

About Japanese Nursing Association (JNA)

JNA is the largest nursing professional organization in Japan, consisting of and operated by voluntary individual members who are licensed nurses. In collaboration with 47 prefectural nursing associations, JNA resolves, with an organizational force, issues that surround nursing that cannot be handled by individuals and contributes to society through the development of nursing.

Our mission

Under the 3 basic principles below, JNA promotes various activities.

Improving nursing quality based on nursing expertise rooted in education and self-learning

Promoting to create the environment in which nurses are able to continue working peacefully throughout their life

Developing and expanding nursing areas to meet people's needs

Key activities of midwifery

Policy proposals

JNA summarizes the issues on mothers and children and makes political proposals to the national government and competent authorities.

Development of disaster countermeasures manuals

Learning from the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, JNA has published Guidelines for the Development of Disaster Preparedness Manuals for Delivery Facilities, and has promoted broad awareness improvement activities.

Quality improvement of midwives

1. Development of CLoCMiP®

To improve the practical abilities of midwives, JNA has developed the Clinical Ladder of Competencies for Midwifery Practice (CLoCMiP®) to be shared among midwives nationwide in 2012. To evaluate the level of competencies for midwifery practice, the CLoCMiP® Level III certification system was started in 2015. Midwives who pass the certification exam work as Advanced Midwives.

2. Utilization of CLoCMiP®

JNA implements various trainings to enhance and improve the competencies for midwifery practice.

Major international contributions

To date, 2 ICM Regional Representatives and 3 Regional Board Members have been selected from Japan.

1955	Joined The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)
1995	Held The ICM Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Saitama
2015	Held The ICM Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2015 in Yokohama
2021	Has 25,544 registered members in ICM

Midwifery in Japan: Overview

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Edited and published by : Japanese Nursing Association

5-8-2 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

Tel : +81 3 5778 8831 (representative line)

E-mail : josanshi@nurse.or.jp URL : <https://www.nurse.or.jp/jna/english/>

Contact : Midwives Division, Department of Health Promotion Policy, Japanese Nursing Association Tel : +81 3 5778 8843 (direct line)



Midwifery in Japan

Overview



Basic information on midwives

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.

At present, the duties of midwives in Japan are 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.

Based on the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses (established in 1948 and revised in 2018)

How to become a midwife?

It is essential to complete a required curriculum at an educational institution set forth by law and pass national examinations. The figure on the left shows the path.

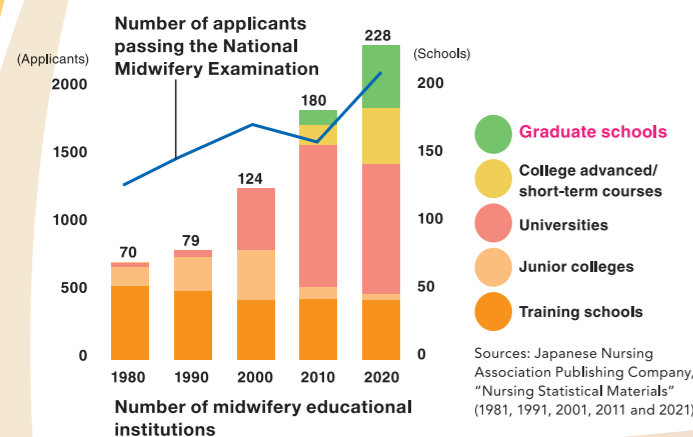
Acquire the midwife license



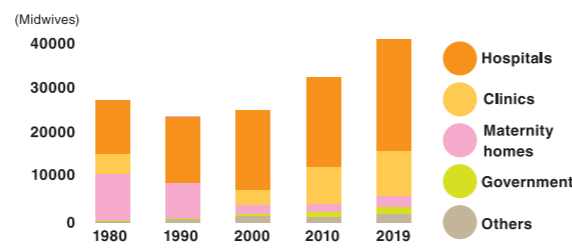
* Obtain eligibility to take both national exams in the 4 year university course

How many schools and newly qualified midwives are there?

More institutions have midwife development courses, with a particular increase in graduate courses over the past 20 years. In 2020, 2,093 applicants passed the National Midwifery Examination.



Where do midwives work?



In 2019, 40,632 midwives were employed.

- 60% for hospitals
- 30% for clinics and maternity homes
- 3% of the total run maternity homes
- Others are active in government, schools and offices

Activities of midwives

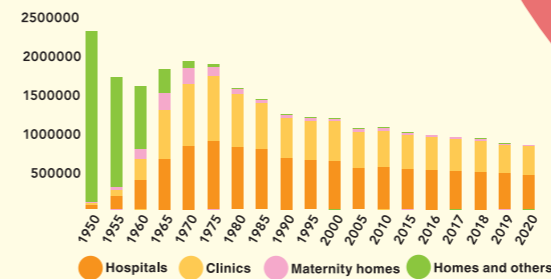
Most babies were delivered at home for more than 10 years after WWII, but childbirths in hospitals and clinics gradually became more popular. Childbirths have been decreasing since 1970, but childbirths at the age of 35 years or older and high-risk childbirths are increasing. The perinatal and maternal mortality rates in Japan are lower than global levels. Midwives work in hospitals, clinics, and other facilities in their community. Midwives' care includes, but not limited to delivery and related maternal care to SRMNAH (sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health) and sex education. Some examples of their activities are following;

- Providing care based on the breast milk and breast condition of the mother
- Visiting schools to give children with lessons about life
- Giving infertility counseling service

Activities of midwives in Japan

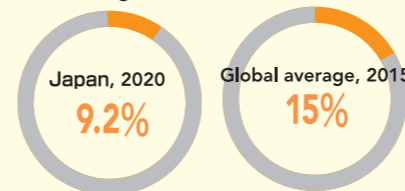
Maternal and child health statistics

Trends in the numbers and places of births



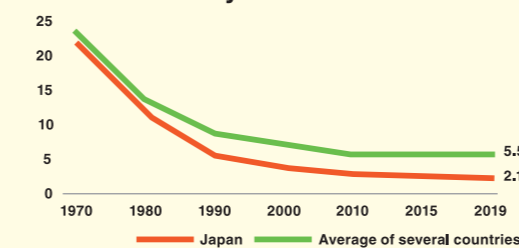
Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Vital Statistics of Japan, 2020

Low birth weight infants rate



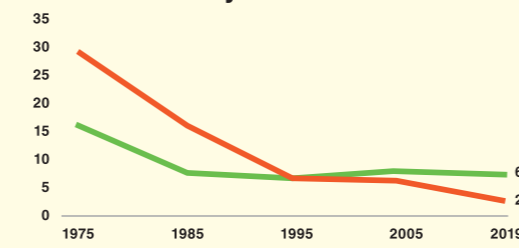
Sources: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Vital Statistics of Japan, 2020. UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2021, p.216

Perinatal mortality (≥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)

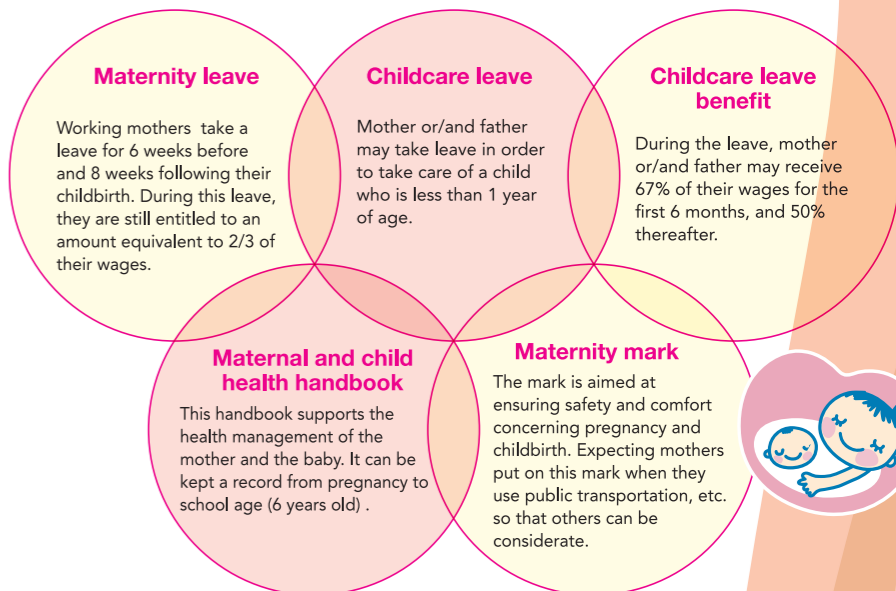


Sources: Mothers' and Children's Health and Welfare Association, Maternal and Child Health Statistics of Japan 2022

Perinatal care & Maternal and child health

Enhancement of social welfare systems

In Japan, measures are promoted to enrich a mother and baby friendly environment. Support is provided by the entire society through enhanced nursing and medical care, combined with an improved work environment.



Cooperation with public health nurses

There is a profession named "public health nurse" in Japan. Public health nurses support health checks and other preventive measures in their communities to help all generations live healthily. Midwives and public health nurses cooperate in supporting maternal health, childrearing, and healthcare education with their respective specialties.

