

Rapists, robbers have 40% recidivism rate per decade: Justice Ministry report

Kyodo News

Nearly 40 percent of people convicted of robbery or rape become repeat offenders within 10 years of their release from prison, according to the government's annual report on crime.

The findings are based on a Justice Ministry survey that followed up on 1,021 inmates freed in 2000 after being convicted of one or more of five crimes — murder, injury resulting in death, robbery, rape and arson.

Of the total, 322 committed crimes again within 10 years of their release, and 29 of the repeat offenders did so in less than a month, according to the 2010 white paper on crime, released Friday.

By crime, the recidivism rate was particularly high for robbery, at 39.1 percent, and rape, at 38.5 percent. The rate for murder came in at 17.2 percent, for injury resulting in death at 32.9 percent and for arson at 26.1 percent.

The report indicates that 46.8 percent of convicted robbers who already had a record of property-related crimes, such as robbery, theft or fraud, committed this kind of crime again after their release, while 37.5 percent of convicted rapists with previous records of sex-related crimes committed such offenses again.

The recidivism rate among those who were freed from prison after serving out their terms for the five crimes were 1.5 to 6.0 times higher than those who were released on parole.

The number of criminal offenses in 2009 fell 6.3 percent to 1.7 million for the seventh consecutive annual decrease, according to the paper.

The number of people arrested or identified as suspects in

criminal cases came to 333,205, of whom those aged 60 or older accounted for 20.6 percent. Juveniles leveled off at 108,358, while women decreased 4 percent to 70,234.

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