

<Preface>

Recent topics in public health in Japan 2024

YOKOYAMA Tetsuji

Department of Health Promotion, National Institute of Public Health

The “Journal of the National Institute of Public Health” is published six times a year to promptly cover up-to-date topics in the field of public health, including health, health care, social care, and environmental health. Its purpose is to transmit evidence-based accurate knowledge and information to healthcare professionals. Although the journal mainly targets readers in Japan, a special feature issue disseminating information about Japanese public health to countries all over the world has been published once a year since 2019. This feature issue, titled “Recent Topics in Public Health in Japan 2024,” covers several topics rather than a specific detailed one. This is because the information accessible from other countries is very limited, especially in the field of public health, despite the attracting interest in Japan or Japanese public health from many countries around the world. Thus, this issue is a collection of the following five review articles dealing with Japan’s advanced efforts in public health, to which the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has contributed.

TAKEMURA gave an overview of the history of Japanese patients who have suffered various hardships and miseries, and what efforts have been made for and by patients to improve their conditions and win the rights they rightfully deserve. YUKAWA et al. summarized the history of the issue of death from overwork and suggested how occupational health-related experts involved in the issues of death from overwork should cooperate with workers, their families, and judicial officials. OTAGA introduced the background of the community-based inclusive society proposed by the Japanese government, clarified its concept, and discussed focusing on the Multi-Layered Support System Improvement Project to realize it. TANEDA overviewed the past and current state of patient safety undertakings in long-term care settings in Japan. UEHARA discussed recent epidemiological topics such as disaster epidemiology, social epidemiology, and birth cohort studies, and also introduced an epidemiological study using Internet of Things (IoT).

We hope that the information reviewed in this issue will help public health workers worldwide understand that Japanese health policies and related efforts by the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) have played important roles in improving the nation’s health. Additionally, we believe that Japan’s experience will be useful for enhancing public health in their own countries. For further information, readers are advised to explore the past feature issues of “Recent topics in public health in Japan” published since 2019.