



# Older Driver Law Enforcement Workshop

**Cognition**

**"Mrs. Johnson"**

# Purpose

To provide the knowledge to effectively **interact** with older drivers and take **proper** and **appropriate** enforcement actions



# Objectives

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

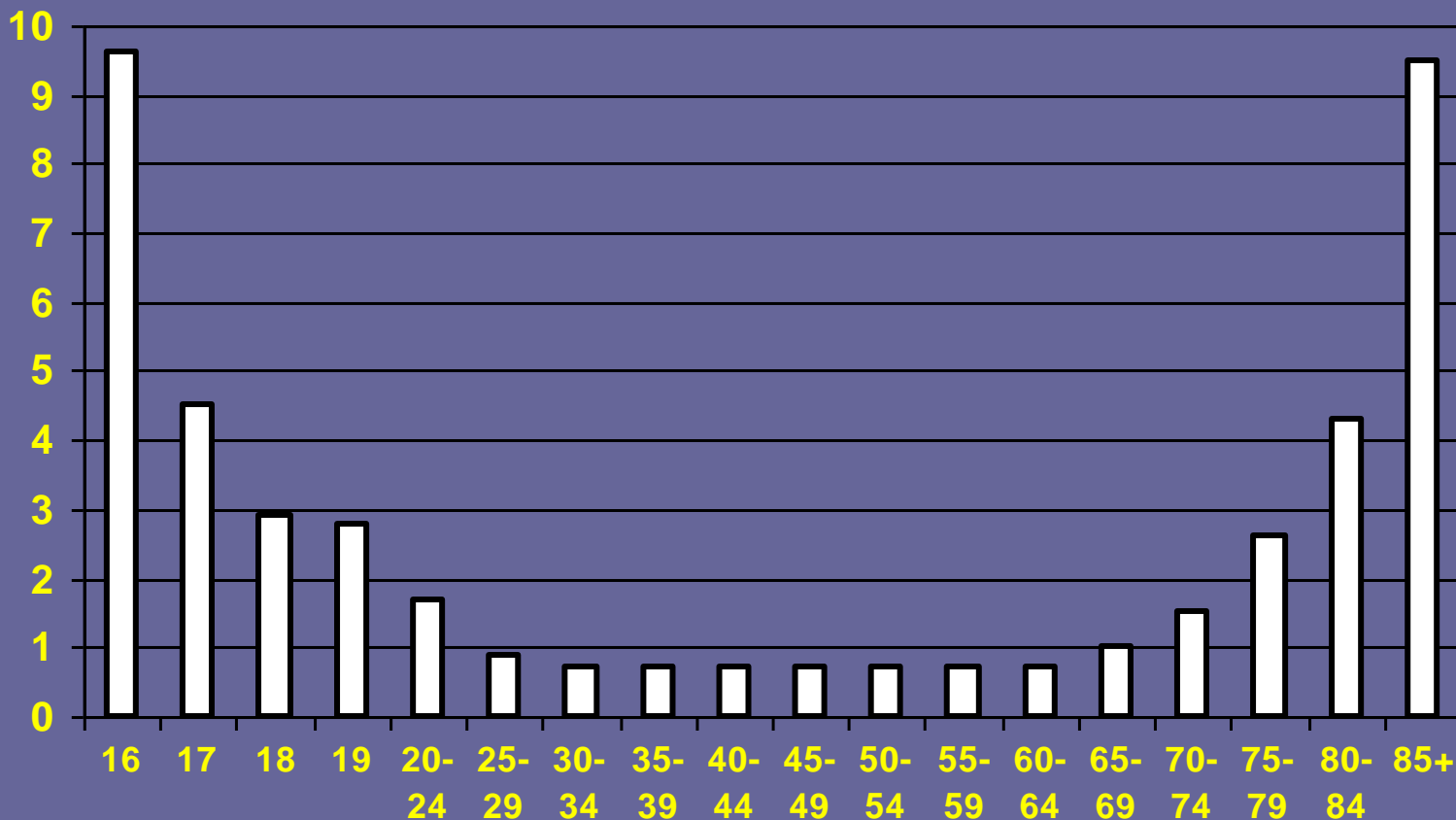


# Older Driver Numbers

- 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

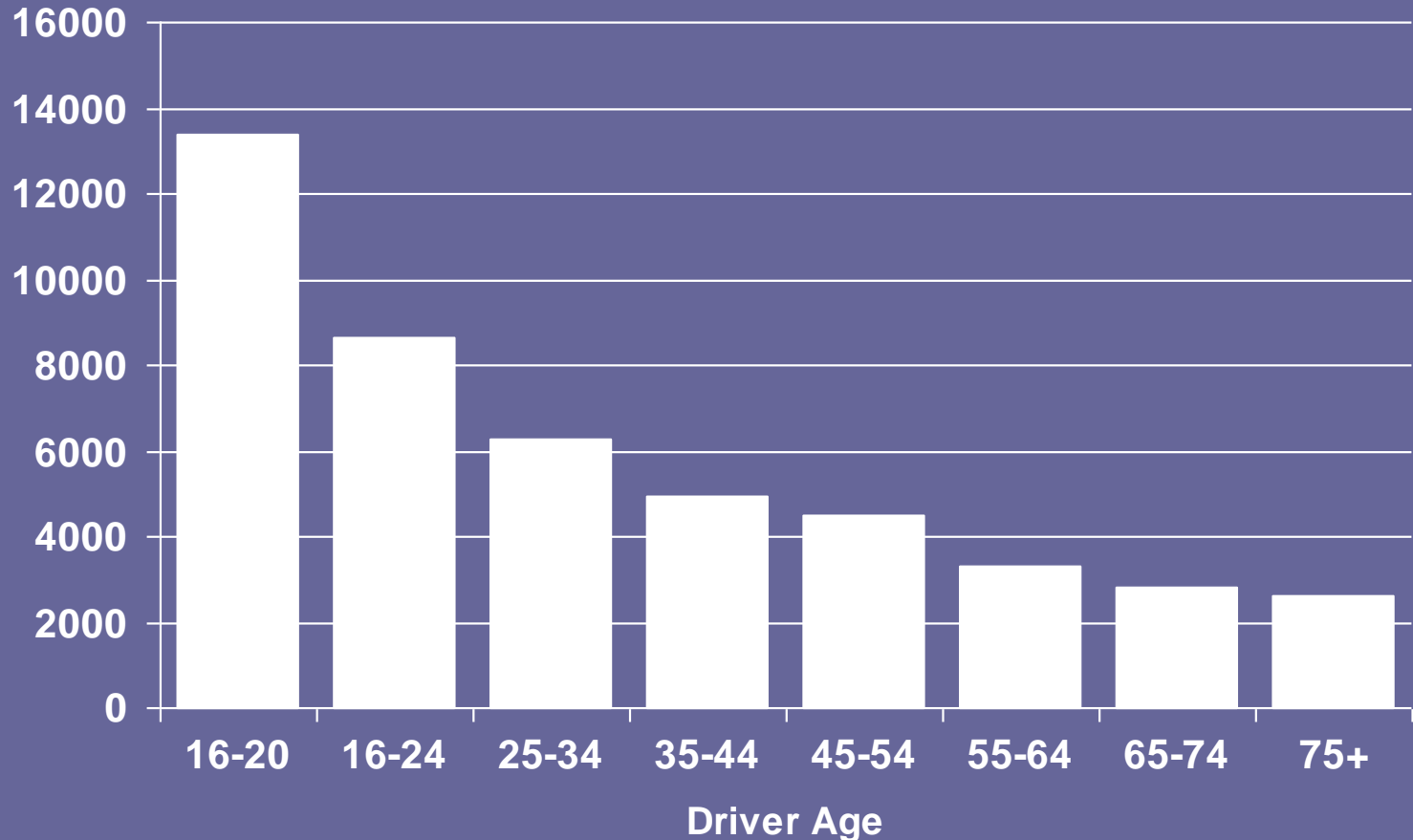


# Driver Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)



# Crashes per Licensed Driver

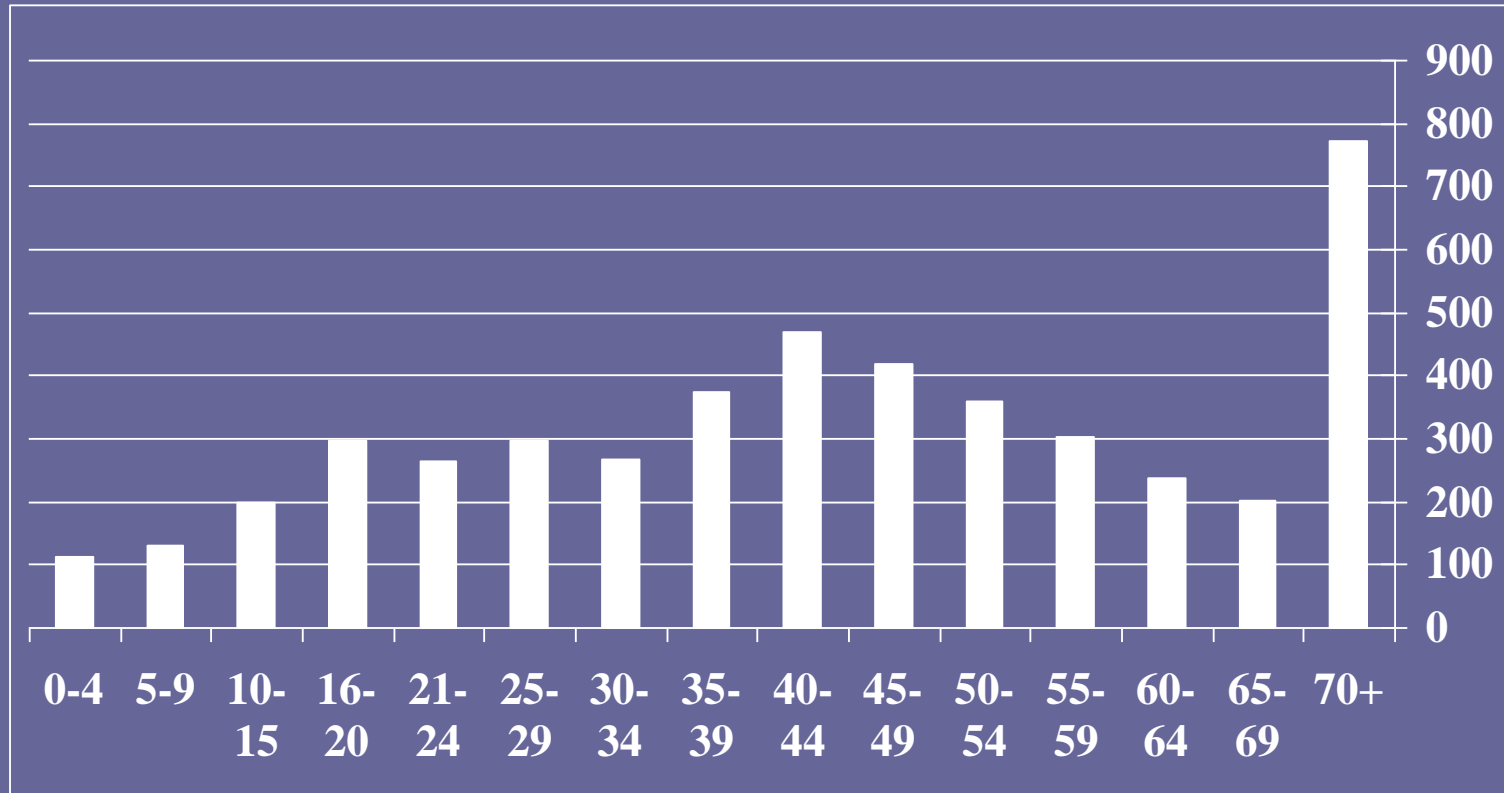
Crashes per 100,000 drivers



(Source NCSA, 2005)



# Pedestrian Fatalities by Age



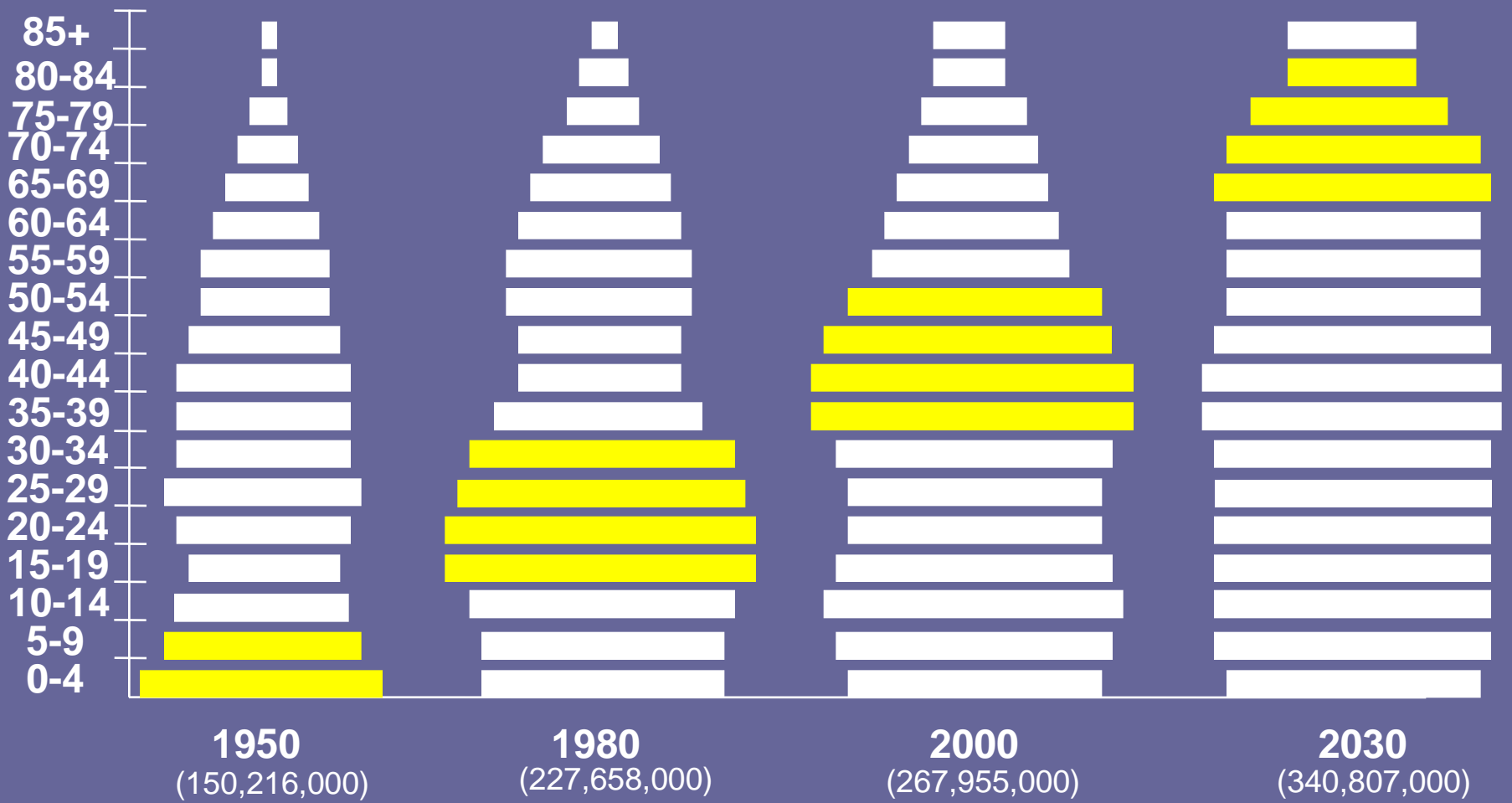
Source NCSA, 2004



# US Population By Segment

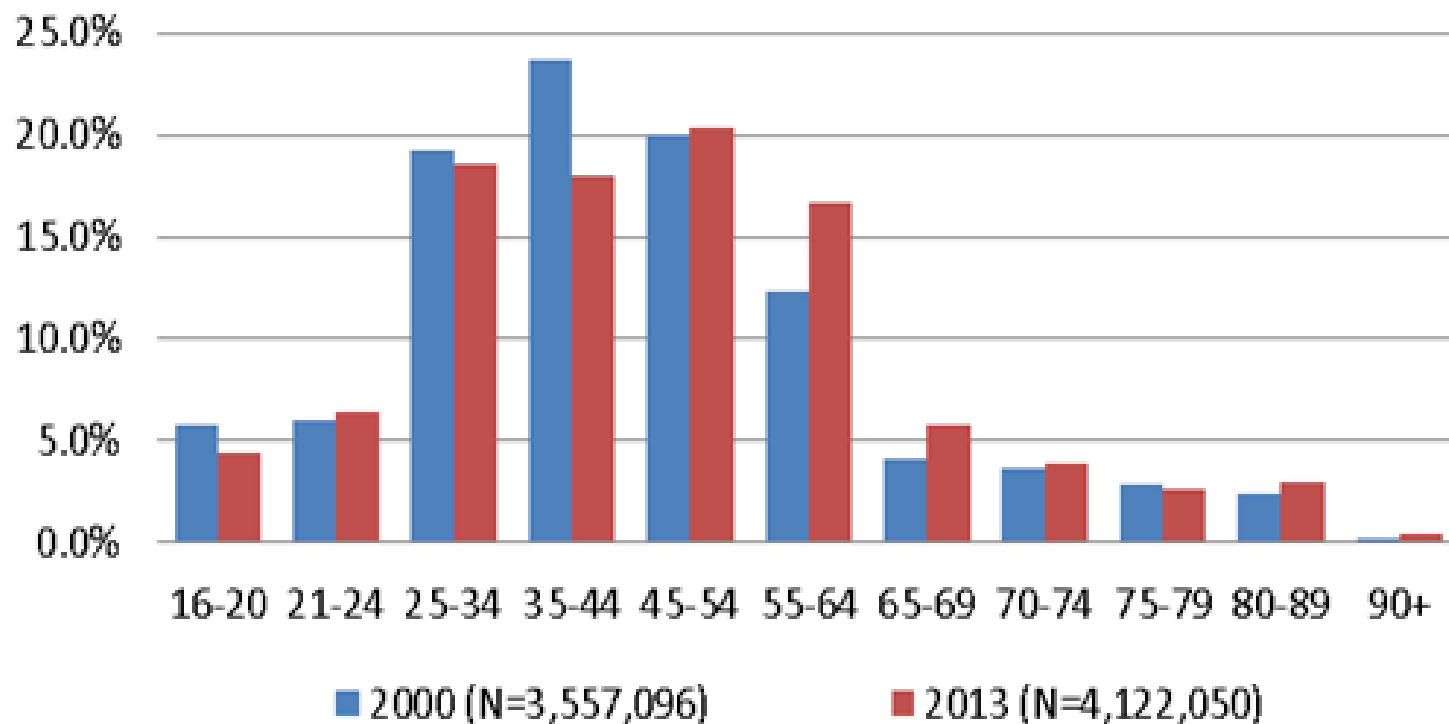
## (Squaring the U.S. Population Pyramid 1950-2030)

Age



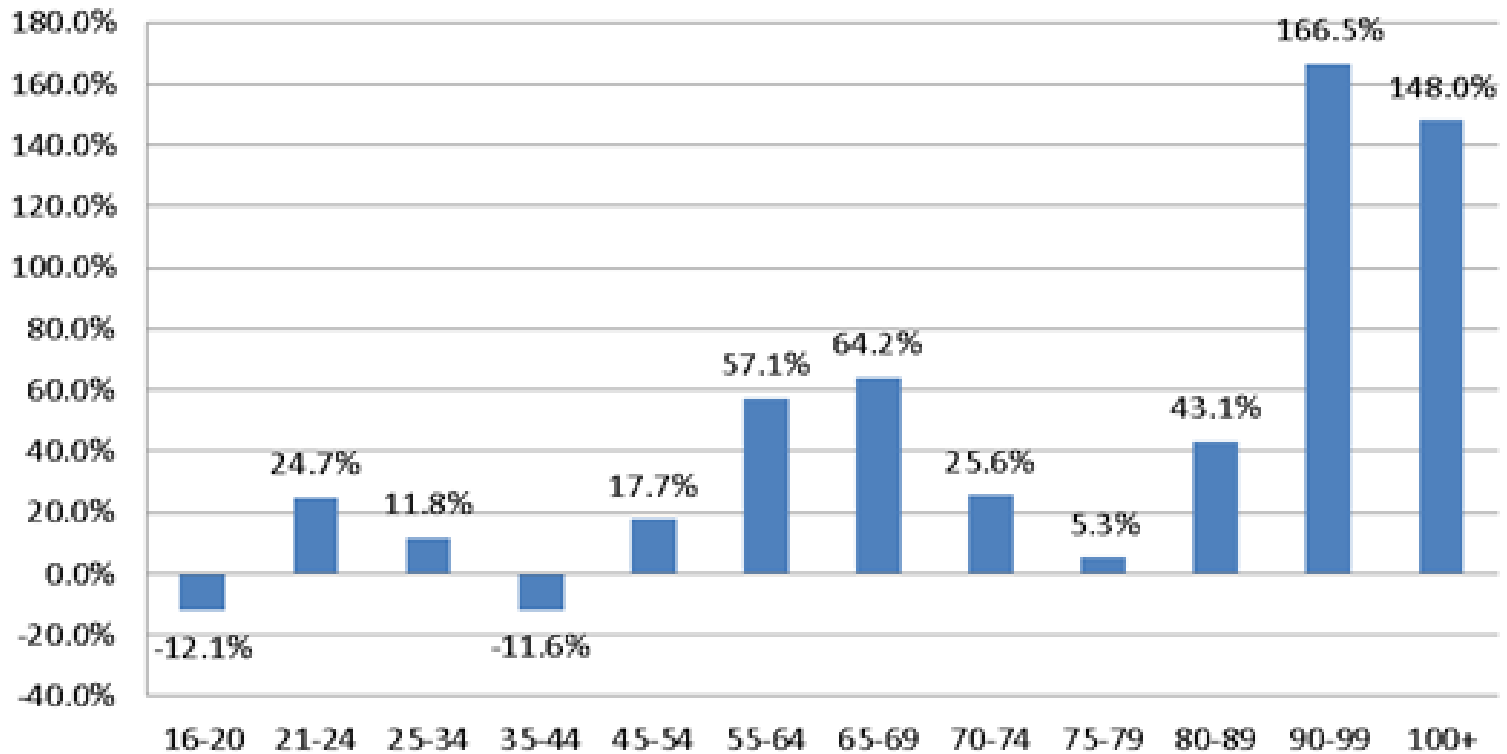


## Maryland Licensed Driving Population By age: 2000 compared to 2013



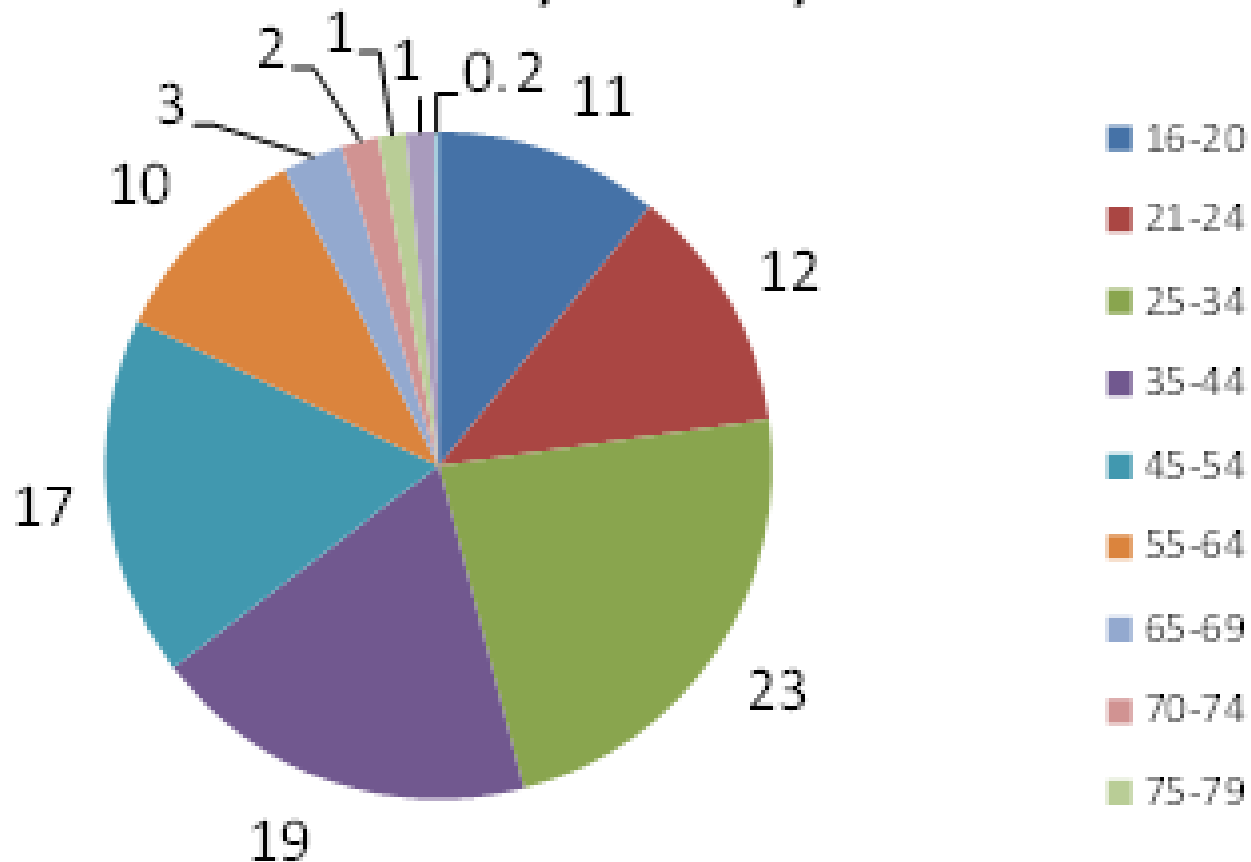


## Licensed Drivers by Age - Percentage of Change 2000-2013



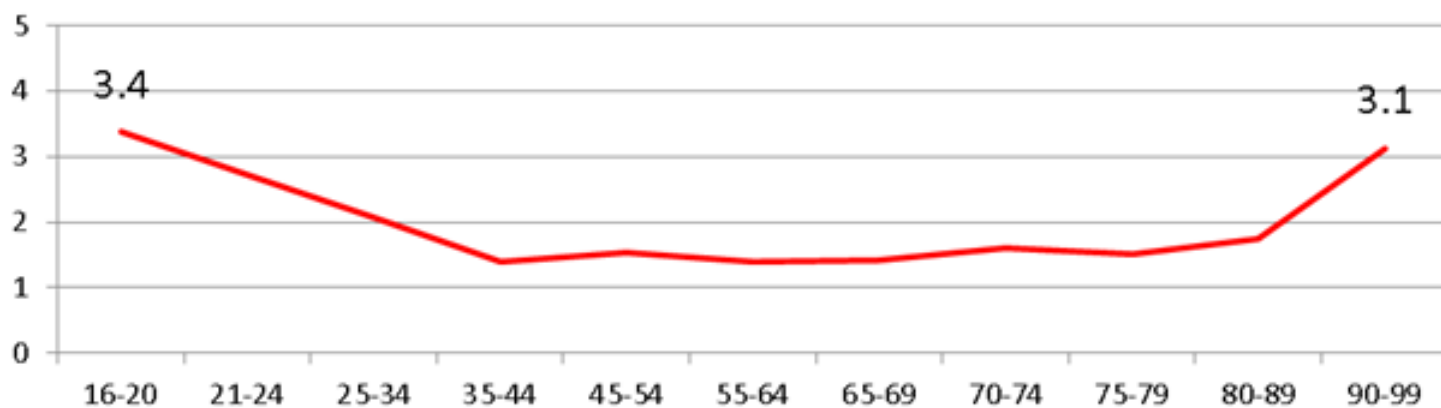
## Crashes in Maryland for older drivers

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



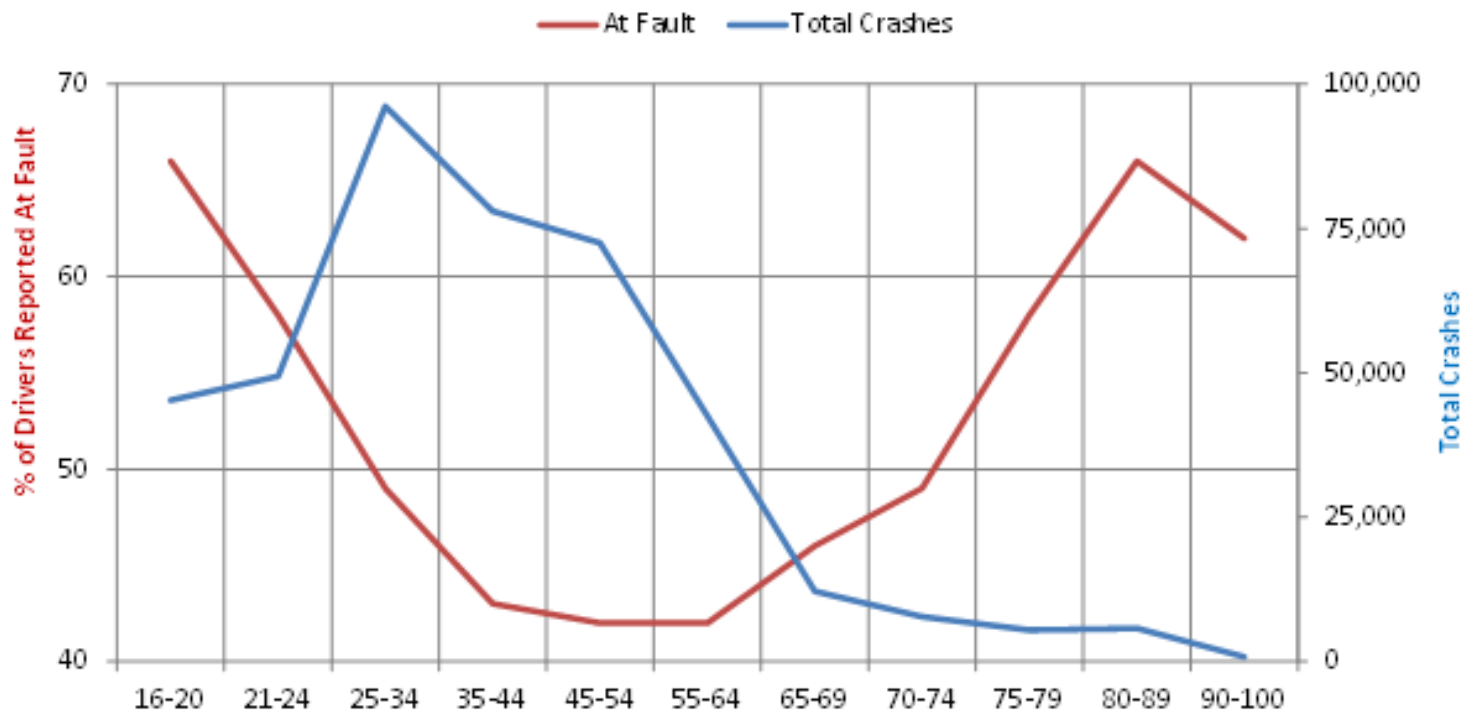


### Fatal Crash Rate per 10,000 Licensed Drivers by Age, 2009-2011





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



- 

# Dena Kline Disappearance



# Law Enforcement Role

- A source for helpful aging driver information
- Document traffic stops
- Identify and refer at-risk drivers to MVA





# Remember

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



# Testing Your Aging IQ ...

**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 issues officers are presented with.



# Another Question...

**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.**



# Just a Few More...

## 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 IQ of Aging...

## True or False:

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

True & 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 Assoc. estimates that 4 million suffer from the disease.



**OK, this is it...**

**True or False:**

**Law Enforcement as a whole shows no bias towards older drivers.**

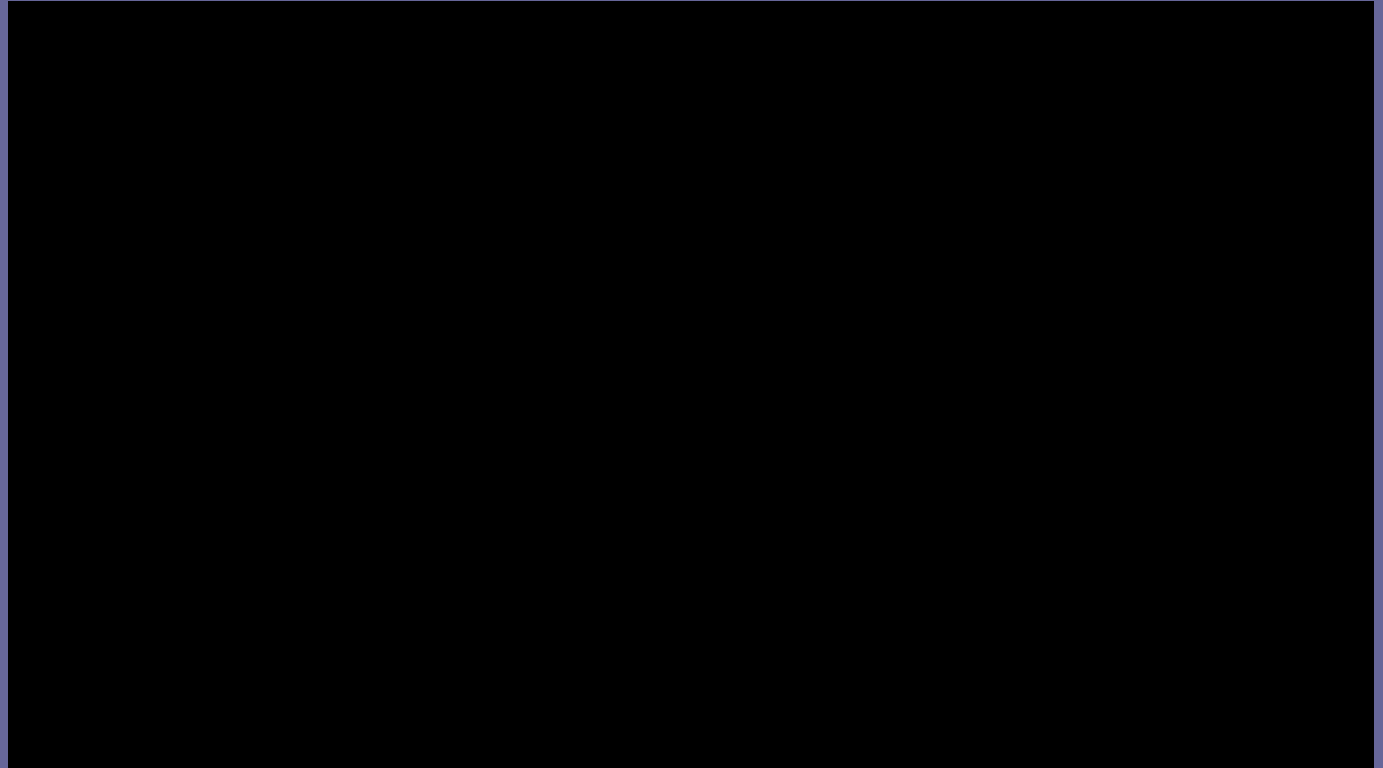
**False – Officers often fail to take appropriate action or document encounters with older drivers.**





# Older Driver Traffic Stops

# Video



**Deputy Hit & Run Accident –  
78 yr old driver**



# The Importance of Stopping Traffic Violators

- What is bias-based policing?
- Who do officers tend to stop?
- What is the philosophy & mission of law enforcement?



# 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
- Are you 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?**



## DRIVER ORIENTATION SCREEN FOR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (DOSCI)

### RULE OUT

- Intoxication from alcohol, prescription medication, illicit drugs, or other impairing substances
- Urgent medical conditions

**Ask ALL 9 Questions: Subtract one point for each incorrect response.**

1. **What is your date of birth?** (-1pt.)  
Fecha de nacimiento  
Month, day, and year required; must match documents.
2. **What is your full home address?** (-1pt.)  
Su dirección (número, calle, ciudad, estado)  
Address provided must match document; if not, prompt for address listed on documents.
3. **What state are we in now?** (-1pt.)  
¿En que estado se encuentra usted, en este momento?
4. **What city/town are we in now?** (-1pt.)  
¿En que ciudad se encuentra usted, en este momento?
5. **Without looking at your watch, can you estimate what time it is now?** (-1pt.)  
¿Sin mirar su reloj, puede decirme aproximadamente que hora es?  
Answer provided must be plus or minus one hour of correct time.
6. **What day of the week is it?** (-1pt.)  
¿Que día de la semana, es hoy?
- 7-9. **What is today's date?**  
¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy?  
Prompt for month, day and year if needed.
  - **Month (Mes):** (-1pt.)
  - **Day (Día):** (-1pt.)
  - **Year (Año):** (-1pt.)

### SCORING CRITERIA

- |                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>5 or more incorrect</b> | → | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority</b> re-exam</li> <li>• Unsafe to drive; refer to department procedures for alternative transportation and vehicle removal</li> </ul> |
| <b>3-4 Incorrect</b>       | → | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regular</b> or <b>Priority</b> re-exam</li> <li>• Potentially unsafe to drive; consider totality of circumstances</li> </ul>                  |
| <b>0-2 Incorrect</b>       | → | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Referral</b> or <b>Regular</b> re-exam based on totality of circumstances</li> </ul>   |

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO ASSIST IN EVALUATION

- **Where are you coming from and where you are going?**  
¿De dónde viene y a dónde va?
- **Will you please spell your name?**  
Por favor deletree su nombre
- **Do you have an emergency contact? What is the name and phone number?**  
¿Tiene un contacto de emergencia? ¿Cuál es su nombre y número de teléfono?





Example of  
Instructor/Student  
Interactive  
Older Driver Scenario  
(Module 3)

# 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 do officers not write citations or RRE's?**





# Importance of Documenting?

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

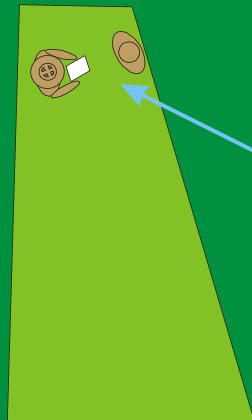
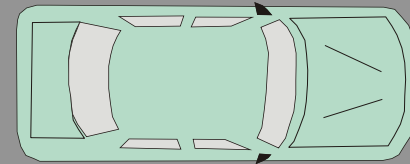
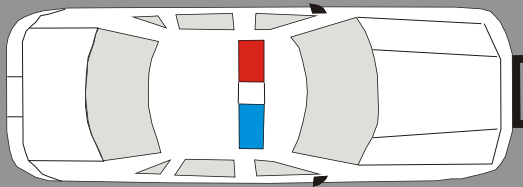


# Special Concerns

- **Officer safety is paramount**
- **More officers killed during traffic stops than by felonious assaults**
- **Offenders of all ages have assaulted & murdered police officers**
- **Be aware of medical conditions that may cause individuals to react violently**



# SAFER ZONE



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



# Referrals



# Reexamination Request

Use the form MVA Form **AJ-039**

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



# TREDS Video





# Physical Function "Mr. Smith"



# Vision

## "Mrs. Jones"



# **Reexamination Request**

- **Avoid reciting only violation codes or statute and ordinance numbers**
- **DO NOT use of jargon or slang**



# Discussions

- Give us your thoughts/concerns:
  - What do you need?
  - What will make your actions easier?
  - What information is missing?



# 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 Driver Improvement Programs

- **Some drivers need practice or rehabilitation to drive safely**
- **Driving Improvement Programs are good community resources**



# Older Driver Community Relations Programs



## Partners include:

- Law enforcement management
- Line officers
- The community

# Action Plan Worksheet

- Consider the following:
  - Personal interactions
  - Policy needs
  - Management concerns
  - Public information needs



# Course Summary

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





# Questions



**Thank you for your attention.**

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