

Challenges to Reproductive Health of Foreign Women in Japan

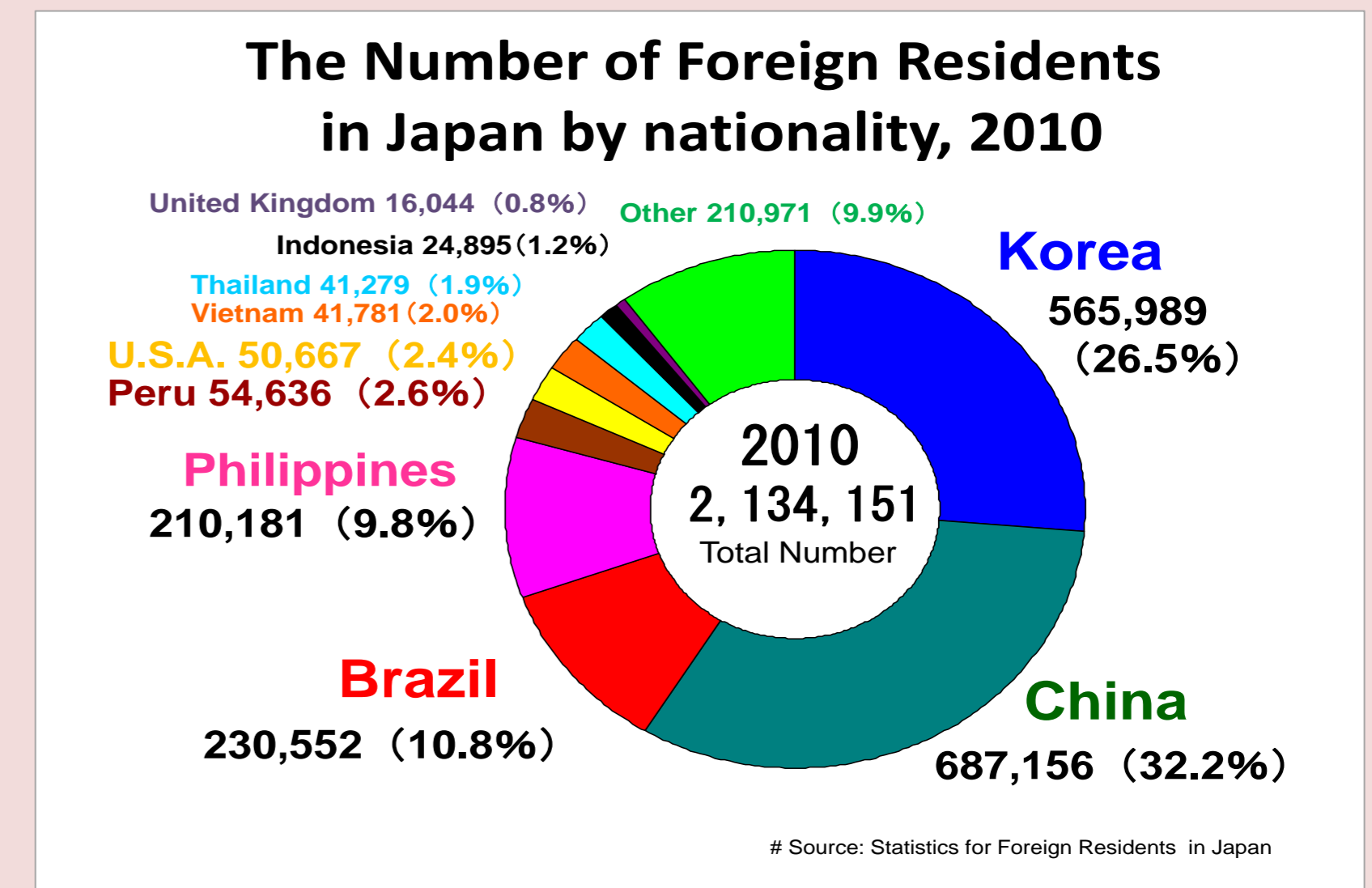
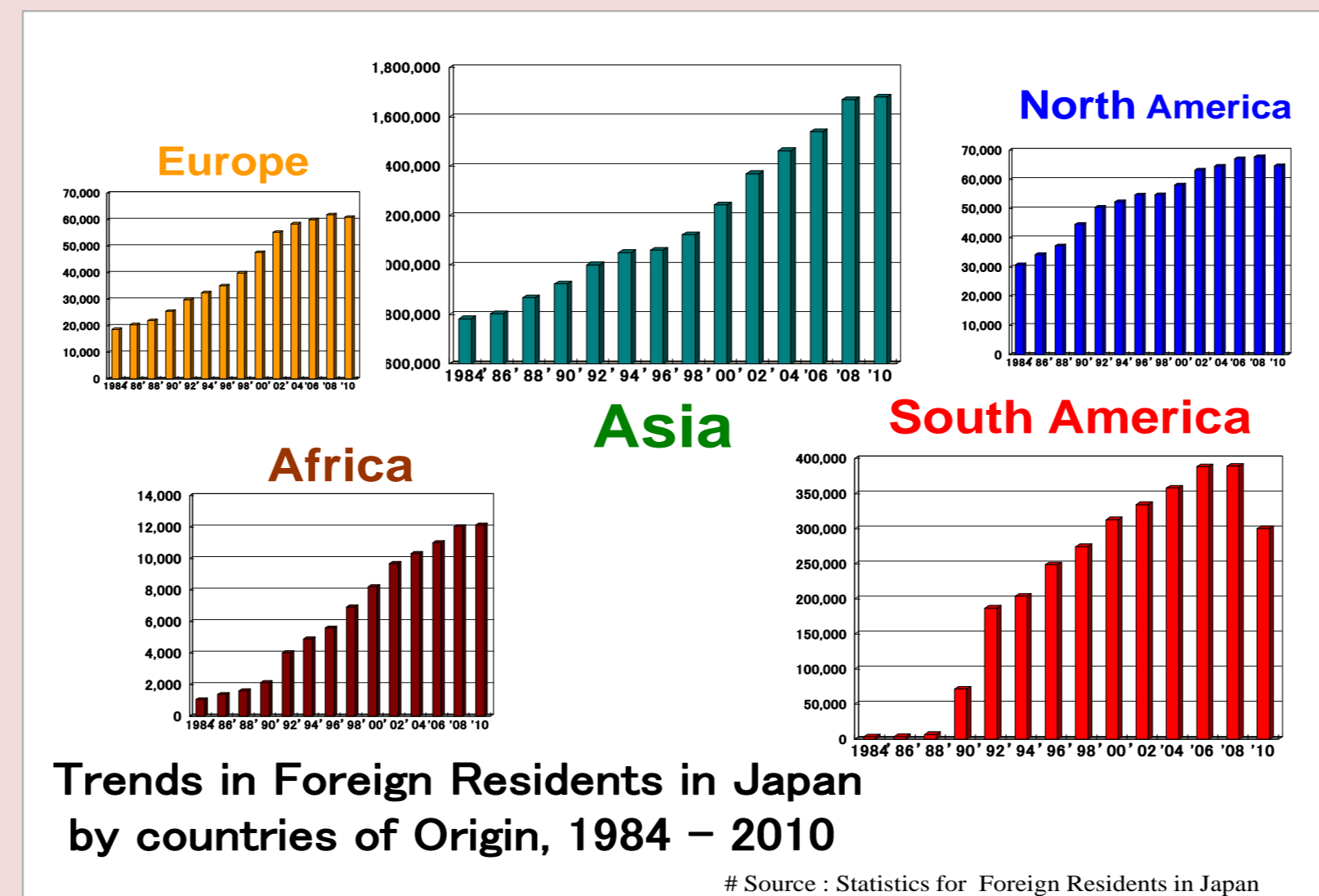
Trends in live births by nationality of mother, 1995- 2010

Sachiko Nitta¹, Setsuko Fujinaka², Setsuko Lee²

¹University of Nagasaki, Siebold, Nagasaki, Japan ² University of Nagasaki, Siebold, Graduate School of Human Health Science, Nagasaki, Japan

BACKGROUND

Figure shows the trends in foreign registered female population in Japan. The foreign registered female population was 1,161,670 in 2010. It has increased about two times from 1995 to 2010.



PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to illuminate the present trends in live births to foreign nationals in Japan by using official statistics.

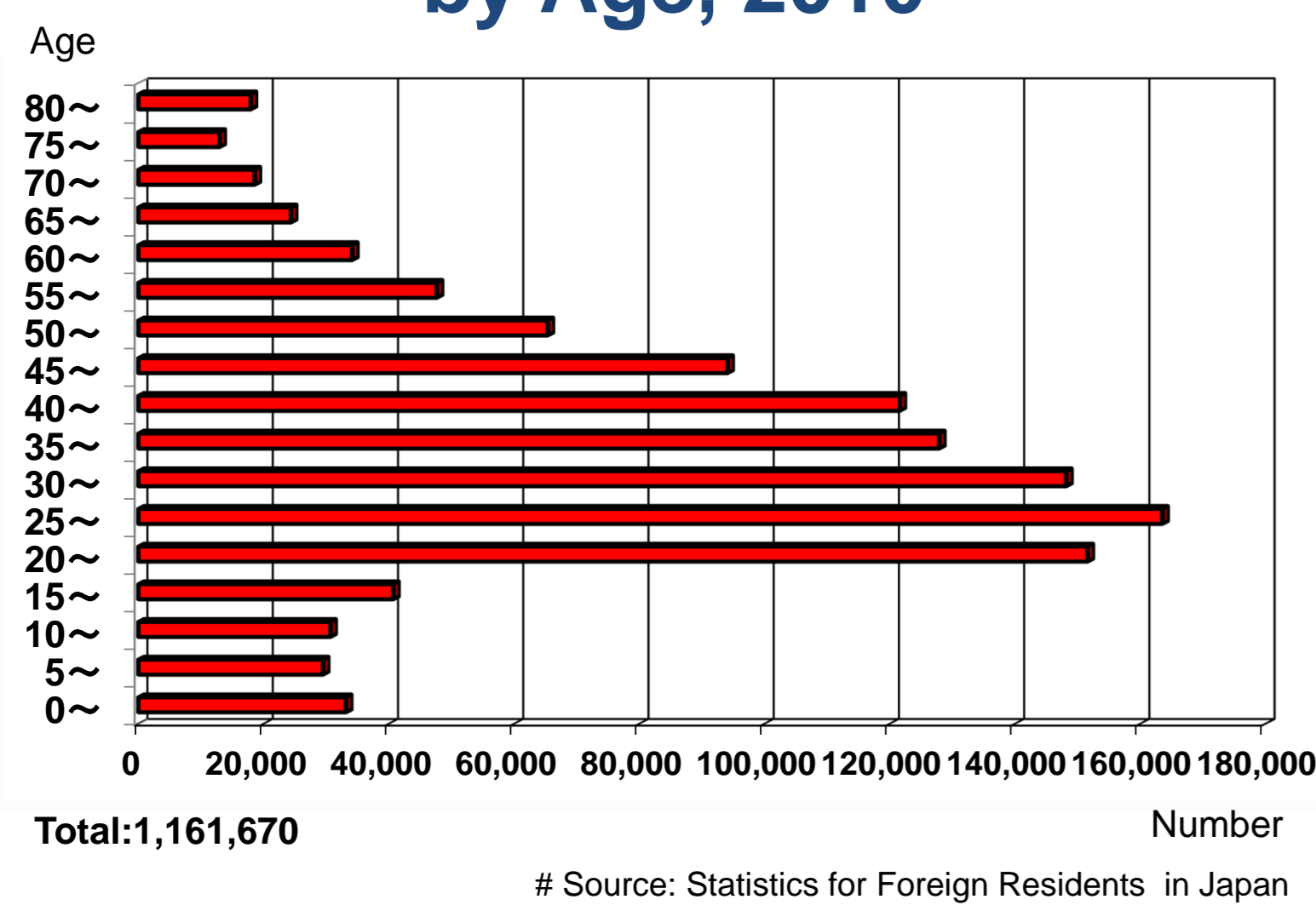
METHOD

Statistics were prepared using reports from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare "Vital Statistics Japan" and Ministry of Justice "Statistics for Foreign Residents in Japan" from 1995 to 2010.

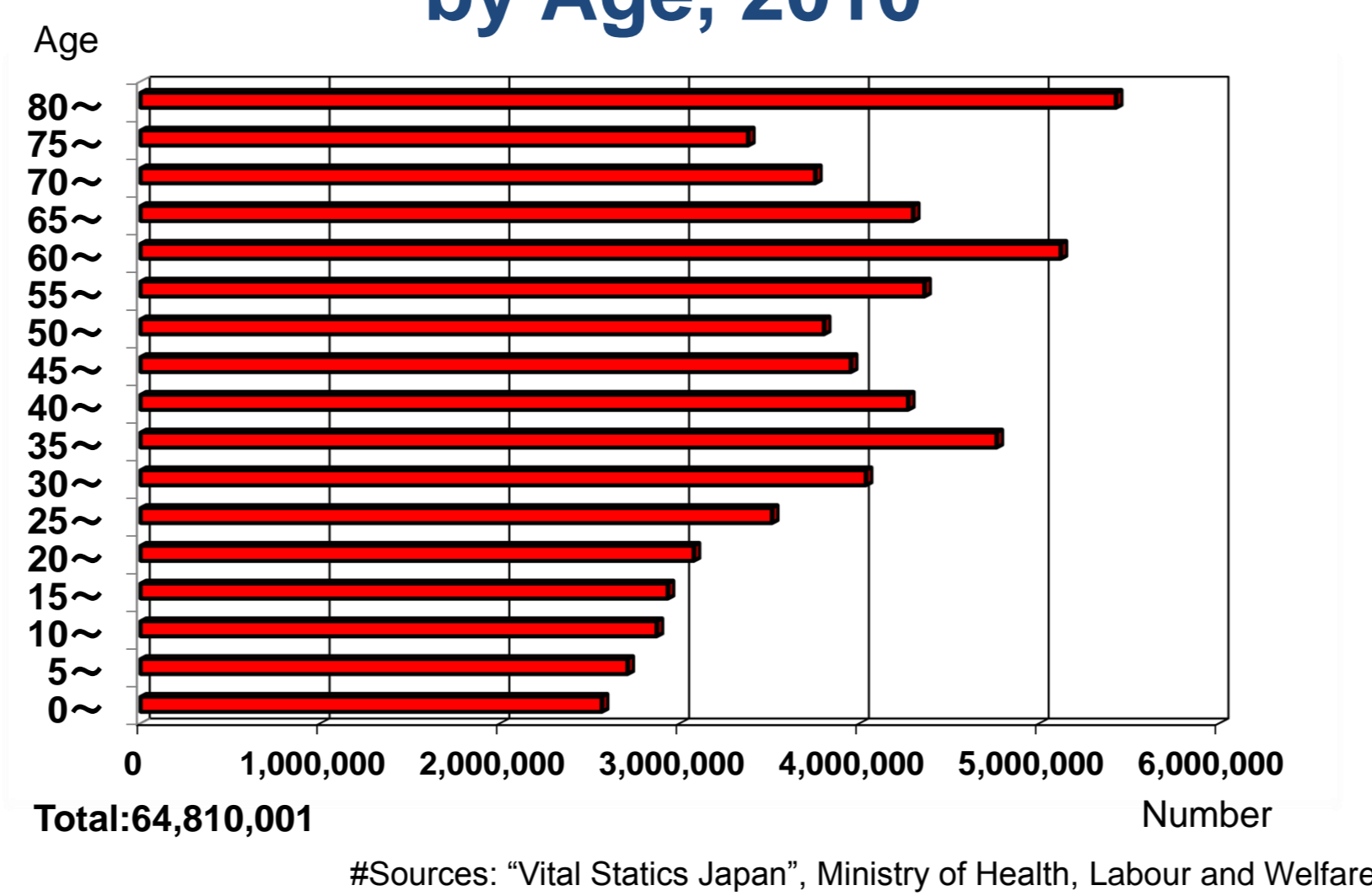
RESULTS

The results indicated that not only the numbers of live births by foreign mothers are increasing, but also their nationalities are diversifying more as years go by in Japan. The number of live births to Japanese mothers has been decreasing. On the other hand, the number of live births by foreign mothers has increased.

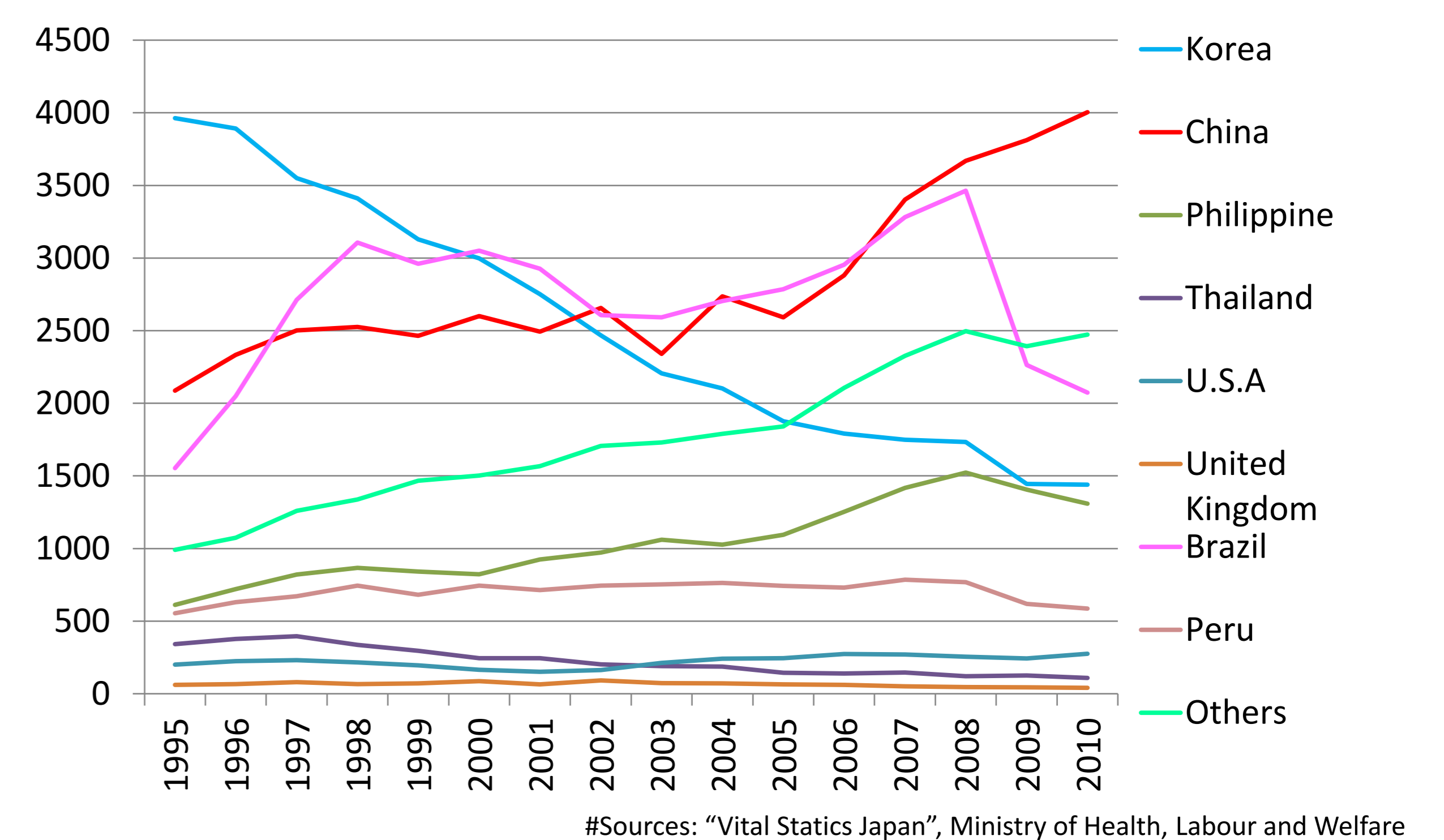
Foreign Registered Women in Japan by Age, 2010



Japanese Female Population by Age, 2010



Trends in the Nationalities of Foreign mothers in Japan 1995 -2010



Trends in live births by nationality of the mother in Japan ("Foreign mothers and fathers" and "Foreign mother and Japanese fathers")

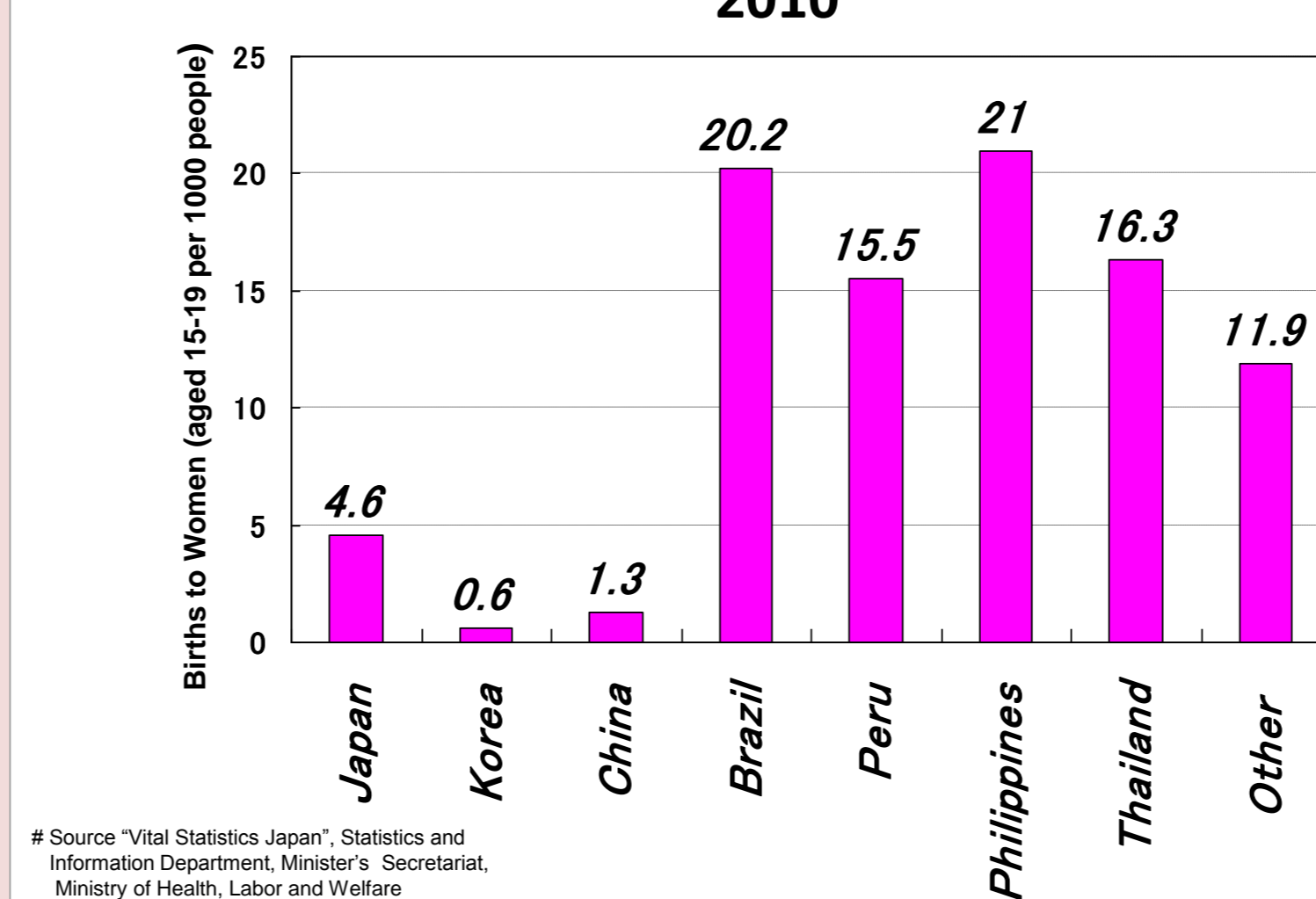
By mother's nationality	In 1995	In 2010	The rate of Change (%)
Total number	23,734 (100.0%)	24,301 (100.0%)	2.4
Korea	7,482 (31.5%)	3,569 (14.7%)	-52.3
China	4,331 (18.2%)	8,113 (33.4%)	87.3
Philippines	6,100 (25.7%)	4,673 (19.2%)	-23.4
Thailand	1,192 (5.0%)	488 (2.0%)	-59.1
U.S.A	379 (1.6%)	411 (1.7%)	8.4
United Kingdom	116 (0.5%)	87 (0.4%)	-25
Brazil	1,959 (8.3%)	2,304 (9.5%)	17.6
Peru	659 (2.8%)	690 (2.8%)	4.7
Other countries	1,516 (6.4%)	3,966 (16.3%)	161.6

Sources: "Vital Statistics Japan", Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

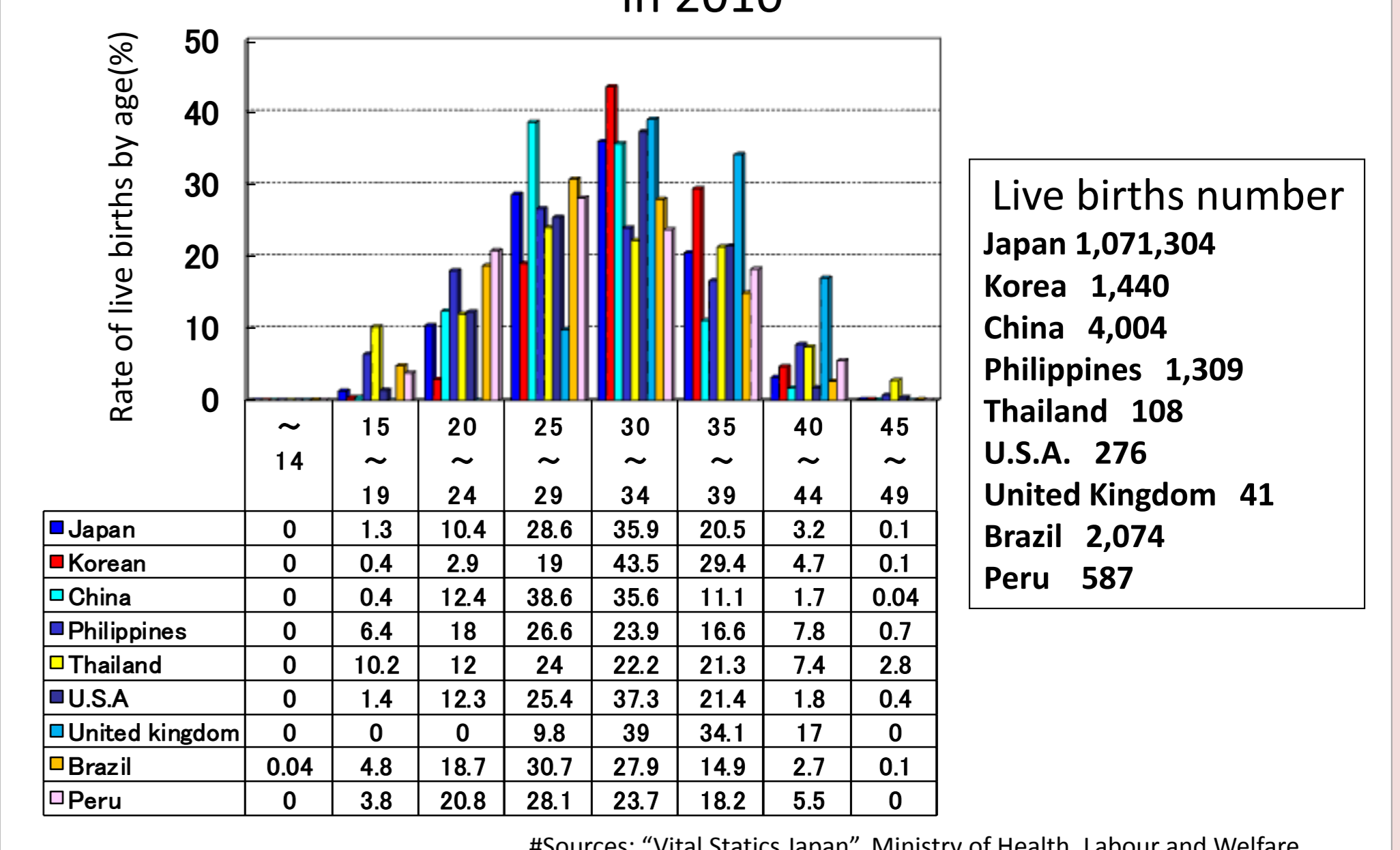
The total number of live births by foreign mothers was 24,301 in 2010, whose ratio of foreign mothers by nationality was Chinese (33.4%), Filipinas(19.2%), Koreans(14.7%), and Brazilians(9.5%) in descending order. Live births from foreign mothers from 1995 to 2010 was 2.4% and especially those from Chinese was remarkably increased 87.3%.

In 2010, the number of live births to women aged 15-19 by mother's nationality (per 1000 people) were Filipinas(21.0), Brazilian (20.2), Thai (16.3), Peruvian (15.5), Chinese(1.3), Korean(0.6) and Japanese(4.6). The birth rate of Filipinas, Brazilians, Thai and Peruvians were several times those of Japanese. The birth rate of Korean and Chinese women were obviously low.

Number of Births to Women (aged 15-19) in Japan divided by Mother's Nationality (per 1000 people), 2010



Rate of live births by age and nationality of the mother in 2010



CONCLUSIONS

These results show that the needs of reproductive health care for foreign women are increasing. Female foreign residents are considered in the high-risk group than that of Japanese. Since 1995, the adolescent birth rate of foreign women is significantly higher than Japanese women. This is an important issue of Reproductive Health. In order to make the Reproductive Health and Rights enjoyable by everyone in Japan, there should be more efforts to get over those barriers, such as to promote multicultural understanding and well-established medical interpreter support.