

Transitions Learning Collaborative
Older & Medically At-Risk Drivers
April 16, 2018

Defining the Issue: Risks and Resources



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Importance of Older Driver Safety

- Older adults who stop driving are at risk of adverse health consequences (AAAFTS, 2015)
- Research suggests most older drivers will outlive their ability to drive by 7-10 years (NIA, 2002)
- Older adults more likely to be injured, disabled or killed if involved in a crash (IRCOBI 2012 Conference)
- More than 44% of Maryland drivers are ages 50 & older

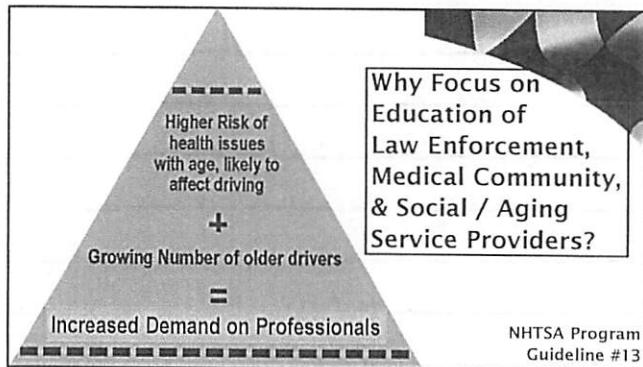
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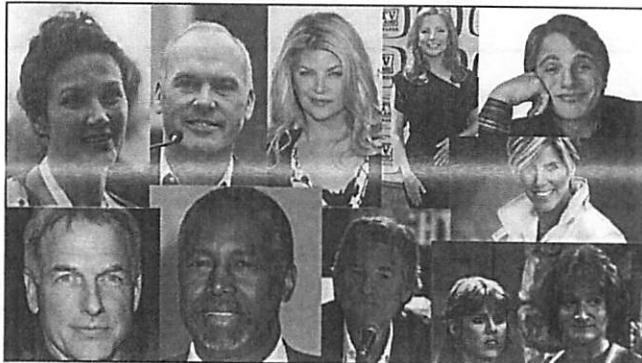
Maryland's Older & Medically At-Risk Driver Safety Program

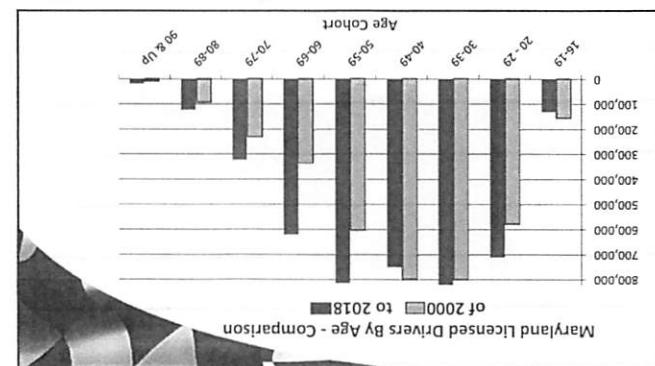
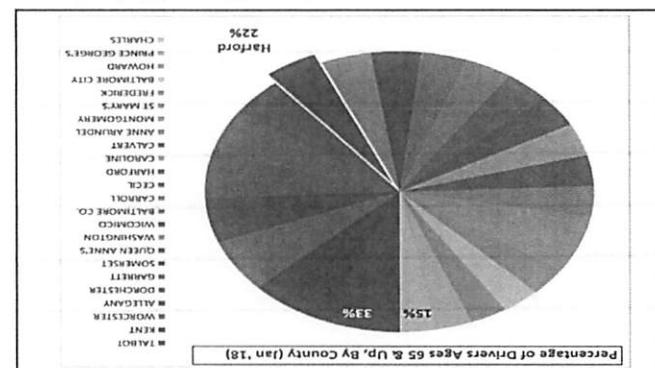
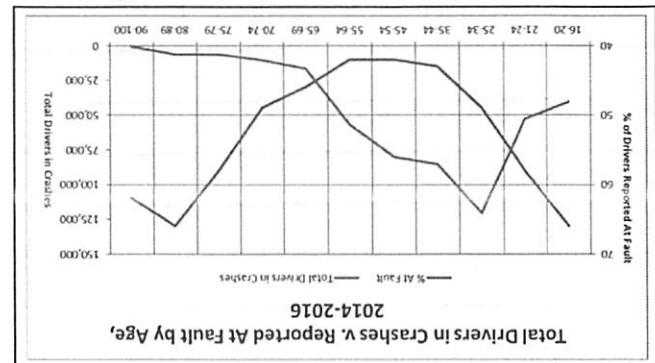
Empower drivers with knowledge,
tools & resources to continue driving
as long as safely possible

Maryland's Older & Medically At-Risk Driver Safety Program

- Statewide Strategic Program Action Plan
- Collaboration with and learning from national partners and researchers
- Three Statewide Symposia – with plenary sessions and exhibits/demos showcasing MD programs
- Professional Development Training – law enforcement, social workers, engineers, & medical professionals





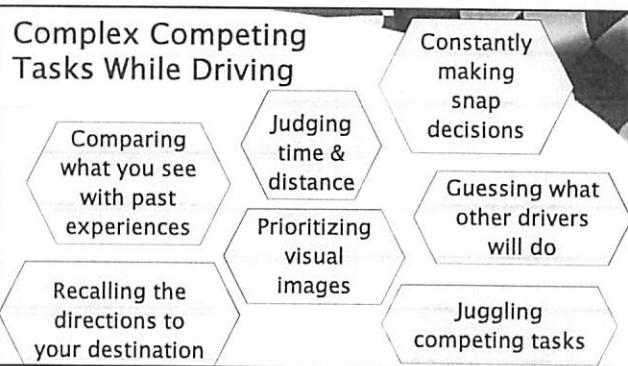


Aging Drivers – Likely Crash Types

- Turning left at an intersection with a stop sign.
- Turning left at an intersection on a green light without a dedicated green turn arrow.
- Turning right at a yield sign to merge with traffic at speeds of 40 – 45 mph.
- Merging onto a highway from a ramp that has a yield sign.
- Changing lanes on a road that has four or more lanes.

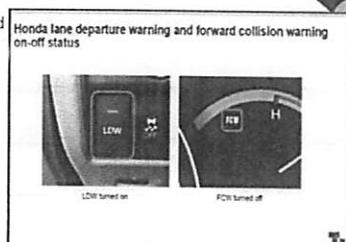
Source: NHTSA, Safety in Numbers (Dec 2013)

Complex Competing Tasks While Driving



Vehicle Technology To Provide More Safety on Road

- Drivers didn't learn to drive on vehicles equipped with advanced driver assistance systems
- Safety features have different brand names among manufacturers
- Phrasing may give impressions that lead to over-reliance
- Not always clear to driver when systems are disengaged or disabled



Medical Review Process

- Medical Advisory Board since 1947
- Driver Wellness & Safety Division – Nurse case reviewers
- Focus on **functional ability** – not age or condition ...with an individual review of fitness to drive

85% with medical reviews kept their license

Outcomes may include:

- License restrictions
- Adaptive Modifications
- Approval with No Restrictions
- Suspension

Who Makes Referrals to MVA?

- **Professionals**
 - clinicians, law enforcement
- **Concerned citizens**
 - neighbors, friends and family
- **Self-reports** medical condition

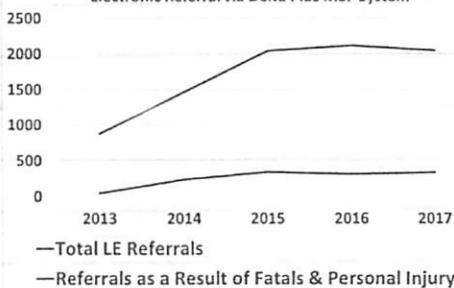
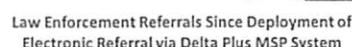
Silver Alert:

October 2016

80-year-old man
Somerset Co.

Maryland State Police say it was reported he left his home in **Westover** around 3:30 p.m. **Saturday** to drive to the "Dash In" convenience store and had not been seen or heard since.

However, police said he was found on I-81 in Roanoke, VA after 11 p.m. Sunday after his pickup truck ran out of gas.



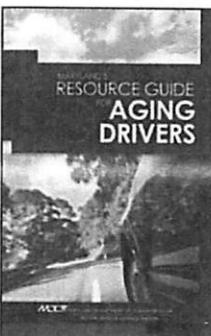
IACP ALZHEIMER'S PROGRAM - TIPS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

- AWARE of characteristics of disease - common dangers
 - Driving problems
 - Speech problems
 - Difficulty locating documents you request (i.e. license)
- Always WRITE a citation and/or MAKE the Referral
 - Start the paper-trail
 - Internal reporting?
- FOLLOW-UP with caregivers
 - Recommend getting a 'no driving prescription'
 - Suggest disabling or selling the vehicle

Options for a "Nervous" Adult...

- AARP Driver Safety
 - Smart Driver
 - Brain Games
- AAA course
 - Roadwise Review & Roadwise Rx
 - Driver Refresher Course
- MVA Older Driver Safety Resources and Links
www.mva.maryland.gov/olderdriversafety
- Driver Rehabilitation & Occupational Therapy
www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/older/driver-education-older-drivers.htm
- CarFit - free community program to help understand safety features of car & how to adjust car to best fit the person

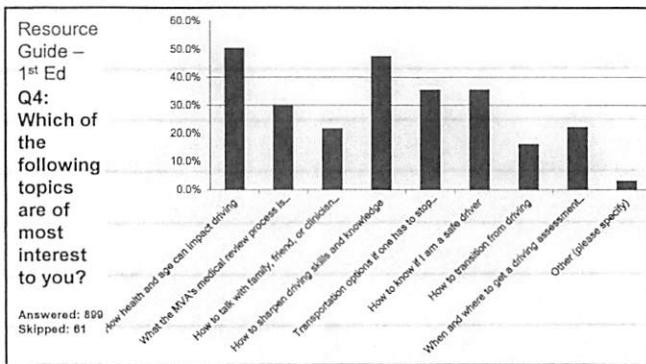




Maryland's Resource Guide for Aging Drivers

- Concise, easy-to-follow booklet
- Focus on primary issues & messages
- Checklists & charts for personal use
- Plenty of local resources

Download online at
www.mva.maryland.gov/olderdriversafety



Post-Survey Results

	Before reading Guide	After reading Guide
Had talked with a doctor or other professional about their driving	11%	13%
Self-assessments/evaluations driver ability	45%	64%
Had plan for transportation as they age	41%	66%

MOT MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Resources & Actions To Help

- Understand & provide resources to drivers, clients and concerned family- www.mva.maryland.gov/olderdriversafety
- For LE:
 - Keep the Red Flag Tip Card for reference; and
 - MVA webpage for law enforcement resources- www.mva.maryland.gov/police
- For Healthcare:
 - Clinicians' Guide to Assessing & Counseling OD https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/812228_cliniciansguidetoolddrivers.pdf
 - American Occupational Therapy Association <http://www.aota.org/Practice/Productive-Aging/Driving.aspx>
 - Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED) <http://www.aded.net/>
- For Social/Aging: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/drivewelltk.pdf>
- Host / volunteer for a *CarFit* event nschieke@mdot.state.md.us

