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Healthy Life Expectancies in Japan

Toshiyuki OJIMA, MD, DrPH

Professor of Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, JAPAN

Contents

- <u>Governmental actions about</u> <u>healthy life expectancies in Japan</u>
- Selected results of the Research Group about Healthy Life Expectancy in Japan
- Preliminary results about healthy life expectancy in Japan





Health Japan 21 (2nd ed) set 64 target indices

Target #1. Extend the healthy life expectancy

- · More than the increase of life expectancy
- Healthy life expectancy without activity limitation from the data of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions
- Healthy life expectancy by self perceived health should also be used as the supplemental indices

Target #2. Reduce the health inequity

• Measured by the gap of the healthy life expectancy between the 47 prefectures

















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Methods of conversion

- Subjects: 2,700 randomly selected residents of 20+ years old in 6 municipalities in Shizuoka prefecture, Japan
- Self administered mail survey
- Response: 1,774 (66.0%)
- Questionnaire:
 - Activity limitation, the same as the Japanese national survey
 - Activity limitation by GALI
 - Chronic morbidity, the same as EU
 - $-\,$ Self perceived health, the same as the Japanese national survey
- Conversion table was made and applied to the national data
- · Limitations
 - Not a nationally representative sample
 - Sample size might not be enough

Conversion table

Activity limitation	Activity limitation (GALI)				
(national Comprehensive		14/14	14/14		
Survey of Living	Age	With	With		
Conditions qestionnaire)	group	severe	moderate	Without	Total
	20-39	17.4%	34.8%	47.8%	100.0%
	40-64	22.2%	44.4%	33.3%	100.0%
	65-74	23.1%	50.0%	26.9%	100.0%
	75-	52.7%	35.1%	12.2%	100.0%
	Total	35.1%	39.9%	25.0%	100.0%
	20-39	1.2%	5.8%	93.0%	100.0%
	40-64	.7%	8.2%	91.0%	100.0%
	65-74	1.1%	13.9%	85.0%	100.0%
	75-	2.2%	25.0%	72.8%	100.0%
	Total	1.1%	10.8%	88.1%	100.0%

Results are almost same between men and women.

Conversion tables from self perceived health to chronic morbidity, and from activity limitation to chronic morbidity are also made.













Methods of life expectancy inequality estimation

- Subjects: 21,047 community dwelling older people in 8 municipality in Japan
- Followed up 2 4.5 years
- Hazard ratios were calculated by quantile of income and education attainment
- These data are from the AGES project
- Applied to the national life table in 2000

Practices to reduce heath inequality and to extend the healthy life expectancy in Japan

- Community health promotion volunteers (86.8%)
- Salon or café for older people (67.0%)
- Following up children by public health nurses according to their household economic situation (65.5%)
- Community bus service by public sectors (59.1%)
- Providing healthy lunch and cooking education at elementary schools (almost 100%)
- (): proportion of active municipalities

from the preliminary results of the Research Group about Social Determinants of Health and collaborated survey

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Concept for a new Global Disability Indicator

Toshiyuki OJIMA, MD, DrPH

Professor of Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, JAPAN

General comments

- Excellent working paper with comprehensive and detailed discussion
- Focusing on measuring participation of ICF is quite reasonable
- Scoring system according to the selected criterion is very useful.

Framework of health expectancies Current set of health expectancies 1. GALI 2. Chronic morbidity 3. Perceived health The working paper are discussing about criticism of GALI. Problems of chronic morbidity and perceived health should also be discussed.





Conclusion

- GALI would be a good indicator, even if it has some problems.
- If we use a new indicator instead of GALI, the new indicator should be focused on activity limitation like GALI.
- If we add a new indicator or change instead of chronic morbidity, "participation" would be a key concept.

Homeboudness

- We often assess homeboudness for older people in Japan.
- It is highly related to their health and life prognoses and a major risk factor
- It is a kind of objective behavioral measurement for participation
- Importance of going out might be sometimes questionable

Selected reference: Bruce ML, et al. Psychiatric status among the homebound elderly: an epidemiologic perspective. J Am Geriatr Soc 1992; 40(6): 561-566.

Questionnaire of homeboundness

- How often do you go out? (Going out include visiting neighbours, shopping, going to the hospital)
- a. 4 times or more/week b. 2 or 3 times/week
- c. once/week
- e. a few times/year f. do not go out

d. 2 or 3 times/month

We regard people who go out less than once/week as homebound.

Another participation indicator

• If we focus on "participation" rather than activity, how about to consider "social isolation" ?

Developing a new indicator is a really meaningful challenge

Thank you!