Chart 1-2-24

Effects of Elderly Persons' Participation in Group Activities (multiple answers possible)



Source:Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's participation in local communities" (2013)(Note)The survey was carried out nationwide for males and females aged 60 and over.

Chart 1-2-25

Groups in Which the Elderly Want to and are Actively Participating (multiple answers possible)



O Learning Activities of the Elderly

- Looking at the participation status of elderly people in learning activities, the ratios of people in their 60s and those aged 70 years and over who participated in lifelong learning activities in the past year were both 50% or greater. As for the types of activities, the most common answer was health and sports, at 31.7% for people in their 60s and 28.8% for those 70 years and over (Chart 1-2-26).
- Looking at the reasons why the elderly are not doing lifelong learning activities, "I am busy for work and cannot spare my time" (40.8%) comes first for those in their 60s, followed by "I cannot catch a chance" (20.9%). For those aged 70 years and over, "I don't need them specially" (19.8%) comes first (Chart 1-2-27).

Chart 1-2-26 Elderly Participation in Lifelong Learning (multiple answers possible)



Source: Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on the lifelong learning" (2012)

(Note) The survey was performed for all Japanese nationals of 20 years old and over nationwide, but in the above chart, only answers given by elderly people aged 60 years and over are listed.

Chart 1-2-27

Reasons that the Elderly are Not Practicing Lifelong Learning



Source: Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on the lifelong learning" (2012)
(Note) The survey was performed for all Japanese nationals of 20 years old and over nationwide, but in the above chart, only answers given by elderly people aged 60 years and over are listed.

6 Living Environment of Elderly People

○ 90% of elderly people are satisfied with their current residence.

• When asked about the degree of satisfaction of their current residence, those who replied "satisfied" or "satisfied to some extent" were 89.3% of the total; 91.2% had their own house and 69.9% lived in rental housing (Chart 1-2-28).



O The number of traffic fatalities of the elderly increased for the first time in 12 years.

• The number of traffic fatalities of elderly people aged 65 years and over was 2,303 in 2013, which is the first increase since 2001, and the ratio against the total number of traffic fatalities was 52.7%, the highest to date (Chart 1-2-29).



Crimes by Elderly People

• In 2012, the number of elderly persons aged 65 and over who were arrested due to criminal acts was about double that of 2002, and an about 50% increase in the criminal rate (Chart 1-2-29).



Crimes Committed by the Elderly

(The number of elderly people arrested for criminal cases, classified by crime type and rate)

• Among males living alone, many people have less interchange with other people or have no person to rely on.

- When we consider the frequency of conversation by elderly people aged 60 and over as a whole (including telephone and e-mail conversations), more than 90% make conversation every day. However, with regard to those living alone, many have conversation "once every 2-3 days" or less, accounting for 28.8% of males living alone and 22.0% of females living alone (Chart 1-2-31).
- Regarding the degree of association with their neighbors, the largest category was 51.0% of the total who declared "we keep on good terms" followed by 43.9% who said "we exchange greetings, that will be all" and 5.1% expressed that they have "almost no contact." If we look at the data by gender or household composition, 17.4% of males living alone have almost no contact. Conversely, 60.9% of females living alone are "in good contact" (Chart 1-2-32).
- Further, in the case of sickness or necessary daily tasks that cannot be done alone (for example, changing light bulbs or gardening), the ratio of persons who have no one to rely upon was 2.4% overall and as high as 20.0% for males living alone (Chart 1-2-33).



Chart 1-2-31 Frequency of Conversation (including telephone and e-mail)

Source: Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's economic life" (2011)

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

(Note 2) Answers other than the above were "Every day" or "I do not know."

(Note 3) Figures in brackets are the ratios of those who answered "Every day."

Chart 1-2-32 Degree of Association with Neighbors



Source:Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on elderly persons' housing and living environment (2010)(Note)The survey was carried out nationwide for males and females aged 60 and over.





O Many cases can be considered solitary death.

- Cases of breathing one's last breath without being taken care of by anybody or being left alone for a considerable period of time in a so-called "solitary death" (dying alone) are reported. According to the data published by the Tokyo Medical Examiners' Office, which examines and performs autopsies on persons who died acute deaths due to unknown causes or accidents, the number of at-home deaths of persons aged 65 and over living alone was 2,733 in FY 2013 (Chart 1-2-34).
- In about 750,000 rental houses under the operational management of the independent administrative corporation Urban Renaissance Agency, the number of cases in which the resident living alone was discovered after a considerable period of time (more than one week) after death (excluding suicides or murders) was 220 in FY 2012, with 157 cases involving elderly people aged 65 and over. Compared to FY 2008, it increased about 40% for the whole and about 80% in the case of elderly people aged 65 and over (Chart 1-2-35).
- The proportion of the people who consider solitary death without being taken care of and being found post-mortem a familiar problem (total of those who "feel so very much" and "feel so more or less") was less than 20% among elderly persons aged 60 and over, but in the case of those living alone this figure exceeded 40% (Chart 1-2-36).

People Living Alone Aged 65 and Over who Died at Home in Tokyo's 23 Wards

Cases of Solitary Death Discovered After a Considerable Period of Time



People who Consider Solitary Death a Familiar Issue



Source: Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's health" (2012) (Note) The survey was carried out nationwide for males and females aged 60 and over.

* The definition of "solitary death" in this survey is "death discovered after having died without anyone present."

O Damages Suffered by Elderly People During the Great East Japan Earthquake

• The death toll recorded in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures from March 11, 2011 to March 11, 2014 reached 15,814, and 10,384 out of 15,717 persons whose ages were confirmed after postmortem inspections and other inspections were elderly people aged 60 and over, accounting for 66.1 % of the total (Chart 1-2-37).



Chart 1-2-37 Death Toll by Age Group

Source: National Police Agency "About the cause of death of people died in the 2011 Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake" (11/03/11 – 11/03/14)

* Calculated the number of people whose age was confirmed after postmortem inspections and other inspections.

Column 1: Dementia Café "Orange Salon" Stone Warehouse Café Sense of responsibility from realizing one's role

- O According to the Five Year Plan for Promoting Measures against Dementia (Orange Plan), beginning in 2013, support for people with dementia and their families will be promoted with the prevalence of "dementia cafés."
- O Mr. A, who suffers from dementia (aged 70 years at the time), appealed at a gathering of families, saying that he wished to do something to help other people. As a result, the members of the family association stated at a gathering that they want to satisfy A's hopes and would like to have the people in the community know more about dementia, and opened the café as a result.
- O A previously unused warehouse made of stone was remodeled by community volunteers.
- O The family association caretaker and supporters are engaged in the management of the café, where cakes and beverages like coffee, as well as lunches mainly prepared with local vegetables, are served.
- O The café is visited not only by those with dementia and their families, but also local persons, and some 30 people gather at each session at the café.
- O Mr. A is the master of the café and takes orders in his black apron, and carries coffee and cakes. Café users with dementia help Mr. A by putting away and washing dishes. The café is unique in that each person with dementia plays a role within the scope of his/her ability.
- O Ms. Rinko Kanazawa, the representative of the Tochigi Prefecture Branch of the family association, talks about the effects of the Dementia Café: "By playing the role of a shop owner, Mr. A now feels a sense of responsibility, recognizing his role. He seems to be happy chatting with other people."

Column 2: Childcare and Town-Building Producer Project

- O Many males who have been focused only on their work are worried about how to spend their own free time after retiring from long careers.
- Aiming to make use of the ample experience of males who were active as businessmen and professionals for the building of a new childcare-centered community, NPO corporation Ai-Port Station is managing the Childcare and Town-Building Producer Project with the assistance of Sumitomo Life Insurance Company.
- O To become a childcare and town-building support producer (hereafter "Support Producer"), one needs to master the development course, consisting of lectures, practice, and on-site experience organized by the corporation.
- As of April 2014, 36 people accredited for their qualification in the development course in the initial term of the Project are acting as Support Producers. Their average age is approximately 63 years old.
- The Project is mainly being carried out in Minao Ward, Chiyoda Ward and Urayasu City where the corporation has established collaboration systems for childcare support. In these places, the Support Producers help with annual events and plan and manage bazaars, etc., acting in a versatile manner.
- O The Support Producers are showing their desire to continue future activities to handle the back office functions of local childcare support, sharing that they "want to back up those who are engaged in childcare on-site so that they may be more dedicated to their work" and "want to set a precedent by becoming pioneers."
- Cooperating with the local municipality, the corporation created Friends Village (located in Chiyoda Ward), a daytime activities' support project activity enacted during school vacation periods, which targets children attending special-needs schools and classes.
- In the future, the corporation will welcome persons accredited in the development course's second term as new Support Producers. Aiming for a greater variety of projects and further cooperation with local autonomies and companies, the corporation will take on all sorts of activities.