

3. Perceptions about Parenting, Etc.

(1) Child discipline

In the last four years, children learned to “always look to right and left when crossing the street” and to “be quiet in public places (bus, train, hospital, etc.)” but not to “put back the toys and books after playing.”

If we look at the cases where parents “provided discipline at the time of the 4th Survey” and whether the “child had acquired the desired behavior” at the time of the same survey, it was relatively easy for children to learn to “exchange greetings and answer when spoken to” and to “take turns playing on playground structures,” which stood at 82.2% and 67.6%, respectively. On the other hand, it was relatively difficult for children to learn to “put back the toys and books after playing” and to “always look to right and left when crossing the street,” which stood at 43.6% and 40.9%, respectively (Table 2 and Figure 10-1).

Similarly, If we look at the cases where parents “provided discipline at the time of the 4th Survey” and whether the “child had acquired the desired behavior” at the time of the 8th Survey, it was relatively easy for children to learn to “take turns playing on playground structures” and “not to do violence to others,” which stood at 88.5% and 82.0%, respectively. On the other hand, it was relatively difficult for them to learn to “put back the toys and books after playing” and to “listen to a person until the person has finished speaking,” which stood at 45.8% and 42.3%, respectively (Table 2 and Figure 10-2).

A comparison of the percentages of children “acquiring the desired behavior” in the 4th Survey and the 8th Survey shows that a substantial improvement was made with regard to “always look to right and left when crossing the street,” which rose from 40.9% to 71.7%, and with regard to “be quiet in public places (bus, train, hospital, etc.),” which increased from 47.9% to 75.5%. There was no significant change with respect to “put back the toys and books after playing,” which went from 43.6% to 45.8% (Figures 10-1 and 10-2).

Table 2. Child discipline at the time of the 4th and 8th Surveys

(Unit: %)

	Total	Provided discipline at the time of the 4th Survey	4th Survey			8th Survey			Difference between the 8th Survey and 4th Survey in the percentages of children "acquiring the desired behavior"
			Child acquired the desired behavior	Child did not acquire the desired behavior	Unknown	Child acquired the desired behavior	Child did not acquire the desired behavior	Unknown	
Types of child discipline (multiple answers)									
Exchange greetings and answer when spoken to	100.0	97.3	82.2	14.1	1.0	78.0	17.7	1.6	Δ 4.2
Take the dishes to the kitchen after eating	100.0	51.4	34.3	16.5	0.6	37.7	12.9	0.7	3.4
Listen to a person until the person has finished speaking	100.0	70.6	33.4	35.8	1.4	42.3	26.8	1.5	8.9
Do not tell lies	100.0	71.8	43.0	26.9	1.9	52.3	17.8	1.6	9.3
Take turns playing on playground structures	100.0	95.6	67.6	26.2	1.8	88.5	5.7	1.5	20.9
Restrict time for watching TV and playing video games	100.0	50.1	34.1	15.3	0.7	30.9	18.3	0.9	Δ 3.2
Do not break toys and books	100.0	89.9	58.2	30.5	1.2	79.9	8.8	1.2	21.7
Put back the toys and books after playing	100.0	98.2	43.6	52.9	1.7	45.8	50.7	1.7	2.2
Distinguish between things that belong to you and that belong to others	100.0	84.9	64.1	19.6	1.2	79.7	4.0	1.1	15.6
Do not do violence to others	100.0	93.4	62.7	29.0	1.7	82.0	10.1	1.3	19.3
Always look to your right and left when crossing the street	100.0	89.8	40.9	47.3	1.6	71.7	16.6	1.4	30.8
Do not follow strangers	100.0	77.1	57.1	17.2	2.9	75.1	1.0	1.0	18.0
Be quiet in public places (bus, train, hospital, etc.)	100.0	96.1	47.9	46.6	1.6	75.5	19.0	1.6	27.6

Note:

1. Data tabulated from responses obtained from the 4th and 8th Surveys (N=35,648)
2. The total for each type of child discipline includes respondents who said they "did not provide discipline" for the specific type of child discipline and respondents regarding whom it was "unknown" whether they provided the discipline.

Figure 10-1. Percentages of parents providing discipline and children acquiring the desired behavior at the time of the 4th Survey

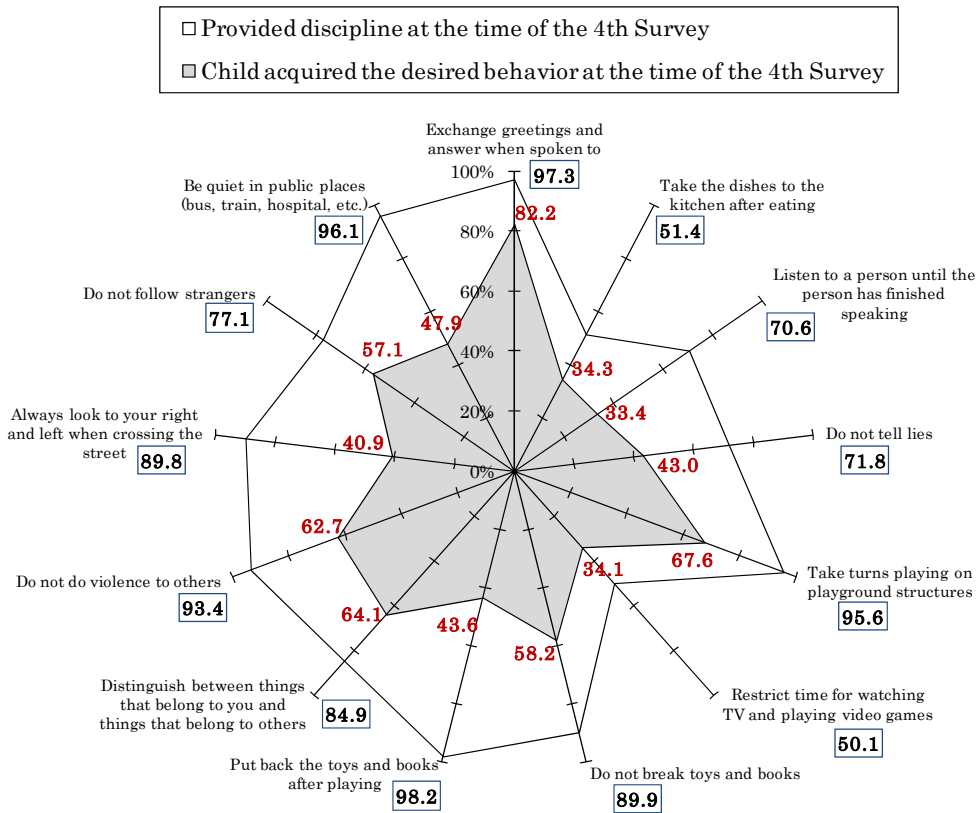
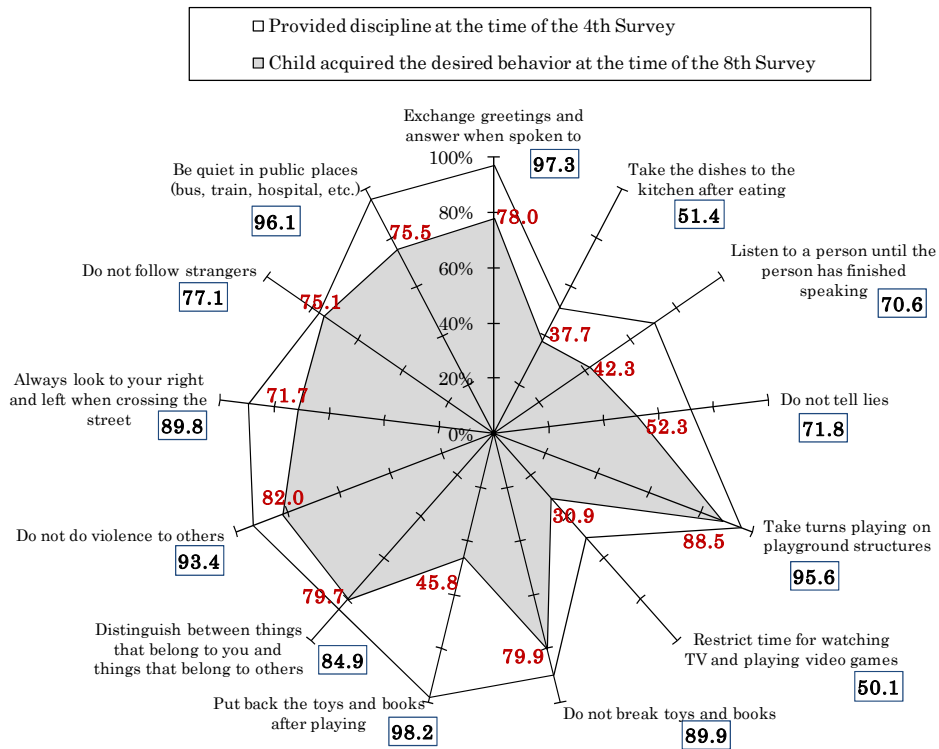


Figure 10-2. Percentage of parents providing discipline at the time of the 4th Survey and percentage of children acquiring the desired behavior at the time of the 8th Survey



Note: Data tabulated from responses obtained from the 4th and 8th Surveys (N=35,648)

(2) Burdens and concerns of child rearing

“Mounting cost of child rearing” was mentioned the most at 34.1%.

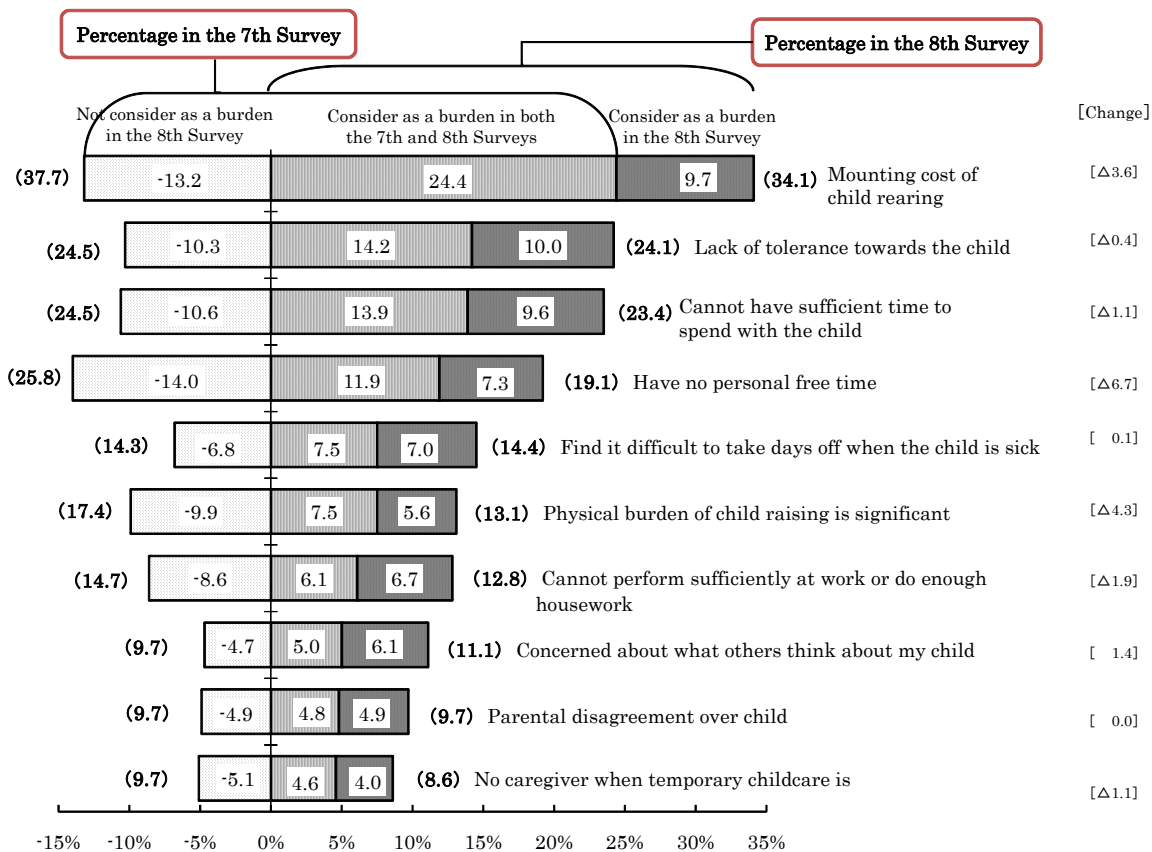
“Have no personal free time” and “physical burden of child rearing is significant” were mentioned less frequently.

With respect to burdens and concerns that parents have when rearing their children (multiple answers), the largest percentage of the respondents in the 8th Survey said, “mounting cost of child rearing” at 34.1%, followed by “lack of tolerance towards the child” at 24.1% and “cannot have sufficient time to spend with the child” at 23.4%.

As for the changes from the 7th Survey in terms of what the respondents began to “consider as a burden” from the time of the 8th Survey, the largest percentage of them said “lack of tolerance towards the child” at 10.0%, followed by “mounting cost of child rearing” at 9.7% and “cannot have sufficient time to spend with the child” at 9.6%. On the other hand, in terms of what they “no longer consider as a burden” in the 8th Survey, “have no personal free time” and “mounting cost of child rearing” were mentioned the most, at 14.0% and 13.2%, respectively.

A comparison of the percentages of the respondents who consider each item to be a burden in the 7th Survey and 8th Survey shows that the percentages are lower in the 8th Survey with regard to “have no personal free time,” “physical burden of child rearing is significant,” “mounting cost of child rearing,” and “cannot perform sufficiently at work or do enough housework.” (Figure 11)

Figure 11. Changes in the burdens and concerns parents feel when rearing their children (top 10 items, multiple answers)



Note

1. Data tabulated from responses obtained from the 7th and 8th Surveys on the "burdens and concerns of child rearing" (N=33,812)
2. [Change] indicates the difference between the percentage in the 8th Survey and the percentage in the 7th Survey.

(3) Concerns about children's everyday life

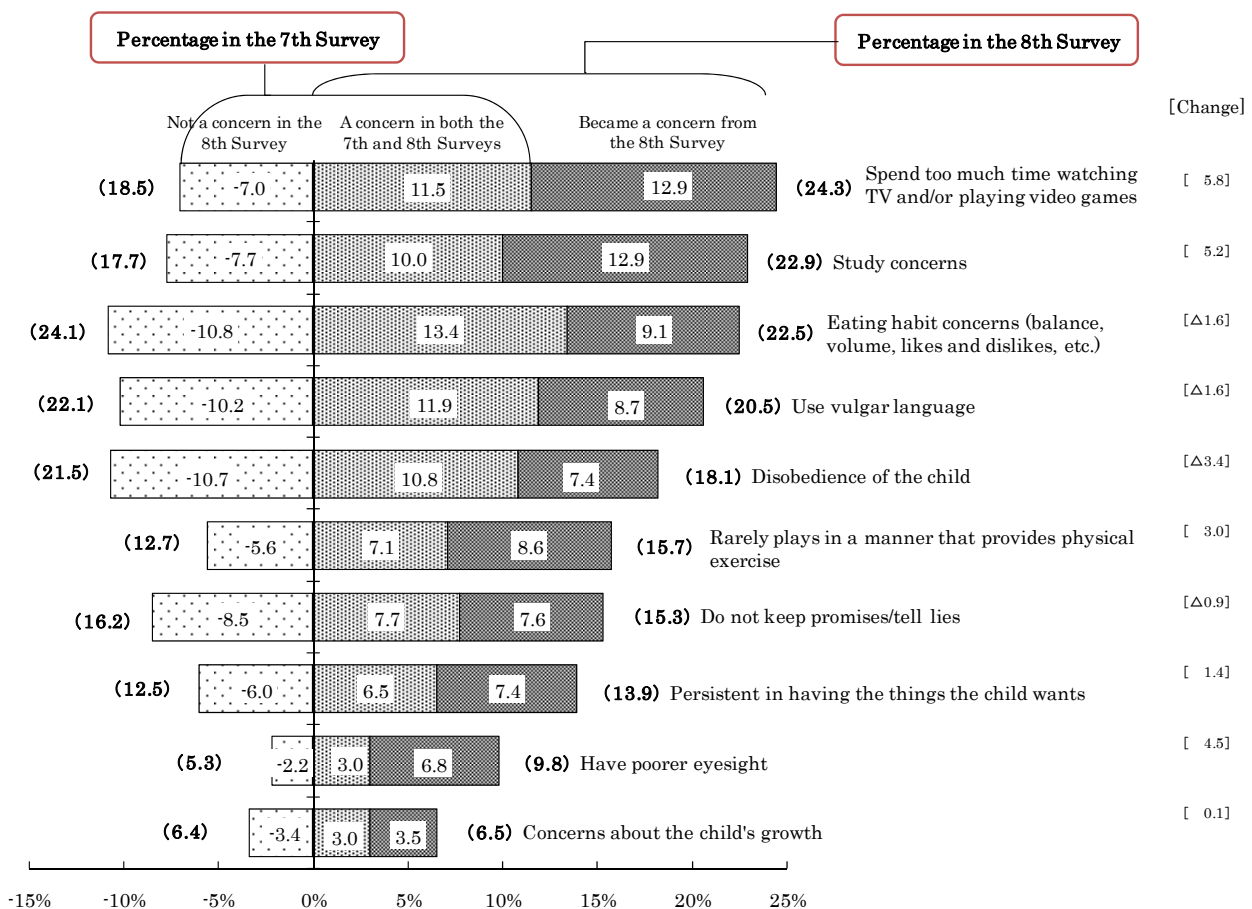
Increases in “spend too much time watching TV and/or playing video games” and “study concerns,” among others

As regards concerns that parents have about their children's everyday life (multiple answers), the largest percentage of the respondents in the 8th Survey said that the child “spend too much time watching TV and/or playing video games” at 24.3%, followed by “study concerns” at 22.9% and “eating habit concerns (balance, volume, likes and dislikes, etc.)” at 22.5%.

As for the changes from the 7th Survey in terms of what “became a concern” from the time of the 8th Survey, “spend too much time watching TV and/or playing video games” and “study concerns” were mentioned the most, both at 12.9%. On the other hand, in terms of what was a concern in the 7th Survey but not in the 8th Survey, “eating habit concerns (balance, volume, likes and dislikes, etc.)” and “disobedience of the child” were mentioned the most, at 10.8% and 10.7%, respectively.

A comparison of the percentages of the respondents for each item of concern in the 7th Survey and 8th Survey shows that the percentages are higher in the 8th Survey with regard to “spend too much time watching TV and/or playing video games,” “study concerns,” “have poorer eyesight,” and “rarely plays in a manner that provides physical exercise.” (Figure 12)

Figure 12. Changes in the concerns about children's everyday life (top 10 items, multiple answers)



Note:

1. Data tabulated from responses obtained from the 7th and 8th Surveys on the "concerns about the child's everyday life" (N=33,319)
2. [Change] indicates the difference between the percentage in the 8th Survey and the percentage in the 7th Survey.

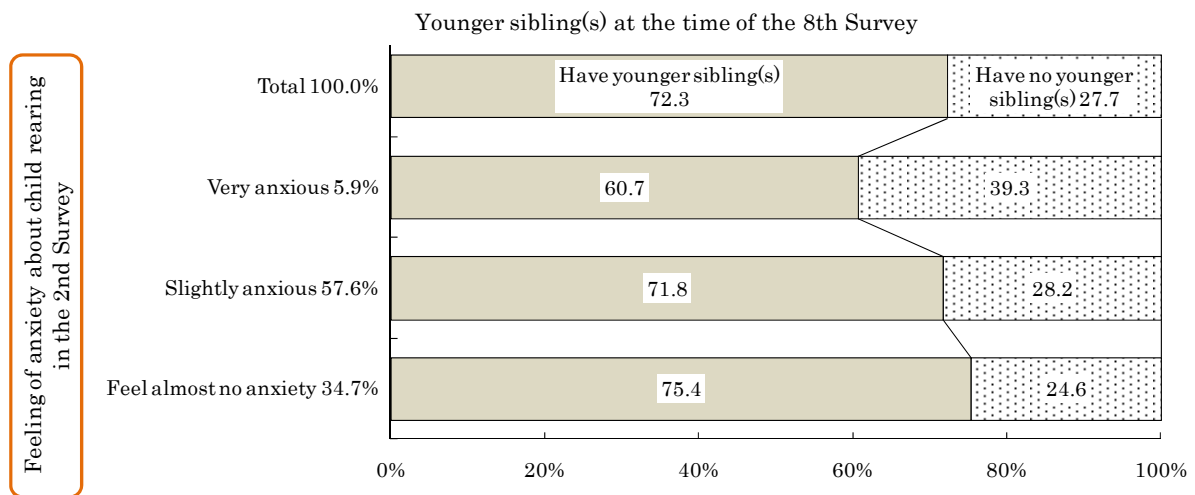
(4) Anxieties and burdens of child rearing and younger siblings

The percentage of children who were the “only child” at the time of the 1st Survey but who had younger sibling(s) by the time of the 8th Survey was higher (75.4%) among children whose parents “felt almost no anxiety” about child rearing at the time of the 2nd Survey (when the children were one and a half years old).

The current survey inquired into whether the children who were the “only child” at the time of the 1st Survey, in terms of sibling composition, had younger sibling(s) by the time of the 8th Survey, by taking into consideration the feelings of anxiety parents had about child rearing at the time of the 2nd Survey (when the children were one year and six months old). The results showed that among parents who were “very anxious” about child rearing, 60.7% of the children had younger sibling(s), whereas among parents who “felt almost no anxiety,” 75.4% of the children had younger sibling(s). The percentage was higher among parents who “felt almost no anxiety” (Figure 13).

In terms of the types of burdens the parents felt about child rearing in the 2nd Survey, the percentage of younger sibling(s) was the lowest among parents who felt “lack of understanding of the people around me about how burdensome parenting is” at 63.6%, followed by parents who said they could not “perform sufficiently at work” at 65.4% and parents who said “the child is prone to illness” at 66.6% (Figure 14).

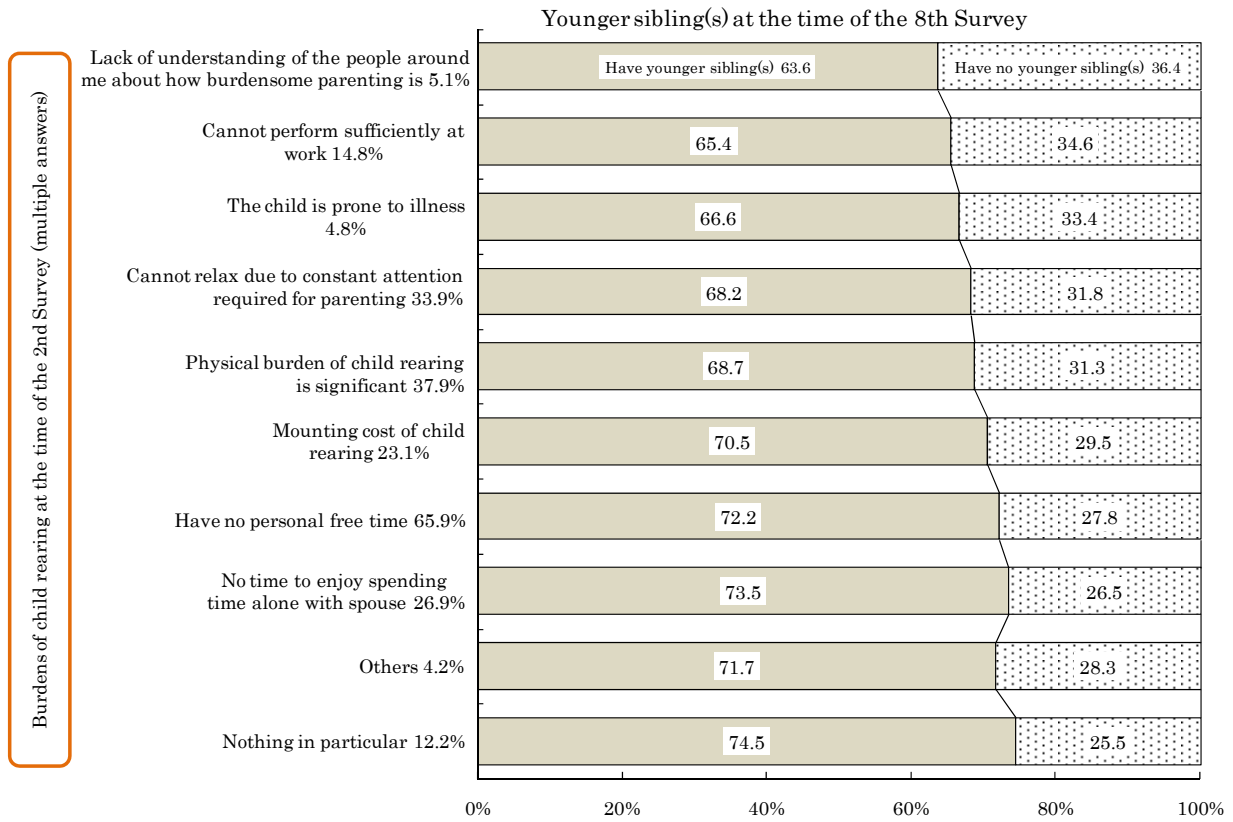
Figure 13. Children with younger sibling(s) at the time of the 8th Survey by feelings of anxiety about child rearing in the 2nd Survey



Note:

1. Data tabulated from responses on the same subjects obtained from the 2nd and 8th Surveys who were the "only child" at the time of the 1st Survey in terms of sibling composition (N=17,467)
2. The total includes respondents regarding whom the feeling of anxiety about child rearing was "unknown."

Figure 14. Children with younger sibling(s) at the time of the 8th Survey by types of burdens of child rearing in the 2nd Survey



Note: Data tabulated from responses on the same subjects obtained from the 2nd and 8th Surveys who were the "only child" at the time of the 1st Survey in terms of sibling composition (N=17,467)

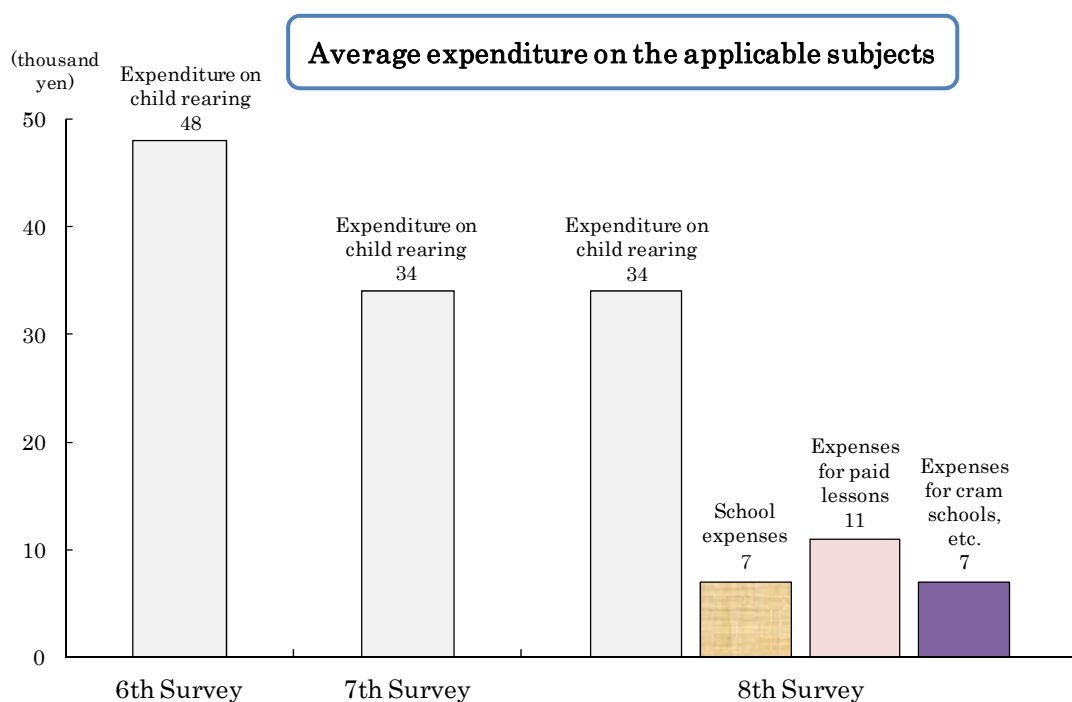
(5) Expenditures on child rearing

Expenditures on child rearing, which were ¥34,000, remained unchanged from the 7th Survey.

If we compare the average monthly expenditures on child rearing from the 6th through 8th Surveys, it was ¥48,000 in the 6th Survey, ¥34,000 in the 7th Survey, and unchanged from the 7th Survey at ¥34,000 in the 8th Survey.

As for the individual items of expenditures in the 8th Survey, “school expenses” accounted for ¥7,000, “expenses for paid lessons” for ¥11,000, and “expenses for cram schools, etc.” for ¥7,000. (Figure 15)

Figure 15. Expenditures on child rearing, school, paid lessons, etc.



Note: Data tabulated from responses on the same subjects obtained from the 6th, 7th and 8th Surveys with the following exceptions:

6th Survey: Data on "Expenditure on child rearing" tabulated after excluding those regarding whom such expenditure was "unknown" (N=33,290)

7th Survey: Data on "Expenditure on child rearing" tabulated after excluding those regarding whom such expenditure was "unknown" (N=33,075)

8th Survey: Data on "Expenditure on child rearing" tabulated after excluding those regarding whom such expenditure was "unknown" (N=33,118)

Data on "School expenses" tabulated after excluding those who did not incur any such expenses or regarding whom such expenses were "unknown" (N=32,191)

Data on "Expenses for paid lessons" tabulated after excluding those who did not incur any such expenses or regarding whom such expenses were "unknown" (N=25,665)

Data on "Expenses for cram schools" tabulated after excluding those who did not incur any such expenses or regarding whom such expenses were "unknown" (N=11,490)