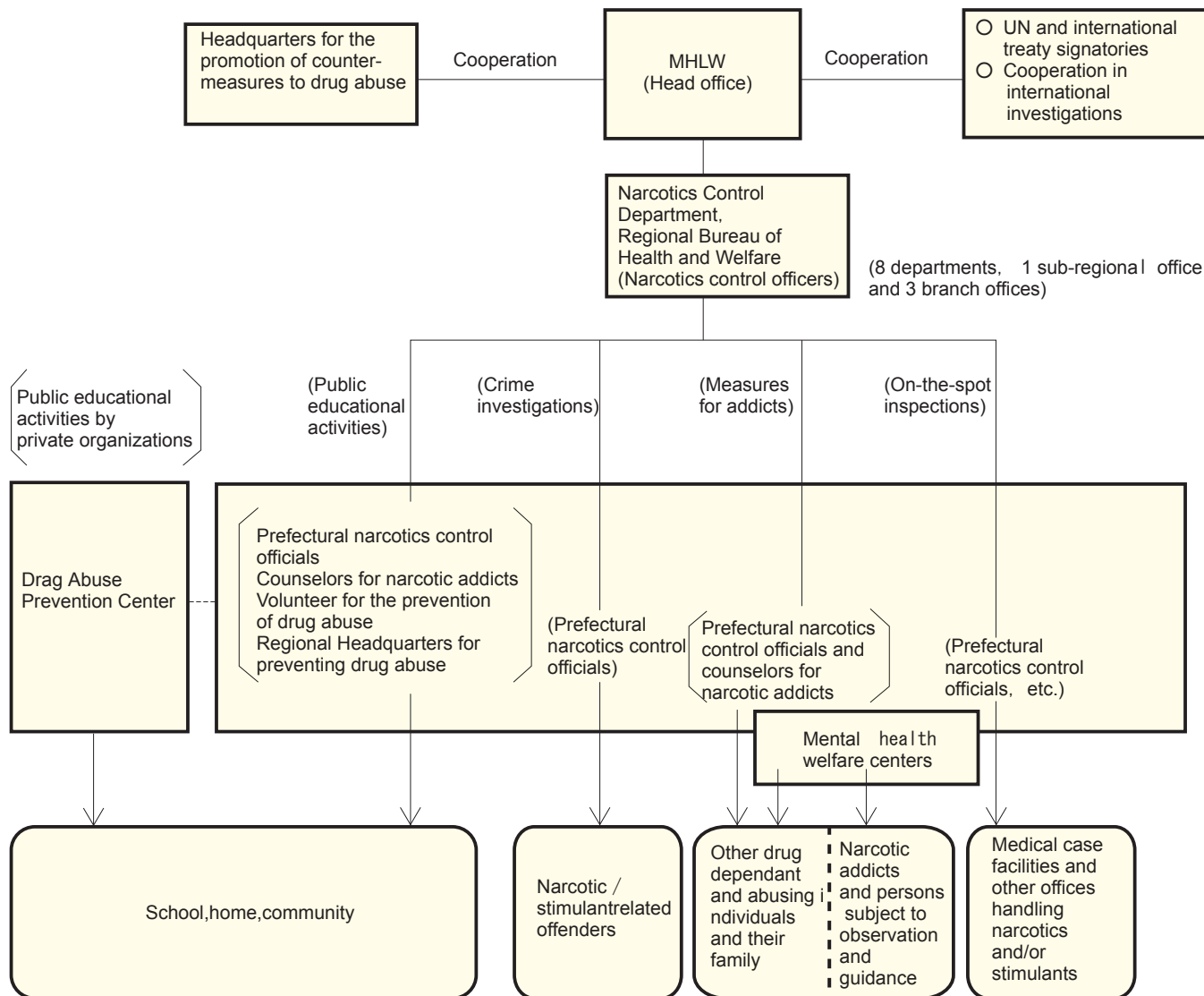


Countermeasures to Narcotics

Recent situations

- Stimulant offenders account for most of the drug abuse offenders in Japan (about 80% of all drug abuse offenders).
- In 2007, the number of arrested stimulant offenders was more than 12,000.
- Abuse of drugs such as cannabis are at high level.

Structural Chart of Countermeasures to Drug Abuse



Narcotics which are used, for example, as analgesics for cancer patients and psychotropic agents, such as sleeping pills and anti-anxiety drugs serve medically important roles. On the other hand, when they are abused, they not only damage the health of abusing individuals, but also can have significantly negative effects on the entire society.

For this reason while trying to stabilize the supply and demand of narcotics for medical use, MHLW are also promoting comprehensive countermeasures to control drug abuse by promoting public education activities, enforcing law more rigorously, promoting re-abuse prevention and promoting international cooperation.