

Public Assistance System

Overview

Outline of Public Assistance System

[Public assistance system]

The public assistance system is used to guarantee a minimum standard of living as well as to promote self-support for any citizens that are impoverished by providing the necessary public assistance according to their level of poverty.

The system consists of 8 types of assistance, namely livelihood assistance, education assistance, housing assistance, medical assistance, long-term care assistance, maternity assistance, occupational assistance, and funeral assistance, which can all be provided alone or in combination according to the needs of the person requiring the public assistance.

Determining the Amount of Public Assistance

(Calculation of Minimum Living Expenses)

<table border="1"> <tr><td>Livelihood assistance</td></tr> <tr><td>Living expenses</td></tr> </table>	Livelihood assistance	Living expenses	+	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Housing assistance</td></tr> <tr><td>House rent, etc.</td></tr> </table>	Housing assistance	House rent, etc.	+	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Education assistance</td></tr> <tr><td>Compulsory education expenses</td></tr> </table>	Education assistance	Compulsory education expenses	+	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Long-term care assistance</td></tr> <tr><td>Long-term care expenses</td></tr> </table>	Long-term care assistance	Long-term care expenses	+	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Medical assistance</td></tr> <tr><td>Medical expenses</td></tr> </table>	Medical assistance	Medical expenses	=	Minimum living Expenses
Livelihood assistance																				
Living expenses																				
Housing assistance																				
House rent, etc.																				
Education assistance																				
Compulsory education expenses																				
Long-term care assistance																				
Long-term care expenses																				
Medical assistance																				
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- In addition to the above items, a standard amount is added in the case of child birth, funeral, etc.

(Calculation of Income Appropriation Amount)

Average monthly income - (Actual necessary expenses + Basic deductions) = Income

(Calculation of Assistance Amount)

Minimum living expenses - Income appropriation amount = Assistance amount

[Standards of public assistance]

The standards of public assistance system involve standards for livelihood assistance, the scope of which includes clothing, food or anything else considered necessary in their daily life, and which get revised using the level equilibrium method that takes into consideration the growth of the consumption level of the general public, etc.

Livelihood Assistance Standards by Type of Household (FY2011)

(Unit: ¥)

	3-person household: male aged 33, female aged 29, child aged 4	Elderly single household: female aged 68	Elderly couple household: male aged 68, female aged 65	Female aged 30, children aged 4 and 2
1st class area - 1	175,170	80,820	121,940	193,900
1st class area - 2	167,870	77,190	116,460	187,470
2nd class area - 1	160,580	73,540	110,960	179,310
2nd class area - 2	153,270	69,910	105,480	172,880
3rd class area - 1	145,980	66,260	99,990	164,730
3rd class area - 2	138,680	62,640	94,500	158,300

(Note) The above figures include winter season additional amounts (Area VI x 5/12), child-rearing addition, and fatherless family addition.

Changes in Standard Livelihood Assistance Standards (monthly amount as of April 1 of each FY)

FY	FY1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Standard 3-person household in 1st class area-1	Standard amount (¥)	155,717	157,274	158,375	161,859	163,316	163,806	163,970	163,970	163,970	162,490	162,170	162,170	162,170	162,170	162,170	162,170	162,170
	Ratio to previous year (%)	101.6	101.0	100.7	102.2	100.9	100.3	100.1	100.0	100.0	99.1	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(Note) Excluding child-rearing addition.

Detailed Data 1

Changes in Actual Number of Households/Persons Receiving Public Assistance, Public Assistance Rate, Number of Persons Assisted, and Rate of Assisted Persons

Examining the overall general public assistance trends reveals the actual number of persons receiving public assistance and the public assistance rate (per population of 1,000) to have been on an upward trend after reaching a minimum in 1995. In FY2009 the monthly average of the actual number of persons receiving public assistance was 1,763,572, that of the actual number of households 1,274,231, and that of the public assistance rate 13.8%.

By type of assistance the number of those receiving medical assistance has been increasing every year.

(Monthly average)

	Actual recipient households	Actual recipients	Public assistance rate	Livelihood assistance recipients	Housing assistance recipients	Education assistance recipients	Long-term care assistance recipients	Medical assistance recipients	Other assistance recipients	Assistance rate (actual recipients = 100.0)					
	(1,000 households)	(1,000 persons)	(%)	(1,000 persons)	(1,000 persons)	(1,000 persons)	(1,000 persons)	(1,000 persons)	(1,000 persons)	Livelihood assistance	Housing assistance	Education assistance	Long-term care assistance	Medical assistance	Other assistance
FY1965	644	1,599	16.3	1,438	728	433	•	616	11	89.9	45.5	27.1	•	38.5	0.7
FY1970	658	1,344	13.0	1,143	643	263	•	702	7	85.0	47.9	19.6	•	52.2	0.5
FY1975	708	1,349	12.1	1,160	705	229	•	785	5	86.0	52.2	16.9	•	58.2	0.4
FY1980	747	1,427	12.2	1,251	867	261	•	856	5	87.7	60.7	18.3	•	60.0	0.3
FY1985	781	1,431	11.8	1,269	968	252	•	910	4	88.7	67.6	17.6	•	63.6	0.3
FY1990	624	1,015	8.2	890	730	136	•	711	3	87.7	71.9	13.4	•	70.1	0.3
FY1991	601	946	7.6	826	681	117	•	681	3	87.3	72.0	12.4	•	71.9	0.3
FY1992	586	898	7.2	781	646	104	•	662	3	86.9	72.0	11.6	•	73.7	0.3
FY1993	586	883	7.1	765	639	97	•	659	3	86.7	72.4	10.9	•	74.6	0.3
FY1994	595	885	7.1	766	645	92	•	671	3	86.5	72.8	10.4	•	75.8	0.3
FY1995	602	882	7.0	760	639	88	•	680	2	86.2	72.4	10.0	•	77.1	0.3
FY1996	613	887	7.1	766	649	85	•	695	3	86.3	73.1	9.6	•	78.3	0.3
FY1997	631	906	7.2	784	669	84	•	716	3	86.6	73.8	9.3	•	79.0	0.3
FY1998	663	947	7.5	822	707	86	•	753	2	86.8	74.7	9.1	•	79.6	0.3
FY1999	704	1,004	7.9	877	763	91	•	804	2	87.3	76.0	9.1	•	80.0	0.2
FY2000	751	1,072	8.4	943	824	97	67	864	2	87.9	76.9	9.0	6.2	80.6	0.2
FY2001	805	1,148	9.0	1,015	891	105	84	929	2	88.4	77.6	9.1	7.4	80.9	0.2
FY2002	871	1,243	9.8	1,105	975	114	106	1,003	3	89.0	78.5	9.2	8.5	80.7	0.2
FY2003	941	1,344	10.5	1,202	1,069	124	127	1,083	3	89.4	79.5	9.2	9.5	80.5	0.2
FY2004	999	1,423	11.1	1,274	1,143	132	147	1,155	3	89.5	80.3	9.3	10.3	81.1	0.2
FY2005	1,042	1,476	11.6	1,320	1,194	136	164	1,208	32	89.5	80.9	9.2	11.1	81.8	2.1
FY2006	1,076	1,514	11.8	1,354	1,233	137	172	1,226	36	89.5	81.5	9.1	11.4	81.0	2.4
FY2007	1,105	1,543	12.1	1,380	1,262	136	184	1,248	38	89.4	81.8	8.8	11.9	80.9	2.5
FY2008	1,149	1,593	12.5	1,422	1,305	135	196	1,282	40	89.3	81.9	8.5	12.3	80.5	2.5
FY2009	1,274	1,764	13.8	1,586	1,460	144	210	1,406	49	89.9	82.8	8.2	11.9	79.8	2.8

Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services", Statistics and Information Department, Minister's Secretariat, MHLW (Note) The number of "Other assistance recipients" has increased since FY2005, due to an addition of the expenses necessary for attending high school, etc.

Detailed Data 2

Changes in Percentage Distribution of Households Receiving Public Assistance by Household Type

Examining the number of households receiving public assistance by household type reveals elderly households to have been of the highest percentage at 44.3%.

The decrease in percentage of elderly households in 2005 was due to a change in the definition of elderly households: the definition up to FY 2004 was "households composed only of males aged 65 or older and/or females aged 60 or older but with or without any persons younger than 18" whereas the definition from FY 2005 on was "households composed only of males and/or females aged 65 or older and with or without persons younger than 18".

(Unit: %)

	Elderly households	Fatherless households	Households with wounded or sick persons/ persons with disabilities	Other households
FY1971	30.7	9.9	40.9	18.6
FY1975	31.4	10.0	45.8	12.9
FY1980	30.3	12.8	46.0	10.9
FY1985	31.2	14.6	44.8	9.3
FY1990	37.2	11.7	42.9	8.1
FY1991	38.8	10.8	42.7	7.8
FY1992	40.2	9.9	42.4	7.5
FY1993	41.1	9.3	42.3	7.2
FY1994	41.8	9.0	42.1	7.1
FY1995	42.3	8.7	42.0	6.9
FY1996	43.2	8.4	41.6	6.8
FY1997	44.0	8.3	41.0	6.7
FY1998	44.5	8.2	40.4	6.8
FY1999	44.9	8.3	39.6	7.1
FY2000	45.5	8.4	38.7	7.4
FY2001	46.0	8.5	37.8	7.7
FY2002	46.3	8.6	36.7	8.3
FY2003	46.4	8.7	35.8	9.0
FY2004	46.7	8.8	35.1	9.4
FY2005	43.5	8.7	37.5	10.3
FY2006	44.1	8.6	37.0	10.2
FY2007	45.1	8.4	36.4	10.1
FY2008	45.7	8.2	35.5	10.6
FY2009	44.3	7.8	34.3	13.5

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