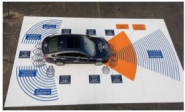


Automatic braking systems are shown in a new study to reduce rear-end crashes by about 40%, giving wind to a push by safety groups, regulators, and some automakers to equip all new cars with the technology. The study, by the U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, found that vehicles with both automatic braking and forward collision warning systems had a 39% lower incidence of rear-end crashes; forward collision warning systems alone reduced rear-end collisions by 23% in the study.



The IIHS study reviewed police reports of rear-end crashes in 22 U.S. states from 2010 through 2014. The group compared the crash rates of Acura, Honda, Mercedes, Subaru, and Volvo vehicles equipped with automatic braking and front-collision warnings against the same models without the technologies.

The combination of crash-prevention technologies cut the incidence of rear-end crashes involving injuries by 42 percent, but the study's authors found that collision warning alone had less effect in reducing injurious crashes.

IIHS Vice President for Research Jessica Cicchino says "It's surprising that forward collision warning didn't show more of an injury [reduction] benefit", given that insurance data found big reductions in injury claims.

The technology is quickly gaining commercial traction. Last year, in a pact brokered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and IIHS, a group of 10 automakers agreed to eventually make automatic braking systems a standard feature on all new cars. Other manufacturers have since joined the pact, NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind said this month.