

A RESEARCH OF CONSANGUINITY IN JAPANESE YOUNG COUPLES

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In the past, the rate of consanguineous marriage in Japanese population was high (6% in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and 4% in Tokyo) (Schull and Neel, 1965). However, it has decreased rapidly during the last two decades. The nationwide survey (Imaizumi *et al.*, 1975) showed that the mean rate of first cousin marriage was 0.86% among young couples who got married during June 2, 1967 to June 1, 1972.

In Kanto district, Furusho (1979) reported that the rate of first cousin marriage and inbreeding coefficient were 2.31% and 0.00211 in Tokyo, and 2.88% and 0.00263 in Yokohama, respectively. These data were collected from 6,866 school boys in Tokyo and Yokohama, who were born during the period of April 1949 through March 1950.

Imaizumi (1977) reported the mean inbreeding coefficient by Cohort in relation with the year of marriage in two cities. The mean inbreeding coefficients were 0.0062, 0.0023, and 0 in Gyoda city; and 0.0046, 0.0040, and 0.0010 in Hasuda city for the marriage year of ~1945, 1946-1961, and 1962~, respectively.

The present study is to investigate the rate of consanguineous marriage among young couples who got married during 1972-1981.

The data were collected by questionnaire to 833 persons who are working at pharmaceutical companies in Tokyo and Osaka area, and 150 patients of contact lens clinic at Juntendo University. All of them have married during 1972-1981.

Table 1 shows their residence and place of family register (*honseki*) and place of birth. The number of consanguineous marriage is shown in round bracket. Table 2 shows the frequency of consanguineous marriage summarized. The rate of first cousin marriage and mean inbreeding coefficient was 0.1% and 0.00013, respectively. These values are surprisingly small. It may be due to the fact that the data was collected in large cities.

Nationwide research is strongly needed.

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Table 1. Distribution of residence, places of register and places of birth.

	Residence	Place of register	Place of birth	Residence	Place of register	Place of birth			
Kanto	Tokyo	312 (4)	240 (2)	216 (1)	Shikoku	Kagawa	1	12	10
	Kanagawa	119	69	57		Tokushima	1	10	10
	Chiba	85	38	24		Kochi	—	2	4
	Ibaraki	7	5	6		Ehime	1	13	16
	Tochigi	6 (1)	5 (2)	9 (1)		Sum	3	37	40
Sum	Saitama	96	48	30	Kyushu	Fukuoka	—	16	27
	Gunma	2	9	14		Saga	—	7	7
	Yamanashi	—	7	9		Nagasaki	1	8	5
	Sum	627 (5)	421 (4)	365 (2)		Kumamoto	—	10 (1)	14
						Ooita	—	8	10
Shinetsu	Nagano	2	13	5	Sum	Miyazaki	—	2	1
	Niigata	—	13	20		Kagoshima	—	5	12
	Sum	2	26	25			1	56 (1)	76
Tokai	Shizuoka	7	18	18	Okinawa	Okinawa	—	1	1
	Aichi	2	31	35		Sum	—	1	1
	Gifu	3	11	12	Hokuriku	Fukui	—	5	1
	Mie	—	8	12		Ishikawa	—	6	7
	Sum	12	68	77		Toyama	—	4	4
Kinki	Shiga	96 (1)	52 (1)	41 (1)	Sum		—	15	12
	Osaka	80	55	67			58	51 (2)	
	Kyoto	24	27	29			8	10 (1)	
	Nara	10	7	5			7	9	
	Wakayama	—	8	6			8	8	
	Hyogo	45	45	49			4	8	
	Sum	255 (1)	194 (1)	197 (1)			—	1	
Chugoku	Tottori	—	5	7	Sum		85	86 (3)	
	Shimane	—	6	13			5	16	
	Okayama	5	20	18			5	20	
	Hiroshima	7	14	15			13	10	
	Yamaguchi	1	9	11			983	983	
Sum	13	54	64		10	10			
Hokkaido	Foreign-born	—	—	—	Total	Foreign-born	—	—	10
	Unknown	—	—	—		Unknown	—	—	10
	Total	13	54	64		Total	—	—	983

() : Number of consanguineous marriage.

Table 2. Frequency of consanguineous marriage in young couples (married year: 1972-1981).

Inbreeding coefficient ×128	16	8	4	2	>0	0	Total	1C (%)	Unknown
	—	1	1	2	2	976	982	0.10	1

1C, the first cousin marriage.

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