Quick Facts
Illinois Crash Information 2014

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:	296,060	26,982
Fatal Crashes:	845	135 [a]
Injury Crashes:	61,081	4,338 [a]
Total People Involved:	691,312 [b]	31,400 [c]
Total Fatalities:	924 [b]	143 [c]
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	84,649 [b]	4,738 [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. 691,312 total people = 683,188 occupants + 8,124 non-occupants

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

Older adults aged 70 and above were involved in 26,982 (9.1%) of all 296,060 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2014 as drivers, passengers, or non-occupants of vehicles such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists. They represent 143 (15.5%) of all 924 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2014. Just 5.5% of drivers in all crashes were older adults, but 10.2% of drivers in fatal crashes and 15.7% 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	6.5	6.8	17.5	16.9	18.2	17.2	6.3	10.6	100.0
Drivers in crashes [1]	N/A	N/A	11.3	10.9	22.0	17.6	16.5	12.5	3.7	5.5	100.0
Drivers in fatal crashes [1]	N/A	N/A	9.3	9.8	19.3	16.1	17.0	13.9	4.5	10.2	100.0
Fatally injured drivers [1]	N/A	N/A	7.1	10.0	19.1	14.5	15.9	13.1	4.7	15.7	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	1.6	7.5	18.2	16.0	15.0	11.2	5.9	8.0	1.6	15.0	100.0
Fatally injured pedestrians	4.7	1.6	7.1	7.9	14.2	7.9	18.1	16.5	3.9	18.1	100.0
Fatally injured pedalcyclists	0.0	7.4	3.7	3.7	11.1	22.2	29.6	18.5	3.7	0.0	100.0
Total traffic fatalities	1.0	2.0	9.2	10.7	17.3	13.1	14.5	12.7	4.0	15.5	100.0

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

[2] Source: Highway Statistics 2014, 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 2014 in any capacity (driver, passenger or non-occupant) were 3.2 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
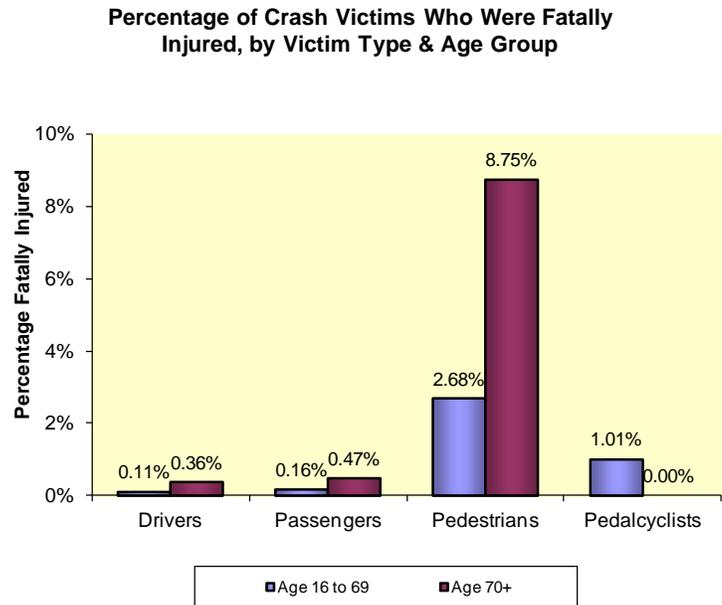
Seat Belt Use

- 21,509 (88.5%)[‡] of all 24,305 **older drivers** of passenger cars/light trucks[§] reported using seat belts
    - In comparison, 348,563 (86.5%) of all 402,747 younger drivers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts

- 5,198 (90.5%)[‡] of all 5,744 **older passengers** of passenger cars/light trucks[§] reported using seat belts
    - In comparison, 72,322 (86.5%) of all 83,615 younger passengers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts
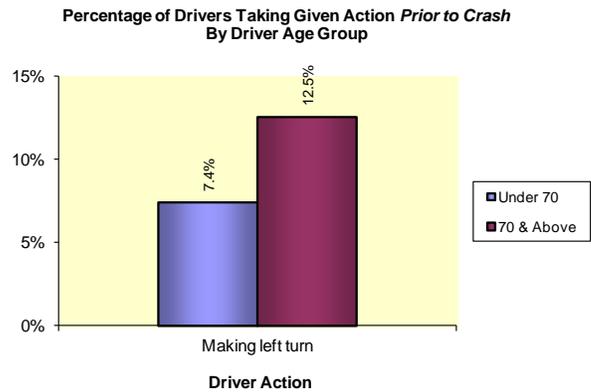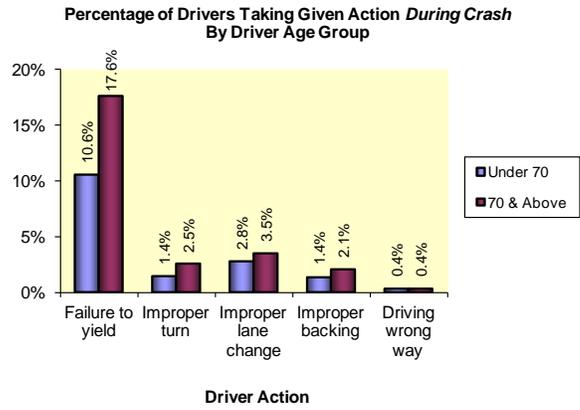

[†] Where age was known

[‡] 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.
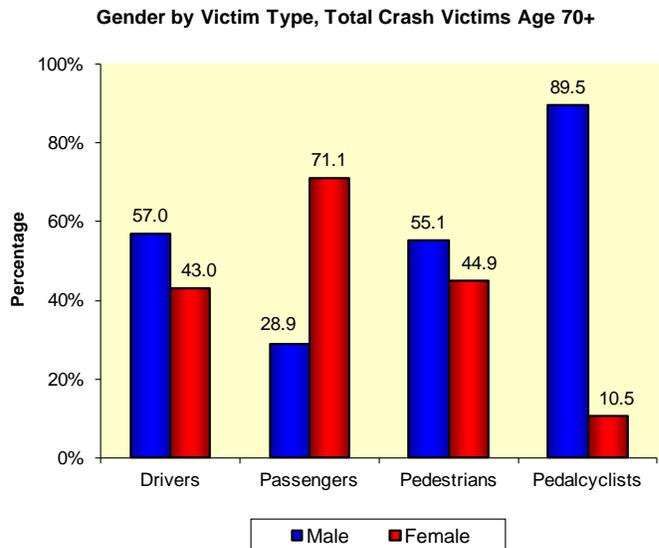
Older Drivers

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 26.1% 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.

- 12,953 (48.0%) of all 26,982 crashes involving older drivers were intersection-related, compared with 88,583 (32.9%) of all 269,078 crashes in which no older driver was involved.

- Just 2,227 (8.3%) of all 26,982 crashes involving older drivers were speeding-related, compared with 36,488 (13.6%) of all 269,078 crashes in which no older driver was involved.

- By collision type, 3,393 (12.6%) of all 26,982 crashes involving older drivers were single vehicle crashes, compared with 64,842 (24.1%) of all 269,078 crashes in which no older driver was involved.

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

Driver Action	Under 70	70 & Above
Failure to yield	10.6%	17.6%
Improper turn	1.4%	2.5%
Improper lane change	2.8%	3.5%
Improper backing	1.4%	2.1%
Driving wrong way	0.4%	0.4%

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

Driver Action	Under 70	70 & Above
Making left turn	7.4%	12.5%

Demographic Facts**

- 14,312 (57.0%) of all 25,093 older drivers involved in crashes were male, compared with 248,311 (57.3%) of all 433,125 younger drivers.
- 1,723 (28.9%) of all 5,959 older passengers involved in crashes were male, compared with 65,249 (47.0%) of all 138,937 younger passengers.
- 145 (55.1%) of all 263 older pedestrians involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,357 (54.5%) of all 4,326 younger pedestrians.
- 51 (89.5%) of all 57 older pedalcyclists involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,386 (77.7%) of all 3,070 younger pedalcyclists.

Gender by Victim Type, Total Crash Victims Age 70+

Victim Type	Male	Female
Drivers	57.0	43.0
Passengers	28.9	71.1
Pedestrians	55.1	44.9
Pedalcyclists	89.5	10.5

Where age and sex were known

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Geographic Facts

- 20,731 (76.8%) of all 26,982 crashes involving older drivers took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use, compared with 199,365 (74.1%) of all 269,078 other crashes
- 11,551 (42.8%) of all 26,982 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 29.5% of the annual vehicle miles traveled in Illinois[‡‡]

	Crashes Involving One or More Older People		Crashes Involving No Older People	
	n	(%)	n	(%)
Chicago	4,784	(17.7%)	77,959	(29.0%)
Suburban Cook County	6,767	(25.1%)	54,446	(20.2%)
Chicago Collar Counties	5,593	(20.7%)	55,934	(20.8%)
Rest of State - Urban	5,052	(18.7%)	41,555	(15.4%)
Rest of State - Rural	4,786	(17.7%)	39,184	(14.6%)

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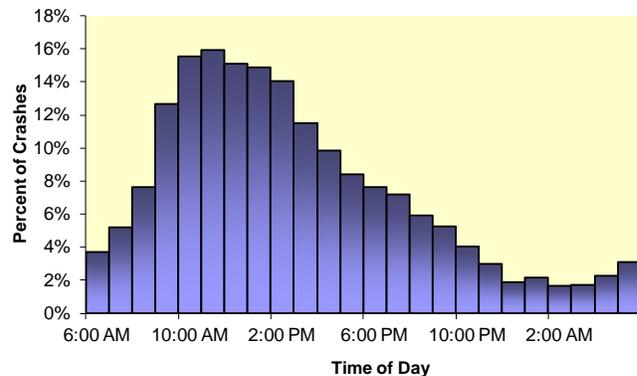
Time of Day

- 24,303 (90.1%) of all 26,982 crashes involving one or more older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.[§§]
- In comparison, 197,711 (73.5%) of all 269,078 crashes involving no older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.[§§]

- Overall, 26,982 (9.1%) of all 296,060 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2014 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 2,225 (15.9%) of all 13,950 crashes involved one or more older drivers. [§§]
  - The lowest involvement rate for older drivers was between 2:00 am and 3:00 am, when 77 (1.7%) of all 4,631 crashes involved one or more older drivers. [§§]

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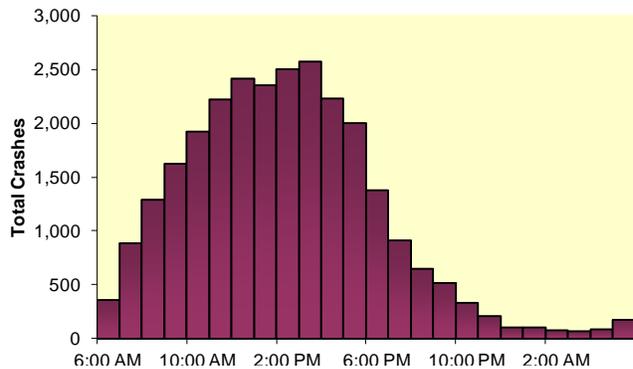
Percentage of All Crashes That Involved One or More Older Drivers, by Time of Day

[††] Source: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau
[‡‡] Source: 2014 Illinois Travel Statistics, Illinois Department of Transportation
[§§] Where time of day was known