

Study on the Vulnerability of Older Adults With Care Needs During Disasters

SCIENCE FOR RESILIENCE

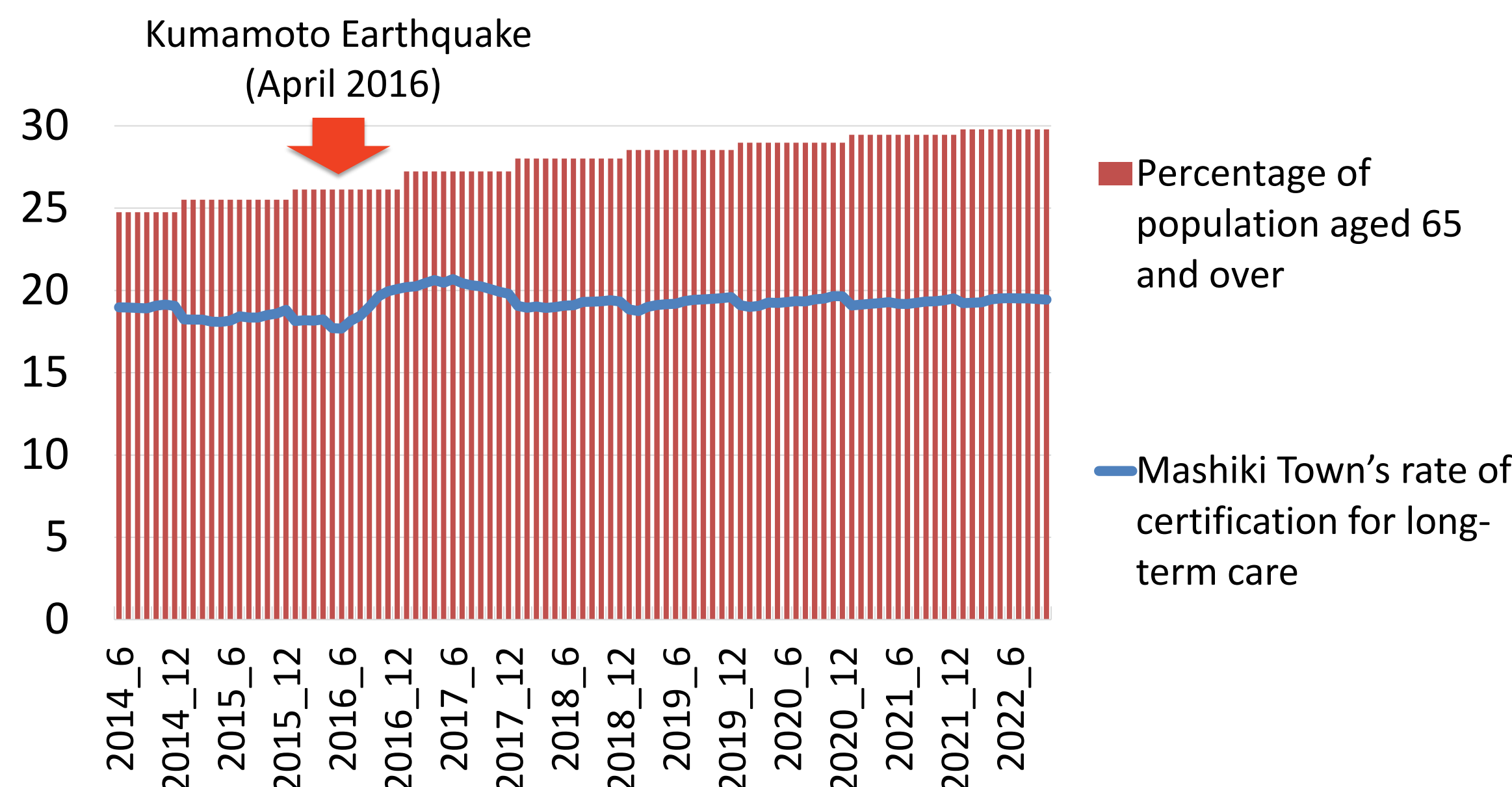
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INTRODUCTION

- Older adults are disproportionately more likely to die during disasters than younger adults.
- For example, in Mashiki Town, where the damage from the Kumamoto Earthquake was particularly severe and residents were seriously affected, the number of people requiring long-term care increased after the disaster.

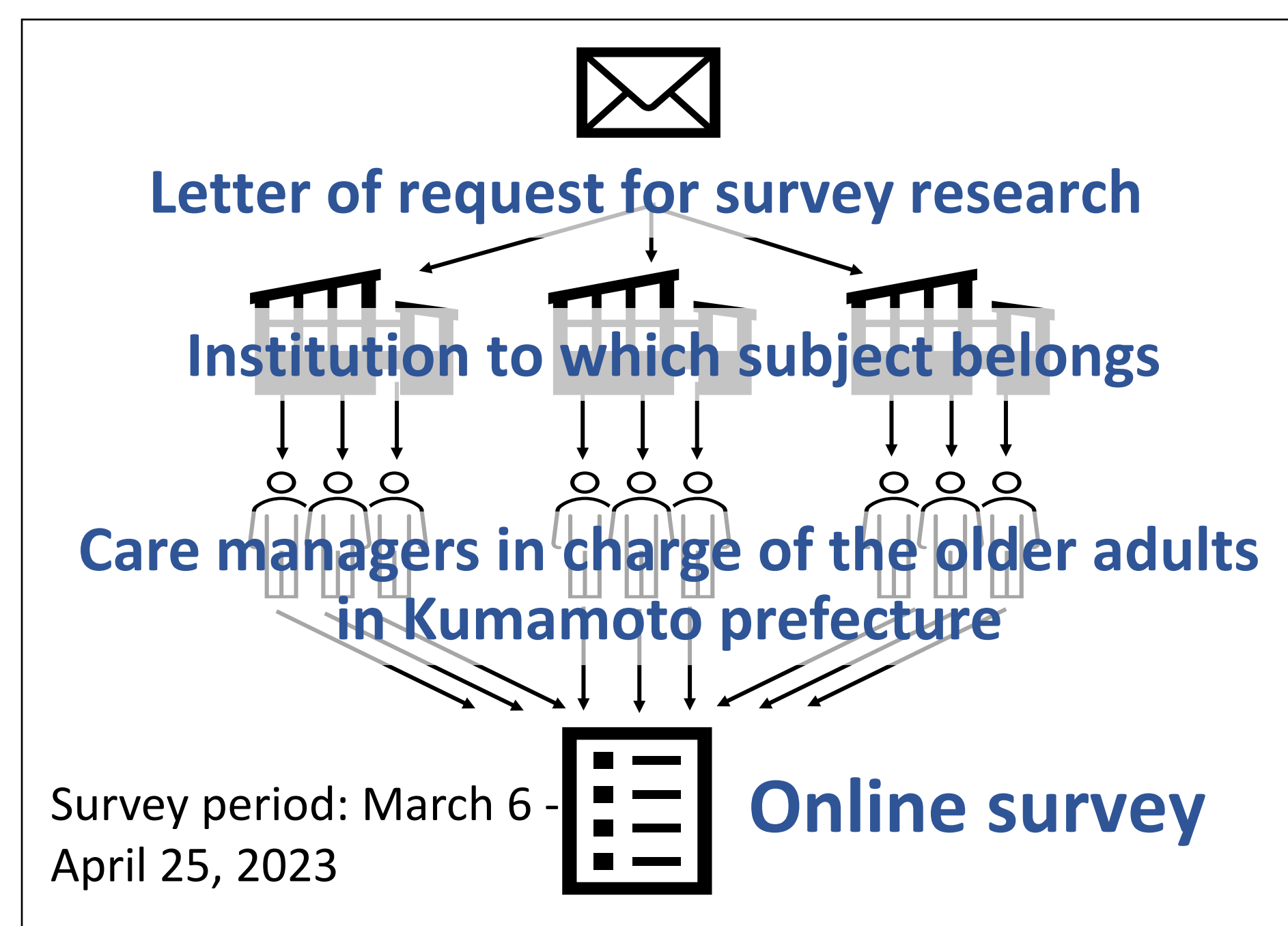


Figur 1. Changes in the number of certified care-needy persons in Mashiki Town

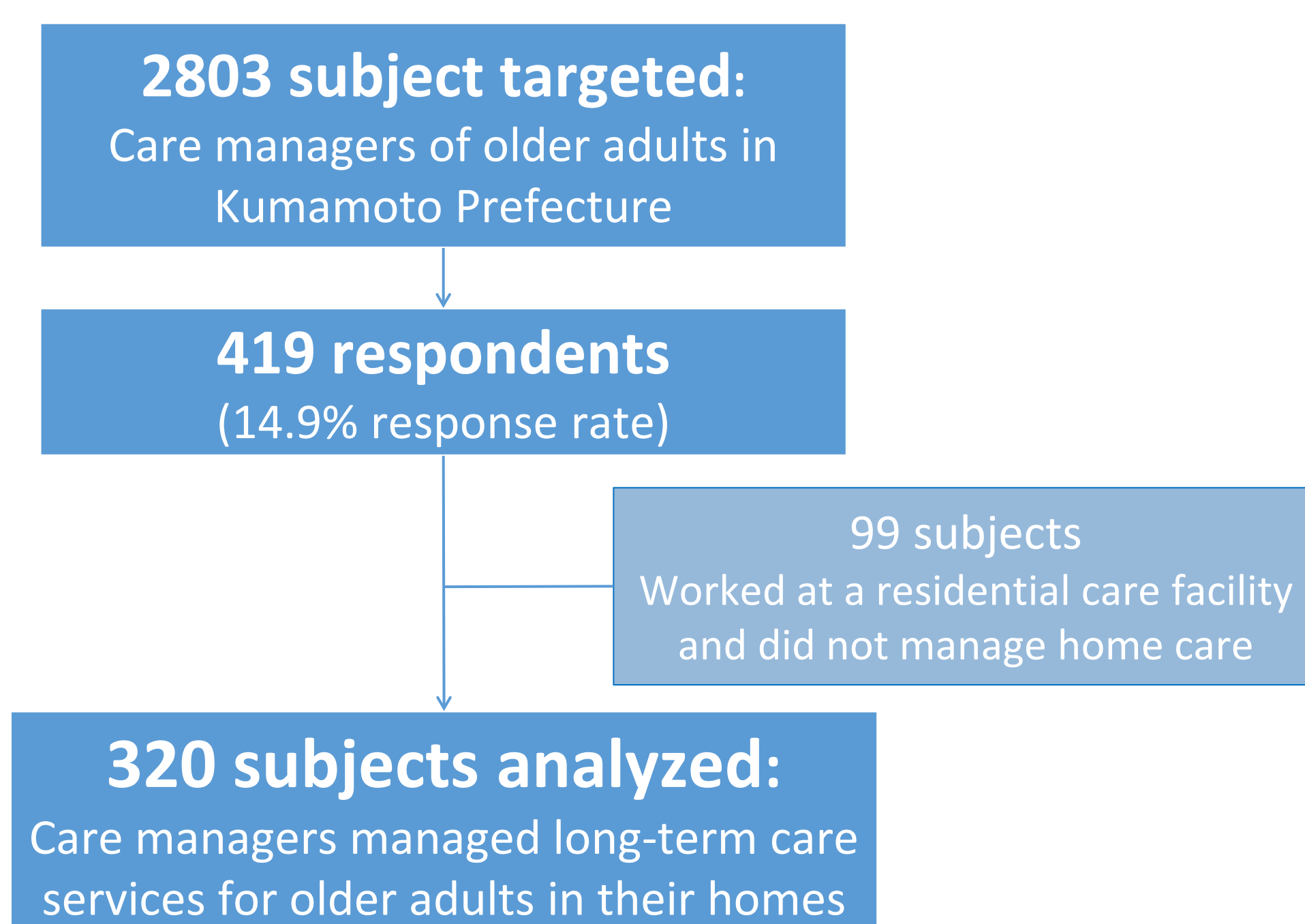
This study focused on the suspension of home care services during the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan.

METHODS

- A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 2803 care managers in Kumamoto Prefecture.
- The study period for this survey was January 30 to April 25, 2023.
- Report findings from 320 care managers (95 males, 225 females) who were responsible for older adults during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The questions asked whether respondents had experienced the suspension of long-term care services by Japan's long-term care insurance system due to COVID-19 and whether there had been any decline in the functional abilities of users as a result.
- Respondents were also asked to describe the specific functional abilities that had declined.



Figur 2. Survey Method



Figur 3. Subjects

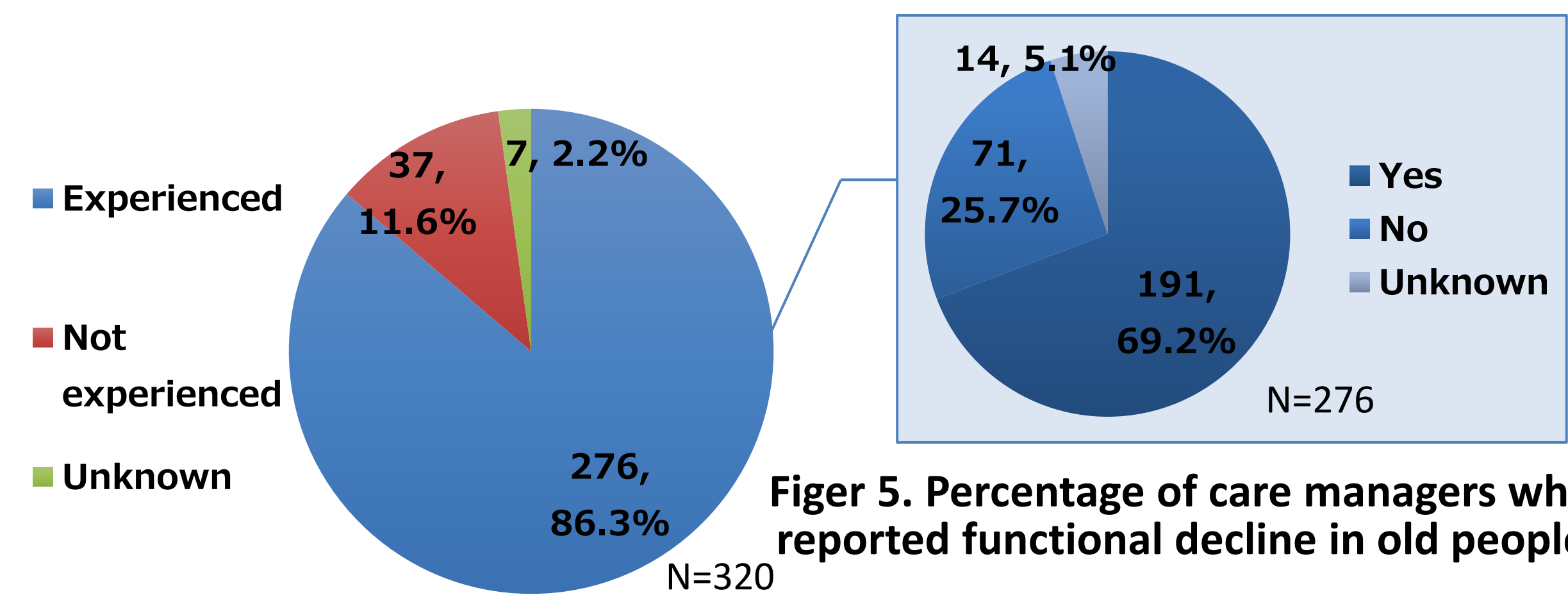
CONCLUSION

It is evident from the finding that early restoration of long-term care services is essential to reduce the vulnerability of older adults living at home in the event of a disaster.

RESULTS

Day service:

The individual in need of care goes to a facility to receive care including taking a bath, eating a meal, etc., to receive recovery therapy, and recreation.



Figur 4. Percentage of care managers who experienced suspension of day services

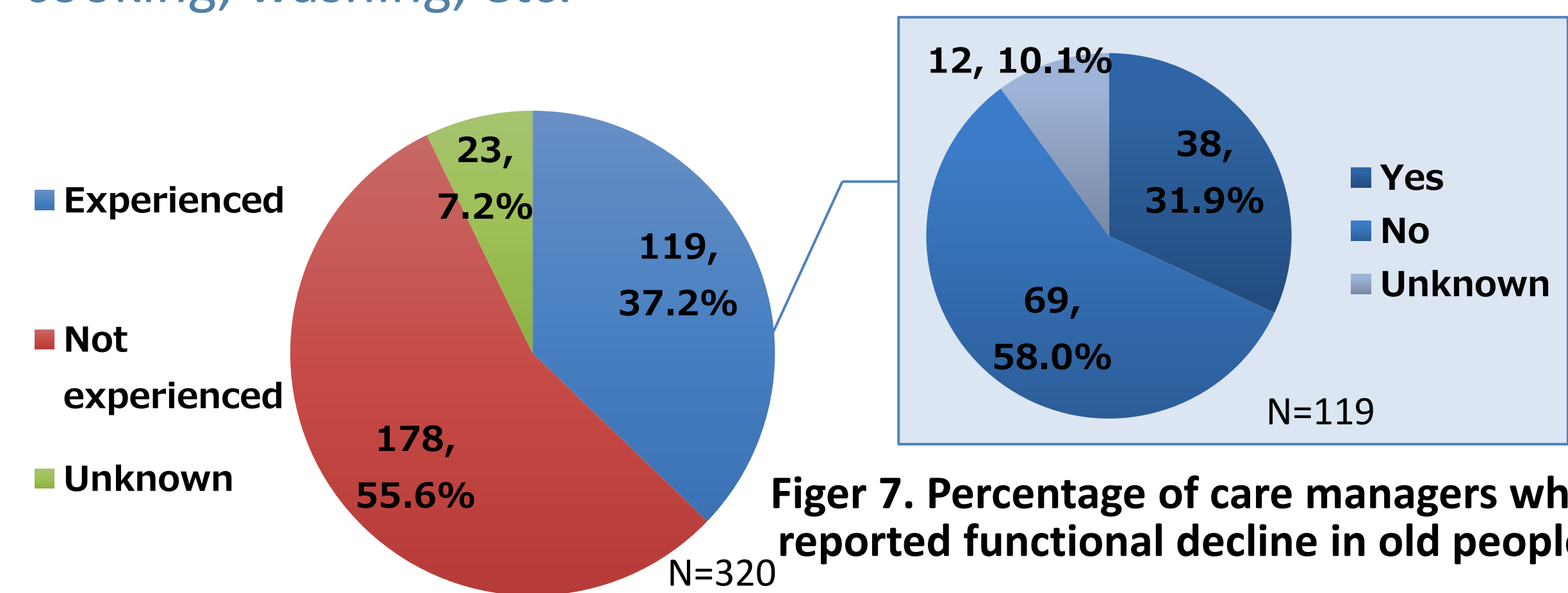
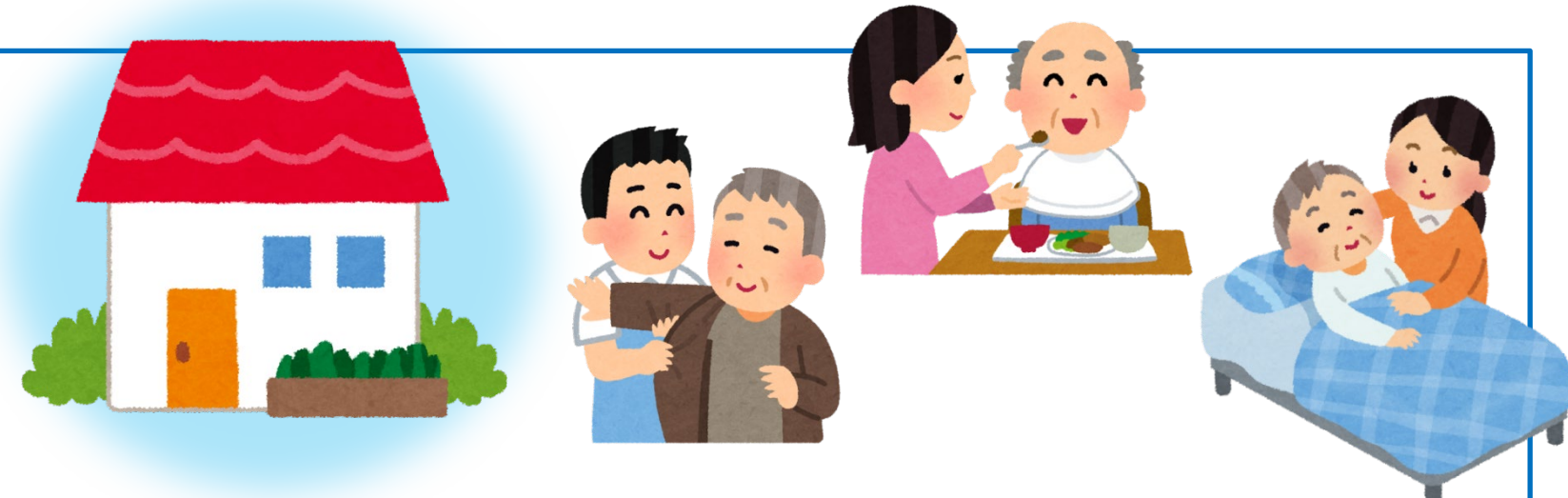
Figur 5. Percentage of care managers who reported functional decline in old people

Impact on older adults

- Impact on physical function
 - Decline in Activities of daily living
 - Decline in muscle strength, etc.
- Impact on cognitive function
 - Worsening of forgetfulness
 - Decline in activity, etc.
- Mental effects
 - Decreased motivation
 - Depression, etc.
- Social effects
 - Isolation, etc.
- Effects on daily life
 - Difficulty bathing, etc.

Visiting care service:

A caregiver visits the individual in need of care to provide care and household assistance such as meals, excretion, cooking, washing, etc.



Figur 6. Percentage of care managers who experienced suspension of visiting care services

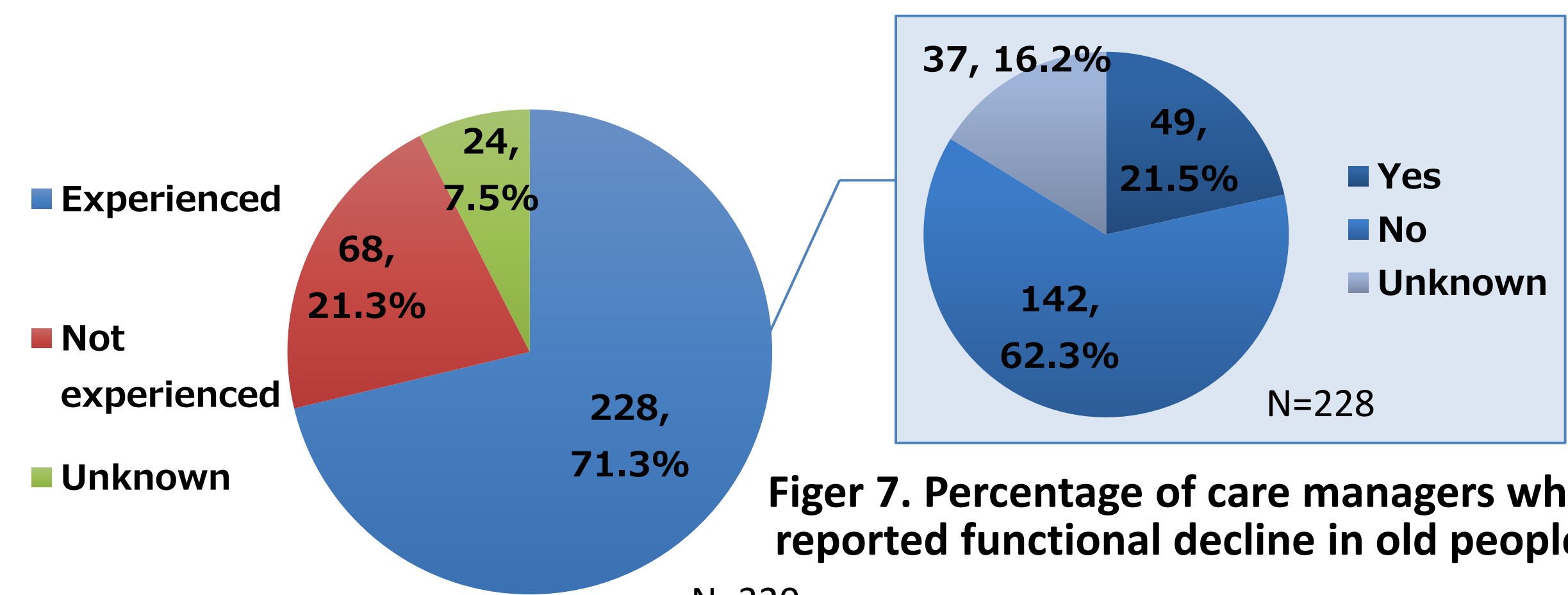
Figur 7. Percentage of care managers who reported functional decline in old people

Impact on older adults

- Impact on physical function
 - Hip joint contracture, etc.
- Mental effects
 - Increased anxiety, etc.
- Effects on daily life
 - Difficulty bathing, cleaning
 - Difficulty maintaining cleanliness
 - Unable to manage medication
 - Nutritional issues, etc.

Short-stay service:

The individual in need of care stays at a special nursing home for the elderly or other facility for a short period of time to under daily-life service and rehabilitation training.



Figur 6. Percentage of care managers who experienced suspension of short-stay services

Figur 7. Percentage of care managers who reported functional decline in old people

Impact on older adults

- Impact on physical function
 - Fractures caused by muscle weakness, etc.
- Mental effects
 - Decline in activity
 - Decreased motivation, etc.
- Impact on facility use
 - Facility unavailable due to cluster occurrence
 - Unable to return home due to cluster occurrence, etc.