



# The Relationship between older drivers and risk

Based on research conducted by

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Presented  
by



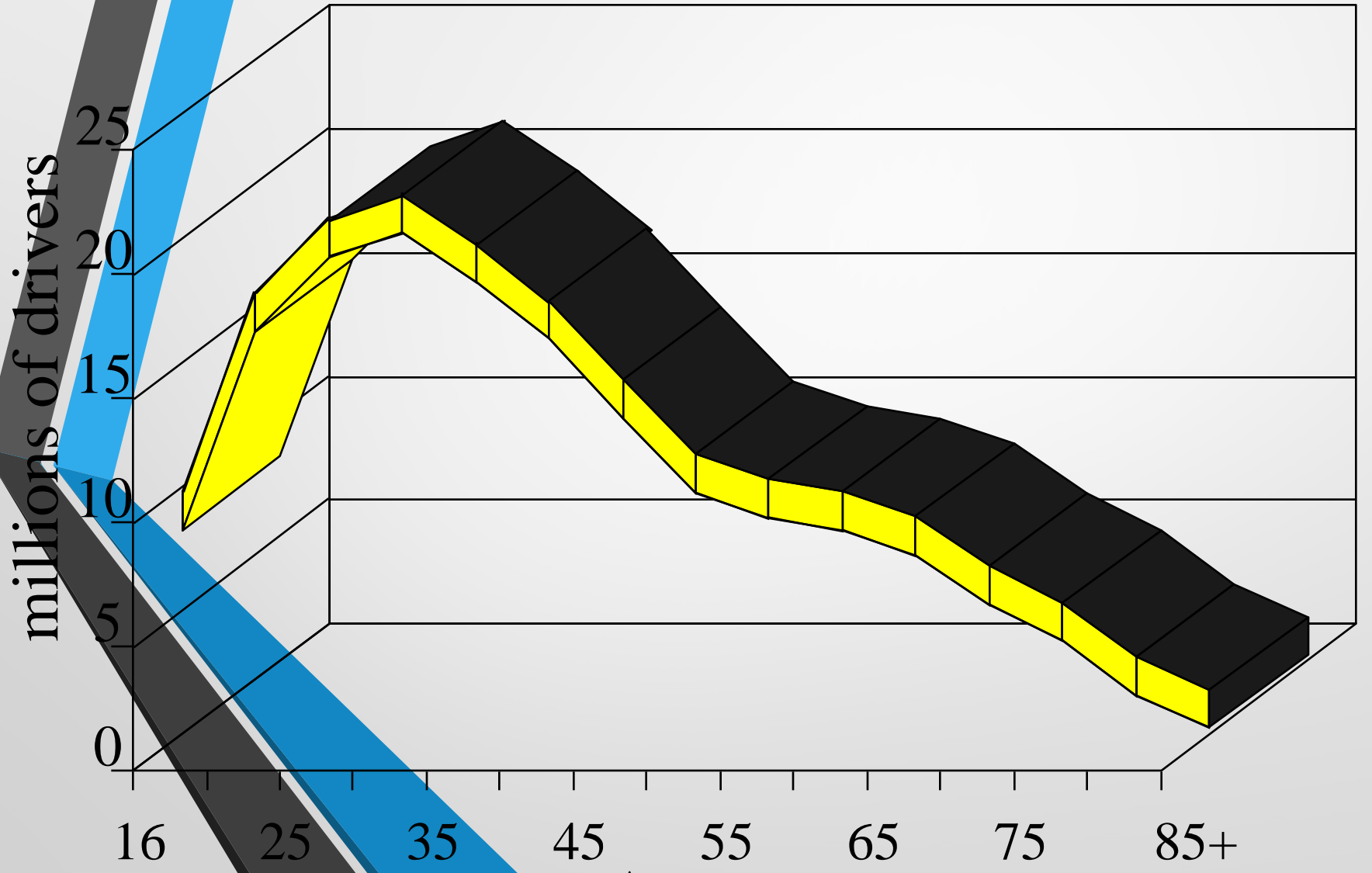
# Learning Objectives

- Understand the current evidence regarding crash risks in older drivers
- Identify the two concerns that licensing authorities seek to balance in older drivers
- Introduce the study of medical conditions as causal agents in crashes

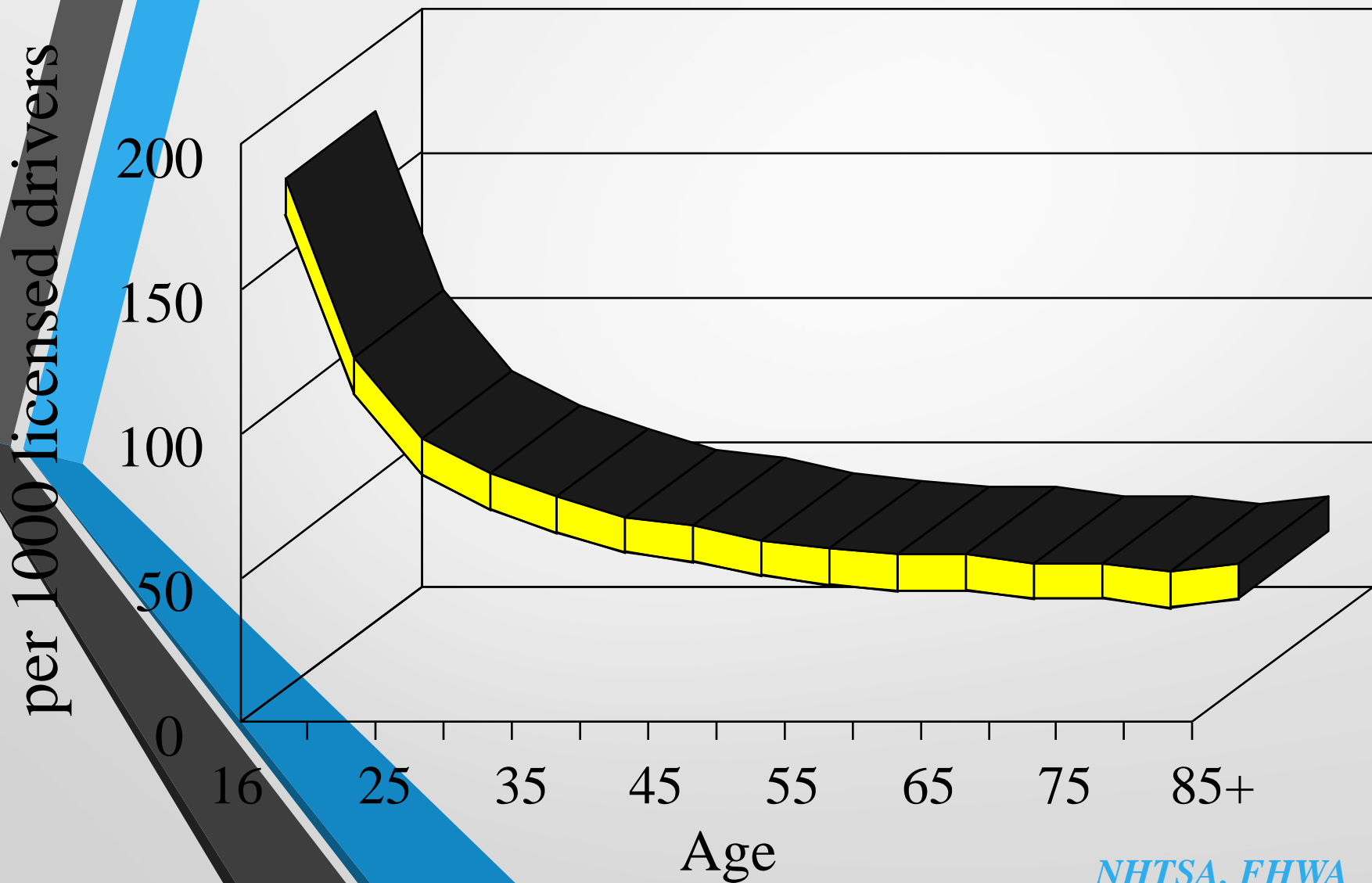
What is the crash risk related to older drivers? How important is this risk?



# Number of Licensed Drivers

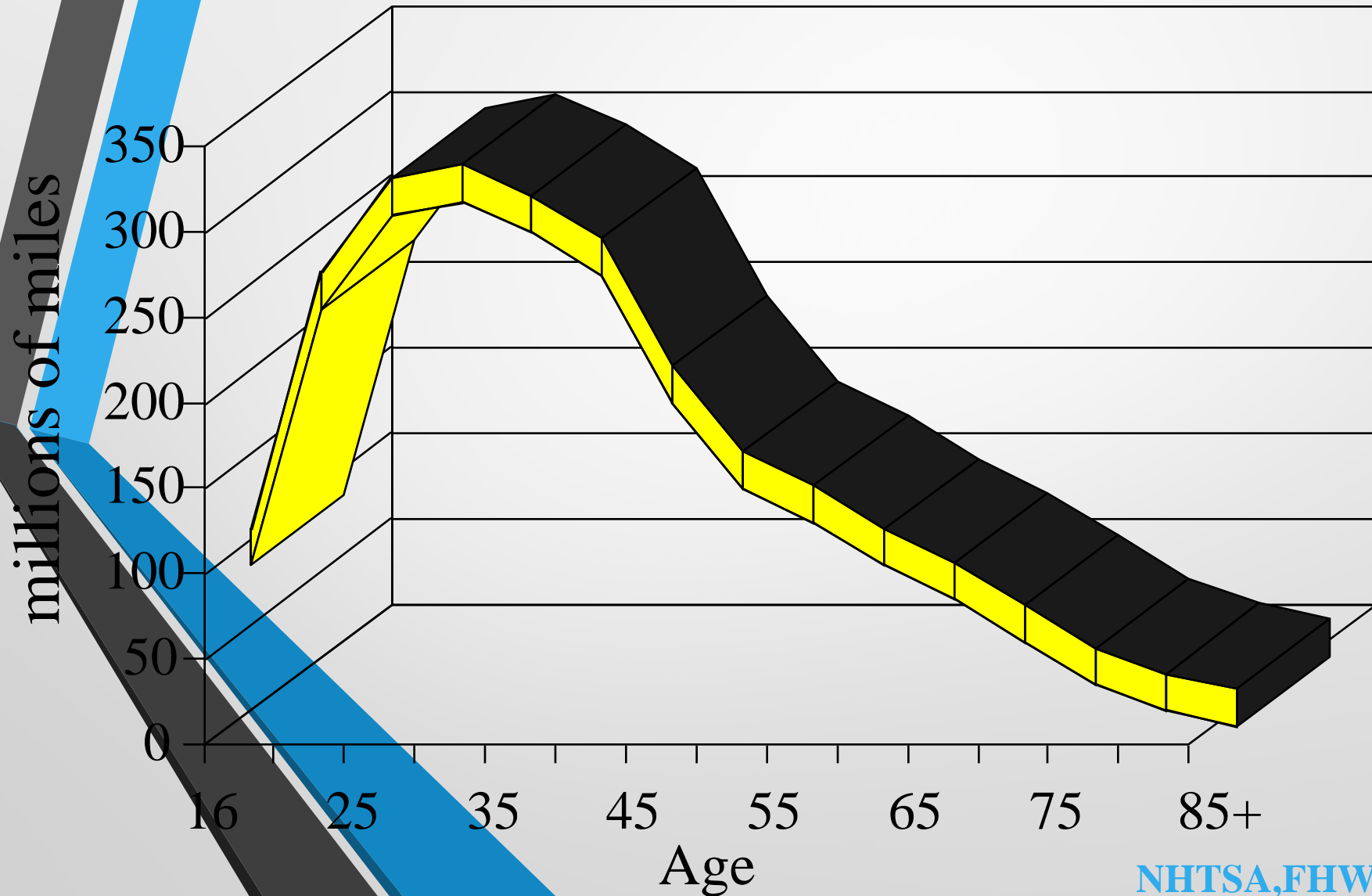


# Crash Involvement Rate

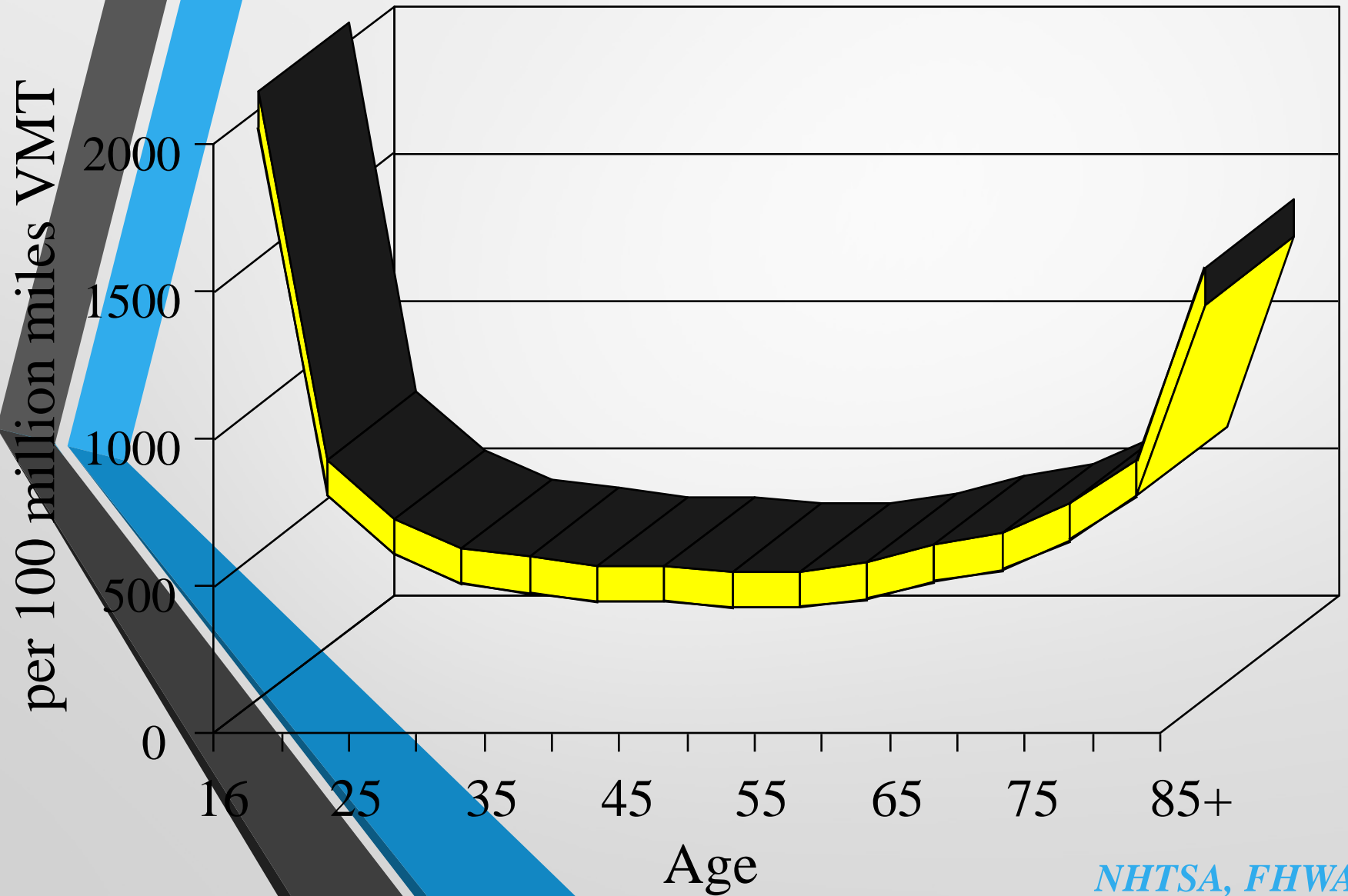


*NHTSA, FHWA*

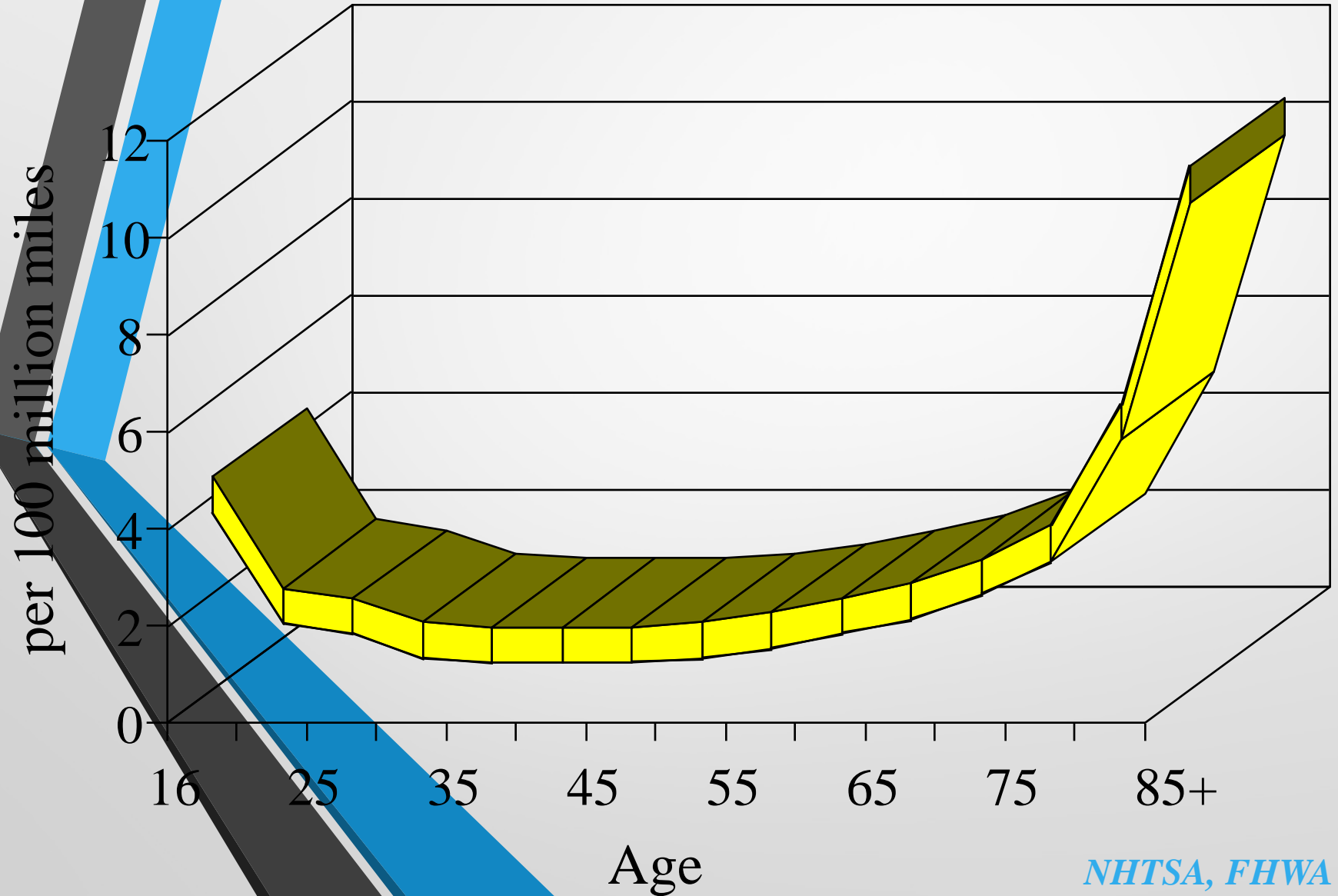
# Total Miles of Travel



# Involvement Rate by Mileage

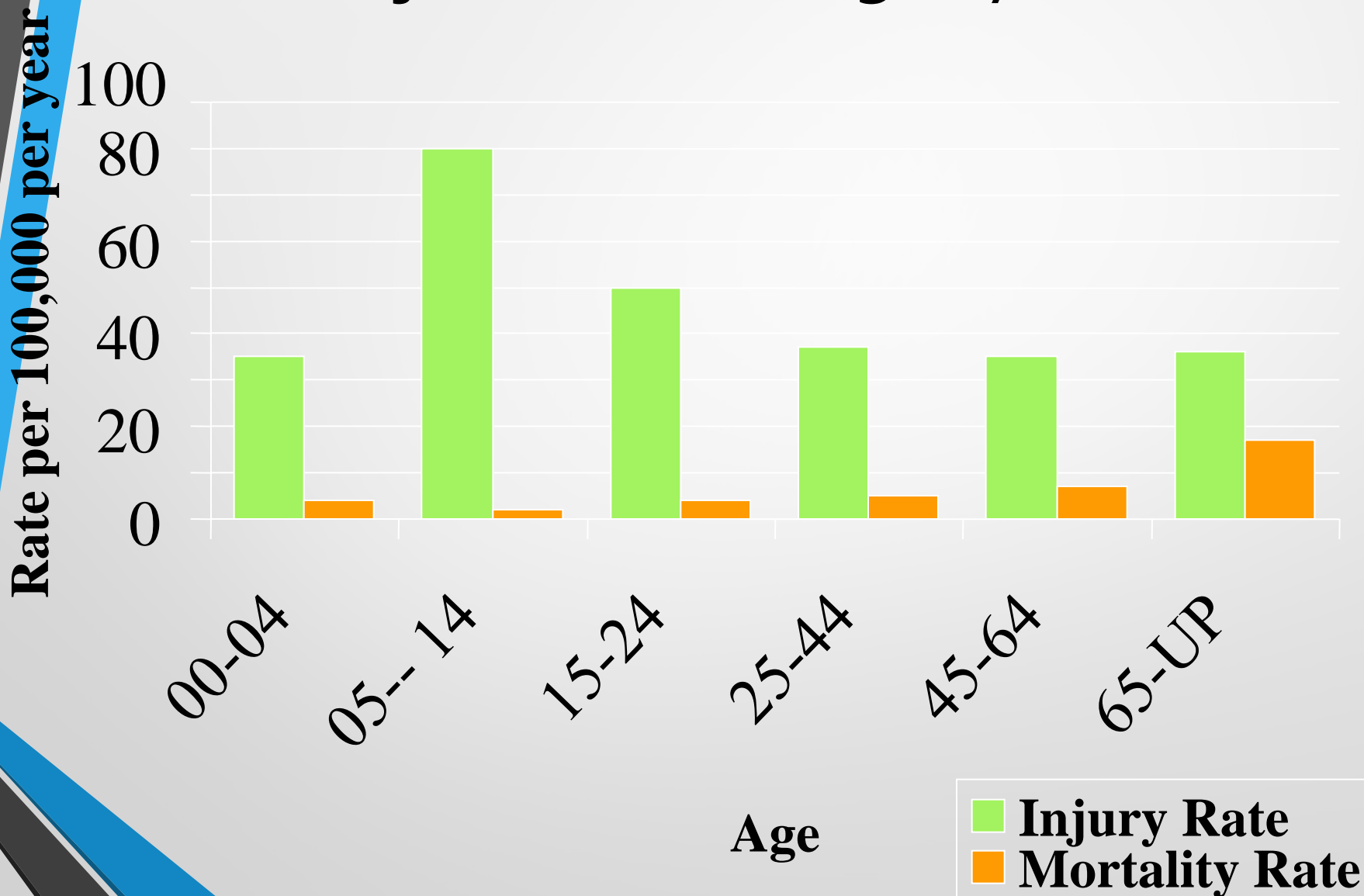


# Fatality Rate

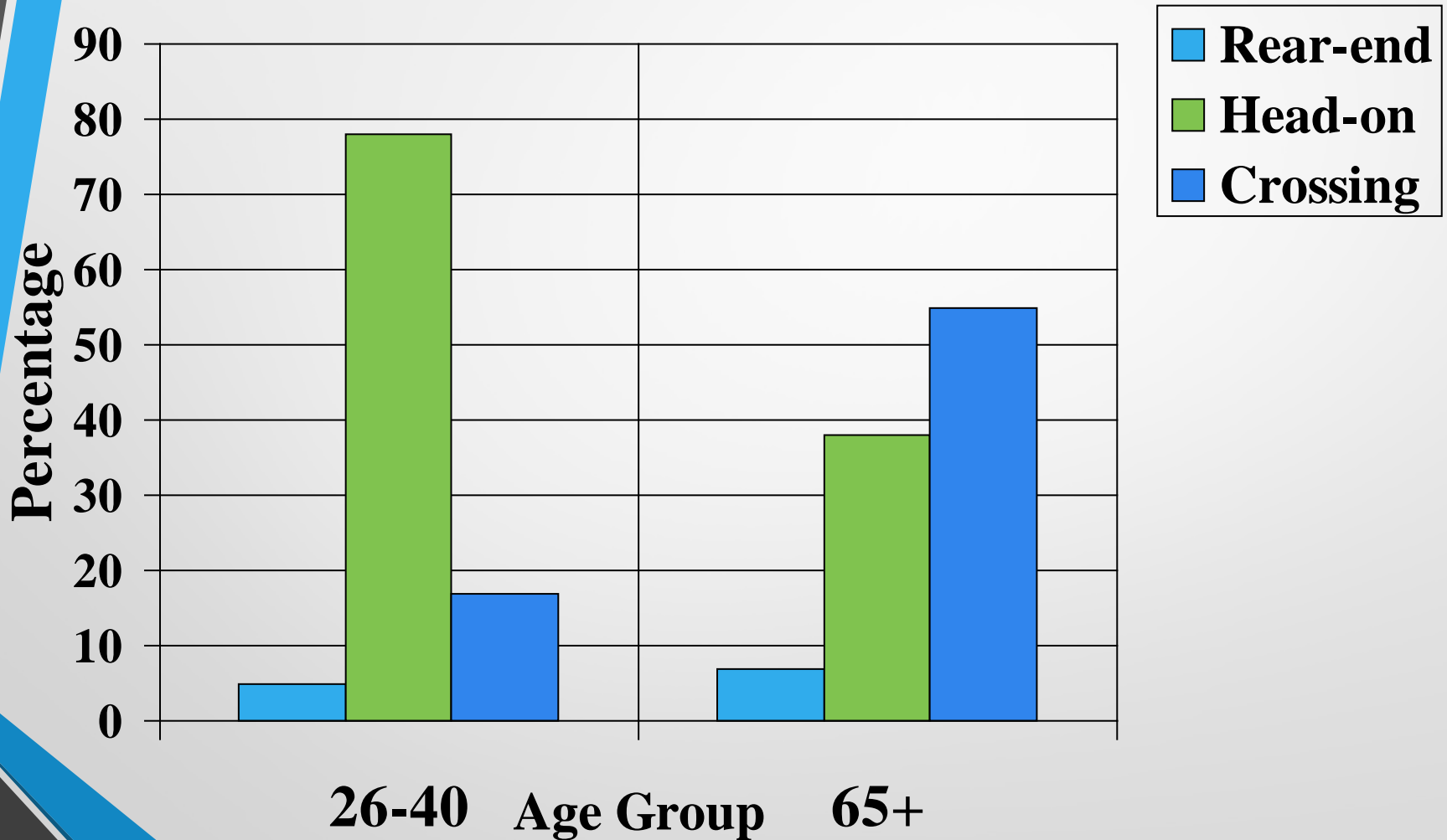




# Injuries and Fragility

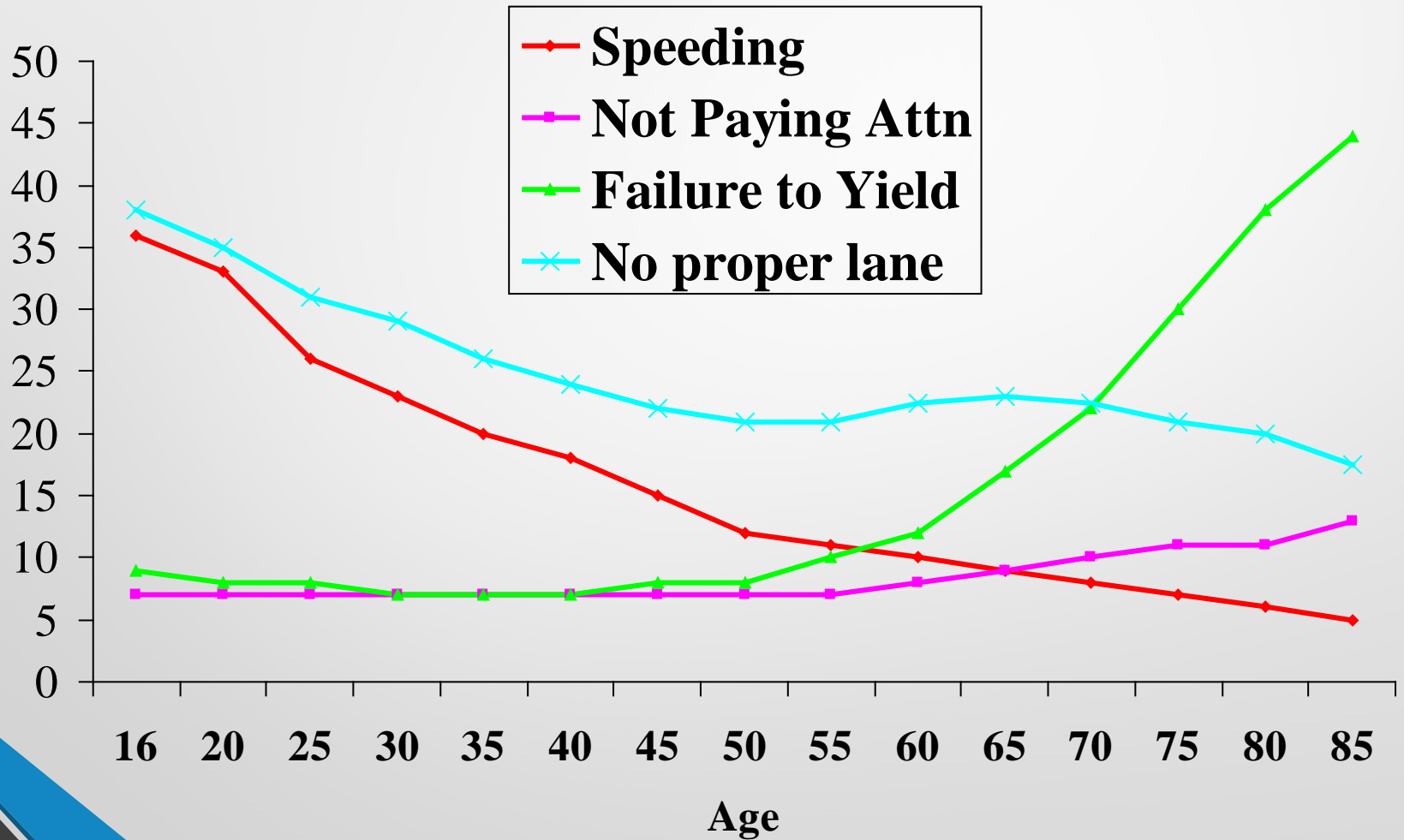


# Fatal Accidents of Older Drivers

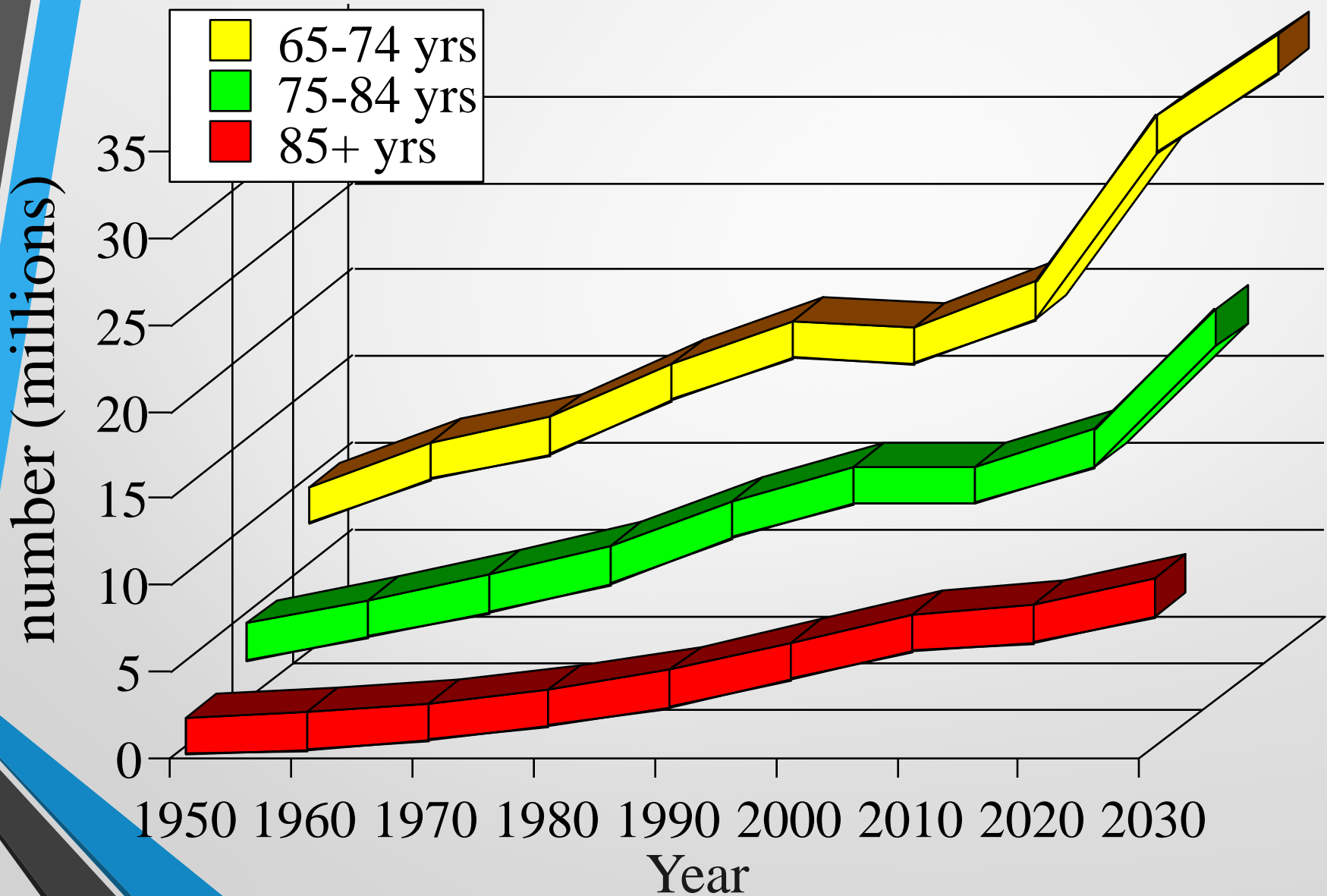


# Violations in Fatal Accidents by Age

percent cited for infraction



# Growth of the Elderly Population





# Car Trouble

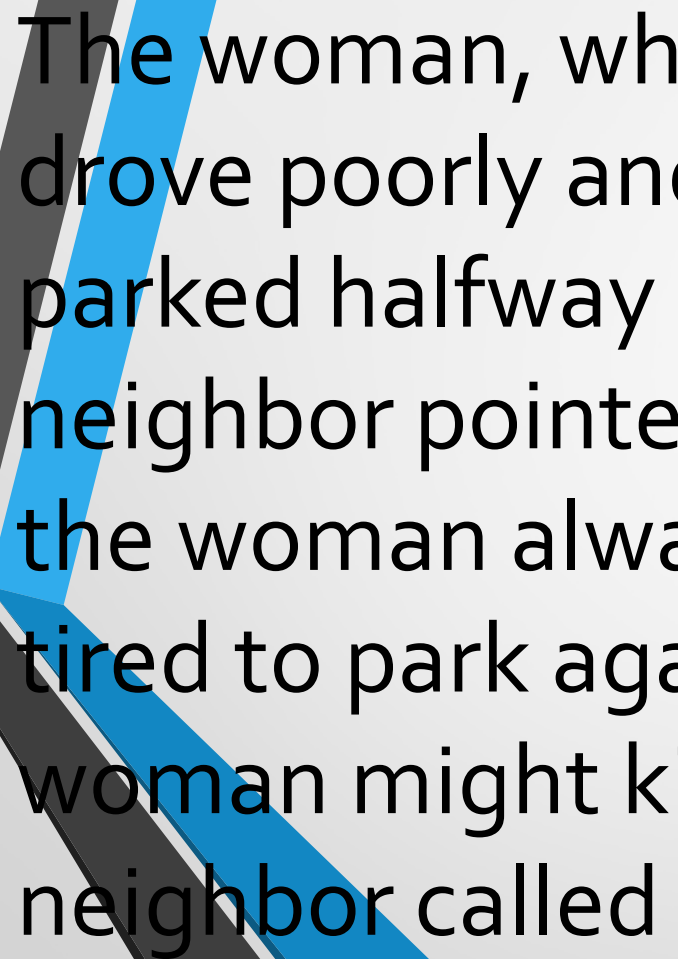
## Older Drivers Pose Growing Risk on Roads as their Numbers Rise

They Crash More Than Many, Yet Taking Away Wheels Leads to Isolation, Anger

*Wall Street Journal, October 29, 1993*



With no standard method to pinpoint dangerous elderly drivers and get them off the roads, perhaps the best that many states can do is to simply encourage people to anonymously report bad drivers. Yet many people are loathe to do so. One such person says she still feels guilty about a woman she turned in a few years ago.



The woman, who was in her early 80s, drove poorly and often left her car parked halfway in the street. Her neighbor pointed out the problem, but the woman always said she was too tired to park again. Worried that the woman might kill someone, the neighbor called the police.

Soon after, state officials retested the woman and revoked her license. Without her wheels, the woman was forced to move into a nursing home, where she subsequently died. “She was crushed” over losing her license,” The neighbor recalls, “I did feel responsible.”



# Relation between Social Activities and Driving Habits in Women

<i>Social Activity</i>	<i>Transportation Mode</i>		
	<i>Drives Self</i>	<i>Others Drive</i>	<i>Other Mode</i>
% seeing children	78.5	85.3*	64.3*
% >3 close friends	61.1	54.0*	52.7
% who leave house weekly	99.0	93.6*	96.5
% club members	80.9	63.6*	56.7*

# "Officials Try to Balance Public Safety Against the Rights of Older Drivers"

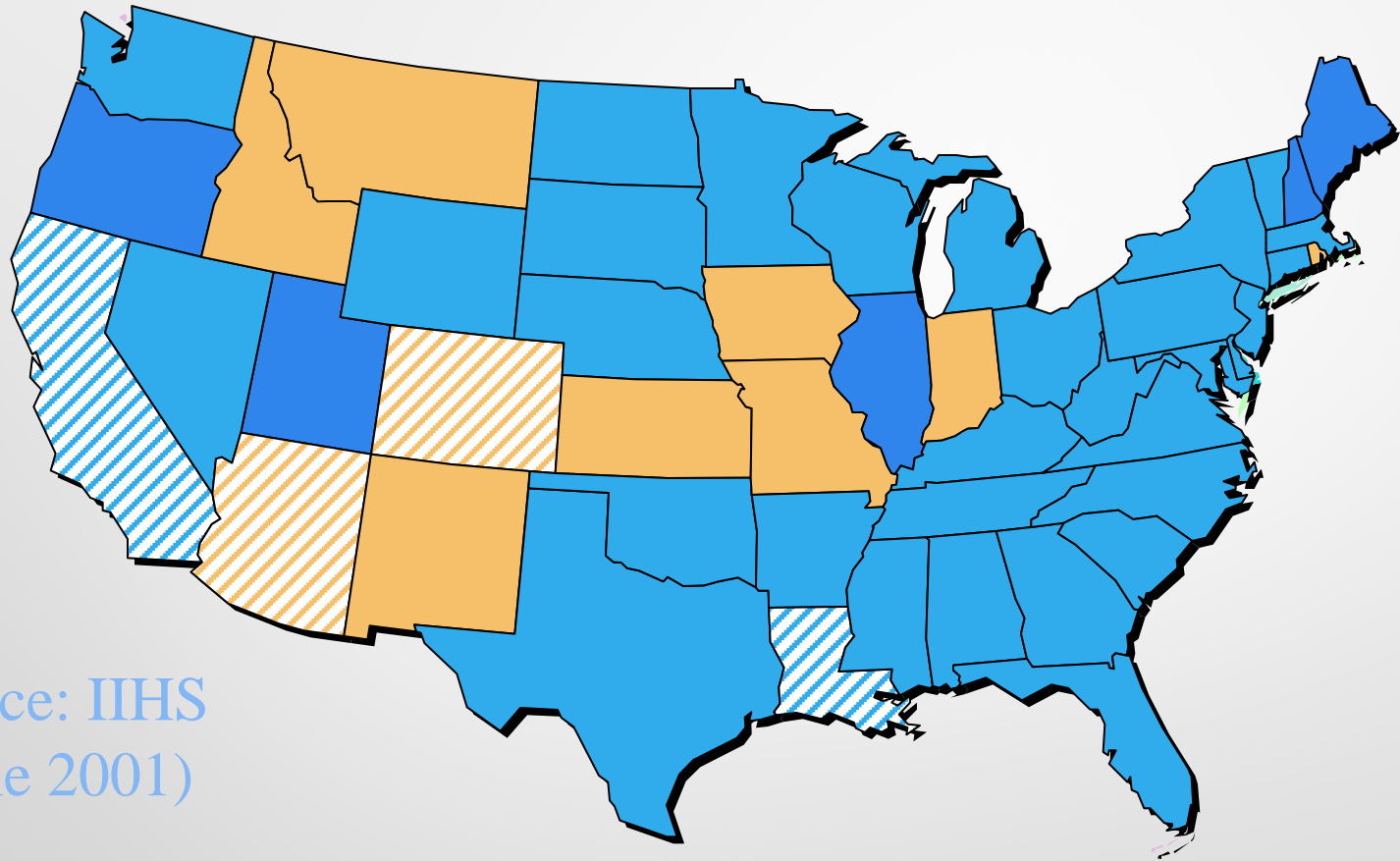
*New York Times, May 4, 1992*



Crash  
Risk

Social  
Opportunities

# Licensing Older Drivers in the USA




Source: IIHS  
(June 2001)

- No age provisions
- More frequent license renewals
- Require testing (road or vision)



# Issues for Appropriate Licensing

- Does licensing reduce crash involvement?
- Can high risk drivers be identified by licensing agencies?
- Are screening tests feasible?
- What is an acceptable risk for crashes?
- How many drivers would be affected?
- What are the social costs to the driver of being denied a license?



“legislatures and public agencies  
are frequently under pressure to  
restrict drivers with medical  
characteristics presumed to be a  
hazard to driving”

*Haddon, Baker 1981*



# Reasons for Stopping Driving in the Elderly

Advancing Age

Low Income

Medical Impairment

Activity Limitation

Increasing Number of Factors  
from above

# Prevalence of Driving Cessation by Age

