



Research In Progress

Feasibility Study on Law Enforcement Activity Measures

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A panel of representatives from several law enforcement agencies (LEAs) was convened to discuss topics related to traffic law enforcement activity data. The panel was comprised largely of law enforcement officers representative of various ranks (e.g., Sergeant, Lieutenant, Chief), agencies (e.g. State, county, city, and sheriff's departments), and regions of the country (e.g., west coast, east coast, mid-west). In addition to individuals from law enforcement, representatives from IACP, a State Highway Safety representative and the Executive Director of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) participated in the panel to provide different perspectives on the issues.

The basic objectives of the panel meeting were to:

- Define what information LEAs currently collect on traffic law enforcement activity;
- Examine the existing systems that collect pertinent data and determine the availability of that data.
- Define the information required to identify resources and/or activities dedicated by LEAs to traffic law enforcement and how such information is helpful to the LEAs and highway safety researchers; and
- Define what additional data need to be collected to be able to measure traffic law enforcement activities.

The primary goal of this project is to determine what traffic law enforcement activity data is most currently most feasible to collect across varying types of law enforcement agencies around the country, and to pilot test some data collection schemes. The ultimate goal is to develop a system of data collection from law enforcement agencies that could help in the evaluation of various law enforcement initiatives. Such data could potentially be used to generate national estimates of traffic law enforcement activities on a monthly and annual basis and to relate those activities to changes in traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

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