

A Report Summarizing Health Problems in Everyday Life in Tokyo The Importance of Discussion from Various Perspectives

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

“Health problems” are a major concern for every country. This report examined the proportion of individuals whose everyday lives were affected by health problems (per 1000 population) in Tokyo and Japan as a whole in 2001, 2004, and 2007 based on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Comprehensive Survey of National Living Conditions in the Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics (1). Individuals whose everyday lives were affected by health problems refers to individuals age 6 years and above whose everyday lives are affected by health problems but who are not currently in hospital (1).

During the period studied, the proportion of individuals whose everyday lives were affected by health problems in Tokyo was 93.3 in 2001, 99.1 in 2004 and 98.7 in 2007 for men, 121.6 in 2001, 125.3 in 2004 and 125.3 in 2007 for women, and 107.6 in 2001, 112.6 in 2004 and 112.3 in 2007 for both genders.

The proportion of individuals whose everyday lives were affected by health problems in Japan as a whole was 92.3 in 2001, 99.3 in 2004 and 95.7 in 2007 for men, 113.0 in 2001, 120.3 in 2004 and 117.1 in 2007 for women, and 103.0 in 2001, 110.2 in 2004 and 106.8 in 2007 for both sexes.

Comparing the proportion of individuals whose everyday lives were affected by health problems in Tokyo and Japan as a whole reveals that there was a higher proportion of both genders with health problems in Tokyo than in Japan as a whole in 2001, 2004 and 2007. There was

a higher proportion of women with health problems in Tokyo than in Japan as a whole in 2001, 2004 and 2007. Similarly, there was a higher proportion of men with health problems in Tokyo than in Japan as a whole in 2001 and 2007, but in 2004 the proportion of men with health problems in Japan as a whole was 99.3 in contrast to a proportion of 99.1 in Tokyo. Measures to help people whose everyday lives are affected by health problems must be studied for both men and women in Tokyo. These measures must not simply involve a medical approach but approaches in various fields (2).

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