

Short Communication

**INCIDENCE OF CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGES
IN TOKYO AND YOKOHAMA**

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There were only meager data on consanguinity rate of large cities in the past of Japan. The present author collected such data in April 1961 from parents of schoolboys in Tokyo and Yokohama, who were born during a period from April 1949 to March 1950. Questionnaire sheets were sent to parents of 6,866 boys attending the sixth year class of 41 primary schools in Sugunami-ku, Tokyo and 21 primary schools in Yokohama, through the teachers in charge and returned by the reverse route. The recovery was 100%. Parental relationship reported to be consanguineous was checked referring to family registers (*koseki*). If informations from parents and family registers were discrepant, the latter was adopted.

The results obtained are summarized in Table 1.

Rates of all consanguinity and first cousin marriage, and mean inbreeding

Table 1. Frequency of consanguineous marriages in Tokyo and Yokohama.

Inbreeding coefficient ×128	Tokyo		Yokohama	
	No.	%	No.	%
0	3,961	95.38	2,568	94.66
>0	192	4.62	145	5.34
1	8	0.19	—	—
2	41	0.99	24	0.88
4	37	0.89	33	1.22
5	—	—	1	0.04
6	1	0.02	—	—
8	96	2.31	78	2.88
9	—	—	1	0.04
10	4	0.10	5	0.18
12	2	0.05	1	0.04
16	3	0.07	2	0.07
Total	4,153	100.00	2,713	100.00
Mean inbreeding coefficient	0.00211		0.00263	

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coefficient in Tokyo (4.62%, 2.31% and 0.00211) and Yokohama (5.34%, 2.88% and 0.00263) thus obtained are three to four times as high as the figures in recent Tokyo (1.22%, 0.67%, and 0.00056, respectively; Tanaka *et al.*, 1978), but significantly lower than the rates among couples married during a period from 1947 to 1952 in the whole of Japan, 10.13%, 4.83% and 0.00373, respectively (Imaizumi *et al.*, 1975) indicating that the consanguinity rate in recent Japan has rapidly decreased and the difference in consanguinity rate between large cities and less urbanized districts in the past was remarkable as well as in the present.

REFERENCES

- Imaizumi, Y., Shinozaki, N., and Aoki, H. 1975. Inbreeding in Japan: Results of a nation-wide study. *Jpn. J. Human Genet.* **20**: 91-107.
- Tanaka, K., Haraoka, K., and Hayase, R. 1978. Incidence of consanguineous marriage in recent Metropolis Tokyo. *Jpn. J. Human Genet.* **23**: 395-400.