



2022 Statistics on the Aged

Change in the elderly's thought for the past decade

Compared to a decade ago, more and more elderly people thought that family members, government and society should be responsible for supporting their parents. More and more elderly people thought that couples should be equally responsible for their household work. And more and more elderly people thought work-life balance was the most important.

- In 2020, 49.9% of the elderly thought that family members, government and society should be responsible for supporting their parents. This percentage was 12.1%p higher compared to 2010.
- In 2020, 45.1% of the elderly thought that couples should be equally responsible for their household work. This percentage was 18.4%p higher compared to 2010.
- In 2021, 50.9% of the elderly thought that work-life balance was the most important. This percentage was 10.9%p higher compared to 2011.

The majority of the elderly made a living for themselves and with their spouses. 15.6% of the elderly were satisfied with their income. 11.2% of the elderly were satisfied with their consumption.

- In 2021, 65.0% of the elderly made a living for themselves and with their spouses, which was 13.4%p higher compared to 2011. 17.2% of the elderly made a living through support from the government and social organizations, which was 8.1%p higher compared to 2011.
- In 2021, 15.6% of the elderly were satisfied with their income, which was 8.1%p higher compared to 2011. 11.2% of the elderly were satisfied with their consumption, which was 3.1%p higher compared to 2011.

54.7% of the elderly aged 65~79 wanted to have a job. As for the reasons for wanting to have a job, the largest share of them wanted to supplement their living expenses.

- In 2022, 54.7% of the elderly aged 65~79 wanted to have a job, which was 12.1%p higher compared to 2012.
 - As for the reasons for wanting to have a job, 53.3% of the elderly aged 65~79 wanted to supplement their living expenses, which was 2.3%p higher compared to a decade ago.
- Among the elderly aged 65~79 who wanted to have a job in the future, as for the criteria when choosing a job, 'workload and time zone to work' occupied the largest share at 35.2%, which was followed by 'wage level' (16.0%) and 'possibility to keep working' (15.2%).

56.7% of the elderly were preparing for their retirement. As for the preferred funeral methods of the elderly, 'cremation' occupied the largest share at 81.6%.

- In 2021, 56.7% of the elderly were preparing for their retirement, which was 16.6%p higher compared to 2011.
- As for the method to prepare for retirement, national pension occupied the largest share at 48.4%, which was followed by 'deposits and installment savings' (17.1%) and 'special occupational pension' (11.1%). Compared to a decade ago, the share of national pension went up by 16.6%p but that of 'deposits and installment savings' went down by 10.4%p.
- In 2021, as for the preferred funeral methods of the elderly, 'Cremation' accounted for 81.6%, which was 24.9%p higher compared to 2011. 'Burial' accounted for 17.8%, which was 21.0%p lower compared to 2011.

I Population and household

In 2022, the elderly population is projected to record 9.018 million persons, which occupies 17.5% of the total population.

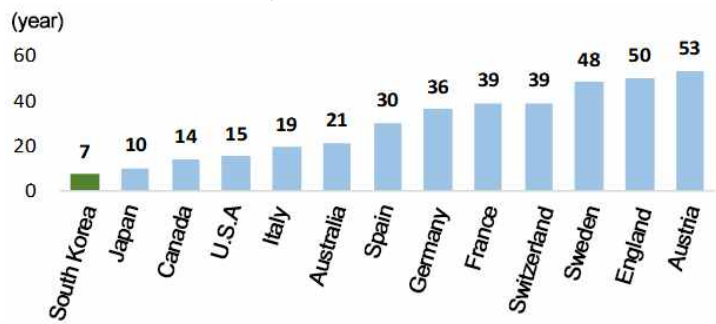
- In 2022, the population aged 65 and over is projected to account for 17.5% of the total population. Korea is projected to become a super-aged society in 2025, when the elderly population reaches 20.6% of the total population.
- As for the duration of changing from an aged society to a super-aged society (share of the elderly aged 65 and over: 14% → 20%), Austria, England, the United States and Japan stood at 53 years, 50 years, 15 years and 10 years, respectively. In the meantime, South Korea needed merely 7 years.
- As for the super-aged society whose aged population accounts for 20% or more of the total population, 5 regions such as Jeonnam (24.5%), Gyeongbuk (22.8%), Jeonbuk (22.4%), Gangwon (22.1%) and Busan (21.0%) are projected to be a super-aged society in 2022.

< Share of the population aged 65 and over >



Source: Statistics Korea <Population Projections: 2020~2070>

< Duration of reaching a super-aged society of major OECD countries >



Source: <World Population Prospects 2022>, etc.

II Health

In 2020, the remaining life expectancy at age 65 stood at 21.5 years. The remaining life expectancy at age 75 stood at 13.3 years.

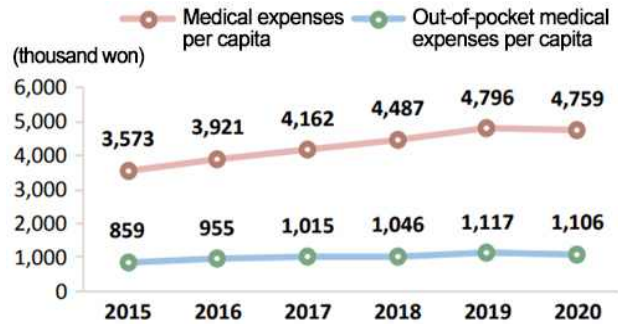
- In 2020, the remaining life expectancy at age 65 stood at 21.5 years (males: 19.2 years, females: 23.6 years). This figure was 1.4 years higher than the average of males and 2.4 years higher than the average of females at age 65 in OECD member countries.
- As for the causes of death of the elderly aged 65 and over in 2021, cancer recorded the highest figure of 709.3 deaths per 100,000 population, which was followed by heart diseases (312.0 deaths), pneumonia (250.3 deaths), cerebrovascular diseases (220.6 deaths) and Alzheimer's diseases (92.0 deaths).
- In 2020, per-capita medical expenses of the elderly aged 65 and over recorded 4.759 million won, which decreased by 37 thousand won from 2019. Per-capita out-of-pocket medical expenses of the elderly aged 65 and over recorded 1.106 million won, which decreased by 11 thousand won from 2019.

< Remaining life expectancy at age 65 (2020) >



OECD <Health Status> (As of September 4, 2022)

< Medical expenses and out-of-pocket medical expenses of the elderly aged 65 and over >



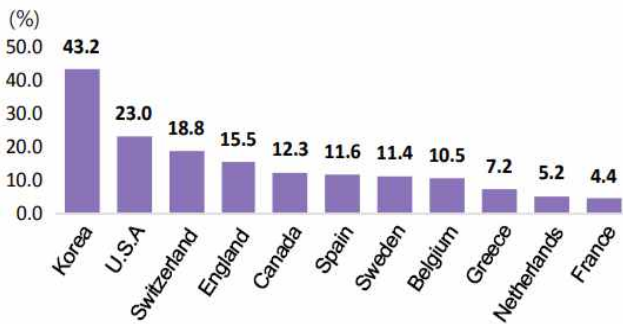
Source: National Health Insurance Service / Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service <Health Insurance Statistics>

III Income

In 2021, the net worth of households whose member was 65 years old and over recorded 410.48 million won. The employment-to-population ratio of the elderly aged 65 and over stood at 34.9%. Their unemployment rate marked 3.8%.

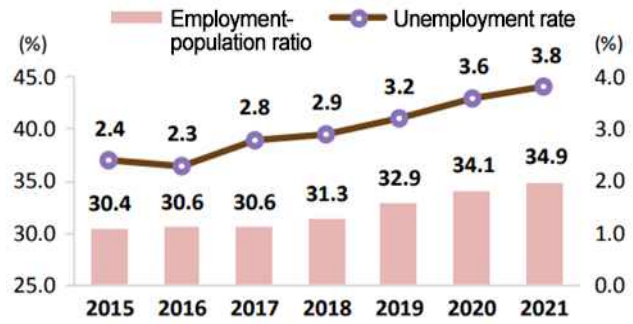
- In 2021, the net worth of households whose member was 65 years old and over marked 410.48 million won, rising by 60.094 million won from 2020.
- In 2020, the relative poverty rate, which is a measure of inequality of income distribution, of the elderly aged 66 and over stood at 40.4%. Their Gini coefficient recorded 0.376 and the ratio of the average income of the highest income quintile to the lowest income quintile recorded 6.62 times. As of 2019, all these figures of South Korea were higher than those of other OECD countries.
- In 2021, the employment-to-population ratio of the elderly aged 65 and over stood at 34.9%, up 0.8%p from 2020. Their unemployment rate stood at 3.8%, up 0.2%p from 2020.

< Relative poverty rate of major OECD countries (the elderly aged 66 and over, 2019) >



Source: OECD <Social and Welfare Statistics> (As of September 4, 2022)

< Employment-to-population ratio and unemployment rate of the elderly aged 65 and over >



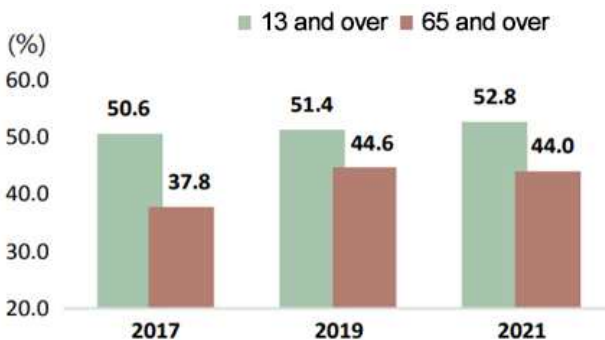
Source: Statistics Korea <Economically Active Population Survey>

IV Social participation and relationship

In 2021, 44.0% of the elderly aged 65 and over were satisfied with their human relationship. 28.7% of them took part in social organizations.

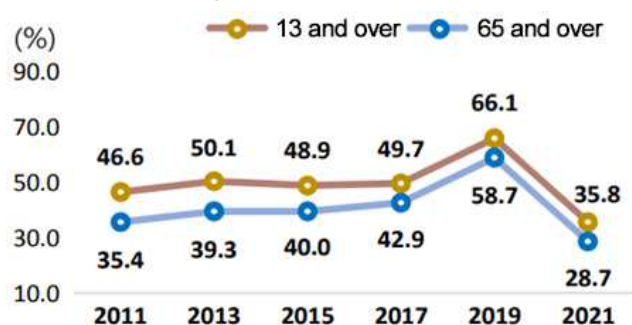
- In 2021, 28.7% of the elderly aged 65 and over had experiences of participating in social organizations. This percentage was 7.1%p lower than that of all age groups. (35.8%).
- In 2021, 44.0% of the elderly aged 65 and over were satisfied with their overall human relationship, down 0.6%p from 2019.
- In 2021, 8.7% of people aged 19 and over thought that the elderly were subject to human rights violations or discrimination, which followed 'the disabled' and 'immigrants'.

< Satisfaction with human relationship >



Source: Statistics Korea <Social Survey>

< Social organization participation rate >



Source: Statistics Korea <Social Survey>

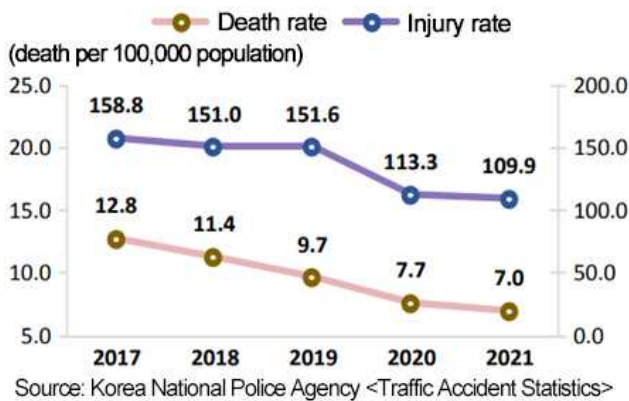
V Living environment

In 2021, the death rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 7.0 deaths per 100,000 population. The injury rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 109.9 injuries per 100,000 population.

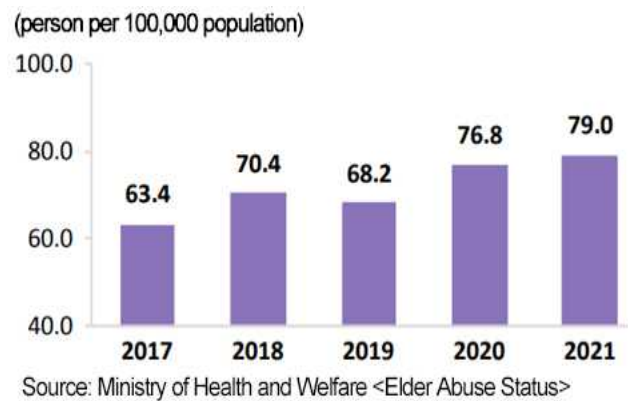
- In 2021, the death rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 7.0 deaths per 100,000 population, dropping by 0.7 deaths from 2020. The injury rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 109.9 injuries per 100,000 population, dropping by 3.4 injuries from 2020.

- In 2021, the deaths from traffic accidents of drivers aged 65 and over occupied 24.3% of the total deaths from traffic accidents, which was 0.9%p higher from 2020. The injuries from traffic accidents of drivers aged 65 and over occupied 15.3% of the total injuries from traffic accidents, which was 0.8%p higher from 2020.
- In 2021, 79 persons per 100,000 population aged 65 and over had abuse experience. The abuse experience rate of females marked 106.1 persons per 100,000 population, which was 2.4 times higher than that of males (43.8 persons per 100,000 population).

< Death and injury rate of pedestrian traffic accidents >



< Abuse experience rate >

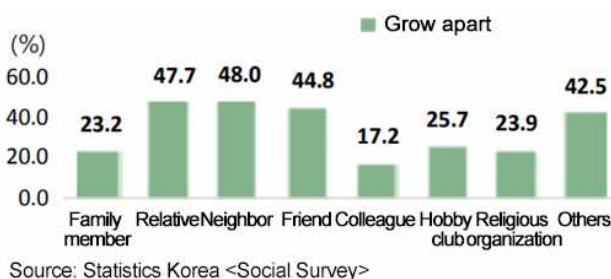


VI COVID-19

In 2021, among people aged 60 and over, the COVID-19 incidence rate stood at 1,039.6 cases per 100,000 population.

- In 2021, among the elderly aged 60 and over, the COVID-19 incidence rate stood at 1,039.6 cases per 100,000 population.
- In 2021, among the elderly aged 65 and over, 48.0% of them thought that they grew apart from neighbors owing to COVID-19, which was followed by 'relatives' (47.7%) and 'close friends' (44.8%).
- In 2021, the largest share of the elderly aged 65 and over (89.7%) regarded 'Strengthening quarantine activities' as the positive change in daily lives resulting from COVID-19, which was followed by 'Decrease in gathering for having meals with colleagues' (71.6%).

< Changes in social networks >



< Change in daily lives >

