

Traffic Safety Facts

2005 Data

Older Population

In 2005, 12 percent of the total U.S. resident population (over 36 million) were people age 65 years and older.

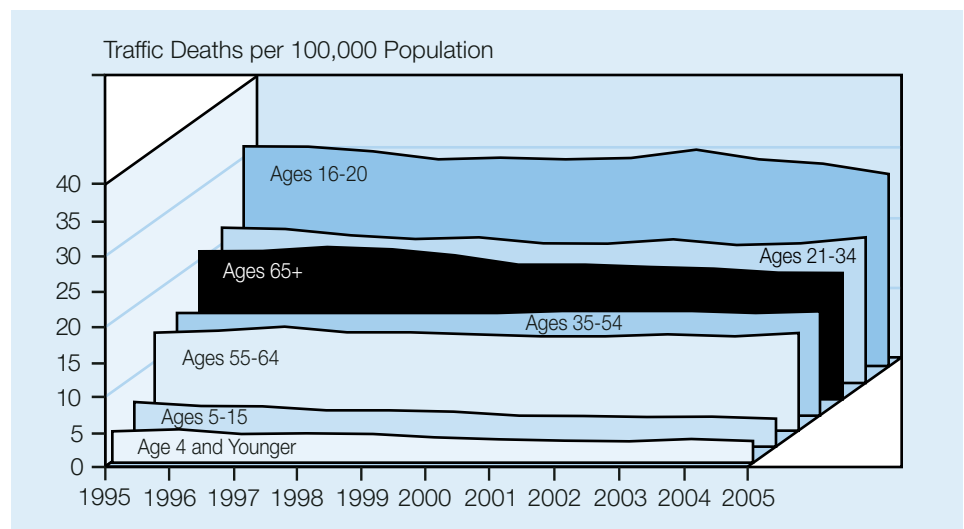
There were over 28 million older licensed drivers in 2004 (2005 data not available) — a 17-percent increase from 1994. In contrast, the total number of licensed drivers increased by only 13 percent from 1994 to 2004. Older drivers made up 15 percent of all licensed drivers in 2004, compared with 14 percent in 1994.

“In 2005, older people accounted for 15 percent of all traffic fatalities and 20 percent of all pedestrian fatalities.”

In 2005, 191,000 older individuals were injured in traffic crashes, accounting for 7 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year. These older individuals made up 15 percent of all traffic fatalities, 14 percent of all vehicle occupant fatalities, and 20 percent of all pedestrian fatalities.

Most traffic fatalities involving older drivers in 2005 occurred during the daytime (79%), on weekdays (73%), and involved other vehicles (73 %).

Figure 1
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates by Age Group, 1995-2005



Of all adult drivers, older drivers involved in fatal crashes had the lowest proportion of total drivers with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Among all fatally injured adult pedestrians, older pedestrians also had the lowest proportion of total drivers with BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.

Table 1
Age and Alcohol, 2005

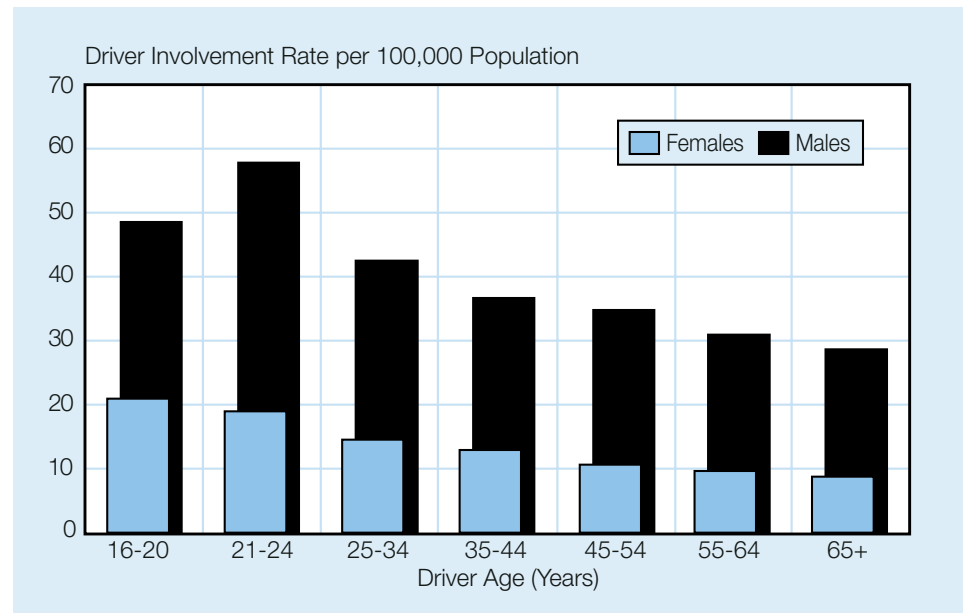
Age Group (Years)	Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes			Pedestrian Fatalities		
	Total	BAC .08 or Higher		Total	BAC .08 or Higher	
		Number	Percent of Total		Number	Percent of Total
<16	304	27	9	388	12	3
16-20	7,293	1,198	16	281	76	27
21-34	17,926	5,248	29	909	432	48
35-54	20,136	4,242	21	1,705	788	46
55-64	6,041	714	12	555	143	26
65+	6,215	326	5	981	85	9
Total	*59,104	11,921	20	**4,881	1,560	32

“Older drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2005 had the lowest proportion of intoxication of all adult drivers.”

*Includes 1,189 drivers of unknown age.

**Includes 62 pedestrian fatalities of unknown age.

Figure 2
Driver Involvement Rates in Fatal Crashes by Age and Sex, 2005



Three-fourths (75%) of all older occupants of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes were using restraints at the time of the crash, compared to 62 percent for other adult occupants (18 to 64 years old).

For older people, 69 percent of pedestrian fatalities in 2005 occurred at non-intersection locations. For other pedestrians, 82 percent of fatalities occurred at non-intersection locations. In two-vehicle fatal crashes involving an older driver and a younger driver, the vehicle driven by the older person was nearly twice as likely to be the one that was struck (60% and 33%, respectively). In 45 percent of these crashes, both vehicles were proceeding straight at the time of the collision. In 25 percent, the older driver was turning left — 5 times as often as the younger driver.

“In two-vehicle fatal crashes with an older and a younger driver, the older driver’s vehicle was nearly twice as likely to be the one that was struck.”

Table 2
Involvement of the Older Population in Traffic Fatalities, 1995 and 2005

	1995			2005			Percentage Change, 1995-2005		
	Total	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Total	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Number		Percentage Age 65+
							Total	Age 65+	
Population (thousands)									
Total	262,803	33,619	12.8	296,410	36,790	12.4	13	9	-3.0
Male	128,294	13,735	10.7	146,000	15,413	10.6	14	12	-1.4
Female	134,510	19,885	14.8	150,411	21,377	14.2	12	8	-3.9
Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes									
Total	56,164	6,240	11.1	59,104	6,215	10.5	5	-0	-5.4
Male	41,235	4,226	10.2	43,060	4,296	10.0	4	2	-2.7
Female	14,184	2,014	14.2	14,974	1,918	12.8	6	-5	-9.8
Driver Fatalities									
Total	24,390	3,894	16.0	27,472	3,935	14.3	13	1	-10.3
Male	17,997	2,571	14.3	20,795	2,703	13.0	16	5	-9.0
Female	6,393	1,323	20.7	6,598	1,231	18.7	3	-7	-9.8
Total Traffic Fatalities									
Total	41,817	6,999	16.7	43,443	6,512	15.0	4	-7	-10.4
Male	28,133	3,861	13.7	30,224	3,872	12.8	7	0	-6.7
Female	13,663	3,137	23.0	13,089	2,639	20.2	-4	-16	-12.2
Occupant Fatalities									
Total	35,291	5,666	16.1	37,594	5,412	14.4	7	-4	-10.3
Male	23,498	3,045	13.0	25,985	3,160	12.2	11	4	-6.2
Female	11,773	2,620	22.3	11,494	2,251	19.6	-2	-14	-12.0
Pedestrian Fatalities									
Total	5,584	1,263	22.6	4,881	981	20.1	-13	-22	-11.1
Male	3,856	758	19.7	3,432	611	17.8	-11	-19	-9.4
Female	1,728	505	29.2	1,437	370	25.7	-17	-27	-11.9

Older Population Age Groups

The following table and graphs provide data for subgroups of the older population: 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, and 85+ years.

Table 3
Driver Involvement in Fatal Crashes and Pedestrian Fatalities in the Older Population by Age Group, 2005

	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes	1,768	1,444	1,247	1,004	752	6,215
Pedestrian Fatalities	211	195	221	202	152	981

Figure 3
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates in the Older Population by Age Group, 1995-2005

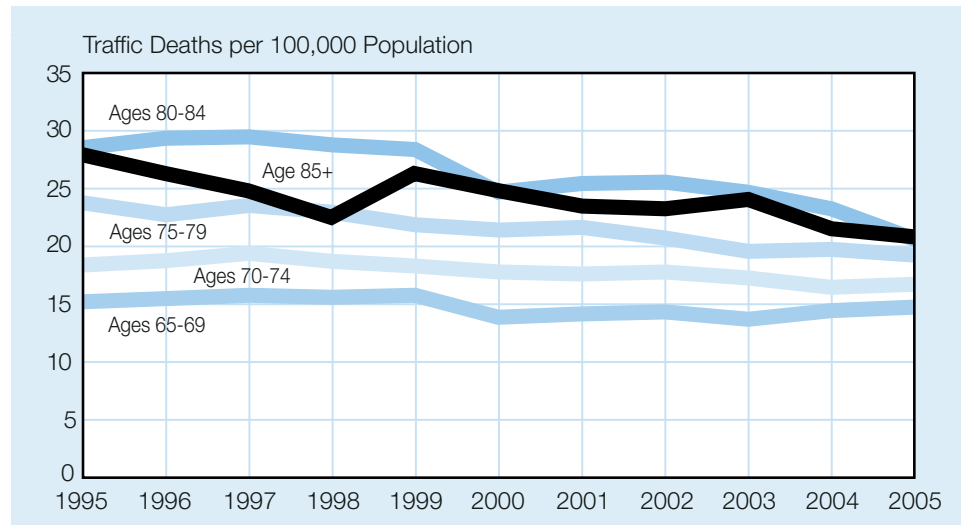
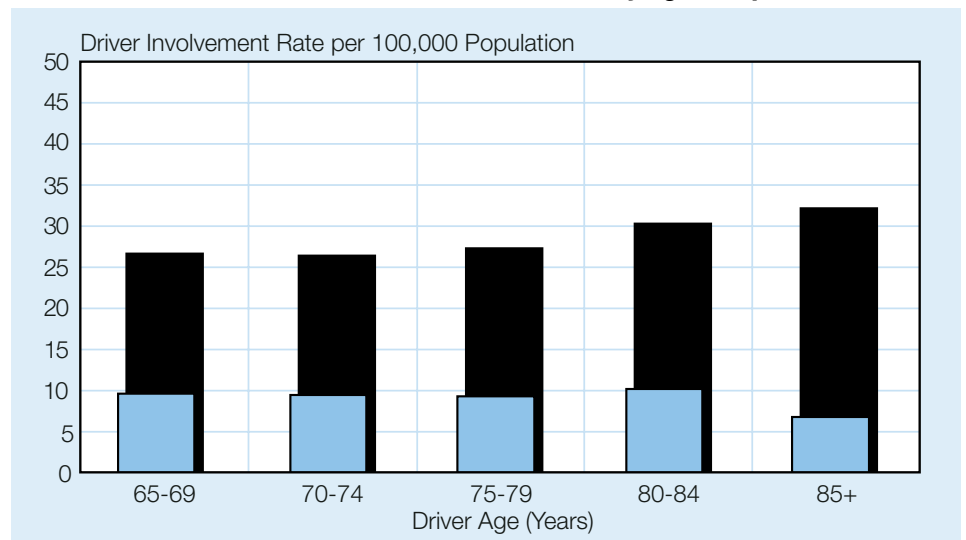


Figure 4
Involvement Rates for Older Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age Group and Sex, 2005



For more information:

Information on the older population is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NPO-121, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 800-934-8517. FAX messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Overview*, *Alcohol*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists* (formerly titled *Pedalcyclists*), *Children*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Pedestrians*, *School Transportation-Related Crashes*, *Speeding*, *State Alcohol Estimates*, *State Traffic Data*, and *Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca.

Driver Involvement in Fatal Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group, 2005

State	Total	Total 65+	Percentage of Total	Age Group (Years)								
				<16	16-20	21-34	35-54	55-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
Alabama	1,537	156	10.1	7	206	476	521	207	45	24	23	14
Alaska	102	6	5.9	2	11	31	41	13	3	0	1	0
Arizona	1,576	140	8.9	7	182	451	426	158	35	21	28	10
Arkansas	885	100	11.3	5	109	255	290	154	23	16	10	16
California	5,764	459	8.0	19	723	1,842	2,008	656	121	84	79	44
Colorado	847	76	9.0	3	105	282	279	118	16	12	13	7
Connecticut	385	42	10.9	1	45	114	135	53	10	11	8	6
Delaware	193	22	11.4	0	32	50	69	23	5	4	4	2
Dist of Columbia	57	5	8.8	0	7	19	16	7	2	1	0	1
Florida	5,005	563	11.2	18	598	1,526	1,681	650	135	106	87	78
Georgia	2,506	267	10.7	20	306	736	859	362	63	56	36	36
Hawaii	176	11	6.3	1	19	57	68	19	1	3	1	1
Idaho	337	43	12.8	2	42	93	118	53	9	6	8	6
Illinois	1,936	222	11.5	12	238	605	639	248	55	39	33	30
Indiana	1,313	139	10.6	3	165	407	455	175	36	25	17	18
Iowa	597	88	14.7	6	81	151	205	94	15	18	12	13
Kansas	576	69	12.0	9	70	154	202	85	18	15	9	9
Kentucky	1,317	148	11.2	8	160	404	458	167	38	39	17	18
Louisiana	1,323	88	6.7	8	148	460	484	154	22	12	8	8
Maine	225	30	13.3	1	34	55	77	32	11	6	4	4
Maryland	903	91	10.1	2	105	291	312	113	21	12	20	10
Massachusetts	599	70	11.7	1	87	195	175	77	14	15	10	17
Michigan	1,620	187	11.5	13	195	425	595	206	37	36	43	31
Minnesota	769	80	10.4	5	105	210	282	114	14	11	12	12
Mississippi	1,163	119	10.2	8	164	377	379	151	33	27	7	9
Missouri	1,664	183	11.0	9	230	464	576	247	37	37	24	25
Montana	284	32	11.3	4	31	82	92	52	7	5	6	4
Nebraska	366	41	11.2	5	49	95	127	54	6	11	11	6
Nevada	585	65	11.1	3	64	189	191	83	11	14	14	4
New Hampshire	226	33	14.6	2	24	61	84	29	8	8	3	7
New Jersey	1,056	119	11.3	2	97	304	392	155	22	25	25	14
New Mexico	582	49	8.4	6	73	173	188	91	11	8	7	4
New York	1,885	231	12.3	2	209	588	630	234	41	60	33	42
North Carolina	2,106	219	10.4	6	279	646	726	264	53	38	36	28
North Dakota	132	19	14.4	3	18	38	44	13	3	5	6	2
Ohio	1,941	215	11.1	7	245	534	719	258	51	47	41	21
Oklahoma	1,061	121	11.4	7	143	285	374	148	34	27	16	21
Oregon	687	92	13.4	3	81	171	241	117	20	23	17	9
Pennsylvania	2,280	294	12.9	17	253	654	790	327	48	65	56	46
Rhode Island	113	9	8.0	0	20	34	36	16	2	1	1	1
South Carolina	1,419	155	10.9	9	157	463	486	182	32	39	25	10
South Dakota	225	25	11.1	5	26	58	89	25	5	7	5	3
Tennessee	1,746	194	11.1	6	222	514	583	256	41	44	38	19
Texas	4,727	413	8.7	28	608	1,586	1,572	547	111	90	55	33
Utah	362	38	10.5	3	48	125	105	47	9	10	9	2
Vermont	102	11	10.8	1	15	34	30	15	2	1	2	2
Virginia	1,242	150	12.1	2	153	343	436	179	46	29	26	10
Washington	856	82	9.6	2	97	285	274	126	13	17	20	15
West Virginia	497	59	11.9	6	48	162	161	72	17	11	11	7
Wisconsin	1,055	119	11.3	3	144	323	343	150	26	21	25	15
Wyoming	194	26	13.4	2	22	49	73	33	6	5	2	2
U.S.Total*	59,104	6,215	10.5	304	7,293	17,926	20,136	7,809	1,444	1,247	1,004	752
Puerto Rico	596	35	5.9	4	74	237	153	72	11	5	3	2

*Includes 1,189 drivers of unknown age.

Table 5
Fatalities in Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group, 2005

State	Total	Total 65+	Percentage of Total	Age Group (Years)								
				<16	16-20	21-34	35-54	55-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
Alabama	1,131	147	13.0	62	162	310	338	153	46	27	19	13
Alaska	72	6	8.3	8	6	21	25	9	1	0	1	1
Arizona	1,177	138	11.7	71	124	288	340	139	27	27	26	13
Arkansas	648	105	16.2	31	86	180	169	106	22	17	15	21
California	4,329	565	13.1	270	573	1,216	1,285	526	126	116	126	82
Colorado	606	64	10.6	27	85	171	197	82	12	12	13	6
Connecticut	274	46	16.8	7	40	70	80	37	7	10	12	11
Delaware	134	20	14.9	4	20	30	49	17	3	4	4	3
Dist of Columbia	48	6	12.5	1	5	16	19	2	3	1	0	1
Florida	3,543	563	15.9	160	457	936	1,092	449	100	120	111	105
Georgia	1,729	251	14.5	97	229	446	499	252	57	63	37	39
Hawaii	140	29	20.7	5	12	36	46	19	4	8	8	2
Idaho	275	46	16.7	19	33	73	80	35	12	8	8	7
Illinois	1,361	233	17.1	68	179	387	376	174	44	49	36	46
Indiana	938	126	13.4	44	127	264	276	125	28	27	20	21
Iowa	450	91	20.2	32	69	88	128	63	15	19	14	20
Kansas	428	68	15.9	37	57	99	125	58	14	18	11	9
Kentucky	985	160	16.2	49	129	271	276	130	38	43	21	28
Louisiana	955	88	9.2	52	113	293	304	132	18	15	13	11
Maine	169	33	19.5	10	27	40	44	19	10	6	6	7
Maryland	614	93	15.1	37	71	177	179	77	17	10	26	18
Massachusetts	442	81	18.3	16	68	123	104	62	15	18	13	22
Michigan	1,129	194	17.2	83	143	253	337	157	30	40	43	42
Minnesota	559	84	15.0	32	78	130	181	74	13	17	11	21
Mississippi	931	113	12.1	54	134	257	298	107	32	23	11	14
Missouri	1,257	188	15.0	62	198	312	374	170	40	40	29	29
Montana	251	38	15.1	13	25	76	64	45	8	6	8	6
Nebraska	276	46	16.7	15	41	67	74	39	6	8	15	11
Nevada	427	67	15.7	25	42	119	127	66	11	14	13	7
New Hampshire	166	31	18.7	5	19	43	52	24	6	6	3	8
New Jersey	748	128	17.1	30	87	207	207	108	25	20	31	25
New Mexico	488	48	9.8	36	67	142	144	63	11	7	8	7
New York	1,429	300	21.0	60	187	365	374	183	57	76	53	62
North Carolina	1,534	226	14.7	76	213	416	460	192	46	48	48	32
North Dakota	123	21	17.1	10	18	29	37	12	3	7	5	2
Ohio	1,323	202	15.3	63	187	338	407	158	48	54	41	26
Oklahoma	802	113	14.1	41	106	196	251	120	25	25	14	24
Oregon	488	93	19.1	21	62	114	150	71	18	23	15	14
Pennsylvania	1,616	323	20.0	57	214	440	424	226	52	66	77	60
Rhode Island	87	13	14.9	3	14	24	22	14	1	2	2	5
South Carolina	1,093	140	12.8	55	118	328	347	130	29	38	21	18
South Dakota	186	23	12.4	12	25	46	63	21	1	10	8	0
Tennessee	1,270	202	15.9	52	145	344	390	177	40	46	47	26
Texas	3,504	456	13.0	259	481	988	1,006	396	99	111	76	63
Utah	282	44	15.6	25	28	83	66	42	9	8	10	4
Vermont	73	10	13.7	5	12	24	15	10	2	1	2	2
Virginia	947	149	15.7	48	123	242	288	130	41	26	30	19
Washington	647	104	16.1	37	73	196	166	85	19	25	26	18
West Virginia	374	56	15.0	20	44	104	110	50	15	10	9	12
Wisconsin	815	120	14.7	36	124	233	218	108	24	31	21	20
Wyoming	170	21	12.4	6	19	55	54	20	6	4	2	4
U.S.Total*	43,443	6,512	15.0	2,348	5,699	11,706	12,737	5,664	1,336	1,410	1,219	1,067
Puerto Rico	453	66	14.6	14	54	149	112	70	21	12	11	3

*Includes 257 fatalities of unknown age.