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2022 Fukushima Medical University International Symposium on the Fukushima Health Management Survey
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Fukushima Medical University
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Lessons Learned from the Fukushima Health Management Survey

**– Effects of radiation exposure on
physical and mental health–**

March 5, 2022

**Radiation Medical Science Center for the Fukushima
Health Management Survey, Fukushima Medical University**

Tetsuya Ohira



“Great East Japan Earthquake” Triple Disasters in Fukushima

2,329 deaths were indirect disaster-related deaths (Miyagi 929, Iwate 470).

1,613 died and 197 are still lost due to Earthquake and/or Tsunami.

Earthquake



Fukushima City

Tsunami



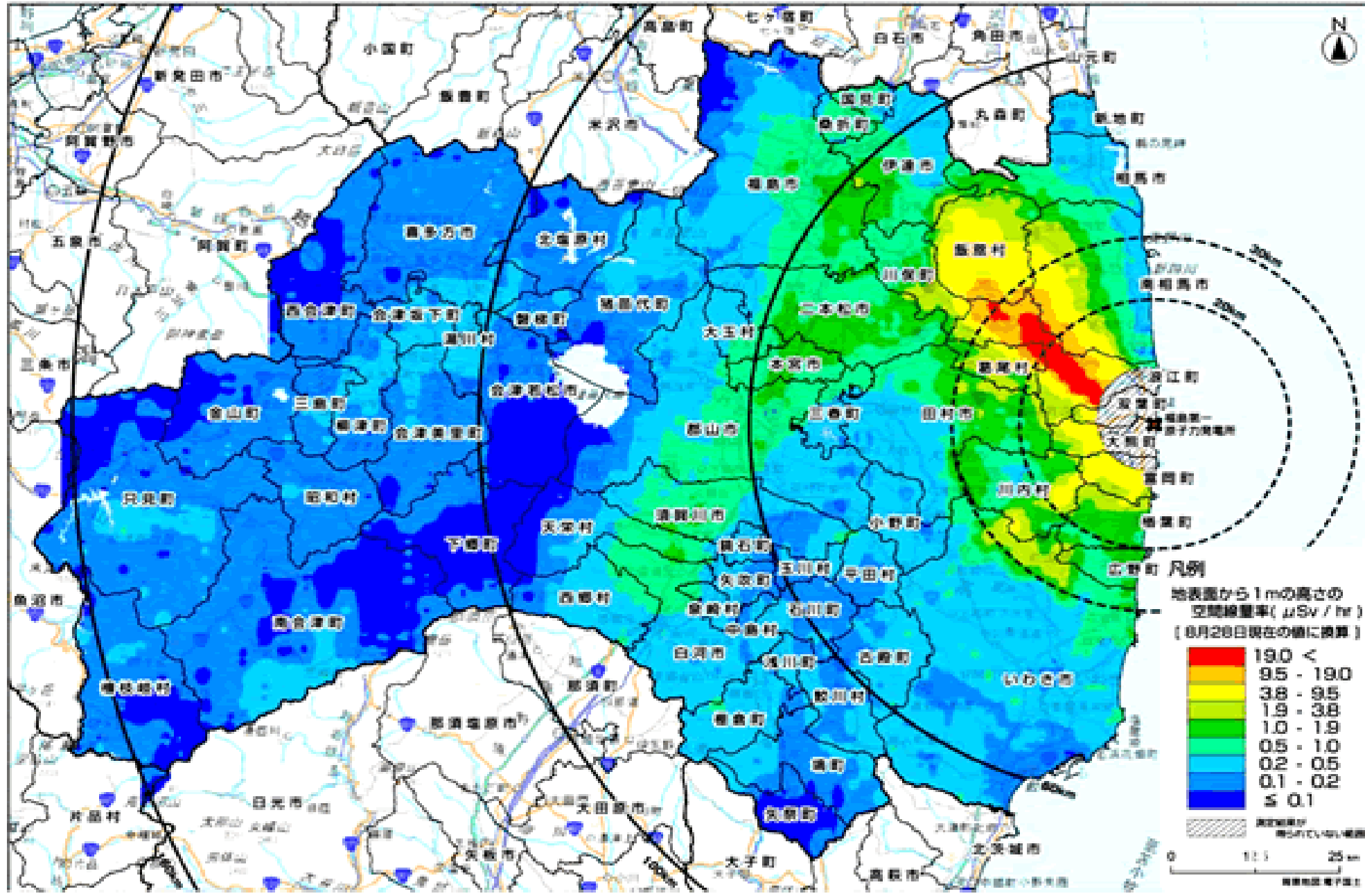
Minami-soma City

**Nuclear Power
Plant Accident**



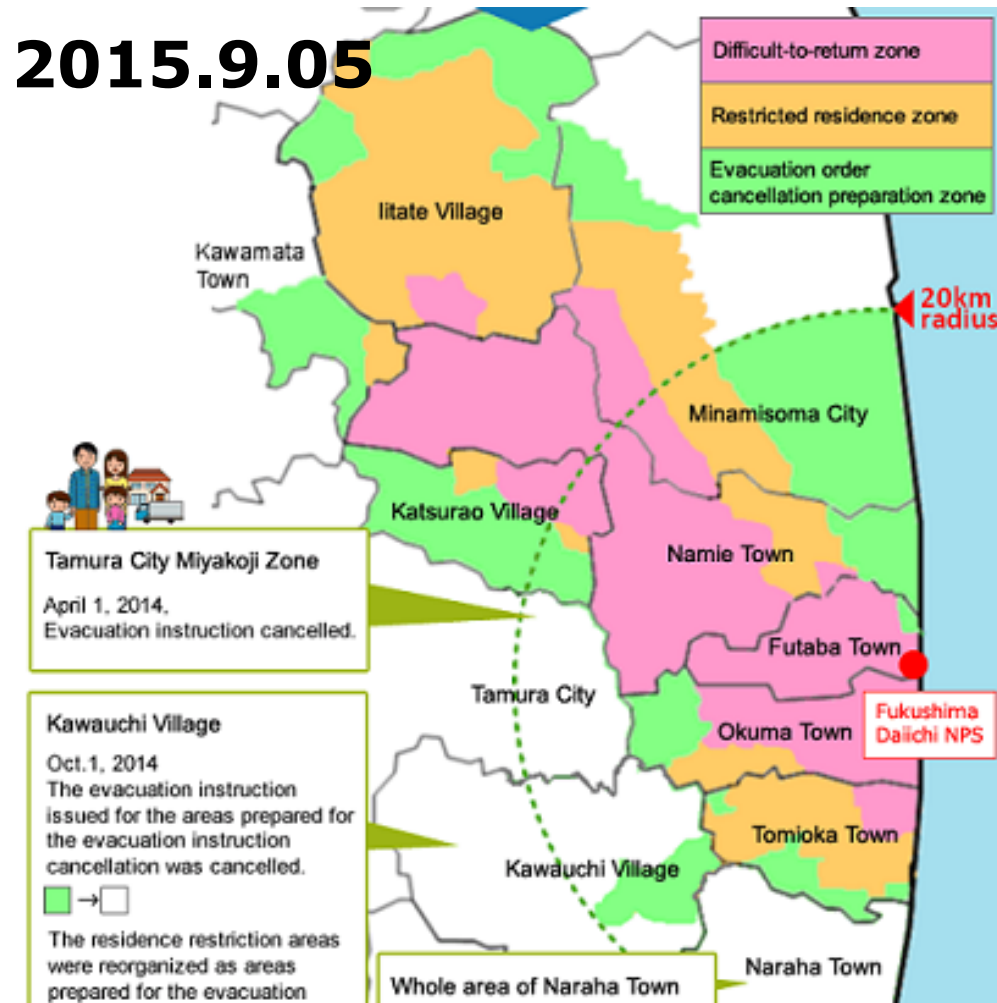
**Fukushima Dai-ichi
Nuclear Power Plant**

文部科学省による福島県西部の航空機モニタリングの測定結果について
(福島県内の地表面から1m高さの空間線量率)

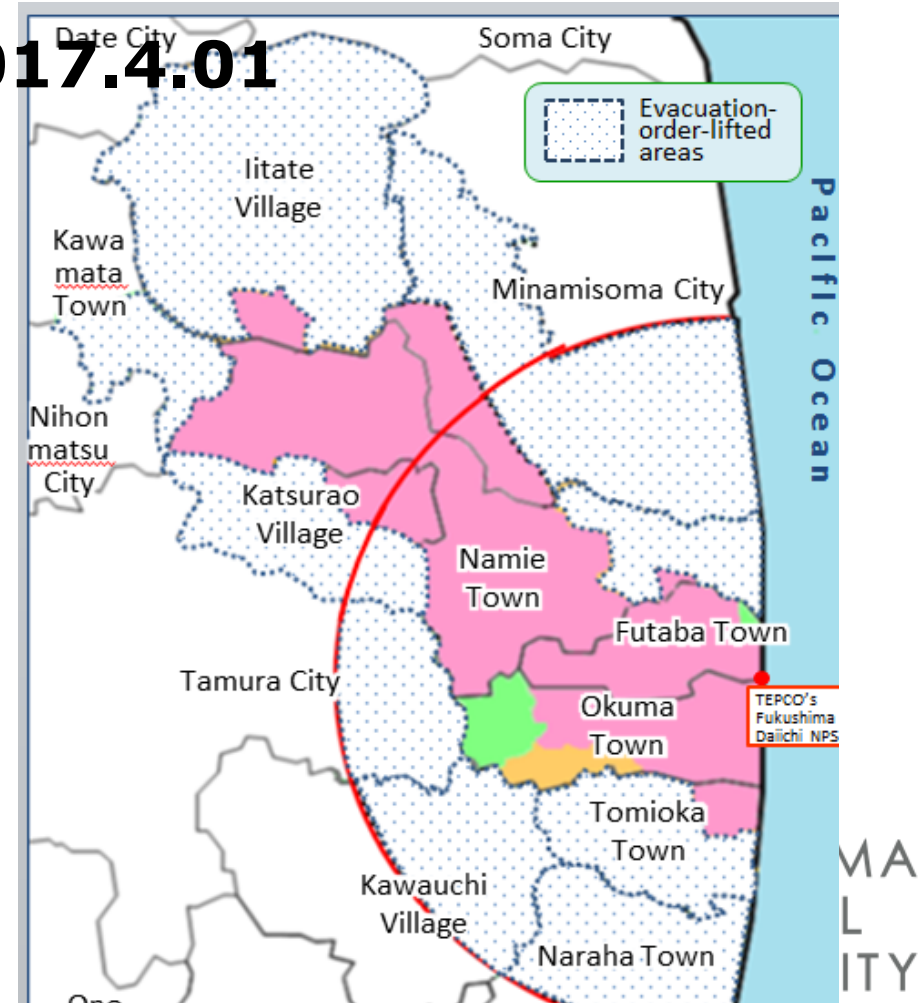


Transition of Evacuation Designated Zones

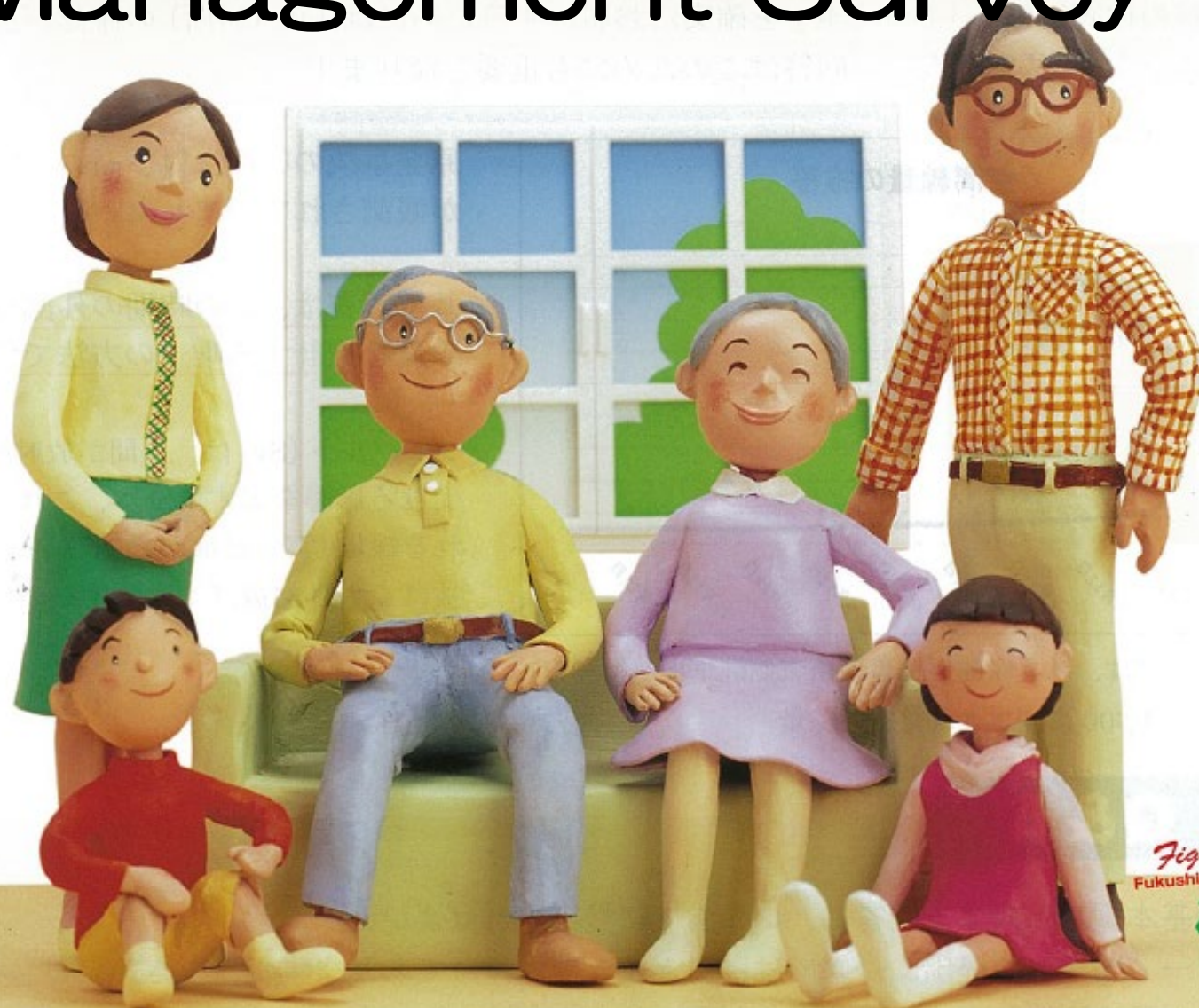
2015.9.05



2017.4.01



Fukushima Health Management Survey



Estimating the Radiation Dose (Basic data)

Basic Survey

Group: Residents and visitors of Fukushima Prefecture as of 11 March 2011

Method: Self-administered questionnaire
Content: Recorded movements from 11 March 2011 onward (Radiation dose estimates)

Long-term Health Management

Health Management File

- Keeping the health checkup records by participants
- Providing information on radiation

Database System

- Promoting long-term health of the residents
- Informing and guiding future generations

- Whole Body Counter
- Personal Dosimeter

Monitoring the Health of the Residents

Detailed Surveys

Thyroid Ultrasound Examination

Group: Residents aged 18 years or younger as of 11 March 2011
Content: Thyroid ultrasound examination

Comprehensive Health Check (Including conventional health exams)

Group: Residents of evacuation zones
Content: General health checkup items with differential white blood count and others

Group: Residents outside evacuation zones
Content: General health checkup items

Regular health exams and cancer screening organized by employer or municipality can help detect and treat diseases.

Comprehensive Health Check (For the residents ineligible for conventional health exams)

Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey (For residents of evacuation zones using survey questionnaire)

Pregnancy and Birth Survey (For residents who were issued Maternal and Child Health Handbook using survey questionnaire)

Follow-up

Consultation and Support

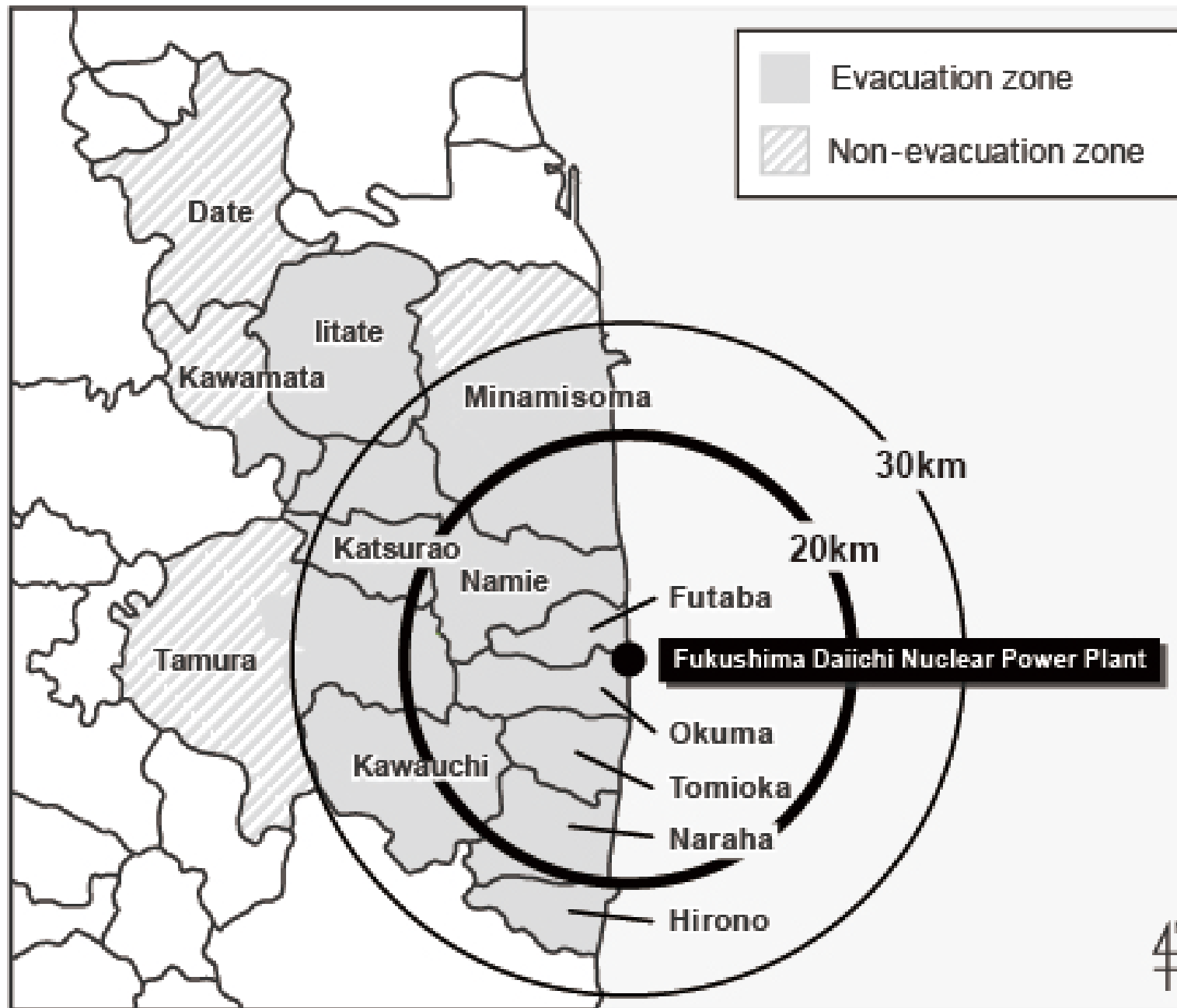
■ Basic Surveys (Estimation of the external exposure doses)

■ Thyroid Ultrasound Examination Survey

■ Comprehensive Health Check:

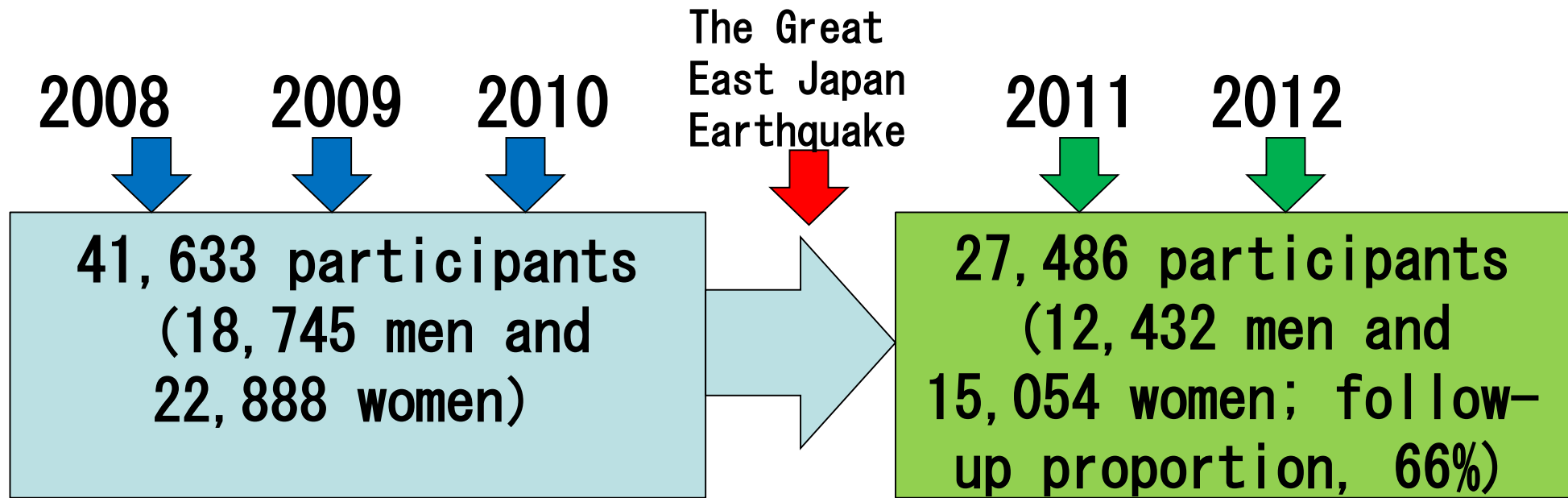
■ Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey

■ Pregnancy and Birth Survey



Methods

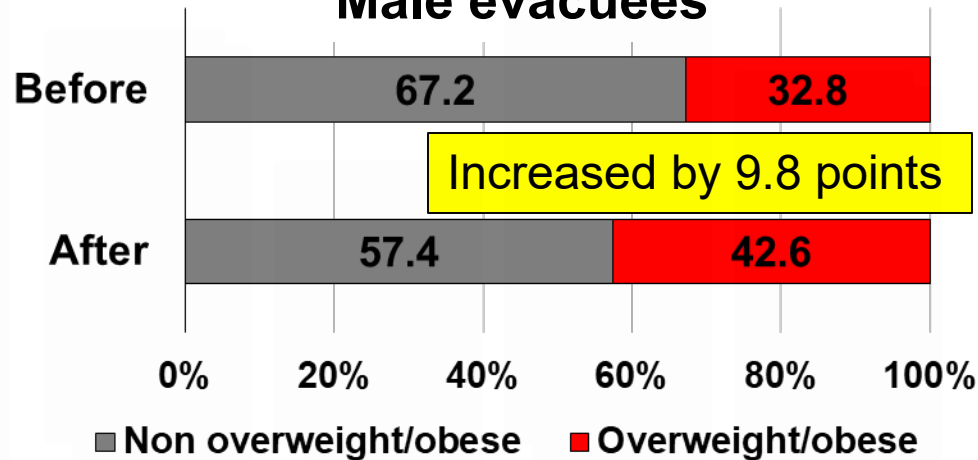
General health checkups



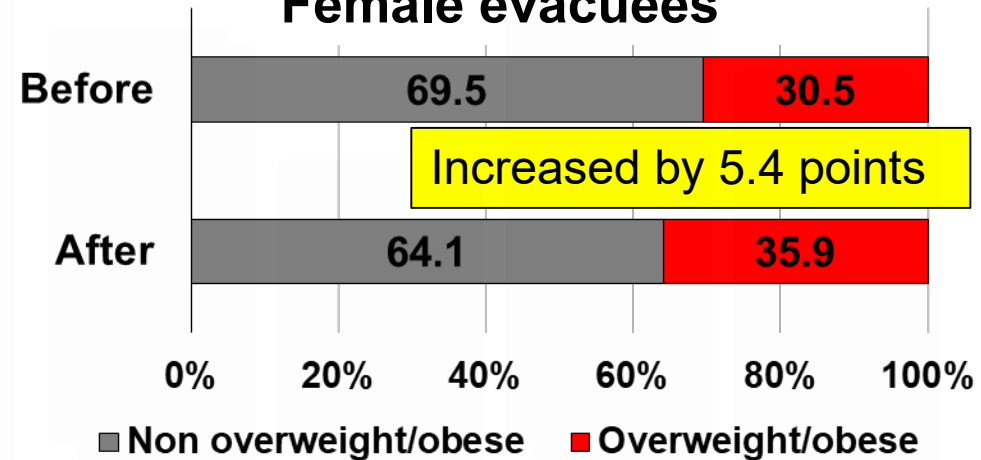
The nearest data from the Earthquake were used for analysis if the participants received the checkups more than two times, and an average follow-up duration was 1.6 years.

Change in Proportion of Overweight/Obese People Before and After the Disaster

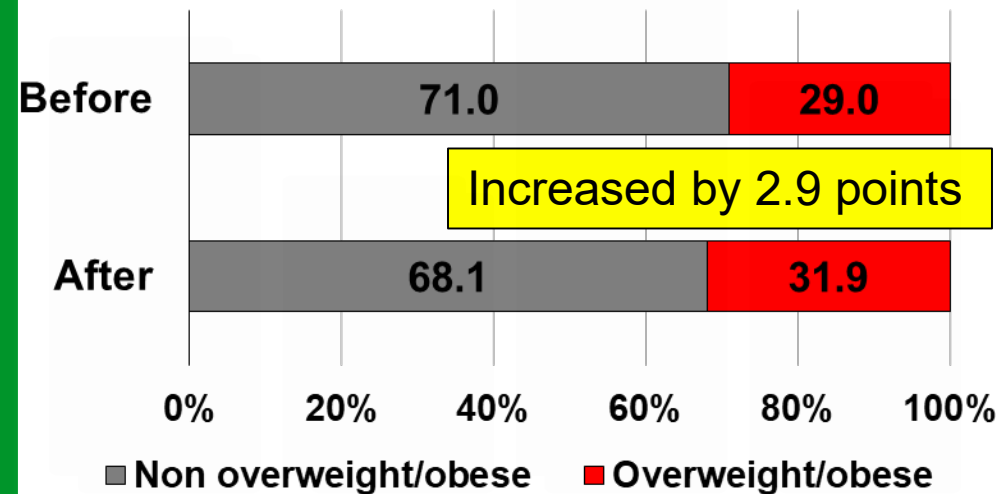
Male evacuees



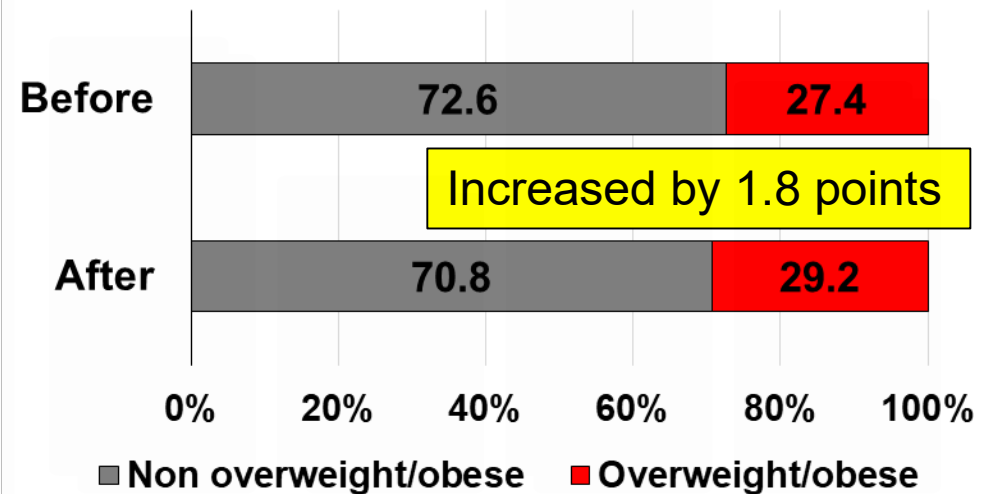
Female evacuees



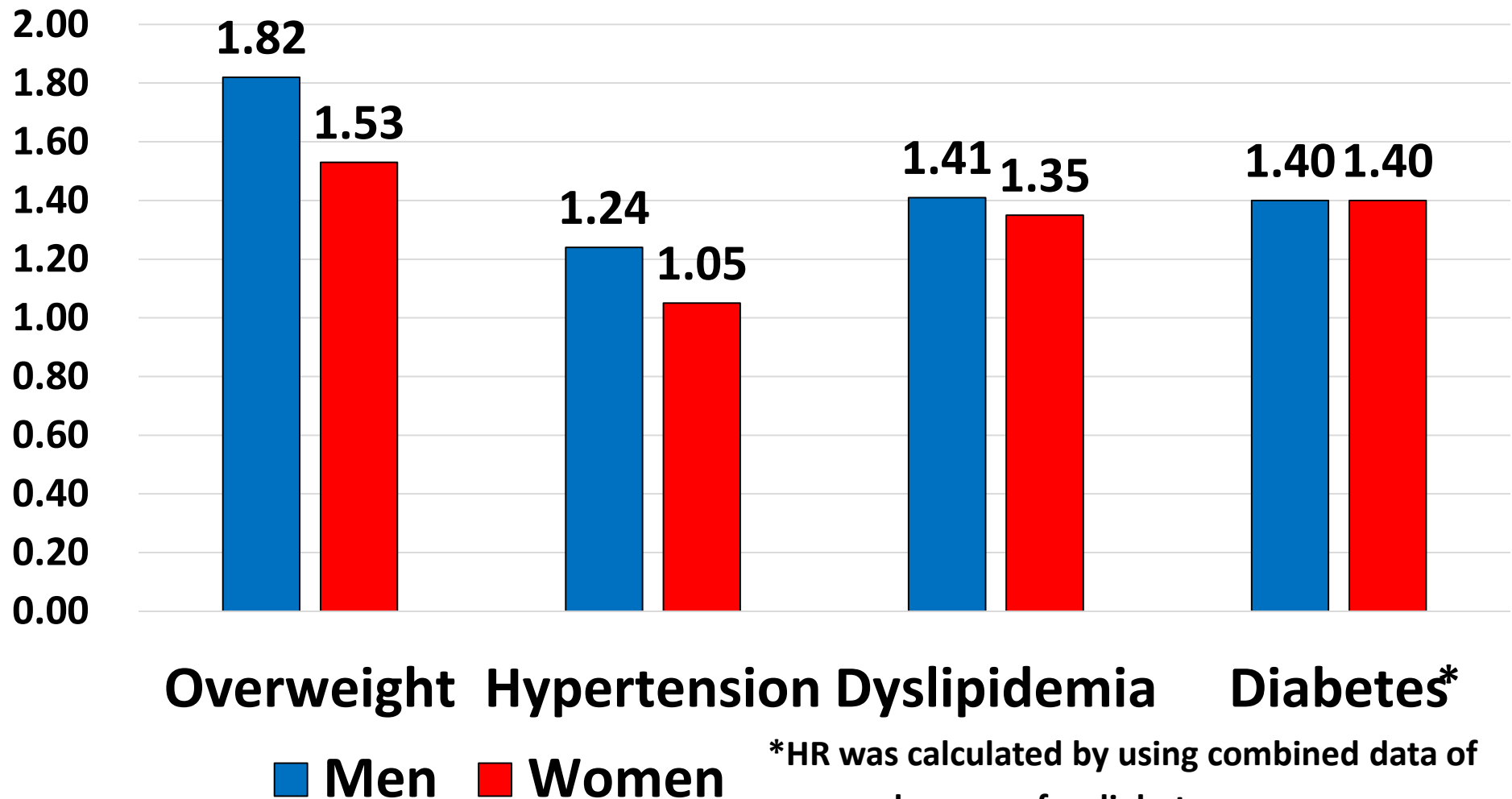
Male non-evacuees



Female non-evacuees



Multivariable-adjusted Hazard Ratios of Overweight, Hypertension, Dyslipidemia, and Diabetes Mellitus for Evacuation



Current Issue

- ❖ It has been reported that lifestyle-related diseases increased and the proportion of those complaining of mental distress increased among residents living in evacuation area following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.
- ❖ It is not clear whether there are direct effects of low-dose exposure or effects via social factors and lifestyle changes due to evacuation, etc.

Purpose

- ❖ **One of the main objectives of the Fukushima Health Management Survey (FHMS) is to clarify the health effects of long-term low-dose radiation exposure in residents.**
- ❖ **To summarize the results of the FHMS to date and discuss the current status and issues regarding the association between individual external radiation doses measured in the basic survey and their physical and mental health status (excluding thyroid gland).**

Today's Contents

- ❖ **Associations between external radiation dose and health check-ups results**
- ❖ **Associations of external radiation dose with psychological distress and trauma reactions**
- ❖ **Associations between external radiation dose and perinatal outcomes**

Sakai A, et al. J Epidemiol, in press. Miura I, et al. J Epidemiol, in press. Yasuda S, et al. J Epidemiol, in press.

Today's Contents

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Comprehensive Health Check

Follow-up surveys



FY 2011

72,869
participants of the
health check-ups
in the evacuation
area

↓

54,087
participants aged
16-84 years were
analyzed

**FY
2012**

**FY
2013**

**FY
2014**

**FY
2015**

**FY
2016**

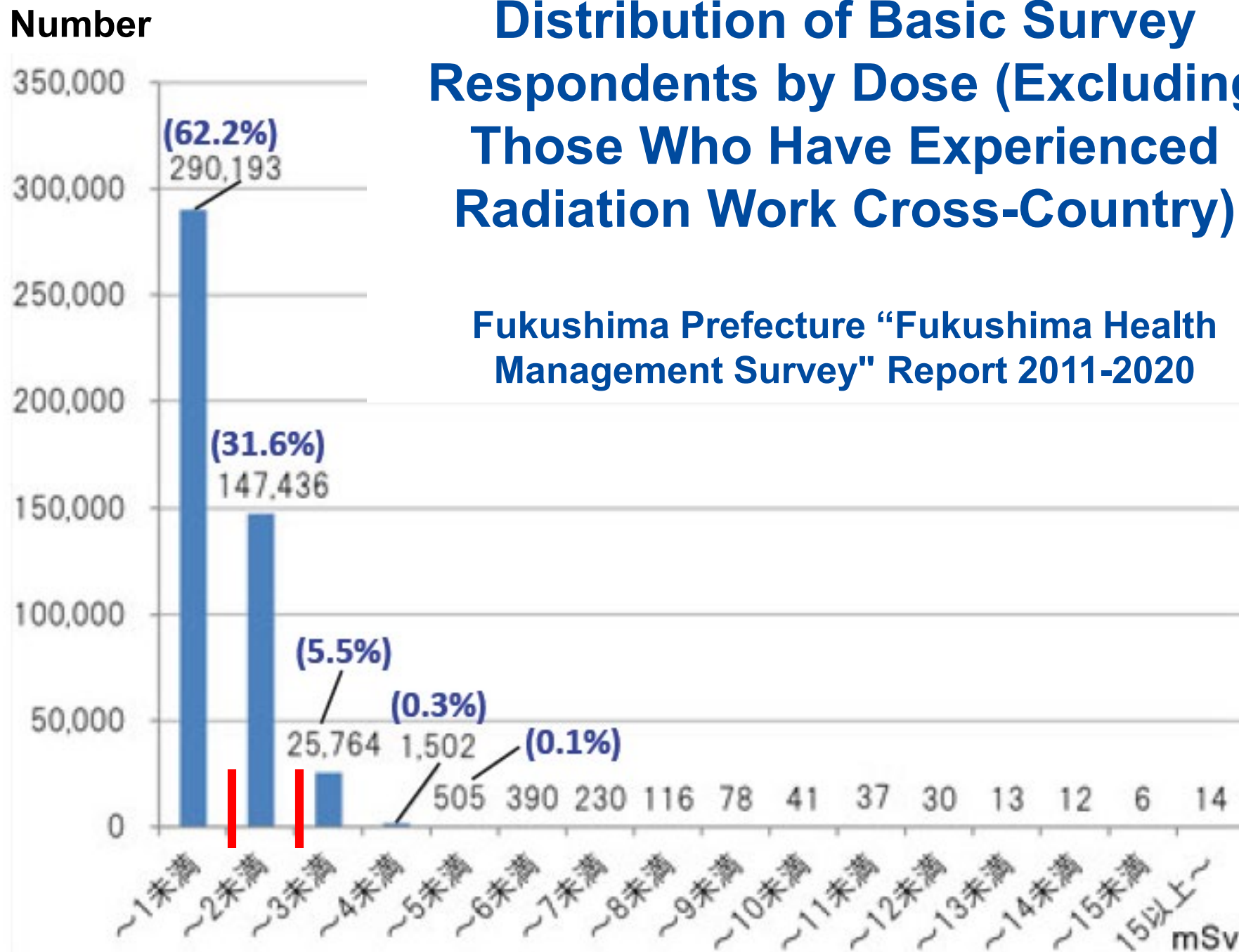
**FY
2017**

Statistical Analysis

- ❖ We divided individual external radiation doses measured in the Basic Survey into three groups: $<1\text{mSv}$, $1\text{-}2\text{mSv}$, and $\geq 2\text{mSv}$, and prospectively examined associations of radiation doses with incidence of hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, chronic kidney disease, liver dysfunction, hyperuricemia, and anemia between FY2012 and FY2017.
- ❖ For the 25,685 (47.5%) participants who did not participate in the Basic Survey, external radiation doses were supplemented by multiple imputation method.

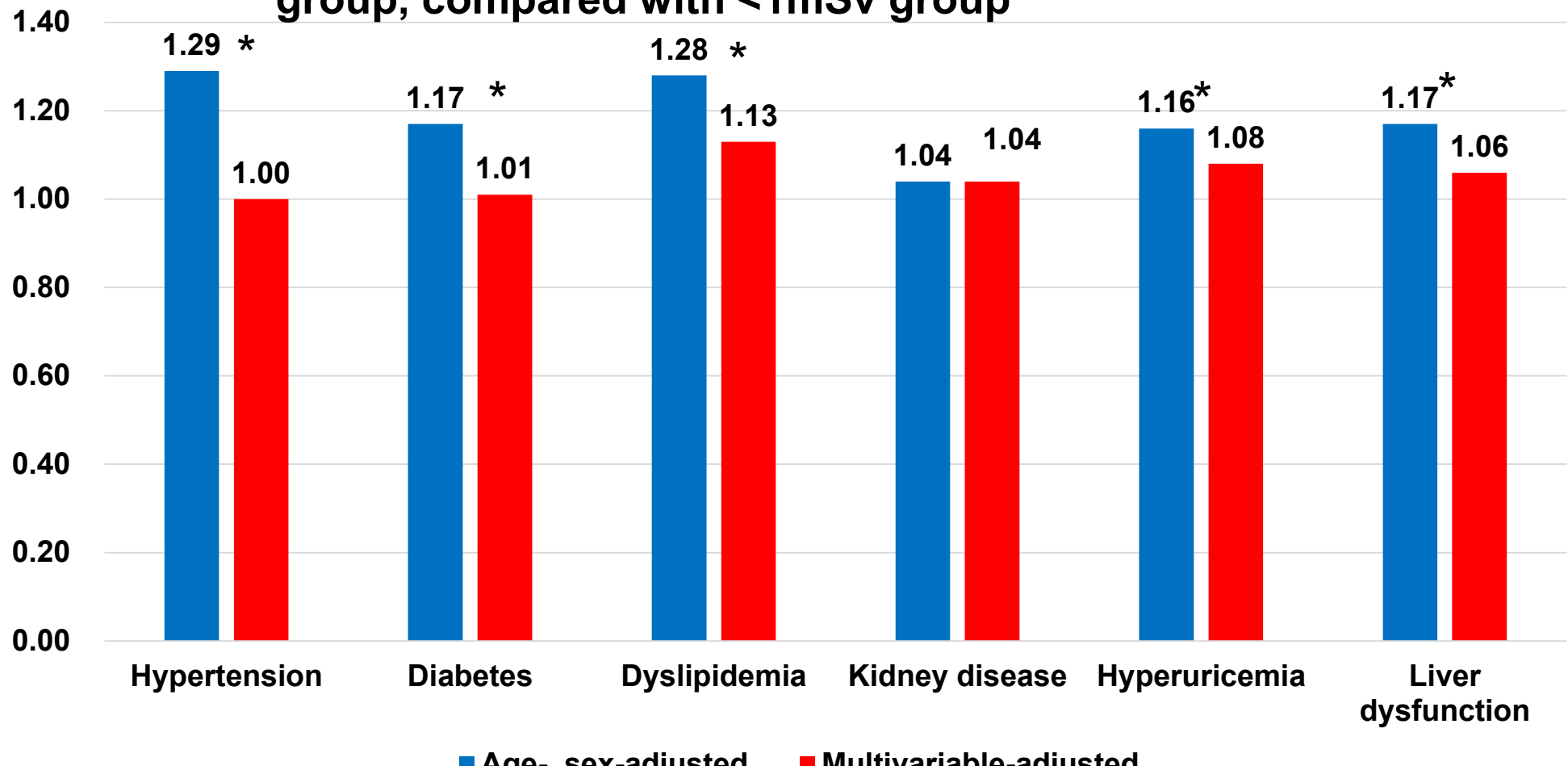
Distribution of Basic Survey Respondents by Dose (Excluding Those Who Have Experienced Radiation Work Cross-Country)

Fukushima Prefecture "Fukushima Health Management Survey" Report 2011-2020



Associations between External Radiation Dose and Lifestyle-Related Diseases

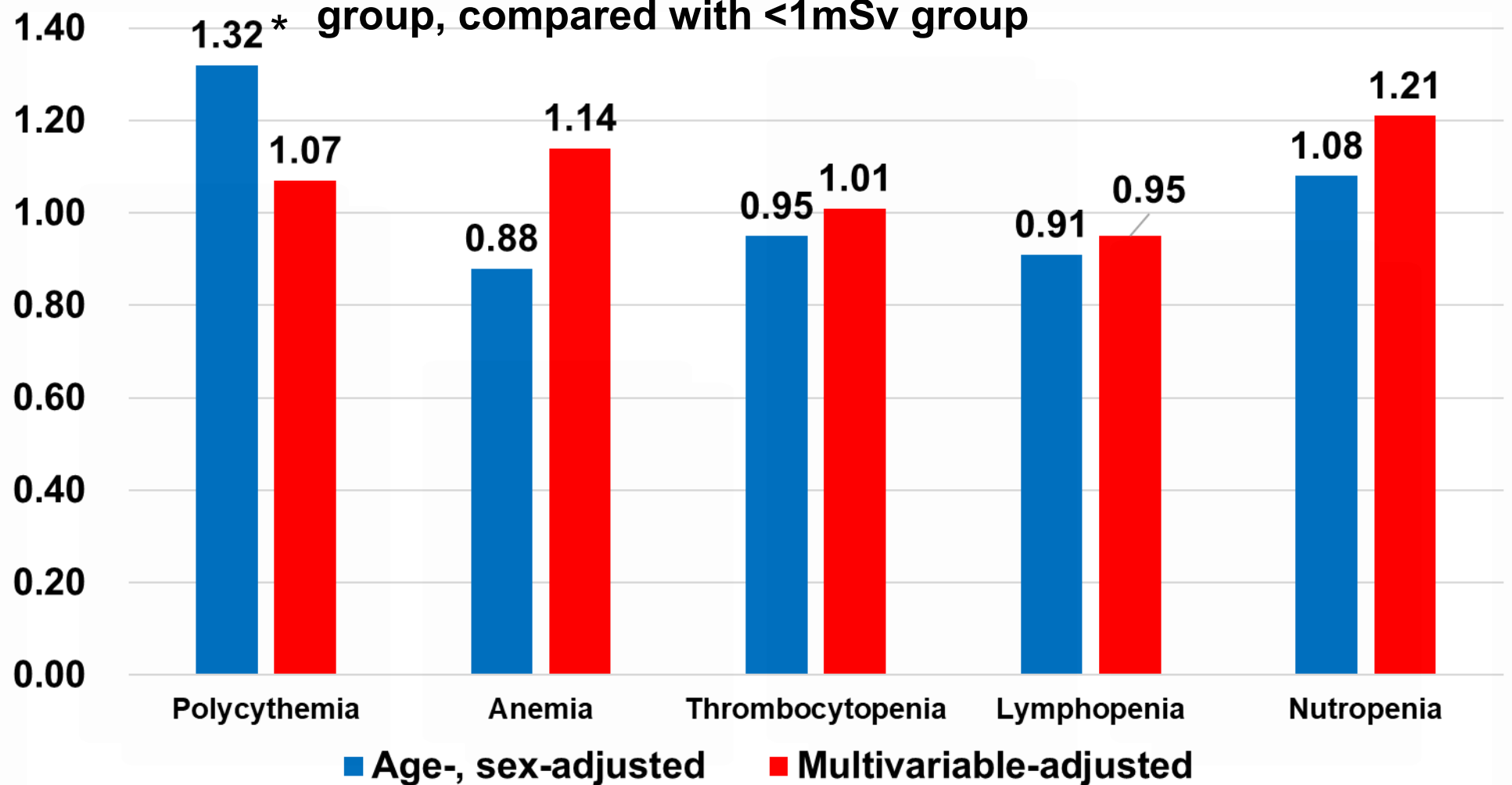
Hazard ratio Hazard ratio of incidence of lifestyle-related disease for $\geq 2\text{mSv}$ group, compared with $<1\text{mSv}$ group



*Statistically significant. **Adjusted for sex, age, BMI, smoking status, excess drinking, evacuation, each values at baseline, and medication use

Associations between External Radiation Dose and Blood Counts

Hazard ratio Hazard ratio of incidence of polycythemia etc. for $\geq 2\text{mSv}$ group, compared with $<1\text{mSv}$ group



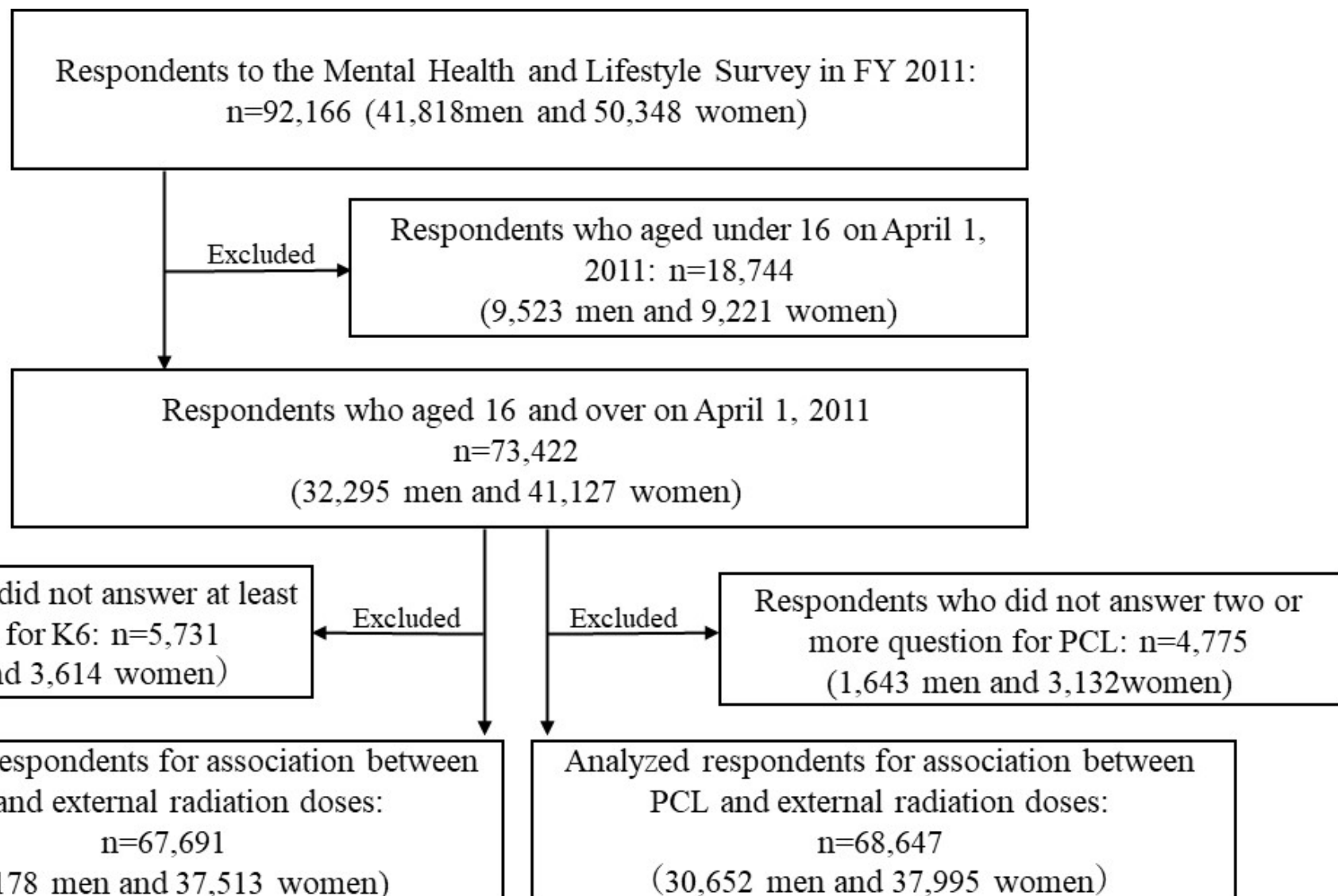
*Statistically significant. **Adjusted for sex, age, BMI, smoking status, excess drinking, and evacuation

Sakai A, et al. J Epidemiol, in press.

Today's Contents

- ❖ Associations between external radiation dose and health check-ups results
- ❖ **Associations of external radiation dose with psychological distress and trauma reactions**
- ❖ Associations between external radiation dose and perinatal outcomes

Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey



Statistical Analysis

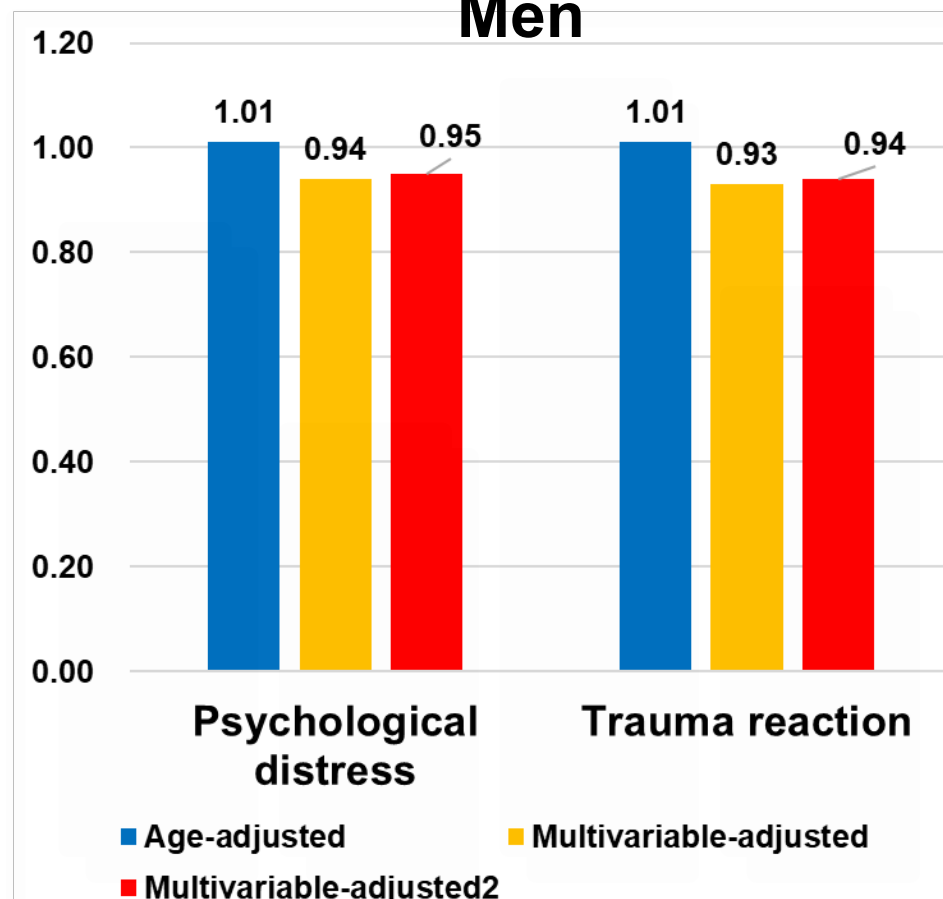
- ❖ We divided individual external radiation doses measured in the Basic Survey into three groups: $<1\text{mSv}$, $1\text{-}2\text{mSv}$, and $\geq 2\text{mSv}$, and examined cross-sectional associations of radiation doses with psychological distress (Kessler 6-item ≥ 13 points) and trauma reaction (PTSD Checklist Stressor-Specific Version ≥ 44 points) at FY2011.
- ❖ For the 27,783 (43.3%) participants who did not participate in the Basic Survey, external radiation doses were supplemented by multiple imputation method.

Associations of External Radiation Dose with Psychological Distress and Trauma Reaction

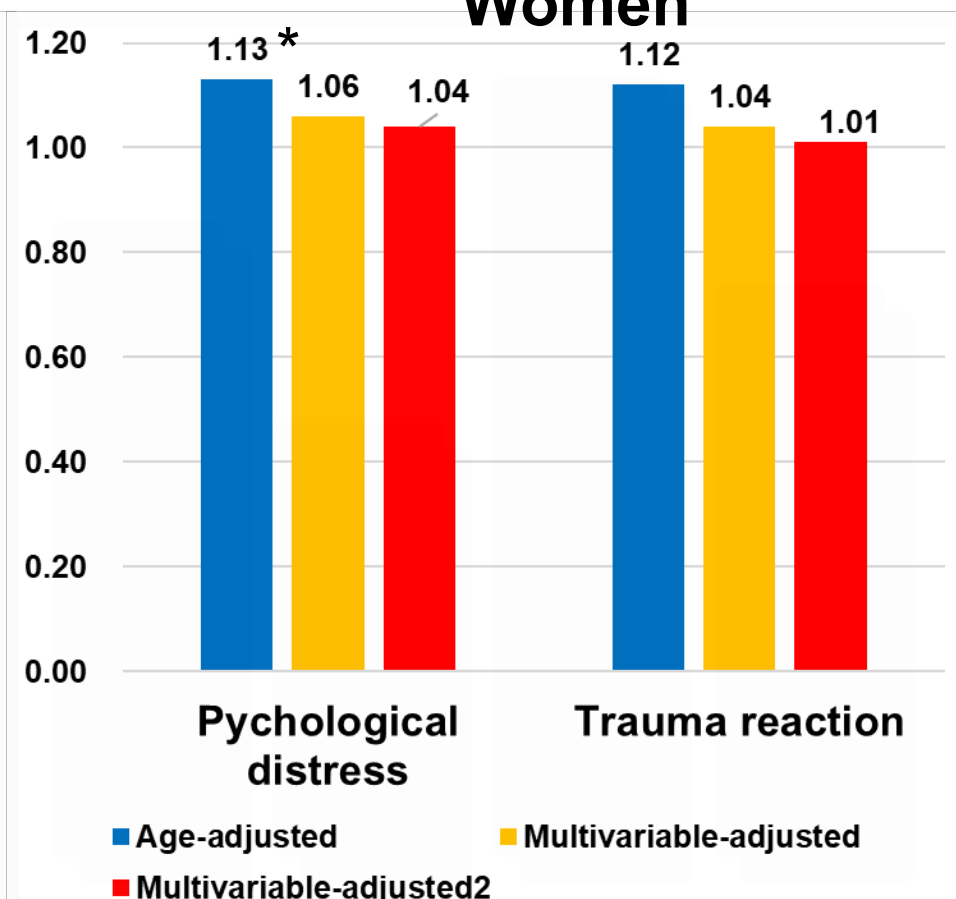
Odds ratios of psychological distress and trauma reaction for $\geq 2\text{mSv}$ group, compared with $<1\text{mSv}$ group

Odds ratio

Men



Women



*Statistically significant. **Multivariable-adjusted: adjusted for age and evacuation. Multivariable-adjusted2: adjusted for age, evacuation, and radiation risk perception.

Today's Contents

- ❖ Associations between external radiation dose and health check-ups results
- ❖ Associations of external radiation dose with psychological distress and trauma reactions
- ❖ **Associations between external radiation dose and perinatal outcomes**

Background

- ❖ Based on the results obtained from the Pregnancy and Birth Survey in the Fukushima Health Management Survey, preterm birth rate (<37 weeks), low birth weight rate and congenital anomaly rate did not differ from the national average or from the general data. (*Fujimori K et al., 2014, Ishii K et al., 2017*)
- ❖ Regarding the effects of radiation on the fetus, there has been no change in the incidence of congenital anomaly before and after the Chernobyl accident*1, and reports from A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki*2 have shown no association between exposure and effects on the fetus or the occurrence of congenital anomaly. *1 (*Kolominsky y et al., 1999*) *2 (*Green DM et al, 2009, M. Ohtake et al., 1990*)
- ❖ No reports have shown an association between individual radiation dose and perinatal outcome after the Fukushima nuclear accident

Subjects

Subjects

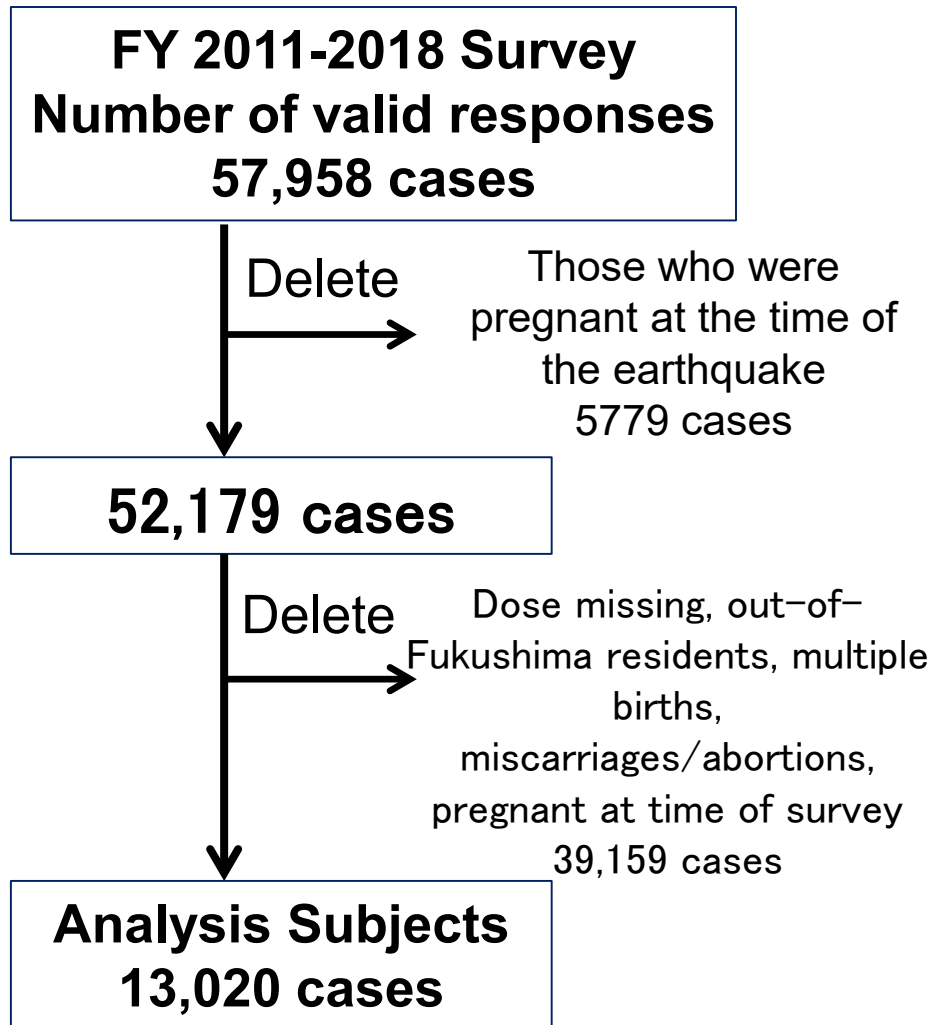
Pregnancies since the earthquake in the Pregnancy and Birth Survey conducted in FY 2011-2018.

Exclusion

Dose deficit, out-of-prefecture residents, pregnant at the time of the survey, multiple births, and miscarriages/abortions

Primary outcome: the number of Congenital anomaly rate,

Low birth weight (LBW; <2500g), Small for gestational age (SGA; <10th percentile) rate, and Preterm birth rate (< 37

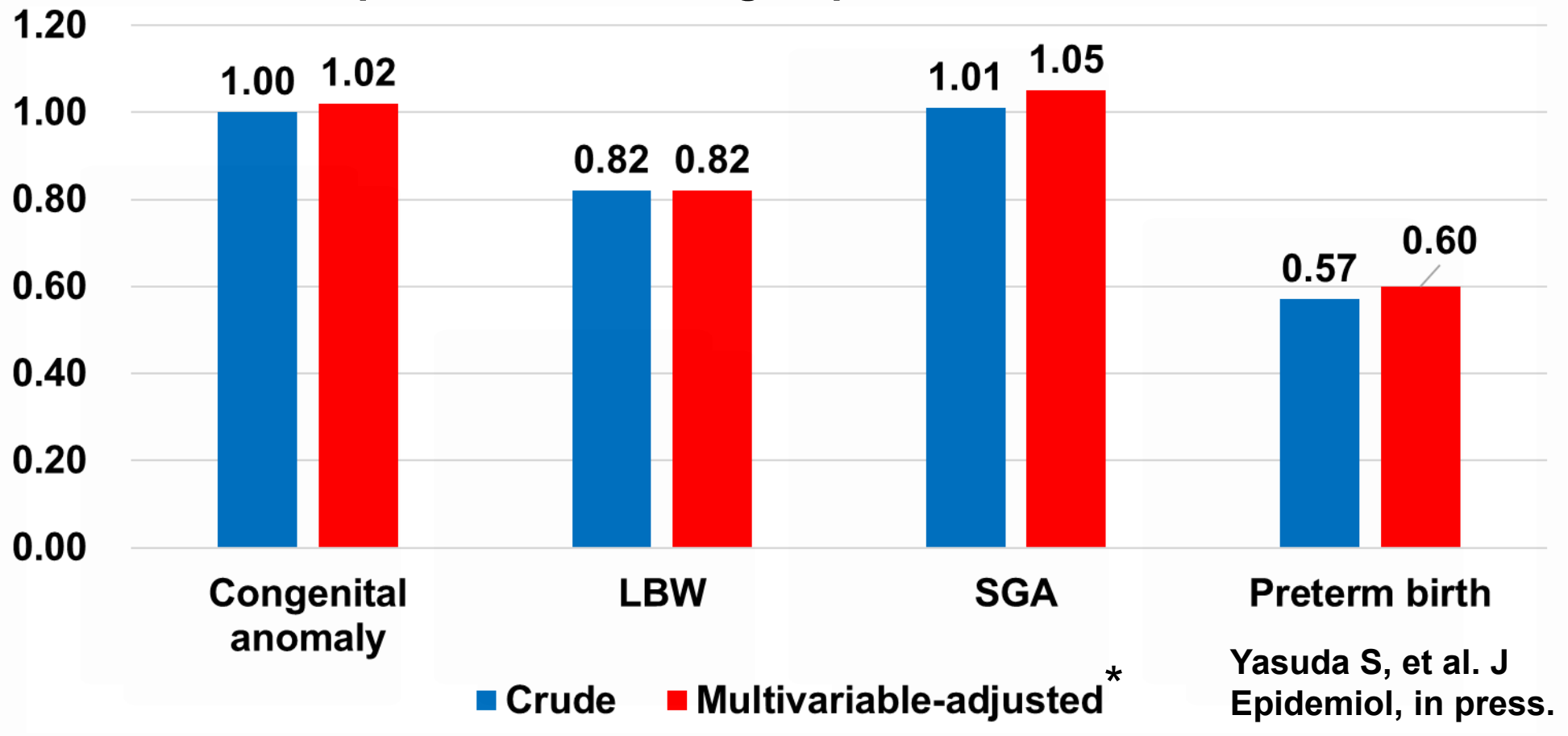


Statistical Analysis

- ❖ **We divided individual external radiation doses measured in the Basic Survey into three groups: $<1\text{mSv}$, $1\text{-}2\text{mSv}$, and $\geq 2\text{mSv}$, and examined cross-sectional associations of radiation doses with congenital anomaly, LBW, SGA, and Preterm birth.**
- ❖ **Analyses were conducted separately for FY 2011 and FY 2011-2018. For those who did not participate in the Basic Survey, external radiation doses were supplemented by multiple imputation method.**

Associations between External Radiation Dose and Perinatal Outcomes

Odds ratio Odds ratios of congenital anomaly, etc. for $\geq 2\text{mSv}$ group, compared with $<1\text{mSv}$ group



*Adjustment factors: Maternal age, infant sex, number of days since the disaster, first birth or not, placenta previa, gestational hypertension, infertility treatment, mental illness, and evacuation, adjusted for those factors that were significant in univariate analysis.

Limitations

- ❖ The response rate of the Basic Survey on external exposure dose is not high → Based on a previous study (Ishikawa et al., J Radiol Prot. 2017), the survey is considered to be representative of external exposure dose in the prefecture → Analyses using the multiple imputation method with missing data yield similar results
- ❖ Participation rates for the Comprehensive Health Check, Mental Health and Lifestyle Survey, and Pregnant and Birth Survey were not high and representativeness may be an issue.
- ❖ The study was not able to examine the association with internal radiation dose.
- ❖ The maximum follow-up period of this study is only 6 years. Longer follow-up is needed to assess radiation effects on disease incidence.

Conclusion

- ❖ Among residents in the evacuation area in Fukushima Prefecture, the risk of developing lifestyle-related diseases is higher among those with higher external radiation doses, but this must be due to the evacuation and subsequent lifestyle changes rather than the direct effects of radiation exposure.
- ❖ Among residents of the evacuation area, an increased risk of psychological distress was observed among women with higher external radiation doses, possibly due to the evacuation experience and perceived radiation risk.
- ❖ No apparent association between post-disaster external radiation dose and perinatal outcomes among pregnant women in Fukushima Prefecture
- ❖ Further long-term follow-up is needed to clarify the health effects of low-dose radiation exposure.

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a row of cherry blossom trees with light pink flowers is in full bloom. Behind them is a long, low building with a light-colored, textured facade. In the background, several taller, modern university buildings are visible under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Thank you

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