

While many states have demonstrated effective safety management prior to the HSM, these states have shown the practical benefits of this new tool.

Safety Is No Accident

The *Highway Safety Manual* (HSM) represents new methods for analyzing safety. This flyer addresses a few questions regarding this publication.

Who needs the HSM?

The HSM provides methods to integrate quantitative estimates of crash frequency and severity into planning, project alternatives analysis, and program development and evaluation, allowing safety to be considered at all levels of transportation decision making. The tools presented in the HSM are scalable so they can be implemented by DOTs with robust data warehouses and processing capability or by local authorities with little more than a laptop.

Is use of the HSM mandated?

The HSM was created to be a resource with value to all transportation professionals. However, if after reading all three volumes you do not feel the same be comforted that there is no federal mandate, or other force, requiring you to use it.

What is planned for future editions of the HSM?

While the HSM is being recognized as a ground-breaking tool for highway infrastructure safety analysis, AASHTO, the Transportation Research Board, and the Federal Highway Administration are working together to improve the breadth and depth of safety performance analysis capabilities. Ongoing and upcoming research will expand the knowledge and tools. Like all decision-making tools the first edition of the HSM has its recommended applications and its limitations. Even with its current limitations, the HSM provides transportation professionals a powerful instrument to add to their analysis toolbox, to aid in the decision making process.

Can the HSM help prioritize Highway Safety Improvement Program projects?

YES. The HSM helps identify sites with the most potential for reducing crash severity or frequency, and potential countermeasures for addressing factors contributing to crashes and expected benefits. The

HSM can also help conduct economic appraisals of improvements to use for prioritizing projects, calculate the effects of design alternatives on crashes, and estimate crash frequency and severity on highway networks and potential effects of transportation decisions.

What resources are available to support the HSM?

- Sites for the HSM itself
 - Highway Safety Manual website: www.highwaysafetymanual.org
 - Purchase the HSM: bookstore.transportation.org
- Tools to support the HSM
 - Interactive Highway Safety Design Model (IHSDM) website: www.ihsdm.org
 - SafetyAnalyst website: www.safetyanalyst.org
 - Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse: www.cmfclearinghouse.org
 - Training courses available at: nhi.fhwa.dot.gov and usroadwaysafety.org

For additional information and resources, contact Kelly Hardy (khardy@aaashto.org).

