

Using smartphones while driving causes serious accidents.

Using a smartphone while walking is also dangerous!



Don't be distracted by your smartphone!



Using a smartphone while driving a vehicle or riding a bicycle is **prohibited by law.**

*Even if you are not holding your smartphone, it is an offence to concentrate on the screen while driving.

National Police Agency/
Aomori Prefectural Police

交通ルールを守って
つながる笑顔



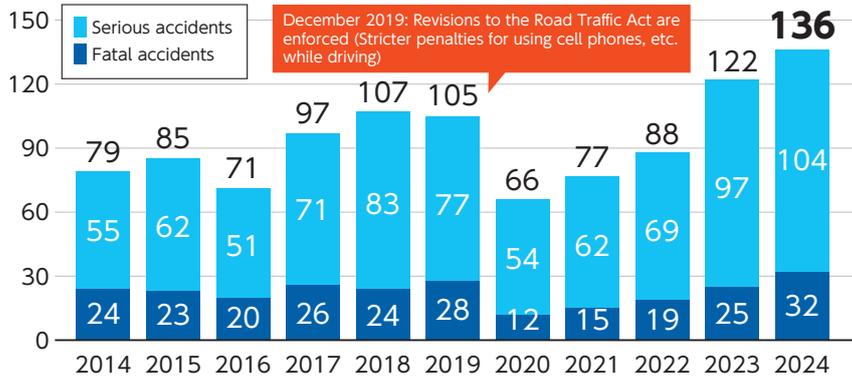
An increasing number of accidents involving death or serious injury are caused by **smartphone distraction!**



Traffic accidents caused by vehicle drivers

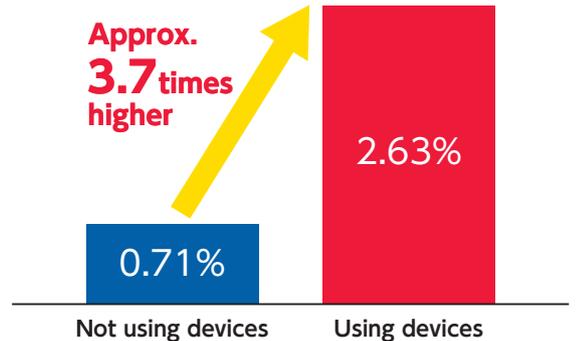
In 2024, **136 accidents** involving death or serious injury were caused by drivers who were distracted by smartphone use, which is **the highest number since 2014**, and **such accidents are being caused regardless of the driver's age**. What's more, **the rate of fatal accidents was approximately 3.7 times higher** than with drivers who were not distracted by using smartphones. Operating a smartphone or looking at the screen can lead to a fatal accident in a split second (see the following graphs).

Number of accidents involving death or serious injury caused by smartphone distraction



Notes:
 - Number of accidents denotes those in which the primary party was driving a vehicle (passenger vehicle, cargo vehicle, special-purpose vehicle).
 - Number of accidents denotes an aggregate for those in which the use of cell phones, smartphones, etc. was the primary cause.

Comparison of rate of fatal accidents depending on the use or otherwise of cell phones, etc. (Totals from 2020 to 2024)



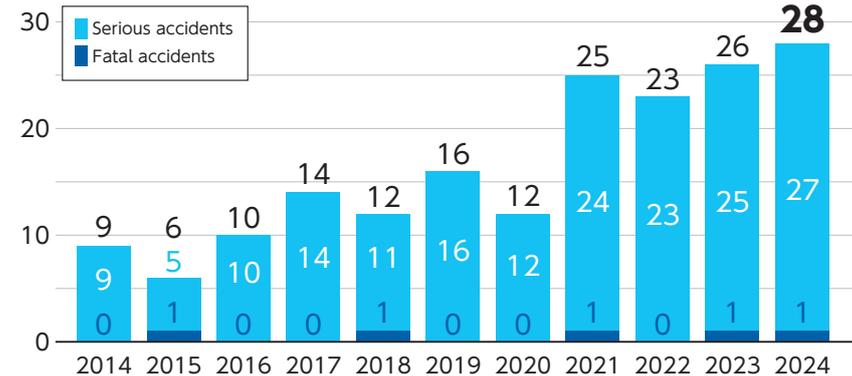
Note:
 Rate of fatal accidents denotes the percentage of fatal accidents among all traffic accidents.



Traffic accidents caused by cyclists

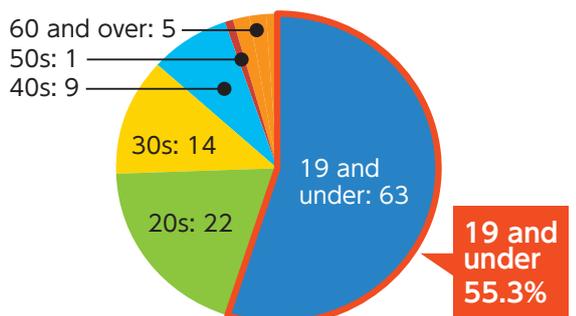
In 2024, **28 accidents** involving death or serious injury were caused by cyclists who were distracted by smartphone use, which is **the highest number since 2014**, and **in terms of age, cyclists aged 19 or under accounted for approximately 60% of those accidents** (see the following graphs).

Number of accidents involving death or serious injury caused by smartphone distraction



Note:
 Number of accidents denotes an aggregate for those in which a cyclist was the primary or secondary party, and their using a cell phone, smartphone, etc. was the primary cause.

Number of accidents caused by smartphone distraction and involving death or serious injury (by age group) (Totals from 2020 to 2024)



Note:
 Aggregates are categorized based on the cyclist's age (primary/secondary party)

Penalties, etc.

	Penalty	Fine	Penalty points on driver's license*
When using a cell phone, etc. to make a call or holding it to look at the screen	Up to 6 months' imprisonment or a fine of up to ¥100,000	Large vehicle: ¥25,000; normal vehicle: ¥18,000; motorcycle: ¥15,000; scooter: ¥12,000; bicycle: ¥12,000 (from April 1, 2026)	3
Cases in which danger to traffic (traffic accidents, obstructing pedestrians, etc.) is caused by the above-mentioned behavior, or by concentrating on the screen of a cell phone, etc. that is not being held in the hands	Up to 1 year's imprisonment or a fine of up to ¥300,000	Not applicable	6 (license suspended)

*Offences due to cycling do not incur penalty points on a driver's license.