

Improving The Safe Mobility of Older Driver

GHSA September 9, 2008



AAA Foundation

- Established in 1947
- 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit
- Research affiliate of AAA/CAA
- North American Focus



Mission

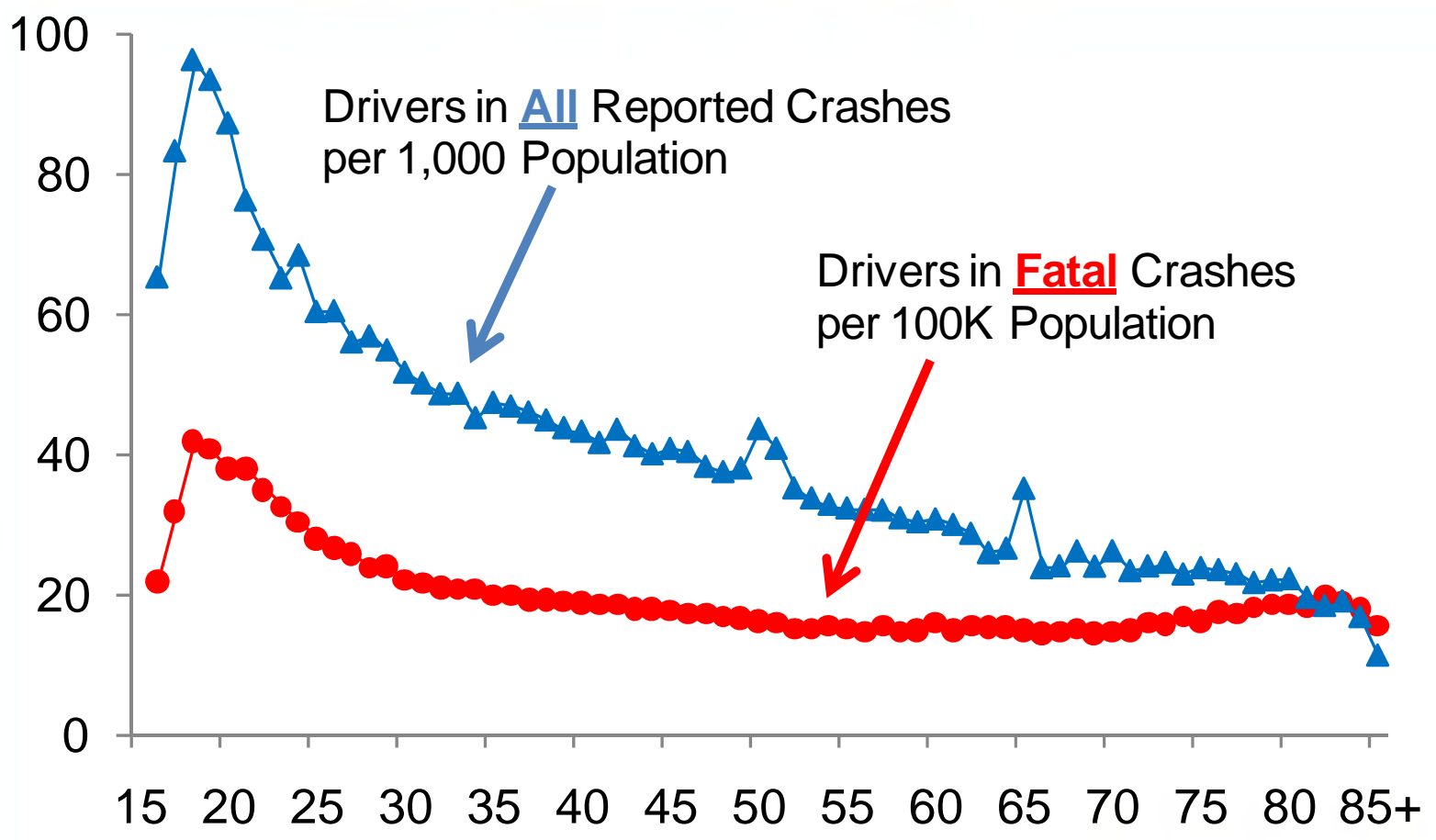
- Identify traffic safety problems
- Foster research that seeks solutions
- Disseminate information and educational resources



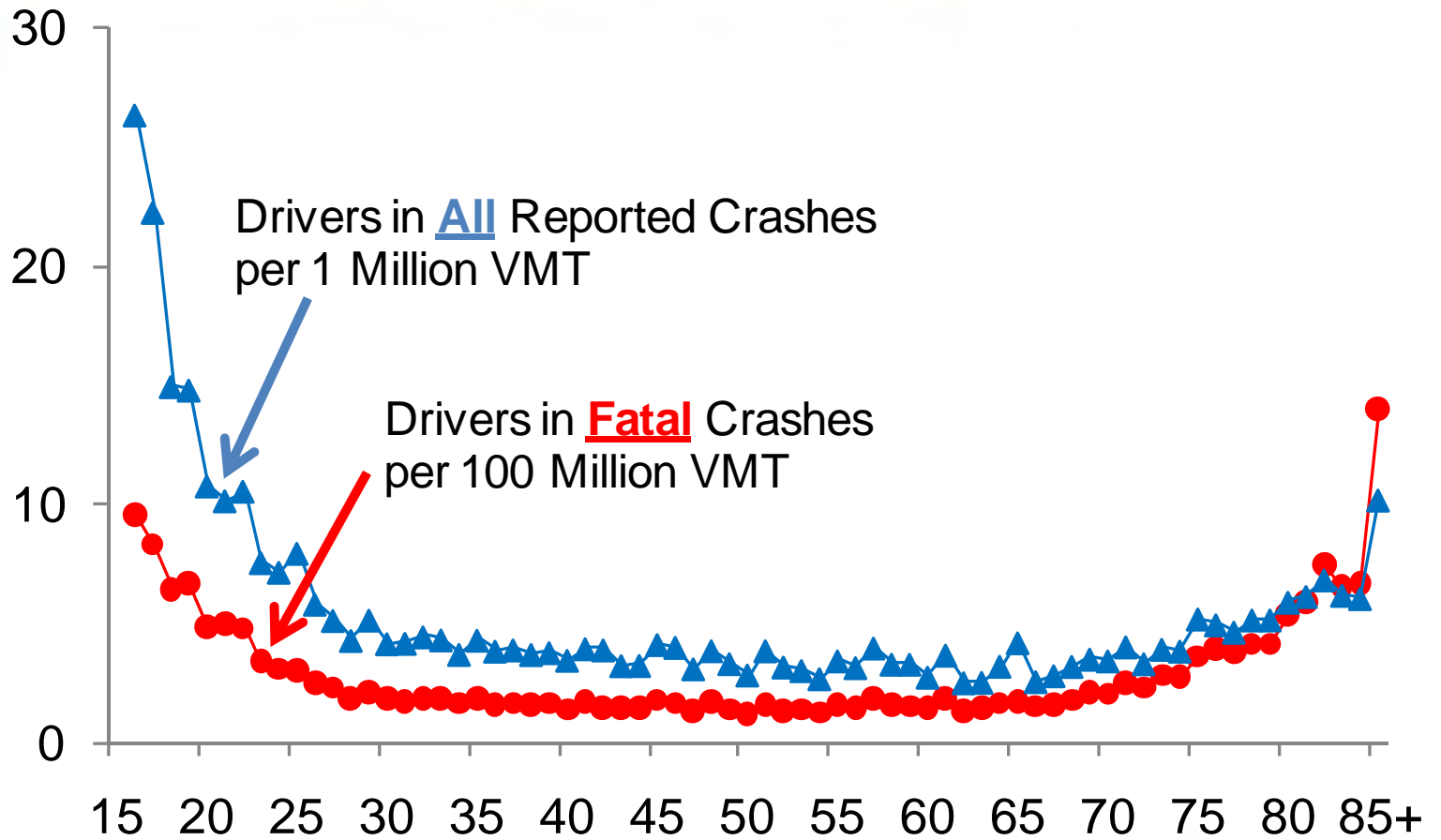
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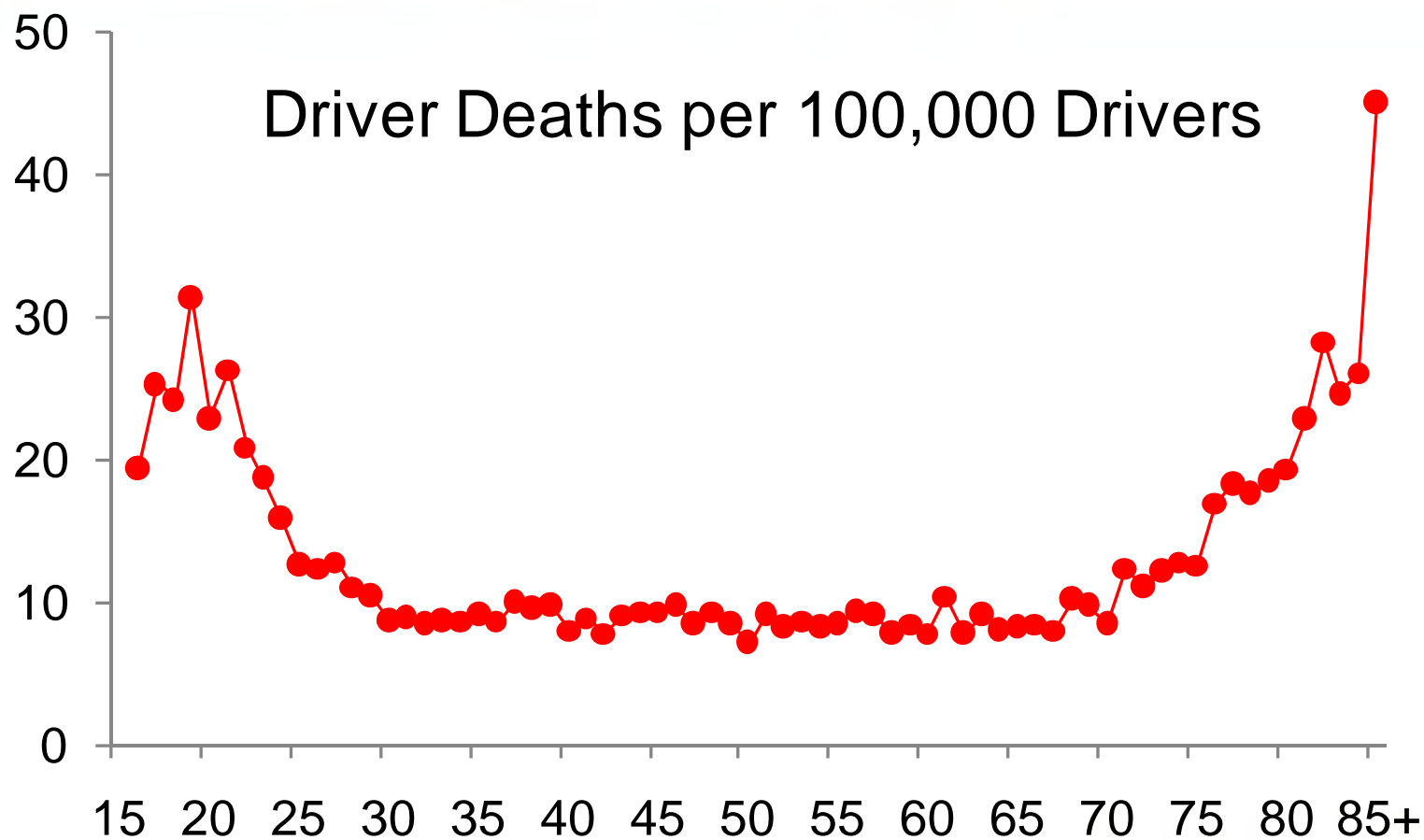
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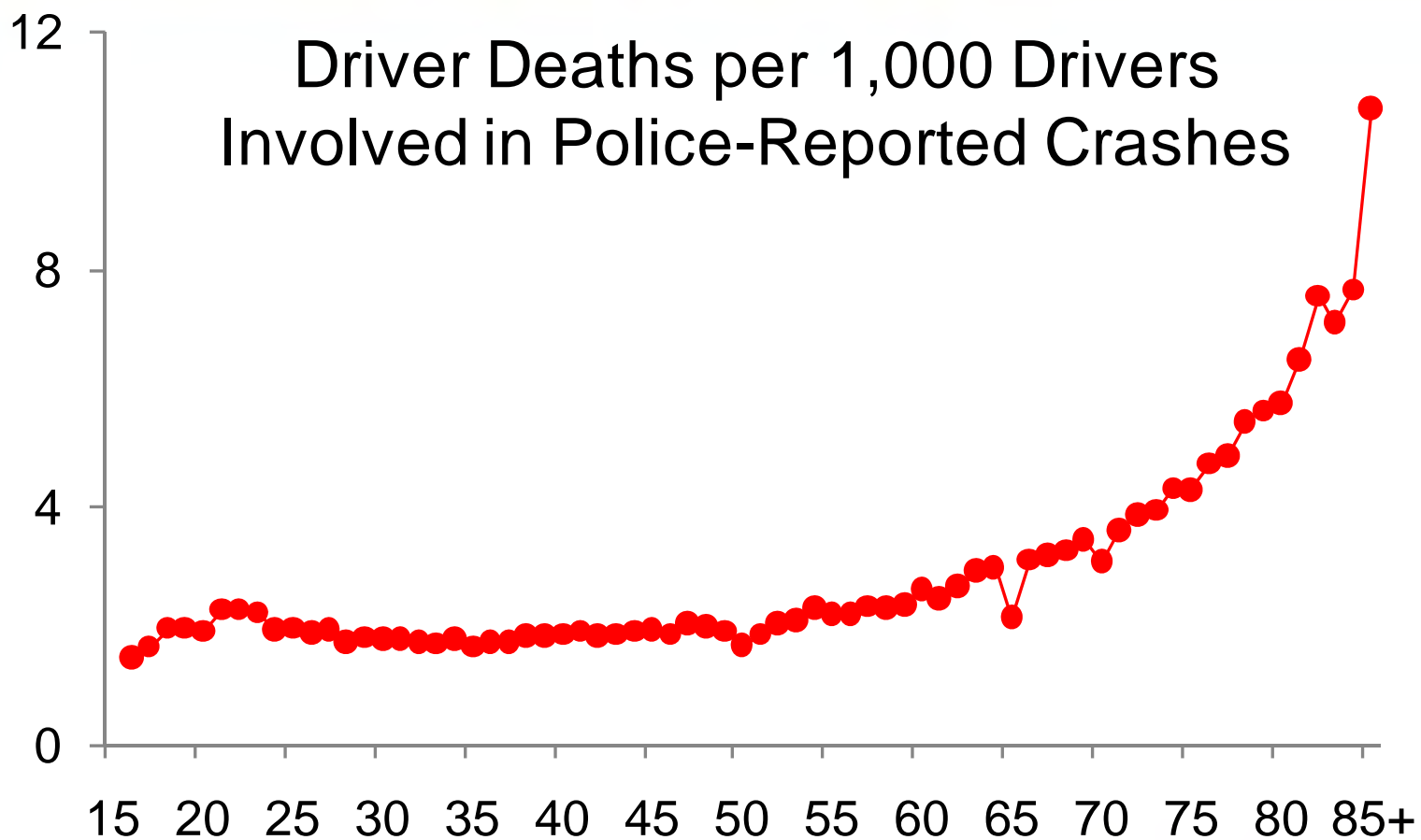
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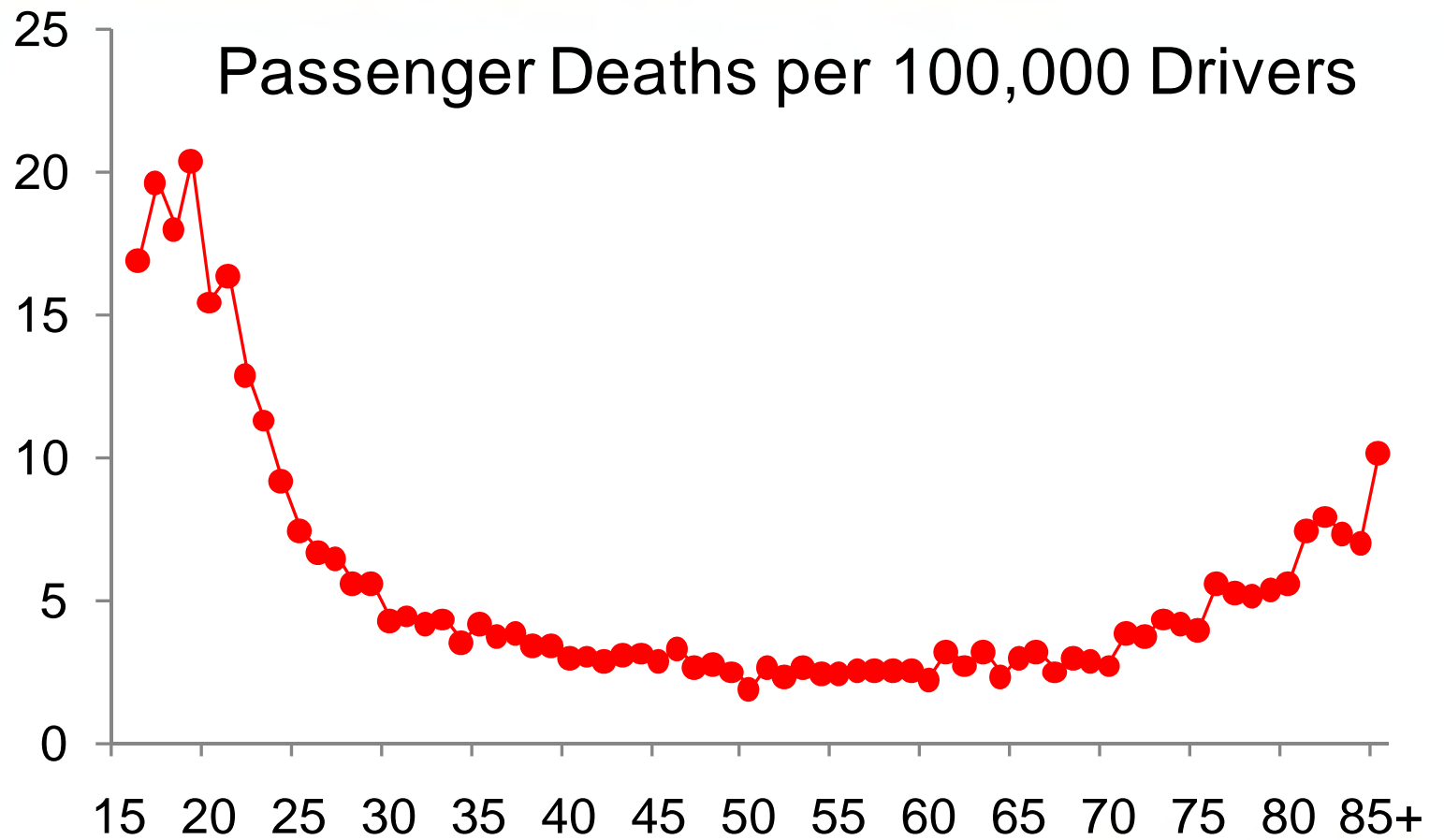
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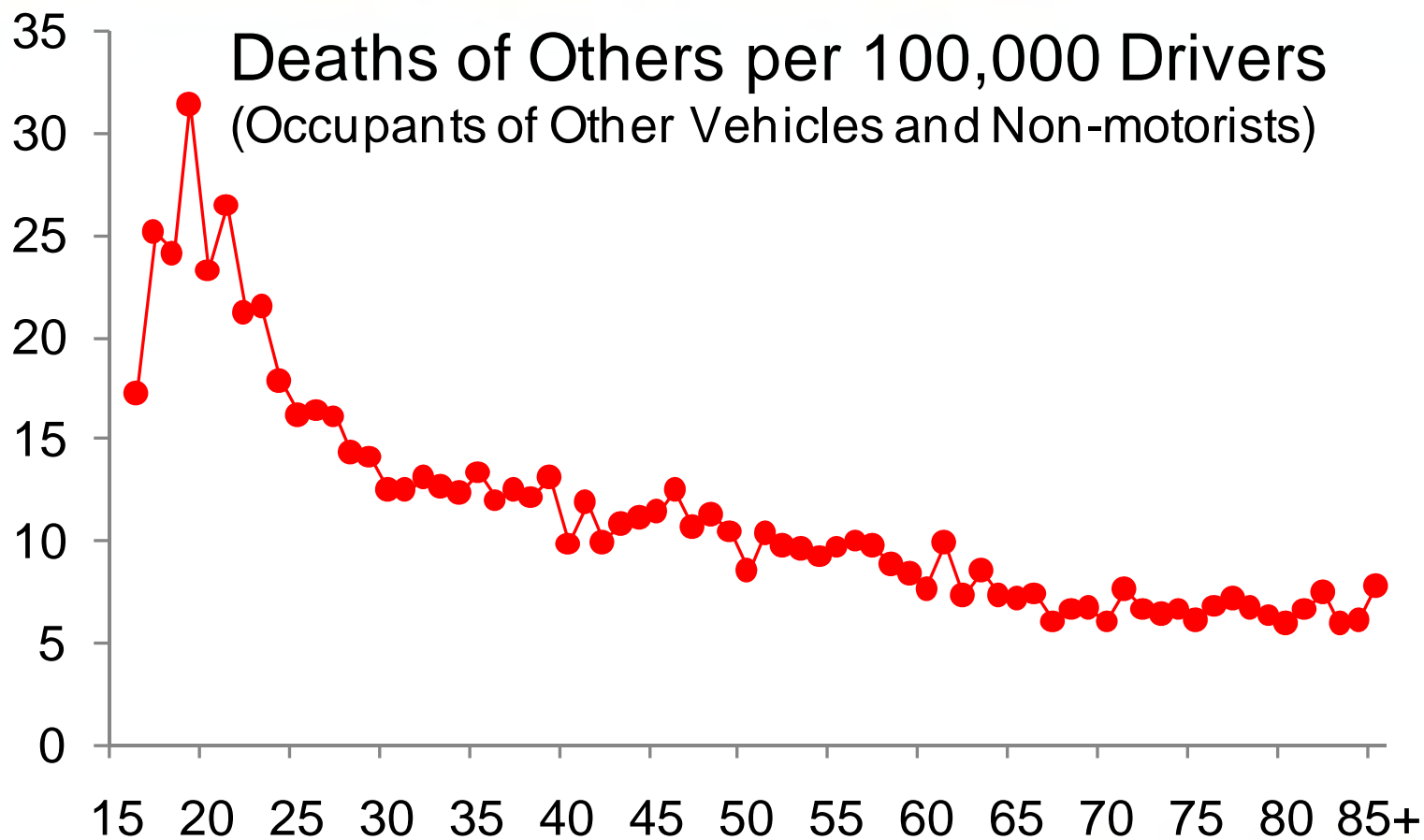
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Prevalent Crash Factors

- Intersections
- Left Turns
- Failure to Yield or Heed Traffic Signals
- Perceptual Lapses
- Illness/Medical Conditions

Growing Population

2008 - 15% of registered drivers (30 million) are 65 or older AND account for 6,000 deaths

2025 - 25% of drivers will be 65 or older



Realities of Aging

- Declines in physical, visual & cognitive abilities
- Increased number of medical conditions
- Increased fragility
- Mobility is key to Quality of Life
- Most seniors are very good at self regulation



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Seniors face serious driving safety and mobility issues.



2008 North American License Policies Workshop Proceedings

June, 2008



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Findings

- Driving is a Privilege but mobility is a Right
- State licensing systems and mobility options are inadequate, inconsistent and often not based on scientifically validated requirements



Recommendations

- Screening is the first step
- Assessment identifies functional deficits, extent of impairment and recommends licensing actions
- Both must be valid and reliable but also efficient, easily adopted and cost-effective

Recommendations (Cont)

- Licensing should be based on functional and medical fitness, NOT AGE
- Medical community should be more involved with this issue
- Robust Medical Advisory Boards are vital
- Voluntary reporting of potential at risk drivers is important, as is the immunity for those reporting

Recommendations (Cont)

- Clinicians and Licensing officials need additional training
- Identifying and sharing best practices is vital
- Additional mobility options for those who can't driver are needed

Recent Poll of Metro Planning Agencies

- Over 50% thought current transportation services were insufficient
- 68% thought baby boomers would force them to radically alter services



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Getting Around



ALTERNATIVES FOR SENIORS WHO NO LONGER DRIVE

Report on a community program to assist seniors with the transition from driving

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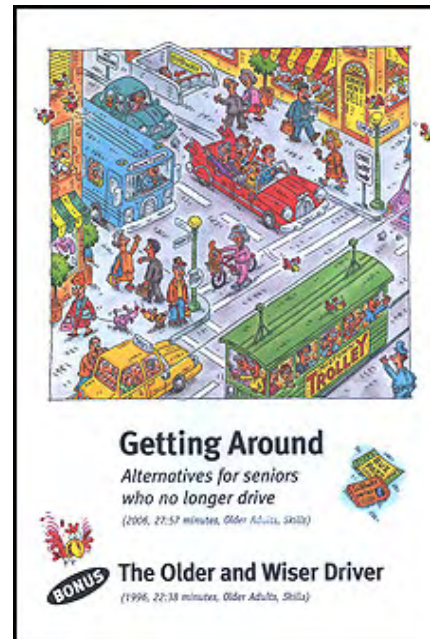
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May 2007



Getting Around

Alternatives for seniors
who no longer drive
(2006, 27:57 minutes, Older Adults, Stella)

BONUS The Older and Wiser Driver

(1996, 22:38 minutes, Older Adults, Stella)



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STPexchange.org



20 Tips on Implementation | Discussion of Implementation | 20 Tips for Riders | 20 Tips for Drivers | Policy and Procedures Manual Outline | Recruitment, Training, and Retention | Volunteer Management Checklist (PDF) | Volunteer Reimbursement | [Computer Program for Good Management](#) |

Computer Program For Good Management



Good records management is a critical component of good business practice and effective program operation for a variety of reasons that include:

- Online Resource
 - Members only
 - Public
- 50 Charter members
- One stop shop for information



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Enhancement of

Driving Performance



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Purpose of study

- To determine whether a driver training program including both in-class instruction and behind-the-wheel training could help older adults improve their driving



About the study: Participants

- Age 70+
- valid Connecticut license
- drive at least once a week
- no serious medical problems
- vision 20/70 or better
- had not taken any driver education course in past year
- initial road test score not “too low” (too dangerous) or “too high” (don’t need to take driving class)
- recruited from medical clinics and elsewhere in community



About the study: Driver Training Program

8 hours of classroom instruction

- based on AAA Driver Improvement Program
- taught by AAA-certified instructors
- topics included: driving risk, communication, speed, effects of medications on driving, vehicle safety features, etc.

Two behind-the-wheel sessions

- First session addressed errors the driver made in initial road test
- Second session reviewed these and addressed other common difficulties of older drivers



About the study: Evaluation

- 126 participants randomly assigned to either of 2 groups:
 - 69 took the Driver Training Program (“driver training group”)
 - 57 took an alternative program that did not involve any driving instruction, training, or practice (“control group”)
- Both groups took knowledge test and road test before program and repeated tests 8 weeks later



Results

- Drivers who participated in the driver training program improved their scores on both the knowledge test and the road test
- The driver education group improved more than the control group, and the difference was statistically significant



Conclusions and Recommendations

- Older drivers who participated in this driver training program significantly improved their driving
- Hope findings will encourage clinicians and policy workers to consider training options



Upcoming Foundation Research

- In-Vehicle Technologies
- Medications and Older Drivers
- Missouri Voluntary Reporting Law
- Innovative and Promising Licensing Practices



For More Information Go To:

- www.aaafoundation.org
- www.seniordrivers.org
- www.stpexchange.org

