

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				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Category No. 1 (cabarets, bars, etc.)	65,548	64,528	63,902	63,712	63,423
Category No. 2 *See Note 1	2	69	52	42	41
Category No. 3 *See Note 2	2	2	2	2	2
Category No. 4	21,048	20,268	19,436	18,411	17,633
Mah-jong houses	9,626	9,176	8,736	8,276	7,912
Pachinko parlors	11,310	10,986	10,596	10,060	9,639
Others	112	106	104	75	82
Category No. 5 (game centers, etc.)	4,856	4,542	4,381	4,193	4,022

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 2019, a total of 57 trafficking cases were cleared, which involved sexual exploitation, forced labor and other offenses. The police arrested 39¹ suspects such as brokers and protected 44 victims including 34 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 and foreign authorities to shut down websites advertising unauthorized medicines.

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