

# Auto Safety Report

## Latest Insurance Institute 40-MPH Crash Test Results

(NAPSA)—How well will a car stand up to a crash? Knowing the answer could steer you and your family toward buying a safer vehicle. That's one reason the Insurance Institute For Highway Safety (IIHS) runs crash tests every year.

The Institute rates cars based on their performance in a 40 mph frontal offset crash test into a deformable barrier. Based on results, the Institute evaluates the crashworthiness of passenger vehicles, assigning them ratings of “good,” “acceptable,” “marginal,” or “poor.” Better performers in the “good” category are also assigned “best pick” ratings.

The highest overall rating of “good” in the most recent test went to the Suzuki Aerio. According to the IIHS evaluation, the car ranked higher in crashworthiness than the top-selling Ford Focus, the Volkswagen Jetta and the Mini Cooper, which sell for hundreds, even thousands of dollars more.

Another model in the IIHS test group, the Volvo S40, with an MSRP of \$23,000, costs nine thou-



sand dollars more than the higher-rated Suzuki Aerio. In addition, the Aerio received the same rating as the more expensive Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and Subaru Impreza.

“Suzuki is proud to provide both safety and a high level of value in its vehicles, from small cars to right-sized seven-passenger SUVs, such as our XL-7,” explains American Suzuki President, Rick Suzuki.

The Suzuki XL-7 SUV also received a “good” rating in the same IIHS 40-mph frontal offset crash evaluation, achieving the same rating as BMW and Mercedes SUVs costing thousands more.