

Demographic Transition and living arrangements of aged people in Latin America. A comparison of two countries at different stages of demographic transition. Dominican Republic and Argentina.

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## **Introduction**

This paper describes and compares living arrangements of older adults in 2 Latin American countries in different stage of demographic transition, such as Argentina and Dominican Republic. The sources of information used were the microdata census of population of both countries, Demographic Bulletins (ECLAC/CELADE), System of Indicators with comparable information for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which allows the follow-up of the ICPD Program of Action (Cairo 1994) and Regional Plan of Action (subscribed by the countries of Latin America in 1996) and the Regional System of Indicators on Aging SISE developed by UNFPA and Celade.

Population aging is an unrelenting challenge for social policies in Latin America. Unlike Europe that became enriched first and then aged, in Latin America this process coexists with many shortcomings and social problems still unresolved. The impact analysis of differences in the demographic transition between Argentina and Dominican Republic on the living arrangements of the elderly will be the main objective of the study.

## **Fundamentals and theoretical framework**

The demographic dynamics of Latin American countries are characterized by intense changes that have occurred in the past century, continuing in this century. The demographic transition can be defined as the passage of a scheme characterized by moderate population growth with high levels of mortality and fertility to a regime with moderate or zero growth with low levels of both variables. This process sued in Europe almost two centuries and in Latin America is in effect less than half a century.

One consequence of this demographic transition is the aging process that is increasing the relative proportion of older adults on the total population. Increasing life expectancy is one of the most important phenomena of human progress in the twentieth century and so far this century. The developed societies have succeeded in achieving that their citizens live longer and in better living conditions. According to UN data, in 1950 male life expectancy worldwide, stood at 45.2 years for males and 47.9 for women. The same source said that for the period 2005-2010, male life expectancy was 64.3 years for females and 68.7 respectively, while for the same date in the more developed countries was 72.6 years for men and 79,9 for women.

In developed countries, fertility levels below replacement, and increasing life expectancy have led to the phenomenon of an aging population, leading to over 20% of the population of these countries have 65 years or more . The nature socio-demographic

nature of the ageing population process is placed into evidence by both its causes and its implications (Villa and Rivadeneira: 1999). Social, economic, political and cultural factors are associated with it.

The major transformations that generates this process requires readjust the economic and social institutions to meet demands until recently unknown (Villa and Rivadeneira: 1999). The effects of these trends on consumption, savings, access, reintegration and flexibility of the workforce, social protection, intergenerational relations, social equity and gender specificities, in general, set to face challenges for the development of societies in general and of this population in particular. This high impact of an aging population motivates exploration of trends the most nearby precedents and impacts of the phenomenon.

Chesnais (1990) clearly describes the effect of changes in fertility in the age structure of the population. Although there are differences between the situation of countries, all Latin American countries have already started their transition.

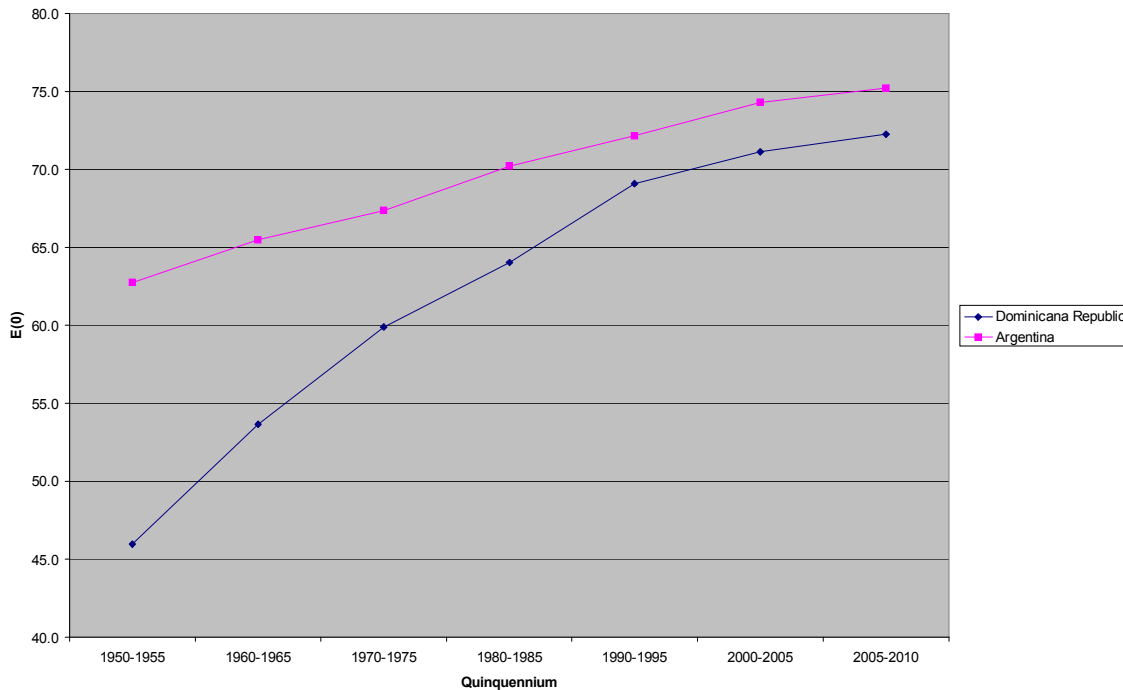
One of the hallmarks of aging process is its greatest incidence on women. The reason for this is the increased life expectancy of women, because of the masculine overmortality. In this regard Chackiel (1999) noted that women face a great paradox to live longer than men, but in most cases should face alone, as widows, often with family, a poor old age. This is due to the low income they receive and that for biological reasons, because of their reproductive role, women face in the post-menopausal health situation more delicate than men, although with lower risk of death. Peláez M, Palloni A. and M. Ferrer (1999) indicate that the lowest economic participation of women is the cause of their greater vulnerability. Joelle-Coldevin Barbot (1999) also notes that in Latin America despite the many advances made in this regard, there is still discrimination in the labor market, not for equal work equal pay, women is most often associated with informal work (housewives, domestic servants), following its role in many reproductive age being left to work in most cases outside of the social security system and depending on their husbands for survival. Not surprising, then see a link between high levels of poverty and female heads of household.

According Chackiel (2004) Dominican Republic is in the group of countries in full demographic transition, while Argentina is among the countries with an advanced demographic transition.

In the case of Argentina, life expectancy for both sexes rose from 62.7 years in 1950-1955 to 75.2 in the period 2005-2010, representing an increase of around 20%. While, Dominican Republic, whose life expectancy in the beginning of that period was much lower, rose from 46.0 years in 1950-1955 to 72.6 in 2005-2010, showing an increase of over 50%. These findings are explained by the high infant mortality in this Caribbean country in the decade 1950 – 1960 and the strong impact on life expectancy, whose decline began in the mid-70, before starting to increase more markedly between 1980-1985 starting to decrease in the nineties, to continue declining with a lower rate (fig 1),

Figure 1

Life expectancy at birth 1950-2010. Dominican Republic and Argentina. Estimates and projections Celades / ECLAC.



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

Analyzing the trend observed in Figure 1, the life expectancy of the Dominican Republic began to rise between the seventies and eighties, rounding the values of Argentina once it reached 70 years; then continued rising at a slower rate, becoming a curve parallel to the evolution of Argentina life expectancy.

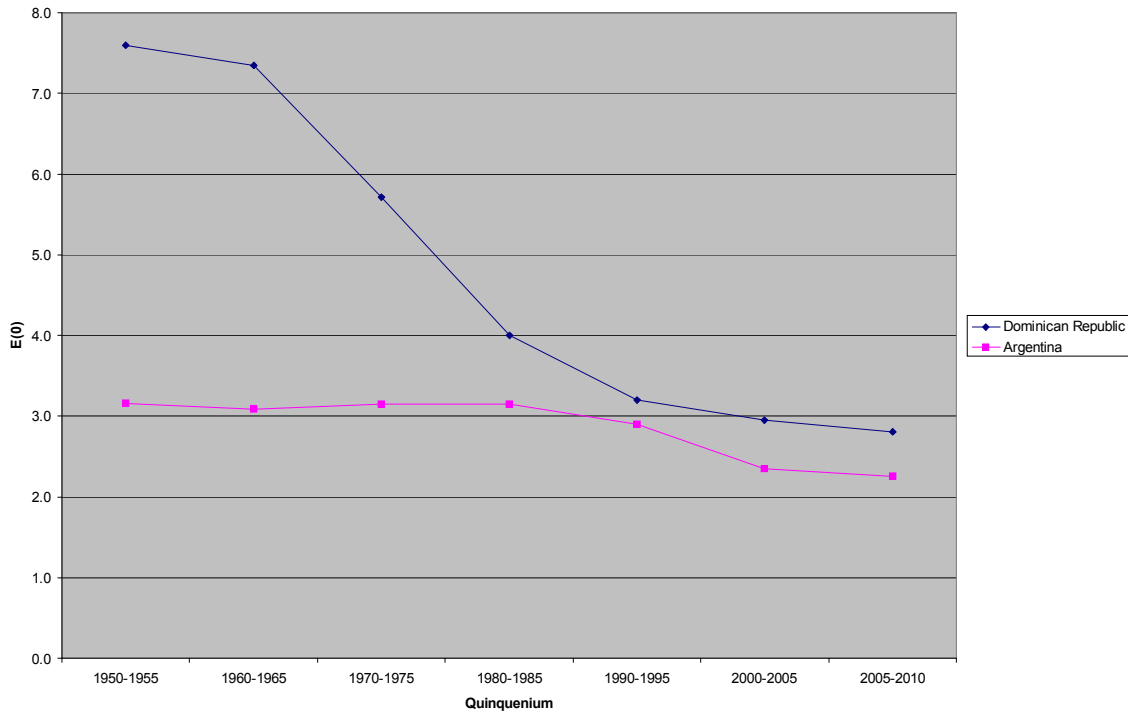
Another variable with strong influence on the demographic transition was fertility. In relation to Argentina, fertility in the Dominican Republic experienced a downward trend in a faster way.

It may be noted that in the decade of 50 differences were remarkable. The total fertility rate was above 7 children per woman in Dominican, while the Argentina barely exceeded 3 children per woman. These differences began to attenuate with the reduction in fertility experienced by Dominican Republic from the mid-sixties. Such as mortality, when the Dominican fertility rate dropped to near 3, reductions decelerated and the differences with Argentina tended to remain stable. (Figure 2).

These differences in both situations on life expectancy and fertility among countries, coupled with the strong reception of migrants in working age who arrived to Argentina in the early twentieth century. Thus, the percentage of older adults in the 70's increased significantly, generating even greater differences in the percentage of older adults in the populations of both countries as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 2

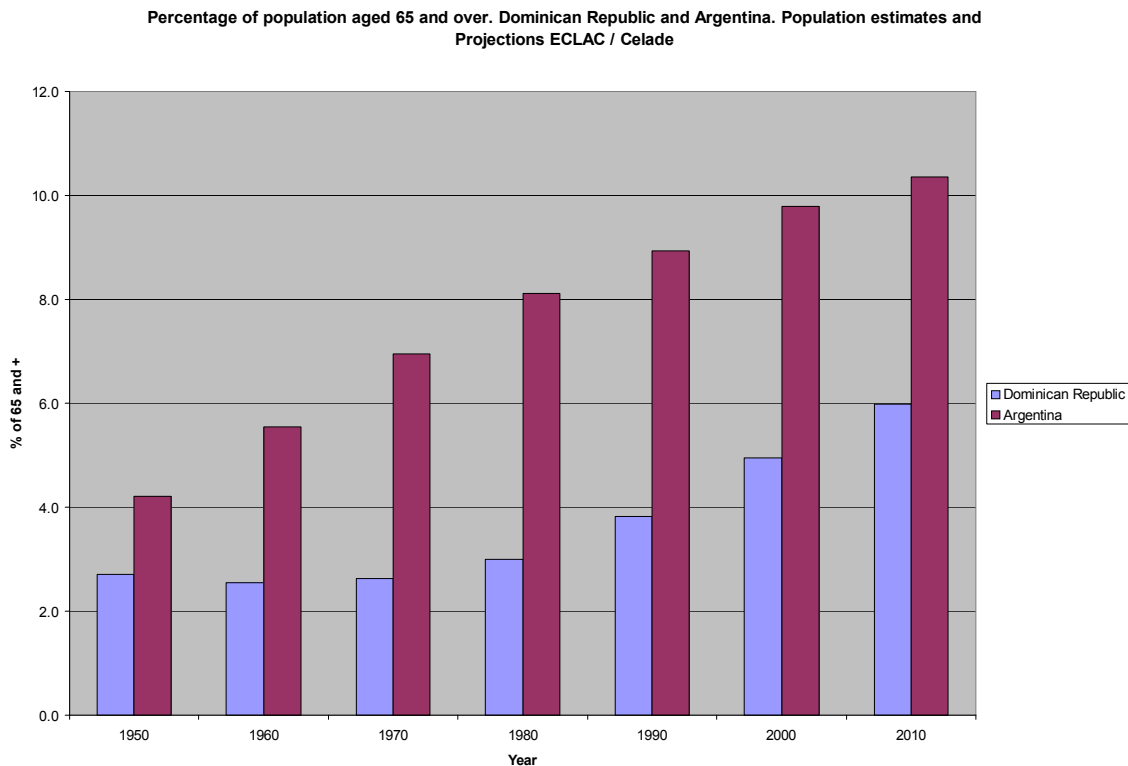
Total fertility rate 1950-2010. Dominican Republic and Argentina. Estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC.



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

Figure 3 clearly shows the highest concentration of elderly in Argentina, but the rapid fertility decline experienced by Dominican Republic between mid-the sixties and the nineties, will generate an accelerated aging process of its population in the next twenty years.

Figure 3



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC p

Figure 4 shows the evolution of the total and 65 and over average annual growth rates. In it highlights are the strong growth in the group aged 65 and over in Argentina in the decade of 50 and 60. This phenomenon is caused by the aging of overseas migrants who arrived in ages working in early century<sup>1</sup>. In those decades the growth of the elderly is twice the total growth rate of Argentina. This newly-recurring situation returns from 2020 but with significantly lower rates. Meanwhile, in the case of the Dominican Republic, since the sixties growth of over 65 is greater than the high rate of growth overall. This difference is spreading as soon as the years pass and for the decade of 2020 is expected to average annual growth of over 65 quadruplicate the average annual growth, reaching the rate of almost 4% per annum. For the period 2020-2030, the difference in growth rates of the population in both countries is expected to be significant. The growth rate of Dominican Republic will probably double the Argentina's rate.

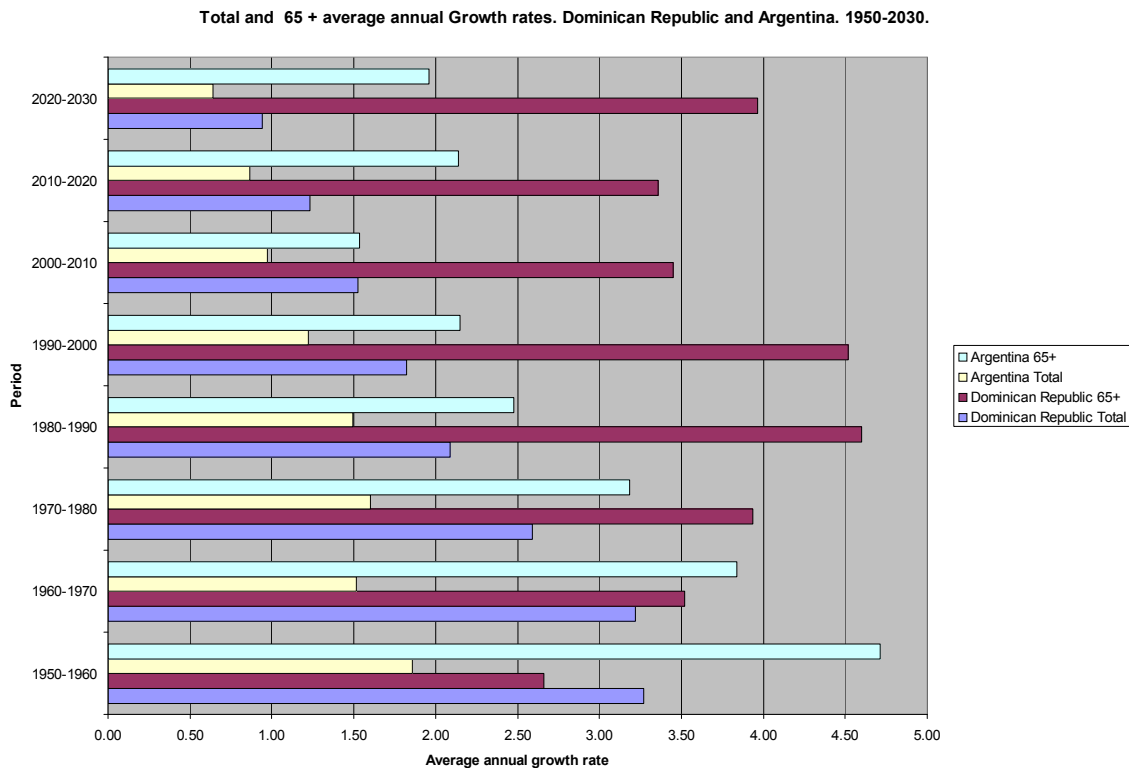
The reality of population aging process described in Argentina, and the acceleration of the same phenomenon in the Dominican Republic lead us to wonder whether these

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<sup>1</sup> RECCHINI de LATTES, Zulma (1999). "Tendencias y perspectivas del envejecimiento de la población femenina y masculina en Argentina". Encuentro Latinoamericano y Caribeño sobre las personas de Edad. Cepal. Santiago de Chile.

differences are reflected in disparities in living arrangements of older adults in both countries and the effect that the demographic transition makes on them.

Figure 4



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

The impact of population aging process on families is very important, the low fertility and increased life expectancy, will increasingly alien brothers, cousins, uncles. Fewer people must take charge of caring or serve a larger number of elderly, generally women. Families who are usually the entity responsible for social integration and care for the elderly, are compounded by changing the relationship between the number of elderly and the number of people active.

For most Latin American countries, living arrangements are one of the main ways of support for the families to their aging parents or relatives. Regardless of the limitations of the majority of their families, the Region is traditionally characterized by affective bonds between generations so that the families become the first in receiving the impact of population aging (SAAD, 2003)

The present study will examine the evolution of living arrangements of older adults in both countries. Saad (2005) analyzed the relationship between living arrangements and

welfare of the elderly. The study showed the advantage of the co-residence to ensure support for older adults on condition of vulnerability.

For the purpose of studying the impact of demographic transition in both countries with the welfare of older adults this study will discuss the index of Madrid proposed by Maria Angeles Duran (2005). This index allows to estimate the demand for labor care for a population. Each adult from 18 to 64 years requires a unit of care, defined as the number of people who every day must care the dependent people; children from 0 to 4 years require two units; those of 5 to 14 years 1,5 units; those aged 15 to 17 1,2 care units as well as people from 65 to 74 years; those older than 75 to 84 years require 1.7 units of care, and those older than 85 years two units care per person. This index provides the possibility of estimate the demand for resources covered by social security which can not be covered by relatives. To the extent that is rapidly reducing family size by the fall in fertility, such as the Dominican Republic and increases the life expectancy, increases the ratio of older adults for every adult<sup>2</sup>, reducing the chances that the biggest be cared by relatives and generating an unsatisfied demand to be covered by the state<sup>3</sup>.

## **Methodology**

The first part of this study is a comparative and descriptive paper about the demographic transition in Argentina and the Dominican Republic. After that, we will analyze the effect of the demographic transition in the living arrangements. In this analysis we will use the microdata census of population of both countries. To analyze the demographic transition of each country we will use the Demographic Bulletins (ECLAC/CELADE).

Data processing of residential arrangements of older adults was conducted using the population census and urban / rural disaggregation. It is important to note that the definitions from urban and rural areas are different in Argentina and Dominican Republic. In Argentina, rural population refers to those residing in villages with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants or isolated rural populations. In Dominican Republic, rural population is referred to people who don't reside in the provincial capitals. It is also pertinent to offer a bare definition of the different types of households used in the study: one-person person household is one who lives a single person, nuclear may be a couple without children, or parent with children. An extended household is beyond the core partner with or without children, and composite household may or may not have family and has no relatives. Collective household is that where people reside in a hotel, nursing home, hospital, etc.

It is also pertinent to define the different types of households used: one person household is one who lives a single person, nuclear may be a couple without children, or parent with children, is one extended family that is beyond the core partner with or without children, composite home is the one compound that may or may not have family and has no

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<sup>2</sup> It is important to considerate that the burden of caring powerfully limits women's access to employment opportunities and education, exacerbating the poverty situation once it is women who most often are left by their relatives not active.

<sup>3</sup> ECLAC / Celade 2007. "Opportunities and applications of census data: A contribution to the exploitation of Population and Housing Census 2005 Nicaragua." Manuals Series. UNFPA.

relatives, while the collective is that where you reside in a hotel, nursing home, hospital, etc..

## **DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION INDICATORS**

It is expected that the analyzed data clearly indicate differences in the stage of the aging process and the situation of older adults in the countries studied. Argentina is in an advanced stage of demographic transition is being considered an aging population since the 70's. However, in this country the aging process in the coming years will not be as accelerated as in the Dominican Republic, which records the most abrupt fall in fertility (TFR of 7.6 in 1950 to 2.8 in 2005). The situation of older adults in the Dominican Republic reflects a country that is accelerating its population aging process.

An analysis of the evolution of population aging indicators in both countries between 1950 and 2050 was carried out. It's important to mention that the period between 1950 and 2005 was considered historical data, while the period 2005-2050 were projected indicators based on population estimative and projections of CELADE

The "Population Ageing Index" is the ratio of the population aged 60 year and over per cent to the population under 15 years of age. This indicator measures the capacity for renewal of the population as the most outstanding fact is the proportional decrease of young people, generating the narrowing of the pyramid base. This index provides information on the speed to be adjusted the supply of goods and services according to the population needs, generated by a new and growing demand.

Figure 5 shows the evolution of this indicator, revealing an acceleration of the aging process in Argentina between 1950 and 1970, because in those years, the country received a large number of aged migrants about the first half of the twentieth century.

Since the 1990s both curves increase kept pace with a higher initial level of Argentina in terms of their rate of aging. Argentina will exceed the value 100 of this index by 2040. That means that there will be more than a person of 60 years for each child under 15. This situation will be held in Dominican Republic after 2050. This phenomenon will have profound impacts on the lives of families and the organization of social security. Since that time there will be more grandparents than grandchildren in the population.

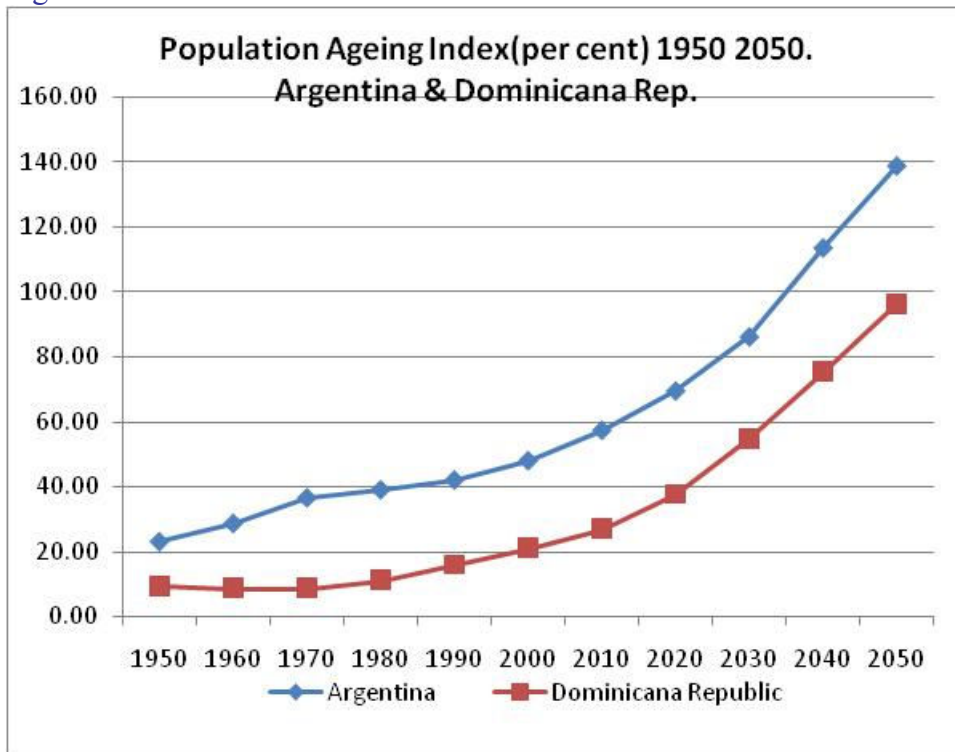
The Potential Support ratio is an alternative way of expressing the numerical relationship between those more likely to be economically active and those more likely to be dependents. It is the ratio of the persons 15 to 59 years of age to the population of those 60 years and over of age or the opposite of the dependency ratio of the population 60 year and over. Figure 6 shows the evolution of this indicator for both countries between 1950 and 2050. In Argentina there was a rapid decline in the indicator between 1950 and 1990 by increasing the proportion of older adults. In Dominican Republic the decline began to accelerate since 1980. Since 2030 both curves have a similar level and behave in a parallel fall.



It is important to mention that in Dominican Republic, the value passes from close to 11 in 1980, to less than 6 in 2020. That means a brusque change for a country that is far from universal coverage of social security systems for the elderly.

Changes in Argentina are not that abrupt. The values of the indicator in 1980 were 5 active per older adult and in 2020 this indicator will be close to 4. Despite the slight decrease in the indicator, there is a concern because of the deterioration in the coverage of the Social Security system of Argentina. According to data from SIISE coverage passes from 67% in 1997 to 55.4% in 2005.

Figure 5

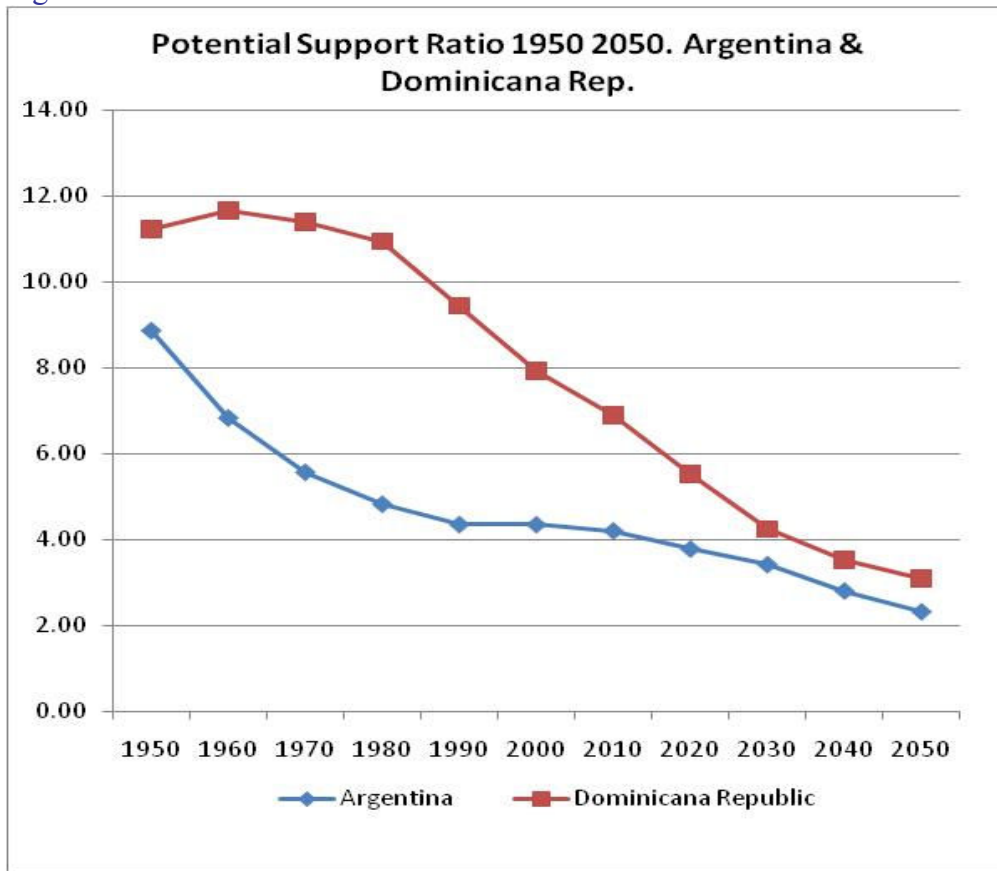


Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

Another indicator is the “Parent support Ratio” that is a measure that is commonly used to assess the demands on families to provide support for their elderly members. The Parent Support Ratio should be taken only as a rough indicator of changes required in the family support system for the elderly. It is the number of persons aged 80 years and over in relation of those between 50 and 64 years.

This indicator in Dominican Republic was 22.38 persons between 50 to 64 years for each of 80 years and over in 1980. For the year 2000 this value was reduced to less than half, standing at 10.58. Again, changes in Argentina have been less abrupt, and the value of this indicator fell from 12.83 in 1980 to 7.02 in 2000 (Figure 7). The trend of this indicator reaffirms the hypothesis that it will become increasingly difficult for families to give social protection to their aging people. It is when the State acquires a fundamental role.

Figure 6



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

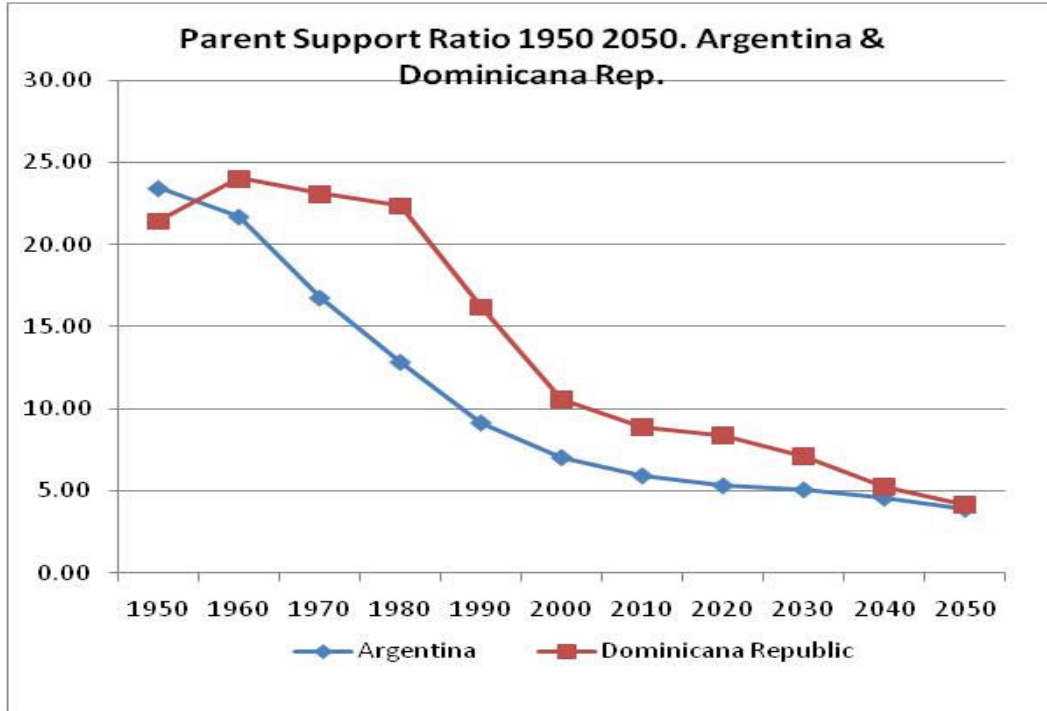
One consequence of the process of demographic aging is the change in the demands of unpaid work, particularly care work. Madrid index is an indicator that allows an approach to the measurement of impact on care needs of potentially demanding people. On the other hand, the index reflects the need for time spent by individuals on children or elder care.

Data analysis for both countries for the period between 1950 and 2050 shows that the decline in fertility has decreased the overall value of this index because the child population has been reduced and the growing number of older adults do not reach to offset this decline in infant, even by the 2050. This situation produces a children's minor quantity of whom taking care, and a number of elders even not very high whom to give attention. Therefore, Cepal (2008) indicates that in a moment of the demographic transition the relation of dependence descends substantially, generating a favorable situation for the development. This, because the chances of saving and investment would increase, whenever be accompanied of macroeconomic policies that stimulate the productive investment that increases the possibilities of employment.

Figure 8 shows the behavior of this index in both countries. In Dominican Republic there was a slight increase in the rate among 1950 and 1960 to fall strongly from 1970 due to the fall in fertility. In Argentina, the index experienced an increased until 1980, initiating

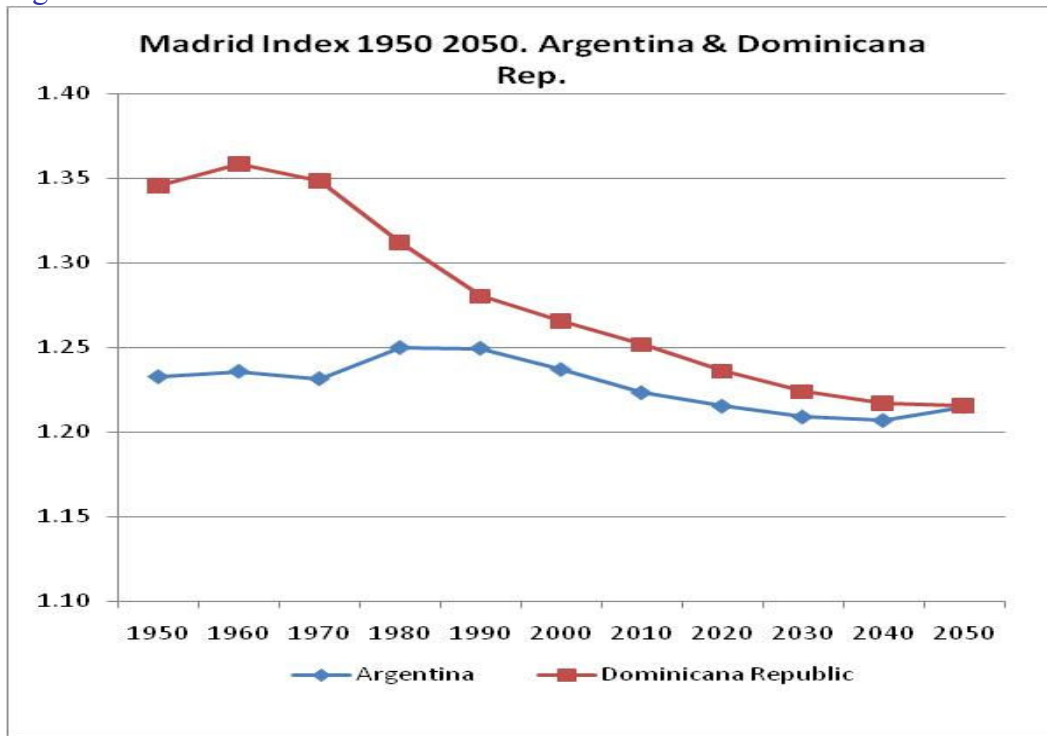
a decrease from 1990; for the year 2050 the index would begin to ascend again as a result of the population aging process.

Figure 7



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

Figure 8



Source: Population estimates and Projections Celade / ECLAC

CELADE has classified countries of Latin America into four different groups, according to the values of their aging indicators, as shown in table 1. According to this table, Argentina and Chile are among the countries with a population aging moderately advanced, whereas Dominican Republic, as same as most Latin American countries, is located in the moderate aging group.¿ Does it have any consequences on living arrangements of older people? Does it impact in the way they live?

Table 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INDEX OF AGING AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE BY COUNTRY AS OF AGING STAGES, 1980-2050									
Stages	Countries	Aging Index				Percentage Increase			
		1980	2005	2025	2050	1980-2005	2005-2025	2025-2050	
Incipient Aging	Bolivia	12.9	17.2	31.0	82.1	33.3	80.2	164.8	
	Guatemala	10.2	14.0	20.8	57.5	37.3	48.5	176.7	
	Haiti	15.3	16.6	27.3	70.6	8.5	64.5	158.6	
	Honduras	10.1	14.5	29.1	86.3	43.6	100.7	196.6	
	Nicaragua	9.1	14.8	34.9	99.2	62.6	135.8	184.1	
	Paraguay	13.6	19.2	39.4	87.7	41.2	105.2	122.6	
Moderate Aging	Brazil	17.1	31.3	68.6	138.7	83.0	119.1	102.2	
	Colombia	14.2	24.6	65.4	134.7	73.2	165.9	106.0	
	Costa Rica	18.8	28.8	75.5	158.4	53.2	162.2	109.8	
	Ecuador	13.8	25.1	53.8	118.2	81.9	114.3	119.8	
	El Salvador	11.4	22.1	39.9	103.1	93.9	80.5	158.4	
	Mexico	12.1	27.1	69.4	160.4	124.0	156.1	131.1	
	Panama	16.5	28.5	58.7	120.5	72.7	106.0	105.3	
	Pru	13.3	25.2	51.0	117.5	89.5	102.4	130.4	
	Dominicana Rep.	11.2	23.7	45.6	96.1	111.6	92.4	110.7	
	Venezuela	12.4	23.7	53.6	116.4	91.1	126.2	117.2	
Advanced Moderately Aging	Argentina	39.0	52.2	77.0	138.6	33.8	47.5	80.0	
	Chile	24.7	46.1	103.1	170.0	86.6	123.6	64.9	
Advanced Aging	Cuba	33.8	80.9	184.6	298.6	139.3	128.2	61.7	
	Uruguay	54.5	74.2	106.3	155.7	36.1	43.3	46.4	

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Center of Demography (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, estimates and projections of population, [online] [www.eclac.cl/celade\\_proyecciones/basedatos\\_BD.htm](http://www.eclac.cl/celade_proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm).

## Living Arrangements

Paulo Saad (2005) argues that although the lonely residence may reflect the desire and the favorable conditions of older adults in developed countries, this is not the most desirable in Latin America where coresidence assures support to elderly with a higher level of vulnerability. In the case of Argentina, according to data from ECLAC, the percentage of elderly living below the poverty line is lower than in younger age groups. This situation is probably a consequence of the wellbeing conditions in Argentina until the 70s, that led to older people asset accumulation and assure a retirement or pension. In the case of Dominican Republic the situation is reversed. The elderly have a higher percentage of representation below the poverty line to younger adults.

In the case of Dominican Republic the situation is reversed. The elderly have a higher percentage of representation below the poverty line comparing to younger adults. This indicates a greater vulnerability of the aging Dominicans (table 2) due to the lack of concrete policies to support the aging population for many years. In this way, despite the recent inclusion in the emerging social security, still low coverage for this population in the Dominican republic persist (less than 20%).

According to such poverty and indigence situation in the elderly of Dominican Republic would be desirable a higher number of households with elderly coresidents in this country than in Argentina.

Table 2

ARGENTINA and Dominican Rep. Incidence of poverty and indigence in the population 60 years and older, about 2005									
Country	Año	Population below poverty line a /				Population below the indigence line b /			
		Total Country	Total 60 years and over	60 to 74 years	75 and over	Total Country	Total 60 years and over	60 to 74 years	75 and over
Argentina	2005	26.0	14.6	15.3	13.3	34.9	23.1	27.4	12.0
Dominican Rep	2005	47.5	50.7	49.1	54.7	51.7	55.8	53.5	60.9

**Source:** ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys in the respective countries.  
a / Including persons who are under the line of extreme poverty or indigence.  
b / Refers to the relative weight of indigent persons within of the total poor population.

Figure 9 shows the percent distribution of types of households with elderly in Argentina and Dominican Republic. According to the processing of census microdata, the average number of persons per household in the Dominican Republic was 3.88; while in Argentina was 2.96 persons per household. The figure shows the highest proportion of older Argentines living alone (almost 17%) compared to the Dominican Republic where the proportion is 11%.

There is also a higher proportion of elderly living in nuclear households, 47% of households with older people in Argentina to 33% of households with older Dominican. This fact is consistent with the views expressed by Saad (2003) when he says that in Latin America, the countries most advanced in its demographic transition have higher proportions of elderly living alone and suggests that this pattern will be replicated by the rest of countries.

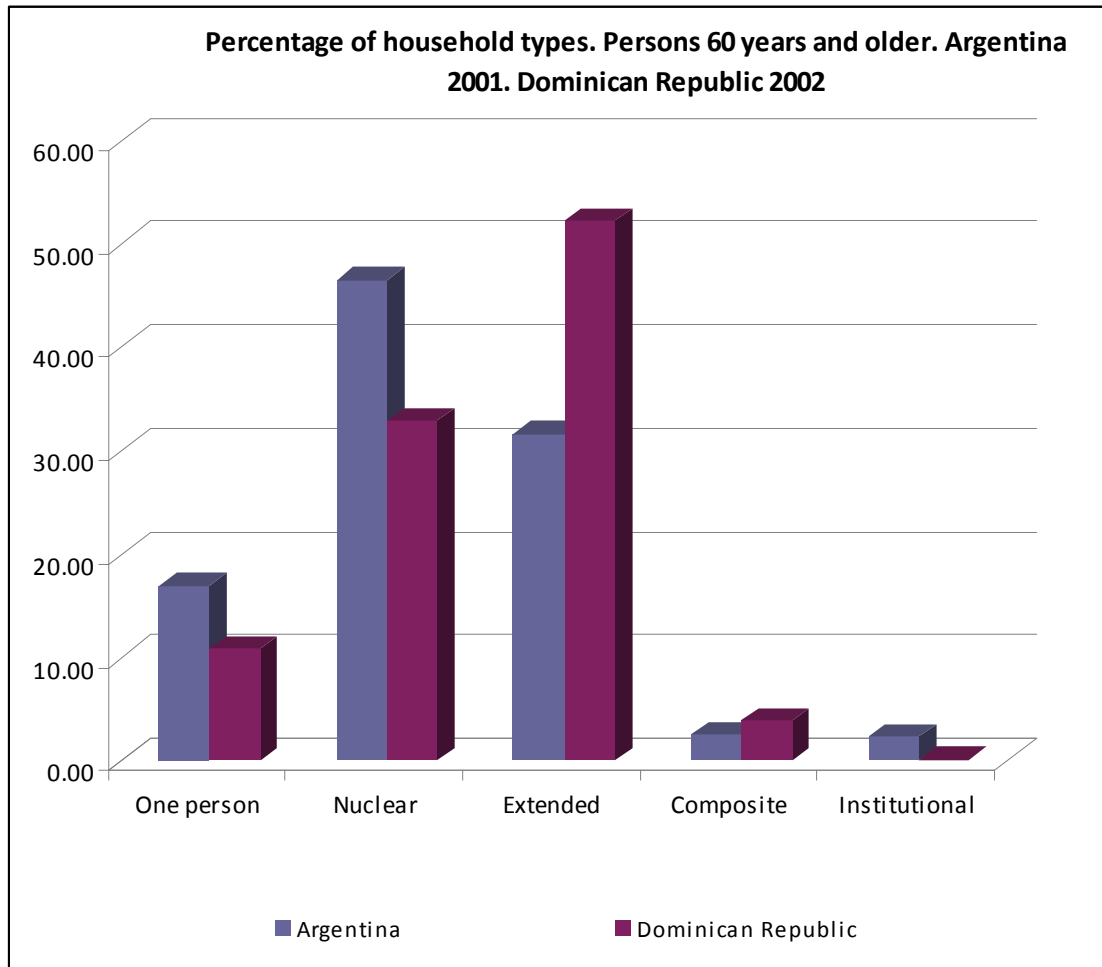
The proportion is reversed with respect to the proportions of older people in extended households (52% of households with more Dominicans to 32% of the Argentines). Households with elderly in composite households are scarce in both countries: 4% in Dominican households and 3% in Argentinean's.

Powerfully calls the attention the proportion of older adults living in collective households. In Dominican Republic is only 0.09%, while in Argentina the proportion is 2, 34%.

It is relevant to deepen the analysis about the low level of institutionalization of older adults in Dominican Republic. It could be due to cultural patterns that express a willingness of Dominican people to preserve their elderly within the households, despite acknowledging of the shortage of host institutions for the elderly in this country.

The processing of census microdata included a rural-urban breakdown, which results are shown in Tables 4-7.

Figure 9



Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2001 Census of Argentina and Dominican Republic in 2002.

Table 4

Percentage of Type of households by sex 60 years and over. Urban. Argentina 2001		
	Varón	Mujer
One person	10.7	21.4
Nuclear	59.3	38.4
Extended	25.8	35.0
Composite	2.1	2.5
Institutional	2.1	2.7

Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2001 Census of Argentina

Table 5

<b>Percentage of Type of households by sex 60 years and over. Rural. Argentina 2001</b>		
	Varón	Mujer
One person	18.8	13.5
Nuclear	44.4	40.1
Extended	30.7	41.3
Composite	4.9	3.8
Institutional	1.3	1.3

Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2001 Census of Argentina

Table 6

<b>Percentage of Type of households by sex 60 years and over. Urban. Dominican Rep. 2002</b>		
	Varón	Mujer
One person	9.4	9.9
Nuclear	38.8	24.9
Extended	47.5	60.0
Composite	4.1	5.0
Institutional	0.1	0.1

Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2002 Census of Dominican Republic

Table 7

<b>Percentage of Type of households by sex 60 years and over. Rural. Dominican Rep. 2002</b>		
	Varón	Mujer
One person	14.5	10.4
Nuclear	39.3	31.0
Extended	43.2	55.8
Composite	3.0	2.6
Institutional	0.1	0.1

Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2002 Census of Dominican Republic

According to data processing, it can be observed a great disparity between the residential arrangements of older argentines when analyzed by sex and area of residence. The percentage of women living alone is twice in comparison to urban males. This situation includes a group of older women living alone in urban areas in poverty conditions and vulnerability due to a participation in the informal labor market when young.

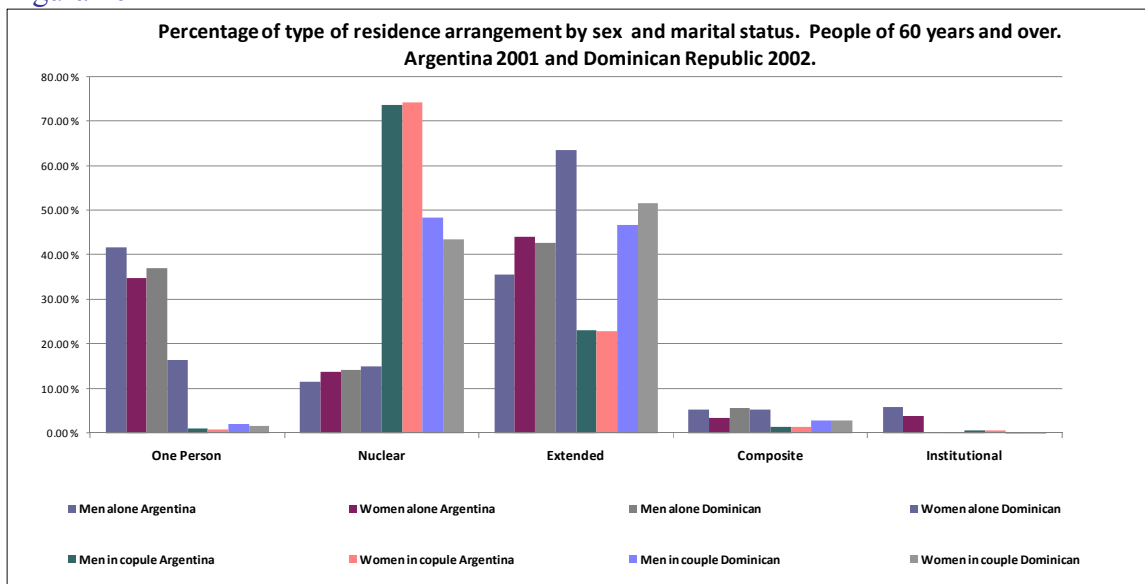
It is also important to note the higher percentage of men living in nuclear households compared to urban women. This situation is associated with marital status as shown in Figure 10. As there is a greater proportion of widows, nuclear households dissolve and a proportion of women choose to live alone while others will live with their relatives, conforming extended households (more prevalent among women). In rural households in



Argentina there is a greater proportion of older men living alone than women. This is probably due to the situation of rural workers who live isolated from their families. .

The organization of the household of older adults in Dominican Republic repeats the pattern of an increased presence of nuclear households among men and presence of extended households among women. The remarkable fact, unlike Argentina, is that the proportion of women living alone did not differ from men, but in a much lower proportion than in Argentina. In that sense, it seems that Dominican women once widowed are more likely to become living in an extended household than in a one-person household. A 60% of urban older women live in extended households. As in case of Argentina, is again observed a higher proportion of older men living alone in rural households, probably by the same circumstance mentioned in Argentina.

Figura 10



Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2001 Census of Argentina and Dominican Republic in 2002.

In figure 10 is clearly distinguished the impact of marital status in the residential arrangements of the elderly. Over 40% of older men in Argentina without partner live alone and this occurs in 37% of Dominican older than 60 years men who have no partner in and 34% of Argentine women over 60 years. Different is the case of Dominican women without a partner which only 16% live alone.

The graph also shows that there is a preference to live in nuclear households of Argentines older adults and the elderly Dominicans to live in extended households. It is emphasized that for every 10 Dominican women with no partner, six of them live in extended households.

Another fact that stands out in Argentina as an alternative to not living alone is the institutionalization of the elderly. Almost 6% of men with no partner live in a collective home. It is noteworthy that due to the increased life expectancy of women in both countries and the cultural pattern of women being in partnership with older men is expected a greater female widowhood. In Dominican census the percentage of men over 60 years without a partner is 27% and 58% of women. In Argentina the situation is more acute, where 26% of men older than 60 have no partner and 59% of women are going through the same situation.

Finally it is also important to quantify the percentage of households with older adults as shown in Table 8. This table shows that while Argentina is a country with aging and a higher proportion of older adults, in Dominican Republic curiously, the percentages of households with older adults in rural and urban areas are the same.

Table 8



Source: Own compilation based on data from the 2001 Census of Argentina and Dominican Republic in 2002.

This is due to the increased preference of Dominicans for living in extended households and the increased presence of one-person households among older Argentines.

## CONCLUSIONS

The demographic transition is a phenomenon that affects all countries of Latin America, but some countries such as Argentina are at an advanced stage of transition with respect to other such as Dominican Republic. Population aging, subsequent to the demographic transition, will be developed in coming years so more slowly in Argentina than in Dominican Republic, where the increase of older population will occur in a more accelerated pattern.

In both countries, all indicators analyzed to assess the evolution of aging in both countries show a pattern and a similar trend but at different moments in time. Argentina is most advanced in the aging process that Rep. Dominicana, wich explains the differences in levels of indicators; however, they will show a parallel trend from 2030.

The fact that Argentina, like other countries in the region had begun the aging process before the rest can be used by Dominican Republic to take advantage of the experience of successes and errors in models of state policies implemented in health and social security of older; for the purpose of reference models have cultures and socioeconomic situations more similar to European countries or United States.

As in most countries of the world, because of male's overmortality, there are more older women than older men. In general, women have participated in a more informal way in labor market and also have suffered a history of gender discrimination.

It was revealed a cultural tendency for women to be paired with older men, which in the long term generates a large amount of widow women living alone in conditions of vulnerability. This fact must be taken into consideration to implement public policies.

We present clear differences in their residential arrangements between both countries. In Argentina there is a higher prevalence of nuclear and one-person households whereas in the Dominican Republic are more extended households among older adults.

This situation has two explanations: first, in Dominican Republic there are more rooted in not letting the elderly living alone, going to live in extended households.

Secondly, many elderly in Argentina are survivors of a welfare state the 1950s, 1960s, and therefore are in such a good financial position that allows them to continue living in one person or nuclear households without important socioeconomic limitations. There are also clear differences in the living arrangements when analyzed by marital status and area of residence.

Is necessary consider that the aging process will be experienced in differential ways according to the social and economic policies designed to deal with the gradual increase in the proportion of population in these age groups. These policies must be based on the principle of equity and take into account the peculiarities of these populations and their differential needs with respect to the total population.

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