

Characteristics of floating elderly in China

—Analysis based on the sixth population census in China

Floating elderly means kind of elderly migrants who live in an area more than half year without their household transferred in China. The 2010 population census data shows that the total floating elderly is 9.34 million and it increased in the past decade. Since no household registration in the new place, floating elderly usually will face more social and economic problems than the migrant elderly. They need more help from the family members, community and society. This paper will use the population census data to analyze the demographic characteristics of population elderly and try to figure out their policy implications and influences. The results showed that the selectivity is high among the floating elderly in sex, age, education, marriage statuses, healthy condition and economic situation. More than half of the floating elderly has lived in the floated place more than 5 years. The proportion of long-distance floating elderly has been increased.

Background

Data and methods

Basic results

1. The amount of floating elderly keeps increasing
2. The sex ratio of the floating elderly is higher than the sex ratio of total elderly

Table 1 Sex Ratio of floating elderly

Age	Floating elderly	Total elderly
60-64	116.1	103.5
65-69	110.0	101.9
70-74	119.4	99.0
75-79	98.4	89.7
80-84	98.4	79.4
85-89	77.8	64.1
90+	57.8	49.6
Total	110.6	93.1

3 Young elderly are more like to move

Table 2 Age structure of the floating elderly %

Age	Floating elderly	Total elderly
60-64	38.45	33.03
65-69	25.35	23.15
70-74	17.77	18.57
75-79	10.33	13.43
80-84	5.26	7.53
85-89	2.05	3.17

90+	0.75	1.12
Total	100	100.00

4 Married elderly are more like to move

Table 3 Marriage status of the floating elderly

Age	Un-married	Married	Divorced	Widowhood
Floating elderly	1.0	77.0	0.7	21.2
Total elderly	1.8	70.0	0.8	27.4

5 High-educated elderly are more like to migrate to far places

Table 4 Education level of the floating elderly by different floating distance (%)

	Illiterate	Primary school	Middle school	High school	College
Province	14.2	39.6	23.1	11.4	11.7
District	17.9	41.3	24.3	10.0	6.6
County	17.4	43.4	23.8	10.6	4.7
Town	20.3	43.5	23.9	9.2	3.1
Total	18.1	42.2	23.8	10.0	5.9

6 The health situation of the floating Elderly

Table 5 Health condition of the floating elderly (%)

Health situation	Very good	good	fair	bad	Total
Floating elderly	54.2	35.9	8.0	1.9	100
Total elderly	43.8	39.3	13.9	2.9	100

7 More than half of the elderly have lived in the floated area for more than 5 years

Table 6 Years of the elderly lived in the destination

Years	Population (10000)	Proportion (%)
0.5-1	113.7	12.2
1-2	109.8	11.8
2-3	94.2	10.1
3-4	71.8	7.7
4-5	55.4	5.9
5-6	43.5	4.7
6+	446	47.7
Total	934.4	100.0

8 Most of the floating elderly floated for non-economic reason

Table 7 Reason of the floating elderly by different distance (%)

	business	Job seeking	study	Accompany person	Visiting friend	Home moving	Temporary moving	marriage	other
Province	22.9	2.7	0.1	19.0	37.3	4.4	1.3	3.5	8.8
District	17.9	2.3	0.3	21.2	35.0	8.7	1.4	2.5	10.8
County	12.7	4.0	0.1	21.6	27.2	13.8	1.6	3.6	15.4
Town	9.1	4.0	0.3	23.4	20.6	18.7	2.9	4.4	16.7
Total	14.3	3.4	0.2	21.8	28.0	12.9	2.0	3.7	13.7
2000	9.3	1.0	0.1	14.6	30.0	29.4		2.0	13.6

Conclusion and discussion

References: