

Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) Initiatives Designed to Promote Midwifery in Communities

Survey on opportunities for midwives to harness their expertise (2022)

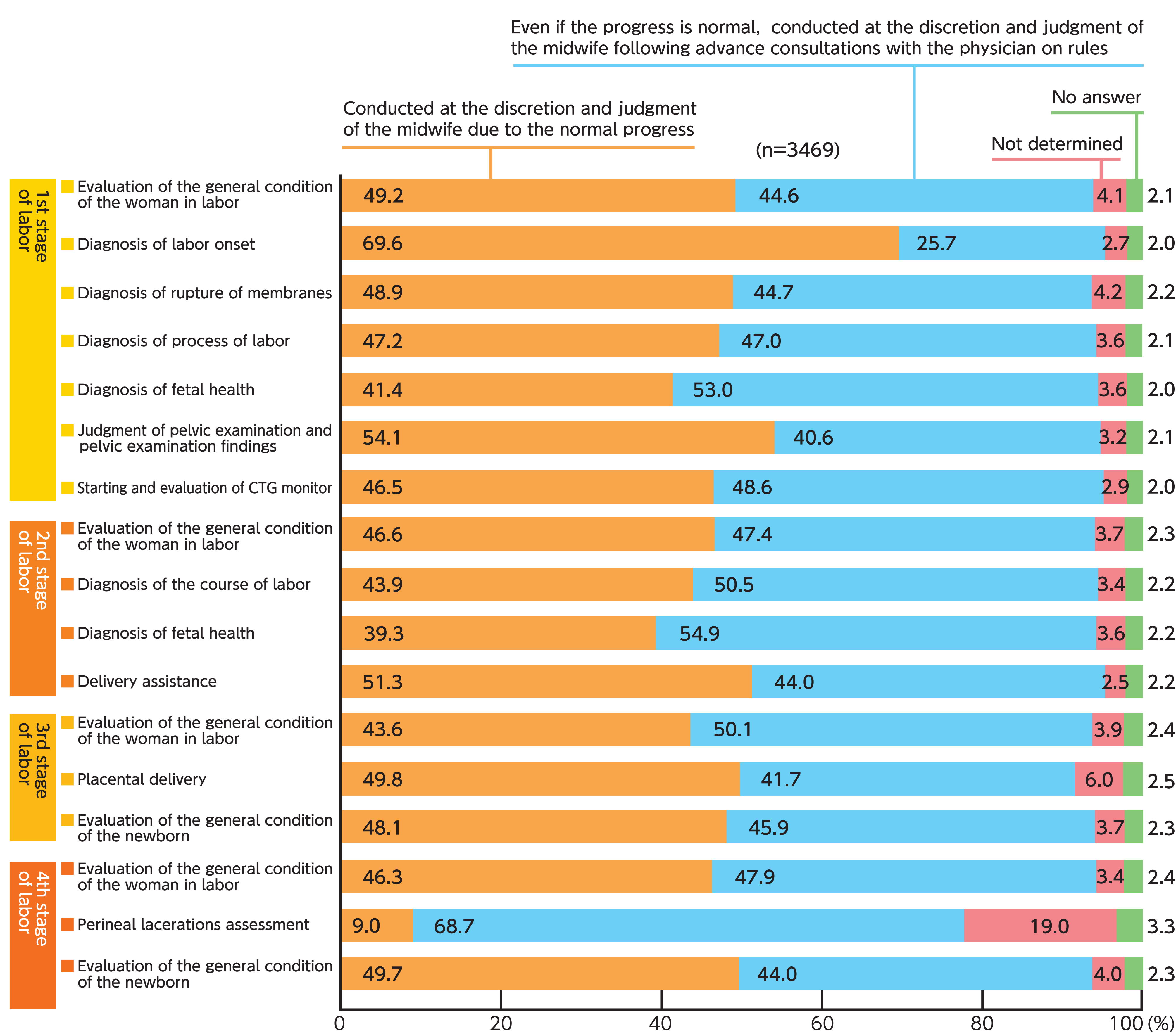
JNA conducted this survey to understand the current situation and ongoing challenges related to opportunities for midwives to harness their expertise, with the aim of helping JNA determine the content of its assistance and policy proposals, so as to further improve care for births and women's health.

The survey showed that the percentage of midwives responding that "the decision is made at the discretion and judgment of the midwife" or "the decision is made at the discretion and judgment of the midwife following advance consultations with the physician on rules" exceeded 80% for 16 of the 17 decisions made from the first stage to the fourth stage of a normal birth, indicating the prevalence of midwife-led care.

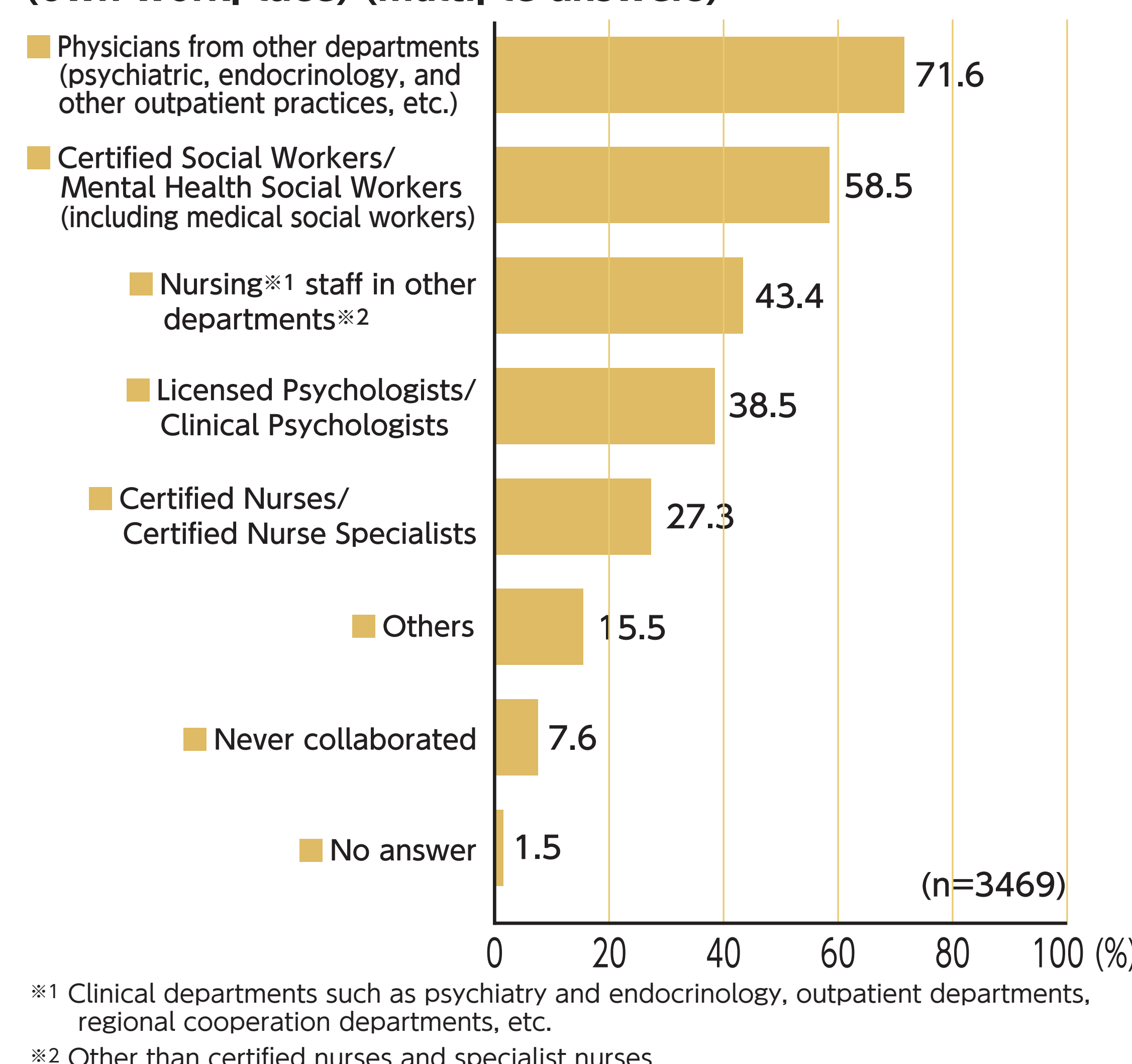
The survey also showed that, when providing support for women with psychiatric or lifestyle diseases, midwives coordinate their work with many other professionals including physicians from other departments and public health nurses from outside the hospital. As such, the data shows that midwives play an important role in improving the quality of care provided to women and babies in communities.

89.8% of midwives who responded said they hope to continue working as midwives.

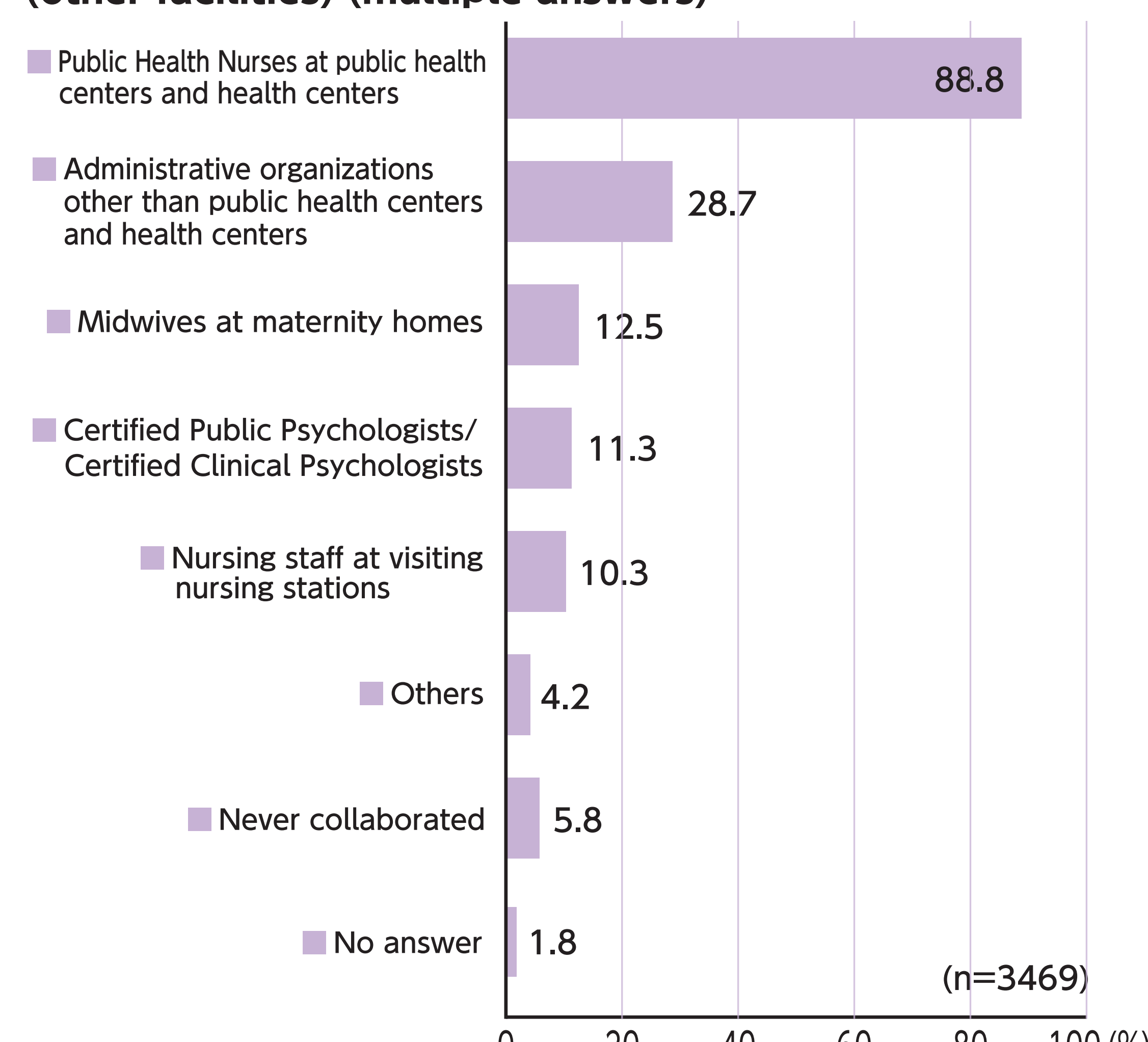
Midwife's discretion and judgment in midwifery diagnosis regarding normal birth (multiple answers)



Occupations that collaborated last year (own workplace) (multiple answers)



Occupations and facilities that collaborated last year (other facilities) (multiple answers)



Investigations into the structures required to support women and their families (2022)

Interviews were conducted to understand the extent to which midwives are able to exercise their expertise through advanced women's healthcare initiatives, including preconception care and support for menopausal health.

These investigations showed that, particularly in the best practice examples, projects that provide health support for women and allow midwives to consistently and effectively exercise the specialist knowledge, include the following eight functions:

- (1) Planning/management
- (2) division of responsibility
- (3) evaluation systems
- (4) financial resources
- (5) facilities and equipment
- (6) securing human resources
- (7) thoroughly inform the service to potential users
- (8) human resource development / ensuring the quality of projects

Systems for securing human resources and smooth matching are required if midwives employed in hospitals are to make full use of their expertise in serving communities.

Future JNA initiatives

JNA is strengthening efforts to build the systems that enable women to get access to midwife-led care in communities, while also taking further steps to make the public aware of these efforts.

To enable midwives to exercise their midwife-led care and serve the needs of society, JNA is working to increase the adoption of CLoCMiP® (Clinical Ladder of Competencies for Midwifery Practice), to provide further educational opportunities for midwives, and to deepen the involvement of midwives in the profession of women's healthcare.

Introduction to the JNA

Summary

JNA is the largest nursing professional association in Japan, consisting of and operated by voluntary individual members who are licensed nurses.

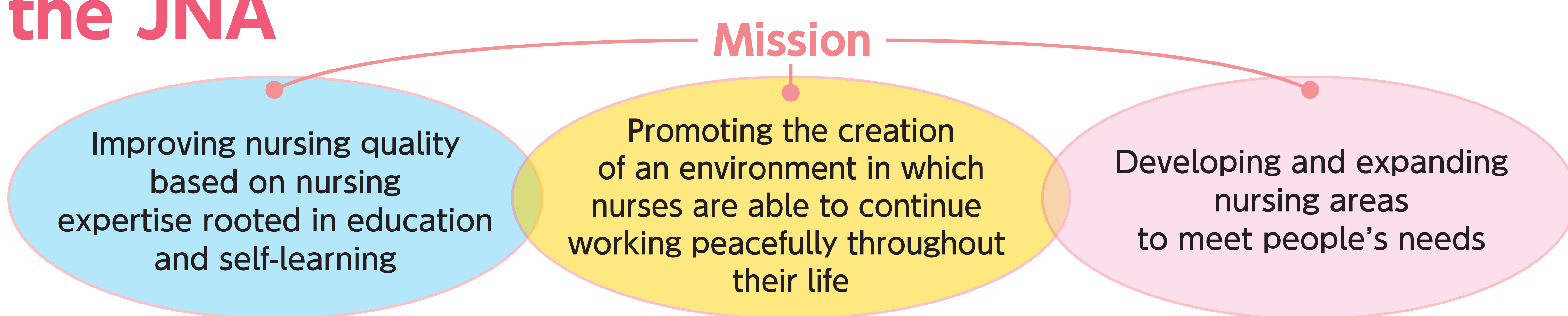
Key activities of midwifery

Policy proposals

Summarizes the issues and opinions on maternal and infant, and make political proposals to the national government and competent authorities.

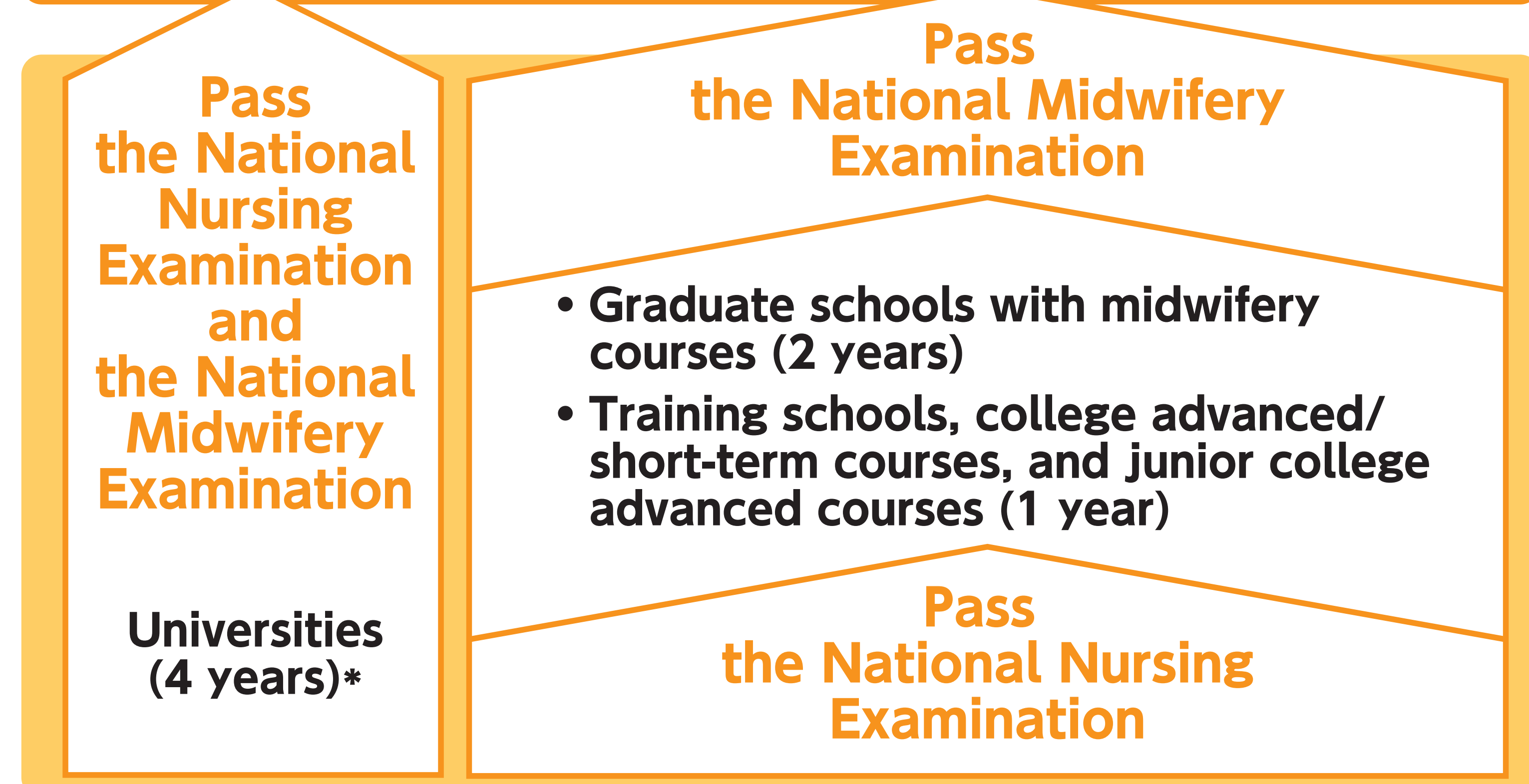
Quality improvement of midwives

- JNA developed the CLoCMiP® (2012).
- Midwives who have passed the CLoCMiP® level III certification may work as Advanced Midwives.
- JNA also conducts various training programs designed to improve the competencies for midwifery practice.



Basic Information on Japanese Midwives

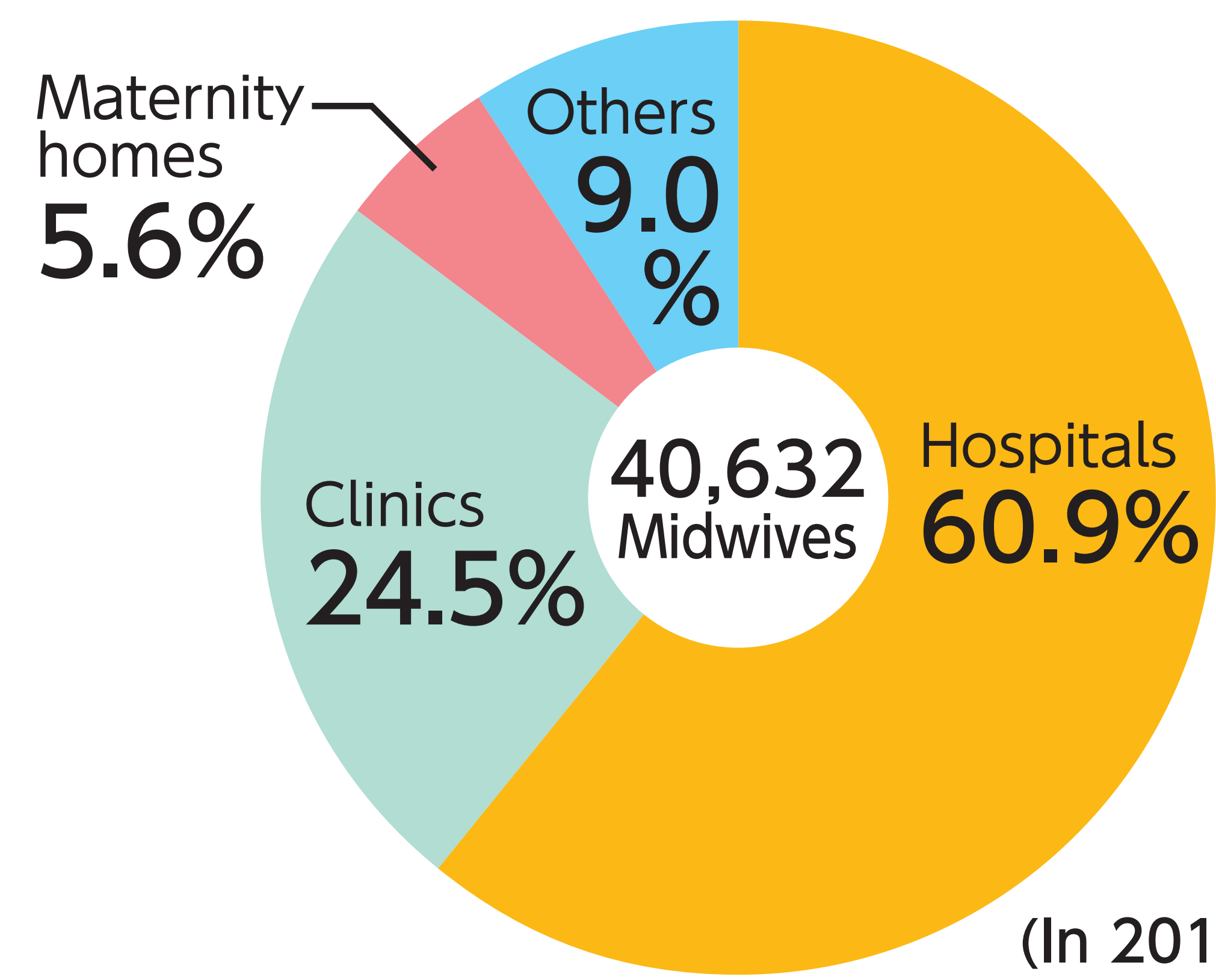
Acquire the midwife license



*Obtain eligibility to take both national exams in the 4 years university course

The work of midwives

- Currently, most babies were delivered at hospitals and clinics.
- The number of births has been falling since the 1970s. However, the number of high-risk births, including births to mothers aged 35 or over, is increasing.
- The work of a midwife includes not only birth but also various aspects of SRMNAH (sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health).



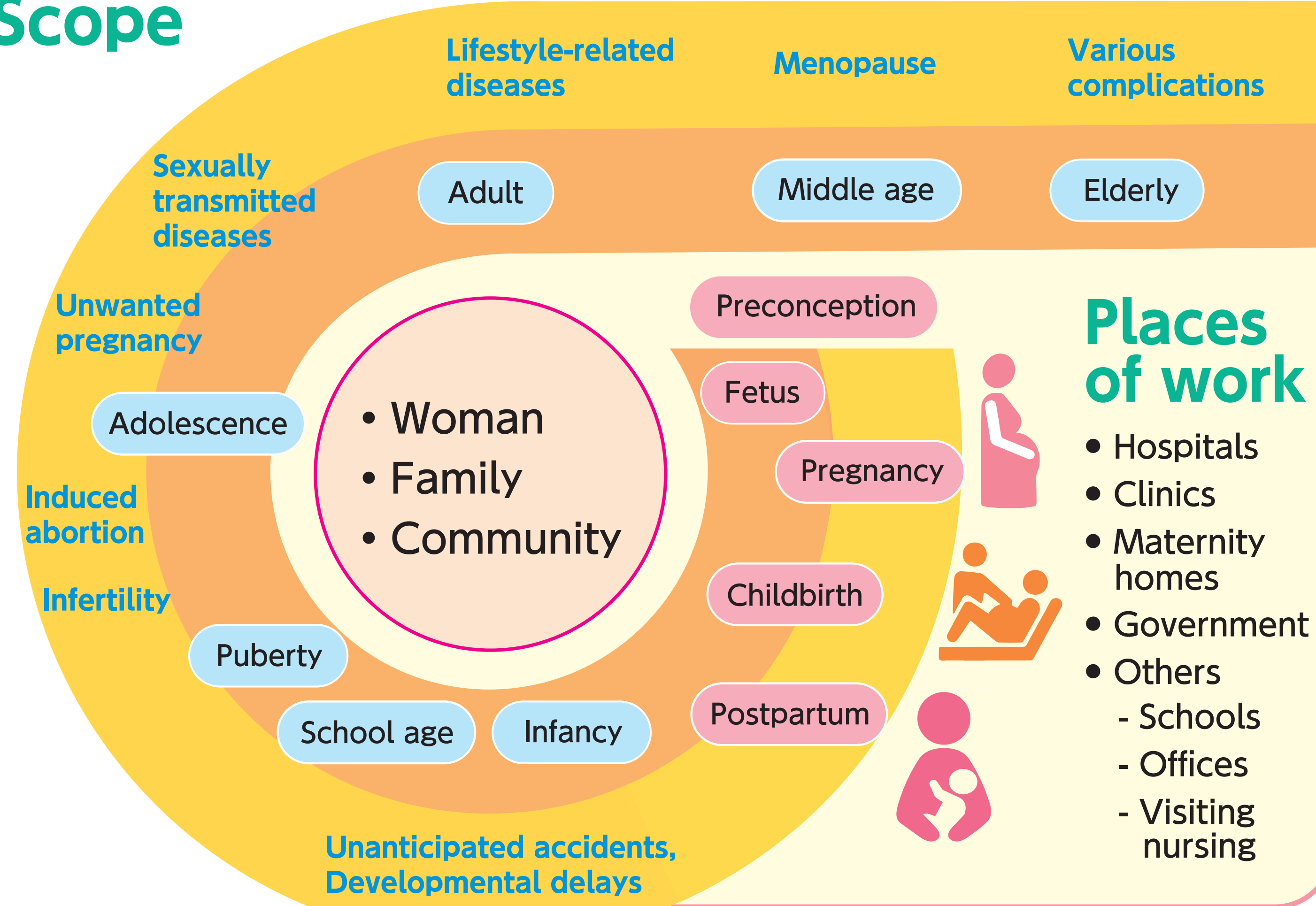
Regulations

- Currently, the job of a midwife in Japan is defined under the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses, which was enacted in 1948.
- A midwife is "a woman who has acquired a midwife license from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare to practice midwifery or provides health guidance for pregnant women, puerperal women, or newborn babies, as a profession".
- Midwives have exclusive rights to perform their duties and exclusive rights to their title.

The road to becoming a midwife

- A person intending to become a midwife must pass the National Nursing Examination and the National Midwifery Examination and acquire a license from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- Over the past 20 years, an increasing number of midwives have completed graduate schools.

Scope



Midwives work together with public health nurses to provide support for various clinical treatments and preventative measures designed to ensure that everyone in the community can live a healthy life, with each respective profession exercising their expertise to support the health of women, babies and their families.

