

Identifying and Reporting Medically At-Risk Drivers

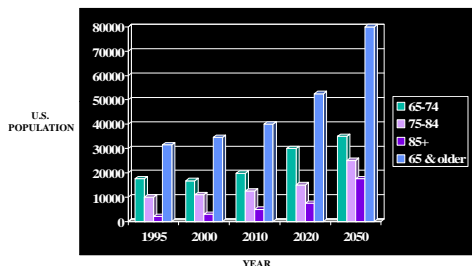


Barbara Freund, PhD
 Director, Driver Research & Evaluation Laboratory
 The Glennan Center for Geriatrics & Gerontology
 Eastern Virginia Medical School
 Norfolk, VA



UNITED STATES POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE

United States Population Projected by Age (Thousands)
 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



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Description of Virginia

- In 2005 there were 7,332,608 residents in Virginia, 11.4% of who were over the age of 65.
- That same year, there were 5,362,140 licensed drivers in Virginia,
 - Of these, 12.6% were aged 65 and older
- In 2006, 9.8% of crashes involved drivers 61 years old and older.
- Drivers aged 61 and older represented 16% of the Commonwealth's traffic fatalities

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Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Medical Review Services (MRS) Unit

- The Virginia DMV's Medical Review Program has been in place for more than 30 years.
- The Medical Advisory Board consists of seven licensed physicians currently practicing in Virginia.
- As of June 11, 2007, the MRS staff consists of the following:
 - One registered nurse (Division Manager),
 - One licensed practical nurse who serves as the Office Manager,
 - Six licensed practical nurses (Medical Evaluator, Sr.),
 - Two non-medical support employees
- Primary reporting sources include physicians and law enforcement professionals.

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Project Goal: Increase Reporting of Medically At-Risk Drivers by Law Enforcement

To accomplish this goal :

- Focus group sessions were held throughout Virginia
- A roll call video "Identifying the Medically At-Risk Driver" was produced
- 'Red Flags' summons book cards were created
- Schedule roll call video to be shown at precincts throughout the state as well as at 2-3 law enforcement conferences in each year of the project (e.g., Military Civilian conference and ACTS). Red flag summons book cards will be distributed at these times and events.
- Produce and send out newsletters and info-minutes to law enforcement

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Collaborating Organizations:

- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
- State Police
- Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
- Virginia Sheriff's Association
- Local Police Departments

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Focus Group Session Dates and Locations

- January 15, 2008, South Boston, VA
- January 16, 2008, Disputanta, VA
- January 17, 2008, Newport News, VA
- January 30, 2008, Bristol, VA
- January 30, 2008, Salem, VA

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Issues Explored at the Focus Group Sessions

- Older driver awareness
- Reporting knowledge
- Ticketing older drivers
- “Red Flags” cards and “Identifying the Medically At-Risk Driver” video

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Red Flags of Medically At-Risk Drivers

Before the traffic stop!

Has the driver committed any of the following traffic violations?

- Driving the wrong way on a one-way street or on the wrong side of a two-way street?
- Failing to stop at red or other traffic?
- Making unsafe turns, especially a left turn?
- Turning from the wrong lane?
- Straddling dividing lines?
- Driving off the road?
- Other driving violations that are particularly unusual or difficult to explain?

Look for the following red flags after the driver has been pulled over.

Physical clues	Psychological clues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the driver taking too long to pull over? • Excessive eye glances over the rearview mirror? • Does the driver have difficulty communicating? • Is the driver expressing difficulty describing driving conditions? • Slow reflexes, poor coordination, difficulty walking? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission of being “a little shaky, what they hear about that described as violation?” • Lack of recall (how long has the current issue, week, month, or year)? • Inability to comprehend? • Unaware of traffic rules? • Driver is confused, jittery, argument, disoriented, or drowsy?

Less obvious red flags may include medical conditions and medications that may impair driving:

Partial list of medical conditions	Partial list of medications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory loss • Alzheimer’s or dementia • Neurological conditions, such as seizures or black-out disorders • Sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea • Visual impairment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedatives • Pain relievers • Allergy medications • Cough suppressants • Blood pressure drugs • Sleeping pills • Heart medications • Anticholinergics

If you are concerned with the driver’s ability to drive safely, ask yourself the following questions. (The following are red flags if you answer “No”)

- Does the driver know where he/she is coming from?
- Does the driver know his/her destination?
- Can you comprehend what the driver is saying?
- Does the driver recall the time of day, day of the week, month, and year?

Look for the following:

- Is the driver wearing an identification bracelet or necklace indicating dementia?
- Is the driver’s clothing non-matching, inappropriate or incomplete?
- Is the driver far from their residence and unaware of it?

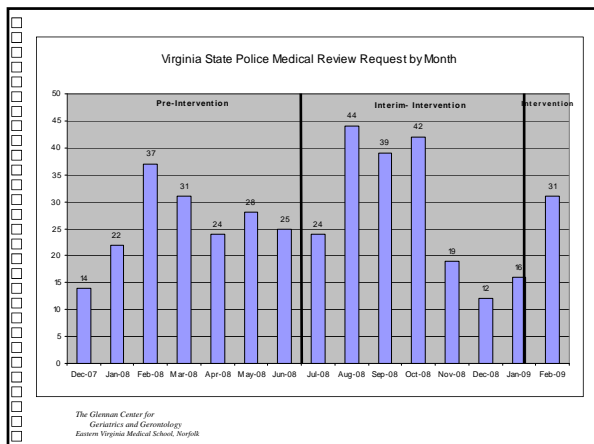
If you are concerned about the driver’s ability to drive, submit a Medical Review Request Form to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to conduct a medical review of the licensed driver. Reports must be submitted in writing or using the Medical Review Request (MRR-3), which can be found at:

- Go to www.dmv.virginia.gov
- Select “Citizen Services”
- Select “Medical Information”
- Select “Medical Forms”
- Select MRR-3 Form

The following must be included with the report:

- Information that will help DMV identify the impaired driver (name, address, date of birth, etc.).
- Name, address, and phone number of the person reporting the driver.
- Specific information about your concerns and why the driver should be reviewed.

DMV contact information:
DMV Medical Review Services
Post Office Box 37412
Richmond, Virginia 23260-0011
Fax: (804) 367-7824
mailto:DMVSP@DMV.VIRGINIA.GOV
http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/other/medical/RRR_F385C3.818



Future Project Activity

- Continue distributing the material to Virginia law enforcement agencies
- Newsletters will be distributed electronically
- Project will be presented at the 2009 Annual Conference on Traffic Safety and Virginia Judicial Conference

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