Introduction to MN Crash Data

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Collecting Crash Data

- **169.09 Subd. 8. Officer to report accident to commissioner.** A peace officer who, in the regular course of duty, investigates an accident that must be reported under this section shall, within ten days after the date of the accident, forward an electronic or written report of the accident as prescribed by the commissioner of public safety.

- **169.09 Subd. 9. Accident report format.** The commissioner of public safety shall prescribe the format for the accident reports required under this section. Upon request the commissioner shall make available the format to police departments, coroners, sheriffs, garages, and other suitable agencies or individuals. The electronic or written report to be completed by individuals involved in accidents and by investigating peace officers must disclose the causes, existing conditions, and the individuals and vehicles involved.

- **169.10 Statistical Information.** The Department of Public Safety shall tabulate and may analyze all accident reports and shall publish annually or at more frequent intervals statistical information based thereon as to the number and circumstances of traffic accidents.

What data we collect

- Information about:
  - The crash
    - Date, time, location, road conditions, weather, crash type
  - The vehicles involved
    - Make, model, color, defects, commercial information
  - The people
    - Role (e.g., driver, passenger, non-motorist), age, gender, license status, contributing factors, actions, physical condition, seat belt use, injury severity

What we do with it

- Quality control
- Reporting
- Data-driven decision making

MNCrash

- State crash reporting system
- Launched January 1, 2016
- Introduced a brand new online crash report, with new data elements
  - Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC)
- Designed with law enforcement in mind
  - HumanFIRST at the University of Minnesota

Notable Differences

- Injury severity
- Crash type
- Contributing factors
- Driver distracted by
- Driver speeding
- Drug & alcohol test results (fatal crashes)
- Non-motorist location & action
- Safety equipment

A-Injury Definition

Prior to 2016	MNCrash (2016 and beyond)
Incapacitating Injury: An incapacitating injury is any injury, other than a fatal injury, which prevents the injured person from walking, driving or normally continuing the activities the person was capable of performing before the injury occurred. Inclusions: Severe lacerations, broken or distorted limbs, skull or chest injuries, abdominal injuries, unconsciousness at or when taken from the scene, unable to leave the scene without assistance Exclusions: momentary unconsciousness	Suspected Serious Injury: A suspected serious injury is any injury other than fatal which results in one or more of the following: • Severe laceration resulting in exposure of underlying tissues/muscle/organs or resulting in significant loss of blood • Broken or distorted extremity • Crush injuries • Suspected skull, chest or abdominal injury other than bruises or minor lacerations • Significant burns (second or third degree burns over 10% or more of the body) • Unconsciousness when taken from the crash scene • Paralysis

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

So why is crash data important?

These reports are not just for insurance companies!

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Potential future research

- Compare MN to other states
- Analysis of the type of distraction in drivers
- Expanded look at vehicle and roadway contributing factors
- Vulnerable users—better data for peds and bikes

Contact with questions/ideas

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