Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Service Guide 2021
Message from the Vice-Minister

What is the administration? What is the job of a government office? I think a government office should literally be a “useful place for people.” What can we do to make daily life as easy as possible for people? If you think about it, you will notice that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) is responsible for a surprising number of government tasks, including those assigned to local governments and municipalities. Protecting people’s lives and livelihoods from illnesses such as COVID-19. Eliminating anxiety about medical care and old age through mutual aid systems such as world-class universal care and the national pension scheme. Creating an environment to ensure everyone has a suitable job and can live with pride and dignity.

Building a “society where everyone can play an active role,” regardless of age and sex and including those with disabilities and intractable diseases. Achieving such goals is far from easy, given the declining birthrate and aging and declining population. Accordingly, MHLW officials are addressing the challenges one by one.

A challenge to make the world better. A challenge to make not only those living now but also their children and their children’s children feel “I’m glad I was born in this country.” Just as there are many ways to climb a mountain, there are just as many ways to address challenges. As well as local governments, we are also promoting initiatives with various people such as private enterprises and NPOs. I hope this booklet sheds light on the efforts being made by each bureau of the MHLW and makes everyone reading more aware of the form and function of the administration that we are targeting.

Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare
TAKUMI Hideki

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Realizing “intergenerational support” that will continue for the next 100 years

Every stage of life with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

**Medical care**
- Aiming at “ideal medical care”
- Passing the world-acclaimed health insurance system to future generations

**Pharmaceutical and food safety**
- Ensuring pharmaceutical and food safety

**Support for children and childcare**
- Supporting child-rearing generations to protect children’s smiling faces

**Support for persons with disabilities/social welfare and relief assistance**
- Realizing a regionally cohesive society

**Ensuring working conditions**
- Protecting working conditions, safety, and security of workplaces

**Employment policies**
- Supporting everyone who is willing to work

**Vocational skills development**
- Boosting job stability and socioeconomic development by developing human resources

**Health promotion/disease control**
- Supporting and protecting health for all people

**Improvement of employment environment**
- Creating a diverse employment environment in which everyone can play an active role

**Long-term care**
- Toward a society in which people can live as they like regardless of age

**Support for persons with disabilities/social welfare and relief assistance**
- Realizing a regionally cohesive society

**Support for children and childcare**
- Supporting child-rearing generations to protect children’s smiling faces

Coming into this world, growing up healthy and living your life with loved ones until the very last moment — creating a society where everyone can enjoy a life like this as a given. That is the mission of the MHLW.

The Bureau is proceeding with various initiatives to underpin socioeconomic development going forward while closely keeping track of the lives of each and every citizen through social security and labor policies.
“Safety” from medical care

Policy

Supporting community life
While many people wish to "continue to live in their familiar hometown with their families and friends even after becoming ill", their wishes may not be fulfilled due to issues such as having no medical institutions that they can consult with when they have concerns and having no doctors who will come to their hometown to provide medical care, etc. As the country’s population ages rapidly, more people are expected to face such issues. To confront that reality, the Ministry needs to take steps to provide better health care services that help people lead satisfying lives. The Bureau is therefore working on how to develop various medical care systems such as emergency care and rehabilitation, how to secure clinics that will provide home medical care, and how to remedy the disparity of doctors in certain regions.

Work-style reform for doctors
While work-style reform for the entire society is advancing, it is important to reduce the burden of doctors as long working hours has become the norm. Thus, the Bureau is discussing the balance between reducing working hours of doctors and securing regional medical care by reviewing the division of roles between doctors and other medical workers (task shifting or task sharing), and supporting hospital management reform, etc. This work-style reform will bring significant impact not only to doctors all over Japan but also to the future of regional medical care. The Bureau will work on these medium- to long-term measures from both systemic and budgetary aspects.

Promotion of innovations in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries
As Japan is one of the few countries developing new drugs and has cutting-edge manufacturing technologies, the pharmaceutical and medical device industry is expected to bear economic growth in the future. In recent years, aiming to support venture companies that play an important role in leading advanced scientific technologies to create innovative pharmaceuticals, etc., the Bureau is supporting medical ventures by providing consultation on issues in each development stage and formulating business strategies, etc.

In addition, the Bureau continues challenge to develop the pharmaceutical and medical device industry by promoting safe use or utilization of the so-called “real world data” such as medical record data, etc. and making focused efforts to develop a development environment for innovative products.

Health Policy Bureau

- Ensuring to deliver necessary medical care
The Bureau is working to develop communities in which people can receive medical care without undue worries by promoting cooperation between hospitals and clinics, eliminating the shortage of doctors, and establishing disaster medical care systems, etc.

- Development of world top level human resources
The Bureau always pays attention to issues surrounding medical care and reviews curriculums, etc. in a speedy manner that leads to a quality improvement of doctors and nurses, who are supporting our high-level medical care.

- Promoting next-generation medical care
While promoting the utilization of medical information, the Bureau supports R&D to realize cutting-edge pharmaceuticals and medical devices and regenerative/genomic medicine.

- Strengthening medical industry
The Bureau strongly supports the pharmaceutical and medical device industry that is expected to lead the economic growth in Japan by utilizing all possible tools, including systemic, budgetary, and taxation tools.

- Creating a better world with Japanese medical care
The Bureau is contributing to help people globally to live a better life in good health by disseminating medical technologies and medical care systems, which Japan is so rightfully proud of, through active exchange with government officials and experts from other countries.

How does one feel when they or their loved ones become ill? While feeling sad and anxious, many are likely to wish to cure the disease and continue to work and live with their families until their final days. For this reason, great expectations are always placed on medical care. The Health Policy Bureau targets ideal medical care to reassure individuals and help them contribute to the world by applying all necessary measures, including optimizing a functional balance between doctors and hospitals, implementing effective medical care using the latest technologies and developing the pharmaceutical industry, etc. while monitoring future social and demographic changes.
Protecting and supporting irreplaceable health

Policy

Measures for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases

The Bureau collects information on the unexpected occurrence of infectious diseases, discusses countermeasures and spearheads crisis management to protect people’s lives. COVID-19 is inconvenient for all members of society and a daily threat to health. In response, the Bureau takes measures such as consolidating health centers and expanding the testing system in cooperation with related organizations, both inside and outside the ministry.

Offering as much transplantation as possible for those in need

Organ transplantation is medical treatment that restores the function of any organ having deteriorated due to serious illness or accident by replacing it with another person’s healthy organ. About 14,000 people are waiting for organ transplants and 400 or so people get them annually in Japan. The Bureau is also working on public dissemination and awareness; aiming to boost opportunities for people to learn about medical transplantation and discuss it at home.

Measures against allergies

About 50% of the Japanese population suffers from rheumatic and allergic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, bronchial asthma, atopic dermatitis, and hay fever. Since the causes and pathogenesis of allergic diseases are still unknown and there is no cure for them, the Bureau is working to spread correct information and raise awareness of these diseases through the “Allergy Portal”.

The Bureau also provides training on allergies to doctors and nurses, and is promoting the establishment of hospitals in all prefectures to serve as collaborative centers for the treatment of allergic diseases.

Hot Topics

Development of new treatments for cancer and intractable diseases

The MHLW is working to develop new methods to prevent, diagnose and treat what are currently incurable diseases and open up new treatments through “whole-genome analysis” to identify the causative genes in cancer and intractable diseases.

There are high hopes that this field will see significantly improved accuracy of treatment, given scope to select the optimal treatment by providing state-of-the-art personalized medicine, best-suited to every individual’s constitution and medical condition.

The Bureau is also striving to build a database to accumulate the analytical results to be widely used to treat patients, engage in various research projects and develop new drugs.
Ensuring pharmaceutical and food safety for days assuring a sense of security

Policy

To a pharmacist/pharmacy systems suitable for the Reiwa Era

Given the increasing need for home medical care in the community, the role of "family pharmacist/pharmacy" is sought after more than ever. Future pharmacists and pharmacies will shift more emphasis to interpersonal work, which plays a key role in the comprehensive community care system. Accordingly, the Bureau is promoting "community-coordinated pharmacies" for instructions of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical management while working with community medical institutions.

In the COVID-19 era, the Bureau is promoting digital pharmacy management such as "online instruction of prescription drugs," "electronic prescription," and "e-medicine notebook" to make things easier for patients and facilitate the work of pharmacists and pharmacies.

Creating world-leading cutting-edge pharmaceuticals and medical devices

Did you know that apps can now be used for medical treatment in addition to medicines and medical devices? In August 2020, the MHLW issued approval for a smartphone app to help people give up smoking. This is a "world-first" therapeutic app that is government-approved as effective against nicotine addiction.

Drag lags and device lags are a thing of the past. Japan now leads the world in the field of cutting-edge pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The Bureau will establish a pharmaceutical legislation and regulation commensurate with the current era that reflects the practical applications featuring robots, AI and genome technology that are needed as well as the progress of regenerative medicine and handles damages from water supply services and formulation of water systems such as business licenses for water supply services and formulation of water systems.

Ensuring food safety

Food safety in Japan is ensured by flexibly responding to progress in food-related science and technology, globalization of food distribution, and diversification of dietary habits, etc.

Ensuring safe tap water

The Bureau operates water supply-related systems such as business licenses for water supply services and formulation of water quality standards, provides financial support for making earthquake-resistant water pipes, and handles damages from water supply disruption in times of disaster.

Development of environmental health industries, etc.

In addition to hygiene regulations and promotion of environmental health industries, including qualification system for bartenders/beauticians and approval system for hotels/shops, etc., the Bureau is also responsible for ensuring a healthy environment in buildings, etc.
Keeping workers safe and secure

Policy

Protecting working conditions for workers at work sites
The working conditions, including minimum wages and working hours, etc., are stipulated in the Labor Standards Act, etc. Prefectural labor departments, Labor Standards Supervision Offices and labor standard inspectors who work there play the important role of instructing enterprises to comply with these laws and regulations at their work sites. Labor standards inspectors visit enterprises and carefully explain the purpose and content of these laws and regulations to ensure that they understand and observe them. If any violation is found, the inspectors instruct the enterprise concerned to correct it immediately. Furthermore, in case of serious/vicious violations, the inspectors conduct investigations as criminal cases and send each case to the Public Prosecutors Office. The Bureau instructs labor standard inspectors to ensure these efforts are properly carried out in the field and clarifies rules according to issues to realize a society where appropriate working conditions are assured and workers can proceed without concern.

Aiming at a society with zero accidents (zero industrial accidents)
The annual number of cases of injuries at workplaces exceeds 100,000 persons a year, with the number of resulting deaths continues to be close to 1,000. There are as countless many safety and health-related issues at work sites as there are work sites, including “death from overwork” and “mental disorders” due to long working hours, etc. and “occupational cancer” from harmful substances, etc. In order to prevent such industrial accidents and protect safety and health of workers, the Bureau is working on measures that respond to the changes in work environments, including the aging of society, advancement of science and technology, and the shift to services industries. In the event of an occupational accident, the Bureau provides the necessary industrial accident insurance benefits to protect workers promptly and fairly.

Wage increase
Rising wages not only enrich the lives of workers, but from a macro perspective, also benefit the economy via a virtuous cycle. While developing an environment conducive to higher wages by granting work improvement subsidies to small- and medium-sized enterprises and small businesses to boost productivity, the Bureau sets the minimum wage every year by engaging in repeated dialogues with employers and employees.

Support for balancing medical treatment and work
With the progress of aging, workers who continue to work while receiving medical treatment are expected to increase in future. Under such circumstances, the Bureau is working to develop and make known a support system for balancing treatment and work, including changing awareness of enterprises and promoting cooperation with relevant parties, including enterprises and medical institutions, etc., to achieve a society where people can continue to work while receiving treatment for diseases.

There are about 53 million workers in Japan. The mission of the Labor Standards Bureau is to support the development of workplace environments where people can work satisfactorily in a safe and secure manner from the viewpoints of workers. While the environment surrounding medical care that is undergoing a drastic change, including a decrease in the labor population due to the progress in the declining birthrate and in the aging of the population, and given technological innovations, etc., it has become increasingly important to create an environment in which workers can choose diverse work styles and fully utilize their motivation/abilities. Therefore, the Bureau will carry out “work-style reform”, including the correction of long working hours and realization of diverse and flexible work styles, etc.
Supporting everyone who is willing to work

Connecting workers and workplaces smoothly

The employment situation remains severe in the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is important to support prompt reemployment for those having lost their jobs, in the long run, the nation is facing a labor shortage due to the declining population. The importance of fine-tuned matching between companies and jobseekers is highlighted.

The Bureau provides meticulous employment support, including career consultation for jobseekers and advice and guidance to enterprises seeking candidates at Hello Work offices. In addition, the Bureau supports companies’ efforts to promote their workers’ adaptation to the workplace, providing them with subsidies when they implement measures to improve employment management and productivity, etc.

Realizing an “ageless society”

While the population is declining, it is important to realize a society in which elderly people can utilize their experience and knowledge gained over their years of work, regardless of their age, according to their motivation.

Therefore, companies are obliged to take employment security measures for elderly people wishing to work until age 65 and take security measures for working opportunities until age 70 as an obligation to make effort from April 2021. In addition, the Bureau is working to provide subsidies to companies that have extended mandatory retirement age, etc., to provide support to elderly jobseekers through ageless support contact points at Hello Work offices, etc., and secure diverse employment opportunities at Silver Human Resource Centers, etc.

Creating a workplace where persons with disabilities can play an active role

The Bureau is creating workplaces where persons with disabilities can play more active roles. This will lead to the realization of workplaces where not only persons with disabilities, but all people can work comfortably.

The Bureau provides consistent support for persons with disabilities wishing to be employed and companies intending to employ persons with disabilities from the preparation stage for employment to workplace adaptation. It is offered mainly at Hello Work offices to enable persons with disabilities to play active roles in workplaces.

The Bureau also supports companies that have measures to employ persons with disabilities by creating a system to certify excellent companies that employ persons with disabilities, etc.

As a safety net for employment, the Bureau aims to realize a society in which each worker can create his/her own future and in which diverse opportunities are provided to people with motivation by implementing (1) job placement services utilizing nationwide network, (2) employment insurance system to provide workers with income compensation when they become unemployed, and (3) employment measures toward the realization of “work-style reform” in an integrated manner through over 500 Hello Work offices nationwide.
Creating a diverse employment environment in which everyone can play an active role

Policy

Supporting work-life balance

While approximately 50% of women leave their jobs before or after giving birth to their first child, the percentage of men who took child care leave remains quite low at around 7%. To develop an environment in which both men and women can have a good balance between work and child/family care and continue to work, the Bureau promotes the use of a child/family care leave system by women and men alike and systems for working reduced hours, etc. and provides support to and raises awareness of enterprises.

In addition, in response to the declining birth rate, the Bureau supports formulation of action plans, etc. based on the Act on Advancement of Measures to Support Raising Next-Generation Children and promotes certification systems (kurumin, etc.). Furthermore, the Bureau promotes the development of an environment in which employees can easily take annual paid leave, etc. by providing examples of improving ways to work and take leave.

Realizing “equal pay for equal work”

The government promotes “work style reforms” for realizing dynamic engagement of all citizens. The measure that is positioned as one of the main pillars is realizing “equal pay for equal work”. The Bureau aims to prohibit the irrational differences in treatment between non-regular workers, which account for approximately 40% of all workers and regular workers in sequence from April 2020 based on the Part-Time/Fixed-Term Workers Act and improve treatment of non-regular workers.

Through these efforts, the Bureau will ensure that workers can continue to work with consent to their treatment no matter what kind of work style they choose, thereby allowing them to choose diverse and flexible work styles.

Both workers and work styles are becoming more and more diverse. The Bureau is working to promote a diverse employment environment in which everyone can play an active role, including the development of a workplace environment in which everyone can play active roles, improvement of an employment environment for non-regular workers such as part-time workers and fixed-term workers, achievement of good balance between work and child care or family care, promotion of more flexible work styles such as telework, and measures for realizing an affluent and stable work life, etc.

Hot Topics

Spreading and promoting telework

The MHLW promotes telework as a flexible work style that optimally exploits time and place. It is also important to further spread and promote telework as a work approach corresponding to the “new lifestyle” during and post-COVID-19 and the Bureau is promoting the introduction and establishment of telework by formulating telework guidelines and awarding companies using telework.

Strengthening measures against workplace harassment

The number of cases of consultations at Prefectural Labor Bureaus concerning “bullying and harassment” in workplaces exceeded 87,000 in FY2019, the highest among all consultations for eight consecutive years, underlining that anti-harassment measures in the workplace remain crucial. Under such circumstances, employment management measures to prevent power harassment in the workplace became mandatory for large companies in 2020. In addition, measures to prevent sexual harassment and harassment related to pregnancy, childbirth, child care leave, family care leave, etc. are strengthened to promote integrated measures against workplace harassment.
Child and Family Policy Bureau

Various options for all child-rearing generations and children

Policy

Working to eliminate wait-listed children to support balancing child care with work

The number of children on waiting lists has been steadily declining, reaching a law of about 12,000 as of April 1, 2020 since the survey started. The Bureau formulated the “New Child-rearing security plan” at the end of 2020 and in the expectation that more women would be employed, developed childcare acceptance capacity for 140,000 children for four years from 2021 to finalize the elimination of waitlisted children. The Bureau also aims to eliminate the issue of wait-listed children for after-school children’s clubs known as the “barriers to the first grade of elementary school”, based on the “New After-School Children Plan”, by working to secure service providers for a total of 300,000 children by the end of FY2023.

Human resource development is also essential for achieving this goal. The Bureau is working to improve labor conditions of these workers at the same time.

The Bureau is working to realize a society in which anyone can raise his/her children without undue worries while working by implementing these measures in an integrated manner.

Drastically strengthening measures to prevent child abuse

There should be no abuse of children who will lead the future. However, the number of cases of consultations is increasing every year, and tragic cases in which children die from abuse are continuing to occur.

Since physical punishment at home was banned in April 2020 with the prevention of child abuse in mind, the Bureau has been working on public relations to disseminate forms of child-rearing that exclude physical punishment. Regarding the response to child abuse, the Bureau implemented plans such as that to boost numbers of child welfare caseworkers at the child consultation centers by around 2,000 staff a year ahead of schedule to consolidate the system. The Bureau is also working to allocate experts to child consultation centers and establish abuse consultation bases in all municipalities.

The Bureau intends to establish a system in which all children are provided with seamless support, from early response to prevent child abuse, to immediate response when abuse occurs and support for self-reliance of children when children suffer abuse by promoting these efforts.

Assuring healthy growth, etc. of all children

In Japan, there are approximately 45,000 children who cannot live with their family for various reasons such as having no guardian or being abused, etc., and many of them are living in a group in foster homes, etc. In order to enable these children to attain self-esteem in relationships with adults and gain abilities to establish trusting relationships with others, it is necessary to provide them with a warm and family-like environment to the extent possible.

Therefore, the Bureau promotes the securing of and establishment of support systems for “foster parents” who accept and raise children in their homes, and strives to improve the quality of relevant facilities by making them smaller in size and regionally distributed.

For the best interests of all children, the Bureau is working to implement social care in which the children are raised by the whole society.
Realizing a regionally cohesive society

Policy

Support for efforts across different systems and fields

Due to the decreasing population and changes in family structures and local communities, the issues faced by local residents, such as the 8050 problem and “duplicated” childcare and long-term care, are becoming increasingly complex and inclusive. The “Multi-layered Support System Development Project” was launched in April 2021 to deal with these issues by implementing integrated support for consultation, participation and community development, regardless of the attributes in a municipality. This is expected to consolidate the linkage of individual systems for the elderly, persons with disabilities, children and the poor and accelerate efforts to establish a comprehensive support system for the entire municipality.

Through these efforts, the Bureau is aiming to realize a “regionally cohesive society” to anchor individual livelihoods and collective purpose of life and community by crossing the vertical segmentation among systems and the relationship between “suppliers” and “receivers.”

Supporting community life for persons with disabilities

The Bureau provides systems and services to enable persons with disabilities to choose a life as they wish in their communities. The Bureau continues to improve welfare services for persons with disabilities including in-home long-term care, livelihood training and employment support and group home aid for those who wish to live in their community and support their arts and cultural activities. The Bureau is also working to improve labor conditions for securing human resources who will support these efforts for welfare services for persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the Bureau is promoting the establishment of the “community-based integrated care system focusing on mental health care” to enable persons with mental disorders to live in ways they like without undue worries as the member of their hometown and measures against addiction to alcohol and drugs, etc.

The Social Welfare and War Victims’ Relief Bureau is promoting broad social welfare efforts, including the establishment of community welfare, support for people having difficulties making a living and persons with disabilities, development of a social welfare juridical person system and foundation of welfare by securing human resources to be engaged in welfare and implementation of measures against suicide, etc., as well as the consolation of the war dead and relief for bereaved families.

Support for arts and cultural activities of persons with disabilities

Arts and culture can promote awareness of diverse values and mutual understanding and play a key role for persons with disabilities in promoting self-expression and participation in local communities. In order for persons with disabilities to enjoy and create diverse arts and cultural activities nationwide, the Bureau is working with prefectures to establish intermediary organizations and hold arts and culture festivals based on the “Basic Plan for Promotion of Arts and Cultural Activity of Persons with Disabilities.”
Toward a society in which people can live as they like regardless of age

**Policy**

**Creating a system to support long-term care in society**

A total of 20 years have elapsed since the Long-Term Care Insurance System was launched in 2000. During this period, the number of people using long-term care insurance services has increased 3.3 times as Japan ages.

This long-term care insurance has been indispensable for supporting the lives of the elderly as a form of public insurance providing the elderly with various services, such as home-based care attendants as well as facility services, e.g. special elderly nursing homes, tailored to individual needs.

The Bureau strives to meet the needs of the elderly and their families to roll out stable and consecutive services and strives to make a sustainable system to bequeath to future generations.

**Community development by taking advantage of preventive long-term care**

The elderly population will its peak, while the working generation will decline sharply around 2040. Under these circumstances, the Bureau is promoting community support projects for more independent mutual support of local residents.

Aging is expected to progress in Japan and by 2025, when the so-called “baby boomers” turn 75 or older, about 1 in 5.5 people will be 75 years old or older and the percentage of elderly people with dementia, elderly single-person households and couple-only households is predicted to increase. The Health and Welfare Bureau for the Elderly aims to realize a “community-based integrated care system” to meet these changes in social structure and the need among the elderly to create a community within which people of any age can live comfortably.
In Japan, a universal health insurance system, initiated approximately 60 years ago, is shared by all citizens who may face medical risks. With this system everyone can receive necessary medical care anytime and anywhere using an insurance certificate. The health insurance system that is familiar and commonplace to the people today now faces various issues in anticipation of a 100-year life society, including the balance between the needs for medical care, the financial burden, etc. The mission of the Health Insurance Bureau is to consistently consider every possible measure to firmly maintain the world-acclaimed universal health insurance system and ensure that it remains sustainable going forward.

Policy

Establishing sustainable health insurance systems

Japan has achieved the world’s highest level of average life expectancy and health and medical standards through public health insurance systems. These systems enable all citizens to receive necessary medical care equally in case of sickness or injury, regardless of their income level.

In recent years, however, the situation surrounding medical care has been transformed due to the rapid decrease in population and declining birthrate and aging population. To maintain the medical insurance system, reform of the medical insurance systems is sought, looking forward to the year 2025 when baby boomers turn 75 years old and older.

Furthermore, it is important to promote prevention and health promotion with the time around 2040 in mind, when Generation Y is aging and the decline in the working-age population is intensifying.

In order to achieve a more focused and efficient medical care, sharing the financial burden between and within generations, and for a more stable system, the Health Insurance Bureau is working to promote reforms, including strengthening of the financial basis of National Health Insurance and mutual support of Employees’ Health Insurance, the Bureau is working on reform, which will involve dividing people’s contribution evenly and constructing a system to promote prevention and health promotion efforts of individuals and insurers.

Disease prevention and health promotion for extending a healthy life

In anticipation of the coming of a “100-year life society”, it is necessary to extend a healthy life expectancy. In order to do so, the “mission for the new era” of the Health Insurance Bureau is to make a shift from a “treatment-oriented” to a “prevention-oriented” medical care.

In addition, in order to carry out nationwide disease prevention and health promotion campaign activities, the “Nippon Kenko Kaigi (Japan Health Conference)”, which is responsible for promoting efforts in cooperation between private organizations, such as economic organizations, medical organizations, and medical insurers, etc., local governments, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, was established to promote “visualisation” of original and inventive efforts of insurers, including specified health checks focused on visceral fat accumulation (metabolic syndrome), and prevention of progression of diabetic nephropathy that is the primary disease for dialysis, etc. It is also promoting “horizontal expansion” of advanced cases, and strengthening incentives for insurers.

The Bureau also conducts demonstration projects to confirm and accumulate evidence on the effects of prevention and health promotion policies to promote the implementation of appropriate preventive health projects for insurers.

Promoting Data Health Reform

Everyone wants efficient and high-quality medical care services by promoting computerization in the medical field. In response, a system allowing online confirmation of qualifications using the My Number Card, etc., has been in operation since March 2021 at medical facilities and pharmacies.

This aims to streamline the work of medical facilities and pharmacies and help individuals confirm their medication and specific health information anytime through Mynaportal.

The Bureau also promotes the utilization of big data, including interlinked analyses of receipt data, etc. in medical and long-term care insurances and has started offering results to administrative bodies, researchers and private business operators, etc. for public purposes.

The Bureau is investigating the prompt realization of insurance coverage for infertility treatment to consider the feelings of those who want to have children and meet their urgent wishes.

Details will be decided during FY2021 and insurance coverage implemented from the beginning of FY2022 onwards. The Bureau is considering specifics so that those who seeking to get pregnant can receive fertility treatment with peace of mind.

Our Mission

Fields under its jurisdiction

Operating health insurance systems

The Bureau is responsible for planning and designing health insurance systems that contribute to people’s stable life, etc. by providing necessary compensation for sickness and injuries, etc. of workers of private companies and their families.

Operating the national health insurance system

The Bureau is responsible for planning and designing a national health insurance that contributes to the improvement of people’s health by providing necessary compensation for sickness and injuries, etc. of people not subscribing to health insurance such as self-employed persons and those engaged in agriculture.

Operating the medical care system for the elderly

The Bureau is responsible for planning and designing a medical care system for people aged 75 and over that is designed to promote welfare for the elderly by providing appropriate medical benefits to people aged 75 and older.

Setting of medical fees and prices of drugs, etc.

The Bureau operates the Central Social Insurance Medical Council to revise medical fees, which are the remunerations for health and medical services provided by medical institutions and pharmacies and the official prices of drugs, etc.

Disease prevention and health promotion

The Bureau is responsible for the planning and designing of preventive and health promotion efforts to prevent the onset and progression of lifestyle diseases in the insured by utilizing medical big data, including the implementation of health checkups by the respective medical insurers, etc.

Statistical survey and analysis of health insurance systems

In order to contribute to the discussions on ideal health insurance systems that take into consideration the progress of the aging of society and changes in disease structure, etc., the Bureau makes financial estimation and prepares documents for understanding and analyzing the trends of and reforming medical fees by utilizing a national database (NDB) in which receipt (medical fees bill) data is stored.

Hot Topics

Health insurance system reform

Based on the “Policy for Reform of Social Security for All Generations” (cabinet decision on December 15, 2020), etc., the Bureau submitted the “Bill for Partial Amendment of the Health Insurance Act, etc. to Build Social Security for All Generations” to the ordinary Diet session in 2021 aiming to review the structure of social security, in which benefits center on the elderly and contributions from the working generation and building a “Social Security for All Generations” in which all generations support security.

This bill includes a revision whereby the copayment of those (except active-income earners) insured with medical insurance for the late-stage elderly with a certain minimum income becomes 20% to ease any burden on the working generation.

Insurance coverage of infertility treatment

The Bureau is investigating the prompt realization of insurance coverage for infertility treatment to consider the feelings of those who want to have children and meet their urgent wishes.

Details will be decided during FY2021 and insurance coverage implemented from the beginning of FY2022 onwards. The Bureau is considering specifics so that those who seeking to get pregnant can receive fertility treatment with peace of mind.
Realizing “intergenerational support” that will continue for the next 100 years

Pensions support people in their post-retirement life. With the diversifying work styles and extended life expectancy, the Bureau is working to review systems to establish a pension system that is in line with social and economic changes and situations so that people can have a sense of security. We hope to ensure an appropriate operation of the pension system in cooperation with the Japan Pension Service.

Policy

Balancing “sustainability” and “sufficiency of benefits”

Public pension is a system to support the basis of people’s post-retirement life. The Pension Bureau has been addressing the difficult issue of securing the “sufficiency of benefits” and at the same time improving the sustainability of the system while declining birthrate and aging are rapidly progressing. In 2004, as the insurance contribution burden of the working generation was expected to be excessive in the future, a drastic reform was carried out to introduce a new framework in which the upper limit for increasing insurance contributions is fixed and the benefit level is automatically adjusted within the limit of financial resources.

Operation of the public pension system that is trusted by the people

In order to ensure stable operation of pension systems and fairness in burdens, the Bureau is working in cooperation with the Japan Pension Service to promote measure to promote application of Employees’ Pension Insurance and measures to collect National Pension contribution payments and accurately, reliably, and promptly carry out each work, including pension record management, application, collection, payment, and consultation, etc. In addition, the Bureau is working on publicly trusted pension systems by disseminating and promoting “NenkinNet,” which allows the pension records, such as the status of participation in a specific pension system or contributions to be confirmed as well as the estimation of future benefits payable, anytime online.

Supporting individual life plans

Private pensions (corporate pensions/personal pensions), which are provided in addition to the public pension, support life in old age. For example, iDeCo (individual-type defined contribution pension plan) is one of those in which individuals can voluntarily participate and select the contribution amount and investment method. Preferential tax treatment is applied to the contributions and investment profits of iDeCo, and therefore not only pensioners but also members can enjoy the preferential tax treatment. In January 2017, iDeCo expanded the scope of participation to anyone, and the number of members exceeded 1.78 million at the end of November 2019. In addition, support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises are taken to enable them to utilize their private pensions regardless of their size. The Bureau will continue to support efforts for individual life plans in old age.

Hot Topics

Pension public relations efforts

The Pension Bureau launched the Pension Service Planning Division in April 2020 to actively and centrally promote pension public relations and education. In FY2020, the first fiscal year of the operation, the Division set forth the main theme as considering pensions with younger generations who will lead the next generation and: (i) held the “Pension Dialogue Meeting with Students” (at nine universities nationwide), (ii) held the “Reiwa Pension Public Relations Contest” to call for posters and videos for use in pension public relations, (iii) produced learning materials (secrets of pensions) for elementary school pupils and (iv) produced pension quiz videos.
Contributing to occupational stability and economic and social progress through human resource development

Supporting re-employment and skills development through public vocational training

The Director-General implements various vocational training [in the manufacturing field such as manufacture and construction, etc. and services fields such as IT, long-term care, and others] through nationwide vocational training institutions for those seeking re-employment or a career change and for the young and persons with disabilities, who are interested in acquiring know-how and work skills to fulfill their aspirations. In recent years, the Director-General is promoting improvement of training courses to support non-regular workers looking for regular employment and reemployment of women raising children and also strengthening vocational training in line with contemporary needs, such as developing IT human resources. These public vocational training courses are free*. The Director-General also aims to upskill workers and make them more productive by providing training for people with certain skills to acquire more advanced specialized knowledge and upskill accordingly and further support voluntary efforts to develop human resources by companies and workers.

Promoting “visualization” of vocational abilities and skills promotion

The National Trade Skills Test is an important evaluation system to measure the abilities of workers, who have acquired and improved their knowledge and working skills. Tests are conducted for approximately 130 job categories that support economic activities in Japan in the hope to motivate students and workers to endeavor to improve their abilities with a goal. Companies also use this test for human resource development. In addition, efforts are being made to improve skill levels and promoting skills through the National Skills Competition in which young people compete their skills to become the national champion and the “Outstandingly Skilled Workers (Great Craftsmen in the present world)”, a program which grants awards to workers who are regarded as the leading experts in their fields.

Supporting the young and employment ‘ice age’ generation for stable employment

The Director-General provides detailed employment support through “New Graduates Support Help Work”, etc. to enable the young to gain stable employment and utilize their abilities. In particular, the Director-General initiated a system to provide workplace information, based on the Youth Employment Promotion Act, to enable the young to make appropriate job choices after graduating from school or university and to certify small and medium-sized companies that are actively employing and training the young.

In addition, the Director-General provides specialized consultation support through “Regional Youth Support Stations” for vocational independence of the unemployed People, who are not in education, employment, or training (the so-called NEETs), and enhances support for People. Moreover, the Director-General is working to develop momentum of support across society to help the employment ‘ice age’ generation work and participate in society.

Policy

Implementation of public vocational training

The Director-General implements vocational training courses throughout Japan for people seeking re-employment or a career change. We also offer know-how and work skills to the young and persons with disabilities, who intend to work.

Career development support

The Director-General supports workers’ voluntary career development by promoting career consultations and provides grants for training and education that subsidizes part of their course tuitions, etc.

Support for human resource development by companies

The Director-General supports human resource development in companies by subsidizing training costs provided by the company for their employees. We also subsidize company training costs certified by prefectural governors.

Evaluation and promotion of vocational skills

The Director-General implements National Trade Skills Tests that measure the know-how and work skills in approximately 130 job categories. We also hold skills competitions for skilled workers across Japan.

Human resource development in developing countries

The Director-General cooperates in the Technical Intern Training Program, which provides on-the-job-training to transfer knowledge and skills to men and women from developing countries who will be supporting their country’s economic growth.

Support Plan for the Active Role of Employment Ice-Age Generation

The Director-General promotes a stable job placement and employment by providing various support for workers who sustain economic activities in this country, the young who intend to start working and those looking to change their jobs or reemployment to acquire and improve know-how and work skills and for companies committed to increasing workers’ skills. With these supportive measures, the Director-General aims to realize a society and develop economy, in which all people can fully utilize their abilities through work and play more active roles.

Our Mission

Toward improving productivity

Toward improving productivity in Japan, the labor shortage due to the declining birthrate has become a structural issue. Under such circumstances, there is an urgent need to boost corporate and worker productivity to sustain economic growth. Accordingly, the MHLW provides “Productivity Improvement and Support Training” for employees of small- and medium-sized enterprises, etc. with the aim of increasing productivity by improving production and administration processes and organizational management and raising profitability. Around 12,000 companies had utilized the training course and about 71,000 people had been trained as of the end of March 2020.

Creation of a society in which people can be re-educated

In anticipation of a 100-year life society, creating a society in which everyone has opportunities to be re-educated (recurrent education) regardless of their age has been an important issue for the government. The MHLW is working to create a society in which people can re-learn knowledge and working skills according to their individual life stage by combining various human resource development policies, including promotion of career consultation, review of education and training benefit system, and subsidies to companies introducing a long-term education and training leave system, etc.
Creating a grand design in social security and labour policies

Establishment of a social security system for all generations

As a 100-year life society is closing in on us, the Director-General is working to establish a “social security system for all generations” in which all citizens can play active roles longer and more healthily, and all generations can have a sense of security. As a control center for promoting reforms, the Director-General plays the role of creating the grand design of policies.

Toward the year 2025 in which the so-called baby boomer generation turns 75 or older, the Director-General continues to promote reforms, the Director-General plays the role of promoting enhancements/stabilization and prioritization/optimization in the respective areas of measures for declining birthrate, medical/long-term care, and pension while securing revenue from the increased consumption tax rate.

Looking even further into the future, in order to carry out further reform toward the year 2040 in which children of the baby-boom generation will become elderly, causing a decrease in the population of the working generations to further progress, the Director-General is working on three agendas, namely “development of an environment for diverse employment/social participation of elderly people, etc.”, “extension of healthy life expectancy that is the prerequisite for employment and social participation”, and “productivity improvement by medical/welfare service reforms under stricter labour force requirements”. In addition, the Director-General will continue to promote discussions on “review of benefits and burdens” to ensure the sustainability of social security systems toward the achievement of an ideal social security system appropriate for a 100-year life society, taking into consideration discussions of the whole government.

Responses to cross-sectional political issues of the government

Social security and labor policies stand out as the government’s key issues including “work-style reform,” “human resource development revolution,” “all-generation social security reform,” “support for the employment ‘ice age’ generation,” and “digital reform.” Under such circumstances, the Director-General is operating policies by considering how best to utilize the MHLW policy resources to solve issues in Japan.

Since social security/labour policies relate to policies in the areas outside of health, labour, and welfare administration such as local administration and economic/industrial policies, etc., the Director-General discusses policies from various viewpoints on the issue of a society with further progress in a declining birthrate and aging population in cooperation with other ministries and agencies working on relevant efforts. In addition, the Director-General plays the role of contacting and coordinating with entities outside of the Ministry and supervising within the Ministry to design policies from a broad perspective not limited with entities outside of the Ministry and supervising within the Ministry to design policies from a broad perspective not limited within the boundary of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, including promoting the provision of information in the areas of health, labour, and welfare.

In addition, the Director-General is working on efforts such as regulatory reform in the welfare and labour administration, National Strategic Special Zones, decentralization of authority, and aging population in cooperation with other ministries and agencies working on relevant efforts. In addition, the Director-General plays the role of contacting and coordinating with entities outside of the Ministry and supervising within the Ministry to design policies from a broad perspective not limited within the boundary of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, including promoting the provision of information in the areas of health, labour, and welfare and review of administrative procedures from the viewpoint of the people while proceeding with discussions with members of the Diet and private sector experts.

Responses to new issues

Impact of technological innovations such as AI, etc.

While technological innovations such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), etc. are advancing, attention is also being drawn on the impact on employment, work styles, and career development. The Director-General promotes discussions on how these innovations should be introduced in workplaces while understanding the actual circumstances.
Supporting people, life, and the future based on data and digital technologies

Our Mission

As informatization has progressed in recent years, it is becoming more important to operate government administration “based on data” and “by digitizing.” Accordingly, the Director-General conducts various statistical surveys, which underpin policies and promote information policies such as promotion of digital transformation (DX) in the overall health, labor, and the welfare administration, etc.

Policy

Improvement of statistics to support the administration of health, labor and welfare

In order to promote evidence-based policy making (EBPM), it is essential to understand the statistical data, etc. The MHLW conducts large-scale national surveys on vital events, households, medical care, social welfare, employment of workers, wages, and working hours. In cooperation with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), etc., it is comparing international statistical data and is managing international statistical classifications.

Promoting digitization in the fields of health, labor and welfare

As the number of medical and long-term care service providers declines, reflecting the shrinking population, declining birthrate and aging society, it is becoming increasingly crucial to preserve and improve medical and long-term care services. Under such circumstances, the MHLW is promoting Data-based Health Management Initiatives across departments to advance big data and ICT utilization in health, medical care and long-term care fields as part of efforts to streamline medical and long-term care services and make them more productive. It also promotes the digitization of procedures in welfare and labor fields, which affects many people.

In addition, as part of the ministry’s work restructuring the use of digital technology, the full-scale introduction of Robotics Process Automation (RPA) is underway, aiming to create administrative materials and aggregation; allowing officials to focus on human work by handing over routine work to robots, etc.

The Director-General is also working to enhance information security measures to provide ICT-based services without undue worries.

Minister’s Secretariat

Health Science Division

Fields under its jurisdiction

Promotion of scientific research

In order to make policies based on scientific evidence, the Division promotes research in a number of areas under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, which include health and medical care, welfare, pharmaceutica affairs, food sanitation, and industrial safety and health.

Control center for innovation strategies in the areas of health, medical care, science and technology

With the aim of creating innovative drugs and medical devices that have originated in Japan and realizing global leading medical care, including regenerative medicine and genomic medicine, as well as promoting science, technology and innovation measures to achieve Society 5.0, the Division plays the role of a control center within the ministry.

Health risk management, and measures against disasters

In order to respond to the occurrence of natural disasters such as earthquakes/heavy rains, etc., and serious infectious diseases, the Division regularly promotes disaster prevention/mitigation measures and coordinates initial responses within the Ministry when disasters occur.

Operation of the Pharmaceutical Administrative Evaluation and Monitoring Committee

The Division oversees the secretarial function of this committee that evaluates and monitors pharmaceutical administration to prevent health damage caused by pharmaceuticals, etc. from occurring and spreading.

Steering promotion of science and technology and risk management

Our Mission

At present, innovations exceeding the conventional level are occurring, including advancement of Genomic medicine and development of AI technologies. In order to establish science and technologies in the areas of health and medical care ahead of any other country, the Division supervises the promotion of research and formulation of strategies. In addition, natural disasters have been occurring one after another in recent years. In order to protect people’s lives and health, the Division coordinates initial responses after the occurrence of natural disasters and implements risk management when infectious diseases or food poisoning occur. The Division also oversees the operation of the Pharmaceutical Administrative Evaluation and Monitoring Committee.

Policy

Promotion of genomic medicine

The genome refers to all the genetic information on an organism and “genomic medicine” analyzes this genomic information and applies it to medical treatment. In particular, “whole-genome analysis” for analyzing all genomes is a highly anticipated field, which may pave the way to develop new preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic methods by identifying the genes causing cancer and intractable diseases.

Under these circumstances, the MHLW launched the “Action Plan on Whole-Genome Analysis” in December 2019; targeting genome-wide analysis in the area of cancer and intractable diseases for promoting personalized medicine that transforms treatment accuracy for individual patients and helps roll out new treatments for previously incurable patients.

Response to the Heavy Rain Event of July 2020

The record heavy rainfall in July 2020 wreaked havoc over wide-ranging areas, including the Kyushu, Chubu and Tohoku regions.

In response, the MHLW dispatched disaster medical assistance teams (DMATs) to the affected areas and its officers were sent to determine the damage to medical and social welfare facilities. Emergency water supplies, power-supply cars and other necessary support was also requested from the relevant organizations. Officers toured the evacuation centers for health control and aided efforts to prevent diseases like COVID-19 and heat stroke.

Minister’s Secretariat

Health Science Division

Hot Topics

“Reiwa Marriage” shown from statistics

Vital statistics cover all the births, deaths, marriages, divorces and stillbirths over more than a century. The following graph shows changes in the number of marriages and indicates that the total marriages in May 2019 exceeded the figures for May in the period 1989 to 2018. Analyzing “now” by compiling the “past” and determining policies for the “future” based on the data. Statistics are basic for the policies.

Changes in the number of marriages

Minister’s Secretariat

Health Science Division

Hot Topics

Promoting research contributing to countermeasures for COVID-19

As a control center for research conducted by the MHLW, the Division prioritizes research that contributes to countermeasures for COVID-19. The Health and Labour Sciences Research Grants Program covers research that helps promote administrative measures, including research and case analysis related to COVID-19 at home and abroad, while the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (JAMERD) promotes R&D for full disclosure of this disease, therapeutic drugs and vaccines, inspection of the laboratory, etc.

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Health Science Division

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Contributing to international society by utilizing the strength of Japan

Our Mission

As interdependence between countries increases globally, Japan is expected to contribute to the world’s peace and prosperity as a member of the international community. Japan is also the world’s fastest-aging nation, and its experience as a forerunner facing a graying population is drawing international attention. Leveraging Japan’s strength in dealing with such demographic challenges, the International Affairs Division is committed to working with other countries and international organizations to solve global issues.

Policy

Promoting global health

Japan plays a leading role in the international community in responding to global health issues while sharing knowledge with other countries and providing financial assistance and human resource support. Such responses include (1) establishing a system for a coordinated international response to public health emergencies such as an epidemic of the Ebola virus, (2) achieving universal health coverage (UHC) to ensure access to basic health care services for all, and (3) tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Japan is also working to promote the development of drugs for neglected tropical diseases and infections that can be a global health threat. Furthermore, the Division collects information on global public health issues including data on COVID-19 and details about responses to the disease in other countries.

Improving the work environment in the Asian region

Improving the work environment in developing countries is not only necessary to achieve social justice, but also crucial for Japan’s economic growth. The MLHW supports efforts to promote decent work, or productive work under humane working conditions, for all people in the Asian region and beyond through the ILO and other organizations. More concretely, the Ministry has been working on various projects for specific goals such as improving industrial safety and health standards, helping establish a social security system and eradicating child labor. Those efforts are expected to contribute to sustainable development in the Asian region and allow Japanese companies to expand their businesses to overseas markets.

Hot Topics

Promoting Universal Health Coverage (UNC)

UHC means that all people can receive the health care services they need without financial hardship. Japan achieved UHC in 1961 with the introduction of a national health insurance system. This has encouraged social and economic development in the country, enabling people in Japan to stay healthy and live a longer life. Japan is therefore expected to take a lead in this field.

Achieving UNC by 2030 is also included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), becoming a major global health agenda in recent years. The SDGs were set in 2015 by the U.N. General Assembly.

Business and human rights

There is a growing interest in the corporate responsibility to respect human rights as more companies expand their business globally. Following the trend, the Japanese government drew up its National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in October 2020.

A wide range of steps on business and human rights taken by the MLHW include initiatives to promote decent work and measures to protect the rights of children. To address adverse impact of corporate activities on human rights, the MLHW is working together with related ministries and agencies, trying to protect human rights of people badly affected by business activities through efforts formulated based on the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.
### Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>51.3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th></th>
<th>Under 15</th>
<th>Over 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of them, over 75</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.7</td>
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</table>

#### Student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th></th>
<th>Elementary school student</th>
<th>Junior high school student</th>
<th>High school student</th>
<th>Undergraduate and graduate student</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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### Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th></th>
<th>Working</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Self-employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
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#### Short-time worker

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th></th>
<th>Fewer than 35 hours/week</th>
<th>17.2</th>
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</thead>
</table>

#### Long-term worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th></th>
<th>Fewer than 60 hours/week</th>
<th>3.6</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th></th>
<th>Part-timer</th>
<th>Temporary employee</th>
<th>Contracted/commissioned employee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part-timer*</th>
<th></th>
<th>Over 15-34</th>
<th>1.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th></th>
<th>1.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

“Abnormal finding” in corporate health checkup

26.1

### Welfare and Pension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th></th>
<th>Be in a nursery center</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Welfare recipient</th>
<th>Receiving long-term care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contributor of National Pension**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Salaried worker, government employee</td>
<td>Spouse of Category II insured person</td>
<td>11.7 persons</td>
<td>33.1 persons</td>
<td>6.7 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elderly Pension**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary of old-age pension</th>
<th></th>
<th>27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Medical Care

#### Distressed or stressed in daily life *

|  |  | Over 12 | Over 20 |
|  |  | 47.9 persons | 69.6 persons |

#### Getting a health checkup or screening *

|  |  | Over 20 | Over 60 |
|  |  | 40.4 persons | 12.6 persons |

#### Seeing a doctor for illness or injury *

|  |  | Over 20 | Over 60 |
|  |  | 30.8 persons | 12.6 persons |

#### Suffering from lifestyle-related diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>High blood pressure disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiac disorder</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Smoking

|  |  | Male | Female |
|  |  | 30.8 | 24.9 |

#### Getting cancer over the lifetime

|  |  | Male | Female |
|  |  | 30.8 | 24.9 |

#### Registered donor for a bone-marrow graft

|  |  | 0.42 |
|  |  |  |

#### Habitually exercising

|  |  | Male | Female |
|  |  | 28.2 | 24.9 |

#### Insured by health insurance

|  |  | Union/HIA health insurance | National Health Insurance |
|  |  | 53.8 | 25.5 |

* Except for Kumamoto Prefecture.
Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>2,371 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>3,784 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>1,031 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac disorder</td>
<td>569 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>292 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>108 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident at work</td>
<td>2 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senility</td>
<td>334 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>55 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Decrease in population/day: 1,413 persons

Adult

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average vegetable intake of adult</td>
<td>281 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average step count of adult Male</td>
<td>6,794 steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average step count of adult Female</td>
<td>5,942 steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brushing teeth, more than once</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search for a job at Hello Work</td>
<td>13,019 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed through Hello Work</td>
<td>4,172 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury at work (occupational accident)</td>
<td>344 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of labor consultations</td>
<td>3,256 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medical care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be in a hospital</td>
<td>7,191,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulatory condition</td>
<td>228,600 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia</td>
<td>153,500 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer, etc.</td>
<td>142,200 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare cost of whole people</td>
<td>118,002,740,000 yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>931.2 yen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act</td>
<td>1.53 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opium Act</td>
<td>0.006 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis Control Act</td>
<td>12.52 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulants Control Act</td>
<td>23.92 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Childcare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time spent on childcare and housework by a parent with children under 6</td>
<td>23 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>1.23 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>7.34 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of child abuse counseling cases</td>
<td>438 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long-term care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be in a hospital</td>
<td>42 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of times Outpatient Day Long-Term Care is used</td>
<td>399,084 times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of home helpers are used</td>
<td>770,864 times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit per person of Long-Term Care Insurance</td>
<td>4,007 yen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of marriages</td>
<td>1,641 couple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of divorces</td>
<td>571 couple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For people, for life, for the future

The catchphrase above represents the philosophy underlying duties of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW): officials unite to expand a wide variety of health, labor and welfare services while serving all citizens.

The MHLW cares about all people living in Japan, working to protect their livelihoods now and in the future.