

# **Preferences of elderly people and their primary caregivers concerning the arrangement of long-term care in the north Taiwan**

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摘要

## **Abstract**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:** Long-term care policies and networks in Taiwan are still in the early stages of development and as such it is important to establish comprehensive care models which clearly define the needs of the elderly and their family members. This study examined the preferences of the elderly and their primary family caregivers in long-term care arrangements. **METHODS:** Using multi-stage sampling, a total of 1180 subjects (n = 593 elderly people [age > or = 65 years] and n = 587 caregivers) from 7 counties/cities in the north of Taiwan were interviewed by local public health nurses. **RESULTS:** Home care was the first choice for both elderly people and their primary caregivers (59.2% of both groups combined). Institutional care was considered the second choice; however, only 9.2% found this choice acceptable. Community-based care was the least preferred mode of long-term care (4.2%). Among the sample subjects, elderly people born in China, those not living in the Taipei metropolitan area, and those not receiving a financial subsidy from the government, indicated that they would be more inclined to accept institutional care. All other elderly people between the ages of 65 and 74 years indicated greater preference for community-based care. Primary caregivers born in China, those with only an elementary school level of education, and those with previous unpleasant experiences in caring for the elderly were more inclined to accept community and institutional care. **CONCLUSIONS:** Most elderly people and their primary family caregivers preferred home care. This study also revealed that previous experiences with care for the elderly, educational level, and socioeconomic status were important factors influencing preferences for long-term care arrangements