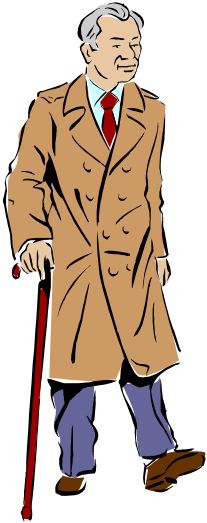
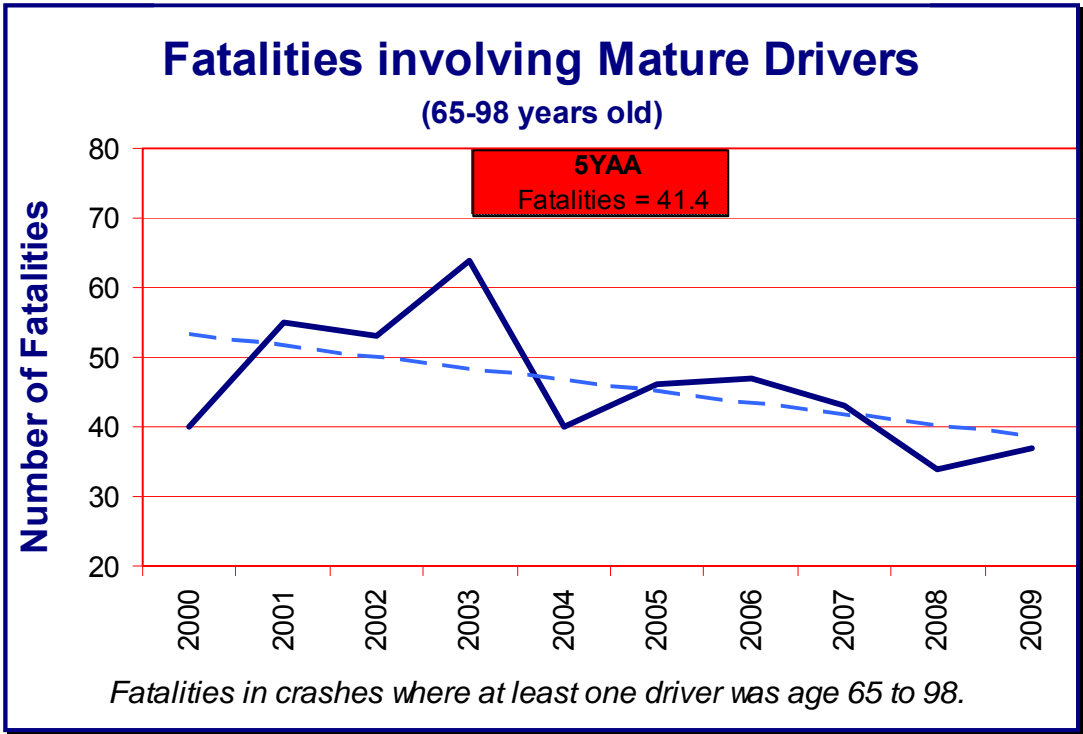
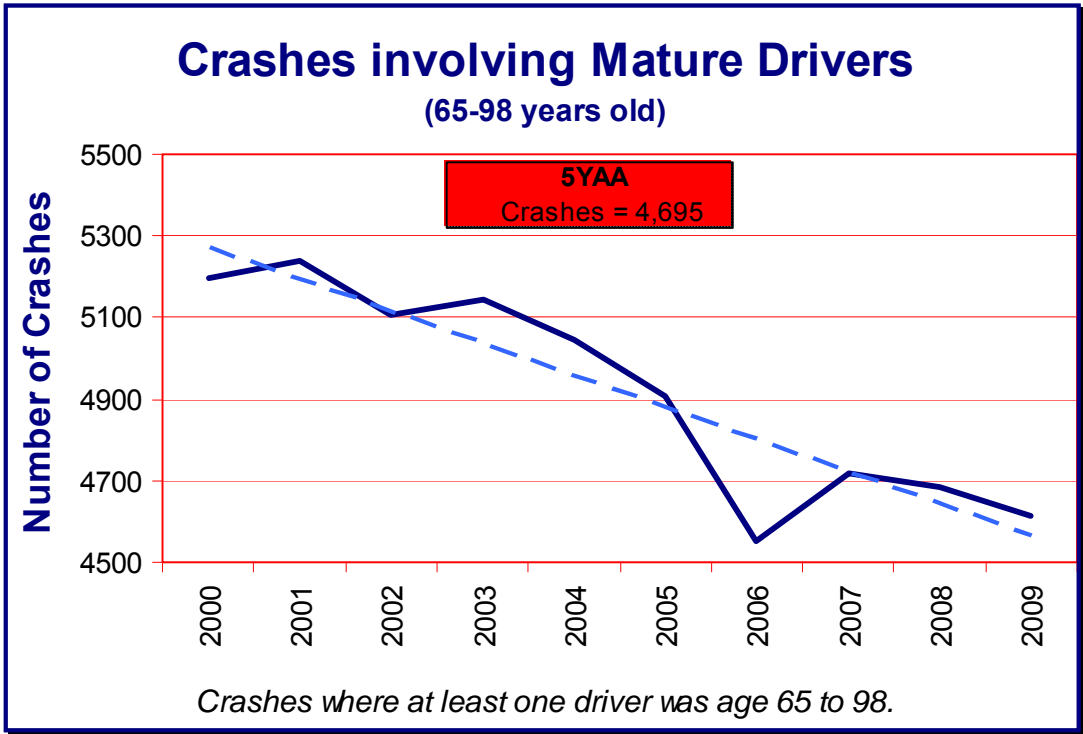


Chapter 2



Maine has the highest median age (40.7 years) in the United States (35.5 nationally). For the purposes of this report Mature Drivers are classified as drivers 65 years of age and older. The driving population of Mainers over the age of 65 has grown steadily over the past decade, climbing nearly 24% between 2000 and 2009. There are currently over 175,000 licensed Maine drivers over the age of 65.

- Physical limitations such as decreases in flexibility, reaction time and deterioration of eyesight start to play a greater role in crashes. Physical frailty makes mature drivers more susceptible to serious injury and slower to recover from their injuries if involved in a crash. Additionally, mature drivers are more likely to be prescribed a variety of medications, some of which may impact their ability to operate a motor vehicle.
- Although the number of mature drivers has grown over the past ten years, the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes has remained stable since 1994. During the past 5 years mature drivers who died in crashes represent 16% of all fatalities. Total fatalities of all occupants involved in mature driver related crashes is 22% of all crash fatalities.
- Mature drivers are less likely to be involved in speed or alcohol related crashes but more likely to be involved in intersection crashes, failing to keep in the proper lane, crashes related to distractions, failing to yield the right of way and disregarding traffic control devices, traffic signs and safety zone laws.
- Drivers in the mature age group tend to drive fewer miles than other age groups.



Crash data that is coded as 'age 99' is often a miscellaneous coding, so age data up to 98 is only evaluated.