

enforcement of promulgated standards so as to assure a greater degree of compliance, and to provide a nationwide store of data that will serve as a basis for determining the factors involved in crash causation and measuring the effectiveness of countermeasures once these are introduced into practice.

11. At what level are the personnel responsible for the various parts of the program coordinated to determine if the program as a whole is being efficiently carried out?

The various parts of the program are coordinated at several levels throughout the organization. The Bureau Director is assisted by a Deputy Director, an Office of the Principal Scientist, an Office of Research and Program Synthesis and an Office of Plans and Programs Implementation in directing and evaluating the effectiveness of principal operating elements of the organization. The Highway Safety Programs Service, headed by a Director and Deputy Director, is responsible for the grant administration including the development of program standards and the furnishing of technical assistance to States and their subdivisions. The National Highway Safety Institute which is responsible for all research and development activities of the Bureau is headed by a Director who is responsible for its operation. Within the Bureau there is also the Motor Vehicle Safety Performance Service, headed by a Director and Deputy Director, which is responsible for development and implementation of standards under the National Traffic Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The Bureau Director and Deputy Director, the two Directors of the Services, and the Institute Director constitute an executive planning committee which represents an additional organizational device for securing effective coordination among the Bureau components in both the planning and program execution stages.

12. Is there a continual program review within the agency, other than the annual budgetary review, to determine more effective and efficient ways to achieve these program objectives?

The Bureau, during the limited time since its inception, has confronted a huge number of problems, including the necessity for initially meeting rigorous statutory deadlines, staffing and organizing, and identifying needs that have to be met. Program reviews have accordingly been limited to those necessary at several stages in the cycle for overall budget planning, budget preparation, and program execution. In the meantime, the development is underway of a system of program review within the Bureau to develop more detailed program work schedules, an improved system of reporting that will enable the Bureau to measure how well it is meeting its work schedules, and a management information system that will tell management where the problems are and how they can best be met.

13. To your knowledge, does this program duplicate or parallel work being done by any other agency?

There is no duplication of work done by any other Federal agency. HEW is engaged in handling generic aspects of related problems such as tabulation of death certificates, including deaths in traffic crashes. Certain efforts of the Bureau of Public Roads have safety aspects; these are coordinated by the Federal Highway Administrator to insure that they are mutually supporting.

14. Is your organizational structure such that the program is being carried out most efficiently and effectively?

The Bureau work structure is well suited to the efficient and effective accomplishment of its assigned programs, and is working well.

15. Are there any outstanding GAO reports on this program? If so, what is the status of the GAO recommendations the report contains?

There are no outstanding GAO reports on this program.

16. What significant problems, if any, are you facing in accomplishing the program objectives?

The major problems in making major progress in attainment of the objectives of the program have been:

1. The scarcity of personnel adequately qualified in the disciplines required to carry out a completely new type of program who are available at Federal salary levels.

2. The requirement to devote a significant amount of available staff time and effort to compliance with the statutory requirements of the acts for submission of specific reports to the Congress.

17. Do you administer any grants, loans, or other disbursed funds related to this program? If so, is the size of your administrative staff commensurate with the magnitude of the outlays?