

## Chapter 4 Ensuring Safe and Comfortable Traffic Conditions

### Section 1 Traffic Accidents in 2014

The number of fatalities from traffic accidents in 2014 was 4,113. While that number has been steadily decreasing since 2001, the reduction has recently shrunk due to the increase in the population of the elderly whose fatality rate is higher than that of other age groups.

### Section 2 Boosting Traffic Safety Awareness

#### 1 Police Initiative to Eradicate Drunken Driving

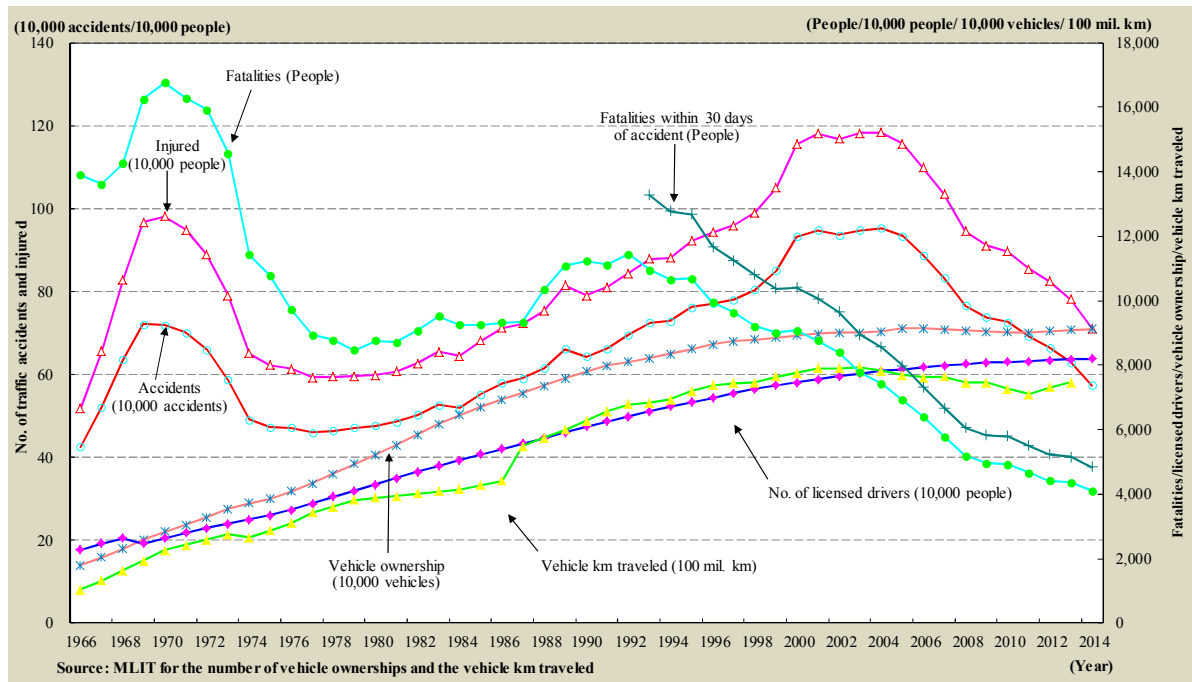
The number of traffic accidents due to drunken driving in 2014 was 4,155 in decrease for fourteen consecutive years. As well as actively informing the public about the

dangers of drunken driving and the facts about accidents caused by drunken driving, the police are promoting participation, hands-on experience and practice-type traffic safety education using goggles that simulate intoxication and other equipment.

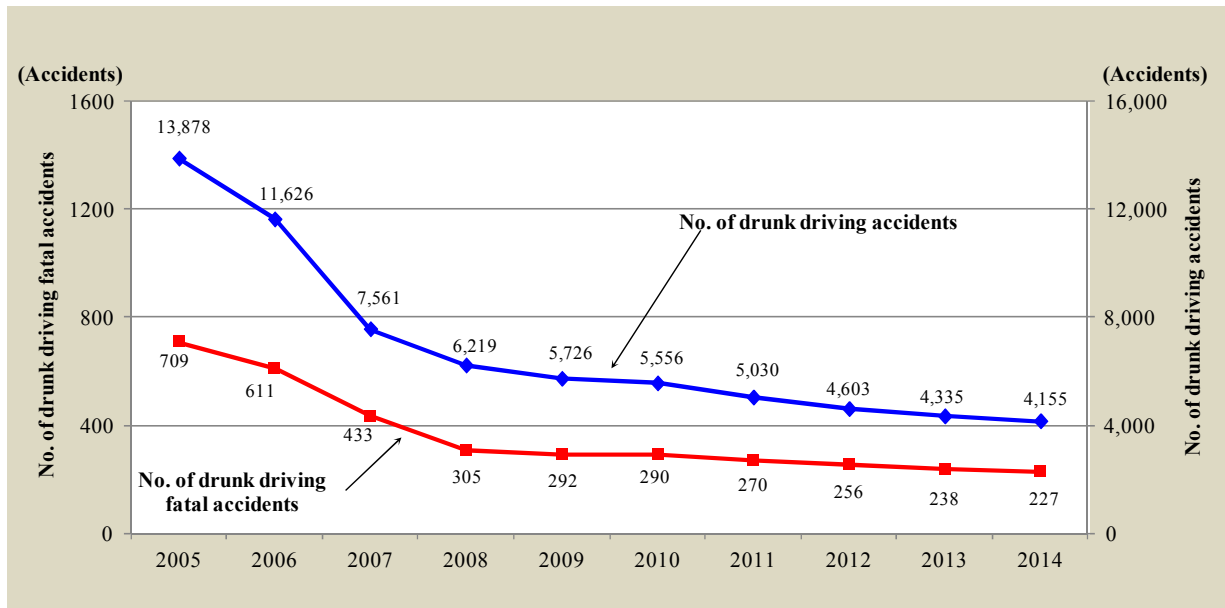
#### 2 Promotion of the Safe Usage of Bicycles

The number of bicycle-related accidents in 2014 was 109,269. While the number fell from the previous year, it still accounts for approximately 20% of overall traffic accidents. The police are reinforcing guidance and regulations for bicycle users, and striving to make everyone aware of rules for bicycle usage, including that cyclists should ride on streets in principle.

**Trends in the numbers of traffic accidents, fatalities, injuries, licensed drivers, owned vehicles, kilometers driven (1966–2014)**



**Trends in the numbers of drunk-driving accidents and drunk-driving fatal accidents (2005-2014)**



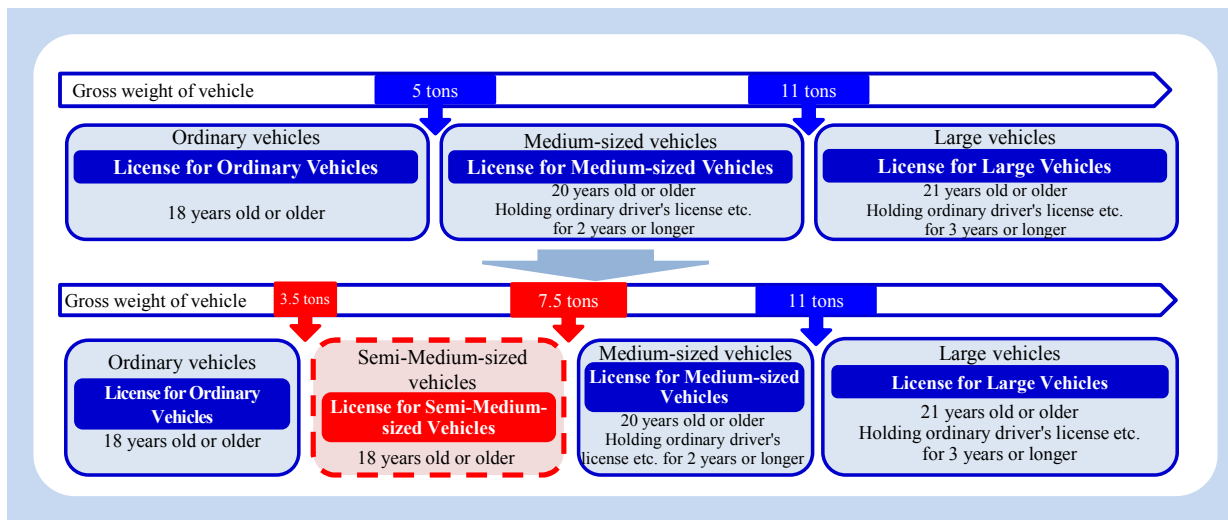
**Section 3 Ensuring Safe Driving**

In order to ensure the safe driving of automobiles and other vehicles, the police are working to enhance education for persons seeking to acquire a driver’s license as well as education after a driver’s license has been issued and are also striving to implement strict and prompt administrative dispositions against drivers who repeatedly violate the Road Traffic Act and/or cause serious accidents, to remove them from the road as soon as possible.

**Column: Amendment of the Road Traffic Act as a Measure for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents Involving Trucks**

With due consideration to the situation of society and with the aim of preventing traffic accidents involving trucks, the Act on the Partial Amendment of the Road Traffic Act, which includes the creation of a license for semi-medium-sized vehicles, which can be acquired from age 18, was enacted at the 189th Diet session in June 2015.

**The creation of a License for Semi-Medium-Sized Vehicles**



**Section 4 Traffic Environment Improvement**  
**1 Developing Safe and Secure Traffic Environments**

To achieve safety and smooth traffic flow, the police are working to improve traffic safety facilities such as traffic lights and road signs. At the same time, to address the issue of deteriorating traffic lights and other facilities in service for a long time, the police are working on replacing deteriorating facilities, extending the service life of facilities, reducing life-cycle costs from a medium- and long-term perspective on the basis of NPA's Action Plan for Life Extension of Infrastructure.

**Column: Introduction of Circular Intersections**

**Special provisions for the establishment of traffic rules for circular intersections, which are part of the Act on the Partial Amendment of the Road Traffic Act**

enacted in June 2013, came into force in September 2014, and circular intersections had been introduced at 43 locations by the end of FY2014.

Since circular intersections are expected to contribute to decreases in the number of accidents, mitigation in damage and shortening of waiting time at intersections as well as to improvements in disaster-response capabilities, the police will continue to promote the introduction of circular intersections at proper locations.

**2 Ensuring the Safe Passage of Pedestrians by Improving Traffic Environments**

To ensure the safe passage of pedestrians and others using community roads in residential areas, the police are cooperating with road administrators to promote the establishment of 30km/hr. zones. By the end of 2014, 30km/hr. zones were established in 1,827 places.

Illustration showing the implementation status of 30km/hr. zones

