

Annual Population and Social Security Surveys in 2012  
**The National Survey on Social Security and People's Life**  
**The Overview of Results**  
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## I Overview of the Survey

### 1. The purpose of the survey

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research conducted “The National Survey on Social Security and People’s Life” (hereinafter referred to as “the survey”) in July 2012. The survey is intended to collect fundamental information for considering the social security system “that accommodates the needs of all generations” by scrutinizing the role that public benefits such as social security benefits and private support such as social networks play as well as a true picture of people’s lives, family relations, and socioeconomic conditions. Specifically, household composition and household finances, family and community connections and mutual support, socioeconomic activities of individuals, and the role that the social security system plays are surveyed.

### 2. The survey method and data collection

We chose the districts (300 districts) at random from the districts (1,102 districts) chosen in the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare’s “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions in 2012,” covering the entire country (except Fukushima Prefecture). We carried out the survey of households (household questionnaire) and individuals (individual questionnaire) as of July 1, 2012, covering householders and individuals aged 20 or over, who lived in the above districts.

This study was conducted by the self-enumeration method. The questionnaires were distributed by survey staff, and the respondents put the completed questionnaire in the envelopes provided before they were collected by the staff. Out of the 16,096 distributed household questionnaires (the number of households surveyed), 11,450 questionnaires and 11,000 valid questionnaires were collected (a response rate of 71.2% and a valid response rate of 68.3%, respectively). Out of the 26,260 individual questionnaires distributed to individuals aged 20 or over of the households chosen, 23,733 questionnaires were collected. 2,560 of the collected questionnaires were considered invalid and were excluded from the analysis as they lacked important information. Thus, the number of valid questionnaires was 21,173, and the valid collection rate was 80.6%.

Note: Due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the survey was not conducted in Fukushima Prefecture in 2012. Therefore, the figures exclude Fukushima Prefecture.

Table I-1: Number of questionnaires distributed, valid questionnaires collected, and valid response rate

	State of collection of questionnaires	
	Household questionnaires	Individual questionnaires
Number of subjects surveyed	16,096	26,260
Number of questionnaires collected	11,450 (Collection rate 71.1%)	23,733 (Collection rate 90.4%)
Number of valid questionnaires	11,000 (Valid collection rate 68.3%)	21,173 (Valid collection rate 80.6%)

## II Family Mutual Support

### 1. Financial support for parents

In the survey, those surveyed were asked about how they are financially supporting their own parents and the parents of their spouses. The rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 11.9% among males and 8.3% among females (Figure II-1). As for age group, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 17.4% among males in their 40's and 16.3% among females in their 20's, and these rates were the highest.

Individuals aged 70 or over had been excluded from the previous survey. Therefore, from this survey, answers from individuals aged 20–69 are reported. Out of these people, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 14.3% among males and 10.5% among females. In the previous survey, the rates of those who did so are 12.0% among males and 8.1% among females. Accordingly, it is shown that both males and females who give financial support to their own parents have increased.

Figure II-1: Rates of those who give support to their own parents by age group

Age group	Males		Females	
	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)
Total	10,138	11.9	11,035	8.3
Aged 20-29	1,093	17.2	1,079	16.3
Aged 30-39	1,612	14.7	1,695	11.5
Aged 40-49	1,792	17.4	1,818	12.8
Aged 50-59	1,674	15.4	1,730	10.2
Aged 60-69	1,999	8.9	2,225	5.2
Aged 70 or over	1,968	1.7	2,488	1.0
Aged 20-69	8,170	14.3	8,547	10.5
(Ref.) the survey in 2007 (Aged 20-69)	8,477	12.0	8,711	8.1

Figure II-2 shows financial support for their own parents or the parents of their spouses by marital status. Among unmarried persons, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 22.7% for males and 21.1% for females.

Among persons who have divorced (hereinafter referred to as “divorced persons”), the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 14.0% for males and 9.5% for females. As for age group, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 19.8% among males in their 30's and 17.4% among females in their 40's, and these rates are the highest.

Among married persons who have not divorced (hereinafter referred to as “those with spouses”),<sup>1</sup> the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 9.7% for males and 6.8% for females. As for age group, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 14.1% among males in their 40’s and 9.8% among females in their 50’s, and these rates are the highest. On the other hand, the rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses are 4.4% among males and 7.0% among females. As for age group, the rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses are 7.2% among males in their 50’s and 10.5% among females in their 40’s, and these rates are the highest.

As for those with spouses, comparing their financial support for their own parents with that for the parents of their spouses, it is found out that there is a difference between males and females. Namely, at all ages, the rates of males who give financial support to their own parents exceed those of males who give financial support to the parents of their spouses, but, on the other hand, in their 20’s, 40’s, and 50’s, the rates of females who give financial support to the parents of their spouses exceed those of females who give financial support to their own parents.

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<sup>1</sup> This is different from the usual definition. Persons who have lost their spouse include “those with spouses.”

Figure II-2: Rates of those who give financial support to their parents by marital status and age group

Age group	Unmarried persons				Divorced persons			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)
Total	1,640	22.7	1,372	21.1	773	14.0	1,046	9.5
Aged 20-29	675	19.7	627	20.7	24	△	46	△
Aged 30-39	420	24.8	319	22.3	111	19.8	188	9.6
Aged 40-49	275	28.4	179	29.6	186	17.2	247	17.4
Aged 50-59	162	32.1	97	24.7	167	19.2	185	9.2
Aged 60-69	89	6.7	80	8.8	181	8.8	225	7.1
Aged 70 or over	19	△	70	5.7	104	3.8	155	1.3
Again (aged 20-69)	1,621	23.0	1,302	21.9	669	16.0	891	10.9

Note: △ is individuals that are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Age group	Those with spouses					
	Males			Females		
	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses (%)
Total	4,115	9.7	4.4	4,680	6.8	7.0
Aged 20-29	144	9.0	2.1	185	5.4	6.5
Aged 30-39	688	7.9	2.9	841	7.5	6.9
Aged 40-49	854	14.1	6.2	1,002	9.5	10.5
Aged 50-59	850	12.4	7.2	951	9.8	10.3
Aged 60-69	901	10.5	4.0	910	5.7	5.5
Aged 70 or over	678	2.1	0.9	791	0.9	0.6
Aged 20-69	3,437	11.3	5.0	3,889	8.1	8.3

In the previous survey, among the unmarried persons, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 18.8% for males and 18.4% for females, and among those with spouses, the rates of those who do so are 9.8% for males and 5.7% for females (Figure II-3). We abstracted data of individuals aged 20–69 from the survey to compare with the previous survey. Then, in the survey, as for unmarried persons, the rates for males are 4.2 percentage points higher than in the previous survey and those for females are 3.5 percentage points higher, and as for those with spouses, those for males are 1.5 percentage points higher and those for females are 2.4 percentage points higher. Incidentally, we must pay attention to the fact that “those with spouses” in the survey include persons who have lost spouses and that “those with spouses” in the previous survey do not include them. In the previous survey, among those with spouses, the rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses are 4.1% for males and 5.8% for females. In the survey, as for individuals aged 20–69, the rates for males are 0.9 percentage points higher than in the previous survey and those for females are 2.5 percentage points higher.

In the previous survey, among divorced persons, the rates of those who give financial support to their own parents are 11.6% for males and 11.1% for females. As for individuals aged 20–69 in the survey, the rates for males are 4.4 percentage points higher than in the previous survey and

those for females are 0.2 percentage points lower.

Figure II-3: Rates of those who give financial support to their parents by marital status and sex

Age group	Unmarried persons				Divorced persons			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)
Total	2,121	18.8	1,633	18.4	241	11.6	352	11.1
Aged 20-29	1,007	16.5	893	17.7	7	△	18	△
Aged 30-39	559	21.5	421	19.5	43	△	88	9.1
Aged 40-49	289	28.4	145	28.3	58	12.1	97	12.4
Aged 50-59	190	13.7	107	15.9	73	12.3	87	13.8
Aged 60-69	76	5.3	67	4.5	60	5.0	62	4.8

Note: △ is individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Age group	Those with spouses					
	Males			Females		
	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses (%)	Total	Rates of those who give financial support to their own parents (%)	Rates of those who give financial support to the parents of their spouses (%)
Total	5,679	9.8	4.1	6,173	5.7	5.8
Aged 20-29	236	12.3	6.8	313	8.6	7.0
Aged 30-39	1,052	8.8	3.2	1,308	5.7	5.4
Aged 40-49	1,205	11.1	4.2	1,288	7.4	7.9
Aged 50-59	1,684	13.0	5.2	1,800	6.5	7.2
Aged 60-69	1,502	5.5	3.1	1,464	2.4	2.5

Figure II-4 and Figure II-5 show the responses of unmarried persons to the question of “Why do you not give support to your own parents?” Regardless of sex and age group, the highest rate of the reasons is “My parents do not need my support” (50.1%–59.5% of males and 55.3%–68.0% of females). As for the other reasons, regardless of sex, the high rates of the reasons are “Now, I receive support from my parents” for those in their 20’s and “My financial reason” for those in their 30’s and 40’s. The two equally high rates of reasons for those in their 50’s are “Now, I receive support from my parents” and “My financial reason.”

Figure II-4: Reasons why I do not give financial support to my own parents (the most appropriate reason)  
(Unmarried persons: males)

Age group	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive public assistances (%)
Total	1,041	22.8	54.0	21.4	1.0	0.7	0.2
Aged 20-29	509	32.0	50.1	17.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
Aged 30-39	294	11.2	59.5	26.9	1.7	0.0	0.7
Aged 40-49	160	17.5	54.4	25.0	1.9	1.3	0.0
Aged 50-59	59	18.6	54.2	18.6	1.7	6.8	0.0
Aged 60-69	19	△	△	△	△	△	△

Note: △ and persons aged 70 or over are individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Figure II-5: Reasons why I do not give financial support to my own parents (the most appropriate reason)  
(Unmarried persons: males)

Age group	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive public assistances (%)
Total	869	22.3	60.3	15.7	0.4	1.3	0.1
Aged 20-29	461	29.7	55.3	14.3	0.2	0.4	0.0
Aged 30-39	231	13.9	68.0	16.9	0.9	0.4	0.0
Aged 40-49	104	14.4	66.4	17.3	0.0	1.9	0.0
Aged 50-59	50	16.0	60.0	16.0	6.0	6.0	2.0
Aged 60-69	20	△	△	△	△	△	△

Note: △ and persons aged 70 or over are individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Figure II-6 and Figure II-7 show the responses of those with spouses to the question of “Why do you not give support to your own parents and the parents of your spouses?” Regardless of sex, the highest rate of the reasons is “My parents do not need my support” (roughly the first half of the 80 % level). While generally the second highest rate of the reasons is “My financial reason,” for those in their 50’s or older, the rate of the reason “my brother(s) or sister(s) give financial supports” increases and, for those in their 60’s, mostly exceeds the reason “My financial reason.”



Figure II-6: Reasons why I do not give financial support to my parents (the most appropriate reason) (Those with spouses: males)

Age group	Reasons why I do not give financial support to my own parents						
	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive public assistances (%)
Total	2,090	2.2	81.0	10.6	1.0	4.7	0.5
Aged 20-29	121	5.8	81.0	9.9	0.8	1.7	0.8
Aged 30-39	603	1.7	82.4	11.4	1.8	1.8	0.8
Aged 40-49	660	1.7	81.5	12.3	0.8	3.3	0.5
Aged 50-59	476	2.1	78.8	10.3	0.0	8.6	0.2
Aged 60-69	212	3.8	79.3	5.2	1.4	9.9	0.5

Age group	Reasons why I do not give financial support to the parents of my spouse						
	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive Public Assistances (%)
Total	2,305	1.6	83.1	7.7	1.0	6.0	0.6
Aged 20-29	117	6.0	88.0	4.3	1.7	0.0	0.0
Aged 30-39	553	2.2	87.7	8.3	0.9	0.2	0.7
Aged 40-49	681	1.6	83.4	9.1	1.2	3.7	1.0
Aged 50-59	540	0.9	81.9	7.6	0.9	8.3	0.4
Aged 60-69	364	0.3	79.1	5.0	0.6	14.8	0.3

Note: Persons aged 70 or over are individuals who are few, and therefore are not written.

Figure II-7: Reasons why I do not give financial support to my parents (the most appropriate reason) (Those with spouses: females)

Age group	Reasons why I do not give financial support to my own parents						
	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive public assistances (%)
Total	2,599	2.4	83.0	7.8	0.5	5.7	0.7
Aged 20-29	169	5.9	85.8	5.9	0.6	0.6	1.2
Aged 30-39	744	3.4	85.2	8.7	0.7	1.6	0.4
Aged 40-49	818	2.0	82.9	8.6	0.6	5.1	0.9
Aged 50-59	594	1.4	81.8	6.7	0.3	9.3	0.5
Aged 60-69	257	0.8	79.4	5.8	0.0	13.6	0.4

Age group	Reasons why I do not give financial support to the parents of my spouse						
	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive Public Assistances (%)
Total	2,121	2.1	82.5	9.0	1.6	4.3	0.6
Aged 20-29	145	4.1	82.8	9.0	2.1	1.4	0.7
Aged 30-39	685	2.2	83.9	9.5	1.8	2.2	0.4
Aged 40-49	686	1.9	84.1	8.6	0.7	3.9	0.7
Aged 50-59	425	1.9	80.9	7.5	1.4	7.5	0.7
Aged 60-69	162	1.2	75.3	11.7	3.7	8.0	0.0

Note: Persons aged 70 or over are individuals who are few, and therefore are not written.

Figure II-8 and Figure II-9 show the responses of divorced persons to the question of “Why do you not give support to your own parents?” Regardless of sex and age group, the highest rate of the reasons is “My parents do not need my support” (59.5%–67.7% of males and 18.1%–25.9% of females), and the second highest rate is “My financial support” (17.7%–22.0% of males and 18.1%–25.9% of females)

Figure II-8: Reasons why I do not give financial support to my own parents (the most appropriate reason)  
(Divorced persons: males)

Age group	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive public assistances (%)
Total	357	6.7	63.3	19.9	4.5	4.5	1.1
Aged 20-29	18	△	△	△	△	△	△
Aged 30-39	82	6.1	65.9	22.0	3.7	1.2	1.2
Aged 40-49	130	5.4	67.7	17.7	4.6	3.9	0.8
Aged 50-59	84	8.3	59.5	21.4	4.8	3.6	2.4
Aged 60-69	40	△	△	△	△	△	△

Note: △ and persons aged 70 or over are individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Figure II-9: Reasons why I do not give financial support to my own parents (the most appropriate reason)  
(Divorced persons: females)

Age group	Total	I receive support from my parents (%)	My parents do not need my support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my parents (%)	My brothers or sisters give support (%)	My parents receive public assistances (%)
Total	524	9.9	60.7	23.1	1.7	4.0	0.6
Aged 20-29	39	△	△	△	△	△	△
Aged 30-39	156	9.6	63.5	23.1	0.6	1.3	1.9
Aged 40-49	170	8.8	58.8	25.9	3.5	2.9	0.0
Aged 50-59	105	10.5	62.9	18.1	1.0	7.6	0.0
Aged 60-69	48	△	△	△	△	△	△

Note: △ and persons aged 70 or over are individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

## 2. Financial support for children

The rates of those who have their children are 71.1% for males and 78.0% for females (Figure II-10). By age group, in their 20's, The rates of those who have their children are 12.5% for males and 18.6% for females, and in their 30's, The rates of those who have their children are 54.2% for males and 65.1% for females, which shows that the rates exceed 50% for those in their 40's to 70's or older; the rate of those who have their children increases gradually and reaches the first half of the 90% level.

In total, the rates of those who have their children under 18 are 24.2% for males and 24.1% for females. By age group, the rate of those who have their children under 18 reaches to about 60% among both males and females in their 40's. The rate plunges for those in their 50's (20.6% of males and 9.4% of females), which shows that the raising children under 18 almost finishes in their 50's.

Figure II-11 shows the rates by age group of those who spend money on their children, abstracting individuals who responded that they had their children. 97.1% of males and 96.2% of females spend money on their children under 18, which shows that the rates of males and females are much the same. By age group, over 90% of both males and females in every age group spend money on their children under 18. The rates of those who spend money on their children aged 18 or over are 44.3% for males and 44.1% for females. By age group, the rates of those who do so are the highest among both males and females in their 40's (the first half of the 80% level). However, the higher the age group is, the lower the rates are. The rates of those who spend money on their children aged 18 or over are 26.3% for males and 23.9% for females among those aged 70 or over.

Figure II-10: Rates those who have their children by age group (including their children living separately or aged 18 or over)

Age group	Males			Females		
	Total	Rates of those who have their children (%)	Rates of those who have their children under 18 (%)	Total	Rates of those who have their children (%)	Rates of those who have their children under 18 (%)
Total	9,648	70.1	24.2	10,554	78.0	24.1
Aged 20-29	1,035	12.5	12.0	1,035	18.6	18.5
Aged 30-39	1,534	54.2	53.2	1,645	65.1	64.3
Aged 40-49	1,732	67.0	59.0	1,775	79.2	63.8
Aged 50-59	1,609	77.5	20.6	1,680	86.9	9.4
Aged 60-69	1,899	88.0	1.7	2,139	91.7	0.1
Aged 70 or over	1,839	93.8	0.2	2,280	94.2	0.0

Figure II-11: Rates of those who spend money on their children

Age group	Children under 18					
	Males			Females		
	Total	I spend money on my children (%)	I do not spend money on my children (%)	Total	I spend money on my children (%)	I do not spend money on my children (%)
Total	2,300	97.1	2.9	2,517	96.2	3.8
Aged 20-29	120	96.7	3.3	189	94.2	5.8
Aged 30-39	804	97.6	2.4	1,044	97.1	2.9
Aged 40-49	1,007	97.8	2.2	1,105	97.7	2.4
Aged 50-59	326	96.9	3.1	157	92.4	7.6
Aged 60-69	32	Δ	Δ	8	Δ	Δ
Aged 70 or over	11	Δ	Δ	14	Δ	Δ

Note: Δ is individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Age group	Children aged 18 or over					
	Males			Females		
	Total	I spend money on my children (%)	I do not spend money on my children (%)	Total	I spend money on my children (%)	I do not spend money on my children (%)
Total	3,897	44.3	55.7	4,872	44.1	55.9
Aged 20-29	3	Δ	Δ	1	Δ	Δ
Aged 30-39	11	Δ	Δ	14	Δ	Δ
Aged 40-49	277	80.9	19.1	533	82.2	17.8
Aged 50-59	965	66.3	33.7	1,236	59.3	40.7
Aged 60-69	1,395	37.8	62.2	1,584	38.5	61.6
Aged 70 or over	1,246	26.2	73.8	1,504	23.9	76.1

Note: Δ is individuals who are few, and therefore their rates are not written.

Figure II-12 shows the total amounts (annual) spent on children under 18 by those who responded that they spend money on their children. Regardless of sex, the highest rate is for those who respond “Below hundred thousand yen” (nearly 40%) and the second highest rate is “From half a million to below a million yen” (nearly 20%). The rates of those who respond “A million yen or more” are 8.2% for males and 6.7% for females. As for the total amounts (annual) that are spent on respondents’ children aged 18 or over, the rates of those who respond “Below hundred thousand yen” are 44.4% for males and 51.0% for females. The second highest rate is “A million yen or more” (23.3% of males and 18.2% of females). The total amounts that the respondents spend on their children both under 18 and aged 18 or over are bipolarized, which is significant in case of children aged 18 or over.

Next, Figure II-13 shows the reasons of those who do not spend money on their children. Concerning the most appropriate reasons of those who respond that they do not spend money on their children under 18, the highest rate is “My children do not need it” (43.8%). The rate of “My financial reason” is 19.9%. As for the reasons why respondents respond that they do not spend money on their children aged 18 or over, about 80% of both males and females respond “Children do not need it.” The second highest rate is “My financial reason” (10.3% of males and 12.9% of females).

Figure II-12: Expenditures on children by sex (annual)

Age of children	Sex of respondents	Total	Under 100,000 yen (%)	100,000 to under 200,000 yen (%)	200,000 to under 300,000 yen (%)	300,000 to under 500,000 yen (%)	500,000 to a million yen (%)	A million or over yen (%)
Under 18	Males	2,168	38.8	9.4	8.3	16.4	19.0	8.2
	Females	2,367	38.0	9.8	9.5	17.2	18.8	6.7
Aged 18 or over	Males	1,694	44.4	9.5	6.4	6.7	9.6	23.3
	Females	2,103	51.0	9.8	6.6	6.0	8.3	18.2

Note: The rates of the total number of people who spend money on their children

Figure II-13: Reasons for no expenditure on respondents’ children

Age of children	Sex of respondents	Total	My children do not need support (%)	My financial reason (%)	I do not communicate with my children (%)	I prioritize financial support for my parents (%)	Others (%)
Under 18	Total of males and females	146	43.8	19.9	8.9	0.0	27.4
Aged 18 or over	males	2,041	85.2	10.3	1.5	0.0	3.0
	females	2,566	82.3	12.9	0.6	0.2	4.0

### III Payers of Living Expenses

#### 1. Payers of living expenses at each life stage

The family mutual aid relates to who supports a life at each life stage when people reach adulthood, have their own family, and retire and reach old age. The survey asked persons aged 20 or over about who pays living expenses at each stage.

Figure III-1 shows who pays living expenses at three stages: “When I was aged 15,” “Just after I finished school,” and “Now.”

Figure III-1: Payers of living expenses at each life stage (persons aged 20 or over)

Payers of living expenses	When I was aged 15		Just after I finished with school		Now	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Total	21,173	100.0	21,173	100.0	21,173	100.0
Myself, my spouse, or both	333	1.6	2,254	10.7	13,064	61.7
Only my father	9,525	45.0	8,020	37.9	435	2.1
Only my mother	1,153	5.5	1,133	5.4	129	0.6
Only my parents	3,268	15.4	2,415	11.4	240	1.1
(Again) Only my father, Only my mother, and Only my parents	13,946	65.9	11,568	54.6	804	3.8
A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother	79	0.4	552	2.6	1,092	5.0
A combination of my grandparent, myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother	400	1.9	265	1.3	76	0.4
A combination of public support	69	0.3	75	0.4	471	2.2
Others	506	2.4	5,240	24.8	1,861	9.0
No response	5,840	27.6	1,219	5.8	3,805	18.0

At the stage “When I was aged 15,” the rate of those who respond that “Only my father” pays living expenses is 45.0%, followed by “Only my parents” (15.4%) and “Only my mother” (5.5%). These figures show that when respondents were aged 15, two-thirds of them were supported by their parents.

At the stage “Just after I finished with school,” the rate of “Only my father” is 37.9%, that of “Only my parents” is 11.4%, and that of “Only my mother” is 5.4%. The total rate (respondents’ parents support their lives) is 54.6%, which shows that the rate is 10 percentage points or more lower than when they are aged 15. This means that “Myself, my spouse, or both,” who are independent of their parents, support their lives, and the rate is 10.7%.

When respondents have finished school, those who support their lives change from their parents to themselves. At the stage “Now” (2012), the highest rate of payers of living expenses is “Myself, my spouse, or both” (61.7%). After becoming independent of respondents’ parents, most of

them are supported by themselves or their spouses (or both).

Incidentally, we can see payers of living expenses at the stage “Now” that cannot be seen very much at the stage “When I was aged 15.” They are “A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother” (5.0%) and “A combination of public support” (2.2%). “A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother” increases from 0.4% to 5.0%, and “A combination of public support” increases from 0.3% to 2.2%.

These data show that respondents are supported mainly by their parents until they finish school, and while most of them are supported by themselves and their spouses when they have reached adulthood, those who cannot become independent rely on their parents or public support.

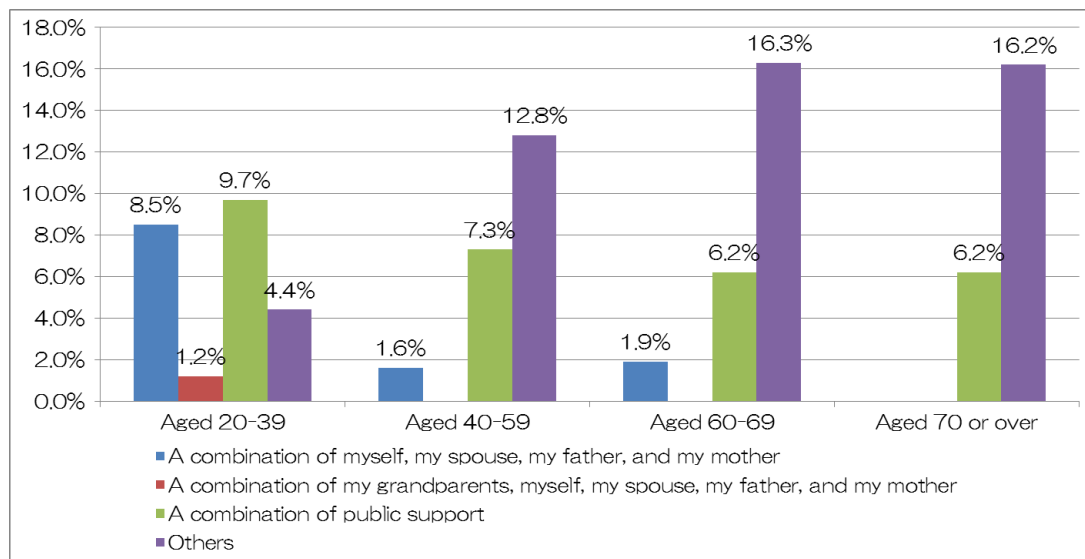
We asked householders who pay living expenses at the stage “Now” (Figure III-2). The result is different depending on the sex of householders. As for male householders, the rate of “Myself, my spouse, or both” is 70.8%, and as for female householders, the same rate is 55.9%. Figure III-3 shows that the lives of some female householders are supported by public support in all age groups, and that they are supported by “Others,” mainly including their parents and spouses when they are young and their children (and children’s relatives) when they are middle-aged or older. This means that female householders are more supported by their parents (or children) and public support than by themselves.

Figure III-2: Payers of living expenses now (householders and by sex)

Payers of living expenses	Householders (both males and females)		Householders (males)		Householders (females)	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Total	10,142	100.0	8,085	100.0	2,057	100.0
Myself, my spouse, or both	6,870	67.7	5,720	70.8	1,150	55.9
Only my father	27	0.3	19	0.2	8	0.4
Only my mother	20	0.2	13	0.2	7	0.3
Only my parents	23	0.2	21	0.3	2	0.1
(Again) Only my father, Only my mother, and Only my parents	70	0.7	53	0.7	17	0.8
A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother	166	2.0	121	2.0	45	2.0
A combination of my grandparent, myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother	14	0.1	10	0.1	4	0.2
A combination of public support	314	3.1	169	2.1	145	7.1
Others	772	8.0	495	6.0	277	13.0
No response	1,936	19.0	1,517	19.0	419	20.0



Figure III-3: Those who support female householders other than themselves (or their spouses)



## 2. Payers of the living expenses of persons aged 20–24

By sex, we asked persons aged 20–24 and 25–29 who pay living expenses “Now” (Figure III-4 and Figure III-5). And we excluded persons studying now at schools or universities from Figure III-4 (Figure III-6).

Figure III-4 and Figure III-5 show that for persons aged 20–24, “Myself, my spouse, or both” (males: 24.9% and females: 19.5%), “A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother” (males: 19.9% and females: 21.7%), “Only my father” (males: 21.2% and females: 16.4%), and “Only my parents” (males: 10.6% and females: 13.6%) mainly pay living expenses. As for persons aged 25–29, the rate of “Myself, my spouse, or both” is nearly 50% (males: 48.2% and females: 47.6%). While for persons aged 25–29, the rate of “A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother” (males: 17.9% and females: 19.5%) is also high, the rates of “Only my father” (males: 5.6% and females: 6.7%) and “Only my parents” (males: 4.7% and females: 3.3%) are lower than those in persons aged 20–24.

Persons aged 20–24 are different from persons aged 25–29 in the pattern of living expenses’ payers. Among persons aged 25–29, “Myself, my spouse, or both” increases, which means that they are independent of their parents.

In Figure III-6 (excluding students), the rates of “Myself, my spouse, or both” are 34.5% among males and 24.1% among females. In Figure III-4 (including students), the rates are 24.9% among males and 19.5% among females. The rate of “Myself, my spouse, or both” among males is higher than that among females. And in Figure III-4 (including students), the degree of independence is less than in Figure III-6.

Figure III-4: Payers of the living expenses of persons aged 20–24 (including students)

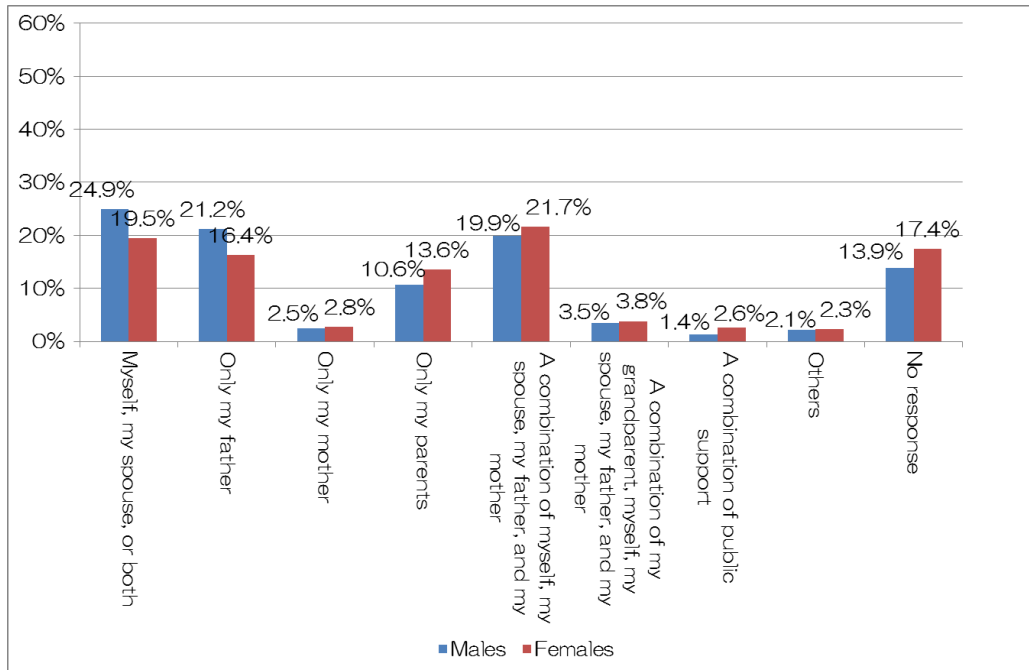


Figure III-5: Payers of the living expenses of persons aged 25–29

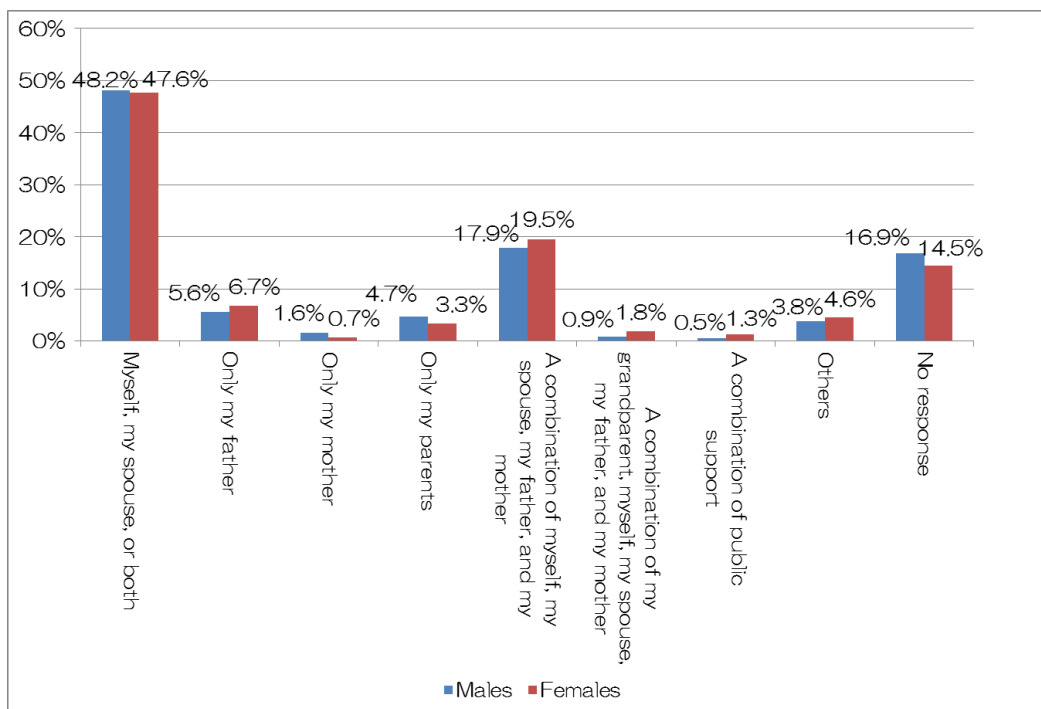
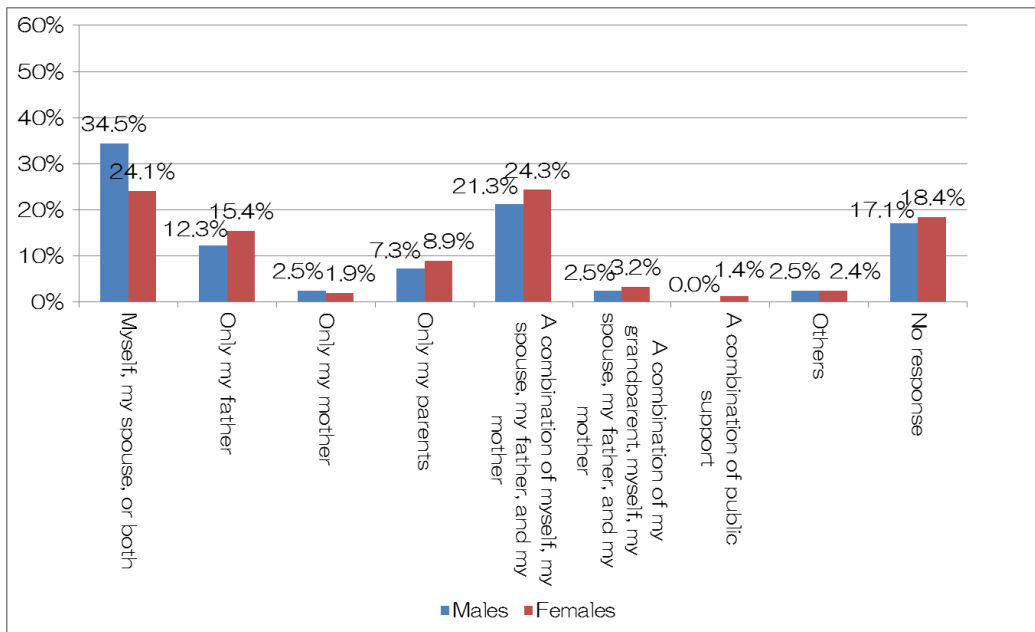


Figure III-6: Payers of the living expenses of persons aged 20–24 (excluding students)



## IV Connections and Mutual Support between People

### 1. Connections between people

We asked how often people usually have a simple conversation or small talk with others (including telephone conversations). Figure IV-1 shows frequency of conversations by sex and age group. The rates of those who have a conversation with someone every day (excluding no responses) are about 93% for males and about 96% for females in each age group under 60 and there is nearly no difference by age group. On the other hand, among persons aged 60 or older, the older the respondents are, the lower is the rate, and for males aged 80 or older, it decreases to 76.1%. The rate of females aged 80 or older is 81.4% and there is nearly no difference between 70's and 80 or older.

Figure IV-1: Frequency of conversations by sex and age group

Age group	Total	Frequency of conversations			
		Every day	Once per 2-3 days	Once per 4-7 days	Once or never per two weeks
Total	20,505	91.0	5.1	1.8	2.1
<b>Males</b>					
Aged 20-29	1,065	92.5	4.1	1.3	2.1
Aged 30-39	1,569	94.5	2.8	0.8	2.0
Aged 40-49	1,755	93.2	3.2	1.1	2.4
Aged 50-59	1,632	92.6	3.7	1.1	2.5
Aged 60-69	1,938	88.5	5.8	2.5	3.1
Aged 70-79	1,325	83.2	8.5	3.5	4.8
Aged 80 or over	535	76.1	13.5	4.1	6.4
<b>Females</b>					
Aged 20-29	1,054	96.2	2.3	0.7	0.9
Aged 30-39	1,674	97.3	1.4	0.7	0.5
Aged 40-49	1,790	95.6	2.5	0.8	1.1
Aged 50-59	1,694	95.5	2.7	1.1	0.8
Aged 60-69	2,154	90.3	6.8	1.5	1.4
Aged 70-79	1,541	82.3	10.6	4.6	2.4
Aged 80 or over	779	81.4	11.9	4.6	2.1

Next, we asked about the number of people respondents had talked directly with over the past month (including telephone conversations). Figure IV-2 shows the number of conversation partners by age group. The rate of those who had a conversation with one or more person is more than 99% in all age groups and there is no difference by age group. On the other hand, the number of conversation partners decreases in older age. Looking at the rates of those who had a conversation with 10 or more persons, there is no difference by age group among persons in their 20's to 40's, but the rate of persons aged 80 or over is 33.6 percentage points lower than the rate of 40's (79.7% of 80 or over and 46.1% of 40's).

Figure IV-2: Number of conversation partners by age group

Age group	Total	Number of conversation partners (%)					
		0 person	1 person or more	5 persons or more	10 persons or more	21 persons or more	50 persons or more
Total	19,765	0.4	99.6	87.9	71.9	45.5	24.6
Aged 20-29	2,081	0.5	99.5	90.8	78.1	54.8	32.2
Aged 30-39	3,182	0.4	99.6	92.2	79.1	51.2	27.8
Aged 40-49	3,441	0.3	99.7	91.7	79.7	54.9	30.7
Aged 50-59	3,211	0.3	99.7	90.9	77.3	53.0	30.4
Aged 60-69	3,936	0.5	99.5	85.7	68.3	40.8	20.4
Aged 70-79	2,688	0.4	99.6	82.0	59.4	30.1	13.6
Aged 80 or over	1,226	0.9	99.1	73.2	46.1	17.9	7.9

We asked those who had talked with one or more person over the past month about their relation to their conversation partners (multiple answers allowed). Figure IV-3 shows the rates of those who had a conversation (excluding no responses) by conversation partner and age group. As for a conversation with “Family members or relatives living together”, the rate increases from 78.4% (in their 20’s) to 88.1% (in their 40’s), after which it declines with age and decreases to 69.4% of persons aged 80 or over. The rate of those who had a conversation with “Family members or relatives living separately” also increases from their 20’s to 30’s before it tends to decline with age. As for other than “Family members or relatives,” the rate of those who had a conversation with “Friends or acquaintances” or “Colleagues” declines with age. The rate of those who had a conversation with “Colleagues” in particular declines drastically from their 50’s to 80’s. On the other hand, the rate of those who had a conversation with “Neighbors” or “Health, welfare, or education experts” increases with age.

Figure IV-3: Rates of those who had a conversation by age group and conversation partners

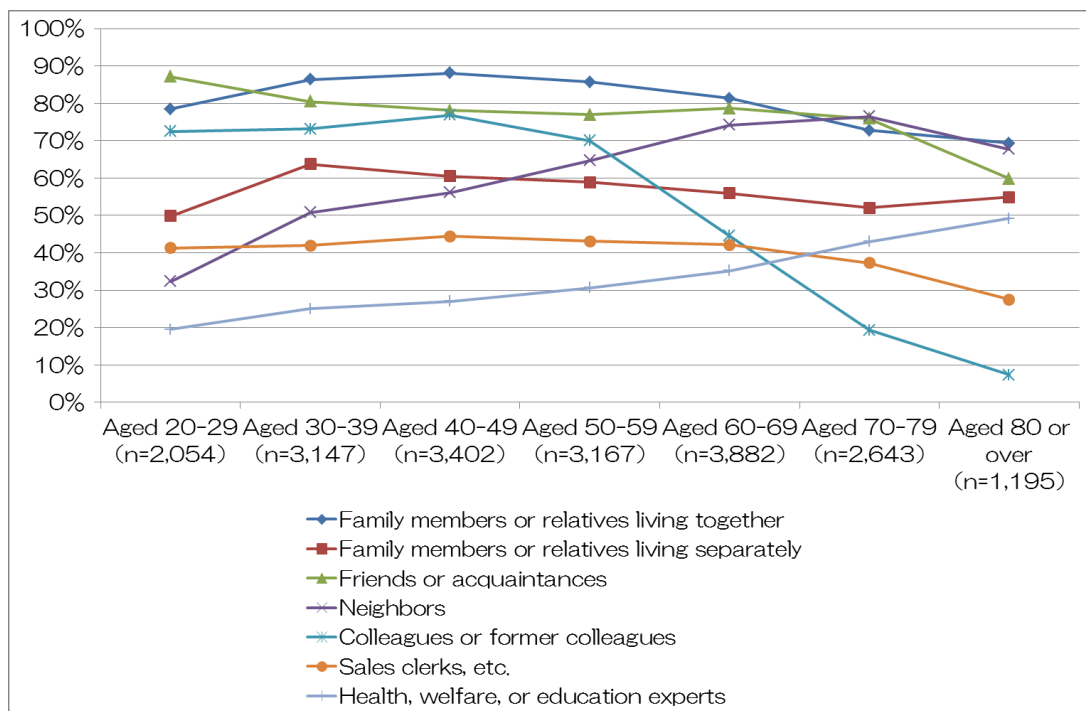


Figure IV-4 and Figure IV-5 show the status of conversations by income class. In these figures, respondents are divided between persons aged 65 or over and under 65. In both age groups, the lower the income class is, the lower is the rate of those who have a conversation every day (Figure IV-4). There is the same tendency in the number of conversation partners, which means that the lower the income class is, the fewer is the number of conversation partners (Figure IV-5).

Figure IV-4: Frequency of conversations by age group and income class

Income class	Total	Frequency of conversations (%)				
		Every day	At least once per 2-3 days	At least once per 4-7 days	At least once per two weeks	At least once per one month
Total	20,505	91.0	96.1	97.9	98.4	98.8
Under 65						
Income strata 1-3	3,024	88.3	94.1	96.2	97.2	97.9
Income strata 4-7	5,685	94.5	97.9	98.8	98.9	99.1
Income strata 8-10	5,418	97.2	98.8	99.4	99.4	99.5
Income is unknown	362	88.1	94.5	96.1	96.4	97.2
Aged 65 or over						
Income strata 1-3	1,809	77.1	90.0	95.1	96.4	97.5
Income strata 4-7	2,557	86.7	94.7	97.8	98.5	99.1
Income strata 8-10	1,255	90.4	96.1	98.0	98.5	99.4
Income is unknown	395	72.2	87.8	92.9	94.9	97.5

Figure IV-5: Number of conversation partners by age group and income class

Income class	Total	Number of conversation partners (%)				
		1 person or more	5 persons or more	10 persons or more	21 persons or more	50 persons or more
Total	19,765	99.6	87.9	71.9	45.5	24.6
Under 65						
Income strata 1-3	2,914	99.2	83.5	64.9	39.4	18.7
Income strata 4-7	5,542	99.8	91.7	77.0	50.0	27.5
Income strata 8-10	5,310	99.8	94.6	85.1	61.8	36.6
Income is unknown	329	98.2	82.7	67.2	32.8	19.8
Aged 65 or over						
Income strata 1-3	1,711	98.7	73.6	49.4	22.8	10.2
Income strata 4-7	2,427	99.8	83.7	61.8	32.1	13.8
Income strata 8-10	1,194	99.7	88.4	69.2	38.1	20.1
Income is unknown	338	99.1	65.4	42.3	20.4	8.3

Figure IV-6 and Figure IV-7 show the status of conversations by household type. As for the frequency of conversations, it is among one-person households in particular that the rate is low of those who have a conversation every day (Figure IV-6). As for the number of conversation partners, the rate of those who respond “10 persons or more” is 60.8% among one-person households, which is lower than for other household types (Figure IV-7).

Figure IV-6: Frequency of conversations by household type

Household types	Total	Frequency of conversations (%)			
		Every day	Once per 2-3 days	Once per 4-7 days	Once or never per two weeks
Total	20,505	91.0	5.1	1.8	2.1
Households without children					
One-person households	2,292	70.3	15.4	7.2	7.2
Households of only a couple	4,592	90.5	5.8	1.8	1.9
Other households	7,621	93.0	4.1	1.1	1.8
Households with children	5,989	96.8	1.9	0.6	0.7
Unknown if households have children	11	△	△	△	△

Note: △ is individuals who are few, and therefore are not written.

Figure IV-7: Number of conversation partners by household type

Household Types	Total	Number of conversation partners (%)					
		0 person	1 person or more	5 persons or more	10 persons or more	21 persons or more	50 persons or more
Total	19,765	0.4	99.6	87.9	71.9	45.5	24.6
Households without children							
One-person households	2,199	1.2	98.8	79.3	60.8	34.2	16.7
Households of only a couple	4,396	0.3	99.7	85.9	68.8	41.9	22.1
Other households	7,311	0.4	99.6	87.4	70.4	44.2	24.3
Households with children	5,851	0.2	99.8	93.3	80.3	54.2	29.8
Unknown if households have children	8	△	△	△	△	△	△

Note: △ is individuals who are few, and therefore are not written.



Figure IV-8 to Figure IV-10 show the status of conversations of persons aged 65 or over by sex and household type (the one-person household and household of only a couple). While the rate of those whose frequency of conversations is “Once or never per two weeks” is 4.1% among elderly males of households of only a couple, the rate is 16.7% among elderly males of one-person households, which shows that the gap between the two rates is 12.6 percentage points. On the other hand, as for elderly females, the rates are 1.6% among households of only a couple and 3.9% among one-person households, which means that the gap is only 2.3 percentage points (Figure IV-8). The number of conversation partners (Figure IV-9) and the conversation rate (Figure IV-10) show the same tendency, and the gap between one-person households and households of only a couple is significant among elderly males.

Figure IV-8: Frequency of conversations by sex and household type (persons aged 65 or older)

Household types	Total	Frequency of conversations (%)			
		Every day	Once per 2-3 days	Once per 4-7 days	Once or never per two weeks
<b>Males</b>					
One-person households	252	50.0	18.3	15.1	16.7
Households of only a couple	1,338	85.4	8.1	2.4	4.1
<b>Females</b>					
One-person households	646	62.8	24.9	8.4	3.9
Households of only a couple	1,026	86.7	8.6	3.1	1.6

Figure IV-9: Number of conversation partners by sex and household type (persons aged 65 or older)

Household types	Total	Number of conversation partners (%)					
		0 person	1-4	5-9	10-20	21-49	50 persons
<b>Males</b>							
One-person households	233	3.0	36.5	21.0	24.5	6.0	9.0
Households of only a couple	1,259	0.6	18.2	20.6	27.2	16.0	17.5
<b>Females</b>							
One-person households	613	0.3	22.7	23.7	29.4	14.7	9.3
Households of only a couple	969	0.3	17.4	20.8	30.0	17.0	14.3

Figure IV-10: Conversation rate by sex, household type, and conversation partner (persons aged 65 or over)

Household types	Total	Conversation rates (%)							
		Family members or relatives	Friends or acquaintances	Neighbors	Colleagues or former colleagues	Sales clerks, etc.	Health, welfare, or education experts	Telephone counselors	Others
<b>Males</b>									
One-person households	220	55.5	64.1	60.0	21.8	24.5	40.0	1.4	6.4
Households of only a couple	1,234	90.2	74.1	73.7	32.3	33.4	40.8	1.0	6.2
<b>Females</b>									
One-person households	604	72.0	76.3	75.5	14.2	35.6	40.2	1.5	6.0
Households of only a couple	954	91.4	79.7	81.4	16.1	44.2	42.9	0.3	4.7

## 2. Mutual support between people

We asked individuals aged 20 or over whether they have reliable persons (providers of support) according to 10 types of things (support types) (multiple answers are allowed). Figure IV-11 shows the rates of respondents who have reliable persons by provider of supporter for each support type (excluding no responses). The highest rate is “Family members or relatives” in all support types and 88.5% of respondents list “Family members or relatives” as a reliable person in “Nursing, care, or child care.” The rate of “Friends or acquaintances” is the highest next to “Family members or relatives.” However, the rate is drastically lower than “Family members or relatives” in all support types. The gap is large particularly in “Nursing, care, or child care” (75.3 percentage points), “Small financial aid in an emergency” (66.5 percentage points), “Help such as in transfer of furniture, garden care, or snow shoveling” (58.9 percentage points), and “Large financial aid in an emergency (54.6 percentage points).” Other than “Family members or relatives” and “Friends or acquaintances,” the rates of those who list “Colleagues” in “Listening to my complain” and “Advice about jobs such as finding a job or getting another job,” and “Neighbors” in “Help in disasters” as reliable persons exceed 50%, which are relatively high.

Next, we asked individuals aged 20 or over whether they would help “Family members or relatives,” “Friends or acquaintances,” “Neighbors,” or “Colleagues,” who would need help concerning nine things (support types) (multiple answers are allowed). Figure IV-12 shows the rates of those who help them (excluding no responses). The rate of “Family members or relatives” exceeds 60% in all support types and the rate in “Nursing, care, or child care” is especially high (87.7%). While the rate of “Friends or acquaintances” is the highest next to “Family members or relatives” in many support types, the rate is significantly low, compared with “Family members or relatives.” For example, in “Nursing, care, or child care,” the rate of “Friends or acquaintances” is only 24.4% of respondents. Other than “Family members or relatives” and “Friends or acquaintances,” the rates of “Neighbors” in “Help in disasters” and “Colleagues” in “Listening to complain” are relatively high and exceed 50%.

Figure IV-11: Rates of those have reliable persons by support type and provider of support

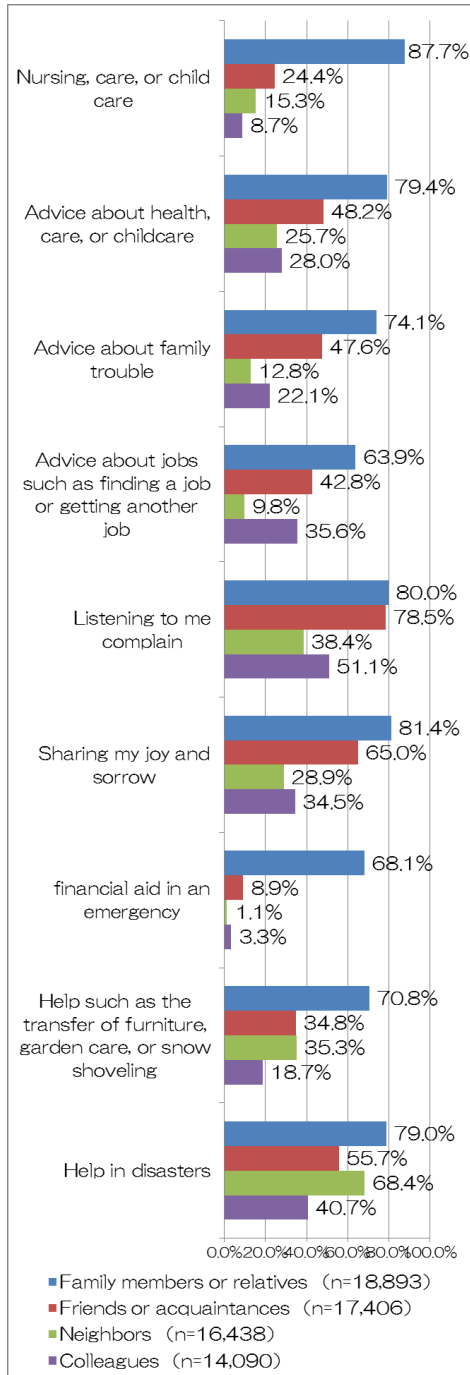


Figure IV-12: Rates of those who will help by support type and person targeted for support

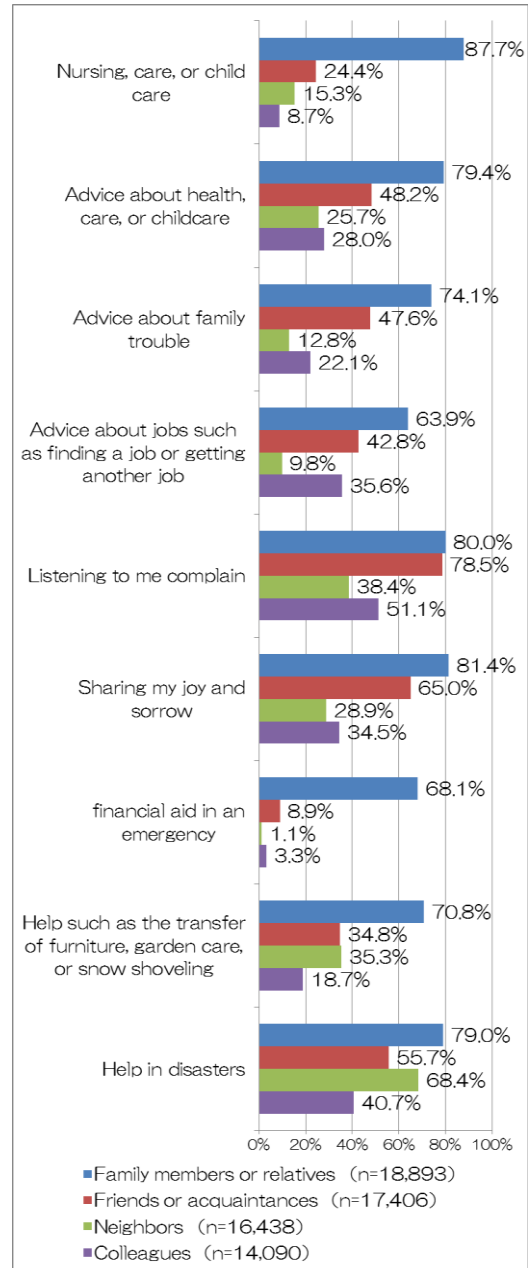


Figure IV-13 shows the rates of those who have reliable persons in “Nursing, care, or child care” by age group, sex, household type, and provider of support. Looking at the rate of those aged under 65, among both males and females, the highest rate is “Family members or relatives” followed by “Friends or acquaintances” and “Neighbors.” By household type, the rate is high among households with children and is low among one-person households. Similarly, for persons aged 65 or over, the rate tends to be high among households with children. However, in all household types, the rate of “Friends or acquaintances” is lower and the rate of “Neighbors” is higher than person aged under 65.

Figure IV-13: Rates of those who have reliable persons by age group, sex, and household type (“Nursing, care, or child care”)

Under 65									
Household types	Total	I have reliable persons (%)						I have no reliable persons (%)	I do not rely on persons (%)
		Family members or relatives	Friends or acquaintances	Neighbors	Colleagues	Health, welfare, or education expert	Others		
Total	13,857	88.1	15.1	4.9	3.3	12.4	0.9	4.9	4.6
Males									
Households without children									
One-person households	812	54.7	11.8	1.4	3.4	6.2	2.1	21.8	17.0
Households of only a couple	959	90.9	7.3	2.2	2.3	11.4	0.7	3.1	4.9
Other households	2,461	85.2	10.2	2.8	2.7	12.6	0.7	5.6	6.1
Households with children	2,482	93.9	11.6	5.1	3.9	8.3	0.6	2.4	2.9
If households have children is unknown	1	△	△	△	△	△	△	△	△
Females									
Households without children									
One-person households	473	72.3	21.8	2.5	6.6	13.3	1.5	11.2	8.2
Households of only a couple	1,186	90.9	13.7	5.4	2.5	15.1	0.7	4.4	3.3
Other households	2,604	89.7	14.7	4.1	3.0	16.7	1.2	3.7	4.2
Households with children	2,877	94.2	25.7	9.5	3.6	12.8	1.0	2.6	1.7
Unknown if households have children	2	△	△	△	△	△	△	△	△
Aged 65 or over									
Household types	Total	I have reliable persons (%)						I have no reliable persons (%)	I do not rely on persons (%)
		Family members or relatives	Friends or acquaintances	Neighbors	Neighbors	Health, welfare, or education expert	Others		
Total	5,267	89.6	8.2	9.1	0.3	24.7	0.8	3.5	3.9
Males									
Households without children									
One-person households	186	60.8	7.0	7.5	0.5	22.6	2.2	18.8	10.2
Households of only a couple	1,200	91.3	6.7	8.6	0.4	24.3	0.8	2.9	3.3
Other households	841	93.6	6.4	7.6	0.1	25.0	0.7	1.5	3.6
Households with children	199	95.5	7.5	11.6	0.5	26.1	0.5	1.5	2.0
If households have children is unknown	2	△	△	△	△	△	△	△	△
Females									
Households without children									
One-person households	508	74.8	11.2	13.0	0.0	26.8	1.2	8.1	7.5
Households of only a couple	882	90.9	7.8	10.7	0.2	25.5	0.8	3.1	3.6
Other households	1,165	92.4	8.9	6.9	0.3	23.4	0.5	2.2	3.1
Households with children	280	95.7	13.9	12.5	0.4	24.3	1.1	1.1	1.8
Unknown if households have children	4	△	△	△	△	△	△	△	△

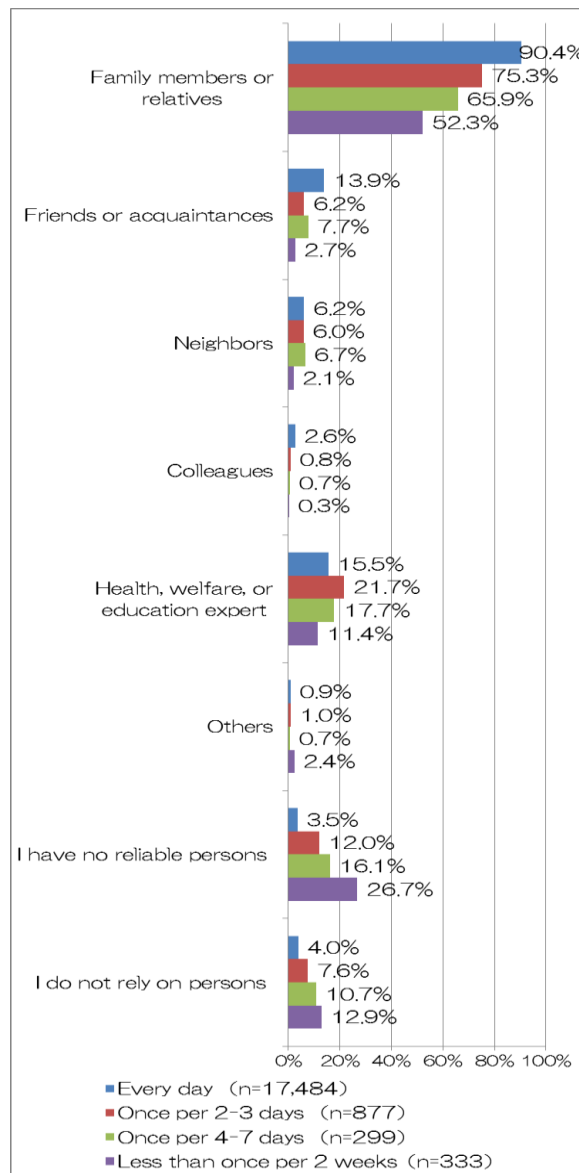
Figure IV-14 shows the rates of those who have reliable persons concerning “Nursing, care, or child care” by age group, sex, and income class. Regardless of sex and age, among income strata 3 and lower of equivalent household income, the rate of those who have reliable “Family members or relatives” is low and the rate of those who respond “I have no reliable persons” or “I do not rely on persons” is high.

Figure IV-14: Rates of those have reliable persons by age group, sex, and income class (“Nursing, care, or child care”)

Under 65									
	Total	I have reliable persons (%)						I have no reliable persons (%)	I do not rely on persons (%)
		Family members or relatives	Friends or acquaintances	Neighbors	Colleagues	Health, welfare, or education expert	Others		
Total	13,857	88.1	15.1	4.9	3.3	12.4	0.9	4.9	4.6
Males									
Income strata 1-3	1,205	77.8	9.4	3.1	1.0	11.1	1.1	10.3	8.1
Income strata 4-7	2,679	86.9	11.2	3.9	3.5	9.6	1.0	5.6	5.6
Income strata 8-10	2,701	88.1	10.5	3.1	4.0	10.1	0.6	4.4	5.2
Income is unknown	130	74.6	6.9	2.3	0.8	6.9	0.8	8.5	12.3
Females									
Income strata 1-3	1,592	85.1	17.5	5.8	2.3	14.7	1.1	6.4	4.4
Income strata 4-7	2,819	90.8	20.2	6.7	3.1	13.9	1.0	4.0	3.5
Income strata 8-10	2,583	93.7	19.7	6.4	4.5	15.4	0.9	2.2	2.4
Income is unknown	148	88.5	19.6	5.4	3.4	14.2	2.0	4.1	3.4
Aged 65 or over									
	Total	I have reliable persons (%)						I have no reliable persons (%)	I do not rely on persons (%)
		Family members or relatives	Friends or acquaintances	Neighbors	Colleagues	Health, welfare, or education expert	Others		
Total	5,267	89.6	8.2	9.1	0.3	24.7	0.8	3.5	3.9
Males									
Income strata 1-3	626	86.1	5.3	8.0	0.2	22.0	1.0	6.5	4.8
Income strata 4-7	1,137	92.1	7.0	9.1	0.5	26.6	0.8	2.5	3.4
Income strata 8-10	550	92.2	6.9	7.1	0.2	25.5	0.9	1.6	2.9
Income is unknown	115	82.6	10.4	10.4	0.0	14.8	0.9	7.0	7.0
Females									
Income strata 1-3	906	84.0	9.1	10.6	0.1	23.1	1.4	6.0	4.9
Income strata 4-7	1,200	91.3	10.1	9.7	0.3	26.4	0.7	2.6	3.9
Income strata 8-10	596	94.0	8.9	7.9	0.3	25.5	0.0	0.8	2.5
Income is unknown	137	83.2	9.5	11.7	0.0	17.5	0.7	5.1	3.6

Finally, by frequency of conversations, we look at the rates of those who have reliable persons concerning “Nursing, care, or child care” (Figure IV-15). The higher the frequency of usual conversation is, the higher are the rates of those who have reliable “Family members or relatives” and reliable “Friends or acquaintances.” On the other hand, among those who respond that the frequency of usual conversations is “Once or never per two weeks,” the rate of those who have reliable persons is low in all providers of support and the rate of those who respond “I have no reliable persons” reaches up to 26.7%.

Figure IV-15: Rates of those who have reliable persons by frequency of conversations and providers of support (“Nursing, care, or child care”)

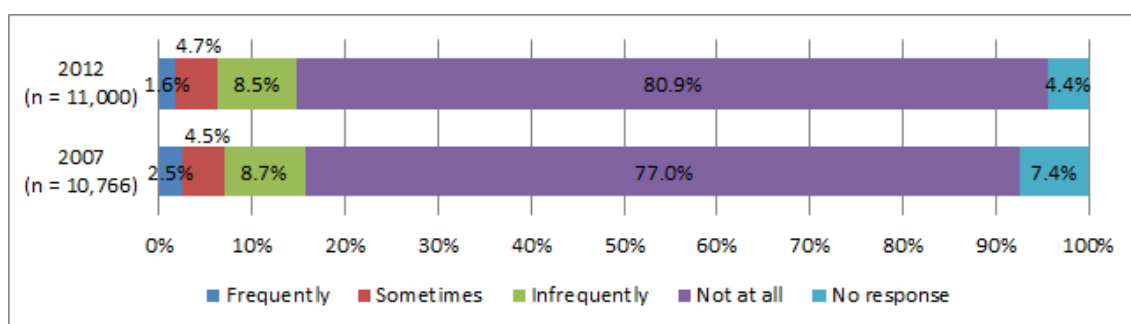


## V Households Facing Financial Difficulties

### 1. Food poverty

The rates of households that experienced not being able to buy food for their family members in the past year because of financial reasons are 1.6% for “Frequently,” 4.7% for “Sometimes,” and 8.5% for “Infrequently,” which means that a total of 14.8% of households have experienced food poverty (Figure V-1). Comparing with the previous survey (2007), this survey shows a slight decrease in the rate of households that experienced food poverty.

Figure V-1: Food poverty (2012 and 2007)



When we look at the above by household type (Figure V-2), the rates of single-parent households (two generations) are 3.8% for “Frequently,” 10.7% for “Sometimes,” and 17.5% for “Infrequently,” which shows that these rates are the highest. The highest rates next to these are those of single-parent households (three generations). The rates of one-person households are relatively high, and the rates of both elderly and non-elderly one-person male households are higher than other household types.

Next, by regional bloc (Figure V-3), the rate of households that responded “Frequently” is high in Shikoku and Northern Kanto. However, looking at the combined rate of “Frequently,” “Sometimes,” and “Infrequently,” the highest rate of food poverty is in “Hokkaido,” followed by “Tohoku” and “Kyushu and Okinawa.”

The ranking of rates of households that experienced food poverty by household type and regional bloc remains almost the same as in the previous survey (2007), but, on the whole, the rate of experiencing food poverty has been flat or decreasing.

Figure V-2: Food poverty by household type

Household types	Total	Frequently (%)	Sometimes (%)	Infrequently (%)	Not at all (%)	No response (%)
Total	11,000	1.6	4.7	8.5	80.9	4.4
Households without children						
One-person households						
Elderly male one-person households	289	2.1	6.9	9.7	69.6	11.8
Elderly female one-person households	740	0.8	3.9	6.2	81.9	7.2
Non-elderly male one-person households	940	2.9	6.8	8.8	75.0	6.5
Non-elderly female one-person households	560	1.8	5.5	9.5	78.6	4.6
Households of only a couple						
Households of only an elderly couple	1,178	0.9	3.5	7.6	84.6	3.4
Households of only a couple, one of which is elderly	331	0.9	3.9	7.6	84.9	2.7
Households of only a non-elderly couple	1,033	1.5	3.0	4.5	87.0	4.0
Other households						
Household of only elderly persons	89	0.0	2.2	5.6	86.5	5.6
Households including also non-elderly persons	2,799	1.4	4.1	8.9	79.8	5.8
Households with children						
Both-parent households (three generations)	415	0.7	4.8	9.2	84.3	1.0
Both-parent households (two generations)	2,059	1.5	4.7	9.9	83.5	0.4
One-parent households (three generations)	142	3.5	9.9	7.7	78.9	0.0
One-parent households (two generations)	234	3.8	10.7	17.5	67.5	0.4

Note: Excluding households whose household types are unknown.

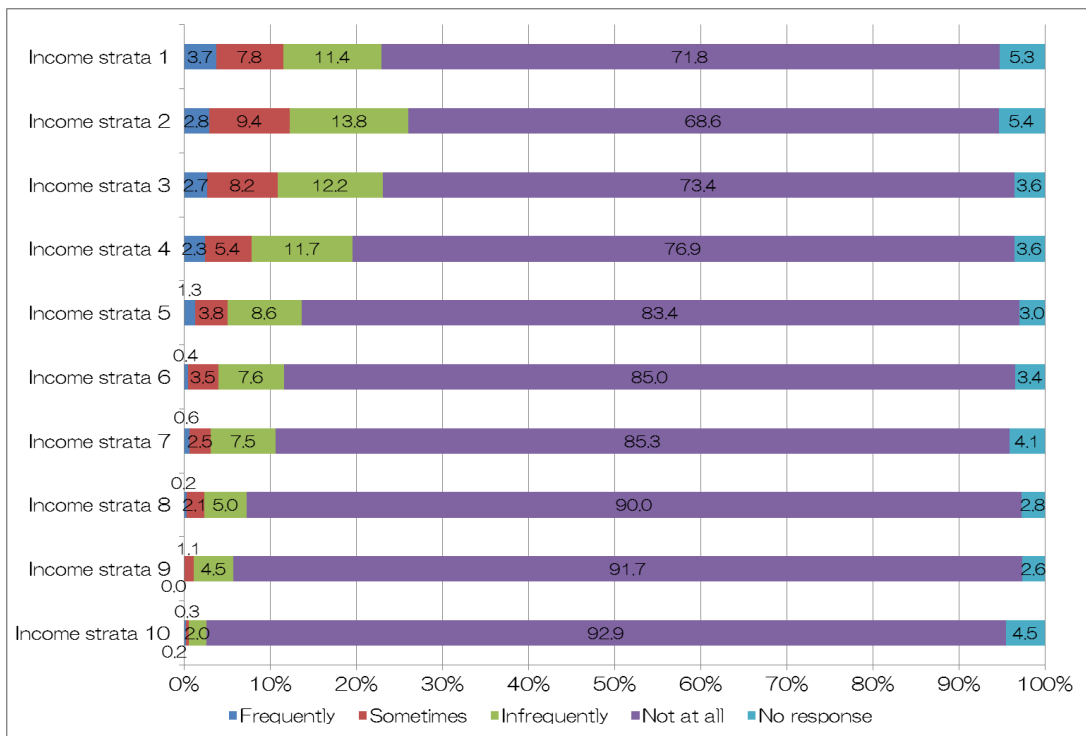
Figure V-3: Food poverty by regional bloc

Regional blocs	Total	Frequently (%)	Sometimes (%)	Infrequently (%)	Not at all (%)	No response (%)
Total	11,000	1.6	4.7	8.5	80.9	4.4
Hokkaido	518	1.7	6.6	11.6	75.3	4.8
Tohoku	617	1.8	6.0	11.0	76.3	4.9
Northern Kanto	640	2.5	4.1	8.1	80.3	5.0
Tokyo area	2,883	1.5	3.6	7.3	82.9	4.7
Chubu and Hokuriku	1,062	1.3	4.0	7.8	82.6	4.3
Chukyo area	989	1.2	4.8	6.9	84.3	2.8
Osaka area	1,466	1.1	4.9	8.5	80.6	4.9
Around Kyoto and Osaka	298	0.7	2.7	10.1	84.2	2.3
Chugoku	838	1.4	4.4	8.4	82.1	3.7
Shikoku	342	3.2	2.3	9.9	81.6	2.9
Kyushu and Okinawa	1,347	1.9	7.2	10.1	75.8	5.0

Next, when we look at food poverty by income class (Figure V-4), overall, the rate of low-income households that experienced food poverty is higher than that of high-income households. The rates of households that responded that they had “Frequently” experienced food poverty are 3.7% among households in income strata 1 and 0.2% among households in income strata 10. The rates also including “Sometimes” and “Infrequently” are 26.0% among households in income strata 2 (the highest), 23.1% among households in income strata 3, and 2.5% among households in income strata 10. These data show that food poverty is not limited to the poorest, though it is not chronic. The pattern of food poverty by income class has not changed from the previous survey (2007).



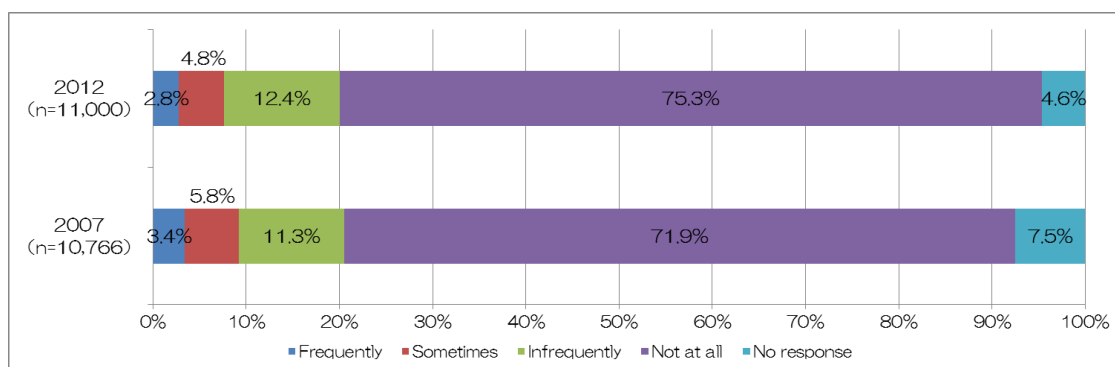
Figure V-4: Rates of households that have not been able to buy food by income class



## 2. Clothing poverty

The rates of households that experienced not being able to buy clothing for their family members because of financial reasons in the past year are 2.8% for “Frequently,” 4.8% for “Sometimes,” and 12.4% for “Infrequently,” which means that a total of 20.1% of households have experienced clothing poverty. Comparing with the previous survey (2007), the rate of households that experienced clothing poverty has decreased slightly.

Figure V-5: Clothing poverty (2012 and 2007)



When we look at the above by household type (Figure V-6), the rate of who chose “Frequently” is 9.4% for single-parent households (two generations), which means nearly 10% of the same households have frequently experienced clothing poverty. The rate including “Sometimes” and “Infrequently” is 42.3%, which is by far the highest of all the household types. The second highest rates are those of single-parent households (three generations) and non-elderly one-person female households. The ranking of rates of households that experienced clothing poverty by household type remains almost the same as in the previous survey (2007). Like food poverty, on the whole, the rate of households responding that they experienced clothing poverty has decreased.

Next, by regional bloc (Figure V-7), the rate of households that responded “Frequently” is high in Kyushu and Okinawa, Shikoku, and Hokkaido. Looking at the combined rate of “Frequently,” “Sometimes,” and “Infrequently,” the highest rate of clothing poverty is in “Hokkaido,” followed by “Tohoku” and “Kyushu and Okinawa.” The fact that the rates of clothing poverty are high in the northernmost and southernmost regional blocs remains the same as in the previous survey (2007).

When we look at clothing poverty by income class (Figure V-8), like food poverty, the highest poverty rate is in income strata 2 and 3, and there is a tendency that the higher the income class is, the lower the poverty rate is.

Figure V-6: Clothing poverty by household type

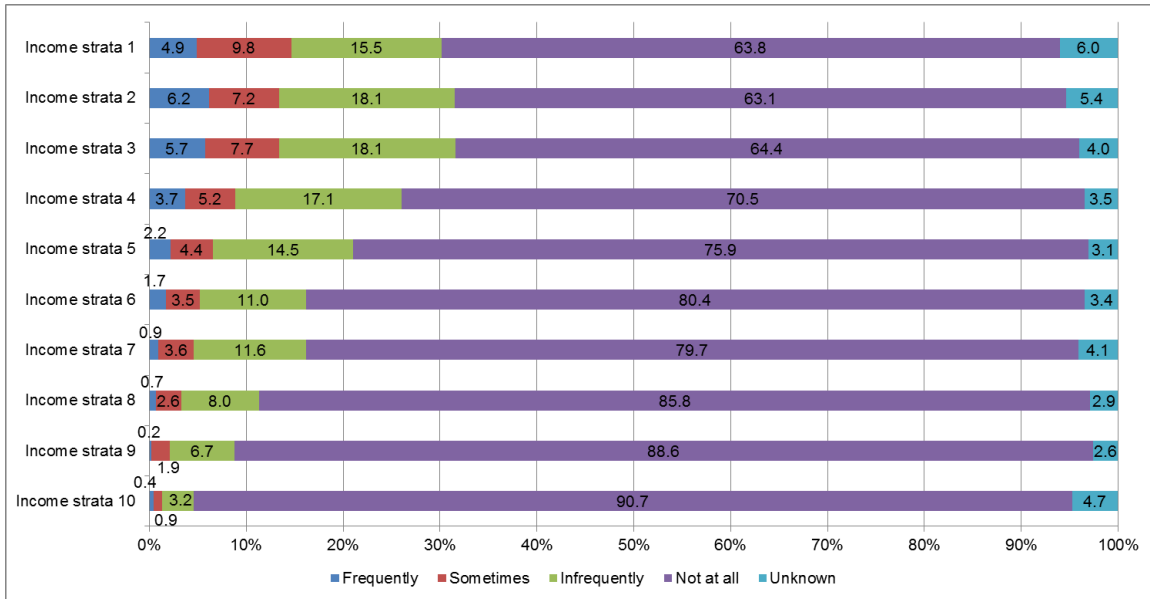
Household types	Total	Frequently (%)	Sometimes (%)	Infrequently (%)	Not at all (%)	No response (%)
Total	11,000	2.8	4.8	12.4	75.3	4.6
Household without children						
One-person households						
Elderly male one-person households	289	3.1	6.2	13.8	64.7	12.1
Elderly female one-person households	740	1.9	3.8	9.7	76.5	8.1
Non-elderly male one-person households	940	3.9	7.1	8.8	73.3	6.8
Non-elderly female one-person households	560	4.1	5.4	11.8	74.3	4.5
Households of only a couple						
Households of only an elderly couple	1,178	1.9	4.1	13.0	77.1	4.0
Households of only a couple, one of which is elderly	331	3.0	3.0	15.4	75.5	3.0
Households of only a non-elderly couple	1,033	1.7	2.9	8.7	82.6	4.1
Other households						
Household of only elderly persons	89	1.1	3.4	9.0	80.9	5.6
Households including also non-elderly persons	2,799	2.4	4.2	11.8	75.8	5.8
Households with children						
Both-parent households (three generations)	415	1.7	5.5	14.7	76.9	1.2
Both-parent households (two generations)	2,059	2.9	5.4	15.1	76.2	0.4
One-parent households (three generations)	142	4.2	7.0	16.9	71.8	0.0
One-parent households (two generations)	234	9.4	9.0	23.9	57.3	0.4

Note: Excluding households whose household types are unknown.

Figure V-7: Clothing poverty by regional bloc

Regional blocs	Total	Frequently (%)	Sometimes (%)	Infrequently (%)	Not at all (%)	No response (%)
Total	11,000	2.8	4.8	12.4	75.3	4.6
Hokkaido	518	3.3	6.8	17.8	67.4	4.8
Tohoku	617	3.2	7.0	15.6	69.0	5.2
Northern Kanto	640	2.3	5.3	10.5	76.9	5.0
Tokyo area	2,883	2.5	4.2	11.2	77.2	4.9
Chubu and Hokuriku	1,062	2.8	3.1	13.7	75.9	4.5
Chukyo area	989	2.2	4.3	9.7	80.9	2.8
Osaka area	1,466	2.9	5.2	12.1	74.8	5.0
Around Kyoto and Osaka	298	1.3	5.0	11.7	78.9	3.0
Chugoku	838	2.7	4.1	12.1	77.1	4.1
Shikoku	342	3.5	3.5	11.4	78.4	3.2
Kyushu and Okinawa	1,347	3.6	6.2	14.6	70.0	5.6

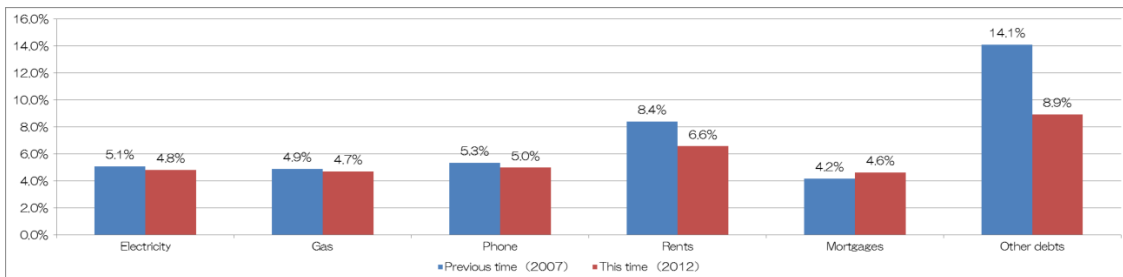
Figure V-8: Clothing poverty by income class



### 3. Falling behind with payments

The rates of households that experienced falling behind with their electricity, gas, or phone bills, rents or mortgages, or other debts because of financial reasons in the past year are 4.8% for electricity, 4.7% for gas, 5.0% for phone, 6.6% for rents, 4.6% for mortgages, and 8.9% for other debts (Figure V-9; because there are households in which these expenses do not occur, “N/A” and “No response” are excluded from denominators in the rate above). Comparing the above with the previous survey (2007), while the rates of “rents” and “other debts” show a statistically significant decrease, the rates of the other items do not show a statistically significant gap.

Figure V-9: Rates of household that fell behind with payments of bills or debts in the past year



Note: The number of households that fell behind with payments/the total number of households excluding N/A and no responses

By household type (Figure V-10), one-parent households (two generations) and one-parent

households (three generations) have fallen behind with payments or debts at the highest rate, and as for electricity, gas, and phone, the rates exceed 10%. Additionally, among non-elderly one-person male households, the rates of being in arrears with these bills are high. As for rents, the rates of being in arrears are high among one-parent households (two generations), households of only a couple (one of the couple is elderly), and non-elderly one-person male households. On the other hand, concerning mortgages and other debts, the rates of one-parent household (three generations) are high.

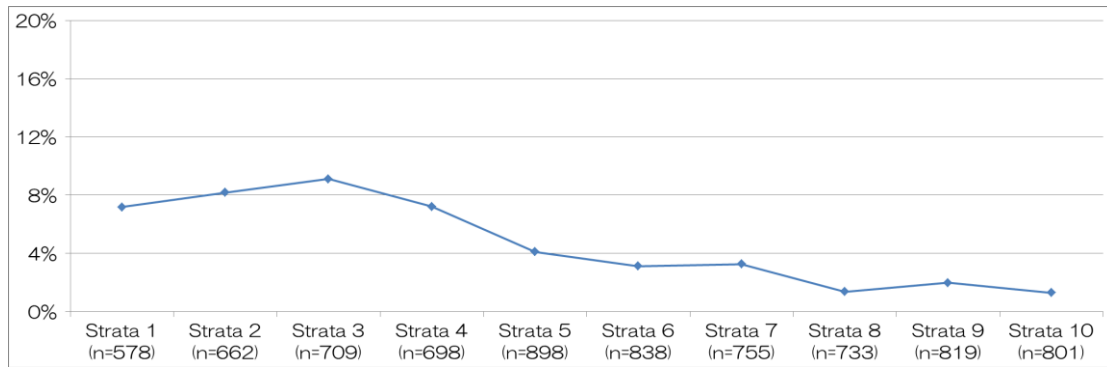
Figure V-10: Rates of households that have fallen behind with payments of bills or debts in the past year by household type

Household types	Total	Electricity (%)	Gas (%)	Phone (%)	Rents (%)	Mortgages (%)	Other debts (%)
Total	11,000	4.8	4.7	5.0	6.6	4.6	8.9
household without children							
One-person households							
Elderly male one-person households	289	5.4	4.6	5.8	6.9	4.8	10.6
Elderly female one-person households	740	2.6	2.0	3.0	4.8	1.7	3.6
Non-elderly male one-person households	940	8.7	8.9	10.2	8.3	4.8	15.2
Non-elderly female one-person households	560	5.8	4.8	6.0	6.5	2.6	9.8
households of only a couple							
households of only an elderly couple	1,178	1.5	1.4	1.4	4.3	4.2	3.5
Households of only a couple, one of which is elderly	331	2.2	2.4	1.0	10.0	4.0	7.6
households of only a non-elderly couple	1,033	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.2	4.0	5.5
Other households							
household of only elderly persons	89	2.4	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	6.9
households including also non-elderly persons	2,799	4.6	4.4	4.3	6.6	5.4	9.7
households with children							
Both-parent households (three generations)	415	4.0	4.0	5.2	0.0	7.9	10.0
Both-parent households (two generations)	2,059	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.4	3.5	8.0
One-parent households (three generations)	142	11.3	10.7	10.9	3.7	24.4	20.7
One-parent households (two generations)	234	14.1	16.2	15.3	13.4	8.1	18.5

Note: The number of households that fell behind with payments/the total number of households excluding N/A and no responses

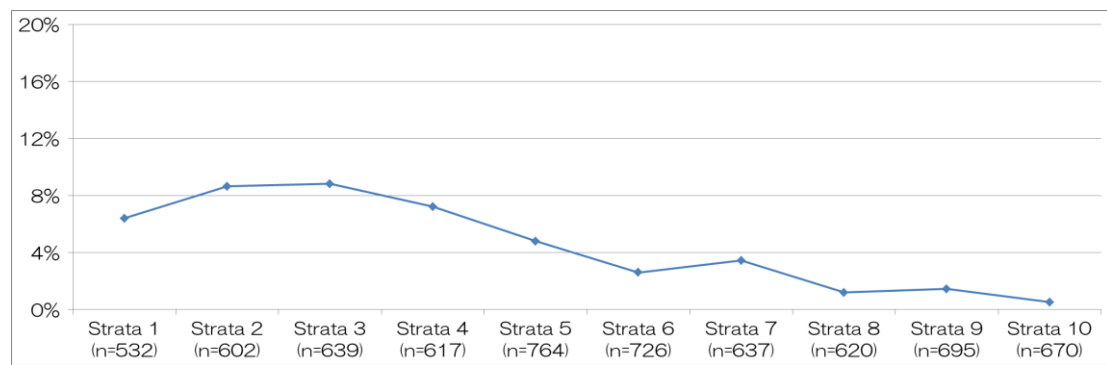
When we look at bills and debts in arrears over the past year by income class (Figure V-11 to V-16), as for electricity, gas, rents, mortgages, or other debts, the rates of arrears are the highest in income strata 3 and the rates decrease from income strata 4 to income strata 10. As for phone, the rates are the highest in income strata 2 and 3.

Figure V-11: Rates of households that have fallen behind with electricity bills in the past year



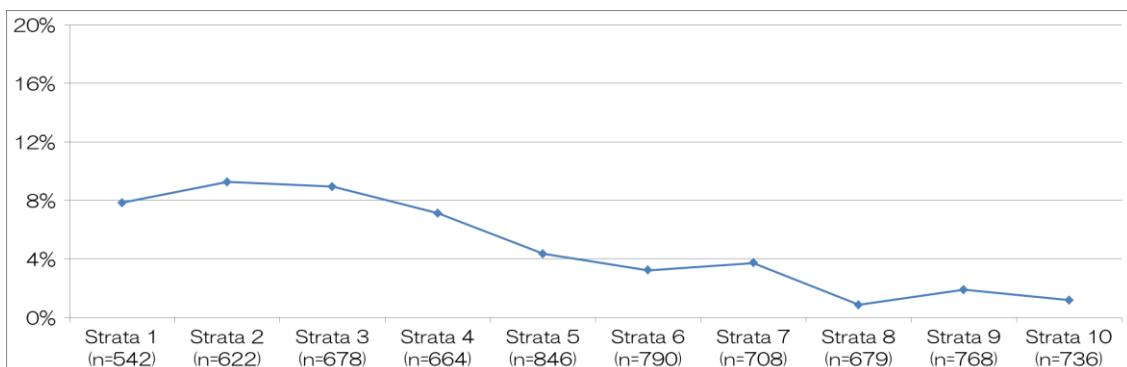
Note: The rates among households that need to pay electricity bills

Figure V-12: Rates of households that have fallen behind with gas bills in the past year



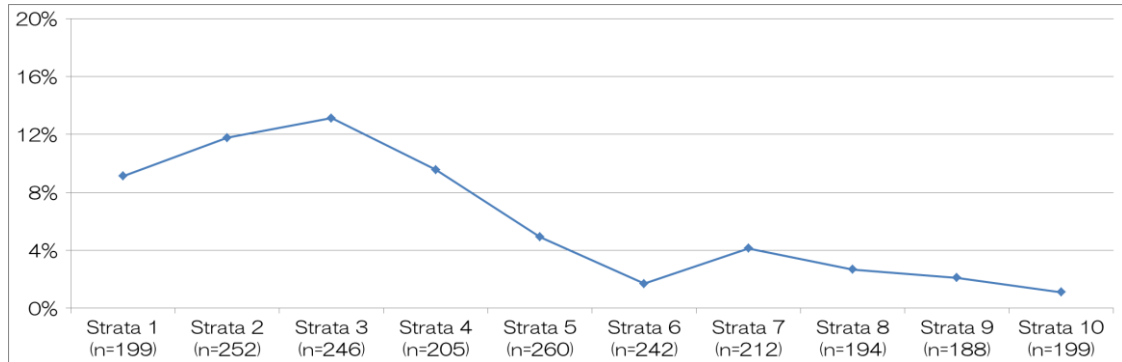
Note: The rates among households that need to pay gas bills

Figure V-13: Rates of households that have fallen behind with phone bills in the past year



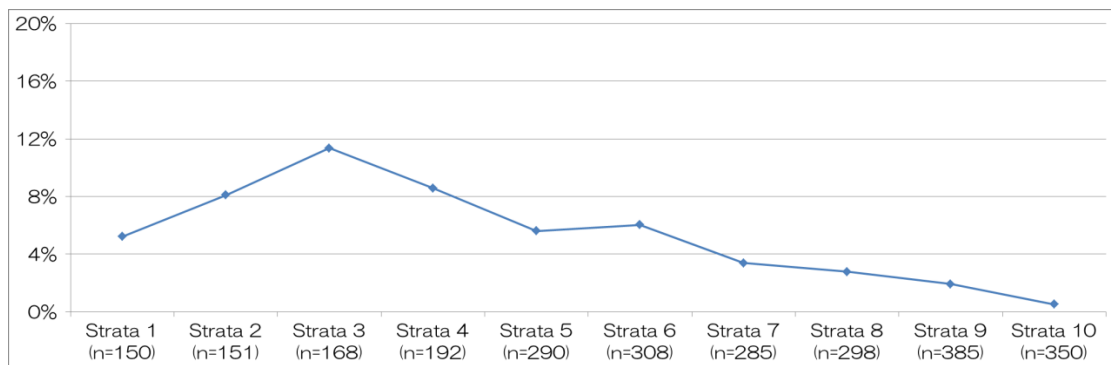
Note: The rates among households that need to pay phone bills

Figure V-14: Rates of households that have fallen behind with rents in the past year



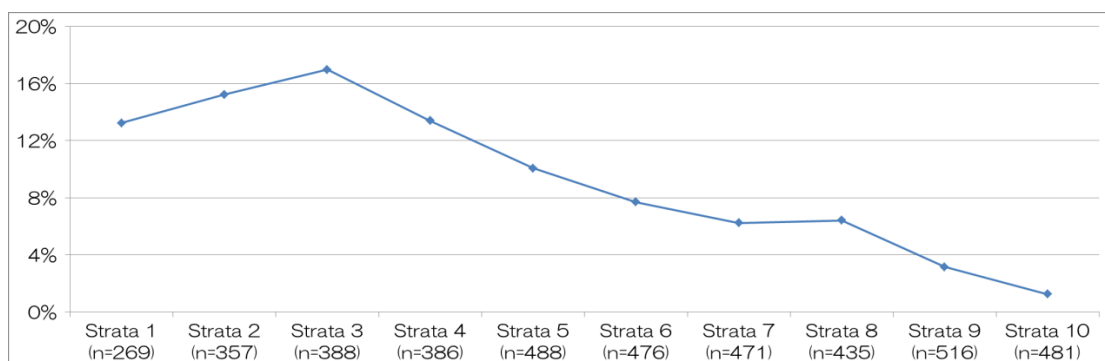
Note: The rates among households that need to pay rents

Figure V-15: Rates of households that have fallen behind with mortgages in the past year



Note: The rates among households that need to pay mortgages

Figure V-16: Rates of households that have fallen behind with other debts in the past year



Note: The rates among households that need to pay other debts

## VI Persons Who Have Not Seen Doctors or Have Not Had Checkups over the Past Year

### 1. Persons who have not seen doctors over the past year

We ask individuals (aged 20 or over) within households whether they have experienced not being able to see doctors when necessary in the past year. 14.2% of the total 21,173 respondents have not been able to see doctors when they needed to (Figure VI-1). By sex, the rates of those who chose “Frequently” are 13.8% of 10,138 males and 14.6% of 11,035 females. By age group, while such rates of individuals aged 20–59 are relatively high, the rates begin to decline from the group of those aged 60–64 and remain at a relatively low level in the group of those aged 65 or older.

Figure VI-1: Numbers of individuals who have not been able to see doctors when necessary in the past year

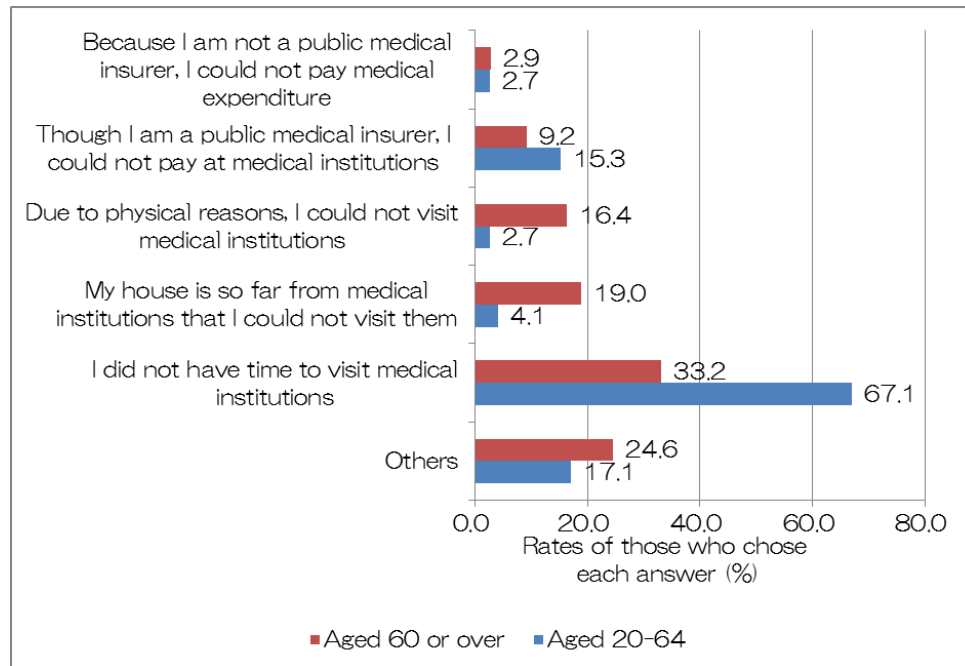
Age group	Males			Females			Total		
	Total	I have been able to (%)	I have not been able to (%)	Total	I have been able to (%)	I have not been able to (%)	Total	I have been able to (%)	I have not been able to (%)
Total	10,138	81.7	13.8	11,035	80.1	14.6	21,173	80.9	14.2
Aged 20-24	518	86.3	11.0	470	80.4	17.9	988	83.5	14.3
Aged 25-29	575	83.1	14.8	609	79.2	19.2	1,184	81.1	17.1
Aged 30-34	693	82.3	15.0	700	81.1	17.6	1,393	81.7	16.3
Aged 35-39	919	79.4	18.1	995	81.7	17.0	1,914	80.6	17.5
Aged 40-44	949	80.9	17.1	954	80.7	17.7	1,903	80.8	17.4
Aged 45-49	843	81.1	16.8	864	77.7	20.1	1,707	79.4	18.5
Aged 50-54	791	79.9	17.7	814	79.0	18.1	1,605	79.4	17.9
Aged 55-59	883	78.1	18.0	916	79.8	15.4	1,799	79.0	16.7
Aged 60-64	1,082	83.9	11.3	1,239	81.0	13.4	2,321	82.4	12.4
Aged 65-69	917	83.8	9.3	986	82.5	10.0	1,903	83.1	9.7
Aged 70-74	747	83.5	9.1	892	78.5	9.1	1,639	80.8	9.1
Aged 75 or over	1,221	80.6	8.8	1,596	79.3	9.1	2,817	79.8	9.0

Note: Because totals include no responses, the sum of the rates of those who have and those who have not is not 100%.

Figure VI-2 shows the reasons why they have not been able to see doctors. 2,382 individuals aged under 65 and 537 individuals aged 65 or over have responded.



Figure VI-2: Reasons why they have not been able to see doctors when necessary in the past year (multiple answers allowed)



Note: Multiple answers allowed; therefore, the sum total can be over 100%.

The reason with the highest rate is “Because I did not have time to visit medical institutions,” which is chosen by 67.1% of those aged 20–64 and by 33.2% of those aged 65 or over.

Figure VI-3 shows relations between the work status and seeing doctors, dividing respondents into those aged 20–64 and those aged 65 or over. Concerning each of those aged 20–64 and those aged 65 or over, the rates of having not been able to see doctors are high for those who do not have a job now (including those who are looking for work) (aged 20–64: 18.5% and aged 65 or over: 14.0%), followed by those who have a job now (aged 20–64: 16.8% and aged 65 or over: 9.5%).

Figure VI-3: Those who have not been able to see doctors when necessary in the past year and the work status

Work status	Aged 20-64			Aged 65 or over		
	Total	I have been able to (%)	I have not been able to (%)	Total	I have been able to (%)	I have not been able to (%)
Total	14,680	80.8	16.4	5,864	79.7	8.6
I have a job now	10,986	81.0	16.8	1,363	83.9	9.5
I do not have a job now						
I look for a job	1,271	77.6	18.5	737	77.1	14.0
I do not look for a job or am a student	2,354	83.9	14.0	3,416	86.7	7.9
I do not look for a job (unknown)	69	65.2	10.1	348	63.2	13.5

Note: Because totals include no responses, etc., the sum of rates is not 100%.

## 2. Persons who have not had checkups over the past year

We asked whether individuals have had checkups over the past year. The rate of those who have not had checkups is 27.8% of the total 21,173 surveyed. By sex, the rates of those who responded that they had not had checkups are 23.6% of 10,138 males and 31.7% of 11,035 females, which means that the rate of females not having checkups is slightly higher than that of males (Figure VI-4). The rate in females aged 30–34 is 41.9%, which is very high.

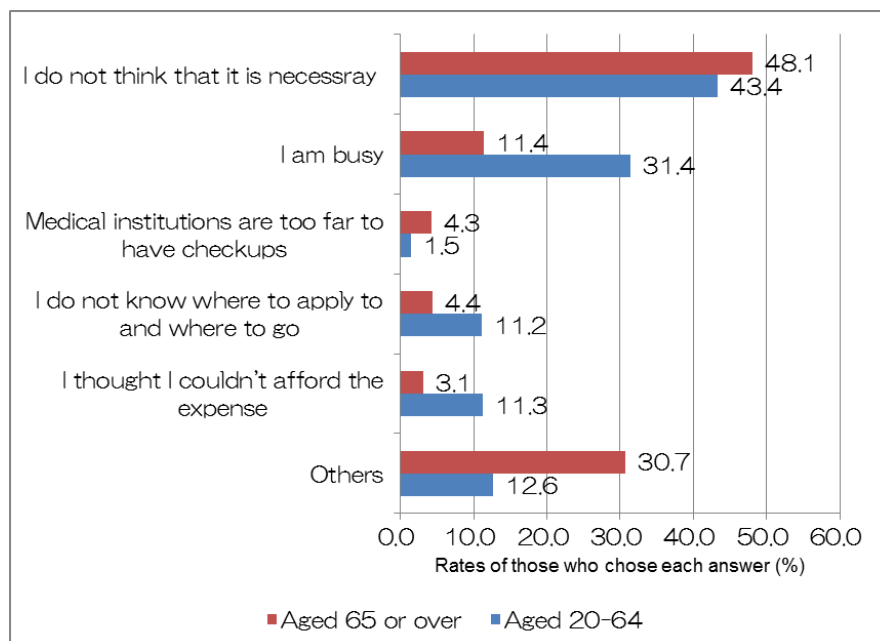
Figure VI-4: Individuals who have not had checkups over the past year

Age group	Males			Females		
	Total	I have (%)	I have not (%)	Total	I have (%)	I have not (%)
Total	10,138	73.4	23.6	11,035	64.9	31.7
Aged 20-24	518	72.2	26.3	470	66.0	31.5
Aged 25-29	575	72.9	25.2	609	61.1	37.0
Aged 30-34	693	74.5	23.7	700	57.0	41.9
Aged 35-39	919	77.4	20.5	995	59.3	39.2
Aged 40-44	949	77.8	21.2	954	67.6	30.9
Aged 45-49	843	80.0	17.7	864	69.7	29.4
Aged 50-54	791	78.8	19.5	814	70.4	27.5
Aged 55-59	883	80.0	17.6	916	70.0	28.3
Aged 60-64	1,082	71.4	25.2	1,239	66.1	29.9
Aged 65-69	917	68.2	27.7	986	68.7	26.7
Aged 70-74	747	67.3	28.7	892	65.8	27.4
Aged 75 or over	1,221	63.8	29.5	1,596	59.3	33.4

Note: Because totals include no responses, the sum of the rates of those who have and those who have not is not 100%.

Figure VI-5 shows the reasons for not having medical checkups, grouped by those aged 20–64 and those aged 65 or over. As for individuals aged 20–64, the rate of those who chose “I do not think it is necessary” is 43.4% of the total 4,121 respondents, which is the highest rate. The second highest rate is “I am too busy to have it” (31.4%). Regarding individuals aged 65 or over, the rate of those who chose “I do not think it is necessary” is 48.1% of the total 1,868 respondents, which is the highest rate.

Figure VI-5: Reasons for not having checkups over the past year (multiple answers allowed)



Note: Multiple answers allowed; therefore, the sum total of the rates can be over 100%.

Figure VI-6 shows relations between the work status and having checkups, dividing respondents into those aged 20–64 and those aged 65 or over. Concerning those aged 20–64, the rate of those who have not had checkups is the highest (51.8%) among “those who do not have a job now (including those who are looking for work).” The rate is the second highest (44.7%) among “those who do not have a job now (who do not look for work or are students).” As for those aged 65 or over, the rate of those who have not had checkups is the highest (32.0%) among “those who do not have a job now (who do not look for work or are students),” and the rate is the second highest (31.8%) among “those who do not have a job now (including those who are looking for work).”

Figure VI-6: Those who have not had checkups over the past year and the work status

Work status	Aged 20-64			Aged 65 or over		
	Total	I have (%)	I have not (%)	Total	I have (%)	I have not (%)
Total	14,680	71.0	27.0	5,864	63.0	28.4
I have a job now	10,986	78.1	20.5	1,363	72.2	24.9
I do not have a job now						
I look for a job	1,271	46.1	51.8	737	64.2	31.8
I do not look for a job or am a student	2,354	53.6	44.7	3,416	65.5	32.0
I do not look for a job (unknown)	69	42.0	40.6	348	58.9	29.3

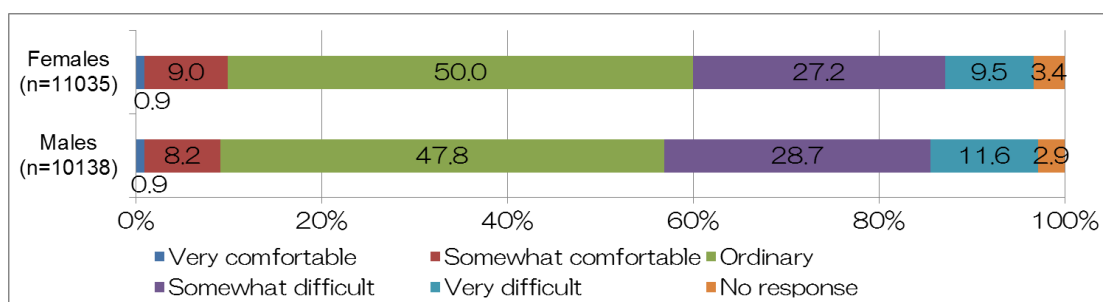
Note: Because totals include no responses, etc., the sum of rates is not 100%.

## VII Life and Life Change

### 1. "Life"

When we ask each individual aged 20 or over what he or she thinks of his or her present "life," approximately half of both males and females responded, "Ordinary." While the rate of "very comfortable" or "somewhat comfortable" is nearly 10%, the rate of "somewhat difficult" or "very difficult" is approximately 40% (Figure VII-1). The rate of males who think their lives are difficult is higher than that of females, and the rates of respondents who think their lives are "Very difficult" are 11.6% among males and 9.5% among females, and the rates of "Somewhat difficult" are 28.7% among males and 27.2% among females.

Figure VII-1: Present life



When we look at respondents who answered their lives are "Difficult" ("Very difficult" or "Somewhat difficult") by sex, age group, and work status, the rate is particularly high among jobless males in the working-age generation (Figure VII-2). Among unemployed males, the rates of those who respond with "Difficult" are 66.9% in their 30's, 71.9% in their 40's, and 65.1% in their 50's

Figure VII-2: Rates of respondents who think their present lives are “Difficult” (by sex, age group, and work status)

Age group	Workig				Unemployed			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Total	Rates of those who responded "Difficult" (%)	Total	Rates of those who responded "Difficult" (%)	Total	Rates of those who responded "Difficult" (%)	Total	Rates of those who responded "Difficult" (%)
Total	7,043	39.9	5,306	37.7	2,859	42.2	5,336	36.3
Aged 20-29	786	32.2	732	25.4	297	27.6	340	37.1
Aged 30-39	1,482	38.8	1,071	35.8	118	66.9	614	45.0
Aged 40-49	1,664	43.3	1,305	44.1	121	71.9	501	43.1
Aged 50-59	1,509	43.8	1,129	41.6	146	65.1	586	41.1
Aged 60-69	1,198	39.1	804	38.3	757	49.8	1,339	38.2
Aged 70-79	339	34.8	237	28.7	965	39.8	1,236	32.9
Aged 80 or over	65	23.1	28	△	455	22.4	720	22.4

Note: "Difficult" is the sum of "Somewhat difficult" and "Very difficult."

Note: "Working": Persons "who have a job now."

Note: "Unemployed": Persons "who do not have a job now (including who look for a job)" and persons "who do not have a job now (including who do not look for a job or are students)," and nonrespondents of current work status but who respond "do not have a job (unknown)" to questions about their past "working experiences."

## 2. Life change

Next, we look at life change compared with five years ago in the aspects of standard of living, income, expenditure, and savings.

As for the standard of living, the rates of those who think their present standard of living is “Much better” are over 1% among both males and females, and the rates of “Better” are 8.2% among females and 8.1% among males, which are much the same (Figure VII-3). The rate of males who think their standard of living is worse than five years ago is slightly higher than that of females, and the rates of “Worse” are 29.1% among females and 30.5% among males and the rates of “Much worse” are 8.6% among females and 9.3% among males.

By age group, from their 20’s to their 60’s, the older the respondents are, the lower the rates of “Much better,” “Better,” and “Much the same” are, and the higher the rates of “Worse” and “Much worse” are (Figure VII-4). The rate of “Worse” or “Much worse” is the highest for those in their 60’s: nearly a half of them feel their standard of living has become worse. On the other hand, the figure shows that, for those in their 70’s or over, the rate of “Much the same” increases.

Figure VII-3: Change in the standard of living compared with five years ago

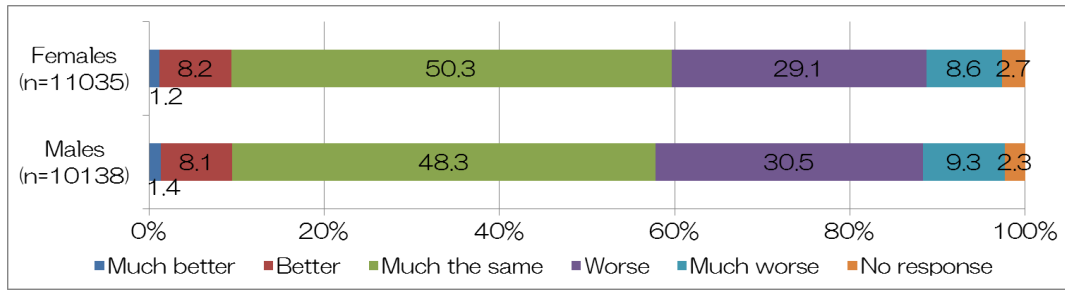
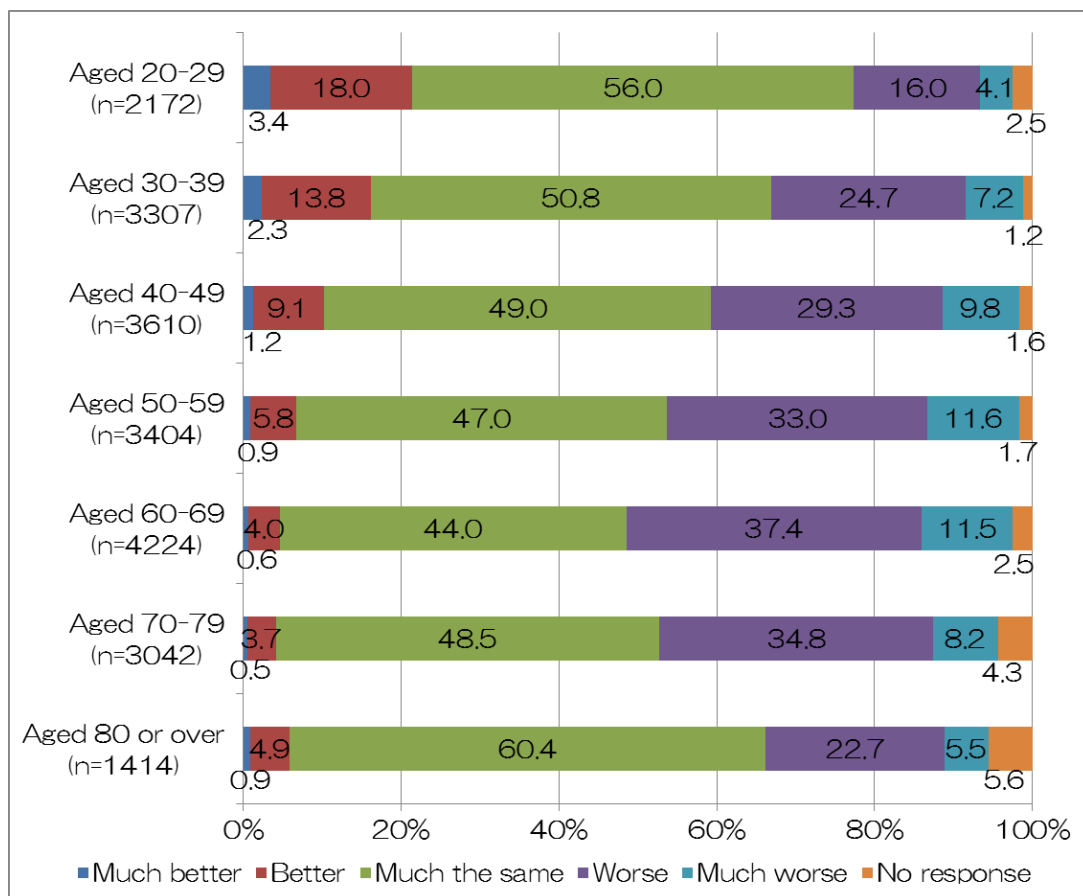


Figure VII-4: Change in the standard of living compared with five years ago by age group



As for income change (Figure VII-5), the rates of those whose present income “Increased,” comparing with five years ago, are 11.7% among females and 13.7% among males. The rates of “Decreased” are 49.4% among females and 52.1% among males. While the rates of males who responded “Increased” or “Decreased” are higher than those of females, the rate of females who responded “Much the same” (32.4%) is higher than that of males.

When we look at the above by age group, the rates of “Increased” are the highest for those

in their 20's (38.9%), and the older the respondents are, the lower the rates are (Figure VII-6). To the contrary, until their 60's, the older the age group is, the higher the rates of "Decreased" tend to be. The rates of those who responded that income "Decreased" compared to five years ago are the highest among those in their 60's (71.6%). The rates of "decreased" are lower in the age of 60's and older, and they are 63.7% for those in their 70's and 49.1% among respondents aged 80 or over.

Figure VII-5: Income change compared with five years ago

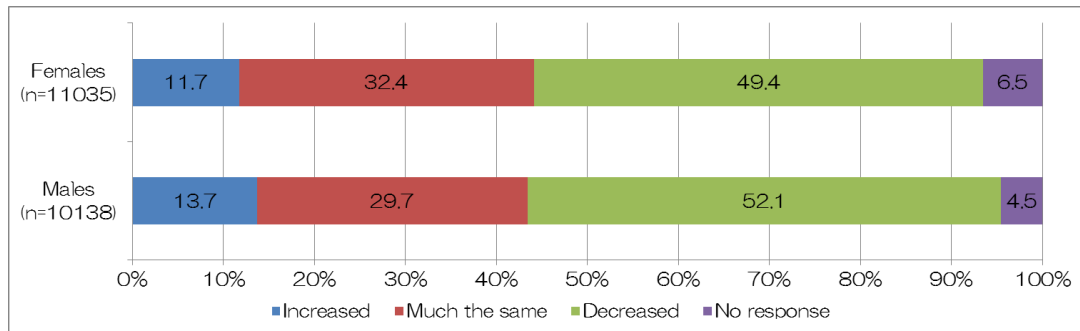
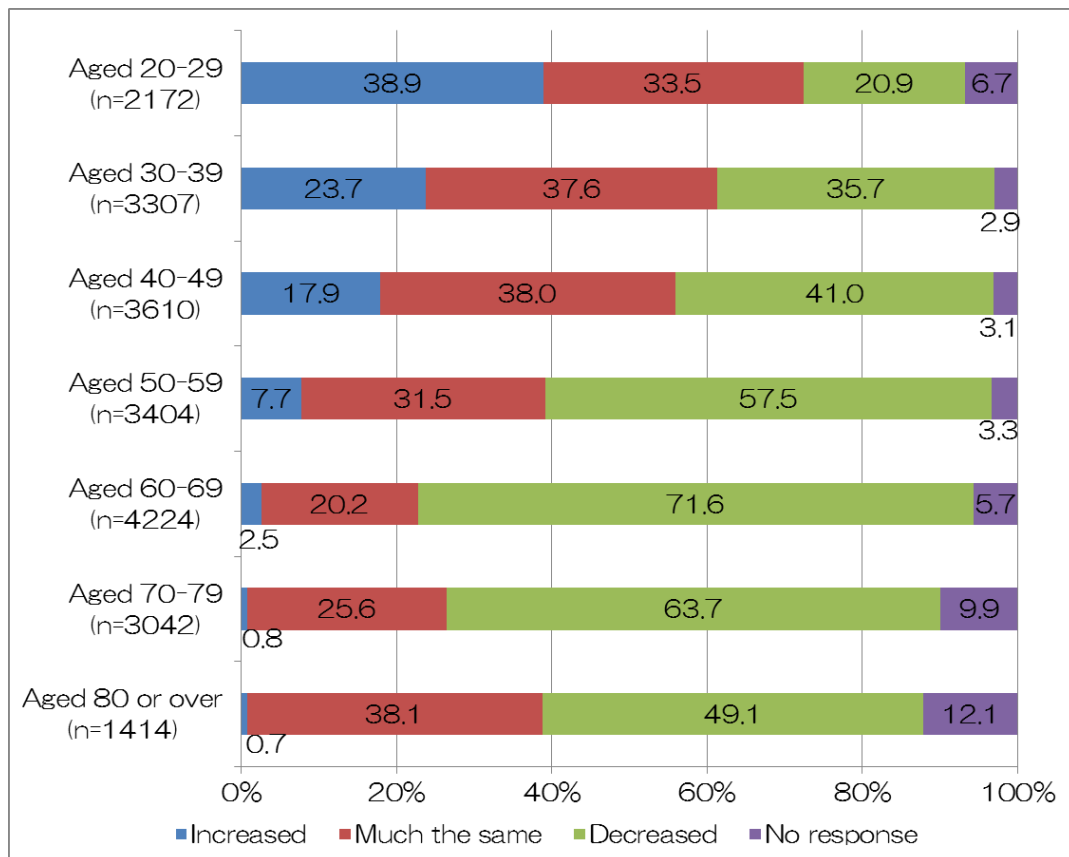


Figure VII-6: Income change compared with five years ago by age group



As for expenditure change compared with five years ago, the rates of “Increased” are 44.0% among females and 44.9% among males, the rates of “Much the same” are 37.6% among both males and females, and the rates of “Decreased” are approximately 13%, which show that there is no difference by sex (Figure VII-7). By age group, from their 20’s to 40’s, the older the age group is, the higher the rates of “Increased” are (55.4% in their 20’s, 57.3% in their 30’s, and 61.4% in their 40’s).

Figure VII-7: Expenditure change compared with five years ago

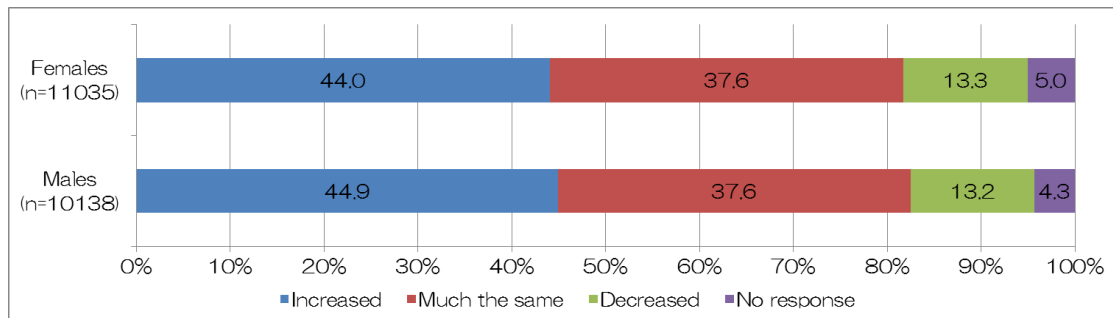
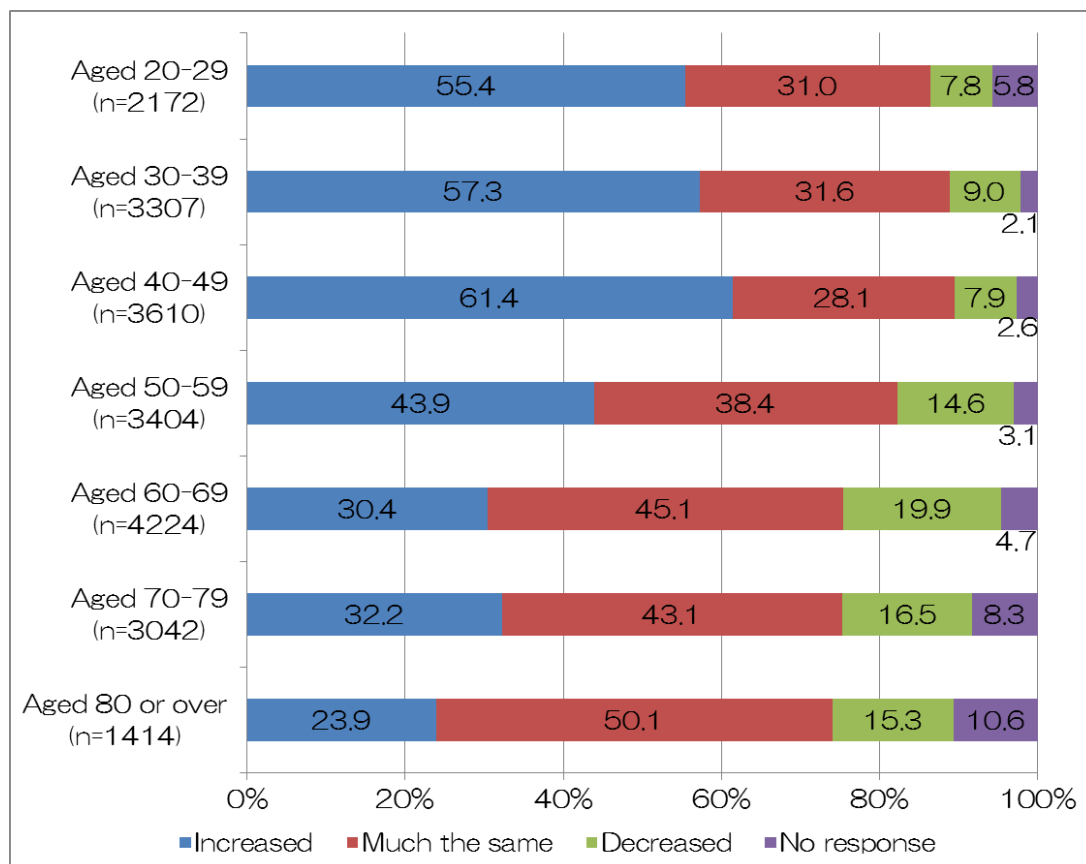


Figure VII-8: Expenditure change compared with five years ago by age group





As for change in total savings compared with five years ago, among both males and females, the rates of “Increased” are approximately 10%, those of “Much the same” are approximately 30%, and those of “Decreased” exceed 50%. By age group, from their 20’s to their 70’s, as the age group gets older, the rates of “Increased” and “Much the same” decrease, and, at the same time, the rate of “Decreased” becomes higher. The rate of “Decreased” is the highest for those in their 70’s (65.1%).

Figure VII-9: Change in total savings compared with five years ago

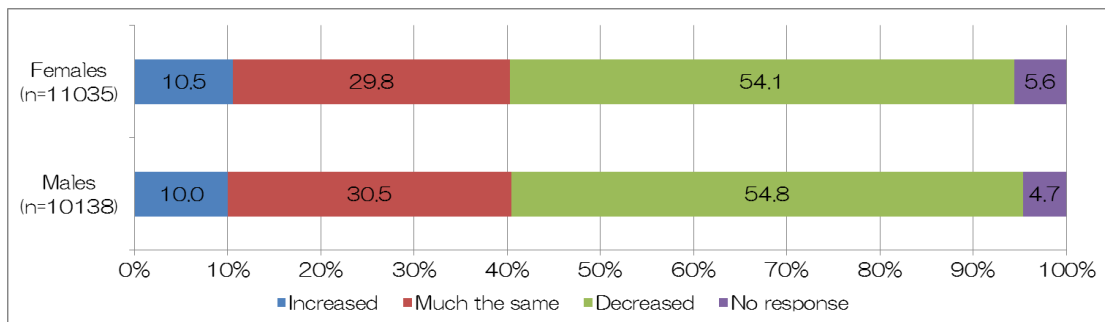
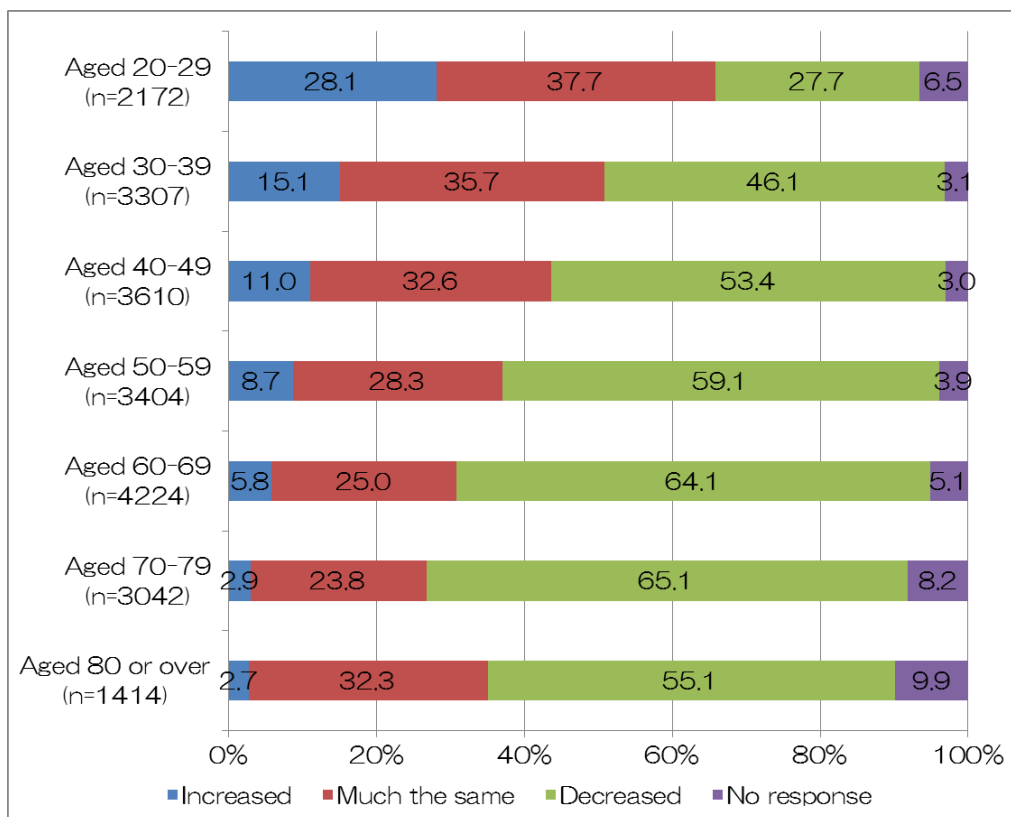


Figure VII-10: Change in total savings compared with five years ago by age group



Figures from VII-11 to VII-14 show changes in the standard of living, income, expenditure,

and total savings by income class. As for the standard of living, the rates of “Worse” and “Much worse” compared with five years ago are higher in the lower-income class and those of “Better” or “The same” are higher in the higher-income class (Figure VII-11). As for income also, the rates of “Decreased” compared with five years ago are higher in the lower-income class and those of “Increased” are higher in the higher-income class (Figure VII-12). As for expenditure, while the rates of “Decreased” compared with five years ago are slightly higher in the lower-income class, overall, the rates of “Increased” or “The same” account for a majority (Figure VII-13). As for total savings, the higher the income class is, the higher the rates of “Increased” are, and the lower those of “Decreased” are (Figure VII-14).

Figure VII-11: Change in the standard of living compared with five years ago by income class

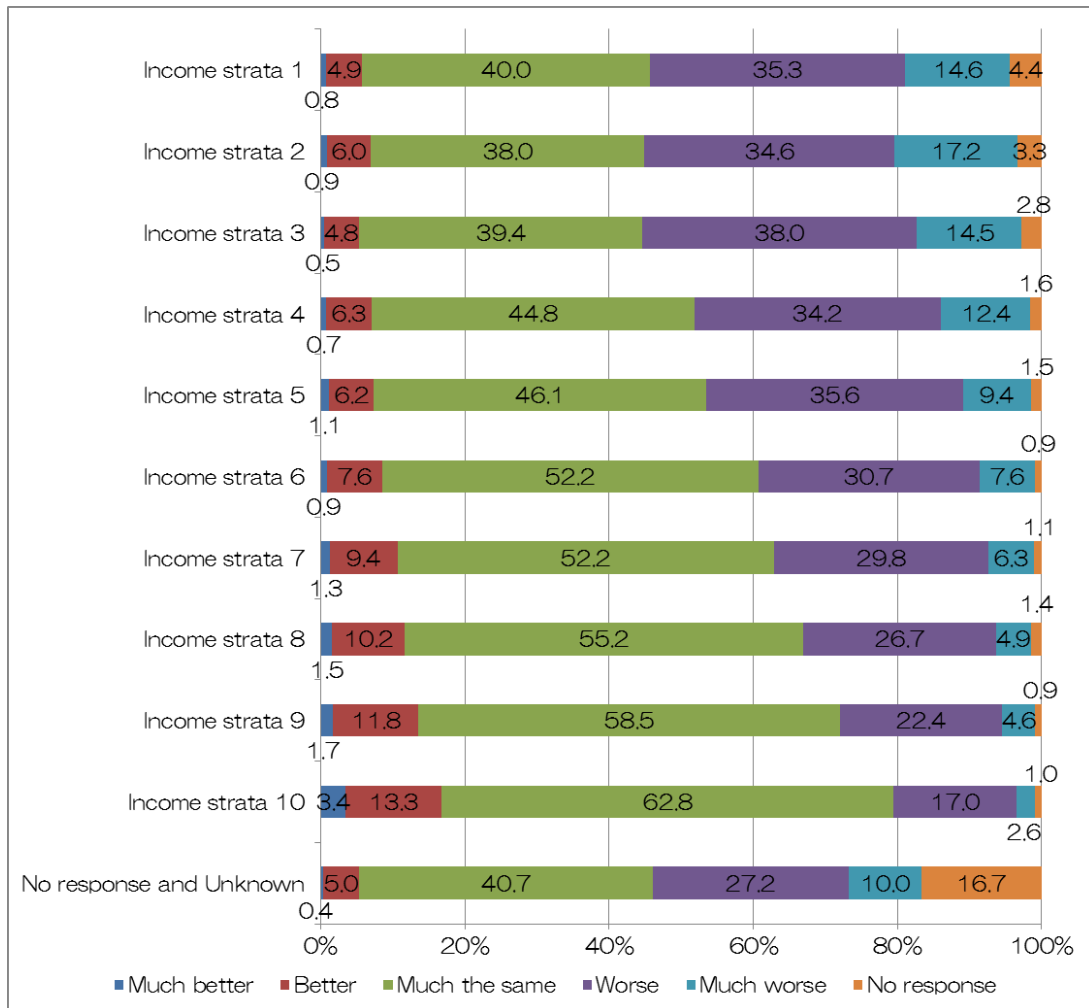


Figure VII-12: Income change compared with five years ago by income class

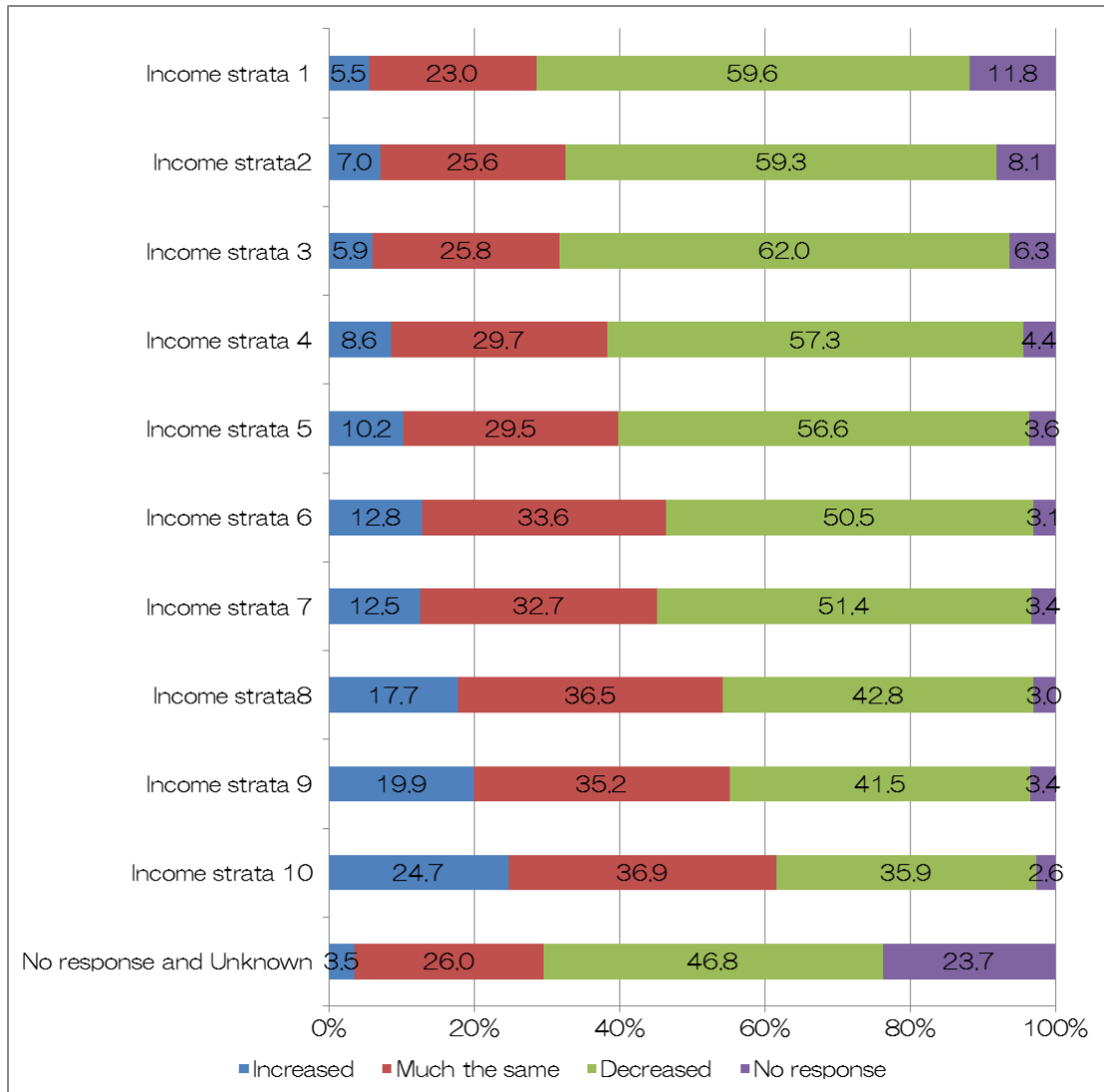


Figure VII-13: Expenditure change compared with five years ago by income class

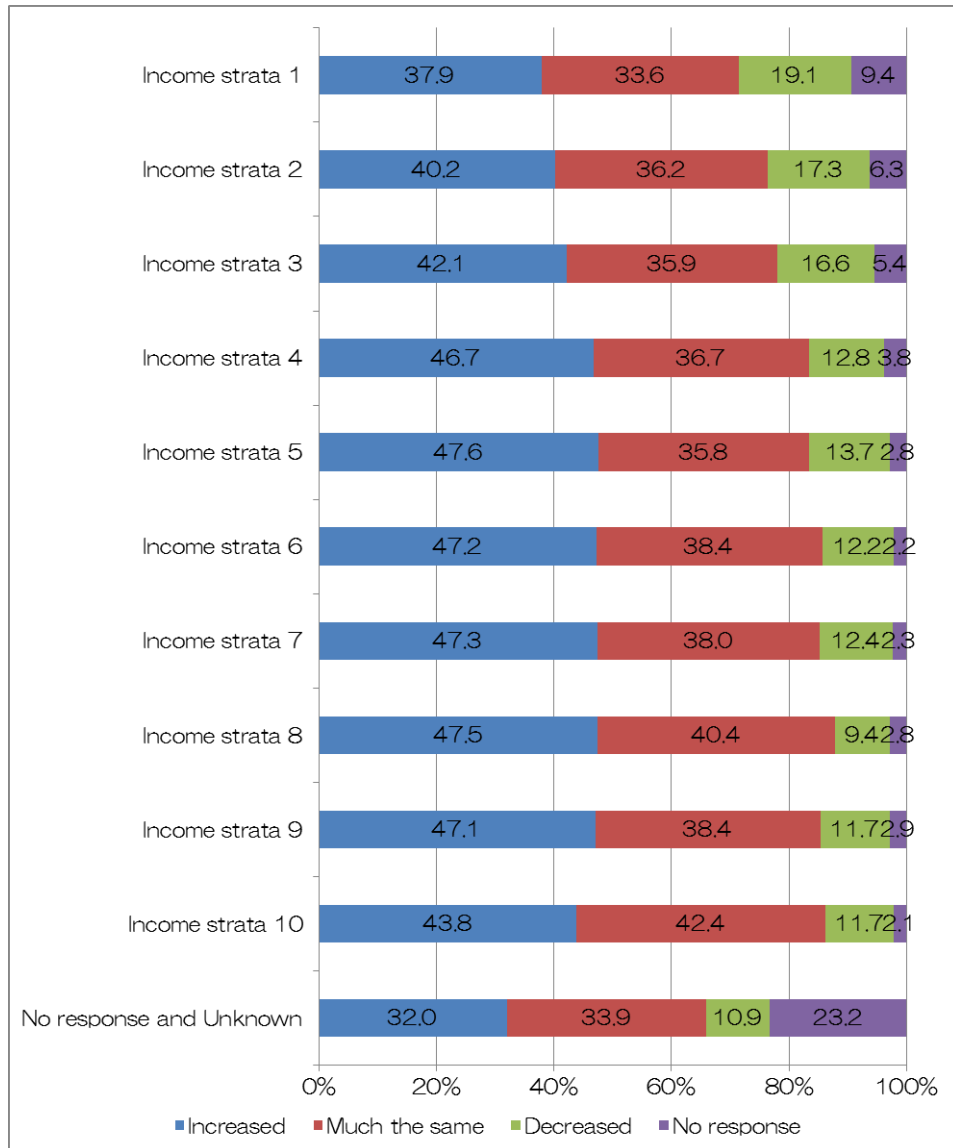
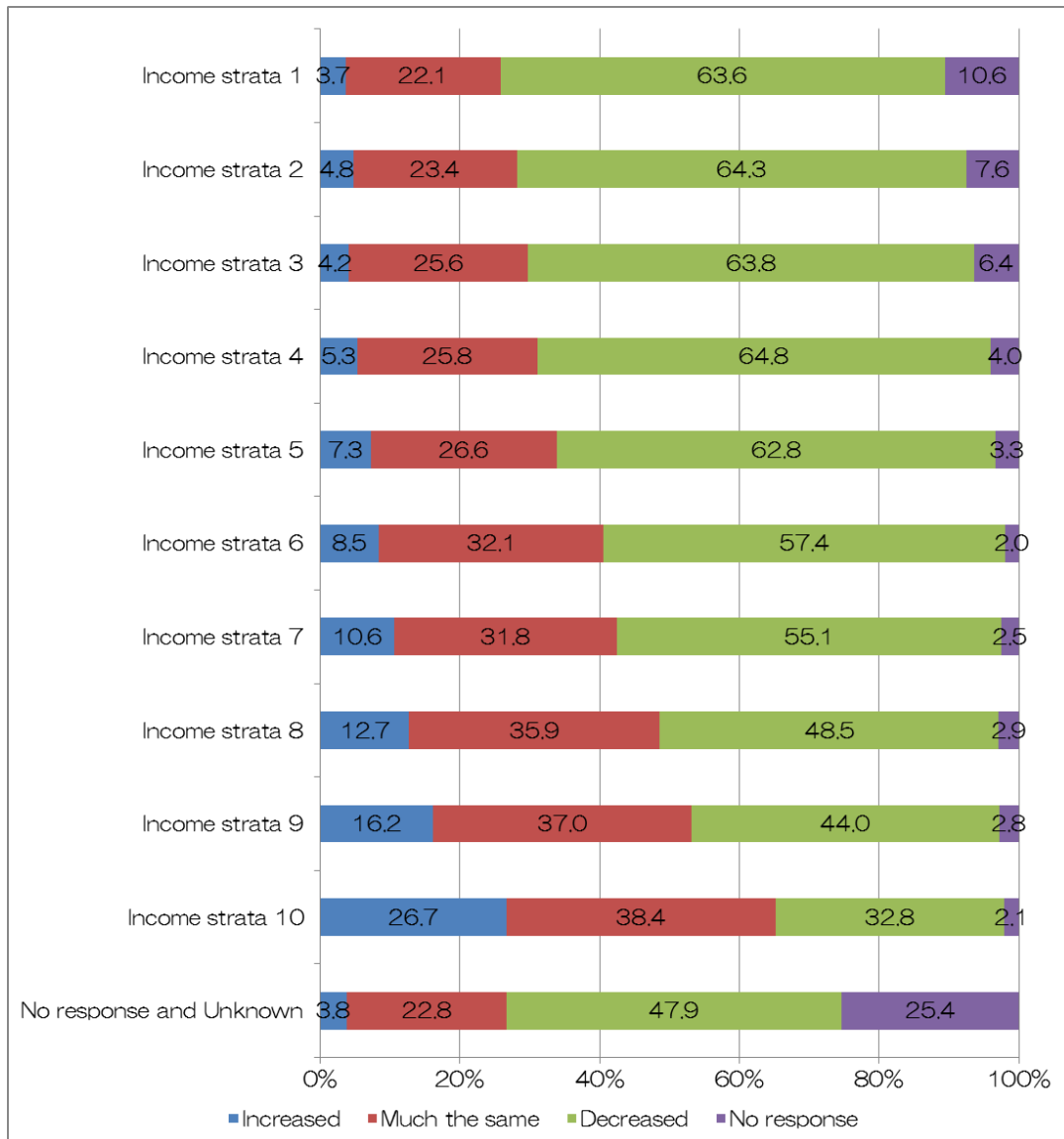


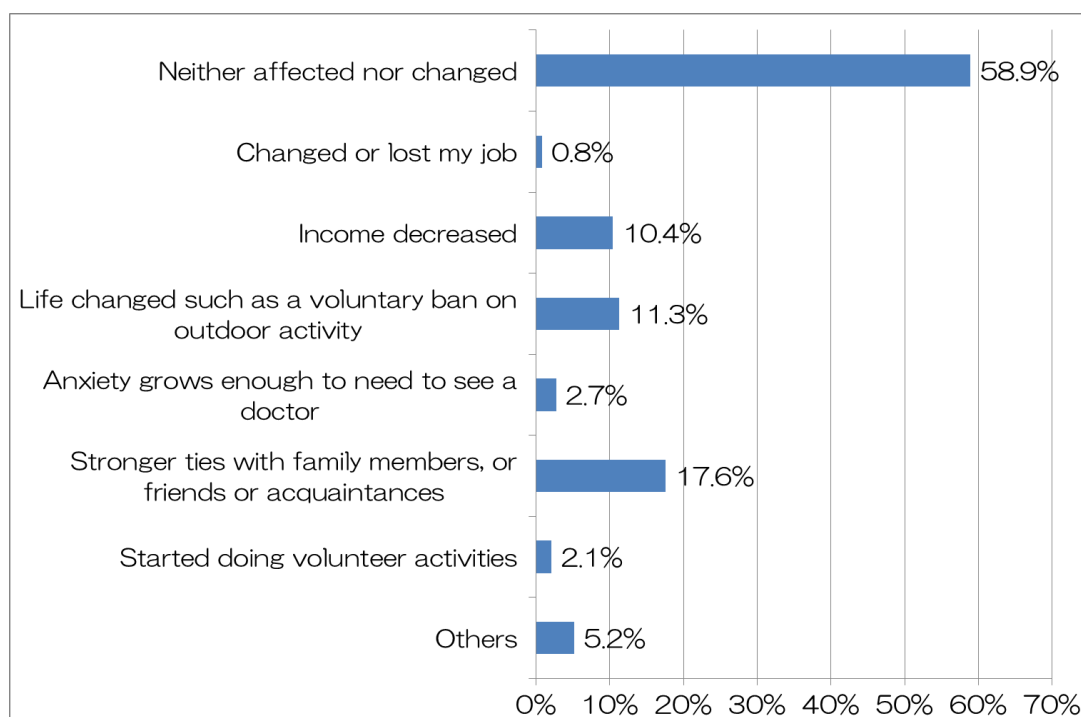
Figure VII-14: Change in total savings compared with five years ago by income class



## VIII Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

We asked individuals aged 20 or over whether they were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 or whether their behavior was changed by it and asked them to check all boxes that apply to them (multiple answers allowed) (Figure VIII-1). As a result, while the rate of those who responded “Neither affected nor changed” is 58.9%, the rate of “Stronger ties with family members, or friends or acquaintances” is 17.6%, the rate of “Life changed, such as a voluntary ban on outdoor activity” is 11.3%, and the rate of “Income decreased” is 10.4% (excluding no responses from the denominator). There are also individuals who responded “Anxiety grows enough to need to see a doctor” (2.7%), “Started doing volunteer activities” (2.1%), “Changed or lost my job” (0.8%), and “Others” (5.2%).

Figure VIII-1: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake (multiple answers allowed)



Note: The number of respondents who had these effects/the number of the total respondents excluding nonrespondents

When we look the above by sex and age group, as for “decrease in income” or “job change or unemployment,” males in the working-age generation are affected the most, and the rates of “decrease in income” are high among males in their 40’s to 50’s (Figure VIII-2 and VIII-3). The rates of those who responded “Income decreased” are 18.4% among males aged 40–44 and 19.9%

among males aged 45–49. On the other hand, as for anxiety, the older the respondents are, the more they are affected, and the rate of “Anxiety grows enough to need to see a doctor” is 5.8% among females aged 70–74 (Figure VIII-4). As for life change, there is almost no difference by age group, and, as a whole, females feel more affected (Figure VIII-5). The rates of those who started doing volunteer activities are high among males in their early 20’s and those aged 60 or over and females in their late 40’s or over (Figure VIII-6). The rates of those who feel “stronger ties” are much the same by age group and higher among females (Figure VIII-7). The rates of “Not changed” are slightly high for those in their 20’s and 70’s (Figure VIII-8). On the other hand, there is a major difference in “Others” between males and females, and the rates of females in their 30’s and 40’s in particular are higher than males in the same age group (Figure VIII-9).

Figure VIII-2: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Decrease in income)

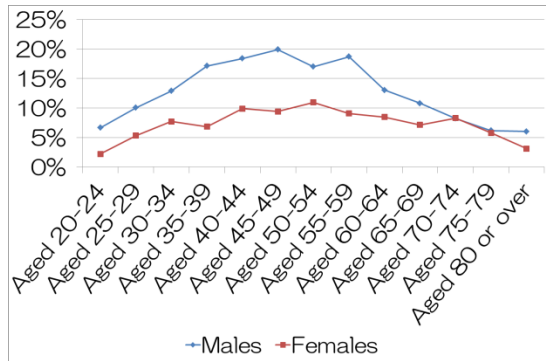


Figure VIII-5: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Life change)

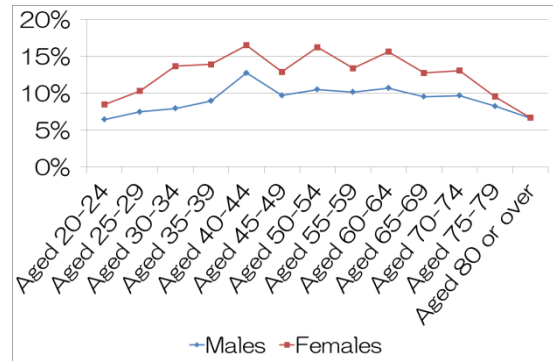


Figure VIII-3: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Anxiety)

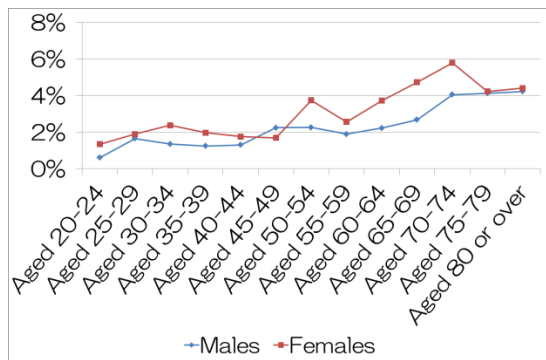


Figure VIII-6: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Started doing volunteer activities)

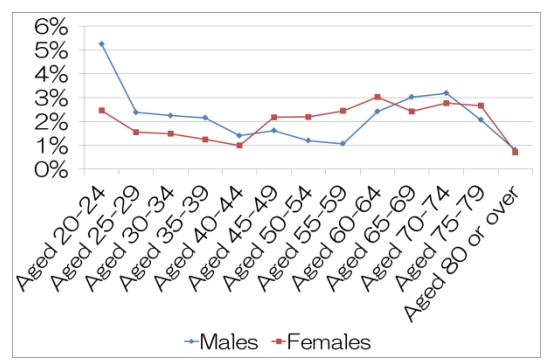


Figure VIII-4: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Job change or unemployment)

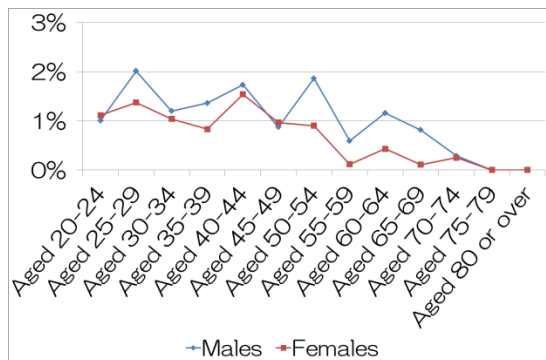


Figure VIII-7: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Not changed)

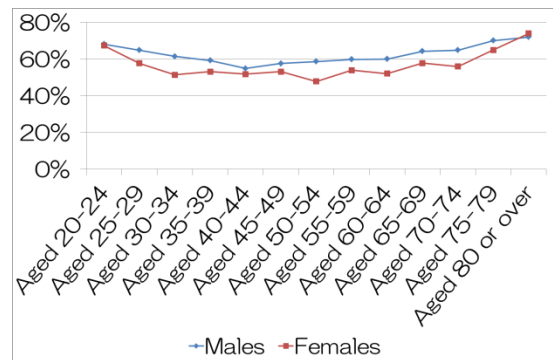




Figure VIII-8: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake  
Earthquake

(Stronger ties)

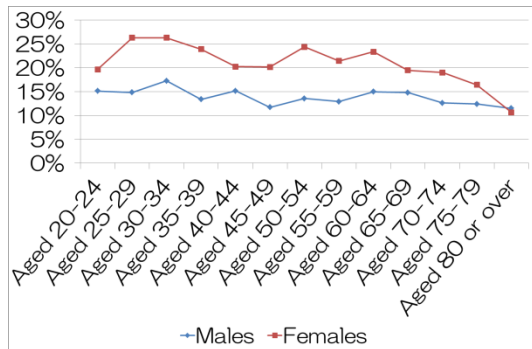
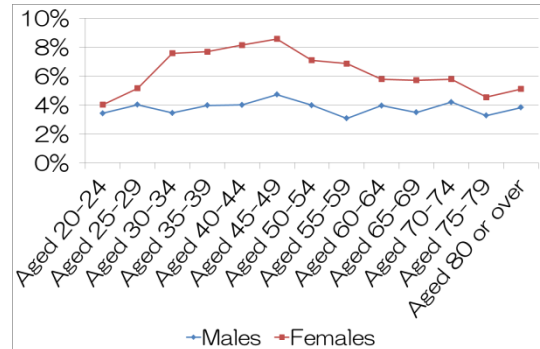


Figure VIII-9: Effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake

(Others)



We look at the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake by regional bloc. Because the degree of effects are largely related to sex and age, respondents are limited to the working-age generation (individuals aged 20–64) to eliminate difference in age structure by regional bloc.

Among males and females in the working-age generation, the rates of negative effects such as “Decrease in income,” “Life change,” “Job change or unemployment,” and “Anxiety” are the highest in Tohoku and Northern Kanto (Figure VIII-10 and VIII-11). In Northern Kanto, the rates of “Decrease in income” are 23.2% among males and 13.9% among females, those of “Life change” are 17.3% among males and 23.6% among females, those of “Anxiety” are 3.6% among males and 4.4% among females, and those of “Job change or unemployment” are 1.0% among males and 1.4% among females. In Tohoku also, respondents are negatively affected by the disaster nearly as much as or more than in Northern Kanto.

These effects reach regions far away from the affected areas; therefore, for example, in Kyushu and Okinawa, 10.6% of males in the working-age generation respond “Decrease in income,” which shows that the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake are found across Japan.

Figure VIII-10: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake-1 (by regional bloc, males in the working-age generation)

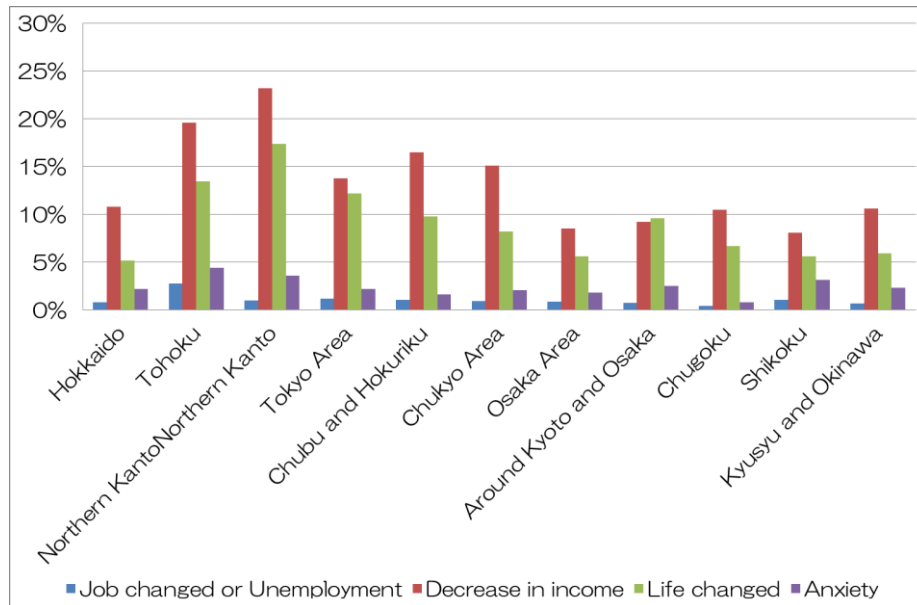
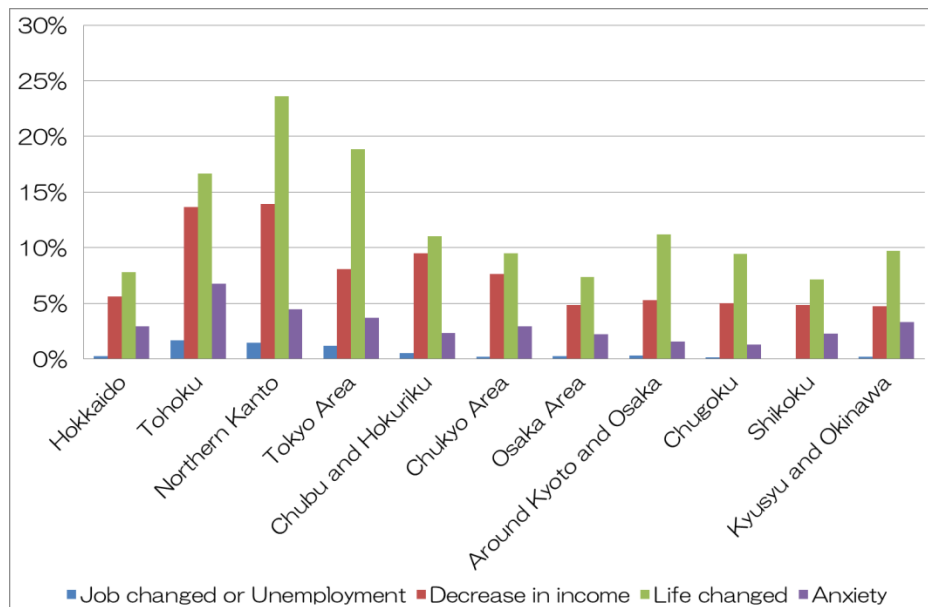


Figure VIII-11: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake-1 (by regional bloc, females in the working-age generation)



Effects such as “Stronger ties,” “Started doing volunteer activities,” and “Others” are not so much different by regional bloc as negative effects. Still, those rates in Tohoku and Northern Kanto are higher than those in any other bloc. As for “Stronger ties” in the Tokyo area and around Kyoto-Osaka area, the rates of this effect are 15% among males and over 20% among females

(Figure VIII-12 and Figure VIII-13).

Figure VIII-12: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake-2 (by regional bloc, males in the working-age generation)

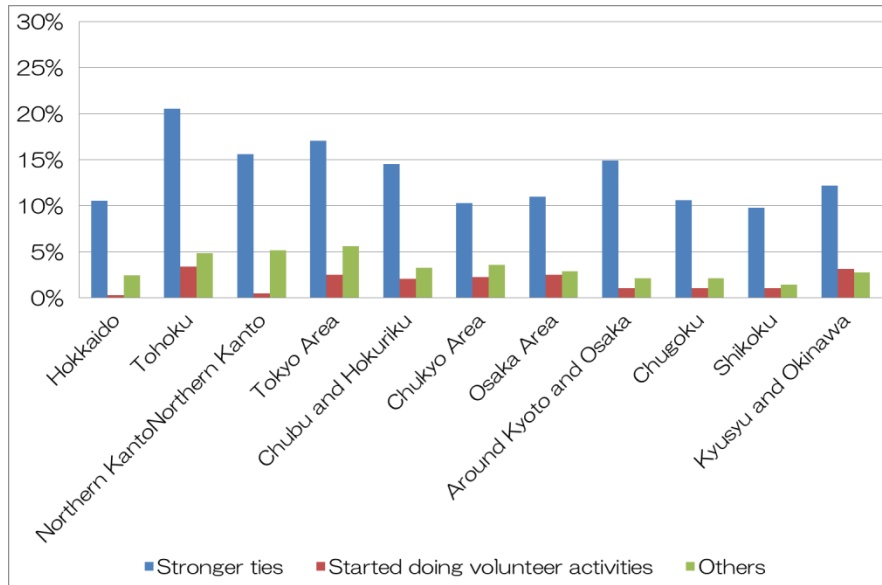
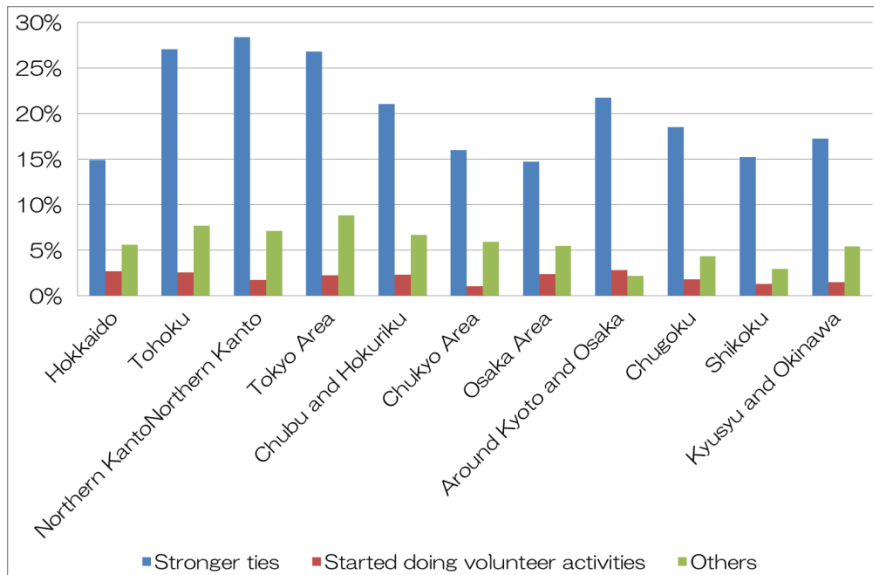


Figure VIII-13: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake-2 (by regional bloc, females in the working-age generation)



Next, when we look at the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake among males and females in the working-age generation by income class, first of all, among males, the rates of “Decrease in income,” “Job change or unemployment,” and “Anxiety” show a statistically

significant difference (Figure VIII-14). The rates of “Decrease in income” are mountain-shaped with gentle slopes and a peak in income strata 3 and 4. As for “Job change or unemployment,” while its rates are the highest in income strata 3, they are slightly high in income strata 1 and 2, and they are nearly 0% in income strata 4–10. However, as for “Anxiety,” its rates are the highest in income strata 1 and flat in income strata 3–10.

Among females in the working-age generation, the rates of “Stronger ties,” “Decrease in income,” “Anxiety,” “Started doing volunteer activities,” and “Job change or unemployment” show a statistically significant difference. The higher the income class is, the higher the rates of “Stronger ties” are. “Decrease in income” and “Anxiety” have the same tendency as among males. The rates of “Started doing volunteer activities” rise slightly in income strata 10 (Figure VIII-15).

Figure VIII-14: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake by income class (males in the working-age generation)

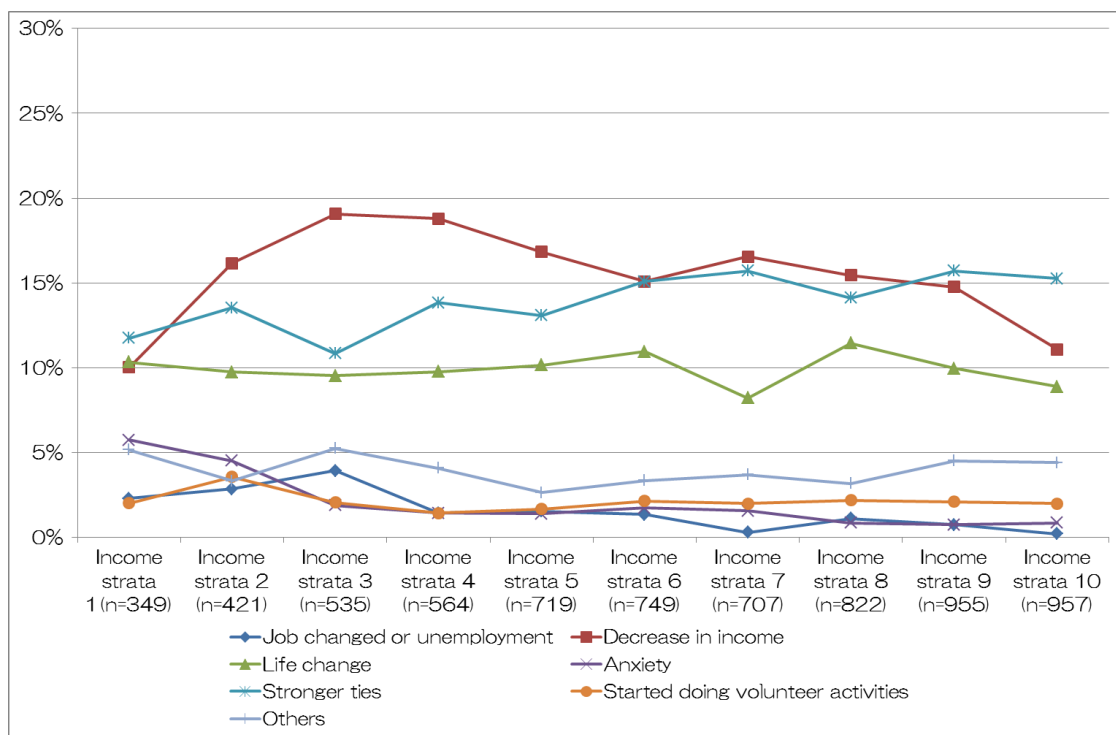
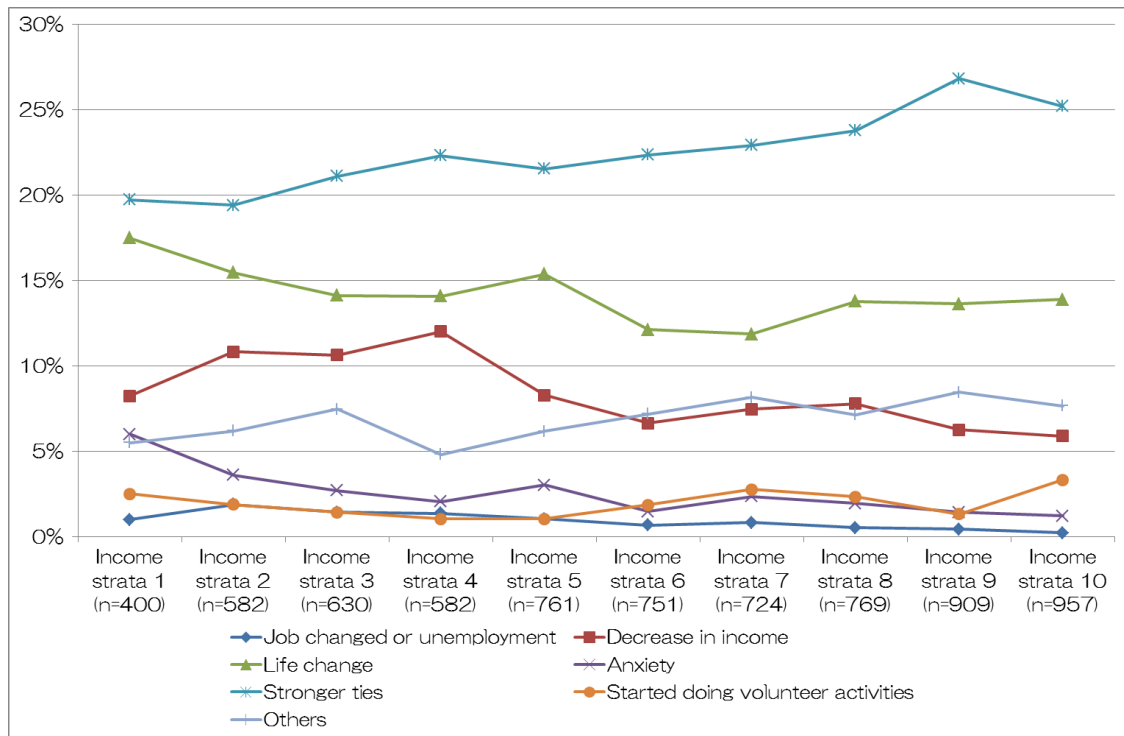


Figure VIII-15: Rates of individuals affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake by income class (females in the working-age generation)



## Definitions

### Children

Persons whom respondents refer to as “children” regardless of living together, living separately, or their age.

### Elderly persons

Persons aged 65 or over.

### Household types

Types are classified as follows. Incidentally, elderly persons are persons aged 65 or over and non-elderly persons are persons aged 0–64. Additionally, children used in “Households with children” are defined as persons aged under 20, whose “Relation with their householders” is neither of “Householders (themselves),” “Spouses of householders,” “Spouses of children,” or “spouses of grandchildren,” and who have no spouses within their households.

1. Households without children
  - 1.1 One-person households
    - Elderly male one-person households
    - Elderly female one-person households
    - Non-elderly male one-person households
    - Non-elderly female one-person households
  - 1.2 Households of only a couple
    - Households of only an elderly couple
    - Households of only a couple, one of which is elderly
    - Households of only a non-elderly couple
  - 1.3 Other households
    - Household of only elderly persons
    - Households including also non-elderly persons
2. Households with children
  - Both-parent households (three generations)
  - Both-parent households (two generations)
  - One-parent households (three generations)
  - One-parent households (two generations)
  - Other households with children

### **Marital status**

Marital status is classified as follows:

“**Unmarried**”: Persons “who have not” married.

“**With spouses**”: Persons “who have” married and who “have not” divorced (including persons who experienced the death of their partner).

“**Divorced**”: Persons “who have” married and “who have” divorced.

### **Incomes**

Annual incomes of the previous year of the survey, which we ask individuals aged 20 or over to answer in a free description style. They include earned incomes, public pensions and pensions or others, unemployment benefits, money sent from their parents, money sent from their children, social security benefits (child allowances, dependent allowances, special allowances for child rearing, public assistance, or others), and other incomes (interest, dividends, rents, land rents, or others).

### **Equivalent household income**

The value that equals household income (the sum of annual pretax incomes of individuals aged 20 or over of each household) divided by the square root of the number of the household. Incidentally, individuals aged under 20 are outside the scope of the distribution of individual questionnaires; therefore, even if they have incomes, these incomes are excluded from household income.

### **Income class**

Ten classes into which households with household incomes are divided. Income strata 1 is the lowest household income class, and income strata 10 is the highest household income class.

### **Regional blocs**

Regional blocs are classified as follows:

“**Hokkaido**”: Hokkaido

“**Tohoku**”: Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, and Fukushima

“**Northern Kanto**”: Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Gunma

“**Tokyo area**”: Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa

“**Chubu and Hokuriku**”: Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Yamanashi, Nagano, and Shizuoka

**“Chukyo area”**: Gifu, Aichi, and Mie

**“Osaka area”**: Kyoto, Osaka, and Hyogo

**“Around Kyoto and Osaka”**: Shiga, Nara, and Wakayama

**“Chugoku”**: Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Yamaguchi

**“Shikoku”**: Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, and Kochi

**“Kyushu and Okinawa”**: Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki,  
Kagoshima, and Okinawa

Note: Due to the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we did not conduct the survey in Fukushima Prefecture in 2012.

### **Financial support for parents**

All financial support including money sent from children, living expenses, travel or leisure expenses, and purchase of appliances, cars, or others.

### **Expenditures on children (financial support for children)**

All financial support including money sent from parents, living expenses, travel or leisure expenses, and purchase of appliances, cars, or others. As for children living together, it includes expenditures on education, food, health care, and clothing and allowances.

### **Payer of living expenses**

**“Myself, my spouse, or both”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses is only “myself,” only “my spouse,” or both “myself” and “my spouse.”

**“Only my father”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses is only “my father.”

**“Only my mother”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses is only “my mother.”

**“Only my parents”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses is “my parents.”

**“A combination of myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses includes any of “myself,” “my spouse,” “my father,” and “my mother.” However, we exclude the above “Myself, my spouse, or both,” “Only my father,” “Only my mother,” and “Only my parents” from the main payer.

**“A combination of my grandparent, myself, my spouse, my father, and my mother”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses includes “my grandparent.” However, we exclude the above “Myself, my spouse, or both,” “Only my father,” “Only my mother,” and “Only my parents” from the main payer.

**“A combination of public support”**: A person whose main payer of living expenses includes “public support.” However, we exclude the above “Myself, my spouse, or both,” “Only my father,” “Only my mother,” and “Only my parents” from the main



payer.

**“Others”**: Persons other than the above excluding non-respondents.

## **Life**

Financial situations of one’s current life or life environment, which seem to be continue for some time to come.

## **The standard of living**

An index or a concept that takes a comprehensive view of lives and life situations, in consideration of not only the amount of goods and services that households or individuals can purchase, but also other aspects of their lives (conditions of employment and employment opportunities, public services such as social security, etc.).

## **Revenue**

Pretax revenue. The sum of respondents’ various cash incomes. Specifically, the sum of earned incomes (incomes earned by working), asset incomes such as interest, dividends, rents, and land rents, cash benefits by social security such as public pensions, pensions, unemployment benefits, and child allowances, and money sent from parents or from children.

## **Savings**

The sum of savings in financial institutions, premiums paid for life insurance and individual annuity insurance or others, as well as stocks, investment trusts, bonds, property accumulation savings, and in-house savings deposits.

## **Work status**

The status of whether individuals aged 20 or over are working or not.

**“Working”**: Persons “who have a job now.”

**“Unemployed”**: Persons “who do not have a job now (including who look for a job)” and persons “who do not have a job now (including who do not look for a job or are students),” and non-respondents of current work status but who respond “do not have a job (unknown)” to questions about their past “working experiences.”

## **Support types**

They are the following ten things:

“Nursing, care, or child care”

“Advice about health, care, or child care”

“Advice about family trouble”

“Advice about jobs such as finding a job or getting another job”

“Listening to me complain”

“Sharing my joy and sorrow”

“Small financial aid in an emergency”

“A lot of financial aid in an emergency”

“Help such as in the transfer of furniture, garden care, or snow shoveling”

“Help in disasters”

### **Providers of support**

Persons whom respondents consider as reliable concerning each support type.

### **Receivers of support**

Persons whom respondents want to help concerning each support type.