Recent trend of child sexual abuse in Japan

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Introduction

❖This is an example of

ecological (correlation) study

❖I'll ask you later…

- How do you interpret the results?

- What are limitations of this study?

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Background

Number of reported cases of child abuse in Japan (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare)
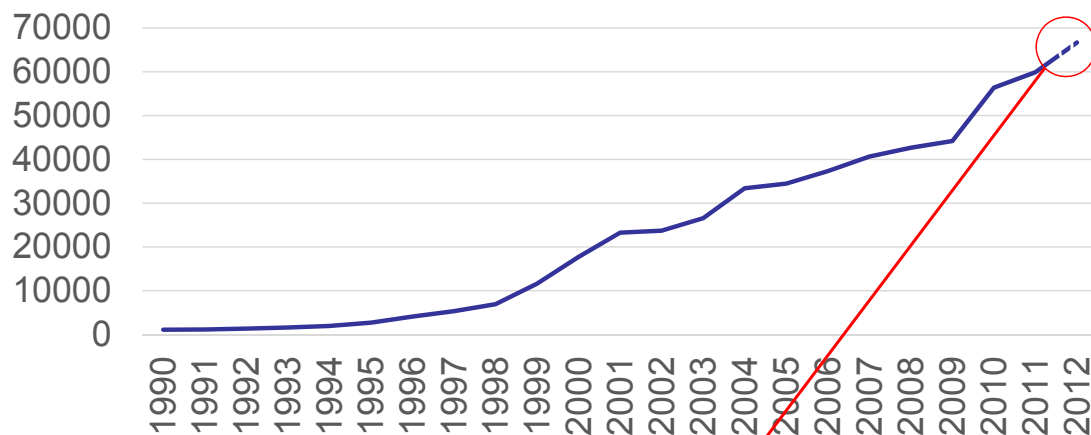
In 2012, it increased 5.7 times compared to the number in 1999
(Child abuse prevention law was enacted in 2000)

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Types of child abuse

❖ Physical abuse

❖ Psychiatric abuse

❖ Neglect

❖ *Sexual abuse*

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Characteristics of child sexual abuse

Main victims: **Girls**

Main perpetrators: **Male relatives**

Negative influences

Short-term: Psychological and
reproductive health effects

Long-term: Gynecological diseases,
psychiatric symptoms, and so on

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Child sexual abuse prevention is an serious issue, but…

"**Crime**" or "abuse"?
Neglected sensitive topic
Difficult to detect

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Study aim

Epidemiological data on this topic is scarce in Japan.

→ We thus analyzed a **recent trend** of child sexual abuse and its explored its potential **social determinants** by using government statistics available on-line.

Method

Data source

Official Statistics of Japan (e-Stat)

Analysis of trend

Trend of reported number of child sexual abuse and the other types of child abuse during 1998 to 2013.

Definitions

❖ Target groups: Elementary and junior high school students

❖ Child abuse rate

=(reported number of child abuse/population)

❖ Increase rate of child abuse rate

= (Latest rate – first rate)/first rate in each period

Note. First period (1998-2005) and second period (2006-2013)

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Analysis of social determinants

Data of 47 prefectures were correlated by calculating Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.

SPSS version 20 was used.

Categories	Indicators
Basic	Total population
Reproductive health	Under 15 yo abortion rate
Safety	Welfare crime (sexual crime) rate
	Total crime rate
Economy	Income per capita
	Education expenditure (%)
	Child care allowance rate
Family	Divorce rate
Social resource	No. of libraries (per 1000000 pop)
	No. of community centers (per 1000000 pop)

Results

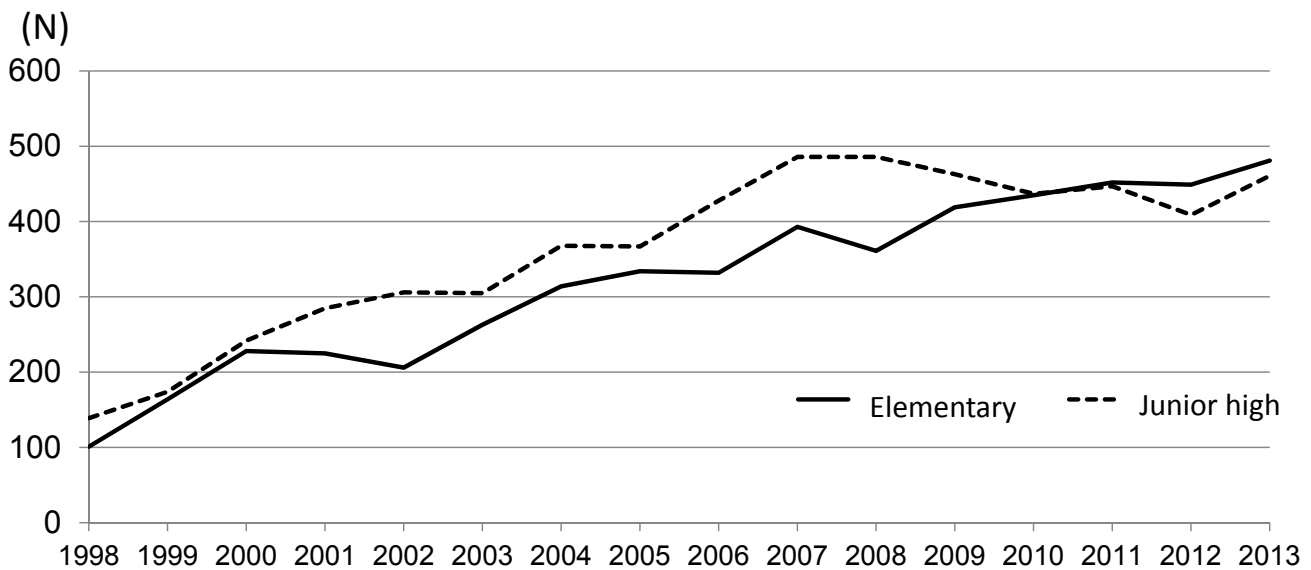## Figure 1. Reported number of child sexual abuse

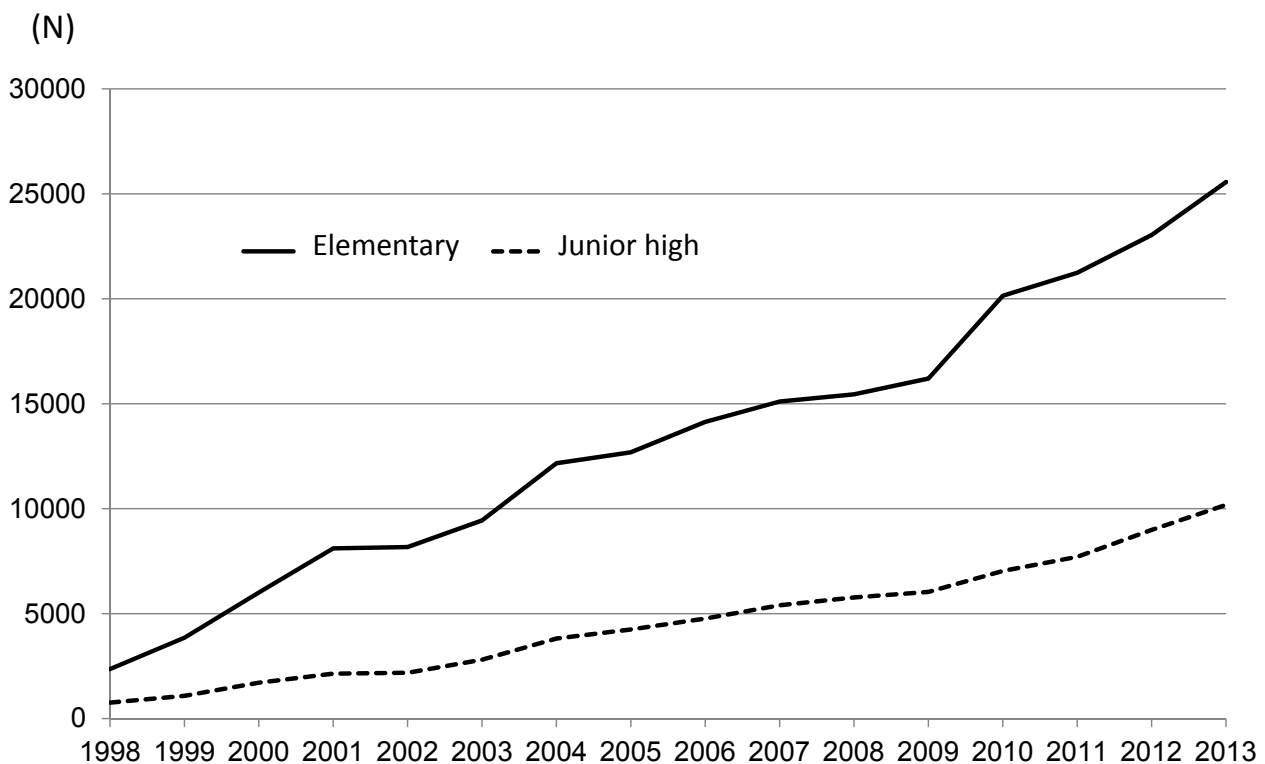## Figure 2. Reported number of other child abuses

Table 1. Trend of child abuse rates

	Sexual abuse		Other child abuse	
	Elementary	Junior high	Elementary	Junior high
First period				
Rate (/10000)				
1998	0.29	0.79	3.30	4.10
2005	0.96	2.06	17.72	22.73
Increase rate (1998-2005)	230.69	164.03	436.58	453.78
Second period				
Rate (/10000)				
2006	0.95	2.40	19.70	25.50
2013	1.38	2.59	35.69	54.45
Increase rate (2006-2013)	44.88	7.71	80.88	113.45

Table 2. Correlation of prefectural child sexual abuse rate with social determinants

Categories	Indicators	rs	p
Basic	Total population	-0.03	0.84
Reproductive health	Under 15 yo abortion rate	0.07	0.65
Safety	Welfare crime (sexual crime) rate	-0.27	0.07
	Total crime rate	0.26	0.08
Economy	Income per capita	0.15	0.32
	Education expenditure (%)	-0.01	0.97
	Child care allowance rate	0.10	0.50
Family	Divorce rate	0.18	0.23
Social resource	No. of libraries (per 1000000 pop)	-0.29	0.048
	No. of community centers (per 1000000 pop)	-0.14	0.35

➤How do you interpret the results?

➤What are limitations of this study?

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