

International Safe Community Certifying Centre  
Safe Community Network Member

## Safe Community Re-designation Application



**Hoping Every Day is a Safe Day**

Submission in April 2024 (revised in July 2024)

Towada City, Towada City Safe Community Steering Committee



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The response to the comments by the certifiers are added on the end of this translation.

# —Chapter 1 Overview of Towada City—

## 1. Location and Features

Towada City is located in the central southeast of Aomori Prefecture, which is at the very north of Honshu Island. The area is rather large at 725.65 km<sup>2</sup>. This large area makes it the third largest city of Aomori Prefecture's 40 cities and towns.

The mystic Lake Towada and Oirase Stream with a kaleidoscopic flow are highlights of the Towada-Hachimantai National Park in the skirts of the majestic Mt. Hakkoda. Known as some of Japanese premiere tourist spots, this area is visited by many from Japan and overseas.

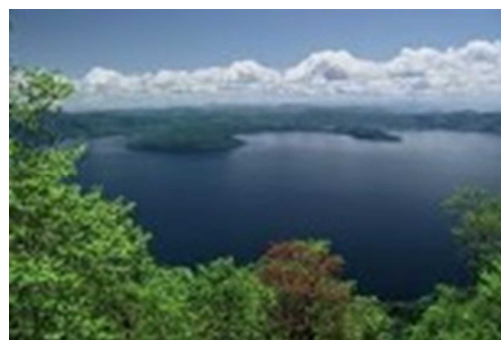
The center of the city was developed about 160 years ago following the development plans drawn by Tsuto Nitobe, grandfather of Dr. Inazo Nitobe author of "Bushido" and the new city plan drawn by his son Jujiro Nitobe. The neatly zoned nature-rich streets are called the roots of Japan's modern urban planning.

With the water led from Oirase Rive, the manmade Inougawa River irrigates the rice paddies and fields, creating one of the prefecture's prosperous agricultural areas. In recent years, Towada City has developed into a central area that supports the prefecture's southern region's medicine, welfare and economy, etc.

In 2008, the Towada City Art Center opened at Kanchogai-dori Street, which has been selected as one of Japan's top 100 scenic roads by the former Ministry of Construction in 1986. Arts Towada, which transforms the entire street into an art museum, is currently on display.

Here in Towada City, our rich nature, modern street scenes, and modern art beautifully intertwine.

- Area: 725.65 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 58,471 people (Source: Basic Resident Register as of September 30, 2023)
- Number of households: 28,176 (same as above)



Lake Towada

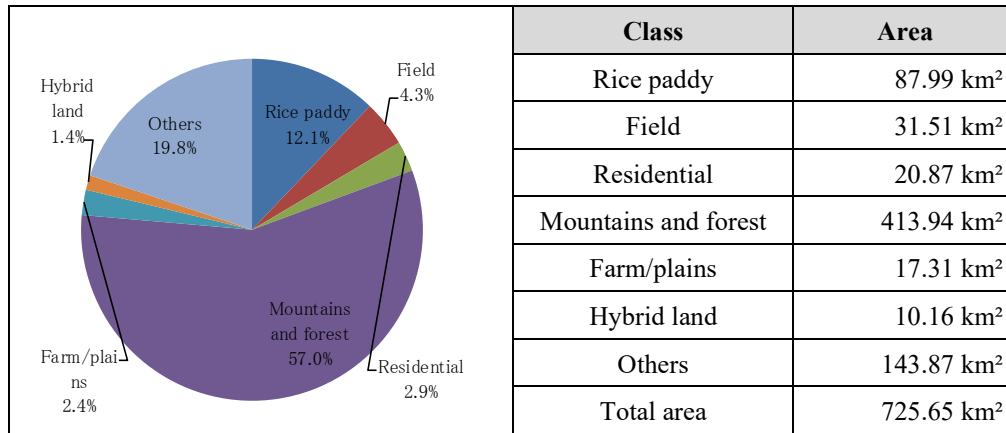


Towada Art Center

## 2. Land Use

When classified by use, 57.0% of our city's land is mountains and forest, and 2.9% is residential land.

Fig.1-1 Land usage area (as of January 1, 2022)

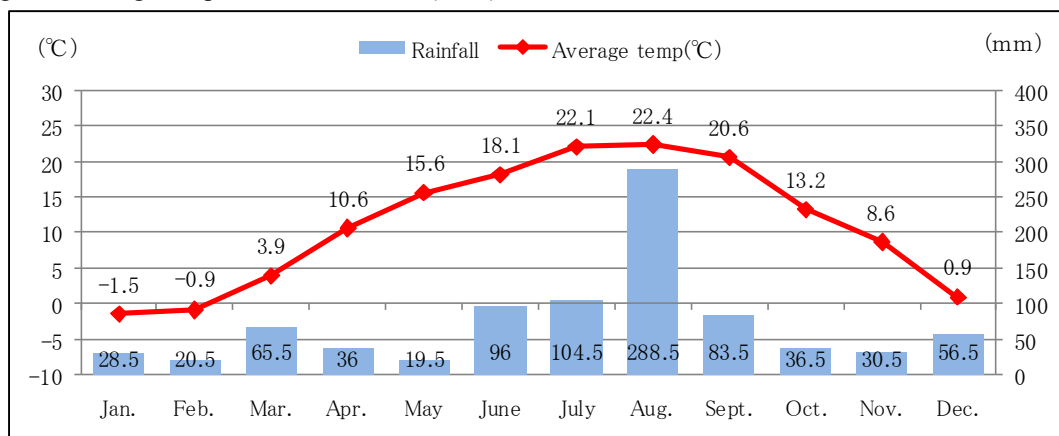


Source: Fixed assets summary report (Tax Affairs Section)

## 3. Climate

Towada City is situated in the relatively gently Pacific coast climate however, the average temperature drops below 1°C between December and February, and the city is covered with snow.

Fig. 1-2 Average temperature and rainfall (2022)



Source: Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters



## 4. Population and Households

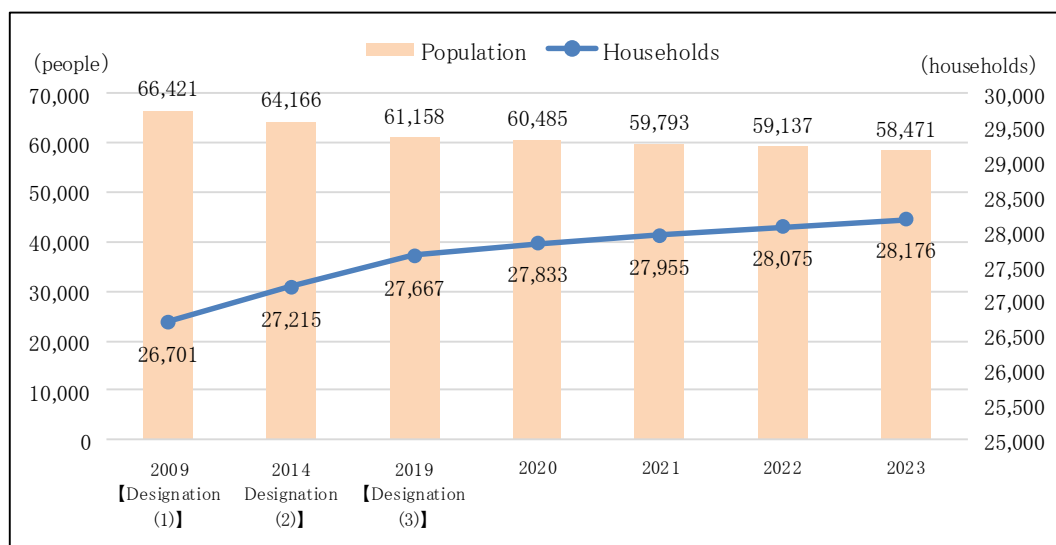
As of 2023 (September 30), Towada City's population was 58,471 down 7,950 from 2009, the first year we were designated as a member of International Safe Community Network. There are 28,176 households, which is an increase of 1,475 households from 2009. Since the number of households is increasing even though the population is decreasing, we can assume that nuclear families are on the increase.

In terms of demographics, a comparison between 2023 and 2018 indicates that both the natural and social demographics are declining. However, the variation in social demographics is becoming less significant due to the city's efforts to attract people from outside the city to resettle, which is considered a countermeasure against the population decline.

Looking at the population distribution in 2023, the population of both men and women in their early 70s is the largest, and the population from 0 to 40s is small. This implies that the population is likely to decrease in number and age even further in the future.

Looking at the transition by age group, the under-64 population is declining in all age groups, but the over-65 age population is increasing. The rate of aging in 2023 was 35.1% indicating that the community is aging.

Fig. 1-3 Transition of population and households (as of September 30 of each year)



Source: Basic Resident Register

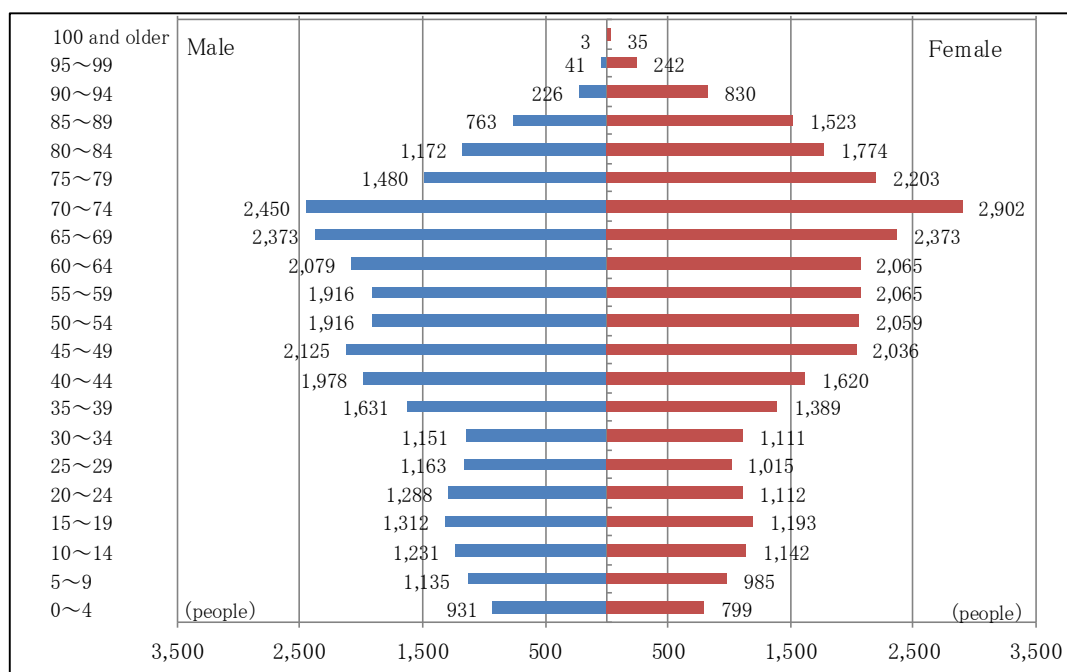
Fig. 1-4 Demographic statistics (Comparison of 2023 and 2018)

Class	Natural dynamics (people)			Social dynamics (people)		
	Birth	Death	Variation	Move in	Move out	Variation
2023	278	952	▲ 589	1,729	1,751	▲ 22
2018	376	830	▲ 454	1,792	1,917	▲ 125

Source: Basic Resident Register

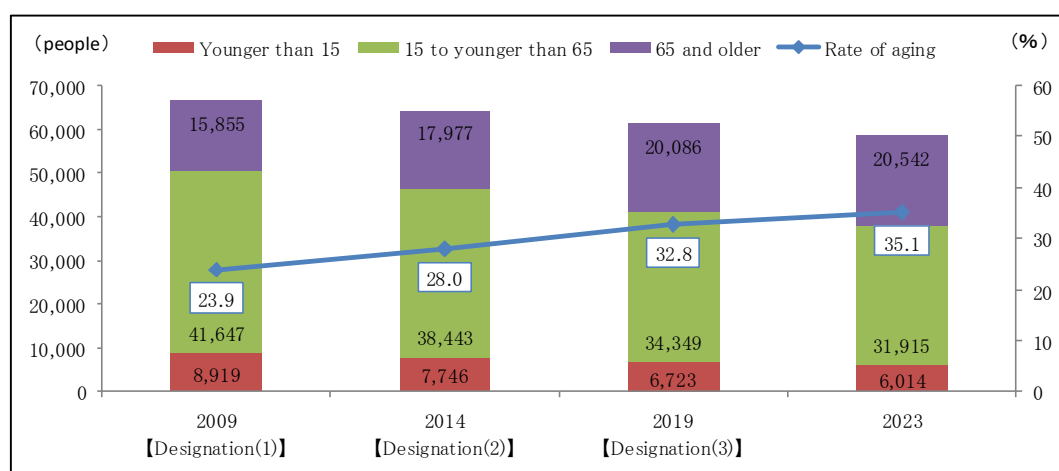
Note: Towada City has received three designations so far, in August 2009, February 2015, and February 2020. However, to ensure comparability of the graphs in five-year increments, the year of the on-site evaluation is used as the "designation year."

Fig. 1-5 Population distribution by age group (as of September 30, 2023)



Source: Basic Resident Register

Fig. 1-6 Transition of population by age group (as of September 30 of each year)



Source: Basic Resident Register

Fig.1-7 Transition of number of elderly single-person households in Towada City

Class	2014	2019	2020	2021	2022
Elderly single-person households (people)	4,121	5,355	5,565	5,768	5,924
Percentage of elderly single-person households among elderly households	60.0%	60.6%	60.8%	61.4%	61.2%

Source: Stage 6 and 7 Towada Elderly Welfare Plan and Towada City Long-term Care Insurance Project Plan

## 5. Industry

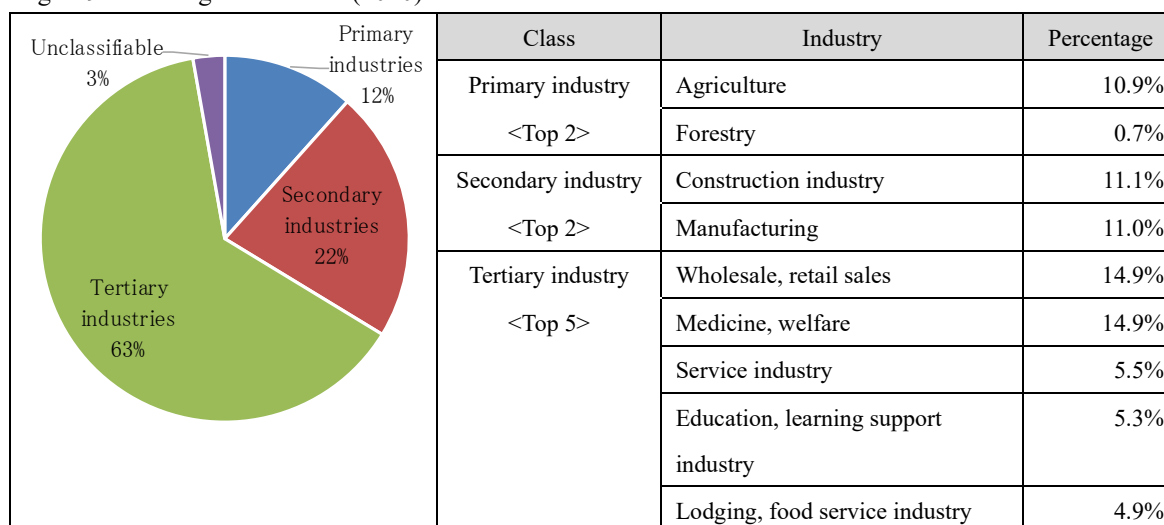
The overall working population (aged 15 and over) by industry in the city has decreased by approximately 6,700 since 2000. The working population by industry in 2020 was 3,422 in the primary industry, 6,518 in the secondary industry, and 18,681 in the tertiary industry. Since the Showa period (1926-1989), Towada City has developed as one of the prefecture's most prosperous agricultural and stock-breeding towns, thanks to its vast and flat farmlands and cool climate, even during the summer. Even today, our city boasts the nation's largest production of garlic, as well as Chinese yams, burdocks, Japanese leeks, and Wagyu cattle. These industries play a vital role in supporting the local economy. Towada is a popular tourist destination in the prefecture that offers a wide range of attractions, including Lake Towada, the Oirase Stream, and the Hakkoda Mountains, which are among the most scenic places in Japan; the Tsuta, Sarukura, and Yachi hot springs; the Kanchogai-dori Street, which has been selected as one of the "100 Best Streets in Japan;" the Towada Art Center; and the Bajikouen Equestrian Park. Thanks to active efforts to attract visitors, the number of incoming tourists increased annually to 3,157,000 in 2019, and the number of foreign tourists staying overnight also increased to 67,000 since the start of statistics. However, due to the spread of COVID-19, the number of visitors has decreased significantly since 2020.

Fig. 1-8 Transition of labor population by industry

Class		2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	Comparison to 2020
Primary industry	Number of people	5,133	4,740	3,657	3,767	3,422	-1,711
	proportion	14.2%	13.7%	11.3%	12.1%	11.6%	-2.6%
Secondary industry	Number of people	9,919	8,467	6,898	6,821	6,518	-3,401
	proportion	27.4%	24.4%	21.3%	21.9%	22.1%	-5.3%
Tertiary industry	Number of people	21,077	21,468	19,463	19,263	18,681	-2,396
	proportion	58.3	61.9%	60.0%	61.9%	63.5%	5.2%
Unclassifiable	Number of people	34	29	2,428	1,247	820	786
Total	Number of people	36,163	34,704	32,446	31,098	29,441	-6,722
	proportion	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

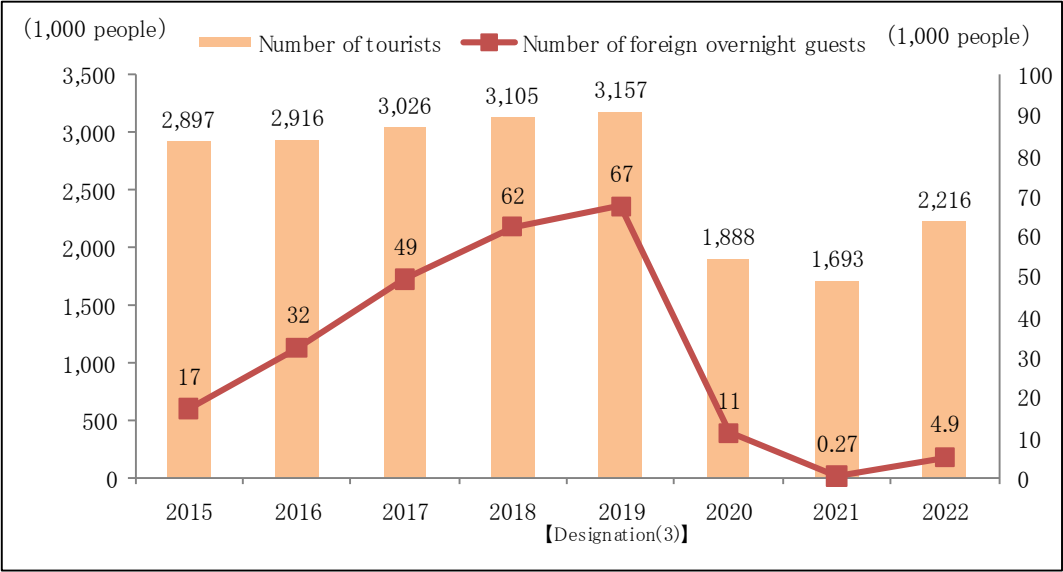
Source: National Census

Fig. 1-9 Percentage of workers (2020)



Source: National Census

Fig. 1-10 Number of tourists and foreign overnight guests



Source: Aomori Prefecture Tourism Statistics, Towada City Lodging Statistics

## 6. Medicine, Education, Childcare

Many of the hospitals run by local governments in the prefecture, including Towada City, face major challenges, such as a shortage of medical professionals and declining management. Achieving complete medical care at a single hospital is difficult, so efforts are being made to reinforce the regional medical coordination system from a broader regional perspective, with Towada City Hospital serving as the main facility.

In the area of childcare and education, despite a decreasing number of infants and children in the city, the employment rate of women who are raising children is still high compared to the rest of the country and prefecture. Hence, the utilization rate of daycare centers and after-school care services is also on an upward trend. In response to the evolving childcare needs and changing social environment surrounding children, we are striving to create a supportive environment for childcare and education.

Fig. 1-11 Number of medical institutions and sickbeds (2023)

Class	Number of institutions	Total number of sickbeds	Number of mental sickbeds	Number of contagious disease sickbeds	Number of regular sickbeds
Hospital	5	978	(539)	(4)	(435)
Clinic	41	71	—	—	—
Dental clinic	20	—			

Source: Aomori Prefecture Annual Health Statistics

Fig.1-12 Educational institutions (2023)

\* Including closed schools

Class	Elementary school	Junior high school	Senior high school	Vocational school	University
Number of educational institutions	14	10*	3	1	1
Number of pupils/students	2,603 people	1,535 people	1,566 people	32 people	1,236 people

Source: School Survey

Fig. 1-13 Early childhood education and childcare facilities, etc. (2023)

Class	Kindergarten	Authorized nursery school	Authorized childcare facility	Small-scale childcare facility	Unauthorized nursery school
Number of facilities	2	16	11	1	1

Source: Child Support Section

## —Chapter 2 Programs Based on Six Indicators—

### Indicator 1: Governance

#### 1. Vision and Specific Goals

The City of Towada has identified "overcoming population decline" as its top priority in pursuit of the future city vision "～ Created by the Citizens ～ Towada City Filled with Hope and Energy," as outlined in the 2nd Phase Towada City General Plan formulated in 2017. We are currently collaborating more with citizens to achieve sustainable development in the future and create an attractive city where people not only want to live but also continue to live and visit.

The plan has eight basic goals for community development, among which "Goal 5: A safe and secure community where communities help each other, are resilient to disasters, and are crime-free."

To achieve this basic goal, we are working to raise awareness of crime prevention and improve traffic safety measures and various consultation systems as part of "Measure 19: Secure safety and security in daily life." We are also promoting the creation of a safe and secure community through cooperation and collaboration with various entities, based on the Safe Communities philosophy that incidents and injuries can be prevented.

#### (1) 2nd Phase Towada City General Plan

##### ●Basic goals for community development

[Goal 1] A city that attracts people and consumption, both locally and from outside (industrial development)

[Goal 2] A city where the entire community fully supports childcare and child-raising (childcare and education)

[Goal 3] A city where all citizens can live healthy lives (health and welfare)

[Goal 4] A city where everyone can enjoy learning and where a rich cultural atmosphere and spirit thrive (lifelong learning, culture, and sports)

[Goal 5] A safe and secure community where communities help each other, are resilient to disasters, and are crime-free (safety and security)

Measure 19: Secure safety and security in daily life

[Purpose of the measure]

By enhancing traffic safety measures and various consultation systems through raising awareness of crime prevention, we will promote the creation of a safe and secure community through cooperation and collaboration with various entities, based on the Safe Communities philosophy that incidents and injuries can be prevented.

[Goal 6] A city where people can experience a comfortable and enriched lifestyle (environment)

[Goal 7] A city with an urban infrastructure that supports comfortable living and active economic activities (urban infrastructure)

[Goal 8] A city with a solid management base that supports the sustainable development of the local economy and society (municipal management)

## 2. Towada City's Ordinances on Safety and Security

### (1) Towada City Safe and Secure City Planning Ordinance (Established in 2005)

The Ordinance establishes the responsibilities of the city, citizens, and businesses to prevent crimes and incidents, with the aim of realizing a safe and secure community based on a spirit of mutual assistance.

### (2) Towada City Traffic City Association Ordinance (Established in 2005)

The Ordinance establishes basic principles and measures for ensuring traffic safety in the City of Towada with the aim of contributing to the promotion of the welfare of citizens.

### (3) Towada City Planning Basic Ordinance (Established in 2012)

The Ordinance establishes the basic matters for community development with the aim of realizing a vibrant and safe Towada City through the development of citizen-led self-government based on participation and cooperation.

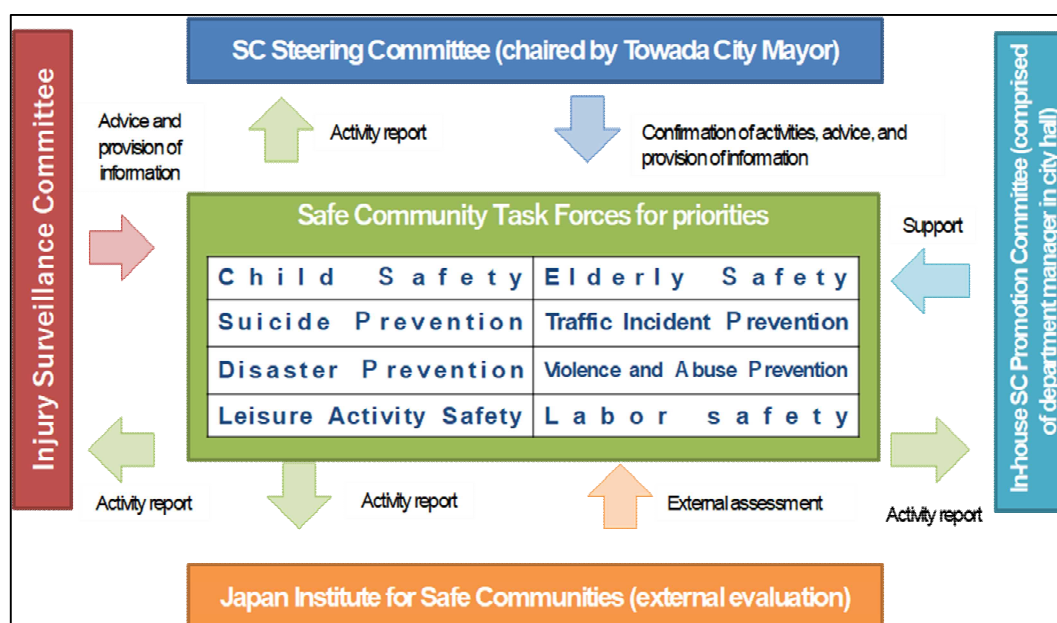
### (4) Towada City Ordinance on Promotion of Widening and Improvement of Narrow Roads through Cooperative Efforts (Established in 2014)

The Ordinance establishes the matters for promoting the widening and improvement of narrow roads through the cooperation of the city and citizens for the purpose of ensuring the safety of citizens, the formation of favorable urban areas, and ensuring a good living environment.

### (5) Towada City Ordinance on Support for Crime Victims (Established in 2024)

The Ordinance establishes the basic matters for supporting crime victims with the aim of contributing to the realization of a society in which everyone can live in safety and security.

## 3. Towada City Safe Community Promotion Organization



### (1) Towada City Safe Community Steering Committee

In 2008, the "Towada City Safe Community Steering Committee" was established as the parent organization for promoting our city's Safe Community activities. The Council has members from a wide range of organizations and groups engaged in safe and secure city planning.

The Council is headed by the mayor of the city and comprises 33 members representing 26 organizations. These organizations include citizen groups active in community activities, government bodies such as prefectural and related organizations, health and medical personnel, and City Hall. The Council is responsible for steering cross-sectoral collaborative activities.



SC Steering Committee

#### ● Members (As of March 1, 2024)

Council composition	Groups involved in community activities for safety and security	Towada City Federation of Neighborhood Associations, Towada City Council of Commissioned Welfare Volunteers and Child Welfare Officers, Towada City PTA Federation, Towada City Traffic Safety Association, Towada City Women's Association, Towada City Federation of Senior Citizens' Clubs, Towada City Council for Youth Development, Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion
	Groups with expertise in ensuring community safety and security	Towada Chamber of Commerce, Towada City Council, Towada Oirase Agricultural Cooperative Association, Towada International Exchange Association
	Health, welfare, and medical professionals	Towada City Hospital, Towada District Medical Board, Towada City Association of Dentists, Aomori Prefecture Pharmacist Association Kamitosan Branch, Towada City Social Welfare Council
	Education related	Kitasato University School of Veterinary Medicine, Towada City Association of Principals, Towada City Board of Education (2)
	Administrative agencies	Towada Labor Standards Bureau, Towada Police Station, Aomori Prefecture Kamikita Region Citizens Bureau, Kamitosan Public Health Center, Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters, Towada City (7)
Role	Opinions are exchanged on the draft of the Safe Community Implementation Plan and on the promotion of safe and secure community development.	

### (2) Towada City In-house SC Promotion Committee

The "Towada City In-house SC Promotion Committee" was established to support effective Safe Community activities by the Safe Community Task Forces for priorities. The committee is comprised of department managers controlling Safe Community activities in city hall.

#### ● Members (As of March 1, 2024)      ◎Chair    ○Vice-chair

Council composition	◎Social Welfare Section director, ○City Planning Support Section manager, General Affairs Section manager, Policy and Finance Section manager, National Health Insurance Section manager, Welfare Section manager, Child Support Section manager, Elderly Care Section manager, Health Promotion Section manager, Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock Section manager, Commercial Tourism Section manager, Civil Engineering Section manager, City Board of Education Guidance Section manager, City Board of Education Sports and Lifelong Learning Section manager
Role	The draft of the Safe Community Implementation Plan is enacted using the reports submitted by the Safe Community Task Forces for priorities as reference. Matters related to the promotion of the Safe Community Implementation Plan are deliberated.



(3) Towada City Safe Community Task Forces for priorities

The "Towada Safe Community Task Forces for priorities," comprised of citizen groups and administrative agencies, etc., have been set to review the details and activities of injury prevention programs being conducted for priority challenges regarding injury, etc.



General meeting of Task Forces



Individual Task Force meeting

● Members (As of March 1, 2024)

Task Force	Council composition ◎Chair ○Vice-chair	
<b>(1) Child Safety Task Force (8 members)</b>	Citizen group (4)	○Towada City PTA Federation, NPO Smile Labo, Towada City Women's Association, Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion
	Relevant authority (1)	◎Towada City Childcare Research Group
	City (3)	Child Support Section, Health Promotion Section, City Board of Education Guidance Section
<b>(2) Elderly Safety Task Force (6 members)</b>	Citizen group (1)	Towada Federation of the Senior Citizens' Clubs
	Relevant authority (3)	◎East District Comprehensive Support Center, In-home Care Support Center Oirase, Towada City Social Welfare Council
	City (2)	Elderly Care Section, National Health Insurance Section
<b>(3) Suicide Prevention Task Force (9 members)</b>	Citizen group (4)	◎Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion (2), ○NPO Smile Labo, Kokoro no Kai
	Relevant authority (3)	Kamitosan Health Department, Kamitosan Pharmacist Association Towada Branch, Imota Kazushi Judicial Scrivener Office
	City (2)	Health Promotion Section, Welfare Section
<b>(4) Traffic Incident Prevention Task Force (7 members)</b>	Citizen group (3)	Towada City Federation of Neighborhood Associations, ○Towada City Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety, ◎Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion
	Relevant authority (2)	Towada Police Station, Towada District Traffic City Association
	City (2)	Civil Engineering Section, City Planning Support Section
<b>(5) Disaster Prevention Task Force (9 members)</b>	Citizen group (3)	Towada City Federation of Neighborhood Associations, Towada City Red Cross Volunteers, ○Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion
	Relevant authority (3)	◎Experts (disaster prevention-related businesses), Aomori Prefecture Association of Architects Towada Branch, NPO Aomori Prefecture Association of Disaster Experts Towada Branch
	City (3)	General Affairs Section Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Office, Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters, City Planning Support Section
<b>(6) Violence and Abuse Prevention Task Force (8 members)</b>	Citizen group (2)	◎NPO Smile Labo, Towada Human Rights Advocates Council Towada District
	Relevant authority (2)	Towada Police Station, ○Towada District Childcare Research Group
	City (4)	Child Rearing Generation Parent and Child Support Center, Elderly Care Section, Welfare Section, City Board of Education Guidance Section

<b>(7) Leisure Activity Safety Task Force (8 members)</b>	Citizen group (2)	Towada City/District Sports Promotion Council, Maturito Sanbongi
	Relevant authority (3)	◎Lake Towada Furusato Kasseika Public Corporation, ○Towada Oirase Tourism Bureau, Lake Towada National Park Association
	City (3)	Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters, Commercial Tourism Section, Board of Education Sports and Lifelong Learning Section
<b>(8) Labor Safety Task Force (9 members)</b>	Citizen group (1)	◎Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion
	Relevant authority (6)	Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office, ○Towada City Association of Construction Industry, Kamikita Labor Standards Association, Towada Chamber of Commerce, Towada Oirase Agricultural Cooperative Association, Towada Junior Chamber of Commerce
	City (2)	Commercial Tourism Section, Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock Section

#### (4) Towada City Safe Community Injury Surveillance Committee

The "Towada City Safe Community Injury Surveillance Committee" was established in 2013 to examine how to investigate and record injuries and other trauma, identify issues, evaluate the efforts of each Task Force, and use the results of investigations in order to build a system for injury surveillance.

Members include specialists from the Aomori University of Health and Welfare, with whom a support agreement is entered to promote Safe Community, as well as medical and health related administration specialists, etc.

#### ● Members (5 people) (As of March 1, 2024) ◎Chair ○Vice-chair

Council composition	Persons involved with clerical duties for emergency medicine	1 person	◎Director of Towada City Hospital
	Health related administrative agency employee	1 person	Director of Kamitosan Health Department
	Fire defense related administrative agency employee	1 person	Manager of Towada City Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters
	Experts with relative knowledge and experience	2 people	Aomori University of Health and Welfare ○Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matters related to methods of investigating and recording injuries, etc.</li> <li>• Matters related to identifying challenges regarding injuries, etc. and evaluation of prevention measures</li> <li>• Matters related to using results of investigations on injuries, etc.</li> </ul>		

#### (5) Safe Community expert members

We have experts conduct external evaluations to promote our Safe Community activities.

Dr. Yoko Shiraishi

Director, Japan Institution for Safe Communities

Authorized Coordinator, International Safe Community Certifying Centre

#### 4. Human and Financial Resources for Towada City Safe Community

Towada City promoted the Safe Community program because we have a long history of substantial health promotion activities, many of our citizens are highly aware of volunteerism, and we have ample human resources in various fields, including medicine and welfare. Our Safe Community activities started in October 2005 with a study group organized by the Health and Welfare Departments. Over time, general residents and supporters became involved, and the foundation of our Safe Community was built with the cooperation of these people. This led us to act toward achieving official certification. In 2007, a group of individuals from the study group formed the "Committee to Realize Safe Community Towada." This committee has been leading the Safe Community activities with the slogan "Hoping Every Day is a Safe Day" since its inception. The committee has been renamed to "Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion" and continues to actively participate as a member of the Safe Community Promotion Organization.

In our city, "maintenance of environment" and "regulation and enforcement" are mainly carried out by the national, prefectural, municipal, and other relevant authorities, while the Safe Community Task Forces for priorities mainly carry out "education and promotion." Every year, 264,000 yen is allocated to support the activities of the Safe Community Task Forces for priorities, which amounts to 33,000 yen for each of the eight Task Forces.

In addition, to promote city planning through collaboration between citizens and the administration, projects are implemented to support citizen-led initiatives that contribute to the vitality of the city.

- Main activities of citizen groups participating in Safe Community Task Forces for priorities

Group name	Main activities
Citizens for Towada Safe Community Promotion	Public awareness-raising and lectures on Safe Communities
NPO Smile Labo	Organizing "Chat Rooms for Adults"
Towada Parent-Teacher Association Federation	Contributing to the sound development of children and students
Towada City Women's Association	Social and charitable activities by women
Towada Federation of the Senior Citizens' Clubs	Creating a sense of motivation in the lives of the elderly
Kokoro no Kai	Promoting and raising awareness of "mental health promotion" through picture-story shows.
Towada City Federation of Neighborhood Associations	General community activities
Towada City Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety	Traffic safety activities for citizens (mainly children and the elderly)
Towada City Red Cross Volunteers	Studies on basic matters related to the Red Cross and service activities
Towada Human Rights Advocates Council Towada District	Activities to promote and raise awareness of human rights
Towada City/District Sports Promotion Council	Sports promotion activities
Matsurito Sanbongi	Participation in city events

- Main citizen activities related to Safe Communities

Group name	Main activities
Listening volunteer (keicho in Japanese) Towada	Opening of keicho volunteers
Kokoro no Hiroba "Lupinas"	Opening of keicho volunteers

- Main subsidies for citizen-led groups, etc.

Name of subsidy	Details of subsidies
Project to support citizens' activities to create a lively Towada	Partial subsidies for activities by citizens' groups and local community groups that help solve local issues and revitalize the local area.
Towada Never Retire Project	Subsidies for community contribution activities that make use of the abilities and ideas of citizens, mainly the elderly. (1) Livelihood support type (2) Ikigai (life motivation) and health promotion type
Voluntary disaster prevention group training project	Subsidies for the purchase of disaster prevention equipment and materials for groups that have established their own disaster prevention organizations.

## 5 Outcome Safety Community activities by Prefectural Senior High School students

(1) Awarded the 2021 Prime Minister's Commendation for Safety Achievements

### Prefectural Towada Nishi Senior High School

The “Safe Community Advancement Team Research Activities”, conducted to achieve a safe and secure school, received an award for its significant contribution to promoting safety education.



\*Prefectural Towada Nishi Senior High School closed in March 2023.

(2) Studying Safe Communities as the theme for general inquiry-based class

### Prefectural Sanbongi Agricultural Keitaku Senior High School

Since the school opened in April 2021, the “Safe Community” program has been incorporated into the regular coursework for 1st graders. The students have been working independently on problem-solving.



\*Prefectural Sanbongi Agricultural Senior High School and Prefectural Towada Nishi Senior High School and Prefectural Rokunohe Senior High School merged.

## Indicator 2: Surveillance

### 1. General Image of Injury Surveillance

Towada City collects and analyzes the following data according to the severity of the injury to determine the extent of injuries, from fatalities to minor injuries caused by traumatic injuries.

In addition, data on close-call experiences that did not result in traumatic injuries and awareness of safety and security are collected through citizen questionnaire surveys.

Class	Children [Ages 0 to 14]	Youth [Ages 15 to 24]	Adult [Ages 25 to 64]	Elderly [Ages 65 and older]
Death	[A] Demographic statistics [B] Basic data on suicides by region			
Severe	[G] Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data	[C] Emergency transport data [D] City Hospital consultation data [E] Police statistics [F] Fire Department annual data		
Moderate		[H] Workplace incident statistics		
Minor				
Close-call experience, awareness of safety and security	[I] Safe Community Citizen Survey			
	[J] Perception survey of parents with infants		[K] Perception survey of elderly	
	[L] Farming safety confirmation survey [M] Survey on safety measures for companies and businesses, etc.			
	[N] Survey on disaster prevention			
Others	[O] Data on consultations for violence and abuse, etc.			

## 2. Data Comprising Injury Surveillance and Planning of Ongoing Data Collection

We have used emergency transport data from the Fire Department and medical consultation data from medical institutions in the city since 2011 to understand better the injuries and incidents sustained by citizens and identify any patterns or trends.

Since 2014, we have been using medical visit data from the City Hospital to alleviate the burden on medical institutions in the city.

### (1) Data related to injuries (fatal to minor)

Class	Data (source)	Details	Target	Collection frequency
A	Demographic statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)	Information on deaths	All citizens	Every year
B	Basic data on suicides by region (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)	Information on causes and motives of suicides		
C	Emergency transport data (Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters)	Information on emergency transport due to injury or incident		
D	City Hospital consultation data (Towada City Hospital)	Information on hospital visits due to injury or incident		
E	Police statistics (Towada Police Department)	Information on traffic incidents		
F	Fire Department annual data (Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters)	Information on fires		
G	Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data (Japan Sport Council)	Information on injuries sustained during elementary and junior high school management	Elementary and junior high students	
H	Workplace incident statistics (Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office)	Information on the occurrence of workplace incidents	Workers	

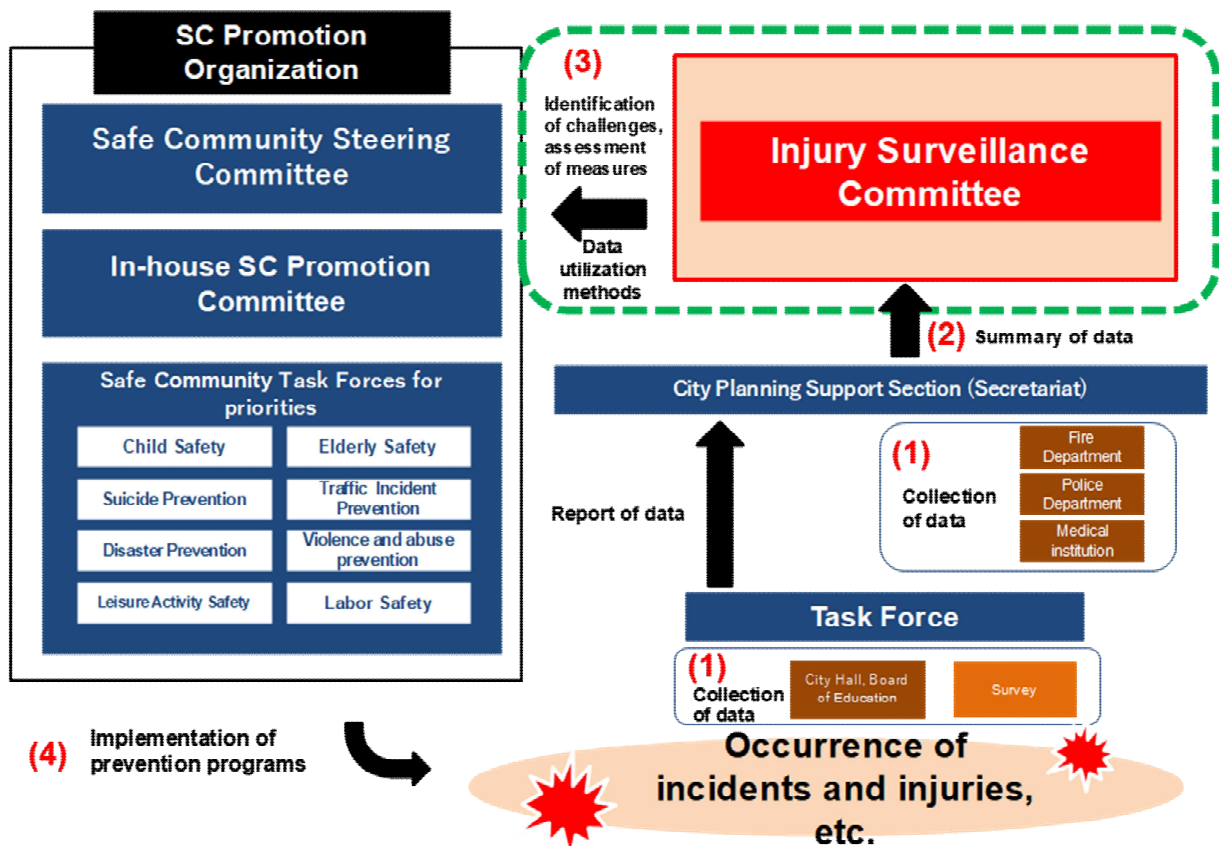
### (2) Data from various sources

Class	Data (source)	Details	Target	Collection frequency
I	Safe Community Citizen Survey (City Hall)	Surveys on perception and indicators of safety and security	Ages 18 and older	Every other year
J	Perception survey of parents with infants and toddlers (City Hall)	Information about close-call experiences at home	Infants/toddlers and parents	Every other year
K	Perception survey of elderly (City Hall)	Information on suffocation and falls on the same level	Elderly	Every year
L	Farming safety confirmation survey (City Hall)	Information on farming incidents	Persons involved with farming	Every year
M	Survey on safety measures for companies and businesses, etc. (City Hall)	Information on initiatives to prevent workplace incidents	Companies and businesses	Every year
N	Survey on disaster prevention (City Hall)	Survey on disaster prevention	Model district	Every other year
O	Data on consultations for violence and abuse, etc. (City Hall, Aomori Prefecture)	Information on the occurrence of violence and abuse incidents and counseling	Children, women, Elderly, people with disabilities	Every year

In Towada City, the Safe Community Injury Surveillance Committee exchanges opinions on methods and records of injury investigations, identification of issues, evaluation of preventive measures taken by each Task Force, and utilization of investigation results.

The various data is collected by the secretariat (city) and submitted to the Injury Surveillance Committee.

The Safe Community Promotion Organization discusses the opinions of the Committee members and implements a preventive measures program.



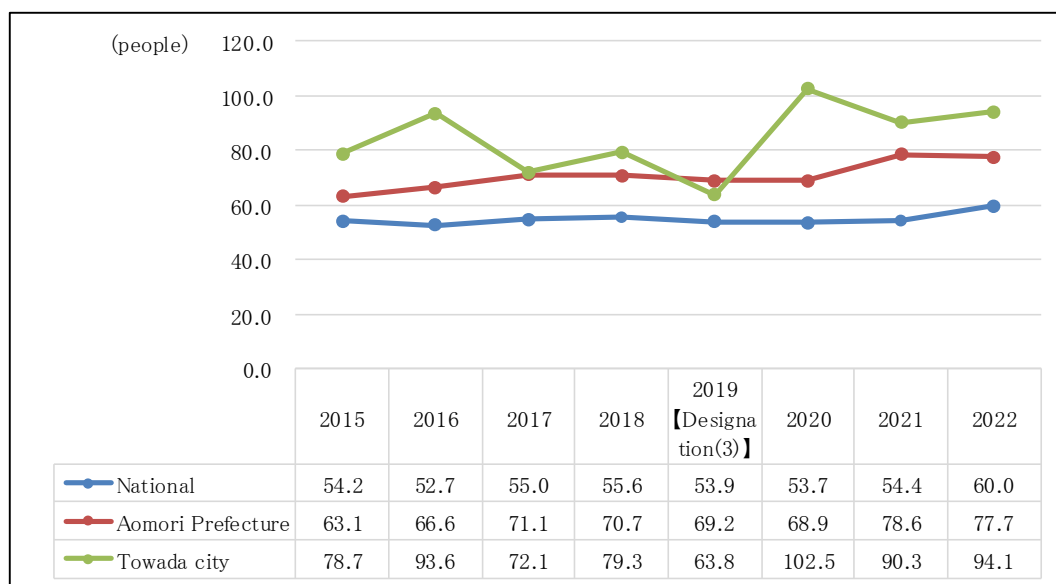
### 3. Analysis of Data

#### (1) Situation of deaths from external causes

##### 1. Yearly trends in death rate and number of deaths due to external causes

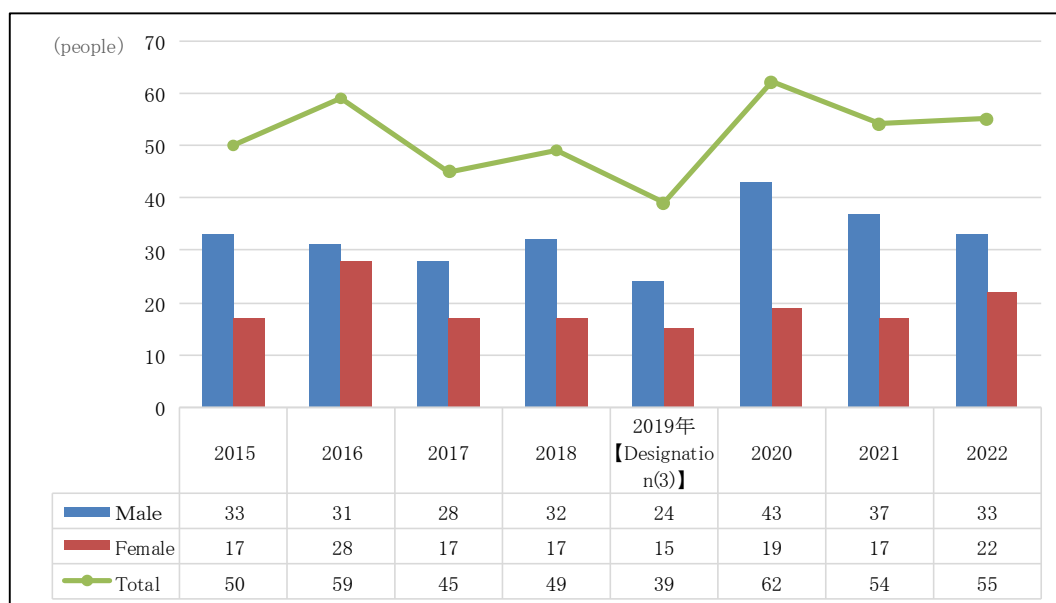
The city's death rate from external causes had been decreasing up to the last designation in 2020 and fell below the prefecture's level in 2019. However, it temporarily increased in 2020 and has remained high. In all years, more males than females have died.

Fig. 2-1 Yearly trends in death rate due to external causes (per 100,000 population)



Source: Demographic Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Fig. 2-2 Yearly trends in the number of deaths due to external causes



Source: Demographic Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)



## 2. Cause of death from external causes by age group

Looking at the top five causes of death from external causes by age group from 2018 to 2022, "suicide" is the most common cause of death in the age groups from teens to 70s, "drowning and near-drowning" and "(injuries from )traffic incidents" in the younger age groups, and "suffocation," "drowning and near-drowning," and "falls on the same level/falls from higher places" in the elderly age groups.

There have been no deaths of children under 9 years of age in the last 5 years.

Fig. 2-3 Cause of death from external causes by age group

\* The numbers do not match the total number, as other unintentional incidents and other external causes have been omitted.

\* Smoke, fire: Exposure to smoke, fire, or flames

[2018-2022]

(people)

Age group	Total number	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
9 and younger	0	—	—	—	—	—
10s	3	Suicide	2 Drowning and near-drowning	1	—	—
20s	10	Suicide	7 Traffic incident	2	—	—
30s	9	Suicide	6 Drowning and near-drowning	2 Murder	1	—
40s	11	Suicide	9 Traffic incident	1	—	—
50s	16	Suicide	7 Suffocation	2 Traffic incident	1 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	1
60s	33	Suicide	13 Suffocation	6 Traffic incident	3 Drowning and near-drowning	2
70s	51	Suicide	16 Suffocation	10 Drowning and near-drowning	10 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	5 Smoke, fire*
80s	87	Suffocation	17 Drowning and near-drowning	12 Traffic incident	11 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	10 Suicide
90s and order	39	Suffocation	7 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	7 Drowning and near-drowning	3 smoke/fire※	3
Total	259	Suicide	70 Suffocation	42 Drowning and near-drowning	30 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	24 Traffic incident

[2013-2017]

(people)

Age group	Total number	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
9 and younger	2	Suffocation	1 Drowning and near-drowning	1	—	—
10s	4	Suicide	3 Traffic incident	1	—	—
20s	6	Suicide	3 Drowning and near-drowning	2 Traffic incident	1	—
30s	12	Suicide	7 Traffic incident	4 Suffocation	1	—
40s	23	Suicide	12 Traffic incident	3 Drowning and near-drowning	2 Suffocation	1 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place
50s	22	Suicide	12 Suffocation	2 Traffic incident	2 Drowning and near-drowning	1 Smoke, fire*
60s	45	Suicide	14 Suffocation	11 Traffic incident	5 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	5 Drowning and near-drowning
70s	58	Suicide	18 Suffocation	13 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	7 Traffic incident	4 Drowning and near-drowning
80s	65	Suicide	12 Suffocation	10 Drowning/near-drownin	10 Traffic incident	7 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place
90s and order	27	Suffocation	10 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place	4 Suicide	2 Drowning and near-drowning	1
Total	264	Suicide	83 Suffocation	49 Traffic incident	27 Drowning and near-drowning	25 Fall on the same level/ Fall from a higher place

Source: Demographic Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

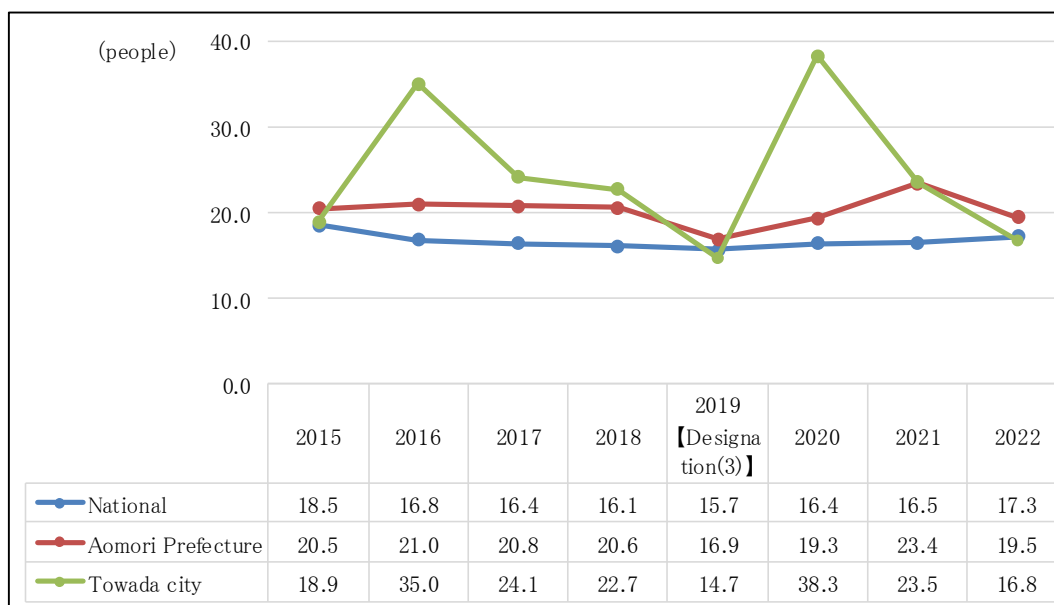
## (2) Situation of suicides

### 1. Yearly trends in suicide death rate and number of suicide deaths

The city's suicide death rate has been decreasing annually, falling below the national and prefectural rates in 2019, temporarily increasing in 2020, and decreasing again in 2021.

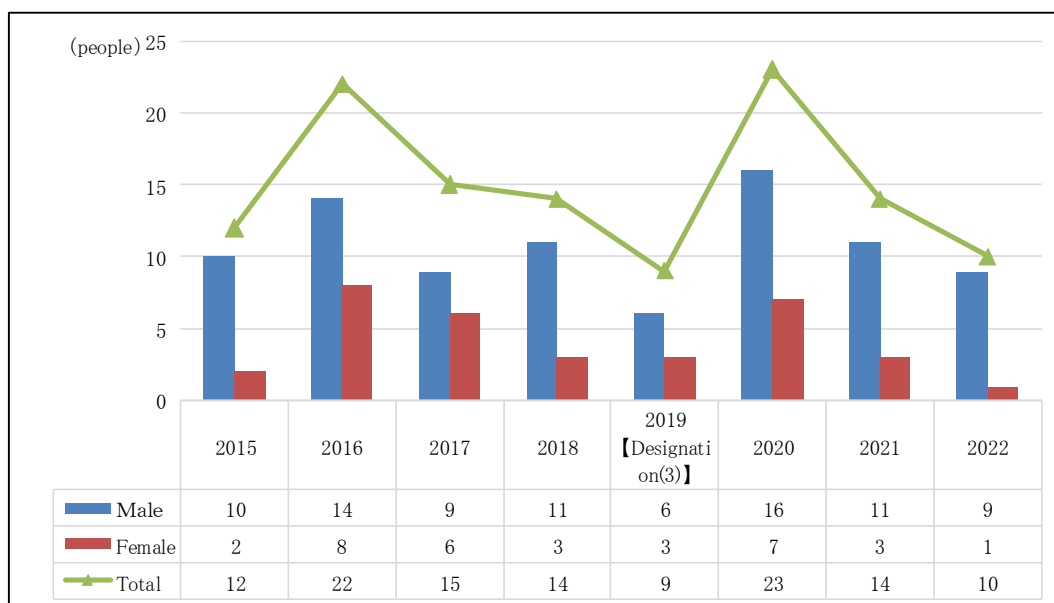
In all years, more males than females have died.

Fig. 2-4 Yearly trends in suicide death rate (per 100,000 people)



Source: Demographic Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Fig. 2-5 Yearly trends in the number of suicide deaths



Source: Demographic Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

## 2. Suicide deaths by gender and age

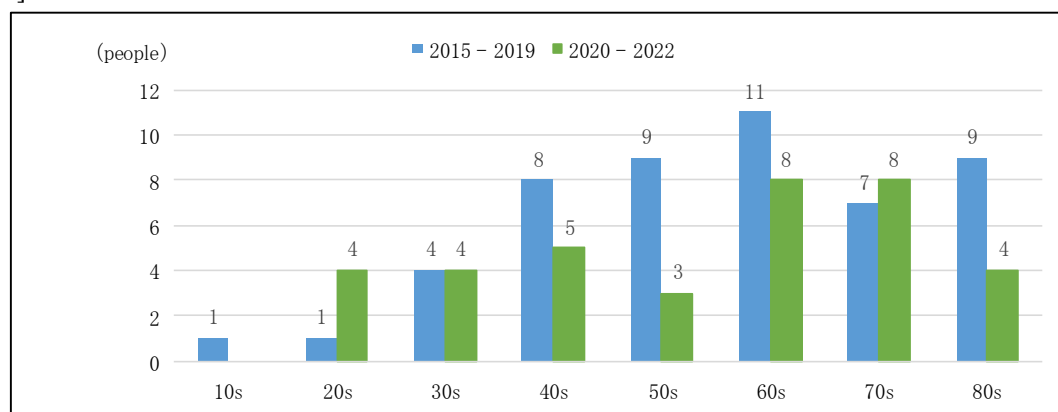
Looking at the number of suicide deaths by gender and age, up to the last designation in 2020, the number of male suicide deaths was higher in a wide range of generations, while the number of female suicide deaths was higher among those in their 70s.

Since the last designation, the number of suicide deaths among individuals in their 20s has exceeded the previous five-year record for both men and women.

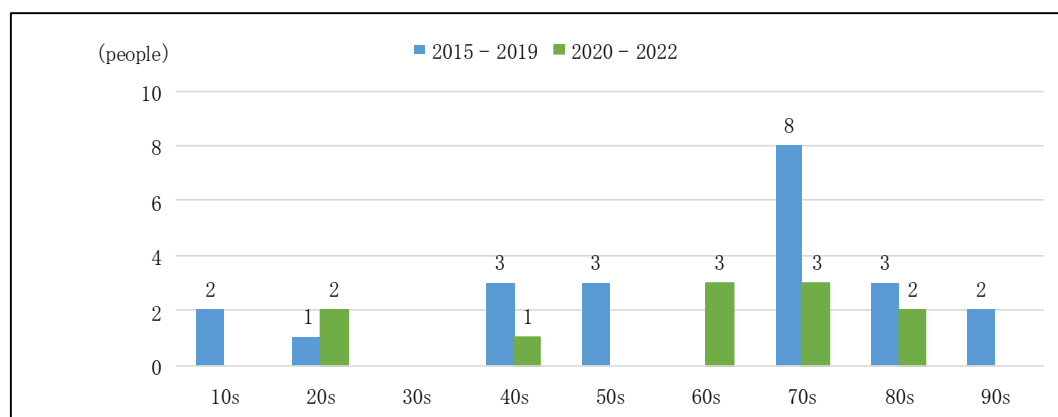
The number of suicide deaths among those in their 60s and older is also higher for both men and women.

Fig. 2-6 Suicide deaths by gender and age

[Male]



[Female]



Source: Demographic Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

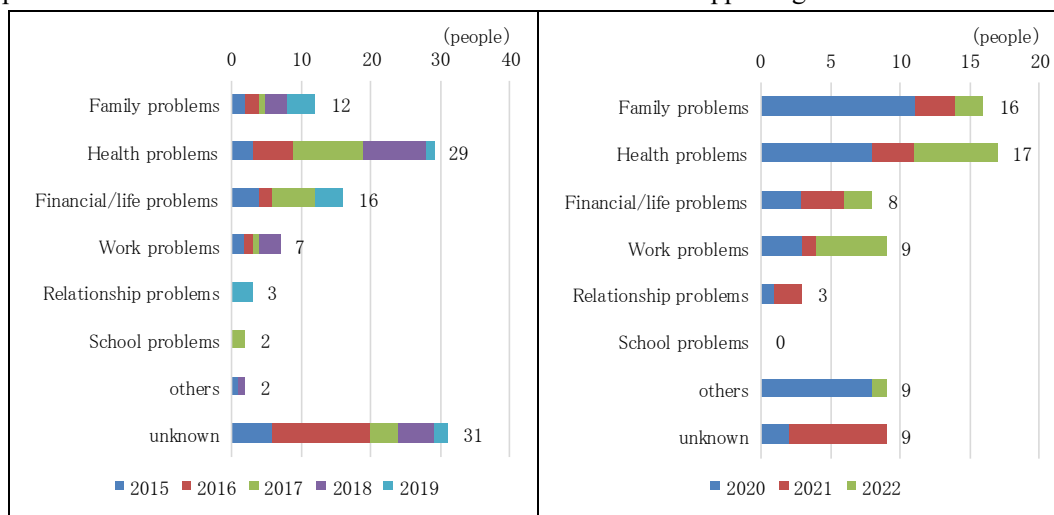
### 3. Causes and motives of suicides

"Health problems" were the most common cause of death. However, the number of suicides due to "family problems" and "work problems" has increased since the last designation.

Fig. 2-7 Causes and motives of suicides

Refer to Fig.6-1& Fig. 6-2 (p 8) of Suicide prevention PPT for up-dated information. ,

\* Up to four causes and motives inferred from suicide notes and supporting documents were recorded.



Source: Basic data on suicides by region (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

### 4. Presence of co-habitant

Looking at the presence or absence of a co-habitant among suicide victims, the rate of those with a co-habitant is higher in our city than at the national and prefectural levels. In our city, there is a problem of failure to recognize the signs of suicide in people close to them.

Fig. 2-8 Presence of co-habitant with suicide victim

Refer to Fig.7(p98) of Suicide prevention PPT for up-dated information.

Class	Towada City			Aomori Prefecture			National		
Co-habitant	Present	Absent	Unknown	Present	Absent	Unknown	Present	Absent	Unknown
2015-2019	74.7%	24.1%	1.3%	74.3%	25.5%	0.2%	67.1%	32.0%	0.9%
2020-2022	76.6%	23.4%	0.0%	71.2%	28.5%	0.4%	65.1%	34.1%	0.8%

Source: Basic data on suicides by region (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

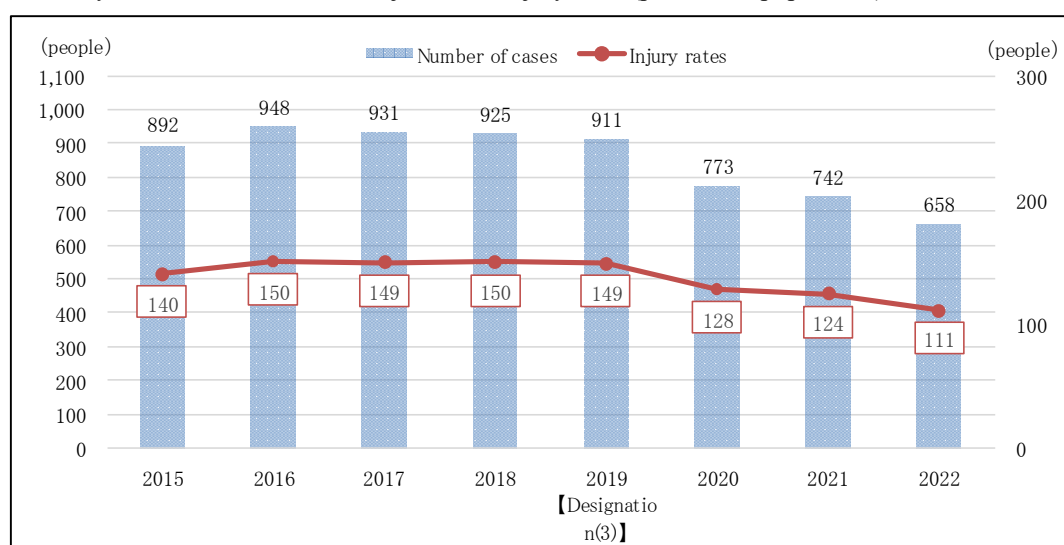
### (3) Situation of Injuries (overall)

#### 1. Yearly trends in the number of injured persons and injury rates

Looking at the number of injured persons, the number of injured persons remained unchanged until 2019, however, it has been on a downward trend since 2020. It is believed that this includes the impact of COVID-19 cases.

Injury rates have also been on a downward trend since 2020.

Fig. 2-9 Yearly trends in the number of injuries and injury rates (per 10,000 population)



Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

#### 2. Mechanism of Injury (Incident type by Emergency transport data code)

Looking at the number of injured persons by incident type, more than half of the injuries are "general injuries" sustained during daily life, followed by "traffic incidents."

Looking at the rates after 2020, the rates of "traffic incidents" and "sports/games" have decreased, but this is thought to include the impact of COVID-19.

In our city, incidents are categorized into the following 10 different categories.

General injury (*)	Traffic incident	Sports/games	Workplace incident	Self-harm
Farming work	Assault	Fire	Water-related	Others

(\*) One of the codes for incident types (mechanism) in Emergency Transport Data which is set upon the national standard in Japan. "General injury" covers all injuries which are not covered by other codes for certain injury mechanism such as traffic incident, sport activities, activities at work place, "self-harm" and being suffered by natural disasters, and so on.

Fig. 2-10 Rate of injured persons by incident type

Class	General injury	Traffic incident	Sports/games	Workplace incident	Self-harm	Farming work	Assault	Fire	Water-related	Others
2015-2019 (n=4,607)	64.1%	18.8%	6.6%	5.5%	2.8%	1.4%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
2020-2022 (n=2,173)	66.7%	15.3%	3.9%	6.6%	4.0%	2.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data



### 3. Rate of injuries by age group

The injury rate in the city is on a downward trend, as explained in "1. Yearly trends in the number of injured persons and injury rates."

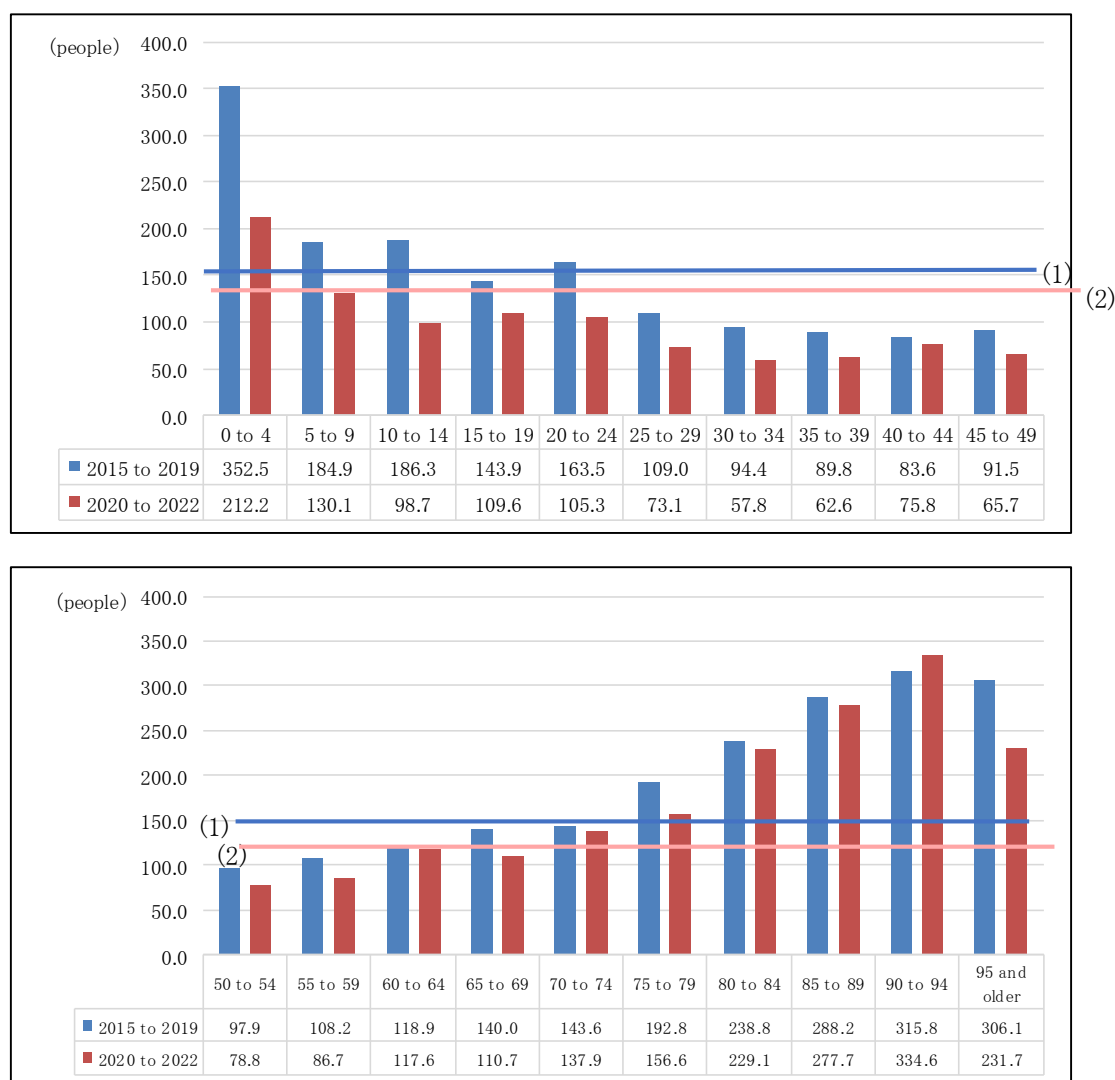
Looking at this injury rate by age group (5-year age group), the figures are higher than the average injury rate for those aged 9 years and younger and those aged 70 years and older.

Fig. 2-11 Rate of injured persons (per 10,000 population) (people)

Class	2015-2019 (1)	2020-2022 (2)
Average injury rate (overall)	147.8	121.1

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-12 Rate of injured persons by age group (per 10,000 population)



Source: Emergency transport and medical institution consultation data

#### (4) State of injury among children at high risk of injury

##### ● Ages 0-4

##### 1. Incident types and injury severity for 0 to 4-year-olds

Looking at 0 to 4-year-olds by incident type, most of the injuries are "general injuries."

In terms of the rate of injury severity, most are minor injuries. There has been no significant change in these two categories since the last designation.

Fig. 2-13 Incident types and injury severity

Class	Incident type			Injury severity			
	General injury	Traffic incident	Others	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Death
2015-2019 (n = 367)	97.5%	2.5%	0.0%	98.6%	1.4%	0%	0%
2020-2022 (n = 114)	92.1%	7.0%	0.9%	95.6%	4.4%	0%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

##### 2. Place of general injury occurrence

Looking at where the general injuries occurred, the majority of the injuries occurred at "home (indoors)."

We believe that the other rates have increased since the last designation because we have significantly reduced the number of injuries sustained at home (indoors), which used to account for the majority of the injuries.

Fig. 2-14 Place of general injury occurrence

Class	Home (indoors)	Home (outdoors)	Home (others)	Nursery school, public facility	Sidewalk, road	Business, service facility	Others/unknown
2015-2019 (n = 358)	70.1%	5.0%	0.6%	7.8%	1.7%	2.8%	12.0%
2020-2022 (n = 105)	64.8%	11.4%	1.0%	10.5%	1.9%	4.8%	5.7%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

##### 3. Causes of general injuries sustained at home (indoors)

When it comes to general injuries sustained at home (indoors), a significant number result from "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places." The city has been working on preventing "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places" of infants and toddlers indoors.

After the previous designation in 2020, there has been a significant decrease in the number of injuries for most causes. This indicates that our efforts to raise awareness of injury prevention have been successful, including for "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places."

Fig. 2-15 Causes of general injuries sustained at home (indoors)

\*Others include "be caught, compression," "insect sting," "aspiration," "suffocation," etc.

(people)

Class	Fall on the same level	Fall from a higher place	Burn	Contact or collision	Unintentional ingestion	Cut, puncture	Others
2015-2019 (n = 251)	51	57	44	39	18	20	22
2020-2022 (n = 68)	14	15	18	10	2	0	9

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data



● Ages 5-14

1. Incident types and injury severity for 5 to 14-year-olds

Next, looking at incident types among the 5 to 14 age group, which had a higher-than-average injury rate prior to the previous designation, the rates are significantly different for the 5 to 9 age group, which is from the second year of kindergarten to early elementary school, and the 10 to 14 age group, which is from upper elementary school to junior high school.

As the children gradually become more active at the age of 5 to 9, injuries due to "sports/games" begin to occur.

At ages 10 to 14, when the number of children who are enrolled in extracurricular activities and clubs increases sharply, the rate of "sports/games" injuries rises to the same level as that of "general injuries."

Since the last designation, the number of injuries has decreased significantly in both cases, but this is thought to include the impact of COVID-19.

Looking at the severity of injuries, the majority of injuries in both the 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 age groups are "minor."

When looking at the types of injuries of moderate severity or higher, the number of injuries sustained during "sports/games" is thought to have decreased due to COVID-19, but the number of injuries in other types of incidents is already the same or higher than in the previous five years(2015-2019).

Fig. 2-16 Incident types and injury severity for 5 to 9-year-olds

Class	Incident type			Injury severity			
	General injury	Traffic incident	Sports/games	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Death
2015-2019 (n = 218)	85.3%	8.7%	6.0%	95.0%	5.0%	0%	0%
2020-2022 (n = 85)	77.6%	14.1%	8.2%	89.4%	9.4%	1.2%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-17 Incident types and injury severity for 10 to 14-year-olds

\* 1.2% (self-harm, farming, etc.) as others and 0.4% as unknown to the extent of injury or illness are included in the incident types for 2015 to 2019.

\*1.4% (self-harm) as others are included in the incident types for 2020 to 2022.

Class	Incident type			Injury severity			
	General injury	Traffic incident	Sports/games	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Death
2015-2019 (n = 249)	42.6%	15.3%	41.0%	94.8%	4.4%	0.4%	0%
2020-2022 (n = 72)	44.4%	16.7%	37.5%	88.9%	9.4%	1.4%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-18 Types of incidents resulting in injuries of moderate severity or greater (people)

Class	Ages 5 to 9			Ages 10 to 14				
	General injury	Traffic incident	Total	General injury	Traffic incident	Sports/games	Self-harm	Total
2015-2019	7	4	11	4	3	5	—	12
2020-2022	4	5	9	4	2	1	1	8

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

## 2. Place of general injury and sports/games injury occurrence

Among the places where general injuries occur, the most common place for children aged 5 to 9 is "home (indoors)." However, injuries can also happen at "home (outdoors)," "schools, public facilities," and other places. Nevertheless, there is also a rate categorized as "unknown" where the place of occurrence is not known.

Among those aged 10 to 14, the five categories are "home (indoors)," "home (outdoors)," "schools, public facilities," "sidewalk, road," and "unknown."

The decrease in the rate of "schools, public facilities" since the last designation is thought to include the impact of COVID-19.

Looking at the places where sports/games injuries occur, those aged 5 to 9 are more likely to be injured in "sports facilities (mostly ski resorts and soccer fields)," while those aged 10 to 14 are more likely to be injured in "schools, public facilities."

Fig. 2-19 Place of general injury occurrence for 5 to 9-year-olds

Class	Home (indoors)	Home (outdoors)	School, public facility	Sidewalk, road	Business, service facility	Others	Unknown
2015-2019 (n = 186)	37.6%	14.5%	18.3%	7.0%	3.2%	5.9%	13.4%
2020-2022 (n = 66)	47.0%	10.6%	4.5%	4.5%	3.0%	6.1%	16.7%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-20 Place of general injury occurrence for 10 to 14-year-olds

Class	Home (indoors)	Home (outdoors)	School, public facility	Sidewalk, road	Business, service facility	Others	Unknown
2015-2019 (n = 106)	25.5%	8.5%	27.4%	19.8%	0.9%	5.7%	12.3%
2020-2022 (n = 32)	25.0%	18.8%	15.6%	21.9%	3.1%	0%	15.6%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-21 Place of sports/games injury occurrence

\* n is the total number of children aged 5 to 9 in (1) and 10 to 14 in (2).

Class	(1) Ages 5-9				(2) Ages 10-14			
	School, public facility	Sports facility	Others	Unknown	School, public facility	Sports facility	Others	Unknown
2015-2019 [(1) n=13, (2) n=102]	46.2%	58.3%	0%	0%	75.6%	19.6%	1.9%	2.9%
2020-2022 [(1) n=7, (2) n=27]	14.3%	57.1%	14.3%	14.3%	66.7%	33.3%	0%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

## 3. Injuries occurring at elementary schools

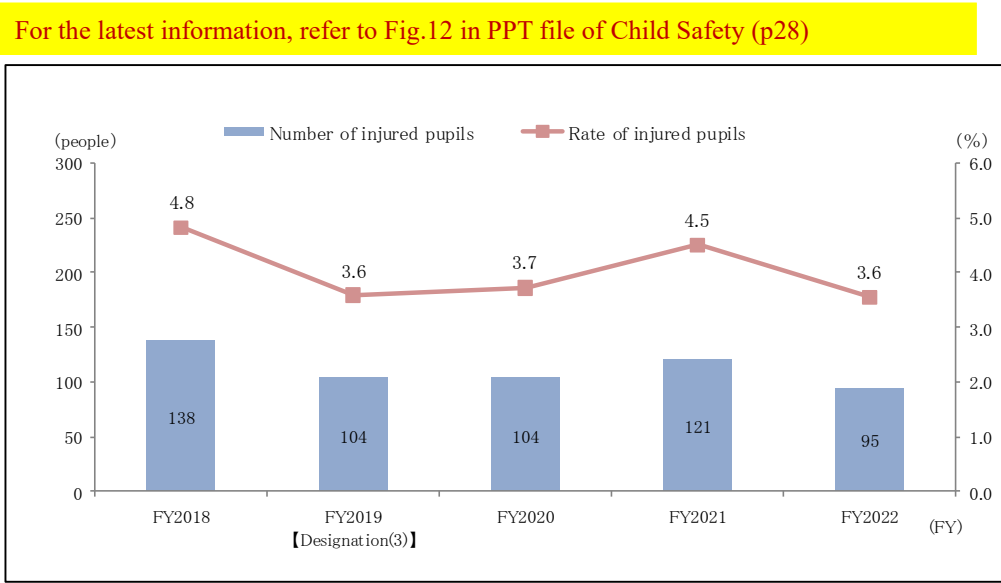
The rate of injury in "schools, public facilities" is higher among 5 to 14-year-olds. Looking at the number of injuries occurring during elementary school management from the Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data, there were 95 reported cases of injuries in 2022, which represented 3.6% of the total number of children.

According to the emergency transport and City Hospital visit data, the number of injuries sustained in "schools, public facilities" decreased after the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. However, in this data, the number of injuries remained unchanged.

Looking at the situation at the time of injury, "recess" accounted for the highest rate at 46.3%, followed by "class (physical education)." at 36.8%. The main types of injuries were "fractures" (28 injuries) and "contusions/bruises" (27 injuries).

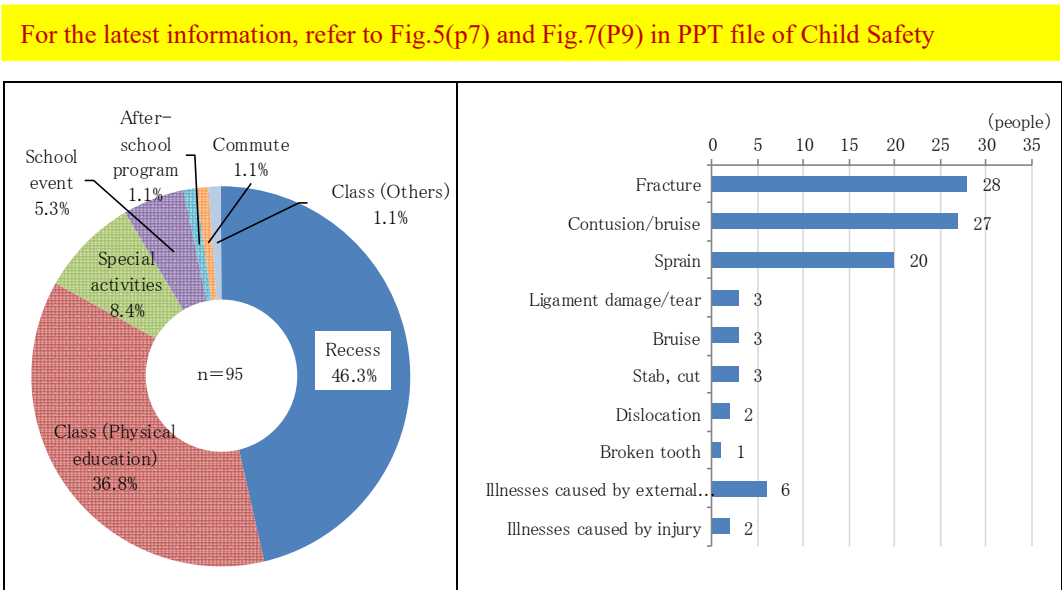
While injuries are a part of growing up, we are challenged by the high rate of injuries sustained during "recess," a time when teachers and faculty are not present.

Fig. 2-22 Number of injuries and rate of injury at elementary schools (FY2018-FY2022)



Source: Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data (Japan Sport Council)

Fig. 2-23 State and details of injuries at elementary schools (FY2022)



Source: Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data (Japan Sport Council)

#### 4. Injuries occurring at junior high schools

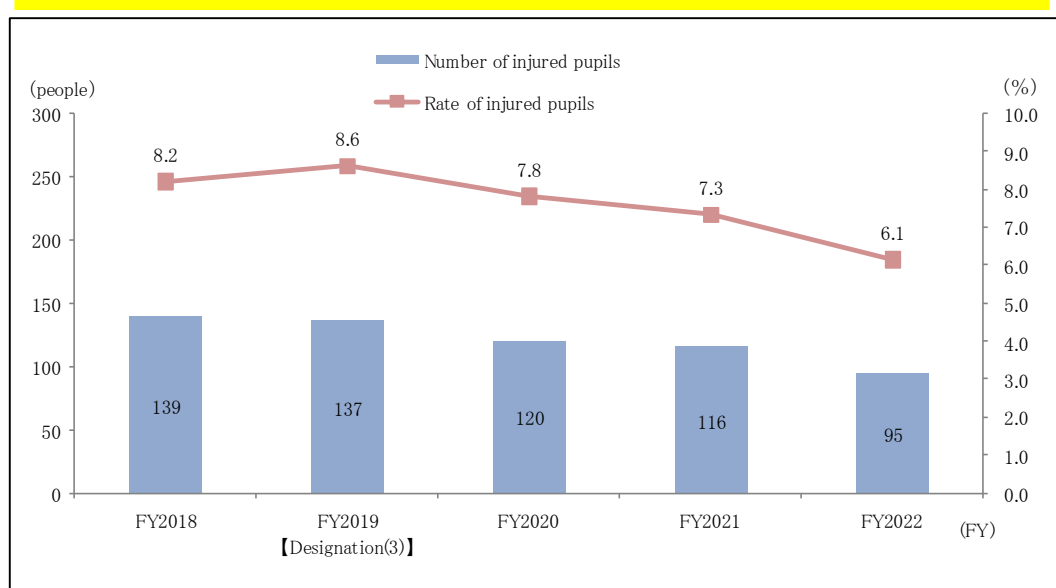
In 2022, 95 cases of injuries occurred at junior high schools. The rate of injuries among students was 6.1%.

Comparing the injury situation while under junior high school management, injuries have been on a downward trend since 2020.

49.5% of injuries occurred during "after-school programs" (club activities, etc.), followed by 24.2% occurring during "class (physical education)." The main types of injuries were "fractures" (41 injuries) and "contusions/bruises" (16 injuries).

Fig. 2-24 Number of injuries and rate of injury at junior high schools (FY2018-FY2022)

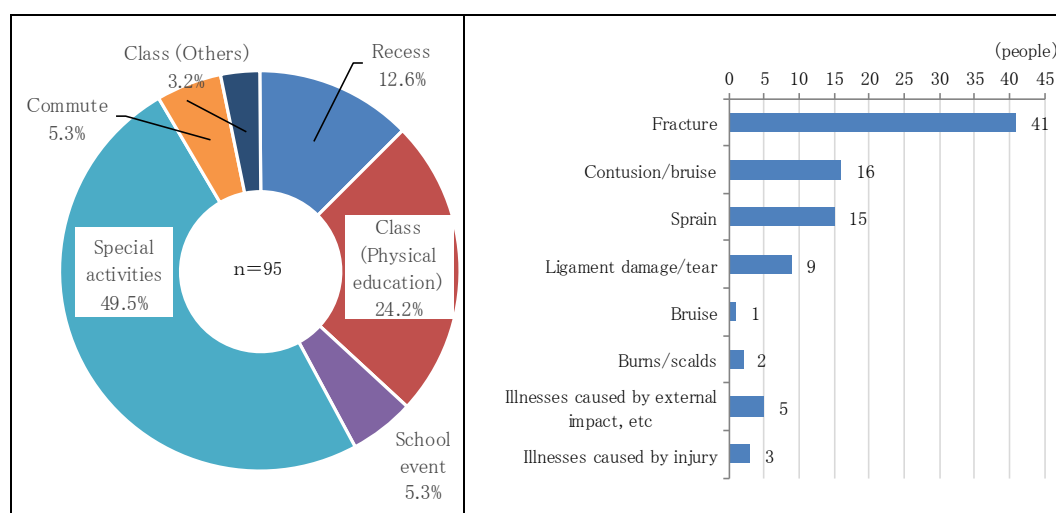
For the latest information, refer to Fig.6 in PPT file of Child Safety (p8)



Source: Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data (Japan Sport Council)

Fig. 2-25 State and details of injuries at junior high schools (FY2022)

For the latest information, refer to Fig.6 (p8) and Fig. 9(p7)in PPT file of Child Safety



Source: Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit data (Japan Sport Council)

(5) State of injury among elderly at high risk of injury

1. Incident types and injury severity by age group

Looking at the state of injury among the elderly by type of incident, "general injuries " are high in all ages, and the rate increases as the age group increases.

Looking at the rate of injury severity, the rates of "moderate" and "severe" injuries, which could affect the rest of one's life, increase with age.

Fig. 2-26 Type of incident among the elderly by age group

Class		General injury	Traffic incident	Self-harm	Workplace incident	Farming work	Others
2015-2019	Ages 65 to 74 (n = 701)	65.9%	21.3%	2.9%	5.4%	3.3%	1.3%
	Ages 75 to 84 (n = 702)	76.8%	17.7%	2.4%	1.4%	1.1%	0.6%
	Ages 85 to 94 (n = 406)	88.4%	8.4%	1.5%	0.2%	1.0%	0.5%
	Ages 95 and older (n = 34)	100.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2020-2022	Ages 65 to 74 (n = 391)	70.6%	14.3%	3.8%	5.6%	3.6%	2.0%
	Ages 75 to 84 (n = 367)	77.4%	15.8%	2.7%	1.1%	1.9%	1.1%
	Ages 85 to 94 (n = 288)	89.9%	6.3%	1.4%	0.3%	1.0%	1.0%
	Ages 95 and older (n = 20)	100.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-27 Severity of injury among elderly by age group

\* The total number in each age group is the same as Fig. 2-26 and has been omitted.

Class		Minor	Moderate	Severe	Death	Unknown
2015-2019	Ages 65 to 74	70.3%	19.0%	8.3%	2.0%	0.4%
	Ages 75 to 84	60.8%	27.1%	8.5%	3.4%	0.1%
	Ages 85 to 94	51.0%	31.8%	13.5%	3.2%	0.5%
	Ages 95 and older	50.0%	35.3%	14.7%	0.0%	0.0%
2020-2022	Ages 65 to 74	65.7%	23.5%	7.4%	3.3%	--
	Ages 75 to 84	54.0%	30.2%	12.3%	3.5%	--
	Ages 85 to 94	46.5%	39.6%	10.1%	3.8%	--
	Ages 95 and older	65.0%	25.0%	10.0%	0.0%	--

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

2. Place of general injury <sup>(\*)</sup> occurrence

Looking at the place where general injuries occur, more than half of the injuries in all age groups were sustained in daily life at "home (indoors)" and "home (outdoors)."

(\*) One of the codes for incident types (mechanism) in Emergency Transport Data which is set upon the national standard in Japan. "General injury" covers all injuries which are not covered by other codes for certain injury mechanism such as traffic incident, sport activities, activities at work place, "self-harm" and being suffered by natural disasters, and so on.

Fig. 2-28 Place of general injuries sustained by elderly by age group

Class		Home (indoors)	Home (outdoors)	Sidewalk, road	Business, service facility	Home (others)	Others	Unknown
2015-2019	Ages 65 to 74 (n = 462)	36.6%	19.3%	14.7%	5.8%	2.8%	10.8%	10.0%
	Ages 75 to 84 (n = 539)	49.2%	17.3%	13.0%	4.3%	4.1%	5.2%	7.1%
	Ages 85 to 94 (n = 359)	63.8%	13.1%	7.0%	3.1%	5.6%	5.0%	2.5%
	Ages 95 and older (n = 34)	58.8%	5.9%	8.8%	8.8%	11.8%	0.0%	5.9%
2020-2022	Ages 65 to 74 (n = 276)	33.7%	24.6%	15.9%	4.7%	1.8%	7.2%	12.0%
	Ages 75 to 84 (n = 284)	51.1%	20.8%	9.9%	3.2%	5.3%	3.2%	6.7%
	Ages 85 to 94 (n = 259)	64.9%	11.6%	9.3%	3.1%	5.0%	2.7%	3.5%
	Ages 95 and older (n = 20)	65.0%	10.0%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%	0.0%	5.0%

\* Home (others) includes nursing homes, etc.

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

### 3. Causes of general injuries sustained at home (indoors) and at home (outdoors)

Looking at the causes of general injuries sustained by the elderly at home (indoors) and at home (outdoors), many of the injuries were caused by "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places." The city has been addressing the issue of falls on the same level and falls from higher places in the daily lives of the elderly.

Since the previous designation, the injury rate among the elderly has remained almost unchanged (Fig. 2-12), and the rates of "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places" have also remained almost unchanged.

The city will continue to address falls on the same level and falls from higher places as an issue as the population continues to age.

Fig. 2-29 Causes of general injuries sustained at home (indoors) and at home (outdoors)

Class		Fall on the same level	Fall from a higher place	Cut, puncture	Insect sting	Suffocation	Unintentional ingestion	Others
2015-2019	Ages 65 to 74 (n = 258)	50.0%	11.6%	13.6%	6.6%	2.7%	3.5%	12.0%
	Ages 75 to 84 (n = 358)	63.1%	9.8%	4.5%	6.1%	5.0%	2.8%	8.7%
	Ages 85 to 94 (n = 276)	76.4%	7.6%	0.0%	0.7%	5.4%	1.4%	8.3%
	Ages 95 and older (n = 22)	90.9%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%
2020-2022	Ages 65 to 74 (n = 161)	54.7%	9.9%	13.7%	10.6%	2.5%	0.6%	8.1%
	Ages 75 to 84 (n = 204)	67.6%	11.8%	2.9%	4.9%	2.9%	1.5%	8.3%
	Ages 85 to 94 (n = 198)	74.7%	8.6%	0.5%	2.0%	4.0%	2.0%	8.1%
	Ages 95 and older (n = 15)	73.3%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

## (6) Situation of injuries from workplace **injuries**

### 1. Situation of workplace incident occurrence

The year-to-year trend of the number of workplace incidents in Towada City that required four or more days of absence from work has remained unchanged.

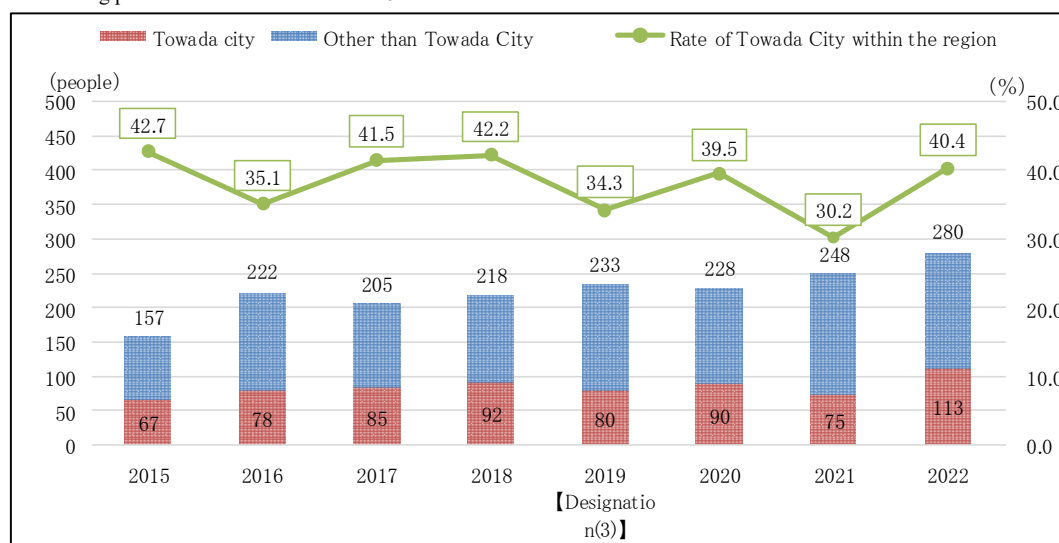
In 2022, there were 113 workplace incidents, including 32 fall (on the same level/from a higher place) incidents that occurred during winter due to snow and ice.

By type of industry, many of these incidents occurred in the "manufacturing," "commerce," "construction," and "social welfare facilities" sectors.

Fig. 2-30 Workplace incidents (4 or more days absent work) within Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office jurisdiction

\* Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office jurisdiction: Towada City, Misawa City, Kamikita District (excluding Yokohama Town and Rokkasho Village)

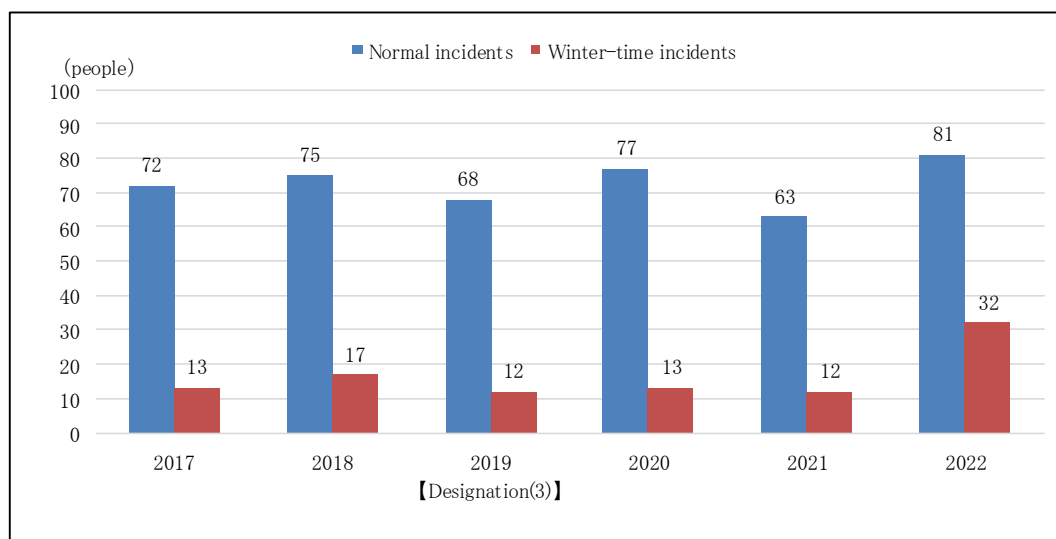
\* Excluding persons infected with COVID-19.



Source : Workplace incident statistics (Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office)

Fig. 2-31 Workplace incidents (4 or more days absent work)

\* Recording of this data started in 2017.



Source : Workplace incident statistics (Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office)

Fig. 2-32 Rate of workplace incidents by industry

Class	Manufacturing	Commerce	Construction	Social welfare facilities	Land cargo transportation industry	Agriculture
2015-2019 (n = 402)	22.4%	14.9%	14.4%	14.2%	4.0%	1.7%
2020-2022 (n = 278)	17.3%	12.2%	19.8%	13.7%	3.6%	2.9%

Source : Workplace incident statistics (Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office)

## 2. Cause of workplace incident injuries

Looking at the causes of workplace injuries, "falls on the same level" and "crashing/falls from higher places" account for half of all injuries.

Fig. 2-33 Cause of workplace incident injuries (4 or more days absent work)

\* Other causes include "contact with hot or cold objects," "collapse or toppling," "flying/dropping," and "exposure to hazardous substances," etc.

\* Recording of this data started in 2017.

Class	Fall on the same level	Crashing/fall from a higher place	Reactionary motion	Be collided	Cut, scrape	Be caught, etc.	Collision	Traffic incident	Others
2017-2019 (n=257)	35.4%	17.1%	11.3%	6.2%	6.2%	7.8%	3.9%	5.4%	6.6%
2020-2022 (n=278)	37.1%	16.5%	11.2%	6.8%	5.8%	6.5%	4.3%	3.6%	8.3%

Source : Workplace incident statistics (Towada Labor Standards Inspection Office)

In Towada City, workplace incidents occur in industries with a high percentage of workers (Fig. 1-9), such as secondary industries (manufacturing and construction) and tertiary industries (commerce and social welfare facilities). The main causes of these incidents are those caused by "falls on the same level" and "crashing/falls from higher places."

## (7) Situation of injuries during farming work

### 1. Rate of injured persons by age group

The number of people engaged in agriculture, a key industry in our city, is aging every year and is on a declining trend (Fig. 1-8).

The rate of injuries during farming work by age group shows that those in their 60s and older account for a high share of the total number of injuries.

Fig. 2-34 Rate of persons injured during farming work

Class	39 and younger	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90 and older
2015-2019 (n = 65)	4.5%	6.1%	15.2%	40.9%	19.7%	12.1%	1.5%
				74.2%			
2020-2022 (n = 43)	9.3%	16.3%	7.0%	23.3%	32.6%	7.0%	4.7%
				67.4%			

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

## 2. Causes of injuries during farming work

The most common cause of injury in farming is "insect stings." Other causes include "falls on the same level," "falls from higher places," "be caught, compression," "cut, puncture," and a wide variety of other injuries.

Fig. 2-35 Causes of injuries during farming work



Class	Insect sting	Fall on the same level	Fall from a higher place	Be caught, compression	Cut, puncture	Contact or collision	Burn	Others
2015-2019 (n = 65)	27.7%	20.0%	0.0%	13.8%	10.8%	1.5%	1.5%	24.6%
2020-2022 (n = 43)	32.6%	11.6%	11.6%	2.3%	9.3%	2.3%	0.0%	30.2%

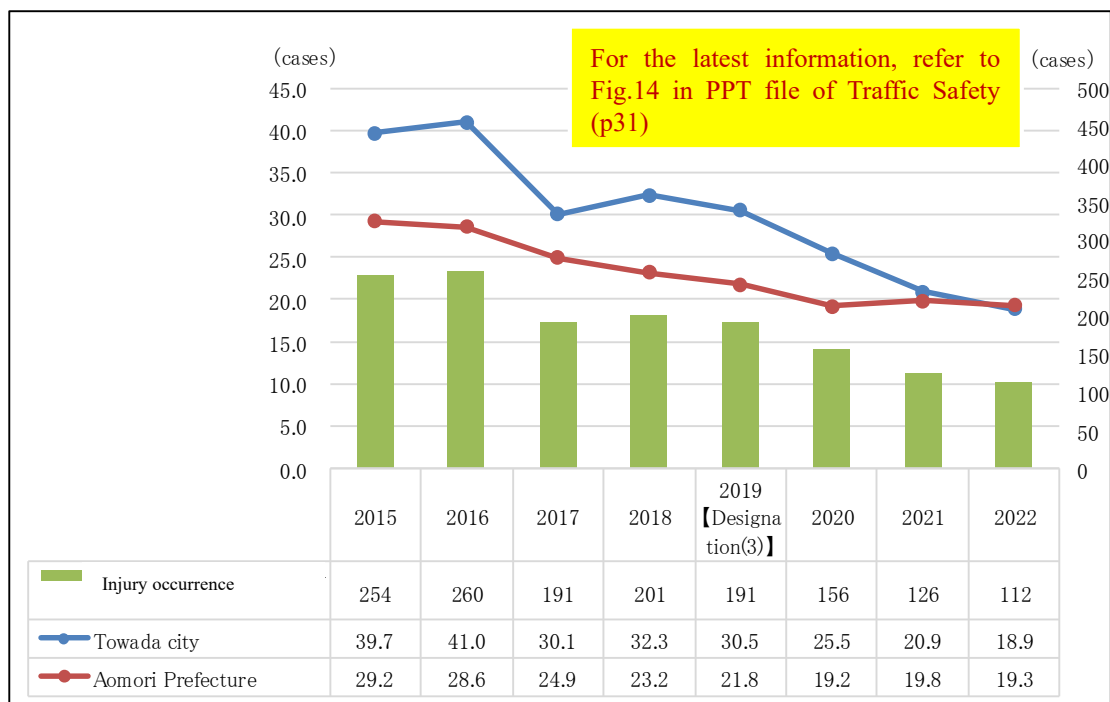
Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

## (8) Situation of injuries from traffic incidents

### 1. Yearly trends of personal injury incidents

When comparing the number of personal injury incidents (per 10,000 people) in Towada City and the prefecture, Towada City consistently had a higher incidence rate, but in 2022, it fell below the prefecture's average.

Fig. 2-36 Trends of injury occurrence (per 10,000 people)



Source: Police statistics (Towada Police Office Jurisdiction)

### 2. Place of traffic incident occurrence

Compared to nationwide and in the prefecture, in Towada City, a higher percentage of personal injury incidents occurred at or near intersections.

Fig. 2-37 Rate of incidents at intersections

Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Towada City	66.2%	62.1%	66.0%	71.4%	62.5%
Aomori Prefecture	59.8%	56.5%	59.9%	59.6%	55.0%
National	54.1%	54.9%	56.1%	56.6%	56.7%

Source: Police statistics (Towada Police Office Jurisdiction), Situation of traffic incidents in Japan (The General Insurance Association of Japan)

### 3. Situation of incidents by time zone

In the past, most personal injury incidents occurred between 16:00 and 20:00, from dusk to nighttime. However, analyzing the statistics for the years 2020 to 2022, it was found that the highest number of incidents occurred between 08:00 and 12:00.

Fig. 2-38 Situation of traffic incidents by time zone

Class	00:00-04:00	04:00-08:00	08:00-12:00	12:00-16:00	16:00-20:00	20:00-24:00
2015-2019 (n = 1,280)	1.8%	14.1%	25.1%	24.6%	29.2%	5.2%
2020-2022 (n = 502)	0.4%	10.8%	33.5%	22.7%	28.3%	4.4%

Source: Police statistics (Towada Police Office Jurisdiction)

### (9) Situation of injuries during leisure activities (sports/games)

#### 1. Rate of injured persons by age group and severity of injury

The rate of injuries during sports/games by age group shows that those in their teens account for most injuries.

In terms of severity, most of the injuries are minor; however, a higher percentage of teenagers, who have a higher percentage of injuries, have moderate or higher severity injuries.

The number of injuries since the previous designation may have decreased due to the impact of COVID-19.

Fig. 2-39 Rate of persons injured during sports/games by age group

Class	9 and younger	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60 and older
2015-2019 (n = 302)	4.3%	65.2%	16.9%	6.0%	4.3%	1.7%	1.7%
2020-2022 (n = 85)	8.2%	72.9%	5.9%	3.5%	3.5%	1.2%	4.7%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-40 Severity of injuries sustained during sports/games

Class	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Death
2015-2019 (n = 302)	94.7%	5.3%	0%	0%
2020-2022 (n = 85)	94.1%	4.7%	1.2%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

Fig. 2-41 Rate of persons sustaining moderate or severe injuries during sports/games by age group

Class	9 and younger	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60 and older
2015-2019 (n = 16)	0%	68.8%	12.5%	6.3%	0%	6.3%	6.3%
2020-2022 (n = 4)	0%	75.0%	0%	15.0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

#### 2. Place of sports/games injury occurrence

Fig. 2-21 shows the places where 5 to 14-year-olds sustained sports/games injuries. Looking at the places where 15 to 29-year-olds sustained sports/games injuries, 15 to 19-year-olds were injured at "schools, public facilities," and those in their 20s were injured at "sports facilities."

Fig. 2-42 Places where 15 to 29-years olds sustain injuries during sports/games

\* n is the total number of children aged 15 to 19 in (1) and in their 20s in (2).

Class	(1) Ages 15-19				(2) 20s			
	School, public facility	Sports facility	Others	Unknown	School, public facility	Sports facility	Others	Unknown
2015-2019 [(1) n=95, (2) n=51]	75.8%	22.1%	1.1%	1.1%	9.8%	80.4%	7.8%	2.0%
2020-2022 [(1) n=35, (2) n=5]	85.7%	14.3%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

From this, we have identified that many sports-related injuries are sustained by teens at schools and public facilities as an issue to address.

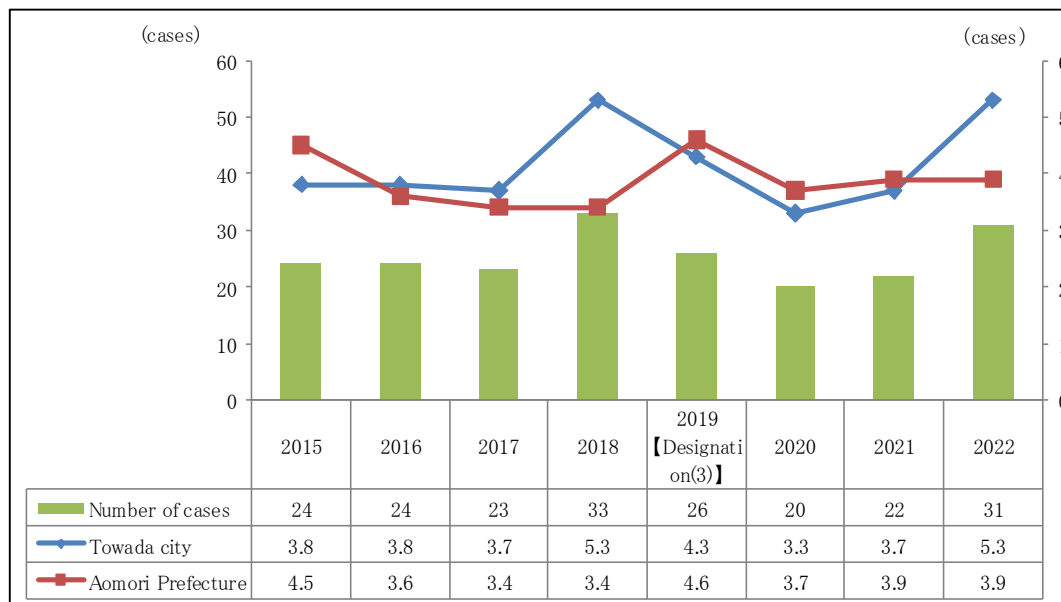
#### (10) Situation of fire occurrence

##### 1. Yearly trends in the number of fires

Comparing the number of fires in Towada City and the prefecture (per 10,000 population), Towada City tends to have a higher number of fires.

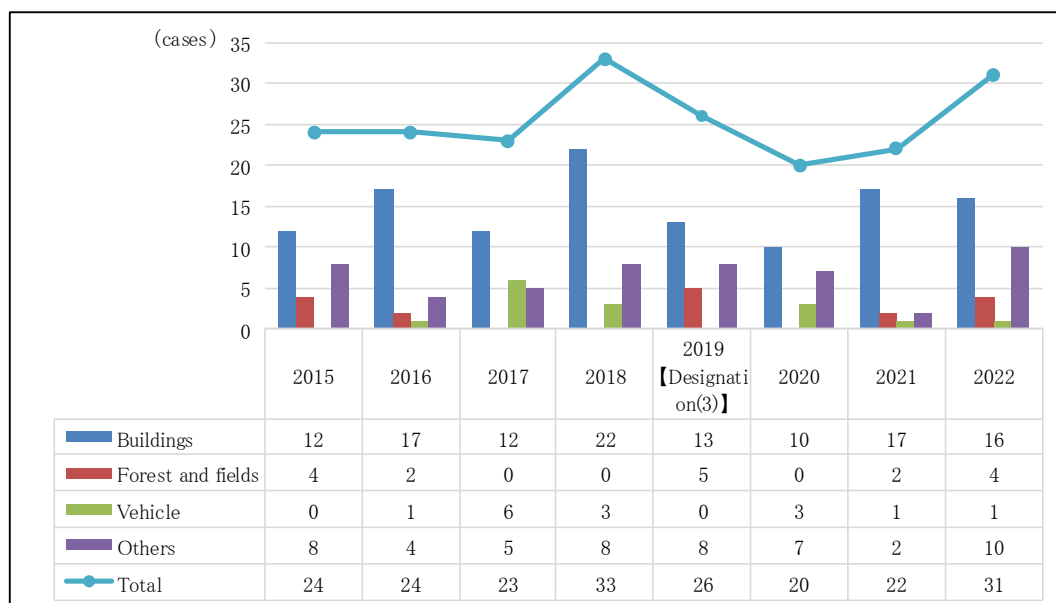
In addition, building fires account for the highest number of fires each year.

Fig. 2-43 Yearly trends in the number of fires (per 10,000 people)



Source: Fire Department annual data (Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters)

Fig. 2-44 Yearly trends in fire causes (per 10,000 people)



Source: Fire Department annual data (Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters)

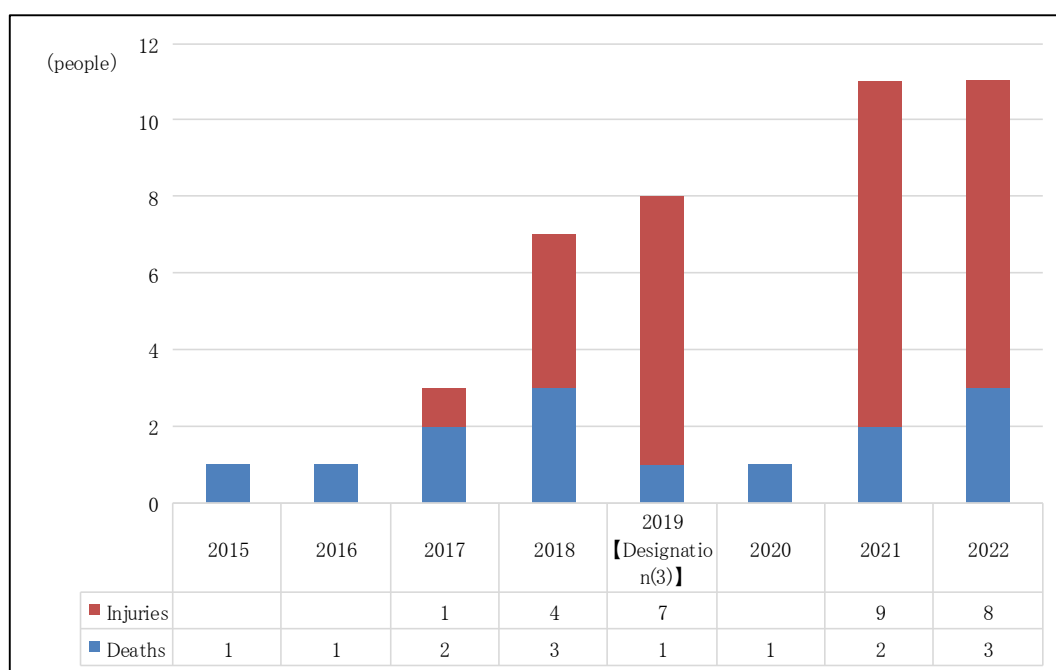
## 2. Yearly trends of deaths and injuries from building fires

Concerning deaths and injuries from building fires, there have been deaths every year. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of injuries.

All of the deceased were aged 60 or above.

From this, we have identified the number of deaths and injuries due to fires every year as an issue to address.

Fig. 2-45 Yearly trends of deaths and injuries from building fires



Source: Fire Department annual data (Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters)

Fig. 2-46 Number of deaths from building fires by age group (people)

Class	60s	70s	80s	90 and older	Total
2015-2019	0	3	4	1	8
2020-2022	1	1	1	3	6

Source: Fire Department annual data (Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters)

### 3. Records of disasters

The Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011, also caused damage in our city, mainly to agricultural facilities.

In addition, in 2022, wildfires and heavy rains caused major disasters.

In Towada City, there are concerns about the dwindling local community due to the declining and aging population. The city is concerned about its ability to respond in the event of a disaster.

Fig. 2-47 Records of disasters (after 2011)

Date	Type	Overview
March 11, 2011	Earthquake (the Great East Japan Earthquake)	An intensity of 5 on the Japanese seismic scale was observed. Damage to agricultural facilities, uplift/sinking of rice paddies, and other damage occurred. Total damages: 34,406,000 yen
May 9 to 14, 2022	Wildfires	Forest fires broke out. The dispatch of Aomori and Iwate Prefecture disaster prevention helicopters was requested, and the Self-Defense Forces were requested to dispatch disaster relief personnel. The fires were extinguished on the 14th. (Area lost in the forest fires: 27.46 ha)
August 3 to 12, 2022	Heavy rains	Heavy rains from August 3 caused flooding above and below floor level, and damage to farmland, roads, and rivers. Total damages: 1,102,383,000 yen

Source: Towada City Community Disaster Preparedness Plan

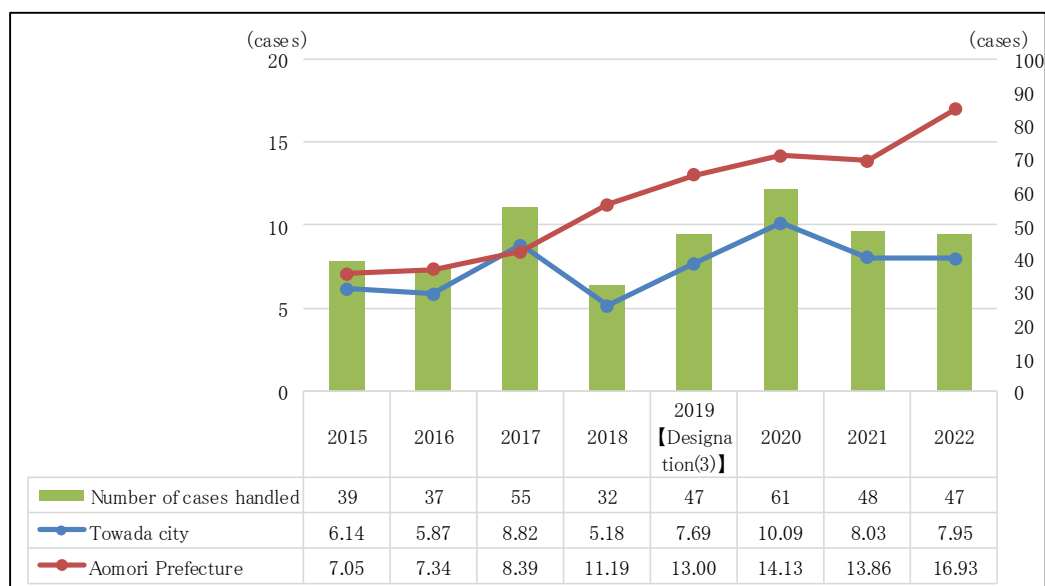
#### (11) Situation of response to violence and abuse, etc.

##### 1. Yearly trends in the number of child abuse cases handled (0 to 17 years old)

The number of responses to child abuse in the city has remained unchanged. In recent years, the prefecture has observed a rise in child abuse cases handled. This can be attributed to the efforts made by the authorities to promote early detection of child abuse. They have created an environment where children feel safe and comfortable to seek advice through means such as publicizing telephone counseling. This has led to an increase in the number of cases reported.

In our city, we have established the Child Rearing Generation Parent and Child Support Center, which provides seamless support through pregnancy, childbirth, and the child-rearing period. We believe these initiatives have helped prevent child abuse cases, so the number of child abuse cases handled has not increased.

Fig. 2-48 Yearly trends in the number of child abuse cases handled (per 10,000 population)

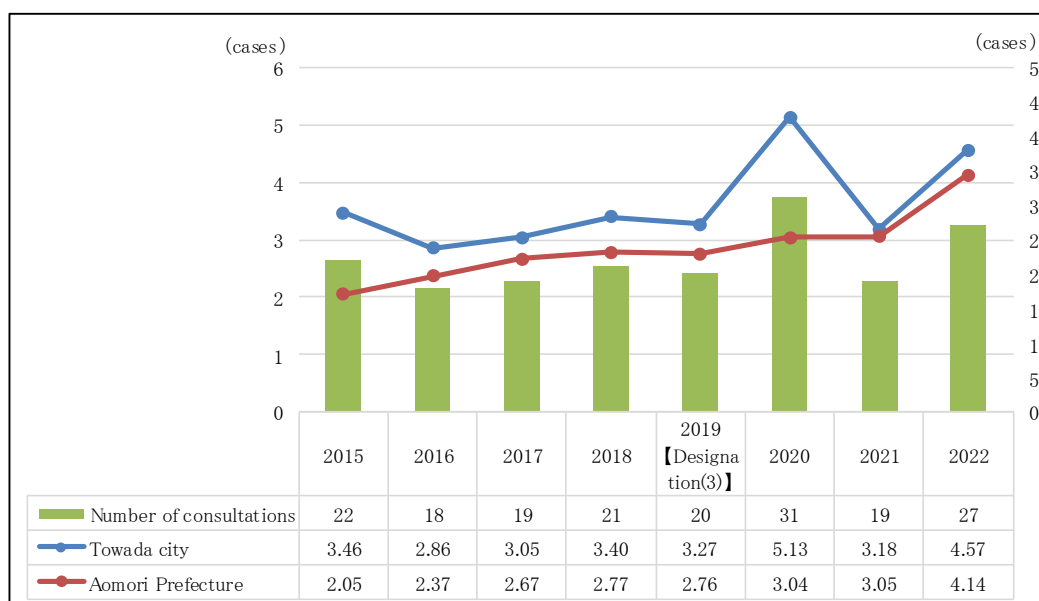


Source: Child Rearing Generation Parent and Child Support Center, Shichinohe Child Guidance Center

## 2. Yearly trends in the number of consultations for the elderly

The number of consultations for the elderly in our city is increasing at the same rate as in the prefecture, but our city has a higher number of consultations than the prefecture.

Fig. 2-49 Yearly trends in the number of consultations for the elderly (per 10,000 population)



Source: Elderly Care Section

## 3. Yearly trends in the number of cases handled for persons with disabilities

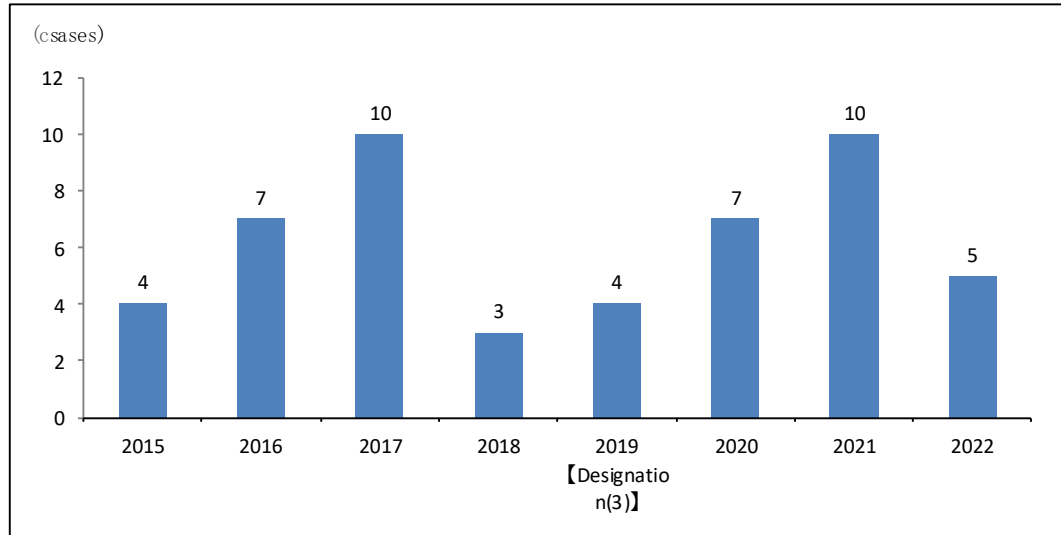
Since the establishment of the Center for the Prevention of Abuse of Persons with Disabilities (Welfare Section) in City Hall in October 2012, the city has been keeping track of the number of consultations on abuse of persons with disabilities. As per the records, there were three cases reported in 2017 and one case in 2022.

#### 4. Yearly trends in the number of consultations on violence against women (DV)

The number of consultations regarding violence against women in the city has been fluctuating.

When it comes to perpetrators of violence against women, a high percentage are "husbands." Since the last designation, the percentage of abuse by dating partners has increased.

Fig. 2-50 Yearly trends in the number of consultations on violence against women



Source: Child Rearing Generation Parent and Child Support Center

Fig. 2-51 Rate of abusers who commit violence against women

Class	Husband	Children	Relative	Dating partner
2015-2019 (n = 28)	75.0%	10.7%	10.7%	3.6%
2020-2022 (n = 22)	72.7%	4.5%	0%	22.7%

Source: Child Rearing Generation Parent and Child Support Center

From 1. to 4., the abuse of children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, and violence against women are issues we must address.

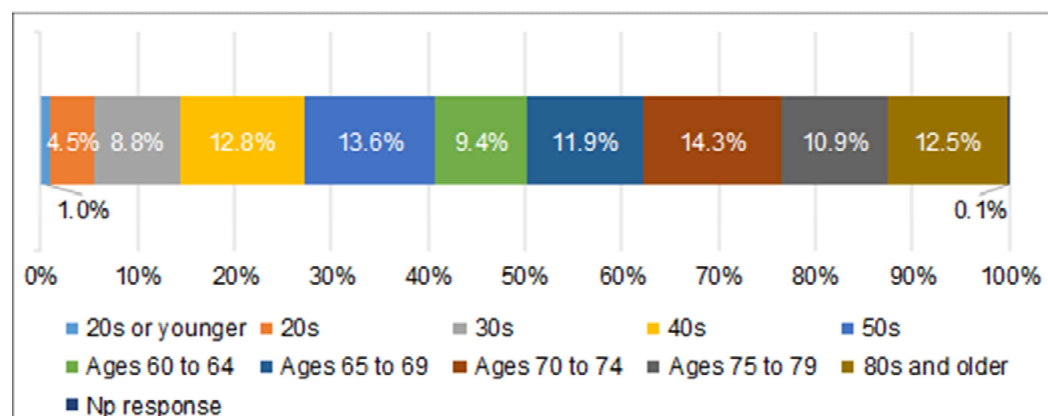
## (12) Safe Community Citizen Survey

Surveys on safety issues among citizens have been conducted.

The surveys used to be conducted to citizens at the Community Center Festivals up to 2019. However, because it was found that the respondents can be limited and many of them tended to answer repeatedly, the methods of the survey was changed upon advices by the injury surveillance committee in 2020. The new implementation method make it able to approach to wider generations to get better understanding about citizens' attitude to safety and facts to assess results of interventions.

Overview of Citizen Survey (random sampling)	
Implementation period (FY)	FY2020, FY2021, FY2023 ※Planned to be held every other year in the future
Implementation method	Delivered and responded by post in FY2020・FY2021 Deliver by post and responded by online in FY2023
Target of the survey	2,000 men and women over the age of 18
Items of the survey	FY2020・・・Total 31 questions FY2021・・・Total 28 questions FY2023・・・Total 38 questions

Fig. 2-52 Age group of respondents (2021)





(13) Eight priority areas in Towada City

In Towada City, priority issues have been identified from the analysis of incident and injury data. These issues have been set as a priority in our Safe Community programs and following eight Safe Community Task Forces for priorities have been established.

Fig. 2-53 Eight areas in Towada City

	Challenge	Fig. No.	Area
1	Younger generations have higher injury rates, especially those aged 0 to 4 years old.	2-12	Child Safety
2	General injuries, which account for most incidents, occur at home (indoors).	2-13 2-14	
3	Half of the injuries sustained during elementary school management hours occurred during recess.	2-23	
4	The city's population is aging.	1-6	Elderly Safety
5	The most common causes of death among the elderly due to external causes are "suffocation," "drowning and near-drowning," and "falls on the same level/falls from higher places."	2-3	
6	Elderly persons have a high rate of injuries, and the rate increases with age.	2-12	
7	Injuries among the elderly are more likely to be moderate or severe.	2-27	
8	General injuries, which account for most incidents, occur at home (indoors and outdoors).	2-29	Suicide
9	Suicide death rates are higher than the national and prefecture levels.	2-4	
10	Suicide is more common among males and among people of all ages. Suicides by the elderly are increasing.	2-6	
11	"Health problems" are the most common cause and motive of suicide. However, the number of suicides due to "family problems" and "work problems" is increasing.	2-7	
12	The percentage of suicide victims with a co-habitant is higher than the national and prefectural rates; people do not notice the signs of suicide in those close to them.	2-8	Traffic Incident Prevention
13	The rate of personal injury incidents at intersections is higher than at the national and prefectural levels.	2-37	
14	Incidents are more frequent during the hours of dusk to nighttime between 16:00 and 20:00.	2-38	Disaster Prevention
15	There are deaths and injuries from fires each year.	2-45	
16	While the population ages each year, disasters occur, and preparedness is essential.	1-6 2-47	Violence and Abuse Prevention
17	Abuse of children, the elderly, and the disabled, and violence against women is occurring.	2-48 2-49 2-50	
18	Injuries during sports/games are common among teens. Most occur at schools or public facilities.	2-17 2-21 2-39 2-42	Leisure Activity Safety
19	With the increase in foreign tourists, we must prepare for emergencies when they need help understanding the language.	1-10	
20	Workplace incidents occur more frequently in industries with a high number of workers ("manufacturing," "commerce," and "construction" industries).	2-32	Labor Safety
21	The most common cause of injury in workplace incidents is "falls on the same level."	2-33	
22	Most persons injured during farming work are over 60 years old.	2-34	

## Indicator 3: Inclusivity and Sustainability

### 1. Overview of Prevention Activities

The city utilizes cooperation between the city, various agencies, and citizen groups to carry out programs, etc., to improve safety and prevent injuries. These programs are targeted for almost all genders, ages and environments.

Fig. 3-1 shows the programs for sectors from Child Safety to Suicide Prevention. The programs are conducted in a variety of ways, either independently or in collaboration with the groups.

Fig.3-1 Programs all ages, environment and situation

Safety category			Children 【Ages 0 to 14】	Youth 【Ages 15 to 24】	Adult 【Ages 25 to 64】	Elderly 【Ages 65 and older】
Deliberate causes	Home		1,2	—	—	4,6
			3	—	—	5,7
	Public place	Traffic	9,10	9,10	9,10	9,10
			8,11,12,13	8,11,12,14	8,11,12,14	8,11,12,14,15
		School	16,17,18	—	—	—
			19,20,21,22	22	—	—
		Leisure / sports	23,24,25,27	23,24,25,27	23,24,25,27	23,24,25,27
			—	26	26	26
		Medicine	25,28	25,28	25,28	25,28
			3	—	—	—
	Disaster prevention and response		29,34	29,34	29,34	29,34
			30,33,35,37	30,31,32,33,35,36	30,31,32,33,36	30,31,32,33,36
	Labor		—	38,40	38,40	38,40
			—	39,41	39,41	39,41
Intentional causes	Violence and abuse		42,44	46	46	46
			43,45	45,47	45,47	45,47
	Suicide Prevention		48,49	51,52	51,52	51,52,53,54
			44	44,49	44,49	44,49

Upper row: programs by governmental organizations    Lower row: programs by relevant organizations and citizens organizations

## 2. Main Preventive Programs

### (1) Safety in the home

#### 1) Children

In accordance with Article 61-1 of the Child and Child Care Support Act and the national government's basic policy, the City of Towada has developed the "Towada City Child Care and Child Rearing Support Project Plan" and implemented various projects. This plan aims to systematically advance and provide high-quality education, childcare, and community child care and child-rearing support projects within the local community, with the goal of creating a society where all children can grow up healthy and happy.

#### ● Activities to prevent injuries

1	Seamless childcare support from pregnancy		
Target	Preschoolers, expecting mothers, parents of preschoolers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Prepare a seamless consultation and support system from pregnancy to child-rearing and promote creating an environment where people can give birth and raise children with peace of mind.		
Details	Strengthen the child-rearing support system by providing visiting and consultation services utilizing midwives and other professionals and introducing a child-rearing information distribution system.		
Organizer, participants	City, medical institutions, etc.		

2	Mother and child health programs		
Target	Preschoolers, parents of preschoolers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote the health of preschoolers and expecting mothers, relieve parents' anxiety about childcare, and prevent abuse.		
Details	Health examinations are conducted for expecting mothers and preschoolers in accordance with the Maternal and Child Health Act. Additionally, preschoolers and their parents who require developmental support are connected to developmental support counseling, etc., to receive personalized support for speech and mental development.		
Organizer, participants	City, medical institutions, etc.		

3	Community child and childcare support programs		
Target	Children (preschool)	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Establish a system that enables children and parents to receive appropriate comprehensive childcare support from a variety of facilities and businesses based on their specific needs.		
Details	Various childcare services such as extended daycare, community childcare support centers, temporary childcare, childcare for disabled children, fureai (friendly) childcare, childcare for sick children and those recovering from illness, family support centers, and childcare for children in medical care will be implemented through outsourcing or subsidizing childcare centers and other facilities.		
Organizer, participants	City, childcare agencies, medical institutions, etc.		

#### 2) Elderly

The City of Towada has reviewed its municipal welfare plan for the elderly as stipulated in Article 20-8 of the Act on Social Welfare for the Elderly, and its municipal long-term care insurance business plan as stipulated in Article 117 of the Long-Term Care Insurance Act. This review takes into account systemic revisions in Japan and the actual situation of the elderly in the City of Towada. The "Towada City Welfare Plan for the Elderly and Towada City Long-Term Care Insurance Business Plan" has been created to ensure that welfare measures and long-term care insurance policies for the elderly are closely coordinated and developed comprehensively and systematically, while also maintaining the sustainability of the long-term care insurance system.

● Activities to prevent injuries

4	General preventative care		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Address preventative care for the elderly and assist them to continue to live healthy and independent lives with motivation.		
Details	Preventative care classes and health promotion opportunities will be held at public facilities and community meeting places in the city to promote interaction among local residents and deepen their knowledge of preventative care for the elderly.		
Organizer, participants	City, Home Care Support Center, neighborhood associations, health cooperators, welfare officers		

5	Preventative care, daily support		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Provide a variety of services according to the actual situation in the community in order to maintain and improve the assistance-required state.		
Details	Home visit services, daycare services, and preventative care management services will be implemented to provide effective and efficient support for persons requiring assistance, etc.		
Organizer, participants	City, Regional Comprehensive Support Center, Home Care Support Center, service providers in the city		

6	Provision of emergency notification systems		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Create a system that can promptly and appropriately respond to emergencies such as sudden illness or disasters for the elderly. Additionally, establish a system for early response to emergencies in the homes of elderly citizen living alone.		
Details	Emergency medical information kits will be distributed free of charge to elderly individuals living at home. The Aomori Prefectural Council of Social Welfare will partially subsidize the cost of using the welfare "anshin" (peace of mind) telephone service.		
Organizer, participants	City, Aomori Prefecture Social Welfare Council, Towada City Social Welfare Council, Regional Comprehensive Support Center, Home Care Support Center		

7	Mimamori watch (over) for the elderly		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Promote the creation of dementia-friendly communities by strengthening the consultation system for early detection and timely response to wandering elderly individuals with dementia, etc., and for mimamori watching over of the elderly.		
Details	Subsidies will be provided to introduce GPS devices, and information on individuals who may wander off due to dementia, etc., will be registered in advance and kept in a ledger. Additionally, "Anshin Mimamori Cooperation Volunteers for the Elderly" will be registered, and awareness-raising activities will be carried out to increase the number of registered groups.		
Organizer, participants	City, Towada Police Department, service providers in the city		

(2) Traffic

8	Traffic safety campaign		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Aim to create a safe and livable society, free from traffic incidents, by increasing traffic safety awareness among residents and encouraging them to follow traffic rules and practice good manners.		
Details	The campaign period for each season will be determined in close cooperation with promoting organizations and groups. Activities actively contributing to raising awareness and preventing traffic incidents among prefectural residents will be conducted.		
Organizer, participants	City, prefecture, national government, Towada Police Department, traffic related groups, etc.		

9	Maintenance and assurance of public transportation		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Maintain and secure public transportation services, such as bus routes, which are essential for citizens as a means of transportation.		
Details	Under the Towada City Regional Public Transportation Plan, several initiatives will be implemented. These include operating community buses and reservation-based shared-ride cabs, as well as providing subsidies to public transportation service providers and private route bus service providers in underserved areas.		
Organizer, participants	City, bus operators, taxi operators, NPOs, etc.		

10	Maintenance of roads and bridges		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Maintain a safe and favorable road environment.		
Details	Based on the region's characteristics, the current condition of roads, and citizen requests, roads will be narrowed down to those that are highly necessary. Road maintenance and bridge inspections will be conducted with an awareness of cost reductions.		
Organizer, participants	City, prefecture, national government		

11	Traffic safety measures		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote safe and secure city planning free of traffic incidents.		
Details	In collaboration with related groups, traffic safety classes and street campaigns will be conducted to promote compliance with traffic rules and good traffic manners. In addition, as a preventive measure to reduce traffic incidents involving the elderly, support their voluntary surrender of driver's licenses.		
Organizer, participants	City, Towada Police Department, Towada City Traffic Safety Association		

12	Crime prevention activities		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Raise awareness of crime prevention and promote creating a safe and secure community, free from crime.		
Details	Community safety programs will be supported, including the installation and maintenance of security lights and cameras, as well as assistance for groups involved in crime prevention activities.		
Organizer, participants	City, Towada City Crime Prevention Association		

13	School route traffic safety program		
Target	Children (elementary school, junior high school)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote safety along school routes so students can safely commute to and from school.		
Details	The Towada City School Route Safety Promotion Council will exchange and discuss information about "identifying dangerous areas," "reviewing countermeasures for those dangerous areas," and "confirming the status of countermeasure implementation." Additionally, joint inspections will be conducted.		
Organizer, participants	City, Board of Education, prefecture, national government, elementary and junior high schools, PTA, Towada Police Department		

14	Road maintenance partnership		
Target	Neighborhood associations	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Ensure road safety by implementing road maintenance that meets the needs and characteristics of the community.		
Details	Road maintenance, led by neighborhood associations, will be carried out in collaboration with the government and businesses.		
Organizer, participants	Neighborhood associations		

15	Elderly Household Visit program		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promotion of traffic incident prevention		
Details	Visit the elderly households to distribute leaflets on traffic safety, prevent special scams, and promote the use of reflective materials on shoes. From 2023, the household visit program has been expanded beyond the elderly households.		
Organizer, participants	Towada City Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety, neighborhood associations, Towada Police Department		

### (3) School

16	School consultation programs		
Target	Children (elementary school, junior high school), parents, faculty, education-related persons	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Support the resolution of children's problems and parenting/education issues that parents and teachers face.		
Details	In addition to sending educational counselors to schools, an educational consultation room and an educational support room will be opened at the Education and Training Center.		
Organizer, participants	City, Board of Education, prefecture		

17	School facility renovation project		
Target	Children (elementary school, junior high school)	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Conduct environmental improvements on elementary and junior high school buildings, including gyms, to ensure a safe and secure educational environment.		
Details	For facilities that cannot be repaired individually, large-scale or life-extending renovations, etc., will be carried out in a systematic manner.		
Organizer, participants	Board of Education, elementary and junior high schools		

18	Maintenance of nursery schools, etc.		
Target	Children (preschool)	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Support the renovation of nursery schools and other facilities to create an environment where children can grow up healthy.		
Details	Partial subsidies for renovation and other facility improvements will be provided to authorized nursery schools and other facilities that have deteriorated significantly and have not yet been renovated, and for which there is a high degree of urgency and need.		
Organizer, participants	City, childcare related groups		

19	After-school children's club (Nakayoshi-kai)		
Target	Children (elementary school)	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Provide a place for children whose parents are not at home due to work, etc., to spend time after school and on days when school is not in session, thereby promoting their sound development.		
Details	The Nakayoshi-kai program will be implemented at 13 locations using the designated administrator system.		
Organizer, participants	City, Board of Education, private businesses, NPOs, etc.		

20	After-school children's classes		
Target	Children (elementary school)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Provide a space for children to learn and play after school and on weekends by using spare classrooms in elementary schools and social education facilities to ensure a safe environment for children and support their healthy development.		
Details	Study advisors will be assigned to provide educational, sports, and cultural activities, as well as opportunities for interaction with the local community.		

Organizer, participants	City, Board of Education, elementary schools, local residents, citizen groups
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21	Community School		
Target	Children (elementary school, junior high school), faculty, School Management Committee members	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Support the growth of children by the entire community and promote the creation of schools that exist together with the community.		
Details	A School Management Committee will be introduced to reflect the opinions of parents and community members in the school's management.		
Organizer, participants	City, Board of Education, elementary and junior high schools		

22	Little Jump Team • Jump Team		
Target	Students (Elementary, Jr. High, Senior high schools)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Increase norm and awareness among youth to prevent delinquency		
Details	Each school organize a team for delinquency prevention and conduct various activities including greeting campaigns and No-bullying campaign.		
Organizer, participants	Prefecture, Towada Police, elementary schools, Jr. High schools, senior high schools		

#### (4) Leisure/Sports

##### • Activities to prevent injuries

23	Safety inspections and repairs of parks and children's playground equipment, etc.		
Target	Children, park users	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Prevent incidents when using playground equipment at parks, etc.		
Details	Playground equipment will be inspected for safety, repaired, and any dangerous equipment will be removed, etc.		
Organizer, participants	City		

24	Life-saving training seminar		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Improve life-saving rates through rapid response.		
Details	Classes on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) will be held at each fire station and business establishment in the city.		
Organizer, participants	Fire Department Headquarters		

25	Improvement of Towadako Clinic system		
Target	Local residents, tourists	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Ensure medical care for residents and tourists in the Towada Lakeside area.		
Details	The Towadako Clinic will continue to operate, ensuring stable medical care for patients.		
Organizer, participants	City		

26	Lakeside leisure safety patrols		
Target	Tourists	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Prevent water-related incidents at Lake Towada.		
Details	Patrols will be conducted once or twice a year during the lakeside leisure season.		
Organizer, participants	City, national government, Towada Police Department, NPOs, etc.		

27	Inspection of boardwalk and tree safety		
Target	Tourists	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	The area will be inspected for dead trees and branches, etc., which could fall and affect the trails, and prevent incidents.		
Details	The Oirase Stream area will be divided into three separate courses, and safety inspections of walkways and trees will be carried out on separate days.		
Organizer, participants	City, prefecture, national government, etc.		

#### (5) Medicine

28	Securing physicians for City Hospital		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Provide safe and reliable medical care as the core hospital in Kamitosan and ensure sound hospital management.		
Details	In addition to requesting the dispatch of full-time physicians from related university medical departments, the city will also secure sufficient numbers of clinical interns and strive to ensure human resources through the prefecture and physician recruitment agencies.		
Organizer, participants	City Hospital		

#### (6) Disaster prevention and disaster

The City of Towada has formulated the "Towada City Community Disaster Preparedness Plan" in accordance with Article 42 of the Basic Act on Disaster Management. The plan aims to protect the city area and the lives, bodies, and property of the city's citizens from disasters, mitigate damage, and ensure the preservation and welfare of the local community. This will be achieved through the establishment of necessary systems and measures for disaster prevention, as well as the comprehensive and systematic performance of disaster prevention duties and operations.

##### ● Activities to prevent injuries

29	Distribution of Komaran e-mails		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote the development of communities that are resilient to disasters and crime by distributing information on community safety and security.		
Details	Emergency information on disasters, weather, fire, crime prevention, traffic safety, consumer life, lifelines, etc., will be distributed via e-mail. * Distribution via the LINE app started from 2023.		
Organizer, participants	City, Fire Department Headquarters		

30	Stockpiling of emergency supplies		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Make an effort to create a system to ensure evacuees can live in peace during a disaster.		
Details	We will systematically maintain and update stockpiled supplies based on the "Towada City Community Disaster Preparedness Plan."		
Organizer, participants	City, schools, neighborhood associations, lodging providers		

31	Training of voluntary disaster prevention groups		
Target	Neighborhood associations	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Raise local residents' awareness of disaster prevention and improve local disaster preparedness.		
Details	Subsidies will be provided for the cost of disaster prevention equipment and materials to promote the establishment of voluntary disaster prevention groups.		
Organizer, participants	City, neighborhood associations		



32	Maintenance of evacuation system in the event of a disaster		
Target	Persons requiring assistance for evacuation	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	To prepare for disasters, a system to support persons requiring assistance for evacuation action will be established.		
Details	A directory of persons requiring assistance for evacuation action will be prepared, shared among relevant agencies, and used to confirm their safety in the event of a disaster.		
Organizer, participants	City, Fire Department Headquarters, Towada Police Department, welfare officers/child welfare officers, neighborhood associations, Towada City Social Welfare Council, etc.		

33	City General Disaster Prevention Drill and Prefecture General Disaster Prevention Drills		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Strengthen disaster prevention skills.		
Details	Effective comprehensive disaster drills with the participation of relevant organizations and local residents will be conducted.		
Organizer, participants	City, prefecture, Fire Department Headquarters, Towada Police Department, disaster prevention related groups, etc.		

34	Creation of disaster prevention map and distribution to all households		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Prevent and mitigate disasters through prompt evacuation actions in the event of a disaster.		
Details	Disaster prevention maps that clearly outline the actions citizens should take in the event of various types of disasters will be distributed to each household.		
Organizer, participants	City		

35	Children and Youth Fire Prevention Club		
Target	Children (preschool/elementary school), youth (high school)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote learning of knowledge and skills related to fire and disaster prevention from an early age and acquire the minimum necessary skills to protect life and body in the event of a disaster.		
Details	Awareness-raising and promotion about residential fire prevention and hands-on practice in disaster prevention will be held during the spring and fall fire prevention campaigns.		
Organizer, participants	Fire Department Headquarters, childcare facilities, schools		

36	Women's Fire Defense Club		
Target	Female	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote learning about fire prevention in the home and raise fire prevention awareness throughout the community.		
Details	Awareness-raising and promotion about residential fire prevention, etc., will be held during the spring and fall fire prevention campaigns.		
Organizer, participants	Fire Department Headquarters, Women's Fire Prevention Club		

37	Evacuation drills		
Target	Children (elementary school, junior high school)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote disaster prevention education to help students learn the necessary knowledge and skills to protect themselves from various natural disasters, such as wind and flood disasters, based on their understanding of local disaster characteristics.		
Details	Systematic evacuation drills for the large-scale natural disasters and various other situations will be conducted throughout the year.		
Organizer, participants	Board of Education, elementary and junior high schools, Fire Department Headquarters, households, local residents, etc.		

(7) Labor

● Activities to prevent injuries

38	Workplace Incident Prevention Promotion Plan		
Target	Companies and businesses, workers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Prevent workplace incidents.		
Details	Following the Workplace Incident Prevention Plan published by the national government, a plan to promote the prevention of workplace incidents will be formulated to realize a workplace environment where each worker can work safely. Efforts will be made to ensure that business operators and workers understand the plan's purpose, the content of the measures, etc., and to actively improve safety and health standards.		
Organizer, participants	City, prefecture, national government, Kamikita Labor Standards Association, businesses in the city		

39	Safety and Health Assembly		
Target	Workers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Prevention of workplace incidents		
Details	To prevent incidents and injuries at the workplace, caution is promoted by collecting slogans on safety and health, and with seminars on workplace incidents.		
Organizer, participants	City, Kamikita Labor Standards Association, businesses in the city		

40	Aomori Prefecture Farming Work Safety Campaign		
Target	Persons involved with farming	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Prevent incidents during farming work.		
Details	A "priority period" will be designated in spring and fall, the peak farming seasons, for conducting activities with priority. Efforts will be made to raise awareness among farmers in cooperation with related organizations.		
Organizer, participants	City, prefecture, JA Towada Oirase, agricultural related groups		

41	Training school for young people		
Target	Persons involved with farming	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Strengthening the training of farmers who will carry on the agricultural industry.		
Details	A training school will be held to teach young farmers about cultivation techniques and how to use agricultural machinery.		
Organizer, participants	JA Towada Oirase		

(8) Violence and abuse

42	Measures against child poverty		
Target	Children	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Develop the necessary environment and ensure equal educational opportunities for children so that their future is not determined by the environment in which they were born and raised, and so that poverty is not perpetuated across generations.		
Details	A survey on the actual situation and needs of children with regard to poverty will be conducted. Based on the results, the "Plan for the Promotion of Measures to Cope with Child Poverty" will be created, and measures will be developed to implement the plan.		
Organizer, participants	City		

43	Child mimamori watch (over) support program		
Target	Children	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Support single-parent households to combat poverty, while providing essential assistance to children with high needs and connecting them to necessary support.		
Details	Children's diners, etc., will be utilized to watch over children in need of assistance. Information on new children in need of assistance will be gathered through consultations and other methods.		
Organizer, participants	City, businesses (children's diners)		

44	Support for families with children, etc.		
Target	Children, parents	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Create a seamless support system to assist families with various problems related to child-rearing.		
Details	Family counselors will provide appropriate guidance and advice, and in cooperation with related organizations, efforts will be made to prevent and detect child abuse at an early stage. Additionally, support will be provided for families who show high risks in child-rearing and for families who are temporarily unable to care for their children, such as by placing them in institutions.		
Organizer, participants	City, related agencies such as Child Guidance Centers		

45	Building mental health		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Promote awareness of correct mental health knowledge and create a supportive community to prevent suicides.		
Details	The counseling system will be expanded, and personnel training will be provided for gatekeepers who will recognize individuals in distress and connect them with specialized institutions.		
Organizer, participants	City, Kokoro no Kai, Kokoro no Hiroba "Lupinas," Koma no Kai, keicho volunteer Towada, "Towada Family Association" for families of the mentally disabled		

46	Creation of awareness toward gender equality		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Promote awareness of gender equality and improve the environment to realize a gender-equal society.		
Details	In addition to publishing "Yuppai," a citizen's information magazine for gender equality, the city will cooperate with cities, towns, and villages of the self-support settlement region to raise awareness of gender equality among residents.		
Organizer, participants	City, "Yuppai" editing committee (solicited from citizens), cities, towns, and villages of the self-support settlement region		

47	Human rights protection		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Enhance the human rights protection system to promote human rights education and awareness activities, raising public awareness of human rights.		
Details	In collaboration with the Human Rights Advocates Council, activities to raise public awareness of human rights will be organized. These activities will include human rights classes at elementary and junior high schools, as well as street awareness-raising campaigns.		
Organizer, participants	Human Rights Advocates Council, elementary and junior high schools		

## (9) Suicide prevention

To realize a society in which no one is driven to suicide, the government amended the Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures to further promote comprehensive and effective suicide prevention in 2016. This amendment required all local governments to create a suicide prevention plan. In March 2019, the City of Towada formulated the "Towada City Suicide Prevention Plan" to address suicide comprehensively. Since the current plan will expire at the end of FY2023, the city has evaluated and reviewed the plan. As a result, a second plan has been established to further promote suicide countermeasures, based on the "Comprehensive National Suicide Prevention Plan" presented by the government. This second plan is a new 6-year initiative, running from FY2024 to FY2029.

### ● Main activities to prevent injuries

48	Bullying prevention measures		
Target	Children (elementary school, junior high school)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Implement measures to prevent, detect, and respond to bullying at an early stage will be based on the "Towada City Bullying Prevention Basic Policy."		
Details	The "Towada City Bullying Prevention Liaison Council" and the "Towada City Bullying Prevention Council" will be established. In cooperation with related organizations, they will create an environment in which students can receive an education with peace of mind.		
Organizer, participants	City, Board of Education, national government, prefecture, Towada Police Department, school personnel, medical personnel, etc.		

49	Learning to issue an SOS		
Target	Junior high school	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Teaching students how to issue an SOS and cope when they face difficulties or stress in their lives will foster their ability to thrive in the future.		
Details	Health education will be implemented to help students realize the importance of life, learn to cope with difficulties and stress, and issue an SOS. The program will be implemented in elementary schools starting in FY2024.		
Organizer, participants	City, junior high schools		

50	Opening of Citizen Consultation Services		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Enhance citizen consultations to help resolve various problems.		
Details	To meet citizens' needs, free consultation services, such as legal and judicial scrivener consultations, will be opened.		
Organizer, participants	City, administrative counselors, Human Rights Advocates Council, Aomori Bar Association, Consumer's Financial Co-op, Aomoriken Shiho-Shoshi Lawyer's Association Towada Branch, Aomori Takken Association Santo-Mutsu Branch		

51	Consumer Affairs Center		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Purpose	Enhance and strengthen consumer affairs consultation services and promote consumer education to solve consumer problems, prevent consumer damage, and ensure consumer safety and security.		
Details	A consultation system will be established at the Consumer Affairs Center, and consumer awareness will be raised through consultation, advice, etc.		
Organizer, participants	Consumer Affairs Center		

52	Support for the independence of needy persons		
Target	Needy persons	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Provide continuous guidance and assistance tailored to the actual circumstances of people in need to help them become economically and socially independent.		
Details	Employment support for those in need will be strengthened, and the consultation and support system will be enhanced to promote independence from poverty.		
Organizer, participants	City, Hello Work, Towada City Social Welfare Council, Aomori Prefecture Social Welfare Council		

53	Ensuring employment opportunities for the elderly		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Ensure temporary and short-term employment opportunities for the elderly and promote their motivation for life and social participation through employment.		
Details	Operation of the Towada City Silver Human Resources Center will be supported.		
Organizer, participants	City, Towada City Silver Human Resources Center		

54	Support of senior citizens' clubs		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Maintenance of environment
Purpose	Support the activities of senior citizens' clubs to promote the health and fulfillment of the lives of the elderly.		
Details	In addition to providing subsidies to promote social service activities, educational courses, health promotion programs, etc., organized by the senior citizens' clubs, a welfare bus for the elderly will be operated to revitalize the activities and improve convenience for the participants.		
Organizer, participants	City, senior citizens' clubs		

### 3. Evidence-based Programs

Each Safe Community Task Force for priorities examines the overall picture of prevention activities and the results of initiatives undertaken up to the previous designation and promotes initiatives with a clear target audience to address issues.

#### (1) Child Safety Task Force

The injury situation for children in the city shows a higher ratio of "general injuries" for younger children and "sports/games" for teenagers. The primary location of injury for younger children is at "home (indoors)." While "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places," which used to be the most common causes of injury, have decreased, injuries such as "burns" and "contact or collision" have increased. (Figs. 2-12 to 15)

The ratio of injuries sustained by elementary school students during school supervision has remained unchanged, with most injuries occurring during "recess." (Figs. 2-22 and 23)

Based on the above, efforts are underway to "raise awareness among parents of infants and toddlers" and to "promote safety measures in elementary schools."

#### ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	Younger generations have higher injury rates, especially those aged 0 to 4 years old. General injuries, which account for most incidents, occur at home (indoors).
Goal	Reduce infant and toddler injury by alerting their parents to pay attention to injuries



Program	Program to raise awareness of parents with infants and toddlers (continue)		
Target	Parents of infants/toddlers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Display posters and distribute educational materials at infant and toddler health checkups and nursery schools, etc.		

[Program]

Challenge	About half of the injuries sustained during elementary school management hours occurred during recess.
Goal	Reduce the number of injuries sustained during recess, and reduce injuries sustained at school.



Program	Programs for elementary school safety measures (continue)		
Target	Elementary school students	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Share information on effective safety measures programs implemented at each school.		

#### (2) Elderly Safety Task Force

The most common causes of death among the elderly in the city due to external causes, with the exception of "suicide," are "suffocation," "drowning and near-drowning," and "falls on the same level/falls from higher places." (Fig. 2-3)

Looking at the situation of injuries, the rates of "moderate" and "severe" injuries, which could affect the rest of one's life, increases with age. On the other hand, "general injuries," which account for the majority of

incident types, occur at "home (indoor/outdoor)" and are mainly caused by "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places." (Figs. 2-12, 27, 28, and 29)

The number of elderly citizen living alone in the city has been increasing yearly (Fig. 1-7). According to the "Health and Living Survey" conducted by the city's Elderly Care Section, falls on the same level, incidents, and concerns about living alone were cited as daily life concerns among the elderly. Comparing the results of the 2019 and 2022 surveys, the number of people with anxiety and worries has increased. Considering the above, program to "promote and educate people about oral exercises," "improve the environment in the home," and promote the "elderly mimamori watch (over) network" are being implemented.

Fig. 3-2 Survey on concerns, worries and anxieties in daily life

Details of concerns and worries	2019 (n=3,595)	2022 (n=3,734)
Worried about health	43.0%	45.2%
Worried about developing dementia	35.6%	39.0%
Worried about falls on the same level and incidents when away from home	15.5%	18.2%

Source: "Health and Living Survey" (Elderly Care Section)

- Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	The city's population is aging. The most common causes of death among the elderly due to external causes are "suffocation," "drowning and near-drowning," and "falls on the same level/falls from higher places."		
Goal	Reduce unintentional incidents caused by suffocation, etc.		



Program	Oral cavity exercise promotion program (continue)		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Educate and raise awareness on vital function training and suffocation prevention and improve both mental and physical aspects.		

[Program]

Challenge	Elderly persons have a high rate of injuries, and the rate increases with age. Injuries among the elderly are more likely to be moderate or severe. General injuries, which account for most incidents, occur at home (indoors and outdoors).		
Goal	Reduce incidents caused by falls on the same level/falls from higher places in the home.		



Program	Program to improve home environment (continue)		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Promote improvement of home environment required to prevent falls on the same level.		

[Program]

Challenge	Elderly citizen living alone is increasing. Many elderly have concerns and worries.		
Goal	Establish a mimamori-watching network to prevent isolated deaths among the elderly, prepare for emergencies, and lead to early detection and reporting.		



Program	Elderly mimamori network program (continue)		
Target	Elderly	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Raise awareness of the Elderly Safety Mimamori Patrol registration policy.		

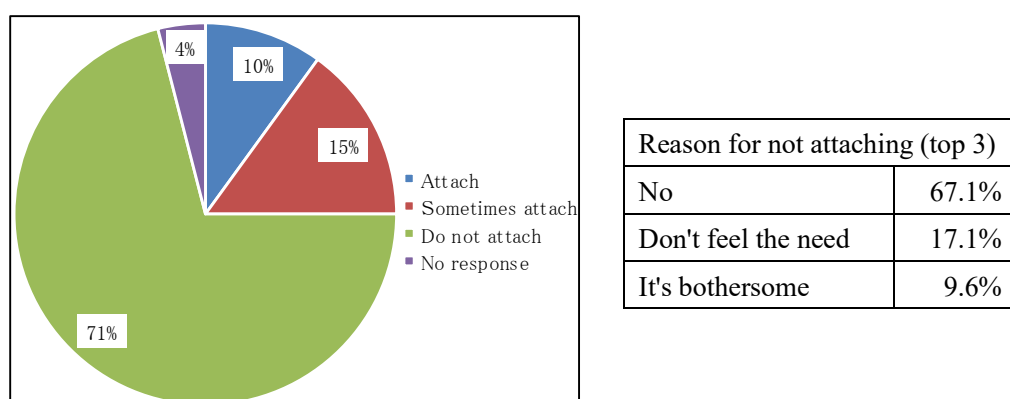
### (3) Traffic Incident Prevention Task Force

The number of personal injury incidents in the city has been decreasing year by year. (Fig. 2-36)

Looking at the time of personal injury incident occurrence, in the past, incidents were more common between dusk and nighttime, specifically from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. When going out after dusk, wearing reflective materials on clothing and personal belongings can alert drivers of your presence, and help prevent traffic incidents. A Citizen Survey conducted after the last designation revealed that three out of four citizens do not wear reflective materials on their clothing or belongings. Additionally, about 70% of those who do not wear reflective materials do not own any. Therefore, the target of programs to raise awareness of reflectors has been expanded from the elderly to all citizens. (Fig. 2-38)

When looking at the incidents by road type in the city, it was found that more than half of the incidents occurred at or near intersections. Therefore, the Task Force has identified intersections with a high rate of traffic incidents as high-risk environments and is implementing "intersection incident countermeasures." (Fig. 2-37)

Fig. 3- 3 Percentage of people who attach reflective gear to their clothing or belongings when it is dark (2020)  
(n=850)



Source: Safe Community Citizen Survey

#### [Program]

Challenge	Incidents occur between dusk and nighttime. Few people wear reflective materials, and many of them do not have reflective materials.
Goal	Reduce the number fatal incidents among pedestrians.



Program	Program to promote use of reflectors (continue)		
Target	Elderly ⇒ Citizens (expand)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Visit elderly households to promote caution to traffic incidents and distribute reflectors to the elderly. Distribute reflectors to the citizens at events and various opportunities.		



[Program]

Challenge	Personnel injury incidents at intersections count for more than half of all incidents.
Goal	Reduce the number of traffic incidents involving automobiles at intersections.



Program	Intersection incident countermeasure program (continue)		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion Maintenance of environment
Details	Promote information on intersections where incidents occur frequently. Diagnose the sites and propose measures to reduce incidents.		

#### (4) Leisure Activity Safety Task Force

##### 1. Sports

Injuries during sports/games are common among teens. Most occur at schools or public facilities. (Figs. 2-17, 21, 39, and 42)

In preparation for emergencies, the city has installed automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all elementary and junior high schools (24 schools) and public facilities (32 facilities). All teachers and staff working at the elementary and junior high schools take a lifesaving training course provided by the Fire Department Headquarters every year.

We also believe it is necessary for not only athletes and competitors but also parents, other citizens, and tourism businesses to take lifesaving courses, as they may encounter emergency locations and situations.

#### ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	Injuries during sports/games are common among teens. Most occur at schools or public facilities. Everyone should attend a lifesaving course to be prepared for emergencies.
Goal	Increase number of persons who have taken lifesaving course.



Program	Lifesaving course program (continue)		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Encourage participation in life-saving classes First aid training sessions will be held for tourism businesses.		

##### 2. Tourism

In 2016, first-aid cards in three languages were distributed to all lodging facilities (35 facilities) in the city to respond to the rapid increase in foreign visitors. With the ensuing development of translation apps in smartphones, etc., more conversations began to take place via apps. We were about to discuss future initiatives when the number of domestic travelers, including foreign travelers, significantly dropped due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Fig. 1-10)

After the travel restrictions for foreign travelers were lifted, we adjusted our initiatives to concentrate on offering information about emergency responses and other measures implemented by national, provincial, and city governments to alleviate the concerns of tourism businesses.

- Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	With the increase in foreign tourists, we must prepare for emergencies when they need help understanding the language.
Goal	Reduce the rate of people who have concerns about safety measures for foreign overnight guests.



Program	Program to introduce first-aid cards (continue)		
Target	Foreigners	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Implement initiatives to alleviate the concerns of tourism businesses when travel restrictions for foreign travelers were lifted after the COVID-19 pandemic.		

### (5) Disaster Prevention Task Force

#### 1. Building fires

Given the yearly occurrence of deaths and injuries caused by fires in the city, leaflets used by the Fire Department Headquarters has been distributed at neighborhood association meetings and disaster prevention events. The leaflets aim to promote the "installation and updating of residential fire alarms," to prevent people from being trapped in building fires. (Fig. 2-45)

However, the installation rate of residential fire alarms remains low compared to the national rate.

The Injury Surveillance Committee recommended establishing model districts and concentrating on awareness efforts due to the Task Force's limited capacity. Therefore, the initiative was changed to focus on raising awareness in model districts while still increasing awareness throughout the city.

Fig. 3-4 Transition of rate of residential smoke detector installation

\*Towada District is total for Towada City and Rokunohe

Class	2018	2019 [Designation (3)]	2020	2021	2022
National	81.6%	82.3%	82.6%	83.1%	84.0%
Towada district *	75.0%	66.0%	65.0%	77.0%	81.0%

Source: Towada Regional Office Association Fire Department Headquarters

- Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	There are deaths and injuries from fires each year.
Goal	Reduce the number of deaths from building fires



Program	Program to promote installation of residential smoke detectors (expand)		
Target	Citizens, model district (Nishi Elementary School district)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Promote installation, maintenance, and management of residential smoke detectors.		

## 2. Natural disasters

The Towada City Community Disaster Preparedness Plan was developed considering the following possible disaster scenarios, including natural conditions such as topography, geology, and weather, as well as social conditions like population, urbanization, and industrial concentration. It also took into account past disasters such as wind and flood disasters in the area.

- 1) Disasters caused by typhoons
- 2) Disasters caused by extreme rainfall, such as torrential rains
- 3) Disasters caused by heavy snowfall
- 4) Incidents and disasters caused by air traffic, railroads, roads, hazardous materials, large-scale fires, large-scale forest fires, etc.
- 5) Other disasters caused by unusual natural phenomena and special disasters
- 6) Earthquake
- 7) Disasters caused by volcanic activity

Since our last designation, we have changed the Safe Community Citizen Survey targets from event visitors to random sampling, which has resulted in a significant decrease in some indicators.

Therefore, as with building fires, efforts are being made to focus on educational activities in model districts while continuing to raise awareness citywide.

Fig. 3-5 Results of survey related to indicators

Indicator	Type	2018 (n=327)	2020 (n=850)	2021 (n=837)
Mid-term	Installation of residential smoke detectors	59.3%	61.3%	63.4%
	Preparation of fire extinguisher and bucket	46.8%	36.0%	31.1%
	Fixing and reinforcement of furniture, etc.	35.8%	29.4%	25.8%
	Stockpiling of food (about 3 days worth)	41.6%	43.1%	42.5%
	Confirmation of evacuation route and evacuation shelter	36.7%	31.5%	28.6%
	Diagnosis of building seismic resistance, reinforcement of buildings and walls	10.7%	7.4%	7.3%
	Registration with the city's safety and security e-mail	21.4%	9.93%	15.2%
Long-term	Participation in evacuation drills and disaster prevention drills	36.4%	25.4%	22.9%
	Discussion with neighbors about each person's role in event of a disaster	18.4%	5.4%	3.7%

Source: Safe Community Citizen Survey

### ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	While the population ages each year, disasters occur, and preparedness is essential.
Goal	Increase awareness for preparing for disasters, etc.



Program	Program to increase awareness regarding disasters (expand)		
Target	Citizens, model district (Nishi Elementary School district)	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Aim to increase "self-help" and "cooperation" in preparation for disasters.		

## (6) Labor Safety Task Force

### 1. Workplace incidents

According to the 14th Workplace Incident Prevention Promotion Plan (FY2023-2027), the following trends are seen in workplace incidents in the prefecture (2018-2022).

1) By type of incident, "falls on the same level" (29%) and "reaction to motion/improper motion" (11%) account for approx. 40% of all workplace injuries.

2) By type of industry, incidents in the secondary industry, such as manufacturing and construction, are still common, but the tertiary industry, especially commerce and health and sanitation, has seen a noticeable increase. By type of incident, "falls on the same level" (37%) and "reaction to motion/improper motion" (13%), which are workplace incidents caused by workers' work behavior, accounted for more than half of the total.

3) Since 2015, the number of fatalities and injuries among older workers in their 50s and above, who have a high fatality and injury rate of 1,000 per year, has been increasing.

4) Winter workplace incidents also exceeded 300 in some years, accounting for about 30% of all incidents during the period from November to March.

The same trend applies to 1), 2), and 4) in Towada City, but for 1), the ratio of workplace incidents due to "falls on the same level" (36%) and "reaction to motion/improper motion" (11%) is higher than that of the prefecture.

Therefore, the Task Force is continuing its efforts to inform the public, through various means, that "falls on the same level" and "falls from higher places" are the most common workplace incidents. (Fig. 2-33 was recalculated between 5 years from 2018 to 2022)

### ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

#### [Program]

Challenge	Workplace incidents occur more frequently in industries with a high number of workers ("manufacturing," "commerce," and "construction" industries). The most common cause is "falls on the same level."
Goal	Reduce injuries caused by workplace incidents.



Program	Program to prevent fall (on the same level/from a higher place) incidents (continue)		
Target	Workers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Promote awareness that falls on the same level and falls from higher places are the main cause of injury in workplace incidents.		

## 2. Farming incidents

According to the Aomori Prefecture Farming Work Safety Campaign Safety Promotion Plan for FY2023, the following trends are seen in farming incidents in the prefecture (over the past ten years).

- 1) Approx. 80% of the fatalities involved elderly persons aged 65 and over.
- 2) Farming incidents occurring while riding tractors tend to be high, accounting for about 21% of all fatalities.
- 3) Many incidents occur when machinery topples over or falls onto hazardous areas, such as entering or leaving farm fields or on slopes.
- 4) Many incidents occur during machine inspections or when clothing is caught in machinery.
- 5) Many incidents happen when individuals become trapped between machinery and branches while operating machinery.
- 6) Many incidents occur when workers fall from high places while using ladders, stepladders, etc.
- 7) Many incidents occur with machinery and equipment used in fruit cultivation.

In our city, data on emergency transports and visits to City Hospital indicate no fatalities have occurred. However, the ratio of incidents during farming work is higher for individuals aged 60 and over. (Fig. 2-34)

In the eight years from 2015 to 2022, there were 47 cases (out of 108 cases) of injuries caused by agricultural machinery and equipment, with 5 cases (out of 8 cases) of them resulting in moderate or severe injury. In light of this, the Task Force continues to raise awareness of safety measures during farming work and prevent incidents caused by agricultural machinery and equipment whenever possible.

### ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	Most persons injured during farming work are over 60 years old. Many incidents occur with agricultural machinery and equipment.
Goal	Prevent incidents caused by agricultural machinery and equipment.



Program	Farming incident prevention program (continue)		
Target	Persons involved with farming	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	In collaboration with JA Towada Oirase, farmers will be alerted to safety measures during farming work and the prevention of incidents caused by agricultural machinery and equipment.		

## 3. Measures to prevent suicide among workers

In 2020, the spread of COVID-19 led to a sharp increase in suicide deaths in our city. This was particularly concerning as our city already had a high rate of suicide deaths among individuals aged 30 to 60, who are typically in the prime of their working lives. In response, the Labor Safety Task Force prioritized questions related to employees' mental health in the "Questionnaire Survey on Safety Measures at Companies and Businesses, etc.," which is conducted among businesses participating in Industrial Safety and Health Conventions.

The results of a questionnaire survey conducted in 2020 with a low response rate revealed that were a certain number of companies and businesses that had employees who took leave or resigned due to poor mental health. About a quarter of the companies and businesses were concerned about the mental health of their employees.

In addition, as there is low awareness among companies and businesses of the consultation centers that provide mental health support, efforts will be made to promote cooperation with the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Fig. 3-6 Questions about mental health

Item	2019 [Designation (3)] (=134)	2022 (n=62)
Did any employee take leave, resign, or resign after taking a leave?	19.7%	14.5%
Do you have concerns about your employees' mental health?	37.3%	25.8%

Source: Survey related to safety measures at companies and businesses, etc.

Fig. 3-7 Recognition of keicho volunteers by companies and businesses, etc.

\* Ratio of respondents who know of at least one keicho volunteer by 2020 and at least one of the three keicho volunteers after 2021

Year	2019 [Designation (3)] (n=134)	2020 (n=89)	2021 (n=74)	2022 (n=62)
Recognition	6.0%	13.5%	10.8%	16.1%

Source: Survey related to safety measures at companies and businesses, etc.

# ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	There are a certain number of employees on leave or retiring due to mental health problems.
Goal	Collaborate with the Suicide Prevention Task Force to reduce the number of suicide attempts.

↓

Program	Program to promote counseling services (new)		
Target	Workers	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	In collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Task Force, ask workplaces to display stickers with contact information for counseling services.		

## (7) Violence and Abuse Prevention Task Force

As there have been cases of abuse in our city, relevant sections **have** been implementing **various** violence and abuse prevention measures. Until the previous designation, the Violence and Abuse Prevention Task Force had been working to increase public awareness of violence and abuse, and to increase the number of people reporting or seeking advice when violence or abuse is suspected. (Figs. 2-48, 49, and 50)

Since our last designation, we have changed the Safe Community Citizen Survey targets from event visitors to random sampling, which has resulted in a significant decrease in the indicator.

In addition, a new survey on the recognition of different forms of violence and abuse revealed differences in recognition based on the type.

Therefore, the Task Force continues its efforts to deepen understanding of violence and abuse and to increase the number of people who report or consult with the authorities, even when violence or abuse is suspected.

Fig. 3-8 Results of survey related to indicators

Type	2019 [Designation (3)] (n=212)	2020 (n=850)	2021 (n=837)
Rate of people who know the meaning of the Orange Ribbon	19.8%	6.5%	6.8%
Rate of people who know the meaning of the Purple Ribbon	13.2%	2.8%	4.4%
Rate of people who know that reports of abuse are accepted even for suspected abuse	71.7%	—	58.5%
Rate of those who know that care is taken to ensure that the person reporting the abuse is not identified	50.5%	—	35.5%
Rate of people who consult or report abuse when they find an infant/toddler or elder who might be an abuse victim	79.3%	78.8%	73.7%

Source: Safe Community Citizen Survey

Fig. 3-9 Recognition of violence and abuse by type

Type	2020 (n=850)	2021 (n=837)
Physical	82.6%	78.7%
Sexual	82.8%	78.5%
Psychological	75.3%	71.2%
Neglect	45.4%	60.0%
Financial	46.8%	40.0%

Source: Safe Community Citizen Survey

- Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

[Program]

Challenge	Abuse of children, the elderly, and the disabled, and violence against women is occurring. There are some actions that citizens do not recognize as violence or abuse.		
Goal	Inform the community of consultation services for violence and abuse, and the obligation to report such cases.		



Program	Orange Ribbon/Purple Ribbon Promotion Programs (continue)		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Leaflets about the Orange and Purple Ribbons are distributed for promotion to increase the citizens' understanding of abuse and violence.		

[Program]

Challenge	Many people do not consult or report abuse even when they find an infant/toddler or elder who might be an abuse victim.		
Goal	Increase the number of people who will report or seek advice in cases of suspected violence or abuse		



Program	Program to raise awareness on the situation of violence and abuse (continue)		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Presentations of case studies and panel displays by Task Force members will be held at various locations to enhance public understanding of violence and abuse and to raise awareness for reporting.		

## (8) Suicide Prevention Task Force

In the first Towada City Suicide Prevention Plan (2019-2023), the Task Force and the In-house SC Promotion Committee collaborated on the study of the plan's framework and drafts and on its formulation. Since the previous designation, there was a sharp rise in suicide deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Family problems" and "work problems" increased as causes and motives for suicide. Therefore, as the program progresses, we are collaborating with the Labor Safety Task Force to expand efforts to inform the public about places and methods for counseling services. (Figs. 2-4, 6, 7, and 8)

### ● Outline of direction and initiatives to resolve challenges

#### [Program]

Challenge	Suicide death rates are higher than the national and prefecture levels. "Health problems" are the most common cause and motive of suicide. However, the number of suicides due to "family problems" and "work problems" is increasing. The percentage of suicide victims with a co-habitant is higher than the national and prefectural rates; people do not notice the signs of suicide in those close to them.
Goal	Increase the number of people who know how to deal with stress and know the symptoms and measures for stress and depression.



Program	Program for building mental health (continue)		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Promote awareness on depression by community health classes, gatekeeper training classes, and distributing leaflets.		

#### [Program]

Challenge	Suicide is more common among males and among people of all ages. Suicides by the elderly are increasing.
Goal	Increase opportunities for anyone to easily seek advice.



Program	Program to support people facing mental/emotional problems (continue)		
Target	All citizens	Approach to prevent injury	Education and promotion
Details	Promotion of keicho volunteers, etc., as counseling services.		



Indicator 4: Vulnerable Groups

1. High-risk Groups

Towada City has designated high-risk groups from (1) to (5) as follows. The background of the designation and measures taken are introduced in this section.

(1) People who have attempted suicide

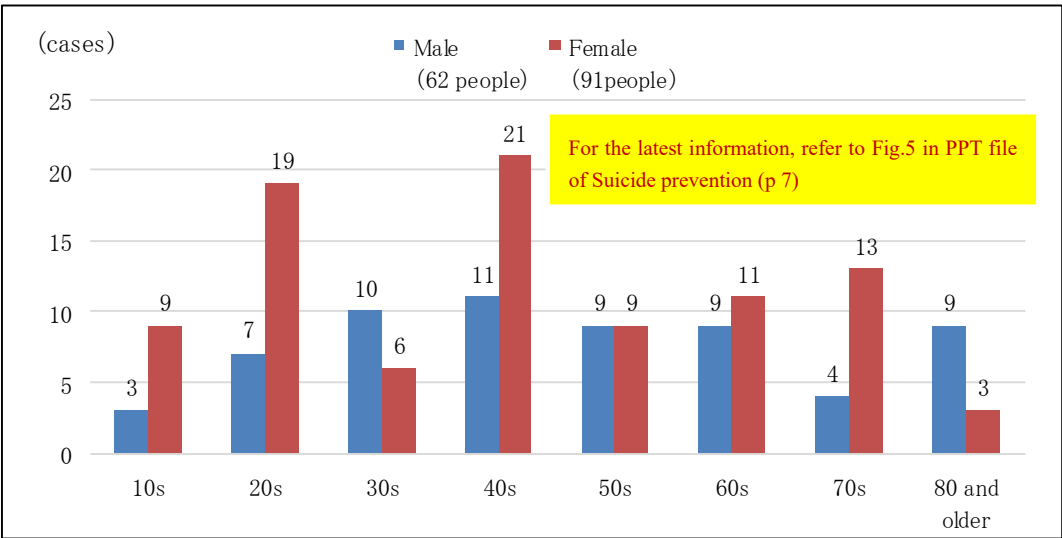
1. Background of high-risk designation

Looking at the number of suicide attempts in our city, there were 153 in the ten years from 2013 to 2022, the same number as the 153 suicide deaths in the same period. (Fig. 2-3)

In addition, by gender and age, more women attempted suicide than men, and more people in their 20s and 40s attempted suicide.

Considering this, we have designated "people who have attempted suicide" as high-risk and have implemented preventive measures.

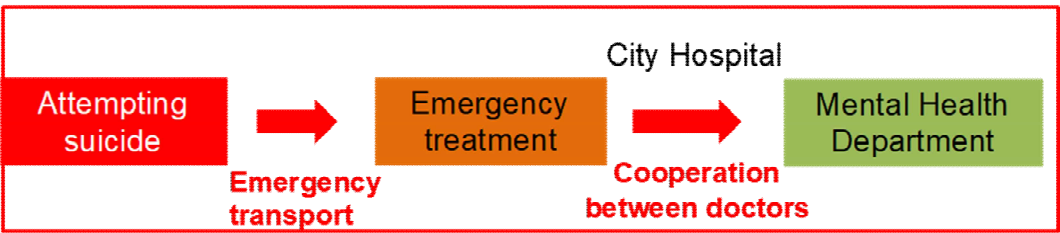
Fig. 4-1 People who have attempted suicide by age and gender (2013 to 2022)



Source: Emergency transport and City Hospital consultation data

2. Programs for people who have attempted suicide

A system has been set up so that if a person who has attempted suicide is brought to the emergency department by emergency transport, the emergency response physician refers the person to the Mental Health Department at the time of treatment and, with the person's consent, works with the Mental Health Department to provide early treatment.





## (2) Children and elders who are being abused

### 1. Background of high-risk designation

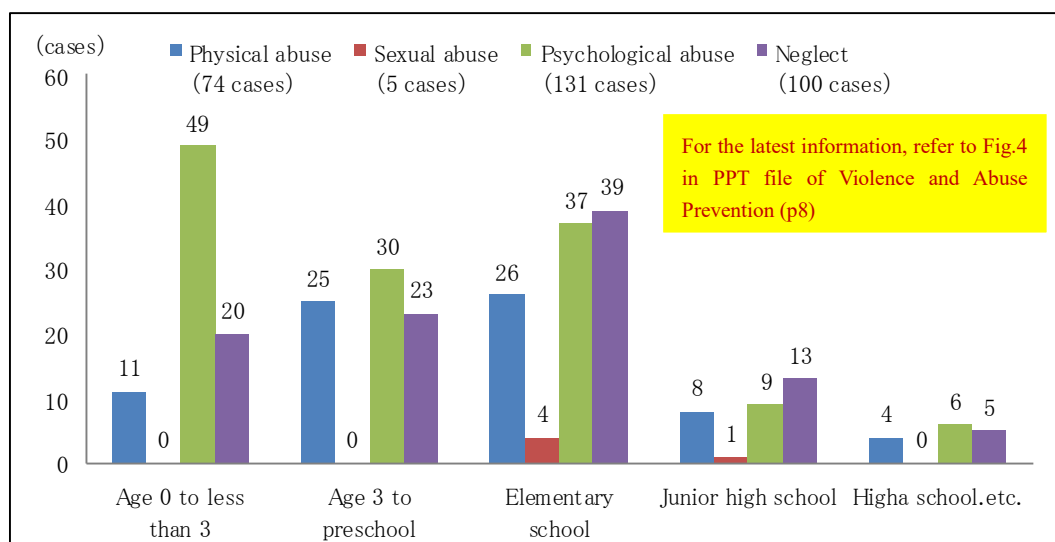
There are cases where abuse victims cannot consult about their situation, and they tend to keep such abuse to themselves. This group has been set as a high-risk group because it is difficult for children and elder abuse victims to escape on their own, and it is difficult for a third party to understand the situation.

#### 1.-1 State of children who are being abused

The number of responses to child abuse in the city has remained unchanged. (Fig. 2-48)

Physical abuse was the most common. In terms of age group, abuse was highest in children under school age. (Fig. 4-2)

Fig. 4-2 Type of abuse toward children (2013 to 2022)



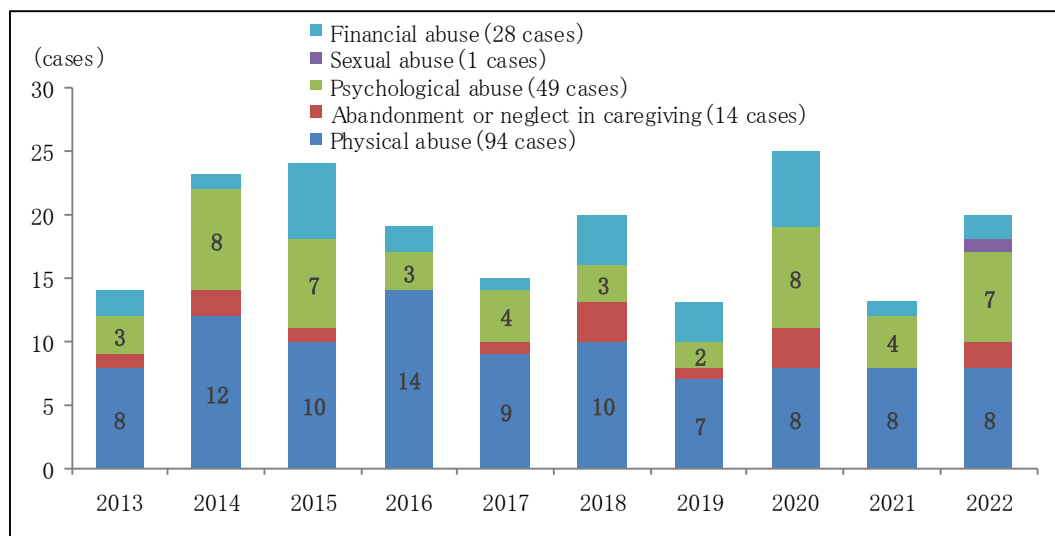
Source: Child Rearing Generation Parent and Child Support Center "Towada City Task Force Committee for Children Requiring Protection meeting material"

#### 1.-2 State of elders who are being abused

The number of consultations for the elderly in our city is increasing. (Fig. 2-49)

Physical abuse was the most common, followed by psychological abuse. (Fig. 4-3)

Fig. 4-3 Types of elder abuse

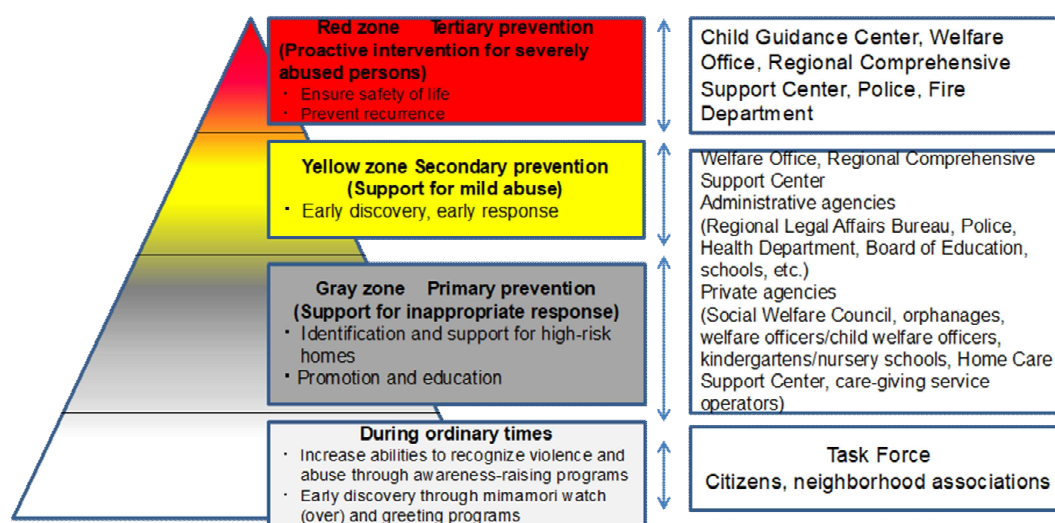


Source: Elderly Care Section

## 2. Programs for children and elders who are being abused

The severity of abuse is arranged as shown below. The relevant agencies work together according to the level of harm.

Fig. 4-4 Cooperative organization for preventing abuse



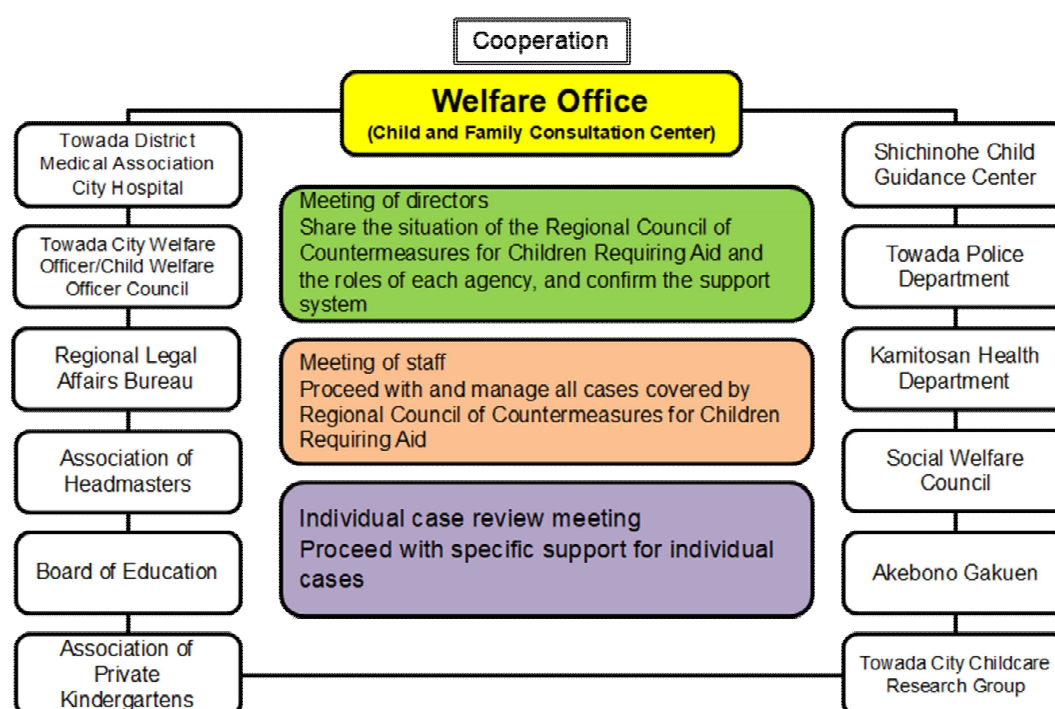
### 2.-1 Programs for children who are being abused

- Towada City Task Force Committee for Children Requiring Protection

A Task Force Committee has been established in cooperation with administration, Police Department, Medical Association and schools, etc. This network aims to identify and protect children because of abuse or neglect due to parent's disinterest, etc. Support is also provided for the parents and specific pregnant women.

The Task Force Committee is comprised of the Director Committee, Staff Committee and Individual Case Committee. Each committee acts appropriately according to each case of abuse.

Fig. 4-5 Cooperative organization for preventing child abuse

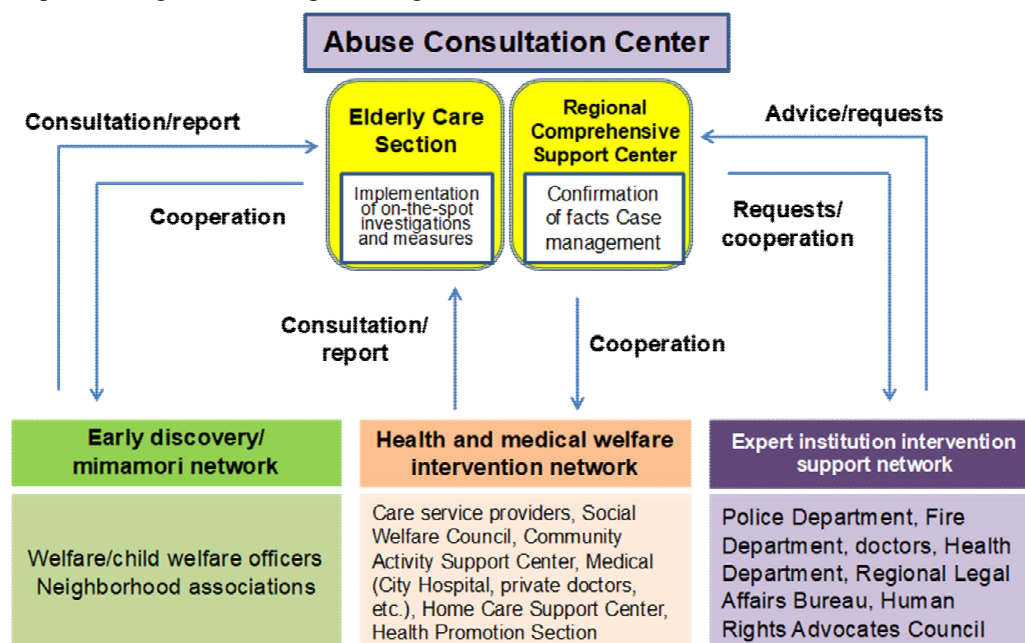


## 2.-2 Programs for elders who are being abused

- Elder abuse prevention consultations and support

With the Towada City Regional Comprehensive Support Center as the base, the Police Department, doctors, care-giving service operators, and welfare/child welfare officers, etc., work together to quickly identify and respond to elders who are victims of violence or abuse.

Fig. 4-6 Cooperative organization for preventing elder abuse



### (3) People with disabilities

#### 1. Background of high-risk designation

As of March 31, 2023, there were 2,217 persons with disabilities in Towada City. Looking at the type of disability, 1,050 persons were physically disabled, accounting for 47.4% of all disabilities.

Persons with disabilities have been positioned as a high-risk group because they could be subject to harm if response is delayed in an emergency such as a disaster. Appropriate measures are being implemented.

Fig. 4-7 Number of persons issued a Physically Disabled Person's Handbook (people)

Class	Visual impairment	Hearing equilibrium function	Speech	Physical disability	Internal dysfunction	Total
2019	149	163	21	1,205	782	2,320
2020	139	162	20	1,171	798	2,290
2021	135	163	20	1,128	817	2,263
2022	136	166	19	1,095	829	2,245
2023	138	170	17	1,050	842	2,217

Source: Welfare Section data

## 2. Programs for disabled persons

#### A. Program to support persons requiring assistance for evacuation

A system has been established to create a directory of disabled persons, elders, etc., who are unable to evacuate on their own in the event of a disaster. This system confirms their safety and provides evacuation support, mainly through neighborhood associations and community supporters.

#### B. Establishment of Towada City Disabled Person Support Council

A council comprised of medical and disability welfare related business operators and welfare officers has been set to comprehensively support the daily life and social life of disabled persons.

#### C. Establishment of welfare evacuation centers

Twenty-two businesses operating social welfare facilities, etc., and the city have entered into an agreement to secure welfare evacuation centers. Evacuation centers are prepared for disabled persons and elders, etc., who require physical care or communication support in the event of a disaster.

### (4) Foreign nationals (residents and tourists)

#### 1. Background of high-risk designation

As of March 31, 2023, there were 354 registered foreign nationals living in our city. Many are from Asian countries with Vietnamese accounting for 22.0%, followed by Koreans and Chinese (15.0%), and Filipinos (10.1%).

Additionally, the number of overnight stays by international travelers had been increasing since 2014, when statistics began, until 2019. However, due to the spread of COVID-19, the number of visitors has decreased significantly since 2020. (Fig. 1-10)

It is hard to gather data about the injuries of foreign residents and travelers in the city, and we have not identified any specific trends in the types of injuries they experience. Communicating accurate information to foreigners during a disaster or emergency is difficult due to language and cultural differences. As a result, we consider this group to be at high risk because they may be more vulnerable in these situations.

Fig. 4-8 Number of registered foreign nationals and rate in respect to population

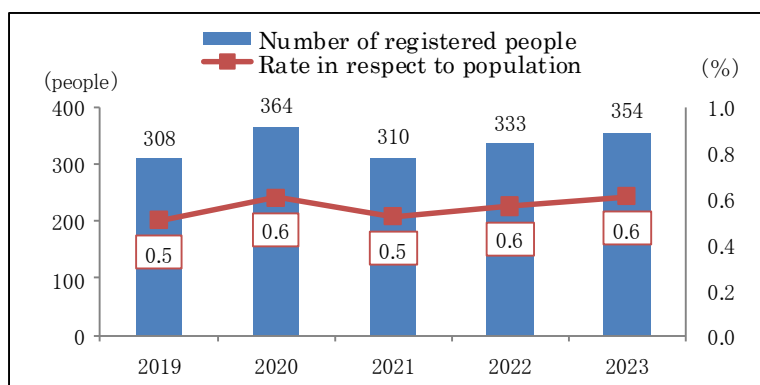
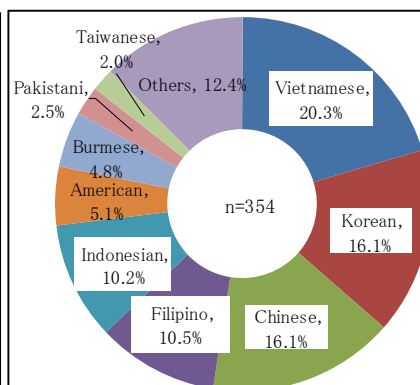


Fig. 4-9 Registered foreign nationals by country



Source: Community Services Section

#### 2. Programs for foreign nationals

The city website provides "Multilingual Living Information" on the city website, providing essential daily life information for residents. The supported languages are English, Korean, and Chinese (simplified and traditional).

The city also introduces websites and applications created by the national and prefectural government to help foreign residents and tourists smoothly gather disaster-related information and have a safe and comfortable stay.

In addition, a subsidy system has been established to support private businesses in implementing translation tools and multilingual signage to enhance the environment for inbound travelers.

(5) Elders with higher rate of injury from falls on the same level, etc.

1. Background of high-risk designation

The city's rate of aging population is higher than the national average.

Emergency transport and City Hospital visit data collected from 2015 to 2022 also show a high percentage of injuries among the elderly. Therefore, we have set this group as a high-risk group, and prevention measures, etc., have been implemented. (Figs. 1-6 and 2-12)

2. Programs for the elderly

The elderly are being educated about the need of preventative care through physical exercises and recreational activities that improve the mind and body.

We also encourage people to prevent suffocation due to aspiration and to eat nutritious and well-balanced meals.



Iki-Iki Exercises



## 2. High-risk Environment

### 1. Background of high-risk designation

In our city, where the downtown area is designed as a grid, a higher percentage of traffic incidents occur at intersections and near intersections, compared to the country and the prefecture. Therefore, we have set the intersections with high number of traffic incidents as high-risk environments. (Fig. 2-37)

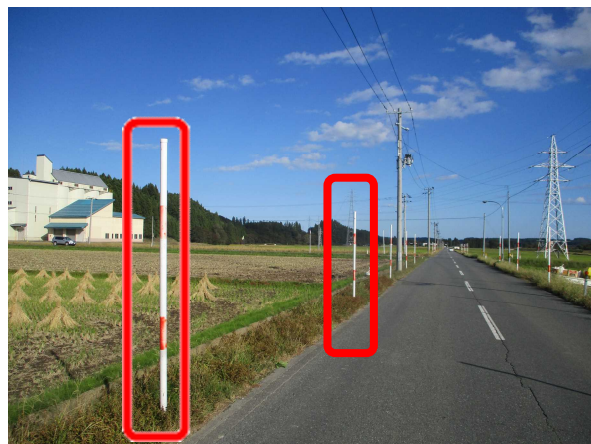
### 2. Programs for intersections with frequent traffic incidents

At intersections with frequent incidents where there are no traffic signals, colored pavement is installed on the temporary stop side. At intersections with good visibility, such as agricultural roads, red and white poles are installed at regular intervals to prevent collision course phenomenon and provide drivers with a sense of distance between vehicles.

In 2023, the Traffic Incident Prevention Task Force conducted an on-site assessment of an intersection with a high number of incidents. They proposed painting cross-marks and installing poles to prevent collision course phenomenon. The city addressed these recommendations.



Color pavement at intersections



Installed poles to prevent collision course phenomenon



Cross-mark painting



Installed poles to prevent collision course phenomenon

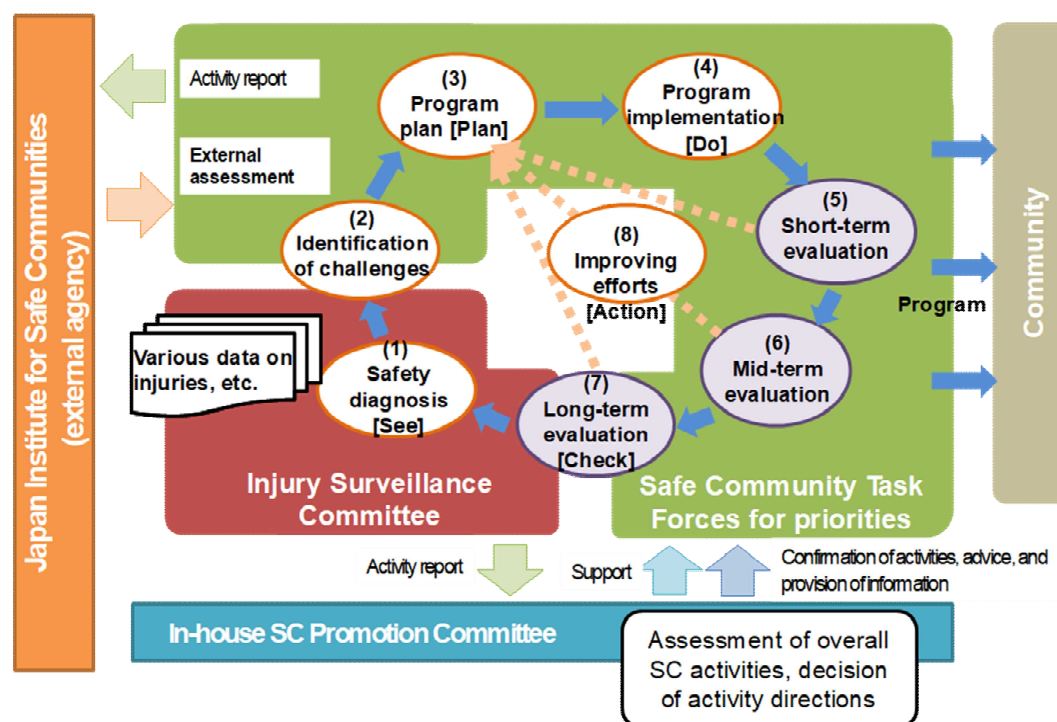


## Indicator 5: Evaluation

### 1. Management of Safe Community Program Progress

Towada City uses the Plan, Do, Check and Action cycle to promote continuous Safe Community activities based on the injury surveillance data.

Fig. 5-1 System diagram of Safe Community program progress management



### 2. Programs, Indicators, Measurement, and Evaluation for Each Priority Issue

In Towada City, programs being carried out for priority challenges are evaluated with a short-term, mid-term and long-term perspective.

Data provided after the submission of the application (in April, 2024) will be presented in the PPT files at the on-site evaluations

#### (1) Child Safety Task Force

1. Program to raise awareness of parents with infants and toddlers						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A perception survey of parents with infants and toddlers was conducted among the parents of children enrolled in nursery schools, etc.</li> <li>The results of the perception survey and data from the analysis of injuries were used to create posters, which were displayed at nursery schools, etc. Awareness of incident prevention and safety measures was raised using illustrations easily understood by even preschool children.</li> <li>Pocket tissues and other educational materials were distributed at infant and toddler health checkups and nursery schools, etc. to raise awareness among parents of infants and toddlers.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	4-month health checkup participation rate	(n=374) 98.2%	(n=340) 96.6%	(n=313) 97.8%	(n=281) 94.9%	(n=303) 95.9%
	18-month health checkup participation rate	(n=352) 96.2%	(n=370) 97.4%	(n=366) 98.1%	(n=305) 93.8%	(n=294) 97.0%
	3.5-year health checkup participation rate	(n=402) 97.6%	(n=409) 96.5%	(n=369) 97.6%	(n=305) 90.0%	(n=342) 87.9%

(continued)

Mid-term	Perception survey of parents with infants and toddlers (Number of parents) *	—	n=1121	—	—	n=895
	Rate of people who empty bathtub	—	66.4%	—	—	69.8%
	Rate of people using safety fence at stairway	—	23.4%	—	—	22.0%
	Rate of people using safety fence around heating appliance	—	41.9%	—	—	35.4%
	Rate of people using cushion tape on table corners to as protection against falls on the same level	—	36.8%	—	—	38.2%
	Rate of people implementing measures to prevent unintentional ingestion	—	87.3%	—	—	86.1%
	Rate of people using child seat	—	97.8%	—	—	99.0%
Long-term	Number of age 0 to 4 children injured at home (inside)	47 people	45 people	27 people	25 people	16 people
	Rate of injured individuals per 1,000	23 people	23 people	14 people	14 people	9 people
Outcome	We raised parents' awareness of potential injuries to infants and toddlers and connected it to prevention.					

\* The questionnaire survey was not conducted in 2021 due to COVID-19.

2. Programs for elementary school safety measures							
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Towada Safe Community Newsletter, which introduces examples of effective safety measures implemented in elementary schools, was published to provide information to elementary and junior high schools.</li><li>• It was thought that providing opportunities to provide information directly to school personnel would make the initiative more effective. Starting in 2023, the content of the activity was changed, and information on "preventing incidents during recess" was shared among elementary and junior high school health supervisors and school nurse teachers during their meetings.</li></ul>						
	Indicator	Class		2018	2019	2020	2021
Short-term	Old	Number of students who take care at school	—	*	*	*	*
	New	No. of schools conducting programs based on program examples	Program changed				
Mid-term	Number of students injured during recess		61 people	49 people	57 people	64 people	44 people
Long-term							
Outcome	Collaboration between schools was strengthened to prevent student injuries.						

\* The community newsletter was issued in FY2019 to share examples of effective initiatives being implemented at elementary schools with other elementary schools and awareness notes from the Student Council. However, midway through the school year, it became difficult for the students to distribute awareness notes due to measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## (2) Elderly Safety Task Force

1. Oral cavity exercise promotion program						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflets containing information on foods prone to causing suffocation and exercises for the oral cavity that can be performed at home were prepared and distributed to the elderly.</li> <li>The leaflets were distributed at Home Care Support Center, as well as at "neighborhood association meeting places," "senior citizens' clubs," and "salons" each year to raise public awareness.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Number of Yukko de Iki-Iki Exercises program participants	404 people	372 people			
	No. of Iki-Iki Exercise participants	Program changed		196 people	198 people	247 people
Mid-term	Rate of people who "make a conscious effort to chew their food well" and "consciously eat while taking care not to suffocate"	(n=261) 55.9%	(n=250) 41.6%	(n=123) 40.7%	(n=144) 20.1%	(n=276) 64.0%
Long-term	Number of persons transported by ambulance for suffocation	14 people	14 people	8 people	7 people	11 people
Outcome	In addition to promoting health, the initiative was able to foster awareness of preventing suffocation.					

2. Program to improve home environment						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflets containing information on improving the home environment to prevent falls on the same level were prepared and distributed to the elderly.</li> <li>The leaflets were distributed at Home Care Support Center, as well as at "neighborhood association meeting places," "senior citizens' clubs," and "salons" each year to raise public awareness.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Perception survey of elderly (Number of Community Iki-Iki Class participants)	n=336	n=300	n=258	n=269	n=276
	1. Rate of participants who think they can prevent falls on the same level at home	76.5%	74.7%	72.1%	63.6%	68.1%
	2. Rate of participants who are making an effort to not place objects on the floor	81.2%	85.7%	78.3%	65.8%	89.1%
Mid-term	Rate of participants who are improving their home environment (barrier free)	36.0%	37.7%	43.0%	42.8%	49.6%
Long-term	Number of Iki-Iki Exercise participants who have fallen on the same floor at home	30 people	27 people	26 people	16 people	25 people
	Of those, the number of people who sought medical treatment	16 people	14 people	12 people	4 people	4 people
	Number of people transported by ambulance or receiving outpatient care at City Hospital for injuries sustained by falls on the same level at home	117 people	103 people	110 people	109 people	99 people
Outcome	In addition to promoting health, the initiative was able to foster awareness of preventing falls on the same level.					

3. Elderly Mimamori Network Program						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflets were prepared and distributed to the elderly through the Home Care Support Center to publicize the registration system of the Elderly Mimamori Network Program.</li> <li>From 2020, information about the program to support the wandering elderly, a project to watch over the elderly, and the emergency medical information kit distribution program were included in the leaflet to help the elderly be prepared in case of an emergency.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of people aware of mimamori network program*	—	(n=212) 65%	—	—	—
Mid-term	Number of business registered with Mimamori Patrols	181 people	179 people	188 people	216 people	237 people
Long-term	Number of known reports received from businesses registered with Mimamori Patrols	1 case	13 cases	27 cases	24 cases	40 cases
Outcome	Awareness of the programs increased and the number of registered providers increased, helping to ensure the safety and security of the elderly.					

\* The Safe Community Citizen Survey was conducted in 2023.

### (3) Suicide Prevention Task Force

1. Program for building mental health						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of counseling services, card-type leaflets were prepared as educational materials and distributed at job placement centers, drugstores, and other locations.</li> <li>Stickers promoting counseling services were prepared and distributed to drugstores and public facilities in the city, and were put up in restrooms. Additionally, stickers were distributed to universities in the city to raise awareness among university students.</li> <li>In cooperation with the Labor Safety Task Force, stickers were distributed to companies to raise awareness of suicide prevention among workers who are in their working prime.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of people who know how to deal with stress, and know the symptoms of and measures for depression*	—	—	—	—	(n=2428) 42.5%
Mid-term	Number of people using Kokoro Consultation service	244 people	173 people	123 people	211 people	164 people
Long-term	Number of deaths by suicide	14 people	9 people	23 people	14 people	10 people
Outcome	Counseling services for suicide prevention were publicized to a wide range of people, including university students and the working-age population.					

\* The survey is conducted by the Health Promotion Section as basic material for the formulation of the Towada City Suicide Prevention Plan. It is conducted once every five years.

2. Program to support people facing mental/emotional problems						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To raise awareness of counseling services, card-type leaflets were prepared as educational materials and distributed at job placement centers, drugstores, and other locations.</li><li>• Stickers promoting counseling services were prepared and distributed to drugstores and public facilities, and were put up in restrooms. Additionally, stickers were distributed to universities to raise awareness among university students.</li><li>• In cooperation with the Labor Safety Task Force, stickers were distributed to companies to raise awareness of suicide prevention among workers who are in their working prime.</li></ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Recognition of keicho volunteers by companies and businesses	(n=237) 8.4%	(n=134) 6.0%	(n=89) 13.5%		
		After review			(n=74) 10.8%	(n=62) 16.1%
Mid-term	Recognition of mental health counseling services by citizens	(n=327) 57.2%	—	—	(n=837) 40.9%	—
	Recognition of keicho volunteers by citizens	(n=187) 27.8%	—	(n=850) 7.4%		
		After review			(n=837) 15.6%	—
Long-term	Number of people using keicho volunteers	90 people	96 people	86 people		
		After review			132 people	167 people
Outcome	In collaboration with the Labor Safety Task Force, we raised awareness about suicide prevention among the working generation.					

\* Until 2020, only "Lupinas" was targeted. From 2021, the focus expanded to include those familiar with at least one of the three keicho volunteers, including "Oasis" and "Clover."

#### (4) Traffic Incident Prevention Task Force

1. Program to promote use of reflectors						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In cooperation with the Association of Mothers for Traffic Safety, the Task Force visited the homes of the elderly to distribute reflectors and conduct promotional activities.</li> <li>In areas where traffic incidents frequently occur, the Task Force distributed reflectors during household visits and conducted educational activities with the elderly and their families.</li> <li>The Task Force distributed reflectors at rabies vaccination sites and conducted publicity activities, including a questionnaire survey on the effectiveness of reflectors when walking dogs.</li> <li>On the first day of the Autumn Traffic Safety Campaign, a "Traffic Safety Noon Concert" by the police band was organized at the City Hall. Reflectors were distributed to participating kindergarten children and audience members, and publicity activities were conducted.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term Mid-term	Rate of people who responded they did not have reflectors but would like to have some	—	(n=77) 42.9%			
	Rate of people who own reflectors	—	(n=212) 62.3%			
	Rate of people who attach reflectors to their clothing or belongings*	Review		(n=850) 25.5%	(n=837) 22.0%	—
	Reason for not attaching (Multiple answers accepted) * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's bothersome</li> <li>It's embarrassing</li> <li>Don't feel the need</li> <li>Don't own reflectors</li> </ul>	Review		(n=633) 9.6% 2.2% 17.1% 67.1%	(n=643) 7.8% 2.9% 20.1% 70.0%	—
Long-term	Number of fatal incidents among pedestrians	0 incidents	1 incident	1 incident	1 incident	0 incidents
Outcome	We distributed reflectors to a wide target audience, not just the elderly, and encouraged them to wear them on their clothing and personal belongings.					

\* The Safe Community Citizen Survey was conducted in 2023.

2. Intersection incident countermeasure program						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A map showing intersections with the highest number of traffic incidents in the past five years (2015-2019) was prepared and published in the City Newsletter and on the website to raise public awareness.</li> <li>The map above was used to analyze the traffic incident situation.</li> <li>Road safety diagnoses were conducted at intersections on the map where traffic incidents are increasing, and potential countermeasures were studied.</li> <li>The city implemented two countermeasures: (1. Painted cross-marks, 2. Installed poles to prevent collision course phenomenon)</li> <li>After implementing the countermeasures, the city will analyze the incident situation.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Number of intersections with high rates of incidents	4 places	6 places	10 places	10 places	6 places
Mid-term	Number of designated intersections with countermeasures	—	—	1	2	1
Long-term	Number of traffic incidents at designated intersections	5 incidents	7 incidents	21 incidents	9 incidents	11 incidents
Outcome	The installation of security cameras and the painting of cross-marking on roads led to environmental improvements.					

## (5) Disaster Prevention Task Force

1. Program to promote installation of residential smoke detectors						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational leaflets used by the Fire Department Headquarters were distributed to each neighborhood association chairperson at the general meeting of the Federation of Neighborhood Associations and to visitors at disaster prevention-related events.</li> <li>The Task Force participated in disaster drills and explained the importance of residential fire alarms and the need for their updating.</li> <li>Disaster prevention classes were conducted at elementary schools in model districts to educate about the frequency and reasons for house fires in the city, the installation and importance of residential fire alarms, and to urge families to verify the installation of residential fire alarms and the safety of evacuation routes.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of people who installed residential smoke detectors	75.0%	66.0%	65.0%	77.0%	81.0%
Mid-term						
Long-term	Number of deaths from residential fires	7 people	8 people	1 person	11 people	11 people
Outcome	Model districts were set up, and activities to raise awareness on the installation and maintenance of residential alarms were carried out to foster awareness regarding fire prevention.					

2. Program to increase awareness regarding disasters						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflets were prepared and distributed to all neighborhood associations in the city, calling for the implementation of evacuation drills and the formation of voluntary disaster prevention groups.</li> <li>Disaster prevention classes were held at elementary schools in model districts to raise awareness of disaster prevention from elementary school age through hands-on experience using disaster prevention goods.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Number of persons participating in evacuation drills and fire extinguishing drills	2,776 people	2,130 people	1,907 people	1,725 people	3,819 people
Mid-term	Rate of people who have worked to improve their environment in preparation for disasters*	n=327	—	n=850	n=837	—
	Installation of residential smoke detectors	59.3%	—	61.3%	63.4%	—
	Preparation of fire extinguisher and bucket	46.8%	—	36.0%	31.1%	—
	Fixing and reinforcement of furniture, etc.	35.8%	—	29.4%	25.8%	—
	Stockpiling of food (about 3 days worth)	41.6%	—	43.1%	42.5%	—
	Confirmation of evacuation route and evacuation shelter	36.7%	—	31.5%	28.6%	—
	Diagnosis of building seismic resistance, reinforcement of buildings and walls	10.7%	—	7.4%	7.3%	—
	Registration with the city's safety and security e-mail	21.4%	—	9.9%	15.2%	—
Long-term	Number of people who participate in evacuation drills and fire extinguishing drills in preparation for disasters*	36.4%	—	25.4%	22.9%	—
	Discussion with neighbors about each person's role in event of a disaster*	18.4%	—	5.4%	3.7%	—
Outcome	Model districts were set up, and activities to raise awareness on disasters were carried out to foster awareness regarding disaster prevention.					

\* The Safe Community Citizen Survey was conducted in 2023.

## (6) Violence and Abuse Prevention Task Force

1. Orange Ribbon/Purple Ribbon Promotion Programs						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coloring sheets featuring the Orange Ribbon and Purple Ribbon were distributed to children in childcare facilities in the city as part of an awareness campaign to prevent child abuse. After finishing the coloring sheets, the children took them home to teach their parents.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Safe Community Citizen Survey*	—	n=212	n=850	n=837	—
	Rate of people who know the meaning of the Orange Ribbon	—	19.8%	6.5%	6.8%	—
	Rate of people who know the meaning of the Purple Ribbon	—	13.2%	2.8%	4.4%	—
Mid-term	Rate of people who consult or report abuse when they find an infant/toddler or elder who might be an abuse victim*	—	79.3%	78.8%	73.7%	—
Long-term	Number of people who used consultation services Children	32 cases	47 cases	61 cases	48 cases	47 cases
	Elderly	16 cases	9 cases	22 cases	12 cases	16 cases
	People with disabilities	0 cases	0 cases	0 cases	0 cases	1 case
	Women	3 cases	4 cases	7 cases	10 cases	5 cases
Outcome	Using coloring sheets for preschoolers, we were able to educate parents about the preventing violence and abuse.					

\* The Safe Community Citizen Survey was conducted in 2023.

2. Program to raise awareness on the situation of violence and abuse						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to exhibiting case studies advocating for the prevention of violence and abuse at childcare facilities, panels introducing the case studies were exhibited at various locations.</li> <li>Leaflets and other materials prepared by the city and prefecture were distributed to inform the public about the counseling services.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Safe Community Citizen Survey*	—	n=212	—	n=837	—
	Rate of people who know that reports of abuse are accepted even for suspected abuse	—	71.7%	—	58.5%	—
	Rate of those who know that care is taken to ensure that the person reporting the abuse is not identified	—	50.5%	—	35.5%	—
Mid-term	Rate of people who consult or report abuse when they find an infant/toddler or elder who might be an abuse victim*	—	79.3%	78.8%	73.7%	—
Long-term	Number of case presentation sessions	—	1 session	—	—	—
	Number of days the panel exhibit was held	5 days	10 days	8 days	0 days	180 days
Outcome	With the cooperation of the Task Force's related organizations, we were able to exhibit panels at non-event locations to raise awareness about preventing violence and abuse.					

\* The Safe Community Citizen Survey was conducted in 2023.

## (7) Leisure Activity Safety Task Force

1. Lifesaving course program						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on lifesaving training courses, AED map application downloading, how to use 119 (emergency) calls properly was introduced through the City Newsletter.</li> <li>First aid training sessions were held for tourism businesses.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of people who want to take lifesaving course *2	(n=327) 92.7%	—	(n=850) 64.0%	(n=837) 54.5%	—
Mid-term	Number of people who took lifesaving course	2,250 people	1,570 people	111 people	312 people	291 people
Long-term	Rate of people who took lifesaving course in last three years *2	(n=303) 15.2%	—	*1	*1	—
Outcome	The initiative was able to foster awareness of lifesaving training.					

\*1 Due to the impact of COVID-19, the acceptance of general participants was canceled, and the initiative was excluded from the questions in the Safe Community Citizen Survey.

\*2 The Safe Community Citizen Survey was conducted in 2023.

2. Program to introduce first-aid cards						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the lifting of travel restrictions for foreign travelers following the COVID-19 pandemic, a website page was created to introduce the emergency responses implemented by national, provincial, and city governments to raise awareness of emergency response measures.</li> <li>The emergency response pamphlet prepared by the national government was distributed to tourism businesses.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Number of places making first-aid cards available	14 places	14 places	—	—	2 places
Mid-term	Situation of use by facilities making cards available	(n=18) 0	—	—	—	(n=14) 0
Long-term	Rate of people with concerns toward foreign tourists	(n=18) 61%	—	—	—	(n=14) 36%
Outcome	Information required after the COVID-19 pandemic was widely distributed, leading to improved response in emergency situations.					

## (8) Labor Safety Task Force

1. Program to prevent fall (on the same level/from a higher place) incidents						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since many incidents are caused by falls on the same level/falls from higher places, the Task Force is calling for the prevention of workplace incidents and distributing pamphlets on incident prevention at the Industrial Safety and Health Conventions hosted by the Kamikita Labor Standards Association.</li> <li>The "Questionnaire Survey on Safety Measures at Companies and Businesses, etc." is distributed to participants at Industrial Safety and Health Conventions on an ongoing basis, and we ask for their cooperation.</li> <li>Each business site implements safety measures such as using non-slip mats and wearing helmets, safety shoes, and safety belts.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of businesses implementing measures to prevent falls on the same level/falls from higher places	43.5%	57.5%	59.6%	60.8%	56.5%
Mid-term						
Long-term	Number of workplace incidents	92 incidents	80 incidents	90 incidents	75 incidents	113 incidents*
Outcome	Awareness on incident prevention was raised through the distribution of pamphlets, etc.					

\* One reason for the sharp increase is thought to be that heavy snowfalls led to more falls on the same level, etc.



2. Farming work incident prevention program						
Details of activities in five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since there are numerous injuries caused by machinery during farming work, the Task Force is collaborating with JA Towada Oirase to alert farmers and prevent incidents.</li> <li>Leaflets containing safety measures and valuable agricultural information are distributed to enhance public awareness.</li> <li>The city also encloses leaflets containing precautions for handling agricultural machinery in various information and documentation sent out to farmers.</li> <li>The Farming Safety Confirmation Survey is conducted on an ongoing basis at seminars organized by the JA, etc.</li> <li>A VR session to experience incidents during farming work was conducted at the general meeting of the Vegetable Promotion Association organized by the JA in 2022.</li> </ul>					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019*	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of people who are skilled in emergency first aid in case of incident	(n=146) 19.2%	—	(n=255) 35.7%	(n=21) 33.3%	(n=189) 37.6%
Mid-term	Rate of people who work without telling their family the work details or place	46.6%	—	47.1%	9.5%	31.2%
	Rate of people who head to work without their mobile phones	60.3%	—	37.7%	19.1%	12.7%
	Rate of people who use machinery or tools without properly mounting safety devices or protective covers	34.9%	—	27.5%	14.3%	47.6%
	Rate of people who have left their machinery or removed entangled matters without turning the engine off, etc.	32.2%	—	32.9%	38.1%	36.0%
Long-term	Number of injuries at farms	8 people	15 people	12 people	18 people	13 people
Outcome	Awareness on incident prevention was raised through the use of VR technology.					

\* The training seminars were canceled, and the Farming Safety Confirmation Survey was not conducted in 2019 due to COVID-19.

3. [New] Program to promote counseling services*						
Details of activities in five years	• Starting in 2023, in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Task Force, stickers have been distributed to businesses to raise awareness of counseling services for suicide prevention among the working generation.					
Indicator	Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short-term	Rate of people who took leave or resigned due to mental health problems	*				
Mid-term						
Long-term	Rate of people contemplating suicide	*				
Outcome	In collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Task Force, we raised awareness about suicide prevention among the working generation.					

\* This program was newly launched from FY2023, so measurable results are not available.

## Indicator 6: Network

### 1. Participation in National and International Networks

As a Safe Community certified city, Towada City has participated in Safe Community network activities in Japan and overseas, and we are applying advanced cases of injury prevention programs, etc., into our safe and secure city planning.

In Japan, the "National Conference for Safe Community Safety and Community Development" was established to create a network with other certified municipalities, contribute to the realization of safe community development through collaboration among residents, and promote information exchange and cooperation among municipalities.

As a member of the Safe Community network, we will utilize the network with other cities as we continue to relay our programs.

\* Renamed from the National SC Promotion Municipality Network Conference

#### ■ State of participation in national and international networks (after second re-designation in February 2020)

As of March 1, 2024

Month	Year	Details
May	2021	Tsuru City, Yamanashi, SC on-site evaluation (online viewing)
June	2021	Atsugi City, Kanagawa, SC on-site evaluation (online viewing)
October	2021	National SC Promotion Municipality Network Conference, Secretariat Liaison Council (online participation)
November	2021	National SC Promotion Municipality Network Conference (online participation)
July	2022	Toshima City, Tokyo, SC on-site evaluation (online viewing)
August	2022	National SC Promotion Municipality Network Conference, Board of Directors Meeting (online participation)
September	2022	Matsubara City, Osaka, SC pre-on-site evaluation (online viewing)
October	2022	10th Asian Regional Conference on SC, 25th International SC Conference <<Sejong City, South Korea>> (participated in poster report and online workshop) National SC Promotion Municipality Network Conference, Secretariat Liaison Council (online participation) National SC Promotion Municipality Network Conference (online participation)
November	2022	Koriyama City, Fukushima, SC on-site evaluation (online viewing)
December	2022	Kurume City, Fukuoka, SC pre-on-site evaluation (online viewing)
February	2023	Kameoka City, Kyoto, SC Japan Designation Preliminary Report Meeting (online viewing)
June	2023	Participated in SC and NEXT Citizen Safety <<Chiyoda City, Tokyo, Organized by Japanese Association of Community Based Civil Safety Sciences>> (lecture)
July	2023	Kameoka City, Kyoto, SC Japan Designation on-site evaluation (online viewing) Kurume City, Fukuoka, SC on-site evaluation (online viewing)
August	2023	Matsubara City, Osaka, SC on-site evaluation (observed)
November	2023	Matsubara City, Osaka, SC certification ceremony (observed)
December	2023	Kameoka City, Kyoto, SC certification ceremony (observed) National Conference for SC Safety and Community Development (online participation)
July	2024	National Conference for SC Safety and Community Development Mayors' visit to Korean Safe Communities

## —Chapter 3 Future Prospects of Safe Community Initiatives —

### 1. Initiative Policy

#### (1) City Plans and continuous efforts of Safe Community

In Towada City Comprehensive Community Development Plan (the second half term) for the second phase, the most fundamental plan for community development, promotion of Safe Community initiatives in the collaboration among the citizens and relevant organizations is indicated to be focused in the implementation plan for the third term of 2024-2026.

By expanding the movement of Safety Promotion, we try to improve the Quality of Life (QOL) based on the continuous assessment of our efforts from a long-term prospect.

#### (2) Contributions to the sustainable development Goals in SDGs

Features of Safe Community Towada are citizens' initiatives and diverse collaboration among different sectors such as administration, health, medicine, welfare, education and so on.

In the trend of aging society with growing senior population and shrinking young population, to make our community sustainable, by making good use of Safe Community initiatives, we will make contributions with our social resources such as community volunteers, local organizations, private agencies to reach the goals of SDGs.

#### (3) Sustainable program operation based on the assessments of interventions

Towada City has been collecting injury related data for long period. The information and data is widely shared among relevant organizations and activities are improved based on opinions by the Injury Surveillance Committee In the future, we will continuously assess outcomes and outputs our efforts based on the PDCA Cycle to make our programs sustainable.

Towada City Safe Community Re-designation Application

April 2024 (Revised in July, 2024)

Issued by : Towada City and Towada City Safe Community Promotion Council

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## Revisions upon the comments by the certifiers

- 1. Revise tables and figures by replacing outdated information by the latest information from presentation files, which were shown at the site visit.**

Instead of replacing the tables and graphs by the ones with further up-dated information, which were reported at the on-site evaluation, we added reference information (pages and number in PPT) otherwise some inconsistency will be found in descriptions or cause divergence in the application report which were submitted in April 2024 while the on-site evaluation was held in Aug.

- 2. Please make sure epidemiological terms and measures of injury frequency (absolute numbers of cases, proportions, rates, ratios) are properly used and interpreted. Please present rates with population or person-time denominators where appropriate and useful for interpretation purposes and evaluation of the changes.**

In Japanese, those terms can be expressed by the same term. Therefore, the revisions should be done by the translation agency along with supports by JISC. (see revisions in the application)

- 3. Please make sure all the numbers are easy to understand from figure and table legends and footnotes. Some of the numbers and terms that were not fully clear for certifiers are highlighted in yellow.**

The highlighted parts were checked and revised by JISC.

- 4. Check the use of incidents. It means events occurrence.**

The term which are translated to “incident” is originally described as “JIKO(事故)” in Japanese. There are two reasons why Towada applied the term “incident” rather than “accident” in the application.

### Reason1

Very early days in SC movement in Japan, there were a community which were requested not to use the term of “accidents” but use “incident” by certifiers. The reason why they told not to use ‘accident’ was that no injury is caused ‘by accident/accidentally’ and all injuries have causes which can be prevented.

### Reason2

When we check the definition of ‘incident’, ‘accident’ and ‘JIKO(事故)’, term “incident” refers the meaning of JIKO more than ‘accident’. “Incident” includes “accident”