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OTS CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS

Aging Road Users

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INTRODUCTION

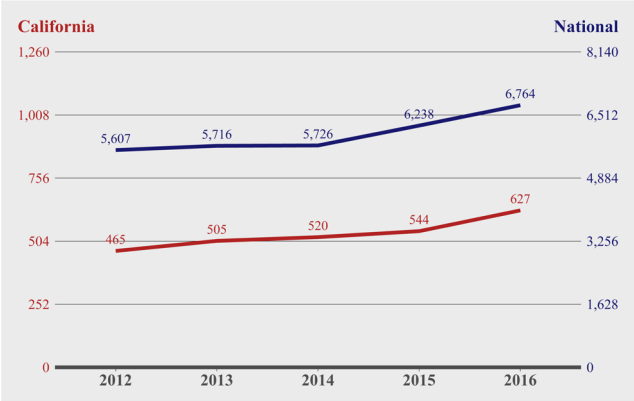
In 2016, a total of 6,764 people age 65 and older were killed in collisions nationwide, which is a 7 percent increase from 6,238 in 2015. The older adult population of the United States—those 65 and older—is expected to nearly double between 2012 and 2050, from 43.1 million to 83.7 million. The older population accounted for 15.2 percent of residents in the U.S. and 18.8 percent of all licensed drivers in 2016. As drivers age, possible physical and mental changes including reduced visual acuity, increased fragility, restricted movement, and cognitive impairment may directly and indirectly result in age-related driving impairments.

CALIFORNIA FACTS

CALIFORNIA DATA

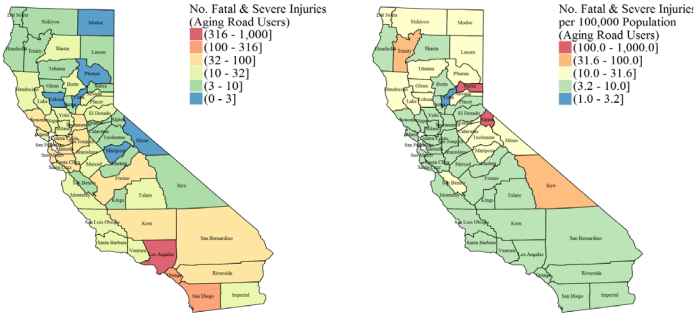
- In 2016 there were 627 people age 65 and older killed in traffic collisions, a 15.3% increase from 544 in 2015.
- The highest numbers of aging road user fatalities and severe injuries were in the densely populated counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego.
- Conversely, the rates of aging road user fatalities and severe injuries per 100,000 population were highest in the more rural northern and central counties of Sierra, Alpine, Inyo, and Trinity.
- Pedestrian fatalities among those 65 and older increased 13%, from 193 in 2015 to 218 in 2016.
- Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of the fatal and severe injuries to people aged 65 and older occurred on urban roads, with the other 36.2% on rural roads.
- Most of the fatalities to people aged 65 and older occurred on non-interstate principal arterials (high-capacity urban roads) (44.0%), followed by non-interstate minor arterials (20.6%).
- About half (50.6%) of the fatal injuries occurred in passenger vehicles, followed closely by non-motor vehicle occupants, such as pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. (41.3%).

Aging Driver Fatality Trends, Nationwide and California, 2012-2016



Source: FARS 2012 - 2015 Final File, 2016 ARF

Aging Driver Fatal & Severe Injury and Fatal & Severe Injury per 100K Population by County, 2016



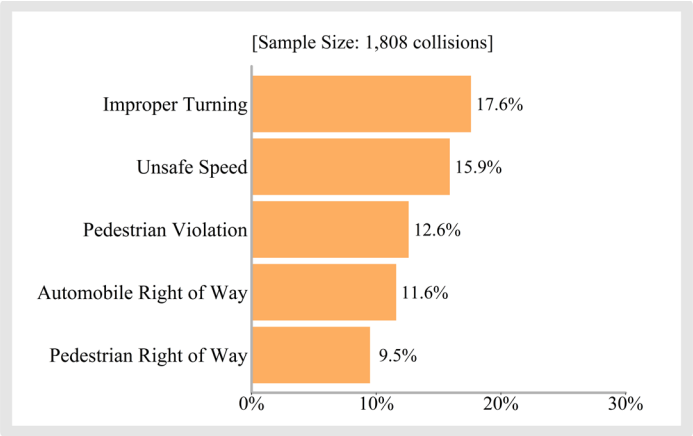
(a) Number of Fatal and Severe Injuries (b) Number of Fatal and Severe Injuries per 100,000 Population

Source: FARS ARF 2016; Provisional SWITRS 2016; California Department of Finance 2016

CALIFORNIA DATA *(continued)*

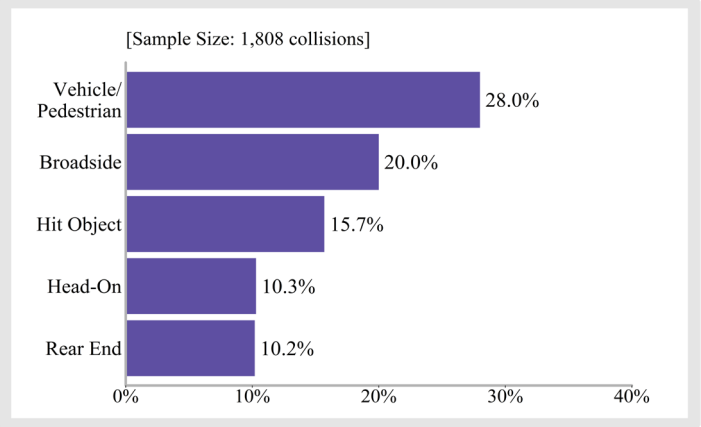
- The top primary collision factors for older adults fatally and severely injured in traffic collisions were improper turning (17.6%) and unsafe speed (15.9%).
- The most common crash type for people age 65 and older who were fatally or severely injured in a collision was a vehicle/pedestrian collision (28%), followed by broadside (20.0%).
- Nearly three-fourths (74.1%) of older adult fatal and severe injuries occurred between the hours of 9am and 9pm.
- Fatal and severe injuries to older adults were evenly distributed throughout the week, with the lowest number of injury collisions on Mondays.
- Of fatal and severe injuries among older adults, 60.6% occurred among men and 39.4% occurred among women.
- Of the 627 fatalities among people aged 65 and older in California in 2016, race was unknown 39.2 percent of the time. Of the 381 cases in which race was known, 76.7% were White.

Top Five Primary Collision Factors, Fatal & Severe Injury Aging Driver Collisions, California, 2016



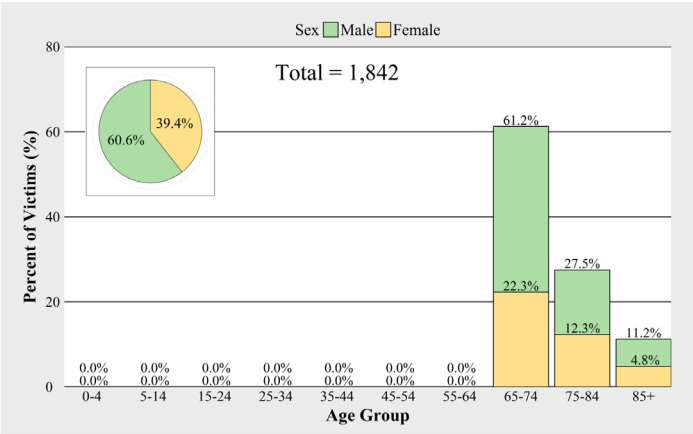
Source: Provisional SWITRS 2016

Top Five Crash Types, Fatal & Severe Injury Aging Driver Collisions, California, 2016



Source: Provisional SWITRS 2016

Sex & Age Distribution, Fatal & Severe Injury Aging Driver Collisions, California, 2016



Source: FARS ARF 2016: Provisional SWITRS 2016

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