



Older Driver Law Enforcement Workshop

Presented by:
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Purpose

To provide you with the knowledge you need to effectively interact with older drivers



Objective

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- **Discuss how the aging process affects older drivers.**
- **Discuss effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.**
- **Discuss appropriate referral options available for older drivers.**

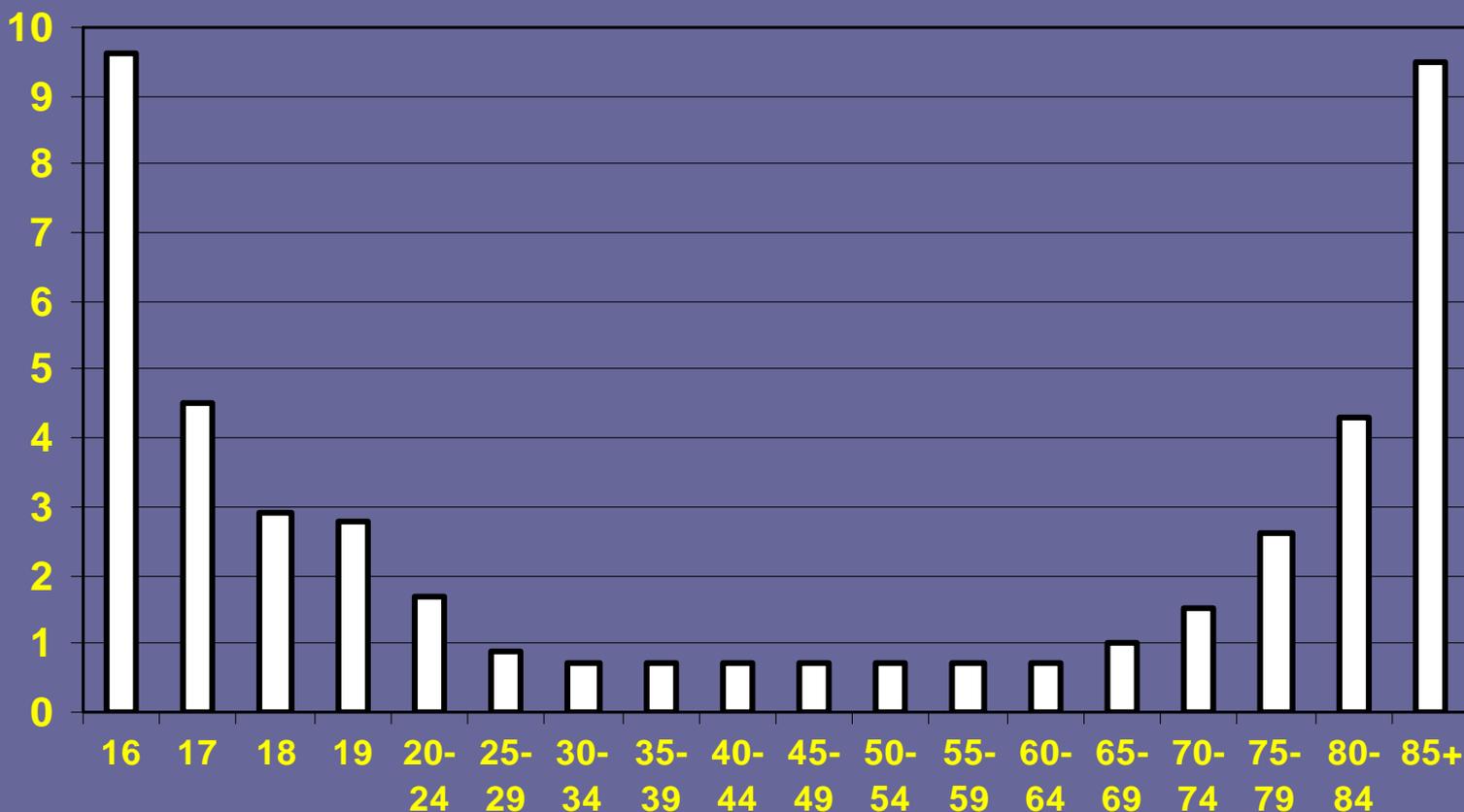


Older Driver Numbers

- Older Drivers are defined as those 65 and older
- In 2005, there were:
 - 36 Million older people
 - 29 Million licensed older drivers
 - 800,000 crash-involved older drivers
 - 150,000 injury-crash-involved older drivers
 - 6,215 fatality-involved older drivers

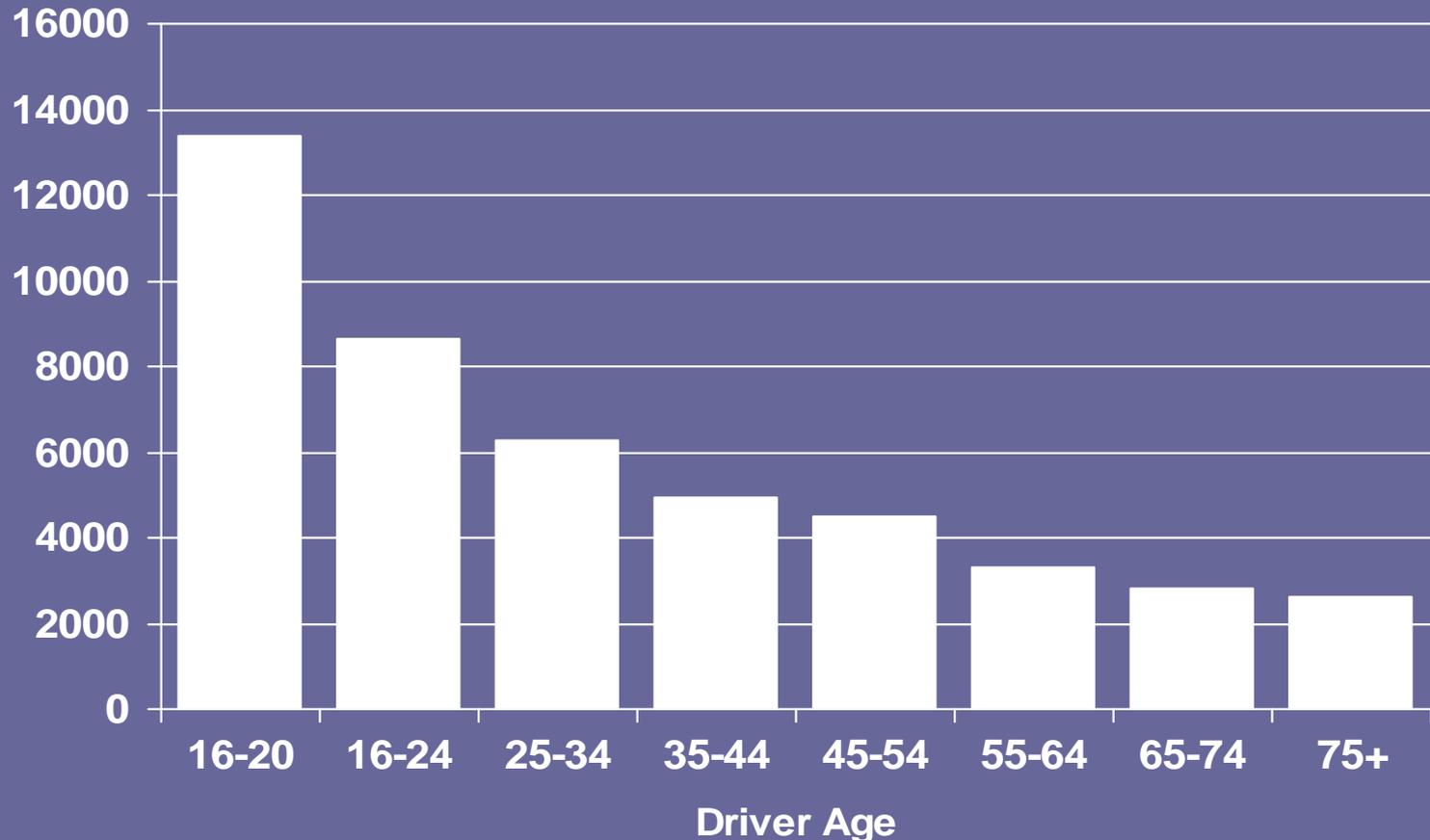


Driver Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)



Crashes per Licensed Driver

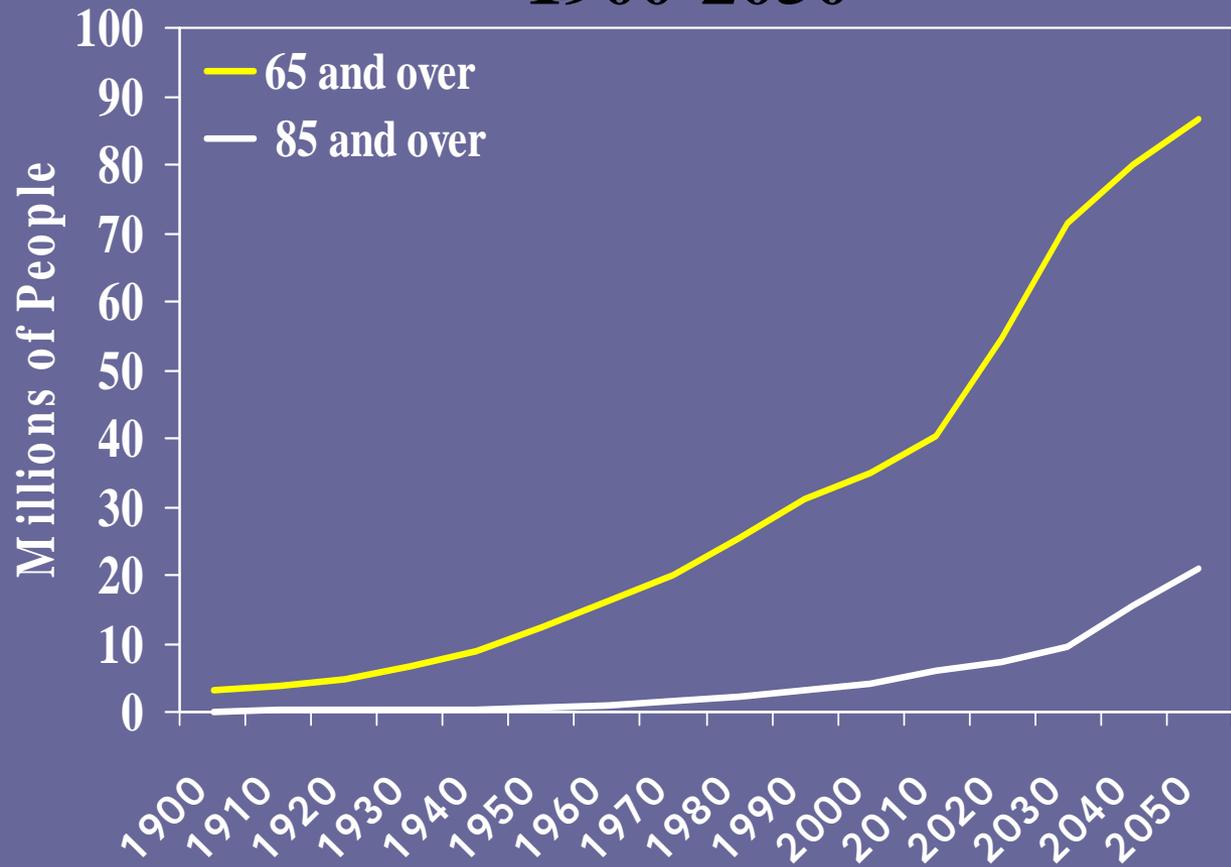
Crashes per 100,000 drivers



(Source NCSA, 2005)



Number Of People Age 65 and Over and 85 And Over 1900-2050



Realities: *Dena Kline*

2/23/07 4 pm: leaves home to pick up prescription.
5 pm: uses credit card at gas station.
7 pm: police stop for DUI, allowed to drive.
11 pm: police stop for DUI, allowed to drive.

2/24/07 12:45 am: reported as DUI driver, stops for directions.
1:30 am: stops for directions
9 am: retired deputy reports vehicle turned in his driveway.

2/25/07 Clackamas Sheriff begins search using aircraft, off-road vehicles, marine patrol and detectives.

2/26/07 Sheriff uses “mass telephone” calling system asking to BOL.

2/27/07 Sheriff’s Marine Patrol uses sonar near boat ramps along Willamette River.



Outcomes

06/23/07 7:43 pm:

Marine Patrol
locates
submerged car
occupied by
deceased
person at Sports
Craft Marina
boat ramp in
Oregon City.



Law Enforcement Role

- Serve as a source for helpful aging driver information
- Document traffic stops
- Identify and refer at-risk drivers to licensing agency



Facts

- Today there are 29 million older drivers
- Older drivers are the fastest growing population group
- Traffic fatality rate is higher for elders



Time for a Quiz!



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

All five senses decline with age.

True – All five senses do decline with aging. Vision & hearing are some of the most common officers will deal with.



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Older people are irritable and angry.

False – Personality is not a characteristic of age. Be aware, though, that age-related medical conditions can affect personality.



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Most older persons who suffer from illness or impairments reside in long-term care facilities.

False – Only about 5% are in long-term care facilities. Most older persons want to function independently.



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Most older persons suffer from some dementia or become senile due to the aging process.

True and False – Only about 10% of those over age 65 are affected by dementia, but up to half of those 85 and older have some dementia. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 4 million suffer from the disease.



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Law enforcement officers are not prejudiced and show no bias towards older drivers.

False – Officers often fail to take appropriate action or document encounters with older drivers.





Older Driver Traffic Stops

Impaired Driving

- Today, more medication is prescribed to older people than to any other age group
- Use the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- Understand the differences between older and impaired



Older Driver Cues for Law Enforcement

- Cognitive impairment can affect driving behavior
- Become familiar with the cues



DUI or Medical Condition?

- **Observe balance & fine motor skills**
- **Standardized Field Sobriety Tests have not been validated for individuals over age 65**
- **Make observations while driver is out of vehicle**
- **Can the driver effectively communicate for 10 or more minutes?**



Vehicle Observation

- Visual inspection of the vehicle (interior & exterior)
- Modifications to the vehicle?
- Notes to the driver (reminders)



Documenting the Traffic Stop

- Introduction to the driver
- Document all traffic stops in writing (citation or warning)

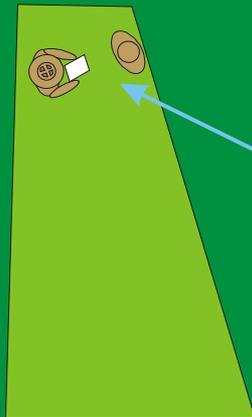
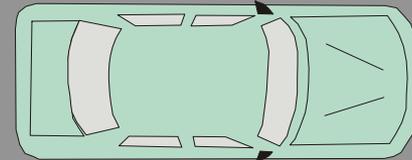
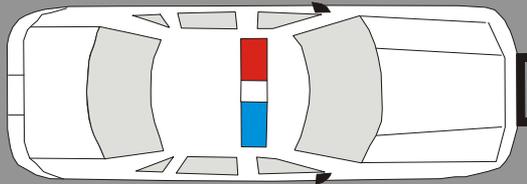


Why Document the Traffic Stop?

- Written history
- Important to law enforcement agency; licensing authority; driver's family/physician
- Tracking history to determine potential unsafe developing patterns



SAFER ZONE



- Ford Motor Company's Computer Simulation identified Safer Zone
- Six feet from the passenger door of the patrol car



Referrals



Completing the Reexamination Request

Use the form required in your state

- **REPORT specific BEHAVIORS you observed**
 - **Physical impairments**
 - **Mental impairment**



Family Referrals

- **Locate the family**
 - Check for cell phone
 - Look for I.D. bracelet
 - Look for documents in the vehicle
- **Families may ask you to intervene with their loved ones**



Community Referrals

- Area Agencies on Aging
- Alzheimer's Association
- Adult Protective Services
- Local Medical Organizations



Referrals to Engineers

- **State and County roadway engineers don't always know trouble-spots**
- **Develop a partnership**



Referrals to Driver Trainers

- Some drivers need practice or rehabilitation to drive safely
- Driver trainers are good community resources



Older Driver Community Relations Programs



Collaborations

Partners include:

- Law enforcement management
- Line officers
- The community



Course Summary

You have learned:

- How the aging process affects older drivers.
- Effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.
- Appropriate referral options available for older drivers.



Thank You!

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