



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

World Data Forum 2020: COVID-19: Older people's experiences in real life and data

Yumiko Kamiya

Introduction: why do living arrangements matter?

- Living arrangements have important consequences for the well-being of older persons

Socio-economic well-being

physical and mental health

life satisfaction

mortality

- Relevant for the SDGs



The United Nations Database on the Households and Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2019

- Indicators on the household size, household composition and living arrangements of older persons
- The database estimates are based on 738 unique data sources from 155 countries or areas, with reference dates ranging from 1960 to 2018
- Main data sources: microdata from IPUMS (1960-2019), DHS (1990-2019), EU Labour Force Surveys (2000-2010s), plus tabulated data from the UN Demographic Yearbooks (DYB)
- <https://population.un.org/LivingArrangements/index.html#!/countries/356>

Challenges

1) coverage

- Not all countries are part of the IPUMS international (harmonized international census data) and some countries do not have the most recent census. Ex: China 2000, UK 1991
- Most of European countries have only tabulated data

2) Surveys and country-specific census are not standardized

- Codes used to describe each household members' relationship to the head of the household are not standardized
- There is no information about the relationship among household members
- Some samples does not have the marital status or relationship of household members are collapsed (other relatives, child/child in law)

3) Identification of household types and living arrangements

- the detail of the household relationship codes was insufficient to identify the full set of household types and it was not straightforward to identify whether the older person lives with his/her spouse/partner or with their children
- The identification of the intergenerational household types (multi-generation, three-generation and skipped generation households) was much more complex

World Population Ageing 2020

Highlights



Some key findings

- ✓ Older persons in the more developed world live more often independently (alone or with spouse); whereas
- ✓ Older persons in the less developed world live with at least one child or with the extended family;
- ✓ Older women tend to:
 - Live more often alone;
 - Be poorer than older men;
 - Take more often care of grandchildren in skip-generation HHs.

Publications:

World Population Ageing 2020 Highlights: Living arrangements of older persons

Database on the Household and and Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2019

Technical Papers:

United Nations (2020) Measuring household living arrangements of older persons around the world: The United Nations Database on the Household and Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2019 (forthcoming)

_____ (2020c). Why the age pattern of COVID-19 death rates differs between countries: the role of frailty and living arrangements (unpublished manuscript).

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/news/world-population-ageing-2020-highlights>