

Welfare Volunteers and Child Welfare Volunteers

Overview

Outline of Welfare Volunteers and Child Welfare Volunteers

The welfare volunteers prescribed for in the Commissioned Welfare Volunteers Act shall enhance social welfare through the spirit of providing social services, consultation from point of view of the people, any necessary assistance, and cooperate in the tasks of relevant the administrative agencies, including welfare offices, etc.

In addition, welfare volunteers also serve as child welfare volunteers, as provided for in the Child Welfare Act. Welfare volunteers appropriately identify the situation with the environment surrounding and the lives of children, pregnant women, and fatherless families in communities. If children requiring support are identified, welfare volunteers shall make the effort to solve their problems by providing consultations and advice on the available services and systems.

Increasing expectations with regard to the activities of child welfare volunteers led to a system of chief child welfare volunteers being created in thus enabling them to exclusively engage in child welfare-related matters, and which was legally established within the Child Welfare Act in 2001. "Chief child welfare volunteers" are designated from among the child welfare volunteers. Chief child welfare volunteers provide liaisons and coordination between child welfare-related agencies and child welfare volunteers assigned to the region, along with assistance and cooperation in the activities of the child welfare volunteers.

Detailed Data 1

Number of Welfare Volunteers, Child Welfare Volunteers, and Chief Child Welfare Volunteers

(As of March 31, 2010)

	Welfare volunteers/child welfare volunteers	Chief child welfare volunteers (included)
Males	91,990	3,665
Females	136,738	17,456
Total	228,728	21,121

Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services 2009", Statistics and Information Department, Minister's Secretariat, MHLW

Detailed Data 2 Status of Activities of Welfare Volunteers/Child Welfare Volunteers

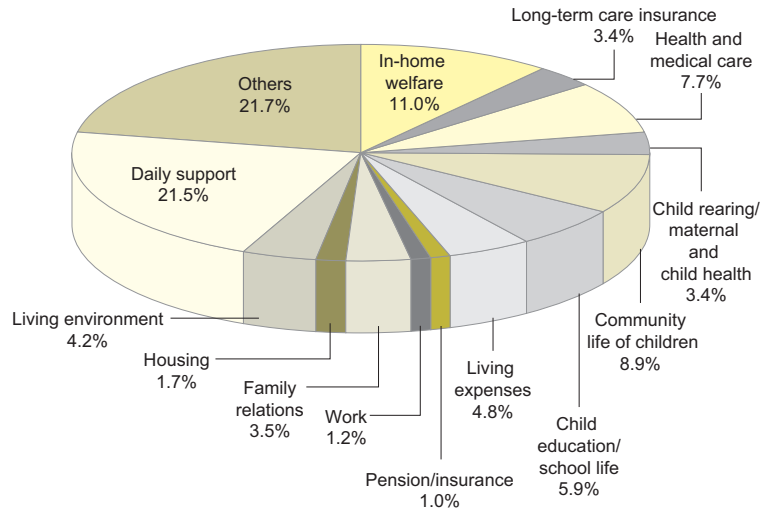
Total Number of Activities by Both Welfare Volunteers and Child Welfare Volunteers

The total number of cases of consultation/support provided by welfare volunteers and child welfare volunteers was 7,547,924, and the contents of activities are given in the following table. Cases of matters related to in-home welfare was high in percentage at 11.0 when compare to others.

By category, "matters related to the elderly" accounted for more than half of total cases at 54.2%, "matters related to children" was 20.4% and "matters related to persons with disabilities" 6.2%.

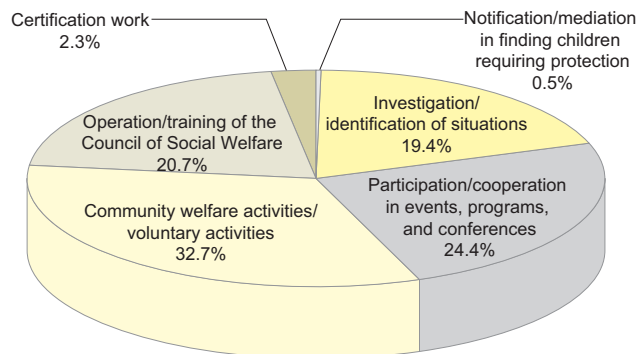
Number of cases of consultation/support by content	
Total	7,547,924
In-home welfare	832,248
Long-term care insurance	259,553
Health and medical care	578,173
Child rearing/maternal and child health	258,266
Community life of children	675,074
Child education/school life	446,888
Living expenses	365,728
Pension/insurance	77,213
Work	90,710
Family relations	264,751
Housing	127,973
Living environment	314,272
Daily support	1,620,074
Others	1,637,001

Number of cases of consultation/support by content (total)



Number of cases of other activities	
Total	25,132,062
Investigation/identification of situations	4,872,868
Participation/cooperation in events, programs, and conferences	6,122,288
Community welfare activities/voluntary activities	8,229,467
Operation/training of the Council of Social Welfare	5,203,927
Certification work	590,231
Notification/mediation in finding children requiring protection	113,281

Breakdown of cases of other activities (total)



Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services 2009", Statistics and Information Department, Minister's Secretariat, MHLW