

**First Annual Joan Huber Lecture in Population Studies  
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**Abstract**  
**Providing for Older Mothers: Is It a Family Affair?**

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Increases in life expectancy and smaller families coupled with high rates of divorce, childbearing outside of marriage, and the rise in stepfamilies have changed the demography of U.S. families. At the same time, the family's primary caregivers – wives and daughters – have increased their participation in the paid labor force. In this presentation I report a study of whether older mothers live with one of their adult children and whether daughters are more likely than sons to share a household with their mother. The analysis uses data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey, a fifty-year panel study of high school graduates in 1957 and their sisters and brothers. Mothers are more likely to live with a child if they have a daughter, and within families, daughters are more likely than sons to provide for their mother through shared housing. I also investigate possible effects on mothers' living arrangements of children's economic and family circumstances and of financial support parents gave their children in early adulthood. Finally, I explore whether other children in the family help their mother or their sibling with whom she lives to make care giving a family affair.