the Act for Supporting the Self-reliance of Needy Persons (Act No. 105 of 2013), which came into force on April 1, 2015.

(Assistance for working)
○ The Project specifies that the MHLW should take measures such as newly making children in single-parent families eligible to receive subsidies provided through the Project to Provide Support for Passing the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination, extending the duration of grants from the Subsidies for the Promotion of Advanced Vocational Training, and raising the stipends from the Self-reliance Support Educational Training Benefits.

(Housing assistance)
○ The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) is promoting measures such as increasing the provision of public rental housing at inexpensive rents, developing rental housing for households raising children utilizing rental house that have become vacant and supporting to establish welfare centers for public rental housing by installing support facilities for raising children through and other support facilities.

(Assistance provided by all of society)
○ The Children's Future Support National Movement, a project regarding measures against child poverty conducted through coordination and cooperation among the government and the public and private sectors, was launched in October 2015. The Children's Future Support Fund, which is utilized for the provision of subsidies for entities including non-profit organizations (hereinafter referred to as NPOs) that provide support at the grassroots level, was established, and a comprehensive portal site for support information on which a variety of support information is aggregated in an integrated manner so as to enable searches by region, attribute, and type of support and a matching database site on which both support resources from entities including companies conducting CSR (corporate social responsibility) activities and the support needs of entities including NPOs are posted and both kinds of entities can perform searches were improved. Measures shall be taken such as steadily operating the National Movement using the Fund and increasing the amount of information posted on the portal site in FY 2016 and thereafter.
○ To ensure the effective implementation of the Project to Assist in the Self-reliance of Families including Single-parent Families and Families with Multiple Children, the Cabinet Office established the Grant for Local Public Bodies to Support the Future of Children, aiming to build community networks in which each local government connects children in such families to seamless support provided according to their stages of development and growth, connects education and welfare, and connects entities including relevant administrative agencies, companies in local communities, NPOs, and residents’ associations with each other.

2 Project on the Strengthening of Measures Taken to Prevent Child Abuse
○ The Project stipulates that efforts should be made to strengthen a series of measures ranging from the prevention of the incidence of child abuse to support for self-reliance. Specifically, the following measures will be promoted.
(1) Responses to problems such as the anxieties and isolation that mothers experience during pregnancy and child-rearing should be provided, and the risk of child abuse should be detected and reduced as soon as possible, through seamless support from the time of pregnancy through child-rearing including proactive outreach support for isolated families in local communities.
(2) Systems for child guidance centers should be developed, and the role of local councils on measures for children who need protection should be strengthened, so as to ensure that initial responses for the securement of children’s safety will be reliably and promptly provided as prompt and proper responses in the event of the incidence of child abuse (Figure 8).
(3) As for self-reliance support for abused children, support to help such children and their parents smoothly rebuild their relationships should be strengthened, and in the event of institutionalizing such children or outsourcing the care of such children to the foster parent system, support tuned according to individual children’s developmental stages should be provided for them including those who have reached 18 years of age and those who have left facilities such as children’s homes, so as to guide them to lead independent lives.
The number of cases of counseling regarding child abuse provided at child guidance centers in FY 2014 increased by a factor of about 7.6 compared to that in FY 1999, when the Child Abuse Prevention Act was yet to come into force.

More than 50% of the persons who commit child abuse are birth mothers.

**Figure 6**  Number of cases of counseling on child abuse provided by child guidance centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) Changes</th>
<th>(2) Percentages by primary abuser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11,631</td>
<td>22.6 62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88,931</td>
<td>24.9 60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25.8 58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2014</td>
<td>25.1 60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(FY)</td>
<td>27.2 59.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.0 57.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29.0 54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.9 52.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services," MHLW
Note: The figures for FY 2010 exclude those for Fukushima because of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

**Figure 7**  Child abuse cases in which the police make arrests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) Number of child victims</th>
<th>(2) Circumstances of arrests by relation between the offender and victim (percentages in 2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>708</td>
<td>Birth mother 22.0 9.1 Adoptive fathers and stepfathers 20.7 Adoptive mothers and stepmothers 41.4 Fatal incidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>708</td>
<td>Birth fathers 41.4 Adoptive fathers and stepfathers 13.6 Adoptive mothers and stepmothers 59.1 Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The values shown above do not include the number of cases of murder-suicide or homicide and abandonment committed immediately after childbirth.

**Prevention of incidence**
- To alleviate guardians’ anxieties about child rearing and to prevent them from becoming isolated from the community, MEXT is providing support for the following activities: taking advantage of the opportunity provided by medical examinations performed before students enroll in school to hold parenting classes in the community, providing opportunities to learn about home education, and giving counseling through home education support teams.
- The MHLW submitted the Bill on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act, etc., which prescribes that municipal governments shall make an effort to establish comprehensive support centers for child-rearing, to the Diet in March 2016, so as to drive the nationwide development of a system to provide seamless support from the time of pregnancy through child-rearing. Also, house-call services for all families with babies will be provided in all municipalities.
(Early-stage detection, early-stage responses, and protection)

- MEXT is developing a system to detect child abuse as soon as possible and to promptly and properly respond to it, by means such as assigning more than the usual number of school counselors and school social workers to schools.
- The nationwide shared phone number for the child guidance centers’ helpline, which had become operational in October 2009, was changed from a ten-digit number (0570-064-000) to a three-digit number (189) and became operational on July 1, 2015.
- The police are making efforts to detect child abuse cases and protect child victims as soon as possible, through street guidance, counseling activities, reporting, and investigations. Also, they are providing responses to child abuse in which they put the highest priority on the confirmation and securement of children’s safety, while strengthening collaboration with relevant agencies.

![Figure 8](presence_of_local_councils_on_measures_for_children_who_need_protection.png)

(1) Presence of local councils on measures for children who need protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of municipalities</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>1,532</td>
<td>1,663</td>
<td>1,673</td>
<td>1,587</td>
<td>1,714</td>
<td>1,722</td>
<td>1,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: The values for each fiscal year are as of April 1 (as of February 1, 2016 for FY 2015) of each FY. The figures for FY 2011 exclude the figures for municipalities in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, which were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

(2) Changes in the percentage of municipalities having local councils on measures for children who need protection

![Figure 9](changes_in_the_percentage_of_municipalities_having_local_councils_on_measures_for_children_who_need_protection.png)

Source: Materials provided by MHLW

(Current situations of and issues in social protection and care)

- To downsize the care structure, the MHLW is promoting the provision of small-scale group care at infant homes, children’s homes, short-term therapeutic institutions for emotionally disturbed children, and children’s self-reliance support facilities and the establishment of group homes, and it is making efforts to disseminate the significance of and issues in such downsizing among relevant parties.
- The Prefectural Promotion Plans, which specify plans to decrease the percentage of children in children’s homes, that of children in group homes, and that of children whose care is outsourced to the foster parent system and family homes by a factor of three over the course of fifteen years from FY 2015 through the end of FY 2029, have been formulated, and efforts have begun to be made based on each of the Plans (Figure 9).
(Promotion of outsourcing to the foster parent system and support for foster parents)

- The MHLW is promoting adoption pursuant to the Adoption Guidelines, which clearly set forth the principle of “adoption first.” It is promoting local governments’ activities by implementing projects for institutions to support foster parents and by allocating counselors specializing in supporting foster parents to children’s homes and infant homes. Also, it has designated January as Foster Parent Month, and it requires local governments to make focused efforts to disseminate and promote the foster parent system according to the actual situations of each local area.

(Promotion of measures taken to support the self-reliance of children who have left children’s homes, etc.)

- To further support the self-reliance of children who have been raised while receiving social protection and care at family facilities to that at group homes, the MHLW has expanded the foster parent system, including the foster parent system, to support children’s homes and infant homes. The fostering system will be approximately 1:1:1, and small group care will be employed as the kind of care provided at all main facilities for children’s homes.

(Figure 9) More homelike childcare environments

- By FY 2029, the ratio of social protection and care at main facilities to that at group homes or other through systems including the fostering system will be approximately 1:1:1, and small group care will be employed as the kind of care provided at all main facilities for children’s homes.

Section 4 Efforts Made to Realize a Society in Which All Citizens Are Dynamically Engaged

- In November 2015, the Urgent Policies to Realize a Society in Which All Citizens Are Dynamically Engaged -Toward a Positive Cycle of Growth and Distribution- was compiled at meetings of the National Council for Promoting the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens, in order to realize a society in which all citizens are dynamically engaged, which refers to a society with social inclusion in which everyone can play an active role, including youths, the elderly, women, men, people with disabilities, people fighting an illness, and people who have experienced failure.

- The Urgent Policies specifies that efforts should be made to stabilize youth employment and increase young people’s incomes, by means such as helping them smoothly find employment, promoting changes in the employment of non-regular workers from non-regular work to regular work, and improving the treatment of such workers, and to expand the range of early childhood education offered free of charge and reduce the burden of education costs while securing revenue resources at the same time, and that support for single-parent families and families with multiple children and measures to support children themselves should also
be promoted. Furthermore, it specifies that multi-stream education systems for children who cannot settle into existing schools due to various reasons, including bullying and developmental disabilities, should be enhanced. In light of the Urgent Policies, necessary expenses were included in the FY 2015 Supplementary Budget and the FY 2016 Budget, and relevant bills were submitted to the ordinary Diet session held in 2016. 

○ The Plan to Realize the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens is to be compiled in May 2016.

Chapter 2  Sound Development of All Children and Young People

Section 1  Support for Self-development

1 Acquisition of daily life skills

(1) Formation of basic lifestyle habits

(Efforts made in school education)
○ The national curriculum standard as revised in 2008 and 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the current national curriculum standard) plans to improve moral education. It emphasizes guidance on morals to ensure that children, especially those in the lower classes at elementary school, learn basic rules regarding their life habits and their social lives, such as greetings, making moral judgments, and not doing what one must not do.
○ In light of the first proposal from the Education Rebuilding Implementation Council, the national curriculum standard was partially revised on March 27, 2015, in order to position moral education as a special school subject at elementary schools from FY 2018 and at lower secondary schools from FY 2019. Also, since April 2015, it has been possible to implement the revised national curriculum standard wholly or in part, as a transitional measure.

(Formation of children’s lifestyle habits through efforts made by all of society)
○ MEXT is promoting the “Early to bed, early to rise, don’t forget your breakfast” national campaign. In FY 2015, MEXT supported pioneering efforts made in local communities by newly conducting the Project to Support the Management of Lifestyle Habits Particularly for Lower and Upper Secondary School Students as an empirical study to improve the life habits of children, particularly of lower secondary and upper secondary school students, through collaboration between families, schools, and local communities, and it is conducting the nationwide promotion of efforts to be made to effectively and practically improve life habits by examining and analyzing the results of pioneering efforts and thereafter broadly disseminating them.

(Promoting Shokuiku (food and nutrition education) activities)
○ The percentage of people in their twenties who skip breakfast has remained particularly high.

Figure 10  Percentage of people who skip breakfast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) Male</th>
<th>(2) Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: “National Health and Nutrition Survey,” MHLW
Note: Skipping a meal includes the following three cases: 1) Not having a meal, 2) Getting nutrients by taking pills or an energy drink only, 3) Having sweets, fruits, dairy products, or one’s favorite drink only.

○ In FY 2015, efforts were made to promote Shokuiku (food and nutrition education) for children and young people, while the goal of reducing the percentage of people who skip breakfast was set based on the Second Basic Program for Shokuiku Promotion (approved by the Shokuiku Promotion Council on March 31, 2011).