

EVALUATION OF 2005 OHIO CRASH DATA REPORTED TO MCMIS CRASH FILE

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Evaluation of 2005 Ohio Crash Data Reported to the MCMIS Crash File

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16. Abstract <p>This report is part of a series of reports evaluating the data reported to the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS) Crash File undertaken by the Center for National Truck and Bus Statistics at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. Earlier studies showed that reporting to the MCMIS Crash file was incomplete. This report examines the factors that are associated with reporting rates for the state of Ohio. This is the second MCMIS evaluation for the state of Ohio.</p> <p>Using 2005 data, MCMIS Crash file records were matched to the Ohio Police Accident Report (PAR) file to determine the nature and extent of underreporting. Based on this procedure, it is estimated that Ohio is reporting 42.5 percent of crash involvements that should be reported to the Crash file. This represents an improvement over the 35.8 percent reported in the first evaluation using 2000 data.</p> <p>Although the overall reporting rate was 42.5 percent, the reporting rate for carriers operating in interstate commerce was 79.1 percent, compared to 17.0 percent for intrastate carriers. Reporting rates also varied by crash severity, vehicle type, and reporting agency. The reporting rate for fatal involvements was 85.4 percent, compared to 52.7 percent for injured and transported involvements, and 32.3 percent for towaway. Crashes involving large trucks such as tractor semitrailers were more likely to be reported than single-unit trucks or buses. Crashes covered by the Ohio State Patrol were more likely to be reported than those covered by sherriff's offices or local police departments. Ohio overreported 1,094 vehicles, or about 22 percent, to the MCMIS Crash file.</p> <p>Missing data rates are low for most variables, except in a few cases such as driver condition, road access, road trafficway, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Comparison of the vehicle configuration variable between the MCMIS Crash file and the Ohio Crash file is generally good.</p>					
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Evaluation of Ohio Crash Data Reported to MCMIS Crash File

1. Introduction

It is essential to assess the magnitude and characteristics of motor carrier crashes so that effective safety measures can be designed to prevent such crashes. For this purpose, the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS) Crash file was developed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to serve as a file of traffic crashes of specified severity involving trucks and buses. Its usefulness depends upon individual states transmitting a standard set of data items on all trucks and buses involved in traffic crashes that meet a specific severity threshold. However, the MCMIS Crash file is known to be incomplete. Preliminary studies conducted during earlier phases of MCMIS evaluations suggested that nationally, only about two-thirds of qualifying truck involvements were reported. The reporting rate for buses was found to be even lower, at about 40% [1]. Reporting was more complete for severe crashes, with about 90% of truck fatal involvements and 65% of bus fatal involvements appearing in the file, but rates were much lower for less severe crashes.

Since the states are responsible for reporting qualifying crashes, the solution for underreporting must ultimately reside with the individual states. This report is part of a series of evaluations of reporting from each state. Previous reports on a number of states showed underreporting due in large part to problems police officers experience in interpreting and applying the reporting criteria [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11]. The problems were more severe in large jurisdictions and police departments. Each state also had problems specific to the nature of its system. Some states also had some overreporting of cases, often due to technical problems with duplicate records.

In this report, we focus on MCMIS Crash file reporting by Ohio. In recent years, Ohio has reported from 4,700 to 5,200 involvements annually to the MCMIS Crash file. According to the 2002 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, Ohio had over 222,000 medium and heavy trucks (GVWR > 10,000 pounds) registered, accounting for 4.1 percent of all truck registrations, ranking it 6th among the states [12]. In the years from 2000 to 2005 inclusive, Ohio consistently ranks 7th in terms of state population each year [13], and in the five years from 1999 to 2003 had the 6th largest number of total truck fatal involvements [14].

The first MCMIS evaluation of a state was conducted for Ohio using data collected during year 2000. This report represents the second evaluation using data collected during 2005. Although the overall reporting rate seems to have improved from approximately 35 percent in 2000 to about 43 percent in 2005, many of the same factors that resulted in overreporting and underreporting in the previous evaluation have been identified as sources of overreporting and underreporting in this current evaluation.

In 2000, about 20 percent of cases reported from Ohio did not qualify under a strict interpretation of the severity criteria. In this analysis, using 2005 data, the percentage is about 22 percent. Thus, the percentage has not changed much and Ohio is still experiencing some issues related to overreporting. Another similarity between the studies is that the reporting rate has been significantly greater for trucks operating in interstate commerce. It seems that police officers continue to report trucks operated by carriers that cross state lines. In addition, large trucks such as tractor semitrailers continue to be reported at higher rates than single-unit trucks with two axles and six tires. Finally, the state police are more likely to report a reportable vehicle than either sheriff's offices or local police departments.

Since the first MCMIS evaluation, improvements have been made in the matching process and the methods for identifying reportable cases, but the central ideas are essentially the same. The method employed in this study to evaluate reporting to the MCMIS Crash file for the state of Ohio is similar to the method used in previous studies:

1. The complete police accident report file (PAR file hereafter) from Ohio was obtained for the most recent year available, 2005. This file was processed to identify all cases that qualified for reporting to the MCMIS Crash file.
2. All cases in the Ohio PAR file—those that qualified for reporting to the Crash file as well as those that did not—were matched to the cases actually reported to the MCMIS Crash file from Ohio.
3. Cases that should have been reported, but were not, were compared with those that were reported to identify the sources of underreporting.
4. Cases that did not qualify but which were reported were examined to identify the extent and nature of overreporting.

Police accident report (PAR) data recorded in Ohio's statewide files as of August 18, 2006, were used in this analysis. The 2005 PAR file contains the computerized records of 639,870 vehicles involved in 358,127 crashes that occurred in Ohio.

2. Data Preparation

The Ohio PAR file and MCMIS Crash file each required some preparation before the Ohio records in the MCMIS Crash file could be matched to the Ohio PAR file. In the case of the MCMIS Crash file, the only processing necessary was to extract records reported from Ohio and to eliminate duplicate records. The Ohio PAR file required more extensive work to create a comprehensive vehicle-level file from accident, vehicle, and occupant files. The following sections describe the methods used to prepare each file and some of the problems uncovered.

2.1 MCMIS Crash Data File

The 2005 MCMIS Crash file as of August 21, 2006, was used to identify records submitted from Ohio. For calendar year 2005 there were 5,044 cases. An analysis file was constructed using all variables in the file. The file was then examined for duplicate records (those involvements where more than one record was submitted for the same vehicle in the same crash; i.e., the report number and sequence number were identical). No such duplicate pairs were found.

In addition, records were examined for identical values for accident date, time, crash county, crash city code, officer badge number, vehicle license plate number, and driver date of birth, even though their case numbers were perhaps different. One would not expect all of these variables to be identical between two cases. Seven such duplicate instances were found.

Further examination revealed that a few of the variables had different values among the two records. Although Report Number differed, it is possible one record may have been intended as an update, however, in most cases the Upload and Change Dates were identical between the two records. The member of the pair that appeared on the PAR file was kept, and the other member was excluded. After eliminating the seven duplicate records identified above, the resulting MCMIS file contained 5,037 records.

2.2 Ohio Police Accident Report File

The Ohio PAR data for 2005 (dated August 18, 2006) was obtained from the state of Ohio. The data were contained in a set of three text files representing accident, vehicle, and person records. The combined files contain records for 358,127 crashes involving 639,870 vehicles. Data for the PAR file are coded from the Traffic Crash Report (Ohio Department of Public Safety) completed by police officers. The Ohio Crash Report form is reproduced in Appendix B.

The PAR file was first examined for duplicate records. A search for records with identical case numbers and vehicle numbers found no such instances. In addition, inspection of case numbers verified that they were recorded in a consistent format, so there was no reason to suspect duplicate records based on similar, but not identical, case numbers (such as 20050164231 and 2005-164231, for example). However, cases were also examined to determine if there were any records that contained identical time, place and vehicle/driver variables, even though their case numbers were perhaps different. Two cases would not be expected to be identical on all variables. To investigate this possibility, records were examined for duplicate occurrences based on the variables accident date, time, city, reporting officer's badge number, driver's age, and vehicle license plate number. A total of 1,335 duplicate instances were found, representing 660 unique occurrences of the examined variables.

Duplicate pairs (triplicates) were examined more closely for any patterns that might explain why they were occurring. In the majority of cases, where crash time, location, vehicle and driver

variables were the same, but Accident Number differed, one explanation could be that a vehicle was involved in two accidents at the same place and virtually at the same time. Once crash events are stabilized, subsequent crashes are reported as new crashes. If a vehicle is reported as being in a second crash after the first one has stabilized, one would expect accident date, location, driver and vehicle information to be identical, but accident time to vary by a couple of minutes or longer. However, in the case of these records, accident hour and minute are identical, suggesting they are in fact duplicate records. Further examination of the records indicated that perhaps one record was meant to be an update, since a few of the variables differed between the two cases.

Thus, the pairs identified above were considered to be duplicates and one (or more) member(s) of each pair was excluded. Since there was no variable indicating a date the record was updated or processed, the second member of each pair was excluded, resulting in deletion of 675 records. The resulting PAR file has 639,195 records.

3. Matching Process

The next step involved matching records from the Ohio PAR file to corresponding records from the MCMIS file. After removing duplicates, there were 5,037 Ohio records from the MCMIS file available for matching, and 639,195 records from the Ohio PAR file. All records from the Ohio PAR data file were used in the match, even those that were not reportable to the MCMIS Crash file. This allowed the identification of cases in the MCMIS Crash file that should not have been reported.

Matching records in the two files requires finding combinations of variables common to the two files that have a high probability of uniquely identifying accidents as well as specific vehicles within an accident. Document Number, which is the identifier used to uniquely identify a crash in the Ohio PAR data, and Report Number in the MCMIS Crash file, are obvious first choices. Indeed, there appeared to be a correspondence between the two numbers, and case number was never unrecorded in either file. Document Number in the Ohio PAR file is an eleven-digit character value, while in the MCMIS Crash file, Report Number is stored as a 12-character alphanumeric value, a combination of alphabetic characters and numbers. It appears that the report number in the MCMIS Crash file is constructed as follows: The first two columns contain the state abbreviation (OH, in this case), followed by ten digits. Since seven of these digits were consistent with the PAR Case Number, the last seven digits of the MCMIS Report Number and PAR Case Number were extracted, and these two variables were used in the match. Other variables that were available for matching at the accident level included crash date, crash time (hour/minute), crash county and city code, and reporting officer's badge number.

Variables in the MCMIS file that could distinguish one vehicle from another within the same accident included vehicle sequence number, vehicle license plate number, driver license number,

vehicle identification number (VIN), driver age, and driver last name. VIN was unrecorded in 100% of PAR cases, and thus could not be used for the match. Vehicle sequence number was always recorded in both files. Driver age was unrecorded 10.9% of the time in PAR data and 2.8% of the time in MCMIS. Driver's license number was unrecorded in 12.5% of PAR cases and in 4.7% of MCMIS cases. Of the available variables, vehicle license plate was the most reliable, as it was unrecorded 6.5% of the time in the PAR file, and in only 1.4% of MCMIS cases.

Four separate matches were performed using the available variables. In each match step, records in either file with duplicate values on all the match variables were excluded, along with records that were missing values on the match variables. The first match included the variables case number, vehicle number, crash date (month, day), crash time (hour, minute), crash city, officer badge number, license plate number and driver's license number. The second match step dropped officer badge number and driver's license number, but added driver last name. The third match step matched on case number, vehicle number, crash date, crash time, crash city, officer badge number and license plate number (eliminating driver's license number and driver's last name, since these were frequently both unrecorded on the same record). After reviewing the remaining non-matched cases, the fourth match just used case number, driver age, and license plate number. Each of the matched cases resulting from the fourth match attempt was examined in detail to ensure the match was valid. This process resulted in matching 98.0% of the MCMIS records to the PAR file.

Table 1 shows the variables used in each match step along with the numbers of records matched at each step. Matched records were verified using other variables common to the MCMIS

Table 1 Steps in MCMIS/Ohio PAR File Match, 2004

Match step	Matching variables	Cases matched
Match 1	case number, vehicle number, crash date, crash time, crash city, officer badge number, license plate number, and driver license number	4,649
Match 2	case number, vehicle number, crash date, crash time, crash city, license plate number, and driver last name	141
Match 3	case number, vehicle number, crash date, crash time, crash city, officer badge number, and license plate number	117
Match 4	case number, driver age, license plate number	30
Total cases matched		4,937

and PAR file as a final check to ensure the match was valid. The above procedure resulted in 4,937 matches, representing 98.0% of the 5,037 non-duplicate records reported to MCMIS. Figure 1 shows the flow of cases in the matching process.

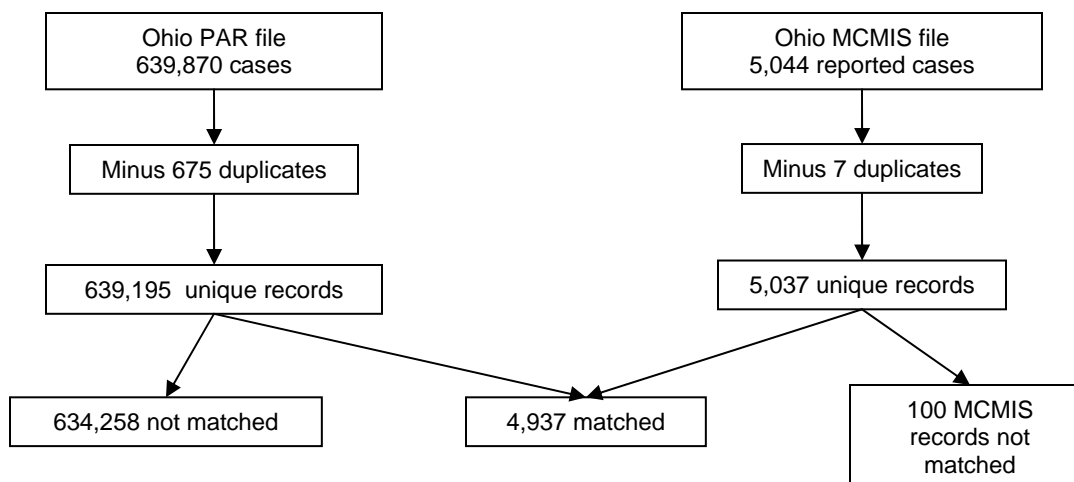


Figure 1 Case Flow in MCMIS/Ohio Crash File Match

Of the 4,937 matched cases, 1,094 are not reportable and 3,843 are reportable. The next section discusses the process of identifying cases that qualify for reporting to the MCMIS Crash file.

4 Identifying Reportable Cases

To evaluate the completeness of reporting to the crash file, it is necessary to identify records in the Ohio PAR file that qualified for reporting to the MCMIS Crash file. Reportable cases are identified using the variables available in the Ohio PAR file. The purpose of this process is to approximate as closely as possible the reporting threshold of the MCMIS file. The MCMIS criteria for a reportable crash involving a qualifying vehicle are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Vehicle and Crash Severity Threshold for MCMIS Crash File

Vehicle	Truck with GVWR over 10,000 or GCWR over 10,000, or Bus with seating for at least nine, including the driver, or Vehicle displaying a hazardous materials placard.
Accident	Fatality, or Injury transported to a medical facility for immediate medical attention, or Vehicle towed due to disabling damage.

The process of identifying reportable records is fairly straightforward in the Ohio PAR file because Ohio crash data includes variables that are compatible with the definitions shown above in Table 2 at both the vehicle and accident levels. In some cases, the definitions do not match exactly, but reasonable surrogates can be developed and applied.

According to the Ohio Traffic Crash Procedure Manual [15], officers are instructed to complete the Truck/Bus area located on page three of the Ohio Traffic Crash Report form (appendix B). Figure 2 shows the instructions designed to help officers identify qualifying crashes. Except for a

few minor differences, the instructions match the vehicle and crash severity outlined in Table 2. For example, the hazardous materials criterion in Table 2 applies to *any* vehicle displaying a hazardous materials placard, but the instruction to officers applies only to trucks. In addition, the bus criterion is for busses with seating for at least nine, including the driver, but the instruction for officers specifies seating for eight, including the driver. Overall, differences between Table 2 and Figure 2 are small. Note that the crash severity criteria match almost exactly. In both, an injury requires transportation to a medical facility for immediate medical attention, and a towed vehicle must have been towed due to disabling damage. For a towed vehicle, the instructions to officers also include a vehicle requiring intervening assistance before proceeding under its own power. Other than these minor differences, the criteria are very consistent.

Truck/Bus	
<i>Complete the Truck/Bus area when at least one condition from <u>each box</u> below exist in the crash:</i>	
THE CRASH INVOLVED ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:	THE CRASH RESULTED IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:
1 A Truck (motor vehicle) With A GVWR More Than 10,000 Pounds; Or 2 A Truck (motor vehicle) With A Hazardous Materials Placard; Or 3 A Bus Designed For At Least 8 Persons, Including The Driver.	A N D 1 A Fatality; Or 2 An Injury Requiring Transportation For Immediate Medical Treatment; Or 3 At Least One Vehicle Was Towed Due To Disabling Damage or Required Intervening Assistance Before Proceeding Under Its Own Power.

Figure 2 Truck/Bus Section from Ohio Traffic Crash Report Form

Reportable vehicles can be identified using the “unit type” variable and a hazmat placard variable. The classifications of trucks and buses in the Ohio PAR file match those in the MCMIS Crash file almost exactly. Table 3 shows the Ohio PAR file classifications. For trucks, the classifications are the same as those in MCMIS except that the PAR file includes classifications for tractor double long and fifth wheel/converter dolly. One other difference is that MCMIS has a classification for unknown heavy trucks, while the PAR file does not. For buses, MCMIS has one classification for buses with seats for more than fifteen people including the driver, while the PAR file distinguishes school, church, public, and other buses separately.

**Table 3 Relevant Vehicle Body Type Codes
used in Ohio PAR data**

Single unit truck (2 axle, 6 tire)
Single unit truck (3+ axles)
Truck/Trailer
Truck Tractor (Bobtail)
Tractor semitrailer
Tractor double trailer
Tractor double long
Fifth Wheel / Converter Dolly
Tractor triple
School bus
Church bus
Public bus
Other bus

There are three variables related to hazmat information: hazmat placard, hazmat release, and hazmat placard number. The hazmat placard and hazmat release variables are Yes/No variables indicating the presence or absence of a placard, and whether any hazardous materials were spilled, respectively. The hazmat placard number variable is a character variable giving the 4-digit placard number. In the entire PAR file of 639,195 records, 258 vehicles are recorded with a hazmat placard, 282 are recorded with a hazmat placard number, and 89 are recorded to have spilled some type of hazardous materials. However, some of the 4-digit numbers, such as 0000 and 0001, appear to be invalid and 258 seems to be the closest representation of hazmat placarded vehicles.

It is interesting to note that on the Ohio Traffic Crash Report Form, information about the three hazmat variables is recorded by the officer in the Truck/Bus section. This suggests that hazmat information would not be recorded for nontrucks, such as passenger vehicles. However, a cross-tabulation of the variables hazmat placard and unit type shows that 12 nontrucks were recorded as hazmat placarded vehicles.

In total, there were 30,919 vehicles identified as trucks, buses, or vehicles with a hazardous materials placard in the Ohio PAR file (Table 4). Note that 88.2 percent of these vehicles are qualifying trucks, and 12 are nontrucks with a hazmat placard, as described above.

Table 4 Vehicles Meeting Vehicle Criteria, Ohio PAR File, 2005

Vehicle Type	N	%
Trucks	27,257	88.2
Buses	3,650	11.8
Non-trucks with hazmat placard	12	0.0
Total	30,919	100.0

Having identified qualifying vehicles, the next step is to identify crashes of sufficient severity to qualify for reporting to the MCMIS Crash file. Qualifying crashes include either a fatality, an injury transported for immediate medical attention, or a vehicle towed from the scene due to disabling damage. The Ohio PAR data appear to contain all the variables necessary for matching the MCMIS criteria fairly well.

The 2005 Ohio Occupant File contains an “Injuries” variable with the standard categories for KABCOU. In addition, a “Medical Transported By” variable describes the agency responsible for transporting occupants from the scene of the crash and has five levels: Not Transported, EMS, Police, Other, and Unknown. For this analysis, occupants are considered transported if they were coded into the categories EMS, Police, or Other. A new variable was created at the occupant level according to Table 5 to classify occupants into the following categories: 1=fatal, 2=injured and transported, 3=not injured and transported, and 4=unknown.

Table 5 Determination of Fatal and Injured and Transported Criteria

Injury	Transported	New variable
K	Yes	1
K	No	1
K	Unknown	1
A	Yes	2
A	No	3
A	Unknown	2
B	Yes	2
B	No	3
B	Unknown	2
C	Yes	2
C	No	3
C	Unknown	3
O	Yes	3
O	No	3
O	Unknown	3
U	Yes	4
U	No	4
U	Unknown	4

The minimum value of the new variable was calculated at the crash level, and the resulting data were merged with the vehicle-level data to produce the distribution shown in Table 6 for the 30,919 qualifying vehicles. Table 6 shows that 205 qualifying vehicles were involved in fatal crashes, while 3,988 were involved in injured and transported crashes. Only 1.7 percent of vehicles fall into the unknown category.

Table 6 Injury Status for Qualifying Vehicles, Ohio PAR File 2005

Injury status	N	%
Fatal	205	0.7
Injured/transported	3,988	12.9
Not injured/transported	26,199	84.7
Unknown	527	1.7
Total	30,919	100.0

At the vehicle level the Ohio PAR file contains a damage scale variable for determining if a vehicle was disabled, and a towed variable for assessing towed status. A similar procedure to the one used for calculating injury status was used for the towed and disabled criteria. A new variable was coded at the vehicle level according to the damage scale and towed variables as shown in Table 7: 1=towed and disabled, 2=not towed and disabled, and 3=unknown.

Table 7 Determination of Towed and Disabled Criteria

Damage scale	Towed	New variable
None	Yes	2
None	No	2
Non-functional	Yes	2
Non-functional	No	2
Functional	Yes	2
Functional	No	2
Disabling	Yes	1
Disabling	No	2
Severe	Yes	1
Severe	No	2
Unknown	Yes	3
Unknown	No	3

The minimum value of the new variable was calculated at the crash level, and the resulting data were merged with the vehicle-level data to produce the distribution shown in Table 8 for the 30,919 qualifying vehicles. About 25 percent of qualifying vehicles were involved in crashes where at least one vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Note that once again, the percentage of unknowns is relatively small.

Table 8 Towaway Status for Qualifying Vehicles, Ohio PAR File 2005

Towaway status	N	%
Towed/disabled	7,770	25.1
Not towed/disabled	22,901	74.1
Unknown	248	0.8
Total	30,919	100.0

Table 9 shows the numbers of qualifying vehicles that meet the threshold for a MCMIS reportable crash according to the MCMIS criteria. The 205 vehicles meeting the fatal criterion and the 3,988 vehicles meeting the injured and transported criterion are identified in Table 6. Furthermore, even though 7,770 vehicles were identified as meeting the towed due to disabling damage criteria in Table 8, many of those vehicles are included in the injured and transported category, and the difference, shown in Table 9, results in 4,852 vehicles. In total, it is estimated that 9,045 vehicles were reportable to the MCMIS Crash file.

Table 9 Reportable Records in the Ohio Crash File, 2005

Crash Severity	Reportable Involvements	%
Fatal	205	2.3
Injury, transported for treatment	3,988	44.1
Towaway	4,852	53.6
Total	9,045	100.0

5. Factors Associated with Reporting

The procedure described in the previous section identified 9,045 vehicles involved in crashes as reportable to the MCMIS Crash file. The match process described in Section 3 determined that 5,037 unique cases were reported to the MCMIS Crash file, of which 4,937 could be matched to the Ohio Crash file. And of the 4,937, 3,843 were determined to meet the MCMIS Crash file reporting criteria. Accordingly, of the 9,045 reportable crashes in 2005, Ohio reported 3,843, for an overall reporting rate of 42.5 percent. In this section, we will identify and discuss the factors that affected the chance that a qualifying crash would be submitted through the SafetyNet system and appear in the MCMIS Crash file. The results are presented in three subsections: case processing, reporting criteria, and reporting agency and area. Case processing deals with timing issues such as crash month and time lag between crash dates and uploading dates to the MCMIS Crash file. Reporting criteria include factors such as vehicle type, crash severity, carrier type, and vehicle license plate state. Finally, reporting agency is associated with differences in reporting rates due to the agency, such as state police or local police, while area deals with reporting by location, such as the county where the crash occurred.

However, before proceeding, we note that 1,094 of the 5,037 unique cases reported to the MCMIS Crash file, or 21.7 percent, were not reportable and should not have been reported. While most MCMIS evaluations tend to focus on the nature of underreporting, it appears that Ohio is also faced with issues related to overreporting. Thus, in addition to the usual presentations designed to assess sources of underreporting, the following is devoted to a brief analysis of overreporting. Table 10 shows a two-way classification of vehicle type and crash severity, and provides some explanation why these vehicles should not have been reported to the MCMIS Crash file. Note that all 1,094 vehicles do not meet the crash severity threshold for a

MCMIS reportable crash. The 860 trucks and the 46 buses are qualifying vehicles, but they were involved in crashes in which there were no fatalities, no persons were injured and transported for medical attention, and no vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. Regardless of crash severity, the remaining 188 vehicles are not trucks, buses, or hazmat placarded vehicles, and do not meet the vehicle criteria for reporting to the MCMIS Crash file.

Table 10 Distribution of Non-reportable Vehicles in MCMIS Crash File, Ohio 2005

Vehicle type	Crash severity				Total
	Fatal	Transported injury	Towed/disabled	Other crash severity	
Truck	0	0	0	860	860
Bus	0	0	0	46	46
Other vehicle (not transporting hazmat)	0	0	0	188	188
Total	0	0	0	1,094	1,094

5.1 Case Processing

Delays in transmitting cases may partially account for the incompleteness of the MCMIS Crash file. The time lag in extracting and submitting reports to the MCMIS Crash file might explain some portion of the unreported cases. All reportable crash involvements for a calendar year are required to be transmitted to the MCMIS Crash file within 90 days of the date of the crash. The MCMIS file used in this evaluation was dated August 21, 2006, so all 2005 cases should have been reported by that date. Table 11 shows that reporting rates as well as percentages of total unreported cases were very consistent with regard to crash month. There appears to be no overall seasonal trend in the numbers reported. The minimum reporting rate of 38.5 occurred in May, while the maximum rates of 46.9 occurred in August. Neither of these values deviates markedly from the overall rate of 42.5. Similarly, the minimum percentage of unreported cases is 7.4 percent, while the maximum is 10.6 percent. The consistency of the values reported in Table 11 suggests that crash month does not account for significant differences in reporting to the MCMIS Crash file.

Table 11 Reporting Rate by Accident Month, Ohio 2005

Crash month	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
January	935	41.0	552	10.6
February	686	40.2	410	7.9
March	785	42.4	452	8.7
April	686	41.5	401	7.7
May	691	38.5	425	8.2
June	716	43.6	404	7.8
July	657	41.4	385	7.4
August	749	46.9	398	7.7
September	752	44.9	414	8.0
October	767	42.1	444	8.5
November	833	43.3	472	9.1
December	788	43.5	445	8.6
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

Figure 3 shows the average latency in case submission by month, where latency is the number of days between crash date and the date the case was uploaded to the MCMIS Crash file, minus the 90-day grace period. The overall average based on the 3,843 matched and reported cases is 7 days, suggesting that on average, cases were submitted just slightly after the 90-day grace period. However, the plot shows a clear downward trend beginning in January and ending in December. After July, as indicated by the negative numbers, cases tended to be submitted within 90 days. From January through July, however, cases tended to be submitted after the 90-day grace period. Note that on average, cases with crash dates in December were uploaded to the MCMIS Crash file 59 days later (90-31), or sometime around February, 2006.

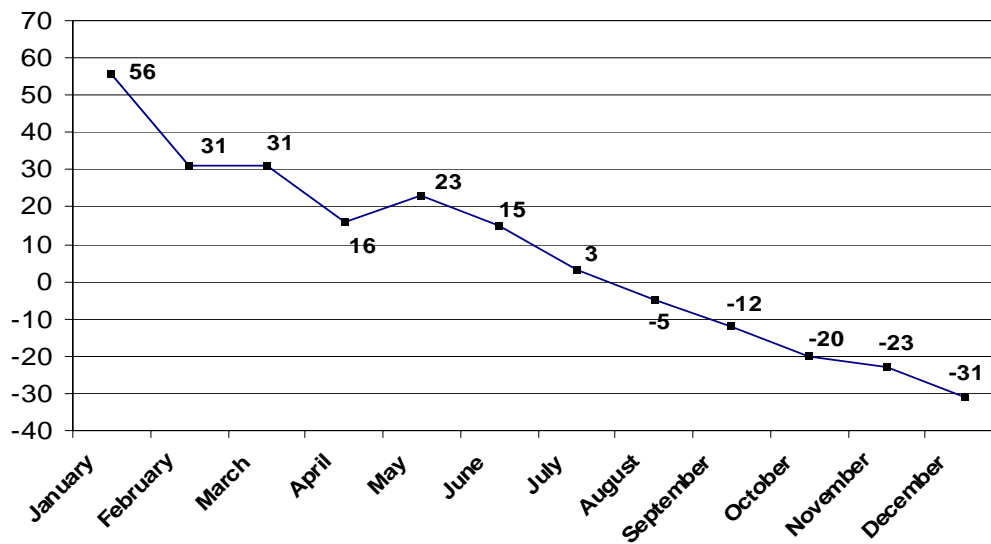


Figure 3 Average Latency (in Days, Minus 90) in Reporting to the MCMIS Crash File, Ohio Reported Cases, 2005

5.2 Reporting Criteria

As discussed in Section 4, the Ohio Traffic Crash Report form has a Truck/Bus area that officers are instructed to complete when the conditions described in Figure 2 are satisfied. The conditions, except for minor differences, match the MCMIS criteria for a reportable vehicle closely. In addition, other commercial vehicle-related information should be recorded in the Truck/Bus area of the form such as U.S. DOT census number, ICC MC number, CDL class, and hazardous materials information. In this section, vehicle type, crash severity, carrier type, and vehicle license state will be investigated to determine some of the factors associated with underreporting.

The reporting rates varied by the type of vehicle involved, with truck involvements in qualifying crashes more likely to be reported than bus involvements. Table 12 shows that the reporting rate for trucks was 43.4 percent, while the reporting rate for buses was 33.3 percent. The rate for vehicles transporting hazardous materials is 62.5 percent, but only eight vehicles are identified as reportable. Note that the hazmat vehicles in this table are not trucks, but are being used to transport hazardous materials. Trucks accounted for 89.7 percent of the unreported cases, simply due to their large numbers in reporting, relative to buses and hazmat vehicles.

Table 12 Reporting Rate by Vehicle Type, Ohio 2005

Vehicle type	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Truck	8,236	43.4	4,665	89.7
Bus	801	33.3	534	10.3
Transporting hazardous materials	8	62.5	3	0.1
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

Table 13 shows variation in reporting rates by detailed classification of vehicle body type. As shown in other MCMIS evaluations, larger trucks are generally more likely to be reported to the MCMIS Crash file. The reporting rate for tractor-semitrailers was 60.0 percent. Ohio distinguishes doubles as short and long, and the reporting rates for these configurations were 66.3 percent and 62.5 percent, respectively, although the numbers of reportable cases were much smaller than for tractor-semitrailers. A large discrepancy exists in reporting between single-unit trucks (SUT) with two axles, and those with three or more axles. The reporting rate for SUTs with three or more axles was 45.5 percent, while the reporting rate for SUTs with two axles was only 19.1 percent. In addition, the reporting rate for trucks with a trailer was 22.1 percent.

Table 13 Reporting Rate by Detailed Vehicle Body Type, Ohio 2005

Vehicle body type	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Compact	1	100.0	0	0.0
Midsized	2	100.0	0	0.0
Fullsize	1	100.0	0	0.0
SUV	1	0.0	1	0.0
Pickup	1	100.0	0	0.0
Panel Van	1	0.0	1	0.0
SUT, 2 axles, 6 tires	2,117	19.1	1,712	32.9
SUT, 3+ axles	849	45.5	463	8.9
Truck / trailer	950	22.1	740	14.2
Truck-tractor, no trailer	122	41.8	71	1.4
Truck -tractor w/one unit	4,066	60.0	1,626	31.3
Truck-tractor w/two units short	86	66.3	29	0.6
Truck tractor w/two units long	24	62.5	9	0.2
Fifth wheel or dolly	8	0.0	8	0.2
Truck-tractor w/three units	14	50.0	7	0.1
School bus	412	35.2	267	5.1
Church bus	11	18.2	9	0.2
Public Bus	270	31.9	184	3.5
Other Bus	108	31.5	74	1.4
All Others	1	0.0	1	0.0
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

It appears that officers recognize that large trucks meet the MCMIS reporting criteria. Furthermore, SUTs with two axles accounted for 32.9 percent of unreported cases, and trucks with a trailer accounted for 14.2 percent. School buses, with a reporting rate of 35.2 percent, were slightly more likely to be reported than the other types of buses. There were only eleven reportable church buses.

In several previous investigations concerning other states such as Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Illinois, and New Mexico, reporting rates have been consistently higher for vehicles involved in more severe crashes. In those studies, states were much more likely to report vehicles involved in fatal crashes to the MCMIS Crash file. Table 14 shows that the reporting rate for fatal involvements was 85.4 percent, considerably higher than the overall 42.5 percent. The rate for the injured and transported criteria was 52.7 percent, and the rate for the towed and disabled criteria was 32.3 percent. The injured and transported reportable cases include many cases that also meet the towed and disabled criteria. The towed and disabled reportable cases, however, do not meet the injured and transported criteria, and are reportable because they only meet the towed and disabled criteria. Note that 63.2 percent of unreported cases fall into the towed and disabled category.

Table 14 Reporting Rate by Crash Severity, Ohio 2005

Crash severity	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Fatal	205	85.4	30	0.6
Injured/Transported	3,988	52.7	1,886	36.3
Towed/Disabled	4,852	32.3	3,286	63.2
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

Table 15 shows reporting rates broken down by more detailed injury severity. The injury severity in Table 15 denotes the most severe injury in the crash. The reporting rates tend to decrease as severity decreases. The property damage crashes have the largest percentages of unreported cases, and these are less likely to be reported.

Table 15 Reporting Rate by Detailed Injury Severity, Ohio 2005

Crash severity	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Fatal	205	85.4	30	0.6
Disabling injury (A)	725	63.2	267	5.1
Evident injury (B)	2,505	55.3	1,119	21.5
Probable injury (C)	1,826	45.6	994	19.1
Property Damage	3,736	26.3	2,753	52.9
Unknown	48	18.8	39	0.7
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

In the Missouri MCMIS evaluation it was hypothesized that reporting officers may more easily recognize an out-of-state vehicle as meeting the criteria for reporting because some may be under the impression that since the data are reported to the Federal government, only vehicles in interstate commerce are included. Table 16 shows reporting rates by vehicle license state and it appears that vehicles licensed in other states have a higher rate than vehicles licensed in Ohio. In the Missouri evaluation, however, it was discovered that the difference could largely be explained due to vehicle size, and in particular, to the large number of reportable two axle/six tire SUTs that are reported at a lower rate than large trucks.

Table 16 Reporting Rate by Vehicle License State, Ohio 2005

Vehicle license state	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Ohio	5,599	37.8	3,484	67.0
Other state	3,446	50.1	1,718	33.0
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

As in the Missouri study, the results in Table 17 support the idea that vehicle size is largely responsible for the differences in rates shown in Table 16. For example, there were 2,460

Table 17 Reporting Rate by Vehicle Body Type and Vehicle License State, Ohio 2005

Vehicle body type	Vehicle licensed in Ohio		Vehicles licensed in Other State		All vehicles	
	Reporting rate	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Reportable cases	Overall rate	Total reportable
Compact	100.0	1	NA	0	100.0	1
Midsized	100.0	2	NA	0	100.0	2
Fullsize	100.0	1	NA	0	100.0	1
SUV	0.0	1	NA	0	0.0	1
Pickup	100.0	1	NA	0	100.0	1
Panel van	0.0	1	NA	0	0.0	1
SUT, 2 axles, 6 tires	18.6	1,809	22.1	308	19.1	2,117
SUT 3+ axles	47.5	760	28.1	89	45.5	849
Truck / trailer	18.8	645	29.2	305	22.1	950
Truck-tractor, no trailer	38.5	65	45.6	57	41.8	122
Truck-tractor w/one unit	63.6	1,606	57.6	2,460	60.0	4,066
Truck-tractor w/two units short	42.1	19	73.1	67	66.3	86
Truck-tractor w/two units long	58.3	12	66.7	12	62.5	24
Fifth wheel or dolly	0.0	6	0.0	2	0.0	8
Truck-tractor w/three units	0.0	4	70.0	10	50.0	14
School bus	37.1	329	27.7	83	35.2	412
Church bus	11.1	9	50.0	2	18.2	11
Public bus	32.6	239	25.8	31	31.9	270
Other bus	31.8	88	30.0	20	31.5	108
All others	0.0	1	NA	0	0.0	1
Total	37.8	5,599	50.1	3,446	42.5	9,045

reportable tractor-semitrailers licensed outside of Ohio. This represents the largest number of reportable cases shown in Table 17, and tractor-semitrailers tend to have a high reporting rate. On the other hand, there were 1,809 two axle/six tire SUTs licensed inside Ohio. This represents the second largest number of reportable cases in the table, and two axle/six tire SUTs tend to have a low reporting rate. Note also that there were only 308 reportable two axle SUTs with license plates outside of Ohio.

Reporting rates may also be related to misunderstanding that intrastate vehicles are to be included, not just those involved in interstate commerce. Carriers operating in interstate commerce, as well as those carrying hazardous materials, are required to register with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. They are issued a Department of Transportation Number, and their name and DOT number must be displayed on the side of their trucks. The Ohio PAR file contains information about the carrier's DOT number and the ICC number, indicating the carrier is authorized for interstate commerce. Large differences were found based on this comparison. As shown in Table 18, the reporting rate for vehicles with either an ICC or DOT number was 79.1 percent, while the corresponding rate for vehicles without either number was only 17.0 percent. The percentage of total unreported cases is 85.1 for vehicles without either number.

Table 18 Reporting Rate by Interstate/intrastate Status, Ohio 2005

Carrier type	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Interstate	3,712	79.1	777	14.9
Intrastate	5,333	17.0	4,425	85.1
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

5.3 Reporting Agency and Area

Beyond the application of the reporting criteria, there can be differences related to where the crash occurs or the type of agency that covered the crash. More densely populated areas with a large number of traffic accidents may not report as completely as areas with a lower work load. The level and frequency of training or the intensity of supervision can also vary. If there are such differences, they may serve as a guide to focus resources in areas and at levels that will produce the greatest improvement. The next set of tables examines areas of the state to see if there are inconsistencies in reporting patterns.

Reporting rates for Ohio's 88 counties ranged from 24.4 % of reportable cases (Logan County) to 80.0 % (Monroe County), although Monroe County only had 10 reportable cases. Table 19 shows the top fifteen counties in Ohio, ordered in descending order by the number of reportable cases. Together, these fifteen counties accounted for 60.8 % (3,165) of the total unreported cases

in Ohio for 2005. Counties with large cities tended to have the most reportable cases, and lower than average reporting rates. For example, the city of Columbus is in Franklin County, and Franklin County had the largest number of reportable cases and a reporting rate of 27.5 percent. Similarly, Cincinnati is in Hamilton County, and Hamilton County had the second largest number of reportable cases and a reporting rate of 27.3 percent. Cleveland is in Cuyahoga County which had 650 reportable cases and a reporting rate of 36.5%. It appears that counties with large cities that are densely populated tended to have lower than average reporting rates. Note that the reporting rate for the top fifteen counties shown in Table 19 is 37.1 percent, which is less than the 49.2 percent reporting rate for the remaining counties. The decreasing trend in the percentages of total unreported cases is also clear.

Table 19 Reporting Rate by County of Crash, Ohio 2005

County	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Franklin	764	27.5	554	10.6
Hamilton	722	27.3	525	10.1
Cuyahoga	650	36.5	413	7.9
Montgomery	423	40.2	253	4.9
Lucas	380	37.6	237	4.6
Summit	353	31.4	242	4.7
Butler	261	36.4	166	3.2
Stark	230	41.3	135	2.6
Mahoning	218	45.0	120	2.3
Wood	194	58.8	80	1.5
Lorain	183	44.3	102	2.0
Richland	175	49.1	89	1.7
Medina	168	44.6	93	1.8
Portage	160	51.9	77	1.5
Trumbull	154	48.7	79	1.5
Top 15 Counties	5,035	37.1	3,165	60.8
All Other Counties	4,010	49.2	2,037	39.2

It is also possible that reporting rates could be related to the level of reporting agency. Here, agency type may be taken as an indicator of the focus and training of the department. The Ohio PAR file identifies three types of reporting agencies: State Highway Patrol, sheriff's offices, and police departments.

As shown in Table 20, reporting rates varied between the three agency types in 2005. The State Highway Patrol had a reporting rate of 54.6 percent, which is the largest rate among the three. Police departments had the lowest reporting rate at 31.6 percent. In addition, police departments were responsible for 1,766 (55.0 percent) of cases not reported to the MCMIS Crash file, so improved reporting from such agencies would contribute to improved reporting from Ohio.

These differences may be the result of differences in focus, training, and supervision. These same trends, although to varying degrees, were discovered in other MCMIS evaluations.

Table 20 Reporting Rate by Responsible Agency, Ohio 2005

Reporting agency	Reportable cases	Reporting rate	Unreported cases	% of total unreported cases
Sherriff	958	40.8	567	10.9
Local police	4,180	31.6	2,859	55.0
State police	3,892	54.6	1,766	33.9
Other/unknown	15	33.3	10	0.2
Total	9,045	42.5	5,202	100.0

6. Data Quality of Reported Cases

In this section, we consider the quality of data reported to the MCMIS Crash file. Two aspects of data quality are examined. The first is the amount of missing data. Missing data rates are important to the usefulness of a data file because records with missing data cannot contribute to an analysis. The second aspect of data quality considered here is the consistency of coding between records as they appear in the Ohio Crash file and in the MCMIS Crash file.

Inconsistencies can indicate errors in translating information recorded on the crash report to the values in the MCMIS Crash file.

Table 21 shows missing data rates for selected, important variables in the MCMIS Crash file. Missing data rates are generally quite low, with a few exceptions. For most fundamental and structural variables, such as date, time, number of fatalities, and number of injuries, missing data rates are either zero or extremely low. Missing data rates for some other variables are higher. Rates for driver date of birth, driver license number, and driver license state are 2.8 percent, 4.7 percent, and 2.8 percent, respectively. Driver condition is missing for all cases, as are road access and road traffic way, for all practical purposes. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is missing for 60.5 percent of cases, driver license class is missing for 13.5 percent of cases, and GVWR is missing for 8.5 percent of cases.

The second section of the table shows missing data rates for the hazardous materials (hazmat) variables. Hazmat placard was unrecorded in only 0.4 percent of cases. However, rates for the variables describing the hazardous material (where present) were higher. The percentages only pertain to cases in which it was coded that the vehicle displayed a hazmat placard. The 1-digit hazmat class code was missing in 99.3 percent of these cases, the 4-digit class code was missing in 16.4 percent of cases, and the hazmat name was missing in 87.1 percent of cases. It should be noted that 4,878 vehicles were coded as not displaying a hazmat placard, yet sixty of these vehicles were coded as having hazardous cargo release, and seventeen were coded with a 4-digit class code.

Table 21 Missing Data Rates for Selected MCMIS Crash File Variables, Ohio 2005

Variable	Percent unrecorded	Variable	Percent unrecorded
Report number	0.0	Fatal injuries	0.0
Accident year	0.0	Non-fatal Injuries	0.0
Accident month	0.0	Interstate	0.0
Accident day	0.0	Light	0.0
Accident hour	0.2	Event one	<0.1
Accident minute	0.2	Event two	0.2
County	0.0	Event three	0.3
Body type	5.6	Event four	0.4
Configuration	0.0	Number of vehicles	0.0
GVWR class	8.5	Officer badge number	0.6
DOT number*	2.2	Road access	99.9
Carrier state	0.0	Road surface	0.0
Citation issued	2.6	Road trafficway	99.9
Driver condition	100.0	Towaway	0.0
Driver date of birth	2.8	Truck or bus	0.0
Driver license number	4.7	Vehicle license number	1.4
Driver license state	2.8	Vehicle license state	0.0
Driver license class	13.5	VIN	60.5
Driver license valid	2.6	Weather	0.0

* Counting cases where the carrier is coded interstate.

Hazardous materials variable	Percent unrecorded
Hazardous materials placard	0.4
Percentages of hazmat placarded vehicles only:	
Hazardous cargo release	0.0
Hazardous materials class (1-digit)	99.3
Hazardous materials class (4-digit)	16.4
Hazardous materials name	87.1

The following table compares the actual data values in the Ohio PAR file with the values in the MCMIS Crash file to determine if the data are consistent between the two datasets. It is possible that errors of translation and formatting can occur when the data are prepared for submission to the MCMIS crash file. Table 22 displays the consistency between the vehicle type variable as recorded in the Ohio PAR file and the coding of configuration in the MCMIS Crash file. The levels of the variables are not exactly the same. For example, Ohio codes buses as school, church, public, and other buses, whereas the MCMIS file designates buses according to number of seats. However, the goal is to detect major inconsistencies when, for example, a bus is coded as a large truck.

In general, overall consistency of the vehicle configuration variables between the two files is good. Except for one vehicle coded as a snowmobile, all buses in the Ohio Crash file are coded as one of the types of buses in the MCMIS Crash file. As shown in Table 22, except for a few minor differences, SUTs with two axles and six tires, and SUTs with three or more axles match closely. Similarly, truck trailers match closely, and tractor bobtails match exactly. Tractor

Table 22 Comparison of Vehicle Configuration in MCMIS and Ohio Crash Files, 2005

Vehicle Configuration		Cases	%
MCMIS Crash file	Ohio Crash file		
Light truck (only if HM placard)	Panel/Van	1	100.0
Bus (seats 9-15, including driver)	School bus	53	55.8
	Church bus	1	1.1
	Public bus	24	25.3
	Other bus	16	16.8
	Snowmobile	1	1.1
<i>Small bus subtotal</i>		95	100.0
Bus (seats>15, including driver)	School bus	117	53.4
	Church bus	1	0.5
	Public bus	74	33.8
	Other bus	27	12.3
<i>Large bus subtotal</i>		219	100.0
SUT, 2-axle, 6-tire	Minivan	1	0.0
	SUV	1	0.0
	Pickup	1	0.0
	Panel/Van	1	0.0
	SUT, 2-axles, 6-tires	173	3.7
SUT, 3+ axles	Midsize	1	0.0
	SUT, 3+ axles	468	10.1
Truck trailer	Compact	1	0.0
	SUV	1	0.0
	Pickup	1	0.0
	Truck trailer	288	6.2
Truck tractor (bobtail)	Truck tractor (bobtail)	73	1.6
Tractor/semitrailer	Compact	1	0.0
	Tractor semitrailer	2,999	64.9
Tractor/double	Tractor double short	78	1.7
	Tractor double long	19	0.4
Tractor/triple	Tractor/triple	9	0.2
Unk. Heavy truck, >10,000 lbs. GVWR	Subcompact	6	0.1
	Compact	11	0.2
	Midsize	29	0.6
	Full size	11	0.2
	Minivan	6	0.1
	SUV	8	0.2
	Pickup	28	0.6
	Panel/Van	21	0.5
	SUT, 2-axles, 6-tires	321	6.9
	Tractor semitrailer	3	0.1
	Motorcycle	1	0.0
	Police vehicle	1	0.0
	Fire truck	6	0.1
	Ambulance/rescue	3	0.1
	Train	1	0.0
Construction equipment	6	0.1	
All others	26	0.6	
Unknown	18	0.4	
<i>Truck Subtotal</i>		4,622	100.0
Total, All vehicles		4,937	

semitrailers are in good agreement except for one vehicle classified as a compact, and tractor doubles and triples match exactly. Note that the Ohio Crash file distinguishes short doubles and long doubles. The greatest difference between the two variables occurs when the MCMIS file categorizes vehicles as unknown heavy trucks greater than 10,000 lbs. GVWR. Table 22 shows that in this situation, 321 vehicles in the Ohio file are SUTs with 2 axles and six tires. However, some vehicles are also classified as midsize passenger cars, pickup trucks, panel vans, as well as compact passenger cars, full size cars, minivans, and SUVs.

7. Summary and Discussion

This is the second evaluation of Ohio crash data reported to the MCMIS Crash file. The first evaluation was based on year 2000 data. This current evaluation uses data collected during 2005. Since the first evaluation, the overall reporting rate has increased from about 35 percent to about 43 percent. Even though the reporting rate improved slightly over time, many of the same factors found to be related to reporting rates in the first evaluation were found to be relevant in this more recent evaluation.

In the first MCMIS study of Ohio, it was estimated that about 20 percent of cases that did not qualify for reporting were in fact reported. In this study, the percentage is about 22 percent, suggesting that overreporting of cases continues to be an issue. An examination of the 1,094 overreported vehicles (see Table 10) shows that 860 were qualifying trucks and 46 were qualifying buses, but none of the crashes involved a fatality, an injured and transported person, or a towed and disabled vehicle. Therefore, the MCMIS crash severity threshold for a reportable crash was not met. The remaining 188 vehicles were not trucks, buses, or hazmat placarded vehicles.

With respect to reporting rates, the difference between reporting for vehicles designated as interstate carriers and intrastate carriers was large. In this study, interstate carriers were defined as vehicles with either ICC or DOT numbers. The reporting rate for vehicles with either number was found to be 79.1 percent, while the reporting rate for vehicles without a number was 17.0 percent (Table 18). Note that intrastate carriers accounted for 85.1 percent of unreported cases.

Some of the other factors related to underreporting of cases in Ohio follow patterns found in MCMIS evaluations of other states. For example, large trucks were more likely to be reported than smaller trucks or buses. The reporting rate for tractor semitrailers was 60.0 percent, but the reporting rate for SUTs with two axles and six tires was 19.1 percent. In addition, SUTs with two axles and six tires accounted for 32.9 percent of total unreported cases. However, the reporting rate for SUTs with three or more axles was 45.5 percent. The reporting rates for school buses and public buses were 35.2 percent and 31.9 percent, respectively.

Another common pattern found in this and other MCMIS evaluations is that vehicles involved in more severe crashes were more likely to be reported than those in less severe crashes. The

reporting rate was 85.4 percent for fatal involvements, 52.7 percent for injured and transported involvements, and 32.3 percent for towed and disabled involvements. Moreover, for crashes involving injury, the rates increased as level of injury increased. The reporting rate was 45.6 percent for C-injury involvements, 55.3 percent for B-injury involvements, and 63.2 percent for A-injury involvements.

Reporting rates by vehicle license state were investigated and it was found that vehicles with Ohio plates had a lower reporting rate than vehicles with license plates from other states. Stratification of license state by vehicle type (see Table 17) showed that much of this observed effect could be explained by the fact that a large number of reportable cases in Ohio are SUTs with two axles and six tires, and these smaller trucks tend to have a lower reporting rate. In addition, the majority of tractor semitrailers had license plates from states other than Ohio, and these vehicles tend to have a higher reporting rate.

With respect to the county of the crash, counties with big cities tended to have lower than average reporting rates. For example, Franklin County which contains Columbus had a reporting rate of 27.5 percent. The reporting rate for Hamilton County, which contains Cincinnati, had a reporting rate of 27.3 percent, and Cuyahoga County, which contains Cleveland, had a reporting rate of 36.5 percent. These counties with large cities also had the largest numbers of unreported cases.

With respect to three reporting agencies, local police departments had the lowest reporting rate. In addition, they accounted for 55.0 percent of the total unreported cases. By agency, the reporting rates were 54.6 percent for the state highway patrol, 40.8 percent for sheriff's offices, and 31.6 percent for police departments.

There appears to have been no trend in reporting based on month of the crash. There is no time of the year in which reporting rates deviated from the overall average. However, there is a clear downward trend beginning in January and ending in December of the average number of days between the crash date and the date the case was uploaded to the MCMIS Crash file. After July, cases tended to be submitted within 90 days. Before that time, cases tended to be uploaded after the 90-day grace period (Figure 3).

Overall, data quality was good. A few variables in the MCMIS Crash file such as driver condition, road access, road trafficway, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) suffer from missing data. Hazardous materials information is inconsistent in a small number of cases. A check of the vehicle configuration variables between the Ohio PAR file and the MCMIS Crash file indicates that the variables match fairly well. Most of the unknown trucks greater than 10,000 lbs. GVWR in the MCMIS file are coded as SUTs with two axles and six tires in the Ohio PAR file.

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12. Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS), U.S Census Bureau, 2002 Economic Census, U.S Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, December, 2004.
13. United States Census Bureau, Population Division, Estimates 2000-2005.
14. Trucks Involved in Fatal Accidents (TIFA) 1999-2003, Center for National Truck and Bus Statistics, The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.
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Appendix A: Variables Used from Ohio PAR Data to Identify a MCMIS-Reportable Crash.

MCMIS Reporting Criteria	Implementation in Ohio PAR Data
Truck with GVWR over 10,000 or GCWR over 10,000	<p>Unit Type was available for identifying vehicle body type. In the Truck/Bus section of the crash report the officer can record weight (GVWR) and cargo body type, but weight had many missing values. Cross-tabulations of these three variables suggests that unit type best captures the MCMIS criteria for trucks and buses:</p> <p>unit_type = 9 – SUT,2axles/6tires 10 – SUT 3+axles 11 – Truck/Trailer 12 – Truck tractor (Bobtail) 13 – Tractor / Semitrailer 14 – Tractor / Double Trailer 15 – Tractor / Double Long 16 – Fifth Wheel or Dolly 17 – Tractor Triples</p>
or Bus with seating for at least nine, including the driver	<p>The following codes were used to identify eligible buses:</p> <p>Body_type = 20 – School Bus 21 – Church Bus 22 – Public Bus 23 – Other Bus</p> <p>It is also possible that some other vehicles, such as vans, could qualify as buses. They would qualify if they have seats for nine or more passengers and are used for transporting passengers, and not personal transport. However, since number of seats and a description of vehicle use were not available, the decision was made not to include any other vehicles as qualifying buses.</p>
or Vehicle displaying a hazardous materials placard	<p>There are four variables related to hazmat information: diamond placard number, hazmat placard, hazmat release, and hazmat number. The hazmat placard variable was used because it is a numeric variable that indicates whether a placard was present or not. The other variables were character variables with some missing values or not as reliable as the hazmat placard variable.</p>
AND	
at least one fatality	<p>The Ohio occupant file contains an injuries variable based on the usual KABCOU scale. A maximum injury severity variable was created to determine the maximum injury severity in the crash. A crash involving a fatality was determined from this created variable.</p> <p>Injuries = 5 denotes a fatal outcome</p>

MCMIS Reporting Criteria	Implementation in Ohio PAR Data
<p>or at least one person injured and transported to a medical facility for immediate medical attention</p>	<p>The maximum injury Severity variable defined above was used to identify injury accidents. In addition, a medical transport variable identifies agencies transporting occupants for medical attention. An occupant was considered transported if the agency was EMS, police, or other. Transported was missing for a small percentage of vehicles.</p> <p>Thus, this criteria was met by the following conditions: Maximum injury severity =(A or B or C) and transported =yes OR Maximum injury severity=(A or B) and transported =unknown</p>
<p>or at least one vehicle towed due to disabling damage</p>	<p>Two variables were used in combination to identify vehicles satisfying this criterion: damage extent, and towed flag. Damage extent has levels 1=None, 2=Non-functional, 3=functional, 4=disabling, 5=severe, 6=unknown. The towed flag has two levels: yes and no.</p> <p>This criteria was met by the following condition: Damage extent=(4 or 5) and towed flag=yes. Damage extent unknown was ignored since 97 percent of those were not towed.</p>

UNIT NUMBERS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	DAMAGE AREA 	PRE-CRASH ACTIONS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	SEQUENCE OF EVENTS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	POSTED SPEED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	DRUG TEST STATUS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NON-MOTORIST LOCATION <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	MOTORIST 01 MOVEMENTS ESSENTIALLY STRAIGHT AHEAD 02 BACKING 03 CHANGING LANES 04 OVERTAKING/PASSING 05 TURNING RIGHT 06 TURNING LEFT 07 MAKING U-TURN 08 ENTERING TRAFFIC LANE 09 LEAVING TRAFFIC LANE 10 PARKED 11 SLOWING/STOPPED IN TRAFFIC 12 DRIVERLESS 13 OTHER 14 UNKNOWN NON-MOTORIST 15 ENTERING/CROSSING IN SPECIFIED LOCATION 16 WALKING, RUNNING, JOGGING, PLAYING, CYCLING 17 WORKING 18 PUSHING VEHICLE 19 APPROACHING/LEAVING VEHICLE 20 PLAYING/WORKING ON VEHICLE 21 STANDING 22 OTHER 23 UNKNOWN	CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCES <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Non-Collision 01 OVERTURN/ROLLOVER 02 FIRE/EXPLOSION 03 IMBROSION 04 JACKKNIFE 05 CARGO/EQUIPMENT LOSS/SHIFT 06 EQUIPMENT FAILURE 07 SEPARATION OF UNITS 08 RAN OFF ROAD RIGHT 09 RAN OFF ROAD LEFT 10 CROSS-MEDIAN/CENTERLINE 11 DOWNHILL RUNAWAY 12 OTHER NON-COLLISION 13 UNKNOWN NON-COLLISION COLLISION W/PERSON, VEHICLE, OR OBJECT NOT FIXED 14 PEDESTRIAN 15 PEDALCYCLE 16 RAILWAY VEHICLE 17 ANIMAL - FARM 18 ANIMAL - DEER 19 ANIMAL - OTHER 20 MOTOR VEHICLE IN TRANSPORT 21 PARKED MOTOR VEHICLE 22 WORK ZONE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT 23 OTHER MOVABLE OBJECT 24 UNKNOWN MOVABLE OBJECT COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT 25 IMPACT ATTENUATOR/CRASH CUSHION 26 BRIDGE OVERHEAD STRUCTURE 27 BRIDGE PIER OR ABUTMENT 28 BRIDGE PARAPET 29 BRIDGE RAIL 30 GUARDRAIL FACE 31 GUARDRAIL END 32 MEDIAN BARRIER 33 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SIGN POST 34 OVERHEAD SIGN POST 35 LIGHT/LUMINAIRE SUPPORT 36 UTILITY POLE 37 OTHER POST, POLE OR SUPPORT 38 CULVERT 39 CURB 40 DITCH 41 EMBANKMENT 42 FENCE 43 MAILBOX 44 TREE 45 OTHER FIXED OBJECT 46 WORK ZONE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT 47 UNKNOWN FIXED OBJECT 48 OTHER 49 UNKNOWN	TRAFFIC CONTROL <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	DRUG TEST TYPE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TYPE OF UNIT <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	MOTORIST 01 SUB-COMPACT 02 COMPACT 03 MID-SIZE 04 FULL-SIZE 05 MINIVAN 06 SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE 07 PICKUP 08 PANEL/VAN 09 SINGLE UNIT TRUCK; 2 AXLES, 6 TIRES 10 SINGLE UNIT TRUCK; 3+ AXLES 11 TRUCKS/TRAILERS 12 TRUCK TRACTOR (BOBTAIL) 13 TRACTOR/SEM-TRAILER 14 TRACTOR/DOUBLE SHORT 15 TRACTOR/DOUBLE LONG 16 FIFTH WHEEL OR CONVERTER DOLLY 17 TRACTOR/TRIPLES 18 MOTORCYCLE 19 MOTORIZED BICYCLE 20 SCHOOL BUS 21 CHURCH BUS 22 PUBLIC BUS 23 OTHER BUS 24 POLICE VEHICLE 25 FIRE TRUCK 26 AMBULANCE/RESCUE 27 TAXI 28 MOTOR HOME 29 TRAIN 30 FARM VEHICLE 31 FARM EQUIPMENT 32 SNOWMOBILE 33 CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT 34 ALL OTHERS NON-MOTORIST 35 ANIMAL W/DRIVER 36 ANIMAL W/NO DRIVER 37 BICYCLE 38 PEDESTRIAN 39 PEDALCYCLIST 40 SKATER 41 OTHER-NON MOTORIST 42 UNKNOWN	MOTORIST 01 NONE 02 FAILURE TO YIELD 03 RAN RED LIGHT, OR STOP SIGN 04 EXCEEDED SPEED LIMIT 05 UNSAFE SPEED 06 IMPROPER TURN 07 LEFT OF CENTER 08 FOLLOWED TOO CLOSELY/ADCA 09 IMPROPER LANE CHANGE/ DROVE OFF ROAD/ IMPROPER PASSING 10 IMPROPER BACKING 11 IMPROPER START FROM PARKED POSITION 12 STOPPED OR PARKED ILLEGALLY 13 OPERATING VEHICLE IN ERRATIC, RECKLESS, CARELESS, NEGLIGENT OR AGGRESSIVE MANNER 14 SWERVING TO AVOID (DUE TO WIND, SLIPPERY SURFACE, VEHICLE, OBJECT, NON-MOTORIST IN ROADWAY, ETC.) 15 FAILURE TO CONTROL 16 VISION OBSTRUCTION 17 DRIVER INATTENTION 18 FATIGUE/ASLEEP 19 OPERATING DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT 20 LOAD SHIFTING/FALLING/SPILLING 21 OTHER IMPROPER ACTION 22 UNKNOWN NON-MOTORIST 23 NONE 24 IMPROPER CROSSING 25 DARTING 26 LYING AND/OR ILLEGALLY IN ROADWAY 27 FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY 28 NOT VISIBLE (DARK CLOTHING) 29 INATTENTIVE 30 FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS, OR OFFICER 31 WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD 32 OTHER 33 UNKNOWN	FIRST HARMFUL EVENT <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	DIRECTION From To From To <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	TYPE OF INTERSECTION <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	POINT OF IMPACT <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	VEHICLE DEFECT CODE ONLY IF '19' SELECTED ABOVE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	MOST HARMFUL EVENT <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	CONDITION <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	OCURRENCE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DAMAGE SCALE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ACTION <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	VEHICLE DEFECT CODE ONLY IF '19' SELECTED ABOVE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	SPEED DETECTED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ALCOHOL/DRUG SUSPECTED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ROAD CONTOUR <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DAMAGE SCALE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	STRIKING VEHICLES OVERRIDE/ OVERRIDDEN <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	VEHICLE DEFECT CODE ONLY IF '19' SELECTED ABOVE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	SPEED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ALCOHOL TEST STATUS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ROAD CONDITIONS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DAMAGE SCALE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	STRIKING VEHICLES OVERRIDE/ OVERRIDDEN <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	VEHICLE DEFECT CODE ONLY IF '19' SELECTED ABOVE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	SPEED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ALCOHOL TEST TYPE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ROAD CONDITIONS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DAMAGE SCALE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	STRIKING VEHICLES OVERRIDE/ OVERRIDDEN <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	VEHICLE DEFECT CODE ONLY IF '19' SELECTED ABOVE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	SPEED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ALCOHOL TEST RESULT <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ROAD CONDITIONS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
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DAMAGE SCALE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	STRIKING VEHICLES OVERRIDE/ OVERRIDDEN <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	VEHICLE DEFECT CODE ONLY IF '19' SELECTED ABOVE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	SPEED <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ALCOHOL TEST RESULT <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	ROAD CONDITIONS <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Narrative													
<p>MANNER OF COLLISION OR IMPACT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 NOT COLLISION BETWEEN TWO VEHICLES IN TRANSPORT 2 REAR-END 3 HEAD-ON 4 REAR-TO-REAR 5 BACKING 6 ANGLE 7 SIDEWPE, SAME DIRECTION 8 SIDEWPE, OPPOSITE DIRECTION 9 UNKNOWN</p> <p>WEATHER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>01 CLEAR 02 CLOUDY 03 FOG, SMOG, SMOKE 04 RAIN 05 SLEET, HAL. (FREEZING RAIN DRIZZLE) 06 SNOW 07 SPINNING CROSSWINDS 08 BLOWING SAND, SOIL, DIRT, SNOW 09 OTHER 10 UNKNOWN</p> <p>LIGHT CONDITIONS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 DAYLIGHT 2 DAWN 3 DUSK 4 DARK - LIGHTED ROADWAY 5 DARK - NOT LIGHTED 6 DARK - UNKNOWN LIGHTING 7 GLARE 8 OTHER 9 UNKNOWN</p>	<p>SCHOOL BUS RELATED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 NO 2 YES, DIRECTLY INVOLVED 3 YES, INDIRECTLY INVOLVED 4 UNKNOWN</p> <p>WORK ZONE RELATED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 NO 2 YES 3 UNKNOWN</p> <p>TYPE OF WORK ZONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 LANE CLOSURE 2 LANE SHIFT/CROSSOVER 3 WORK ON SHOULDER OR MEDIAN 4 INTERMITTENT/MOVING WORK 5 OTHER</p> <p>LOCATION OF CRASH IN WORK ZONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 BEFORE FIRST WORK ZONE WARNING SIGN 2 ADVANCE WARNING AREA 3 TRANSITION AREA 4 ACTIVITY AREA</p> <p>WORKERS PRESENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1 NO 2 YES 3 UNKNOWN</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f2f2f2;">Diagram</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Write an "N" on the compass diagram to indicate the direction of north.</p> </div> <div style="height: 150px; border: 1px solid black; margin-top: 10px;"></div>											
<p style="background-color: #f2f2f2; text-align: center;">Truck/Bus</p> <p>UNIT # <input type="text"/></p> <p>COMPANY (FROM SHIPPING PAPERS) <input type="text"/></p> <p>ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, ST, ZIP CODE) <input type="text"/></p> <p>COMPANY PHONE <input type="text"/></p>	<p>THE CRASH INVOLVED ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: A TRUCK (MOTOR VEHICLE) WITH A GVWR MORE THAN 10,000 POUNDS; OR A TRUCK (MOTOR VEHICLE) WITH A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PLACARD; OR A BUS DESIGNED FOR AT LEAST 8 PERSONS, INCLUDING DRIVER.</p> <p>THE CRASH RESULTED IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: A FATALITY; OR AN INJURY REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION FOR IMMEDIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT; OR AT LEAST ONE VEHICLE WAS TOWED DUE TO DISABLING DAMAGE OR REQUIRED INTERVENING ASSISTANCE BEFORE PROCEEDING UNDER ITS OWN POWER.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/></p>												
<p>US DOT <input type="text"/></p>	<p>ICC MC <input type="text"/></p>	<p>PUCO <input type="text"/></p>	<p>TRAILER LP ST. <input type="text"/></p>	<p>TRAILER LP YEAR <input type="text"/></p>	<p>TRAILER LP # <input type="text"/></p>	<p>PLACARD # <input type="text"/></p>	<p>PLACARD # <input type="text"/></p>						
<p>CARGO BODY TYPE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 01 NOT APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> 02 BUS (9-15 INCLUDING DRIVER) <input type="checkbox"/> 03 VAN/ENCLOSED BOX <input type="checkbox"/> 04 GRAN/CMPR/GRAVEL <input type="checkbox"/> 05 PILE <input type="checkbox"/> 06 CARGO TANK <input type="checkbox"/> 07 FLATBED <input type="checkbox"/> 08 DUMP <input type="checkbox"/> 09 CONCRETE MIXER <input type="checkbox"/> 10 AUTO TRANSPORTER <input type="checkbox"/> 11 GARBAGE/REFUSE <input type="checkbox"/> 12 OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> 13 UNKNOWN</p>	<p>Weight (GVWR)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 LESS/EQUAL 10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 10,001 - 26,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 MORE THAN 26,000</p>	<p>CDL Class</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 CLASS A <input type="checkbox"/> 2 CLASS B <input type="checkbox"/> 3 CLASS C <input type="checkbox"/> 4 CLASS M <input type="checkbox"/> 5 CLASS D</p>	<p>Hazardous Materials Placard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 2 YES <input type="checkbox"/> 3 UNKNOWN</p>	<p>Hazardous Material Released</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 2 YES <input type="checkbox"/> 3 NOT APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> 4 UNKNOWN</p>									
Police Action													
DATE CRASH REPORTED <input type="text"/>		TIME REC. CALL <input type="text"/>		DISPATCH <input type="text"/>		ARRIVED <input type="text"/>		CLEARED <input type="text"/>		OTHER <input type="text"/>		TOTAL INVENTORY <input type="text"/>	
OFFICER'S NAME * <input type="text"/>				BARNO # <input type="text"/>		CHECKED BY <input type="text"/>		DATE REPORT FILED * <input type="text"/>					
REPORT TAKEN BY <input type="checkbox"/> 1 POLICE AGENCY <input type="checkbox"/> 2 MOTORIST		REPORT TAKEN AT <input type="checkbox"/> 1 SCENE <input type="checkbox"/> 2 STATION <input type="checkbox"/> 3 OTHER		STATEMENT # <input type="checkbox"/> X <input type="checkbox"/> YES		LOCAL REPORT # <input type="text"/>							
TOP COPY - OOPS BOTTOM COPY - AGENCY													