

Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures in FY2022: Report on Commissioned Research Results

**Field 1: Suicide prevention for children and youth**

**Topic number : R4-1-3**

Research topic:

Elucidating the algorithm for predicting student suicide risk: a large-scale empirical study in primary and secondary schools across the country using the Suicide Risk Assessment Tool (RAMPS).

Principal Researcher:

Yuko Kitagawa, PhD. Assistant Professor, Center for Research on Counseling and Support Services, The University of Tokyo

Summary:

The tasks set for the first year of the research period were achieved. In particular, 1) improvement and new development of a system that can withstand practical use in schools, and 2) implementation of health check-ups using RAMPS: health room check-ups (for visitors) and simultaneous check-ups (for all students). In particular, with regard to 2), 3242 check-ups were conducted during the study period, and it became clear that approximately 20% of the students subject to secondary screening were at high risk of suicide (e.g., had a history of suicide attempts). Teachers at the schools where the check-ups were carried out commented that they were able to respond to students who were unexpectedly found to be at risk of suicide, that they almost had a close call and were able to save the day, and that when suicide risk is identified, it is not always possible for schools and parents alone to deal with the situation. There is a need for links with local institutions such as medical and health and welfare services, and a system in which many people can support the child". It appears that the project has contributed to the detection of suicide risk and early support. On the other hand, after the risk has been identified by the screening, cooperation and strengthening of the school-community system is lacking in the prevention of child suicide in schools and is an urgent issue that needs to be resolved.