

## [Essay Subject]

According to a survey of senior citizens' attitudes towards driving (Figure 1 and 2) conducted by the Japanese cabinet office, a larger number of senior citizens aged 60 and older hope to continue driving. At the same time, according to the Japanese national police agency, the number of car accidents in 2010 in which drivers aged 65 years and older were the primary party most liable for the accident has increased by 1.5 times compared to 10 years ago. For drivers aged 75 years and older, the figure has increased by 2.2 times.<sup>1</sup>

Many of these accidents result from car collisions at crossings, safety check violations, failure to make temporary stops, and occur during right turns (Japanese cars run on the left side of the road). Accidents in which senior drivers drive down the wrong side of the highway or mistakenly step on the accelerator instead of the brake pedal (in automatic shift cars) have also been on the rise. Driving skills are believed to deteriorate as drivers get older, caused by a decline in judgment and responsiveness and lower control over steering.<sup>2</sup> These trends have led to calls for senior drivers to voluntarily renounce their licenses, take training courses, or undergo mental and physical aptitude tests.<sup>3</sup> Despite these measures, car accidents involving senior drivers continue to increase.

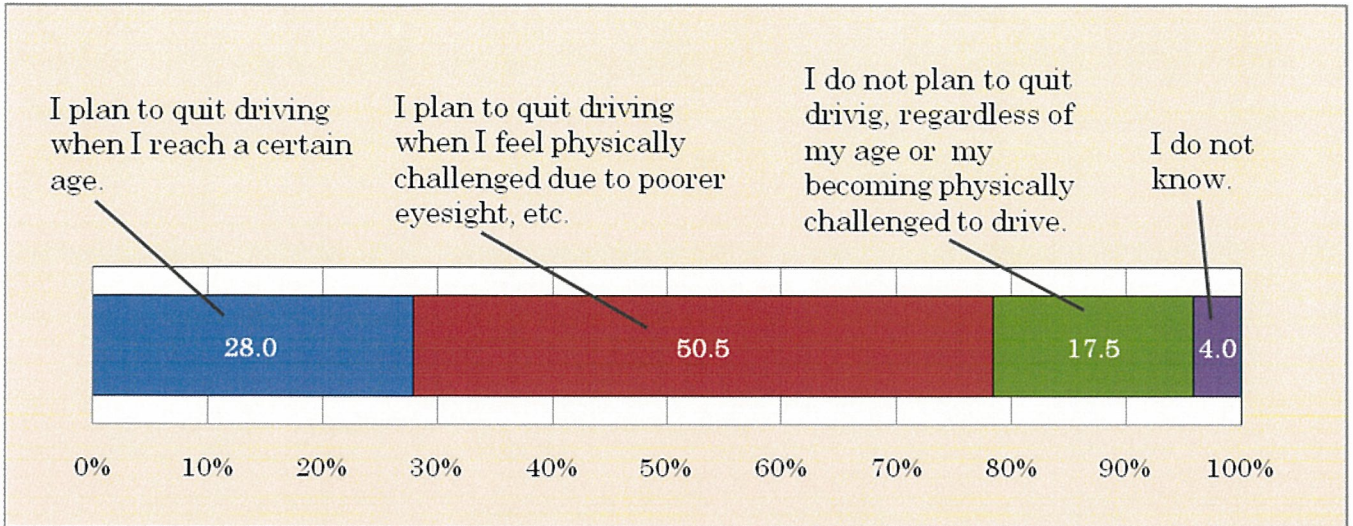
Propose your own set of measures that will reduce and prevent senior driver car accidents. In addition, look at the data to the right and discuss the various social costs of adopting your proposal as well as its viability under real-world constraints. Provide a summary in 100 words and then explain your plan in detail in 400 words.

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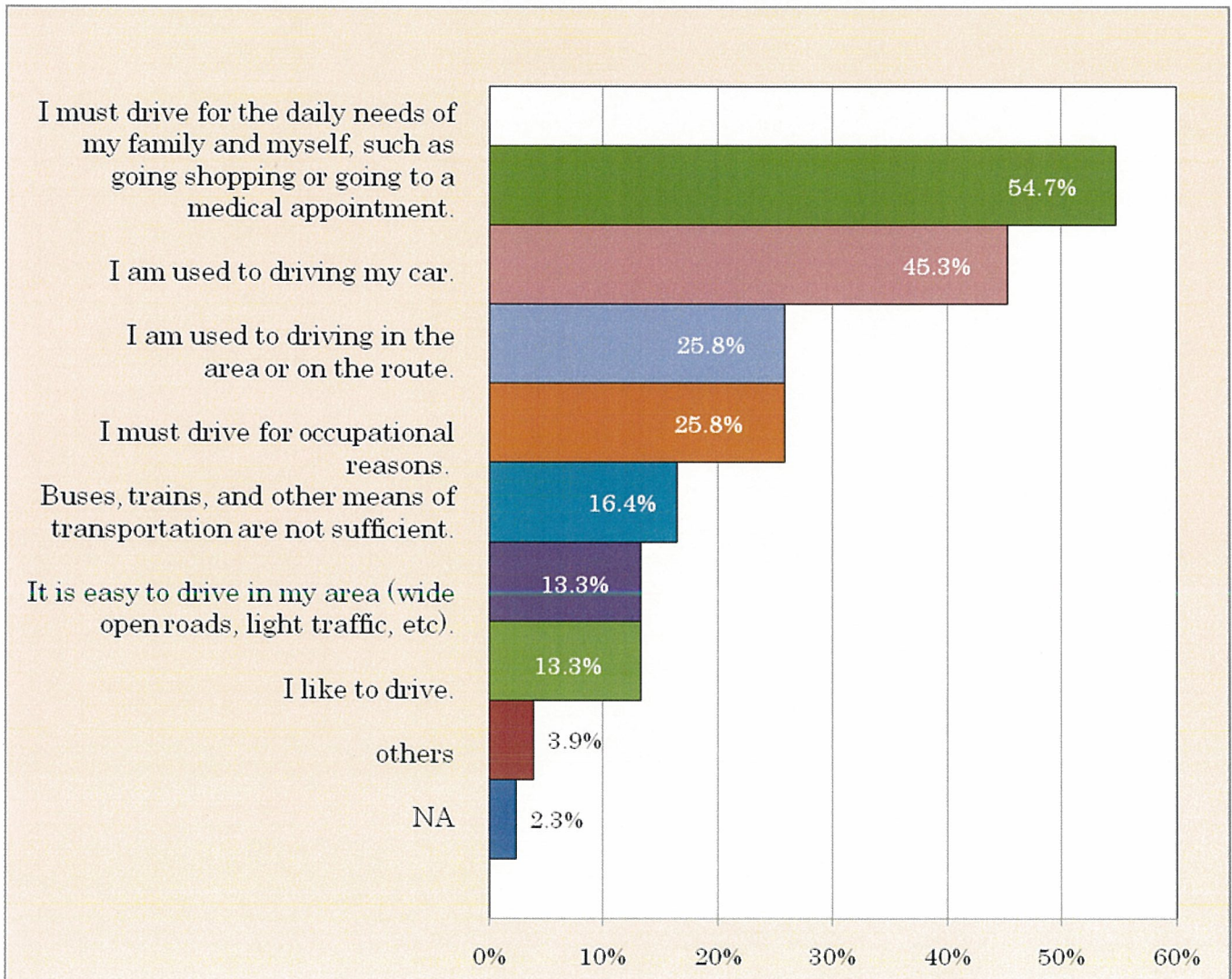
<sup>1</sup>Source: Nihon KeizaiShimbun (evening edition) August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

<sup>2</sup>Source: White Paper on Police (2005)

<sup>3</sup>White Paper on Traffic Safety in Japan (2008)



**Figure 1: Until when do you plan to continue to drive?**



**Figure 2: Why do you plan to continue to drive, regardless of your age or your becoming physically challenged to do so?**

Source: "Survey on housing and living environment of senior citizens" 2006, Cabinet Office  
 \*Poll taken among Japanese men and women aged 60 years old and over