

Family (particularly females) are main caregivers, and “care of the elderly by the elderly” has risen considerably

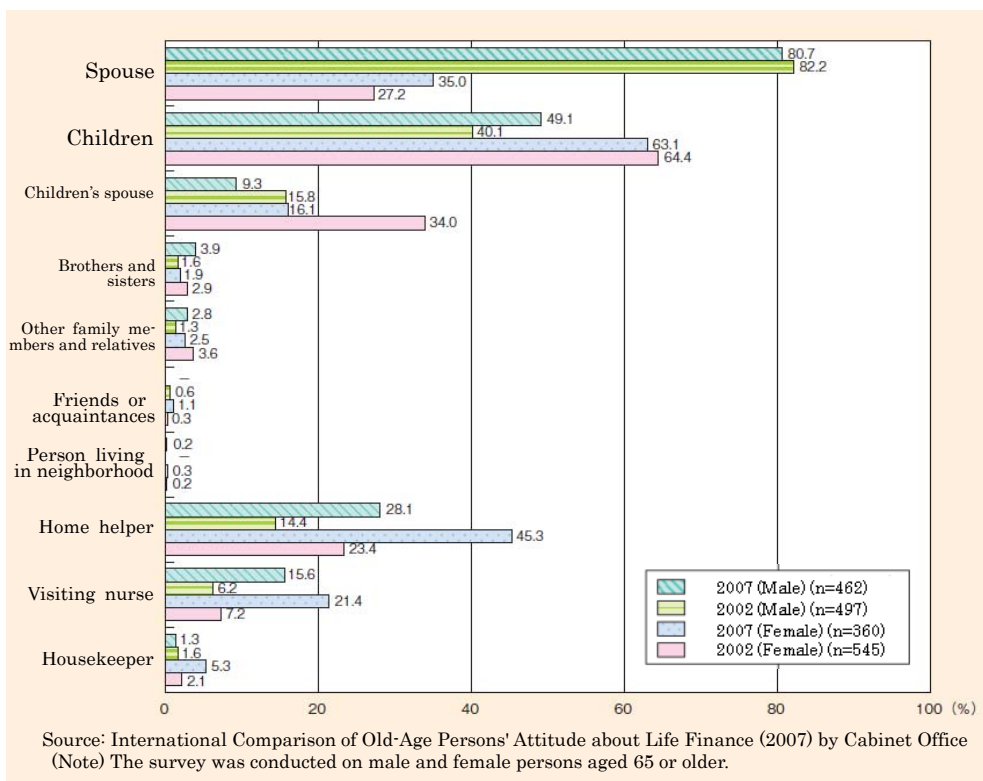
- Regarding the person whom a person wishes to take care of himself/herself, the largest share of males, 80.7%, answered “spouse”, while with females, 63.1%, answered “children” (Fig. 1-2-34).
- Regarding the relationship of the main caregiver to the person requiring care, 60% of them live together with him/her, with their spouse accounting for 25.0%, children 17.9%, and children’s spouse 14.3%. With respect to the sex of the caregiver, the share of females at 71.9% is larger than that of males at 28.1%. With respect to the age of them who live with persons requiring care, persons aged 60 or older account for more than half of the main caregivers: 65.8% of males and 55.8% of females, thus revealing that there is a considerable number of cases of so-called “elder-to-elder nursing” (Fig.1-2-35).

The Elderly at Work

There are lots of elderly people who work and wish to work even after the age of 60

- Looking at the situation of elderly people at work, the ratio of men at work in the agegroup of 55-59 years old is 90.5 percent, 60-64 years old, 73.1 percent, and 65-69 years old, 50.1 percent, showing that there are a lot of elderly people over 60 years old still at work. Further, out of the men not at work in the 60-64 year old age group (26.9 percent), more than 30% of them have the desire to work, as well as more than 20 percent in the age group of 65-69 year olds (49.9 percent).

Fig. 1-2-34 Persons who elderly people wish to take care of themselves (by time and gender)



- The ratio of women at work in the 55-59 year old age group is 61.6 percent, 60-64 years old 43.5 percent, and 65-69 years old, 28.2 percent (Fig. 1-2-39). Further, with respect to the age up to which a person aged 60 or older hopes to continue working, an opinion survey performed in 2007 revealed that the percentage of persons who want to “work as long as I want to” to be 41.2%, which greatly increased from that of a survey in 2006 at 34.1%.

Fig. 1-2-35 Relationship of a main caregiver to persons requiring care

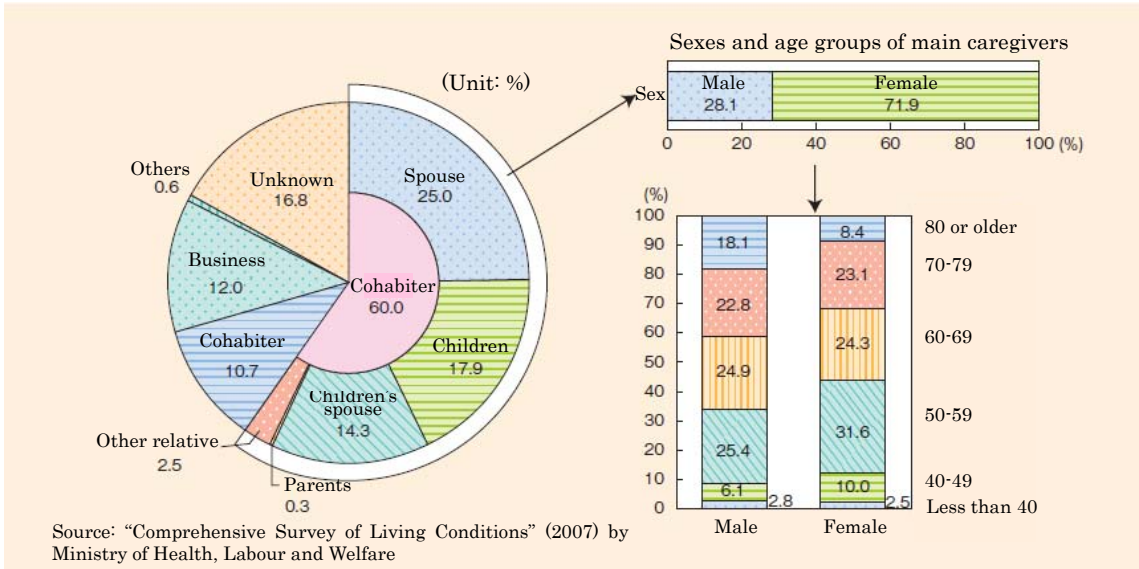
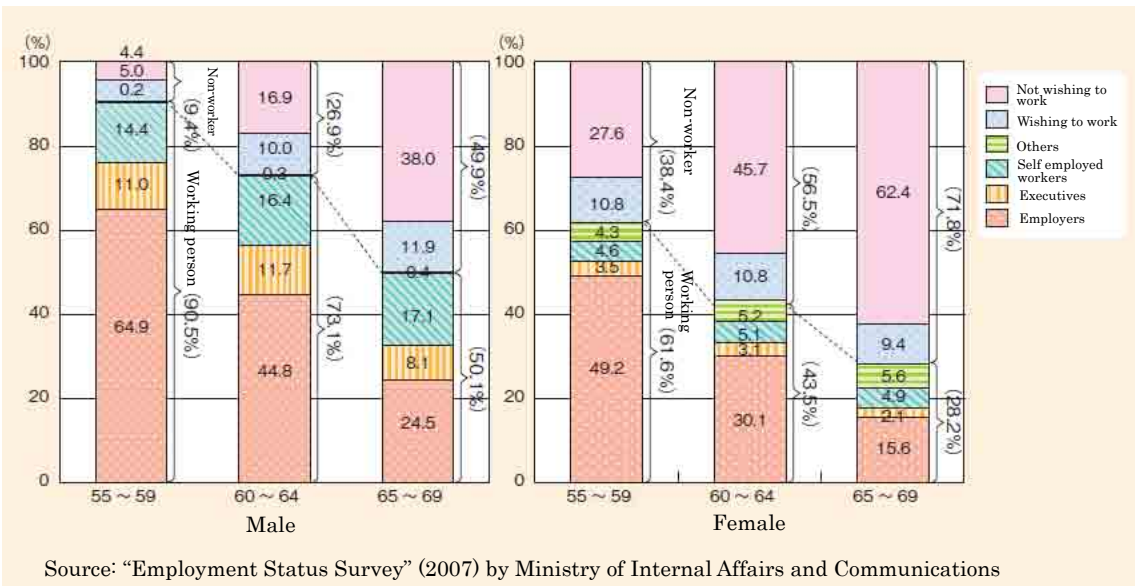


Fig. 1-2-39 Situations with working and non-working of elderly people



Employment situation of elderly people has tended to have improved with an increase in the employment rate of people in their early 60s

- With respect to the employment situation of elderly people, although it had tended to improve until 2007, the effect of the worsening economic situation caused by the global financial crisis on the unemployment rate of 2008 needed to be closely watched. In addition, the employment rate of persons in their early 60s greatly increased (Fig. 1-2-45).

Social Activities of Elderly People

Neighborhood companionship has weakened

- Looking at the neighborhood companionship of the elderly 60 years old or above, those who have a "close relationship" are 43.0 percent, while "just greet each other" are 51.2 percent. Comparing the result with the past investigation, those who used to have a "close relationship" tends to decrease and on the other hand, those who used to "just greet each other" have increased, suggesting that relationships in neighborhoods are weakening. (Figure 1-2-49)

About 60% participate in group activities for elderly persons

- Regarding participations in group activities of persons aged 60 or older, 59.2% of them participate in some kind of group activity; the percentage having increased by 15.5% from 10 years ago. Specific activities include "Health and sports" at 30.5%, "Regional functions" at 24.4%, "Hobbies" at 20.2%, and "Improvement of living circumstances" at 10.6%, all of which have increased from 10 years ago (Fig. 1-2-50).

Fig. 1-2-49 Exchanges with people living in the neighborhood

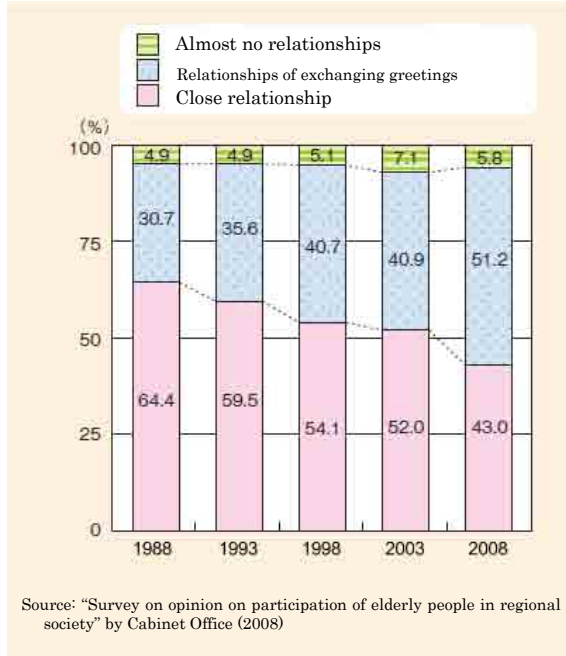
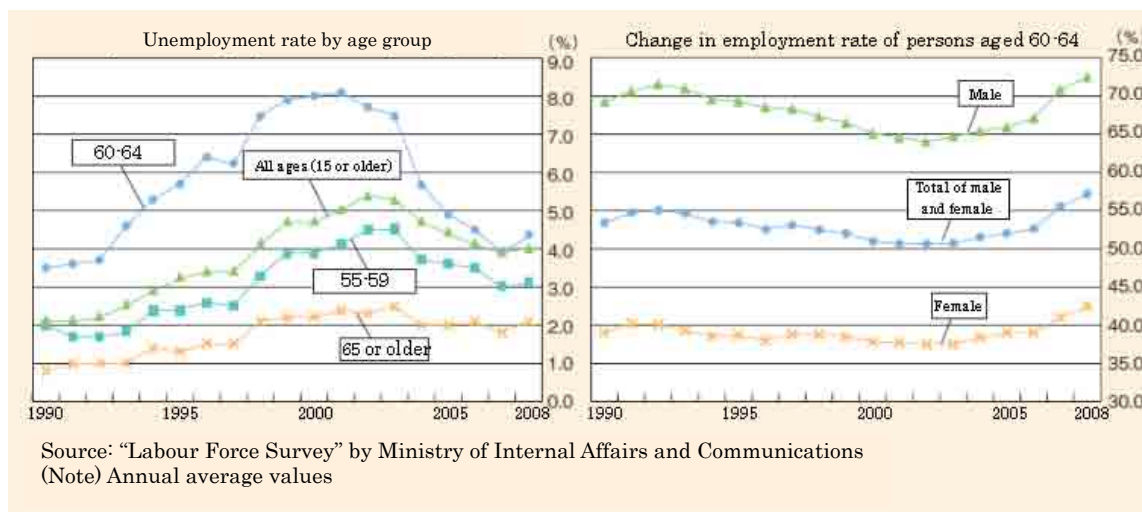


Fig. 1-2-45 Unemployment rates and employment rates by age group



Living circumstances of elderly people

Traffic accidents on increasing tendency

○ The number of traffic accidents caused by aged drivers is growing year by year, as the number of elderly people who possess a driving license is rising along with the number of driving opportunities for elderly people. Traffic accidents caused by elderly people aged 65 or older (holding licenses for mopeds or higher) have an increasing tendency these days, but in 2008 the number was 102,961, a decrease of 0.8% from that of 2005. However, the percentage of elderly people has greatly increased, having doubled compared with that of 10 years ago in 1998. (Fig. 1-2-60)

Fig. 1-2-50 Participation of elderly people in group activities (Multiple answers)

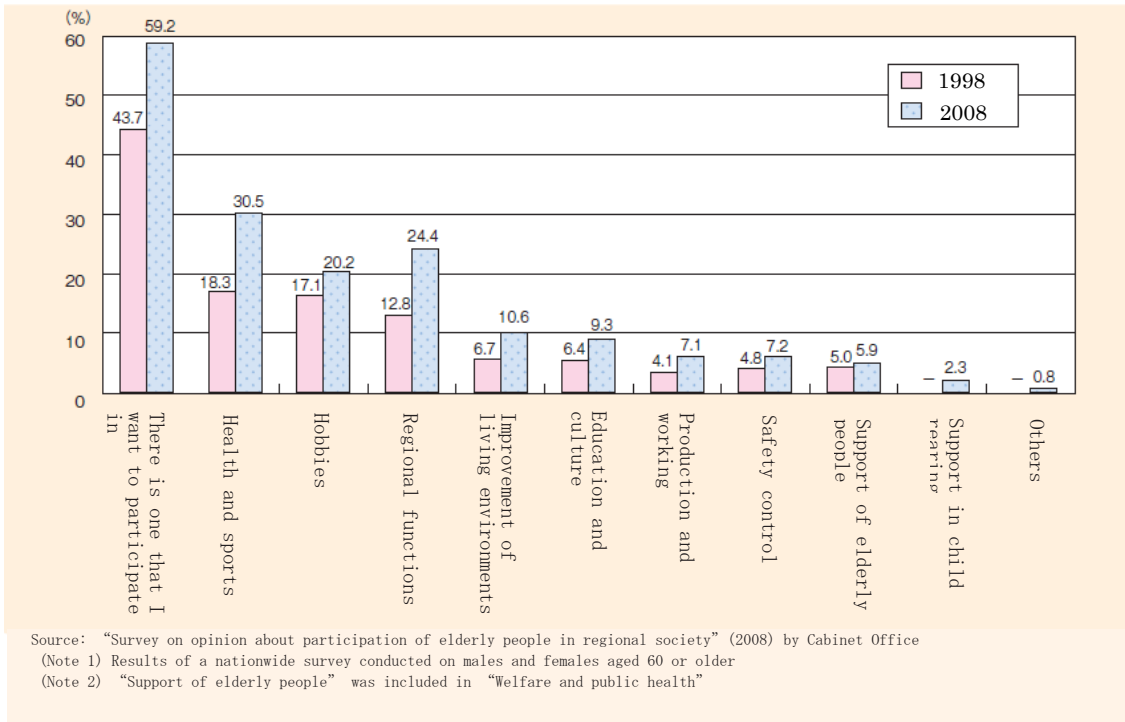
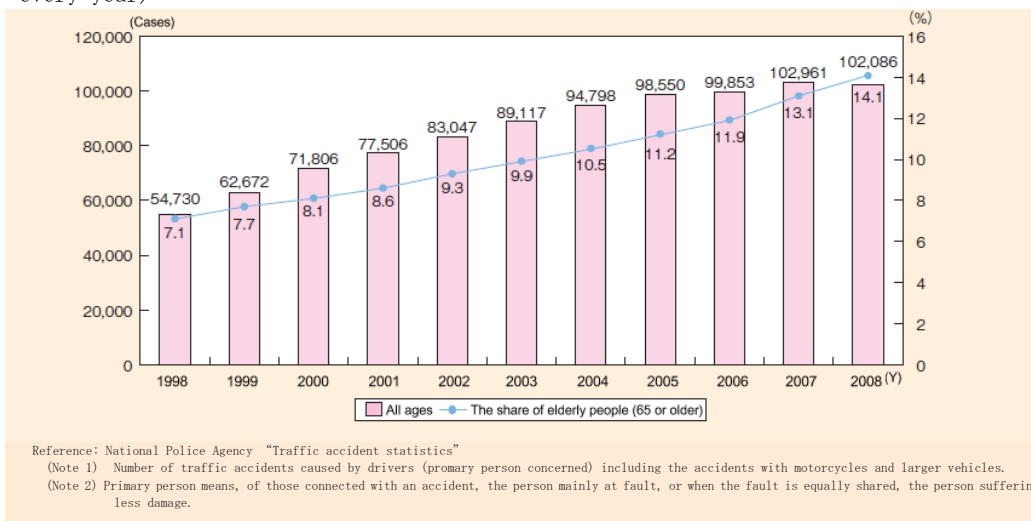


Fig. 1-2-60 Transition in number of traffic accidents caused by elderly (End of December every year)



More than 100 thousand cases of damages caused by consumer problems

- The number of consultations regarding contracts concluded by elderly people aged 70 or older that were received by the consumer affairs centers has been increasing every year, from 43,338 in 2000, although showing a decreasing tendency these days, and still exceeds 100 thousand (Fig. 1-2-62). In addition, regarding the consultations received in fiscal 2008, sales methods include visits at 17.2% and telephone calls at 9.2%. This seems to have been caused by the situation that elderly people often remain in their homes.

Fig. 1-2-62 Number of consumer consultations on contracts concluded by elderly people aged 70 or older

