Older Pedestrians at Risk

Fatalities among Older Pedestrians in
Rockland County

The Tri-State region is far more dangerous for older pedestrians than the rest of the nation. Pedestrian fatality rates for people 65 years and older living in New Jersey, downstate New York and Connecticut are 68% higher than for the rest of the country. Those 75 years and older suffer a fatality rate that is 84% higher.
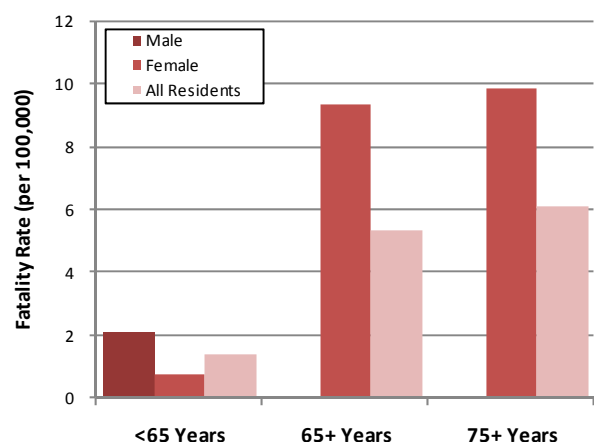
But even nationally, older pedestrians are disproportionately at risk of being killed in a traffic collision compared to their younger neighbors. Although they make up only 12.5% of the total U.S. population, people aged 65 years and older comprised 19.5% of the 14,298 pedestrians killed nationwide from 2005 through 2007. Those aged 75 years and older represented only 6.1% of the total population, but 11.4% of pedestrian fatalities. Put another way, while the nationwide pedestrian fatality for people under 65 years of age was 1.45 per 100,000, the fatality rate for those over 65 years was 2.49, and 2.95 for those aged 75 and older.

Below is a Tri-State Transportation Campaign analysis of fatalities for older pedestrians killed in Rockland County.

People aged 65 years and older comprise 30.0% of Rockland County's 20 pedestrians killed in the three years from 2005 through 2007, though they make up only 12.2% of the population. Those 75 years and older account for only 5.3% of the total population, but 15.0% of pedestrian fatalities.

At 5.34, the pedestrian fatality rate for Rockland County residents aged 65 and older was 3.8 times that of residents younger than 65. For those aged 75 years plus, the fatality rate (6.09) was 4.3 times that of their younger neighbors.

Fatality Rate by Age and Gender (Total, 2005-2007)

Data source: TSTC analysis of NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System data, 2005-2007.

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN

Mobilizing the Region

For more information, contact Kate Slevin at 212.268.7474

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