

911 Data Uniformity

Administrative Data for 911 Decision-Making

The First Activity of the 911 DataPath Initiative

As someone responsible for 911 services in your community, you:

- Make decisions about your 911 system's administration, operations, technology, or infrastructure
- Develop and maintain your jurisdiction's first Next Generation 911 (NG911) Plan
- Assess NG911 training costs for your jurisdiction's workforce
- Build Congressional testimony on NG911 funding needs
- Propose legislation that addresses 911 service delivery requirements

And to do all of that (and more), you need reliable data—data that illustrates the importance of the 911 story you need to tell. That data can be the difference between getting the funding you need, the technical solution you want, or the industry change you're seeking. However, when you reach out to collect the data you need, you may find that others label and define the same 911 data points in different ways. These variations can make information gathering and exchange complex and may mean your aggregated data may not accurately reflect what is happening.

The National 911 Program and 911 community are currently addressing 911 data language and exchange issues by identifying and defining data elements relevant to specific 911 topics. Their initial focus is on administrative data necessary for 911 decision-making.

These efforts compose the first focus of the **911 DataPath Initiative**. The 911 DataPath Initiative supports the five goals articulated in the 911 DataPath Strategic Plan, which points to the 911 community's achievement of secure, automated 911 data and information sharing in a nationwide NG911 system. Efforts to build a common language for 911 data support the Strategic Plan's first goal, Data Uniformity, which involves definition of essential 911 data elements for forms of 911 data, and the creation of a standards-based 911 data exchange model. At all stages, priority will be placed on leveraging efforts, resources, and standards that are either in progress or have already been established by 911 community stakeholders.

Why is it important to speak the same 911 data language?

When data elements mean the same thing across the 911 community, stakeholders can exchange information knowing precisely what is being requested and what to provide. When the 911 community shares uniformly defined data, it can tell a stronger story when justifying funding, identifying operational needs, and identifying technical 911 system requirements.

What stories can 911 data elements help illustrate?

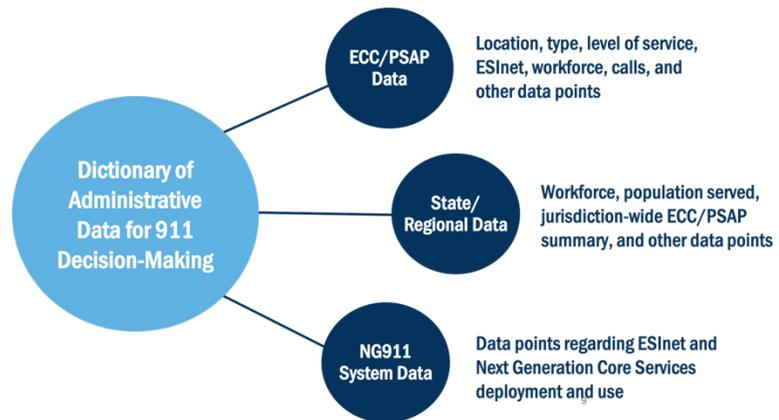
- The effectiveness of 911 service delivery
- Current levels of NG911 maturity
- Needs and priorities related to 911 service administration, operations, technology, or infrastructure

An Initial Focus on Administrative Data for 911 Decision-Making

The National 911 Program and a team of 911 stakeholders have begun data uniformity efforts by focusing on key sets of administrative data needed in today’s 911 environment and critical to NG911 planning and implementation.

Outcomes will include:

- A “dictionary” of defined administrative data elements collected by the 911 community today, and standards-based exchange models for exchanging them. This resource can be used—voluntarily—by 911 stakeholders as a reference point to inform queries, decisions, and activities related to rulemaking and policy setting, 911 environment investments, the development and maintenance of NG911



Data Elements Included in Administrative Data Components

plans, and other administrative concerns. Data elements defined are also informative when comparing differences between jurisdictional 911 environments, how different 911 environments have addressed pervasive NG911 challenges, and other aspects of 911 administration (e.g., costs, budgets).

- A framework all stakeholders within the 911 community can use to begin to plan, develop, and implement the ideal NG911 data sharing environment: a system of systems that enables secure, automated, point-to-point data sharing on a scheduled, ad hoc, or live basis. This environment would leverage uniform 911 data and use standards-compliant exchange file formats to enable data sharing across a nationwide network of NG911 systems/end points.

Learn More & Get Involved

- You can find the 911 DataPath Strategic Plan at https://www.911.gov/pdf/911_Data_Information_Sharing_Strategic_Plan_Final.pdf.
- You can find a brief overview of the 911 DataPath Initiative at https://www.911.gov/project_strategicplanningfor911data.html.
- Contact the National 911 Program at NHTSA.National911@nhtsa.gov for information on upcoming webinars about the 911 DataPath Initiative, the Data Uniformity Project, and opportunities for providing input on draft resources.