2 Detailed analysis of accidental deaths in 2008

(1) Monthly number of accidental deaths

Regarding the monthly number of accidental deaths in 2008, the total number of deaths was highest in January, second highest in December, lowest in September, and second lowest in June. The type of accident for which the largest gap was observed between the numbers for different months, the number of deaths by drowning was high in January but low in September. In addition, many persons died of suffocation in January, but few in June. Likewise, many persons were killed in fires in January, but few in September. In contrast, small variations were observed in the monthly numbers of deaths by traffic accident and fall (Figure 8).

Figure 8 Monthly numbers of accidental deaths by type of accident, 2008
Accidental deaths by age group

The percent distribution of the number of accidental deaths in 2008 by type of accident shows that deaths by suffocation accounted for the largest portion, at 24.7%. An analysis of the number of accidental deaths by age (five-year age group) shows that a traffic accident is the most frequent cause of death for persons between the ages of 5 and 9 and of 65 and 69. The number of persons who died by fall or suffocation increased with age (Figure 9).

Figure 9  Percent distribution of accidental deaths by type of accident and by age group, 2008

Note: Total number includes persons of "Age Unknown".
(3) Accidental deaths by place of death

Regarding the percent distribution of accidental deaths by place of death and by type of accident, “hospital and clinic” was large for deaths by suffocation (84.4%), deaths by fall (83.8%), and deaths by traffic accident (80.0%), while “home” was large for deaths by fire (61.6%) in 2008. A small gap was observed between “hospital and clinic” and “home” for deaths by drowning and poisoning (Figure 10).

Figure 10 Percent distribution of accidental deaths by place of death and by type of accident, 2008

Note: “Others” includes health care facilities for the aged who need long-term care, midwifery clinics, and nursing homes for the aged.

(4) Accidental deaths by time of death

Regarding the number of accidental deaths by time of death, many people died between the hours of 18 - 20 in 2008. As for the type of accident, many of the deaths by traffic accident and by drowning occurred between the hours of 18 - 23, and many of the deaths by suffocation occurred between the hours of 12 - 14 and 18 - 20 (Figure 11).

Figure 11 The number of accidental deaths by type of accident and by time of death, 2008
(5) Accidental deaths due to causes other than traffic accidents by site of occurrence

Regarding the percent distribution of accidental deaths other than traffic accidents by site of occurrence, many of those deaths which occurred at home were caused by drowning and suffocation, at housing facilities by suffocation, and in public areas by fall and suffocation in 2008 (Figure 12).

Figure 12  Percent distribution of accidental deaths due to causes other than traffic accidents by type of accident and by site of occurrence, 2008

Note: The total includes deaths at site "Uncertain".

(6) Accidental deaths at home by time of death

Regarding the number of accidental deaths at home by time of death and by age group, more persons died in the age groups for persons aged 65 and over than other younger groups, and many persons aged 65 and over died between the hours of 18 - 23 in 2008, (Figure 13).

Figure 13  The number of accidental deaths at home by time of death and by age group, 2008