



# Older Drivers

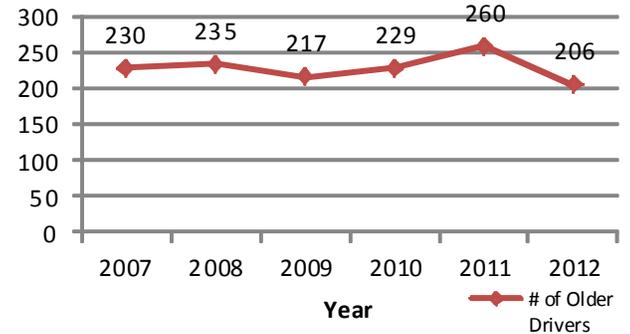


## 2012 OVERVIEW:

- From 2007 to 2012 there has been a **22% increase** in 65+ population but a **19% decrease** in the number of fatalities.
- Drivers 65 years of age and older were involved in 204 fatal traffic crashes in Georgia.
- Twenty percent of all 2012 occupant fatalities involved a crash with a driver 65 years of age and older.

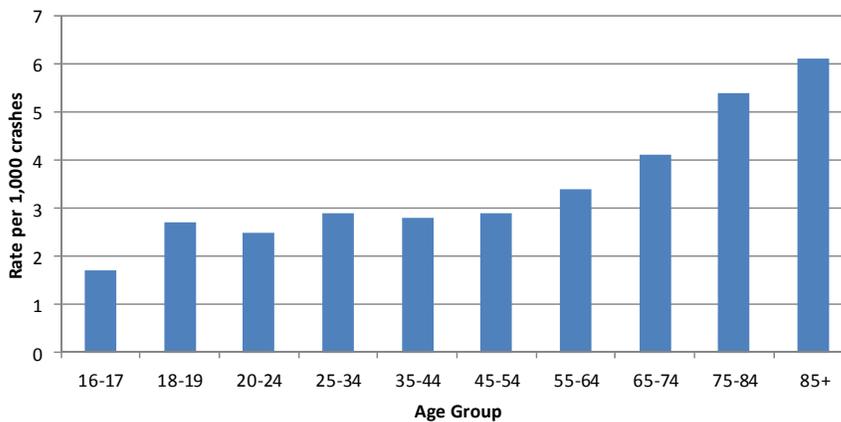
**Georgia Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) goal is to have zero deaths. This fact sheet provides information about older driver crashes in Georgia.**

## Number of Older Drivers involved in Fatal Crashes



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

## Driver Fatality Crash Rate, by Age Group, 2012



Source: Georgia DOT Crash Data revised by GA DPH, 2015

## WHO:

6 out of 10 older drivers involved in a crash were male.



Older drivers had the highest fatality rate per 1,000 crashes.

For all crashes 86% of older drivers wore seatbelts.

## WHY: Contributing Factors

Failure to yield right of way was reported as the number one known contributing factor for older drivers in fatal crashes. For all older driver crashes in 2012, "failed to yield" was ranked first among the known contributing factors.

Half of the older driver records involved in a crash reported 'no contributing factor'.

Fatal Older Driver Crashes		All Older Driver Crashes	
1	Failure to Yield Right of Way 32%	1	Failed to Yield 22%
2	Illegal Driving on Shoulder, Ditch, Median 21%	2	Following too Close 21%
3	Failure to Obey Traffic Lights/Signs 10%	3	Improper Backing 10%
4	Failure to keep in Proper Lane 9%	4	Changed Lanes Improperly 8%
5	Following Improperly 8%	5	Misjudged Clearance 7%

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

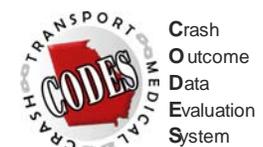
Source: Georgia DOT Crash Data revised by GA DPH, 2015

\*Calculated for crashes where contributing factor is neither 'no contributing factor' nor null

## WHAT: Injuries

Torso (32%) and traumatic brain (21%) injuries accounted for over half of crash-related hospitalizations in older drivers. The majority of torso and head injuries involved damage to internal organs. The average length of stay was 7 days.

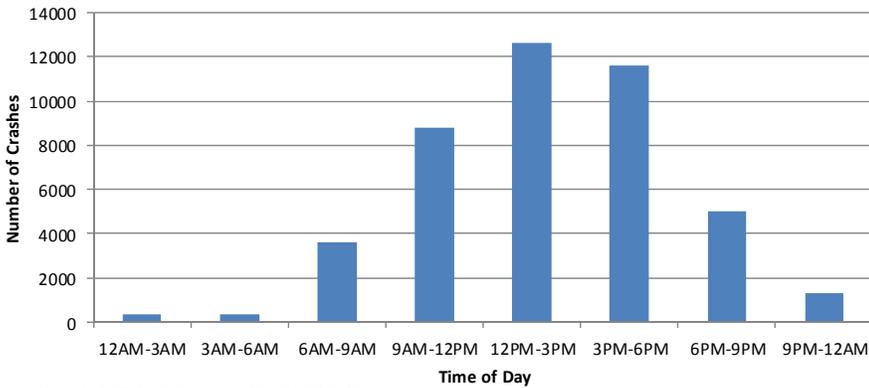
There were 479 older driver hospitalizations in 2012 with about \$40 million hospital charges. The average hospitalization charge was \$80,000.



Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System

# 2012 Older Driver Crashes

Older Driver Crashes, by Time of Day, 2012



Source: Georgia DOT Crash Data revised by GA DPH, 2015

## WHEN :

The majority of the older driver crashes occurred during the day between noon and 3 pm.

Most older driver crashes occurred on weekdays.

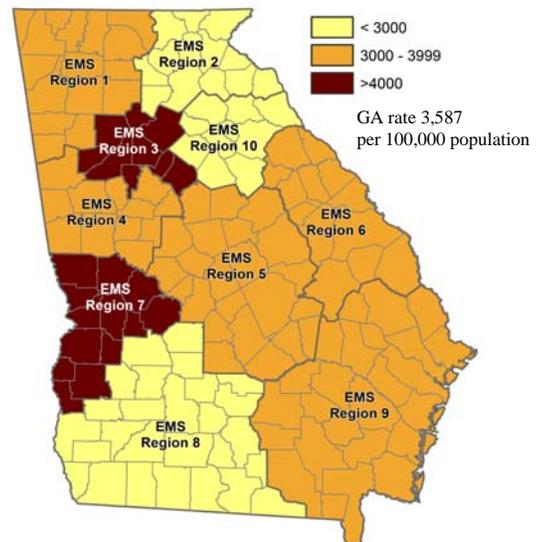
- Monday (15%)
- Tuesday (15%)
- Wednesday (16%)
- Thursday (16%)
- Friday (18%)

## WHERE :

EMS Region 7 (Columbus area) and EMS Region 3 (metro Atlanta) had the highest crash rates in 2012. Geographically, these are two diverse areas, with Region 3 having more urban roadways and Region 7 with more rural roadways.

- 31% of older driver fatal crashes were single vehicle crashes compared to 56% for drivers 15 to 64 years of age.
- 95% of the roadway departures were single vehicle crashes.
- Multi-vehicle fatal crashes involving an older driver
  - 56% were angle collisions
  - 26% were left turn maneuvers

Crash rate involving Older Drivers by EMS Region



Source: Georgia DOT Crash Data revised by GA DPH, 2015



## HOW DO WE REACH OUR GOAL

### Mission Statement:

Georgians: Getting Older, Getting Wiser, Getting Mobile

**Overarching Goal:** To maintain the mobility and safety of older drivers, while making the roadways safer for all road users. The group primarily focuses on reducing the number of injuries and fatalities experienced by older drivers, and where possible, enhancing mobility options for older adults. The task force implements activities geared towards five E's: **Engineering, Education, Enforcement (policy), EMS, and Evaluation.** Task Force recommendations center around the following three topics:

- 1) **Engineering:** Integrate and implement evidence-based older driver traffic safety measures into current roadway design and planning standards for Georgia. Identify environmental crash risk factors for older drivers and corresponding roadway improvement strategies that target such risk factors relevant to Georgia.
- 2) **Education:** Increase understanding and general awareness of older driver safety issues in Georgia. Place special emphasis on educating specific key populations such as physicians, traffic engineers, emergency medical services, legislators, law enforcement, caregivers and older drivers.
- 3) **Alternative Transportation:** Expand alternative transportation options in Georgia through collaborative of integrated government and community support programs.

### For more information:

- The Georgia Older Drivers Safety Program: <http://dph.georgia.gov/older-drivers-safety-program>