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# IOWA OLDER DRIVER FACT SHEET

February 2010

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- Drivers ages 85, 75 and 65 represent Iowa's fastest, second fastest and third fastest growing groups of Iowa drivers, respectively.
- Iowa has the second highest percentage of over age 85 drivers in the nation, trailing only Florida.
- More than one Iowa driver in six is age 65 or older. Over 350,000 Iowa drivers are 65 or older.
- During 2009, 63 people age 65 and older were killed in Iowa fatal traffic crashes.
- Since 1998, nearly 1,000 people age 65 and older have died in Iowa crashes, an average of more than 80 per year. Of these victims, nearly 60% were age 75 or older.
- Each year, nearly 300 Iowans age 65 and older are seriously injured in Iowa crashes, an average of nearly one per day.
- Major factors in crashes involving older drivers include failure to yield on left turns and failure to yield at stop signs and stop lights.
- Data from Iowa's Combined Outcome Data Evaluation Systems (CODES) project, which links hospital and crash data, shows that people age 65 and older experience higher hospital costs per crash than younger crash victims.
- Nationally, 5,569 people age 65 and older were drivers in 2008 fatal highway crashes, representing over 11% of all drivers in fatal crashes.
- In terms of U.S. traffic fatality rates per 100,000 population, people age 75 and older have a higher fatality rate, with just fewer than 25 fatalities per 100,000 population, than any other age group except 16-24 year olds.
- Nearly 180,000 people age 65 and older were injured in traffic crashes nationwide during 2008.



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**Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau**

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**Iowa Department of Public Safety**

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