

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2004

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:	433,035	35,556
Fatal Crashes:	1,224	160 ^a
Injury Crashes:	83,924	5,222 ^a
Total People Involved:	1,008,936 ^b	41,360 ^c
Total Fatalities:	1,355 ^b	168 ^c
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	121,404 ^b	5,760 ^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. 1,008,936 total people = 999,641 occupants + 9,295 non-occupants

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

Older adults aged 70 and above were involved in 35,556 (8.2%) of all 433,035 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2004 as drivers, passengers, or non-occupants of vehicles such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists. They represent 168 (12.4%) of all 1,355 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2004. Just 3.9% of drivers in all crashes were older adults, but 8.6% of drivers in fatal crashes and 11.7% 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	7.3	6.8	18.1	20.2	19.7	13.7	4.4	9.7	100.0
Drivers in crashes¹	N/A	N/A	15.4	11.5	22.9	20.5	16.4	7.5	2.0	3.9	100.0
Drivers in fatal crashes¹	N/A	N/A	12.9	12.4	20.6	19.6	15.6	8.4	1.9	8.6	100.0
Fatally injured drivers¹	N/A	N/A	11.7	13.7	19.5	16.8	15.7	9.4	1.7	11.7	100.0
Population³	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	3.4	10.5	19.4	10.5	14.2	11.1	9.5	5.8	1.8	13.8	100.0
Fatally injured pedestrians	2.6	5.2	2.6	7.7	10.3	20.6	12.3	16.8	6.5	15.5	100.0
Fatally injured pedalcyclists	16.0	28.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	16.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total traffic fatalities	1.4	3.9	12.2	11.9	17.1	15.8	13.6	9.3	2.3	12.5	100.0

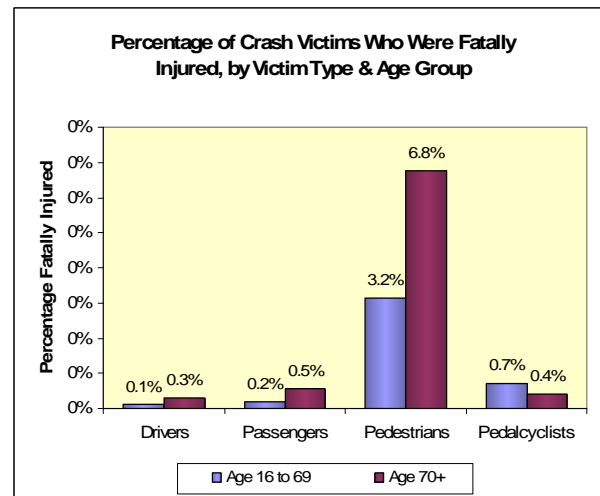
¹ Ages 16 and above, where age was known

² Source: Highway Statistics 2004, 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 2004 in any capacity (driver, passenger or non-occupant) were 2.9 times more likely to be fatally injured than people aged 16 to 69*



* Where driver age was known

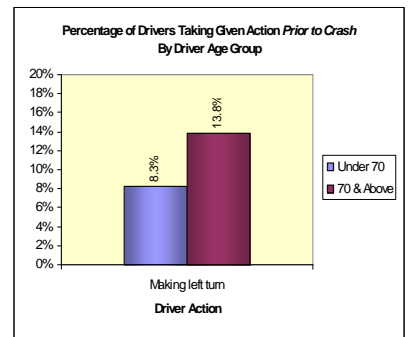
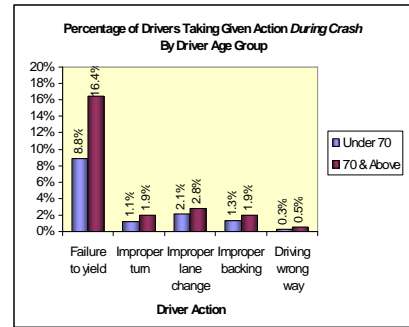
Seat Belt Use

- 26,236 (82.7%)[†] of all 31,708 older drivers of passenger cars/light trucks[‡] reported using seat belts
 - In comparison, 483,873 (80.9%) of all 598,420 younger drivers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts
- 6,442 (84.4%)[†] of all 7,629 older passengers of passenger cars/light trucks[‡] reported using seat belts
 - In comparison, 93,901 (81.9%) of all 114,599 younger passengers (aged 16 to 69) of passenger cars/light trucks reported using seat belts

Older Drivers

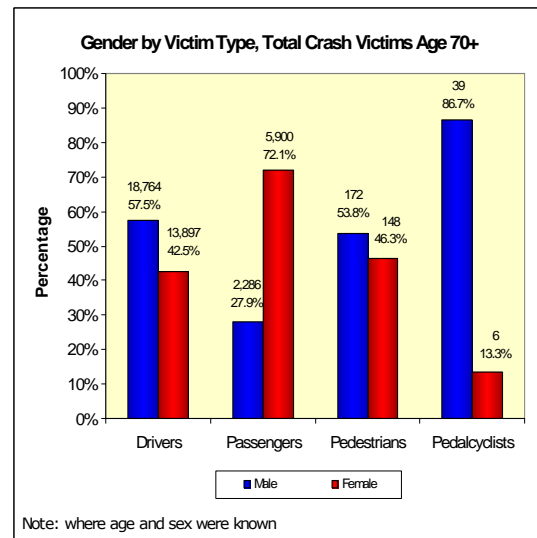
Driving errors and other actions taken by older drivers aged 70 and above before and during crashes tend to be different than those taken by younger drivers.

- 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 23.5% 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.
- 14,442 (45.8%) of all 31,566 crashes involving older drivers were intersection-related, compared with 130,141 (32.4%) of all 401,469 crashes in which no older driver was involved
- 1,991 (6.3%) of all 31,566 crashes involving older drivers were speeding-related, compared with 45,048 (11.2%) of all 401,469 crashes in which no older driver was involved
- Where collision type was known, 2,923 (9.3%) of all 31,452 crashes involving older drivers were single vehicle crashes, compared with 86,081 (21.5%) of all 399,685 crashes in which no older driver was involved.



Demographic Facts[§]

- 18,764 (57.5%) of all 32,661 older drivers involved in crashes were male, compared with 382,219 (59.0%) of all 647,900 younger drivers
- 2,286 (27.9%) of all 8,186 older passengers involved in crashes were male, compared with 93,582 (47.1%) of all 198,870 younger passengers
- 172 (53.8%) of all 320 older pedestrians involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,969 (56.1%) of all 5,289 younger pedestrians
- 39 (86.7%) of all 45 older pedalcyclists involved in crashes were male, compared with 2,342 (77.1%) of all 3,039 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

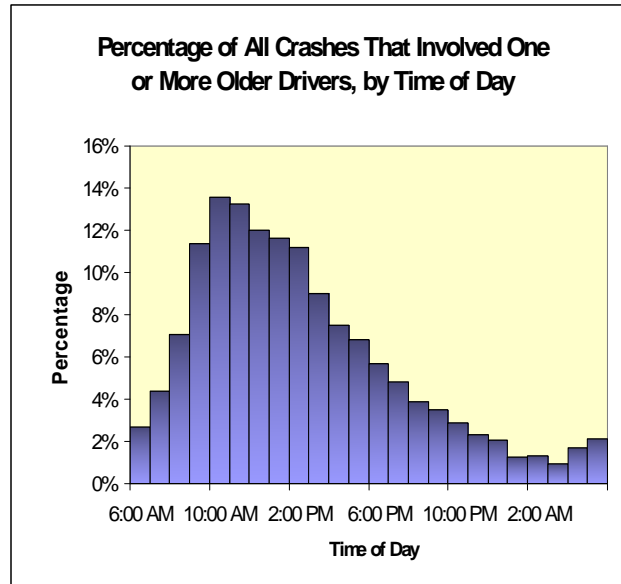
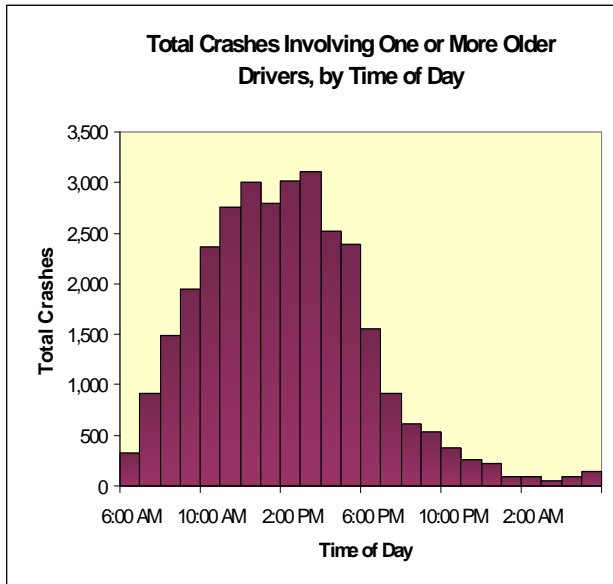
- 44.4% of crashes involving older drivers took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for just 27.4% of the overall population of Illinois aged 70 and above** and just 31.9% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois††
- 88.5% of crashes involving older drivers took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use, compared with 86.1% of other crashes

	Crashes Involving One or More Older People		Crashes Involving No Older People	
	n	(%)	n	(%)
Chicago	6,940	(19.5%)	120,219	(30.2%)
Suburban Cook County	8,972	(25.2%)	81,459	(20.5%)
Chicago Collar Counties	6,298	(17.7%)	79,189	(19.9%)
Rest of State - Urban	6,744	(18.9%)	59,061	(14.9%)
Rest of State - Rural	6,661	(18.7%)	57,492	(14.5%)

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

- 28,760 (91.1%) of all 31,566 crashes involving one or more older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.**
- In comparison, 293,971 (73.2%) of all 401,469 crashes involving no older drivers occurred between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.⁵⁵
- Overall, 31,566 (7.3%) of all 433,035 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2004 involved one or more older drivers, but that rate varied by time of day. ⁵⁵
 - The highest involvement rate for older drivers was between 10:00 am and 11:00 am, when 2,369 (13.5%) of all 17,506 crashes involved one or more older drivers. ⁵⁵
 - The lowest involvement rate for older drivers was between 3:00 am and 4:00 am, when 52 (0.9%) of all 5,726 crashes involved one or more older drivers. ⁵⁵



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

†† Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2004, Illinois Department of Transportation

** Where time of day was known