

# Research on the Degree of Recognition Regarding Health Sciences in Secondary Schools

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## Abstract

The goal of this study is to develop, implement, and validate a new education curriculum that introduces a new learning topic, “Correct Use of Pharmaceutical Products,” in response to contemporary social issues such as drug overdose (OD). This paper, as the first report of our study, investigates the degree of recognition regarding health sciences in Japanese secondary schools, including the topic of pharmaceutical products, to assess whether the concept has taken root among students through classes discussing the particular topic, which has been introduced since FY 2012.

The revised Courses of Study has been issued and applied nationwide since 2021. It introduces new content under health sciences to promote students’ understanding and practice regarding the “correct use of pharmaceutical products.” This particular topic was first added in the previous edition of Courses of Study that was issued and applied in FY 2012. However, the topic’s actual practice and learning content have not been examined sufficiently. Therefore, a 38-item questionnaire survey was conducted among first-year students of universities regarding the learning content of health sciences that they studied during three years in middle school and three more years in high school.

The survey results indicated a substantially high degree of recognition regarding

items closely related to students' daily lives. In contrast, items related to health and disease exhibited low recognition. Among the items with low recognition, those about "pharmaceutical products" exhibited a relatively high degree of recognition, along with the item "drug abuse," reflecting current social issues such as OD problems associated with commercially available drugs.

**Keywords** : secondary school, health science education, pharmaceutical product, overdose