



Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2019: Older Drivers

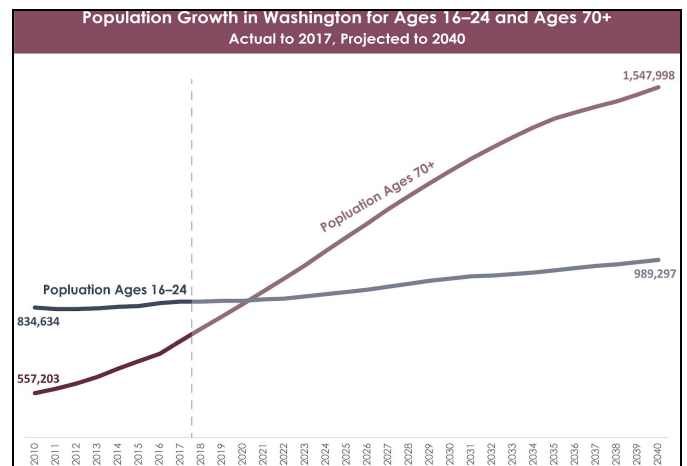
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Challenge: Fatalities involving older drivers in Washington have been trending upward for the past several years.

The rise in fatalities among older drivers is partially due to increased exposure: there are a greater number of older adults in the state, and they are keeping their licenses longer and driving more than previous generations.

Key issues for older drivers:

- High-risk behaviors like distraction and impairment
- The older driver population in Washington State is expanding
- Older drivers are at increased risk of dying in crash
- Physical and visual change
- Cognitive change



Strategies and Objectives for Positive Change:

People aged 70 years and older are the fastest growing segment of the population in Washington State. This age group is expected to grow significantly in the next 20 years.

Key countermeasures to support the growing population of older drivers include:

- Highway design and traffic control for older drivers
- Crash prevention classes for older drivers
- Continue requiring in-office driver license renewals for drivers age 70+
- Research on licensing for older drivers

What You Can Do:

- Support efforts to identify older drivers who are at risk – see Page 156
- Assist in creating additional education opportunities for older drivers
- Encourage efforts to increase seatbelt use for older drivers