

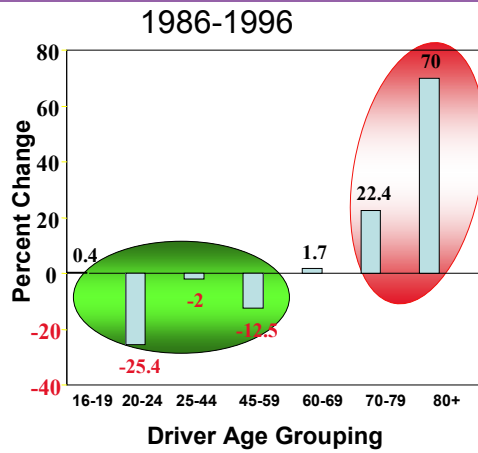
Driver Assessment & Training Services

Lisa Clubb, OT Reg (Ont.); CDRS

Objectives

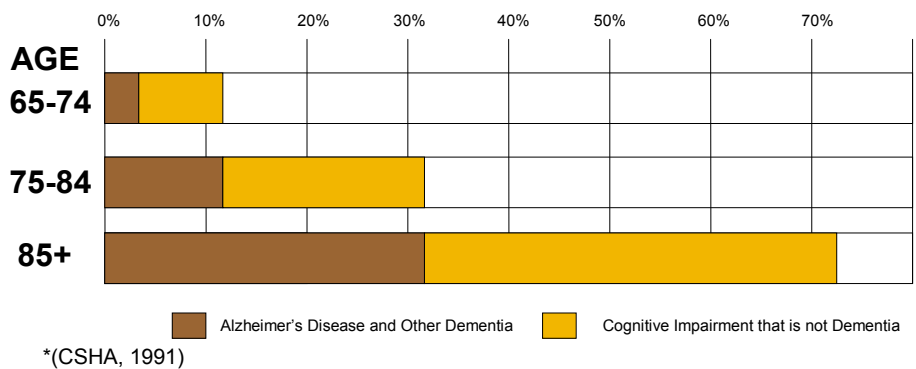
- Increase awareness of need for driving assessment.
- Understand the process of the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)
- Understand the purpose and elements of the medical/rehabilitative driving assessment.

The Driving Population is Aging

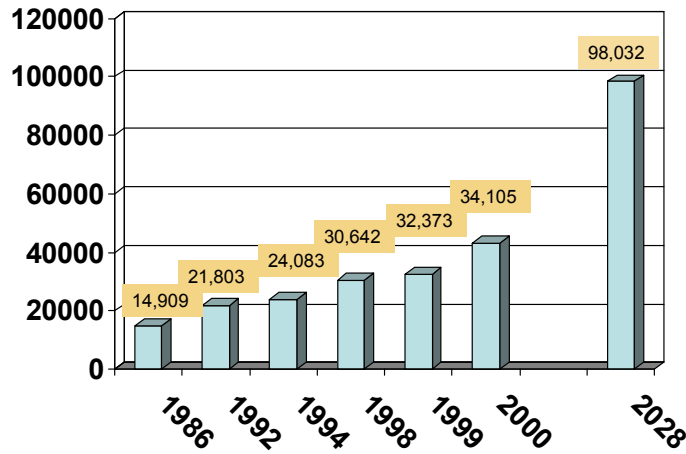


*Data Source: An Over view of Senior Driver Collision Risk, Safety Policy Branch Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, September 9, 1998.

Prevalence of Cognitive Impairment*

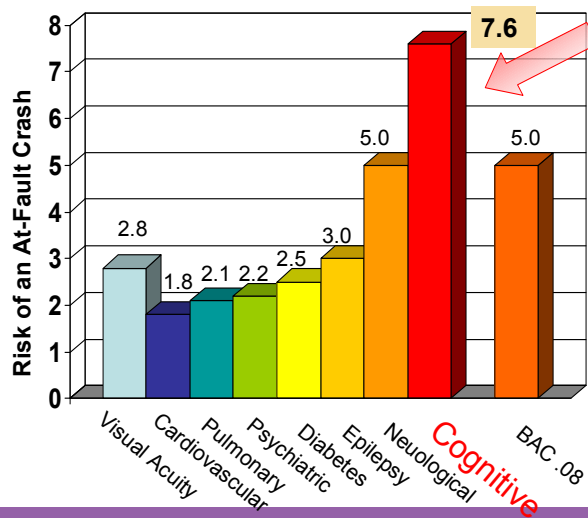


Estimated Numbers of Drivers with Dementia in Ontario¹



¹ from Hopkins, et al., (2004)

Increased Risk of an At-Fault Crash



Highway Traffic Act 1990 c. H. 8

Doctor reports to the MTO

Section 203, (1) Mandatory Reporting for:

“Every person 16 yrs. of age or over, attending upon the medical practitioner for medical services who, in the opinion of the medical practitioner, is suffering from a condition that may make it dangerous for the person to operate a motor vehicle.”

When MTO is Informed

- The license may not be suspended.
- A file is opened with the Medical Review Section.
- The case is reviewed by an analyst.
- MTO will determine the next course of action.
- Once report is made it can take 4-6 weeks for response.

MTO Process

- MTO will determine course of action
 - may request medical information
 - go through the standard licensing procedure
 - may request a driving assessment from an approved rehabilitation facility
 - may suspend license on a medical basis (temporary licenses can be obtained for assessment and/or training)

80 Years Seminar

- At age 80 and every 2 years the MTO requires completion of a seminar and written test.
- Seminar program administered by a driver improvement counselor.
- A road test may be required.
- This is not a substitute for a medical driving evaluation.

Specialized Assessment

The role of a Rehabilitation Driving Assessment:

- Determine the impact of a medical condition on driving.
- Recommend training and adaptive equipment if appropriate.
- Support driving independence.
- Monitor performance over time.

Specialized Assessment

- In Ontario, an Occupational Therapist is required to conduct the assessment in order to be a Ministry Approved Facility.
- The cost of assessment is not covered by the health care or licensing system – the client covers the cost.
- Fees are approximately \$500.

DriveABLE™

- DriveABLE™ -- developed through research.
- Research won national award of excellence.
- Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research encouraged championing move from research to practice through the establishment of a University spin-off company -- DriveABLE™.

DriveABLE™

In the Clinic:

- Medical and Driving History
- Vision Screen
- Cognitive/Perceptual Assessment
- Physical Assessment

- 1.5 – 2 hours with an Occupational Therapist

DriveABLE™

Cognitive/Perceptual Assessment

- Completed on a computer
- Touch Screen and push button response
- Assesses areas of:
 - motor control
 - judgment
 - executive function
 - attention shifting
 - attentional field

DriveABLE™

In the Vehicle:

- Given in dual-brake vehicle
- Score only the competence defining errors
- Road Course design reliably reveals the competence defining errors
- Bad habit errors not scored
 - Protects the competent driver
- Fail criterion is “Out of the range of normal”

DriveABLE™

Recommendations are given and may include:

- Continue Driving
- Future Reassessment
- Training
- Discontinue Driving

Signs of a Potential Problem

- Collisions and/or damage to the car
- Getting lost
- Near-misses with vehicles, pedestrians
- Confusing the gas and brake
- Traffic tickets
- Missing stop signs/lights; stopping for green light
- Deferring right of way
- Not observing when making lane changes, merging
- Others honking/irritated with the driver
- Needing a co-pilot

Resources

- Determining Medical Fitness to Operate Motor Vehicles; Canadian Medical Association Driver's Guide 7th edition.
- www.saintelizabeth.com (select "services" and "driver")
- www.driveable.com
- Medical Review Section 416-235-1773 (client inquiries; for an updated list of assessment centres)