

Research **4**

Sports Facilities for People with Disabilities

I. Overview

1. Purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore the current situations of sports facilities for people with disabilities in Japan, and to obtain evidence-based data on the level of disability sports promotion within those facilities in Japan.

2. Data collection method

(1) Method

Written Questionnaire - Responded via mail or E-mail

(2) Sample

Sports facilities that allow people with disabilities to have exclusive or priority access

(3) Questions

- Establishment and administration of disability sports facilities (years established, categories, administrative entities)
- Facilities adjoined to disability sports facilities
- Sports instructors
- Implemented projects
- Coordination with disability sports associations and rehabilitation centers

(4) Timeframe

December 5, 2012 – January 31, 2013

II. Survey Results

1. Sports facilities for people with disabilities

Among public sports facilities in Japan, there are sports facilities that allow people with disabilities to have exclusive or priority access. Sasakawa Sports Foundation call them “Disability Sports Facilities”. As of 2013, there are 114 of these facilities located throughout Japan.

(1) Purpose of their establishment

Figure 4-1 shows the categories of disability sports facilities based on the purpose of their establishment. Over 80% of facilities were “Welfare Centers for the Persons with Physical Disabilities” (30.7%), “Gymnasiums for Workers with Physical Disabilities” (25.4%) and “Education, Culture and Sports Centers for Workers with Physical Disabilities” (28.9%).

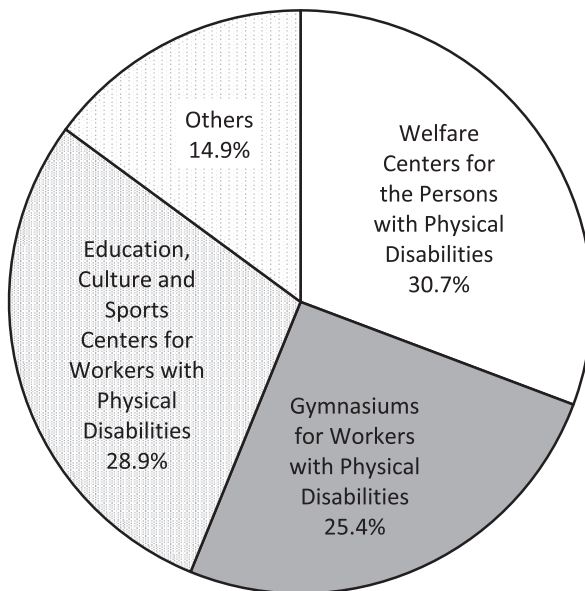


Figure 4-1
Categories of disability sports facilities

(2) Categories of disability sports facilities

1. Welfare Centers for the Persons with Physical Disabilities

Facilities specified in the Act for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons, aimed at supporting social participation of persons with physical disabilities.

2. Gymnasiums for Workers with Physical Disabilities

Facilities were established between 1975 and 1980 by the Employment Promotion Corporation, with the aim of improving welfare and more stable employment of workers with physical disabilities.

3. Education, Culture and Sports Centers for Workers with Physical Disabilities

Facilities were also established by the Employment Promotion Corporation between 1981 and 1986, with the aim of making use of available facilities to improve the physical functions, physical fitness, communication, education and cultural welfare of workers with physical disabilities.

4. Others

Facilities that have been established by prefectures or ordinance designated cities for purposes other than those listed above (1 to 3).

(3) Years established

Figure 4-2 shows the trends in the number of disability sports facilities. About 80% of disability sports facilities (90 facilities) were established before 1990, and there has been only 7 facilities established after 2001.

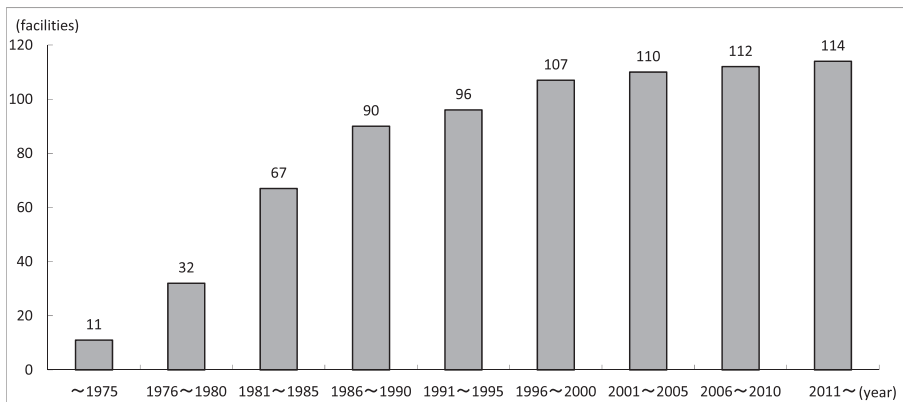


Figure 4-2 Trends in the number of facilities

(4) Administrative entities for disability sports facilities

Figure 4-3 shows the administrative entities for disability sports facilities. Designated administrators handled the management and operation of 84.2% of facilities; 14.9% were administered directly by municipal governments, while 1% were managed by the central government. In addition, the breakdown of designated administrators is shown in Table 4-1. This data shows “Social welfare association/Social welfare agency/Rehabilitation agency” to be the most common (over 60%). Although proportionally few in number, some facilities were also found to be administered by a “Disability sports association”, “Sports association/Sports promotion agency”, or “Private business operator”.

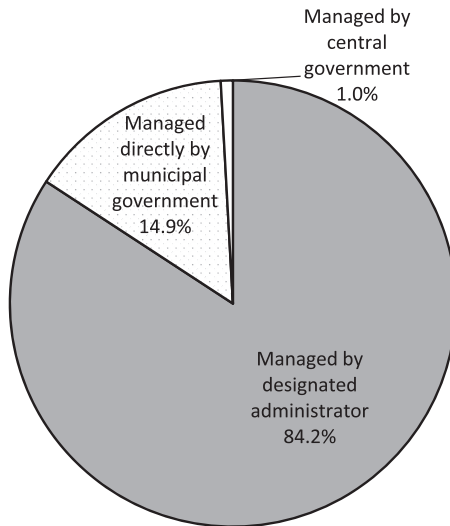


Figure 4-3 Administrative entities

Table 4-1 Breakdown of designated administrators (N=93)

Category	Ratio (%)
Social welfare association / Social welfare agency / Rehabilitation agency	64.5
Disability sports association	7.5
Sports association / Sports promotion agency	10.8
Private business operator	5.4
Sports organization	2.2
Municipality	1.1
Worker cooperative	2.2
Other	6.5

2. Facilities adjoined to disability sports facilities

Figure 4-4 displays information about the facilities adjoined to disability sports facilities. “Gymnasiums” were the most common, being built at 96.5% of disability sports facilities. The next highest was “Weights training rooms” (41.2%) followed by “Swimming pools” (39.5%), “Sports fields” (22.8%), “Archery ranges” (17.5%), “Table tennis rooms” (15.8%), and “Tennis courts” (9.6%).

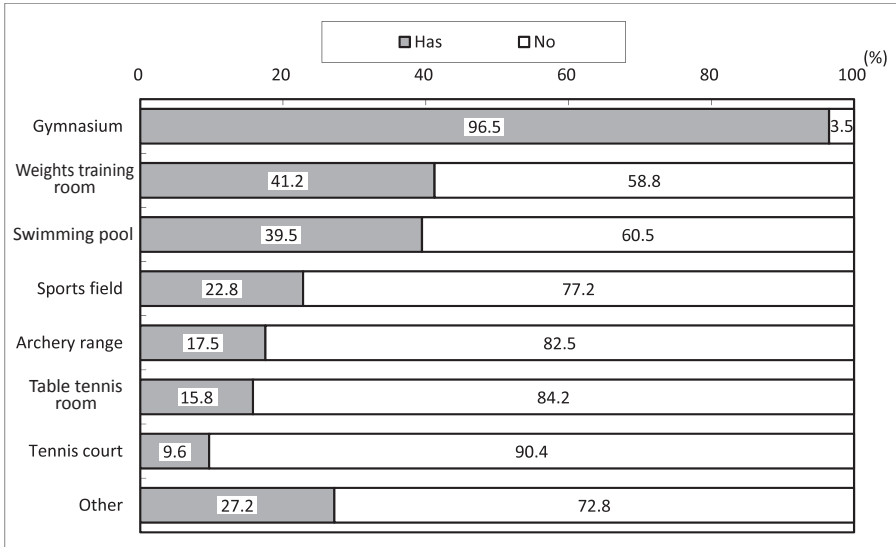


Figure 4-4 Facilities adjoined (N=114; multiple responses)

When viewed by number of different adjoining facilities (including “Other”), stand-alone disability sports facilities made up one-third of the total at 35.1%, while disability sports facilities with two types of adjoining facilities amounted to 21.9%; together, these two groups accounted for over 50% of the total number of facilities (Figure 4-5).

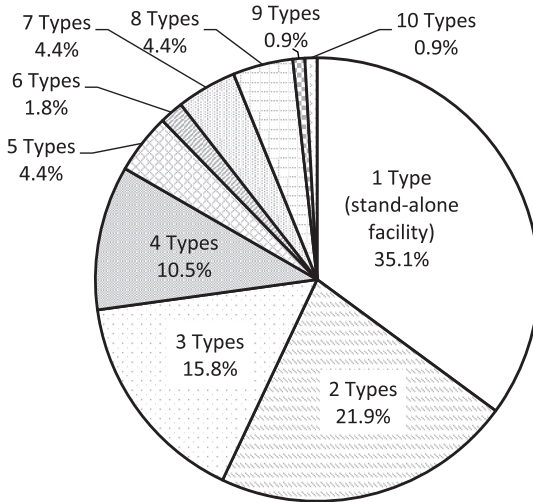


Figure 4-5 Number of adjoining facilities

3. Staffing of sports instructors

(1) Paid or compensated sports instructors

74 disability sports facilities (64.9%) responded that there was at least one sports instructor on staff. The facility with the most instructors had a total of 72 people, while the facility with the least amount of instructors had 1 person. Among facilities with at least one instructor, the average number of instructors was 12.7, with a median of 5 instructors. By including facilities with no instructors it brings the average to 8.3 instructors, with a median of 3 instructors.

(2) Personnel certified in disability sports instruction

68 of 114 disability sports facilities (59.6%) responded that there was a certified instructor on staff. Table 4-2 shows the information regarding each type of instructor certification. On staff at over 50% of facilities, “Para-sports beginners instructors” represented both the highest percentage and the highest total number of individuals. “Para-sports intermediate instructors” and “Para-sports advanced instructors” were each on staff at roughly one-third of facilities. The number of “Para-sports advanced instructors” was slightly higher than that of “Para-sports intermediate instructors”.

Table 4-2
Staffing of personnel certified in disability sports instruction

Qualification Name	Ratio (%)	Number of Facilities	Number of People
Para-sports instructors:beginners level	53.5	61	213
Para-sports instructors:intermediate level	32.5	37	79
Para-sports instructors:advanced level	33.3	38	122
Para-sports coaches	18.4	21	28
Para-sports trainers	0.9	1	1
Welfare recreation worker	1.8	2	2
Other	8.8	10	40

4. Projects implemented at disability sports facilities

Regarding the projects implemented at 114 disability sports facilities, “Sports competitions” were implemented at 58 facilities (50.9%), “Sports classes” were implemented at 67 facilities (58.8%), and “Sports mobile classes” were implemented at 27 facilities (23.7%) (Table 4-3).

Table 4-3 Projects implemented

Project	Ratio (%)	Number of Facilities
Sports competitions	50.9	58
Sports classes	58.8	67
Sports mobile classes	23.7	27

5. Coordination with disability sports associations and rehabilitation centers

(1) Coordination with disability sports associations

When disability sports facilities established by a prefecture (45 locations) were asked about whether there is a disability sports association under that prefecture, 34 locations (75.6%) answered “yes”. Regarding the relationship between disability sports associations and facilities, about 60% of those facilities were found to coordinate with a disability sports association (Table 4-4).

When disability sports facilities established by a municipality (68 locations) were asked about the existence of a disability sports association, 19 locations (27.9%) answered “yes”. Regarding the relationship between disability sports associations and facilities, about 80% of those facilities were found to coordinate with a disability sports association.

Table 4-4 Relationship with disability sports associations

	Prefectures (N = 34) (%)	Municipalities (N = 19) (%)
A disability sports association has offices in the administrative organization for the facility or the facility is managed by a disability sports association	23.5	36.8
Coordinates with a disability sports association	38.2	42.1
Does not coordinate with a disability sports association	26.5	15.8
Other	11.8	5.3

(2) Coordination with rehabilitation centers

Rehabilitation centers are facilities that provide people with disabilities with a comprehensive service from functional recovery training to rehabilitation into society. Because some facilities bearing the name “rehabilitation center” exist within disability sports facilities, we examined the relationship between the two.

Regarding the relationship between disability sports facilities established by a prefecture and rehabilitation centers, about one in four of those facilities were found to coordinate with a rehabilitation center (Table 4-5). Of those facilities, 16.3% were “Managed by the same organization as the rehabilitation center or adjoined to the rehabilitation center”. Also, approximately 20% of disability sports facilities established by a municipality were found to coordinate with a rehabilitation center. Of those facilities, 13.6% were “Managed by the same organization as the rehabilitation center or adjoined to the rehabilitation center”.

Table 4-5 Relationship with rehabilitation centers

	Prefectures (N = 43) (%)	Municipalities (N = 59) (%)
Managed by the same organization as the rehabilitation center or adjoined to the rehabilitation center	16.3	13.6
Managed by a different organization of that of the rehabilitation center, but the two coordinate	9.3	5.1
Does not coordinate with the rehabilitation center	67.4	78.0
Other	7.0	3.4

6. Disability sports centers

Public sports facilities in Japan in 1960s were not built for the use by people with disabilities. However, in May 1974 the very first sports center targeted at people with physical disabilities was built in Osaka prefecture. The center was managed with a strong focus on improving physical and mental well-being of individual users. With the success of disability sports center in Osaka, the number of centers throughout Japan increased after 1980 (25 centers in total as of 2015).

Moreover, in order to exchange information, share knowledge, and solve the common facility management issues of the centers, “Disability sports center council” was launched in 1984.