U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS
2012 Data

NHTSA
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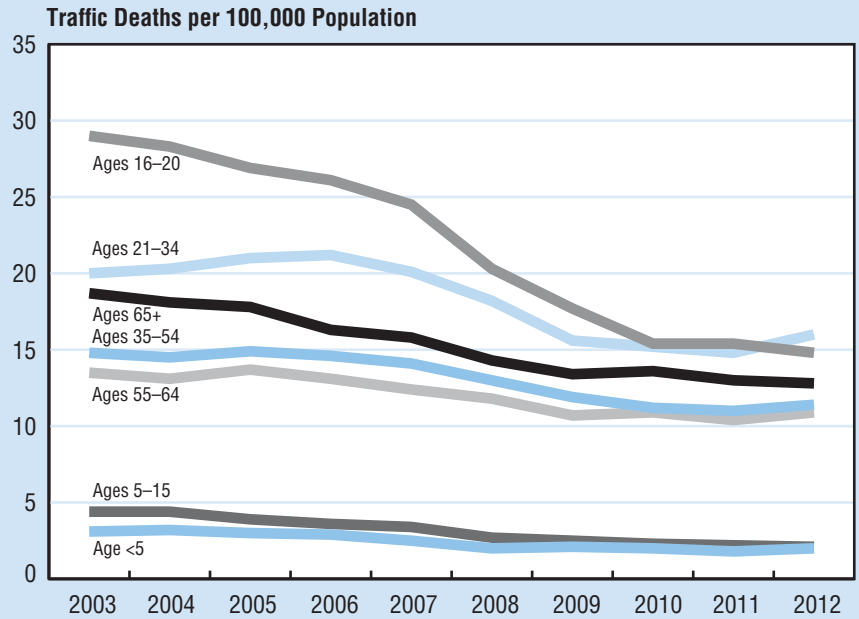
Older Population

In 2012, there were 5,560 people 65 and older killed and 214,000 injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes. These older people made up 17 percent of all traffic fatalities and 9 percent of all people injured in traffic crashes during the year. Compared to 2011, fatalities among people 65 and older increased by 3 percent. Among people injured in this age group there was a 16-percent increase from 2011.

In 2012, 14 percent of the total U.S. resident population (43.1 million people) were 65 and older. The older population fatality rate per 100,000 U.S. resident population steadily declined from 18.7 in 2003 to 12.9 in 2012 (Figure 1).

In 2012, 17 percent of all traffic fatalities in the United States were among people 65 and older.

Figure 1
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates by Age Group, 2003–2012



Among the 65-and-older age group from 2003 to 2012, the total population increased by 20 percent (males increased by 26% and females increased by 16%). However, as seen in Table 1, driver fatalities for this age group declined by 15 percent (decreased for males by 10% and for females by 26%); motorcyclist fatalities increased by 201 percent (males increased by 194% and females increased by 333%). Furthermore, among the 65-and-older age group from 2003 to 2012, pedalcyclist fatalities increased by 80 percent (males increased by 83% and females by 50%).

Table 1

Involvement of the Older Population in Traffic Fatalities by Gender, 2003 and 2012

	2003			2012			Percentage Change, 2003–2012	
	Total	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Total	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Total	Age 65+
Population (Thousands)								
Total	290,108	35,864	12.4	313,914	43,145	13.3	8	20
Male	142,429	14,974	10.5	154,492	18,815	12.2	8	26
Female	147,679	20,889	14.1	159,422	24,330	15.3	8	16
Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes								
Total*	58,517	6,445	11.0	45,337	5,744	12.7	-23	-11
Male	42,586	4,435	10.4	33,124	4,088	12.3	-22	-8
Female	15,211	2,010	13.2	11,509	1,655	14.4	-24	-18
Driver Fatalities								
Total*	26,779	4,067	15.2	21,394	3,449	16.1	-20	-15
Male	19,955	2,719	13.6	16,525	2,456	14.9	-17	-10
Female	6,821	1,348	19.8	4,866	993	20.4	-29	-26
Total Traffic Fatalities								
Total*	42,884	6,698	15.6	33,561	5,560	16.6	-22	-17
Male	29,346	3,775	12.9	23,808	3,451	14.5	-19	-9
Female	13,532	2,923	21.6	9,733	2,107	21.6	-28	-28
Occupant Fatalities								
Total*	37,341	5,649	15.1	27,869	4,486	16.1	-25	-21
Male	25,425	3,163	12.4	19,722	2,742	13.9	-22	-13
Female	11,912	2,486	20.9	8,133	1,744	21.4	-32	-30
Pedestrian Fatalities								
Total*	4,774	981	20.5	4,743	935	19.7	-1	-5
Male	3,274	556	17.0	3,285	590	18.0	0	6
Female	1,499	425	28.4	1,454	343	23.6	-3	-19
Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities								
Total*	32,271	5,388	16.7	21,667	3,991	18.4	-33	-26
Male	20,899	2,940	14.1	14,138	2,297	16.2	-32	-22
Female	11,370	2,448	21.5	7,521	1,694	22.5	-34	-31
Motorcyclist Fatalities								
Total	3,714	117	3.2	4,957	352	7.1	33	201
Male	3,342	111	3.3	4,499	326	7.2	35	194
Female	372	6	1.6	456	26	5.7	23	333
Pedalcyclist Fatalities								
Total	629	45	7.2	726	81	11.2	15	80
Male	556	41	7.4	634	75	11.8	14	83
Female	72	4	5.6	90	6	6.7	25	50

*Total includes unknown gender.

Drivers

There were 35 million licensed older drivers in 2011 (2012 data not available)—a 21-percent increase from 2002. In contrast, the total number of licensed drivers increased by only 9 percent from 2002 to 2011. Older drivers made up 16 percent of all licensed drivers in 2011, compared with 15 percent in 2002.

Older drivers made up 16 percent of all licensed drivers in 2011, compared with 15 percent in 2002.

As shown in Table 2, of all drivers, older drivers involved in fatal crashes had the lowest proportion of drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher.

Table 2

Age and Alcohol of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes, 2012

	Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes		
		BAC= .08+	
Age Group (Years)	Total	Number	Percent of Total
<16	121	10	8
16–20	4,211	758	18
21–34	13,688	4,120	30
35–54	14,912	3,372	23
55–64	5,899	805	14
65+	5,744	413	7
Total	***45,337**	**9,678**	**21**

*Includes 762 drivers of unknown age.

Thirteen percent fewer people were killed in crashes involving older drivers from 6,805 in 2003 to 5,894 in 2012.While the overall trend shows a decline for those 10 years, the number of people killed in crashes involving older drivers increased in 2012 by 5 percent compared to 2011 (Table 3).

Fatalities in crashes involving older drivers declined by 13 percent from 2003 to 2012.

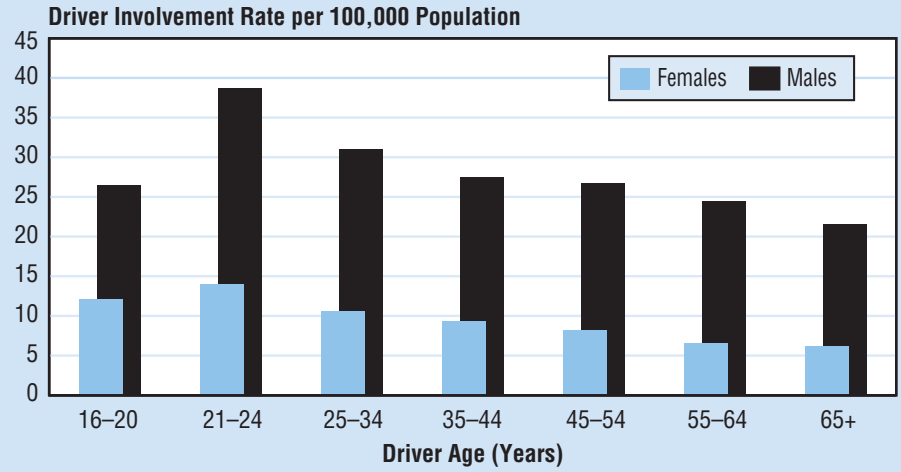
Table 3

Fatalities in Crashes Involving Drivers 65 and Older, 2003–2012

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fatalities	6,805	6,585	6,647	6,334	6,169	5,825	5,613	5,782	5,636	5,894

Most traffic fatalities involving older drivers in 2012 occurred during the daytime (75%), occurred on weekdays (69%), and involved other vehicles (64%). Among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2012, older drivers had the lowest involvement rate per population as compared to other driver age groups. The involvement rate for male drivers (65+) was 21.73 and the involvement rate for female drivers (65+) was 6.80 (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Driver Involvement Rates in Fatal Crashes by Age and Gender, 2012



For older pedestrians, 68 percent of fatalities in 2012 occurred at non-intersection locations.

Pedestrians

For older people, 68 percent of pedestrian fatalities in 2012 occurred at non-intersection locations. For other pedestrians, 81 percent of fatalities occurred at non-intersection locations.

Among all fatally injured adult pedestrians, older pedestrians had the lowest proportion of pedestrians with BACs of .08 g/dL or higher (Table 4).

Table 4
Pedestrian Fatalities by Age Group and BAC, 2012

Age Group (Years)	Total	BAC= .08+	
		Number	Percent of Total
<16	292	7	2
16–20	265	68	25
21–34	1,028	480	47
35–54	1,475	704	48
55–64	724	240	33
65+	935	99	11
Total	***4,743**	**1,608**	**34**

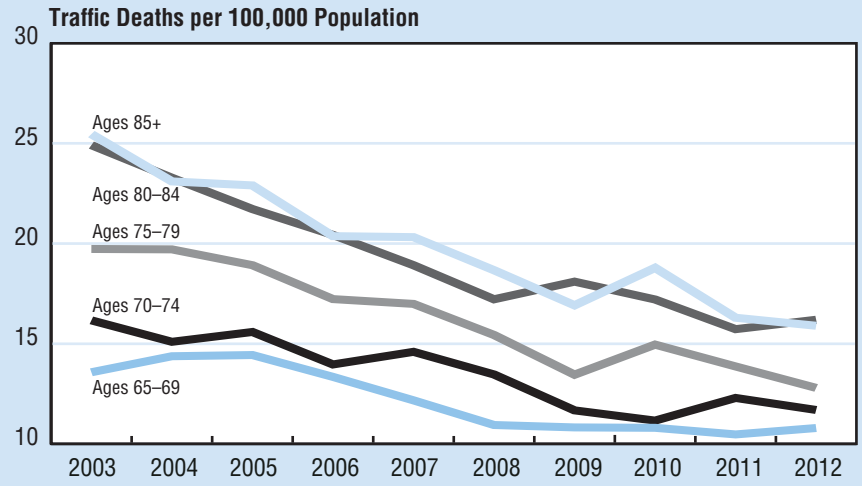
*Includes 24 pedestrian fatalities of unknown age.

Older Population Age Groups

In 2012, among the older population, the fatality rate for the 80-84 age group was 16.39 per 100,000 population, which was higher than any other older age group. The fatality rate for the 85+ age group declined by 37 percent, from 25.46 in 2003 to 15.98 in 2012 (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates Among Older Populations by Age Group, 2003–2012



For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or via the following e-mail address: ncsaweb@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol, African American, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Hispanic, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Overview, Pedestrians, Race and Ethnicity, Rural/Urban Comparisons, School Transportation-Related Crashes, Speeding, State Alcohol Estimates, State Traffic Data, and Young Drivers.* Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System.* The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx.

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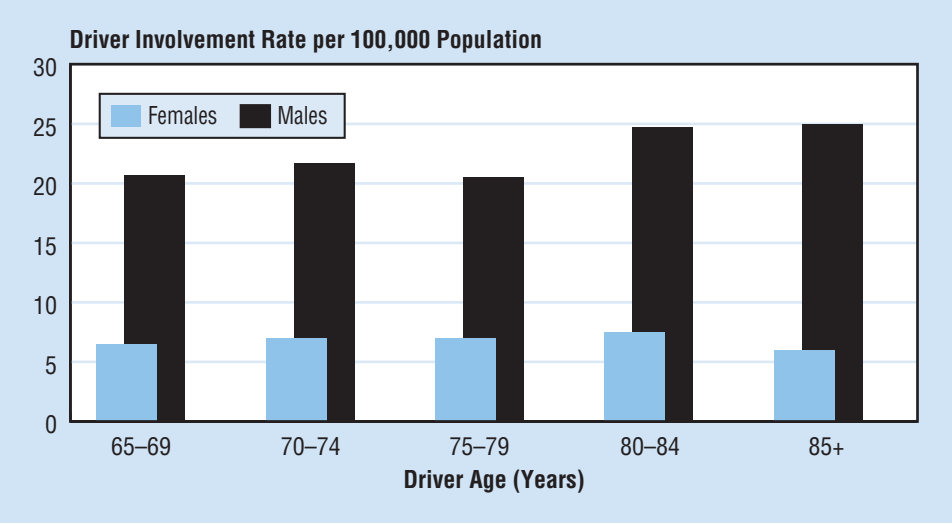
In 2012, fatal crash driver involvement rates per 100,000 population among older male drivers was highest (24.95) in the 85-and-older age group; and among older female drivers was highest in the 80-84 age group (7.73) (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Involvement Rates for Older Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age Group and Gender 2012



Driver Involvement by State and Age Group

Table 5 shows driver involvement in fatal traffic crashes by State and driver age group. Among all States, driver involvement in 2012 ranged from highest (4,564) to lowest (20) depending on the size and population of the State. Driver involvement in fatal crashes was highest in Texas (4,564), followed by California (3,811) and Florida (3,412), and lowest in the District of Columbia (20). Driver involvement in fatal crashes in 2012 among driver (65+) ranged from 474 (highest) to 0 (lowest). Driver involvement in fatal crashes in the 65+ age group was highest in Florida (474), followed by California (410) and Texas (393), and lowest in the District of Columbia (0).

Fatalities by State and Age Group

Table 6 shows fatalities in Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group. Among all States, fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2012 ranged from highest (3,398) to lowest (15) depending on the size and population of the State. Fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes were highest in Texas (3,398), followed by California (2,857) and Florida (2,424), and lowest in the District of Columbia (15). Fatalities in the 65+ age group were highest in Florida (450), followed by California (443) and Texas (401), and lowest in the District of Columbia (1).

Table 5

Driver Involvement in Fatal Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group, 2012

State	Total*	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Age Group (Years)								
				<16	16–20	21–34	35–54	55–69	70–74	75–79	80–84	85+
Alabama	1,214	152	12.5	3	136	374	366	222	47	22	16	15
Alaska	83	12	14.5	0	7	30	22	16	2	2	2	2
Arizona	1,088	121	11.1	1	98	314	363	192	29	16	15	17
Arkansas	734	100	13.6	4	64	216	246	136	29	14	15	7
California	3,811	410	10.8	1	323	1,235	1,237	634	79	72	65	49
Colorado	630	74	11.7	3	63	180	198	123	14	10	13	12
Connecticut	332	50	15.1	0	21	110	100	60	14	7	9	6
Delaware	146	22	15.1	0	15	45	48	22	2	5	2	3
Dist of Columbia	20	0	0.0	1	0	7	6	3	0	0	0	0
Florida	3,412	474	13.9	9	290	1,048	1,059	554	127	95	70	70
Georgia	1,676	205	12.2	4	154	522	549	291	51	36	31	19
Hawaii	175	18	10.3	0	10	44	77	34	2	3	1	1
Idaho	244	37	15.2	1	16	67	87	51	6	2	6	8
Illinois	1,322	156	11.8	3	115	435	420	202	29	26	27	29
Indiana	1,107	153	13.8	3	127	304	360	181	42	29	21	24
Iowa	491	65	13.2	3	46	130	157	101	14	13	15	9
Kansas	527	92	17.5	2	66	139	160	87	19	14	22	16
Kentucky	1,023	136	13.3	3	85	295	372	179	35	25	12	13
Louisiana	944	101	10.7	0	99	319	307	138	26	19	13	4
Maine	215	40	18.6	1	20	62	65	36	10	11	3	7
Maryland	702	80	11.4	1	56	234	233	109	19	15	14	6
Massachusetts	449	69	15.4	0	42	132	139	81	10	11	12	15
Michigan	1,325	196	14.8	4	133	378	407	249	50	27	31	24
Minnesota	537	78	14.5	0	47	151	170	115	13	10	9	20
Mississippi	684	103	15.1	4	60	204	229	121	23	18	15	9
Missouri	1,096	137	12.5	5	124	316	388	165	27	23	20	17
Montana	250	28	11.2	4	24	78	77	49	11	3	1	1
Nebraska	284	37	13.0	4	34	82	89	46	12	2	7	7
Nevada	355	48	13.5	0	35	110	109	68	15	8	5	2
New Hampshire	147	23	15.6	0	14	32	53	33	6	3	3	3
New Jersey	816	118	14.5	0	67	245	270	133	27	24	20	15
New Mexico	471	65	13.8	1	43	128	170	64	19	14	12	7
New York	1,569	219	14.0	1	137	443	519	251	55	31	41	42
North Carolina	1,732	220	12.7	8	162	504	587	307	52	44	32	23
North Dakota	218	23	10.6	4	19	59	80	40	7	6	0	3
Ohio	1,573	224	14.2	3	147	443	542	266	53	39	26	41
Oklahoma	939	117	12.5	4	76	299	316	167	34	18	11	6
Oregon	426	65	15.3	1	38	101	141	96	18	8	15	3
Pennsylvania	1,797	266	14.8	2	192	524	576	312	53	47	36	33
Rhode Island	87	13	14.9	0	4	26	36	10	4	3	3	1
South Carolina	1,153	130	11.3	8	118	327	401	192	32	27	13	16
South Dakota	174	22	12.6	3	16	46	61	34	6	4	3	1
Tennessee	1,365	185	13.6	3	141	393	463	242	41	29	24	23
Texas	4,564	393	8.6	12	432	1,562	1,504	678	112	63	51	34
Utah	295	29	9.8	2	31	99	93	43	9	8	4	2
Vermont	96	15	15.6	0	7	28	30	19	7	0	3	1
Virginia	1,026	147	14.3	0	96	292	341	184	34	25	28	13
Washington	596	69	11.6	0	41	185	214	108	16	8	6	14
West Virginia	450	62	13.8	2	30	120	159	93	18	8	13	6
Wisconsin	806	125	15.5	3	78	222	269	150	23	23	21	16
Wyoming	161	20	12.4	0	12	49	47	39	2	4	3	3
U.S. Total	**45,337**	**5,744**	**12.7**	**121**	**4,211**	**13,688**	**14,912**	**7,726**	**1,385**	**974**	**840**	**718**
Puerto Rico	432	39	9.0	0	43	181	111	51	17	4	4	1

*Includes drivers of unknown age. The United States had 762 drivers of unknown age.

Table 6

Fatalities in Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group, 2012

State	Total*	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Age Group (Years)								
				<16	16–20	21–34	35–54	55–69	70–74	75–79	80–84	85+
Alabama	865	133	15.4	34	100	237	237	162	38	23	16	17
Alaska	59	8	13.6	3	6	20	13	11	2	1	1	2
Arizona	825	116	14.1	48	82	235	231	142	19	18	24	22
Arkansas	552	88	15.9	29	47	156	155	102	18	16	19	10
California	2,857	443	15.5	102	264	861	809	498	69	86	89	75
Colorado	472	76	16.1	16	47	131	134	88	16	9	16	15
Connecticut	236	45	19.1	5	15	71	61	48	10	8	10	7
Delaware	114	20	17.5	3	9	37	37	13	1	6	4	4
Dist of Columbia	15	1	6.7	1	3	4	4	2	0	0	0	1
Florida	2,424	450	18.6	66	207	647	715	424	109	95	69	88
Georgia	1,192	191	16.0	50	100	334	363	208	39	33	31	28
Hawaii	126	18	14.3	4	16	35	35	27	2	3	1	3
Idaho	184	37	20.1	9	17	44	56	28	9	2	10	9
Illinois	956	162	16.9	41	91	295	251	154	26	28	35	35
Indiana	779	139	17.8	31	88	214	208	128	32	31	21	24
Iowa	365	67	18.4	14	31	93	103	71	13	14	16	10
Kansas	405	84	20.7	26	46	97	111	61	15	13	17	19
Kentucky	746	117	15.7	33	69	203	231	127	28	25	14	16
Louisiana	722	96	13.3	42	70	209	224	113	20	23	13	6
Maine	164	35	21.3	4	21	46	42	21	7	9	4	10
Maryland	505	74	14.7	18	56	145	143	85	17	15	15	8
Massachusetts	349	83	23.8	8	39	91	85	64	7	15	20	20
Michigan	938	167	17.8	39	95	274	236	177	34	22	33	28
Minnesota	395	81	20.5	16	46	105	104	66	13	8	8	29
Mississippi	582	100	17.2	37	50	169	166	92	21	20	15	11
Missouri	826	125	15.1	29	84	236	263	125	24	27	19	19
Montana	205	22	10.7	11	20	64	58	35	11	1	1	4
Nebraska	212	34	16.0	17	32	57	52	24	11	4	9	6
Nevada	258	54	20.9	9	26	61	57	71	19	5	6	4
New Hampshire	108	23	21.3	2	13	21	32	23	6	4	4	3
New Jersey	589	120	20.4	19	50	168	154	108	21	29	21	17
New Mexico	365	63	17.3	12	29	90	129	54	18	13	9	9
New York	1,168	256	21.9	46	95	302	322	192	60	31	53	59
North Carolina	1,292	204	15.8	63	112	331	413	223	57	43	25	24
North Dakota	170	20	11.8	9	19	47	56	24	6	6	1	2
Ohio	1,123	209	18.6	33	111	279	350	193	48	36	24	49
Oklahoma	708	110	15.5	15	59	215	214	124	32	19	15	15
Oregon	336	65	19.3	9	25	79	86	90	18	7	15	7
Pennsylvania	1,310	254	19.4	43	146	363	358	219	44	41	43	53
Rhode Island	64	10	15.6	2	5	16	26	7	3	2	2	1
South Carolina	863	118	13.7	28	87	242	271	150	21	27	16	18
South Dakota	133	19	14.3	11	13	34	40	22	5	5	2	1
Tennessee	1,014	175	17.3	29	103	252	313	198	37	30	23	29
Texas	3,398	401	11.8	206	329	1,059	994	518	105	57	69	47
Utah	217	24	11.1	15	21	59	68	32	7	5	4	6
Vermont	77	14	18.2	2	4	24	18	16	5	1	4	3
Virginia	777	136	17.5	23	80	197	230	144	31	25	29	17
Washington	444	74	16.7	15	42	114	139	78	13	8	15	18
West Virginia	339	62	18.3	13	24	91	103	63	17	6	13	9
Wisconsin	615	121	19.7	18	69	146	190	101	24	21	24	22
Wyoming	123	16	13.0	5	11	38	28	32	3	3	1	2
U.S. Total	**33,561**	**5,560**	**16.6**	**1,363**	**3,224**	**9,338**	**9,718**	**5,778**	**1,211**	**979**	**948**	**941**
Puerto Rico	347	58	16.7	9	32	102	86	61	19	11	7	4

*Total includes fatalities of unknown age. The United States had 61 fatalities of unknown age.