

White Paper on Crime 2024

- Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders -

[Summary]

Introduction

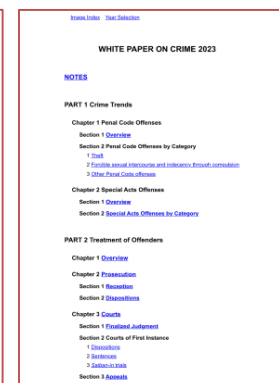
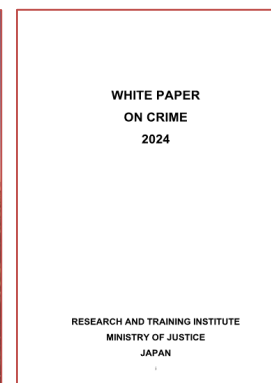
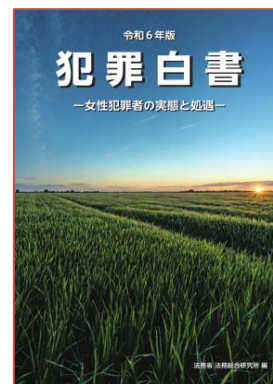
White Paper on Crime

The annual White Papers on Crime published by the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice provide statistical data on crimes and offender treatments as well as current issues in the criminal justice field. The first volume of the Papers was published in 1960. Since then, they have been widely used by lawmakers, practitioners and academics, and have facilitated significant policy changes.

Specifically, the White Paper on Crime 2007 revealed that roughly 60% of all crimes were committed by repeat offenders, who accounted for approximately 30% of convicted offenders. This finding led to the development of “Comprehensive Measures for the Prevention of Re-offending” adopted by the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in 2012, which set numerical targets for the next decade and has been serving as the basis of the criminal justice policy of Japan.

All the volumes of the Papers (Japanese version since 1960) and their English version (since 2000) are available on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

https://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housou_hakusho2.html
https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/housouken/housou_hakusho2.html



White Paper on Crime (Japanese, English and Web version)

Special Features of White Paper on Crime 2024

The White Paper on Crime 2024 focuses on actual conditions and treatment of female offenders. The White Paper provides various statistical data and information on the trends in female offenders, as well as treatment and assistance of such offenders. It also analyzes a questionnaire survey on female inmates, etc. in penal institutions conducted in 2022.

Research and Training Institute

The Research and Training Institute is one of the agencies of the Ministry of Justice. The Institute conducts a wide range of work, including (i) research related to criminal justice policies and other Ministry of Justice affairs, (ii) various kinds of training for Ministry of Justice officials, and (iii) international cooperation, both in the criminal and civil justice fields.

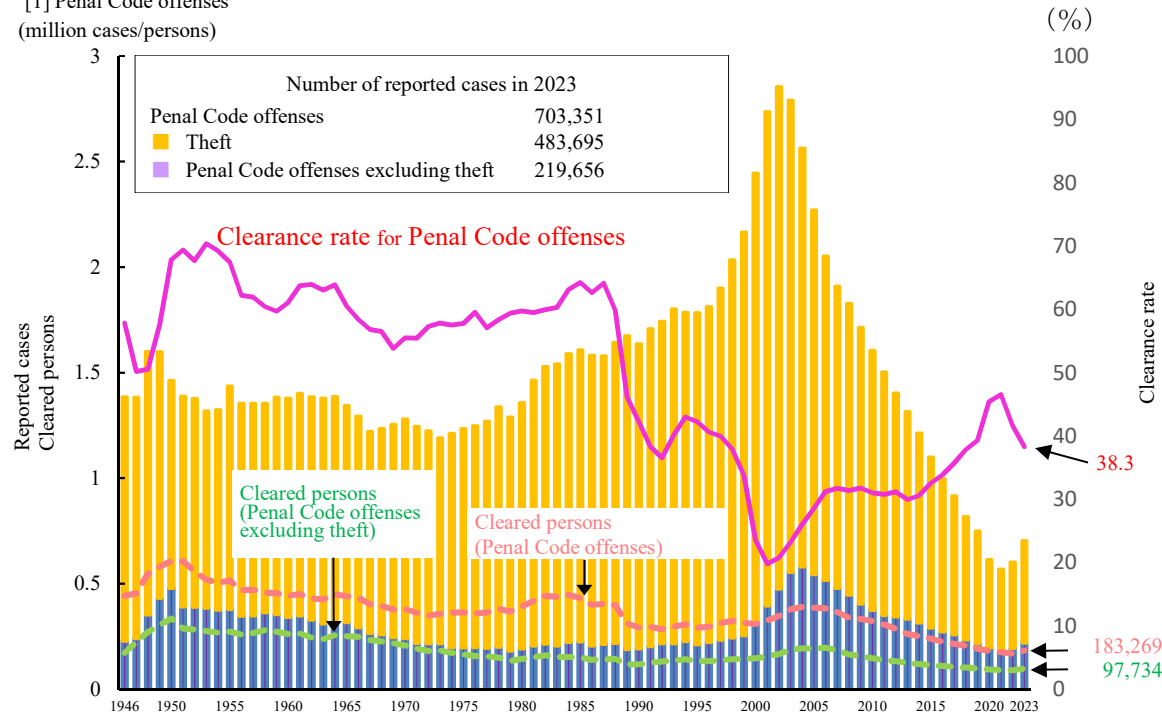


The Research and Training Institute, MOJ

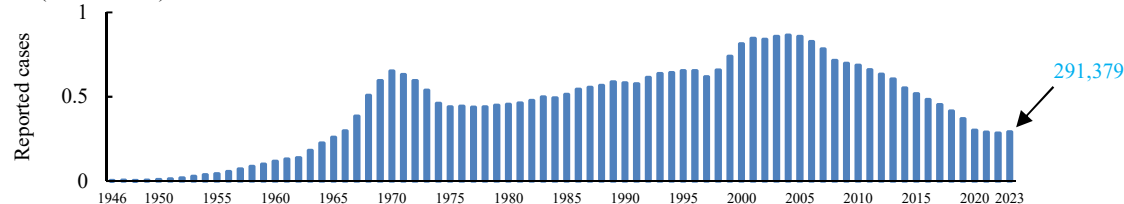
Crime Trends

Penal Code offenses: reported cases, cleared persons and clearance rate

[1] Penal Code offenses
(million cases/persons)

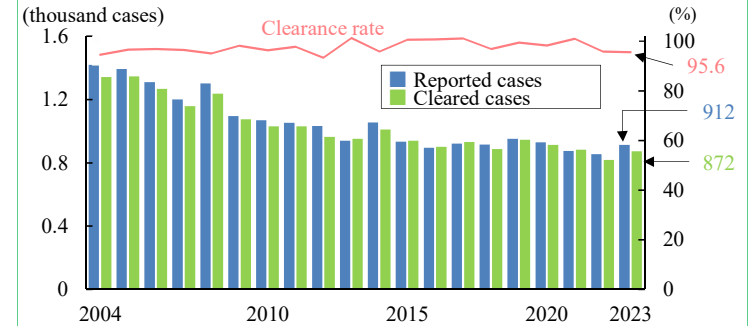


[2] Dangerous driving causing death or injury, and negligent driving offenses causing death or injury
(million cases)

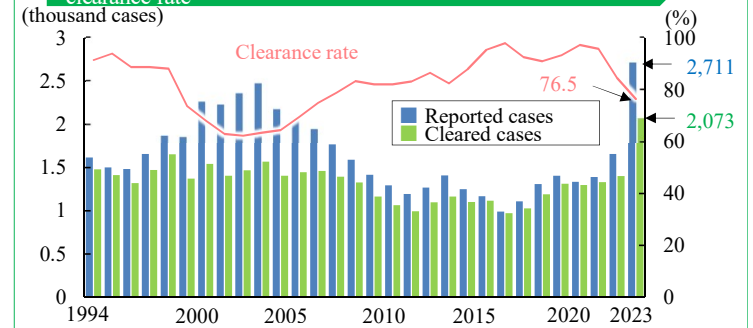


* The Act Partially Amending the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 66 of 2023) came into effect on July 13, 2023, and as a result, indecency through compulsion and constructive indecency through compulsion, and forcible sexual intercourse and constructive forcible sexual intercourse were integrated into indecent assault and penetrative sexual assault, respectively. In addition, the penalties were also revised, such as making it possible to punish a person for the crime of indecent assault and penetrative sexual assault if the person commits an indecent act or sexual penetration against a victim between the ages of 13 and 15, and was born more than 5 years before the date of the birth of the victim.

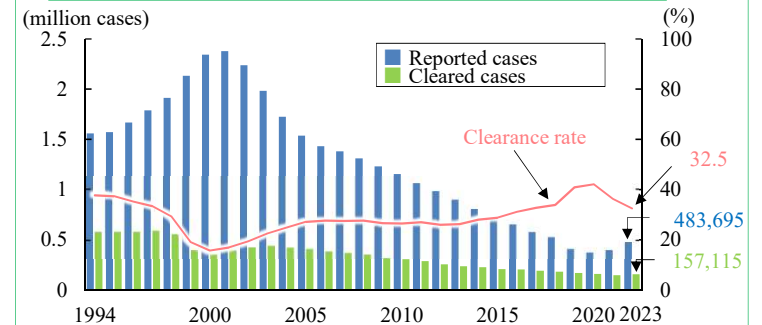
Homicide: reported/cleared cases and clearance rate



Penetrative sexual assault (*): reported/cleared cases and clearance rate



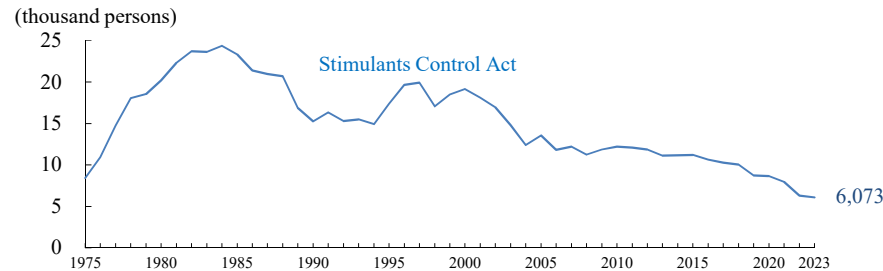
Theft: reported/cleared cases and clearance rate



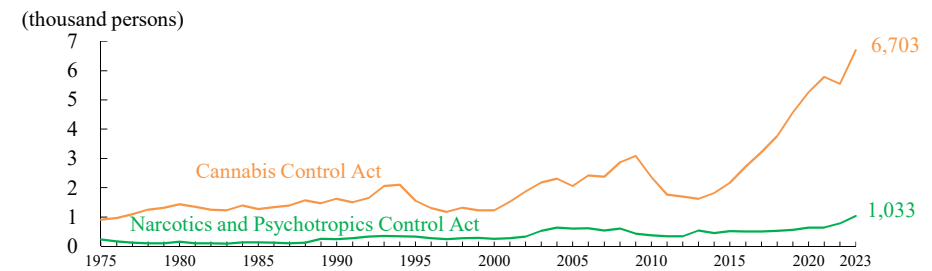
Specific Offenders/Juvenile Delinquents

Drug offenses

[1] Violations of Stimulants Control Act: Persons cleared

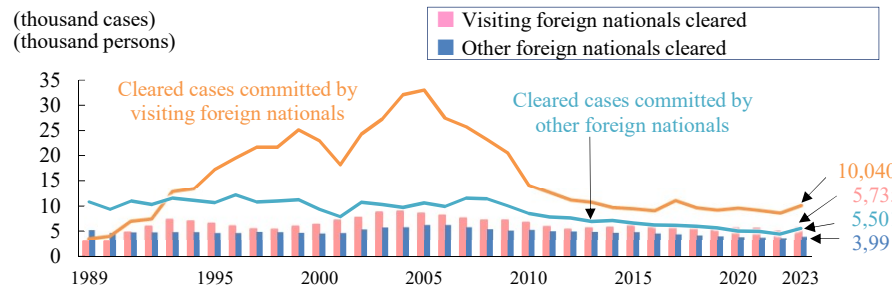


[2] Violations of Cannabis Control Act and other drug control laws: Persons cleared

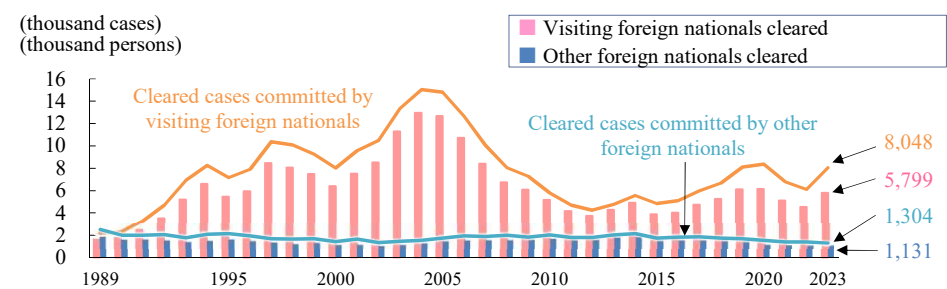


Foreign nationals

[1] Cases/persons cleared for Penal Code offenses

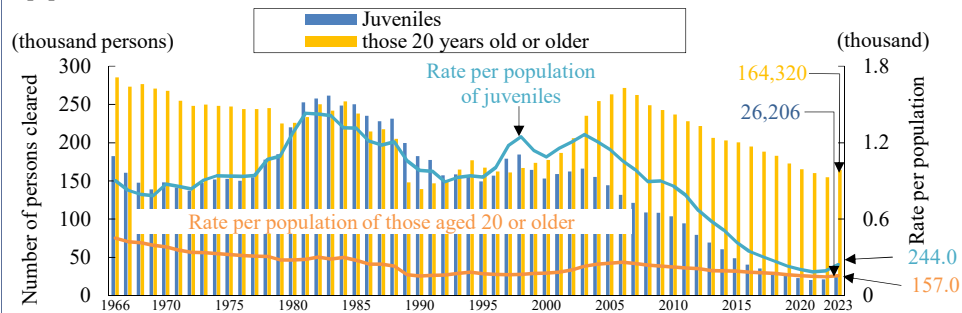


[2] Cases/persons cleared for Special Acts offenses

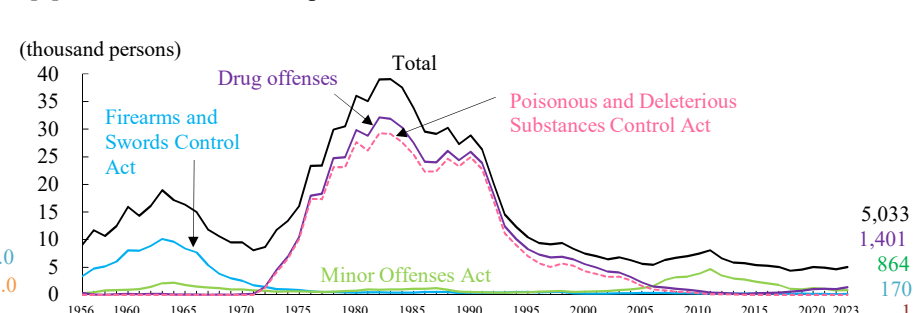


Juvenile delinquents

[1] Juveniles cleared for Penal Code offenses



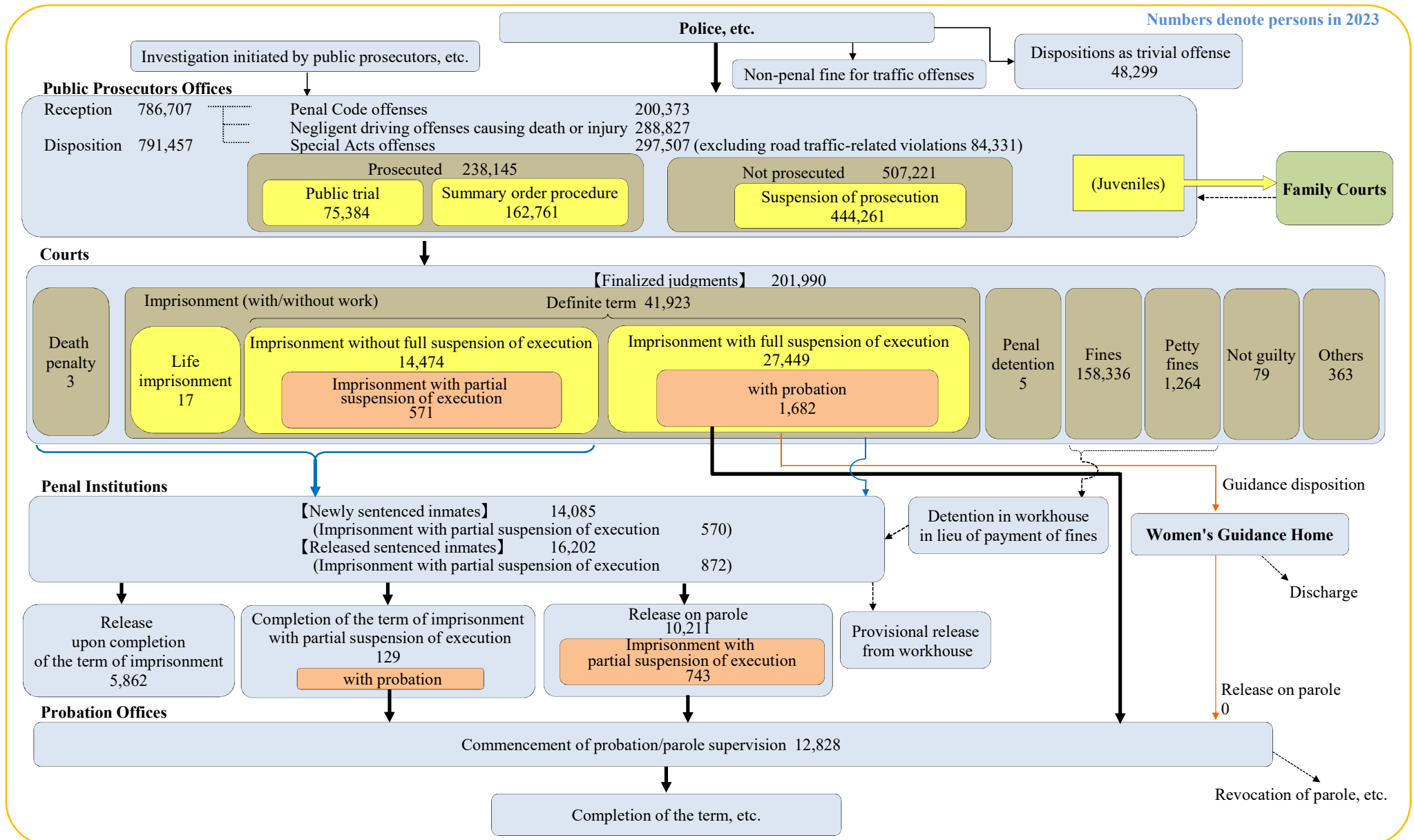
[2] Juveniles cleared for Special Acts offenses



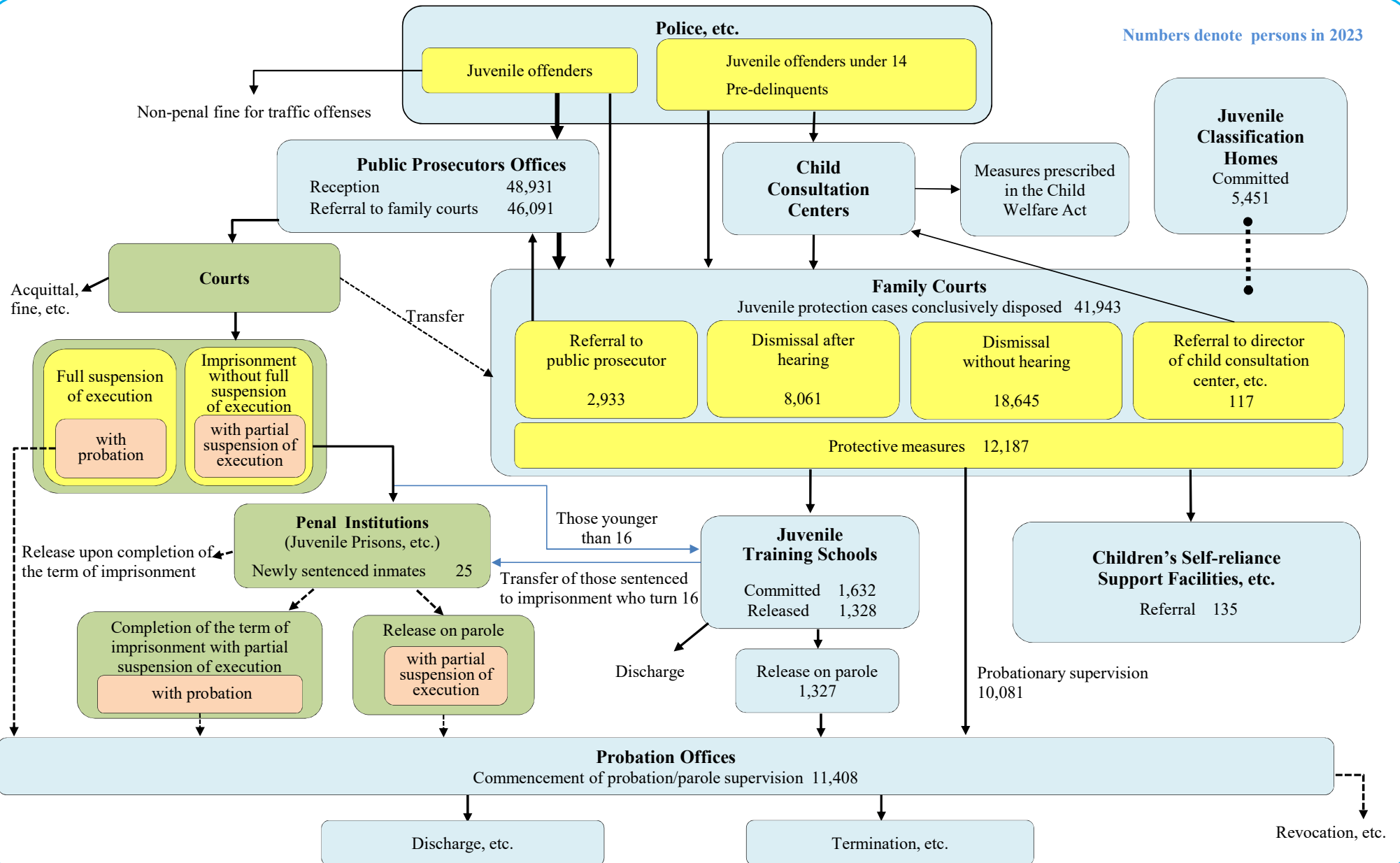
Notes: 1. "Rate per population of juveniles" refers to the number of juveniles cleared per 100,000 population of juveniles aged 10 or older.

2. "Rate per population of those 20 years old or older" refers to the number of those 20 years old or older cleared per 100,000 population of those 20 years old or older.

Procedure of Criminal Justice

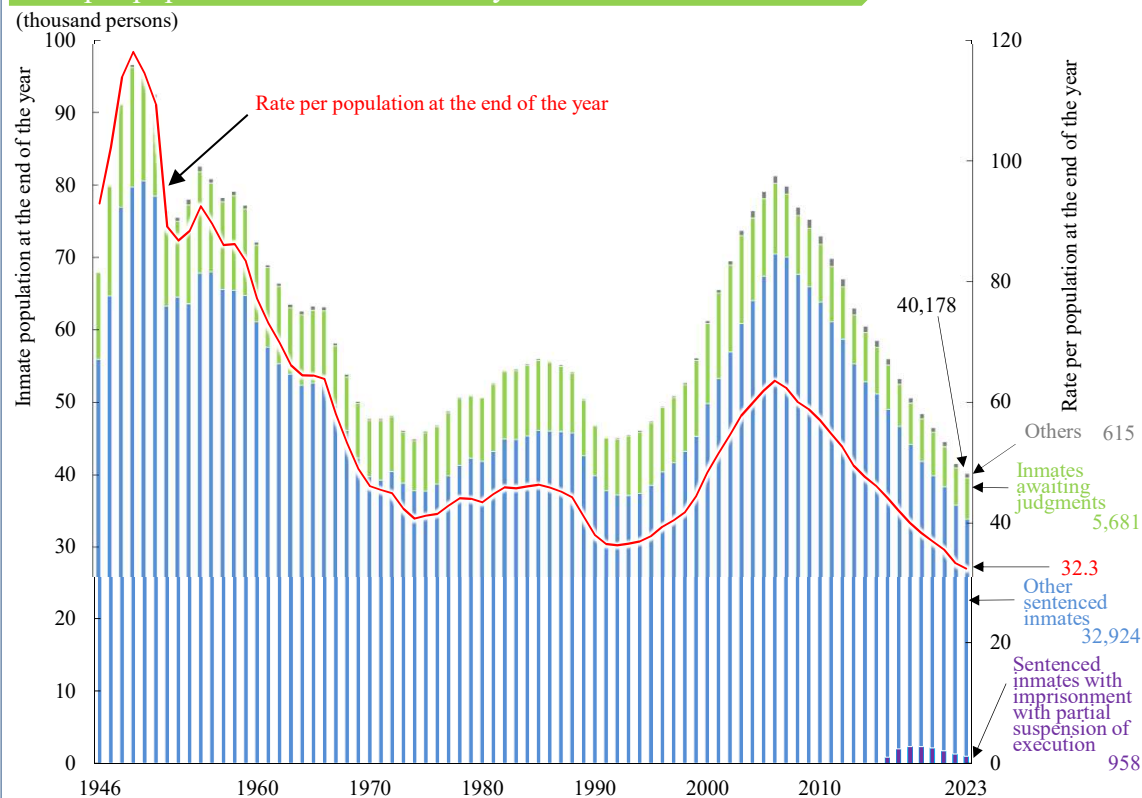


Procedure of Criminal Justice for Juvenile Delinquents

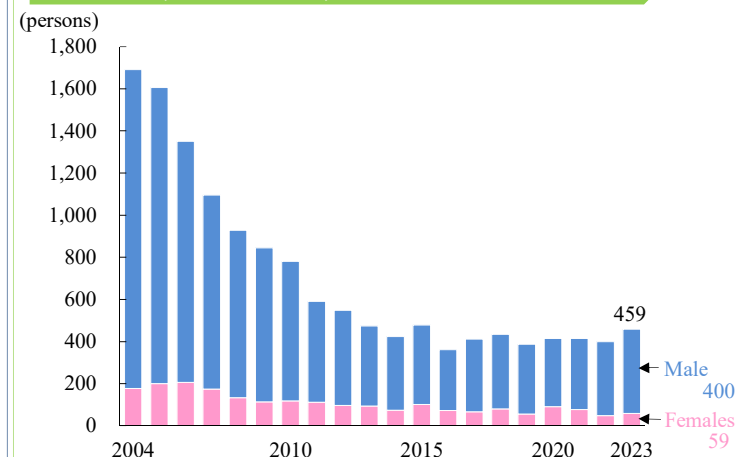


Treatment of Offenders/Re-offending

Inmate population of penal institutions and rate per population at the end of the year

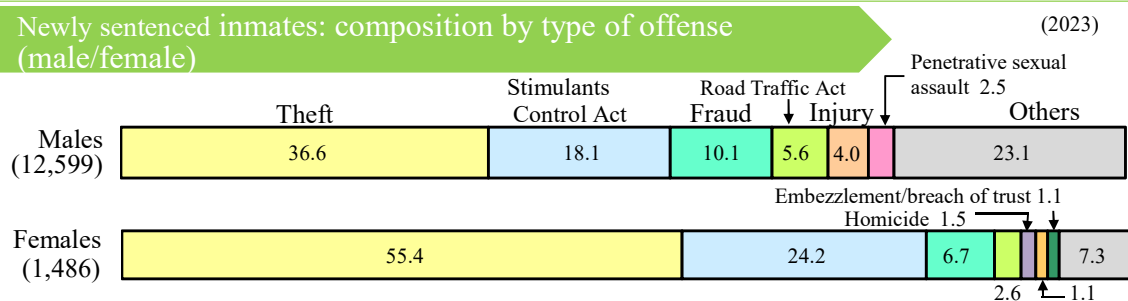


Newly sentenced and F-class categorized inmates (male/female)

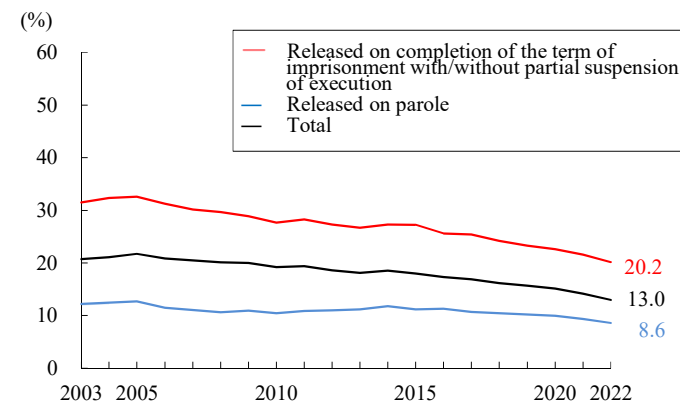


Note: Sentenced inmates (until the end of March 2022, foreign national sentenced inmates) who require different treatment from that of Japanese sentenced inmates are categorized as F-class and provided with treatment in accordance with their culture and lifestyle.

Newly sentenced inmates: composition by type of offense (male/female)



Rate of reimprisonment within 2 years

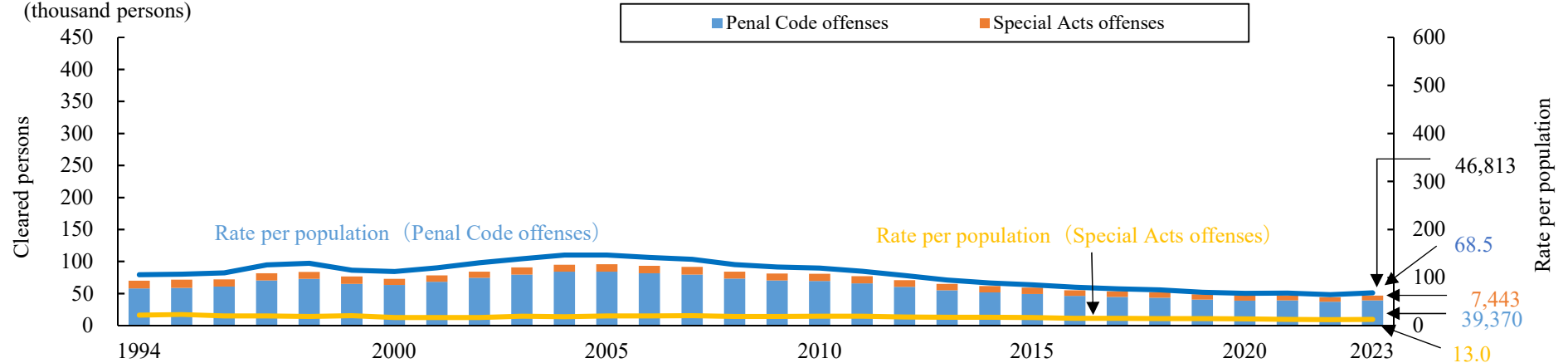


Note: The rate of reimprisonment means the percentage of inmates reimprisoned to serve sentences for offenses after release among the released sentenced inmates of a given year.

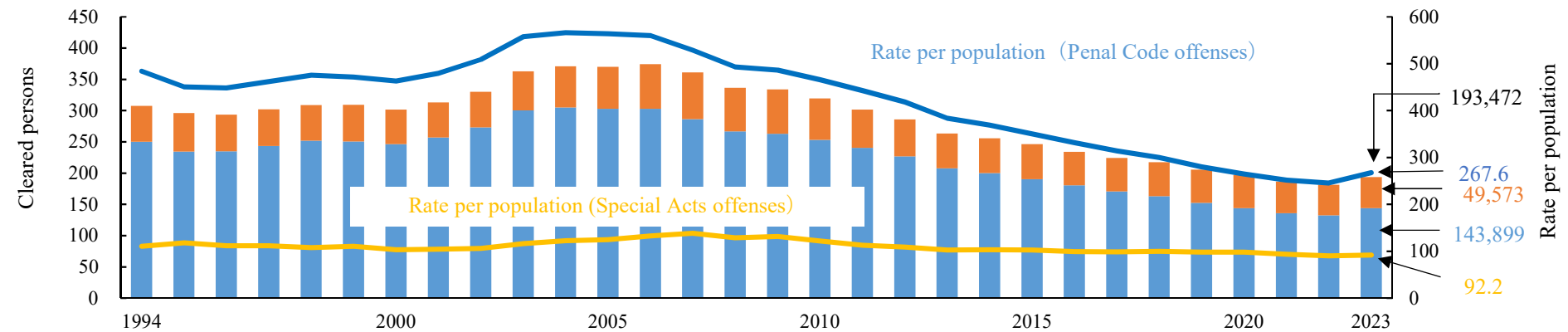
Special Feature: Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders

Penal Code offenses and Special Act offenses: cleared persons and rate per population (male/ female)

[1] Females
(thousand persons)



[2] Males
(thousand persons)



Notes: "Rate per population" refers to number of cleared persons per 100,000 population of male/female aged 14 or older.

Special Feature: Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders

Survey on sentenced inmates

This study examines a questionnaire survey conducted on female inmates, etc. in order to contribute to considering effective measures to prevent recidivism or to facilitate reintegration of released inmates into society by analyzing three characteristics: 1) male/female offenders, 2) drug offenders and 3) theft offenders.

Basic information

The questionnaire survey was conducted on newly received inmates in 22 penal institutions (11 institutions mainly accommodate males, 9 institutions mainly accommodate females, and 2 institutions accommodate both males and females separately) who participated in the assessment at the beginning of their prison terms between July and December 2022.

The number of inmates subject to analysis was 908 (461 females and 447 males).

Notes:

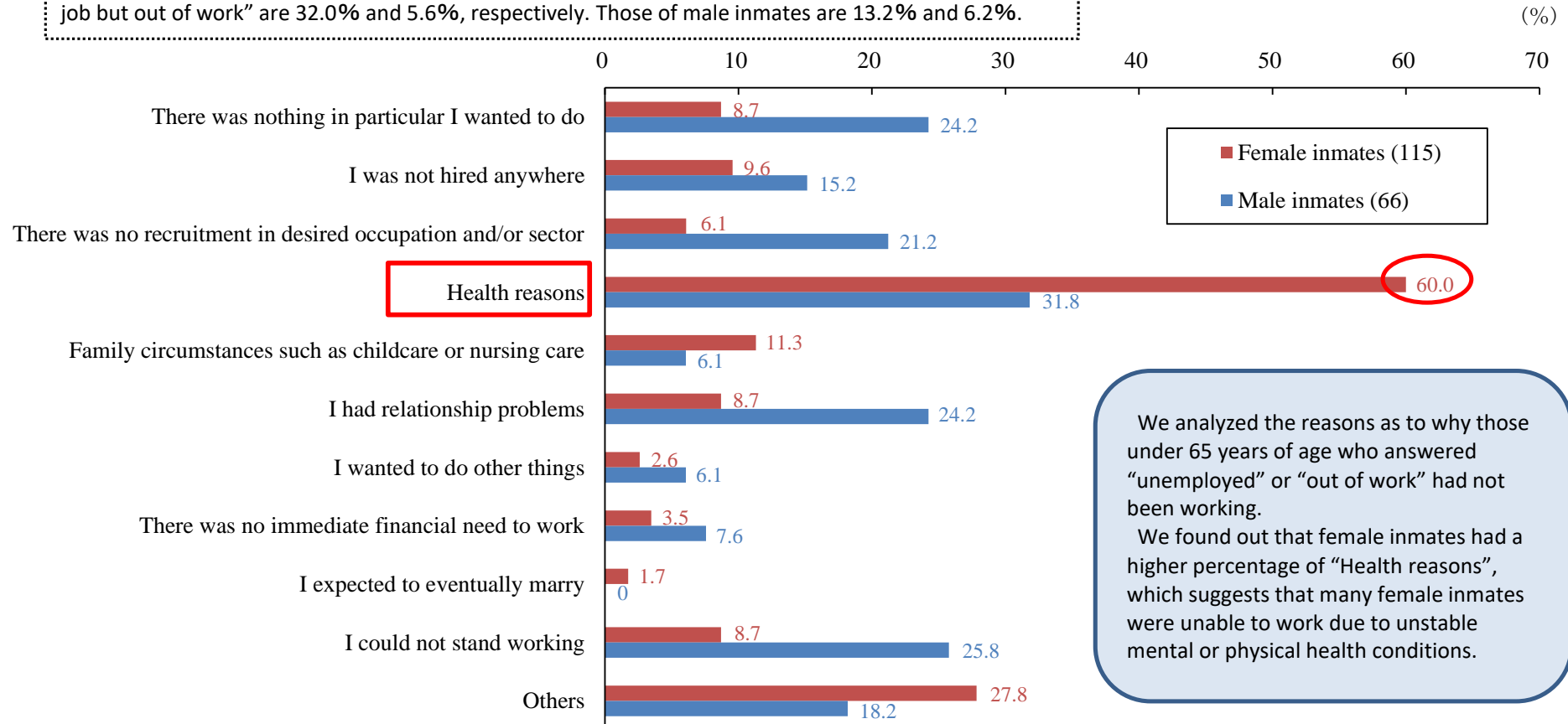
1. Persons whose characteristics are unknown are excluded from the numbers, except in the case of total numbers.
2. "Age" is the age at the time of the survey based on the response to the survey.
3. "Marital status" is that of the time of the offence.
4. "Mental status" is based on the diagnosis made at the beginning of the prison term.
5. Numbers in parentheses indicate the percentage of people of each category in each characteristic.

Characteristics	Category	Total	Female inmates	Male inmates
Total		908 (100.0)	461 (100.0)	447 (100.0)
Age	20-29	157 (17.4)	52 (11.3)	105 (23.8)
	30-39	171 (19.0)	78 (17.0)	93 (21.0)
	40-49	209 (23.2)	112 (24.3)	97 (21.9)
	50-59	172 (19.1)	95 (20.7)	77 (17.4)
	60-64	54 (6.0)	31 (6.7)	23 (5.2)
	65 or older	139 (15.4)	92 (20.0)	47 (10.6)
Category of punishment	imprisonment with work	139 (15.4)	92 (20.0)	47 (10.6)
	imprisonment with work (with partial suspension of execution)	840 (92.7)	426 (92.4)	414 (93.0)
Term of sentence	1 year or less	192 (21.1)	99 (21.5)	93 (20.8)
	2 years or less	323 (35.6)	185 (40.1)	138 (30.9)
	3 years or less	234 (25.8)	115 (24.9)	119 (26.6)
	5 years or less	102 (11.2)	47 (10.2)	55 (12.3)
	Over 5 years	57 (6.3)	15 (3.3)	42 (9.4)
Number of time(s) imprisoned to penal institutions	Once	492 (54.2)	236 (51.2)	256 (57.3)
	2 times or more	416 (45.8)	225 (48.8)	191 (42.7)
Marital status	Unmarried	316 (35.5)	103 (22.9)	213 (48.3)
	Married	219 (24.6)	159 (35.4)	60 (13.6)
	Divorced	321 (36.1)	158 (35.2)	163 (37.0)
	Bereaved	34 (3.8)	29 (6.5)	5 (1.1)
Mental status	No mental disorder	666 (76.5)	304 (69.9)	362 (83.0)
	Intellectual disability	9 (1.0)	2 (0.5)	7 (1.6)
	Personality disorder	9 (1.0)	7 (1.6)	2 (0.5)
	Neurotic disorder	33 (3.8)	22 (5.1)	11 (2.5)
	Other mental disorder	154 (17.7)	100 (23.0)	54 (12.4)

Special Feature: Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders

Survey on sentenced inmates: Reasons for not working (male/female)

The percentages of female inmates under 65 years of age who answered “unemployed” and “seeking a job but out of work” are 32.0% and 5.6%, respectively. Those of male inmates are 13.2% and 6.2%.



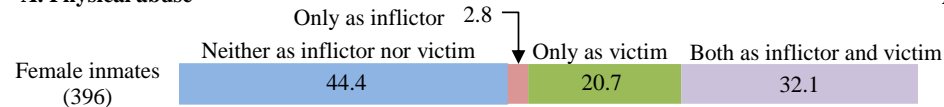
- Notes: 1. Numbers are limited to persons under 65 years of age who answered “out of work” or “unemployed” for employment status.
 2. Persons who did not specify reasons for not working are excluded.
 3. Numbers are based on the age at the time of the survey, which is resulted from the questionnaire survey.
 4. Numbers indicate the percentage of persons under the respective categories and in some cases are double counted.
 5. Numbers in parentheses indicate the actual number of persons.

Special Feature: Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders

Survey on sentenced inmates: Experience of abuse as inflictor and/or victim with spouse/partner (drug offenders)

[1] Total

A. Physical abuse



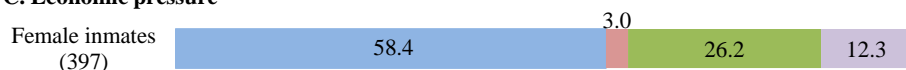
Female inmates (396)

B. Psychological abuse



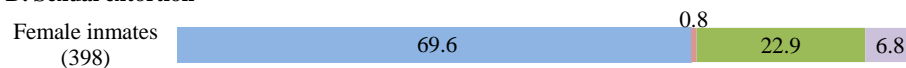
Male inmates (395)

C. Economic pressure



Male inmates (397)

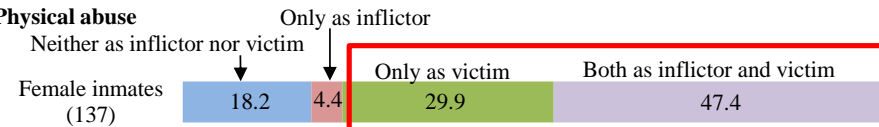
D. Sexual extortion



Male inmates (395)

[2] Drug offenders (female 155, male 126)

A. Physical abuse



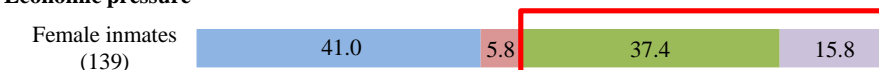
Female inmates (137)

B. Psychological abuse



Male inmates (110)

C. Economic pressure



Female inmates (139)

D. Sexual extortion



Male inmates (110)

- Notes: 1. Persons who did not specify experiences of abuse as inflictor and/or victim with spouse/partner are excluded.
 2. Experiences of abuse as inflictor and/or victim indicates the total composition of "had once or twice" and "had many times" for abuse as inflictor or victim, respectively.
 3. Spouse includes common-law marriage, estranged spouse and ex-spouse.
 4. Numbers in parentheses indicate the actual number of persons.

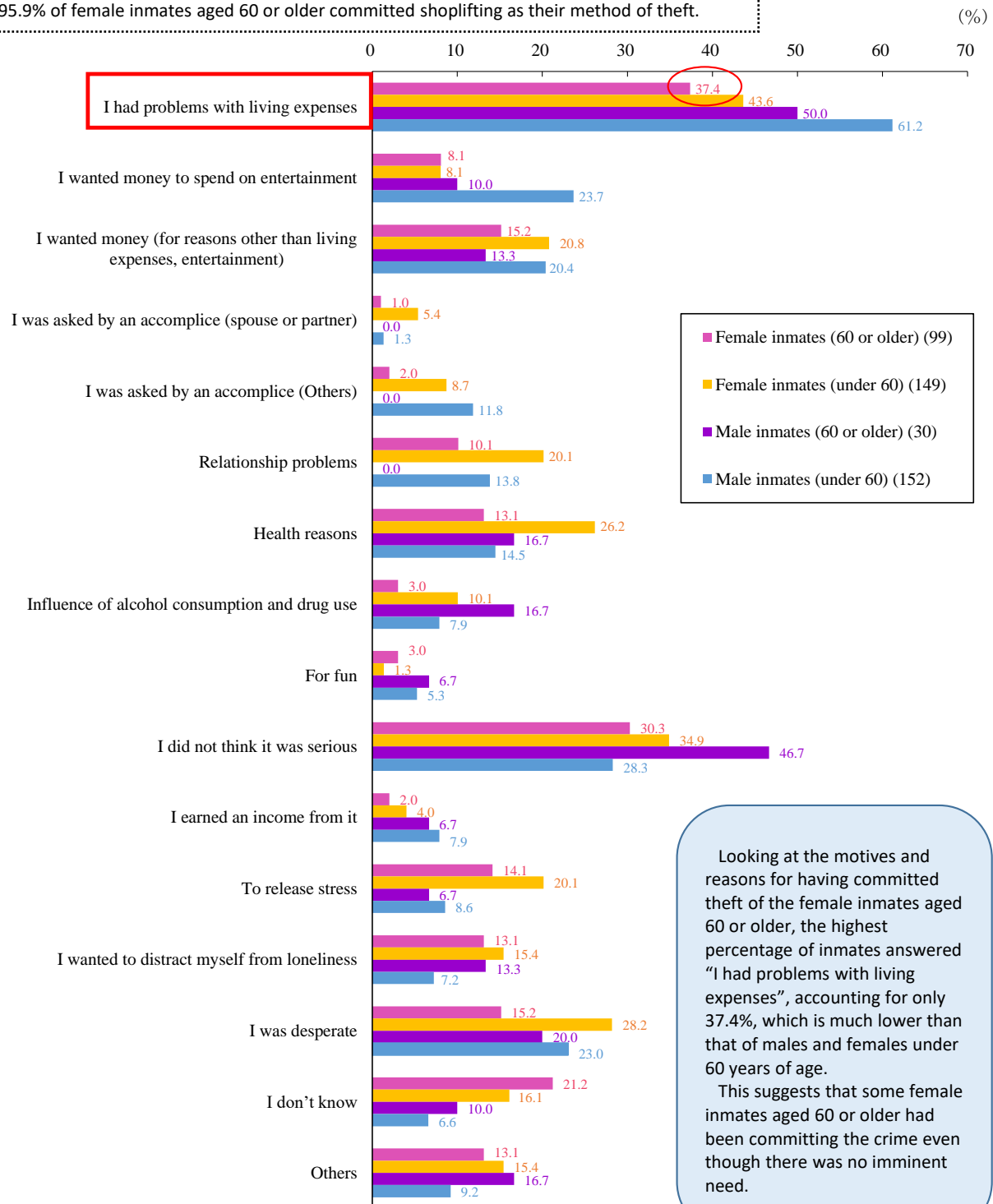
The result was that among female inmates, drug offenders were more likely to have been victimized by their spouse/partner. Our study also revealed that many female inmates who had committed drug offenses also experienced self-injurious behavior. It is suggested that many female inmates who had committed drug offenses had experienced victimization and other problems that led to various difficulties in their lives.

Special Feature: Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders

Survey on sentenced inmates: Motives and reasons for committing crimes (Theft offenders)

57.7% of female inmates on this survey committed theft offenses.

95.9% of female inmates aged 60 or older committed shoplifting as their method of theft.



Notes: 1. Persons who did not specify motives and reasons of case are excluded.

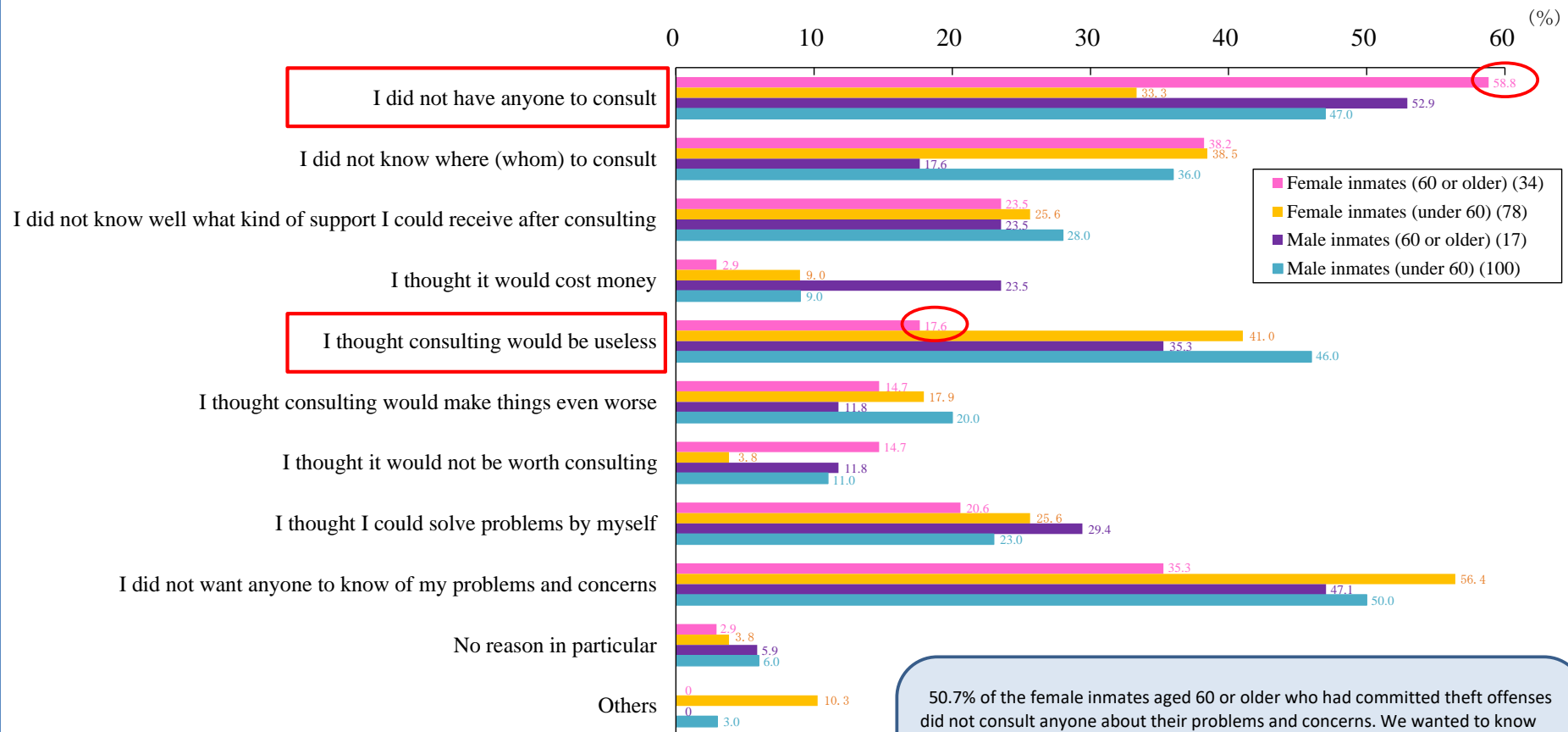
2. Numbers indicate the percentage of persons under the respective categories and in some cases are double counted.

3. "I was asked by an accomplice (Others)" indicates the percentage of persons under any of "I was asked by accomplice (friends/ acquaintances)" or "I was asked by accomplice (stranger)", "Relationship problems" indicates the percentage of persons under any of "Relationship problems (parents, children, siblings)" or "Relationship problems (spouse (includes common-law marriage) and partner)" or "Relationship problems (friends/ acquaintances)", "Health reasons" indicates the percentage of persons under any of "Health reasons (addiction (alcohol, drug, gambling, etc.))" or "Health reasons (eating disorder)" or "Health reasons (except addiction and eating disorder)", and "Others" indicates the percentage of persons under any of "policy of organization" or "Others".

4. Numbers in parentheses indicate the actual number of persons.

Special Feature: Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders

Survey on sentenced inmates: Reasons for not receiving consultations (Theft offenders)



- Notes
1. Persons who did not specify reasons not to consult are excluded.
 2. Numbers indicate the percentage of persons under the respective categories accounted for persons who answered "I did not consult" for questions relating to the presence or absence of consultations, and in some cases are double counted.
 3. Numbers in parentheses indicate the actual number of persons.

50.7% of the female inmates aged 60 or older who had committed theft offenses did not consult anyone about their problems and concerns. We wanted to know the reasons for their not receiving consultations, and we found out that out of those who did not consult anyone, 58.8% answered "I did not have anyone to consult", and 17.6% answered "I thought it would not be worth consulting".

These answers suggest that isolated situations were behind the theft offenses committed by female inmates aged 60 or older, who had the desire to consult with someone but were unable to do so.