



Mature Drivers and Highway Safety: Identifying the Issues and Solutions

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Q. How Old Is Too Old to Drive?



55



65

70



85

A. Is it really a question of age?

Today's Topics

- Maryland Older Driver Study
- Review Current Medical Referral Process
- Education and Outreach

Maryland Older Driver Safety Study

- Required under Chapter 148, Acts of Maryland, 2012
 - “The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) should submit a report to the committees that analyzes the issues arising from older drivers. An interim report should be submitted by January 1, 2013, and a final report by January 1, 2014...”
- Issues to study included:
 - Statistics and trends pertaining to older drivers
 - Age-related factors impacting driving
 - Measures to promote safety among older driver population
 - Driver rehabilitation
 - Education/outreach
 - Enhanced screening mechanisms (i.e. functional capacity testing)
 - Alternative license renewal requirements

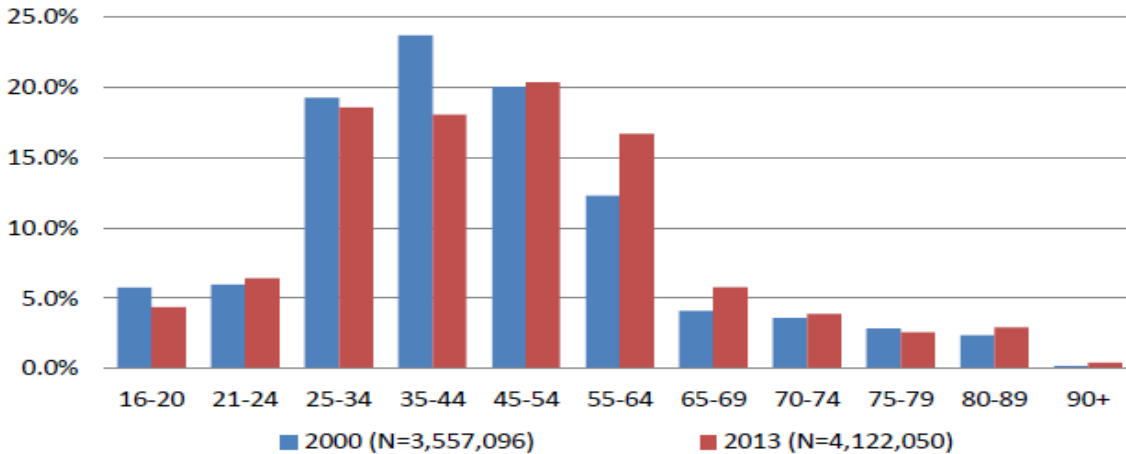


- Interim report submitted December 13, 2012
- National Study Center at the University of Maryland provided technical support
 - In-depth data analysis of MD's older driver population
 - Police reports, MVA records, EMS, citation, etc.
- Four main sections
 - Statistical Overview
 - Current Processes
 - Outreach
 - Conclusions

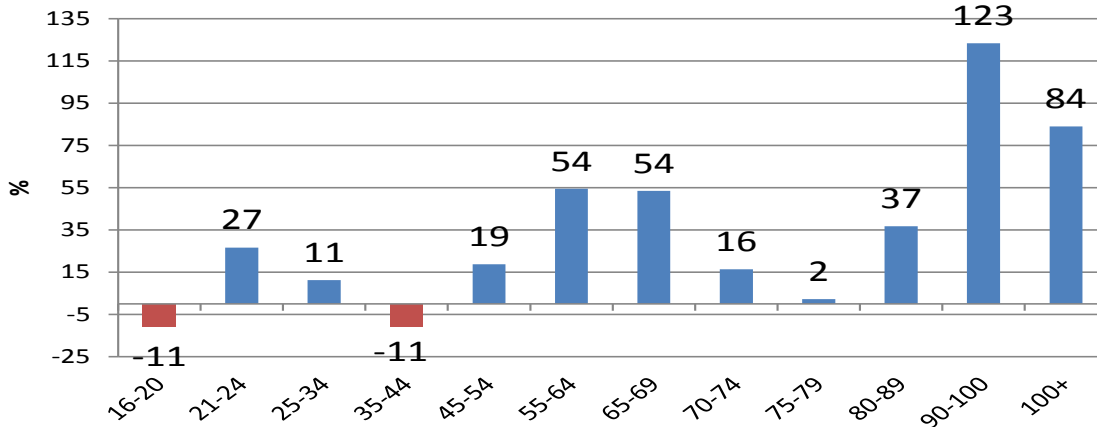


Statistical Overview

**Maryland Licensed Driving Population
 By age: 2000 compared to 2013**

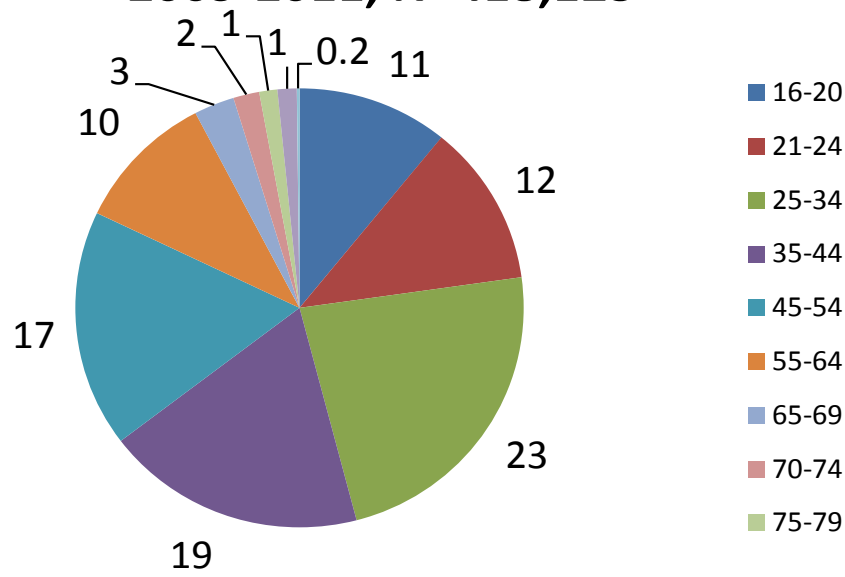


**Licensed Drivers by Age-
 Percentage of Change 2000-2012**



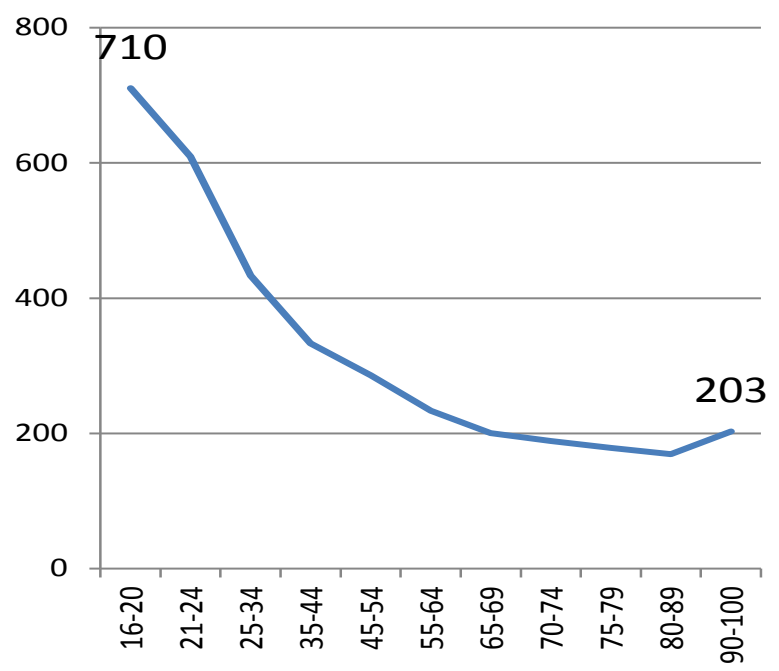
- Overall driver population increased by almost 16%
- Significant increase in older drivers 2000 vs. 2012.
- Age 55 to 69 years has large increase
 - Nearly 25% of total license population
 - "Pre" older driver population?

Driver Involvement by Age, 2009-2011, N=418,123



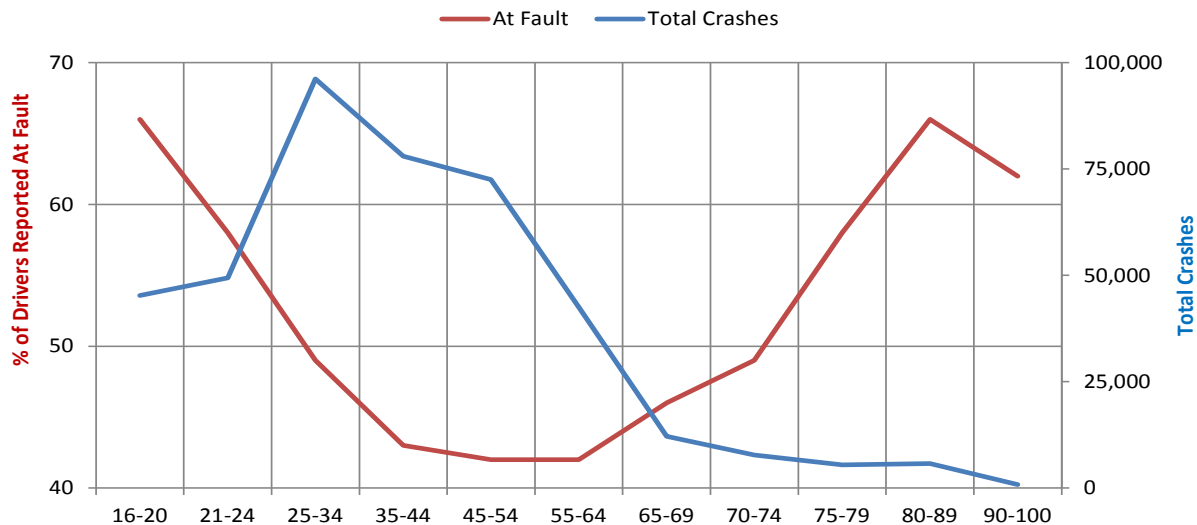
- Drivers aged 65 years or older made up about 7% of all drivers involved in crashes.
- Similar number of drivers aged 16-24 made up 23% of all drivers involved in crashes.

Crash Rate per 10,000 Licensed Drivers by Age, 2009-2011



- Crash rate declines with age
- No obvious factor contributing to older driver crashes

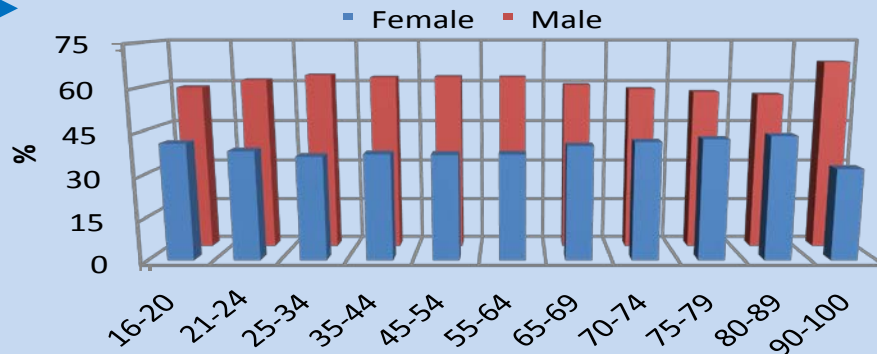
Total Crashes v. Reported At Fault by Age, 2009-2011



- Both older and younger drivers disproportionately indicated at fault
- Older drivers less likely to be cited

- Older driver crashes more likely to be at intersection.
- Sideswipe or angled collisions most common.

Reported At Fault by Age & Gender, 2009-2011



*Based on citation data



Conclusions - Data

- Older drivers do not pose significant safety risk
- Crash rate low compared to other age groups
- Less likely to be cited for risky behaviors
- Higher rate of "at fault" in crashes
 - Warrants further study
 - Correlation to vehicle miles traveled?



Current Process



Medical Fitness Evaluation - MD

- Medical Advisory Board (MAB) established in 1949
- MVA has primary responsibility regarding driver fitness
- List of reportable medical conditions outlined in COMAR 11.17.03
- Reports taken from variety of sources
 - Physician
 - Self-report
 - Law Enforcement (Request for Re-examination)
 - Court
 - Concerned citizen

Reportable Conditions

If a driver has one of these medical conditions, they must notify MVA when the condition is diagnosed or when applying for or renewing a driver's license.

Cerebral Palsy

Panic attack disorder

Drug or substance dependence or abuse

Impaired loss of consciousness, fainting, blackout or seizure

Diabetes requiring insulin

Bipolar disorder

Irregular heart rhythm or heart condition

Dementia, i.e. Alzheimer's Disease or multi-infarct dementia

Muscular Dystrophy

Traumatic brain injury

Stroke, "mini-stroke" or transient ischemic attack

Disorder which prevents a corrected minimum visual acuity of 20/70 in at least one eye and a field of vision of at least 110 degrees

Multiple Sclerosis

Epilepsy

Schizophrenic disorders

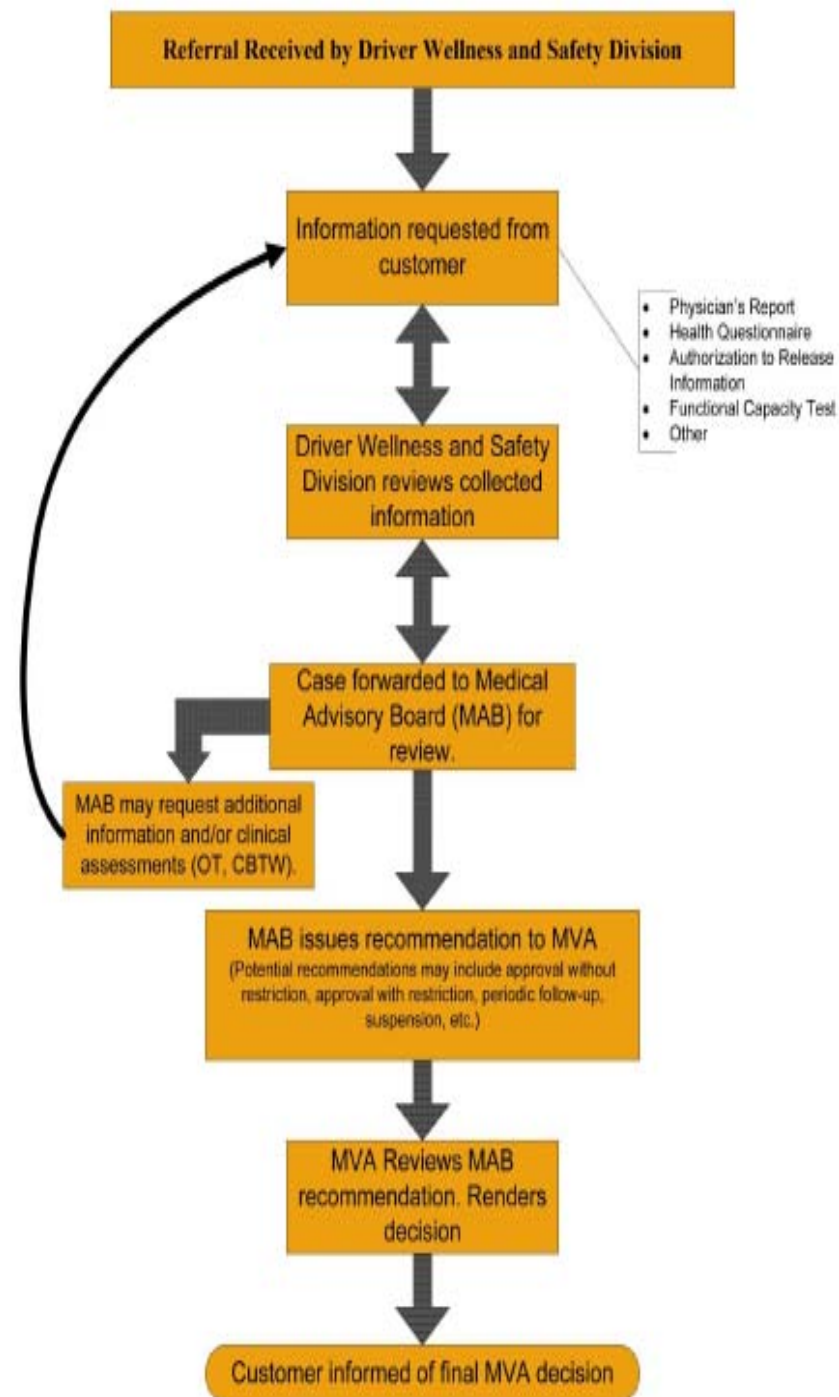
Sleep disorders, i.e. narcolepsy or sleep apnea

Alcohol dependence or abuse

Loss of limb or limbs

Parkinson's disease

Autism



MVA Medical Review

- Driver Wellness and Safety Unit
 - 10 Nurse case managers (1 supervisor)
 - Review all medical and safety referrals
 - 6,000 to 7,000 cases annually.
 - Coordinates referrals with the Board
- Medical Advisory Board (MAB)
 - Consists of licensed physicians in multiple specialties
 - Reviews cases with nursing staff
 - Renders recommendations regarding cases
 - Advises MVA on medical review processes



Evaluation Process

- Specific to the individual
- Requires submission of:
 - MVA health questionnaire
 - MVA physician's report (customer's personal physician)
 - Release of Information
- May also include:
 - Functional Capacity Screening (FCT)
 - Additional reports from medical specialists (i.e. neurologist)
 - OT/PT evaluation
 - Driving knowledge and skills testing



Evaluation Outcomes

- Goal is to keep individuals behind the wheel, as long as it is safe!
- Outcomes may include:
 - License restriction (outside mirrors, daytime driving, etc).
 - Additional medical follow-up (6-months, 1 year, etc.)
 - Adaptive modifications (left pedal, steering devices, etc.)
 - Approval with no restrictions
 - Suspension
- Individuals have the right to request administrative hearing



OUTREACH



Driver Safety

Dover, DE | July 13-18

Mature Driver Education/Outreach

- Maryland Older Driver Safety Symposium (MODSS)
 - Grant initiative
 - Conducted in 2012 and 2013
 - Research and best practice presentations specifically on older driver issues
 - Audience
 - Highway safety
 - Healthcare
 - Community service
 - Law enforcement



www.mva.maryland.gov/modss

Program Guide

**Maryland Older Driver
Safety Symposium**

“Safe Mobility for Life”

Wednesday, May 16, 2012
Hours 7:45 am – 4:00 pm

Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, MD



PROGRAM GUIDE

**Maryland Older Driver Safety
Symposium
2013**



“Safe Mobility for Life”

April 24, 2013
Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, MD



MODSS Facts

- MODSS 2012
 - May 16, 2012
 - 140 attendees (VA, PA, DE, DC)
 - 18 exhibitors
- MODSS 2013
 - April 24 & 25, 2013
 - Approximately 300 attendees
 - CME/CEU's for professional development sessions
 - Law enforcement, healthcare, community services



Additional Outreach

- University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Hospitals medical lectures
- Quarterly meetings with driver rehabilitation network (OT's/PT's)
- Development of e-citation for law enforcement referrals
- Creation of electronic physician referral



Thank You!

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