

### Effective Prevention Measures Based on Aspects of Traffic Fatality Rates are Needed in Thailand

The Editor

Sir,

Many researchers have reported on the current state of traffic accidents and measures to prevent them from various perspectives (1, 2). According to a report by the National Police Agency, Japan had fewer than 10 000 traffic fatalities in 1996, fewer than 9000 in 2001, fewer than 8000 in 2003, and fewer than 7000 in 2005. Therefore, the number of traffic fatalities in Japan has decreased in recent years. This study considered the current state of traffic fatalities in a country other than Japan. The rates of traffic fatalities were examined among men and women in Thailand in 1994 and 2000 according to a report by the 'Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics,' and trends in Thailand and Japan in 2000 were compared. Also discussed are future measures to prevent traffic accidents based on these trends with particular focus on current conditions in Thailand.

The rates of traffic fatalities among men in Thailand in 1994 and 2000 were 37.1 and 35.1 per 100 000 population, and the rates among women were 8.2 in 1994 and 8.6 in 2000 (per 100 000 population). In Japan, the rates of traffic fatalities among men and women in 2000 were 14.8 and 5.9 per 100 000 population. Comparison of the rates of traffic fatalities in Thailand and Japan in 2000 indicated that rates were higher in Thailand than in Japan among both men and women, and especially men.

There is a report that women drivers in four Thai cities tended to abide by the seat-belt law (3). In rural Thailand, poor vehicle conditions and road environments reported in some incidents may have posed additional risks (4).

Relevant organizations must work together to prevent traffic accidents and implement preventive measures.

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