

GES OPERATIONS

The National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) - General Estimates System (GES) data are obtained from a nationally representative probability sample selected from all police-reported crashes. The system began operation in 1988. To be eligible for the GES sample, a police accident report (PAR) must be completed for the crash, and the crash must involve at least one motor vehicle traveling on a trafficway and must result in property damage, injury, or death. Although various sources suggest that about half the motor vehicle crashes in the country are not reported to police, the majority of these unreported crashes involve only minor property damage and no significant personal injury. By restricting attention to police-reported crashes, the GES concentrates on those crashes of greatest concern to the highway safety community and the general public.

GES data collectors make weekly visits to 410 police jurisdictions in 60 sites across the United States, where they randomly sample about 55,000 PARs per year. The collectors obtain copies of the PARs and send them to the NASS quality control centers for coding. No other data are collected beyond the selected PARs—no driver license, vehicle registration, or medical information is obtained.

Trained data entry personnel interpret and code data directly from the PARs into an electronic data file. Approximately 90 data elements are coded into a common format. Some elements are modified every other year to meet the changing needs of the highway safety community. To protect individual privacy, no personal information (names, addresses, specific crash locations) is coded. During data coding, the data are checked electronically for validity and consistency. After the data file is created, further quality checks are performed on the data through computer processing and by the data coding supervisors.

Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) Replaces the National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) General Estimates System (GES)

NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) redesigned the nationally representative sample of police-reported traffic crashes, which estimates the number of police-reported injury and property-damage-only crashes in the United States. The new system, called CRSS, replaced NASS GES in 2016. The CRSS data was released in May 2018.