Crash Investigation Sampling System
Pilot Data Release

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released the first cases from its modernized data system, the Crash Investigation Sampling System or CISS. In 2012 Congress appropriated funding to NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis to modernize its crash data collection systems. The multi-year Data Modernization Project's goal was to reaffirm NHTSA's position as the leader in motor vehicle crash data collection and analysis by collecting quality data to keep pace with emerging technologies and policy needs.

One of the outcomes of the Data Modernization Project was the retirement of the National Automotive Sampling System Crashworthiness Data System (NASS-CDS) and implementation of its replacement, CISS. Training of the crash technicians began in 2015 and CISS pilot data collection concluded at the end of 2016 with 24 nationally representative data collection sites operational. The 125 pilot cases will give users the first look at the data being collected in the new system. CISS cases from 2017 and after will be released in analysis files that will let users make national estimates with the data, something not possible with the pilot cases.

Some of the enhancements in CISS include the following.

- Collection sites better reflect the current population of crashes
- Newer vehicles are targeted
- Anticipate smaller margins of error for key estimates
- Scalable and flexible sample resulting in improved vehicle acquisition/investigation rates
- More secure and modernized information technology
- Collection of scene and vehicle measurements with new equipment, called "Total Stations," enabling these multiple file formats of the measurements for download:
    - .nik (Nikon raw measurement files)
    - .csv (comma-separated value)
    - .blz (FARO Blitz files of completed diagrams and crush profiles)
    - .pdf (Adobe files of scaled diagrams)
- Additional roadway information
- Collection of crash avoidance technology presence and activation
- Enhanced injury coding
    - Injury causation information
    - Use of Visual Anatomical Injury Descriptor software developed by the Department of Defense Army Research Lab
- Availability of raw .cdr event data recorder files

Send questions or comments regarding CISS to ncsaweb@dot.gov