

# Rainbow Times

**Overview:**

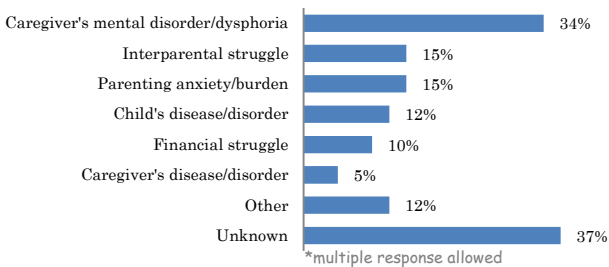
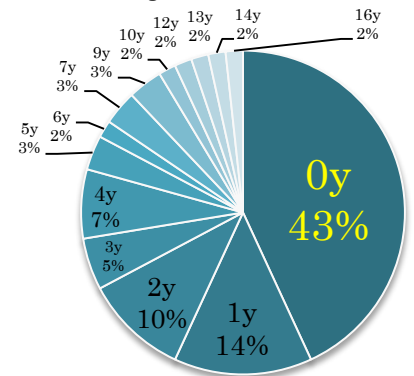
## The 9<sup>th</sup> Report of Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Case Review

The Expert Committee of Child Abuse and Child Protection Related Case Review in the Children's Division of the Social Security Council: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

The 9<sup>th</sup> report on Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect case Review was published on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Total of 85 cases with 99 fatalities was reported in FY2013. In this report, fatal child abuse is categorized in to two causes: forced double suicide, and children's death by maltreatment other than forced double suicide such as physical abuse and neglect.

There were 56 cases with 58 fatalities beside forced double suicide. As also seen in the 8<sup>th</sup> report, the younger babies had the highest risk of victimization: 43% were younger than a year old, including 7 younger than a day old, and 4 younger than 30days old. Number of mothers missed prenatal health checks<sup>■</sup> and did not even have the "Mother-Baby Book"<sup>▲</sup>, indicating the lack of sufficient prenatal maternal care. 57% of the perpetrator was biological mother, 19% was biological father and 9% was biological parents. Motives such as "neglect of protection" and "irritated by baby crying" was commonly reported in the cases which the victim is younger than 3years old.

<sup>■</sup>In Japan, the local authorities issue 14 free tickets for prenatal checkups, and mothers in good health usually uses 10-12 tickets until birth. <sup>▲</sup>On the Mother-Baby Book, you record information such as your born hospital, hours taken, height, weight, immunization, the day of first step, first spoken word...etc. A lot of people in Japan keep this book as the memento of one's birth.

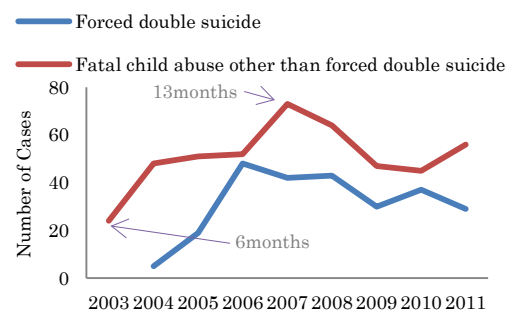


On the other hand, the child victim of forced double suicide was equally distributed in all ages. Biological mother took part of the perpetration in 88% of the cases, and within, 81% they were the major perpetrator. The motive was unknown in 37% of the cases, and yet the rate of "the caregiver's mental disorder/dysphoria" as the motive was 34%. Focusing on the perpetrating biological mothers, 28% had parenting anxiety, 28% had diagnosed mental disorder, 35% had depression, and 17% had mood temperament.

The 9<sup>th</sup> report includes the summarized changes over time as well. Please note that the 2003 data was collected within the period of 6 months (September 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003), and the 2007 data was collected within the period of 13 month (January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008). All the other data was collected within the period of one year.

- Ⓒ There are consistently slightly more male fatal child abuse (other than forced double suicide) victim while the forced double suicide victim gender consistently does not differ.
- Ⓒ Fatal abuse (other than forced double suicide) victim age is consistently inclined toward younger age, while double suicide victim is consistently dispersed to all ages.
- Ⓒ Physical abuse has been the most common reason of death in fatal abuse (other than forced double suicide), and neglect has been the second<sup>♦</sup>.
- Ⓒ Around half of fatal abuse (other than forced double suicide) perpetrator has been the biological mother. Around 6-70% of double suicide perpetrator has been the biological mother; however, in the 9<sup>th</sup> report it exceeded 80%.

<sup>♦</sup>The data was collected by asking the "major type of abuse". In most of the cases, it is the type of abuse which caused the actual death.



The 1<sup>st</sup> report on Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Case Review was published on 2003. Since then, more effort has been made to protect as many children as possible from harm. We still cannot be sure that we are on the right track to eradicating fatal child abuse; however, I believe that a small possibility to save one child is enough for us all to take action.

Original Report (Japanese) from The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare homepage: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2f9852000037b58.html>