

HIGHWAY LOSS DATA INSTITUTE

NEWS RELEASE

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SPORTS, LUXURY CARS HAVE HIGHEST INSURANCE COLLISION LOSSES; THE LOSSES ARE LOWEST FOR PASSENGER VANS, STATION WAGONS

ARLINGTON, VA – Insurance losses for vehicle damage are highest, or worst, for sports cars and luxury cars. Passenger vans and station wagons have the lowest collision losses, says a new study by the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI).

Worst: The Mitsubishi 3000GT has the worst overall collision loss experience among 1995-97 model passenger vehicles (see attached list). The 3000GT's average loss payment per insured vehicle year, which reflects both the frequency and size of collision claims, is three times higher than the average for all cars.

"For the third year in a row, a high performance sports car has the highest overall vehicle damage, or collision, losses," Kim Hazelbaker, HLDI senior vice president, points out. Two other sports cars, the Porsche 911 convertible and the Toyota Supra, have the second and third highest average loss payments per insured vehicle year. Eleven of the 22 models with the worst collision results are luxury models, six are sports models, four are small two-door models, and one is a large passenger van. All of these vehicles are imports.

Best: The Buick Century has the best overall collision loss result – more than 50 percent lower than the result for all cars combined. The Chevrolet Venture has the second lowest collision losses. Twelve of the 20 vehicles with the best overall collision loss results are passenger vans, two are station wagons, and six are four-door models. All but two are midsize or larger, and all are domestic models.

Vehicle size strongly influences collision losses. Claims for crash damage are more frequent for small cars than for large ones. Overall, small two-door models have the highest frequency of collision claims, and sports and luxury models have the highest average loss payments per claim.

1-page attachment (table) follows this 1-page release
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OVERALL COLLISION LOSSES

BEST

<u>Make and series</u>	<u>Model years</u>	<u>Size and type</u>	<u>Relative loss*</u>
Buick Century	1997	Midsize four-door car	47
Chevrolet Venture	1997	Large passenger van	56
Oldsmobile Cutlass	1997	Midsize four-door car	58
Chevrolet Astro 4WD	1995-97	Large passenger van	60
Ford Crown Victoria	1995-97	Very large four-door car	64

*100 = average loss payment per insured vehicle year for 1995-97 passenger cars (\$237)

WORST

<u>Make and series</u>	<u>Model years</u>	<u>Size and type</u>	<u>Relative loss*</u>
Mitsubishi 3000GT 4WD	1995-97	Midsize sports car	308
Porche 911 convertible	1995-97	Small sports car	305
Toyota Supra	1995-97	Small sports car	243
Mitsubishi Mirage	1997	Small two-door car	224
Jaguar XJ series 4dr long wheelbase	1996-97	Very large luxury car	223

*100 = average loss payment per insured vehicle year for 1995-97 passenger cars (\$237)