【1.17】

**1.17每日一篇|经济学人考研精读**

Elderly **suicide**  
Old and sad  
  
suicides by **rural** women have declined. Now the elderly are the biggest concern  
  
【1】As china ages, worries are **mounting** about the **mental** health of its elderly population. Globally, **suicide** rates among old people tend to be higher than average. In China this is especially true. People there aged 70 and above kill themselves at more than four times the rate of the **general** population, compared with around a quarter more in America. **loneliness** and **inadequate** health care are among the main reasons.  
  
【2】It is not all bad news. In the 1990s China’s **suicide** rate was among the highest in the world. Fatal self-harm was **strikingly** common among young women in the countryside, who had easy access to **lethal** pesticides. But in the past 20 years, China’s rate has declined more than any other country’s, mainly as a result of stricter controls on those chemicals and **migration** to cities, where such **poisons** are even harder to **obtain**. In 2019 it was nine per 100,000, compared with 14 in America and 19 in Japan.  
  
【3】Among people aged 70 or over, the **suicide** rate has also dropped since 1990, from 78 per 100,000 to 35. But as a **proportion** of all suicides, those by elderly people have risen from 14% to 31%. In part, that is because the elderly’s share of the population has risen, too, from 3.4% in 1990 to 6.8% today. But between 1990 and 2017 **suicide** rates among the old fell the least of any age group.  
  
【4】Poverty and a lack of social services **exacerbate** the problem, as does internal **migration**: younger people often leave older family members behind in the countryside. Because of falling birth rates, elderly people have fewer youngsters to look after them. Research published in March by a group of **academics** in America and China, including Hanming Fang of the University of Pennsylvania, uses an unusually **granular** set of data from the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to **demonstrate** the impact of **loneliness**. It shows that the weekly **suicide** rate among the elderly—those over 65, in this case—decreases by more than one-tenth during the Chinese New Year holiday, when families **reunite**. The holiday does not appear to affect suicides among younger people.  
  
【5】The situation may get worse. At least half of the elderly are empty-nesters, state media say. Their numbers are surging. In 2013 China passed a law requiring those who live apart from elderly parents to “**frequently** visit or send greetings”. It has, of course, proved difficult to **enforce**. On November 24th the government published **guidelines** on care for the elderly, including advice that young adults should live with, or close to, their parents. Many online **comments** were **derisory**. How about **scrapping** household-**registration** rules that **restrict** **migrants**’ access to **welfare** in the cities, some asked? Only then might ageing parents leave the villages and join their urban **offspring**.

**①短语：1.原文：As china ages, worries are mounting about the mental health of its elderly population.**

## **词典：mental health心理健康**

**例句：The community mental health team saved my life.**

**社区心理健康小组救了我的命。**

**2.原文：Globally, suicide rates among old people tend to be higher than average.**

**词典：tend to be 往往是**

**例句：Morals tend to be deeply ingrained.**

**道德观念往往是根深蒂固的。**

**3.原文：People there aged 70 and above kill themselves at more than four times the rate of the general population, compared with around a quarter more in America.**

**词典：more than 超出；比……多**

**例句：Hay fever affects males more than females.**

**男性感染花粉热多于女性。**

**4.原文：People there aged 70 and above kill themselves at more than four times the rate of the general population, compared with around a quarter more in America.**

**词典：general population 普通大众**

**例句：As for craftsmanship itself, the issue is how to preserve it as a valued skill in the general population.**

**至于技艺本身，问题在于如何在普通大众中将它作为一种有价值的技能保留。**

**5.原文：People there aged 70 and above kill themselves at more than four times the rate of the general population, compared with around a quarter more in America.**

**词典：compared with 与……相比较**

**例句：His fee is a drop in the ocean compared with the real cost of broadcasting.**

**他的费用与广播的实际成本相比是沧海一粟。**

**6.原文：Loneliness and inadequate health care are among the main reasons.**

**词典：health care 医疗保健**

**例句：Nobody wants to pay more for health care.**

**没人愿意为医疗保健花更多的钱。**

**7.原文：But in the past 20 years, China’s rate has declined more than any other country’s, mainly as a result of stricter controls on those chemicals and migration to cities, where such poisons are even harder to obtain.**

**词典：as a result of 由于**

**例句：Their bodies had suffered contortion as a result of malnutrition.**

**由于营养不良他们的躯体都变了形。**

**8.原文：Because of falling birth rates, elderly people have fewer youngsters to look after them.**

**词典：because of 因为；由于**

**例句：She resigned because of ill health.**

**她因健康状况不佳而辞职。**

**9.原文：Because of falling birth rates, elderly people have fewer youngsters to look after them.**

**词典：look after 照顾**

**例句：It makes sense to look after yourself.**

**照顾好你自己是明智的**

**②长难句**

1. **原文：But in the past 20 years, China’s rate has declined more than any other country’s, mainly as a result of stricter controls on those chemicals and migration to cities, where such poisons are even harder to obtain.**
2. **分析：该句主句的结构为主（ China’s rate）谓（has declined）。But 为转折连词，in the past 20 years为时间状语；than为比较级标志，将中国和其他国家进行对比；as a result of 引导原因状语；where引导定语从句，先行词是cities，该定语从句的结构为主（such poisons）**

**系（are）表（harder）补语（to obtain）。**

**3.译文：但在过去的20年里，中国自杀率的下降幅度超过了其他国家，这主要是由于中国对这些化学品的控制更加严格了，同时农村群体向城市迁移，而在城市，这些毒药更难获得。**

**③写作技巧：**1.原文：“mainly as a result of stricter controls on those chemicals and migration to cities”；“that is because the elderly’s share of the population has risen”；“loneliness and inadequate health care are among the main reasons”；“because of falling birth rates”.

译文：“这主要是由于中国对这些化学品的控制更加严格了”；“部分原因是老年人的人口占比增加了”；“孤独和医疗保健服务不健全是造成这一现象的主要原因之一”；“由于出生率下降”

词组：as a result of，because，... are the reasons，because of；这四种表达方式均可表达“因为”这一含义，其中because后接句子，其他的一般接名词或名词性短语，在同一篇文章的写作中尽量丰富表达。

**④背景知识：**

1. Hanming Fang：方汉明。[美国宾夕法尼亚大学](https://baike.sogou.com/lemma/ShowInnerLink.htm?lemmaId=87085&ss_c=ssc.citiao.link" \t "https://baike.sogou.com/_blank)经济系教授。他在医疗保险市场方面的研究获得了国际卫生经济学会颁发的每年一度的最佳健康经济学肯尼斯·阿罗大奖。
2. guidelines on care for the elderly：照顾老年人的指导意见。为积极应对我国人口老龄化，《中共中央  国务院[关于加强新时代老龄工作的意见](https://www.yanglaocn.com/shtml/20211125/1637802615129173.html" \o "关于加强新时代老龄工作的意见" \t "https://www.yanglaocn.com/shtml/20211125/_blank)》11月24日发布，具体内容包括：以居家养老为基础，提升社区养老服务能力，制定基本养老服务清单发展“互联网+照护服务”，将老年教育纳入终身教育体系，实施“智慧助老”行动开发老年人健康保险产品。

段落大意：

【1】孤独和医疗保健服务不健全是造成老年人自杀的主要原因之一。

【2】近20年中国自杀率的下降幅度大。

【3】自杀率在下降，但老年人的自杀率在所有年龄段中下降幅度是最小的。

【4】贫困、社会服务的缺乏以及国内迁移都加剧了老年人的自杀问题。

【5】空巢老人数量的激增增加了对老年人自杀的担忧。