How to Use the National EMS Dashboard: Traffic Crashes

How can I access the Dashboard?

The National EMS Dashboard on Traffic Crashes is separated into three sections, EMS Activation & Response, Patient Condition & Care, and Patient Transport. Each of these sections can be accessed by clicking on the tabs located at the top of the Dashboard welcome.

How can I filter the Dashboard?

The drop-down quick-filters located directly under the Data Set Size section can be used to filter by Mode of Transportation and Dispatch Year. To use a drop-down quick-filter click on the down facing arrow (indicated with red arrows below) to expand their corresponding filter window.

Once the filter window is shown, the user can include or exclude values by selecting or deselecting corresponding checkboxes. For example, if users would like to exclude bicycle crashes from the Dashboard output, they can deselect the checkbox to the left of Bicycle (as shown below). Once users have deselected the values they would like to exclude from the data set, click the Apply button to update the outputs of visualized data.
Individual data elements also have corresponding quick-filters to the right of their title. For example, if users would like to focus on patients 20 years of age and younger, they can deselect the check boxes for adult age groups through the filter located to the right of the Age data element (as shown below).

How can I undo the last filtering selection? How can I revert all previous filtering selections and return the Dashboard to the complete data set?

Users can undo the last filtering selection by clicking on the Undo option identified by the left facing arrow and located at the bottom of the Dashboard. Users can revert all previous filtering selections and return the Dashboard to the complete data set by clicking on the Revert option identified by the vertical line with a left facing arrow and located at the top of the Dashboard.

Why are there not quick-filters for every Dashboard data element? For example, why does Time from EMS Unit Departure until Arrival On-Scene not have a quick-filter?

Data elements that allow for multiple values do not have quick-filters available on the Dashboard. Including quick-filters for these data elements would increase the response time for Dashboard. However, if users would like to filter by these data elements, they can use the NEMSIS Data Explorer.
What is the purpose of the Data Set Size section?

The purpose of this section is to provide the user with information related to the number of EMS activations included in the calculated outputs of visualized data shown on the National EMS Dashboard, and the number of States, Territories, and EMS Agencies that are represented in the output. When the dashboard is initialized by the user, the complete dataset is used to calculate outputs of visualized data. The number of EMS Activations and the number of states, territories, and EMS agencies represented by the complete dataset as of 08/24/2016 are shown below.

If the user decides to filter or exclude parts of the complete dataset, the Data Set Size section will show the corresponding number of EMS activations and the number of States, Territories, and EMS agencies that contribute to the visualized outputs following the filtering or exclusion. Below is an example of the Data Set Size section output after filtering the dataset to only include the EMS activations that were dispatched between the hours of 12 AM and 6AM. The number of States and Territories represented in the filtered dataset remains at 49; however, the number EMS activations and the number of EMS agencies have both decreased compared to the complete dataset.
Using the Dashboard to generate research and hypotheses

The Dashboard is a great tool for generating research questions and hypotheses. Users can explore a limited selection of published articles below and gain access to the full dataset through the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center.

Data from the National EMS Database has been used to inform more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles. These articles have covered a wide variety of topics, including patient assessment and care in the pre-hospital setting, syndromic surveillance, EMS responses to hazardous materials events, emergency management planning, epidemiology of mass causality incidents, health inequities among minority trauma patients, and sampling serious injuries in traffic crashes.


