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2023 Fukushima Medical University International Symposium on the Fukushima Health Management Survey

Secretariat of International Symposium

Office of Public Communications and International Cooperation, Radiation Medical Science Center for the Fukushima Health Management Survey, Fukushima Medical University

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# Factors associated with the development of thyroid cancer identified in the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination

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# COI Disclosures

Nothing to disclose

# This presentation

- Current progress and future plans for the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination (TUE) in the Fukushima Health Management Survey.
- Confounding factors other than radiation associated with the detection rate of thyroid cancer (thyroid nodule).
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Participation rate of the confirmatory examination
  - Survey interval
  - Implementation rate of FNAC
  - Obesity
- Association between radiation exposure and detection rate of thyroid cancer (thyroid nodules)
  - Association with municipal average estimated thyroid absorbed doses (UNSCEAR estimate)
  - Association with individually estimated equivalent thyroid doses (estimated in Fukushima Medical University)

# Flow chart of Thyroid Ultrasound Examination program

for residents in Fukushima aged 18 years or younger at the accident

## Primary examination (with portable US machines)

By visiting all towns and schools in Fukushima

and examination at medical facility in all prefectures in Japan



## Interpretation of US images

Others

Nodule  $\geq 5.1$ mm or cyst  $\geq 20.1$ mm

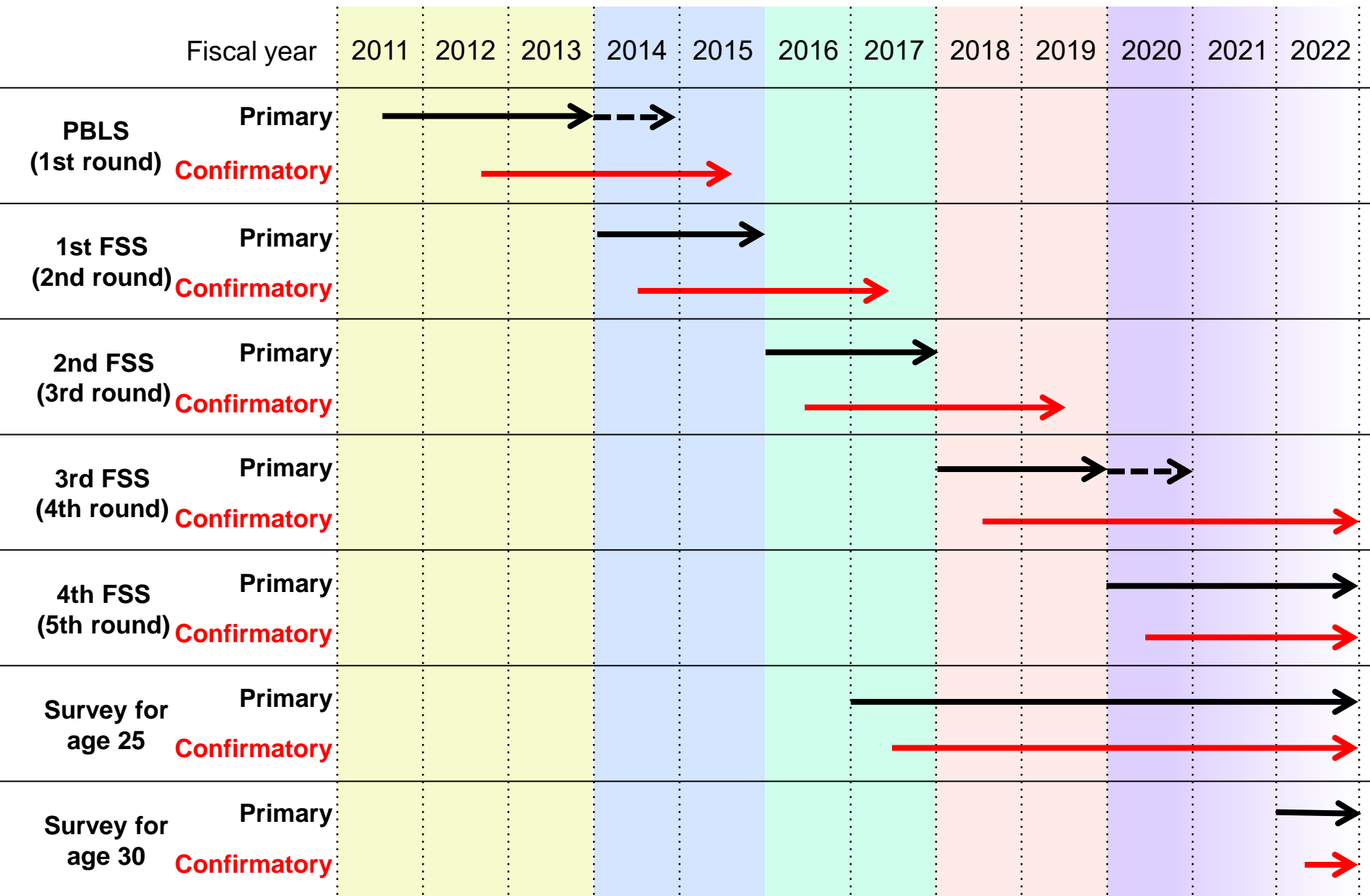
Confirmatory examination  
(US, blood and urine exam., FNAC when needed)

Next examination  
(2 years-interval in childhood,  
5 years-interval in  $> 20$  y/o)

Surgical treatment or  
medical follow-up



# Progress of Thyroid Ultrasound Examination





PBLS: Preliminary Baseline Survey, FSS: Full-Scale Survey

# Progress of fifth-round and plans in sixth-round survey

	Fifth round			Sixth round	
	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Born in FY1992	28	29	30	31	32
Born in FY1993	27	28	29	30	31
Born in FY1994	26	27	28	29	30
Born in FY1995	25	26	27	28	29
Born in FY1996	24	25	26	27	28
Born in FY1997	23	24	25	26	27
Born in FY1998	22	23	24	25	26
Born in FY1999	21	22	23	24	25
Born in FY2000	20	21	22	23	24
Born in FY2001	19	20	21	22	23
Born in FY2002	18	19	20	21	22
Born in FY2003	17	18	19	20	21
Born in FY2004	16	17	18	19	20
Born in FY2005	15	16	17	18	19

Numbers in the table are ages at the end of each fiscal year.

 Examination mainly at medical facilities

 Examination mainly at schools

# Summary of results

		<b>PBLS (1st round)*</b>	<b>1st FSS (2nd round)**</b>	<b>2nd FSS (3rd round)***</b>	<b>3rd FSS (4th round)****</b>	<b>Survey for age 25**</b>
Fiscal year		<b>2011-2013</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2017-</b>
Eligible persons		<b>367,637</b>	<b>381,237</b>	<b>336,667</b>	<b>294,228</b>	<b>108,713</b>
Participation rate		<b>81.7%</b>	<b>71.0%</b>	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>62.3%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
Judgement in the primary examination	A1	<b>51.5%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>
	A2	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>59.0%</b>	<b>64.2%</b>	<b>65.6%</b>	<b>52.2%</b>
	B	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
	C	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Eligible persons for the conf exam		<b>2,293</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>430</b>
Participation rate of conf exam		<b>92.9%</b>	<b>84.2%</b>	<b>73.5%</b>	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>82.1%</b>
M or SM (FNAC)		<b>116</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>
Surgically treated		<b>102</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>
Pathological diagnosis	PTC	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>
	PDTC	<b>1</b>				
	Others	<b>1 (Benign)</b>	<b>1 (Others)</b>			<b>1 (FTC)</b>

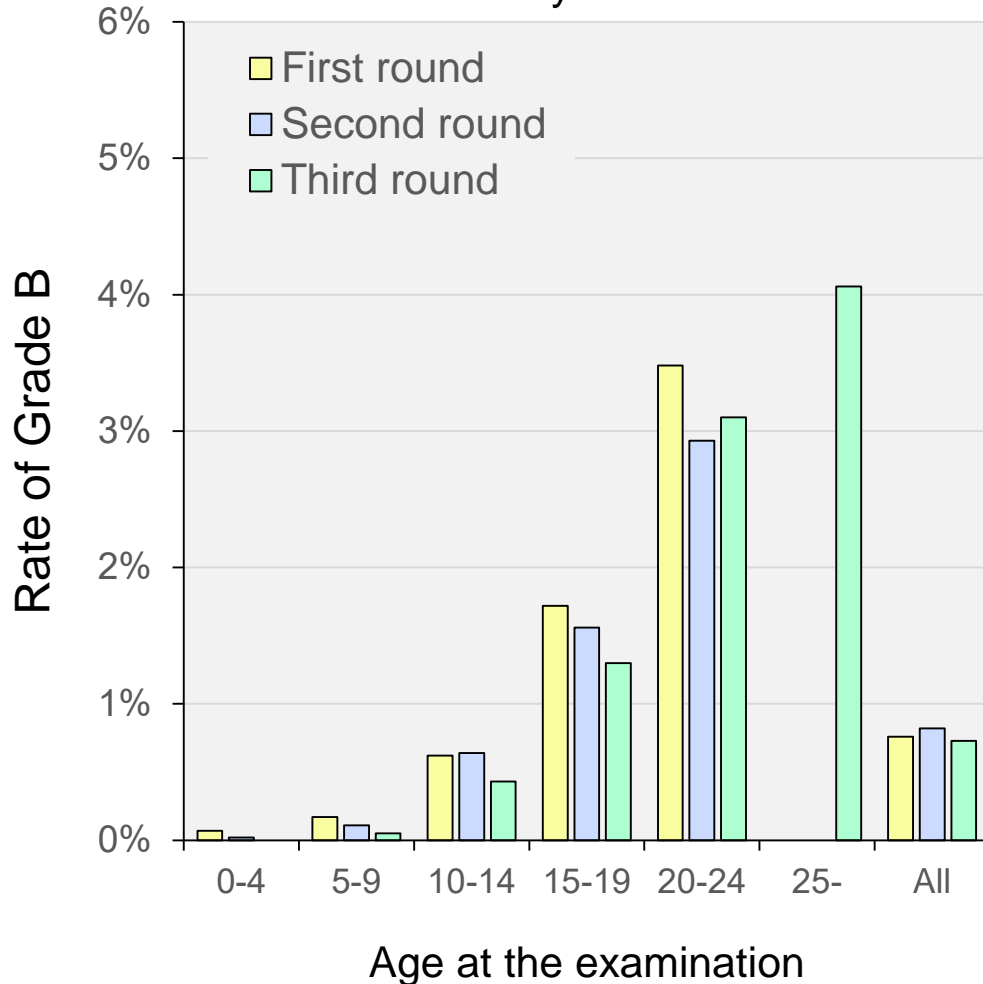
PBLS: Preliminary Baseline Survey, FSS: Full-Scale Survey, M or MS: malignancy or suspicious for malignancy

\*As of March 31, 2018, \*\*As of March 31, 2022, \*\*\*As of March 31, 2021, \*\*\*\*As of June 30, 2022

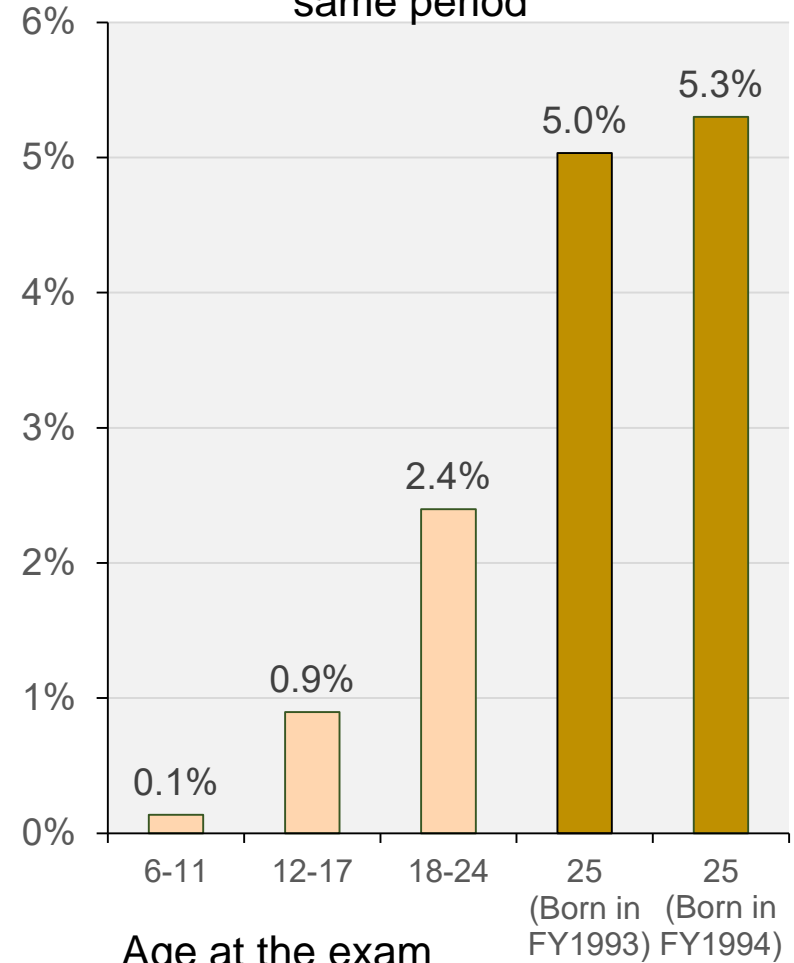


# Rate of Grade B (nodule > 5mm or cyst > 20mm)

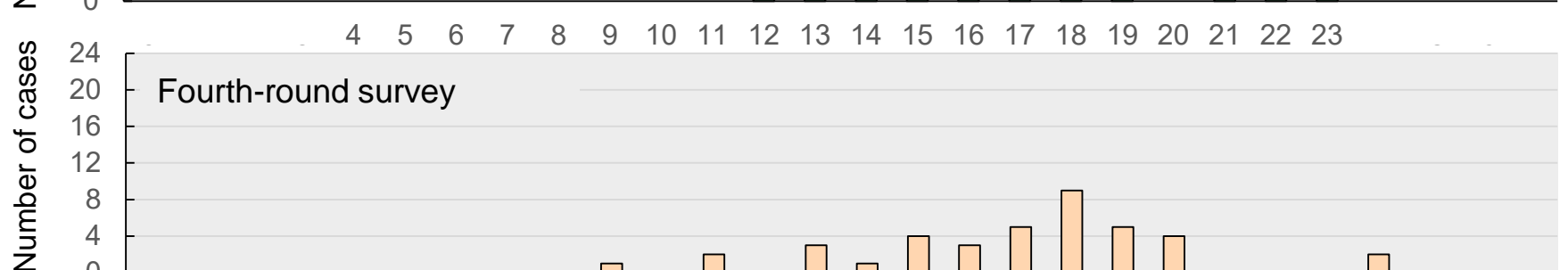
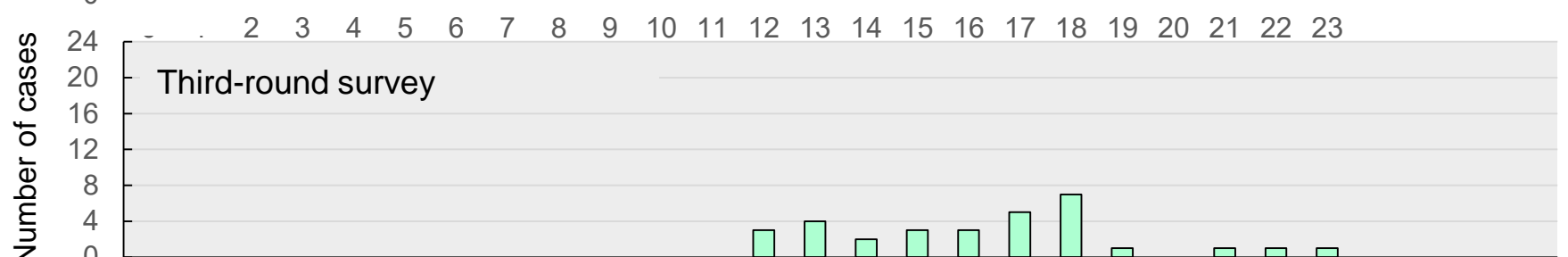
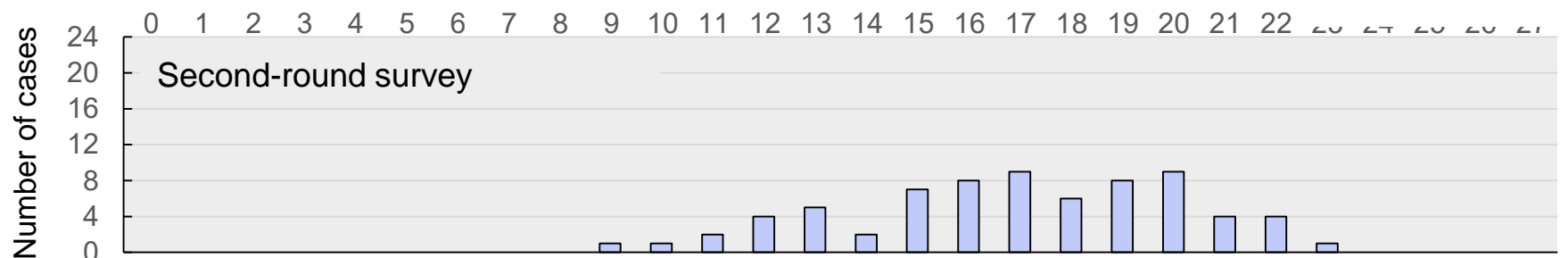
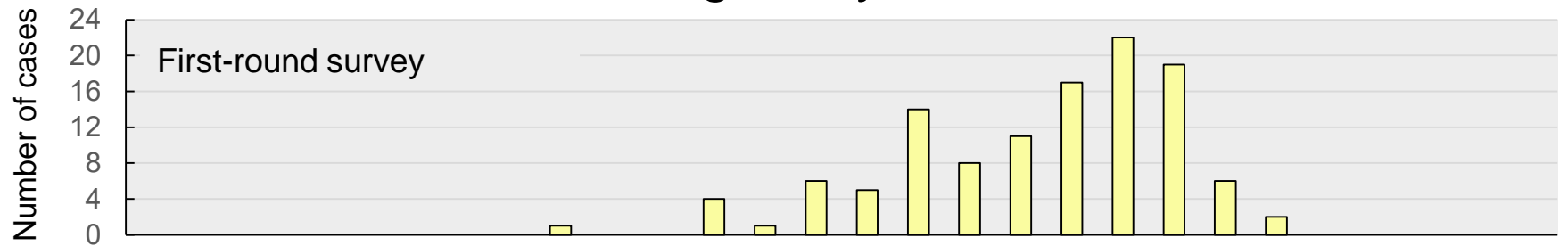
Rate of Grade B in the first- to third-round survey



Rate of Grade B in the fourth-round survey and survey for age 25 conducted during the same period

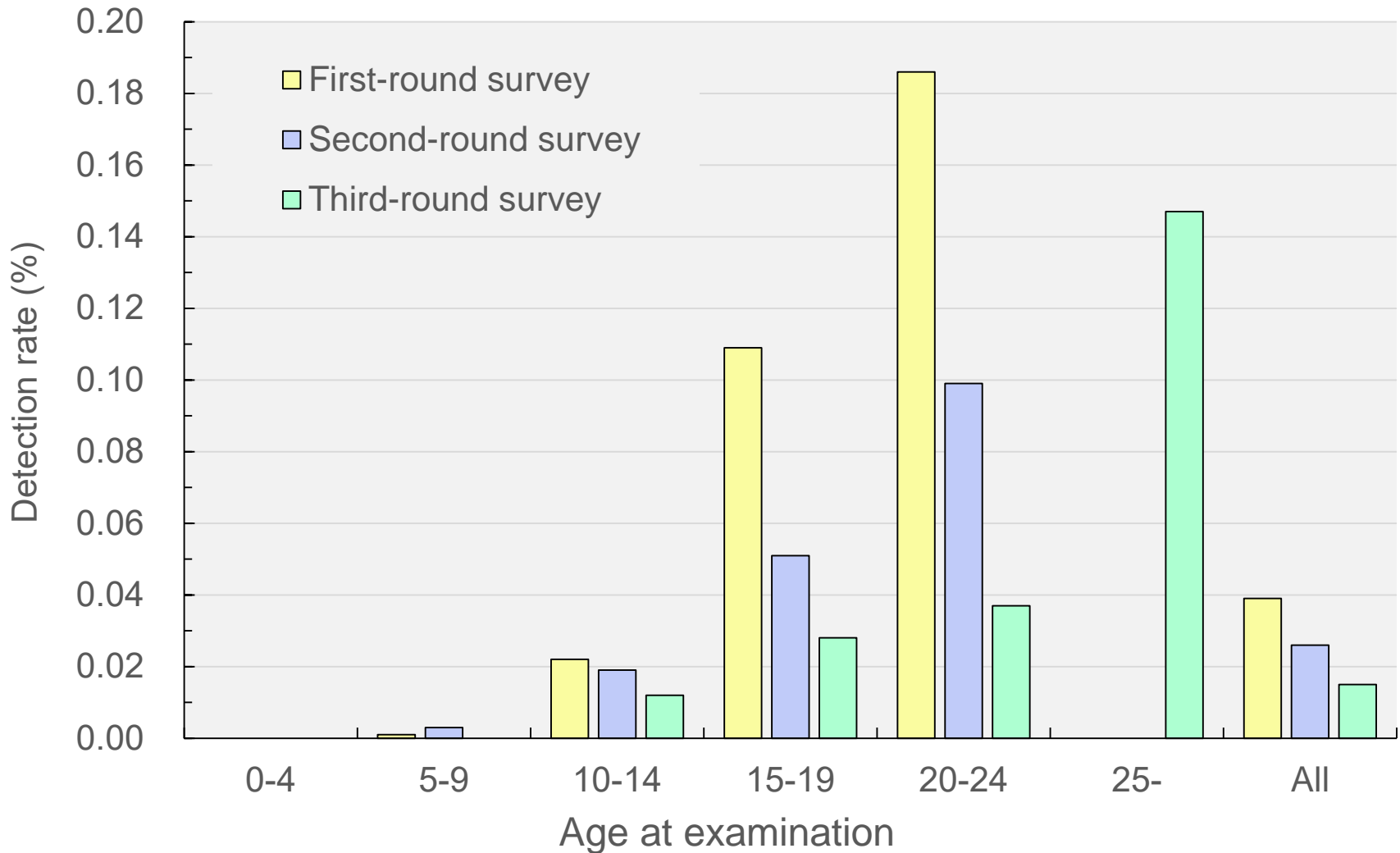


# Number of cases diagnosed as malignant or suspicious for malignancy



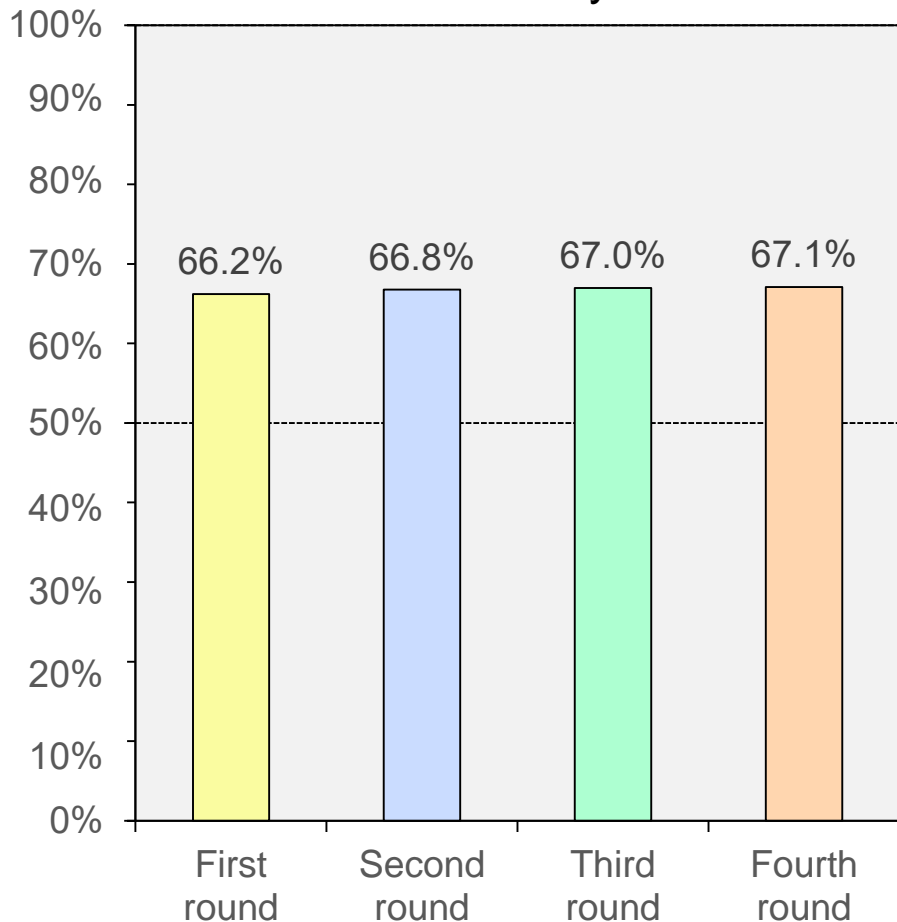
Age at the confirmatory examination

# Detection rate of nodules diagnosed as malignant or suspicious for malignancy

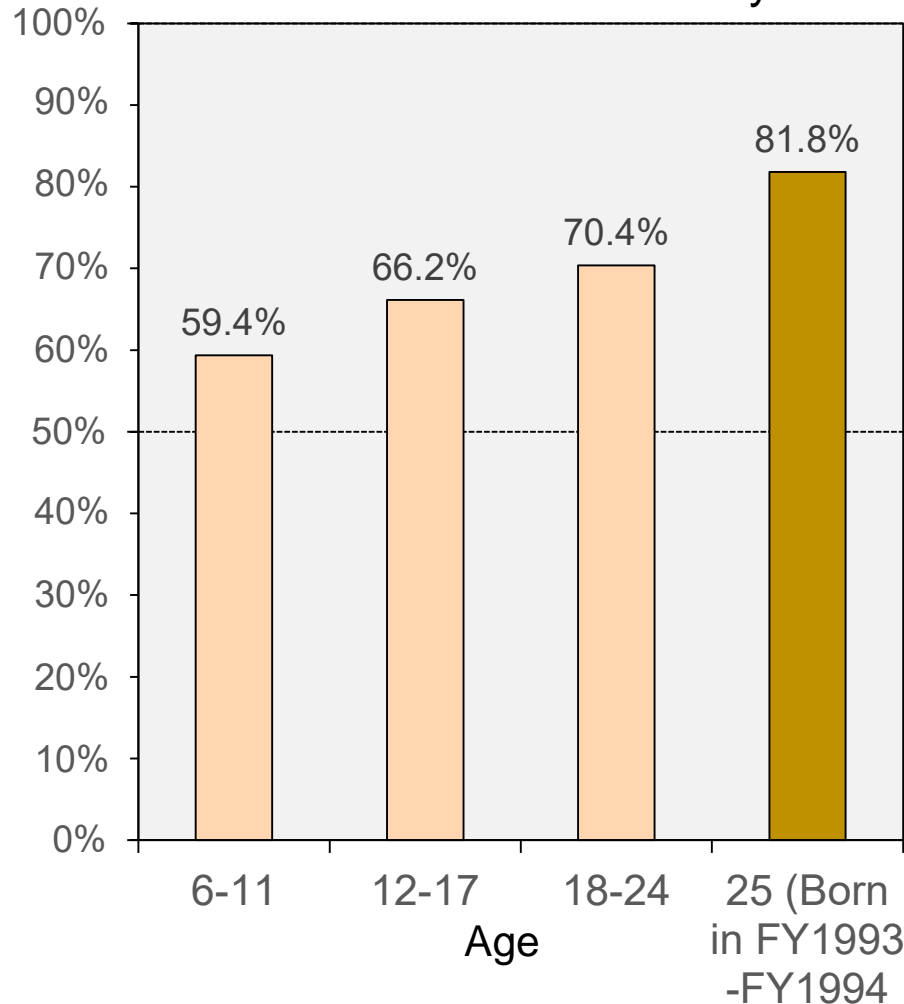


# Percentage of female in examinees with Grade B

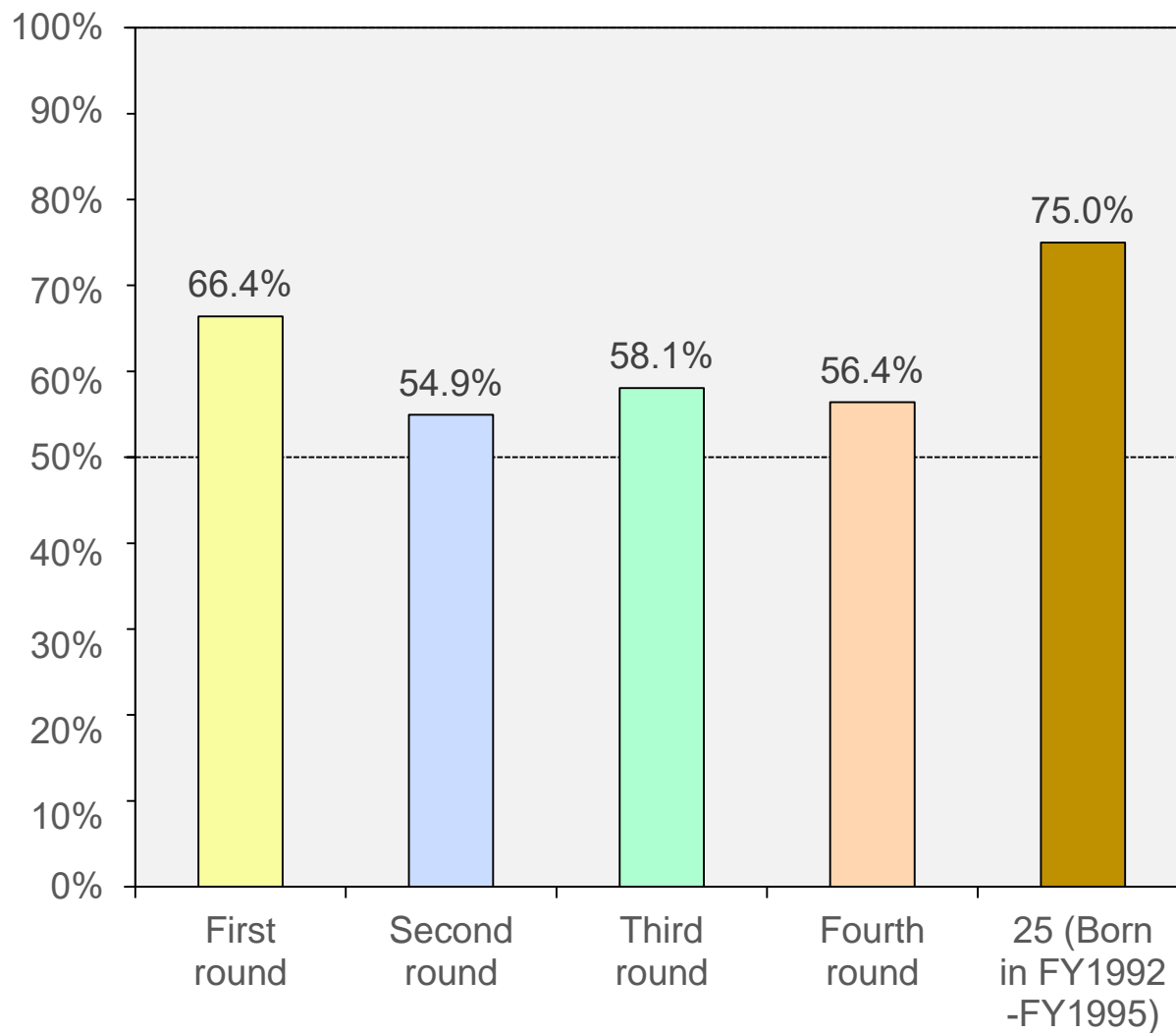
## Percentage of female in each round of survey



## Percentage of female by age groups in the fourth-round survey



# Percentage of female in examinees with nodules diagnosed as malignant or suspicious for malignancy



# Flow chart of Thyroid Ultrasound Examination program

for residents in Fukushima aged 18 years or younger at the accident

## Primary examination (with portable US machines)

By visiting all towns and schools in Fukushima

and examination at medical facility in all prefectures in Japan



## Interpretation of US images

Others

Nodule  $\geq 5.1$ mm or cyst  $\geq 20.1$ mm

Voluntary participation

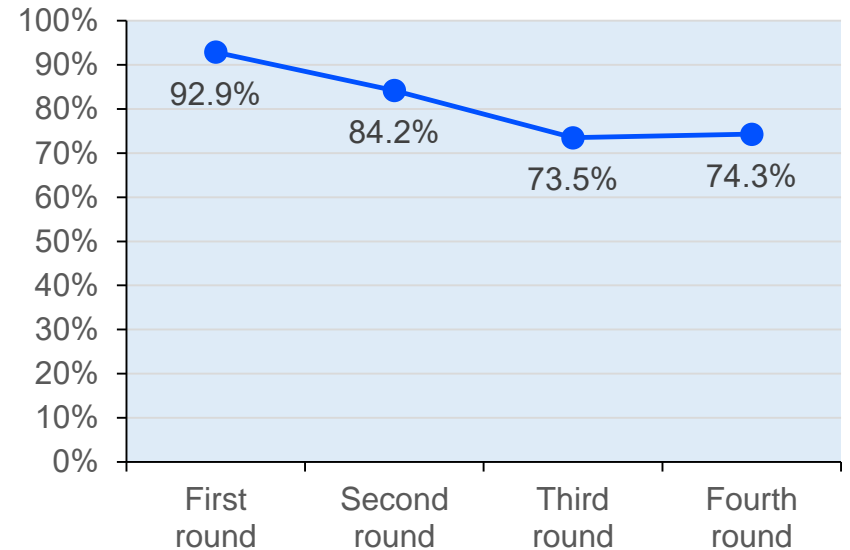
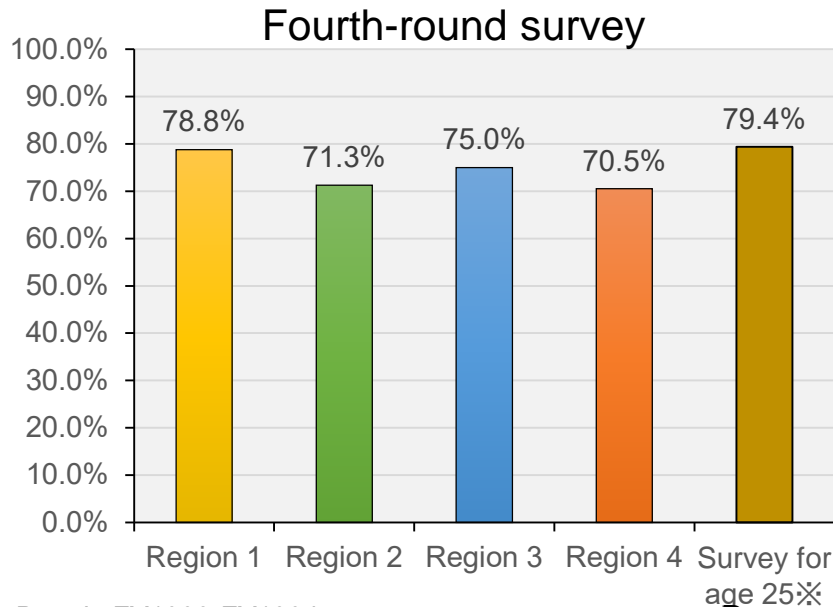
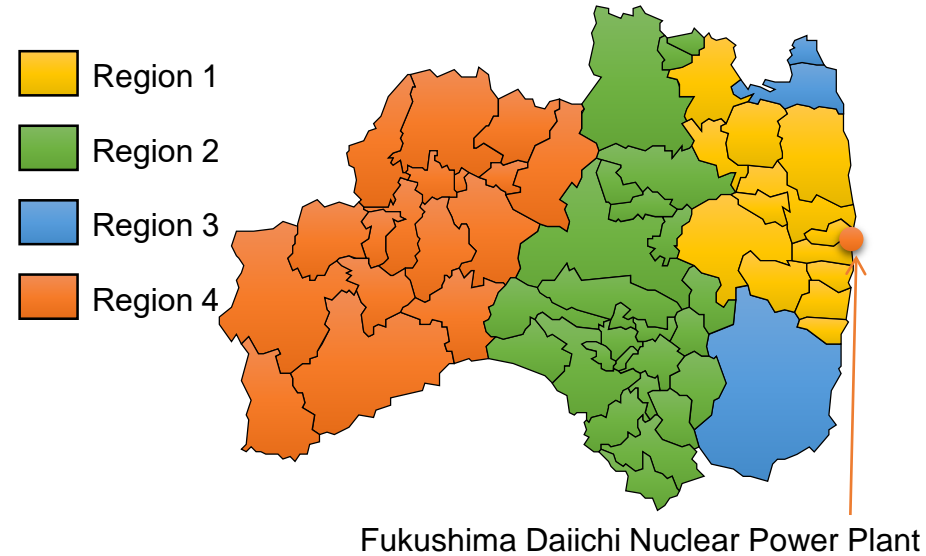
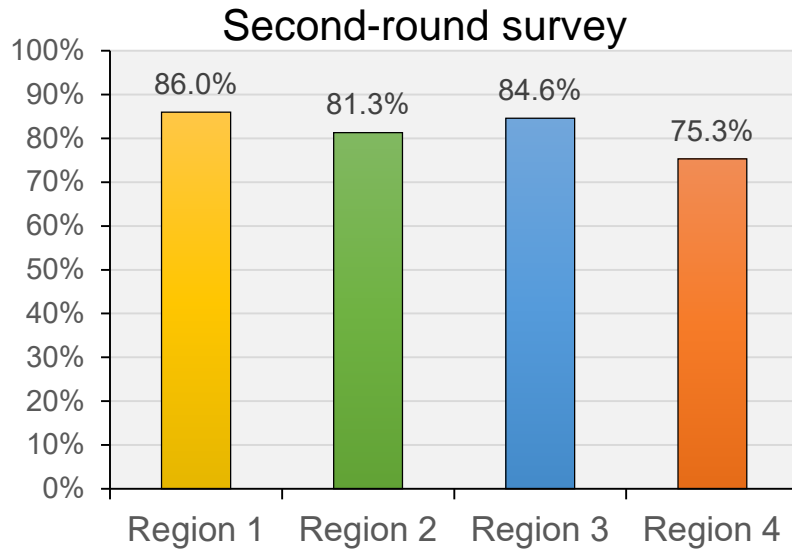
Confirmatory examination  
(US, blood and urine exam., FNAC when needed)



Next examination  
(2 years-interval in childhood,  
5 years-interval in  $> 20$  y/o)

Surgical treatment or  
medical follow-up

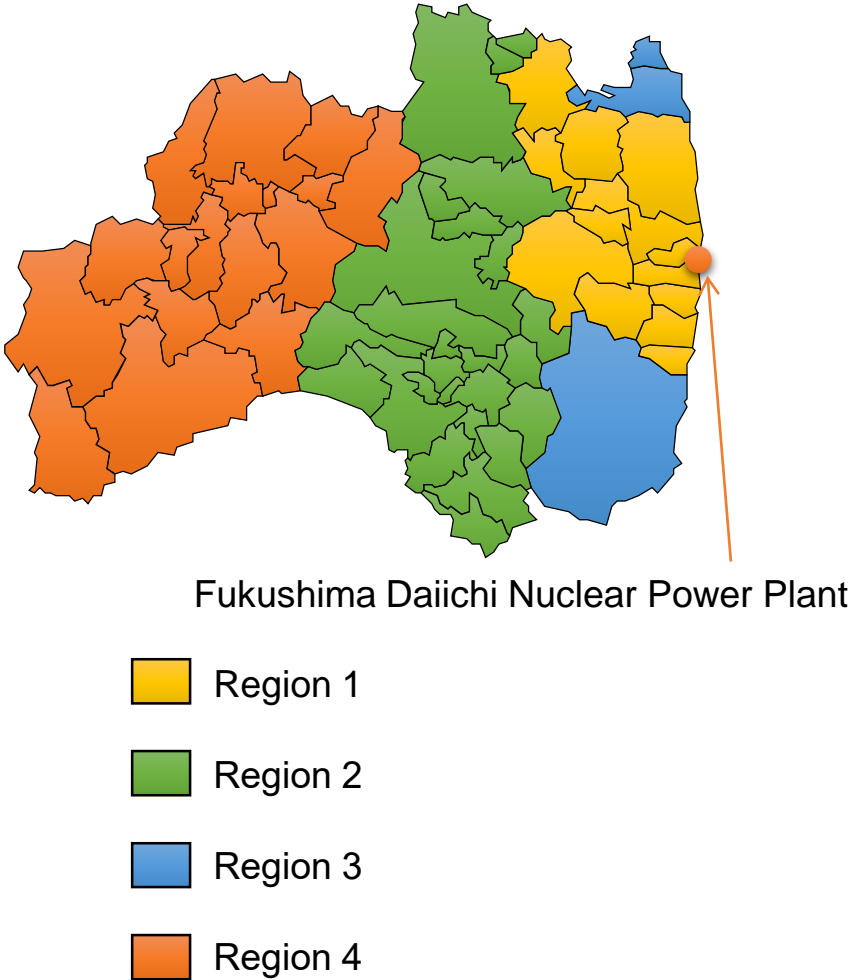
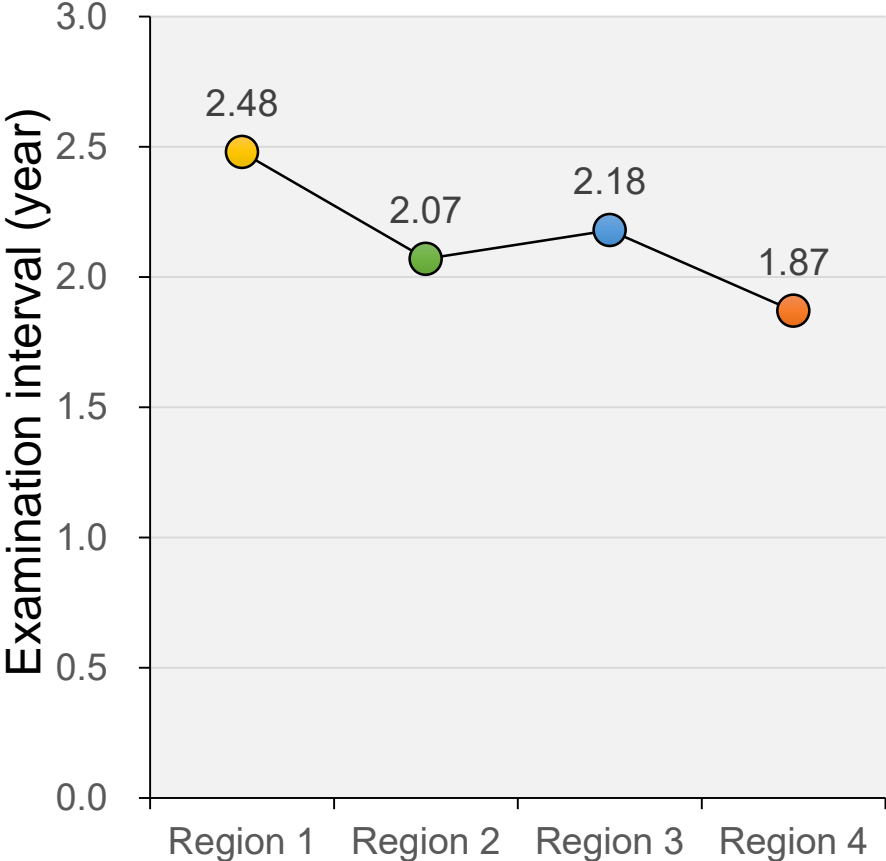
# Regional differences and changes in the participation rate of confirmatory examination



\*: Born in FY1993-FY1994

# Regional differences in the interval between examinations since the last examination

Interval from the first-round survey and the second-round survey

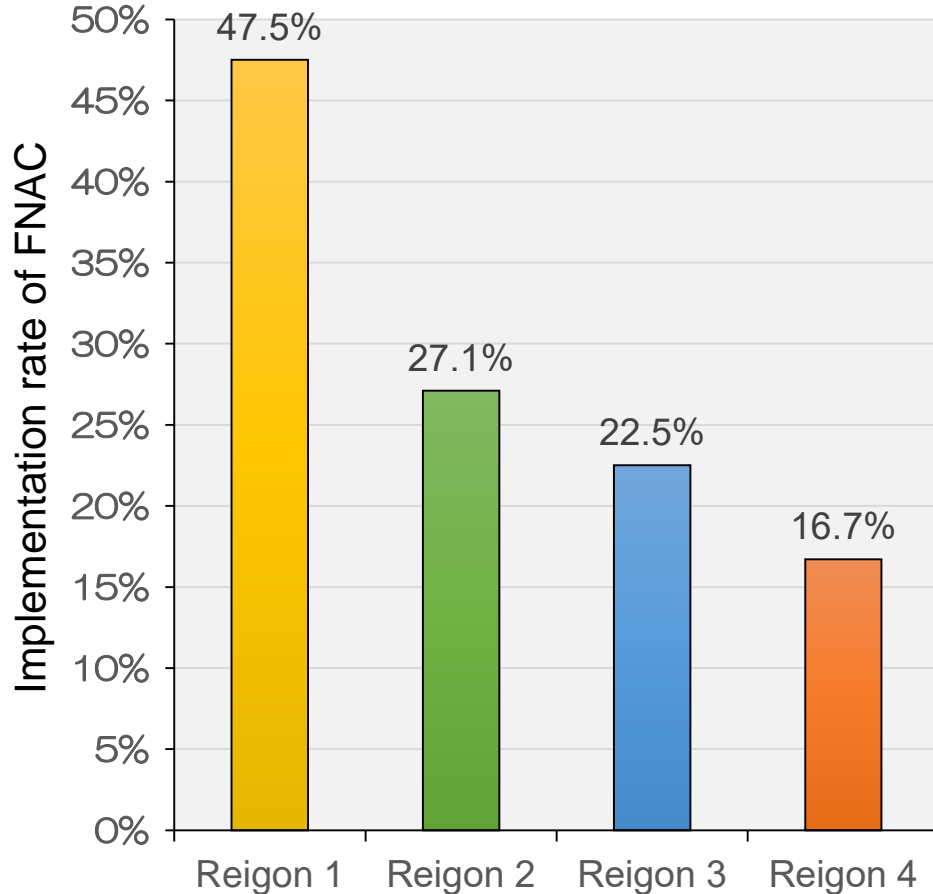




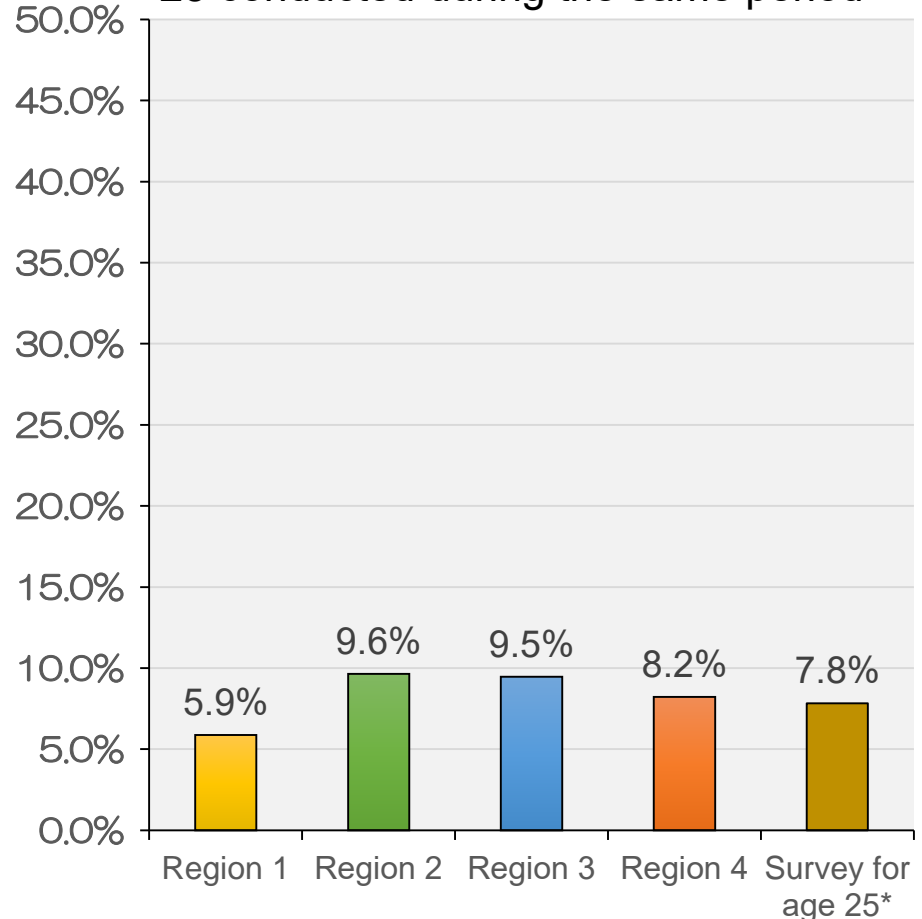
# Regional difference in the implementation rate of FNAC

FNAC implementation rate among examinees who diagnosed as Grade B in the conf exam

### First-round survey



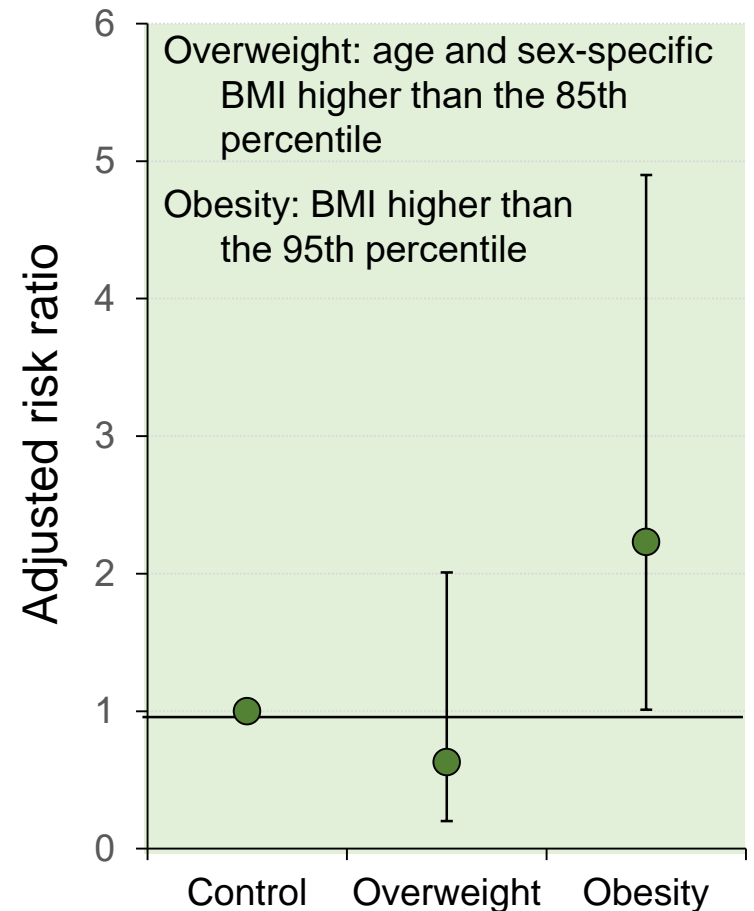
### Fourth-round survey and and survey for age 25 conducted during the same period



\*: Born in FY1993-FY1994

# Association between obesity and thyroid cancer risk

	Control	Over weight	Obesity
Participant (n)	200,202	22,395	14,633
Female (%)	50.9	44.5	42
Age at the accident	8.2	7.2	6.9
Age at the 2nd-round examination	12.2	11.3	10.9
Percentage of Grade B (%)	0.84	0.80	0.89
Participation rate of confirmatory exam (%)	81	87	82
No. of cases diagnosed with M or SM	56	3	7
Multivariable-adjusted* RR	1	0.62 (0.20-2.01)	2.23 (1.01-4.90)

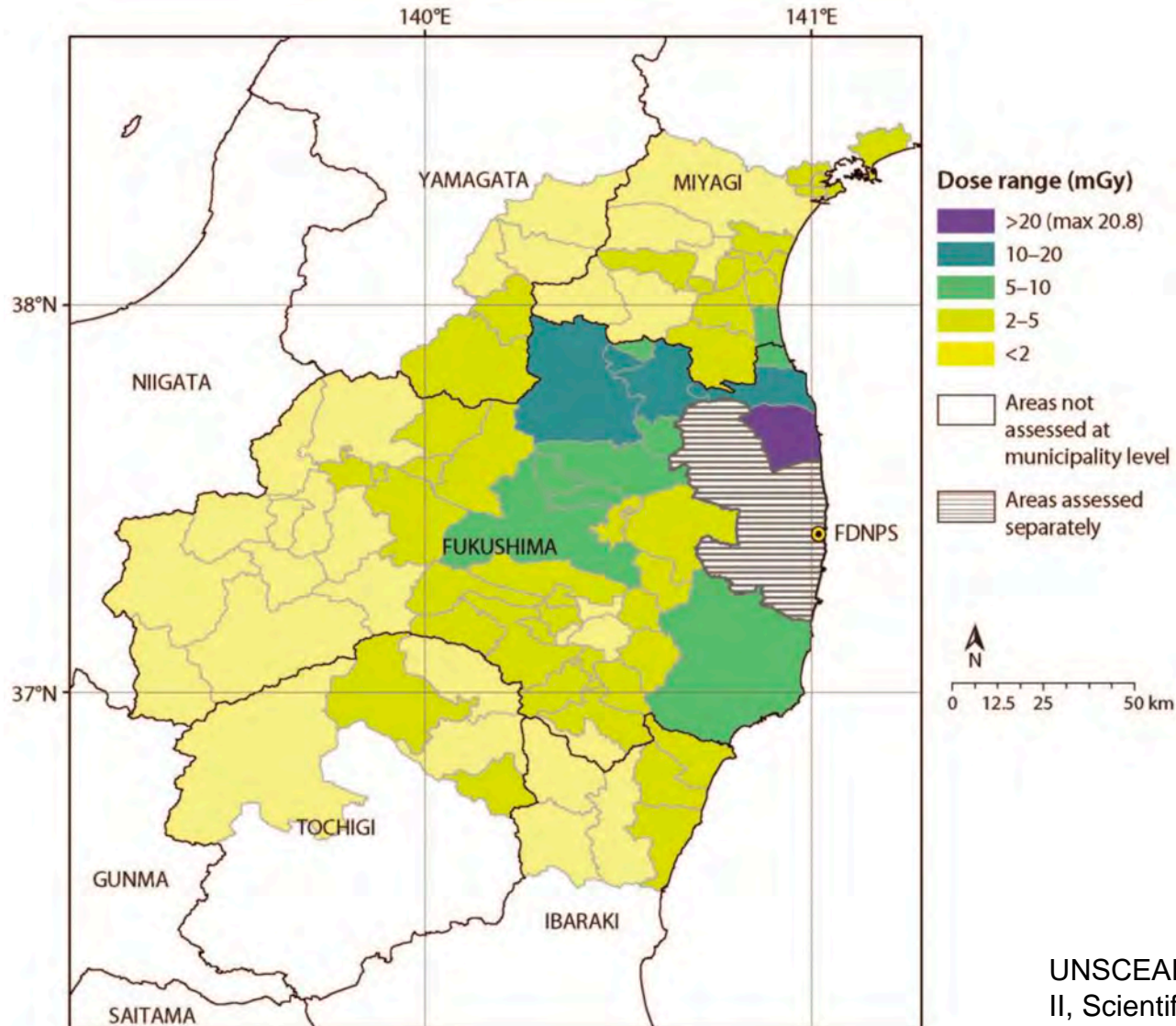


\*: Adjusted for age, sex, and location group by external radiation doses.

# Brief summary

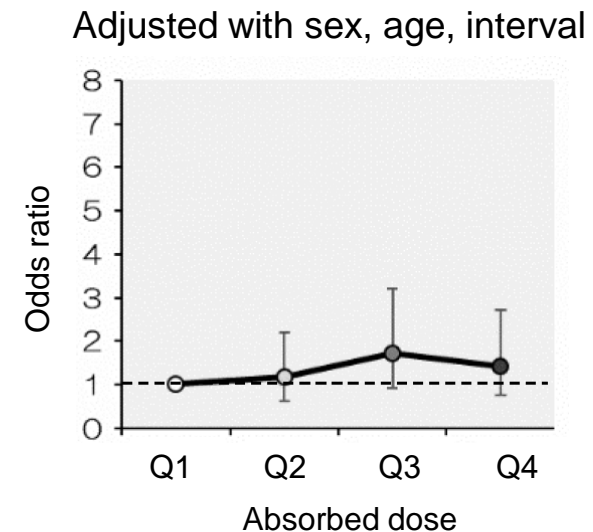
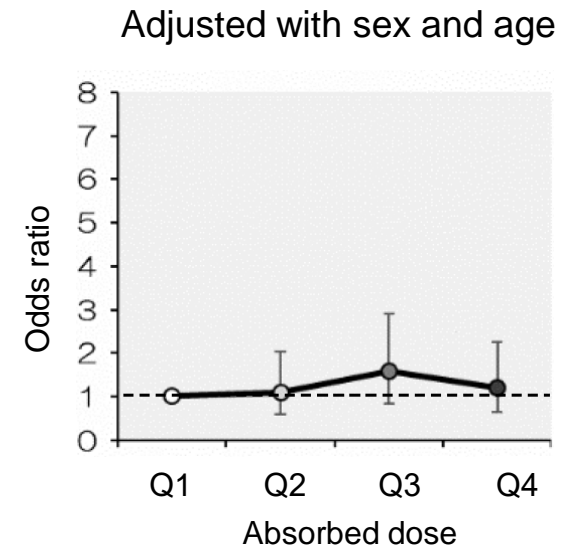
- The detection rate of thyroid nodules and cancer increased with **age**.
- The detection rates of thyroid nodules and cancer were higher in **female**, but the percentage of **female** increased with age.
- Regional differences in **the participation rate of confirmatory examination** and **examination intervals** were observed among the examinees, which might affect the detection rate of thyroid cancer.
- Regional differences were observed in **the implementation rate of FNAC** in the confirmatory examination.
- Independent of sex, age, and external radiation dose, **obesity** was significantly associated with the detection rate of thyroid cancer.

# Absorbed doses to the thyroids of 1-year-old infants estimated in the UNSCEAR 2020/2021 Report (excluding evacuated area)

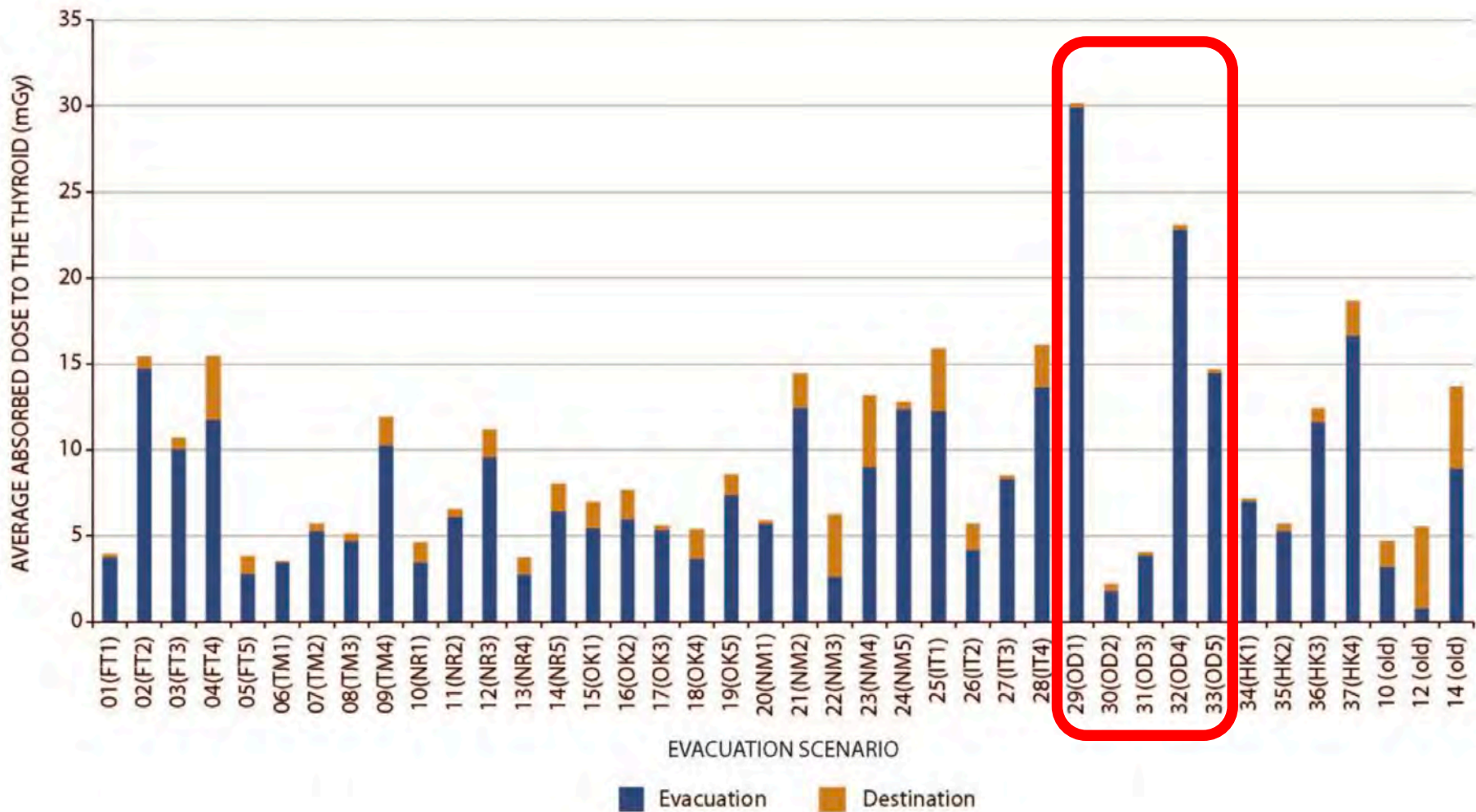


# Relationship between absorbed doses to the thyroids estimated in the UNSCEAR 2020 Report and the detection rate of malignant nodules in Full-Scale Survey (**longitudinal analysis**)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	0.5-2.6 mGy	2.7-4.3 mGy	4.5-7.0 mGy	7.0-15 mGy
Female (%)	50.3	50.0	49.1	49.6
Age at the earthquake (mean)	8.3	9.3	6.7	7.9
Examination Interval (%)				
< 3 years	25.3	26.9	18.1	19.4
≥ 3 but < 3.5 years	12.5	4.2	3.7	2.1
≥ 3.5 but < 4 years	50.9	11.8	19.0	13.4
≥ 4 but < 4.5 years	8.3	38.4	42.1	52.7
≥ 4.5 years	3.0	18.6	17.0	12.4
M or SM (n)	16	28	28	27
Detection rate (per 100,000)	34.0	43.5	39.9	37.5



# Absorbed doses to the thyroids of 1-year-old infants estimated in UNSCEAR 2020 Report (evacuated area)



# Estimation of personal internal exposure dose (thyroid equivalent dose)

1. As **internal exposure doses**, thyroid equivalent doses (mSv) exposed from tap water + inhalation for 14 days after the nuclear power plant accident was estimated based on the detailed version of behavior report in the Basic Survey form from March 12 to March 25, 2011.
2. **External exposure doses** were calculated by multiplying the doses assessed in the Basic Survey by the correction factor of 1.1.
3. **Cases** were those with nodules cytologically diagnosed as malignant or suspicious for malignancy in the first- to third-round surveys and the survey for 25 years (born in FY1992) who have behavior records of the Basic Survey.
4. **Controls** were matched to cases by sex, age at the time of the earthquake, concurrent round of participation in last two visits with thyroid cancer detection in cases, and randomly selected at a ratio of 1:10 cases to controls.

# Characteristics of cases and controls in the case-control study

(Cases were selected in the TUE only)

	Cases	Controls	Total
Cases (M or SM) (n)	108	0	108
Controls (n)	0	1080	1080
Age at the earthquake (mean)	13.7	13.7	13.7
Thyroid equivalent dose (mSv)			
Median	2.2	2.1	2.1
Min – Max	0.11–22.70	0.10 – 21.65	0.10 – 22.70
Grade B or C (%)	100	2.0	10.9

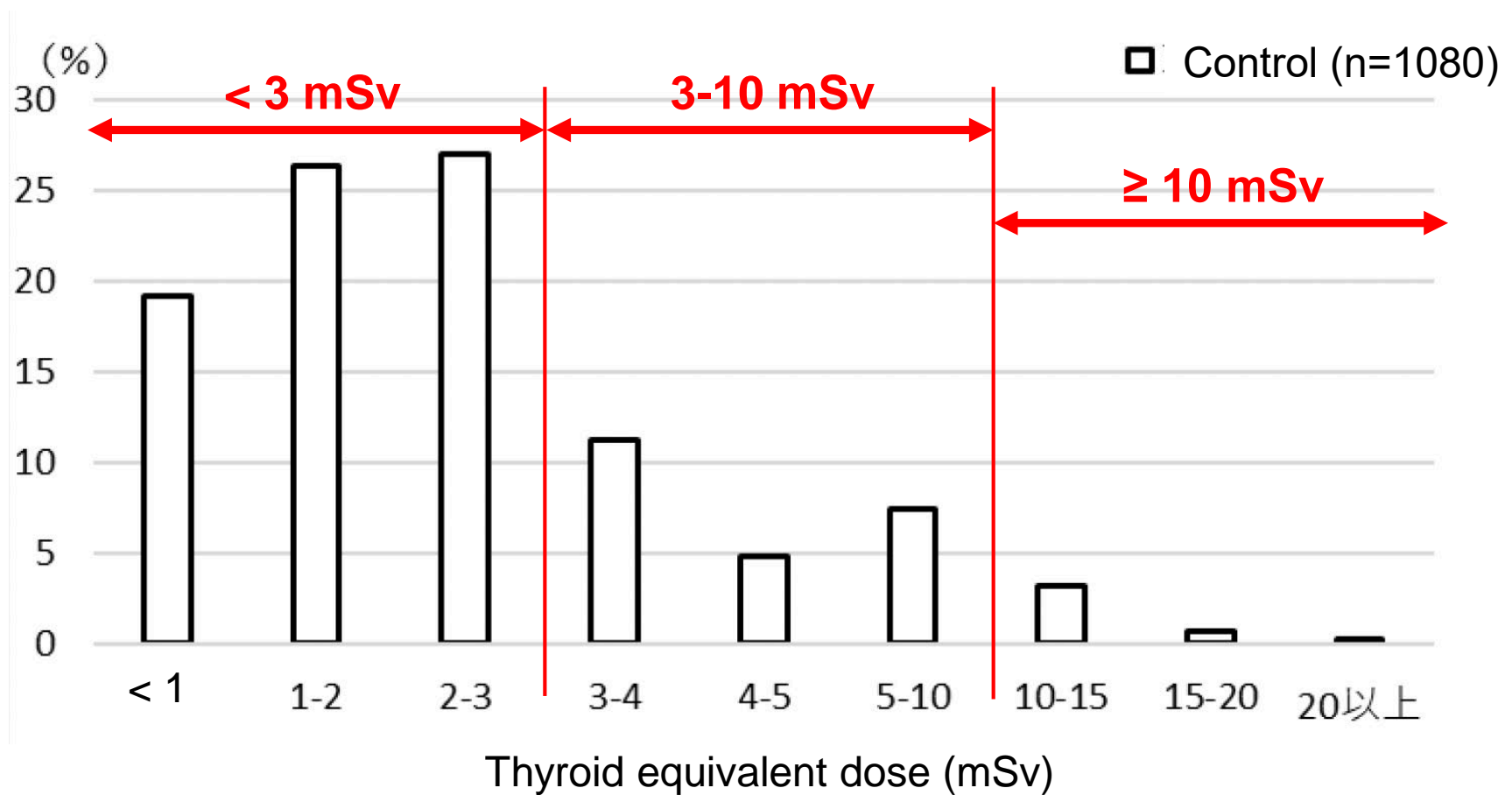


# Characteristics of cases and controls in the case-control study

(Cases were selected in TUE and National Cancer Registry)

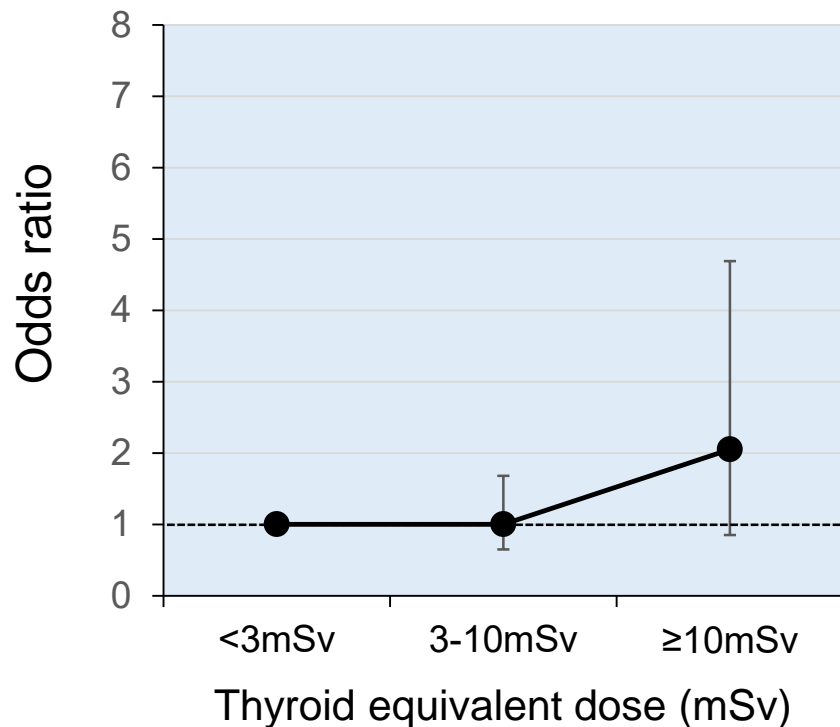
	Cases	Controls	Total
Cases (M or SM) (n)	131	0	131
Controls (n)	0	1310	1310
Age at the earthquake (mean)	13.5	13.5	13.5
Thyroid equivalent dose (mSv)			
Median	2.2	2.2	2.2
Min – Max	0.11–22.70	0.10 – 21.65	0.10 – 22.70
Grade B or C (%)	95.4	1.8	10.3

# Distribution of thyroid equivalent doses in the control group

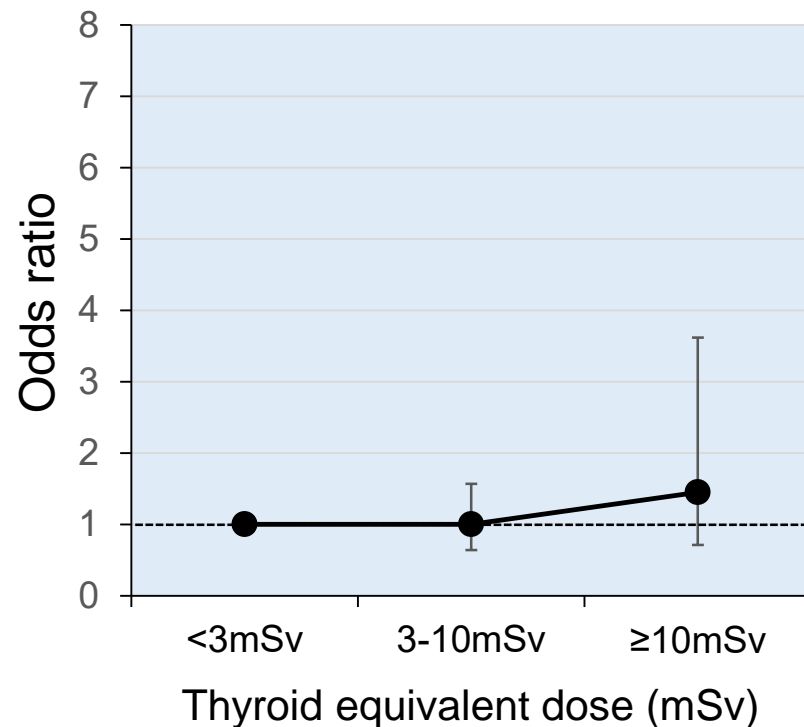


# Odds ratio for detection of nodules diagnosed as malignant or suspicious for malignancy in each thyroid equivalent dose group

With cases selected in the TUE only



With cases selected in TUE and National Cancer Registry



# Conclusions

- ✓ In addition to **age** and **sex**, **regional differences in the participation rate of confirmatory examination**, the **implementation rate of FNAC**, and **examination intervals** were confounding factors affecting to the detection rate of thyroid cancer.
- ✓ As in previous reports on thyroid cancer, an association between **obesity and an increase in thyroid cancer** has been observed.
- ✓ As for the association with radiation exposure, **no statistically significant dose-response relationship** between radiation dose and the detection rate of malignant nodules has been found at this time.

# Acknowledgements

## Fukushima Medical University

### Radiation Medical Science Center

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OHTO Hitoshi  
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IWADATE Manabu

### Thyroid and Endocrine Center

YOKOYA Susumu



Doctors and medical technologists cooperating TUE program

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