



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Vehicle Owner/Driver,

To improve vehicle safety for you and your fellow citizens, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is conducting a national study on vehicle safety issues. Along with over 12,000 other vehicle owners, your vehicle was randomly selected from a list of 1997 and newer vehicles that may or may not be equipped with advanced safety equipment. Soon one of our professional field researchers will be in your neighborhood to provide you with more information.

When he/she arrives, please ask to see his/her government issued identification card. He/she will ask a few preliminary questions, and then may ask you to participate in this voluntary study consisting of a short questionnaire and vehicle inspection. Because the survey is a sample, your answers represent not only yourself and your vehicle, but also hundreds of other vehicles like yours. For this reason your participation is extremely important to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the final results. The DOT appreciates your participation because it really helps us to improve highway safety and vehicle designs that benefit you and your loved ones.

Feel free to ask the researcher any questions you may have about the study. The information collected is confidential and will only be used for research and analysis and cannot be used for any other purpose. This letter is addressed to "Owner/Driver" because the initial selection is made by vehicle, and we are interested in speaking with a person in your household who is either responsible for or familiar with the vehicle that we have selected. At the end of the visit, we will provide you with a courtesy card containing information on your vehicle's safety and the results of what we found during our inspection, as well as a small gift as an expression of gratitude for your participation.

To find answers to our participants' most frequently asked questions, please see the enclosure with this letter. Your help is vital to the success of this study, and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph S. Carra".

Joseph S. Carra, Director
National Center for Statistics and Analysis
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
United States Department of Transportation

Frequently Asked Questions

Who uses this information? The database will be analyzed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, other federal agencies, automobile manufacturers, educational institutions, and others in the field of vehicle safety. Examples of safety features that have resulted from studies like this one include seat belts and airbags, padded instrument panels and better roadway design.

Who will have access to my name? Will my identity be made public? The information gathered will be sanitized and stripped of all personal identifiers. In addition, all vehicle identification numbers will be truncated. We do not share our lists of study participants with anyone.

How was I selected for this study? Actually, we selected your vehicle rather than you personally for this study. Each month for 6 months, we scientifically and randomly select about 2,000 vehicles that fit our criteria. These selected vehicles comprise a statistical sample that represents the United States.

How many times will I be contacted and how long will it take? This study is to be conducted one time only. Depending on the type of vehicle that you have, the questionnaire will take anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes, and the vehicle inspection should take less than 10 minutes. You may be contacted by us for quality control purposes to ensure that our field researcher has contacted you.

