Older Pedestrians at Risk

Fatalities among Older Pedestrians in Union County

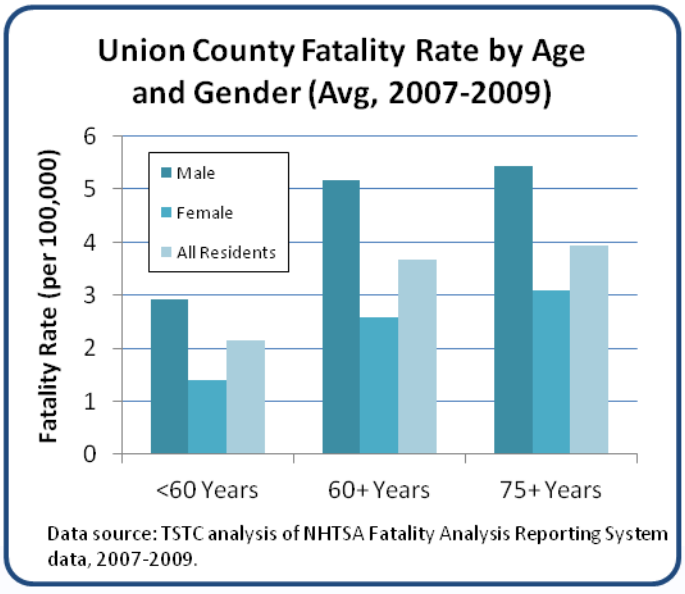
The Tri-State region is far more dangerous for older pedestrians than the rest of the nation. Pedestrian fatality rates for people 60 years and older living in New Jersey, downstate New York and Connecticut are 59% higher than for the rest of the country. Those 75 years and older suffer a fatality rate that is 56% 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 17.4% of the total U.S. population, people aged 60 years and older comprised 24.1%of the 13,532 pedestrians killed nationwide from 2007 through 2009. Those aged 75 years and older represented only 6.2% of the total population, but 10.6% of pedestrian fatalities. Put another way, while the nationwide pedestrian fatality for people under 60 years of age was 1.36 per 100,000, the fatality rate for those over 60 years was 2.08, and 2.59 for those aged 75 and older.

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

People aged 60 years and older comprise 26.3% of Union County's 38 pedestrians killed in the three years from 2007 through 2009, though they make up only 17.3% of the population. Those 75 years and older account for only 6.5% of the total population, but 10.5% of pedestrian fatalities.

At 3.68, the pedestrian fatality rate for Union County residents aged 60 and older was 1.71 times that of residents younger than 60. For those aged 75 years plus, the fatality rate (3.95) was 1.83 times that of their younger neighbors.



Data source: TSTC analysis of NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System data, 2007-2009.

Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Mobilizing the Region

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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