



Toyota Agrees to Pay Record \$17.35 Million in Civil Penalties

December 18: NHTSA announced that Toyota will pay the maximum allowable fine in response to the agency's assertion that the automaker failed to report a safety defect in a timely manner, involving 2010 Lexus RX 350 and RX 450h models. Federal law requires automakers to notify NHTSA within five business days of determining that a safety defect exists. [Read More](#)



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RECENT RESEARCH & DATA

NCSA Research Note: Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes as a Leading Cause of Death in the United States, 2008 & 2009, For the first time since 1981 (when data was first available), motor vehicle traffic crashes were not among the top 10 causes of death in the United States. Motor vehicle crashes were the 11th leading cause of death in 2009. In 2008, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the 9th leading cause of death overall. Fatalities in motor vehicle crashes have declined by about 25 percent since 2005, influenced largely by a significant drop in crashes and fatalities involving the younger population.

NCSA Research Note: Motorcycle Helmet Use in 2011 - Overall Results, The use of DOT-compliant motorcycle helmets increased significantly to 66 percent in 2011, up from 54 percent in 2010. This percentage is based on the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS) the only survey that provides nationwide probability-based observed data on helmet use in the U.S.

NCSA Traffic Safety Fact Sheet 2010 "Alcohol-Impaired Driving", The fact sheet presents detailed data about 2010 fatal alcohol-impaired driving crashes in which there were 10,228 persons killed. A total of 9,695 drivers (85%) who were involved in fatal crashes had a BAC level at or above .08. The most frequently reported BAC was 0.18. The rate of alcohol impairment among fatally involved drivers was four times higher at night than during the day.

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The Student Safety Technology Design Competition gives young scholars an exciting opportunity to design, build, and demonstrate a cost-effective conceptual scale model of a vehicle safety technology.

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NCSA Crash*Stats: Lives Saved in 2010 by Restraint Use and Minimum Drinking Age Laws, In 2010, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 12,546 lives. Lives saved have been produced by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics & Analysis since 1975. The counts are estimates that are calculated using the effectiveness of each device or law that is mentioned.



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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building, Washington, DC 20590 1-888-327-4236 TTY:1-800-424-9153

