

SIREN: The Statewide Incident Reporting Network Information

Description

The State of Vermont licenses and regulates all Vermont Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies. As part of this central regulation, all pre-hospital electronic patient care reports (ePCRs) are maintained in a single statewide database and managed by the EMS Data Manager at the Vermont Department of Health (Health Department). This central database is the Statewide Incident Reporting Network (SIREN) and is hosted by ImageTrend, Inc. All Vermont licensed ambulance agencies are mandated to submit ePCRs within one business day after responding to an incident. First Response agencies are not required to submit incident reports to SIREN, but a number of them submit data voluntarily. As of 2015, 14 First Response agencies were submitting data to the state and 10 more of these agencies began to submit data in 2016.

There are currently over 360,000 records stored in SIREN, dating as far back as 2009. By mid-2014, 100% of Vermont based ambulances were reporting NEMSIS Version 2.2 compliant EMS data to the State. In late 2016, Vermont transitioned to NEMSIS Version 3.4 compliant data and implemented an upgraded version of SIREN called SIREN Elite. In addition to NEMSIS suggested data fields, Vermont collects additional/modified data elements that are of interest to the state.

The central SIREN database of ePCRs is used for several purposes within the Health Department, including agency-level and statewide EMS quality assurance and quality improvement projects, injury surveillance and prevention initiatives, and the assessment of populations in Vermont that may be more vulnerable than others. This pre-hospital emergency care data, spanning multiple years, provides information about past emergency health incidents that can be utilized to inform evidence-based strategies for the future.

For more information regarding SIREN data, please contact Chelsea Dubie, M.Ed., AEMT at: siren@vermont.gov or Chelsea.Dubie@vermont.gov