

North Carolina Older Driver (65+) Crash Facts

As motorists travel along our public roadways, numerous modes of travel with a wide range of various aged drivers can be observed. One age group that continues to grow within our state is older drivers (ages 65 and older). A review of the reportable crashes involving older drivers for the previous ten years (2010-2019) shows that drivers in this age group were involved in 15% of all reportable crashes and their overall crash numbers have seen a gradual increase.

Reportable Older Driver (65+) Crashes in the State of North Carolina				
For the Reporting Period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2019				
Year	Total Crashes	Total Fatalities	Serious Injuries	Death Rates per 100,000 Population
2010	29,044	238	274	2.49
2011	28,836	221	365	2.29
2012	31,061	221	315	2.27
2013	32,677	262	328	2.66
2014	34,534	246	352	2.48
2015	38,692	277	361	2.76
2016	42,213	290	470	2.86
2017	44,758	294	718	2.86
2018	46,613	306	767	2.95
2019	49,042	320	795	3.05
Totals	377,470	2,675	4,745	-----

A review of the reportable older driver crashes presented the following crash facts:

- From 2010 to 2019, there were 377,470 older driver crashes in North Carolina.
- From 2010 to 2019, there was a 69% increase in older driver crashes.
- For the last 10 years, older driver crashes have increased by an average of 6% per year.
- The largest increase (12%) in older driver crashes occurred between the years of 2014 to 2015.
- 33% of the older driver crashes were injury crashes (1% - A Injury, 8% - B Injury and 24% - C Injury).
- 66% of the older driver crashes were property damage only.
- Mecklenburg County was the number one county in which older driver crashes (10%) occurred.
- 46% of the older driver crashes occurred in the Top 10 Counties (Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, Buncombe, Durham, Cumberland, New Hanover, Gaston and Catawba Counties).
- 30% of the older driver crashes occurred in the rural areas of North Carolina.
- Charlotte was the number one city in which older driver crashes (8%) occurred.
- 31% of the older driver crashes occurred in the Top 10 Cities (Cities of Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston Salem, Durham, Asheville, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Greenville and High Point).
- When combined, 61% of all older driver crashes occurred in the rural areas and the Top 10 Cities.
- 54% of all older driver crashes occurred between the hours of 12:00pm and 5:59pm.
- 37% of all older driver crashes occurred between the months of September and December.
- 50% of all older driver crashes occurred between the days of Wednesday and Friday.
- When combined, 69% of all older driver crashes were either frontal impact (39%) or rear end (30%) type crashes.

The Older Drivers emphasis area found in the [2019 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#) focuses on supporting older drivers who can and desire to keep driving. The emphasis area also supports older adults who are transitioning or have transitioned out of driving to establish a plan for alternative transportation options.