

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2007

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:	422,889	34,265
Fatal Crashes:	1,126	136 ^a
Injury Crashes:	73,220	4,583 ^a
Total People Involved:	983,373 ^b	39,640 ^c
Total Fatalities:	1,250 ^b	142 ^c
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	103,174 ^b	5,059 ^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. 983,373 total people = 973,034 occupants + 10,339 non-occupants

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

Older adults aged 70 and above were involved in 34,265 (8.1%) of all 422,889 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2007 as drivers, passengers, or non-occupants of vehicles such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists. They represent 142 (11.4%) of all 1,250 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2007. Just 4.8% of drivers in all crashes were older adults, but 7.9% of drivers in fatal crashes and 11.1% 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	7.2	6.7	17.5	18.9	20.0	14.9	4.9	9.9	100.0
Drivers in crashes ¹	N/A	N/A	13.8	10.6	21.8	19.3	16.8	10.2	2.7	4.8	100.0
Drivers in fatal crashes ¹	N/A	N/A	15.0	11.4	18.3	18.8	15.1	10.2	3.2	7.9	100.0
Fatally injured drivers ¹	N/A	N/A	15.4	11.6	18.6	14.6	10.8	3.2	11.1	11.1	100.0
Population ³	8.5	14.7	7.2	5.4	14.6	16.0	13.1	8.4	3.3	8.9	100.0
Fatally injured passengers	4.5	11.2	21.3	14.7	11.9	11.2	7.7	5.9	2.4	9.1	100.0
Fatally injured pedestrians	3.5	5.8	6.4	7.6	10.5	18.1	18.1	11.7	1.8	16.4	100.0
Fatally injured pedalcyclists	0.0	10.5	10.5	10.5	15.8	21.1	10.5	15.8	0.0	5.3	100.0
Total traffic fatalities	1.5	3.8	15.4	11.7	15.8	14.3	13.5	9.8	2.8	11.4	100.0

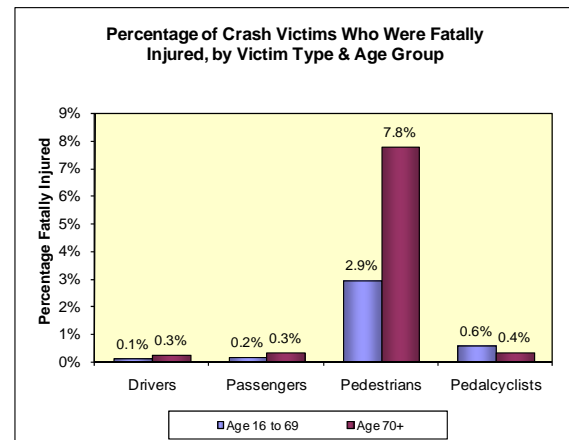
¹ Ages 16 and above, where age was known

² Source: Highway Statistics 2007, 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 2007 in any capacity (driver, passenger or non-occupant) were 2.6 times more likely to be fatally injured than people aged 16 to 69*



* Where driver age was known

Note: Data as of March 23, 2009; with 422,889 crash records, 785,918 vehicle records and 983,373 person records

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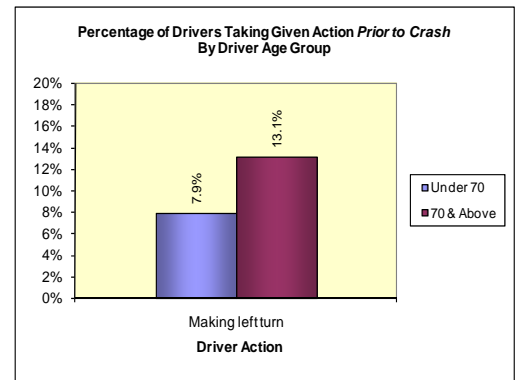
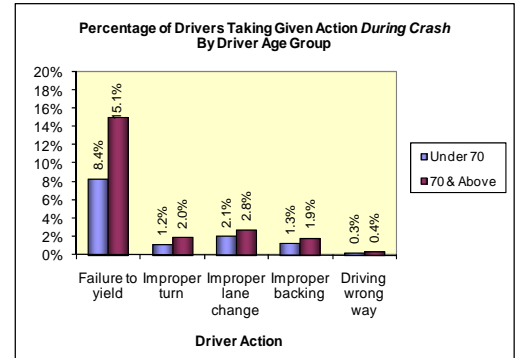
Seat Belt Use

- 26,499 (87.0%)[†] of all 30,450 older drivers of passenger cars/light trucks[‡] reported using seat belts
 - In comparison, 491,017 (84.8%) of all 578,871 younger drivers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts
- 6,809 (90.6%)[†] of all 7,520 older passengers of passenger cars/light trucks[‡] reported using seat belts
 - In comparison, 99,585 (85.2%) of all 116,854 younger passengers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts

Older Drivers

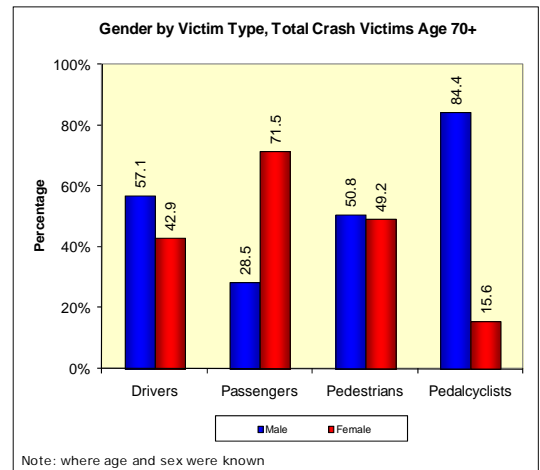
Driving errors and other actions taken by older drivers aged 70 and above before and during crashes tend to be different than those taken by younger drivers.

- Older drivers who were involved in crashes were 1.7 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.
- 17,809 (52.0%) of all 34,265 crashes involving older drivers were intersection-related, compared with 149,109 (38.4%) of all 388,624 crashes in which no older driver was involved.
- Just 2,272 (6.6%) of all 34,265 crashes involving older drivers were speeding-related, compared with 44,955 (11.6%) of all 388,624 crashes in which no older driver was involved.
- Where collision type was known, 3,806 (11.1%) of all 34,242 crashes involving older drivers were single vehicle crashes, compared with 91,786 (23.6%) of all 388,310 crashes in which no older driver was involved.



Demographic Facts[§]

- 17,952 (57.1%) of all 31,463 older drivers involved in crashes were male, compared with 365,734 (58.2%) of all 628,146 younger drivers.
- 2,198 (28.5%) of all 7,724 older passengers involved in crashes were male, compared with 90,689 (47.2%) of all 192,303 younger passengers.
- 157 (50.8%) of all 309 older pedestrians involved in crashes were male, compared with 3,212 (55.8%) of all 5,755 younger pedestrians.
- 54 (84.4%) of all 64 older pedalcyclists involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,815 (77.6%) of all 3,630 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

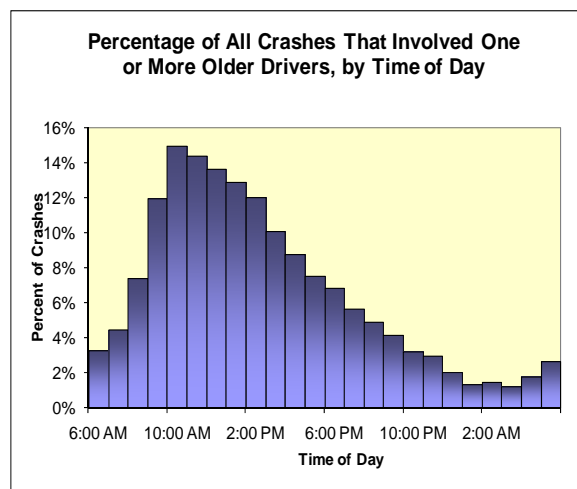
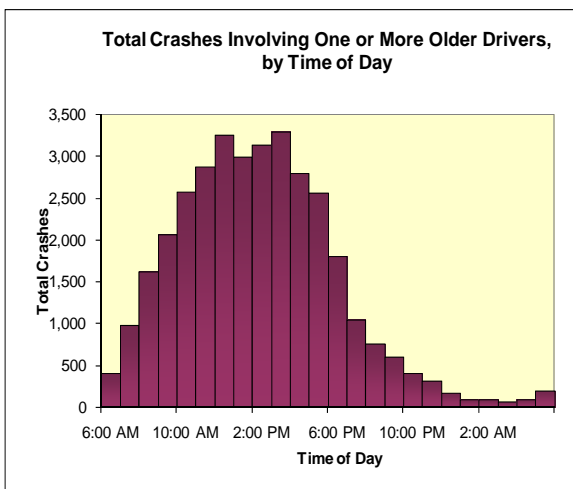
- 30,091 (87.8%) of all 34,265 crashes involving older drivers took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use, compared with 332,946 (85.7%) of all 388,624 other crashes
- 15,082 (44.0%) of all 34,265 crashes involving older drivers took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for just 27.4% of the overall population of Illinois aged 70 and above** and just 30.6% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois††

	Crashes Involving One or More Older People n (%)	Crashes Involving No Older People n (%)
Chicago	6,623 (19.3%)	114,221 (29.4%)
Suburban Cook County	8,459 (24.7%)	77,589 (20.0%)
Chicago Collar Counties	6,561 (19.1%)	81,034 (20.9%)
Rest of State - Urban	6,444 (18.8%)	58,968 (15.2%)
Rest of State - Rural	6,178 (18.0%)	56,812 (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

- 31,034 (90.6%) of all 34,265 crashes involving one or more older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.††
- In comparison, 284,616 (73.2%) of all 388,624 crashes involving no older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.§§
- Overall, 34,265 (8.1%) of all 422,889 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2007 involved one or more older drivers, but that rate varied by time of day.§§
 - The highest involvement rate for older drivers was between 10:00 am and 11:00 am, when 2,571 (14.9%) of all 17,221 crashes involved one or more older drivers.§§
 - The lowest involvement rate for older drivers was between 3:00 am and 4:00 am, when 67 (1.2%) of all 5,477 crashes involved one or more older drivers.§§



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

†† Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2007, Illinois Department of Transportation

‡‡ Where time of day was known