As the age group gets older, the ratio of people declaring their health condition as being “Good” or “Sort of good” is decreasing

- If we look at the awareness on the current health conditions by age group, the ratio of those feeling their health condition is “good” or “sort of good” is on the decline, while “bad” or “not so good” is on the rise in relation to advanced age (Chart 1-2-10-(3)).

Healthy life expectancy is extended but its length of extension is shorter compared with the extension of average life expectancy.

- The period during which daily life is not hindered (healthy life expectancy) was 70.42 years for males and 73.62 years for females as of 2010. Compared to 2001, both of healthy life expectancy and average life expectancy are longer respectively. However, the extension of healthy life expectancy from 2001 to 2010 (1.02 years for males and 0.97 year for females) is shorter compared to the extension of average life expectancy during the same period (1.48 years for males and 1.37 years for females). As a result, the difference between average life expectancy and healthy life expectancy has widened in 2010 both for males and females compared with year 2001 (Chart 1-2-11).
Looking at diseases causing the death of the elderly, the rate of death (ratio of the number of deaths per elderly population of 100,000) in 2012 was highest in malignant neoplasms (cancers) at 958.4.

- Looking at diseases causing the death of the elderly, the rate of death (ratio of the number of deaths per elderly population of 100,000) in 2012 was highest in malignant neoplasms (cancers) at 958.4, followed by heart diseases at 584.3 and pneumonia at 391.1. These three diseases account for half of the deaths of elderly people (Chart 1-2-12).
The number of persons needing long-term care is increasing rapidly among elderly people, and the ratio is high, especially for people aged 75 and over.

- The number of people aged 65 and over who are certified as requiring long-term care is 5.457 million people as of the end of FY 2012, an increase of 2.580 million from the end of FY 2001 (Chart 1-2-13).
- The number of people aged 75 and over who are certified as requiring long-term care account for 23.0% of all insured persons aged 75 and over (Chart 1-2-14).
- As for the bearing of expenses when long-term care becomes necessary, according to Cabinet Office research, when asked how to bear the expenses for receiving care, 42.3% replied “while not specifically provided for, such expenses could be covered by income such as pensions, etc.,” 7.7% replied “if relying only on our savings, it could be insufficient, but would be able to finance borrowing money by offering own home and other real estate property as collateral.” 7.4% of respondents thought “the expenses could be covered by the sale of assets, etc.” 9.9% expected to “receive financial assistance from their children” and 20.3% expressed “the amount needed would be provided as saving” (Chart 1-2-15).

Chart 1-2-13 Number of Primary Insured Persons (aged 65 and over) Requiring Long-Term Care or Support by Care Level

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare “Report survey on situation of Long-Term Care Insurance service (annual report) (Note 1) Following the revision of Long-Term Care Insurance Act in April 2006, the classification of care levels has changed. (Note 2) Due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, 5 towns and 1 village in Fukushima Prefecture (Hironomachi, Narahamachi, Tomiokamachi, Kawauchimura, Futabamachi and Shinchimachi) were excluded due to reporting difficulties.
Chart 1-2-14  Nursing Care Certifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units: 1,000 persons; ( ) shows percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Calculated from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare “Report survey on situation of Long-Term Care Insurance service (annual report)” (FY 2012)

(Note 1) Excludes those who received temporary care-required certification

(Note 2) Due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, 5 towns and 1 village in Fukushima Prefecture (Hironomachi, Narahamachi, Tomiokamachi, Kawauchimura, Futabamachi and Shinchimachi) were excluded due to reporting difficulties.

Chart 1-2-15  Awareness About Coverage of Costs if Long-term Care is Necessary

Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's health” (2012)

(Note 1) The survey was carried out nationwide for males and females aged 60 and over.

(Note 2) The question was “How will you meet expenses if you receive long-term care from your children, or enter a nursing home, or receive services at home?”

- **Family members (especially females) are the main caregivers and there are considerable cases of “care for the elderly by the elderly.”**
  - Looking at the relationship of the caregivers, more than 60% of them are a person living together with the person receiving care.
  - The main breakdown of caregivers is spouse (25.7%), children (20.9%), children’s spouse (15.2%), and in a breakdown by gender, females exceeded males with males making up 30.6% of the total and females 69.4% (Chart 1-2-16).
  - As for the age of main caregivers living with the recipient, 64.8% of male and 60.9% of female caregivers were 60 years old and over, showing that there are considerable numbers of so-called “care for the elderly by the elderly.”
Around 40% of the elderly wished to receive long-term care at their own home and more than half wished to spend their last days at their own home.

- “When long-term care becomes necessary to daily life, where do you want to receive such care?” Those who replied “I wish to get long-term care at home” are the largest group both among males and females. Males wished more to get care at home than females: 42.2% for males and 30.2% for females.

As for places other than their home, “I wish to enter welfare facilities for the elderly requiring long-term care” (18.3% of males and 19.1% of females) was followed by “I wish to be taken care of at medical facilities such as hospitals” (16.7% of males, 23.1% of females) and “I wish to use healthcare facilities for the elderly requiring long-term care” (11.3% of males and 11.2% of females) (Chart 1-2-17).

- To the question “When you become ill with a disease not expected to be cured, where do you wish to spend your last days?” the highest number of replies was “own home” at 54.6%, followed by “medical facilities such as hospitals” at 27.7% (Chart 1-2-18).
4. The Elderly at Work

- Employment Situation Among Elderly People
  - Looking at the transition of the number of employees of all industries, in 2013 the number of employed people between 60-64 years old was 4.59 million and the number of the employed aged 65 and over was 3.75 million (Chart 1-2-19).
  - Looking at those who have reached retirement age, as of June 1, 2013, 76.5% of those who reached retirement age in the past year were still employed (Chart 1-2-20).
  - The unemployment rate had been rising with the rapidly deteriorating economic situation of recent years, but it is on the decline since 2011 (Chart 1-2-21).
Chart 1-2-19  Trends in Number of Employees (All Industries)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications “Labour Force Survey”
* Results in 2011 are for 44 prefectures excluding Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures

Chart 1-2-20  Situation of Retirement-aged Employees at Companies with Planned Employee Retirement at Age 60

(Note) Out of companies with 31 or more regular employees that also have a system of retirement at 60 years old, the number of persons who reached the age of retirement in the past year (from June 1, 2012 until May 31, 2013) was tallied. With respect to the persons who reached the age of retirement at the time of this tally, for 10 months from June 1, 2012 until March 31, 2013 their situation fell under the old system before the revision of the “Law concerning the Stability etc. of the Employment of the Elderly People etc.” and for 2 months from April 1, 2013 until May 31, 2013, their situation was after the revision of the law.
The ratio of people aged 65 and over against the total labor force population has increased greatly since 1980.

- The labor force population in 2013 was 65.77 million (Chart 1-2-22).
- The ratio of people aged 65 and over against the labor force population was 9.9%, a great increase from 4.9% in 1980.
Public Participation Activities of the Elderly

- The ratio of elderly people participating in group activities was around 60% and the ratio wishing to participate in the future was around 70%.
  - 61.0% of elderly people aged 60 and over participate in some group activities, which is an increase of 18.7 points compared to 10 years ago (Chart 1-2-23).
  - Benefits for elderly people who participated in autonomous group activities were ranked “I could get a new friend” (48.8%) as the first, followed by “I started to feel fulfilment in my life” (46.0%) and “I got confidence in my health and physical power” (44.4%) (Chart 1-2-24).
  - In terms of groups in which the elderly people wish to participate, “circles and groups of hobbies” came first (31.5%), followed by “circles and groups of health and sports” (29.7%). In terms of the groups they are participating in, “block associations and neighborhood community associations” came first (26.7%), with approximately one person out of four participating (Chart 1-2-25).

![Chart 1-2-23 Elderly Persons' Participation in Group Activities (multiple answers possible)](chart)

Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's participation in local communities” (2008)
(Note 1) The survey was carried out nationwide on males and females aged 60 and over.
(Note 2) * Indicates that there is no data because there were no alternatives at the time of investigation etc.