

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

1. Current Situation

A. Number of Confirmed Penal Code Offenses (See Appendix 2)

In 2017, the number of confirmed Penal Code offenses was 915,042, a decrease of 81,078 (8.1 %) from the previous year. After marking a postwar record high in 2002, it has continued to decrease since 2003. In 2017, the number is less than one-third of that of 2002.

Of the different types of offenses, the number of confirmed larceny offenses was 655,498, a decrease of 67,650 (9.4 %) from the previous year. There has been a decreasing trend in the number of confirmed felonious offenses (murder, robbery, arson, rape) in recent years. In 2017, the number of confirmed felonious offenses was 4,840, showing a decrease of 290 (5.7 %) from the previous year.

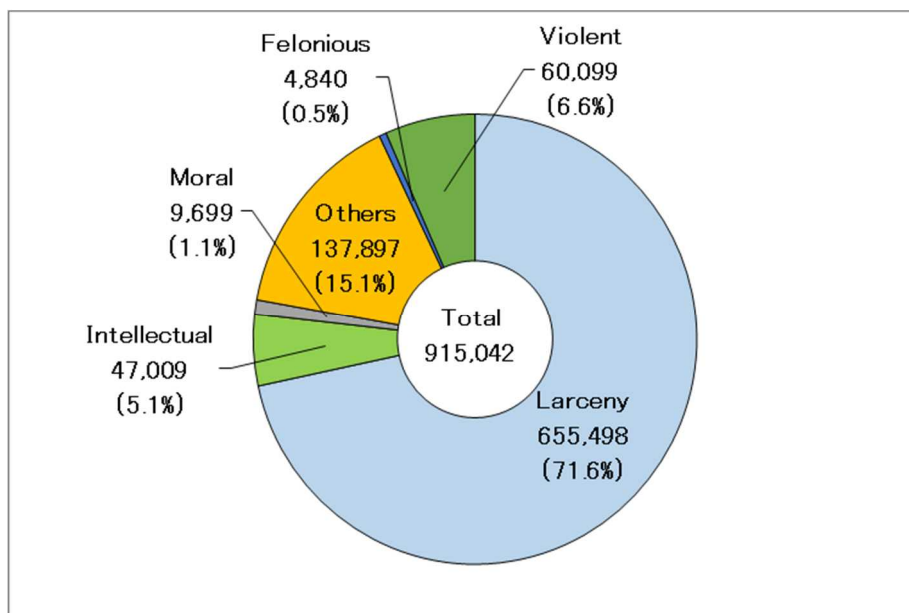
In addition, the number of confirmed intellectual offenses was 47,009, an increase of 1,231 (2.7 %) from the previous year.

B. Number of Cleared Penal Code Offenses (See Appendix 2)

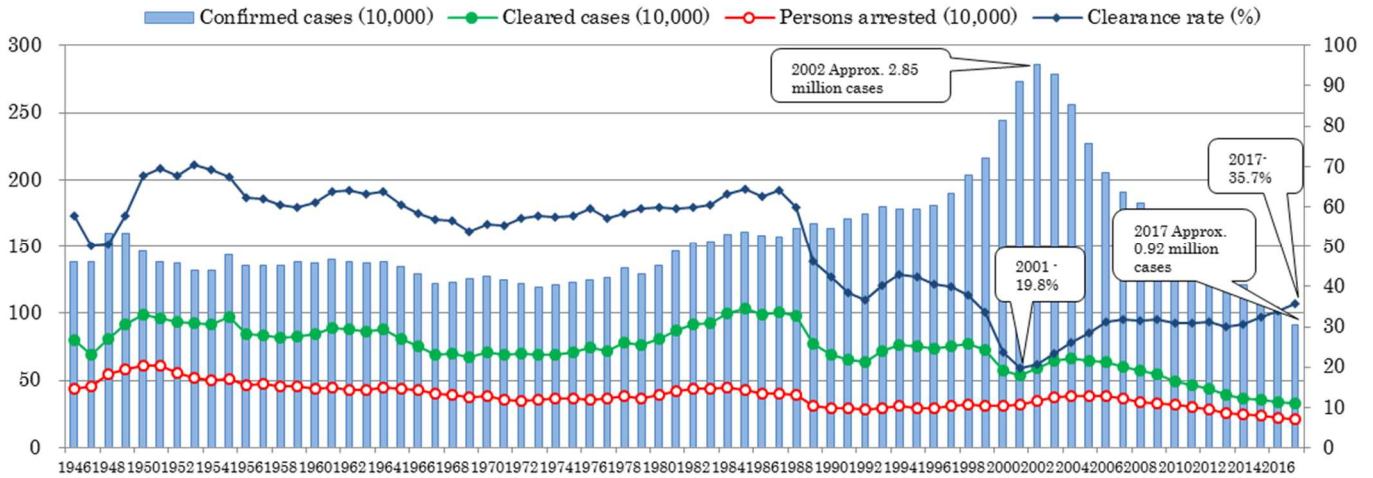
The number of cleared Penal Code offenses was 327,081, a decrease of 9,985 (3.0 %) from the previous year, while the number of persons arrested was 215,003, a decrease of 11,373 (5.0 %) from the previous year.

The number of cleared larceny offenses was 204,296, a decrease of 4,350 (2.1 %) from the previous year. The number of cleared felonious offenses was 4,193, a decrease of 242 (5.5 %) from the previous year. The number of cleared intellectual offenses was 20,965, a decrease of 1,311 (5.9 %) from the previous year.

Number of Penal Code Offenses Confirmed by the Police



Trends in Confirmed and Cleared Criminal Cases (1946 – 2017)



C. Countermeasures against Crimes that are Getting More and More Sophisticated

The police make efforts to prevent crimes through coordination with relevant organizations and citizens. The police are developing expertise in new investigative methods in order to respond to crimes that are getting more and more sophisticated such as so called “Hey, it’s me” type of remittance call frauds¹. Also, the police are involved in the development and international exchanges of advanced forensic science techniques.

D. Cooperation of Citizens



The understanding and cooperation of citizens is critical in crime investigation. The police appeal online for information and assistance from the public.

In addition, in 2007, the police introduced the Special Reward System – a public reward system – for encouraging citizens to provide information and for resolving serious crimes.

E. Combating International Crime

Many foreign nationals reside in Japan now, and also the number of visitors from abroad to Japan has been increasing.

The NPA is intensifying efforts to crack down on international crime in order to effectively respond to the threats from transnational organized crime group members, who might be among visitors to Japan. Therefore, the NPA is promoting countermeasures such as improving intelligence capacity and collaboration with relevant agencies in Japan and abroad.

¹ A type of fraud which is similar to a grandparent scam, where someone disguising its identity calls a victim to ask for money for some concocted emergency.