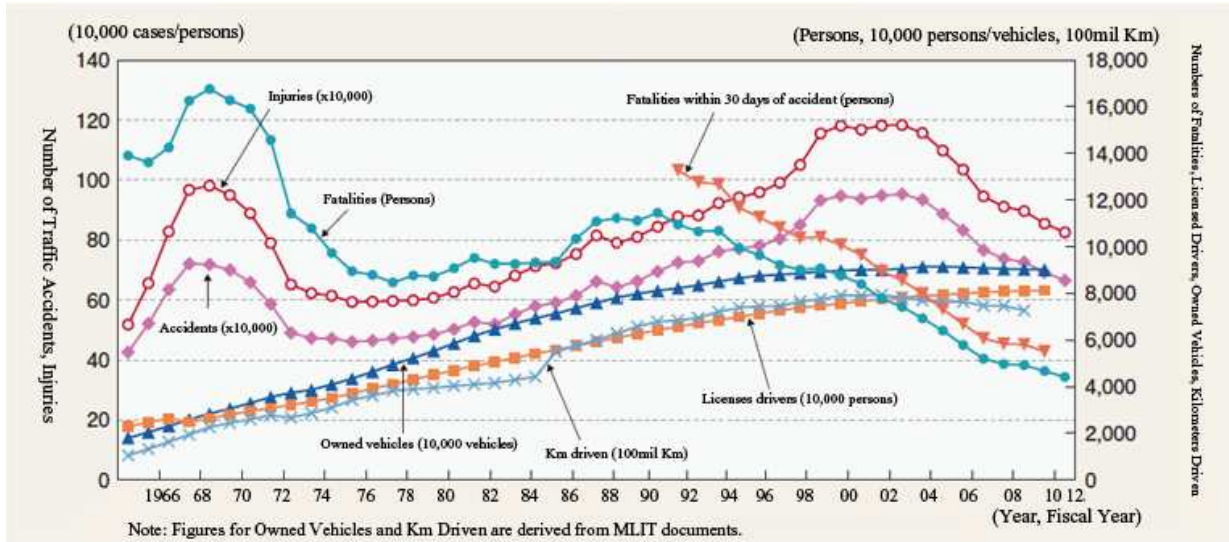


Chapter 4: Ensuring Safe and Comfortable Traffic Conditions

Section 1: Traffic Accidents in 2012

The number of fatalities from traffic accidents in 2012 fell below 4,500 for the first time in 61 years, since 1951, to 4,411. In addition, the number of accidents and injuries also fell for the eighth consecutive year.

Trends in Numbers of Traffic Accidents, Fatalities, Injuries, Licensed Drivers, Owned Vehicles, Kilometers Driven (1966 - 2012)



Section 2: Boosting Traffic Safety Awareness

1 Police Initiative to Eradicate Drunken driving

The number of traffic accidents due to drunken driving in 2012 fell for the twelfth consecutive year to 4,603. Police are promoting safety education through participation, hands-on experience and practice using driving simulators and other equipment, and informing the public about the dangers of drunken driving and the facts about accidents caused by drunken driving.

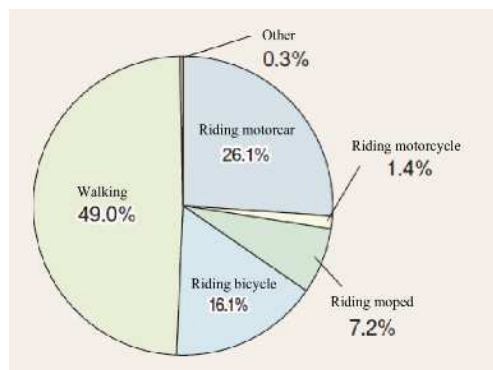
2 Initiatives aimed at Traffic Safety for the Elderly

The percentage of elderly persons accounting for traffic accident fatalities is increasing annually, with the percentage of fatalities of elderly persons in traffic accidents in 2012 reaching 51.3% (2,264), a percentage more than twice that of elderly persons in the total population (24.1%). In addition, of the elderly fatalities in traffic accidents, about 70% occurred while walking or riding a bicycle and about 80% of these are persons with no driver's licenses.

In order to provide opportunities for traffic safety education to elderly persons with no driver's licenses, police implement measures such as individual guidance through home visits

and enlightenment activities and traffic safety education in facilities such as hospitals and care centers with related agencies and other organizations.

Number of elderly fatalities by circumstances when accident occurred (2012)



Traffic safety guidance through home visits to the elderly

Section 3: Ensuring Safe Driving

In order to ensure the safe driving of motorcars 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 awarded, and are also striving to implement strict and prompt administrative punishments against drivers who repeatedly violate the "Road Traffic Act" or cause serious accidents, in order to remove them from the road traffic environment as soon as possible.

Column: Partial amendment of the "Road Traffic Act"

Police held a review committee of experts from June through October 2012 following an accident causing multiple fatalities and injuries that occurred in Kanuma City, Tochigi Prefecture in April 2011, which was caused by a driver who had made false declarations concerning an illness that triggers seizures accompanied with impairment of consciousness when applying to renew a driving license. In view of the recommendations compiled by this review committee, the "Act on the Partial Amendment of the Road Traffic Act" was enacted in June 2013, in the 183rd Session of the National Diet. This Act includes provisions for a provisional suspension system for driver's licenses when there is reason to suspect that an individual has an illness or other condition that presents specific symptoms, and partial exemptions from tests when an individual who has had a license revoked due to an illness that presents specific symptoms attempts to re-acquire a driver's license.

The same act also includes provisions such as measures to prevent bicycle accidents, regulations for how traffic should negotiate circular intersections and strengthened penalties for driving without a license.

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

To achieve safety and smooth traffic flow, police are working to improve traffic safety facilities such as traffic lights and roads signs. In addition, police are striving to achieve well-ordered traffic flow through traffic control

systems, which control traffic lights and provide traffic information.

2 Utilizing IT for Road Traffic

In order to optimize traffic management using the latest information and communications technologies, police are promoting the development and improvement of new traffic management systems including the Public Transportation Priority System (PTPS), which controls traffic lights to give priority to buses and other mass public transportation systems by exploiting the functions of infrared beacons.



Public Transportation Priority System

3 Parking Measures

As well as exacerbating traffic congestion and obstructing safe passage, illegal parking harms the living environment of local residents and has a significant impact on life in general.

In order to ensure good parking order, police are continuously reviewing current parking regulations. In addition, police are applying well organized enforcement to illegal parking guidelines that have been formulated and announced with the views of local residents taken into consideration.

Section 5: Maintaining Road Traffic Order

Police are striving to crack down on traffic violations with an emphasis on highly malicious and dangerous violations that lead directly to traffic accidents such as driving without a license, drinking and driving, excessive speeding and ignoring traffic lights, and violations that are causing repeated demands for enforcement from local residents. During 2012, police dealt with 7,804,828 violations of the Road Traffic Act.