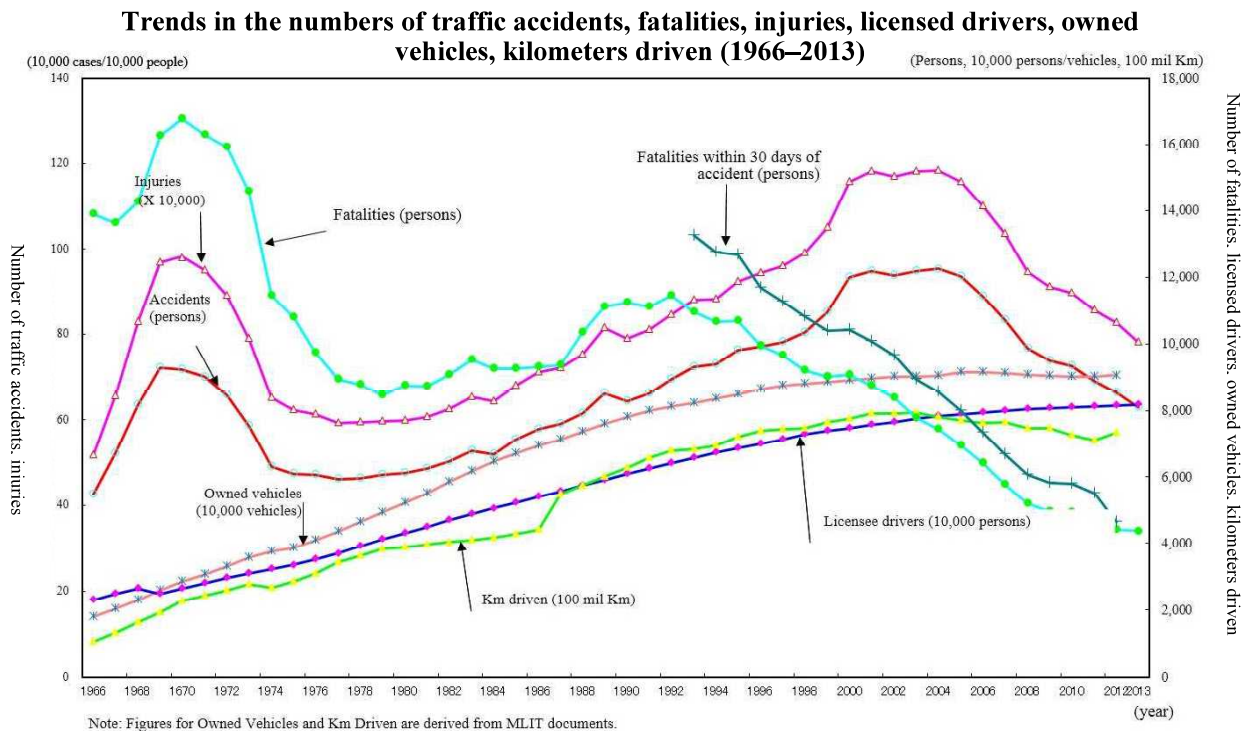


Chapter 5 Ensuring Safe and Comfortable Traffic Conditions

Section 1 Traffic Accidents in 2013

The number of fatalities from traffic accidents in 2013 was 4,373. While that number has been steadily dropping since 2001, the reduction has recently shrunk due to the increase in the population of the elderly whose fatality rate is higher compared to other age groups, and from 2010 the fatality rate shifted to an upswing for the first time in 3 years.

In addition, of the elderly fatalities in traffic accidents, about 60% occurred while walking or riding a bicycle. Police are cooperating with related agencies and other organizations to implement measures such as individual guidance through home visits and enlightenment activities and traffic safety education in facilities such as hospitals and care centers.



Section 2 Boosting Traffic Safety Awareness

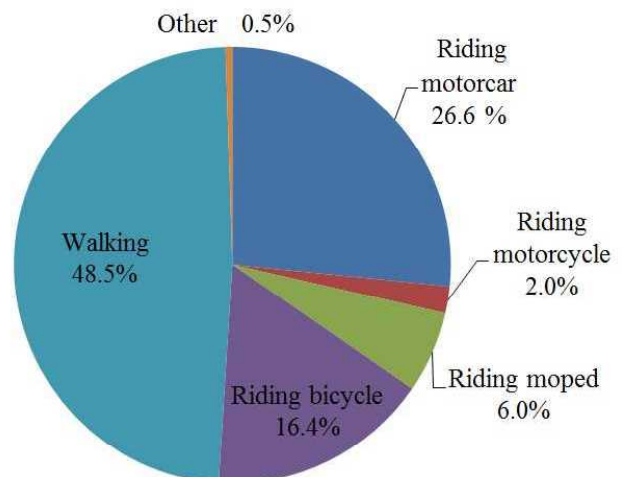
1 Police Initiative to Eradicate Drunken Driving

The number of traffic accidents due to drunken driving in 2013 fell for the thirteenth consecutive year to 4,335. 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 safety education through participation, hands-on experience and practice using driving simulators and other equipment.

2 Initiatives Aimed at Traffic Safety for the Elderly

The number of the elderly fatalities in traffic accidents in 2013 increased to 2,303 for the first time in 12 years. The elderly account for more than half of overall fatalities in traffic accidents.

Number of elderly fatalities by circumstances when traffic accident occurred (2013)



3 Promotion of the Safe Usage of Bicycles

The number of bicycle-related accidents in 2013 fell to 629,021. While less than the previous year, that number continues to account 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, such as the fact that cyclists should ride on streets in principle.

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 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 prevent them from driving as soon as possible.

Section 4 Traffic Environment Improvement

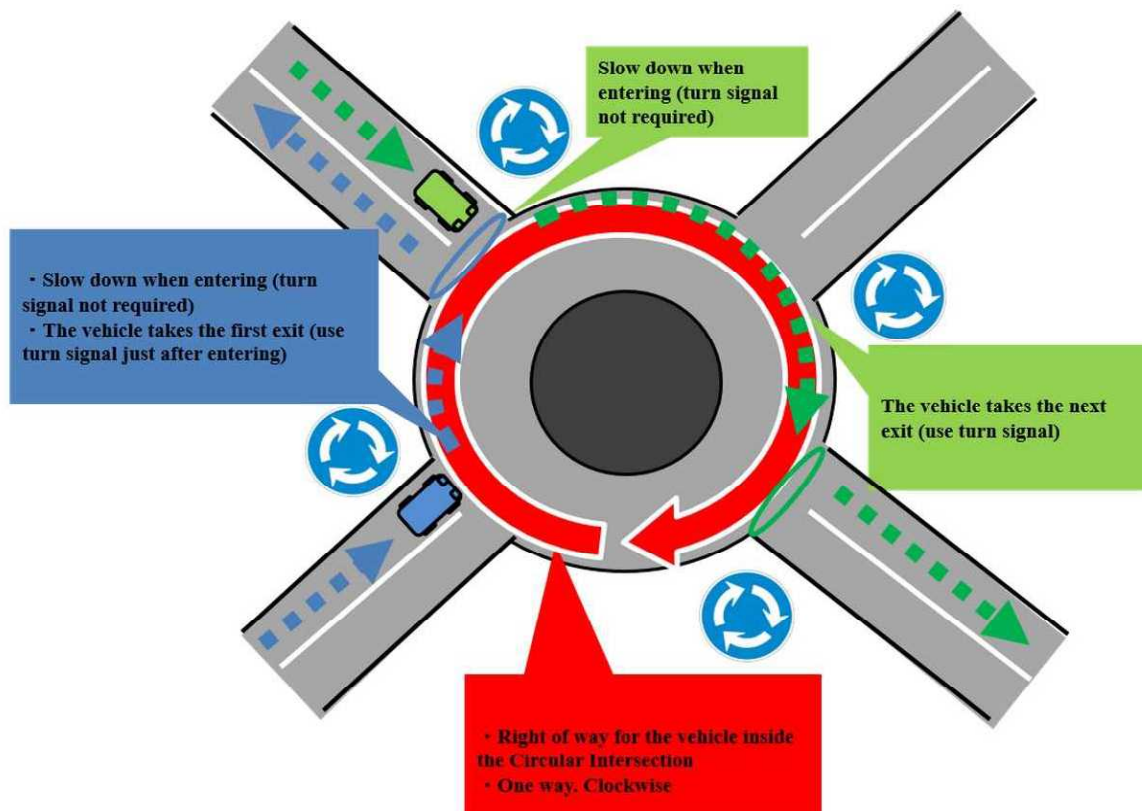
1 Developing Safe and Secure Traffic Environments

To achieve safety and smooth traffic flow, the police are working to improve traffic safety facilities such as traffic lights and road signs. In addition, the police are striving to achieve well-ordered traffic control systems, which control traffic lights and provide traffic information.

Column: Traffic rules for Circular Intersections

In June 2013, the Act on the Partial Amendment of the Road Traffic Act which includes provisions for how traffic should negotiate "Circular Intersections" was enacted. In the Act, a "Circular Intersection" is defined as an intersection whose traffic area has a circular structure and where road signs shown below are installed. Based on these provisions, vehicles should go clockwise around the central traffic island in a "Circular Intersection," and the traffic in the circular area takes priority over the traffic flowing in from the outside. "Circular Intersections" are expected to shorten the wait time at intersections and to reduce traffic accidents.

Traffic rules for "Circular Intersections"



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 collaborating with road administrators to promote the establishment of 30km/hr. zones. By the end of 2013, 30km/hr. zones were implemented in 1,111 places. The police are also implementing crossing facilities such as barrier-free traffic lights to improve safety for persons such as the elderly and disabled.



**Entrance into a 30km/hr. zone
(Saga City, Saga Prefecture)**

Section 5 Maintaining Road Traffic Order

The 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, drunken driving, excessive speeding and ignoring traffic lights, and violations that are causing repeated demands for enforcement from local residents. During 2013, police dealt with 7,442,124 violations of the Road Traffic Act.