



NATURAL DISASTERS AND GENDER STATISTICS

Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake and
Tsunami

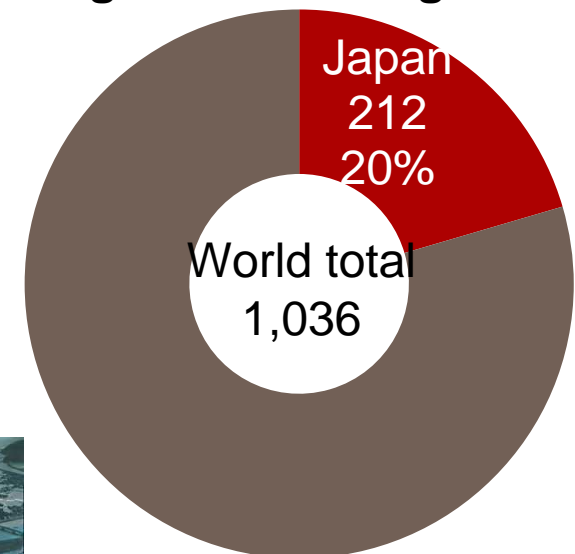
5th Global Forum for Gender Statistics

Nahoko MITSUYAMA
Counsellor for Gender Equality Analysis
Gender Equality Bureau
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

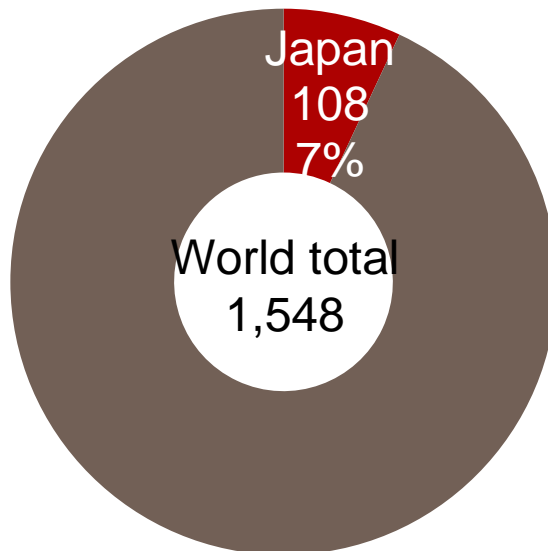
Japan: a disaster-prone country



of earthquakes with magnitude 6.0 or greater



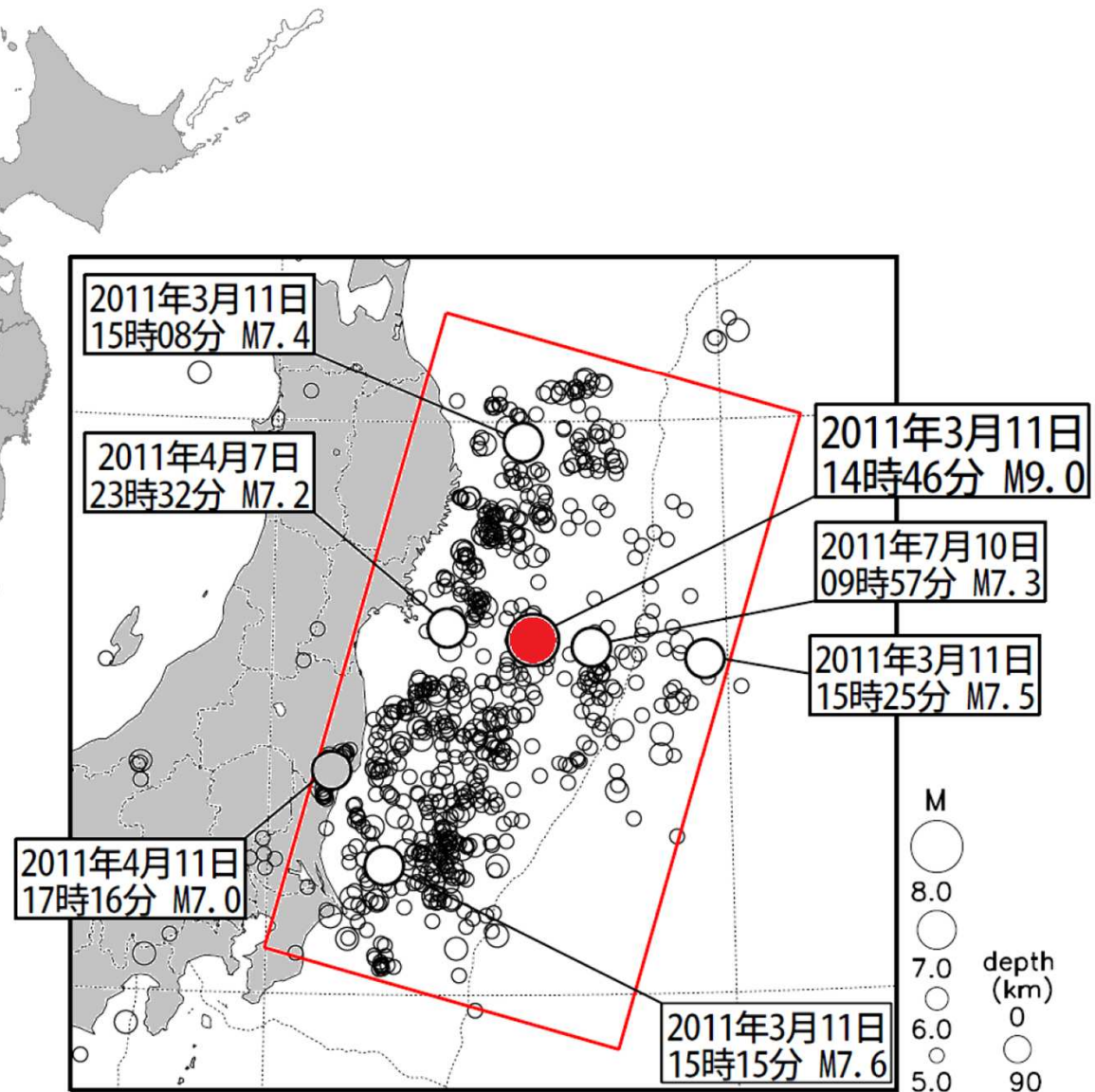
of active volcanoes



Source: Cabinet Office
 # of earthquakes: Sum of # 2000-2009
 # of active volcanoes: those that have erupted within the past 10,000 years

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

- 14:46 March 11, 2011
- Biggest ever in recorded history in Japan
- Hypocenter area: 450km x 200km
- Highest ever Tsunami
- Many big earthquakes followed outside the hypocenter area



Impact of the Earthquake and Tsunami as of 11 Sep. 2014

- “Multiplex” disaster: Earthquake + Tsunami + Nuclear power plant accident
- Eastern half of Japan damaged
- 16K people killed, 6K injured, 2K+ still missing
- 130K buildings completely damaged, 273K half-damaged, 745K partially damaged
- 246K people evacuated
- 4K roads & 100+ bridges damaged, some railroads still out of service
- Power shortage due to the NPP accident

The amount of damage: JPY 16.9 trillion (USD 152 billion)

Problems related to statistics in the immediate aftermath

of evacuees and their sex, age, necessity for support (those who need care, pregnant...) unknown

For example,

Nobody in a shelter knew how many women and babies were there when NPOs visited to offer goods for them



of evacuees disaggregated by sex, age, etc. got to be perceived essential in capturing their needs and assisting appropriately

What done?

- “Disaster Countermeasure Basic Act” amended in June 2013
 - Head of municipality required to make a list of sufferers
- Published a guideline to secure conditions of living in evacuation centers in August 2013
 - A guideline for implementing the Basic Act
 - Recommends to prepare a list of refugees with details such as sex when an evacuation center is set up, and to succeed the information to the list of sufferers

Problems in the phase of reconstruction: preparing White Paper

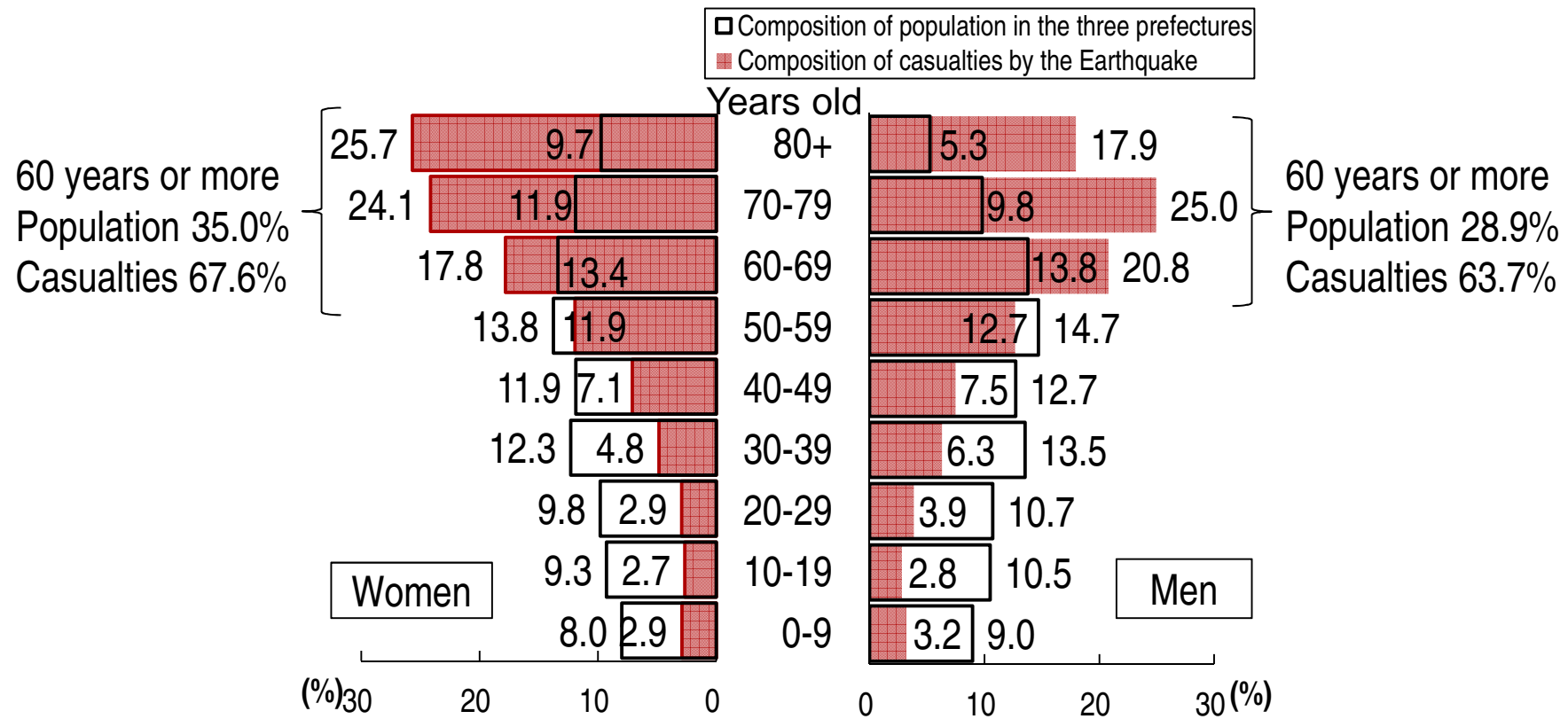
- No statistics by sex, except for # of the dead
- Various researches conducted, but published data scarcely disaggregated by sex;

Examples:

1. A survey on the action when Tsunami hit: Gender Equality Bureau (GEB) needed to procure raw data and tabulate themselves
 2. A survey on the health of refugees: GEB asked specialists to disaggregate the data >> Surprising results even for them
 3. The numbers of active job seekers published by Public Employment Security Office: The Office started to publish numbers by sex in responding to the requests from NPOs
 4. The number of employment related to immediate employment measures: Data disaggregation realized owing to the request from GEB
- No recognition on the possible value of sex-disaggregation
 - Some data available by prefecture by sex, but not distinguishable between damaged and non-damaged areas: # of suicides, crimes...

Example from White Paper1: Casualties and population by age in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Pref.

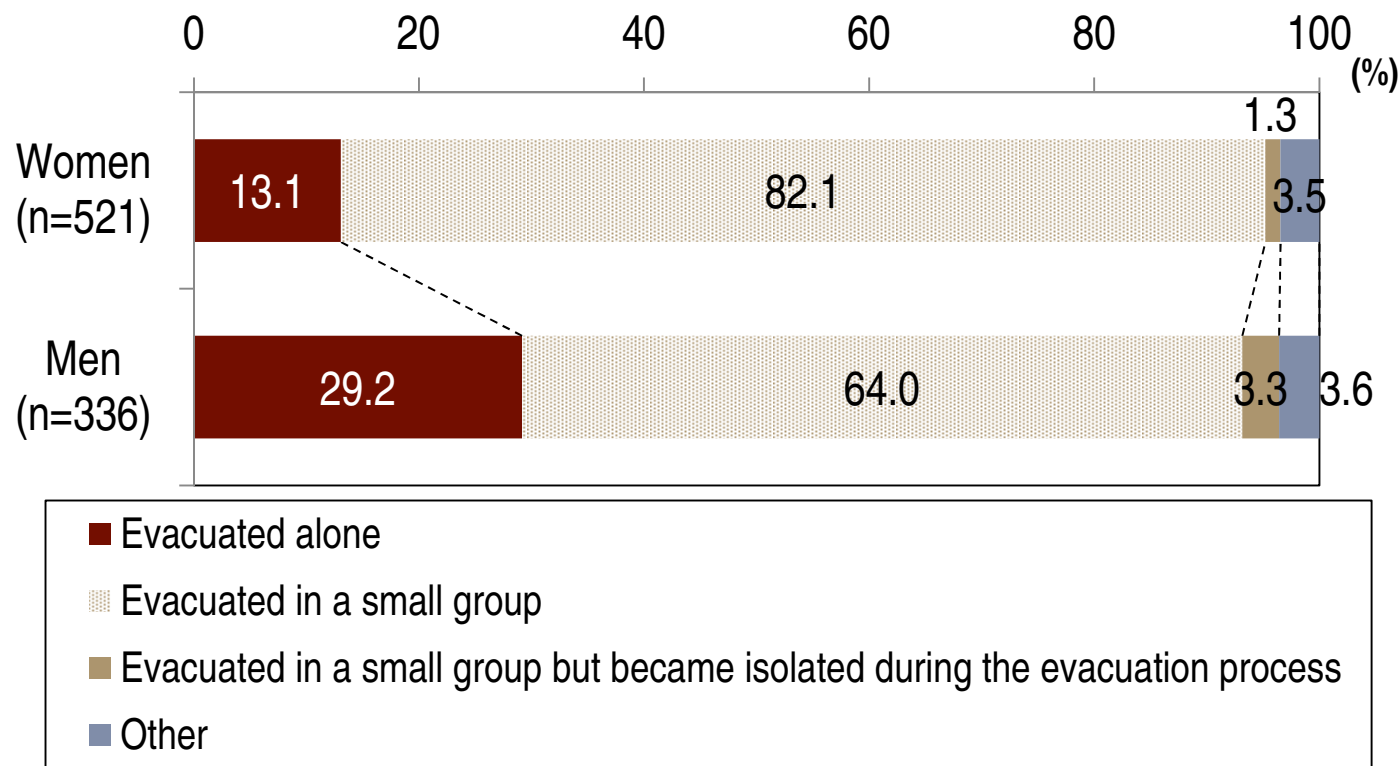
The ratio of casualties disproportionately higher for the elderly regardless of sex



Source: White Paper on Gender Equality 2012

Example from White Paper2: Accompanying persons when evacuated

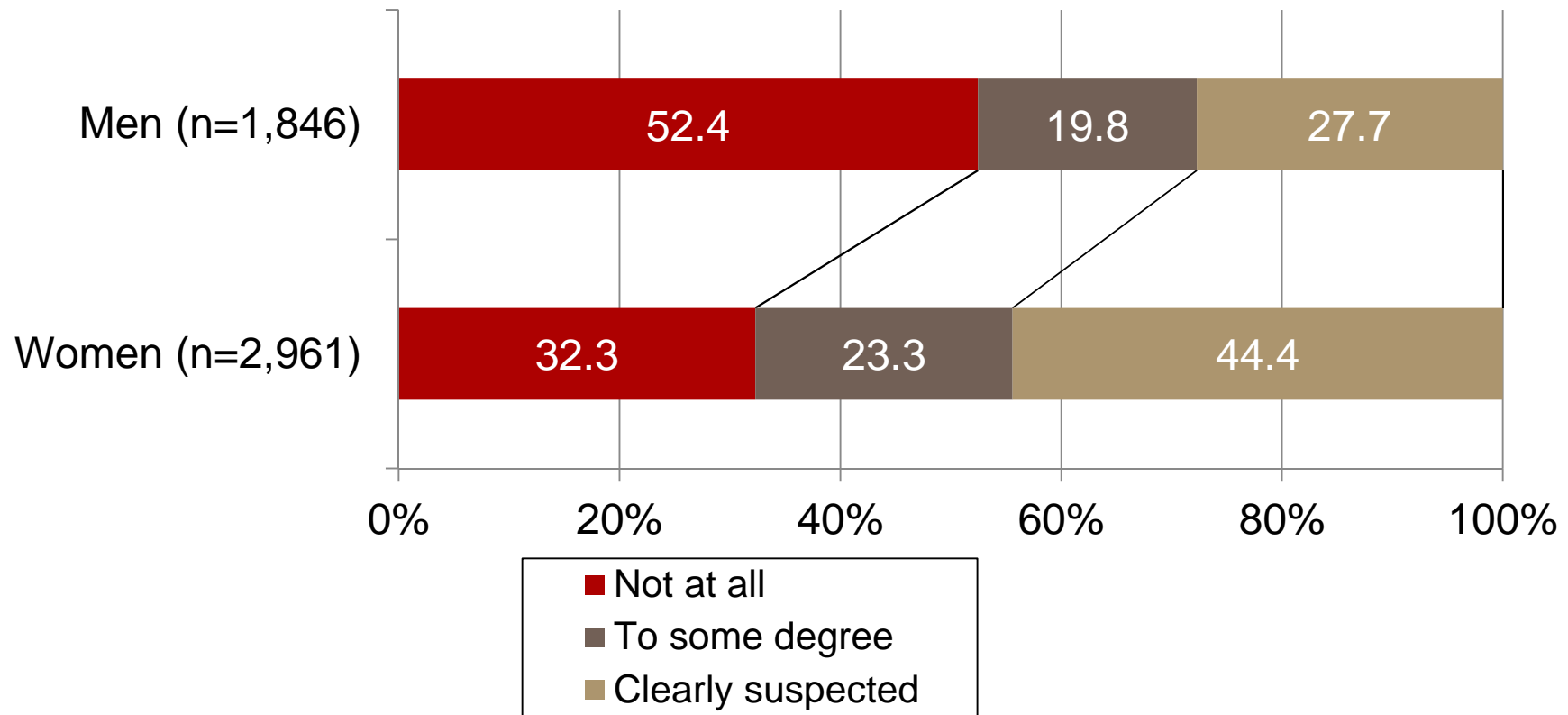
Women tend to evacuate in a small group in comparison with men



Source: White Paper on Gender Equality 2012

Example from White Paper3: Suspicion of insomnia in Rikuzentakata City

Women tend to suffer from insomnia in comparison with men, same as the result from the nationwide survey



Source: White Paper on Gender Equality 2012

Challenges

- # of evacuees: further disaggregated data needed in order to take appropriate measures, especially for those who continue to live in temporary dwellings
- Many mothers and their children said to evacuate separately from fathers with regard to the power plant accident, but no data collected
- Opinion poll in the damaged area not realized due to objections from inside the government
- # of people who died related to the Earthquake not disaggregated by sex due to objections from inside the government
- Data concerning reconstruction scarcely collected by sex for the purpose of “alleviation of respondents’ loads”



Gracious!
Thank you!