

The result of the questionnaire answered by the evacuees from Fukushima

Conducted by Yamagata Prefecture Head quarter of disaster refuge support in large
area, Evacuees support team (Nov. 2012)

(Translated by Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) Taskforce for Disaster Response)

I. Outline of the Survey

1. Purpose of the Research

Although one year and 8 months have already passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, more than 10,000 people from Fukushima are still living in Yamagata prefecture. The purpose of this survey is to know what kind of needs and supports those evacuees are hoping for and to utilize the information in creating a strategy for evacuee support from now on.

2. Survey items

- ① Situation of each household
- ② Troubles and anxieties, and the requests to the evacuees support programs
- ③ Life in Yamagata
- ④ Employment
- ⑤ Mental and Physical Health
- ⑥ Education and Parenting
- ⑦ Free Comments

3. Survey Design

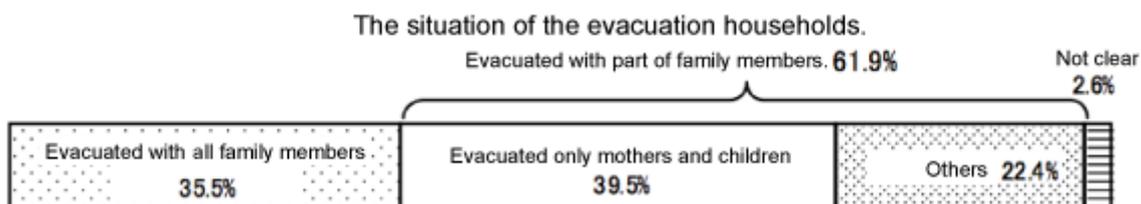
- ① Survey area: Entire areas in Yamagata Prefecture
- ② Survey target: 3,855 households who evacuated to Yamagata prefecture after the Great East Japan Earthquake.
- ③ Survey methods: questionnaire survey by postal mail
- ④ Survey Period: the middle to the end of October in 2012
- ⑤ Collected number of questionnaires: 1,275 responses (response rate: 35.5%)

*Note

- 1) The sum of the percentage might not be always 100% because the figures are rounded off at the second decimal point.
- 2) The sum of the percentage might be more than 100% since there has been more than one answer.

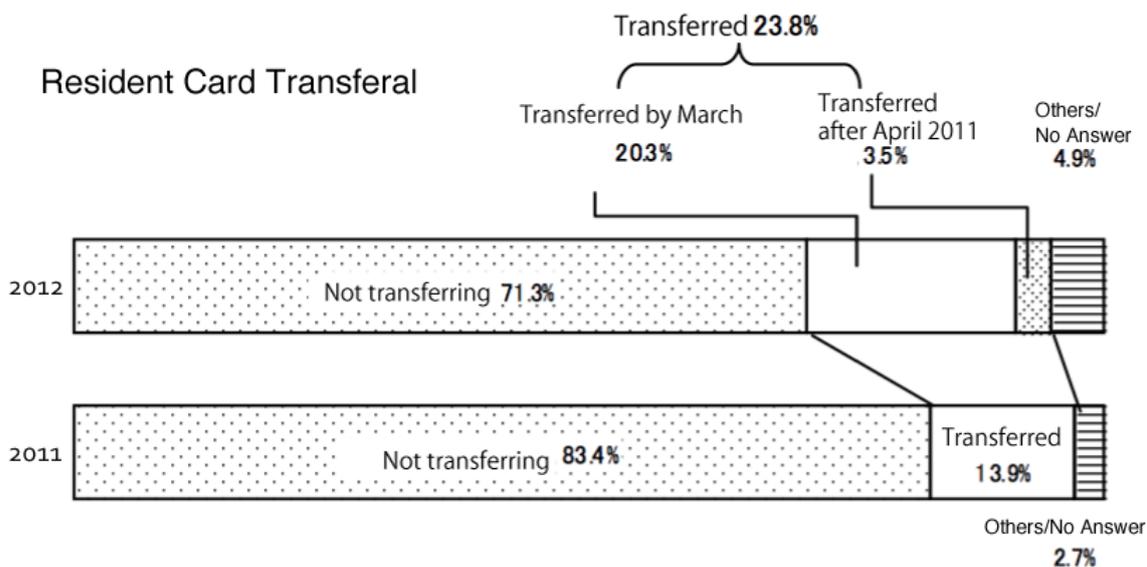
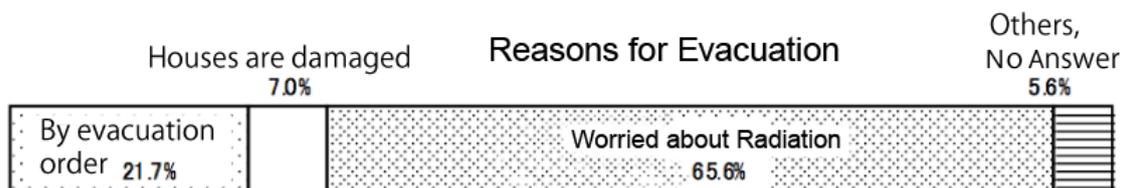
1 Situation of Households

1) Family Members of the Evaluated Household



36% of the households have been evacuated with all family members. 62 % of them have been evacuated with part of family members, of which the ratio of only mothers and children (fathers and children) was 40% of total household. 70% of the households evacuated with their children. The average number of households is about 3.0 people and 5% of the households have people with special care (people with disabilities and needing nursing care)

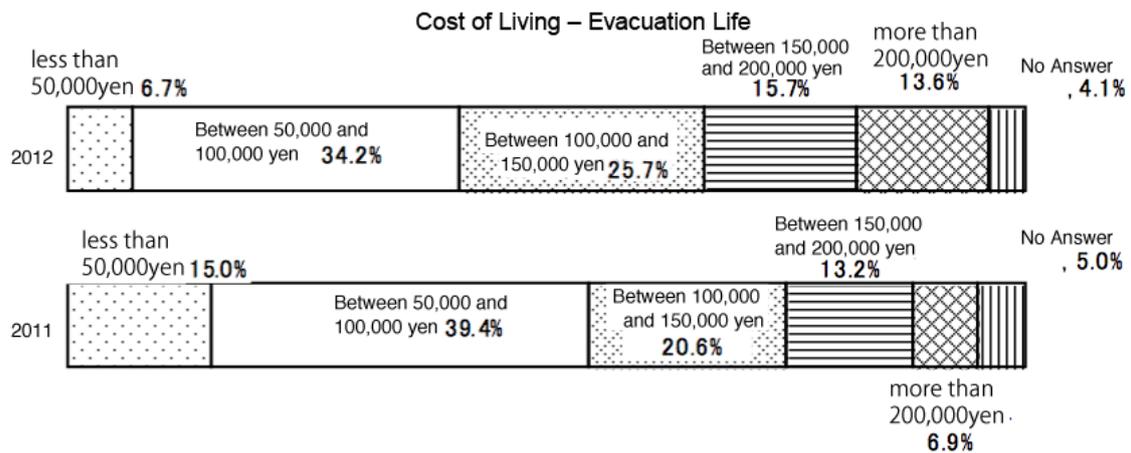
2) Reason for Evacuation and Transfer of Residents' card



66% of the households answered that the main reason for evacuation was “because of

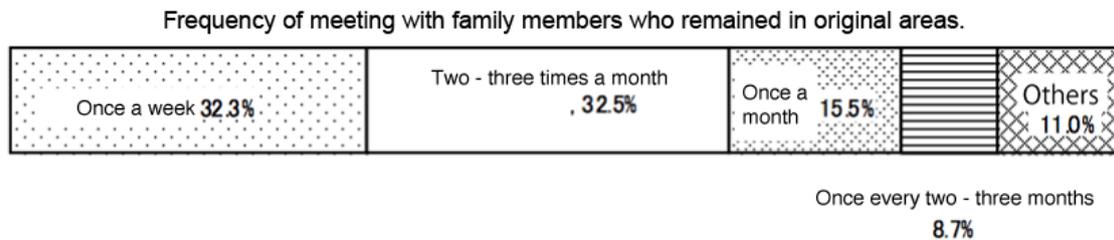
worry over the effects of radiation”. The ratio of the households which have already transferred their residents’ cards to Yamagata prefecture is 24%, which increased 10 points compared to last year.

3) Living Costs During Evacuation



Even though the ratio of the living cost, which is below 50,000 yen and 100,000 yen, is decreasing compared to last year, 40% of households still spend lower than 100,000 yen per month.

4) Frequency of Meeting Family Members Who Did Not Evacuate

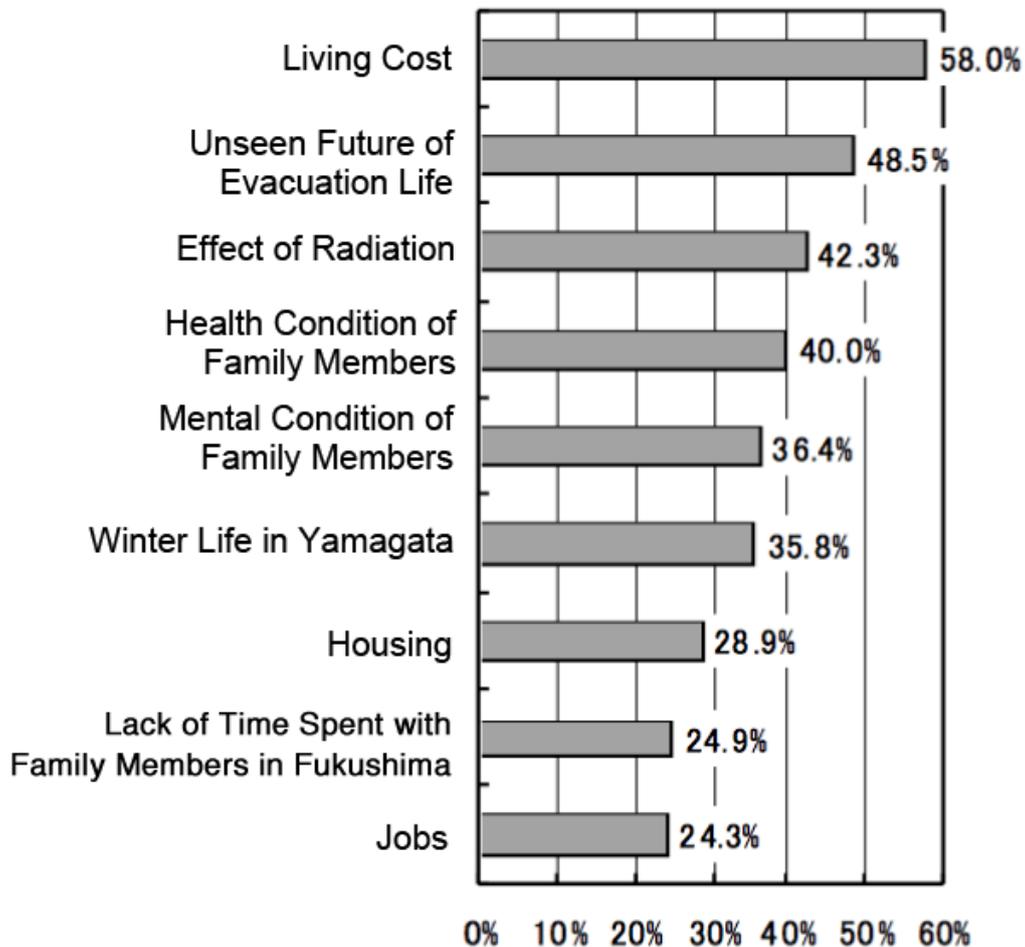


About 60% of the households meet twice a month with the family members who still stay at their original homes. This shows that the transportation cost is getting higher. On the other hand, around 1/4 of the households have the chance to meet their family less than once a month. Due to this, their isolation is a concern.

2. The troubles and anxieties, and the requests to the evacuees support programs

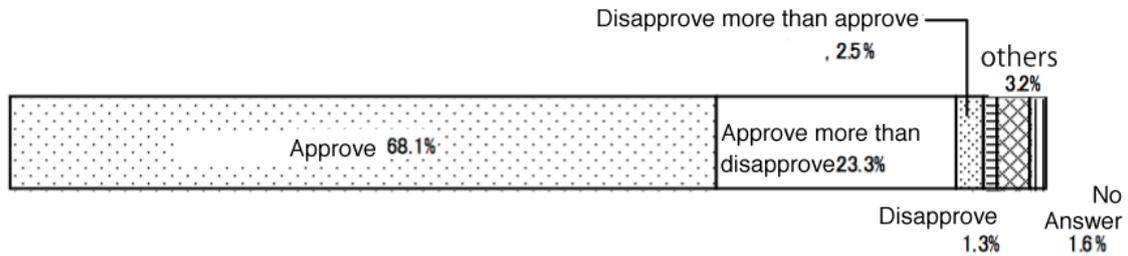
1) The troubles and anxieties

Troubles & Anxieties

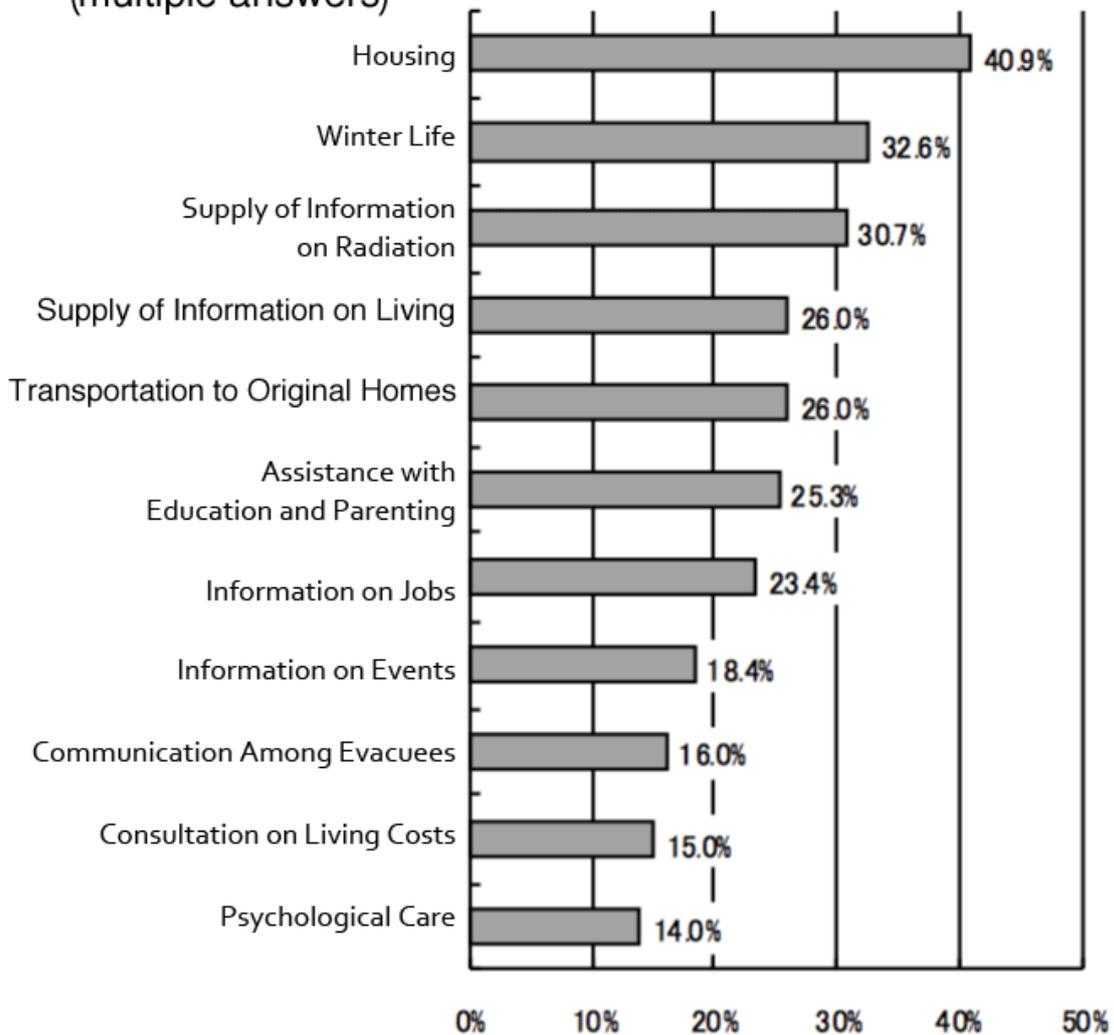


The largest anxiety shown is “funding for life as an evacuee”, with “unseen future of evacuation life”, “the effects of radiation”, and “anxiety over mental and physical health of family members” following as major concerns. Results of the questionnaire conducted last year show that the first worry was about money, winter life and health matters following in importance. Since the evacuated households experienced winter season in Yamagata last year, the recent questionnaire shows that concerns over winter life has decreased. However, some people are still worried about it. In “other” column, some mentioned about medical care such as temporal payment of medical expenses and vaccinations, and the time limit on the apartments paid by the government.

2) Supports in Yamagata Prefecture

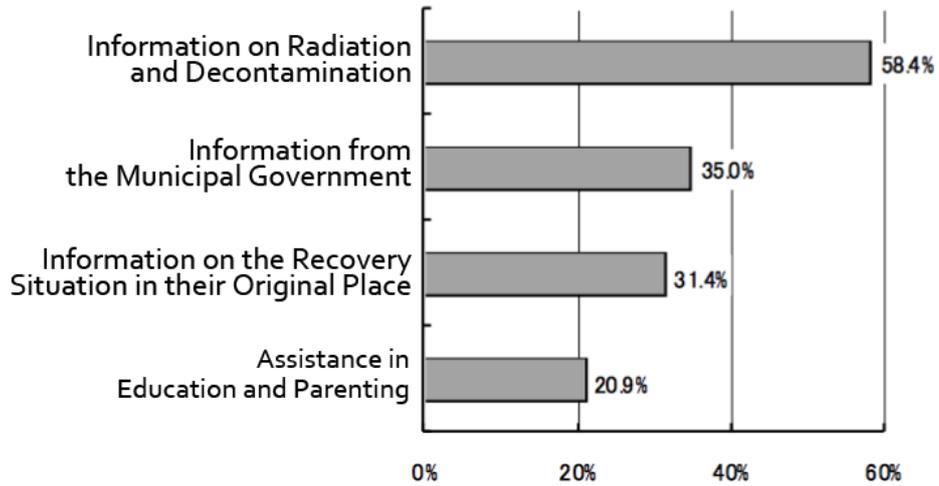


What Is Expected in Terms of Support for Evacuees (multiple answers)



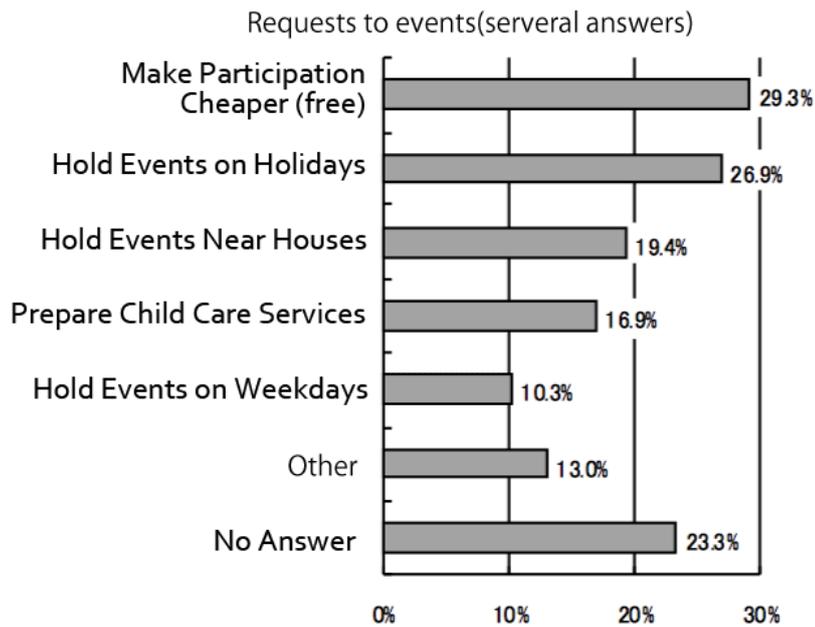
Half of the evacuated households have participated in exchange events before. The reasons why the others have not participated yet are “no one can take care of children”, “too busy for participating”, and “difficult to attend alone”. The requests to the events are “please make the participation fees much cheaper (free)” and “please hold them on holidays”.

Evacuee Expectations of Their Home Municipal Government



Requests to the municipal government of the original place are “information on the radiation and decontamination”, “providing information from the original place”, and “providing information on the recovery situation of the original place”.

3) Exchanging event

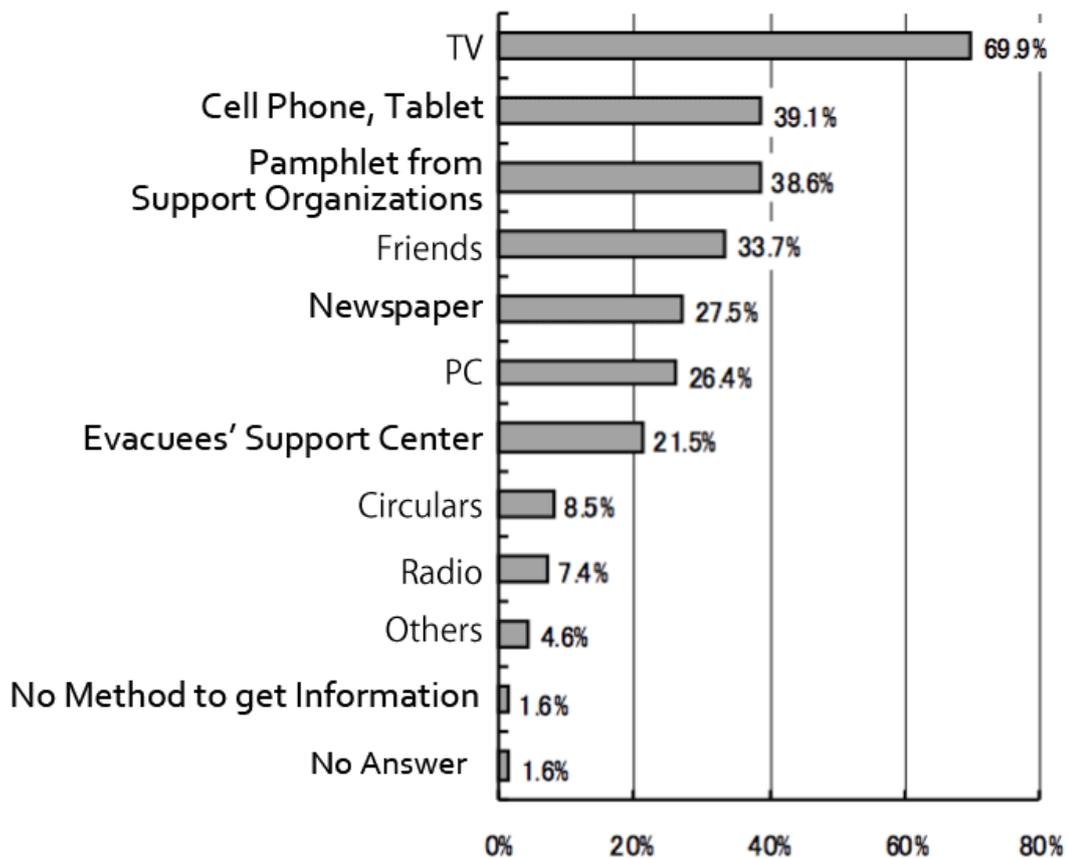


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3 .Life in Yamagata

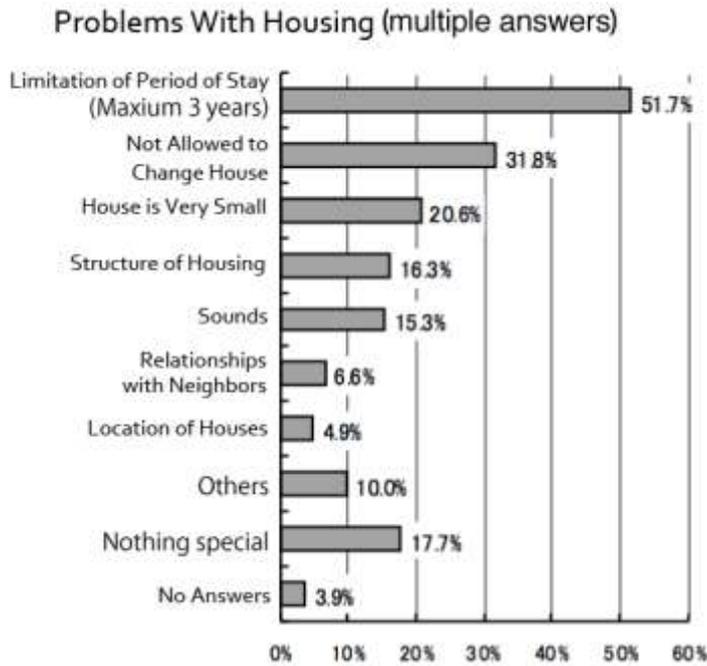
1) Method of getting information

Methods of Getting Information(serveral answers)



The most frequent method is TV as same as last year. The pamphlet and newsletter from the supporters group increased from 13% of last year to 39% this year. As to the amount of information from the local administration of the original place, the half of the people says “enough” and other half says “not enough”.

2) The housing



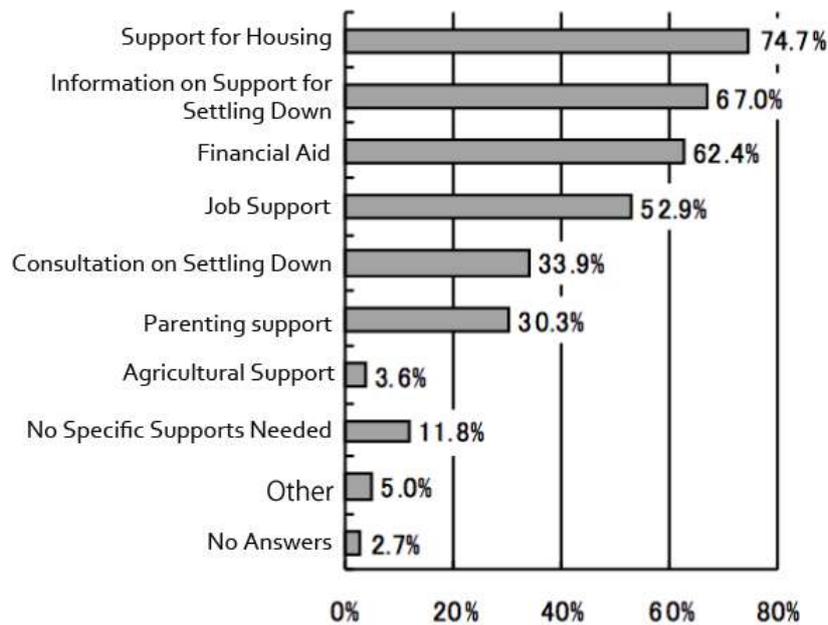
As to the problem of housing, half of the households mentioned the issue of the timeline of the apartment (maximum three years). Then, more than 30% of the households want to change their housing arrangements. Around 20% of the households do not have special problems in regards to housing.

3) Life in Yamagata



As to the period of evacuation, the biggest number of people answered, “Do not know, no plan yet” and many of the evacuated families have not decided when they will go back to their original place. The second biggest number of people answered that they would stay in Yamagata “as long as the apartments are provided by the government”, which means that the situation of the evacuated families are very much dependent on the deadline of the apartment paid by the government. 17% of the households are hoping to settle down in Yamagata and this figure increased 8 points compared last year.

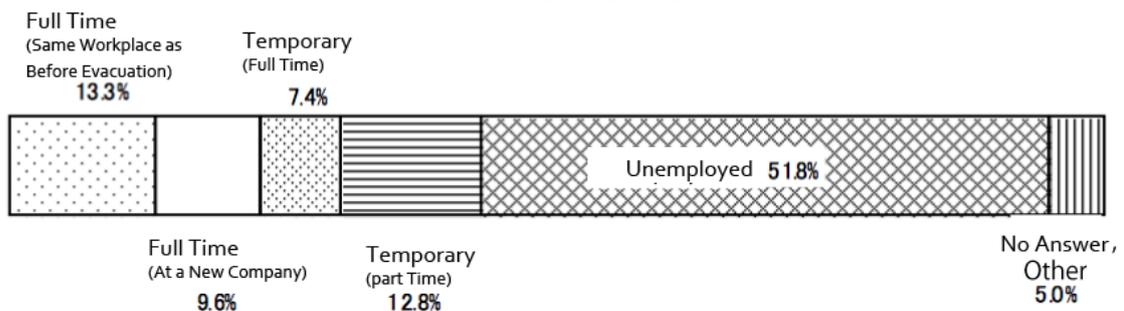
Request for Support in Settling Down



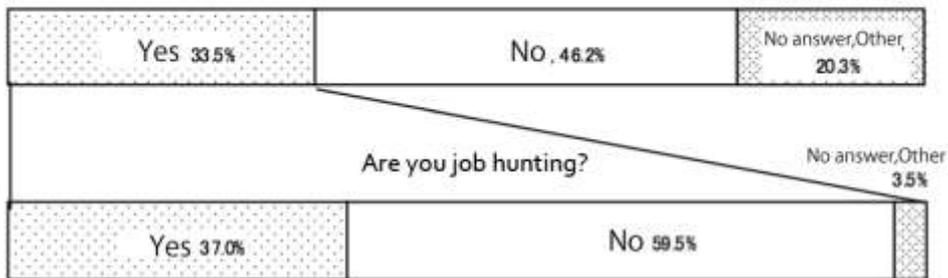
The request from the support on settlement is “supports and mediation of housing”, “providing information on settlement support”, and “supports and mediation related to job hunting”. As to “supports and mediation related to job hunting”, more than half of the households aiming to settle down Yamagata are requesting assistance.

4. Employment

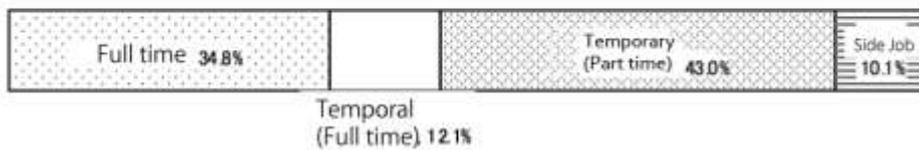
Work Situation



Are you hoping to work in Yamagata?



What is your preferable type of work?



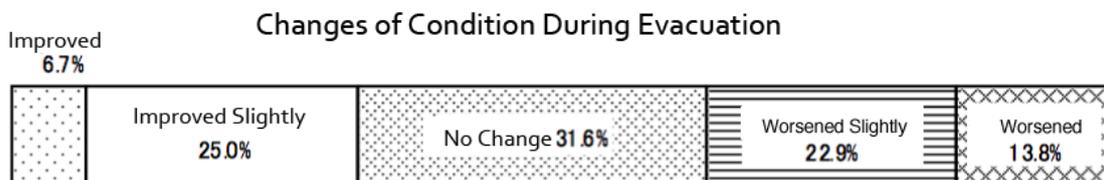
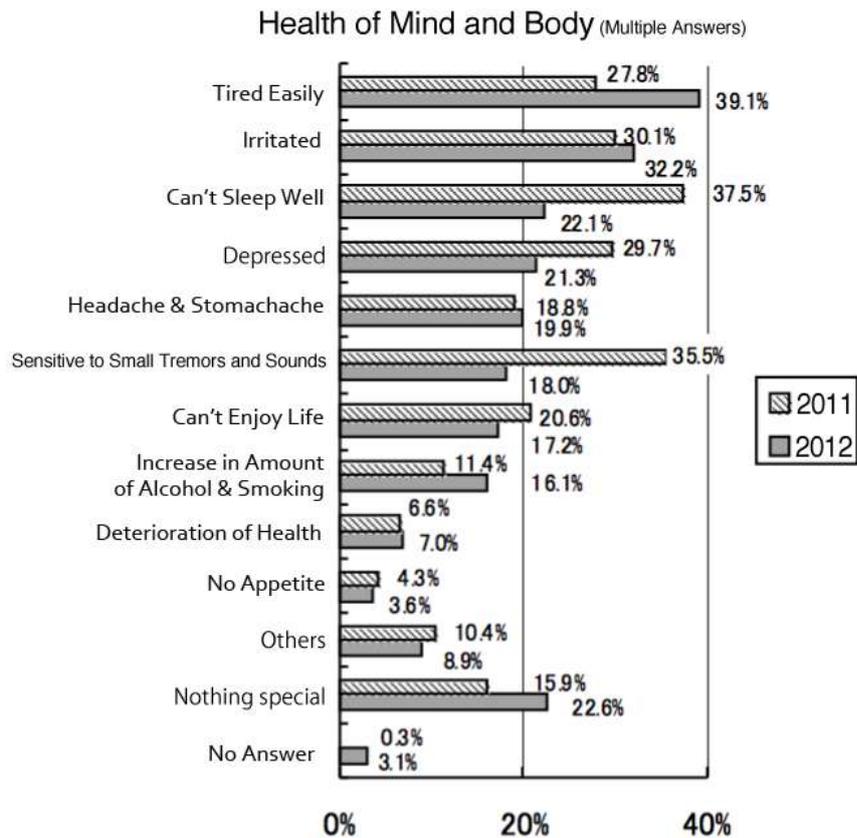
Around 40% of the head of each household are currently under employment, and only around 30% of them were able to find a new job in Yamagata. Currently, 34% of people are looking for new jobs including job-change, and this figure decreased 7 points compared to 40% last year. As to the preferable working style, more than half of people are hoping to work in the temporal bases. 35% of people are looking for full time jobs and 10% are looking for side jobs.

Problems With Job Hunting (Multiple Answers)



The number of people mentioning “can’t work because there is no nursery to put children” decreased compared to last year. On the other hand, the largest number of people mentioned, “can’t start job hunting due to the unclear future”, which is increasing compared to last year. Others mentioned about the mismatching of working shift and types of work.

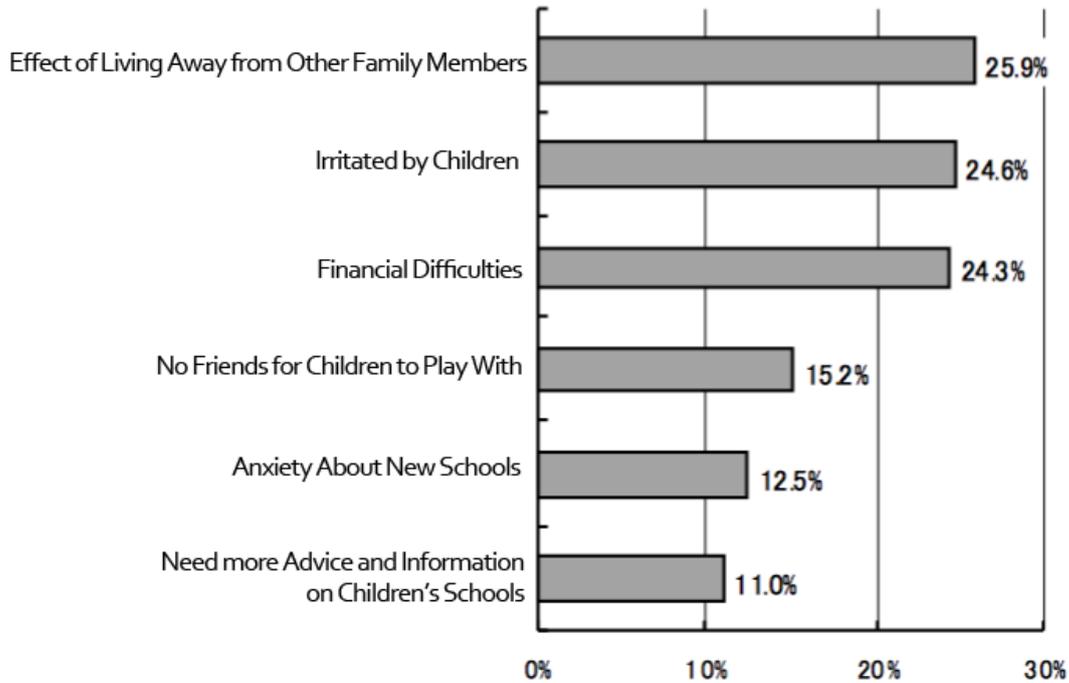
5. Health of mind and body



The number of the people who do not have any health problem increased 7 points compared to last year, but the figure still stayed at 23% and other people have some kind of health issues. The percentage of those who claimed improving health, not changing health, or deteriorating symptoms compared to the beginning of the evacuation are equally 1/3 each.

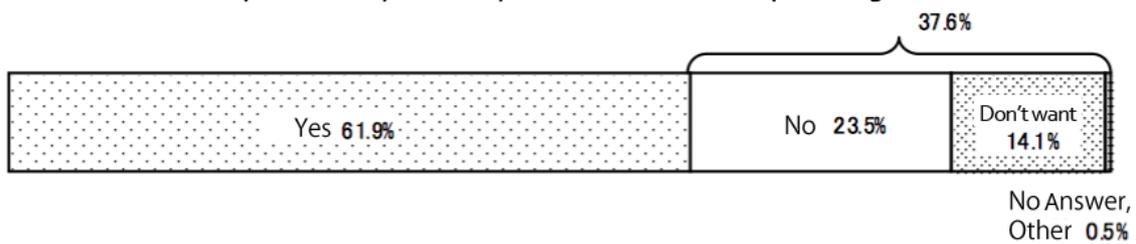
6. Education and parenting

Problems With Education and Parenting

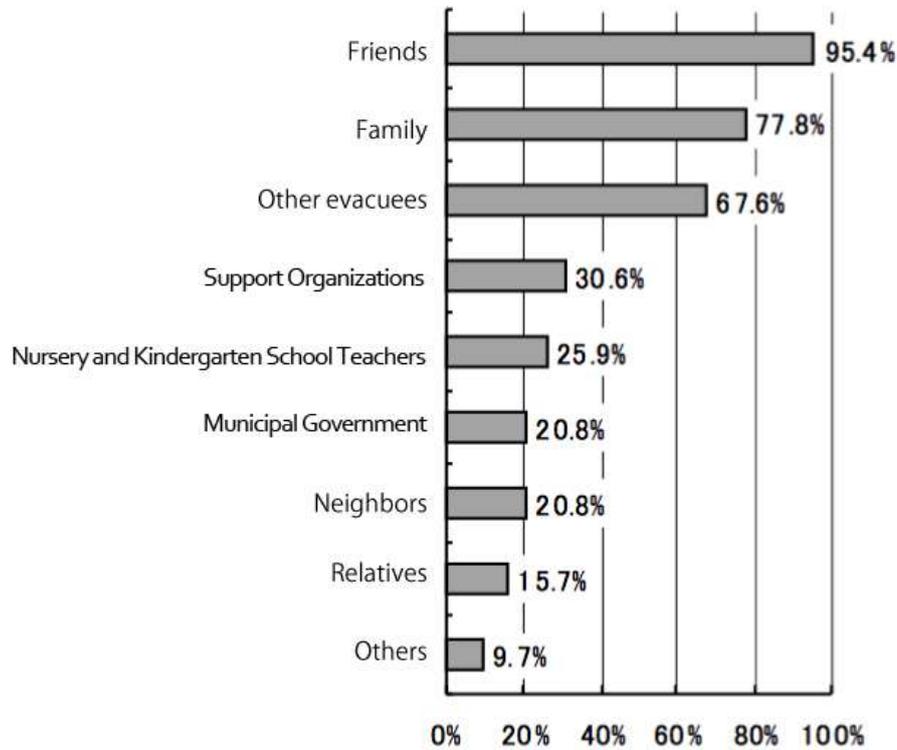


Problems of education and parenting to children that are mentioned include “the effect of living away from other family members”, “being irritated and treating children coldly” and “large financial burden attached to child rearing”.

Do you have anyone that you can consult with on parenting?



With whom do you want to consult on parenting?



24% of people want to have someone they can consult with on child rearing. People who they would like to speak with are friends (95%) and other evacuees (78%). This shows that there is importance on the maintenance of an environment in which these evacuees can meet other evacuees and make friends. 31% people are also requesting consultation with support organizations such as life support consultants.

7. Free comment column

The following things are mentioned in the column.

- Appreciation to supports
- Financial burden
- Anxiety towards the future
- Psychological health
- Extension of the apartment paid by the government
- Changing housing
- Information sharing
- Opportunities for active exchange with the other evacuees
- Winter life in Yamagata
- Difficulty in child rearing.