

# SOUTH FLORIDA Sun Sentinel

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## For older drivers, state is the worst place to be

By Diane C. Lade, Staff writer  
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Florida needs to get ready for when baby boomers hit the road as senior drivers, according to a new study that found the Sunshine State had the most drivers age 65 and older killed in traffic accidents.

Senior crash rates could get worse, as the huge boomer population is expected to live longer and stay behind the wheel longer than previous generations, safety advocates said. State officials estimate that by 2030, one in four Florida drivers will be 65 or older.

The "Keeping Baby Boomers Mobile" report just released by TRIP a national transportation research group, looked at 2010 federal statistics. It found that 271 Florida senior drivers died in accidents that year, and that 503 crash fatalities of all ages involved senior drivers.

These totals are higher than in any other state — including California, which has the most 65-plus drivers nationwide, about 3.1 million. That's about a half million more than Florida.

The numbers show communities need to push for better designed roadways, better driver testing and transportation alternatives, according to Floridians for Better Transportation, a safe highways advocacy group composed of businesses, road builders and engineers.

President Matthew Ubben said projections estimate Florida will gain 5 million residents in the next 20 years, with half of them older than 60. "A lot of them will be retirees new to Florida,

people who are used to driving in a different [state]," he said.

His organization is lobbying legislators to return \$417 million in license tag and title revenues, diverted to the general budget, to the transportation trust fund.

The TRIP report did not address why California, a state with more older drivers, would have fewer senior fatalities. Several highway safety experts didn't have an answer, although Ubben said Florida's seniors might drive more.

Fran Carlin-Rogers, an Orlando senior transportation consultant, said California had been spending a lot on updating its highways and had instituted a tiered licensing system for older drivers. "But how that might play into these crash statistics, I can't guess," she said.

Florida consistently ranks high in senior crash deaths on national surveys, mainly because it has a lot of seniors. There now are 2.7 million licensed Florida drivers older than 65, about 20 percent of the total.

But the TRIP report found Texas had the highest per-capita senior driver death rate when population was factored in, a trend echoed in other studies through the years. There were 10.7 deaths per 100,000 licensed drivers older than 65 in the Lone Star

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Forecast: 6D

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**MANNING TO MIAMI**  
Next Dolphins' QB? It's an obvious sign for some fans and you can see it from I-95. 1D

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**Paid your property taxes? Well, maybe not**  
Do you think you paid your property taxes? Don't be too sure. An unknown number of Broward property owners didn't pay their taxes last November and their checks went missing. The tax collector estimates about 700 checks were lost. No one quite sure where they went.  
At this point, all indications are that the missing payments were in one small batch lost somewhere in the U.S. Postal system here in Ft. Lauderdale, tax collector Steve Baldwin wrote to top county officials and a moral support name of Debra Hoffmeister.  
Hoffmeister had sent his Fort Lauderdale condo tax bill, but only in late January did he notice it hadn't cleared. After Baldwin's explanation, he spent \$18 to stop payment on the missing check.  
That's \$18 he won't get back.  
But at least his name won't be considered delinquent, which is what would happen if April's comes along and the taxes aren't paid.  
Things got worse in May, when unpaid taxes are sold to one contractor. Investors pay the bills and the tally taxpayers owe the taxes, plus interest.  
—Brittany Williams

**Obama seeks youth vote in S. Florida**  
By ANTHONY MAN | Staff writer  
CORAL GABLES — If the rigorous, month-long campaign event that gave President Barack Obama a rapt reception here on Thursday foretells real-world political results in November, the next eight months of campaigning won't matter. He'd win re-election in a landslide.  
Promises for Republicans, the outlook isn't that rosy for Obama — or that dire for their party.  
The millions of young voters to play an increasingly large role in determining the outcome of the election was a theme in Ft. Lauderdale for OBAMA, 8A

**Where the Boys Are**  
For some at famous Elbo Room, Spring Break lasts forever  
By MIKE CLARY | Staff writer  
FORT LAUDERDALE — For the regulars at the Elbo Room, it's the Spring Break, last season, and that little song by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young is still playing. "Where the Boys Are" — the answer is here — right at the end of the bar.  
"I don't say better places in the world than right here," said Steve Golin, 50, who dived his first hour here in 1976 before his 10th birthday at New York Institute of Technology in his native Long Island. "I've smelt the ocean eight times, you're old. When I turned here 12 years ago, this was the only place I recognized."  
It's here, as the first wave of annual young scholars fans out for alcohol-fueled therapy in a Citrus, Pompano Beach and Pompano Beach, the beaches where an annual college elite enclaves will be largely ignored.  
Please turn to B&B, 6A

**Memories linger for Holocaust survivors**  
By PHILIP VALES | Staff writer  
Rosette Goldstein was 5 when French forces rounded up her father and Jewish sons via railroad to the Buchenwald death camp.  
Goldstein, now 73 and a resident of Boca Raton, was living in Paris when French police in the early morning hours of July 16, 1942, ransacked her home and rounded out 15,000 Jewish men, women and children.  
Rosette Goldstein, of Boca Raton, recalls the horror.  
Please turn to SENIORS, 6A

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Please turn to SENIORS, 6A

state, compared with 9.87 in Florida and 6.9 in California.

Gail Holley, the [Florida Department of Transportation's](#) Safe Mobility for Life manager, said she was glad the report examined proposals like offering seniors ways to get around without their cars and developing elder-friendly vehicles, rather than focusing on stricter older driver licensing or better traffic signs.

"Older driver safety is about improving quality of life, not just roadways and licensing," Holley said.

To see the TRIP report, go to [tripnet.org](#).

For older driver resources near you, go to [safeandmobileseniors.org](#).