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TRI-LEVEL ACCIDENT RESEARCH STUDY

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FINAL REPORT
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and

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FOREWORD

The Tri-Level Accident Study is conducted in the eight county
Western New York area known as the Niagara Frontier, by the Accident
Research Branch of the Transportation Safety Department, Calspan
Corporation (formerly Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Inc.), Buffalo,
New York. The program is sponsored jointly by the National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Motor
Vehicle Manufacturers Association, Inc.

This report is completed in partial fulfillment of Contract No. DOT-HS-053-3-609 (NHTSA) and Contract No. MVMA, CAL 7406-C4.11.

This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Edwin A. Kidd, Head

Transportation Safety Department

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Successful operation of the Tri-Level Accident Study in the eight county Western New York area, known as the Niagara Frontier, requires the cooperation of a great many individuals and agencies in both the private and public sectors. We are indebted to them for their efforts in behalf of highway safety.

We most gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the police, hospitals, automobile dealers and service stations, state and city agencies and a host of individuals who have provided valuable assistance and information. We would like to thank all of the citizens of the study area who cooperated in this program and the personnel in the following agencies who have contributed to the Calspan Tri-Level Accident Study.

New York State Agencies

Department of Health
Department of Motor Vehicles
Department of Transportation
State Police

County		Agencies
Allegany	Genesee	Sheriff
Cattaraugus	Niagara	Medical Examiner
Chautauqua	Orleans	Highway Department
Erie	Wyoming	

City, Town and Village Police

Allegany County	Cattaraugus County	Chautauqua County
Belmont P.D.	Cattaraugus Sheriff	Brockton P.D.
Bolivar P.D.	Ellicottville ∜.D.	Busti P.D.
Cuba P.D.	Franklinville P.D.	Dunkirk P.D.
Wellsville P.D.	Gowanda P.D.	Ellicott P.D.
	Olean P.D.	Fredonia P.D.
	Salamanca P.D.	Hanover P.D.
•		Jamestown P.D.
•		Lakewood P.D.
		Mayville P.D.
		Silver Creek P.D.
,		Westfield P.D.
Erie Count	<u>y</u>	Genesee County
Amherst P.D.	Kenmore P.D.	Batavia Headquarters Troop A
Buffalo P.D.	Lackawanna P.D.	Batavia P.D.
Cheektowaga P.D.	Lancaster P.D.	Genesee County Sheriff
Depew P.D.	New York Thruway	LeRoy P.D.
East Aurora P.D.	Orchard Park P.D.	
Erie County Sheriff	Tonawanda P.D. (Town)	
Evans P.D.	Tonawanda P.D. (City)	
Gowanda P.D.	West Seneca P.D.	
Hamburg P.D.		

Niagara County	Orleans County	Wyoming County
Lockport P.D.	Albion P.D.	Arcade P.D.
Niagara County Sheriff	Medina P.D.	Attica P.D.
Niagara Falls P.D.	Orleans County Sheriff	Perry P.D.
North Tonawanda P.D.		Warsaw P.D.
		Wyoming Sheriff

Western New York Hospital Association (39 member hospitals) County American Medical Association Chapter

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INTRODUCTION

Calspan has been conducting a Tri-Level Accident Study sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association (MVMA) since 1969. The study is conducted in an eight county area of Western New York and has produced a large and comprehensive set of highway safety data for the period from November 1, 1969 to December 31, 1974.

A unique and particularly useful feature of the data described in this study is that Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) injury ratings are available for all occupants of applicable vehicles (See Section 2.2) who were taken to a hospital for treatment on Level 1. Over the years that data have been collected in this program this information is available for 34,988 accidents.

1.1 Background

The concept of a Tri-Level Accident Research Program was proposed by Calspan as a result of a study to develop improved methods for reduction of traffic accidents (Reference 1), conducted for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program. The Tri-Level approach basically seeks to utilize the best available data concerning the driving population, vehicles, environment and accidents. Where necessary, supplementary information is collected to augment available data, and multi-disciplinary investigations are conducted on a relatively small volume of cases to provide in-depth information. This approach was adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, Inc., and the first Tri-Level program was initiated at Calspan in November 1969. Since that time, several Tri-Level programs have been initiated by NHTSA.

1.2 Study Area

The Calspan study area is shown in Figure 1. The study area encompasses approximately 6,000 square miles in eight counties. Within these counties, 65 police agencies report accident data. There are also 39 hospitals which receive and treat accident victims. Police and medical data are routinely obtained by Calspan personnel for applicable accidents.

The population residing in the study area is about one and three quarter million people and there are more than 900,000 vehicles and over 1,000,000 drivers in the area. A summary of driver, vehicle and accident data in the study area appears in Table 1.

TABLE 1

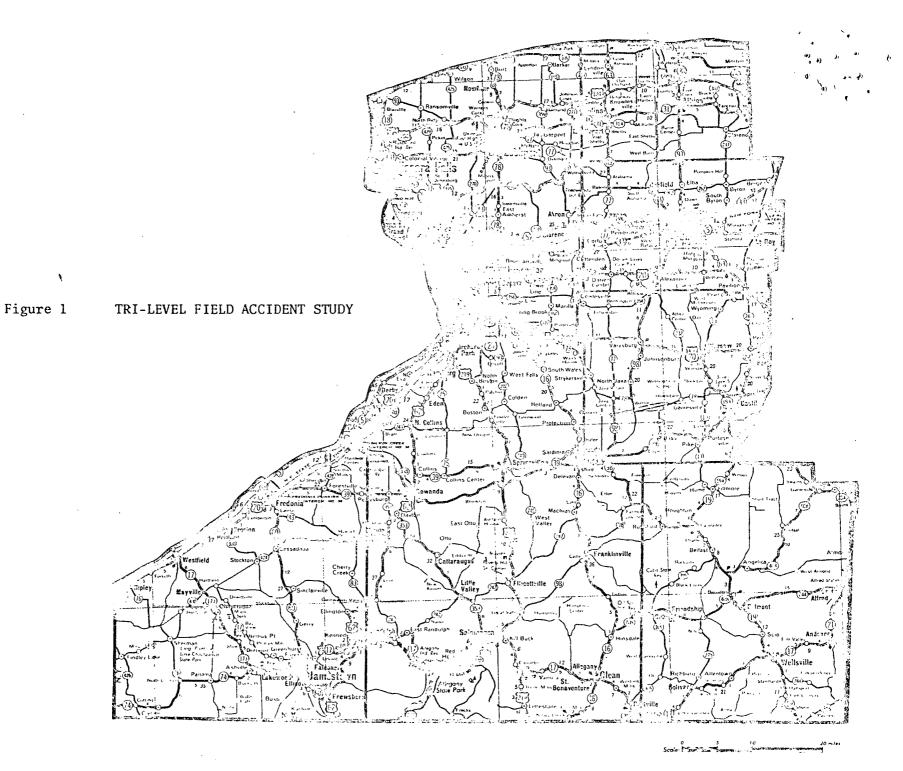
Eight-County Area of Western New York Data

(1973 Accident Records)

County	Estimated Population	Vehicle Registration	1973 Accidents	People Killed 1973	People Injured 1973
Allegany	46,458	27,436	814	24	582
Cattaraugus	81,666	46,086	1,574	22	1,176
Chautauqua	147,305	86,513	2,665	46	2,210
Erie	1,113,491	557,339	22,719	166	20,287
Genesee	58,722	37,308	1,359	21	1,053
Niagara	235,720	130,844	4,789	44	4,217
Orleans	37,305	24,366	618	20	570
Wyoming	37,688	23,769	769	24	547
TOTALS	1,758,355	933,661	35,307	367	30,642

SOURCE: "Accident Facts - 1974", New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Albany, New York

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The study area includes urban, suburban and rural areas, including Buffalo, the second largest city in New York State. The topography in the study area also is varied with a wide range of weather conditions during the year. The road system includes the typical variety of expressways, highways, city streets and town and village roads. Approximately 35,000 accidents occur in the study area annually.

A description of the program, and 1974 data collection and data analysis is provided in the remaining sections of this report.

2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2.1 Study Objectives

The original objectives of the Calspan Tri-Level Accident Study during the contract year were:

- 1. to establish and maintain a baseline of driver, vehicle and highway accident exposure and gross accident experience in the defined study "universe".
- 2a. to collect more detailed accident data (based on police reports) on all acceptable vehicles (as defined later in this section) within the "universe".
- 2b.* to maintain a closer surveillance on all the injury and non-injury acceptable vehicle accidents in the defined "universe" which are reported by selected police agencies.
- 3. to determine what specific portions of the occupant's body contacted various components of the acceptable vehicles which may or may not have caused an injury and to acquire injury causation information that can be studied as a statistical occurrence within the exposure contained in Objectives 1 and 2.

^{*} These objectives were changed during the first quarter of 1974 and, beginning on April 1, 1974 for MVMA, and May 1, 1974 for NHTSA, Level 2b data collection was modified to collect a stratified sample of towaway accidents involving 1973, 1974, and 1975 automobiles. The anticipated annual volume was approximately 2,000 cases. This modification was made in order to collect data for a restraint system study which involved a five-team data collection effort. Objective 1 was also dropped at the same time.

The new study objectives of the Calspan Tri-Level Accident Study then were:

- 1. to collect detailed accident data (based on police reports) on all acceptable vehicles (as defined later in this section) within tide "universe".
- to collect additional accident data on a stratified sample of acceptable vehicle towaway accidents in the defined universe involving 1973, 1974 and 1975 model cars.
- 3. to determine from all recorded acceptable injury producing accident cases occurring in the eight-county area the cause of occupant injury and severity, accident type, and vehicle damage severity.

The Tri-Level program is funded primarily as a data collection program. Data analysis has been limited largely to topics used in data presentations to sponsors which generally utilize Level 3 data and to papers prepared for meetings or symposia.

2.2 Applicable Accidents

Applicable accidents in the Tri-Level study* are those involving at least one of the following vehicle types and model years:

Passenger cars	current model year
Trucks (under 20,000 lb. GVW)	current model year plus last two model years
(over 20,000 lb. GVW)	current model year plus last nine model years
Multi-purpose passenger vehicles	current model year plus last two model years
Buses	current model year plus last nine model years

^{*} Except as modified for Level 2b towaway data, Section 2.1.

Current model is defined as the manufacturer's designated model year during the coinciding calendar year. For example, 1974 model vehicles were collected throughout 1974. Early in 1974, until March 15, 1973 vehicles were also accepted. Late in 1974, all 1975 models were accepted.

2.3 Study Data

2.3.1 Level 1

The Level 1 accident file for the study period contains all police investigated accidents involving a current model (applicable) automobile or a recent model truck. Approximately 8,000 accidents are obtained annually. Calspan receives a copy of all police and driver reports for the eight counties. Medical data are obtained from hospital records prepared by the attending physician for all injured occupants. These accidents are coded by Calspan in considerably more detail than are the Level 1 accidents from state files.

Because of program modifications, these data are the same as Level 2 data from previous years.

The information available in the Level 1 data includes the following:

CALSPAN LEVEL 1 ACCIDENT CODE
(1974 Data Only)

Accident and Environmental Data

Classification

State

Year of Accident

Case Number

Reporting Jurisdiction

Sequential Case Number

Number of Vehicles Involved

Type of Form
Location
Type of Accident
Object Contacted
Month of Accident
Date of Accident
Day of Week
Hour of Accident
Traffic Control
Light Condition
Weather Conditions
Road Condition
Type of Road Surface
Road Type

Total Number of Occupants Killed or Injured in Accident
Severest Occupant Injury in Accident - Police and/
or Occupant Reported
Severest Occupant Injury in Accident - Physician Paperte

Severest Occupant Injury in Accident - Physician Reported Total Number of Pedestrians/Bicyclists Involved

Vehicle Data

Total Number of Occupants Involved in Accident

Vehicle Number
Driver Report
Model Year of Vehicle
Make of Vehicle
Body Style
Towed Vehicle Involved
Vehicle Identification Number

Vehicle Deformation Index

Primary Deformation Classification Secondary Deformation Classification

Direction of Principal Force at Point of Impact

Principal Part of Car Affected Specific Horizontal Location of Damage Specific Vertical Location of Damage General Type of Collision Damage Scale

State of Registration Accident Configuration Jackknife

Odometer Reading

Severity Rating

Fire or Submersion

Number of Occupants

Total Number of Occupants Killed or Injured in Subject Vehicle

Severest Occupant Injury in Subject Vehicle - Police and/or Occupant Reported

Severest Occupant Injury in Subject Vehicle - Physician Reported

Vehicle Designation and Study Level

Level 3 Case Availability

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Occupant/Pedestrian/Bicyclist Data

Vehicle Occupied

Seated Position

Age

Sex

Ejection

Restraint Use

Severest Injury - Police and/or Occupant Reported

Severest Injury - Physician Reported

Apparent Condition of Driver

Driving Experience

Total Annual Mileage Driven

License Type

Traffic Violation

Medical Information

2.3.2 Level 2

The Level 2 file contains a sample of towaway accidents collected as part of the NHTSA Restraint System Study. In this program, five research teams collected data using uniform criteria in different parts of the United States. MVMA jointly sponsored the Calspan portion of this program with NHTSA. During 1974, Calspan sought to collect all applicable towaway accidents in the study area to meet data volume requirements of approximately 2,000 cases annually.

This sample differs from Level 2 data of previous years. Data collection was initiated in April 1974 for MVMA and May 1974 for MITSA. Data collection criteria differed for the two sponsors. For MVMA, Level 2 data consisted of all police reported towaway accidents involving a 1973, 1974 or 1975 model year automobile manufactured in the U.S. or by a subsidiary of a U.S. firm. Data for all occupants in the car were recorded.

For NHTSA, Level 2 data consisted of all police reported towaway accidents involving a 1973, 1974, or 1975 model year automobile regardless of where it was manufactured. Data were recorded for only front seat occupants.

A copy of the composite form used by Calspan to record data for both sponsors is provided in the Appendix.

2.3.3 Level 3

The Level 3 file contains the accidents which are investigated by the Calspan multi-disciplinary team (approximately 350 such accidents occur and are collected annually). Each case represents a police reported accident involving a current model automobile or a recent model truck in which at least one occupant requires hospital treatment. The output of Level 3 consists of detailed case reports in which descriptions of the accident sequences are provided and causal factors are enumerated. Drivers involved in these accidents are interviewed by Calspan personnel and the interior and exterior of each case vehicle is examined and photographed extensively. Evidence at the scene is also measured and photographed. For each case, the General Motors Collision Performance and Injury Report, Revision 3, is completed, together with certain supplementary forms.

Other data included in the report are:

Police Reports

Medical Reports

Driver Abstracts

Accident Causation

Injury Causation

Evaluation of Effectiveness of Vehicle Components

Evaluation of Federal Motor Vehicle and Traffic Safety Program Standards.

Data for this study level were collected using the same criteria as in previous years and thus, are compatible with that collected in previous years. They may be used in combination with earlier data, or comparisons with earlier data may be made.

2.4 <u>Calspan Edit Procedures for Level 2 Occupant</u> <u>Restraint System Study Data</u> -- Eleanor Becker

The Level 2 Towaway Restraint System Study was sponsored jointly by NHTSA and MVMA. Although these sponsors' general objectives were similar, detailed objectives, data requirements and case reports did differ. Calspan used a composite field data collection form (See Appendix) and matching, coding and editing procedures, that were compatible with the requirements of both sponsors. Sponsor-unique data sets were then generated after all editing was completed on composite-form data.

The editing procedures are particularly important in assuring data integrity, because of the strong possibility of inadvertent manual errors during data collection and keypunching. Accident data were not entered into the permanent data base (tape or disk) until editing was completed and, when necessary, corrections were made.

Three categories of editing procedures were used: (1) operational checks, (2) illegal code checks and (3) code consistency checks. These are discussed below.

Operational Check

A check for operational errors is the only one that can be considered mandatory. This check guarantees that the correct number and types of cards required for a particular case appear in correct order. In addition, it is desirable to expect case numbers in ascending sequence for future selection of particular cases and elimination of duplicate case numbers.

For the Occupant Restraint System data base, Columns 2-11 (TYYMMDDNNN) are required to be the same for all cards in a case. The case number is a composite of Columns 3-6, 9-11 (YYMMNNN) and must be in ascending sequence.

Since sponsor requirements were slightly different, a combined form was developed to eliminate coding the same case twice. (See Appendix) After editing, a computer program generates the two data sets according to sponsor specifications. Operational rules for the combined form are as follows:

Card 1 - General accident information

Card 2 - Case vehicle information

Card 3 - Case vehicle and other vehicle information

Card 4 - Occupant information

Card 5 - Occupant and beginning of injury pattern

Cards 6-8 - Remaining injury pattern (if required)

Card 9 - Occupant restraint system

Each case requires Cards 1-3 and at least a set of Cards 4, 5, and 9 for each occupant. Occupant cards must be in order by section sequence (Card 5, Columns 17-18) and the coded seated position values on each card of an occupant set must be the same (Card 4, Columns 63-64 and Cards 5-9, Columns 12-13). The number of card sets for front seated occupants must be equal to the value coded in Card 1, Column 20 and these sets must appear before those for rear or unusually seated occupants. The total number of occupant card sets must be equal to the value coded in Card 1, Column 21. No seated position may be duplicated within a vehicle and each case must have a driver. The injury pattern (OIC) begins on Card 5 and continues to Card 8 for a maximum of fifteen "blows". If on any Card 5-8, the entire field for a blow is blank, all remaining fields should be blank and the next card should be 9.

Checks for Illegal Codes

Once all operational requirements are met, the data can be used for a preliminary tabulation of accident patterns. However, data are not processed by detailed analyses programs until tested for illegal codes, i.e., codes that do not appear in the system codebook or dictionary. Calspan has now developed a package of subroutines so that an illegal code check can be performed on any data set with a minimum of programing.

Checks for Data Consistency

After a consistency check final processing by analysis programs is performed that ranks next in importance after the operational check but requires the most time to define and program. The entire data set must be examined for relationships between various fields (not necessarily on the same card). As an example, if an accident occurred at noon, then the case is checked if its light condition is not daylight. A table which lists most of the consistency checks performed on the combined form Occupant Restraint System data appears below. Except for the Force vs. Deformation table, a case had to meet all other consistency requirements before being recorded on the permanent data set.

CONSISTENCY TABLES

	ondition Column 57	VS.	Time of Accident Card 1 Columns 53-56
1,	Daylight		0500-2059
2	Dawn		0400-0859
3	Dusk		1600-2159
4-6	Dark		0000-0859; 1700-2359
7,9	Unknown		0000-2359; 9999

Hospital Front Seat Occupant Card 1 Column 19	VS.	Treatment Card 5 Columns 21-22
1 Yes		At least one front occupant 02 Treated 03-04 Hospitalized 06-09 Fatal 99 Unknown
2 No		All front occupants 00 None 01 First Aid 05 Fatal at Scene 10-12 M.D.
Occupant Ejected (Accident) Card 1 Column 46	VS.	Ejection or Entrapment Card 4 Column 14
2 No		Not ejected or trapped Trapped
Number of Case Vehicles Card 1 Column 41	vs.	Total Vehicles Card 1 Column 40
1-3		Greater than or equal to Column 41

Number of Case Vehicles vs. Card 1 Column 41			cle vs. Case Number 3rd Vehicle Card 3 Columns 46-48
1	Blank (no	ne)	Blank .
1	999 (N/A)		999, Blank
2	001-998 (Seq. Numbe	er) 999, Blank
2	999	•	001-998
3	001-998		001-998
Type of Accident Card 1 Column 37	VS.		rst Object Contacted ard 2 Columns 47-48
1 Pedestrian	·	70	Pedestrian
2 Pedacycle		71	Bicycle, Other Pedacycle
3 Railroad Train	า	68 69	Train Locomotive
4 Other Collision	on	72-76	On-roadway Objects
5 Motor Vehicle		01-39 40-67	Autos and Trucks Other Vehicles
6 Fixed Object		77~98 00	Off roadway Objects Unknown
7 Overturn		78-80 00 98 99	Ditch, Embankment, Ground Unknown Other None
8 Other Non-Col	lision	78-81 00 98 99	Ditch, Embankment, Ground, Curb Unknown Other None
9 Unknown		Any Leg	gal Code

Killed in Accident:

Card 1 Columns 42-43

Greater than or equal to killed in case vehicle

Injured in Accident:

Columns 44-45 Card 1

Greater than or equal to injured in case vehicle

Parent Manufacturer Card 1 Column 80

vs.

Make Model (Case Vehicle) Card 2 Columns 25-29

Blank - American or American American Import

11101-11103, 11105, 11108, 11120, 11203-11205, 11220, 11301-11302, 11306-11308, 11310, 11318, 11320, 11401-11403, 11405, 11408, 11420, 11501-11502, 11506-11508, 11520, 12101-12102, 12104-12106, 12108, 12118, 12120, 12201-12203, 12205-12208, 12220, 13101, 13102, 13120, 13202, 13206 13208, 13220, 13305, 13320, 13401-13402, 13406, 13408, 13420, 14101-14102, 14106, 14108, 14118, 14120, 21502, 43409, 61809, 61819, 61820, 62209, 72210, 83209

1 - Foreign

Any Legal Code Except Above

Event Producing Severest Injury to Front Occupant

Card 2 Column 80

No Injury

No Front Occupant May Be Injured

1-9 Event Number At Least 1 Front Occupant Injured

				Transference and transference and account assessment assessment and the same of the same and the same assessment.
Object Co Card 2	ntacted Columns 47-48 58-59 69-70	vs.	Collisi Card 3	Columns 15-16 Matched by 18-19 Event Number Columns 17, 20, 23
	ects		01 -03	Vehicle to Other
00 Unk	nown		99	Unknown
01-69 Veh	icles		11-19	Vehicle to Vehicle
99 No	object		02 03	Rollover Other
	•		99	Unknown
Card 2	ion of Principa Columns 49-5 60-6 71-7	50 51	VS.	Deformation Location Card 2 Column 51 62 73
	00			R, L, T, U, X
	01, 02			F, R
•	03			R
	04, 05			R, B
	06			В
	07. 08			B, L
	09			L
	10, 11			F, L
	12			F
	99			F, R, B, L, X, O
NOTE:		e some code		and Location print warning s 12L are unusual but allowed
	ZOI a SIGCSWIF	,		

	of Vehicles Contacted Column 29	VS.	Description of Other Vehicles Card 3 Columns 30-61
	0		Blank
	1		Columns 30-45 any legal code except blank Columns 46-60, blank
	2		Any legal code except blank
	ction/Entrapment d 4 Column 14	VS.	Ejection/Entrapment Card 5 Column 25
1	Not Ejected or Trapped		1
2	Ejected		4
3	Partial Ejection and Trapped		6
4	Partial Ejection		2
5	Total Ejection		3
6	Trapped		5, 7
9	Unknown		9
Sex Car	d 4 Column 15	vs.	Pregnancy Card 4 Column 62
1	Male		3 N/A - Male
2	Female		1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
9	Unknown		9 Unknown

Policy Injury Card 4 Column 23	VS.	Treatment Card 4 Column 24
l Fatal		7 Fatal
Treatment Card 4 Column 24 O Not Injured	VS.	Occupant Injury Classification Card 4 Columns 25-60 O's
More Than 6 Injuries? Card 4 Column 61	vs.	Occupant Injury Classification Card 4 Columns 25-30 31-36 37-42 43-48 49-54 55-60
1 Yes		None of the above groups may contain all 0's.
NHTSA Seated Position Card 4 Column 13	vs.	MVMA Seated Position Card 4 Columns 63-64
l Left Front		01
2 Center Front		02
3 Right Front		03
4 Other		Any other legal code.

Seve	pant Injury Classification rity 4 Column 29 35 41 47 53 59		Must be in equal or decreasing severity order of 8, 7, 6, 5, 43, 2, 1, 9, 0
	atment 1 4 Column 24	vs.	Treatment Card 5 Columns 21-22
0	Not Injured		00 (No Treatment)
1	First Aid		01
2	Would Consult M.D.		10
3	Directed to Consult M.D.		11
4	Did Consult M.D.	•	12
5	Emergency Room		02
6	Admitted to Hospital		03, 04
7	Fatal		05, 06, 07, 08, 09
8	Other		00, 09
9	Unknown		99
Inju Card	ured? 1 5 Column 19	VS.	Overall Severity of Injuries Card 5 Columns 23-24
	1 No		00 None 98 Unknown if Injured
	2 Yes		Any Legal Code Except Above

Treatment Card 5 Columns 21-22	VS.	Overall Severity of Injuries Card 5 Columns 23-24
00 None 01 First Aid		00, 01 (None, Minor) 01, 02, 03, 99 (Minor, Non-Dangerous, Unknown)
10, 11, 12 M.D.		0, 01, 02, 03, 99 (None, Minor, Non-Dangerous, Unknown)
02 Treated, Not Admitted		00, 01, 02, 03, 99 (None, Minor, Non-Dangerous, Unknown)
03 Hospitalized, Observation		01, 02, 03, 99 (Minor, Non-dangerous, Unknown)
04 Hospitalized		01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 99 (Minor, Non- Dangerous, Dangerous, Unknown)
05, 06, 07, 08, 09 Fatal		06, 07, 08, 09, 10 (Fatal)
99 Unknown		01, 98, 99 (Minor, Unknown if Injured, Unknown)
Equipped Card 9 Column 18 Other 20 Child	vs.	Usage Card 9 Column 40 42
1 Yes		Any Legal Code Except 9 (N/A)
Blank No		Blank
9 Unknown		0 Unknown
Equipped Card 9 Column 14 Lap 16 Shoulder	vs.	Usage Card 9 Column 35 37
1 Yes		Any Legal Code Except 9 (N/A)
2 No		9 (N/A)
9 Unknown		0 Unknown

Equipment vs. O Card 9: Column 14 lap C 16 shoulder	riginal Equipmen olumn 15 17		elts Operable lumn 21 23	vs. Defeat Column 22 24		
2 No	1 Yes 9 Unknov	√n	Blank	Blank		
2 No	2 No		Blank	2 Defeat		
Restraint Usage vs. Card 9 Column 60	ſ	4	age Probabili			
	± :	Shoulder Column 37	Other Column 40	Child Column 42		
2 None Used	Any L	egal Code E	Except +, 0			
3 Lap & Torso	+ . 1	+	Any Legal (Code Except +		
4 Lap Only	+ A	ny Legal Co	1 Code Except +			
5 Torso Only	Any Legal Code Except	+	Any Legal (Code Except +		
6 Child Seat	Any Legal Cod	e Except +	!	+		
7 Other	Any Legal Cod	e Except +	} 	Any Legal Code Except +		
9 Unknown	Any Legal Cod Contains 0	e Except +	and At Least	One Column		
Maladjustment Card 9 Column 62		Restraint U Card 9 Co	sage lumn 60			
1 Yes 2 No		3-7 Res	traint Used			
3 N/A 9 Unknown	. 3	2 Non	e Used	·		

Restraint Usage Card 9 Column 60 2 None Used 3-7 Used 9 Unknown	vs.	Belt Caused Injury Factor Card 9 Column 58 5 N/A Any Legal Code Except 5 (N/A) 9 Unknown
Belts Operable Card 9 Column 21 Lap 23 Shoulder 25 Other 27 Child	vs.	Malfunction Card 9 Column 22 24 26 28
1 Yes 9 Unknown 2 No Blank Not Equipped		Blank 1 Malfunction 2 Defeat Blank N/A 2 Defeat
Buzzer Functional Card 9 Column 29 Lap 31 Shoulder 33 Other	Vs.	Malfunction, Defeat Card 9 Column 30 32 34
1 Yes 9 Unknown Blank Not Equipped		Blank No Malfunction, Defeat

Belt Damaged Factor Card 9 Column 49 5 N/A	vs.	Equipped Card 9 Columns 14 16 18 20 Not Equipped With Any Device
System Defeated Factor Card 9 Column 51 5 N/A	vs.	Equipped and Original Equipment Card 9 Columns 14-20 May Not Be Equipped With Any Device and No Device Removed

3. DATA COLLECTION

3.1 Evaluation of Vehicle Damage and Personal Injury

3.1.1 Level 1

Objective:

To collect more detailed accident data on all acceptable vehicles within the "universe". These data are to consist of police reports of all accidents involving current model vehicles as defined in Section 2.2 (estimated 8,000 accident cases).

Task Accomplished:

A total of 6,871 police reports in applicable accidents were obtained. These were police reports of injury and non-injury accidents involving current model cars and specified trucks (1973 model cars were not processed after the cutoff date of March 15, 1974). This volume compares with 8,038 reports obtained during the previous year.

3.1.2 Level 2

Objective:

To collect a stratified sample of towaway accidents involving 1973, 1974, and 1975 automobiles. These data are to consist of a police report and a more detailed investigation report (See Appendix) completed by Calspan personnel who examine the vehicle, obtain a medical data, and interview the drivers (estimated volume of 2,000 accident cases per year available, desired volume 2,000 cases per year).

Task Accomplished:

Due to the different starting dates and selection criteria required by the two sponsors (See Section 2.3.2) the total number of cases collected differed slightly. A total of 1,368 to away cases were collected for NHTSA from May 1 to December 31, 1974. A total of 1,367 towaway cases were collected for MVMA from April 1 to December 31, 1974.

3.1.3 <u>Level 3 -- Off-Scene</u>, In-Depth Investigation

Objective:

To determine specific portions of an occupant's body that contacted various components of the acceptable vehicles and the resulting injury, if any, and to describe the vehicle, vehicle damage, the accident and the scene.

Task Accomplished:

During 1974, a total of 354 applicable vehicle cases were investigated and reported upon by Calspan. Presentations based on these data also were made to sponsors periodically. These brief presentations are discussed in the section on Data Analysis.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

Four presentations involving specific topics of interest were presented during the year. Each presentation typically involves 15 to 20 cases selected to illustrate a specific problem. Topics reviewed during 1974 were: Windshield Separation in Vans and Pickups, Restraint System Use and Injury in Accidents, Restraint System Use Survey and a review of an early Calspan investigation of an air cushion restraint system car accident. The latter is not discussed here since reports on air cushion accidents have been issued individually. The other presentations are discussed briefly below. Presentations were prepared and presented by Donald Headricks and Dominic Morris.

4.1 Windshield Separation in Vans

In five of the ten most recent cases (as of November 1974) involving small vans which sustained damage with a CDC extent number of at least 2, the windshield separated completely from the vehicle. Three of the five separations occurred in vehicles which sustained only relatively minor damage. A comparable sample of pickup trucks also was examined. No complete windshield separations were noted in these vehicles.

Based on an examination of the vehicles in these cases, deformation in the A-pillar area appears to be associated with the separation of the windshield. Because of the small amount of structure between the A-pillar area and the vehicle front in vans, these vehicles evidenced substantial A-pillar deformation even in relatively minor impacts. In contrast, the structure of the pickup truck is such that A-pillar deformation usually is noted only in more severe impacts.

4.2 Restraint System Use and Injury in Accidents

Data regarding injury and restraint system use was updated for this presentation. Again it was noted that use of the restraint system is generally associated with a lower degree of injury than is noted in comparable accidents in which the restraint system is not used. Benefits from use of the restraint system were particularly evident in the rollover accidents where probability of ejection is high and in accidents in which the impact is to the side of the vehicle furthest from the restrained occupant. In frontal impacts, occupants using only the lap belt still often contacted components in the front of the passenger compartments: These components include the steering assembly and instrument panel which are contacted by the head and/or face and the upper torso and, particularly in the smaller cars, the A-pillar, sunvisor, header, windshield molding and windshield which are contacted by the head and/or face. Use of both the lap and shoulder belts substantially reduced the incidence of contact with interior components in the cases presented.

4.3 Restraint System Survey

A survey is being conducted to determine the frequency of use of shoulder restraints by drivers of 1973, 1974 and 1975 passenger vehicles. Data for the entire survey period are shown in Table 2. Shoulder belt usage in 1974-75 cars showed a consistent decline during most of 1974 but appears to have asymptoted, at least temporarily, at about 26 percent (three months).

The survey will be continued in 1975 to determine if any further changes take place as time goes on.

TABLE 2: Summary of Shoulder Belt Use

	1973 MODI	ELS	1974 MOD	ELS
	Shoulder Belts Used	Belts Not Used	Shoulder Belts Üsed	Belts Not Used
Oct./Nov.* 1973	64 (3%)	2299 (97%)	166 (58%)	122 (42%)
Dec.* 1973	8 (1%)	965 (99%)	98 (47%)	110 (53%)
Jan. 1974	31 (2%)	1387 (98%)	125 (39%)	197 (61%)
Feb.	24 (2%)	1422 (98%)	180 (43%)	243 (57%)
March	19 (1%)	1430 (99%)	242 (45%)	296 (55%)
April	24 (2%)	1436 (98%)	277 (43%)	370 (57%)
May	25 (2%)	1386 (98%)	286 (37%)	490 (63%)
June	18 (1%)	1468 (99%)	316 (31%)	716 (69%)
July	21 (1%)	1471 (99%)	335 (30%)	769 (70%)
August	14 (1%)	1499 (99%)	423 (30%)	975 (70%)
September	22 (2%)	1384 (98%)	372 (27%)	1025 (73%)
,				
			1974/1975	MODELS
Oct.			428 (26%)	1198 (74%)
Nov.			398 (26%)	1153 (74%)
Dec.				

^{*}Data for Oct./Nov. and December (1973) represent the results of a preliminary survey and include data from observation sites not used in later months.

5. REFERENCES

1. Garrett, J.W. and Tharp, K.J., <u>Development of Improved Methods for Reduction of Traffic Accidents</u>, <u>National Cooperative Highway Research Program</u>, <u>Transportation Research Board</u>, <u>Report No. 79</u>, 1969.

1	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION		
	Occupant Restraint System Summary Form	REPRIT 110. Team Accident Date . Sequence Co.	dPrepared By:
	Part 1: — General Information — Card 1	Fram Regident Date Seguence Co.	Yr. 7 Mo. Day
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	Accident Location	Reporting luricitistics	
	State County Municipalit	2. County	4. Federal
	22 23 24 25 26	27 28 29 30 (1. Yes; 2. No)	31
	Medical Form Vehicle Form Photogram	raphs Driver Interview Police Report	
	32 33	Rrea Fyza pi imaani	36
	Type of fixed (First Harmful Event) Collision With Non-Collision	Area Figs silmansi	
	1. Pedesirain 4. Other Collision 7. Overturn 37	2. Rural 38 1. Head On 4. Side Swi	· 30
	2. Pedalcycle 5. Motor Vehicle 8. Other Non-Coll.	2. Rear end 5. Rollover	1 7.Not Applicable
	3. RR Train 6. Fixed Object 9. Unknown	3. Angle 6.0ther	9:Unknown
	Number of Vehicles Total Case Total Number	Killed Intend 1.	
	1-7 Actual No. 40 41 00-98 Actual No. 8. Eight(8) or More 99 Unknown 9. Unknown		No Ll Not Stated 46 Unknown
	Number of Lanes Trafficway 1. Yes	Past Surface Could 1. Paved 1. Dry	5. N/A
	01-98 Actual No. 47 48 3. Not Applicable 99- Unknown/Not Stated 9. Unknown	2. Unpaved 2. Wet 3. Not Applicable 50 3. Snow 9. Unknown 4. Ice	6. Other: 51 9. Unknown
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINIS

ACCIDENT LOCATION REPORT NO. Occupant Restraint System Summary Form County-City/Town/Village Accident Date Sequence lia. Card 3 1 175 11, 3 .1 5 6 9 10 11 13 COLLISION TYPE - CASE VEHICLE Vehicle to Other Vehicle to Vehicle (moving or parked) Collision Type Collision Event Ol Vehicle to Object 11 Head on (F to F) 92 Rollover 12 Rear End (F to R) PRIMARY 03 Other: 13 Side swipe--same direction 16 17 14 Side swipe--opposite dir. 99 Unknown 15 Intersection Type L SECCUDARY 14 Intersection Type T 19 17 Intersection Type Unknown 18 Other: TERTIARY 21 22 23 19 Configuration Unknown Vehicle Type-Body Style Police Report Shipping Number of OTHER VEHICLE 00 Full Size 07 Straight truck. Vehicle No. Reight Vehs.Contacuad Cass Seq. No. Ol Intermediate Van (Codes 0.1.2) +oxeqme0 SC 08 Truck-Tractor, 03 Sports Car Doubles Oh Carryall 09 Other or Unknown 05 Jeep type 10 Pedestrian 24 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 Of Pickuc/panel 11 Motorcycle OTHER VEHICLE CONTID Police Report Vahicle Type Estimated Weight Vehicle No. Model Year Make - Model (same codes as (Lead with Zero Cols. 24-25) if necessary) 33 35 34 37 38 41 42 ZQ-5443-V-1 THIRD CONTACT VEHICLE Case Sequential No. Police Report Venicle No. Model Year Make - Model Veh. Type Estimated Weight 16 67 18 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 . 57 58 60 61

OCC. SFATED POS. REPORT HO. Occupant Restraint System Summary Form Accident Date Sequence No. (use HSEI codes) Team Card 5 See tolow. 1/75 9 10 12 13 Occupant Posture 1 Normal seated Age (Mos.) Occupant Injured? Best Source of Injury Information position 00,01 lears Section 1 No 1 Hospital/Doctor (If over 2 yrs. 2 Other Sequence 2 Yes 2 Personal Interview w/occupant 3 Not in seat code 99) 3 Personal Interview w/non-occ. 9 Unknown 4 Other: 20 $11_{\rm i}$ 15 17 18 19 16 Treatment/Mortality Overall Severity of Injuries 00 None 00 Mone 08 Fatal - 2 Regions O5 Fatal-Dead at Scene Ol First Aid at Scene OS Fatal-DOA Ol Minor 09 Fatal-3 or mora " Consulted Physician 07 Fatal-Within 24 Hrs. 02 Non-Dang./Moderate 10 Fatal-Details Unk. 10 Unknown, but "Stated Would" 08 Fatal-2h Hrs-1 Year 03 Non-Dang./Severe 98 Injury Unknown 11 Unknown, but "Directed To" 09 Fatal-Period to Leath Oh Dangerous, Serious 99 Injured. Sev. Unk. 12 Did Consult Physician 05 Dangerous, Critical Unknown 02 Treated at Hosp/Clinic but Not Adm. 06 Fatal - 1 Region 99 Unknown 03 Hospitalized (observ. less than 24 hrs.) 07 Fatal-1 Region with Oh Hospitalized over 24 hrs.or Sig. Treat. 23 21 4 or 5 above OCCUPANT INJURY INFORMATION (cols.25-73) Ejection/Entrapment HSRI Codes 03 05 02 Use OIC Codes: Cols 41,57,73 9 Unit. if Ejec.or Trained Trapped With: for Seated 24-Body Region Positions Code: Ejection (No or Unk.Entrap.) No Ejection 27-Apect (col5, 12-13 3 - Definite Tone 5 Partial " 28-Lesion 2 - Probable above 2 Partial Describe 7 Unk. 29-System/Organ 1 - Possible; 9 - Unk. 3 Complete 30-Severity 01 Oli 4 Extent Unknown Reneat for each injury, 1 Row=1 Blow ZQ-5443-V-1 25 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 11 112 113 111 TIS TIS 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 55 57 <u> 58 59 50 51 62</u> 63 64 65 65 67 73

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Occupant Seated Pos-RECORL MO. Occupant Restraint System Summary Form (use HSKI codes) Date Sequence No. Yeami Accident 1/75 PEVICE STATUS 12 13 9 10 OTHER DEVICE LAP FELT SHOULDER BELT 1 - Yes CHILD SEAT Cols. 14, 16, 18, 20 - Codes: 2 - No EQUIPPED FOR 21, 23, 25, 27, 9 - Unknown THIS POSITION 29, 31, 33 *Cols. 15, 17, 19 "original equipment"? Use same 20 17* 15* Cols. 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34 PELTS OPERAPLE Malfunction - code 1 Defeat - code 2 25 21 22 23 24 all alse - leave blank Note: If any column 14 through 34 is INTERLOCK Not Applicable, leave blank BUZZER FUNCTIONAL 34 29 30 31 32 33 YES NOTES: Col. 39 is always blank →3 Definite -3 COMCLUSION Code +1 if P.R. is only Probable -2 43 . "norn" reported 38 39 40 41 Possible Unknown Code -2 if P.R. is only Not Applicable "not worn" rep. RESTRAINT USAGE INFORMATION AMAILABLE Codes: 1 - Yes, 2 - No, 7 - Unavailable 1-No occ. 2-Mone used POLICE NON-OCCUPANT OCCUPANT VEHICLE DATA INJUHY DATA 3-lan & Torso INTERVILW REPORT INTERVIEW SHEETS (MEDICALS) b-Lap only 46 47 5-Terso " 5-Child Seat 7-Other FACTORS DETERMING USAGE CLASSIFICATION 8-Unk if Occupied 9-Unknown if Used INFORMATION RELIABILITY Wodes: 1-Cortain /1-Supports 2-keliable 3-Unroliable u-linable to Estimate 3-Neither THE MG IND MALAF FUSTME 5-N.A. 2-N 9-UNK

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