



# GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2019

## DRIVERS AGED 55+ YEARS

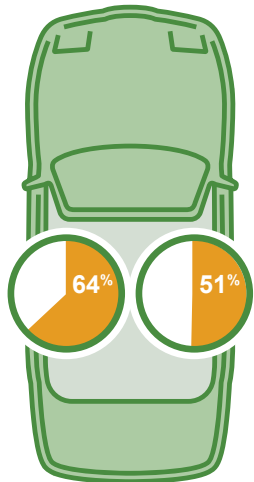
### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

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 2019...

**590** drivers 55+ were involved in a **fatal motor vehicle crash** – of these drivers, **297** died.



**64%** of all drivers 65+ and **51%** of front **passengers** 65+ died in a fatal crash.

### 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:

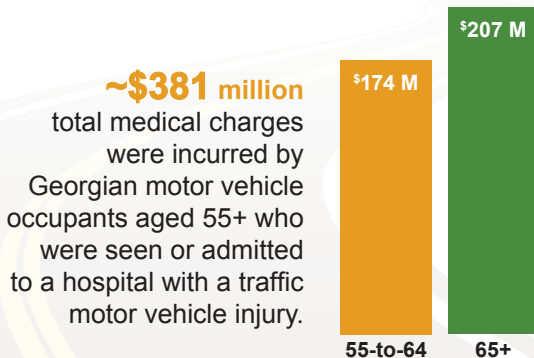
- Vision, memory, dexterity, & reaction time may decline.
- Medications & medical conditions might influence your driving.

#### 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.



**4%** INCREASE # of 55+ drivers involved in fatal crashes



## 2019 GEORGIA QUICK FACTS

### Population

The population of Georgians aged **55+ years** increased by **12%** from 2015 to 2019 and represented **27%** of the total population in 2019. Overall, the 85+ population is expected to triple by 2050.

### Drivers

- In 2019, there were **2.6 million** licensed drivers 55+ years – a 16% increase from 2015.
- **50%** of all fatalities in crashes involving drivers 55+ years were the drivers themselves.
- 75% of the fatally injured drivers 55+ years were male.

### Traffic Injuries

About **20,000** Georgia residents aged 55+ years were either seen or admitted to a hospital for a motor vehicle occupant injury — accounting for **17%** of all ER visits and **35%** of all hospitalizations.

### Seat Belt Use

Female drivers aged 55+ involved in a fatal crash are more likely to wear seat belts than male drivers — **80%** of females 55+ involved in a fatal crash were restrained compared to **66%** of males.

### Other People Involved

#### *Motorcyclists*

**About a quarter** of all motorcycle operator fatalities were riders aged 55+ years.

#### *Pedestrians*

**More than one-third** of all pedestrian fatalities were among persons aged 55+ years. Considering the age distribution of Georgia's population, this age group is overrepresented in pedestrian fatalities.

## 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/>

