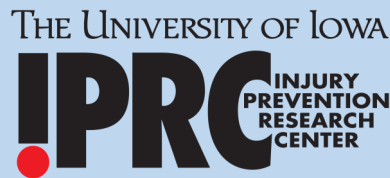


In-person license renewal

AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO IDENTIFY OLDER ADULTS WITH REDUCED DRIVING ABILITIES AND IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY



January 2021



The University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center (UI IPRC) tracked the driver licensing review process of Iowans of all ages from 2015–2019.

Visit our website at www.uiiprc.org

KEY FINDINGS:

- ⇒ Most Iowans needing to have their driving abilities checked are identified by in-person driver license renewals.
- ⇒ Over twice as many Iowan drivers over 70 were identified as needing their driving abilities checked when age specific renewals were applied compared to what would be expected without these requirements.
- ⇒ Requiring in-person renewal at age 70 provides an opportunity to identify drivers who might be at risk driving on the road because of age-related driving skill decline.

WHAT IS DRIVER LICENSE REVIEW?

Driving helps keep seniors connected to services and their communities. However, their driving abilities can be affected by age-related declines in vision and cognitive functions, such as the reasoning and memory. In the U.S., states have procedures to evaluate drivers who may no longer be fit to drive. This process is called driver license review. It can include vision, cognitive and road tests, and medical evaluation by a physician. Some states require in-person renewals (e.g., at state licensing facilities) that are age specific at various time intervals (e.g., every 2 years above age 70.)

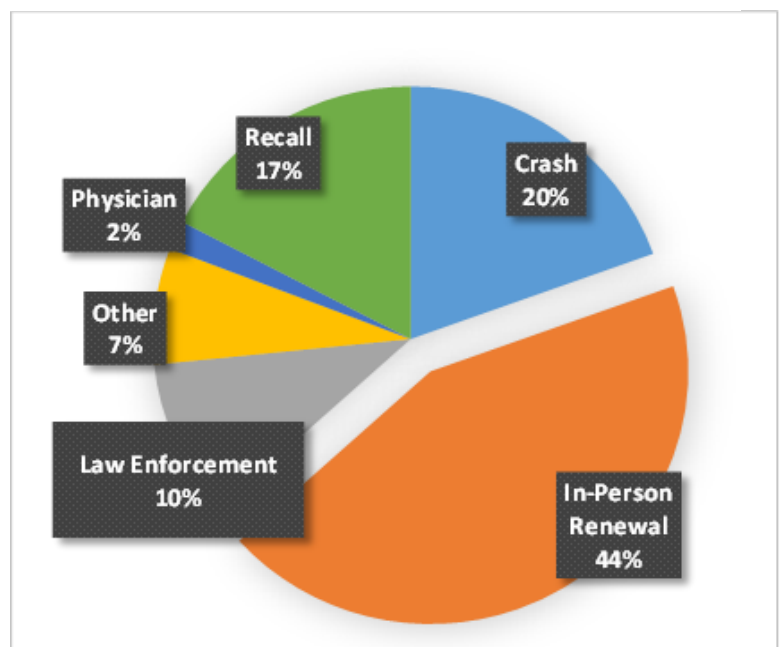


Created by Icon 54 from Noun Project

Our study found that in-person driver license renewal is the most common way to identify Iowa drivers (all ages) who need to have their driving ability checked (over 3,750 drivers per year — 44% of all drivers who had their driving ability checked).

- From 2015–2019, nearly 35,000 Iowans needed to have their driving ability checked through driver licensing review.
- More Iowa drivers were flagged for license review during the in-person renewal than those flagged by all other sources combined— physician referral (2%), law enforcement referral (10%), or a referral after a crash (20%).
- Many referrals were recalls (17%), a scheduled check of driving ability required to maintain a license.

Figure 1: Percent of Iowans referred by type of referral source



Our study found: In-person driver license renewal and 2-year license expiration length resulted in more Iowa drivers identified for license review than what would be expected without age specific renewal requirements.

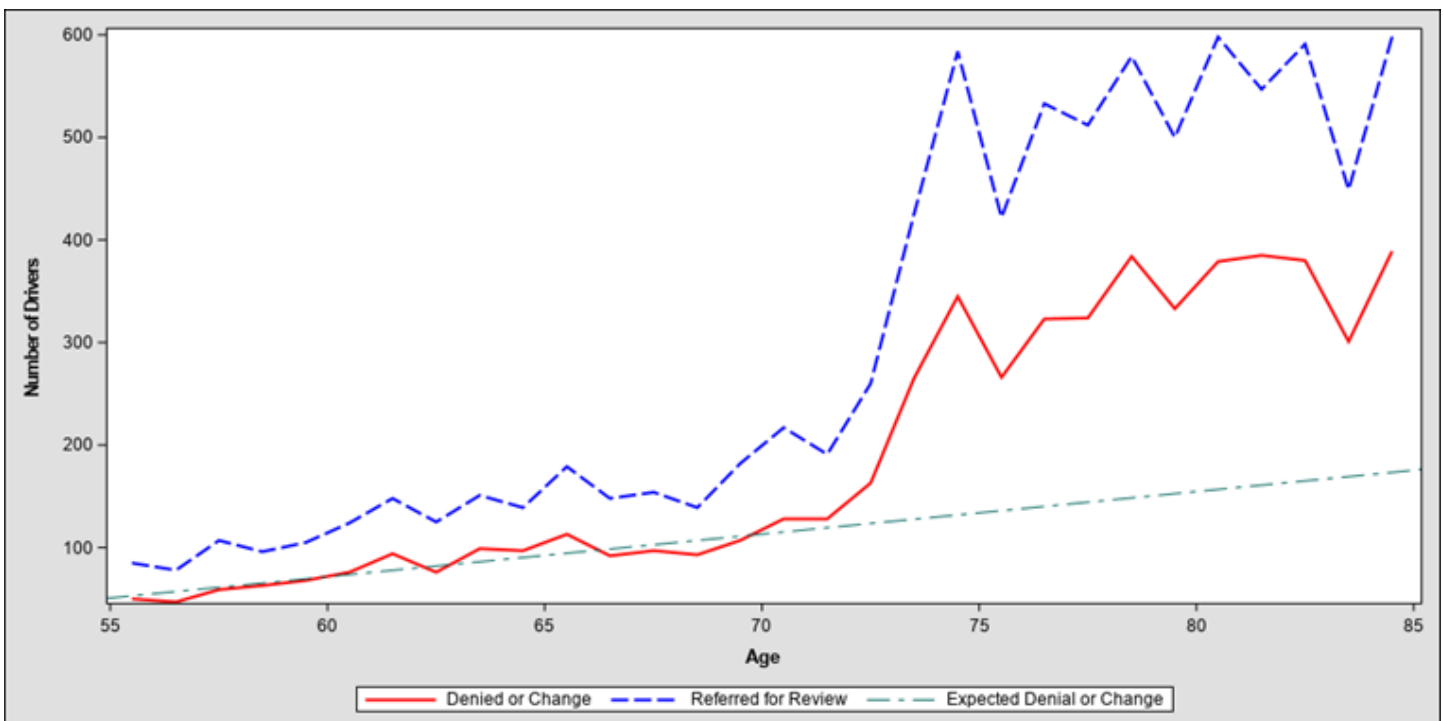
- Over twice as many drivers over the age of 70 had their license denied or restricted than would be expected than if there were not age-specific license renewal requirements.
- Reducing the number of interactions from the shortened renewal period for older drivers is expected to reduce the number of older drivers identified as needing a review of their license/driving abilities. **We may be missing the opportunity to remove driver licensure among those who are no longer fit to drive.**

WHAT IS THE DRIVER LICENSE RENEWAL LAW IN IOWA FOR OLDER ADULTS?



- All drivers ages 78 and older must renew their license in person every 2 years. This law became effective in September 2020 (HF2360).
- Prior to this law, the age requirement was ages 72 and older.

Figure 2: In-person renewal in Iowa Nov. 2015 - 2019: The number of drivers referred for review (blue dashed) and number of drivers with a denial or change to license (red solid). The trend line (green dash-dot) is the expected number of drivers referred for license review during an in-person renewal if no age specific policies were in place.



The UI IPRC partners with state agencies, stakeholders, and the world-renowned National Advanced Driving Simulator to reduce the burden of preventable motor vehicle crashes and save lives. We work with the Iowa Departments of Transportation, Human Rights, Public Safety, and Corrections.



Injury Prevention Research Center

Creating knowledge to keep you safe