

The FARS data (focusing on fatalities) and the NASS GES data (focusing on injuries) are arguably the most comprehensive national data being collected today. Despite its breadth and depth on particular subjects such as ambulance crashes, there are statistical details that are not available. The total number of fatal crashes involving ambulances can be ascertained by FARS. More work is needed to establish a complete national count of fatality, injury and property-damage only crashes.⁴² Thus, while fatality and injury data can be retrieved or estimated, the exact number of incidents remains elusive.

Table 3-1: Summary of Ambulance Crash Data from NHTSA FARS and NASS GES, 1990-2009

Use Type	Single Vehicle Ambulance Crash				Multi Vehicle Ambulance Crash				TOTAL			
	Fatal	Injury *	\$ Loss Only*	Total	Fatal	Injury *	\$ Loss Only*	Total	Fatal	Injury *	\$ Loss Only*	Total
Not in Emergency Use	70	794	2,638	3,502	195	8,560	15,614	24,269	265	9,355	18,252	27,871
In Emergency Use	51	1,653	3,265	4,970	273	16,235	27,915	44,423	324	17,889	31,180	49,393
Unknown	---	471	2,299	2,770	1	1,255	3,520	4,776	1	1,726	5,819	7,546
TOTAL	121	2,919	8,202	11,242	469	26,051	47,049	73,568	590	28,969	55,251	84,810

* Note: "Injury" and "\$ Loss Only" are estimates.

An important characteristic of the FARS and NASS GES data collected through U.S. federal agencies like NHTSA is its transparency. Unlike data collected through private channels (e.g. manufacturers, insurance, etc.), private or personal information is removed and data summaries are generally accessible. Table 3-1 provides a summary of ambulance crash data from NHTSA FARS and NASS GES for the twenty-year period from 1990 to 2009. This data information is reflected in greater detail in Annex B.

Table 3-2: Example of Use of Ambulance Crash Data (for U.S. in 2009)⁴⁴

	Incidents Using Lights/Sirens	Total Incidents
Ambulance Crashes with Fatalities	16	29
Ambulance Crashes with Injuries	488	959
Ambulances in All Crashes	1,404	3,029
Ambulance Driver Fatality	1	3
Ambulance Crew Other Than Driver Fatality	5	10
Other Ambulance Passenger Fatality	9	17
Non-Motorist Fatality	3	5
Total Ambulance Crash Fatalities	16	35
Total Ambulance Crash Injuries	918	1,579

The FARS and NASS GES data from NHTSA are widely used. For example, summary data provided by the National Safety Council directly uses this summary information in their literature. Table 3-1, Example of Use of Ambulance Crash Data (in U.S. in 2009), provides a summary for National Safety Council literature, based on data from NHTSA FARS and NASS GES.⁴³