



# *Safety and Emissions Inspections Testing*

*A Decentralized Approach*



# Safety & Emissions Inspections Testing

- Overview of PA's Safety and Emissions Program
- Decentralized Approach to Inspections
- Audit program
- Challenges and Benefits
- Measuring Success
- Key Partnership



# Overview of PA Safety Inspection Program

- PA one of 17 states that require safety inspections
- Nearly 11 million PA vehicles inspected/year
- Typical cost to owner \$27; nominal fee for inspection sticker
- Vehicle components are inspected (suspension, steering, brakes, tires, lighting, etc.)
- Sticker enforcement--identifies and removes unsafe vehicles from the road



# Overview of PA Emissions Inspection Program

- Emissions inspections occur in 25 of PA's 67 counties
- Nearly 6 million PA vehicles inspected/year
- Typical cost to owner \$39.00
- Forty-two of the 67 counties also have the visual anti-tampering inspection as part of the safety inspection
- Sticker enforcement



# Overview of PA Emissions Inspection Program

- The modern program was implemented in October of 1997
- Today, the program has been expanded from two regions to four regions, comprising 25 counties where emissions inspections are performed to include visual and gas cap, tailpipe testing, and onboard diagnostics (OBD)
- Customized to meet specific regional air-quality issues and improvement goals while focusing on customer convenience

## Decentralized Approach to Inspections

- Pennsylvania's Vehicle Safety and Emissions Inspection Programs are a decentralized network of authorized stations
- Inspections are performed by over 17,000 private, independently owned and operated safety and 7,000 emissions inspection stations

## Safety Audit Oversight

- Quality Assurance Officers (QAO) provide oversight and perform audits on participating inspection stations
- PennDOT has 15 safety inspection QAOs covering 42 counties; Emissions Program manager has 30 QAOs covering safety and emissions in 25 counties

# Benefits to a Decentralized Approach

- Decentralization allows for:
  - Customer Choice
  - Customer Convenience
  - Market-driven Pricing
- Lower Overhead (Charge for stickers; PMF)
- Inspections can prevent vehicle failure on highways preventing crashes that result in injury or death



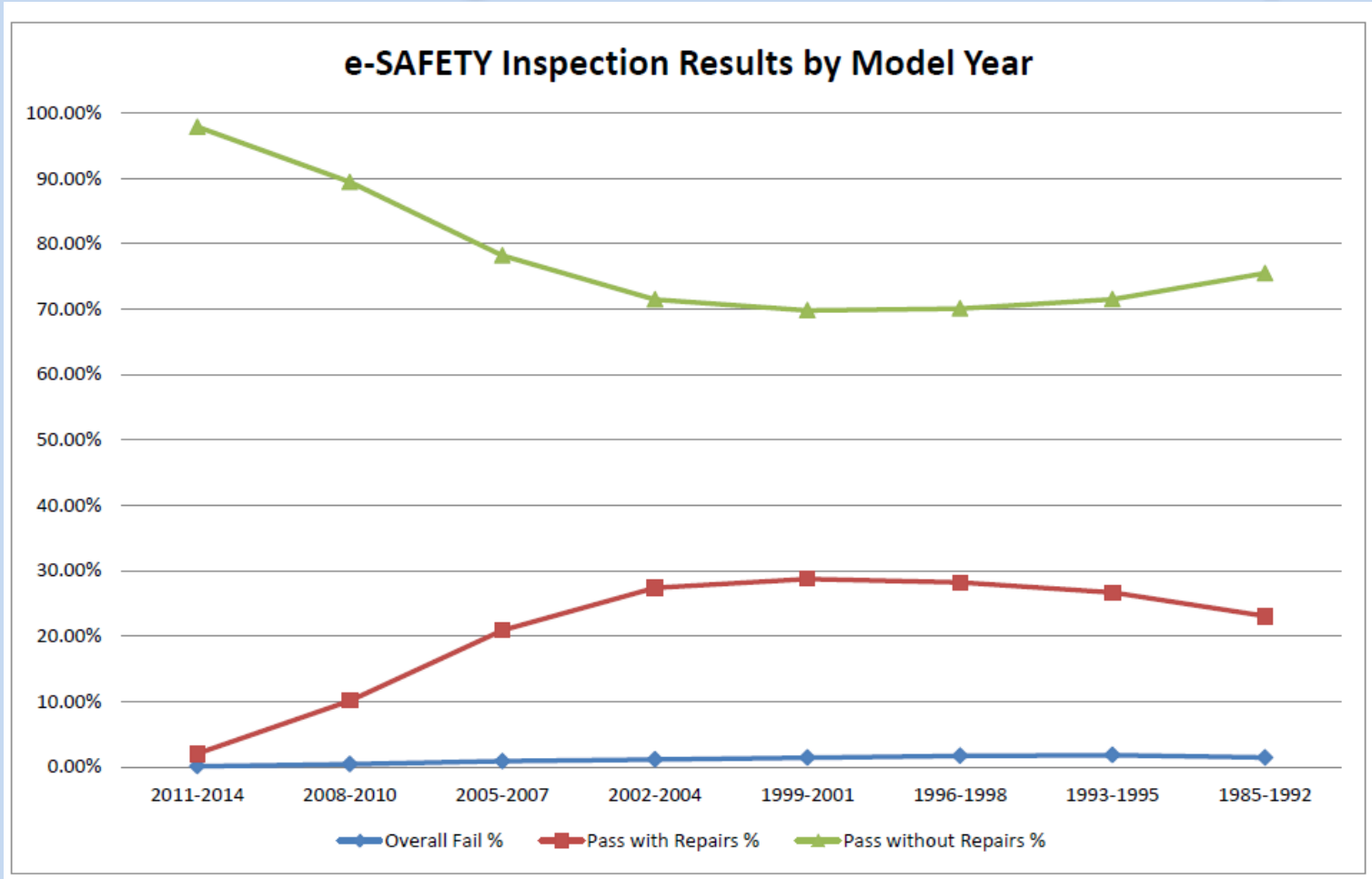


# Challenges to a Decentralized Approach

- Must maintain program oversight; integrity of the program
  - Consumer advocacy role; Covert/overt audits with QAOs
- Must address training of mechanics
  - Emissions and Safety Training Programs
- Must keep open dialogue with industry
- Must keep pace with changes in the industry



# Measuring Success: e-Safety





## Measuring Success: Safety Inspection Study

- A PennDOT study was completed by Cambridge Systematics in 2009 to study the effectiveness of safety inspection programs
- Modeling shows that states with vehicle safety inspection programs have significantly less fatal crashes than states without programs



## Measuring Success: Study Results

- Nationally, vehicle safety programs appear to be a significant factor in lowering fatal crashes
- Pennsylvania can be expected to have between 115 and 169 fewer fatal crashes each year
- This corresponds to between 127 and 187 fewer fatalities annually than if PA did not have a vehicle safety inspection program



# Key Partnership in a Decentralized Approach

- PennDOT uses an Inspection Advisory Board
- In addition to representatives of PennDOT, members are comprised of individuals from:
  - the automotive industry, to include a certified mechanic, new and used car dealers, fleet owners, a service station operator, a parts and equipment wholesaler, an independent repair shop
  - state police and
  - Two members from the public who are licensed drivers



# Key Partnership in a Decentralized Approach

- The Inspection Advisory Board:
  - reviews regulations and recommends changes, as necessary
  - provides input on Inspection Mechanic Training
  - provides input into the inspection process and procedures

## Presenter Information

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