

# Survey of Attitude on Public Safety

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Corporate Communications Department  
Nomura Research Institute, Ltd.

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## **Purpose of the Survey**

The kidnap-murder case of a girl in Nara Prefecture last November came as a shock to many people in Japan. As the arrest of the perpetrator shed light on the circumstances surrounding the case, the recidivism rate of sex offenders came into the spotlight, raising some questions about the current crime recurrence prevention system. This prompted a decision by the Ministry of Justice to begin providing police with information on the release of sex crime offenders against minors under age 13 from June 2005 onwards.

Of late, measures to maintain public security as well as community-based efforts to that end, not limited to crime recurrence prevention measures targeted at sex crime offenders, are seen to be widely spreading across Japan. According to the 2004 White Paper on Police, the number of penal code offences known to police dropped by around 2% in 2002 from the preceding year. In the five-year period between 1997 and 2002, however, the number of street robberies soared 2.0 times, indecent assaults on the streets 2.1 times, and break-in robberies and larcenies in private homes 1.4 times.

How is the increasing number of crimes affecting people's thinking? Given the aforementioned circumstances, the latest Internet-based survey was conducted with the purpose of quantitatively understanding ordinary citizens' perception of public security. The research particularly focused on people's thoughts about the causes of the deterioration in public security and the degree to which people take into account such values as human rights and privacy protection in ensuring public security.

## Outline of Survey

### ■ Implementation of survey

Date of survey: March 15 – 16, 2005

Survey method: Internet questionnaire survey

Survey target: NRI Internet research monitors

### ■ Attributes of Respondents

#### Gender

	No. of respondents	%
Male	591	50.1
Female	589	49.9
Total	1180	100.0

#### Marital status

	No. of respondents	%
Not married	370	31.4
Married	810	68.6
Total	1180	100.0

#### Occupation

	No. of respondents	%
Company employee	375	31.8
Student	53	4.5
Housewife	340	28.8
Self-employed	125	10.6
Public service employee	38	3.2
Doctor/medical personnel	18	1.5
Company director	13	1.1
Company owner	14	1.2
Teacher	15	1.3
Lawyer/accountant	0	0.0
Agriculture/forestry/fisheries	7	0.6
Part-time worker	29	2.5
Unemployed	92	7.8
Other	61	5.2
Total	1,180	100.0

#### Age

	No. of respondents	%
20 – 24	86	7.3
25 – 29	209	17.7
30 – 34	99	8.4
35 – 39	137	11.6
40 – 44	138	11.7
45 – 49	95	8.1
50 – 54	170	14.4
55 – 59	98	8.3
60 or over	148	12.5
Total	1180	100.0

#### Region

	No. of Respondents	%
Hokkaido	59	5.0
Tohoku	50	4.2
Kanto	499	42.3
Chubu	166	14.1
Kinki	247	20.9
Chugoku	58	4.9
Shikoku	27	2.3
Kyushu/Okinawa	74	6.3
Total	1,180	100.0

- This questionnaire survey was conducted by utilizing a questionnaire service that uses the Internet. It should be noted, therefore, that the people targeted by the survey frequently use the Internet and have a relatively high degree of Internet literacy.

## Summary (1)

- Respondents who said that public security “Became worse” in Japan in the last two to three years took up the majority at 53.1%. With the 36.4% who said that public security “Became much worse,” a combined total of 89.5% of respondents held the perception that public security had deteriorated. By age, the proportion of respondents who said that public security “Became much worse” reached 40% among people aged 50 or older, indicating a broad trend that the perception of public security deteriorating grew with people’s age.
- Causes for the deterioration cited by those who said that public security “Became worse” or “Became much worse” were moral degeneration in society at large (60.9%), an increase in the number of foreigners illegally staying in Japan (57.8%), and lack of communication in households (57.0%), in that order. Many people see causes of crime in households more than in school education.
- Regarding felonious crimes such as robberies and homicides and crimes by minors, over 90% of respondents feel the number of crimes increased. A majority of respondents also feel that there is a marked increase in cyber crimes and card crimes such as the recently recognized social problem of fraud involving cash transfer requests posing as relatives and credit card skimming, both of which are occurring frequently.
- Asked about security measures being taken at the household level, over 40% of respondents said they regularly take conscious actions on security, such as avoiding walking alone at night and checking on neighbors. However, less than 10% of respondents are currently considering using security services offered by security companies or introducing new security equipment for their homes such as remote home surveillance using network cameras.
- As for security measures for children on their way to school, school road patrolling, community residents accompanying children, and going to and leaving school in groups are considered effective. On the other hand, there are no particularly high expectations about equipment improvements in school facilities such as installing security cameras or self-locking school gates.

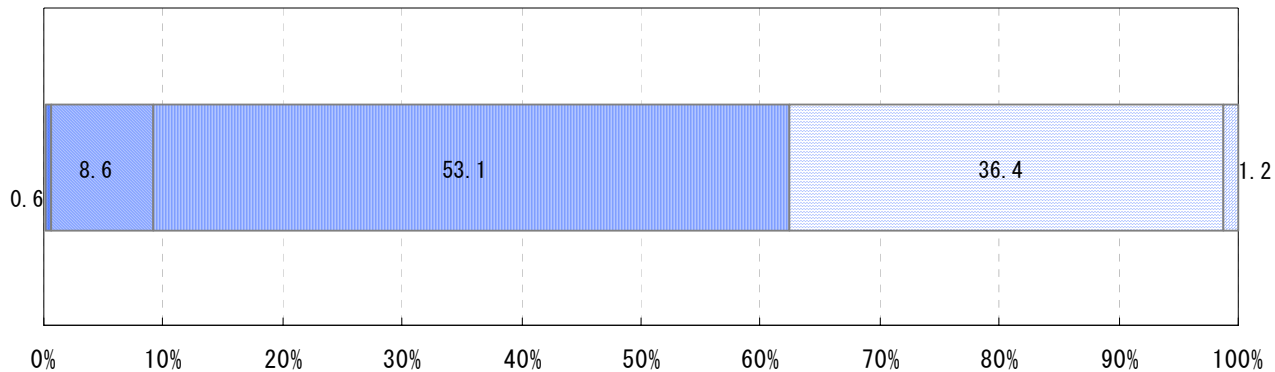
## Summary (2)

- Less than 5% of respondents said that they actually participate in crime prevention activities such as patrols and visits to households by community residents, while 48.3% replied that they would participate if asked. The participation rate in such activities was highest among respondents in their 40s. However, those in the 60 and older age group showed the highest response rate in saying “Want to actively participate,” raising hopes for participation by the elderly in crime prevention activities going forward.
- An overwhelming majority were positive about the installation of security cameras in communities, saying that “they should definitely be installed” (18.6%) and “they should be installed under certain conditions” (70.3%), indicating high expectations of the deterrent effects of such cameras.
- Asked to evaluate police activities, respondents gave more positive replies than negative replies about emergency responses to reports to police, criminal investigations, and arrests of perpetrators. However, a majority of respondents gave negative replies to questions about crime prevention efforts by police. Combining replies describing efforts as “not so commendable” and “not commendable at all,” the lowest rating went to measures for victims (71.7%), followed by crackdown on foreigners illegally staying in Japan (63.3%), and police patrol (61.2%).
- Asked about an initiative to increase the number of police officers to eliminate unstaffed police boxes, 30.7% said that it was “effective” in improving public security. Combined with 56.1% who said that it was “somewhat effective,” over 80% of respondents appreciated the increase in police officers to a certain degree.
- In relation to disclosure of information regarding people with a history of sex crime offenses, about 90% agreed that the information should be shared outside the Ministry of Justice as well. Furthermore, 45.9% of respondents said that the information should be extended to other parties besides the police. Of these, 15.3% said that community residents should be allowed to see the information, and 13.6% said that the information should be disclosed for access via the Internet.
- As for the present social trend for strengthened efforts to maintain public security, 32.9% of respondents said that such efforts should be promoted aggressively, 34.2% said that they are unavoidable for securing safety. These results indicate that people by and large are positive about the trend toward reinforced public security while entertaining some concern about becoming a surveillance society.

## Perception of Public Security

- Respondents who said public security “Became worse” in Japan in the last two to three years were in the majority at 53.1%. With 36.4% of respondents saying that public security “Became much worse,” a combined 89.5% of the total hold the perception that public security is deteriorating.
- In contrast, those who said that public security “Became much better” or “Became better” made up less than 1% of the total. Another fraction of 8.6% said that they see “No change” in public security. These results indicate that ordinary citizens hold the perception that public security is certainly deteriorating.

Q1: How do you think public security in Japan has changed in the past two to three years?  
(single answer)



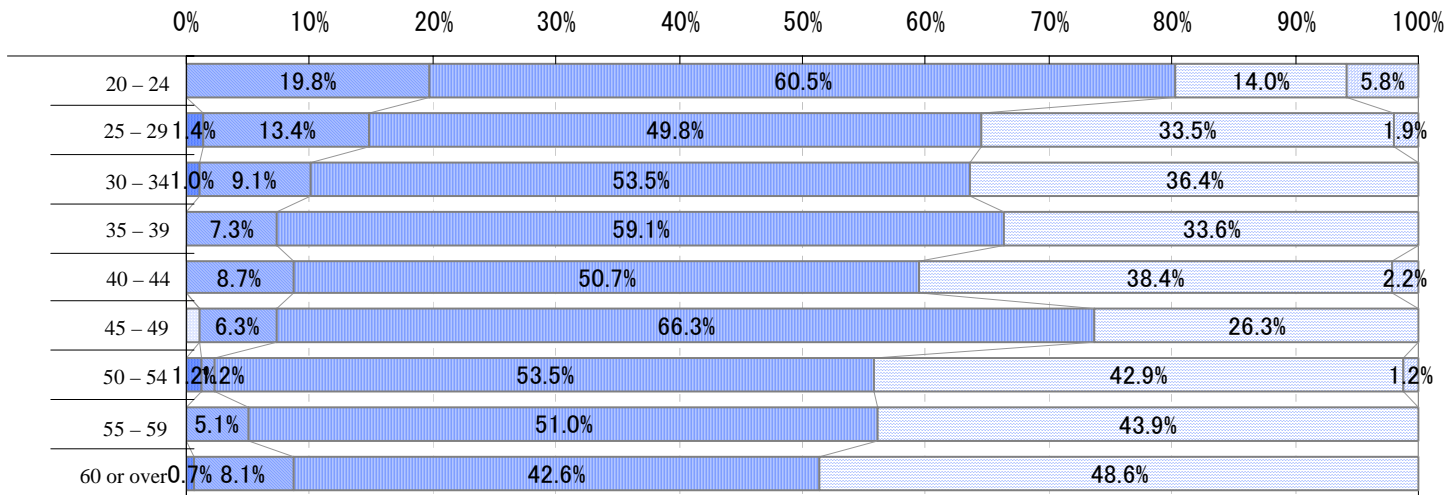
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Became much better  
  Became better  
  No change  
  Became worse  
  Became much worse  
  Don't know

## Perception Public Security (by Age)

- By age, the proportion of respondents saying that public security “Became much worse” reached 40% among people aged 50 or older, while the proportion of respondents giving the same answer was 14% among people in their early 20s.
- By contrast, the proportion of respondents who said that public security “Became better” was nearly 20% among people in their early 20s, the highest among all age groups. These results indicate an overall trend that the perception of public security deteriorating grew with people’s age.

Q1: How do you think public security in Japan has changed in the past two to three years?  
(single answer)



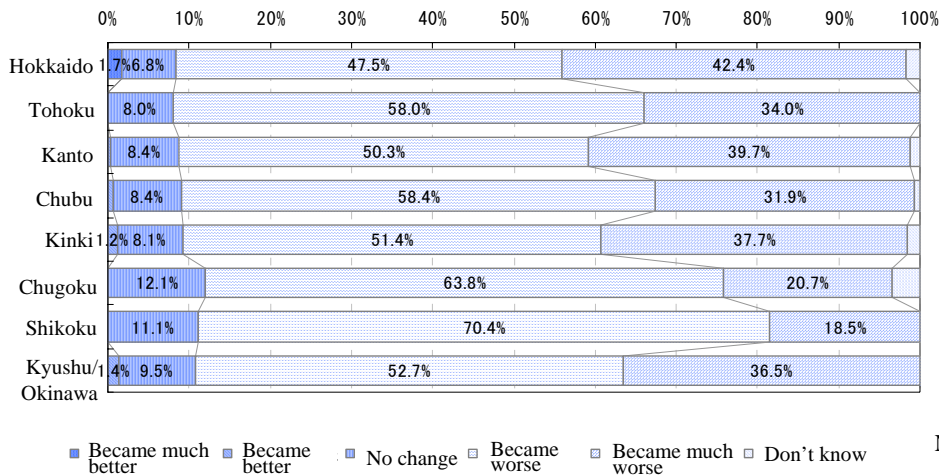
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□ Became much better   ■ Became better   ■ No change   ■ Became worse   ■ Became much worse   ■ Don't know

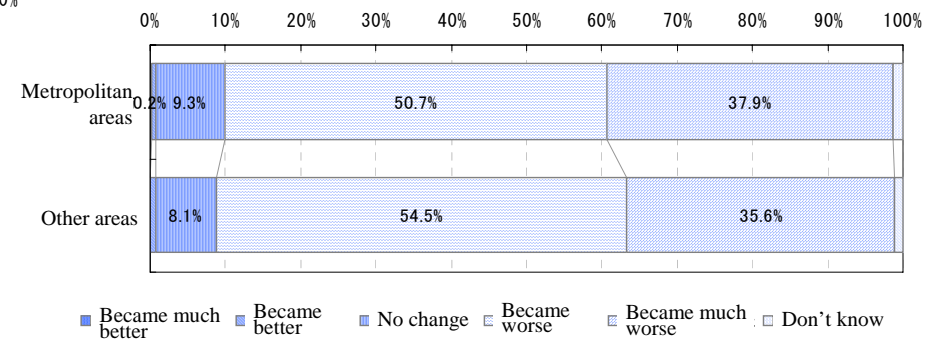
## Perception of Public Security (by Region, Metropolitan Residents)

- By region, the combined proportion of respondents who said that public security “Became worse” or “Became much worse” was the highest (92.0%) in Tohoku and the lowest (84.5%) in Chugoku. The proportion of those who said that public security “Became much worse” was low in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions (20.7% and 18.5%, respectively) relative to other regions, while the proportion of “No change” was 12.1% and 11.1% respectively in these two regions, against the single-digit percentages in all other regions. These results indicate that the perception of public security has not deteriorated in Chugoku and Shikoku.
- There is no large discrepancy in the perception between residents in metropolitan areas and other areas. The perception of public security can be assumed to be deteriorating generally irrespective of the size of regions.

Q1: How do you think public security in Japan has changed in the past two to three years? (single answer)



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\* Metropolitan areas refer to government-designated cities and 23 districts of Tokyo.

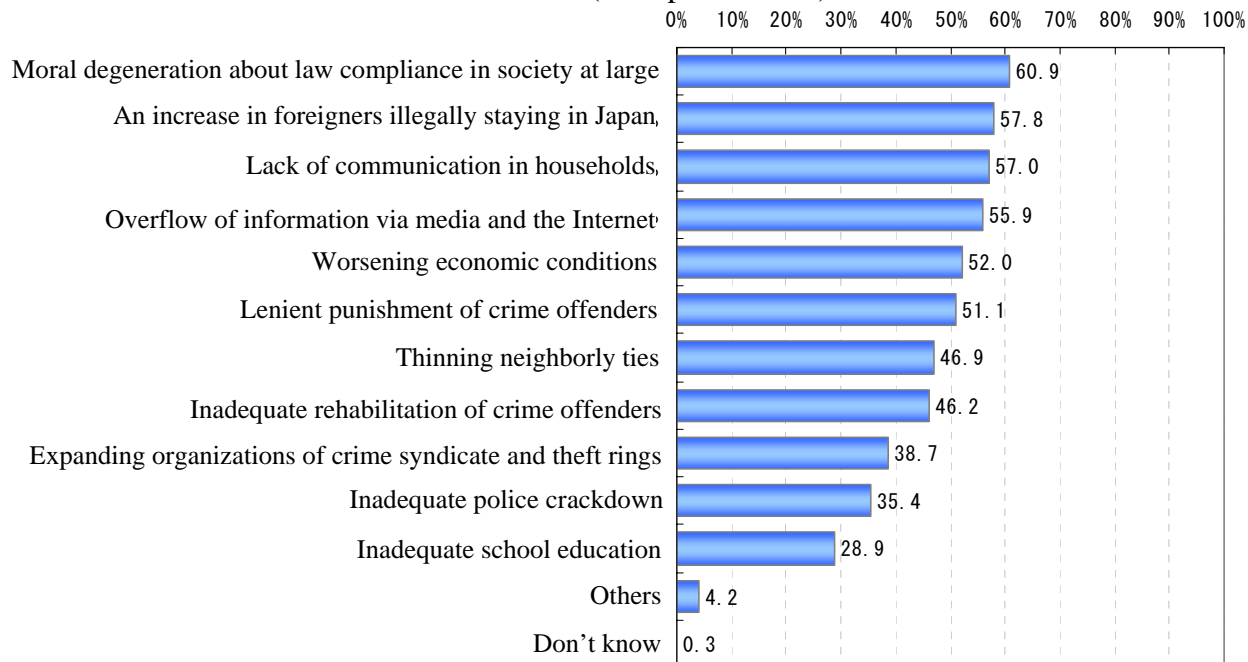
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## Reasons Why Public Security Became Worse

- Respondents who said that public security “Became worse” or “Became much worse” cited moral degeneration in society at large (60.9%), an increase in foreigners illegally staying in Japan (57.8%), and lack of communication in households (57.0%), in that order, as causes of deterioration.
- While only 28.9% of respondents cited school education as the cause of deteriorating public security, 57% cited lack of communication within households. These results indicate that many people see the causes of crime more in households than in school education.

Q2: What do you think are the causes of deteriorating public security in Japan?  
(multiple answers)

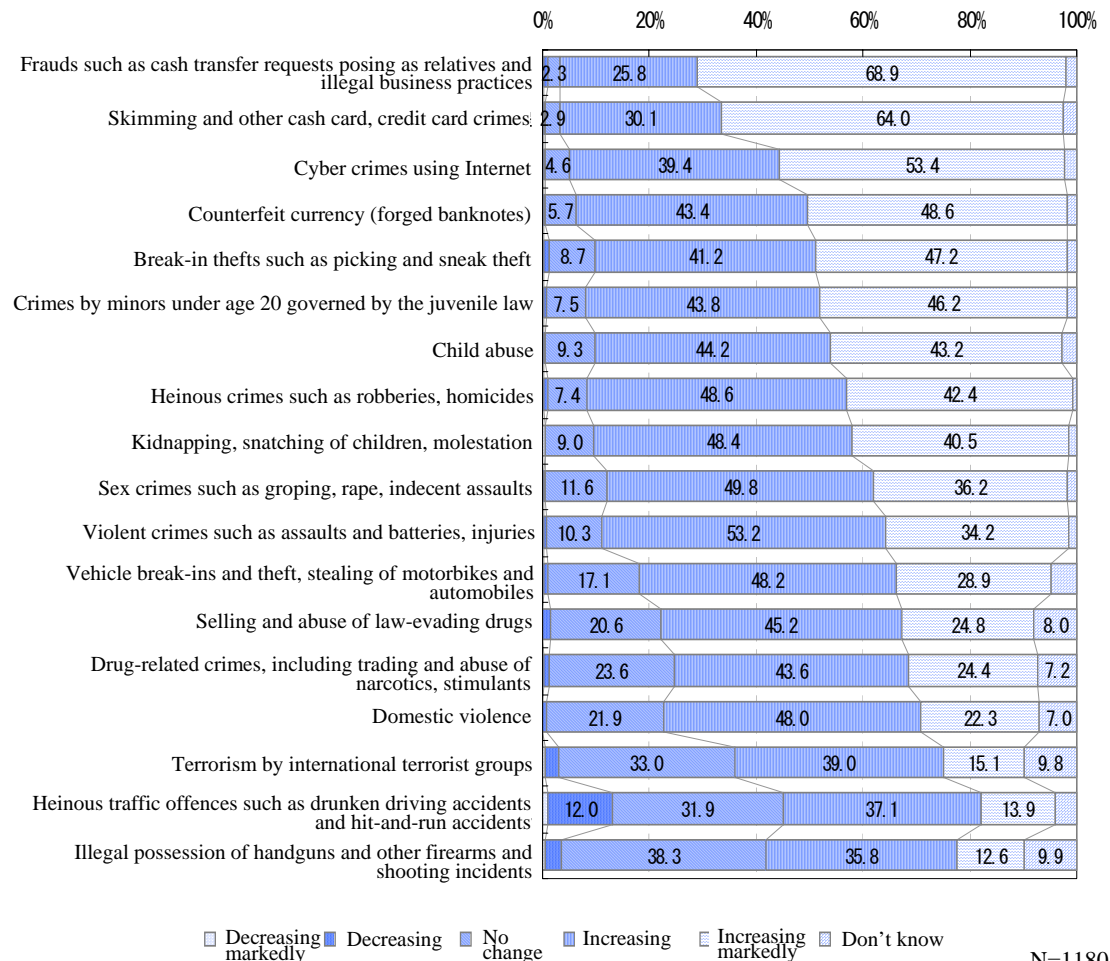


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## Changes in Frequencies of Crimes by Crime Type

- When asked about changes in the recent incidence of crimes by crime type, the majority of respondents felt a marked increase in unconventional crimes, or crimes that have been occurring frequently enough of late to become social problems, such as cyber crimes and card crimes such as fraud involving cash transfer requests posing as relatives and credit card skimming.
- Over 90% of respondents who said that felonious crimes such as robberies and homicides as well as crimes by minors are “increasing” or “increasing markedly” feel that crime is increasing.
- In contrast, 12% of respondents said that traffic accidents and traffic violations are decreasing, indicating their perception that there has been improvement in this area compared with other types of crime.

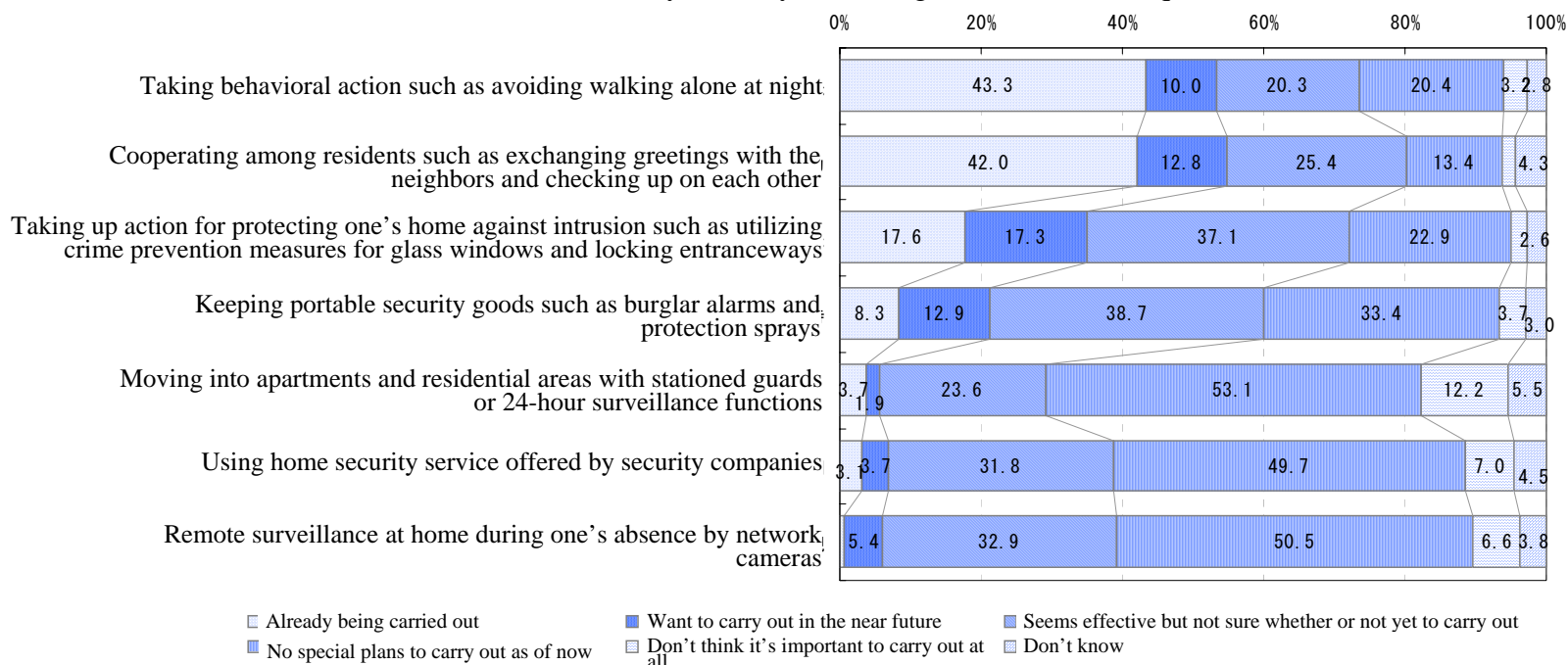
Q3: How do you think criminal and social phenomena in Japan have changed compared with two to three years ago? (single answer to each question)



## Actual Circumstances of Security Measures at the Household Level

- When asked about the kinds of security measures being taken at the household level to respond to the perception that public security is deteriorating, over 40% of respondents could be seen taking security-conscious actions in their everyday lives such as avoiding walking alone at night, or checking up on neighbors.
- On the other hand, less than 10% of respondents are currently considering using security services offered by security companies or introducing new security equipment for their homes, such as remote home surveillance using network cameras.

Q4: Are you using products or services for security purposes, or taking any actions in your daily life? (single answer to each question)

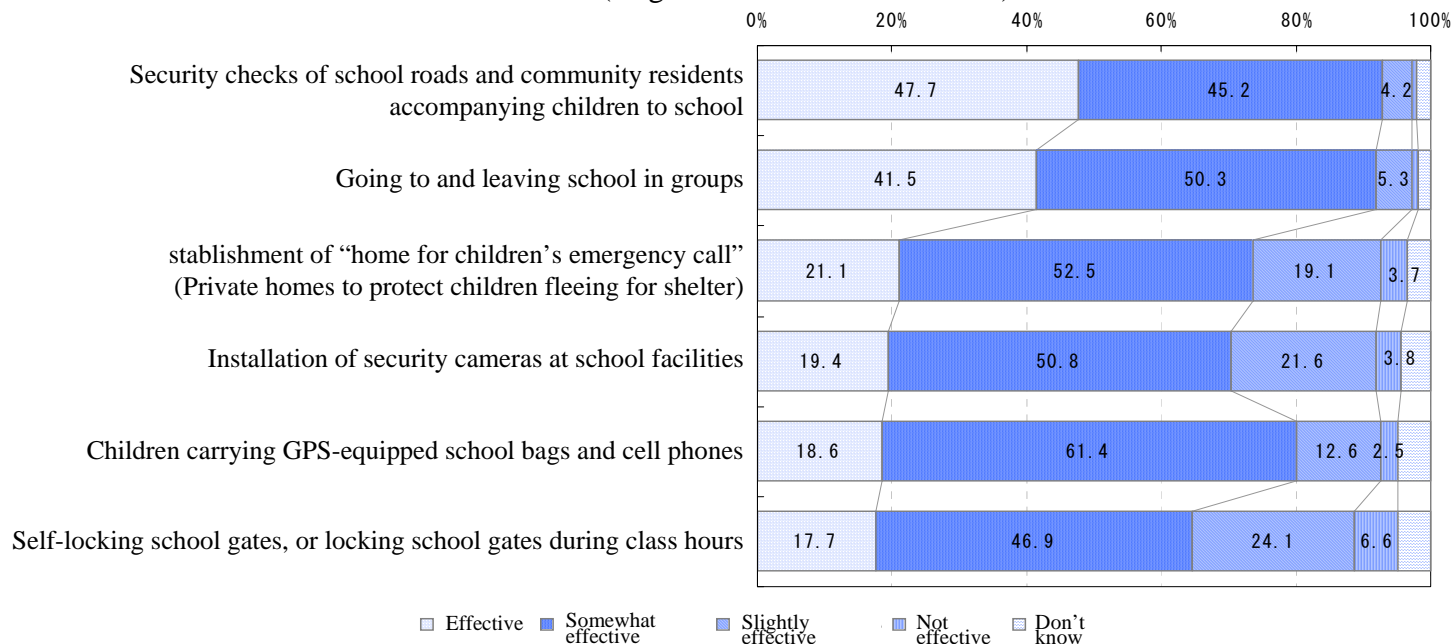


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## Efforts to Protect Children against Crimes

- Following news reports about a succession of crimes involving children on their way to school, respondents were asked to assess the effectiveness of crime prevention efforts. Patrolling of school roads and community residents accompanying children to school were considered to be the most effective. Going to and leaving school in groups was also considered fairly effective when combining the responses of those who said “effective” or “somewhat effective.”
- The survey results indicate that measures to protect children on their way to school are considered more effective than revamping school equipment such as the installation of security cameras at school facilities or self-locking school gates.

Q5: How do you feel about the effectiveness of measures to protect children against crime?  
(single answer to each measure)

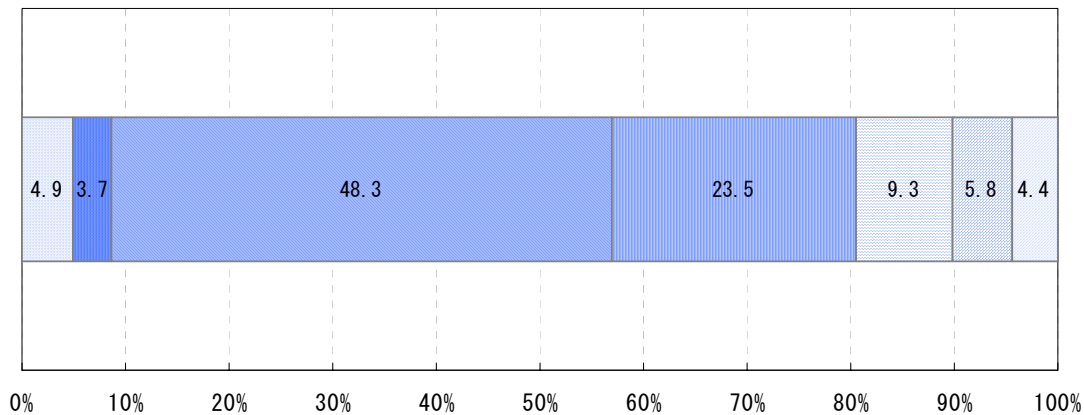


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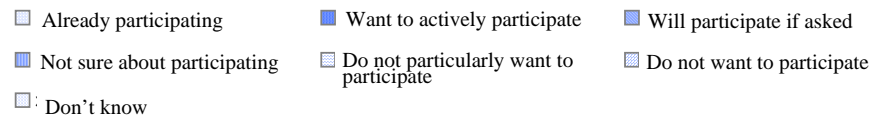
## Security Measures through Cooperation between Community Residents

- A little less than 5% of respondents are actually participating in voluntary crime prevention activities such as patrols and visits to households by community residents, while 48.3% of respondents, or nearly half of the total, said that they “Will participate if asked.”
- When combining respondents who said “Already participating,” “Want to actively participate” or “Will participate if asked,” it is believed that 56.9% of ordinary citizens are positive about participating in such activities.

Q6: Do you want to participate in crime prevention activities such as patrolling by community residents? (single answer)



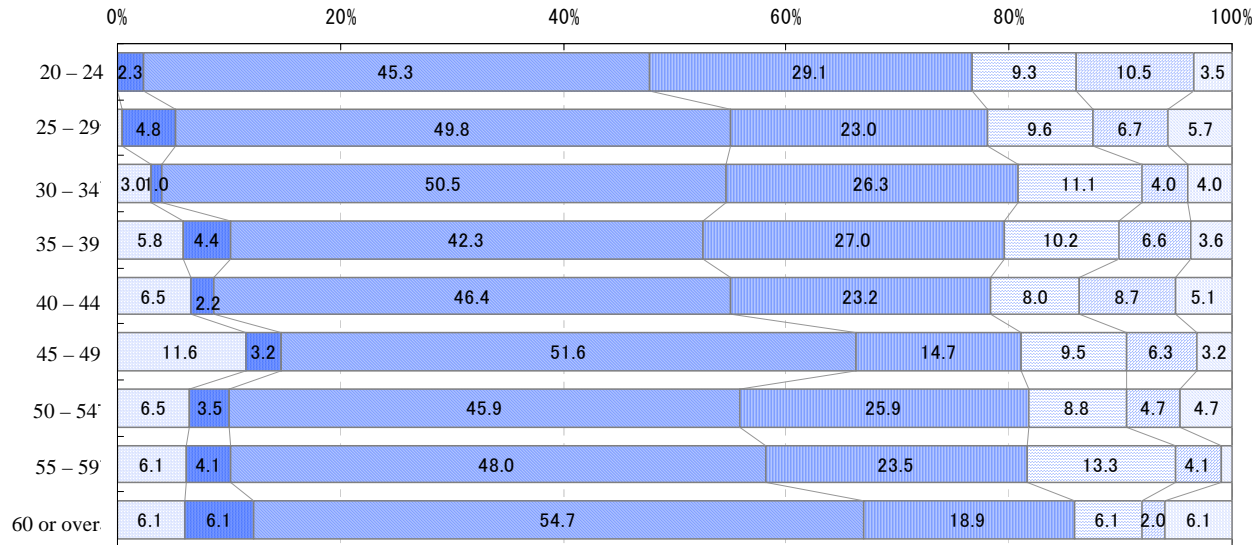
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# Security Measures through Cooperation between Community Residents (by Age)

- Looking at the willingness of community residents to participate in crime prevention activities by age, the rate of actual participation was the highest for respondents in their 40s, while respondents in their 20s and other young age groups are largely negative toward participation.
- While community-based crime prevention activities are currently seen to be undertaken mainly by those in their 40s, the age group that showed the highest rate (6.1%) of replying “Want to actively participate” was 60 and older, raising hopes for active participation by the elderly in crime prevention activities going forward.

Q6: Do you want to participate in crime prevention activities such as patrolling by community residents? (single answer)



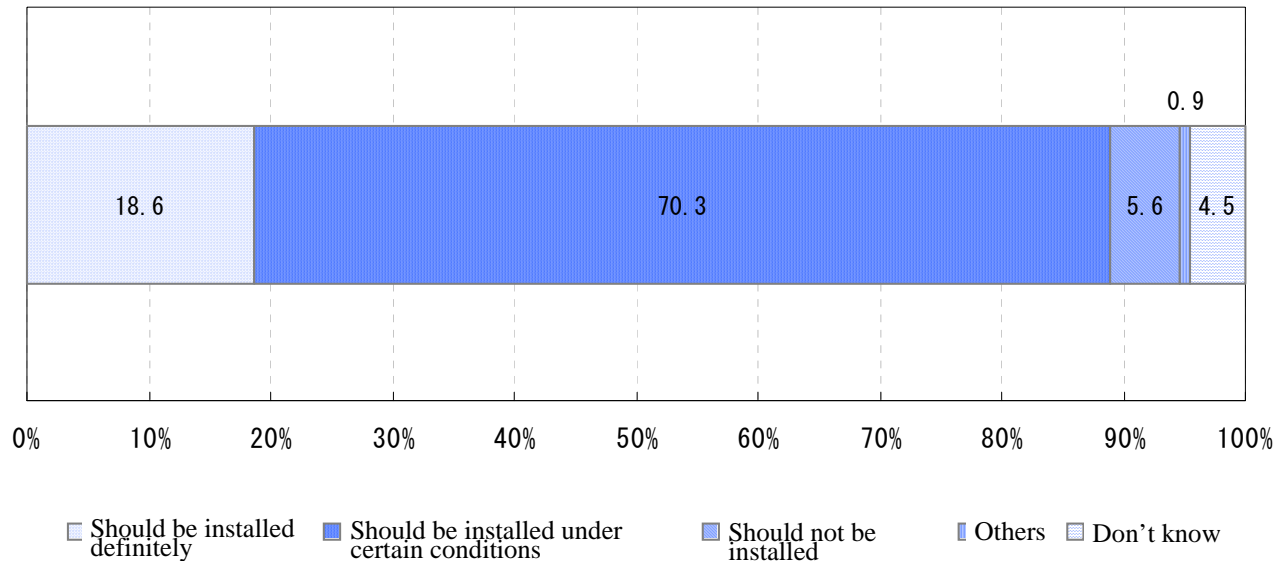
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Already participating   
  Want to actively participate   
  Will participate if asked   
  Not sure about participating  
 Do not particularly want to participate   
  Do not want to participate   
  Don't know

## Pros and Cons about Security Camera Installation in Communities

- Asked about the pros and cons about security cameras that municipal governments are increasingly installing across Japan, positive replies saying “they should definitely be installed” (18.6%) and “they should be installed under certain conditions” (70.3%) exceeded negative replies. This indicates that many people think that security cameras are contributing to maintaining public security in communities.
- Given that 70% of respondents qualified their positive views with “under certain conditions,” there is a seeming call for a rules-based appropriate installation for use of security cameras in communities.

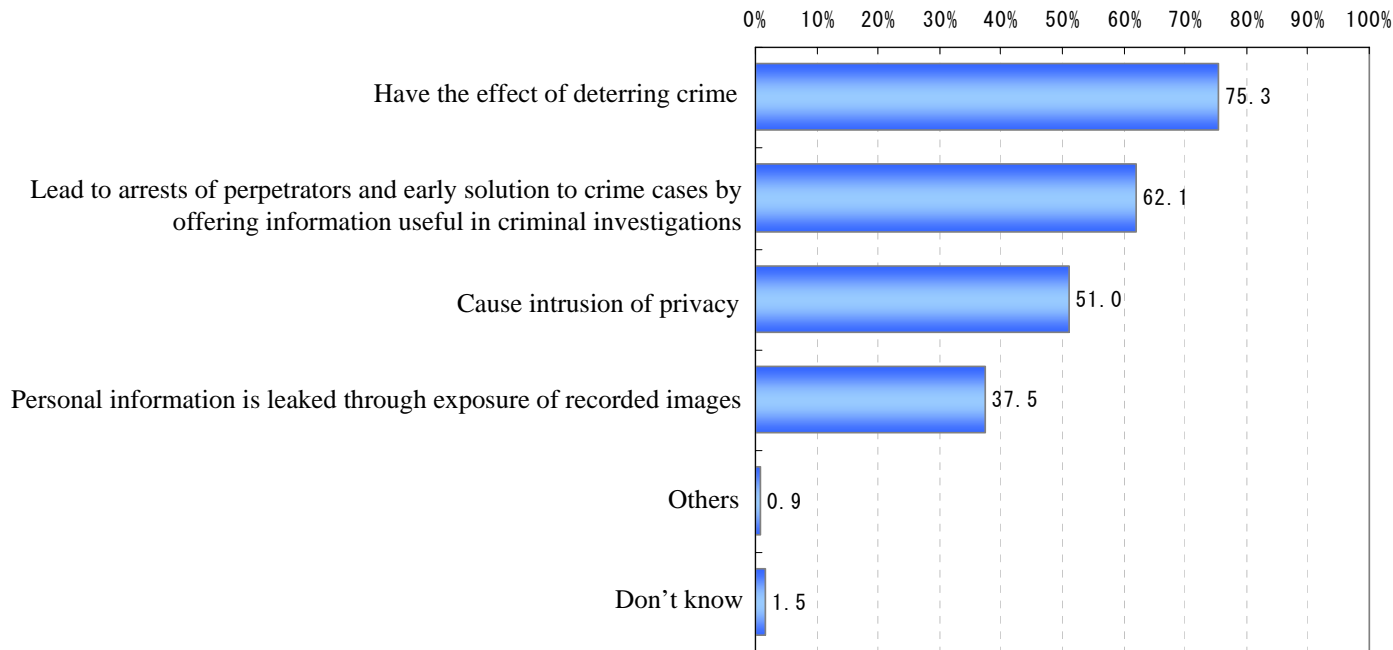
Q7: What do you think about the installation of security cameras on the streets in your community? (single answer)



## Impact of Security Camera Installation in Communities

- Asked about the impact of the installation of security cameras in communities, the largest proportion of 75.3% said that they expect a deterrent effect in the incidence of crime.
- On the other hand, however, many respondents voiced their concern about intrusion of privacy (51.0%) and the release of personal information through exposure of recorded images (37.5%)

Q8: What impact do you expect of the installation of security cameras?  
(multiple answers)

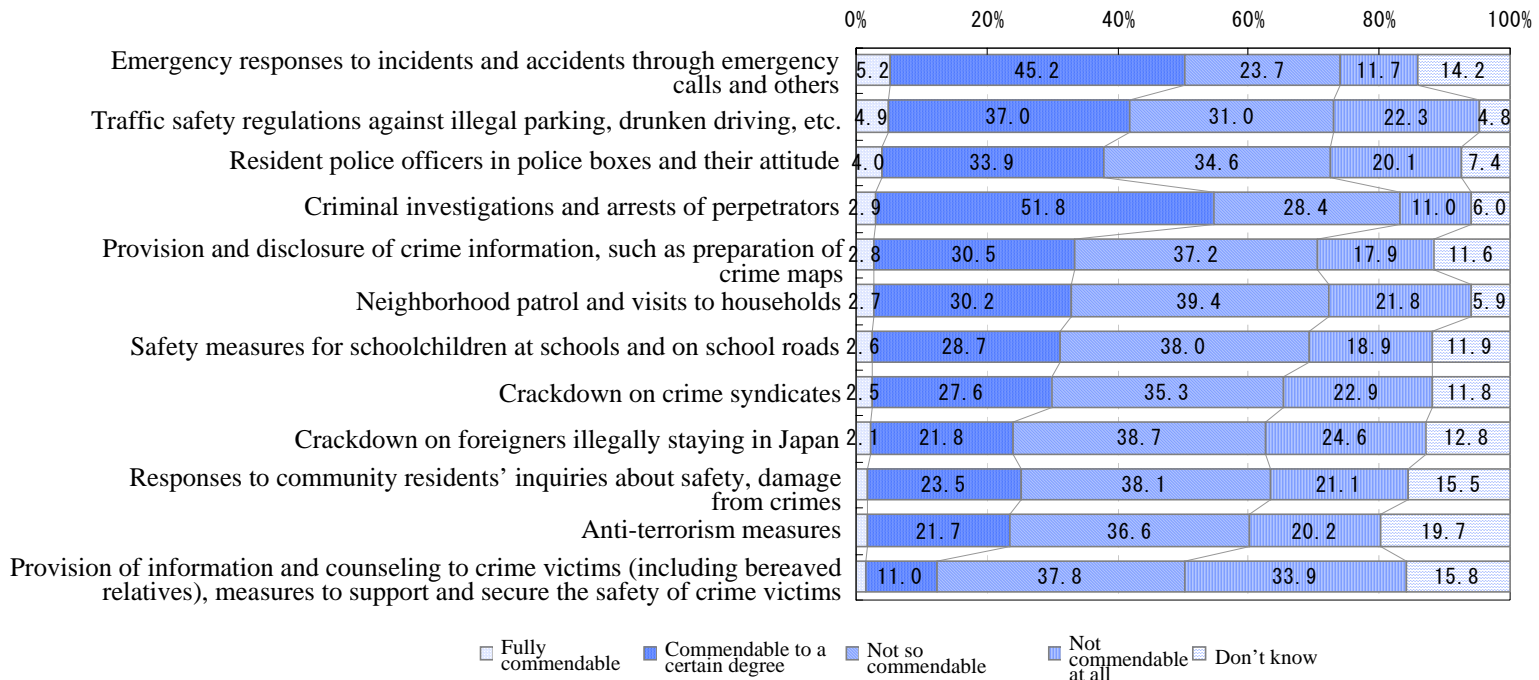


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## Police Efforts to Maintain Public Security

- How are ordinary citizens evaluating police efforts at a time when public security is deteriorating? Asked to evaluate police efforts by type of police activity, respondents gave more positive replies than negative replies about emergency responses to 110 calls and others, criminal investigations, and arrests of perpetrators.
- Negative replies outweighed positive ones for other crime prevention activities by police. Combining replies saying that police activities were “not so commendable” and “not commendable at all,” measures for victims (71.7%), crackdown on foreigners illegally staying in Japan (63.3%) and police patrol (61.2%) were rated lowly, in that order.

Q9: How do you evaluate police activities? (single answer to each item)

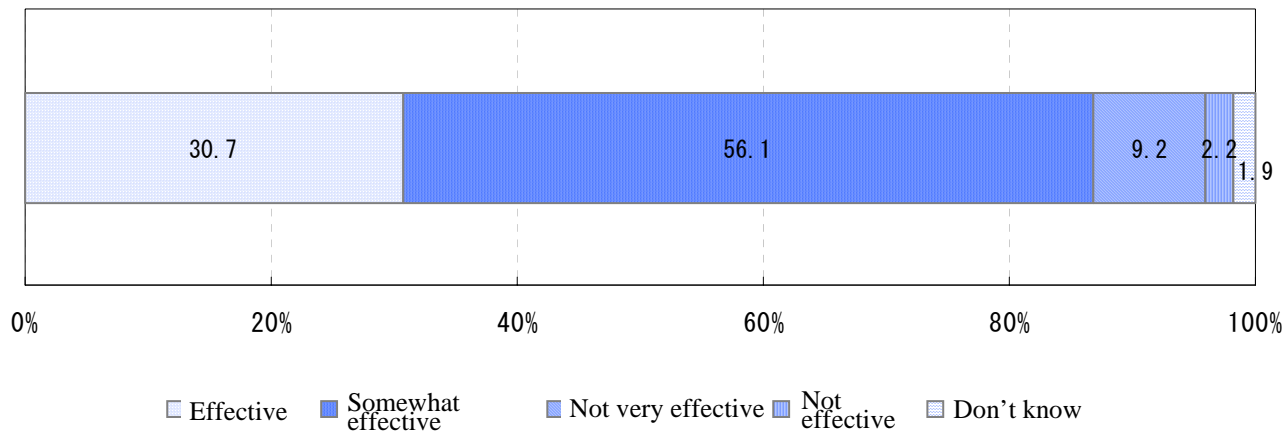


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## Expectations for Increasing Numbers of Policemen

- Asked about an initiative to eliminate unstaffed police boxes and increase the number of police officers, 30.7% said that it “was effective” in improving public security. Combined with 56.1% who said that it “was somewhat effective,” over 80% of respondents appreciated the increase in police officers and hoped that the measure would help improve public security.

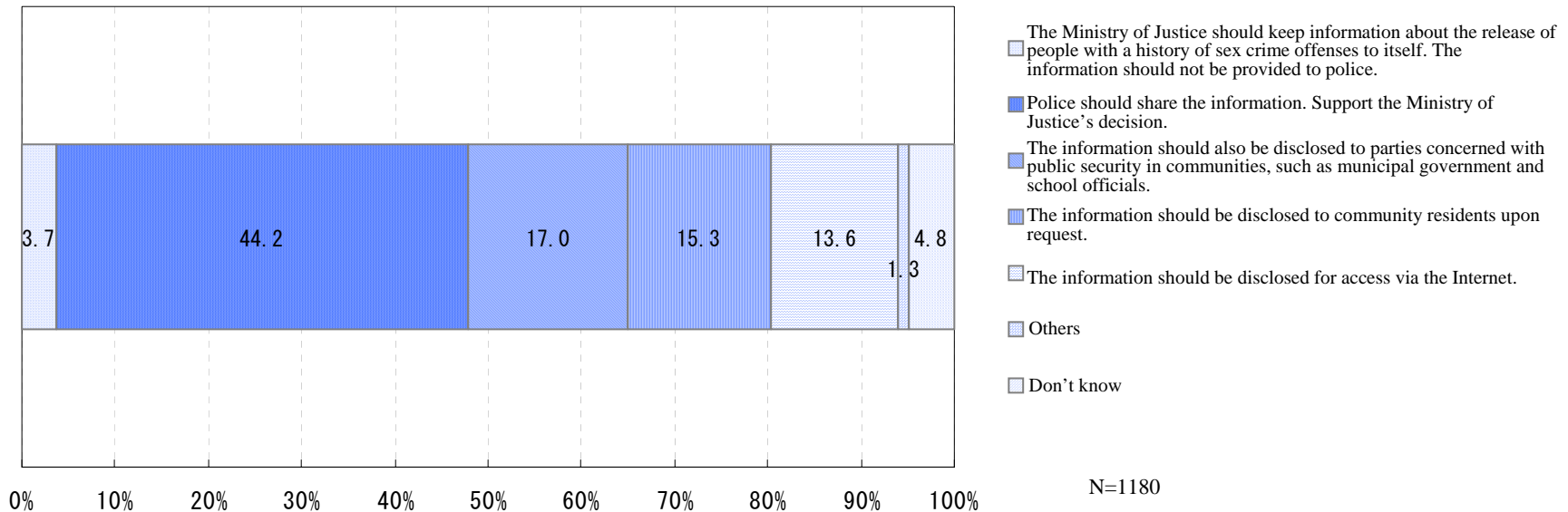
Q10: Do you think efforts to eliminate current problem of police boxes without police officers for hours by increasing the number of police officers are effective in improving public security? (single answer)



## Disclosure of Information on People with a History of Sex Offenses

- Regarding the Ministry of Justice’s plan to provide police with information on people with a history of sex crime offenses from June 2005 onward, about 90% of respondents support the Justice Ministry’s sharing of such information with other government agencies and other concerned parties.
- Regarding who should be provided with such information, respondents who said that only police should receive such shared information were limited to 44.2% of the total, with a larger 45.9% of respondents saying that the information should be provided to concerned parties other than police.
- Of the respondents, 15.3% said that community residents should be allowed to see the information, and 13.6% said that the information should be disclosed for access via the Internet.

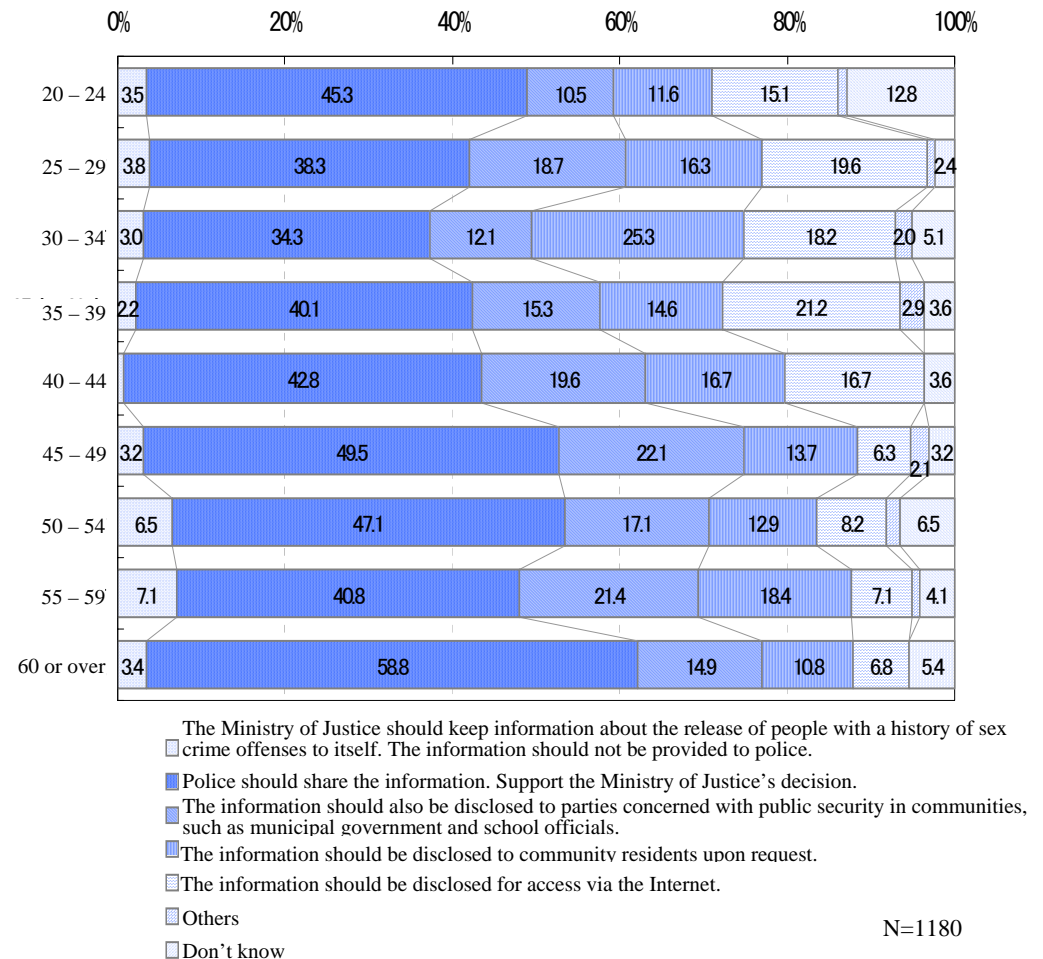
Q11: What do you think of the crime recurrence prevention system for sex crime offenders? (single answer)



## Disclosure of Information on People with a History of Sex Offenses (by Age)

- By age, more respondents in their 40s and 50s said that the information should be disclosed to parties concerned with public security in communities such as municipal government and school officials as well as the police than people in their 20s and 30s.
- In contrast, younger people in their 20s and 30s tended to support the option of making the information accessible via the Internet more than middle-aged and older people.
- The most conservative view that the information should be kept to the Ministry of Justice was supported by a greater proportion of respondents in their 50s.
- These results indicate roughly that younger people want the proactive disclosure of information on people with a history of sex crime offenses.

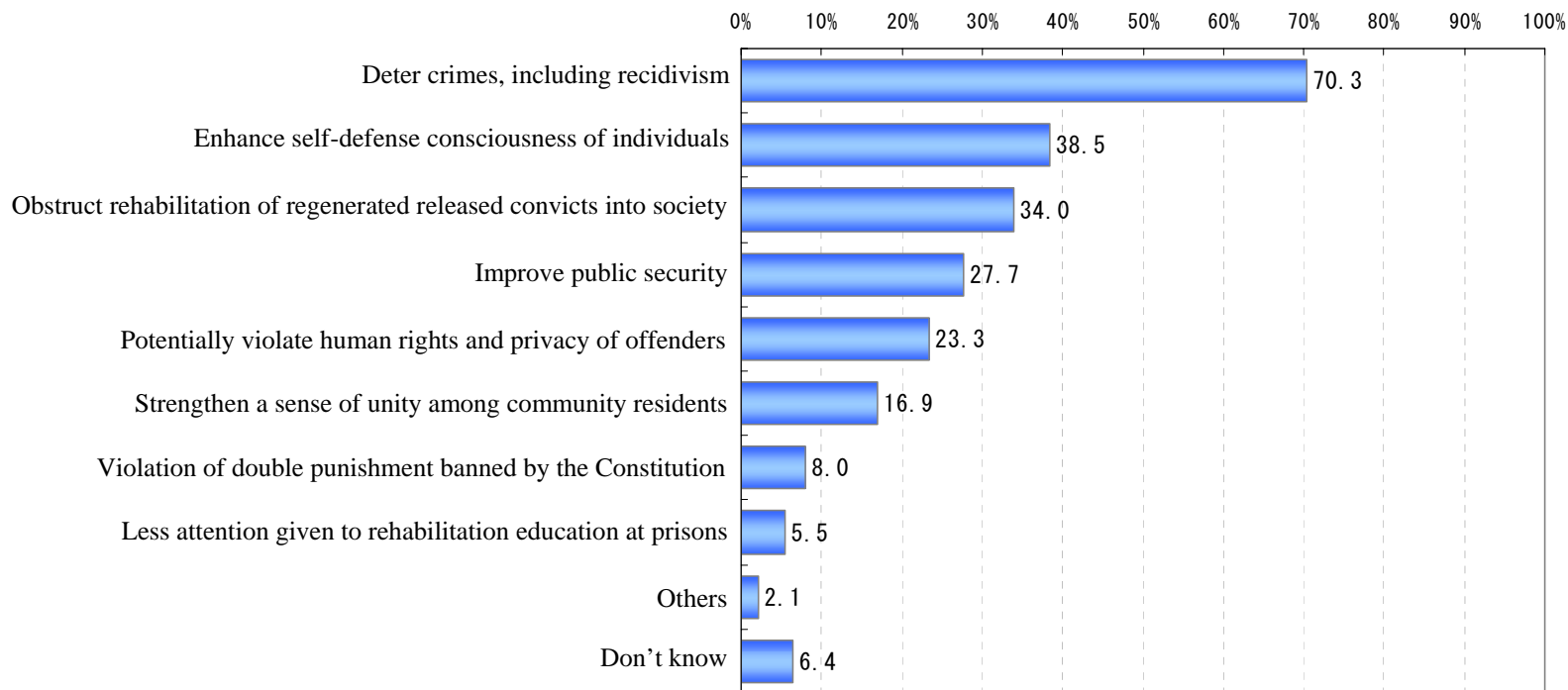
Q11: What do you think of the crime recurrence prevention system for sex crime offenders? (single answer)



## Social Impact of the Crime Recurrence Prevention System against Sex Crimes

- Asked about the potential impact of the crime recurrence prevention system through the provision of information on people with a history of sex crime offenses, 70% of respondents said that they believe the new system will contribute to crime deterrence, followed by 38.5% who cited that it would enhance community residents' self-defense consciousness. These results indicate that high expectations are placed on the crime recurrence prevention system.
- 38.5% of respondents voiced their concern over the possible obstruction of the rehabilitation of released convicts into society, while 23.3% of respondents were concerned about violation of human rights and the privacy of offenders.

Q12: What will be the impact on society of the crime recurrence prevention system for sex crime offenders that was decided to be introduced? (multiple answers)

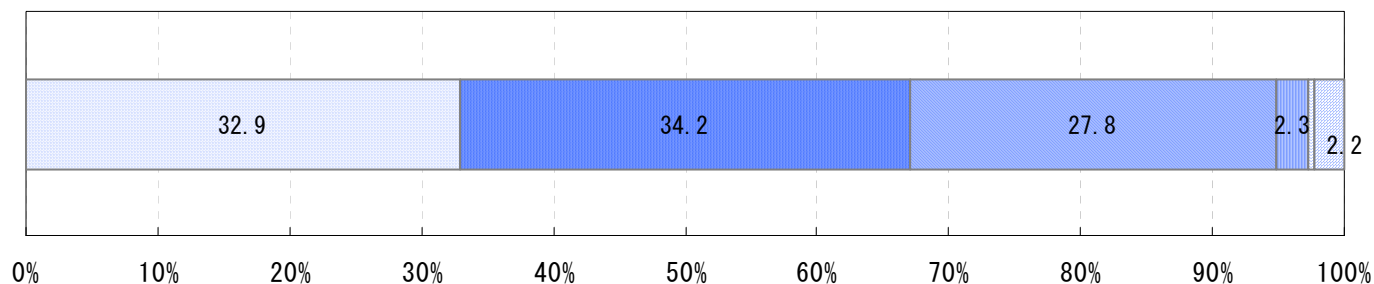


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## Social Trends for Strengthened Measures to Maintain Public Security

- When asked about the pros and cons of social trends for strengthening efforts to maintain public security, including the installation of security cameras, increased number of police officers and the crime recurrence prevention system for sex crime offenders, 32.9% of respondents said that such efforts should be promoted aggressively, 34.2% said that they were unavoidable for ensuring safety, 27.8% said that some restrictions should be imposed to prevent Japan from becoming a surveillance society, and 2.3% said that such efforts should be discontinued.
- These results indicate a social trend that is by and large positive about the trend toward reinforced public security while entertaining some concern about becoming a surveillance society.

Q13: What do you think of reinforced measures in favor of public security, including the installation of security cameras, the increase in the number of police officers and the crime recurrence prevention system? (single answer)



- Should be promoted aggressively to boost public security
- Not desirable but inevitable for the sake of safety
- Should be promoted under the condition that some restrictions are imposed on police activity to prevent Japan from becoming a surveillance society
- Should be discontinued as they lead to a surveillance society
- Others
- Don't know

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**NRI**

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