

**THE RISE OF THE “FLOATING ELDERLY” (II):
CHALLENGES AND LONG-TERM
IMPLICATIONS**

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Executive Summary

1. The emergence of a fast-growing group of migrant grandparents in recent years has both positive and negative effects on China's elderly care system, both for now and the future.
2. The tidal wave of migrant grandparents helps to engage the elderly in post-retirement life and lift the burden of elderly support, while liberating the younger generation from childcare and domestic duties. Migrating for grandchild care also indirectly boosts the physical and emotional wellbeing of migrant grandparents.
3. Meanwhile, migrant grandparents' physical and mental wellbeing is under stress due to their physical displacement. As urban newcomers at an old age, they have to cope with various issues, such as adapting to the new environment and fighting institutional barriers to access quality health care.
4. The disputes caused by child care and multigenerational residence could further complicate migrant grandparents' living conditions.
5. In the long term, a swelling population of migrant grandparents would generate significant challenges to China's urban planning, social integration and elderly support system as this demographic group advances to the senior stage of life.
6. As China's population continues to age amid rising life expectancy and declining fertility rate, a comprehensive policy package is needed to effectively respond to this demographic segment's needs. The Chinese government is developing "home/community/mutual-aid based elderly care" to meet fundamental challenges facing the family-oriented elderly support system.