

西山 : Increasing trends of serious mental health issues in Japanese children.

【研究ノート】

Increasing trends of serious mental health issues in Japanese children.

(THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

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Keywords: Children, Suicide, Bullying, Support systems

Purpose

Suicides among children in Japan are the highest they have been in more than three decades. The purpose of this research is to clarify the trends and to evaluate the content of current support measures.

Method

Analysis of government statistics related to children, bullying suicide and support structures, (National Police Agency and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, also Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).

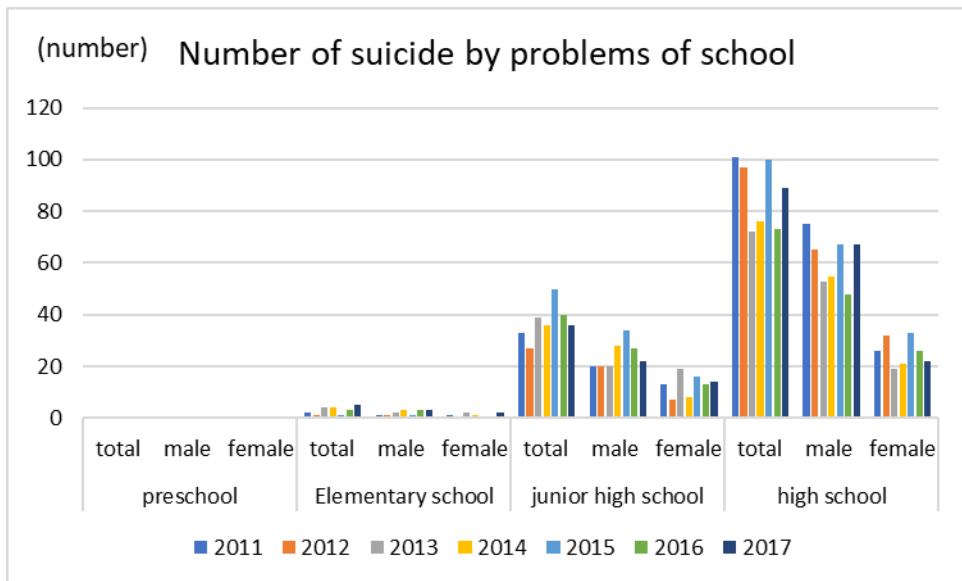
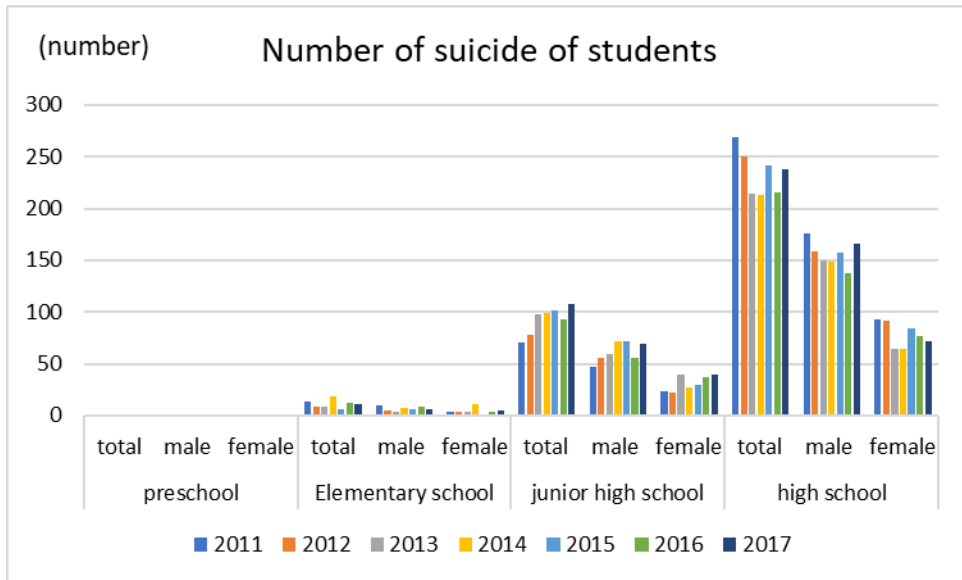
Results

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology conducted a survey on issues related to student guidance such as problem behavior and schools refusal to accept students. A Bullying Prevention law was introduced in 2013. The number of schools reporting "serious incidents" was 158 in 2013 increasing to 444 in 2017. The number of "serious incidents" was 75 in 2013 increasing to 191 in 2017. The analysis of the data showed an increase across all areas as detailed in the figures and graph. All schools have a school nurse but there are no counselors or social workers. The Board of Education, only when requested by the school, send a counselor or social worker.

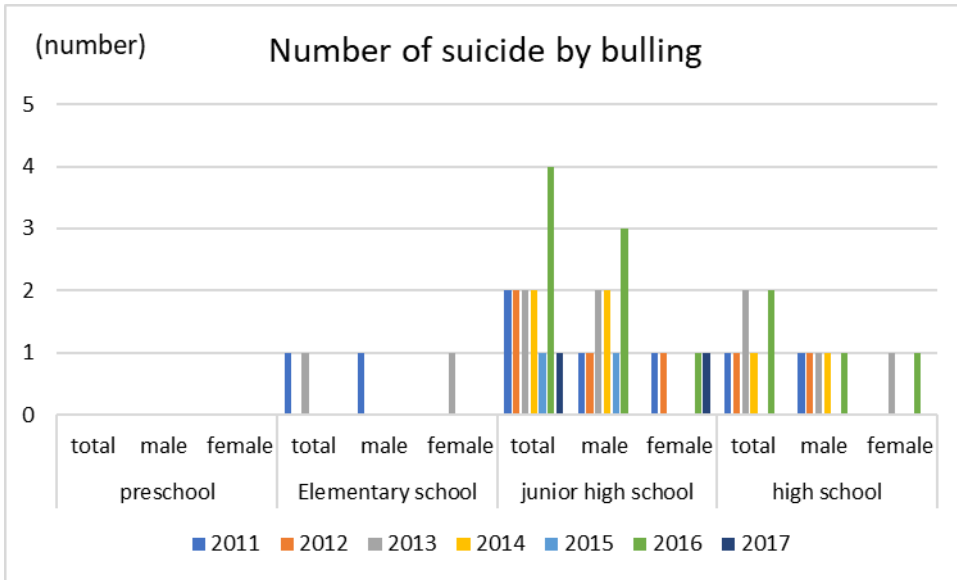
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* National Police Agency

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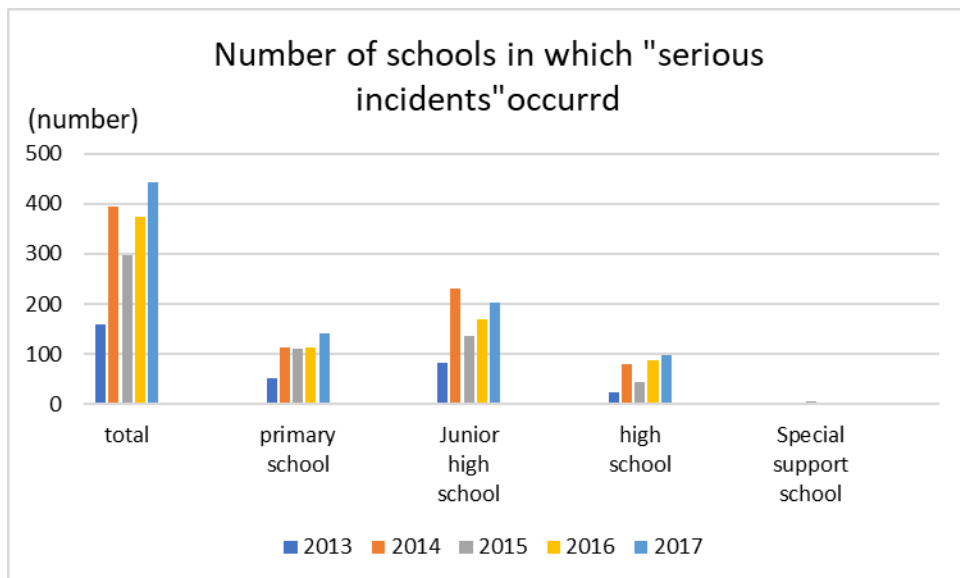


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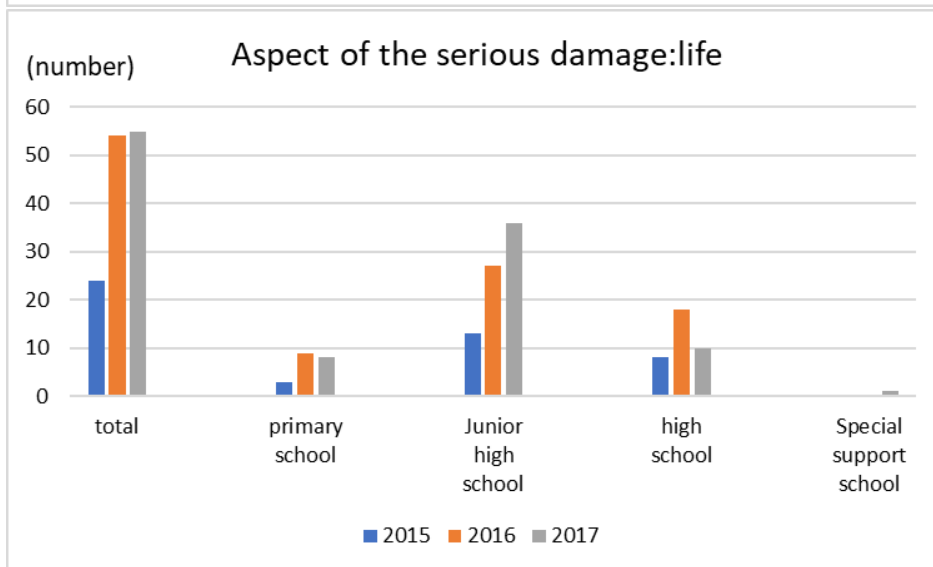
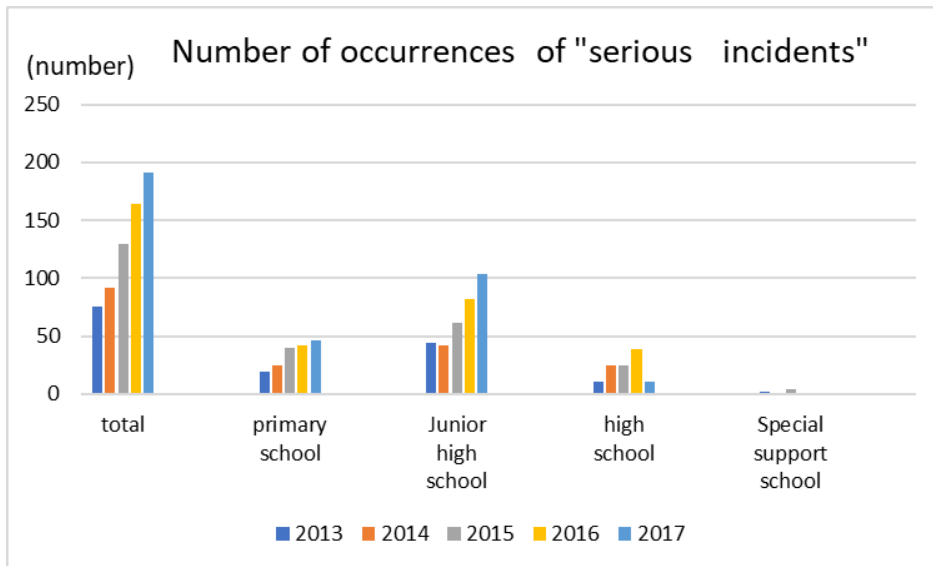
Survey on issues related to student guidance such as problem behavior and school refusal for students

* Bullying prevention measures promotion law, 2013

Number of occurrences of "serious incidents" prescribed in Article 28, paragraph 1



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Discussion

The data suggests that the Basic Act on Suicide Prevention (2006) and the Bullying Prevention Measures law (2013), are ineffective.

The Japanese education system encourages social and moral skills in school as part of a standardized education policy and law, but children are not educated in personal safety issues. The teacher training system in Japan does not provide teachers with enough education in identifying and dealing with problems such as bullying and mental health issues. Japanese ministries and schools need to collaborate more effectively with other professionals.

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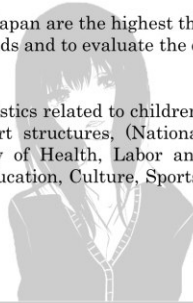
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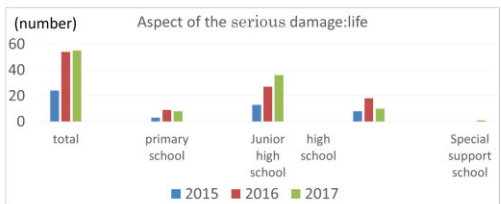
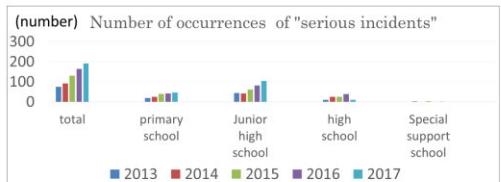
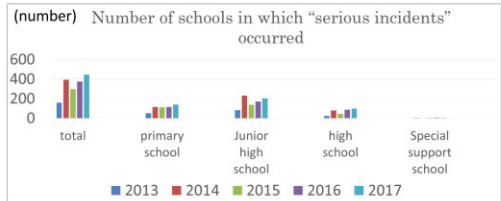
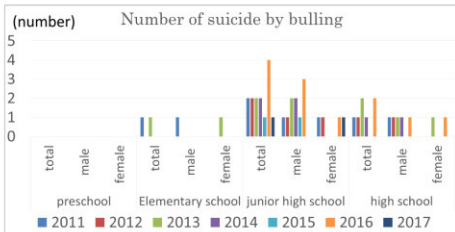
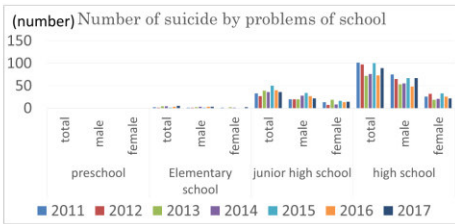
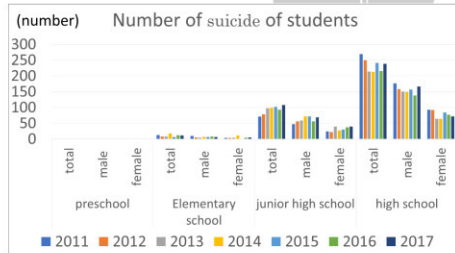


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