

The gender differences in personal care for the older people in China

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Back ground

- Female older people requires more help in physical activity of daily living.
- Families are predominant personal care resources for the older people.
- old parents prefer to live with sons.
- Wives are traditional home workers in families.
- Help in activities of daily living is more private than other daily care activities, and is highly related to the psychological well-being of the receiver.

Personal care for daily activities

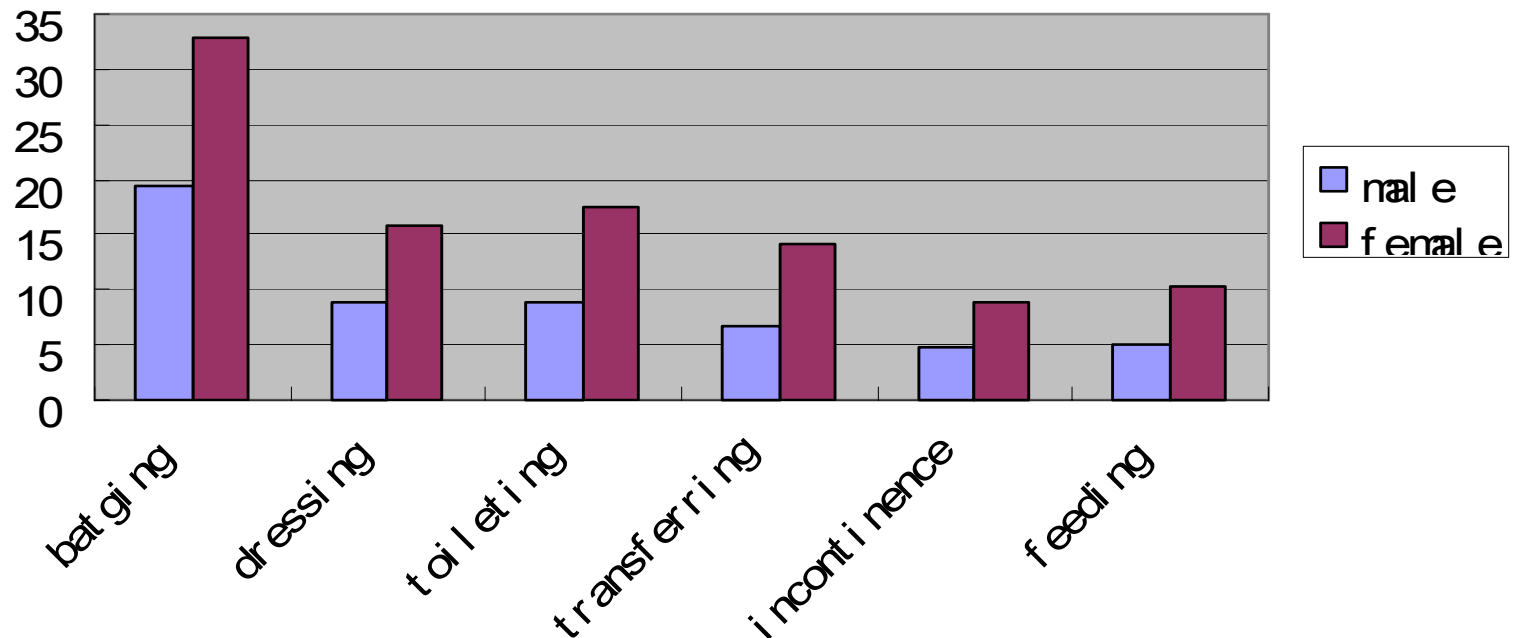
- Personal care activities including assistance in
- Dressing
- Toileting
- Transferring
- Incontinence
- Feeding

Data

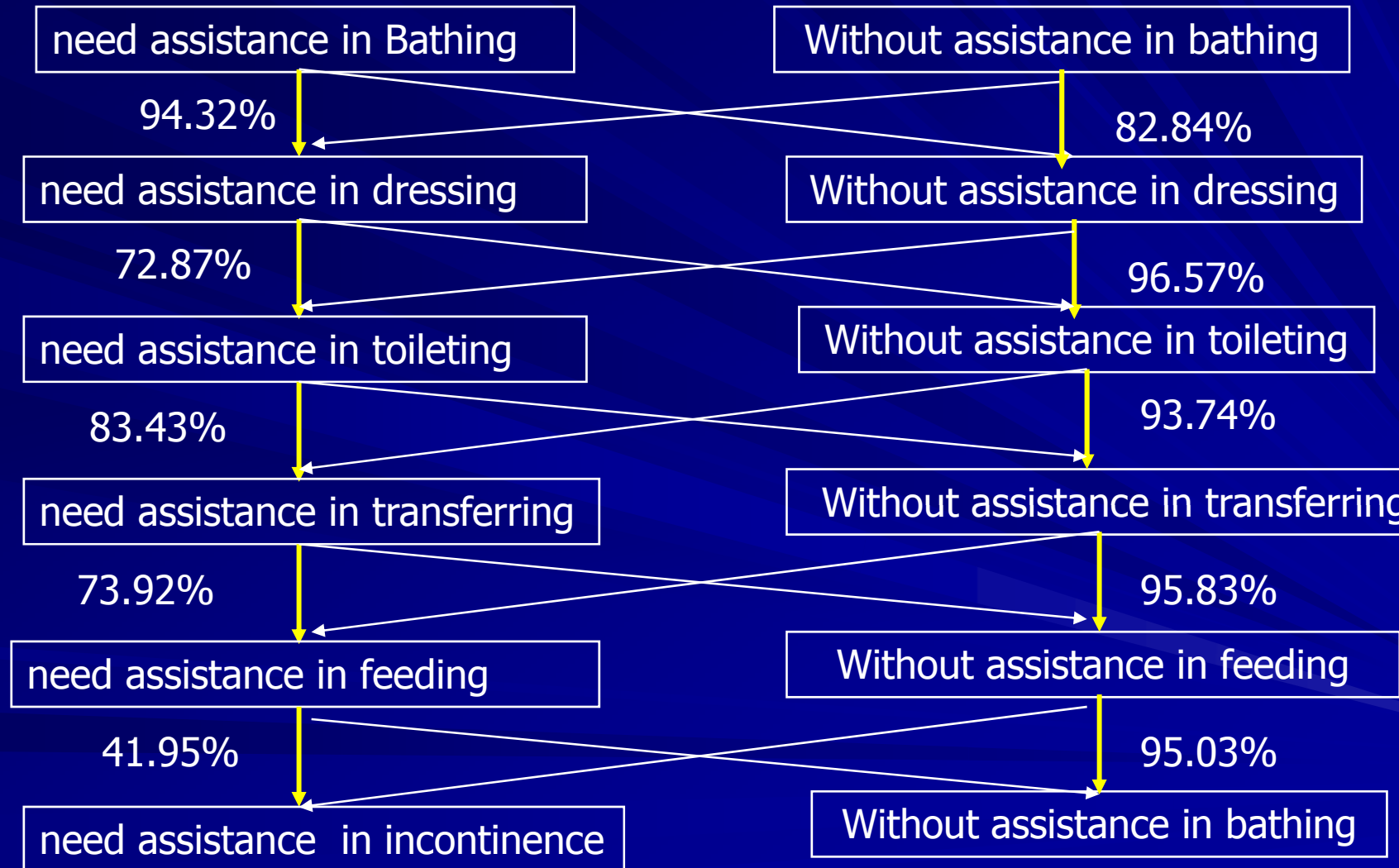
- The data in this analysis is derived from the third wave (2002) of the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS), conducted by the center for Chinese healthy aging and family studies, Peking University.
- The CLHLS covers 22 out of the 31 provinces in China, and got 16064 valid questionnaires, ranging from 60 to 120 years old, including 9219(57.4%) women and 6845(42.6%)men. Of all samples, 30.6% need personal care in ADL.

Older people with assistance in ADL

figure 1 percent of male and female older people needing assistance in ADL

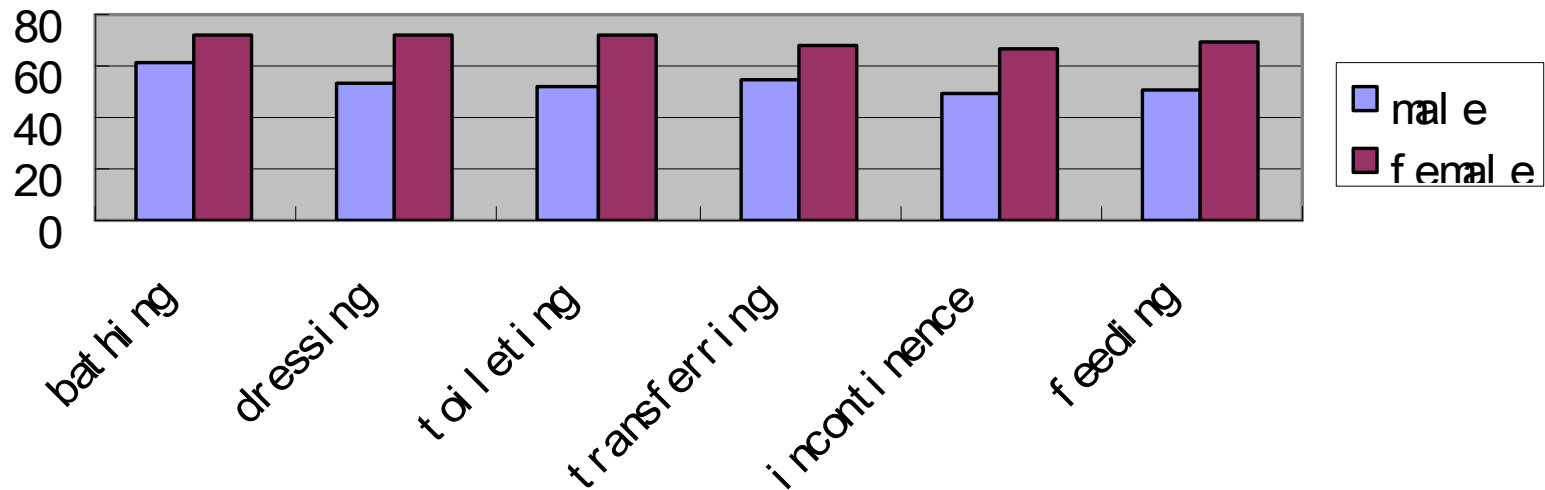


Transition in ADL



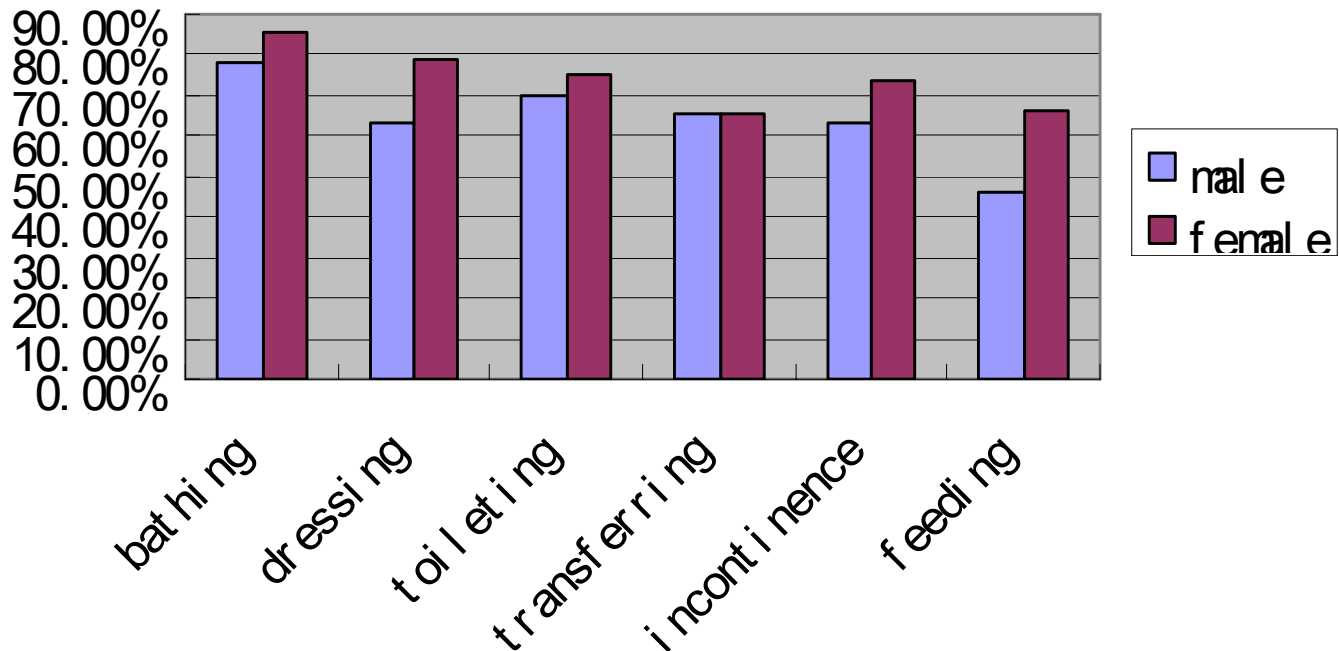
Old people taking care by child or child-in-law

figure 2 percent of the older people taking care by child or child-in-law



Elderly taking care by same gender of child or child-in-law

figure 3 percent of older people taking care by same gender of child or child-in-law



Data for regression analysis

Table 1 The older people taking care by child or child-in-law in the analysis

	With assistance	Provider: Child (in-law)	Living in families
bathing	4347	2854	2842
dressing	2061	1293	1287
toileting	2175	1393	1390
transferring	1515	1088	1085
incontinence	1118	667	664
feeding	1212	796	793

Method

- Using Logistic regression model to analyze the odds ratio of the older people receiving personal care from same gender of child or child-in-law.
- Dependent variable: Whether the personal care provider in each activity of ADL has the same gender with the older care receiver.
- Independent variables: provider, age, living arrangements, residence, career, marital status, education attainment and the assistance in the activity.

Characteristic of the old people receiving assistance in ADL from child or child-in-law

Variables	Male		Female	
	Different %	Same %	Different %	Same %
Personal care provider (ref=son)				
Spouse of son	41.3	0.0	0.0	64.1
Spouse of daughter	58.7	0.0	0.0	35.9
Daughter	0.0	5.6	3.3	0.0
Living arrangements (ref=not live with child)				
Living with child	81.2	85.8	90.0	90.9
Age (ref=100+years old)				
80-99 years old	58.0	64.9	47.3	48.0
60-79 years old	2.9	27.2	21.1	5.9
Education (ref=literate)				
Illiterate	44.9	43.4	87.4	87.7
Marital status (ref= Currently married)				
Widowed, divorced or never married	86.2	75.6	98.7	95.6
Career (ref=agricultural)				
Nonagricultural	7.2	4.3	32.6	34.5
No work or others	51.4	56.6	61.5	55.8
Residence (ref=rural)				
Town	18.8	16.5	19.7	21.0
City	31.2	32.7	22.2	27.6
Assistance needed (ref= one part assistance)				
More than one part assistance	60.0	58.6	66.0	63.2

Logistic regression results-1

Variables	bathing	dressing	toileting	transferring	incontinence	feeding
Spouse of son	10.705***	10.091***	22.426***	24.412***	14.211***	15.629***
Spouse of daughter	1.676	1.606	0.833	1.128	2.941	1.788
Daughter	3.735***	6.760***	10.119***	11.280***	7.369***	12.145***
Living arrangements (ref= live with child)						
Live with child	1.526*	2.147**	1.252	1.376	.669	1.148
Age (ref= 100+years old)						
60-99 years old	1.319*	0.987	1.044	1.118	1.350	.827
50-79 years old	2.924**	1.273	2.703	3.186	3.188	3.150
Education (ref=literate)						
Illiterate	0.791	0.879	0.541**	.515**	.758	1.285

Logistic regression results-2

Variables	bathing	dressing	toileting	transferring	incontinence	feeding
Marital status (ref= Currently married)						
<u>Widowed , divorced or never married</u>	2.698***	3.451**	2.151*	.478+	2.091+	.529
Occupation (ref=agricultural)						
Nonagricultural	.857	1.096	0.626+	1.652+	1.358	.839
No work or others	1.061	1.275	0.812	1.172	1.250	.722
Residence (ref=rural)						
Town	1.048	1.075	1.033	0.967	1.106	1.083
City	1.356+	0.898	1.054	0.944	1.248	.627+
Assistance needed (ref= one part assistance)						
More than one part assistance	0.915	0.943	0.881	.745+	.670	1.301
Constant	1902.625	1073.836	1074.860	923.398	568.975	722.101

Discussion

- Female children and children-in-law have higher intendancy to provide help for the parents with same gender than male ones in each physical activity of daily living.
- Widowed or divorced elderly are more likely to receive help from same gender in bathing, dressing and incontinence.
- Older people living with children are more likely to receive help from same gender of child or child-in-law.
- Illiterate Older people are more likely to receive help from different gender in more private activities such as toileting and transferring.

Conclusion

- Among the daily care providers with different gender from old people, children are more acceptable for the elderly than the children -in-law.
- Educated, younger and current married people are more sensitive for the daily care from different gender.
- Older people intended to receive assistance in ADL from same gender.

The end