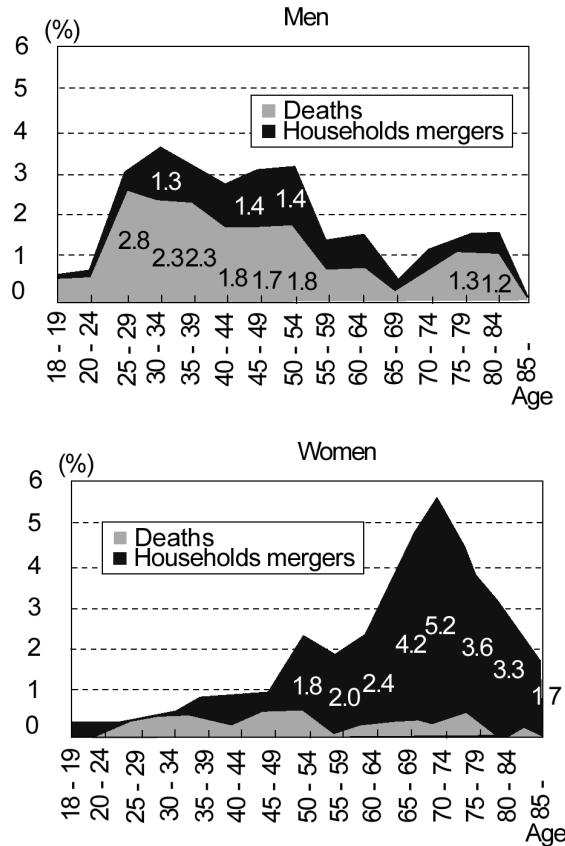
Figure IV-1 Distribution of different householders types by age and sex

The female heads of the houses represented a small proportion of any age group. Although about 10 percent of women 18 to 24 years old were found to be the heads of the houses, the percentage share declined among women in their thirties. However, the proportion of women who headed the houses increased as they aged, peaking at 31.3 percent among women 80 to 84 years old. Looking at the female heads of the houses’ experiences in detail, among the female heads of the houses in their twenties, the largest proportion had created new households during the period since the previous survey, representing 10.4 percent of women the same age. Although the percentage share of the female heads of the houses declined as the proportion of married women increased, the share of the heads of the houses increased again among women 50 years and over as more and more had replaced the former heads of the houses as they aged. The proportion of those who had replaced the former heads of the houses peaked at 6.5 percent among women 70 to 74 years old. Relatively high proportions of those who had replaced the former heads of the houses and those in ‘unchanged households’ are thought to represent widowed women who had taken the place of their husbands following their deaths and had continued to head the houses.

Although the proportion of the heads of the houses was smaller among men in late adulthood, more than 80 percent of 80- to 84-year olds headed the houses in 1999. A rise in proportion of the heads of the houses among the female elderly could be attributed to the fact that the proportion of older adults who don’t live with their children has increased in recent years.

The heads of the houses who had replaced the former heads of the houses in the same households were found most among men 25 to 34 years old and the female elderly. Men were most likely to have replaced their parents when they moved in with them, whereas women were most likely to have replaced their spouses.

The heads of the houses who had replaced the former heads of the houses in the same households during the period 1944-1999 numbered 590 people. Among them, 42.5 percent had replaced their parents, while 42.0 percent had replaced their spouses. These two kinds of replacements accounted for more than 80 percent of all. Other kinds of replacements occurred among those who replaced their parents-in-law (3.7 percent), those who replaced their children (2.0 percent), and those who replaced their grandparents (1.9 percent). The male heads of the houses by replacement were most likely to have replaced their parents (72.8 percent), or their spouses (6.0 percent), or their parents-in-law (5.6 percent). On the other hand, the female heads of the houses by replacement were most likely to have replaced their spouses (79.9 percent), or their parents (10.8 percent). The proportion of the heads of the houses who had replaced the former heads of the houses represented relatively large shares among men 25 to 54 years old, most of them replacing their parents. The percentage share of the heads of the houses by replacement peaked at 3.3 percent among 30- to 34-year olds for men. As for women, the proportions of the heads of the houses by replacement of all populations were relatively larger among those 65 to 84 year olds, most of them replacing their spouses. The percentage share of the heads of the houses by replacement peaked at 5.2 percent among 70- to 74-year-olds for women.



Householders under the age of 18 are included in the age group 18-19.
Figure IV-2 Replacement following deaths or households mergers: Distribution by sex and age

43.1 percent of the all heads of the houses by replacement in 1999 had replaced the former heads of the houses when they moved in with the former heads of the houses, whereas 56.9 percent of replacement occurred following deaths of the former households. The majority of the male heads of the houses by replacement (65.6 percent) had taken the place of the former the heads of the houses when they moved in with them, while the largest proportion of the female heads of the houses by replacement (80.6 percent) had replaced their spouses. Looking at the variation between different age groups, it can be observed that replacement of the heads of the houses were most common among men 25 to 39 years old, as well as women 65 to 84 years old. It should be noted that, while most of replacement for men had occurred when separate households were merged, most of the female heads of the houses by replacement had become the heads of the

houses following deaths of the former heads of the houses (see Figure IV-2).

Overall, the male heads of the houses by replacement were found most among those in their late twenties and thirties, while the female heads of the houses by replacement were found most among those in late adulthood. Men tended to have replaced their parents, where women tended to have replaced their spouses.

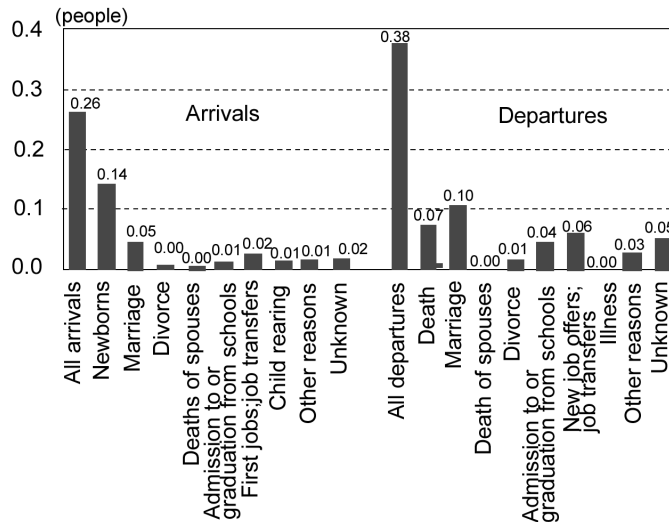
2 Arrivals and departures of household members

Among the households that had continued to exist through the period 1994-1999, 16.1 percent had experienced arrivals of new members, while 26.7 percent had experienced departures of their members. Reasons for departures included marriage, deaths, new jobs and job transfers, as well as admission to or graduation from schools.

Among the households that had continued to exist through the five-year period between 1994 and 1999, 16.1 percent had experienced arrivals of new members, while 26.7 percent had experienced departures of their members. The fact that the households that had experienced departures of their members outnumbered the households that had experienced arrivals of new members underlines the trend in shrinking households.

Figure IV-3 shows distribution of various reasons for joining or leaving households. Among those who had joined 'continued households' as new members, the majority were new-born babies, while others attributed the act to marriage, new jobs, or job transfers. There were some who had merged with other households seeking help in raising their children. In Figure IV-3, the number of all who had joined 'continued households' as new members during the period 1994-1999 for different reasons are divided by the number of all 'continued households'. 0.14 people per household joined 'continued households' as new-born babies, while 0.05 people per household had become new members of 'continued households' after marriage. 0.02 people had joined for new jobs including job transfers, 0.01 people following admission to or graduation from schools, and 0.01 people in pursuit of the help in raising children. On the other hand, 0.10 people per household had left their homes when they got married, 0.07 people had passed away, 0.06 people for new jobs or job transfers, and 0.04 people following admission to or graduation from schools. Overall, 0.26 people per household had arrived as new members of 'continued households' during the period 1994-1999, while 0.38 people per household had departed their old households during the same period. The proportion was slightly larger for those who had departed.

A rise in the proportion of those who had departed from their old households following divorce is consistent with the trend in the increasing divorce rate. Similarly, a growth in the percentage share of those who had moved out from their old households with their first jobs or new job offers, or for marriage, could be explained by the fact that the offspring of Baby Boomers had come of age. One of the most noticeable trends was an increase in the proportion of those who had joined 'continued households' seeking the help in raising children. This trend was observed most among young married couples seeking solutions to their problems of child rearing.



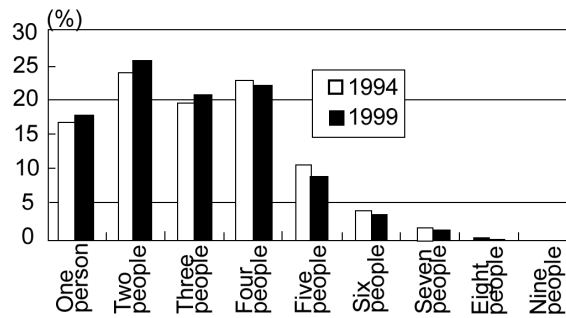
Note: The sample here is consisted of all 'continued households' that had announced whether or not there had been any arrivals or departures during the period 1994-1999.

Figure IV-3 Different reasons for arrivals and departures: person per household of all 'continued households'

3 Changes in the size of households

Among all 'continued households', 13.7 percent increased in size, while 22.0 percent became smaller during the period 1994-1999.

The average size of all 'continued households' that had announced whether or not there had been any arrivals or departures during the period 1994-1999 decreased by 0.1 percentage points, from 3.08 people in 1994 to 2.97 people in 1999. Looking at the proportions of different household sizes, households containing one person, two people, or three people increased during the five-year period, while households containing four people decreased during the same period (see Figure IV-4). Furthermore, among the



Note: Proportions of all continued households that had announced their sizes both in 1994 and in 1999 (8,790 housing units)

Figure IV-4 Households by size: Selected years, 1994 and 1999

same households, 13.7 percent had increased in size during the 5-year period, when those that had decreased in size and those that had remained the same in size accounted for 22.0 percent and 64.4 percent, respectively. This, as well, underlines the recent trend in shrinking households. Looking at changes during the five-year period in detail, households that had contained three people in 1994 were likely to be smaller in 1999. For example, among all continued households that had contained three people in 1994, 20.8 percent were two-people households in 1999, while 16.7 percent contained four people in the same year. On the other hand, households that had consisted of two people in 1994 were most likely to be larger in 1999. However, it should be

noted that this trend could be easily overturned when households containing widowed people living alone outnumber households consisting of married couples with children. It is believed that households containing two people will be more likely to decrease in size in the future.

4 Changes in the types of households

Among the continued households, the proportion of one-person households, as well as that of married couples without children, increased during the period. In contrast, the proportion of married couples with children, along with that of other types of households, declined during the same period.

Compared to the estimates from the previous survey, the proportion of one-person households and that of households containing married couples without children increased (16.7 percent to 17.8 percent; 19.2 percent to 20.1 percent, respectively) (see Table IV-2). On the contrary, the proportion of those consisting of married couples with children, as well as that of other household types, decreased (48.0 to 46.3 percent; 16.1 to 15.9 percent, respectively).

Table IV-2 Continued households by type: Selected years, 1994 and 1999

Household type	1994		1999	
	Number of households	Percentage (%)	Number of households	Percentage (%)
One person	1,455	16.7	1,548	17.8
Married couples without children	1,676	19.2	1,748	20.1
Married couples with children	4,181	48.0	4,032	46.3
Other households	1,401	16.1	1,385	15.9
Total	8,713	100.0	8,713	100.0

Note: Unknown households are not included. Married couples with children include those who did not announce their sex.

The most common type of change in household types was that from married couples without children to married couples with children.

Looking at changes in household types during the period 1994-1999 (see Table IV-3), the largest proportion of one-person households in 1994 (8.9 percent) had changed into households containing married couples with children during the period. Similarly, 15.1 percent of married couples without children in 1994 had turned into households consisting of married couples with children during the same period. 8.7 percent of households containing married couples with children in 1994 were identified as those consisting of married couples without children, while 10.4 percent of other households in 1994 were recognized as households containing married couples with children in 1999. Generally, the first two examples represent an increase in the size of households, whereas the latter two examples represent a decrease in the size of households. It should be noted that married couples without children were more likely to have changed into married couples with children than into households containing people living alone, reflecting the continued trend in married-couple households. However, it is worthwhile to point out that this trend can be overturned as the declining birth rate and health of the elderly start to take effect.

Table IV-3 Households by type: Selected years, 1994 and 1999 (%)

	1999	One person	Married couples without children	Married couples with children	Other households	Total
1994						
One person		81.9	7.8	8.9	1.4	100.0
Married couples without children		9.4	72.9	15.1	2.6	100.0
Married couples with children		3.8	8.7	83.8	3.7	100.0
Other households		2.9	3.6	10.4	83.2	100.0
Total		17.8	20.1	46.3	15.9	100.0

5 People who were formerly heads of their households

People who had formerly been heads of their households in 1994 were found most among 20- to 29-year olds, who had joined other households during the period 1994-1999.

The survey defined those who were not the heads of the houses in 1999 but had been the heads of the houses in 1994 as the 'former heads of the houses.' We divided these 'former heads of the houses' into two categories; those who had accepted to give up their identity when they merged with other households ('former heads of the houses by acceptance') and those who had been replaced by some other member in the same households ('former heads of the houses by replacement'). Among men 18 years and over, 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' and 'former heads of the houses by replacement' accounted for 1.5 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively. Similarly, among women the same age, 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' and 'former heads of the houses by replacement' represented 2.5 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. In general, women are more likely to give up their identity as the heads of the houses when they get married, and for this reason, it is considered that there were more 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' than 'former heads of the houses by replacement' among women.

Looking at the variation between age groups, 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' were found most among men and women in their late twenties (6.7 percent for men; 10.9 percent for women). The proportion of 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' was smaller among older adults, though relatively larger proportions of 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' were found among those 60 years and over. Those who went back to their home to live with their parents (those who 'U-turned'), as well as those who got married and joined other households, made up most of the 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' in their twenties. Most of the 'former heads of the houses by acceptance' in late adulthood had given up being the heads of the houses when they resumed living with their grown-up children. On the other hand, 'former heads of the houses by replacement' were found most among men 60 years and over, as well as women 55 years and over. Most of them are thought to have been replaced by their children.

It is widely believed that a growth in the proportion of 25- to 29-year olds who 'U-turn' reflects the economic recession, and it should be noted that those people represent a sizeable proportion of 'former heads of the houses by acceptance'. In this context, we assert that the trends in living relationships between parents and children are important, not only from the demographic point of view, but also from the economic perspective.

V Households: Increase in number or increase in size

1 Children creating new households

Among the population 25 years and over, men were more likely to live at home with their parents than women. The proportion of women who lived at home with their own children increased during the period 1994-1999.

The Figure V-1 compares the proportions of those who lived with their parents in 1999 with the estimation from the previous survey in 1994. During the five-year period, the proportion of women who continued living at home with parents rapidly increased. Especially, the proportion increased by 5 percentage points among women 25 to 29 years old. Conversely, the proportion of men who continued living with their parents remained relatively stable, except for those in their late twenties. However, it is not clear whether this is due to an increase in the proportion of men who started out in separate households, or because of a decrease in the proportion of men who resumed living with their parents after living separately for a while.

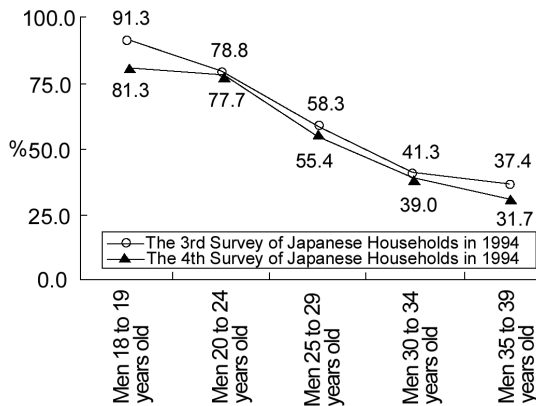


Figure V-1a The proportion of men living with their parents by age: Selected years, 1994 and 1999

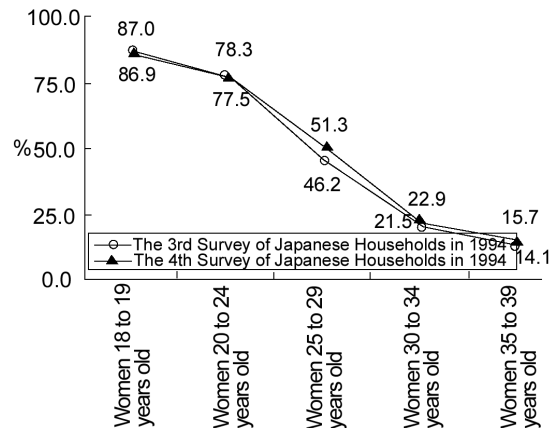


Figure V-1b The proportion of women living with their parents by age: Selected years, 1994 and 1999

The average age at which people started out on their own was higher among younger generations.

Figure V-2 shows the average age at which different cohorts started out in separate households from their parents. The data obtained from those born in 1965-69 do not reflect the actual situation, as quite a large share of them still lived at home with their parents in 1999. Taking this into consideration, it could be said that those who were born in 1945-49 left their homes at the youngest age on average. The average age was higher among younger cohorts. It is widely believed that this trend of delayed children's independence started to appear following the end of the period of high economic development.

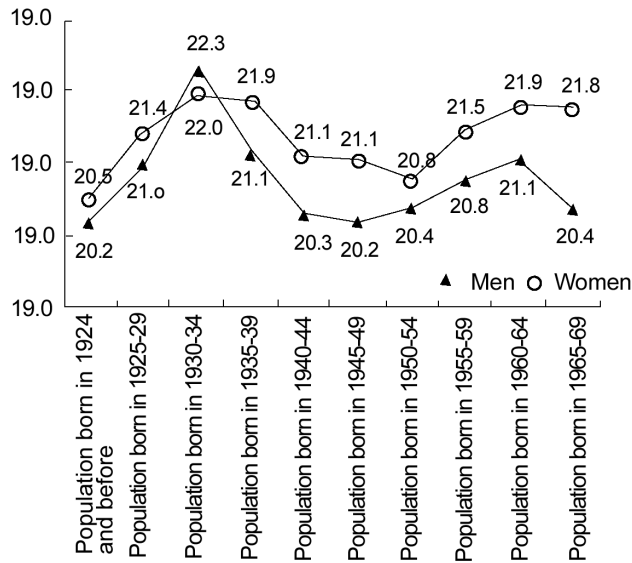


Figure V-2 The average age at which different age groups started out in separate households from parents

The proportion of those who left their homes to attend schools remained relatively stable. The proportion of women who continued living at home with their parents until marriage declined to about 50 percent.

Figure V-3 shows the variation in distribution of different reasons for the first departures from their homes by age and sex. Among those who had already left their parents' homes, 70 percent of men had left before marriage, while the majority of women had lived at home with their parents until marriage. However, the proportion of women who continued living at home with their parents until marriage had declined over a long period, from 70 percent to just more than 50 percent.

In general, those who start out on their own with their first jobs or following admission to schools are thought to leave their homes before marriage. In the old days, when a relatively smaller population of people had higher education, those who started out on their own with their first jobs outnumbered those who started out with admission to

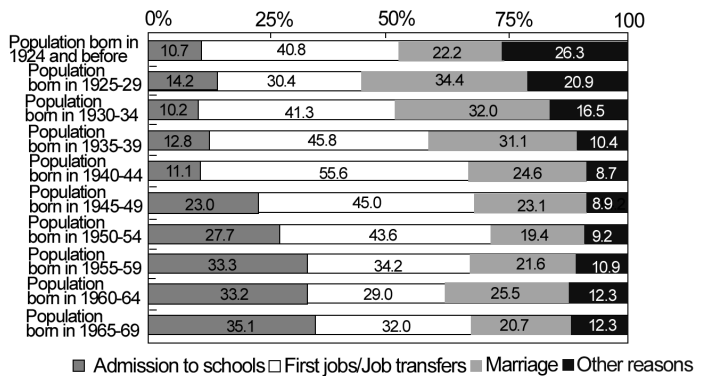


Figure V-3a Different reasons for independence: Men

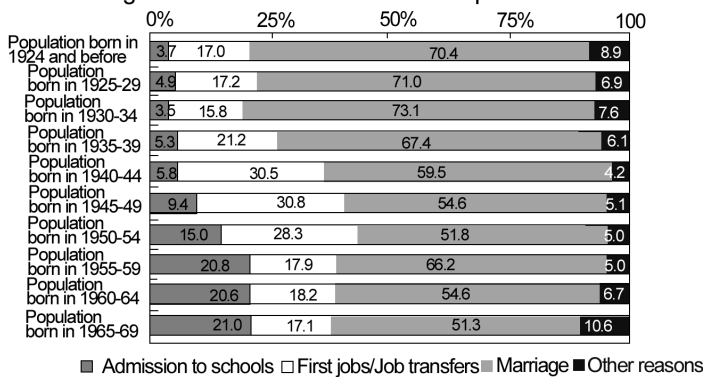


Figure V-3b Different reasons for independence: Women

schools by an overwhelming majority. However, in recent years, the gap between these two groups is becoming smaller and smaller. Although the proportion of those who start out in separate households to attend schools had been steadily rising since the late 1960s, the growth has leveled off in recent years.

2 Marriage

The trend in delaying marriage was obvious among women. The proportion of never-married adults also grew.

Table V-1 shows the rate of the never-married by age and sex. As you can see, the rate remained relatively stable among men. On the contrary, the rate of women 25 to 34 years old increased by 4 to 5 percentage points during the period 1994-1999, reflecting the trend in delaying marriage. Although the rate did not increase so rapidly among older adults, it should be noted the rate of men 45 to 49 years old, as well as women 50 to 54 years old, increased by more than 1 percentage points during the same five-year period. Overall, the trend in delaying marriage was observed.

Table V-1 The rate of the never-married by sex and age: Selected years, 1994 and 1999

Age	Men		Women	
	The 3rd Survey of Japanese Households in 1994	The 4th Survey of Japanese Households in 1999	The 3rd Survey of Japanese Households in 1994	The 4th Survey of Japanese Households in 1999
18 to 19 years old	99.7	98.5	98.2	97.6
20 to 24 years old	93.3	93.4	88.6	88.4
25 to 29 years old	66.0	64.4	46.4	51.3
30 to 34 years old	33.2	34.2	16.6	20.7
35 to 39 years old	20.5	20.9	9.7	9.7
40 to 44 years old	13.8	16.3	5.0	6.1
45 to 49 years old	9.0	10.7	4.0	4.6
50 to 54 years old	5.0	5.4	2.7	4.4
55 to 59 years old	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.2
60 to 64 years old	1.2	2.2	3.4	2.7
65 years old and over	0.4	0.9	2.7	2.3

3 Creation of households at different stages of life

So far, we have discussed issues regarding such topics as children's departures from their homes, marriage, and birth of offspring. Here, we would like to put these issues in the context of different stages of life. We identified five different stages of life with which to continue our discussion. These five stages of life were identified according to the results obtained in 1999.

- 1 *With parents*: Not married; living with parents and/or grandparents.
(Those who had moved in after living in separate households are included in this category.)
- 2 *Out on their own*: Not married; not living either with parents or with grandparents
- 3 *Marriage*: Married, have been married or living with partners; not living with parents/grandparents or children.
- 4 *Offspring*: Married or have been married; not living with parents/grandparents, but living with children
- 5 *Gone through stages with parents*: Married with children; have lived with parents/grandparents all the time.

Among the population 30 years and over, the majority had gone through the stages of *Out on their own*, *Marriage* and *Offspring*. Those who had observed the traditional way of life and thus experienced the latter two stages at home with parents were found more among men than women.

Figure V-4 shows distribution of the five life stages of the population 18 to 39 years old. 21.5 percent of men 18 to 19 years old, as well as 14.6 percent of women 18 to 19 years old, were at *On their own* stage in 1999. Among the population 20 to 24 years old, about the same proportion of men and women were at *With parents* stage, though the proportion increased among men in their late twenties as the percentage share of those who were married increased. Among the population 30 years and over, the majority had experienced the three stages of *Out on their own*, *Marriage* and *Offspring*. Those who had observed the traditional way of life and thus experienced the latter two stages at home with parents were found more among men than women.

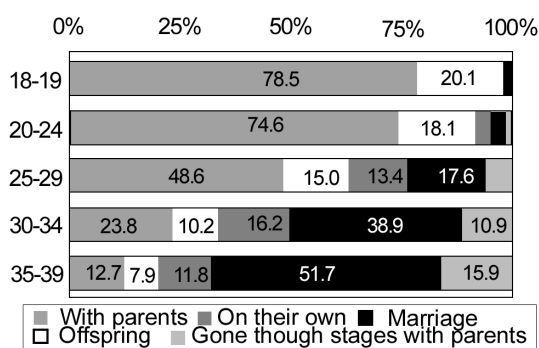


Figure V-4a Distribution of five different life stages of the population 18 to 39 years old: Men

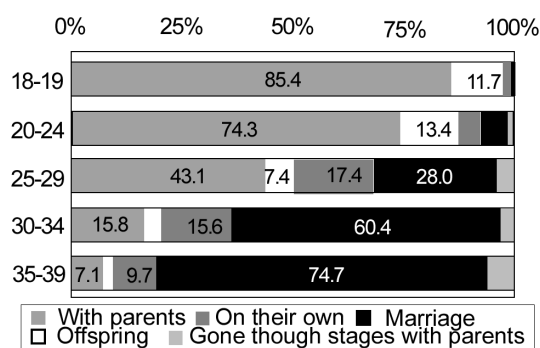


Figure V-4b Distribution of five different life stages of the population 18 to 39 years old: Women

It is expected that an increased proportion of women 35 to 39 years old will live at home with their parents in the future.

Figure V-5 shows the distribution of five life stages in 1999 of those who had lived *with parents* in 1994. We call the ratio between those who had moved onto different stages of life during a certain period of time and those who had remained in their parents' households during the same period the 'stage transfer ratio', which, we believe, could be an important parameter for making projections of future trends in households creation.

For example, the probability of continuing living with their parents can be calculated by multiplying the 'stage non-transfer rate' of the target age group by that of every age group under the target age. According to this formula, the probability of continuing living with parents can be calculated as 7.9 percent ($0.801 \times 0.806 \times 0.672 \times 0.507 \times 0.360$) for men 35 to 39 years old. As you can see from the Figure V-4, 12.7 percent of men 35 to 39 years old lived at home with parents in 1999. This means that a sizable proportion of them had resumed living with their parents after living in separate households. On the other hand, for women the same age, the probability of continuing living with parents was calculated as 11.0 percent ($0.887 \times 0.807 \times 0.613 \times 0.513 \times 0.488$). The probability was slightly higher than the actual percentage in 1999. This implies delays in independence and marriage among younger generations, and it is expected that an increased proportion of women 35 to 39 years old will live at home with their parents in future.

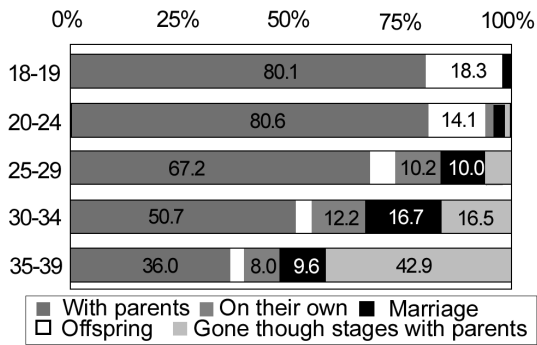


Figure V -5a Distribution of five life stages in 1999 of those who had lived with parents in 1994: Men

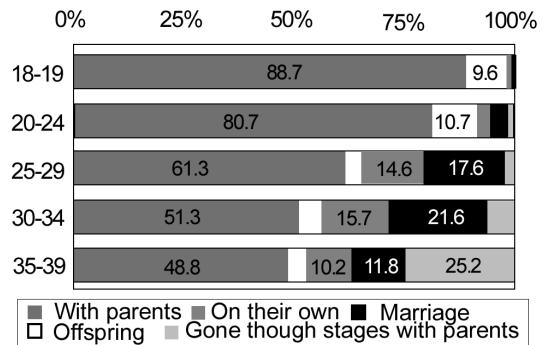


Figure V -5b Distribution of five life stages in 1999 of those who had lived with parents in 1994: Women

VI Households separating and shrinking

1 Death of spouses and divorces

Those who had become widowed were most likely to be found either in households containing people living alone, or in households containing one parents and children.

Among those who had been married in 1994, 1.4 percent of men, as well as 4.7 percent of women, were found to be widowed in 1999. Among the population 65 years and over, 3.4 percent of men, as well as 16.7 percent of women, had been widowed during the period 1994-1999. Overall, one out of every 30 men, compared with one out of every six women, had become widowed during the same period.

Table VI -1 shows changes in household types to which those who had become widowed during the five-year period belonged. Among men, the shifts from households containing married couples with children to one-parent households with children, as well as the change from households containing married couples without children into one-person households, were the most common types of change, representing over 20 percent, respectively. As for women, the change from households containing married couples without children to those consisting of people living alone were the most common types of change, representing about 30 percent. The change from households containing married couples with children into one-parent households with children represented 20 percent of all. Similar kinds of changes were observed between men and women, though there was some difference in proportions. Overall, 90 percent of households containing married couples without children had turned into households consisting of people living alone, among which 83.5 percent contained women.

Table VI-1 Changes in household types of those who had become widowed:
Selected years, 1994 and 1999

1994	Men			Women		
	1999 One person	1999 One parent with children	1999 Other household types	1999 One person	1999 One parent with children	1999 Other household types
One person	9.6	-	1.0	3.2	0.5	0.3
Married couples without children	22.1	1.0	0.0	31.3	1.3	0.0
Married couples with children	1.9	23.1	3.8	1.6	22.4	3.5
One parent with children	-	5.8	1.9	0.3	1.1	0.3
Other household types	-	1.9	27.9	0.8	2.7	30.7

Ratio to total number excluding unidentified type of households. There is no applicable married couple without children nor married couple with children of current type of households.

Divorced men were most likely to be found in one-person households, whereas divorced women were found most in one-parent households with children.

Among those who had been married in 1994, 1.4 percent of men, as well as 1.7 percent of women, had gotten divorced between 1994 and 1999, compared to 0.8 percent and 1.1 percent during the previous five year period, respectively. Among the population 40 years and under, 4.0 percent of men (compared with 2.7 percent in 1994), as well as 5.0 percent of women (compared with 3.3 percent in 1994), had experienced divorces at some point in their lives. The

percentage was higher among those 40 years and over.

Table VI -2 shows changes in household types to which those who had gotten divorced during the period 1994-1999 belonged. The majority of divorced men moved from households containing married couples without children or those with children to one-person households, representing 16.9 percent and 12.4 percent, respectively. On the other hand, more than 30 percent of divorced women were found in one-parent households with children. Divorced people who were found in households containing married couples with children are thought to have moved into their parents' households. Although 70 percent of divorced people who did not have children were found in one-person households, as was the case with widowed people, the percentage share of women in these one-person households was almost equal to that of men.

Table VI-2 Changes in household types of those who had got divorced:
Selected years, 1994 and 1997

1994	Men					Women				
	1999 One person	Married couples with children	Single father	Single mother	Other household types	1999 One person	Married couples with children	Single father	Single mother	Other households types
One person	14.6	-	-	-	1.1	2.3	-	-	0.8	3.9
Married couples without children	16.9	2.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	10.2	-	-	2.3	3.1
Married couples with children	12.4	4.5	5.6	1.1	4.5	4.7	3.1	-	37.5	10.2
Single father	2.2	-	2.2	-	1.1	-	-	-	-	0.8
Single mother	-	-	-	4.5	1.1	-	0.8	-	4.7	3.1
Other household types	1.1	1.1	-	4.5	15.7	1.6	0.8	-	3.1	7.0

Those households whose types are unknown are not included.

2 Departures of children and empty nesters

Over 20 percent of all households containing the heads of the houses 60 years and over had changed from households containing married couples with children into those consisting of married couples without children during the period 1944-1999.

The proportion of those households that had changed from those containing married couples with children in 1994 to those consisting of married couples without children in 1999 represented the largest share among those with the heads of the houses 25 to 29 years old and among those with the heads of the houses 60 to 64 years old. In general, while the proportion of new households containing married couples without children represents those households containing newly-married couples among younger adults, this represents those containing empty nesters among older adults. The proportion of those households that had turned into empty-nest households rapidly increased among those with the heads of the houses 55 to 59 years old, peaking at 23.7

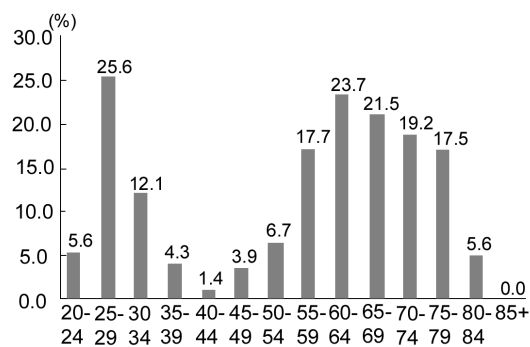


Figure VI-1 The proportion of households that changed from households containing married couples with children to households consisting of married couples without children during the period 1994-1999, by age of the heads of the houses

percent among those with the heads of the houses 60 to 64 years old. Households with the heads of the houses in late adulthood were less likely to have had that kind of change during the five-year period.

Overall, among the households that had continued to exist through the period 1994-1999, 9.8 percent had turned from households containing married couples with children into those consisting of married couples without children.

Becoming an empty nester was the most common among those in their late fifties

We divided the process by which grown-up children leave their homes into the following four stages:

- I Not started yet (All children live at home with parents)
- II Partly started (Some children left, while others are still at home)
- III Finished between 1994 and 1999 (Became empty nesters during the period between July 1994 and July 1999)
- IV Had finished before 1994 (All children had left their homes before 1994)

Among all those with children, 45.5 percent were in stage I (compared with 47.2 percent in 1994), 30.0 percent were in stage II (32.1 percent in 1994), and 6.2 percent were in stage III. The proportion of those in the stage IV increased, from 12.4 percent in 1994 to 18.3 percent in 1999. The proportion of those in the stage III or IV accounted for 24.5 percent, and this 24.5 percent of parents are considered to have been empty nesters. This means that one out of every four parents were empty nesters.

Figure VI-2 show the distribution of these four stages by age and sex. The proportion of those in the stage III or IV (empty nesters) rose rapidly among men in their late fifties, as well as women in their late forties and early fifties. Among the population 65 to 69 years old, about half were empty nesters in 1999. Between 1994 and 1999, those in their late fifties had been most likely to become empty nesters. Among 55- to 59-year olds, 15.1 percent of men, compared with 14.3 percent of women, had become empty nesters during the period.

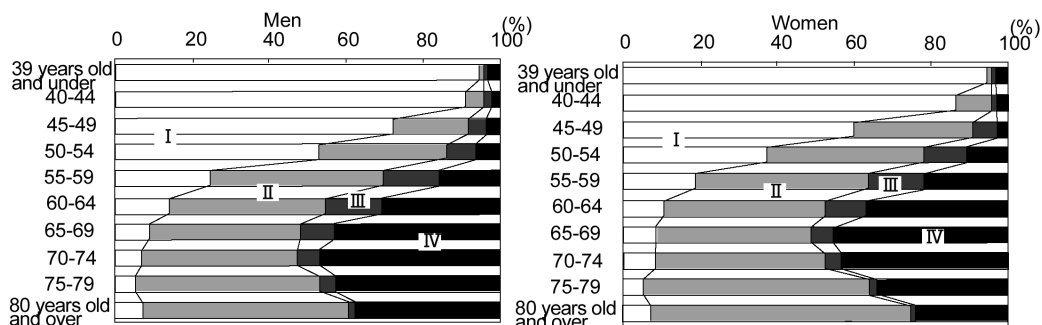


Figure VI-2 Distribution of four stages by which parents become empty nesters by sex and age

On the contrary, the proportion of empty nesters was relatively smaller among older adults, as more and more people resumed living with their children. Among women 65 years and over who were in stage I or II, those who lived with their children after living in separate households accounted for more than 50 percent (see Figure VI-3). Changes in parents' health conditions, as

well as shifts in children's marital status, are thought to be important factors behind this kind of living arrangement.

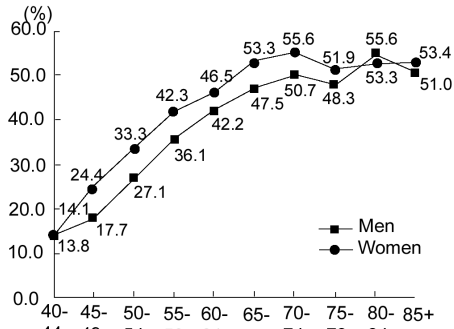


Figure VI-3 The proportion of parents who lived with their children after living in separate households for a while by sex and age

3 Health of the elderly and their households

Households containing older adults who needed special care tended to include someone other than himself/herself and his/her spouses.

Among the population 65 years and over, 10.7 percent of men, compared with 14.9 percent of women, needed special care. Among the population 80 years and over, over 20 percent of men and women could not live their daily lives without some help from caretakers.

Among the population 65 years and over, those who needed special care were found most in 'other households' and were less likely to live alone, compared with those who were healthy (see Figure VI -4). The trend was more obvious than for men, because, in general, older men who need special care are most likely to be attended to by their spouses whereas older women who need the same kind of care are most likely to be attended to by their daughter or daughters-in-law. For example, among the population 65 years and over, 25.6 percent of healthy women lived in households consisting of married couples without children, whereas only 9.8 percent of women who needed special care lived alone with their husbands. It could be observed that the existence of older women who need special care can involve changes in the composition of their households.

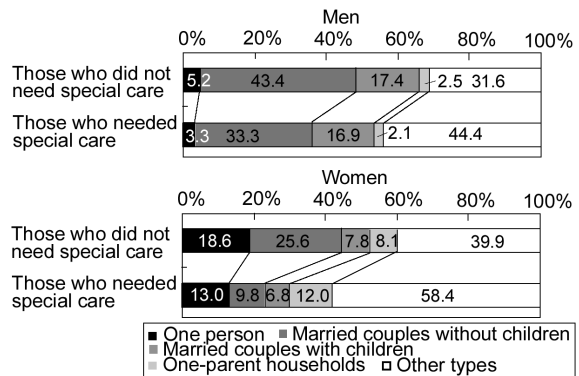


Figure VI-4 Household types of the population 65 years and over: Comparison between those who needed special care and those who did not

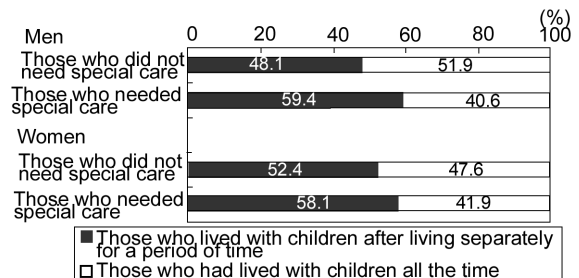


Figure VI-5 The proportion of those who lived with children after living separately: Comparison between those who needed special care and those who did not

Among the population 65 years and over, the proportion of those who lived with their children after living separately for a while was higher among those who needed special care, by 11.3 percentage points for men and by 5.7 percentage points for women. As we mentioned before, changes in the health of parents is thought to be an important factor for living arrangements of this kind.