



DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE & CULTURE CONTEXT 社會人口統計變遷和文化背景

Chinese population accounts for 26% of Asian Americans and 1.2% of the total U.S. population. Illinois has one of the largest Chinese populations in the country, which has increased by 35% between 2000 and 2010, a much larger increase than other ethnicity groups. In the city of Chicago alone, the Chinese population increased by 36% over the last ten years, while the overall population dropped by 7%.

The proportion of adult children who assume elder care responsibilities in U.S. may be overwhelmingly high due to its relevance in Chinese culture. Families are consistently the most important source for social support in the Chinese community since filial piety prescribes that children are obligated to provide care and support to their elder parents. Chinese adult children are also more reluctant to place parents in long-term care facilities.

Cultural values may shift with immigration to the U.S. Adult children are generally able to adapt easier to Western culture and may endorse such western ideologies as individualism. However, their older parents are mostly first generation immigrants, who often still adhere to Chinese traditional teachings. Therefore, the two generations may hold disparate opinions towards children's role in taking care of older parents, resulting in an increased risk of conflict.

As older parents age, their health conditions and increasing elder care needs can be especially burdensome for adult children. Chinese adult children are at risk of suffering from negative physical, mental, and social outcomes as a result of caregiving burden and stress.



在美國，華裔人口佔亞裔人口的26%，佔美國總人口的1.2%。伊利諾伊州是美國華裔人口的最大的幾個州之一。伊州華裔人口從2000到2010增長了35%，比其他的族裔增長要迅速。在芝加哥，華裔群體在過去的10年增長了36%，而芝加哥總人口卻下降了7%。

華裔成年子女往往要承擔更多的家庭照顧責任。家庭是獲得社會支持的主要來源而孝順規定了成年子女的贍老義務。很多子女不願意把父母送進長期護理機構。

隨著移民逐漸融入美國社會，中國的文化價值認同亦隨之改變。年輕的華人移民融入美國社會，深受以個人主義為核心的西方價值觀的影響。作為第一代移民的父母們卻往往深受中國傳統文化影響。這兩代人在贍養年老父母這一議題往往意見不一致。

隨著年齡的增長，對於成年子女來說，照顧身體日漸衰弱的父母將會加重已經存在的生活負擔，因此華裔成年子女還往往面臨著由照顧長者所導致的在身體心理和社交方面負面的影響。