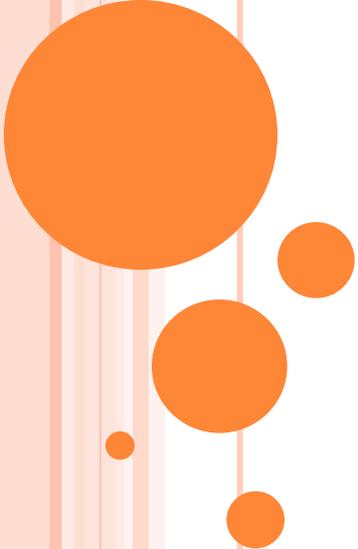


SOCIAL CHANGES AND THE END-OF-LIFE CARE IN SOUTH KOREA



**Sunghee LEE
President,
Korean Alzheimer's Association**

1. INHERITING CONFUCIAN CULTURE OF “FILIAL DUTY”

- Large family system
- Preparing burial shroud at age 60 (16 pieces)
- Visiting a grave of ancestors (Chinese geomantic principles)
- Funeral culture (community fellowship)
- The Memorial Gate for Virtuous Women
- Best “Devoted Son & Daughter” Awards





전 마을 사람들이 인근 강에서 주워온 돌과 흙을 섞어 쌓기 시작했다는 토석담. 돌담 길 끝 새하얀 눈을 이고 있는 고택 풍경이 멋...











烈女

贈嘉善大夫

戶曹叅判

兼同知義

禁府事五

衛都摠府

副摠管常

山林大詰

妻

贈貞夫人恩

津宋氏之

閼

崇禎紀元後四

辛亥三月日

命茲

2. GOVERNMENT WELFARE PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY

- First: Family; Later: Welfare system**
- Oldest son's responsibility to support parents**
- Focus on public assistance recipients (selective welfare)**



3. INTRODUCING HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM

- Doctors' home visit system
(1970s)**
- Inheritance Law was revised
(1991)**
 - Children will share the inheritance.**



4. ERA OF AGING

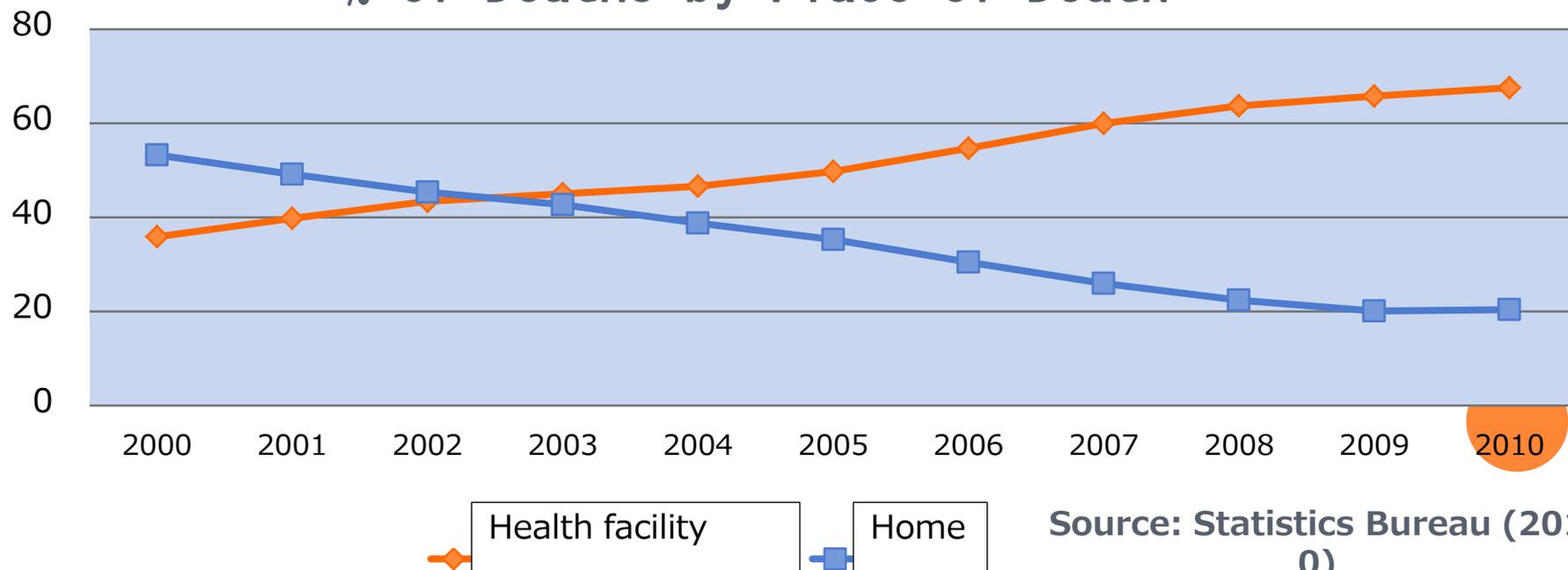
- Changing from aging society (2000) to aged society (2018)**
- ↑ Nuclear families (apartment culture)**
- Population concentration in urban areas**
- Women's social advancement**



5. CHANGES IN PLACES OF DEATH: HOME < HOSPITAL

	2003	Now
Health Facility	45.0%	67.6%
Home	42.7%	20.4%
Other	12.3%	12.1%

% of Deaths by Place of Death



Source: Statistics Bureau (2010)

6. CURRENT SOCIAL PROBLEMS (GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR DECLINING BIRTHS AND AGING)

- **Elderly households (living alone) :**

24.8%

- **Elderly households (couple only) :**

28%

- **Total fertility rate: 1.15**



7. INTRODUCTION OF LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE (JULY, 2008)

Welfare system	Selecting services = Contract
Focus on public assistance recipients (selective)	Certification of needs: Levels 1 to 3 (universal)
No copayment	Copayment: 15% (home), 20% (institution)

8. 30 YEARS OF CHUNGAM SILVER CARE CENTER

- About 20 people die every year
(capacity of the center = 100)**
- Worship service at the final moment
···funeral in a hospital (since 2010)**
- Funeral for 3 days**
- Crematory**





9. WHY DO RESIDENTS DIE IN A HOSPITAL?

- Shifting roles as a guardian (increasing family needs)
 - Patients with severe disabilities (Over 80% are transferred from hospital)
 - Difficulties to issue death certificate
 - Can use funeral home next to the hospital
- 

10. PROBLEMS WITH FACILITY STAFF

- Lack of skills among care workers**
- Severe patients: Needs treatments beyond what nurses can legally provide**
- Lot of medical care**
- Inadequate environment for medical care**



11. PROBLEMS WITH LIFE-PROLONGING TREATMENT

- **Patient's and family's interests**
 - **There is no guideline**
 - **Tend to see:**
 - **Aggressive life-prolonging treatment in a hospital**
 - **Natural deaths with family's consent in a facility**
- 

12. ISSUES ON ELDER CARE

- Households with elderly couple only**
- Living with unmarried child**
- Solitary (lonely) death**



13. TERMINAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY WITH DEMENTIA, ANXIETY ABOUT DEATH

- Loss of physical function**
- Loss of memory**
- Separation from familiar environment and family**



14. TERMINAL CARE AND DIGNITY

- Maintaining everyday life**
- Communication with family**
- Respecting individuality of older people**



SPIRIT OF TERMINAL CARE

I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

PSALM 23 (A psalm of David)

