

Nishiyodogawa Food Bank, the role of Health Promoting Hospital observed from survey data

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1. Background and Objectives

In Japan, the number of the so-called “working poor”, the workers whose annual income is less than 2 million yen, is 11.26 million, accounting for 21.4 percent of total paid workers and mainly non-regular employees. Approximately 40 percent of female workers and 10 percent of male workers are considered to be the working poor. The child poverty rate is 11.5 percent. The number of people who use public financial assistance for school expenses is 1.29 million, accounting for 14.5 percent of all the public elementary school and junior high school students. 35 percent of single-person and 23 percent of family with two or more persons have zero savings. The Covid-19 pandemic has placed restrictions on economic activities and people's movements, resulting in people facing economic hardship and social isolation.

Food bank is an effort to provide food and daily necessities to people living in difficulty. Through this activity, physical and social support is provided to community people who are experiencing financial difficulty as means to assist rebuilding their lives and improve health gap in the community.

3. Results

- The total number of response collected from the survey was 2,340, of which 33 percent were from men and 67 percent were from women. By age group, 2.7 percent were teenagers, 5.3 percent were in their 20s, 13.5 percent were in their 30s, 14.2 percent were in their 40s, 12.7 percent were in their 50s, 15.1 percent were in their 60s, and 36.5 percent were over 70.
- Regarding employment type, 10.8 percent were regular employment, 27.4 percent were non-regular employment, 3.4 percent were self-employed, 29.7 percent were unemployed with pension, 21.1 percent were unemployed without pension, and 7.5 percent were on welfare.
- For the question “Have you ever had any difficulty in your daily life?”, 66.5 percent answered “Yes” and 33.5 percent answered “No”.
- As for specific concerns, 898 persons answered “money” followed by “health status” for 414 persons, “mental problems” for 403 persons, “obtaining food” for 366 persons, “children” for 238 persons, and “work” for 219 persons.
- As for specific symptoms of the “mental problems” and “health status”, 256 persons answered “anxiety” followed by “insomnia” for 163 persons, “irritated feeling” for 104 persons, “no motivation” for 90 persons, and “no interest on hobbies” for 83 persons.
- 67 persons accepted individual consultations, of which 5 persons were linked to social welfare system and 3 persons to free/low-cost medical care service.

4. Conclusion

- When a Health Promoting Hospital supports food bank, we can go beyond simply providing supplies. We can gain trust from the local community and help community people to receive consultations and link them to necessary public services or healthcare.
- Outreach activity can clearly visualize the role played by a Health Promoting Hospital in the community.

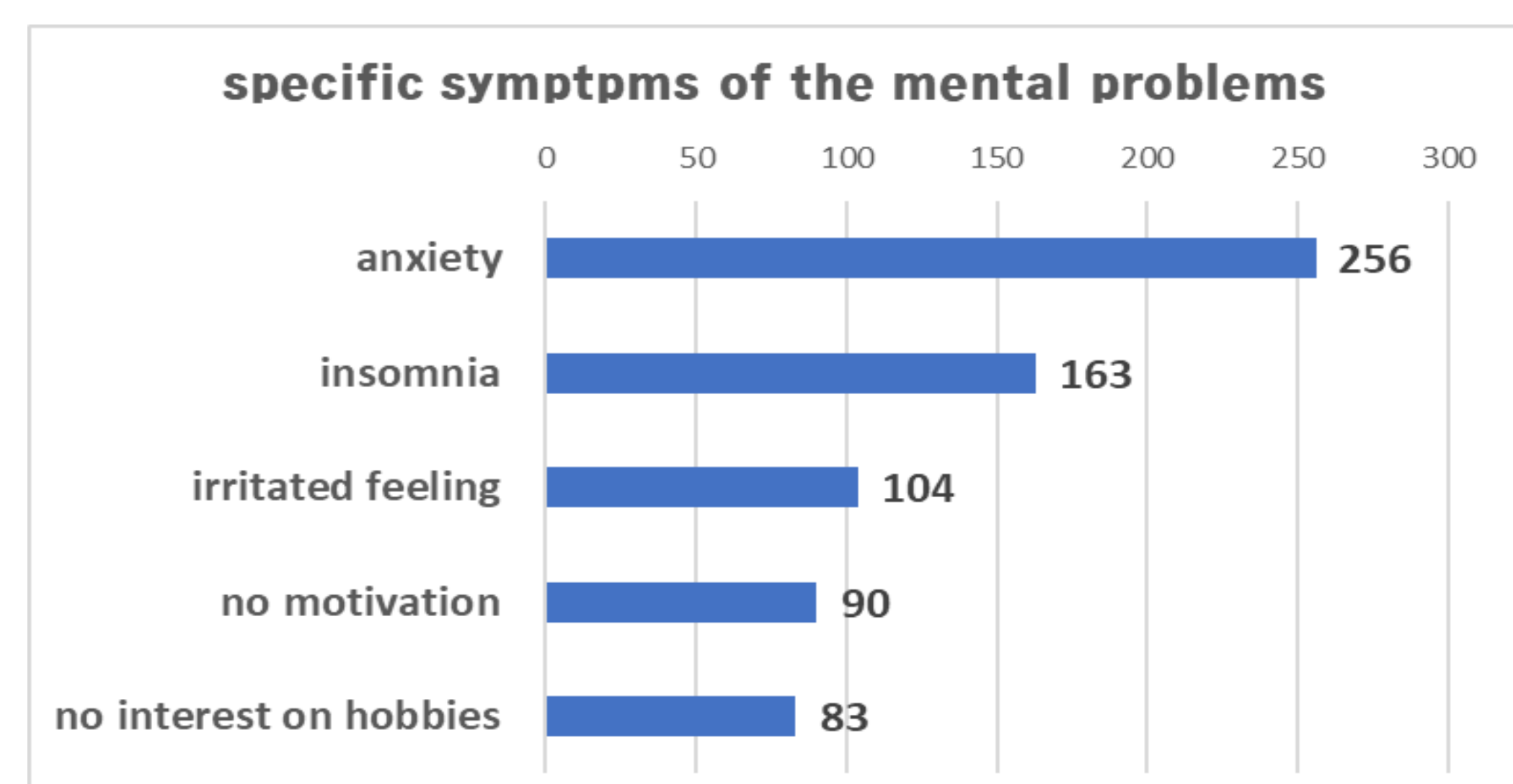
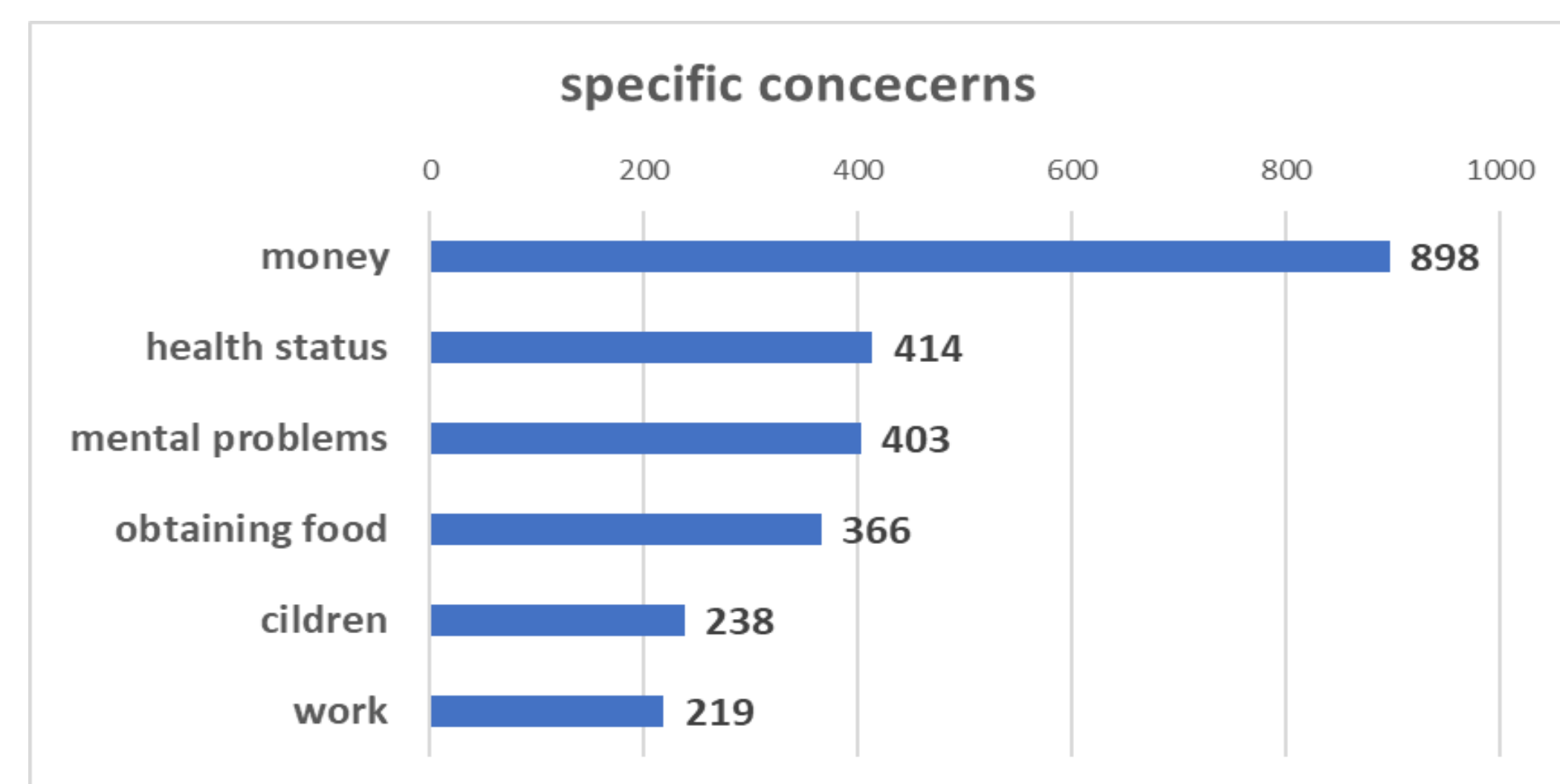
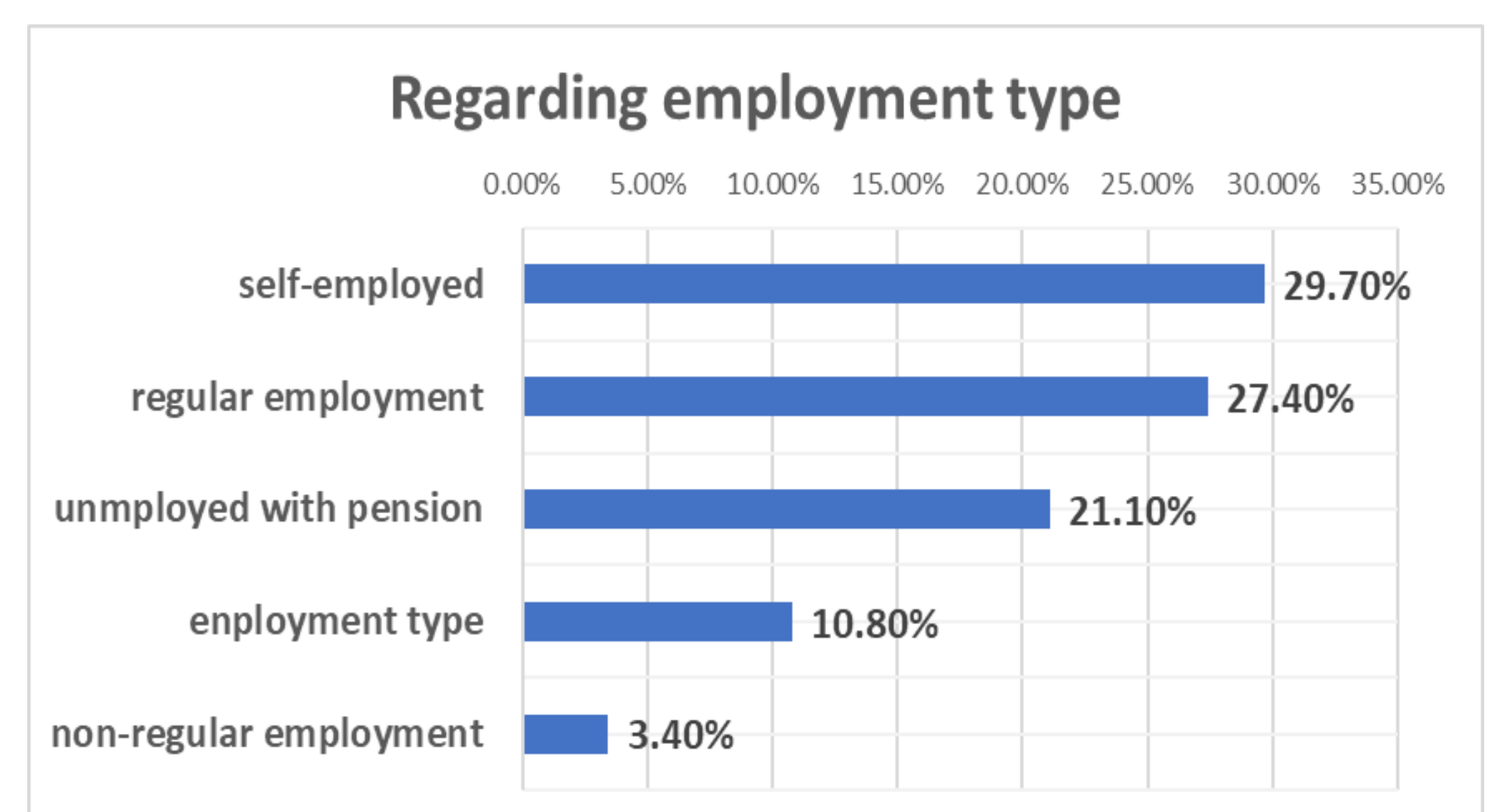
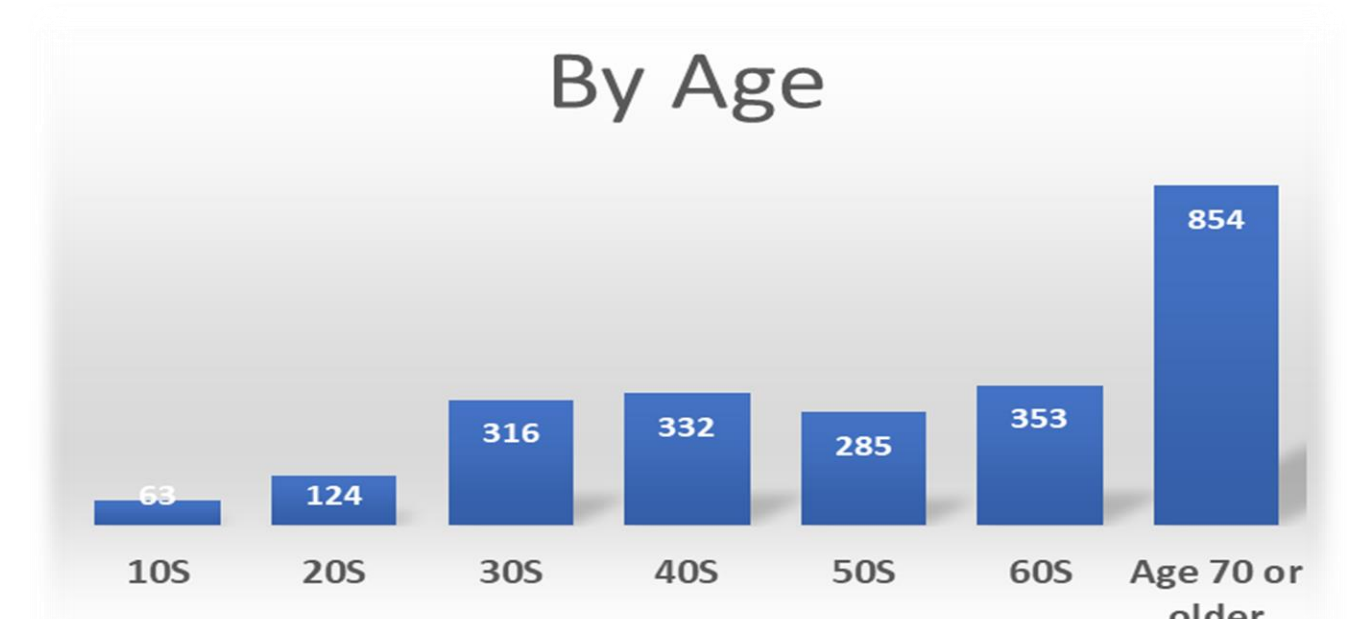
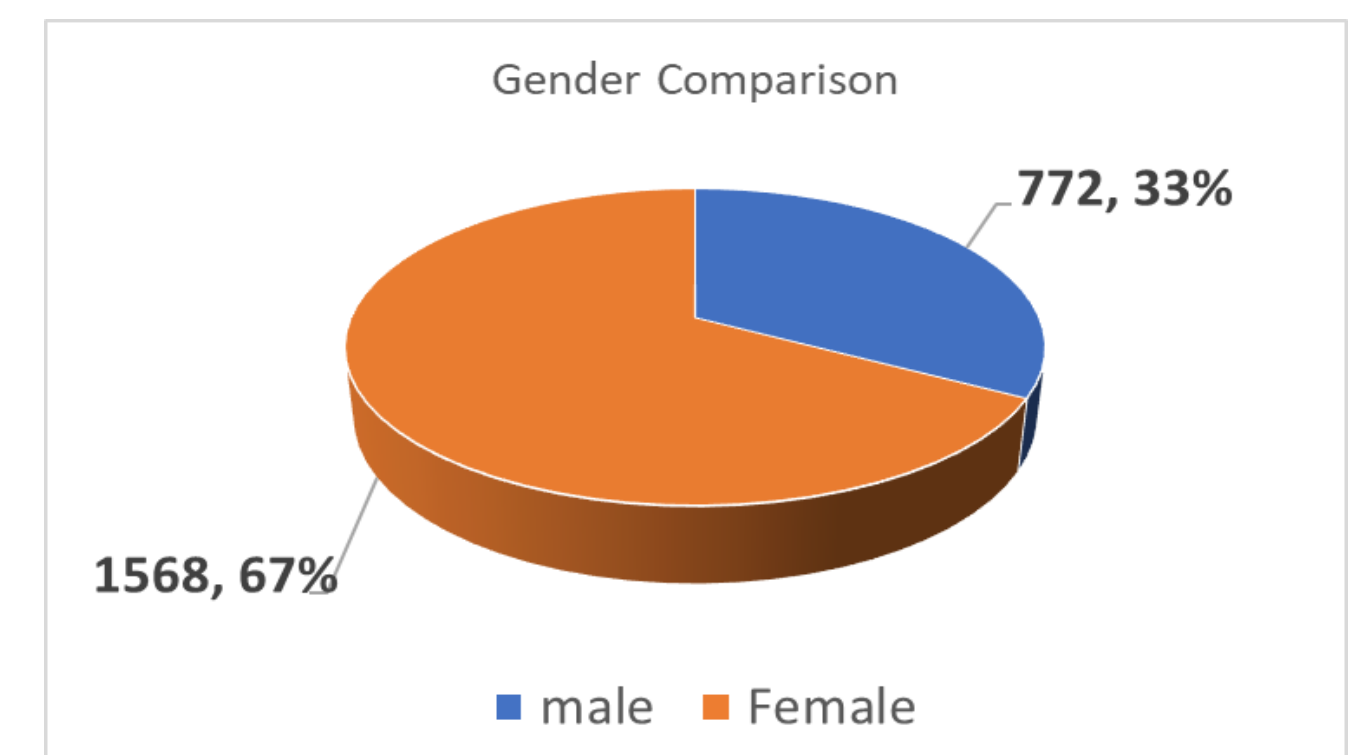
5. Relationship with HPH

Health Promoting Hospital approaches socially vulnerable people and improves “health gap” among community people.

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2. Research Method

Nishiyodo Hospital called on the local organizations such as Health Friends Association, Children's Cafeteria free-food service, local companies and government for collaboration. Food bank was held 11 times from June 2020 to December 2023, and served for 4,218 persons. We conducted a survey on the users from “economic” and “health” perspectives, and received responses from 2,340 persons.



COI disclosure information
Motoya Maeda
I have no financial relationship to disclose