

Gender-based  
Violence  
in Japan

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# General situation

In Japan, (1) the situation is serious,

(2) people's concern has increased greatly in recent years: influenced by gender equality awareness and “#Me, too” movements with some symbolic incidents/scandals.

(3) However, the legal system and measures are not sufficient in any aspect of **perpetrator prosecution, victim protection and prevention**.

It's not up to global standards.



At this very moment, legal reforms and the introduction of new laws are starting one after another.

# 1. Domestic violence

# Statistics: Intimate partner violence survey

## Before comparison,

In many countries, use the common **questionnaires and procedures developed by WHO research teams.**

However, in Japan, similar but slightly different questionnaire and method is used by the Cabinet Office

Nationwide survey every 3 years

(2005,2007,2011,2014,2017,2020)

Table 1.      **Physical violence** lifetime experience  
International comparison

Vietnam	Nepal	Cambodia	Bangladesh	Taiwan	Indonesia	Hong Kong	Singapore	Jamaica	Japan
Nation	Nation	Nation	Nation	Nation	urban	Nation	Nation	Nation	Nation
2009	2011	2015	2007	2014	99-2000	2006	2009	2016	2020
W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
32.0%	23.1%	15.0%	48.7%	9.1%	11.0%	6.2%	5.7%	28.8%	16.8%

# Japan's DV survey ( in 2020)

“Life-threatening experience” 4.8 %

## • IMPACTS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**62.5% of victims said that the event made a difference in their lives**

Have trouble sleeping 23.7 %

Lost self-confidence 21.2 %

Mentally and physically ill 18.7 %

Tired of living and wanted to die 12.7 %

Memory flashbacks 12.4 %

# Seeking Help

- 41.6% did not consult anyone
  - report to the police: 4.7%
  - consulted a counseling center: 2.8%

# Impact of COVID-19:

Victims of DV often hide a new address after escaping from their abusers, making it [difficult for them to receive "COVID-19" benefits and vaccinations](#). This is because benefits are paid to the head of the household (often a man) for the entire family at once, and vaccine coupons are mailed to the registered address. We, women's shelter national network requested to the government on this trouble, then the government took the measure to ensure that victims who hide their addresses can receive benefits if they apply it.



# Impact of COVID-19: new hotline

Benefit measures **have encouraged victims** who are living with a concealed address to contact a counseling service.

→ The existence of economic DV became apparent.

A newly started 24-hour DV hotline  
have been strengthened,  
making it visible and apparent that there is DV.



The screenshot displays the DV Hotline website with a purple and white color scheme. At the top, the logo reads 'DV相談+ プラス' (DV Soudan Plus) next to a purple ribbon icon. Below the logo, the text '電話・メール 24時間受付' (Phone・Email 24-hour reception) and 'チャット相談 12:00～22:00' (Chat consultation 12:00～22:00) is shown. Three contact buttons are listed: '電話 24時間受付 0120-279-889' (Phone 24-hour reception 0120-279-889), 'メール ここをクリック! 24時間受付' (Email click here! 24-hour reception), and 'チャット 受付 12:00～22:00 チャットはこちら' (Chat reception 12:00～22:00 chat is here).

**DV相談+ プラス**

電話・メール **24時間受付**  
チャット相談 12:00～22:00

**電話** 24時間受付 **0120-279-889** つながりやすく

**メール** ここをクリック! **24時間受付**

**チャット** 受付 12:00～22:00 **チャットはこちら**

## 2 . Sexual Violence

in 2020 Japan survey

Forced sexual intercourse: Lifetime experience (women)

6.9 %

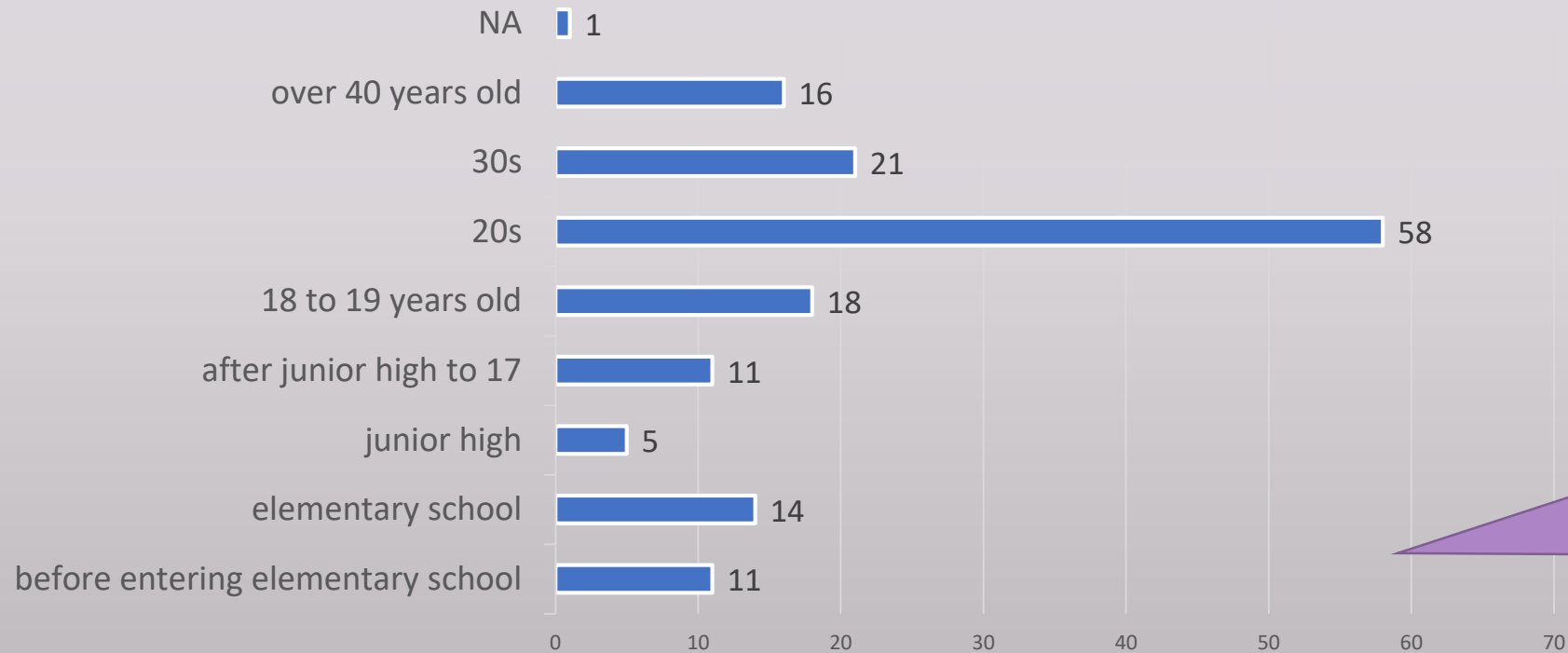
by Intimate partner

People at work/school

→ Reported to the police: 6.4%

# Childhood Sexual Violence

- 32.8% of female victim experienced sexual violence when they were 17 years old or younger.



Under 17 years old

More than half of the perpetrators are parents, siblings, or relatives.

### 3. Newly emerging violence

# Digital & Image-based Gender & Sexual Violence

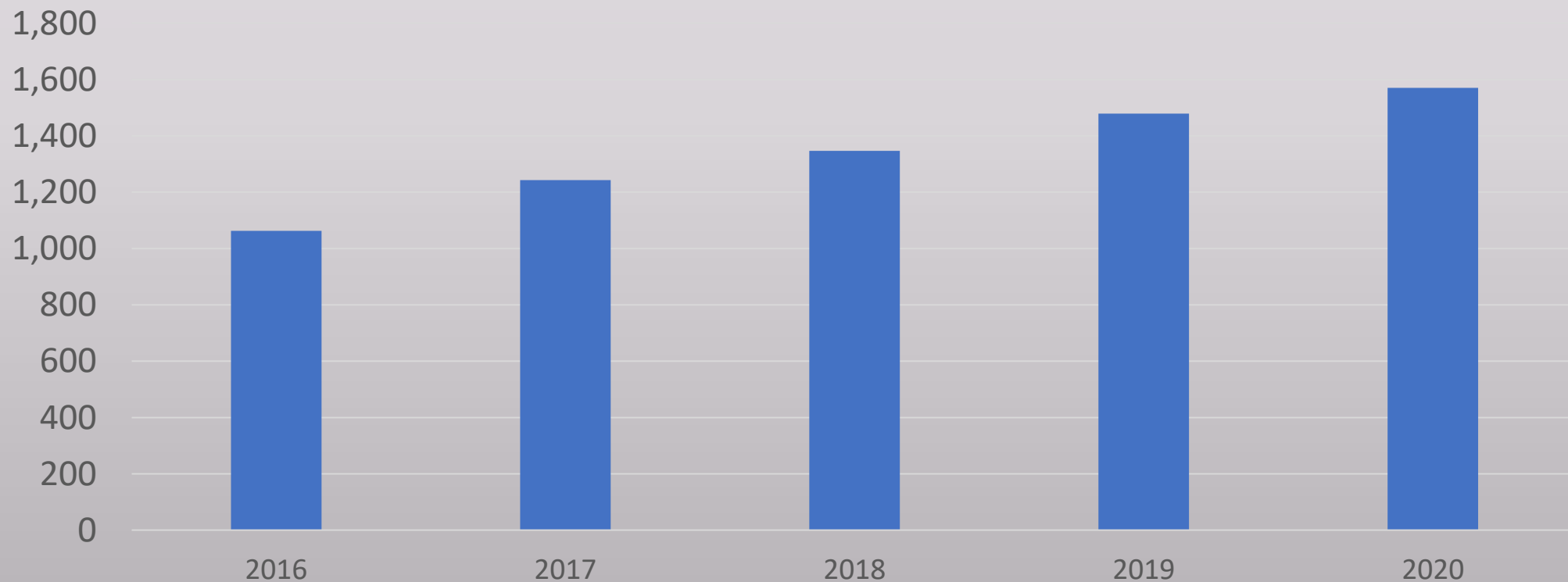
## Tech Abuse

- Photographs and videos are taken
- Use smartphone to monitor or Spy app
- Sent a naked picture to boyfriend  
→ uploaded on the Internet and spread to everyone.
- Met on an online app ... He pretended to be someone else.

# The number of consultations with the police on this issue is on the rise.

*The images were published on the internet, threatened to be published, the images were sent to me, and the images were in his possession, and photographed without consent.*

Report cases to the police



# Signs of Change1

- **The Penal Code Sexual Offenses** are currently under consideration for legal reform.
- Sexual violence **one-stop rape crisis centers** have been established in all prefectures. The government is expected to further develop them in the future.
- At the very time this conference was taking place, the Diet was considering a law to protect the rights of people who have been unwillingly forced to appear in **pornographic**.



# Rape Crisis Center in Hiroshima

性別を問わず 性被害にあわれた方  
ひとりで抱え込まないで わたしたちに相談してください。

ひとりじゃないよ。  
わたしたちが  
よりそいます。



# Signs of Change 2

- **A new law for victim support center**

This month, a law will be passed by the Diet to support female victims of DV and sexual violence.

- **DV protection order** should be revised : discussions are underway

Reforms are also required to expand the scope of protection orders for domestic violence, to include psychological, sexual, and economic violence, and to extend the scope to dating partners.

# Also, we NGOs are fostering new victim supporters

- We started a online school.

<https://www.gbv-epschool.or.jp/>



Thank you.