

# LifeSavers 2014

## Enhancing Law Enforcement (LE) and Administrative Capacity for Older Driver Safety

- Defining the Issue
- MD's Medical Review Process
- Why Focus on LE
- eReferral Project
- Resources & Tools

**Nanette Schieke**  
 Chief Driver Safety  
 Maryland MVA  
[nschieke@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:nschieke@mdot.state.md.us)  
[mva.maryland.gov/police](http://mva.maryland.gov/police)  
[mva.maryland.gov/olderdriversafety](http://mva.maryland.gov/olderdriversafety)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Who are the "older" folks?




---

---

---

---

---

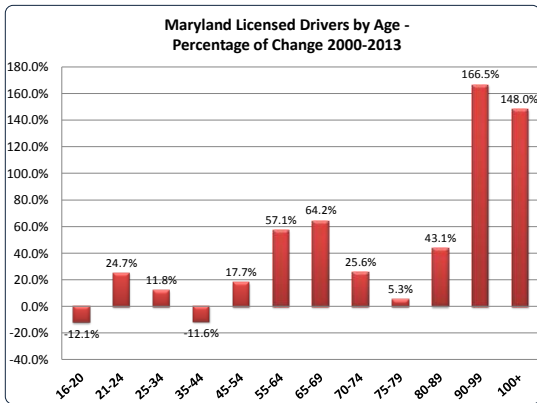
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

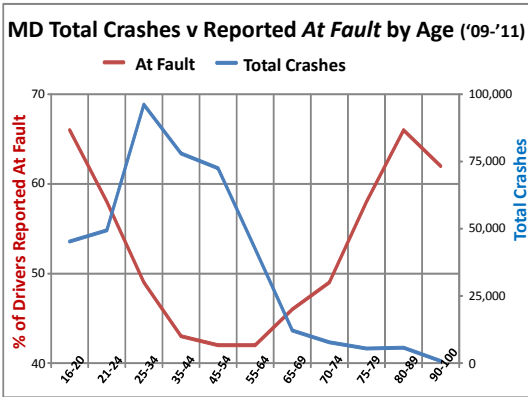
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Crossing the Street...




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Medical Issues With Aging

- **Physical Impairments**
  - Leg strength (diabetes)
  - Gripping the wheel (arthritis)
- **Visual Impairments**
  - Age 40 needs 1 second+ longer for eyes to adjust near to far
  - Age 55 takes 8x longer to recover from glare as age 16
- **Cognitive Impairments**
  - Ability to reason, remember & handle perceived threat
  - 86,000 Marylanders w/Alzheimer's in 2010
- **Medications**
  - 78% drivers use 1+ meds on regular basis
  - 19% drivers use 5+ meds on regular basis

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Medical Review Process

- **Goal & guideline**
  - **Focus on functional ability** ... not age or disease ... and provides an **individual** review on fitness to drive
- **How does it work?**
  - Medical Advisory Board since 1949
  - Review doctors notes, other info, interviews
  - Functional Capacity Test screening
  - Occupational Therapist evaluation
  - Driving skills re-test

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Who Makes Referrals?

- Referrals from **professionals** clinicians, law enforcement, etc
- Referrals from concerned **citizens**, neighbors, friends & family
- **Self-reports** of any serious medical condition

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Case Profile: Dena Kline



**80 years old**  
 5 Feet Tall and 80 Pounds  
 Chemotherapy for Bone Cancer  
 Taking Asthma and Pain Medications

---

---

---

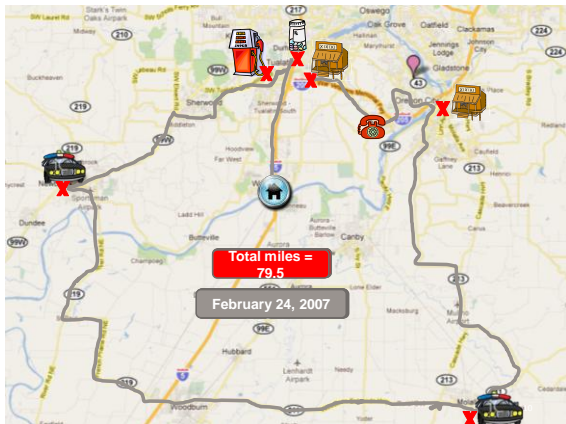
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Why Focus on LE?

Higher Risk of health issues with age, likely to affect driving

+

Growing Number of older drivers

=

Increased Demand on LE

- NHTSA Guidelines
- Maryland LE Request

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A screenshot of a web-based form titled "New eReferral Entry". The form is divided into several sections:

- Driver Details:** Includes fields for Surname, State (MD), Name (First, Middle, Last), Address, City, State, Zip, County, DOB, Sex, and Race.
- Crash Info:** Includes Date, Time, Crash Type?, and County.
- Charge/Incident:** Includes a table with columns for Charge#, Charge Description, Contributor, and Incident type, and an "Add Charge" button.
- Indicators:** A section for "Check of appropriate boxes for observed driving behavior under alcohol or medical conditions. All must be checked." It includes a "Confused/Oriented" checkbox and a list of other indicators such as "Lost or Confused while Driving Near Home", "Drowsy", "Eyes Closed", "Seize", "Fainting Spell", "Alcohol/Illicit Drug Use", "Prescription Medication", "Weakness/Poor Coordination", "Trailing/Balance Problem", "Voice Problems", "Not Reacting to Vehicles/Pedestrians", "Not Adequately Controlling Vehicle", "Driving Too Slow or Inappropriately Slipping", "Driving on Wrong Side of Road/Wrong Lane", and "Other Observation Described in Summary".
- Buttons:** "Submit eReferral", "Print eReferral", "Search eReferral", and "Cancel Request".

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Preliminary Results

- After 6 Months: 618 eReferrals
- Most NOT related to crash
- High eReferrals = High Crash Rates
- Mode is 75 - 85 year olds
- Top 3 Indicators:
  - Not adequately controlling vehicle
  - Confused/disoriented
  - Other

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Potential Future Efforts?

- What about out-of-state drivers that seem to be medically at-risk?
- Can family be engaged?
- Can vehicle tags be suspended also?
- Liability –
  - Have info & don't do a referral?
  - Do a referral & let them drive away?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Resources & Tools

[mva.maryland.gov/police](http://mva.maryland.gov/police)

### News

- Changes to Maryland License & Permit Requirements (1/1/14)
- Referral of potentially at-risk drivers to MVA
  - Red Flag Tip Card
  - Referring Drivers to MVA Medical Review Process (6min video)
  - Frequently Asked Questions on MVA Medical Referrals / Request for ReExam / eReferrals
  - Monthly Statistics - LE eReferrals by County

### Resources

- DR-15: Advice of Rights (English)
- DR-15: Advice of Rights (Spanish)
- DR-15: Advice of Rights (Spanish Audio)
- IACP – Alzheimer's initiatives ([www.theiacp.org](http://www.theiacp.org))
- Triad/SALT Network (Seniors & Law Enforcement Together)
- Presentation of Motor Scooter Vehicle Laws

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---