

Great Centenarians

〈Population Aged 100 and Over〉 (People)

1969	331	2030	273,000
1989	3,078	2055	634,000
2009	40,399		

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and National Institute of Population and Social Security Research,
Latest Demographic Statistics, 2009



Kimi Shindo
(Born in 1908)

Ms. Kimi Shindo set up a shanty on the devastated land soon after World War II to start a handicrafts shop, harnessing buttons and threads which she had managed to gain under supply shortage. Her effort was rewarded and the business developed over time to open two branches. She continued to look after the shop until she was 93 or 94 years old.

Several years ago she wrote down “I wish to live to 100 years old!” on the strip of paper at Tanabata (Star Festival, Legendary once-a-year rendezvous of two stars in the Milky Way), and ultimately her wish came true. Her next wish is to live to 110 years old.

From a series of “HYAKU-SAI-OH (Great Centenarians)”
photographed by Shoichi Ono

These are photos of older people aged 100 and over who live in an exotic port city Yokohama.
956 centenarians live in Yokohama as of January 1, 2009.

Living
Arrangements

2.

Living Arrangements

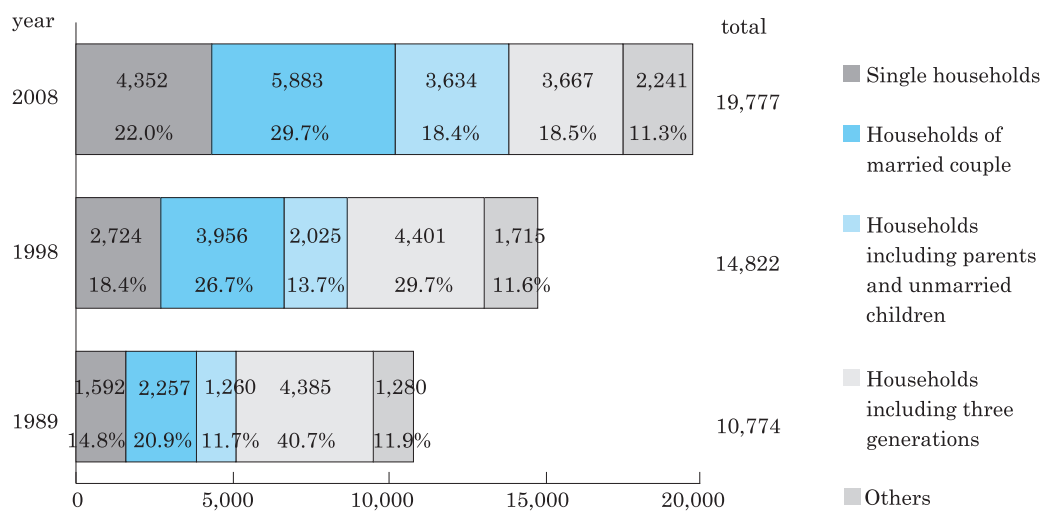
Changes in Older Person Households

As of 2008, there are approximately 47.94 million households in Japan, of which 19.78 million (41.2%) include one or more older persons. Looking at these households more closely reveals 4.35 million single-person households (22.0%), 5.88 million households of a married couple only (29.7%), 3.63 million households with older persons and unmarried children (18.4%) and 3.67 million three-generation households (18.5%). (2-1)

The total number of households with an elderly member has risen sharply, while the absolute number of three-generation households has been declining gradually.

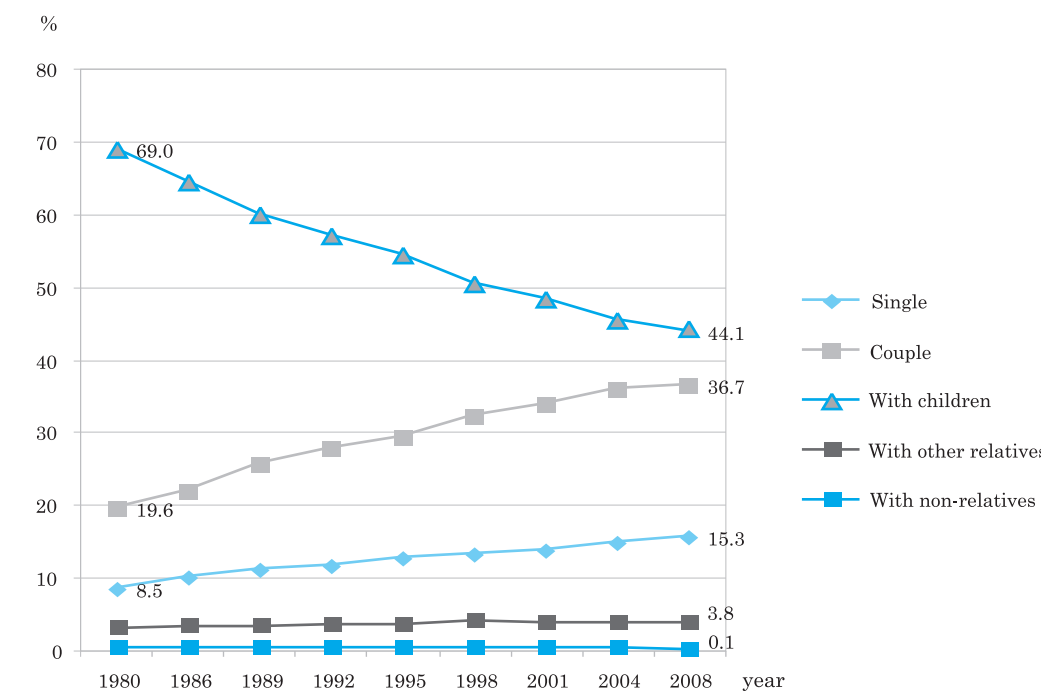
Focusing on individuals rather than households, the most significant change is that the proportion of older persons living with a child decreased from about 70% in 1980 to 44% in 2008, in a remarkably steady decline. The number living with a child is still very high compared to Western countries. Also noteworthy is that the proportion of older people living only with a spouse rose sharply from 20% to 37%, and that those living alone rose from 9% to 15%. (2-2)

2-1 Number and Proportion of Households with Member Aged 65 and Over (1,000 households, %)



Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People on Health and Welfare, 2008

2-2 Living Arrangements of Individuals Aged 65 and Over (%)



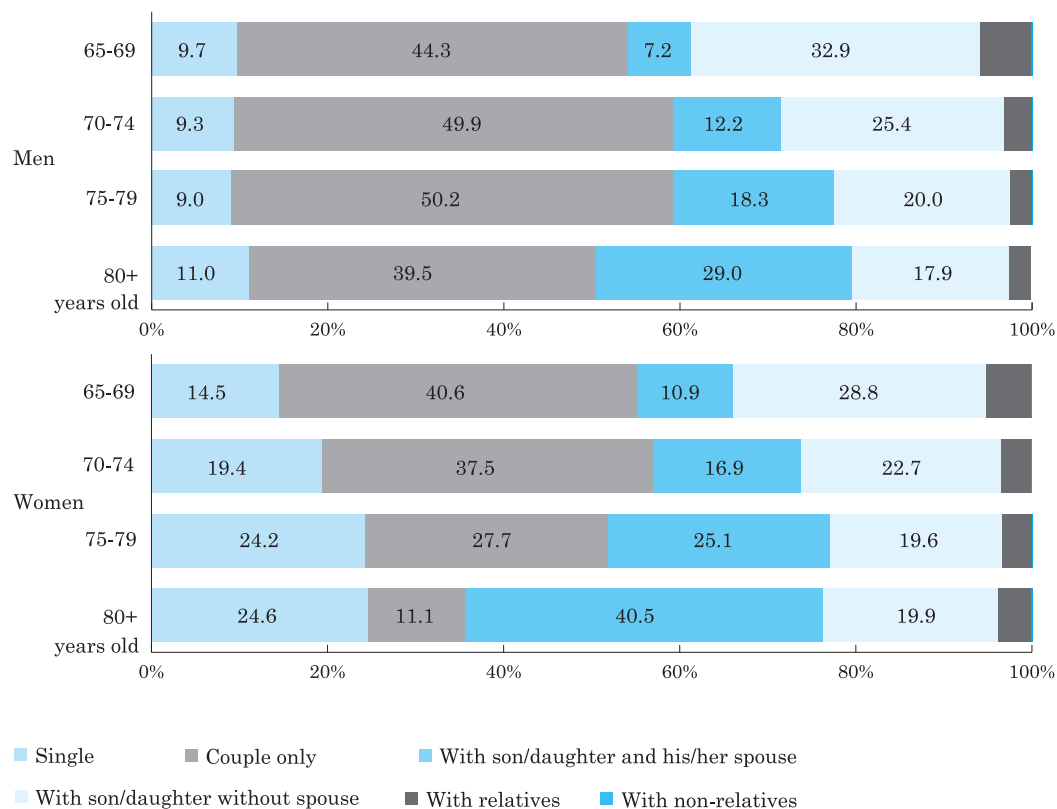
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People on Health and Welfare, 2008

Living Arrangements

Gender Differences

Men and women differ greatly in their living arrangements as aging progresses. Among women, the proportion of living only with her husband drops sharply from the late 60s age group to older than 80, and the proportion living with a married child goes up proportionally. The main reason of course is that on average men die younger. The living arrangements of men are quite stable over the age groups. (2-3)

2-3 Living Arrangements of 65 and Over by Sex and Age Group (%)



Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People on Health and Welfare*, 2008

Housing

3.