

The logo features the letters 'AAA' in a large, bold, blue font at the top. Below them, the words 'Foundation for Traffic Safety' are written in a similar bold, blue font, stacked across three lines. A light gray graphic of a road with a dashed center line and a triangular road sign is positioned behind the text.

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Saving lives through research and education

**Older Driver Involvement in Injury
Crashes in Texas, 1975-1999**



Older driver

involvement in

injury crashes



in Texas • 1975-1999

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Older Driver Issues

- **Fragility**
- **Illness**
- **Perceptual Lapses**
- **Left Turns**

Defining “Older Drivers”

Three age thresholds were used:

- 65 and older
- 75 and older
- 85 and older

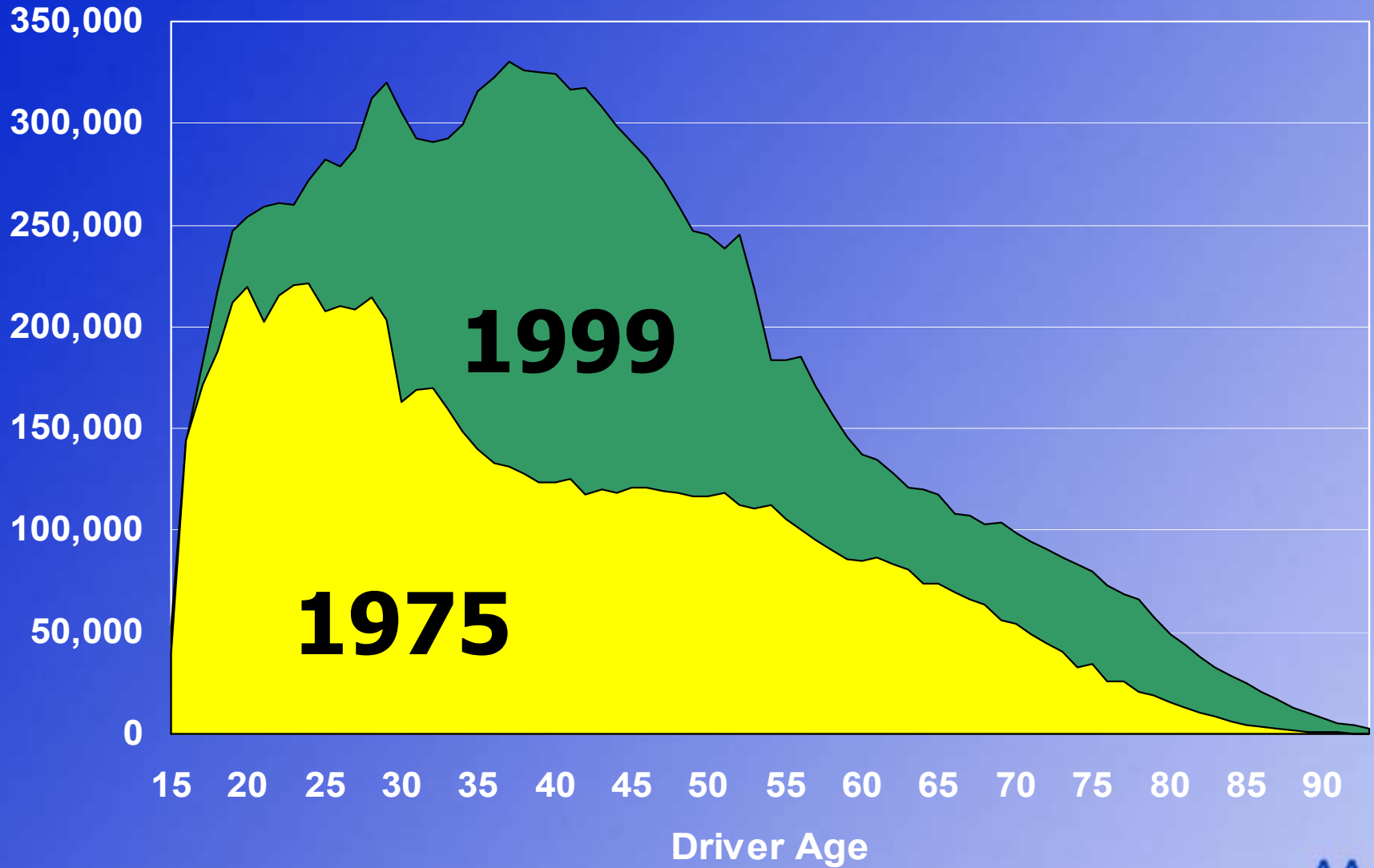
Comparison group in the analyses:

- Drivers aged 55 to 64

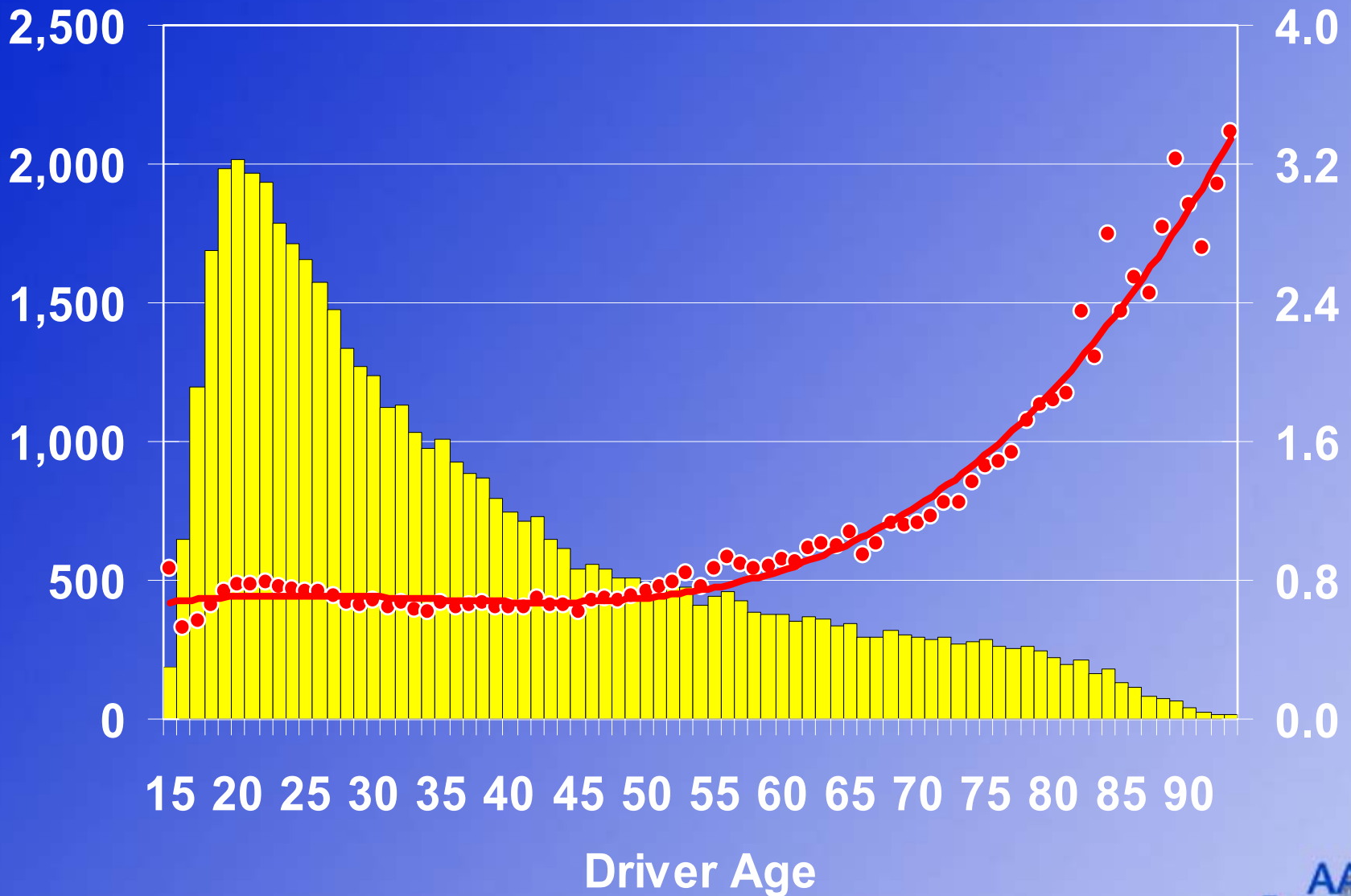
Older Driver Involvement in Injury Crashes

- Police-level crash data over 25 years
- Nearly 4 million records from Texas
- Large sample size - Findings of national interest
- Consistent with earlier national studies

Licensed Texas Drivers (1975 vs. 1999)



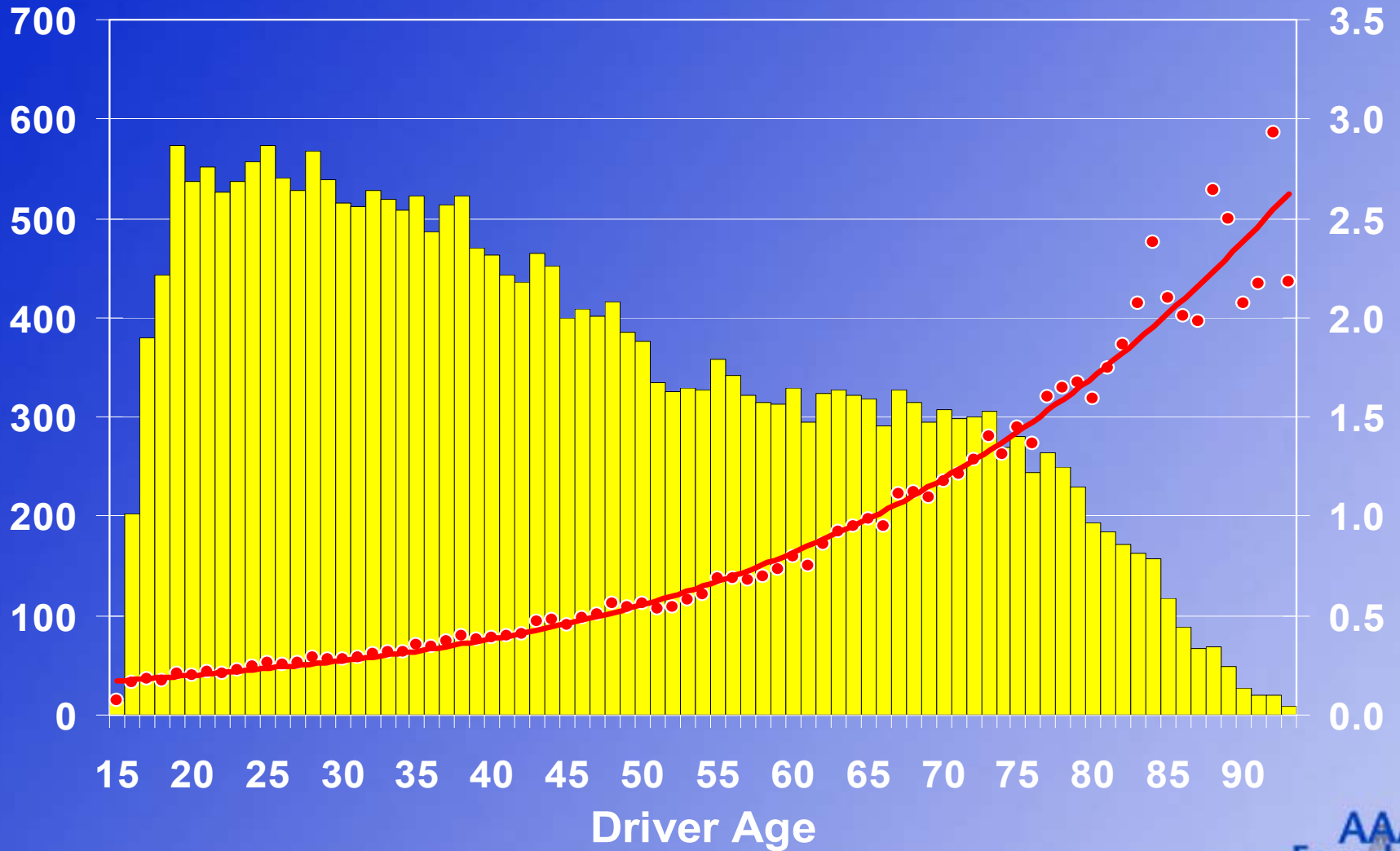
Drivers Killed in Injury Crashes



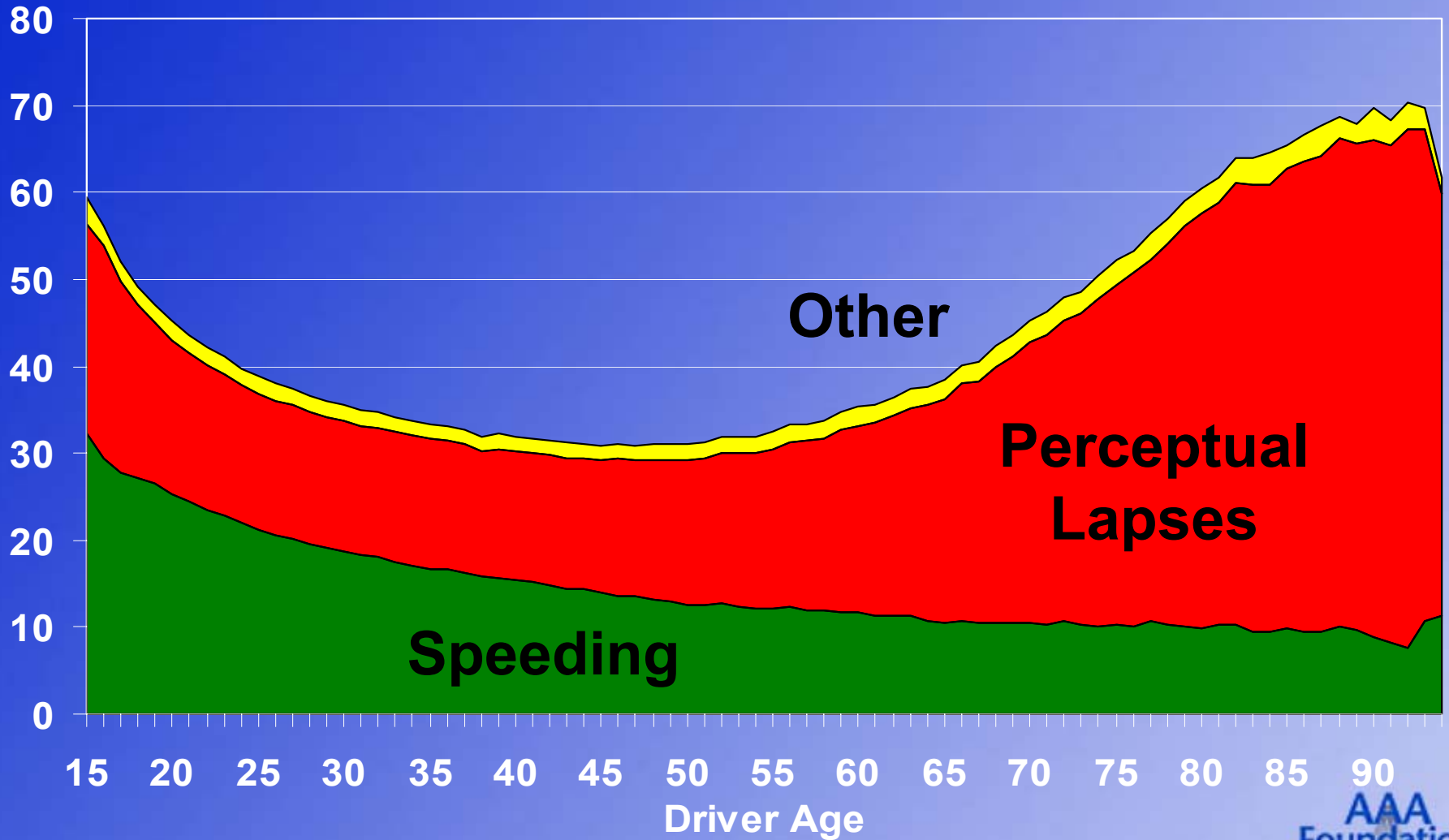
Likelihood of Older Drivers Dying When Controlling for:

- **Crash Type (Single Vehicle vs. Multiple)**
- **Population (Rural vs. Urban)**
- **Driver Sex (Male vs. Female)**
- **Light Condition (Daylight vs. Dark)**
- **Intersection Related (Yes vs. No)**

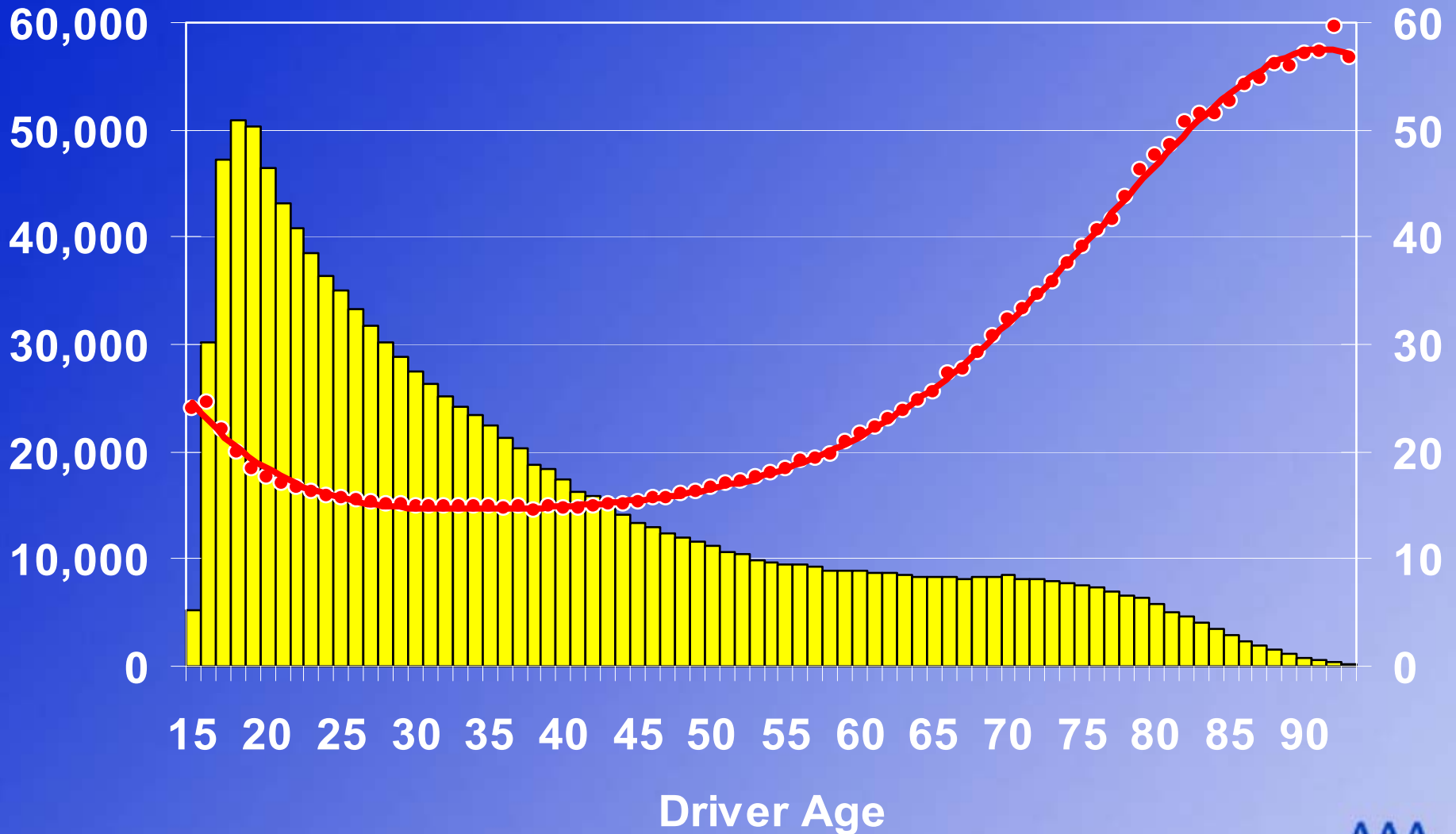
Drivers in Injury Crashes Impaired by Illness



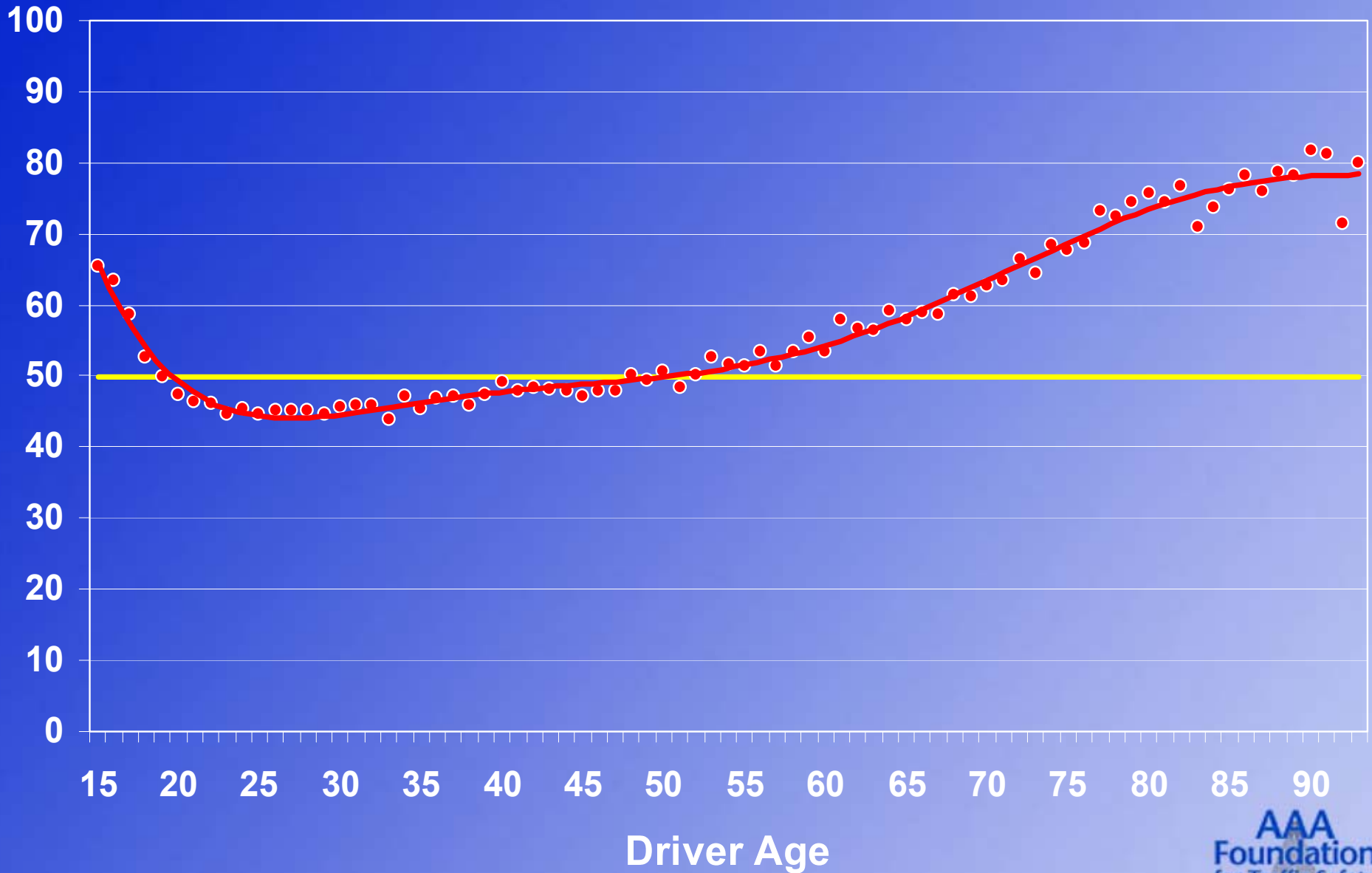
Drivers in Injury Crashes by Contributing Factor



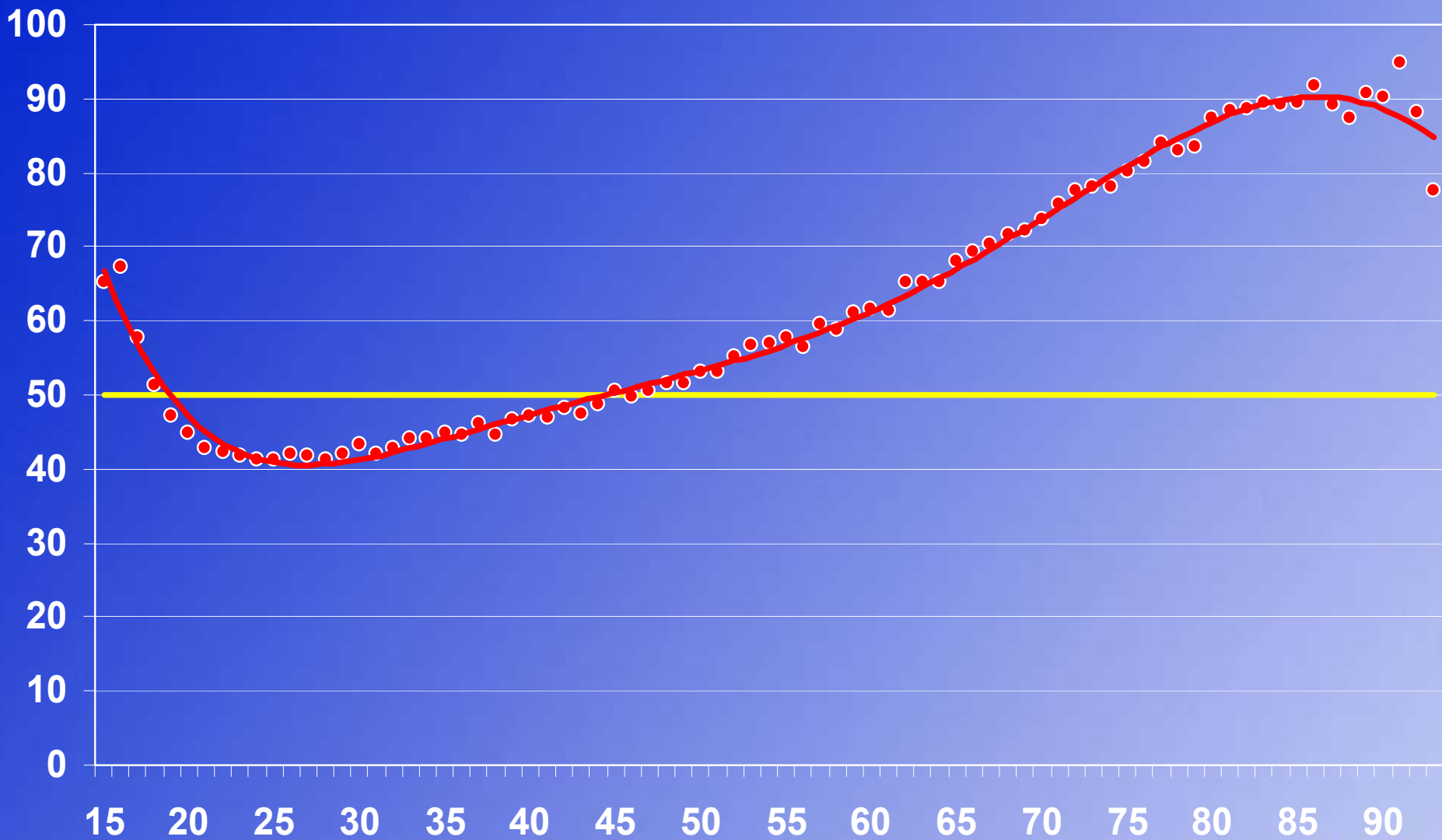
Drivers in Injury Crashes with Perceptual Lapses



Percent of Drivers Turning Left



Percent of Drivers Turning Left



Driver Age

Analysis Found...

- **65+** year olds are 1.78 times as likely to die
- **75+** year olds are 2.59 times as likely to die
- **85+** year olds are 3.72 times as likely to die

Note: Compared to 55 to 64 year-olds

Older Age Groups Became Progressively More Likely To Have:

- Been ill or suffer from some other physical ailment at the time of their crash
- Suffered perceptual lapses that contributed to their crash (such as failure to yield the right of way or disregarding signs or signals)
- Been involved in left-turn crashes

Conclusions

- **Aging can cause reaction time and other cognitive skills to diminish. It is vital that seniors honestly review their driving performance.**
- **Physicians and children of senior drivers can play a major role in assessing older driver's capabilities.**
- **Senior drivers can benefit from taking refresher training or a driver improvement course, which may qualify them for a car insurance discount.**

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a 501(c)(3) public charity located in Washington, DC that is dedicated to research and education about the causes of traffic crashes.

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