**Number of reported cases and clearance rate: Penal Code offenses (1946-2017)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All offenses</td>
<td>996,120</td>
<td>915,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>723,148</td>
<td>665,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>40,990</td>
<td>42,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury</td>
<td>24,365</td>
<td>23,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>31,813</td>
<td>31,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>1,109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of reported cases (all the above)

**By types of offenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>13,841</td>
<td>14,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulants</td>
<td>10,607</td>
<td>10,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>3,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse</td>
<td>1,041</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Prostitution and Pornography</td>
<td>2,713</td>
<td>3,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spousal Violence</td>
<td>7,450</td>
<td>7,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalking</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\# The number of persons cleared by the police or other investigative authorities
\### The number of persons received by public prosecutors.
\#### The number of cases cleared by the police or other investigative authorities

**Recidivism**

**Reimprisonment rate (within 2 years)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of inmates reimprisoned by the end of 2017 after release from prison in 2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(0.6pt down)
Increase of the Rate of Elderly Offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age 20~64</th>
<th>Age 65~69</th>
<th>Age 70 or older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “Rate per population” refers to the number of persons cleared per 100,000 general population.

The rate of elderly persons (65 or older) cleared accounts for 21.5% of the total number of persons cleared for Penal Code Offenses in 2017.

The rate of those aged “70 or older” is rising significantly.
Special Research Results

**Theft**

As regards modus operandi for theft, shoplifting accounts for 85% of thefts committed by elderly offenders. The majority of elderly offenders' shoplifting cases have characteristics as follows:

- a) They steal goods from a store of which they are regular customers.
- b) The damage cost in each case is less than 3,000 yen.
- c) They shoplift foodstuffs in most cases.

The reoffending rate of elderly female theft offenders within two years after having been sentenced to fine is 34% while that of male is 19%.

The following shows some typical examples of elderly theft offenders:

- a) Elderly male theft offenders have financial difficulties in living with nobody to rely on.
- b) Elderly female theft offenders steal for saving money even though they have a steady income and someone to live with.

**Homicide**

As regards homicide victims of elderly offenders, relatives accounts for 67% (spouses for 35% and children for 23%) of the total.

The victims of spousal homicide have characteristics as follows:

- a) 52% of them are mentally or physically disordered.
- b) 34% of them require care or are bedridden.
- c) 31% of them have dementia.

The victims of infanticide have characteristics as follows:

- a) 89% of them are mentally disordered.
- b) 95% of infanticide are caused against the background that the offenders have unsolved troubles without asking for help.

**Injury/Assault**

Many elderly offenders of injury and assault commit crimes on impulse without any plans.

The following shows the characteristics of many elderly offenders of injury and assault who have previous convictions for the same type of offense:

- a) Many of them commit crimes under the influence of alcohol.
- b) Many of them show attitudes of justifying violence.
- c) 41% of them have no interaction with family members, acquaintances, etc.
- d) The majority of them are sentenced to fines.
Reimprisonment Rate of Released Elderly Inmates, by Accepting/Refusing Special Coordination

Reimprisonment (reoffending within three months after the release)

- Released elderly inmates accepting special coordination (28)
  - 7.1%
- Released elderly inmates refusing special coordination (28)
  - 28.6%
- Other released elderly inmates (237)
  - 9.7%
  - 86.5%

Reimprisonment (reoffending over three months after the release)

- Released elderly inmates accepting special coordination (28)
  - 92.9%
- Released elderly inmates refusing special coordination (28)
  - 71.4%
- Other released elderly inmates (237)
  - 17.9%
  - 53.6%

Since 2009 Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare have been assisting offenders in receiving welfare services. The subjects for the special coordination are limited to elderly or handicapped persons having no place to live after their release from prison.

Reimprisonment rate of released elderly inmates accepting special coordination is lower than that of those refusing it.

Results of the Pilot Project Focusing on Urgent Aftercare of Discharged Offenders

Success in finding employment, getting public assistance, etc.

- Employment support (155)
  - 72.3%
  - 12.9%
  - 14.8%
- Assistance in filing an application for public assistance (55)
  - 90.0%
  - 7.3%
  - 12.7%
- Assistance in utilizing welfare service for the elderly (23)
  - 69.6%
  - 13.6%
  - 17.4%

Most of the offenders supported by the pilot project succeed in finding employment, getting public assistance or welfare service.

Besides the pilot project, in 2018 probation offices nationally begin to assist in facilitating the social reintegration of offenders without custodial sentences in cooperation with local governments and public prosecutor's offices.

Future Tasks/Recommendations

- Further efforts are needed to promote welfare support for elderly offenders.
- Various supports corresponding to the characteristics of the elderly, such as welfare support and specialist's intervention, are required. To this end, staff members' capacity building in the area of the holistic assessment which covers both criminological risks and individual needs is imperative.