



MEMO

To: Nevada Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD)
From: TFAD Driving & Dementia Subcommittee
Date: 02/02/2016
Subject: Preliminary Stakeholder Survey Data

Below please find preliminary data from surveys distributed to persons with dementia and family caregivers of persons with dementia in Nevada. Additional data will be collected at future town hall meetings. Please note that not all surveys contained data for each variable, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

Data from 128 participants (not all surveys contained data for every variable)

- 86 family caregivers
- 17 persons with cognitive impairment
- 41 males
- 81 females

Data from 8 counties and 1 independent city (number of surveys in parentheses):

- Carson City (independent city) (2)
- Churchill (1)
- Clark (17)
- Douglas (1)
- Elko (29)
- Humboldt (22)
- Lyon (3)
- Pershing (32)
- Washoe (12)

Diagnosis (self or family member):

- Didn't answer (31%)
- Alzheimer's disease (24%)
- Vascular dementia (23%)
- Unspecified dementia (11%)
- Suspected cognitive impairment (11%)
- Other diagnosis (4%)
- Parkinson's disease (1%)

Relationship to person with dementia:

- Spouse (30%)
- Adult child (40%)
- Small percentages for aunt/uncle, grandparent, sibling, child, and other

Do you have concerns about your driving safety (or the driving safety of your family member)?
23% yes

Specific concerns:

- Accidents involving others
- Bad weather driving and driving at night
- Confusion- gas and brake pedal
- Danger to self and others, getting lost, etc.
- Doesn't pay attention, very aggressive toward other vehicles and pedestrians
- Forget my destination or how to get to another place other than home
- Getting lost while driving
- Going in wrong lane
- Hurting self or others
- Slow with making decisions

Has a family member intervened to prevent you from driving (or have you intervened to prevent your family member from driving)? 25% yes

- Taking away the keys and "other intervention" were the most frequent interventions (9%), "other intervention" (17%)
 - Specific other interventions:
 - I drive for them
 - Sold the truck
 - Told her insurance has expired
 - Talked to Dr.
 - Left her car in another state
 - Did not renew license

Have you (or your family member) stopped driving? 25% yes

- If yes, did you (or he/she) voluntarily stop driving?
 - 18% yes
- Were your (or his/her) driving privileges revoked?
 - 6% yes

Have you and your family had arguments about your (or his/her) driving ability? 18% yes

Have you (or your family member) experienced transportation challenges as a result of concerns about driving?

- Difficulty getting to medical appointments 7% yes
- Difficulty obtaining groceries and other necessities 6% yes
- Difficulty obtaining prescription medications 3% yes
- Difficulty visiting family and friends 5% yes
- Other (please specify) 16% yes
 - Spouse is only other driver at 83 years old
 - Shopping and gambling
 - I have to drive him everywhere and I work full time

Were alternative transportation options available? 39% yes

- Family or friends provided rides 29% yes
- Public transportation (busses, taxi) 4% yes
- Hired caregiver provided transportation 3% yes
- Volunteer service provided transportation 2% yes
- Used delivery services for obtaining needed food, medications, etc. 1% yes
- Other resource (please specify) 10% yes
 - Senior center
 - Paratransit
 - Senior van
 - Walking

Have you ever discussed concerns about your (or your family member's) driving with a physician or other healthcare provider? 21% yes

If yes, how helpful was the discussion?

- Dr. convinced spouse not to drive
- Dr. not willing to get involved in confrontation- insurance company
- currently may intervene with current license but no matter, he'll drive regardless of being licensed or insured
- Doctor gave driving test to see if he was able to drive- which passed at this time
- It wasn't that the doctor didn't want to help, he didn't want to be responsible for taking that away
- It depends on the healthcare provider
- Good but stressful
- Fairly helpful
- No problem- husband was too far gone with Alzheimer's
- Very
- Very helpful

What was the outcome of the discussion?

- The physician decided to make a report to the DMV. 2% yes
- The physician instructed or encouraged me (or my family member) to stop driving. 10% yes
- The physician informed me (or my family member) it was safe for me (or them) to continue driving. 5% yes
- Other (please specify) 11% yes
 - Gave up voluntarily
 - I made the decision
 - Ok in daylight if I am in the car with him
 - Nothing, just information
 - Sign letter each year
 - Very nonchalant about it

Since you (or your family member) began to show signs of cognitive impairment, have you (or they):

Been in a car accident while driving? 7% yes

Received a citation for a moving violation? 6% yes

Have you (or your family member) participated in any of the following assessments at the DMV?

- Written driving assessment 2% yes
- Vision assessment 8% yes
- On-road driving assessment 3% yes
- Other assessment (please specify): 8% yes
 - Must wear glasses
 - Regular license renewal
 - Senior driving class
- If so, was the assessment
 - Required 8%
 - Voluntary 2%

Do you have any suggestions for the state of Nevada for making it easier for persons with dementia and their families to deal with the issue of driving safety?

- Required yearly assessment for seniors. Required assessments after questionable accidents or citations.
- Report people who you believe are a concern. Awareness! Other people are at risk when people drive that shouldn't.
- Take driving away. Has to be difficult but saving lives, yours and others.
- We need laws requiring more frequent testing including road tests on older drivers (70 or 75+) and possible mental tests. DMV needs a flag on a person's records when their license has been suspended by a doctor's letter (and their children) so a license isn't easily reinstated.
- When it comes to Alzheimer's people that should be dealt with on a one on one case basis as driving goes. In regards to when it comes to keep driving.
- Work with the doctors treating persons with dementia and the medical driving test. We need more information perhaps in the phone book as to options to call for assistance.
- Suggest caregivers consult with senior advocates.
- After 75 or 80 years there should be a comprehensive test for driving.
- Allow people to call DMV with the names of family members who have dementia with the end result of having them tested or having their license taken away.
- Continue to have handicap busses.
- If elderly with dementia is in auto accident, should have investigation so family not have to fight with them to give up license.