Traffic Safety Facts
2013 Data

September 2015 (Rev. November 2015)

DOT HS 812 199

NHTSA
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Older Population

For the purposes of this fact sheet, the term *older*—in relation to population, occupants and nonoccupants—refers to people 65 and older. Numerous NHTSA programs and publications targeted toward safe travel and road use for older people also focuses on this 65-and-older age range.

In this fact sheet, the 2013 older population information is presented in the following order.

- Overview
- Older Drivers
- Older Pedestrians
- Older Population Age Groups
- Driver Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State and Age Group
- Fatalities by State and Age Group

Key Findings

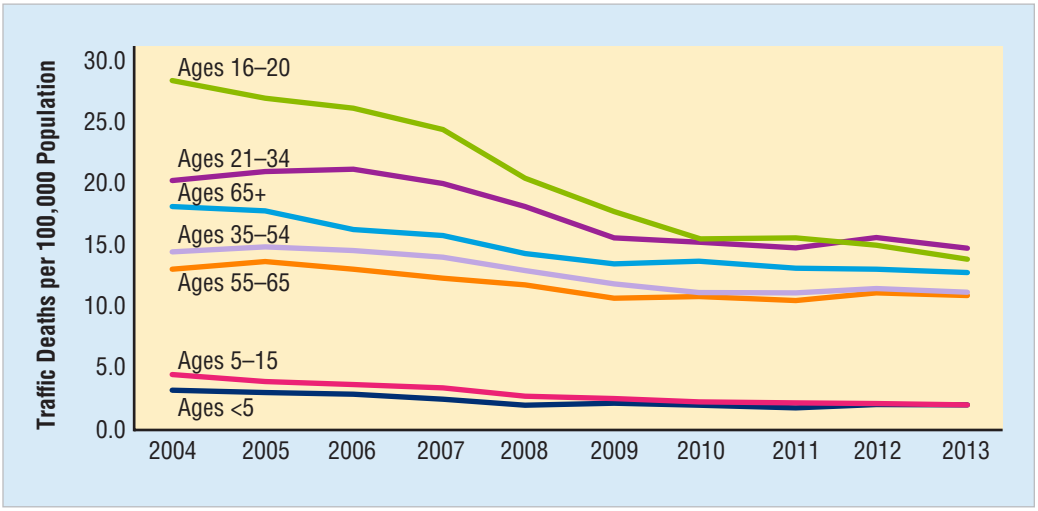
- In 2013, 17 percent of all traffic fatalities in the United States were among people 65 and older. There were 5,671 older people killed in crashes in 2013.
- Older drivers made up 17 percent of all licensed drivers in 2013, compared with 15 percent in 2004.
- From 2004 to 2013, older male driver fatalities declined by 3 percent compared with a 20-percent decrease in older female driver fatalities.
- The population of people 65 and older increased by 23 percent from 2004 through 2013; however, driver fatalities in crashes involving older drivers declined by 9 percent over this period.
- For older pedestrians, 62 percent of fatalities in 2013 occurred at non-intersection locations.
- Among the older population, the fatality rate per 100,000 population was highest for the 80-to-84 age group—for both males and females.

Overview

In 2013, there were 5,671 people 65 and older killed and an estimated 222,000 injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes. These older people made up 17 percent of all traffic fatalities and 10 percent of all people injured in traffic crashes during the year. Compared to 2012, fatalities among older people increased by 1 percent and the number of older people injured increased by 4 percent.

In 2013, 44.7 million people, or 14 percent of the total U.S. resident population, were 65 and older. The older population fatality rate per 100,000 U.S. resident population of older people steadily declined from 18.1 in 2004 to 12.7 in 2013. Figure 1 shows motor vehicle traffic fatality rates according to age groups.

Figure 1
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates by Age Group, 2004–2013



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2004–2012 Final File, 2013 Annual Report File (ARF). Population—Bureau of the Census.

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Among the 65-and-older age group from 2004 to 2013, as seen in Table 1:

- The population increased by 23 percent (males increased by 29% and females increased by 19%).
- Motorcyclist fatalities increased by 249 percent (males increased by 256% and females increased by 163%).
- Driver fatalities among the older population declined by 9 percent (decreased for males by 3% and females decreased by 20%).
- Older pedestrian fatalities decreased by 6 percent overall (decreased for males by 3% and for females by 10%).

Table 1
Involvement of the Older Population in Traffic Fatalities by Gender, 2004 and 2013

	2004			2013			Percentage Change, 2004-2013	
	Total	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Total	Age 65+	Percentage of Total	Total	Age 65+
Population (thousands)								
Total	292,805	36,203	12%	316,129	44,704	14%	8	23
Male	143,828	15,188	11%	155,652	19,600	13%	8	29
Female	148,977	21,016	14%	160,477	25,104	16%	8	19
Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes								
Total	58,395	6,239	11%	44,574	5,924	13%	-24	-5
Male	42,250	4,261	10%	32,442	4,178	13%	-23	-2
Female	15,384	1,978	13%	11,364	1,746	15%	-26	-12
Driver Fatalities								
Total	26,871	3,927	15%	20,871	3,587	17%	-22	-9
Male	20,089	2,635	13%	16,039	2,551	16%	-20	-3
Female	6,780	1,292	19%	4,829	1,036	21%	-29	-20
Total Traffic Fatalities								
Total	42,836	6,555	15%	32,719	5,671	17%	-24	-13
Male	29,443	3,792	13%	23,127	3,556	15%	-21	-6
Female	13,387	2,763	21%	9,579	2,114	22%	-28	-23
Occupant Fatalities								
Total	37,304	5,482	15%	27,051	4,616	17%	-27	-16
Male	25,477	3,117	12%	19,097	2,877	15%	-25	-8
Female	11,824	2,365	20%	7,948	1,738	22%	-33	-27
Pedestrian Fatalities								
Total	4,675	951	20%	4,735	896	19%	1	-6
Male	3,237	560	17%	3,247	544	17%	0	-3
Female	1,435	391	27%	1,482	352	24%	3	-10
Passenger Vehicle Occupant Fatalities								
Total	31,866	5,228	16%	21,132	4,044	19%	-34	-23
Male	20,633	2,897	14%	13,754	2,355	17%	-33	-19
Female	11,232	2,331	21%	7,372	1,688	23%	-34	-28
Motorcyclist Fatalities								
Total	4,028	114	2%	4,668	398	9%	16	249
Male	3,593	106	3%	4,249	377	9%	18	256
Female	433	8	2%	419	21	5%	-3	163
Pedalcyclist Fatalities								
Total	727	92	13%	743	100	13%	2	9
Male	631	91	14%	645	92	14%	2	1
Female	96	1	1%	97	8	8%	1	700

Source: FARS 2004 Final File, 2013 ARF. Population – Bureau of the Census.
Note: Use caution with reporting of percentages as some are based on small fatality figures.

Older Drivers

There were 36.8 million licensed older drivers in 2013—a 27-percent increase from 2004 (a 10-year span). In contrast the total number of licensed drivers increased by only 7 percent from 2004 to 2013. Older drivers made up 17 percent of all licensed drivers in 2013, compared with 15 percent in 2004.

As shown in Table 2, of all drivers in 2013, older drivers involved in fatal crashes had the lowest percentage of drivers with blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher at 7 percent.

Table 2
Age and Alcohol Involvement of Drivers in Fatal Crashes, 2013

Age Group (Years)	Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes		
	Total	BAC .08 or Higher	
		Number	Percentage of Total
<16	139	11	8%
16–20	3,883	666	17%
21–34	13,371	4,083	31%
35–54	14,526	3,234	22%
55–64	5,911	827	14%
65+	5,924	406	7%
Total*	44,574	9,461	21%

Source: FARS 2013 ARF.
*Total includes 820 drivers of unknown age.

Nine percent fewer people were killed in crashes involving older drivers – from 6,585 in 2004 to 6,014 in 2013. While the overall trend shows a decline for those 10 years, the number of people killed in crashes involving older drivers increased in 2013 by 1 percent compared to 2012. Table 3 presents total fatalities in crashes involving older drivers over the past 10 years including the role of the person killed.

Table 3
Fatalities in Crashes Involving Drivers 65 and Older, 2004–2013

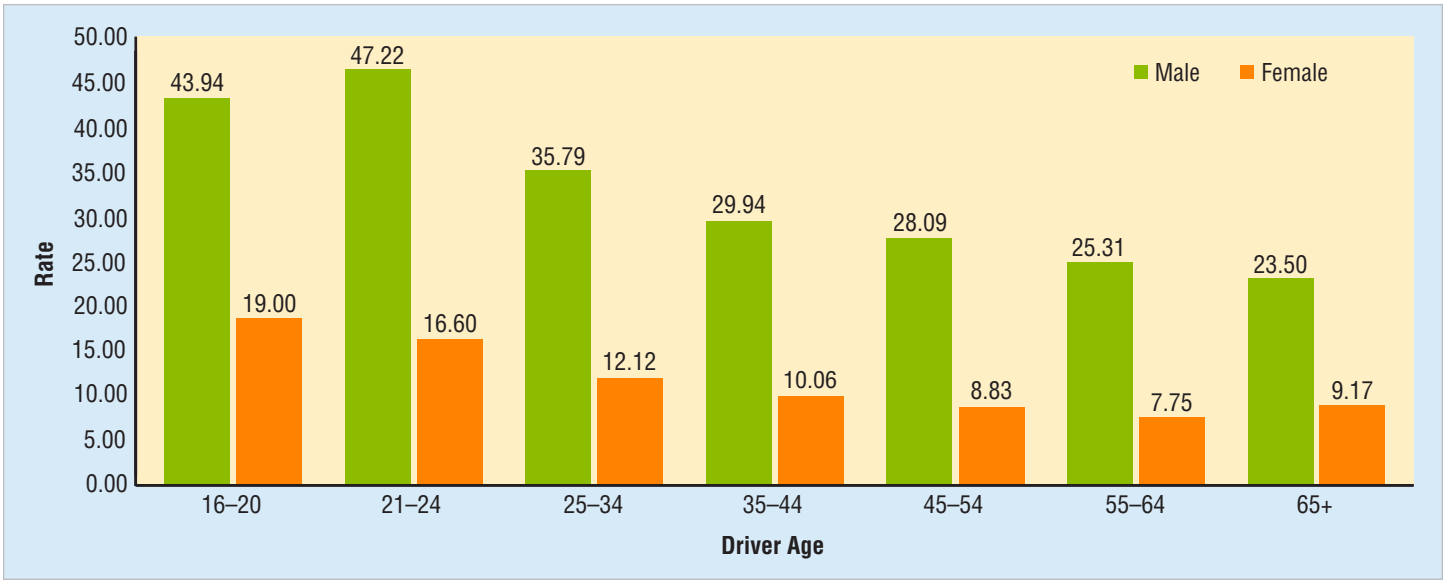
	Older Drivers	Passengers in Older Drivers' Vehicles	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Nonoccupants	Total
2004	3,928	1,135	1,091	431	6,585
2005	3,943	1,053	1,201	450	6,647
2006	3,741	979	1,197	417	6,334
2007	3,674	923	1,120	452	6,169
2008	3,475	858	1,085	407	5,825
2009	3,307	848	1,008	450	5,613
2010	3,423	886	986	487	5,782
2011	3,409	735	984	508	5,636
2012	3,471	813	1,044	612	5,940
2013	3,587	757	1,090	580	6,014

Sources: FARS 2004-2012 Final File, 2013 ARF.

Most traffic fatalities in crashes involving older drivers in 2013 occurred during the daytime (75%), occurred on weekdays (69%), and involved other vehicles (65%). This differs from the percentages for all fatalities in 2013: 49 percent occurred in the daytime; 58 percent occurred on the weekdays; and 42 percent involved another vehicle.

Among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2013, older drivers had a lower involvement rate per 100,000 licensed drivers as compared to other driver age groups. The involvement rate for older male drivers was 23.50 older drivers per 100,000 older licensed male drivers and the involvement rate for older female drivers was 9.17 older drivers per 100,000 older licensed female drivers as can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2
Driver Involvement Rates in Fatal Crashes by Age and Gender per 100,000 Licensed Drivers, 2013



Source: FARS 2013 ARF

Older Pedestrians

For older people, 62 percent of pedestrian fatalities in 2013 occurred at non-intersection locations. For other pedestrians, 81 percent of fatalities occurred at non-intersection locations.

Among all fatally injured pedestrians 21 (the legal drinking age in the United States) and over, older pedestrians had the lowest percentage of pedestrians with BACs of .08 g/dL or higher, as seen in Table 4. The table shows that pedestrians under 16 had a lower rate of .08+ BAC; however, it is illegal for this age group to consume alcohol in the United States.

Table 4
Pedestrian Fatalities by Age Group and BAC, 2013

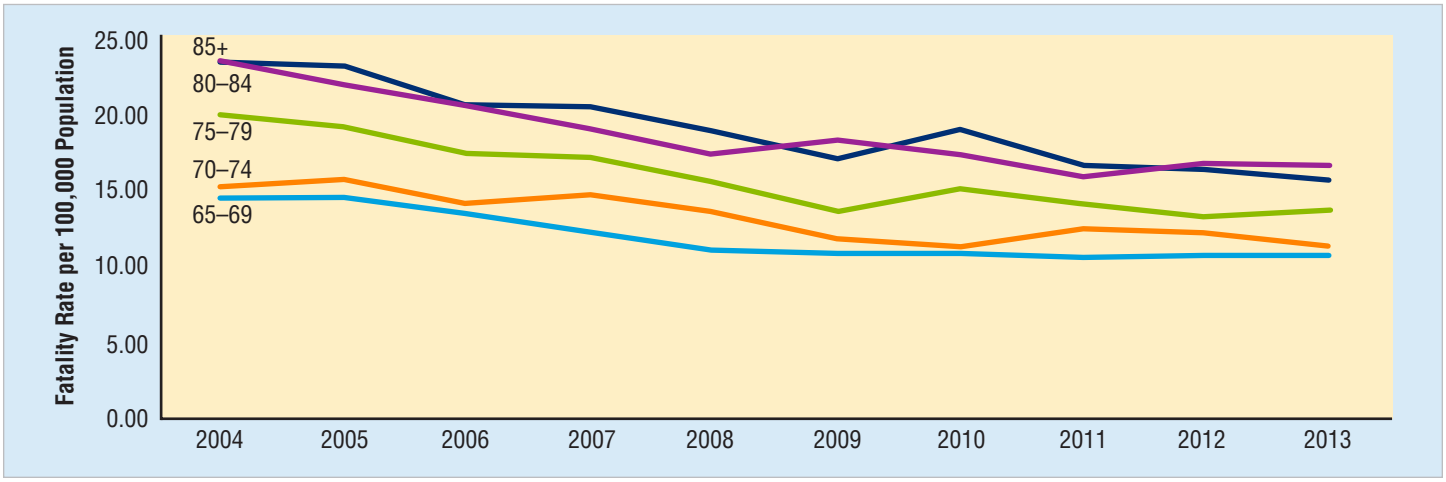
	Pedestrian Fatalities		
		BAC .08 or Higher	
Age Group (Years)	Total	Number	Percentage of Total
<16	267	6	2%
16-20	234	51	22%
21-34	999	471	47%
35-54	1,529	717	47%
55-64	776	257	33%
65+	896	80	9%
Total	4,735	1,597	34%

Source: FARS 2013 ARF.
*Total includes 34 fatalities of unknown age.

Older Population Age Groups

In 2013, among the older population, the fatality rate for the 80-to-84 age group was 16.52 per 100,000 population, which was higher than any other older age group. The fatality rate for the 85+ age group declined by 33 percent, from 23.10 in 2004 to 15.53 in 2013, as shown in Figure 3.

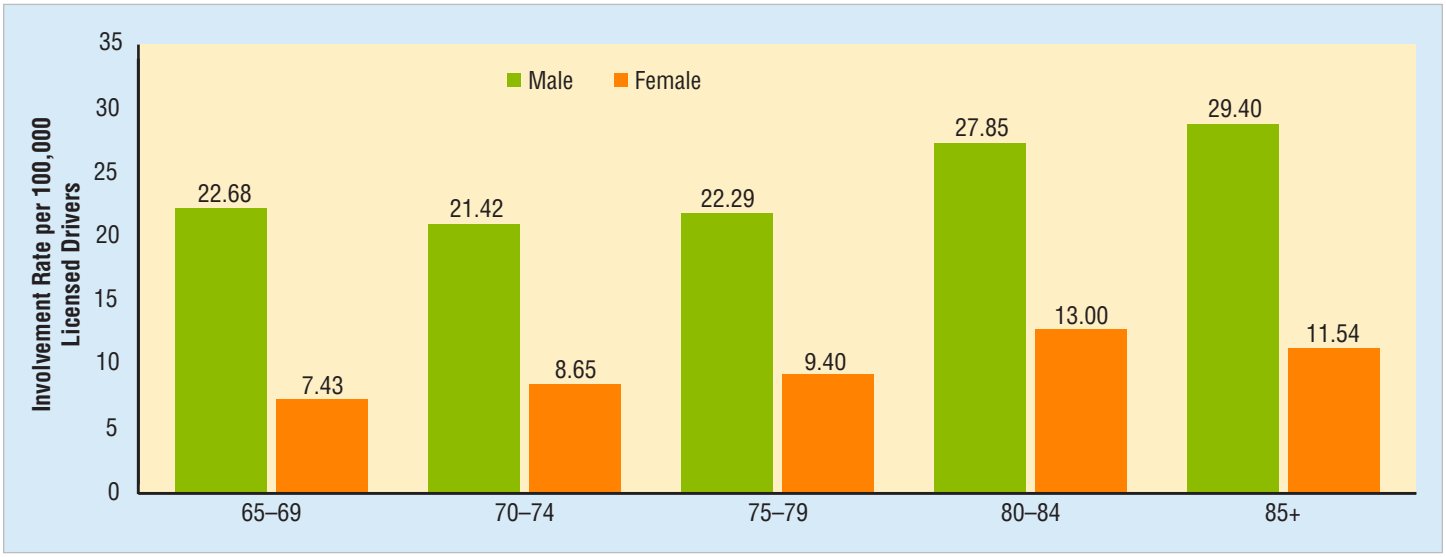
Figure 3
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates Among Older Populations by Age Group, 2004–2013



Source: FARS 2013 ARF.

In 2013, fatal crash driver involvement rates per 100,000 licensed drivers among older male drivers was highest (29.40) in the 85 and older age group. Figure 4 provides driver involvement rates by gender for the different age groups in the older population.

Figure 4
Involvement Rates for Older Drivers in Fatal Crashes by Age Group and Gender, 2013



Source: FARS 2013 ARF.

Driver Involvement in Fatal Crashes by State and Age Group

Table 5 shows driver involvement in fatal traffic crashes by State and driver age group. Included also in Table 5 is Puerto Rico, which is not included in the overall U.S. total.

- Among all States, driver involvement in all fatal crashes in 2013 ranged from a high of 4,611 in Texas to a low of 31 in the District of Columbia.
- Specific to older drivers involved in fatal crashes, Florida had the largest number of older drivers involved at 480, compared to the District of Columbia with the smallest number of older drivers involved, 3.
- North Dakota had the smallest percentage of older driver involvement with only 5.6 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes being 65 and older, compared to Maine with the largest, 20.6 percent.

Table 5

Driver Involvement in Fatal Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group, 2013

State	Total	Total 65+	Percentage of Total	Age							
				<40	40–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80–84	85+	Unknown
Alabama	1,113	129	11.6%	550	427	43	27	27	17	15	7
Alaska	66	9	13.6%	38	19	7	1	0	1	0	0
Arizona	1,153	170	14.7%	529	407	62	45	29	18	16	47
Arkansas	632	89	14.1%	298	244	37	21	16	11	4	1
California	4,087	414	10.1%	2,046	1,477	158	96	54	60	46	150
Colorado	627	94	15.0%	292	235	35	19	20	12	8	6
Connecticut	369	42	11.4%	206	117	11	10	7	4	10	4
Delaware	150	16	10.7%	62	69	6	2	3	4	1	3
Dist of Columbia	31	3	9.7%	20	7	2	1	0	0	0	1
Florida	3,344	480	14.4%	1,495	1,290	157	107	94	66	56	79
Georgia	1,621	198	12.2%	749	651	65	51	30	34	18	23
Hawaii	123	11	8.9%	62	45	1	4	2	4	0	5
Idaho	273	36	13.2%	136	101	14	11	2	4	5	0
Illinois	1,345	177	13.2%	672	472	56	35	35	27	24	24
Indiana	1,089	140	12.9%	515	422	42	22	27	24	25	12
Iowa	433	77	17.8%	188	166	22	18	12	16	9	2
Kansas	469	79	16.8%	231	153	26	12	9	18	14	6
Kentucky	873	129	14.8%	376	361	40	33	27	20	9	7
Louisiana	955	86	9.0%	498	351	27	24	13	12	10	20
Maine	189	39	20.6%	81	69	16	7	5	7	4	0
Maryland	645	66	10.2%	282	280	21	23	10	7	5	17
Massachusetts	413	69	16.7%	179	164	18	15	14	12	10	1
Michigan	1,356	230	17.0%	577	511	67	56	38	38	31	38
Minnesota	559	87	15.6%	232	234	32	16	15	13	11	6
Mississippi	779	88	11.3%	365	321	26	21	18	16	7	5
Missouri	992	150	15.1%	482	348	47	33	30	23	17	12
Montana	266	48	18.0%	118	99	22	9	7	2	8	1
Nebraska	275	34	12.4%	136	102	11	8	10	4	1	3
Nevada	372	45	12.1%	182	138	13	15	10	6	1	7
New Hampshire	168	24	14.3%	70	74	5	6	7	3	3	0
New Jersey	748	148	19.8%	310	268	42	39	33	14	20	22
New Mexico	389	47	12.1%	192	141	20	9	4	9	5	9
New York	1,568	244	15.6%	709	568	79	49	38	35	43	47
North Carolina	1,750	254	14.5%	832	646	86	67	33	35	33	18
North Dakota	213	12	5.6%	101	100	7	2	1	2	0	0
Ohio	1,477	188	12.7%	634	637	62	53	39	19	15	18
Oklahoma	969	114	11.8%	452	387	37	25	26	20	6	16
Oregon	419	65	15.5%	185	167	21	18	10	10	6	2
Pennsylvania	1,688	272	16.1%	747	658	79	56	40	57	40	11
Rhode Island	83	16	19.3%	42	23	3	1	4	3	5	2
South Carolina	1,027	122	11.9%	492	394	44	31	21	15	11	19
South Dakota	182	33	18.1%	78	70	9	10	3	5	6	1
Tennessee	1,390	209	15.0%	634	529	69	50	36	32	22	18
Texas	4,611	447	9.7%	2,333	1,719	167	105	71	58	46	112
Utah	287	50	17.4%	118	113	13	14	6	11	6	6
Vermont	89	17	19.1%	34	37	3	3	3	3	5	1
Virginia	992	162	16.3%	461	356	59	45	17	25	16	13
Washington	593	73	12.3%	281	231	23	12	13	14	11	8
West Virginia	430	62	14.4%	205	161	18	19	13	8	4	2
Wisconsin	796	119	14.9%	362	308	40	26	16	20	17	7
Wyoming	106	11	10.4%	51	43	3	2	4	2	0	1
U.S.Total	44,574	5,924	13.3%	20,920	16,910	1,973	1,384	1,002	880	685	820
Puerto Rico	429	51	11.9%	220	128	18	15	10	1	7	30

Source: FARS 2013 ARF.

*Includes drivers of unknown age. The United States had 820 drivers of unknown age.

Fatalities by State and Age Group

The previous section looked at *drivers involved* in fatal crashes. Table 6 shows *fatalities* in traffic crashes by State and age group. Included also in Table 6 is Puerto Rico, which is not included in the overall U.S. total.

- Among all States, fatalities in motor vehicle crashes in 2013 ranged from a high of 3,382 in Texas to a low of 20 in the District of Columbia.
- The State with the highest number of fatalities of older people was California with 481 fatalities in 2013, compared to Alaska with the least number of fatalities (4).
- North Dakota had the lowest percentage of older person fatalities with only 5.4 percent.
- Rhode Island had the highest percentage of older person fatalities with 32.3 percent.

The suggested APA format citation for this document is:

National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2015, September). *Older population: 2013 data.* (Traffic Safety Facts. Report No. DOT HS 812 199). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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 by e-mail at ncsaweb@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety is online 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-Impaired Driving, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Passenger Vehicles, Pedestrians, Rural/Urban Comparison, 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.

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

Table 6

Fatalities in Traffic Crashes by State and Age Group, 2013

State	Total	Total 65+	Percentage of Total	Age							
				<40	40–64	65–69	70–74	75–79	80–84	85+	Unknown
Alabama	852	101	11.9%	458	292	27	20	20	18	16	1
Alaska	51	4	7.8%	30	17	3	0	0	1	0	0
Arizona	849	159	18.7%	379	309	43	39	32	19	26	2
Arkansas	483	83	17.2%	242	158	28	16	17	13	9	0
California	3,000	481	16.0%	1,489	1,022	139	94	85	76	87	8
Colorado	481	77	16.0%	224	180	24	18	15	13	7	0
Connecticut	276	40	14.5%	149	84	10	6	8	5	11	3
Delaware	99	19	19.2%	44	36	5	3	4	3	4	0
Dist of Columbia	20	6	30.0%	9	5	2	3	0	0	1	0
Florida	2,407	456	18.9%	1,037	897	135	78	103	56	84	17
Georgia	1,179	187	15.9%	550	437	57	41	30	35	24	5
Hawaii	102	14	13.7%	56	32	4	2	2	5	1	0
Idaho	214	32	15.0%	107	75	9	11	2	2	8	0
Illinois	991	176	17.8%	484	331	43	34	30	37	32	0
Indiana	783	125	16.0%	389	269	32	22	28	21	22	0
Iowa	317	67	21.1%	137	113	16	13	14	14	10	0
Kansas	350	84	24.0%	173	93	21	12	13	20	18	0
Kentucky	638	129	20.2%	269	240	37	33	28	14	17	0
Louisiana	703	82	11.7%	359	260	23	24	12	12	11	2
Maine	145	35	24.1%	69	41	11	6	6	8	4	0
Maryland	465	63	13.5%	219	181	10	24	10	9	10	2
Massachusetts	326	74	22.7%	147	104	19	12	14	14	15	1
Michigan	947	197	20.8%	399	351	44	44	38	38	33	0
Minnesota	387	86	22.2%	170	131	23	14	17	18	14	0
Mississippi	613	77	12.6%	273	263	19	16	18	15	9	0
Missouri	757	132	17.4%	398	227	31	28	30	18	25	0
Montana	229	42	18.3%	108	79	14	7	7	6	8	0
Nebraska	211	24	11.4%	116	71	9	4	6	4	1	0
Nevada	262	44	16.8%	123	95	8	10	14	10	2	0
New Hampshire	135	31	23.0%	52	52	7	9	9	4	2	0
New Jersey	542	137	25.3%	228	176	26	31	34	19	27	1
New Mexico	310	40	12.9%	164	104	13	8	4	10	5	2
New York	1,199	278	23.2%	542	371	72	49	41	53	63	8
North Carolina	1,289	218	16.9%	612	459	69	54	27	35	33	0
North Dakota	148	8	5.4%	81	59	4	2	1	1	0	0
Ohio	989	171	17.3%	444	374	42	35	42	28	24	0
Oklahoma	678	104	15.3%	305	269	29	21	21	22	11	0
Oregon	313	67	21.4%	138	108	16	20	10	9	12	0
Pennsylvania	1,208	260	21.5%	537	410	63	48	41	52	56	1
Rhode Island	65	21	32.3%	30	14	3	2	5	5	6	0
South Carolina	767	104	13.6%	355	307	32	21	23	13	15	1
South Dakota	135	28	20.7%	62	45	7	6	2	5	8	0
Tennessee	995	193	19.4%	456	346	62	47	27	30	27	0
Texas	3,382	441	13.0%	1,729	1,208	141	90	79	69	62	4
Utah	220	47	21.4%	86	87	10	14	4	12	7	0
Vermont	69	20	29.0%	29	20	3	4	2	4	7	0
Virginia	740	157	21.2%	325	258	49	39	19	28	22	0
Washington	436	74	17.0%	212	150	26	7	12	16	13	0
West Virginia	332	52	15.7%	162	118	10	16	10	10	6	0
Wisconsin	543	115	21.2%	254	174	24	25	20	23	23	0
Wyoming	87	9	10.3%	51	27	2	2	4	1	0	0
U.S.Total	32,719	5,671	17.3%	15,461	11,529	1,556	1,184	1,040	953	938	58
Puerto Rico	344	59	17.2%	154	118	10	18	15	4	12	13

Source: FARS 2013 ARF.

*Includes fatalities of unknown age. The United States had 58 fatalities of unknown age.