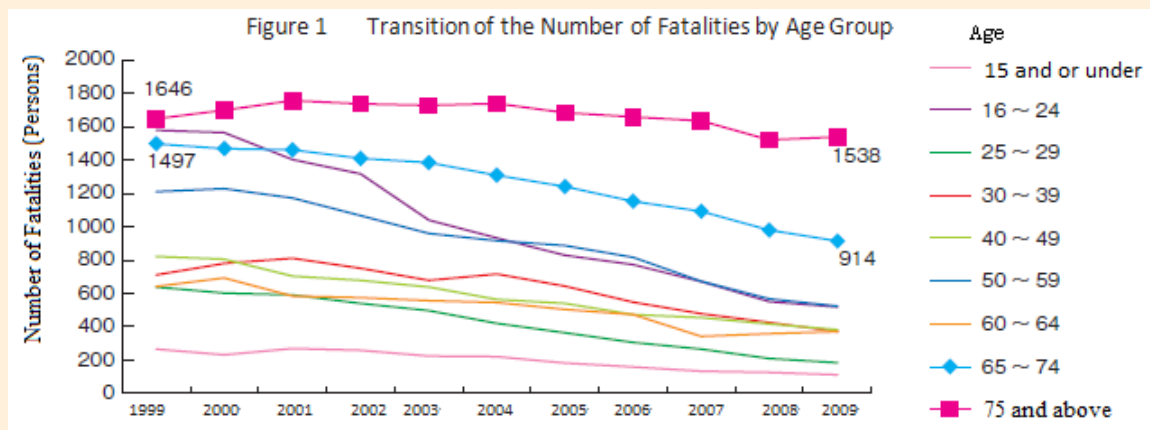


Traffic Environment Surrounding the Elderly

○The situation in which fatal accidents occur for the elderly

When examining the number of fatalities by age group during 2009, elderly persons above the age of 65 (49.9% component rate) are the most prevalent. Even when observing the transition of the number of fatalities in the recent 10 years, the depreciation of age group over 75 years old are very slow according to Figure 1, and when compared to 10 years before, the reduction among people above the age of 75 stops at 108 people (6.6%) in relation to the 4,092 person (45.4%) reduction in the overall number of fatalities.

In addition, when comparing the number of fatalities per population of 100 thousand people, the number of fatalities increases with age with the average of 6.09 people among ages 65-74 and 11.63 people among ages over 75 in relation to the average of all ages being 3.85 during 2009.



○Enhancement of traffic safety education for the elderly

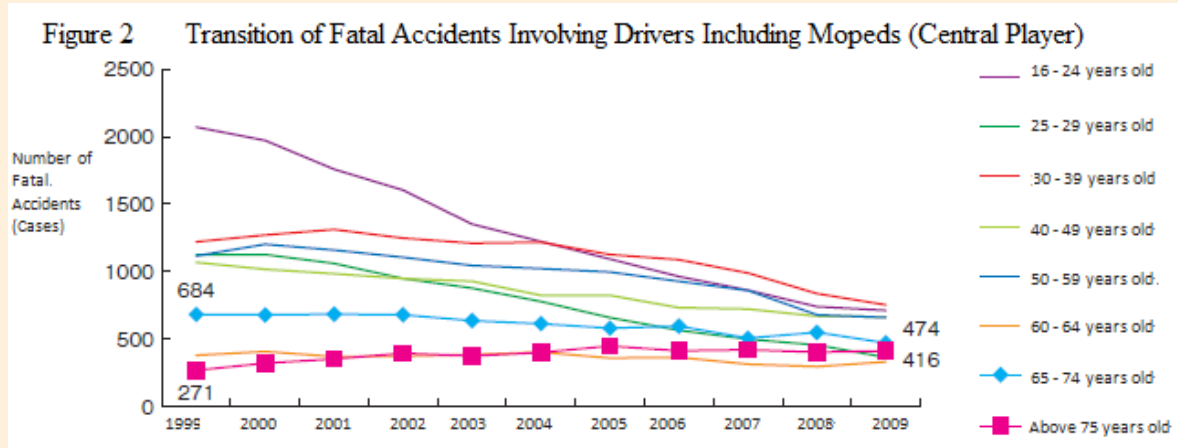
In order for people to understand that the decline of bodily functions that accompanies aging affects one's behavior, the prefectural police are implementing participatory/revelatory/hands-on traffic safety education that actively employs every form of educational materials for elderly people. For elderly persons who do not have a full comprehension of traffic rules due to the slim opportunities to receive traffic safety education, safety education is being implemented with content that allows for understanding in regard to the manners of pedestrians and bicycle users.

In the implementation of traffic safety education for elderly people, the effort is being made to build a community support system for the acquisition of necessary knowledge for everyday living working together with welfare participants such as social workers who have many opportunities to come in contact with elderly people, regional related organizations and groups, and home guidance of elderly residences. Furthermore, in order to enhance safety awareness based on mutual edification among the elderly, and encouraging volunteer activities related to traffic safety through the elderly themselves, efforts are being made for the Senior citizens' club to fulfill the leading role in regional traffic safety activities by setting up traffic safety divisions in seniors' clubs and retirement homes, and promoting the training of elderly traffic safety instructors (silver leaders).

○The situation in which an elderly is the central player in a fatal accident

When examining the number of fatal accident during 2009 based on drivers (central player) including mopeds by age group, the largest age group is that of over 65 years old (20.3% composition rate). Even when the transition over the recent 10 years is observed as shown in Figure 2, the involvement of persons over 75 years old is increasing against a largely decreasing number of fatalities among young age groups. In comparison with the data of 10 years before, the overall number of fatal accidents has decreased by 3,565 (44.8%), against which the age group over 75 years old increased by 145 fatalities (53.5%).

Additionally, in comparison to the number of fatal accidents per 100 thousand licensed drivers, the all-ages average during 2009 was 5.4 fatalities, while the average among persons aged over 65 and 75 years old is growing respectively at 7.1 and 12.8.



○The situation on the implementation of traffic safety education for the elderly

The prefectural police implemented traffic safety education that specifically focuses on the characteristics of senior drivers. Senior drivers' classes at driving schools and seminars were held in order for the elderly to understand objectively the change in bodily functions that accompany aging, and to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for safe driving. Also, public awareness activities have been implemented to raise awareness of the importance of driving and display the mark of elderly drivers.

○Preliminary course examinations

From June 2009, elderly people who are at the age of 75 or above on the renewal period expiration date have started to receive preliminary course examinations (Cognitive Function Test) when renewing a driver's license.

In regard to the three examination items (faculty of time orientation^{*1}, cued recall^{*2}, and clock drawing^{*3}), each section lasts for 30 minutes, and the examinees are informed of their memorization and reason faculty results. The examination results are broken down into classifications 1 (low memory and reason faculties), 2 (slightly low memory and reason faculties), and 3 (satisfactory memory and reason faculties), and courses for elderly people are implemented that correspond with each of these classifications. In the six months following the introduction of the preliminary course examinations, 237,823 people have taken the preliminary course examination and 5,770 (approximately 2.4%) were assessed as classification 1.

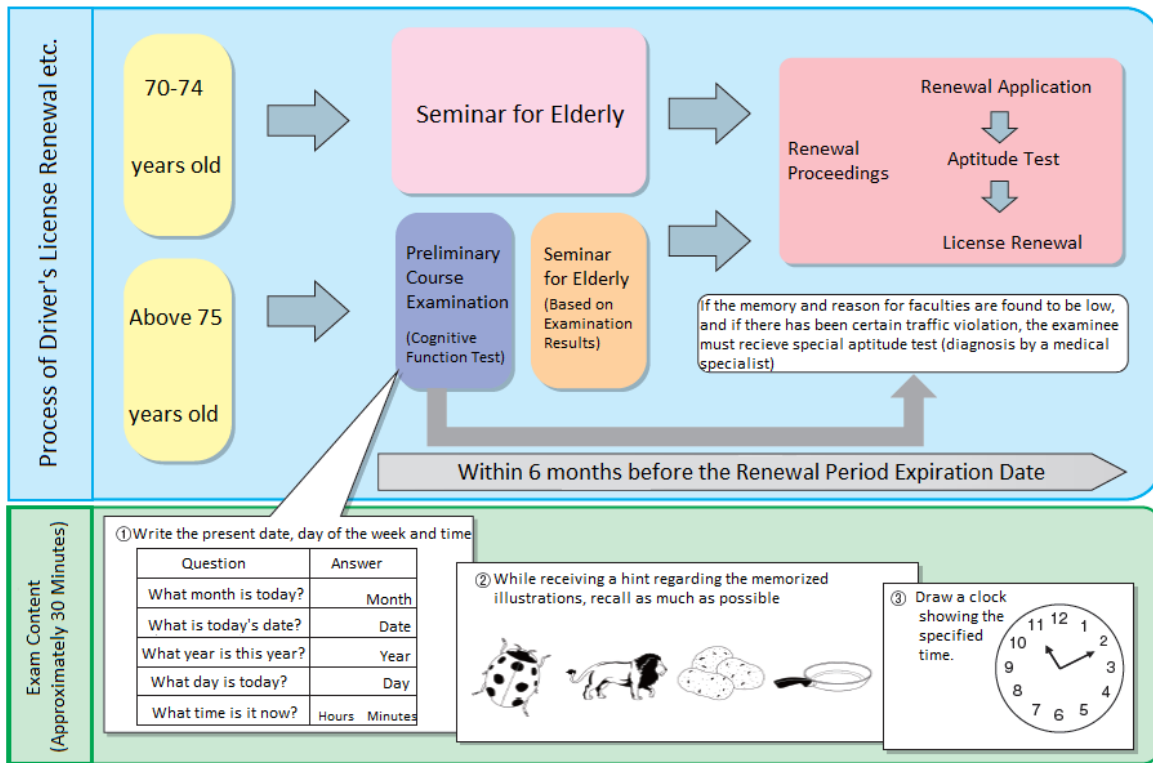
Furthermore, being assessed as classification 1 from the results and in cases in which there are particular violations such as ignoring a traffic light after the 1-year-prior date of the renewal period expiration date of the driver's license, the violator must receive a diagnosis from a dementia medical specialist as a special aptitude test. If dementia is diagnosed, the driver's license will be cancelled or suspended.

^{*1} Stating date, day of the week, and time when taking the examination.

^{*2} Memorizing a certain illustration, doing a non-graded assignment, then answering first without receiving a hint regarding the illustration name, and next answering with a hint.

^{*3} Drawing a clock face, and then drawing a needle on the clock face pointing to the specified time.

Figure 3 Process of Driver's License Renewal for Elderly Drivers etc.



○ License cancellation request (Returning license by individual request)

In cases of quitting driving cars etc. based on the decision of bodily functions etc., it is possible to request a license cancellation and return one's driver's license. Furthermore, when the license is returned, it is also possible to issue a driving history certificate by request. In 2009 there were 51,086 cases (of which 44,463 cases involved persons over the age of 70) of driver's license cancellations by request, and 23,048 cases where driving history certificates were issued (of which 20,321 cases involved persons over the age of 70).