



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2022

DRIVERS AGED 55+

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 may bring.

THE NUMBERS

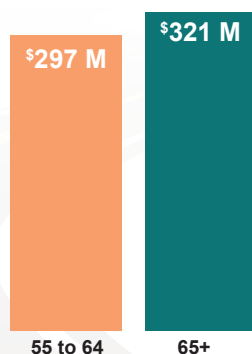
In 2022...

602 drivers 55+ were involved in a **fatal motor vehicle crash*** – of these drivers, **296** died.



1 in **5** drivers aged 65+ in a serious injury crash involved a **left-hand turn** maneuver.

\$618 million total medical charges were incurred by Georgians aged 55+ who were seen or admitted to a hospital with a traffic motor vehicle injury.



11%
DECREASE

of 55+ drivers involved in fatal crashes **decreased by 11%** from 2021 to 2022.



REDUCE YOUR RISK



**DRIVE ALERT
STAY FOCUSED**



**MANAGE
YOUR
MEDICATIONS**



**WEAR YOUR
SEATBELT**



**BE AWARE
OF PHYSICAL
AND MENTAL
CHANGES**

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CRASHES INVOLVING AGING DRIVERS

- Failure to yield
- Not maintaining a safe following distance
- Changing lanes improperly
- Driver lost control
- Reaction to object or animal



PREVENTION MEASURES

Be aware, aging can impact your driving skills:

- Have your vision checked.
- Ask your doctor how your medical conditions could affect your driving.
- Review medications with your doctor or pharmacist.

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.

*Fatal motor vehicle crashes are traffic crashes that resulted in at least one fatality.



2022 QUICK FACTS

Population

The population of Georgians aged **55+** years **increased** by **9%** from 2018 to 2022 and represented 27% of the total Georgia population in 2022. Overall, the 85+ population is expected to triple by 2050.

Drivers

- In 2022, there were **3 million** licensed drivers **55+** years of age who were involved in **20%** of all crashes and **24%** of fatal crashes.
- Compared to all other age groups involved in a fatal crash, **drivers aged 55+** had the **highest fatality rate** per 100,000 crashes, yet the **lowest crash rate** per 100,000 licensed drivers – suggesting they are safe drivers, but more vulnerable to fatal injury when involved in a crash.

Traffic Fatalities and Injuries

There were **532** fatalities and over **19,500** Georgia residents aged 55+ years who were either seen or admitted to a Georgia hospital for a motor vehicle traffic-related injury – accounting for **30%** of all traffic **fatalities**, **18%** of all traffic-related **ER visits**, and **33%** of all traffic-related **hospitalizations**.

RESOURCES

55+ Driver Safety Program 55+ Driver Safety Program supports drivers aged 55 and up. Resources include driving tips, community engagement, and collaborative partnerships: the Yellow Dot Program, CarFit, Road Design, and the Aging & Safe Driving Symposium. <https://dph.georgia.gov/ODS>

MyCarDoesWhat explains how to best use new vehicle safety technologies and provides tips on car safety. <https://mycardoeswhat.org>

Project Independence assists people 55 years and older experiencing vision or hearing loss. They also provide mobility training by certified instructors. <https://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. <https://aging.georgia.gov/about-us>

Seat Belt Use

- **38%** of fatally injured **male** occupants aged 65+ years were unrestrained compared to **27%** of **female** occupants.
- **12%** of seriously injured drivers 65+ years were unrestrained and **11%** of seriously injured passengers 65+ years were unrestrained.

Other People Involved

Pedestrians

34% 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.

Motorcyclists

About **1 in 4** of all motorcycle operator fatalities were riders aged 55+ years.



For more information and resources related to safe driving among 55+ drivers:
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/>