

# An Initiative to Apply for Physical Disability Certificates for All Physically Challenged Persons

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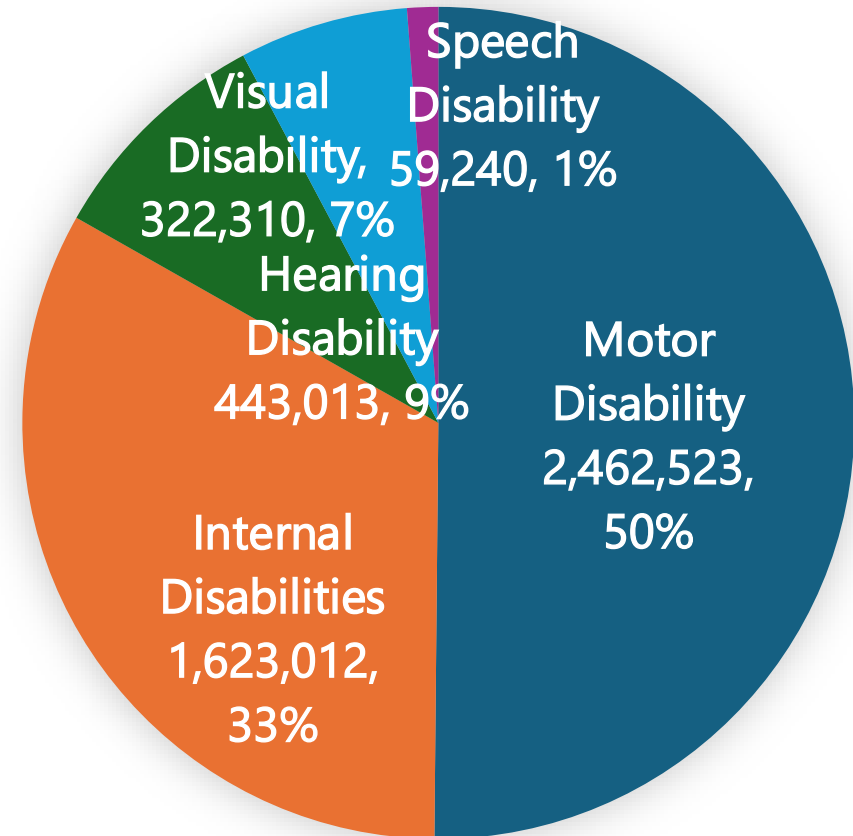
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We have no conflict of interest related to this  
presentation

# Overview of Japan's Physical Disability Certificate System

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare  
FY2021 total number 4,910,098  
3.9% of the population

- Physical disabilities include motor, internal (heart, kidney, respiratory organs, bladder and rectum, small intestine, HIV, and liver), hearing, vision, and speech disability.
- Half are motionally disabled, and 1/3 have internal disabilities.
- These disabilities are categorized from level 1 (most severe) to level 6.
- More than 70 % are elderly.



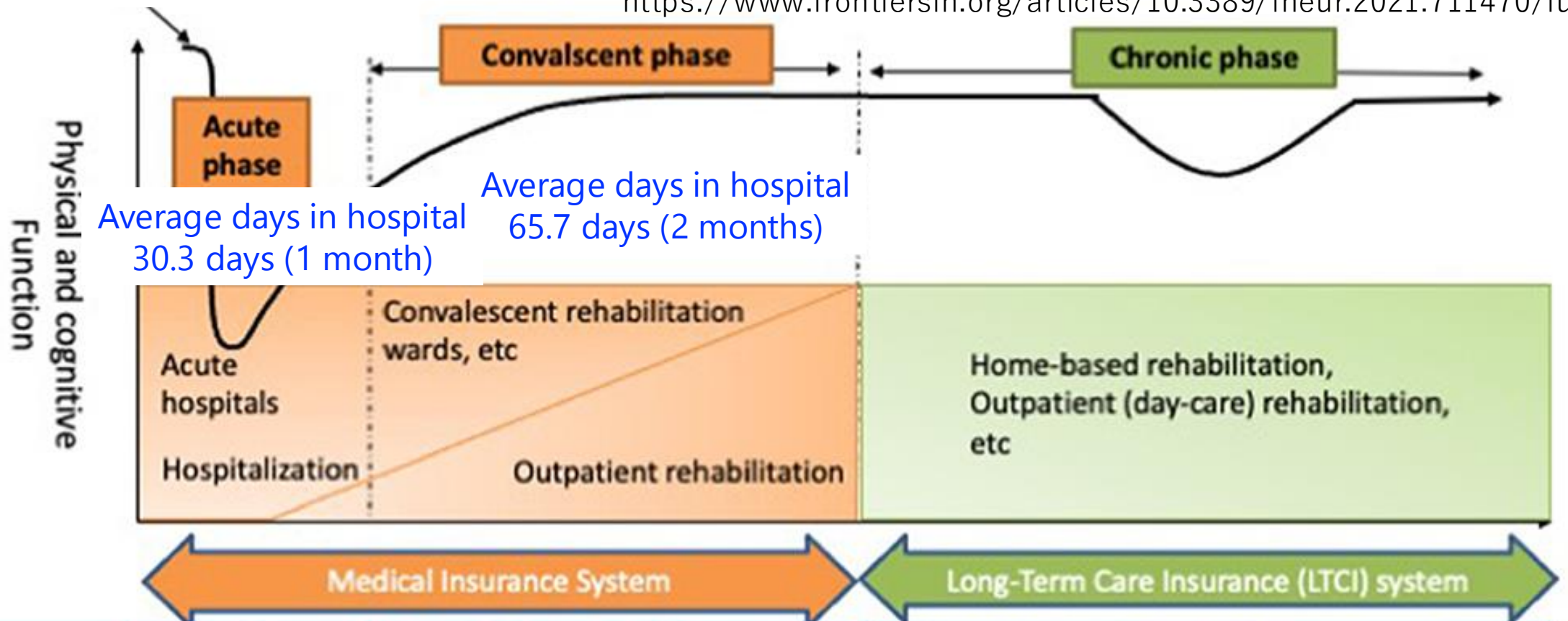
# Benefits of obtaining a Physical Disability Certificate

- Support for employment (e.g., employment for the disabled)
- Tax support (income tax and inhabitant tax deductions, etc.)
- Discount support (discounts for public transportation, cell phones, NHK, etc.)
- **Medical support (subsidies for medical expenses, etc.)**

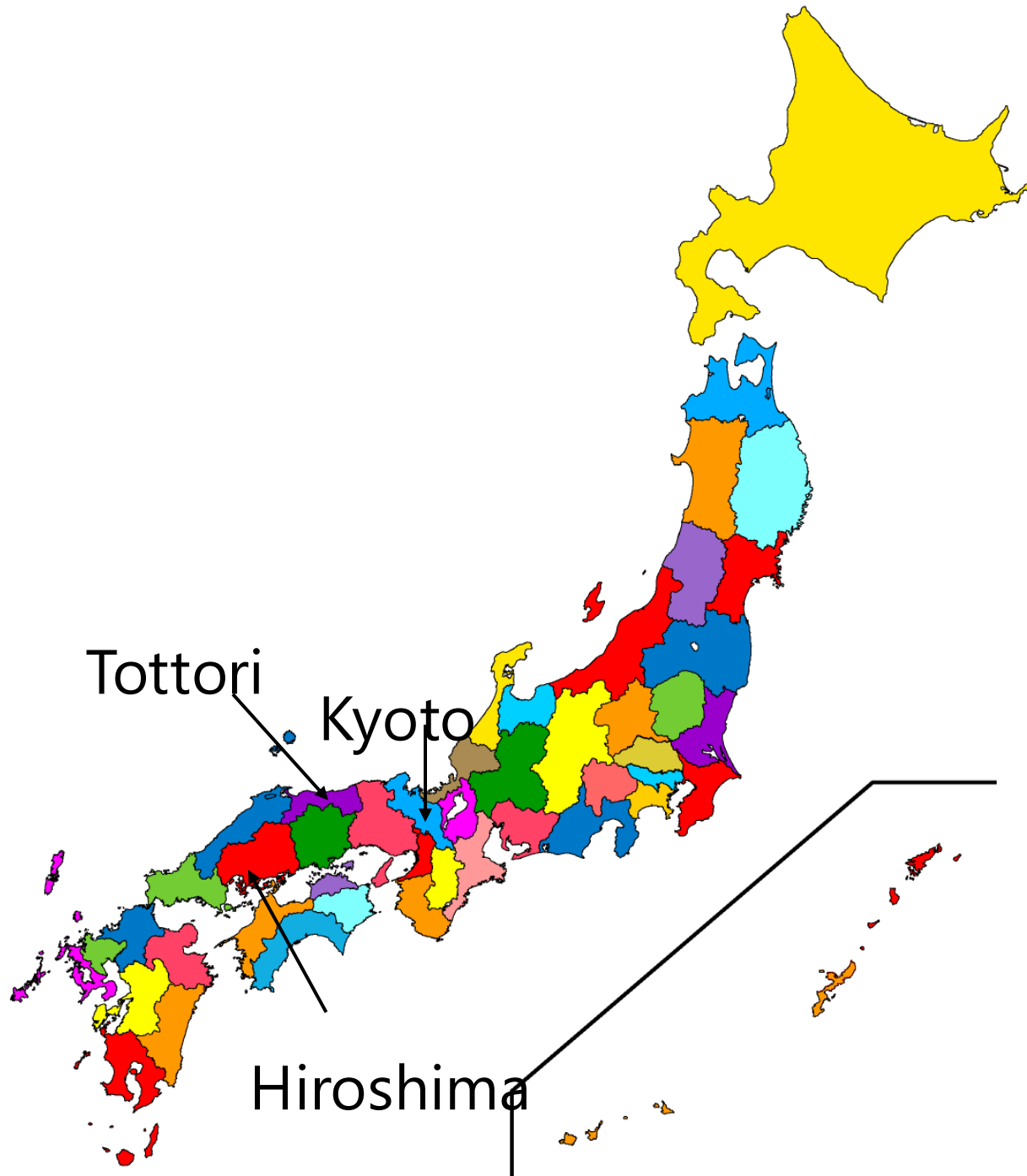
Most municipalities provide subsidies for medical expenses to individuals with level 1 or 2 disabilities. This support is essential for low-income individuals, as patients must pay **10–30% of medical expenses** out-of-pocket, depending on their income and age.

# Disease onset

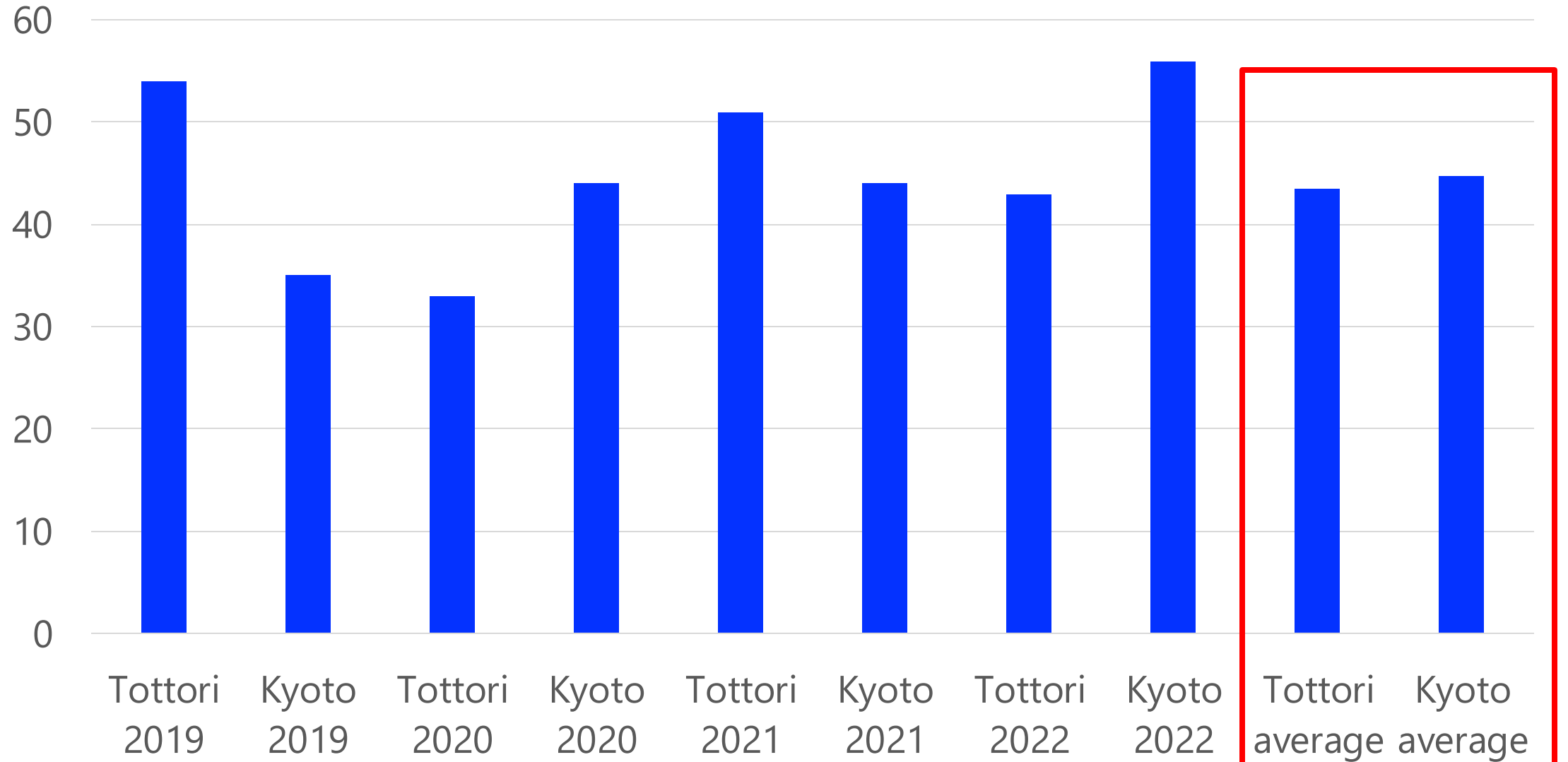
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fneur.2021.711470/full>



	Acute	Convalescent phase	Chronic phase
Physical and cognitive function	Improvement	Improvement	Maintenance and Improvement
ADL	Improvement	Improvement	Maintenance and Improvement
Activity and Participation	Reconstruction	Reconstruction	Reconstruction, Maintenance and Improvement



# Number of applications for Physical Disability Certificates (motor disability)



# Number of beds and Physical Disability Certificates' applications (motion disability)

- **Tottori** Seikyo Hospital: 260 total beds, **94** beds in the convalescent rehabilitation ward
- **Kyoto** Kyoritsu Hospital : 99 total beds, **47** beds in the convalescent rehabilitation ward
- The Tottori hospital has twice as many beds in the convalescent rehabilitation wards, but the number of applicants for Physical Disability Certificate was the same.
- **This raised concerns that eligible patients in Tottori were not applying for the certificate.**



# Differences in Application Procedures between Tottori and Kyoto Prefecture

	Tottori	Kyoto
Requirements for Designated Physicians	Physician's qualifications including research and paper submissions are required.	No special qualifications required
Length of disability before the application	More than 4 months	May be accepted after 3 months

# Initiatives to identify patients eligible for Physical Disability Certificates

## **1. Training and awareness:**

We conducted study sessions on the image of physically disabled patients who can obtain level 1 or 2 with medical expense support and obtained information from therapists in the convalescent rehabilitation ward and nurses involved in home visits.

## **2. Post-discharge follow-up:**

We tracked discharged patients through outpatient visits and home care to ensure timely applications for the certificates.

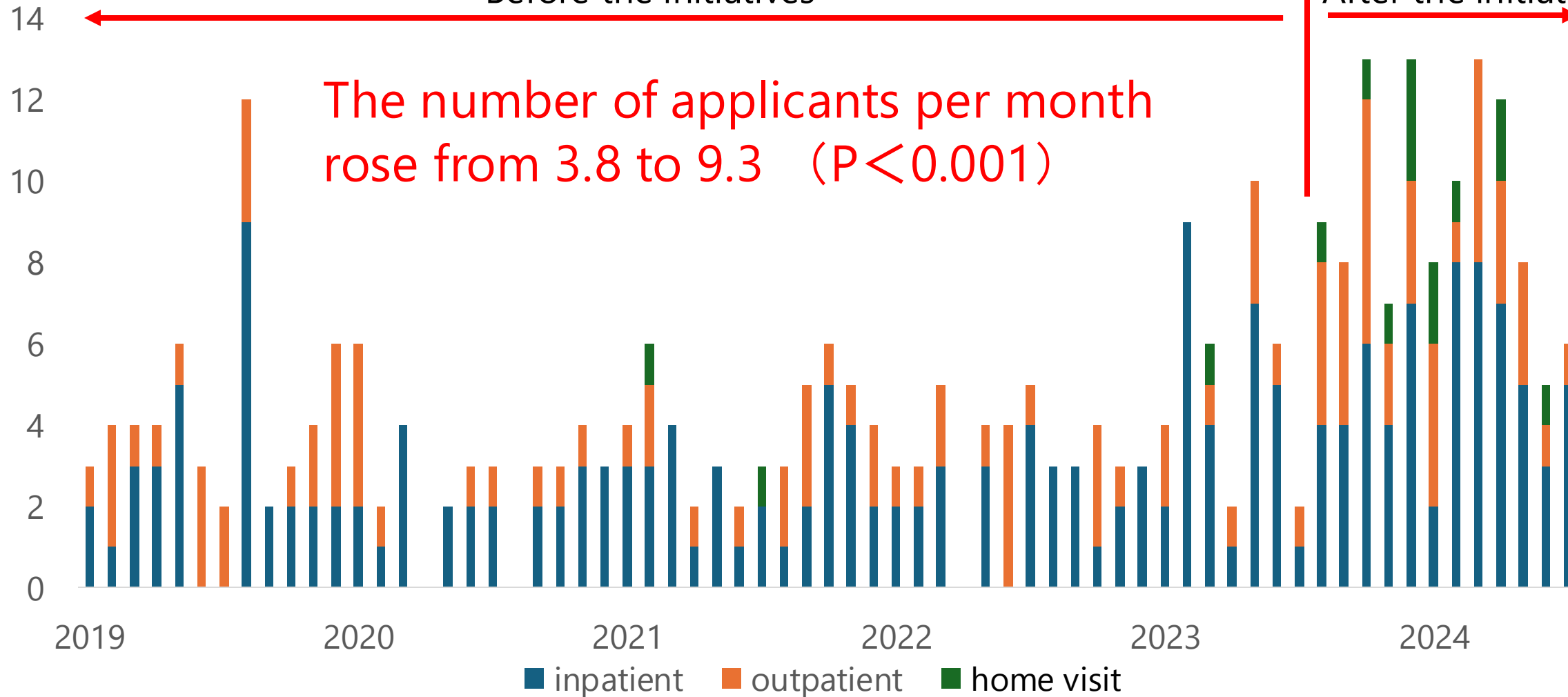
# Subjects and Methods

- The subjects were patients at the Tottori hospital where I work.
- We compared the number of applicants at the Tottori hospital from January 2019 to July 2023 with the number of applicants after August 2023, when these initiatives were implemented.

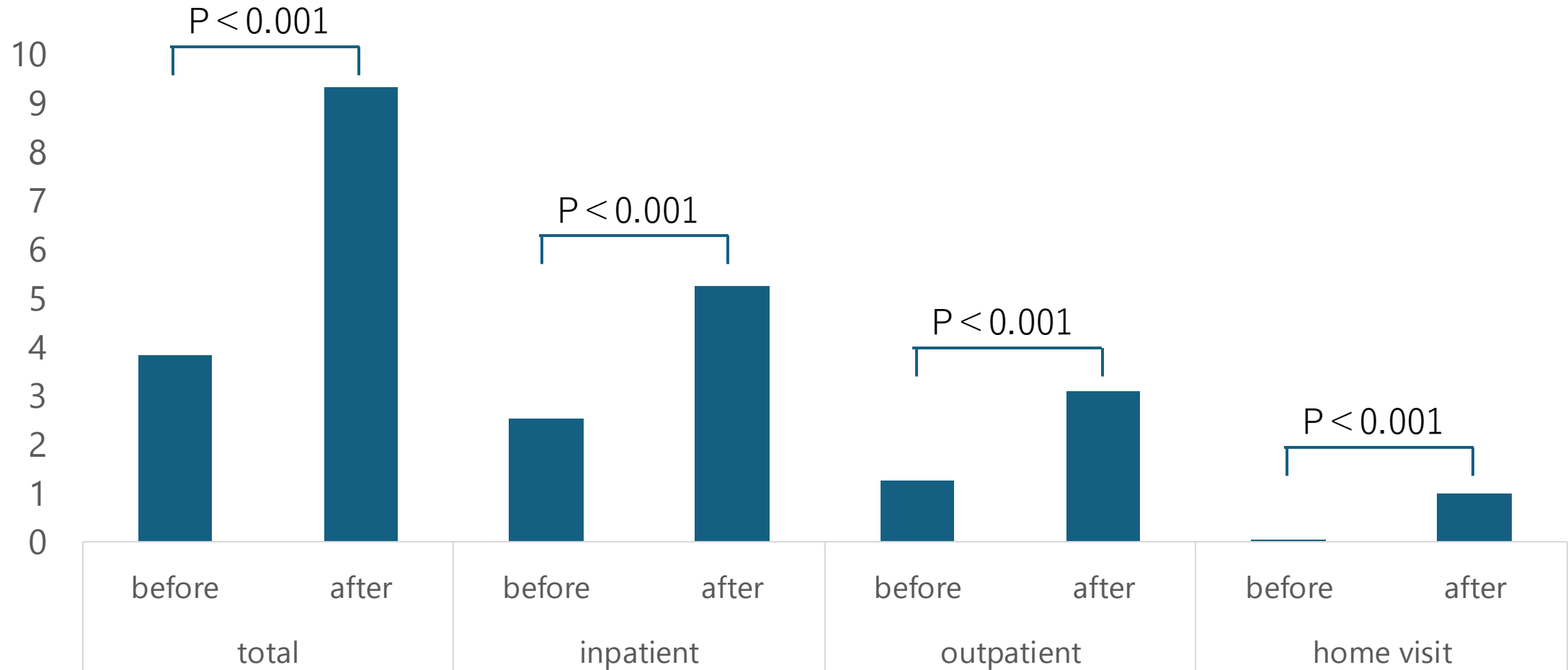
# Results

Before the initiatives

After the initiatives



# Breakdown of the number of applicants before and after the initiatives



# Differences in Application Procedures between Tottori and Kyoto Prefecture

	Tottori	Kyoto
Disability Certificate Level 1 and 2 Medical Expense Subsidies	The entire household must be tax exempt. Co-payments will be incurred	Free of charge unless a patient has substantial income (e.g., income of 24,000 USD per year for the individual)

Both prefectures have municipalities that offer reduced medical expenses up to level 4.

# Conclusions

1. Multidisciplinary collaboration among physicians, therapists, and nurses significantly increased the number of applicants for physical disability certificates .
2. Disparities in application procedures and benefits across prefectures and municipalities highlight the need for systematic improvements.
3. Future plans include collaborating with other medical institutions to create a more streamlined process for obtaining physical disability certificates.