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Seniors and young car drivers cause traffic accidents more often

Men more frequently responsible for accidents than women

Vienna, 2023-07-04 – Passenger car drivers under the age of 20 and those aged 75 and above were proportionally the most likely to cause road traffic accidents with personal injury, as Statistics Austria examined for the period 2018 to 2022. In contrast, drivers between the ages of 45 and 49 were least likely to be the presumed main originators of accidents in which they were involved.

“The highest shares of accident originators was found among the oldest passenger car drivers. 83% of drivers older than 85 years and 77% of drivers between the ages of 80 and 84 who were involved in accidents in the past five years also caused those accidents. The third highest value was recorded among drivers under 20 years of age with a share of 72%,” says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria. After the youngest age group, the share of accident originators decreased continuously until the group of 45 to 49 year old drivers, which showed the lowest value at 49% (see table 1).

Men caused accidents more often than women

Considerable differences were registered not only in terms of age, but also in terms of gender among the presumed accident originators. In the period from 2018 to 2022, 59% of male car drivers were also responsible for their respective accidents, while 53% of female drivers were. The gender difference was most pronounced in the age group from 20 to 24, where 67% of male passenger car drivers and 58% of female passenger car drivers were primarily responsible for the accident in which they were involved.

Higher proportion of single-vehicle-accidents for youngest drivers

Furthermore, the highest proportion of single-vehicle accidents was caused by the age group of drivers under 20 years. If a driver of this group was the presumed originator of a road traffic accident with personal injury, it was a single-vehicle accident in 38% of accidents. In contrast, the older groups had a lower proportion of single-vehicle accidents – the lowest was found among 60- to 64-year-olds with 13.1% (see table 2).

More detailed results are available on our [website](#).

Table 1: Age groups of passenger car drivers involved in accidents according to those who caused the accident and those who did not (2018–2022)

Age group	Accident originators	Non accident originators	Passenger car drivers total	Share of accident originators in %
<20	7 742	2 995	10 737	72.1
20–24	12 498	7 218	19 716	63.4
25–29	9 599	7 387	16 986	56.5
30–34	8 031	7 185	15 216	52.8
35–39	7 067	6 934	14 001	50.5
40–44	6 598	6 571	13 169	50.1
45–49	6 433	6 652	13 085	49.2
50–54	6 784	6 850	13 634	49.8
55–59	6 376	6 021	12 397	51.4
60–64	4 649	3 959	8 608	54.0
65–69	3 554	2 570	6 124	58.0
70–74	3 433	1 983	5 416	63.4
75–79	3 739	1 495	5 234	71.4
80–84	2 643	781	3 424	77.2
≥85	1 386	282	1 668	83.1
Age unknown	2 935	314	3 249	-
Passenger car drivers total	93 467	69 197	162 664	57.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents.

Table 2: Age groups of passenger car drivers causing accidents by number of traffic units involved (2018–2022)

Age group	Accidents originated	Thereof single-vehicle accidents	Thereof with more than one traffic unit	Share of single-vehicle accidents in %
<20	7 742	2962	4 780	38.3
20–24	12 498	3613	8 885	28.9
25–29	9 599	2227	7 372	23.2
30–34	8 031	1561	6 470	19.4
35–39	7 067	1209	5 858	17.1
40–44	6 598	1037	5 561	15.7
45–49	6 433	907	5 526	14.1
50–54	6 784	960	5 824	14.2
55–59	6 376	855	5 521	13.4
60–64	4 649	610	4 039	13.1
65–69	3 554	523	3 031	14.7
70–74	3 433	514	2 919	15.0
75–79	3 739	620	3 119	16.6
80–84	2 643	429	2 214	16.2
≥85	1 386	271	1 115	19.6
Age unknown	2 935	21	2 914	-
Passenger car drivers total	93 467	18 319	75 148	19.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road traffic accidents.

Information on methodology, definitions: Statistics Austria has been compiling and publishing statistics on road traffic accidents with personal injury since 1961. The traffic accidents are recorded electronically by the police authorities and transmitted to Statistics Austria via a web service.

Injury accident: Any accident involving at least one road vehicle in motion on a public road, resulting in at least one injured or killed person.

The information on the **presumed main originator** of the accident is provided according to the assessment of the police authorities who carry out the registration of the accident.

Evaluations of the presumed main originator only refer to all accidents in which this characteristic was assigned to one specific driver or pedestrian. This represents 98% of all accidents in the period 2018–2022.

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