Every Time an Older Driver Crashes...

When it's time for Grandma to stop driving
Getting elderly motorists off the road poses many challenges

Can A Driver Be Too Old?
By JAMES CARNEY; JEROME Cramer/WASHINGTON and BRUCE HENDERSON/MIAMI

Video Store Crash Prompts Questions About Older Drivers

PITTSBURGH -- An accident in which a woman drove her car through a Pittsburgh Video Store on Tuesday has prompted new questions about whether older drivers should continue driving.

An 85-year-old woman, who drove her car through a vacant Hollywood Video store in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, told relatives she didn't know how the accident happened.

But investigators said skid marks left near the car's gas and brake pedals, Channel 11 News reported.

May 13, 2001
Elderly Drivers: Not Ready to Give Up the Keys
(CBS) We should be concerned about the increase of activity in Sun City and surrounding communities.

Grannies vs Teens
Who’s Scarier On The Road?
It’s always the same reaction...

“What can we do about these older drivers?”
Setting the Record Straight...

British study suggests that older drivers are safer drivers

by Jeremy Korzeniewski (RSS feed) on May 1st, 2008 at 7:32 AM

Contrary to the findings of the Japanese Metropolitan study has just been released in Britain which suggests drivers are not dangerous on the roads. The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) data shows that older drivers actually of a risk than drivers under the age of thirty. Unfortunately, drivers over the age of seventy are more likely to be a

Improving Road Safety For Older Drivers

Main Category: Seniors / Aging
Also Included In: Public Health
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Older Driver Safety Awareness Week Highlights Options for Safe Mobility

Local Network Assists Capital Address Problems, Safety Issues

by New York State Office for the Aging

ALBANY, NY (12/08/2009)(readMedia)-- This week marks the Older Driver Safety Awareness Week by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA.) Older Driver Safety Awareness Week aims to raise the importance of mobility and transportation to ensure the community - shopping, working or volunteering - will not be the barrier to strand them at home.

Healthy Aging: Preparation can help keep older drivers safe on the road

BOSTON, MA — Chronic illnesses and the use of various medications increase the risk for auto accidents. Even normal, healthy aging can take a toll on a man’s reflexes, reaction time, and sensory abilities. But preparations and precautions can help keep older men safely on the road, says the Harvard Men’s Health Watch. For example:
Policy Goals

• Provide evidence-based guidance for improving state driver medical review processes and outcomes

• Maximize safety and mobility for older, medically at-risk drivers
Why focus on Driver Medical Review?

- Importance of driver medical review in light of growing population of older drivers
- DMV mandate to ensure persons licensed possess basic qualifications needed for safe operation of their vehicle
- Considerable state-to-state variation in driver licensing policies and practices
  - “Standard licensing requirements”
  - Procedures and requirements for more formal review of potential medically at-risk drivers
Shifting Demographics

Older Population by Age: 1950 - 2050

Source: U.S. Administration on Aging based on data from U.S. Census Bureau
37 states have some form of MAB
13 states and D.C. have no MAB
First Attempt…

- Synthesize State of Knowledge
- Develop Consensus-based Recommendations
- Identify Gaps & Research Needs
Seeking Policy Options for States

- AAA initiates research project to evaluate available evidence
- Synthesized research and expert consensus recommendation from over 100 published reports
- Established in-kind consultation from CDC, NHTSA and NAS/TRB
- Developed white paper and accompanying advocacy toolkit
Grouping Policy Options

• **Works** – Evidence is sufficient to warrant a recommendation

• ** Likely to work** – Evidence is weak or lacking, but the practice has been successfully applied by one or more DMVs and/or recommended in national/international consensus documents

• **Does NOT work** – Evidence is sufficient to recommend NOT adopting a particular policy/practice

• **Unclear** – Evidence is mixed, so that no clear recommendation can be made at this time
Focus of AAA Recommendations

• Identification & referral of medically at-risk drivers
  • by DMVs
  • by physicians and other health professionals
  • by law enforcement
  • by family members or friends

• Assessment of potential medically at-risk drivers

• Post-assessment options for medically at-risk drivers (balancing safety and mobility)
Two Key Assumptions

• The target population for driver medical review is drivers of any age who are at increased risk of crashing due to medical-related functional impairments.

• Licensing decisions should not be determined by disease diagnoses, but by an individualized assessment of fitness to drive.
Improving Identification of Potential At-Risk Drivers

- **What Works**
  - In-person license renewal
  - Visual acuity testing at license renewal

- **What is Likely to Work**
  - Medical self-report at license renewal
  - Forms for easy physician and LE referral
  - License examiner observational training
  - Healthcare provider immunity for referral in good faith
Improving **Assessment** of Potential At-Risk Drivers

- What **is Likely to Work**
  - DMV access to medical expertise (MABs)
Policies & Practices Related to Case Disposition

• What Works
  – Restricted licensing

• What is Likely to Work
  – Driver rehabilitation / remediation
Tools to Assist in Putting it Together
A State-by-State Look at Driver Medical Review

Issue Brief (w/Snapshot) & State Policy Charts

Quick reference to:

- Current state- and national demographics on senior drivers
- Current practice in each state
Research into Practice

- Auto Club Group—Southern Region
  - Tennessee
- AAA Northern New England
  - Vermont
  - New Hampshire
  - Maine
- AAA Arizona
- AAA New York
Life Beyond Driving
Transportation Options

- People today can expect to live 7-10 years beyond their ability to drive safely

- Mobility beyond driving will require a combination of services to meet individual needs

- Importance of planning early and building comfort in leveraging alternatives to driving
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