



National Blueprint for Injury Prevention in Older Drivers

The five project objectives described below culminated in the development of a *National Blueprint for Injury Prevention in Older Drivers*. Attention was directed towards addressing population health needs for promoting safe driving and injury prevention among older drivers. An inter-sectorial, collaborative approach was used to work with established networks of individuals and organizations interested in older drivers' safety thereby building on existing knowledge and practices. A national perspective was attained by soliciting input and involving participants from all four Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) regions in Canada. Needs of the diverse urban and rural population, English and French speaking Canadians were addressed.

Objectives and Methods

Objective #1: To identify key stakeholders and facilitate their collaboration in the creation, dissemination and sustainability of a *National Blueprint for Injury Prevention in Older Drivers* through creation of an Advisory Committee.

Methods to achieve #1: Key stakeholders and a richly diverse Advisory Committee actively contributed to the creation of the *Blueprint*. We are fortunate in Canada that the already existing CIHR Canadian Driving Research Initiative for Vehicular Safety in the Elderly (CanDRIVE Network) greatly facilitated the identification of stakeholders.

Objective #2: To conduct systematic reviews to identify the scientific evidence regarding the effectiveness of driving-related injury prevention interventions (e.g. refresher and retraining programs) and the impact of prevalent medical conditions such as stroke, diabetes, renal disease and cardiac disease on driving safety of older drivers.

Methods to achieve #2: Structured reviews were generated in each area. These reviews will be used to inform various stakeholders including health professionals, drivers and their families, policy makers, legislators etc. using information sharing strategies tailored for each stakeholder group.

Objective #3: To identify older drivers' perceived needs for driver refresher programs, variations in need across the country, and the structure and content that would be acceptable to older adults.

Methods to achieve #3: Focus groups aimed at "needs identification" were held in 4 regions across Canada with representation from both rural and urban older drivers (>70 years, with heightened focus on the old-old >80 years) insuring representation of Anglophone, Allophone and Francophone Canadians. Older drivers told us clearly what they wanted in a driver refresher program and what they did not want.

Objective #4: To conduct a national survey to identify existing driver refresher programs across Canada, their content and structure and, the facilitators and barriers to providing services to older drivers and potential programs/sites.

Methods to achieve #4: A cross-Canada, province-by-province survey identified existing sites providing driver refresher programs and exercise or health promotion programs that might be able and willing to host a driving refresher program. Information was elicited on concerns, needs, perceived barriers and facilitators to implementing community-based programs for older drivers.

Objective #5: To identify, using survey methodology, occupational therapists' capacity building needs as related to the provision of older driver safety programs in Canada.

Methods to achieve #5: Based on structured interviews with occupational therapists across Canada we identified:

- 1) learning needs relating to injury prevention in older drivers,
- 2) current perceived competencies related to driver screening, assessment and retraining, and,
- 3) clinician preferences related to topic areas and mode (distance learning/in-person) when courses are offered related to older drivers.