C. Loan Sharks
Loan sharks came to be recognized as a serious social issue around 2002. Since 2003, the police have enhanced its enforcement measures and have established intensive crackdown headquarters in the prefectural police. Preventive measures are taken in accordance with the Program to Remedy Multiple Debt Problems. In addition, the police are requesting financial institutions to freeze bank accounts used by loan sharks and Internet service providers to shut down the websites advertising illegal money lending.

D. Intellectual Property Rights Crimes
The violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) continues to be an issue. Examples of IPRs violation include distribution of illegally copied business software and music data on the Internet using file exchange software, and transactions of counterfeit products on the websites. These counterfeit products are mostly smuggled from China and other Asian countries.

The police investigate these cases and promote public awareness of IPRs protection in cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations.

In addition, the police are cracking down on the theft of trade secrets.

7. Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Sound Development of Youth

![Number of Juvenile Penal Code Offenders (1949-2017)](image)

- Number of Juvenile Penal Code Offenders
- Ratio to Population

- Number of Juvenile Penal Code Offenders (10,000 persons)
- Ratio to Population (1:1,000 persons)
A. Current Situation of Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile Penal Code Offenders

The total number of juvenile Penal Code offenders (aged 14 to 19) in 2017 was 26,797, a decrease of 4,719 (15.0%) from the previous year. The ratio of juvenile Penal Code offenders per 1,000 persons in the same age group was 3.8, a decrease of 0.7 points from the previous year.

Among all Penal Code offenders (both adults and juveniles) in 2017, 12.5% were juveniles. 40.6% of the total number of street crimes such as snatchings and street muggings were committed by juveniles.

B. Current Situation of Juvenile Victimization

(1) Penal Code Offenses Victimizing Juveniles

In 2017, the police confirmed 116,563 Penal Code offenses that victimized juveniles, a decrease by 11.1% from the previous year. By category, felonious offenses (murder, robbery, arson, rape) stand at 673, an increase by 6.5%, violent offenses at 8,091, a decrease by 5.6%, and larceny at 98,803, a decrease by 12.1% from the preceding year.

(2) Offenses Harmful to Juvenile Welfare

Welfare offenses are crimes harmful to juvenile welfare such as crimes that exploit the child’s sexuality.

In 2017, a total of 5,974 juveniles were victimized by welfare offenses, a decrease of 2.1% from the previous year. High school students lead the number of victims, followed by junior high school students.

Welfare offenses utilizing the Internet have become a serious issue. The police are strengthening crackdown efforts on Internet-related welfare offenses preventing further harm to the child, and working to protect the juvenile victims of such offenses.

(3) Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is of grave concern to the international community in the protection of children’s rights and the development of youth.

In 2017, 841 persons were arrested for child prostitution in 956 cases. For child pornography, 1,703 were arrested in 2,413 cases recording the highest number of cases and suspects arrested. Among all cases of child pornography, 59.3% involve the Internet, such as the use of online dating services or P2P file sharing software.

The situation of child sexual exploitation continues to be serious. In view of this recognition, in April 2017, the "Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation" was formulated at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime.

As the primary activities of the police, the plan includes strict measures such as strengthening crackdowns on crimes related to child sexual exploitation, development of a comfortable environment for children and their parents/guardians for consultations, promotion of public relations and public awareness-raising activities for the prevention of victimization through child prostitution and child pornography, and measures against entities which operate social networking sites and online dating services. The police are promoting these countermeasures in cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations based on the plan.
(4) Child Abuse
Child abuse significantly infringes the rights of children and causes serious effects on their physical or psychological sound development and personality formation.

The police are making every effort to take appropriate measures to detect and protect victimized children at an early stage of child abuse, while strengthening cooperation with related organizations.

(5) Bullying
There were 155 incidents attributable to bullying in 2017, an increase of 6 (4.0%) from the previous year.

The police are striving to identify bullying cases early on through such actions as counseling activities for juveniles and school supporter visits to schools, and developing accurate measures while keeping close communication with schools.

(6) Protection of Juvenile Victims
Juvenile guidance officials provide continuous counseling services to juvenile victims of crimes such as bullying and child abuse, supporting them in their recovery from psychological effects.

C. Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Promotion of Sound Youth Development

(1) Various Preventive Measures against Juvenile Delinquency
The police, in cooperation with community juvenile police volunteers, are making every effort to detect juvenile delinquents at an early stage and provide guidance in a timely manner through on-the-spot protection and guidance activity in crime-prone areas like entertainment districts and arcades.

In addition, the police not only contact juveniles who are likely to offend again but support their recovery through counseling activities, home visits, participation in community service, etc. Furthermore, by raising awareness of the community about the factors in juvenile delinquency, the police endeavor to develop a trend toward supporting juveniles.

Furthermore, in order to enhance the systematic and expert support to juvenile delinquents and their families, and to strengthen assistance to minors harmed by crime, Juvenile Support Centers are established in each PPH as specialized organizations for juvenile protection and guidance staffed with juvenile guidance officials as key figures.

In addition, in order to protect juveniles against welfare offenses caused by the use of the Internet and promote sound youth development, the police have introduced a protection and guidance activity on the Internet since October 2013. When an inappropriate message such as an inducement of child prostitution is detected through cyber-patrol, the police contact the juvenile who posted the message and provide guidance.
(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.

The Internet environment for juveniles has deteriorated recently. Therefore, the police are making efforts to clean up the Internet through the implementation of cyber-patrol and promotion of filtering, and requesting the Internet industry to provide self-restriction and other measures to safeguard children.

(3) Counseling Activities for Juveniles
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 youths. In 2017, the police handled 69,932 juvenile consultation cases.

D. International Cooperation (Child Sexual Exploitation Countermeasures)
A collective action by the international community is necessary to counter sexual exploitation of children.

The NPA is exchanging information with foreign investigative authorities, making arrangements for international cooperation in criminal investigation, and strengthening collaborative relationships through participating in the INTERPOL International Child Sexual Exploitation Database.

In December 2017, NPA held "The 2nd Meeting of Specialist Group on Child Sexual Exploitation" involving domestic and international institutions and organizations, and there, NPA introduced the government’s efforts against child sexual exploitation, and shared information with related institutions and organizations in order to strengthen mutual cooperation.

8. Countermeasures against Cybercrime
A. Situation of Cybercrime
The number of cybercrime offenses cleared in 2017 was 9,014, an increase of 690 (8.3 %) from the previous year.

(1) Crimes Using Network
The number of crimes using network (crimes which in its process require access to the info-communications network) cleared in 2017 was 8,011, an increase of 563 (7.6 %) from the previous year.

(2) Violation of Act on the Prohibition of Unauthorized Computer Access
The number of violation of Act on the Prohibition of Unauthorized Computer Access cleared in 2017 was 648, an increase of 146 (29.1 %) from the previous year.