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An Analysis on the Health Status of the Chinese Elderly

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An Analysis on the Health Status of the Chinese Elderly

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Keywords: Chinese elderly, Common diseases, Health status, Psychological wellbeing, Socioeconomic-demographic characteristics.

Introduction

China is in a fast population-aging process. The nation-wide application of medical technology in the country has lifted living standards and prolonged longevity. Consequently, this leads to a changing age structure and an increasing percentage of elderly people in the total population (Hu and Khan 1997). Additionally, the implementation of the One-Child Policy, which started in the early 1980s, brought about the decline of the country's total fertility rate from 6 children in the 1950s to 1.8 children in the 2010s, and consequently accelerates the aging process of the elderly population in China (Hesketh et al. 2005). According to an estimate by the United Nations, Chinese society has already entered the phase of an older population (United Nations 2011-2012). The elderly, aged 60 years old and above, account for 168.5 million, or 12.5 percent of the total population. It is projected that by the year 2050, China's elderly population will reach about 300 million, which would equal about 20 percent of the total population (United Nations 2010). In light of this ongoing

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