

Inter-Prefectural Comparison of Human Resources for Pediatric Inpatient Care in Japan

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- [Background] According to Survey of Medical Institutions published by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2,680 Japanese hospitals had a pediatric department in 2013. The number of pediatricians working in the hospitals were 9,744 in 2012. Therefore, the mean number of pediatricians per hospital were 3.6, and it is unlikely that all of the hospitals with a pediatric department provide an inpatient care for children. However, it is unknown how many hospitals provide a pediatric inpatient care.
- [Objective] In order to clarify the medical resources for a pediatric inpatient care and their mal-distribution in Japan, I tried to know the number of medical facilities in each region of Japan which provide a pediatric inpatient care.
- [Methods] By notification of the facility criteria of human resources to Regional Bureaus of Health and Welfare, hospitals providing a pediatric inpatient care can be paid a higher reimbursement from health insurance compared with general hospital fees. I requested the Bureaus to disclose the presence or absence of the notification of the hospitals in each region of Japan with a pediatric department and the grade of the facility criteria of human resources.

Notification Rate of Facility Criteria of the Hospitals with Pediatric Department in Japan

Facility Criteria	PED(FTE)	HP Fees (Euro/Day)
1	≥20	337
2	≥9	299
3	≥5	269
4	≥3	225
5	≥1	157
General Hospital Fees		≤117

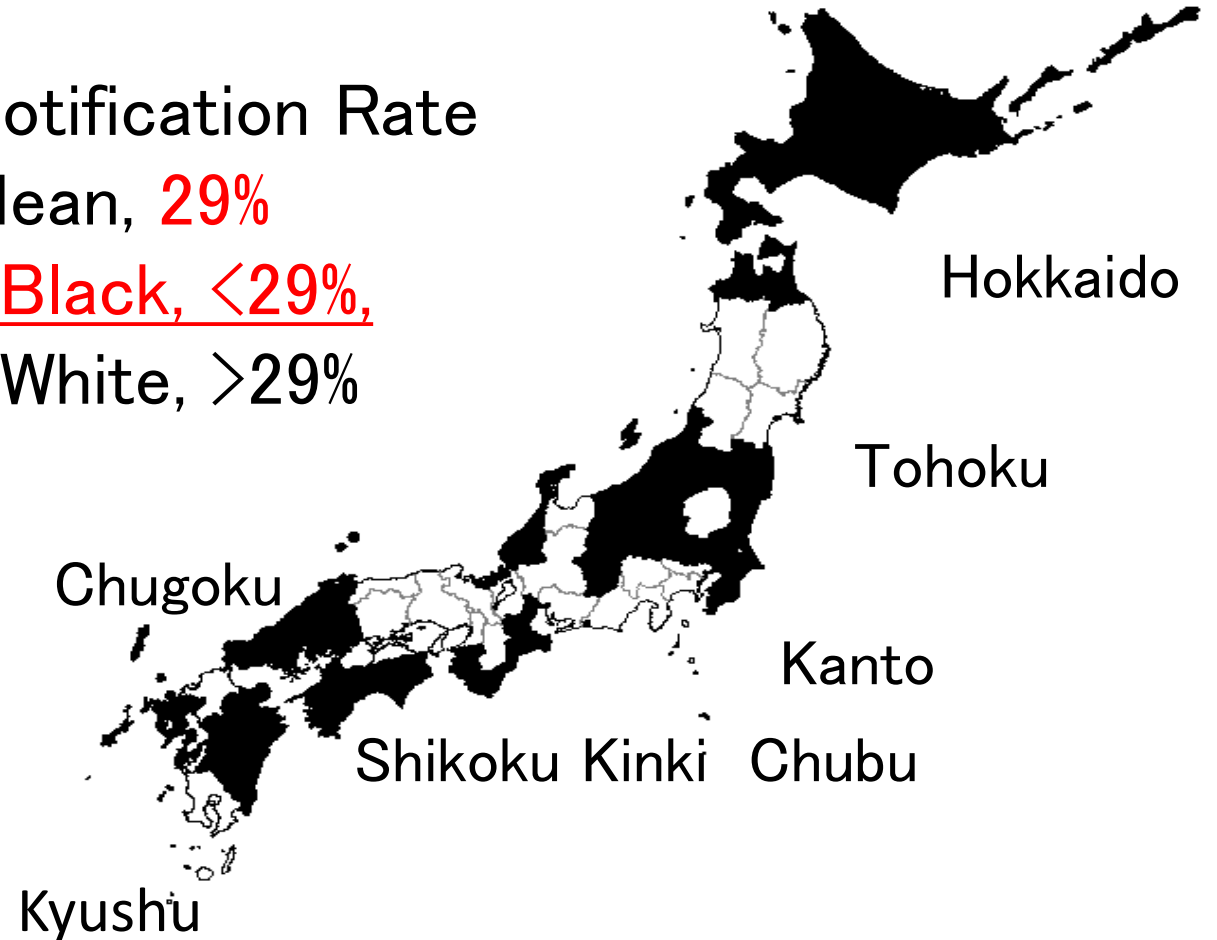
1Euro=136JPY

Notification Rate

Mean, 29%

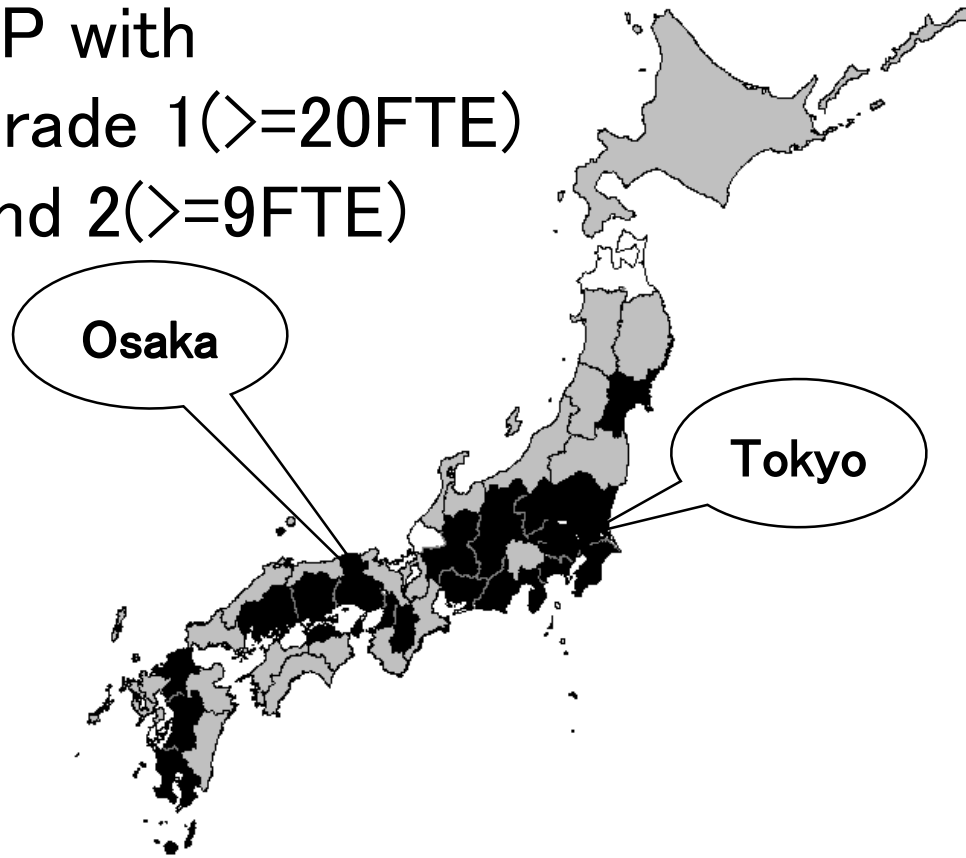
Black, <29%,

White, >29%



Distribution of Hospitals with Each Facility Criteria of Pediatricians (Full Time Equivalents)

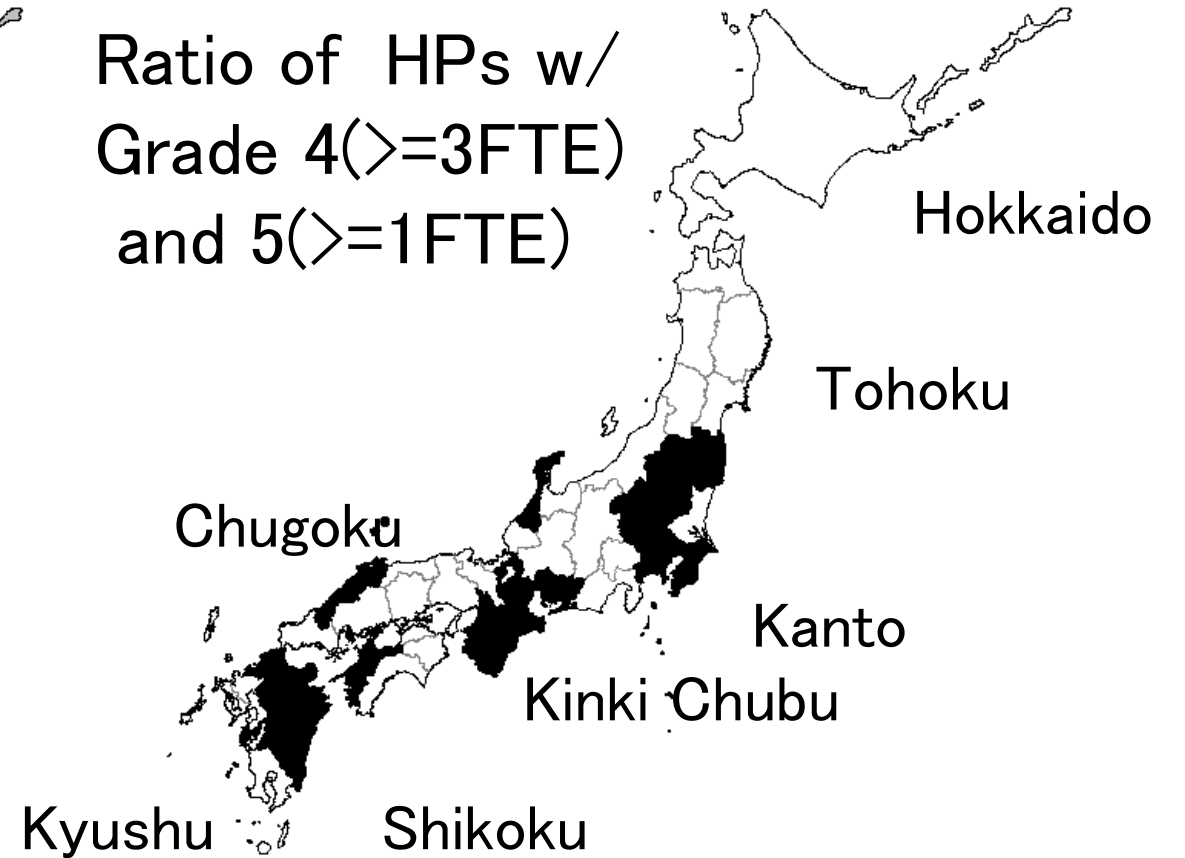
HP with
Grade 1 (≥ 20 FTE)
and 2 (≥ 9 FTE)



Black, w/ Grade 1 and 2

Gray, Grade 2, White, w/o Grade 1 or 2

Ratio of HPs w/
Grade 4 (≥ 3 FTE)
and 5 (≥ 1 FTE)



Mean of JPN HPs, 58%

Black, $< 58\%$, White, $> 58\%$

Results and Conclusion

- [Results] Only 29% of Japanese hospitals which have a pediatric department notified the facility criteria in order to be paid a higher reimbursement for pediatric inpatient care, and the rate was lower in rural regions such as Hokkaido, Northern Kanto, Chugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu. The number of per pediatricians were also poor in the hospitals located in the rural regions.
- [Conclusions] Human resources for pediatric inpatient care were poor in the rural regions other than metropolitan areas in Japan.
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