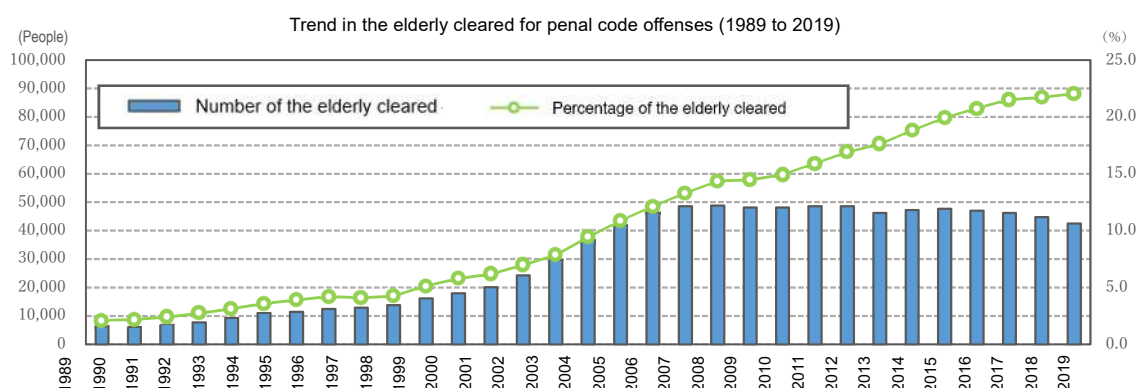


## Section 2: Preventing and Responding to Crimes and Accidents by the Elderly

### 1 Crimes Committed by the Elderly

#### (1) Circumstances of crimes

While the number of persons cleared for penal code offenses has decreased in recent years, the number of the elderly cleared for penal code offenses has significantly increased from 1998 to 2007, remaining at the high level, because the senior population and its ratio to the total population have both increased. In addition, the percentage of the elderly among persons cleared for penal code offenses has increased from 2.1% to 22.0% from 1989 to 2019.

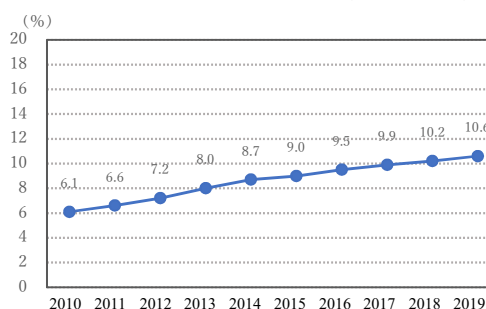


The major offenses committed by the elderly were shoplifting, stealing of lost property, violence, and bodily injury. The elderly cleared for these crimes accounted for approximately 70% of all offenses done by the elderly.

#### (2) Treatment of senior detainees

Since the proportion of the elderly to the total number of persons cleared for penal code offenses and special acts offenses is on the increase trend, the police must prepare to provide appropriate treatment for senior detainees who require support for daily needs. The police take measures such as providing detainees with rice porridge and giving due consideration to the shape of bathtubs and other facilities provided. Some prefectural police have conducted training courses by nursing care professionals for detention officers to acquire necessary knowledge and skills.

Trends in the percentage of seniors arrested for criminal offenses and special crimes (2010 to 2019)



Note: Based on the subject's age at the time of the offence.

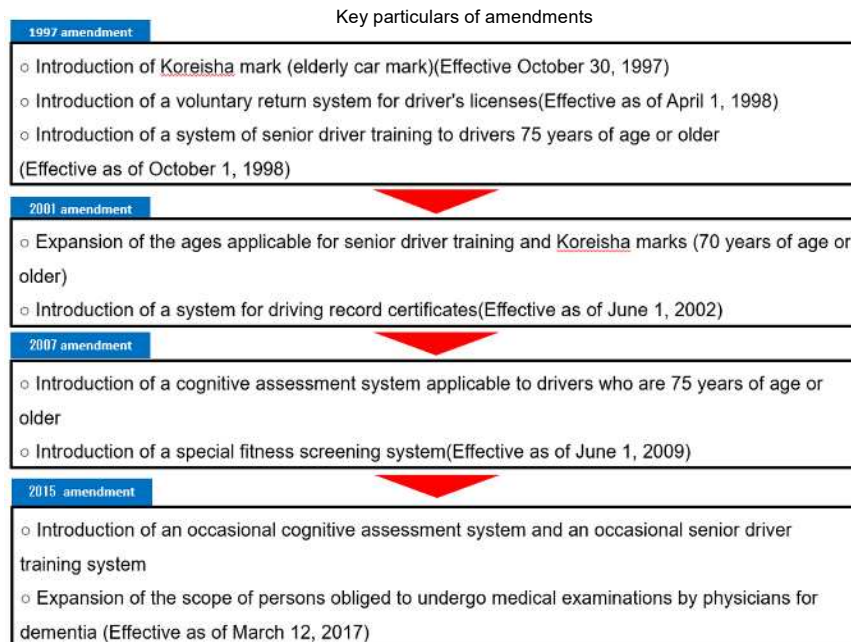
#### (3) Efforts to prevent crime

The number of cleared cases for penal code offences committed by the elderly accounted for 17.0% of the total number in 2019, of which those for shoplifting accounted for about half (48.7%). It is said that the relationship between the elderly and society including family, neighbors, and local community has been weaker and this fact might be related to shoplifting by the elderly. Based on this situation, the police have strengthened the bonds between the elderly and society.

## 2 Promoting Prevention of Traffic Accidents by Senior Drivers

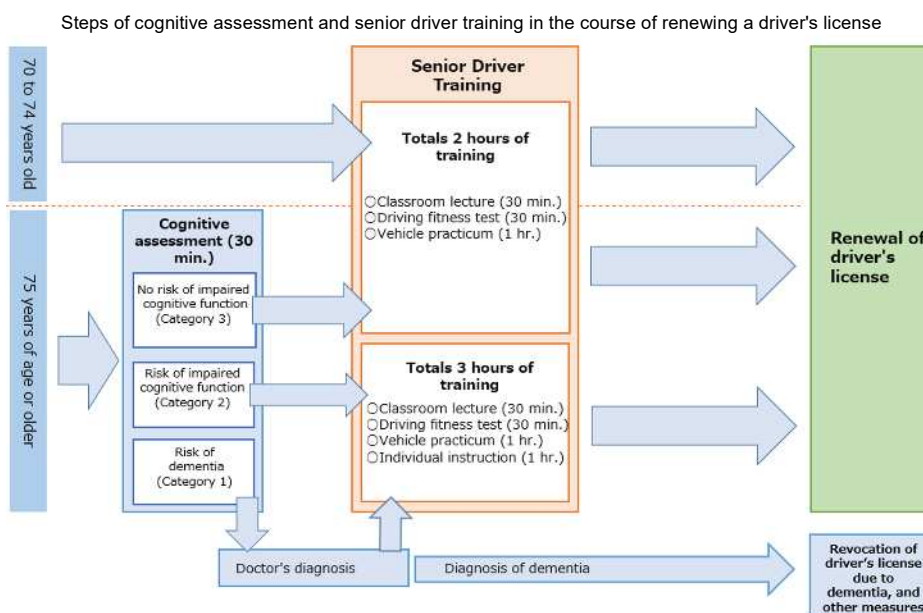
### (1) Background

Cumulative amendments of the Road Traffic Act have been undertaken as countermeasures based on age-related decline in physical and cognitive functions of senior drivers.



### (2) Training of senior drivers

A person 70 years of age or older as of the final day of the renewal period is obligated to attend a senior driver training when renewing a driver's license. In addition, persons who are 75 years of age or older on the final day of the renewal period are required to undergo a cognitive assessment within the six months prior to the final day of the renewal period, and must undergo senior driver training based on the results of such assessments.



(3) Voluntary return of a driver's license (application to revoke a driver's license)

A driver may apply to return a license if the driver ceases driving a motor vehicle or a motorized bicycle due to a decline in physical function, and the driver may apply for and receive a driving record certificate within five years of the return. Additionally, from December 1, 2019, a driving record certificates can be issued if an application is filed within five years after revocation even if a driver's license is revoked without renewal.

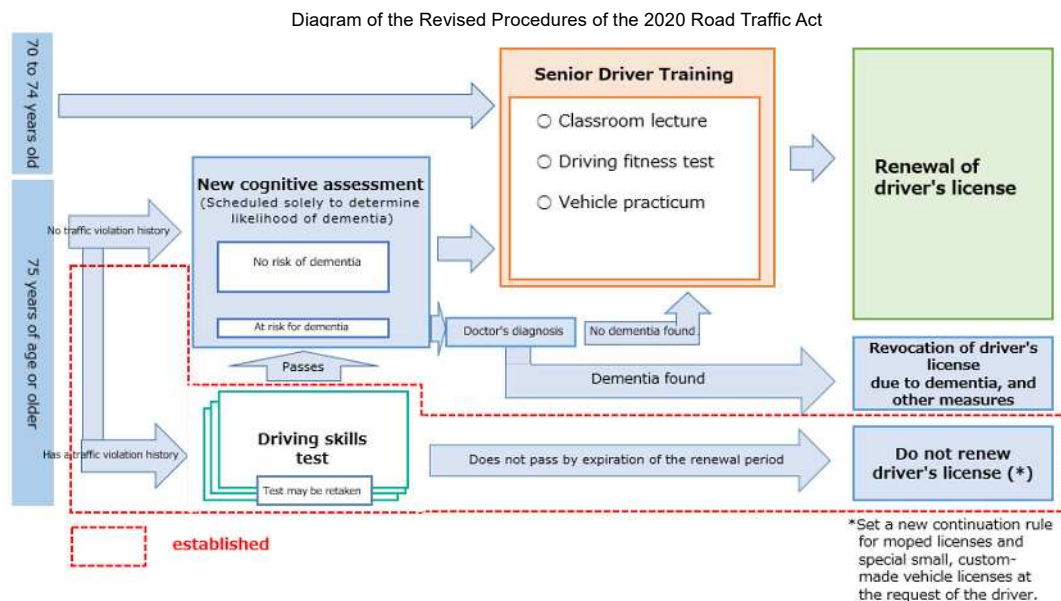
(4) Enhancement and improvement of safe driving consultations pertaining to senior drivers

In order to respond to consultations from drivers with anxiety about their ability to safely drive, as well as from their families and others, the police had carried out “driving competency counseling,” and the police changed the name to “driving safety counseling” in 2019. A nationwide consultation number (#8080) has also been implemented in order to increase public awareness of driving safety consultations and make them accessible since November 22, 2019.

(5) Further measures for senior drivers

The National Police Agency has reviewed the driver’s license system for senior drivers by conducting researches and studies by experts since fiscal 2017 and the NPA held a series of meetings called “research and study ways to prevent senior driver traffic accidents” in fiscal 2019.

In June 2020, the Act Partially Amending the Road Traffic Act was enacted, containing the improvements prescribed to reinforce measures for senior drivers. In the amendment, a person 75 years of age or older who has committed a traffic violation set in certain criteria must undergo a driving skill test<sup>Note</sup> in order to renew a driver's license, and the Prefectural Public Safety Commission may decide not to renew the driver's license based on the results of the test. It was also permitted for a driver to apply to the Prefectural Public Safety Commission to set conditions such as limiting to the eligibility of the driver’s license only for driving a car with certain functions.



Note: Test of skills required to drive ordinary cars