



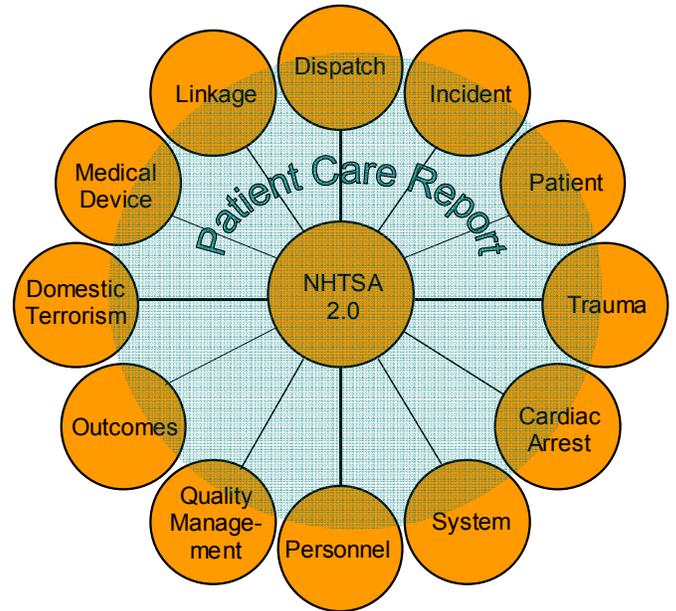
# N E M S I S

## National EMS Information System

www.nemsis.org

### The Structure of NEMSIS

Information systems are used to translate raw data into information that is useful in the development and evaluation of EMS systems and the delivery of patient care. The goal when designing an EMS information system is to include variables that will capture the entire EMS event, from activation of the EMS system through release of the patient from EMS care. Additionally, outcome variables only available later in the course of medical care are also important to performance assessment. To aggregate this information, data must be captured from several sources. Figure 1 demonstrates the multiple sources (and amount of information) that must be accessed to fully illustrate an EMS contact.

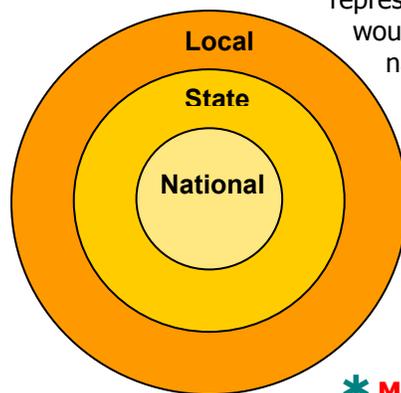


### NEMSIS Details

Components of the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) include the following:

- \* Dispatch Data
- \* Incident Data
- \* Patient Data
  - \* Demographics
  - \* Medical History
  - \* Assessment
  - \* Medical Device Data
  - \* Treatment/Medications
  - \* Procedures
  - \* Disposition
- \* Injury/Trauma Data
- \* Cardiac Arrest Data
- \* Financial Data
- \* EMS System Demographic Data
- \* EMS Personnel Demographic Data
- \* Quality Management Indicators
- \* Outcome Indicators
- \* Domestic Terrorism Data
- \* Linkage Data

Figure 2. EMS Data by Location  
Local = NHTSA Version 2.0



### How Much Data to Collect?

Not all of the NEMSIS data variables will be equally important to differing agencies. For this reason, NEMSIS data collection is characterized by a diagram with three concentric circles inside of each other (see figure 2).

The outer circle represents an exhaustive collection, or pool of variables that **could** be important to EMS care and the system supporting that care, typically at the local level.

The middle circle represents the interest of states, and would contain a subset of variables each state selects from the larger pool of data variables. The inner circle represents a small collection of common, key variables that would be collected at the national level to provide a national perspective of EMS care. Each state would at a minimum collect the variables from this inner circle.

**\* EMS Agencies (or States) would not be required to collect every data variable.**

The NHTSA Version 2.0 dataset simply provides a "pool" from which to select variables which are important to your agency, state and the nation as a whole;

**\* Many data points (especially the demographic) are not documented with each patient encounter.**

They are collected only once and then used with each encounter to make data entry and data use more efficient.

More information about NEMSIS is available at [www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org)