

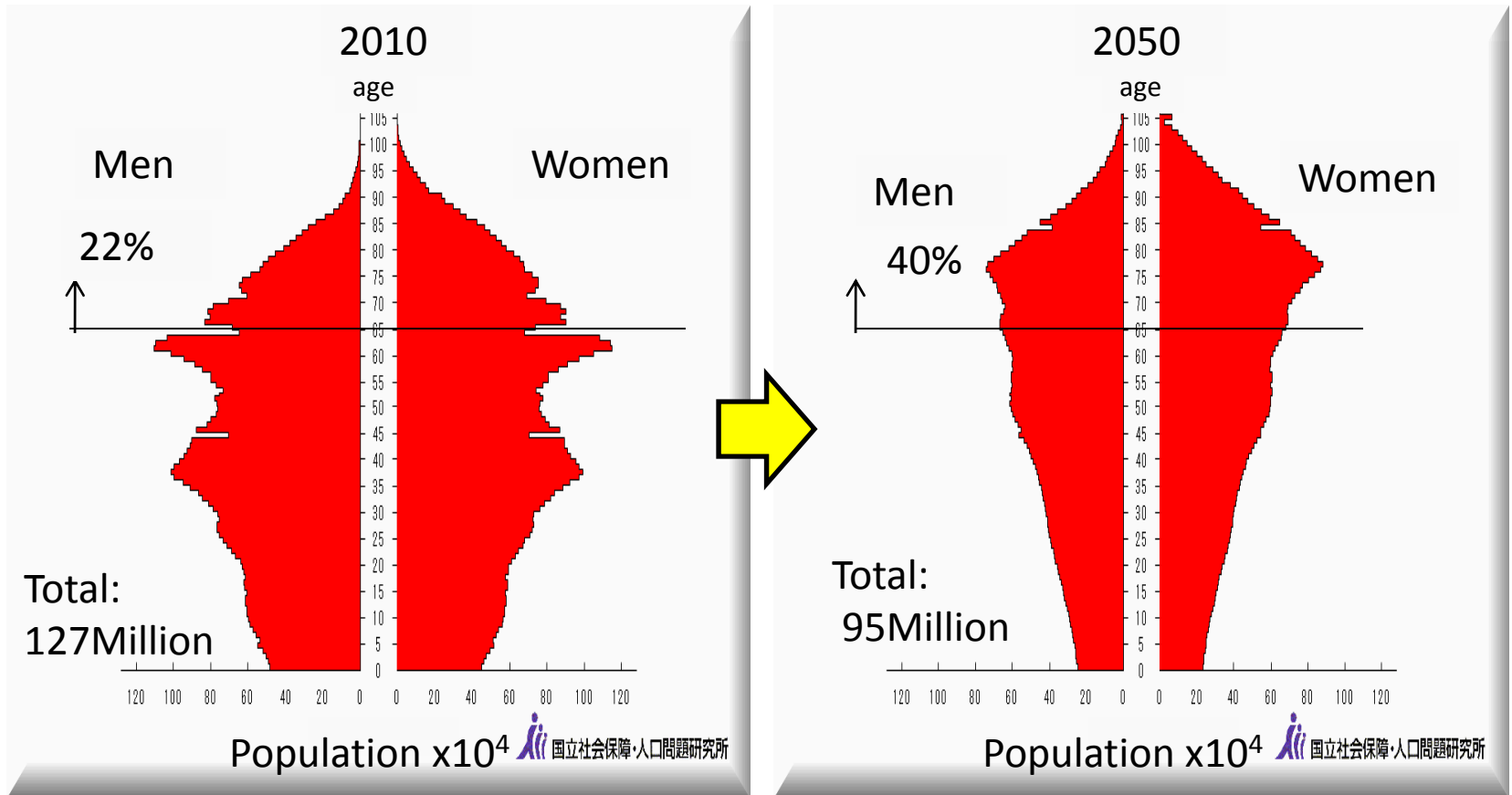
The situation and problem of the elderly house in Japan

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Background

(ageing society with fewer children)

Structure of population



Background

(Social Security Change)

Before 2000, the elderly lived in

- A nursing home,
- A high-quality nursing home (for the rich) and
- House (taken care by family).

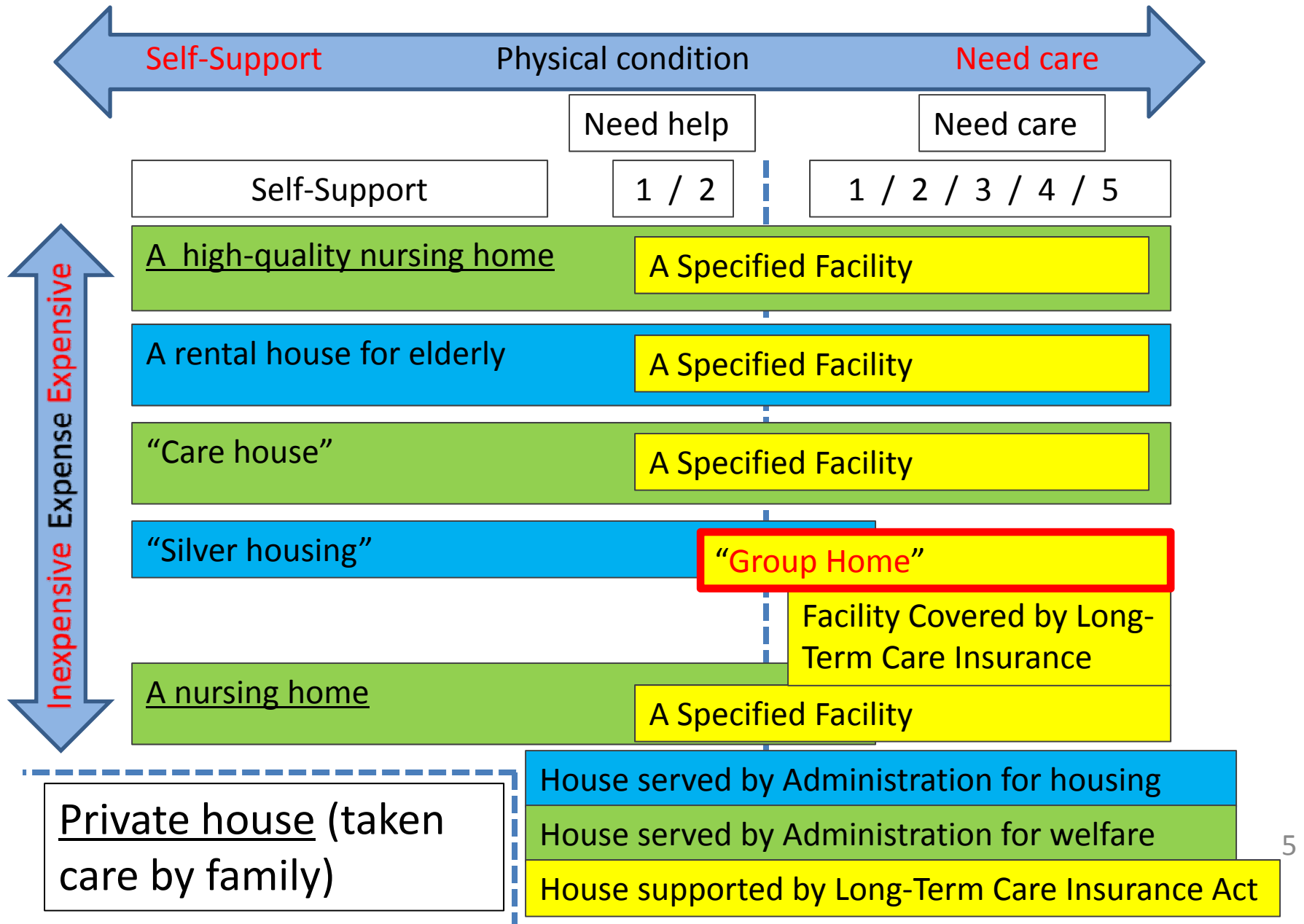
In Japan, Long-Term Care Insurance Act had come into effect as of 2000.

-> Many service had been served.

Related Ministries to the elderly house

- Fire and Disaster Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Fire prevention)
- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Social Security)
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Building regulation)

House for the elderly



“Group Home” in Japan

Occupants (the elderly) need

- Care for dementia and
- Nursing care.

Unrelated

Group home is managed by small private company, NPO and a foundation.

Capacity (Long-Term Care Insurance Act)

- up to 9 occupants for 1 unit
- Building for up to 2 units can be built in the same site.

“Group Home” in Japan

The needs of Group Home

- Small home for easy understanding
- Continuous relationship among occupants in small group
- By spending ordinary life, it is expected to slow the dementia.

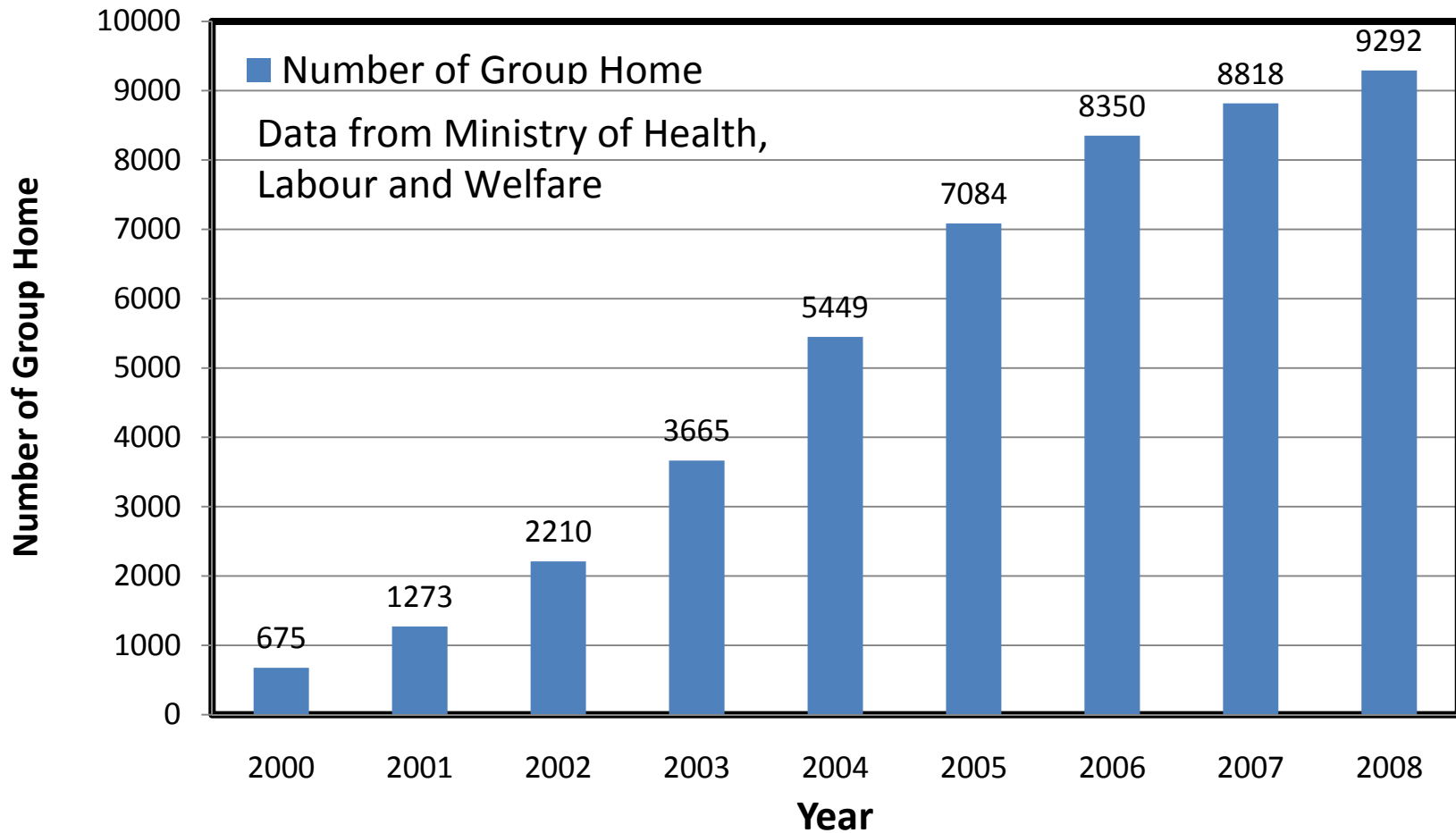
“Group Home” in Japan

- Mostly, 1 staff for 9 occupants (1 unit) in the night (by business management), or 2 units.
(covered by Long-Term Care Insurance Act)

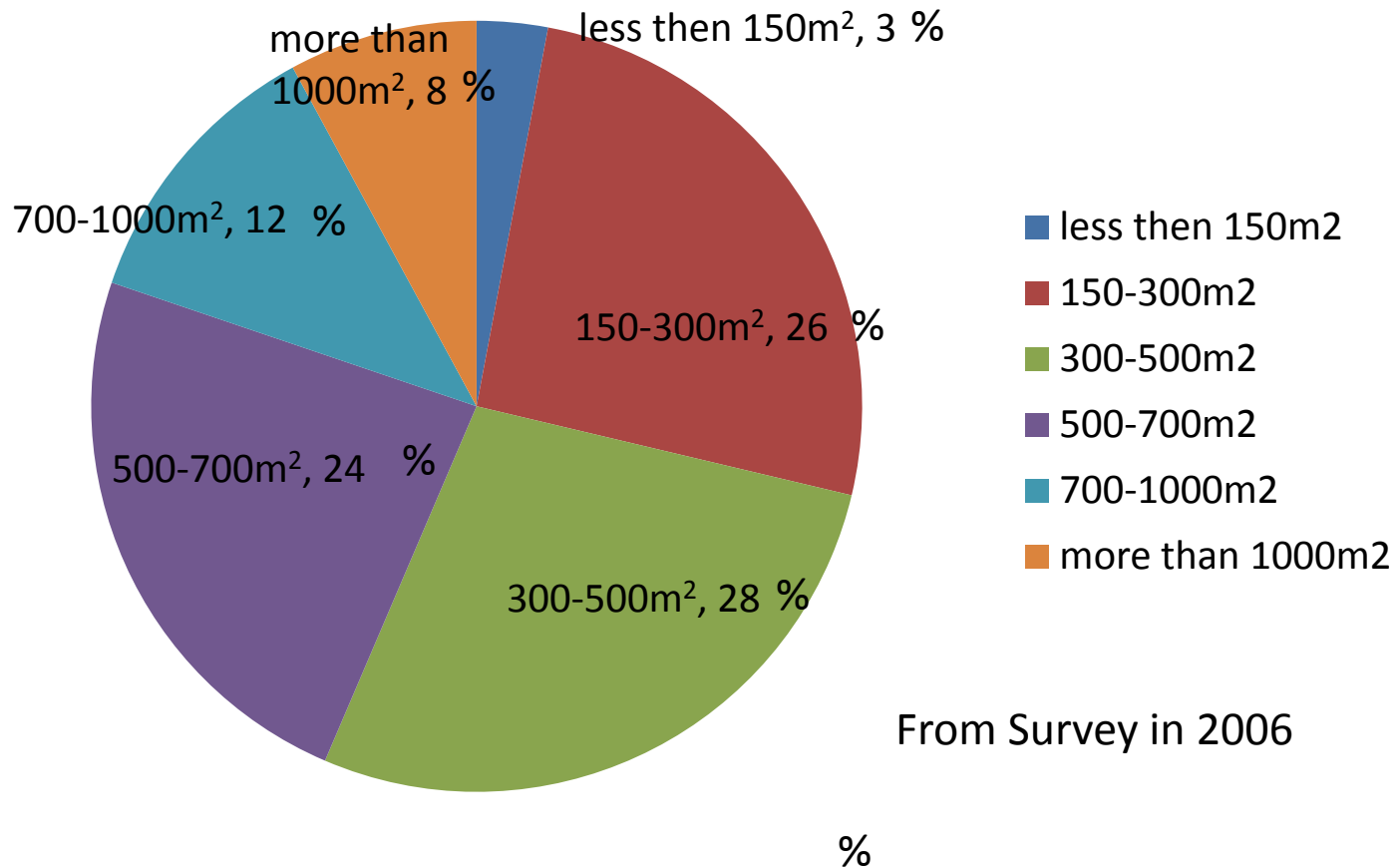
In case of fire, it is difficult for the occupants to egress by themselves, because of their dementia and disabilities.

So it can result in many victims.

Trend of the number of “Group home”



The size of “Group home”



Building standard

- Boarding house less than 300m² of total floor area or less than 3 storeys is not required to be of fire resistance construction and quasi-fire resistant construction by Building Standard Law.

Building standard

The requirements by the use of the building
(between boarding house and house)

Boarding house is required:

- Partition wall(quasi-fire-resistive construction) extending above ceiling space
- Imitation of Interior finishing material
- Lighting apparatus for emergency use
- Locks at exits to outside
- Passageway(1.5m wide) in the building site

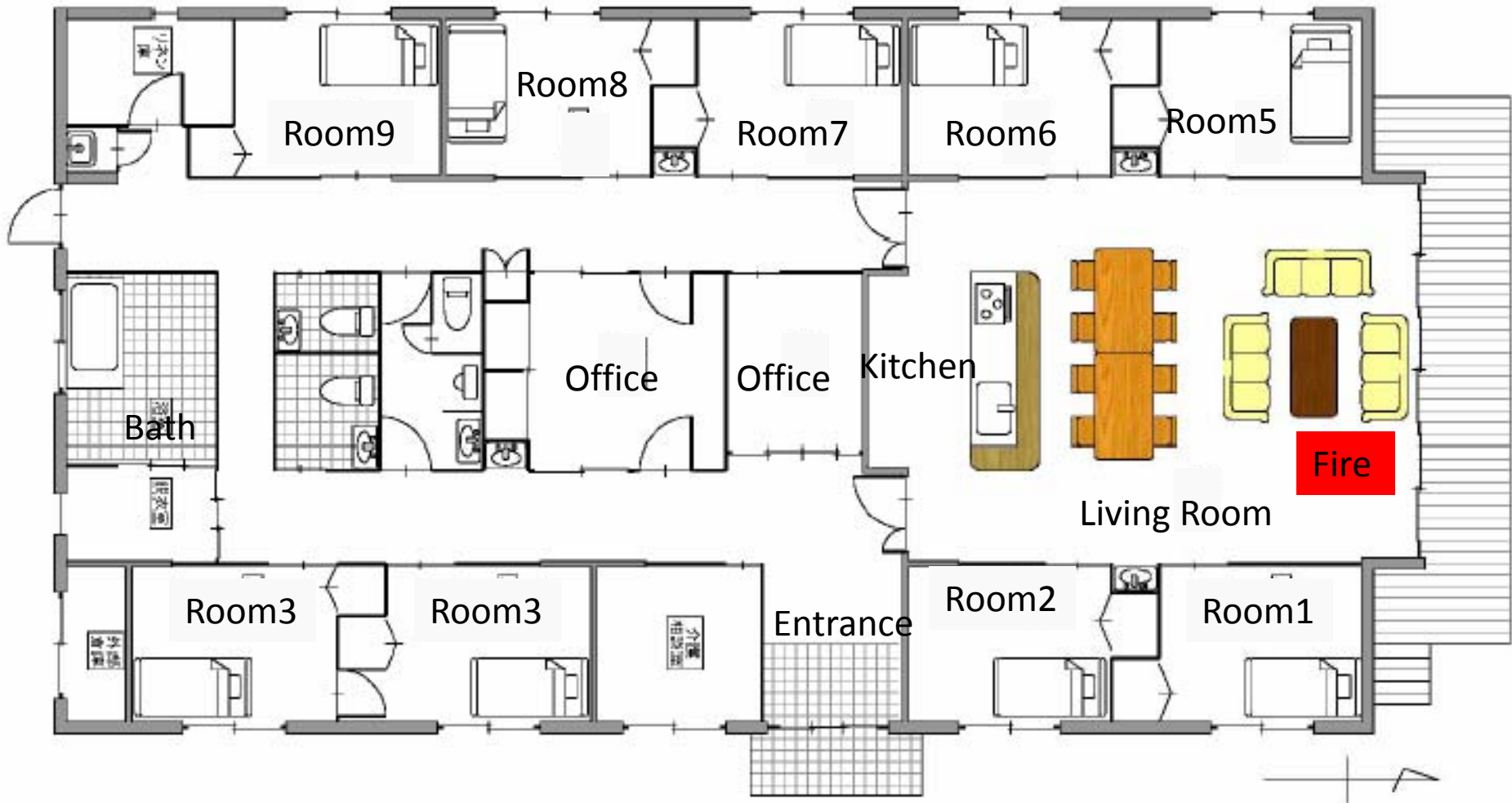
Recent Group Home Fire in Japan

- (1)2006.1.8 “Yasuraginosato Sakura-kan”
- (2)2010.3.13 “Mirai Tonden”

“Yasuraginosato Sakura-kan Fire”

- 2006.1.8 Outbreak 2:19
- Flat 279m²
- RC + wooden (partly) construction
- 7 fatalities and 3 injuries (1 is staff)
- Fire source : Arson by lighter (suspicious)





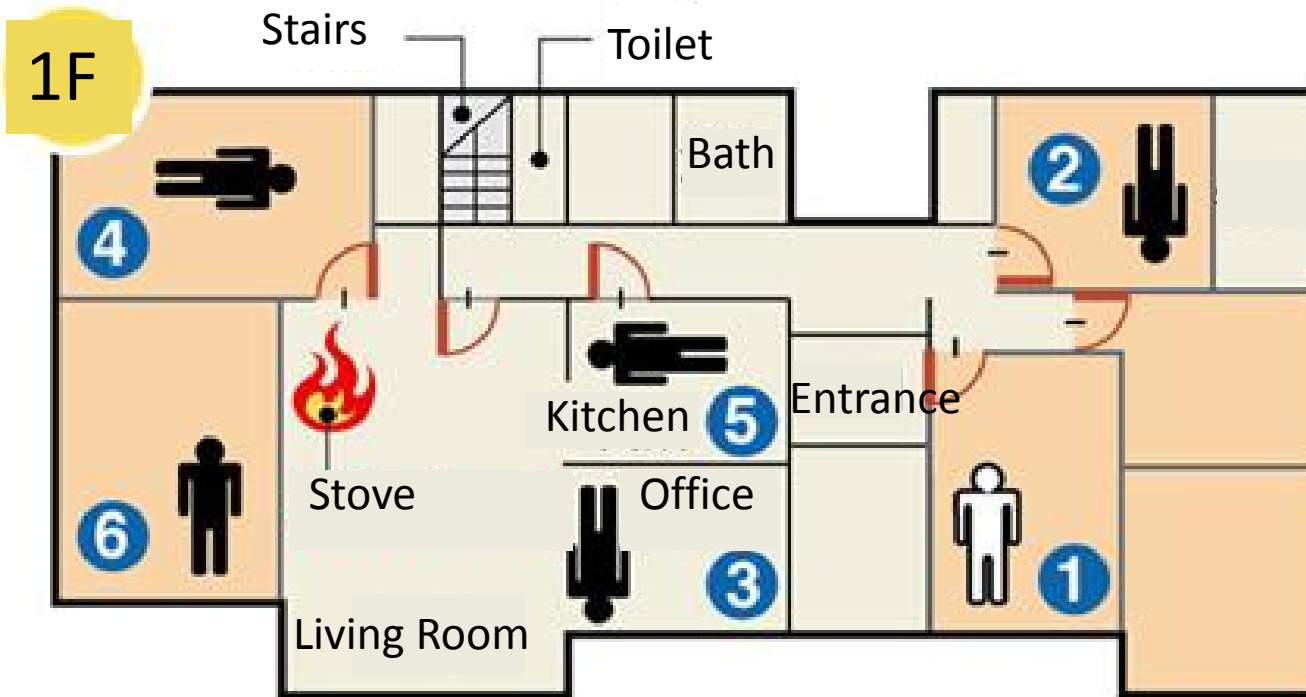
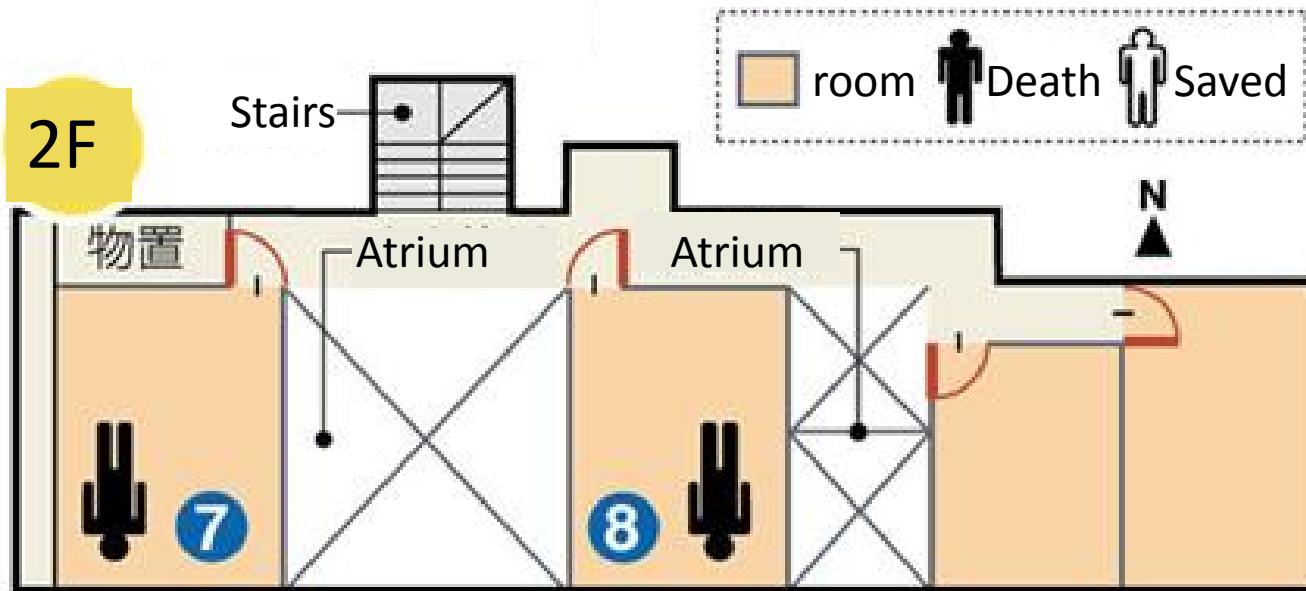
9 occupants and 1 staff

Only fire extinguisher and lighted exit sign were provided

“Mirai Tonden Fire”

- 2010.3.13 Outbreak 2:25
- 2F 248m²
- Wooden construction
- 7 fatalities and 2 injuries
- Fire source : Under investigation





“Mirai Tonden Fire”

- Building confirmation was issued (1988.6.27) : house
- No submission of the application of building confirmation (conversion from house to “Group home”)

Countermeasure of Fire service Law for “Group Home”

By “Yasuraginosato Sakura-kan Fire(2006)”, Fire Service Law for “Group Home” had been regulated strictly.

- Making fire protection plan
- Installation of Sprinkler
>1,000m² -> >275m²
- Installation of automatic fire detection system
- Installation of a direct phone to fire department

But they are effective from 2012.4.

Problems

- Judgement by building official seems to be not clear whether group home is classified as boarding house or house, though the building standard law classifies clearly.
- Large difference of the level of building requirements between boarding house and house for the elderly.
- More consideration of Human factor of Occupant (eg. egress) is needed.
- Building confirmation (conversion from house to “Group home”)

Thank you