



The Aging Population:

- refers to people over the age of 65 and represents 12.4% of the U.S. population, about one in every eight Americans
- will grow to be about 71.5 million by the year 2030, which is more than twice the number in 2000
- have multiple factors related to the normal aging process and complications from disease which can make driving and getting in and out of a vehicle more challenging

Older Drivers:

- often remain competent behind the wheel; however some of the changes that occur as a person ages can increase their risk on the road
- Those over the age of 75, have a higher risk of being involved in a collision for every mile they drive.
- are more likely to get into multi-vehicle accidents than younger drivers and car accidents are more dangerous for older drivers
- ability to drive should not be determined by age alone

Risk Factors That Can Effect Driving Ability:

- Vision decline
- Hearing loss
- Limited mobility and increased reaction time
- Medications
- Drowsiness
- Dementia or cognitive changes



Impact on Driving/Transportation:

- A modified vehicle, wheelchair lift or transfer seat may be needed for a person who now requires a scooter or wheelchair for mobility or has difficulty transferring into an unmodified vehicle.
- If continuing to drive is a goal and there are concerns due to a change in functional ability, the onset of disease, accidents or traffic violations, a driving evaluation should be completed to determine if the person has the cognitive, visual, perceptual and physical ability to continue driving. (www.aded.net).
- This evaluation would also determine if adaptive driving equipment or vehicle modifications would benefit the individual.

Possible Vehicle Equipment Needs:

- Wheelchair or scooter stowage lift
- Transfer seat
- Lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift
- Adaptive driving equipment may allow the person to compensate for an impaired ability to reach or operate primary and secondary driving controls

ABOUT RIDE-AWAY:

Ride-Away is America's largest provider of modified vehicles and adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Ride-Away products are used by individuals with minor to profound disabilities requiring additional assistance while traveling and range from hand controls and lifts to raised door and lowered floor vehicle modifications. Founded in 1986, Ride-Away's 11 East Coast locations are committed to offering a broad selection of specialized vehicles and services to meet the needs of every customer. All of Ride-Away's locations are also QAP (Quality Assurance Program) certified through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), resulting in Ride-Away being held to the highest standards in the industry. For more information, call (888)-RIDE-AWAY or visit our website at www.Ride-Away.com.