

Chapter 2

Demand of Long-term Care: Care Need

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Chapter 2

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1. Measurement of Care Need

How many older persons in the region need long-term care? To answer this question, one has to define 'long-term care', as it ranges from emotional care for those living alone to daily assistance of the bedridden. To assess the level of care need, functioning, independence or disability, various methods and indicators have been proposed. In addition to 'Activities of Daily Living' (ADL), which is a standardised measure of biological and psychosocial functions developed since the end of 1950s (Katz et al., 1963), one can cite, among others, 'instrumental Activities of Daily Living' (iADL) (Lawton and Brody, 1969), 'International Classification of Functioning' (ICF) (WHO, 2001) and WHO-Disability Assessment Schedule (WHO-DAS) (WHO, 2010), Washington Group on Disability Statistics (UN, 2014), or Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) (Berger et al., 2015). These measurements are used to assess the condition of each individual and the results can be used to plan for care or rehabilitation. Or they can be incorporated into survey questionnaires to produce statistics. For example, the United Nations (UN) recommend disability questions to be incorporated in the population census as a core question (UN, 1997) and population level disability – hence, the level of care and assistance – can be measured if a country follows this UN recommendation.

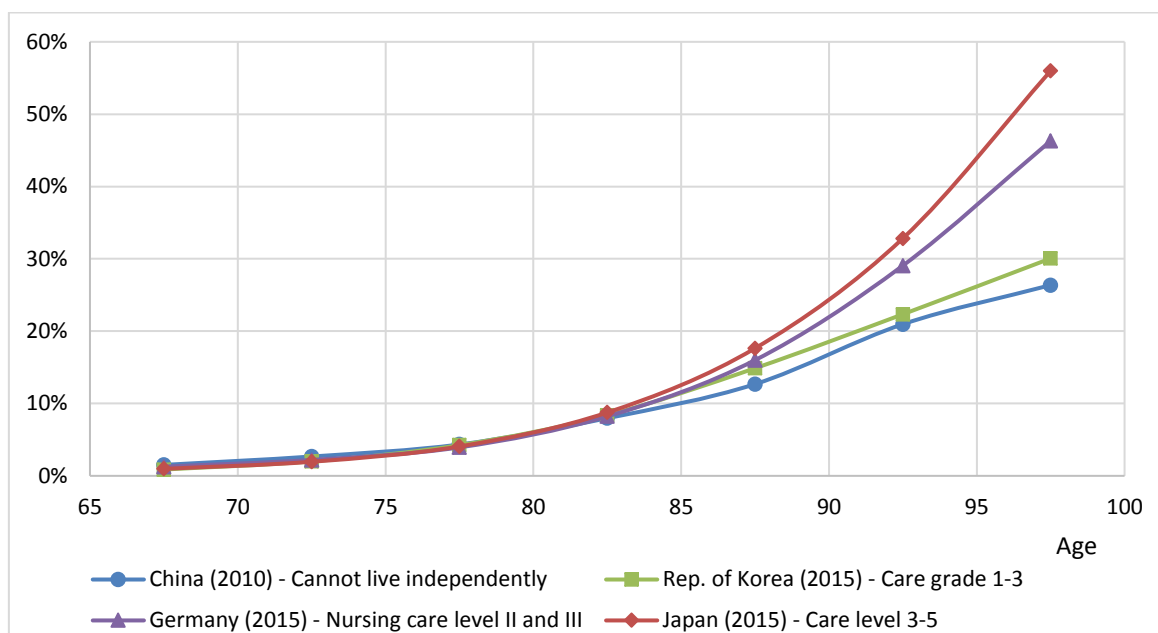
On the other hand, the statistics on care need can be obtained from administrative data. Public, hence universal, long-term care insurance started in Germany (in 1995), Japan (in 2000), and the Republic of Korea (in 2008), and the number of recipients is a direct measurement of the care needs in each country, assuming the insurance system covers all. The long-term care covered by the insurance system ranges from preventive services such as help in housework (cleaning, preparing food); in daily activities (helping change clothes, walking); intensive assistance (help in toileting, suctioning sputum for the bedridden); or watching over persons with dementia.

Using these measurement and data, care needs can be assessed.

2. Estimation of Care Needs

In this chapter, long-term care need is defined as the need for intensive assistance, due to the relative clarity of the definition and the high degree of necessity which should be assisted by social welfare services. The corresponding criteria can be roughly determined as care level 3–5 in Japan's long-term care insurance, care grade 1–3 in the Republic of Korea's long-term care insurance, nursing care level (*Pflegestufe*) II and III in Germany's long-term care insurance, and persons who answered 'cannot live independently' to the question of 'autonomy of daily living' in China's 2010 census.

Figure 2.1: Care Need Rate, by Age



Sources:

China – Population Census 2010. Compiled by Authors.

Republic of Korea – National Health Insurance Service, Long-term Care Insurance Statistics 2015. Special Tabulation by Authors.

Germany – Nursing Care Statistics, Federal Statistical Office.

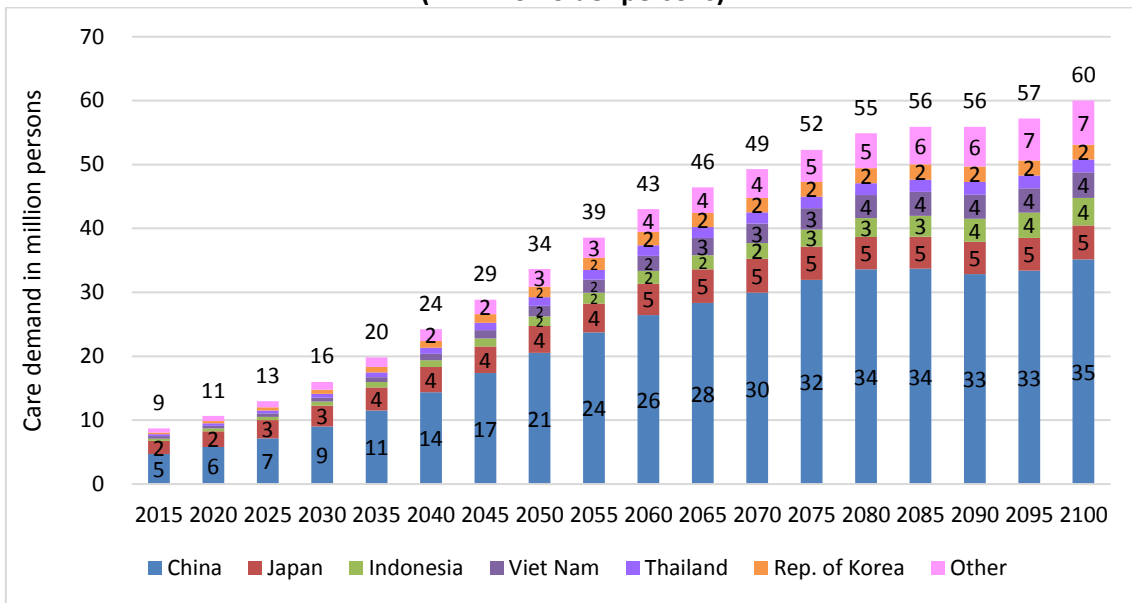
Japan –Survey of Long-term Care Benefit Expenditures, October 2015, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Data is shown in Annex 1, Table 1.

Figure 2.1 shows the proportion of older persons who need long-term care (referred to as ‘care need rate’). This is almost identical to age groups 65–69, 70–74, 75–79, 80–84 years in four countries and the rates are 1%, 2%, 4%, and 8% in the respective age groups. For the older age groups 85–89, 90–94, and 95+, the proportions in the four countries differ and are roughly related to the level of life expectancy (Annex 1). Applying this common trend in the four countries to the other countries in the region, we estimated care need in terms of the number of older persons who need long-term care.

Altogether in East and Southeast Asia, 8.7 million was placed under care need in 2015, more than half of them are in China (4.7 million) and a quarter in Japan (2.0 million). Care need in the remaining countries is still limited. However, within 20 years, from 2015 to 2035, care need will more than double to 19.8 million in the region. The increase is notably quick in Brunei (2.71 times more in 2030 than in 2015), Singapore (2.64 times), China Macao (2.53 times), the Republic of Korea (2.36 times), Malaysia (2.24 times), Cambodia (2.03 times), and Thailand (2.03 times). By 2050, regional care need will increase to 33.6 million, and will reach 60.0 million 2100.

**Figure 2.2: Estimates of Care Need in East and Southeast Asia
(in million older persons)**



Source: Estimated by Authors.

Table 2.1: Estimates of Care Need in East and Southeast Asia (in 1,000 older persons)

	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060	2065	2070	2075	2080	2085	2090	2095	2100
China*	4,715	5,811	7,155	9,013	11,498	14,380	17,383	20,511	23,738	26,462	28,338	29,939	31,969	33,615	33,713	32,870	33,385	35,182
Japan	2,031	2,443	2,845	3,238	3,636	3,965	4,130	4,232	4,493	4,909	5,254	5,328	5,170	5,040	4,986	5,036	5,155	5,297
Indonesia	384	446	537	665	834	1,038	1,264	1,504	1,743	1,979	2,213	2,450	2,695	2,967	3,270	3,599	3,942	4,288
Viet Nam	363	425	504	614	770	1,002	1,310	1,665	2,020	2,364	2,699	3,037	3,361	3,632	3,773	3,789	3,815	4,021
Thailand	296	378	479	601	753	936	1,142	1,346	1,521	1,653	1,734	1,770	1,791	1,835	1,910	1,977	1,995	1,984
Rep. of Korea	281	381	509	664	850	1,078	1,353	1,644	1,897	2,078	2,195	2,261	2,303	2,356	2,405	2,432	2,369	2,319
China, Taiwan	144	181	225	282	357	454	568	674	753	814	869	922	954	952	941	927	889	853
Philippines	136	165	201	249	308	376	450	531	621	728	852	996	1,159	1,335	1,519	1,713	1,922	2,152
Myanmar	84	96	115	141	172	203	233	263	293	322	351	383	416	448	475	495	511	529
DPRK	73	87	104	121	145	178	214	256	294	324	349	375	410	455	496	532	562	592
China, Hong Kong	66	83	102	125	156	200	255	308	350	378	399	425	450	463	461	446	430	438
Malaysia	56	73	96	125	161	204	253	312	383	470	575	697	827	945	1,031	1,087	1,135	1,201
Singapore	28	39	55	75	101	135	173	210	242	269	291	310	323	337	353	369	379	385
Cambodia	18	23	28	37	48	61	74	95	117	146	182	225	269	309	342	380	421	470
Lao PDR	8	9	10	13	16	20	24	31	38	48	59	71	83	95	106	118	130	142
Mongolia	4	4	5	7	9	12	16	19	24	28	33	37	41	45	48	53	61	72
China, Macao	3	3	5	6	9	13	18	23	28	31	34	38	44	49	51	49	47	50
Timor-Leste	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	6	7	9	12	16	21	26	32	39
Brunei	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	6	7	9	10	12	13	14	15	15	16	17
Total	8,691	10,650	12,979	15,978	19,827	24,260	28,870	33,635	38,568	43,016	46,445	49,284	52,290	54,908	55,917	55,913	57,196	60,031

* Excluding Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao.

Source: Estimated by Authors.