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## **Current situation of Single Mothers in Japan (Summary)**

This research was made as one of the researches in the Statistical Research and Training and Institute, Japan. The outline of the results of our research on “Single Mothers” in Japan is as follows:

The reasons why Single Mother was picked up this time as a research theme are as follows: It is said that the number of Single Mothers have been increasing and tended to face a financial problem and need social assistance. Therefore, there is growing interest in Single Mothers in Japan.

The tables of “Population Census” for the whole of Japan in 1990, 1995, and 2000 were used for this research.

Here, Single Mothers mean the women who are 15-49 years old, never married / divorced / widowed, and living with their child / children. But the single mothers who are not living with their child / children are not included here.

**1. The number of Single Mothers was more than 1 million in 2000 and the number of never married Single Mothers was 70 thousands.**

The number of Single Mothers in Japan was 1.04 million persons in 2000. Classifying it by marital status, “Divorced” was 820 thousand persons and 79.1% of the total of Single Mothers, “Widowed” was 150 thousand persons and 14.6%, and “Never married” was 70 thousand persons and 6.3%.

Table 1. Single mothers by age and marital status - Japan(2000)

Age	Single Mothers			
	Total	Never married	Divorced	Widowed
Total	5,883,338	89,230	1,432,431	4,361,677
15 ~ 49 years old	1,038,459	65,642	821,547	151,270
15 ~ 19	2,654	1,611	1,019	24
20 ~ 24	27,514	6,431	20,679	404
25 ~ 29	101,832	13,096	86,183	2,553
30 ~ 34	162,143	14,995	139,594	7,554
35 ~ 39	207,239	12,863	175,888	18,488
40 ~ 44	234,818	9,318	186,643	38,857
45 ~ 49	302,259	7,328	211,541	83,390
50 years old and over	4,844,879	23,588	610,884	4,210,407

Source: 2000 Population Census, Statistics Bureau of Japan

## 2. The number of Single Mothers increases according to their age.

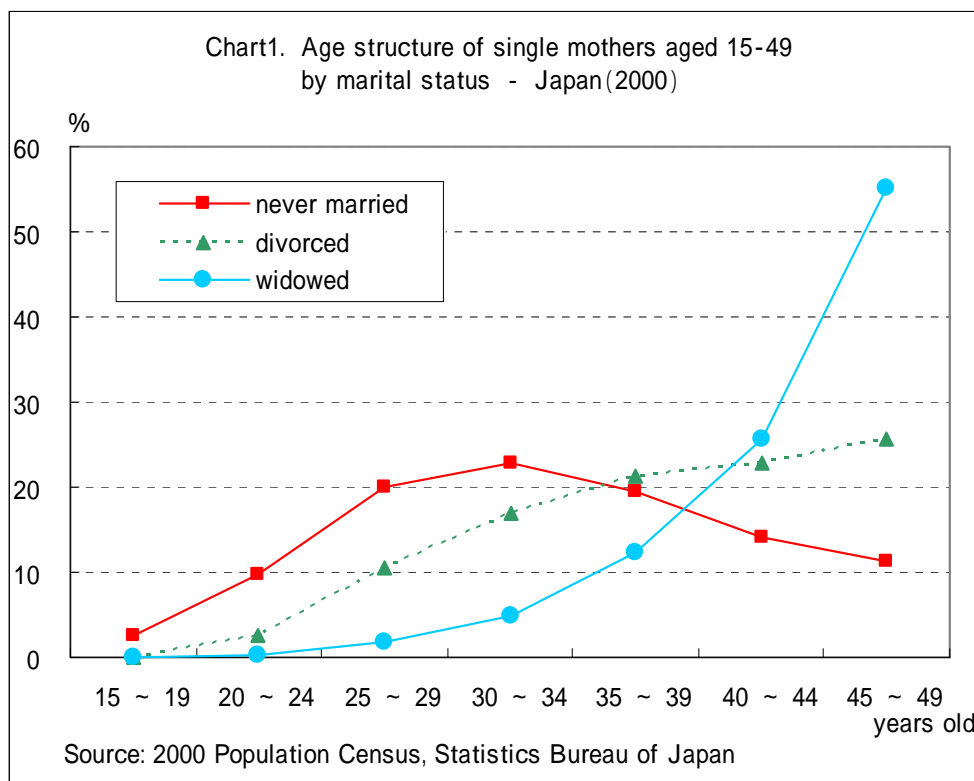
Classifying Single Mothers in 2000 by age, the number of Single Mothers increases according to their age. Age 20-24 was 30 thousand persons and 2.6% of the total, age 25-29 was 100 thousand persons and 9.8%, age 30-34 was 160 thousand persons and 15.6%, age 35-39 was 210 thousand persons and 20.0%, age 40-44 was 230 thousand persons and 22.6%, and age 45-49 was 300 thousand persons and 29.1%. The reason why Single Mothers increase according to their age is as follows: "Divorced" accounts for nearly 80% of the total of Single Mothers and usually increases according to their age.

## 3. Single Mothers living in a household with their child / children only are more than 70%.

Classifying Single Mothers in 2000 by family type of household, the number of Single Mothers living in family nucleus household was 750 thousand persons and 72.2% of the total of Single Mothers. It means that more than 70% of Single Mothers lived with their child / children only. On the other hand, the number of Single Mothers living in households other than the family nucleus household was 290 thousand persons and 27.8%.

**4. Age structure of never married Single Mothers shows “Mountain Shape” peaking age 30-34.**

Classifying Single Mothers in 2000 by age and marital status, firstly, “Never married” shows “Mountain Shape” peaking age 30-34 as the chart below. Age 25-39 was 40 thousand persons and 62.4% of the number of never married Single Mothers. Secondly, “Divorced” increases according to their age and shows like “Ever-increasing Shape”. Thirdly, “Widowed” also increases according to their age and rapidly increases after age 40 as a feature.



As mentioned above, “Mountain Shape” is unique to “Never married”. The reason why age structure of never married Single Mothers shows “Mountain Shape” is as follows: The possibility of delivery becomes higher according to their age at age 15-29. Therefore, the curve will rise at age 15-29. On the other hand, the possibility of living separately with their child / children becomes higher according to their age at age 35-49 because of the growth of their child / children. Therefore, the curve will decline at age 35-49.

**Note:** Refer to the following page in Japanese for further information:

<http://www.stat.go.jp/training/2kenkyu/saika.htm>