

## Mature Drivers – Facts and Stats

*Notes: In many cases, numbers and percentages have been rounded off.  
Seniors are defined as those 65 years and older.*

### Seniors in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2007)

There are 4,423,500 seniors in Canada, representing over 13% of the total population of 32,976,000.

Our population is aging. In 1981, seniors comprised 10% of the Canadian population and only 5% in 1921.

### Seniors as Drivers (Transport Canada, 2005)

Approximately 2,860,500 seniors are licensed to drive in Canada, representing about 13% of total licensed drivers.

### Seniors in Crashes (Transport Canada, 2005)

481 Canadian seniors died and over 16,000 were injured in motor vehicle collisions.

Seniors represent over 16% of total fatalities and almost 8% of injuries in motor vehicle collisions.

**Per mile driven, seniors are involved in more fatal crashes than most age groups except young drivers.** Fatal crash rates are even higher for older seniors.

### Seniors are Overrepresented in Crashes at Intersections

*(Findings of a 2007 study by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)*

40% of fatal collisions of drivers 70 and older, involving other vehicles, occurred at intersections, compared with 23% of fatal collisions for drivers ages 35 to 54.

Failure to yield the right-of way to other vehicles led to more than half (58%) of intersection crashes caused by drivers 80 years and older. This compares with 37% for 70 to 79 year olds and only 26% for those aged 35 to 54.

Reasons for these intersection crashes varied by driver age. Drivers 70 to 79 made more evaluation errors than drivers of other ages (i.e., they saw the other vehicle but misjudged whether there was time to proceed). Drivers 80 and older said they were looking but simply didn't see the other vehicle(s).

Crashes involving failure to yield more commonly occurred at intersections with stop signs (59%) than at intersections with traffic signals and half of these crashes occurred while the driver was turning left (all ages).

**The findings of this study underline the importance of using extra caution at intersections, and in particular at intersections with stop signs. Special care also needs to be taken when turning left.**

### What can you do?

- Plan your route to avoid complicated intersections and to minimize the number of left turns required.
- Ensure you have time to **safely** complete your intersection maneuver (e.g., turning left).
- Scan ahead and to the sides, looking for: traffic signs and signals, oncoming and crossing vehicular traffic, and other road users, before proceeding.
- Focus all of your attention on driving.

### For More Information

- Visit our website at [MatureDrivers.ca](http://MatureDrivers.ca)
- Call toll-free 1-877-297-2254
- E-mail [MDrivers@bcaa.com](mailto:MDrivers@bcaa.com)

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