

*Housing Conditions of Young Individuals, Women, Elderly People, and Disaster-affected Households within the Context of Japan's Home-owning Society*

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The housing system in postwar Japan has focused on the creation of a social mainstream by expanding middle-class home ownership. In line with this, many people have followed a conventional life-course in terms of ascending the housing ladder towards property ownership and the aggregated flow of households entering the owner-occupied housing sector has underpinned the maintenance of a homeowner society. Since the 1990s, however, socio-economic and demographic changes have combined with the retreat of the government from housing subsidy schemes to undermine the traditional foundations of the postwar housing system. Along with prolonged economic stagnation, an aging population and falling fertility, and a decrease in middle-class families, there has been an obvious decline in the cycle where most people have almost ceaselessly followed conventional housing paths to home ownership. This paper has explored housing circumstances surrounding various groups such as young individuals, women, elderly people, and disaster-affected households in relation to transformations in Japan's home-owning society.