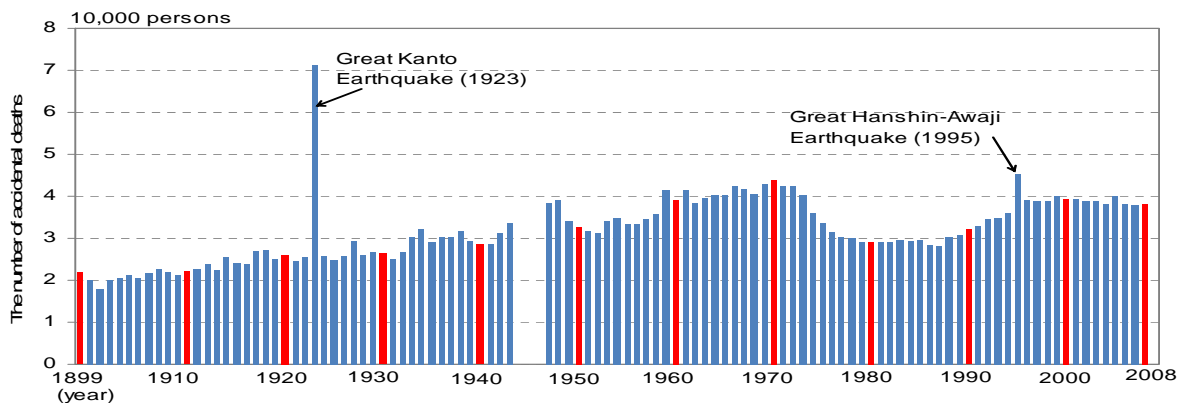


# 1 Trends in accidental deaths

## (1) Trends in the number of accidental deaths

Regarding the trends in the number of accidental deaths, prior to World War II, the number of accidental deaths exhibited a steady increase, except when the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred in 1923. This number continued to increase for a period after the World War II, but rapidly declined after peaking at around 42,000 - 43,000 in the period from 1969 - 1972, and remained stable around 28,000 - 30,000 during the period from 1977 - 1988. Afterwards, it again increased, and fluctuated between around 37,000 and 40,000 during the period from 1996 - 2008 (Figure 1).

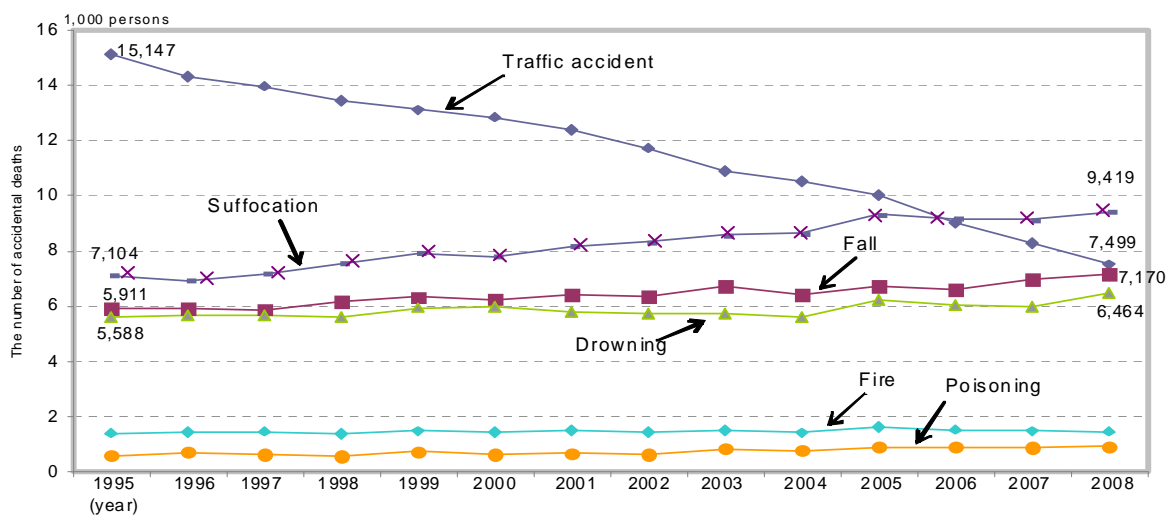
**Figure 1 Trends in the number of accidental deaths, 1899 – 2008**



## (2) Trends in the number of accidental deaths by type of major accident

Regarding the trends in the number of accidental deaths by type of major traffic accident since 1995, the number of deaths has decreased consistently, from 15,147 in 1995 to 7,499 in 2008. In contrast, the number of deaths by suffocation has increased from 7,104 in 1995 to 9,419 in 2008, the number of deaths due to a fall from 5,911 in 1995 to 7,170 in 2008, and the number of deaths by drowning from 5,588 in 1995 to 6,464 in 2008. Although the numbers of deaths from these three causes have fluctuated, they are on the rise as a whole (Figure 2).

**Figure 2 Trends in the number of accidental deaths by type of major accident, 1995 - 2008**

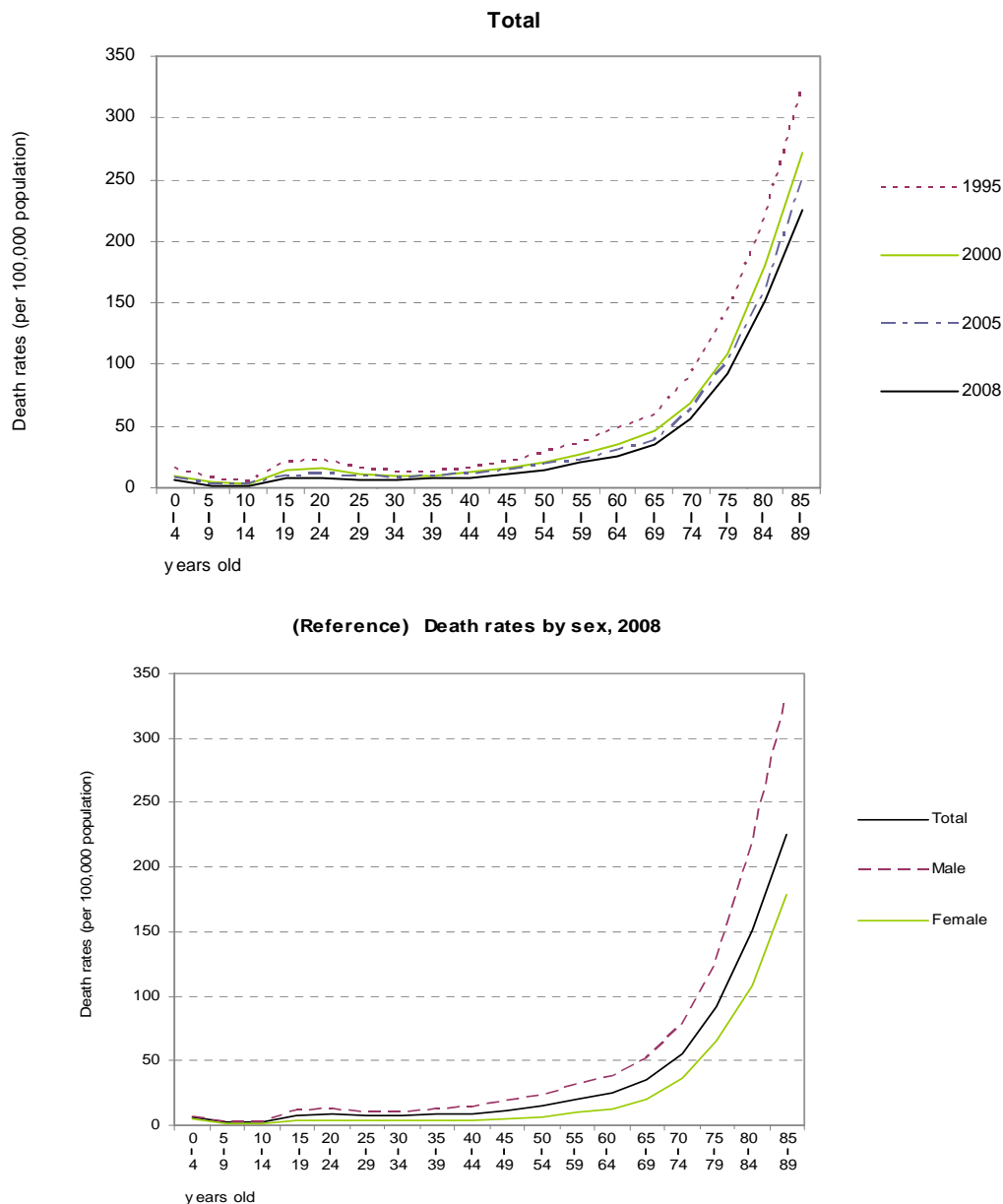


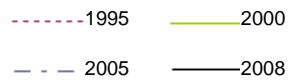
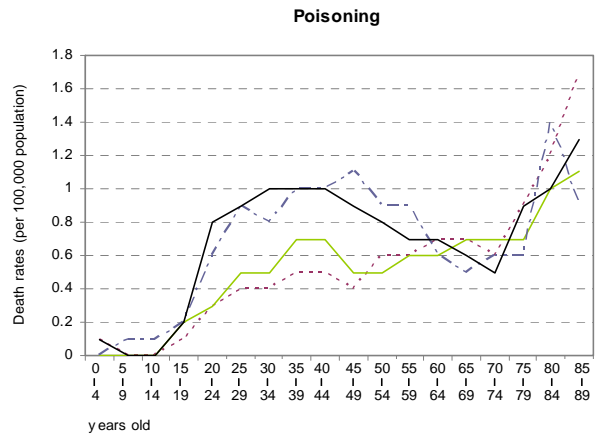
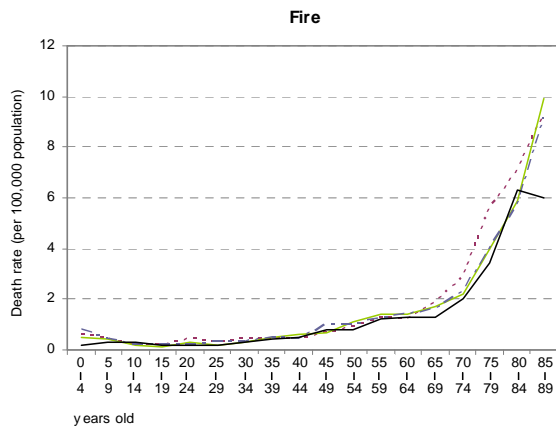
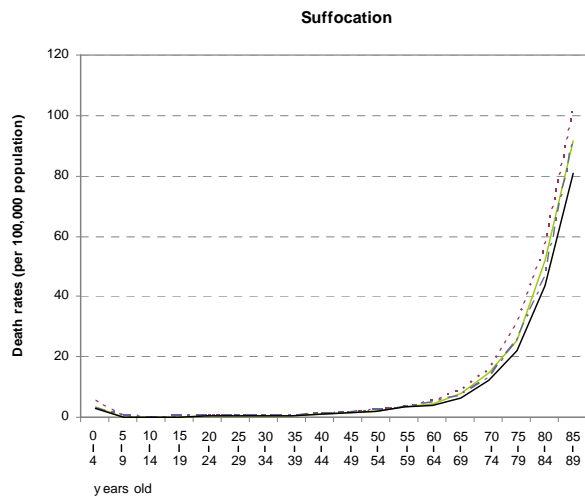
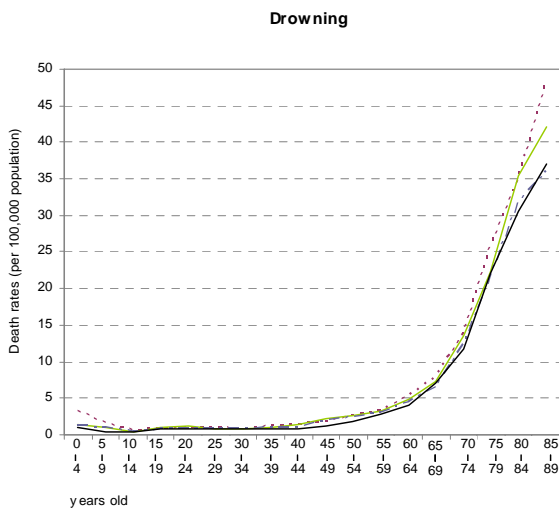
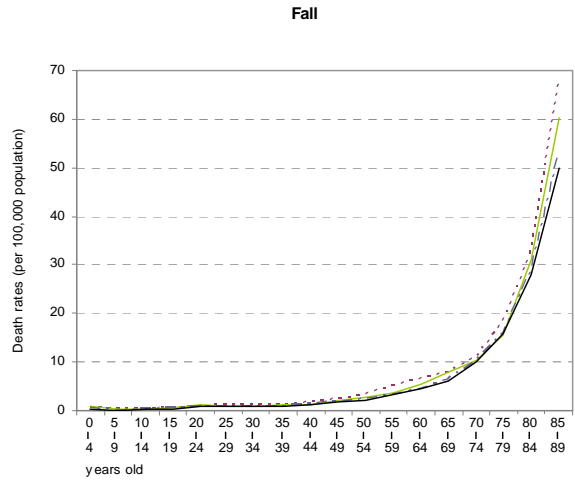
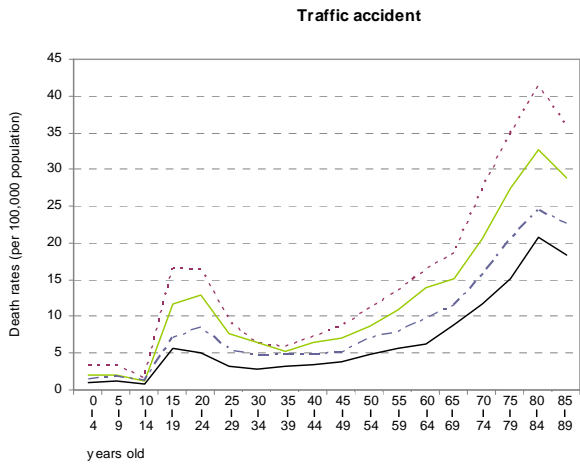
**(3) Yearly comparison of accidental death rates by type of accident and by age group**

Regarding the accidental death rates (per 100,000 population) by type of accident and by age (five-year age group) in and after 1995, these rates are declining as a whole, including rates of deaths due to a traffic accident, fall, drowning, and suffocation. Most notably, the rate of deaths by traffic accident decreased to half in almost all age groups (Figure 3).

Consequently, the increase in the number of deaths by fall, drowning, and suffocation is not due to an increase in these death rates, but rather to an increase in the number of aged persons, who exhibit a high death rate.

**Figure 3 Yearly comparison of accidental death rates by type of major accident and by age (five-year age group) (per 100,000 population), 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2008**

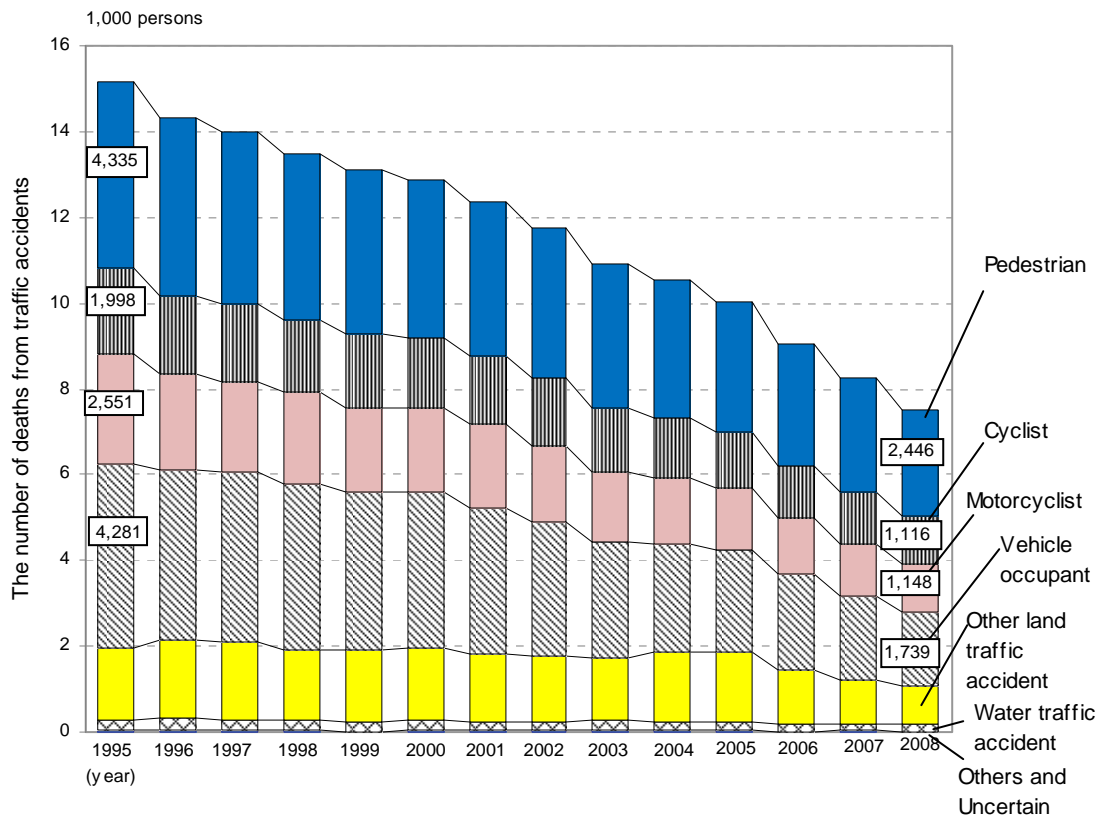




#### (4) Trends in the number of deaths by type of traffic accident

Regarding the trends in the number of deaths by type of traffic accident since 1995, the number of pedestrian fatalities has decreased consistently, from 4,335 in 1995 to 2,446 (56.4% of those of 1995) in 2008. Cyclist fatalities decreased from 1,998 in 1995 to 1,116 (55.9% of those of 1995) in 2008, motorcyclist fatalities decreased from 2,551 in 1995 to 1,148 (45.0% of those of 1995) in 2008, and vehicle occupant fatalities decreased from 4,281 in 1995 to 1,739 (40.6% of those of 1995) in 2008. Although the number of deaths has fluctuated, these three types of fatalities have been on the decline. Most notably, vehicle occupant fatalities have decreased significantly (Figure 4).

**Figure 4 Trends in the number of deaths by type of traffic accident, 1995 - 2008**

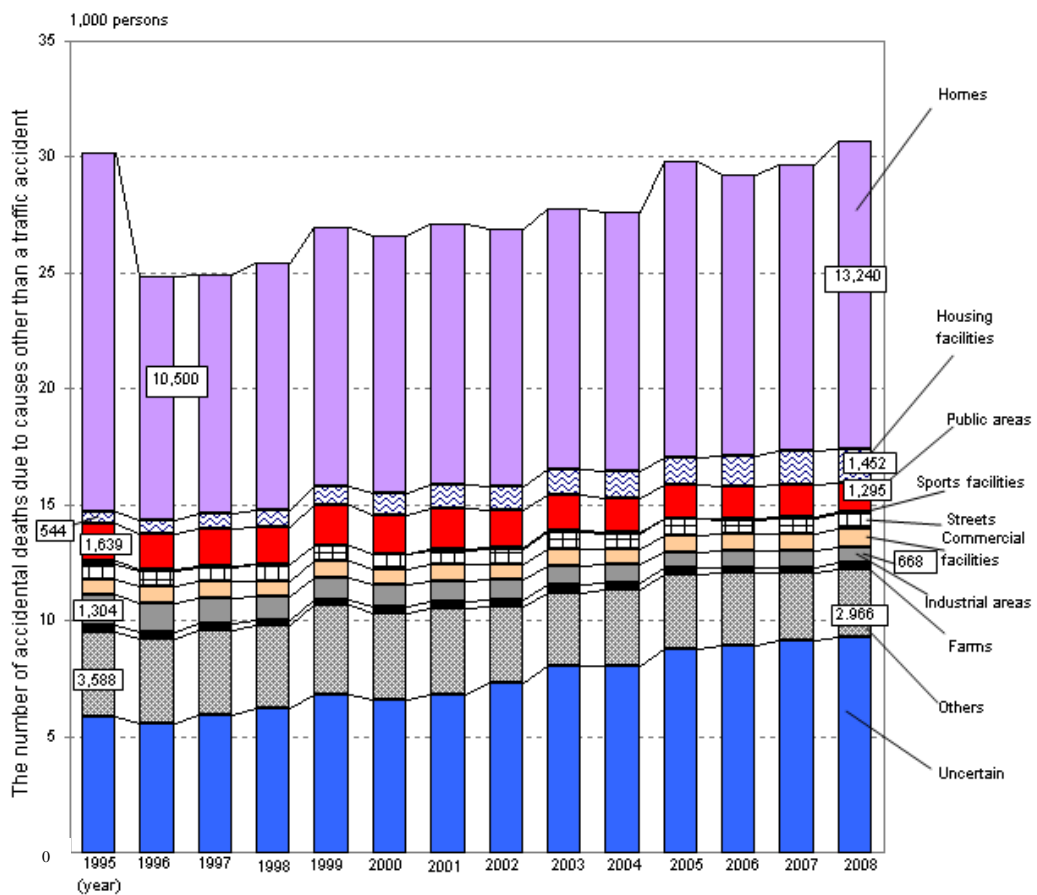


Note: Other land traffic accidents include those of tricyclists, occupants of light trucks or vans, heavy goods vehicle occupants and bus occupants.  
Others and unknown traffic accidents include aircraft accidents and space traffic accidents.

**(5) Trends in the number of accidental deaths due to causes other than traffic accidents by site of occurrence**

Regarding the trends in the number of accidental deaths due to causes other than traffic accidents by site of occurrence since 1995, the total number of accidental deaths has been on the rise except for the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The number of deaths at housing facilities has been on the rise from 544 in 1995 to 1,452 in 2008, and the number of deaths at home has risen from 10,500 in 1996 to 13,240 in 2008 although this number has fluctuated. In contrast, the number of deaths in public areas has declined from 1,639 in 1995 to 1,295 in 2008, the number of deaths in industrial areas from 1,304 in 1995 to 668 in 2008, and the number of deaths in other areas from 3,588 in 1995 to 2,966 in 2008, although these numbers have fluctuated (Figure 5).

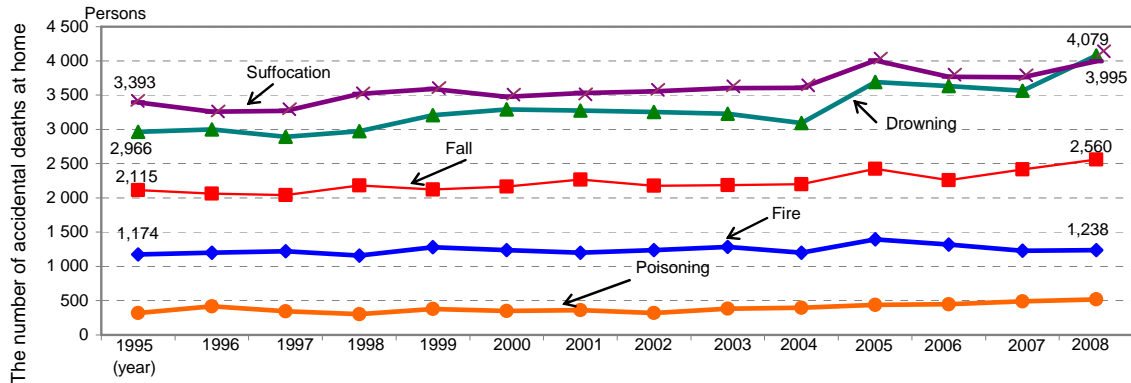
**Figure 5 Trends in the number of accidental deaths due to causes other than traffic accidents by site of occurrence, 1995 - 2008**



**(6) Trends in the number of accidental deaths at home by type of major accident**

Regarding accidental deaths in the home by type of major accident since 1995, the number of deaths by suffocation has been on the rise from 3,393 in 1995 to 3,995 in 2008, the number of deaths by drowning from 2,966 in 1995 to 4,079 in 2008, and the number of deaths by fall from 2,115 in 1995 to 2,560 in 2008. The numbers of deaths due to these three causes are each on the rise, although they have fluctuated. In contrast, the number of deaths by fire remains at the same level, increasing slightly from 1,174 in 1995 to 1,238 in 2008 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6 Trends in the number of accidental deaths at home by type of major accident, 1995 - 2008**



**(7) Trends in the proportions of accidental deaths that occurred at home due to causes other than traffic accidents by type of accident**

Of all the accidental deaths due to causes other than traffic accidents, those that have occurred at home have continued to account for above 40% since 1995 (excluding 1995). From the viewpoint of type of accident, deaths at home by fire constitute the largest percentage of all deaths by fire. Deaths at home by drowning and by poisoning constitute the second largest percentage of all deaths of these types. Deaths at home by fall constitute the smallest percentage (Figure 7).

**Figure 7 Trends in the proportion of accidental deaths that occurred at home due to causes other than traffic accidents by type of major accident, 1995 - 2008**

