

Integration of Urban Policies and Health and Welfare Policies

Yoshinori Hiroi (Kyoto University)

hiroi.yoshinori.5u@kyoto-u.ac.jp

Japan Syndrome?

Aging Population and Declining Birthrate

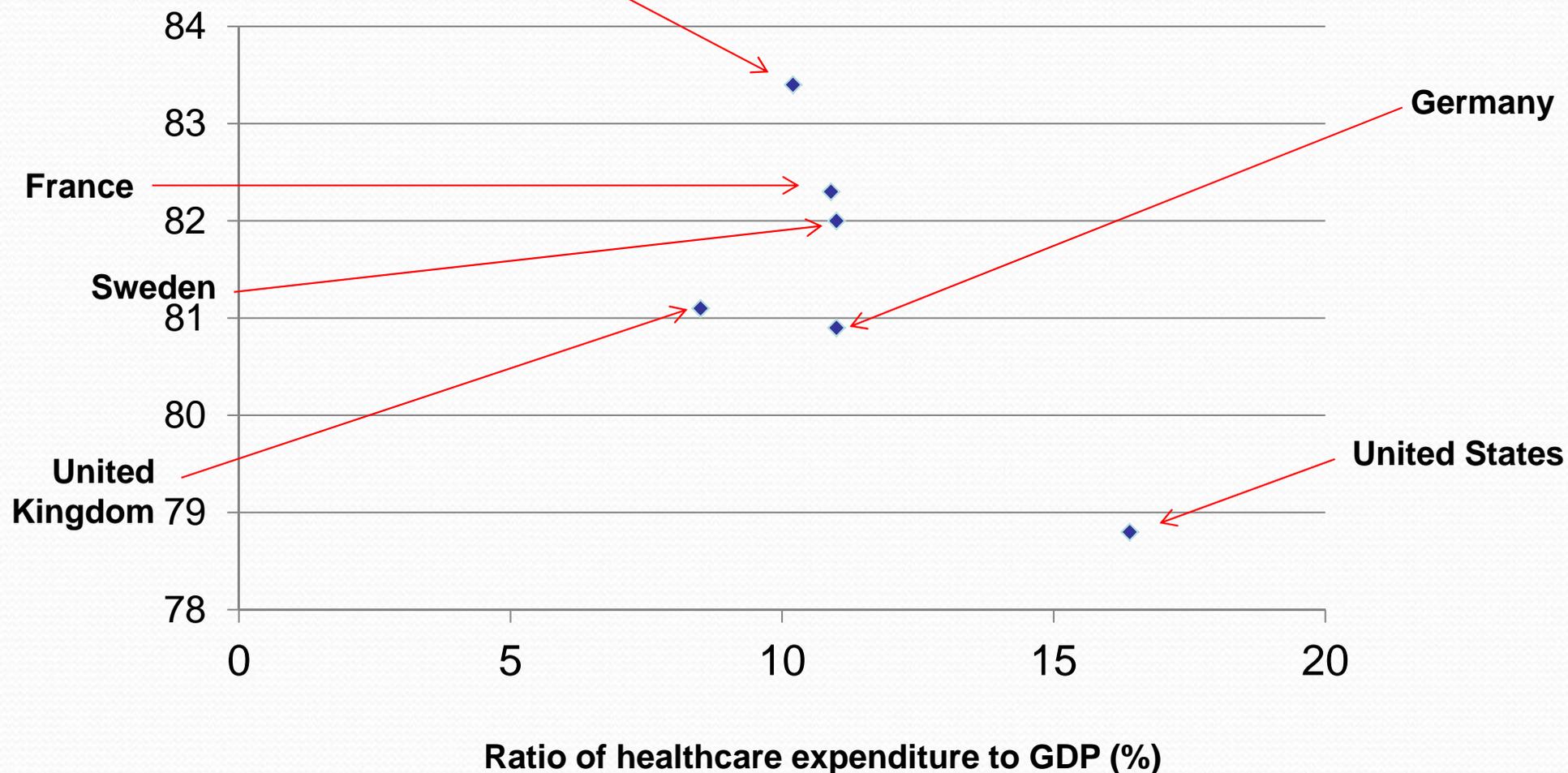
... Crisis or opportunity? The world is watching



Relationship Between Ratio of Healthcare Expenditure to GDP and Average Life Expectancy (International Comparison)

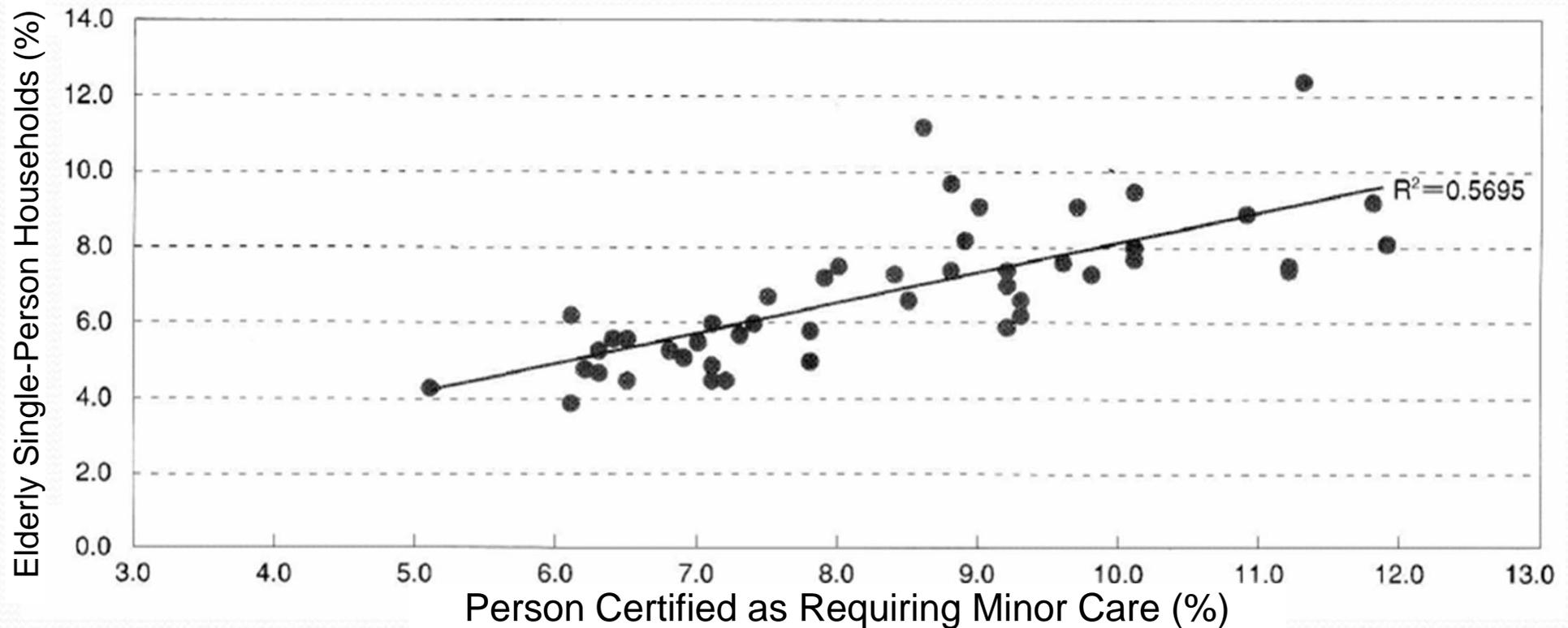
... Japan has achieved long life expectancy with comparatively low healthcare expenditure

Average life expectancy Japan (years)



NB: All figures are for 2013. Compiled from OECD Health Statistics 2015.

Correlation Between Elderly Single-Person Households and Rate of Minor Care Needs Certification (by Prefecture)



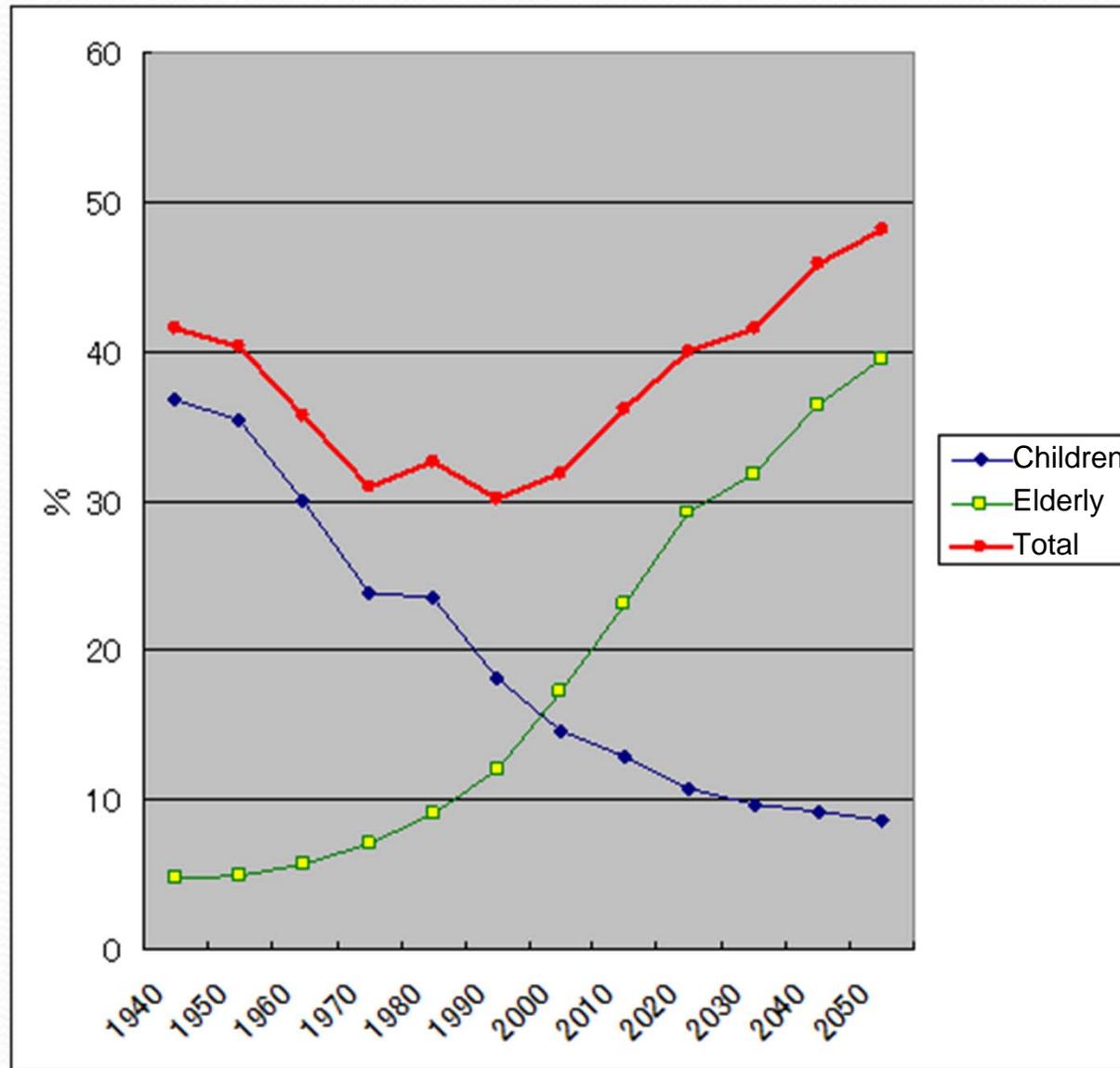
NB: Compiled by Counsellor Office for Policy Evaluation under Director-General for Policy Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. From *Long-term Care Insurance Program Status Report*, Health and Welfare Bureau for the Elderly, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and *Census Return*, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Figures for persons certified as requiring minor care are from 2003; elderly single-person household figures are from 2000.

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare White Paper 2005

Locally-Based Population on the Rise

Change in percentage of children and elderly in total population (1940-2050)

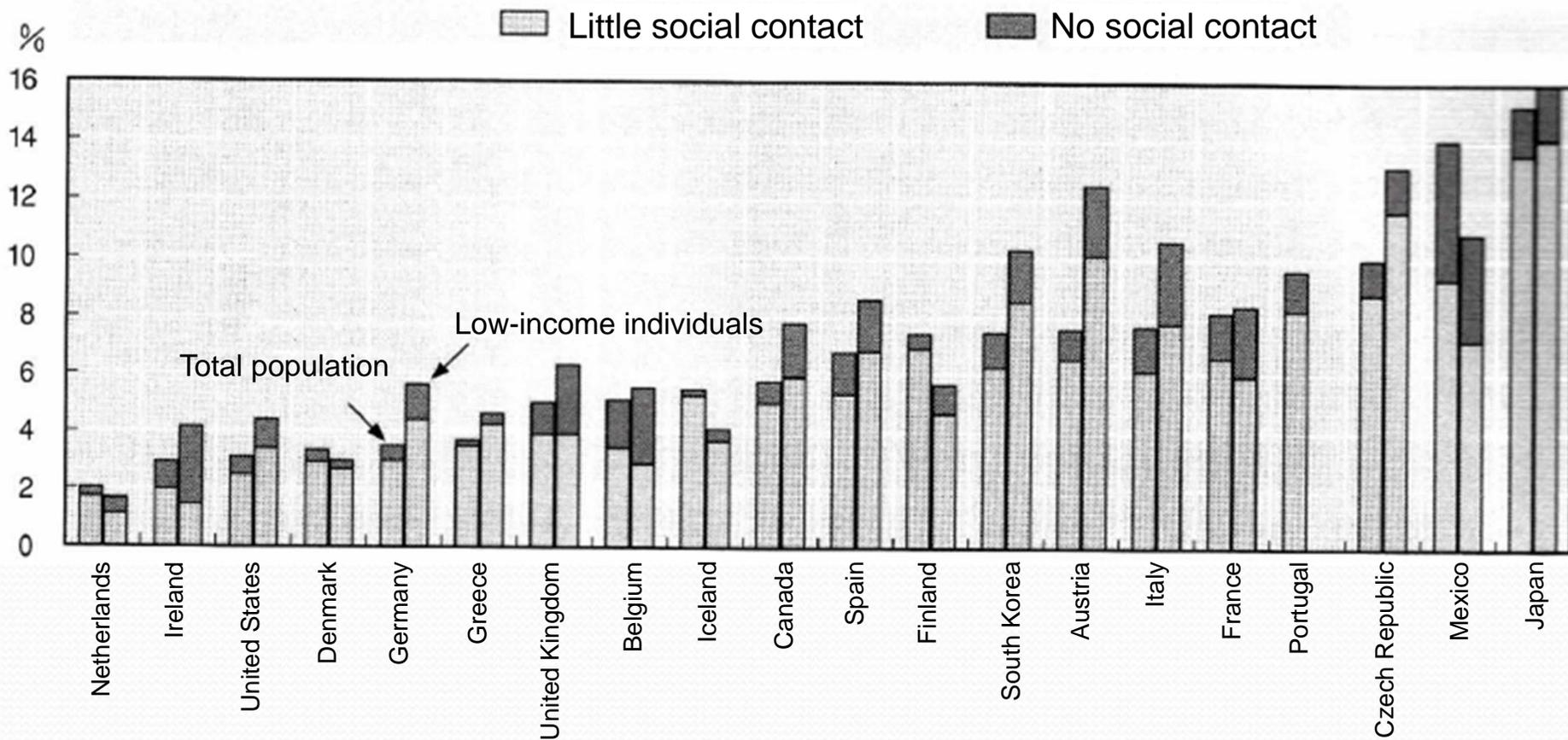


NB: Children aged under 15 years, elderly aged 65 years and over. Source: Census data until 2000. From 2010 onward, *Japan's Estimated Future Population* (estimated Dec 2006)

Social Isolation in Industrial Nations

... Highest in Japan. Individuals are scattered and isolated

Fig 1.3 Social isolation in OECD nations, 2001



NB: This subjective measurement of isolation is the percentage of survey respondents who indicated that they have very little or no social contact with friends, colleagues, or any other people outside their immediate family. The countries in the graph are arranged in ascending order of rate of social isolation. "Low-income individuals" refers to individuals in the lowest third of income distribution as reported by the respondent.

Source: World Values Survey, 2001

OECD-Toyama City: International Roundtable for Cities (Oct 2014). Resilient Cities in Ageing Societies

- New themes for the image of cities in aging societies
- Addressing issues such as elderly residents of “food deserts” (lack of mobility impeding access to shops in car- and road-centric cities)
- Incorporation/integration of medical and welfare functions into cities
- **Psychological factors such as isolation and loneliness among the elderly and the importance of community**



Car-Free City Center and “Walkable City” (Frankfurt)



Car-Free City Center and “Walkable City”

(Erlangen {pop. approx. 100,000})

→ Makes cities more vibrant and alive



Markets and Spaces That the Elderly Can Also Enjoy at a Leisurely Pace (Stuttgart)



Typical Japanese Regional City ...

Road-Centric City; City Center Is Empty and Void of Activity (South Exit of Mito Station)



Examples of Areas Needing Improvement: Shopping Streets and *Sando* (Shrine and Temple Approaches) That Are Currently Divided by Vehicle Traffic (Sengen-dori Street, Inage-ku, Chiba)



Marugame-machi Shopping Street, Takamatsu, Kagawa



- **Integrated development of shopping street, housing for elderly, and other facilities** gives city the character of a “city of wellbeing” and aims to create a local closed-loop economy where people, goods and money circulate within the local community.



Perspectives and Challenges

- Japan's cities were overwhelmingly built with a “car-centric” approach, particularly in the period of rapid economic growth.
↑ Modeled on American cities
- A “walkable city” should, by rights, be something that all cities aspire to as the ideal, irrespective of the aging of society.
- However, in Japan's case, where addressing the aging population is seen as an important challenge for the whole of society, the aging of society should be seen as the impetus, or as an opportunity, to realize pedestrian-centric cities.

Perspectives and Challenges (cont.)

- To achieve this, the concept of “**integration of urban policies and health and welfare policies**” will be important.
- Further investigation and analysis of the fiscal benefits of “walkable cities” (**e.g., reductions in healthcare and nursing care costs**) is needed.