

# Effect of vehicle mass on the risk of injury in a collision

University College, London, Traffic Studies Group - The Effect of Vehicle Mass in Car



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## How Crumple Zones Work

The energy of a crash is related to the square of the velocity, so small increases in speed produce major increases in the risk of injury.

## Vehicle Mass, Size and Safety

So that bottle of windshield wash in the foot well of your vehicle? For example, a crash load applied to the chest of a young male may result in a bone fracture, but if applied to an elderly female, may produce a life-threatening injury. A great deal of the force of impact was transferred directly to the driver, causing immediate and severe injuries.

## Omni Calculator logo

That amount of force is spent on bending the frame, so it is never transmitted to the occupants. Mood and Behavior Hitting your head hard enough or having something hit it can put you in a bad mood for the rest of your life, literally. You do not need to be the driver to know that you can't stop the car immediately.

## Car Physics and Newton's Laws of Motion

You've seen this effect for yourself if you've had to slam on your for any reason. Given that the space inside the cabin will have a marked influence on the likelihood and severity of injury, it might be worthwhile in future examining size effects in terms of occupant space.

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