



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

### Transportation Safety Beyond Crash Data: Linking with Public Health

Monday, May 20, 2024

1 PM – 3 PM

Presented Via Zoom; 115 attendees

All presentations and related meeting materials are available on the [RSTF Website](#).

#### Welcome Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by Kaylen Phillips, DVRPC. First, Kaylen highlighted the DVRPC policy to not drive while attending a virtual meeting. Attendees are encouraged to adopt this policy for their own virtual meetings and start conversations with colleagues about distracted driving at work. Kaylen then introduced Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director of Greater Mercer TMA and the new New Jersey co-chair.

Cheryl introduced herself to the group and went over the meeting's agenda to explore the overlap between public health, epidemiology, and transportation safety by looking at ways to pair crash data with public health data and beyond. She likewise reminded the group of RSTF's primary goal to reduce roadway crashes and eliminate serious injuries and fatalities from crashes in the Delaware Valley by 2050. This goal was humanized by highlighting a recent fatality in Pennsauken, NJ where a man was struck and killed on Route 130, representing the third pedestrian killed and the seventh fatal crash on this road in 2024.

Kevin Murphy, DVRPC, transitioned to an overview of the Safe System Approach and presented a crash trend update. In the region total KSI continues to trend upward. Pennsylvania released its 2023 data, where fatalities increased statewide with notable decreases in several categories, excluding vulnerable road user crashes (bicyclists and pedestrians) which grew from 199 to 222 fatalities statewide. In Philadelphia fatalities dropped from 143 to 135, but vulnerable road user fatalities stayed the same at 67. Kevin emphasized health care's role within the Safe System Approach and noted the possibilities of what can be learned from relationships with public health.

Kevin then invited Kaylen to discuss how public health data can help fill in the gaps in crash data, which is just one snapshot of a crash and often has limitations. Kaylen explained (1) that transportation is one piece of the broader social determinants of health, which represents the non-medical conditions that impact someone's health outcomes and (2) collaborating with public health emphasizes the understanding that roadway safety is a public health crisis.

Kaylen then introduced guest speakers Dr. Cara Hamann and Dr. Allison Curry.

#### Presentation 1: Cara Hamann, University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center

Cara Hamann presented her data linkages work in Iowa, using three case studies. Through linking crash data of teen-involved crashes and medical charges from emergency department / inpatient hospital data, the study explored the cost of teen-involved crashes. She found that teen driver-involved crashes cause injuries and related medical costs to passengers and other vehicle occupants, pointing to the need to prevent teen crashes for their own wellbeing and for other road users. Next, she discussed linking crash data to court data to understand how charges can impact conviction rates for alcohol-influenced drivers. She found that drivers with alcohol, administrative, and moving violations charges had higher chances of conviction as well as that an increased number of charges increased the odds of convictions, but charge combinations had little impact on convictions for alcohol charges. Lastly, Cara demonstrated by linking crash data with medical referral data that older individuals whose fitness to drive is assessed by physicians are more likely to have their license denied than other means (such as demonstrating risk by having a crash history). These referral programs can be valuable in evaluating fitness to drive and preventing older driver involved crashes.

## **Presentation 2: Allison Curry, CHOP Center for Injury Research & Prevention**

Michael Rizol, Director of the New Jersey Division for Highway Traffic Safety (NJ-DHTS) introduced the presentation and thanked Allison for her work on the NJ-SHO. NJ-DHTS funded the NJ-SHO to understand the 'who' of traffic crashes and support their mission of making New Jersey roadways safer.

Allison Curry presented her work on the New Jersey Safety & Health Outcomes Data Warehouse (NJ-SHO). The database responds to the need for more integration of traffic safety data and helping stakeholders distribute countermeasures equitably across communities. This helps address missing information within traffic safety data and answer questions about where crashes occur along with who they happen to and where they live. Allison highlighted that the NJ-SHO database can increase collaboration among traffic safety partners by allowing them to (re)assess traffic safety outlooks, locate and allocate funding to areas in need, and evaluate their traffic safety programming. She presented the data dashboard's community safety profiles feature and demonstrated how the dashboard can break out safety data based on demographics of individuals involved in crashes. Allison concluded that she aims for the NJ-SHO project to be a model for other states in their crash data and public health linkages work.

A facilitated Q&A session was moderated by Kaylen Phillips before transitioning to breakout sessions.

## **Breakout Sessions**

Breakout group discussion lasted approximately 30 minutes and each began by talking about reactions to the presentations and reflecting on any possible action items. After the breakout sessions finished, RSTF members left their groups and returned to the main session. One person from each group reported back on their discussion.

In reaction to the presentations, breakout groups discussed the following points:

- How incomplete crash data is and how practitioners should not consider crash data alone is an issue. Even though there are national guidelines, crash report data quality varies greatly. There is also a lack of collaboration and data sharing between hospitals and traffic safety efforts.
- There are many possibilities of using a data linkage tool like the NJ-SHO, including better understanding of how to implement enforcement and education campaigns.
- Pedestrian and cyclist crashes are shockingly undercounted, which creates problems for any data-driven process intended to inform safe street design. This undercounting may be for a variety of reasons, including apprehension around reporting.

- Individualized solutions (such as revoking licenses or criminalizing bad behaviors) do not solve crash safety issues alone, especially if they aren't supported by systemic infrastructure (public transit, access to rideshare, etc.).

Some of the action items developed in the breakout groups include:

- Create a list of organizations/schools who would be good to involve in a bi-state consortium relating to crash data and roadway safety efforts.
- Create a public awareness campaign that educates road users on what crash severity means.
- Explore what collaboration between hospitals and crash reporting agencies looks like. Investigate if data collection from hospitals could be improved to better inform planning processes.
- Spread the word about the RSTF's [Traffic Safety Culture Media Toolkit](#) to combat misinformation about crashes in journalism.

## Closing Remarks

RSTF co-chair Christine Norris, concluded the meeting with gratitude to the attendees for participating in the program and asked attendees to complete the meeting survey. As attendees filled out the survey, Christine encouraged participants to share any recent safety infrastructure improvements that they or their organization has undertaken or heard about in their work.

Next, Christine shared several announcements with RSTF members. These included:

- May 19-25 is [National EMS Week](#)
- May 30 is [Southeastern Pennsylvania Teen Safe Driving ROADeo](#).
- May is an important month for traffic safety awareness! [National Bike Month](#) / [National Bicycle Safety Month](#), [Global Youth Traffic Safety Month](#), [Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month](#), and [Older Americans Month](#).
- DVRPC is [hiring!](#)

Kaylen Phillips acknowledged the final Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) applications are due on August 29, 2024. Attendees interested in SS4A applications/awards are encouraged to collaborate with DVRPC's Regional Vision Zero program to comply with SS4A program requirements, and to promote collaboration and consistency.

Kaylen concluded by sharing that the next meeting date and topic are to be determined.

## Meeting Attendee List

Aaron Hofelt, PennDOT  
Alex McKeithsn, NHTSA  
Allison Curry, CHOP  
Alyson Dressman, DVRPC  
Alyssa Driscoll, DVRPC  
Amy Verbofsky, DVRPC  
Andrew Rute, PennDOT  
Andrew Thompson, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.  
Andy Boenau, City of Richmond  
Anne Leavitt-Gruberger, MPPC  
Anne Messner, CRCOG  
Anne Mitchell, Jefferson University  
Ariella Maron, DVRPC  
Benjamin Brubaker, Michael Baker International  
Bill Houpt, FHWA  
Cara Hamann, University of Iowa  
Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC  
Cathy Spahr, Delaware County  
Cheryl Kastrenakes, Greater Mercer TMA  
Chris Grossmick, MLPD  
Chris Townley, Greater Mercer TMA  
Christian Regosch, BCPC  
Christine Norris, Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP  
Christopher Mulroy, DVRPC  
Clara Iodice, Streets Dept City of Philadelphia  
Cole Appelman, OTIS  
Cynthia Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Daniel Hutton, Urban Engineers  
Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers  
Darrell Merritt, PennDOT  
Dave Kuhn, GPI  
David Kanthor, Philadelphia Streets Department  
Derek Lombardi, DVRPC  
Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT  
Elizabeth Mastaglio, DVRPC  
Elizabeth Raum, Montgomery County  
Emelin Corado, NJ Division of Traffic Safety  
Eric Power, City of Deerfield Beach  
Erik Schmidt, McCormick Taylor, Inc.  
Eva Plichta, DVRPC  
Frances Conwell, Sisters Interacting Through Stitches  
Frank Neary, NJDOT  
George Thiel, SICK, Inc  
Greg Woltman, Voorhees Transportation Center  
Hannah Younes, Rutgers University  
Ian Schwarzenberg, DVRPC  
James J. Purcell, Municipality of Princeton  
James Miller, Michael Baker International  
Jasmine Bailey, NHTSA  
Jason Hershock, PennDOT  
Jean Burock, Borough of Narberth  
Jennifer Marandino, ED SJDOP  
Jerrett Johnson, PPTF/DVRPC  
Joe Rapp, NJDOT  
Joey Toto, Philadelphia Streets  
Jon Dugan, Voorhees Transportation Center  
Jonathan Eagle, Somerset County  
Justin Neff, DVRPC  
Kasim Ali, City of Philadelphia  
Kate Pellegrini, DVRPC  
Kaylen Phillips, DVRPC  
Kendra Nelson, DVRPC  
Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County  
Kerry Ramos, PlanRVA  
Kevin Murphy, DVRPC  
Kevin OConnell, City of Philadelphia  
Krista Weaver, Hopewell Borough Council  
Kristi Metzger, CHOP  
Laura Williamson, Montgomery County  
Leah Martins-Krasner, DVRPC  
Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Voorhees Transportation Center  
Lisa Serieyssol, Princeton Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee  
Loresa Daniel, New Jersey Department of Highway Traffic Safety  
Marco Gorini, City of Philadelphia  
Mark Washington, City of Philadelphia Streets Department  
MaryAnn Sandone, DCTMA  
Matt Johnson, Burlington County  
Matthew Lawson, Mercer County  
Mel Musie, DVRPC  
Michael Rizol, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety  
Michael Russo, McCormick Taylor  
Mihir Rastogi, Delaware County  
Mike Mastaglio, Urban Engineers  
Mitch Graf, Iteris  
Nicole Rodowicz, TMA Bucks  
Noah Lustig, NJTPA  
Omar Al-Sheikh, Rowan University  
Parker Frohlich, BCPC  
Patty Quinn, CCPC  
Paul Delp, Lansdale Warehouse Co  
Paul Lenarczyk, NJDOT  
Perry Vanderglas, PennDOT  
Pradeep Paudyal, PennDOT  
Rebecca Wetzler, DVRPC  
Richard Rabinowitz, NJDOT  
Richard Simon, NHTSA  
Robert Baker, Match to Mission, LLC  
Robert Ranieri, PennDOT  
Ronda Urkowitz, Cross County Connection  
Sam Rosenthal, Voorhees Transportation Center  
Sara Freed, CHOP  
Sean Meehan, Voorhees Transportation Center

Sharang Malaviya, PennDOT  
Sidney Jeffries, DVRPC  
Steven daCosta, Greater Mercer TMA  
Terrell Brown, PCPC  
Titania Markland, Clean Air Council  
Todd Evans, NJIT / NJDOT  
Tom Stanuikynas, Burlington County  
Tracy Barusevicius, DCTMA  
Tracy Nerney, Jersey Shore Regional Trauma  
Center  
Troy Love, PennDOT  
Vince Cerbone, PennDOT  
William Schiavi, SJTPO  
Xochi Confer, CCMPO/CCPCDO