HOW THE INFORMATION IS USED

The data collected by CRSS is used by NHTSA and others for a variety of purposes:

- assessing the overall state of highway safety and identifying existing and emerging highway safety trends;
- understanding the national picture regarding key safety priorities such as impaired driving, restraint use, and crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists;
- establishing an estimate of the number of people injured in motor vehicle-related crashes annually; and
- assessing the effectiveness of motor vehicle safety standards and highway safety programs.

After all personal identifiers are removed, information collected by CRSS is made available to other Federal agencies; State and local governments; universities; research institutions; the automobile, trucking, and insurance industries; and the general public.

INFORMATION ON CRSS

For more information on CRSS data collection and coding, contact:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
National Center for Statistics and Analysis
State Data Reporting Systems Division, NVS-412
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

ncsaweb@dot.gov
1-800-934-8517

For statistical publications and information, or data files, contact:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
National Center for Statistics and Analysis
Data Reporting and Information Division, NVS-424
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

1-800-934-8517
ncsaweb@dot.gov

Or visit www.nhtsa.gov

AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

Do you need information on auto safety recalls, crash test results, or fuel economy ratings? Do you have a complaint about a possible motor vehicle safety defect?

Call the Auto Safety Hotline, toll-free: **1-888-327-4236**

DOT HS 812 096
December 2014

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov

10944-121514-v7

CRASH REPORT SAMPLING SYSTEM

Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS)

Motor Vehicle Crash Data Collection

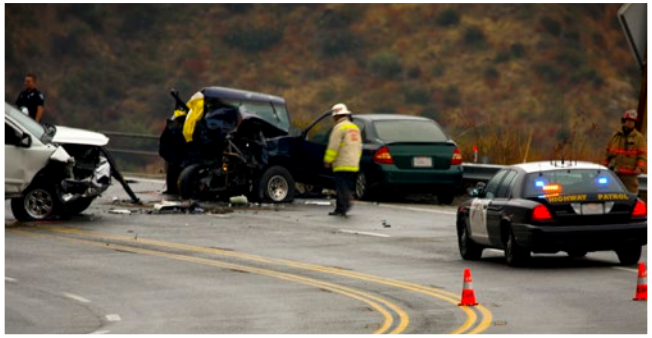
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
National Center for Statistics and Analysis

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov

WHAT IS CRSS?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has collected crash data since the early 1970s to support its mission to reduce motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and deaths on our Nation's highways. The Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) builds on the retiring, long running National Automotive Sampling System General Estimates System (NASS GES). CRSS is a sample of police-reported crashes involving all types of motor vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists, ranging from property-damage-only crashes to those that result in fatalities. CRSS is used to estimate the overall crash picture, identify highway safety problem areas, measure trends, drive consumer information initiatives, and form the basis for cost and benefit analyses of highway safety initiatives and regulations. NHTSA's crash data collection program consists of CRSS, the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), the Crash Investigation Sampling System (CISS), Special Crash Investigations (SCI), Not-in-Traffic Surveillance (NiTS), the Crash Injury Research & Engineering Network (CIREN), and special studies conducted to address various safety topics.



HOW CRSS WORKS

CRSS obtains its data from a nationally representative probability sample selected from the estimated 5 to 6 million police-reported crashes that occur annually.

These crashes include those that result in a fatality or injury and those involving property damage. By focusing attention on police-reported crashes, CRSS concentrates on those crashes of greatest concern to the highway safety community and the general public.

CRSS SAMPLING

To be eligible for the CRSS sample, a police crash report must be completed and reported to the State; it must involve at least one motor vehicle traveling on a traffic way; and the crash must result in property damage, injury, or death.

These crash reports are chosen from selected areas that reflect the geography, population, miles driven, and crashes in the United States. CRSS data collectors review crash reports from hundreds of law enforcement agencies across the United States, randomly sampling tens of thousands of crash reports each year. The collectors obtain copies of the reports and send them to a central location for coding. No other data is collected beyond that in the selected crash reports.

CRASH REPORT SAMPLING SYSTEM

CRSS DATA FILES

Trained data entry personnel interpret and code data directly from the crash reports into an electronic data file. Approximately 120 data elements are coded into a common format. After coding, quality checks are performed on the data, both electronically and manually to ensure validity and consistency. When these are completed, CRSS data files and coding documentation become publicly available.

COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL

CRSS depends on the participation and cooperation of law enforcement agencies. This cooperation lets NHTSA list and select crash reports. Police crash reports – which provide key information on the location of the crash, the vehicles involved, and whether injured occupants were transported for medical care – are obtained and treated as confidential documents.

Personal information such as names, addresses, license and registration numbers, or crash locations are not included in the public CRSS files.