Column: Japan's estimated future population by region

The population of Japan is expected to fall for a long time (note), and after the 2020-2025 timeframe, the population of all prefectures is expected to decrease, according to "Japan's estimated future population by region" (March 2013).

(Note) According to "Japan's estimated future population by region (as of January 2012)" (assuming birthrate and death rates remain at the middle level)

Table 1 Number of depopulating prefectures

FY 2005 to 2010	FY 2010 to 2015	FY 2015 to 2020	FY 2020 to 2025	FY 2025 to 2030	FY 2030 to 2035	FY 2035 to 2040
38	41	46	47	47	47	47

Note: FY 2005 to 2010 is an actual number, not a projection
Source: National institute of social security and the population problem: "Japan's estimated future population by region (March 2013)."

According to the 2010 Population Census, the prefectures with the largest percentage of the national population are Tokyo (10.3%), followed by Kanagawa (7.1%) and Osaka (6.9%). According to this estimation, the populations of Tokyo and Kanagawa are expected to gradually increase, but Osaka's population is expected to remain unchanged, and in FY 2040, the percentage of the national population residing in each prefecture will be as follows: Tokyo (11.5%), Kanagawa (7.8%) and Osaka (6.9%). Other than that, Saitama, Chiba, Aichi, Shiga and other prefectures' percentage of the national population have population are expected to continue slightly increasing.

Table 2 Percentage of national population residing in each region

(%)

Region	FY 2010	FY 2015	FY 2020	FY 2025	FY 2030	FY 2035	FY 2040
Nationwide	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Tokyo	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.1	11.3	11.5
Kanagawa	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.8
Osaka	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9
Saitama	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9
Chiba	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Aichi	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4
Shiga	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Source: National institute of social security and the population problem: "Japan's estimated future population by region (March 2013)."

The population of those aged 0-14 is expected to decrease in all of the prefectures in the future. In FY 2040, the largest percentage of population for those aged 0-14 will reside in Okinawa (13.9%), and the smallest percentage will reside in Akita (8.3%).

Table 3 **Percentage of the Population aged 0-14 in Each Prefecture**

(%)

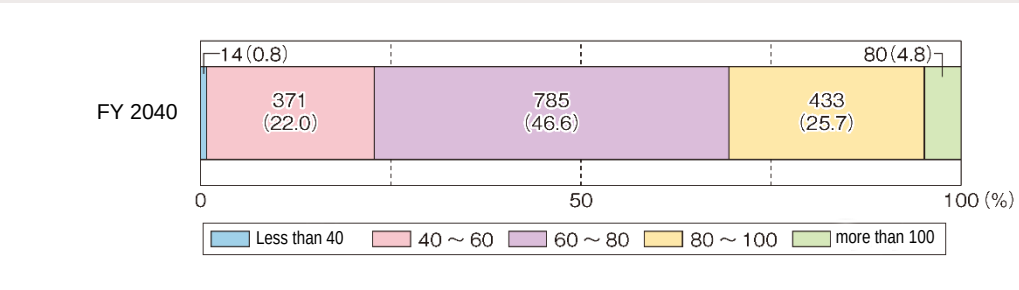
Rank	FY 2010		FY 2025		FY 2040	
	Nationwide	13.1	Nationwide	11.0	Nationwide	10.0
1	Okinawa	17.7	Okinawa	15.0	Okinawa	13.9
2	Shiga	15.0	Shiga	12.7	Shiga	11.7
3	Saga	14.5	Aichi	12.3	Saga	11.6
4	Aichi	14.4	Saga	12.3	Miyazaki	11.4
5	Miyazaki	14.0	Miyazaki	12.0	Aichi	11.3
⋮	⋮		⋮		⋮	
43	Tokushima	12.3	Kochi	10.0	Tokushima	9.2
44	Kochi	12.1	Tokyo	10.0	Tokyo	8.6
45	Hokkaido	11.9	Aomori	9.5	Aomori	8.6
46	Akita	11.4	Hokkaido	9.5	Hokkaido	8.4
47	Tokyo	11.3	Akita	9.0	Akita	8.3

Source: National institute of social security and the population problem: “Japan’s estimated future population by region (March 2013).”

Looking at estimated future populations by municipal government (note), the number of municipal governments in which the populations of FY 2040 are larger than those of FY 2010 is 80 (4.8% of all). On the other hand, the number of municipal governments in which the populations of FY 2040 are smaller than those of FY 2010 is 1,603 (95.2% of all). The number of municipal governments whose population will decrease by 0 to 20% is 433 (25.7% of all). 785 will decrease by 20 to 40% (46.6% of all), and 385 will decrease by more than 40% (22.9% of all).

(Note) 1,683 Municipal governments were measured in the study (776 cities, 23 Wards of Tokyo, 715 towns and 169 villages) as of 1st March 2013. These figures do not include municipal governments in Fukushima Prefecture in the projected estimates of future populations.

Fig. 4 **Number of municipal governments sorted by their projected percentage of decreased population by the year FY 2040 (if FY 2010 is 100)**

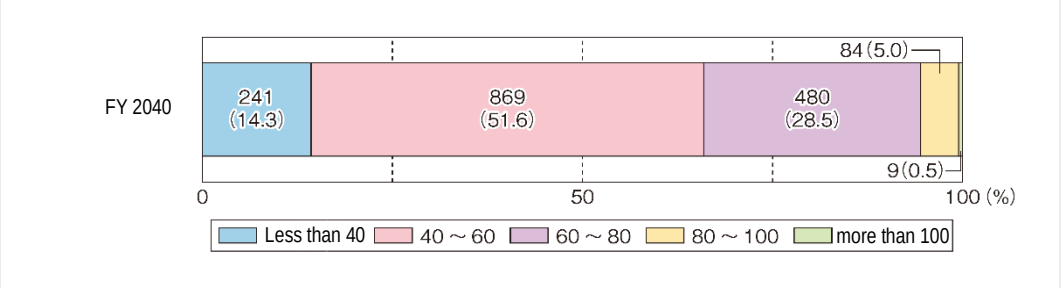


Note: 1. Index of total population indicates a figure of total population, if total population of FY 2010 is 100.
2. Figures in the graph indicate the number of municipal governments, figure in bracket (), a ratio to 1,683 municipalities (%).
3. The ratios are rounded, so the total is not always be 100.

Source: National institute of social security and the population problem: “Japan’s estimated future population by region (March 2013).”

According to this estimation, only nine municipal governments (0.5% of the total) whose 0-14 year old population is projected to be larger than that of FY 2010 in the year FY 2040. 66% of all municipal governments are expected to have populations that decrease by more than 40%.

Fig. 5 **Number of municipal governments by index of population aged 0-14 and their projected ratios in FY 2040 (relative values using that of FY 2010 as 100)**



Note: 1. Index of total population indicates a figure of population of age 0-14, if population of age 0-14 is 100.
2. Figures in the graph indicates number of municipal governments, figure in bracket (), a ratio to 1,683 municipalities (%).
3. The ratios are rounded, so the total isn't always be 100.

Source: National institute of social security and population problem, "Japan's estimated future population by region (March 2013)."

Column: Survey on Child-rearing in family and a region

Column: Opinion Survey about child-rearing in family and community
The various surveys in the past show that many young people wish to have a family in the future, and that they would like to have more than two children, however, with the trend to marry at a later stage in life often means that people's desire for more children is left unsatisfied.

This survey analyzes people's opinions about marriage, family planning, child birth and child-rearing, as well as analyzing the creation of an environment that supports child-rearing in each region.

<Which relationships do you care about the most?> (Figure 1)
As a whole, 96.9% said they cared the most about "family" followed by "relatives" at 55.1%, and "neighbors" at 49.4%.Regardless of gender, almost all men and women choose "family" as their most important relationship.

<Reasons why younger generations choose not marry or to marry at a later stage in life> (Figure 2)
51.9% of respondents replied that "being single is free and easy." 47.4% said they "cannot afford to marry," 47.4%, while 41.9% said they "feel no need for marriage." Less than 30% of respondents chose any of the other reasons.

The number one answer for most males (52%), was that they "cannot afford to marry"; whereas the number one answer for most females (55.3%), was that "being single is free and easy." Thus there is a significant difference in the concerns of men and women.

<Conditions for having children in the future> (Figure 3)
The top concern for all respondents (56.4%) is having a "work environment that is tolerant of their working while child-rearing." 51.9% felt that "Education costs must be less expensive," and 47.4% said they "must be healthy."

54.6% of males said that their top concern was "less expensive education," while 62% of females were most concerned with a "work environment that is tolerant of their working while child-rearing." The percentage of concerned females was greater than the percentage of concerned males for almost every question, but especially in regard to the need for a spouse who can help with child-rearing and housekeeping, only 26.8% of males cared about this; whereas, 48.9% of females cared, creating a significant gap of more than 20 percentage points.

<Ideal family types and the level of support from grandparents> (Figure 4, Figure 5)
When asked about the ideal family type, about half of the respondents said that it is ideal for their parents to live with them or to live nearby, but 31.8% would rather "live near either of their parents" than "live with them" (20.6%).

When asked about the desire to "live near grandparents" both males and females would rather live nearby their own parents as opposed to living nearby their parents-in-law.

When asked, "Do you think that it is desirable for grandparents to help with child-rearing and housekeeping until their grandchild goes to elementary school?", 80 % of the respondents replied "Yes, very much" or "Yes, somewhat."

<Importance of child-rearing support according to various age groups> (Figure 6)
Approximately 90% of the respondents in all age groups "think it is very important" that those raising children receive adequate support (this is the total number of respondents who said they either "think it is very important" or "think it is somewhat important").

For those in their 60s and 70s, both females and males strongly responded that they “think it is very important.”

<Willingness to assist or interact with mothers and their young children in public> (Figure 7, Figure 8)

92.1% of respondents said they would “willingly” help or interact with a parent of young children who were carrying an infant in a stroller in a public place, such as a street, train or bus.

When asked to give examples of what they actually did, the most common answer (68.5%) was “open the door and hold it,” 65.8% would “stand up to make room,” and 61% would “let her ride when getting in an elevator.”

(Note): “Survey of attitude on child-rearing in family and a region”

For 3,000 males and females aged 20 to 79 nationwide, the survey of attitude was conducted by surveyors interviewing and questioning respondents face-to-face. Valid answers, 1,639 persons. (4th October through 4th November, 2013)

For the details, see the home page of the Cabinet Office,
http://www8.cao.go.jp/shoushi/shoushika/research/cyousa.

Fig. 1 **Which relationships do you care about the most?**

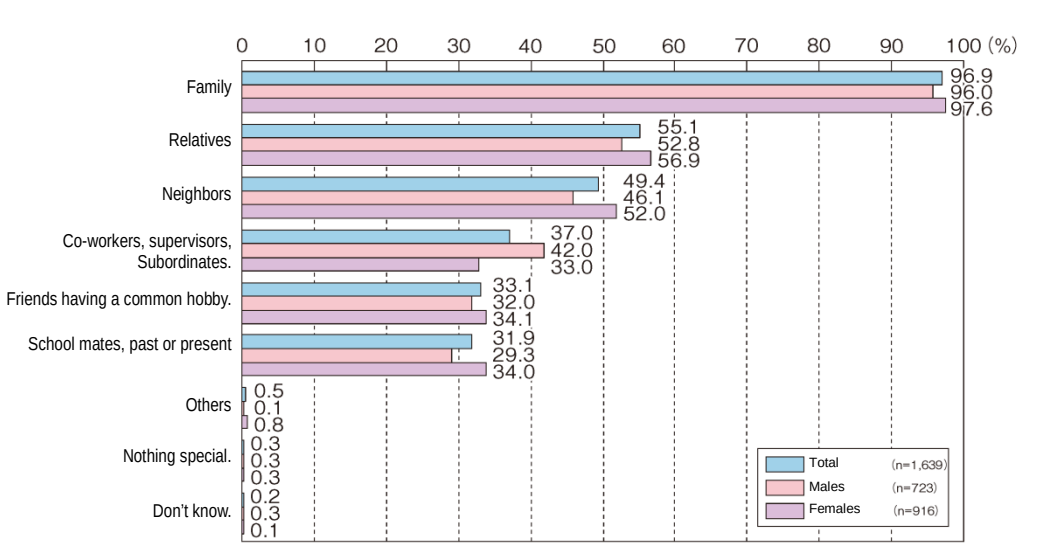


Fig. 2 Reasons why younger generations choose not to marry or to marry at a later stage in life

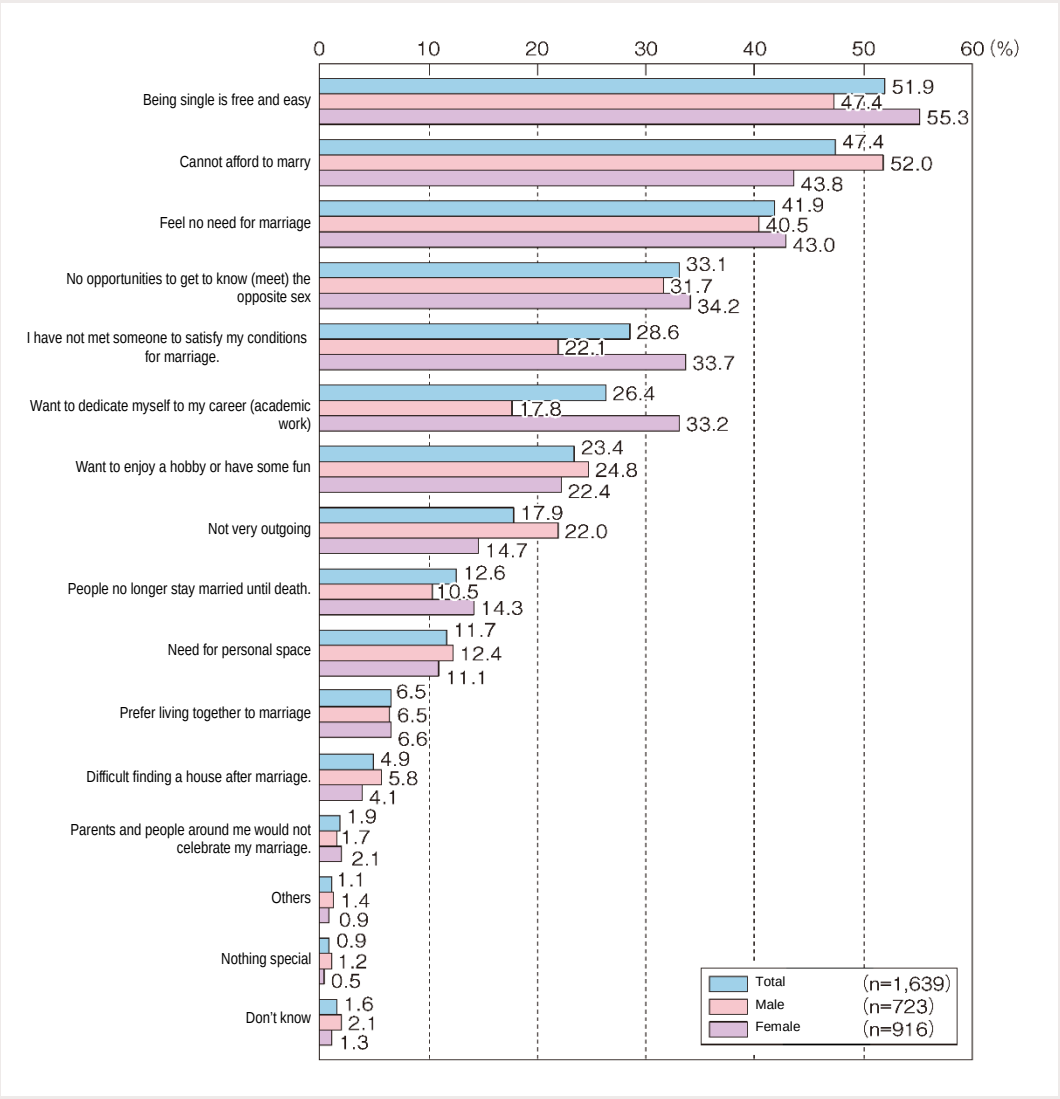


Fig. 3 Conditions for having a child in the future (all respondents are married)

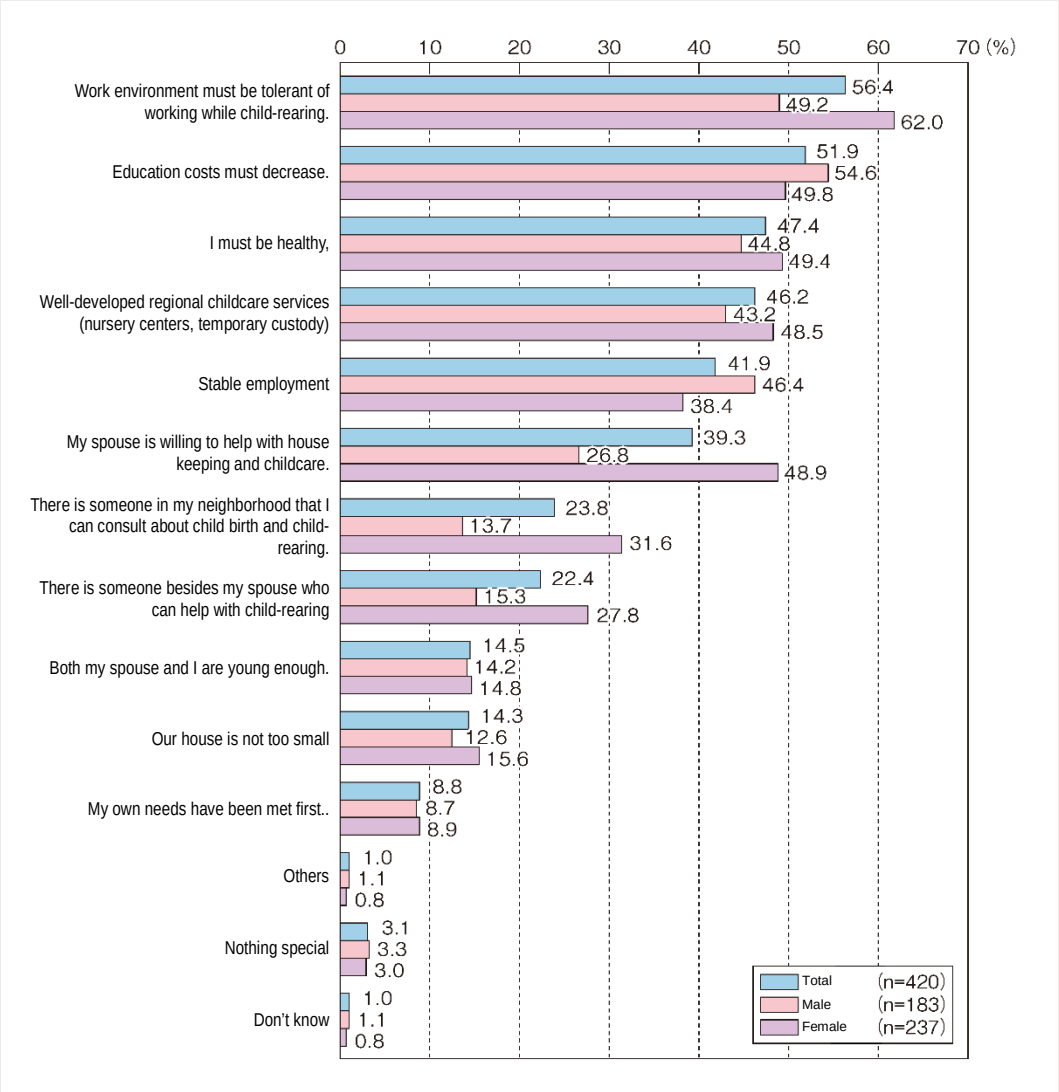


Fig. 4 Ideal family types and the level of support from grandparents

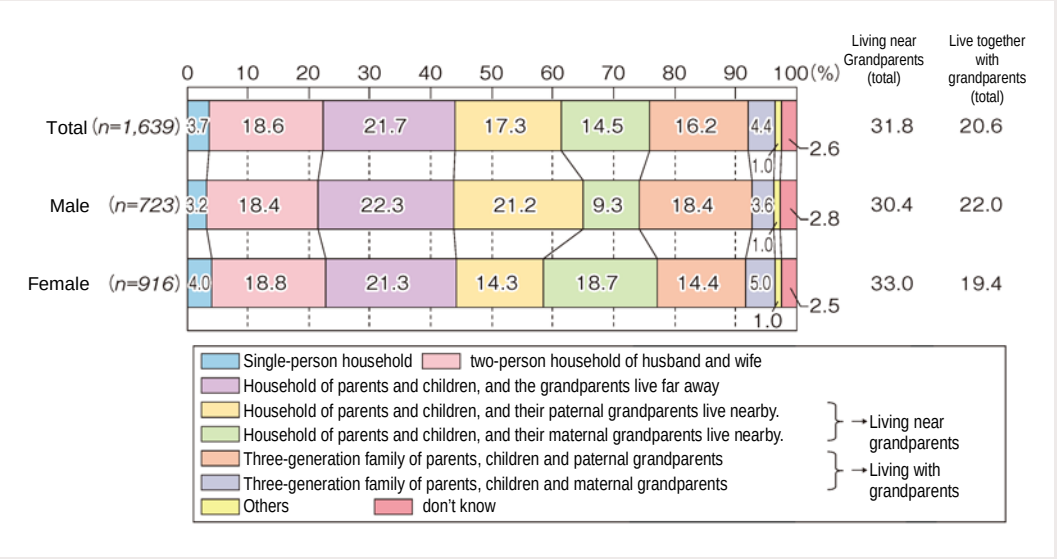
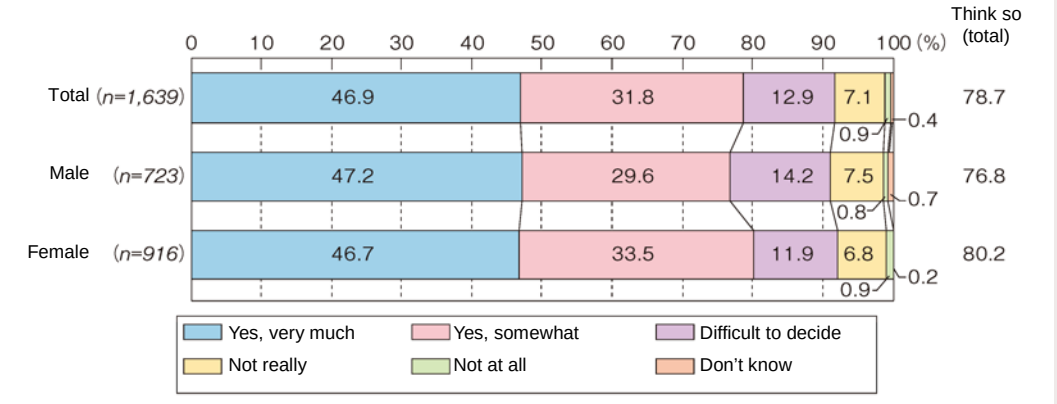



Fig. 5 Grandparents' level of support with housekeeping and child-rearing (Do you think that it is desirable for grandparents to help with child-rearing and housekeeping until their grandchild goes to elementary school?)