



Consistency and Uniformity of Crash Data Across the U.S.

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International Benchmarking on Road Safety

Overview

- Overall U.S. Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics
- Consistency and Uniformity of Crash Data
- Distraction-Affected Crashes – An Example



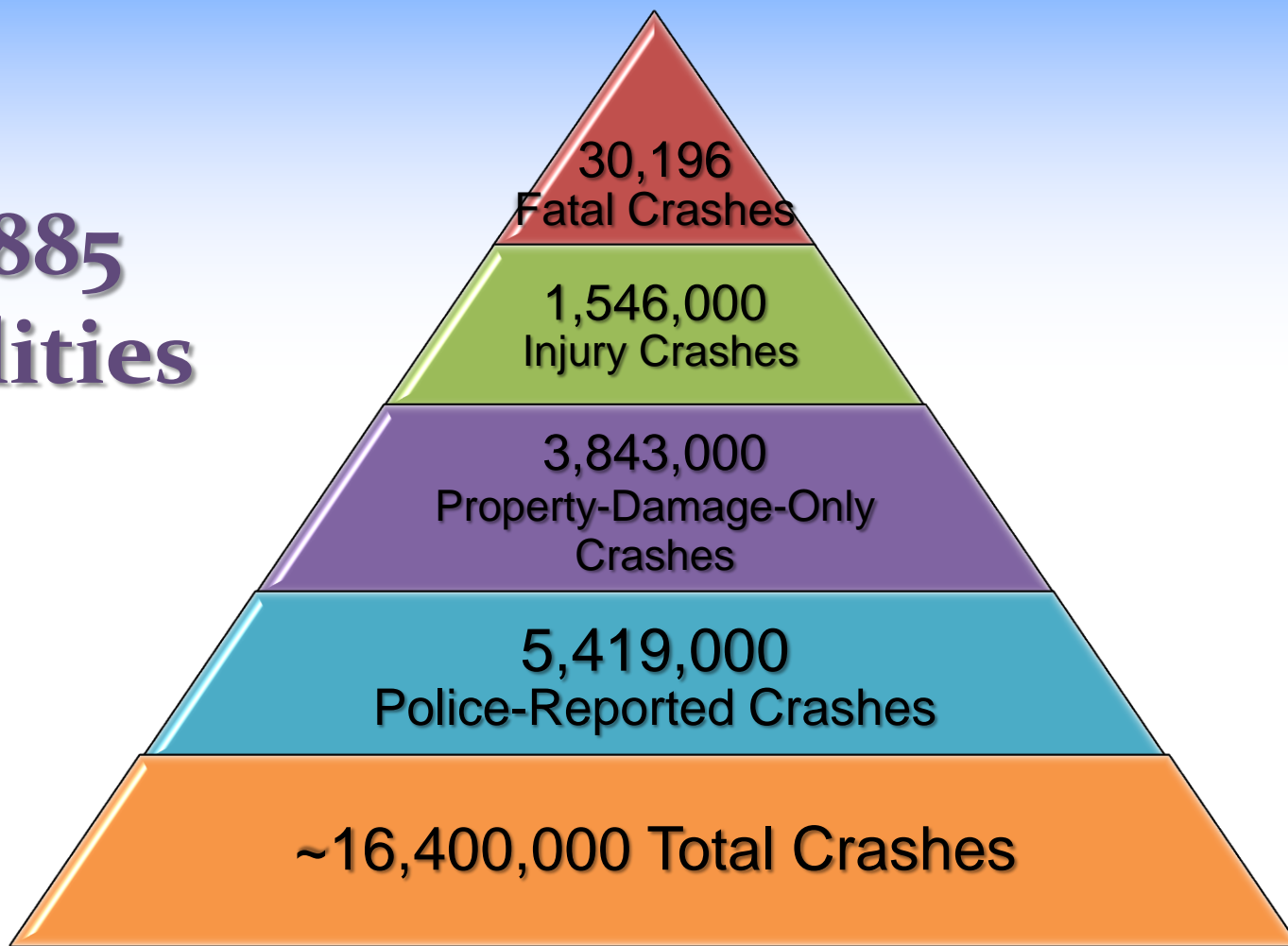
Safety on America's Roads

- 32,885 fatalities in 2010
 - Decline of 998 fatalities from 2009
 - Lowest number of fatalities since 1949
- 2.24 million people were injured in 2010
 - Increase of ~ 26,000 injured people from 2009
 - First increase since 1999



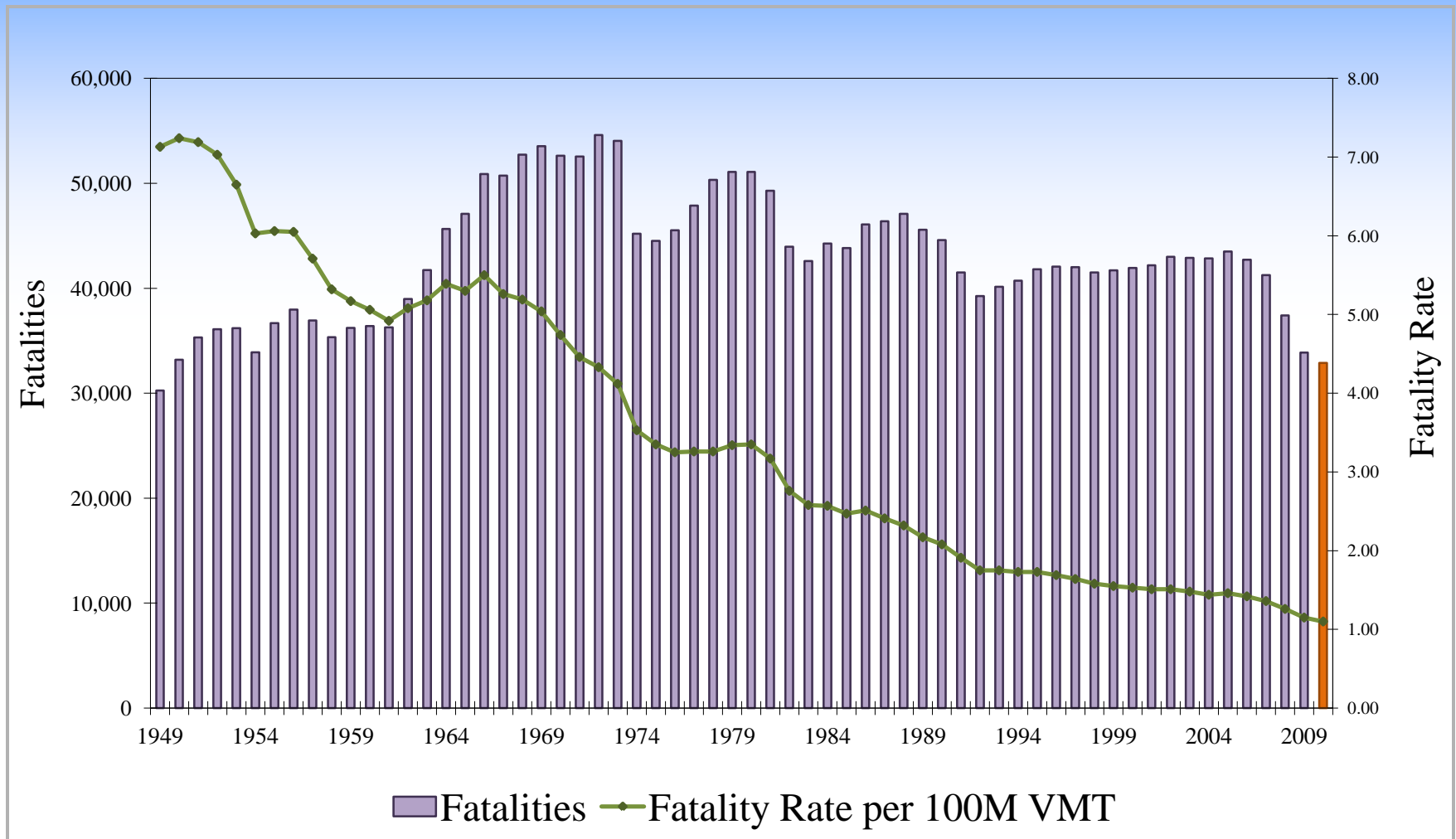
Crashes by Crash Severity, 2010

**32,885
Fatalities**

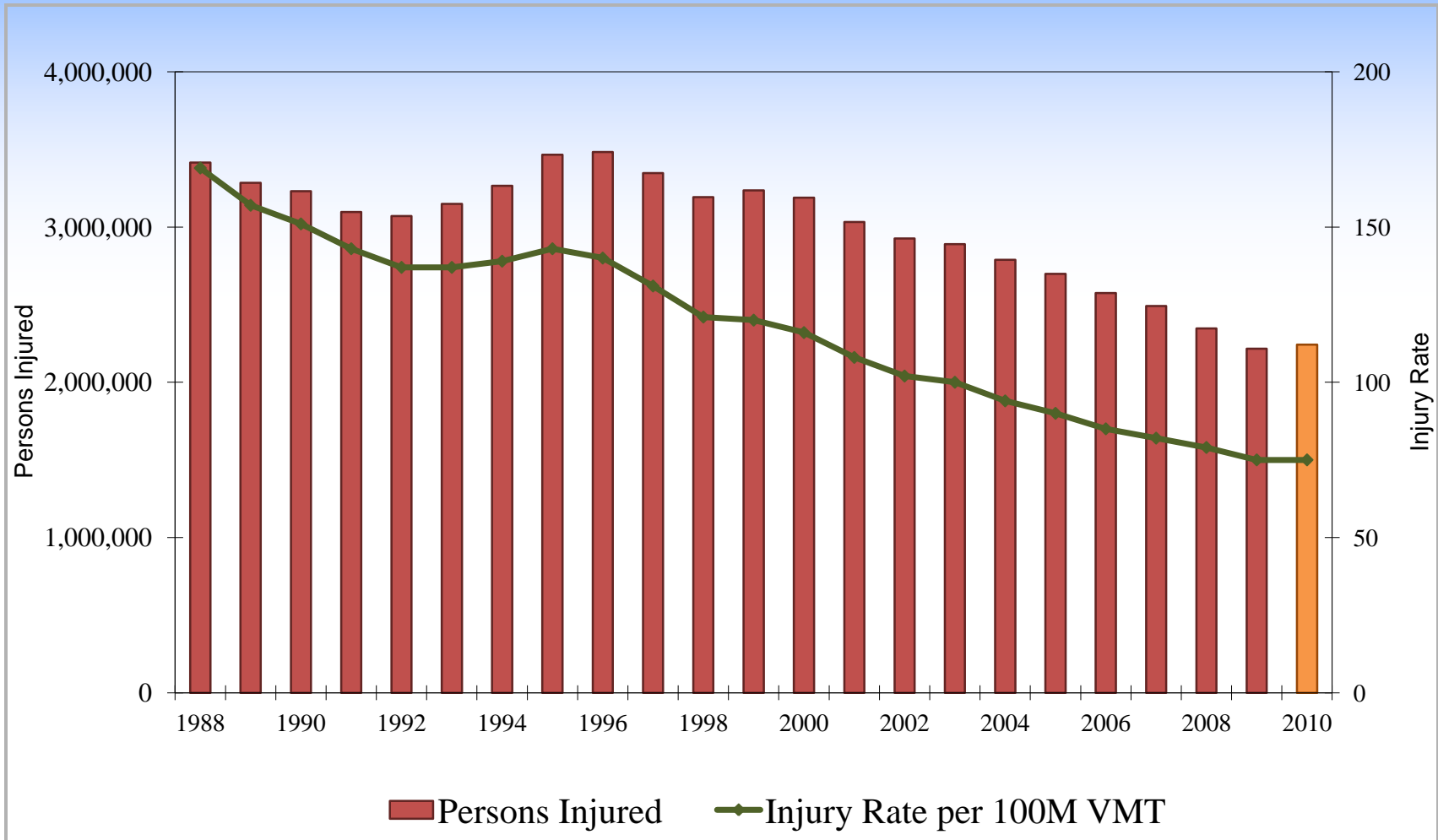


\$230 Billion Societal Costs

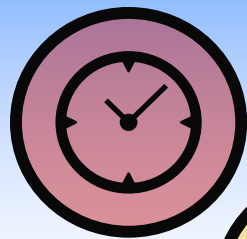
Fatalities and Fatality Rates, 1949-2010



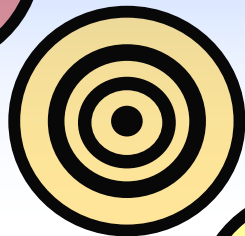
Injured People and Injury Rates, 1988-2010



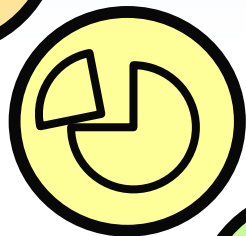
Safety Data Improvement



TIMELINESS



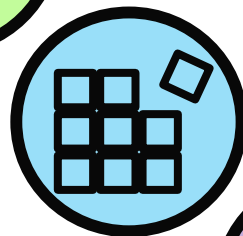
ACCURACY



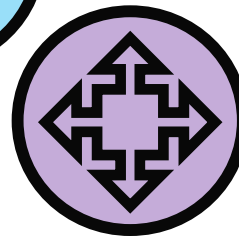
COMPLETENESS



UNIFORMITY



INTEGRATION



ACCESSIBILITY

Collaborative Effort Towards Uniformity

Current Means

- Harmonization of National Databases
- Guidelines & Grants for States
- National Standards
- State Assessments
- Training

Future Means

- Electronic data collection
- Linkage
- Consolidated files



FARS and GES

- Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)
 - All fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes
 - Recoding of State police accident reports, death certificates and more
- General Estimates System (GES)
 - Nationally representative sample of all severity of crashes (about 55,000 per year)
 - Recoding from State police accident reports
- FARS/GES Harmonization underway



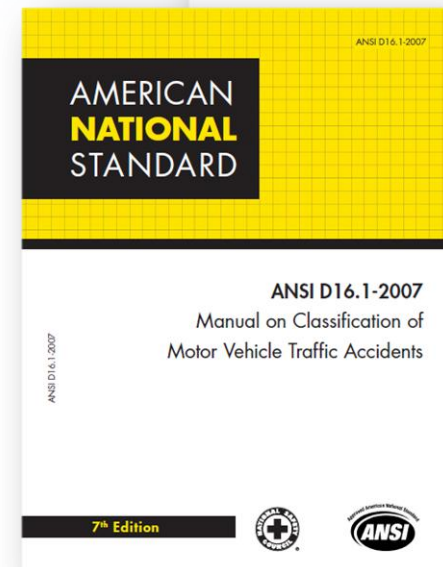
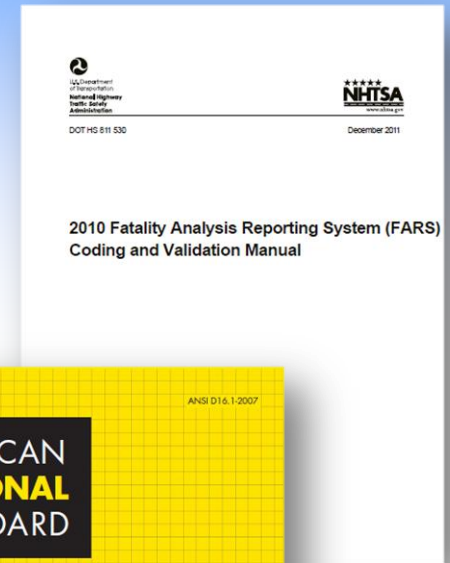
Guidelines and Grants to States

- Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC)
 - Recommendations on what data to collect
 - Collaborative effort of law enforcement, health, traffic, automobile industries and government (State & Federal)
- States earn grant funding from Federal Gov't
 - By showing they are compliant with MMUCC
 - To support traffic safety programs in the States

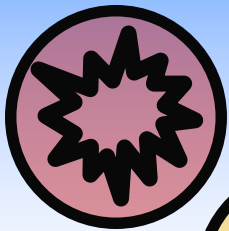


Other Avenues To Uniformity

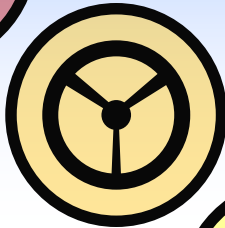
- Training for State data coders
- American National Standard Institute (ANSI) D.16
 - Definitions of motor vehicle traffic crash language
- Traffic Records Assessment Program
 - Peer review of State Traffic Records Systems



Traffic Records Systems



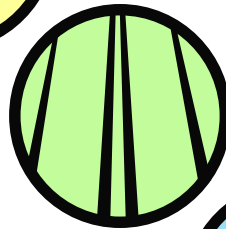
CRASH



DRIVER



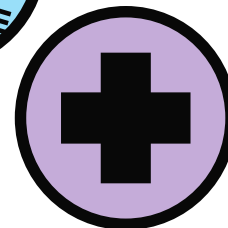
VEHICLE



ROADWAY



CITATION/ADJUDICATION



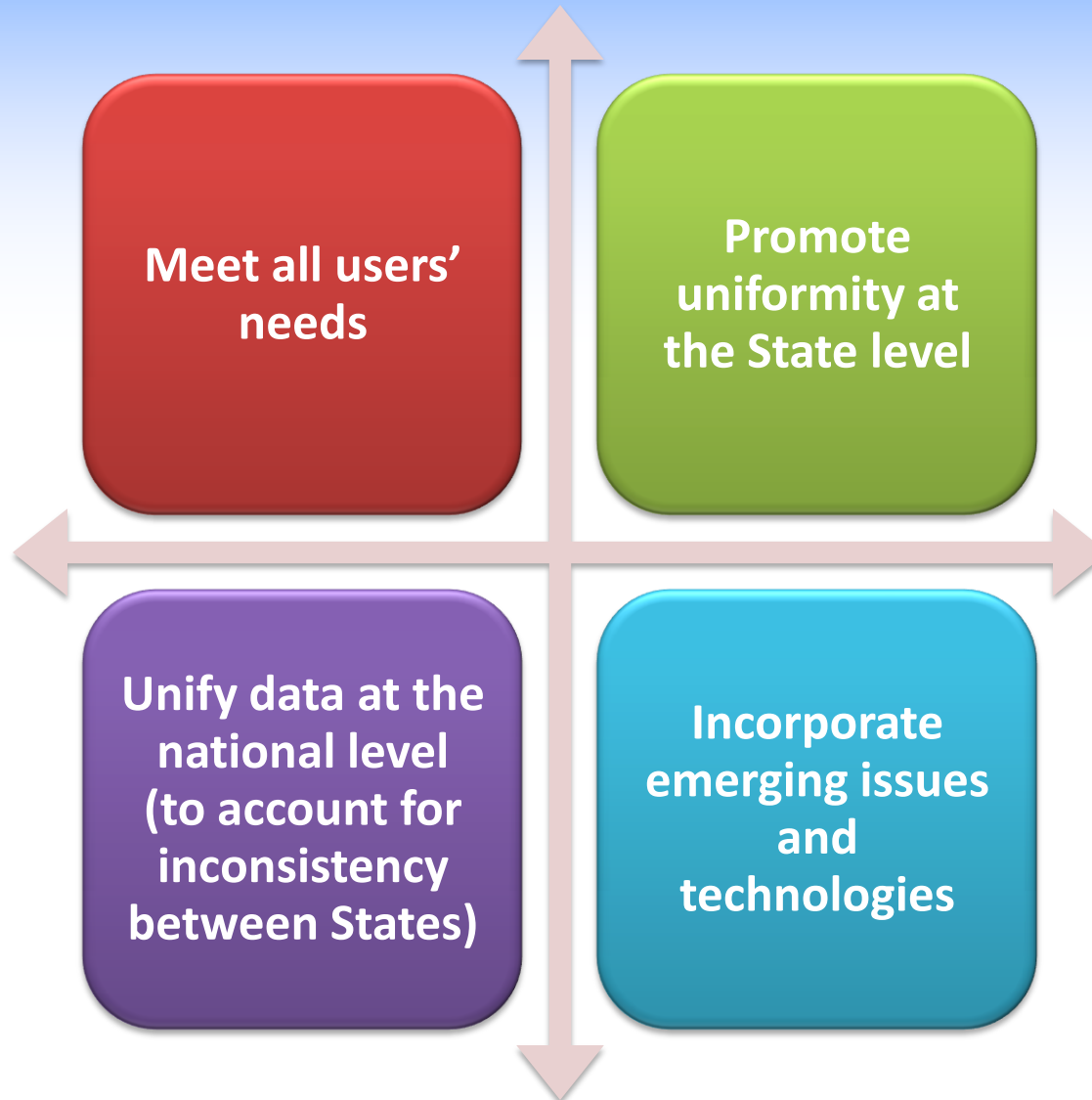
EMS/INJURY

Outlook for Uniform Data

- Electronic data collection
 - Faster, more accurate data transfer
- Linkage
 - Increased user accessibility to multiple systems
- Consolidated data files
 - Increase efficiency in data analysis



Continual and Inter-related Process to Develop Uniformity



Distracted Driving - A Relevant Example

- Issue on NHTSA radar screen for years
- Secretary LaHood's focus of highway safety
- NHTSA tasked to review data and develop national picture of problem
 - Use existing data and data structure for reporting of distracted driving data



Distracted Driving – Initial Assessment

- Data collected differently on State's police accident reports
 - Extraneous categories (reckless driving, fatigue)
 - No collection of distraction at all
- Data coded differently in FARS and GES
 - Need to create uniformity at national level



Distracted Driving – Promoting Uniformity

- Team discussion on definition, collection, analysis
- MMUCC changes
- FARS/GES harmonization
- Clarify distraction as a distinct activity
- Communication to States about importance of data collection



Thank You!

For further information or questions,
please contact terry.shelton@dot.gov

Or visit www.nhtsa.gov