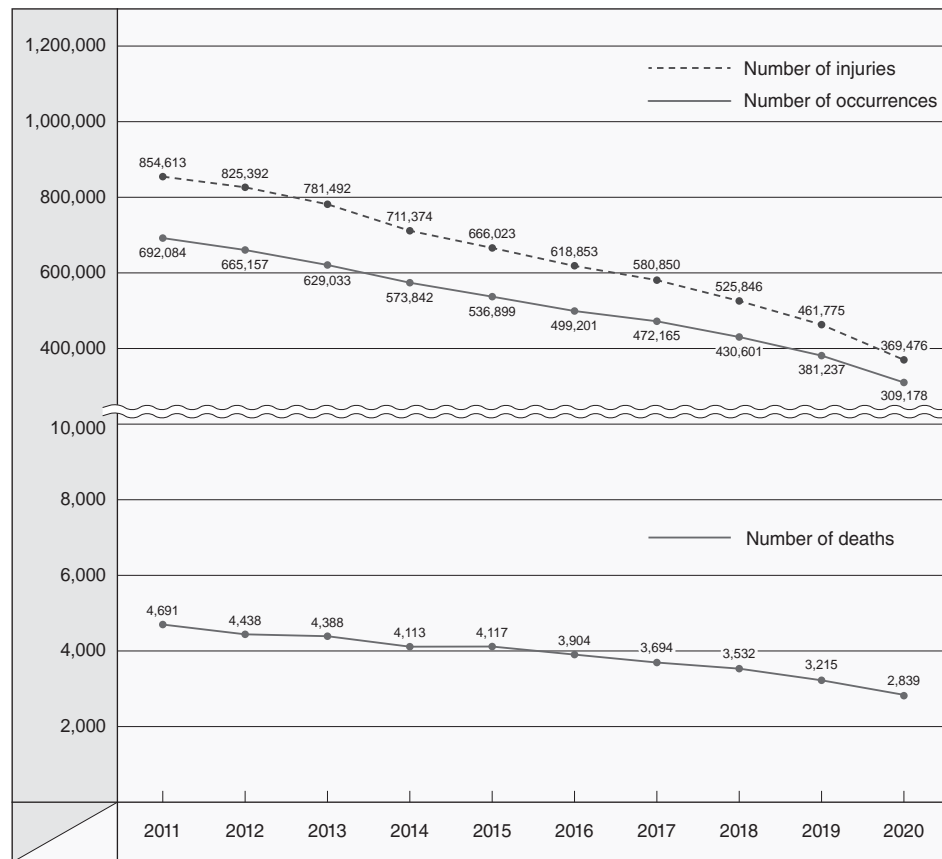


# 1 Characteristic Reality of Accidents

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 2020 fell by 376 from the previous year to 2,839. 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 (309,178) and injuries (369,476) in 2020 has decreased since 2004, when they reached their highest numbers. They have decreased for the sixteenth straight years since 2005.

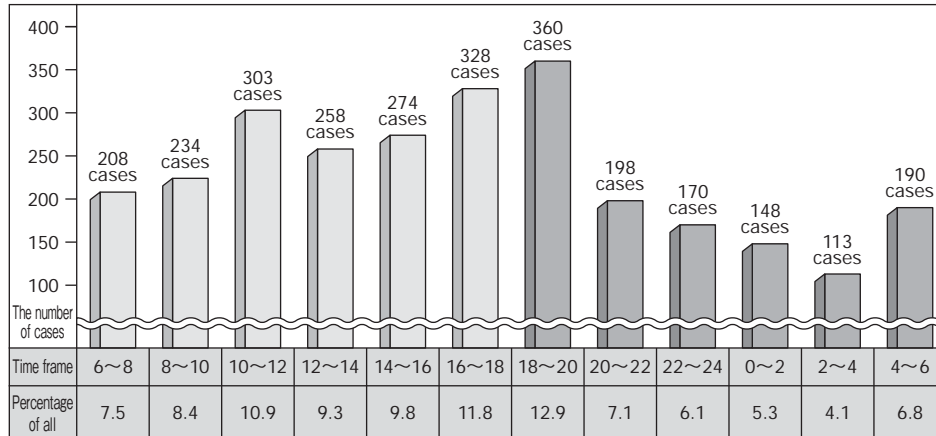


# 1 Characteristics of Traffic Accidents

## (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) (2020)



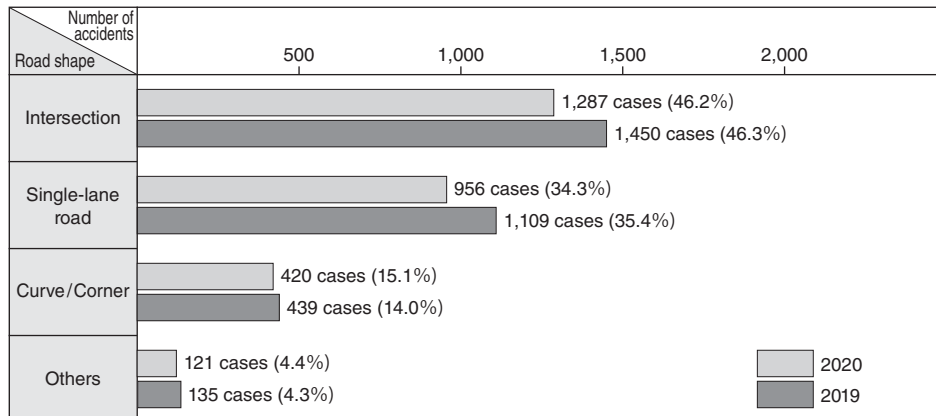
## (2) Sites of accidents

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)

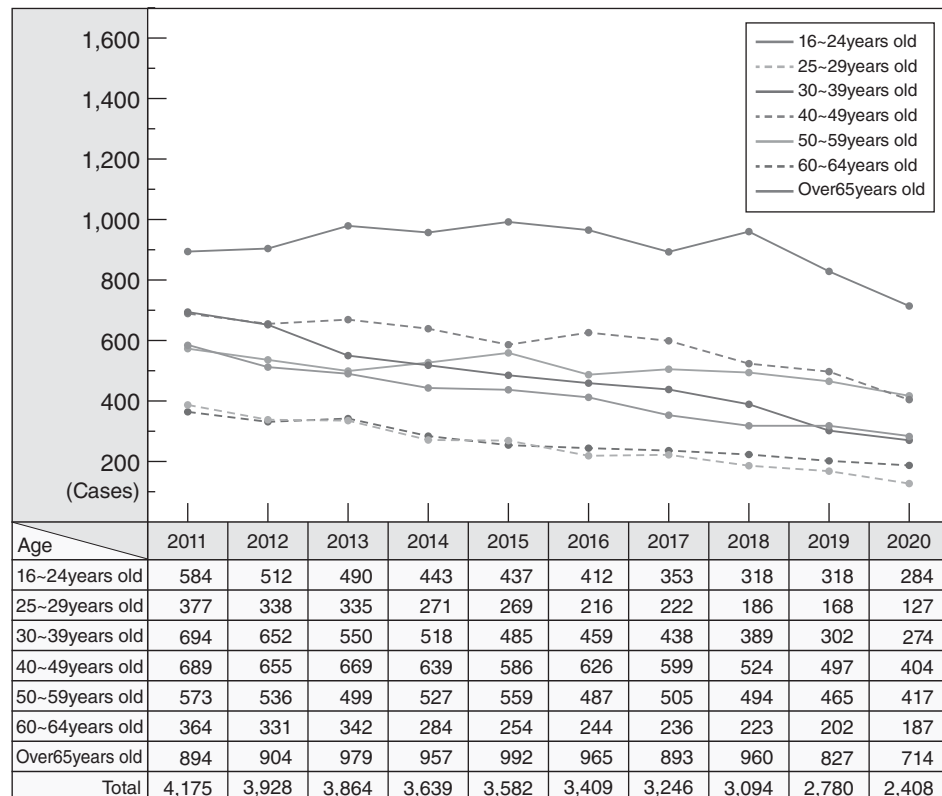


### (3) Age of drivers

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 fifties and forties. 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.

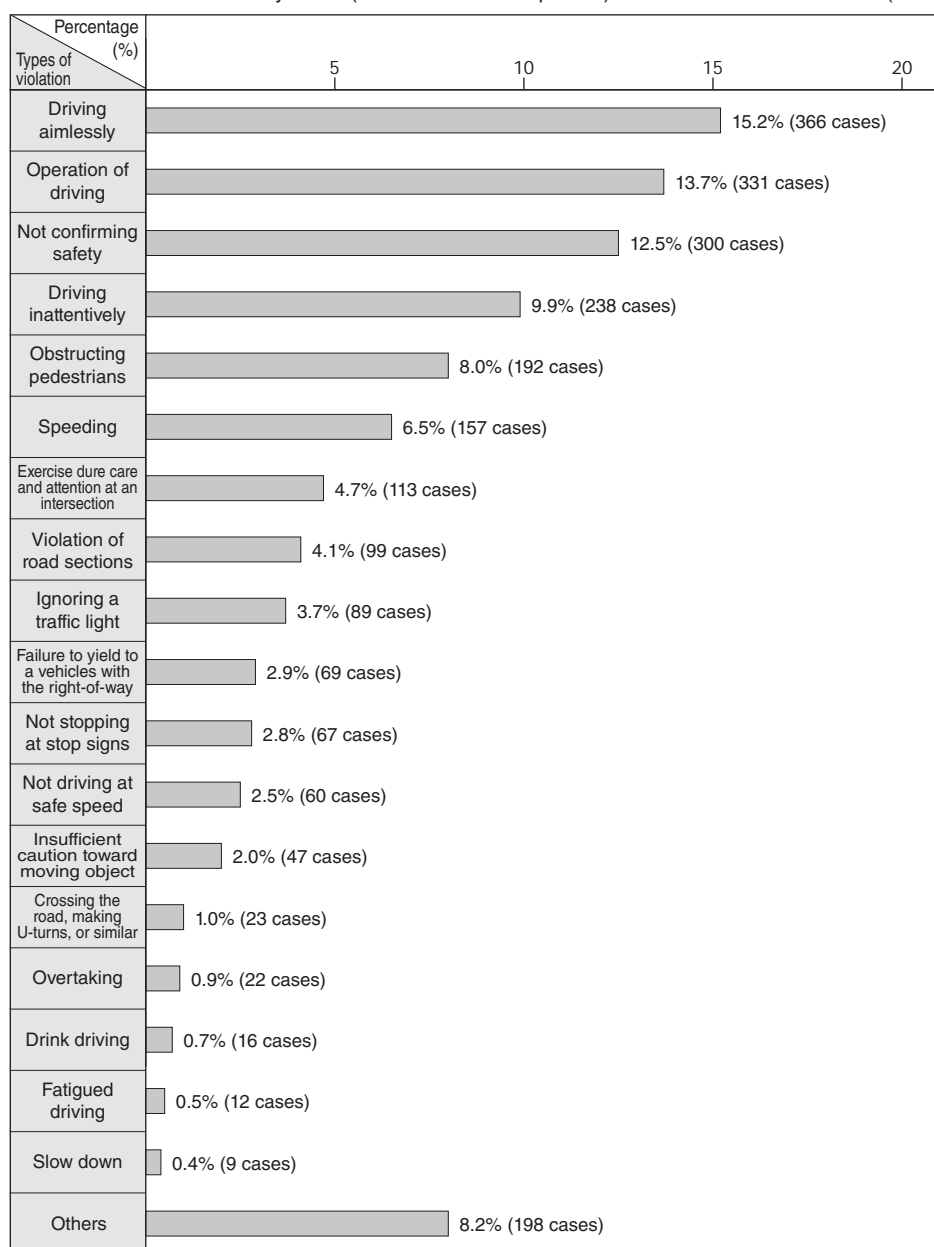
#### (4) Driving experience

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

Among all the violations of laws and regulations that cause fatal accidents, driving aimlessly comes first, followed by improper driving operations and failure to confirm safety. However, young drivers are most likely to violate the speed limit, 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) (2020)

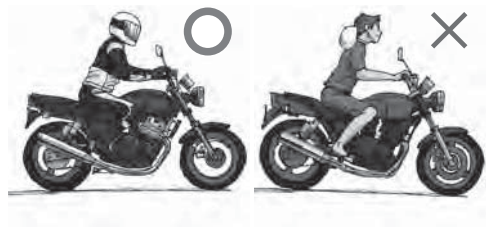


## 2 Exposure and Injury in Two-wheeled Vehicles

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

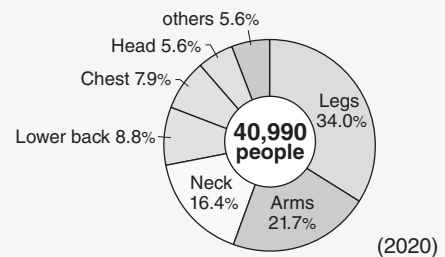


### Pay special attention regarding leg injuries

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)

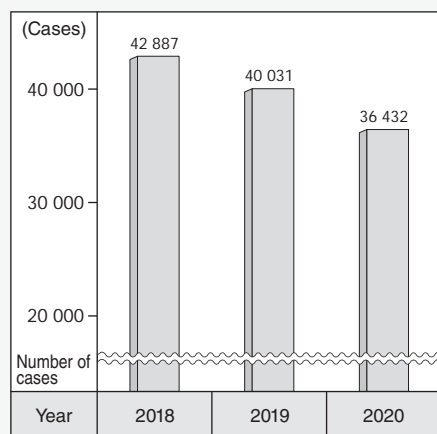


### ③ Administrative action

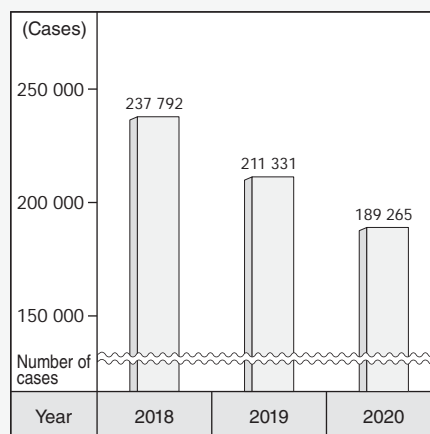
The number of drivers' license revocations was 36,432 and the number of suspensions was 189,265 in 2020. The period a person cannot receive a license due to revocation is from 1 year to 10 years. If the person whose drivers' license has been revoked tries to obtain a license again, he or she must go 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.