Outline of Okinawa Prefecture

OKINAWA 2 HARE 2 O A







This Is Okinawa



Okinawa building a future of dreams fulfilled



History

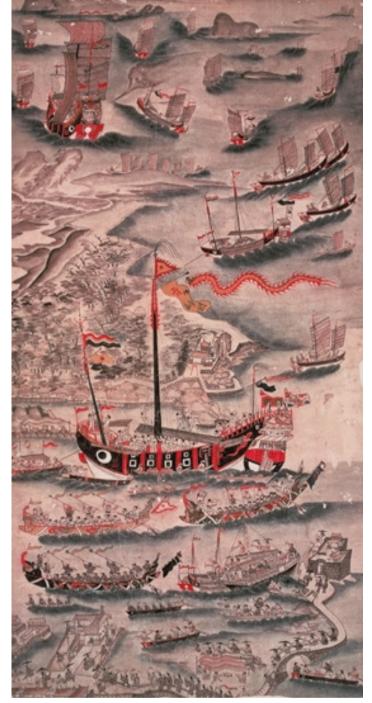
Weathering a Storm of Adversities

Once the independent Kingdom of Ryukyu that developed its own distinctive culture and system of government, Okinawa subsequently fell under the control of Japan. Okinawans suffered terribly in the closing months of the Pacific War and then came under a prolonged period of U.S. military occupation, finally returning to Japanese sovereignty. Okinawa has passed through many storms during its passage to the calm harbor of today.

Although often buffeted and battered by the winds of history, the Okinawan people always held fast to their own identity. Now they face the future full of strength and confidence.



King Sho Shin (1465 -1526) (Okinawa School of the Arts Collection)



Naha Port in olden days, bustling with tribute ships and other vessels (Okinawa Prefectural Museum collection)



(chronology)

Year Event

605 "Ryukyu" first appears in the Chinese annals

1187 King Shunten takes the throne

1260 Coronation of King Eiso. Zenkan builds the Gokuraku Temple

1296 Mongols attack Okinawa Island

1350 King Satto takes the throne

1372 King Satto sends the first envoys to Ming China

1392 First students sent to study in Ming China.
The "thirty-six" families become naturalized citizens of Ryukyu

1429 Sho Hashi unifies the Three Kingdoms

1441 Ryukyu supposedly granted to Shimazu Tadakuni by Ashikaga Yoshinori

1458 Conflict between Gosamaru and Amawari

1467 Grand Library presented by the King of Korea

500 Oyake Akahachi uprising

1531 First volume of the Omoroshoshi compiled

589 An embassy from Ryukyu received by Hideyoshi at Kyoto

1591 Hideyoshi sends troops to Korea; levies on Ryukyu for assistance

1605 Noguni Soukan introduces the sweet potato from China

1609 Satsuma invades the Ryukyu Kingdom

1623 Shinjo Gima introduces sugar refining

1650 Sho Shoken (Choshu Haneji) publishes Chuzan Seikan (History of Ryukyu)

1713 "Origins and History of the Ryukyu Kingdom" published

1719 First performance of Tamagusuku Chokun's "Kumiodori"

1734 Saion publishes the Farmer's Manual

853 Commodore Perry's Black Ships call at Naha

872 Ryukyu Kingdom becomes Ryukyu Han (fiefdom)

1879 Abolition of fiefs; creation of Okinawa Prefecture

1904 Abolition of land allocation system; establishment of private land ownership

909 First Prefectural Assembly election

1912 First election of lower house Diet members

1926 Kazuro Hirozu's The Wandering Ryukyuans provokes uproar

1940 Controversy over use of Okinawa dialects

1945 U.S. forces land on Okinawa Island. Organized resistance of Japanese forces ends on June 23.

1946 General Mac Arthur separates the administration of Japan and the Southwest Island chain

The San Francisco Peace Treaty between Japan and the United States provides for continued American control of Okinawa and

1952 Establishment of the Government of the Ryukyus

1969 Joint U.S. Japan announcement of Okinawa's reversion to Japan

1970 Koza riots

1972 May 15 - Reversion to Japan

1973 Special National Athletic Meet (Wakanatsu Kokutai) held to commemorate Reversion

1975 The Okinawa International Ocean Exposition held to commemorate Reversion (July 20, 1975 to January 18, 1976

1978 July 30: traffic changed to left-lane driving

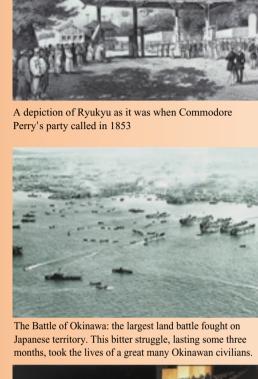
1987 Okinawa hosts the 42nd National Athletic Meet (Kaiho Kokutai)

1993 The 44th National Tree Planting Ceremony (April 25) is held in Okinawa

1995 The Cornerstone of Peace erected in memory of those lost on both sides in the Battle of Okinaw

2000 Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit

2003 Okinawa hosts the 3rd Pacific Islands Summit





The ceremony marking the return of Okinawa to Japan 27 years after the end of the War.



The 2000 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit



Nature



Relax and enjoy the island's lush semitropical nature

Blessed with year-round warm temperatures, Okinawa boasts Japan's only true semitropical climate. Set amidst emerald green seas under a canopy of azure skies, the islands are a premier southern resort destination. Okinawa Prefecture is home to rare birds and animals like the Pryer's Woodpecker noguchiguera, Okinawa Rail yambaru kuina and Iriomote wildcat, famous worldwide for their uniqueness. With their abundance of distinctive semitropical flora and fauna, their profusion of coral reefs and their salubrious climate, these islands are becoming increasingly popular among tourists and

Island, Hoshino Cave, a row of Fukugi trees on Aguni Island, stone pavement













A veritable treasure house of rare plants and animals

More than twenty species of animals and some 420 bird species are found in Okinawa. Among these are a number of so-called "living fossils," birds and animals that flourished over a wide range in prehistoric time but are now found only in certain limited areas.

Iriomote wildcat



Pryer's Woodpecker Noguchiguera



Okinawa's Treasures



Japanese leaf turtle

Ishikawa's frog



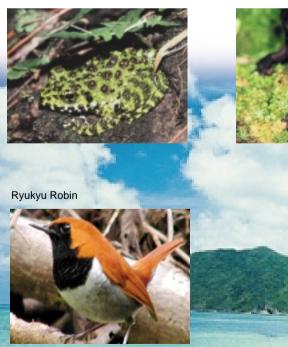
Okinawa rail Yambaru kuina



Yambaru long-arm Scarab



Anderson's alligator newt



Chinese box turtle





- 1 Nakijin Castle ruin
- 6 Tamaudon Royal Mausoleum 2 Katsuren Castle ruin 7 Shikina-en Gardens
- 3 Nakagusuku Castle ruin 8 Shuri Castle
- 4 Zakimi Castle ruin
- 5 Sefa-utaki
- 9 Sonohyan-utaki Stone Gate

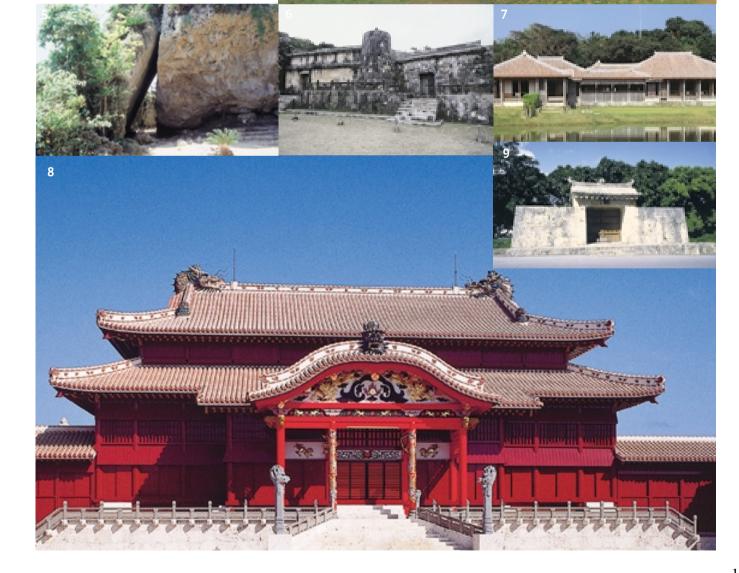


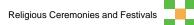
Shuri Castle, the Nakagusuku Castle ruins and other historic remains (9 photos

below) were added in 2002 to the Register of World Heritage Sites as "The

World Heritage sites

Castles of Ryukyu and Related sites."





Religious Ceremonies and Festivals



Deeply rooted reverence for the Gods

In addition to the various traditional island and local customs and practices, many folkways and yearly events express people's deep reverence for their ancestors. The prayerful hearts of the people have endured to the present day and still play a major role in preserving the deep ties between people and their communities.



The Hachigatsu Odori on Tarama Island in August on the Chinese calendar
On stage - an offering of dance and drama

Seed-gathering ceremony on Taketomi Island,



Unjami - prayers at Ogimi Village for a good catch



feathered robe. Major events held each summer in the different cities draw large



Shiisa dancing



The "Ten thousand strong"Eisa dancers on Naha's main street, Kokusai Dori. A major tourist event.



Eisa dancing at O-Bon time

Dragon boat races, a custom brought from the South

The Naha great tug-of-war, with the world's largest rope





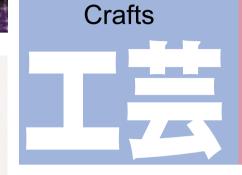
Bingata with its vivid colors and bold patterns

Traditional techniques live on in Yaevama Jofu

Ryukyu Glass (flower vase)



Kume Island pongee, dyed in clay



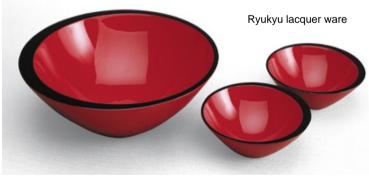
Performing Arts



Ryukyu lacquer ware

A unique beauty fostered through international relations

Traditional Okinawan crafts like bingata, lacquer ware, pottery, woven goods and glassware, emerged as Okinawans added their own methods and techniques to borrowings from China, Japan and elsewhere to create distinctive shapes and colors. The crafts were revived and renewed during the hard times following the War. New forms like Uji dyeing with sugar cane materials and small wood crafts were added to expand the world of Okinawan crafts.





Pottery (a sake hip flask. Okinawa Prefectural Museum collection)



Pottery (sake flagon)

Performing Arts linking past and present Okinawa's prolific arts blossoming in popularity all over Japan

The two pillars of Okinawa performing arts are the folk arts and the classics; both enjoy growing popularity. The Eisa dancing of various localities widens the circle of enjoyment and participation. On the other hand, classical music and Ryukyu dance continue to thrive. In recent years the Okinawan musicians have won fans in Japan and worldwide, creating a virtual nonstop Okinawan music boom.



A classical women's dance of the Ryukyu Dance repertory, with the dancers gowned in beautiful bingata.



The world loves the music of Okinawan bands and singers



The sanshin is the prominent instrument of Ryukyuan music. Classical music performance



The kumi-odori: a work that sums up Okinawan performing arts



Longevity



Diet



The Okinawan diet is a major contributor to the prefecture's longevity

Okinawans are among the world's longest-lived people. Their well-balanced diet, which is rich in protein and vegetables, is believed to play a large part in this. Today's Okinawan diet stems from two main sources - the cuisine of the Ryukyu Kingdom royal court and the foods of the common people. Court cuisine developed from Chinese and Japanese influences while the cooking of the common people emerged from household kitchens. A staple household dish is "champuru," vegetables and tofu stir-fried in oil.



Islands of health and longevity

Seniors take center stage at local festivals.



Japan ranks number one in the world number for longevity, with Okinawa as the leading Prefecture in this respect. A temperate climate, a well-balanced diet, and an unhurried pace of life all contribute to this fact. The eyes of the world are increasingly turned to the Uchinanchu (Okinawan) life style.

Seniors pursue lifelong learning at the



Active recreation for seniors (Prefecture-wide senior gateball tournament).

Local seniors devoted to making ceramics



Okinawa cooking. A dish with pig's feet (Ashitebichi).

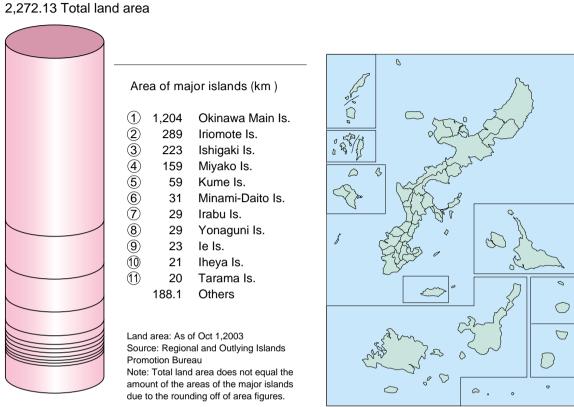
Generous use of pork is a distinctive feature of



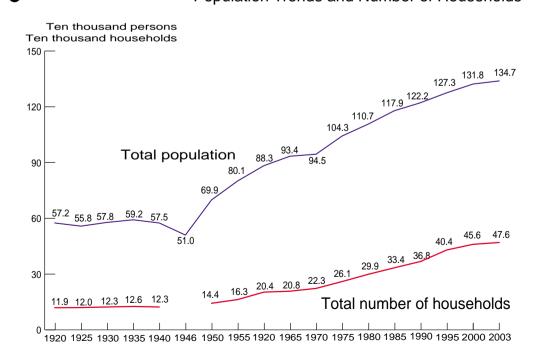


(top) Colorful semitropical fish from local waters. (bottom) Pork - the must-have ingredient in Okinawan dishes.

Area

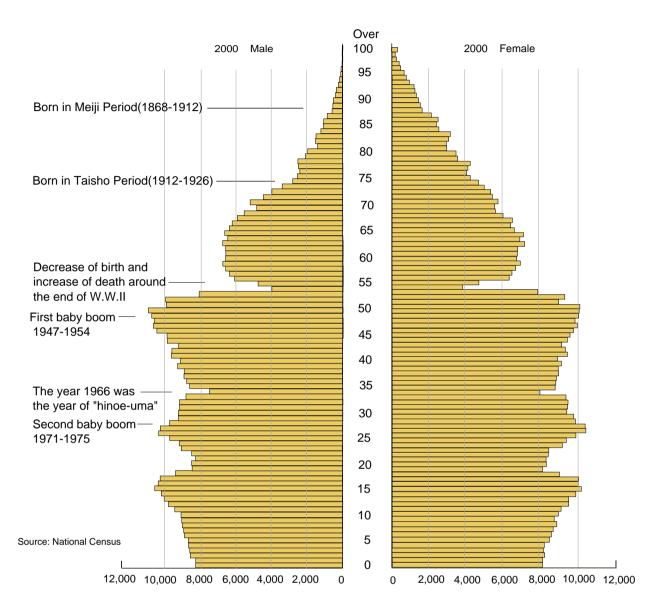


Population Trends and Number of Households



Source: Department of Planning and Development

Population by Age

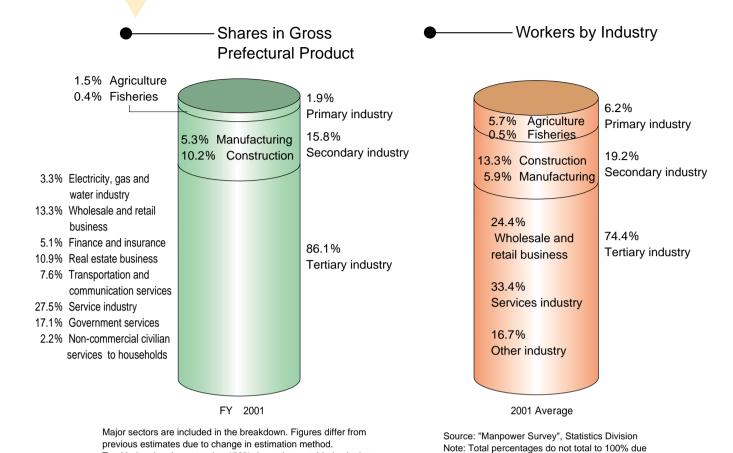


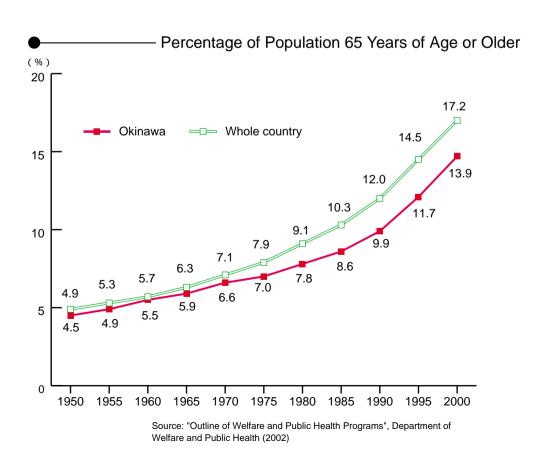
- Population Dynamics

														(Unit	: out of	1,000)
	Year															
Sub-divi	sion	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
	Okinawa	16.3	15.6	14.9	14.0	14.4	14.1	13.8	13.9	13.2	13.4	12.9	13.1	12.8	12.8	13.0
Birth rate	Whole country	11.1	10.8	10.2	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.6	10.0	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.4	9.5	9.3
Mortality	Okinawa	4.7	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2
rate	Whole country	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.8	7.7	7.7
Marriage	Okinawa	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.9	6.8
rate	Whole country	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.4
Divorce	Okinawa	2.00	1.98	1.95	1.90	1.96	2.00	2.18	2.27	2.22	2.33	2.42	2.72	2.64	2.74	2.95
rate	Whole country	1.30	1.26	1.29	1.28	1.37	1.45	1.52	1.57	1.66	1.66	1.78	1.94	2.00	2.10	2.27

Total industries do not total to 100% due to interest (deduction) etc.

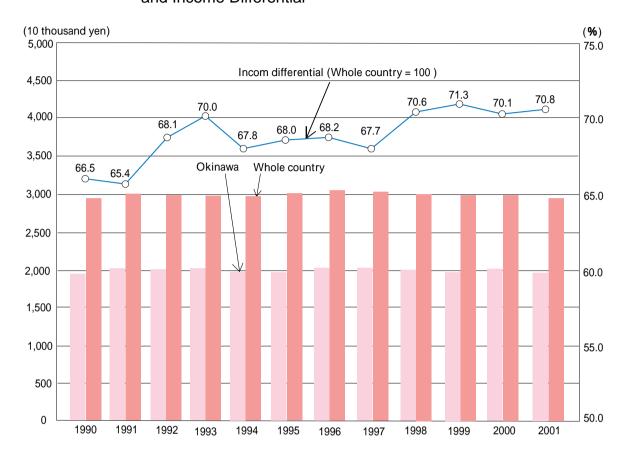
Source: "Statistics on Prefectural Income", Statistics Division





to rounding off

Trend of Per Capita National Income and Income Differential



Source: "Outline of Okinawa Prefecture", Department of Planning and Development

———— Households with Water Service

(Unit: m3; %

												(011	it. iii3, 70)
	Year												
Sub-divisi	on	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Water works	Water supplied	466,348	453,568	469,992	475,732	478,288	478,253	486,316	489,799	505,427	498,348	499,288	499,989
Local water supply systems	Water supplied	21,217	20,705	21,481	21,767	21,824	20,230	20,923	20,263	20,631	20,550	20,772	20,855
Total	Water supplied	487,565	474,273	491,473	497,499	500,112	498,483	507,239	510,062	526,058	518,898	520,060	520,844
Total	Percentage of Households with Water Service	99.6	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9

Note: The above is the average daily supply

Source: "Outline of Water service in Okinawa Prefecture", Division of Pharmaceuticals and Public Hygiene

Sewage system

Year											
Sub-division	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Population using sewage system	623,260	644,792	653,510	659,612	689,796	706,544	721,094	734,395	746,322	773,283	786,633
Area with sewage system	9,018	9,765	10,027	10,465	10,837	11,251	12,129	12,567	14,638	15,299	15,464
Percentage of population with sewage system	54.4	55.8	56.0	56.0	58.1	59.1	59.9	60.6	61.0	62.8	63.4
Percentage of area with sewage system	55.1	54.4	54.6	56.9	55.2	52.1	54.8	54.4	62.0	63.0	63.7

Note: Percentage of population with sewage system accounts for the population within the Urban Planning Zone (as of March 31) Percentage of area with sewage system is in proportion to the area of the planned drainage zone.

Source: "Outline of Administration and Finance of Municipalities", Regional Administration Division

———— Number of Medical Personnel

(Unit: People)

Year Sub-division	Doctors	Dentists	Care takers	Dental care takers	Public health nurses	Midwives	Nurses	Practical nurses	Dental hygienists	Dental technicians
1972	516	139	49	16	187	203	889	364		
1984	1,251	369	27	6	233	219	2,707	2,269	261	272
1986	1,381	391	25	7	257	228	3,264	2,636	306	285
1988	1,665	491	25	1	261	254	3,917	3,304	377	296
1990	1,835	499	21	1	266	242	4,282	3,441	345	267
1992	1,972	545	16	1	321	244	4,627	3,650	391	279
1994	2,060	594	12	1	349	281	5,098	4,168	434	275
1996	2,189	629	11		353	255	5,863	4,382	499	303
1998	2,298	673	10		419	268	6,524	4,457	586	269
2000	2,336	696	8		455	360	7,237	4,724	601	269
Per.100,000										
Okinawa 1992	159.3	44.0			25.9	19.7	373.7	294.8	31.6	22.5
1994	163.6	47.2			27.7	22.3	404.9	331.1	34.3	21.7
1996	170.6	49.0			27.5	19.9	457.0	341.5	38.9	23.6
1998	176.6	51.7			32.2	20.6	501.5	342.6	45.0	20.7
2000	177.2	52.8			34.5	27.3	549.0	358.3	45.7	20.5
Entire 1994	191.4	64.8			23.2	18.4	393.8	295.6	48.7	27.9
Japan 1996	191.4	67.9			25.1	18.8	433.0	305.1	44.9	29.1
1998	196.6	69.6			27.3	19.1	470.0	309.4	48.5	28.9
2000	177.2	52.8			34.5	27.3	549.0	358.3	45.6	20.4

Source: "Outline of Environment and Health Administration", Department of Environment and Health

Medical Facilities, Number of Beds

(As of October 1)

											(As of C	October 1)
Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Sub-division												
Medical facilities	992	1,025	1,049	1,100	1,131	1,154	1,190	1,226	1,267	1,289	1,323	1,356
Hospitals-National/Prefectural	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	15
Other	73	74	75	75	75	74	74	75	75	79	79	80
Total	87	88	89	89	89	88	88	89	89	93	94	95
Clinics-National/Prefectural	35	35	35	49	38	38	37	36	36	36	36	36
Other	477	477	497	507	528	539	557	576	596	614	632	665
Total	512	512	532	556	566	577	594	612	632	650	668	701
Dental clinics	393	393	428	455	476	489	508	525	546	546	561	560
Nursing homes	20	20	16	12	12	11	11	11	10	10	8	
(Number of beds) Hospital totals	19,044	19,419	19,539	19,608	19,676	19,582	19,669	19,863	19,811	19,751	19,791	19,870
General illness	12,097	12,432	12,592	12,584	12,628	12,534	13,618	13,812	13,850	13,919	13,959	14,035
Mental disorder	5,544	5,584	5,544	5,644	5,694	5,694	5,694	5,694	5,654	5,630	5,630	5,630
Contagious diseases	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	24	21	24
Tuberculosis	234	234	234	234	234	234	234	234	184	178	181	181
Leprosy	1,046	1,046	1,046	1,023	997	997						
Number of beds at clinics (general illness)	2,660	2,650	2,579	2,568	2,423	2,327	2,187	2,160	2,186	2,225	3,229	2,240

Note: With the enactment of the "Law on the Repeal of the Leprosy Prevention Act", the number of beds for leprosy has been included in "general illness" from April 1996.

Source: "Survey of Medical Facilities", Ministry of Public Welfare and Labor

Improvement of Social Welfare Facilities

Survey year: As of October 1 each year

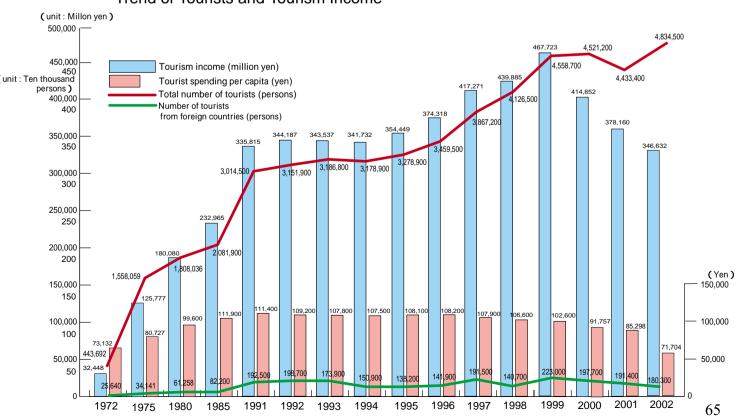
Classification	19	999	2	000	2001		
	Facilitie	S Capacity	Facilities	Capacity	Facilities	Capacity	
Shelter Facilities	2	150	2	150	2	150	
Aid Facilities	2	150	2	150	2	150	
Care Facilities for the Aged	95	500	100	500	103	550	
Nursing homes (general)	6	300	6	300	6	300	
Subsidized Elderly Homes (type A)	2	100	2	100	2	100	
Subsidized Care Facilities (nursing type)	2	100	2	100	3	150	
Welfare Center for the Aged (special A type)	6	-	6	-	6	-	
Welfare Center for the Aged (type A)	16	-	16	-	16	-	
Welfare Center for the Aged (type B)	3		3	-	3	-	
Care & Support Center for the Aged	60	-	65	-	67	-	
Rehabilitation & Protection Facilities for the Physically Handicapped	20	1,002	22	1,002	20	1,012	
Rehabilitation Facilities for the Physically Handicapped	1	40	1	40	1	40	
Protection facilities for the Physically Handicapped	8	500	8	500	8	500	
Rehabilitation & Protection Facilities for the Seriously Physically Handicapped	1	50	1	50	1	50	
Vocational Training Institute for the Physically Handicapped	3		3	124	3	124	
Vocational Training Institute for the eriously Physically Handicapped	3	218	3	218	3	218	
Vocational Training Institute for Physically Handicapped Outpatients	1	20	1	20	1	30	
Welfare Workshop for the Physically Handicapped	1	50	1	50	1	50	
Welfare Center for the Physically Handicapped (type B)	1	-	1	-	1	-	
Day Service Facilities for the Physically Handicapped at Home	-	-	2	-	-	-	
Braille Library	1	!	1	-	1	-	
Protection Facilities for Women	1	51	1	45	1	45	
Protection Facilities for Children	407	23,756	410	24,459	41.0	23,399	
Baby Birth Assistant Facilities	14	-	14	-	14	(45)	
Infant Hospital	1	20	1	20	1	20	
Welfare Establishments for Mothers & Children	2	(33)	2		2	(33)	
Nursery School	323	22,806	324	23,529	323	23,908	
Protective Institution for Children	7	390	7	390	7	390	
Facilities for the Mentally Handicapped	4	120	4	120	4	120	
Facilities for the Physically Handicapped	2	100	2	80	3	250	

Classification	19	999	2	2000	20	01 -
	Facilities	Capacity	Facilities	Capacity I	acilities	Capacity
Facilities for the Severely Physically & Mentally Handicapped	3	270	3	270	5	400
Daily Life Support Facilities for Children	1	50	1	50	1	50
Small Scale Institutions for Children	28		30		28	
Children's Centers	19		20	-	19	
Children's Playgrounds	3	-	2	- 	3	-
Support Facilities for the Mentally Handicapped	42	2,080	44	2,150	44	2,245
Day Service Center for the Mentally Handicapped	2		2	-	2	
Rehabilitation Facilities for the Mentally Handicapped (live-in)	20	1,210	20	1,210	20	1,210
Rehabilitation Facilities for the Mentally Handicapped (outpatients)	1	30	1	30	1	30
Live-in Vocational Aid Center	7	400	7	360	7	400
Outpatient Vocational Aid Center	10	400	12	510	12	565
Welfare Home for Mentally Handicapped	1	10	1	10	1	10
Welfare Workshop for Mentally Handicapped	1	30	1	30	1	30
Welfare Establishments for Mothers & Children	1		1	l I	2	
Welfare Center for Mothers & Children	1	-	1	-	2	-
Support Facilities for People with Mental Disorders to return to work	23	385	23	385	24	410
Facilities for People with Mental Disorders to return to everyday life	7	140	7	140	7	140
Welfare Home for People with Mental Disorders	4	40	4	40	4	40
Live-in Employment Facilities for People with Mental Disorders	6	180	6	¦ 180	6	180
Employment facilities for Outpatients with Mental Disorders	1	25	1	25	2	50
Local Life Support Center for People with Mental Disorders	5	-	5	-	5	-
Other Social Welfare Facilities	27	610	28	604	23	486
Vocational Training Center	1	50	1	50	1	50
Remote-Area Nursery School	15	460	15	460	14	436
District Welfare Center	6	-	6	-	4	
Recreation / Rest Home for the Aged	4	-	4	-	4	
Home for the Aged (fee)	1	100	2	94	-	

Source: "Social Welfare Facilities Research", Ministry of Public Welfare and Labor

Note: Number of Children's Welfare Facilities does not include Vocational or Mother & Child Support facilities (household unit). Vocational Facilities includes medical care, but not pure welfare facilities.

Trend of Tourists and Tourism Income





Ishigaki City



Deigo



Prefectural Tree Ryukyu Pine



Prefectural Bird Pryer's Woodpecker



Prefectural Fish Takasago/Banana Fish (Locally Called "Gurukun")

Prefectural Symbol



The outer circle symbolizes ocean. The white circle symbolizes peace-loving Okinawa. The inner circle symbolizes globally developing Okinawa. In short,the mark symbolizes "Ocean" "Peace" and "Development".

Prefectural People's Song

Poem by Seiko Miyasato Composed by Shigeru Shiroma

- 1. The day breaks over the clean ocean Clouds are cleared over the peaceful islands Dawn bell sounds throughout the world We now face the glorious morning Gone are the days of trials Oh! We solemnly swear We swear eternal peace on Okinawa
- 2. The Black Current runs around the islands Green mountains and rivers glowing We, the fellow citizens are stirred up To build a new,independent and prosperous Okinawa Now, let us build eternal peace On our home islands
- 3. The skies are filled with lights Stain the Deigo flowers with brilliant color The folk culture inherited for generations Now brilliantly shines over our home islands Let us create our own culture

Okinawa

Outline of Okinawa Prefecture 2004

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