

## **Grandparenthood, Caring for Grandchildren, and Mortality in China**

This study addresses a critical research gap by examining the relationship between grandparenthood, intergenerational caregiving, and mortality in non-Western contexts. Using data from the 2011-2018 China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHRLS), including 9,336 respondents aged 50 and above in 2011 (with 34,976 observations), the study investigates the influence of grandparenthood and grandchild caregiving behaviours on mortality. It also explores the role of living proximity and frequency of interactions with children in contributing to these relationships. Grandparenthood status was categorized into three levels: individuals with no grandchildren, those with grandchildren but without caregiving responsibilities, and those actively caring for their grandchildren. Findings from logistic regression analysis with random effects reveal a significant association between grandparenthood and decreased mortality risk compared to individuals without grandchildren. Additionally, results from the KHB mediation analysis suggest that reduced living distance from children and increased frequency of interactions with children partially account for this relationship. This study emphasizes the protective effects of grandparenthood and grandchild caregiving on mortality among older Chinese adults, highlighting living proximity and meeting frequency with children as key factors that play a role in promoting healthy aging within non-Western familial contexts.