

## JNA News Release Vol.46

### Japanese Nursing Association

#### Securing future nursing profession and Nursing Day

The 2024 OECD report showed that while interest in nursing among 15-year-olds declined in OECD countries between 2018 and 2022, which is before and after the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan showed an increase in interest in nursing with higher numbers<sup>1</sup>. Based on these data, the future availability of nursing professionals in Japan looks promising.

The OECD report indicates that key factors that have generated greater interests among young people in Japan are the efforts of nursing faculties to offer campus visits, including the provision of nursing experience on medical training manikins and career counseling with the nursing faculties. Prof. Megumi Teshima, JNA Global Strategic Advisor and ICN Board Member, adds that this may also be due to a unique approach in Japan, where prefectural nursing associations have been providing opportunities for elementary and junior high school students to become more familiar with nursing for many years.

Along with other countries, Japan has designated May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, as Nursing Day, and the week of Nursing Day as Nursing Week to celebrate nursing. Under the theme "Heart of Nursing to Everyone's Heart", JNA and prefectural nursing associations have undertaken various initiatives throughout Japan.

Prefectural nursing associations organize events and PR campaigns during Nursing Day and Nursing Week each year to promote public understanding of nursing. In addition, they provide opportunities for hands-on nursing experiences in May and during the summer holidays, such as "Nurse Visiting Classes" in schools and "One-day Nursing Experience" and "In-house Nursing Experience" in healthcare facilities.

##### ◆ Nurse Visiting Classes

Public health nurses, midwives and/or nurses visit junior/senior high schools to teach a variety of lessons on nursing, including the appeal of nursing, career advice on becoming a nursing professional, the importance of life, and sex education, through lectures, hands-on experiences and group work.

##### ◆ One-day Nursing Experience / In-house Nursing Experience

It provides a great opportunity for people to learn about nursing, and the work and roles of nursing professionals through nursing experiences in local hospitals or healthcare/welfare facilities with their cooperation. Through ingenious programs at each facility, such as a facility tour and hands-on nursing experiences, the event conveys the attractiveness of nursing to people of all ages, including junior/senior high school students who aspire to become nursing professionals.

JNA organizes Nursing Day events aimed mainly at young people to secure the future nursing workforce and to attract them to nursing as a career option. The events include presenting films introducing nursing work, holding talk events, and calling for episodes about nursing and publishing an animation based on the best episode, to convey the professional attractiveness of nursing to young people. Nursing Day and Nursing Week just around the corner this year, preparations are underway.



Photo: Talk session at the Nursing Day event

Meanwhile, securing nursing professionals is an important issue in Japan. By the year 2040, it is estimated that approximately 35% of the population will be aged 65 and older (Fig. 1), requiring nursing professionals to respond to increasing healthcare needs that are becoming more diverse and complex. In addition, the number of births has continued to decline since the second baby boom in 1973, resulting in a serious decline in the number of children in Japan. In line with this, the working-age population has also been declining since 1995, making it necessary to attract the younger generation to nursing as a career in order to secure the future nursing workforce.

Using OECD data to inform the public that Japanese young people are highly interested in nursing, Prof. Megumi Teshima strongly advocates the importance of encouraging the younger generation interested in nursing to choose nursing as a career, improving the well-being of practicing nurses, and creating an environment in which they can continue to work as nurses.

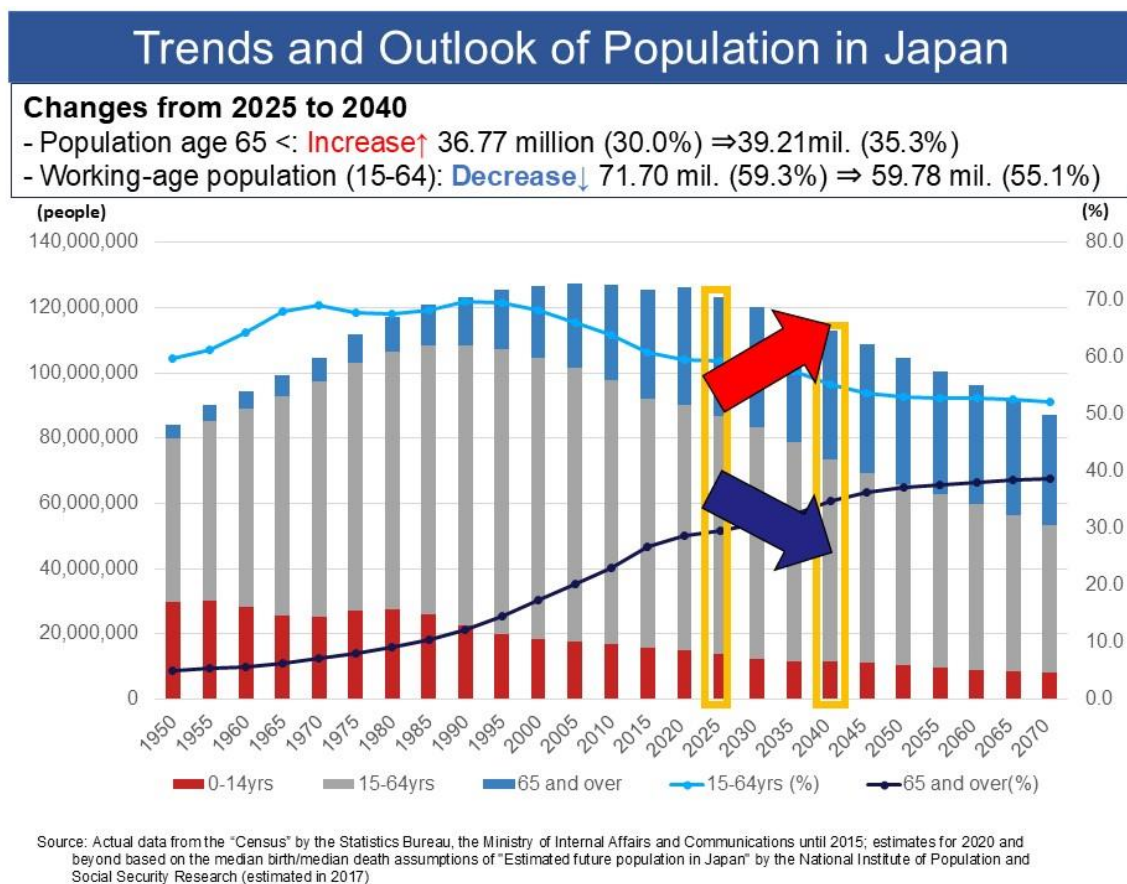


Figure 1. Trends and Outlook of Population in Japan

Source:

1. OECD (2024), *Fewer Young People want to become nurses in half of OECD Countries*.

[https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2024/05/fewer-young-people-want-to-become-nurses-in-half-of-oecd-countries\\_ad40c10e/e6612040-en.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2024/05/fewer-young-people-want-to-become-nurses-in-half-of-oecd-countries_ad40c10e/e6612040-en.pdf)

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