THE EFFECTS OF FERTILITY DECLINE ON FAMILY STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT FOR OLDER PERSONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA

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Goals of the Analysis:

- How does intergenerational support change in the course of socio-economic development and to what extent is this change associated with demographic transformations?
- In today’s presentation we explore variation in family structures and support across settings experiencing fertility transitions at different times
DATA:

• Latin America
  ♦ 2001 PAHO surveys on Salud, Bienestar y Envejecimiento en América Latina y el Caribe (SABE)
  ♦ Urban Samples

• Asia
  ♦ 2000 Philippine Survey of the Near Elderly and Elderly
  ♦ 1999 Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES) in Taiwan
SAMPLES

- Cross-sectional
- Sample Sizes range from 469 in Philippines to 3373 in Taiwan (SABE samples between 1039 and 2143)
- All data are weighted for sampling and attrition
• Multiple demographic changes lead to transformation of family structure
• Caldwell’s theory asserts shift in intergenerational support with development
Conceptual framework of factors affecting health and support of older people

Societal factors (economic, demographic and cultural)
- Demographic trends
- Cultural and normative dimensions
- Economic system
- Political structures

Personal and Family characteristics
- Family structure and characteristics
- Marital status & history
- Childhood SES & health
- Demographic controls

Programmatic influences
- Formal programs and policies (e.g. employer & government health and pension programs)
- Infrastructure (e.g. medical & leisure facilities)

Current well-being and support of older people
- Intergenerational support system
  - Living arrangements
  - Resource transfers
  - Caregiving
- Health Status
  -(physical, mental and emotional)
- Health behaviors

Adapted from Hermalin (2003)
Fertility Characteristics: Percent Childless and Average Number of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percent Childless</th>
<th>Average Number of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The graph shows the distribution of average number of children and percent childless across different countries. Countries are color-coded: Very Advanced in red, Advanced in blue, and Progressing in green.
Other living Kin: Percent of Persons Aged 60 and over with Surviving Mother or Father

- Argentina
- Uruguay
- Chile
- Cuba
- Taiwan
- Brazil
- Mexico
- Philippines

- Mother
- Father

Very Advanced
Advanced
Progressing
Other Living Kin: Percent of Persons Aged 60 and Over with one or more Surviving Siblings
Living Arrangements: Unmarried Persons aged 60 and Older, 1999-2001

Living alone  Unmarried child  Married child +  Other

Argentina  Uruguay  Chile  Cuba  Taiwan  Brazil  Mexico  Philippines

Very Advanced  Advanced  Progressing
Proximity to Nearest Child: Persons aged 60 and older, 1999-2001

Sources: Salud, Bienestar y Envejecimiento en América Latina y el Caribe (SABE); 2000 Philippine Survey of Near Elderly and Elderly; 1999 Taiwan Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES); classification by fertility from Chackiel and Schkolnik 1996.
Conclusions

• Timing of fertility transitions affects the kin availability and support of older people in developing countries. At more advanced stages:
  ♦ Childlessness increases and family size decreases
  ♦ Fewer report mothers alive
  ♦ Fewer co-reside with children but have children nearby.
  ♦ Financial/material support is less common, but ADL/IADL about the same.
  ♦ Support from children is greater for unmarried than married elders, but support of all types from children (coresident or non-coresident) is lower.
• **Regional Differences also matter:**
  ♦ Latin Americans more likely to report a living mother, potentially due to different ages at childbearing
  ♦ Proportions with their nearest child long distance is higher in Taiwan and the Philippines than Latin America, possibly reflecting migration patterns.
  ♦ More Latin Americans receive IADL/ADL help than other types of support, while in Taiwan and the Philippines, it is the least commonly reported type.