

LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT NEW CARS

Why newer cars are safer than ever before



It's a fact – newer cars are safer than older cars. Advanced technologies and improved structural designs make newer cars a safer choice for your family.

- NHTSA data shows that fatality rates increase among those driving older vehicles.
 - In 1997, the occupant fatality rate per 100,000 registered vehicles was 17.81 for passenger cars.
 - Compare that to 2017, when the rate dropped to 10.05 per 100,000 registered vehicles.
- Improved occupant protection, use of seat belts and air bags, and crash avoidance technology saves lives.
 - The average vehicle on the road in 2012 would have an estimated 56 percent lower fatality risk for its occupants than the average vehicle on the road in the late 1950s.
 - If you're looking for proof that newer cars are safer cars, vehicle safety developments helped raise the annual number of lives saved from 115 in 1960 to 27,621 in 2012.

It's also a fact that newer cars are expensive – it's not easy for families nowadays to afford these newer, safer cars.

- In 2019, the average price of a new passenger vehicle was about \$37,000.
- Families can't enjoy the safety improvements in new cars, trucks, vans and SUVs if they're priced out of reach.
 - That's why NHTSA is working hard to keep regulations reasonable, so vehicles are more affordable and families can be safer on the roads.

Finally, Americans depend on vehicles for work, for commuting, and for family transportation – there are more vehicles in America than there are registered drivers.

- Access to transportation is critical for our way of life and our nation's economy.
- People need to be able to afford to buy the vehicles that meet the needs of their work, whether that's a farm, a construction site, or a delivery company.
- NHTSA is committed to letting consumers choose the vehicle that best meets their needs.



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