

ACRS Nontraffic Fatalities Definition

In the Maryland State Police (MDSP) Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS), a fatality is defined by the Injury Severity field, using the attribute 'Fatal Injury' to identify those who have succumbed to their injuries in a motor vehicle crash. An officer's investigation may determine that the fatal injury was caused by a condition not directly related to the crash, or the circumstances of the injury may not meet the criteria for [NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\)](#) and/or [ANSI D16](#) inclusions for a motor vehicle crash.

Official Maryland State fatal crash incidents reported to FARS and reported by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) will follow the national FARS and ANSI D16 criteria for inclusions. A fatal injury coded by the officer, and found to meet the criteria for exclusion, will be reviewed by the MDSP FARS Analyst and marked as a 'nontraffic' fatality in the MDSP data warehouse. These exclusions may include the following:

- Land way under construction;
- Land way temporarily closed;
- Road in a gated community;
- A land way not open to the public;
- Parking space or parking aisle;
- Fatality as a result of medical condition (autopsy declaration);
- Fatality occurred after 30 days;
- Cataclysm;
- Infant born post-crash (for crash classification purposes, a fetus is considered to be a part of a pregnant woman rather than a separate individual as defined in ANSI D16);
- Deliberate intent (e.g., suicide, running someone over, police pursuit).

Fatality statistics reported in the [Fatal Crash Dashboard](#) will follow the national criteria and *not include* nontraffic fatalities. Crash data made available from the [MDSP data warehouse](#) *will include* nontraffic fatalities as indicated by the field NonTrafficFatal in the Reports table, with attributes of 'Y' or 'N.'

Selecting 'N' will result in fatal injury incidents that meet the national inclusion criteria. Selecting 'Y' will allow you to select those that meet the exclusion criteria. This will result in additional fatal injury incidents in summary statistics, and will differ from FARS and MDOT reporting, unless otherwise noted.

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