

[ORGANIZATION NAME] Members/Users Encouraged to Participate in Older Americans Month

May 1- 31, 2022, is Older Americans Month. The 2022 theme, *Age My Way*, focuses on ways older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities. This includes safe mobility, making Older Americans Month the perfect opportunity to promote traffic safety, mobility options, and transportation needs for older adults. The Clearinghouse for Older Road User Safety (ChORUS) provides professionals and individuals resources to engage in addressing safety among older drivers.

The older population (65+), although a vulnerable road user, are among the safest drivers. The National Center of Statistical Analysis states that from 2019 to 2020 older drivers 65 and older involved in fatal crashes decreased by 9.8%; while all other age groups increased.¹ However, the fatal-crash driver involvement risk for both male and female licensed older drivers increases at age 75 and the highest increase is in the 80 to 84 age group.² Due to age related vulnerabilities, older drivers are more likely to be injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes.³

Medical Professionals play an important role in ensuring older driver safety. Healthcare Providers can discuss driving safety with potentially at-risk drivers and their family. For resources on how to facilitate this conversation, visit the ChORUS <u>Medical Professional Resources</u> and the <u>ChORUS Older Americans</u> Month Outreach Resources.

Throughout the month, ChORUS will spotlight different resources and tools around older driver safety. Topics will include:

- How staying healthy can help keep you safe on the road as a driver, pedestrian, or when using other modes of transportation.
- Tips for transportation planning to be prepared when a change in driving habits might be necessary.
- Information to make sure older drivers are aware and take advantage of safety features to improve traffic safety.

RoadSafeSeniors.org

We encourage [you, your peers, your members, your users, etc.] to learn more by following ChORUS on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, or <u>Linkedkin</u>

¹Stewart, T. (2022, March), Overview of motor vehicle crashes in 2020 (Report No. DOT HS 813 266). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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²National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2021, May). Older population: 2019 data (Traffic Safety Facts. Report No. DOT HS 813 121). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

³Pomidor A, ed. Clinician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers, 4th Edition. New York: The American Geriatrics Society; 2019.