

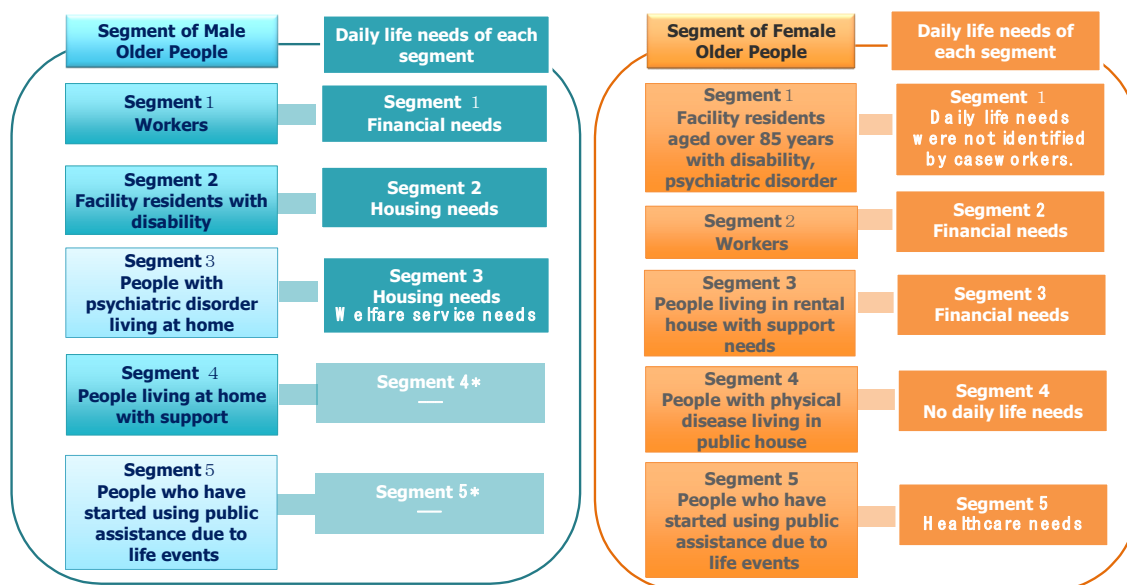
## Discovering daily life needs of older public assistance recipient subgroups

### Summary

Since 2021, a health management support program for public assistance recipients has been mandated in welfare offices in Japan. As the characteristics of recipients become more diverse, it is necessary to build a “tailor-made approach” that provides support tailored to the specific needs of each recipient in order to promote this program. Assistant Professor Keiko Ueno and her colleagues focused on older public assistance recipients, particularly those in need of health and daily life support, and identified the daily life needs of older public assistance recipient subgroups.

In 2021, we conducted interviews with four caseworkers from the welfare offices in two municipalities. The results of our previous quantitative study, which identified five subgroups (segments) of older public assistance recipients by sex, were presented to caseworkers. They were asked about their daily life needs in each segment. The interview results revealed the following five daily life needs among the subgroups of older public assistance recipients: (1) housing, (2) financial, (3) welfare service utilization, (4) medical, and (5) no specific daily life needs. These findings indicate that appropriate support interventions are necessary for each segment of older public assistance recipients. Future studies are warranted to conduct interviews with professionals from other fields (such as public health nurses and social workers) to further understand the daily life needs of the segments of older public assistance recipients.

The results of this research were published online in the *Global Health & Medicine* on August 31, 2024.



The five male/ female segments obtained from the quantitative study conducted by Ueno et al. (2023) were presented to caseworkers, and they were asked about the daily living needs of each segment.

\*All participants stated that they could not think of older recipients from this segment; therefore, no descriptions of daily life needs were provided.

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**■Abstract**

Transition from individual-level treatment to social-level intervention should be made to improve people's daily living conditions for reducing health inequality, which is a major global public health concern. Older public assistance recipients in Japan are socially vulnerable and require healthcare, long-term care, daily living, and social care support. Understanding the diverse daily living needs among public assistance recipient subgroups would prompt the development of novel support measures in the welfare sector. Therefore, this study aimed to understand the daily life needs of older recipient subgroups (segments) created quantitatively in our previous study. We interviewed four caseworkers at municipal welfare offices in 2021; the interview data were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method to describe the daily life needs of the five older recipient segments for each sex. Five themes of daily life needs were demonstrated: *i)* housing, *ii)* financial, *iii)* welfare service, *iv)* healthcare, and *v)* no daily life needs. Consequently, we identified the daily life needs of some older recipient segments, indicating the necessity for support interventions. Future research would help interview other professionals from various backgrounds to further understand the daily life needs of older recipient segments.

**<Comments by author>**

This research is the first qualitative study the author has conducted. I was able to complete this paper thanks to the many people who helped, including the caseworkers who willingly agreed to be interviewed and my co-authors. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them. I will continue to update the findings of this study and work toward the development of a health and life support system for public assistance recipients."

**<Bibliographic information>**

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