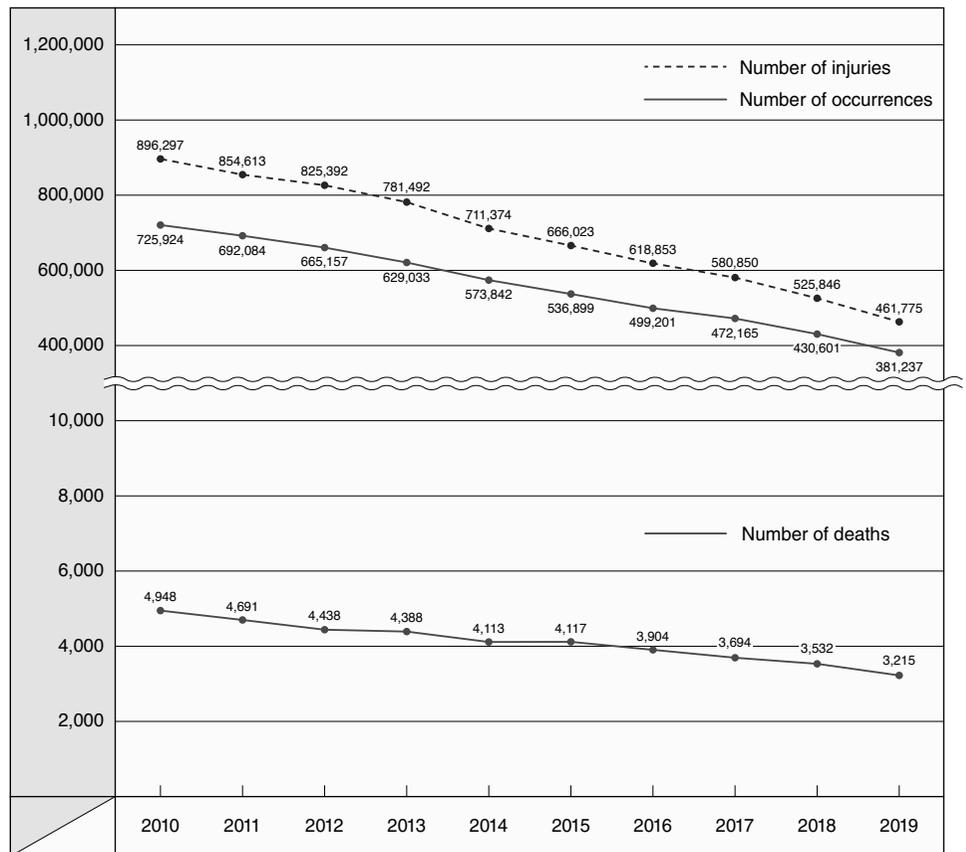


# 1 Characteristic Reality of Accidents

A car is a convenient and comfortable vehicle. On the other hand, it can be a dreadful weapon that causes tragic traffic accidents if it is not used properly. Traffic accidents are huge social problem. Every year so many people are killed in traffic accidents.

The number of traffic fatalities in 2019 fell by 317 from the previous year to 3,215. This number was less than one-fifth of the traffic fatalities in 1970, which peaked at 16,765.

Additionally, the number of both traffic accidents (381,237) and injuries (461,775) in 2019 has decreased since 2004, when they reached their highest numbers. They have decreased for the fifteenth straight years since 2005.

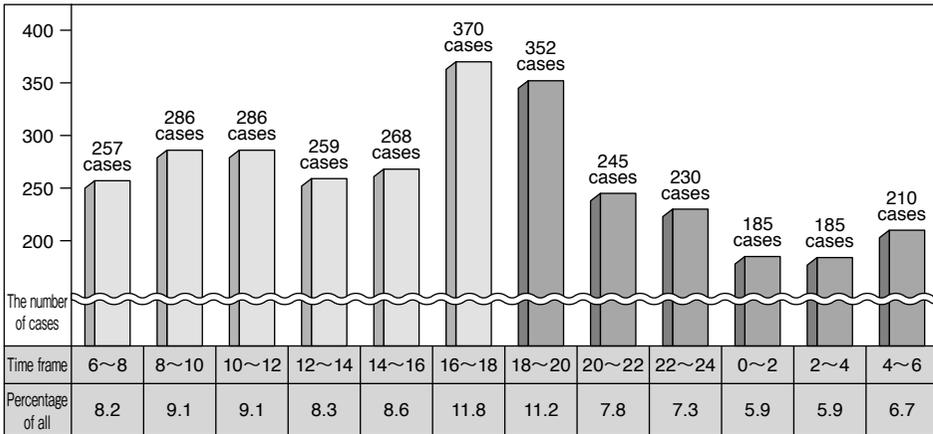


# 1 Characteristics of Traffic Accidents

## (1) Time frame of accident occurrences

Fatal accidents happen during what we call “night time”, from evening to the middle of the night. The reason why fatal accidents happen so often at night is that it is harder than daytime to obtain the necessary driving information and, therefore, recognizing and judging takes more time. As traffic gets light, it encourages drivers to increase speed. Becoming distracted and disconnected is also another reason.

Happening situation of fatal accidents by hourly (cases) (2019)



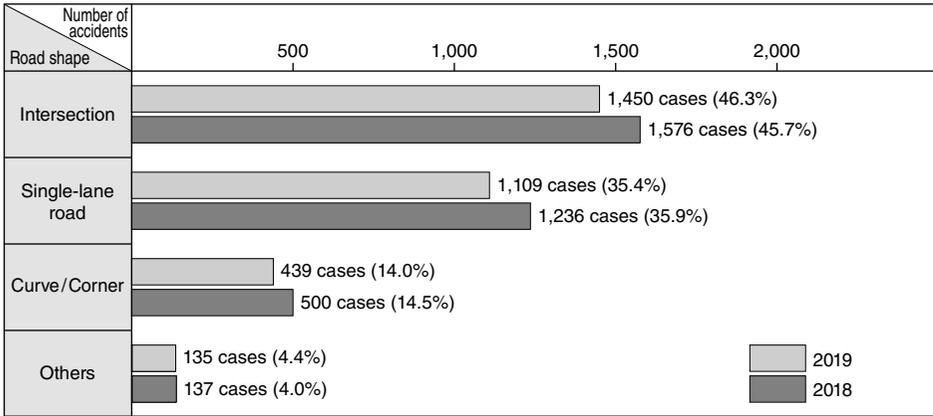
## (2) Sites of accidents

Fatal accidents happen most at and around intersections. Intersections are the place where traffic goes not only north and south but also east and west. Moreover, vehicles and pedestrians mix and get involved with other traffic at intersections.

The site where fatal accidents happen the second most is on single-lane roads. On single-lane roads, they tend to gain speed and drive recklessly.

Then curves and corners come next. It is attributed to driving attitudes which ignore safety, such as speeding and steering errors.

Circumstances of fatal accidents by road shapes (cases)

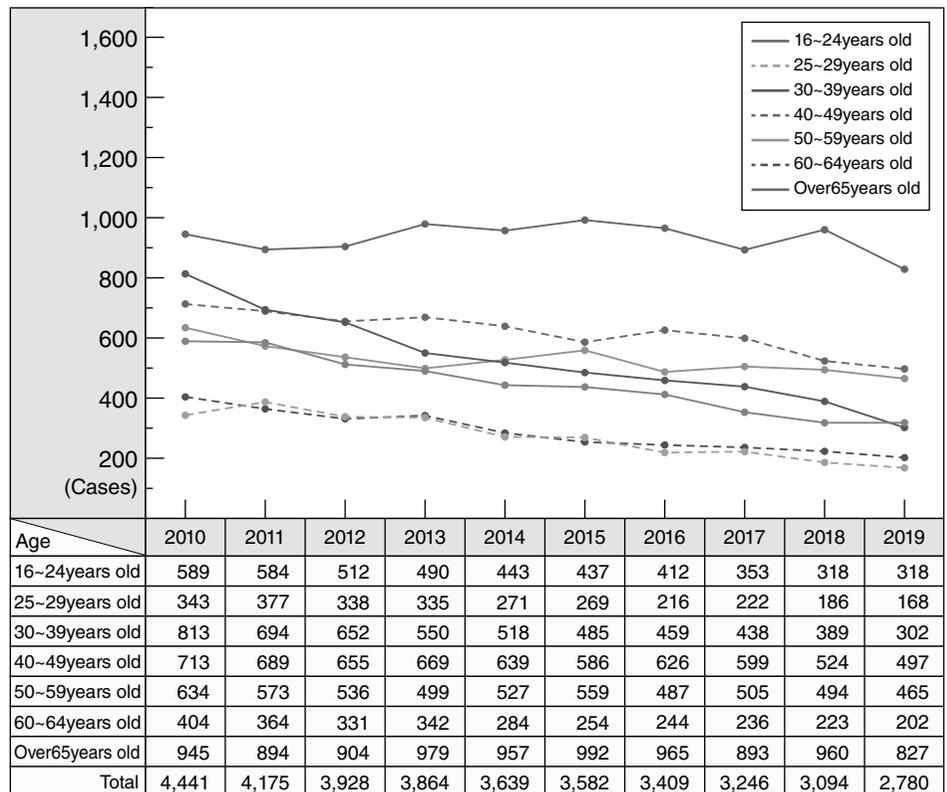


### (3) Age of drivers

In figures for fatal accidents by driver age, elderly drivers (65 years and over) have the highest number of fatal accidents, followed by those in their forties and fifties. Compared with the previous year, over 65 group had the largest decline in fatal accidents.

Fatal accidents involving young drivers (16-24 years) started to rise around 1980, but, after peaking in 1990 at 3,828 accidents, they have continued to decline almost consistently, falling to less than a third in ten years. By 2005, the number of fatal accidents among young drivers had fallen below that of the 30-39 years age group. Fatal accidents involving elderly drivers, on the other hand, remain at a high level, due in part to a 80% increase in the number of licence holders in this age group in ten years. The statistic for this age group surpassed the 30-39 years age group in 2008 and it has stayed at the top every year since then. The level of drivers aged 75 years or older is even higher.

The transition of the fatal accidents of the first concerned person (drivers of four-wheeled vehicles and two-wheeled motorized vehicles) by age group



In regard to younger drivers' fatal accidents, accidents by head-on collisions and front-end collisions stand out. It's related to the tendency to drive recklessly and aimlessly.

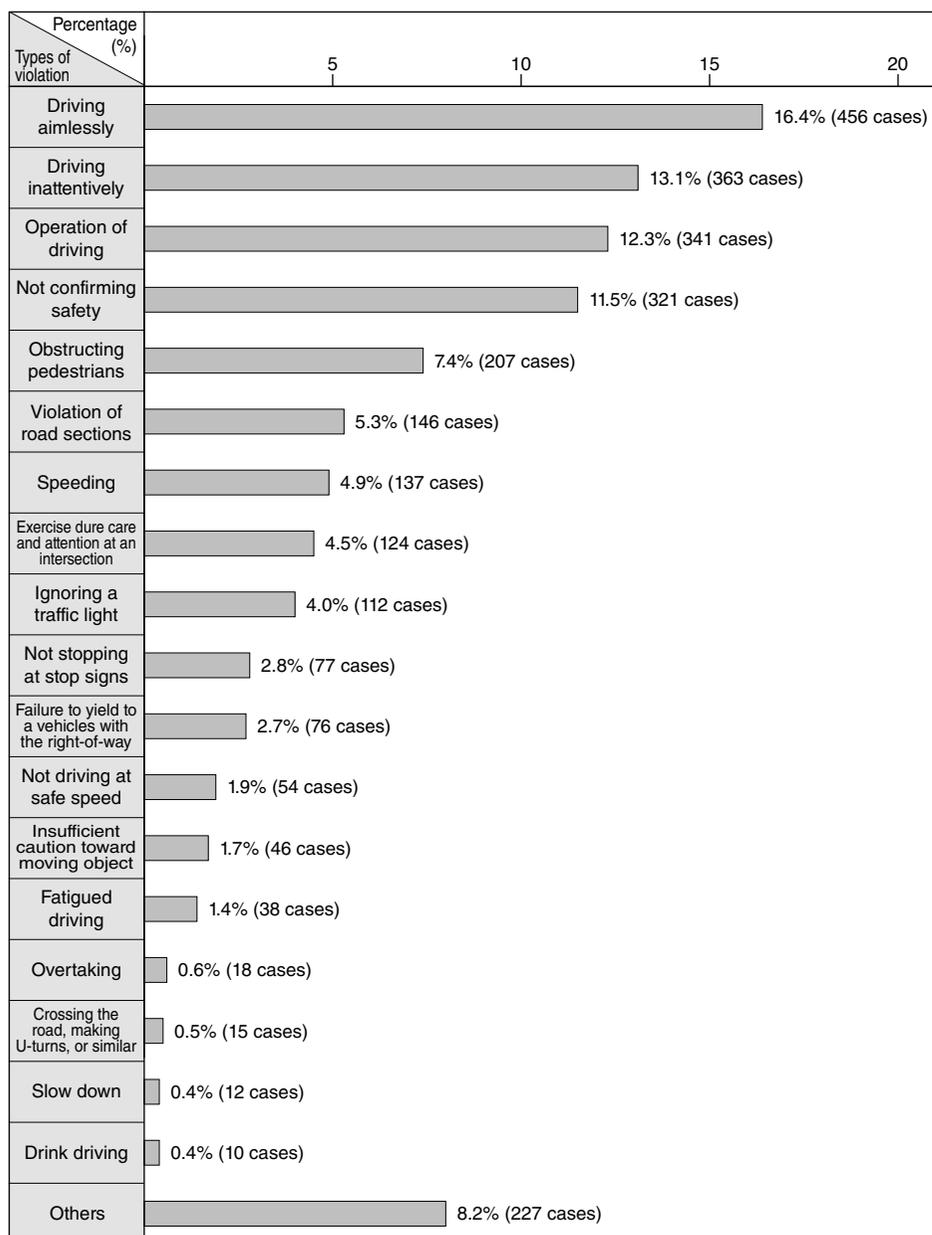
#### (4) Driving experience

By the length of driving experience, the shorter the length of driving experience, the higher the percentage of causing accidents. It is the same tendency as the year before. This is due to the lack of ability to predict possible dangers and the lack of preparation for safe driving.

#### (5) Violation of law

Out of all the law violations which fatal accidents were attributed to, driving aimlessly comes first, followed by inattentive driving and operation of driving. Younger drivers, however, often driving aimlessly and improperly in addition to speeding, while elderly drivers are inclined to drive improperly. All of these hazards can be avoided, however, by remaining alert, using a bit of extra caution, and anticipating risky situations before they occur.

Situation of fatal accidents by factor (the first concerned person) (2019)

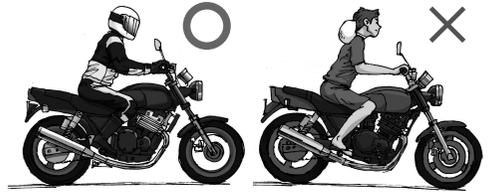


# 2 Exposure and Injury in Two-wheeled Vehicles

As the whole body is always exposed to the outside while on two-wheeled vehicles, an accident is highly likely to be serious.

## (1) Clothes

- A Wear clothes that reduces the exposure of your skin as far as possible and protective equipment.
- B Wear clothes that are clearly visible to other drivers.
- C Do not drive with footwear which obstructs driving, such as getas and sandals.
- D Put on reflective clothes or a driving helmet with a reflector.
- E A person riding double on a two-wheeled vehicle does the same as above.



## (2) Putting on a helmet

- A Do not drive a two-wheeled vehicle or a motorized bicycle without a driving helmet.  
Also, do not ride double without a driving helmet.  
The majority of people killed in accidents while riding on a two-wheeled vehicle had fatal head injuries.
- B Use a helmet which has the **PS(C) mark** or the **JIS mark**<sup>1</sup> on it and wear it properly with the chin-trap tightly buckled.  
**A construction hardhat is not for driving.**

\*1  
PSC Mark



JIS Mark



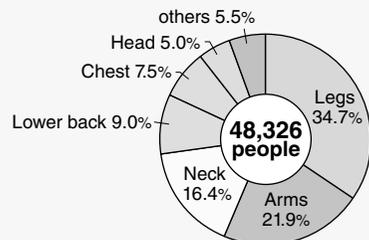
## Point

### Pay special attention regarding leg injuries

The majority of injuries in accidents occur in the leg areas. If you topple over, be careful not to get trapped in the vehicle.

Injuries by body part in traffic accidents.

Involving two-wheeled vehicles (all injuries)



(2019)

# 3 Tragedy of Traffic Accidents

If a driver causes a traffic accident, he or she will receive **administrative punishment** (revocation or suspension of a driver's license) and will be held **responsible under civil** (compensation for damage) and **criminal codes** (imprisonment and fine).



**Civil responsibility**  
Damage compensation



**Criminal responsibility**  
Imprisonment. Fine



**Administrative responsibility**  
Revocation/suspension of drivers' license

Not only the driver himself but his family members will have to carry the burden of financial loss and mental distress caused by accidents.

Moreover, unbearable pain is to be imposed to a victim and his family.

When you drive, keep the tragedy of traffic accidents in mind and try to drive safely.

## Point

### Tragedy of road rage

Road rage is a malicious and dangerous act, and it includes, for example, driving very close to other vehicles to obstruct the passage of the vehicles, blocking the path by suddenly braking in front of other vehicles, or threatening other drivers with persistent horns and lights. In recent years, cases involving casualties of people with no faults due to road rage have been continuously reported, and, therefore, these acts have been severely cracked down upon as obstructive driving. Road rage may be subject to fines, the revocation of the driver's license, imprisonment, and even more severe penalties for vehicular manslaughter. Understand that driving with a temporary emotion can result in disastrous consequences for both the victim and your family. Never cause road rage.



### Quick Hint

#### Suffering Road Rage

If you suffer road rage, evacuate yourself to a safe place, such as a rest area, and call the emergency police telephone number 110 without going outside to protect yourself and fellow passengers.

Furthermore, it is effective to install a drive recorder in your car to protect you from road rage damage.

### 3 responsibilities

#### ① Civil responsibility

The following are recent examples huge damages that were awarded in trials involving traffic accidents.

Examples of Large Compensation Judgments (Accidents Causing Injury or Death)

Ordered compensation	Court	Verdict date	Accident date	Injured party	Nature of damage
528.53 million	Yokohama district	2011.11. 1	2009.12.27	Male, 41 years, medical practitioner	Dead
453.81 million	Sapporo district	2016. 3.30	2009. 1. 7	Male, 30 years, civil servant	Residual disability
453.75 million	Yokohama district	2017. 7.18	2012.11. 1	Male, 50 years, consultant	〃
439.61 million	Kagoshima district	2016.12. 6	2010.11. 9	Female, 58 years, vocational school teacher	〃
397.25 million	Yokohama district	2011.12.27	2003. 9.14	Male, 21 years, college student	〃
395.10 million	Nagoya district	2011. 2. 18	2007. 4.13	Male, 20 years, college student	〃
390.95 million	Kobe district	2017. 3.30	2009.12. 3	Male, 32 years, teaching assistant	〃
382.81 million	Nagoya district	2005. 5.17	1998. 5.18	Male, 29 years, company employee	〃
378.86 million	Osaka district	2007. 4.10	2002.12.11	Male, 23 years, company employee	〃
373.70 million	Tokyo district	2014. 8.27	2010. 7.20	Male, 7 years, elementary school student	〃

Examples of Large Compensation Judgments (Accidents Causing damage to something)

Ordered compensation	Court	Verdict date	Accident date	Damaged Property
261.35 million	Kobe district	1994. 7. 19	1985. 5.29	Cargo (Kimonos, clothing, furs)
134.50 million	Tokyo district	1996. 7. 17	1991. 2.23	Store (pachinko parlor)
120.36 million	Fukuoka district	1980. 7. 18	1975. 3. 1	Train, tracks, houses
117.98 million	Osaka district	2011.12. 7	2007. 4.19	Trailer
113.47 million	Chiba district	1998.10. 26	1992. 9.14	Train
61.24 million	Okayama district	2000. 6. 27	1996. 9.26	Cargo
41.41 million	Osaka district	2008. 5. 14	1999. 9.25	Cargo
33.91 million	Nagoya district	2004. 1. 16	2001. 3. 9	Large freight vehicle and cargo
31.56 million	Tokyo district	2001.12. 25	1999.11. 5	4-storey building
30.52 million	Tokyo district	2001. 8. 28	1999. 5.16	Store (surf shop)

(Source: The General Insurance Association of Japan statistics)

#### ② Criminal responsibility

If a person fails to pay necessary attention when driving a car and causes someone's death or injury, he or she may be convicted of "negligence in automobile driving resulting in death or injury" under the Act Concerning Punishment of Automobile Driving Resulting in Death or Injury, and sentenced to up to 7 years in prison.

However, if a victim is killed or injured due to the driver's malicious or dangerous driving—such as driving while incapable of normal operation due to the influence of alcohol or drugs, or driving at a dangerous speed on a road closed to traffic (pedestrian-only road, wrong direction on an expressway)—the sentence for "dangerous driving resulting in death or injury" is applied. The driver may be sentenced to 1 to 20 years in prison if the victim is killed, and up to 15 years in prison if the victim is injured. Further, if a victim is killed or injured due to the driver becoming incapable of normal operation while driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or an illness-related consciousness disorder, the driver may be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison if the victim is killed, and up to 12 years in prison if the victim is injured.

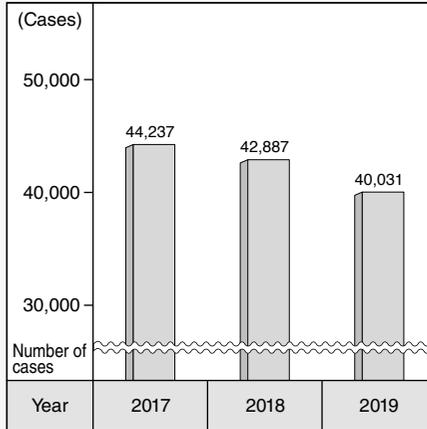
If the driver was driving without a license, an additional penalty will be applied for unlicensed driving.

### ③ Administrative action

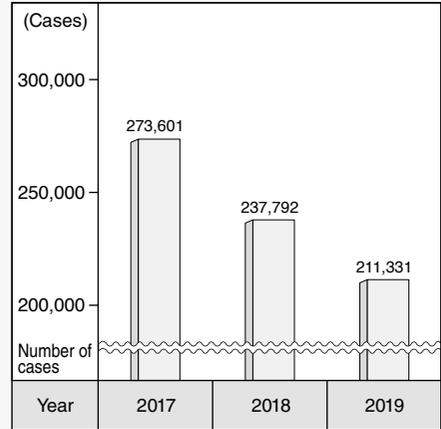
The number of drivers' license revocations was 40,031 and the number of suspensions was 211,331 in 2019. The period a person cannot receive a license due to revocation is from 1 year to 10 years. If the person whose drivers' license has been revoked tries to obtain a license again, he or she must go through special training.

In the case of driver's license suspension, time periods vary from 30 days to 180 days.

Number of drivers' license revocations



Number of drivers' license suspensions



※ It includes revocation of beginner drivers' licenses, revocation due to illness or tendency to seriously violate rules. It excludes applied revocation.