

## Section 2

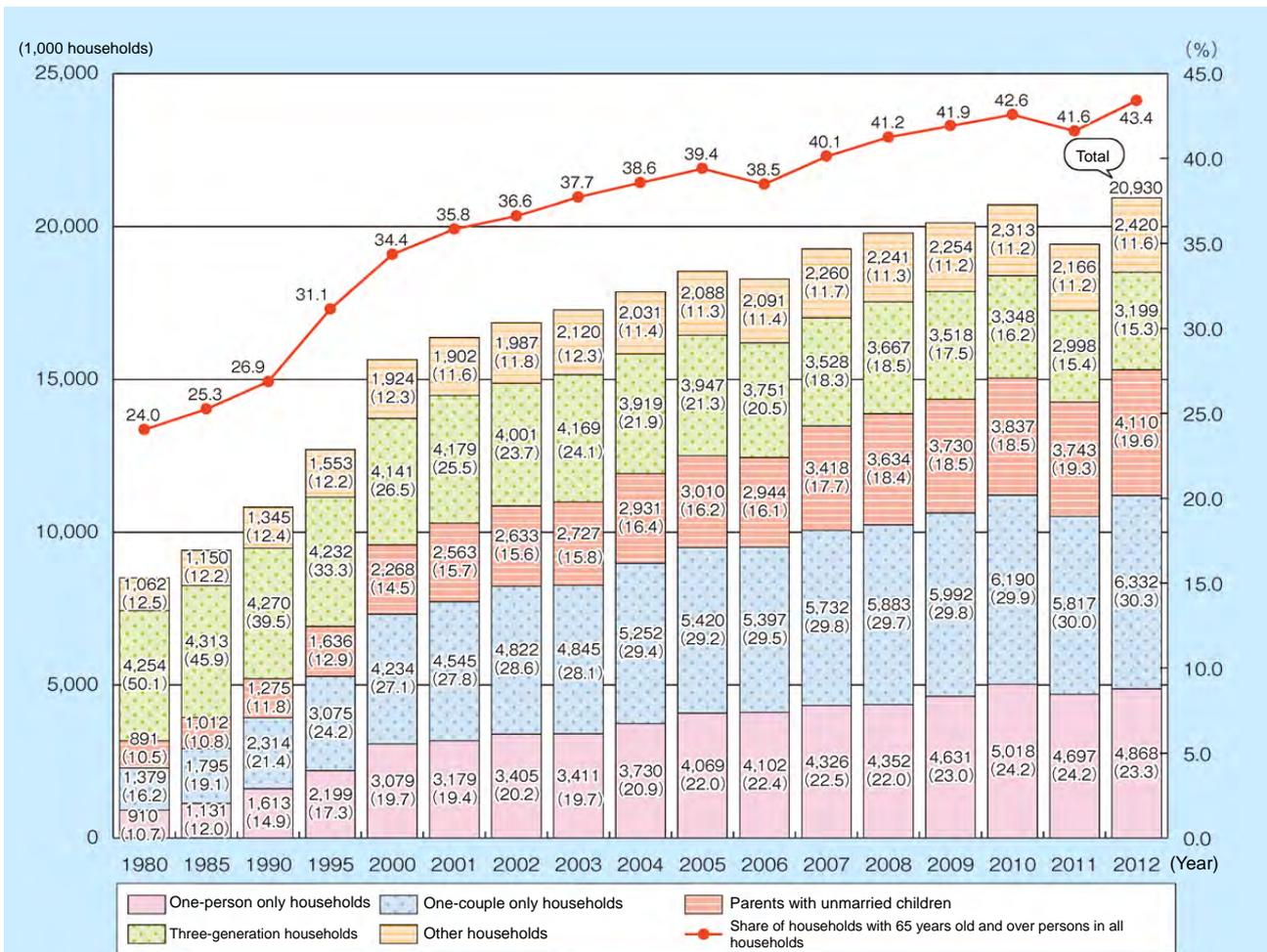
## Current State and Trends on the Elderly and their Environment

### 1 How Have Elderly People's Families and Households Changed?

#### ○ Households with elderly people comprise 40% of the total, and among those, individuals living alone or households with a married couple only hold a majority

- The number of households with elderly people aged 65 and over is increasing. As of 2012, the number was 20.93 million, making up 43.4% of all households (48.17 million) (Chart 1-2-1).
- While three-generation households have been decreasing, households of parents with unmarried children and households of married couples only are increasing. As of 2012, the number of households with a married couple only is the biggest in number, accounting for 30%, and if combined with the number of households of single persons, it would exceed the majority.

Chart 1-2-1 Number and Percentage Distribution of Households with Persons Aged 65 and Over (by Household Type) and Share Among All Households



Source: Before 1985 Ministry of Health and Welfare "Basic Survey of Health and Welfare Public Administration," after 1986 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions"

(Note 1) The 1995 figures exclude Hyogo Prefecture, the 2011 figures exclude Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, and the 2012 figures exclude Fukushima Prefecture.

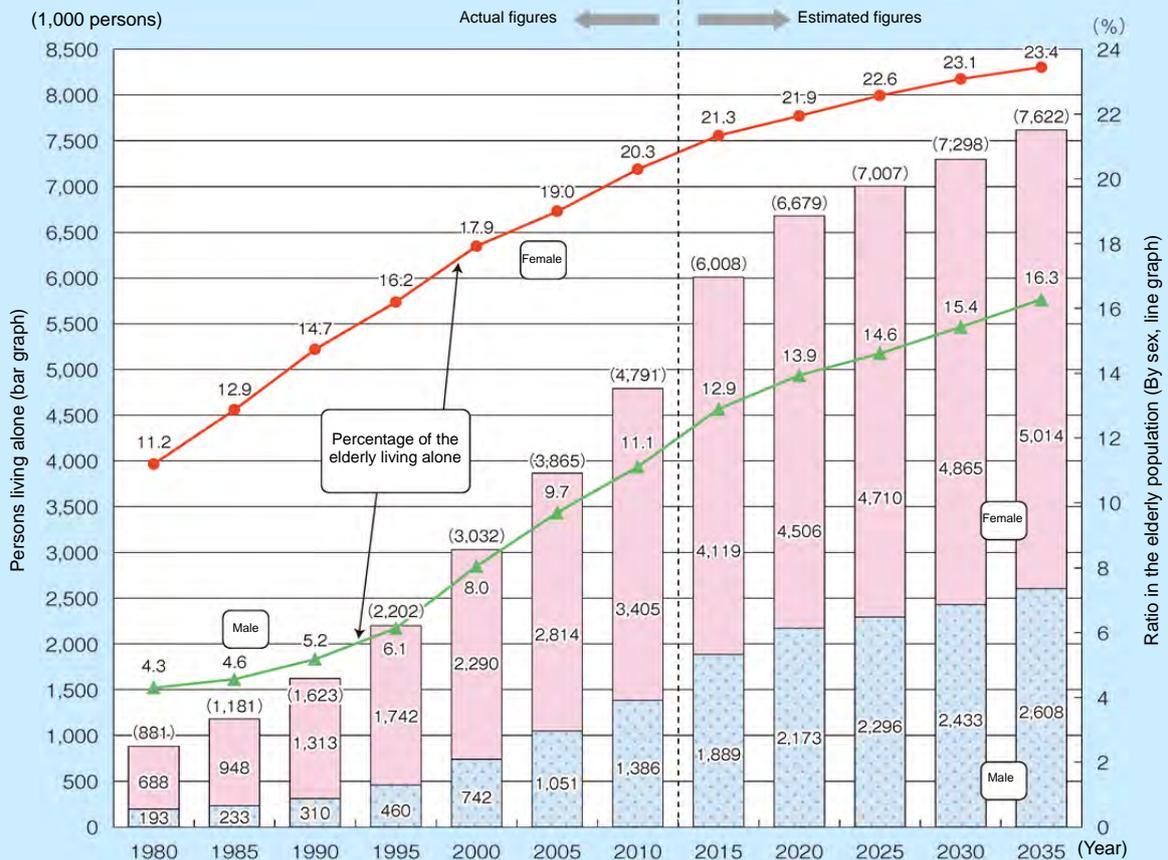
(Note 2) The number in brackets ( ) is the share of the total number of households with persons aged 65 and over.

(Note 3) As a result of rounding, the numbers do not necessarily add up to the total shown here.

○ **The number of elderly people living alone is on the rise**

- The increase in elderly people living alone is remarkable among both males and females (Chart 1-2-2).
- The percentage of elderly people living alone against the total population of elderly people was 4.3% for males and 11.2% for females in 1980. However, in 2010, these numbers were 11.1% for males and 20.3% for females.

Chart 1-2-2 Trends of Elderly Persons Living Alone



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications "Population Census" until 2010, and after 2015, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research "Future number of households estimates (estimated on January 2013)," "Future population estimates (estimated on January 2012)"

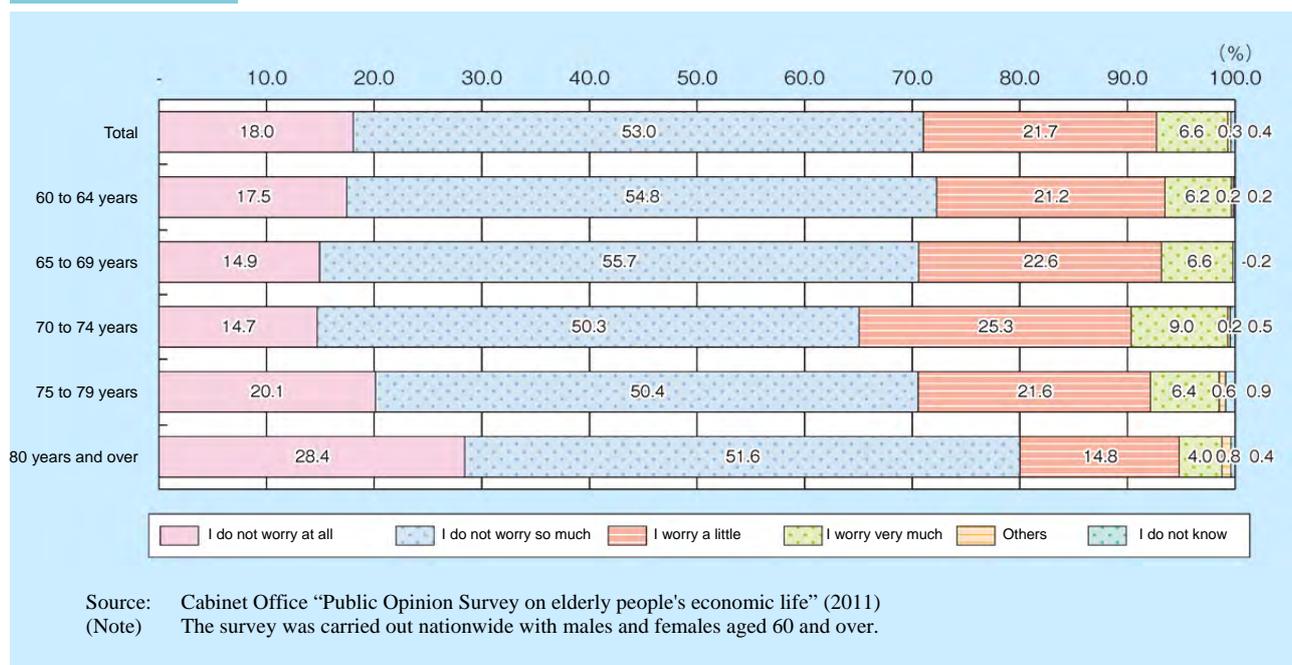
- (Note 1) "Living alone" indicates the one-person households of the above surveys and estimates.  
 (Note 2) In the bar graph, ( ) shows the total number of males and females aged 65 and over living alone.  
 (Note 3) As a result of rounding, the numbers do not necessarily add up to the total shown here.

## 2 Economic Situation of Elderly People

### ○ Percentage of the elderly who need not worry about their livelihood is approx. 70%

- When we look at the life circumstances of elderly people aged 60 and over, the proportion who feel they “do not worry” (the total of “I do not worry at all” and “I do not worry so much”) is 71.0%. Within the age group, this figure is the highest, at 80% of the group total, for those 80 years old and over (Chart 1-2-3).

Chart 1-2-3 Livelihood of Elderly Persons



### ○ The annual income per person in aged households does not differ much compared to the average of all households. In approximately 70% of aged households, the ratio of public pensions against total income was over 80%.

- The average annual income of aged households was 3.036 million yen, which was slightly greater than one-half of the average of all households (5.482 million yen) (Chart 1-2-4).
- When it comes to per-person income, it turned out to be 1.951 million yen and not much difference is seen with the average of the total households (2.083 million yen) as the average number of persons is less in the case of aged households.
- In approximately 70% of aged households receiving public pensions, the percentage of such public pensions against the total income is over 80% (Chart 1-2-5).

Chart 1-2-4 Aged Household Incomes

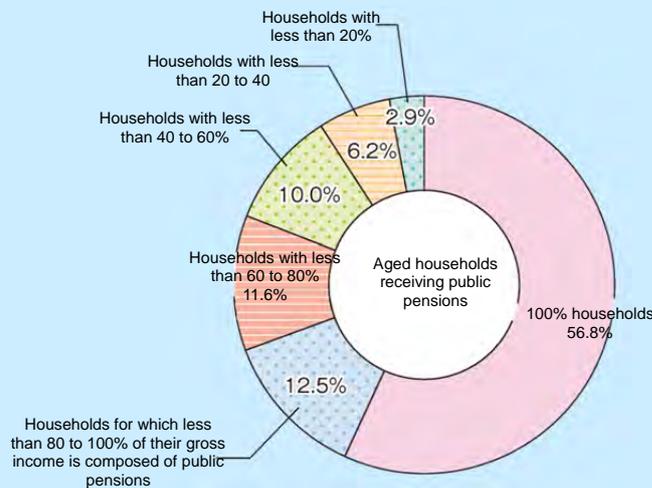
Category	Average income	
	Per household	Per person (average number of household persons)
Aged households	Total income	3.036 million yen
	Earned income	592,000 yen (19.5%)
	Public pensions	2.098 million yen (69.1%)
	Property income	176,000 yen (5.8%)
	Social security benefits other than pensions	23,000 yen (0.8%)
	Remittance and other incomes	146,000 yen (4.8%)
All households	Total income	5.482 million yen
		2.083 million yen (2.63 persons)

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions” (2012) (annual income for 2011 in this survey)

(Note 1) Aged households are households composed of either people aged 65 and over only or along with unmarried persons aged under 18 years.

(Note 2) Fukushima Prefecture is excluded.

Chart 1-2-5 Aged Households by the Ratio of Public Pensions Comprising Total Income



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions” (2012) (annual income for 2011 in this survey)

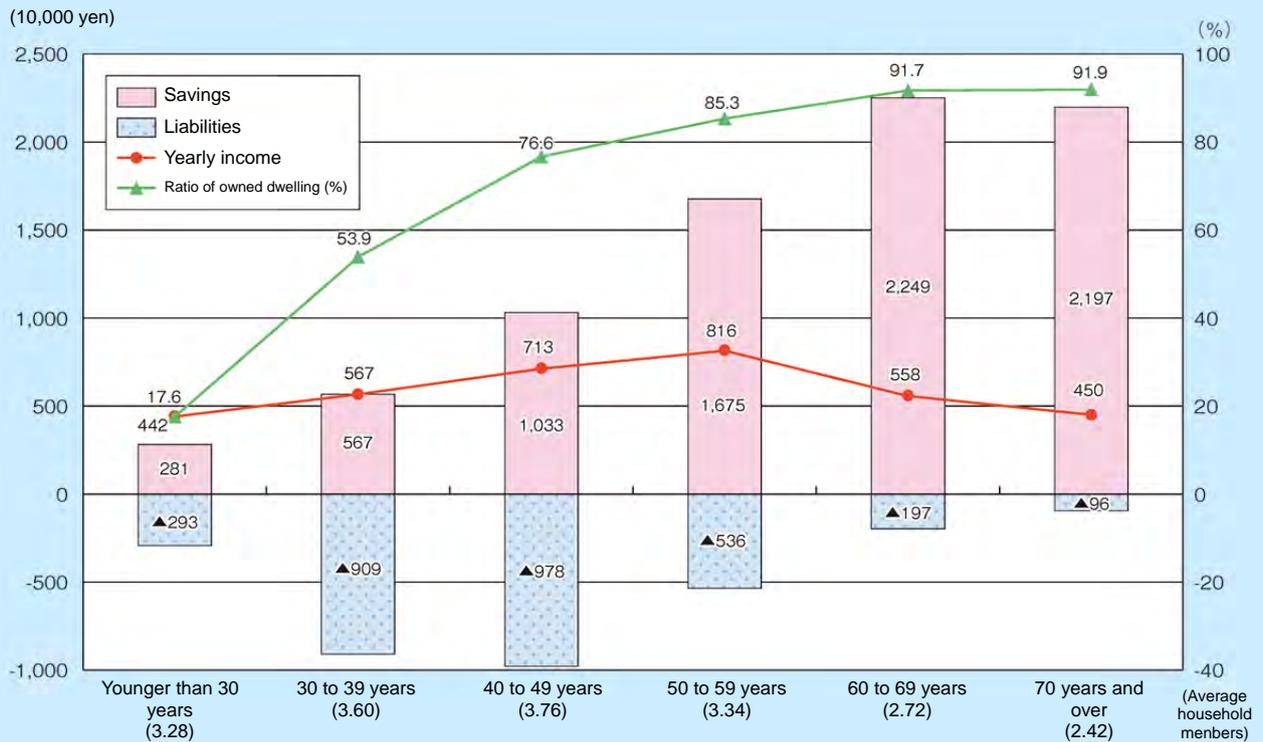
(Note) Fukushima Prefecture is excluded.

○ **In households where the head of the household is 65 years old and over, the amount of savings is 1.3 times that of the average of all households and the main purpose of savings is to prepare for disease and care.**

- It is understood that households in which the head is 60 to 69 years old or 70 years old and over hold higher net savings compared to other age groups (Chart 1-2-6).
- The average amount of savings of households in which the head is 65 years and over was 22.09 million yen, 1.3 times the average savings of all households, 16.58 million yen (Chart 1-2-7).
- Looking at the purpose of savings, “to prepare for disease and care” was the highest at 62.3% (Chart 1-2-8).

Chart 1-2-6

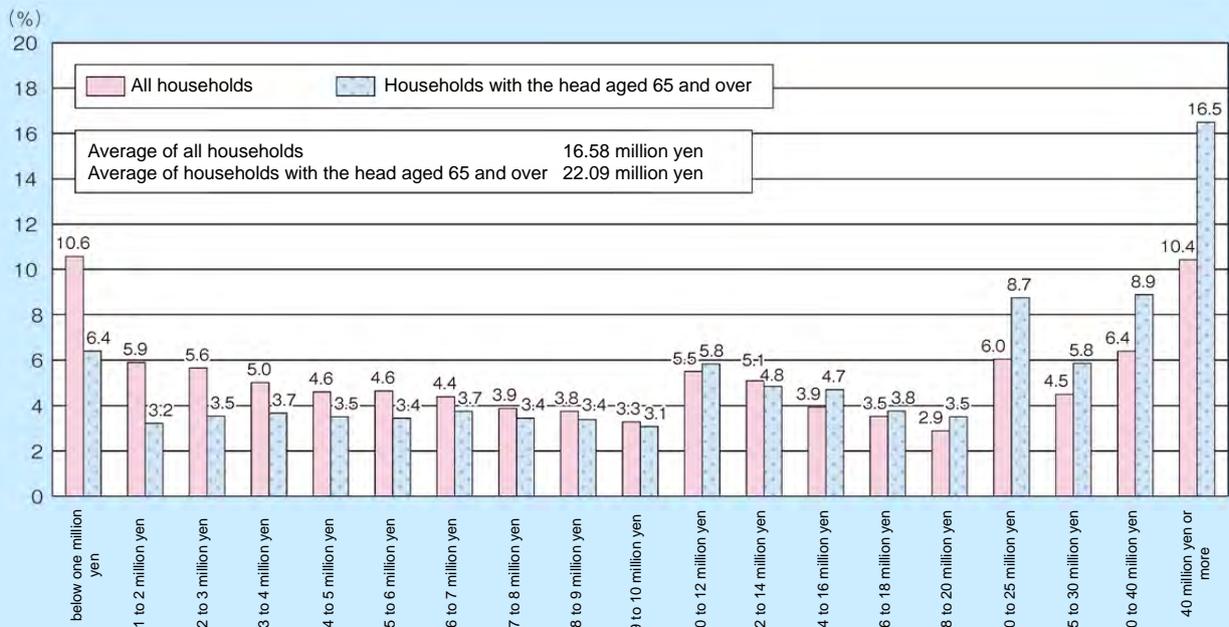
Savings, Liabilities, Yearly Income and Ratio of Ownership of Owner-Occupied Dwellings per Household by Age of Household Head



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications “Family Income and Expenditure survey (two-or-more-persons households)” (2012)

Chart 1-2-7

Distribution of Households by Amount of Savings

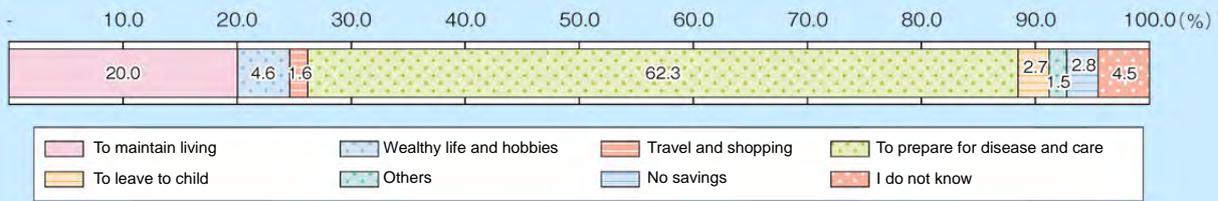


Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications “Family Income and Expenditure survey (two-or-more-persons households)” (2012)

(Note 1) One-person households are not included.

(Note 2) Total amount of deposits in Japan Post Bank, Management Organization for Postal Savings and Postal Life Insurance (former Japan Post), banks and other financial institutions, cash-value life insurance premiums, securities such as stocks, bonds, investment trusts and cash or money trusts and deposits in non-financial institutions such as one’s own companies.

Chart 1-2-8 Purpose of Savings



Source: Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's economic life" (2011)  
 (Note) The survey was carried out nationwide with males and females aged 60 and over.

○ **The number of persons receiving public assistance is on the rise.**

- In 2011, the number of public assistance recipients aged 65 and over was 780,000 people, which was an increase from the previous year (Chart 1-2-9).
- As of 2011, the ratio of public assistance recipients aged 65 and over against the total population aged 65 and over was 2.63%, which was higher than the ratio of public assistance recipients of the total population. (1.58%)

Chart 1-2-9 Number of Persons Receiving Public Assistance



Source: Created by Cabinet Office based on Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, "Population Estimates" and "Population Census" and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "National Survey on Public Assistance Recipients (Basic survey)."

**3 Health and Welfare of the Elderly**

○ **Nearly one-half of the elderly population complain of some subjective symptoms, and around one-fifth are adversely affected in their daily life.**

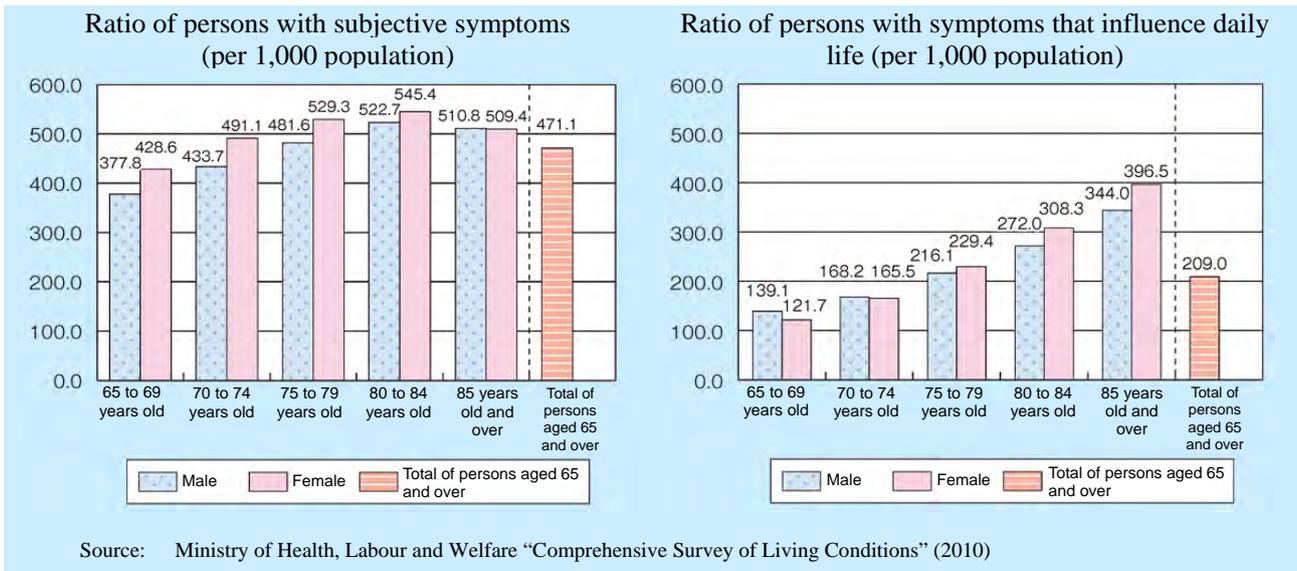
- Looking at the health conditions of the elderly aged 65 and over, the ratio of people with some complaints in 2010 (the number of people with complaints of subjective symptoms due to illness or injuries in these several days, excluding hospitalized people, per 1,000 of population) was 471.1, meaning nearly one-half complain of some subjective symptoms. On the other hand, with respect to people aged 65 and over, the number of those experiencing adverse effects in their daily life, (those who have adverse effects in activities of daily living, going out, work, household works, studies, exercises, etc. from health reasons (excluding hospitalized people) per a population of 1,000) was 209.0 in 2010, which was less than one-half

of the number of people with complaints.

If we look at this by age group and by gender, the ratio is higher as ages rise, and for those in their late seventies and elder, the number is higher for females than for males (Chart 1-2-10-(1)).

- Looking at these adverse effects in daily life, in the case of the elderly, the figure related to “activities of daily living” (getting out of bed, dressing/undressing, taking meals, taking baths, etc.) was 100.6 per a population of 1,000 followed by 90.5 for “going out,” 79.6 for “work, household works, studies” and 64.5 for “exercising (including sports)” (Chart 1-2-10-(2)).

**Chart 1-2-10-(1)** Ratio of Persons Aged 65 and over with Subjective Symptoms and Symptoms that Influence Daily Life (per 1,000 population)



**Chart 1-2-10-(2)** Ratio of Persons Aged 65 and over with Symptoms that Influence Daily Life (multiple answers possible) (per 1,000 persons)

