

# The Elderly Education in Japan

## 日本の高齢者教育

May 13, 2013

International Longevity Center-Japan

国際長寿センター（日本）

# General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aged Society

## 高齢社会大綱

### 3. Fundamental measures concerning the fields of social participation, learning, etc.

#### (1) Promotion of social participation activities

- a. Encouraging older people to participate in social activities
- b. Environmental development of activities by “new public” leaders

#### (2) Promotion of learning activities

- a. Systematic provision and infrastructure development of learning opportunities
- b. Provision of diverse learning opportunities in school
- c. Provision of diverse learning opportunities in society
- d. Support of learning activities for workers

# Laws Concerning Life-long Learning

## 生涯学習関連法

The Revised Fundamental Law of Education (2006)

教育基本法

-‘Life-long learning生涯学習,’ ‘Social Education社会教育’

Life-long Learning Promotion Act (1990)生涯学習振興法

-Promotion of infrastructure development of Life-long learning by nation

(Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan文部科学省), prefectures都道府県, and education boards in prefectures県教育委員会

### Background

- (1) the need to remedy Japanese society's preoccupation with academic credentials;
- (2) increased demand for learning activities in a developing society;
- (3) the need for learning in response to social and economic change;
- (4) the need to revive and improve the educational strengths of the home and the local community.

**LIFELONG LEARNING**

<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/shougai/index.htm>

# Social Education

## 社会教育

Transition of the Number of Students Who Took Classes or Lectures  
(1,000 persons)

	Prefectural and municipal education boards	Prefectural and municipal Chief Department	Community centers (Including similar facilities)	Museum s (Including similar facilities)	Facilities for Juvenile and women education	Culture halls	Life-long learning canterers	Total
2010	5,130	6,908	10,080	3,599	871	930	605	28,123
2007	7,105	7,129	13,038	3,473	1,024	1,418	985	34,172

Social Education Survey社会教育調査 2011, MEXT文部科学省

# Classes & Lectures in the Community Centers

(Number of Centers: 9,898)

Total 計	375,934
Cultural enrichment 教養向上	25,694
Hobbies / Lessons 趣味	167,673
Gym/Recreation 体育	66,328
Home education 家庭教育	74,725
Occupational skills 職業知識	3,650
Public awareness 市民意識	27,909
Fostering leaders 指導者養成	2,555
Others 他	7,400

Social Education Survey 2012

# Status of Participation in Learning Activities

学習活動への参加状況 (Multiple answers allowed) (%)

	Japan	USA	Korea	Germany	Sweden
Learning activities held by private organizations like culture centers	12.9	12.2	2.8	8.0	13.0
Elderly Classes specially for seniors held by public organizations	3.4	10.4	5.5	7.8	8.0
Open lectures, etc. held by public organizations or universities	3.9	9.0	2.2	5.4	17.2
Learning at home by correspondence	4.0	3.5	1.2	0.5	0.7
Full-time learning at the university or graduate school	0.1	3.2	0.3	0.8	2.8
Full-time learning at various vocational schools	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.1	1.6
Others	1.9	3.4	0.6	2.4	6.6
No participation	78.1	70.9	87.4	79.5	64.4

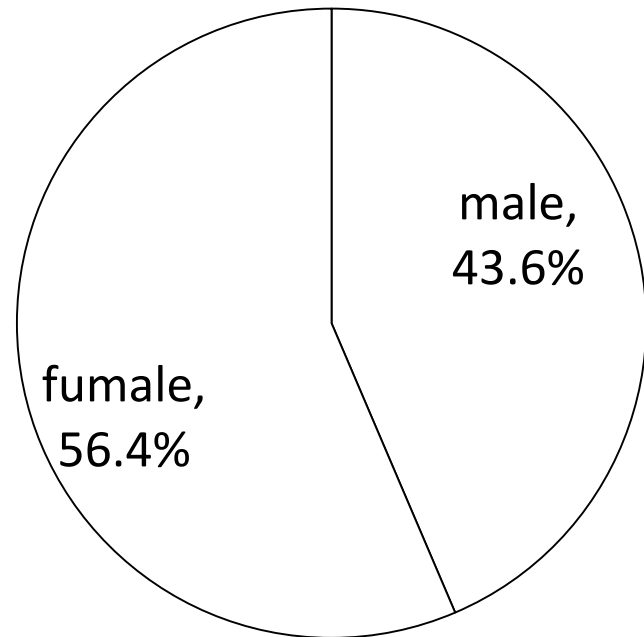
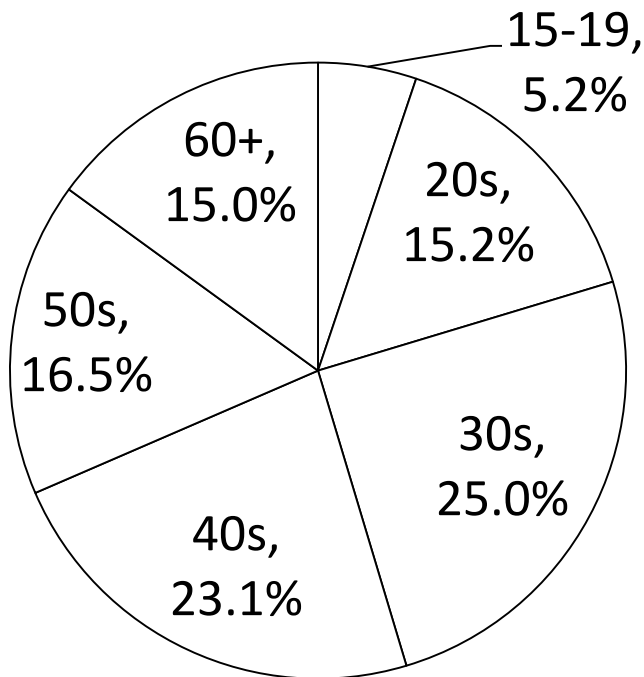
Cabinet Office, "International Comparison Survey of the Daily Life and Attitudes of Elderly Persons" 2010

第7回高齢者の生活と意識に関する国際比較調査結果

# The Open University of Japan

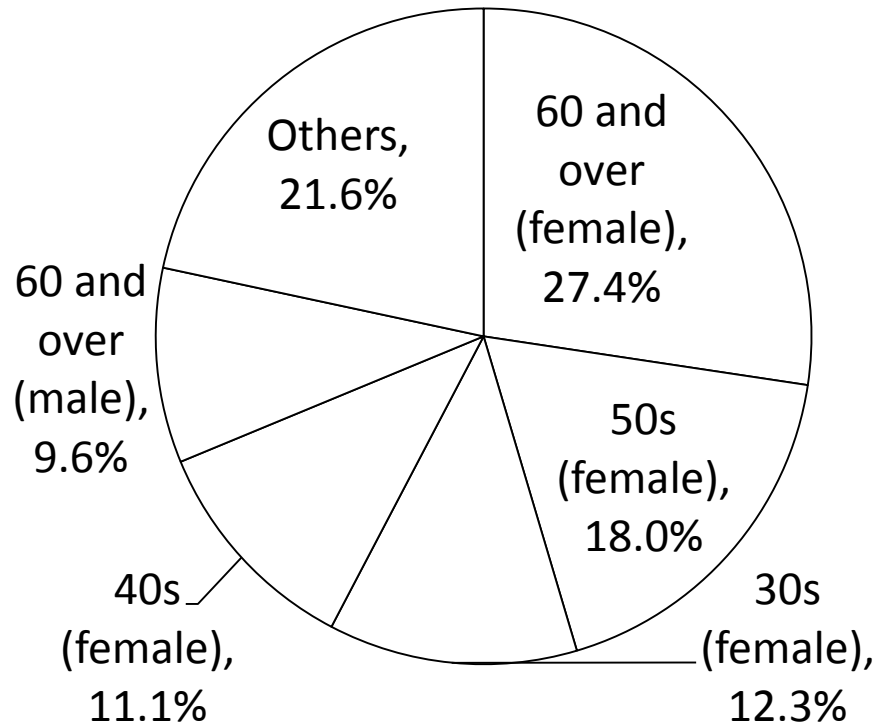
## 放送大学

■ Student attributes (2nd semester, 2008) [The Faculty of Liberal Arts]  
Total: 79056



# Culture Centers

Number of establishments	698
Annual sales	57.3 billion yen
Number of employed workers	55,271
Number of instructors	45,646
Total number of courses	190,998
Total number of students	7,097,867





# Senior Colleges

## 高齢者大学(Examples)

26 prefectures out of 47, as well some cities, hold senior colleges.

Name	School Period	Subjects/Courses	Total days of lectures	Total hours of lectures	Governing bodies/School buildings
Tochigi Prefecture Silver University	2 years	-Active sports course -Lively health course -Mutual support welfare course -Hometown welfare course	40 days a year	160 hours a year	(Tochigi Prefecture Council of Social Welfare) An exclusive school building and 2 welfare training centers
Saga Prefecture Senior University	2 years	-Local society -Culture/art -Health volunteers	30 days a year	120 hours a year	Saga Prefecture Promotion Foundation for Longevity Society) Women/Life-long Learning Center Senior Communication Center Life-long Learning Center

<http://www.nenrin.or.jp/tochigi/home/silver/index.html>

<http://www.saganet.ne.jp/chouju/ikigai/daigaku/index.htm>

# Older People's Contribution to a Community (Edogawa City江戸川区, Eastern part of Tokyo)

Population: 655,000 % of 65+: 18.4% Area: 49.1km<sup>2</sup> (2011)

## Edogawa Silver Human Resources Center

- First Center in Japan
- Membership: about 4,000 (in 2010)

## Suku Suku (Thriving) School

- Volunteers, including older people, support learning activities of elementary-school children

## Matured Age(65+) Care Supporters

- Take training and provide support (e.g. talking with facility residents)
- Earn 1 point (=100 yen) for each activity hour



## Voluntary Groups

- Older people play active roles
- Environmental protection, education, culture, etc.
- Recycling, traffic safety for children, etc.
- 105 groups in park greening

## Edogawa Comprehensive Life College

- Child support, long-term care etc.
- 120-140 hours/year
- Average age: 60.3, 100 students /grade
- The graduates use these skills in voluntary activities.

## Neighborhood Associations (NAs)

- Older people play active roles
- Disaster prevention, neighborhood watch, recycling, traffic safety for children, etc.
- There are 285 NAs in the City

**Started citizen guardianship supporters**

Y. Yamada (2010). Keeping Older Persons Healthy: Learning from Edogawa City. JARC