

ACCIDENT DATA COLLECTION

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Half of the respondents suggested that the police (or equivalent enforcement bodies) should be responsible for data collection, as they are the first people who intervene after an accident, even if it was acknowledged that the evaluation of the seriousness of an injury made by police staff might not be correct from a medical point of view. In order to improve the quality of the data, it was proposed that a uniform accident reporting system should be implemented by police staff. A contributor pointed to the need for the report to clearly identify whether the restraint devices had been used correctly in an accident. First aid and emergency staff received fewer preferences.

Among the respondents who stated that "other" bodies should be responsible for data collection, several of them pointed out that both the police force and the first aid and hospital staff should be equally responsible for data collection, as this would improve the quality of the data. To this aim, according to some answers police and health/first aid staff should be trained in data collection. Some respondents proposed that a specialized statistical service, in charge of collecting accident data, or an ad hoc accident investigation body could be created (by analogy with other means of transport). Lastly, some respondent took the view that insurance companies were also to be made responsible for collecting accident data.

There was a consensus among the comments that a better, more systematic and more uniform collection of in-depth data was needed across the EU, regardless of which body was responsible for collection.