Abstract
This paper, a follow-up to a previous national survey (2003), intends to update the health care services use and expenditure patterns by exploring, as in the past, the social bases for such behaviors. The survey included public policy interest in this regard. The results analyzed, from a national population sample of 1,546 persons aged 0 and older, show that as expected health expenditure is significant within total household expenditure and that out-of-pocket-expenses in medication are a very important proportion (40%) of this health expenditure. As a fundamental part of this article, there is a special section on health inequality aspects. The possibility of comparing local results using Japan as a parameter is of unquestionable interest to evaluate socioeconomic differentials in this field. The basic method is similar in both studies, relying on logistic regression equations.

Keywords
Health Care (Public Health), Health Inequalities, Health Expenditures, Financing, Health, Public Policies.