

POLICY OF AGE-RELATED HEALTH EXAMINATIONS AS A CONDITION OF DRIVERS' LICENSE RENEWALS IN OECD COUNTRIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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1. BACKGROUND: The Challenge of Aging and Road Safety



Increased Medical Risks with Age: Aging is associated with a rise in conditions affecting driving fitness, including stiff joints, vision issues, hearing loss, and cognitive decline. **Cognitive decline** (Parkinson's, glaucoma, cataracts)



Healthcare System Burden: Large-scale mandatory medical testing for license renewals places significant pressure on healthcare resources, potentially diverting them from more critical goals.



The Israeli Policy Context: Current policy requires drivers age 70+ to undergo screening, but this was established in 1992 based on expert opinion rather than empirical evidence of road traffic crashes.

METHODS: Systematic Search Strategy



Comprehensive OECD Audit: A systematic search of all 38 OECD countries was conducted between September and November 2023.



Multi-Language Data Retrieval: Researchers analyzed official transportation ministry websites in both English and local languages, supplemented by direct correspondence with OECD representatives.

RESULTS: Global Heterogeneity in Licensing

Prevalence of Age-Based Policies

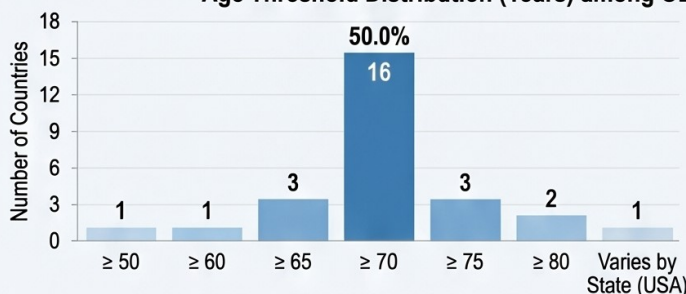


84% (32 countries) have defined renewal policies



16% (6 countries) have no stated age-related policy

Age Threshold Distribution (Years) among OECD Countries with Policies



The 70-Year-Old Threshold:

Among the 32 countries with policies, exactly 50% (16 countries) utilize age 70 as the threshold for medical examination.

Wide Range of Age Thresholds:

Requirement ages vary drastically, starting as low as age 50 in Türkiye and high as 85.



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Finland's Comprehensive Model:

Finland requires the most elaborate check-up, including a GP's certificate assessing cognitive capabilities, memory, orientation, judgment, and everyday functional abilities.

CONCLUSIONS: A Call for Functional Assessment



Absence of Data-Driven Rationale:

None of the surveyed countries provided a clear, evidence-based justification or crash-data rationale to support their specific age-related policies.



Prioritize Function over Chronological Age:

Licensing restrictions should be based on an individual's actual medical status and functional capacity rather than an arbitrary age limit.



The Need for Global Standards:

The current heterogeneity creates paradoxes where international drivers can operate vehicles in countries with stricter age requirements than their home nation.