

Data Management Plan (DMP) for Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2014-Present Dataset

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA);
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
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Change log:

2021-04-14: Initial DMP written

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0. Dataset and Contact Information

Title of Dataset: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2014-Present Dataset

URL: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520850>.

This is an ☒ initial DMP or a ☐ revised DMP.

Organizational Contact Information

Name: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2014-Present Dataset

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: nhtsa.webmaster@dot.gov

Data Distributor Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: ntad@dot.gov

1. Data Description:

The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) dataset is 2014-Present and from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and part of U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). This current dataset is for

FARS 2017 data. The FARS dataset includes 1 geospatial file and 25 tabular files. One of the primary objectives of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is to reduce the staggering human toll and property damage that motor vehicle traffic crashes impose on our society. FARS is a census of fatal motor vehicle crashes with a set of data files documenting all qualifying fatalities that occurred within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico since 1975. To qualify as a FARS case, the crash had to involve a motor vehicle traveling on a traffic way customarily open to the public, and must have resulted in the death of a motorist or a non-motorist within 30 days of the crash. This data file contains information about crash characteristics and environmental conditions at the time of the crash. There is one record per crash. On the NHTSA website, raw FARS data are made available to the public in Statistical Analysis System (SAS) data files as well as comma-separated values (CSV) files. Current and past raw FARS data are available at: <ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/>. The FARS/CRSS Coding and Validation Manual contains a detailed description of each data element including coding instructions and attribute definitions. The Coding Manual is published for each year of data collection; current and past manuals are available at: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520850>.

2. Standards Employed:

The data files collected here are saved in the ubiquitous and common geospatial shapefile (.shp) format. As the files created for this ingest were migrations from the original format in a SQL geodatabase, each data file name includes a date stamp indicating when the data in the shapefile was from.

Documentation will include this data management plan, and the metadata and readme files created in 2020.

Documentation will also include the shapefiles, data dictionary, and relevant supporting files created alongside the data from 2014-Present.

A Project Open Data Version 1.1 .xml metadata file will be created to describe the archival location of this data, and that .xml file will be uploaded to data.gov and transportation.data.gov

Necessary software tools: The file formats found in the zip files include: .txt files which can be opened using any text editor; .dbf files, which can be opened with Microsoft Excel; .shapefiles (.shp, .shx, and .dbf) which can be opened with any GIS software program; and, .pdf files which can be opened with PDF readers.

3. Access Policies:

These data files are in the public domain, and can be shared without restriction. The data files contain no sensitive information.

4. Re-Use, Redistribution, and Derivative Products Policies:

These data are managed by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The data are in the public domain, and may be re-use without restriction.

Citation of the data is appreciated. Please use the following recommended citation:

U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) [distributor]. (2020). Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2014-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520850>.

5. Archiving and Preservation Plans:

The dataset will be archived in the National Transportation Library Repository and Open Science Access Portal (ROSA P). Prior to archiving, the data are stored on the secured BTS networks and drives, which are backed up nightly. The US DOT systems are secured from outside users and backed up daily.

Files in ROSA P are backed up in NTL drives at US DOT, daily; at the Centers for Disease Control, the repository managing facility, daily; and in Amazon Web Service Cloud servers in Virginia and Oregon daily.

The dataset will be retained in perpetuity.

NTL staff will mint persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for each dataset stored in ROSA P. These DOIs will be associated with dataset documentation as soon as they become available for use.

The DOIs associated with this dataset include: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520850>,
<http://doi.org/10.21949/1518753>

The assigned DOI resolves to the repository landing page for the “Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2014-Present” dataset, so that users may locate associated metadata and supporting files.

ROSA P meets all the criteria outlined on the “Guidelines for Evaluating Repositories for Conformance with the DOT Public Access Plan” page: <https://ntl.bts.gov/publicaccess/evaluatingrepositories.html>

6. Policies Affecting this Data Management Plan

This dataset and its documentation was created to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Department of Transportation's 'Plan to Increase Public Access to the Results of Federally-Funded Scientific Research' Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.