

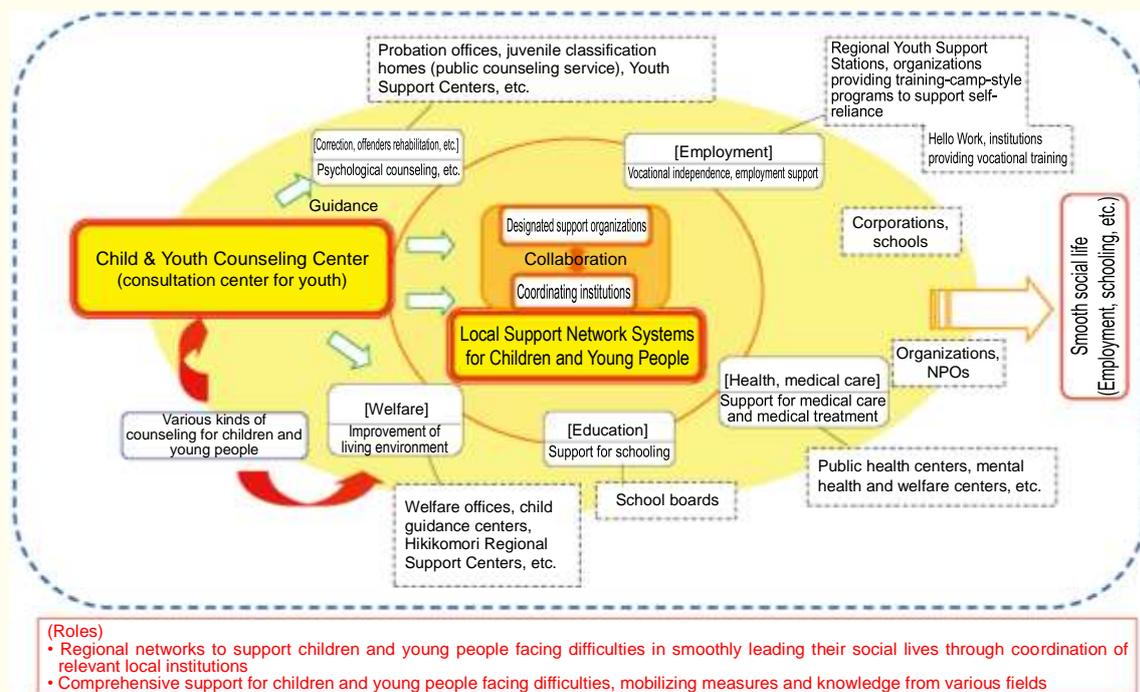
Chapter 3 Supporting Children, Young People, and Their Families Who Are Facing Difficulties

Section 1 Improvement of Multiple-Level Support in Light of the Composite Nature and Complexity of the Issues that Children and Young People Face

1 Establishment of horizontal and vertical support networks through Local Support Network Systems for Children and Young People

- The Cabinet Office implemented the “Project for Promoting the Establishment of Local Support Network Systems for Children and Young People” in FY 2017 for prefectures and municipalities. This implementation was done to facilitate the establishment and utilization of the Systems on the basis of “the Act on Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young people.” And in FY 2017, the Cabinet Office surveyed the local governments’ support networks for children and young people.

Figure 8 Local Support Network Systems for Children and Young People



(Source) Cabinet Office materials

Figure 9 Changes in the number of established Local Support Network Systems for Children and Young People

◆ Established in 116 local governments as of the end of FY 2017



(Source) Cabinet Office materials

2 Improvement of outreach

- The Cabinet Office is working on the development of a wide range of human resources related to development and support for children and young people by providing training for personnel in agencies including public counseling agencies and NPOs that are engaged in counseling tasks for children and young people having difficulties, aiming for them to acquire necessary knowledge to provide appropriate support, and training on outreach (home-visit support) aiming to develop human resources that are engaged in outreach.

Section 2 Measures for each Kind of Difficult Situation

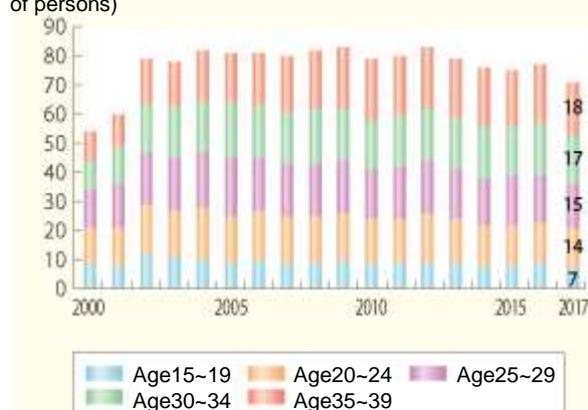
1 Support for children and young people who are non-employed young people, socially without, or truant

Figure 10 Number of non-employed young people

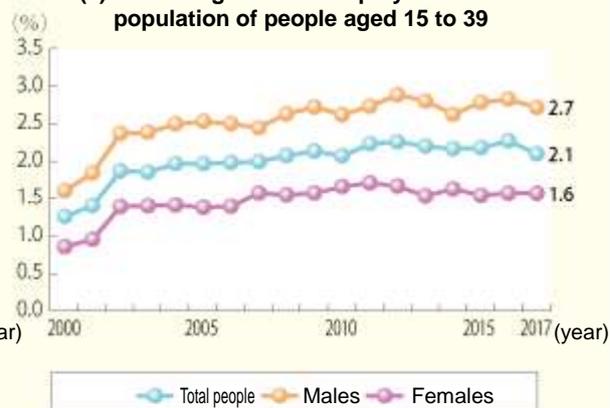
◆ In 2017, the number of non-employed young people aged 15-39 was 710,000, accounting for 2.1% of the population aged 15-39.

(Tens of thousands of persons)

(1) Trends (Total population)



(2) Percentage of non-employed out of the population of people aged 15 to 39



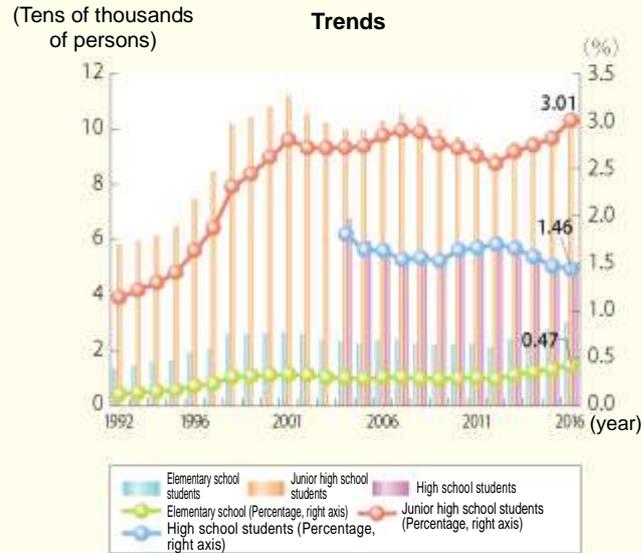
Source: "Labour Force Survey," MIC

(Note) 1. Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima are excluded from the figures of 2011.

2. The figure by gender of men and women was rounded off, so, it does not match the total of men and women.

Figure 11 Situation of non-attendance at school

- ◆ The number of non-attendance at elementary and junior high school has increased from 2013 to 2016 for four years than the previous year.

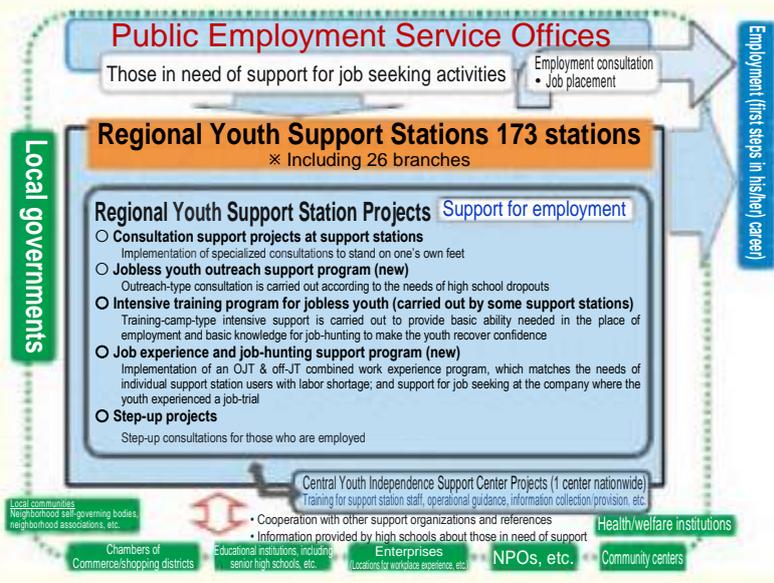


Source: "Survey on Undesirable Behavior and School Non-attendance of Students" MEXT
 (Note) 1. Non-attendance at school mentioned here are the people on the grounds of non-attendance at school among students who have not attended the school for 30 days or more consecutively or intermittently in the year. Non-attendance at school means a situation wherein children do not or cannot attend the school due to some psychological, emotional, physical or social factors and backgrounds (However, exclude the cases of illness and financial reasons).
 2: The investigation object is the national, public, and private elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools (The elementary school includes a compulsory school lower course; the junior high school includes a compulsory school higher course and a secondary education school lower course; and the high school includes a secondary school upper course). The high schools were investigated from FY 2004.

(1) Support for non-employed young people

- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) is implementing a project to provide professional counseling and support for vocational independence, support for the retention of employment and career development, and intensive vocational training programs for jobless young people (between the ages of 15 and 39) at Regional Youth Support Stations in cooperation with local governments.

Figure 12 Regional Youth Support Station Projects



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

(2) Support for children and young people suffering from social withdrawal (“hikikomori”)

- MHLW is promoting the establishment of Hikikomori Regional Support Centers, which function as places specifically for counseling on hikikomori problems, in cooperation with relevant organizations. From FY

2018, MHLW will strongly backup municipal Hikikomori support organizations so that they can carefully take care of Hikikomori in the region. Furthermore, it has been implementing a project in which the governments of prefectures and municipalities train “hikikomori supporters,” who provide continuous home-visit support for the socially withdrawn, and municipal governments dispatch supporters to the socially withdrawn and their families.

(3) Support for children and young people who do not attend school

- Based on “The Act on Securing Education Equivalent to Ordinary Education at the Stage of Compulsory Education” (Act No.105 of 2016) enacted in December 2016, MEXT established basic guidelines in March 2017 to promote the policy on Hikikomori children’s access to educational opportunities. To take measures for Hikikomori children, MEXT conducted research in FY 2017 to secure their access to education opportunities at places outside schools. It will also continue the study in FY 2018.

(4) Support for high school dropouts and graduates with undetermined career paths

- MEXT has gained insight into the situations of high school dropouts and published it in the report “Survey on Undesirable Behavior and School Non-attendance of Students”.
- MHLW has further strengthened collaboration between related organizations such as schools, Hello Work and Regional Youth Support Stations and provided continuous work support by outreach type etc. in order to further enhance the support to high school dropouts etc. from the FY 2017.

2 Support for children and young people with disabilities and other special needs

(1) Support for children and young people with disabilities

(Promotion of special needs education)

- MEXT is taking the following measures to promote special needs education.
 - Subsidizing part of local governments’ expenses for improving the seamless support system from pre-school to school-age to public participation; arranging special education support experts; and promoting special support education systems.
 - Disseminating information useful in the reinforcement of reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities by releasing the results of case studies conducted through the commissioned projects by the MEXT on the National Institute of Special Needs Education’s Reasonable Accommodation Case Study Database.

(Support for children with disabilities in enrollment)

- MEXT and local governments provide financial support to the guardians of children with disabilities to support their enrollment at schools for special needs education and elementary and junior high schools in accordance with the financial capacity of the guardians, taking into consideration any special circumstances, for the sake of the enrollment of those children to reduce economic burdens.

(Exchange and joint learning among children with and without disabilities and people in the community)

- In the new National Curriculum Standard publicly notified in March 2017, MEXT stipulates that the exchange and joint learning among children with and without disabilities should be provided. To promote further understanding about disabled children, the Board of Education provides opportunities for exchange and joint learning at school in each subject, sports, culture and artistic activities.
- The National Institute of Special Needs Education holds the Workshop for Promoting Joint Activities and Learning, designed for teachers, in order to promote an understanding of and concrete plans for exchange and joint learning.

(Sports activities)

- MEXT supports people involved in sports and those who are concerned with the welfare of people with disabilities to establish coordination and collaboration systems, and supported measures for the promotion of sports for people with disabilities in an integrated manner in local communities and implements supports to promote the creation of bases for sports activities for people with disabilities, with schools for special needs education as bases, in order to promote daily sports activities for people with disabilities including children with disabilities.

(2) Support for children and young people with developmental disorders

(Strengthening regional support systems with a focus on Support Centers for Persons with Developmental Disorders)

- MHLW promotes counseling support for people with developmental disorders and their families, in cooperation with the people concerned in areas such as medical care, health care, welfare, education and labor in the community, pursuant to the “Act on Support for Persons with Developmental Disorders” (Act No. 167 of 2004).

(Development of a support system at schools)

- Children who are suspected of having a developmental disorder are in ordinary classrooms. In order to support such children, MEXT has been promoting the development of a support system at schools for children who have disabilities including developmental disorders.
- The National Institute of Special Education provides, through the Internet, various information on education, events and workshops about developmental disabilities, in order to make people understand correctly and support persons with the disorder, and it holds seminars on “Developmental Disabilities Education Practice.”

(3) Support for the employment of people with disabilities

- MHLW makes it a rule that companies should employ persons with disabilities by 2.0 percentages (as of January, 2018). Through Hello Works, the government instructs companies strictly to follow the rule and encourages companies to employ persons with disabilities by “team support” consistently from job matching to further consultation, cooperating with other local institutions. Furthermore, the government offers transition support for employment to provide support for people with disabilities to obtain ordinary work; and employment continuation support to offer employment to people with disabilities who are not capable of doing ordinary work.
- In cooperation with welfare- and labor-related institutions, MEXT conducts research at the senior-high-school-course of schools for special-needs-education and high schools, in order to support handicapped persons’ career education and job-hunting.

(4) Support for people with disabilities in cultural and artistic activities

- MEXT dispatches artists with disabilities to elementary schools and junior high schools and provides opportunities to exhibit and experience wheelchair dances, in addition to providing opportunities to exhibit art and performances by students from schools for special needs education at National Cultural Festivals for Senior High Schools. Also, MEXT supports handicapped persons’ cultural and artistic activities by organizing their performances and exhibitions in and out of the country, and by putting barrier-free subtitles and voice guide on their movies that are selected as subsidized works.

(5) Support for children and others suffering from chronic diseases and patients with intractable diseases

- For children with specified chronic diseases in childhood and patients with intractable diseases, municipalities are implementing medical expenses subsidy system on the basis of “Child Welfare Act” (Act No. 164 of 1947) and the Act on Medical Care for Patients with Intractable/Rare Diseases (Act No. 50 of 2014), and self-reliance support projects for specified chronic diseases in childhood on the basis of “Child Welfare Act” since January 2015. In addition, a basic policy on measures for patients with intractable diseases was established in September 2015, and a basic policy on measures for children with specified chronic diseases in childhood was established in October 2015. The MHLW has determined that it will promote comprehensive measures for patients with intractable diseases and children with specified chronic diseases in childhood pursuant to these Acts and basic policies.

3 Providing support for children and young people who have fallen into delinquency or committed a crime

(1) General measures

(Coordination among families, schools, and the community)

- In order to take a closer look at the individual situations of juveniles’ problem behavior, which is becoming diversified and more serious, and to provide appropriate support, concerned institutions such as schools, the police, child guidance centers, and probation offices have organized Support Teams, appropriately dividing their roles and jointly dealing with problems.
- Every prefecture has School-Police Liaison Councils under the jurisdiction of police stations and municipalities. And many communities have a School-Police Communication System for the police and

schools to inform each other of juvenile delinquents and children who have problems with their growth.

- The police have assigned retired police officers to police stations as School Supporters and dispatch them to schools when requested.
- At Offenders Rehabilitation Support Centers, volunteer probation officers who are stationed at the centers, cooperate with various bodies and organizations to provide rehabilitation support for young probationers, to hold seminars on preventing delinquency, and to give advices to local residents about issues on delinquency.
- Juvenile classification homes provide information and advice in response to consultations with individuals such as juveniles and guardians.

(2) Prevention of delinquency, counseling activities

(Creation of a society that does not produce delinquents)

- The police promote efforts to “Create a Society that Does not Produce Delinquents,” throughout the country, in order to grow norm consciousness and strengthen juveniles’ bonds with society.

(Delinquency prevention classes)

- The police hold delinquency prevention classes by dispatching officers to schools or in cooperation with juvenile police volunteers.
- MOJ is making efforts for promoting elementary/junior high school children’s sound development and prevention against crime and delinquency. For instance, probation officers with rich experience and knowledge in juvenile delinquency directly visit elementary/junior high schools to hold a crime prevention class under the theme of delinquency and drug problems, and talk with teachers about education methods for children with problems.

(Counseling activities)

- Youth Centers perform counseling activities and street guidance, and they help improve harmful environments.
- The police have established accessible counseling desks, and juvenile guidance officials and police officers provide guidance and advice as needed. They have developed a user-friendly environment, such as the acceptance of requests for counseling through fax and e-mail, in addition to the provision of a telephone counseling service called the Young Telephone Corner.
- MOJ provide counseling by Human Rights Volunteers, staff members from Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus. Juvenile classification homes also provide counseling for guardians, teaching staff, and others. Besides, at Offender Rehabilitation Support Centers volunteer probation officers provide counseling for parents.

(Guidance activities)

- The police drive activities to find and protect juveniles running away from home and guidance activities for juvenile delinquents such as those who loiter late at night, focusing on places where delinquency is apt to appear such as downtowns and parks, coordinating mainly with Juvenile Support Centers, which are distributed across the country, and also juvenile police volunteers, the police are also finding problematic behaviors earlier and giving precise advice and guidance to juveniles and their guardians.

(Investigation of incidents)

- If police find delinquent juveniles, they conduct necessary investigations and take measures to provide appropriate guidance for juvenile delinquents such as providing advice to their guardians in addition to referring or notifying them to concerned institutions such as public prosecutors, family courts, and child guidance centers.
- Public prosecutors conduct necessary investigations in response to referrals from the police, and, in the case that they recognize that crimes are suspected, refer the cases to family courts. Opinions relating to treatment are attached to the referrals.

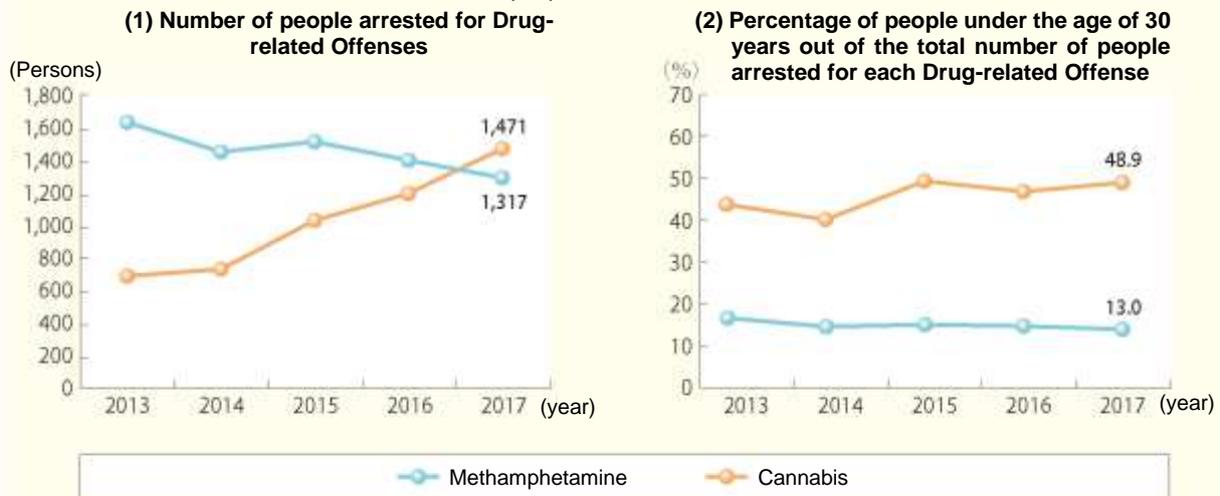
(Measures against delinquent groups)

- The police extensively investigate the activities of delinquent groups, and promote efforts such as cracking down to weaken and dissolve such groups, preventing juveniles from entering and supporting them in leaving juvenile delinquent groups and gang organizations, and taking measures against motorcycle gangs.

(3) Prevention of drug abuse

Figure 13 People under the age of 30 years arrested for Drug-related Offenses

- ◆ People under the age of 30 years arrested for cannabis offenses increased continuously for 4 years from the year 2014, account for about half the number of people arrested for cannabis.



(Source) National Police Agency "The situation of organized crime in 2017"

- The government is promoting comprehensive measures for the eradication of the abuse of drugs including NPS (New Psychoactive Substances) in accordance with the Fourth Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy (August 2013) and the Emergency Measures for the Eradication of the Abuse of NPS (July 2014).
- The Cabinet Office is promoting enlightenment activities such as creating and releasing a comic as a measure against drug abuse on its website and dissemination of information about consulting service. The purpose of these activities is to make the young people easily understand the dangers of drug abuse and a correct understanding of drug abuse.

Figure 14 Situation of arresting the NPS abusers (2017)

- ◆ A little less than 20% of the arrested NPS abusers are those under the age of 30.

	Number of people	Percentage
Age 50 and over	105	17.4%
Age 40 - 49	208	34.4%
Age 30 - 39	196	32.4%
Age 20 - 29	94	15.5%
Under the age 20 years	2	0.3%
Total	605	—

(Source) National Police Agency "The situation of organized crime in 2017"
 Note: "NPS abuser" is defined here as person arrested for NPS-related Offenses, excluding arrested NPS supplier, such as arrested for selling them

- The police strive to cut off the supply routes for drugs with crackdowns on drug trafficking organizations to curtail their activities and eliminate them and the strengthening of border controls in coordination with relevant organizations. The police also aim to stamp out the demand for drugs with the arrest of drug abusers, drug abuse prevention classes for children, and lectures on drug abuse prevention for college students and young working people.
- MOJ provides guidance on the prevention of drug abuse to juveniles addicted to drugs in juvenile training schools. It provides guidance for overcoming drug addiction for inmates with dependence on substances such as narcotics and stimulants in penal institutions, in addition to performing simplified drug tests on people on probation and providing drug abuse relapse prevention program based on cognitive-behavioral therapy for those who fulfill specific conditions at probation offices.
- MEXT holds drug abuse prevention classes at elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools. It also has created and distributed educational materials regarding the prevention of drug abuse.
- MHLW is reinforcing crackdowns on cases of drug trafficking conducted through the Internet and by foreigners, improving the counseling systems in local communities and actions taken by healthcare facilities related to the prevention of drug abuse and drug dependence, categorizing NPSs as designated substances promptly, issuing orders of scientific examination and orders of sales suspension, and requesting that

Internet Service Providers delete Internet stores selling NPSs.

(4) Hearings and decisions of family courts

(Acceptance of new cases)

- In 2017, family courts throughout the nation accepted cases for 73,353 juveniles in new juvenile protection cases.

(Processing)

- In 2017, there were 74,441 cases resulting in juvenile protection. Categorized by final decision, non-commencement of hearings accounted for the highest percentage at 38.4%, followed by protective measures at 22.7%.

(5) Redemptive guidance for offenders and consideration for victims

(Various systems and measures to provide information for victims)

- The police try to provide victims with as much information on the state of the investigations as possible.
- Among the measures being taken by MOJ, Public Prosecutors' Offices provide victims with information on the results of their cases. Juvenile training schools, Regional Parole Boards, and probation officers provide information including information on the treatment of the offenders in reformatories, information on hearings for provisional release, the beginning and end of probation, and treatment during probation.

(Proper treatment of assailants based on victims' feelings)

- Juvenile training schools and juvenile prisons are trying to improve correctional education and guidance for reform so that *education considering victims' points of view* will be provided deliberately and systematically.
- When on probation, a juvenile delinquent is given advice and guidance in order to be able to face his crime, to understand the victims' feelings and how serious his crime was, and to respond to the victim in a sincere manner.

(6) Efforts through treatment in facilities

(Juvenile classification homes)

- MOJ strives to improve differential diagnoses to contribute to the prevention of relapses into delinquency through the effective use of the "Ministry of Justice Case Assessment Tool (MJCA)" to quantitatively grasp the possibilities of relapse into delinquency and educational necessities.

(Juvenile training schools and juvenile prisons)

- At juvenile training schools, fine-tuned correctional education is provided to each inmate in accordance with individual correctional education plans which define the purposes, contents, duration, and ways of implementing correctional education prepared based on the inmates' characteristics.

(Children's self-reliance support facilities)

- MHLW is working to secure and improve the quality of children's self-reliance support facilities based on the Operating Policy for Children's Self-Reliance Support Facilities.

(7) Efforts through treatment in society

(Parolees from juvenile training schools, parolees from juvenile prisons)

- Probation offices are making efforts to improve the environment for juveniles being released by taking care of the juveniles released from these facilities in terms of their relationships with their guarantors and employment after release.

(Probation)

- Intensive support is given to juveniles on probation who have complex and difficult problems through more direct involvement in their cases.

(Improvement and diversification of treatment)

- MOJ is making efforts to properly and smoothly take protective measures by holding meetings for deliberation on cases of treatment at juvenile training schools.
- Provisions concerning social contribution activities were included in the special conditions for probation stipulated in the Offenders Rehabilitation Act (Act No. 88 of 2007) pursuant to the Act for Partial Amendment of the Penal Code (Act No. 49 of 2013), and the Act for Partial Amendment of the Penal Code came into force in June 2015.

(8) Employment support for juvenile delinquents

- Juvenile training schools and juvenile prisons are taking measures for juvenile inmates to acquire

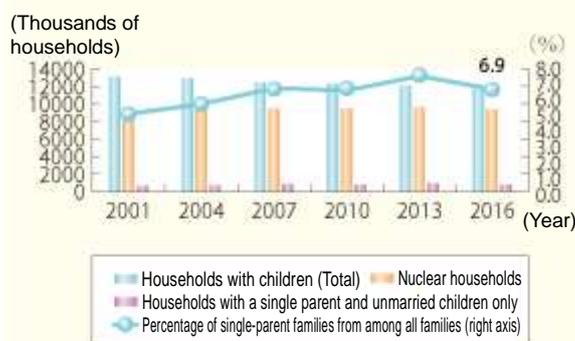
appropriate attitudes toward work and increase their willingness to work. They are encouraged to obtain various types of certifications. These institutions also provide them with employment support in coordination with Hello Work.

- In cooperation with correctional institutions, families, and schools, probation offices are working to find and secure employment for released juveniles. As a way of reinforcing support for cooperative employers, the Incentive for Offering and Retaining Employment and the Incentive for Continuous Employment have been provided since FY 2015.
- In collaboration with juvenile training schools, juvenile prisons, and probation officers, Hello Work provides juveniles who have been released, are going to be released, or are on probation with employment support.
- MHLW works to improve self-reliance assistance homes (a program to provide support for young people leading independent lives). The program provides young people who have been released from rehabilitation facilities with support for their daily lives and employment.

4 Dealing with the problem of child poverty

Figure 15 Situations of households with children

◆ From among households with children, the percentage of single-parent families is on the increase.



Source: "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions," MHLW
Note: Kumamoto is excluded from the figures of 2016.

Figure 16 Current situations of single-parent families

◆ The average income of single-parent families is significantly lower than that of other families, and the percentage of children in such families who enter universities is low.

(1) Average income per households with children (2015) (10,000 yen)

Households with a couple and unmarried children only	712.6
Households with single parents and unmarried children only	317.5

(2) Percentage of students in single-parent families who go on to higher-level schools

	Single-parent families	All families
Percentage of students who enter schools including high schools	96.3%	99.0%
Percentage of students who enter educational institutions including universities	58.5%	73.0%

Source: "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions," MHLW
Note: Kumamoto is excluded.

Source: The calculation is based on single-parent families: "survey on nationwide single-parent homes" (FY 2016), and all homes: "schools' basic statistics" (FY 2017)
Note 1. As for "single-parent families", "high-school" means high school and technical college; "university" means university, college, vocational school and miscellaneous school.
2. As for all homes, "high school" means high school, technical college, secondary school's senior course, and special support education school's senior course; "university" means university, college, the advanced course of high school/special support education school's senior course, vocational school (excluding senior course), and miscellaneous school.

- Based on the Act for the Promotion of Policy on Poverty among Children (Act No. 64 of 2013), the government formulated the General Principles of Policy on Poverty among Children in August 2014. The General Principles of Policy provides the basic policies for combating child poverty, establishes the indicators of child poverty as well as key provisional measures to improve these indicators and outlines the directions of policy research and promotion.

(Support for education)

- MEXT is making efforts to reduce the burden of educational expenses in a seamless manner from early childhood to higher education stage.
- Based on the “Act on Needy Person’s Self-Support Assistance” (Act No. 105 of 2013), MHLW has established a learning support system for children in needy families and public assistance dependence families, thus preventing cyclic poverty. Since FY 2018, it has been expanding the supports for elementary schoolchildren, high school dropouts, and children who did not go to the next stage after graduating junior high school.

(Livelihood Support)

- For a single parent support, in the year of FY 2016, MHLW developed a system to provide comprehensive and all-inclusive support, in which one-stop support tuned according to individual support needs can be provided at consultation counters of single-parent family with regard to matters ranging from child-rearing to livelihood and employment, while urging single parents to go to consultation counters, by means such as providing understandable information on consultation counters and utilizing a portal site for support information on which searches can be performed with smart phones.
- Places where assistance can be provided, such as the provision of meals, learning support, and support for the acquisition of lifestyle habits after the hours for after-school children’s clubs, have been created and that financial support has been provided through the Welfare Fund Loan System for Single-parent Families and Widows, and the interest rate for loans lent through the System, which charge interest in cases where debtors fail to arrange guarantors, has been reduced.

(Support of employment for parents)

- In FY 2017, MHLW decided that single parents, who are eligible to the unemployment insurance benefit and the general education training benefit (20% of expenses: upper limit is 100,000 yen), can be granted for the difference between 20% (upper limit: 100,000 yen) of the general education training cost and 60% (upper limit: 200,000 yen) of that as the self-support educational training benefit. In FY 2018, MHLW decided that single parents, who graduated from a practical nurse training institution by obtaining the higher-vocation-training benefit and continue to study at a training institution to get a nurse’s license, can be granted for the training benefit for three years by total.

(Housing Support)

- The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) is promoting measures such as increasing the provision of public rental housing at inexpensive rents, and supporting to establish welfare centers for public rental housing by installing support facilities for raising children and other support facilities.

(Financial Support)

- MHLW will increase the income limit (total amount) imposed on the childrearing allowance by 300,000 yen starting from a 2018-August payment, and will deduct a public land acquisition price from the income that is a calculation base of the allowance. It has submitted a relevant bill to increase the number of such payments to six times from current three times.

(Efforts coordinated by the government, the public and private sectors)

- The Cabinet Office, MEXT, MHLW, and the Welfare and Medical Service Agency jointly promote the Children’s Future Support National Movement, a collaborative project that brings together national and local governments, private organizations, and individuals, with the aim of making actions against child poverty into a nation-wide effort. They are promoting dissemination of various information about various activities to assist children living in poverty, coordination of a match between child supporting organizations and private corporations that aid such activities, and provision of subsidies to NPOs’ grassroots activities through the Children’s Future Support Fund which consists of contributions from private organizations and individuals. As of the end of FY 2017, the donation to the Fund was about 973 million yen, part of which was used in autumn of 2016 as the first support. Then in January 2018, it was decided to use the Fund as the second support from April 2018 for 79 groups, which were selected through the screening by the project review board among 352 groups who requested in response to the public offering.
- Also, the Cabinet Office addresses local network building among the relevant administration agencies,

companies and NPOs to promote local governments' measures against child poverty according to their circumstances through "the Grant for Local Public Bodies to Support the Future of Children". In FY 2017, the Cabinet Office amended some projects for achieving more effective operation, so that the relevant administration agencies can solidify the joint system to carry out the measures effectively through a project to closely connect children and "support efforts" by creating help desks and places for children.

5 Support for children and young people who need particular attention

(1) Measures against suicide

- Based on the "Basic Act on Suicide Prevention" (Act No.85 of 2006), the government started to review "The General Principles of Suicide Prevention Policy" (approved by the Cabinet in August 2012), held "A review meeting on new General Principles of Suicide Prevention Policy," issued a report on May 2017 and proposed "the promotion of the suicide prevention measures for young people", such as outreach measures (including the use of ICT) for young people. Based on the report, the government drafted a new Principle, which was adopted on July 25, 2017 in "the Council on Suicide Prevention Policy", and approved by the Cabinet on the same day.
- As one of the priority policies, the New Principle stressed the necessity of "promoting suicide countermeasures among children and young people even further". Especially, it is said that young people tend not to willingly consult or seek support, while they allude to suicide or search the means of suicide on the Internet and SNS. Therefore, the New Principle also focuses on outreach support measures for young people with ICT and the Internet (including smartphones, cell-phones) and plans to provide information on them.

(2) Improvement of education for non-Japanese children and students who have returned from abroad, etc.

- MEXT is implementing the assignment of additional teachers for Japanese language training to improve the acceptance of non-Japanese children at public schools and education for pupils who need Japanese-language training including pupils who have returned from abroad.

(3) Promotion of employment among young foreign residents

- To promote employment among young foreign residents including those of Japanese descent, guidance on employment support is provided at Hello Work.

(4) Promotion of understanding of people with gender identity disorders, etc.

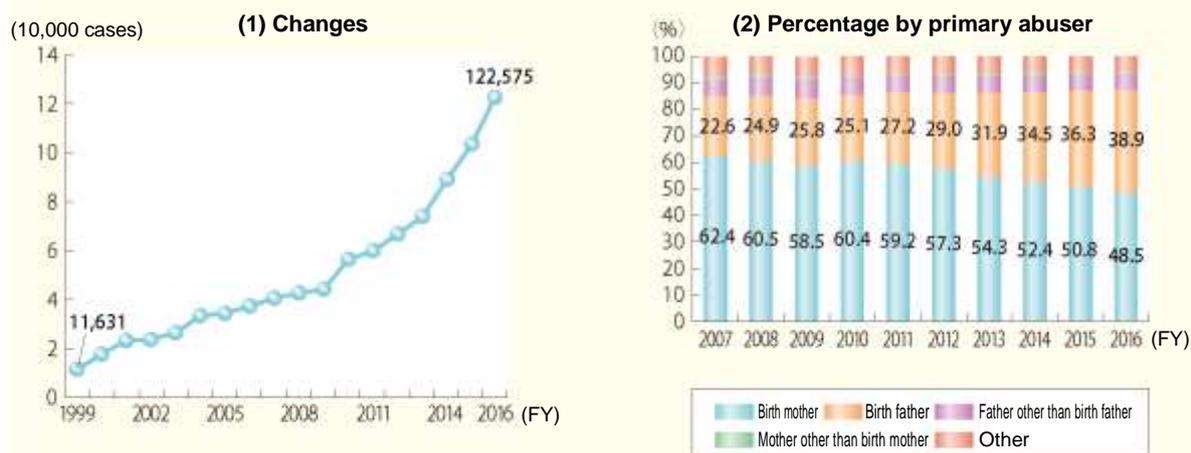
- The human rights bodies of MOJ are carrying out various activities for human rights awareness-raising under the slogan "Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation" as one of the priority targets of activities for human rights awareness-raising.
- As for responding to students concerning gender identity disorders, sexual orientation, and gender identity, MEXT encourages schools people to ensure educational counseling with full consideration for the feelings of the students. And also, a pamphlet for teachers about taking appropriate measures for students concerning on gender identity disorders, sexual orientation, and gender identity was released in April 2016, and boards of education across the country were informed.

Section 3 Prevention of Suffering and the Protection of Children and Young People

1 Measures to prevent child abuse

Figure 17 Number of cases of counseling on child abuse provided by child guidance centers

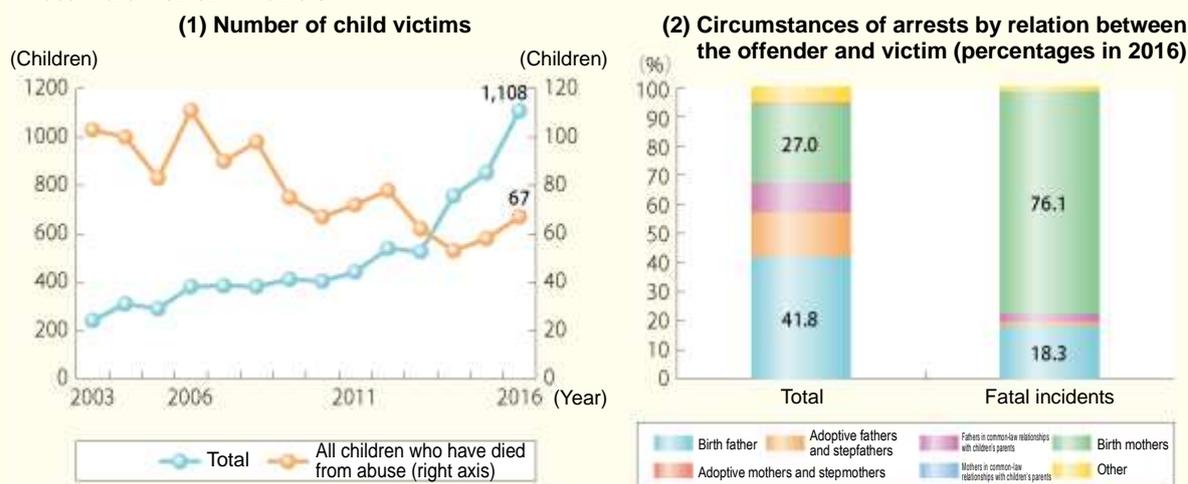
- ◆ The number of cases of counseling regarding child abuse provided at child guidance centers in FY 2016 increased by a factor of about 10.5 compared to that in FY 1999, when the Child Abuse Prevention Act was yet to come into force.
- ◆ Major abusers are birth mothers, accounting for the highest 48.5%, followed by birth fathers, accounting for 38.9%.



Source: "Report on Social Welfare Administration and Services," MHLW
 Note: The figures for FY 2010 exclude those for Fukushima because of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Figure 18 Child abuse cases in which the police make arrests

- ◆ Among the child abuse cases in which the police make arrests, about 76.1% of the offenders who lead children to death are their birth mothers.



Sources: "Overview of the State of Juvenile Guidance and Protection," National Police Agency

- To strengthen the measures against child abuse from prevention up to support for self-reliance, "Bill on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act" (Act No.63 of 2016), which was enforced in April 2017, has positioned a child as a legal subject for the first time to clarify the principle of The Child Welfare Act, and states that necessary measures should be taken, such as to establish comprehensive support centers for parents, improve the system of municipal child consultation centers, and promote a foster parent system. Further, to protect a victim of child-abuse, "Act on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act and the

Child Abuse Prevention Act” (Act No. 69 of 2017) that was enacted in May 2017, states that the family court should enhance its judicial commitment to children’s protection by instructing prefectures to educate parents.

Figure 19 Overview of Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act

Overview of Act on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act (Act No. 63 of 2016)

(Established on May 27, 2016/, Promulgated on June 3)

In order to further strengthening the scope of countermeasures from child abuse occurrence prevention to self-reliance support, so that all children are developed healthily, some measures have been taken. The measures like clarification of an idea of the Child Welfare Act, development of the Maternal and Child Health Comprehensive Support Centers nationwide, strengthening of the structure of municipalities and child guidance centers and promoting the entrustment of foster parents.

Overview of revision

1. Clarification of idea of Child Welfare Act

- (1) It should be clarified that the children have rights to receive proper fostering, and to secure the healthy upbringing and development and independence.
- (2) National and local government should support guardians and promote fostering in the environment as similar to home.
- (3) The roles and responsibilities of national, prefectural government agencies and municipalities respectively should be clarified.
- (4) In case of discipline of children, it should be clarified that guardian shall not discipline the child beyond the scope required for custody and education.

2. Child abuse occurrence prevention

- (1) Municipalities should endeavor to establish a Maternal and Child Health Comprehensive Support Center that provides seamless support from pregnancy to child-rearing.
- (2) The schools and the relevant institutions that have understood the information about pregnant women who need assistance should try to provide that information to that municipality.
- (3) It should be clarified that the National and local government should pay attention to take Maternal and child health measures that contribute to the prevention or early detection of child abuse.

3. Prompt and accurate response at occurrence of child abuse

- (1) Municipalities shall make efforts to develop the centers to provide necessary support for children and others.
- (2) The coordinating institution of regional council of countermeasures for Children Requiring Aid established by Municipalities should appoint the professionals.
- (3) The child guidance center should be established in a special ward specified by a Cabinet Order.
- (4) Prefectural governments should place Child Psychologist, Doctor or Public health nurse, and child welfare officers in charge of guidance and education at the child guidance center, and assign attorneys or take similar type of measures.
- (5) Medical institutions and schools should provide the documents on abused children when requested by the centers such as child guidance center.

4. Self-reliance support for abused children

- (1) It should be clarified that the Parent-child relationship restructuring support should be given in cooperation with facilities, foster parents, municipalities, and relevant institutions such as child guidance centers.
- (2) As a work of Prefectural government (Child Guidance Centers), consistent support for foster parents, right from the development of foster parents to self-reliance support for children should be given.
- (3) As a work of Prefectural government (Child Guidance Centers), Peer counseling and support related to adoption should be provided along with legislation of adoption by foster parent.
- (4) Self-reliance assistance homes should be added for the students under 22 year-old who are in college.

(Review policy)

- Immediately after the enforcement, way of involvement of the court in the procedure concerning the protection measures of the children who need protection, and way to promote the use of the special adoption system should be examined.
- Within two years after the enforcement, ways of working at child guidance centers, way to notify children who need protection and strategy to improve the qualities of workers engaged in child welfare services should be examined.
- Necessary measures such as providing support for the establishment so that the core city / special ward can set up a child guidance center as the prospect of five years after the enforcement should be taken.

Date of enforcement

April 1, 2017 (is the date of promulgation for 1, 2 (3), and for 2 (2), 3 (43 (5), 4 (1) October 1, 2016)

Source: Materials provided by MHLW

Figure 20 Overview of the Act on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act and Child Abuse Prevention Act

Overview of the Act on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act and Child Abuse Prevention Act (Act No. 69 of 2017)

Intent of amendment

To protect child-abuse victims, judicial involvement shall be strengthened: e.g., when a petition for entrustment to foster-parents or residential care is approved, the family court can instruct prefectures to guide the parents.

Overview of amendment

* The supplementary provision of "The Law to Amend the Part of the Child Welfare" (Act No. 63 of 2016) stipulates that MHLW shall, immediately after the enforcement, study the method of the court's involvement, and based on the results, shall take necessary measures.

1. Judicial involvement in guiding parents whose child is a child-abuse victim (Child Welfare Act)

- a) Where a petition for entrustment to foster-parents or residential care is approved (under the Article 28 of the Child Welfare Act), the family court can instruct prefectures to guide parents, and the prefecture shall report to the family court the results of the guide.
- b) Even after the family court instructs as above and dismisses the petition (education at home), the court can instruct the prefecture to guide the parents.
- c) In the cases of a) and b), the family court shall notify the fact of instruction to the parents.

2. Introduction of family court's determination on temporary protection (Child Welfare Act)

- If the temporary protection conducted under the director of a child consultation center exceeds two months against parental will, it shall be approved by the family court.

3. Expansion of a restraining order (Child Abuse Prevention Act)

- Currently, a restraining order can be issued only when residential care is being taken against parental will, but it shall also be able to be issued when residential care is taken under a parental consent or during temporary protection.

4. Other necessary improvement of the regulations

Enforcement date

On the day specified by a Cabinet Order, but not exceeding one year from the promulgation date.

Source: Materials provided by MHLW

(Prevention of incidence)

- To alleviate guardians' anxieties about child rearing and to prevent them from becoming isolated from the community, MEXT is providing support for the following activities such as taking advantage of the opportunity provided by medical examinations performed before students enroll in school to hold parenting classes in the community, providing opportunities to learn about education at home, and giving counseling through support teams for education at home.
- Based on the Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act, MHLW has established comprehensive support centers for parents as the core to develop a nationwide system to provide seamless support from pregnancy to child rearing in cooperation with regional institutions such as medical institutions of obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics. Further, it aims to implement a visit-support for all homes with an infant and a home-visit-support for child-rearing, in every municipality.

(Early-stage detection, early-stage responses, and protection)

- MEXT is developing a system to detect child abuse as soon as possible and to promptly and properly respond to it, by means such as assigning more than the usual number of school counselors and school social workers to schools.
- Following the partial amendment of the Child Welfare Act stipulating that local governments shall improve the bases (municipal child and family support bases), they are promoting the establishment of support bases in municipalities where various functions are carried out, such as a survey on the situations of children, their families, and expectant and nursing mothers; more professional consultation on the daycare and at-home support for children; and continuous social work services via home-visit.
- As for the nationwide shared phone number for the child guidance centers' helpline (189), voice guidance answering was shortened on April 2016, and a call center system was introduced to respond to incoming calls from a cellphone in February 2018.

- The police are making efforts to detect child abuse cases and protect child victims as soon as possible, through street guidance, counseling activities, reporting, and investigations. Also, they are providing responses to child abuse in which they put the highest priority on the confirmation and ensuring of children's safety, while strengthening collaboration with relevant agencies.
- When information on child abuse cases is recognized, the human rights bodies of MOJ seek a remedy by taking appropriate measures such as helping child guidance center provide temporary protection of the assaulted children and giving instruction to offender, depending on the case.

(Current situations of issues in social protection and care)

- To downsize the care structure, MHLW is promoting the provision of small-scale group care at infant homes, children's homes, psychotherapeutic institutions for children, and children's self-reliance support facilities and the establishment of group homes.
- MHLW is promoting foster parents system in local governments' activities by implementing projects for institutions to support foster parents and by allocating counselors specialized in supporting foster parents to children's homes and infant homes. Also, it has designated October as Foster Parent Month, and it requires local governments to make focused efforts to disseminate and promote the foster parent system according to the actual situations of each local area.

(Promotion of measures taken to support the self-reliance of children who have left children's homes, etc.)

- To further support the self-reliance of children who have been raised while receiving social protection and care, MHLW is conducting the establishment of fund loan program to "Support the Self-Reliance of Young People Including Those Who Have Left Children's Homes" to build a stable foundation of living by lending amount equivalent to the rent or living expenses.

(Enhancement of facility functions)

- MHLW is working to improve the quality of facility management pursuant to the 5 institutional management guidelines for children's homes, infant homes, psychotherapeutic institutions for children, children's self-reliance support facilities and Maternal and Child Living Support Facility, foster parents and family home care guidelines, and Third-Party Evaluation.

(Preventing of Institutional Child Abuse)

- MHLW is trying to prevent institutional child abuse with the help of the "Abuse response guidelines such as Countermeasures for Child Abuse."

2 Measures against crimes that harm the welfare of children and young people

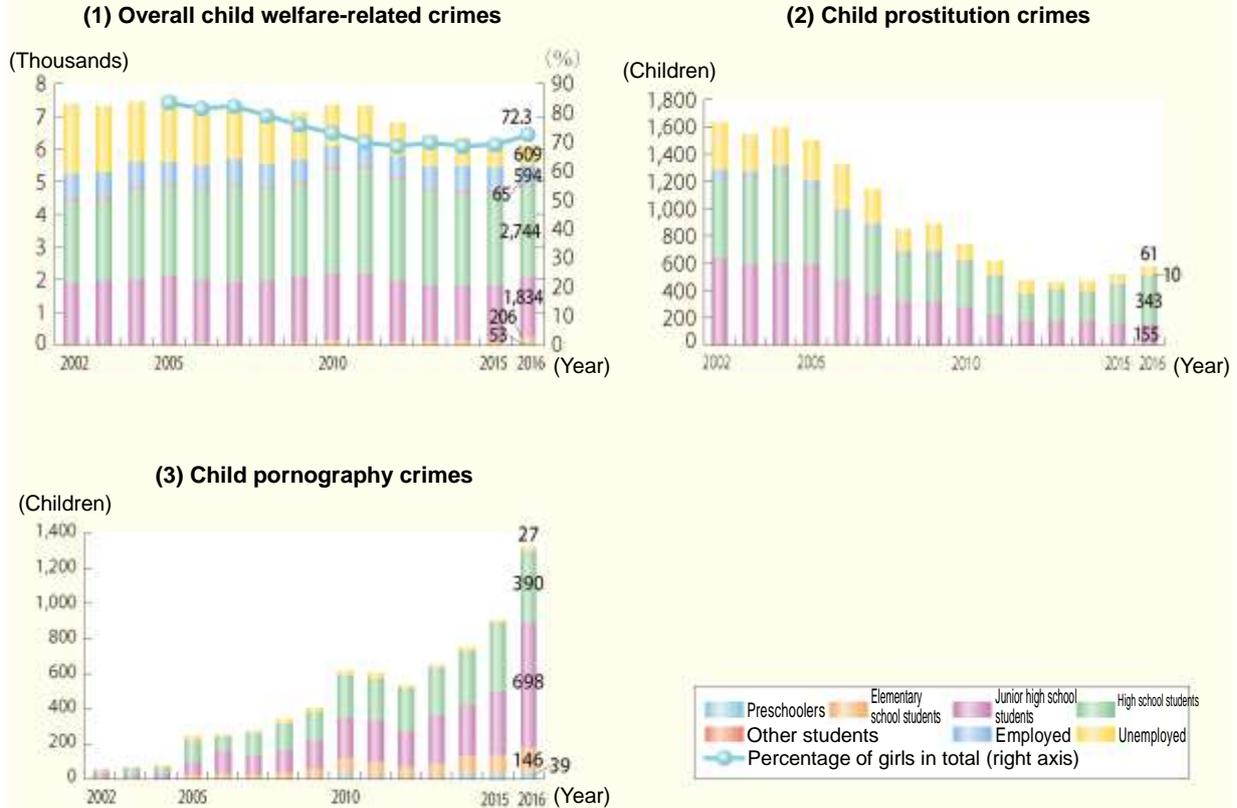
(1) Measures against crimes that harm the welfare of children and young people

- The police are promoting crackdowns and making efforts for the discovery and protection of victims
- Public Prosecutors actively apply relevant laws and regulations to these cases and strive to realize the imposition of rigorous punishments.

(Problem of child victimization by sex crime)

Figure 21 Victims under the age of 20 years of child welfare-related crimes

- ◆ The number of minor victims of welfare-related crimes has been on the decrease recently.
- ◆ The number of victims of child prostitution crime and child pornography crimes is on the increase on the whole.



Sources: "Overview of the State of Juvenile Guidance and Protection," National Police Agency
 Note: As for child pornography crimes, the number of newly identified victims is calculated each year. Other than this, there is a case that the determination of age is conducted based on a picture of an unidentified child victim to build the criminal case.

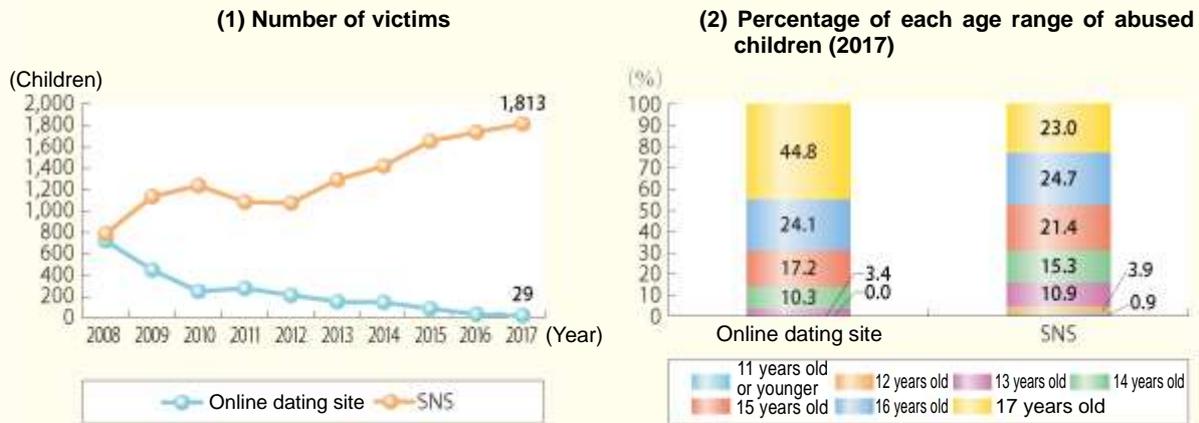
- Part of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children was revised in June 2014. From July, 2015, as per the act, it was declared illegal to possess or retain child pornography for the purpose of satisfying one’s sexual curiosity.
- Based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” formulated at a meeting on April 2017 of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime, the government raises public-awareness not to allow the occurrence of child sexual victimization by child prostitution, child pornography, etc., and takes measures focusing on the use of tools that damage on children.
- The “Council for Promotion of Eradication of Child Sexual Exploitation” comprised of related private organizations and administrative organizations (Bureau: National Police Agency) has been held since FY 2016.
- The Cabinet Office held a public symposium in July 2017 on juvenile delinquency and victimization prevention measures, in which keynote speeches and panel discussions were performed under the theme of “Aiming at the eradication of child’s sexual victimization.”
- The police strictly enforce the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children.

(Issues linked to online dating sites and SNS)

- The police are promoting cyber guidance, in which if an inappropriate message on the internet by a child such as an offer of “patronage dating” is detected during a cyber patrol, the police contact the child that wrote such message and directly provide warning and advice.

Figure 22 Victims under the age of 18 years in case of crimes linked to online dating sites and SNS

- ◆ Although the number of victims under the age of 18 years of crimes linked to online dating sites has decreased, the number of victims under the age of 18 years of crimes linked to SNS continues to increase.
- ◆ In crimes linked to SNS, the ratio of younger age victims is higher than crimes linked to online dating sites.



(Source) "Circumstances of and Measures against Crimes Linked to Online Dating Sites and SNS, etc. and measures in 2017," National Police Agency

(Prevention of criminal damage to children)

- MEXT promotes safety management at schools based on the "Secondary Plan for the Advancement of School Safety" (Approved by the Cabinet in March 2017). Also school guard leaders who are former police officers; patrol schools.
- The National Police Agency (NPA) utilizes the information related to the release of prisoners, who have committed violent sex crimes against children, obtained from MOJ for the prevention of other such crimes and the acceleration of investigations.
- The police are developing an information-sharing system among police stations, schools, and school boards in order to be able to promptly provide to guardians the information on cases with child victims and information on occurrences which seem to indicate possible future crimes against children such as suspicious approaches toward children and the stalking of children.
- In May 2017, the government held the third Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and decided and published "Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons" as an annual report, which summarized the victimization by human trafficking in our country and the concerned government agencies' measures against human trafficking. Based on "the 2014 Action Plan against to Combat Trafficking in Persons", the government decided to continue the efforts by aiming at the eradication of human trafficking.

(2) Measures for children and young people who are victims of crimes and their families, etc.

- The police continue to give counseling to victims of crimes and to provide guidance and advice through juvenile guidance officials.
- MEXT promotes activities to support children who have become victims of crimes to ease their suffering through various kinds of support such as the utilization of school counselors, school social workers, and a network of relevant institutions.