

2004 Michigan Traffic Crash FACT SHEET

Age 65 and over

ELDERLY

Findings show that older drivers rank lower in aggressive actions, rank higher in comprehension errors, tend to make necessary adjustments in their driving behavior (based on their own experience), and strongly desire to keep their cars to assure independence.

Safety problems for the older driver are directly tied to the aging process. Changes in vision, the ability to concentrate, and reaction time all contribute to driving errors.

- 65+** Drivers age 65 and older made up 14.5 percent of Michigan's active driving population. They were involved in 6.8 percent of all crashes and 11.6 percent of the fatal crashes.
- 65+** Drivers and injured passengers age 75 to 104 had the highest restraint usage (95.1%), as reported to police at the scene of a crash.
- 65+** Older drivers were more involved in angle type crashes than younger drivers. Older drivers also had the highest incidence of failed to yield, disregard of traffic control, improper lane use, improper turn, and improper backing as a hazardous action in all crashes.
- 65+** 191 persons (65 and older) were killed in traffic crashes; 122 (63.9%) of them were drivers.
- 65+** In addition 7,542 persons age 65 and older were injured in traffic crashes.
- 65+** There were 1,044,354 licensed drivers age 65 and older in 2004. 43,146 (4.1%) of these drivers were involved in crashes (201 in fatal crashes).
- 65+** 9:00 AM to 2:59 PM shows the highest involvement for elderly drivers in all crashes when compared to the other two age groups.
- 65+** 21.4 percent of the pedestrians killed in Michigan in 2004 were age 65 and older; 6.3 percent of the pedestrians injured were age 65 and older.
- 65+** 0 (0%) bicyclists killed in 2004 were over the age of 65.