

Preface

Japan is setting the pace among the aging societies of the world. People aged 65 and over now make up over one-fifth of the population and in twenty years will reach one-third. How are individual older people faring in this “longevity society?”

“A Profile of Older Japanese,” prepared by the International Longevity Center-Japan (ILC-Japan), is a compilation of data from various ministries of the national government and other sources, along with brief interpretations. It is organized into seven sections: “The Aging Population and Aged Society,” “Living Arrangements,” “Housing,” “Health Status,” “Frailty and Long-Term Care,” “Economic Status,” and “The New-Old and Social Participation.”

ILC-Japan hopes this information will be helpful in understanding the implications of population aging in Japan and in general. We welcome questions as well as suggestions for future editions of this report.

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