

Two Ends of the Spectrum:

Teen and Elderly Drivers and the Importance of Preventative Education

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DELAWARE STATE POLICE

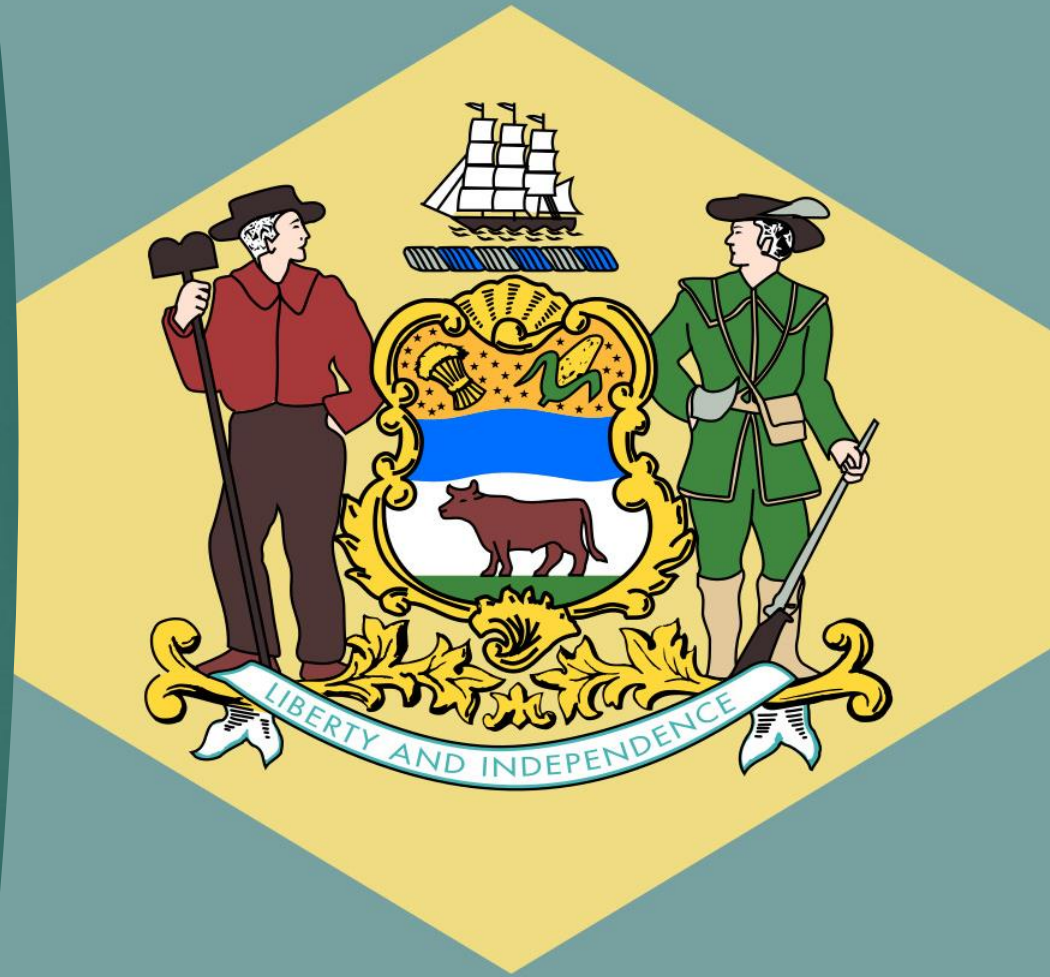
Goals and Objectives

- ▶ Provide background and insight into teen and elderly drivers in our State
- ▶ Provide insight into the Driver's Education program in Delaware
- ▶ Provide some input on solutions to improve the safety of Delaware roadways

Statistics

Teen / Young Drivers (ages 16-24):
92,018 total licenses

Elderly Drivers (ages 55+)
341,664 total licenses



DECEMBER 7, 1787

Statistics

Total Crashes in 2022:

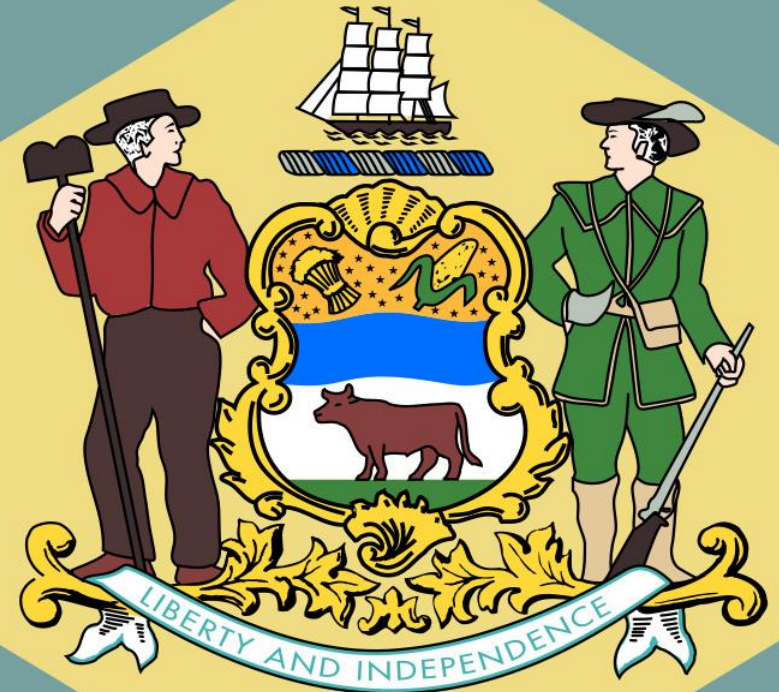
27,830

Teen / Young Driver Crashes:

9,309

Elderly Driver Crashes:

10,824



DECEMBER 7, 1787

Teen / Young Driver

Breakdown

The 16-24 age group contributed to 33% of the total crashes in 2022
They represent 12% of the total driver's licenses in Delaware

Fatalities

15 Drivers were killed

12 vehicle occupants were killed

11 were not properly restrained

5 Drivers were DUI

Elderly / Aging Drivers

Breakdown

The 55+ age group contributed to 38% of the total crashes in 2022

They represent 43% of the total driver's licenses in Delaware

Fatalities

27 Drivers were killed

11 vehicle occupants were killed

7 were not properly restrained

5 Drivers were DUI

The Crash Sandwich

Breakdown

NHTSA / IIHS:

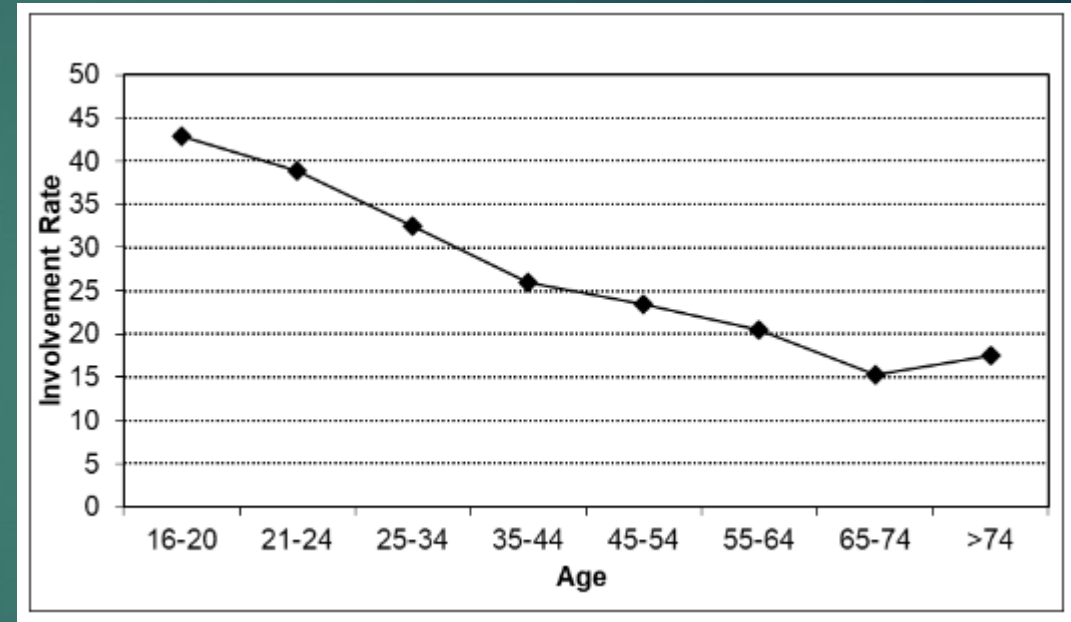
Per 100,000 Licensed Drivers:

16-20 age group: 43 (highest)

70+ age group: 15-17

**Highest per mile driven*

Fragility – 60-95% of the increased rates



Statistics

Breakdown

There's a lot that we don't know...

Percentage of drivers who were responsible ("at fault")

How many of the crashes were involving folks with no license

Additional injuries caused to vehicle occupants

Primary Contributing Circumstance – specific statistical data

Risk Factors

Teen / Young Drivers

Primary Contributing Circumstances

Speed

Inattention

Inexperience

DUI

Dangerous Moving Violations



Risk Factors

Aging / Elderly Drivers

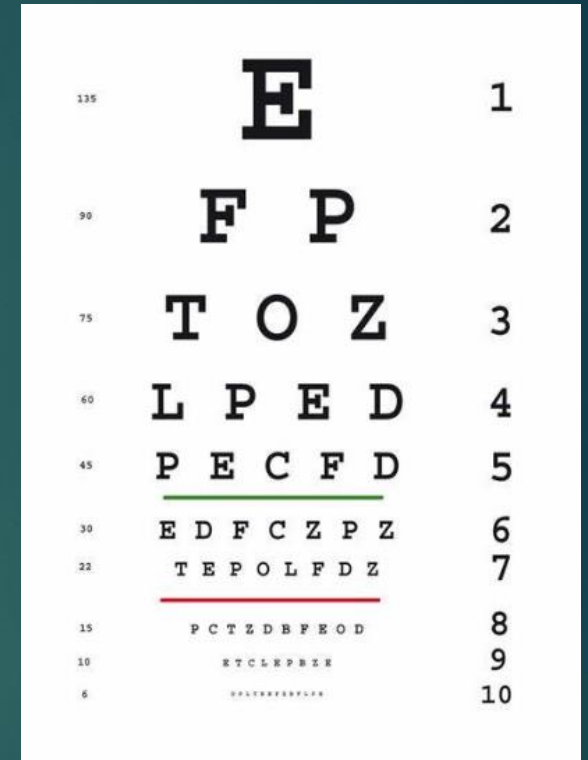
Primary Contributing Circumstances

“Inattention”

Dangerous Moving Violations

DUI / Medications

Cognitive / Visual abilities tend to be reduced in addition to extended perception / reaction times... but it's hard to quantify



Question...

*How can we reduce crashes among
vulnerable populations?*

What Can We Do?

There's no perfect solution – just some ideas for consideration:

Education

Community / Family Input

Police / Law Enforcement Input

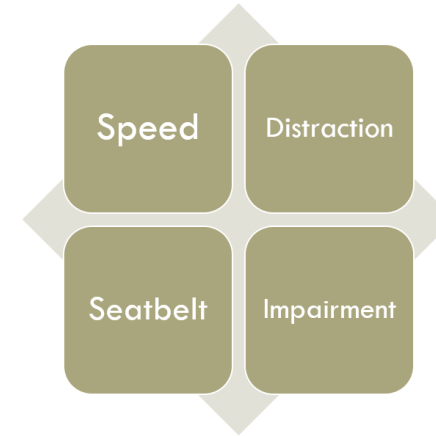
DMV Input

Education

We all know how to educate young drivers...

Driver's Education

CASE #1 — SAMANTHA BROWN



**MOST FREQUENT
CAUSES**

Driver's Education

School Districts statewide use a standardized system regulated by the Department of Education

--Currently being revised to become more relevant

Additionally, individual Driver's Education instructors have flexibility to include law enforcement, commercial motor vehicle education, etc.

Most importantly...

Instructors must pass each student based on classroom and driving lessons before handing out the "Blue Slip"

How Do I Get a License Without Driver's Education?

But... what if I never took Driver's Ed? I still got a license!

Application Process

- Eye Screen
- Written Test
- Road Test



Elderly / Aging Drivers

Experienced Drivers in Delaware Manual

20-page manual

- Move Over
- Cell Phones
- School Buses
- Pedestrians



**EXPERIENCED
DRIVERS IN
Delaware**
& Laws You Need to Know

So...

The root of all of this...

Once you take your test, and without an MV351,
you're good!

Anyone see a problem?



DRIVER RE-EXAMINATION REQUEST

TO: DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES Phone: 302-744-2507
DRIVER IMPROVEMENT UNIT Fax: 302-739-5667
PO BOX 698
Dover, DE 19903-0698 Email: dmvmmedicalsection@delaware.gov

Pursuant to T. 21 Del. C. §2714 (b), it is requested that the individual listed below be re-examined for their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle on the highways of this State.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last First Middle
Address: _____ License Number: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Reason for request: (Please give detailed specific information.)

Was individual treated at a medical facility? Yes No
If Yes, Where: _____
Requested by: _____
Officer IBM Number Date

Signature of Reporting Officer Signature of Troop Commander or Police Chief IBM Number

BOTH SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED FOR PROCESSING

Community / Family Input

It's an ongoing process...

For our younger group:

Basic driving skills and behaviors are learned – sometimes arduously.

Provide constant **reminders** to do the easy things:

- Buckle up

- Put the phone down

- Slow down

- Think twice

- Be aware of your surroundings

Set consequences!!!

Community / Family Input

It's an ongoing process...

For our older group:

Convey the same reminders as we do to kids

Physical and mental conditioning

- Divided attention / performing multiple tasks simultaneously

Healthy lifestyle habits

- Proper nutrition

- Sleep!

Set Limits

Police / Law Enforcement

This is multi-faceted...

Enforcement:

Campaigns through Delaware OHS
targeting the prior-listed circumstances

MV351

Provide suggestions through Chain of Command for possible roadway
improvements (signage, visibility, etc.)

Education through Classroom...

Education through Consequence...




Police / Law Enforcement

Community Engagement

Targeted Presentations to vulnerable populations

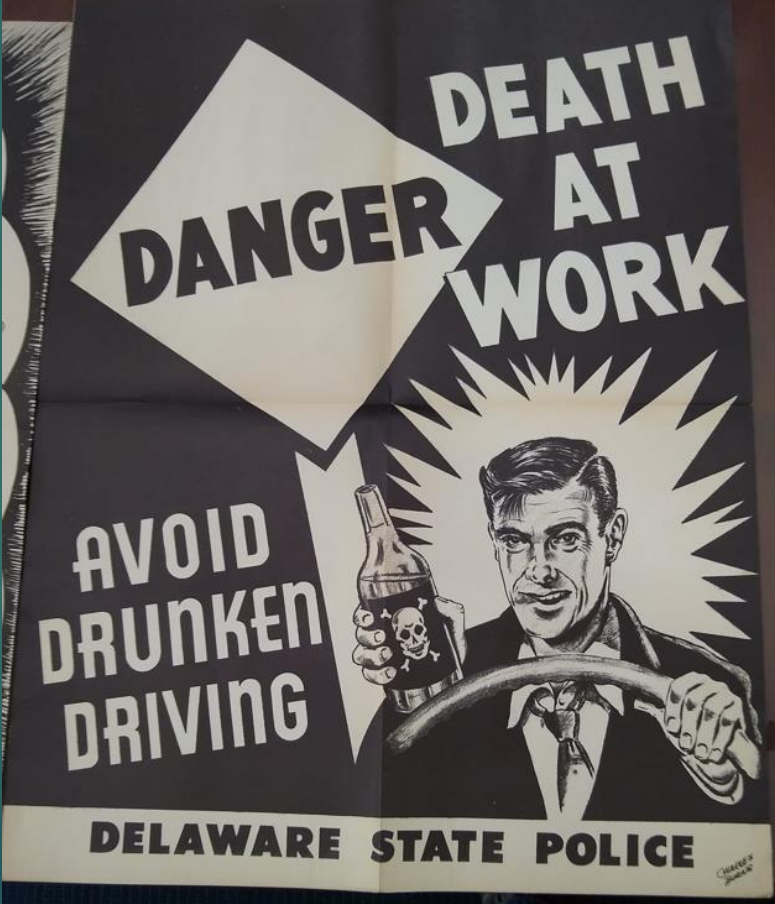
Public Safety Fliers



MOPED SAFETY TIPS *courtesy of the Delaware State Police*

- 1** You cannot operate a moped on any public road unless you have a valid driver's license.
- 2** Mopeds are not permitted to be operated on the Junction Breakwater Trail or any of the other dedicated walking/biking trails.
- 3** Mopeds must have a light on the front and rear that is visible for at least 100 feet, and a bell or other device capable of giving an audible signal.
- 4** Helmets are required for moped operators and passengers under the age of 18. It is strongly recommended that every person operating or riding a moped (regardless of age) wear a helmet and wear bright, reflective clothing.
- 5** When operating a moped watch for traffic as far ahead as possible, be prepared for sudden stops, for traffic approaching left or right at intersections, and for vehicles pulling out from parking areas. Also, keep two hands on the handlebars.
- 6** Be aware of your surroundings. Don't wear earbuds or use a cell phone while operating or riding a moped.
- 7** It is illegal to operate a moped while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL TROOP 7 AT (302) 644-5020



DANGER AT WORK

AVOID DRUNKEN DRIVING

DELAWARE STATE POLICE

DMV Input

Disclaimer... this is not exactly feasible but maybe we can find a happy medium!

Mandatory re-testing over the age of 55

- Eyes

- Road

- Perception / Reaction Time

 - Indicator for other cognitive impairments

Conclusion

- ▶ The “Two Ends of the Spectrum” contribute to 72% of the State’s crashes in 2022.
- ▶ With some minor (or major?) improvements we can hopefully make lasting change and decrease crashes, injuries and deaths on our roadways.

