Disability Trends and Determinants in Older Ages in Asian Countries

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University of Michigan
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Percent of Population Age 60+ by Region: 1975, 2000 and 2030
Size of the Age 60+ Population by Region: 1975, 2000 and 2030

- Europe
- United States
- East Asia
- Southeast Asia
- South-Central Asia

Population Size (millions)
Measures
Disability and functioning measures

- Activities of Daily Living (ADL)
  - Bathing, dressing, eating, transferring, walking across a room, using a toilet, grooming
- Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)
  - Shopping, managing money, using transportation, light housework, heavy housework, using telephone, preparing own meals
- Physical functioning activities
  - Crouching, reaching, grasping, lifting, climbing stairs, walking ¼ mile, standing, grasping with fingers
Trends


Prevalence of functional limitation, among persons age 60+ at two different time points

Ofstedal et al., forthcoming, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*
Prevalence of IADL disability, among persons age 60+ at two different time points

Ofstedal et al., forthcoming, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*
Prevalence of ADL disability, among persons age 60+ at two different time points

Ofstedal et al., forthcoming, Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology
Determinants
Primary factors examined

- Demographic characteristics (age, sex, ethnicity, marital status, urban/rural residence)
- Socioeconomic status (education, occupation, income, household possessions, subjective economic well-being)
- Health status (chronic conditions, cognition, self-assessed health)
- Health behaviors (smoking, drinking, exercise)
- Psycho-social factors (social support, psychological well-being)
## Demographic Factors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Married</th>
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## Socioeconomic Factors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Education/literacy</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Household possession/assets</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Income adequacy/satisfaction</th>
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## Health Status and Health Behaviors

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Chronic conditions</th>
<th>Cognitive impairment</th>
<th>Self-assessed health</th>
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# Psychosocial Factors

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Depressive symptoms</th>
<th>Life satisfaction</th>
<th>Social contact</th>
<th>Subjective social status</th>
<th>Emotional/instrumental support</th>
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Summary

• Trends in disability differ across countries
  – decline in Japan
  – increases in Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Philippines

• Important determinants of disability among older Asians include:
  age, gender, socioeconomic status, physical and cognitive health, and psychosocial factors
Future Research

• Continued monitoring of trends in disability and other aspects of health among older Asians

• More detailed analysis of determinants of disability, including underlying mechanisms

• Need for longitudinal data and analysis
Data Resources

National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA)
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACDA/

Population Studies Center
http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/
Comparative Study of Aging and Health in Asia, 2001-2005

http://aha.psc.isr.umich.edu/
Literature Cited


Literature Cited (cont.)

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