

Section 3 Elderly people based on seven types of data

- Section 1 outlines the status of aging, while Section 2 provides the present situation and trends in the environment surrounding elderly people. This section deals with 7 types of data related to their life styles, work, and health, which greatly affect their ways of life and reason for living, and takes into consideration future trends while outlining how elderly people have changed from how they were in the past to the present.

1 Living

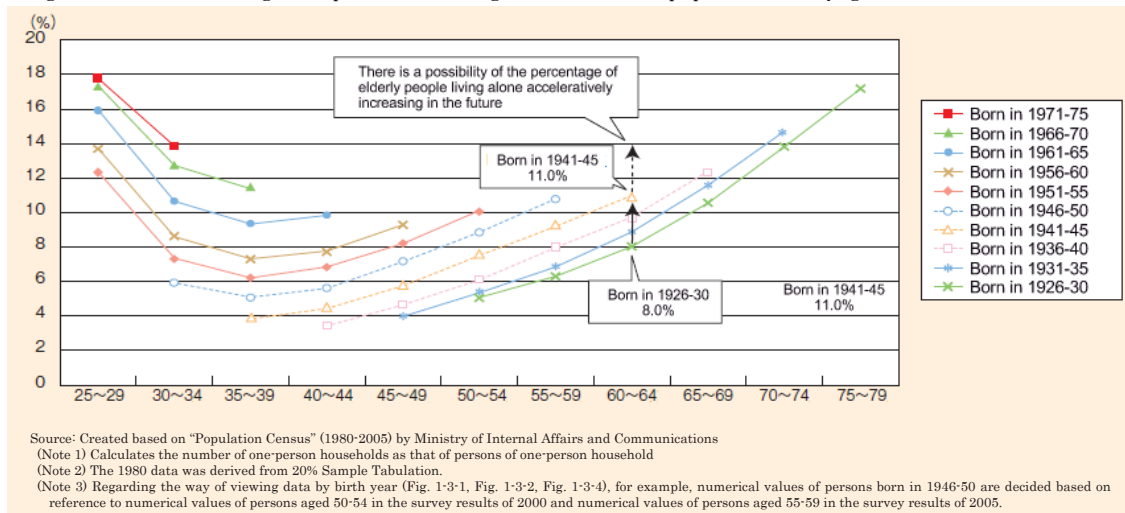
Percentage of persons living alone -Elderly persons living alone appears to have rapidly increased-

- Regarding the percentage of persons living alone in the population by age group the general pattern is that marriage and so forth causes it to decrease until the late 30s, but then divorce or bereavement of a spouse causes it to rise as the age goes up.
- Dividing this by birth year groups (generations) reveals the percentage of persons living alone to have risen as generations become younger and the difference between generations is maintained, even if the age does rise. Comparing the late 30s reveals that every 5 years or so the share rises by 1-2 points. In recent years the number of elderly people living alone has increased but if it is assumed that the trends seen by generation will continue, in the future, the percentage of persons living alone will appear to suddenly accelerate.

Population in city areas -Elderly people living in city areas increasing-

- The results (Fig. 1-3-2) of a **projection** published by The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research on the population of persons aged 65 or older by prefecture reveals that in 2035 the elderly population will excel 2 million in the so-called metropolitan areas, such as Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka, Saitama, and Aichi. In the Tokyo area in particular it is projected to reach 3.9 million.

Fig. 1-3-1 Percentage of persons living alone of the population (by generation)



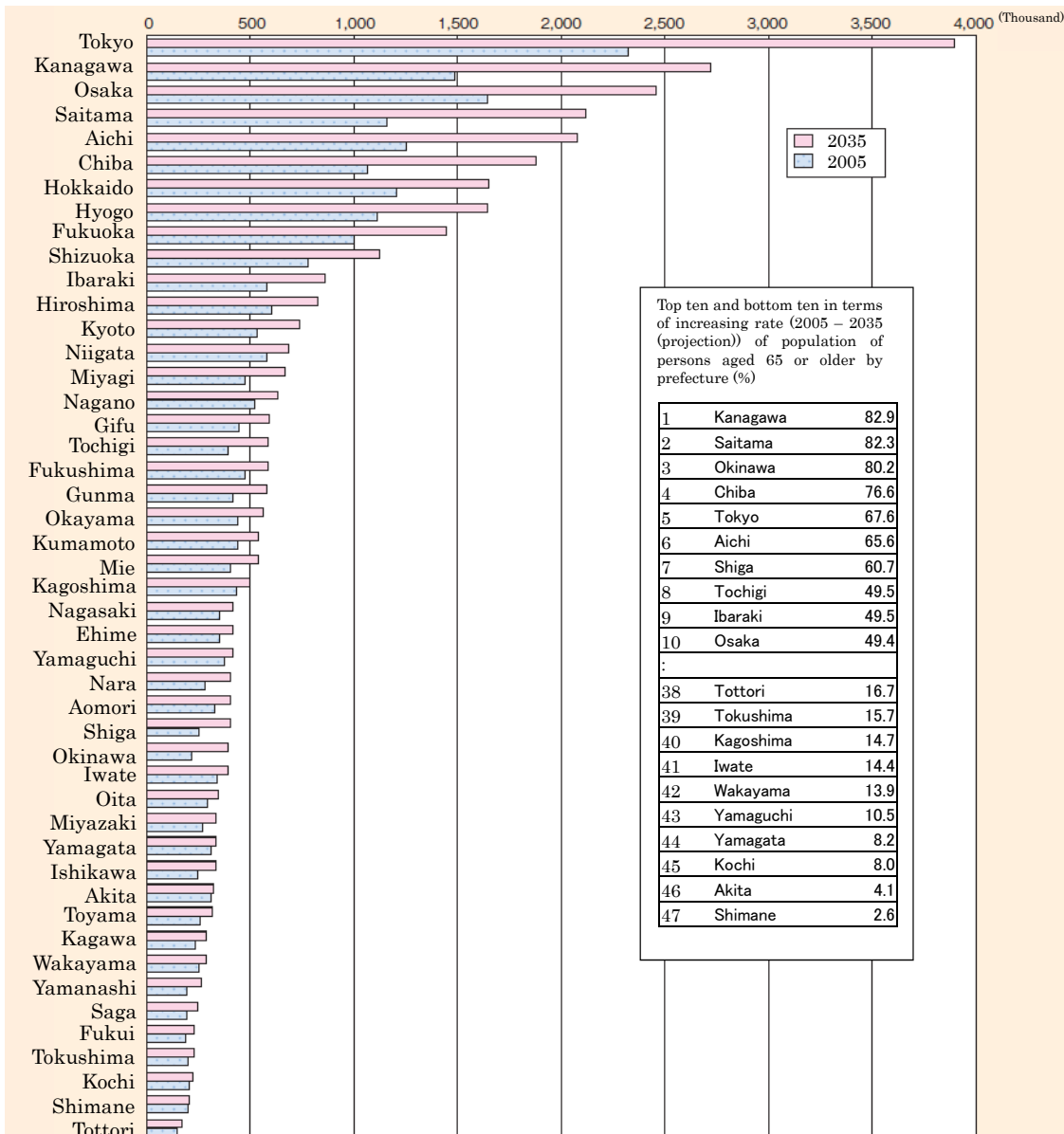
- The majority of the top 10 prefectures in terms of an increasing rate of population of elderly persons aged 65 or older between 2005 and 2035 is formed of the prefectures with metropolitan areas such as Kanagawa and Saitama (Fig. 1-3-2).

2 Work

Percentage of employees –Employment rate of persons of 60s rising-

- Taking into consideration the employment rate of males clarifies that the rate of every generation of 50s or under has been maintained at the level of 90% or so, but has drastically fallen for 60s.

Fig. 1-3-2 Elderly population and its increasing rate by prefecture (2005 and 2035 (projection))



Source: "Population Projections by Prefecture: 2005-2035" by The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research
 (Note) Projections based on "Population Census (2005)"

Among them, and regarding 60-to-64-year-olds, the employment rate of the generation born in 1944-48 was higher than that of the previous generation by 7.8 points, while with 65-to-69-year-olds the employment rate of the generation born in 1939-43 was higher than the previous by 3.4 points. This seems to have been caused by the fact that an increasing number of people work even after turning 60 years old through the extension of the mandatory retirement age or re-employment.

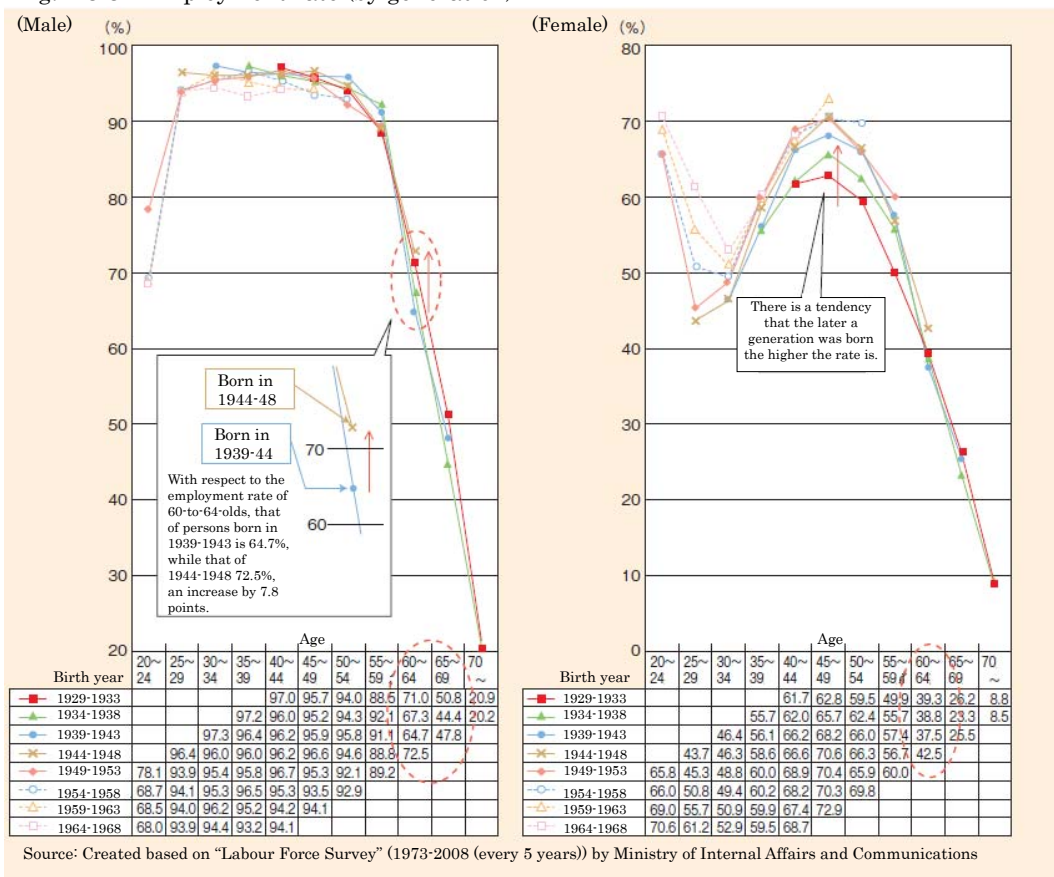
However, taking into consideration the employment rate of females reveals that in almost every age bracket the later a generation was born the higher its employment rate.

Comparing the 60-64 years old group revealed the employment rate of the generation born in 1944-48 to be higher than that born in 1929-33 by 3.2 points. The employment rate of females is therefore increasing, even in higher age brackets, and it can be considered that that trend will continue in the future.

Employment to population ratio - Employment to population ratio of both male and female is rising-

- Taking into consideration male employment to population ratio reveals that the older a generation is the higher the ratio, with the increase being especially large for the generation born in 1941-20, but after that it gradually gets smaller.

Fig. 1-3-3 Employment rate (by generation)



However, the female employment to population ratio, like the abovementioned employment rate, in every age bracket is getting higher as the generation gets older, while the increase is gradually getting smaller.

3 Leisure

Situation with enjoying sport – Activity time of elderly persons has doubled-

○ Fig. 1-3-5 reveals the time available for sports per day by age group. Compared with 30 years ago the time available has increased by 14 minutes for 60-to-64-year-olds, 16 minutes for 65-to-69-year-olds, 9 minutes for 70-or-olders, and is 2-3 times as large for people in their 60s, which reflects how healthy and active elderly people are.

Fig. 1-3-4 Employment to population ratios (by generation)

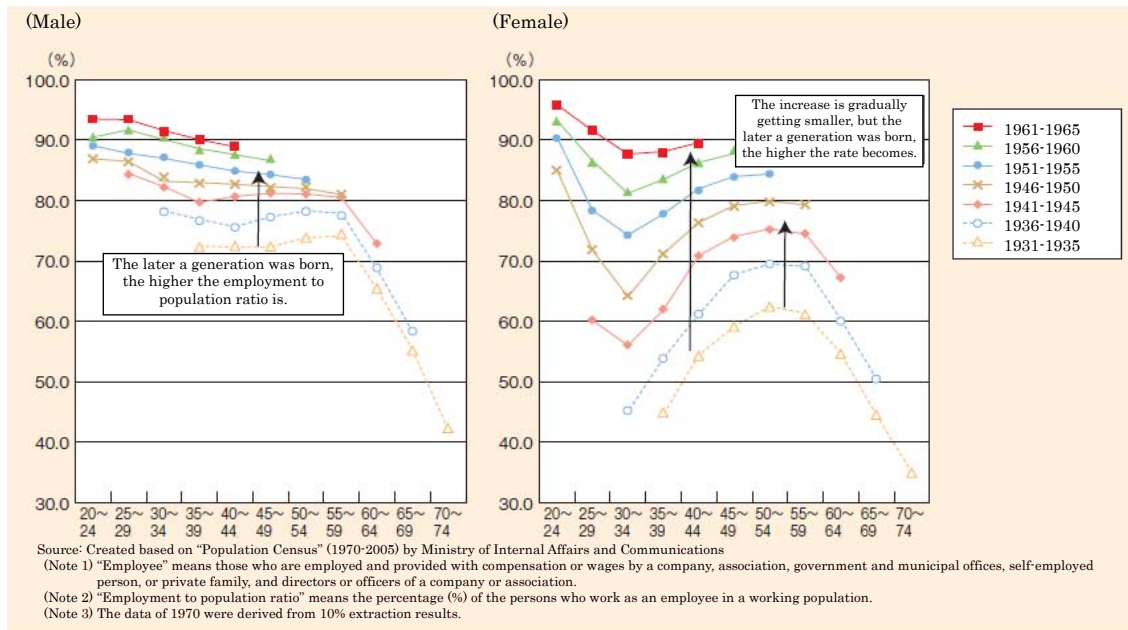
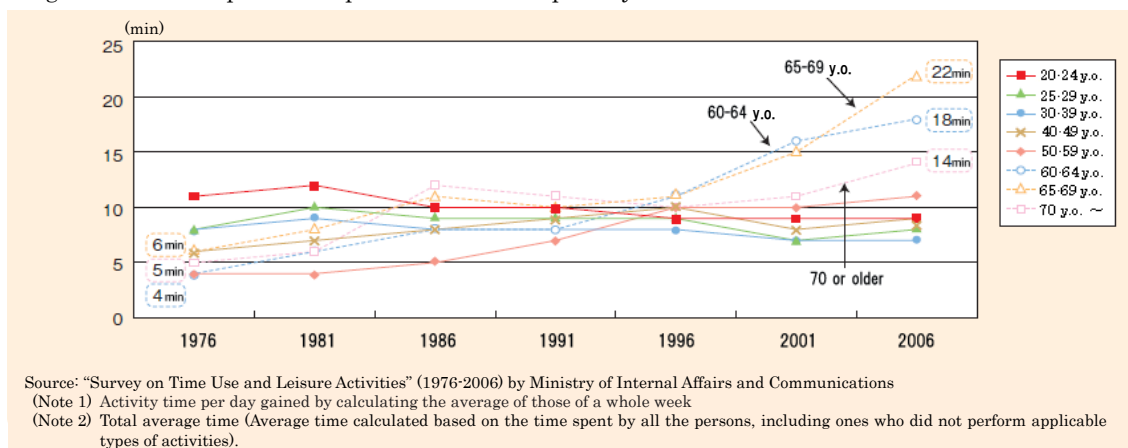


Fig. 1-3-5 Time spared for sport (over a week (per day))



Enjoying hobbies and recreations – Elderly people in their 60s try to do what they want to do-

- Fig. 1-3-6 provides the time spared for hobbies and recreation per day by age. Compared with 30 years ago, in every age bracket, the time spared for hobbies and recreations has increased; by 20 minutes for people in their early 60s and by 22 minutes for people in their late 60s.

Percentage of obese persons - Obese persons are increasing in every age bracket, especially in the 40s age group -

- Regarding the percentage of obese persons in the male population compared with 20 years ago, in every age bracket the percentage of obese persons is increasing; in the 50s age group it has increased from 25.0% to 34.3% by 9.3 points. The remarkable increases in the younger age brackets make it possible to project that the ratio of obese persons in older age brackets will rise further.
- Contrary to males the percentage of female obese persons generally tends to have decreased or remained stable. In the 50s age group it decreased by 8.8 points when compared to 20 years ago. It can be considered that when people now in their 50s become 60 or 70 in the future the percentage of obese persons in their age brackets will further decrease.

Fig. 1-3-6 Time spared for hobbies and recreation (over a week (per day))

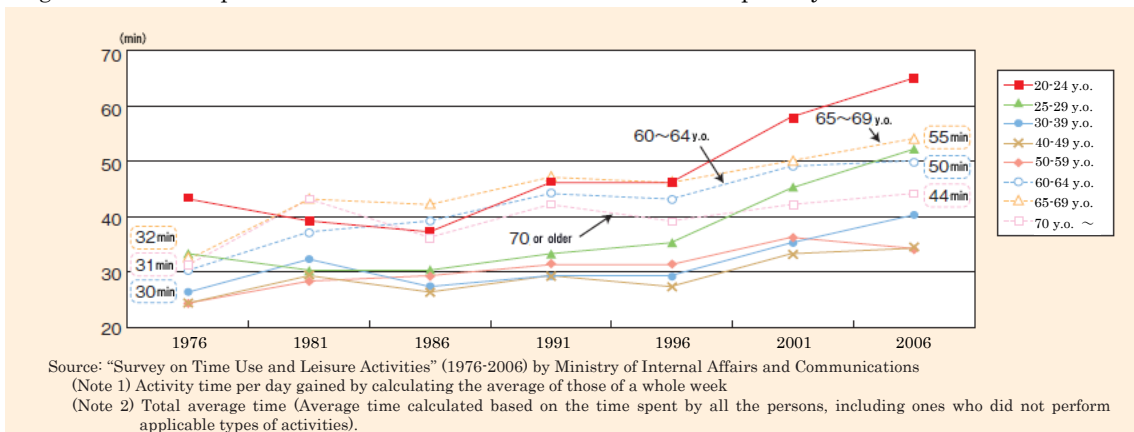
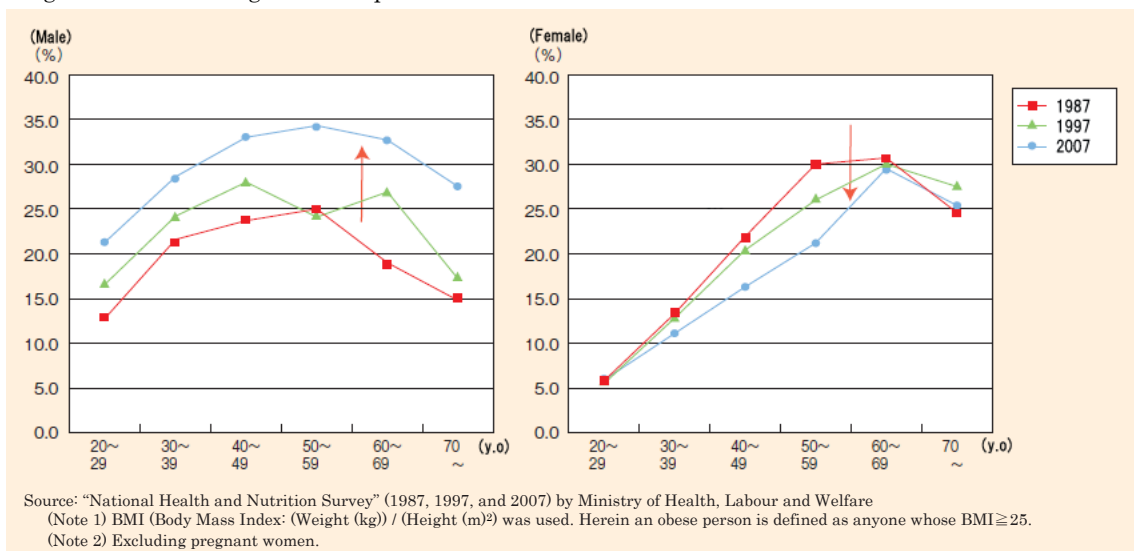


Fig. 1-3-7 Percentage of obese persons



4 Summary

- Seven types of data concerning “Life styles”, “Work”, and “Health” reveal that the number of elderly people actively enjoying sports and hobbies has increased, the employment to population ratio rises as the number of working elderly people increases, the percentage of salaried workers is growing, one-person households are increasing, and relationships among residents have become weaker.

The expectation is therefore that the number of active elderly people will increase in the future but that there is some anxiety concerning the rise in the number of solitary elderly people who, with no regional bonds or blood relations, will not be able to create human relationships as an alternative to them.

To develop measures for the future aging society it will be necessary to promote regional measures, such as creating communities that prevent elderly people in difficulty from being too solitary and establishing watching systems that suit the actual conditions, and to improve environments enabling them to have new whereabouts and relationships with their regional societies.