

IUSSP Debate

1 April 2026 21:00-22:30 (JST) 13:00-14:30 (CET)

Online

"Countries with more deaths than births should implement or increase incentives for childbearing and subsidies for child-rearing"

**YES**

*from the Japanese point of view*



Reiko Hayashi

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan

Incentives to childbearing and  
subsidies for child-rearing are  
various

# It is not only subsidies that government can do

*Japanese policies to mitigate low-fertility since Angel Plan in 1994*

## Employment

- Work hours
- Flexible working
- Maternity leave
- Child-care leave
- Re-employment support

## Child care / Education

- Nursery center
- Kindergarten
- Child care workforce
- Education cost support
- Fathers' participation
- Community support

## Economic support

- Child allowance
- Tax deduction
  - ✓ spouse, dependent
  - ✓ gift from parent, grandparent

## Health system

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Sexual education       | • Prenatal check              |
| • Life planning          | • Infertility treatment       |
| • Family planning        | • Delivery care               |
| • Safe abortion          | • Post-natal care             |
| • Maternal notebook      | • Neo-natal care              |
| • Pregnancy registration | • Against sex-selective birth |

## • Marriage support

- ✓ Matchmaking
- ✓ Advocacy

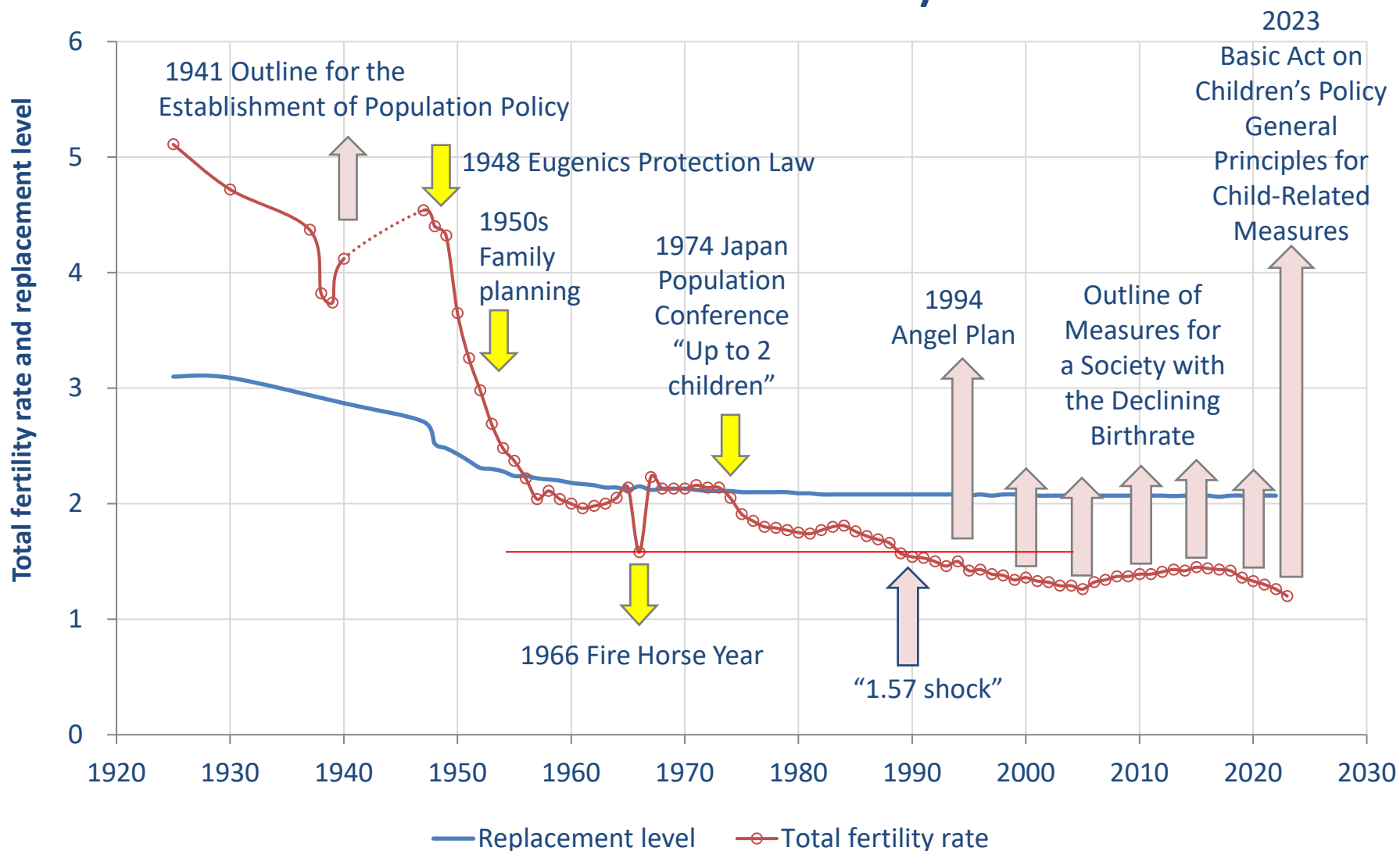
## • Housing support

- ✓ Rental support
- ✓ Purchase support
- ✓ Tax deduction

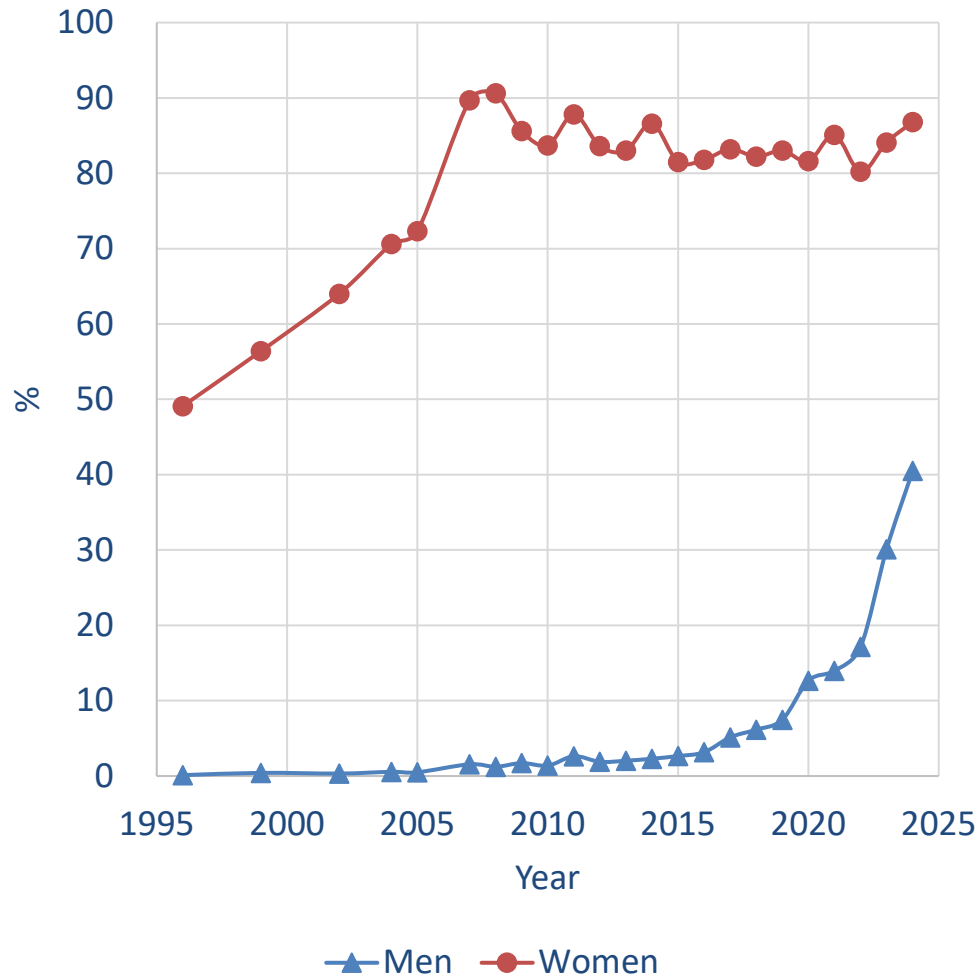
Detailed table are available in in Japanese: <https://ipss.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/614> in Chinese : <https://ipss.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/616>  
in Korean: <https://ipss.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/615>

Most importantly, these  
governmental policies change  
social norm

# Total fertility rate and national policies related to fertility



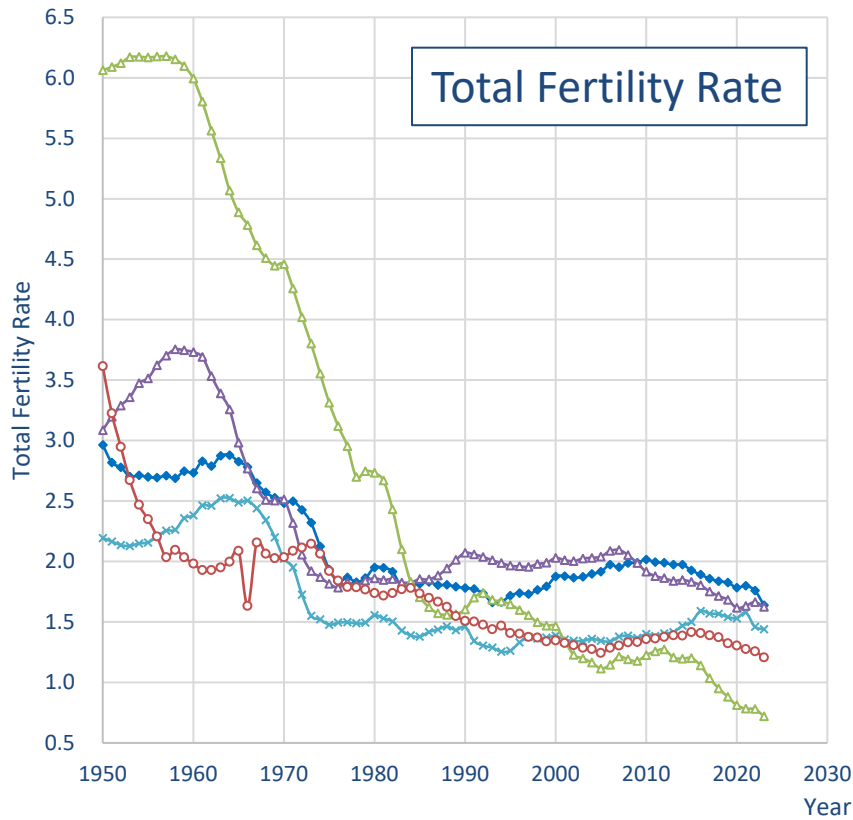
# Child care leave uptake



- Implemented since 1994
- Remained low
- Father's uptake increased significantly after 2016
- Act on Work Style Reform prepared since 2016 and implemented in 2019
- COVID-19 changed working style (telework, flex time...)

Source: Basic Survey of Gender Equality in Employment Management  
(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)  
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/list/71-23.html>

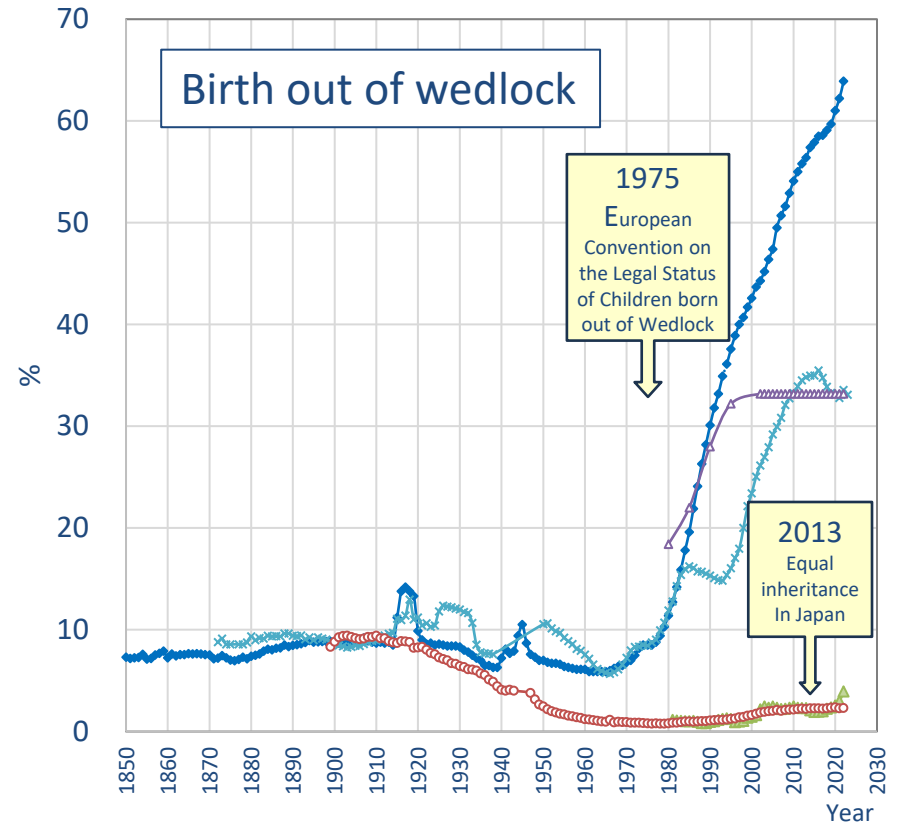
# Birth out of wedlock, rights of children and TFR



- France
- Germany
- US
- South Korea
- Japan

• The divergence seems to start in the 1970s

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition.



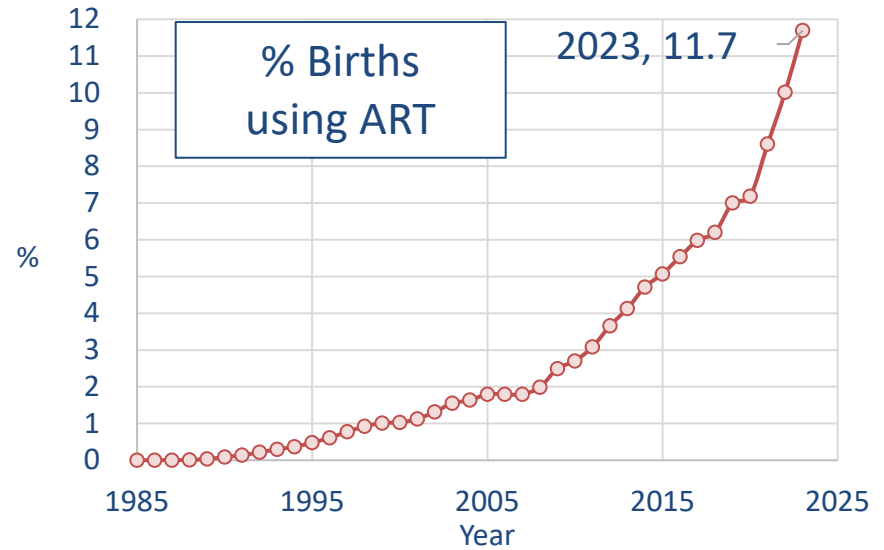
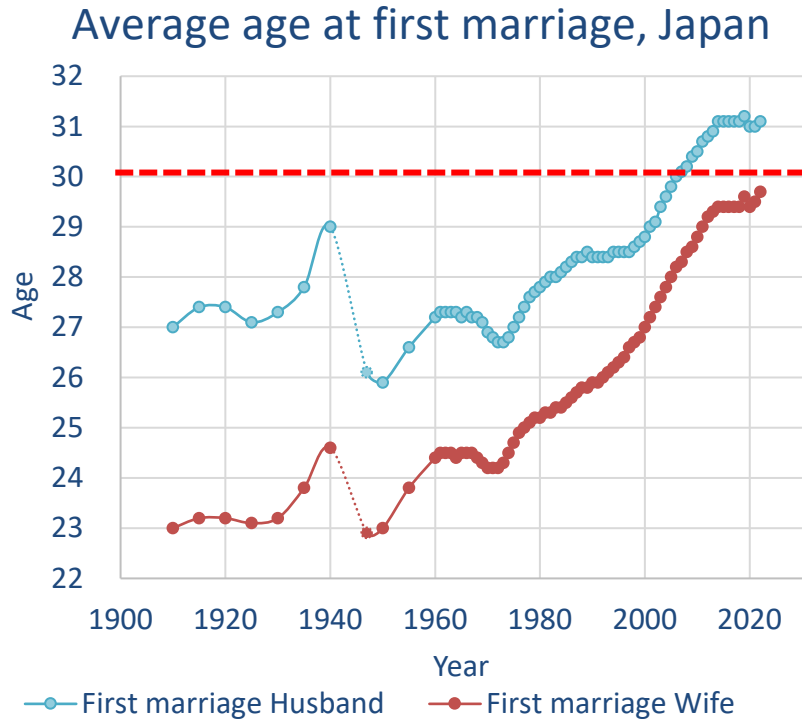
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• The inheritance disparity between legitimate and not legitimate child was removed (only) in 2013 in Japan, while in France and US it was in 1970s

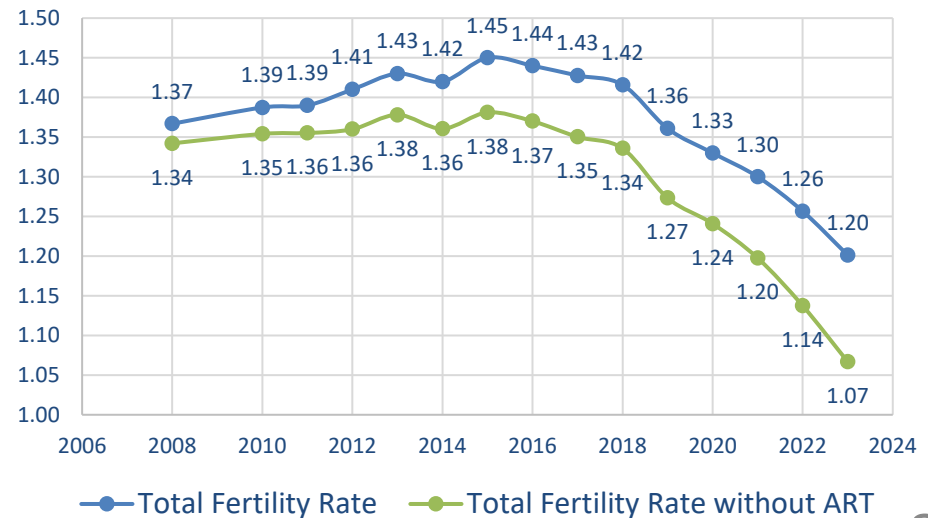
Source : Vital statistics (Statistics Bureau and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) for Japan, INSEE for France, CDC for US

# Higher education, better job, marrying later and getting more difficult to be pregnant

## Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) supports couples who wish to have babies to have them – the most cost-effective policy?



But relaxing family-marriage-childbearing norm could be effective too, which can be induced by changing laws



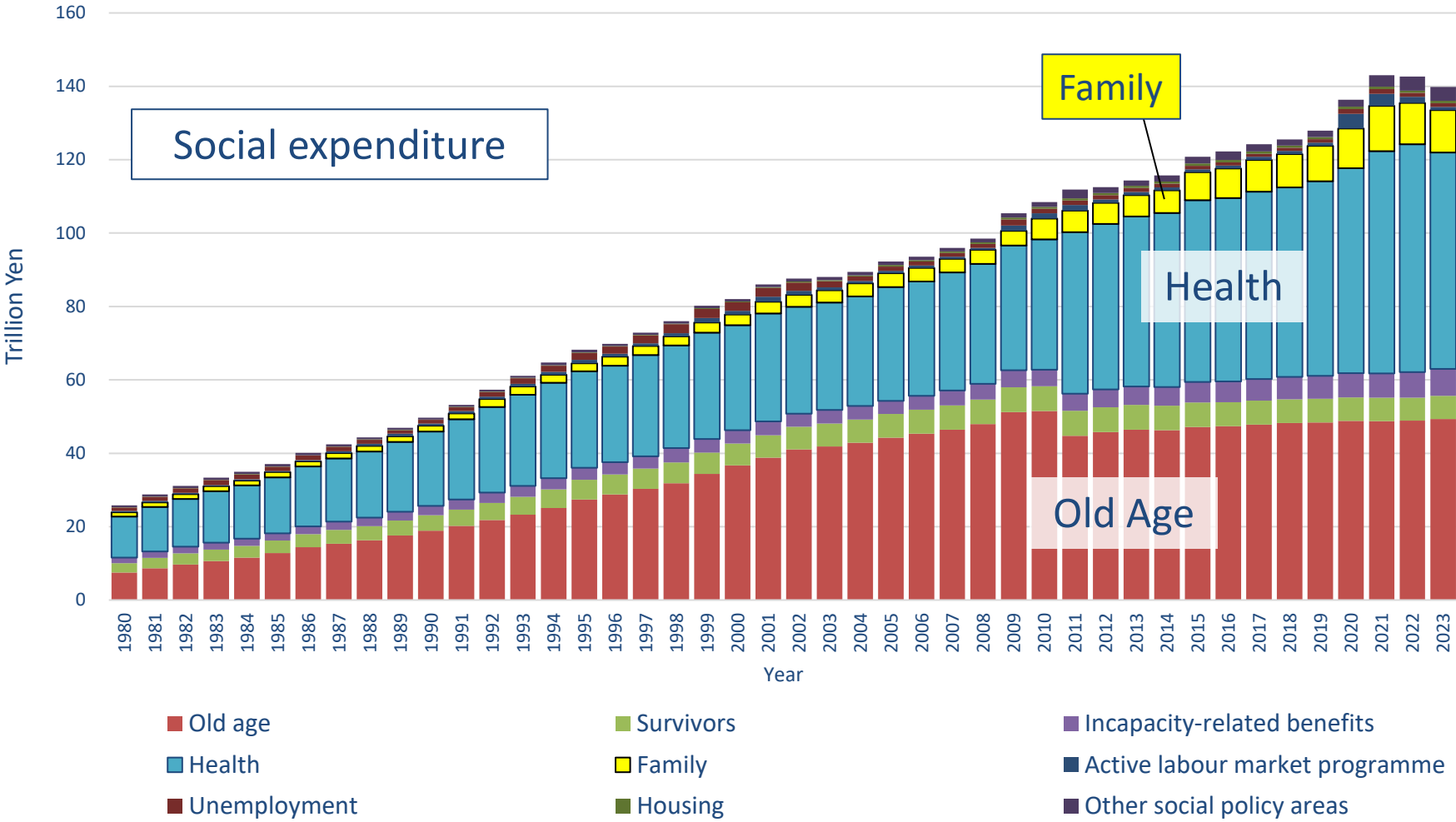
Sources: calculated using ART databook (Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology), Vital Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

To Support Anna's point

Social policies were traditionally  
concentrated for older persons

They should cover all generations

# Social security system and expanding expenditure so far, expenditure on family is much smaller than old age



“Diaper subsidy for older persons, and for babies?”

Source: The Financial Statistics of Social Security in Japan FY 2023, IPSS, [https://www.ipss.go.jp/ss-cost/j/fsss-R05/fsss\\_R05.html](https://www.ipss.go.jp/ss-cost/j/fsss-R05/fsss_R05.html)