

From the People of Japan



GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE



HEALTH STATUS OF OLDER PERSONS

The Population and Housing Census 2019

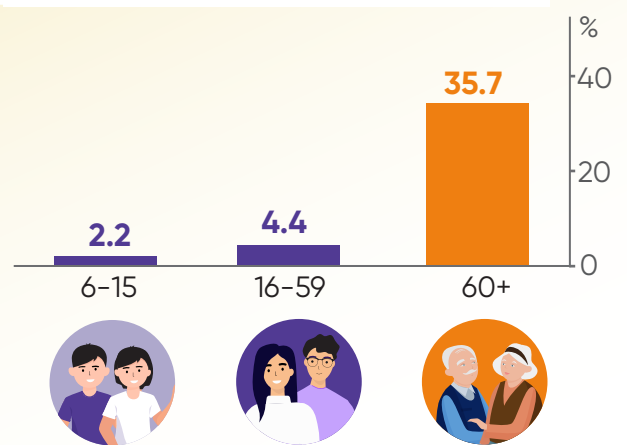
VERY HIGH PREVALENCE OF FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTY



Although decreasing over time, the proportion of older persons who had difficulty in performing at least one function was

MUCH HIGHER

than that of other younger age groups.

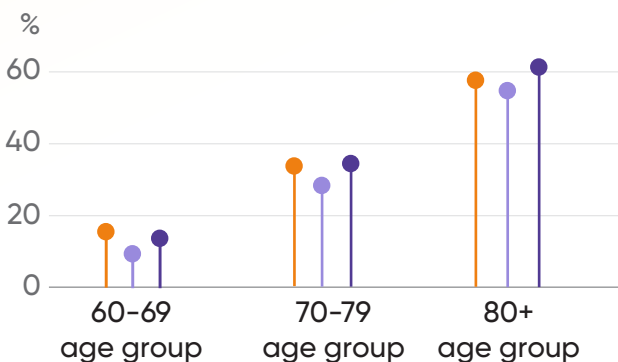


COMMON DIFFICULTIES

The proportions of older persons having difficulty in



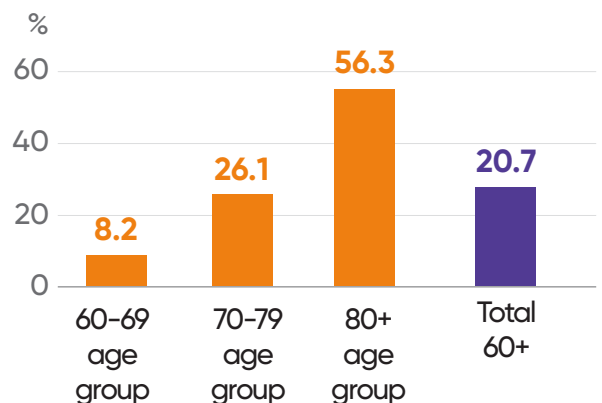
increased at more advanced ages.



15% of older persons had difficulty in self-care and would require long-term care.

DISABILITIES

The proportions of older persons finding it "very difficult to perform" or "cannot perform" at least one function:



1 IN 2 older person in oldest-old group (80+) had disabilities in at least one function.

GENDER, RESIDENTIAL AREA AND ETHNICITY DIFFERENCES

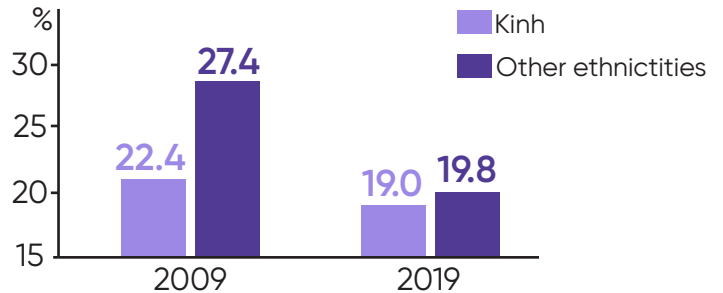
In 2009–2019 period, the differences between groups in the same category tended to decrease.



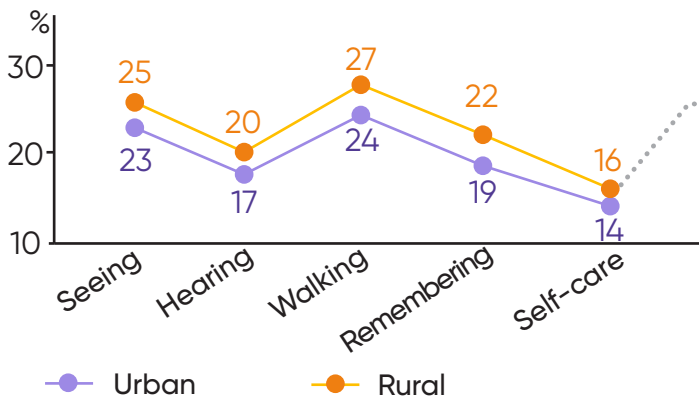
For example, the difference between the rate of ethnic minority older persons having difficulty in hearing and that of their Kinh counterparts was

NARROWED

between the two censuses.



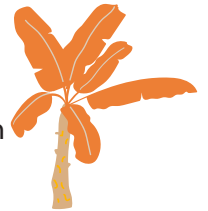
However, there were significant differences in terms of gender, ethnicity and residential area, in which men, Kinh persons and urban persons had lower prevalences of difficulty than their respective counterparts.



Rural older persons had

HIGHER

prevalence of difficulty than their urban counterparts in all functions.

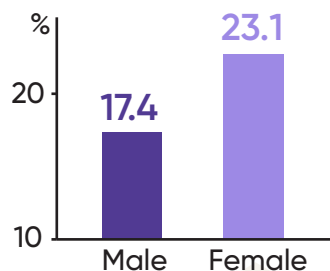


1 IN 5 female older persons had difficulty in walking while that ratio is only

1 IN 7

among their male counterparts.

The proportions of having disability in at least one function is much higher among female older persons:



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The prevalences of disabilities and difficulties in functional performance, remembering or concentrating and self-care provided various implications for designing and implementing policies in providing care services to older persons. Among them, those who have severe difficulties in performing their basic functions should be prioritized in care.

