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**Living Arrangements and Changing Family Relationships  
of Chinese Immigrant Elderly**

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## **Living Arrangements and the Changing Family Relationships of Chinese Immigrant Elderly**

### **Abstract**

Family reunification policies have increasingly enabled young adults to sponsor their elderly parents to immigrate to the U.S. Social scientists know very little about aging minority populations, and even less about those who may have immigrated to the U.S. as older adults. Using intensive interviews (in Mandarin) with 40 Chinese immigrant elderly, this study presents a qualitative analysis of the determinants and dynamics involved in the process of decision-making around living arrangements between the Chinese immigrant elderly and their adult children. In contrast to previous research that suggests a cultural preference to live in multigenerational households and a high co-residence rate among recent arrivals, most Chinese elderly aspire to live in separate households from their adult children. Our findings suggest that economic necessity and initial cultural preference promote co-residence, but over time, Chinese American young adults and their elderly parents adopt American norms and prefer to live in separate households.