

(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 Center 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 2018, the police handled 72,523 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 December 2018, the NPA held "The 3rd 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. Overview

(1) Cybercrime cases

The number of cybercrime cases cleared in 2018 was 9,040, an increase of 26 (0.3 %) from the previous year.

(a) 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 2018 was 564, a decrease of 84 (13.0%) from the previous year.

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

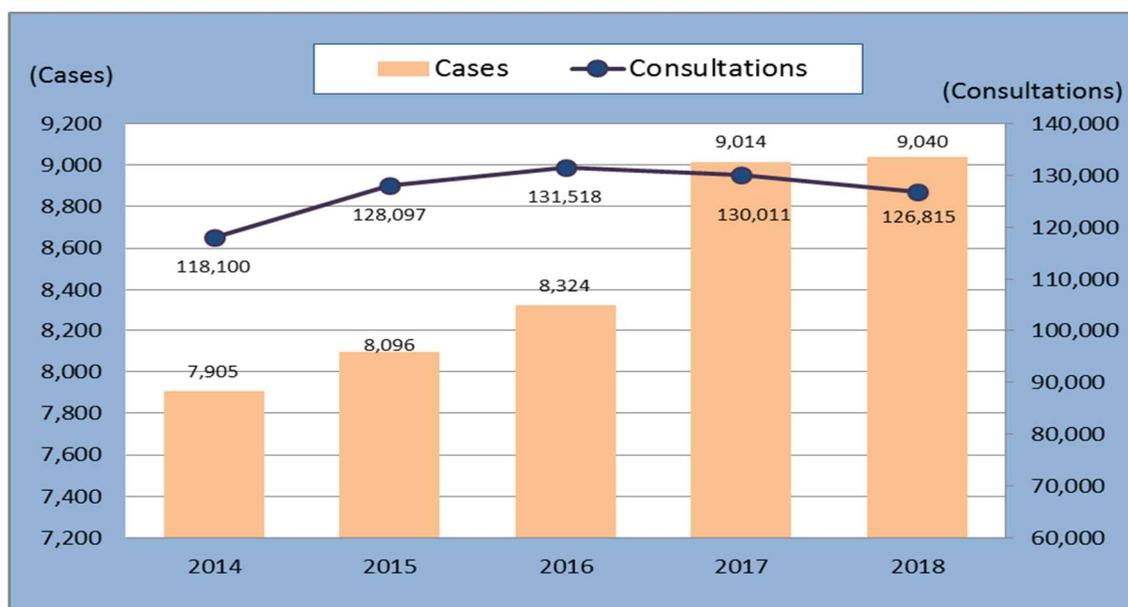
The number of crimes related to the electromagnetic records with malicious commands and crimes targeting computers or electromagnetic records cleared in 2018 was 349, a decrease of 6 (1.7%) from the previous year.

(c) Others

The number of crimes enabled by access to info-communications networks cleared in 2018 was 8,127, an increase of 116 (1.4%) from the previous year.

(2) Cybercrime-related Consultation

The number of cybercrime-related consultations in 2018 was 126,815, a decrease of 3,196 (2.5%) from the previous year.



Trends in Numbers of Cleared Cybercrimes and Consultations

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 2018 was 35,951, an increase of 8,935 (33.1 %) 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.