Recommendations for the State of North Carolina Comprehensive Motor Vehicle and
Injury Records System Review

Governor's Highway Safety Program
April 27- May 1, 1992

The project team made the following recommendations in 1992. For a copy of the full
report, please contact the Governor's Highway Safety Program Office or Kevin Lacy at
the UNC Highway Safety Research Center.

Page 5:
A. Establish a statewide traffic/injury records coordinating committee with GHSP as permanent chair.
B. GHSP (the permanent chair) will be responsible for coordinating all activities to improve the quality and utility of traffic and injury data.
   1. See page 6 for specific data.
C. Establish and maintain considerable communications among the component organizations.
D. SMS was required by ISTEA in 1991 but this mandate was removed in 1995.
E. Concerning CADRE/NGA, North Carolina should consider how its system would consider these data elements. This has been replaced with MUCC
F. The exposure encourages the development of a program to develop exposure data compatible with crash and injury data.

Page 9: Traffic Records Files
A. Accident File
   1. Develop a distributed (remote) entry of crash reports from the various agencies entering crash data.
   2. Develop a process that will effect regular updates to operational files AAR and roadway.
B. Driver File
   1. North Carolina should support the DMV decision to convert the Drivers file to a more visible format. Any redesign should incorporate the needs of all members of the traffic records/injury prevention community.
   2. DMV employees should be trained to understand the value of the driver's file in a comprehensive traffic records system.
C. Vehicle File
   1. Redesign of the system.
   2. Redesign of vehicle file should accommodate the needs of VIN decoding.
D. Roadway (The merge, not the actual roadway)
   1. Additional consideration should be given to adding GPS in all police units in order to locate crashes.
   2. Use GPS and GIS for location purposes of roadway features.
E. Citation/ Conviction File
   1. No assessment was conducted
F. Ambulance Call Report
   1. Urge the adoption of a standard that includes various data items.
   2. An ACR standard form should be developed and used.
   3. There should be a link between the crash reports and the ACR>
   4. There also needs to be a link between ACR and the emergency department. Data.
G. Emergency Department Data
   1. There is no standard format in North Carolina.
   2. The data from this file has not been computerized

3. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations requires maintenance of such data from emergency departments.
4. North Carolina Standardized data elements are used in ED patient clinical data systems.
5. There should be encouragement for the computerization of ED records and incentives should be provided to ED to do so.

H. Hospital Discharge Data
1. The North Carolina medical database commission maintains this data.
2. The data is in compliance with standard UB83 format.
3. The data routinely lacks E-code data.
4. What is E- coda data? It means External Cause of Injury.
5. DEHNR should establish a program to expand the use of E-Code.
6. North Carolina should conduct some very specific research in this field.

I. Trauma Registry
1. Trauma centers should capture data if there is a diagnosis with an ICD-9 code between 8---959 or the injury results in a fatality.
2. There should be support for a comprehensive trauma center.
3. Statewide trauma should have a direct link to the ACR.
4. North Carolina should consider planning for a two-tiered system in order to capture ED data as well.

J. Medical Examiner's File
1. No recommendations

K. 911 Tracking
1. No recommendations

L. File linkages
1. There should be link between all record systems.
2. Develop a Highway Traffic Safety injury data system.

M. Data characteristics
1. Timely and accurate data input
   a. Develop data entry systems for all traffic and injury records that can collect the data at distributed locations. This will reduce redundancies.
2. Data uniformity
   a. Carry out assessments of the extent to which TR complies with the standards (a dull assessment of each system).
3. Data Consistency
   a. No recommendations

4. Timely and complete data output
   a. Develop a schedule of standard and periodic analytical reports for major system users.
   b. Eliminate barriers to access of component systems.
   c. Ensure that longitudinal data file elements are consistent when changes are made to record content and format.

N. Use of TR
1. Management Process.
   a. Establish a central planning/management group that will:

        i.   Communicate with reporting personnel to inform them of the value of the data they are collecting.

        ii.   Measure the data's completeness and accuracy.

  2. Problem Identification

    a. Improve crash locations

    b. Link TR components (i.e.- ACR, ED, HD)

O. Output Reports for Management

  1. Develop distribution system for providing relevant information on a regular basis to state and local entities.

  2. Develop traffic accident newsletter.

  3. Develop needs of high users (customers).

P. Evaluation

  1. Evaluate (identify data needs and sources).

  2. Broaden HP-320 form to include other agencies

Q. Managing Traffic Records

  1. State Traffic/Injury Records Committee

    a. Establish committees

  2. Traffic Records Function

    a. No recommendations