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.

2012 OVERVIEW:

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.

WHAT: 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’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fatal Older Driver Crashes</th>
<th>All Older Driver Crashes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Failure to Yield Right of Way</td>
<td>1  Failed to Yield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Illegal Driving on Shoulder, Ditch, Median</td>
<td>2  Following too Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  Failure to Obey Traffic Lights/Signs</td>
<td>3  Improperly Backing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  Failure to keep in Proper Lane</td>
<td>4  Changed Lanes Improperly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Following Improperly</td>
<td>5  Misjudged Clearance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

*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.
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

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%)

Crash rate involving Older Drivers by EMS Region

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: