

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2008

Older Population (Aged 70 & Above)

As our population ages, an evaluation of motor vehicle incidents involving the elderly is of increasing interest.

	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Older Population
Crashes:	408,399	33,543
Fatal Crashes:	950	129 ^a
Injury Crashes:	67,845	4,277 ^a
Total People Involved:	937,463 ^b	38,720 ^c
Total Fatalities:	1,043 ^b	134 ^c
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	94,098 ^b	4,719 ^c

^a Numbers only reflect crashes in which fatality or non-fatal injury was specifically aged 70 & above

^b Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 937,463 total people = 927,093 occupants + 10,370 non-occupants

^c Numbers include those aged 70 & above only (occupants and non-occupants)

Older adults aged 70 and above were involved in 33,543 (8.2%) of all 408,399 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2008 as drivers, passengers, or non-occupants of vehicles such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists. They represent 134 (12.8%) of all 1,043 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2008. Just 4.9% of drivers in all crashes were older adults, but 9.2% of drivers in fatal crashes and 12.3% of fatally injured drivers were older adults.*

	Percent in Age Group										Total
	0-5	6-15	16-20	21-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-69	70+	
Licensed Drivers ^{1,2}	N/A	N/A	7.0	6.7	17.5	18.4	20.0	15.3	5.1	10.0	100.0
Drivers in crashes ¹	N/A	N/A	13.1	10.4	21.6	19.1	17.2	10.7	2.8	4.9	100.0
Drivers in fatal crashes ¹	N/A	N/A	10.3	11.1	21.1	17.3	18.4	10.2	2.4	9.2	100.0
Fatally injured drivers ¹	N/A	N/A	12.4	11.8	18.1	15.8	17.2	10.3	2.1	12.3	100.0
Population ³	8.5	14.7	7.2	5.4	14.6	16.0	13.1	8.4	3.2	8.9	100.0
Fatally injured passengers	4.9	6.7	13.9	14.3	21.5	6.3	9.0	4.5	1.8	17.0	100.0
Fatally injured pedestrians	2.2	8.9	5.9	6.7	14.1	23.0	17.0	7.4	3.0	11.9	100.0
Fatally injured pedalcyclists	3.7	18.5	3.7	11.1	7.4	7.4	25.9	22.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total traffic fatalities	1.4	3.4	11.7	11.6	17.9	14.4	15.6	8.9	2.2	12.8	100.0

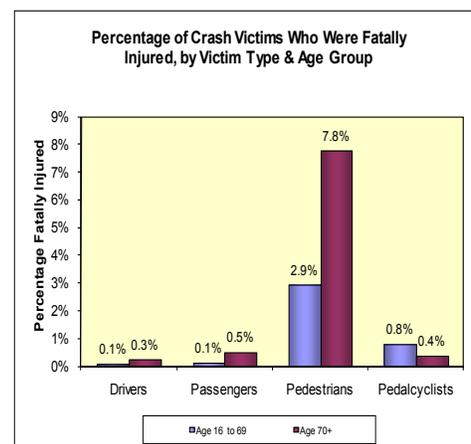
¹ Ages 16 and above, where age was known

² Source: Highway Statistics 2008, Federal Highway Administration

³ Source: Census 2000, U.S. Census Bureau

Vulnerability

- Among adults, percent fatalities for drivers, passengers and pedestrians all followed similar trends, with percent fatalities increasing as age advanced*
- Overall, older adults who were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2008 in any capacity (driver, passenger or non-occupant) were 3.1 times more likely to be fatally injured than people aged 16 to 69*



* Where driver age was known

Note: Data as of January 6, 2010; with 408,399 crash records, 751,885 vehicle records and 937,463 person records

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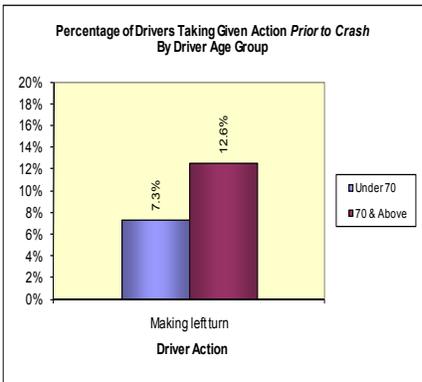
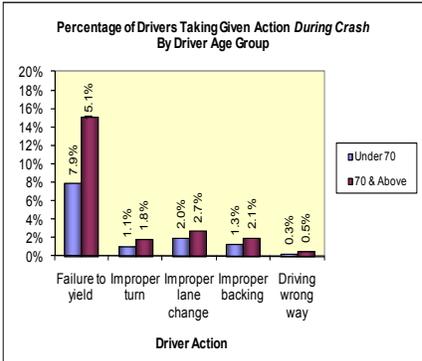
Seat Belt Use

- 26,077 (86.8%)[†] of all 30,029 older drivers of passenger cars/light trucks[‡] reported using seat belts
 - In comparison, 469,313 (84.9%) of all 552,762 younger drivers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts
- 6,339 (89.8%)[†] of all 7,056 older passengers of passenger cars/light trucks[‡] reported using seat belts
 - In comparison, 95,254 (85.5%) of all 111,368 younger passengers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts

Older Drivers

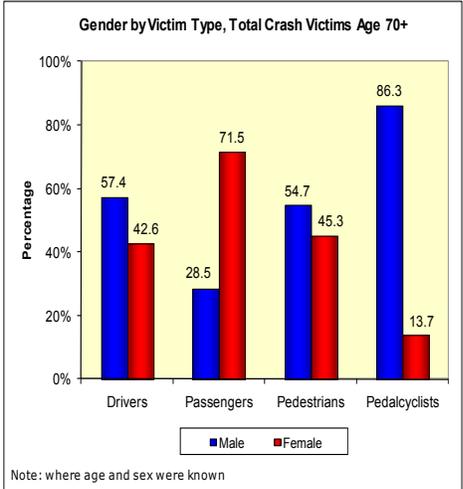
Driving errors and other actions taken by older drivers aged 70 and above before and during crashes tend to be different than those taken by younger drivers.

- Older drivers who were involved in crashes were 2.0 times more likely than younger drivers to have made driving errors such as those shown at right.
 - Together, these errors account for 22.2% of older drivers' actions during crashes.
- Older drivers who were involved in crashes were also 1.8 times more likely than other drivers to have been making a left turn prior to the crash, whether or not it was classified by police as an improper turn.
- 17,340 (51.7%) of all 33,556 crashes involving older drivers were intersection-related, compared with 142,073 (37.9%) of all 374,652 crashes in which no older driver was involved.
- Just 2,559 (7.6%) of all 33,556 crashes involving older drivers were speeding-related, compared with 50,279 (13.4%) of all 374,652 crashes in which no older driver was involved.
- By collision type, 4,003 (11.9%) of all 33,556 crashes involving older drivers were single vehicle crashes, compared with 91,491 (25.0%) of all 374,652 crashes in which no older driver was involved.



Demographic Facts[§]

- 17,800 (57.4%) of all 31,036 older drivers involved in crashes were male, compared with 345,604 (57.7%) of all 598,832 younger drivers.
- 2,074 (28.5%) of all 7,285 older passengers involved in crashes were male, compared with 86,908 (47.3%) of all 183,928 younger passengers.
- 174 (54.7%) of all 318 older pedestrians involved in crashes were male, compared with 3,045 (55.8%) of all 5,454 younger pedestrians.
- 44 (86.3%) of all 51 older pedalcyclists involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,669 (74.5%) of all 3,584 younger pedalcyclists.



[†] Percent using seat belts was defined as the number of people for whom seat belt use was reported divided by the total number of people involved in crashes.

[‡] Passenger cars and light trucks for this analysis were defined as passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, minivans and SUV's according to classifications used by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

[§] Where age and sex were known

Geographic Facts

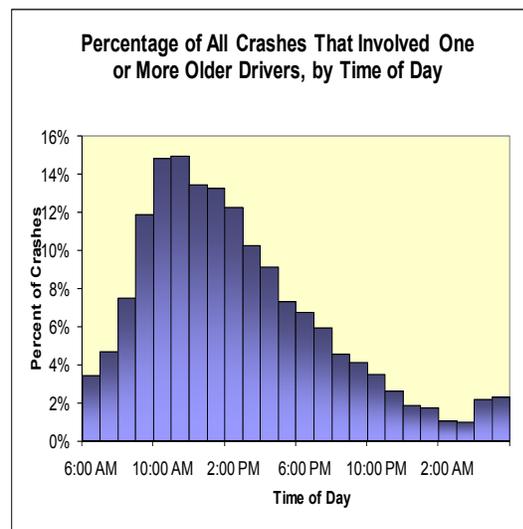
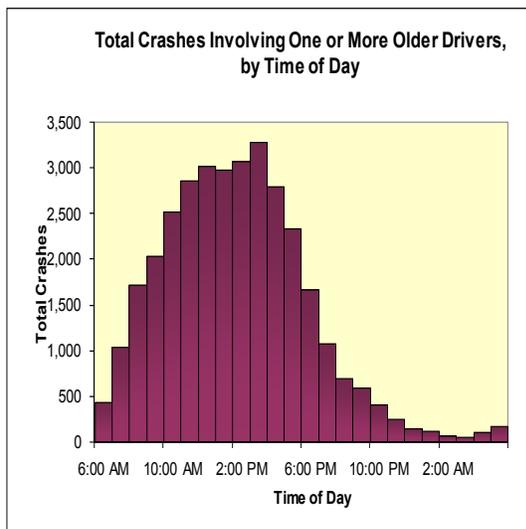
- 29,448 (87.8%) of all 33,543 crashes involving older drivers took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use, compared with 319,820 (85.3%) of all 374,856 other crashes
- 14,759 (44.0%) of all 33,543 crashes involving older drivers took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for just 27.4% of the overall population of Illinois aged 70 and above** and just 31.0% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois††

	Crashes Involving One or More Older People	Crashes Involving No Older People
	n (%)	n (%)
Chicago	6,165 (18.4%)	105,528 (28.2%)
Suburban Cook County	8,594 (25.6%)	76,912 (20.5%)
Chicago Collar Counties	6,472 (19.3%)	78,897 (21.0%)
Rest of State - Urban	6,230 (18.6%)	57,783 (15.4%)
Rest of State - Rural	6,082 (18.1%)	55,736 (14.9%)

Note: Counties were stratified according to criteria defined by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for the Illinois Department of Public Health

Time of Day

- 30,452 (90.8%) of all 33,543 crashes involving one or more older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.**
- In comparison, 274,532 (73.2%) of all 374,856 crashes involving no older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.††
- Overall, 33,543 (8.1%) of all 408,399 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2008 involved one or more older drivers, but that rate varied by time of day.‡‡
 - The highest involvement rate for older drivers was between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm, when 2,869 (15.0%) of all 19,125 crashes involved one or more older drivers.‡‡
 - The lowest involvement rate for older drivers was between 3:00 am and 4:00 am, when 56 (1.0%) of all 5,504 crashes involved one or more older drivers.‡‡



** Source: Census 2000, U.S. Census Bureau

†† Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2008, Illinois Department of Transportation

‡‡ Where time of day was known