

## NEWS RELEASE

### **INSURANCE COLLISION LOSSES ARE HIGHEST FOR SPORTS AND LUXURY CARS; PASSENGER VANS AND STATION WAGONS HAVE LOWEST LOSSES**

ARLINGTON, VA - January 16, 1997 - Sports cars and luxury cars have the highest, or worst, insurance losses for vehicle damage. Passenger vans and station wagons have the lowest, says a new study by the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI).

**Worst:** The Dodge Viper has the worst overall collision loss experience among 1994-96 model passenger vehicles with an average loss payment per claim of about \$20,000 - more than seven times the average for all cars. The Viper's average loss payment per insured vehicle year, which reflects both the frequency and size of collision claims, is nearly four and a half times higher than the average for all cars.

"For the second year in a row, the Dodge Viper, a high performance sports car, has the highest overall vehicle damage, or collision, losses," says Kim Hazelbaker, HLDI senior vice president. The BMW 8 series two-door, a luxury model, has the second highest average loss payment per insured vehicle year. Nine of the 20 models with the worst collision results are luxury cars, eight are sports models, and two are small two-door cars.

**Best:** The Mercury Sable station wagon has the best overall collision results - more than one-third lower than the collision loss results for all cars combined. The GMC Safari Van and Chevrolet Astro Van have the second lowest collision losses. Nine of the 20 models with the best overall collision loss results are passenger vans, four are station wagons, and five are four-door 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.

Results in the Insurance Collision Report are shown in relative terms (see attached table), with the value 100 representing the average loss for all passenger cars. Results are presented for passenger cars and separately for pickups, utility vehicles, and large vans for those series with at least 1,000 insured vehicle years of exposure. The report includes 215 passenger car series and 108 pickup, utility vehicle, and large van series.

HLDI is an affiliate of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

## Best Collision Losses

| Make<br>& Series                                     | Model<br>Years | Body<br>Style | Size    | Results |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| <b>Average Loss Payment per Insured Vehicle Year</b> |                |               |         |         |
| Mercury Sable  | 96             | Station wagon | Midsize | 59      |
| GMC Safari Van                                       | 94-96          | Passenger van | Large   | 61      |
| Chevrolet Astro Van                                  | 94-96          | Passenger van | Large   | 61      |
| Eagle Summit   | 94-96          | Station wagon | Small   | 62      |
| Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera                             | 94-96          | Station wagon | Midsize | 63      |
| <b>Claim Frequency</b>                               |                |               |         |         |
| Pontiac Trans Sport                                  | 94-96          | Passenger van | Large   | 61      |
| Dodge Viper convertible                              | 94-96          | Sports        | Small   | 61      |
| Chevrolet Corvette convertible                       | 94-96          | Sports        | Small   | 62      |
| Ford Crown Victoria                                  | 94-96          | Four door     | Large   | 65      |
| Eagle Summit   | 94-96          | Station wagon | Small   | 66      |
| <b>Average Loss Payment per Claim</b>                |                |               |         |         |
| Chrysler Town & Country                              | 96             | Passenger van | Large   | 62      |
| Dodge Caravan  | 96             | Passenger van | Large   | 68      |
| Mercury Sable  | 96             | Station wagon | Midsize | 71      |
| Plymouth Voyager                                     | 96             | Passenger van | Large   | 72      |
| Mercury Sable  | 96             | Four door     | Midsize | 76      |

## Worst Collision Losses

|  |       |           |         |     |
|--|-------|-----------|---------|-----|
| <b>Average Loss Payment per Insured Vehicle Year</b> |       |           |         |     |
| Dodge Viper convertible                              | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 445 |
| BMW 8 Series two-door                                | 94-96 | Luxury    | Midsize | 422 |
| Mitsubishi 3000 GT 4WD                               | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 325 |
| Toyota Supra   | 94-96 | Sports    | Midsize | 268 |
| Porsche 911 Targa/Coupe                              | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 256 |
| <b>Claim Frequency</b>                               |       |           |         |     |
| Honda Prelude  | 94-96 | Two door  | Midsize | 149 |
| Nissan 240SX   | 95-96 | Two door  | Small   | 147 |
| Ford Probe   | 94-96 | Two door  | Midsize | 145 |
| Mitsubishi 3000 GT 4WD                               | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 144 |
| Mitsubishi Mirage                                    | 94-96 | Four door | Small   | 142 |
| <b>Average Loss Payment per Claim</b>                |       |           |         |     |
| Dodge Viper convertible                              | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 725 |
| BMW 8 Series two-door                                | 94-96 | Luxury    | Midsize | 381 |
| Porsche 911 Targa/Coupe                              | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 336 |
| Porsche 911 convertible                              | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 310 |
| Chevrolet Corvette convertible                       | 94-96 | Sports    | Small   | 268 |

100 = Average result for all passenger cars in each loss category