

### “The 11th Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century”

Mar-27- 2014 The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has tabulated and released the results of the 11th “Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century (Babies born in 2001)” for 2012, which is conducted yearly with the same sample group. The survey is to continuously observe living conditions and changes over the years of a cohort of children born on January 10th through January 17th and July 10th through July 17th in 2001 with help of parents and to capture key information used for formulating measures such as measures against the declining birthrate. The 11th survey shows the data on 32,913 children who have been cooperating since the 1st survey in 2001. The children at the time of the survey are 11 years old (fifth graders).

#### <<Key Survey Results>>

##### **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 70.8% in the 11th survey (children—fifth graders) (Figure 1 on Page 3).

##### **2. Children’s physique, obesity, and snacking\***

Comparing physique by gender shows “overweight, obese” is higher among boys at 25.0%; “thin, underweight” is higher among girls at 28.9% (Figure 2 on Page 6).

No big difference is shown looking at the frequency of snacking between “obese” and “normal” children both among boys and girls (Figure 3-1 on Page 5, Figure 3-2 on Page 6)

##### **3. Children’s physique, obesity and parents’ concerns over children’s daily life**

Parents with “obese” children show higher percentage of concerns over children’s daily life such as “lack of physical activities,” “eating habit—dietary balance, amount, preference, etc” and “growth” than parents with normal children both among boys and girls (Figure 4 on Page 7).

\*Snacking: Eating and drinking other than dinner after school and before going to bed.

[See the attached summary for details \(Japanese only\).](#)