

Efforts in Measures for Persons with Disabilities with the Focus on Fiscal Year 2007

I Comprehensive Approach to Measures for Persons with Disabilities

The fiscal year 2007 falls in the middle of the target period of 2003 to 2012 for the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities. During the first five years of the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities, the measures for persons with disabilities have been promoted steadily based on this program to realize a “Cohesive Society” and amendments have been made in the legal system for relevant fields.

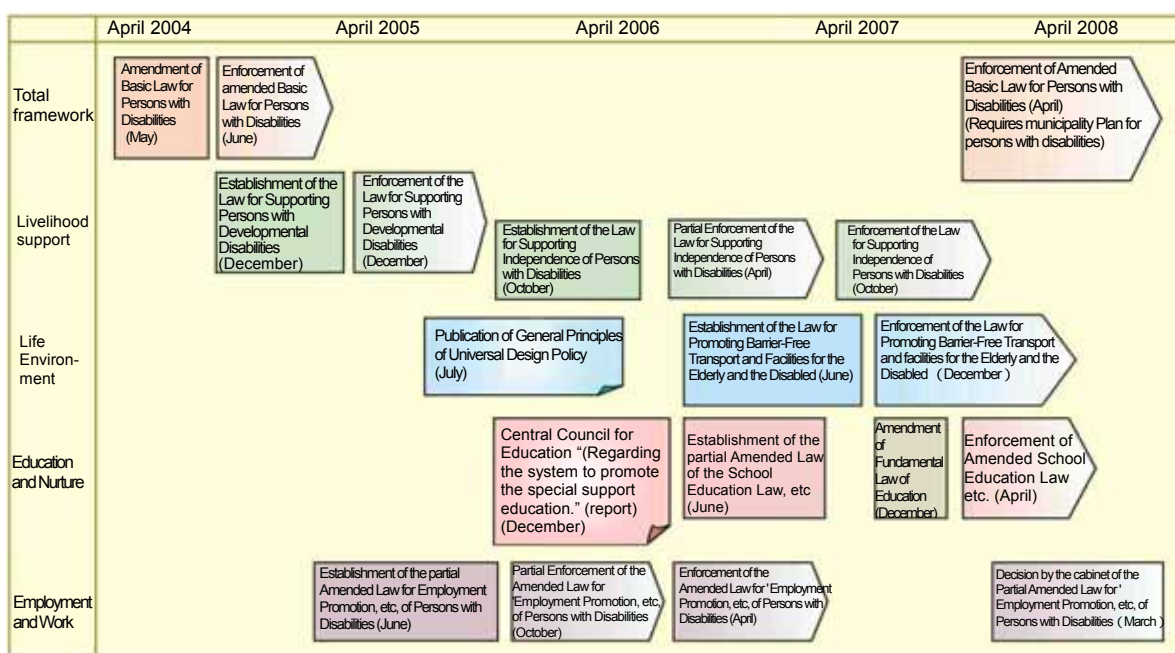
In December, 2007, as part of a new “Five -Year Plan for Implementation of Priority Measures for Persons with Disabilities (2003 ~ 2007)” (hereafter called the “New Five-Year Plan”) was set in the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities in order to achieve steady promotion of the policies in the later five years of the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities.

In the future, a steady promotion is to be achieved aiming at the realization of a “Cohesive Society” based on the idea of independence and symbiosis, the “Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities” and the “New Five-Year Plan”.

(Main measures taken)

- In May 2007 the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities determined the “New Five-Year Plan” which was assumed to be a target during the same year. Based upon this, an investigation team was set up under the Directors Meeting for each of six policy fields, Raise awareness and exchange, Education and training, Employment and work, Livelihood support and Health and medical treatment, Living environments and information and communication. The opinions from concerned disabled persons and their families were heard. Based upon this, the “New Five-Year Plan” was finalized at the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities in December of the same year.

Chart 1 Recent trends of measures for persons with disabilities



Source: Cabinet Office

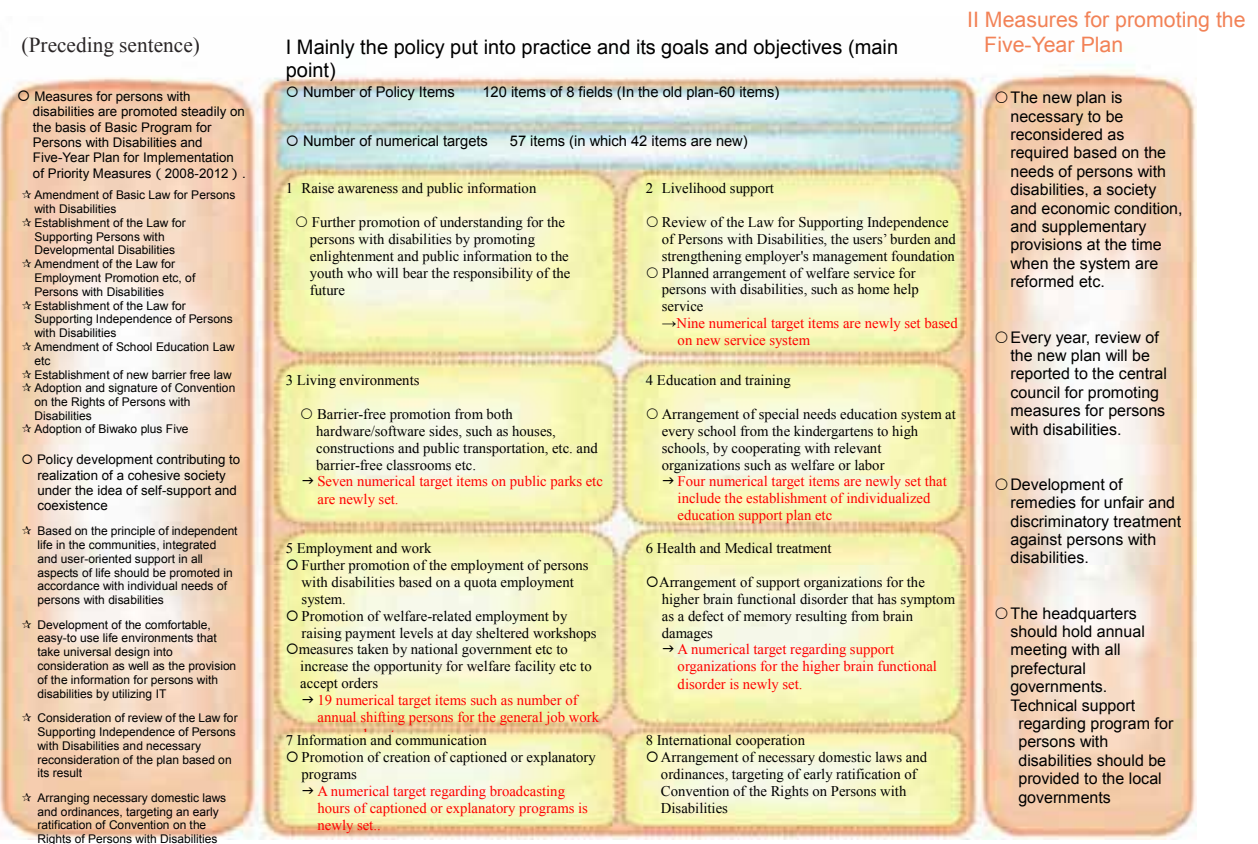
- Regarding the issue to be tackled as a priority, the “New Five-Year plan” sets out 120 items to be implemented, a double from the old plan, 57 numerical targets that include newly 42 items (It was 34 items in the old plan) and the period in which to meet them.
- In the Directors Meeting under Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities, Working Group for promoting task-specific was established and promoted in order to raise awareness and respond to employment of persons with disabilities in Public Sectors and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A tentative name. Hereafter called the same).

Chart 2 The Number of persons with disabilities

	Total number (thousands)	Persons living at home (thousands)	Inmates in facilities (thousands)
Children and persons with physical disabilities	3,660	3,580	90
Children and persons with intellectual disabilities	550	420	130
Persons with mental disorders	3,030	2,680	350

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare “Investigation of Actual Situation with Children and Persons with Physical Disabilities” (2006)
 Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare “Basic Investigation of Actual Situation with Children (and Persons) with Intellectual Disabilities” (2005)
 Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare "Investigation of Social Welfare Facilities etc." (2005) (Facilities related to the senior citizen are excluded)
 Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare "Investigation of Patients" (2005).

Chart 3 Structure of Five-Year Plan for Implementation of priority Measures. (2008-2012)(A decision by Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities on December 25, 2007)



Source: Cabinet Office

○ A discussion (Upon hearing the opinions of 120 disabled individuals and groups, 97 problems of eight different fields were concluded and reported) of an approach towards the working of the “New Five Year Plan” in the third meeting of the Central Council for Promoting Measures for persons with disabilities, was held in the presence of Prime Minister, Chief Cabinet Secretary, and Minister of State for Measures for Persons with Disabilities, Cabinet Office), etc. in October, 2007.

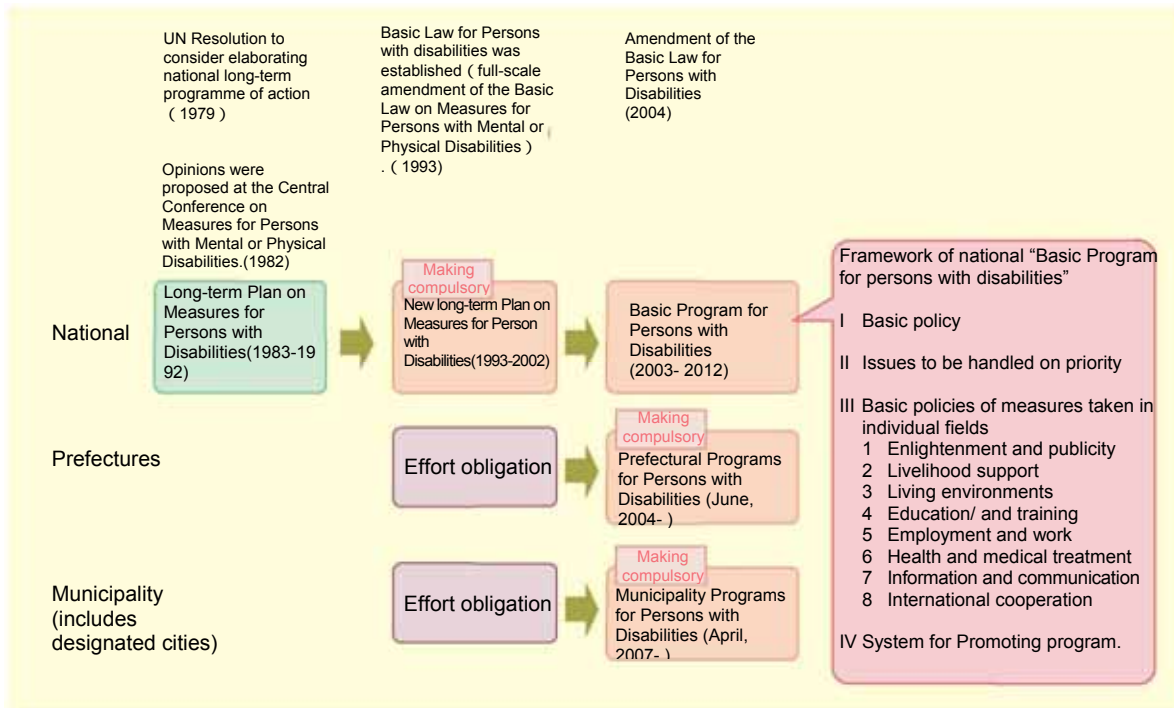
○ In March, 2008, previous "Barrier-Free Promotion Outline" was revised, and a "Barrier-free Universal Design Promotion Outline" was decided in the “Ministers’ Conference Regarding “Barrier-Free”. In the new outline, the importance of the promotion of the "Universal design" at the time of maintenance of facilities and new component development along with "Barrier-free" was considered in detail and the name was changed to "Barrier-free Universal Design Promotion Outline". Moreover, the fields such as "Barriers in bringing up a child" and "Disaster prevention” that the citizens show a high concern in were also incorporated.

○ In 2007, the results in 2006 from “Investigation of Actual Situation with Children and Persons with Physical Disabilities” (carried out every five years), were collected and the newly estimated

number of children and persons with physical disabilities became clear.

- Based upon the amendment of "Basic Law for Persons with Disabilities" in June, 2004, a Program for Persons with Disabilities, which had been recommended for municipalities to draw out, was made compulsory from April 2007. As of March 2007 the number of municipalities that have formulated a Program for Persons with Disabilities was 1,667 (92.0% of total) and increased from the previous year's 1,169 (63.9% of total). Of 145 Organizations that had not drawn out a Program for Persons with Disabilities at the time of survey, 71 organizations have drawn it out by March 2007, and, as a result, the total number of groups that have drawn out the plan as of March 2007 was 1,736 (96.5% of total).

Chart 4 Legal grounds of Basic Programme for Persons with disabilities and Programs for Persons with Disabilities



Source: Cabinet Office

Chart 5 Fields of measures included in Programs for Persons with Disabilities

		Prefectures 47	Designated cities 15	Municipality 1,667
Policy fields incorporated in the programs	Enlightenment and Publicity	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,583 (95.0%)
	Livelihood support	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,624 (97.4%)
	Living environments	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,621 (97.2%)
	Education and training	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,607 (96.4%)
	Employment and work	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,630 (97.8%)
	Health and medical treatment	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,614 (96.8%)
	Information and Communication	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,471 (88.2%)
	International cooperation	17 (36.2%)	5 (33.3%)	116 (7.0%)
	Others	8 (17.0%)	2 (13.3%)	99 (5.9%)
Details of "Living Environment"	Promoting Barrier-free design of houses and buildings	47 (100.0%)	13 (86.7%)	1,553 (93.2%)
	Promoting Barrier-free design of public transport, etc.	47 (100.0%)	15 (100.0%)	1,462 (87.7%)
	Ensuring safe traffic	45 (95.7%)	14 (93.3%)	1,324 (79.4%)
	Disaster prevention	46 (97.9%)	15 (100.0%)	1,487 (89.2%)
	Crime prevention	39 (83.0%)	10 (66.7%)	1,090 (65.4%)
	Others	5 (10.6%)	2 (13.3%)	51 (3.1%)

*Numbers in parenthesis show the ratio to the total Source: Cabinet Office

- The investigation was carried out by targeting two fields, namely "Livelihood Support" and "Health and Medical treatment" in 2007, during the "Comprehensive Research on Measures for Persons with Disabilities" which was carried out to clarify the problem of barrier to persons with disabilities in social participation

Evaluation by disabled persons regarding disability welfare services, etc.

From the report of the general survey of 2007 Disabled Persons Policy

Based on the description of “The government should examine the efficiency of the measures and take effective and appropriate measures through exchanging views with organizations of persons with disabilities and researching the needs.” in the “IV. System for Promoting the Program” of the Basic Program for persons with disabilities, the Cabinet Office implemented a questionnaire survey targeted at persons with disability from fiscal year 2005 onward in order to extract items that are barriers hindering persons with disabilities from taking social activities and clarify issues toward their elimination with the support of the Japan Society of Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities and so forth.

For the financial year 2007, this survey was implemented from February to March 2008 by mailing a questionnaire regarding “Livelihood Support” and “Health and Medical treatment” to 5,124 people from all over the country. About 2,563, corresponding to 50%, replied.

Firstly, regarding the welfare services for the persons with disabilities, 50.2% of the respondents had used it in the past three months, while 44.9% had not. Concerning the degree of satisfaction about the services, 62.2% of the respondents replied saying “satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” while 32.7% replied saying “not satisfied” or “somewhat dissatisfied”. Looking at the results according to services, the degree of satisfaction for “housing support” was high. (Table 1) As to the reason for being “satisfied”, most answers were related to “good treatment by staff members and care-takers” (Table 2). On the other hand, the reasons related to “dissatisfaction” were “financial cost”, “contents of service”, “volume of service”. The reasons for being “satisfied” as well as being “dissatisfied” are as given in Reference 1 of conditions according to services.

Next, the respondents using the services were requested to compare the quality and volume of services with those of three years ago. However, majority of the answers for either of these was “no change”. According to kinds of

high number of answers for “it has worsened” for persons with physical disabilities, there were comparatively many answers saying “it has improved” for persons with mental disabilities. (1, 2 of Table 4). Furthermore, the respondents using the services were asked if they thought other services were necessary, or if they desired to increase the volume of use. 48.4% replied with a “yes” and it shows there are potential needs for the services. Regarding Health and Medical treatment services, 49.6% of the respondents had used it in the past 3 months while 42.4 persons had not. 67.9% of the persons using the services were “satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied”, while 25.0% replied that they were “dissatisfied” or “somewhat dissatisfied”. Looking at it according to services, the level of satisfaction for independence support treatment is relatively high. (Table 5) Regarding the reasons for being “satisfied”, there is an increase in “good treatment by the staff” and “financial cost”. (Table 6) On the other hand, the majority of the answers regarding reasons for “dissatisfaction” was “financial cost” (Table 7). The conditions of the reasons according to services for “satisfaction” as well as those for “dissatisfaction” are given in Reference 2. Next, the respondents were asked to compare the quality and volume of service to those of three years ago, and the majority answer was “no change”. Looking at the results according to kinds of disabilities, the number of respondents answering “it has improved” has become comparatively large for mental disabilities. (Table 8 -1, 2) Furthermore, the persons using the service were asked if other services were required, or if the volume of services needed to be increased, and 26.9% answered “yes” and that there were potential needs for the services.

Further details of the survey results will be published in the official announcement on the Cabinet Office Homepage.
(<http://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/index.html>)

Table 1

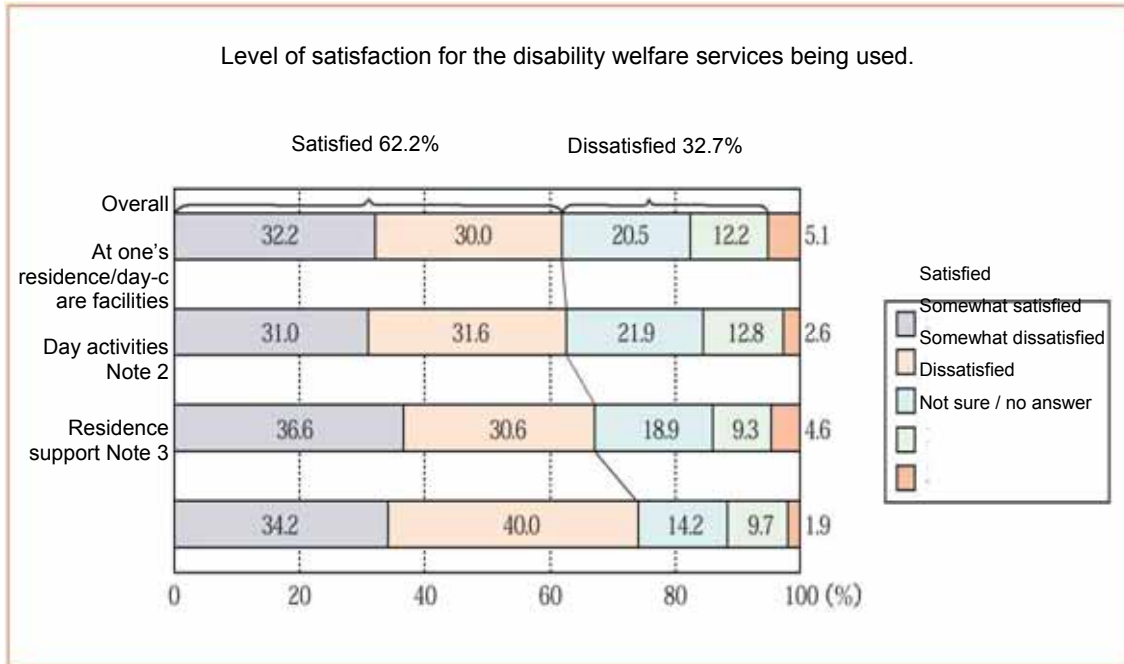
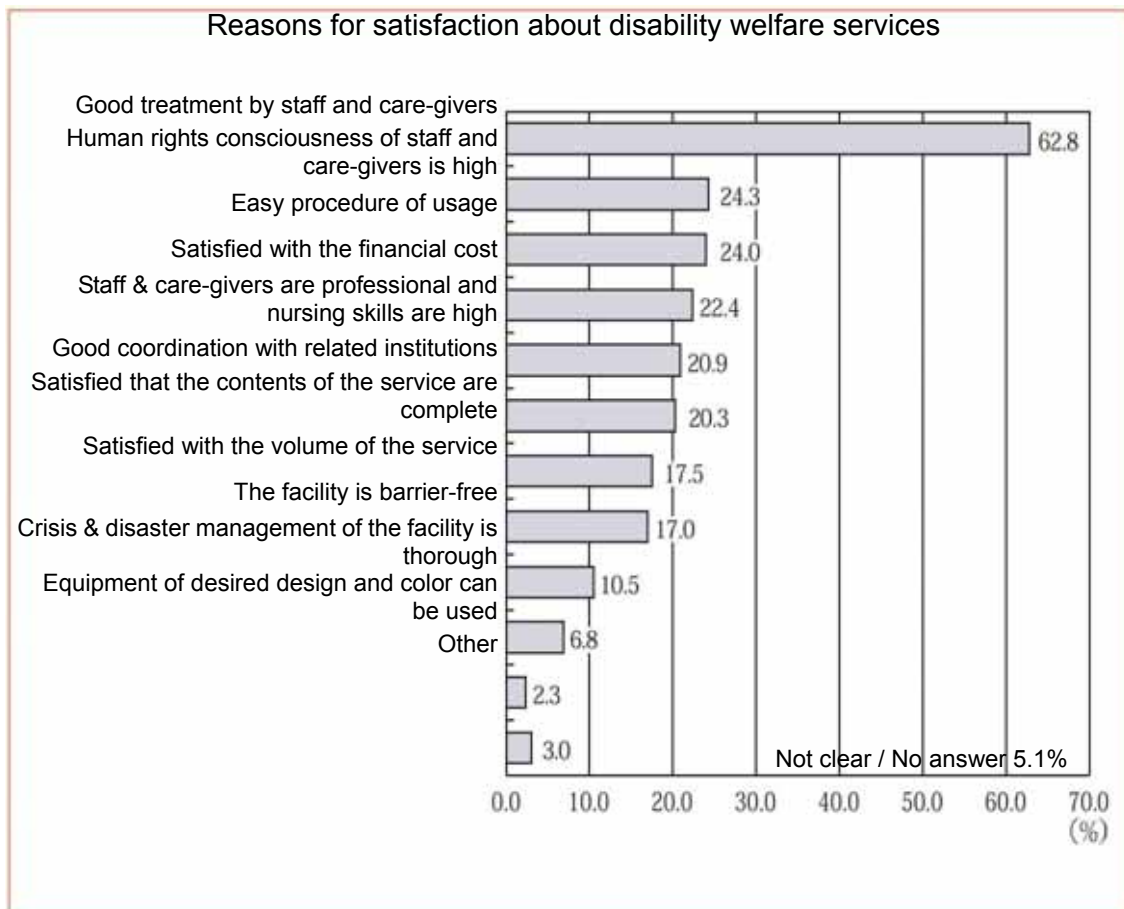


Table 2

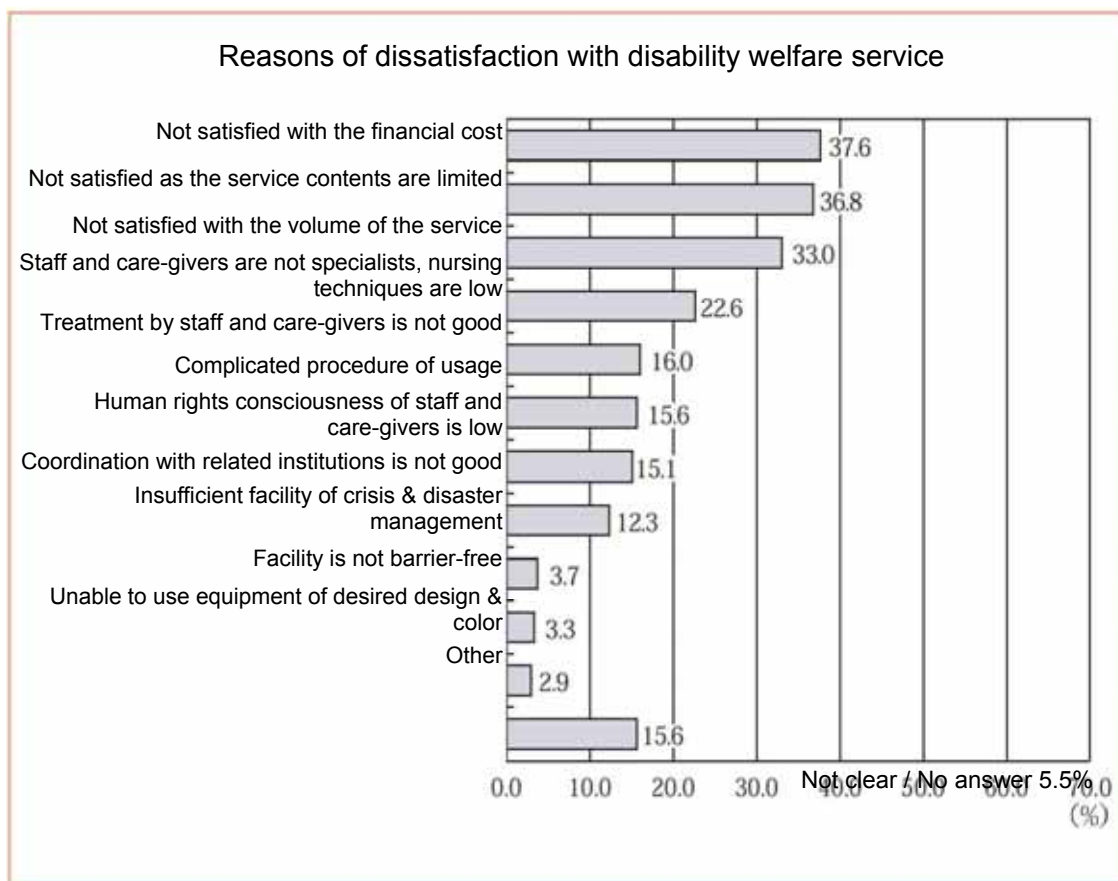


Note 1: Residence care-giver, frequent visiting care, behavior support, child day (care) service, short-term admittance, severely disabled persons comprehensive support

Note 2: Recuperation care, lifestyle care, independence exercise, employment migration assistance, employment continuation assistance

Note 3: Facility admittance assistance, social life care, social life assistance

Table 3



Reference 1

○ Conditions of reasons for “satisfied” according to services (%)

	Treatment by staff	Human rights consciousness of staff	Usage procedure	Financial cost
At one’s residence/day-care facilities	79.2	25.2	22.0	20.2
Day Activities	63.8	31.7	19.9	18.7
Residence Support	68.7	19.1	9.6	19.1

○ Conditions of reasons for “dissatisfied” according to services (%)

	Financial cost	Service Contents	Volume of service	Specialization of staff
At one’s residence/day-care facilities	33.2	38.5	47.1	31.6
Day Activities	43.7	21.4	27.2	30.1
Residence Support	37.8	40.5	35.1	32.4

Table 4 (1)

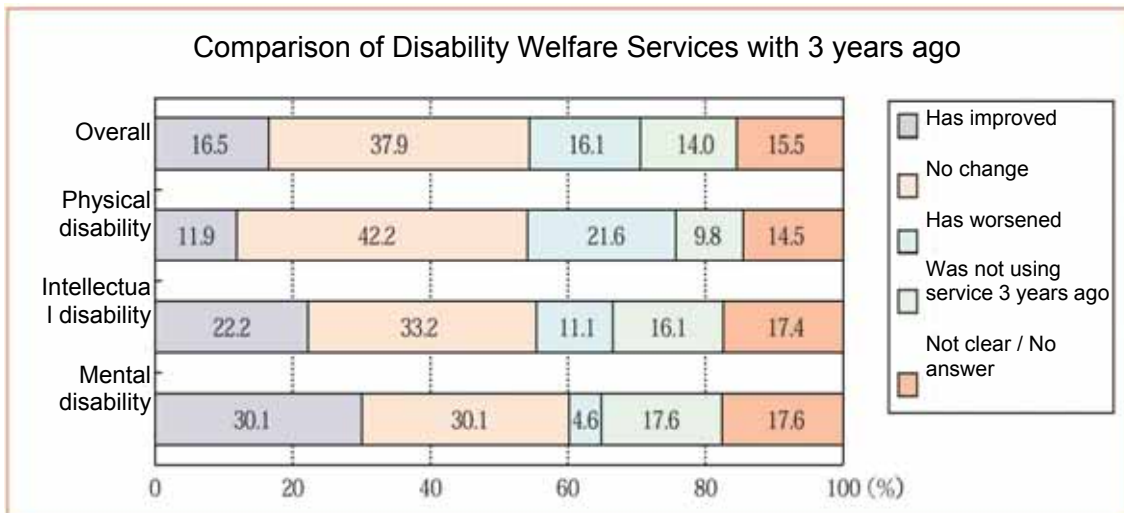


Table 4 (2)

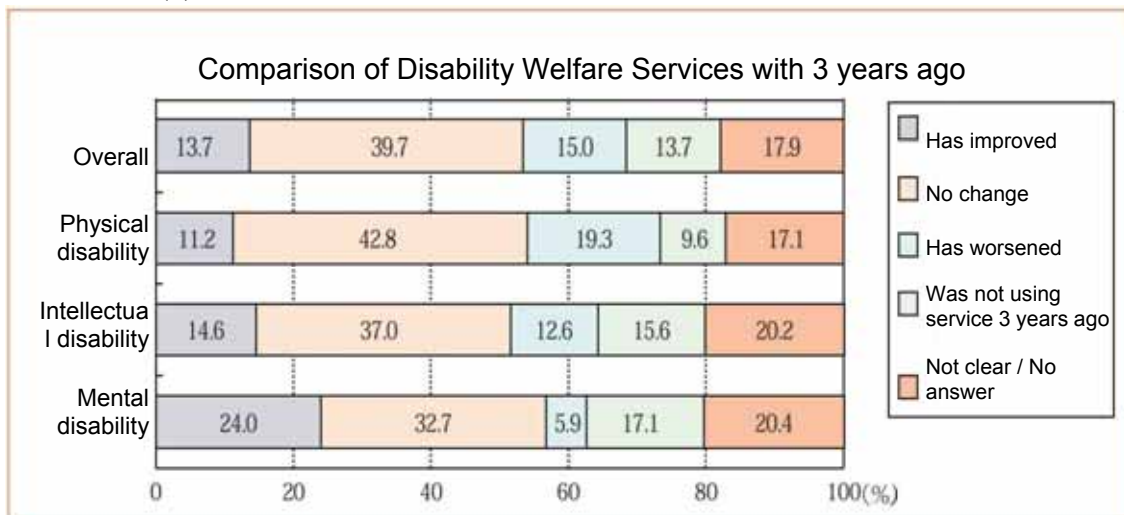


Table 5

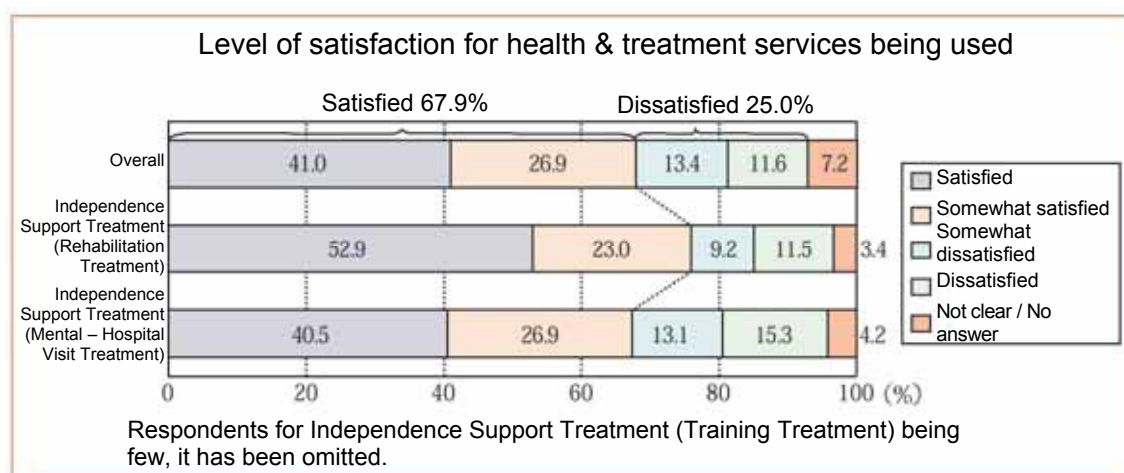


Table 6

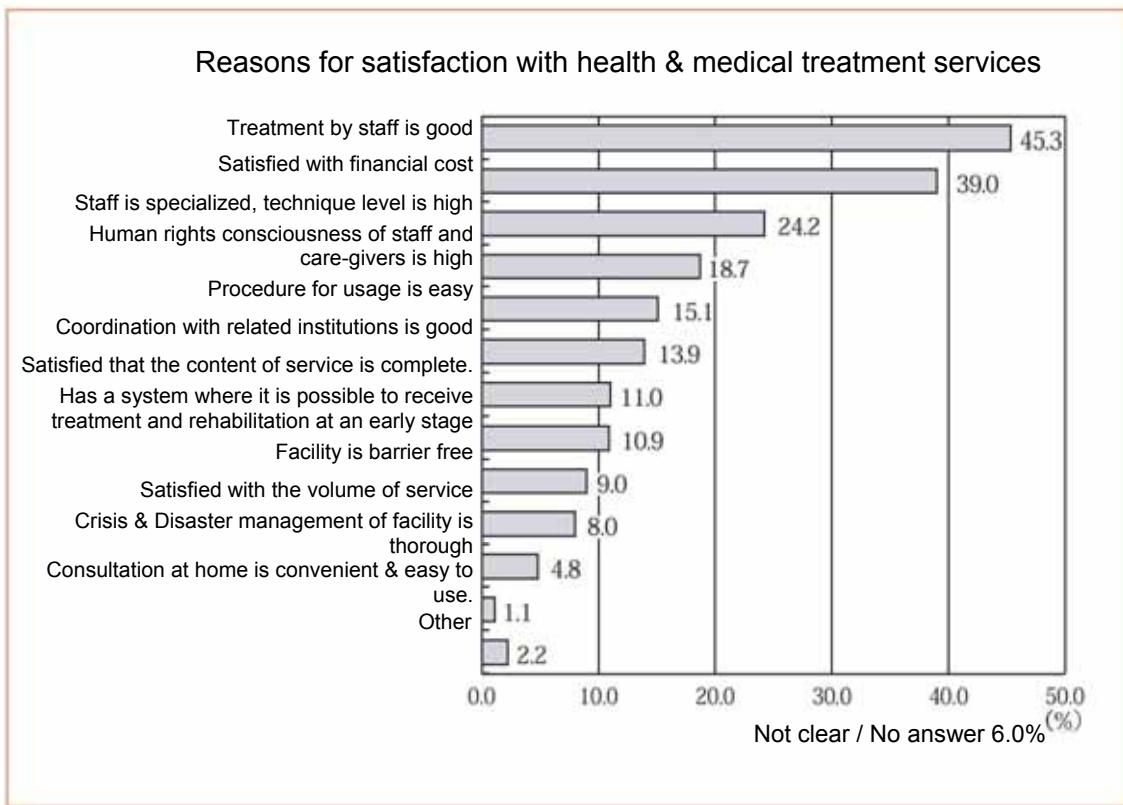
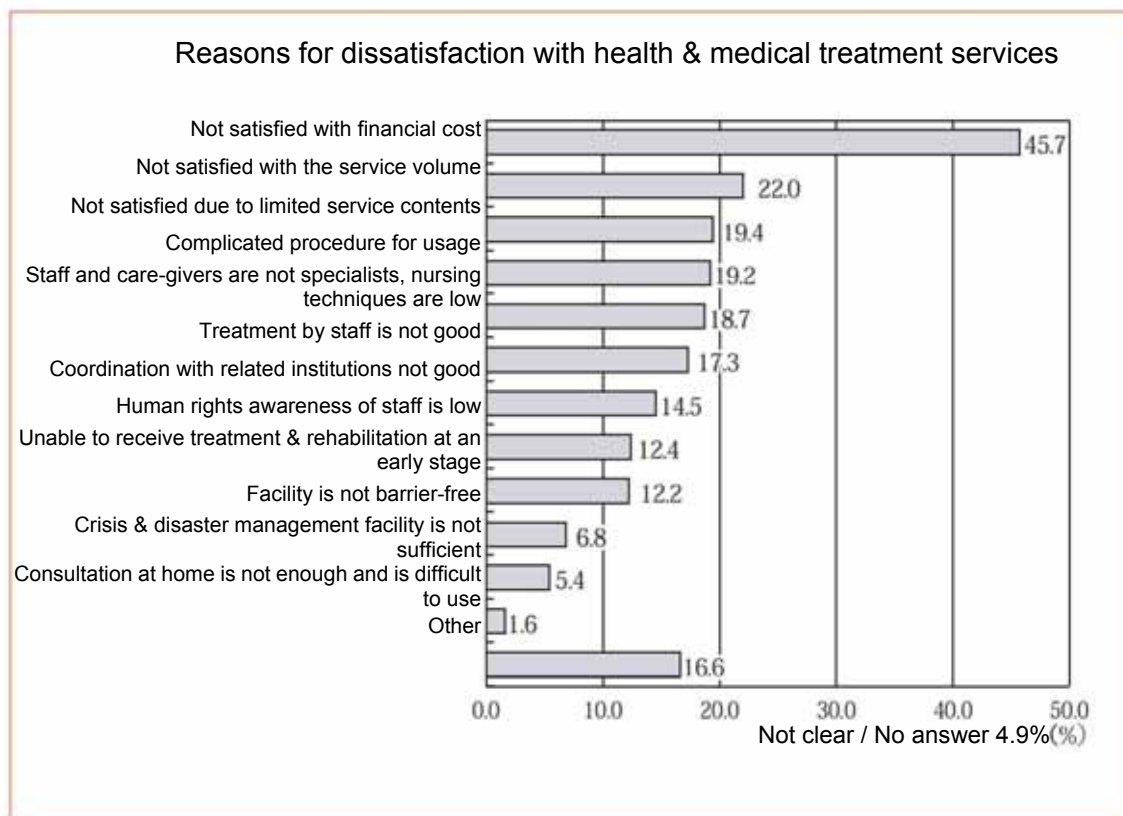


Table 7



Reference 2

○ Conditions of reasons for “satisfied” according to services (%)

	Treatment by staff	Financial cost	Specialization of staff	Human rights awareness of staff
Independence support treatment (Rehabilitation treatment)	48.5	42.4	21.2	19.7
Independence support treatment (Mental – Hospital visit treatment)	57.5	33.0	27.8	25.6

○ Conditions of reasons for “dissatisfied” according to services (%)

	Financial cost	Volume of service	Service contents	Usage procedure
Independence support treatment (Rehabilitation treatment)	66.7	22.2	22.2	33.3
Independence support treatment (Mental – Hospital visit treatment)	60.6	18.3	15.7	22.6

Table 8 (1)

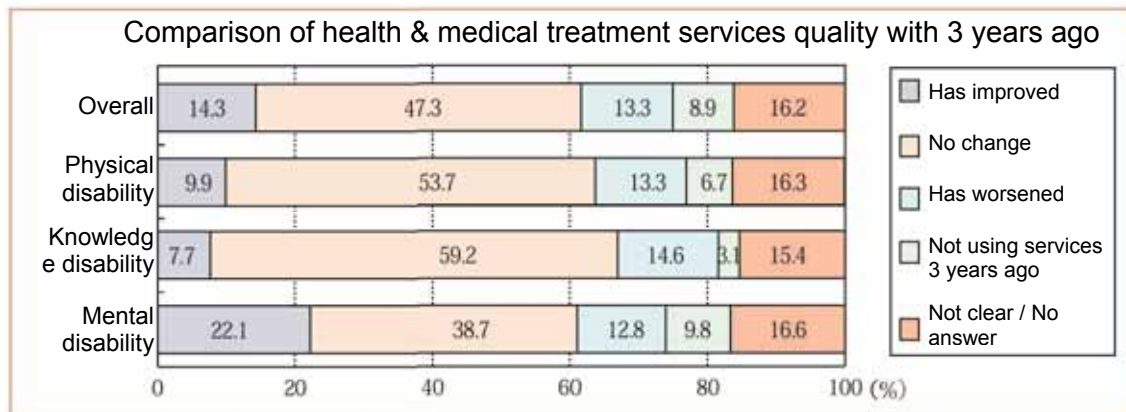


Table 8 (2)

