

# Food safety interests consumers most: poll

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Jiji Press TOKYO (Jiji Press) — Among various consumer issues, food safety interests the Japanese public most, a Cabinet Office survey showed Saturday.

The public opinion poll found that 64.8 percent of respondents chose food safety as a consumer issue they are interested in.

Next came false information about goods and services such as mislabeling and overblown advertisement, chosen by 58.7 percent. Fraudulent sales practices followed with 48.1 percent.

A Consumer Affairs Agency official said that it will make an additional effort to give consumers correct information.

In the previous survey, carried out in January 2014, over 80 percent of respondents chose food safety.

Even though the number dropped this time, consumer interest in the issue remains high, according to the Cabinet Office.

The 2014 result was pushed up due to a widespread scandal involving restaurants, hotels and others that gave false food descriptions on menus and labels, the Cabinet Office also said.

The latest survey also showed that 68.5 percent of respondents want the central and municipal governments to ensure the safety of consumers, followed by 50.8 percent who sought a consumer redress system.

The survey, conducted Sept. 3-13 through interviews, covered 3,000 adults nationwide. Valid responses were received from 56.1 percent.

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