

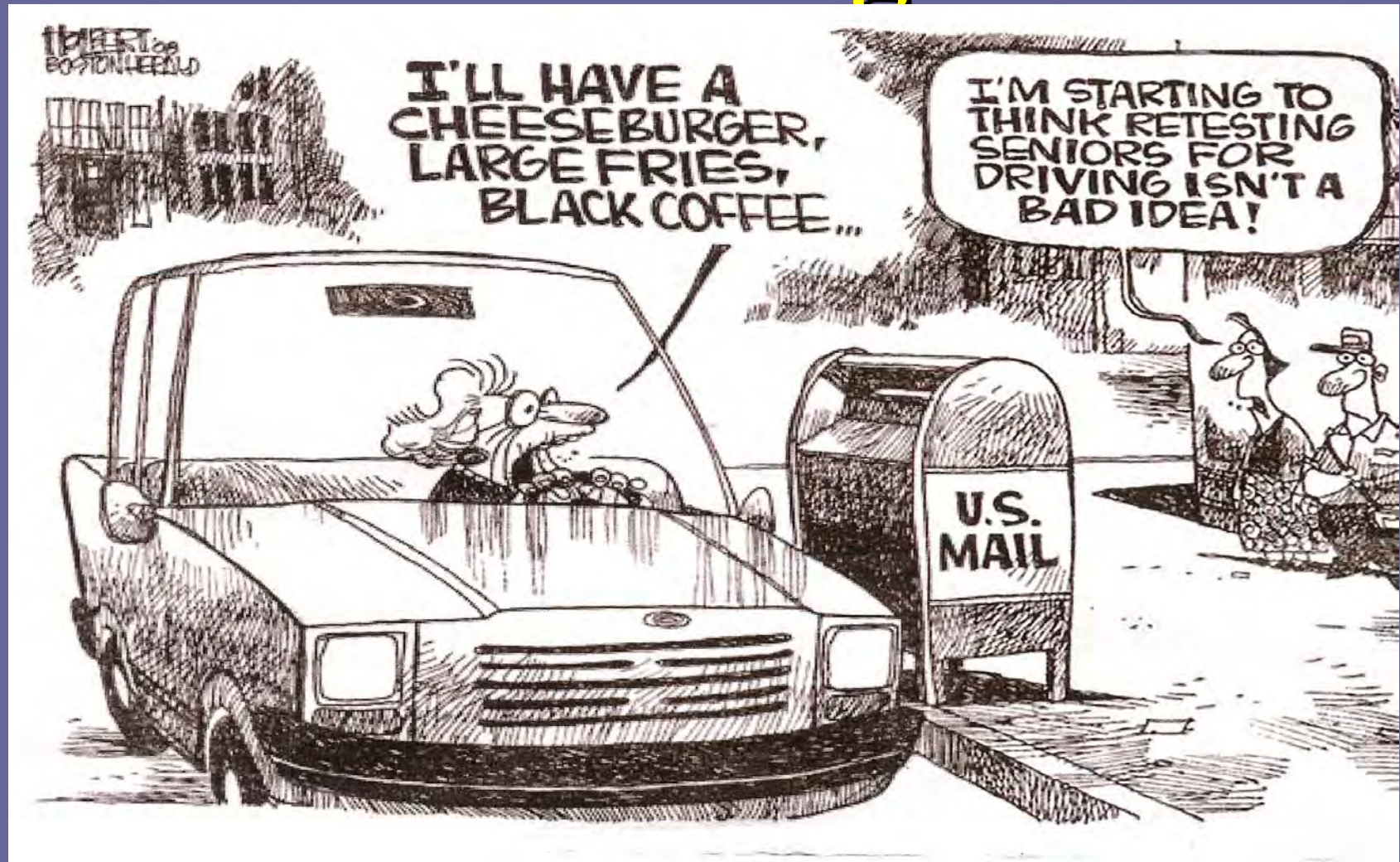
# Older Driver Law Enforcement Workshop





# Minnesota Partnership for Safe Mobility

# Is this what the public is thinking?



# Purpose

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



# Why did these crashes happen?

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS, BY PERCENT, WITHIN DRIVER AGE GROUPS, 2001

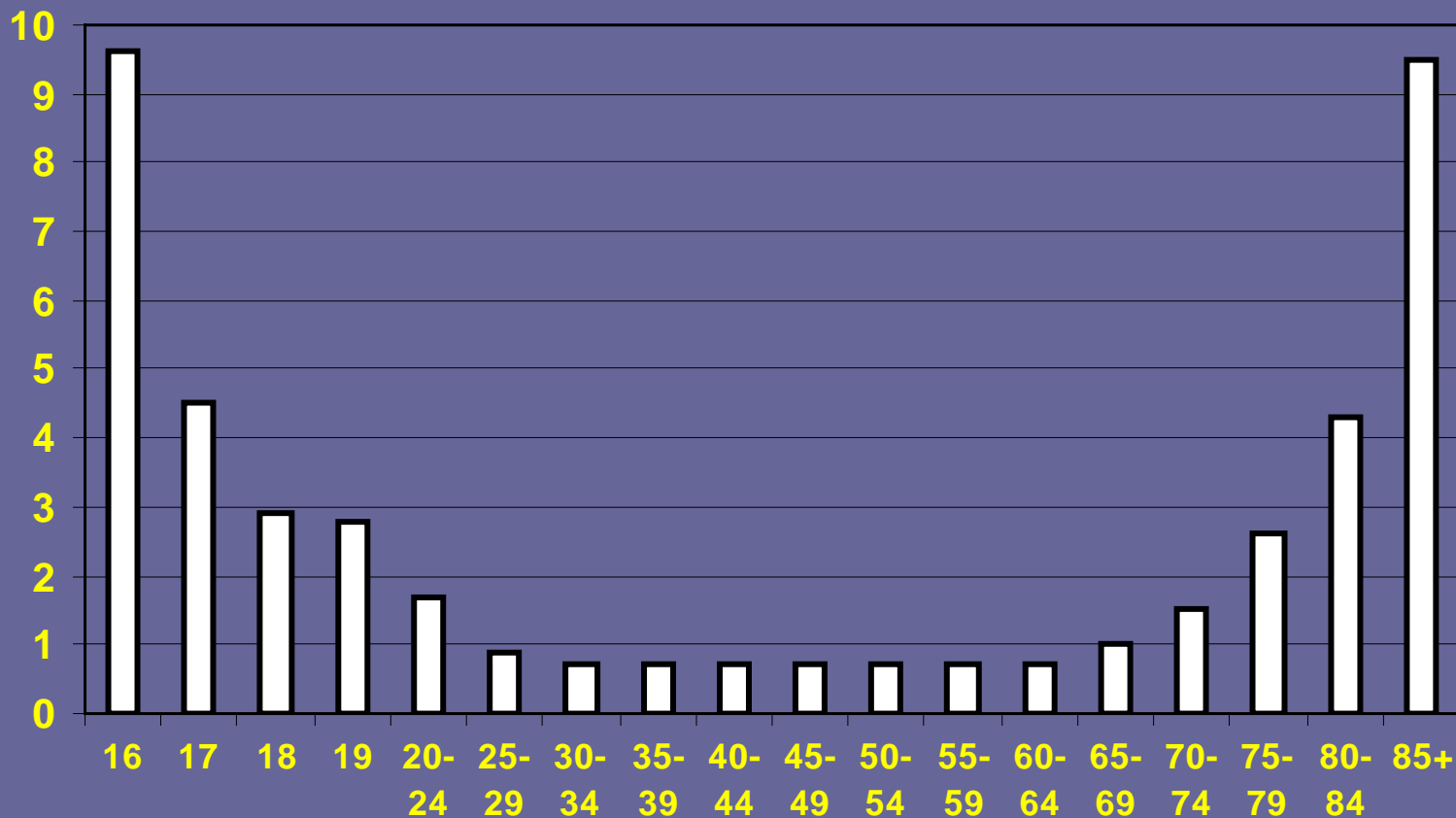
Contributing Factor	Age Group							All Ages
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-64	65-79	80+	
<b>Human Factors</b>								
Illegal/Unsafe Speed	24.3	25.6	24.7	23.7	20.2	12.2	7.4	22.2
Driver Inattention/Distraction	18.3	17.3	17.3	18.2	17.6	20.4	29.6	18.1
Physical Impairment	5.2	11.7	10.6	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.0	8.5
Driver Inexperience	17.0	4.1	3.2	2.4	1.8	1.0	0.8	5.9
Improper/Unsafe Lane Use	2.3	4.0	4.5	3.2	3.4	3.5	7.1	4.6
Failure to Yield Right of Way	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.7	3.8	6.1	2.4
Unsafe Backing	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.6	2.8	5.6	2.0
Vision Obscured	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	2.0	4.1	3.2	1.5
Improper Turn	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.2
Driving Left of Center--Not Passing	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.6	1.0
Improper Passing/Overtaking	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.8
Improper Parking/Starting/Stopping	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.8	1.8	0.7
Disregard for Traffic Control Device	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.7
Following Too Closely	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.4
Driver on CB Radio or Cell Phone	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Impeding Traffic	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Failure to Use Lights	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Other Human Factors	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	6.2	7.9	2.9
<b>Vehicular Factors</b>								
Skidding	8.0	7.5	8.3	8.2	9.0	6.3	3.4	7.6
Defective Equipment	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.7	0.5	1.2
Other Vehicular Factor	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.0
<b>Miscellaneous Factors</b>								
Weather	8.8	11.3	11.7	13.6	14.9	14.1	4.5	11.2
Other	4.2	4.6	5.4	5.1	6.5	6.7	5.6	6.0

# Objective

**After completing this course, you will be able to:**

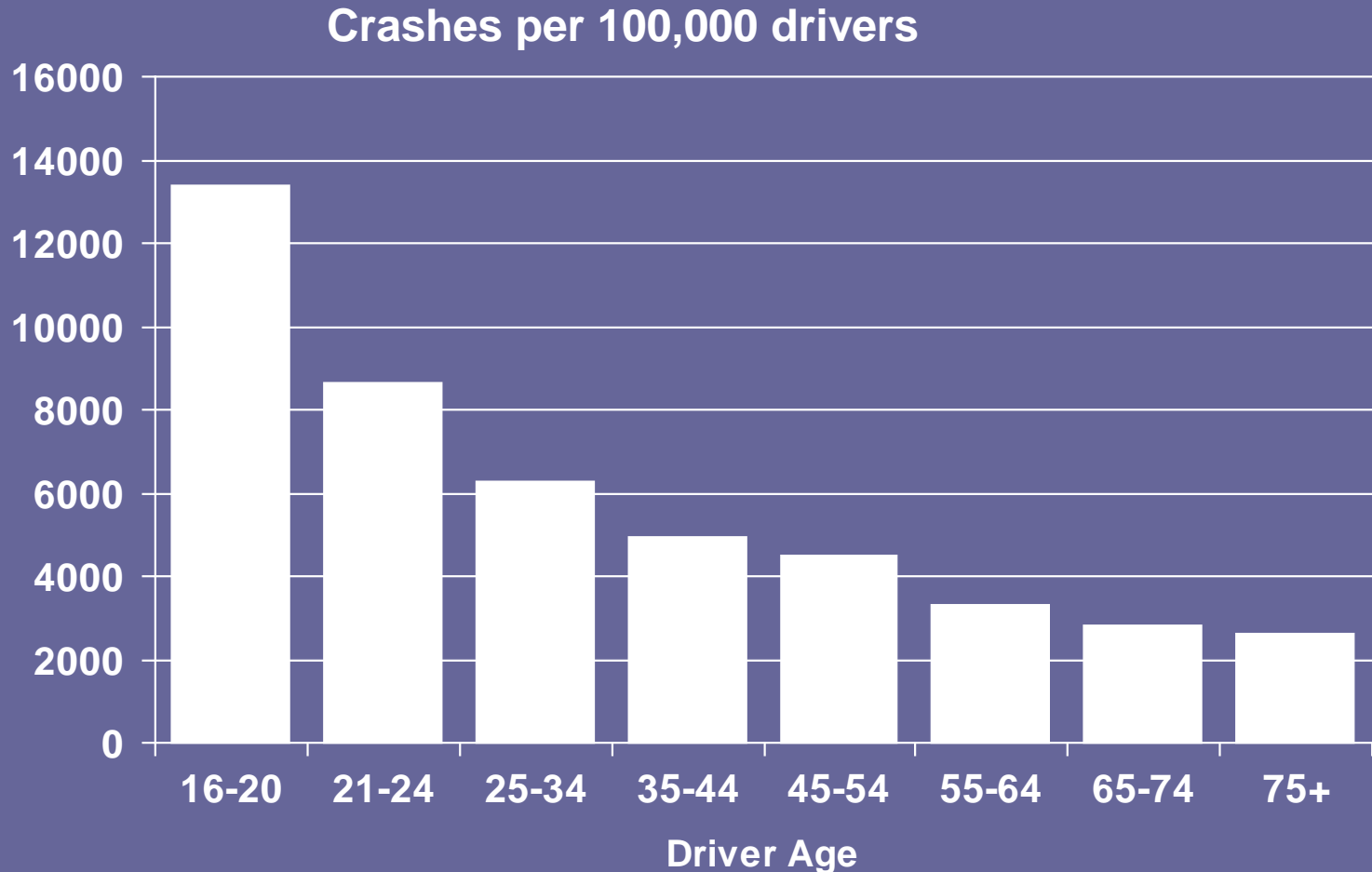
- **Discuss how the aging process affects older drivers.**
- **Discuss effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.**
- **Discuss appropriate referral options available for older drivers.**

# Driver Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)



Source: FARS 2001 and NHTSA 2001

# Crashes per Licensed Driver

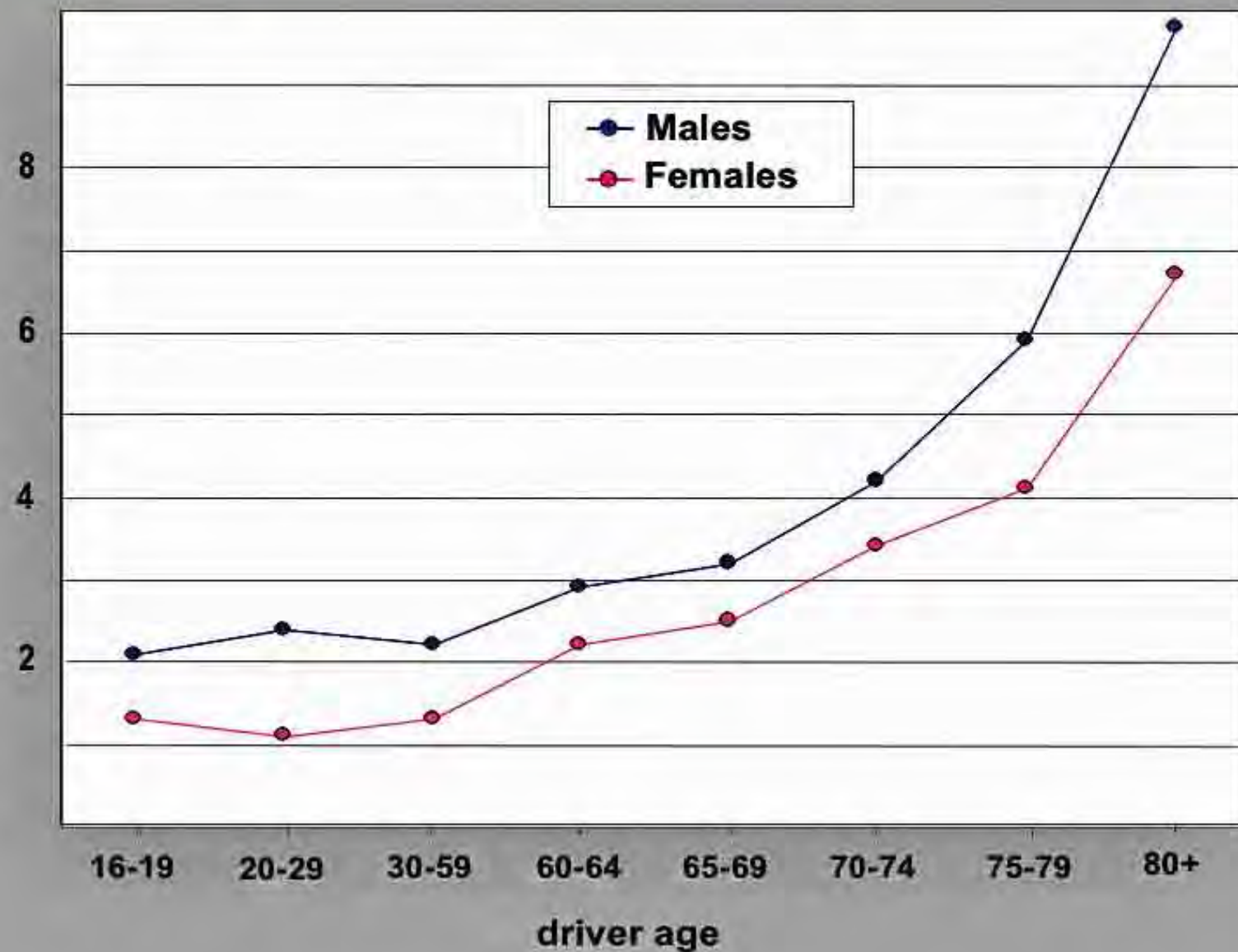


(Source NCSA, 2005)



# Driver deaths per 1,000 crashes

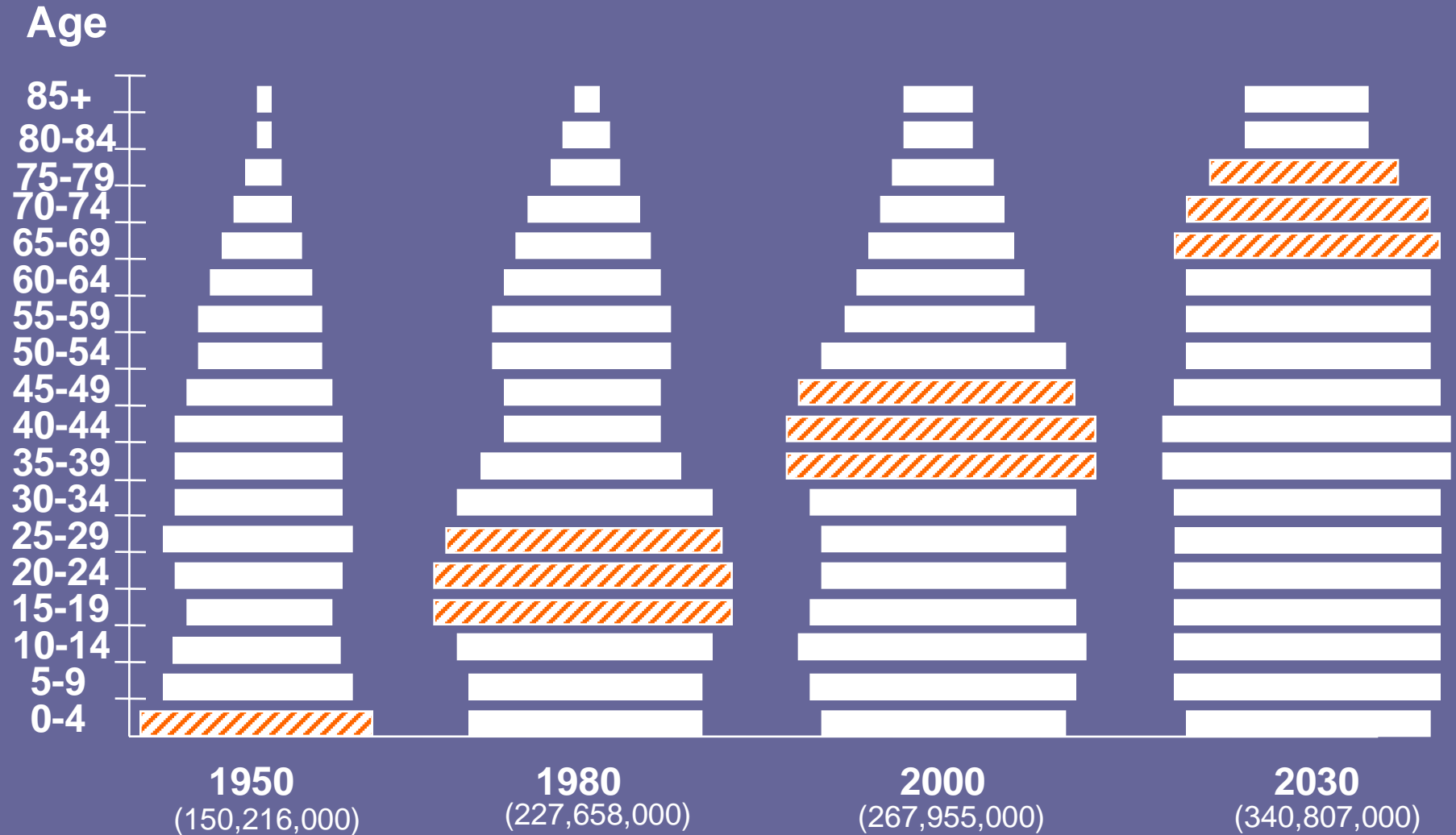
By age and gender, FARS, GES 1999-2003





# US Population By Segment

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

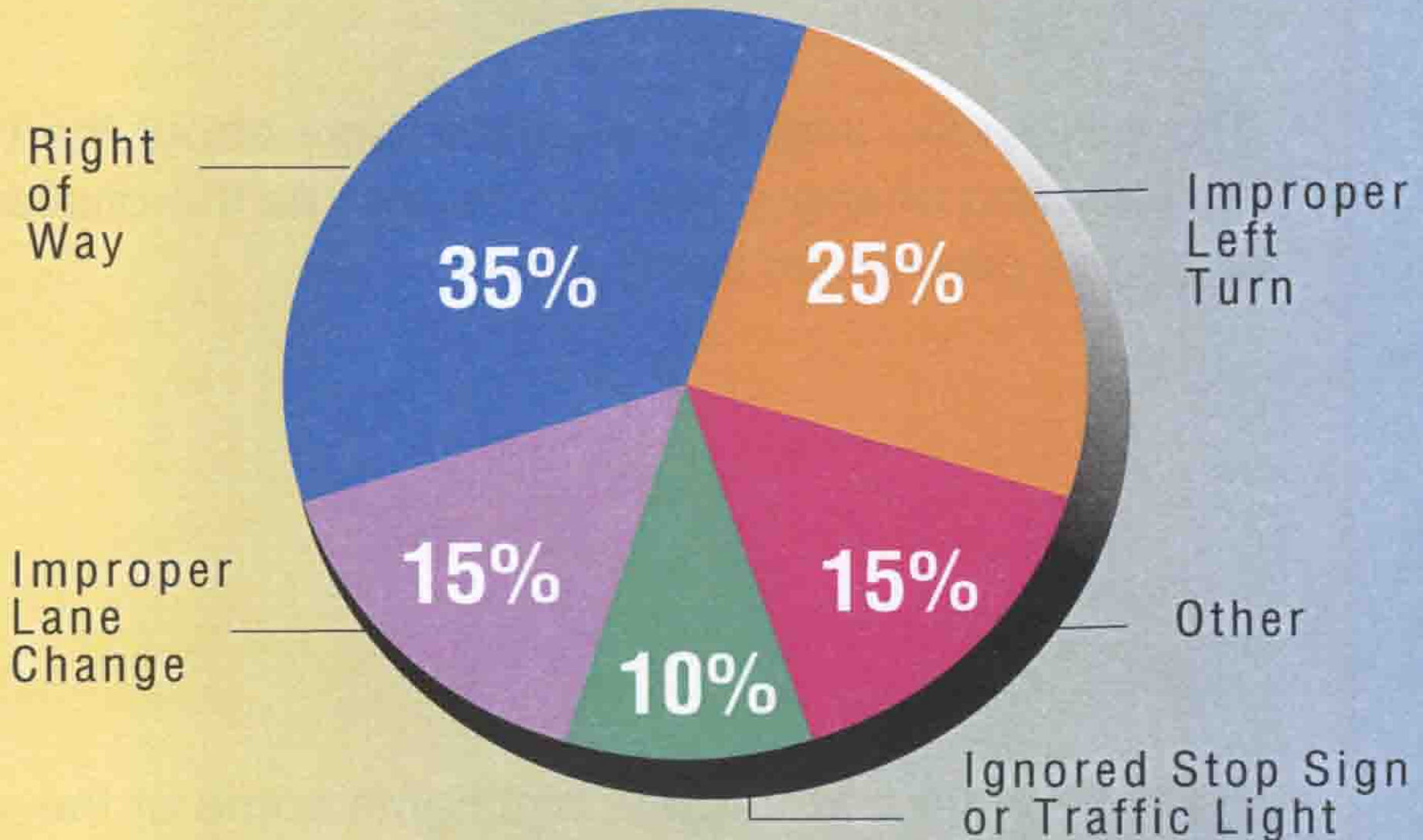


# **Law Enforcement Mission**

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

# VIOLATIONS FOR DRIVERS

*Age 55 and Over*



# 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:**

**All older persons 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.**

**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 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



# *Approaching Others About Driving Retirement*

- ***Warning Signs of Unsafe Driving:***
  - *Not using signals correctly*
  - *Hesitating while making turns*
  - *Difficulty moving into the correct lane of traffic*
  - *Trouble judging gaps in traffic on highway entrance/exit ramps*
  - *Parking inappropriately*
  - *Hitting curbs when making right turns or backing up*
  - *Driving too fast or too slow for road conditions*
  - *Delayed responses to unexpected situations*



# *Approaching Others About Driving Retirement*

- **Warning Signs of Unsafe Driving:**
  - Failing to recognize dangerous situations
  - Becoming more agitated or irritated when driving
  - Scrapes or dents on car, garage, or mailbox
  - Getting lost more often
  - More frequent close calls
  - Being warned or ticketed for moving violations
  - Vehicle crashes (several “fender benders”)
  - Trouble moving foot from gas pedal to brake pedal
  - Unpredictable stopping in traffic

# 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

- Confused about brake vs. gas pedal
- Driving too slowly
- Disoriented
- Vehicle Crash
- Inconsistent Speed



# At The Stop

**Does the driver:**

**have difficulty communicating  
stumble over words?**

**ramble in short, unattached, meaningless sentences  
or explanations of their driving ability?**

**Is the driver's clothing:**

**disheveled?**

**non-matching?**

**incomplete or too much for existing weather  
conditions?**

# **DWI 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?
- Damage to vehicle-old or new?



# Why Document the Traffic Stop?

- Document all traffic stops in writing (citation or warning)
- Written history
- Important to law enforcement agency; licensing authority; driver's family/physician
- Tracking history to determine potential unsafe developing patterns

# **Special Concerns During the Stop**

- **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**

# Communicating

- **Don't belittle**
- **Speak clearly and slowly**
- **Don't correct them**
- **Be firm**
- **Explain what they need to do**

# Completing the Reexamination Request

Use the form required

- **REPORT specific BEHAVIORS you observed**
  - **Physical impairment)s**
  - **Mental impairment**
- **Avoid reciting only violation codes or statute and ordinance numbers**
- **Avoid use of jargon or slang**



DRIVER AND VEHICLE SERVICES  
 DRIVER EVALUATION UNIT  
 445 MINNESOTA ST., SUITE 170  
 ST. PAUL, MN 55101-5170



**REQUEST FOR EXAMINATION OF DRIVER**

FIRST NAME OF DRIVER \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of incident Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of incident \_\_\_\_\_

Was an accident involved?  YES  NO Was the driver given a citation?  YES  NO

If yes, what was citation for? \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY AND DESCRIBE BELOW.**

- General physical/health problems
- Diabetic loss of consciousness or voluntary control
- Vision problem
- Lack of physical driving skills
- Violation of "ANY USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUG INVALIDATES LICENSE" restriction (please attach report verifying alcohol/drug use)
- Mental or emotional problem (including road rage, memory loss, etc.)
- Loss of consciousness or voluntary control (seizures)
- Lack of knowledge of traffic laws
- Other

**SUMMARY – DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE DRIVING ACTIONS OR CONDITIONS THAT BROUGHT THIS DRIVER TO YOUR ATTENTION. WHY DO YOU FEEL THIS DRIVER SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED? PLEASE ATTACH ANY PERTINENT REPORTS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE DRIVER EVALUATOR.**

**AGE ALONE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED GOOD CAUSE FOR RE-EXAMINATION.**

\_\_\_\_\_

<i>I therefore submit this information to the Driver Evaluation Unit as good cause for re-examination of this driver under Minnesota Statute 171.13.</i>		Date
Signature and title of Officer	Badge Number	Phone Number
Law Enforcement Agency MN State Patrol		City

PS 31924-04



# 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

- **Senior Linkage Line**
  - **1.800.333.2433**
- **[www.MinnesotaHelp.Info](http://www.MinnesotaHelp.Info)**
- **Alzheimer's Association**
- **Adult Protective Services**
- **Local Medical Organizations**





# Report to DVS

- General public reporting an at risk driver- go to
- [www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs)
- Click on AT RISK DRIVERS



# Referrals to Driver Trainers

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



# 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**

