

# 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"

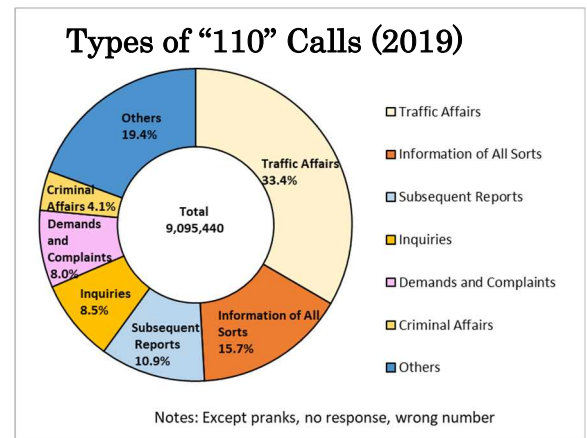
### (1) Communications Command Center (CCC)

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 2019, the police received approximately 9.1 million "Dial 110" calls nationwide, which means the CCCs receive a call per every 3.5 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 74% 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 2019 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.