Mature Driver Safety

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PennDOT
Nearly 2 million out of a total population of 12,702,379

1.7 million out of 8.8 million drivers (19 percent)
# Mature Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>Drivers 65+</th>
<th>Total Drivers</th>
<th>Percent 65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>600,162</td>
<td>2,934,576</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>242,779</td>
<td>1,206,026</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2,744,378</td>
<td>13,949,726</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1,594,988</td>
<td>8,737,162</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>109,419</td>
<td>602,275</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>374,164</td>
<td>2,077,806</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>682,604</td>
<td>3,805,751</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>420,024</td>
<td>2,348,718</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>181,412</td>
<td>1,019,738</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1,995,069</td>
<td>11,285,830</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>33,731,618</td>
<td>210,114,939</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: TRIP, February 2012
# Mature Driver Crash Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crashes</td>
<td>16,432</td>
<td>16,727</td>
<td>17,606</td>
<td>17,603</td>
<td>18,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>13,907</td>
<td>14,340</td>
<td>14,874</td>
<td>14,710</td>
<td>14,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PA Initiatives in Mature Driver Safety

- Medical Reporting Program
  - CME course on PA’s Medical Reporting Requirements
  - Re-Exam Coupon Project
  - Contrast Sensitivity Project

- Promote Mature Driver Education Classes through AAA, AARP and Seniors for Safe Driving

- Highway Improvements
Medical Reporting Program
Mandatory Physician Reporting

• PA law requires all physicians or licensed health care providers to report to PennDOT any patient 15 years of age or older that has a medical condition that may affect their ability to drive safely.

• In 2012, close to 33,000 medical reports were received.
  – Over 10,000 driver’s licenses were medically recalled.

• Drivers wishing to surrender their driving privilege for medical reasons are entitled to one (1) free photo identification card.
Medical Reporting Program

Reports are received from a number of sources:

- Health Care Providers (mandatory)
- Law Enforcement
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Crash Reports
- Signed Family Reports (including concerned friends)

PA Law requires all reports received remain confidential.
PennDOT’s Medical Advisory Board

• The Secretary of Transportation appoints members to the Medical Advisory Board.

• 13 members
PennDOT’s Medical Advisory Board

- Neurology
- Cardiology
- Internal Medicine
- General Practitioner
- Ophthalmology
PennDOT’s Medical Advisory Board

- Psychiatry
- Orthopedic Surgeon
- Optometry
- Legal Counsel
- Department of Health
PennDOT’s Medical Advisory Board

- State Police
- Drug & Alcohol Program Specialist
- Medical Licensing administrator
- Legal Counsel
- Department of Health
PennDOT’s Medical Advisory Board

• Responsibilities of the MAB:
  – formulating rules and regulations for adoption by the Department.
  – periodically reviews medical standards and identify instances where changing treatments and technology require the regulations to be updated.
PennDOT’s Medical Advisory Board

• Responsibilities of the MAB:
  – As needed, review individual cases.
Continuing Medical Education (CME) Course Project

• Working toward the creation of an online course that health care providers can take and receive credit regarding PA medical reporting requirements.

• Currently we do in-person presentations regarding PA’s medical reporting requirements to various hospitals, associations, and health care provider groups.
Re-Examination Program

- A proactive approach to determine a driver’s medical qualifications for the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

- 1,900 drivers per month over the age of 45 are randomly selected
  - seven months prior to their license expiration date.

- License will not be renewed if driver fails to comply.
Re-Examination Program

- Each driver is required to undergo both a vision screening and a physical examination.
  - Results from an examination within the last 12 months are acceptable.
  - Vision screenings are given for free at all PennDOT Driver License Centers.

- Based on the results of the medical examination, additional information may be required and/or the driver may need to successfully complete a driver’s examination.
Re-Examination Coupon Project

- Goal of Project: Allow more driver’s to be randomly selected per month (up to 10,000 from our current 1,900 per month)

- Currently all reports are manually processed. The creation of a coupon would allow these reports to be processed through our Opex Eagle machine.

- Only those reports that require follow up or do not pass would be manually processed.
Contrast Sensitivity Project

What is Contrast Sensitivity?

– refers to the ability of the visual system to distinguish between an object and its background.
Contrast Sensitivity Project

What causes loss of Contrast Sensitivity?

– Most Common = Cataracts
– Other Causes include but are not limited to:
  • Macular degeneration
  • Optic neuritis
  • End-stage glaucoma
  • Retinal degenerations
  • Diabetic retinopathy
  • Optic atrophy
  • Brain injury
Contrast Sensitivity Project

- NHTSA guidance
  - Data suggest that contrast sensitivity testing may be highly promising as a screening tool for licensure
  - May add something over and above current vision screening approaches for identifying older drivers at high risk for unsafe driving

However

- NHTSA states that further evaluation of this issue using population-based samples before a recommendation can be made.
Contrast Sensitivity Project

PA’s project plan is to analyze contrast sensitivity screening during renewal for drivers randomly selected for a re-examination to determine its effect on reducing crashes.

– Hire a vendor to pilot contrast sensitivity screening for the selected drivers. Screenings will be set up at selected DL centers across the state.
Contrast Sensitivity Project

- The vendor would analyze the results of the screenings and the driving records, costs associated, and impact on DL operations.

- Project is data collection and analysis only. No drivers will be recalled during this project for contrast sensitivity.
Promote Mature Driver Education Classes through AAA, AARP and Seniors for Safe Driving.

Approved online course to facilitate this training.

- **32,000** drivers over 55 were trained in the 55 Alive Course in nearly **2,800** classes in 2012.
Highway Improvements
Physical Improvements

• Install advanced lane designations
  – More time to make a decision
  – Viewable from a greater distance
  – Repeats viable information
  – Retro reflective for nighttime viewing
• Install larger overhead street name signs
  – More time to make a decision
  – Viewable from a greater distance
  – Reduces last minute decisions
  – Installed at well-lit intersections
• **Convert signals to LED lenses**
  - Brighter
  - Easier to see
  - Entire signal face does not burn out at once

• **Bigger lenses for added visibility**
  - More surface area to see
  - Viewable from a greater distance
Thank you

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