



Below are key messages you will need to emphasize when talking to older adults and caregivers.

- The older adult should be involved in the discussion about his or her driving.
- Focus on the older driver's functional capacity, not age or disease.
- Age does not make someone a bad driver.
- Driving cessation is not necessarily the immediate goal.
- Focus on ways to ensure safety and driver remediation, not on giving up the keys.
- Driving abilities often decline gradually, rather than abruptly, thus providing the opportunity for interventions and modifications to maintain safe driving.
- A car can be adapted to better fit an older driver. (See handout on p. 45.)
- Public safety is paramount.
- Driving is a privilege, not a right.
- Most drivers 70 or older will outlive their ability to drive safely by an estimated 7 to 10 years.
- The earlier the family begins the conversation about how to get around without driving, the better.
- Alternatives to driving are available in many communities, although not all of them are "senior friendly." (Senior-friendly services are those that are available, acceptable, accessible, adaptable, and affordable for older people, according to the Beverly Foundation.)
- There may be local resources and professionals available to assist families and older drivers.

*Source: National Highway & Transportation Safety Agency (NHTSA) – June, 2009*