



Traffic Operations and Safety (TOPS) Laboratory
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Wisconsin Crash Data Resources FAQ

What is the WisTransPortal Crash Database?

The WisTransPortal system, located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Traffic Operations and Safety (TOPS) Laboratory, contains a complete database of Wisconsin MV4000 Traffic Accident Extract data from 1994 through the current year. This database contains information on all police reported crashes in Wisconsin, including the location of each crash, vehicles involved, and general crash attributes. Personal data have been removed. The TOPS Lab maintains this database for research purposes and as a service to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

How Often is the WisTransPortal Crash Database Updated?

Crash records for all police reported crashes from 1994 through the current year are available. The WisTransPortal crash database is updated on a monthly basis from extracts provided by WisDOT DMV Traffic Accident Section. The database includes both "preliminary" and "final year" DMV crash data. Preliminary data represents the latest set of available crash records for the current year and generally includes most crashes up to two months prior to the extract date. All preliminary data are subject to ongoing review and editing and may not be suitable for analysis purposes. Final year data represents the official closed WisDOT DMV crash file for a given year.

What Constitutes a "Reportable" Crash?

A reportable crash is defined as a crash resulting in injury or death of any person, any damage to government-owned non-vehicle property to an apparent extent of \$200 or more, or total damage to property owned by any one person to an apparent extent of \$1000 or more. (This definition went into effect 1/1/96). It is important to note, however, that not all reportable crashes are reported. In order for a crash to be in the database, an MV4000 crash report must have been completed by a police officer.

How Do I Obtain A WisTransPortal Login Account to Retrieve Crash Data?

The WisTransPortal system provides direct access to crash data through online query and retrieval tools. Login accounts are available to Wisconsin state and local government, including WisDOT, county highway departments, municipalities, MPOs, and police departments. You can request an account by going to the WisTransPortal Data Services page (<http://transportal.cee.wisc.edu/services/>) and following the link for Crash Data Resources. Accounts are also available to consultants on request by WisDOT. Upon receiving an account (User ID and password), users will have the ability to query the crash database for results based on specific elements and conditions.

How Do I Request Crash Data from TOPS Lab?

Crash data is available upon request to anyone in the general public, including government, media, engineering consultants, law firms, non-profit organizations, and individuals. The TOPS Lab will provide a data file of crash records based on date range and location. Any person can request crash data at any point in time, and as often as needed. A Crash Data Request Form is available by going to the WisTransPortal Data Services Page (<http://transportal.cee.wisc.edu/services/>) and following the link for Crash Data Resources. TOPS Lab will process each request as soon as possible. *Most requests are processed within 5-10 business days.*

What Does the Crash Data Output Look Like?

The figures below depict the initial data retrieval page on the website (top left) that is exported into an Excel-based format (bottom right). A Crash Data User Guide, which contains definitions of the available crash database elements, is linked to the retrieval page and is included with each data file provided by TOPS Lab.

The screenshot shows the WisTransPortal website interface for crash data retrieval. The page title is "The WisTransPortal Project" and it includes a search query: "SELECT * FROM CRASH_V_COMBINED WHERE ACCDATE BETWEEN TO_DATE('2010-JAN','YYYY-MM') AND LAST_DAY(TO_DATE('2010-DEC','YYYY-MM')) AND ACCDLOC IN ('T','N') AND (ALCLAG = 'Y') ORDER BY COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, MUNITYPE, ONHWYR, ONHWYDIR, RPNMNR, RPDIS, ONHWY, ONSTR, ATHWY, ATSTR, INTDIR, INTDIS". The total number of records is 3839. Below the search results, there is a table with columns: DOCTNMNR, ACCDATE, NTFYHOUR, REGION, COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, MUNITYPE, ONHWYR, ONHWYDIR, ONHWY, ONSTR, ATHWY, ATSTR, ATNMNR, INTDIR, INTI.

The Excel spreadsheet shows the following data for the first 18 rows:

DOCTNMNR	ACCDATE	NTFYHOUR	REGION	COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY	MUNITYPE	ONHWYR	ONHWYDIR	ONHWY	ONSTR	ATHWY	ATSTR	ATNMNR	INTDIR	INTI
1	LZFKFX	09/26/2010	3	NC	ADAMS	ADAMS									
2	LZ3F0JC	07/18/2010	2	NC	ADAMS	ADAMS									
3	LZ3CJ2L	04/27/2010	15	NC	ADAMS	ADAMS									
4	LZFD863	04/11/2010	2	NC	ADAMS	BIG FLATS									
5	LZ3CJ3K	08/12/2010	2	NC	ADAMS	DELL PRAIRIE									
6	LZFFQMD	09/01/2010	16	NC	ADAMS	EASTON									
7	LZ3CJ2W	05/29/2010	2	NC	ADAMS	FRIENDSHIP									
8	LZ3FCH2G	08/21/2010	2	NC	ADAMS	JACKSON									
9	LZ3F0HG	03/27/2010	1	NC	ADAMS	LEOLA									
10	C45CW3T	02/26/2010	20	NC	ADAMS	LEOLA									
11	LZ3F0HC	03/18/2010	22	NC	ADAMS	LEOLA									
12	LZ3CJ2X	05/30/2010	0	NC	ADAMS	LINCOLN									
13	LZ3F0DQ	05/20/2010	0	NC	ADAMS	NEW CHESTER									
14	LZ3FJP1	05/01/2010	18	NC	ADAMS	PRESTON									
15	LZ3F0JS	08/19/2010	23	NC	ADAMS	PRESTON									
16	LZ3F6DW	04/26/2010	18	NC	ADAMS	PRESTON									
17	BK74T2J	04/14/2010	21	NC	ADAMS	ROME									
18	BK56B61	06/18/2010	19	NC	ADAMS	ROME									

How Do I Obtain Copies of MV4000 Crash Reports?

Additional information about a crash may be obtained by consulting the narrative and diagram in the actual crash report. The WisTransPortal contains a local repository of Wisconsin MV4000 crash report image files from 2000 through the current year. Reports prior to December 2004 are digitized from the WisDOT Bureau of Traffic Operations (BTO) microfilm library and are available in PDF format. Later years are extracted from the WisDOT DMV Content Manager system and are in TIF image format. The image file repository is updated on a regular basis per an Accident Records Agreement between WisDOT and UW-Madison.

Login accounts to access the crash reports are available to WisDOT staff, other government agencies, and universities working on WisDOT sponsored projects. TOPS Lab will also provide copies of crash reports upon request to government agencies and consultants working on WisDOT projects. Other requests should be forwarded to the WisDOT Accident Records Unit at (608) 266-8753. See the WisTransPortal Data Services Page (<http://transportal.cee.wisc.edu/services/>) for more information.

How Do I Contact TOPS Lab for More Information?

For general inquiries, email TOPS Lab at: crash-data@topslab.wisc.edu.

For questions regarding crash data requests and data availability, contact Ms. Andrea Bill, TOPS Lab Traffic Safety Research Program Manager: bill@wisc.edu or 608-890-3425.

For questions regarding the WisTransPortal crash database and online retrieval facility, contact Dr. Steven T. Parker, TOPS Lab IT Program Manager: sparker@engr.wisc.edu or 608-265-4921.

For all other inquiries:

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