

## Trend in and classification of urban gravesites in 23 wards in Tokyo

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With the aging of the Japanese population and its concentration in urban areas, the demand for urban gravesites has been increasing in Tokyo. However, the availability of gravesites has been unable to match the increasing demand for urban gravesites in the city. It is important that new urban gravesites be provided in order to meet the increasing and varied demands.

On the basis of the management agency, urban gravesites can be classified into three types: public-type, temple-type, and business-type. In recent years, the number of business-type gravesites has been increasing; however, they have not been evaluated quantitatively thus far. Therefore, in this paper, we have attempted to quantitatively investigate the current situation and trend in the setting up of urban gravesites in general and business-type gravesites in particular in 23 wards in Tokyo.

First, we created spatial data on urban gravesites in the 23 wards in Tokyo, including 4 public-type, 72 business-type, and 1,674 temple-type gravesites. Next, we examined basic statistics in order to study the trends of variables related to gravesites, and we used the Quantification Method Type III and cluster analysis to examine relationships among the variables as well as the pattern and structure of urban gravesites.

The results showed that Taito-ku, Adachi-ku, Minato-ku, and Katsushika-ku have a relatively large number of gravesites. Many gravesites around the city center are located in the valley of areas with high land prices. The coastal areas contain few gravesites, thus suggesting that the geology and deciduous nature of these areas are not suitable for gravesites. The distribution of large gravesites is skewed to the western area of the 23 wards in Tokyo.

When analyzing the difference in the management agency, we found that public-type gravesites are relatively large and located in residential areas with high land prices. Temple-type gravesites tend to be located in residential areas; temple-type locations in residential areas account for about 80% of all temple-type gravesites. Business-type gravesites are more likely to be located in industrial areas with moderate land prices than public-type and temple-type gravesites.

Many business-type gravesites had been established in the 1990s. The number of business-type gravesites has been increasing and is expected to increase in the future. Since 1992, a number of business-type gravesites have been established near the city center. In the pre-World War II era, business-type gravesites tended to be located in residential and commercial areas; however, post-World War II, they tended to be located in residential areas with moderate land prices. In recent years, business-type gravesites are being built in industrial areas.

In the future, we hope to more closely examine the relationship between urban gravesites and their surrounding environments.

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