

Kawasaki City aspires to make a multicultural, harmonious society a reality – where the differences in nationality, race, and culture are highly valued, everyone accepts each other, human rights are respected, and independent individuals can all live together.

As the last one was carried out 5 years ago in 2014, we decided to hold an Awareness Survey to make the most of municipal policies and understand the thoughts, situations, and needs of foreigners living in Kawasaki City. This time, we asked about daily life, healthcare and insurance, raising and educating children, local activities and municipal government participation, work, administrative countermeasures, and more. The Survey Slip (Questionnaire Sheet) is available in Japanese, English, Chinese (Simplified), and Chinese (Traditional), Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), Vietnamese, Thai.

A Survey Slip was mailed to 5,000 foreigners (people not of Japanese nationality) over 18 years old and living in Kawasaki City, who were randomly selected to be the survey's target audience, of which 1,085 people provided responses (Collection Rate: 21.7%). Breaking down the respondents by gender, 44.2% were men, 55.3% were women, 0.1% were other, and 0.5% did not give an answer. Below is a breakdown of the respondents by residence location, and nationality and region.

[Breakdown of Residence Location (N=1,085)]

[Breakdown of Nationality and Region (N=1,085)]



This "Report <Overview>" will be outlining the main results of the survey.

Kawasaki City is aspiring to make a multicultural, harmonious society a reality by using the results of this survey to fully plan extra policies.

The "Report <Overview>" is also available in English, Chinese (Simplified), and Chinese (Traditional), Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), Vietnamese, Thai. This report and overview can be accessed from the following link.

http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/shisei/category/60-7-4-0-0-0-0-0-0.html

Almost half of all respondents had been living in Kawasaki for 3 years or less

When asked how long they had been living in Kawasaki, almost half of respondents answered 3 years or less, answering 47.7%. In addition, 67.8% answered 9 years or less. When comparing the answers from the previous survey, we can see that answers for 3 years or less increased by 11.8 points, while answers for 9 years or less increased by 5.9 points. As the overall tendency is for people to live here for a shorter period, we understand that the number of new foreign citizens is increasing.

[Length of time Living in Kawasaki]



70~80% of respondents' Japanese level is conversational

When asked about their Japanese ability, the sum of "No problems", "Daily conversation" and "I can understand hiragana, katakana, and simple kanji" were as follows: Over 80% answered < Listening and speaking > and < Reading and understanding >, while over 70% answered < Writing >. Every answer increased by almost 10 points in comparison to the previous survey, which shows that the level of Japanese proficiency has improved overall. However, there were also 3.9~7.5% that answered "I can hardly."

[Japanese Ability]



There are still issues when house hunting

When asked about their problems when looking for accommodation in Kawasaki City, 50.2% of respondents answered "None." In comparison, 26.1% answered "Were refused housing because you were a foreigner," while 20.9% answered "Could not find a guarantor," with each increasing compared to the previous survey. In addition, 14.2% answered "Had experiences not to be introduced any estates as you were a foreign residents," which was a new option added this time.

[Problematic experiences when house hunting]



The percentage of male full-time employees has decreased slightly, while female full-time employees have significantly increased

When asked about their employment status, comparing the percentage of full-time employees with the previous survey, men had decreased by 0.9 points at 47.1%, while women had increased by 11 points at 31.4%, suggesting a decreasing trend in gender differences. However, according to the Employment Status Survey (2017), when taking into account the percentage of full-time employees in Kawasaki City, there is a significant difference between Japanese men and women, with men at 69.8% and women at 43.1%.

[Employment Status]



"Japanese and mother tongue" are the most common languages spoken at home with the children

About two-fifths (38.0%) of all respondents lived with a child under the age of 25. In addition, when asked about the child's nationality, 40.0% answered that they had a Japanese nationality; a decrease compared to the 50.7% from the previous survey. Furthermore, with regards to the language spoken by the child and family, the most common answer was "Japanese and mother tongue," consisting 39.3% of children with Japanese nationality and 51.0% of children with foreign nationalities.

[Children with Japanese Nationality]



[Children's nationality and language spoken at home]



Dangers and uncertainties felt in the previous year have increased

When asked about the dangers and uncertainties felt in the previous year, 58.1% of respondents answered "Have not felt any of the above concerns or fears." In comparison, 18.0% answered "Concern that threats or discriminatory speech might be directed at you because you are not Japanese," 17.7% answered "Concern about the public safety of the neighborhood you live in," and 7.1% answered "Concern or fear that you might become a victim of violence because you are not Japanese," which have all increased compared to the previous survey. In addition, 12.4% answered "Concern or fear when you find any of offensive posts against foreigners at website or SNS," which was a new option added this time.

[Dangers and uncertainties felt in the previous year]



About 80% think the enactment of regulations on human rights and discrimination is important

In December 2019, Kawasaki City's progress in urban development to eliminate unjust discrimination and respect human rights was declared through the enactment of the "Regulation for respect for human rights and no discrimination in the urban development of Kawasaki City." Although we did not ask about this regulation directly in the survey, when asked about what is important to create a society that is easy for foreigners to live in, "Establish the municipal ordinance on human rights and discrimination" was the most common answer, and 78.4% answered "Very important" and "Important," for a total of about 80%.

[Enactment of regulations on to human rights and discrimination (N=1,085)]



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Published: Citizens' and Cultural Affairs Bureau, Kawasaki City Office 9F Kawasaki Frontier Bldg., 11-2 Ekimae Honcho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki city Tel 044-200-2846 Fax 044-200-3707 E-mail 25gaikok@city.kawasaki.jp