

# TECHNICAL APPENDIX

May 2010

**COPYRIGHTED DOCUMENT, DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTED**

©2010 by the Highway Loss Data Institute. All rights reserved. Distribution of this report is restricted. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. Possession of this publication does not confer the right to print, reprint, publish, copy, sell, file, or use this report in any manner without the written permission of the copyright owner.

**HIGHWAY LOSS**  
**DATA INSTITUTE**

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE

©2010 by the Highway Loss Data Institute, 1005 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22201. All rights reserved.

Distribution of this report is restricted. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. Possession of this publication does not confer the right to print, reprint, publish, copy, sell, file, or use this material in any manner without the written permission of the copyright owner.

Permission is hereby granted to companies that are members of the Highway Loss Data Institute to reprint, copy, or otherwise use this material for their own business purposes, provided that the copyright notice is clearly visible on the material.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

■ B. Reddington, Chairman, Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies ■ M. Deede, Vice Chairman, MetLife Auto & Home ■ B. Anderson, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies ■ P. Baum, Nationwide ■ H. Cohen, GEICO Corporation ■ M. Doerfler, Progressive Insurance ■ T. Ellefson, American Family Insurance Group ■ J. Feldmeier, Auto Club Group ■ P. Foley, American Insurance Association ■ A. Gannon, USAA ■ J. Gillette, American National Property and Casualty ■ D. Griffin, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America ■ S. Hallworth, The Travelers Companies ■ K. Holler, Erie Insurance Group ■ S. Lin, Chubb & Son ■ S. Lough, Rockingham Group ■ S. McAnena, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company ■ S. Murphy, GMAC Insurance ■ T. Myers, High Point Safety and Insurance Management Corporation ■ J. Nutting, Farmers Insurance Group of Companies ■ S. Oakley, The Hartford ■ D. Porfilio, Kemper, A Unitrin Business ■ L. Stiles, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company ■ J. Xu, AAA of Northern California, Nevada and Utah ■ F. Yager, Allstate Insurance Company ■ A. Lund, Highway Loss Data Institute

The membership of the Highway Loss Data Institute Board of Directors represents insurance companies that supply data to HLDI. Financial support for HLDI is provided through the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which in turn is supported by automobile insurers.

# CONTENTS

Introduction . . . . .	1
Source Data . . . . .	1
Companies that Supply Data . . . . .	1
Vehicle Model Years Collected by Coverage . . . . .	2
Insurance Policy Data . . . . .	2
Insurance Claim Data . . . . .	2
Vehicle Description and Identification . . . . .	2
Vehicle Classifications . . . . .	3
Passenger Cars . . . . .	3
Pickups . . . . .	4
SUVs . . . . .	4
Cargo/Passenger Vans . . . . .	4
Motorcycle Classifications . . . . .	5
Street Legal Motorcycles . . . . .	5
Off-Road Motorcycles . . . . .	8
Measures of Loss . . . . .	9
Exposure . . . . .	9
Claim Frequency . . . . .	9
Average Loss Payment per Claim . . . . .	9
Average Loss Payment per Insured Vehicle Year . . . . .	9
Computing Results . . . . .	10
Threshold for Reporting Results . . . . .	10
All-Variable Standardization . . . . .	11
All-Variable Standardization Example . . . . .	11
Glossary . . . . .	14
Appendix A Collision Standardization Weights . . . . .	16
Appendix B Comprehensive Standardization Weights . . . . .	17
Appendix C	
Standardization . . . . .	18
Standardization Weights — Collision Coverages . . . . .	19

**CONTENTS (CONT'D)**

Standardization Weights — Comprehensive Coverages . . . . . 19

Standardization Weights — Property Damage Liability, Personal Injury . . . . . 19  
Protection, Bodily Injury Liability, and Medical Payment Coverages

Standardized Claim Frequency (CF) . . . . . 19

Standardized Average Loss Payment per Claim (ALP) . . . . . 19

Standardized Average Loss Payment per Insured Vehicle Year. . . . . 20

Example of Computing Standardized Results (Collision). . . . . 20

Relative Results . . . . . 20

Model Year Aggregation . . . . . 20

## INTRODUCTION

The Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI) is a nonprofit, public service organization that gathers, processes, and publishes insurance data on the human and economic losses resulting from owning and operating motor vehicles, especially the ways such losses vary among different kinds of vehicles.

This *Technical Appendix* defines terms and classifications used in HLDI reports. It also explains the weighting and standardization employed in computing HLDI results. Although all information in this *Appendix* is current as of publication, different weights, reporting thresholds, and methods may be used in future HLDI reports to reflect changes in the data.

## SOURCE DATA

HLDI collects private passenger vehicle automobile insurance coverage and loss data. Standard and nonstandard risk data are included but not assigned risk. Commercial and fleet data also are excluded. Only payments for damage to insured vehicles are included; monies recovered by companies from either salvage for wrecked vehicles or through the subrogation process are excluded.

### COMPANIES THAT SUPPLY DATA

HLDI receives automobile claims and coverage information from the following companies:

AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah	The Hartford
AIG Agency Auto	High Point Insurance Group
Allstate Insurance Group	Kentucky Farm Bureau
American Family Mutual Insurance	Liberty Mutual
American National Property and Casualty	MetLife Auto and Home
Amica Mutual Insurance Company	Nationwide Insurance
Auto Club Group	PEMCO Insurance
Automobile Insurers Bureau of Massachusetts	The Progressive Corporation
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies	Rockingham Group
COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services	Safeco Insurance
Erie Insurance	SECURA Insurance
Farm Bureau Financial Services	St. Paul Travelers
Farmers Insurance Group of Companies	State Farm Insurance Companies
Foremost Insurance	Tennessee Farmers Mutual Insurance Company
The GEICO Group	Unitrin
GMAC Insurance	USAA

HLDI receives motorcycle claims and coverage information from the following companies:

21st Century	Farmers Insurance Group of Companies
AAA Northern California, Nevada and Utah	Foremost Insurance
Allstate Insurance Group	The GEICO Group
American Family Mutual Insurance	The Hartford
American National Property and Casualty	Liberty Mutual
Amica Mutual Insurance Company	MetLife Auto and Home
Automobile Insurers Bureau of Massachusetts	Nationwide Insurance
Auto Club Group	State Farm Insurance Companies
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies	Tennessee Farmers Mutual Insurance Company
COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services	Travelers
Erie Insurance	USAA
Farm Bureau Financial Services	

## **VEHICLE MODEL YEARS COLLECTED BY COVERAGE**

HLDI collects coverage and loss data for the 10 most recent model years for the following coverages:

- Bodily injury liability coverage
- Collision coverage
- Comprehensive coverage
- Medical payment coverage
- Personal injury protection coverage
- Property damage liability coverage

## **INSURANCE POLICY DATA**

Insurance policy data, as distinct from claim data, describe the characteristics of an insured vehicle including its make, series, and scope of its insurance coverage. Policy data reported to HLDI include the following basic information:

- Type of coverage
- Vehicle identification number (VIN)
- Deductible amount
- Policy limits
- Rated driver characteristics including driver age and gender
- Date and nature of relevant changes in coverage
- Geographic garaging location

## **INSURANCE CLAIM DATA**

Insurance claim data report the characteristics of an insured vehicle for which a claim is made, the initiation of the claim, and/or the corresponding payment. Claim data reported to HLDI include the following basic information:

- Type of coverage
- Payment type
- Vehicle identification number (VIN)
- Loss date
- Loss payment amount

The dollar amounts reported represent loss payments made to, or on behalf of, the policyholder.

## **VEHICLE DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION**

The vehicle identification numbers (VINs) of all new passenger vehicles sold in the United States are individually unique numbers that contain, in coded form, detailed information about vehicle make, series, and other distinguishing characteristics.

The specific vehicle types for which results are presented in HLDI reports are derived from the VINs of the individual passenger vehicles.

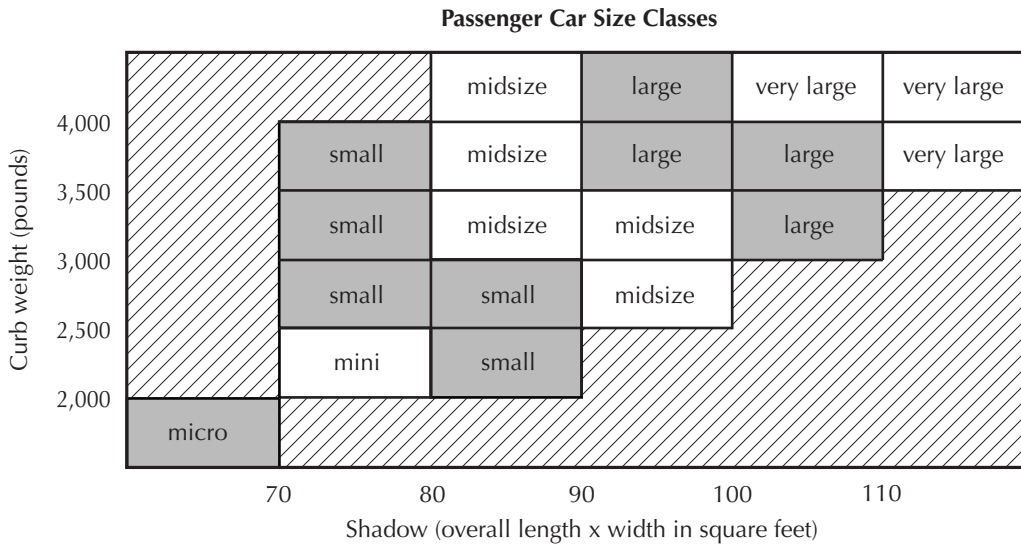
Only data with valid VINs are used for reports. Each VIN is decoded into a set of specific vehicle characteristics. For the purposes of most HLDI reports, the vehicle characteristics of primary concern are make, series, vehicle size class, and vehicle body style. The use of VINs also permits analyses of other very specific vehicle characteristics such as engine type and horsepower or type of occupant restraint.

# VEHICLE CLASSIFICATIONS

## PASSENGER CARS

Passenger cars are grouped in six major classes: regular two-door models, regular four-door models, station wagons, minivans, sports models and luxury models. Station wagons typically have four doors, a rear hatch and four pillars. Sports models include two-seaters and cars with significant high-performance features. Luxury models include relatively expensive cars not classified as sports models. (For 2010 models, the luxury threshold guideline is a price-to-curb-weight ratio exceeding 9.0).

Passenger cars are divided into six size categories based on vehicle shadow (overall length times width) and curb weight, as shown in the diagram. For example, the 2006 Ford Fusion four-door has a shadow of 95.4 square feet (overall length of 190.2 inches times width of 72.2 inches divided by 144) and a curb weight of 3,101 pounds, so it is classified as midsize.



There are some exceptions. Some vehicles are placed in different size categories than their shadows and curb weights would indicate to better group the vehicles with their market class competitors. Vehicles that do not fall into a defined category are handled on a case-by-case basis. Vehicles with curb weights or shadows equal to size classification threshold values are classified in the smaller size category. For example, if a vehicle has a shadow of 100 square feet and a curb weight of 3,500 pounds, then it is classified as midsize.

## **PICKUPS**

Pickups are cargo-carrying vehicles, usually on a truck chassis, with an enclosed cab and a separate open cargo area. The open cargo area generally is a box with an open top and a tailgate that opens. Pickups are divided into three size classes based on curb weight and carrying capacity. When different models (i.e., two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive) of the same vehicle series span size groups, all the models may be categorized into the same size class regardless of their weights. Vehicles also may be placed in different size classes than their weights would indicate to better group the vehicles with their market class competitors.

- Small—curb weight 4,000 pounds or less (e.g., Ford Ranger)
- Large—curb weight more than 4,000 pounds and carrying capacity of 1/2 ton (e.g., Ford F-150)
- Very Large—curb weight more than 4,000 pounds and carrying capacity of 3/4 or 1 ton (e.g., Ford F-250)

## **SUVs**

SUVs typically are built on heavy-duty chassis capable of off-road use, although many new generation utility vehicles are built on passenger car platforms. They are of conventional front-engine construction. The passenger areas, and the great majority of cargo areas, are integral with the driver area. However, some SUVs have an external cargo bed. Some SUVs are equipped with soft or removable tops. Frequently these vehicles are equipped with four-wheel drive.

SUVs are divided into five size categories. The smallest and largest categories (Mini and Very Large) are based on curb weight and vehicle shadow. The other three categories are based simply on curb weight. The categories are further divided into regular and luxury, where luxury contains the higher priced vehicles. (For 2010 models, the luxury threshold guideline is a price-to-curb-weight ratio exceeding 8.0). When different models (i.e., two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive) of the same vehicle series span size groups, all the models may be categorized into the same size class regardless of their weights. Vehicles also may be placed in a different size than their weights would indicate to better group the vehicles with their market class competitors.

- Mini—curb weight 3,000 pounds or less and a shadow less than 75 square feet
- Small—curb weight between 3,001 and 3,750 pounds
- Midsize—curb weight between 3,751 and 4,750 pounds
- Large—curb weight between 4,751 and 5,750 pounds
- Very Large—curb weight more than 5,751 pounds or a shadow more than 115 square feet

## **CARGO/PASSENGER VANS**

Cargo/passenger vans are fully enclosed vehicles with either no hood or a very short hood and an engine placed at least 50 percent behind the windshield. The driver's position is well forward, within the front 25 percent of the wheelbase. These vehicles, designed primarily for cargo transport, are equipped with a cargo access door on the right side and rear door(s). The cargo area is not separated from the passenger area; both are enclosed under the same roof. Some versions of these vans are equipped with additional seats in the cargo area and usually have additional side windows as well. There are no size classes for vans; all are considered large.



# MOTORCYCLE CLASSIFICATIONS

## STREET LEGAL MOTORCYCLES

Street legal motorcycles are grouped into ten different classes: scooter, cruiser, chopper, touring, dual purpose, standard, sport touring, unclad sport, sport, and super sports. Sidecars can be attached to one or more of the street legal motorcycles and subsequently are exposed to the same hazards inherent in operating motorcycles. Although most motorcycles are designed with the same fundamental components — chassis incorporating two wheels, engine, handle bars, and open riding position — there are design cues and operational differences that distinguish the intended riding purpose and performance expectations.

Motorcycles are assigned to classes based on factors such as riding position and ergonomics, body style, features, intended use, and driving dynamics. The following classes are the variations of street legal motorcycles.

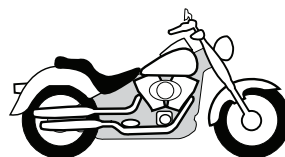
### SCOOTER

Scooters are characterized by small wheels, automatic transmissions, small engines, and a step-through configuration that allows riders to place both feet on a running board with knees together. However, larger scooters with engine displacements greater than 250 cc are becoming more popular. The Honda Silver Wing, Yamaha Majesty 400, and Suzuki Burgman are examples of the increasing displacements of highway-capable scooters.



### CRUISER

Cruiser motorcycles mimic the style of earlier American motorcycles from the 1930s to the early 1960s, such as those made by Harley-Davidson and Indian. Although cruisers have benefited from advances in technology and metallurgy, the basic design is still very similar to early motorcycles. The riding position places the feet forward of the seat and the hands near shoulder height, the upper body is erect or leaning back slightly. This position allows long-distance comfort but does compromise some degree of control. Cruisers have limited turning ability because of a low-slung design. Cruiser engines produce more torque and less horsepower compared with motorcycles from the sport classes. Cruisers are among the heaviest of motorcycles and can be used with a sidecar.



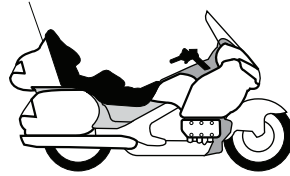
### CHOPPER

Chopper-style motorcycles are closely related to cruisers. They have a longer wheelbase that results from an extended front fork configuration. The lengthened wheelbase reduces maneuverability. Choppers generally are highly customized and, as a result, more costly. As the term “chopper” implies, the motorcycle is derived by chopping off or removing parts from a typical cruiser with the intent of reducing weight or bulk for the sake of speed. Its reduced maneuverability is exaggerated further by a wide rear tire that assists in acceleration.



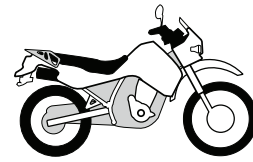
### TOURING

Touring motorcycles are equipped with high-displacement/high-torque engines for carrying a passenger and luggage. The Honda Goldwing which is the best selling motorcycle in this class has a 1,800 cubic centimeter engine. Touring motorcycles are among the longest and heaviest motorcycles. Honda Goldwings can weigh in excess of 800 pounds. Touring motorcycles offer wind protection for the rider, high-capacity fuel tanks, the ability to carry luggage, and an upright riding position that is comfortable for long distances. Although any motorcycle can be equipped and used for touring, touring motorcycles are designed for this purpose. They incorporate technological advances such as antilock brakes and airbags and are more likely to include features such as reverse gear, cruise control, heated hand grips, driver-to-passenger communication systems, navigation, and audio systems.



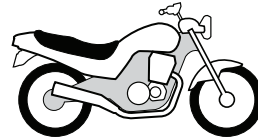
### DUAL PURPOSE

Dual purpose motorcycles are similar to off-road motorcycles. However, they are equipped with road-ready features such as turn signals, brake lights, and horns. They also use four-stroke engines for compliance with emissions requirements. They generally have larger displacement engines than off-road motorcycles, along with a more comfortable riding position.



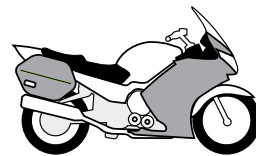
### STANDARD

Standard motorcycle designs are basic and generally do not utilize technological advances in chassis and engine design. Many standard motorcycles are generic enough to remain in production for 10 years or more without redesign. Riding positions typically are upright and similar to that of a cruiser, but with foot pegs placed farther rearward. The riding position, coupled with better ground clearance than a cruiser, gives standard motorcycles better handling characteristics. Engine displacements are smaller than those for cruisers.



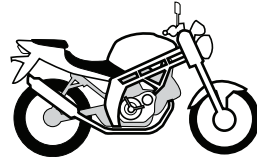
### SPORT TOURING

Sport touring motorcycles are similar in design to sport class motorcycles but have some features typically found on touring motorcycles. Sport touring motorcycles typically are derived from sport class frames and share components such as engines and drive trains. Sport tourers normally are equipped with touring features such as saddlebags, high windshields, larger fairings, heated grips, and larger seats—features not found on other sport class motorcycles. Among the other sport class motorcycles, sport tourers tend to have the largest engines, and riding positions are more upright. More than any other sport class motorcycle, sport tourers can accommodate passengers due to larger engines, upright riding positions, and larger seats.



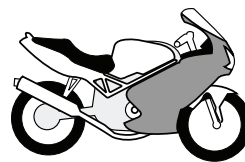
### UNCLAD SPORT

Unclad sport motorcycles are a relatively new market niche, however they are retro in styling. Sometimes referred to as “naked” or “hooligan” motorcycles, unclad sport motorcycles are derivatives of sport/super sport motorcycles. They do not have full body panels or fairing coverings typically found on sport/super sport motorcycles. Compared with sport and super sport motorcycles, unclad sport motorcycles generally have lower horsepower. The riding position places the feet under the seat and the hands below shoulder height. The rider’s knees are bent and the upper body has a slight forward lean, giving unclad sport motorcycles a riding position that is more comfortable than the sport class. The reduced horsepower and riding position make them more user friendly and suitable for everyday riding. Some motorcycles in this class serve as beginner motorcycles, whereas others are as powerful and agile as some sport and super sport motorcycles and are targeted at premium customers (e.g., Ducati and Aprilia).



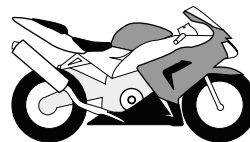
### SPORT

Sport class motorcycles are light and powerful. Their power-to-weight ratios are second only to the super sport class. They benefit from advances in design and technology intended for racing; however they are not considered racing specification machines. The riding position places the feet under the seat and the hands below shoulder height. The rider’s knees are bent, and the upper body has a forward lean. This riding position improves control when cornering and accelerating. All sport motorcycles have extensive body paneling and fairing covers to provide wind protection and assist in aerodynamics. Sport motorcycles can be equipped with side bags or a rear trunk to provide limited touring ability, but they do not have the features and amenities typically found in the touring class. Sport motorcycles have a wide range of engine displacements. The riding position and lower power-to-weight ratios make sport class motorcycles more suitable for street use rather than super sport motorcycles. Sport motorcycles are capable of high speeds, but they do not offer the acceleration, stability, and handling of racing-specification machines.



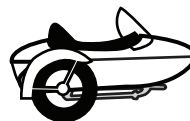
### SUPER SPORT

Super sport motorcycles are consumer versions of the motorcycles used by factory racing teams and use racing specifications as benchmarks in design. Their range of engine displacements is limited to meet racing requirements of the class. The power-to-weight ratios of super sport motorcycles are higher than any other mass produced motor vehicle. As racing specification machines, measures are taken to reduce weight and increase power, thus making these motorcycles quick in acceleration, nimble in handling, and capable of high speeds. The riding position is suitable for racing. The riding position places the feet under the seat and the hands below shoulder height. The rider’s knees are bent and the upper body has a forward lean. There also is less space between the seat and feet than for sport motorcycles to provide better rider/racer control. Super sport motorcycles have extensive body paneling and fairing coverings, but generally only offer good wind protection when the rider is in a crouched riding position.



### SIDECAR

Sidecars are wheeled passenger carriers that can be attached to the side of a motorcycle. They typically are used in conjunction with a cruiser or touring motorcycle, but recently sidecars are being developed for scooters. Sidecars are not motorized.



## OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLES

In addition to street legal motorcycles, manufacturers produce similarly powered vehicles that serve off-road purposes and are not intended for use on public roads. These vehicles are grouped into four distinct classes based on their physical design and intent. HLDI has collected coverage and loss data for off-road motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles including off-road utility vehicles and snow mobiles, but results for these vehicles are not included in HLDI reports because they are not registered for road use.

### OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE

Off-road motorcycles generally are light weight with small displacement engines. The suspension travel is longer than a typical motorcycle, with higher ground clearance. Their construction is rugged, simple, and without bodywork and fairings. Tires typically are knobby for tractability because off-road motorcycles are designed to be ridden through rough and muddy terrain. Many off-road motorcycles are produced strictly for recreational or competitive use and are not street legal. Generally, they are equipped with two-stroke engines.



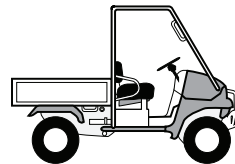
### ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are designed with four wheels and may not be ridden on public roads. There are variations in vehicle designs to allow off-road sport riding or serve utilitarian purposes. Engine displacements tend to be low, but some engines share the same advanced designs as street legal motorcycles. ATVs generally accommodate one rider and are operated with the use of motorcycle-like controls including handle bars. Newer designs include automatic transmissions, electric shifters, GPS navigation systems, and larger engine displacements.



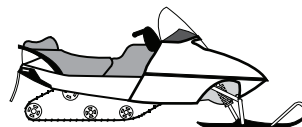
### UTILITY VEHICLE

Similar to ATVs, utility vehicles are designed with four wheels and typical motorcycle engines. Utility vehicles differ in that the steering mechanism incorporates a steering wheel rather than handle bars. The passenger capacity of utility vehicles differs from other off-road motorcycles in that they use a bench seat design to accommodate more than one occupant. Although utility vehicles generally do not possess many ATV attributes, they do offer off-road ability with unrivaled cargo capacity.



### SNOWMOBILE

Snowmobiles are similar to motorcycles but are intended to be ridden on terrain covered by a layer of snow or ice. The basic design provides an open riding position, handle bar steering control, and motorcycle-like engine configuration. Instead of a front wheel to control vehicle direction, two ski-like sleds pivot with the direction of the handle bars. Propulsion is provided by tank-like treads in lieu of a rear tire. Snowmobiles are not intended to be ridden on public roads.



## MEASURES OF LOSS

### **EXPOSURE**

Exposure in insured vehicle years is computed for each individual vehicle from the coverage data. The total number of insured vehicle years for each vehicle series then is obtained by accumulating the exposure for all of the individual vehicles in that series.

### **CLAIM FREQUENCY**

Both reserved and paid claims for an individual vehicle are matched with the corresponding coverage data to ensure the claim occurred within a period of insurance coverage for that vehicle. When multiple claims are made for the same crash, they are treated as a single claim in the calculation of claim frequency. Only claims with positive total payment amounts are used. Collision, property damage liability, and comprehensive claim frequencies are based on only paid claims, whereas injury claim frequencies are based on both paid and reserved claims. For collision and property damage liability coverages, claim frequencies are expressed as the number of claims per 100 insured vehicle years. For injury and comprehensive coverages, claim frequencies are expressed as the number of claims per 1,000 insured vehicle years because these claims occur much less frequently than those under collision and property damage liability coverages.

### **AVERAGE LOSS PAYMENT PER CLAIM (ALP)**

The paid claim dollar amounts for each vehicle series are summed and divided by the number of paid claims to produce the average loss payment per claim for that series. Claims settled without payment are excluded from the computations. When multiple claims and/or multiple payments are made for the same crash, they are treated as a single claim and/or single payment in the calculation of average loss payment per claim.

### **AVERAGE LOSS PAYMENT PER INSURED VEHICLE YEAR (ALPIVY)**

The average loss payment per insured vehicle year for each vehicle series is obtained by multiplying the claim frequency per 100 insured vehicle years (1,000 insured vehicle years for injury and comprehensive results) by the average loss payment per claim and dividing the result by 100 (1,000 for injury and comprehensive results).

## COMPUTING RESULTS

### THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING RESULTS

The measure of sample size for HLDI results is insured vehicle years of exposure. In general, the targeted minimum reliability standard for presentation of HLDI frequency results is that the estimated value falls within  $\pm 20$  percent of the true value 90 percent of the time. More reliable results are obtained for models with larger amounts of exposure.

For presentation of results, an individual vehicle series must have at least 100 claims or exposure of at least:

COVERAGE	REPORTING THRESHOLD (INSURED VEHICLE YEARS)
Bodily Injury Liability	10,000
Collision	1,000
Medical Payment	8,000
Personal Injury Protection	5,000
Property Damage Liability	3,000
Total Comprehensive	1,000
Glass	2,000
Other Comprehensive	2,000
Theft	20,000

Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and Medical Payment (MedPay) results also are presented for claims exceeding specified dollar amounts and are published according to the following table:

INJURY LOSSES	REPORTING THRESHOLD (INSURED VEHICLE YEARS)	
	PIP	MEDPAY
All	5,000	8,000
> \$500	9,000	10,000
> \$1,000	10,000	12,000
> \$2,000	12,000	15,000

## ALL-VARIABLE STANDARDIZATION

Since HLDI issued its first loss reports in the early 1970s, vehicle results have been adjusted to account for differences in rated driver age and deductible. This method of standardization remained unchanged through 2008. Details on this standardization method can be found in Appendix C.

In an effort to accurately assess the contribution of the vehicle to insurance losses, a new all-variable standardization method has been developed. There are demographic and geographic variables other than rated driver age and deductible that contribute to loss variation among vehicles. The all-variable standardization method controls for these additional variables. Starting with the 2010 comprehensive loss report for 2007-09 passenger cars, pickups, SUVs, and vans (C-09), insurance losses are standardized by calendar year, model year, garaging state, the number of registered vehicles per square mile (vehicle density), rated driver age, marital status, deductible, and risk. The standardization is accomplished using a two step process. First, regression models are constructed to produce estimates for each variable for claim frequency, claim severity and overall losses. Second, the estimates are run through a reweighting procedure so every vehicle has the same exposure distribution across all the variables in the model.

## ALL-VARIABLE STANDARDIZATION EXAMPLE

The underlying data may look like this:

VEHICLE ID	GENDER	DEDUCTIBLE	YEARS	CLAIMS	PAYMENTS	CLAIM FREQUENCY	CLAIM SEVERITY
16026	M	0-250	5,000	151	350,000	3.0	\$2,318
16026	M	250-500	10,000	182	870,000	1.8	\$4,780
16026	M	500+	2,000	51	160,000	2.6	\$3,137
16026	F	250-500	3,000	66	250,000	2.2	\$3,788
37003	M	250-500	7,500	143	870,000	1.9	\$6,084
37003	F	500+	2,500	93	250,000	3.7	\$2,688

Vehicle ID is a combination of make and series codes. For example, 16026 represents make 16 and series 26, or Toyota Camry 4dr. The above example only displays 2 vehicles and 2 covariates (gender and deductible). The entire dataset would include many more vehicles and seven covariates (rated driver age, state, deductible, registered vehicle density, gender, marital status, and risk). Also, in addition to vehicle make and series the dataset includes model year and calendar year.

Next, an artificial dataset is created:

VEHICLE ID	GENDER	DEDUCTIBLE	YEARS	CLAIMS	PAYMENTS	CLAIM FREQUENCY	CLAIM SEVERITY
16026	M	0-250	4,000	—	—	—	—
16026	M	250-500	9,000	—	—	—	—
16026	M	500+	3,000	—	—	—	—
16026	F	0-250	5,000	—	—	—	—
16026	F	250-500	6,000	—	—	—	—
16026	F	500+	1,500	—	—	—	—
37003	M	0-250	4,000	—	—	—	—
37003	M	250-500	9,000	—	—	—	—
37003	M	500+	3,000	—	—	—	—
37003	F	0-250	5,000	—	—	—	—
37003	F	250-500	6,000	—	—	—	—
37003	F	500+	1,500	—	—	—	—

This artificial dataset does not have claim or payment information. Years are displayed in the above table

- (1) are identically distributed among the vehicles in the entire dataset,
- (2) the distribution is the same as for the overall fleet, and
- (3) the sum of the years are the same for the artificial dataset and the underlying (real) data.

The total number of rows in this dataset is much higher than for the underlying data because in reality not all covariate combinations are populated.

Next, regressions are run on the first dataset (i.e. estimate frequency and severity as functions of Vehicle ID and covariates) and use the results to predict frequencies and severities for the artificial dataset. The output appears as the following:

VEHICLE ID	GENDER	DEDUCTIBLE	YEARS	CLAIMS	PAYMENTS	CLAIM FREQUENCY	CLAIM SEVERITY	PREDICTED FREQUENCY	PREDICTED SEVERITY
16026	M	0-250	4,000	—	—	—	—	3.8	3,938
16026	M	250-500	9,000	—	—	—	—	2.9	4,234
16026	M	500+	3,000	—	—	—	—	2.3	5,452
16026	F	0-250	5,000	—	—	—	—	1.7	2,555
16026	F	250-500	6,000	—	—	—	—	4.1	6,445
16026	F	500+	1,500	—	—	—	—	5.6	3,445
37003	M	0-250	4,000	—	—	—	—	4.2	5,631
37003	M	250-500	9,000	—	—	—	—	2.9	3,981
37003	M	500+	3,000	—	—	—	—	1.6	3,496
37003	F	0-250	5,000	—	—	—	—	1.8	2,049
37003	F	250-500	6,000	—	—	—	—	2.7	2,040
37003	F	500+	1,500	—	—	—	—	2.9	2,900

The last two columns are predicted frequency and predicted severity. Note that, unlike years, they differ for the two vehicles, since the vehicle ID variable was included in the model. Multiplying the predicted frequencies by years yields predicted claims. Multiplying predicted claims by predicted severity we get predicted payments. The following table results:

VEHICLE ID	GENDER	DEDUCTIBLE	YEARS	CLAIMS	PAYMENTS
16026	M	0-250	4,000	152	598,576
16026	M	250-500	9,000	261	1,105,074
16026	M	500+	3,000	69	376,188
16026	F	0-250	5,000	85	217,175
16026	F	250-500	6,000	246	1,585,470
16026	F	500+	1,500	84	289,380
37003	M	0-250	4,000	168	946,008
37003	M	250-500	9,000	261	1,039,041
37003	M	500+	3,000	48	167,808
37003	F	0-250	5,000	90	184,410
37003	F	250-500	6,000	162	330,480
37003	F	500+	1,500	44	126,150



Claims and payments are predicted, while years are artificially populated under the assumption of even distribution.

Results can be easily summarized at the desired level. For example, the results can be reduced to the make-series (vehicle ID) level. The results in this example can be reduced to just two lines:

VEHICLE ID	GENDER	DEDUCTIBLE	YEARS	CLAIMS	PAYMENTS
16026	ALL	ALL	28,500	897	4,171,863
37003	ALL	ALL	28,500	773	2,793,897

Finally, we can calculate frequency, severity, and pure premium for each line:

VEHICLE ID	YEARS	CLAIMS	PAYMENTS	CLAIM FREQUENCY	CLAIM SEVERITY	OVERALL LOSSES
16026	28,500	897	4,171,863	3.1	\$4,651	\$146.38
37003	28,500	773	2,793,897	2.7	\$3,617	\$98.03

Results can then be sorted, grouped by size, ESC presence, etc.

## GLOSSARY

**Average Loss Payment per Claim**—total of all loss payments made for the claims for a group of vehicles divided by the number of claims paid

**Average Loss Payment per Insured Vehicle Year**—for a group of vehicles, the product of claim frequency and average loss payment per claim, expressed as dollars per insured vehicle year; note that this definition differs from the commonly used insurance term, pure premium, but yields similar results

**Claim Frequency**—number of claims for a group of vehicles divided by the exposure for that group; expressed as claims per 100 or 1,000 insured vehicle years

**Bodily Injury (BI) Liability Coverage**—coverage under which people insure against injury losses to other people when the insured vehicle's driver is at fault

**Collision Coverage**—coverage under which people insure their own vehicle against loss caused by collision

**Comprehensive Coverage**—coverage under which people insure their own vehicles against physical damage or loss not caused by collision

**Deductible Amount**—portion of loss cost borne by the policyholder

**Exposure**—time interval an individual vehicle is insured; exposure for a group of vehicles expressed in units of insured vehicle years

**First-Party Coverage**—insurance coverage under which policy-holders collect compensation for losses from their own insurer regardless of fault

**Loss Payment**—portion of loss cost borne by the insurer; in general, total loss cost minus deductible amount

**Medical Payment (MedPay) Coverage**—coverage under which people insure against injury losses to themselves, others riding in the vehicle, and pedestrians struck by the vehicle, without regard to who was at fault. This coverage is sold in states with traditional tort liability laws

**No-Fault Auto Insurance**—insurance plan under which medical expenses and lost income resulting from a crash are collected from the insured's own insurance policy without regard to who was at fault in the crash

**Nonstandard Risk Coverage**—coverage under which the policyholder is rated as a higher-than-standard risk due to driving record, insured vehicle, or other factors

**Operator Age Group**—factor that distinguishes vehicles with a youthful rated driver from vehicles without a youthful rated driver (see youthful operator)

**Passenger Vehicles**—motor vehicles used for carrying passengers, including all passenger cars, SUVs, light pickups, and vans (including 15 passenger vans). Pickups with a carrying capacity of greater than one ton are excluded. Also excluded are motorcycles, buses, large trucks, and chassis cabs

**Personal Injury Protection (PIP) Coverage**—first-party no-fault coverage under which an insurer pays, within specified limits, the medical, hospital, and other expenses of the insured, others in the vehicle, and pedestrians hit. This coverage is sold in states that have enacted no-fault laws

**Property Damage (PD) Liability Coverage**—coverage under which people insure against loss caused by their vehicles to the property of others

**Rated Driver**—driver who, for insurance purposes, is considered to represent the greatest loss potential for the insured vehicle

## GLOSSARY (CONT'D)

**Standard Risk Coverage**— coverage under which the policyholder is rated as an average or better-than-average risk due to driving record, insured vehicle, or other factors

**Youthful Operator**— depending on rated driver data reported, either males and females younger than 25 years or males younger than 25 years and unmarried females younger than 25 years

## APPENDIX A COLLISION STANDARDIZATION WEIGHTS

STANDARDIZATION			REPORT RANGE	MODEL YEARS
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-05 thru R-09	2003 thru 2009
<\$500	0.03	0.30		
>=\$500	0.07	0.60		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-00 thru R-04	1998 thru 2002
<=\$250	0.05	0.40		
>\$250	0.05	0.50		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-97 thru R-99	1995 thru 1997
<=\$250	0.05	0.50		
>\$250	0.05	0.40		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-94 thru R-96	1992 thru 1994
<=\$250	0.05	0.60		
>\$250	0.05	0.30		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-89 thru R-93	1987 thru 1991
<=\$200	0.05	0.50		
>\$200	0.05	0.40		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-83 thru R-88	1981 thru 1986
<\$150	0.05	0.50		
>=\$150	0.05	0.40		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-80 thru R-82	1978 thru 1980
<\$150	0.10	0.60		
>=\$150	0.05	0.25		
Deductible	Youthful Operator	No Youthful Operator	R-72 thru R-79	1972 thru 1977
=\$50	0.05	0.35		
=\$100	0.15	0.45		

\* Model year is for latest results. Earlier results for that model year may be in a report with different standardization.

## APPENDIX B COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDIZATION WEIGHTS

STANDARDIZATION			REPORT RANGE	MODEL YEARS
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-05 thru T-09 C-05 thru C-09	2003 thru 2009
	Operator	Operator		
	<\$500	0.03		
>=\$500	0.07	0.55		
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-00 thru T-04 C-00 thru C-04	1998 thru 2002
	Operator	Operator		
	<=\$100	0.05		
>\$100	0.05	0.50		
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-97 thru T-99 C-97 thru C-99	1995 thru 1997
	Operator	Operator		
	<=\$100	0.05		
>\$100	0.05	0.40		
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-93 thru T-96 C-93 thru C-96	1991 thru 1994
	Operator	Operator		
	<=\$100	0.05		
>\$100	0.05	0.30		
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-89 thru T-92 C-89 thru C-92	1987 thru 1990
	Operator	Operator		
	<=\$50	0.05		
>\$50	0.05	0.40		
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-83 thru T-88 C-83 thru C-88	1981 thru 1986
	Operator	Operator		
	= \$0	0.05		
>\$0	0.05	0.40		
Deductible	Youthful	No Youthful	T-79 thru T-82 C-79 thru C-82	1979 thru 1980
	Operator	Operator		
	= \$0	0.10		
>\$0	0.05	0.30		

\* Model year is for latest results. Earlier results for that model year may be in a report with different standardization.

## APPENDIX C

### STANDARDIZATION

It is well known that loss experience can vary substantially in relation to certain nonvehicle factors, two of which are the deductible amount of the coverage and the operator age group; both claim frequency and average loss payments vary with these factors. In the case of operator age group, youthful operators generally have higher insurance losses than older drivers. This difference, if not taken into consideration, would be sufficient to bias the results when comparing vehicles with different proportions of youthful operators.

For collision and comprehensive coverages, results obtained from the two deductible categories (less than \$500 and greater than or equal to \$500) also vary. For example, average loss payments for the higher deductibles are greater than those for the lower deductibles. Again, if compared vehicles have different proportions of lower deductible coverages, this difference, if not taken into consideration, would be sufficient to bias the comparison. Property damage liability and injury coverages do not have deductibles.

To minimize any biases in comparisons of results that could arise because of differences attributable to variations in deductible amounts and operator age groups, collision and comprehensive results are first adjusted, or standardized, to equalize the effects of these two nonvehicle factors. In this procedure, a weighted average of the actual results for each combination of deductible amount and operator age group is computed using the standardization weights shown in the tables below. Because the same weights are always used, the effects due to the nonvehicle factors are present in equal amounts in the standardized results. Therefore, to the extent that age distributions within each operator age group and deductible distributions within each deductible group do not vary substantially for different vehicles, these effects no longer bias comparisons of results. Standardization of property damage and injury results takes place in exactly the same manner using only the combined operator age weights (there is no deductible).

The standardization procedure employed is widely used in health statistics (e.g., see *Statistical Methods in Medical Research* by P. Armitage, New York: Wiley, 1971). The basic principle is the introduction of a selected population with a standard distribution across the combinations of deductible amount and operator age group as represented by the standardization weights in the tables. The current and historical standardization weights are listed in Appendix A (collision) and Appendix B (comprehensive).

STANDARDIZATION WEIGHTS — COLLISION COVERAGES			
DEDUCTIBLE CATEGORY	OPERATOR AGE GROUP		
	YOUTHFUL OPERATOR	NO YOUTHFUL OPERATOR	COMBINED
< \$500	0.03	0.30	0.33
≥ \$500	0.07	0.60	0.67
Combined	0.10	0.90	1.00

STANDARDIZATION WEIGHTS — COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGES			
DEDUCTIBLE CATEGORY	OPERATOR AGE GROUP		
	YOUTHFUL OPERATOR	NO YOUTHFUL OPERATOR	COMBINED
< \$500	0.03	0.35	0.38
≥ \$500	0.07	0.55	0.62
Combined	0.10	0.90	1.00

STANDARDIZATION WEIGHTS — PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY, PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION, BODILY INJURY LIABILITY, AND MEDICAL PAYMENT COVERAGES			
DEDUCTIBLE CATEGORY	OPERATOR AGE GROUP		
	YOUTHFUL OPERATOR	NO YOUTHFUL OPERATOR	COMBINED
None	0.1	0.9	1.0

**STANDARDIZED CLAIM FREQUENCY (CF)**

$$\text{Std. CF} = \sum_{ij} (\text{weight}_{ij})(\text{cf}_{ij})$$

where,

weight<sub>ij</sub> = weight for age i and deductible j

cf<sub>ij</sub> = claim frequency for age i and deductible j

**STANDARDIZED AVERAGE LOSS PAYMENT PER CLAIM (ALP)**

$$\text{Std. ALP} = \frac{[\sum_{ij} (\text{weight}_{ij})(\text{cf}_{ij})(\text{alp}_{ij})]}{[\sum_{ij} (\text{weight}_{ij})(\text{cf}_{ij})]}$$

where,

weight<sub>ij</sub> = weight for age i and deductible j

cf<sub>ij</sub> = claim frequency for age i and deductible j

alp<sub>ij</sub> = average loss payment per claim for age i and deductible j

### STANDARDIZED AVERAGE LOSS PAYMENT PER INSURED VEHICLE YEAR

The standardized average loss payment per insured vehicle year is obtained by multiplying the standardized claim frequency by the standardized average loss payment and dividing by 100 in the case of collision and property damage liability coverages and 1,000 for comprehensive and injury coverages.

EXAMPLE OF COMPUTING STANDARDIZED RESULTS (COLLISION – 2005 HONDA ACCORD 4DR)				
	YOUTHFUL LOW DEDUCTIBLE	YOUTHFUL HIGH DEDUCTIBLE	NON-YOUTHFUL LOW DEDUCTIBLE	NON-YOUTHFUL HIGH DEDUCTIBLE
Exposure (insured vehicle years)	920	3,232	17,664	34,847
Number of Claims	107	345	1,657	2,342
Paid Dollars	\$354,360	\$1,599,574	\$4,377,883	\$8,686,435
Claim Frequency = [(claims/exposure) x 100]	11.63	10.68	9.38	6.72
Average Loss Payment per Claim = (dollars/claims)	\$3,312	\$4,636	\$2,642	\$3,709
Weight	0.03	0.07	0.30	0.60

Using the above data, the standardized claim frequency is:

$$(0.03)(11.63) + (0.07)(10.68) + (0.30)(9.38) + (0.60)(6.72) = 7.94 \text{ claims per 100 insured vehicle years}$$

The standardized average loss payment per claim is:

$$\frac{(0.03)(11.63)(\$3,312) + (0.07)(10.68)(\$4,636) + (0.30)(9.38)(\$2,642) + (0.60)(6.72)(\$3,709)}{(0.03)(11.63) + (0.07)(10.68) + (0.30)(9.38) + (0.60)(6.72)} = \$3,402$$

The standardized average loss payment per insured vehicle year is:

$$(7.94)(\$3,402) / 100 = \$270 \text{ per insured vehicle year}$$

### RELATIVE RESULTS

Most HLDI results are presented in relative terms where 100 corresponds to the average result for all passenger vehicles. Using relative values facilitates determining if a result is better or worse than average and by how much. Relative results are computed by dividing the vehicle series result by the all-passenger-vehicle result and then multiplying by 100.

#### Example of Computing Relative Results:

2005 model year Honda Accord 4dr collision claim frequency = 7.94

2005 model year all-passenger-vehicle collision claim frequency = 6.88

Relative claim frequency for 2005 Honda Accord =  $(7.94 / 6.88) \times 100 = 115$

### MODEL YEAR AGGREGATION

The relative loss experience of particular vehicles does not change substantially from model year to model year provided the basic design of the vehicle and the type of occupant restraint system remain essentially unchanged. To provide information on as many vehicles as possible, data for the most current three model years are combined for those vehicles with essentially unchanged designs. Individual model year results also are reported for collision, comprehensive, property damage liability, and theft.

Although a vehicle's design may remain essentially unchanged, its size class may differ over the aggregated model years due to slight changes in length or weight. When this



occurs, exposure and losses for all model years are included in the size class of the most current model year. For example, if a vehicle was classified as small for model years 2003-04 and midsize for model year 2005, then its 2003-05 model year combined result would be considered midsize.

**Claim frequency.** The aggregated model year relative claim frequency (ARCF) for each vehicle series (i) is obtained by weighting the relative claim frequency for each model year (j) by the applicable exposure for each model year; that is,

$$(ARCF)_i = \frac{[\sum_j (exp_{ij})(rcf_{ij})]}{[\sum_j (exp_{ij})]}$$

where,

$exp_{ij}$  = exposure for vehicle i for model year j

$rcf_{ij}$  = relative claim frequency for vehicle i for model year j

**Example:** (note: in actual calculations values are not rounded prior to aggregation)

$$\text{Result} = \frac{[(501,399)(120) + (265,601)(118) + (56,662)(115)]}{(501,399 + 265,601 + 56,662)} = 119$$

	2003	2004	2005
Exposure (exp)	501,399	265,601	56,662
Relative claim frequency (rcf)	120	118	115

**Average loss payment per claim.** The aggregated model year relative average loss payment per claim (ARALP) for each vehicle series (i) is obtained by weighting the relative average loss payment per claim for each model year (j) by the applicable number of paid claims for each model year; that is,

$$(ARALP)_i = \frac{[\sum_j (npclm_{ij})(ralp_{ij})]}{[\sum_j (npclm_{ij})]}$$

where,

$npclm_{ij}$  = number of paid claims for vehicle i for model year j

$ralp_{ij}$  = relative average loss payment per claim for vehicle i for model year j

**Example:**

	2003	2004	2005
Number of paid claims (npclm)	40,601	21,340	4,451
Relative average loss payment per claim (ralp)	83	83	86

$$\text{Result} = \frac{[(40,601)(83) + (21,340)(83) + (4,451)(86)]}{(40,601 + 21,340 + 4,451)} = 83$$

**Average loss payment per insured vehicle year.** The aggregated model year relative average loss payment per insured vehicle year (ARALPPIVY) for each vehicle series (i) is obtained by taking the product of the aggregated relative claim frequency (ARCF) and the aggregated relative average loss payment per claim (ARALP) and dividing by 100; that is,

$$(ARALPPIVY)_i = [(ARCF)_i(ARALP)_i] / 100$$

**Example:**

$$\text{Result} = [(119)(83)] / 100 = 99$$

**HIGHWAY LOSS**  
DATA INSTITUTE

1005 North Glebe Road  
Arlington, VA 22201