

Crime Situation in 2022

1. Overall Situation

(1) Approach to analysis of crime situation

In the analysis of the crime situation in 2022, the numbers of penal code offenses known to the police, as well as those which have changed from the previous year and those which may have an influence on public safety perceived by the people, are cited as the first indicator in order to identify major trends in the occurrence of offenses.

As the second and third indicators, online and telephone fraud and cybercrime are cited. While the rapid advancement of science and technology has made the people's lives more convenient, these types of offenses are being committed through the abuse of technology and their damage is increasing.

The fourth indicator is personal safety-threatening cases¹ in which damage is difficult to gauge and tends to be hidden due to changes in communication means and diversification of personal relationships against the backdrop of the development of information and communications technology. These incidents are likely to become serious cases as the situation develops rapidly.

In addition, in order to understand the people's perception concerning public safety that cannot be identified from these indicators, the results of the Questionnaire Survey on Public Safety² implemented by the NPA in October 2022 are cited.

(2) Analysis by type of offense

A. Penal code offenses

The total number of penal code offenses known to the police constantly decreased since 2003, but in 2022, it reached 601,331, exceeding the number in 2021, which was the smallest in the post-war period (up by 5.8% year-on-year). Future trends should be closely monitored.

By type of offense, the number of known cases of street crime, which accounts for a large share in the total number, marked 201,722, up by 14.4% year-on-year. Of these offenses, the increase in the number of cases of bicycle theft, injury, and

¹ Incidents of violence derived from entanglements of romantic feelings, including violence by stalkers or spouses, and incidents in which the personal safety of the victims must be secured promptly, such as child abuse incidents.

² A questionnaire survey implemented via the internet, targeting 5,000 males and females aged 15 or over nationwide, in a manner that the percentages of respondents by age, gender and prefecture would be equivalent to the results of the national census in 2020.

assault may be attributable to some extent to the increase in the flow of people due to the changes in the infectious status of COVID-19.

In addition, the number of known cases of serious offenses which may have an influence on public safety perceived by the people marked 9,535 in 2022, up by 8.1% year-on-year. By type of offense, while the number of cases of murder and robbery remains almost flat from the previous year, the number of cases of forcible sexual intercourse and forcible indecency increased for the second consecutive year.

The number of cases of forcible sexual intercourse. was the largest since the partial amendment to the Penal Code in 2017.

B. Online and telephone fraud

Online and telephone fraud is being committed systematically by crime groups behind the cases, such as *boryokudan* (organized crime groups) and crime groups that do not have a hierarchical structure like that of *boryokudan* but communicate mainly through anonymous communication tools, repeatedly committing crime together and then disbanding. These crime groups supply funds, assign people in charge of performing the criminal acts, and provide tools for committing the crime. They divide the criminal process into several phases and ensure that the crime is committed anonymously. In 2022, the number of known cases of online and telephone fraud increased for the second consecutive year and reached 17,570 (up by 21.2% year-on-year). The total amount of damage was about 37.1 billion yen (up by 31.5% year-on-year), marking a year-on-year increase for the first time in eight years. Thus, the situation of online and telephone fraud has been serious. By method of committing the crime, while refund fraud, which rapidly increased in the previous year, accounted for 26.6% of the total, the percentages of "it's me" fraud and false billing fraud increased. Many of the victims are elderly women, and most cases started with the victim receiving a phone call from the criminal.

Behind online and telephone fraud cases, there are malicious business entities that provide deposit accounts, mobile phones, call forwarding services, and other means to crime groups and people in charge of performing the criminal acts, or resell and purchase electronic money user account numbers.

C. Cybercrime

In recent years, with cyberspace becoming an important and highly public place of socioeconomic activities, various cybercrime incidents have been taking place in and outside the country, showing that the threat in cyberspace has been extremely serious. In particular, illegal computer programs called ransomware that cause serious damage and make the crime methods more malicious have become a global

problem. The number of cases of damage from ransomware that was reported to the NPA in 2022 was 230, up by 57.5% year-on-year. Most cases exploit the vulnerability of appliances used for teleworking, such as a VPN system and remote desktop system. Damage has been suffered among a wide range of companies or organizations victims, regardless of their sizes or types of businesses, some of which are forced to suspend their business temporarily.

Regarding online banking fraud, in 2022, the number of cases was 1,136 (up by 94.5% year-on-year) and the total amount of damage was about 1.5 billion yen (up by 85.2% year-on-year), both marking a year-on-year increase for the first time in three years. Most of the damage was caused by phishing. A large number of emails that direct the recipients to phishing sites masquerading as financial institutions (fictitious login sites) have been identified.

Furthermore, cyberattacks have been identified, such as the those committed by the cyberattack group that is thought to be the subordinate organization of the North Korean authorities targeting crypto-asset service providers, and those targeting academics and think tank researchers. The number of unexpected connection attempts that the NPA detected in 2022 as apparent scanning activities in cyberspace marked a record high, at 7707.9 attempts/day/IP address, most of which seem to be cyberattacks against IoT appliances or attempts to identify vulnerable IoT appliances.

D. Personal safety-threatening cases

Among personal safety-threatening cases, the number of consultations on stalking has been on a decline since 2018 but remains at a high level. On the other hand, the number of consultations on spousal violence has been on the rise, reaching 84,496 in 2022, the largest since the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (Act No. 31 of 2001) came into effect.

Regarding child abuse, the number of children whom the police reported to child guidance centers as victims or suspected victims of child abuse has been increasing year by year, reaching a record high at 115,762 in 2022. By type of abuse, the number of children suffering psychological abuse was 84,973, accounting for 73.4% of the total.

In light of these facts, the situation of personal safety-threatening cases should continue to be closely monitored.

E. Public safety perceived by the people

In order to understand the people's perception concerning public safety that cannot be identified from the indicators discussed above, the NPA implemented the Questionnaire Survey on Public Safety in October 2022. In response to the question

of "Do you think Japan is a safe place?", 68.6 % of all respondents answered, "I think so."

On the other hand, in response to the question regarding security in Japan over the last ten years, 67.1% of all respondents answered that they think that security in Japan has become worse, citing "indiscriminate killing or injuring," "'It's Me' fraud and other types of fraud," "child abuse" and "cybercrime" as the cause of the deterioration. Thus, the situation of the crimes discussed above may have a considerable degree of influence on public safety perceived by the people.

(3) Summary of the crime situation

The number of penal code offenses known to the police, which had continued to decrease after peaking in 2002, increased year-on-year for the first time in 20 years. By type of offense, street crimes and serious offenses have been increasing. Future trends in these offenses should be closely monitored.

The situation of online and telephone fraud has been serious, with the number of known cases and the amount of damage increasing over the previous year. The situation of cybercrime has also been extremely serious; damage from ransomware has been spreading extensively, and cyberattacks by groups supported by national authorities have been identified.

The situation of personal safety-threatening cases should be closely monitored, as the number of children reported to child guidance centers by the police as victims or suspected victims of child abuse marked a record high.

In addition, in July 2022, Former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo was shot dead while making a speech on the street, an incident which brought about anxiety to the public. Furthermore, robbery cases in which residents in ordinary houses were robbed of a large amount of money or jewels took place one after the other. Investigation on these cases is currently underway, but it is found that the offenders who were arrested had committed the offenses after being recruited through social media advertisements offering high rewards without revealing details of their jobs, which consisted of engaging in criminal acts.

Under such circumstances, the questionnaire survey mentioned above revealed that a considerable number of people feel that security in Japan has become worse in recent years.

According to the above, it is found that the crime situation in Japan is severe.

2. Future Actions

In order to ensure safety and security for the people, the police will accurately

understand the crime situation mentioned in 1. above and promote effective measures.

More specifically, with the aim of preventing offenses that take place near the people and give them cause for anxiety, such as street crime, the police will promote measures to use security cameras as infrastructure for preventing the occurrence of damage and properly responding to the offenses, and revitalize crime prevention volunteer activities for supporting safety and security in the local community, through cooperation with the local community and related organizations and associations. Regarding sexual offenses, the police will promote the development of an environment where victims can feel free to complain and seek consultation about their damage and the appropriate investigation that gives consideration to the feelings of the victims.

As for online and telephone fraud, the police will vigorously promote measures to prevent elderly people from receiving calls directly from criminals. These measures will include encouraging these people to set the Caller ID Display service, Anonymous Call Rejection service and an answering machine for their home phones and install telephone units that have functions such as automatically recording calls, giving warning messages, and rejecting spam calls. Furthermore, with a view to weakening and eliminating crime groups, the police will further strengthen the effort to uncover the truth of these groups through collection and analysis of related information beyond the sectional boundaries, and will further promote crackdowns on these groups to substantively damage their human and financial bases by arresting group leaders and blocking and forfeiting criminal money while leveraging all applicable laws and regulations. The police will also strengthen information gathering regarding malicious telecommunications carriers that provide call forwarding services and malicious business entities that supply tools for committing the crime, and promote crackdowns on crime groups while leveraging all applicable laws and regulations.

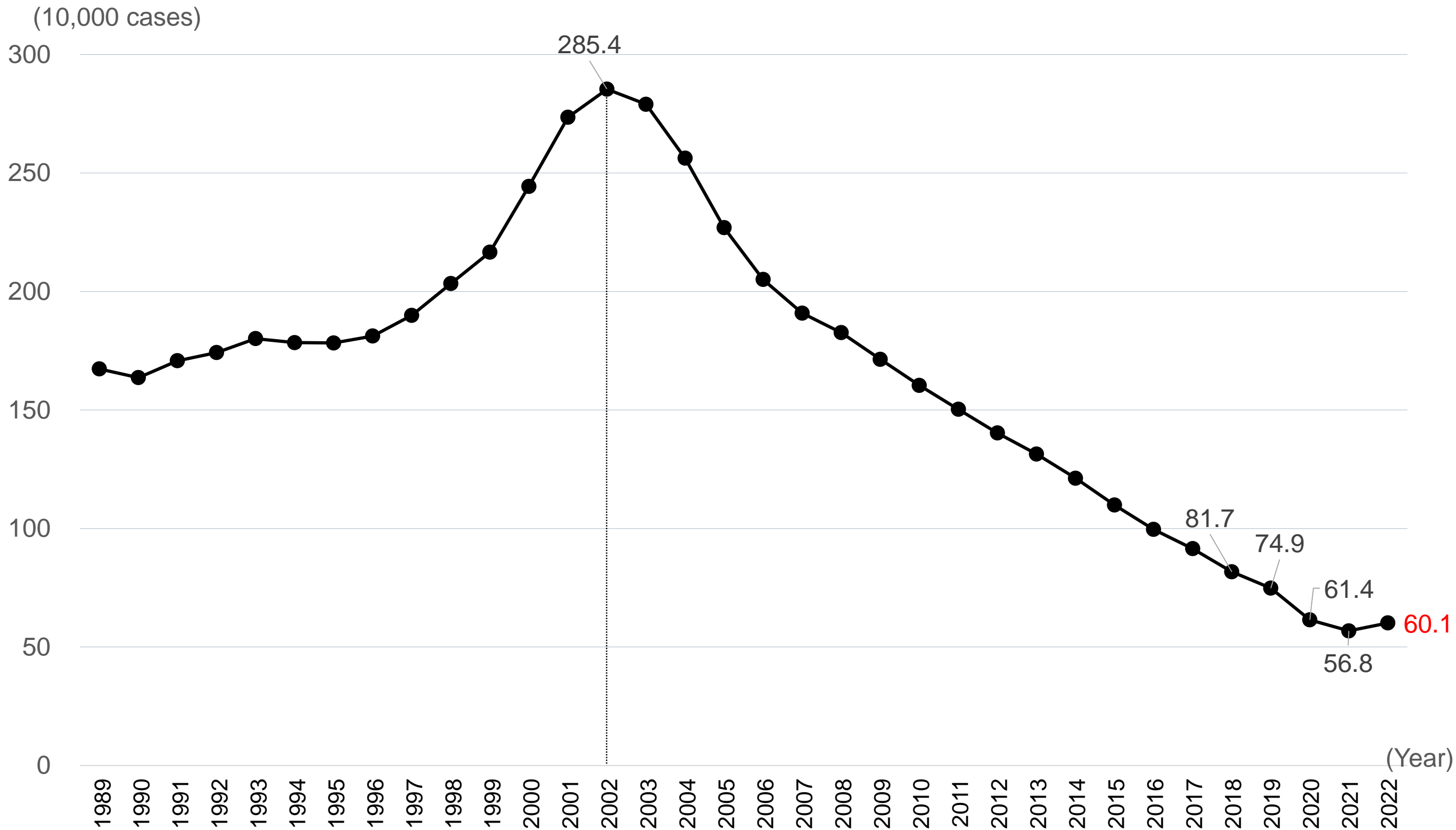
Regarding cybercrime, under the initiative of the Cyber Affairs Bureau of the NPA and the National Cyber Unit of the Kanto Regional Police Bureau, which were newly established in April 2022, the NPA will work together with prefectural police departments to investigate and clarify facts regarding threats in cyberspace, such as ransomware that is causing increasingly serious damage, and promote actions through cooperation with foreign investigative authorities. In addition, the police will vigorously promote measures to upgrade the investigative and analytical capabilities for coping with intensifying threats, and to prevent damage through cooperation with business entities.

Personal safety-threatening cases are characterized in that the damage tends to be hidden and the situation is likely to develop rapidly. In view of this, the police will promote measures to prevent harmful acts and protect victims by arresting the perpetrators while

leveraging related laws and regulations. In this process, the police will closely cooperate with related organizations and give priority to ensuring the safety of victims.

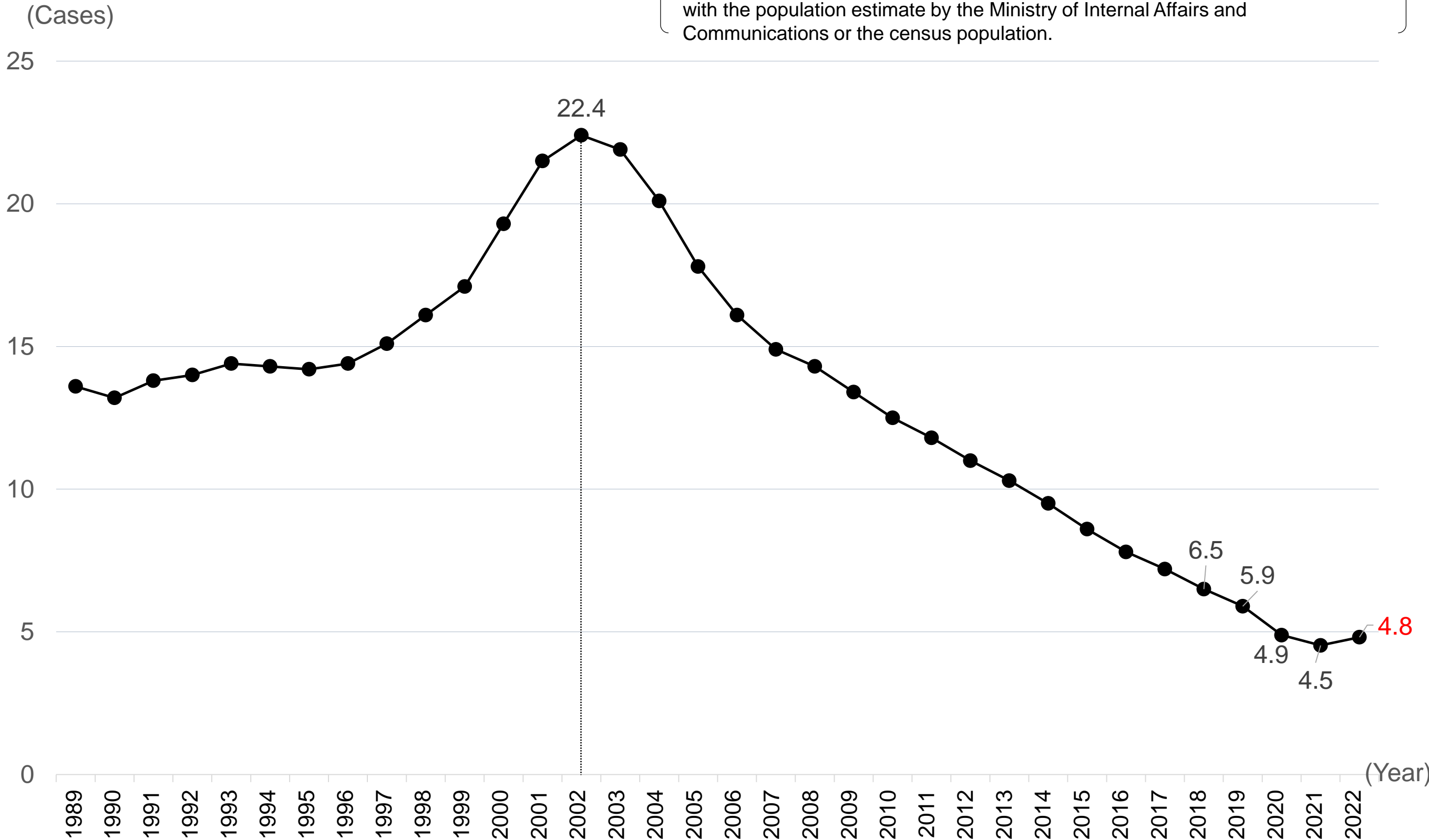
In order to ensure that the police will be able to prevent gaps in public safety measures and appropriately address the various challenges the police are facing, including response to the offenses mentioned above, amid the dramatically changing social situation in Japan, the police will aim at powerfully promoting the prioritization of resources beyond the sectional boundaries and efficient and well-balanced organizational management to optimize the police force as a whole, thereby meeting the expectations and trust of the people.

Changes in the number of penal code offenses known to the police



The number of penal code offenses known to the police in 2022 was **601,331**, exceeding the number in 2021 (568,104), which was the smallest in the post-war period. Future trends should be closely monitored.

* The population is the total population as of October 1 each year in accordance with the population estimate by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications or the census population.

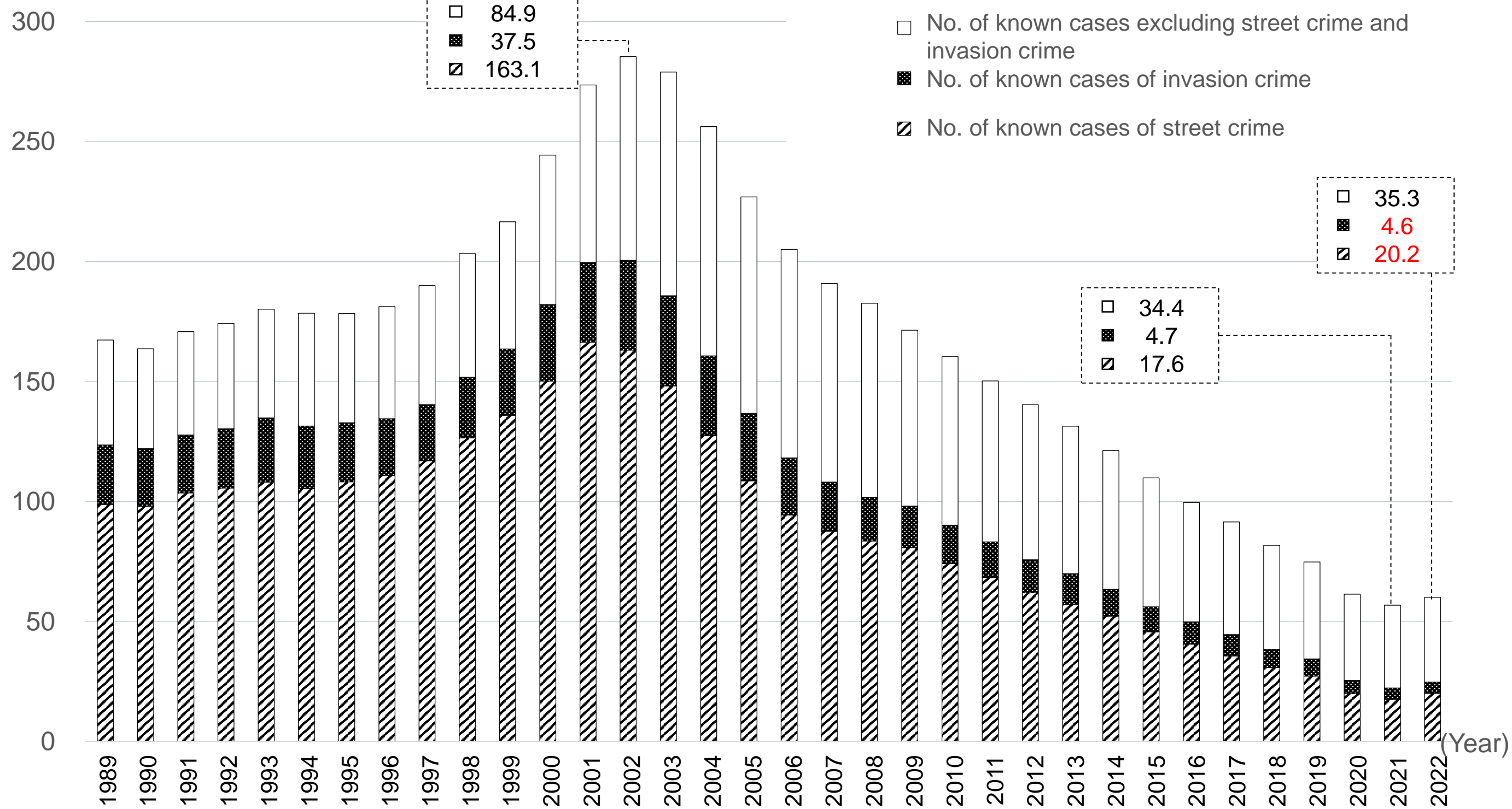


The number of penal code offenses known to the police per thousand population in 2022 was 4.8, exceeding the number in 2021 (4.5).

Changes in the number of known cases of street crime and invasion crime

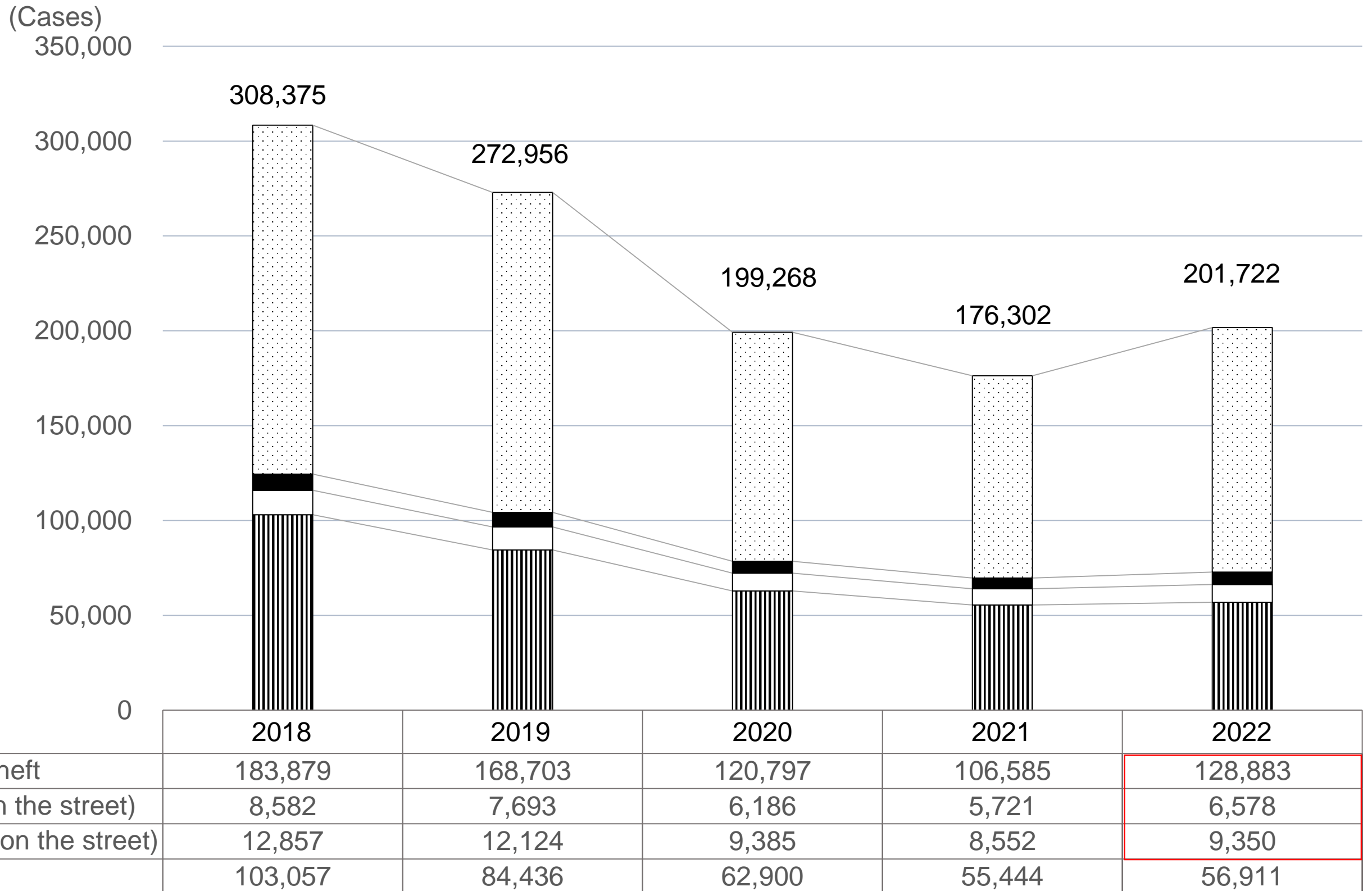
* Street crime: Street robbery, purse snatching, motor vehicle theft, motorcycle theft, bicycle theft, vehicle load theft, vehicle parts theft, vending machine theft; and forcible sexual intercourse, forcible indecency, kidnapping and human trafficking, assault, injury, and extortion, which are committed on the street; the same applies hereinafter.
 * Invasion crime: Burglary (robbery/theft) and breaking into a residence.

(10,000 cases)



In 2022, the number of known cases of street crime was **201,722**, up by 14.4% year-on-year.
 On the other hand, the number of known cases of invasion crime was **46,392**, down by 2.0% year-on-year.

Changes in the number of known cases of street crime, by type of offense

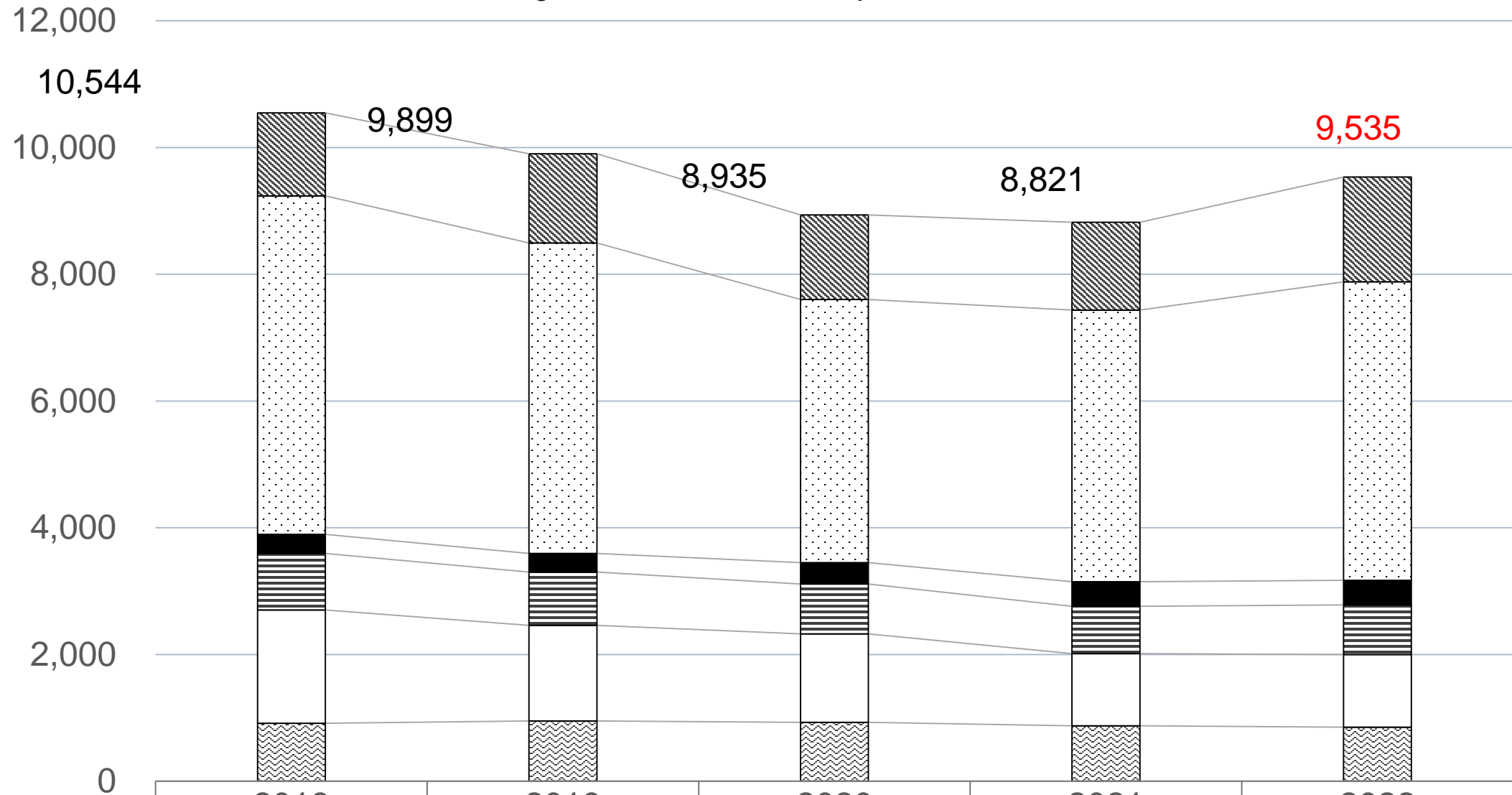


By type of offense, among known cases of street crime in 2022, a large increase was observed in the number of cases of bicycle theft, injury, and assault.

Changes in the number of known cases of serious offenses

* Serious offense: Murder, robbery, arson, forcible sexual intercourse, kidnapping and human trafficking, and forcible indecency.

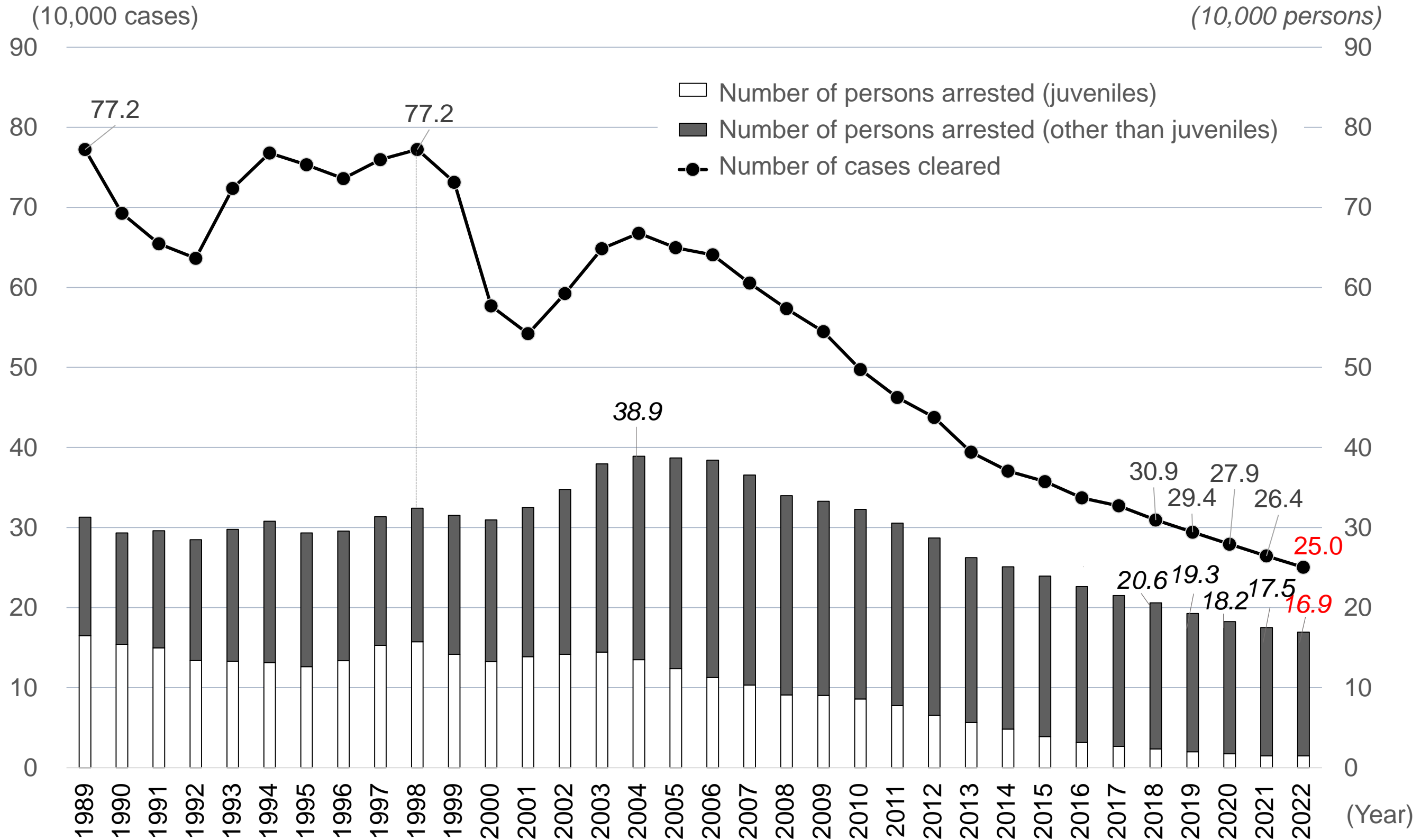
(Cases)



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Forcible sexual intercourse	1,307	1,405	1,332	1,388	1,655
Forcible indecency	5,340	4,900	4,154	4,283	4,708
Kidnapping and human trafficking	304	293	337	389	390
Arson	891	840	786	749	781
Robbery	1,787	1,511	1,397	1,138	1,148
Murder	915	950	929	874	853

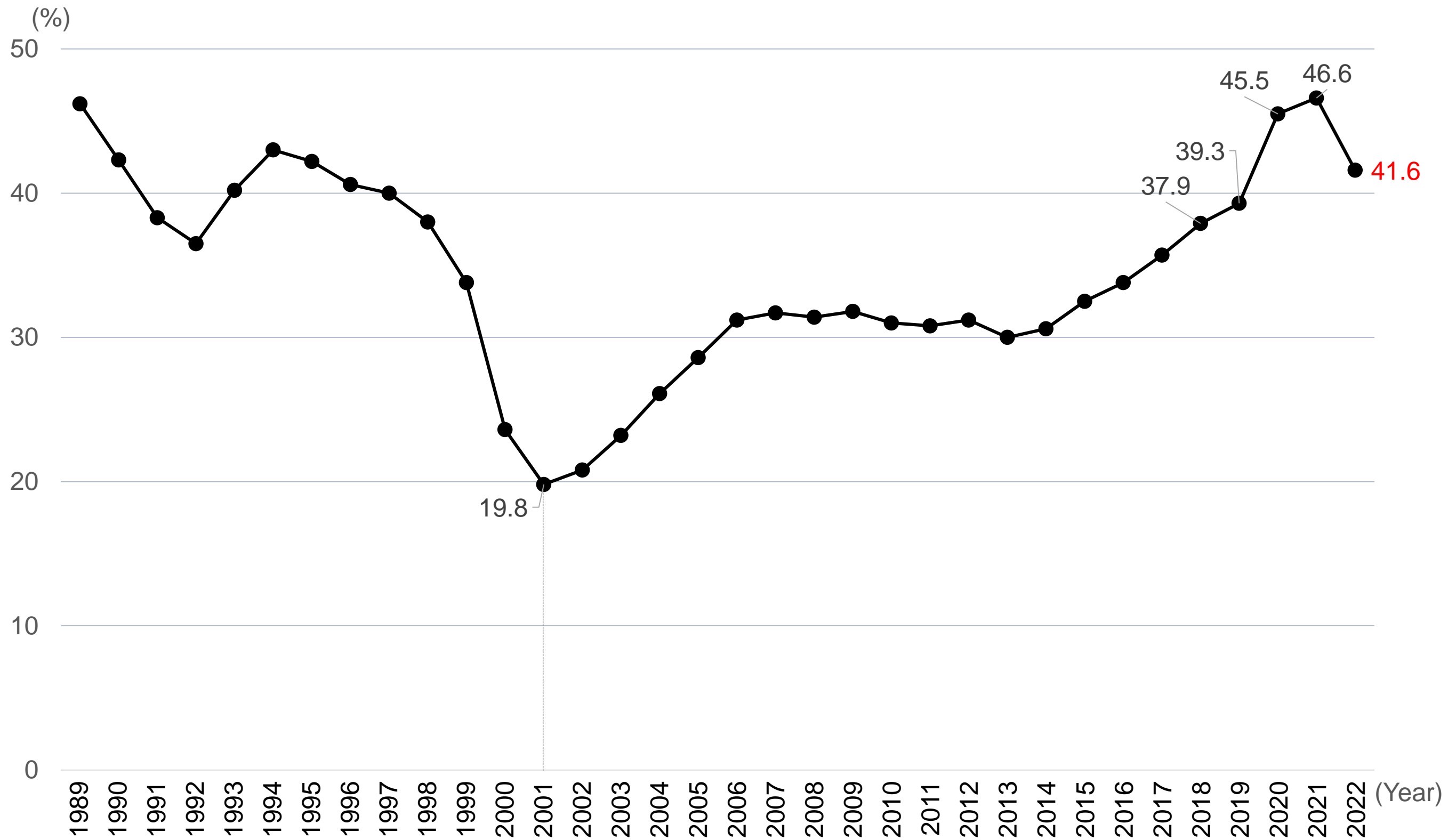
The number of known cases of serious offenses was **9,535** in 2022, up by 8.1% year-on-year. By type of offense, the number of known cases of forcible sexual intercourse and that of forcible indecency increased for the second consecutive year (up by **19.2%** and **9.9%** year-on-year, respectively).

The number of known cases of forcible sexual intercourse was the largest since the partial amendment to the penal code in 2017.

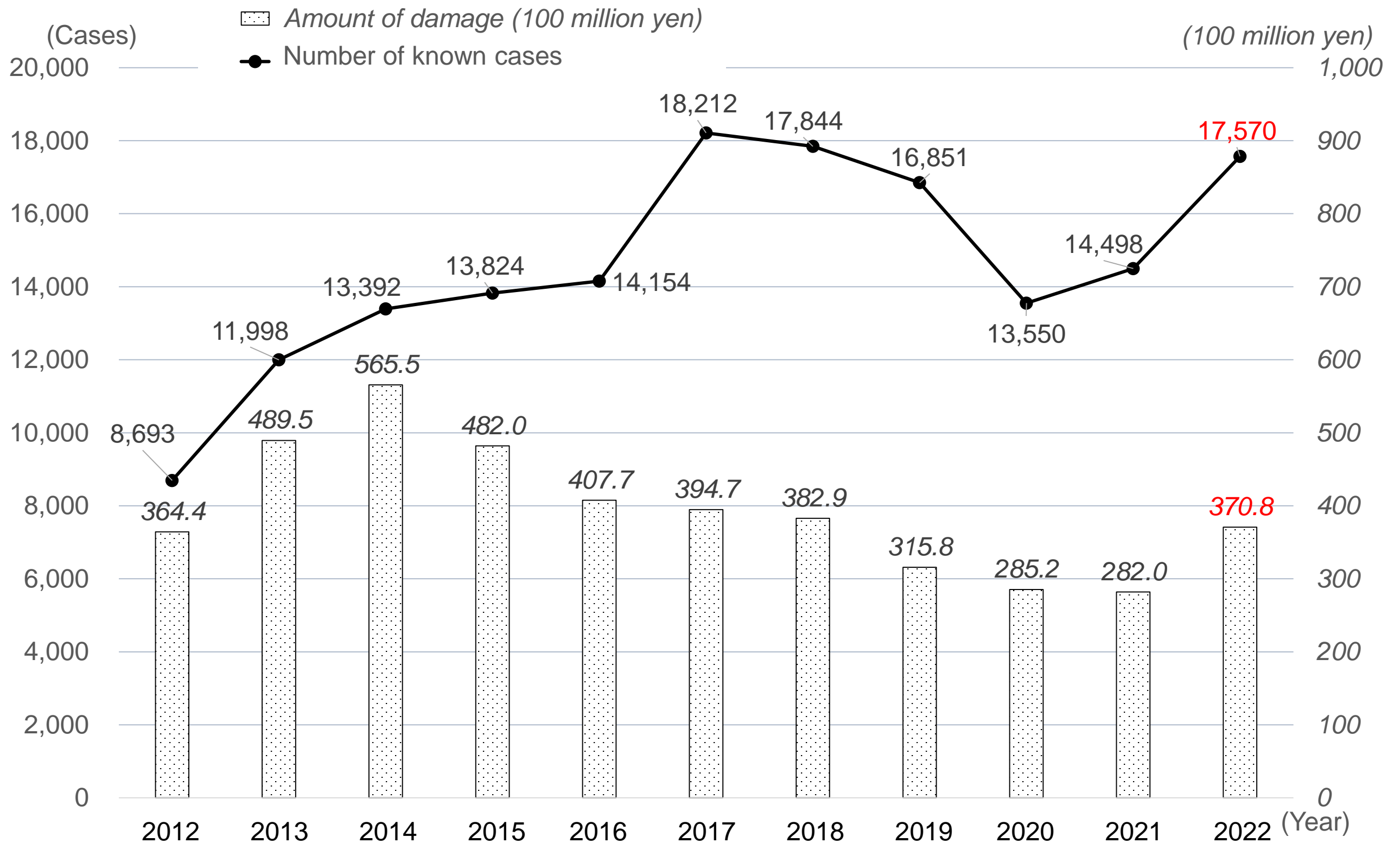


In 2022, the number of cases cleared for penal code offenses was 250,350 and the number of persons arrested for these offenses was 169,409, both falling below the numbers in the previous years (264,485 cases / 175,041 persons) (down by 5.3% and 3.2% year-on-year, respectively).

The number of juveniles arrested was 14,887, accounting for 8.8% of the total number of persons arrested.

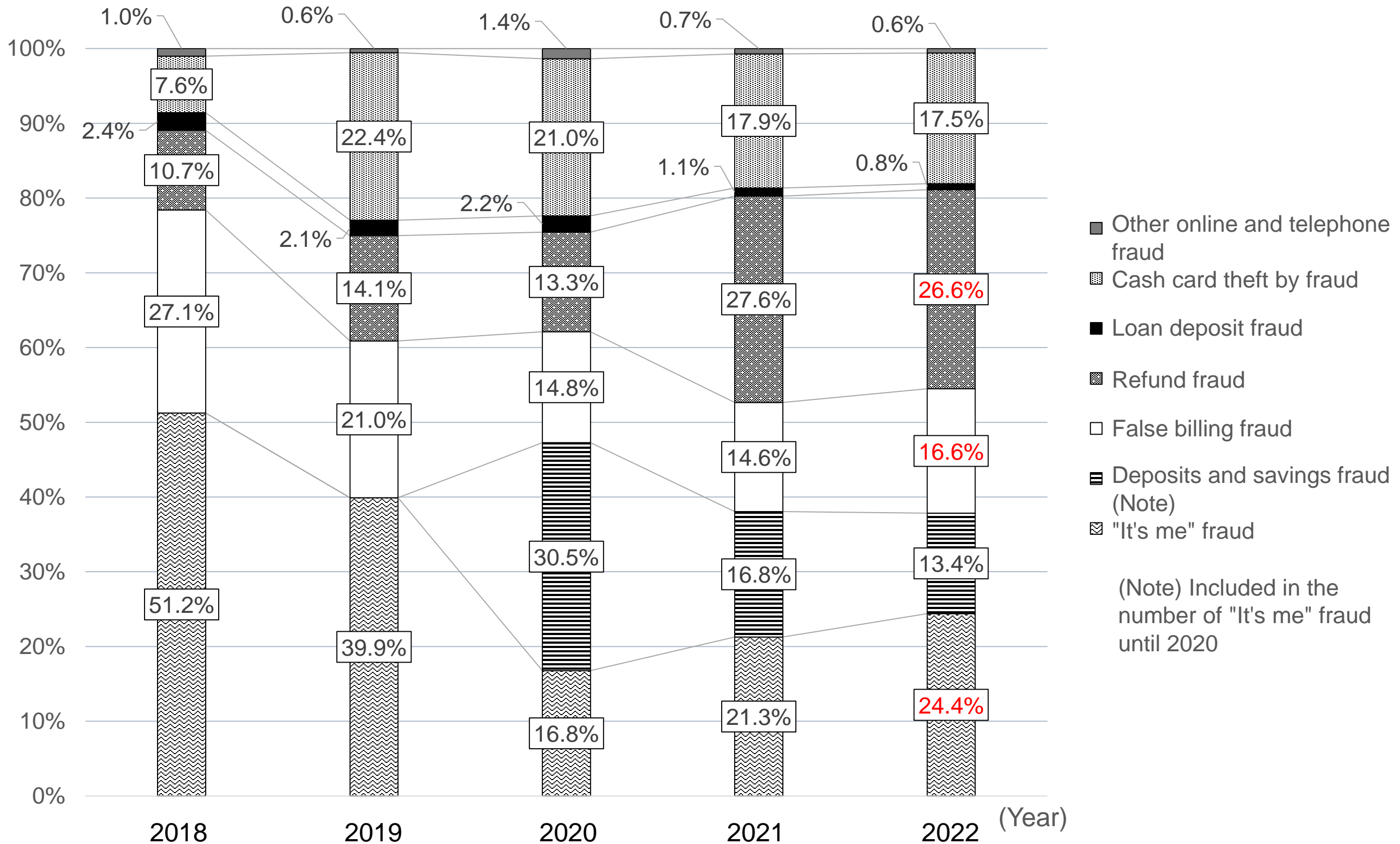


In 2022, the clearance rate of penal code offenses decreased by 5.0 points to 41.6 from 2021 (46.6%).

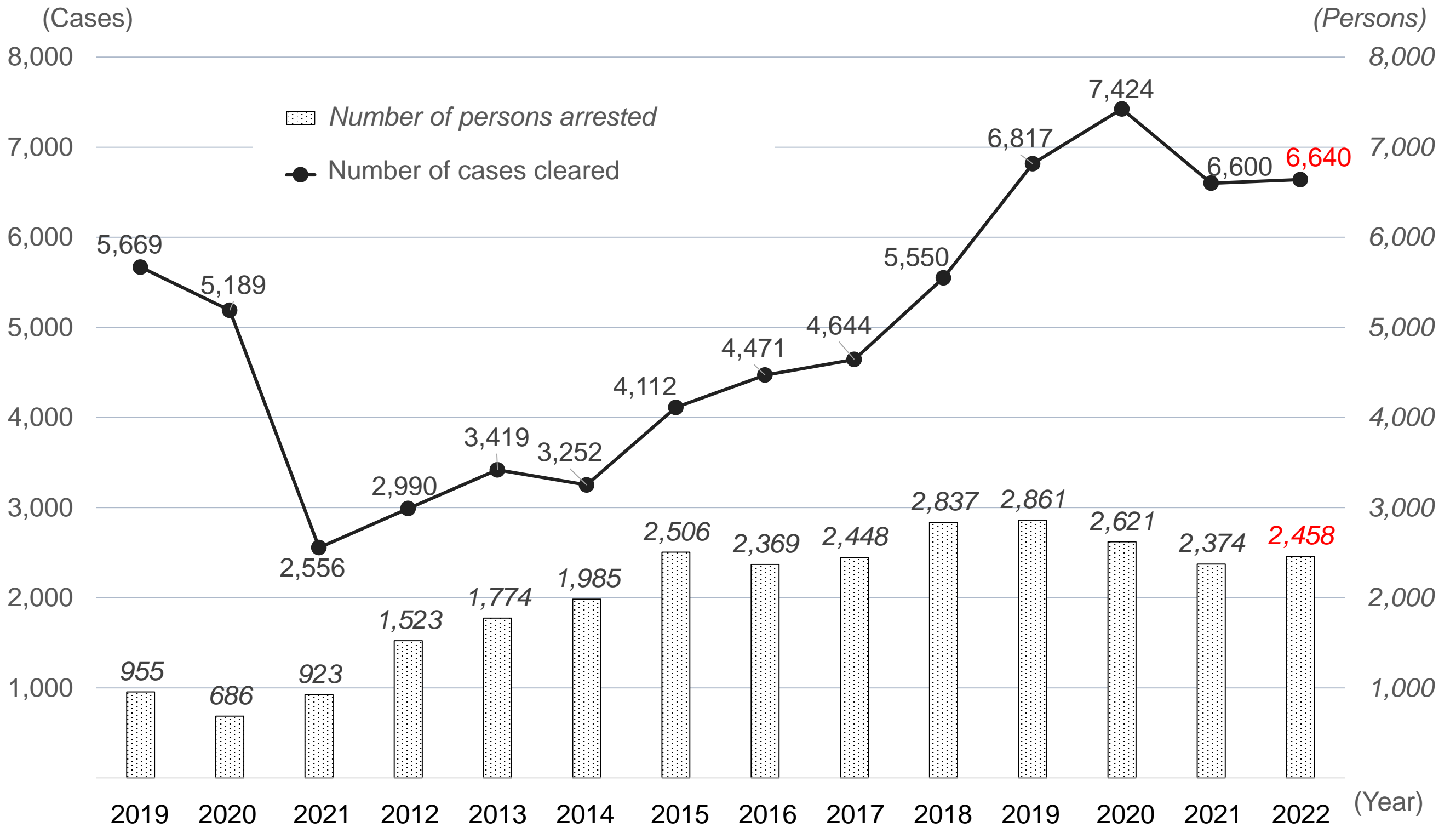


In 2022, the number of known cases of online and telephone fraud was **17,570**, increasing year-on-year for the second consecutive year (up by **21.2%** year-on-year).
 The amount of damage of online and telephone fraud was **37.1 billion** yen, increasing year-on-year for the first time in eight years (up by **31.5%** year-on-year).

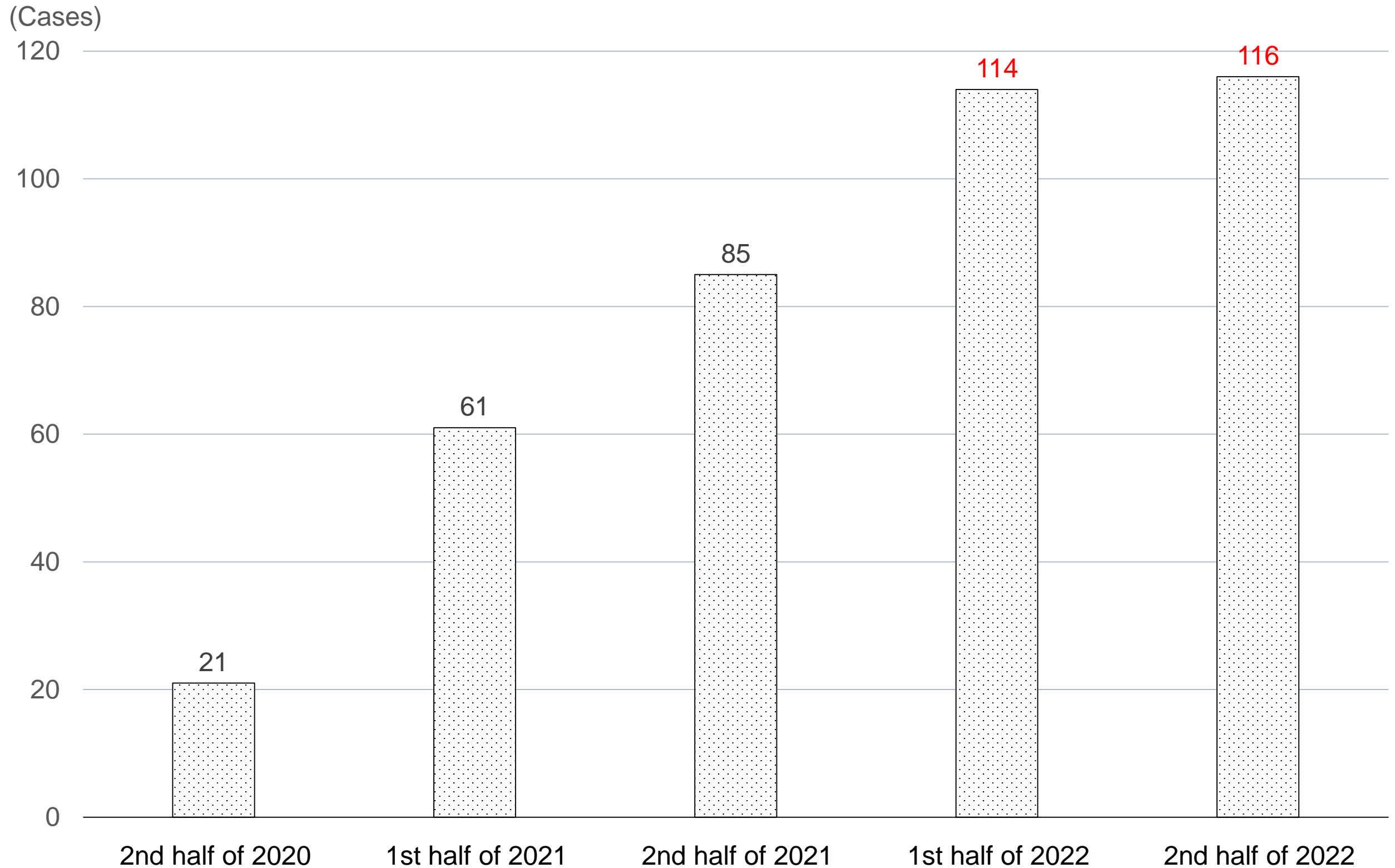
Changes in the percentage of known cases of online and telephone fraud by method



Looking at the percentage of known cases of online and telephone fraud by method, refund fraud, which rapidly increased in 2021, accounted for **26.6%** of the total, whereas there was an increase in the percentage of "It's me" fraud and false billing fraud.

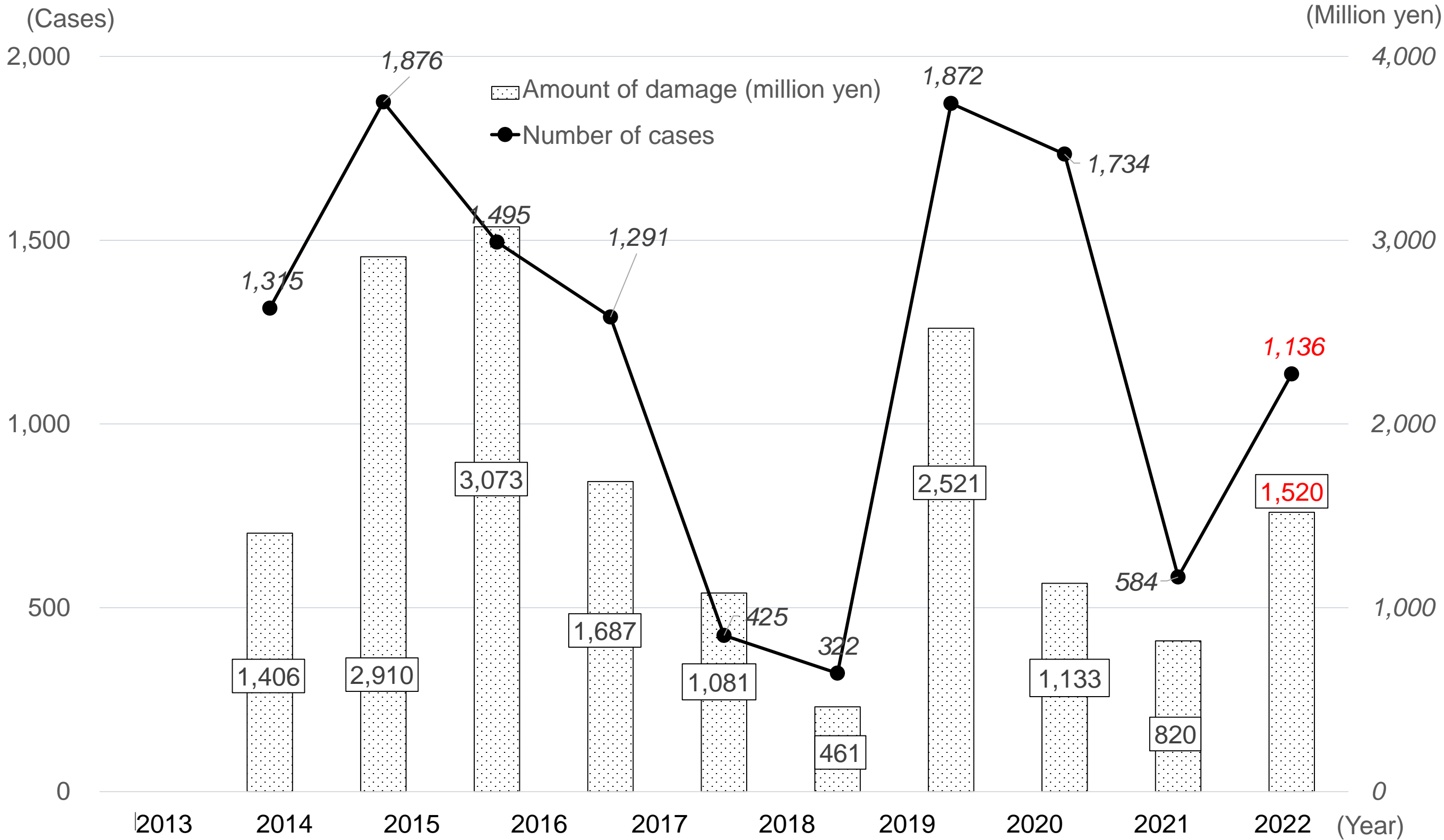


In 2022, the number of cases cleared for online and telephone fraud was **6,640** and the number of persons arrested for this offense was **2,458**, both exceeding the numbers in the previous year (6,600 cases / 2,374 persons) (up by **0.6%** and **3.5%** year-on-year).

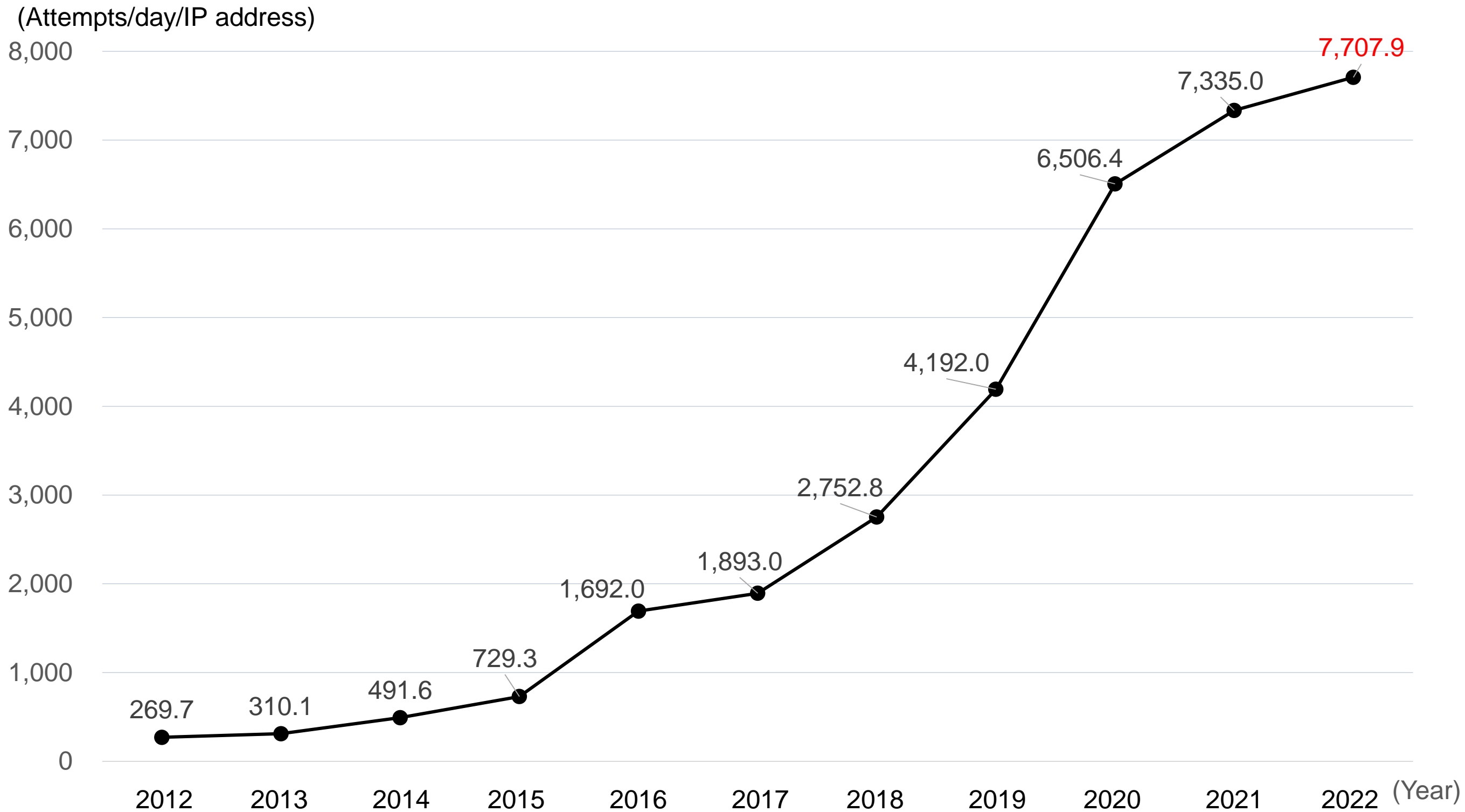


The number of cases reported from prefectural police departments to the NPA in 2022 as cases of damage from ransomware suffered by companies and organizations was 230, up by 57.5% year-on-year. Damage from ransomware has been suffered among companies and organizations, regardless of their size.

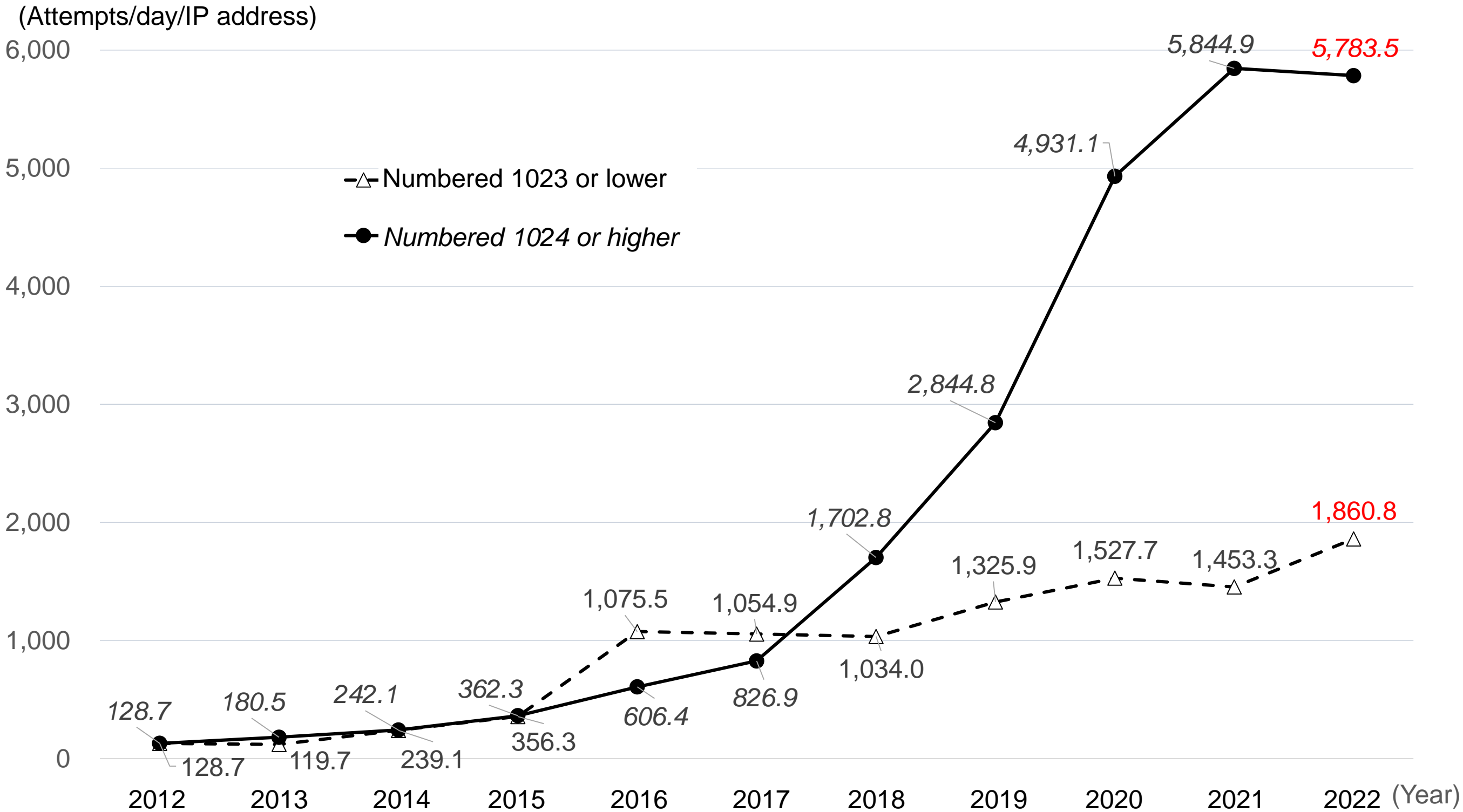
Online banking fraud



In 2022, the number of cases of online banking fraud was **1,136** and the amount of damage was **about 1.520 billion yen**, both increasing year-on-year for the first time in three years (up by **94.5%** and **85.2%** year-on-year). Most of these cases seem to have been caused by phishing of passwords for online banking.



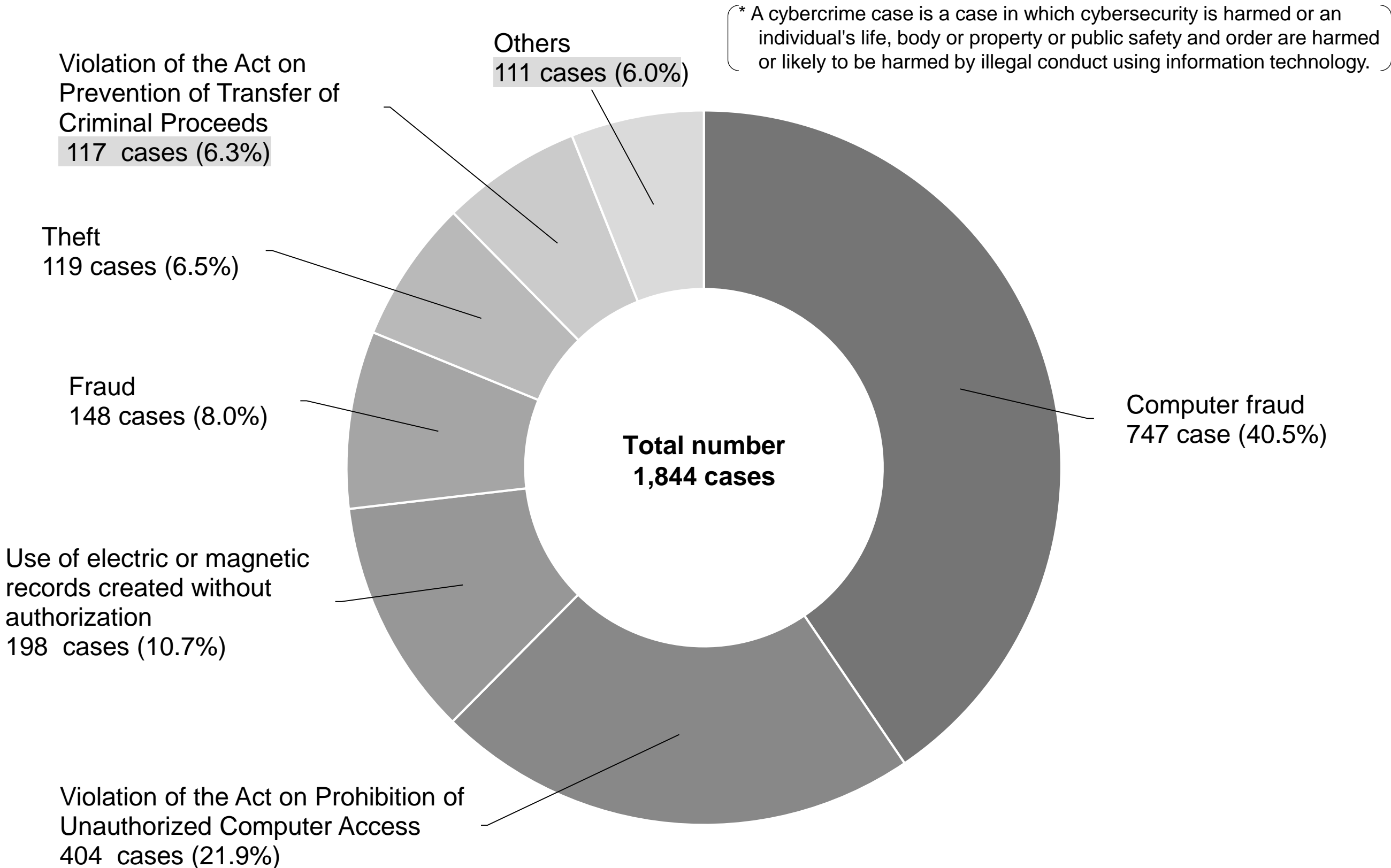
The number of unexpected connection attempts the NPA detected in 2022 as apparent scanning activities in cyberspace was 7,707.9 attempts/day/IP address, marking a record high.



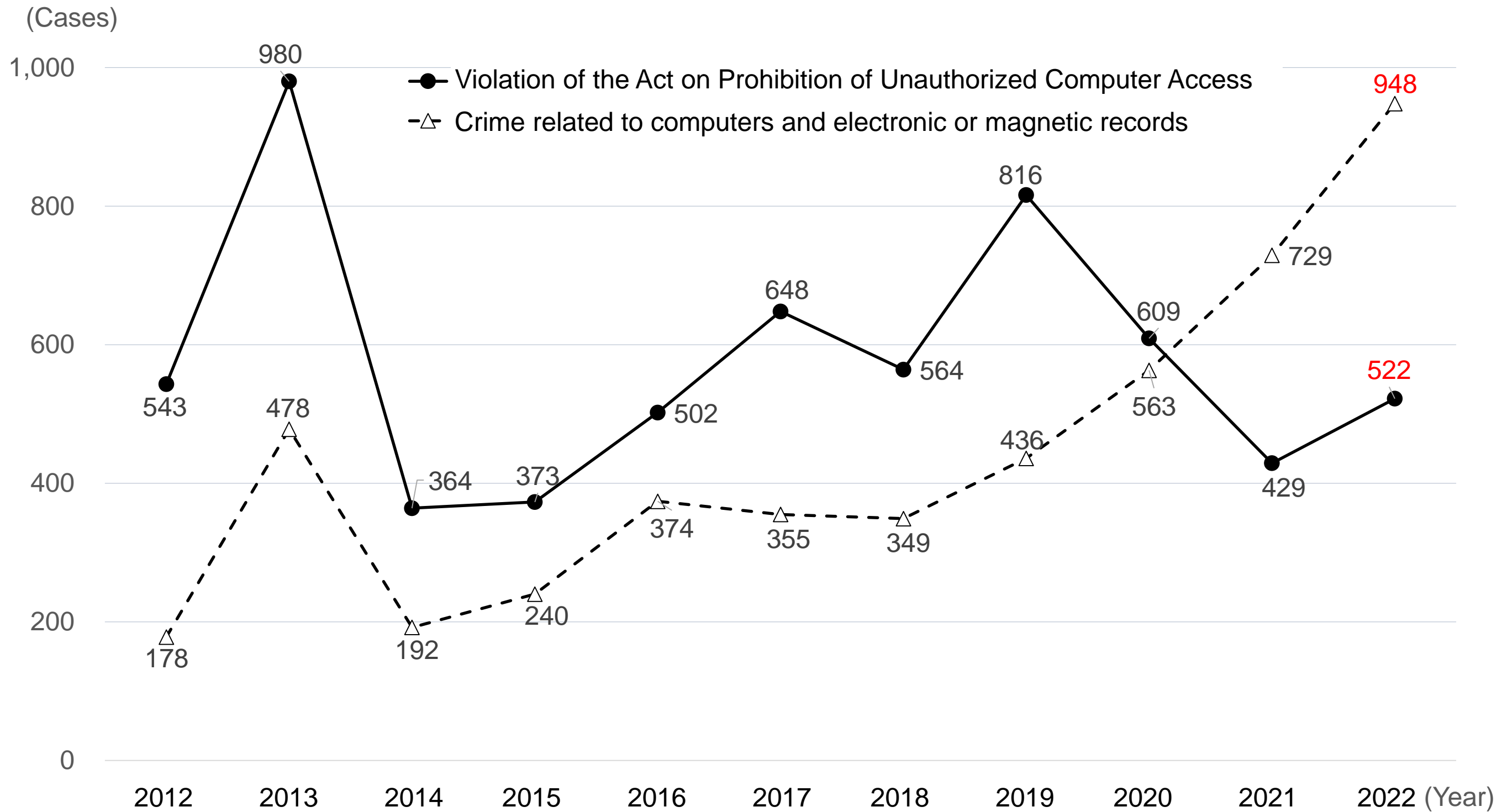
Focusing on the destination ports, most unexpected connection attempts were accesses to ports numbered 1024 or higher (Note). Most of these connection attempts seem to be cyberattacks against IoT appliances or attempts to identify vulnerable IoT appliances.

(Note) Ports numbered 1024 or higher are mainly used by IoT appliances in default configuration.

Clearance of cybercrime cases (April to December 2022)



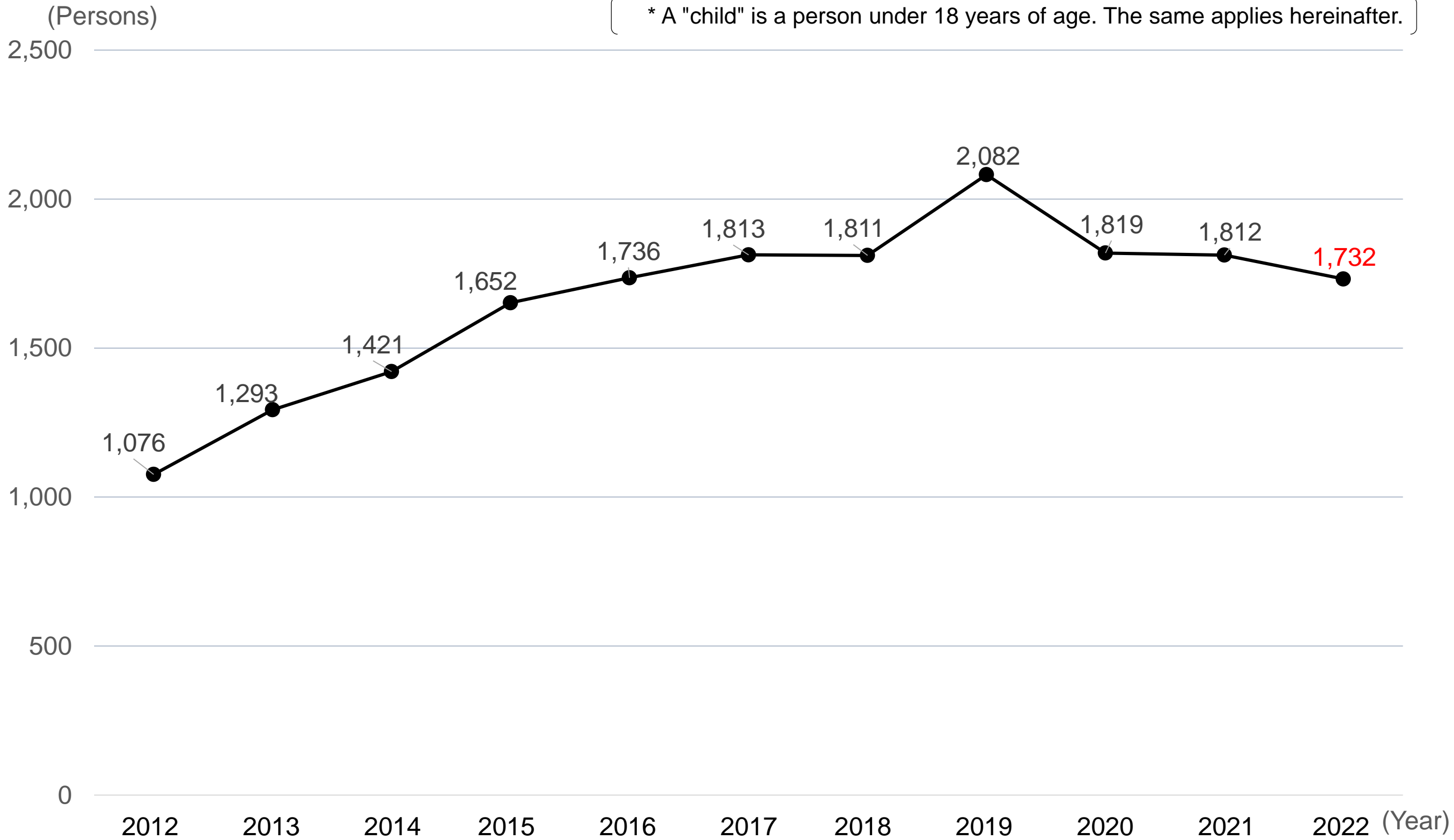
The number of cybercrime cases cleared from April to December 2022 (after the Act Partially Amending the Police Act (Act No. 6 of 2022) came into effect) was **1,844**.



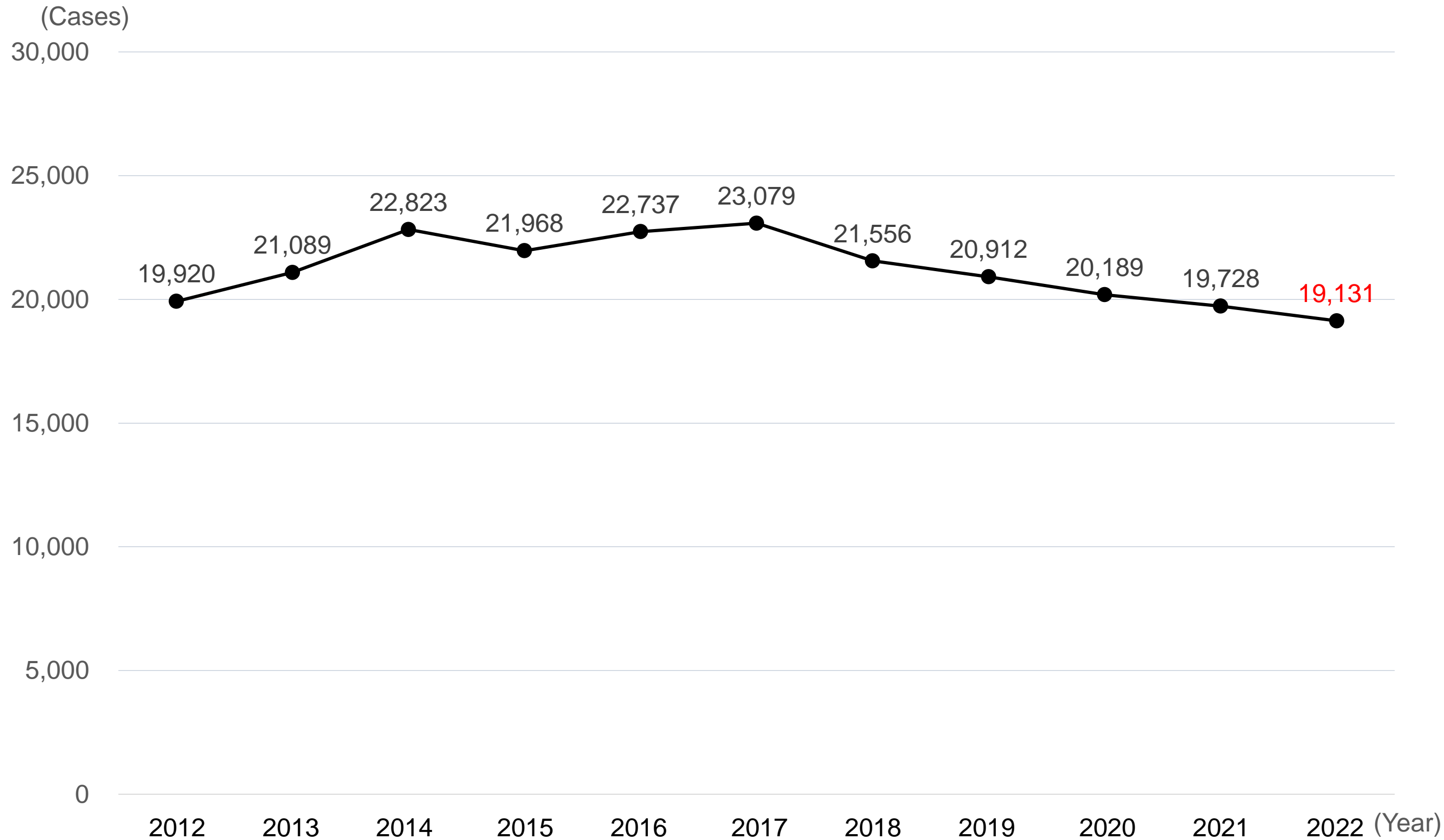
In 2022, the number of cases cleared for violation of the Act on Prohibition of Unauthorized Computer Access and that for crime related to computers and electronic or magnetic records were 522 and 948, respectively, both increasing from the previous year (up by 21.7% and 30.0% year-on-year).

Number of child victims of crime arising from social networking services

* A "child" is a person under 18 years of age. The same applies hereinafter.

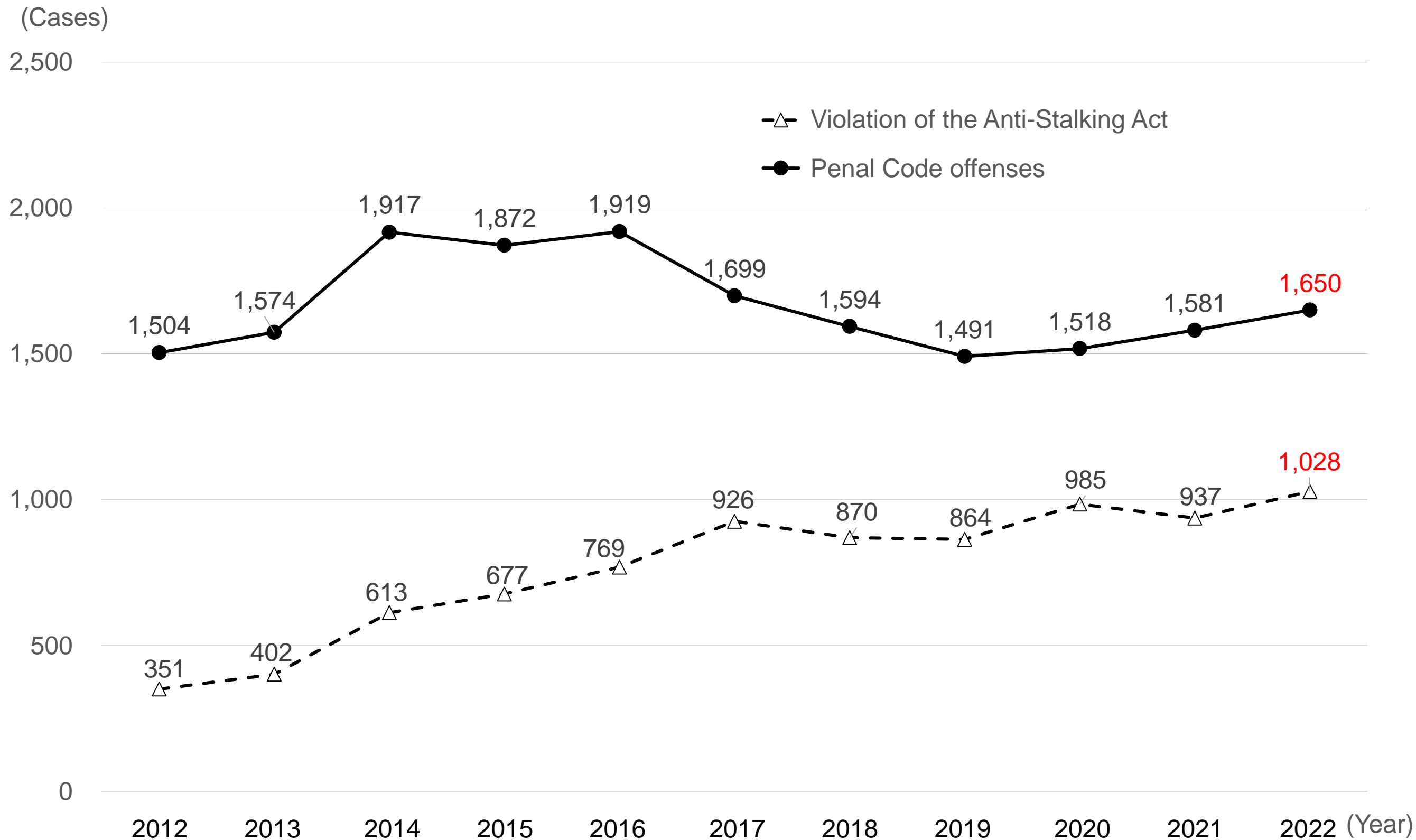


In 2022, the number of children who became victims of crime arising from social networking services was **1,732**, decreasing by 4.4% from the previous year but remaining at a high level.



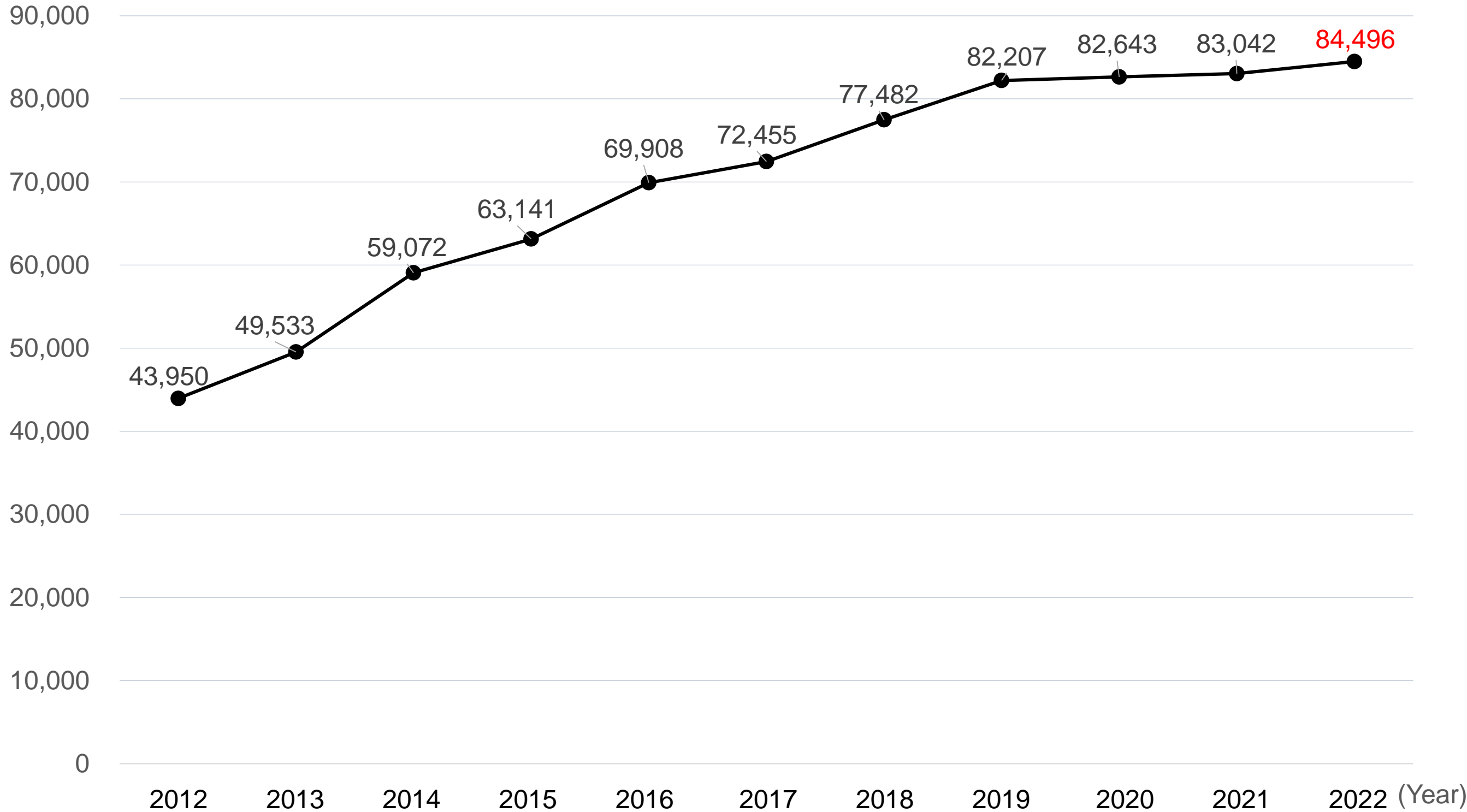
In 2022, the number of consultations on stalking was **19,131**, decreasing by 3.0% from the previous year but remaining at a high level.

Number of cases cleared for stalking



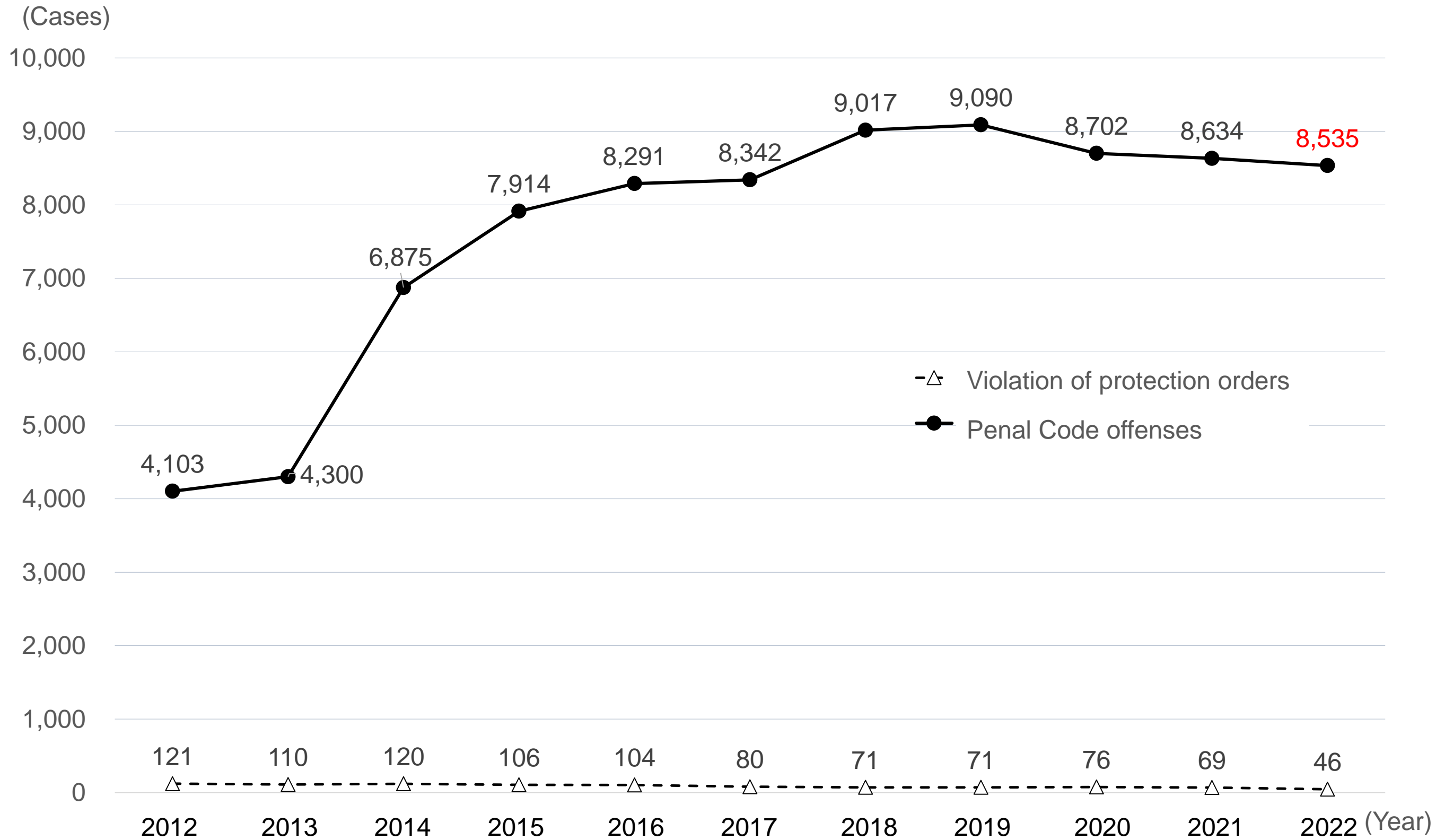
Among the cases cleared for stalking in 2022, the number of cases cleared for violation of the Anti-Stalking Act and that for penal code offenses were **1,028** and **1,650** (up by **9.7%** and **4.4%** year-on-year), respectively, both remaining at a high level.

(Cases)

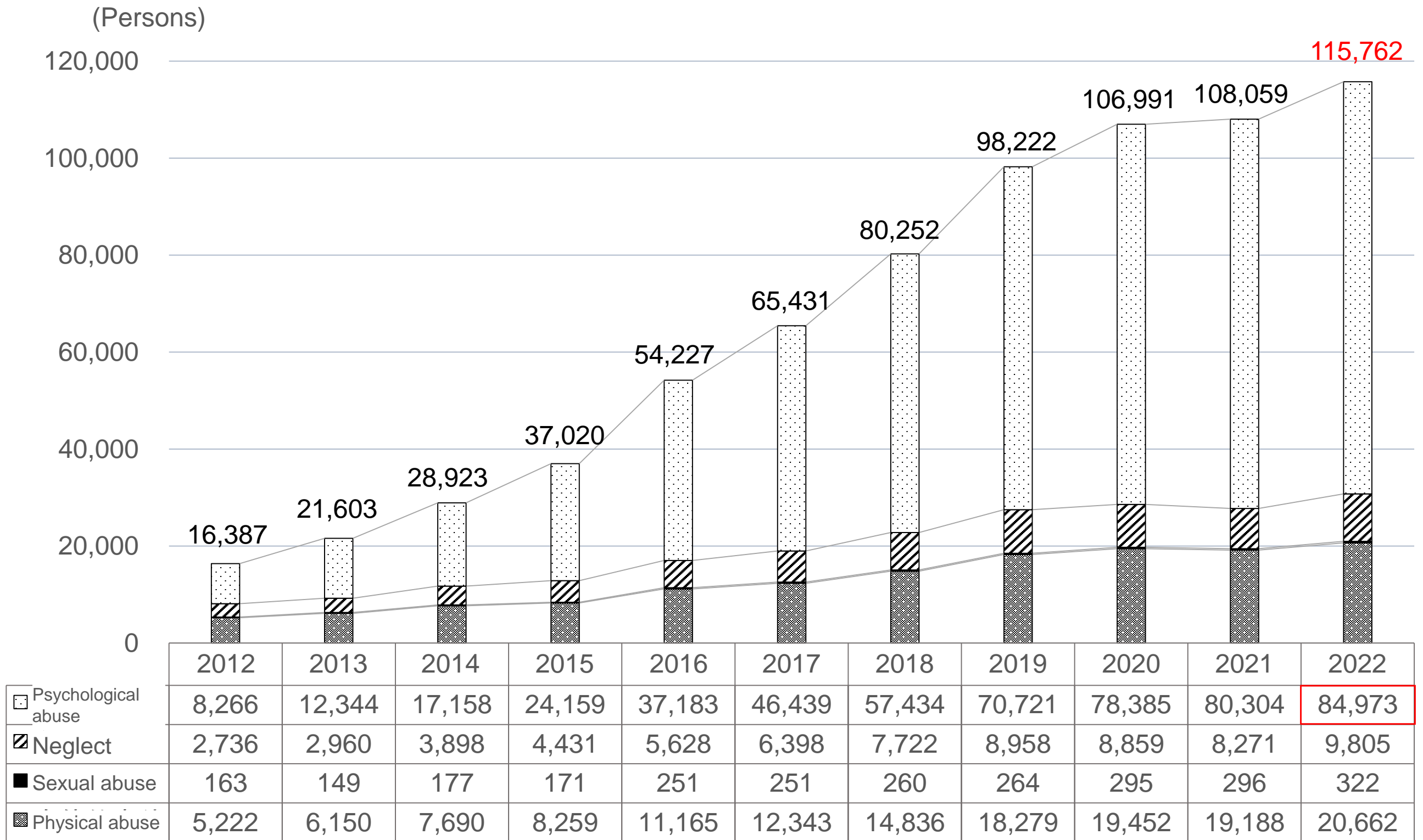


The number of consultations on spousal violence has been constantly increasing. In 2022, the number marked **84,496**, up by **1.8%** from the previous year and the largest since the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims came into effect.

Number of cases cleared for spousal violence

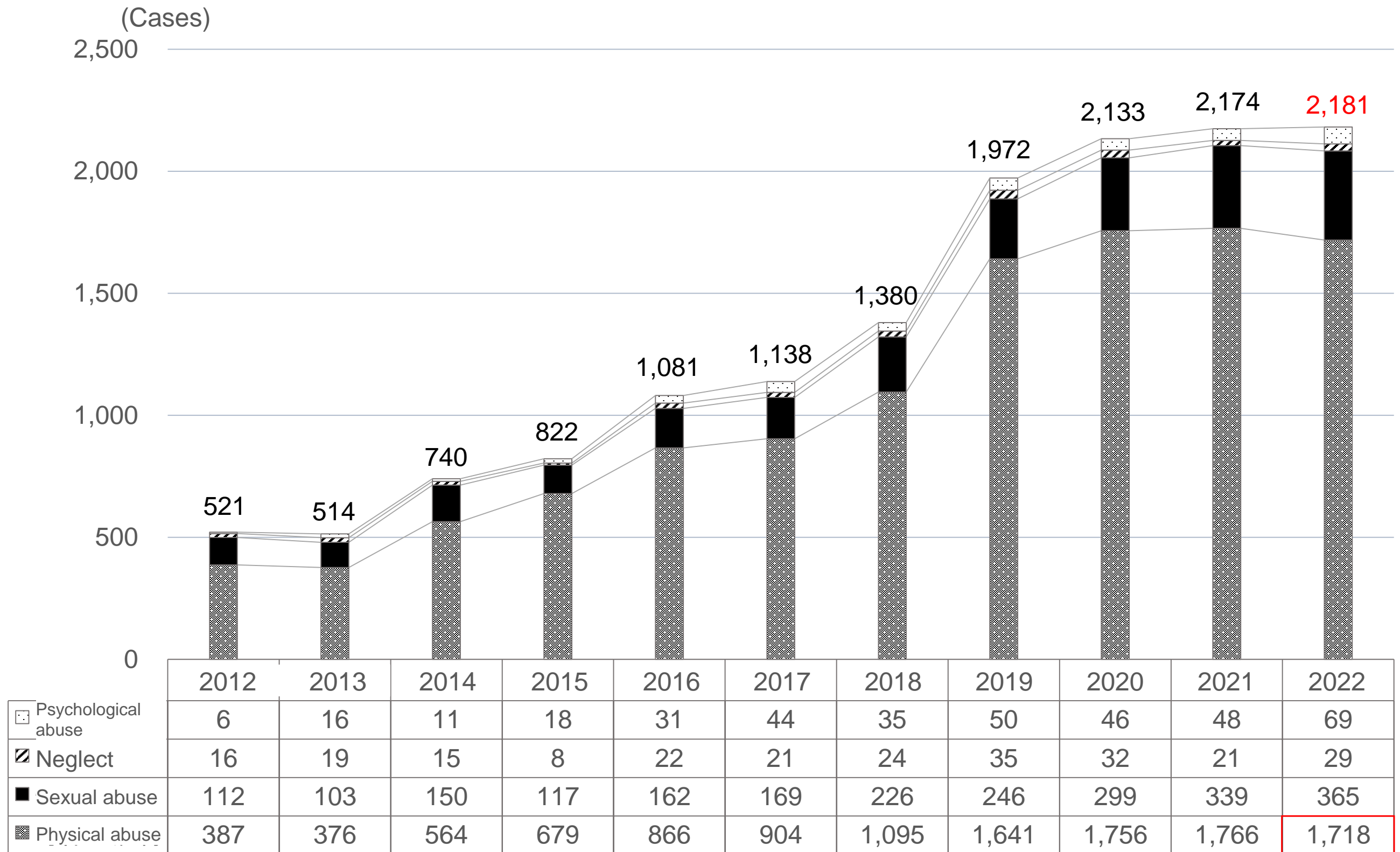


The number of cases cleared for spousal violence in 2022 was **8,535**, decreasing by **1.1%** from the previous year but remaining at a high level.



The number of children reported by the police to a child guidance center as victims or suspected victims of child abuse has been increasing year by year. In 2022, the number was **115,762**, increasing by 7.1% from the previous year and reaching a record high.

By type, the number of children reported for psychological abuse was **84,973**, accounting for 73.4% of the total.



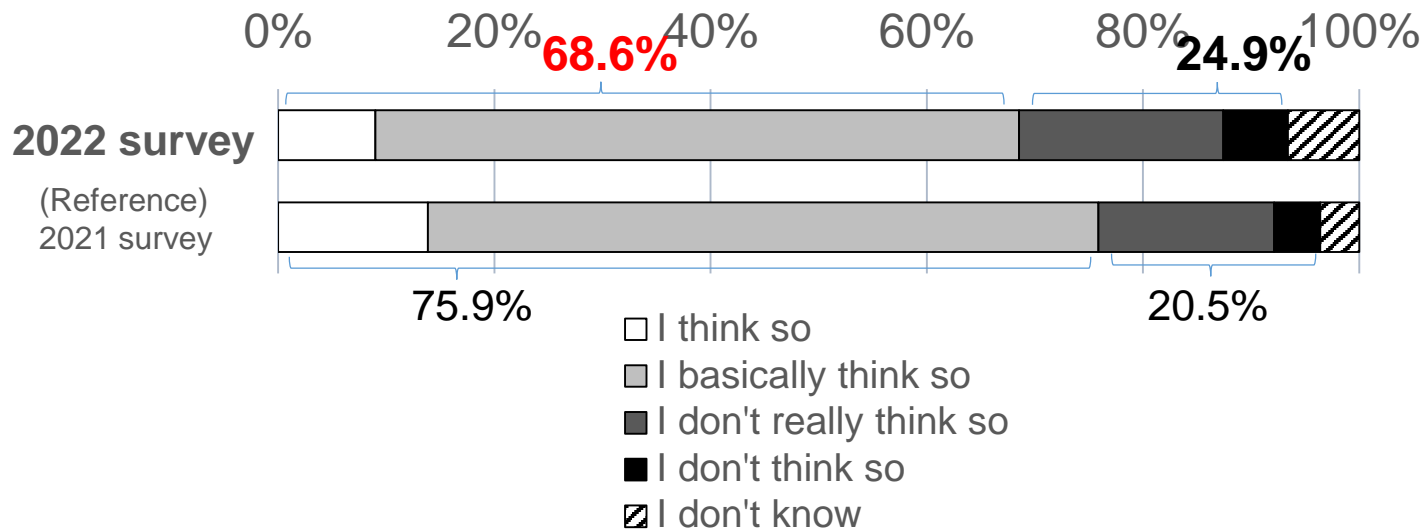
The number of cases cleared for child abuse in 2022 was **2,181**, remaining almost flat from the previous year at a high level.

By type, the number of cases cleared for physical abuse was **1,718**, accounting for 78.8% of the total.

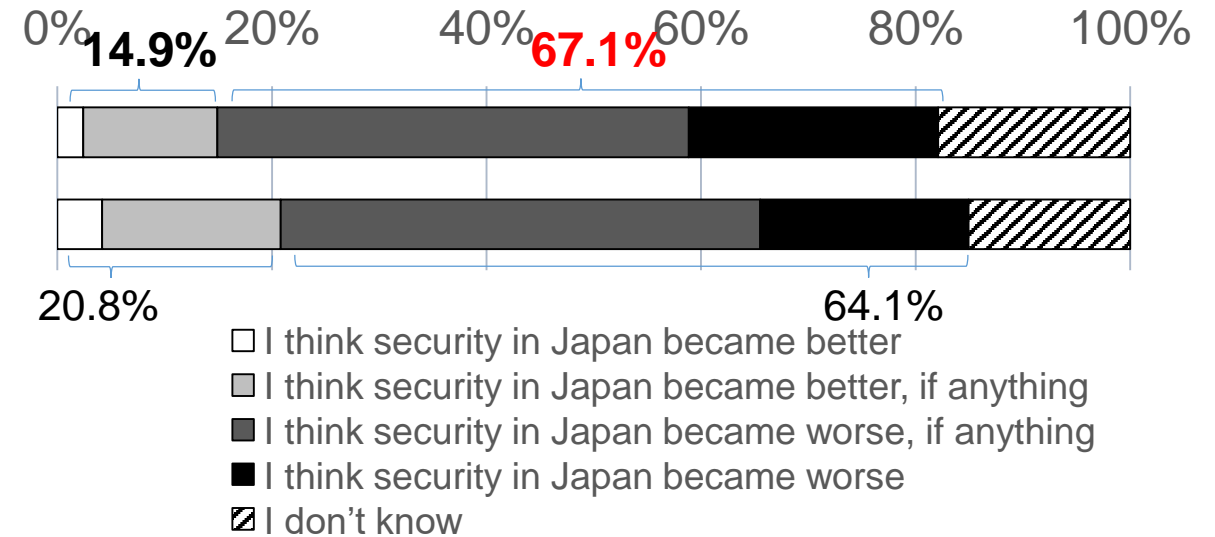
Questionnaire Survey on Public Safety

* A questionnaire survey implemented in October 2022 via the internet, targeting 5,000 males and females aged 15 or over nationwide, in a manner that the percentages of respondents by age, gender and prefecture would be equivalent to the results of the national census in 2020. For reference regarding Questions 1 and 2, the results of the questionnaire survey in 2021, which was implemented in a manner that the percentages of respondents by age, gender and prefecture would be equivalent to the results of the national census in 2015, are cited below (published in 2022).

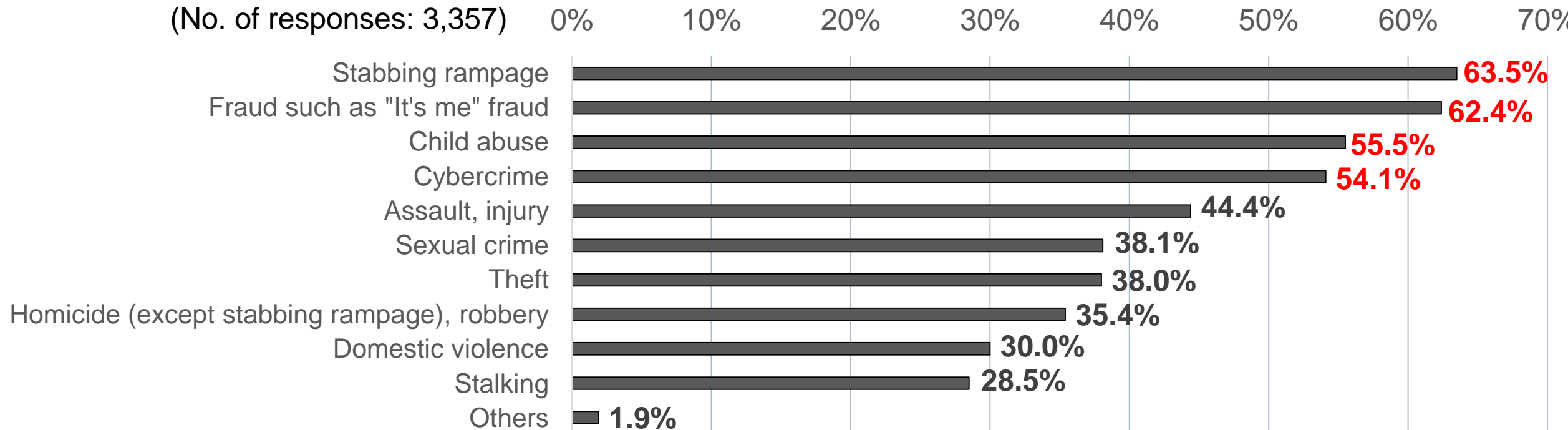
Question 1: Do you think Japan is a safe place (where you can live with peace of mind)?
(No. of responses: 5,000)



Question 2: Do you think security in Japan became better or worse over the last ten years?
(No. of responses: 5,000)



Question 3: If you chose "I think security in Japan became worse, if anything" or "I think security in Japan became worse" as your response to Question 2, what kind of crime did you imagine? Choose all the types of crime you imagined.
(No. of responses: 3,357)



In response to the question, "Do you think Japan is a safe place?", 68.6% of all respondents chose "I think so" or "I basically think so." On the other hand, in response to the question, "Do you think security in Japan became better or worse over the last ten years?", 67.1% of all respondents chose "I think security in Japan became worse, if anything" or "I think security in Japan became worse." The crime imagined by the largest percentage of respondents as the cause of deterioration of security was "stabbing rampage" (63.5%), followed by "fraud such as 'It's me' fraud" (62.4%), "child abuse" (55.5%) and "cybercrime" (54.1%), which were imagined by more than 50% of all respondents.