

VEHICLE REGISTRATION FACT SHEET

IMPROVING ACCESS TO KEY DATA IN TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION

REGIONAL MARKETS EVOLVING RAPIDLY

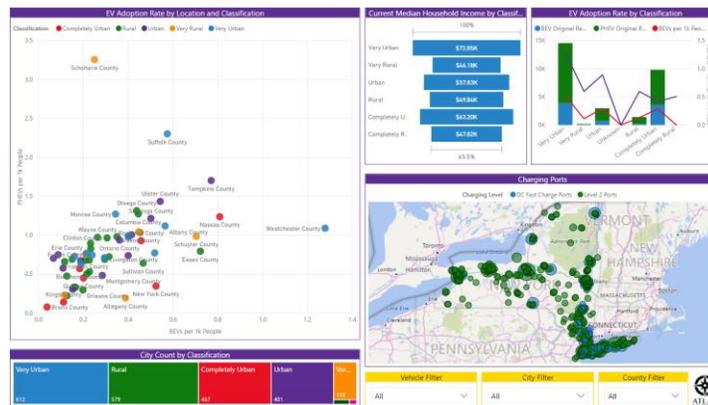
- A groundswell of support has emerged to make more datasets publicly available
 - The U.S. federal data.gov initiative and several state-based open data initiatives demonstrate this trend.
 - Meanwhile, policymakers have increased interest in using a data-driven approach to develop and evaluate policies and programs.
- Nearly all states have programs in place for advanced and alternative fuel vehicles
 - State and local policy, available technology, and market conditions are constantly evolving.
 - *Defining “what’s working?” requires analysis of local and time-based data to identify trends and glean insights.*

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING REGIONAL MARKETS

- Vehicle registration data is the single most important dataset in understanding evolving transportation markets (see Figure 1).
- The following are key needs for the registration data:
 - Protect individual privacy
 - Vehicle registration date
 - Local geography (ZIP code)
 - Ability to determine vehicle make, model, and fuel type
- Data at higher geographic levels and at less frequent durations are less useful
 - Data in that form can be inadequate for public program design and evaluation.
 - Using data in that form can likely result in inaccurate or misleading results from research.

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FIGURE 1: EXAMPLE OF USING VEHICLE REGISTRATION DATA IN NEW YORK



CURRENT ACCESS TO DATA IS VERY LIMITED FOR PUBLIC AGENCIES AND RESEARCHERS

- Nearly all that use vehicle registrations currently pay steep fees to third party businesses to access these data
- Only New York publishes the vehicle registration database online: data.ny.gov
- Some states publish dates and locations for electric vehicle rebates (e.g., Connecticut and Massachusetts)
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WITHOUT THESE CRITICAL DATA, POLICYMAKERS CAN BE LEFT TO GUESSWORK AND MARKETS CAN BE DEVELOP INEFFICIENTLY

PRINCIPLES OF OPEN VEHICLE REGISTRATION DATA

- Public policy professionals should have access to vehicle registration data in a way that protects privacy and enables effective public policies and programs
- **Accurate:** If individual vehicle registration data is unavailable, then registrations should be aggregated to the ZIP code level per month in a way that the vehicle make, model, and fuel type can be determined
- **Accessible:** Vehicle registration datasets should be downloadable in a common format on a publicly accessible website
- **Timely:** Datasets should be updated on as frequent a basis as possible

DESIRED DATA FORMAT AND FREQUENCY OF REGISTRATION SNAPSHOT

- Ideally, data is not aggregated: **one row = one vehicle registration**
- DMV should share snapshots of vehicle registration database as frequently as possible to allow for understanding of market changes over time.

Field	Description	Why it matters
VIN	<p>Vehicles Identification Number as assigned by vehicle manufacturer or by DMV if original VIN was compromised. First eight digits are sufficient to identify vehicle make and model.</p> <p>The first 8 digits of the VIN can help resolve the Make/Model. The model year is in the 10th and 11th digits. The last six digits are the serial number of the vehicle, which could allow users to personally identify the vehicle.</p>	Avoids any issues with incorrectly identifying vehicles (some VIN decoders are inaccurate or out-of-date).
ZIP Code	5-digit ZIP Code where vehicle is registered.	Essential to evaluating market changes and implications of public policy.
Registration Valid Date	Date DMV issued most recent registration document.	Critical to understanding market changes over time and evaluate effectiveness of events or programs.
Registration Expiration Date	Date when registration expires.	Helpful in case time-series calculations are needed.