

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

Defining the Issue: Risks and Resources



MOTOR VEHICLE
ADMINISTRATION

Nanette Schieke
Chief, Driver Safety Division
Maryland Dept of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Administration
nschieke@mdot.state.md.us
www.mva.Maryland.gov/olderdriversafety

Importance of Older Driver Safety

- Older adults who stop driving are at risk of adverse health consequences *(AAFTS, 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 *(IRCBI 2012 Conference)*
- More than 44% of Maryland drivers are ages 50 & older

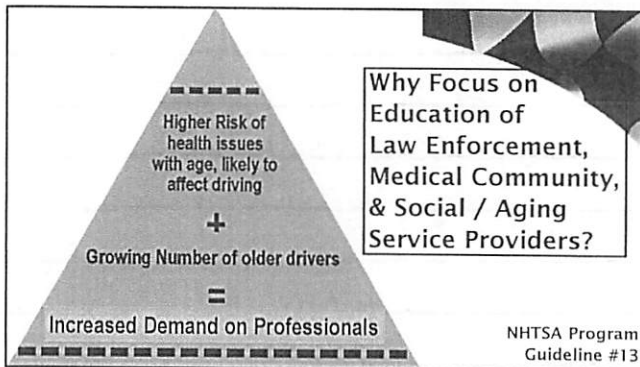
2

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

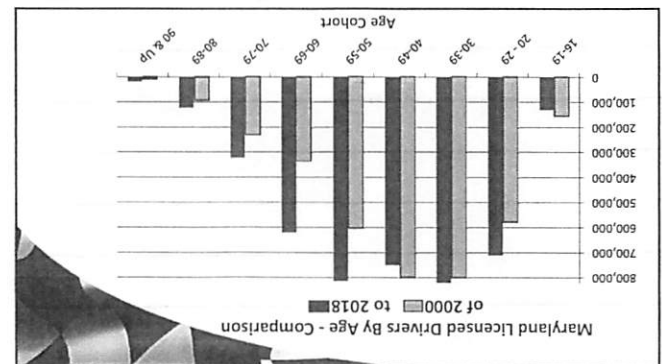
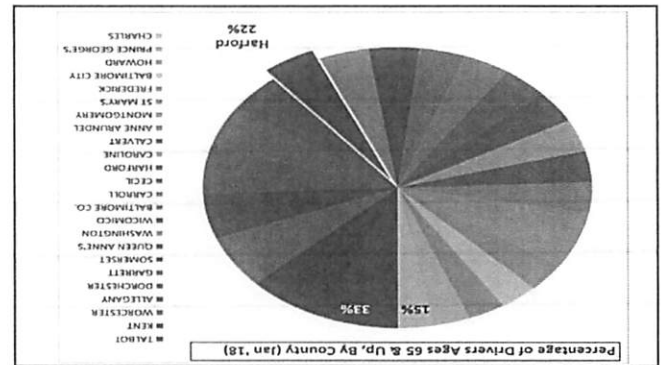
Empower drivers with knowledge,
tools & resources to continue driving
as long as safely possible

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 Symposiums – with plenary sessions and exhibits/demos showcasing MD programs
- Professional Development Training – law enforcement, social workers, engineers, & medical professionals





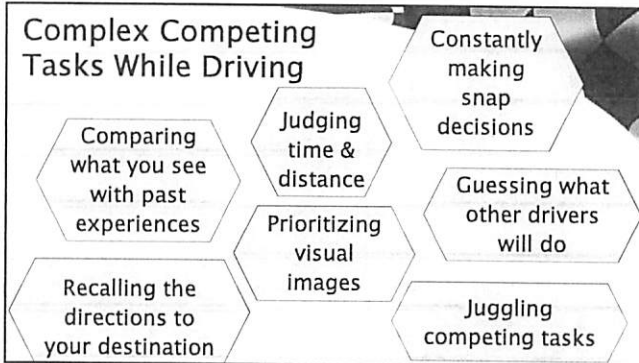


Aging Drivers – Likely Crash Types

- 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)

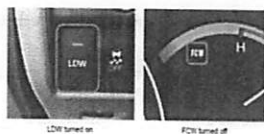
Complex Competing Tasks While Driving



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

Honda lane departure warning and forward collision warning on-off status



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

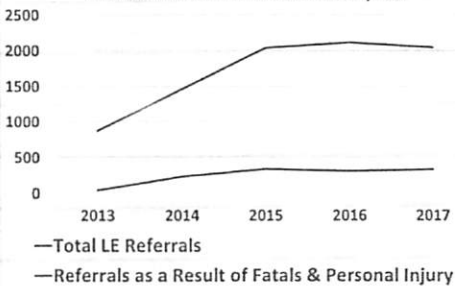
80-year-old man
Somerset Co.



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.

Law Enforcement Referrals Since Deployment of Electronic Referral via Delta Plus MSP System



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

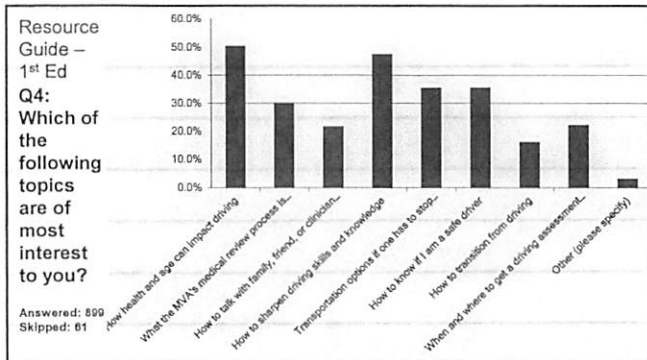


RESOURCE GUIDE
**AGING
DRIVERS**

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%



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_cliniciansguidetoollderdrivers.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

