

INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

NEWS RELEASE

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WORST INSURANCE THEFT LOSSES ARE FOR MERCEDES MODEL; TWO OF THREE WITH WORST THEFT LOSSES ARE ACURA MODELS

ARLINGTON, VA – The Mercedes S class, a very large luxury car, heads the list of passenger vehicles with the highest insurance losses for theft. Overall losses for this car are 10 times higher than the average for all passenger cars. This is the first time in five years that a utility vehicle hasn't topped the list of vehicles with the worst theft losses, which are published annually by the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI).

"The Mercedes S class has appeared on the 10 worst list for 5 years. It's obviously an attractive target for professional thieves because of its value," says Kim Hazelbaker, HLDI senior vice president.

The two-door Acura Integra has the second worst result, with losses also 10 times higher than the average among 1997-99 passenger vehicles. These high overall losses are produced by different factors, Hazelbaker explains. The Mercedes has extremely high average loss payments per claim, while the Acura's claim frequency is very high.

The four-door Integra has the third highest overall theft loss result. Now Honda, which manufactures Acuras, has equipped all Integras for the 2000 model year with passive immobilizing antitheft devices.

During the 1980-99 model years, theft claim frequencies have declined significantly, but this trend has been mostly offset by increasing theft losses per claim. In 1999, the last year for which information is available, the average theft loss payment per claim also declined.

**End 1-page release on insurance theft losses
1-page attachment: vehicles with worst losses;
trends in insurance theft losses during 1980-99**

Internet: www.highwaysafety.org

Worst overall theft losses

Make and series	Model years	Size and type	Result
Mercedes S class long wheelbase	1997-99	Very large luxury four-door car	1001
Acura Integra	1997-99	Small two-door car	996
Acura Integra	1997-99	Small four-door car	757
Mitsubishi Montero Sport 4 wheel drive	1997-99	Midsize four-door utility vehicle	616
Mercedes SL class convertible	1997-99	Small sports car	539
Nissan Maxima	1997-99	Midsize four-door car	509
Lexus GS 300/400	1997-99	Large luxury four-door car	421
BMW 3 series	1997-99	Midsize luxury two-door car	409
BMW 7 series long wheelbase	1997-99	Very large luxury four-door car	387
Lincoln Navigator 4 wheel drive	1998-99	Large four-door utility vehicle	387

Note: Results are relative average loss payments per insured vehicle year; 100 represents the average for all cars.

Insurance theft claim frequencies and average loss payments per claim, 1980-99

