

INTRODUCTION

In this annual report, *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data*, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration presents descriptive statistics about traffic crashes of all severities, from those that result in property damage to those that result in the loss of human life.

Information from three of NHTSA's primary data systems has been combined to create a single source for motor vehicle traffic crash statistics. The first data system, the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), is probably the better known of the three sources. Established in 1975, FARS contains data on the most severe traffic crashes, those in which someone was killed. The second source is the National Automotive Sampling System General Estimates System (NASS GES), which began operation in 1988 and ended in 2015. NASS GES contains data from a nationally representative sample of police-reported crashes of all severities, including those that resulted in death, injury, or property damage. The third source is the new Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS), which replaced NASS GES in 2016. CRSS is the redesigned nationally representative sample of police-reported traffic crashes.

FARS, GES, and CRSS were designed and developed by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis to provide an overall measure of highway safety, to help identify traffic safety problems, to suggest solutions, and to help provide an objective basis on which to evaluate the effectiveness of motor vehicle safety standards and highway safety initiatives. Data from these systems is used to answer requests for information from the international and national highway traffic safety communities, including State and local governments, the Congress, Federal agencies, research organizations, industry, the media, and private citizens.