

Changes in Characteristics and Awareness among Older Persons

Subdivided older individuals into 65-74 aged group and 75 and over age group

Statistics Korea has conducted an analysis of the **changes in characteristics and awareness among individuals aged 65 and above, further categorized into two groups: those aged 65-74 and those aged 75 and older**. This analysis was made in response to the swift ageing of the Baby Boomer generation (born between 1955 and 1963, population of 7million).

*Years to reach elderly population percentage (14% → 20%)

- Japan: 10 years (1994 → 2004)
- France: 39 years (1979 → 2018)
- Korea: 7 years (2018 → 2025, estimated)
- United States: 15 years (2014 → 2028, estimated)

While a significant amount of data concerning older individuals is collected using the age standard of age **65 and older**, this press release delves into a wide range of **similarities and differences** between the **65-74 age group** and the **75 and older age group** in terms of population, households, health, labor and employment, income, participation, and retirement.

1. Population and households

- **Population:** By 2037, it is anticipated that individuals aged 75 and older constitute 16.0% of the total population, surpassing the 65-74 age group (15.9%).
- **Education Level:** In 2020, 49.3% of the 65-74 age group had acquired educational level equivalent to or higher than high school, while the corresponding figure for the 75 and older age group was 22.8%, marking an increase of 21.7%p for the 65-74 age group compared to 10 years ago.

2. Health

- **Life Expectancy:** In 2021, the life expectancy at age 65 stood at 21.6 years, while for those aged 75 and older was 13.4 years. This represents an increase of 2.2 years and 1.6 years, respectively, compared to 10 years ago.
- **Health Assessment:** In 2022, 32.8% of the 65-74 age group self-assessed their health as 'good', whereas 18.9% of those aged 75 and older reported the same. These figures indicates an increase of 9.9%p and 5.2%p, respectively, from 10 years ago.

3. Labor and Employment

Desire to Work:

In 2022, 59.6% of individuals within the 65-74 age group indicated an aspiration to engage in future employment, whereas this proportion stood at 39.4% for those aged 75-79. This signifies an escalation of 11.9%p and 11.8%p, respectively, in comparison to the data from a decade ago.

- **Criteria for choosing a job:**

In 2022, both the 65-74 age group and the 75-79 age group identified workload and working hours as the most crucial factors in their job selection process, with respective percentages of 33.5% and 43.1%. These percentages reflect an increase of 5.7 percentage points and 5.6 percentage points, respectively, compared to data from a decade ago.

4. Income

- **Living Expenses:** In 2021, the primary source of income for individuals in the 65-74 age group was derived from work and business (54.2%), while those aged 75 and older primarily relied on pension and retirement benefits (42.4%) for their income
- **Public Pensions:** In 2021, the percentage of individuals receiving public

pensions within the 65-74 age group was 62.3%, while among the 75 and older age group, it stood at 45.1%. These figures represent an increase of 9.8%p and 27.0%p, respectively, compared to the data from 2013.

5. Participation

- **Social status:** In 2021, 53.2% of the 65-74 age group perceived their social and economic status as 'high' or 'middle', while 41.0% of those aged 75 and older reported the same. These figures indicate increases of 10.5%p and 6.1%p, respectively, from 10 years ago.
- **Internet Usage Rate:** In 2021, the internet usage rate for individuals in their 60s was 94.5%, whereas it was 49.7% for those aged 70 and older. This represents increases of 34.9%p, and 31.8%p, respectively, from 2015.

6. Retirement

- **Retirement Planning:** In 2021, 66.8% of the 65-74 age group had a retirement plan, while 42.7% of those aged 75 and older were doing the same, and the most common method was through public pensions.
- **Funeral Preferences:** In 2021, cremation was the preferred funeral method for 85.8% of those aged 65-74 and 75.8% of those aged 75 and older.

ANNEX

- ❑ Statistics Korea has conducted a special report analyzing the characteristics and shifts in awareness among individuals aged 65 and above, further categorized into two groups: those aged 65-74 and those aged 75 and older, in response to rapid ageing population.
- ❑ The age segmentation may vary depending on the characteristics of each statistic.

<Statistics with Different Age Standards>

- “Economic Activity Survey for the Older Persons”, Statistics Korea: 65-74 years, 75-79 years
- “Household Finance and Welfare Survey”, Statistics Korea, the Bank of Korea, Financial Supervisory Service
 - “Relative Poverty Rate” for 66-75 years, 76 years and older
- “Internet Usage Status Survey”, Ministry of Science and ICT: 60s, 70 years and older.

- ❑ Because the numbers in this report are rounded, the totals for each item may not match.
- ❑ This report can be viewed on the official website of Statistics Korea (<http://kostat.go.kr>).

Table of Contents

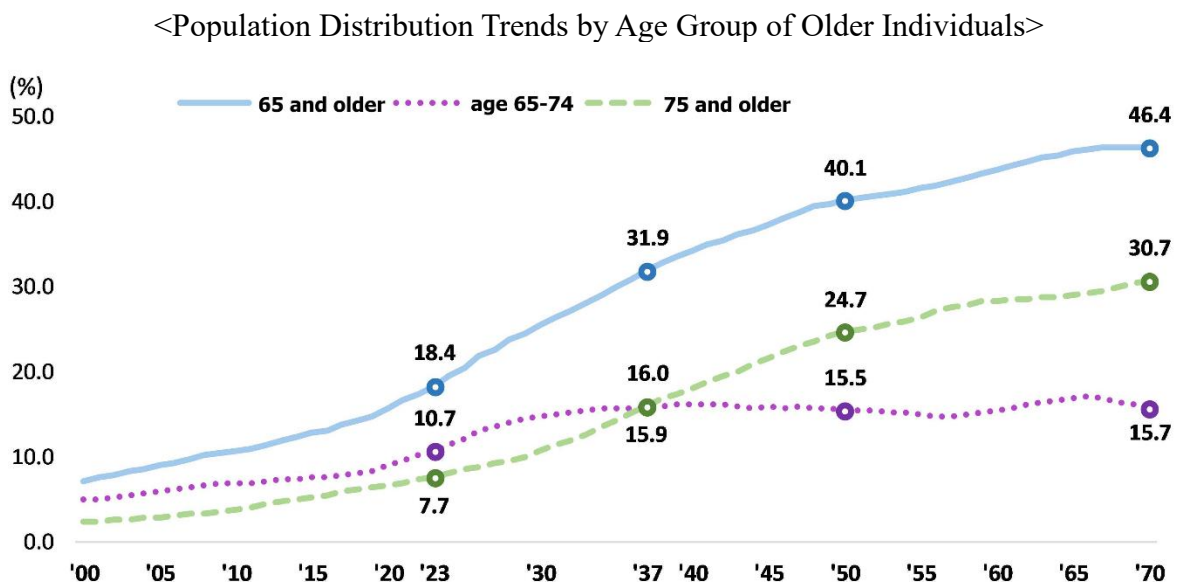
I . Population and Households	6
II . Health.....	12
III . Labor and Employment	17
IV . Income.....	21
V . Participation	28
VI . Retirement.....	32

I. Population and Household

1. Transition of Population

Starting from 2037, the population of individuals aged 75 and older is expected to surpass that of the 65-74 age group, and by 2070, the population ratio of those aged 75 and older is forecasted to be the highest among OECD countries.

- In 2023, the share of the population aged 65 and above in South Korea is 18.4%. Projections suggest it will increase to 31.9% by 2037 and further to 46.4% by 2070.
- In 2023, the percentage of the population aged 75 and older stands at 7.7%, which is lower than the 65-74 age group's figure (10.7%). Projections indicate that by 2037, this percentage will rise to 16.0%, surpassing the 65-74 age group (15.9%), and by 2070, it will reach 30.7%.



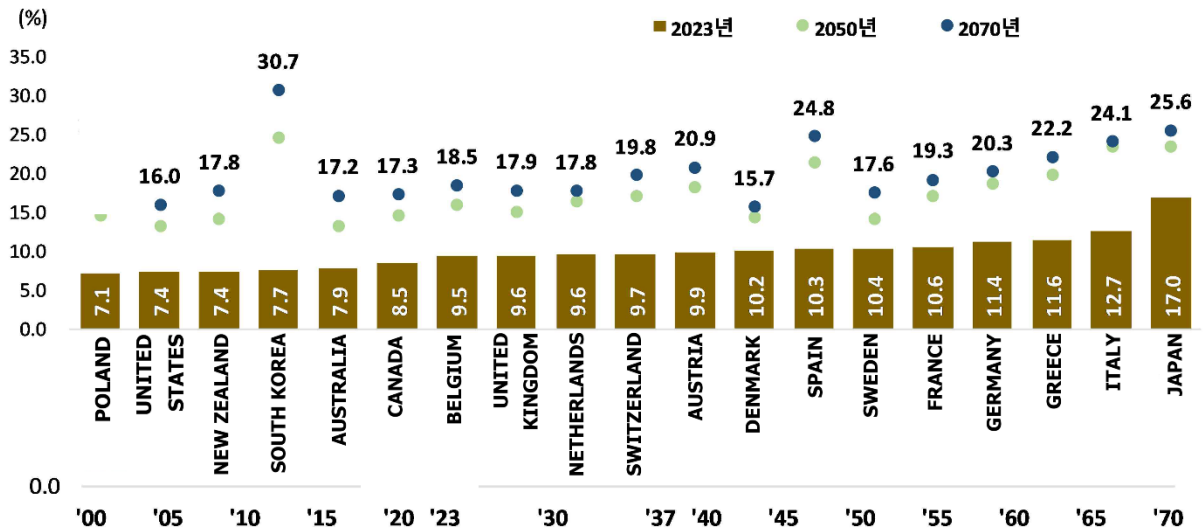
- **International Comparison:** In 2023, the proportion of the population aged 75 and over in OECD member countries is as follows: 7.4% in the United States, 9.6% in the United Kingdom, 12.7% in Italy, 17.0% in Japan, and 7.7% in

South Korea.

- ✓ In 2070, South Korea's proportion of the population aged 75 and over is projected to be the highest among OECD member countries at 30.7%.

* Japan: 25.6%, Spain: 24.8%, Italy: 24.1%, Poland: 22.6%, United States: 16.0%

<Population Rate Aged 75 and Over in OECD Member Countries>

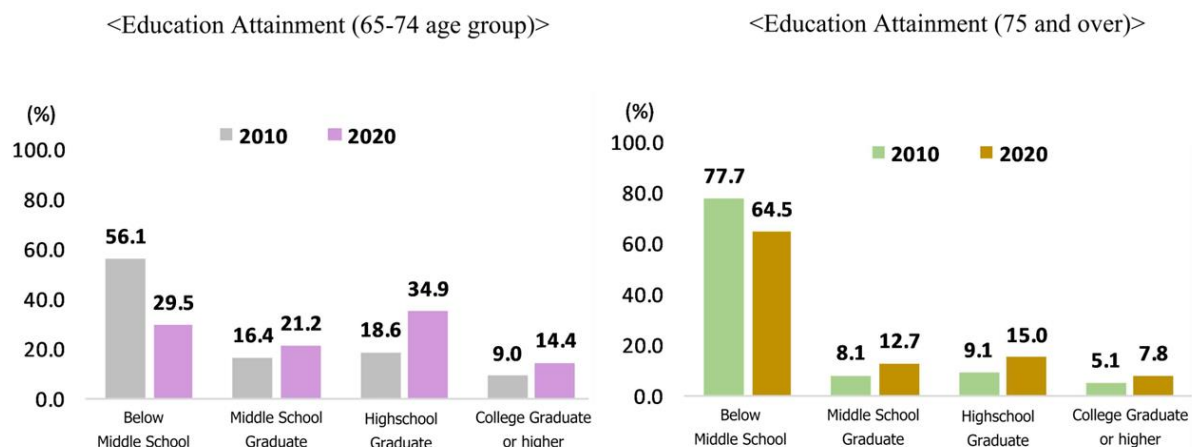


2. Education Level and Marital Status

In 2020, 49.3% of individuals in the 65-74 age group and 22.8% of those aged 75 and older had achieved a high school diploma or higher education, representing increases of 21.7%p and 8.6%p, respectively, compared to a decade ago.

- **Education Level:** In 2020, 49.3% of individuals aged 65-74 had achieved a high school diploma or higher education, while 29.5% had an educational background of less than a elementary school level. Among those aged 75 and older, 64.5% had an educational background of less than a elementary school level, whereas 22.8% had attained at least a high school education.
- ✓ Over the past decade, there has been a decline in the percentage of both the 65-74 age group and the 75 and older age group with educational attainment below elementary school, while there has been a corresponding increase in the percentage with at least a high school education.

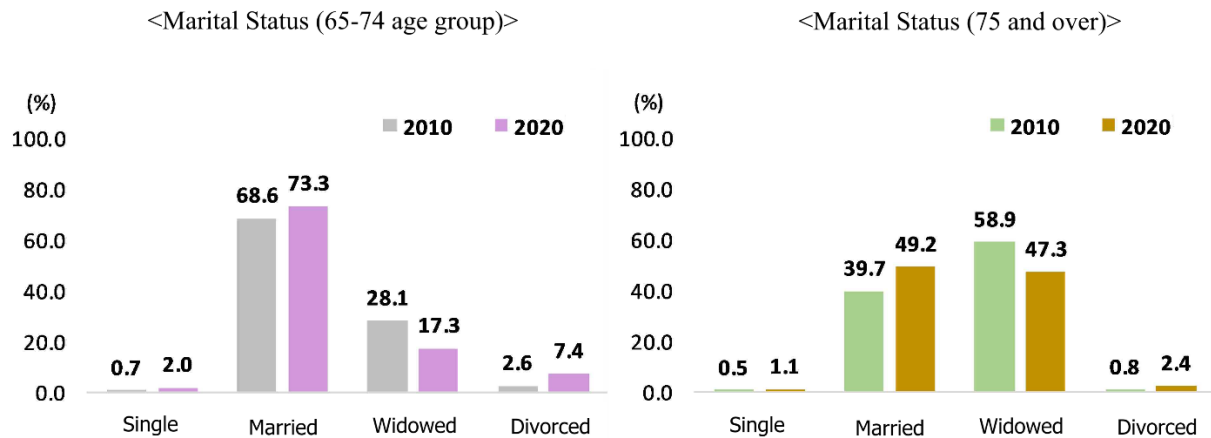
* Compared to a decade ago, the proportion of individuals in the 65-74 age group with at least a high school education has surged by 21.7%p.



- **Marital Status:** In 2020, 73.3% of individuals aged 65-74 had a spouse, while 17.3% were widowed. Among those aged 75 and older, 49.2% had a spouse, and 47.3% were widowed.

- ✓ Over the past decade, the proportion of individuals with a spouse increased in both 65-74 age group and the 75 and older age group, while the proportion of widowed individuals decreased by more than 10%p.

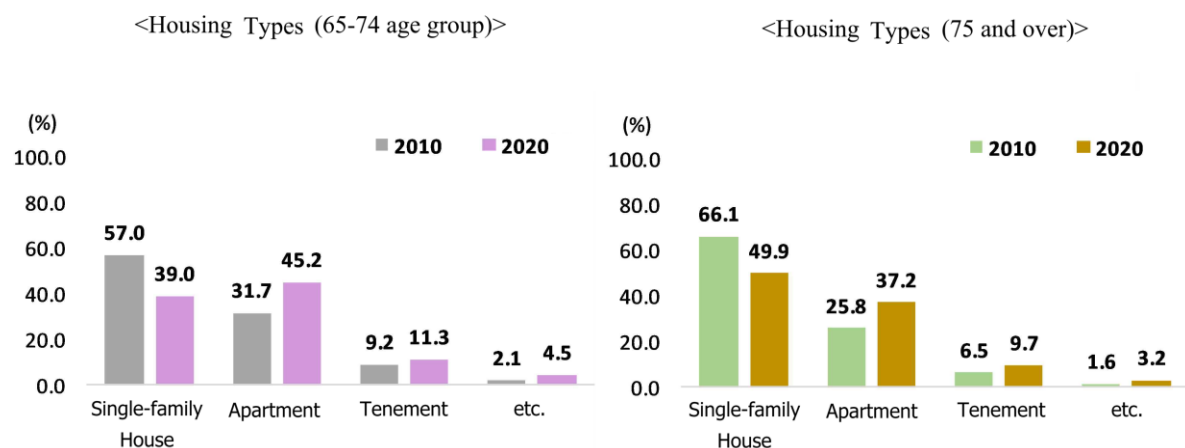
*Divorce rates increased by 4.8%p for those aged 65-74 and by 1.6%p for those aged 75 and older compared to a decade ago.



3. Housing Types and Tenure Patterns

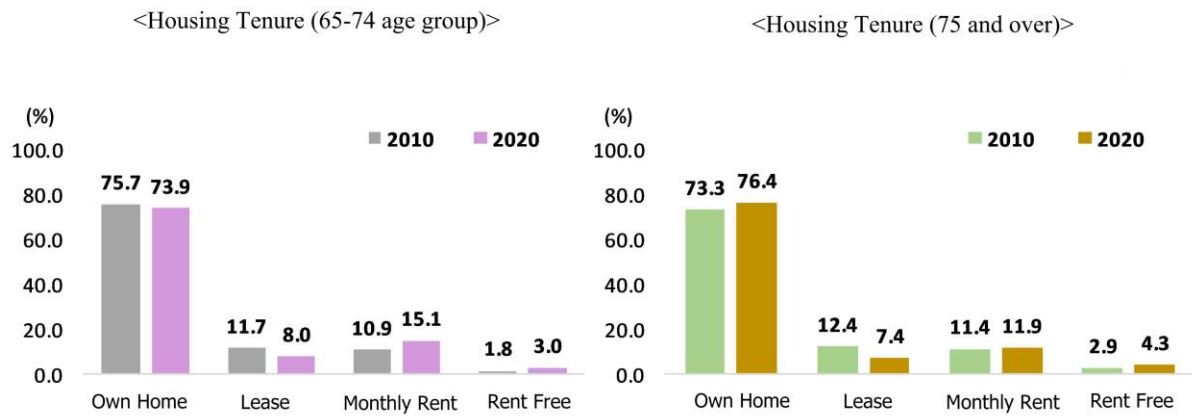
In 2020, the percentage of individuals aged 65-74 living in an apartment was 45.2%, while for those aged 75 and older, it stood at 37.2%. This marks an increase of 13.5%p for the 65-74 age group and 11.4%p for those aged 75 and older when compared to figures from a decade ago. Regarding tenure patterns, there has been a decline in long-term leases and a corresponding rise in monthly rentals.

- **Housing Types:** Among those aged 65-74, 45.2% resided in an apartment, whereas 39.0% lived in a single-family house. Conversely, among individuals aged 75 and older, 49.9% lived in a single-family house, while 37.2% resided in an apartment.
- ✓ Over the past decade, there has been a decrease in the proportion of both the 65-74 age group and the 75 and older age group residing in a single-family house, accompanied by an increase in apartment residency.



- **Tenure Patterns:** In 2020, 73.9% of individuals aged 65-74 resided in their own home, with 15.1% opting for a monthly rental accommodation. Among those aged 75 and older, 76.4% were homeowners, while 11.9% rented on a monthly basis.
- ✓ There was a decrease in the homeownership rate for those aged 65-74, coupled with a rise in the percentage of monthly renters. For individuals

aged 75 and older, there was an increase in homeownership, while the proportion of those in long-term leases decreased.

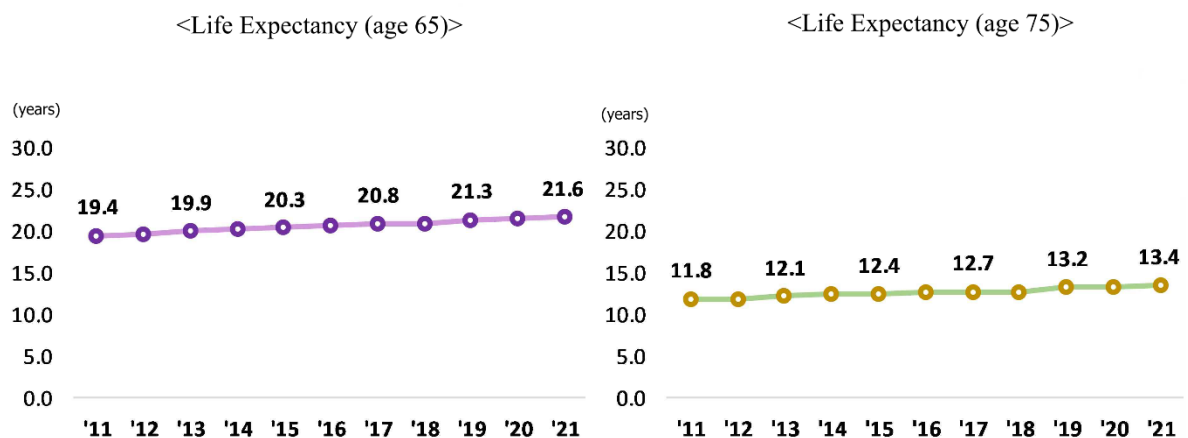


II. Health

1. Life Expectancy and Cause of Death

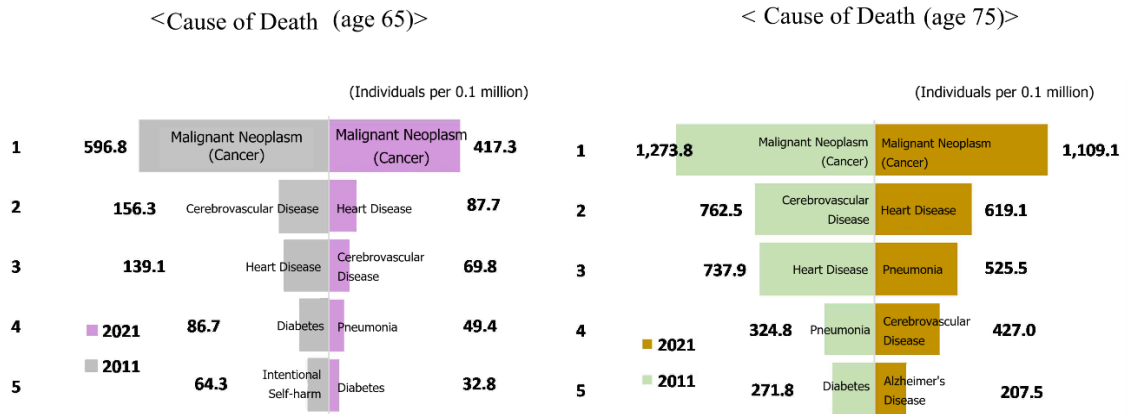
In 2021, the life expectancy at age 65 stood at 21.6 years, while for older individuals at the age of 75, it amounted to 13.4 years. This reflects an increase of 2.2 years and 1.6 years, respectively, compared to the figures from a decade ago. The primary cause of death remained malignant neoplasm(cancer) followed by heart

- **Life Expectancy:** In 2021, life expectancy at age and 75 stood at 21.6 years and 13.4 years, respectively. This marks an increase of 2.2 years for those aged 65 and 1.6 years for those aged 75 when compared to the figures from a decade ago.



- **Cause of Death:** In 2021, among individuals aged 65-74, the death rate per 100,000 population was 417.3 for malignant neoplasms (cancer) and 87.7 for heart diseases. For those aged 75 and older, the figures were 1,109.1 for cancer and 619.1 for heart diseases, which were also the top causes of death.
 - ✓ When compared to a decade ago, death rates from malignant neoplasms (cancer), heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, and other cause of

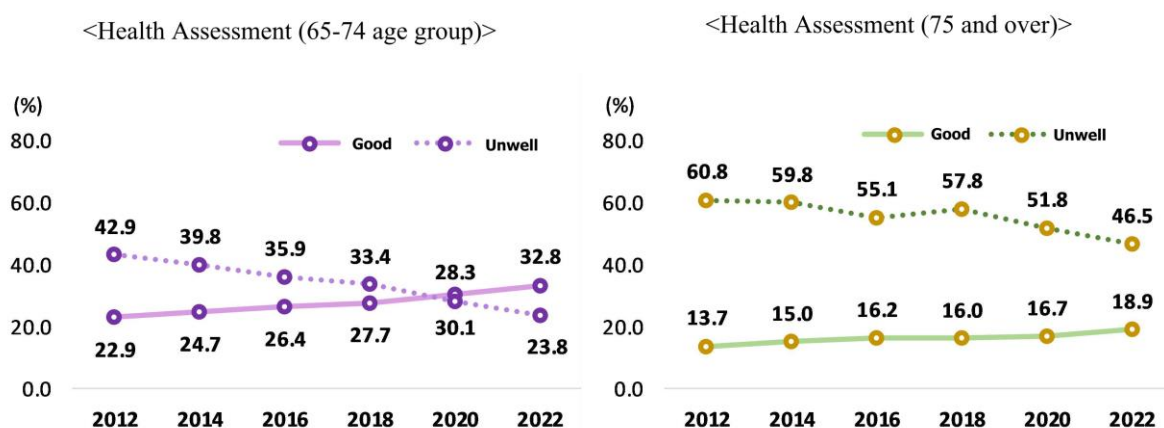
death have decreased in both the 65-74 and 75 and over age groups, while the death rate of pneumonia has risen.



2. Health Assessment and Healthcare Management

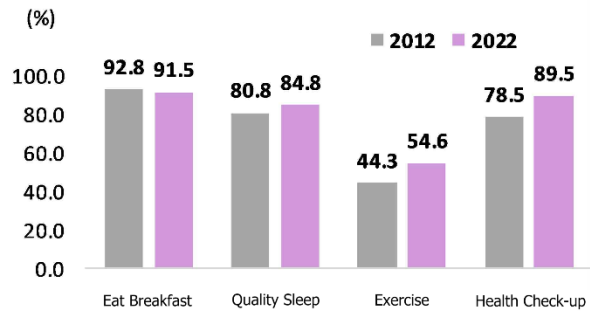
In 2021, 32.8% of individuals aged 65-74 believed their health was in a good condition, while 18.9% of those aged 75 and older shared the same sentiment. This marks an increase of 9.9%p and 5.2%p respectively when compared to a decade

- **Health Assessment:** In 2022, 32.8% of individuals aged 65-74 and 18.9% of those aged 75 and older rated their health as 'good'. This signifies a 9.9%p increase for the 65-74 age group and a 5.2%p increase for those aged 75 and older compared to 10 years ago, with a decrease in perception of poor health condition.

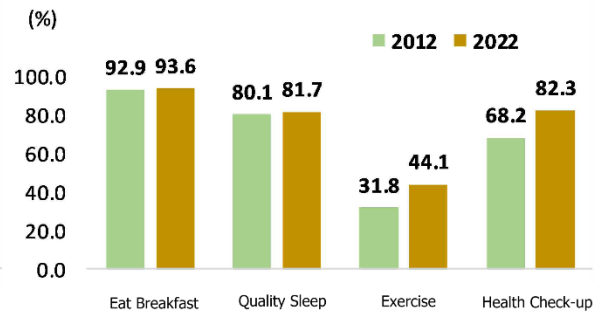


- **Health Management:** In 2022, individuals aged 65-74 were engaged in health management practices such as having breakfast(91.5%), and undergoing regular health check-ups(89.5%). The same practices were observed among those aged 75 and older, with 93.6% having breakfast, and 82.3% going for regular health check-ups.
 - ✓ The 65-74 age group showed higher rates of regular exercise, health check-ups, and sleep patterns compared to those aged 75 and older.
 - ✓ When compared to a decade ago, both the 65-74 age group and the 74 and older age group have shown an increase in the rate of regular health check-ups, exercise, and sleeping patterns.

<Health Management (65-74 age group)>



<Health Management (75 and over)>



3. Stress Levels

In 2022, 37.6% of individuals aged 65-74 experienced stress in their daily lives, while those aged 75 and older reported a rate of 33.2%. This indicates a decrease of 17.6%p and 15.8%p, respectively, compared to a decade ago.

- **Stress Levels:** In 2022, 37.6% of individuals aged 65-74 and 33.2% of those aged 75 and older experienced stress in their daily lives.
- ✓ Although the 65-74 age group reported higher levels of daily life stress compared to those aged 75 and older in 2022, both groups saw a decrease in stress levels compared to a decade ago, with a reduction of 17.6%p for the 65-74 age group and 15.8%p for those aged 75 and older.

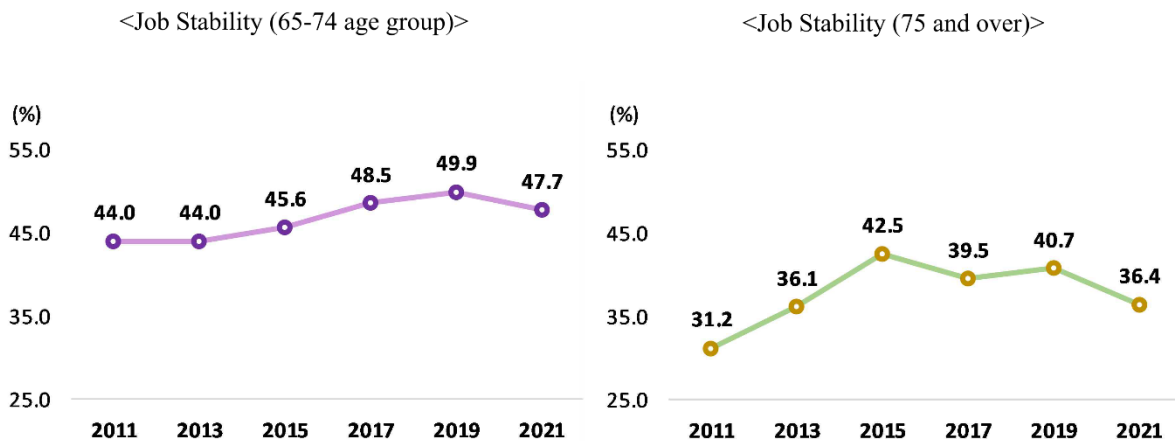


III. Labor and Employment

1. Job Stability and Satisfaction

In 2021, 47.7% of working individuals aged 65-74, and 36.4% of those aged 75 and above felt secure in their current jobs. This shows an increase of 3.7%p and 5.2%p, respectively, compared to a decade ago.

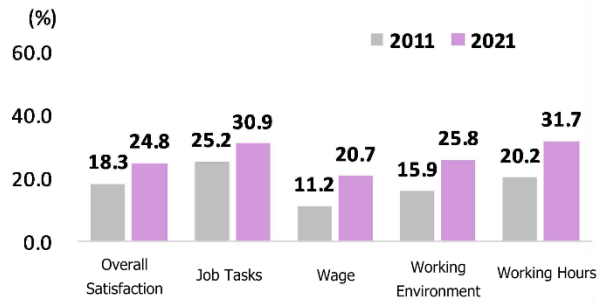
- **Job Stability:** In May 2021, 47.7% of older persons aged 65-74 working individuals, along with 36.4% of those aged 75 and above, indicated that they felt secure in their current jobs.
 - ✓ Individuals aged 65-74 were more likely to feel secure in their jobs than those aged 75 and above, with a 3.7%p increase for the 65-74 age group and a 5.2%p increase for those aged 75 and above compared to a decade ago.



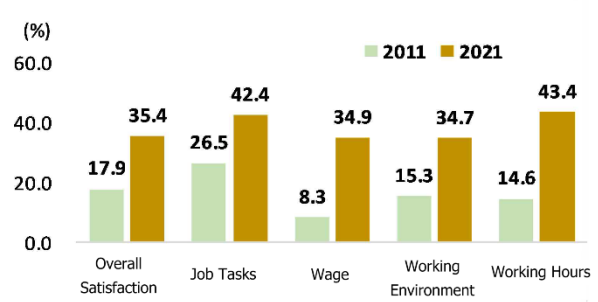
- **Job Satisfaction:** In May 2021, job satisfaction among working individuals aged 65-74 and those aged 75 and above stood at 24.8% and 35.4%, respectively.
 - ✓ Those aged 75 and above expressed a higher level of satisfaction with their employment conditions, such as wages, working hours, and job responsibilities, compared to the 65-74 age group.

- ✓ Compared to a decade ago, both 65-74 and 75 and above age groups reported increased levels in satisfaction with various employment conditions, such as job responsibilities, wages, working conditions, and working hours.

<Job Satisfaction (65-74 age group)>



<Job Satisfaction (75 and over)>



2. Employment Intentions and Motivation for Job Seeking

In 2022, individuals aged 65-74 and 75-79 desiring for future employment accounted for 59.6% and 39.4%, respectively. This marks an increase of more than 10%p compared to a decade ago. The primary reason was to support living expenses.

- **Employment Intentions:** In 2022, 59.6% of individuals aged 65-74 and 39.4% of those aged 75-79 expressed a desire for future employment. This reflects an increase of 11.9%p and 11.8%p, respectively, compared to a decade ago.
 - ✓ Older individuals desiring future employment was approximately 20%p higher among those aged 65-74 compared to those aged 75-79.

< Employment Interest (65-74 age group) >

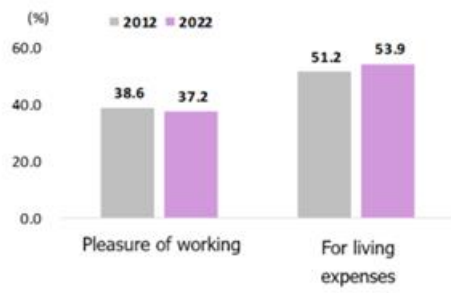


< Employment Interest (75 and over) >

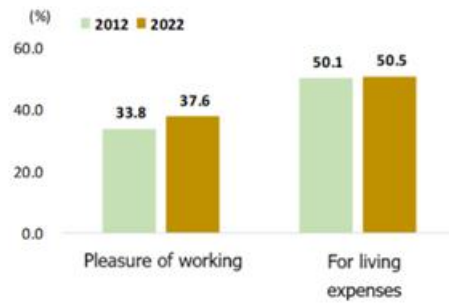


- **Motivation for Job Seeking :** In 2022, supporting the living expenses was the primary reason for future employment in both the 65-74 age group and the 75-79 age group.
 - ✓ Compared to a decade ago, the working individuals of 65-74 age group saw a 2.7%p increase in the employment intention to support their living expenses, coupled with a 1.4%p decrease in the pleasure of working. For the 75-79 age group, the employment intention for the pleasure of working increased by 3.8%p, while supporting living expenses grew by 0.4%p.

< Motivation for Job Seeking (65-74 age group) >



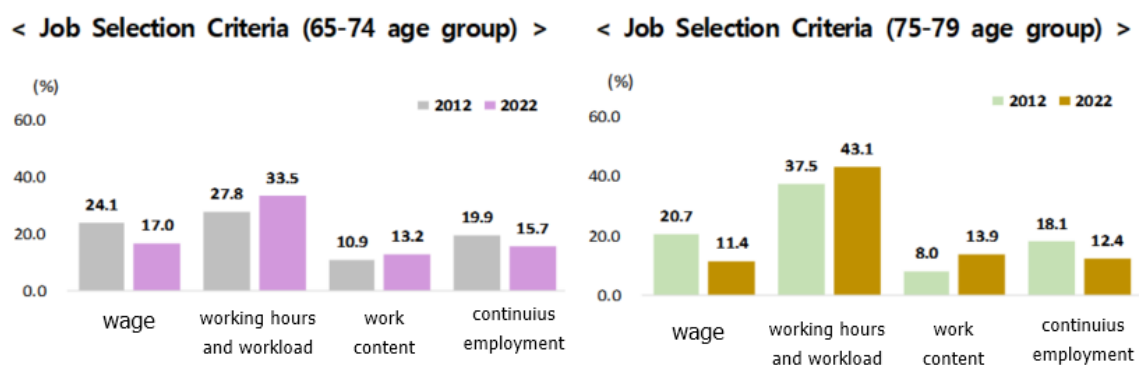
< Motivation for Job Seeking (75 and over) >



3. Selection Criteria and Preferred Employment Types

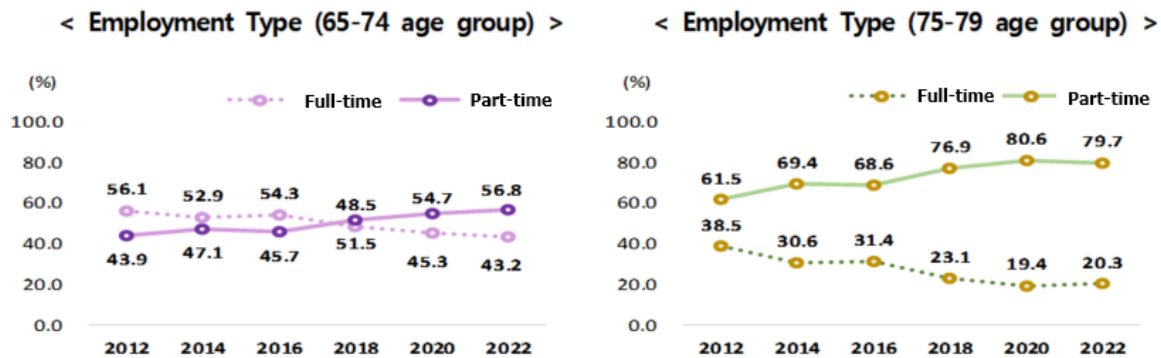
In 2022, 33.5% of individuals aged 65-74 and 43.1% of those aged 75-79 cited workload and working hours as the primary factors influencing their job selection. The most preferred employment type was part-time.

- **Job Selection Criteria:** In 2022, 33.5% of individuals aged 65-74 prioritized workload and working hours and 17.0% considered wage levels. In the 75-79 age group, 43.1% emphasized workload and working hours, while 13.9% focused on work content.
- ✓ While the 75-79 age group placed a greater emphasis on the workload and working hours as their primary criteria when choosing a job compared to the 65-74 age group, they showed less concern about wage levels and continuous employment.
- ✓ In the last 10 years, both the 65-74 and 75-79 age groups have seen an increase in emphasis on workload and working hours, accompanied by a decline in interest of wage levels and continuous employment.



- **Employment Type:** In 2022, among those who desire future employment, 56.0% of the 65-74 age group and 79.7% of the 75-79 age group preferred part-time employment.

- ✓ Among the 65-74 age group, a higher percentage expressed a desire for full-time employment compared to those aged 75-79.
- ✓ Over the past decade, both the 65-74 and 75-79 age groups saw a decrease in the desire for full-time employment, coupled with an increase in preference for part-time work.



IV. Income

1. Relative Poverty Rate and Subjective Income Level

In 2021, the relative poverty rate for individuals aged 66-75 was 30.5%, and for those aged 76 and above was 51.4%. This marks a reduction of 13.0%p and 3.9%p, respectively, compared to a decade ago. However, the number of households reporting insufficient actual income level has increased.

- **Relative Poverty Rate:** In 2021, the relative poverty rate for individuals aged 66-75 and 76 and above were 30.5% and 51.4%, respectively.
 - ✓ Compared to a decade ago, both age groups saw reductions in relative poverty rates. Nevertheless, the gap between the 66-75 age group and those aged 75 and above has widened.

< Relative Poverty Rate (66-75 age group) >



< Relative Poverty Rate (76 and above) >



- **Subjective Income Level:** In 2021, 59.3% of the 65-74 age group and 63.8% of those aged 75 and over felt their actual income level was insufficient when compared to their average living expenses.
 - ✓ A higher percentage of households in the 75 and over age group felt that their income level was insufficient, and both 65-74 age group and 75 and over age group perceived their income levels as insufficient when compared to a decade ago.

< Subjective Income Level (66-75 age group) >



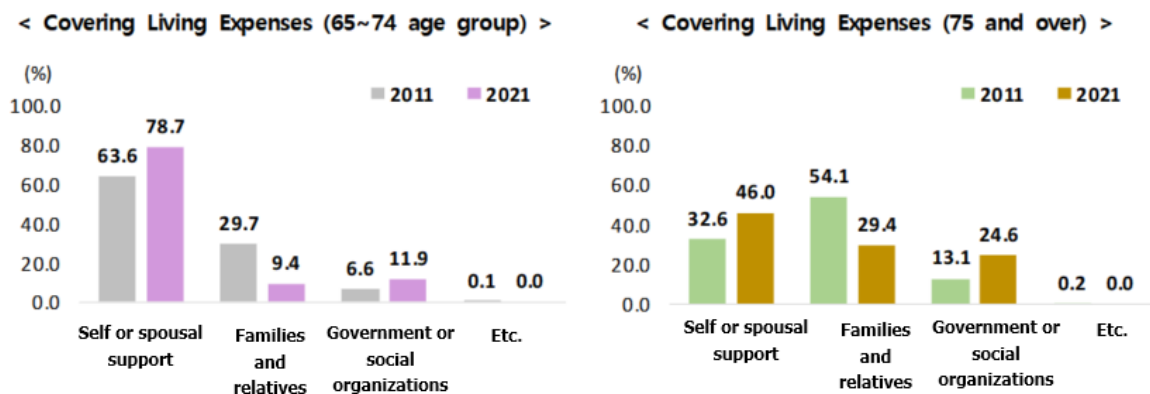
< Subjective Income Level (76 and above) >



2. Covering Living Expenses

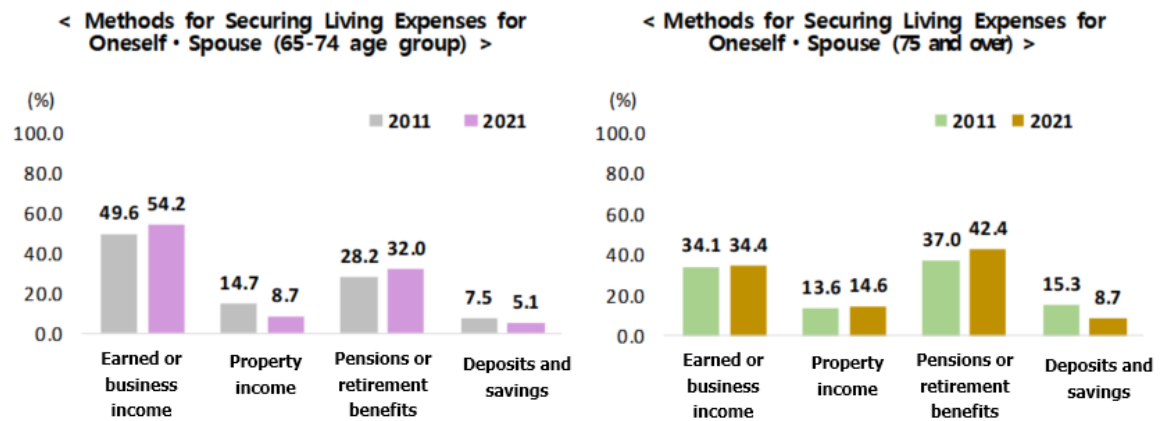
In 2021, 78.7% of individuals aged 65-74 and 46.0% of those aged 75 and above depended on themselves or their spouse for living expenses. A high percentage of the 65-74 age group covered their living expenses through employment and business income, while those aged 75 and above relied on pensions and retirement benefits.

- In 2021, 78.8% of 65-74 age group and 46.0% of those aged 75 and above depended on themselves or their spouse for living expenses.
- ✓ Among the 65-74 age group, a higher percentage relied on themselves or their spouses for financial support compared to those aged 75 and above. Conversely, support from children or relatives, and government or social organizations was lower.
- ✓ Compared to a decade ago, both age groups saw increase in self or spousal support, as well as support from government or social organizations, while support from children or relatives had decreased.



- In 2021, when individuals or their spouses provided their living expenses, earned income or business income (54.2%) was the most common source for the 65-74 age group, and pension or retirement benefits (42.4%) were the primary means for the 75 and above.

- ✓ Compared to a decade ago, both the 65-74 age group and the 75 and above age group saw an increase in income from pensions and retirement benefits as well as earned income or business income, while deposits and savings decreased.



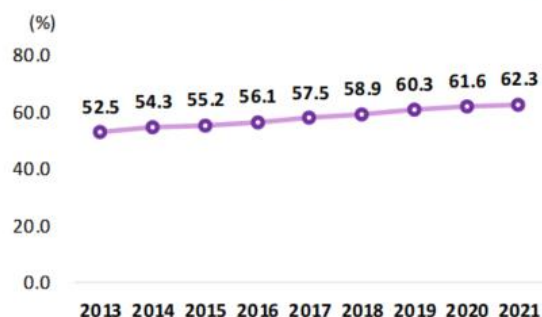
3. Public Pension Take-up Rate

In 2021, the public pension take-up rate was 62.3% for individuals aged 65-74 and 45.1% for those aged 75 and above. This marks an increase of 9.8%p and 27%p, respectively, compared to eight years ago.

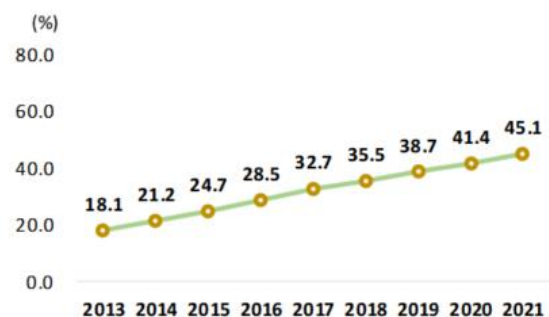
- **Public Pension Take-up Rate:** In 2021, the public pension take-up rate was 62.3% for individuals aged 65-74 and 45.1% for those aged 75 and above.
- ✓ Since 2013, the public pensions take-up rate has continued to rise for both the 65-74 age group and the 75 and above age group. The rate for the 65-74 age group has been higher than that of the 75 and above age group, although the gap between the two decreased after 2013.

* Compared to eight years ago, the public pension take-up rate has increased by 9.8%p for the 65-74 age group and 27.0%p for the 75 and above age group.

< Public Pensions Take-up Rate (65-74 age group) >



< Public Pensions Take-up Rate (75 and over) >



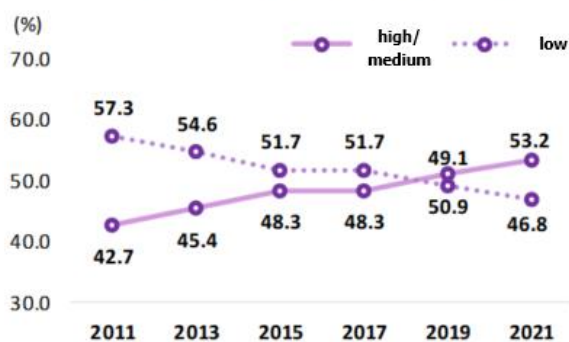
V. Participation

1. Class Awareness and Participation in Social Groups

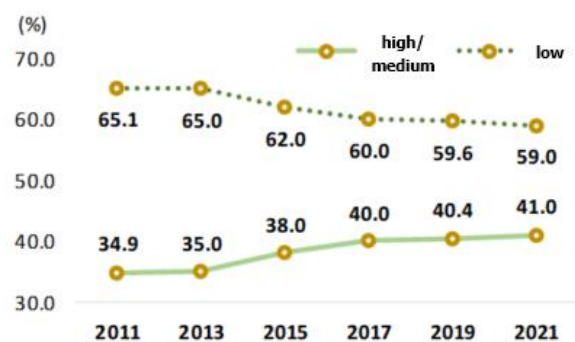
In 2021, individuals aged 65-74 who considered their social and economic status as 'high' or 'medium' accounted for 53.2%, while those aged 75 and above accounted for 41.0%. This marks an increase of 10.5%p and 6.1%p, respectively, compared to a decade ago.

- **Class Awareness:** In 2021, the 65-74 age group and those aged 75 and above considered their social and economic status as 'high' or 'medium' by 53.3% and 41.0%, respectively.
 - ✓ Compared to a decade ago, the 65-74 age group saw a 10.5%p increase in those considering their social and economic status as 'high' or 'medium', while the 75 and above age group increased by 6.1%p, with a simultaneous decrease in those perceiving themselves as 'low' in status.

< Class Awareness (65-75 age group) >

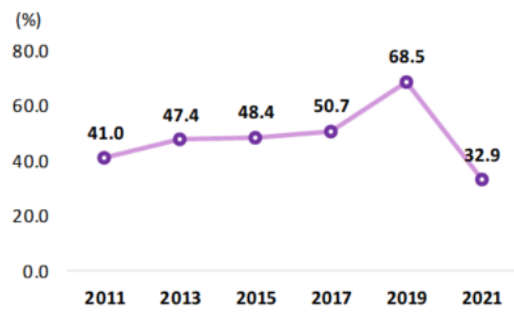


< Class Awareness (75 and over) >

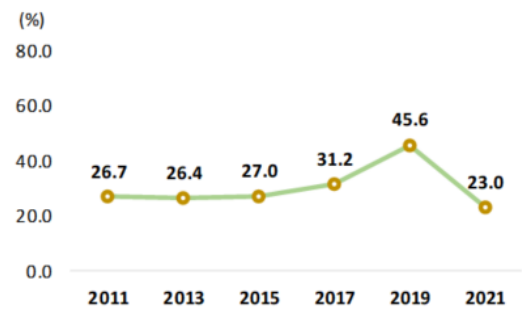


- **Participation in Social Groups:** In 2021, 32.9% of individuals aged 65-74 and 23.0% of those aged 75 and above participated in group activities such as social gatherings, hobbies, and religious organizations over the past year.

< Participation in Social Groups (65-74 age group) >



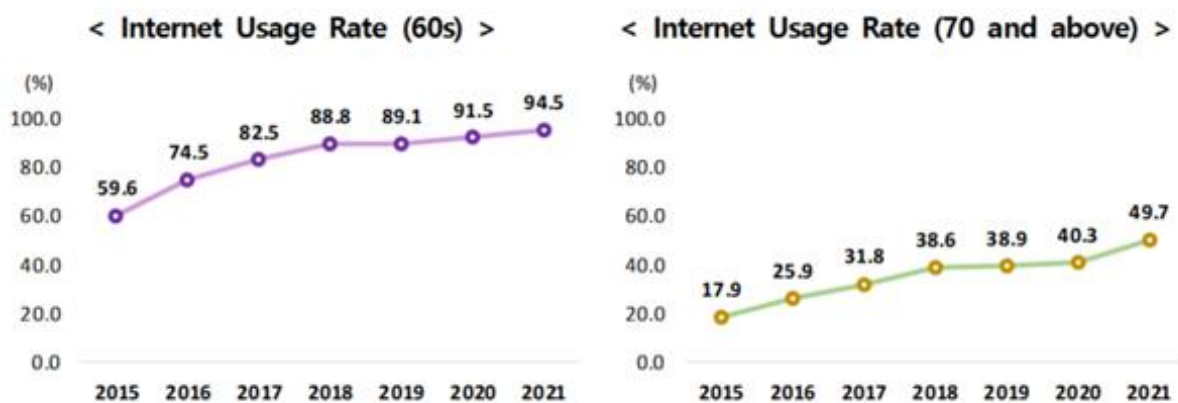
< Participation in Social Groups (75 and over) >



2. Internet Usage Rate and Participation in Voluntary Work

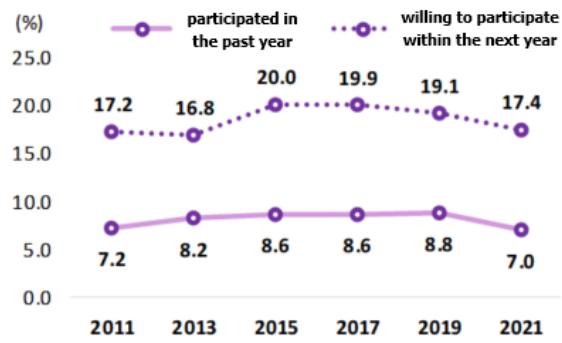
In 2021, the internet usage rate of individuals in their 60s was 94.5% and 49.7% for those aged 70 and above, showing an increase of 34.9%p, and 31.8%p, respectively, compared to 2015.

- **Internet Usage Rate:** In 2021, the internet usage rate was 94.5% for individuals in their 60s and 49.7% for those aged 70 and above.
 - ✓ Those in their 60s had an internet usage rate approximately twice as high as those aged 70 and above. Both age groups saw an increase of 34.9%p, and 31.8%p, respectively, compared to 2015.

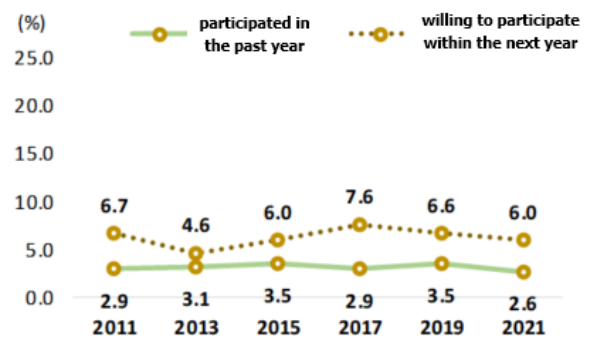


- **Volunteering:** In 2021, 7.0% of individuals aged 65-74 and 2.6% of those aged 75 and above reported having participated in voluntary work in the past year. 17.4% of individuals aged 65-74 and 6.0% of those aged 75 and above expressed interest in participating in voluntary work within the next year.
 - ✓ Individuals aged 65-74 had higher rate of both past volunteering experience and future volunteering intentions compared to those aged 75 and above.

< Volunteering (65-74 age group) >



< Volunteering (75 and over) >



VI. Retirement

1. Retirement Planning and Methods

In 2021, 66.8% of individuals aged 65-74 reported that they are planning for retirement, while this percentage was 42.7% for those aged 75 and above. The most common method for retirement planning was through public pensions.

- **Retirement Planning:** In 2021, 66.8% of individuals aged 65-74 and 62.7% of those aged 75 and above reported that they are planning for retirement.
 - ✓ Compared to a decade ago, the 65-74 age group saw a 19.6%p increase in those planning for retirement, while the 75 and above age group increased by 13.8%p.

< Retirement Planning (Prepared, 65-74 age group) >



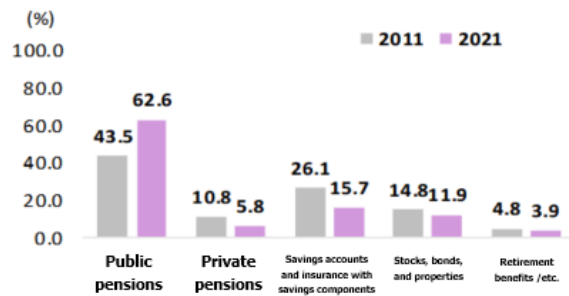
< Retirement Planning (Prepared, 75 and over) >



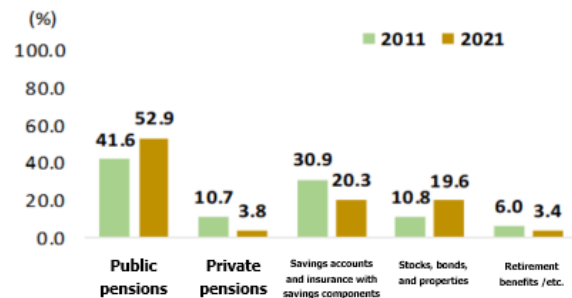
- **Retirement Planning Methods:** In 2021, the most common method used for retirement planning among individuals aged 65-74 and those aged 75 and above was public pensions, with percentages of 62.6% and 52.9% respectively.
 - ✓ Individuals aged 65-74 had a higher proportion of public and private pensions but a lower proportion of real estate, stocks, bonds, savings accounts, and insurance with savings components compared to those aged 75 and above.

- ✓ When compared to a decade ago, both age groups saw an increase in the use of public pensions for retirement planning, while the use of private pensions, savings accounts, and insurance with savings components decreased.

< Retirement Planning (65-74 age group) >



< Retirement Planning (75 and over) >

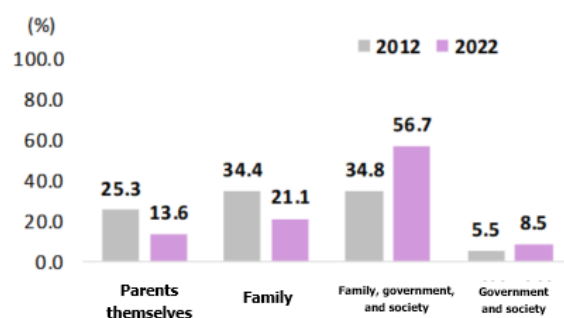


2. Views on Supporting Ageing Parents, and Preferred Funeral Method

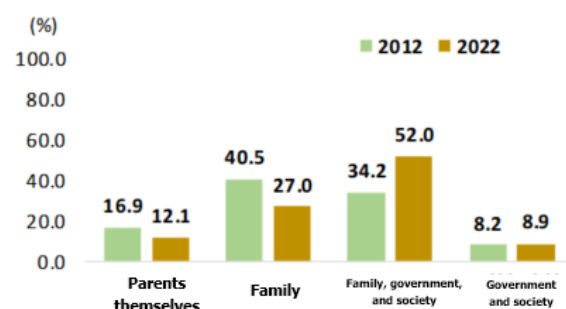
In 2022, individuals aged 65 and above held the belief that supporting ageing parents is the responsibilities of family, government, and society. As for the preferred funeral method in 2021, 85.8% of those aged 65-74 and 75.8% of those aged 75 and above chose cremation.

- **Supporting Ageing Parents:** In 2022, individuals aged 65 and above held the belief that supporting ageing parents is the responsibilities of family, government, and society, with percentages of 56.7% and 52.0%, respectively.
 - ✓ Among those aged 65-74, a higher proportion believed that parents should take care of themselves or that it is the responsibility of family, government, and society, while the belief that it is solely the family's responsibility was lower.
 - ✓ Over the past decade, both the 65-74 and 75 and above age groups have shown a consistent decrease in the belief that family should take care of their ageing parents.

< Views on Supporting Ageing Parents (65-74 age group) >



< Views on Supporting Ageing Parents (75 and over) >



- **Preferred Funeral Method:** In 2021, 85.8% of those aged 65-74 and 75.8% of those aged 75 and above chose cremation as a preferred method of funeral, with percentages of 85.8% and 75.8%, respectively.

- ✓ Over the past decade, both 65-74 and 75 and above age groups have shown a consistent increase in choosing cremation as a preferred method of funeral.

