

# Family Support During the Time of Probation in Japan

—Current Status and Its Surrounding Issues—

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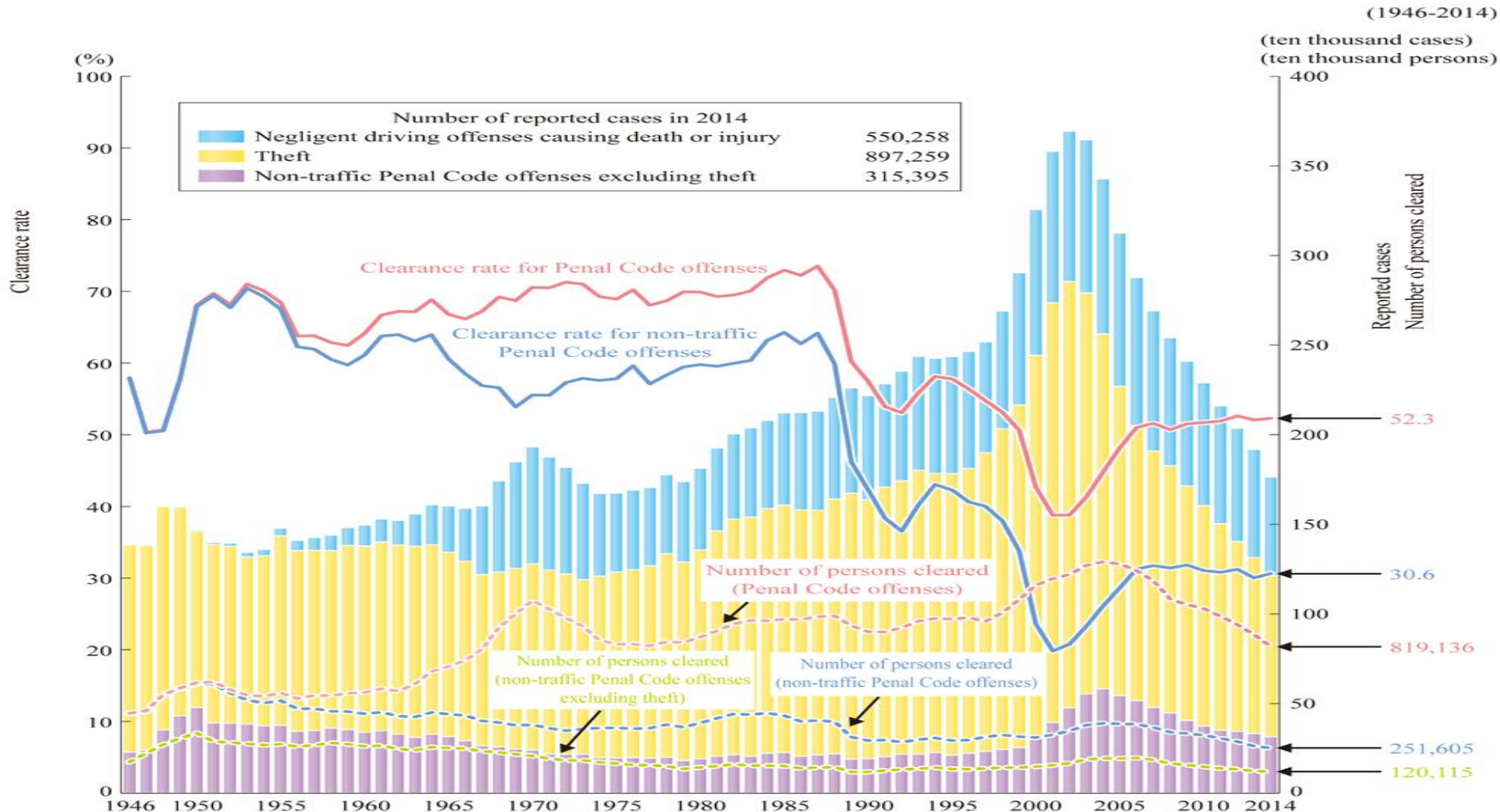
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Family Therapy)

# Outline of this report

- to address the overall trends of crimes and delinquency in Japan
- about the importance of the support for families especially for juvenile criminal cases
- “Japanese version of Systems Approach” that I have developed through my 30 years of experience in supporting families with problems of crimes and delinquency

# Number of reported Cases Penal Code offenses(1946-2014)

**Fig. 1-1-1-1 Penal Code offenses: reported cases, cleared persons and clearance rate**

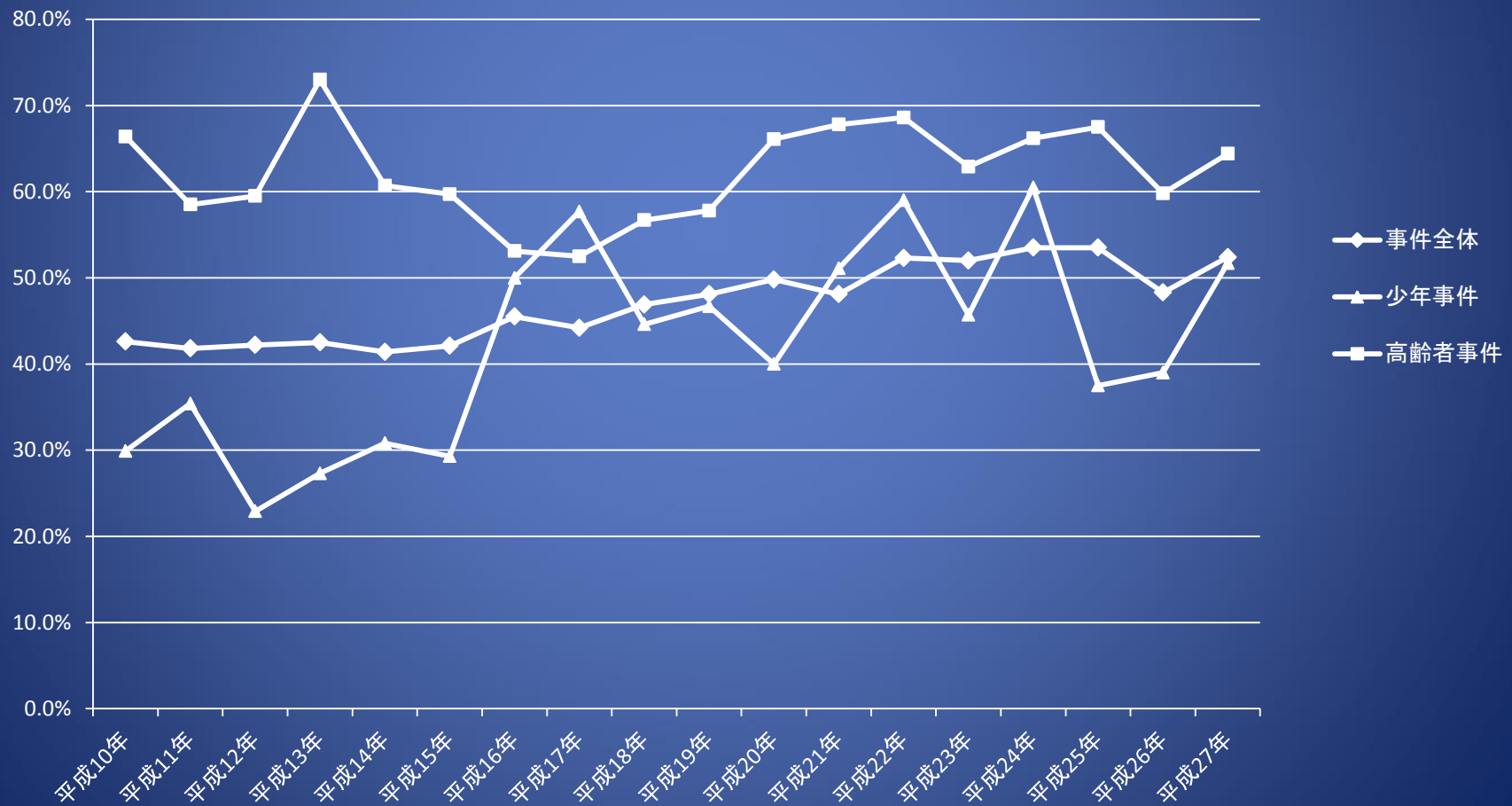


Notes: 1. The figures until 1955 include cases/persons of criminal violations by juvenile younger than 14.

2. "Non-traffic Penal Code offenses" until 1965 do not include (non-traffic) negligence in the pursuit of social activities causing death or injury.

Source: Criminal Statistics of the National Police Agency

# Homicide between Family and extended family(1998-2015)



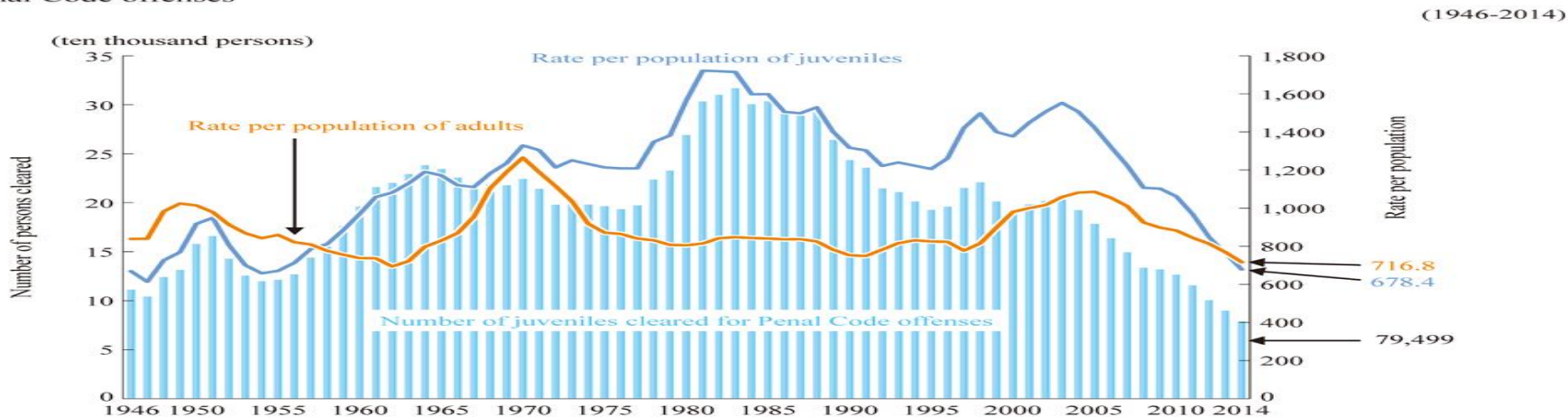
the increase in the number of offenders and juvenile delinquents who have risk factors related to family relationships.

- 50% of homicides were between family and extended family members, which is worth noting. And nearly 70% of homicides in elderly were between family and extended family members. Elderly here means 65 years and older.

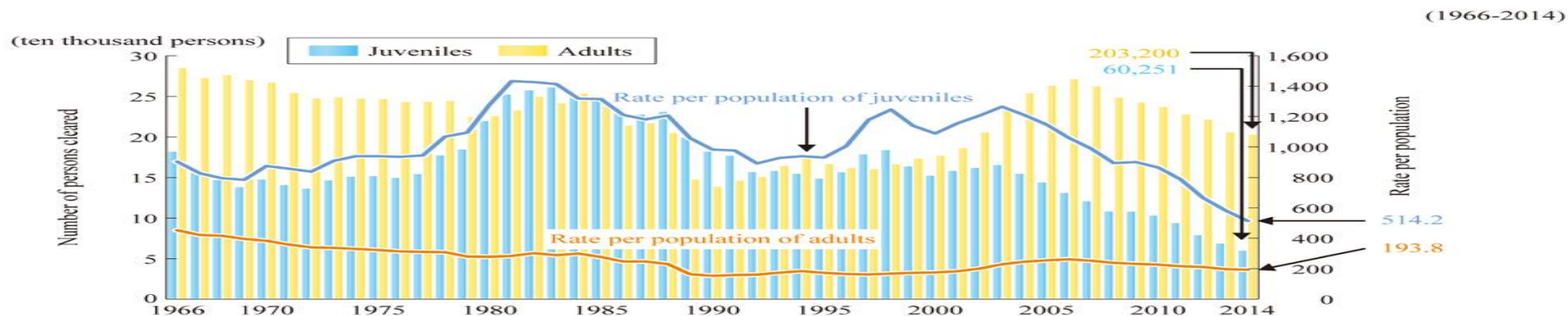
# Statistics of Juvenile Penal Code Offences in Japan(1946-2014)

**Fig. 3-1-1-1 Penal Code/non-traffic Penal Code offenses: juveniles cleared, rate per population**

[1] Penal Code offenses



[2] Non-traffic Penal Code offenses

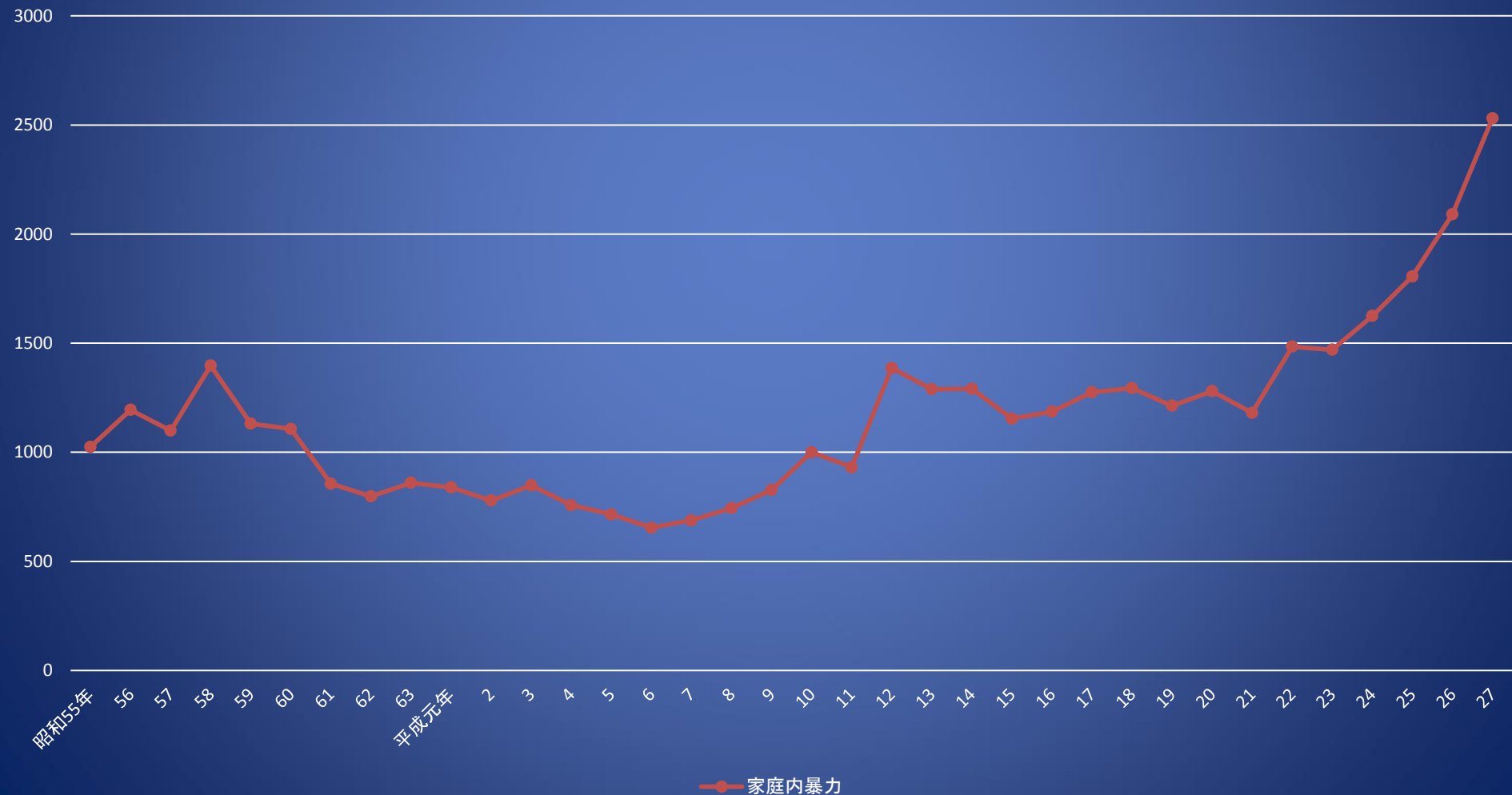


Notes: 1. The figures are based on the age at the time of the offense. However, those who were 20 or older at the time of clearance are counted as adults.  
 2. The figures include juvenile offenders under 14 who were guided by the police.  
 3. "Rate per population of juveniles" and "Rate per population of adults" indicate the numbers of juveniles/adults cleared for Penal Code offenses or non-traffic Penal Code offenses per 100,000 population of juveniles or adults respectively.

Source: Criminal Statistics of the National Police Agency  
 The Traffic Bureau, National Police Agency  
 The Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (population data)

# Number of Family Violence (Children-Parents:1980-2015)

家庭内暴力事件の推移





# Family intervention is critical to support recovery in Japan

- In probation facilities in Japan, the families receive support and intervention while the juvenile is still in detention. This service is categorized under what we call “coordination of social circumstance”
- The primary purpose of the approach is to promote the readiness of the families to become the custodians for the returning parolees.
- for those offenders who have dysfunctional families, CBT-based family support, such as parent training, has not been proven to be effective.



# Systems Approach in probation a public-private collaborative offenders rehabilitation system in Japan

- the characteristics of the systems approach in probation in Japan is that it is practiced within a public-private collaborative offenders rehabilitation system. In this system, probation officers and volunteer probation officers work collaboratively.
- volunteer Probation Officers invite clients to their own home, visit their family at home, as if they are their own family. Most of the juvenile delinquents are not “unusual children”.

It is not highly specialized professional care, it is essential in community support.

- many of those children successfully recover when Volunteer Probation Officers teach the common knowledge in society as mentors, and provide community based life support.
- The rate of the “re-disposition” of the juvenile probationers is approximately 17%. And the rate of the readmission of the parolees from juvenile training school within 2 years is only about 10%.

# the needs of intervention based on the systems approach for the families of juvenile delinquents

- the duration of probation is limited by law, intervention to the family system is efficient as it is a middle size system .
- It is critical that we expect the family to be the supporter for the recovery rather than just the monitor to prevent a second offense.
- The purpose of this intervention and support is the enactment of Social Inclusion of criminals and juvenile delinquents.

# “Experiencing a proper turbulence”: Family intervention of confrontation and empowerment

- The focal point of this model is to support the whole family experiences “a proper turbulence”.
- This will help the family to face rather than avoid their conflicts that might have led to the crimes and delinquency.
- Through that process, the whole family will be empowered and they will gain the capacity to cope and solve problems.

# The practitioners utilize their own power in the intervention(1)

- Some families shut down their communication among the family members and the father loses his power in the family. Empower the father and set up the conjoint family interview.
- The practitioners take the role of interpreter and catalyst to confront the family to face and deal with the conflicts among family members. This process, what I call “experiencing a proper turbulence” is necessary for the family to work through.

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# The practitioners utilize their own power in the intervention(2)

- Provide family conjoint sessions to cut into the inside issues of the family's relationships.
- This enactment process will let them realize that what they see outside is not always the same as inside.
- This dynamic experience will open up the family's possibilities and empower the family for recovery.
- the focus will be on the empowerment of the entire family including grandparents to enhance their coping and problem solving skills.

# Buying time: Essential part of support for recovery

- My family support will not target to reduce the problematic behaviors by changing the family system.
- Desistance from crimes and delinquency, are the clients' resiliency and encounters with other human beings such as their family members, friends, loved ones, and colleagues.
- It is imperative to buy some time so that they have more chances to encounter other people.



# My Family Support Essence

- Juvenile delinquents may go through betrayals and deceptions. But the only and irreplaceable supporters are their families.
- the families are the ones who will always stand by their side no matter what happens.
- I try to keep offering support and encouragement for those families so they can pull themselves together once in a while and keep going without feeling worn out.

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# Challenges and future directions

- Probation is only a time limited support, it is obvious that there should be long-term, continuing, and organized approach by multi-agency and disciplinary cooperation.
- The goal of the treatment is buying time by the constant easing and supporting the involved staff members, just like adding a bit of water continuously to a boiling pot so it won't burn.
- I would like to continue to collect narratives from probation officers as evidence to prove the effectiveness of this community-based treatment.

## As a last remark

- I would like to draw your attention to the recovery and resilience of Fukushima after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Power Plant Accident in 2011.
- Thank you.