The DISPATCH

PennDOT Crash Newsletter - News you can use!

What's New?

PCIT Update

The Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool (PCIT) is a public gateway that provides crash statistics for reportable crashes statewide. This no-cost website is maintained by PennDOT and provides public access to crash related information.

PennDOT is continually enhancing the PCIT site, allowing police agencies increasingly more access to data that is not available to the general public. This includes the most current data specific to each police agency.

Police can quickly access their data quality dashboards and print accreditation reports that provide crash timeliness metrics for accreditation entities. They can also create custom queries to show exactly where crashes are taking place as well as provide details for specific crash categories. Unfortunately, some police agencies have been reluctant to employ the use of this highly beneficial tool.

Although the public site requires no registration, the restricted area available for local police agencies, requires the request for a PCIT Police User Account. The onboarding process can take 6 to 8 weeks. If you are interested in learning more or would perhaps like a demo of how PCIT could benefit your agency, please reach out to the TRPA assigned to your area.

Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool (PCIT)

ESEC Security

The Crash Reporting System website will be replacing its outdated log in security with the state mandated security system for Commonwealth web applications known as ESEC. This will not affect submitting crash data using records management software such as TraCS.

On June 26th, the crash system will be offline for about 2 hours. Before the outage, your old CRS username will be the only way to access crash. After the outage only the new ESEC log-in ID can be used. There will be no transition period where either can be used.

There are a few steps that will need to take place before you will be able to log in to the crash website using ESEC security. The ESEC setup screen will be available starting June 9th, so you will have about 2 weeks to set up your ESEC accounts before the system goes live:

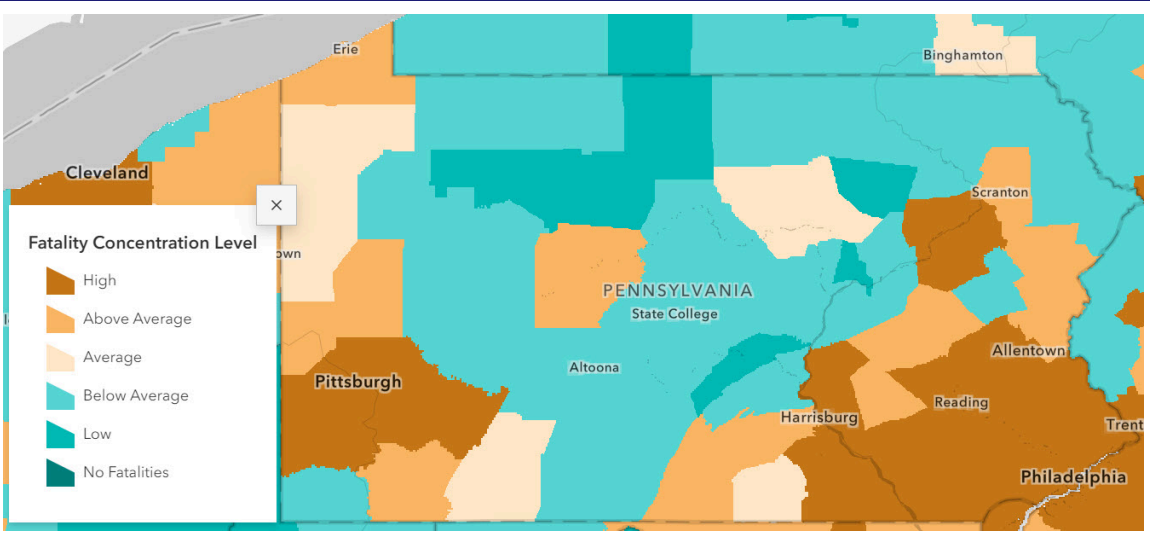
Step 1: Set up your organization as a **commonwealth business entity**. This would be based on your Federal Employer Identification Number established by the IRS. For most police agencies, this will be your municipality. Your organization may already be established. That can be determined when you attempt to set up your organization on the ESEC setup screen.

Step 2: Establish at least 1 ESEC Security administrator for your police department. The administrator will be able to grant access to existing users using their new ESEC log-in ID, set up new crash accounts, and maintain existing account privileges. The new security system will allow users to reset their own password.

Step 3: Set up every crash system user with a new Commonwealth ESEC account. Once the new ESEC log-in ID has been set up, the Security Administrator would then assign that new ID to an existing crash account, or set up a new account using that ESEC ID.

These steps will need to be taken prior to the ESEC GO LIVE date currently scheduled for June 26th. We are currently busy creating Tip Sheets and documentation to send to those agencies that will be affected by this change.

Working Together



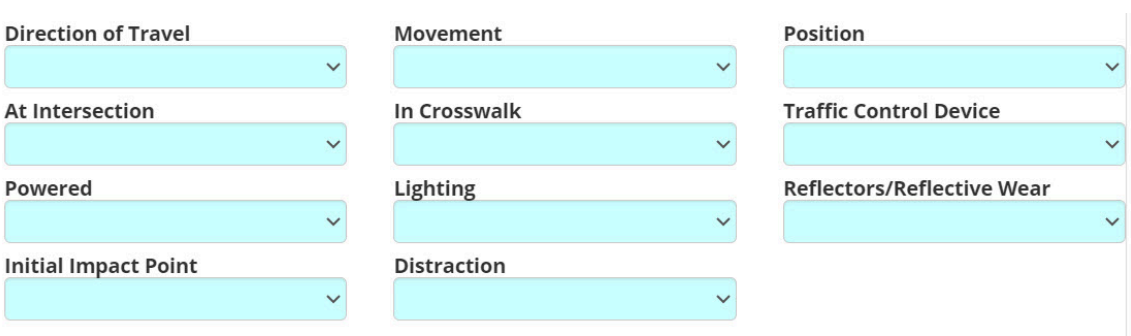
The map above displays the concentration level of roadway fatalities by county based on the total number of fatalities between 2017 and 2021.

Our Nation's Roadway Safety Crisis

Nearly 95% of people who die using our nation's transportation networks (transit services, rail lines, roadways, etc.) are killed on our streets, roads, and highways. Roadway fatalities and the fatality rate declined consistently for 30 years, but progress has stalled over the past decade and went in the wrong direction in 2020 and 2021. There were 42,939 lives lost on U.S. roads in 2021 - the largest number of fatalities since 2005.

In response, the U.S. Department of Transportation National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) outlines the Department's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets. This is the first step in working toward an ambitious long-term goal of reaching zero roadway fatalities. Every driver, passenger, and pedestrian should be certain that they're going to arrive at their destination safely, every time.

Understanding Crash Terms



Coding Non-Motorists

A Non-Motorist is any person who is not an occupant of a motor vehicle. This includes pedestrians, cyclists, occupants of non-motor vehicle transport devices, and unknown types of non-motorists.

- Direction of Travel: Direction the pedestrian or non-motorist was traveling prior to the crash events.
- Movement: Action taken by the pedestrian or non-motorist immediately prior to the crash events.

- Position: Where the pedestrian or non-motorist was while in traffic, crossing the roadway, or not in traffic.
- At Intersection - In Crosswalk - TCD: These fields are only applicable to pedestrians or non-motorists who are crossing the roadway and not in traffic. ***Travelling in traffic through an intersection is NOT crossing the street.*
- Powered: Is the non-motorist conveyance powered? ***Does not apply to pedestrians.*
- Lighting: Was the pedestrian or non-motorist conveyance using lighting?
- Reflectors/Reflective Wear: Did the pedestrian have reflective wear or did the non-motorist conveyance have reflectors?
- Distraction: Was the pedestrian or non-motorist distracted by anything?
- Initial Impact Points for pedestrians or non-motorists:

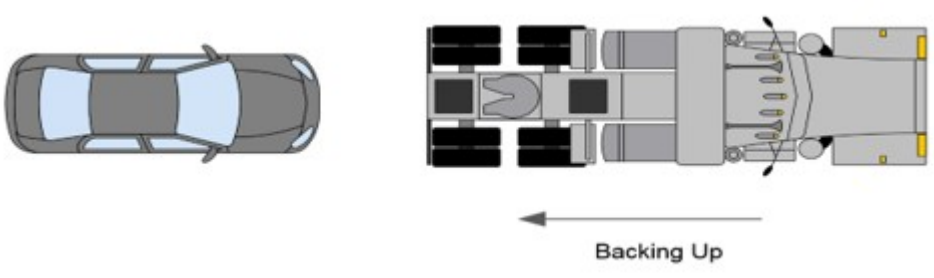
0=Non collision
1=Rear-end
2=Head-on
3=Backing
4=Angle
5=Sideswipe(same dir.)
6=Sideswipe(Opposite dir.)
7=Hit fixed object
8 = Hit Non-Motorist
9=Other/Unknown(Expired)
98=Other
99=Unknown

Crash Description

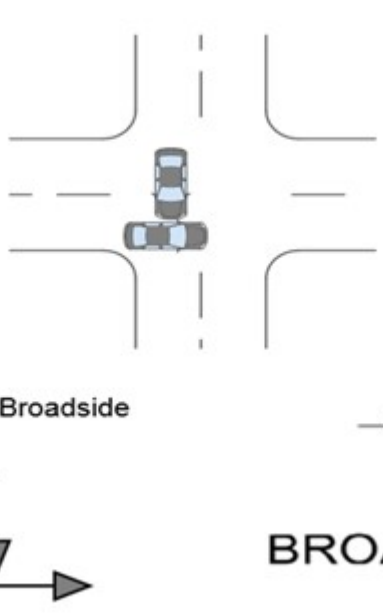
The type of crash is defined by the first harmful event. There are 11 Crash Descriptions. Codes 1- 6 are used for crashes involving two (or more) units (except non-motorists). Initial impact points do not determine how this field is coded. Turning movements, direction of travel relating to vehicles involved, intersection type, and special location are the details used to properly code this field.

0=Non-Collision – Used when the first harmful event does not involve unit(s) striking/hitting anything. For example, vehicles that catch fire, roll-over, or a submersion event, etc.
1=Rear End – Used for a front to rear collision of units.
2=Head On – Used for a front-to-front collision of units traveling in opposite directions.

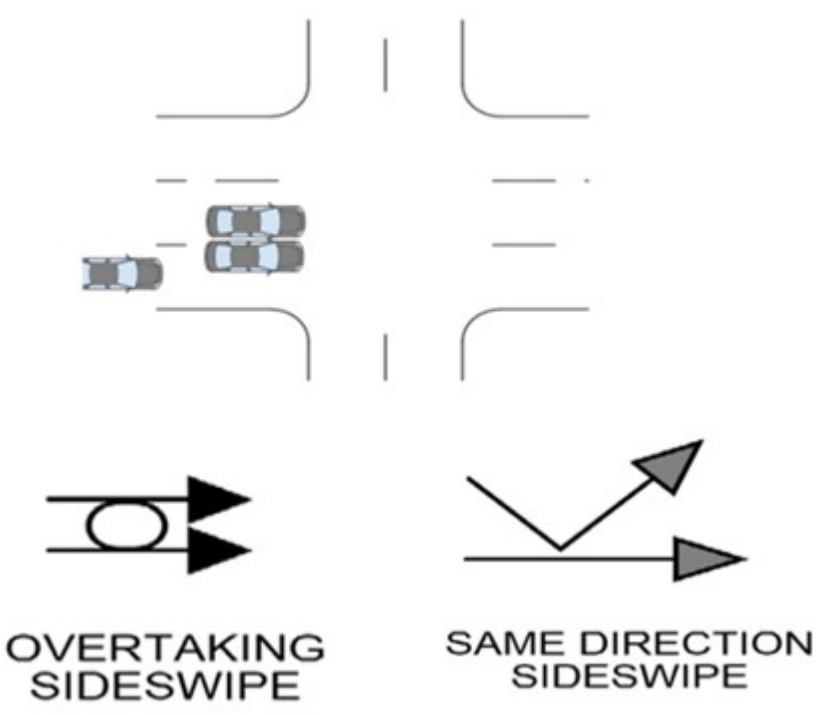
3=Backing – Used when the "STRIKING" unit is doing a back-up movement.



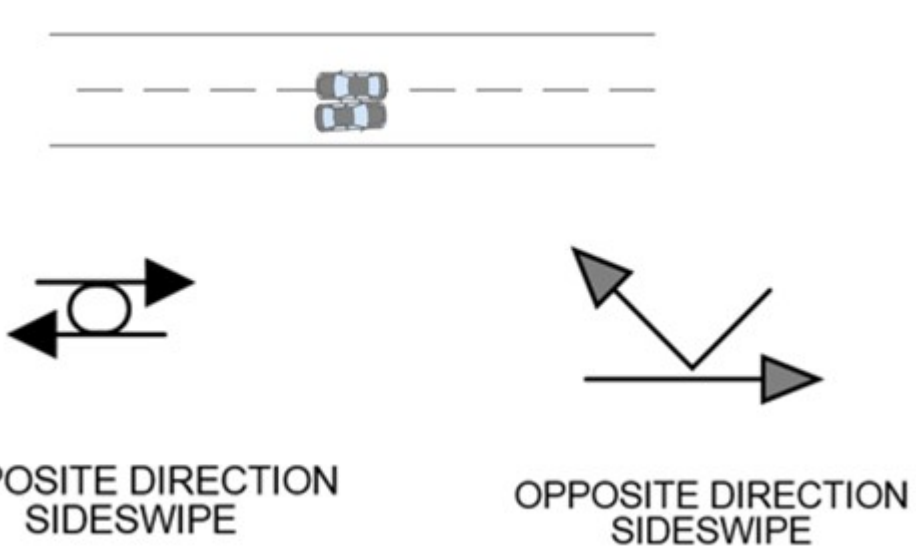
4=Angle – Used when two units collide at an angle. This crash description usually indicates a turning movement. Including crashes where vehicles are going in opposite directions but one or both are turning.



5=Sideswipe Same Direction – Used for side-to-side collision(s) between two or more units facing/traveling in the same direction.



6=Sideswipe Opposite Direction – Used for side-to-side collision(s) between two or more units facing/traveling in the opposite direction.

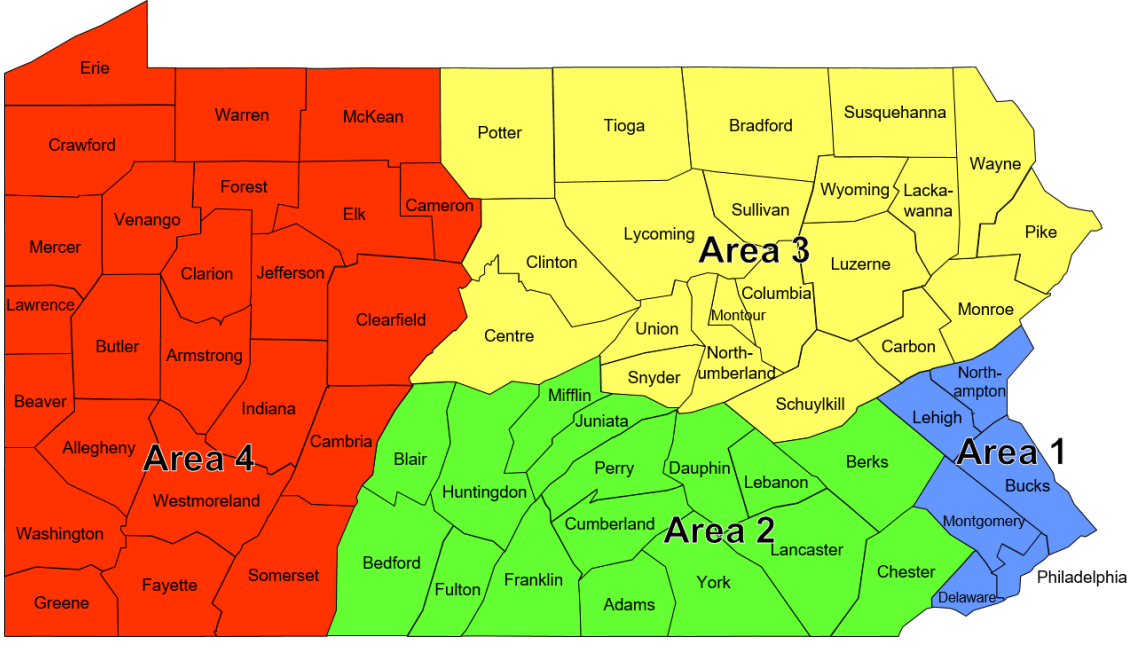


7=Hit Fixed Object – Used when the first harmful event involves hitting an object not designed to move. a tree, utility pole, embankment, guard rail, sign, wall, curb, dead animal, etc.
8=Non-Motorist – Used when the first harmful event involves a motor vehicle striking a Non-Motorist.
98=Other – Used when the first harmful event involves striking a live deer, other live animal, or another unusual event not covered by the other descriptions.
99=Unknown – Used when the first harmful event of the crash is unknown.
***Please make every attempt to avoid using the unknown code.*

QUIZ: Cataclysms

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Traffic Records Program Administrator Area Map (TRPA)



Area 1: *James Moriarty has retired. Rick Leymeister & Gordon Beck will be temporarily assisting agencies in this area.*

Area 2: Gordon Beck (215-219-8575) gbeck@hsnetwork.org

Area 3: Rick Leymeister (570-516-7881) rleymeister@hsnetwork.org

Area 4: Michael Ragan (412-327-9488) mragan@hsnetwork.org

Newsletter Archives

To access past issues of The Dispatch please visit our website.

Now that you've made it to the end of the newsletter, how would you rate its content?

Not helpful at all 0 1 2 3 4 Very helpful

For questions or concerns, email us at ra-pdleahelp@pa.gov.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION