



## Newsclippings

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Re : **Love runs cold for `May-December' couples**  
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China's Business Newspaper

### Love runs cold for `May-December' couples

**Four in five mainland women who marry Hong Kong men at least 15 years their senior do so for immigration permits, the Christian Family Service Centre has found.**

Elizabeth Law

*Friday, March 25, 2011*

Four in five mainland women who marry Hong Kong men at least 15 years their senior do so for immigration permits, the Christian Family Service Centre has found.

On the other hand, most men in these "May-December" relationships are motivated by the prospect of companionship, or someone to look after them in their old age, the center said.

When 80-year-old Mr Chung remarried two years ago, he thought it would end his loneliness, as his first wife had died 10 years earlier. But shortly after the wedding, and his new 45-year-old wife moving into his Kwun Tong flat, the relationship started going downhill.

"I'm not rich, and my house is small, so she had to go out and work in a tea house. Six months ago, she left for work one morning and didn't return," he said.

The survey of 31 May-December couples found 80 percent of women married for migration purposes.

In 2009, the Immigration Department issued 1,862 dependant entry permits to individuals from





the mainland.

"Many men are simply looking for companionship, or even someone to look after them as they age," said Catherine Wong Kuk-ching, senior service manager at the Shun On District Elderly Community Centre.

The survey showed nearly 80 percent of men are in their second marriages.

Social worker May Tsang May-ngor said many younger brides find it difficult to communicate with their older husbands on a daily basis. "When they are dating, most only see their partners once a week, or even once a month. Living in close quarters with someone is completely different," Tsang said.

She said a lack of cash is what quickly tears couples apart, especially since most older husbands are retired.

Tsang added that in many cases, wives dissatisfied with their sex lives create additional conflict within the household.

Chung, whose wife now calls once a month to check on him, said he regrets his decision to remarry. "I didn't have the stamina to keep up with her, and I couldn't give her what she wanted. It would have been better if we stayed friends."