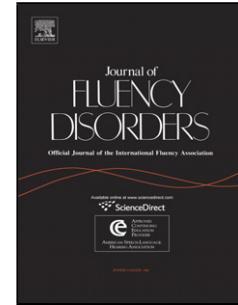


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## Children who stutter at 3 years of age: a community-based study

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### Highlights

- Rate of stuttering at 3 years of age was investigated in 2,274 Japanese children.
- 1.41% of the children showed stuttering and 82.8% of them did not stutter later.
- Boys were 1.57 times more likely to stutter than girls.
- Language development at 1.5 years affected the later fluency.

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### Abstract

*Purpose:* Lack of social resources to support children who stutter may be due, in part, to the absence of epidemiological data regarding stuttering. This study investigated the proportion of three-year-old children who stutter in a city located in Hokkaido, a northern island of Japan.

*Methods:* The speech of individual children was assessed as part of a routine, government-conducted health care examination for 3-year-old children. The number of children screened

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