Kentucky State Ambulance Reporting System (KSTARS)

Coordinator/Data Contact:	Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services 118 James Ct., Suite 50 Lexington, KY 40505 (859) 256-3572
State Website:	http://www.kyems.com/kstars/
National Website:	http://www.nemsis.org

Sources of Information for the Database

Information in the system is collected by Kentucky certified and/or licensed Emergency Medical Service (EMS) practitioners on behalf of licensed ambulance services. Data is based on the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Version 3 standard and collected in certified compliant software packages then submitted to the KSTARS database using web services or direct entry.

Description of the Data Collected

The KSTARS database contains patient care report (PCR) information associated with calls for service such as demographics, injury severity, vital signs, treatments provided, medications administered, location, and destination.

Strengths of the Data

All licensed ambulance services are required by 202 KAR 7:540 to submit data to KSTARS using the latest version of NEMSIS by the 15th of the month following the incident. More than half of services report within 48 hours and nearly all services are compliant on a recurring basis providing a comprehensive picture of EMS response activity. Data collected is part of a national standard with comprehensive data dictionaries at the NEMSIS website.

> ## Data Limitations
> - Reporting deadline could mean a six weeks between the incident and receipt making real-time use unrealistic.
> - Reports limited to flat file formats (i.e. CSV, XML).
> - Elements with multiple values (i.e. Vital signs) cause a repeating row in the report that makes one incident appear across multiple rows.
> - Validation rules are in place to improve data quality but are difficult to enforce with imported records.

System Evaluation

Validation rules used to enforce Mandatory and Required data elements though services still submit without 100% validation scores.

Data Set Availability

The fully identified data set is not available to the public. Portions of the data set can be shared and identified data can be made available to research organizations providing the requestor enter into a Data Sharing Agreement with the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Data Release Policy

Any data released to the public will be de-identified. Requests are accepted through Open Records procedure or through the Support Portal (for Data Sharing Agreements), both listed on the kyems.com site.

Data Publications

The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services publishes a report each year with a variety of interesting topics. It is posted to the kyems.com website under: *About > Meeting Minutes*.

Suggested Data Citation

Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Reporting System, Lexington, [**data year**].

> ## Contributing Authors
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