

When the cumulative number of confirmed cases was on the order of 70 in Hokkaido, it was estimated that the estimated number of patients was 941 cases (with the 95% confidence interval between 156 and 2,906), based on information of patients among foreign visitors to Hokkaido who were later diagnosed in their home countries. It could be therefore estimated that the number of those infected in Hokkaido was approximately more than 10 times as large as the reported number of infected cases. This reflects the fact that many infected people only show extremely mild symptoms and that many people do not seek for medical attendance (and thus not diagnosed) even when they have symptoms.

However, it is invalid to directly apply this estimate to the entire Japan. Moreover, approximately 700 cases in Japan are those infected on the Diamond Princess, and so it is inappropriate to apply the obtained estimate to those patients. Therefore, the interpretation that stated “the number of those infected in Japan is estimated to be more than 10,000” is clearly wrong, and such a statement is not what I gave to the media.

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