**Linking the ACC, VEH, and PER Crash Files**

There are three key variables which link the crash files together:

1. Crash Number (ACCN). This is present in the data file for every crash, every vehicle, and every person, and is the primary way to match up the records across the three files.
2. Relative Vehicle Number (RVN). This variable uniquely identifies each unit (vehicle or non-motorist) involved in the crash.
3. Relative Person Number (RPN). This variable identifies each person within each unit in the crash.

Example: the ACCN is 123456789. The crash involved a car and a motorcycle.

The first vehicle, a car, is identified as part of ACCN 123456789 and is assigned the RVN 1. The car had a driver and two passengers, each of whom are identified as part of ACCN 123456789 and RVN 1. They are numbered RPN 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

The second vehicle, a motorcycle, is also identified as part of ACCN and is assigned the RVN 2. The motorcyclist was riding alone, is identified as part of ACCN and is RVN 2, and is assigned RPN 1 as the first and only person in the vehicle.