

**Annual Report
on the Ageing Society
[Summary] FY2024**

**June 2024
Cabinet Office
Japan**

Annual Report on the Ageing Society

The government submits this Report annually to the National Diet (Legal white paper) in accordance with the Basic Act on Measures for the Ageing Society. This edition is the 29th.

Basic Act on Measures for the Ageing Society

Article 8.1. The government shall submit a report annually to the National Diet concerning the state of the ageing society and the implementation of measures for the ageing society adopted by the government.

Article 8.2. The government shall prepare and submit to the National Diet annually a document which clearly describes the measures that will be adopted to take account of the state of the ageing society as described in the report of the preceding paragraph.

Chapter 1 Situation of the Ageing Population

Section 1 Situation of the Ageing Population (Trends in Ageing population and Projection for the Future)

Section 2 Trends of Living of the Elderly (Trends in Ageing Population and Projection for the Future, Trends in People in Employment and Employment Rate by Age, and Trends in the Numbers and Percentages of People Aged 65 or Over and Living Alone)

Section 3 <Special Feature> Trends in the Housing and Living Environment of the Elderly

<Topics>

1. Omuta City, Fukuoka Prefecture:
Resolution of issues through collaboration in housing measures and welfare measures
2. Ikoma City, Nara Prefecture:
Tailor-made empty house measures conducted in public-private collaborations
3. Kasugai City, Aichi Prefecture:
The Last Mile Automatic Driving Pickup and Drop-Off Service
4. Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture:
Two end-of-life planning support services with the aim of respecting citizens

Chapter 2 Situation Regarding Implementation of the FY 2023 Measures for the Ageing Society

Section 1 Fundamental Framework of Measures for the Ageing Society

Section 2 Implementation Status of Measures in each Field (Measures implemented by each government ministry and agency during FY 2023)

1. Employment and Income
2. Health and Welfare
3. Learning and Social Participation
4. Living Environment
5. Research Development and Contribution to the World
6. Promote Success of All Generations

Chapter 3 Measures for the Ageing Society in FY 2024

Section 1 Basic Approach to Measures for the Ageing Society in FY 2024

Section 2 Measures for the Ageing Society in each Field (Measures implemented by each government ministry and agency during FY 2024)

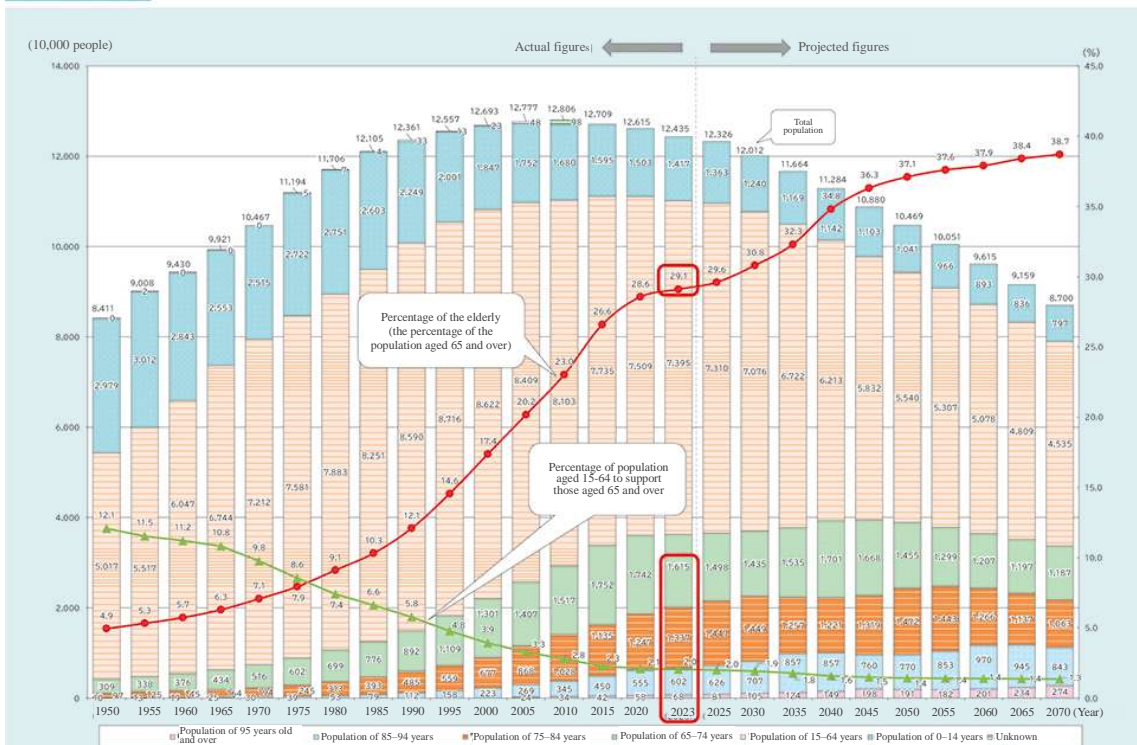
1. Employment and Income
2. Health and Welfare
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Chapter 1 Situation of the Ageing Population

Section 1 Situation of the Ageing Population and Section 2 Trends of Living of the Elderly

- **The percentage of the elderly rises to 29.1%**
 - The total population of Japan is 124.35 million people as of October 1, 2023.
 - The number of the population aged 65 and over is 36.23 million. The percentage of the population aged 65 and over (percentage of the elderly) is 29.1%.
 - The number of the population aged 65-74 is 16.15 million, accounting for 13.0% of the total population. The population aged 75 and over is 20.08 million, accounting for 16.1% of the total population, and has overtaken the population aged 65-74 in size.
 - By 2070, one in 2.6 people will be 65 years old and over, and one in 4.0 will be 75 years old and over.

Chart 1-1 Trends in Ageing Population and Projection for the Future



Source: With regard to the ageing rate shown in the bar graph and solid line, the figures are taken up until 2020 from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) Population Census (figures in 2015 and 2020 are based on the results with imputation), from MIC's Population Estimates for 2023 (as of October 1, 2023 (final estimates), and from 2025 onwards from the projection based on the medium fertility variants with a medium-mortality assumption in the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research's Population Projections for Japan (2023).

(Note 1) The population by age group in 2015 and 2020 is based on the results with imputation, so "age unknown" does not exist. The population by age group in 2023 is calculated based on the population of MIC's 2020 Population Census (result with imputation), so "age unknown" does not exist. Furthermore, the population by age group after 2025 is based on the Population Census Reference Table (result with imputation) of 2020 by MIC's Statistical Bureau, so "age unknown" does not exist. In calculating the rates of ageing from 1950 to 2010, the "age unknown" is excluded from the denominator. However, in calculating the rates for 1950 and 1955, the part of the Okinawa Prefecture population shown in (Note 2) is not included in the "age unknown."

(Note 2) For Okinawa Prefecture, 136 foreigners (55 males and 81 females) aged 70 and over in 1950 and 23,328 people (8,090 males and 15,238 females) aged 70 and over in 1955 are excluded from the population aged 65 and over, and included in the "age unknown."

(Note 3) Population projections represent the future trends of population based on the demographic data obtained before the base year. Deviation between the projection and actual result is likely to occur due to structural changes and other reasons occurring after the base year, and the population projections are regularly revised based on such results.

(Note 4) Until 2000 those aged 85 and over were collectively sectioned as "85 years and over."

(Note 5) The figures do not necessarily add up to exact totals due to rounding off.

Who are the elderly?

The term "the elderly" is applied to different subjects depending on context and systems, and there is no uniform definition. The Guideline of Measures for Ageing Society (decided by the Cabinet in February 2018) uses as a generally accepted term "the elderly" for the sake of convenience. In this white paper too, the term is used in its generally accepted sense except in cases in which the definitions in various statistics or systems are followed.

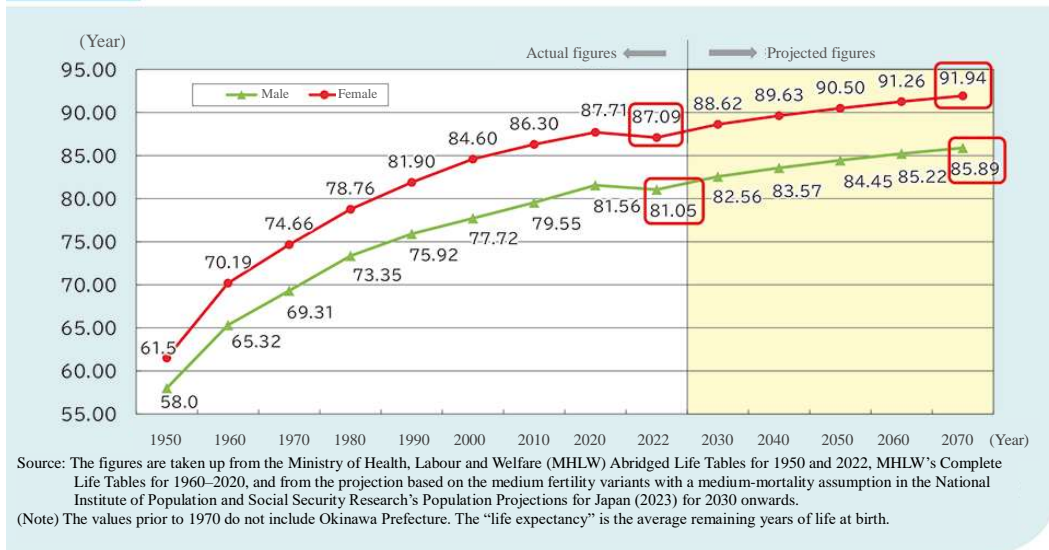
For the classification and the definitions of the elderly, the "Working Group Report on the Definition of the Elderly" (March 2017) from the Joint Committee of Japan Gerontological Society and the Japan Geriatrics Society proposes to newly define people aged 75 and over as the elderly.

The Guideline of Measures for Ageing Society also states that the general tendency to uniformly regard people aged 65 and over as "the elderly" is no longer realistic in light of the current situation.

○ **Life expectancy at birth in the future will be 85.89 years for males and 91.94 year for females**

- As of 2022, the life expectancy at birth of Japanese men was 81.05 years and that of Japanese women was 87.09 years.
- In the future the life expectancy at birth of both men and women will be extended with the figures for the year 2070 reaching 85.89 years for males and 91.94 years for females, and an era in which women live to over 90 years is foreseen.

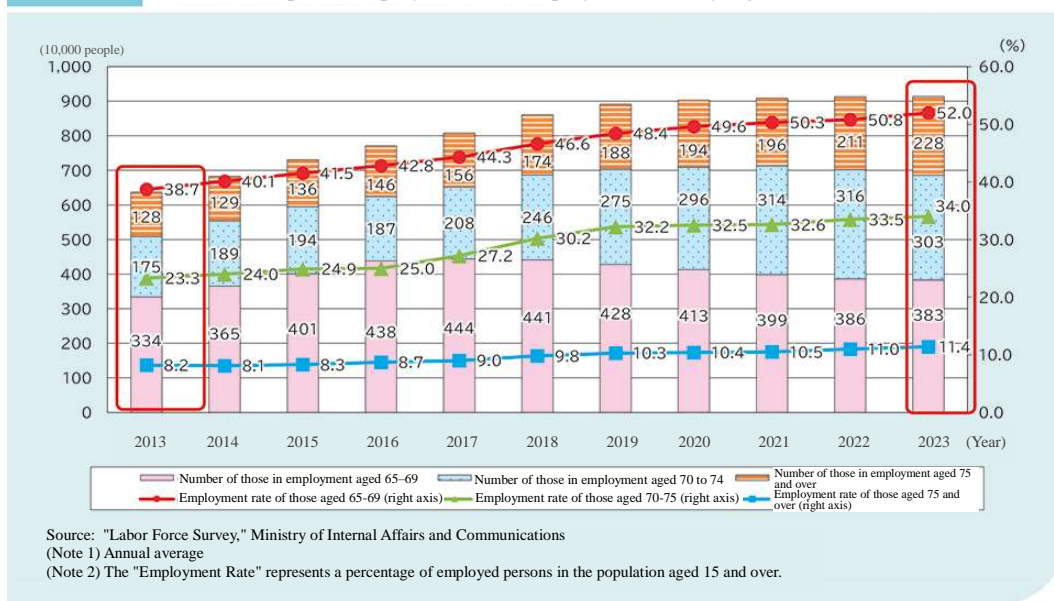
Chart 1-2 Trends in Life Expectancy at Birth and Projection for the Future



○ **The number of people in employment and employment rate of people aged 65 and over are both trending upwards**

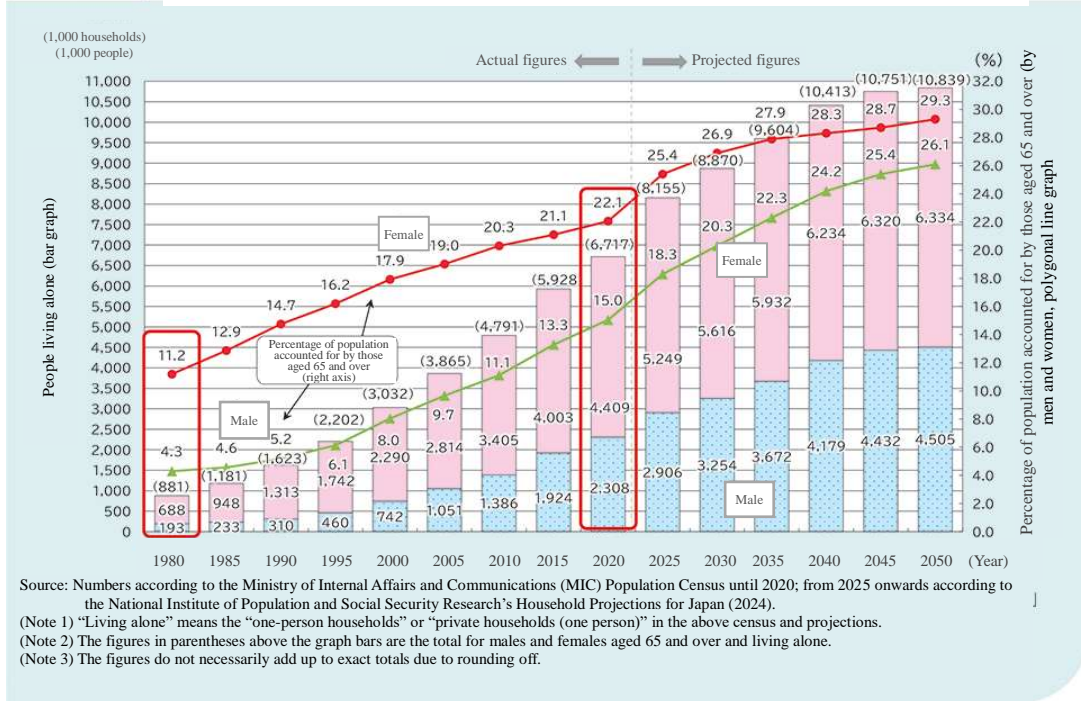
- The number of people aged 65 and over in employment and the employment rate of those aged 65 and over are trending upwards, and in particular the number of people aged 65 and over in employment has exceeded the previous year for 20 consecutive years.
- Compared to ten years ago in 2013, the employment rates have increased for those aged 65 to 69 by 13.3 percentage points, for those aged 70 to 74 by 10.7 percentage points and for those aged 75 and over by 3.2 percentage points.

Chart 1-3 Trends in People in Employment and Employment Rate by Age



- **Increasing trend of people aged 65 and over and living alone**
 - The number of people, both men and women, aged 65 and over living alone is trending upwards.
 - In 1980 the percentages of the population of men and women aged 65 and over and living alone were 4.3% for males and 11.2% for females, but these percentage increased to 15.0% for males and 22.1% for females in 2020, and are expected to reach 26.1% for males and 29.3% for females in 2050.

Chart 1-4 Trends in the Numbers and Percentages of People Aged 65 or Over and Living Alone



Section 3 <Special Feature> Trends in the Housing and Living Environment of the Elderly

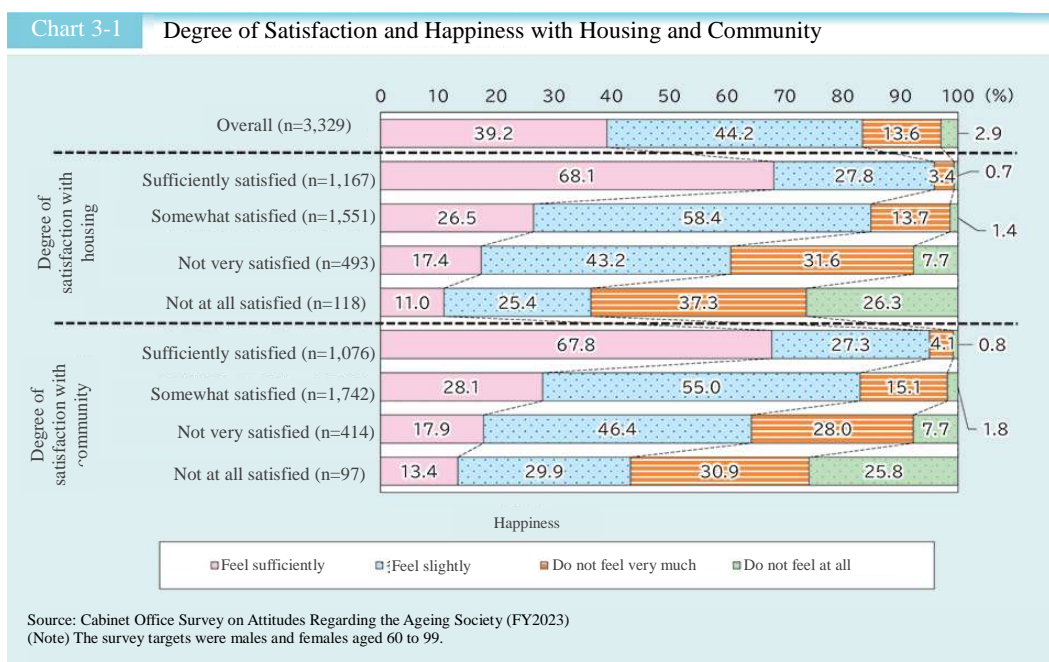
The rate of ageing in Japan is 29.1% (as of October 1, 2023) and, in the midst of a situation in which this figure is expected to further increase, it is important to secure the housing that is the basis of living and develop a pleasant living environment in order that the elderly can spend their old age in peace of mind.

However, as it is expected that the number of single elderly people will increase in the future, there is concern about an increase in elderly people who will have trouble securing housing. Furthermore, the environment surrounding the elderly is dramatically changing due to lifestyle changes arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing rural depopulation, and increasingly acute and frequent natural disasters.

Therefore, in this section an analysis, based on the following two surveys conducted by the Cabinet Office in FY2023, is made concerning the state of and attitudes towards housing and living environments of the elderly and attitudes towards the relocation of housing at an older age, followed by some observations on the direction of measures that will be required in the future and the other necessary approaches.

○ **There is a strong correlation between degree of satisfaction with housing and community of residence, and degree of happiness felt**

There is a strong positive correlation between the housing and communities elderly people live in and their degree of satisfaction and happiness; the development of good housing and living environments is important.



○ **With regard to current housing, a large number of elderly people feel anxieties about deterioration, disaster and crime**

A particularly large proportion of respondents cited anxieties about deterioration, disaster and crime regarding current housing. Compared to those living in rented houses, a particularly large proportion of those living in their own houses said that their houses are too big, have too many rooms, and cited anxieties about disaster and crime prevention. Compared to those with their own houses, a particularly large proportion of those living in rented houses cited the heaviness of the financial burden of rent etc. and difficult-to-use housing equipment in kitchens and bathrooms. The resolution of the mismatch between the lifestyle needs of the elderly and their housing, such as support for house alterations and the promotion of providing housing aimed at the elderly, is becoming an issue.

Chart 3-2 Problems with Current Housing (Overall)

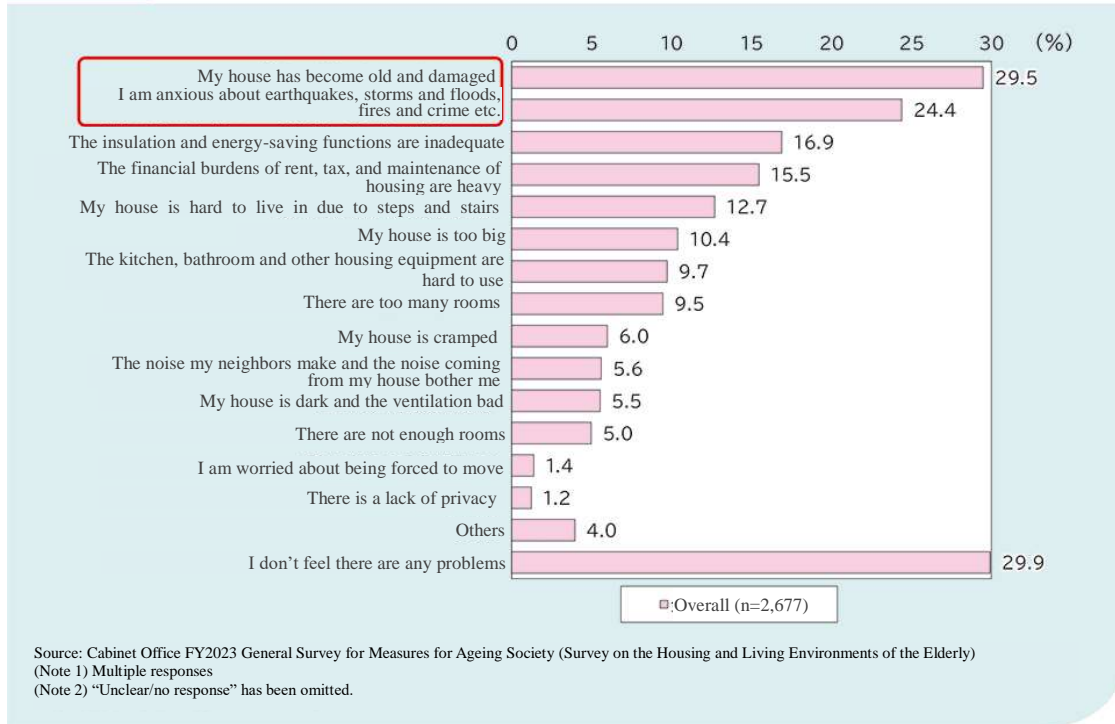
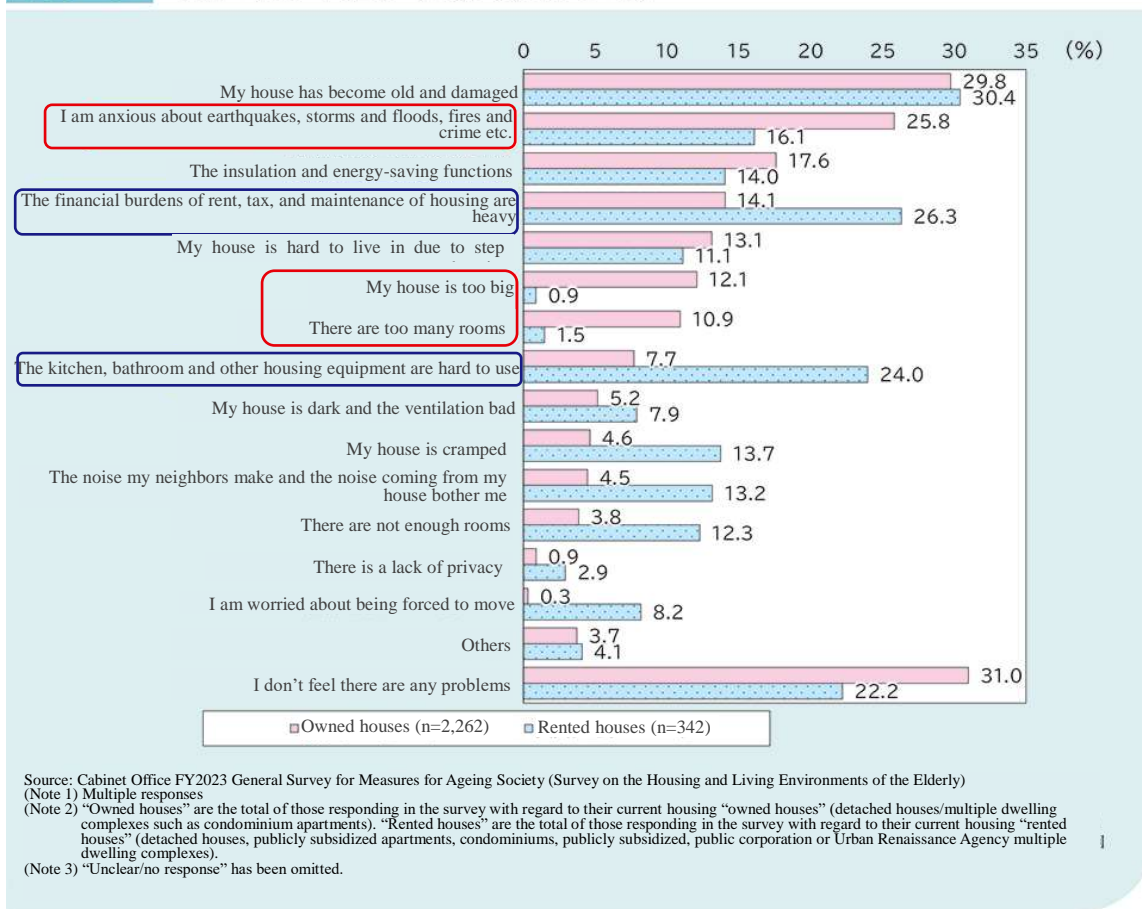


Chart 3-3 Current Housing Problems (Owned Houses/Rented Houses)

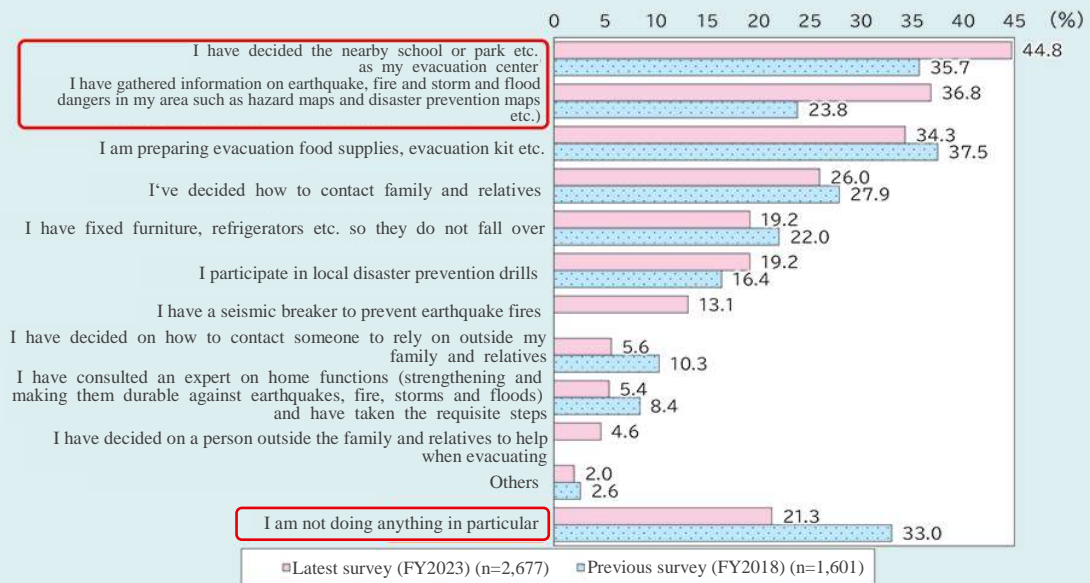


○ **The rising proportion of those preparing for earthquakes and other disasters, and consideration to elderly people living alone**

Compared with the previous survey (FY2018), a greatly increased proportion of elderly people are making preparations such as deciding on which evacuation center to use and collecting disaster prevention information such as hazard maps.

On the other hand, with regard to elderly people living on their own the proportion responding that “I’m not doing anything in particular” was high compared to other elderly people, and the proportion of those taking measures regarding other matters was also low among those living on their own. It is important to provide support for measures involving work that it is difficult for the elderly living alone such as preventing furniture from falling over, evacuation support during disasters, and important to promote measures that pay consideration to the expected increase in elderly people living alone in the future.

Chart 3-4 Preparations for Earthquakes and Other Disasters (Comparison with Previous Survey)



Source: Cabinet Office FY2023 General Survey for Measures for Ageing Society (Survey on the Housing and Living Environments of the Elderly)

(Note 1) Multiple responses

(Note 2) As the target respondents in the previous survey were those aged 60 and over, the responses of those aged 65 years and over only have been sampled and calculated.

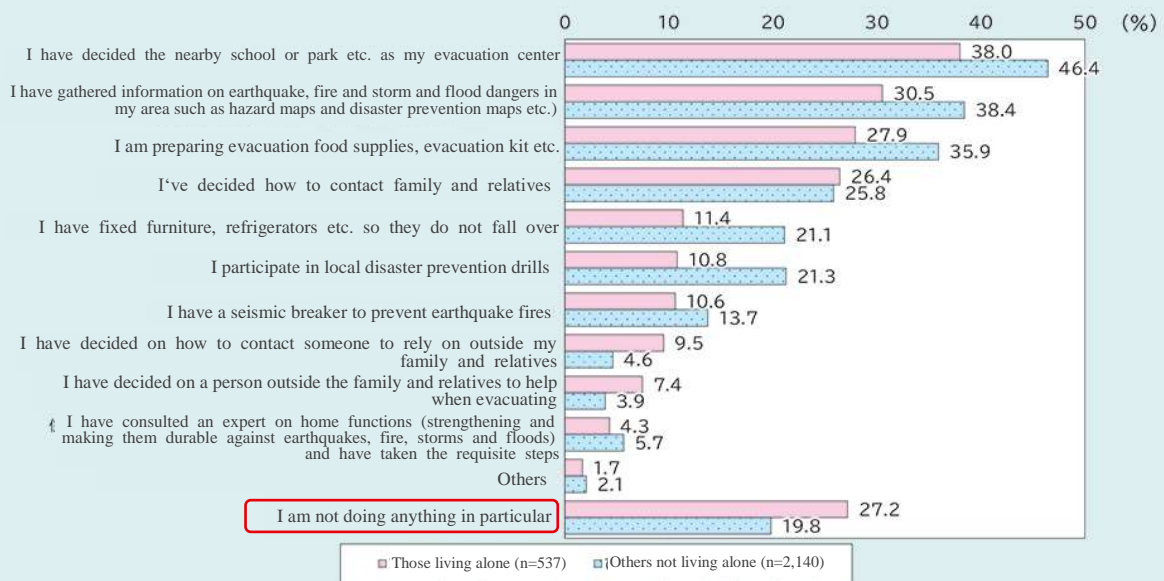
(Note 3) The average and median values for the population in the survey and the previous survey are as follows (in the previous survey they were the population from which those aged 65 and over were sampled). Latest survey – average value 75.2 years; median value 74.0 years, previous survey – average value 74.2 years; median value 73.0 years.

(Note 4) “Unclear/no response” has been omitted.

(Note 5) The choices “I have a seismic breaker to prevent earthquake fires,” and “I have decided on a person outside the family and relatives to help when evacuating” were in the latest survey only.

(Note 6) With regard to the choice “I have consulted an expert on home functions (strengthening and making them durable against earthquakes, fire, storms and floods) and have taken the requisite steps,” in the previous survey the choice was “I have consulted an expert on home functions (strengthening and making them

Chart 3-5 Preparations for Earthquakes and Other Disasters (Comparison Between People Living Alone and Others)



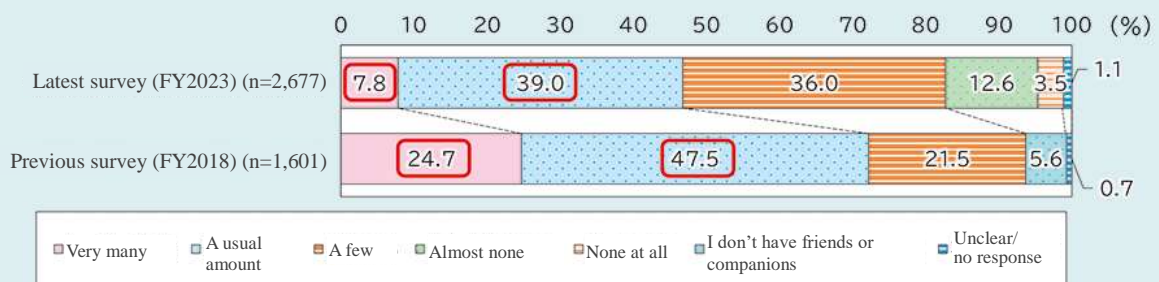
Source: Cabinet Office FY2023 General Survey for Measures for Ageing Society (Survey on the Housing and Living Environments of the Elderly)
 (Note 1) Multiple responses
 (Note 2) "Unclear/no response" has been omitted.

○ **Promotion of measures against loneliness and isolation based on the changes in interpersonal relations**

Compared to the previous survey (FY2018), the proportion of elderly people responding that they had many or a normal number of close friends and companions has dropped dramatically. Furthermore, the proportion of elderly people who talk to somebody every day has considerably declined, and this trend is marked among elderly people living alone.

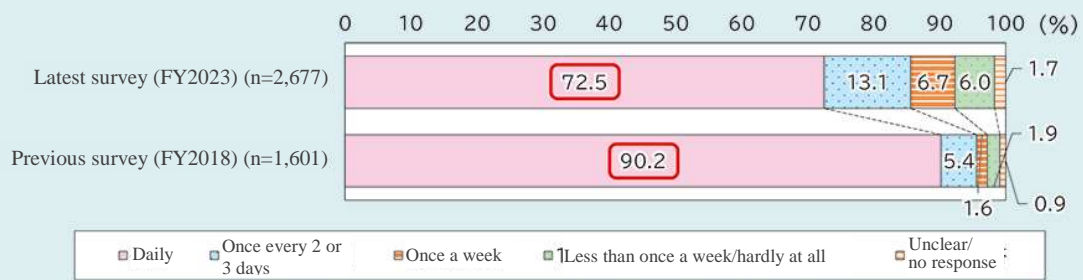
Based on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a need to promote measures to ensure that elderly people do not fall into unwanted states of loneliness and isolation. In the midst of expectations that there will be a further increase in elderly people living alone in the future, there is also a need for thorough considerations regarding various forms of support in daily life hitherto performed by families, and how this support will be provided in communities and society.

Chart 3-6 Do You Have Close Friends and Companions? (Comparison with Previous Survey)



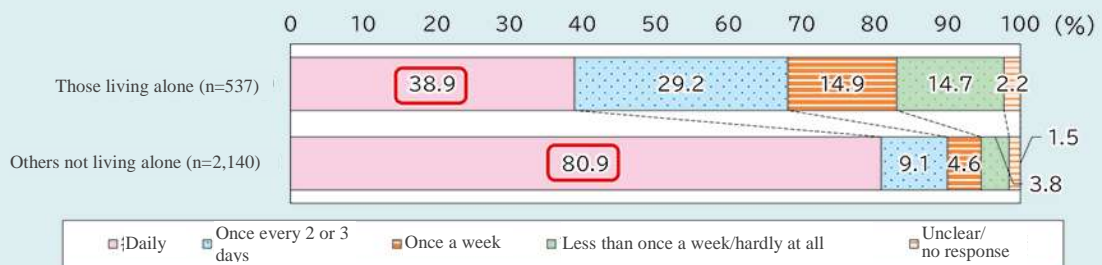
Source: Cabinet Office FY2023 General Survey for Measures for Ageing Society (Survey on the Housing and Living Environments of the Elderly)
 (Note 1) As the target respondents in the previous survey were those aged 60 and over, the responses of those aged 65 years and over only have been sampled and calculated.
 (Note 2) The wording of the responses "Very many", "A usual amount" and "A few" was very slightly different in the previous survey.
 (Note 3) The choice "I don't have friends or companions" in the previous survey has been changed to "Almost none" and "none at all" in the latest survey.

Chart 3-7 Frequency with Which People Talk to Each Other (Comparison to Previous Survey)



Source: Cabinet Office FY2023 General Survey for Measures for Ageing Society (Survey on the Housing and Living Environments of the Elderly)
 (Note) As the target respondents in the previous survey were those aged 60 and over, the responses of those aged 65 years and over only have been sampled and calculated.

Chart 3-8 Frequency with Which People Talk to Each Other (Comparison Between Those Living Alone and Others)



Source: Cabinet Office FY2023 General Survey for Measures for Ageing Society (Survey on the Housing and Living Environments of the Elderly)

○ **With regard to living environments, a large proportion place an emphasis on access to medical and long-term care, and ease of transport**

As a factor upon which an emphasis is placed regarding the community living environment, a large proportion cited access to medical and long-term care as well as ease of transport and shopping; compared to males, a large proportion of females in particular cited housing that is aimed at the elderly, and living in proximity to close friends and acquaintances.

However, a large proportion feel inconvenienced in these matters, and there is a need for the construction of local comprehensive care systems to secure support in the community for medical care, long-term care, preventive medicine, housing and daily life, as well as a need to make further improvements to measures aimed at the everyday transport needs in the community.

Chart 3-9 Factors Emphasized Regarding Homes and Community Environment (by Gender)

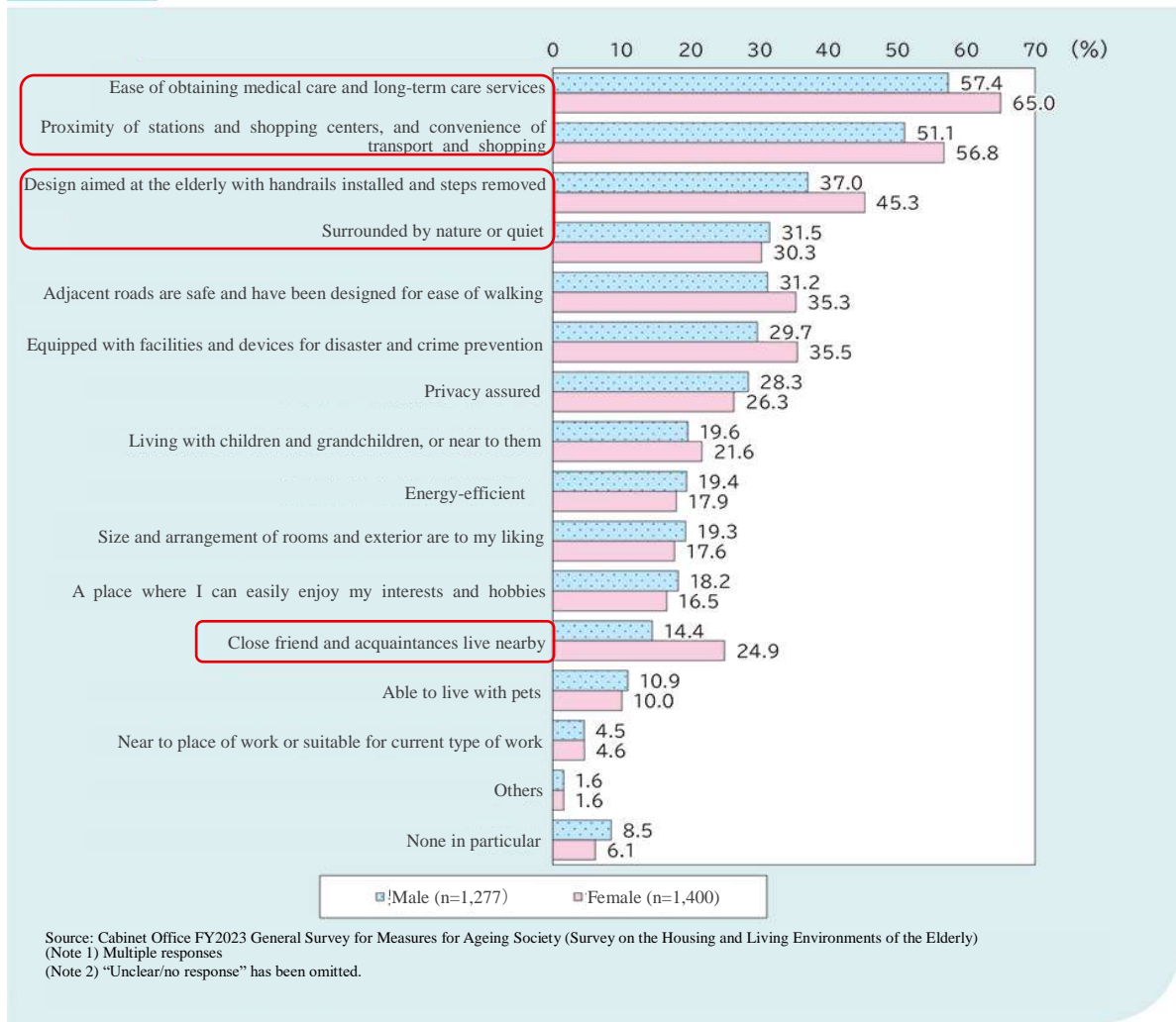
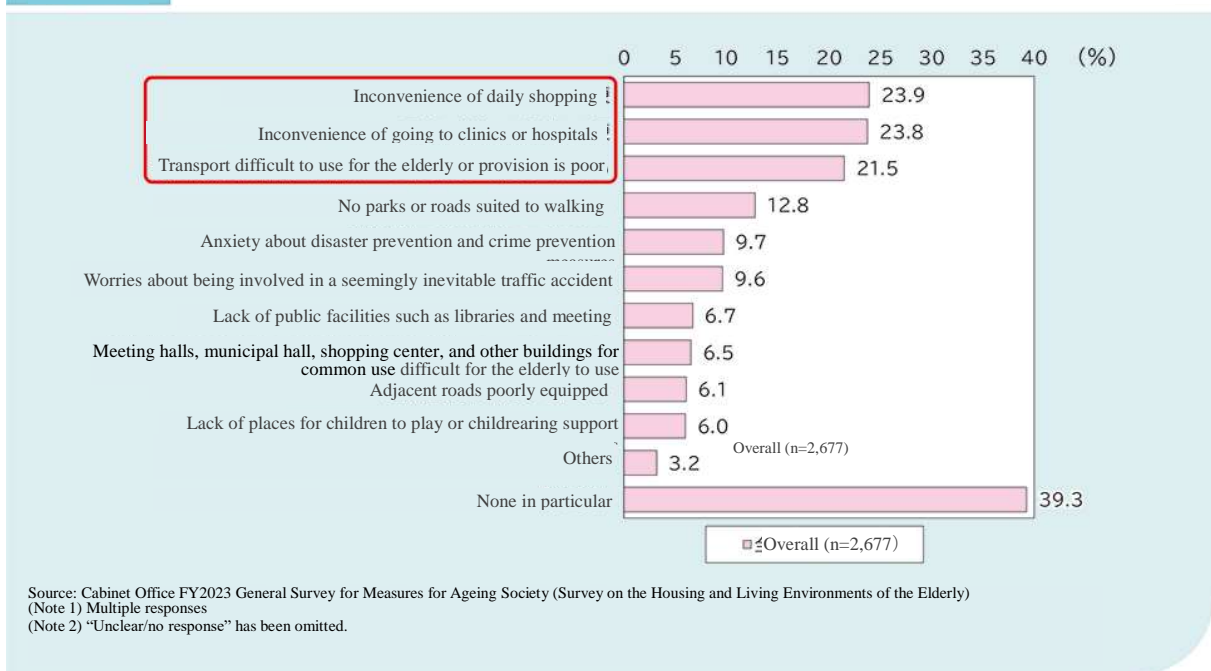


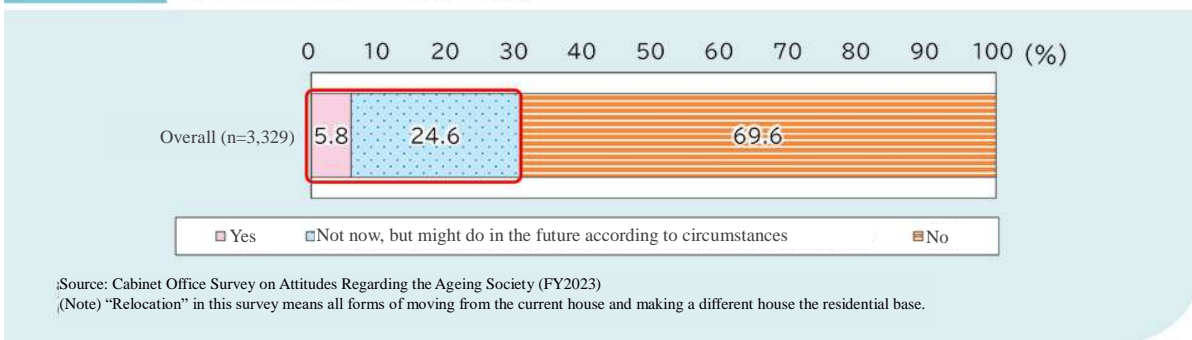
Chart 3-10 Matters of Inconvenience and Trouble in the Community of Current Housing (Overall)



○ **Around 30% of those aged 60 and over are hoping to relocate their houses**

Around 30% of people aged 60 and over are hoping to relocate their houses (including those who would like to consider doing so in the future depending on circumstances).

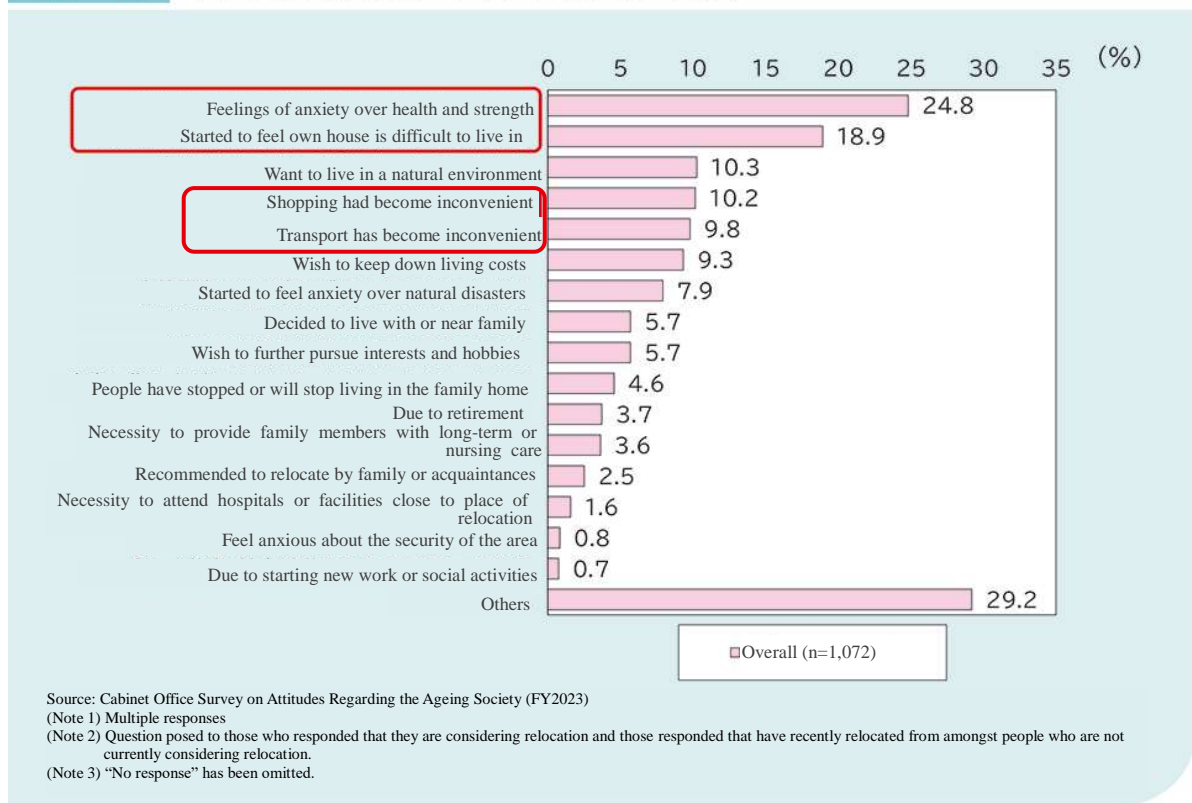
Chart 3-11 Whether or Not People Are Considering Relocating Houses (Overall)



○ **Anxieties about health and strength, and uncomfortable housing are reasons why elderly people consider relocating their houses**

With regard to the reasons why elderly people have started to want to relocate their houses, a high proportion cited anxieties about health and strength as well as inconvenience of shopping and transport.

Chart 3-12 Reasons Why Elderly People Consider Relocating (Overall)



○ **There are considerable needs for assistance concerning the costs and provision of information about properties and support systems as support for relocating house**

As desirable forms of support towards relocating house, a large proportion of elderly people cited support for relocation costs, support concerning the provision of information on properties and support systems, and support for securing housing. According to the circumstances of the community, there is a requirement for further improvements in subsidies for moving costs, development of consultation points dealing with relocating house, and measures such as the provision of housing aimed at the elderly. There is a considerable need, for example, for daily life activity support for watching over and shopping for those aged 75 and over, or a considerable need for support for disposal of current housing for those living in their own houses, and as the circumstances and needs widely differ according to personal attributes, there is a requirement to improve meticulous support.

Chart 3-13 Desirable Support for Relocating House (Overall)

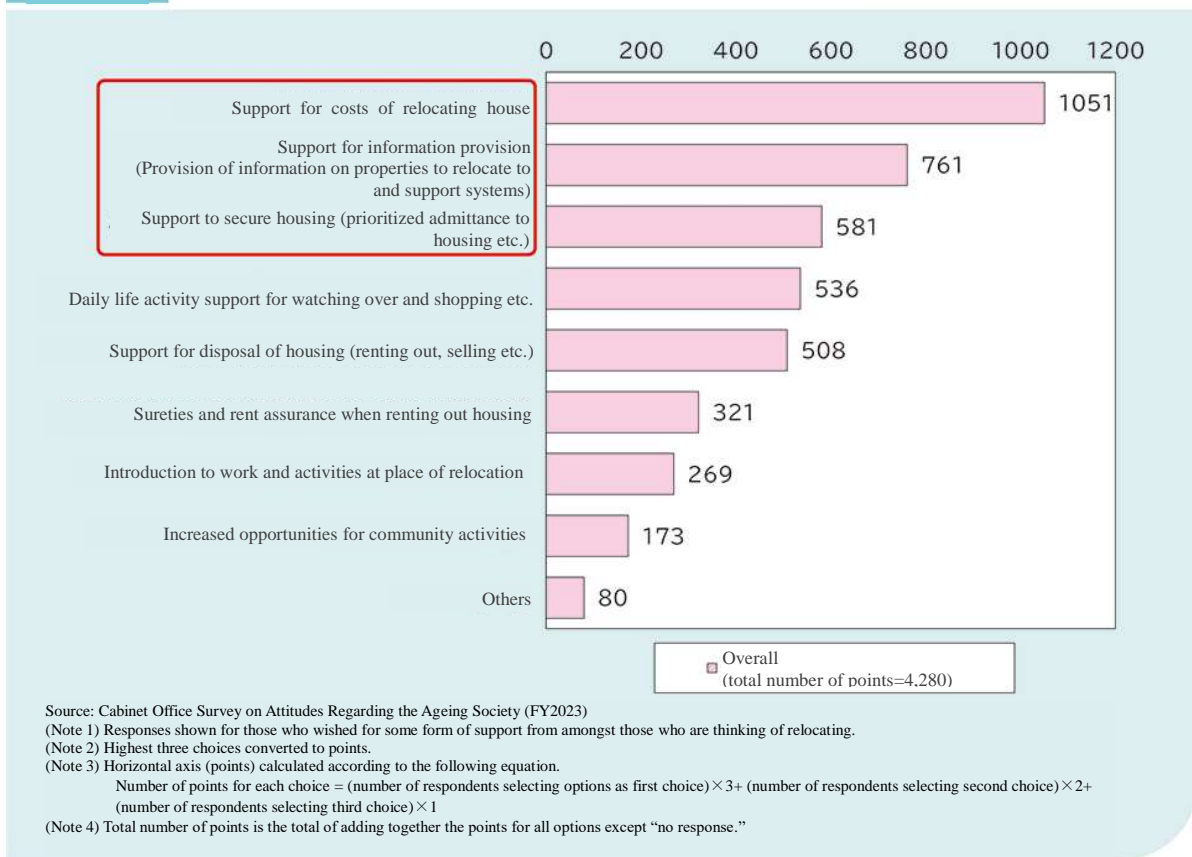


Chart 3-14

Desirable Support for Relocating House (By Age Group)

	Support for costs of relocating house	Support for information provision (Provision of information on properties to relocate to and support systems)	Support to secure housing (prioritized admittance to housing etc.)	Introduction to work and activities at place of relocation	Sureties and rent assurance when renting out housing	Support for disposal of housing (renting out, selling etc.)	Daily life activity support for watching over and shopping etc.	Increased opportunities for community activities	Others
60–64 years (total no. of points: 1,069)	288	170	155	118	100	92	86	42	18
65–69 years (total no. of points: 847)	225	126	121	79	82	96	89	20	9
70–74 years (total no. of points: 932)	226	190	120	30	73	122	116	36	19
75 years and over (total no. of points: 1,432)	312	275	185	42	66	198	245	75	34

Source: Cabinet Office Survey on Attitudes Regarding the Ageing Society (FY2023)

(Note 1) Responses shown for those who wished for some form of support from amongst those who are thinking of relocating.

(Note 2) The highest three choices have been converted to points. (For the method of point conversion, refer to Chart 3-13.)

Chart 3-15

Desirable Support for Relocating House (By Owned House/Rented House)

	Support for costs of relocating house	Support for information provision (Provision of information on properties to relocate to and support systems)	Support for disposal of housing (renting out, selling etc.)	Daily life activity support for watching over and shopping etc.	Support to secure housing (prioritized admittance to housing etc.)	Introduction to work and activities at place of relocation	Sureties and rent assurance when renting out housing	Increased opportunities for community activities	Others
Owned house (total no. of points: 3,112)	723	580	470	430	408	165	155	132	49
Rented house (total no. of points: 1,103)	318	164	30	100	168	96	162	38	27

Source: Cabinet Office Survey on Attitudes Regarding the Ageing Society (FY2023)

(Note 1) Responses shown for those who wished for some form of support from amongst those who are thinking of relocating.

(Note 2) The highest three choices have been converted to points. (For the method of point conversion, refer to Chart 3-13.)

Topics

(Case study 1) Omuta City, Fukuoka Prefecture: Resolution of issues through collaboration in housing measures and welfare measures

In Fukuoka Prefecture's Omuta City the Omuta City, Omuta City Residential Support Council has been established and provides consultation to the owners of empty houses on finding houses and the utilization of empty houses, with regard to the elderly with no relatives. In addition, through the Omuta Life Support Center - a resident support NPO that provides assistance in securing joint guarantors and sureties - a system has been created enabling support for moving into new housing and afterwards, and conducting support for securing housing and daily life. Through this initiative it has become possible for those who have hitherto struggled to move into new housing to do so, and the fact that there is a residential support body is reducing the anxieties of those owning empty houses and real estate companies, and linking in with the smooth matching of properties and people who wish to move into them.

(Case study 2) Ikoma City, Nara Prefecture: Tailor-made empty house measures conducted in public-private collaborations

In Nara Prefecture's Ikoma City the Ikoma Empty House Marketing Promotion Platform has been established in a municipal-private sector collaboration in an effort to encourage the marketing of empty houses. The city coordinates with the owners of empty houses, provides information on empty houses at the monthly Empty House Marketing Promotion Review Meeting, and the Review Meeting uses experts to identify the obstacles to marketing of each and every house, based upon which support is provided for suggesting response policy. The content of the support is wide-ranging, not only matching empty houses with those who wish to move in, but also covering demolition and improvements from disaster prevention perspectives. Since the Platform was established, the number of empty houses handled and the rate of concluding contracts with purchasers has increased steadily, and the number of empty houses is declining.

(Case study 3) Kasugai City, Aichi Prefecture: The Last Mile Automatic Driving Pickup and Drop-Off Service

In Aichi Prefecture's Kasugai City, securing modes of transport for those who have handed in their driving licenses is becoming an issue, and in order to resolve these problems various NPOs are playing a lead role in collaboration with local government, universities and the private sector to operate a door-to-door on-demand pickup and drop-off service that passengers can get on and off along the operated route regardless of where stops are located. There have been many messages of thanks from users of the service, in addition to which communication arises between users, drivers and fellow users, and the drivers notice subtle changes in the users and perform the role of hubs passing on their concerns to the Community General Support Center and other welfare services.

(Case study 4) Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture: Two end-of-life planning support services with the aim of respecting citizens

Kanagawa Prefecture's Yokosuka City has focused on the issues of the wishes of the deceased not being reflected in the handling of situations after their death. By registering end-of-life planning information with the city, in the event of the sudden passing of those registering, the city implements a service in which it conducts on the behalf the deceased responses to hospitals, the police, fires stations, welfare offices and other people they have specified. Registering with the service is free of charge to all citizens of Yokosuka City, and the information that can be registered is wide-ranging and includes emergency contacts, funeral operators or other contractors with which the deceased concluded agreements before his/her death, advance healthcare directives and locations of graves. Furthermore, those without any dependable family relations (income level restrictions apply) can conclude agreements with funeral operators and delegate the administrative procedures to them after death, and by also separately implementing services to verify that these are being executed after the registrant's death the city is effectively exercising their wishes.