



# Highway Safety Report



## FAST FACTS

### Wyoming crash data from 2018-2022 report that:

- ✓ Around 15% of all traffic crashes involved an older driver (65+).
- ✓ Nearly 16% of all critical crashes involved an older driver (65+).
- ✓ An older driver (65+) was involved in over 19% of fatal crashes.
- ✓ Over 69% of fatalities in an older driver involved traffic crash were aged 65 years or older.
- ✓ Roughly 17% of all serious crashes involved an older driver (65+).

#### CRASH CATEGORIES:

Critical Crashes – fatal and suspected serious injury crashes.

Serious Crashes – suspected minor injury and possible injury crashes.

Damage Crashes – no apparent injury and injury unknown crashes.

## Older Driver Safety

The older adult population is continuously increasing as they live longer and healthier lives. This population is also occupying the driver's seat longer. In fact, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the older adult population (65 and up) accounted for 21% of all licensed drivers in 2021 – that is 55.8 million licensed drivers. Although the older adult population is less likely to drive aggressively, this group accounts for a disproportionate number of the annual traffic fatalities in the United States (17% in 2021).

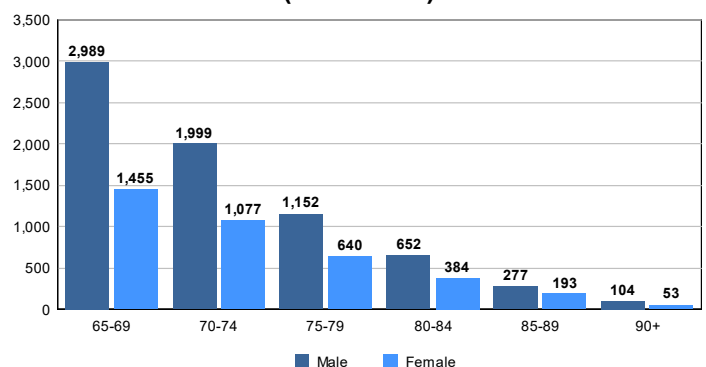
The ability to drive safely is affected by changes in physical and mental conditions, and there is ample evidence to show most people experience age-related declines in physical and mental abilities. Advancing age may cause safety concerns related to declines in vision, diminished coordination, and slowed reflexes. These declines can signal a greater crash risk. However, each individual is unique and decisions about a person's ability to drive safely should never be based on age alone. In most cases, senior drivers can adapt and adjust driving habits in order to stay safe on the road.

In Wyoming, during the most recent five-year period (2018-2022), 10,374 traffic crashes involved an older driver (65+), which accounts for around 15% of all traffic crashes. These older driver involved crashes included 358 critical crashes (16% of all critical crashes), 1,740 serious crashes (17% of all serious crashes), and 8,276 damage crashes (15% of all damage crashes) resulting in 130 fatal injuries, 342 suspected serious injuries, 1,285 suspected minor injuries, and 1,244 possible injuries.

When looking specifically at critical crashes over the last five years, over 19% of fatal crashes (107) and 15% of suspected serious injury crashes (251) were older driver involved crashes. These crashes resulted in 90 fatal injuries and 210 serious injuries for people aged 65 years or more.

Driving competence changes over time. The aging driver may begin to find driving tasks more physically and cognitively demanding. What once were well honed, almost robotic driving skills based on years of experience may become affected by poorer vision, physical decline, and mental changes.

Older Driver Involved in Crash by Age and Gender (2018-2022)



Talking with an older person about their driving or evaluating your own driving is often difficult, but it is important – especially before it becomes a safety issue.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### WYDOT Crash Data December 1, 2023 vs. (December 1, 2022)

**Fatalities: 129 (124)**

**Serious Injuries: 425 (448)**

**Alcohol-Involved  
Fatalities: 24 (42)**

**Bicycle-Involved  
Fatalities: 1 (1)**

**CMV-Involved  
Fatalities: 33 (25)**

**Drug-Involved  
Fatalities: 21 (37)**

**Motorcycle-Involved  
Fatalities: 15 (20)**

**Pedestrian-Involved  
Fatalities: 9 (7)**

**Speed-Related  
Fatalities: 60 (59)**

Data current as of 12/14/2023



5300 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
www.dot.state.wy.us

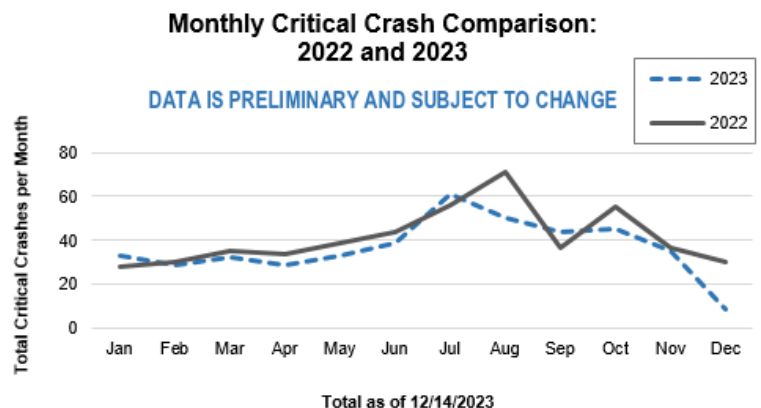
Three steps can help you prepare for a more productive conversation with an older driver:

1. **Collect Information/Develop Questions:** Note specific concerns about the person's driving and about their ability to carry out routine non-driving tasks, as changes in the ability to do such tasks may indicate declines that affect driving as well. Then create a list of questions to ask in order to address these concerns and assess their current driving abilities.
2. **Develop a Plan:** Determine the best way to convey your concerns to the driver. How might you assist the driver in addressing those concerns and identifying strategies to avoid unmanageable driving contexts? Research how to access and use alternative transportation options so they can maintain their mobility without driving.
3. **Follow Through on the Plan**

Driving is a complex activity. It is essential that the older population be proactive about safe driving, learn ways to identify changes early, and plan for a safe transition beyond the driver's seat to ensure safe mobility when it becomes necessary.

Trusted friends and family members can help older drivers be proactive about safe driving by promoting awareness of the impact aging has on driving, encouraging older drivers to be proactive about safe driving skills, helping to identify changes early and intervening when necessary, and motivating older drivers to plan for alternate safe mobility strategies.

**Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is December 4-8, 2023:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's mission is to save lives on our nation's roads, and that includes safe mobility for older adults. NHTSA offers free educational resources for older drivers and their loved ones or caregivers to help ensure older driver safety. For more information and helpful advice on discussing driving concerns with an older driver, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/older-drivers](http://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/older-drivers).



### WYDOT Completed Safety Treatment Locations (Active) as of December 14, 2023

District	Count	Annual Lifecycle Cost	Average Benefit to Cost	Annual Critical Crash Reduction
1	267	\$ 81,727.00	269.21	13.26
2	306	\$ 268,905.00	163.37	5.79
3	587	\$ 230,404.00	85.54	10.46
4	491	\$ 86,247.00	273.09	8.02
5	65	\$ 24,365.00	358.16	0.98
<b>State</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>\$ 691,648.00</b>	<b>191.99</b>	<b>38.52</b>