

# POLICE OF JAPAN



2021

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# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & RESOURCES

## 1. Responsibilities



**Police responsibilities** under the Police Act include "protecting the lives, bodies, and property of individuals; preventing, suppressing, and investigating crimes; apprehending suspects; traffic enforcement; and, maintaining public safety and order."

**The Code of Criminal Procedure** states that "when a judicial police official deems that an offense has been committed, s/he shall investigate the offender and evidence thereof." Accordingly, the police are empowered to investigate not only penal code offenses but also all illegal acts punishable under Japan's judicial system. Most cases are investigated by the police and referred to the public prosecutor's office for prosecution. While public prosecutors are also empowered to conduct investigations, their investigations are generally supplementary. The primary duty of the public prosecutor is to determine the case dispositions and prosecute the suspects.

Several other authorities such as the Japan Coast Guard and the Narcotics Control Department also possess investigative powers, which are authorized by the law. Their investigations are generally limited in scope and number.

In addition to criminal investigations, the police perform a wide range of administrative activities to maintain public safety and order applying various acts such as the Road Traffic Act and the Anti-Boryokudan Act.

The police also maintain close contact with local communities to:

- Prevent crimes;
- Handle lost and found property;
- Give guidance to juveniles;
- Help people in times of disasters;
- Provide care for lost children and runaways; and,
- Offer counseling to help citizens solve their problems.

## 2. History



In **1872**, the Japanese government sent the first Superintendent General KAWAJI Toshiyoshi to Europe to study the police system. He returned the following year, then established the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department in the Ministry of Interior in 1874. This was the first modern police organization in Japan. Police power, at that time, was held by the national government.

In the process of democratization of Japan after World War II, the Public Safety Commission system was established under the former Police Act enforced in 1948. This created a structure consisting of national and municipal police with the aim of ensuring democratic management and decentralization of police power.

The former Police Act had an epochal significance in democratizing the police. However, it had institutional shortcomings such as the existence of a multitude of municipal police forces in parallel with the National Rural Police. This caused several problems such as inefficiency of police force operations and low cost-effectiveness due to geographical segmentation of the police units and unclear distinction of responsibilities between the municipal police forces and the national government in terms of maintaining public peace and order.

Hence, the former Police Act was amended in its entirety into the present act in 1954 by retaining its merits and improving the institutional shortcomings. Consequently, the National Police Agency was established and the present police system was formed.

## 3. Organizational Structure

**The Police Act** empowers the national government to establish a central police organization to control and supervise prefectural police forces on matters of national concern. The Act also gives each prefecture the authority to carry out police duties to "protect the lives, bodies, and property of individuals" and "maintain public safety and order" within its jurisdiction. At both the national and prefectural levels, Public Safety Commissions have administrative supervision powers over the police.

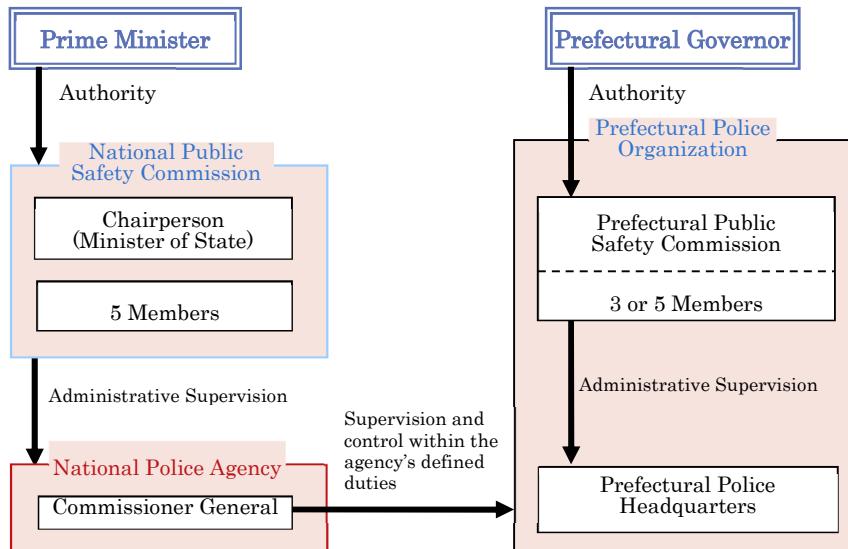
### A. National Police Structure

The National Public Safety Commission (NPSC) and the National Police Agency (NPA) constitute Japan's national police organization.

#### (1) National Public Safety Commission

**After World War II**, the Public Safety Commission system was established through the police reform. The main objective of establishing this system was to ensure democratic administration and political neutrality of the police under the administrative supervision by the Commission which consists of members representing the good sense of the public.

### System of Public Safety Commissions



- Note 1 The Commissioner General is appointed by the NPSC with the approval of the Prime Minister  
 Note 2 The Superintendent-General of the MPD is appointed by the NPSC with the consent of the Tokyo Public Safety Commission and approval of the Prime Minister.  
 Chiefs of Prefectural Police are appointed by the NPSC with the consent of the respective PPSCs.

**The NPSC supervises** the NPA. The Prime Minister is not empowered to exercise direct command or control over the Commission. This ensures the political neutrality of the Commission.

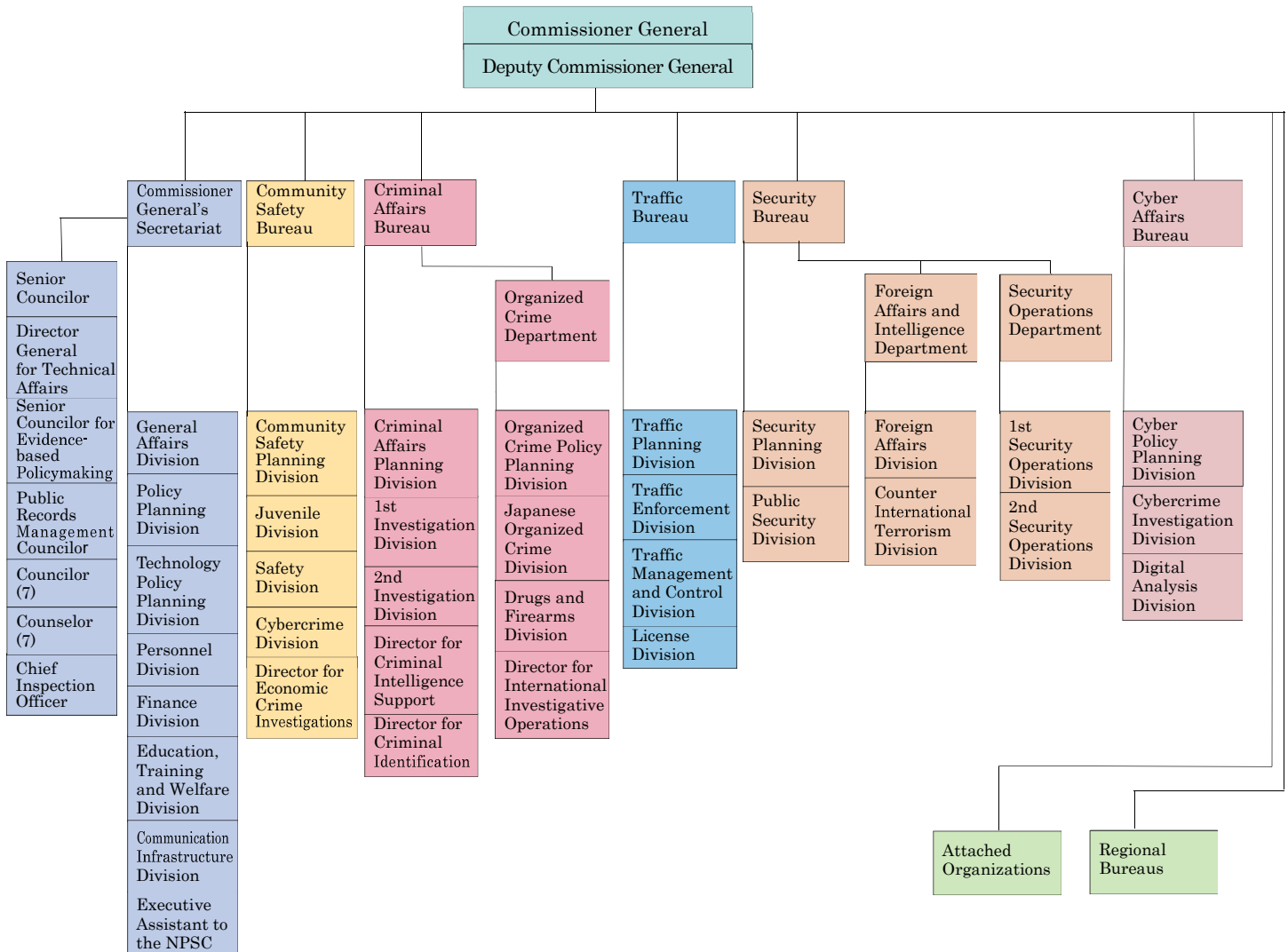
**The Commission draws up** basic policies and regulations, coordinates police administration on matters of national concern and sets general standards for training, communications, criminal identification, criminal statistics, and equipment.

**The Commission appoints** the Commissioner General of the NPA and chiefs of prefectural police organizations. The Commission indirectly supervises prefectural police organizations through the NPA.

**The Commission is composed of** a chairperson and five members. To make it clear that the responsibility for public safety lies with the cabinet, a state minister is assigned as the chair, who presides over the Commission meetings. Members are appointed by the Prime Minister with the consent of both houses of the Diet and serve a five-year term. Individuals who served as professional public servants in the police or prosecution in the preceding five years may not be appointed. To ensure political neutrality, no more than two members may be appointed from the same political party.

**To fulfill its duty,** the Commission holds a regular weekly meeting and additional meetings where necessary.

## Organizational Structure of NPA



## (2) National Police Agency

### (a) Organizational Structure and Authority

The **Commissioner General**, leading the NPA, is appointed by the NPSC with the approval of the Prime Minister. The Commissioner General, under the supervision of the Commission, oversees the agency's operations, appoints agency employees, and manages prefectural police organizations. The NPA, as a national agency, formulates police systems and also conducts police operations regarding cases involving national public safety, undertakes administration of matters which form the foundation of police activities such as police education and training, police communications, and criminal identification as well as coordination of police administration.

**(b) Organizations Attached to the National Police Agency**

**NPA-attached organizations** include the National Police Academy, the National Research Institute of Police Science and the Imperial Guard Headquarters.



**National Police Academy**

**The National Police Academy** provides training to senior police officers and carries out academic research. It has nine training departments including the Community Safety, Criminal Investigation, Traffic, and Security Training Departments. Experts in each department serve as instructors or researchers. Academy sub-units that provide advanced and expert training and conduct research are: the Highest Training Institute for Investigation Leaders, the Research and Training Center for International Criminal Investigation and Police Cooperation, the Police Policy Research Center, the Police Info-Communications Research Center, the Police Info-Communications Academy, the Research and Training Center for Financial Crime Investigation, and the Research and Training Center for Interview and Interrogation Techniques.



**National Research Institute of Police Science**

**The National Research Institute of Police Science** conducts research in forensic science and applies the results of such research in the examination and identification of evidence collected during police investigations. It also conducts research on juvenile crime prevention and traffic accidents. The Institute's seven departments are: General Affairs; First, Second, Third and Fourth Forensic Science; Criminology and Behavioral Sciences; and Traffic.

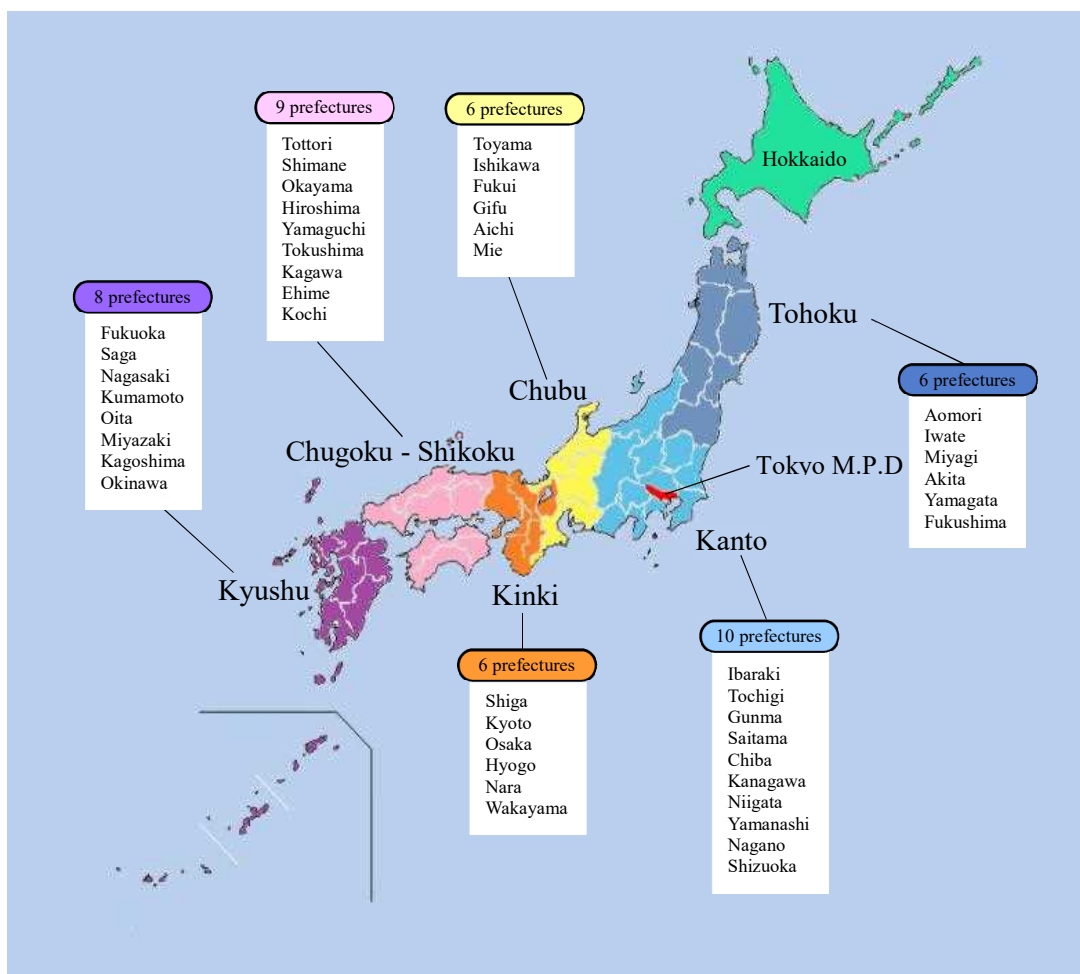


**Imperial Guard Headquarters**

**The Imperial Guard Headquarters** provides escorts for the Emperor, Empress, Crown Prince and other Imperial Family members. It is also responsible for the security of the Imperial Palace and other Imperial facilities. It consists of the Imperial Police Administration, the Imperial Security and the Imperial Escort departments.



### (c) Regional Police Bureaus



**Regional Police Bureaus (RPB)** are subordinate to the NPA. There are six RPBs nationwide. They are located in major cities of each geographic region. The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and the Hokkaido Prefectural Police Headquarters are excluded from the jurisdiction of RPBs.

**Headed by** a Director General, each RPB exercises necessary control and supervision of and provides support services to the prefectural police within its jurisdiction under the authority and orders of the NPA's Commissioner General.

#### B. Prefectural Police Structure

The Police Act requires that each prefectural government have its own police organization to carry out police duties within its jurisdiction.

### **(1) Prefectural Public Safety Commissions**

**Prefectural Public Safety Commissions (PPSCs)** are under the authority of the elected prefectural governors. PPSCs supervise the prefectural police by drawing up the basic policies for police operations and establishing regulations in regard to safety of the public. They are also authorized to issue licenses for adult amusement businesses, firearm possession, and driving. However, neither the PPSCs nor the prefectural governors have powers to intervene in individual investigations or specific law enforcement activities of the prefectural police.

Some PPSCs consist of five members, while others consist of three. Individuals who served as professional public servants in the police or prosecution in the preceding five years may not be appointed as members. Members are appointed by prefectural governors with the consent of prefectural assemblies and serve a three-year term. The members then elect their chairperson among themselves. In PPSCs, a majority of the members may not be appointed from the same political party.

### **(2) Metropolitan Police Department and Prefectural Police**

#### **(a) Organizational Structure and Authority**

The local police force of Tokyo is the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), while all other prefectures have their own prefectural police. The MPD and prefectural police have identical functions and authorities within their respective jurisdictions.

Obtaining the consent of the Tokyo Public Safety Commission, the NPSC appoints the Superintendent General, the chief of the MPD, with the approval of the Prime Minister. The NPSC appoints the prefectural police chiefs with the consent of the respective PPSCs.

#### **(b) Police Stations, Police Boxes and Residential Police Boxes**

The MPD and the prefectural police divide their jurisdictions into districts and place a police station in each of them. As the front-line operational units, the police stations perform their duties in close contact with the local communities.

Police boxes (Koban) and residential police boxes (Chuzai-sho) are subordinate units of the police stations and are located throughout each jurisdiction. They are the focal points of community police activities and play a leading role in maintaining the safety of the local communities.

#### **(c) Relations Among Prefectural Police Organizations**

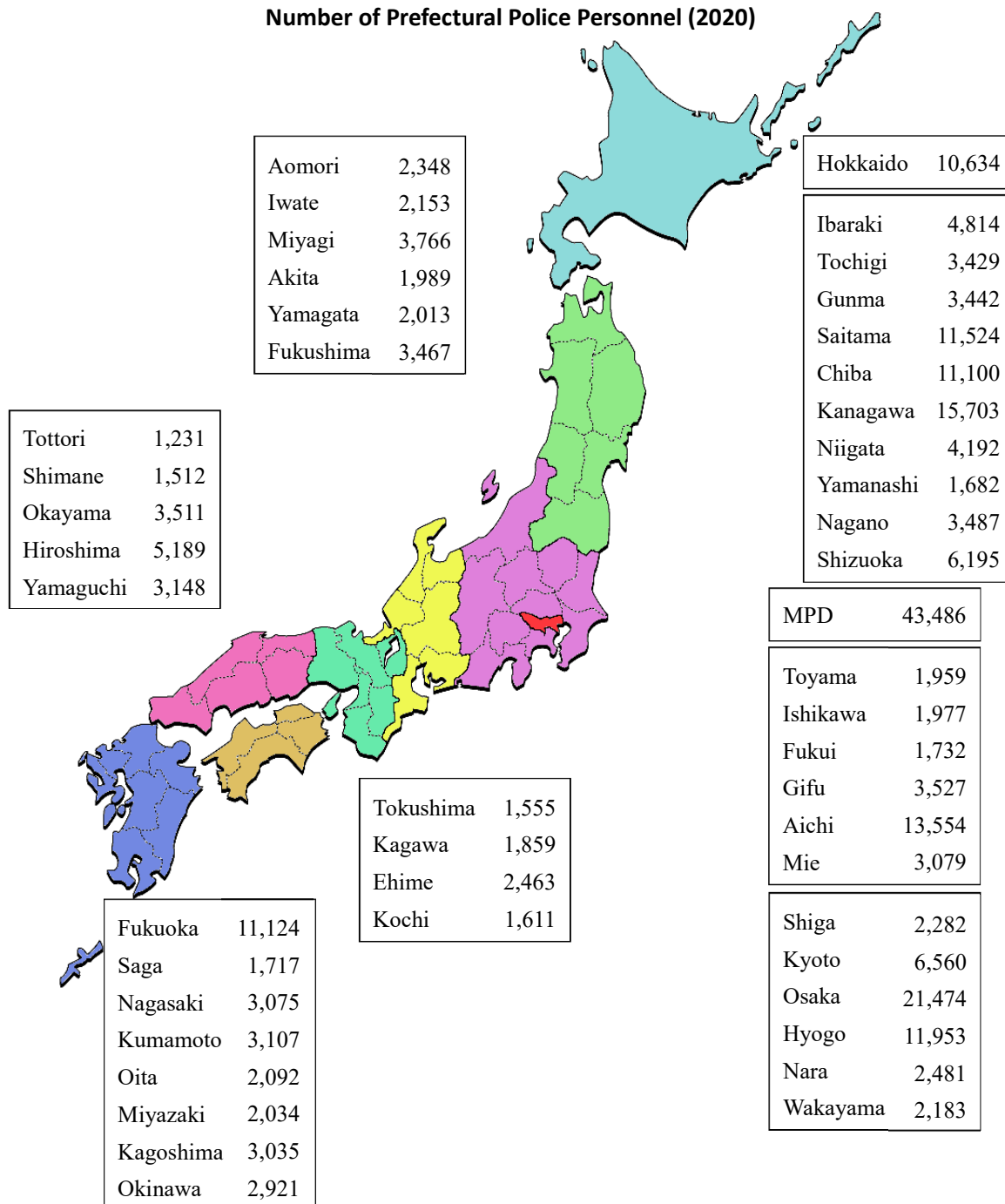
When large-scale incidents or crimes across prefectural borders occur, other prefectural police forces and the NPA render assistance. Prefectural police can also exercise their respective authority in other prefectures for protecting the lives and property of their residents and maintaining the public safety of their prefecture.

## 4. Human Resources

### A. Number of Police Personnel

As of 2020, the total number of police personnel reached approximately 296,400. Among which, the total number of NPA personnel is approximately 8,000, with 2,200 police officers, 900 Imperial guards and 4,900 engineers and administrative staff. The total number of prefectural police personnel is 288,400, with 260,000 police officers and 28,400 engineers and administrative staff. Nationwide, there are approximately 26,700 female police officers and 13,600 female engineers and administrative staff.

Number of Prefectural Police Personnel (2020)














## B. Ranks

Police officers are divided into nine ranks: Superintendent General, Senior Commissioner, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Superintendent, Chief Inspector, Inspector, Sergeant, and Police Officer.

On top of the nine ranks, the highest position in the Japanese police is held by the NPA Commissioner General. The Deputy Commissioner General of the NPA holds the rank of Senior Commissioner.

Only the Chief of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department holds the rank of Superintendent General. Senior officers of the NPA, including Directors General and Deputy Directors General, and Chiefs of large prefectural police headquarters such as Osaka and Kyoto, hold the rank of Senior Commissioner.

### Ranking System

Insignia	Police Ranking
	Commissioner General
	Superintendent General
	Senior Commissioner
	Commissioner
	Assistant Commissioner
	Superintendent
	Chief Inspector
	Inspector
	Sergeant
	Senior Police Officer
	Police Officer

**C. Educational Training**

**(1) Educational Training for New Recruits and for Those Promoted**

Newly hired prefectural police officers attend the prefectural police schools and undergo an initial training program. Newly promoted Sergeants and Inspectors receive educational training to acquire the knowledge and skills to perform their new duties at regional police schools. Those who are promoted to Chief Inspectors enter the National Police Academy to receive educational training to develop management and leadership skills.

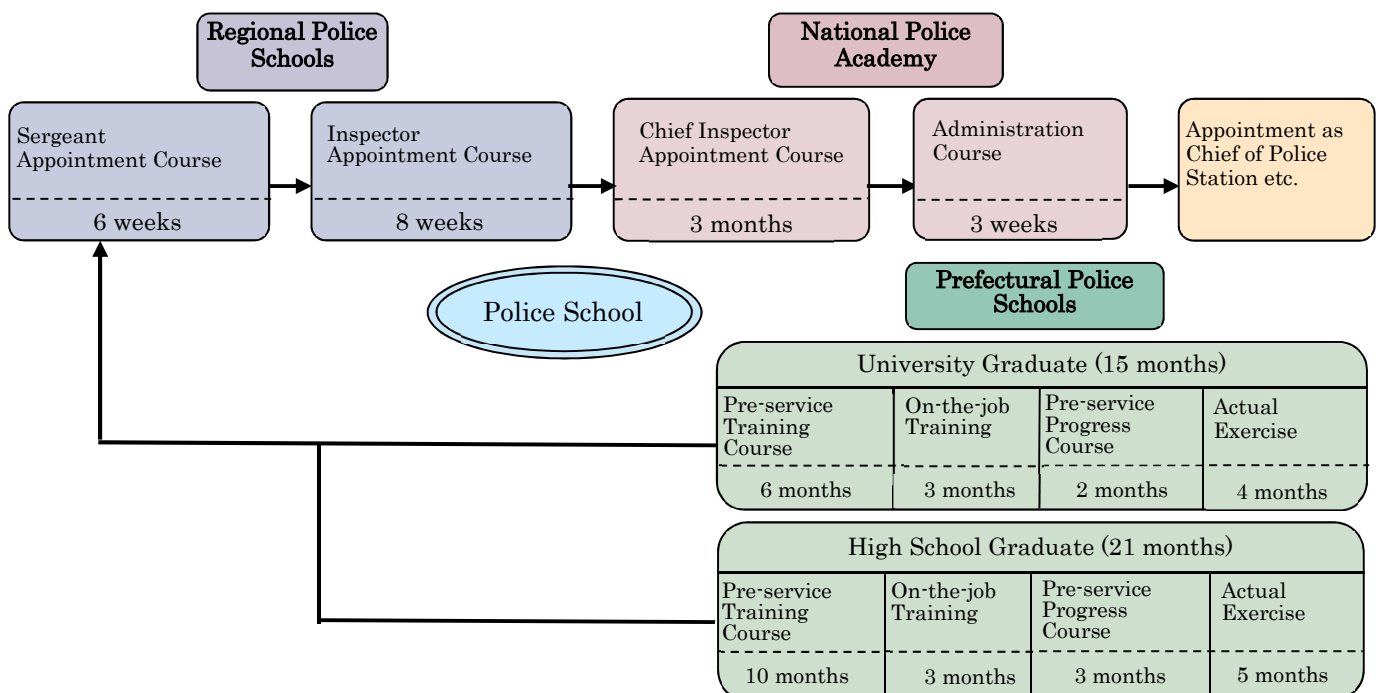
Police officers also receive training as necessary in order to acquire the requisite knowledge and skills to fulfill their duties, such as specialized training on criminal forensics and foreign languages.

**(2) Martial Arts and Shooting Training**

Police officers must attain a high level of skills in judo, kendo, arrest techniques, and shooting. They are required to receive training regularly. Due to their proficiency in martial arts and shooting, Japanese police officers often achieve outstanding records in domestic and international competitions.

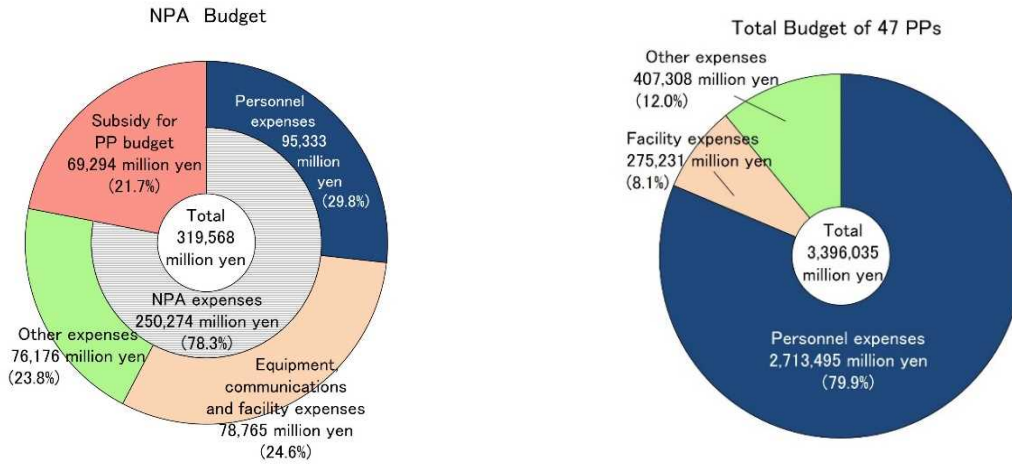


**Police Training System**



## 5. Budget

### Police Budget in FY 2020



※ Includes Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake: 1,189 million yen

The police budget consists of a national budget and prefectural budgets.

The national government covers expenses to operate the NPA, the directly appropriated expenses for Prefectural Police (PP) activities of national significance, and subsidies to supplement the PP budgets.

Each prefectural government pays the expenses to operate its PP except the direct appropriation from the national treasury. However, with the exception of some personnel expenses for Superintendents and lower ranking officers including their staffing costs, the PP budget can be supplemented by subsidies from the national government.

#### A. Direct Appropriation from the National Treasury

The following are the major expenses directly appropriated by the national government for use by the PP:

- Salaries and some allowances for Assistant Commissioners and above ranking officers;
- Expenses for police school training, including maintenance and management of training facilities;
- Expenses for maintenance and management of the police communication facilities and telephone charges for the police telephone lines;
- Expenses for purchase of police equipment such as police vehicles, boats and helicopters.

#### B. Appropriation by Prefectural Governments

Prefectural governments appropriate funds for the following use by the PPs except for the expenses listed above in A:

- Salaries and allowances for Superintendents and lower ranking officers, as well as other personnel expenses including uniforms;
- Expenses for police facilities;
- Expenses for PP activities such as crime prevention, criminal investigation and traffic enforcement.

## 6. Equipment

### A. Police Vehicles



Police vehicles, as the core of the mobile police force, take on the task of responding to daily occurrences of crimes and accidents. They are also used for street patrols and other police activities.

Approximately 40,900 police vehicles are equipped at police stations, police boxes (Koban), and residential police boxes (Chuzaisho) throughout the country.

### B. Police Boats



As the mobile police force on the water, police boats are employed at major ports, remote islands, lakes and marshes to patrol and fight against illegal immigration, smuggling, and poaching. Ranging from 5 to 23 meters in length, there are approximately 150 police boats nationwide.

### C. Police Helicopters



As the mobile police force in the air, police helicopters are used extensively for traffic control surveillance, pursuit of suspects, rescue and disaster relief. A total of approximately 80 small, medium and large-sized helicopters are operated nationwide.

# COMMUNITY SAFETY

## 1. Community Policing

### A. Community Police Officers

**Community police officers** maintain vigilance day and night, and they are the first responders to emergency calls from citizens. Through neighborhood patrols and routine home visits, community police officers keep close relations with citizens. They ensure the safety and peace of the community by preventing crimes, apprehending criminal suspects, controlling traffic, offering guidance to juveniles, protecting lost children and the inebriated, and providing counseling to troubled citizens.

### B. Koban and Chuzaisho

**Koban and Chuzaisho** are at the heart of police activities in Japan. A Koban (police box) is a place where community police officers mainly carry out their work by a relatively small number of police officers (3-5 officers). There are also residential police boxes called Chuzaisho, which are usually staffed by a single officer.



Each Koban and Chuzaisho is situated as a branch of a police station and respectively covers specific areas. They are responsible for maintaining the safety of the respective areas by ascertaining the security situations and hearing the residents' requests and concerns.

There are approximately 6,300 Koban and 6,200 Chuzaisho in Japan. The existence of Koban and Chuzaisho provides a sense of reassurance to the residents.

The Koban system has attracted a great deal of attention worldwide, and countries such as Singapore and Indonesia have introduced the Japanese-style Koban system.

### C. History of Koban and Chuzaisho



**In the Meiji Era (1868-1912)**, Japan rapidly built the modern nation state. As part of this process, Japan introduced the modern police system. The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department established in 1874 introduced the original Koban, and this system was adopted by other prefectures. Furthermore, the national government ordered the prefectures except Tokyo to establish residential police boxes (Chuzaisho) in 1888. Subsequently, they have developed into the current Koban system.



## D. Community Police Activities

### (1) Vigilance at the Koban

**Vigilance** at the Koban and Chuzaisho is performed by standing in front or sitting inside these facilities, enabling the police officers to respond immediately to any incidents. While keeping a constant watch, they conduct a myriad of tasks such as receiving crime reports from citizens, handling lost and found property, and providing counseling to troubled citizens.

### (2) Patrol



Police officers patrol either on foot, by bicycle or by car in order to tackle and reduce crime. While on patrol, they question suspicious persons, warn citizens in high-crime areas, offer guidance to the juveniles, and protect lost children and the inebriated.

### (3) Routine Visits to Homes and Workplaces



Community police officers assigned to Koban and Chuzaisho make regular visits to households and offices (business facilities). During these visits, they give advice on crime and accident prevention, listen to residents' concerns, and welcome suggestions for improvement of police services. They also inquire about family compositions and how to contact the residents in case of emergency.

### (4) Consultation for Citizens

General contact desks for consultations have been established in the Police Administration Department of each prefectural police to enable the police to carry out swift and steady organizational responses to consultations from citizens. According to the nature of the issue, the police respond in collaboration with the relevant departments, and take the necessary steps to relieve anxieties of the citizens seeking consultation, which include giving warnings to or arresting the persons causing troubles.

### (5) Koban (Chuzaisho) Liaison Council

There are about 12,000 Koban (Chuzaisho) Liaison Councils nationwide. Each council consists of community residents from various walks of life. Council members express opinions, make requests, and study and discuss community issues with the police to promote the community safety activities.

## E. Mobile Units of Community Police

Radio-equipped patrol cars are deployed at each Prefectural Police Headquarters (PPHs), police station, Koban and Chuzaisho. Police officers use them for regular patrol and emergency response. These cars remain in constant radio contact with their police stations and the communications command centers at the PPHs. In case of emergencies, this rapid response capability plays a major role in quick resolution of incidents. The community police also deploy boats and helicopters.

## F. Emergency Response "Dial 110"

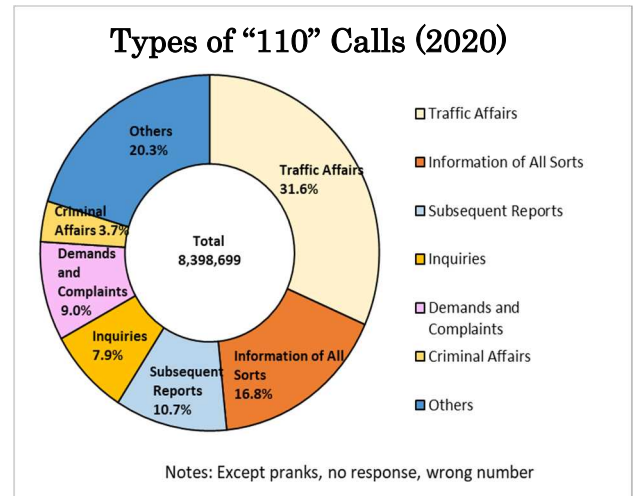
### (1) Communications Command Center (CCC)

In response to emergency calls called "Dial 110," the CCC in each PPH dispatches police officers from Koban or Chuzaisho, patrol cars, as well as other mobile police units.

### (2) "Dial 110" Emergency Calls

In 2020, the police received approximately 8.4 million "Dial 110" calls nationwide, which means the CCCs receive a call per every 3.8 seconds on average.

(Refer to the *Police Info-Communications* section on page 49 for details about the Communications Command Systems.)



## 2. Crime Prevention

2002 was the worst year on record with approximately 2,850,000 reported Penal Code offenses; however, the number has decreased by 78% as a result of enhanced crime prevention measures carried out by the police along with the efforts made by society.

Yet, the function of the neighborhoods to prevent crime has deteriorated on the weakened community solidarity and widespread anonymity of urban life.

Under such circumstances, the police are making efforts to promote a "society in which crimes hardly occur" as well as to prevent the occurrence of crimes.

### A. Law-abiding Mentality and Strong Ties in Society

Even the slightest offense should not be overlooked, and deep regrets for offenders should be urged in order to foster a law-abiding mentality in society. Also, various efforts to promote social ties to support people who feel isolated or alienated need to be enhanced.

### B. Voluntary Activities in Crime Prevention

Voluntary activities for crime prevention in order to secure community safety have involved many citizens and have widely developed into a national movement. The number of groups engaged in crime prevention activities in 2020 was approximately 46,000. The police regard these groups as indispensable partners in preventing crimes.

### C. Promotion of Safe and Secure Urban Planning which takes Crime Prevention into Consideration

The police are promoting safe and secure urban planning which takes crime prevention into consideration in order to create a safer society where citizens can feel secure and live without fear of falling victim to crime. For example, this promotion includes installation of security lights and CCTVs, and landscaping that does not impede visibility.

#### D. Quality Improvement and Operation Optimization of Community Safety Industry

The police are encouraging enhancement of the quality and the proper performance of the community safety industry, particularly private security businesses, as they play a major role in creating a crime-resistant society.

### 3. Countermeasures against Personal Safety-Threatening Cases

Concerning cases such as stalking, spousal violence, missing persons, and abuse against children, the elderly and disabled citizens, where immediate securement of personal safety is crucial, the police need to recognize the risks and urgency accurately and take the most effective measures to secure victims' safety. To appropriately cope with such cases, the police have developed a system in the PPHs and police stations to systematically promote prompt and appropriate responses including arrest of the perpetrators, while giving top priority to the safety of victims.

### 4. Sound Growth of Amusement Businesses

#### A. Amusement Businesses

Eating and drinking establishments (cabarets and bars) and amusement businesses (pachinko parlors and game centers) provide the general public with entertainment opportunities. However, there is a continuing concern that these establishments might corrupt public morals and hamper the sound development of youths unless properly operated. The police provide guidance and exercise necessary control over the amusement businesses by aiding them to offer legitimate services.

Classification	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Category No. 1 (cabarets, bars, etc.)		64,528	63,902	63,712	63,423	61,818
Category No. 2 *See Note 1		69	52	42	41	38
Category No. 3 *See Note 2		2	2	2	2	1
Category No. 4		20,268	19,436	18,411	17,633	16,704
	Mah-jong houses	9,176	8,736	8,276	7,912	7,597
	Pachinko parlors	10,986	10,596	10,060	9,639	9,035
	Others	106	104	75	82	72
Category No. 5 (game centers, etc.)		4,542	4,381	4,193	4,022	3,931

Note 1. A business which runs coffee shops, bars, or other facilities, and serves its customers food and drink, and the lighting in these facilities is not brighter than ten lux (excluding the businesses defined in Category No. 1).

Note 2. A business which runs coffee shops, bars, or other facilities, and serves its customers food and drink, and the inside of these facilities cannot be easily seen from outside and is not more than five square meters in size.

#### B. Elimination of Boryokudan from Amusement Businesses

In some cases, Boryokudan (organized crime groups) appear to be involved in amusement businesses, causing interference with legitimate business operation. The police have been tackling Boryokudan by strictly cracking down on their illegal activities. Initiatives such as holding seminars for business operators on resisting the Boryokudan are also being carried out to eliminate Boryokudan.

### 5. Preventing Deterioration of Public Morals

#### A. Prostitution

Websites and advertisements in weekly magazines are often used by prostitution brokers to solicit prostitution. Some bar and restaurant operators also exploit women by forcing them into prostitution.

#### B. Illegitimate Sales of Obscene Pictures

There are a number of sales of DVDs containing obscene images. In addition, distribution of obscene pictures through the Internet has also become an issue.

### C. Illegal Gambling



**Illegal gambling** offenses are committed in so-called "casino bars" where card and roulette games are played. Many illegal bookmaking offenses related to horse and bicycle races have also been cleared.

### D. Trafficking in Persons

**Trafficking in persons** refers to crimes committed by organized criminal groups aimed at bringing foreign women or others to force them into sexual exploitation or labor. The police have strictly cracked down on traffickers in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies. Additionally, the police are exchanging information and working with foreign authorities, foreign embassies in Japan, counseling centers for women, and NGOs in order to prevent trafficking attempts and protect foreign women suffering in trafficking cases. Since October 2007, the police have been operating the "Anonymous Report Hot Line," which receives information of crimes such as trafficking under anonymity from the public.

In 2020, a total of 55 trafficking cases were cleared, which involved sexual exploitation, forced labor and other offenses. The police arrested 58<sup>1</sup> suspects such as brokers and protected 37 victims including 30 Japanese citizens through these cases.

### E. Control of Offenses related to Employment of Foreign Workers

The number of foreign nationals overstaying beyond their authorized period of stay has been on the rise, and it is found that the way they disguise overstay has become increasingly vicious and sophisticated.

Brokers who act as recruiting agents of foreign workers and employers play a key role regarding this problem. Therefore, the police have been tightening controls not only on illegal foreign workers but also on the brokers and employers through strict applications of the relevant laws and regulations.

## 6. Countermeasures against Economic Crimes

### A. Investment Fraud and Commercial Transaction Scam

Every year, a large number of consumers and investors fall prey to sly fraud schemes such as Ponzi schemes. Illicit door-to-door sales are also an example of illicit commercial practices attempting to exploit consumers. The police are cracking down on such illegal commercial practices by requesting financial institutions to freeze the bank accounts used for receiving the proceeds of illegal transactions. In an effort to enhance the awareness of consumers and to protect them from such illicit commercial practices, the police promote public awareness through posters, leaflets and the internet.

### B. Unauthorized Medicines

There are a number of unauthorized medicines sold on the internet which may have health risks. Quite a few foreign-based websites also advertise such medicines which are unauthorized in Japan. The police are cracking down on illegal transaction advertisements and manufacturing of such products. Furthermore, the police request internet service providers to shut down websites advertising unauthorized medicines.

<sup>1</sup> This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

**C. Loan Sharks**

Loan sharks came to be recognized as a serious social issue around 2002. The police are cracking down on loan sharks in accordance with the Program to Remedy the Multiple Debt Problem. In addition, the police are requesting financial institutions to freeze bank accounts used by loan sharks and internet service providers to shut down websites advertising illegal money lending.

**D. Intellectual Property Rights Violation**



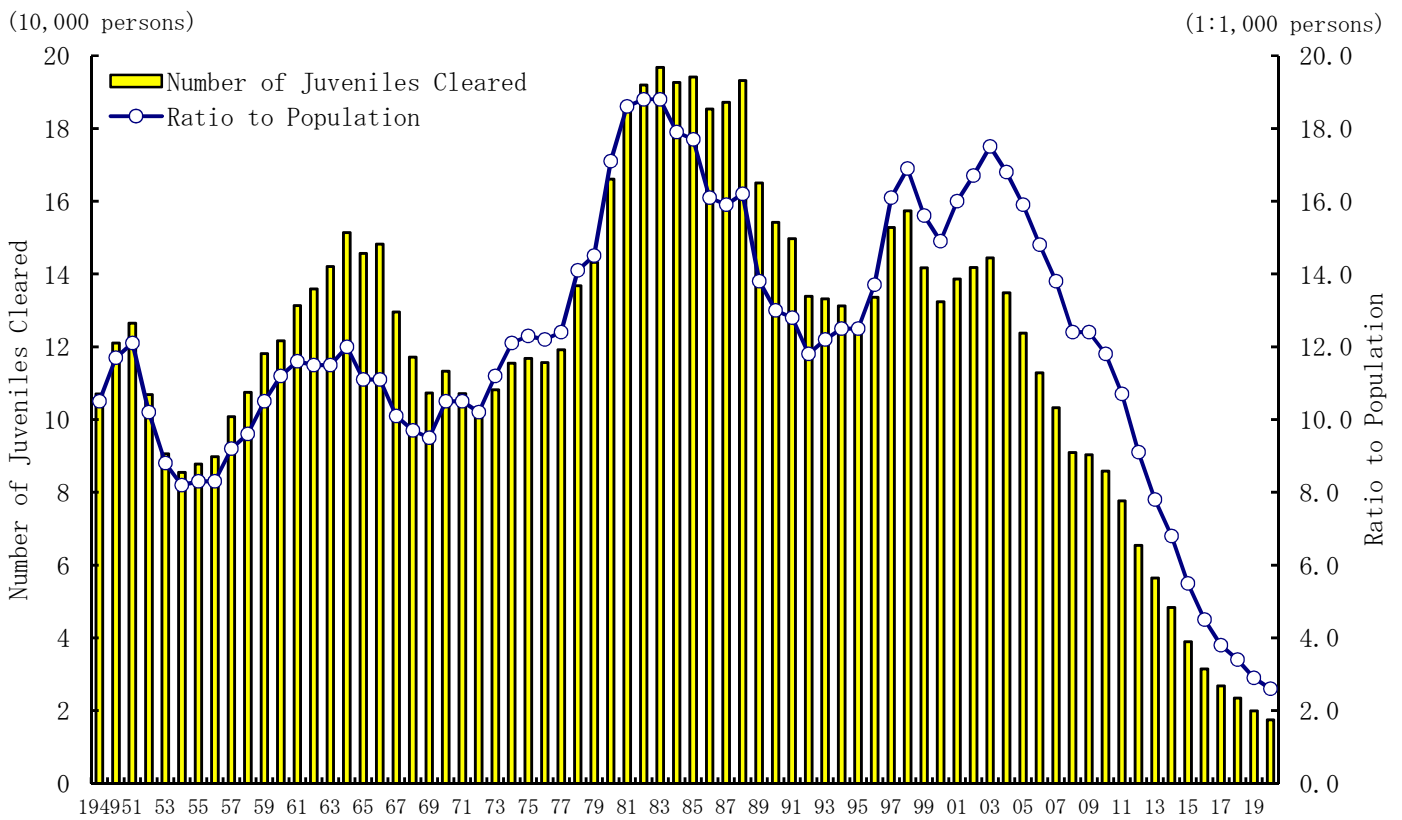
Violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) continues to be an issue. Examples of IPRs violation include uploading the copyrighted works (comics, books, papers, computer programs, etc.) onto the internet without the permission of the copyright holder, and trading the counterfeit products on websites. Counterfeit products are mostly smuggled from China and other Asian countries.

The police investigate these cases and promote public awareness on IPRs protection in cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations.

In addition, the police are cracking down on theft of trade secrets.

**7. Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Sound Development of Youth**

Number of Juveniles Cleared for Penal Code Offenses (1949-2020)



## A. Juvenile Delinquency

### Juveniles cleared for Penal Code Offenses

The total number of juveniles (aged 14 to 19) cleared for Penal Code offenses in 2020 was 17,466, a decrease of 2,448 (12.3%) from the previous year. The ratio of juveniles cleared for Penal Code offenses per 1,000 persons in the same age group was 2.6, decreasing 0.3 points from the previous year.

Among all the persons cleared for Penal Code offenses (both adults and juveniles) in 2020, 9.6% were juveniles. And among all the persons cleared for street crimes such as snatchings and street muggings in 2020, 35.5% were juveniles.

## B. Juvenile Victimization

### (1) Penal Code Offenses Victimizing Juveniles

In 2020, 64,679 Penal Code offenses that victimized juveniles were known to the police, a decrease of 31.0% from the previous year. By category, felonies (murder, robbery, arson, and forcible sexual intercourse) stand at 757, a decrease of 9.7%; violent offenses stand at 7,077, a decrease of 11.0%; and larcenies stand at 50,701, a decrease of 34.9% from the previous year.

### (2) Offenses Harmful to Juvenile Welfare

Welfare offenses are crimes harmful to juvenile welfare such as sexual exploitation of children.

In 2020, a total of 5,129 juveniles were victimized by welfare offenses, a decrease of 9.7% from the previous year. High school students topped the number of victims, followed by junior high school students.

The use of the internet in welfare offenses has become a serious issue. The police are strengthening crackdown efforts on internet-related welfare offenses in order to prevent further harm to children, and working to protect the juvenile victims of such offenses.

### (3) Child Sexual Exploitation



**Child sexual exploitation** is of grave concern to the international community in light of the protection of children's rights and development of youth.

In 2020, 564<sup>2</sup> persons were arrested for child prostitution in 637 cases. For child pornography, 1,965<sup>3</sup> persons were arrested in 2,757 cases. Both numbers decreased from the previous year.

Child sexual exploitation continues to be serious. In view of this recognition, the "Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation" was formulated in April 2017 at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime.

As the primary activities of the police, the plan includes strict measures such as strengthening crackdowns on crimes related to child sexual exploitation, development of comfortable environments for children and their parents/guardians for consultations, promotion of public relations and public awareness-raising activities to prevent victimization by child prostitution and child pornography, and measures against entities which operate social networking sites and online dating services. The police are promoting these countermeasures in cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations based on the plan.

<sup>2</sup> This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

<sup>3</sup> See note above.

For details, please see our portal site “STOP! Child Sexual Exploitation” ([https://www.npa.go.jp/policy\\_area/no\\_cp/eng/](https://www.npa.go.jp/policy_area/no_cp/eng/)).

#### **(4) Child Abuse**

Child abuse significantly infringes the rights of children and causes serious damages to their physical and psychological development as well as personality formation.

The police are making every effort to take appropriate measures to detect and protect victimized children at early stages of child abuse, while strengthening cooperation with the relevant organizations.

#### **(5) Bullying**

There were 142 incidents attributable to bullying in 2020, a decrease of 61 (30.0%) from the previous year.

The police are striving to identify bullying cases early on through actions such as counseling activities for juveniles and school supporters’ visits to schools, and developing appropriate measures while keeping close communication with schools.

#### **(6) Support for Juvenile Victims**

Juvenile guidance officials provide continuous counseling services and other support to juvenile victims of crimes such as bullying and child abuse, for supporting their recovery from psychological damages.

### **C. Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Promotion of Sound Development of Youth**

#### **(1) Various Preventive Measures against Juvenile Delinquency**



**A scene of street guidance activities**

The police, in cooperation with community juvenile police volunteers, are making every effort to detect juvenile delinquents at early stages and provide guidance in a timely manner through on-the-spot protection and street guidance activities in crime-prone areas like entertainment districts and arcades.

In addition, the police not only contact juveniles who are likely to offend again but support their recovery through counseling activities, home visits, participation in community services, etc. Furthermore, by raising awareness of the community about the factors of juvenile delinquency, the police endeavor to develop a trend toward supporting juveniles.

Furthermore, in order to enhance systematic and expert support for juvenile delinquents and their families, and to strengthen assistance to minors harmed by crimes, Juvenile Support Centers are established in each PPH as specialized organizations for juvenile support and guidance, staffed by juvenile guidance officials as the key figures.

Additionally, in order to protect juveniles against welfare offenses caused by the use of the internet and to promote sound development of the youth, the police promote efforts such as guiding juveniles who posted inappropriate messages on the internet that could induce child prostitution.

## (2) Clearing up the Environment Surrounding Juveniles

In an effort to clean up the social environment to safeguard juveniles, the police, in cooperation with the community, relevant organizations and public authorities, are trying to apply appropriate measures to shut out the influences of Boryokudan and control the flow of harmful information by sex-oriented entertainment establishments.

As the internet environment for juveniles has deteriorated recently, the police are making efforts to clean up the internet through implementation of cyber-patrol and promotion of filtering, and requesting the internet industry to provide self-restriction and other measures to safeguard juveniles.

## (3) Counseling for Juveniles



A scene of juvenile counseling

The Young Telephone Corner is a service provided by the police that offers counseling for juveniles. It is staffed by experienced juvenile guidance officials and counseling specialists, who provide necessary advice and guidance to troubled juveniles. In 2020, the police handled 74,695 juvenile consultation cases.

## D. International Cooperation (Countermeasures against Child Sexual Exploitation)

A collective action by the international community is necessary to counter sexual exploitation of children.

The NPA is exchanging information with foreign investigative authorities, arranging international cooperation in criminal investigation, and strengthening collaborative relationships through participating in the INTERPOL International Child Sexual Exploitation Database.

In February 2021 the NPA held "The 5th Meeting of Specialist Group on Child Sexual Exploitation" by involving domestic and international institutions and organizations. At the meeting, the NPA introduced the national government's efforts against child sexual exploitation, and shared information with the relevant institutions and organizations in order to strengthen mutual cooperation.

## 8. Countermeasures against Cybercrime

### A. Cybercrime cases

The number of cybercrime cases cleared in 2020 was 9,875, an increase of 356 (3.7 %) from the previous year.

#### (1) Violations of the Act on Prohibition of Unauthorized Computer Access

The number of violations of the Act on Prohibition of Unauthorized Computer Access cleared in 2020 was 609, a decrease of 207 (25.4%) from the previous year.

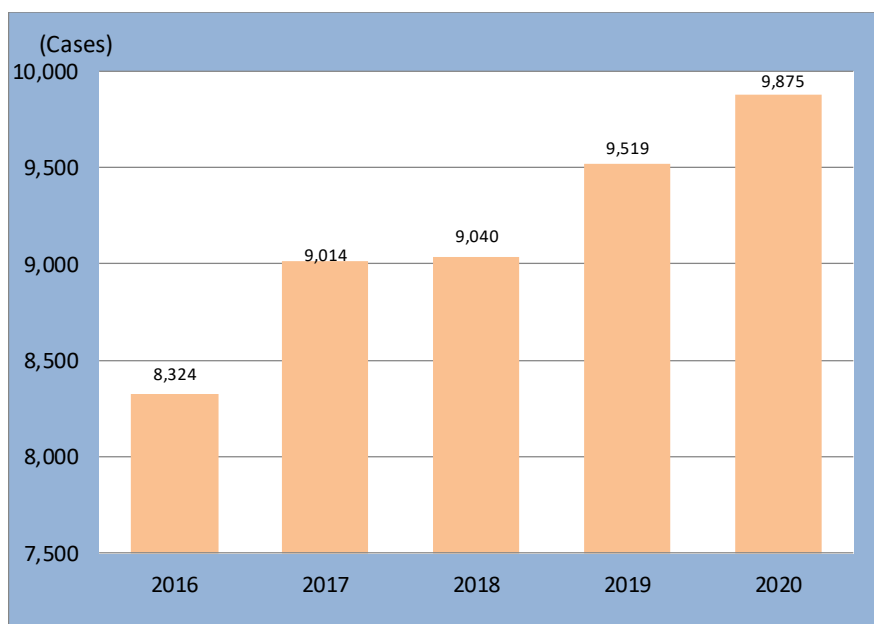
#### (2) Crimes related to electromagnetic records with malicious commands and crimes targeting computers or electromagnetic records

The number of crimes related to the electromagnetic records with malicious commands and crimes targeting computers or electromagnetic records cleared in 2020 was 563, an increase of 127 (29.1%) from the previous year.

#### (3) Others

The number of crimes enabled by access to info-communications networks cleared in 2020 was 8,703, an increase of 436 (5.3%) from the previous year.





### B. Countermeasures against Illegal and Harmful Internet Contents

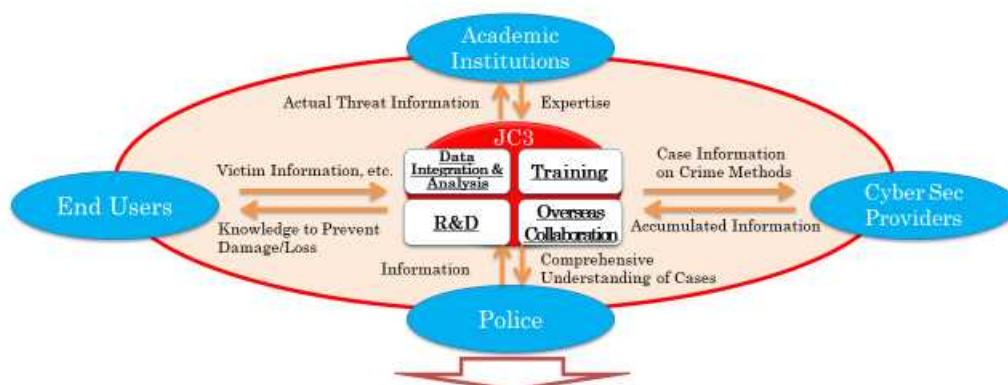
Overflow of illegal and harmful contents on the internet has been causing various incidents in Japan including crimes against children. To deal with such issues, the "Internet Hotline Center" (IHC) funded by the NPA has been dealing with illegal contents on the internet since June 2006. In January 2018, the IHC also began new efforts to request ISPs to delete suicide-related information e.g., "I will assist your suicide" and suicide-inviting information e.g., "Let's kill ourselves together." The number of illegal contents reported to the IHC in 2020 was 63,189, an increase of 36,533 (137.1%) from the previous year.

The NPA and IHC also provide information on child pornography to the entity which develops and administers the list of URLs of child pornography websites. Based on this list, some Internet service providers voluntarily started blocking these sites in April 2011.

### C. Collaboration with the Japan Cybercrime Control Center

**The Japan Cybercrime Control Center (JC3)** launched its operations in 2014 as a new framework of industry-academia-government collaboration in Japan. The JC3 aims to identify the sources of threats by collecting and analyzing information and intelligence from businesses, the academic community and governmental agencies, and returning the results of the analysis to them, and to prevent subsequent cyber incidents by mitigating and neutralizing the sources. The police contribute to the cybersecurity efforts of the industry and academic communities, by sharing information with the JC3, and make efforts to build a safe and secure cyberspace by utilizing information shared by the JC3 for police activities in a prompt and appropriate manner.

## JC3 Structure



Comprehensive understanding of cyber threats facilitates countermeasures.

### D. International Cooperation

In order to tackle the increasing cyber threats, international forums such as the G7 High-Tech Crime Subgroup and INTERPOL-hosted conferences have been addressing this issue. The NPA places high priority on these discussions.

The G7 Network of 24-7 Points of Contact for High Tech Crime, which is available 24 hours a day, started operation in 1998. The contact points of this network in Japan are the NPA's Cybercrime Division and High-Tech Crime Technology Division.

## SUPPORT FOR CRIME VICTIMS

### 1. Police Support for Victims

The police are working to enhance diverse aspects of support for crime victims and their families, or bereaved families. The following are examples of police support for crime victims and their families:

#### A. Benefit Payments to Victims

The national government makes benefit payments to victims and their bereaved families for serious harms caused by crimes.

#### B. Providing Information for Crime Victims

The police have prepared a brochure which outlines the investigative proceedings and their support system for crime victims.

#### C. Reducing Victims' Burden

Crime victims and their families not only suffer physical, emotional, or financial harms as direct results of the crimes, but also undergo a wide range of harms through secondary victimization. Police officers receive training on treatment of victims to reduce their burden. Police stations have rooms that are furnished, lighted, and decorated where victims can consult with police officers in a relaxing atmosphere. The police also provide many other support services for victims including accompaniment to hospitals or to courts upon request.



Special vehicle for supporting crime victims



Accompanying victims to a hospital

#### D. Providing Counseling for Victims

To help alleviate the emotional injuries of victims, the police, in cooperation with psychiatrists and private counselors, provide counseling services for victims.



Counseling by police officers

#### E. Securing Safety of Victims

The police take various measures for protection of victims including enhancement of patrols.

### 2. Cooperation with Private Organizations for Victim Support

Private organizations for victim support provide services including counseling and accompaniment to hospitals or to courts, and carry out public awareness-raising activities. The police and private organizations work together in order to support victims and achieve their recoveries.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

### 1. Overview

#### A. Number of Penal Code Offenses Known to the Police (See Appendix 2)

In 2020, the number of penal code offenses known to the police was 614,231, a decrease of 134,328 (17.9%) from the previous year. After marking a postwar record high in 2002, it has continued to decrease since 2003. In 2020, the number is less than one-fourth of that in 2002.

Among the different types of offenses known to the police, the number of larcenies was 417,291, a decrease of 115,27 (21.6%) from the previous year. There has been a decreasing trend in the number of felonies (murder, robbery, arson, and forcible sexual intercourse) in recent years.

In addition, the number of intellectual offenses was 34,065, a decrease of 1,966 (5.5%) from the previous year.

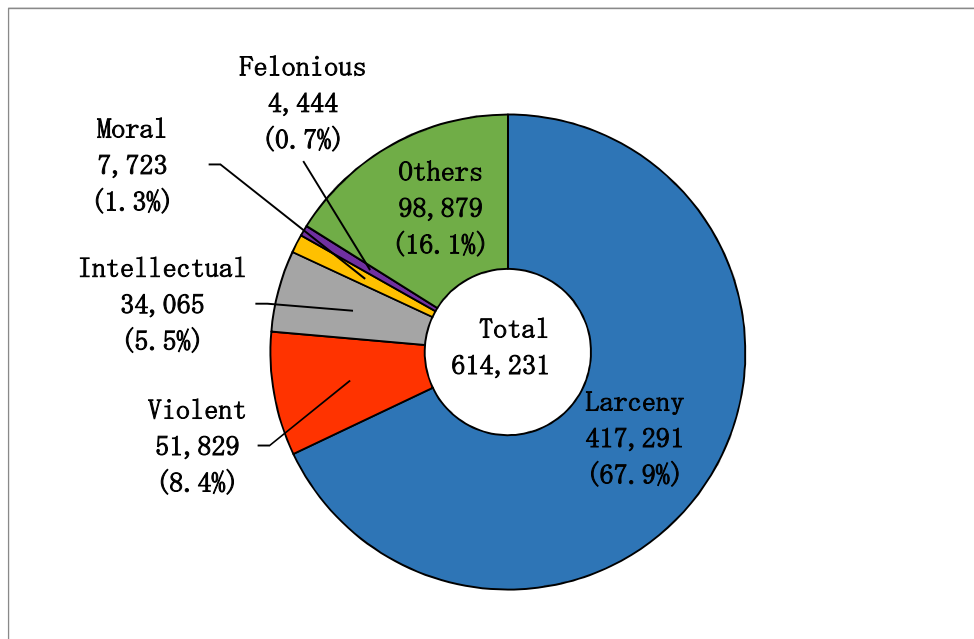
#### B. Number of Cleared Penal Code Offenses (See Appendix 2)

The number of cleared penal code offenses was 279,185, a decrease of 15,021 (5.1%) from the previous year, while the number of persons cleared was 182,582<sup>4</sup>, a decrease of 10,025 (5.2%) from the previous year.

The number of cleared larcenies was 170,687, a decrease of 10,210 (5.6%) from the previous year.

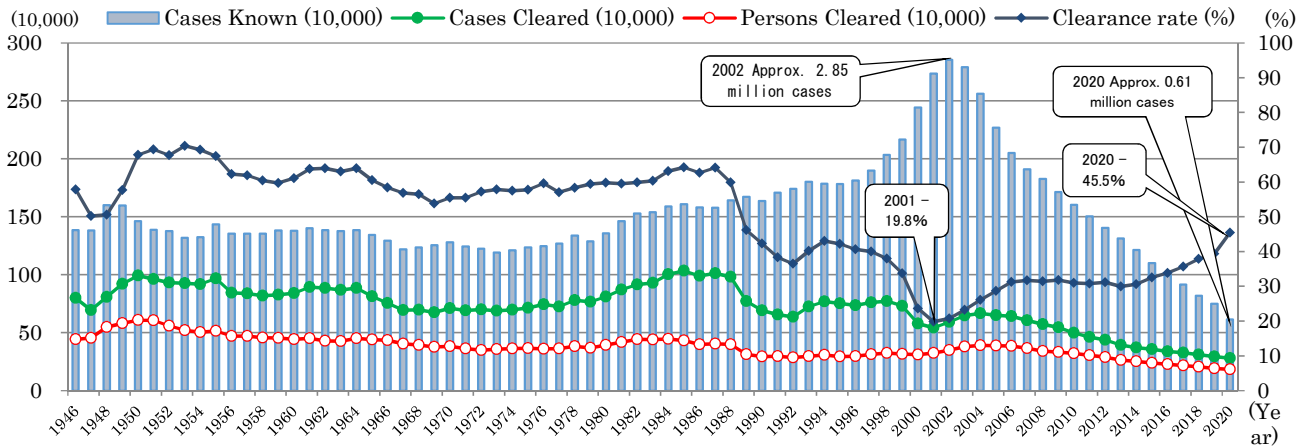
The number of cleared felonies was 4,268, an increase of 28 (0.7%) from the previous year.

The number of cleared intellectual offenses was 18,153, a decrease of 943 (4.9%) from the previous year.



<sup>4</sup> This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

Trends in Penal Code Offense Known and Cleared (1946 – 2020)



**C. Countermeasures against Increasingly Sophisticated Crimes**

The police make efforts to prevent crimes through coordination with relevant organizations and citizens. The police are developing expertise in new investigative methods in order to respond to crimes which are becoming increasingly sophisticated such as the so-called “Hey, it’s me” type of special frauds<sup>5</sup>. Also, the police are involved in development and international exchanges of advanced forensic science techniques.

**D. Cooperation of Citizens**



The understanding and cooperation of citizens is critical in crime investigation. The police call for information and assistance which could facilitate investigations from the public through its offline and online publications.

In addition, the police introduced the Special Reward System – a public reward system – in 2007, to encourage citizens to provide information for solving serious crimes.

**E. Combating International Crime**

The NPA is intensifying efforts to crack down on international crime in order to effectively respond to the threat from the transnational organized crime groups, whose members might be traveling to Japan among other visitors. In this regard, the NPA is promoting countermeasures such as improving intelligence capacity and collaboration with relevant agencies in Japan and abroad.

<sup>5</sup> Collective term for crimes which are perpetrated without face-to-face contacts by abuse of communication tools such as the telephone to defraud many and unspecified victims of money, property or anything of value by diverse deceptive means including false instructions to have victims remit money to financial accounts designated by the perpetrators.

## 2. Fight against Organized Crimes

### A. Organized Crime Groups (Boryokudan)

Membership including associate members of Boryokudan peaked in 1963, at approximately 184,100 persons. Since then, it was on a steady decline until 1987 when it once again started showing signs of growth. With the implementation of the Anti-Boryokudan Act in 1992, this growth trend halted and the number of Boryokudan members began to decline again. As of the end of 2020, Boryokudan membership stands at approximately 25,900.

(Note: Boryokudan is commonly referred to as "Yakuza" and is defined by the Anti-Boryokudan Act as "any organization likely to facilitate its members to collectively or habitually commit illegal acts of violence.")

Boryokudan undertake a variety of unjust or unlawful activities, such as using coercion derived from Boryokudan to pursue economic benefits. Such behavior is based upon their principles which considerably deviate from the general rule of law. They also show their violent nature of adopting any means to achieve their goals. For example, there were cases in which Boryokudan members attacked business operators who would not accept their demands in retaliation or as warnings. Conflicts also broke out over the choices of their leaders' successors.

### B. Comprehensive Measures against Boryokudan

To disrupt Boryokudan activities, the police are engaged in strict crackdowns on illegal activities and public campaigns to alienate Boryokudan from society.

In 2015, Boryokudan leaders who defected from the Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest Boryokudan, formed a new group: Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. Since then, the two groups have been in a state of conflict. Furthermore, a subgroup of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi announced the formation of a new group named Ninkyo Dantai Yamaguchi-gumi in April 2017 (the present group name: Kizunakai) and internal conflicts started within Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi. Their conflicts have become serious and unpredictable.

The police continuously make efforts to weaken and annihilate Boryokudan through strict crackdowns on illegal activities, effective enforcement of the Anti-Boryokudan Act, and alienating Boryokudan from society.

#### (1) Strict Crackdowns on Illegal Activities

In 2020, the police arrested 13,189<sup>6</sup> Boryokudan members in 21,050 cases.

Due to Boryokudan activities diversifying, they are becoming more secretive. The police are putting further effort into gathering and analyzing intelligence regarding the fundraising activities of Boryokudan, and intensifying efforts to crack down on Boryokudan activities and have restructured in order to implement these countermeasures more effectively and seamlessly.

Today, Boryokudan resort not only to their traditional fundraising activities such as the illegal sales of stimulant drugs, extortion and gambling, but also to special fraud and other types of fraud abusing various financial aid programs. They also use their organizational power to make profits by intervening in legitimate private business transactions.

#### (2) Effective Enforcement of the Anti-Boryokudan Act

<sup>6</sup> This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

The Anti-Boryokudan Act labels certain criminal groups as designated Boryokudan groups.

As of the end of 2020, there were 24 designated Boryokudan groups. (See Table: Designated Boryokudan Groups)

Designated Boryokudan Groups

No.	Name of Boryokudan	Main Office	No. of Members (as of the end of 2020)
1	Rokudaime Yamaguchi-gumi	Hyogo	3,800
2	Inagawa-kai	Tokyo	2,000
3	Sumiyoshi-kai	Tokyo	2,600
4	Godaime Kudo-kai	Fukuoka	270
5	Gyokuryu-kai	Okinawa	270
6	Nanadaime Aizu Kotetsu-kai (Daihyosha Kim Gen)	Kyoto	30
7	Rokudaime Kyosei-kai	Hiroshima	120
8	Nanadaime Goda-ikka	Yamaguchi	50
9	Yondaime Kozakura-ikka	Kagoshima	60
10	Godaime Asano-gumi	Okayama	60
11	Dojin-kai	Fukuoka	420
12	Nidaime Shinwa-kai	Kagawa	30
13	Soai-kai	Chiba	120
14	Sandaime Kyodo-kai	Hiroshima	70
15	Taishu-kai	Fukuoka	80
16	Kyudaime Sakaume-gumi	Osaka	30
17	Kyokuto-kai	Tokyo	430
18	Nidaime Azuma-gumi	Osaka	90
19	Matsuba-kai	Tokyo	360
20	Yondaime Fukuhaku-kai	Fukuoka	90
21	Namikawa-kai	Fukuoka	190
22	Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi	Hyogo	1,200
23	Kizuna-kai	Hyogo	230
24	Kanto Sekine-gumi	Ibaraki	100

The Act prohibits members of designated Boryokudan groups from acts such as engaging in extortion or coercing juveniles into becoming their members. In 2020, 1,134 discontinuance orders and 52 recurrence prevention orders were issued. When a conflict breaks out between designated Boryokudan groups or within a designated Boryokudan group, or when members of designated Boryokudan groups attack civilians using weapons including firearms, restriction orders on the use of their offices, facilities, etc. can be issued. Also, when a violent act involved in a conflict is in a manner that causes serious harm to life or limb, and there is a risk that similar violent acts will be committed again, the designated Boryokudan groups can be labeled as the Specific Conflicting Designated Boryokudan groups.



In addition, the Act prohibits designated Boryokudan group members from rewarding other members in praise of violence in conflicts between designated Boryokudan groups, etc., and prevents them from disturbing citizens' exercise of rights for seeking compensation of damages resulting from Boryokudan group members' illegal acts. In 2020, 7 rewarding prohibition orders were issued. Members of designated Boryokudan groups who disobey these orders are subject to punishment under the Act. 5 cases of disobedience were cleared in 2020.

### (3) Elimination of Boryokudan from Society



The police have been promoting efforts by the community to eliminate Boryokudan. Specifically, in order to cut off Boryokudans' funding sources, the police, in coordination with the relevant agencies, are promoting Boryokudan elimination activities in wide-ranging industries such as moneylending businesses and construction businesses.

The police are also supporting removal campaigns of Boryokudan offices carried out by local residents, for example by closely cooperating with the competent Prefectural Centers for Removal of Boryokudan which are able to file lawsuits on behalf of local residents demanding removal of Boryokudan offices from the community. The police also provide support for people's actions to recover damages caused in relation to Boryokudans' crimes.

## 3. Drug Control

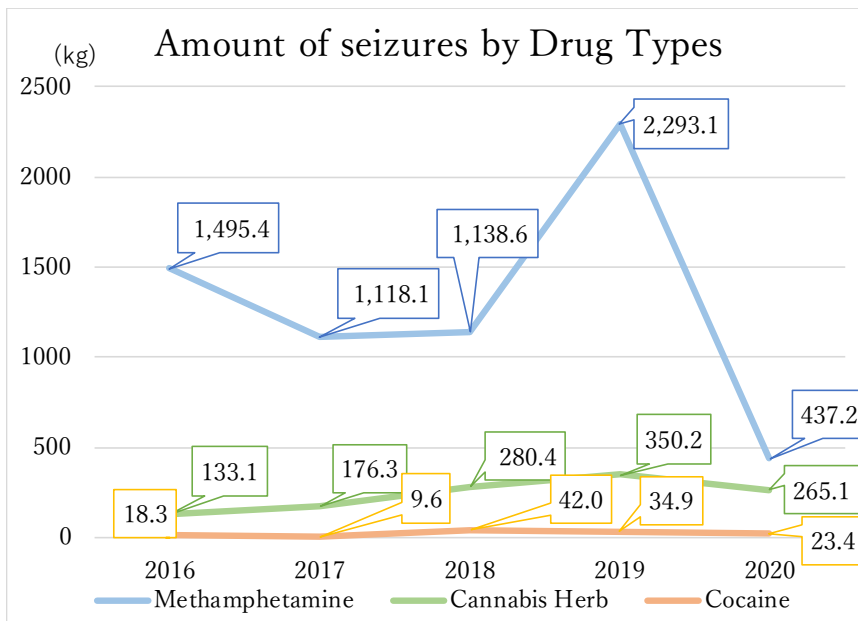
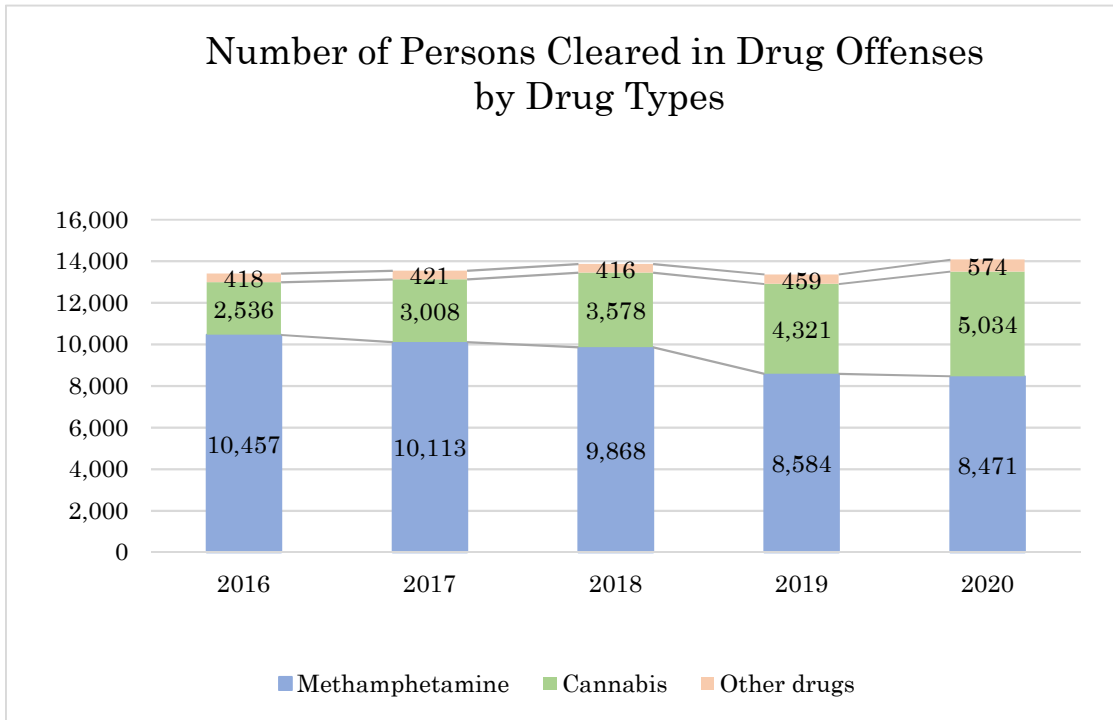
### A. Drug Offenses

In 2020, the drug situation in Japan was still severe: the number of persons cleared for drug offenses was 14,079, which remained at a high level. 60.2% of the persons cleared were related to methamphetamine. Cannabis offenses accounted 35.8%.

Illegal drugs are very harmful physically and mentally, and they can be a cause of serious crimes and dangerous traffic accidents. Moreover, they are a main source of income for criminal organizations including Boryokudan.

Of the above persons cleared for drug offenses, the number of Boryokudan group members cleared were 4,387, a decrease of 189 (4.1%) from the previous year. Although the number of Boryokudan group members cleared with regard to methamphetamine was 3,577, a decrease of 161 (4.3%) from the previous year, this accounted for 42.2% of methamphetamine offenses. Therefore, it seems that Boryokudan are still recognized as being deeply involved in methamphetamines. The number of Boryokudan group members cleared for cannabis offenses were 751, which accounted for 14.9% of persons cleared in cannabis offenses. While it decreased 29 (3.7%) from the previous year, since the number of persons cleared for offenses of cannabis cultivation was 46, an increase of 4 (9.5%) from the previous year, it is recognized that Boryokudan are increasing their involvement also in cannabis offenses.

Furthermore, the number of foreign visitors cleared in drug offenses were 525, a decrease of 224 (29.9%) from the previous year. 50 of those who were cleared were involved with methamphetamine smuggling offenses for profit-making purposes. Looking at the figures by nationality/area shows the percentage of foreign visitors from Vietnam and Hong Kong were high, accounting for 48.0%. The number of foreign visitors cleared for trafficking offenses of methamphetamine were 18, a decrease of 15 (45.5%) from the previous year. Looking at the figures by nationality/area shows the percentage of foreign visitors from Vietnam and Brazil were high, accounting for 55.6%.



### (1) Methamphetamine Offenses

As previously mentioned, the most widely abused types of drugs in Japan are methamphetamine.

. Methamphetamine abused in Japan is mostly smuggled by transnational drug trafficking organizations. In recent years, methamphetamine has been smuggled not only from neighboring Asian countries but also from all over the world such as from North American countries.

The Boryokudan are recognized as deeply involved in trafficking of the methamphetamine smuggled into Japan.



Smuggled Methamphetamine in ceramic dolls

### (2) Cannabis Offenses

The number of persons cleared in cannabis offenses in 2020 reached the highest level ever.

In comparison with other drugs offenders, there are high percentages of first-time offenders and young people in their twenties or younger among cannabis offenders.

## B. Anti-Drug Measures

To fight against drugs, the relevant government ministries and agencies are cooperating to implement effective anti-drug measures.

The NPA is promoting comprehensive activities aiming at both elimination of drug supply and reduction of demand.

### (1) Elimination of Drug Supply

In order to shut off the drug supply, the police have been strengthening cooperation with domestic and foreign authorities.

Aiming to eradicate drug trafficking syndicates, the police are promoting identification of the syndicates and arresting the top leaders of these organizations. Forfeiture of criminal proceeds is also of great importance in countering drug offenses.

**(2) Reduction of Drug Demand**

The police have intensified their efforts to crack down on street-level drug abusers and also to raise public awareness on the danger of drugs.

**(3) Promotion of International Cooperation**

The NPA exchanges information and conducts international joint operations with foreign authorities. It has also provided opportunities to other countries for knowledge- and experience-sharing through international conferences such as the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC). (ADEC 26 in 2021 was canceled due to the outbreak of COVID-19.)

**4. Firearms Control**

**A. Firearms-related Crime**

**(1) Number of Incidents**

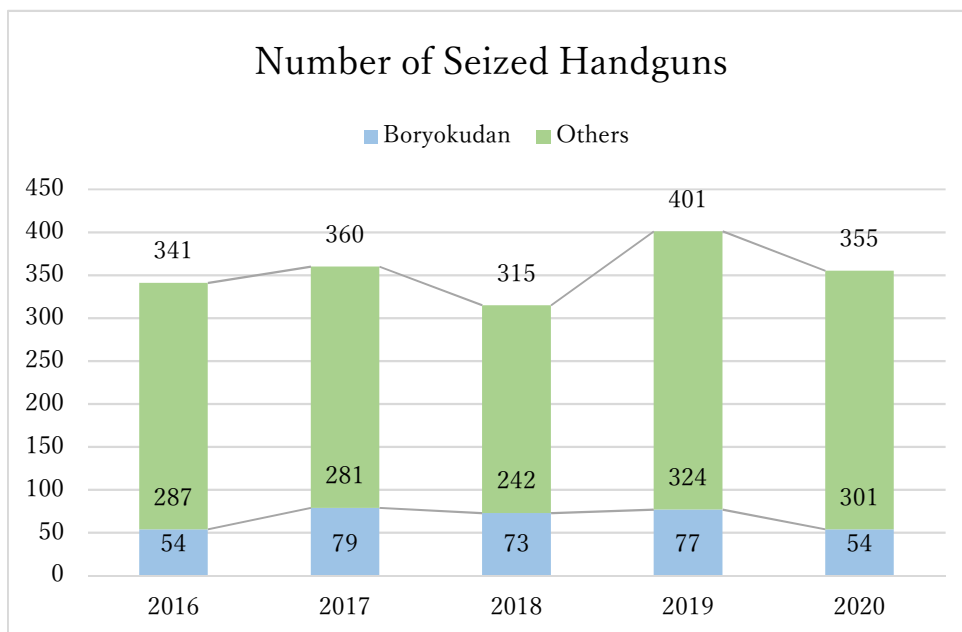
In 2020, there were 17 firearm shooting cases, out of which 14 cases seem to be caused by Boryokudan members in downtown areas, residential areas, etc.

**Firearm Shooting Cases (2016-2020)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Number of Cases</b>	27	22	8	13	17
<b>Boryokudan Members' Cases</b>	17	13	4	10	14
<b>Conflict Cases</b>	6	1	1	3	5
<b>Others</b>	10	9	4	3	3

**(2) Seizure of Handguns**

In 2020, the police seized 355 handguns, 15.2% of which were seized from Boryokudan.





**Seized Guns**

### **B. Cooperation in the Fight against Firearms**

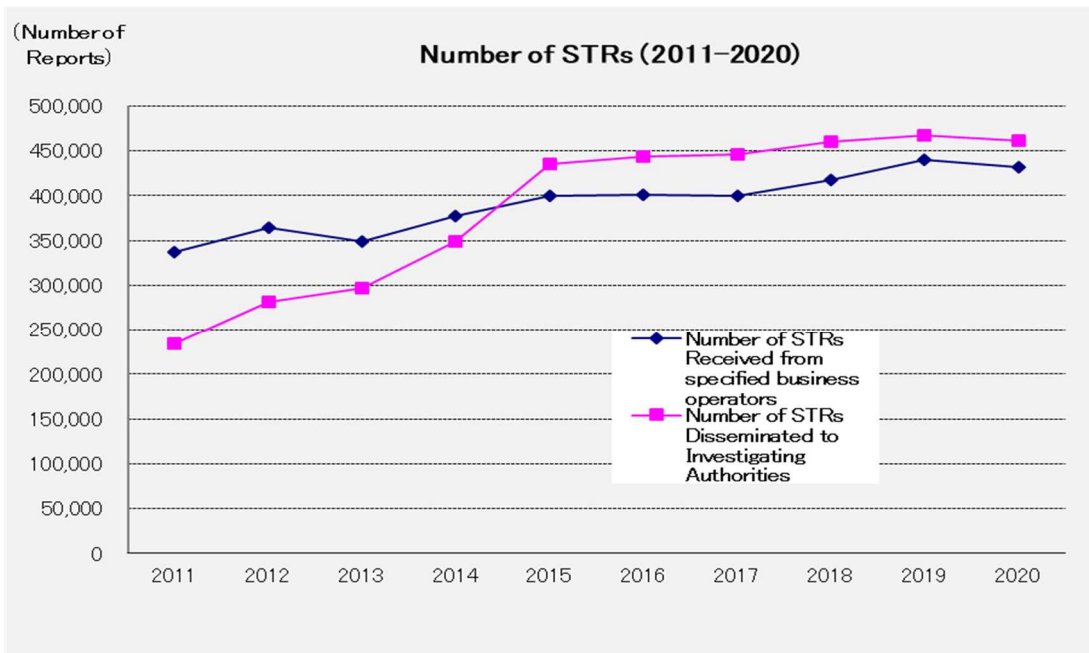
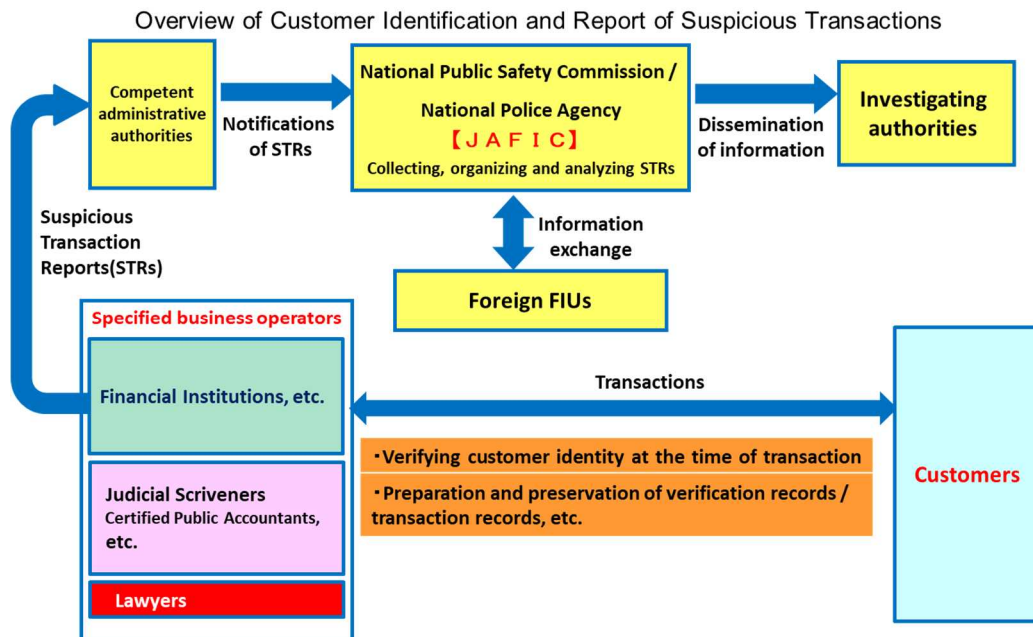
The police cooperate with the relevant domestic authorities, including customs and issue requests to foreign authorities to identify the trafficking routes.

## 5. Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

### A. Function of JAFIC

In April 2007, the Japan Financial Intelligence Center (JAFIC) was established as Japan’s Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in the NPSC/NPA. JAFIC is responsible for collecting, organizing and analyzing suspicious transaction reports (STRs).

The number of STRs remains at a high level. STRs afford a clue to detect criminal proceeds and financial sources of organized crime groups.



## **B. International Cooperation**

JAFIC cooperates with its international partners in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) through frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the Egmont group.

## **6. Fight against Crime Infrastructures**

The term "crime infrastructures" refers to the bases upon which crimes are nurtured or facilitated. For example, making contracts for mobile phones or credit cards by using forged personal identification documents is illegal itself. Meanwhile, there are also various systems and services which are legal by themselves but that can be abused for the commission of crimes such as special fraud.

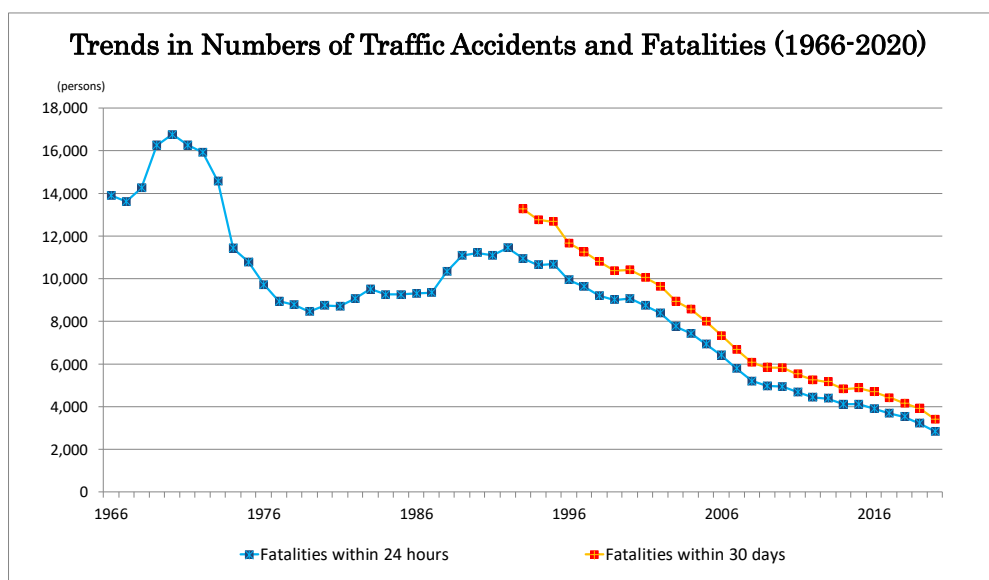
"Crime infrastructures" which are steadily being developed in a wide range of criminal fields have been a serious threat to public safety because they are abused by the organized crime groups to commit various types of crimes more efficiently.

The police are currently applying their full organizational force in pressing ahead with countermeasures against "crime infrastructures" and making efforts in broad collection and analysis of intelligence related to "crime infrastructures" in order to dismantle them.

## TRAFFIC POLICE

### 1. Overview

In 2020, the total number of fatalities caused by traffic accidents was 2,839, the lowest since the National Rural Police, the predecessor of the NPA, started compiling traffic statistics under the current formula in 1948. Total numbers of traffic accidents and persons injured have declined over the past sixteen years.



#### Number of Traffic Accidents, Fatalities, and Persons Injured in 2020

	2020	Change from the previous year	%
Accidents	309,178	-72,059	-18.9%
Fatalities within 24 hours	2,839	-376	-11.7%
Fatalities within 30 days	3,416	-504	-12.9%
Injured	369,476	-92,299	-20.0%

### 2. Enforcement

The police analyze traffic accidents precisely and place emphasis on enforcement against vicious and serious violations, resulting in grave accidents including fatal ones, such as unlicensed driving, driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol, serious speeding violations and ignoring traffic signals. The police also focus on illegal parking and reckless driving by motorcycle gangs (Bosozoku).

Among all the traffic violations, DUI of alcohol and unlicensed driving are the most serious issues. The Road Traffic Act has been tightened against these violations in recent years. The police have been putting great efforts into apprehending not only drivers but also those who aid and abet drivers to commit such violations.

In addition, the police have also intensified efforts to hold corporations and employers responsible for serious traffic violations committed by their employees.



### A. Measures against Motorcycle Gangs (Boso-zoku)



Although stricter regulations and intensive crackdowns on motorcycle gangs have led to declining numbers of large-scale reckless driving and members of motorcycle gangs, the public demands further measures against them.

As of the end of 2020, the number of motorcycle gang groups totaled 131 with 5,714 members. 46.0 percent (%) of the members were juveniles under the age of 20. The police received approximately 29,000 complaints from citizens regarding

motorcycle gangs and their reckless driving.

On top of its law enforcement efforts, the police, in close cooperation with local residents, schools and workplaces, are working to promote and encourage motorcycle gang members to leave their groups.

### B. Traffic Accident Investigations



In 2020, the number of traffic accidents causing fatalities and injuries totaled 309,178.

To respond to the tremendous number of traffic accidents, the police are introducing more efficient tools and methods in their investigations. One example is the installation of video cameras which automatically record traffic accidents that occur at intersections.

### C. Traffic Policing on Expressways

In 2020, there were 4,649 accidents on expressways: 114 fatalities and 7,570 injuries.

The "Expressway Traffic Police Unit" has been established in the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and every other prefectural police. This unit engages in various activities such as traffic enforcement, traffic control, and traffic safety awareness campaigns in order to secure traffic safety and smooth flows on expressways.

### D. Measures against Illegal Parking

Taking local residents' demands and opinions into account, the police focus enforcement on dangerous and disturbing parking, such as parking near pedestrian crossings and bus stops as well as on arterial roads.



The police also work with local governments to counter illegal parking by establishing local ordinances against it.

### 3. Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Developed by the Japanese Police

The NPA is promoting research and development of Universal Traffic Management Systems (UTMS). UTMS, designed to utilize advanced information and communication technologies, ensure road traffic safety and smooth traffic flows, create harmony between road traffic and the environment, and thereby contribute to enhancement of the public welfare.

Principal subsystems of UTMS are as follows:

#### **(1) Advanced Mobile Information Systems (AMIS)**

AMIS generate information on congestion and travel time, based on traffic information collected at the Traffic Control Center, and provide the information to drivers via the Vehicle Information and Communication System (VICS). The information is also provided by roadside traffic information display boards as well as through radio.

#### **(2) Traffic Signal Prediction Systems (TSPS)**

TSPS encourage safe and eco-friendly driving by providing drivers with driving support information based on information about the colors of traffic lights.

#### **(3) Driving Safety Support Systems (DSSS)**

DSSS grasp traffic situations of areas less visible from the driver's position by using roadside sensors and alert drivers via on-board units and thereby prevent traffic accidents which could be caused by careless oversight such as inattentive driving.

#### **(4) Public Transportation Priority Systems (PTPS)**

PTPS ensure the scheduled operation of buses and other public transport to encourage the use of public transport. Based on vehicle ID information received from on-board units in the buses via infrared beacons, the Traffic Control Center extends the durations of green lights or shortens red lights so that buses can pass through the intersections smoothly.

#### **(5) Pedestrian Information and Communication Systems (PICS)**

PICS facilitate safe crossing of intersections for pedestrians including the elderly and people with disabilities by providing voice information of the names of intersections and the status of pedestrian signals.

#### **(6) Fast Emergency Vehicle Preemption Systems (FAST)**

FAST are intended to assist emergency vehicles to reach accident sites as quickly as possible and prevent secondary accidents which could be caused by emergency vehicles. Based on the information received from the emergency vehicles via infrared beacons, the Traffic Control Center extends the durations of green lights or shortens red lights so that emergency vehicles can arrive at the scenes of accidents faster.

#### **(7) Enhancement of Mobile Convenience**

The police have adopted measures to enhance convenience of the private sector utilizing public traffic information. Each prefectural police force has its own system to provide online, real-time traffic information gathered from approximately 211,000 vehicle detectors and approximately 55,000 infrared beacons throughout the roads in Japan. Through these systems, the police have provided the private sector with traffic information which can be used by the public including drivers via in-vehicle navigation systems, the internet, smartphones and other channels.

## 4. Driver's License



Japanese Driver's License

The police are responsible for driver's license administration. As of the end of 2020, 81,989,887 persons possess driver's licenses.

Driver's licenses are valid for five years unless drivers are novice drivers, have committed traffic violations or caused traffic accidents, or are 70 years of age or older.

At the time of renewal, drivers are required to undergo training according to their respective records of traffic violations and accidents.

Drivers who are 70 years of age or older, are required to undergo training for elderly drivers at the time of renewal. Additionally, drivers who are 75 years of age or older are required to undergo a cognitive assessment in advance. Based on the assessment, elderly drivers will be assigned to undergo the most appropriate training. Further measures can be taken for elderly drivers who show cognitive impairment. (This system will be amended in May 2022. Thereafter, drivers who are 75 years of age or older and have committed a traffic violation that matches certain criteria will be required to take a driving skill test at the time of license renewal, in addition to cognitive assessment and training.)

The police can promptly revoke or suspend licenses of drivers who committed serious traffic violations or caused accidents, and require them to undergo additional training.

## 5. Promotion of Traffic Safety Education and Campaigns

### A. Traffic Safety Education Guidelines

The NPSC stipulates the "Traffic Safety Education Guidelines" in order to provide standardized traffic safety education depending on the target audiences' age, the stage of mental and physical development, and the means of transportation. The police promote traffic safety education based on the Guidelines in collaboration with local groups and traffic organizations.

### B. Driving Safety Supervisors

Business operators using more than a certain number of motor vehicles are required to appoint Driving Safety Supervisors. Driving Safety Supervisors are responsible for the traffic safety of their drivers and also provide traffic safety education to their drivers based on the Traffic Safety Education Guidelines. As of the end of March 2021, there are approximately 339,000 business establishments with Driving Safety Supervisors in Japan.

### C. National Traffic Safety Campaigns

The police co-sponsor the National Traffic Safety Campaigns with other governmental ministries, agencies and relevant sectors every spring and fall. During the ten-day campaign period, the police intensively carry out road safety activities with local residents. These activities focus on prevention of traffic accidents involving children and the elderly, promotion of the safe use of bicycles, raise awareness about safe driving, as well as crackdown on DUI cases.



# SECURITY POLICE

## 1. Overview

### A. Countermeasures against International Terrorism

The threat of international terrorism to Japan remains.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has been calling their members and followers to attack the U.S., European nations, and other countries in the Global Coalition against Daesh, using knives, vehicles, etc. if the attacker does not have access to explosives, firearms or the like. Currently, although ISIL lost its territorial rule in Iraq and Syria, the group and its affiliates continue to pose a significant threat around the world. It has been pointed that there is a danger that foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) who have engaged in combat in the conflict areas might return to their home countries or move to third countries and commit acts of terrorism.

ISIL and its affiliated groups continue to disseminate propaganda calling for terrorist attacks (against the US, European countries, etc.) even during the spread of COVID-19.

The leader of Al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has continued to assert anti-U.S. and anti-Israel ideology, and the group and its affiliates have called for terrorist attacks in Western countries through their online magazines, etc.

To date, there have been terrorist attacks such as at In Amenas, Algeria on January 16, 2013 and Sri Lanka on April 21, 2019 in which Japanese nationals were killed or injured.

In order to fight terrorism, the international community must make collective efforts. To fulfill its responsibility, the Japanese police have:

- Reinforced gathering and analyzing abilities of terrorism-related information;
- Strengthened both domestic and international cooperation by collecting and sharing intelligence on suspicious activities with its partners;
- Enhanced border security in coordination with relevant authorities; and
- Protected critical public facilities.

In order to contribute actively to commitments of the international community to prevent and suppress any acts of international terrorism, the Act on Special Measures concerning International Terrorist Assets-Freezing, etc. Conducted by Our Country Taking into Consideration the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267, etc. was enacted in November 2014, in the 187th Session of the National Diet.

### B. The Japanese Red Army (JRA)

SHIGENOBU Fusako, the JRA leader, was arrested in 2000. In 2001, she issued a statement in prison that the JRA was disbanded. However, the statement was to disguise its terroristic revolutionary nature. Therefore, the group is still considered to be unchanged in essence. Seven of its members still remain on INTERPOL's international notice.

### C. The "Yodo-go" Group

Among the nine members of the "Yodo-go" group, the extreme leftists who hijacked a Japan Airlines flight and took refuge in North Korea, two have been arrested and another two are believed dead in North Korea. The remaining five, apparently living and operating as clandestine agents in North Korea, are wanted and put on INTERPOL's international notice. There are, however, unconfirmed reports that one of these five may have already died as well.

One of the five members and two wives of the members are suspected of being involved in the abduction of Japanese citizens. The three are wanted and are on INTERPOL's international notice.

#### D. Suspected Abduction Cases by North Korea

As of the end of 2020, the police have determined that North Korea has abducted a total of 19 victims in 13 cases, where the victims are Japanese nationals in 12 cases (17 victims) with the remaining case being the abduction from Japan of two siblings with Korean domiciles.

It is deemed that North Korea committed these abductions for the following reasons; 1) disguising North Korean agents as Japanese citizens; 2) forcing abductees to train North Korean agents to act as Japanese; 3) recruitment by the Yodo-gogroup, which is still being harbored in North Korea.

In September 2002, the then North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il admitted North Korea's involvement in several of the abduction cases and apologized to the then Japanese Prime Minister KOIZUMI Junichiro at their summit meeting in Pyongyang. Five abductees returned to Japan in October 2002.

The police have obtained arrest warrants for 11 suspects for their involvement in eight abduction cases, and placed them on the wanted list of INTERPOL. The police have continued to investigate abduction cases by exchanging information with relevant authorities both domestically and internationally.

In order to reinforce police initiatives to reveal the facts behind cases in which the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out, the following initiatives have been implemented.

In 2013, the police set up a special team in the NPA that instructs prefectural police departments on implementing more effective investigations into the abduction cases. The police have also been collecting DNA samples from the family members of possible abductees. Furthermore, the police started uploading information on possible abduction cases to police websites to encourage citizens to provide relevant information.

**"Suspected Abduction Cases by North Korea"**

Suspected Cases of Abduction by North Korea			
	Date (Location)	Victim(sex)	Suspect
1	June 1974 (Fukui Prefecture)	KO Kyongmi(F) KO Kang(M)	KINOSHITA Yoko(a.k.a. Hong Su Hye)
2	September 1977 (Ishikawa Prefecture)	KUME Yutaka(M)	Kim Se Ho
3	October 1977 (Tottori Prefecture)	MATSUMOTO Kyoko(F)	
4	November 1977 (Niigata Prefecture)	YOKOTA Megumi(F)	
5	ca. June 1978 (Hyogo Prefecture)	TANAKA Minoru(M)	
6	ca. June 1978 (under investigation)	TAGUCHI Yaeko(F)	
7	July 1978 (Fukui Prefecture)	CHIMURA Yasushi(M) CHIMURA (nee HAMAMOTO)Fukie(F)	Shin Kwang Soo
8	July 1978 (Niigata Prefecture)	HASUIKE Kaoru(M) HASUIKE (nee OKUDO)Yukiko(F)	Choe Sun Chol(possibly pseudonym) Han Geum Nyeong(possibly pseudonym) Kim Nam Jin(possibly pseudonym)
9	August 1978 (Kagoshima Prefecture)	ICHIKAWA Shuichi(M) MASUMOTO Rumiko(F)	
10	August 1978 (Niigata Prefecture)	SOGA Hitomi(F) SOGA Miyoshi(F)	Kim Myeong Suk (possibly pseudonym)
11	ca. May 1980 (Europe)	ISHIOKA Toru(M) MATSUKI Kaoru(M)	MORI Yoriko WAKABAYASHI (a.k.a. KURODA, former family name)Sakiko
12	June 1980 (Miyazaki prefecture)	HARA Tadaaki(M)	Shin Kwang Soo Kim Kil Uk
13	ca. July 1983 (Europe)	ARIMOTO Keiko(F)	UOMOTO (a.k.a. ABE, former family name)Kimihiro



### E. Aum Shinrikyo

Aum Shinrikyo, which committed the Sarin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway System in 1995, has been divided into two groups following an internal clash in 2007. One is the “Main Group” which apparently believes in and promotes the doctrine of the cult founder MATSUMOTO. The other is the “JOYU Group” which pretends that MATSUMOTO has no influence.

The death sentences of 13 members including MATSUMOTO were carried out in 2018. However, Aum Shinrikyo remains as a group of dangerous nature. To prevent the recurrence of Aum Shinrikyo’s indiscriminate mass murder, the police are continuously working with the relevant agencies to reveal its actual state and are strengthening crackdown on its coordinated illegal activities.



Also, the police patrol the Aum Shinrikyo’s facilities in order to protect the peaceful life of the community residents.

Furthermore, the police raise public awareness of Aum’s dangerous nature by explaining a series of heinous crimes perpetrated by Aum Shinrikyo, such as the Sarin Gas Attack on the Tokyo Subway, and promote more accurate understanding of its current situation.

### F. Extreme Leftist Groups



Extreme leftist groups attempt to destroy and overthrow our democratic system by violence.

They have caused a variety of "terrorism" incidents, and maintain the potential to threaten our public safety. In addition, they have intervened in labor movements and mass movements to maintain or increase their influence.

The police make efforts to ensure public security through cracking down on these groups. In 2020, the police arrested 10<sup>7</sup> activists.

### G. Rightists



In 2020, rightist groups aggressively staged demonstrations on matters such as national territory and historical perception gaps with neighboring countries.

The police took action, including cracking down on illegal fund-raising activities, to prevent serious cases. In 2020, the police arrested 85<sup>8</sup> rightists in 62 cases relating to rightist activities.

In addition, right-wing citizens’ groups have held gatherings and demonstrations throughout the country, and raised various types of trouble with opposing groups.

<sup>7</sup> This number includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention

<sup>8</sup> See note above

## H. The Japanese Communist Party

The Japanese Communist Party (JCP), the largest revolutionary organization in Japan, continues to adhere to its aim of realizing a communist revolution based on scientific socialism, Marxism-Leninism.

The JCP engaged in subversive activities in the early 1950s. The JCP describes the current situation as a preparatory stage for revolution, and has recently put more emphasis on increasing its membership and organ subscribers, and gaining public support.

Latest membership totals approximately 270,000, including 25 members of the National Diet.

The JCP still upholds a policy that it does not deny the possibility of resorting to violence in the course of revolution, depending on the type of actions taken by the police and the other authorities concerned.

## I. Radical Environment Protection Groups

Some radical overseas environment protection groups and animal rights protection groups aggressively take part in protests.

The Japanese police have interest in their activities and influence upon Japan.

## J. Threats in Cyberspace

There have been many cases of cyber-attacks targeting Japanese governmental agencies. In addition, it has become clear that private companies with advanced technology have suffered cyber-attacks which were probably intended to steal information. The threats of cyber terrorism and cyber espionage have become extremely serious.

To prevent cyber-attacks and mitigate damages, the police are promoting various measures in cooperation with the private sector, such as critical infrastructure operators and private companies with advanced technology, and will continue to work with the relevant agencies to investigate cyber-attacks and crack down on any illegal cyber offenses.

As cyber-attacks can easily be carried out across borders, the police have been coping with cyber-threats by concluding treaties which cover mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and cooperating with INTERPOL participants to investigate such cases.

## 2. Various Activities

### A. Imperial Protection



**Imperial protection** is operated for the security of the Imperial Family. To fulfill the duties of imperial protection, the NPA coordinates the operations with the prefectural police forces within Japan, and with the relevant organizations abroad.

In 2020, the operation for imperial protection was carried out once overseas.



## B. Dignitary Protection



**Dignitary Protection** is the police activity aiming at maintaining the security of domestic VIPs (e.g., the Prime Minister and other ministers) and foreign VIPs who visit Japan.

## C. Disaster Relief Operations



Japan is subject to the risk of natural disasters. The NPA promotes various measures to respond to all types of natural disasters and accidents. In the event of a disaster, the NPA instructs and coordinates relevant police headquarters on victim rescue, search for missing persons, traffic control, and other relief measures.

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the police have established special units around the nation that will be dispatched to affected areas in the event of a major disaster.

In 2019 and 2020, damages from natural disasters such as Typhoon Hagibis(2019) and the Heavy Rain Event in July 2020 accounted for many fatalities, missing persons and injuries. In the wake of these disasters, some units such as the Inter-Prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit (IERU), units specializing in disaster relief operations, and other units were swiftly deployed for rescue of survivors and search for the missing.

## D. The Riot Police Unit Operations

### (1) Activities of the Riot Police Unit



The Riot Police Unit is the core of security forces for crisis management. They carry out activities such as maintenance of public order against illegal mass activities, protection of critical public facilities and crowd control at large events or festivals.

### (2) Functions of the Riot Police Unit and Other Units

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and each prefectural police force have their own Riot Police Unit for quick response to emergency situations. The Riot Police Unit includes various specialized squads such as the anti-firearms squad, counter-NBC terrorism squad, explosive ordnance disposal squad, nuclear special guard unit, rescue squad and water rescue squad. Eight prefectural police headquarters have their respective Special Assault Teams (SAT) specially trained to deal with hijackings and hostage crises.

### 3. Crisis Management System after the Great East Japan Earthquake

#### A. Disaster Countermeasures



The NPA, along with the MPD and prefectural police, has been re-examining and reinforcing its disaster countermeasures by developing business continuity plans, conducting practical disaster security drills, and concluding agreements on human resources and equipment with relevant organizations and the private sector.

#### B. Tightened Security of Nuclear Power Stations



In an effort to prevent terrorist incidents, nuclear special guard units have been deployed at nuclear power stations across Japan, on alert around the clock. As the vulnerabilities of nuclear power stations were revealed after the accident of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, counterterrorism measures have been strengthened in order to prevent terrorists from exploiting the vulnerabilities.

## CYBER SECURITY

### 1. Promotion of International Cooperation

#### A. International Cooperation in Criminal Investigation

The NPA effectively combats cross-border cybercrime utilizing frameworks for international cooperation in criminal investigation such as the Convention on Cybercrime, mutual legal assistance treaties and agreements, INTERPOL and the G7 24/7 High Tech Crime Network point of contact.

#### B. Cooperation with Foreign Investigative Agencies

The NPA is actively involved in sharing information and establishing etc. multilateral coordination for the prevention and investigation of cybercrime. For instance, in 2020, it participated in international conferences, including The Plenary Meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee and the Cybercrime Conference organized by INTERPOL and Europol. Alongside these activities, police officers attended workshops organized by INTERPOL and other organizations.

#### C. Promotion of International Cooperation

The NPA, in cooperation with MOFA and JICA, has been supporting foreign investigative agencies by providing capacity building training to enhance the level of capabilities against cyberspace threats for such agencies, with the aim of strengthening cooperation with them. Since FY2014, Japan has invited personnel from foreign investigative agencies engaged in countering cybercrime to provide them with training so that they may, for example, gain knowledge and skills in countering threats in cyberspace.

### JICA capacity building training regarding Countermeasures against Cybercrime in 2019



## 2. Police Efforts

To address cyberthreats, the police clarify cyberattacks utilizing wide range of information. Moreover, the police have been advancing cooperation with local governments to enhance cybersecurity in the community through, for example, the promotion of information sharing and the holding of lectures.

In 2020, the police conducted the following measures.

- Warnings for critical infrastructure operators

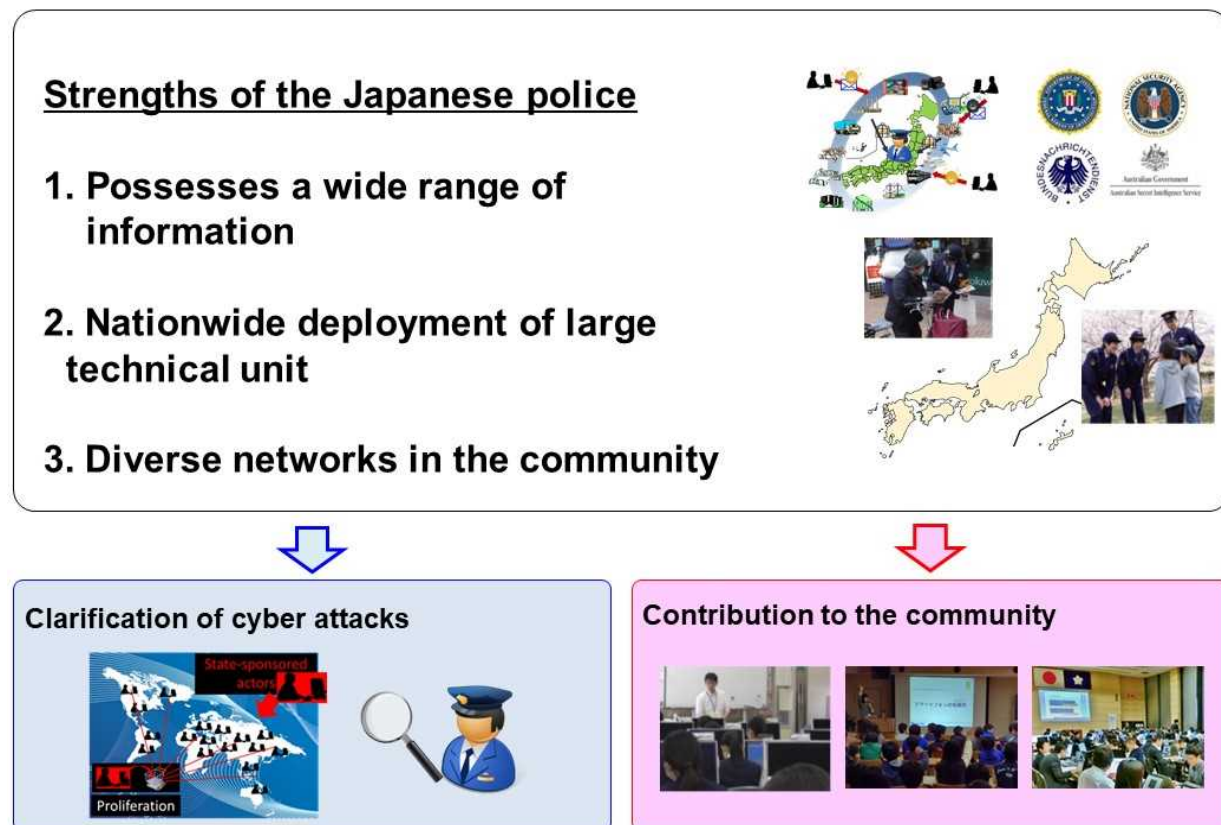
The police have been issuing alerts about cyberattacks on critical infrastructure operators, etc., and in 2020, issued warnings to pharmaceutical companies about cyberattacks related to COVID-19 vaccine development, and to critical infrastructure operators about vulnerabilities in online conference systems and IT infrastructure management software.

- Warnings about the illicit transfer methods on the smartphone payment services

Regarding smartphone payment services, in cooperation with the Financial Services Agency and other stakeholders the police issued warnings about crime methods of the illegal obtaining and external integration of user data of accounts opened at affiliated banks, and illegal transfers (charging of balances).

- Partnership enhancement among diverse stakeholders through the establishment of an industry-government-academia Cybersecurity Council

The Miyagi prefectural police department has been advancing cooperation with Miyagi prefectural government through the establishment of the Miyagi Cybersecurity Council composed of total 118 stakeholders including critical infrastructure operators, business operators and organizations, cybersecurity companies and educational institutions to enhance cybersecurity in the community through the promotion of information sharing and the holding of lectures.

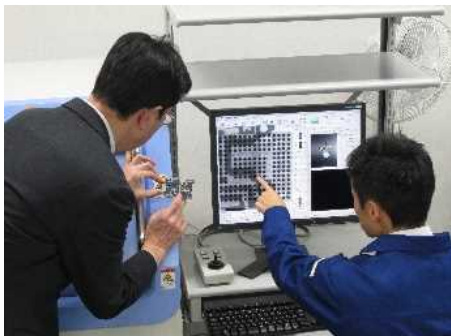


# POLICE SCIENCE & INFO-COMMUNICATIONS

## 1. Police Info-Communications

### A. Analysis of Computer Systems and Electro-magnetic Records

#### (1) Digital Forensics



**Analysis of electronic devices  
at Digital Forensic Center**

The High-Tech Crime Technology Division with its Digital Forensic Center was established in the NPA in April 1999, to provide the digital forensic services for criminal investigations. The Digital Forensic Center specializes in conducting advanced digital forensic examinations such as advanced malware analysis or data recovery from damaged hard drives.

Additionally, in April 2004, a High-Tech Crime Technology Section was established in each Prefectural Info-Communications Department. The Section provides each Prefectural Police Headquarters (PPHs) with technical support including assistance for search and seizure, and analysis of electronic devices.

#### (2) Technical Support to Defend Society from Cyber Attacks



**24/7 Monitoring of Malicious  
Network Activities**

As one of the countermeasures against cyber terrorism, the Cyber Forces which are composed of mobile technical squads were organized within the NPA and Regional Police Bureaus (RPBs) in April 2001, and in the Prefectural Info-Communications Departments in May 2013. Together with PPHs, they build relationships with critical infrastructure industries by sharing the information security trends or by responding to incidents in emergencies. Additionally, in order to prevent damage due to cyber espionage activities and to investigate incidents, the Cyber Force Center (CFC) of the NPA, the head of the Cyber Forces, collects and analyzes malware attached to spear-phishing emails and provides analysis to companies with advanced technologies.

In November 2005, the CFC joined the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), whose aims include promotion of information sharing among its members and the community at large, to enhance collaboration with other Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT).

### B. Infrastructure of Info-Communications

#### (1) Infrastructure

Infrastructure of the police info-communications consists of multi-channel microwave radio lines maintained by the police, and dedicated lines leased from carriers.

The police have developed various info-communication systems on the basis of its infrastructure, including the telephone system, mailing system, and multimedia databases among others.

## (2) Police Radio Systems

The police have pioneered digital mobile radio communications systems.

The main types are:

- a. "The Mobile communications system" mainly equipped inside police vehicles
- b. "The Police-station-level communications system" operated within the jurisdiction of each police station
- c. "The Portable communications system" mainly for the Riot Police Unit
- d. "Advanced Infrastructures of Police Info-communications system" composed of smart phones and tablet-type data terminals that use private cellular phone lines

## (3) Police Wide Area Network System (P-WAN)

P-WAN is a nationwide independent network system, which enables secured information sharing and promotes efficiency of various police activities.

### C. Operational Support

#### (1) Communications Command Systems



Communication Command Center

Each PPH runs its own Communications Command Center. In response to "Dial 110" calls from citizens, the center swiftly issues dispatch orders to patrol cars and police officers on duty using radio, police telephones and mobile data terminals.

The system consists of the "Dial 110" response, radio dispatch and telephone dispatch desks. With advanced technologies, functions of the dispatch systems have greatly improved. The latest dispatch systems adopt the Car Locator and the Automated Mapping Systems which enable crime scenes to be pinpointed on operation displays. In addition, a phone location display system is now in operation.

#### (2) Investigation Support System

##### (a) Criminal Information Management System



Information Processing Center

The Criminal Information Management System stocks a variety of information such as on stolen vehicles and missing persons. Police officers on the street can immediately obtain necessary information through this system.

##### (b) Automatic Number Plate Recognition System

The police occasionally carry out car inspections in search of crime-related/stolen vehicles. In order to avoid time-consuming inspections leading to traffic jams, the police have developed the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System which reads the numbers on license plates and checks them against the database of stolen/wanted vehicles.

### **(c) Criminal Investigation Support-Crime Analysis Tool & System (CIS-CATS)**

CIS-CATS enables police investigators to analyze factors such as locations of crime scenes, the time period of crime occurrences, and characteristics of suspects in a comprehensive way by using a wide range of information such as crime statistics, modus operandi and photographs of suspects.

### **(3) Driver's License Data Management System**

The Driver's License Data Management System stocks data on drivers' licenses, issued by each Prefectural Public Safety Commission (PPSC).

This system enables management and provision of all traffic violations data in order to facilitate administrative dispositions including suspension and revocation of drivers' licenses.

### **(4) Mobile Police Communications Squads**

In cases of natural disasters, serious accidents, and crimes, the Mobile Police Communications Squads assigned to the RPBs and Prefectural Info-Communications Departments arrange, if necessary, temporary radio communications networks and provide real-time video images from the sites for the respective PPHs. This facilitates command and control of the PPHs and enables them to better grasp the situations.

### **(5) International Operations**

#### **(a) Info-Communications System of INTERPOL**

The NPA plays a part in the INTERPOL network as the National Central Bureau of Japan. INTERPOL encourages member countries to promote the effective use of its 'I-24/7' network, which provides the means to share information on criminals and criminal activities. The NPA has been connected to the 'I-24/7' network since 2003.

#### **(b) International Mobile Police Communications Squad**



**International Mobile Police  
Communications Squad**

The NPA organizes the International Mobile Police Communications Squad to secure police communications at overseas disaster sites. In 2017, it was dispatched to an earthquake-stricken area in Mexico, as part of the Japan Disaster Relief Team.

#### **(c) Introducing Advanced Technologies**

The NPA established the Advanced Technology Planning Office in April 2019 to make police activities smarter by introducing advanced technologies such as AI. The Office is conducting practical experiments to assess the efficiency of test implementations of the technologies.

## 2. Criminal Identification

### A. Crime Scene Identification



Lifting latent footprint

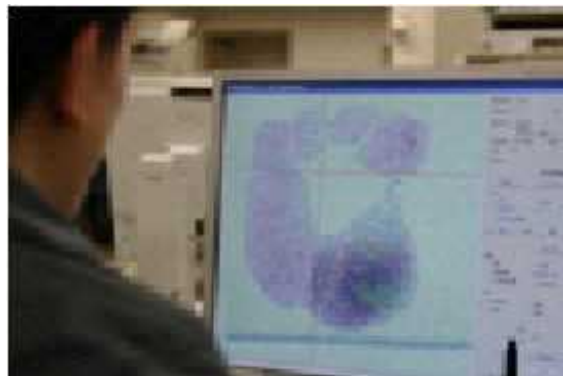
Forensic specialists, advanced equipment and crime scene vehicles for identification activities are allocated to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and every prefectural police force. This enables the police to conduct thorough crime scene examinations and to respond immediately to any type of case or accident.

### B. Fingerprint/Palmprint Identification



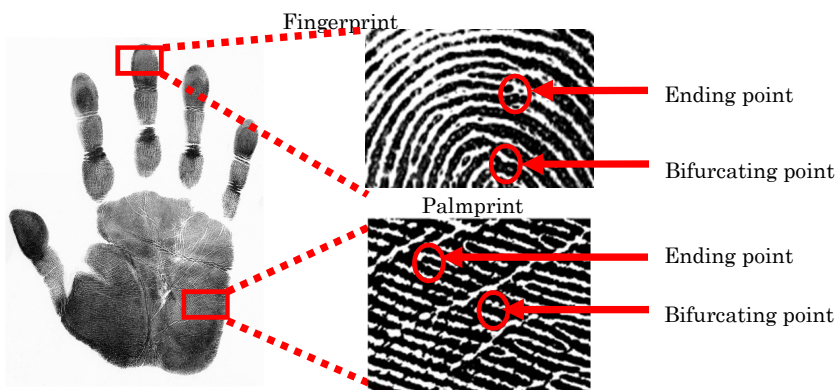
Lifting latent fingerprint

Each individual has his/her own unique pattern of fingerprints and palmprints which remain unchanged throughout life. Fingerprint and palmprint identification play a vital role in criminal investigations.



Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)

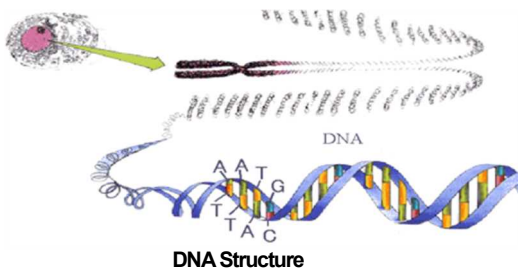
The NPA introduced the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in 1982 to improve the efficiency of fingerprint matching. The current AFIS, which also supports palmprint identification, accumulates minutiae (ending points and bifurcations) data of fingerprint/palmprint ridges. Inquiries are automatically compared against the registered database in order to select similar fingerprints/palmprints.



Also, the AFIS connects all the police forces within Japan online, allowing real-time processing of fingerprint/palmprint registrations and inquiries. The NPA has been working to improve the system to promote accurate and prompt criminal investigations.



### C. Forensic Identification



The National Research Institute of Police Science (NRIPS) and the Criminal Investigation Laboratories (CILs) of the MPD and the prefectural police conduct close analyses and examinations of evidence. DNA profiling is conducted at all CILs in order to identify individuals at a high degree of accuracy by examining minute specimens left at the crime scenes.

NRIPS also established the Training Institute of Forensic Science to provide training for CIL specialists to improve and standardize the quality of examination techniques.



Collecting DNA samples



DNA profiling

## 3. National Research Institute of Police Science

NRIPS is a comprehensive research institution to promote the development of science in support of police activities.

The institute has three major missions: research and development; examination and analysis; and technical guidance. Many research and development projects in various fields are conducted, considering the needs of the prefectural police.

Following are recent major research projects:

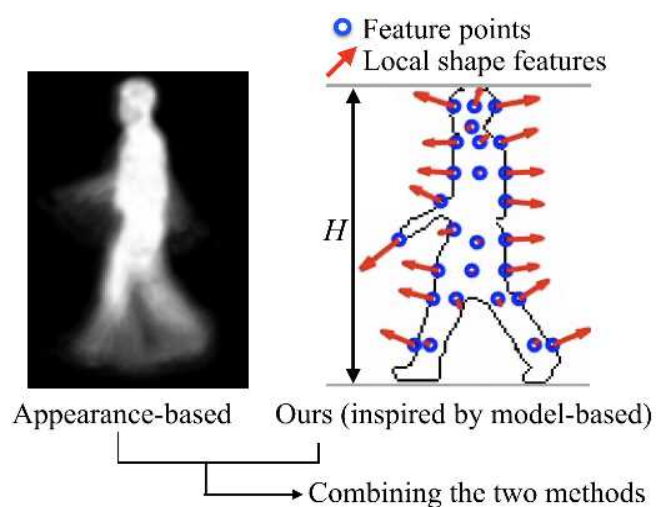
### A. Development of mRNA-based body fluid identification



Quantitative PCR instrument

Body fluid identification of biological forensic samples provides important probative evidence for criminal investigations. However, some conventional procedures should be improved because of their insufficient specificity and detectability. For example, the results of  $\alpha$ -amylase activity-based presumptive tests for saliva should be interpreted carefully because the  $\alpha$ -amylase activities are also found in other body fluids. NRIPS therefore has investigated the applicability of mRNAs which are characteristically and highly expressed in the targeted body fluids, and successfully developed a more specific quantitative RT-PCR procedure for discriminating saliva from other body fluids.

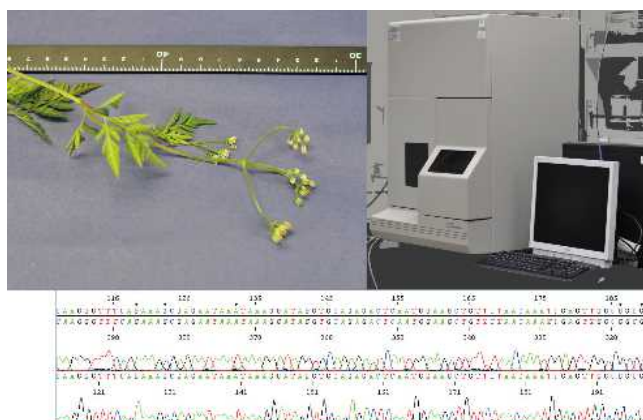
## B. Human Identification from Gait Footage: Utilizing Two Different Methods



Currently, human identification from gait footage is used for forensic purposes using the Gait Verification Software developed by Osaka University. This appearance-based method is very useful when the footage is under certain conditions to yield adequate features of the figural data. However, the identification rate drops when the conditions are not sufficient. Major difficulties of the approach are the low-frame rate and clothing variations.

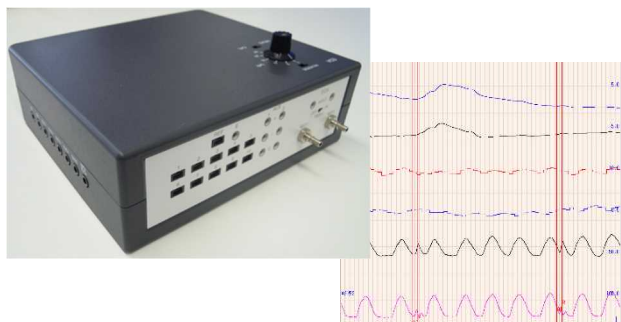
Focusing also on the individuality of dynamics in addition to the figures, NRIPS has developed a novel gait analysis method inspired by the model-based method, which is found to yield more reliable identification results in some cases of low-frame rate or clothing variations. NRIPS plans to combine these two methods to overcome the current difficulties and obtain more reliable analysis methods.

## C. Application of DNA analysis to trace botanical evidence



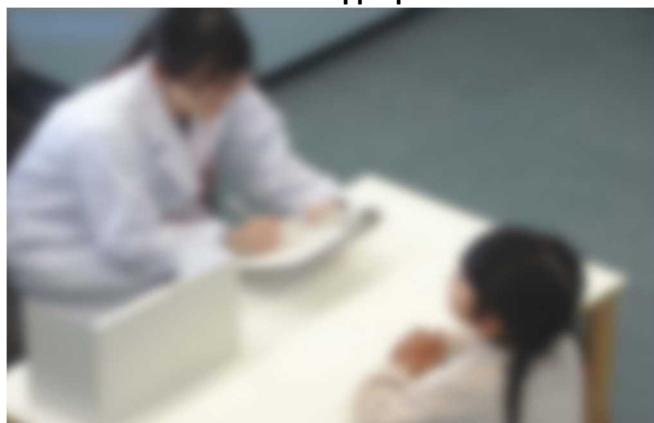
Small plant fragments are often found as trace evidence, but their characteristic morphologies could be lost or inadequate for forensic discrimination by observation or description. Recent technical advances, however, have enabled DNA analyses of botanical fragments. For example, it has been discovered that sequences of particular loci of chloroplast DNA are identical among the same plant species, and such DNA sequences are easily obtainable from a public database. DNA analysis has already been adopted for forensic analyses of practical samples in the NRIPS laboratory. Furthermore, NRIPS is developing methods to analyze wider types of forensic samples such as aged samples, cooked materials and mixtures of plant fragments.

#### D. Analysis of physiological activities during polygraph examinations



Polygraph examinations are widely used to detect crime-relevant information. It involves presentation of questions related to a crime embedded in similar, but unrelated information while recording several autonomic physiological activities. Whereas a person who knows nothing of the crime non-systematically responds to all questions, a person who does know of it differently responds to crime related questions. In addition, research by the NRIPS found that physiological reactivities in persons who know of a detail of a crime which they are being questioned about tends to be high up until the end of questioning related to the crime but drops thereafter. This finding is utilized for analyses of physiological activities.

#### E. Examination of Interviews Appropriate for Child Victims



It is important to conduct developmentally sensitive interviews for child victims in a legal context based on the stage of their cognitive and social development, in order to address their vulnerability during police interviews. We have conducted a series of experiments with typical child participants as well as examining the result of actual interviews with child victims to investigate which interviewing techniques are appropriate for eliciting accurate information from children. Further, we have examined the relationships between children's suggestibility and their cognitive and social characteristics (such as executive functions and self-assertiveness). We apply these findings to train police officers who interview child victims.

#### F. Analysis of Event Data Recorders



An Event Data Recorder (EDR) is a system to record information about motor vehicles and their occupants for a brief period of time before, during and after crash incidents.

Characteristics and accuracy of the EDR were evaluated against various crash test data. Therefore, the EDR of real accidents can be analyzed using the accumulated study results. Moreover, the EDR analysis method of vehicles with Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) is being developed, which could contribute to accident analysis of self-driving vehicles.

# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## 1. Technical Assistance

### A. Promoting International Cooperation

The Japanese police system along with its self-developed methods and techniques are of great interest to nations around the world. We frequently receive requests for technical cooperation, primarily from developing countries.

The main purpose of the Japanese police's international cooperation is to support improvement of its partner countries' capacities to fight against crime and terrorism.

Japanese police will continue to actively promote further international cooperation.

### B. Training Programs on Police Activities

Japanese police promote technical cooperation by providing various training opportunities for police officers from developing countries. The training programs including Organization Management for Senior Police Officers and Community Policing are implemented in coordination with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), or independently by the Japanese police.

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Group & Region Focus)

Program	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No. of participants	No. of countries	No. of participants	No. of countries	No. of participants	No. of countries	No. of participants	No. of countries	No. of participants	No. of countries
Organization Management for Senior Police Officers	11	11	13	13	11	11	14	14		
Community Policing	9	8	14	14	14	14	15	15		
Control of Drug Offenses	19	12	22	17	25	25	22	20		
Counter International Terrorism	24	18	22	20	20	18	21	19		
Traffic Police Administration	11	11			10	10				
Countermeasures against Cybercrime	15	14	13	10	17	15	23	20	13	13
International Crime Investigation	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	9	10	8
Criminal Identification					10	8	10	8		

### C. Dispatch of Experts



In 2020, a total of 2 long-term experts and 1 short-term expert from the Japanese police were sent to Indonesia to support improvement of the Indonesian police's capacities to fight against crime by sharing techniques and know-how, and by introducing the Koban system.

The Japanese police experts were also sent to Timor-Leste in 2011 and from 2013 to 2016 to provide advice and guidance on community policing.

From 2011 to 2014, judo instructors from the Japanese police were sent to Turkey to train the Afghan police officers in a program hosted by the Turkish police. In 2015, short-term experts from the Japanese police were sent to Turkey to support training for young Afghanistan female police officers.



### Assistance in reform of the Indonesian National Police

The Indonesian police were separated from the country's military in 2000. In response to a request from the Indonesian government for assistance to promote democratization of the Indonesian National Police (INP), the Japanese police have worked in collaboration with JICA to provide technical assistance, such as dispatch of Japanese experts to Indonesia and acceptance of Indonesian trainees to Japan.

Consequent to the assistance activities of the Japanese police, the INP has developed the capacity to conduct community policing training independently in some regions. Furthermore, the Japanese police have assisted the INP in establishing a nationwide self-sustaining system to implement community policing.



### D. Contributions of the Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR)

The Japanese police send out its officials to foreign countries in times of large-scale disasters as members of the JDR team. Since 1987, Japanese police officials have joined the JDR team on 16 occasions for rescue operations, and three times as members of the search support experts team or forensic experts team. Most recently in February 2018, the Japanese police sent out 2 officials to an earthquake-struck area of Taiwan.

International Disaster Relief Activities by the Japanese Police			
Month & Year	Country/Region	Disaster	Dispatched
June 1990	Iran	Earthquake	6 persons
July 1990	Philippines	Earthquake	11 persons
December 1993	Malaysia	Building collapse	11persons
October 1996	Egypt	Building collapse	9 persons
January 1999	Colombia	Earthquake	15 persons
September 1999	Taiwan	Earthquake	45 persons
May 2003	Algeria	Earthquake	19 persons
February 2004	Morocco	Earthquake	7 persons
December 2004	Thailand	Tsunami	20 persons
October 2005	Pakistan	Earthquake	15 persons
May 2008	China	Earthquake	20 persons
October 2009	Indonesia	Earthquake	21 persons
February 2011	New Zealand	Earthquake	43 persons
April 2015	Nepal	Earthquake	23 persons
September 2017	Mexico	Earthquake	23 persons
February 2018	Taiwan	Earthquake	2 persons

## 2. International Cooperation in Fighting Transnational Crimes

### A. Cooperation with INTERPOL

The NPA works closely with overseas law enforcement agencies to prevent and investigate transnational crimes and to arrest fugitives abroad, functioning as Japan's National Central Bureau (NCB) for International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)-INTERPOL.

The NPA joined the International Criminal Police Commission (predecessor of INTERPOL) in 1952. Since then, the Japanese police have been closely working together with other INTERPOL member countries in the field of international criminal investigation.

Many NPA officers have been actively involved in the management of INTERPOL by serving as elected delegates to the Executive Committee and core members of various working groups. The NPA is also contributing to the activities of INTERPOL by seconding its officers to the General Secretariat.

### B. Treaties on International Investigative Cooperation

In order to facilitate efficient and effective international investigation cooperation, Japan is promoting the conclusion of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties and Agreements (MLAT/MLAA) with its international partners. To date, Japan has concluded MLATs/MLAA with the U.S. (2006), the Republic of Korea (2007), the People's Republic of China (2008), Hong Kong (2009), EU (2011), and Russia (2011).

In February 2014, the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime was signed and entered into force in 2019. This agreement allows for the exchange of fingerprint and biographic data of suspected criminals between the two countries to bolster counterterrorism and law enforcement efforts while further facilitating secure international travel under their respective visa waiver programs.

In December 2019, a Working Arrangement between the NPA and Europol on establishing cooperative relations was signed. This arrangement enables the NPA to second a liaison officer to Europol which not only facilitates cooperation between the NPA and Europol but also deepens bilateral relationships with the member states of the European Union.

### C. AMMTC+3, AMMTC+JAPAN

In 2004, the First ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3) was held in Thailand.

At the meeting, the ministers responsible for public safety from the ASEAN Member States, Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea shared their views on the importance of international cooperation in combating terrorism as well as transnational crime, such as illicit drug, human trafficking and money laundering.

Since then, the meeting has been convened every two years hosted by the ASEAN Member States. In 2013, the 40th anniversary of the Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation, the First ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC + Japan) and the 6th AMMTC+3 were held in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In November 2019, Thailand hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+3 and the 5<sup>th</sup> AMMTC + Japan. The agenda of the meetings included measures against terrorism and cybercrime. Other topics such as the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea were also discussed.

### D. G7 Interior Ministers' Meeting

Following the G7 Taormina Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism (May 2017), the G7 Interior Ministers' Meeting was held in Italy in October 2017. At the meeting, the ministers responsible for public security from the G7 countries shared their views on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) and ICTs (information and communications technologies) exploited by terrorists.

In April 2018, the G7 Security Ministers' Meeting was held in Canada and in April 2019, the G7 Interior Ministers' Meeting was held in France where smuggling of migrants, the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, FTF and environmental crime were discussed.

**E. G7 Roma-Lyon Group**

After the September 11 attacks in 2001, the G8 Counter-Terrorism Experts Group (Roma Group) and the G8 Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime (Lyon Group) were merged. This group has been held as the G7 Roma-Lyon Group since 2015. The G7 Roma-Lyon Group consists of the Heads of Delegations and 6 sub-groups (Law Enforcement Projects, Counter-Terrorism Practitioners, High Tech Crime, Criminal Legal Affairs, Migration Experts, and Transportation Security). The NPA plays an important role particularly in the first three sub-groups.

The G7 Roma-Lyon Group meeting is held biannually and sub-groups work on various projects. In 2019, a number of NPA officers participated in the meetings hosted by France.

## Appendix 1

## Number of Juveniles Cleared for Penal Code Offenses (2020)

(persons)

Social Status (Occupational Status)	Total	Students					Employed	Unemployed
		Subtotal	Junior high school	Senior high school	University	Others		
Classification								
Total	19,914	13,224	3,430	7,960	1,170	664	4,252	2,438
	100.0%	66.4%	17.2%	40.0%	5.9%	3.3%	21.4%	12.2%
Felonies	457	230	65	133	18	14	130	97
	100.0%	50.3%	14.2%	29.1%	3.9%	3.1%	28.4%	21.2%
Violent offenses	3,484	1,877	632	1,073	90	82	1,176	431
	100.0%	53.9%	18.1%	30.8%	2.6%	2.4%	33.8%	12.4%
Larcenies	10,813	7,533	2,005	4,681	522	325	2,012	1,268
	100.0%	69.7%	18.5%	43.3%	4.8%	3.0%	18.6%	11.7%
Intellectual offenses	901	384	41	252	46	45	219	298
	100.0%	42.6%	4.6%	28.0%	5.1%	5.0%	24.3%	33.1%
Moral offenses	502	433	119	235	62	17	44	25
	100.0%	86.3%	23.7%	46.8%	12.4%	3.4%	8.8%	5.0%
Others	3,757	2,767	568	1,586	432	181	671	319
	100.0%	73.6%	15.1%	42.2%	11.5%	4.8%	17.9%	8.5%
Embezzlement of Lost property	2,061	1,628	224	924	360	120	288	145
	100.0%	79.0%	10.9%	44.8%	17.5%	5.8%	14.0%	7.0%



## Appendix 2

## Number of Penal Code Offenses Known and Cleared [2016-2020]

(Cases)

Year Category of crimes	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Known	Cleared	Known	Cleared	Known	Cleared	Known	Cleared	Known	Cleared
Total number of penal offenses	996,120	337,066	915,042	327,081	817,338	309,409	748,559	294,206	614,231	279,185
Total number of felonies	5,130	4,435	4,840	4,193	4,900	4,337	4,706	4,240	4,444	4,268
Murder	895	901	920	930	915	886	950	945	929	913
Robbery	2,332	1,878	1,852	1,521	1,787	1,559	1,511	1,326	1,397	1,358
Arson	914	686	959	715	891	702	840	658	786	700
Forcible sexual intercourse	989	970	1,109	1,027	1,307	1,190	1,405	1,311	1,332	1,297
Total number of violent offenses	62,043	49,855	60,099	49,135	59,139	49,349	56,753	47,989	51,829	45,764
Unlawful assembly with weapons	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	4
Assault	31,813	25,428	31,013	25,372	31,362	26,212	30,276	25,556	27,637	24,315
Injury	24,365	19,599	23,286	19,051	22,523	18,747	21,188	17,987	18,963	16,890
Intimidation	3,700	3,145	3,851	3,227	3,498	3,014	3,657	3,155	3,778	3,299
Extortion	2,162	1,680	1,946	1,482	1,753	1,373	1,629	1,288	1,446	1,256
Total number of larcenies	723,148	208,646	655,498	204,296	582,141	190,544	532,565	180,897	417,291	170,687
Burglary theft	76,477	43,780	73,122	41,481	62,745	39,237	57,808	37,083	44,093	31,836
Vehicle theft	272,174	22,990	235,778	21,565	207,799	18,577	187,101	17,271	135,025	14,054
Non-burglary theft	374,497	141,876	346,598	141,250	311,597	132,730	287,656	126,543	238,173	124,797
Total number of intellectual offenses	45,778	22,276	47,009	20,965	42,594	19,691	36,031	19,096	34,065	18,153
Fraud	40,990	18,582	42,571	17,410	38,513	16,486	32,207	15,902	30,468	15,270
Embezzlement	1,513	1,149	1,413	1,142	1,449	1,177	1,397	1,056	1,388	1,220
Counterfeiting	3,176	2,467	2,903	2,296	2,526	1,927	2,323	2,049	2,090	1,558
The law prohibiting mediation remuneration	49	46	58	62	46	41	49	44	57	47
Official corruption	49	46	58	62	46	41	49	44	57	47
Breach of trust	50	32	64	55	60	60	55	45	62	58
Total number of moral offenses	10,385	7,311	9,699	7,048	9,112	7,091	8,710	6,904	7,723	6,549
Gambling	365	361	198	171	124	165	267	255	118	112
Sexual offenses	10,020	6,950	9,501	6,877	8,988	6,926	8,443	6,649	7,605	6,437
Forcible indecency	6,188	4,207	5,809	4,320	5,340	4,288	4,900	3,999	4,154	3,766
Public indecency	2,824	1,825	2,721	1,723	2,647	1,747	2,569	1,770	2,463	1,784
Total number of other penal code offenses	149,636	44,543	137,897	41,444	119,452	38,397	109,794	35,080	98,879	33,764
Embezzlement of lost property	22,979	19,894	20,408	17,533	18,522	15,517	15,857	13,009	14,154	11,558
Obstructing performance of public duty	2,472	2,408	2,416	2,339	2,375	2,305	2,303	2,261	2,118	2,072
Breaking into a residence	15,982	7,446	14,911	6,925	13,048	6,489	12,853	6,332	11,021	6,357
Unlawful capture or confinement	295	279	294	274	255	230	268	259	265	257
Abduction	228	201	239	234	304	283	293	268	337	335
Property damage	100,440	9,543	92,707	9,696	78,371	9,138	71,695	8,582	64,089	8,576

Notes 1) Motorcycles and bicycles are counted in vehicle thefts.

2) Death or injury caused by negligent traffic accidents are excluded.

## Appendix 3

## Numbers of Traffic Violations

Type of violation	2019		2020	
	Violations	Component ratio	Violations	Component ratio
Drivers (excluding light vehicle drivers)				
Unlicensed driving	18,607	0.3	19,225	0.3
Drunken driving	495	0.0	495	0.0
Driving under the influence of alcohol	24,939	0.4	21,963	0.4
Speeding	1,137,255 (173,622)	19.9	1,162,420 (158,867)	20.2
Disregarding traffic signal	641,865	11.2	635,485	11.0
Passing road prohibited	673,095	11.8	750,950	13.1
Road or lane infringement	195,969	3.4	206,195	3.6
Improper overtaking	4,733	0.1	4,045	0.1
Cutting in	7,826	0.1	7,518	0.1
Failure to stop at railway crossing	77,364	1.4	95,684	1.7
Using a cellular phone while driving	716,820	12.6	309,058	5.4
Improper turning right or left	50,608	0.9	52,623	0.9
Impeding pedestrians	229,395	4.0	290,532	5.1
Failure to slow down	470	0.0	409	0.0
Failure to stop	1,328,154	23.3	1,604,972	27.9
Improper parking or stopping	206,778	3.6	191,127	3.3
Driving without lights	3,629	0.1	4,205	0.1
Overloading of passengers	4,208	0.1	3,449	0.1
Improper loading	12,152	0.2	13,391	0.2
Operating defective vehicle	21,528	0.4	24,344	0.4
Driving without carrying license	54,695	1.0	53,739	0.9
Others	300,903 (51,162)	5.3	299,969 (42,324)	5.2
Sub-total	5,711,488	100.0 (99.4)	5,751,798	100.0 (99.4)
Others				
Light vehicle occupants	22,859	91.3	25,467	91.9
Pedestrian	0	0.0	1	0.0
Acting improperly on road	41	0.2	30	0.1
Making drivers drive a defective vehicle	0	0.0	2	0.0
Neglecting vehicle users' duty	22	0.1	27	0.1
Cases of penalty applied both to the driver and abettor of violation	64	0.3	61	0.2
Aiding and abetting of violation	449	1.8	445	1.6
Others	1,598	6.4	1,690	6.1
Sub-total	25,033	100.0 (0.4)	27,723	100.0 (0.5)
Other violations of acts related to traffic	9,075	(0.2)	9,160	(0.2)
Total	5,745,596	(100)	5,788,681	(100)

Notes 1) Figures in brackets in the column of speeding violation represent exceeding speed limit by 30 km/hr.

2) Figures in brackets in the column of others violation represent violations of duty to conduct safe driving.

3) Figures in brackets in the column of component ratio represent the ratio to the total.









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