

The 2th World Congress on Community Corrections

Juvenile & Family Justice  
Innovations in Japanese  
Community Corrections  
–Family Support on Probation–

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# My background

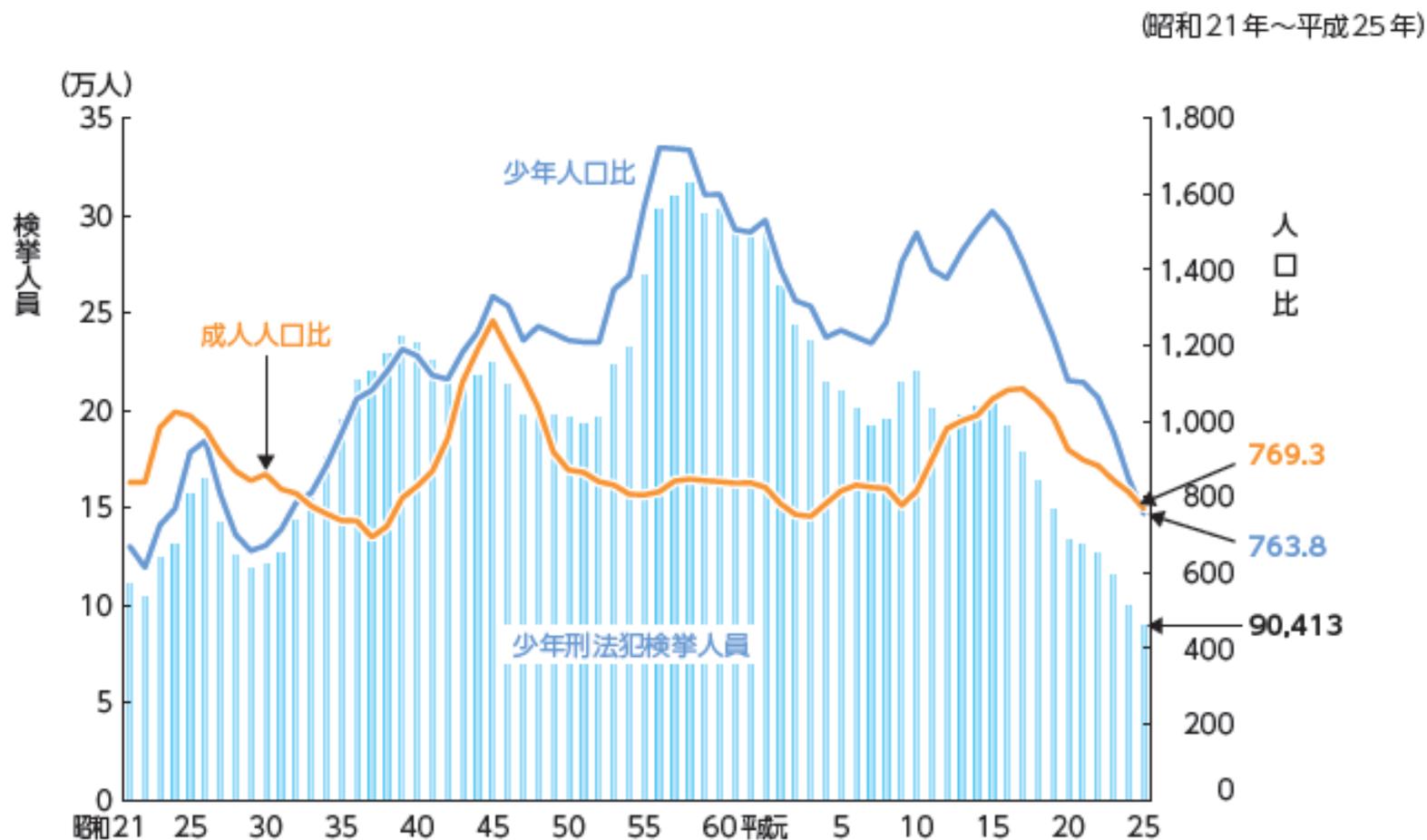
- As a probation officer who belongs to Ministry of Justice Department, I have worked with delinquent youth in the past 20 more years.
- I teach about adolescent delinquency, criminal psychology, and family therapy at a graduate school of Fukushima University.
- In the past, I have worked as Vice President of Japanese Association of Offenders Rehabilitation and Japan Association of Family Therapy.

# Statistics of Juvenile Penal Code Offences in Japan(1946-2013)

3-1-1-1 図

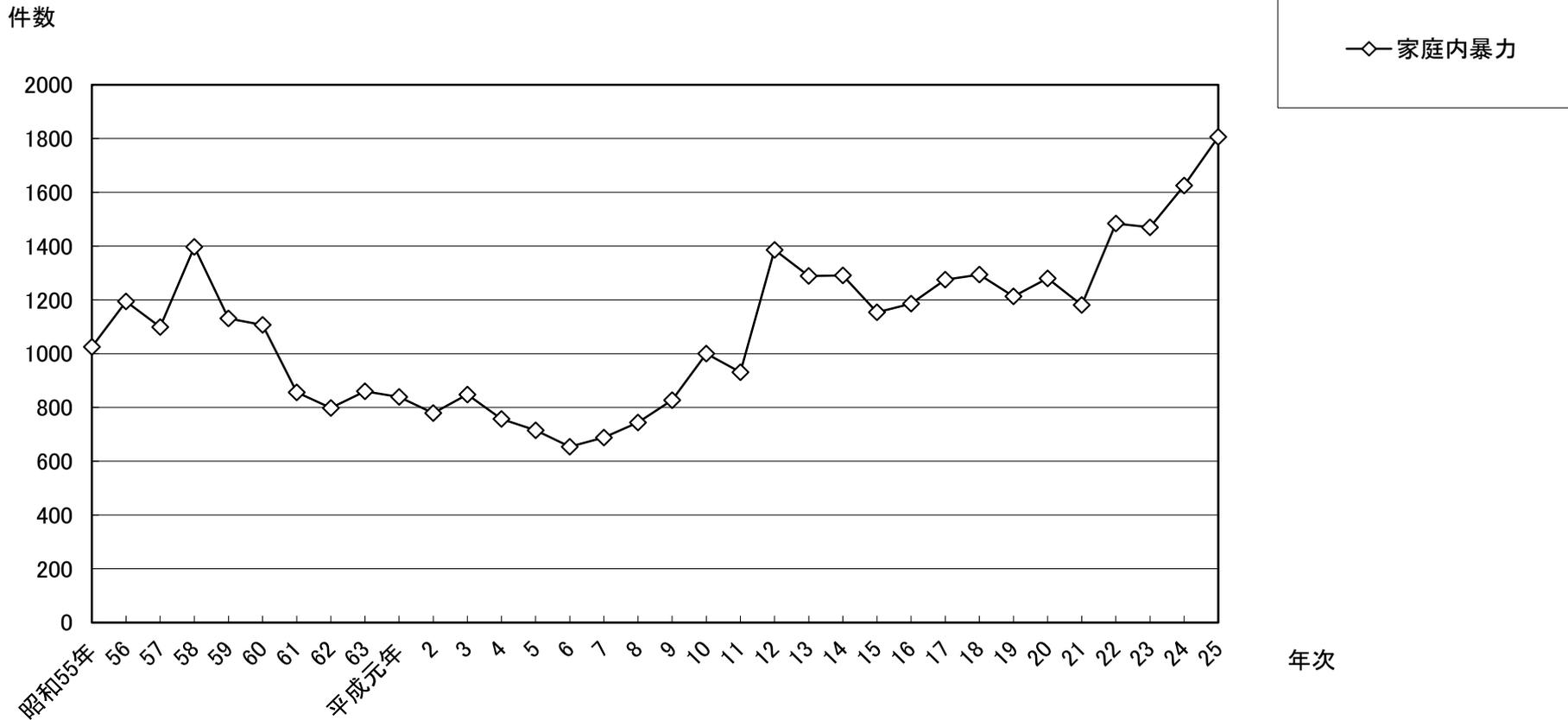
少年による刑法犯・一般刑法犯 検挙人員・人口比の推移

## ① 刑法犯



# Family Violence in Japan (1980~2013)

Changes in the numbers of Family Violence (1980~2013)



# The residential breakdown of the juvenile Delinquents

- in the group of juvenile probationers, there are 44.4% of them living with both parents
- in the group of the juvenile training school, there are 36.4% of them living with both parents
- as the youth's delinquency worsens, vulnerability of the family that they are from seems to become high, with a number of risk factors.

# Family Support as an effective approach to youth rehabilitation

- In Japan, following a Western model of evidenced-based practices, cognitive behavioral approaches have been introduced to the field of juvenile delinquency rehabilitation.
- I believe that this model will be truly successful only if effective family-and community-based engagement and support are combined with them.

# Notable Systems Approaches in Community Corrections

Evidenced -based approaches for youth and their families:

- Multisystemic Therapy(Scott W.Henggeler)
- Functional Family Therapy(Thomas L.Sexton)
- CRAFT : Community Reinforcement and Family Training(Robert J. Meyers)

*In Japan, there is a unique collaboration systems in which probation officers and volunteer probation officers work together*

# What is Volunteer Probation Officer?

- Invites discharged youth to their houses, counsel them with a cup of tea, and introduce them to their potential employers
- Offers support to their parents and care-takers as mentors.
- *Delinquent juveniles and ex-convicts with disabilities should not be excluded, because many of them can change and grow through our warm attention and care in the community.*

# Systems Approach in the Probation in Japan

- public-private collaborative offenders rehabilitation system.
- probation officers are expected to take a different approach aiming at restructuring family systems in the broken families.
- I have been working for adult criminals and youth delinquency rehabilitation by employing a systems approach and family therapy techniques since 1980s .

# Clinical family therapy in the field of justice and reformation

- It takes considerable time to work on personality issues
- Systematic interventions aiming at school or society are far more complicated.
- I would like to emphasize efficacy of a conjoint family interview model.
- In this model, families are encouraged to shake themselves up and communicate with each other constructively.

# Purposes of the intervention

- Offering families a place and time to listen to each other and accept their differences, rather than avoiding talking about their conflicts.
- Children will be able to change themselves, by witnessing how parents can change
- Children are expected to learn how to ask for help in a timely manner, rather than getting into drugs, alcohol, gambling or joining a gang group to take easy solutions to their problems.

# Teaching parents how to respond to their children's behaviors

- It is very important to support the parents mentally and help them learn to establish a proper boundary within a family, as well as in the community.
- This approach appears to be especially meaningful for Japanese parents who are culturally used to judging themselves from others' eyes.

# “Buying time” is one of my key approaches

- The “buying-time” approach is for children and adolescents to be back on track.
- We try to provide those adolescents with opportunities to meet influential teachers, mentors, or caring friends
- Providing the parents with emotional and skill-based support, so that they can sustain their commitment to their children.

# Currently in Fukushima

- I work for children and their families suffering from radiation anxiety, and help them better cope with their daily stress in the society.
- I believe that my experiences and expertise as a family therapist, as well as a professional in rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents, will contribute to managing risks in the modern society like Fukushima.
- Thank you for your listening.