

"The Earthquake and Persons with Disabilities"

(4) Mortality rate of persons with disabilities in the Great East Japan Earthquake

There were an enormous number of casualties in the Great East Japan Earthquake: 15,858 deaths, 3,057 missing people, and 6,077 people wounded (figures all according to the Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Control, May 1, 2012). However, the mortality rate of persons with disabilities is said to be higher in comparison with the mortality rate of all victims in affected areas.

Here, we would like to introduce data regarding the mortality rate of persons with disabilities published by local governments.

[Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture] (From data provided by Miyako City in the field study conducted by Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform (December 15, 2011))

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Miyako City	59,636 people	
Number of persons with disabilities	3,371 people	Number of physical disability certificate holders
Total number of deaths in Miyako City (Percentage of total population)	525 people (0.9%)	Until August 26, 2011 (No changes after this date)
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of person with disabilities in Miyako City)	36 people (1.1%)	Breakdown: Physical disabilities: 28 people, intellectual disabilities: 2 people, mental disorders: 7 people, both physical and intellectual disabilities: 1 person

[Miyagi Prefecture] Created by the Cabinet Office from materials distributed at the Opinion Exchange Meeting hosted by welfare organizations of and for persons with disabilities and Miyagi Prefecture (Data regarding total population and number of persons with disabilities in Miyagi Prefecture are taken from publicized materials)

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Miyagi Prefecture Estimate by Miyagi Prefecture (March 1, 2011)	2,346,853 people	
Number of persons with disabilities (Including the “3 cities”)	107,150 people	Number of physical disability certificate holders (As of March 31, 2011), Physical disabilities: 80,457 people, medical treatment and education type A: 7,066 people, medical treatment and education type B: 8,822 people, mental health and welfare: 10,805 people
Total number of deaths in Miyagi Prefecture (Percentage of total population)	9,471 people (0.4%)	As of February 29, 2012
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of persons with disabilities in Miyagi Prefectures (excluding the “3 cities”)	1,028 people (1.7%)	As of February 29, 2012. The number of deaths of persons with disabilities in Sendai City, Watari and Yamato is unknown. (The number of persons with disabilities in Miyagi Prefecture excluding those in the “3 cities” is 61,724 people.)

*http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/JDF/20120323_miyagi/index.html

(The “3 cities” mentioned in the table are Sendai City, Watari and Yamato)

[Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture] (From data provided by Minamisanriku in the field study conducted by Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform and other documents, (December 22, 2011))

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Minamisanriku	17,666 people	
Number of persons with disabilities	940 people	
Total number of deaths in Minamisanriku (Percentage of total population)	798 people (4.5%)	
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of persons with disabilities in Minamisanriku)	125 people (13%)	Physical disabilities: 113 people, intellectual disabilities: 5 people, mental disorders: 7 people. The biggest reason for this is thought to be the fact that 74 people died at Shizugawa Public Hospital and 40 people died at a home for elderly people, requiring special care.

[Minamisoma-shi, Fukushima]

(From data provided by Minamisoma City in the field study conducted by Members of the Committee for Disability Policy Reform, (December 16, 2011))

Item	Number	Note
Total population of Minamisoma City	71,556 people	
Number of persons with disabilities	4,280 people	
Total number of deaths in Minamisoma (Percentage of Minamisoma City total population)	1,249 people (1.75%)	
Number of deaths of persons with disabilities (Percentage of total population of persons with disabilities in Minamisoma City)	19 people (0.44%)	Number of people who returned their certificates before November. Breakdown: Physical disabilities: 18 people, mental disorders: 1 person

The Cabinet Office (Disaster Management Division) plans to implement the FY 2012 "Investigation on Measures for People Requiring Aid in the event of Disaster". This is to grasp how people requiring aid in the event of disaster such

as persons with disabilities were devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and how they were evacuated. Through this investigation, the Cabinet Office is to review the necessity of reconsidering measures for people requiring aid in the event of disaster, and how to approach this.