



# GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: DRIVERS AGED 55+ YEARS

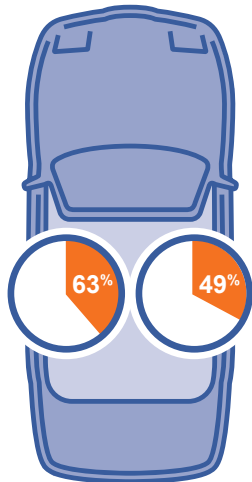
## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Drivers aged 55 and older are more likely to have **safe driving habits**, such as wearing seat belts and limiting their driving at night. However, they may be more vulnerable in traffic crashes because of the **fragility** that aging brings.

## THE NUMBERS

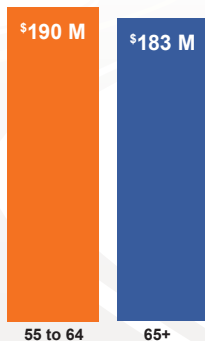
In 2018...

**567** drivers 55+ were involved in a **fatal motor vehicle crash** – of these drivers, **289** died.



**63%** of all older drivers 65+ were fatally injured and **49%** of front passengers 65+ were fatally injured in a fatal crash.

**~\$373 million** total medical charges were incurred by Georgians aged 55+ who were seen or admitted to a hospital with a traffic motor vehicle injury.



**44%** INCREASE # of 55+ drivers involved in fatal crashes

2014 **392**

2018 **566**

## REDUCE YOUR RISK



**DRIVE ALERT. STAY FOCUSED**



**MANAGE YOUR MEDICATIONS**



**WEAR YOUR SEATBELT**



**BE AWARE OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CHANGES**

## FACTORS THAT LEAD TO CRASHES AMONG AGING DRIVERS

- Failure to yield
- Not maintaining a safe following distance
- Changing lanes improperly
- Failure to obey traffic signs
- Misjudged clearance



## PREVENTION MEASURES

### Aging can impact your driving skills:

- Vision, memory, dexterity, & reaction time may decline.
- Medications & medical conditions might influence your driving.

### Be proactive about your safe driving skills:

- Enroll in a driver safety course.
- Attend a CarFit safety event.
- Complete a self-assessment of your driving skills.

### Plan a safe & active transition from driving:

- Learn the alternative transportation options in your community.
- If you're concerned about someone's driving, learn how to talk to them.
- Visit your local Area Agency on Aging for these resources and more.



## 2018 QUICK FACTS

### Population

Total population of Georgia increased by 4.2% from 2014 to 2018, but the **55-64 and 65+ populations increased by 9.0 % and 16.7%** respectively. Overall, the 85+ population is expected to triple by 2050.

### Adult Drivers

- In 2019, there were **2.64 million** licensed drivers **over the age of 55 years** – a 16% increase from 2014.
- **61%** of all fatalities in crashes involving drivers 55+ were the drivers themselves.

### Female Drivers

Fatalities among female drivers over the age of 55 years **increased by 60%** – from 62 fatalities in 2014 to 99 fatalities in 2018.

### Male Drivers

Male drivers aged 55-64 have the second highest fatal crash rate, only exceeded by young adult male drivers. **69% of drivers 55+ fatally injured were male.**

### Seat Belt Use

Female drivers aged 55+ involved in a fatal crash were more likely to wear seat belts (**76%**) than male drivers (**68%**).

### Other People Involved

- **18%** of all fatalities in crashes involving drivers aged 55+ were occupants of other vehicles.
- **32%** of all pedestrian fatalities in 2018 were among persons 55+ years.

### Injured 55+ Adult Occupants

About **25,000 Georgia resident age 55+** were either seen or admitted to a hospital for a motor vehicle traffic injury.

### Non-motorist

**32%** of all pedestrian and bicyclists fatalities occurred among persons 55+ years – 94 out of 291.

## RESOURCES

**55+ Driver Safety Program** supports the safe mobility of drivers ages 55 and up. Resources include educational, environmental, and policy interventions through collaborative partnerships: road design with engineers, CarFit events ([car-fit.org](http://car-fit.org)), the Yellow Dot Program, and custom presentations to communities and their leaders. [dph.georgia.gov/ODS](http://dph.georgia.gov/ODS)

**Roadwise RX** provides customized feedback on how prescription and over-the-counter drugs, herbal supplements and foods, and their interactions, can affect safe driving. [roadwiserx.com](http://roadwiserx.com)

**Project Independence** assists people 55 years and older experiencing vision loss or a combined vision and hearing loss. Administered by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency they also provide mobility training by certified instructors.

[gvs.georgia.gov/project-independence](http://gvs.georgia.gov/project-independence)

### Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services

supports older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers to achieve safe, healthy, independent and self-reliant lives.

[aging.georgia.gov/about-us](http://aging.georgia.gov/about-us)

For more information and resources related to safe driving among 55+ drivers:  
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/campaigns/older-drivers/>

