Nationally, older pedestrians are disproportionately at risk of being killed by a car or truck when walking than their younger neighbors. Although they made up 17.7% of the total U.S. population, people aged 60 years and older comprised 25.2% of the 46,959 pedestrians killed nationwide from 2003 to 2012. Those ages 75 years and older represented 6.1% of the total population, yet 11.2% of pedestrian fatalities. While the nationwide pedestrian fatality rate for people under 60 years of age was 1.40 per 100,000, the fatality rate for those over 60 years was 2.23 and 2.87 for those aged 75 and older.

The tri-state region is far more dangerous for older pedestrians than the rest of the country. The pedestrian fatality rate for people 60 years and older living in Connecticut, New Jersey and downstate New York was 54.5% higher than for the rest of the country. Those 75 years and older suffered a fatality rate that was 60.1% higher.

OLDER PEDESTRIANS IN PASSAIC COUNTY, NJ

People aged 60 years and older comprised 34.8% of Passaic County’s 92 pedestrians killed in the ten years from 2003 through 2012, though they made up 16.7% of the population. Those 75 years and older accounted for 5.9% of the total population, yet 19.6% of pedestrian fatalities.

At 3.89 per 100,000, the pedestrian fatality rate for Passaic County residents aged 60 and older was 2.71 times that of residents younger than 60. For those aged 75 years plus, the fatality rate (6.25) was 4.34 times that of their younger neighbors.

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The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working towards a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.