As of October 1, 2012, Japan’s population aging rate (the population ratio of people age 65 or older compared to the total population) had reached 24.1%, with more than one-fifth (21.2%) for men, and a quarter (26.9%) for women. Women account for more than 60% in the population of people age 75 or older.

The numbers of elderly people living alone for both sexes are expected to continue increasing as the numbers of unmarried and divorced people rise.

Looking at the main caregivers who live with persons requiring care and whose caregiving hours are “almost all day,” approximately three-fourths are women, and more than one-third are the wives of the people who require care. This shows that women are bearing a disproportionate burden of elder-to-elder nursing care between spouses, due to factors such as men’s shorter average lifespan.

In the context of such circumstances, the government has formulated a “General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aging Society” (Cabinet decision, September 7, 2012) as guidelines for fundamental and comprehensive measures for an aging society, and related government organizations are following the guidelines to collaborate, cooperate, and work to implement measures further.


### Relationship of Main Caregiver from the Perspective of the Person Requiring Care, Etc.

![Diagram showing the relationship of main caregivers](image)

- **Spouse**: 25.7%
- **Child**: 15.2%
- **Child’s spouse**: 17.2%
- **Other relatives**: 14.3%
- **Parent**: 12.0%
- **Other family member**: 3.3%
- **Unknown**: 12.1%
- **No classification between living together or separately**: 26.1%
- **Living together**: 64.1%
- **Living separately**: 9.8%
- **Spouse**: 9.8%
- **Other**: 0.7%
- **Parent**: 0.3%
- **Other relatives**: 2.0%
- **Family member living separately, etc.**: 9.8%
- **Home care service**: 13.3%
- **Child’s spouse**: 26.1%
- **Parent**: 0.3%
- **Other**: 0.7%
- **Parent**: 0.3%

Source: Created based on “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions” (2010), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

### Sex ratio of main live-in caregiver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ratios of Main Caregiver Who Lives with Persons Requiring Care and Whose Caregiving Hours Are “Almost All Day” (by Sex)

![Diagram showing the ratios of main caregivers](image)

- **Spouse**: 36.8%
- **Child**: 27.2%
- **Child’s spouse**: 17.2%
- **Other family member**: 3.3%
- **Other family member**: 0.7%
- **Spouse**: 0.3%

Source: Created based on “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions” (2010), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Note: Because the position of the caregiver is indicated from the perspective of the person requiring care, each segment means as follows:
- **Women**: “Spouse” means a wife, “child” means a daughter, “child’s spouse” means son’s wife
- **Men**: “Spouse” means a husband, “child” means a son, “child’s spouse” means daughter’s husband