

Chapter 2: Ensuring Community Safety and Criminal Investigations

1: Crime and Countermeasures

During 2012, the number of confirmed criminal cases decreased to less than half the record post-war number of 2.85 million in 2002, indicating a steady improvement in the crime situation. However, there has been an increasing trend in the number of child abuse, stalking and spousal violence cases in recent years, and total losses from specialized fraud has risen to substantial amounts. In addition, with a spate of cybercrime incidents and successive cases of cyber-attacks, threats in cyberspace are escalating and posing new issues for public safety.

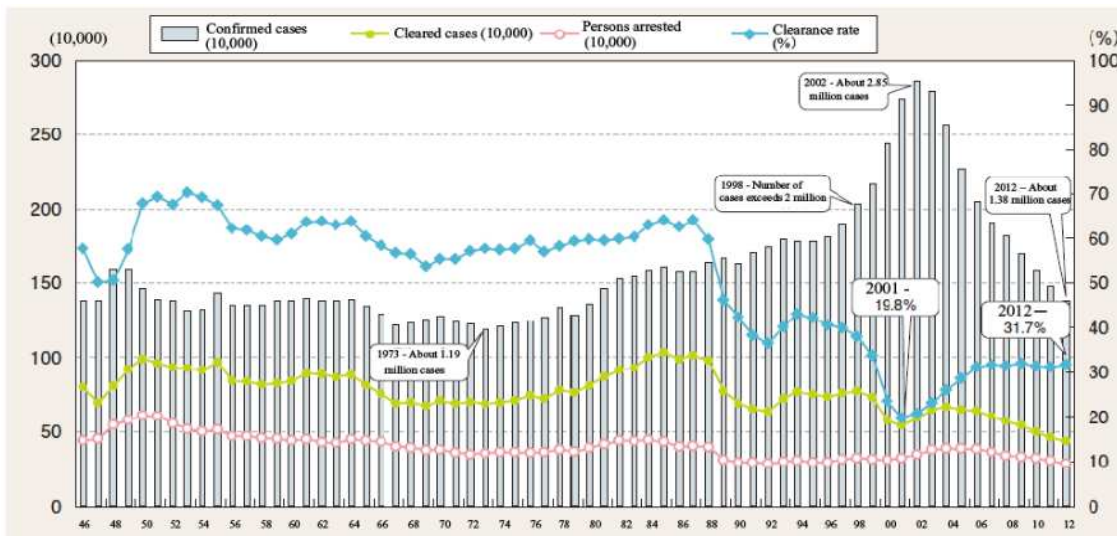
1 Confirmed and Cleared Criminal Cases

In 2012, the number of confirmed criminal cases was 1,382,121, a decrease of 98,639 cases (6.7%) from the previous year, the first time in 32years, since 1980, that the total has dropped below 1.4 million.

2 Specialized Fraud such as Remittance Fraud

The number of confirmed specialized fraud cases in 2012 was 8,693, and total amount in losses was about ¥36.44 billion, with both figures showing an increase over the previous year. Of the different types of fraud, there has been a significant increase in specialized fraud under the guise of securities transactions over the previous year, and this is a key factor in the substantial losses that have been recorded. Also, with regards to remittance fraud, the spate of the “Hey, it’s me” type remittance call fraud cases in which cash is handed over directly with high amounts in losses per case, has also pushed up total losses due to fraud.

Trends in confirmed and cleared criminal cases (1946 – 2012)

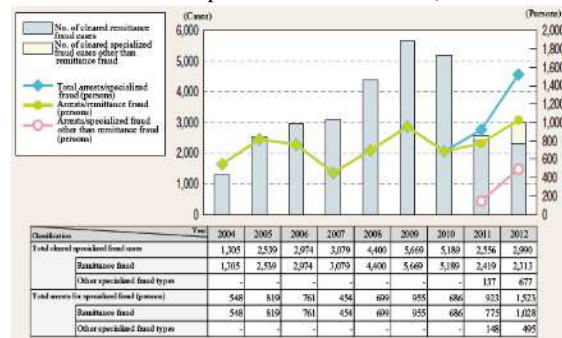


Trends in confirmed specialized fraud cases and total losses (2004 – 2012)



Note: Figures for specialized fraud other than remittance fraud are compiled from February 2010 onwards

Trends in cleared specialized fraud cases (2004 – 2012)



Note: Figures for specialized fraud other than remittance fraud are compiled from January 2011 onwards

Section 2: Developing Infrastructure for Criminal Arrests and Deterrence

1 Enhancing Investigation Capability

(1) Approach to Enhancing Investigation Methods and Interrogation

In order to achieve improvements that correspond to the times in terms of how techniques should be applied in order to properly and effectively obtain a statement that represents the truth through interrogation and how such techniques should be passed on, the police created the instructional book “Interrogation (Basic edition)” in December 2012, that incorporates knowledge of psychology, and established the “Research and Training Center for Interview and Introduction Technics” in May 2013, to promote the enhancement and appropriateness of interrogations. In addition, to break away from excessive dependence on interrogations and records of statements, and to respond accurately to crimes that are ever more advanced and complex due to developments in scientific techniques and other factors, and to enable accurate proof through objective evidence, police are striving for the enhancement of investigation methods through the expansion of the DNA profile database, expansion of wiretapping and the introduction of under-cover investigations.

(2) Developing Initial Investigation Structure, Reinforcing Criminal Identification Activities

When an incident occurs, it is important to conduct prompt and accurate initial investigations, arrest the perpetrator(s) and secure evidence at the scene of the crime and statements from witnesses, etc. Consequently, police have enhanced their activities by establishing mobile investigation units stationed at prefectural police headquarters and by organizing mobile identification units.

Column: Arresting suspects through security camera driven investigations In recent years, with the popularization of security cameras, images from security cameras are used in a variety of situations in criminal investigations,

such as to confirm the circumstances of a crime and the face(s) of the perpetrator(s), and the release of images to the public in the pursuit of criminals at large. More recently, the use of security camera images in the investigation of an attempted murder incident, which occurred in the Shibuya subway station of the Fukutoshin line, led to the arrest of a suspect.

2 Utilizing Scientific Techniques

In order to enhance investigative capabilities, Police are operating DNA profiling, fingerprint and palm print identification systems and other scientific techniques in their investigations.

3 Rapid Responses to Incidents/Accidents

Police officers stationed at facilities such as police boxes (Koban) and residential police boxes (Chuzai-sho) head to the site of an accident or other incident as soon as they learn of its occurrence and perform duties such as the arrest of perpetrators. To enable officers to rush to the scene quickly, police have developed systems that receive emergency 110 calls and issues commands to police stations and other facilities, and are striving to enhance mobilization capabilities making the most of patrol cars and other vehicles.



Communications and Command Center

4 Koban/Chuzai-sho Activities

Koban and Chuzai-sho maintain an understanding of the area under their jurisdiction through activities such as patrols and rounds, and undertake activities appropriate to their local situations in response to local residents' views and requests, etc. As of April 1, 2013, there were 6,248 Koban and 6,614 Chuzai-sho in Japan.