

TITLE: PROJECTIONS OF LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ELDERLY BY SEX, AGE, AND HOUSEHOLD POSITION IN POLAND.

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Background and purpose of the research:

During the last 16 years Poland has experienced significant changes in the family formation. At present families are in general smaller than in the past and in most cases multi-person households are formed by a nuclear family. The number and share of one-parent families has also been on a rise: in the years 1988 – 2002 the number of one-person households increased by 51 percent while its share from 18.3 percent to 24.8 percent. The significant improvement in mortality, more in men's than women's mortality, have also influenced living arrangements of the elderly.

The elderly women live more often in single-person households than men, while a considerable majority of men aged 60 and more live with other persons (i.e. wives, the family). In period 1988 – 2002 the proportion of males living in a couple without children increased from 45 percent to 50 percent while that of females from 19 percent to 23 percent. A remarkable proportion of elderly people live with their children's family (on the position of non-family member).

Generally, in Poland family is the main source of care and help for the elderly. Hence an issue of the future long-term care arises - with whom the older people will live (or not) and especially from whom they will receive support and care.

The objective of this study is twofold: (1) to present the current living arrangements of the population aged 60 and over in Poland in terms of the household position and the marital status, (2) to project living arrangements of the elderly by household position for the years 2005 – 2030.

Data and methods:

On the basis of data from Population Census 2002 living arrangements of the elderly will be analysed in terms of the household types and the household position of individuals. Changes

over time will be traced by referring to data of the Population Census 1988 and to the Household Survey data of 1991.

The population forecast until 2030, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, will be used to project living arrangements of the elderly in Poland by use of the household position rates (HPR). The initial population for the projection is based on the results from the Population Census 2002.

It has been assumed that the household position rates will change over time to respond to life styles changes: more single-person households of the elderly, more persons aged 60 and more will live in couples without children, less persons will stay in households as non-family related members. Therefore, predicted changes in living arrangements reflect both changes in the population age-sex structures and the assumed changes in household related behaviour.

Main results:

Living arrangements of the elderly:

The analysis has shown that a majority of the elderly people live in private households (in Poland there are mainly the family multi-person households). They very rarely stay in institutions.

Women aged 60 years and more live in one-person households more often than men, while a considerable majority of the elderly men live with other persons (mostly with wives). According to the Population Census 2002, 30 percent of the elderly women and 17 percent of the elderly men lived in one-person private households. However, almost 86 percent of men aged 60 years and more and 68 percent of women at the same age lived with others. Generally, the proportion of the elderly living alone grows along within the age, while the share of those living with other persons decreases within the age.

Over the period 1988-2002 the number of households (one- and multi-persons) headed by the elderly has increased by nine times. The most significant increase was in the number of households headed by persons aged 70 years and above.

The Population Census 2002 has shown that the elderly women had no partner more often than men: 80 percent of males aged 60 years and more and only 40 percent of women were married. In general, the marital status of the elderly changes with age i.e. the share of married persons decreases and the proportion of widowed grows within age. For example, 90 percent of women and 42 percent of men aged 80 years and more had no partner. It is worth to emphasize that in comparison with the results of Population Census 1988 the proportion of the elderly married women has slightly increased due to improvement in mortality for men.

In the period 1988-2002 significant changes took place in living arrangements of persons aged 65 years and more. The proportion of males living in couple without children increased from 45 percent to 50 percent while that of females from 19 percent to 23 percent. A remarkable proportion of elderly people live with their children's family (on the position of non-family member – e.g. 14 percent of women aged 65 years and more). Furthermore, there was also an increase of proportion of elderly women on position of the head of one – parent families (12 percent in 2002).

Household positions of the elderly changed within the age: the proportion of persons aged 60 years and more on the position of couple (with or without children) decreases within the age in favour of the share of the position of the single-household or the position of other persons living with the family, but these changes are more remarkably for women than for men.

According to projections, it is expected that the number of households of the elderly will increase in the future (especially the number of one- and two-person households) and the size of households will fall down. The proportion of elderly women on the position of couple (with or without children) will be on rise. Moreover, the rising share of the elderly living alone will be accompanied by the declining proportion of those living with children (on the position of non-family member). Furthermore the percentage of the elderly living in an institutional household (i.e. homes for the elderly) will also increase. These projected changes in living arrangements of the elderly require responses in terms of provision of in-house care as well as development of institutions for the elderly.