



# Research In Progress

## The Effects of Medical Conditions on Driving Performance

**Project Manager:** Kathy Sifrit (Email: [kathy.sifrit@dot.gov](mailto:kathy.sifrit@dot.gov), Phone: 202-366-0868)

Shifts in the age distribution of the population will result in increased numbers of older drivers in the coming decades. Older adults are projected to drive more and to continue driving longer than previous cohorts. Most older adults are capable and conscientious drivers, but some develop medical conditions that may interfere with their functional abilities, including those that support safe driving.

The objective of this study is to explore the effects of a variety of medical conditions common among older adults on their driving performance and exposure. Participants with conditions selected for the study, as well as a control group of similar age, will complete a professional driving evaluation. All participants will allow the research team to install instruments in their vehicles that will collect driving exposure data. These data will document the extent to which drivers with various medical conditions restrict their driving exposure.

The findings from this study will allow NHTSA to provide guidance to medical professionals who advise their older patients in decisions related to driving.

**Start Date:** April 29, 2011

**End Date:** April 28, 2014

**Contractor:** TransAnalytics, LLC

**Contract Number:** DTNH22-09-D-00135 TO# 0004

**Total Contract Cost:** \$695,956

**Last Updated:** January 2012