



Statistics Korea

Press Release

다시, 대한민국!
새로운 국민의 나라

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2023 Statistics on the Aged

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2023 Statistics on the Aged

Life and awareness of the working elderly population

In 2022, the employment-to-population ratio of the elderly aged 65 or more stood at 36.2%, up 6.1%p compared to a decade ago. In 2021, this employment-to-population ratio of the elderly for South Korea recorded the highest figure among OECD member countries.

- In 2022, the employed elderly population aged 65 or more amounted to 3.265 million persons. Their employment-to-population ratio stood at 36.2%, up 6.1%p from a decade ago.
- ※ In 2021, among 38 OECD member countries, South Korea (34.9%) recorded the highest employment-to-population ratio of the elderly population aged 65 or more. As for the employment-to-population ratio of the elderly population aged 65 or more, 11 member countries including South Korea (34.9%), Japan (25.1%), Sweden (19.2%) and the United States (18.0%) exceed 15.0%.

In 2022, the working elderly population thought they were healthier than the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population. The share of working elderly population feeling stressful in their daily lives was lower than that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population.

- In 2022, 37.5% of the working elderly population aged 65 or more thought they were healthy. This share was 15.6%p higher compared to that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population (21.9%).
- In 2022, 34.4% of the working elderly population aged 65 or more felt stressful in their daily lives. This share was 2.0%p lower than that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population (36.4%).

In 2021, as for living expenses of the working elderly population, 93.0% of them paid their living expenses for themselves and with their spouses. 20.7% of them were satisfied with their income, and 13.9% of them were satisfied with their consumption life style.

- As for living expenses of the working elderly population aged 65 or more, in 2021, 93.0% of them paid their living expenses for themselves and with their spouses. This share was followed by 'Government and social organization' (3.8%) and 'Support from children or relatives' (3.2%).
- As for living expenses of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population, in 2021, 52.0% of them paid their living expenses for themselves and with their spouses. This share was followed by 'Support from children or relatives' (24.6%) and 'Government and social organization' (23.5%).

- In 2021, 20.7% of the working elderly population aged 65 or more were satisfied with their income. This share was 7.8%p higher compared to that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population. 13.9% of the working elderly population aged 65 or more were satisfied with their consumption life style. This share was 4.0%p higher than that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population.

In 2021, 81.9% of the working elderly population didn't want to live together with their child. 68.1% of the working elderly population were preparing their retirement.

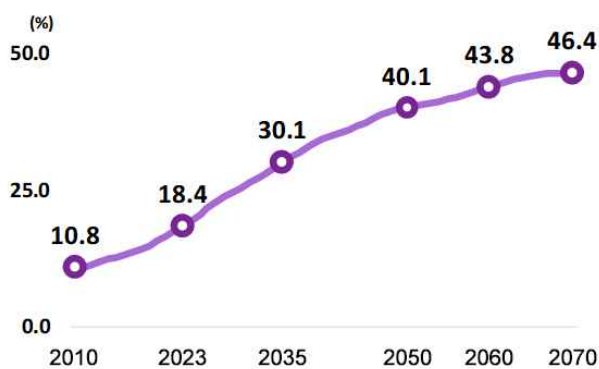
- In 2021, 81.9% of the working elderly population aged 65 or more didn't want to live together with their child. This share was 9.0%p higher compared to that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population (72.9%).
- In 2021, 68.1% of the working elderly population aged 65 or more were preparing for their retirement. This share was 16.7%p higher compared to that of the unemployed or the economically inactive elderly population (51.4%).
- As for the ways to spend time after retirement of the working elderly population aged 65 or more, in 2021, 'Hobby' (36.1%) recorded the highest share, which was followed by 'Travel' (25.4%) and 'Earn money' (21.3%).

I Population and household

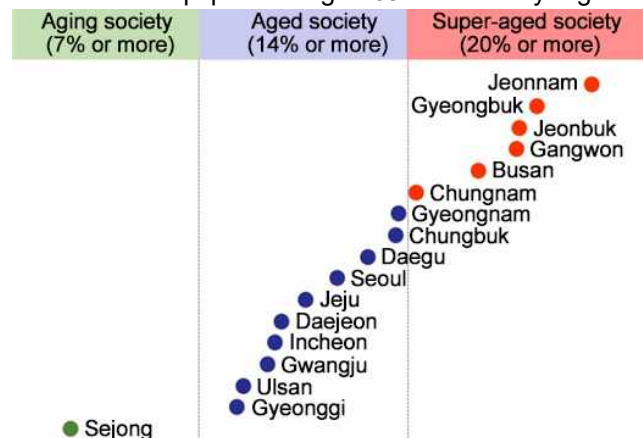
In 2023, the elderly population is projected to record 9.50 million persons, which occupies 18.4% of the total population.

- In 2023, the population aged 65 and over is projected to account for 18.4% 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.
- In 2023, the female population aged 65 and over is projected to occupy 20.6%. This share is 4.4%p higher than that of the male population aged 65 and over (16.2%).
- As for the super-aged society whose aged population accounts for 20% or more of the total population, 6 regions such as Jeonnam (25.5%), Gyeongbuk (23.9%), Jeonbuk (23.4%), Gangwon (23.3%), Busan (22.2%) and Chungnam (20.4%) are projected to be a super-aged society in 2023.

< Share of the population aged 65 and over >



< Share of the population aged 65 and over by region >



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

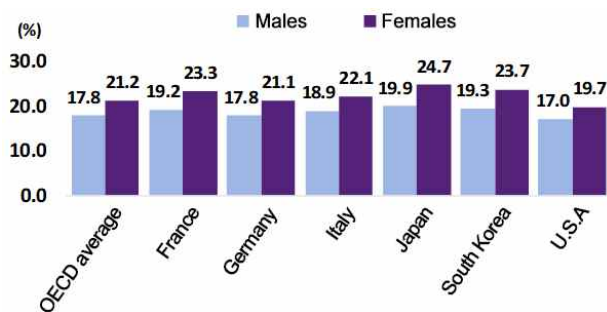
Source: Statistics Korea <Population Projections: 2020~2070>

II Health

In 2021, the remaining life expectancy at age 65 stood at 21.6 years. The remaining life expectancy at age 75 stood at 13.4 years.

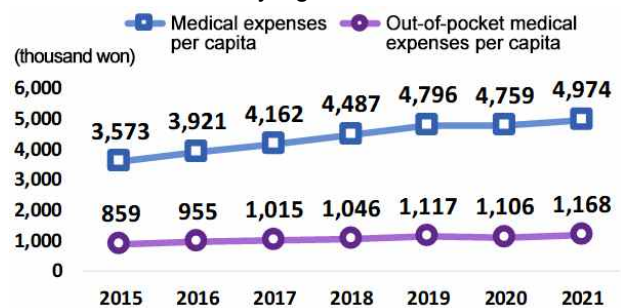
- In 2021, the remaining life expectancy at age 65 stood at 21.6 years (males: 19.3 years, females: 23.7 years). This figure was 1.5 years higher than the average of males and 2.5 years higher than the average of females at age 65 in OECD member countries.
- As for the causes of death of the elderly aged 65 and over in 2022, malignant neoplasm (cancer) recorded the highest figure of 783.9 deaths per 100,000 population, which was followed by heart diseases (337.9 deaths), COVID-19 (331.3 persons), pneumonia (286.8 deaths) and cerebrovascular diseases (254.2 deaths).
- In 2021, per-capita medical expenses of the elderly aged 65 and over recorded 4.974 million won, which increased by 215 thousand won from 2020. Per-capita out-of-pocket medical expenses of the elderly aged 65 and over recorded 1.168 million won, which increased by 62 thousand won from 2020.

< Remaining life expectancy at age 65 (2021) >



Source: OECD <Health Status> (As of September 1, 2023)

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



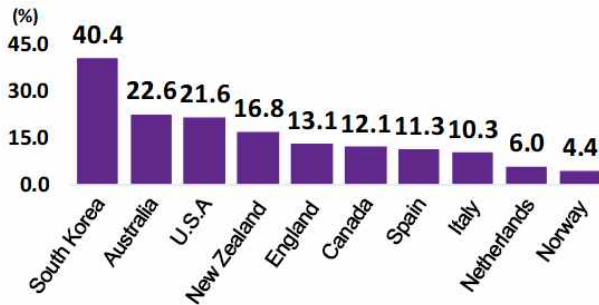
Source: National Health Insurance Service / Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service <Health Insurance Statistics>

III Income

In 2022, the net worth of households whose member was 65 years old and over recorded 453.64 million won. The public pension recipient rate of the elderly aged 65 and over stood at 57.6%.

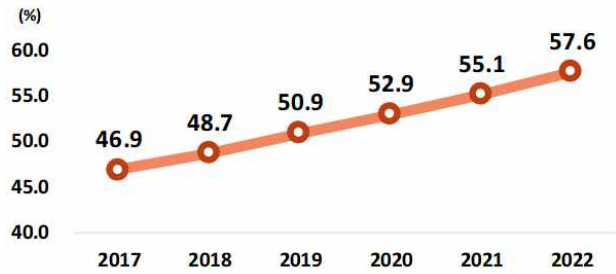
- In 2022, the net worth of households whose member was 65 years old and over marked 453.64 million won, rising by 43.16 million won from 2021.
- In 2021, the relative poverty rate, which is a measure of inequality of income distribution, of the elderly aged 66 and over stood at 39.3%. This figure went down by 1.1%p from 2020. Their Gini coefficient recorded 0.379 and the ratio of the average income of the highest income quintile to the lowest income quintile recorded 6.92 times.
- In 2022, the public pension recipient rate of the elderly aged 65 and over stood at 57.6%, which showed a steadily increasing rate.

< Relative poverty rate of major OECD countries (the elderly aged 66 and over, 2020) >



Source: OECD <Social and Welfare Statistics> (As of September 1, 2023)

< Public pension recipient rate >



Source: National Pension Service, Government Employee Pension Service, Teachers' Pension, Military Pensions

IV Social participation and relationship

In 2022, 17.6% of the elderly aged 65~79 took part in lifelong learning. 10.4% of people aged 19 and over thought that the elderly were the most vulnerable to human rights violations or discrimination.

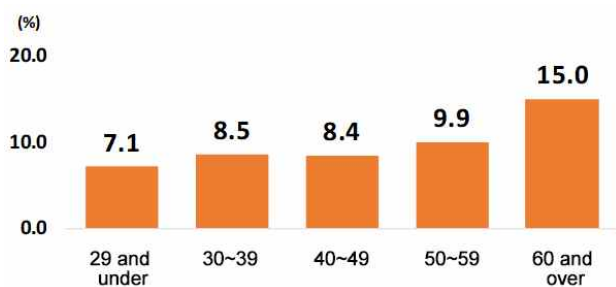
- In 2022, 17.6% of the elderly aged 65~79 took part in lifelong learning, down 1.6%p from 2021.
- In 2022, 10.4% of people aged 19 and over thought that the elderly were the most vulnerable to human rights violations or discrimination, which followed 'the disabled' (18.9%).
- In 2022, the awareness level of the generational conflict between the elderly and the young population stood at 2.7 points. This figure recorded the same as 2021.

< Lifelong learning participation rate >



Source: Korean Educational Development Institute <Lifelong Learning Survey>

< The most vulnerable (Elderly population) to human rights violations or discrimination by age group (2022) >



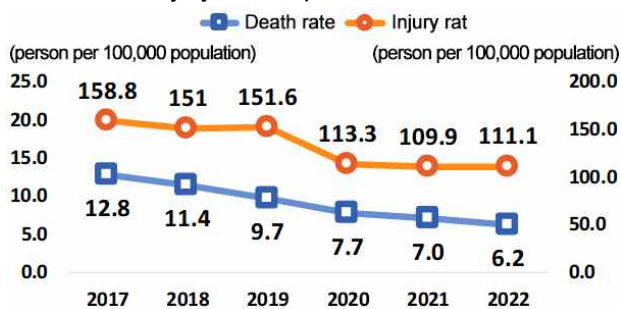
Source: National Human Rights Commission <Human Rights Status>

V Living environment

In 2022, the death rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 6.2 deaths per 100,000 population. The injury rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 111.1 injuries per 100,000 population.

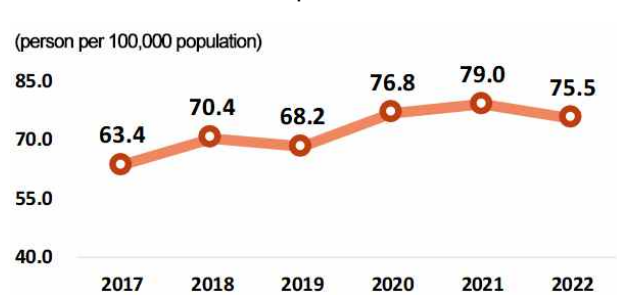
- In 2022, the death rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 6.2 deaths per 100,000 population, dropping by 0.8 deaths from 2021. The injury rate of pedestrian traffic accidents of the elderly stood at 111.1 injuries per 100,000 population, rising by 1.2 injuries from 2021.
- In 2022, the traffic accidents of drivers aged 65 and over occupied 17.6% of the total traffic accidents, which was 1.9%p higher from 2021. The deaths from traffic accidents of drivers aged 65 and over occupied 26.9% of the total deaths from traffic accidents. The injuries from traffic accidents of drivers aged 65 and over occupied 17.5% of the total injuries from traffic accidents.
- In 2022, 75.5 persons per 100,000 population aged 65 and over experienced abuse. Their abuse experience rate dropped by 3.5 persons from 2021.

< Death and injury rate of pedestrian traffic accidents >



Source: Korean National Police Agency <Statistics of Traffic Accidents>

< Abuse experience rate >



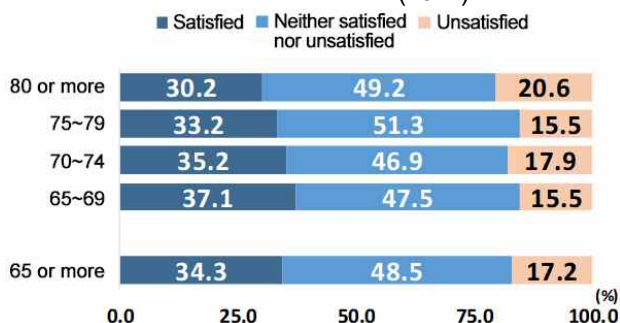
Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare <Elder Abuse Status>

VI Subjective wellbeing

In 2022, 34.3% of people aged 65 and over were satisfied with their current life. 31.2% of people aged 65 and over were satisfied with their social and economic achievement, which showed a year-on-year increase.

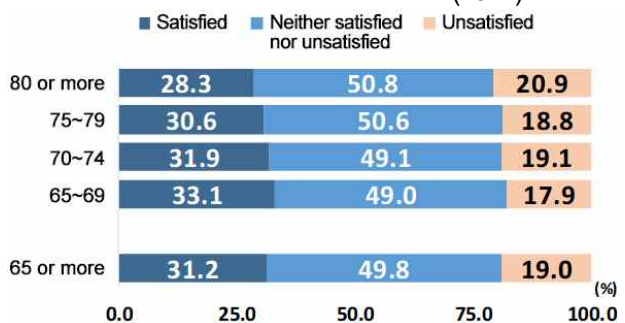
- In 2022, 34.3% of people aged 65 and over were satisfied with their current life, up 9.3%p from 2021.
- In 2022, 31.2% of people aged 65 and over were satisfied with their social and economic achievement, up 7.6%p from 2021.

< Satisfaction with life (2022) >



Source: Statistics Korea <Social Survey in 2022>

< Satisfaction with achievement (2022) >



Source: Statistics Korea <Social Survey in 2022>