

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

1. Overview

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

In 2019, the number of penal code offenses known to the police was 748,559, a decrease of 68,779 (8.4%) from the previous year. After marking a postwar record high in 2002, it has continued to decrease since 2003. In 2019, the number is less than one-third of that in 2002.

Among the different types of offenses known to the police, the number of larcenies was 532,565, a decrease of 49,576 (8.5%) 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 36,031, a decrease of 6,563 (15.4%) from the previous year.

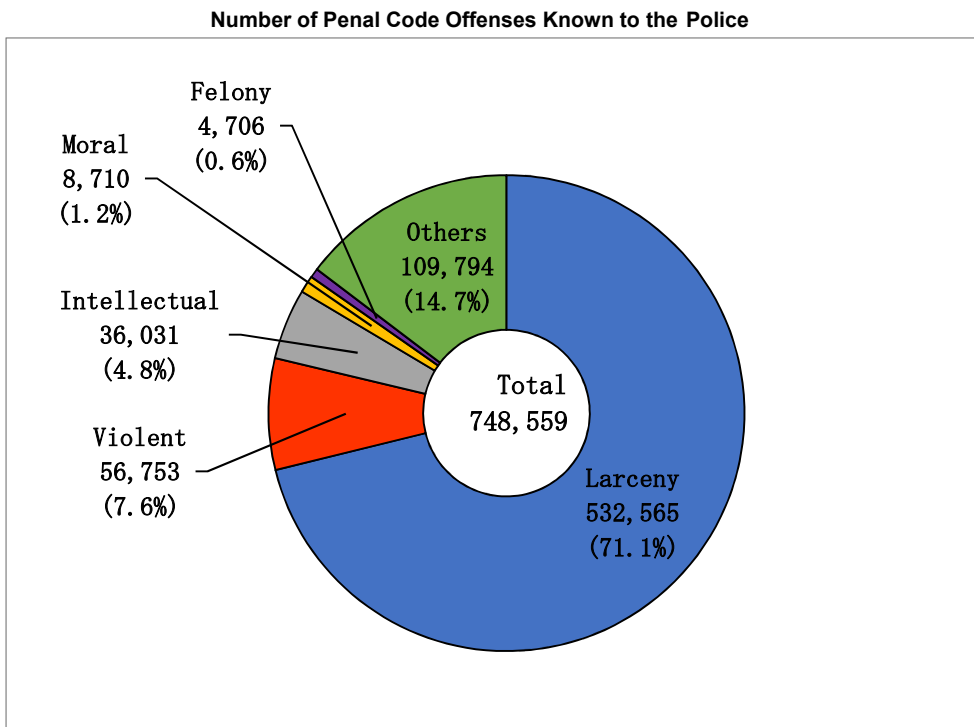
B. Number of Cleared Penal Code Offenses (See Appendix 2)

The number of cleared penal code offenses was 294,206, a decrease of 15,203 (4.9%) from the previous year, while the number of persons arrested was 192,607⁵, a decrease of 13,487 (6.5%) from the previous year.

The number of cleared larcenies was 180,897, a decrease of 9,647 (5.1%) from the previous year.

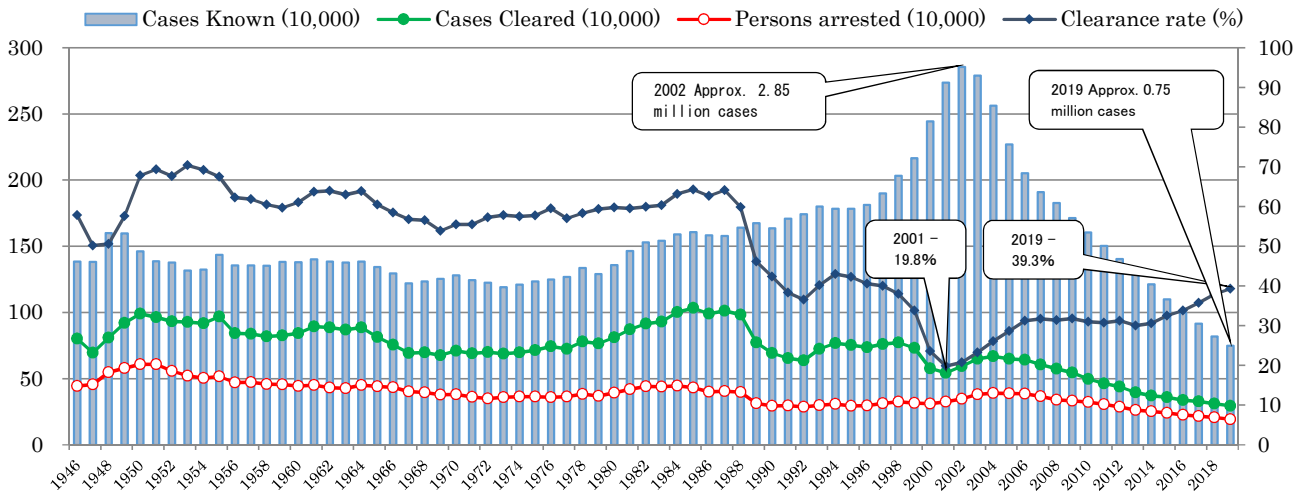
The number of cleared felonies was 4,240, a decrease of 97 (2.2%) from the previous year.

The number of cleared intellectual offenses was 19,096, a decrease of 595 (3.0%) from the previous year.



⁵ 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 – 2019)



Note: The number of persons arrested includes not only persons arrested but also those against whom necessary investigations have been completed without detention.

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 frauds⁶. 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 Cash Reward System – a public reward system – in 2007, to encourage citizens to provide information for solving serious crimes.

E. Combating International Crime

In recent years, many foreign nationals reside in Japan, and the number of foreign visitors to Japan has also been increasing.

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.

⁶ 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.