

Youth Life in Japan

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YOUTH LIFE IN JAPAN

Overview

Part A: Introduction

- 1) seven key Japanese youth life stages
- (2) five main characteristics

Part B: Ten Themes

- 1) birth 2) marriage and family 3) Japanese parents 4) Japanese homes 5) problems at home
- 6 primary school 7 going to juku 8 problems
- at school 9 university life 10 working

1 Seven Key Youth Life Stages

Infancy 幼児 ようじ: at home

Nursery school 保育園 or kindergarten 幼稚園

Primary school 小学校生: aged 6 to 12

Junior high school 中学校生: aged 12 to 15

High school 高校生: aged 15 to 18

University 大学生: aged 18 to 22 (or 23)

Work - becoming a 社会人: from 22 (or 23)

Education System 教育制度



nursery, kindergarten



junior high school



primary school



high school





Compulsory education

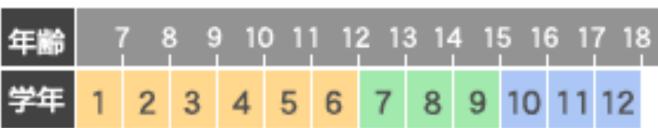
Primary education Secondary education

Elementary school

Junior high school

High school

Educa





義務教育 中等教育 初等教育 高等 学校 小学校 中学校

Education System

- 1. <u>Uniform ages</u>: to move from one stage to next
- no flexibility, with no or little overlapping
- no skipping or repeating grades in JHS / HS
- most university students are 18 to 22
- job-hunting in fourth year of university
- finish university and begin work at 21 or 22 no 'gap years'
- formal retirement at 60 or 65 (but often continue in marginal, informal positions)

- 2. <u>Uniform experiences</u>: at each stage
- in school, everyone around Japan studying the same materials and content at the same time
- in school, having similar club activities
- wearing a uniform at school
- wearing the same clothes for job-hunting

* this is changing – greater diversity is appearing

- 2. <u>Uniform experiences</u>: at each stage
- wearing a uniform at school
- having similar club activities at school
- everyone around Japan studying the same materials and content at the same time
- wearing the same clothes for job-hunting

3. <u>Diversity – location and class</u>:

Expectations based upon Tokyo middle-class experiences and aspirations

Regional diversity: center vs. periphery east vs. west Japan

Class diversity: increasing income polarization, with increasing poverty among youth and young- to mid-adulthood

- 4. <u>Diversity gender:</u> males and females have different experiences at each life course stage
- some sex-segregated schools (growing less)
- different club activities in high school
- few women studying sciences
- different experiences with job-hunting
- different roles at work
- different roles at home

5. <u>Diversity – generational</u>: different generations have had very different experiences wartime generation (born 1920s~mid-1930s) postwar generation (late 1930s~mid-1950s) prosperity generation (late1950s~early 1970s) global generation (mid-1970s~early 1990s) digital generation (mid-1990~present)

② Discussion: Youth Life Stages in your Country or Culture

- 1. What are the key youth life stages up to 25 in the Czech Republic (or your country)?
- 2. At each stage, how old are people? Do people move through each stage at the same age?
- 3. What are the main activities in each life course stage? In each stage, do most people have similar experiences? What variation is there?

Overview

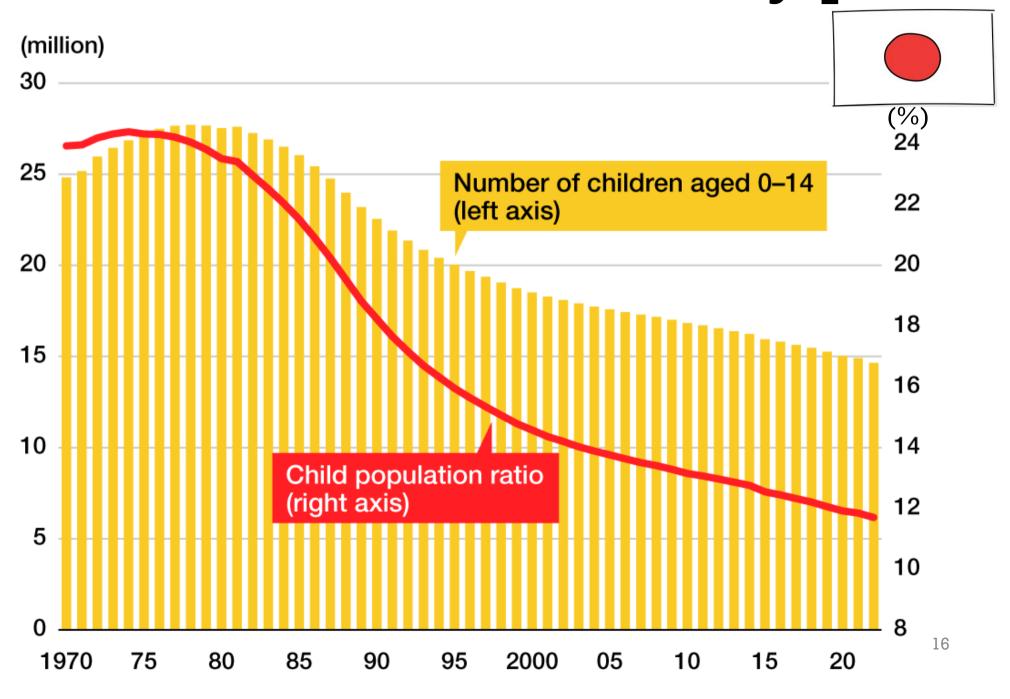
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There are fewer kids in Japan





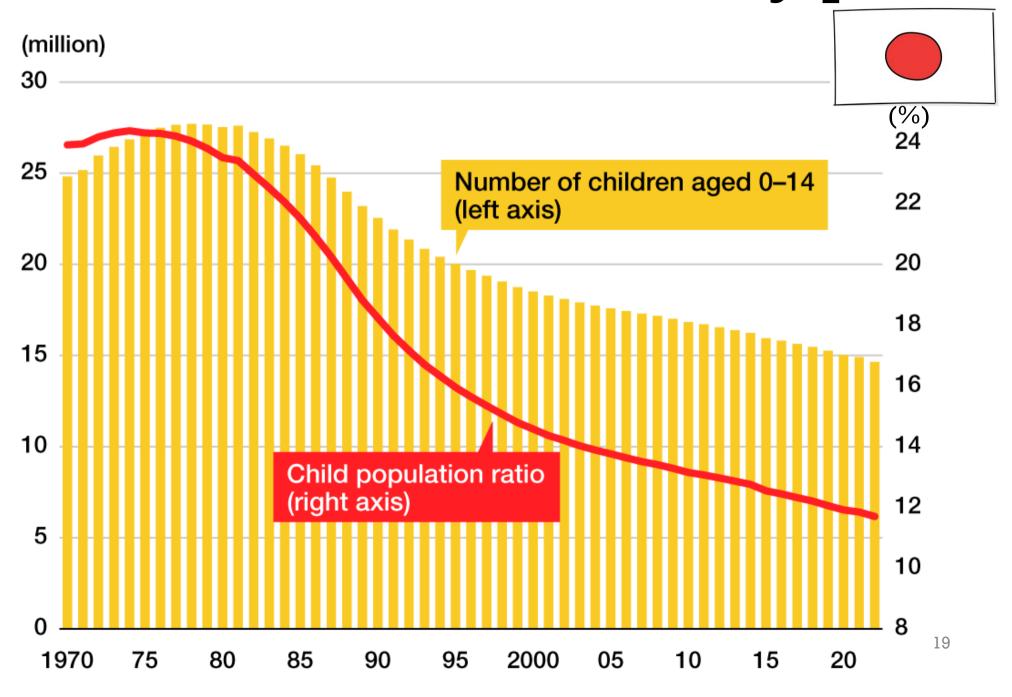
Topic 1: Birth

- 1. Japan's birthrate is low and decreasing.
- 2. More boys than girls are born, due to biological reasons.
- 3. Cultural preference for having boys is decreasing daughters are thought to take better care of parents in old age and expected to.
- 4. There are more young and middle-aged males, more older females.

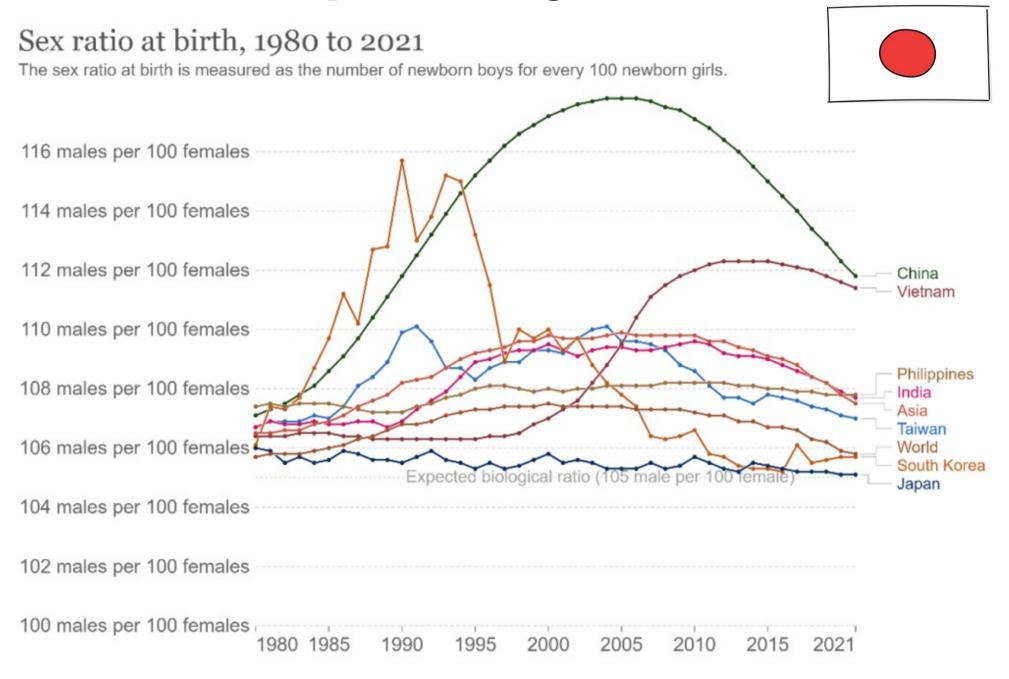
Birth 出産 or 生まれ



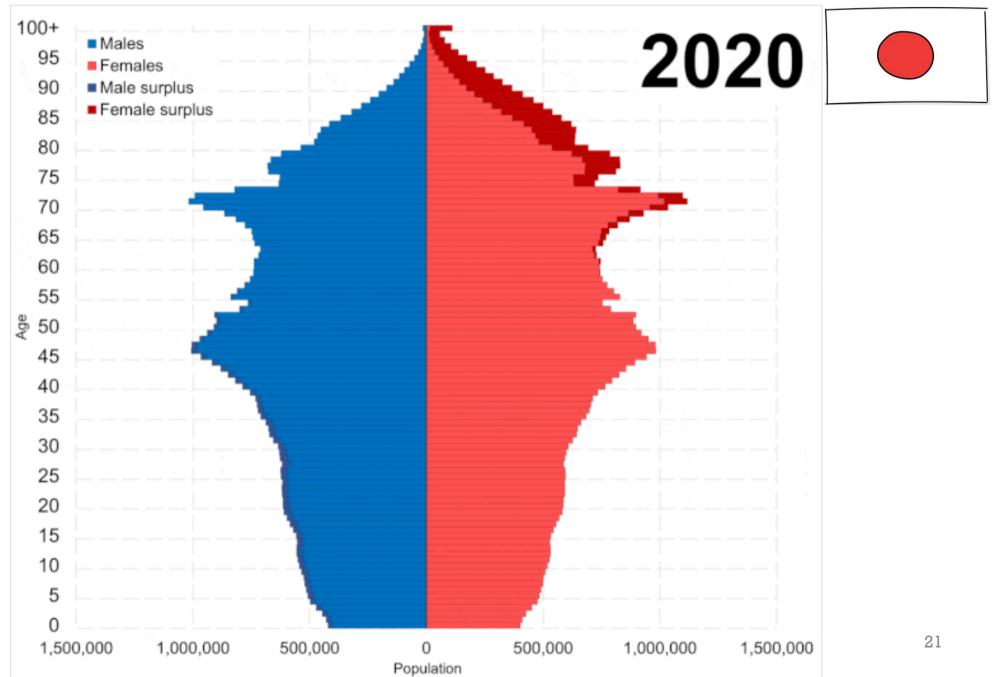
There are fewer kids in Japan



More boys than girls are born



More young males, more old females



腹带 hara obi









帯祝い obi-iwai





帯祝いを贈るマナー

岩田帯を贈る

帯祝いの帯は「岩田帯」と呼ばれる紅白の絹の帯と「白木錦一反」を妊婦の実家が奉書で包んで贈るのが正式です。 最近は「さらし」ではなくコルセットやベルトタイプやマタニティガードルのような伸縮性があったりする脱着が楽なタイプがよく選ばれていますが、 祈願する神社によっては「さらし」でなくてはお祓い出来ない場合があります。 また、当然ですがお祓いしてもらうものですので、使用済みではなく未使用の新品である必要もあります。 神社で売られている場合もありますが、持参する場合には祈祷してもらう神社に祈祷可能な帯であるかを問い合わせておくと安心かもしれません。

帯祝いを贈るときの祝儀袋、のし紙など

熨斗(のし)紙などの装飾は、紅白の蝶結びの水引を使うのが一般的です。



神社へのご祈祷料

す。

「御初穂料」「御玉串料」「初穂料」「御礼」などの表書き。 白封筒でも良いですが、祝儀袋に入れる場合は水引は「紅白の蝶結び」で「熨斗あり」で

また、社務所(受付)で祈祷料を支払いを済ませる為、祝儀袋は必要無い神社も多いですので、祈祷してもらう神社へあらかじめ確認しておくと良いでしょう。

神社への祈祷料を納めるときの祝儀袋



帯祝いで喜ばれるお祝いの品

帯祝いには現金や商品券を**祝儀**として贈ったり、岩田帯の代わりにマタニティベルトなどを**ギフト**として贈るのが一般的です。

妊婦の不安は、初子の場合には特に大きいものですので、安産のお守りなども一緒に贈られると気持ちが伝わると思います。

帯祝いを祝儀袋で現金や商品券を贈る場合

- お札の枚数などには、四(死)や 九(苦)などに結びつく縁起の悪い数字は避けてください。
- お祝い金の場合、シワや折り目の無い新札を使うのも忘れずに。
- 商品券やギフト券などを贈る場合には、送り先の地域に使用出来る店舗が無い事も想定されますので注意が必要です。

マタニティベルトなどのギフトを贈る場合

- 岩田帯を巻くのは、妊婦のお腹を保護すると共に、胎児を安定させる医学的にも理にかなったものですのでマタニティベルトなどもオススメします。
- お腹の大きくなってきたお母さんは着る服に悩むことも多いのでマタニティ服なども喜ばれます。
- ベビー服など、赤ちゃんが使用する物を贈るのは少々気が早いです。母子共に無事出産してから出産祝いとして贈りましょう。

帯祝いの目安金額、相場

贈り主	目安金額
妊婦の親	10,000円から30,000 円
親、兄弟	5,000円から10,000円
親戚	3,000円から10,000円
友人	3,000円から5,000円
同僚	3,000円から5,000円

出産祝い











Topic 1: Birth

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Topic 2: Marriage and Family

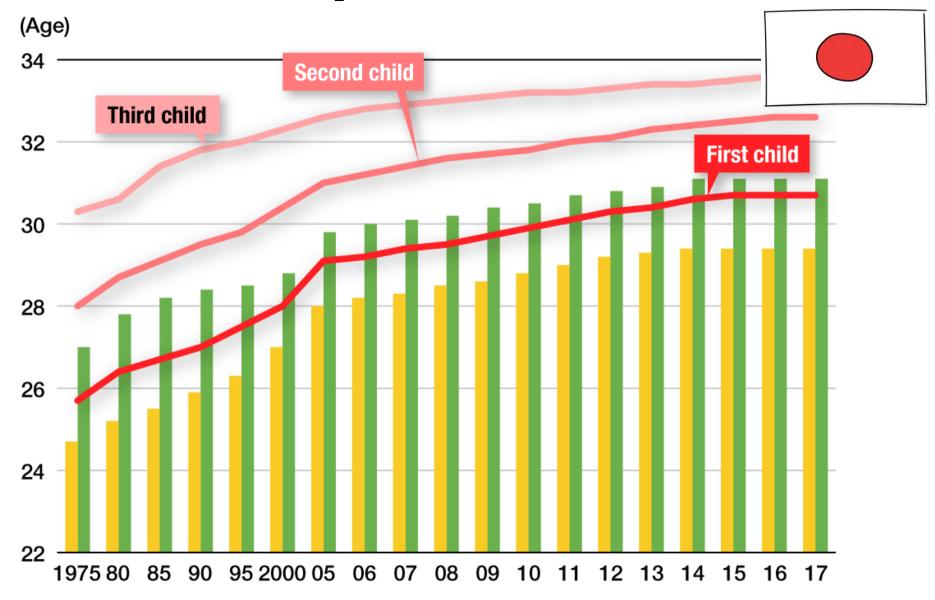
- 1. Almost all marriages are love marriages, but some arranged marriages still occur.
- 2. People marry later (on average, women at 29 and men at 31) and have children later (mother's average age for her first child is 30, and her second child is 32).
- 3. Families have few children: 50% have 1 child, 40% two children, 10% three children or more.
- 4. Only 2% of babies are born outside marriage: 98% occur within marriage.



Love marriages have increased

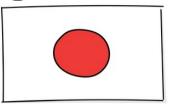


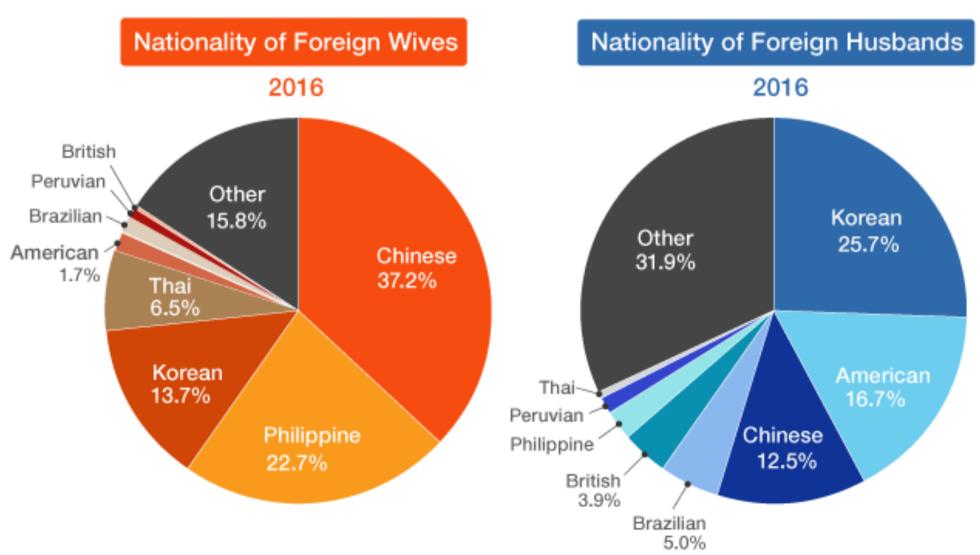
Women marry & have children later



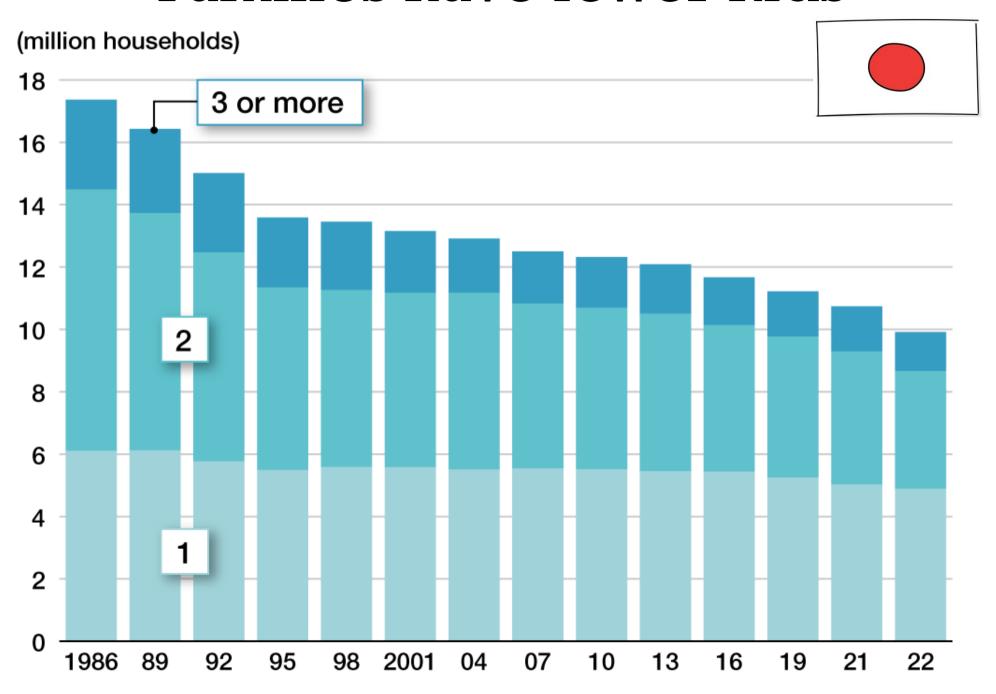
Bar graph shows average age of first marriage. ■=Women ■=Men Line graph shows mother's age at time of childbirth.

l in 25 marriages are to foreigners

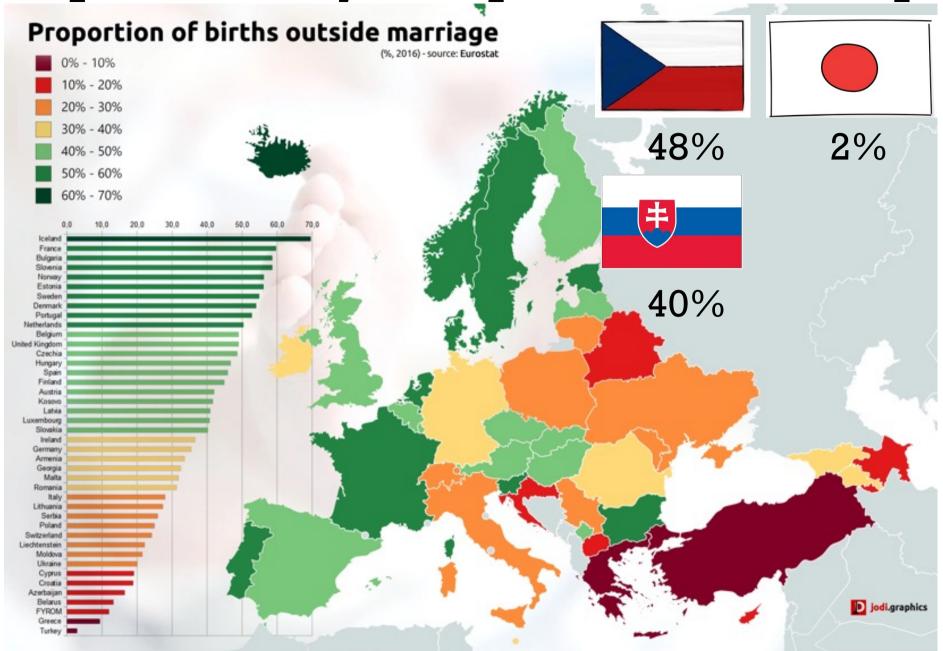




Families have fewer kids



... particularly compared with Europe



お守り o-mamori





お守り o-mamori



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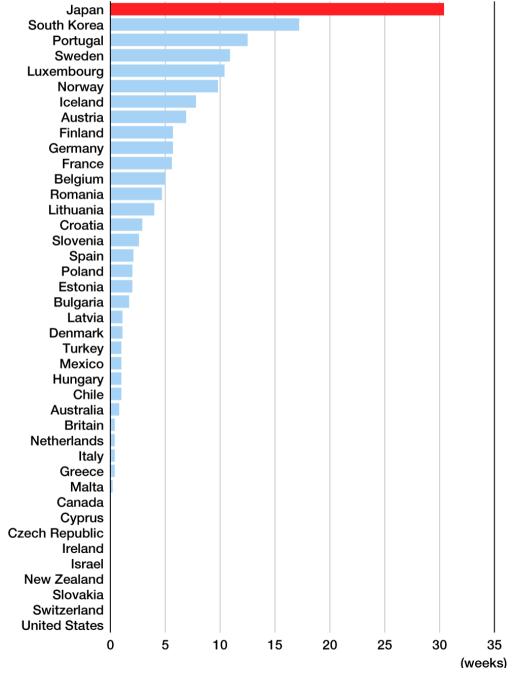


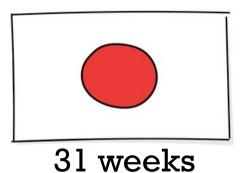


Topic 3: Japanese Parents

- Japan has the world's best paternity leave for new fathers, and new mothers want their husbands to take it – yet most men don't. But that is changing.
- 2. The male breadwinnerhousewife model has
 disappeared. Most women keep
 working after childbirth but
 mostly part-time not full-time.
- 3. Fathers do little housework or childcare but that is changing.
- 4. Mothers manage the household in Japan but that is changing.

Japan has world's best paternity leave.







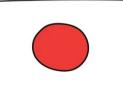
2 weeks, partial pay; single dads 31 weeks

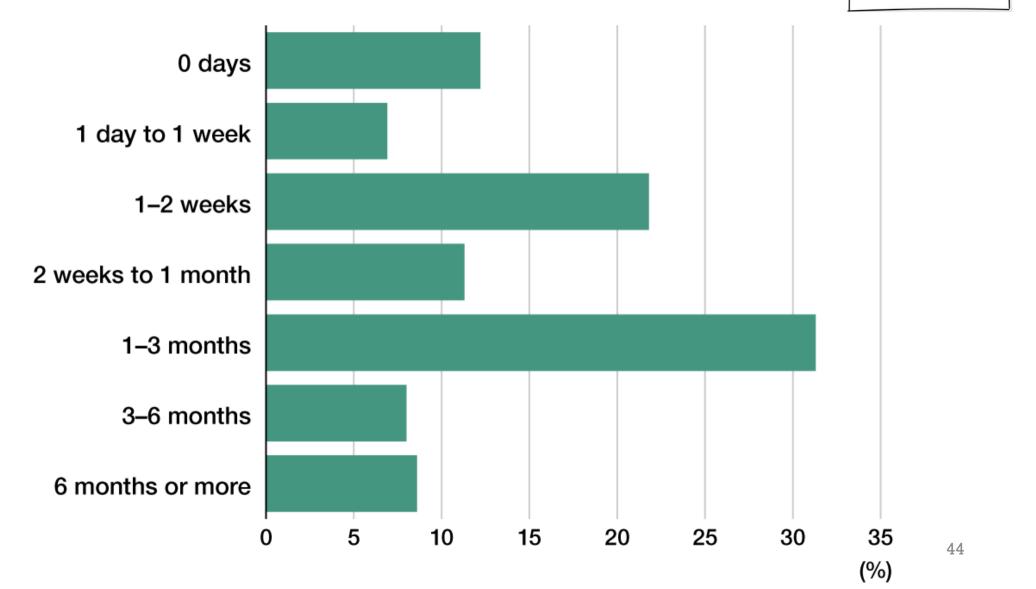


one parent, 14 days

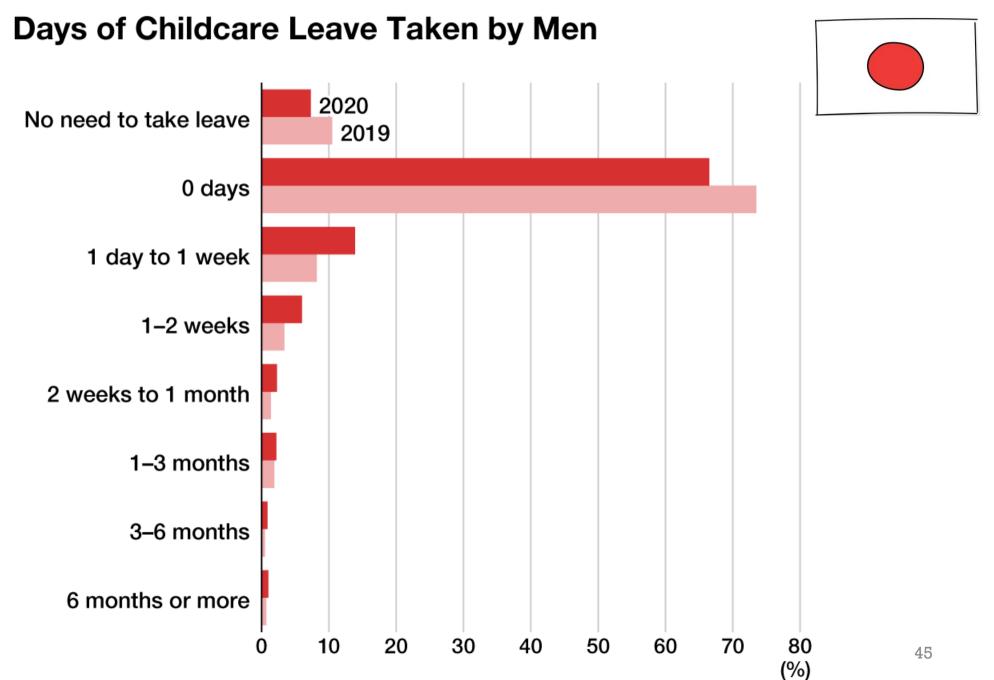
Mums want Dads to take paternity leave

Number of Childcare Leave Days Wives Want Husbands to Take

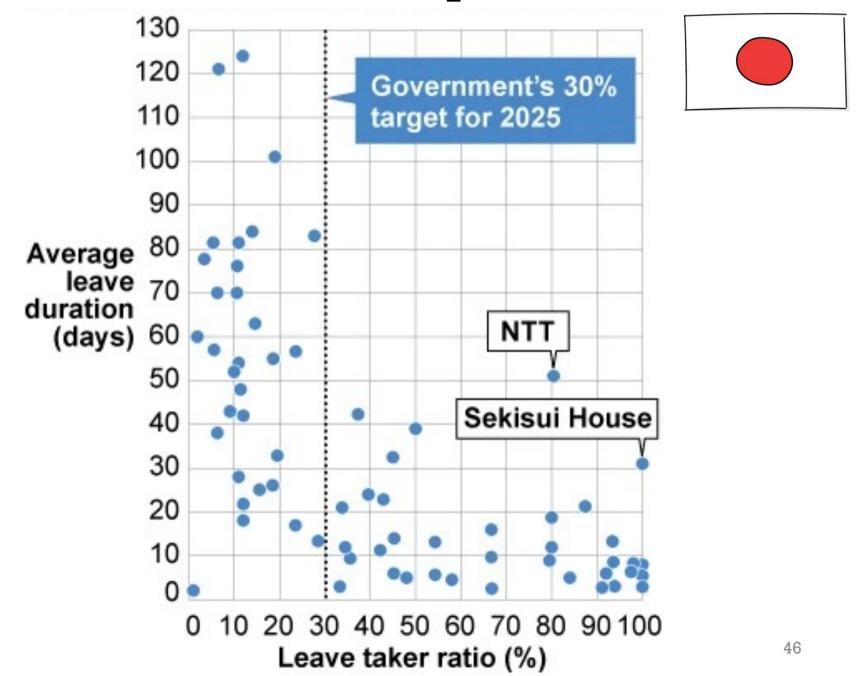




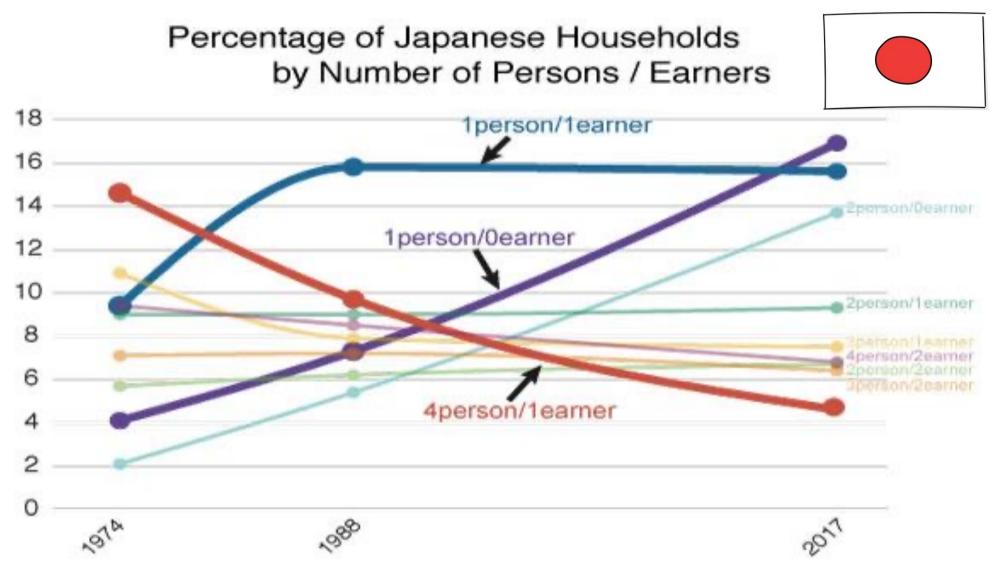
... but fathers didn't take them.



Now, fathers in some companies take leave.

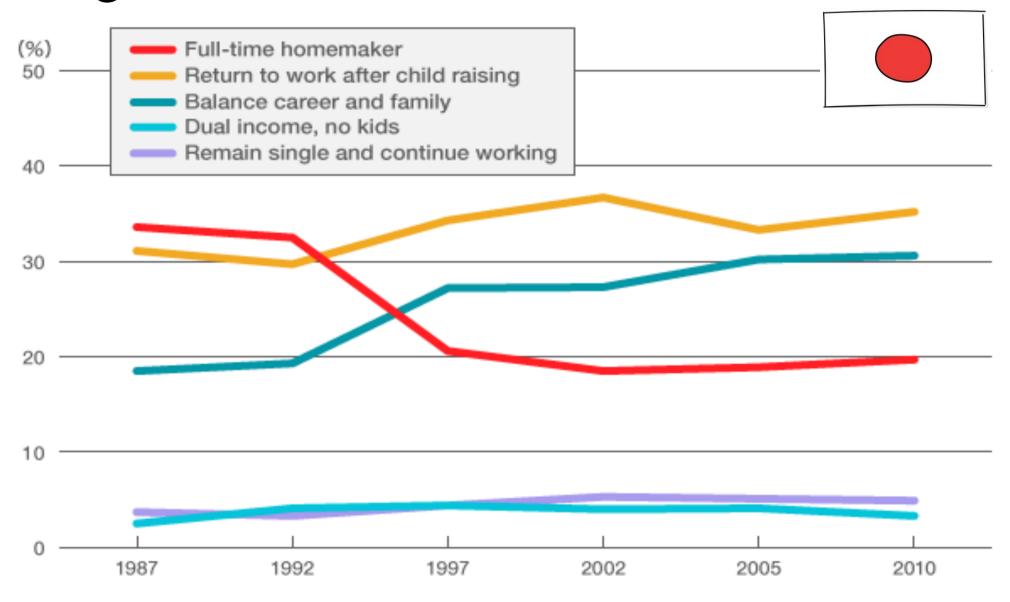


Dad works, Mum at home with 2 kids



... is now a small minority of household types

Single women's ideal future life course



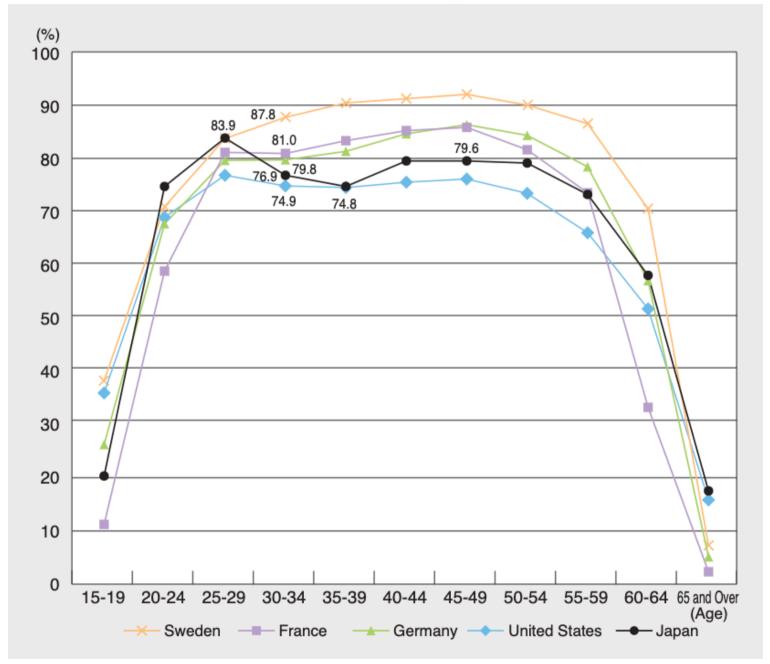
Mothers no longer stop working

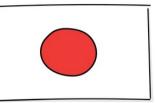


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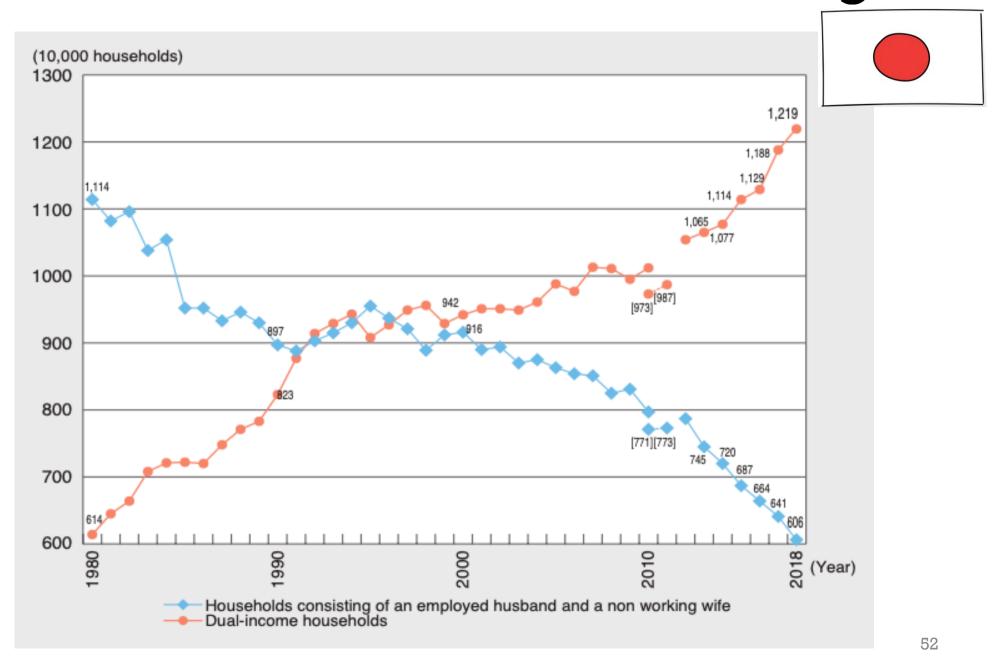
(in percent, for age groups in five-year increments) **-**2020 **-**2015 **-**1985 80 60 40 20 85 25-29 35-39 45-49 55-59 65-69 75-79 15-19 and up

Mothers no longer stop working

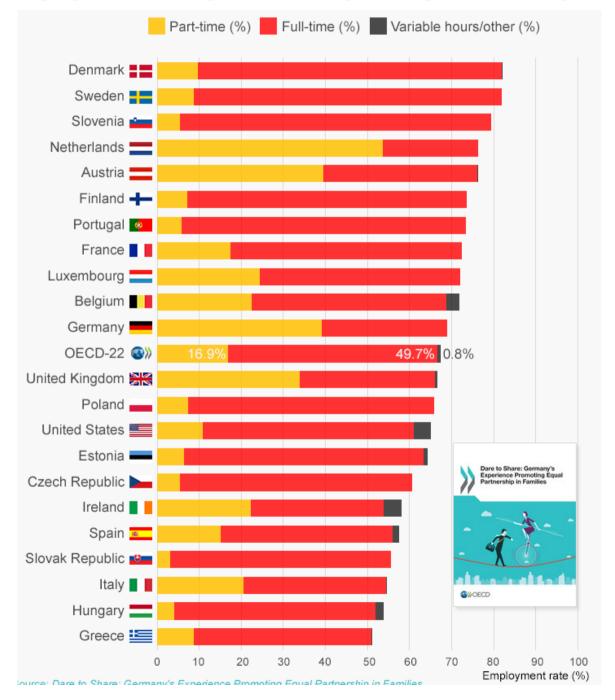


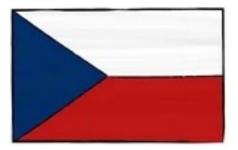


Most mothers are working



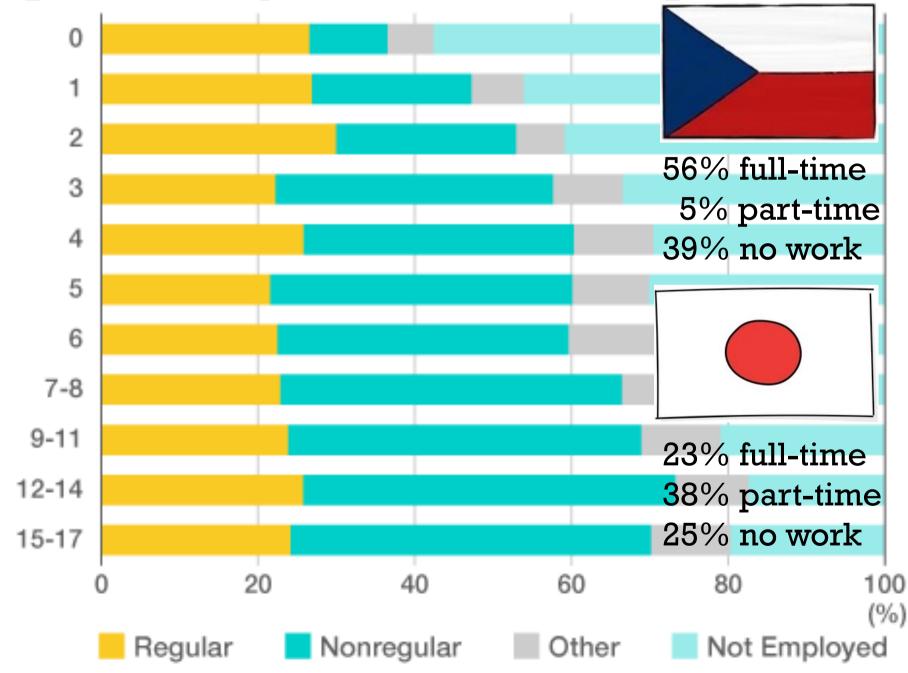
Czech: Most mothers work full-time





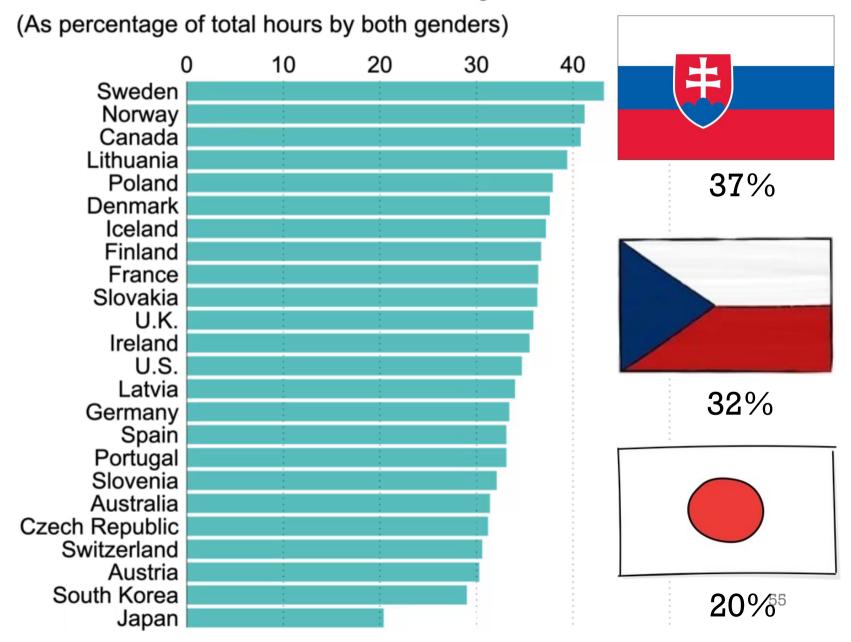
56% full-time 5% part-time 39% no work

Japan: Many mothers work part-time

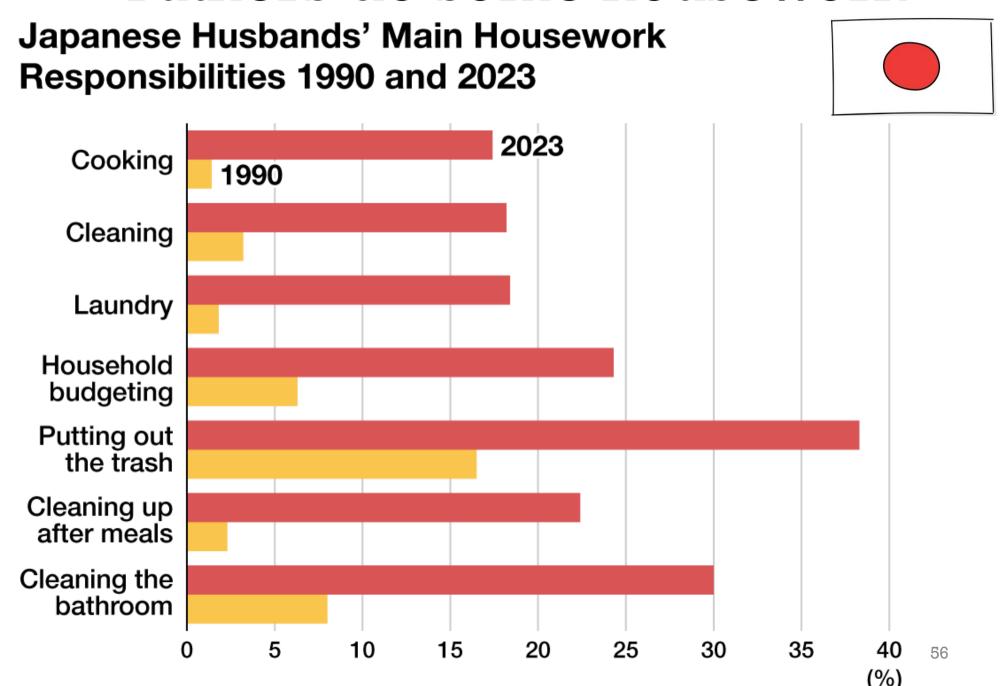


Fathers do some housework

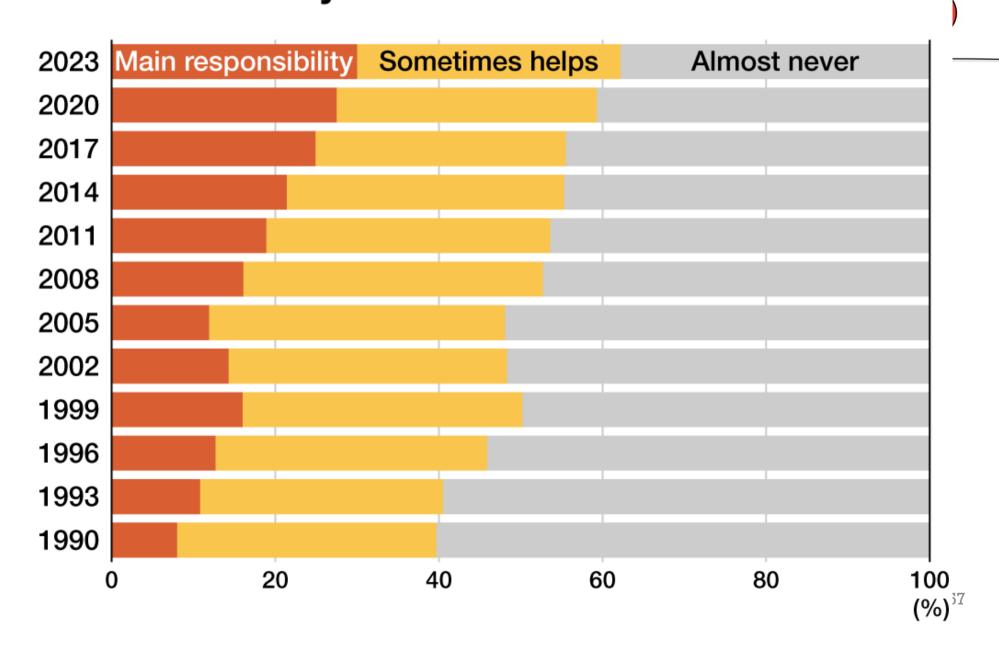
Household work and child care by men



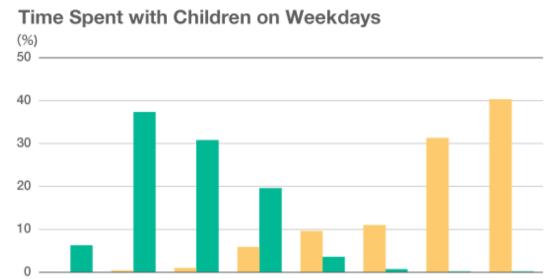
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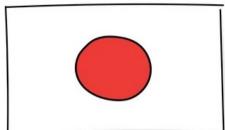


Fathers do some housework How often does your husband clean the bathroom?

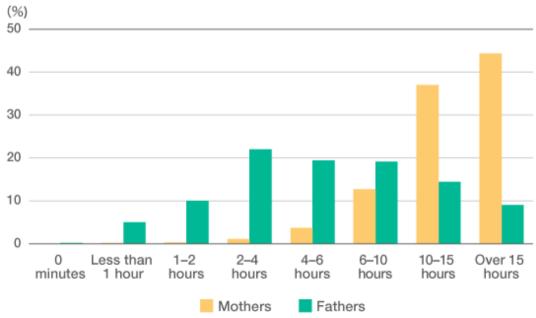


Fathers do some childcare





Time Spent with Children on Days Off



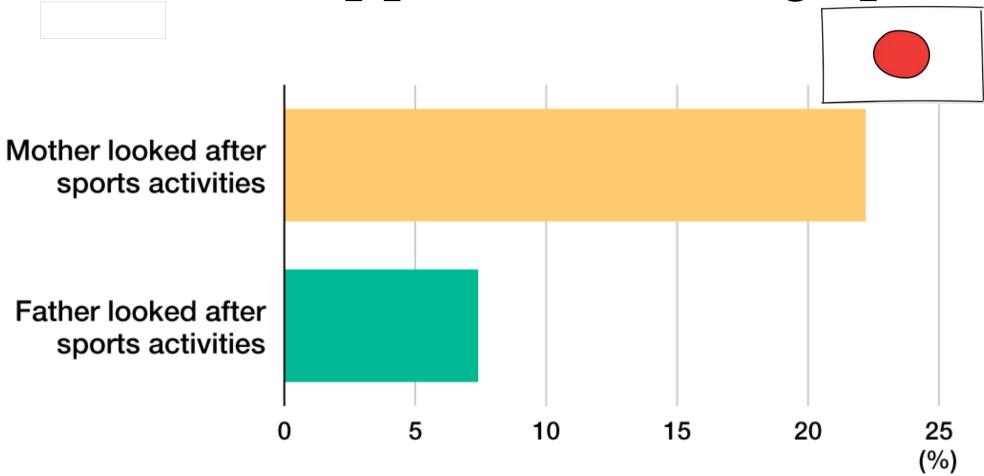
Compiled by *Nippon.com* based on data from the Benesse Educational Research and Development Institute.

nippon.com

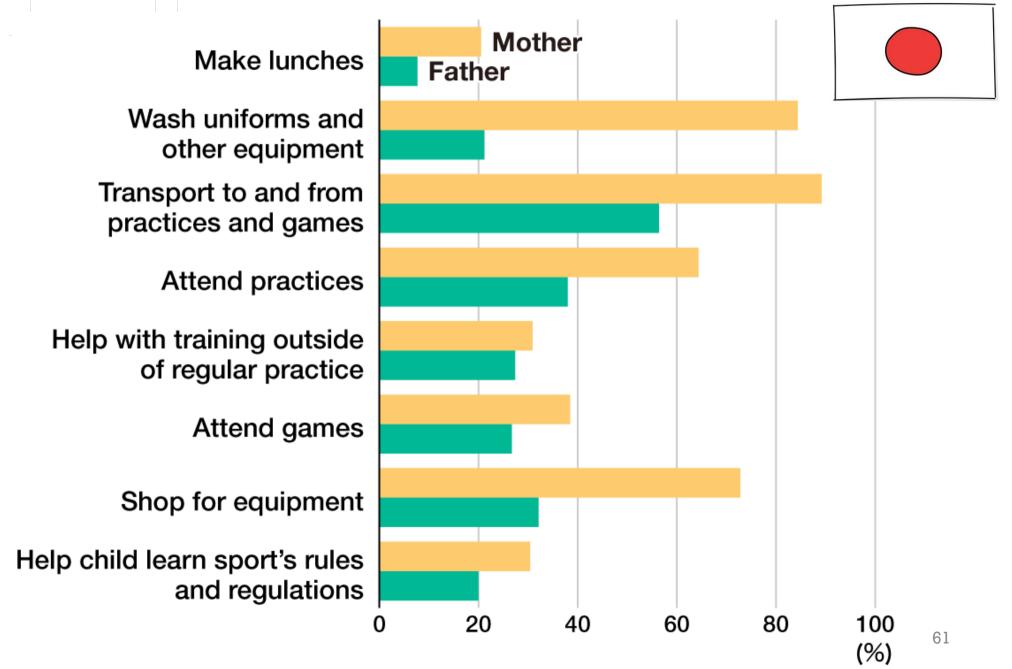
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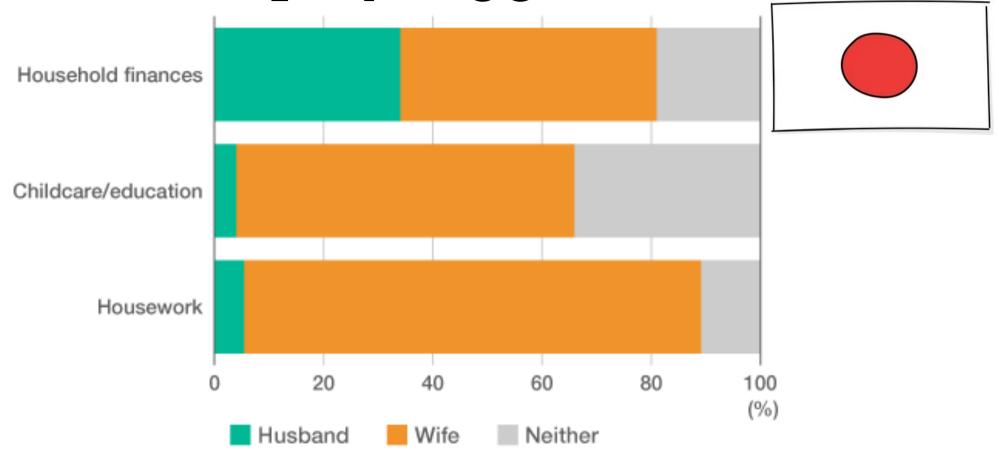
Mothers support kids doing sport



Mothers support kids doing sport



Mothers play bigger roles at home



first visit to the shrine 宮参り





first visit to the shrine 宮参り



64

first visit to the shrine 宮参り





7-5-3 しち・ご・さん



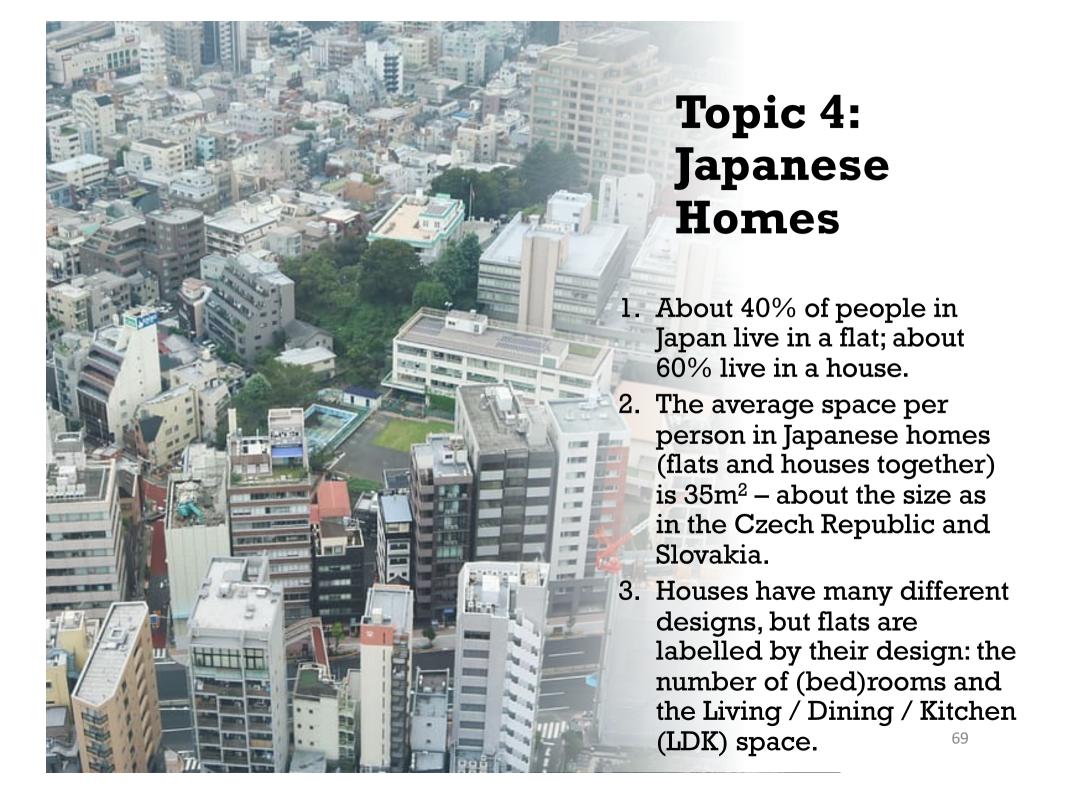
7-5-3 千歳飴 chitose-ame



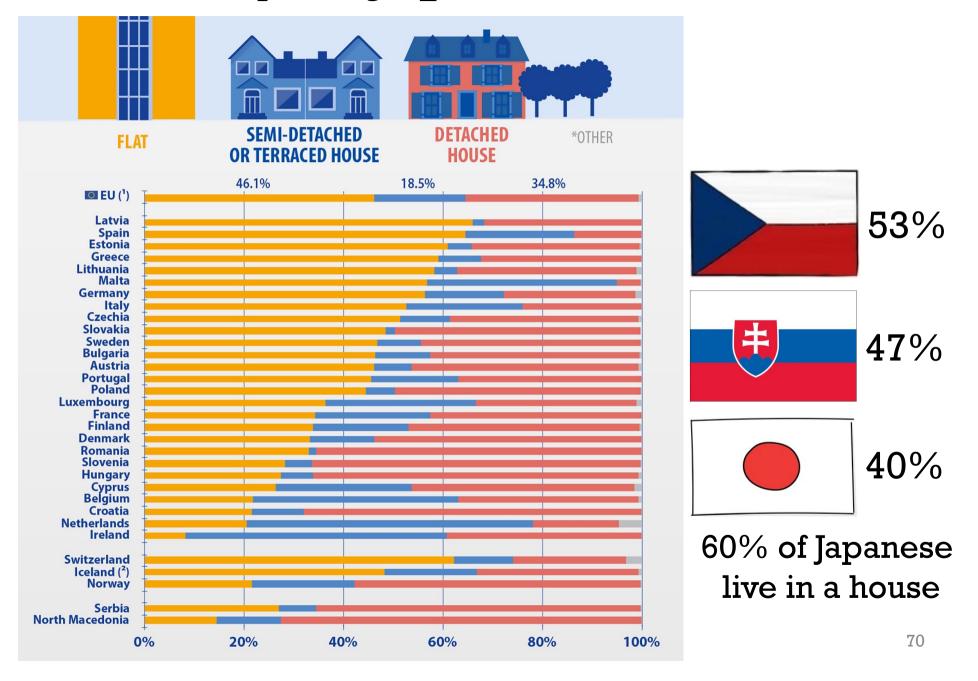


Topic 3: Japanese Parents

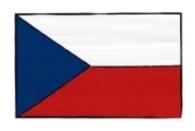
- Japan has the world's best paternity leave for new fathers, and new mothers want their husbands to take it – yet most men don't. But that is changing.
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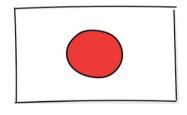
Minority of Japanese live in flats



Japanese homes are average size



38 m² per person

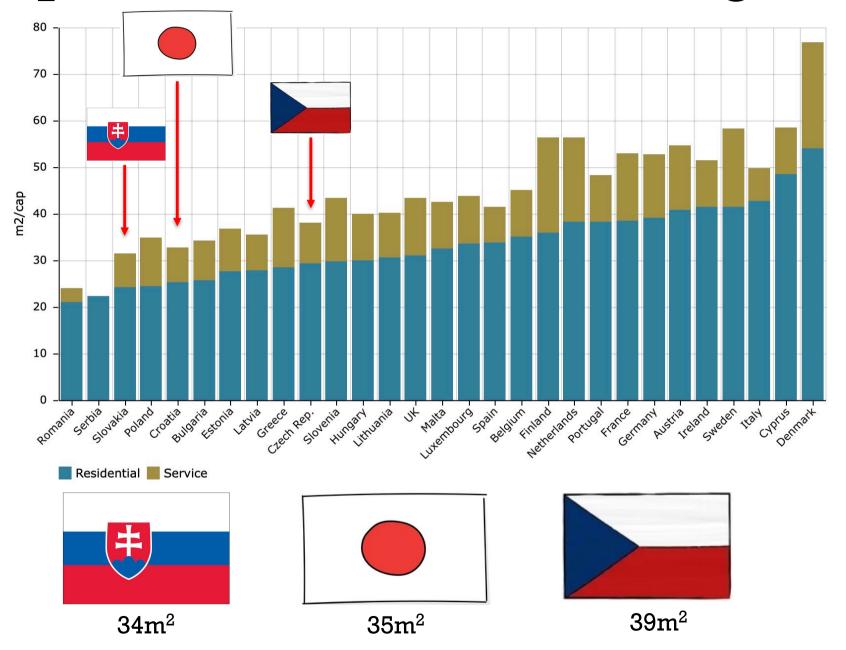


35 m² per person

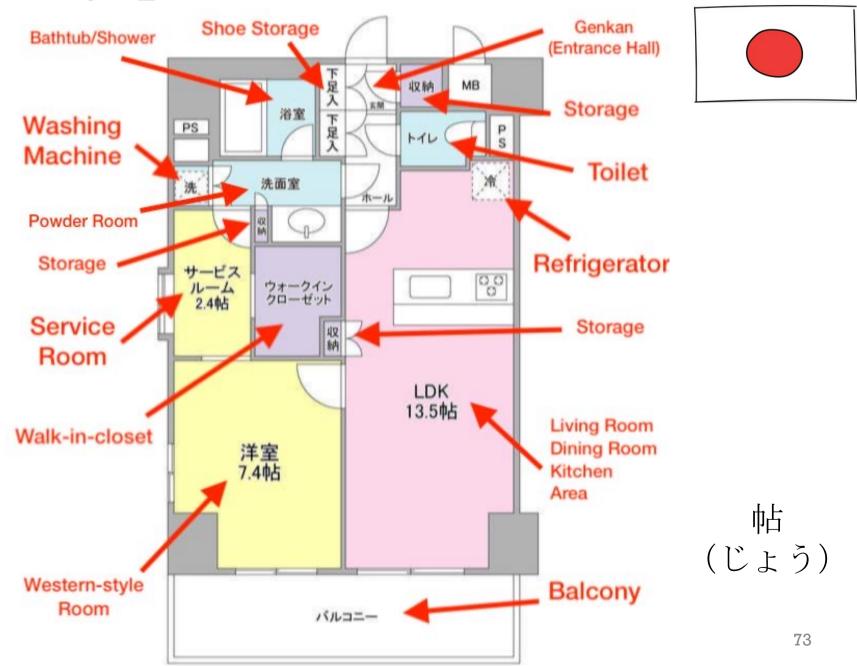


32 m² per person

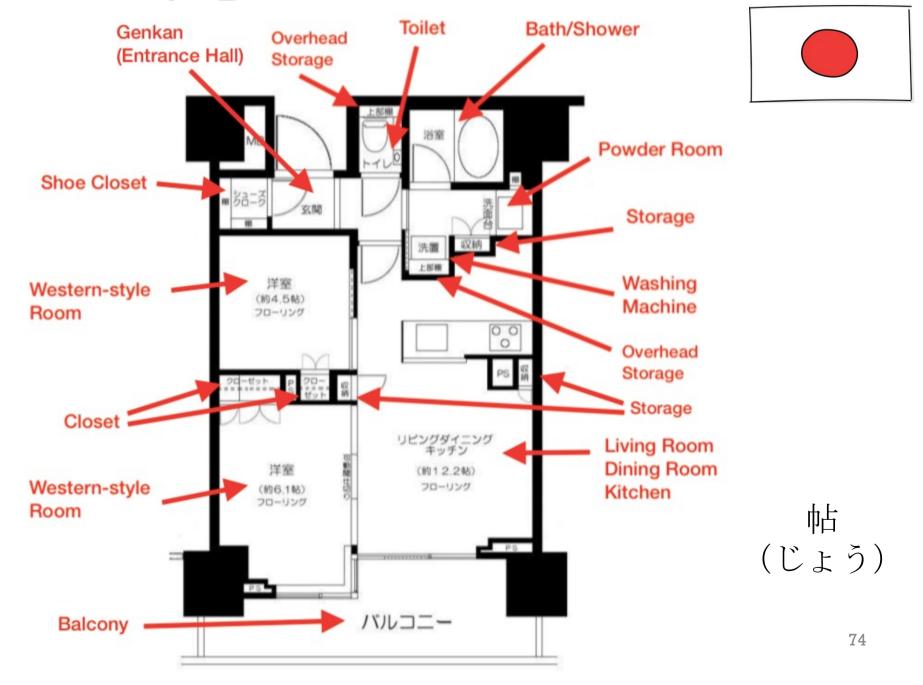
Japanese homes are average size



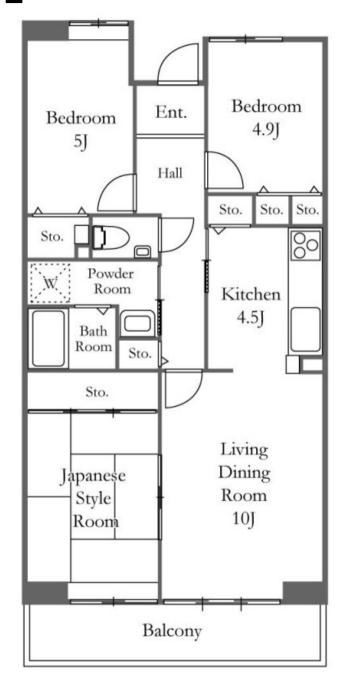
Japanese flat: 1.5LDK

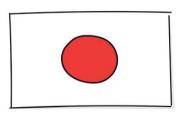


Japanese flat: 2LDK

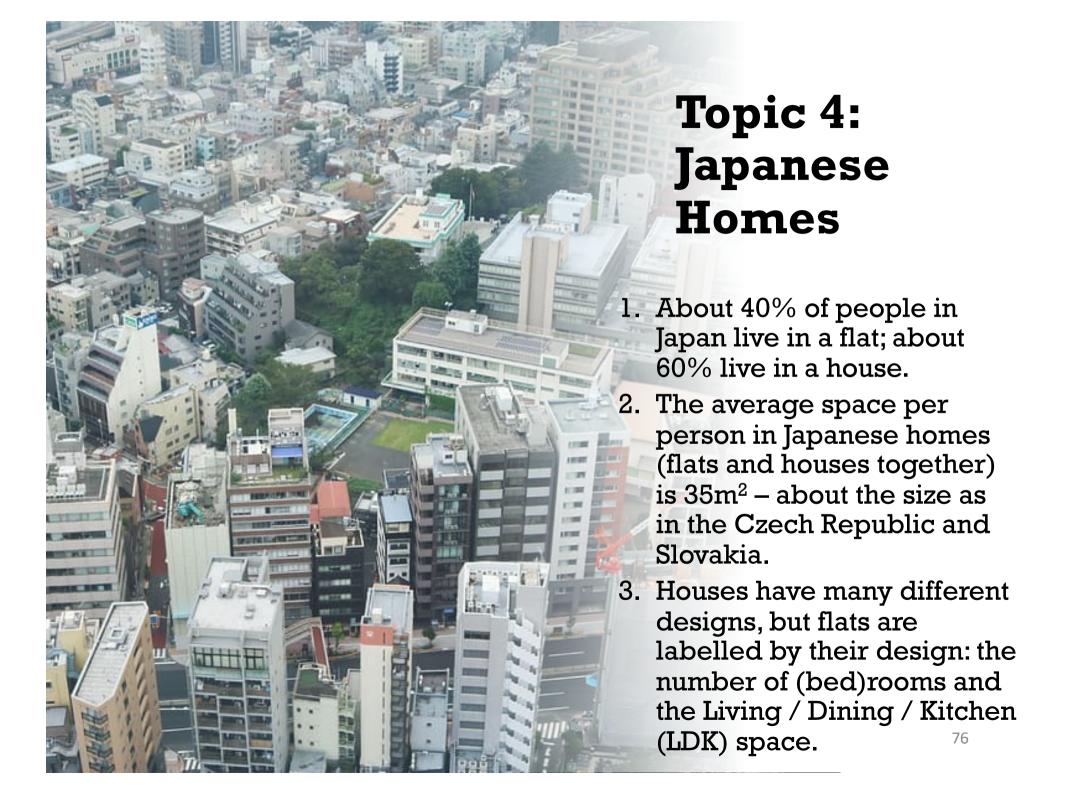


Japanese flat: 3LDK







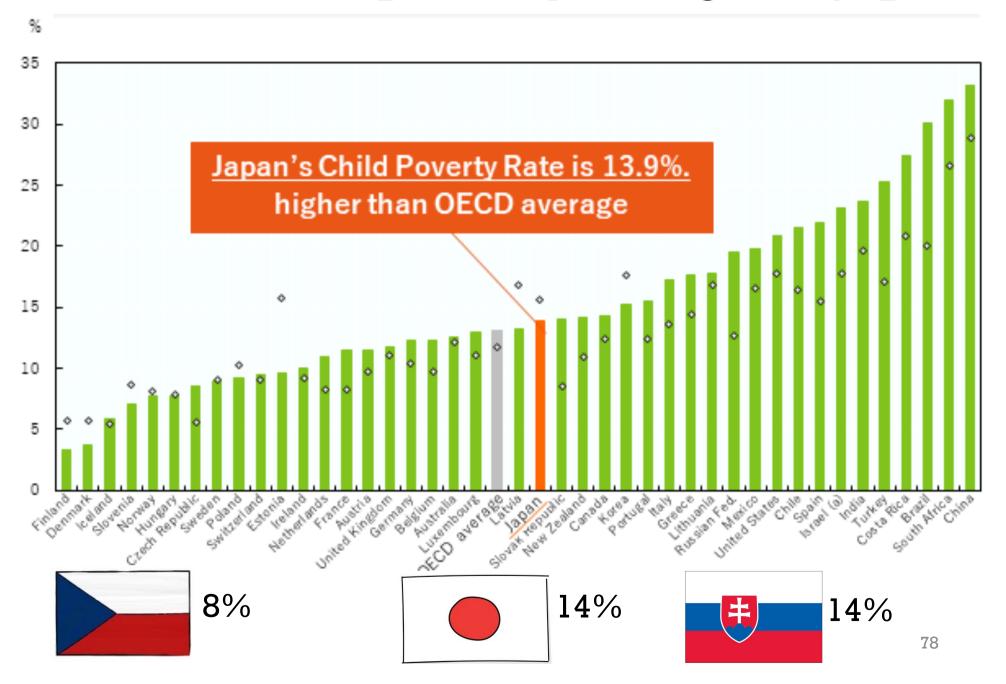




Topic 5: Problems at Home

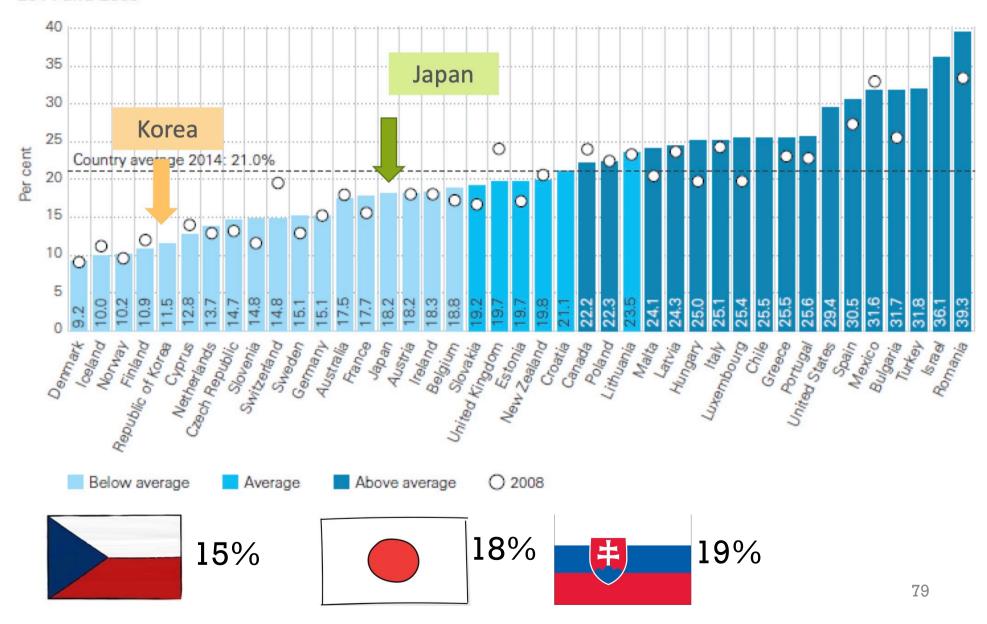
- 1. Child poverty is relatively high in Japan. One in ten kids lacks food, and one in three kids' families can't pay bills. Kids from poorer families often cannot afford to go to juku, so find it difficult to keep up at school.
- 2. Particularly, single mothers and fathers are poor.
- 3. Domestic violence against a partner is a problem in Japan, too, and people are not tolerating it anymore.
- 4. There has been a big increase in reported child abuse. Most reported child abuse is physical.

Child relative poverty is high in Japan

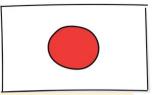


Child relative poverty is high in Japan

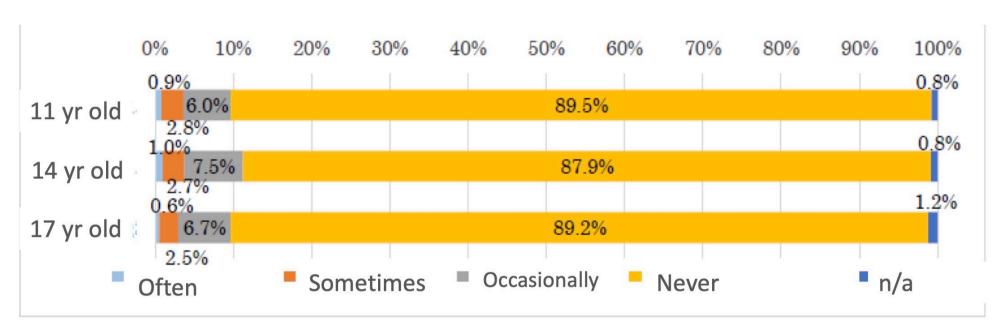
Percentage of children aged 0–17 living in a household with income lower than 60 per cent of the median, 2014 and 2008



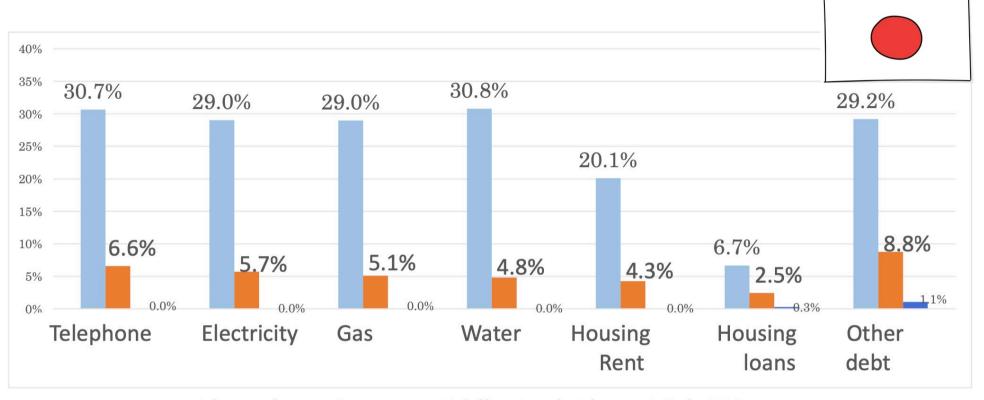
l in 10 kids sometimes lack food



In the past year, has your family ever experienced not being to afford food that your family needed?

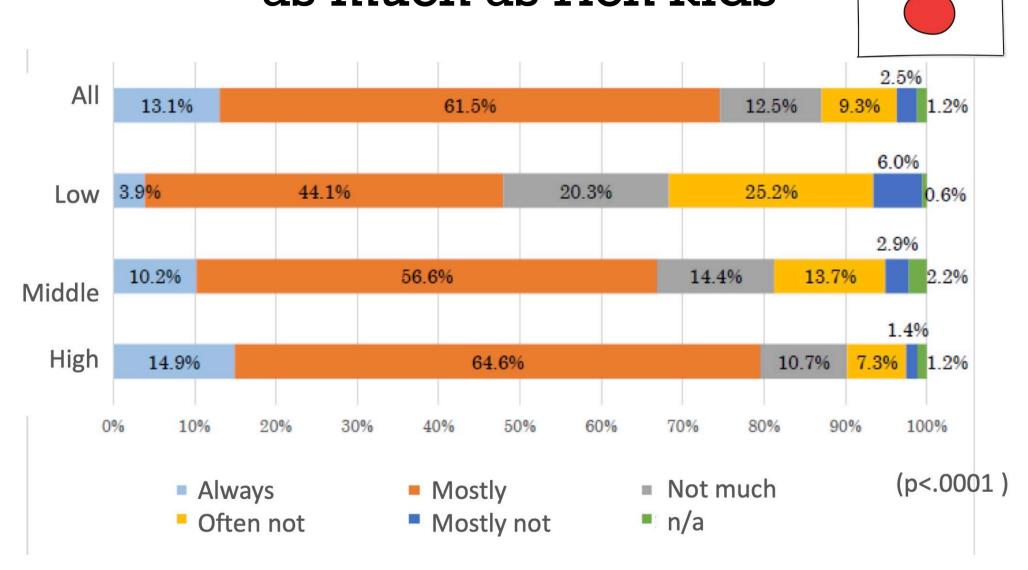


l in 3 kids' families can't pay bills



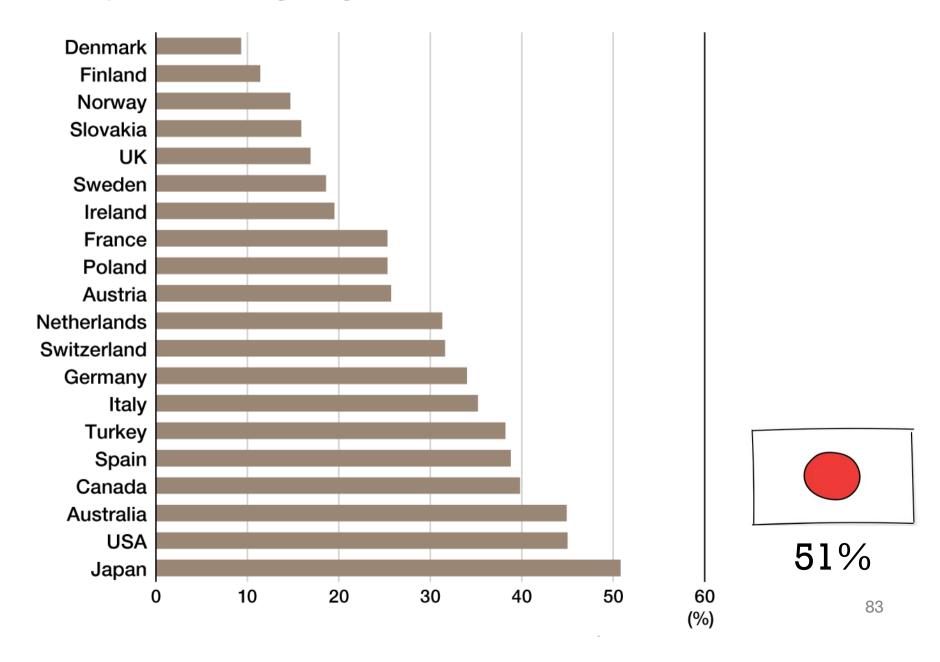
Blue – low Orange- Middle Dark Blue – High SES

Poor kids can't keep up at school as much as rich kids

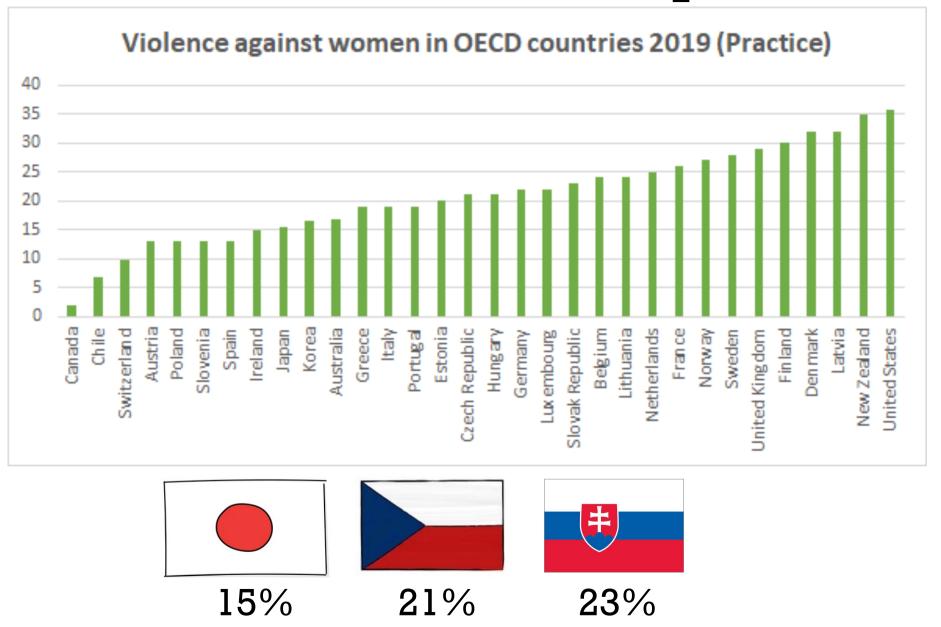


Single mothers and fathers are poor

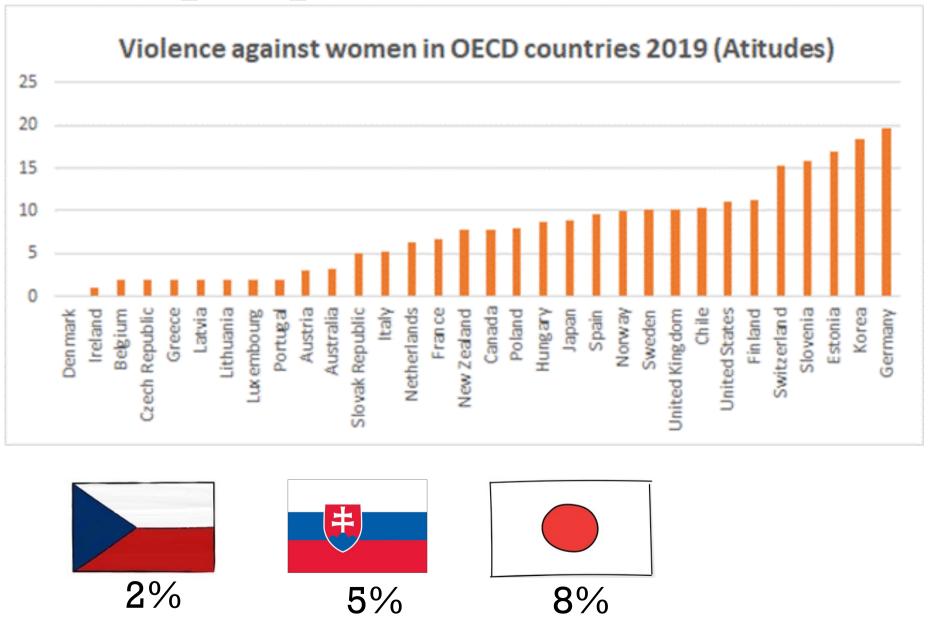
Poverty Rate Among Single-Parent Families



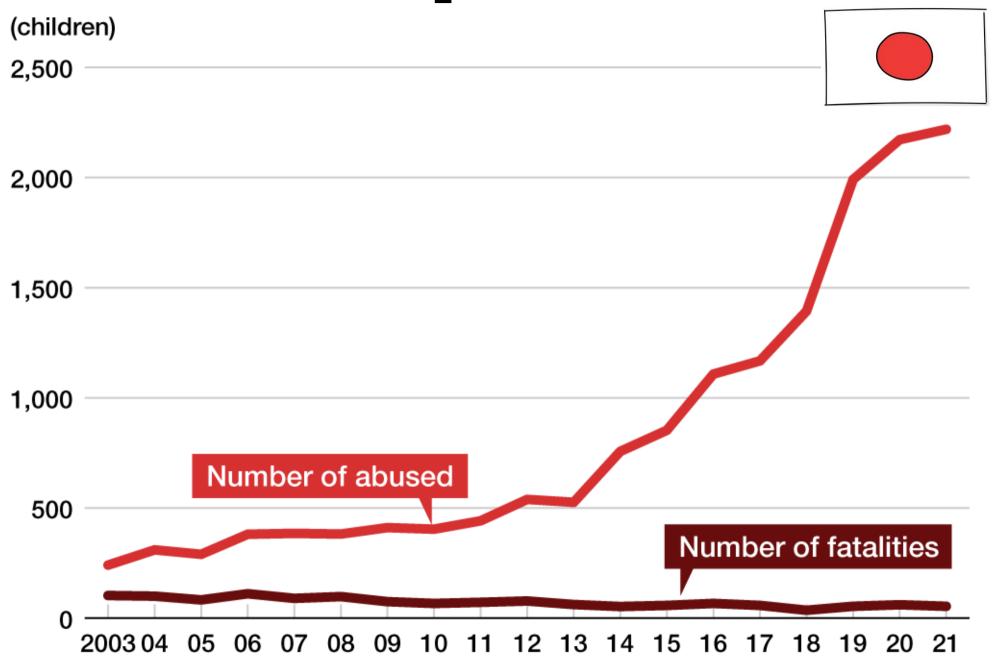
Domestic violence is a problem



Most people do not tolerate DV

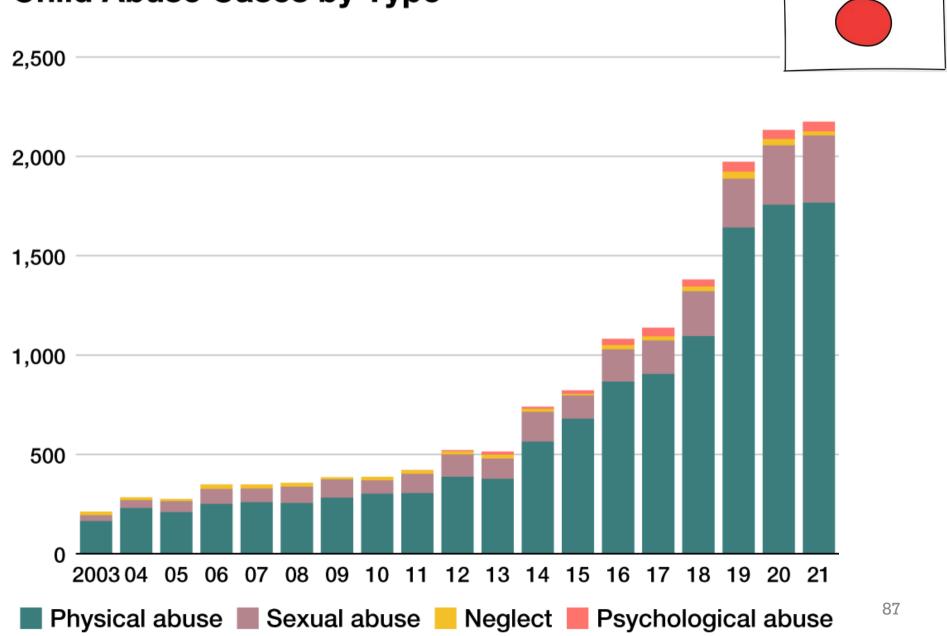


Increase in reported child abuse



Most reported child abuse is physical

Child Abuse Cases by Type





Topic 5: Problems at home

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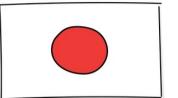


Topic 6: Primary School

- Children start primary school at 6 years old, and study for six years.
- 2. All children move up to the next grade, regardless of achievement.
- 3. Students walk to school together with kids from their neighborhood.
- 4. Primary school students get lunch provided at school.
- 5. Students enjoy summer, but get a lot of summer homework.
- 6. After school, many primary school children go to *juku*.

Japan's Education System





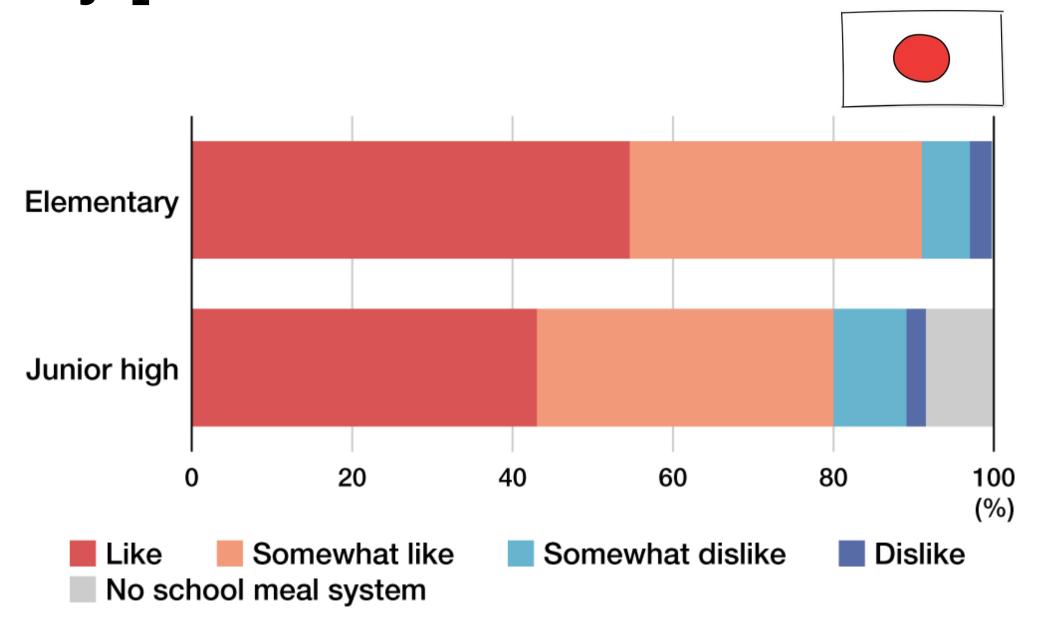


Primary education Secondary education

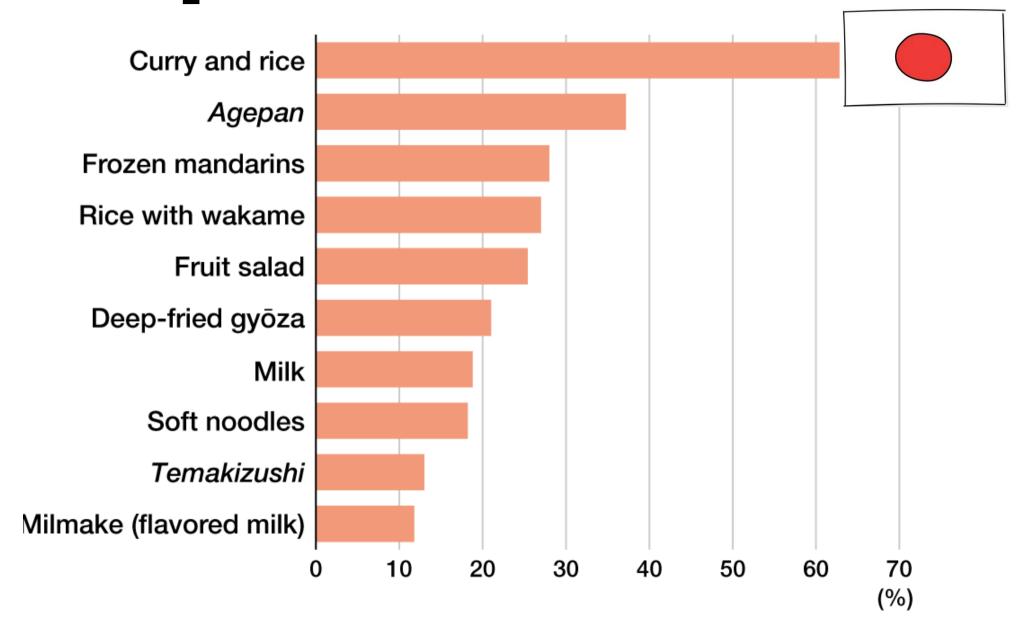
Elementary school

Junior high school High school

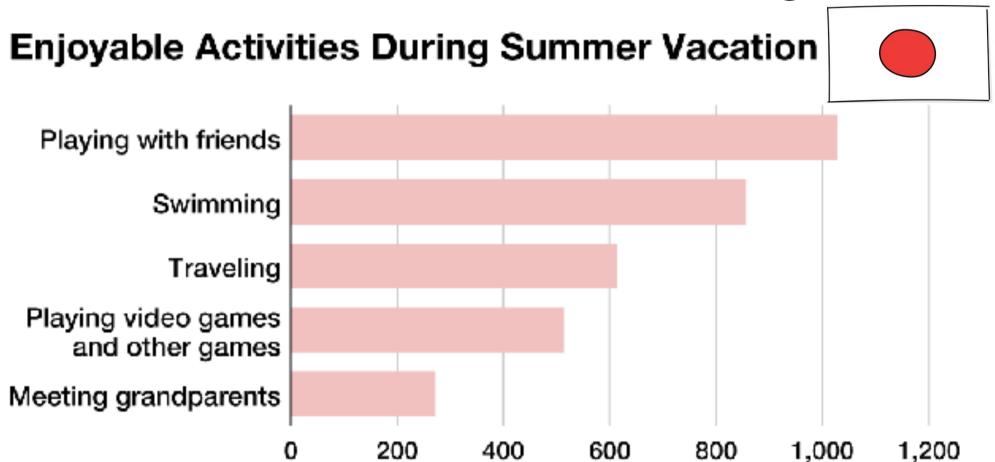
Japanese kids love school lunch



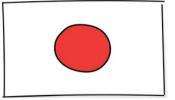
Popular school lunches are ...



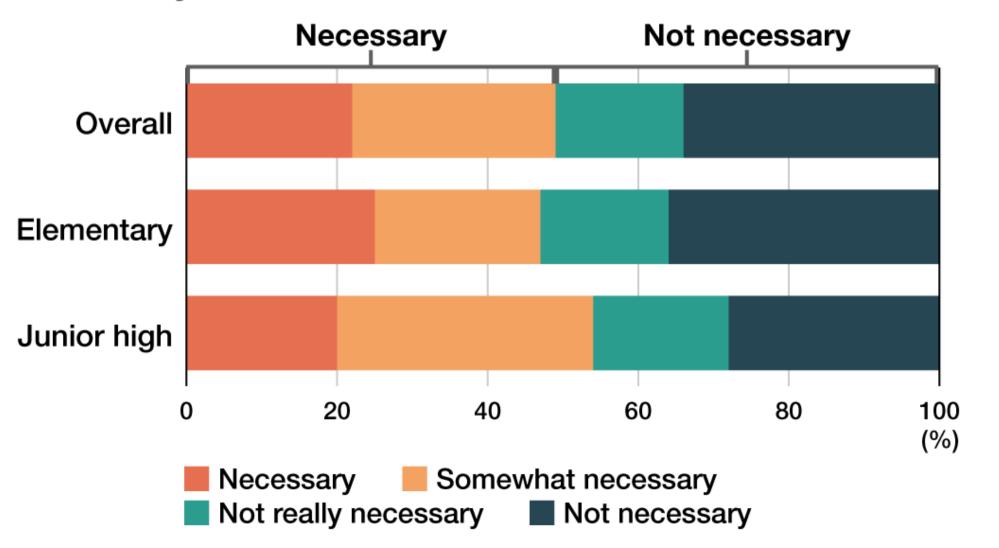
Summer means ... having fun!



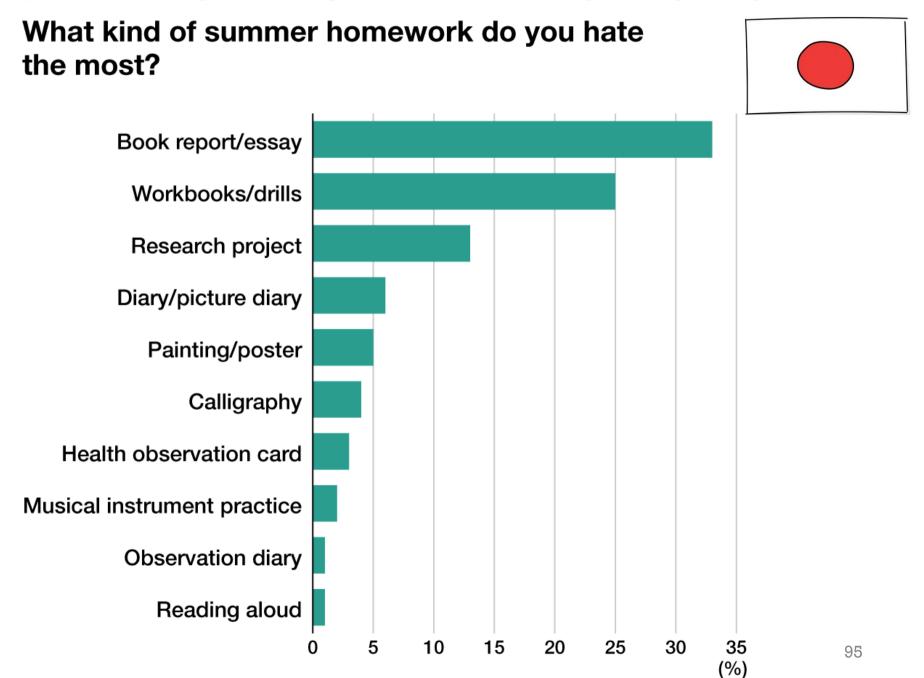
Summer means ... homework!



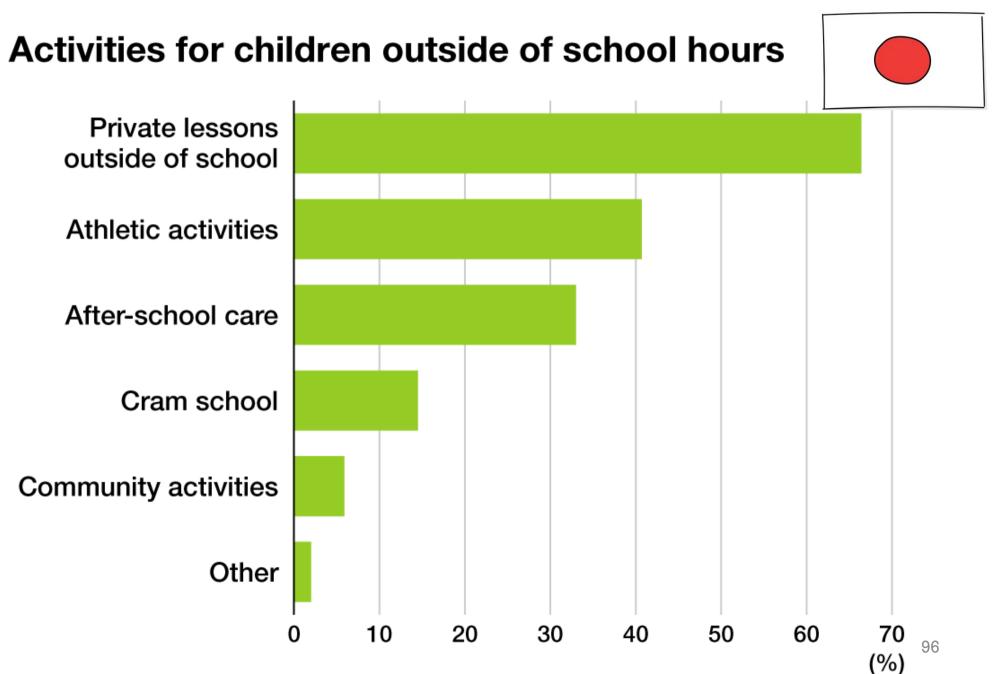
What do you think about summer homework?



Summer means ... homework!



After class, kids have ... more class!





Topic 6: Primary School

- Children start primary school at 6 years old, and study for six years.
- 2. All children move up to the next grade, regardless of achievement.
- 3. Students walk to school together with kids from their neighborhood.
- 4. Primary school students get lunch provided at school.
- 5. Students enjoy summer, but get a lot of summer homework.
- 6. After school, many primary school children go to *juku*.



Topic 7: Going to Juku

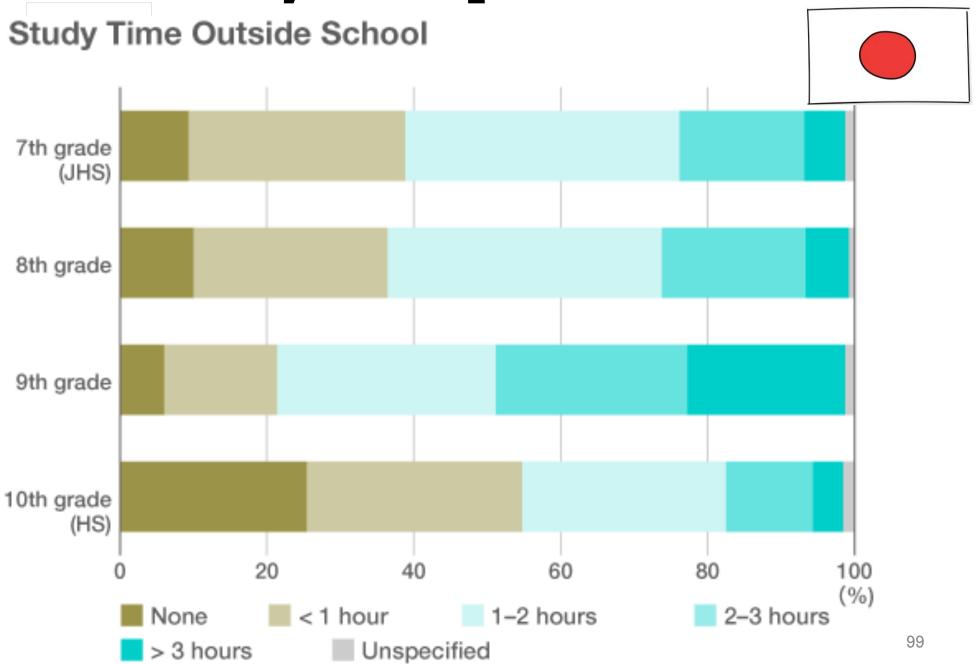
1. Study time peaks in \oplus 3 (*chuu san*, or *chuu-gakkou san-nen*).

2. Most Japanese junior high school students go to *juku* (cram school) each afternoon & evening, particularly in 中 3.

3. The focus of juku differs depending on the grade. Early primary school juku focuses on English conversation and 'worksheets' to develop basic Japanese literacy and maths skills (think Kumon). Late primary school juku focuses on helping slower students catch up, and preparing (rich) students for junior high school juku also focuses on helping slower students keep up, and preparing students for the next entrance exams.

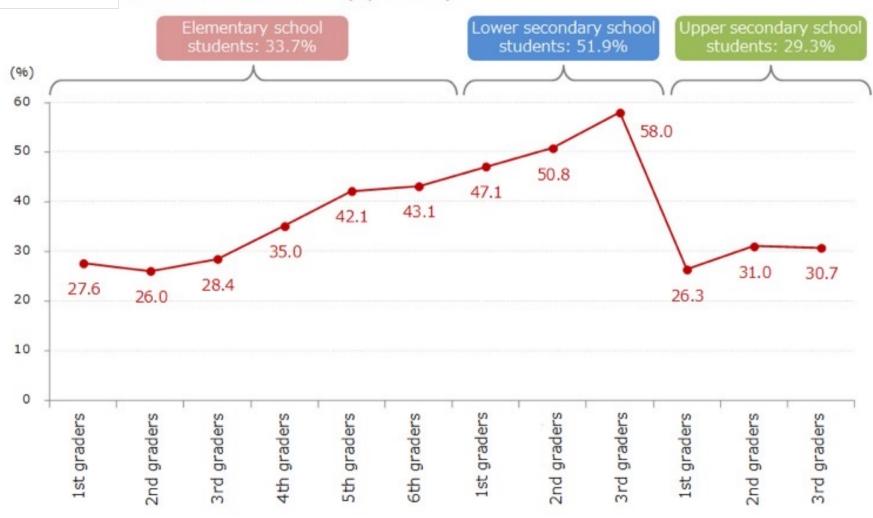
4. Children from richer, better educated families are more likely to go to juku than children from poorer, less educated ones.

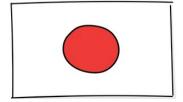
Study time peaks in #3



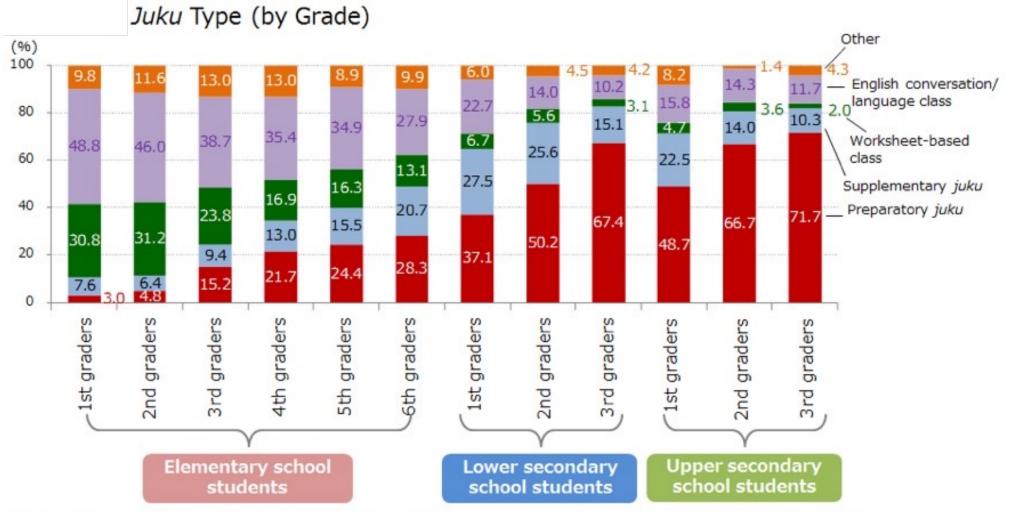
Juku peaks in junior high school

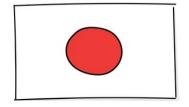
Juku Enrollment Rate (by Grade)





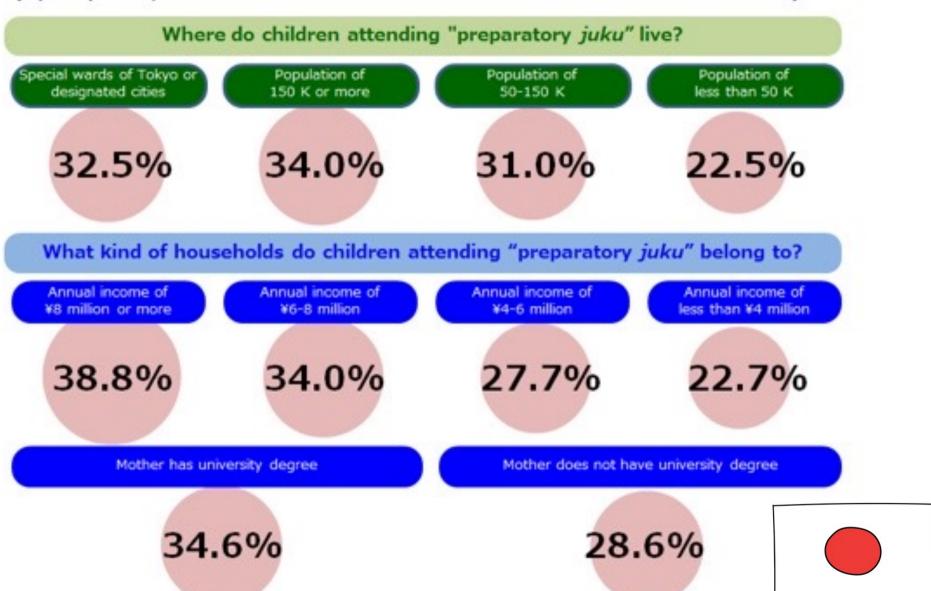
English in PS, exam prep in JHS/HS





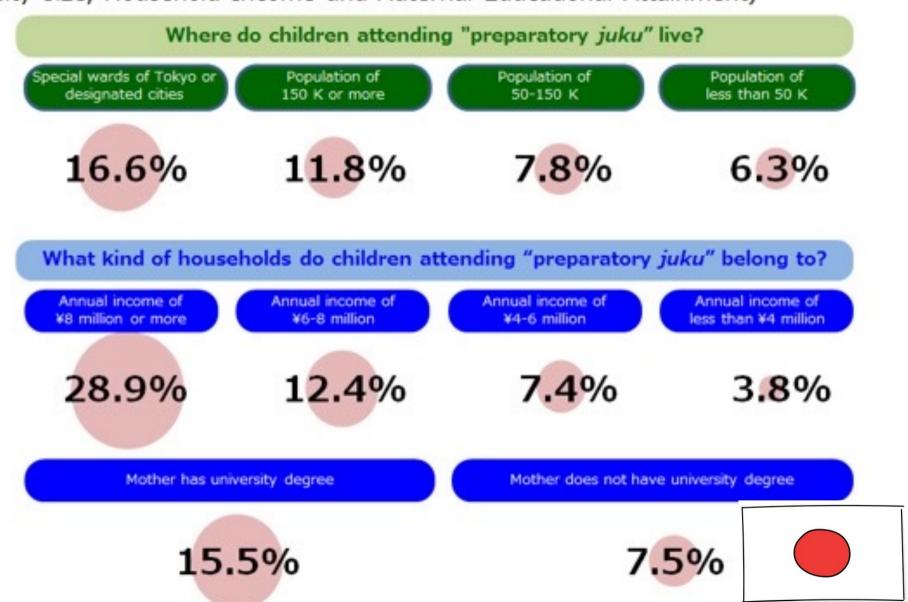
All social classes goes to juku in JHS

"Preparatory Juku" Enrollment of Lower Secondary School Students (by City Size, Household Income and Maternal Educational Attainment)



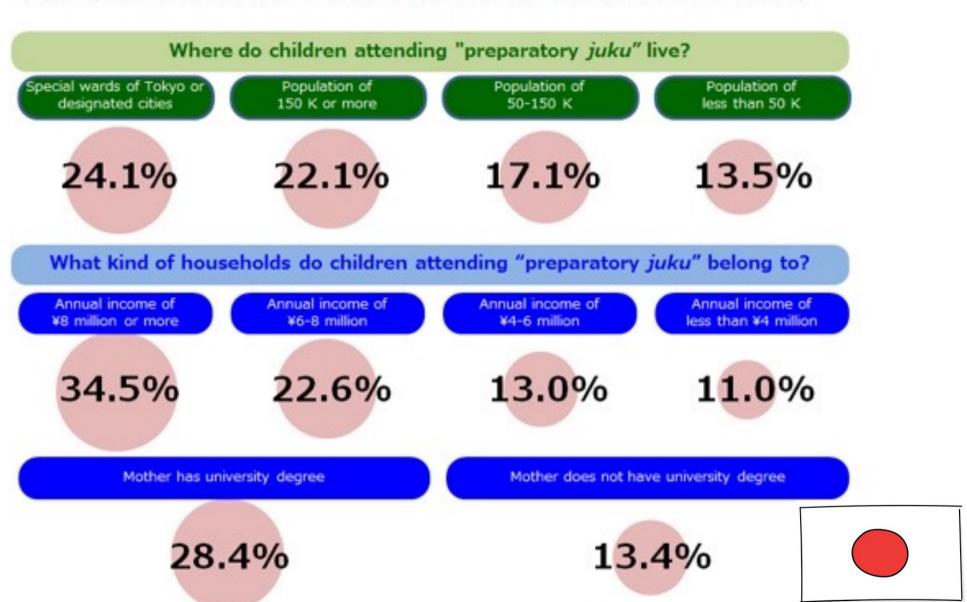
Richer kids go to juku in PS ...

Preparatory Juku" Enrollment of Latter-stage Elementary School Students (by City Size, Household Income and Maternal Educational Attainment)

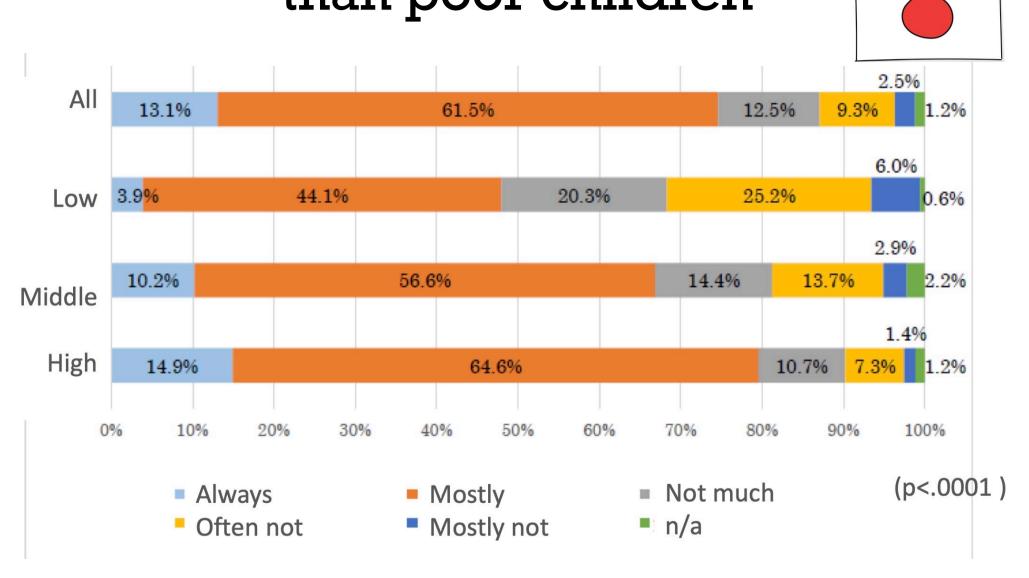


... and in high school.

Preparatory Juku" Enrollment of Upper Secondary School Students (by City Size, Household Income and Maternal Educational Attainment)



Rich children follow class much better than poor children



Entrance Exam Study

受験勉強



お守り o-mamori



University Entrance Exams 大学入学試験







Topic 7: Going to Juku

1. Japanese junior high school students don't do much school homework.

2. Instead, most Japanese junior high school students go to juku (cram school) each afternoon & evening, particularly in \$\psi\$ 3 (chuu san, or chuu-gakkou san-nen).

3. The focus of juku differs depending on the grade. Early primary school juku focuses on English conversation and 'worksheets' to develop basic Japanese literacy and maths skills (think Kumon).

Late primary school juku focuses on helping slower students catch up, and preparing (rich) students for junior high school juku also focuses on helping slower students keep up, and preparing students for the next entrance exams.

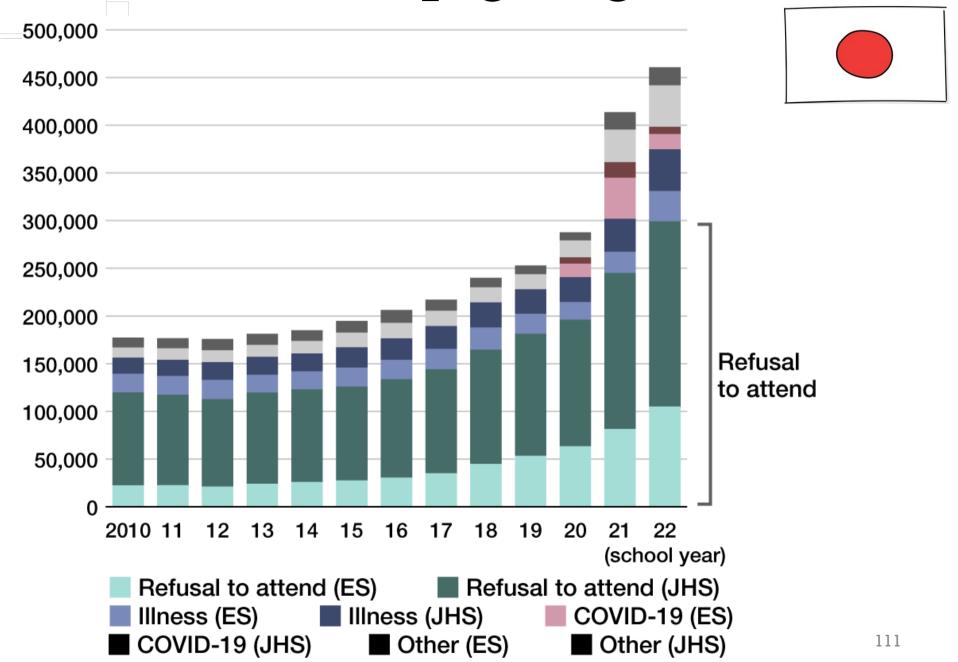
4. Children from richer, better educated families are more likely to go to juku than children from poorer, less educated ones.

Topic 8: Problems at School

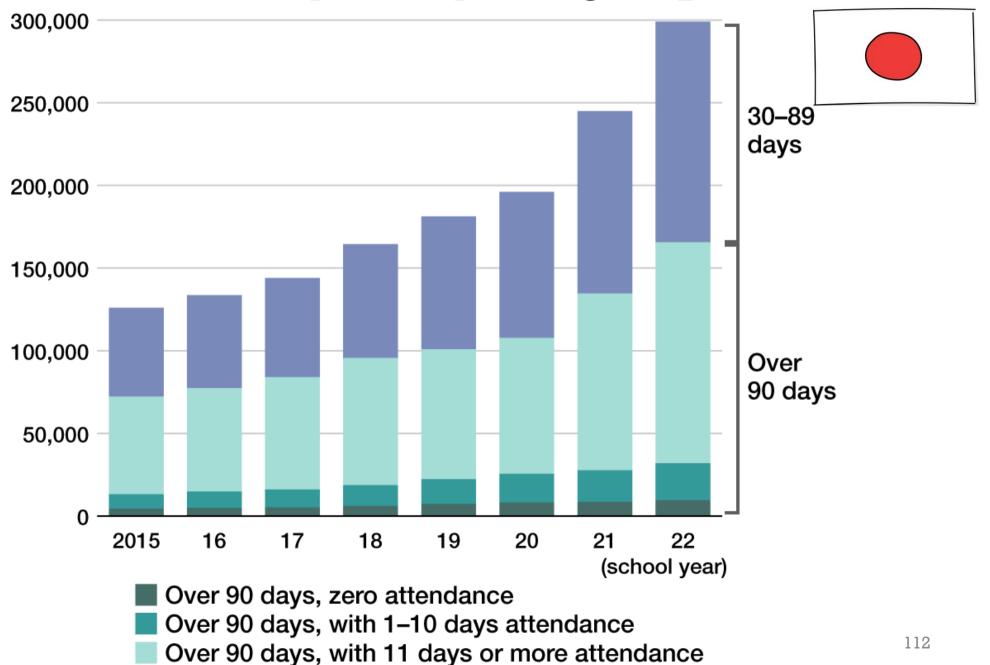
- 1. There is a big problem with students not going to school, particularly at the JHS level. The number jumped during COVID, and students now stay away longer. 'School refusal' (不登校) peaks in 中2.
- 2. Students experience discrimination for many reasons: their appearance, school grades, way of speaking, family financial situation, disability and illness, coming from a single parent family, being a girl, being a foreigner, being LGBT, for religion, etc.
- 3. LGBT students are mostly ignored, even though there are many in their teens who are not sure of their sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Universities are generally much more supportive.
- 4. Youth suicide is highest for high school students.
- 5. Online bullying is a common problem.



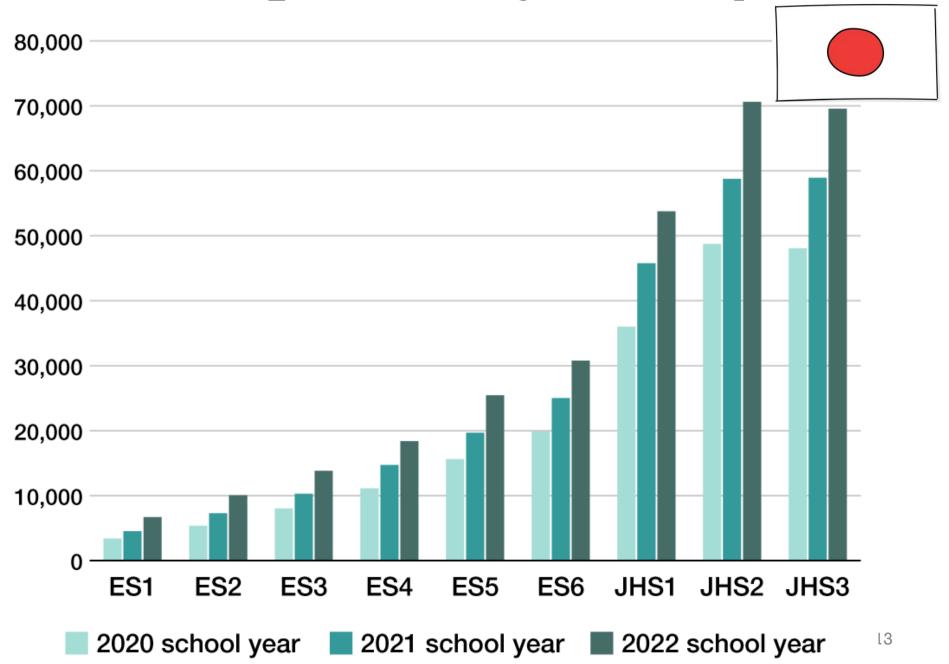
Some kids stop going to school



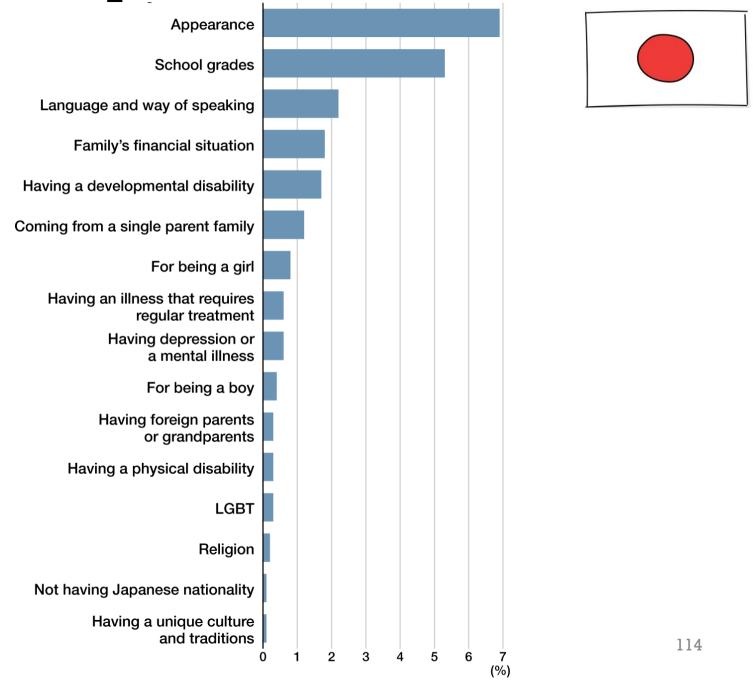
Students stay away longer post-COVID



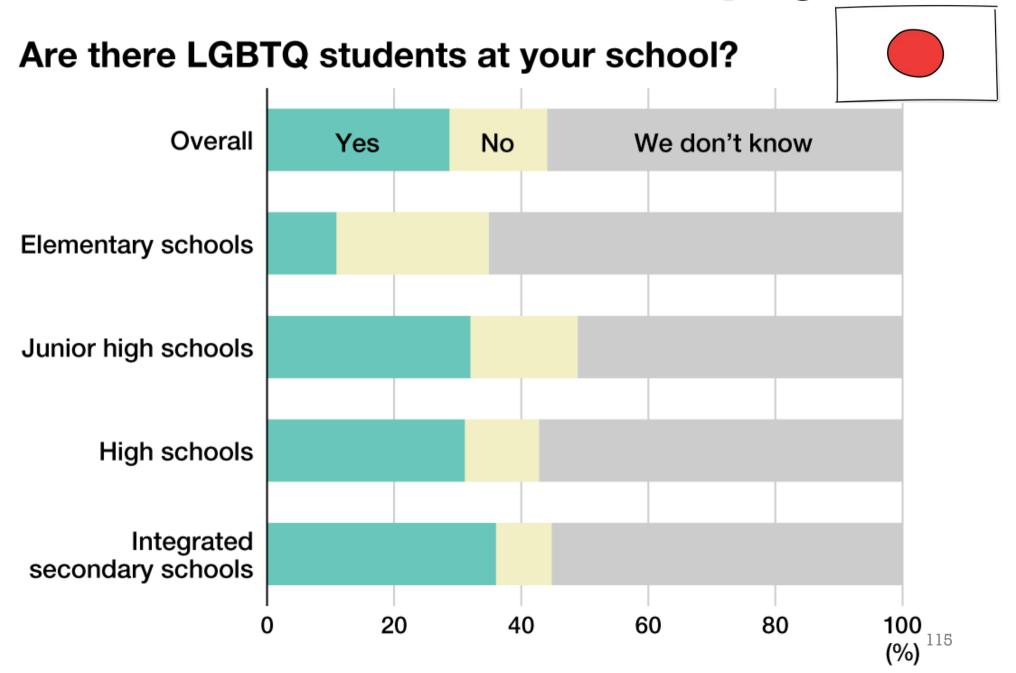
不登校 peaks in JHS 2nd year



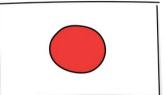
Students experience discrimination

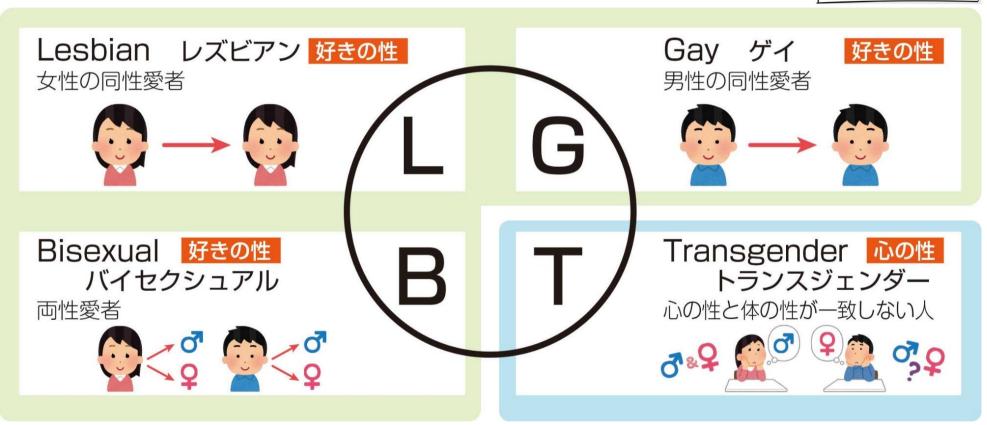


LGBT students are mostly ignored



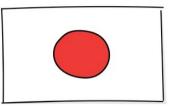
LGBT students are mostly ignored

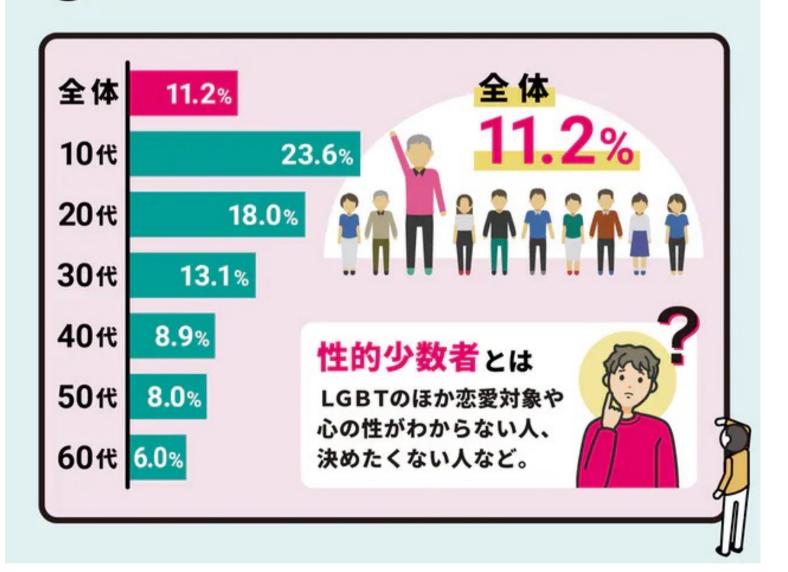




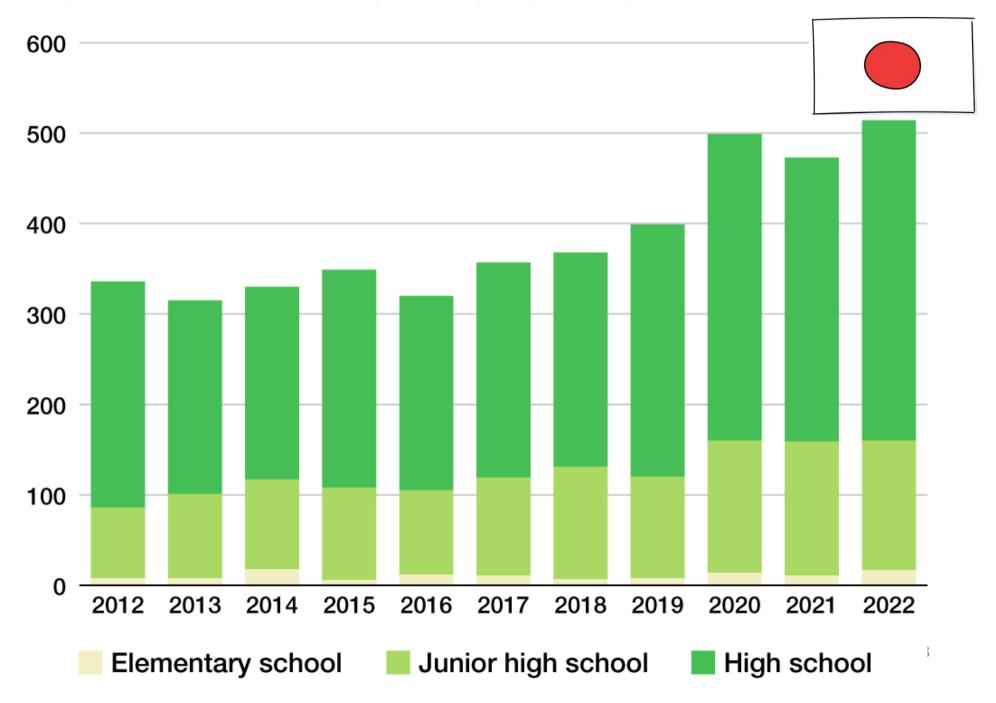
LGBT students are mostly ignored

2性的少数者は1割を超える

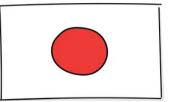




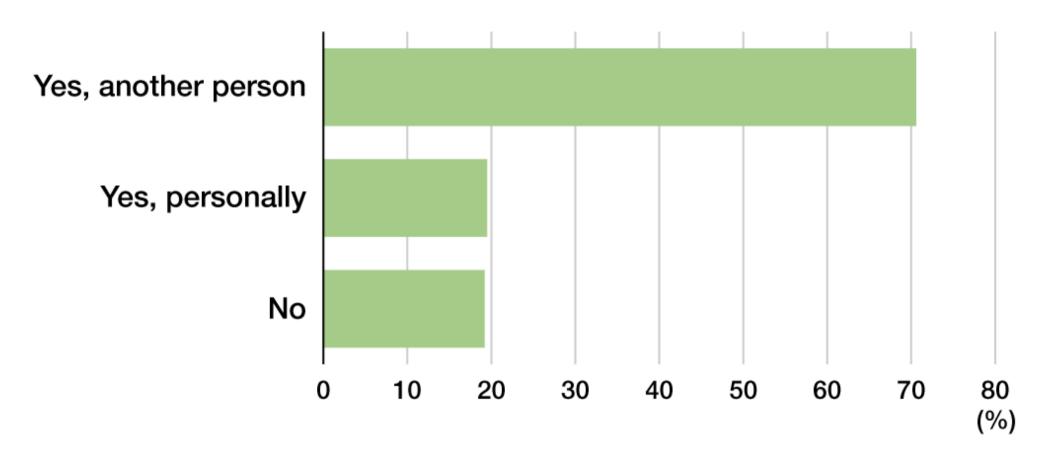
Youth suicide increased in COVID



Online bullying is a problem

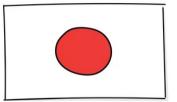


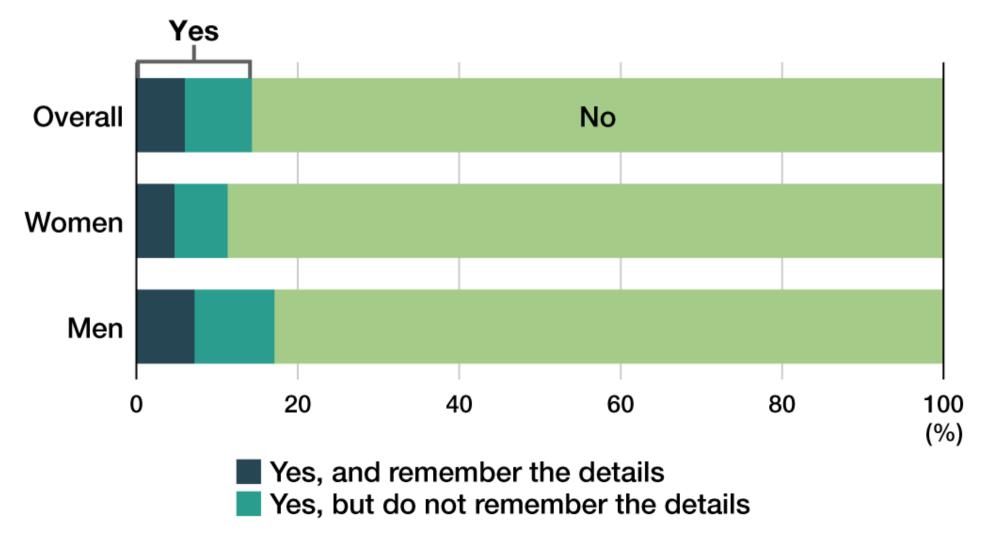
Have you ever seen or experienced bullying online?



Online bullying is a problem

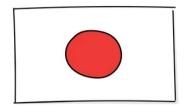
Have you ever bullied someone online (sharing or retweeting)?

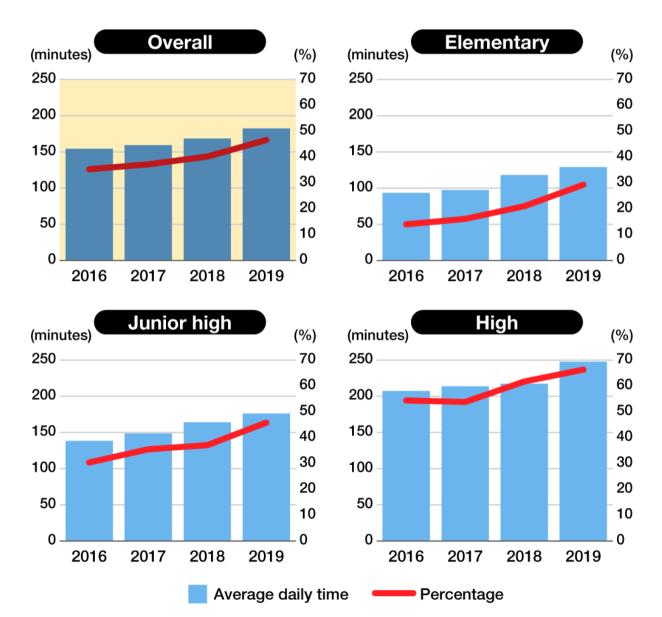




Japanese spend a lot of time online

Share of Under-18s Spending Three or More Hours a Day Online

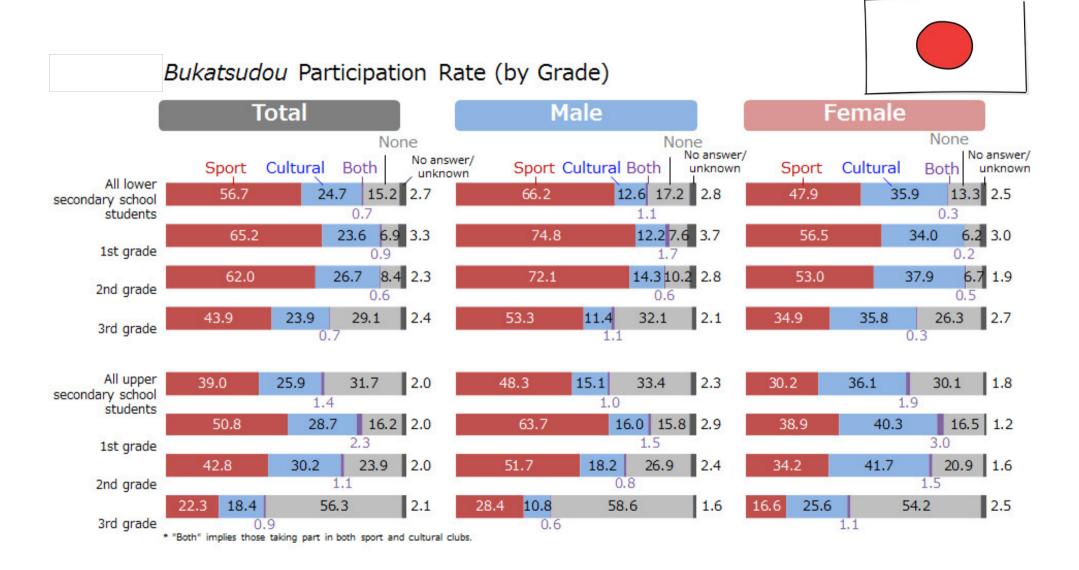




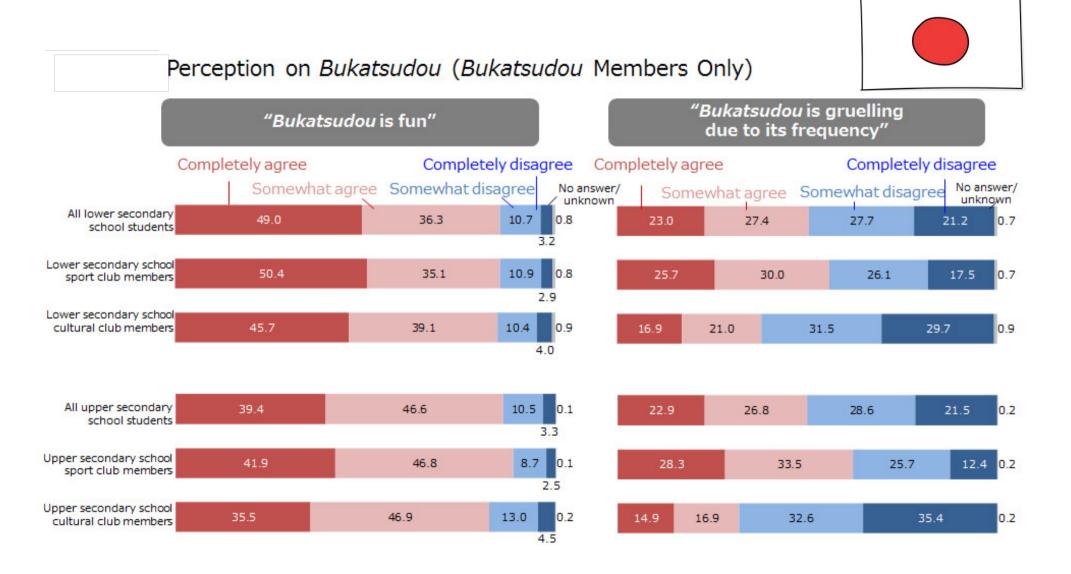
Clubs & Circles 部活



Most students join club activities



Bukatsu is fun but often tough



Topic 8: Problems at School

- 1. There is a big problem with students not going to school, particularly at the JHS level. The number jumped during COVID, and students now stay away longer. 'School refusal' (不登校) peaks in 中2.
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卒業式





Topic 9: University Life

- 1. Almost as many women as men are going to university now.
- 2. Many women's universities have closed or become co-ed.
- 3. Many Japanese students have a smaller number of close friends to discuss problems with, and a larger number of friends to hang out with.
- 4. University is an important time for young people to develop.
- 5. About one-third of students are in a relationship, one-third want a relationship, and one-third don't.
- 6. Most young people want to marry but only half think they will.
- 7. Relatives often ask young people if they are getting married.

University Classes 大学の授業



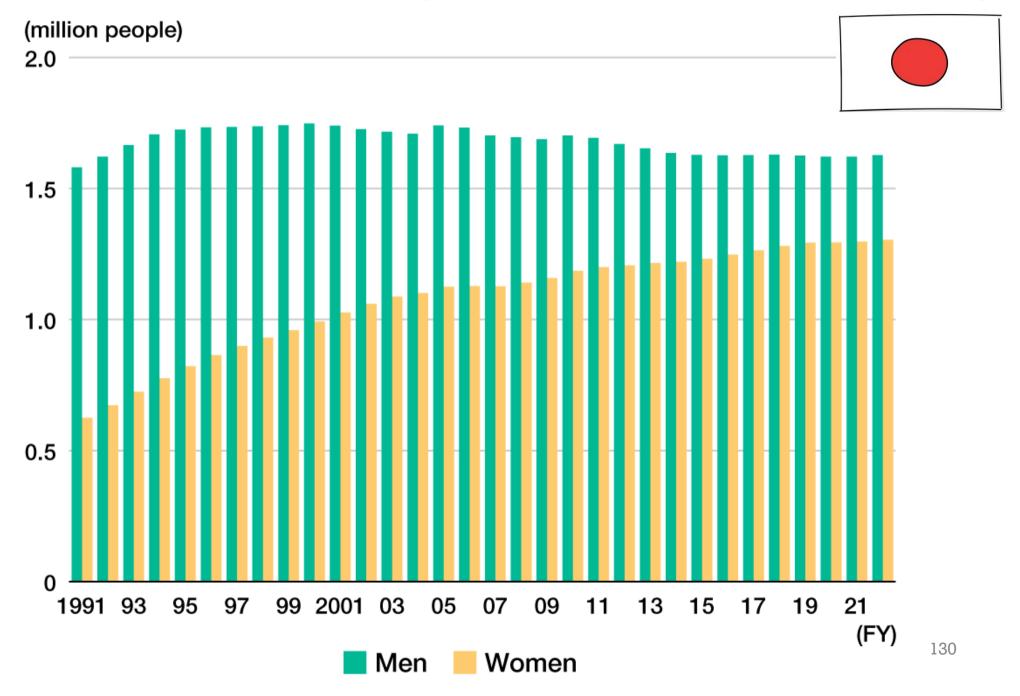
lectures (講義)

(most university courses)

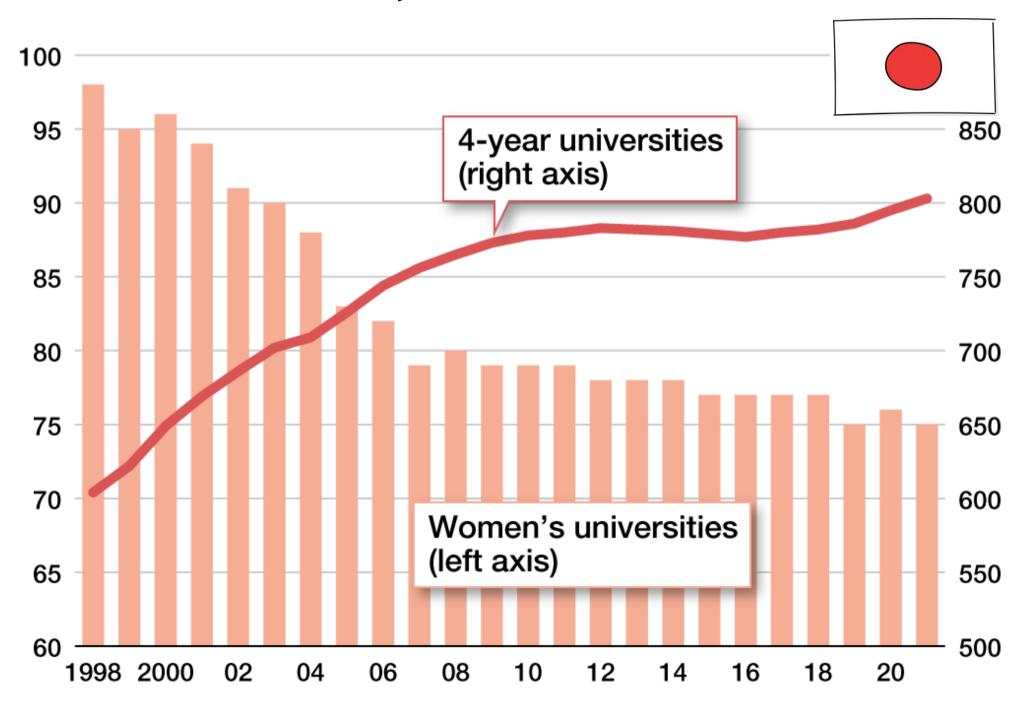
seminar (ゼミ)

(3rd and 4th years)

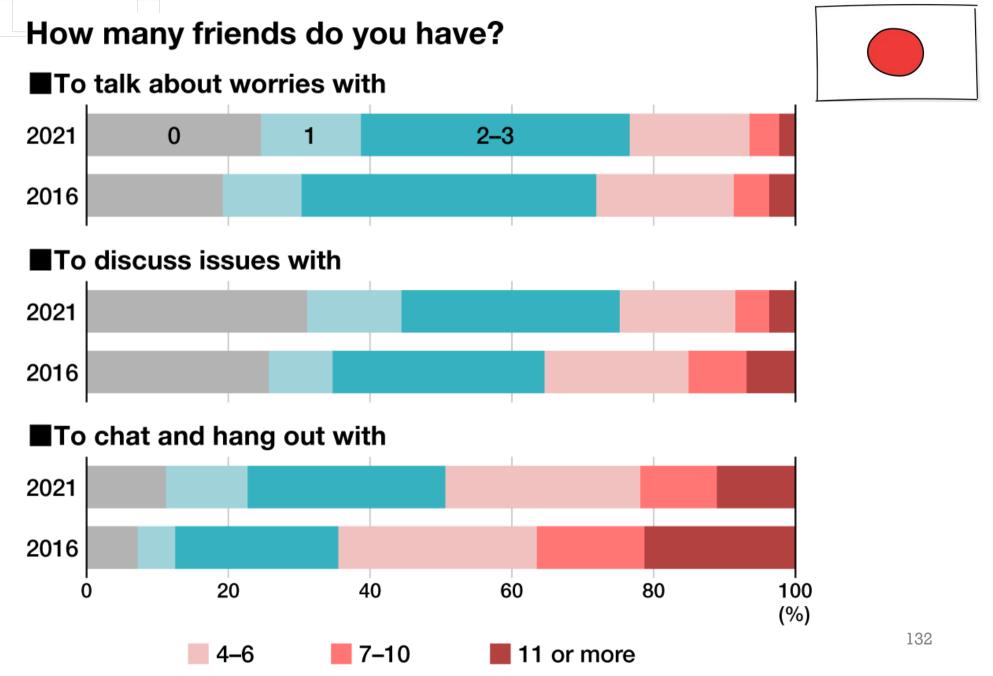
University student gender imbalance shrinking



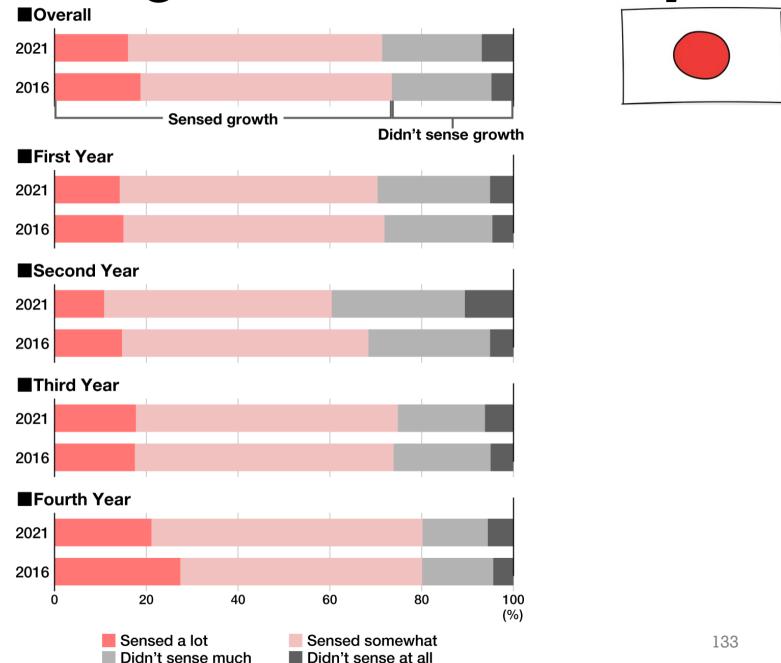
More universities, fewer women's universities



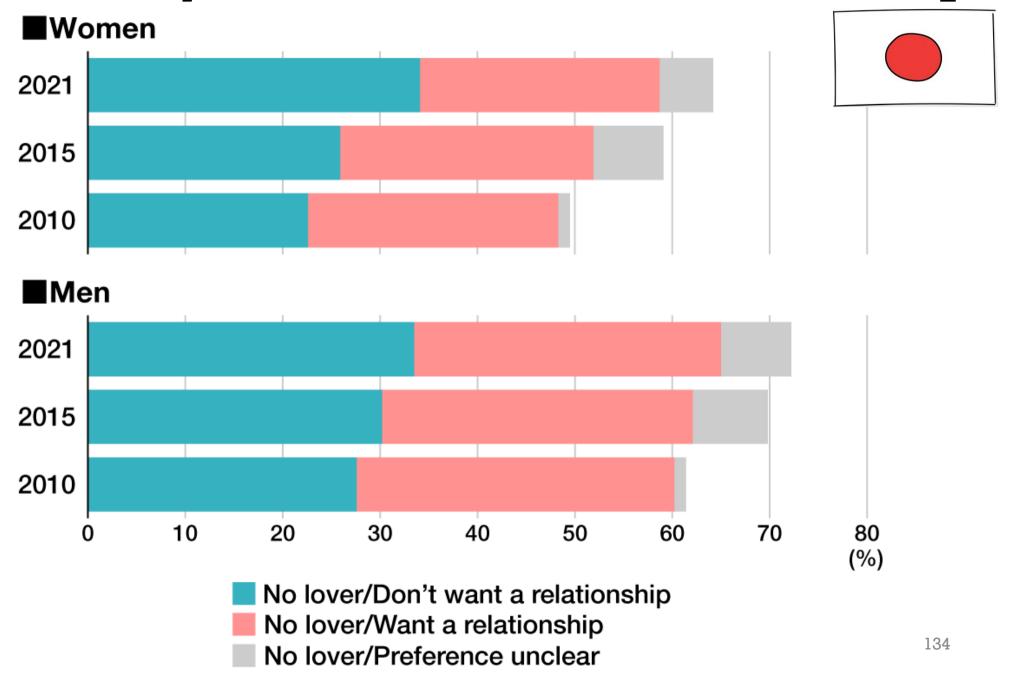
Japanese youth friendship



Personal growth at university

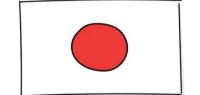


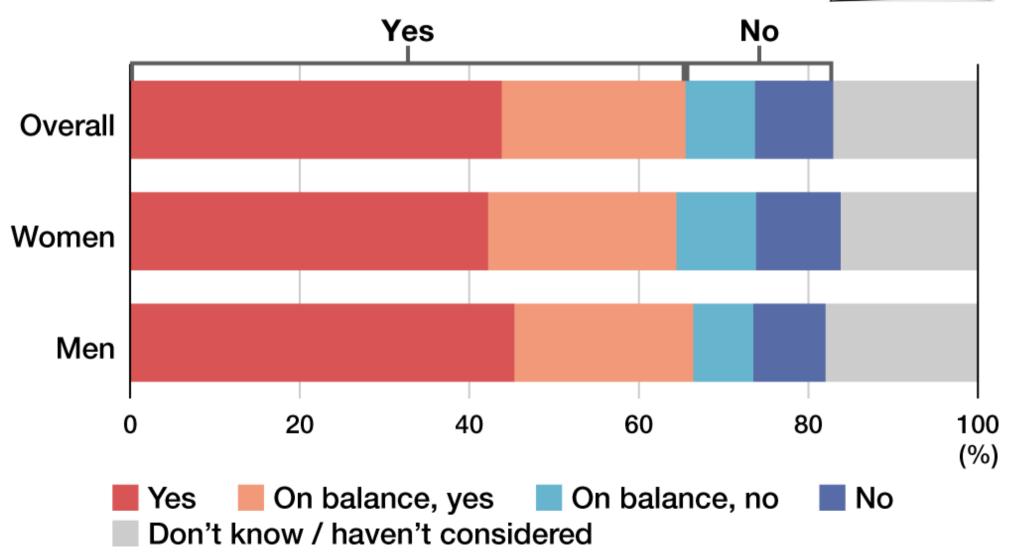
More youth don't want a relationship



A majority of youth want to marry

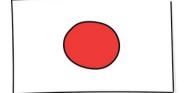
Do you want to marry in the future?

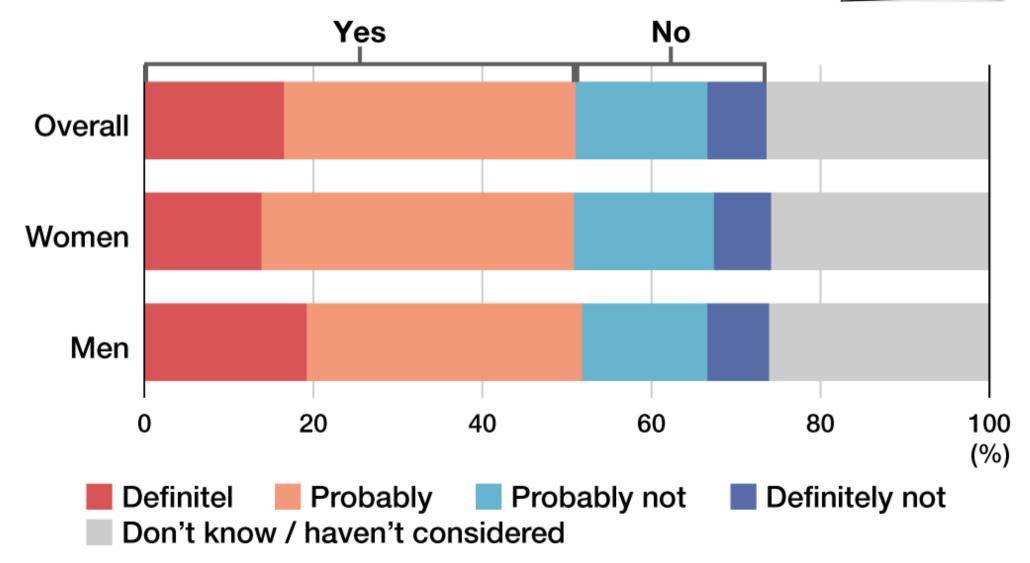




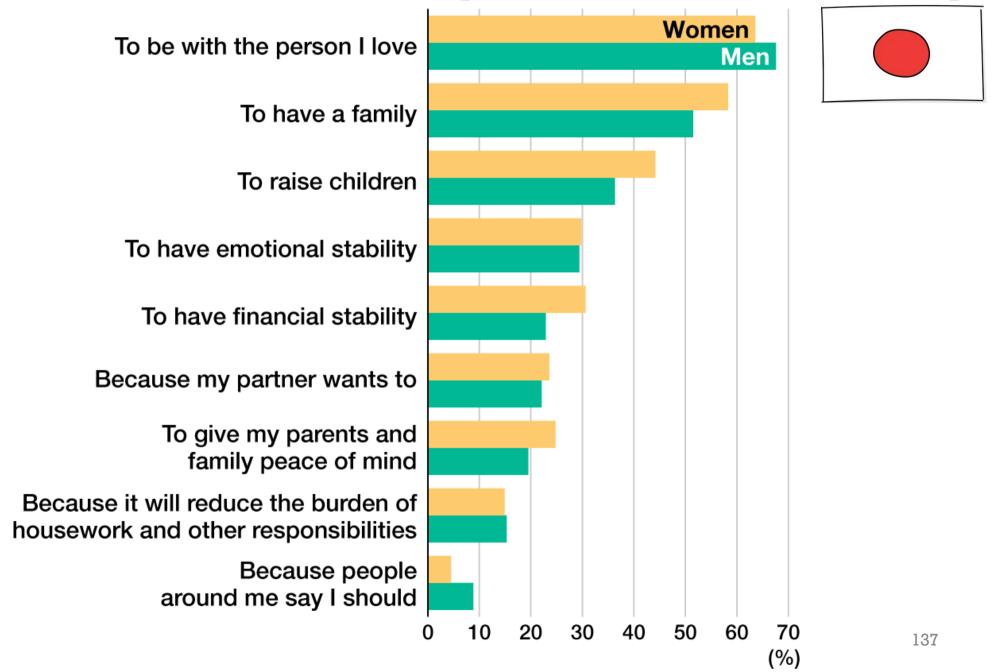
Only half think they will marry



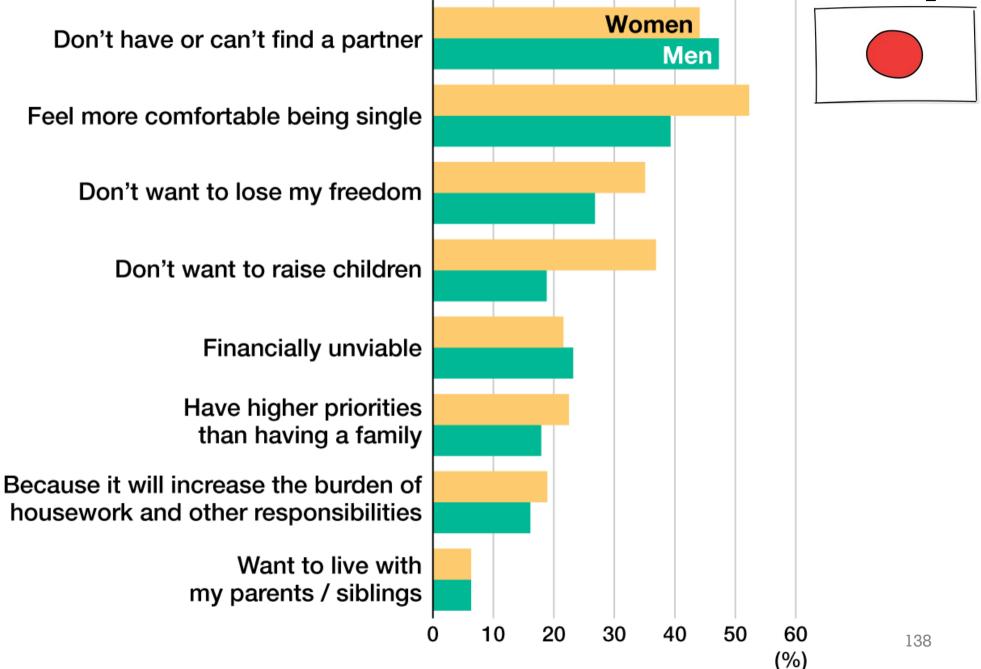




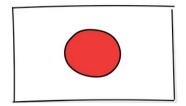
Youth have many reasons to marry



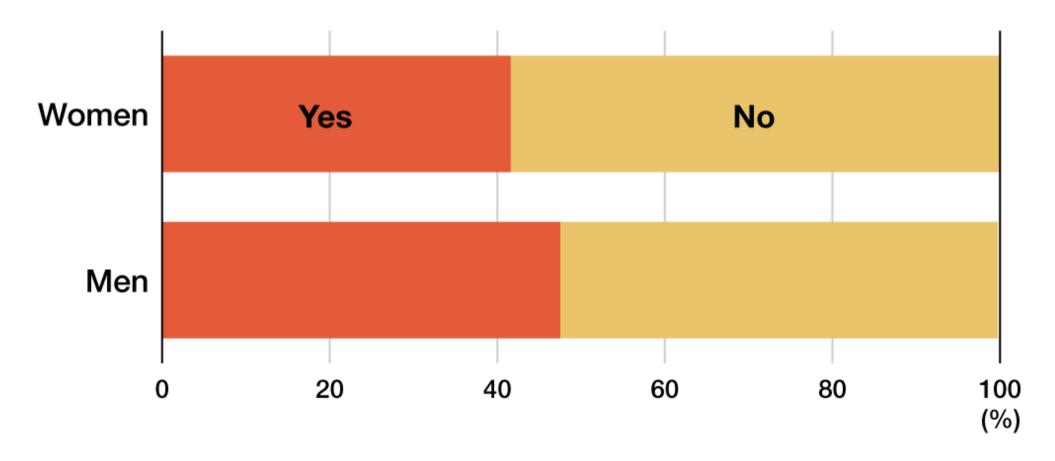
...and many reasons not to marry



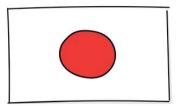
Parents and relatives still ask ...



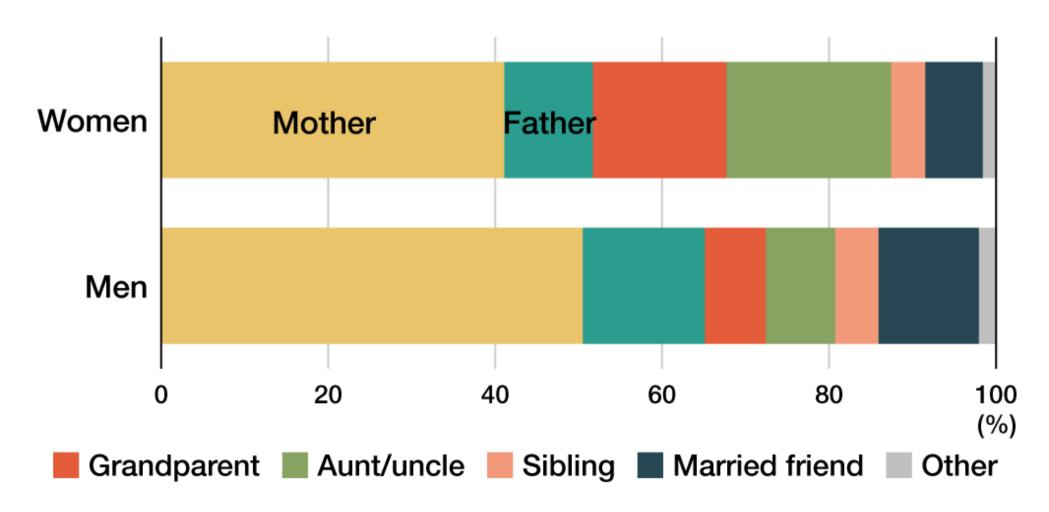
When you visit your hometown, are you asked about getting married?



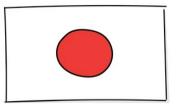
Parents and relatives still ask ...



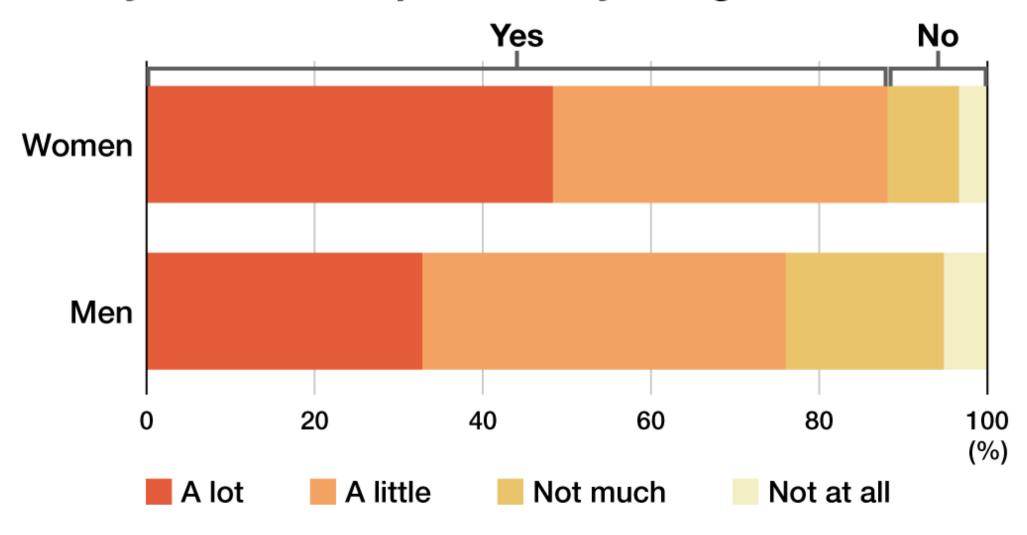
Who is the main person who asks you?



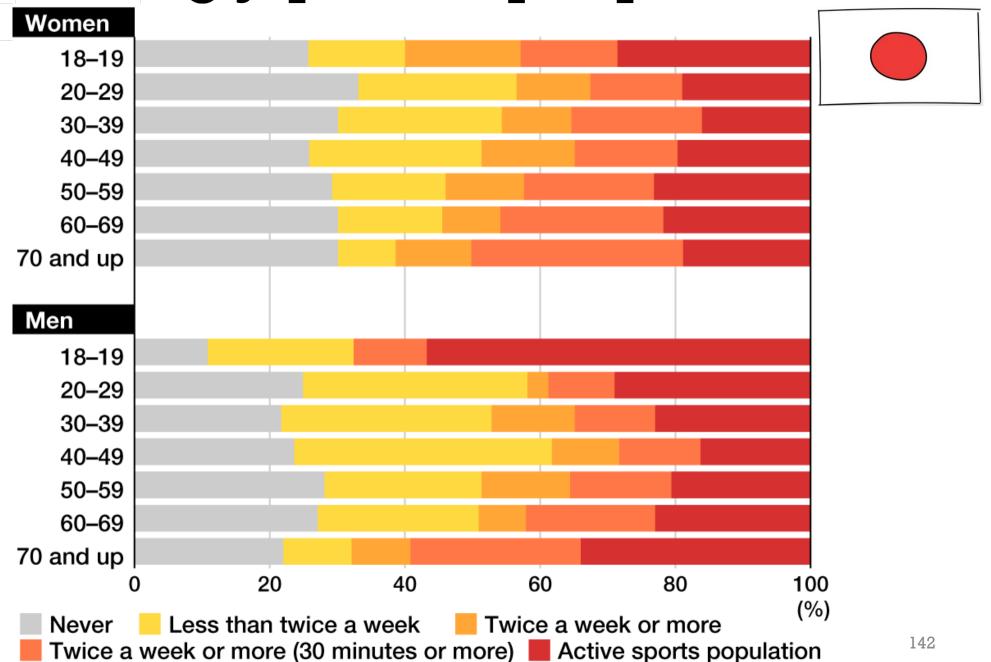
Parents and relatives still ask ...



Have you felt under pressure by being asked?



Young Japanese people exercise



Becoming an Adult 成人の目





Becoming an Adult 成人の日





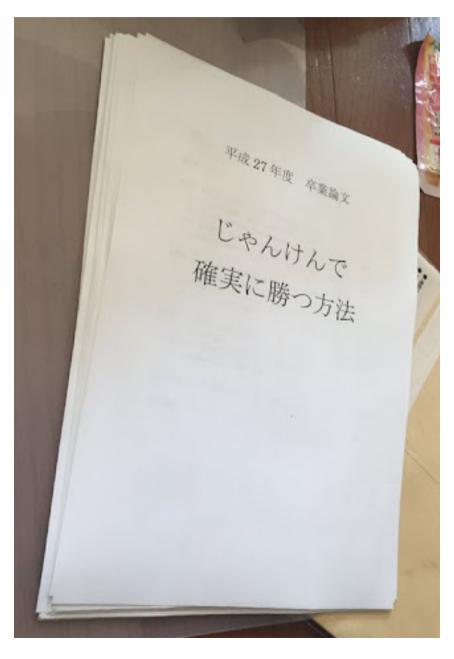
成人の日



成人の日



Graduation Thesis 卒業論文



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Graduation Ceremony 大学の卒業式



Topic 9: University Life

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Topic 10: Working

- 1. Youth unemployment is very low.
- 2. Many Japanese high school students and most Japanese university students work part-time.
- 3. Including part-time work and pocket money, Japanese high school students' average monthly income is Kč3500, and Japanese university students Kč6000.
- 4. Job-hunting starts in third year with internships, but officially begins at the end of third year and continues into fourth year.
- 5. Students experience gender discrimination during job hunting.
- 6. Companies have a formal 入社式 to welcome new employees.



















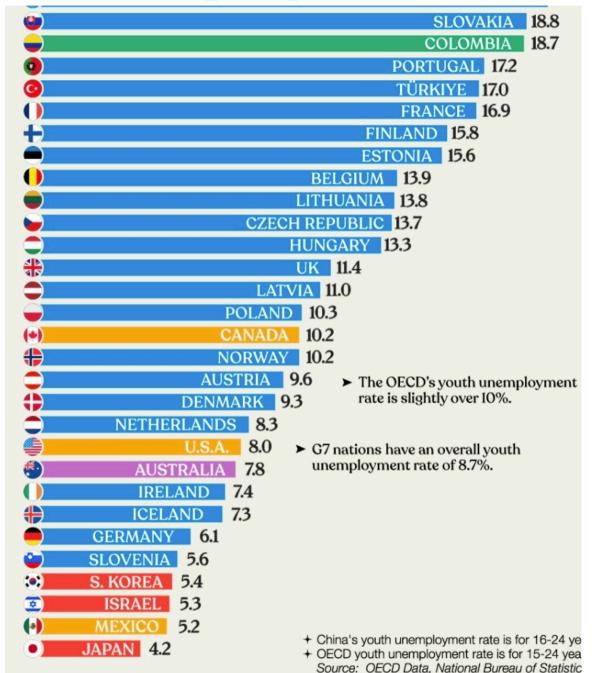






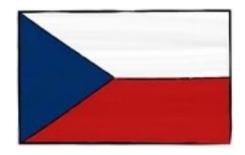


Youth unemployment is low in Japan

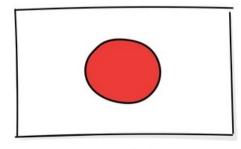




18.8%

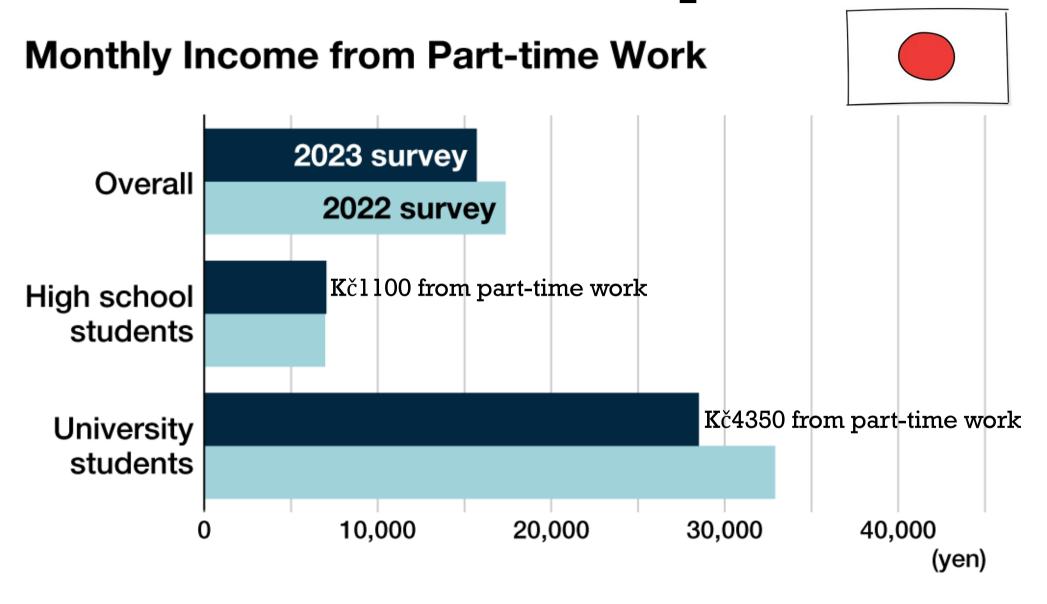


13.7%

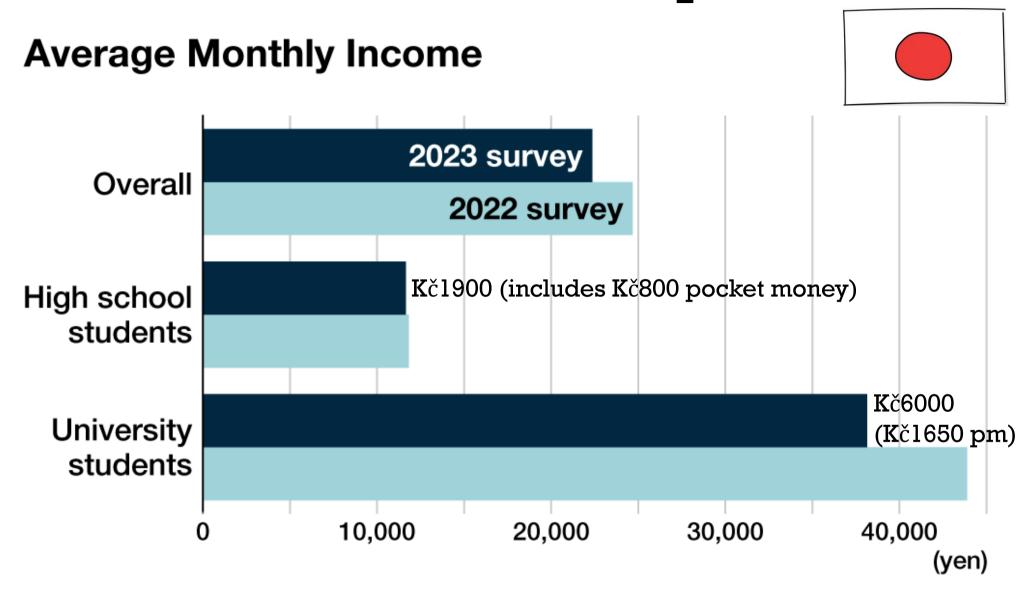


4.2%

Most students work part-time



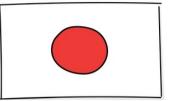
Most students work part-time



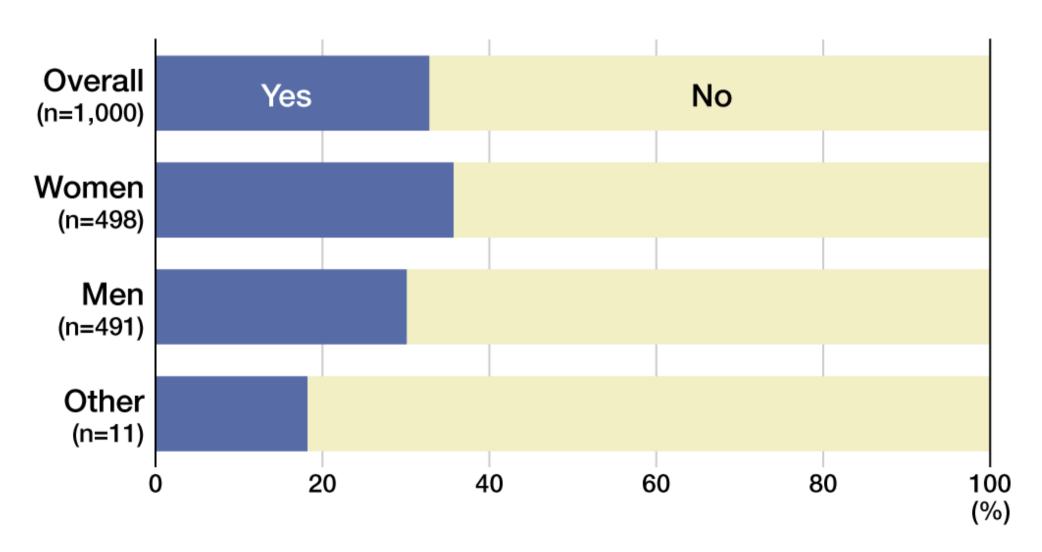


Job Hunting 就職活動

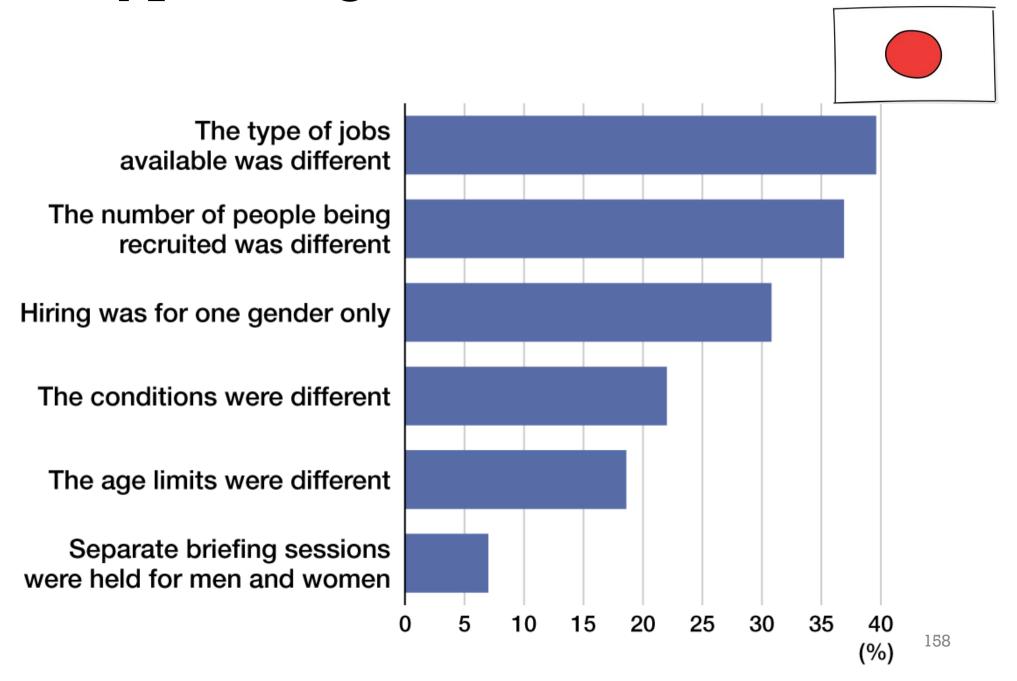
Gender discrimination in job hunting



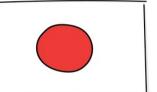
Have you felt gender discrimination while job hunting?



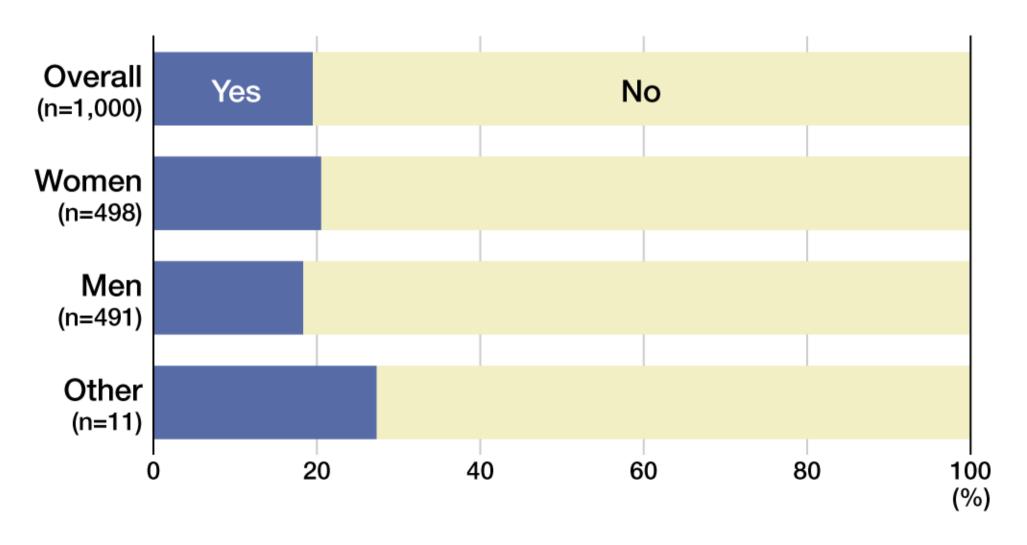
Types of gender discrimination



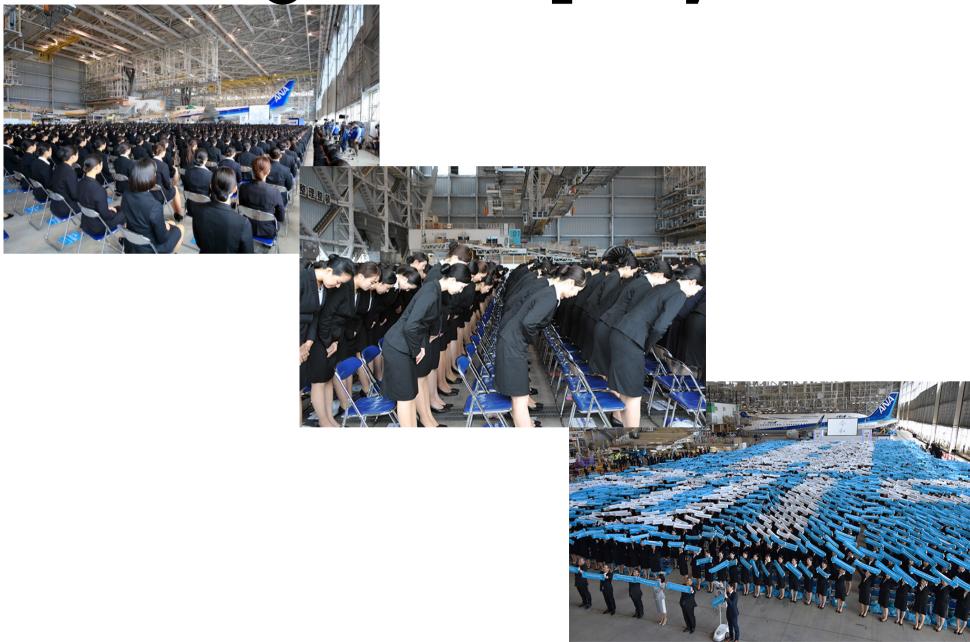
Inappropriate questions/comments



Did you receive any inappropriate questions comments while job hunting?



Entering a Company 入社式



Entering a Company 入社式



Life as a 社会人





Topic 10: Working

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