

# 1. Analysis of Ansan City's Environment and Aging Trends

## ■ The analysis of Ansan City's regional environment and aging status is as follows:

- The combined effects of the national trend of declining birth rates and the outmigration of the local population have led to a sustained aging phenomenon. As of March 2025, South Korea's aging rate stood at 20.36%, marking its entry into a super-aged society. In contrast, Ansan City's aging rate was 15.65%, placing it within the "aged society" classification.
  - Ansan's aging rate (15.64%) is relatively lower than the national average (20.36%) and that of Gyeonggi Province (16.90%).
- However, over the past decade, the city's elderly population has increased at a faster pace than both the national and provincial averages. This trend, in the long term, may lead to a higher social dependency burden and increased pressure on welfare systems.
  - The growth in the aging rate over the last ten years was 7.67 percentage points in Ansan, exceeding the national increase (7.21 percentage points) and the Gyeonggi Province increase (6.37 percentage points).
  - Ansan's total dependency ratio (30.7 persons) is lower than the national (42.5 persons) and provincial (34.1 persons) averages; however, this is largely due to the city's notably low youth dependency ratio. The old-age dependency ratio, by contrast, is relatively higher than in Gyeonggi Province.
- Significant disparities exist in the proportion of elderly residents across administrative districts within Ansan. In certain areas, resources and services may be insufficient to meet the demand for senior welfare, potentially leading to a decline in the quality of life for older adults.
  - Among all districts, Daebu-dong recorded the highest elderly ratio at 36.6%, while Haeyang-dong had the lowest at 9.2%.
- In Danwon-gu, where the majority of elderly residents live in apartment complexes, and in Sangnok-gu, where seniors are concentrated in both apartment and multi-family housing, there is a need to design senior support initiatives tailored to the living environments and cultural contexts of each district.
  - Specifically, 57.5% of older adults in Danwon-gu live in apartments, while 39.0% of those in Sangnok-gu live in apartments and 30.9% in multi-family housing.

- Ansan is home to a substantial number of medical institutions for the elderly, including five general hospitals, 17 community hospitals, and 15 long-term care hospitals. However, major senior medical facilities are concentrated in parts of Sangnok-gu and Danwon-gu, resulting in relatively lower accessibility for seniors residing in peripheral areas.
- In terms of senior leisure and welfare facilities, Ansan provides 29.42 facilities per 10,000 elderly residents—significantly fewer than the Gyeonggi Province average of 47.95 facilities per 10,000 elderly—indicating a relative shortage in quantitative supply.

## 2. Reanalysis of the Secondary data

- The diagnosis of Ansan City's age-friendliness, conducted for the purpose of developing the First Age-Friendly City Development Plan, was based on a re-analysis of data from sources such as the Gyeonggi Province Survey on the Living Conditions of Older Adults and the Survey on the Utilization of Senior Community Centers. This process identified the needs of the elderly population in Ansan across the eight domains presented by the WHO.
  - This study specifically reanalyzed data from the 2024 Gyeonggi Province Survey on the Living Conditions of Older Adults, the 2024 Ansan City Senior Community Center and Senior Welfare Center Utilization Survey, and the 2020 Ansan City Senior Community Center Status Survey to assess the needs and demands of older residents in Ansan.
  
- The key findings from the diagnosis of age-friendliness based on the data analysis are as follows:
  - Older adults in Ansan exhibit significantly lower positive perceptions of both physical and mental health compared to the average in Gyeonggi Province. The proportion reporting positive perceptions of physical health was 35.8% in Gyeonggi Province versus 25.8% in Ansan, and for mental health, 55.5% versus 35.7%, respectively—indicating substantial gaps.
  - Although participation rates in regular physical exercise were comparatively low, utilization rates of certain leisure and cultural facilities—particularly sports facilities, parks, and walking trails—were higher than the Gyeonggi average, suggesting potential for promoting physical activity.
    - In the past six months, utilization rates for parks and walking trails were 78.6% in Ansan versus 77.1% in Gyeonggi Province, and for sports facilities, 13.6% versus 10.6%, respectively.
    - The proportion of older adults who reported never engaging in exercise was considerably higher in Ansan (35.0%) than in Gyeonggi Province (28.5%), while the percentage of older adults exercising daily was notably lower (2.9% in Ansan vs. 5.0% in Gyeonggi Province).
  - Older adults in Ansan tended to use welfare centers—offering diverse and specialized educational programs—more frequently than senior community centers, and also reported higher satisfaction levels with such facilities

compared to the provincial average.

- Province-wide, senior community centers were used more frequently (27.3%) than welfare centers (13.2%), whereas in Ansan, welfare centers were used more (20.7%) than senior community centers (8.6%). This indicates higher demand for educational programs and strong preference for modern, comfortable welfare centers.
- While the frequency of leisure activities among older adults in Ansan was relatively low, there was a notable preference for tourism, which typically requires longer periods of engagement, along with high satisfaction levels for leisure activities overall.
- Tourism ranked highest as both a newly adopted leisure activity after the COVID-19 pandemic and the most desired leisure activity for the future.
- However, only 15.7% of respondents in Ansan expressed interest in participating in leisure activities in the future. The primary reasons for non-participation appear to include:
  - Physical factors: health limitations, lack of physical strength, restricted mobility.
  - Economic factors: financial burden, priority on livelihood, desire for employment.
  - Social factors: social isolation, difficulties in intergenerational communication.
  - These factors likely explain why 84.3% of respondents indicated no future interest in leisure activities.
- While public transportation accessibility in Ansan was evaluated as generally favorable, assessments of housing conditions among the elderly were more negative than the provincial average across all dimensions except noise, underscoring the need for housing environment support policies.
  - A relatively low proportion of older adults in Ansan reside in apartments compared to the provincial average, which may account for lower reported discomfort related to noise.
  - The area rated as most inadequate in housing conditions was waterproofing. Given the relatively high proportion of older adults residing in row houses and multi-family housing in Ansan, issues related to roof and wall waterproofing in aging homes are likely to be significant.
- In addition, while older adults in Ansan displayed high demand for home modification, many were unable to proceed due to financial constraints, indicating the need for targeted policy support.
  - Specifically, 48.2% of respondents in Ansan reported being unable to carry out home modifications for financial reasons—approximately 1.8 times the rate in Gyeonggi Province (26.8%).
- The proportion of currently employed older adults in Ansan was lower than

in Gyeonggi Province, with a relatively higher proportion of retirees.

- The employment rate among older adults was 34.3% in Ansan compared to 45.2% in Gyeonggi, while those with prior work experience but not currently employed were about 10 percentage points higher in Ansan (56.4%) than in Gyeonggi (39.0%).
- Among currently employed older adults in Ansan, a higher share was engaged in temporary jobs or self-employment.
  - The average monthly income was below the Gyeonggi provincial average—KRW 2.219 million in Ansan versus KRW 2.534 million in Gyeonggi, a difference of approximately KRW 300,000—though satisfaction with current employment showed no significant gap between the two.
- Older adults in Ansan reported relatively high levels of attempting to re-enter the workforce after the age of 60, yet their success rate was low. This points to the need for tailored policy measures to support senior job seekers.
  - Those expressing interest in future employment were particularly drawn to roles involving facility inspections, income-generating positions, and caregiving activities, suggesting that job creation in these fields should be actively considered.
- In terms of family and social relationships, older adults in Ansan reported lower frequencies of meeting with adult children or grandchildren compared to the Gyeonggi average, and a higher proportion indicated having no family members from whom they could receive assistance—suggesting a heightened risk of social isolation.
  - This implies that many may be facing difficulties related to social disconnection, underscoring the necessity of revitalizing local community activities and strengthening social networks.
- Older adults in Ansan were also found to experience greater challenges with social engagement and participation compared to the provincial average, particularly when it came to communication with younger generations and the use of public facilities—areas in which improvement is needed.
  - Moreover, older adults in Ansan were more likely to hold negative perceptions regarding their own sense of self-worth and felt they were not socially protected in the event of accidents or disasters.
  - They also expressed relatively negative views toward hospice care expansion and the implementation of dignified death policies.
- While the overall digital competency of older adults in Ansan was higher than the Gyeonggi provincial average, there remained strong demand for basic

training in smartphone and internet use.

- Compared to the provincial data, they showed slightly lower engagement in activities such as gaming (24.7%), listening to music (30.1%), and online shopping (18%), but demonstrated stronger overall capability in using digital devices.
- In terms of daily living activities, older adults in Ansan were found to be fully independent (100%) in personal tasks such as dressing, walking, and using the telephone, but required assistance with household chores and meal preparation.

### 3. Focus Group Interview (FGI)

- As part of this study, a separate Focused Group Interview (FGI) was conducted to identify areas that are difficult to capture through quantitative surveys.
  - Ansan City, as a planned city, benefits from a well-organized road network, structured urban layout, and abundant green spaces and parks. However, given the considerable time that has elapsed since its initial construction, the city now faces challenges such as deteriorating facilities, widening regional disparities, and a decline in both population and economic vitality.
    - Among general citizen participants, overall evaluations of Ansan’s residential environment were generally positive, but opinions varied by residential area. In certain districts, respondents expressed serious concerns about low transportation convenience, aging residential complexes, and the proliferation of multi-family and multi-household housing, all of which contribute to housing deterioration.
    - Despite the city’s age, many outdated facilities have not been modernized, resulting in significant inconvenience for older adults and persons with disabilities. Participants also noted that Ansan is experiencing economic decline compared to the past, accompanied by noticeable population decreases, with these trends affecting housing prices and other areas of urban life.
    - A critical issue unanimously cited by participants was parking. They stressed that parking problems extend beyond simple traffic inconvenience, creating hazardous conditions for older adults.
  - With regard to core institutions such as senior welfare centers—which provide educational, leisure, and cultural programs for older adults—participants noted the urgent need for greater investment in facility modernization, workforce expansion, and service improvement.
    - Experts identified a severe shortage of senior welfare facilities, the aging condition of existing infrastructure, and the lack of qualified professional staff as key challenges.
    - They recommended establishing a decentralized, hub-based service delivery system to disperse demand, enhance accessibility, and expand service provision.
  - For external facilities and buildings, those constructed decades ago often present accessibility limitations for older adults and persons with disabilities, and parking problems remain acute.
    - Notably, even facilities intended for seniors, such as senior welfare centers, were described as small, inconvenient to use, and insufficient in number, with only two in existence—falling short of meeting actual demand.

- Participants stressed the need to expand senior welfare facilities and service centers by hub location to disperse demand and improve accessibility, while urgently modernizing and enlarging existing outdated facilities.
- Regarding transportation, regional disparities were noted, with some areas facing serious inconvenience in accessing public transport. In such cases, taxis—which could serve as an alternative—were also difficult to use. Therefore, participants recommended expanding public transport services and promoting alternative solutions such as community buses.
  - Sidewalk maintenance was reported as inadequate, with crosswalk signal systems designed without consideration for the needs of older adults, causing inconvenience and increasing the risk of accidents.
  - A review of traffic signal systems was suggested to transition toward a pedestrian-oriented framework that ensures the safety and comfort of seniors.
- In housing, newly constructed apartment complexes were not seen as problematic; however, certain areas of Danwon-gu with a high concentration of older detached homes face significant issues due to aging housing and poor external environments. The rise in multi-family and multi-household housing is further degrading living conditions, underscoring the need for redevelopment planning.
- Employment opportunities for older adults were generally seen as insufficient, with perceptions that job availability is decreasing and competition intensifying.
  - Public job opportunities were considered inadequate and trending downward, worsening already fierce competition.
  - There was also concern about the limited capacity of staff responsible for senior employment services, as their lack of sufficient work experience and expertise hindered effective support.
- Participants highlighted difficulties in obtaining information about senior policies and programs provided by public authorities, emphasizing the need for tailored communication and promotional efforts to make such information easier for seniors to access and understand.
- Despite continuous municipal efforts—such as constructing small-scale public parking facilities—parking problems remained severe.
  - Stronger enforcement against illegal parking was seen as necessary. Some questioned the effectiveness of small public parking lots, citing insufficient enforcement as a reason

illegal parking persisted.

- Participants pointed out that beyond causing inconvenience and harming the city's appearance, improper parking also obstructs visibility, increasing the risk of traffic accidents—posing a particular safety threat to older adults.
- In the realm of cultural and leisure activities, satisfaction with programs offered by senior welfare centers was high. However, the number of beneficiaries is limited compared to demand, indicating a need to explore ways to expand program availability.