

### “The 2nd Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century”

Mar-27-2014 The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has tabulated and released the results of the 2nd “Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century (Babies born in 2010)” for 2011, which is conducted yearly with the same sample group. The survey is to continuously observe living conditions and changes over the years of a cohort of children born on May 10th through May 24th in 2010 and to compare with those babies born in 2001 with help of parents and to capture key information used for formulating measures against the declining birthrate. The 2nd survey shows the data on 33,356 out of 38,523 children as of December 1, 2011. The children at the time of the survey are one year and six months old.

#### <<Key Survey Results>>

##### 1. Mothers’ employment status (mothers with one child at the time of the 1st survey)

The results show that 31.5% of mothers continue to have employment from one year before childbirth, 11.6 point percentage point increase from 19.9% of those mothers whose babies were born in 2001 (Figure 2 on Page 4).

Note: The number is tabulated based on those “living with mother.”

##### 2. Work-family balance assistance programs in one year used from 6 months to 1.5 years after childbirth

Most frequently used programs are:

“Maternity leave” among mothers with a full-time job: 79.5%

“Flextime work schedule” among fathers with a full-time job: 6.2%

“Maternity leave” among mothers with a part-time or casual job: 20.8%

(Figures 3 & 4 on Page 5, Figure 5 on Page 6)

Note: Data from December 2010 through November 2011.

##### 3. Use of childcare service

Mothers started to use childcare service: 41.2% out of those who responded “want to use service” at the time of 1st survey (babies were six months old)

Mothers continue to be “interested in using childcare service,” but no change in using the service: 31.3%  
(Table 2, Figure 6 on Page 7)

Note: Childcare service does not include temporary childcare service when parents are not able to take care of children because of illness, etc.

Note: The figures in “Survey on babies born in 2001” are based on “the 2nd Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century (Babies Born in 2001)” released in 2003. The “survey on babies born in 2001” is conducted with a cohort of children born on January 10th through January 17th and July 10th through July 17th in 2001.  
[See the attached summary for details \(Japanese only\).](#)