The aim of this study was to assess the severity of maladaptive behaviors of persons with PWS and the relation between behavioral problems and age group in Japan. A total of 296 persons (52% male, 48% female) with PWS, aged 1 to 44 years, were rated by their parents using the CBCL (Child Behavior Check List, Achenbach, 1991).

In the results the total CBCL scores of the majority of children with PWS fell in the clinical range. Most of the CBCL subscale scores and the percentage of persons with maladaptive behaviors tended to increase with age. Especially Delinquent and Aggressive behaviors were remarkable in two groups whose ages were 15-19 and in the 20s. But on the CBCL Clinical scale for Delinquency, the >30 years group scored significantly lower than did the group in their 20s.

These behavior problems reduce QOL of persons with PWS. For example, the percentage of nonworking adults with PWS in this study was much higher than that of persons with intellectual disability. In the future, establishing the effective behavior management strategies is needed.