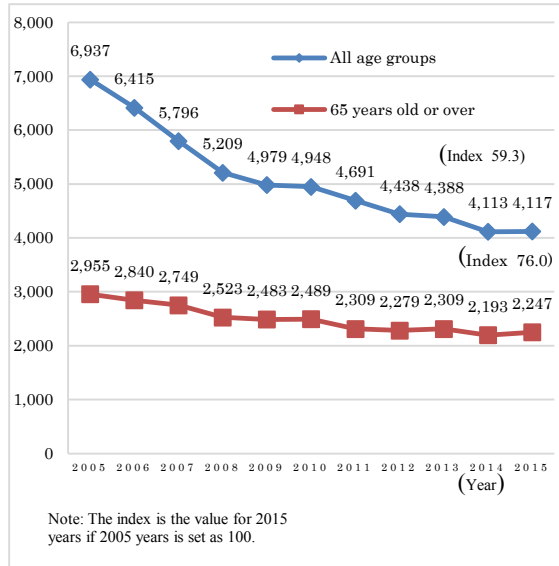


Chapter 5 Ensuring Safe and Comfortable Traffic Conditions

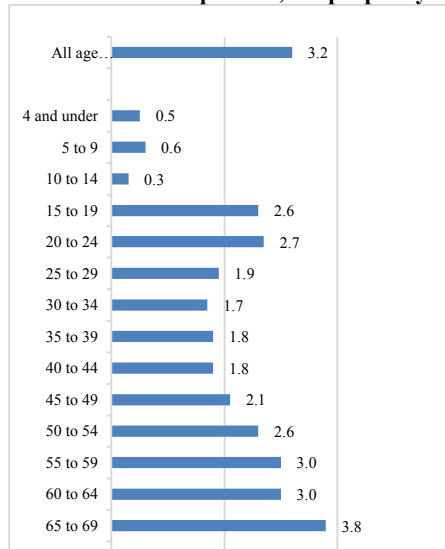
Section 1 Traffic Accidents in 2015

The number of traffic accidents and injured persons in 2015 decreased for a consecutive 11 years, while the number of fatalities was 4,117, an increase from the previous year for the first

Trends in the number of fatalities



Number of fatalities per 100,000 people by age group (2015)



time in 15 years. Looking at the number of fatalities per 100,000 people by age group, persons over 65 years old exceed the average of all age groups. Especially, the fatalities of persons over 75 years are more than twice as many as all age groups.

Section 2 Boosting Traffic Safety Awareness

1 Traffic Safety Activities

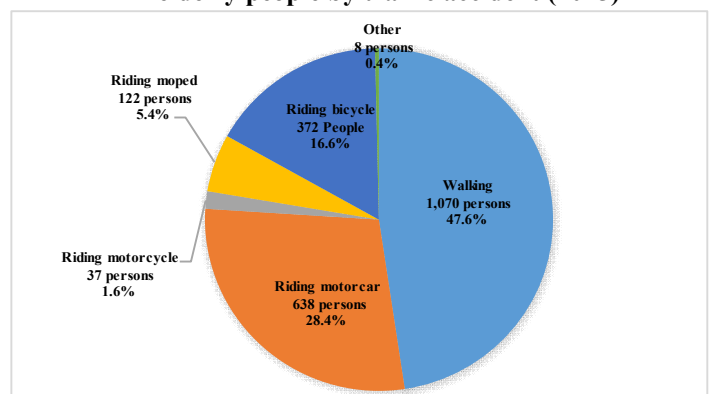
With the large-sized charter bus fall accident that occurred in Nagano Prefecture, in order to have passengers on chartered buses and other vehicles thoroughly wear seatbelts, the police are strengthening publicity/enlightenment activities about the effectiveness of wearing seatbelts in cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and bus operators.

2 Initiatives Aimed at Traffic Safety for the Elderly

The number of elderly fatalities in traffic accidents in 2015 was 2,247. About 50% of the fatalities occurred while walking, about 30% while riding in a car and about 20% while riding a bicycle. Moreover, more than 70% of those who died while walking or riding bicycles did not possess driver's licenses.

In order to provide an opportunity to receive traffic safety education for the elderly who do not possess driver's licenses, the police, cooperating with related agencies and other organizations, provide guidance calling for observance of traffic rules at intersections where traffic accidents occur frequently with the elderly and conduct publicity/enlightenment activities at medical

Ratio by situation accounted for fatalities of elderly people by traffic accident (2015)



institutions and welfare facilities. Moreover, the police also conduct traffic safety education for the elderly composed of participation, experience and practice by actively utilizing various educational instruments such as simulators.

3 Promoting Safe Usage of Bicycles

The number of bicycle-related accidents is on a declining trend; however, it still accounts for approximately 20% of overall traffic accidents. The police continue to keep bicycle users informed of rules for bicycle usage such as that bicycle riders must, in principle, ride on roadways. In addition, since June 2015, the police have been promoting safe usage of bicycles by conducting classes on new regulations for bicycle riders who repeated certain violations that may cause traffic hazards.

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.

Section 4 Traffic Environment Improvement

1 Developing Safe and Secure Traffic Environments

The police are working to improve traffic safety facilities such as traffic lights and road signs in order to achieve safety and smooth traffic flow. 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 management of stock and reduction of life-cycle costs in a planned way by replacing facility from a medium and long-term perspective, removing facilities with deteriorating effects due to changes in the traffic environment, and extending the service life of facilities based on the NPA's Action Plan for Life Extension of Infrastructure.

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 2015, 30km/hr. zones were established in 2,490 sites.

[Column] Promotion of Environment Improvement towards the Full Automated Driving

Since the automated driving system is

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



considered to be a technology that will contribute to matters such as the reduction of traffic accidents and alleviation of traffic congestion, the police are actively working to support its development.

The NPA has been discussing various issues including the legal system concerning the realization of such automated driving system with experts since October 2015. In May 2016, the NPA drew up and published the Guidelines for Public Road Testing of Automated Driving Systems that show matters to be noted from the standpoint of achieving safety and smooth traffic flow.

Also, in February 2016, it was approved at the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe under the United Nations Economic and Social Council that Japan would become an official member of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP1) that discusses the consistency between automated driving and international treaties. The NPA aims at early realization of full automated driving through participation in the WP1.

Section 5 Maintenance of Road Traffic Order

Based on the Proposal for Crackdowns and Speed Regulations Contributing to the Prevention of Traffic Accidents compiled at the Expert Advisory Council in December 2013, the police further promote traffic street activities and make efforts to prevent illegal acts. In addition, the police are striving to conduct crackdowns with a focus on violations that are highly malicious, highly dangerous, and highly disturbing based on the analysis results of traffic accidents and crackdown requests from local residents.

In 2015, the police dealt with 7,055,982 violations of the Road Traffic Law.