TRAFFIC RECORDS TRAINING
FOR STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE LEADERSHIP

GHSA
NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov
GETTING HELP WITH TRAFFIC RECORDS
SESSION OUTLINE

Getting Help with Traffic Records

- Data Analysis Resources
- Selecting a TR Data Consultant
- Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)
- NHTSA Resources
INTRODUCTIONS

- Name
- Title and Highway Safety Office Responsibilities
- Length of Time in Highway Safety Office and in Current Position
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Describe the data analysis resources available to the SHSO
2. Describe your options in selecting a Traffic Records Consultant
3. Identify the purpose of Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), where your state’s FARS Analyst is located, and ways in which you can work with your analyst
4. Identify NHTSA’s Traffic Records resources and their purpose
DATA ANALYSIS RESOURCES

- In-house Data Analysis
  - SHSO staff
  - Personnel within your state agency

- Outsourcing Data Analysis
  - State university
  - Consultant
NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS (NCSA)

- Analytical and Statistical Support
  - Human, vehicle, environmental, roadway characteristics
  - Injury mechanisms and crash dynamics
  - Effectiveness of traffic safety efforts
  - Monitoring of traffic safety problem
  - Benefits of proposed agency rules

- Oversee NHTSA Data Collection and Analysis Programs

- Variety of Publications
  - Reports
  - Crash Stats
  - Traffic Safety Fact Sheets

http://www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA
STATE TRAFFIC SAFETY INFORMATION (STSI)

- State Specific Safety Information
  - Safety performance measures
  - Fatality rates
  - Alcohol-impaired
  - Speed related
  - Safety belt/child safety seat use
  - Motorcycle helmet use

SELECTING A TRAFFIC RECORDS EXPERT
IDENTIFYING A TRAFFIC RECORDS EXPERT

- In-House Traffic Records Expert
  - SHSO staff
  - Personnel within your state agency
- Outsourcing Traffic Records Expert
  - Consultant
FATALITY ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM
WHAT IS THE FATALITY ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM (FARS)?

- Census of Fatal Traffic Crashes
  - Crash
  - Vehicles
  - People involved

- Data Gathered from State and Other Data Sources
  - Police accident reports
  - Driver/vehicle data systems
  - Hospital/EMS reports
  - Vital records
  - Coroner/medical examiner reports

- Transmitted to NHTSA Daily
SHSO OR OTHER STATE AGENCY?

- State FARS Analysts can be Located in your:
  - SHSO
  - Department of Transportation
  - Division of Motor Vehicles
  - State Highway Patrol
  - Department of Public Safety
  - Injury Monitoring Agency
WORKING WITH YOUR STATE’S FARS ANALYST

- Fatality Crash Reports
  - Copies of crash reports
  - Some FARS Analysts enter fatal crashes into Crash Database

- Analysis and Research on Policy Issues

- Respond to Queries from General Public, Legislators, Media, etc.

- Information for SHSO Web Site and Publications
  - State Traffic Crash Facts
  - Impaired Driving Facts
  - County-Specific Fact Sheets

- Input on Safety Training Materials and Curriculum
TRAFFIC RECORDS PROGRAM
ASSESSMENT ADVISORY

- Guidance on Traffic Records Data Collection, Management, and Analysis
- Describes IDEAL Traffic Records System
  - Contents
  - Capabilities
  - Data Quality
- Approach for Traffic Records Assessment

www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811644.pdf
MODEL PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR STATE TRAFFIC RECORDS SYSTEMS

- Quantify Systemic Improvements to Traffic Records Systems
- Develop and Track Performance Goals
  - TR Strategic Plan
  - Highway Safety Plan
- Establish Measures for Specific Traffic Records Projects
- Support Data Improvement Goals in the SHSP

TRAFFIC RECORDS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REPORTING SYSTEM (TRIPRS)

- On-line Reporting System for State Traffic Records Information
  - State TRCC Information
  - Strategic Plan
  - TR Assessment Status
  - Performance Measures
  - TR Projects and Progress Reports
  - TR Data Systems

http://www.nhtsa.gov/triprs
NHTSA GO TEAMS

- Provide Technical Assistance or Training to Improve Traffic Records Data Collection, Management, and Analysis Capabilities
  - Small group of one to three subject matter experts
  - Address a smaller scale, short- to medium-term need
  - Requests should address a specific traffic records improvement need

- Identified by the TRCC and SHSO

http://www.nhtsa.gov/Data/Traffic+Records
**EXAMPLE GO TEAMS TOPICS**

- **Data Integration:** Evaluate available databases and facilitate discussion between data custodians to allow sharing and integration between agencies and suggest how integrated data could be used to identify problems and recommend and evaluate countermeasures.

- **Injury Surveillance:** Facilitate discussions with data managers and help explain the importance of linking injury data with crash data, how data will be used, and address confidentiality concerns in order to move towards a data sharing agreement or MOU.

- **Citation/Adjudication:** Help develop a “law table” to interpret the local charges and help States harmonize local and state statute citations so that more accurate data can be collected.

Source: NHTSA, “Requesting a NHTSA Go Team”, October 2012

http://www.nhtsa.gov/Data/Traffic+Records
NHTSA GO TEAMS (CONT.)

- Application Requirements
  - Describe the issue in sufficient detail
  - Submitted by state-designated representative via TRIPRS
  - Approved by SHSO and TRCC
  - Accepted on rolling basis
  - First-come, first-served

State requests technical assistance on a specific TR issue → State, working with its Regional Program Manager, prepares an application for assistance → NHTSA identifies GO Team members and sends to State


http://www.nhtsa.gov/Data/Traffic+Records
U.S. DOT TRCC

- Comprised of NHTSA, FHWA, FMCSA, and RITA
- Coordinated Support for State Records Systems and Analysis through Member Agency Outreach, Training, Technical Assistance, and Grant Programs
- Better Utilize Departmental Resources, Identify Data Collection and Analysis Collaboration Opportunities, and Support The Integration of Traffic Records Data and Standards

http://www.dot.gov/trcc
CDC – WEB-BASED INJURY STATISTICS QUERY AND REPORTING SYSTEM (WISQARS)

- Interactive, On-line Database
  - Fatal injury data
  - Non-fatal injury data
  - Violent death data
  - Cost of injury data

- Data Parameters
  - Intent of injury
  - Mechanism/cause
  - Body region
  - Nature/type
  - Geographic location
  - Demographics

SESSION SUMMARY

- Data Analysis Resources
- Selecting a TR Data Consultant
- The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)
- NHTSA Resources