HSIS

HIGHWAY SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM

HSIS Value for Liaisons

What Is HSIS?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) is a national data system that contains traffic safety-related data. The data are available to the research community—free of charge—to explore contributing factors related to crashes and further roadway safety knowledge. Liaison agencies around the United States provide their data to FHWA to support the research community.

HSIS has a laboratory that is managed by FHWA and its contractor staff. The lab uses the latest statistical and virtual collaboration software to provide HSIS data to researchers and educators. The lab also provides direct support to liaisons.

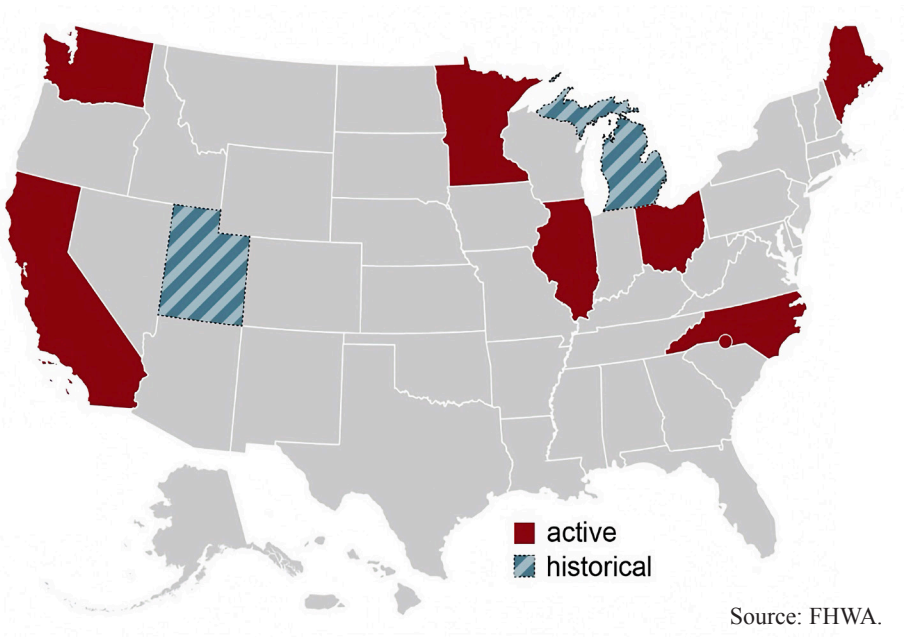
Who Are the HSIS Liaisons?

HSIS liaisons represent the seven States and one city (figure 1) that contribute crash, traffic, roadway, and other supplementary data (e.g., lighting, intersection, curve, and grade) to the HSIS data system. Being a liaison involves more than providing data to the research community—liaisons have opportunities to receive research support through the lab or connect with other liaisons, at an annual liaison meeting or throughout the year, to share noteworthy practices or troubleshoot challenges.

HSIS liaisons represent:

- California.
- Illinois.
- Maine.
- Minnesota.
- Michigan.*
- North Carolina.
- Ohio.
- Utah.*
- Washington.
- Charlotte, NC.

*Historical site.



Source: FHWA.

Figure 1. Map. Active and historical HSIS agencies.

The Future of HSIS

HSIS aims to expand the amount of high-quality data available to students, educators, and researchers. This expansion includes an ongoing effort to compile data that States already collect and submit to USDOT in a single database for easy access for the next generation of safety practitioners. This compilation may include data from FHWA's Highway Performance Monitoring System and NHTSA's State Electronic Data Collection program.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

BY THE NUMBERS

Value of **Continuing Education Credits** awarded to annual liaison meeting attendees since 2021: **Over $36,000.**

Estimated direct cost savings to researchers requesting data in 2024/2025: **$3,419,000.**

Data requests fulfilled in 2024/2025: **197.**

Hours per year HSIS saves liaisons by handling research requests: **Over 800 on average.**

In addition to time and cost savings for participating agency data providers, HSIS benefits the research community. Benefits include:[1]

Data contest participants from 2018 to 2025: **Over 100 students from 31 different schools.**

Additionally, HSIS data supported research of proven safety countermeasures (PSCs) commonly implemented through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

[1]Based on HSIS Laboratory records and estimates.

Why Participate in HSIS?

Being an HSIS liaison involves more than providing data. Additional HSIS liaison benefits include:

- **Saving time and effort:** The lab staff handle data requests, streamlining work for States and cities. The lab can assist others when liaison time is limited.
- **Receiving expert research support:** Liaisons collaborate directly with HSIS staff to explore topics, analyze data, and gain valuable insights.
- **Empowering innovation:** Liaison-shared data fuel cutting-edge research and support future safety leaders through opportunities such as the HSIS Student Data Contest.
- **Making an impact across the Nation:** HSIS data inform predictive models and advances used in the *Highway Safety Manual*.(1) The research is based on liaison agencies' data.
- **Expanding networks:** The annual liaison meeting connects peers to share ideas, discuss new research approaches, and brainstorm ways to innovate in transportation safety.
- **Benefiting from specialized data processing:** HSIS offers tailored data analysis and processing services for participating States and agencies.
- **Receiving quality insights:** The lab reviews data annually to identify potential trends or gaps in data.
- **Recovering and reusing historical data:** HSIS archives decades of data, making these data accessible to liaisons and researchers.

A nationwide sample of HSIP projects funded in 2019, many of which included PSCs, resulted in an average **benefit-cost ratio of nearly 5 to 1.**(2) This benefit cost ratio from the 2019 study equates to **$21 billion in safety benefits** from lives saved, injuries prevented, and crashes reduced over the service life of the treatments.

Networking Opportunities With Peer States

The FHWA-sponsored annual liaison meeting provides a space for liaisons to learn about Federal programs, share noteworthy applications of HSIS data with their peers, and explore opportunities to further transportation safety research—all while qualifying for continuing education credits.

Testimonial highlights from the annual liaison meeting include:

> *Communication and collaboration between States [at the Liaison meeting] is great.*
> –FHWA

> *Enjoyed hearing the various presentations from other States as well as the HSIS team.*
> –HSIS Liaison

> *Enjoyed seeing how different States are approaching the same challenges.*
> –HSIS Liaison

> *Appreciated the chance to weigh in on priority HSIS research projects.*
> –HSIS Liaison

References

1. AASHTO. 2010. *Highway Safety Manual*, first edition. Washington, DC: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
2. Albee, M., and F. Gross. 2019. *Highway Safety Improvement Program 2019 National Summary Report*. Report No. FHWA-SA-21-006. Washington, DC: Federal Highway Administration.

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