

**April 19, 2023**

**Foreign Press Center Japan Press Briefing**

Provisional translation by FPCJ

# Children and Families Agency

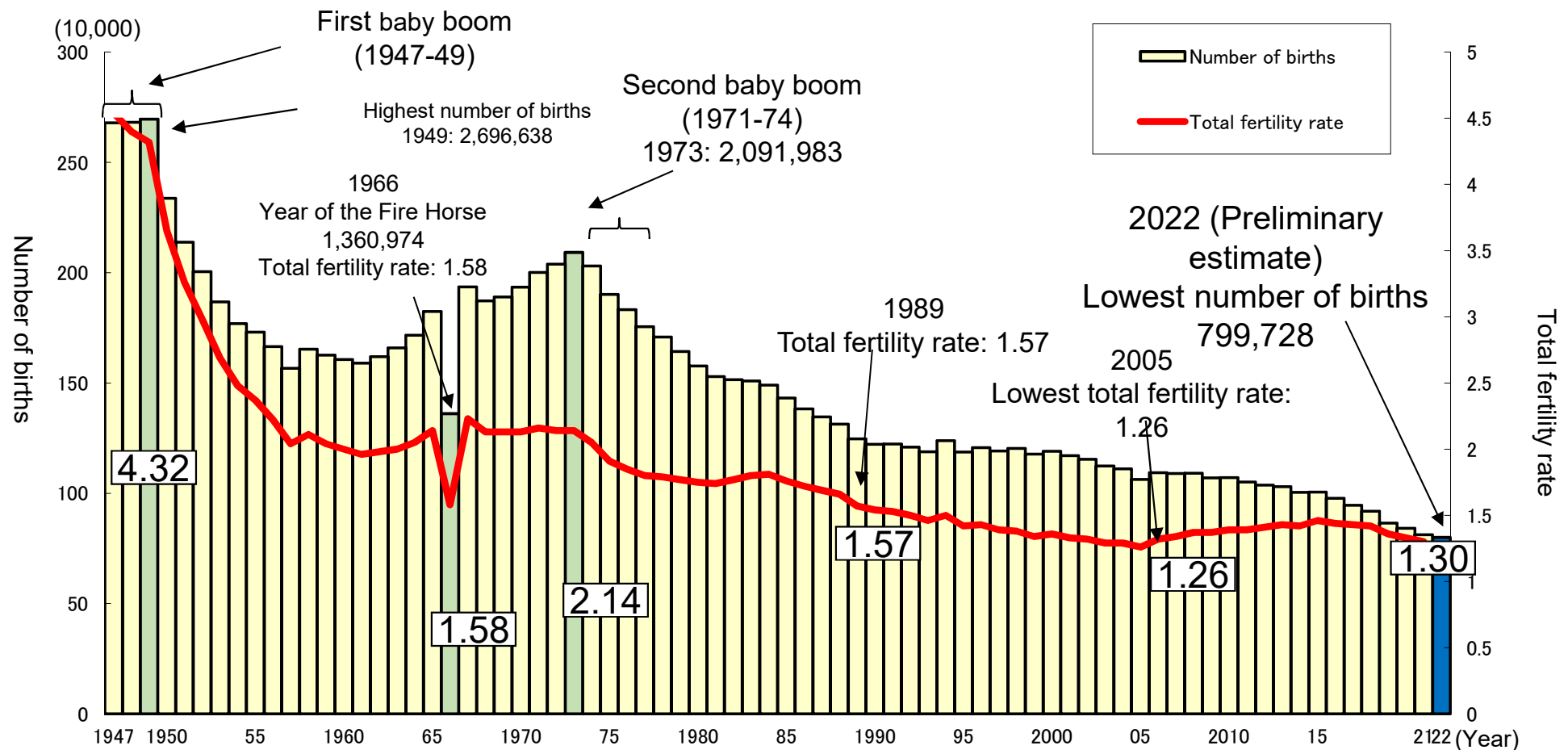
Former Minister in charge of Child Policies Related to  
Children

Former Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment  
Member of the House of Representatives

Seiko NODA

# Changes in Number of Births and Total Fertility Rate

○According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's Vital Statistics, the number of births in 2022 was 799,728, the lowest ever and down 5.1% from the previous year. This is the first time since these records began that the number dropped below 800,000. The government estimated births would drop to around 770,000 in 2033, so this is 11 years earlier than anticipated.



Source: "Vital Statistics," published by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

# Comparison of 1960, 1985, and 2021

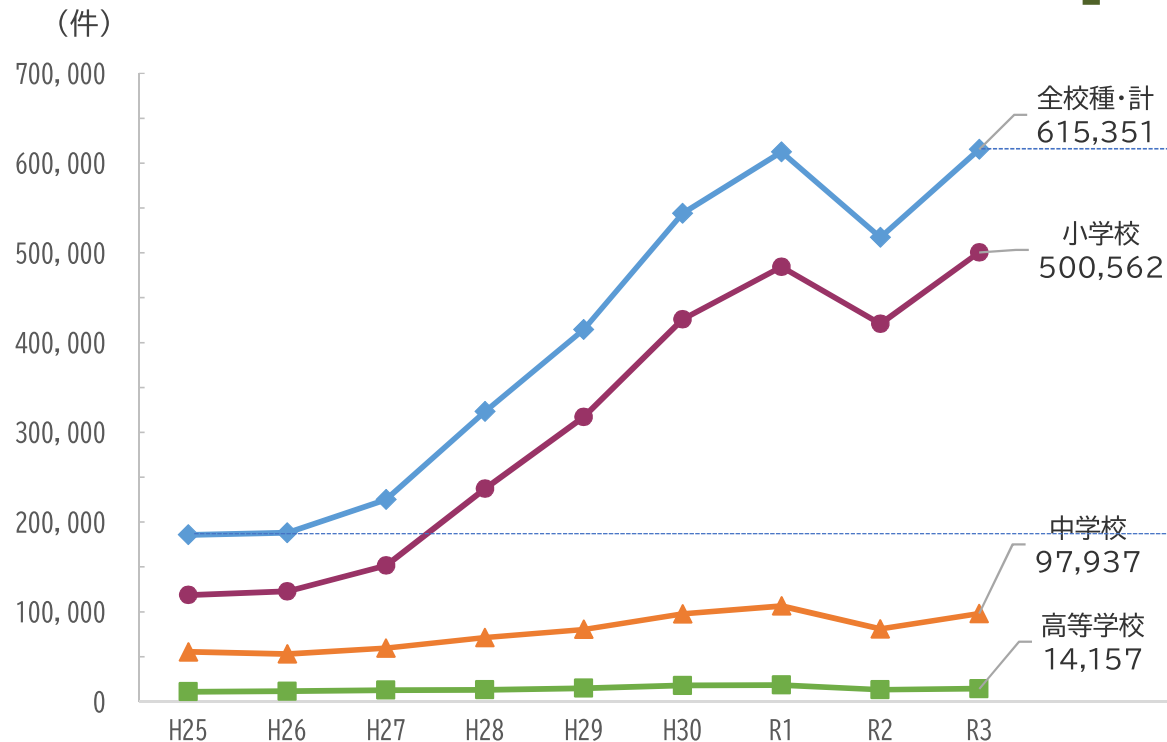
	1960: Marital deduction introduced	1985: "Third insured person" spousal coverage introduced	2021 (increase from 1985)
Marriages	866,000	736,000	501,000 (-31.9%)
Divorces	69,000	167,000	184,000 (+10.2%)
30 year olds with spouses	Women: 81.2% Men: 71.0%	Women: 83.3% Men: 60.8%	Women: 54.0% (-29.3 pt) Men: 43.3% (-17.5 pt)
Unmarried 50 year olds	Women: 1.9% Men: 1.3%	Women: 4.3% Men: 3.7%	Women: 16.4% (+12.1 pt) Men: 25.9% (+22.2 pt)
Single-person households (As percentage of total number of households)	1,780,000 8.6%	7,890,000 20.8%	21,151,000 (+168.1%) 38.1% (+17.2 pt)
Single-parent households (As percentage of total number of households)	-	2,400,000 6.3%	5,003,000 (+108.5%) 9.0% (+2.7 pt)
Average lifespan	Women: 70.19 y/o Men: 65.32 y/o	Women: 80.48 y/o Men: 74.78 y/o	Women: 87.57 y/o (+7.09) Men: 81.47 y/o (+6.69)
Mode age of death	Women: 80 y/o Men: 75 y/o	Women: 86 y/o Men: 81 y/o	Women: 93 y/o (+7) Men: 88 y/o (+7)
Dual-income households (As percentage of households where the husband is employed)	-	7,220,000 52.1%	<b>12,470,000 (+72.7%)</b> 69.2% (+17.1 pt)
Wife works full time (35 hours/week or more)	-	4,620,000	4,830,000 (+4.5%)
<b>Wife works part time</b> (less than 35 hours/week)	-	2,290,000	<b>6,680,000 (+191.7%)</b>
Households of employed man and unemployed wife (full-time housewife)	-	9,520,000	<b>5,660,000 (-40.5%)</b>
Individuals using the special tax deduction for spouse	-	11,150,000	<b>1,280,000</b>
Individuals using the tax deduction for spouse	-	(10,980,000)	<b>9,430,000</b>
Individuals using "third insured person" system	-	10,930,000	<b>7,630,000</b>

\*Made by the Children and Families Agency Preparation Office, based on Vital Statistics, national census, labor force survey, etc.

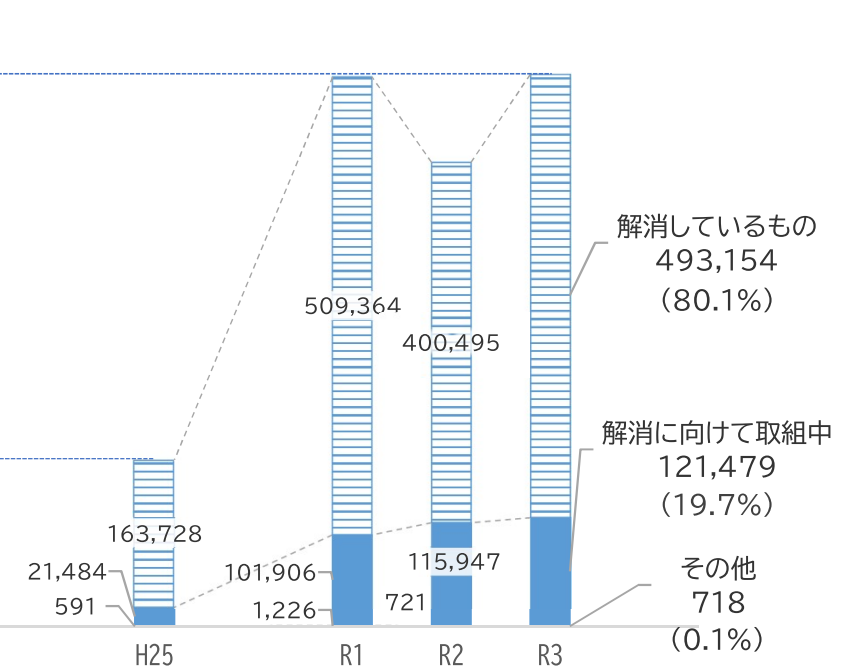
# The State of Bullying

Source: 2021 report on issues for guidance of students with problem behaviors or who refuse to attend school

## Number of Recognized Bullying Incidents



## Bullying Incidents Resolved (at end of school year)



年度	H25	H26	H27	H28	H29	H30	R1	R2	R3
小学校	118,748 17.8	122,734 18.6	151,692 23.2	237,256 36.5	317,121 49.1	425,844 66.0	484,545 75.8	420,897 66.5	500,562 79.9
中学校	55,248 15.6	52,971 15.0	59,502 17.1	71,309 20.8	80,424 24.0	97,704 29.8	106,524 32.8	80,877 24.9	97,937 30.0
高等学校	11,039 3.1	11,404 3.2	12,664 3.6	12,874 3.7	14,789 4.3	17,709 5.2	18,352 5.4	13,126 4.0	14,157 4.4
特別支援学校	768 5.9	963 7.3	1,274 9.4	1,704 12.4	2,044 14.5	2,676 19.0	3,075 21.7	2,263 15.9	2,695 18.4
計	185,803 13.4	188,072 13.7	225,132 16.5	323,143 23.8	414,378 30.9	543,933 40.9	612,496 46.5	517,163 39.7	615,351 47.7

※ 上段は認知件数、下段は1,000人当たりの認知件数

● The number of **recognized incidents of bullying** at elementary, junior high, high, and special needs schools was **615,351** (517,163 in 2020), an **increase of 98,188 (19.0%)** over the past year.

● The number of recognized incidents per 1,000 children was 47.7 (39.7 in 2020)

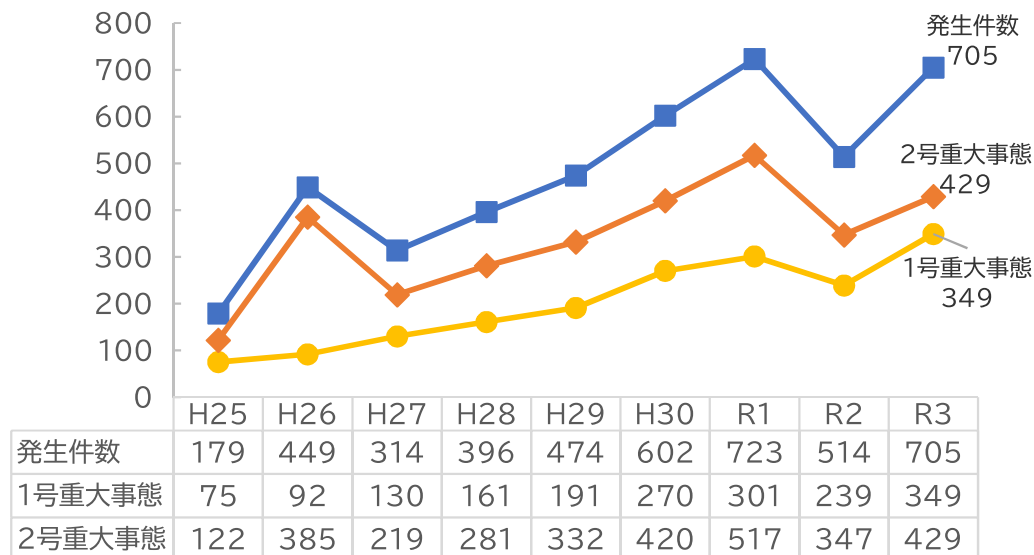
● At the end of the school year, **493,154 incidents (80.1%) were resolved.**

# Serious Bullying Situations

Source: 2021 report on issues for guidance of students with problem behaviors or who refuse to attend school

- 705 serious bullying situations occurred (514 in 2020).  
Of these, 349 (239 in 2020) fell under Article 28(1)(i) of the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying, and 429 (347 in 2020) fell under Article 28(1)(ii).
- To respond to serious bullying situations as described in Article 28(1) of the Act, to contribute to appropriate investigations being carried out MEXT released the Guidelines for Investigating Serious Bullying Situations in March 2017, according to the laws on school founders and schools.

■ Number of Serious Situations as Described in Article 28(1) of the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying



	小学校	中学校	高等学校	特別支援学校	合計
重大事態発生校数(校)	285	255	102	3	645
重大事態発生件数(件)	314	276	112	3	705
うち、第1号	158	122	68	1	349
うち、第2号	191	175	61	2	429

※ いじめ防止対策推進法第28条第1項において、学校の設置者又は学校は、重大事態に対処するために調査を行うものとして規定されており、当該調査を行った件数を把握したもの。

※ 1件の重大事態が第1号及び第2号の両方に該当する場合は、それぞれの項目に計上されている。

※ 同法第28条第1項に規定する「重大事態」とは、

第1号「いじめにより当該学校に在籍する児童等の生命、心身又は財産に重大な被害が生じた疑いがあると認めるとき」

第2号「いじめにより当該学校に在籍する児童等が相当の期間学校を欠席することを余儀なくされている疑いがあると認めるとき」

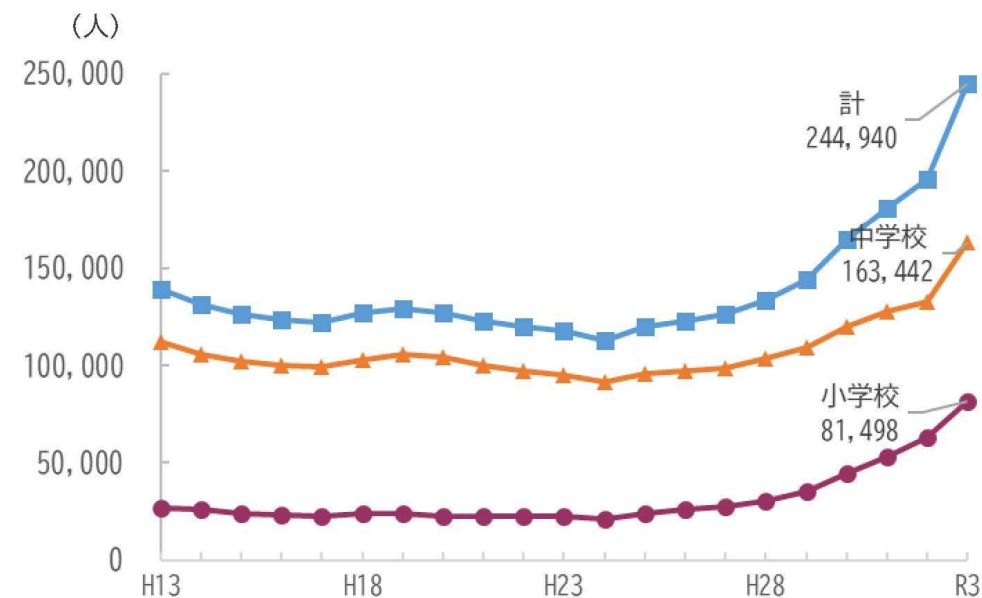
である。

# State of School Refusals in Elementary and Junior High Schools

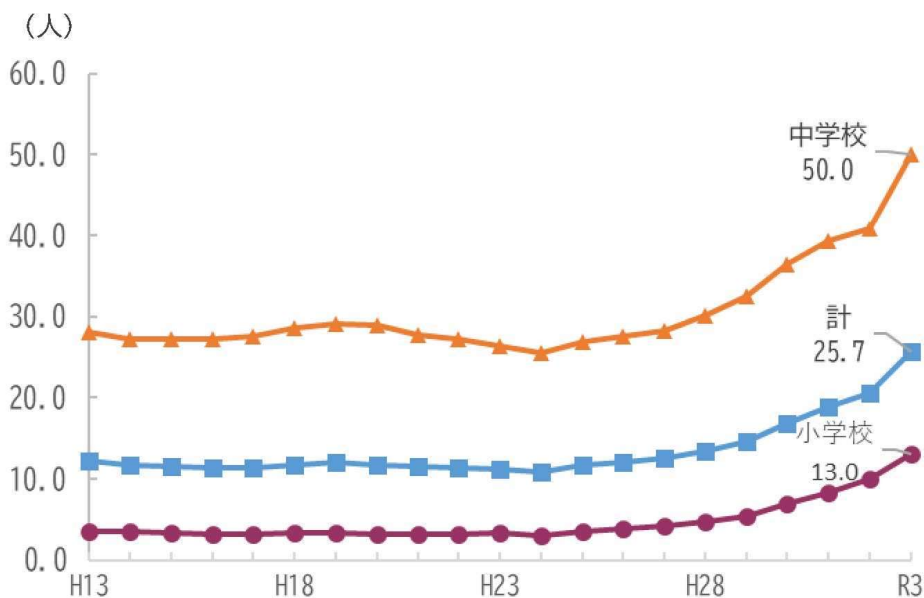
Source: 2021 report on issues for guidance of students with problem behaviors or who refuse to attend school

- Of the long-term absences in elementary and junior high school, 244,940 (196,127 in 2020) are school refusals, with 25.7 (20.5 in 2020) children refusing to attend school per 1,000.
- The number of children refusing to attend school has increased for nine years in a row, and has reached a record high.

## Number of School Refusals



## Number of School Refusals (per 1,000 children)



## 不登校児童生徒数(上段)と1,000人当たりの不登校児童生徒数(下段)

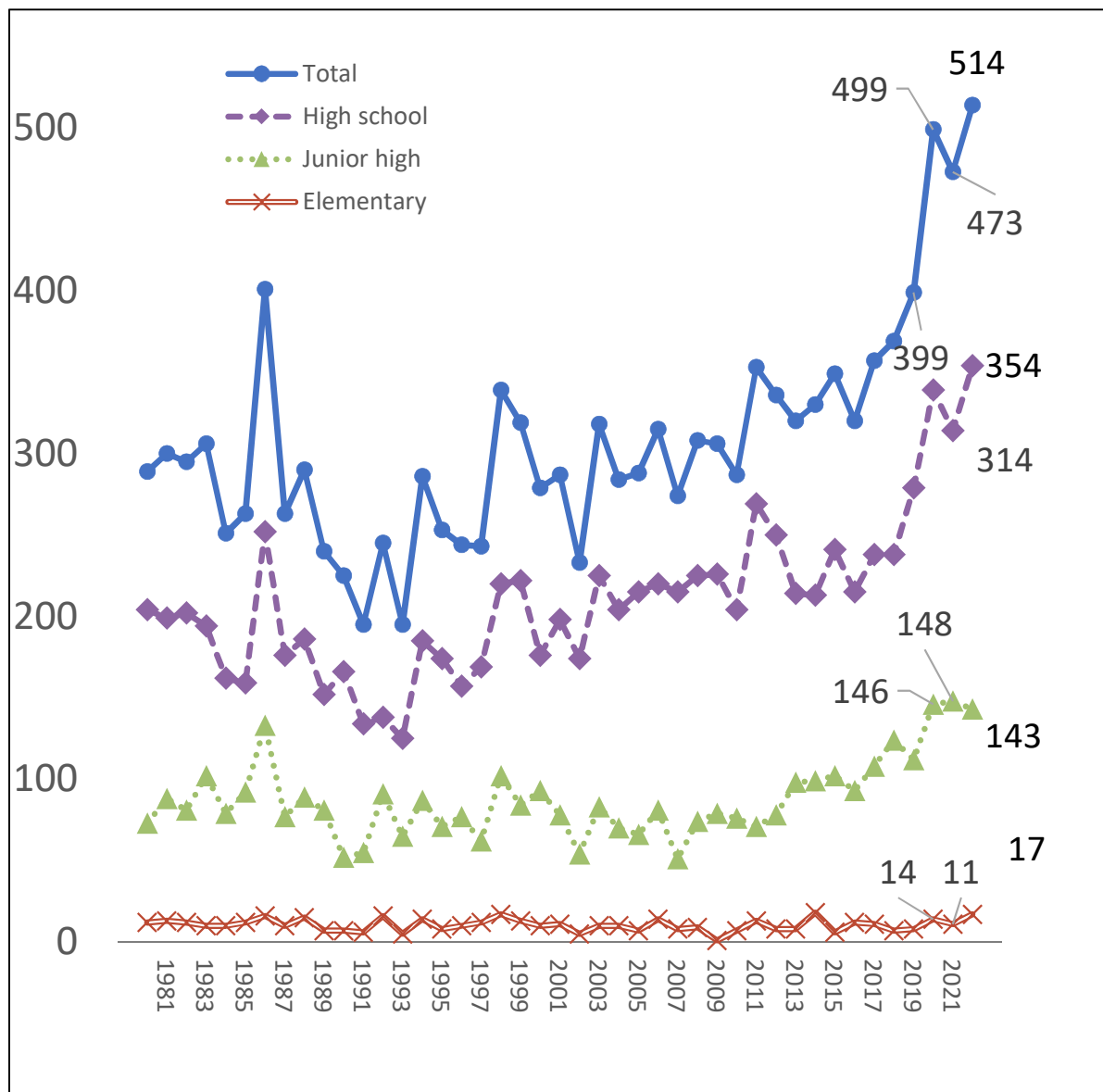
	H13	H14	H15	H16	H17	H18	H19	H20	H21	H22	H23	H24	H25	H26	H27	H28	H29	H30	R1	R2	R3
小学校	26,511	25,869	24,077	23,318	22,709	23,825	23,927	22,652	22,327	22,463	22,622	21,243	24,175	25,864	27,583	30,448	35,032	44,841	53,350	63,350	81,498
	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.4	7.0	8.3	10.0	13.0
中学校	112,211	105,383	102,149	100,040	99,578	103,069	105,328	104,153	100,105	97,428	94,836	91,446	95,442	97,033	98,408	103,235	108,999	119,687	127,922	132,777	163,442
	28.1	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.5	28.6	29.1	28.9	27.7	27.3	26.4	25.6	26.9	27.6	28.3	30.1	32.5	36.5	39.4	40.9	50.0
計	138,722	131,252	126,226	123,358	122,287	126,894	129,255	126,805	122,432	119,891	117,458	112,689	119,617	122,897	125,991	133,683	144,031	164,528	181,272	196,127	244,940
	12.3	11.8	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.8	12.0	11.8	11.5	11.3	11.2	10.9	11.7	12.1	12.6	13.5	14.7	16.9	18.8	20.5	25.7

※「不登校」には、何らかの心理的、情緒的、身体的、あるいは社会的要因・背景により、児童生徒が登校しないあるいはしたくともできない状況にある者（ただし、「病気」や「経済的理由」、「新型コロナウイルスの感染回避」による者を除く。）かつ、年度間に30日以上登校しなかった児童生徒を計上。

# [2022 Final Numbers] Annual Trends in Suicides by School-age Children

As of March 14, 2023

(Suicides)



[2021,2022]  
Annual Comparison of Suicides by  
School-age Children

	2021	2022	Year-to-year (2022-2021)
Total	473	514	41
Elementary	11	17	6
Junior high	148	143	-5
High school	314	354	40

Source: Made by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Suicide Prevention Office based on National Police Agency suicide statistics

# Number of Children with Disabilities

○Number of children with disabilities living at home (under 18 y/o): 282,000 (estimate)

\*1.4% of the population of under-18s (19,350,000)

・Children with physical disabilities 68,000

・Children with intellectual disabilities: 214,000

出典:厚生労働省「生活のしづらさなどに関する調査」(平成28年)

(参考)

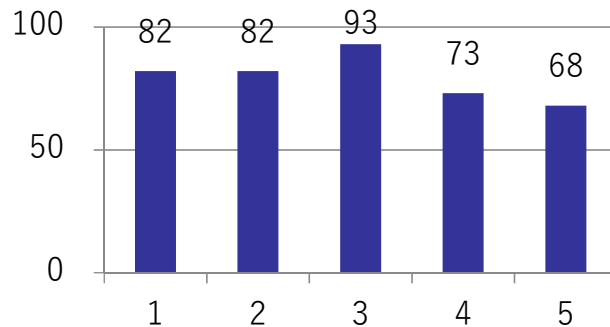
施設に入所している障害児数(概数)

・福祉型障害児入所施設:約0.7万人

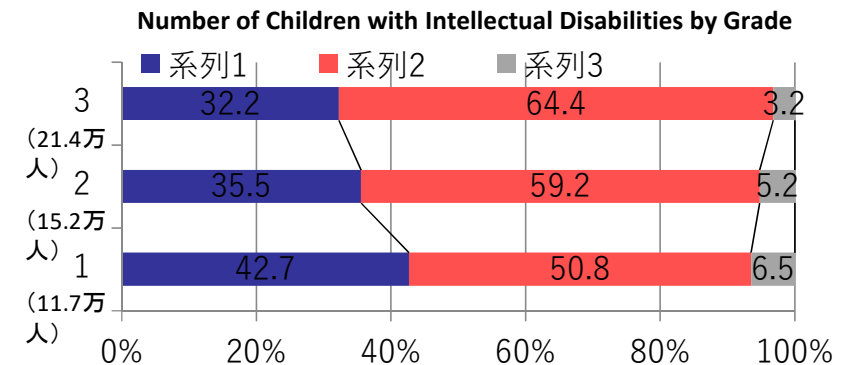
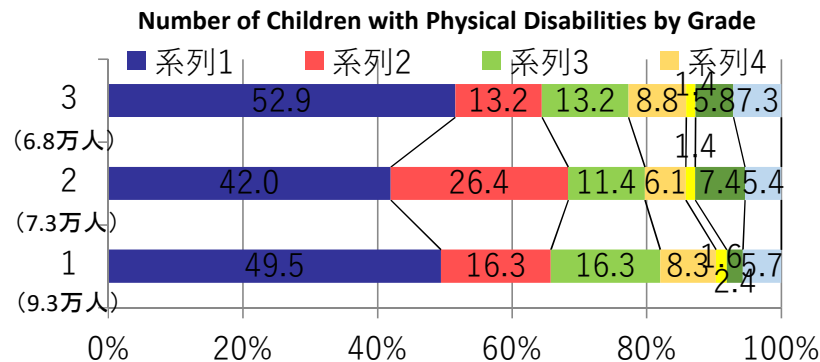
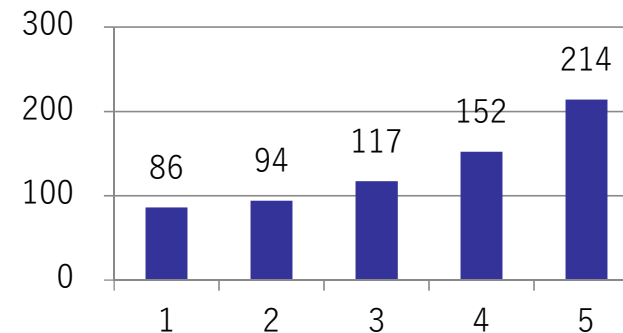
・医療型障害児入所施設:約0.8万人

出典:社会福祉施設等調査

(thousands) Number of Children with Physical Disabilities



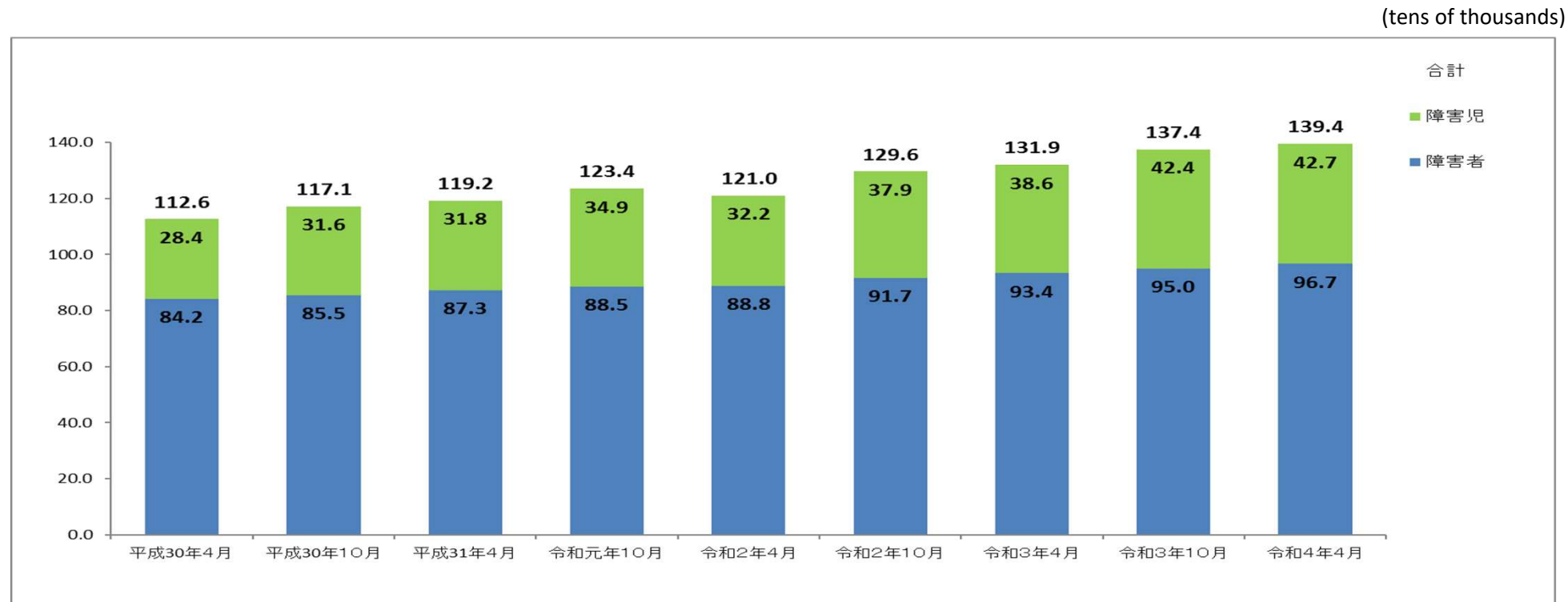
(thousands) Number of Children with Intellectual Disabilities



Source: MHLW Survey on persons with physical disability (1991–2006), MHLW Survey on persons with intellectual disability (1990–2005), MHLW Survey on difficulty of daily life (2016)



# Welfare Services for People with Disabilities and Child Users of Those Services (Changes in users every 6 months)



○Annual increase from April 2021→April 2022: 5.7%

				(令和4年4月の利用者数)			
このうち	身体障害者の伸び率……	1.	1%	身体障害者……	22.	5万人	
	知的障害者の伸び率……	2.	3%	知的障害者……	43.	8万人	
	精神障害者の伸び率……	7.	4%	精神障害者……	28.	6万人	
	障害児の伸び率……	10.	6%	難病等対象者…	0.	4万人 (4,143人)	
				障害児……	44.	1万人 (※)	
				(※障害福祉サービスを利用する障害児を含む)			

# Background of Children and Families Agency

2021

- Sept. 16 The **Expert Panel on the Promotion of Policies Related to Children** formed to discuss the direction of policies to deal appropriately with various issues facing children, considering the views of children
- Nov. 29 The **Expert Panel on the Promotion of Policies Related to Children** submits report
- Dec. 2 The Working Group on the Promotion of Policies Related to Children submit **draft of Basic Guidelines for New Policies Related to Children**
- Dec. 21 **Cabinet approves Basic Guidelines for New Policies Related to Children Preparation Office for Act Establishing the Children and Families Agency** established in Cabinet Secretariat

2022

- Feb. 25 Both bills approved by the Cabinet, submitted to the National Diet
- April 4 Proposed Basic Act on the Child submitted to the National Diet
- June 15 The Act Establishing the Children and Families Agency, related laws, and the Basic Act on the Child passed

2023

- April 1 Children and Families Agency established

# Overview of Children and Families Agency

## Necessity of and Goals of CFA

- ◆ The Children and Families Agency is established as an independent government organization working powerfully and solely on policies related to children, always considering the views of children and working toward the creation of a child-centered society, charged with handling functions related to increasing the welfare and improving the health of children and families, and protecting the interests of children
- ◆ With three sections, for centralized leadership, raising children, and support, the CFA will aim to show far greater capacity than that of the staff transferred to it.
- ◆ Vital to children, education will be improved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and the CFA and MEXT will closely cooperate

## Strong Centralized Leadership

- ◆ As an external organ of the Cabinet Office directly under the prime minister, centralized planning, proposals, and coordination (supporting the Cabinet)
- ◆ Requires a minister with the authority to make recommendations to ministers of other government agencies
- ◆ Integrated operation of cabinet councils, chaired by the prime minister, and integrated creation and promotion of overall guidelines

## Transfer, Sharing, and Involvement in Legal/Administrative Functions

- ◆ Generally, transfer those functions related to the welfare and health of children
  - Transfer administrative functions for the Cabinet Office's Support for Children and Youth, Child Poverty Countermeasures, and Child and Child-raising Headquarters; MEXT's disaster mutual aid benefits; and the MHLW's Children and Family Office and support for children with disabilities
- ◆ For policy areas that involve both the welfare and health of children and other areas, jurisdiction is shared
- ◆ For policies such as promotion of education for all citizens, the other agency will have jurisdiction but direct involvement and coordination permitted

## New Policy Issues and Cases Which Fall Through the Cracks

- ◆ In addition to initiatives to ensure nothing slips between the cracks of different government agencies, new policy issues will be approached

## Structure and Main Duties

### Planning and Coordination Section

- Planning, drafting, and coordinating policies considering the views of children and those raising them
- Spreading information and raising awareness so support can reach those who need it
- Evidence-based policy planning using data and statistics; implement, evaluate, and improve

### Child Raising Section

- Support for pregnancy, birth, mother and child health, etc.
- Ensuring the growth of all preschool children  
(make kindergarten curriculum and nursery school guidelines together with MEXT (joint announcement))
- Provide counseling/information, create spaces for all children
- Safety of children

### Support Section

- Comprehensive support overcoming age and systemic barriers to support children and families with various difficulties
- Increased child abuse prevention measures, improved social care and support for becoming independent
- Prevention of child poverty, support for single-parent households
- Support for children with disabilities
- Coordinate with MEXT to promote policies to prevent bullying, etc.

## Effective Date

- ◆ April 1, 2023

# Basic Principles on Children and Families Agency Budget

When requesting/drafting the budget for the Children and Families Agency, the following five basic principles will be kept in mind.

1. Policies related to children are an investment in the country's future, and the most important pillar of investment in children. In order to achieve this investment without passing the debt on to future generations, a stable source of funding must be established.
2. Instead of considering the budget on a yearly basis, it will be considered strategically over multiple years.
3. Policies will be drafted based on the views of children, and advanced after establishing goals which the public can easily understand.
4. As befits the first year of the CFA, the Agency will approach issues which fell into systemic and organizational gaps.
5. The Agency will listen to the voices of children seeking support, and provide support to those who seek it.

○Seamless, comprehensive support overcoming age and systemic barriers

- are new initiatives for the CFA Preparation Office
- Red text is mainly new projects

