EVERGREEN, CO

We are dedicated to preventing traffic related fatalities and injuries by developing solutions to transportation safety issues and changing driving attitudes and behaviors.

We partner with schools, businesses, civic, community and government agencies to serve infants, youth and older drivers.

'It takes a generation to make a change'

DRIVE SMART®

EXPERIENCED DRIVER PROGRAM

Helps older adults drive within their abilities as long as is safe by providing resources and tools to help them achieve this goal

EXPERIENCED DRIVER PROGRAM

Funded by the Colorado Department of Transportation and other private donations.

There is no charge for services.

The Experienced Driver program is one of three similar programs serving Colorado.

Our program focuses on Jefferson, Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Park counties

COMMON MISTAKES OF OLDER DRIVERS

- Failing to yield the right of way

- Not staying in lane

- Misjudging the time or distance needed to turn in front of traffic

- Failing to stop completely at a stop sign

- Speeding or driving too slowly.

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

The Colorado State Demography Office:

- The number of Coloradoans age 65-and-over grew 29% percent between 2010 and 2015 — the third fastest rate in the nation.

- This growth is forecast to continue with Colorado's population aged 65 and over projected to rise by more than 508,000 — an increase of 68 percent — by 2030.

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

- In Colorado, motorists must renew their driver's licenses every 10 years

- At every in-person renewal, a person must pass a vision test

- Until age 66, a person may renew electronically or by mail every other renewal

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

- People age 61 and older are required to renew their driver's licenses every five years

- People age 66 and older may renew by mail only if they submit results of a vision test performed within the last six months

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

Overall, older drivers are safe drivers

However,

As we age we may develop impairments that affect our driving ability. Drivers age 70 and older have higher crash rates per mile traveled than middle-aged drivers.

As we age and become more frail, the risk of death or injury increases.

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

According to the CDC:

In 2014, more than 5,700 older adults were killed and more than 236,000 were treated in emergency departments for motor vehicle crash injuries.

This means 16 older adults are killed and 648 are injured in crashes on average every day

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

Fatal Crashes

In 2014 there were:

• 451 fatal crashes; 20 crashes higher than occurred in 2013.

• 488 persons were fatally injured; a 1.5 percent increase from 2013.

• 168 speeding-related fatalities; comprising 34 percent of all fatalities.

The counties with the highest number of traffic fatalities were: Weld (54), El Paso (53), Jefferson (44), Denver, (42), and Adams (33).

CDOT, Colorado Problem Identification Report, FY 2016

AGING DRIVER FACTS & FIGURES

Injury Crashes

In 2014 there were:

- 12,323 injury crashes, a 28 percent increase from 2013;

- 7,304 serious injury crashes;

- 3,224 serious injuries from crashes, a 2.9 percent decrease from 2013.

The counties with the highest number of serious injuries were: Denver (610), Arapahoe (382), El Paso (293), Jefferson (257), Adams (243), Weld (206), Larimer (164), and Boulder (180).

CDOT, Colorado Problem Identification Report, FY 2016

WHY THE EXPERIENCED DRIVER PROGRAM?

Driving is a complex, fast-paced activity.

A typical driver makes 20 decisions per mile, with less than half a second of reaction time to avoid a collision.

Age can affect our ability to sense, decide, and act. At any age, people need to ask themselves:

Am I a safe driver?

CDOT FOCUS GROUPS CONDUCTED IN 2016

This research was intended to address two of CDOT's Core Performance Measures:

1. to reduce the number of traffic **fatalities** and

2. to reduce the number of **serious injuries** in traffic crashes.

- 12 Focus Groups were conducted with Colorado residents primarily over the age of 65 in nine counties between January 11 and April 1, 2016

- Sessions were held in Arapahoe, Custer, Denver, Jefferson, Larimer, Las Animas, Lincoln, Montrose and Pueblo counties

KEY FINDINGS

Visibility – **personal vision and roadway visibility are significant issues for older drivers**

- night driving
- blind spots
- seeing roadway signs/lane markings
- glare from other headlights
- having to use cushions
- need for improved mirrors

KEY FINDINGS

Visibility – **personal vision and roadway visibility are significant issues for older drivers**

- bigger windows in vehicles
- difficulty of seeing/reading street signs
- more frequent painting of lane markings
- desire to have highway signs painted on roadways
- lack of street lights
- need for pedestrian crosswalks that are more visible

FOCUS GROUP ATTENDEES RESULTS

Need and desire for information

- What transportation alternatives and services are available?

- What assessment programs are available? Fitness to Drive   ADED

- What resources for assistance with transportation needs are available?

New technology

- Related to personal vehicles, roadway improvements or to transportation alternatives

FOCUS GROUP ATTENDEES RESULTS

Assessment of Driver's Skills

- Interest in receiving information that would be helpful in taking personal stock of <u>one's *own* driving habits</u>.

- <u>**Expectation that there will be a profound personal impact when they are no longer able to drive.**</u>

- The real and imagined impacts are so significant that some participants had a difficult time even responding to the questions that raised this eventual possibility.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Bring CarFit to a community and begin training & education

- Distribution of the Colorado's Guide for Aging Driver's and their Families **http://www.drivesmartcolorado.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Older-Driver-Booklet-FINAL-PRINT.pdf**

- Collaborate with health care providers and law enforcement AARP We Need To Talk

WHAT IS CARFIT?

CarFit is an educational program created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with AAA (American Automobile Association), AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

A proper fit in one's personal vehicle can greatly increase not only the driver's safety but also the safety of others.

Objectives:

- help older drivers find out how well they currently fit their personal vehicle

- to highlight actions older drivers can take to improve their fit

- and to promote conversations about driver safety and community mobility

https://www.car-fit.org/

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

DRIVE SMART

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