

Knowledge management for healthy ageing: lessons learned from the Japan Gerontological Evaluation Study

Lead Research Institution: National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology

Principal Investigator (PI): Dr Katsunori Kondo, Chiba University

Budget: US\$90,000

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Overview

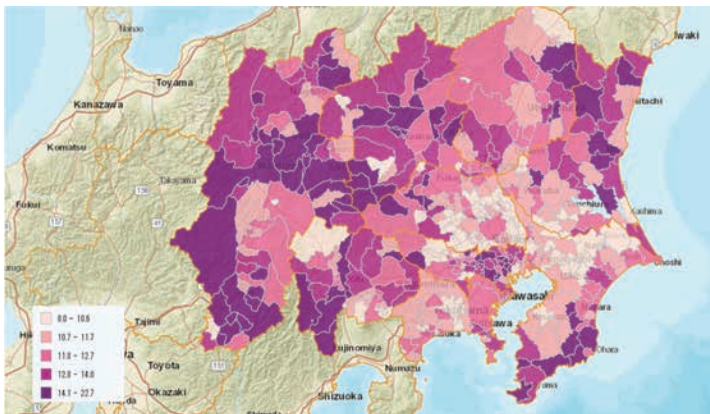
This project will identify effective strategies to produce quality scientific evidence regarding the determinants of good health among older people and how to translate such knowledge into public health policy and practice. Specifically, it will describe the tools and strategies that have been instrumental for the success of the Japan Gerontological Evaluation Study (JAGES) in advancing social epidemiological research on ageing and health, and in influencing local and national government policies to be more responsive to the needs of an ageing population. To facilitate the adaptation of these tools and strategies by other countries, this project will produce a guide that explains the JAGES research methodology and the key findings with respect to effective and equitable public health and social interventions that promote healthy ageing. The guide will also outline ways in which researchers can best engage and communicate their findings to government officials and policymakers to integrate sound scientific evidence into policy and planning. The publication will include illustrative examples of how these processes have worked in practice in Japan.

Research Background

The JAGES is the largest longitudinal survey of community-dwelling older adults in Japan. It takes a social epidemiological approach to understand the causes of health problems and inequalities in health at older age. It is especially notable for its strategic engagement with local and national governments to accelerate both the scientific research and the application of evidence to policies and programmes.

Specifically, the project will:

1. Describe the strategies employed by JAGES to collaborate with local governments to conduct large-scale surveys of older adults.
2. Review the body of scientific evidence accumulated by JAGES and their implications for healthy ageing policies.
3. Demonstrate effective methods for communicating research evidence to policy makers and practitioners, including the development and use of the JAGES Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool, which is a data visualization tool.
4. Illustrate JAGES' impact in diverse municipalities using the examples of Kobe (Hyogo prefecture), Matsudo (Chiba prefecture) and Taketoyo (Aichi prefecture).



Example of a data visualization produced by the JAGES. Inequalities in the proportion (%) of older people (65 and over) who have been certified as eligible for and in need of long-term care by municipalities in the Kanto Region.

Source: <http://www.doctoral.co.jp/WebAtlas/201112WebAtlas/kanto/atlas.html>

Research Team

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Goals

The project will leverage the achievements and insights gained from the JAGES to guide policymaking, including:

- ✓ Synthesizing the epidemiological research findings.
- ✓ Developing case studies of knowledge translation to public policies.
- ✓ Analyzing key lessons regarding effective strategies for measurement, research and knowledge translation.
- ✓ Consulting experts to maximize relevance to an international audience, and
- ✓ Producing evidence-based advice and guidance for wide dissemination.