



Here are some basic facts about older drivers:

Population. *The number of people 65 and older is estimated to more than double by the middle of the century to 80 million seniors. By 2020, there will be an estimated 40 million licensed drivers 65 and older.*

Miles Driven. *Not only will there be more drivers, but these drivers will travel more miles each year than previous generations, and will continue driving at older ages.*

Injuries. *Nearly 200,000 older people are injured as a result of crashes each year. Older drivers, especially those over 75, are more likely than younger drivers over 20 to suffer injuries or die as a result of vehicle crashes because of their increased susceptibility to injury, particularly chest injuries, and medical complications.*

Fatalities. *In 2007, more than 5,900 adults 65 and older died in motor-vehicle crashes. Older adults comprise 14 percent of all traffic fatalities. The increased likelihood of heart disease or other illnesses, and having more fragile bones, may precipitate injury or death in a crash.*

Per-Mile Incidents. *Older drivers have low rates of police-reported crashes per capita, but they tend to drive fewer miles than younger people. However, they tend to drive in places where more crashes are likely – surface streets as opposed to highways. Per mile driven, the crash rates start to rise at age 75 for drivers and increase sharply after age 80.*

The most common areas of concern about an older driver's driving behavior are:

- *Slow reaction time*
- *Driving too slowly*
- *Not paying attention to other drivers and pedestrians*
- *Recent crashes, and/or*
- *Forgetting where you are or were going*
- *But older drivers and their families should not wait until these events occur to begin thinking about driving safety.*

Here are some typical concerns expressed by family members:

- *“My father drives too slowly and sometimes crosses the yellow line. Then he denies he did anything wrong.”*
- *“My mother has had several car accidents and I'm very concerned.”*
- *“He is 90. Shouldn't he stop driving?”*
- *“She went to her hairdresser and got lost on the way home.”*
- *“My spouse has Alzheimer's. His license is revoked, but he continues to drive. He steals the keys from my purse.”*

Do any of these situations sound familiar to you?