IMPROVING DATA QUALITY
Key Resources from FMCSA's Data Quality Program

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is counting on its State partners to help improve the quality of data you know most about: your own. FMCSA offers the tools and support you need to deliver the best possible data quality.

Ways to Enhance Your Data Quality

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Effective Safety Programs Need High-Quality Data

Quality data helps save lives. It enables FMCSA and States to better plan for, prioritize, and allocate enforcement resources where they will have the greatest impact on safety.

The FMCSA Data Quality Improvement Program engages Federal and State partners in a shared effort to monitor, correct, and improve the quality of data issued by FMCSA. You play a critical role in helping to ensure data is more accurately collected and reported to FMCSA.

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Review Your Data

Before you can improve your data quality, you need to understand FMCSA performance measures and how to monitor them over time. To get started, visit FMCSA's Data Quality website at **http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/DataQuality.**

The website provides the performance measures and other resources that can help States improve the crash and inspection data they upload to the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS).

Evaluation

State Safety Data Quality (SSDQ) Performance Measures: States are rated on a monthly basis on the completeness, timeliness, accuracy, and consistency of State-reported crash and roadside inspection data in MCMIS.

Monitoring

State Data Analysis Reports (SDARs): SDARs support the SSDQ evaluation and individual measures.

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A variety of training and technical support is available to help you and your State improve data quality.

Online Tools

Access the following resources online:

SAFETYNET Best Practices: Recommendations and tips for using SAFETYNET to maintain and improve data quality.

http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/DataQuality

DataQs and the DataQs Analyst Guide: This system helps Federal and State agencies respond to requests from anyone who has a concern about FMCSA-issued data.

https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov

Data Quality Presentations: Located in A&I Online's Analysis Results & Reports module, many of these presentations were offered at various forums and training venues.

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/CarrierResearchResults/Outreach.asp?pgs=17

Police Accident Reporting: These educational materials help State agencies promote accurate collection of crash data.

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/DataQuality/DataQuality.asp?redirect=crashcollectiontraining

FARS/MCMIS Matching: A tool designed to help reconcile differences between the number of fatal crash records in the FARS and MCMIS databases.

https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/DataQuality/DataQuality.asp?redirect=about_datatools.asp

Direct Training & Support

SAFETYNET Training with a Data Quality Perspective: This training offers lessons on how to maintain and improve your data quality through SAFETYNET. These sessions are designed specifically for beginner or advanced users.

Crash Form Completion Training: These Train-the-Trainer sessions teach law enforcement how to complete your State's crash form to meet FMCSA requirements. For more information contact David Hetzel, National Institute for Safety Research (NISR) (954-864-6281).

Improving State Reporting Systems: Review of crash collection software and the extraction logic used to identify FMSCA reportable crashes from State crash repositories. For more information contact David Hetzel, NISR (954-864-6281).

Need One-on-One Assistance?

Data Quality Specialists offer direct support in monitoring the SSDQ measures, identifying improvements, and directing States to resources.

DATA QUALITY SPECIALISTS

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Did You Know?

FMCSA's Safety Data Improvement Program (SaDIP) provides discretionary grants to States for activities to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of safety data. Funds can be used to purchase equipment, train law enforcement in collecting CMV crash data, hire temporary staff to manage data quality improvements, revise outdated crash report forms, and code and enter crash data. For more information contact Bill Bannister (William.Bannister@dot.gov).

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