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Smoking Cessation at the Municipal Level in Japan.

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One of the targets of Healthy Japan 21 is decreasing smoking rates. To evaluate efforts of municipalities, a survey of their relationship between municipalities and organizations was performed.

Subjects and Methods: A questionnaire that was asking their relationship in 2002 was sent to all municipalities in Japan.

Results: 1410 out of 3244 municipalities replied to the questionnaire. 11.5% of municipalities had information of smoking cessation programs in public hospitals, 7.3% of them had that in private hospitals, 23.3% of them had that in other municipalities, 33.4% of them had that in public health centers, 14.5% of them had that in schools and 1.5% of them had that in non-profit or non-government organization. 2.7% of municipalities were requested cooperation in smoking cessation programs from public hospitals, 2.2% of them from private hospitals, 6.7% of them from other municipalities, 12.7% of them from public health centers, 14.8% of them from schools and 1.3% of them from non-profit or non-government organization. 10.5 of municipalities gave information of stop smoking to public hospitals, 11.7% of them to private hospitals, 16.9% of them to other municipalities, 16.3% of them to public health centers, 16.2% of them to schools and 3.2% of them from non-profit or non-government organization.

Discussion: However municipalities should be chief promoters in Healthy Japan 21, these results show that they played a little role in smoking cessation programs. To reduce smoking rates, cooperation between municipalities and other organizations are necessary.

Conclusion: Municipalities need new strategies for cooperation in quit smoking.