In terms of groups in which the elderly people wish to participate, “circles and groups of hobbies” came first (31.5%), followed by “circles and groups of health and sports” (29.7%). In terms of the groups they are participating in, “block associations and neighborhood community associations” came first (26.7%), with approximately one person out of four participating (Chart 1-2-33(1)).

When looking at groups participating by gender, men have a relatively high participation rate in block association and neighborhood community associations, Volunteer groups (groups contributing to society), organization of retired people (Old Boys meeting etc.) as compared to women, however participation ratio for circles and groups of hobbies, circles and groups of health and sports, circles and groups of learning and culture and so on is relatively low. (Chart 1-2-33 (2))
**Chart 1-2-33(2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups in Which the Elderly are Actively Participating (multiple answers possible)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hobby circle/organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/sports circle/organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood association/neighbourhood council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer group (Voluntary social service group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study/refinement circle/group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired citizens’ organization (OB group, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver human resources centre, etc. organization/employment organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens’ activity group (NPO etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies’ group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious groups (including religious lecture meetings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce &amp; Industry group/occupation guild</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Chart showing participation rates for different groups.](image)

Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey on elderly people’s participation in local communities” (2013)

(Note 1) The survey was carried out nationwide for males and females aged 60 and over.

(Note 2) Excludes answers such as “Others” and “Not want to participate.”

**40% or more of the elderly participate in lifelong learning.**

- Regarding the elderly participating in lifelong learning, those wanting to study lifelong even in their 60s or above 70s have become over 40% in the past year or so. The participation in “hobbies” is the largest in people in their 60s and people 70 and over with 24.6% and 24.9%, respectively. (Chart 1-2-34)
Approx. 60% of the elderly want to have opportunity to interact with younger people

- To the question on their willingness to participate in events where they can interact with younger people, 59.9% of the elderly responded that they “definitely want to participate” and “want to participate, as much as possible,” in such events in FY2013. The percentage had increased by 7.2 percentage points in the last ten years (2003) (Chart 1-2-31).
Chart 1-2-35: Willingness to Participate in Events where they can Interact with Younger People

Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey on elderly people’s participation in local communities” (2013)
(Note) The survey was carried out nationwide for males and females aged 60 and over.
6 Living Environment of Elderly People

- More than 80% of households with elderly people live in owned houses
  - Looking at the households housing the elderly, owned house, the ownership of houses is the largest at 82.7%. However, in terms of households, the percentage of households with single aged households is 65.6%, which is lower than the total number of main households with elderly people. (Fig. 1-2-36)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chart 1-2-36</th>
<th>Residential conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main households total number</td>
<td>61.7 5.4 28.0 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In those, main households with elderly people</td>
<td>62.7 0.2 10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main single elderly households</td>
<td>65.6 11.8 22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main couple only households with the elderly</td>
<td>87.2 5.4 7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other main single elderly households</td>
<td>90.0 3.3 6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistical Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications "Housing · Land Statistics Survey" (2013)
(Note) The main household is a household which is living together with a household or a single person holding a single house, households (Among households that house two or more households in one house, homeowners or households that are not borrowers) other than cohabiting households.

- The percentage of the elderly who died in a traffic accident fatalities is at record-high
  - The number of traffic accident fatalities of the elderly aged 65 and above during the year of 2016 was 2,138 people, which was 109 people less than the previous year, while the percentage of the elderly in the overall traffic accident fatalities in 2016 was at record-high –54.8% (Chart 1-2-37).
  - The percentage of the number of fatal accidents per 100,000 people who have a driver's license aged 75 or above is decreasing (Chart 1-2-38).
Chart 1-2-37: Trends in number of overall traffic accident fatalities and number of traffic accident fatalities of the elderly (65 years old and above) per 100,000 population.

Source: Prepared by the National Police Agency.

(Note) ( ) shows the ratio of population of the elderly persons aged 65 and over in the total traffic fatalities.
Crime by elderly people

- The number of the elderly cleared for penal code offences for the elderly was 47,632 in 2015, which was almost flat compared to the previous year. On the other hand, the criminal rate has been declining since the peak in 2007 (19). (Fig. 1-2-39)

- In addition, looking at the composition ratio of comprehensive offences for elderly people cleared for penal code violations in 2015, the number of thieves is 72.3%, which exceeds 70%.
Regarding the situation of damages to the elderly aged 65 and over caused by crimes, the confirmed number of damages criminal cases caused has been showing a decreasing trend recently since it peaked in 2002. Meanwhile, the percentage of the elderly in the persons who have fallen victim to crime, which was 13.8% in 2015, shows a tendency to increase. (Chart 1-2-40)
The number of elderly people who use the Internet has increased

- Regarding the usage of internet by the elderly people in the past year, an increase in the trend can be seen, if we compare the Charts noted five years ago, the 70-79 age group was the largest with an increase of 14.3 points, followed by an increase of 12.2 points between the ages of 60 and 69. (Fig. 1-2-41)

- Looking at the frequency of the use of internet by the elderly people aged 65 and above who responded that they have used the Internet, about 45.2% answered that they are using "at least once a day" (Fig. 1-2-42).
**Chart 1-2-41**  
Internet usage rate according to user age bracket

![Bar chart showing internet usage rate by age bracket](chart1.png)

Source: Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications
(Note) Excluding no response

**Chart 1-2-42**  
Frequency of Internet usage (Internet users above the age of 65)

![Pie chart showing frequency of internet usage](chart2.png)

There are many males who live alone without anybody to rely on.
- To the question whom the elderly aged 65 and over living alone would like to rely on for the nursing and care when they are ill, the reply “I have no one to ask” was the highest among males without children with 35% (Chart 1-2-38).

40% or more of the elderly persons living alone feel an isolated death as an immediate problem.
- The percentage of the elderly aged 60 and over who feel an isolated death (lonely death) which is discovered after a person dies without anybody at his/her side as an immediate problem (total of those who “feel so very much” and “feel so more or less”) is less than 20% among the elderly aged 60 and over as a whole, but is more than 40% among the elderly persons living alone (Chart 1-2-44).
- According to data published by the Tokyo Metropolitan Medical Examination Institute which conducts examination and autopsy of people who have died of sudden death for unknown causes or accidents, the number of people aged 65 and over living alone who died in their houses was 3,127 in 2015 (Chart 1-2-45).
- In about 740,000 rental houses under the operational management of the independent administrative corporation Urban Renaissance Agency, the number of cases in which the resident living alone was discovered after a considerable period of time (more than one week) after death (excluding suicides or murders) was 179 in FY 2015, with 140 cases involving elderly people...
aged 65 and over (Chart 1-2-46).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chart 1-2-44</th>
<th>People who Consider Solitary Death* a Familiar Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart 1-2-45</strong></td>
<td>People Living Alone Aged 65 and Over who Died at Home in Tokyo's 23 Wards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chart 1-2-46</strong></td>
<td>Cases of Solitary Death Discovered After a Considerable Period of Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey on elderly people's health” (2012)
(Note 1) Although the target age group of the survey is men and women aged 55 years and above, recount of people over 60 has been done.
(Note 2) “Other households (total)” refers to the sum of two-generation households, three-generation households and other households.
* The definition of “solitary death” in this survey is “death discovered after having died without anyone present.”

* The data shows the number of cases of solitary death occurring, without being witnessed by anyone, in rental houses under the operational management of the Urban Renaissance Agency, and discovered after a considerable period of time (more than one week) after death. It excludes suicides, murders and cases in which family members or acquaintances apparently made a point of watching over the solitary tenant for regular checkups.

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**Damages Suffered by Elderly People due to the Great East Japan Earthquake**

- The death toll recorded in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures from March 11, 2011 to February 28, 2017 reached 15,824, and out of 15,775 persons whose ages were confirmed after
postmortem inspections and other inspections, 10,409 persons were elderly people aged 60 and over, accounting for 66.1% of the total (Chart 1-2-47).

Chart 1-2-47  Death Toll by Age Group

Source: "On the Progress of the Postmortem Inspections and Other Inspections and Identification of the people killed in the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake (March 11, 2011-February 28, 2017)," National Police Agency

* Counted persons whose ages were confirmed by the postmortem inspections and other inspections.