

Q&A: NEMSIS and the National EMS Database

Introduction

Clear and effective reporting of traffic crashes by event conditions, cause, associated risk factors, and high-risk populations is critical to understanding the most effective interventions, public policies and regulatory decisions to prevent traffic crashes. Emergency care data specific to traffic crash victims is invaluable to traffic safety professionals. EMS data helps illuminate the post-crash efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

What is NEMSIS?

Because EMS systems vary in their ability to collect patient and systems data and allow analysis at the local, state and national levels, NHTSA developed the [National Emergency Medical Services Information System](#) (NEMSIS), a national repository for collecting, storing, and sharing standardized EMS data from States nationwide.

What is the National EMS Database?

The National EMS Database is a repository of standard Emergency Medical Services records, free of confidential and private information, which is collected by States and territories to assess our nation's EMS systems; facilitate original research; and support data-driven innovations in EMS.

The National EMS Database collects EMS data from 49 States and territories and is populated with an average of 25 million EMS records per year.

How is EMS data unique?

While many robust and meaningful traffic crash databases exist, few provide valid and meaningful data specifically from the perspective of health care providers. The National EMS Database provides detailed information on the:

- crash victim's condition,
- care provided in the prehospital setting,
- EMS transport decision, and
- disposition of transport immediately following the crash.

In addition, NHTSA collects information on:

- use of lights and sirens,
- EMS response time,
- time spent by EMS personnel at the crash scene, and
- time required for transport from the crash scene to the initial health care facility destination.