

# Social Security Education for the Next Generations of Supporters of the Future

# Overview of Japanese social security

- Japan's population has entered on the decreasing phase
  - Population: **12,615** thou.(2020) → **8,808** thou.(2065)
  - Aged population rate (65 and over) : **28.6%**(2020) → **38.4%**(2065)
  - Total fertility rate : **1.33**(2020) → **1.44**(2065)
- Social Security Benefits(to GDP) : **22.7%**(2017)
  - Pension(**5.0%**): Japan exceeds the US and the UK, but is slightly outperformed by France
  - Medical care(**7.6%**): Japan is almost outperformed by the US and the other European countries
  - Other benefits(**10.0%**): Japan exceeds the US but is considerably outperformed by the European countries
- Proportion of social security-related General Expenditure and Social Security-related Expenditure : **50.7%**(2023)

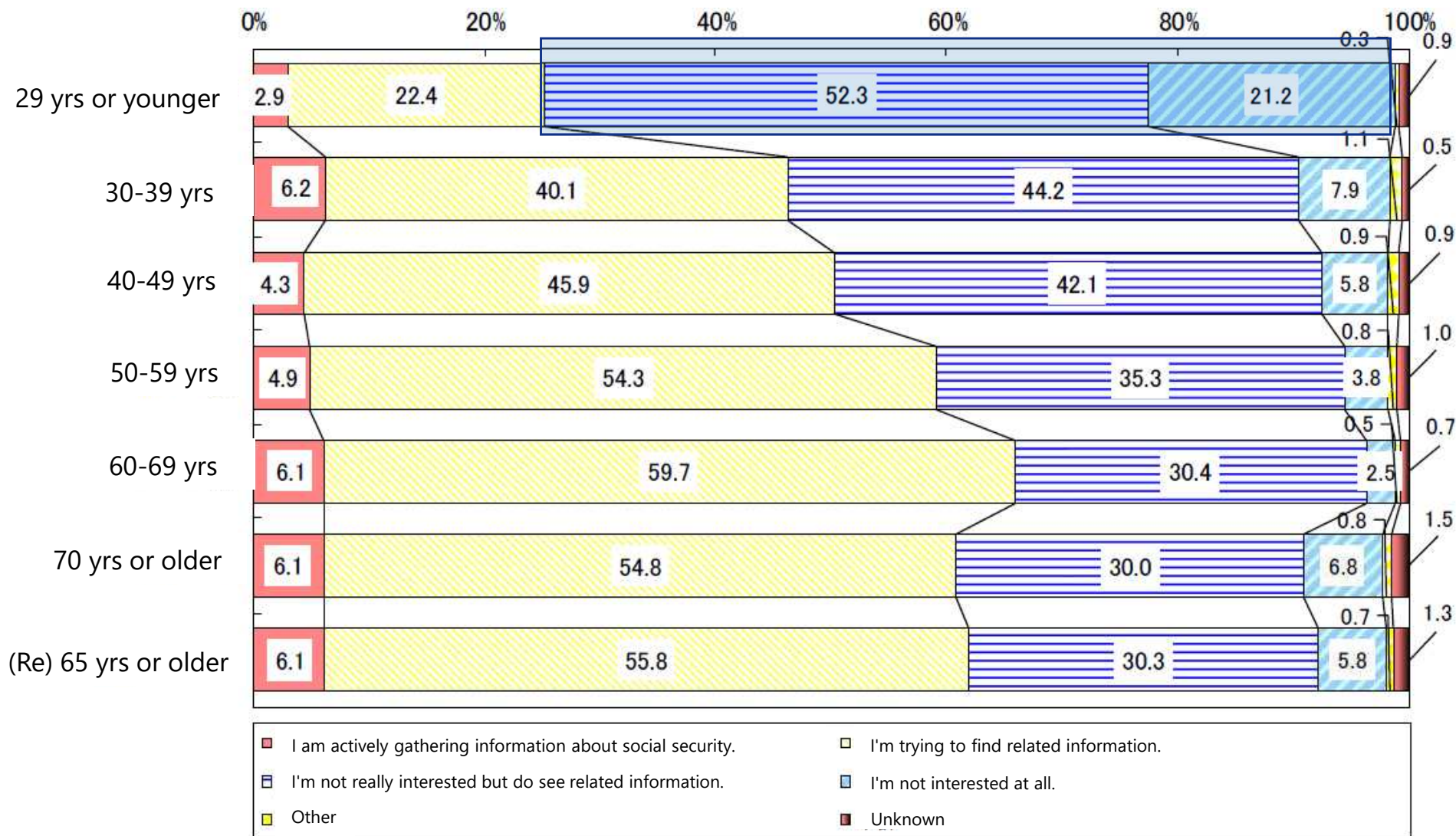
# Points that the MLWH wants to convey to the younger generation in social security education

\*MHLW: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan

- In life, there are risks such as injury, illness, and being a caregiver that are difficult to overcome individually, but that everyone may face.
- The social security system is a mechanism for the entire national people to support each other against these risks. By participating in this system, we support those who actually face the risks and also protect ourselves when we face the risks.
- Social security is supported by taxes and social insurance premiums paid by the general public. In Japan, the system has been designed to reduce or exempt social insurance premiums for those with no or low income so that all citizens can participate in this system. (Universal Health Insurance/Pension Coverage System).
- Social security is not just a mechanism that benefits when people reach old age; it is also a lifelong security system that covers treatment for illness and injury when people are young, pensions when people become disabled, and support for child rearing.

# About 70% of those 29 years old or younger are not very interested in social security

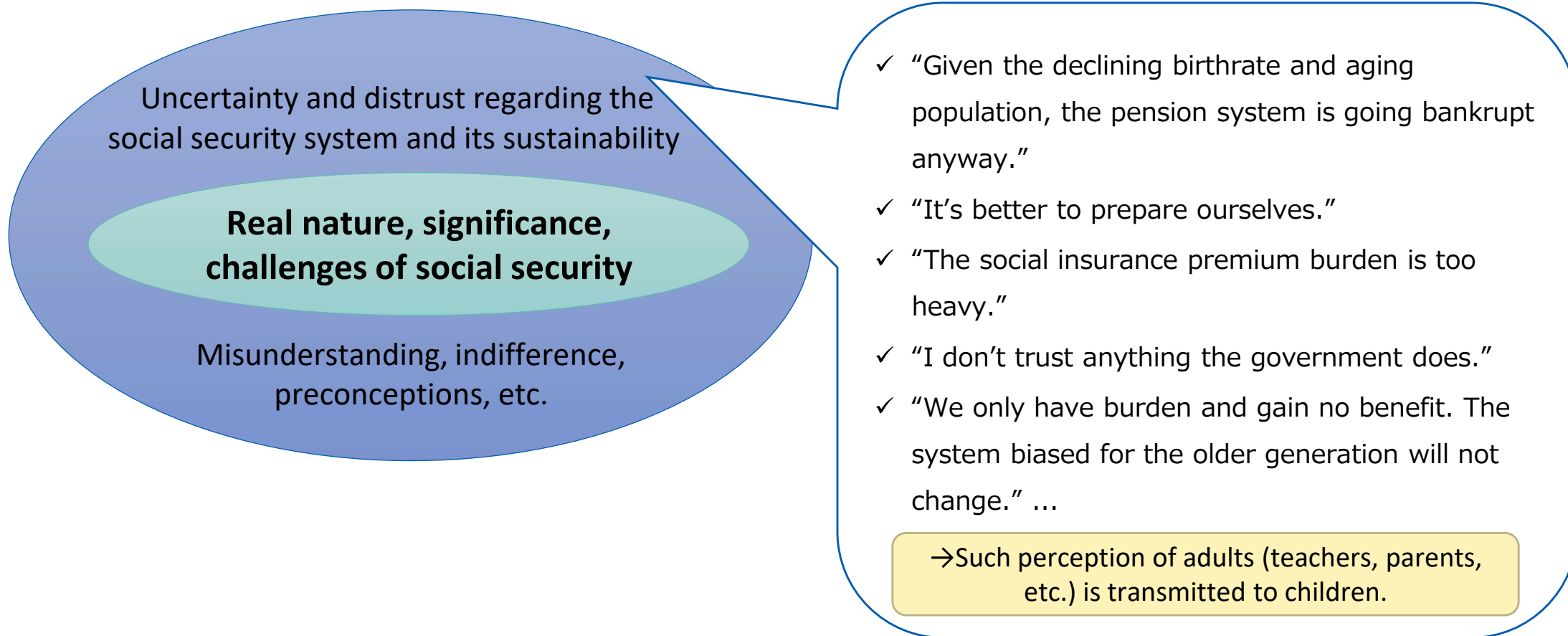
How people are concerned about the social security system by age group



**Source:** Office of Counselor in charge of Policy Planning and Evaluation, Director-General for Policy Planning and Evaluation, MHLW, "2019 Survey Report on the Perception of Social Security - Content of Information provided on the System, Financial support for Health Promotion, and Levels of Benefits and Burden -" <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/12605000/R1hou.pdf>

# The current perception of social security among citizens (image)

Currently, it seems to be difficult for people to see true facts and important things about social security, leading to insufficient communication about social security.



➔ Lack of knowledge about the system and/or non-payment of the premiums may lead to loss of opportunities to take advantage of the social security system in times of emergency.

# Promotion of Social Security Education (First Step)

## Collaboration with MEXT

(MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

## Held a briefing session for textbook companies

- The new high school curriculum guidelines (Course of Study) to be implemented on an annual basis from April 2022 will include a more detailed description of social security.

## Prepared teaching materials that contribute to participative lecture

## Held training sessions for high school teachers

- Distributed educational materials to all 5,000 high schools in Japan  
The textbooks, worksheets, and video materials (DVD), which were prepared for high school students in 2014, have been distributed to high schools nationwide, which are available on the MHLW's website.
- Provided social security education training to a total of 1,600 people (as of June 30, 2021).  
Gave lectures on social security education as part of teachers training programs held at teachers training centers, etc.

# Actual conditions and issues at schools

As a certain period of time had passed since the preparation and intensive dissemination of teaching materials on social security, we conducted interviews with teachers and other education practitioners regarding the actual situation of social security education at schools.

Challenges	Current situation
Class hours	The number of classes that can be allocated to social security education at a high school is <u>approximately one to two</u> per year.
Lack of understanding of the System	Some teachers have a <u>negative perception of</u> social security itself because they <u>do not have a sufficient understanding of social security.</u>
Teachers' busyness	Due to the busyness and lack of time to study, teachers do <u>not have time to read a pile of materials on a certain single educational area,</u> such as social security.
Mismatch with teachers' needs	<u>The amount of materials</u> produced by MHLW is <u>remarkably large,</u> which does not match the educational reality, being not well accepted by teachers. Rather, they <u>would like to know concrete examples of educational practices, such as teaching methods, plans, and approaches, as well as frequent reactions and questions raised by students.</u>
Level of teaching materials	The textbooks and teaching materials produced by the MHLW are of a <u>high level of</u> content, which may be used only by <u>a limited number of schools.</u>

# Features of the teacher's manual on social security education for high school students

Title: Contemplating Social Security in the Age of the 100-Year Life  
 Teacher's manual on social security education for high school students to realize "independent, interactive and deep learning"

✓ Teaching plans and materials that **can be used directly in 50-minute classes:** prepared in accordance with the new Course of Study, with the cooperation of high school civics teachers and others.

\*Teachers can choose to use only some of the work and materials in accordance with the flow of their classes during the year.



▲ Coverage

公的年金保険を題材としたモデル授業①指導案

【1時間目】

学習内容	学習形態	単元上の学習目標 (社会福祉教育の視点)
1 社会保険について考えてみよう		
2 (1)の1の 人 社会保険 の仕組み について 考えてみよう		
3 (1)の2の 人 社会保険 の仕組み について 考えてみよう		

◀ Course plan

ワークシート (1時間目)

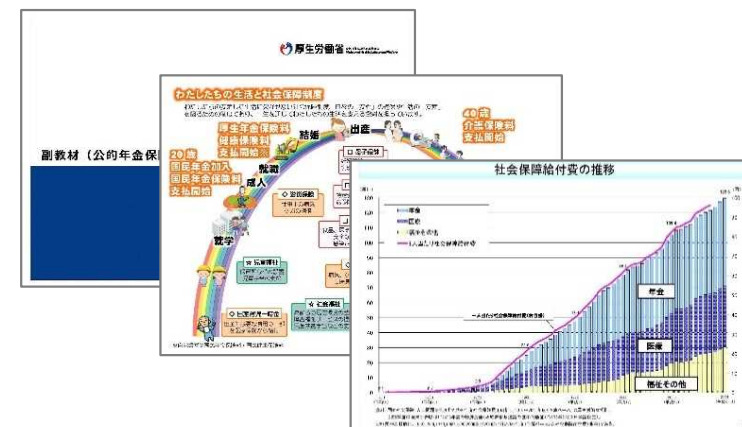
(年 組 冊 氏 名)

1 社会保険について考えてみよう

【ワーク1】 これからの人生で起こるかもしれない困難な出来事にどのような準備が、思いこみよう。

【ワーク2】 学費は公費を支えるのが社会保険制度です。社会保険制度のうち、社会保険料(国民年金、厚生年金、介護保険)は、生活に必要な収入(一年間所得)から自己負担分を引いた上で納付すること(＝自己負担)である(＝自己負担)。国民年金(生活年金)は、国民年金加入者(国民年金加入者)から納付すること(＝自己負担)である(＝自己負担)。

◀ Worksheet



▲ Support materials

- ✓ Includes many questions to achieve "independent, interactive, and deep learning"
- ✓ Also includes **reading** tasks using statistical data that is used in actual policy making
- ✓ A variety of columns provide **trivia-like explanation** on individual systems.
- ✓ Teaching plans, worksheets, and support materials can be downloaded from the MHLW website in an **editable form.**

【コラム】

◆公的年金保険に加入するには

高等学校を卒業して民間企業等に就職した場合には、20歳未満であっても自動的に厚生年金に加入することになるが、進学するなどして厚生年金に加入しておらず、日本国内に居住している場合には、20歳になると日本年金機構から国民年金に加入したというお知らせが来る。もし20歳になって2週間を過ぎてもお知らせが届かない場合は、自分でお住まいの市(区)役所又は町村役場、若しくはお近くの年金事務所へ加入手続きをする必要がある。

▲ Column



# Summary

- Social security is a mechanism for the entire society to prepare against risks.  
⇒ Understanding by the younger generation is crucial.
- It is more important to communicate the role and significance of social security than to explain the system itself, which is complex.