

Press Release



"The 13th and the 4th Longitudinal Surveys of Newborns in the 21st Century"

Dec-15-2015 The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has tabulated and released the results of the 13th and the 4th "Longitudinal Surveys of Newborns in the 21st Century," the 13th survey of babies born in 2001, for 2014, and the 4th survey of babies born in 2010, for 2013, respectively. This survey is conducted yearly with the same sample groups to continuously observe living conditions and changes over the years of cohorts of children born in 2001 and 2010, respectively, to compare the cohorts and to capture key information used for formulating measures such as measure against the declining birthrate. Children are 13 years old, junior high school seventh graders (the 13th survey of those born in 2001) and three years and 6 months old (the 4th survey of those born in 2010), respectively, at the time of the survey.

<<Key Survey Results>>

<The 13th survey of babies born in 2001>

1. Change in mothers' employment status

The employment rate of mothers has increased yearly from 25.1% in the 1st survey (six months after the childbirth) to 76.4% in the 13th survey (children are junior high school seventh graders). (Figure 1 on Page 5)

2. Children's worries

- Girls are more "worried" than boys (Figure 6 on Page 9). Worried: boys 29.0%, girls 43.5%
- When they are worried, both boys and girls talk to "mothers" most often, followed by "friends" and then "fathers" (Figure 8 on Page 10).

Boys Girls
Whom to talk to: Mother 60.3% 67.0%
Friend 35.7% 59.8%
Father 30.9% 19.0%

<The 4th survey of babies born in 2010>

1. Change in mothers' employment status

The employment rate of mothers has increased yearly from 35.5% in the 1st survey (six months after the childbirth) to 51.0% in the 4th survey, 9.2 percentage points higher than that of 41.8% shown in the 4th survey of babies born in 2001 (Figure 1 on Page 13).

2. Concerns about diets

The results show that 75.8% responded "concerned about diets," 4.5 percentage points lower than that of 80.3% shown in the 4th survey of babies born in 2001 (Table 3 & Reference on Page 15).