

Senior Drivers and Non-Drivers

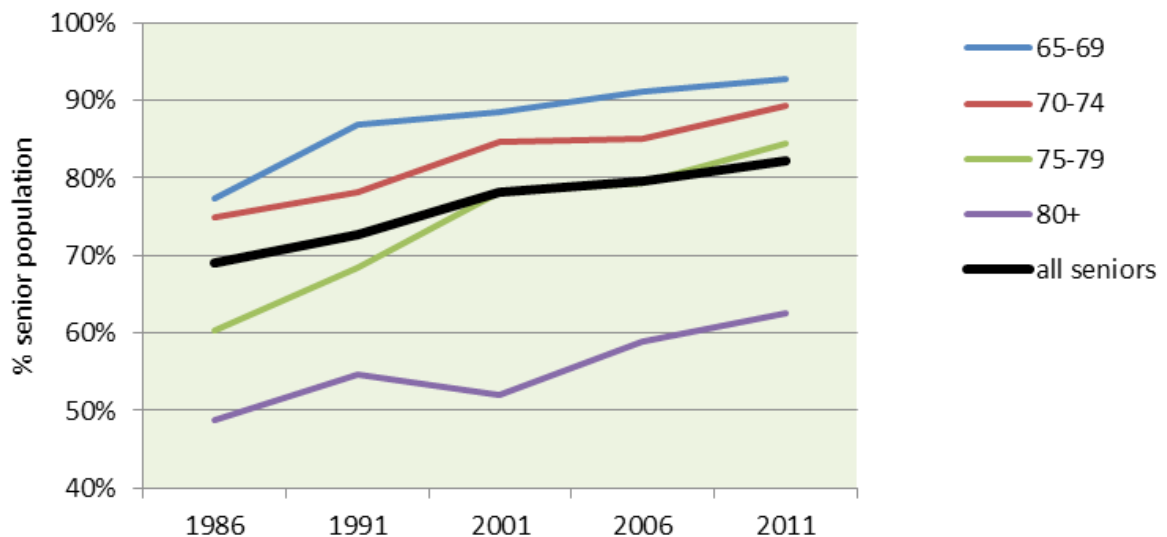
In a span of 25 years (1986-2011), the number of seniors possessing a driver's licence has almost tripled in Halton Region¹. The proportion of the senior driver population grew from 69% to 82%. In 2011, there were about 57,000 licensed senior drivers residing in the region.

As we age, our physical and mental abilities undergo changes. Some of those changes in vision, hearing, memory and reaction time can affect our driving behaviour. Although age is not the only factor that can affect one's ability to drive, some jurisdictions have senior driver renewal programs in place to ensure they can drive safely.



Among the four age groups of seniors (65-69 years, 70-74 years, 75-79 years and 80 years and over), the 75-79 age group experienced the greatest increase in the proportion of licensed drivers. It went up from 60% in 1986 to 84% in 2011 and was followed closely by the 80 years and over age group. The number of licensed drivers 80 years and over has reached over 11,000.

Proportion of licensed senior drivers Halton Region, 1986-2011



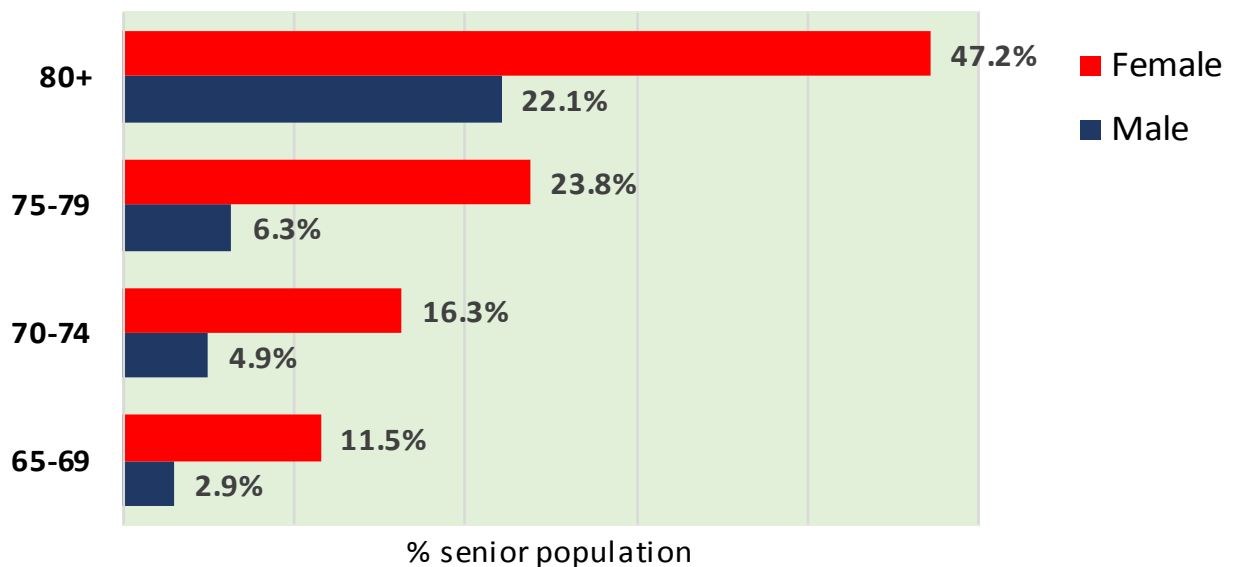
Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 1986-2011

¹ Data Management Group, University of Toronto, Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2011

Although more seniors continue to drive to conduct their daily activities, this convenience and independence is not available to seniors without a driver's licence. These individuals have to rely on other means of transportation such as being a passenger, walking or taking a taxi or public transit. Senior women are more likely to be without a driver's licence than their male counterparts. This gender gap increases with age.

About 11% of young senior women (aged 65 to 69 years) do not possess a driver's licence. That proportion increases to 47% for those aged 80 and over. Almost half of that group has to depend on someone to drive them or other forms of transportation.

Proportion of seniors without a driver licence by sex, Halton Region, 2011



Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 2011

There are some variations in the proportion of non-driver senior women among the four local municipalities in Halton Region. In 2011, over one-quarter (27%) of senior women in Oakville did not have a driver's licence compared to about one in five (20%) in Halton Hills. The percentages for Burlington and Milton were 25% and 26% respectively.

Milton had the highest proportion (50.4%) of senior woman aged 80 years and over without a driver's licence. It was followed by those in Oakville (48%) and Burlington (47%). Halton Hills had the lowest percentage at 42%.

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