

# Promotion of Women's Active Engagement led by Midwives

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# Faculty Disclosure

✓	No, nothing to disclose
	Yes, please specify:

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# Basic information on midwives in Japan

- History

Historically, as early as 1765, the term "midwife" was used to describe midwives.

By 1868, midwives were recognized as a socially responsible professionals.

In 1876, specialized midwifery education began.



# Basic information on midwives in Japan

- Regulation

The duties of midwives in Japan were stipulated as follows by the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses which was established in 1948.

## Definition

The term "midwife" as used in this Act means a woman who has acquired a midwife license from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare to practice midwifery or provides health guidance for pregnant women, puerperal women, or newborn babies, as a profession.

## Restrictions on midwifery practice

No person other than a midwife may engage in specified midwifery practice, except medically qualified doctors.

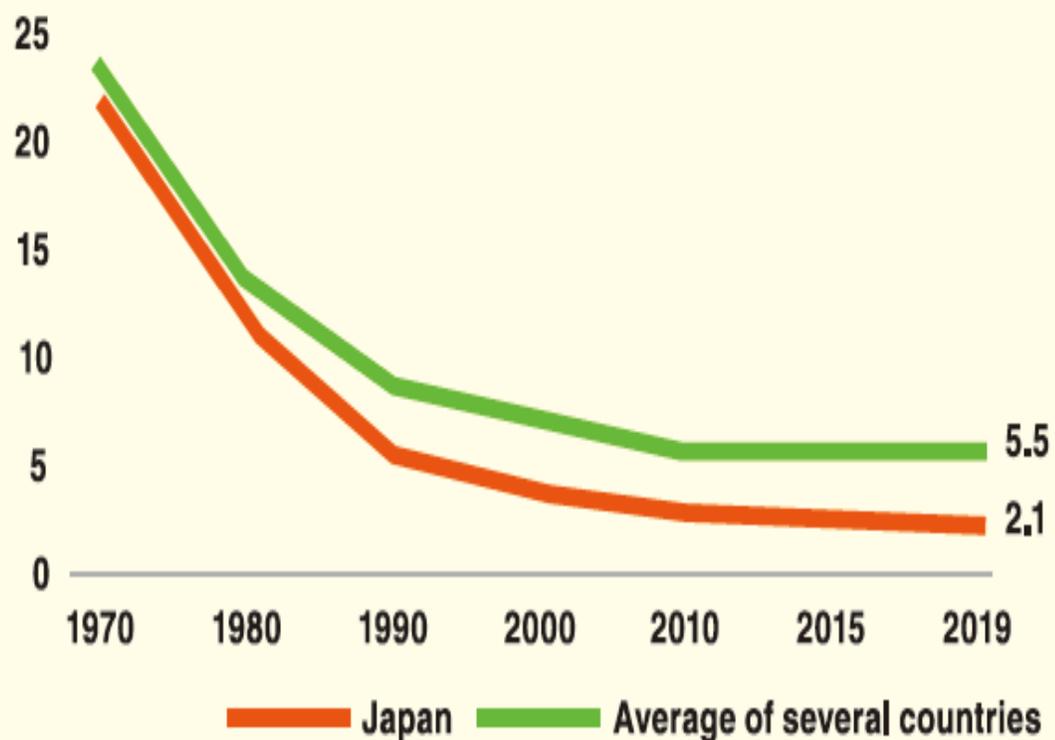
## Restrictions on the use of titles

No person other than a midwife may use the title of midwife or any other similar or misleading title.



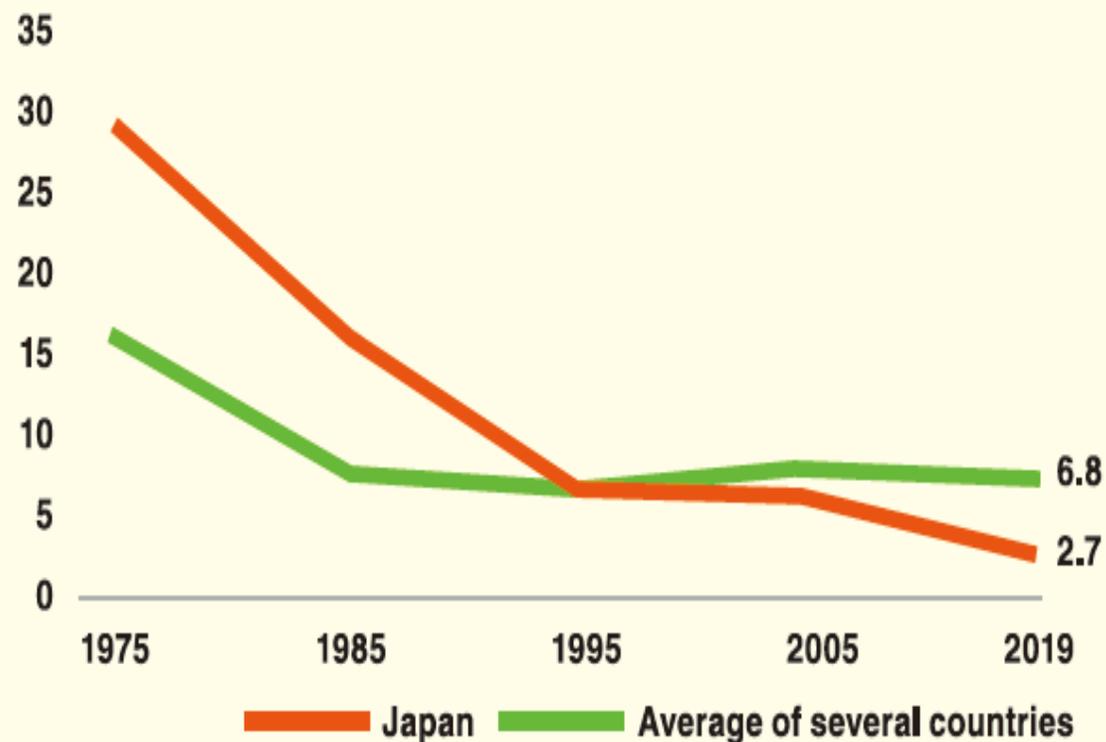
# Maternal and child health statistics

## - Perinatal mortality ( $\geq 28.0$ wks-7 days) (per 1,000 live births)



Sources: Mothers' and Children's Health and Welfare Association, Maternal and Child Health Statistics of Japan 2022

## - Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)



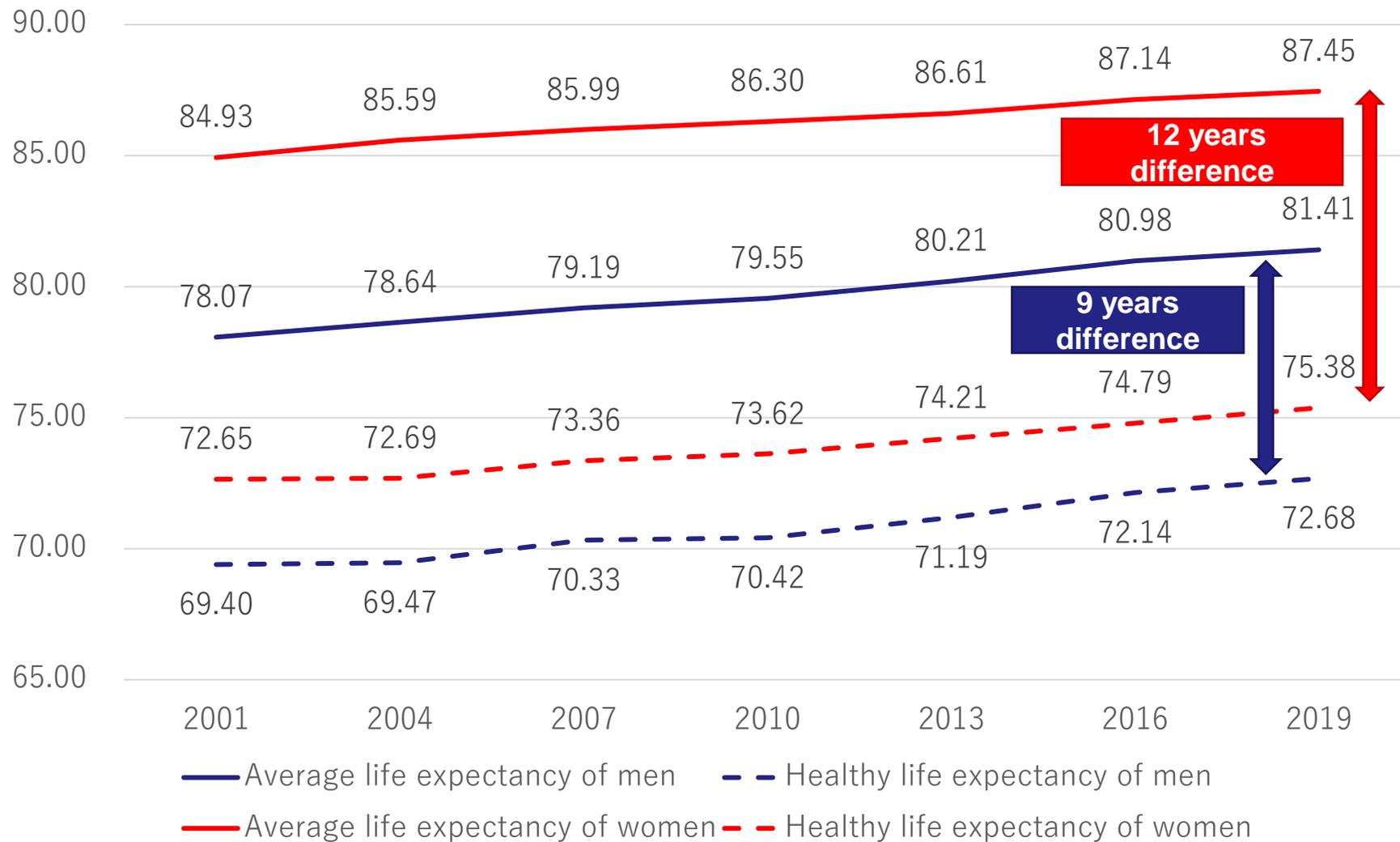
Sources: Mothers' and Children's Health and Welfare Association, Maternal and Child Health Statistics of Japan 2022



# Care for pregnant and parturient women

- The experience of pregnancy and childbirth has important meanings for women and their families.
- Midwives are the most appropriate care providers to attend childbearing women.
- 'The State of the World's Midwifery 2021' described the importance of care by ensuring that all pregnant women have access to Midwife-led care, which could prevent maternal and neonatal deaths and stillbirths and save 4.3 million lives annually by 2035.
- In Japan, the government is actively promoting Midwife-led care to meet the diverse needs of women.

# The gap of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy

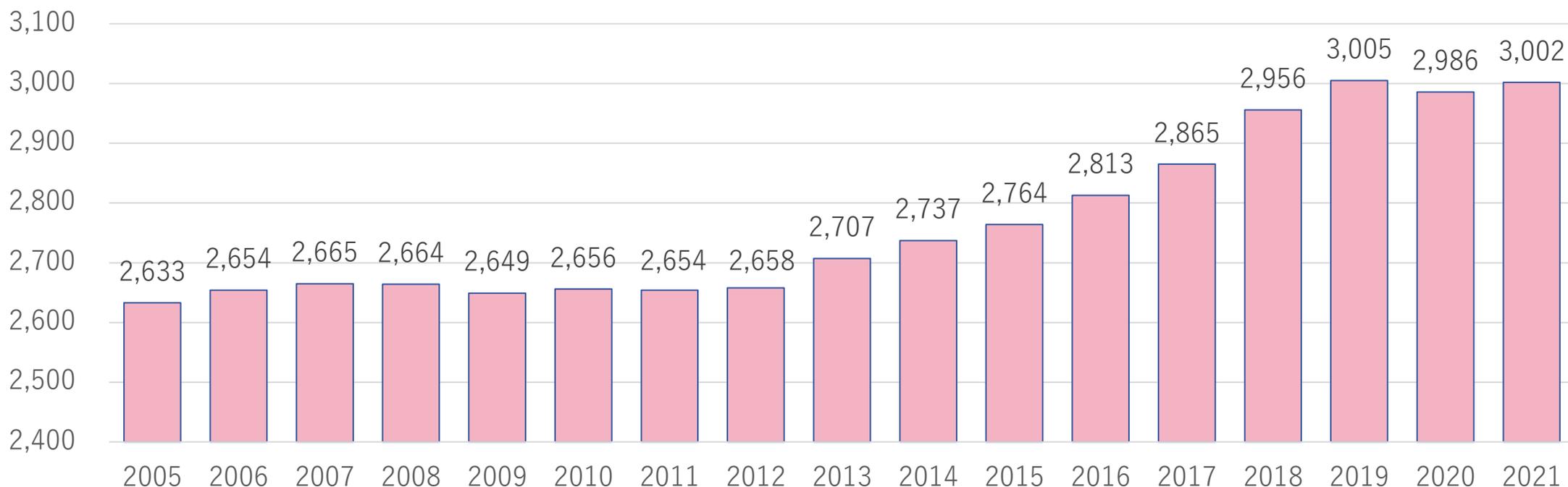


Source: Compiled based on data from the White Paper on Ageing Society 2022.



# Increase in the number of working women

(10 thousand)



(Notes) 1. Compiled from the Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

2. The number of employed person in 2011 is a supplementary estimate by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

3. The White Paper on Gender Equality 2022

Changes in the number of employed women

# Impact of women's health challenges on work



- **Around 40%** of female employees have "felt **they had to give up** something at work" due to health issues specific to women.

Have you ever felt you had to give up at work due to health issues specific to women, symptoms that are more common in women (including mental health problems), pregnancy, childbirth ?



## What they felt **they had to give up**

- 'Working as a full-time employee' 57.9%
- 'Getting a promotion or a job with more responsibility' 48.0%
- 'Continuing in the desired occupation' 38.1%
- 'Becoming a manager' 32.5%
- 'Training, study abroad, postings, etc. to develop their careers' 27.1%

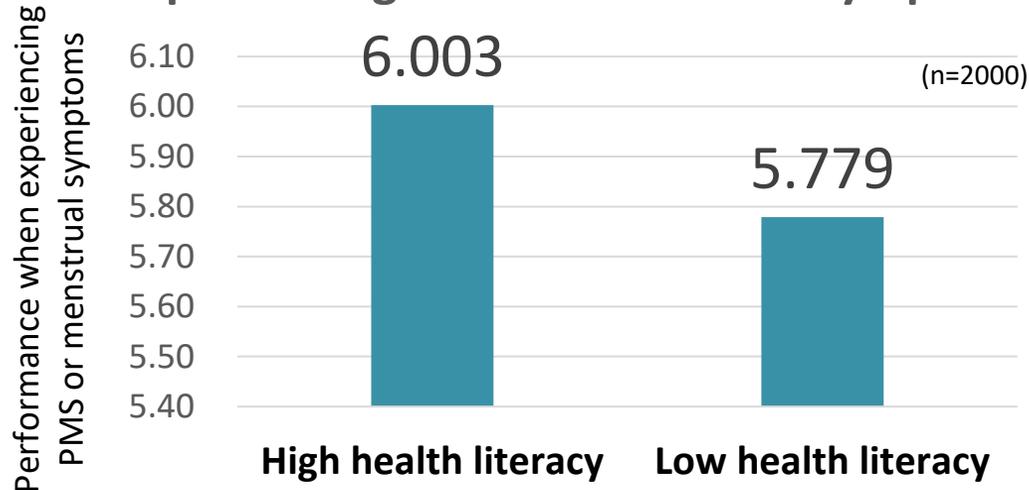
(multiple answers)

Source: Based on the Survey on the Promotion of Working Women's Health 2018. Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.



# Health Literacy and Job Performance

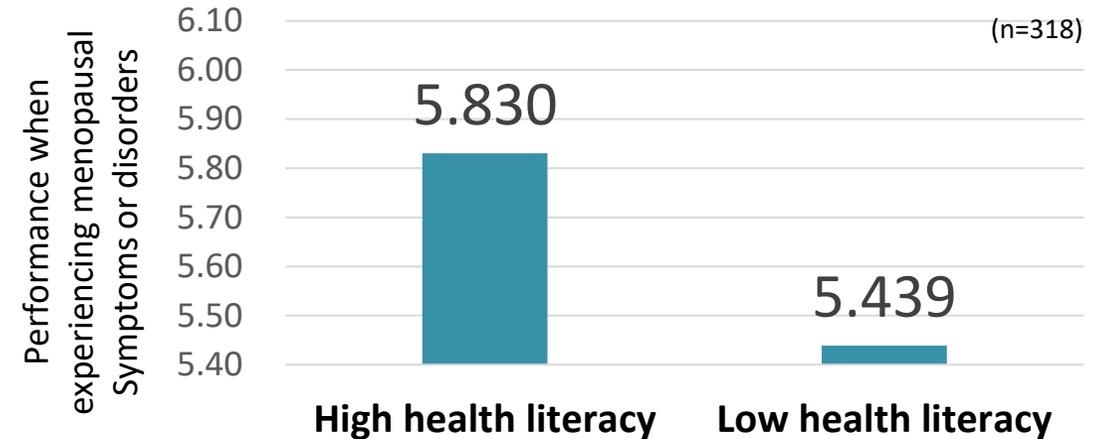
### Health literacy x Work performance when experiencing PMS or menstrual symptoms



Presenteeism when experiencing PMS or menstrual symptoms\* was significantly low among women with high levels of health literacy compared to those with low levels of health literacy ( $p < 0.01$ , results from a covariance analysis).

\*Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS) and menstrual symptoms (pain or discomfort during menstruation, or other related symptoms such as abnormal bleeding).

### Health literacy x Work performance when experiencing menopausal symptoms or disorders



Presenteeism when experiencing menopausal symptoms or disorders\* was significantly low among women with high levels of health literacy compared to those with low levels of health literacy ( $p < 0.01$ , results from a covariance analysis).

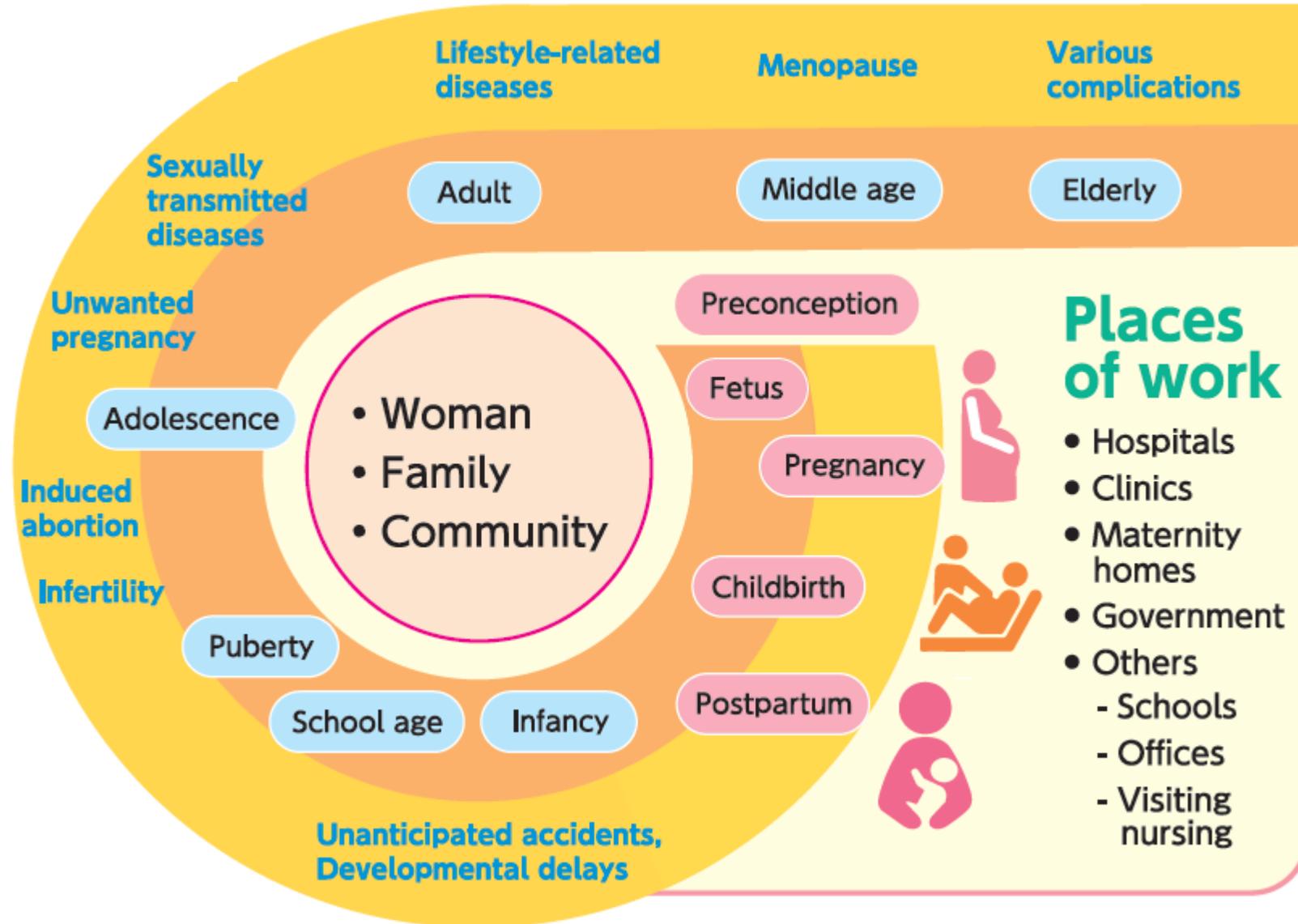
\*\*"Menopausal symptoms" refers to various the symptoms that may appear during menopause (including the five years before and after menopause) such as hot flashes, sweating, and so on. These symptoms are not accompanied by other diseases. If the symptoms are so severe that they impact the woman's daily life, she may be considered to have a menopausal disorder.

※Levels of health literacy were measured by the "Health literacy scale for women of reproductive age" (Kawata et al, 2014). The median score was taken as the cut-off value for classification into the high or low literacy groups. Results were adjusted for age, education level, number of children, and the presence of underlying diseases.

※Work performance was self rated between 0-10, with 10 begin usual performance.



# Activities of midwives



# JNA Initiatives

## 【System development】

- ① Conducted a survey to grasp the actual situation

The survey conducted by the JNA in 2022 found that Midwife-led care is provided in most phases of the first stage to the fourth stage of a normal birth.

- ② Dissemination of midwife-led care
  - Holding forums



\*Posters to disseminate midwifery-led care  
Prepared as a grant-funded project of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.



# JNA Initiatives

[Strengthening practical abilities]

Dissemination of CLoCMiP®

Improved educational opportunities for midwives

2012

Development of a midwifery clinical ladder that can be shared nationwide, identifying the experiences required for proficiency in midwifery practice and the tasks to be achieved.

‘Clinical Ladder of Competencies for Midwifery Practice; CLoCMiP®.’

2022

Revised, specifying the stages of proficiency in women’s health care ability.

\*Clearly stated educational methods, content and evaluation of education to reach the attainment targets for each level.

# Midwifery care for all women and their families



## System Development

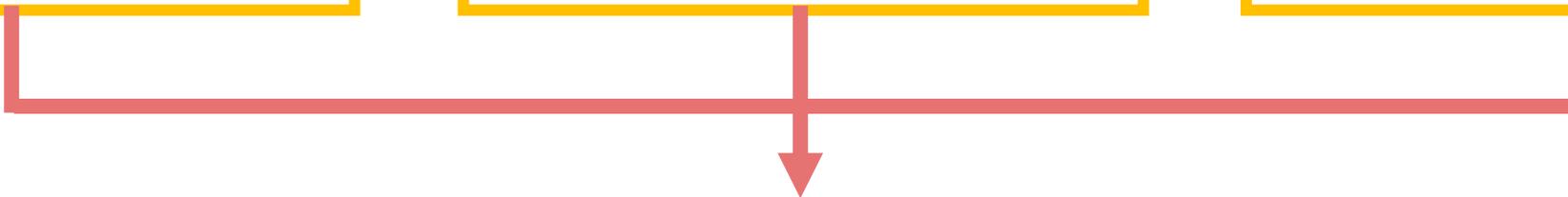
Developing a system for midwives to utilize their expertise

## Strengthening Practical Abilities

Strengthening the practice abilities indicated in the midwifery competencies

## Strengthening Policy Capacity

Developing the ability to summarize issues on mothers, children and women and to make political proposals to the national government, ministries and competent authorities



**Further Professional Development of Midwives**