Quick Facts
Illinois Crash Information 2013

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:	285,468	26,467
Fatal Crashes:	895	124 [a]
Injury Crashes:	61,001	4,224 [a]
Total People Involved:	675,852 [b]	30,816 [c]
Total Fatalities:	991 [b]	132 [c]
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	85,030 [b]	4,642 [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. 675,852 total people = 667,061 occupants + 8,791 non-occupants

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

Older adults aged 70 and above were involved in 26,467 (9.3%) of all 285,468 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2013 as drivers, passengers, or non-occupants of vehicles such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists. They represent 132 (13.3%) of all 991 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2013. Just 5.5% of drivers in all crashes were older adults, but 9.2% of drivers in fatal crashes and 13.3% of fatally injured drivers were older adults.[*]

					Percent in Age Group					
	0-5	6-15	16-20	21-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-69	70+	Total
Licensed Drivers [1,2]	N/A	N/A	6.7	6.8	17.3	16.8	18.6	17.1	6.1	10.4	100.0
Drivers in crashes [1]	N/A	N/A	11.9	10.8	21.8	17.7	16.6	12.2	3.5	5.5	100.0
Drivers in fatal crashes [1]	N/A	N/A	9.9	10.5	20.9	16.3	15.9	13.0	4.3	9.2	100.0
Fatally injured drivers [1]	N/A	N/A	8.7	10.2	19.7	15.6	15.7	12.1	4.8	13.3	100.0
Population [3]	7.8	13.7	7.2	5.5	13.8	13.5	14.6	11.5	3.8	8.8	100.0
Fatally injured passengers	4.9	8.9	15.3	10.8	13.3	9.9	13.3	7.9	3.4	12.3	100.0
Fatally injured pedestrians	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.6	9.6	17.6	20.0	12.8	4.8	15.2	100.0
Fatally injured pedalcyclists	3.3	10.0	3.3	3.3	20.0	6.7	26.7	16.7	0.0	10.0	100.0
Total traffic fatalities	1.7	2.7	9.4	9.5	17.1	14.3	16.1	11.5	4.3	13.3	100.0

[1] Ages 16 and above, where age was known

[2] Source: Highway Statistics 2013, Federal Highway Administration

[3] Source: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau
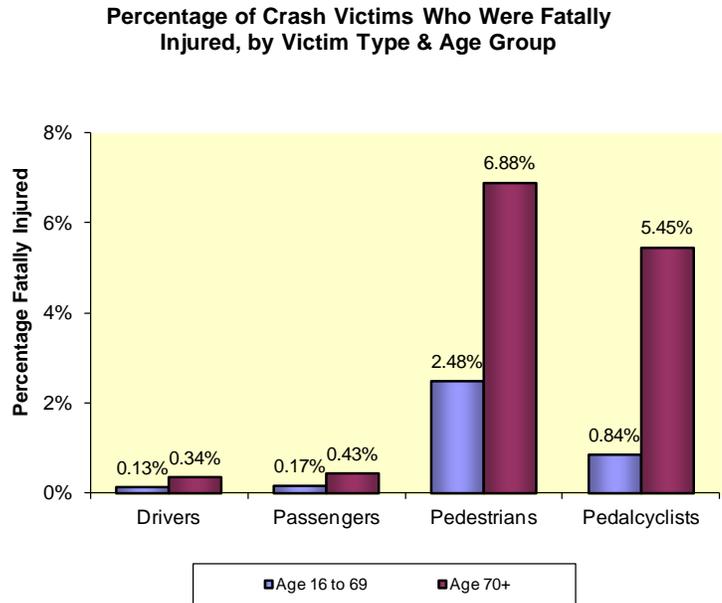
[*] Where driver age was known

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 2013 in any capacity (driver, passenger or non-occupant) were 2.7 times more likely to be fatally injured than people aged 16 to 69[†]

Percentage of Crash Victims Who Were Fatally Injured, by Victim Type & Age Group

Seat Belt Use

- 21,258 (88.8%)[‡] of all 23,947 **older drivers** of passenger cars/light trucks[§] reported using seat belts
    - In comparison, 339,312 (86.4%) of all 392,933 younger drivers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts

- 5,183 (91.5%)[‡] of all 5,665 **older passengers** of passenger cars/light trucks[§] reported using seat belts
    - In comparison, 71,497 (86.5%) of all 82,701 younger passengers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts
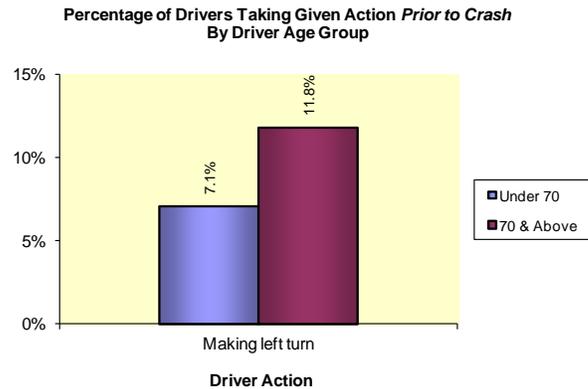

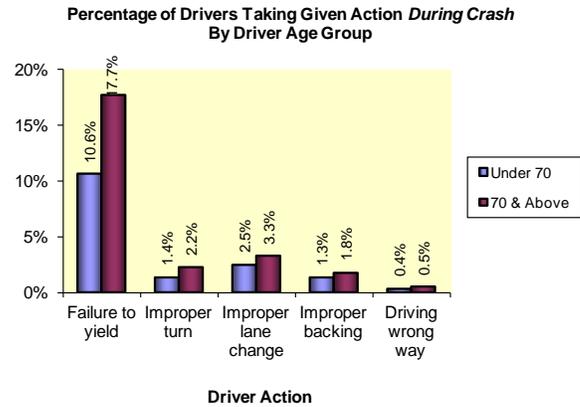[†] Where age was known

[‡] 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.
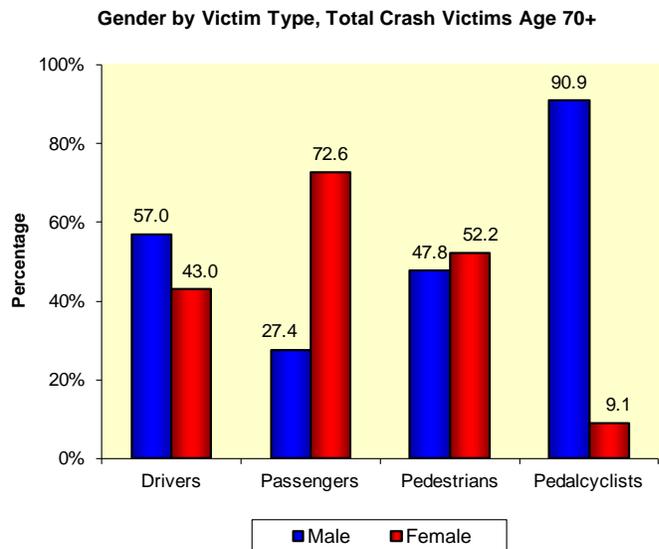
Older Drivers

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 1.6 times more likely than younger drivers to have made driving errors such as those shown at right.
  - Together, these errors account for 25.5% of older drivers' actions during crashes.

- Older drivers who were involved in crashes were also 1.7 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.

- 13,510 (51.0%) of all 26,467 crashes involving older drivers were intersection-related, compared with 94,295 (36.4%) of all 259,001 crashes in which no older driver was involved.
- Just 1,906 (7.2%) of all 26,467 crashes involving older drivers were speeding-related, compared with 31,332 (12.1%) of all 259,001 crashes in which no older driver was involved.
- By collision type, 3,284 (12.4%) of all 26,467 crashes involving older drivers were single vehicle crashes, compared with 62,998 (24.3%) of all 259,001 crashes in which no older driver was involved.

Percentage of Drivers Taking Given Action *During Crash* By Driver Age Group

Legend: ■ Under 70 ■ 70 & Above

- Failure to yield: 10.6% / 17.7%
- Improper turn: 1.4% / 2.2%
- Improper lane change: 2.5% / 3.3%
- Improper backing: 1.3% / 1.8%
- Driving wrong way: 0.4% / 0.5%

Driver Action

Percentage of Drivers Taking Given Action *Prior to Crash* By Driver Age Group

Legend: ■ Under 70 ■ 70 & Above

- Making left turn: 7.1% / 11.8%

Driver Action

Demographic Facts[**]

- 14,038 (57.0%) of all 24,649 older drivers involved in crashes were male, compared with 237,758 (56.6%) of all 420,098 younger drivers.
- 1,591 (27.4%) of all 5,806 older passengers involved in crashes were male, compared with 63,708 (46.6%) of all 136,612 younger passengers.
- 132 (47.8%) of all 276 older pedestrians involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,461 (53.3%) of all 4,615 younger pedestrians.
- 50 (90.9%) of all 55 older pedalcyclists involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,576 (75.2%) of all 3,427 younger pedalcyclists.

Gender by Victim Type, Total Crash Victims Age 70+

Legend: ■ Male ■ Female

- Drivers: 57.0 / 43.0
- Passengers: 27.4 / 72.6
- Pedestrians: 47.8 / 52.2
- Pedalcyclists: 90.9 / 9.1

Where age and sex were known

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Geographic Facts

- 20,665 (78.1%) of all 26,467 crashes involving older drivers took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use, compared with 195,891 (75.6%) of all 259,001 other crashes
- 11,394 (43.0%) of all 26,467 crashes involving older drivers took place in Cook County
    - In comparison, Cook County accounts for 38.8% of the overall population of Illinois aged 70 and above[††] and just 30.4% of the annual vehicle miles traveled in Illinois[‡‡]
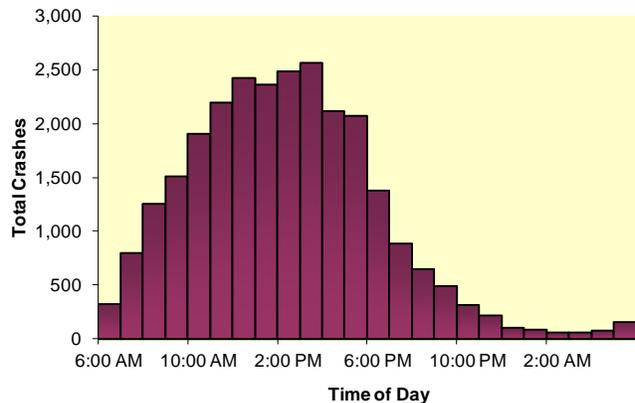
	Crashes Involving One or More Older People		Crashes Involving No Older People	
	n	(%)	n	(%)
Chicago	4,797	(18.1%)	74,583	(28.8%)
Suburban Cook County	6,597	(24.9%)	51,286	(19.8%)
Chicago Collar Counties	5,432	(20.5%)	54,366	(21.0%)
Rest of State - Urban	4,885	(18.5%)	40,916	(15.8%)
Rest of State - Rural	4,756	(18.0%)	37,850	(14.6%)

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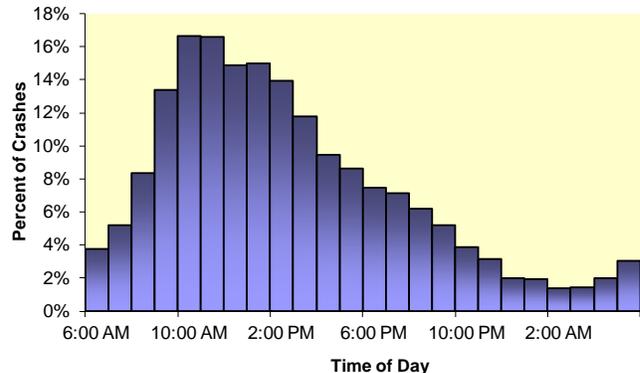
Time of Day

- 23,934 (90.4%) of all 26,467 crashes involving one or more older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.[§§]
- In comparison, 190,986 (73.7%) of all 259,001 crashes involving no older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.[§§]

Total Crashes Involving One or More Older Drivers, by Time of Day

- Overall, 26,467 (9.3%) of all 285,468 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2013 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 2,193 (16.6%) of all 13,193 crashes involved one or more older drivers. [§§]
    - The lowest involvement rate for older drivers was between 2:00 am and 3:00 am, when 61 (1.4%) of all 4,388 crashes involved one or more older drivers. [§§]

Percentage of All Crashes That Involved One or More Older Drivers, by Time of Day

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[††] Source: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau
[‡‡] Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2013, Illinois Department of Transportation
[§§] Where time of day was known