

Figure 16.13
DID population densities and percentage of households within 500 m of a banking facility and post office in Japanese principal cities.

Parks and gardens

Public parks and gardens are generally built and managed by local governments. Their national average area is 8.2m² per inhabitant. The average percentage of houses located within 500 m from them is 58.5%. As with local community centres, the level of accessibility is wide-ranging depending on the city and so the relationship with DID densities is not a strong one.

Banking facilities and post offices (Figure 16.13)

The average number of households per banking facility is 1442 and per post office is 6791. The post offices are managed by central government as a public service that is provided in a given area. The level of accessibility to both post offices and banking facilities does increase (but not considerably) in urbanizing areas. The overall average percentage of households located within 500 m of these facilities is 57.8%, resulting in the conclusion that the relationship with density is relatively weak.

Hospitals and clinics (Figure 16.14)

Hospitals and clinics are managed by a variety of different organizations in Japan. The average percentage of households located within 500 m of hospitals and clinics is 66.4%. This is relatively high as it would include primary health care facilities

Figure 16.14
 DID population densities and percentage of households within 500 m of a hospital or clinic in Japanese principal cities.

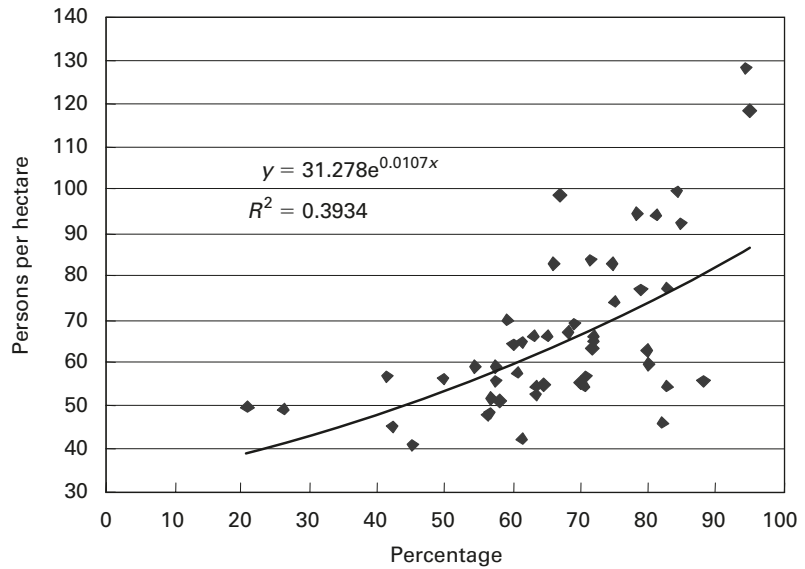
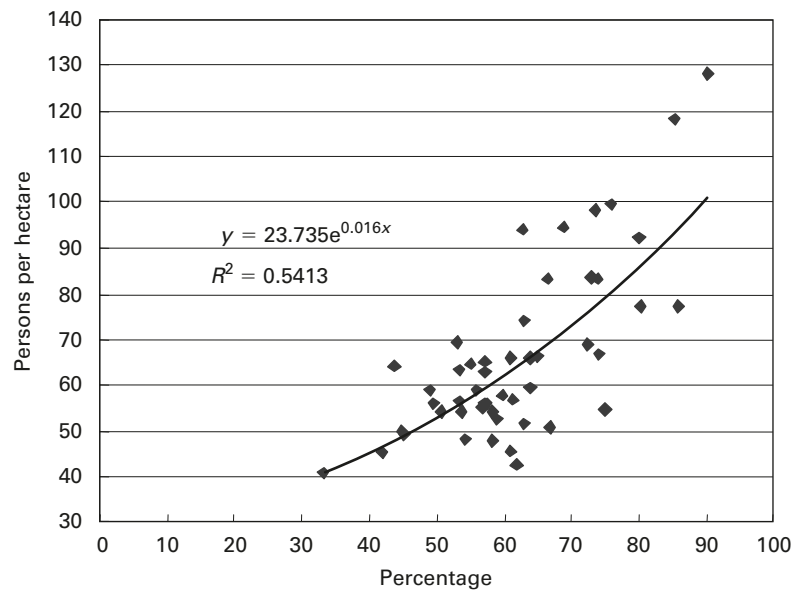


Figure 16.15
 DID population densities and percentage of households within 500 m of a convenience store in Japanese principal cities.



(general practitioners and health centres). A moderately strong relationship between the percentages and DID's densities is shown in Figure 16.14.

Convenience stores (Figure 16.15)

The first convenience store in Japan appeared in 1974. Nowadays, it is one of the essential local facilities. Convenience