1. Current Situation

In 2017, the total number of fatalities caused by traffic accidents was 3,694. This is the lowest number since 1948 when the NPA started to collect traffic statistics under the current formula. The total number of traffic accidents and the total number of injuries have fallen over the past thirteen years.

![Trends in the Number of Traffic Accidents, Fatalities (1966-2017)](image)

Number of Traffic Accident Occurrences, Fatalities, and Injuries in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Change from the previous year</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>472,165</td>
<td>-27,036</td>
<td>-5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities within 24 hours</td>
<td>3,694</td>
<td>-210</td>
<td>-5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities within 30 days</td>
<td>4,431</td>
<td>-267</td>
<td>-5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured</td>
<td>580,850</td>
<td>-38,003</td>
<td>-6.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Enforcement

The police analyze the current situation of traffic accidents precisely and place emphasis on enforcement against vicious and serious violations resulting in serious accidents including fatal ones, such as unlicensed driving, driving under the influence (DUI), serious speeding violations and ignoring traffic signals. The police also focus on illegal parking and reckless driving by motorcycle gangs (Bosozoku).

Among all traffic violations, DUI and unlicensed driving are the most serious issues. The law has been tightened against these violations in recent years. The police have been placing strong efforts on apprehending not only the drivers but also those who aid and abet the drivers to commit such violations.

In addition, the police have also intensified their efforts to hold corporations and employers responsible for serious violations committed by their drivers.
A. Measures against Motorcycle Gangs (Bosozoku)

Although stricter regulations and intensive crackdowns on motorcycle gangs have led to a decrease in the number of large-scale reckless driving and members of the motorcycle gangs, the public opinion demands further measures against them.

As of the end of 2017, the number of groups of motorcycle gangs totaled 183 with 6,220 members. 54.6 percent (%) of the members were juveniles under the age of 20. The police received approximately 31,000 complaints from citizens regarding motorcycle gangs and their reckless driving.

On top of its law enforcement efforts, the police, in close cooperation with local residents, schools and work places, are working to promote and encourage motorcycle gang members to leave their groups.

B. Traffic Accident Investigations

In 2017, the number of cases of traffic accident fatalities and injuries totaled 472,165.

To respond to the tremendous number of traffic accidents, the police are introducing more efficient tools and methods in their investigations. One example is the installation of video cameras which automatically record traffic accidents that occur in intersections.

C. Traffic Policing on Expressways

In 2017, there were 8,758 accidents on expressways: 169 fatalities and 15,409 injuries.

The "Expressway Traffic Police Unit" has been established in the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and every other prefectural police. This unit engages in various activities such as traffic enforcement, traffic control, and traffic safety awareness campaigns in order to secure traffic safety and traffic flow on expressways.

D. Measures against Illegal Parking

Taking local residents’ demands and opinions into account, the police focus enforcement on dangerous and disturbing parking, such as parking near pedestrian crossings and bus stops, and on arterial roads.

The police also work with local governments on anti-illegal parking measures establishing local ordinances against illegal parking.