

# HIGHWAY LOSS DATA INSTITUTE

## NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 1998

### **UTILITY VEHICLES HAVE HIGHEST THEFT LOSSES FOR 4TH YEAR IN A ROW; WORST OVERALL THEFT LOSS RESULT IS 12 TIMES HIGHER THAN AVERAGE**

ARLINGTON, VA – Three of the five passenger vehicles with the highest insurance losses for theft are utility vehicles – the Land Rover Range Rover and Mitsubishi Montero, both midsize four-wheel-drive vehicles. This is the fourth year in a row that utility vehicles have dominated the “worst” theft list. Overall theft losses for the 1996–98 Land Rover are more than 12 times higher than the average loss for all cars.

Of the 10 passenger vehicles, all 1996–98 models, with the worst overall theft losses, 4 are utility vehicles, 3 are luxury cars, and 3 are small or midsize models. All 10 have results that are more than three times the average for all passenger cars. are utility vehicles or luxury cars (see attached list, which also shows the 10 passenger cars with the highest frequencies of theft claims and the 10 vehicles with the largest insurance payments per theft claim). These findings are published by the Highway Loss Data Institute, an affiliate organization of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

During the 1980–97 model years, declining frequencies of insurance theft claims were accompanied by increasing average loss payments per claim (see attached graph). Because these trends offset each other, overall theft losses have changed very little during the past 18 model years. “The continuing decline in theft frequency is good news, and some of it is because of the sophisticated antitheft devices that are on more and more new cars,” HLDI Senior Vice President Kim Hazelbaker points out. “On the other hand, professional thieves are more likely to ship the cars they steal out of the country, which lessens the chances for recovery.”

**End of 1-page release on insurance theft losses.  
1-page attachment includes 2 items: 3-part list  
showing passenger vehicles with worst losses;  
graph showing offsetting trends in theft losses**

# Worst Theft Loss Results

## Overall Theft Losses, or Relative Avg. Loss Payments per Insured Vehicle Year (100 = all-car avg.)

Toyota Land Cruiser	1995-97 model years	midsize utility vehicle	2,326
Mitsubishi Montero	1995-97 model years	midsize utility vehicle	1,087
Lexus GS 300	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	1,002
Mercedes S class 4-door long wheelbase*	1995-97 model years	very large luxury car	736
BMW 3 series two-door*	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	619
Lexus LS 400**	1995-97 model years	large luxury car	605
Lexus SC 300/400	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	584
BMW 3 series convertible*	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	450
Acura Integra two-door	1995-97 model years	small car	410
Acura Integra four-door	1995-97 model years	small car	367

## Relative Claim Frequencies (100 = all-car avg.)

Jeep Wrangler	1997 model year	small utility vehicle	514
Suzuki Sidekick two-door 4x4	1995-97 model years	small utility vehicle	466
Toyota Land Cruiser	1995-97 model years	midsize utility vehicle	434
Geo Tracker two-door	1995-97 model years	small utility vehicle	430
Acura Integra two-door	1995-97 model years	small car	374
Mitsubishi Montero	1995-97 model years	midsize utility vehicle	326
Acura Integra four-door	1995-97 model years	small car	313
BMW 3 series two-door*	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	234
Lexus GS 300	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	225
Honda Accord two-door	1995-97 model years	midsize car	211

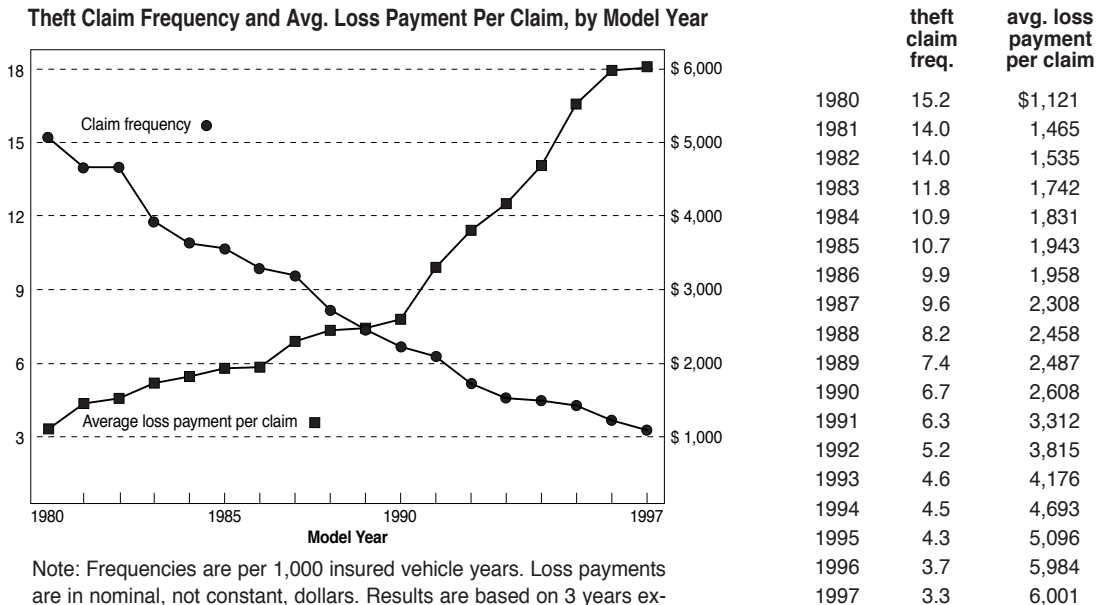
## Relative Avg. Loss Payments per Claim (100 = all-car avg.)

Mercedes S class 4-door long wheelbase*	1995-97 model years	very large luxury car	676
Toyota Land Cruiser	1995-97 model years	midsize utility vehicle	536
Lexus LS 400**	1995-97 model years	large luxury car	455
Lexus GS 300	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	445
Lexus SC 300/400	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	351
Mitsubishi Montero	1995-97 model years	midsize utility vehicle	333
Mercedes E class four-door*	1996-97 model years	large luxury car	295
Lexus ES 300	1997 model year	midsize car	280
BMW 3 series convertible*	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	276
BMW 3 series two-door*	1995-97 model years	midsize luxury car	264

\* All model years equipped with standard passive immobilizing antitheft devices

\*\* Only 1997 models equipped with standard passive immobilizing antitheft devices

Theft Claim Frequency and Avg. Loss Payment Per Claim, by Model Year



Note: Frequencies are per 1,000 insured vehicle years. Loss payments are in nominal, not constant, dollars. Results are based on 3 years exposure except 1996 (2 years) and 1997 (1 year).